

Strasbourg, 21 September 2010

THB-GRETA(2010)LD7

GROUP OF EXPERTS ON ACTION AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS (GRETA)

7th meeting of GRETA
(Strasbourg, 14-17 September 2010)

LIST OF ITEMS DISCUSSED AND DECISIONS TAKEN

1. The *Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA)* held its 7th meeting at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg on 14 – 17 September 2010, with Ms Hanne Sophie GREVE as chair. The agenda, as adopted by GRETA, is set out in Appendix I. The list of participants appears in Appendix II.
2. GRETA took note that the former Executive Secretary of the *Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings* (GRETA and the Committee of the Parties), Ms Marta REQUENA, had taken up a new post as Head of the Public International Law and Anti-Terrorism Division (in the Directorate of Legal Advice and Public International Law) on 1 September 2010. The Director of Monitoring was acting Executive Secretary until 15 October 2010 when the new Executive Secretary, Ms Petya NESTOROVA, would take up duty.
3. GRETA warmly thanked Ms REQUENA for her outstanding contribution and dedication to the Council of Europe's action against trafficking in human beings, in particular the negotiation process of the Convention, the *Council of Europe Campaign to combat Trafficking in Human Beings* and the setting up of the monitoring mechanism of the Convention.
4. GRETA finalised its internal guidelines for the preparation of GRETA reports, country visits and requests for information addressed to civil society, which it will use during the first round of evaluation of the implementation of the *Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings* [CETS No. 197] (the Convention) by the parties.
5. GRETA noted with satisfaction that replies to the *Questionnaire for the evaluation of the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings by the parties (the Questionnaire)* had been received from the first ten parties to the Convention: Moldova, Romania, Austria, Albania, Georgia, Slovak Republic, Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark and Cyprus. GRETA thanked the national authorities of these parties, and in particular the "contact persons", for having replied to the Questionnaire within the deadline.
6. GRETA agreed that at its next meeting it would draw up a timetable for the preparation, examination and adoption of its reports.
7. GRETA discussed the preparation of visits in the first three countries to be evaluated (Austria, Cyprus and the Slovak Republic) and held an exchange of views on the replies to the Questionnaire from these parties.
8. GRETA agreed on the following dates for its meetings in 2011: 15-18 March; 14-17 June; 20-23 September; and 6-9 December.
9. GRETA was pleased to have participated in the *Thematic Debate on Partnerships among international organisations active in the field of trafficking in human beings: need for co-ordinated action* held in the framework of the 4th meeting of the Committee of the Parties in Strasbourg on 13 September 2010. GRETA shared the concerns expressed during the debate regarding the fact that other international organisations active in the field of trafficking in human beings were considering setting up monitoring mechanisms as this could lead to inconsistent or contradictory conclusions and recommendations. GRETA welcomed the commitment to co-operation and partnership expressed by the representatives of international organisations, and the agreement to make full use of their respective areas of competence and expertise in order to achieve an efficient use of increasingly limited resources.
10. GRETA was pleased to note that, since its last meeting, the Convention had been ratified by two Council of Europe member states (Azerbaijan and Ireland), bringing the total number of ratifications to 30, and the signatures not yet followed by ratification to 13. No additional signatures had taken place. GRETA once again urged the Council of Europe member states which had not already done so, the non-member states which had participated in the preparation of the Convention, and the European Union to sign and/or ratify the Convention. In addition, GRETA reiterated its call for other non-member states to accede to the Convention.

