

**OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Conference**  
**Warsaw, 23 September – 4 October 2013**  
**Working session 10: Combating trafficking in human beings**  
**Contribution of the Council of Europe**  
**as regards combating trafficking in human beings**

**Overview of recent Council of Europe activities**

1. During the past year the anti-trafficking work of the Council of Europe maintained its focus on monitoring the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, which is now in force in 40 Council of Europe member States.
2. The Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA), set up under the Convention to evaluate its implementation by the Parties, continued the first round of the evaluation of the Convention. Between October 2012 and June 2013, GRETA carried out evaluation visits to the third group of 10 Parties to the Convention (Azerbaijan, Belgium, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”). During these visits GRETA held meetings with ministers and senior officials involved in the national action against trafficking, national Ombudsmen, politicians, trade union representatives and members of civil society. GRETA also visited shelters and other facilities providing assistance to victims of trafficking.
3. At its 15th meeting (26-30 November 2012), GRETA approved final evaluation reports in respect of France, Latvia, Malta and Portugal and transmitted them to the authorities concerned. Following the reception of the authorities’ comments, GRETA’s final reports were made public in the beginning of 2013. At its 16th meeting (11-15 March 2013) GRETA approved final evaluation reports in respect of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Norway and Poland which were made public in May 2013. And at its 17th meeting (1-5 July 2013), GRETA adopted final reports on Belgium, Ireland and Spain which were transmitted to the national authorities concerned for their eventual final comments before making the reports public. All these reports are now public and can be consulted on [www.coe.int/trafficking](http://www.coe.int/trafficking). GRETA reports contain an analysis of the national legal and institutional framework in the field of action against trafficking in human beings and examine the effectiveness of the measures taken in each country to prevent trafficking, protect and promote the rights of victims of trafficking, and prosecute traffickers. Each report contains detailed proposals to the authorities concerning the way in which the identified problems may be dealt with.
4. Further, at its 17th meeting, GRETA approved draft reports concerning Luxembourg, Serbia and Slovenia and transmitted them to authorities for comments. These reports will be finalised by GRETA at its 18th meeting (4-8 November 2013) and subsequently published.
5. In February 2013, GRETA sent the questionnaire for the first round of the evaluation of the implementation of the Convention to Andorra, Italy, San Marino and Ukraine. After receiving the replies to the questionnaire in June 2013, GRETA is preparing evaluation visits to these Parties in the last quarter of 2013. Moreover, in November 2013, GRETA plans to send the questionnaire to Lithuania and Finland (which became Parties to the Convention in 2012).

6. On 17 September 2013, the Secretariat of the Convention held a meeting of the contact persons appointed by State Parties to liaise with GRETA in order to take stock of the first evaluation round and discuss the preparation of the second evaluation round (to be launched by GRETA in the course of 2014).

7. At its 9th meeting (12-13 November 2012), the Committee of the Parties to the Convention held elections to fill the 13 seats in GRETA which became vacant on 31 December 2012 due to the expiry of the first term of office of 13 GRETA members. The Committee elected eight new members and re-elected five previous members of GRETA for a term of office of four years, starting on 1 January 2013.

8. At its 9th meeting the Committee of the Parties considered GRETA's reports on the implementation of the Convention by Armenia, Montenegro and the United Kingdom and adopted recommendations addressed to the Governments of these Parties. Further, at its 10th meeting (15 February 2013), the Committee adopted recommendations addressed to the Governments of France, Latvia, Malta and Portugal and at its 10th meeting (7 June 2013), the Committee adopted recommendations to the Governments of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Poland and Norway.

9. The Secretariat of the Convention organised round-table meetings to discuss the implementation of GRETA's and the Committee of the Parties' recommendations in the Slovak Republic (22 November 2012), Cyprus (4 March 2013), the Republic of Moldova (22 March 2013), Austria (17 May 2013) and Bulgaria (28 May 2013). Two more round-table meetings are planned in Romania (3 October 2013) and Albania (24 October 2013).

10. The Council of Europe is participating in the planning and implementation of anti-trafficking activities financed by the EEA/Norway Grants (in Poland and Romania) and is developing anti-trafficking programmes under the joint EU-CoE programme "Reinforcing democratic reform in the Southern neighbourhood" (in Morocco and Tunisia).

11. The Council of Europe is participating in the organisation of a conference on protecting and promoting the rights of victims of trafficking in Warsaw on 27-28 November 2013 (together with the authorities of Iceland Liechtenstein, Norway and Poland, as well as IOM). Further, the Council of Europe plans to organise, in co-operation with the Austrian authorities and the OSCE, a high-level conference under the Austrian chairmanship of the Council of Europe, which will take stock of the first five years of the implementation of the Convention. This conference will be held in Vienna on 17-18 February 2014.

### **Co-operation between the Council of Europe and the OSCE**

12. Following the adoption in 2005 of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings the Council of Europe and the OSCE agreed to join forces, where appropriate, to promote the widest possible signature and ratification of the Council of Europe Convention and to call for full implementation of the OSCE anti-trafficking commitments. The OSCE has observer status with the Committee of the Parties to the Council of Europe Anti-Trafficking Convention and the two organisations are pursuing the good co-operation, making efforts to avoid unnecessary duplication and aiming for synergies.

13. The Council of Europe and the OSCE regularly exchange information concerning priorities and participate in each-others relevant events. During its country visits, GRETA delegations meet the local offices of the OSCE and the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings is kept informed of the publication of GRETA's reports and other activities.

14. Members of GRETA and representatives of the Secretariat participated in conferences and other events organised by OSCE/ODIHR. For instance, Ms Kateryna Levchenko, member of GRETA, spoke at the High-Level Conference “Strengthening the OSCE Response to Trafficking in Human Beings”, held in Kyiv on 10-11 June 2013 under the Ukrainian Chairmanship of the OSCE. The Executive Secretary of the Convention participated as a moderator of one of the panels at the OSCE Alliance Conference “Stolen Lives, Stolen Money: The Price of Modern-Day Slavery” (25-26 June). Further, representatives of the Secretariat regularly participate in the OSCE Alliance Expert Co-ordination Team meetings.

15. The Secretariat of the Convention and ODIHR are planning the organisation of a sub-regional meeting of legal professionals on access to justice for victims on trafficking in the Western Balkans (probably in December 2013).