



Strasbourg, 16 July 2018

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

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22nd meeting of the Committee of the Parties

(Strasbourg, 9 February 2018)

MEETING REPORT

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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 22nd meeting on 9 February 2018 in Strasbourg.
2. The meeting was opened by the Chair of the Committee of the Parties, Ambassador Christopher Yvon, Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the Council of Europe. He invited the Committee to adopt the draft agenda. The agenda, as adopted by the Committee, is set out in Appendix I. The list of participants is set out in Appendix II.

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

3. The Chair invited Ms Siobhán Mullally, President of GRETA, to take the floor for the periodic exchange of views with the Committee of the Parties.
4. The President of GRETA presented the main findings from GRETA's reports concerning Belgium, Poland, Serbia, Slovenia and "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" (second evaluation round) and Greece (first evaluation round), which were the subject of draft recommendations by the Committee of the Parties at the meeting. She noted that one common theme was the need for better identification and protection of victims of trafficking among asylum seekers, refugees and migrants. Due to its geographical situation, Greece had been at the forefront of the arrival of an increasing number of asylum seekers and migrants, while Serbia and "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" had been "transit" countries. However, the number of victims of trafficking identified among asylum seekers and migrants remained low.
5. Another important issue of concern was the prevention of child trafficking and the identification and referral to assistance of child victims of trafficking. While some good practices has been identified in some countries, there was an urgent need to ensure better protection of unaccompanied and separated children by strengthening co-ordination between different agencies as well as between countries and to increase the capacity of relevant staff to identify vulnerabilities and needs.
6. With the exception of Belgium where there had been an increase in compensation awards to victims of trafficking during criminal proceedings, GRETA's reports showed that very few victims of trafficking had received compensation from the perpetrators. Compensation awards were rarely enforceable because property was not seized at early stages. Moreover, there was still a lack of State compensation schemes effectively accessible to victims of trafficking, regardless of their citizenship and residence status.
7. Further, the President of GRETA informed the Committee that GRETA had recently carried out an urgent procedure visit to Hungary, pursuant to Rule 7 of the Rules of procedure for evaluating implementation of the Convention by the Parties, focusing on the identification and referral to assistance of victims of human trafficking among asylum seekers.
8. Ms Mullally referred to the unfavourable staffing situation in the Secretariat, which had led to postponing of the evaluation visit to Italy to early 2018. She stressed that maintaining the monitoring cycle depended to a large extent on the human resources of the Secretariat. The President stressed that it was essential to maintain the credibility and authority of GRETA's monitoring work, by ensuring that GRETA evaluation reports are timely, relevant, and of the highest standards of accuracy.

9. Ms Kärt Juhasoo-Lawrence, representative of Estonia, thanked the President of GRETA for the thorough overview of its work and asked her about any action taken by GRETA to address traffickers operating outside the Council of Europe, namely in Libya, in co-operation with the authorities of this country. Ms Mullally noted that while the issue of trafficking and exploitation of nationals of non-European countries was of concern to GRETA, it had no authority to engage directly with the Libyan authorities, as this country was not Party to the Convention. She recalled that the issue of international co-operation to identify and assist victims of trafficking, including among migrants, asylum seekers and refugees, has been consistently raised by GRETA with the authorities of States Parties.

10. The Chair thanked Ms Mullally for her presentation, the full text of which appears in Appendix III to this report. He expressed hope that the vacant position of an administrator in the Secretariat would soon be filled. In addition, Ambassador Yvon drew the Committee's attention to the motion for resolution tabled by MP Vernon Coaker and other members of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), entitled "Concerted action on human trafficking", which was circulated on 23 January 2018, calling for further initiatives to support victims of trafficking, whilst recognising the pioneering work of the monitoring mechanism of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings.

Agenda item 4: Examination of GRETA's reports on the implementation of the Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings by Greece (first evaluation round), Belgium, Poland, Serbia, Slovenia and "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" (second evaluation round) and adoption of recommendations in respect of these Parties

11. The Chair noted that GRETA had adopted final reports concerning the implementation of the Convention by Greece (1st evaluation round) and Belgium, Poland, Serbia, Slovenia and "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" (2nd evaluation round), which had been sent to the national authorities for final comments and, following their receipt, had been made public. The six draft recommendations based on these reports had been made available to the Committee on 12 January 2018.

