

Strasbourg, 4 June 2010

THB-GRETA(2010)LD6

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

6th meeting of GRETA
(Strasbourg, 1-4 June 2010)

LIST OF ITEMS DISCUSSED AND DECISIONS TAKEN

1. The *Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA)* held its 6th meeting at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg from 1 to 4 June 2010, 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 devoted the major part of its meeting to finalising the preparations for 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. In particular, GRETA held an exchange of views concerning the preparation of its Reports, the organisation of country visits and requests for information addressed to civil society.
3. In this context and in order to hold an exchange of views on the role of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in the evaluation procedure of the implementation of the Convention, GRETA had invited the following international NGOs active in the field of action against trafficking in human beings to a hearing during its meeting: Amnesty International, Anti-Slavery International and La Strada International. GRETA thanked the representatives for their interesting and informative presentations as well as their contributions to discussions and looked forward to continued fruitful collaboration.
4. GRETA welcomed the fact that the initial version of the *Trafficking Information Management System (TIMS)* had been made available to the 1st Group of 10 parties to be evaluated and that the latter would therefore be able to submit their 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)* using this new IT tool.
5. GRETA took note of the *Information Meeting on the first round of evaluation of the implementation of the Convention by the parties*, which had been organised for the "contact persons" appointed by the parties to the Convention to liaise with GRETA (Strasbourg, 31 March 2010). GRETA was pleased to learn that all the parties to the Convention had appointed a "contact person". During this meeting the First Vice-President of GRETA had presented the Convention and its monitoring mechanism and the Secretariat of the Convention had provided practical guidelines for completing the Questionnaire and had given a presentation of the *Trafficking Information Management System (TIMS)*.
6. GRETA noted with satisfaction that the Executive Secretary of the Convention had sent a letter (dated 31 May 2010) to the parties to the Convention entitled to nominate candidates to fill the two vacant seats of GRETA inviting them to submit the names and curricula vitae of candidates to the Secretary General by 6 October 2010. The letter contained the suggestions made by GRETA at its last meeting concerning the expertise needed to complement its current expertise and the need to reflect a gender balance in its composition (see document THB-GRETA(2010)LD5). The Committee of the Parties would elect the two new members of GRETA during its 5th meeting on 6 December 2010.
7. GRETA was pleased to note that, since its last meeting, the Convention had been ratified by two Council of Europe member states (the Netherlands and Sweden), bringing the total number of ratifications to 28 and the signatures not yet followed by ratification to 15. 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 called for other non-member states to accede to the Convention.
8. GRETA welcomed the decision of the Committee of the Parties to hold a *Thematic Debate on Partnerships among international organisations active in the field of trafficking in human beings: need for co-ordinated action* in the framework of its 4th meeting on 13 September 2010. The members of GRETA expressed their interest in attending this significant event, subject to available funding.
9. GRETA took note of the information on the Council of Europe activities of interest to GRETA. In particular it noted that the judgment of 7 January 2010 of the European Court of Human Rights in the case *Rantsev v. Cyprus and Russia* had become final on 10 May 2010. GRETA recalled that the Court had concluded that trafficking in human beings itself, within the meaning of Article 4-a of the *Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings*, fell within the scope of Article 4 of the *European Convention on Human Rights* on the

prohibition of slavery and forced labour. GRETA also stressed that when monitoring the parties concerned, it would take into account the conclusions of this judgment in its assessment. Likewise, GRETA considered it desirable that during the supervision of the execution of this judgment, the Committee of Ministers take due account of GRETA's relevant monitoring findings.

10. 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 developments concerning a *Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings, and protecting victims* adopted by the European Commission on 29 March 2010. GRETA also took note of information concerning the *2nd Meeting of National Rapporteurs or Equivalent Mechanisms on Trafficking in Human Beings*, co-chaired by the Spanish Presidency of the European Union and the European Commission (Brussels, 2 June 2010), which a member of the Secretariat of the Convention had attended.
11. GRETA was pleased to learn that the Council of Europe had granted its institutional support to the *Pan-European Campaign on compensation for victims of trafficking in human beings* undertaken by Anti-Slavery International and La Strada International together with partners in 13 countries and which would be launched in Prague on 2 July 2010. The Campaign was based on Article 15 of the Convention on compensation for victims of trafficking in human beings - the first legally binding international provision on this question.
12. GRETA welcomed the follow-up given to *Resolution 11/3 on Trafficking in persons, especially women and children* (17 June 2009) in which the Human Rights Council of the United Nations had requested the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) "*to enhance its efforts within the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking to promote and integrate a human rights-based approach into efforts to combat human trafficking*". In particular, GRETA noted that the OHCHR had collected contributions from stakeholders, including the Council of Europe, in order to make a compilation of how the *Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking* were used and implemented. GRETA noted that the Executive Secretary of the Convention had participated in a seminar organised by the OHCHR as a follow-up to this Resolution to make proposals aimed at promoting the practical application of these *Principles and Guidelines* (Geneva, 27-28 May 2010). The above-mentioned compilation would be appended to the report of the proceedings of the seminar. In addition, GRETA took note with interest of the *Panel discussion - Victims and Survivors of Trafficking* which had taken place in Geneva on 2 June 2010 during the Human Rights Council session.
13. GRETA noted that, in the framework of the Council of Europe's co-operation activities with OSCE, its President would meet with the *OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings* in Paris on 22 June 2010 to discuss 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.
14. GRETA noted that the Council of Europe was preparing its 2011 budget, and in this context, it reiterated the need to increase the financial and, above all, human resources allocated to its activities 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, which had just been launched. It recalled that it was the only independent human rights monitoring mechanism in the field of action against trafficking in human beings and that its activities were a priority for the Organisation.
15. 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 evaluation of the implementation of the Convention by the parties – Exchange of views concerning the structure and preparation of GRETA Reports**
- 4. First round of evaluation of the implementation of the Convention by the parties – Exchange of views concerning country visits**
- 5. First round of evaluation of the implementation of the Convention by the parties – Exchange of views concerning GRETA's requests for information addressed to civil society**
- 6. Trafficking Information Management System (TIMS)**
- 7. Hearing of international non-governmental organisations active in the field of action against trafficking in human beings organised by GRETA**
- II. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**
- 8. Information Meeting for the “contact persons” appointed by the parties to the Convention to liaise with GRETA on the first round of the evaluation of the implementation of the Convention by the parties (Strasbourg, 31 March 2010)**
- 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
[Apologised]

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]

Mr Robert STRATOBERDHA

Ms Diana TUDORACHE

Hearing of international non-governmental organisations active in the field of action against trafficking in human beings

Amnesty International

Ms Jill Heine, Legal Adviser

Mr Johannes Heiler, Assistant Adviser

Anti-Slavery International

Ms Klara Skrivankova, Trafficking Programme Coordinator

La Strada International

Ms Marieke Van Doorninck, Advisor Public Affairs

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)

Ms Marta REQUENA
Executive Secretary

Mr David DOLIDZE
Administrator

Ms Claudia LAM
Administrator

Ms Carolina LASÉN DIAZ
Administrator

Ms Rona STERRICKS
Principal Administrative Assistant

Ms Yvette SCHILLER
Secretarial Assistant

Ms Giovanna Montagna
Secretarial Assistant

Interpreters

Ms Amanda BEDDOWS-LARIVIERE
Mr Grégoire DEVICTOR
Ms Chloé CHENETIER