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COMMITTEE OF THE PARTIES  
COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONVENTION ON ACTION AGAINST  
TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

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**19th meeting of the Committee of the Parties**

(Strasbourg, 4 November 2016)

**MEETING REPORT**

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## Table of contents

Agenda items 1 and 2: Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda .....	3
Agenda item 3: Exchange of views with the President of GRETA .....	3
Agenda item 4: Election of members of the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA).....	4
Agenda item 5: Examination of GRETA’s reports on the implementation of the Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings by Montenegro, Romania and the United Kingdom and adoption of recommendations in respect of these Parties .....	7
Agenda item 6: Government reports submitted in reply to Committee of the Parties recommendations ....	8
Agenda item 7: Follow up to be given to government reports submitted in reply to Committee of the Parties recommendations.....	8
Agenda item 8: Co-operation activities aimed at strengthening the implementation of GRETA’s conclusions and the Committee of the Parties’ recommendations.....	8
Agenda item 9: Information on the anti-trafficking activities of other international organisations of interest to the Committee of the Parties .....	9
Agenda item 10: State of signatures and ratifications of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings .....	9
Agenda item 11: Dates of future meeting .....	9
Agenda item 12: Other business .....	9
Agenda item 13: Adoption of the list of decisions taken.....	9
Appendix I .....	10
Appendix II .....	11
Appendix III .....	17
Appendix IV .....	19
Appendix V .....	20

## **Agenda items 1 and 2: Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda**

1. The Committee of the Parties to the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (hereinafter referred to respectively as “the Committee” and “the Convention”) held its 19th meeting on 4 November 2016 in Strasbourg.
2. The meeting was opened by Ambassador Ardiana HOBDAI (Albania), Chair of the Committee. The agenda, as adopted by the Committee, is set out in Appendix I. The list of participants is set out in Appendix II.

## **Agenda item 3: Exchange of views with the President of GRETA**

3. Mr Nicolas LE COZ, President of the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Being (GRETA), indicated that GRETA had adopted a further three final reports under the second round of evaluation of the Convention, concerning Montenegro, Romania and the United Kingdom. These reports showed that many of GRETA’s recommendations made in the first reports had been implemented. However, certain provisions of the Convention were still not fully complied with. For example, in Montenegro, GRETA has urged the authorities to adopt a proactive approach to the identification of victims of trafficking, paying particular attention to migrant workers, children in street situations and unaccompanied minors. Moreover, GRETA has urged the Montenegrin authorities to ensure that all cases related to trafficking are investigated and prosecuted as such and lead to effective, proportionate and dissuasive sanctions. In Romania, given the increased number of child victims of trafficking, GRETA has urged the authorities to intensify their efforts to prevent trafficking in children, in particular by training child protection professionals and paying special attention to Roma communities and migrant children. In the UK, GRETA had called on the authorities to take steps to improve the identification and protection of child victims of trafficking, to address the problem of children going missing from local authority care and to improve the exchange of information on missing unaccompanied children between police forces and local authorities. In all three countries, GRETA had urged the authorities to adopt measures to facilitate and guarantee access to compensation for victims of trafficking.
4. Further, the President of GRETA informed the Committee that an “urgent procedure” visit had been organised to Italy in September 2016 to examine the specific situation of forced returns of victims of trafficking in human beings and the identification of victims of trafficking among asylum seekers and migrants. Mr Le COZ also referred to the first evaluation visit carried out by GRETA to Greece during which particular attention had been paid to measures taken to identify victims of trafficking among migrants and asylum seekers and to protect unaccompanied minors from falling victim to trafficking.
5. In addition, GRETA’s President informed the Committee that GRETA had decided to include in its 6th General Report, covering the calendar year 2016, a thematic section on the issue of child trafficking. He also referred to a compendium of good practices on the implementation of the Convention which had been published by GRETA in October 2016.
6. Concerning the forthcoming election of 13 members of GRETA, the President of GRETA underlined the importance of ensuring a degree of continuity in GRETA’s membership, which would be crucial for the on-going second evaluation round, as well as preserving a well-balanced composition in respect of gender, professional expertise, language skills, legal traditions and geographical areas.
7. Finally, Mr Le COZ summed up the six years of his chairmanship of GRETA, a period which had been marked by an increase in the number of States Parties to the Convention, the adoption of a total of 52 country evaluation reports by GRETA and increased co-operation with other international organisation, Council of Europe bodies and civil society actors. Mr Le COZ thanked the Committee and its current and previous Chairs for acting in unison with GRETA and reinforcing GRETA’s monitoring findings through the recommendations adopted by the Committee. Mr Le COZ’s statement is reproduced in full in Appendix III.