#### *4.1 Draft recommendation to be adopted in respect of Greece*

12. The Chair informed the Committee that the draft recommendation on Greece followed the format of recommendations adopted in the context of the first evaluation round.

13. Ambassador M. Stelios Perrakis, Permanent Representative of Greece, thanked the President of GRETA for her presentation and underlined the readiness of the Greek authorities to comply with their obligations under the Council of Europe Anti-Trafficking Convention and to implement GRETA's recommendations. Further, Ms Kornilia Chatzinikolaou, Expert Advisor in the Office of the Greek National Rapporteur on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, noted that a new national action plan against human trafficking would be drawn up on the basis of GRETA's recommendations. She referred to the development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the implementation of the National Referral Mechanism and building partnerships between the authorities, NGOs, and the private sector. The full text of Dr Chatzinikolaou's presentation appears in Appendix IV of this report.

14. The Committee adopted the recommendation in respect of Greece and decided to request the Greek Government to inform it of measures taken to comply with this recommendation by 9 February 2020.

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

15. Mr Jean-Francois Minet, Head of the Bureau of the Inter-departmental Co-ordination Unit for Action against Trafficking in and Smuggling of Human Beings at the Criminal Policy Department of the Federal Ministry of Justice, thanked GRETA for the comprehensive evaluation report. He noted that GRETA's recommendations were being reflected in the national anti-trafficking policy and that the Belgian authorities were aiming to improve the identification of child victims of trafficking, including by providing training to legal guardians of unaccompanied foreign children. Another initiative implemented in co-operation with banks concerned the prevention of money laundering of assets obtained through different crimes, including human trafficking. Further, Mr Minet informed the Committee that the cross-examination of victims of trafficking and accused perpetrators during court proceedings was used only in exceptional circumstances, in the light of the obligations under Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

16. The Committee adopted the recommendation in respect of Belgium and decided to request the Belgian Government to inform it of measures taken to comply with this recommendation by 9 February 2019.

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

17. Ms Anna Romanowska, Counsellor at the Unit for European Migration Network and Combating Human Trafficking of the Polish Ministry of the Interior and Administration, expressed the Polish authorities' appreciation of the constructive dialogue with GRETA in the course of the second evaluation round. She informed the Committee that GRETA's recommendation concerning the recovery and reflection period were being addressed through a draft legislative amendment which would entitle EU and EFTA nationals to benefit from this period. As regards GRETA's recommendation to improve the investigation and prosecution of human trafficking cases, all proceedings in such cases are monitored by specialised prosecutors. Further, she stated that relevant public bodies would continue strengthening the co-operation with partners, including NGOs. The full text of Ms Romanowska's statement appears in Appendix V of this report.

18. The Committee adopted the recommendation in respect of Poland and decided to request the Polish Government to inform it of measures taken to comply with this recommendation by 9 February 2019.

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

19. Ambassador Aleksandra Djurović, Permanent Representative of Serbia to the Council of Europe, conveyed the Serbian authorities' appreciation for the excellent co-operation with GRETA in the course of the second evaluation round. She noted that the authorities considered GRETA's recommendations as fair, constructive and helpful, and had taken them into account when preparing the recently adopted national action plan on combating trafficking in human beings. Further, she indicated that the Serbian authorities intended to make the necessary resources available for the implementation of GRETA's recommendations. The full text of Ambassador Djurović's statement appears in Appendix VI of this report.

20. The Committee adopted the recommendation in respect of Serbia and decided to request the Serbian Government to inform it of measures taken to comply with this recommendation by 9 February 2019.

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

21. Mr Helmut Hartman, representative of Slovenia, thanked GRETA for its report in the context of the second evaluation round and noted that it provided a thorough assessment and objectively reflected the situation regarding action against trafficking in human beings in Slovenia.

22. The Committee adopted the recommendation in respect of Slovenia and decided to request the Slovenian Government to inform it of measures taken to comply with this recommendation by 9 February 2019.

#### *4.6 Draft recommendation to be adopted in respect of "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"*

23. Ms Svetlana Vlahovic Dimanovska, Head of Section for Negotiation Sector for European Union of the Ministry of the Interior, noted that GRETA's report provided an accurate description of the situation regarding action against trafficking in human beings and the recommendations made were constructive and useful. She indicated that the authorities had initiated legislative amendments to introduce the non-punishment provision of the Convention in law and the drafting of a new law on the setting up of a State compensation fund for victims of trafficking had also begun. Ms Vlahovic Dimanovska also underlined the important contribution made through the project currently taking place under the EU-Council of Europe Programmatic framework "Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey."

