



Strasbourg, 16 January 2020

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

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**25th meeting of the Committee of the Parties**

(Strasbourg, 18 October 2019)

**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: Examination of GRETA’s reports on the implementation of the Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings by Andorra, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Lithuania and Switzerland (second evaluation round), Liechtenstein (first/second evaluation round), and Turkey (first evaluation round), and adoption of recommendations in respect of these Parties .....	4
Agenda item 5: Government reports submitted in reply to Committee of the Parties’ recommendations (second evaluation round) .....	7
Agenda item 6: Exchange of views with PACE on enhancing the comprehensive approach to combating trafficking in human beings.....	7
Agenda item 7: Discussion on strengthening action against human trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation .....	8
Agenda item 8: Revision of Rule 2.a of the Rules of procedure of the Committee of the Parties.....	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.....	10
Agenda item 11: Dates of future meetings .....	10
Agenda item 12: Other business.....	10
Agenda item 13: Adoption of the list of decisions taken.....	10
Appendix I .....	11
Appendix II .....	12
Appendix III .....	18
Appendix IV .....	21
Appendix V.....	23
Appendix VI .....	25
Appendix VII .....	26
Appendix VIII .....	28
Appendix IX.....	29
Appendix X.....	30
Appendix XI.....	31

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**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 25th meeting on 18 October 2019 in Strasbourg.
2. The meeting was opened by the Chair of the Committee of the Parties, Ambassador Corina Călugăru (Republic of Moldova). She noted that 18 October was the European Anti-Trafficking Day, an occasion for policymakers and the general public to reflect upon the response to trafficking in human beings in Europe. She informed the Committee that a statement by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe had been issued on the previous day, urging countries across the continent to make sure that victims of human trafficking receive justice, including financial compensation, for the abuses they suffer. A social media video message by GRETA's President, Davor Derenčinović, focusing on the same issue, had also been published. Moreover, the Chair noted that a side-event was being organised after the meeting, focusing on access to compensation and safe reporting mechanisms for victims of trafficking. The representatives of the non-governmental organisations participating in this side event - Suzanne Hoff, International Co-ordinator of La Strada International, and Liliana Keith, Senior Advocacy Officer at the Platform for International Co-operation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM) - had been given authorisation to attend the meeting as observers, pursuant to Rule 2c of the Committee's Rules of Procedure.
3. The Chair invited the Committee to adopt the revised draft agenda of the meeting. 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**

4. The Chair invited Mr Davor Derenčinović, President of the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA), to take the floor for the periodic exchange of views with the Committee of the Parties.
5. The President of GRETA presented the main findings from GRETA's reports concerning Andorra, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Switzerland and Turkey, which were the subject of draft recommendations by the Committee of the Parties at the meeting. Further, he informed the Committee that GRETA had carried out six visits as part of the third evaluation round of the Convention and there were three more planned visits before the end of 2019 (to Georgia, Bulgaria and Denmark). He noted that the first draft reports under the third round would be discussed by GRETA at its next plenary meeting in November, and stressed the importance of state parties providing timely replies to GRETA's questionnaire so that the third monitoring round of the Convention could be completed on schedule.
6. The President of GRETA also noted that at its plenary meeting in July, GRETA had held an exchange of views on strengthening action against trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation, in the light of the former Secretary General's report "Ready for Future Challenges - Reinforcing the Council of Europe". GRETA had decided to set up an ad hoc working group which would prepare a compendium of good practices in the area of combating human trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation, on the basis of GRETA's country evaluation reports, as well as a guidance note on preventing and combating human trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation. Mr Derenčinović's statement is reproduced in full in Appendix III.

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**Agenda item 4: Examination of GRETA's reports on the implementation of the Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings by Andorra, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Lithuania and Switzerland (second evaluation round), Liechtenstein (first/second evaluation round), and Turkey (first evaluation round), and adoption of recommendations in respect of these Parties**

7. The Chair recalled that GRETA had adopted final reports concerning the implementation of the Convention by Andorra, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Lithuania and Switzerland (second evaluation round), Liechtenstein (first/second evaluation round), and Turkey (first evaluation round). These reports had been sent to the respective national authorities for final comments and, following their receipt, had been made public. The eight draft recommendations based on GRETA's reports had been made available to the Committee on 20 September 2019. The Chair noted that the Secretariat had received in advance of the meeting a proposal for amendments to the draft recommendation concerning Hungary, which would be presented when this recommendation is discussed.

**4.1 Draft recommendation to be adopted in respect of Andorra**

8. Ambassador Joan Forner Rovira (Andorra) expressed his authorities' appreciation of the cooperation with GRETA during the second evaluation round. He noted that no cases of human trafficking had ever been identified in Andorra; there was one suspicion of human trafficking and the relevant action protocol was applied, but no victims of trafficking were identified. Ambassador Forner Rovira indicated that the Andorran authorities had taken a number of steps in the light of GRETA's previous recommendations and would take the new recommendations into account, even though human trafficking did not appear to be an issue of concern in Andorra. Stressing that the Andorran authorities had already taken certain steps to prevent trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation, Ambassador Forner Rovira proposed an amendment to the draft recommendation, in the second bullet point of paragraph 2, replacing "take further steps" with "continue to take steps".

9. The President of GRETA expressed the opinion that when adopting recommendations, the Committee of the Parties should not in any way change the substance of GRETA's recommendations. He noted that the Committee of the Parties should rely on the expert assessment performed by GRETA, which based its reports on a comprehensive collection and analysis of information from a variety of sources over a period of time.

10. The Executive Secretary recalled that state parties had the opportunity to submit comments to GRETA's draft and final reports, correcting any inaccuracies and providing additional information. Noting that the fight against human trafficking was a dynamic area, with new developments taking place all the time, she indicated that the draft recommendations reflected the situation at the time of the adoption of GRETA's report.

11. The Deputy to the Permanent Representative of Austria, Mr Andreas Bilgeri, expressed the view that when adopting recommendations, the Committee of the Parties should keep as close as possible to GRETA's conclusions. The representatives of the Netherlands and Switzerland supporting this position, which was seconded at later stages of the meeting by the representatives of Finland and Germany.

12. The Deputy to the Permanent Representative of Hungary, Mr Gergö Kocsis, noted that without prejudice to the expert role of GRETA, it was the Committee of the Parties' role to examine draft recommendations and to agree on their text, pursuant to the Convention and the Explanatory Report. This position was supported by the representatives of the Czech Republic, Malta and Poland.

13. The Deputy Permanent Representative of Cyprus, Mr Michael Karagiorgis, supported the opinion expressed by Austria, while stressing the need for making a distinction between the roles of the two

monitoring bodies under the Convention, which did not preclude state parties from making proposals for amendments of draft recommendations. The Deputy to the Permanent Representative of Greece, Georgios Skeperis, and the Deputy to the Permanent Representative of Romania, Alexandru Atanasiu, supported this view.