8. The Chair thanked Mr Le COZ for his presentation and opened the floor for questions or comments concerning GRETA's work. Mr Mark GOREY, representative of the United Kingdom, noted the British authorities' appreciation of GRETA's report and recommendations and indicated that the British Government had recently pledged £33.5m funding for combating human trafficking in countries of origin. Further, Mr GOREY referred to the ratification by the United Kingdom of the 2014 Protocol to the Forced Labour Convention. Mr GOREY's statement is reproduced in full in Appendix IV.

9. Ambassador Daniel OSPELT (Liechtenstein), thanked the President of GRETA for his presentation and asked when the first evaluation of Liechtenstein would take place. Mr Le COZ recalled that the first evaluation round is launched at the earliest one year and at the latest two years following the entry into force of the Convention in respect of the party concerned, and noted that the dates of the first evaluation visit will be set in co-operation with the national authorities.

10. Ambassador Katya TODOROVA (Bulgaria), expressed appreciation of GRETA's work and the leadership provided by Mr Le COZ during a dynamic period. Noting the important arrival of migrants to Europe, she asked if GRETA was in a position to react to the new challenges in the area of identification of victims of trafficking among migrants. Mr Le COZ stressed that while not all migrants and asylum seekers are victims of trafficking, States have an obligation to establish what their protection needs are and identify those who are already in the process of being trafficked, as required by the Anti-Trafficking Convention. He added that States must adopt a multi-disciplinary approach to proactively identify victims of trafficking and ensure that they are not sent back to countries where they risk being re-traumatised and re-trafficked.

11. Ms Sandra KAULIŅA, representative of Latvia, thanked GRETA for the fruitful co-operation in the course of the second evaluation round and inquired about the procedure following the submission of the authorities' comments to the draft GRETA report. Mr Le COZ explained that the comments would be taken into consideration by GRETA when adopting the final report at its forthcoming plenary meeting (28 November – 2 December 2016). The final report, once adopted, would be transmitted to Latvian authorities for their eventual final comments and subsequently published.

12. Ms Susanna ADAMYAN, representative of Armenia, congratulated Mr Le COZ on his work and major contribution as GRETA's President and reaffirmed the Armenian authorities' dedication to combating human trafficking, in the light of the forthcoming GRETA's second evaluation report.

13. The Chair of the Committee recalled that this was the last exchange of the Committee with Mr Le COZ as President of GRETA. On behalf of the Committee, Ambassador HOBRARI warmly thanked Mr Le COZ for his work during his eight-year membership and six-year presidency of GRETA, and for his major contribution to laying down solid grounds for what has become a highly regarded monitoring mechanism of the Council of Europe.

#### **Agenda item 4: Election of members of the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA)**

14. The Chair recalled that the terms of office of 13 of the 15 members of GRETA would expire on 31 December 2016. She further noted that eight of the members were elected for a first term of office in November 2012, enabling them to run for a second term, while the other five members were ending their second term of office and could not be re-elected.

15. The Chair recalled that with a view to preparing the elections to fill the 13 seats, 44 Parties to the Convention had been invited to nominate candidates for GRETA membership. The remaining two Parties to the Convention, Austria and the Netherlands, continued to have nationals among the GRETA members whose mandates run until the end of 2018. The deadline for submitting candidatures was 4 September 2016, i.e. at the latest two months before the election date, as provided for in the Rule 12 of the Rules on the election procedure of the members of GRETA (CM/Res(2013)28).

#### **4.1 Admissibility of the candidatures for GRETA**

16. Before proceeding with the election, the Chair invited the Committee you to consider the admissibility of the candidatures for GRETA membership, taking into account Rules 9, 10, 11 and 12 of the Rules on the election procedure of the members of GRETA.

17. The Chair informed the Committee that out of 44 Parties eligible to nominate candidates, 27 Parties<sup>1</sup> had nominated a total of 43 candidates. Eight of the candidates (Belgium, Cyprus, Ireland, Latvia, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Ukraine and the United Kingdom) have been nominated for a second term of office as members of GRETA. Nominations from two Parties had been received after the deadline of 4 September 2016: from Greece (three candidates) on 23 September 2016 and from “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” (one candidate) on 5 September 2016. The Chair invited the representatives of these two Parties to provide explanations. Ambassador Stelios PERRAKIS (Greece) stated that the letter with the candidates on behalf of Greece, dated 29 July 2016, had been sent by the Permanent Representation of Greece on time but had apparently got lost between the different Council of Europe buildings and it was only when the list of candidates had been published on the website that the Greek authorities had realised that their candidature had not reached the Secretariat. Ambassador PERRAKIS asked the Committee to show understanding for these unfortunate circumstances and to accept the Greek candidatures. Ambassador Petar POP-ARSOV (“the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”) apologised for the delay of one day and asked the Committee to accept his country’s candidature, which had been submitted on the first working day (Monday) after the deadline of 4 September 2016 (Sunday). In the absence of interventions from other members of the Committee, the Chair concluded that the candidates submitted by Greece and “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” could stand for election.