24. The Committee adopted the recommendation in respect of "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" and decided to request the Macedonian Government to inform it of measures taken to comply with this recommendation by 9 February 2019.

Agenda item 5: Government reports submitted in reply to Committee of the Parties' recommendations

#### *First evaluation round*

25. The Chair indicated that the Government of Switzerland had submitted its report on measures taken to implement the Committee of the Parties' recommendation adopted on 30 November 2015. The Chair invited Mr Boris Mesaric, Head of the Executive Secretariat of the Swiss Co-ordination Unit against Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants of the Federal Office of the Police, to present the report of the Swiss authorities.

26. Mr Mesaric highlighted some of the steps taken by Switzerland in response to the Committee of the Parties' recommendation, such as the adoption of a new national action plan on combating trafficking in human beings which took into account GRETA's recommendations. He also referred to plans to provide training and tools to enable the identification of victims of trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation. Mr Mesaric also stated that the national victim protection programme was in preparation and it was envisaged that special measures on the protection of children would be co-ordinated between cantons. The full text of Mr Mesaric's statement appears in Appendix VII to this report.

27. The Chair thanked Mr Mesaric for his intervention. The Committee took note of the report submitted by Switzerland and decided to transmit it to GRETA for consideration and in order to be taken into account in the second evaluation round.

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*Second evaluation round*

28. The Chair recalled that at its 19th meeting on 4 November 2016 the Committee had adopted recommendations concerning the implementation of the Convention by Montenegro, Romania and the United Kingdom, requesting the authorities to inform the Committee of measures taken to comply with them within a one-year period. All three national reports were submitted on time and were made available on the Committee's restricted website.

29. Ms Marijana Radunović, Senior Advisor at the National Office against Trafficking in Human Beings of Montenegro, congratulated the Committee of the Parties on the 10th anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention and confirmed Montenegro's commitment to combating trafficking in human beings. She referred to legal amendments in progress concerning the criminalisation of human trafficking and the preparation of guidance on the application of the non-punishment provision. The full text of Ms Radunović's statement appears in Appendix VIII to this report.

30. The President of GRETA noted that according to the report submitted by the Montenegrin authorities, some of the recommendations were in the process of implementation. However, she pointed out that no information had been provided on measures taken to improve the identification of victims of human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation, and on the application of the existing legislation on the freezing and forfeiture of assets to secure compensation to victims of trafficking. Further, no significant developments had been reported on access to compensation to victims of trafficking.

31. Mr Alexandru Atanasiu, representative of Romania, informed the Committee that the new national strategy and action plan on combating trafficking in human beings were expected to be approved. The available statistics suggested a downward trend in the number of identified victims of trafficking, with trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation remaining predominant and internal trafficking of girls and women accounting for many of the identified victims. The full text of Mr Atanasiu's statement appears in Appendix IX to this report.

32. The President of GRETA noted that according to the information provided by the Romanian authorities, tools were also being developed to facilitate the implementation of the national referral mechanism for victims of trafficking. However, Ms Mullally pointed to the lack of information as regards improvements in the authorities' capacity to assist victims of trafficking, in particular the availability of accommodation and the funding of services. Further, there was no indication that the competences of labour inspectors to prevent and detect trafficking in human beings had been increased.

33. Mr Adam Fry from the Modern Slavery Unit of the Home Office of the United Kingdom stressed that combating modern slavery and human trafficking remained a top priority of the British government. He informed the Committee of the on-going reforms to the national referral mechanism, expected to be published in the autumn of 2018. Mr Fry also noted that guidelines on safe accommodation for child victims of trafficking had been published at the end of 2017. The full text of Mr Fry's statement appears in Appendix X to this report.

34. The President of GRETA noted that according to the information provided by the British authorities, a number of recommendations were in the process of implementation, in particular as regards the provision of adequate support and assistance to victims, the identification of child victims of trafficking, and access to compensation. However, she indicated that the report did not suggest that progress had been made as regards the provision of safe and adapted accommodation for child victims of trafficking in England and Wales, and the carrying out of pre-removal risk assessments, in particular of unaccompanied children, by specialised bodies, working with relevant partners in countries of return. Further, she noted that no major improvements had taken place regarding the State compensation scheme.