14. The Committee agreed to make the amendment proposed by the Permanent Representative of Andorra and adopted the recommendation, requesting the Andorran Government to inform it of measures taken to comply with this recommendation by 18 October 2020.

#### ***4.2 Draft recommendation to be adopted in respect of Finland***

15. The Deputy Permanent Representative of Finland, Mr Toni Sandell, expressed his authorities' appreciation of the manner in which GRETA had carried out the second evaluation round on the implementation of the Convention by Finland, and the constructive dialogue established. He noted that several measures to respond to challenges identified in GRETA's report had been included in the Programme of the new Finnish Government, including the drafting of an act on assistance to victims of trafficking and updating the Reception Act. Further, he announced that a new Anti-Trafficking Co-ordinator would be appointed in January 2020. The full text of his statement appears in Appendix IV.

16. The Committee adopted the recommendation in respect of Finland and requested the Finnish Government to inform it of measures taken to comply with this recommendation by 18 October 2020.

#### ***4.3 Draft recommendation to be adopted in respect of Germany***

17. The representative of German, Ms Iris Muth, Head of Division in the Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, expressed the appreciation of the German government of the constructive dialogue with GRETA during the second evaluation round. She referred to several developments since the publication of GRETA's report, including training of staff and working with businesses to prevent trafficking in supply chains. The full text of her statement appears in Appendix V.

18. The Committee adopted the recommendation in respect of Germany and decided to request the German Government to inform it of measures taken to comply with this recommendation by 18 October 2020.

#### ***4.4 Draft recommendation to be adopted in respect of Hungary***

19. The Deputy to the Permanent Representative of Hungary, Mr Gergő Kocsis, noted that combatting human trafficking remained a priority for the Hungarian Government. He indicated that several of GRETA's recommendations would be reflected in the next anti-trafficking strategy, which was in the process of being drafted. Mr Kocsis indicated that the Hungarian authorities proposed to amend the draft Committee of the Parties recommendation by deleting three bullet points (concerning appropriate facilities in the transit zones where asylum seekers can meet in privacy with persons of trust, the availability of assistance measures for male victims of trafficking, and carrying out financial investigations into human trafficking cases), amending the bullet point concerning age assessment procedures, correcting the name of the National Directorate-General for Aliens Policing, and adding a new paragraph stating that none of the recommendations should be interpreted "in a way that would suggest influence to change Hungary's migration-related policies contained in the Fundamental Law of Hungary and in other Hungarian legislation, or to encourage illegal migration from the Council of Europe's part". The full text of Mr Kocsis' statement appears in Appendix VI.

20. Mr Mark Gorey, Deputy to the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom, expressed agreement only as regards the correction of the factual mistake concerning the name of the Directorate-General for Aliens Policing. None of the other amendments were supported by members of the Committee and the Hungarian representative withdrew the proposal.

21. The Committee adopted the recommendation in respect of Hungary, subject to correcting the name of the Directorate-General, and decided to request the Hungarian Government to inform it of measures taken to comply with this recommendation by 18 October 2020.

#### ***4.5 Draft recommendation to be adopted in respect of Liechtenstein***

22. The Permanent Representative of Liechtenstein, Ambassador Mr Daniel Ospelt, expressed his authorities' appreciation of the co-operation and fruitful exchanges during GRETA's first evaluation of Liechtenstein. He referred to the "Liechtenstein Initiative" for a financial sector commission on combating human trafficking and modern slavery, and the recently initiated second phase of the project under the heading "FAST – Finance Against Slavery and Trafficking". The full text of his statement appears in Appendix VII.

23. The Committee adopted the recommendation in respect of Liechtenstein and decided to request the Liechtenstein Government to inform it of measures taken to comply with this recommendation by 18 October 2020.

#### ***4.6 Draft recommendation to be adopted in respect of Lithuania***

24. The Deputy to the Permanent Representative of Lithuania, Ms Monika Bimbaite, stressed her country's commitment to continue strengthening action against human trafficking, taking into account GRETA's recommendations. She noted that some of the recommendations had already been taken into consideration, such as conducting training and a survey on municipal commissions' activities for combating trafficking in human beings in order to determine what specific amendments need to be introduced in the national legislation to make their work more effective. The full text of her statement appears in Appendix VIII.

25. The Committee adopted the recommendation in respect of Lithuania and decided to request the Lithuanian Government to inform it of measures taken to comply with this recommendation by 18 October 2020.

#### ***4.7 Draft recommendation to be adopted in respect of Switzerland***

26. Mr Boris Mesaric, Head of the Co-ordination Service against human trafficking and migrant smuggling of the Federal Department of Justice and Police, expressed his appreciation of the fact that GRETA had taken into account the comments of the Swiss authorities when adopting the final report. Nevertheless, he noted that the report referred to statements made by NGOs without first checking the information with the authorities. The full text of his statement appears in Appendix IX.

27. The Committee adopted the recommendation in respect of Switzerland and decided to request the Swiss Government to inform it of measures taken to comply with this recommendation by 18 October 2020.

#### **4.8 Draft recommendation to be adopted in respect of Turkey**

28. Ms Gamze Gül Çakir Kiliç, Expert in the Directorate General of Migration Management of the Ministry of the Interior of Turkey, referred to the efforts made by her country to support the world's largest refugee population, adopt legislation and regulation on human trafficking, and train relevant professionals, as well as the forthcoming preparation of the third national action plan against trafficking. However, she expressed the view that Turkey's efforts had been disregarded to a great extent in GRETA's report, which had led the Turkish Government to make a statement on 9 October 2019. The full text of her statement appears in Appendix X.

29. The Committee adopted the recommendation in respect of Turkey and decided to request the Turkish Government to inform it of measures taken to comply with this recommendation by 18 October 2021.

#### **Agenda item 5: Government reports submitted in reply to Committee of the Parties' recommendations (second evaluation round)**

30. The Chair indicated that the report submitted by Belarus in response to the Committee of the Parties' recommendation had been received very close to the meeting (on 14 October), and therefore its consideration had been postponed until the next Committee of the Parties' meeting.

31. The Chair also noted that as a follow-up to the reports submitted to the Committee of the Parties in reply to the recommendations issued as part of the second evaluation round, the authorities of Armenia, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, France, Ireland, Latvia, Malta, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal and Serbia had submitted additional information, which was compiled in the document CP(2019)01rev2. The Chair invited the Executive Secretary to present this document, highlighting one or two positive developments per country.

#### **Agenda item 6: Exchange of views with PACE on enhancing the comprehensive approach to combating trafficking in human beings**

32. The Chair indicated that Mr Vernon Coaker, PACE rapporteur on "Concerted action on human trafficking", had apologised for being unable to attend the meeting, due to his parliamentary obligations. Mr Coaker had asked that the preliminary draft report be transmitted to the Committee of the Parties for information and possible comments. The Chair also noted that on 1 October 2019 she had participated in an exchange of views with the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons concerning the preparation of the report. The Chair welcomed the opportunity given to the Committee of the Parties to contribute to the process.