18. The Chair recalled that Rule 11 of the Rules on the election procedure of the members of GRETA required Parties to ensure that the national selection procedure leading to the nomination of candidates for GRETA was in accordance with published national guidelines or otherwise transparent and designed to lead to the nomination of the most qualified candidates. She noted that Parties had not been asked specifically to provide information on national selection procedures, but in some countries there had been public calls of interest, and many Parties had nominated two or three candidates, aiming to ensure that their candidates have different professional backgrounds. Some Parties nominating one candidate had done so because they were proposing for a second term of office an incumbent GRETA member.

19. The Chair informed the Committee that Bulgaria, Georgia and Germany had provided three, two and three candidates respectively, all of whom were women, and in accordance with Rule 10, paragraph 2, of Resolution CM/Res(2013)28, she invited the representatives of these Parties to provide an explanation. Ms Verena WOLF, representative of Germany, stated that following a public call for expression of interest, four persons (three women and one man) had expressed interest, but the one male candidate did not meet the language requirements. Ambassador Katya TODOROVA (Bulgaria) stated that a public call for expression of interest had been made twice and both times all candidates were women. Ambassador Konstantin KORKELIA (Georgia) informed the Committee that only women had expressed interest to be nominated for election as members of GRETA. In the light of these explanations, the Committee decided to accept the lists of candidates submitted by Bulgaria, Georgia and Germany.

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<sup>1</sup> Albania, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Republic of Moldova, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Sweden, Switzerland, “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”, Ukraine and the United Kingdom.

#### **4.2 Assessment of whether the candidates nominated meet the requirements for membership of GRETA**

20. The Chair referred to Rule 3 of Resolution CM/Res(2013)28, which states that individuals holding decision-making positions as regards defining and/or implementing policies in the field of action against trafficking in human beings in government or in any other organisation or entity, which may give rise to a conflict of interest with the responsibilities inherent to membership of GRETA, shall not be eligible. The independence and impartiality of GRETA members should not be put into question by the mere fact that they are civil servants or otherwise employed by the public sector, but by holding decision-making positions in governmental or other organisation defining or implementing anti-trafficking policies.

21. The Chair noted that the candidate from Azerbaijan, Mr Ilkin GURBANOV, was the contact person for GRETA, and in case of being elected as a GRETA member, he could no longer fulfil this role. Further, the Chair noted that one of the two candidates from Georgia, Ms Tamila BARKALAIA, was the Director of the State Fund for the Protection of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings and as such could be seen as holding a decision-making position in the field of action against trafficking in human beings in Georgia. Ambassador Konstantin KORKELIA (Georgia) indicated that Georgia had decided to withdraw the candidature of Ms BARKALAIA to avoid a potential conflict of interest. Further, the Chair noted that the second candidate from Georgia, Ms Ketevan KHUTSISHVILI, was the contact person to liaise with GRETA, and in case of being elected as GRETA member, she could no longer act as contact person.

#### **4.3 Election of 13 members of GRETA**

22. The Chair referred to the Explanatory note on the procedure to be followed to elect GRETA members which had been prepared by the Secretariat (THB-CP(2016)18) and recalled the rules for the election of GRETA members contained in Resolution CM/Res(2013)28.

23. Following an invitation from the Chair, representatives of Parties which had proposed candidates for GRETA indicated their preferences for particular candidates.

24. The Chair drew the attention of the Committee to a letter received on 1 November 2016 from representatives of 35 NGOs united in La Strada International's NGO platform and the Global Alliance against Traffic in Women (GAATW) in relation to the GRETA elections.

25. Further, the Chair informed the Committee that equipment for electronic voting had been provided for the meeting, which ensured the secrecy of the ballot and calculated the results of the voting. Following an introduction of the electronic voting system by Mr Bastian VINCHON, representative of the company providing the equipment, members of the Committee ran a test vote.

26. The Committee proceeded with the election of 13 members of GRETA by a secret ballot. Following 17 rounds of voting, the Committee elected the following members of GRETA:

- Ms Alina BRAȘOVEANU (Moldovan) – re-elected
- Mr Rudolf CHRISTOFFERSEN (Norwegian)
- Mr Davor DERENČINOVIĆ (Croatian)<sup>2</sup>
- Ms Helga GAYER (German)
- Mr Frédéric KURZ (Belgian) – re-elected
- Mr Ola Hermann LAURELL (Swedish)
- Ms Kateryna LEVCHENKO (Ukrainian) – re-elected
- Ms Nathalie MARTIN (French)
- Ms Siobhán MULLALLY (Irish) – re-elected
- Mr Ryszard PIOTROWICZ (British) – re-elected
- Mr Mihai ȘERBAN (Romanian) – re-elected
- Ms Rita THEODOROU SUPERMAN (Cypriot) – re-elected
- Ms Dorothea WINKLER (Swiss).

