



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

Check Against Delivery

Speaking Points of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings: the SR's priorities during 2009 at the meeting of the Permanent Council on 9 July, 2009.

- THB for the purpose of Labour Exploitation in the Agriculture Sector

The Technical Seminar and the background paper in April 2009 received wide support and praise from the participating States, international organizations and other key partners. The third Occasional Paper "A Summary of Challenges on Addressing Human Trafficking for Labour Exploitation in the Agricultural Sector in the OSCE Region" has been published. Trafficking in Human Beings (THB) is a threat to social cohesion. We need to ensure basic standards in our society and thus we need to address structural issues. Once again, the Office of the Special Representative (OSR) was able to serve as a catalyst in the process, and this work will continue with a new paper on domestic servitude.

- Prevention of THB
 - Our next high-level Alliance conference on 14 and 15 September 2009 will focus on 'Prevention of Modern Slavery: An Ounce of Prevention is Worth a Pound of Cure.'
 - During this conference the following issues will be addressed: a global overview of anti-trafficking Prevention efforts, including presentations by UN Special Rapporteurs; THB in the context of the global financial crisis; best practices in preventing THB, including addressing demand for cheap and unprotected labour and commercial sex; as well as the role of the media. The preliminary results of the research: "Analysing the Business and Socio-Economic Causes of THB in order to Decrease Vulnerabilities to THB and to Better Prevent the Crime" will also be presented.
 - We are working on the design of a survey questionnaire to be sent to participating States in September/October 2009 to assess the progress made in the OSCE region towards preventing THB, which will be analyzed and published as the SR's Annual Report in 2010.
 - A new publication: "Guide on Gender-Sensitive Labour Migration Policies" was launched in May 2009. This Guide was produced jointly by the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, the Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating THB, and the OSCE Secretariat Gender Section. Gender-sensitive labour migration policies are key to the prevention of THB.

- Country Assessments and official visits

Assessment reports on Spain and Romania will be launched by the end of the year, and the Kazakhstan assessment will begin in September 2009. These activities will contribute to assisting countries to identify specific areas where OSCE anti-trafficking commitments could be strengthened, as well as sharing and providing best practices and recommendations to strengthen countries' responses to THB. This, together with country visits (the SR was in Armenia and the UK, and will visit Turkmenistan and Moldova), is a learning process and an opportunity to contribute with policy guidance and expertise.

- Promoting the establishment of National Rapporteurs or equivalent mechanisms

The OSR continues to make National Rapporteurs or equivalent mechanisms a priority by supporting countries in the establishment or strengthening of the mechanism. We organized, together with the Czech EU Presidency, a conference on this topic in Prague in March 2009: "Joint analysis, joint action: EU National Rapporteurs on trafficking in human beings", aiming at the exchange of good practice and the establishment of an EU Network. Enhanced co-operation is needed to strengthen national monitoring and reporting mechanisms on THB in the OSCE region.

- Co-operation with the Sweden's EU-Presidency and Alliance partners

Under the upcoming Swedish EU Presidency, an EU Conference will be held in Brussels (19 and 20 October 2009) to mark the EU Anti-Trafficking Day. The conference will address the development of EU efforts to combat THB, focusing on third countries. At the same time, we have to remember that there is still a lot to be done within the EU itself. The OSR has held one meeting of the Alliance Expert Coordination Team, and will hold an additional meeting later this year. We will continue to enhance bi-lateral with other key international organizations such as UNODC, NATO, IOM, ILO, COE and CIS, among others.