33. The representatives of the Netherlands and the United Kingdom indicated that they would submit comments in writing.

34. The President of GRETA welcomed that attention paid by the Parliamentary Assembly to action against human trafficking, stressing that particular attention should be paid to prevention, improved victim protection and reinforced international co-operation. He also suggested that the report should refer to the work of GRETA and the results from the monitoring of the implementation of the Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, as well as paying attention to the identification of victims of trafficking among migrants and asylum seekers.

35. The Chair invited the PACE Secretariat to take the floor. Mr Rüdiger Dossow reiterated the wish of the rapporteur, Mr Vernon Coaker, to involve the Committee of the Parties and GRETA in the process of preparation of the report.

36. The Chair invited members of the Committee to send their comments on the preliminary draft report by 28 October 2019.

### **Agenda item 7: Discussion on strengthening action against human trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation**

37. The Chair recalled the attention paid to addressing human trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation in the former Secretary General's report "Ready for Future Challenges – Reinforcing the Council of Europe" and the decision taken by the Committee of Ministers at the 129th Ministerial Session in Helsinki to examine ways of strengthening action against trafficking in human beings. A working breakfast had been organised on 9 July 2019 with the participation of Permanent Representations, members of GRETA and the Secretariat, on the basis of a non-paper prepared by the Secretariat. The Chair invited the Executive Secretary to inform the Committee on the preparation of a roadmap for action against human trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation.

38. The Executive Secretary explained that a draft roadmap was in the process of being finalised, under the co-ordination of the Private Office and with the involvement of relevant parts of the Council of Europe Secretariat, and that it would be presented to the Committee of Ministers in the near future. Part of the roadmap was based on GRETA's work and would lead to the preparation of a compendium of good practices and a guidance note on preventing and combating human trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation. This could serve as the basis for drafting a recommendation by the Committee of Ministers, a task which would have to be entrusted to an intergovernmental committee. Further, it was intended to develop a module on human trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation as part of the Council of Europe's HELP Programme. The Executive Secretary also noted that it was proposed to include in the standard Council of Europe tender and procurement documents a due diligence clause in order to mitigate the risk of suppliers using trafficked labour. As a follow-up to the CM Recommendation(2016)3 on Human Rights and Business, a platform presenting initiatives to promote social ethical behaviour in private companies was being prepared by DG-I.

39. The representative of Austria, Mr Andreas Bilgeri, noted the importance attached by his country to combating trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation and suggested that the role of employers and employment agencies be considered as part of the roadmap.

40. The representative of Hungary, Mr Gergö Kocsis, asked which committee would be entrusted with preparing a draft recommendation for the Committee of Ministers and whether a budget had been envisaged for this purpose. The Executive Secretary replied that this had not yet been decided.

### **Agenda item 8: Revision of Rule 2.a of the Rules of procedure of the Committee of the Parties**

41. The Chair presented the proposal to revise Rule 2.a of the Rules of procedure of the Committee of the Parties ("Members") with a view to encouraging the participation in the Committee's meetings of experts in the field of combating human trafficking whose expenses to attend the meetings would be covered by the Council of Europe budget (similar to the Committee of the Parties to the Istanbul Convention). The proposed revision of Rule 2.a read as follows:

"Members of the Committee shall be the representatives of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe of the member states parties to the Convention and representatives of the parties to the Convention which are not members of the Council of Europe. Members shall have no right to defrayal of expenses. In addition, parties to the Convention can nominate to participate in meetings of the Committee of the Parties national experts in the field of combating trafficking in human beings and with knowledge of the Convention. One national expert per state party shall have the right to defrayal of expenses."



42. Ambassador Joan Forner Rovira (Andorra) asked how the additional costs would be covered. The Executive Secretary explained that the costs incurred by the participation of national experts in the meetings of the Committee of the Parties would be covered by the ordinary budget allocated to activities in the area of combating trafficking in human beings, if necessary by transferring a part of the so-called co-operation budget to the monitoring budget.

43. The Deputy Permanent Representative of Cyprus, Mr Michael Karagiorgis, expressed his support of the proposed revision of Rule 2.a, noting the benefits of national experts attending the meetings, which could be combined with the organisation of co-operation activities. The representative of the Netherlands seconded this proposal.

44. The Committee adopted the proposed revision of Rule 2.a of its Rules of procedure.

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

45. The Chair invited the Executive Secretary to present information concerning relevant activities in the area of combating trafficking in human beings.

46. The Executive Secretary informed the Committee that a meeting of National Anti-Trafficking Co-ordinators and Rapporteurs would be co-organised by the Council of Europe and OSCE on 22-23 October 2019 in Bratislava, hosted by the Slovak chairmanship of the OSCE. According to the draft list of participants, 42 countries from the Council of Europe and OSCE regions would be represented at the meeting. The Executive Secretary noted that this was the second time that the Council of Europe and OSCE pulled resources to co-organise such a meeting, which was vital for sharing information on new trends and approaches, strengthening partnerships, and promoting the implementation of the Convention and OSCE's political commitments on combating human trafficking. The agenda of the meeting including discussions of enhancing the protection of child victims of trafficking, leveraging technology to combat child trafficking, engaging civil society in anti-trafficking, and discouraging demand that leads to human trafficking for different exploitation purposes. The European Union's Anti-Trafficking Co-ordinator, Myria Vassiliadou, was expected to speak at the meeting.

47. Further, the Executive Secretary informed the Committee about the forthcoming holding of a round-table meeting in Athens on 30 October 2019, to discuss progress in the implementation of GRETA's and the Committee of the Parties' recommendations to the Greek authorities.

48. The Executive Secretary also referred to plans to organise a round-table meeting on the linkages between human trafficking and information and communication technology, expected to take place in December 2019 in Strasbourg.

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

49. The Chair indicated that no new signatures and/or ratifications of the Convention had been submitted since the last meeting of the Committee of the Parties and consequently the number of Parties to the Convention continued to stand at 47. She stressed the importance of all Council of Europe member States joining the Convention and reiterated the call on the only remaining Council of Europe member State which had not yet signed and ratified the Convention, the Russian Federation, to do so as a matter of priority. The Chair suggested that a representative of the Russian Federation be invited to attend the next meeting of the Committee of the Parties as an observer.

**Agenda item 11: Dates of future meetings**

50. The Committee decided to hold its next meeting on either 29 May or 5 June 2020. The date of the meeting should be confirmed in early 2020.

**Agenda item 12: Other business**

51. Mr Mark Gorey, Deputy to the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom, noted that 18 October was Anti-Slavery Day in the United Kingdom, an opportunity to raise awareness of human trafficking and modern slavery, and encourage co-operation between government, local authorities, companies, charities and individuals to do what they can to address this abhorrent crime. He recalled that in 2017, the United Kingdom had launched a global Call to Action on forced labour, modern slavery and human trafficking, which had been endorsed by almost 90 countries. Furthermore, in June 2019, the UK Government had announced a new role of Migration and Modern Slavery Envoy to co-ordinate global efforts to tackle modern slavery. The full text of Mr Gorey's statement appears in Appendix XI.