<sup>2</sup> Mr DERENČINOVIĆ was a member of GRETA from 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2012.

27. The Chair indicated that in application of Rule 15, paragraph 2, of Resolution CM/Res(2013), in order to ensure that one half of the membership of GRETA is renewed every two years, the terms of office of five members elected at the meeting (to be chosen by drawing of lots) shall exceptionally expire at the end of two years. This would allow holding election of seven members of GRETA at the end of 2018 and election of eight members at the end of 2020. The Chair invited the Committee to nominate three people from among its members to carry out the drawing of lots. The following five GRETA members were drawn by lots: Ms Alina BRAȘOVEANU, Ms Rita THEODOROU SUPERMAN, Ms Siobhán MULLALLY, Ms Nathalie MARTIN and Ms Kateryna LEVCHENKO. Their terms of office will run from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2018. The terms of office of the other eight members elected at the meeting run from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2020.

28. The Committee congratulated the elected candidates and wished them success in monitoring the implementation of the Convention.

**Agenda item 5: Examination of GRETA's reports on the implementation of the Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings by Montenegro, Romania and the United Kingdom and adoption of recommendations in respect of these Parties**

29. The Chair recalled that GRETA had adopted final reports concerning the implementation of the Convention by Montenegro, Romania and the United Kingdom. These reports were sent to the respective national authorities for final comments and, following their receipt, were made public in September and October 2016. The three draft recommendations based on GRETA's reports and taking into account the final comments received from the Parties concerned had been made available provided to the Committee on 7 October 2016. No requests for proposals or amendments to the draft recommendations had been received by the Secretariat in advance of this meeting.

30. The Chair noted that each draft recommendation focused on the issues for immediate action identified by GRETA in its second evaluation report, requesting the authorities to report back to the Committee on the measures taken in respect of these selected issues one year after the adoption of the recommendation. The recommendations also invited the authorities to keep GRETA regularly informed of the other measures taken in response to GRETA's conclusions.

**5.1 Draft recommendation to be adopted in respect of Montenegro**

31. Mr Pavle KARANIKIĆ, representative of Montenegro, stated that GRETA's report represented an objective description of the situation in Montenegro situation and highlighted the excellent co-operation between GRETA and the Montenegrin authorities in the course of the evaluation. He stressed the readiness of the Montenegrin authorities to continue this co-operation, including through follow-up activities focussing on prevention, improved protection of victims and more efficient prosecution of traffickers.

32. The Committee adopted the recommendation in respect of Montenegro and decided to request the Montenegrin Government to inform it of the measures taken to comply with this recommendation by 4 November 2017.

**5.2 Draft recommendation to be adopted in respect of Romania**

33. Ms Livia RUSU, representative of Romania, thanked GRETA and the Secretariat for the work put into preparing the second evaluation report on Romania. She noted that the report acknowledged the Romanian authorities' efforts and indicated that the new national anti-trafficking strategy would take into account GRETA's recommendations.

34. The Committee adopted the recommendation in respect of Romania and decided to request the Romanian Government to inform it of the measures taken to comply with this recommendation by 4 November 2017.

### **5.3 Draft recommendation to be adopted in respect of the United Kingdom**

35. Mr Mark GOREY, representative of the United Kingdom, thanked GRETA and the Secretariat for the work put in preparing the report and referred to several important steps highlighted by the report, namely passing the ground-breaking Modern Slavery Act in 2015, improving the database of statistical information related to trafficking, and providing training on human trafficking for all relevant professionals. Mr GOREY's statement is reproduced in full in Appendix IV.

36. The Committee adopted the recommendation in respect of the United Kingdom and decided to request the British Government to inform it of the measures taken to comply with this recommendation by 4 November 2017.

### **Agenda item 6: Government reports submitted in reply to Committee of the Parties recommendations**

37. The Chair indicated that the Governments of Azerbaijan, Sweden and "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" had submitted their replies to the Committee of the Parties recommendations adopted on 7 July 2014, requesting them to inform the Committee of measures taken to comply with the recommendations within a two-year period.

38. The Committee took note of the report submitted by Azerbaijan (received on 28 June 2016).

39. Ms Lisa NILHEIM, legal advisor at the Ministry of Justice of Sweden, took the floor concerning the report submitted by Sweden (received on 23 June 2016). She referred to some of the anti-trafficking measures taken by the Swedish government, including those aimed at implementing GRETA's recommendations, in particular setting up a civil society platform against human trafficking, developing a National Referral Mechanism with the assistance of ICMPD, steps taken by the Migration Agency to improve identification of victims of trafficking among asylum seekers, and appointing an Ambassador with the special task of working against human trafficking on both a national and an international level. Ms NILHEIM's statement is reproduced in full in Appendix V.

