



Strasbourg, 25 September 2009

THB-GRETA(2009)LD3

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

3rd meeting of GRETA
(Strasbourg, 22-25 September 2009)

LIST OF ITEMS DISCUSSED AND DECISIONS TAKEN

Secretariat of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings
Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs – DG-HL

1. The *Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA)* held its third meeting at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg from 22 to 25 September 2009 with Ms Hanne Sophie GREVE in the chair. The agenda, as adopted by GRETA, is set out in Appendix I. The list of participants appears in Appendix II.
2. GRETA continued the preparation of the questionnaire for the first round of the evaluation of the implementation of the Convention by the parties. GRETA agreed to finalise and adopt the questionnaire at its next meeting.
3. GRETA took note of the information provided by the President on her exchange of views with the *Committee of the Parties of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings* which took place during its third meeting on 21 September 2009. The President had informed the Committee of the progress of GRETA's work and the current difficulties related to GRETA's budget and the staff of the Secretariat of the Convention. GRETA welcomed the support which the Committee of the Parties had shown to the work of GRETA as well as its request to the Committee of Ministers to include in the ordinary budget for 2010 and the following years, sufficient financial and human resources to enable GRETA to carry out its work.
4. Bearing in mind the current number of parties to the Convention and the foreseen ratifications, GRETA pointed out that it would have to complete, on average, 10 evaluations per year. GRETA recalled that once the evaluation procedure was launched, in accordance with the Convention, it had a legal obligation to treat all the parties on an equal footing, and in particular to complete the evaluation in respect of each party within the equal time-frame. GRETA expressed its concern regarding the feasibility of carrying out the first evaluation round for all the parties to the Convention within the four-year period stipulated in Rule 2 of its *Rules of Procedure for evaluating implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings by the Parties*, given the insufficient budget allocated to this activity and the scarce human resources of the Secretariat of the Convention.
5. GRETA congratulated Ambassador Zurab TCHIABERASHVILI (Georgia) on his election as the new Chair of the Committee of the Parties and Ambassador Thomas HAJNOCZI (Austria) on his election as the new Vice-Chair of this Committee. GRETA also took note of the appointment of Ambassador TCHIABERASHVILI as the new Thematic Co-ordinator on Equality and Trafficking (TC-ET) of the Committee of Ministers.
6. GRETA held an exchange of views concerning the activities of other international organisations in the field of trafficking in human beings. In particular, GRETA discussed the new developments concerning the proposal of the Commission of the European Communities for a *Council Framework Decision on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings, and protecting victims*. GRETA was informed that negotiations concerning the text of the proposal were still under way within the European Union and at present some modifications were being made to the text which should avoid overlapping of GRETA's activities and functions with those of national rapporteurs, as the original version of the proposal could have led to. GRETA welcomed the proposal of the Committee of the Parties to include this question on the agenda of the next quadripartite meeting between the Council of Europe and the European Union. GRETA also took note of the recent exchange of letters between Ms Maud DE BOER-BUQUICCHIO, Acting Secretary General of the Council of Europe, and Mr Jacques BARROT, Vice-President of the European Commission in relation to this issue.
7. GRETA was also informed of the outcome of the 10th meeting of the *Co-ordination Group between the Council of Europe and the OSCE*, which had taken place in Strasbourg on 11 September 2009.

8. GRETA expressed concern regarding the recent tendency, developed by different international organisations to carry out monitoring of the implementation of national measures in the field of trafficking in human beings. In this respect GRETA pointed out that there was a need to safeguard the effectiveness of the monitoring machinery established by the Council of Europe Convention, a binding international instrument imposing strict legal obligations on State Parties. GRETA also pointed out that unnecessary duplication of monitoring operations might lead to inconsistent or contradictory conclusions with detrimental effects on the monitoring process: “forum shopping” and relinquishment of peer pressure. Above all, it may create confusion as to the binding or non-binding nature of the obligations of States in the field of trafficking in human beings and was likely to generate monitoring fatigue on the part of national authorities. GRETA welcomed the decision of the Committee of the Parties to examine, at its next meeting, in the framework of its thematic debate the following theme: *Partnerships among international organisations dealing with trafficking: need for co-ordinated action*.

9. GRETA welcomed the imminent publication of 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*, as well as of the launching event of this Joint Study, which would take place in the United Nations headquarters in New York on 13 October 2009. GRETA also took note of the participation of the Acting Secretary General of the Council of Europe in the forthcoming European Union Ministerial Conference *Towards Global EU Action against Trafficking in Human Beings* which would take place on 19-20 October in Brussels in the framework of the Swedish Presidency of the Council of the European Union and on the occasion of Anti-Trafficking Day. Finally, GRETA was informed that the Council of Europe had given its support to the *Pan-European Campaign on Compensation for Trafficked Persons* launched by Anti-Slavery International and La Strada International, together with partners in 13 countries.

10. GRETA also took note of the forthcoming exchange of views between the Acting Secretary General of the Council of Europe, the Chair of the Committee of the Parties, the President of GRETA and the *Sub-Committee on trafficking in human beings* of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on the proposal for a *Council Framework Decision on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings, and protecting victims*. This exchange of views would take place on 28 September 2009.

11. GRETA took note that since its last meeting the Convention had been ratified by one additional member state bringing the total number of ratifications to 26 and signatures to 15. GRETA once again urged the Council of Europe member states which had not already done so and the European Community to sign and/or ratify the Convention. In addition, GRETA called for non-member states to accede to the Convention.

12. GRETA was informed on the progress of the setting-up of the basic version of the Trafficking Information Management System (TIMS) which was nearing completion and final delivery was scheduled for October.

13. GRETA took note of the information provided by its members on their participation in conferences, seminars and other events on behalf of GRETA and in their individual capacity.

14. 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. **Preparation of the questionnaire for the first round of evaluation of the implementation of the Convention by the parties (article 38, paragraph 2 of the Convention)**
- II. **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**
4. **State of signatures and ratifications of the Convention**
5. **Information on the President's exchange of views with the Committee of the Parties**
6. **Progress in setting up the Trafficking Information Management System (TIMS)**
7. **Information on Council of Europe activities of interest to GRETA**
8. **Information on the activities of international governmental and non-governmental organisations of interest to GRETA**
9. **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
[Apologised]

Mr Davor DERENCINOVIC
[Apologised]

Mr Vladimir GILCA

Ms Hanne Sophie GREVE, President

Mr Nicolas LE COZ, 1st Vice-President

Ms Alexandra MALANGONE

Ms Nell RASMUSSEN

Ms Leonor RODRIGUES

Ms Gulnara SHAHINIAN, 2nd Vice-President

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**

Ms Marta REQUENA
Executive Secretary of the Council of Europe
Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human
Beings (Committee of the Parties and GRETA)

Mr David DOLIDZE
Administrator

Ms Rona STERRICKS
Principal Administrative Assistant

Ms Louise EVERTS
Secretarial Assistant

Ms Yvette SCHILLER
Secretarial Assistant

Interpreters

Ms Barbara GRUT
Ms Cynera JAFFREY