52. The Deputy to the Permanent Representative of Romania, Mr Alexandru Atanasiu, asked the Executive Secretary to update the Committee on the human resources situation of the Secretariat. The Executive Secretary replied that as regards staff responsible for monitoring work, there were four administrators and two administrative assistants. However, the post of the administrative assistant dealing with co-operation activities had been frozen since the summer of 2018, following the retirement of the previous assistant, which posed difficulties.

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

53. The Committee adopted the list of decisions taken and agreed to include in the agenda of its next meeting a discussion on how to facilitate the adoption of draft recommendations.

## **Appendix I**

### **Agenda**

- 1. Opening of the meeting**
- 2. Adoption of the draft agenda**
- 3. Exchange of views with the President of GRETA**
- 4. Examination of GRETA's reports on the implementation of the Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings by Andorra, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Lithuania and Switzerland (second evaluation round), Liechtenstein (first/second evaluation round) and Turkey (first evaluation round), and adoption of recommendations in respect of these Parties**
  - 4.1 Andorra
  - 4.2 Finland
  - 4.3 Germany
  - 4.4 Hungary
  - 4.5 Liechtenstein
  - 4.6 Lithuania
  - 4.7 Switzerland
  - 4.8 Turkey
- 5. Government reports submitted in reply to Committee of the Parties recommendations**

Additional information submitted by the authorities of **Armenia, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, France, Latvia, Malta, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal and Serbia**
- 6. Exchange of views with PACE on enhancing the comprehensive approach to combating trafficking in human beings**

Preliminary draft report "Concerted action on human trafficking" Rapporteur Mr Vernon Coaker, Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons, PACE
- 7. Discussion on strengthening action against human trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation**
- 8. Revision of Rule 2.a of the Rules of procedure of the Committee of the Parties**
- 9. Information on 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**

Albania Dautlari  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
Permanent Representative  
to the Council of Europe  
*(apologised/excusée)*

**ANDORRA / ANDORRE**

M. Joan Forner Rovira  
Ambassadeur Extraordinaire et Plénipotentiaire  
Représentant Permanent  
auprès du Conseil de l'Europe

**ARMENIA / ARMÉNIE**

Ms Astghik Baldryan  
Deputy to the Permanent Representative  
to the Council of Europe

**AUSTRIA / AUTRICHE**

Mr Andreas Bilgeri  
Deputy to the Permanent Representative  
to the Council of Europe

**AZERBAIJAN / AZERBAÏDJAN**

Mr Tale Aliyev  
Deputy to the Permanent Representative  
to the Council of Europe

**BELARUS/ BÉLARUS**

Mr Nikita Belenchenko  
Head of Mission of Belarus  
to the Council of Europe

**BELGIUM / BELGIQUE**

M. M. Matthew GREANT  
Attaché

**BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA/BOSNIE  
HERZEGOVINE**

Mr Ivan Orlic  
Permanent Representative  
to the Council of Europe  
*(apologised/excusée)*

**BULGARIA / BULGARIE**

Mme Jordanka Parparova  
Adjointe à la Représentante Permanente  
auprès du Conseil de l'Europe

**CROATIA / CROATIE**

Mr Toma Galli  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
Permanent Representative  
to the Council of Europe

**CYPRUS / CHYPRE**

Mr Michael Karagiorgis  
Deputy Permanent Representative  
auprès du Conseil de l'Europe

**CZECH REPUBLIC / RÉPUBLIQUE TCHÈQUE**

Mr Ondřej Abrham  
Deputy Permanent Representative  
to the Council of Europe

**DENMARK / DANEMARK**

Ms Helene Fester  
Deputy to the Permanent Representative  
to the Council of Europe

**ESTONIA / ESTONIE**

Ms Kerli Tiik  
Deputy to the Permanent Representative  
to the Council of Europe

**FINLAND / FINLANDE**

Mr Toni Sandell  
Deputy Permanent Representative  
to the Council of Europe

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Adjoint au Représentant Permanent  
auprès du Conseil de l'Europe

**GEORGIA / GÉORGIE**

Mr Irakli Giviashvili  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative  
to the Council of Europe  
(*apologised/excusé*)

**GERMANY / ALLEMAGNE**

Ms Iris Muth  
Head of Division  
Unit 403 - Protection of Women from Violence  
Federal Ministry for Family Affairs,  
Senior Citizens, Women and Youth

**GREECE / GRECE**

M. Panayiotis Beglitis  
Ambassadeur  
Représentant Permanent  
auprès du Conseil de l'Europe

M. Georgios Skemperis  
Adjoint au Représentant Permanent  
auprès du Conseil de l'Europe

**HUNGARY / HONGRIE**

Mr Gergő Kocsis  
Deputy to the Permanent Representative  
to the Council of Europe

**ICELAND / ISLANDE**

Ms Hjördís Olga Guðbrandsdóttir  
Deputy to the Permanent Representative  
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**IRELAND / IRLANDE**

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**LATVIA / LETTONIE**

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**LIECHTENSTEIN**

Mr Daniel Ospelt  
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Permanent Representative  
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**LITHUANIA / LITUANIE**

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Ms Monika Bimbaitė  
Deputy to the Permanent Representative

**LUXEMBOURG**

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**MALTA / MALTE**

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Permanent Representative  
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**REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA /  
REPUBLIQUE DE MOLDOVA**

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Permanent Representative  
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Mr Andrei Ursu  
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**MONACO**

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Représentant Permanent  
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**MONTENEGRO / MONTÉNÉGRÓ**

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Permanent Representative  
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(*apologised/excusé*)

**NETHERLANDS / PAYS BAS**

Ms Johanna Hanneke Palm  
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to the Council of Europe

Ms Anouk Rooijers  
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Directorate General for Justice and Law Enforcement  
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**NORTH MACEDONIA / MACÉDOINE DU NORD**

Mr Zoran Barbutov  
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.  
Deputy Permanent Representative  
to the Council of Europe

Mr Ibrahim Kadriu  
Deputy to the Permanent Representative

**NORWAY / NORVÈGE**

Mr Birger Gjelsten Veum  
Deputy to the Permanent Representative  
of the Council of Europe

Mr Truls Loke Desbans  
Communications Officer

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Mr Davor Derenčinović  
President of GRETA



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## Appendix III

### Statement by Mr Davor Derenčinović, President of GRETA

Ms Chair, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am especially pleased to address you today, on 18 October, the **European Anti-Trafficking Day**. Since 2007, this day has served to mobilise international organisations, governments and civil society to address challenges in the fight against human trafficking, and to give thought to the victims and survivors of this horrendous crime. The thematic focus chosen by GRETA for third evaluation round of the Convention - trafficking victims' **access to justice and effective remedies** - reflects the victim-centred and human-rights based approach to the fight against human trafficking, which is the trademark of the Council of Europe Anti-Trafficking Convention, and highlights the importance of compensation and redress for victims of trafficking.