11. GRETA took note of the Opinions of the *Steering Committee on Bioethics (CDBI)* and the *European Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC)* concerning the recommendations made in the *Joint Council of Europe – United Nations Study on trafficking in organs, tissues and cells and trafficking in human beings for the purpose of the removal of organs*. In particular, it noted the proposal of the CDBI to set up a multidisciplinary group to study the feasibility of preparing an international legally binding instrument on the prevention of organ, tissue and cell trafficking, in particular through criminal law measures, and the protection of victims. GRETA also took note of the opinion of the CDPC that the preparation of a legally binding international instrument on this subject could present an added value.
12. GRETA took note of the information on activities of international governmental and non-governmental organisations of interest to GRETA. In particular, it held an exchange of views on the ongoing discussions by the Council of the European Union and the European Parliament concerning the *proposed Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings, and protecting victims*.
13. GRETA welcomed *Resolution 14/2 on Trafficking in persons, especially women and children: regional and sub-regional cooperation in promoting a human rights-based approach to combating trafficking in persons* (17 June 2010) of the United Nations Human Rights Council. In particular, GRETA took note that the Human Rights Council had called upon governments to promote the implementation of legally binding international instruments to combat trafficking in human beings, as well as a co-ordinated and comprehensive approach to preventing and combating human trafficking. GRETA also took note of the United Nations General Assembly Resolution adopting the *United Nations Global Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons* on 30 July 2010, which includes the decision to set up a trust fund for victims of trafficking, especially women and children.
14. GRETA welcomed the meeting which had taken place between its President and First Vice-President and the *OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings* and other OSCE officials in Paris on 22 June 2010. In particular, it noted with appreciation the exchange of information and discussions to better coordinate the respective activities of the two Organisations in the field of action against trafficking in human beings, with a view to ensuring complementarity and avoiding duplication. GRETA welcomed the agreement to continue holding that type of meeting on a regular basis, as well as holding regular informal meetings between the two Secretariats.
15. GRETA welcomed the launch in Prague on 2 July 2010 of the COMP.ACT Project (European Action for Compensation for Trafficked Persons) and the *Pan-European Campaign on Compensation for Trafficked Persons*, undertaken by Anti-Slavery International and La Strada International, together with partners in 14 countries. GRETA welcomed the Council of Europe's institutional support to this important pan-European Initiative, which also has the support of the European Commission and the OSCE. GRETA particularly welcomed the close link of this Project and Campaign with Article 15 of the Council of Europe Convention, which is the first and only international binding provision which explicitly recognises the right of victims of trafficking in human beings to be compensated for the damage suffered, and the obligation for States to guarantee this compensation in their internal law.
16. GRETA noted that the Council of Europe was finalising its 2011 budget, and in this context, it reiterated the need to ensure an increase in the financial and human resources allocated to its activities in the coming years in order that it may accomplish its mission and, in particular, effectively carry out the first round of the evaluation of the implementation of the Convention by the parties. It recalled that it is the only independent human rights monitoring mechanism in the field of action against trafficking in human beings and that its activities are a priority for the Organisation.
17. With reference to articles having appeared in the press, including electronic media, GRETA recalled that its mandate is to evaluate the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings by the parties. GRETA underlined that it had not taken any position on the issue of begging in the context of trafficking in human beings.
18. GRETA adopted this list of items discussed and decisions taken, which in accordance with Rule 24 of its Internal Rules of Procedure is public.

Appendix I

Agenda

- 1. Opening of the meeting**
- I. ITEMS FOR DECISION**
- 2. Adoption of the draft agenda**
- 3. First round of the implementation of the Convention by the parties: Guidelines for GRETA Reports, country visits, and requests for information addressed to civil society**
- 4. First round of evaluation of the implementation of the Convention by the parties: information concerning the 1st Group of 10 parties to be evaluated**
- 5. Preliminary draft timetable for the preparation and examination of GRETA Reports: Exchange of views**
- 6. Initiating the first evaluation round for future new parties: Exchange of views**
- 7. Proposed dates of GRETA meetings in 2011: 15-18 March; 14-17 June; 20-23 September; and 6-9 December**
- II. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**
- 8. 4th meeting of the Committee of the Parties to the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (Strasbourg, 13 September 2010): Thematic Debate on Partnerships among international organisations active in the field of trafficking in human beings : need for co-ordinated action**
- 9. State of signatures and ratifications of the Convention**
- 10. Information on Council of Europe activities of interest to GRETA**
- 11. Information on the activities of international governmental and non-governmental organisations of interest to GRETA**
- 12. Other business**
- III. ADOPTION OF THE LIST OF ITEMS DISCUSSED AND DECISIONS TAKEN**

Appendix II

List of Participants

Members of GRETA

Ms Vessela BANOVA

Ms Louise CALLEJA

Ms Josie CHRISTODOULOU

Mr Davor DERENCINOVIC

Mr Vladimir GILCA

Ms Hanne Sophie GREVE
[President of GRETA]

Mr Nicolas LE COZ
[First Vice-President of GRETA]

Ms Alexandra MALANGONE

Ms Nell RASMUSSEN

Ms Leonor RODRIGUES

Ms Gulnara SHAHINIAN
[Second Vice-President of GRETA]
[Apologised]

Mr Robert STRATOBERDHA

Ms Diana TUDORACHE

Secretariat

**DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF
HUMAN RIGHTS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS**

**Secretariat of the Council of Europe
Convention on Action against Trafficking
in Human Beings (GRETA and Committee
of the Parties)**

Mr Christos GIAKOUMOPOULOS
Director of Monitoring
Executive Secretary *ad interim*

Ms Petya NESTOROVA
Executive Secretary (as of 15 October 2010)

Mr David DOLIDZE
Administrator

Ms Claudia LAM
Administrator

Ms Carolina LASÉN DIAZ
Administrator

Ms Rona STERRICKS
Principal Administrative Assistant

Ms Giovanna MONTAGNA
Secretarial Assistant

Interpreters

Mr Grégoire DEVICTOR

Ms Barbara GRUT

Ms Cynera JAFFREY