



**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING

WORKING SESSION 6

**FOCUS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OSCE ACTION PLAN TO
COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS**

As delivered by Deputy Director General, Bård Ivar Svendsen

Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Warsaw, 1 October 2009

Thank you Madame Moderator,

Norway fully supports the OSCE and its Special Representative in combating human trafficking. The OSCE has proved its value, not least with the work carried out by its missions because they provide direct contact between the participating States and civil society.

The OSCE Action Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings has been of great help to Norway when implementing our commitments. Our government has adopted action plans to fight trafficking where national and international measures to prevent trafficking, help victims and prosecute the perpetrators are included. We have criminalised trafficking and the purchases of sexual services and action-groups within the police force have been established in order to stop the perpetrators. Furthermore, an interdepartmental co-ordination group and a national referral mechanism has produced inter-disciplinary guidance material to help identify victims of trafficking and pamphlets aimed at victims describing their rights.

In Norway, presumed victims of trafficking are granted up to five hours of free legal aid while considering whether to report a case or not. Victims involved in court cases have the right to free legal assistance at the investigation stage and throughout the court proceedings.

Madame Moderator,

Trafficking is a global issue which calls for co-operation on the international and regional level. Norway sees a great need for co-ordination of these efforts in order to avoid duplication and achieve maximum effectiveness and we welcome the OSCE Special Representative's initiative to develop further co-operation with the Special Rapporteurs of the Human Rights Council. Norway would also encourage increased cooperation with the UNODC, the Council of Europe and ILO.

Madame Moderator,

Norway has ratified all relevant international and regional instruments created to combat trafficking, such as the UN Trafficking Protocol and the Council of Europe Convention against Trafficking in Human Beings. We call on all the members of these organisations to ratify and implement these conventions. We have taken the initiative to a decision made by the State Parties to the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime to establish a working group with the mandate to propose mechanisms to review the implementation of the convention, including its trafficking protocol. We ask the OSCE and all participants of this meeting to engage in and support this process.

Norway is concerned that despite all international and national efforts to prevent trafficking, international reports show a global increase in the activity and a decrease in the prosecutions of perpetrators, especially in Eurasia. In the wake of the financial crisis, new economic pressures are likely to aggravate the problem even further.

Finally, please let me take this opportunity to thank Ms. Biaudet, for her excellent work during her tenure as Special Representative, you will be sorely missed.

Thank you Madame Moderator.