During its last two meetings (in March and July 2019), GRETA adopted final reports in respect of **Andorra, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Lithuania and Switzerland**, in the context of the second evaluation round of the Convention, as well as a first round report on **Turkey** and a joint first and second round report on **Lichtenstein**. These eight reports are the subject of draft recommendations that you will discuss and adopt today. Allow me to highlight some of the main findings of GRETA from the reports in question.

In **Andorra**, GRETA welcomed the progress made since the first evaluation in developing the legal and policy framework for combating trafficking in human beings, in particular the adoption of a dedicated law on action against human trafficking and the protection of victims, as well as an Action Protocol for the protection of victims which aims to ensure coordination amongst the various stakeholders. No victims of trafficking have been identified in Andorra so far. However, GRETA has called on the authorities to pay particular attention to some sectors that could present risks of exploitation, particularly those employing seasonal workers and domestic work. GRETA has also urged the authorities to include in domestic law all the purposes of trafficking set out in the Convention, in particular trafficking for the purpose of forced labour or services and forced criminality, and to adopt legislative measures allowing for the possibility of holding legal persons criminally liable for offences provided for in the Convention.

Following the first evaluation by GRETA in 2015, **Finland** has made progress in a number of areas, such as further developing the legislative framework for combating trafficking in human beings, providing training to a range of professionals, including health-care staff and social workers, and opening a new shelter for female victims of trafficking and their children. The number of presumed victims of trafficking identified in Finland has more than tripled between 2015 and 2018. GRETA has urged the Finnish authorities to ensure that assistance is guaranteed to all victims of trafficking across the country, regardless of the service provider and place of residence. GRETA has also called on the authorities to ensure that unaccompanied and separated migrant children arriving in Finland benefit from effective care arrangements, including safe and appropriate accommodation, and that investigations into disappearances of migrant children are systematically carried out. The Finnish authorities should also adopt as a matter of priority a new National Action Plan and/or strategy addressing all forms of human trafficking.

In the report on **Germany**, GRETA welcomed legislative amendments which reflect the Convention's provisions in a significantly more comprehensive manner. Further, efforts have been made to provide training to relevant professionals and increased attention has been paid to trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation. Other positive developments include the publication of the "Federal Co-operation Guidance on Protecting and Supporting Child Victims of Trafficking and Exploitation". However, Germany still does not have a national action plan or strategy against human trafficking. GRETA notes that still

greater attention should be paid to preventing and combating human trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation. All victims of trafficking (including male victims), regardless of the form of exploitation, should have effective access to assistance. Germany also needs to ensure that unaccompanied and separated children benefit from effective care arrangements, including appropriate accommodation, access to education and health care, with a view to preventing human trafficking.

In **Hungary**, GRETA welcomed the establishment of new support centres for victims of crime, as well as new provisions introduced into the Criminal Procedure Code to improve the protection of witnesses and victims. The list of professional groups entitled to perform identification of victims of human trafficking has been extended to include the victim support services, the probation services and the legal aid services. However, GRETA called on the Hungarian authorities to strengthen labour inspections in at-risk sectors and to make further efforts to proactively identify victims of trafficking. Further, GRETA urged the Hungarian authorities to strengthen their efforts to prevent child trafficking, and to repeal legislation that penalises children engaged in prostitution. GRETA once again urged the Hungarian authorities to ensure that the recovery and reflection period is specifically defined in law, and to adopt measures to facilitate and guarantee access to compensation to victims of trafficking. GRETA also called for proactive investigations of cases of human trafficking, including for the purpose of labour exploitation.

**Lithuania** has further developed the legal, institutional and policy framework for combating trafficking in human beings. Efforts have been made to train professionals and raise awareness, with particular attention being paid to children and persons in situation of social exclusion. Further, a formalised National Referral Mechanism has been set up, promoting a multi-disciplinary approach to victim identification. However, GRETA has urged the Lithuanian authorities to strengthen their efforts to prevent trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation and child trafficking. It has also called on the authorities to take additional steps to improve the assistance for victims of trafficking, and to make the State compensation scheme effectively accessible to all victims of trafficking, regardless of their nationality and residence status.

In the report on **Switzerland**, GRETA has welcomed the adoption of the second National Action Plan to Fight Human Trafficking, which reflects many of GRETA's previous recommendations and involves the setting up of a number of thematic working groups. Other developments include the increase in the number of places in shelters providing assistance to victims of trafficking, including men, and the campaign to raise awareness of human trafficking among medical staff. There has also been an increase in the number of victims granted State compensation and the number of criminal investigations for human trafficking. However, GRETA has urged the authorities to ensure that a victim identification procedure is put in place in all cantons, and to build the capacity of labour inspectors to identify victims of trafficking. GRETA has also called on the authorities to improve the identification of, and assistance to, child victims of trafficking, and to adopt a specific legal provision and/or guidance on the non-punishment of victims of trafficking for their involvement in unlawful activities, to the extent that they were compelled to do so.

The first evaluation by GRETA of **Turkey** has highlighted a number of measures taken in the area of anti-trafficking, in particular the adoption of relevant legislation and regulations, and the setting up of co-ordinating and specialised structures. However, GRETA has stressed the need for adopting, as a matter of priority, a new, comprehensive national anti-trafficking action plan. GRETA has also stressed the need for proactive identification of victims of trafficking, including for the purpose of labour exploitation. GRETA is seriously concerned by the limited accommodation capacity of shelters for victims of trafficking and has urged the authorities to provide appropriate accommodation for all victims of trafficking (women, men and children) and to facilitate their social inclusion. The majority of victims are returned to their countries of origin soon after being identified and are thus not able to take part in criminal proceedings. Efforts should be made to ensure that victims can take full advantage of the rights to a recovery and reflection period and a temporary residence permit, and have effective access to compensation. GRETA has also urged the authorities to strengthen the investigation and prosecution of trafficking cases, including through reinforcing international co-operation. GRETA's report also calls on the authorities to involve civil society

in the development and implementation of anti-trafficking policies, as well as the identification and assistance of victims.

Finally, GRETA decided to join the first and second evaluation rounds of the Convention in respect of **Liechtenstein**, which is reflected in the first GRETA report on this country. GRETA has welcomed the steps taken by Liechtenstein, in particular the adoption of relevant legislation, the setting up of a roundtable on human trafficking, and the preparation of guidelines defining the responsibilities of stakeholders in the identification and referral to assistance of victims of trafficking. The report also refers positively to the recently launched Liechtenstein Initiative for a Financial Sector Commission on Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking. However, GRETA has called on the authorities to strengthen preventive measures and the training of professionals who may come into contact with victims of trafficking. Furthermore, the right of presumed victims of trafficking to a recovery and reflection period should be provided for in internal law.