40. The Committee took note of the report submitted by "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" (received on 8 July 2016).

### **Agenda item 7: Follow up to be given to government reports submitted in reply to Committee of the Parties recommendations**

41. The Committee thanked the authorities of Azerbaijan, Sweden and "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" for the information provided on measures taken to implement the Committee's recommendations and decided to forward their reports to GRETA for consideration in the framework of the second evaluation round. The Committee also decided to make the reports public on the Council of Europe's anti-trafficking website.

### **Agenda item 8: Co-operation activities aimed at strengthening the implementation of GRETA's conclusions and the Committee of the Parties' recommendations**

42. The Executive Secretary of the Convention informed the Committee that a meeting of National Anti-Trafficking Co-ordinators from States Parties to the Convention had taken place on 21-22 June 2016 in Strasbourg. Participants had discussed ways to strengthen national co-ordination and international co-operation in the fight against trafficking in human beings, paying particular attention to multi-agency collaboration in the identification of victims of trafficking and the protection of their rights. In addition, the Secretariat of the Convention and the Secretariat of the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) had presented a project proposal on transnational co-operation in the identification and referral to assistance of victims of trafficking, which required external funding.

43. The Executive Secretary also informed the Committee about a meeting of lawyers and NGOs providing legal assistance to victims of trafficking in human beings, scheduled to take place on 22-23 November 2016 in Strasbourg. The meeting, organised in co-operation with the Netherlands' Helsinki Committee, was aimed at exchanging experiences in the provision of legal assistance to trafficked persons in criminal, civil and administrative proceedings, discussing current challenges and identifying future steps necessary for improving such assistance.

44. In the framework of the Council of Europe Action Plan for the Republic of Moldova, a training session on financial investigations in trafficking in human beings cases had been organised on 26-27 October 2016 in Chişinău. Further, following the entry into force of the Convention in respect of Turkey on 1 September 2016, a conference would be organised on 8-9 November 2016 in Ankara to discuss the provisions of the Convention and the monitoring process of its implementation.

#### **Agenda item 9: Information on the anti-trafficking activities of other international organisations of interest to the Committee of the Parties**

45. The Executive Secretary indicated that there had been a number of anti-trafficking activities of other international organisations in the last months, in particular around the EU Anti-Trafficking Day (18 October) and in relation to the migration crisis. She referred in particular to the work of the OSCE, which had included the organisation of training on combating trafficking along migration routes and a regional conference on 27-28 October 2016 in Skopje. The Executive Secretary stressed the importance of joint activities with relevant international organisations and avoiding duplication of effort.

#### **Agenda item 10: State of signatures and ratifications of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings**

46. The Committee noted that no new signatures and/or ratifications had been submitted since the last meeting of the Committee of the Parties, keeping the number of Parties to the Convention at 46.

47. The Chair stressed once again the importance of all Council of Europe member States to become Party to the Anti-Trafficking Convention and encouraged the Czech Republic and the Russian Federation to speed up the process of signature and/or ratification of the Convention.

#### **Agenda item 11: Dates of future meeting**

48. The Committee decided to hold its 20th meeting on **Friday, 10 March 2017**.

#### **Agenda item 12: Other business**

49. The Executive Secretary informed the Committee that in 2017, on the occasion of the European Anti-Trafficking Day (18 October), the Secretariat was planning to organise a public event, in co-operation with the authorities of the Region Alsace-Champagne-Ardenne-Lorraine and the City of Strasbourg. The Committee decided to include this item in the draft agenda of its next meeting in order to reflect on ways in which it could contribute to this event.

#### **Agenda item 13: Adoption of the list of decisions taken**

50. The Committee approved the decisions taken at the meeting.

## Appendix I

### Agenda

1. **Opening of the meeting**
2. **Adoption of the draft agenda**
3. **Exchange of views with the President of GRETA**
4. **Election of members of the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA)**
  - 4.1 *Admissibility of the candidatures (rule 9, paragraph 1, and rule 11 of CM/Res(2013)28)*
  - 4.2 *Assessment of whether the candidates meet the requirements for membership of GRETA (rule 9, paragraph 4, of CM/Res(2013)28)*
  - 4.3 *Election of thirteen members of GRETA*
  - 4.4 *Drawing of lots to select five members of GRETA whose mandates will run for two years*
5. **Examination of GRETA's reports on the implementation of the Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings by Montenegro, Romania and the United Kingdom and adoption of recommendations in respect of these Parties**
  - 5.1 *Montenegro*
  - 5.2 *Romania*
  - 5.3 *United Kingdom*
6. **Government reports submitted in reply to Committee of the Parties recommendations**
  - 6.1 *Azerbaijan*
  - 6.2 *Sweden*
  - 6.3 *"The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"*
7. **Follow up to be given to government reports submitted in reply to Committee of the Parties recommendations**
8. **Co-operation activities aimed at strengthening the implementation of GRETA's conclusions and the Committee of the Parties' recommendations**
9. **Information on the anti-trafficking activities of other international organisations of interest to the Committee of the Parties**
10. **State of signatures and ratifications of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings**
11. **Dates of future meetings**
12. **Other business**
13. **Adoption of the list of decisions taken**

