

DELEGATION OF TURKEY

3 October 2006

**HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING
(Warsaw, 2-13 October 2006)**

Working Session 2 and 3: Addressing Factors Contributing to the Cycle of Trafficking

STATEMENT

ONGOING EFFORTS OF TURKEY

Madame Moderator,

Having aligned ourselves fully with the EU statement, we nevertheless would like to provide a brief update on our ongoing efforts to address human trafficking. The wide scope of measures taken will also demonstrate the high level of awareness of the authorities regarding various aspects of combating human trafficking.

Turkey is a destination country in human trafficking. The seriousness of this heinous crime in all its forms has long been recognized by Turkey and reflected as such in the legislation and the Government policies.

In 2004, 239 victims, in 2005, 256 victims and in 2006 (1 January-21 August) 193 victims were identified. In 2004 and 2005, 495 traffickers were apprehended in Turkey.

Within the framework of the National Action Plan prepared by the Task Force (Chaired by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs), in 2003, Cooperation Protocols were signed respectively by Directorate General of Security and by Gendarmerie with NGOs which run shelters in İstanbul and Ankara for victims. Victims receive medical, psychological and legal counseling at these shelters. Since their inauguration, nearly 300 victims were accommodated in these shelters.

The Ministry of Health extends free medical care and medication to victims of trafficking.

The Ministry of Interior issues free of charge six months valid and extendable residence permits to victims without any precondition, such as cooperating with authorities. Until today 35 residence permits were issued to the victims.

A toll free tip off / emergency helpline (157) became operational in May 2005. Until today, 98 victims were reached through this helpline. A spot film promoting 157 helpline for victims is aired on Turkish TV channels as well as on channels in Moldova and Ukraine.

More than 600,000 pamphlets (in Turkish, Russian, Romanian and English) have been handed over at air and sea ports by the Turkish National Police.

A new public awareness campaign was launched by IOM on January 31st, 2006.

An EU Twinning Project on Trafficking in Human Beings was initiated in 2006. An Action Plan will be drawn up as an output of this project.

Turkey in cooperation with IOM has initiated a project on establishment of a data collection network on victims of human trafficking in the Black Sea region.

Turkey has signed cooperation protocols on combating trafficking in human beings with Moldova, Ukraine, Georgia and Belarus.

Turkey participates in the activities carried out within the framework of NATO, OSCE, Council of Europe, BSEC, Bali Process, SECI and Bern Initiative. She recently took over the Chairmanship of the Budapest Process.

Turkey also actively attended the sessions of the Council of Europe for the drafting of a human trafficking convention namely "CAHTEH".

ODIHR's National Referral Mechanism (NRM) Guidebook has been translated into Turkish and widely distributed among relevant authorities. ODIHR has conducted an NRM assessment in Turkey in 2006 involving a national research institution in close cooperation with authorities dealing with trafficking in human beings. We are looking forward to discussing the results of the assessment with ODIHR.

Thank you.