Since June, GRETA has carried out six visits as part of the **third evaluation round of the Convention** and there are three more planned visits before the end of 2019 (to Georgia, Bulgaria and Denmark). The first draft reports under the third round will be discussed by GRETA at its next plenary meeting in November. I wish to stress once again the importance of providing timely replies to GRETA's questionnaire so that the third monitoring round of the Convention can be completed on schedule.

At its plenary meeting in July, GRETA held an exchange of views on strengthening action against **trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation**, in the light of the former Secretary General's report "Ready for Future Challenges - Reinforcing the Council of Europe" and the decisions taken at the 129th Ministerial Session in Helsinki. GRETA decided to set up an ad hoc working group which will prepare a compendium of good practices in the area of combating human trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation, on the basis of GRETA's country evaluation reports, and will also draft a guidance note on preventing and combating human trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation. More information on this ongoing work will be provided under agenda item 7.

I trust that the Committee of the Parties will continue reinforcing GRETA's monitoring findings through its work and support to States Parties in improving the implementation of the Convention.

Thank you for your attention.

## **Appendix IV**

### **Statement by Mr Toni Sandell, Deputy Permanent Representative of Finland**

Thank you Madame Chair,

On behalf of the Government of Finland, I would like to express our appreciation to GRETA as well as its Secretariat for conducting the second evaluation round on the implementation of the Convention by Finland. We would like to give a special thanks to GRETA's delegation visiting Finland last year. The visit provided an opportunity for an in-depth discussion on strengthening action against trafficking in human beings. We appreciate the constructive and encouraging dialogue that we have been able to engage in with GRETA.

The Government acknowledges GRETA's report and the proposals therein. We will carefully examine them. We also acknowledge the draft recommendation by the Committee of States Parties.

We are pleased to see that our efforts made and steps taken in the action against trafficking in human beings have been acknowledged, such as our efforts to train professionals on issues related to human trafficking. In this connection, I would like to inform you that the IHME project recognized in GRETA's report was concluded in May 2019 exceeding expectations. It enhanced competence in particular in the field of criminal investigation. Nearly 1 200 police and border guard officers attended the training provided by the project. The training was found to work so well that the co-operation on training between the Assistance System and the Police University College and the Border and Coast Guard Academy will continue after the project. From now on, all police and Border Guard students will receive this basic training on trafficking in human beings created in the project.

At the same time, GRETA identifies several challenges we need to address. In our view, these challenges correspond largely to the challenges and deficiencies identified in the various studies on trafficking in human beings that have been conducted in Finland recently and the challenges brought up by the National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings.

It is, thus, worth noting that several measures to respond to these challenges have now been included in the Programme of our new Government. For example, an Anti-Trafficking Coordinator within the Ministry of Justice will be appointed in January 2020, at the latest. Therefore, it is of particular importance to us that GRETA's report puts forward as a matter of priority the adoption of a National Action Plan addressing all forms of trafficking.

The rights of victims of trafficking and their need for assistance is also acknowledged in the Government Programme. An Act on assistance to victims of trafficking will be drafted during the Government's term of office. The aim is to ensure that assistance, protection and services for victims are not dependent on the criminal proceedings, and that all victims are entitled to services, also at local level in municipalities. The aim is to secure municipalities' capacity to help the victims. Together with other ministries, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health has already issued instructions to municipalities in May 2019, emphasising the right of victims of human trafficking to receive special support and services in Finland.

The Government Programme further states that the Reception Act will be updated in order to weaken the link to criminal proceedings as required by international obligations. The status of victims of human trafficking will be improved, regardless of the progress of criminal proceedings in the human trafficking case.

The work to realise these goals of the Government Programme has already started. The Ministry of the Interior published last year an evaluation report on co-ordination and reporting arrangements for Government matters concerning human trafficking. The report presents some recommendations that will be considered by the Anti-Trafficking Coordinator to improve and enhance cooperation between national stakeholders for tackling human trafficking in Finland. The timing of GRETA's report couldn't be better – it provides us a very strong practical tool to work towards our goals.

Let me finish by thanking GRETA and the Secretariat once again and stating that we look forward to continuing our ongoing dialogue with GRETA as well as informing on the measures taken to implement the Convention.

Thank you.

## **Appendix V**

### **Statement by Ms Iris Muth, Head of Division Protection of Women from Violence, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth of Germany**

Thank you Chair,

First of all, I would like to stress that the German government appreciated very much the good and constructive cooperation with GRETA and the Committee of the Parties during the second evaluation round. The recommendations by the Committee of Parties based on GRETA's thorough analysis are helpful guidelines in our work up until today.

Since the publication of the GRETA Report on Germany on 3 June 2015, efforts on the part of the Federal Government – in close consultation with the German Länder and associations – have especially focused on improving the legal basis for action against human trafficking.

The two most important legislative achievements in the last legislative period form part of the core of our country-report. I would like to mention them briefly:

On 15 October 2016, the Act to Reinforce the Fight against Human Trafficking (Gesetz zur Verbesserung der Bekämpfung des Menschenhandels) entered into force. The Act includes inter alia a revised version of the rules of the German Criminal Code on human trafficking. It contains the necessary legislative measures to implement Directive 2011/36/EU to prevent and combat human trafficking and protect victims and in this way the definitions of the Council of Europe Convention.

Furthermore the Act on the Regulation of Prostitution and Protection of Persons working as Prostitutes entered into force on 1 July 2017, providing for the first time a legal basis on which to regulate prostitution and protect prostitutes against exploitation and human trafficking.

The aim is to create a legislative basis for guaranteeing contractual working conditions, protecting the health of prostitutes, and combatting crime in prostitution, such as human trafficking, violence against and the exploitation of prostitutes, and procurement.

The Federal Government and the German Länder now face the task of further implementing these legal provisions and putting them into practice. In particular, the impact of the 2016 Act to Reinforce the Fight against Human Trafficking on investigations and judicial proceedings shall be evaluated in the near future.

Moreover an act to expand the mandate of the Monitoring Unit for Undeclared Work (FKS) has been enacted on the 18th of July 2019 (Gesetz gegen illegale Beschäftigung und Sozialleistungsmissbrauch). Concerning the fight against trafficking in human beings the act entitles the FKS to inspect and investigate human trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation.

I would briefly like to mention some of our ongoing processes with the aim to improve the knowledge base and the coordination of our fight against trafficking in human beings:

On the basis of the status of consultations within the Federal Government at the end of the last legislative period and within the framework of the Federal Working Group on Trafficking in Human Beings, the Federal Government is currently continuing its deliberations on the further development of structures at federal level. The objectives of these in-depth considerations are to improve overall coordination and political

coherence in combating all forms of human trafficking at the federal level, and to develop and establish a national reporting mechanism.

Therefore, a common forum of the three federal working groups on trafficking in human beings took place on 25 March 2019. The forum focused on the recommendations made by GRETA aiming at improving existing coordination and exchange at federal level as well as on legislative proposals and on current data and developments relating to human trafficking in Germany.