## Appendix II

### List of participants / Liste de participants

#### Members of the Committee of the Parties / Membres du Comité des Parties

##### **ALBANIA / ALBANIE**

Ms Ardiana HOBDAI  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
Permanent Representative  
to the Council of Europe

Ms Alma KASA  
Deputy to the Permanent Representative

##### **ANDORRA / ANDORRE**

Mme Maria Esther RABASA GRAU  
Ambassadeur Extraordinaire et Plénipotentiaire  
Représentante Permanente  
auprès du Conseil de l'Europe

M. Joan FORNER ROVIRA  
Représentant Permanent Adjoint

Mme Sara DIÉGUEZ  
Conseillère juridique  
Ministère de la Justice

##### **ARMENIA / ARMÉNIE**

Mme Susanna ADAMYAN  
Adjointe au représentant permanent  
auprès du Conseil de l'Europe

##### **AUSTRIA / AUTRICHE**

Mr Rudolf LENNKH  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
Permanent Representative  
to the Council of Europe

##### **AZERBAIJAN / AZERBAÏDJAN**

Mr Ulfat MACHANOV  
Deputy to the Permanent Representative  
to the Council of Europe

##### **BELGIUM / BELGIQUE**

M. Mattias CREFFIER  
Représentant Permanent Adjoint  
auprès du Conseil de l'Europe

##### **BELARUS/ BÉLARUS**

M. Andrei SUKHORENKO  
Représentant du Bélarus  
auprès du Conseil de l'Europe

##### **BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA / BOSNIE-HERZÉGOVINE**

Mr Predrag GRGIĆ  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
Permanent Representative to the Council of Europe

Ms Sabahka RADJO  
Deputy Permanent Representative

##### **BULGARIA / BULGARIE**

Mme Katya TODOROVA  
Ambassadeur  
Représentante Permanente  
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Mme Jordanka PARPAROVA  
Adjointe à la Représentante Permanente

##### **CROATIA / CROATIE**

Mr Miroslav PAPA  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
Permanent Representative to the Council of Europe

Ms Ankica VRKLJAN SUČIĆ  
Deputy to the Permanent Representative

##### **CYPRUS / CHYPRE**

Mr Michael KARAGIORGIS  
Deputy Permanent Representative  
to the Council of Europe

##### **DENMARK / DANEMARK**

Mr Arnold DE FINE SKIBSTED  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative to the Council of Europe

Ms Marie HELDGAARD LAURSEN  
Trainee

Ms Solveig NISBETH  
Trainee

##### **ESTONIA / ESTONIE**

Mr Meelis TIIGIMÄE  
Deputy to the Permanent Representative  
to the Council of Europe

**FINLAND / FINLANDE**

Ms Satu MATTILA-BUDICH  
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Ms Henna KOSONEN  
Deputy Permanent Representative

**FRANCE**

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M. Theofilos ZAFEIRAKOS  
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**LATVIA / LETTONIE**

Ms Sandra KAULIŅA  
Deputy Permanent Representative  
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**LIECHTENSTEIN**

Mr Daniel OSPELT  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
Permanent Representative to the Council of Europe

**LITHUANIA / LITUANIE**

Ms Laima JUREVIČIENĖ  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
Permanent Representative to the Council of Europe

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Président du GRETA

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Ms Gillian WAKENHUT

M. Jean-Jacques PEDUSSAUD

Mme Sylvie BOUX

## Appendix III

### Statement made by Mr Nicolas Le Coz, President of GRETA

Ms Chair, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Since my last exchange of views with you in May this year, GRETA has held one plenary meeting, in July, at which it adopted **three final reports** under the second evaluation round of the CoE Anti-Trafficking Convention, concerning **Montenegro, Romania** and the **United Kingdom**. These reports were recently published and have been submitted to the Committee of the Parties for consideration and adoption of recommendations at today's meeting.

I would like to highlight the main findings of GRETA from these reports. I recall that GRETA's second round-reports contain a section entitled "Conclusions", which sums up the positive developments since the first evaluation and presents "issues for immediate action" which GRETA assesses as requiring to be treated as a priority. GRETA has been very selective in pinpointing these issues and it would be important for the Committee of the Parties to recommend to countries to make progress in these areas as a matter of priority.

