

**2009 HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING
Warsaw, 28 September-9 October**

Working Session 6

**Tolerance and non discrimination I
1 October 2009**

Statement of the Macedonian Delegation

Madame Moderator,

We have just associated with the EU statement but let me also present some additional comments in my national capacity.

The Government of the Republic of Macedonia is very dedicated in combating trafficking in human beings and illegal migration undertaking a set of activities, according to the implementation of its Action Plan in this field, by active participation of all parties' involved and through active contribution of the representatives of the relevant institutions who are members of the National Commission dealing with this negative phenomenon.

The National Referral Mechanism for victims of trafficking in human beings is successfully functioning. In the last period, three times more cases of trafficking in human beings have been detected. 300 police officers, social workers, doctors, labor inspectors and journalists have been trained and there have been informative presentations organized for students in more than 20 municipalities throughout Macedonia.

Last year, the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy together with the Ministry of Justice started a process of changing the existing laws related to the human trafficking and protections of those victims. Also, changes and addendum's to the Law on protection of the children and on the law on social protection have been brought to Parliamentary procedure in which extra-institutional protection as well as opening of a Center is envisaged for the victims of the human trafficking, financed by the Government.

The Republic of Macedonia continually improves the coherency of the activities of various institutions, non-governmental and international organizations which work on the detection and prevention of trafficking in human beings. In April 2009, the Republic of Macedonia ratified the European Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. The new national 2009-2012 Action Plan has been adopted, as well as a new Strategy.

Finally, on this occasion, we would like to express our gratitude to OSCE Mission in Skopje who in many occasions has supported the participation of our national delegations to the Conferences organized by the Office of the Special Representative and Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings.

Madame Moderator,

I thank you for your attention