With a view to current developments in the field of human trafficking, the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, in cooperation with the German Network and Coordination Office Against Trafficking in Human Beings (KOK), organised a webinar on "Introduction to the Phenomenon of Human Trafficking - Backgrounds, Identification and Protection of Trafficked Persons" attended by almost 500 people. The webinar addressed employees of the authorities responsible for the registration procedure under the Act on the Regulation of the Prostitution Trade and the Protection of Persons Engaged in Prostitution (ProstSchG).

Together with experts and specialist practitioners, the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth and ECPAT Deutschland (German Chapter of the ECPAT International Network Ending Sexual Exploitation of Children) have developed and published (in October 2018) the Federal Cooperation Concept "Protection and help in cases of trafficking in and exploitation of children" (Bundeskooperationskonzept Schutz und Hilfen bei Handel mit und Ausbeutung von Kindern), a set of recommendations for coordinated, trust-based and child-oriented cooperation between child welfare services, police, specialised counselling centres and other stakeholders to identify and protect victims of child trafficking. The Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth commissioned ECPAT Germany for the period 2019-2021 to support stakeholders on the state level (German Länder) with the implementation of the Cooperation Concept. Due to the federal system, the concept needs to be adapted to the respective provisions and structures in the individual state.

Furthermore, the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs organised in cooperation with the Service Centre against Labour Exploitation, Forced Labour and Human Trafficking (Arbeit und Leben DGB/VHS Berlin-Brandenburg) a training on Trafficking in Human Beings for labour exploitation in October 2018 for prosecutors. A further training for prosecutors is planned for November 2019. For the new victim officers at the FKS four training courses are planned nationwide in 2020.

For the first time, in September 2019, the Service Centre against Labour Exploitation, Forced Labour and Human Trafficking (supported by the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs) participated in a meeting of the working group on Business and Human Rights in order to establish a closer relationship with companies with the aim of preventing human trafficking in supply chains. The working group consists of business associations, trade unions, non-governmental organizations and representatives of thematically relevant foundations and associations.

I would like to close my intervention at this point. We are looking forward to continue the trustful dialogue with GRETA and this Committee in the near future.



## **Appendix VI**

### **Statement by Mr Gergő Kocsis, Deputy to the Permanent Representative of Hungary**

Madam Chair,

First of all we would like to acknowledge the hard work of GRETA during the second round evaluation of Hungary's implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. We highly value the report of GRETA on the substantial Hungarian efforts against trafficking between 2015 and 2019.

We made sure to provide GRETA a complete and unbiased picture on the trafficking situation in Hungary, and the Government's anti-trafficking efforts in every step of the evaluation process.

Combatting human trafficking remains a priority for the Hungarian Government, and our several advancements in this field strongly demonstrate this commitment. During the last year, the Government has allocated an unprecedented, significant amount of funds for numerous measures in relation to prevention, trainings, and the assistance of victims. Work on Hungary's next anti-trafficking strategy is already underway, and we expect to have it adopted by the end of this year.

We have carefully studied and took note of the recommendations of GRETA for the Hungarian Government, and while several of these ideas have already found their way into Hungary's upcoming national anti-trafficking strategy, we still intend to uphold all of the comments we have made regarding the final report, as well as the requests for amendment and deletion concerning the draft recommendations.

Please also note that none of the recommendations should be interpreted in a way that would suggest influence to change Hungary's migration-related policies contained in the Fundamental Law of Hungary and in other Hungarian legislation, or to encourage illegal migration from the Council of Europe's part.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our position.

## **Appendix VII**

### **Statement by Ambassador Daniel Ospelt, Permanent Representative of Liechtenstein**

Chair,

Initially, we would like to thank the GRETA members and the GRETA secretariat in charge of the first report on Liechtenstein for the cooperation and the fruitful exchange during this process. We are convinced that an on-going dialogue contributes to a strengthened response to trafficking of human beings.

According to the report, Liechtenstein is in a fortunate situation with regards to human trafficking: There have been only few investigations of alleged cases in recent years and no convictions so far. Nevertheless, Liechtenstein's parliament unanimously consented to ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings in December 2015. The unanimous approval was considered largely as a signal of cooperation and solidarity with the then 43 State parties to the Convention, underpinning the need for a pan-European approach in preventing and prosecuting human trafficking and protecting its victims.

The ratification was also approved with Liechtenstein's peculiarities in mind: While all States benefit from international cooperation in combating common challenges, this is particularly true for small States whose very existence is dependent on a rules-based international order and cooperation across borders.

We are grateful to the rapporteurs for positively mentioning the "Liechtenstein Initiative" for a Financial Sector Commission on combating human trafficking and modern slavery. This project was initiated by the Liechtenstein Government together with the Governments of the Netherlands and Australia, the Liechtenstein banking sector, and three foundations located in Liechtenstein. At the basis of this initiative is the idea that the financial sector has unparalleled influence over global business and can foster practices that help end modern slavery and human trafficking. Financial institutions may be connected to modern slavery and human trafficking through their operations or business relationships. Collective action is therefore necessary.

The results of the first phase of this project were recently presented at the margins of the UN General Assembly High-Level Week in New York in a Blueprint for Mobilizing Finance against Slavery and Trafficking, demonstrating concrete measures for financial sector actors and Governments. Under the heading "FAST – Finance Against Slavery and Trafficking", the second phase of this project was initiated, with the aim of enhancing knowledge on the action plan globally and implementing it. The Blueprint provides a shared collective-action framework that different financial sector actors can implement in their own ways and at their own speeds.

Regarding the measures recommended to Liechtenstein in the GRETA monitoring report and confirmed in the draft recommendations before us shall be brought to the attention of the Government. It is planned that the Round Table on Human Trafficking involving a variety of actors from the national administration carefully examines them and proposes measures for follow-up to the Government. We are looking forward to presenting information on the measures realised on the basis of the recommendations as requested in two years' time.

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In the current Council of Europe report on the status of human rights, democracy, and the rule of law, human trafficking is singled out as one of the big challenges that Europe must tackle in times of increasing migration. The existence of human trafficking on a large scale is incompatible with the vision of protecting human rights of all persons in Council of Europe member States. We fully support the Council of Europe in general, and the Committee of Parties to this important Convention as well as GRETA, in stepping up our common fight against human trafficking.

Thank you.

## Appendix VIII

### Statement by Ms Monika Bimbaitė, Deputy to the Permanent Representative of Lithuania

Let me express the gratitude of my Government for GRETA's report on the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention in Action against Trafficking in Human Beings by Lithuania. We appreciate this comprehensive evaluation of the human trafficking situation in our country and the recommendations provided. GRETA's recommendations for our country are significant and well directed, as a number of issues are still to be solved in order to ensure effective fight against trafficking in human beings.

Taking this opportunity, allow me to briefly inform you that some of the recommendations contained in GRETA's report have already been taken into consideration and relevant action has been carried out. Namely, GRETA urged the Lithuanian authorities to enhance their efforts to prevent foreign children from going missing. Let me inform you that the State Border Guard Service has already scheduled training sessions for the law enforcement officers on identification of victims of human trafficking, as well as unaccompanied foreign children.