In **Montenegro**, GRETA has welcomed that development of the legal framework for combatting trafficking in human beings, the establishment of a dedicated police unit, awareness-raising of the risks of human trafficking, including among migrant workers and children, and the training of relevant professionals.

However, despite the progress achieved, GRETA has urged the Montenegrin authorities to adopt a proactive approach to the identification of victims of trafficking, paying particular attention to migrant workers, children in street situations, children from the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities and unaccompanied minors. The Montenegrin authorities should also do more to discourage demand for the services of trafficked persons, in partnership with civil society and the private sector, including the tourist industry. Steps should also be taken to facilitate and guarantee victims' access to compensation, regardless of their nationality and residence status, and to make full use of the existing legislation on the freezing and confiscation of assets. Moreover, GRETA has urged the Montenegrin authorities to ensure that all cases related to trafficking, including those involving public officials, are investigated and prosecuted as such, and lead to effective, proportionate and dissuasive sanctions.

In **Romania**, GRETA has welcomed the measures to further develop the legislative framework, train relevant professionals and raise awareness. GRETA has also commended the high rate of convictions for trafficking in human beings.

The number of identified child victims of trafficking in Romania has increased considerably in the reporting period and GRETA has urged the Romanian authorities to intensify their efforts to prevent trafficking in children, in particular by training child protection professionals and paying special attention to Roma communities and migrant children. GRETA has also urged the authorities to ensure that victims of trafficking are provided adequate assistance, regardless of their nationality, to devote sufficient human and financial resources to operating shelters across the country, to provide medical care to victims and to support their reintegration via vocational training and access to the labour market. Another area where urgent improvements are needed is guaranteeing compensation to victims of trafficking.

In the report on the **UK**, GRETA has welcomed the adoption of dedicated legislation on human trafficking/modern slavery – some the provisions of which are ground-breaking - the setting up of specialised anti-trafficking structures, the multi-agency approach promoted by the authorities, including when it comes to identifying victims, and the engagement with civil society. Another positive development is the creation of the post of Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner.

However, GRETA is concerned that child trafficking remains underreported and there is a continuing lack of safe accommodation for children who are suspected or known to have been trafficked. GRETA has called on the authorities to take steps to improve the identification and protection of child victims of trafficking, to address the problem of children going missing from local authority care and to improve the exchange of information on missing unaccompanied children between police forces and local authorities. Moreover, GRETA has urged the UK authorities to the best interests of the child are effectively respected, protected and fulfilled when decisions are taken to return child victims to other countries. Another urgent recommendation concerns the provision of adequate support and assistance to victims of trafficking, according to their individual needs, beyond the 45 days of the recovery and reflection period. Similar to Montenegro and Romania, GRETA has urged the UK authorities to adopt measures to facilitate and guarantee access to compensation for victims of trafficking THB.

GRETA's second evaluation round pays particular attention to measures taken to address the vulnerability of children to trafficking. In this context, GRETA has decided that its **6th General Report**, which will cover the calendar year 2016, will include a thematic section on the issue of child trafficking. As you know, the CoE Strategy for the rights of the child 2016-2021, which was adopted earlier this year, focuses on the protection of children of all forms of violence, including human trafficking, and GRETA will continue ensuring that its efforts are complementary to those of other Council of Europe bodies, including the Lanzarote Committee.

As I informed you at our last exchange of views, this year GRETA plans to carry out **12 evaluation visits**. In addition to the "planned" visits, an "**urgent procedure**" **visit to Italy** took place in September, pursuant to Rule 7 of the Rules of procedure for evaluating implementation of the Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings by the Parties. It examined the specific situation of forced returns of victims of trafficking in human beings and identification of victims of trafficking among asylum seekers and migrants. The report on this visit will be considered by GRETA at its plenary meeting at the end of November, will be sent to the Italian authorities for comments and will subsequently be published. Also in September, GRETA carried out its **first evaluation visit to Greece**, during which it paid particular attention to the capacity of Greek officials to identify victims of trafficking among asylum seekers and to protect unaccompanied minors from falling victim to trafficking.

I would also like to draw your attention to the publication of a **compendium of good practices in the implementation of the Council of Europe Anti-Trafficking Convention**, which highlights positive initiatives identified in over 50 country-by-country evaluation reports published by GRETA.

I hope that the election of 13 GRETA members today will preserve the richness and professional, gender and geographic balance of **GRETA's membership**. An effective monitoring system relies on the professionalism, availability, dedication and independence of the experts to whom the task is entrusted. I would also like to underline the importance of ensuring a degree of continuity in GRETA's membership, which is crucial for the ongoing second evaluation round.

This is the last meeting of the Committee of the Parties which I attend in my role of President of GRETA. I feel proud and privileged to have been a member of GRETA for eight years and to have acted as its President for six years. This has been a particularly enriching experience and I will continue to act as a champion of the Convention. During this period, GRETA has produced a total of 52 country evaluation reports and has established itself as an authoritative monitoring body. The number of Parties to the Convention has grown to 46 and I hope that this number will continue to grow and that countries beyond Europe will be invited to join the Convention. I would like to thank the Committee of the Parties and its current and previous Chairs for acting in unison with GRETA and reinforcing GRETA's monitoring findings through the recommendations adopted by the Committee.

Thank you for your attention.

## Appendix IV

### **Statement made by Mr Mark GOREY, Deputy to the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the Council of Europe**

Human trafficking is part of the appalling reality of modern slavery, with an estimated 45.8 million people being held in all forms of slavery across the world.

In 2015 we passed the ground-breaking Modern Slavery Act in 2015. This Act gives law enforcement in the UK the tools to tackle this horrific crime, ensures that perpetrators can receive sentences and enhances support and protection for victims.

Tackling Modern slavery remains a key priority for the UK Government. I'm sure you will have seen the UK Prime Minister's announcements at the end of July in which she committed to establish a modern slavery taskforce sitting at the heart of the UK Government to drive further progress in tackling slavery and people trafficking. As part of this, the UK has pledged £33.5m funding to prevent slavery in countries from where we know victims are regularly trafficked to the UK.

In June, the UK Government commitment to the full national roll out of Independent Child Trafficking Advocates across England and Wales and has introduced three early-adopter sites in Greater Manchester, Hampshire and nationally in Wales. We have also extended the NRM pilots until 2017 and will consider next steps following completion and evaluation.

The UK Government has committed £8.5m to transform the operational response to this complex, multi-faceted crime. Over 50 analysts, specialists and investigators will strengthen the current police response and help bring more slave-masters to justice.

The Committee may also be aware that in January 2016, the UK became the third country to ratify the International Labour Organization's protocol to the Forced Labour Convention, signalling our commitment to stamping out labour exploitation in particular. We urge other states to consider doing the same.

To focus states' attention on the issue and drive the global response, in 2015 the UK successfully argued for the establishment of UN Global Goal, 8.7, which commits countries to "take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour ..."

There can, though, be no room for complacency in tackling the crime of modern slavery. My country, like every other participating State must do more.

GRETA has an important role to play in the international community's response to strengthen the states' domestic coordination and international coordination to eradicate this vile crime.

We welcome the efforts of the Council of Europe to protect the core values that promote respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including human trafficking.

Thank you.

## Appendix V

### **Statement made by Ms Lisa NILHEIM, Legal advisor Division for Criminal Law, Ministry of Justice of Sweden**

First of all let me extend Sweden's appreciation for all the work done by the Expert Group and the Secretariat which we value highly.

We are also thankful for the round-table initiative that offered an excellent opportunity to discuss the important work done by different actors in this area, and also the challenges we face.

Our contacts with the Expert Group have also brought relevant actors within civil society together. An umbrella organisation, the Swedish Platform Civil Society against trafficking, has been formed. Today it has over 20 member organizations, that can send their message with one strong voice.

The Swedish Government is constantly reviewing our legislation and other anti-trafficking measures to improve the fight against trafficking in human beings.

Our reply regarding measures taken to comply with the recommendations presents an overview of the Government's activities in this field. The report shows that for the Government's work to be successful, focus must be on a coordinated and multidisciplinary approach.

I would like to specifically address a few important measures taken.

- ✓ The Swedish National Coordinators team has, in cooperation with ICMPD and together with all relevant stakeholders, developed and launched a manual clearly stating the responsibilities of each authority regarding the referral of victims of trafficking.
- ✓ The Police Authority has decided to reinforce police action against trafficking in human beings.
- ✓ The Migration Agency has taken important steps to improve the identification of victims of trafficking amongst the many persons seeking refuge in our country. There are also specific nationwide efforts aimed at unaccompanied minors.
- ✓ The Swedish Government has appointed an Ambassador with the special task of working against human trafficking on both a national and an international level. A gender and children's rights perspective is paramount in his work.
- ✓ An action plan against trafficking, exploitation and sexual abuse of children was decided in 2014. This summer the Action Plan was updated and renewed for the years 2016 to 2018.
- ✓ And just last week the Anti-trafficking Inquiry presented several legislative proposals, with the overall goal of securing a higher number of court convictions on human trafficking. The Inquiry also presented criminal law proposals focusing on exploitation of vulnerable persons for labour, begging and forced criminality. The proposals are currently being considered by the Government.

We are looking forward to continued excellent cooperation and dialogue with the Expert Group during the second evaluation round.

Thank you for your attention.