GRETA considered that the Lithuanian authorities should reinforce the work of the municipal commissions for combating trafficking in human beings. Please be informed that the Ministry of the Interior is currently conducting a survey on municipal commissions' activities for combating trafficking in human beings in order to determine what specific amendments need to be introduced in the national legislation to make the work of the municipal commissions more effective.

GRETA also urged the Lithuanian authorities to take additional steps to improve assistance for victims of human trafficking. With regard to that, I would like to notify colleagues that a National Association against Human Trafficking was established on 11 October 2019. Its tasks, *inter alia*, include the strengthening of efforts to provide high level service for the victims of human trafficking, the initiation of preventative measures against human trafficking and discrimination against women, and the promotion of inter-institutional cooperation.

Let me assure you that Lithuania will continue strengthening its efforts in the fight against human trafficking as it is one of the most concerning contemporary threats in Europe, as well as worldwide.

Once again thank you for your co-operation.

## **Appendix IX**

### **Statement by Mr Boris Mesaric, Head of the Co-ordination Service against human trafficking and migrant smuggling of the Federal Department of Justice and Police**

Madam Chair,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Swiss authorities would like to begin by thanking the members of GRETA and the Executive Secretariat of the Convention for the co-operation which has been a hallmark of the entire evaluation process. We had the pleasure of receiving the GRETA delegation in Switzerland during the evaluation visit which took place last year. On that occasion, we found that GRETA carried out its visit with dedication, paying very close attention to the situation and the particular circumstances prevailing in Switzerland.

The GRETA evaluation report is a valuable tool for the Swiss authorities, which will enable them to identify weaknesses in the national mechanism so that it can be improved. It is for this reason that the Swiss authorities will take notice with great interest of the final conclusions and recommendations made by GRETA, which will undoubtedly have a political impact.

Nonetheless, the draft report was somewhat harsh in its initial version. It gave the impression that the more the Swiss authorities strove to combat trafficking in human beings, the more recommendations were issued. We are therefore pleased and grateful that GRETA took the Swiss authorities' comments on the draft report seriously and that the final report has been adapted as a result. The Swiss authorities would have liked to have been given the opportunity to make detailed comments on the observations made and the cases reported by NGOs, in order to carry out a joint assessment with GRETA.

The Swiss authorities' position on GRETA's conclusions and on how Switzerland understands and interprets the recommendations have been appended to the evaluation report. It is not necessary to repeat them.

In conclusion, please allow me to once again thank GRETA and the Secretariat. The second evaluation round is coming to an end for Switzerland, but we look forward to pursuing the constructive dialogue established with GRETA.

Thank you for your attention.

## **Appendix X**

### **Statement by Ms Gamze Gül Çakır Kılıç, Expert at the Directorate General of Migration Management, Ministry of Interior of Turkey**

Let me first begin by saying that Turkey hosts more refugees than any other country in the world and continues to shoulder a substantial burden mainly through its own national resources. While doing so, Turkey expects more burden-sharing and solidarity from the international community.

As is well known, Turkey is among the states who signed the Palermo Protocol and its additional Protocols. Subsequently, the act of human trafficking is criminalised in the Turkish Criminal Code since 2002. An international standard protection system has also been established through the Regulation on Combating Human Trafficking and the Protection of Victims adopted later on.

In this framework, Turkey has determined to research subjects for its third national action plan to combat human trafficking and the process will be initiated within the year. I would like to draw your kind attention that the activities of national action plan will be shaped upon the results of field researches carried out in cooperation with academicians, experts, national agencies and relevant civil society institutions. Accordingly, Turkey will further enhance its system which is already over international standards.

Trainings and awareness rising activities for the personnel of public institutions are at the forefront of our priorities. We would like to state that we are aware of the importance of these trainings on combatting against human trafficking. The most important indicator on this matter are the resolutions of 2017 Coordination Committee on Combatting Human Trafficking, including human trafficking training curricula for the staff of the relevant institutions.

In addition, we will carry out two different projects in the next three years on human trafficking, one of them being with IOM and the other with the Council. Total budget of two projects will cost 8 million Euros. We are confident that our system will be more strengthened with the implementation of these projects.

In order to raise awareness in public institutions and in all segments of society, informative meetings, public service announcements, documentaries have been prepared especially for civil society organisations (for those working at bus stations and airports, labour and employer unions, camp personnel, etc.) and those activities will be kept on.

Turkey's accomplishments in this field are obvious and progressing since last years, despite the humanitarian burden we have. These efforts are unfortunately disregarded at great extent in the report.

Having a narrow perspective, the report is far from balance, non-reflecting the comments and corrections made by our institutions. In this regard following the publication of the report, our government made a statement on 9th October highlighting our views and concerns regarding the report.

Our country considers that the report is the result of only the first-round assessment related to the Convention and expects that future reports reflect better and more accurately the realities in the field.

Turkey, regardless of the content of this report, will continue to respect its obligations under the Convention.

In this regard, members of the Committee will be duly informed.

## **Appendix XI**

### **Statement by Mr Mark Gorey, Deputy to the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom**

Noting that today is Anti-Slavery Day 2019 in the United Kingdom, Anti-Slavery Day provides an opportunity to raise awareness of human trafficking and modern slavery, and encourage cooperation between government, local authorities, companies, charities and individuals to do what they can to address this abhorrent crime.

The UK agrees States need to place greater emphasis on the victim perspective. In the UK we are looking at how to bring victims' voices into policy making and we are in discussions with groups representing survivors as to how best to support victims in engaging.

To further improve the support of victims the UK has made significant progress in delivering reforms to the National Referral Mechanism and we will continue to drive improvements to the services available, including embedding a more needs-based approach to our services, to ensure they are meeting the needs of victims.

The UK agrees member States should take concerted action. The UK has worked closely with colleagues from a range of partners including Romania, Poland, the Netherlands and the Slovak Republic to coordinate our response. We are always happy to share our experiences with others.

This coordinated global effort to stop people being trafficked across continents is vital. The UK argued for all UN Member States to agree to tackle modern slavery in 2015 and in 2017 we launched a global Call to Action on forced labour, modern slavery and human trafficking.

So far almost 90 countries have endorsed the Call to Action.

This is also why in June we announced a new role of Migration and Modern Slavery Envoy to coordinate global efforts to tackle modern slavery. The UK's Safeguarding Minister, Victoria Atkins MP, has announced today that Jennifer Townson, an experienced foreign policy expert, will be the first Migration and Modern Slavery Envoy. Ms Townson will be a strong voice for the UK in global discussions and will ensure we are delivering on this vital agenda.

The UK Government is determined to end modern slavery in the global economy. We are consulting on expanding the Modern Slavery Act reporting requirements to cover the public sector and its vast purchasing power and we are developing a new central registry of modern slavery transparency statements – so that we can all see exactly which companies are serious about ending exploitation, and which should be avoided by consumers with a conscience.