35. The Chair of the Committee thanked the representatives of the Parties which had submitted reports in response to the Committee's recommendations for their interventions. He also thanked the President of GRETA for GRETA's input in the consideration of the replies.

Agenda item 6: Follow up to be given to government reports submitted in reply to Committee of the Parties recommendations

36. The Committee decided to forward the Swiss report to GRETA for consideration in the framework of the second evaluation round and to publish it on the Council of Europe's anti-trafficking website.

37. The Committee also decided that the reports submitted by Montenegro, Romania and the United Kingdom in the context of the second evaluation round would also be made public on the Council of Europe's Anti-Trafficking website. The Committee agreed to send letters to these three Parties to the Convention, asking them to provide further information on certain issues identified following their examination by GRETA.

38. Since the last meeting of the Committee of the Parties, additional information had been submitted by the authorities of the Slovak Republic as a follow-up to the report sent by them in reply to the Committee of the Parties' recommendations. Mr Vladimir Koman, from the Information Centre for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Crime Prevention of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic, indicated that as of 1 January 2018, victims of trafficking in human beings had been defined as particularly vulnerable victims for the purposes of criminal proceedings. The Slovak authorities had also drafted a blueprint on combating trafficking for 2018-2023 and concluded contracts with relevant NGOs for the provision of services to victims. The full text of Mr Koman's statement appears in Appendix XI to this report.

Agenda item 7 – Event to mark the 10th anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings

39. The Executive Secretary informed the Committee that a conference marking the 10th anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention would be held on 22 May 2018 in Strasbourg, during the Croatian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers. The Council of Europe proposed to cover the travel and subsistence expenses of two participants per State Party to the Convention country, one public official and one representative of civil society. The Executive Secretary encouraged members of the Committee to share with the Secretariat proposals for issues to be addressed during the event.

Agenda item 8: Activities aimed at strengthening the implementation of GRETA's conclusions and the Committee of the Parties' recommendations

40. The Executive Secretary informed the Committee that since the last meeting, a regional expert workshop on enhancing international legal co-operation in the fight against trafficking in human beings and the protection of victims' rights had taken place on 8-9 November 2017 in Sofia, Bulgaria. Further, a project implemented by the Prosecutor's Office of Turin, Italy, with co-funding from the Council of Europe, on the identification of victims of trafficking among asylum seekers, had been completed in 2017.

41. In addition, the Executive Secretary informed the Committee of an application to extend the EU - Council of Europe Programmatic framework "Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey", currently implemented in Serbia and "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia".

42. As regards future activities, the Executive Secretary indicated that a meeting of National Anti-Trafficking Co-ordinators and Rapporteurs, co-organised by the Council of Europe and the Office of the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, would take place on 23 May 2018 in Strasbourg. She noted that the organisation of periodic exchanges between National Anti-trafficking Co-ordinators of countries in the Council of Europe and OSCE regions were vital for pooling knowledge, strengthening partnerships and promoting the implementation of international obligations in the area of combating trafficking in human beings.

43. The Chair thanked the Executive Secretary and her team for the efforts made to develop co-operation activities with a view to strengthening the implementation of the Convention.

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

44. The Executive Secretary informed the Committee that the Council of Europe had become a partner of the UN Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT), thus being in a position to contribute to greater coherence of international efforts on preventing and combating human trafficking. ICAT was established in March 2007 as a policy forum mandated by the UN General Assembly ([Resolution 61/180](#)) to improve coordination among UN agencies and other relevant international organisations in order to facilitate a holistic and comprehensive approach to preventing and combating trafficking in persons.

45. The Executive Secretary also brought to the Committee's attention a communication by the European Commission of 4 December 2017 on the follow-up to the EU Strategy towards the Eradication of Trafficking and the new priorities in the fight against trafficking in human beings.

46. Further, the Executive Secretary informed the Committee that the next Alliance against Trafficking Conference, organised by OSCE in Vienna on 23-24 April 2018, would focus on building stronger and more comprehensive partnerships in the fight against human trafficking. Further, the Bulgarian authorities were planning the organisation of a conference on combating human trafficking in Southeast Europe, to take place on 31 May – 1 June 2018 in Sofia, under the Bulgarian presidency of the EU Council.

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

47. The Chair informed the Committee that since its last meeting in 2017, no new signatures or ratifications of the Convention had been received. He reiterated the call on the only remaining Council of Europe Member State, the Russian Federation, which had not yet signed and ratified the Convention, to do so as a matter of priority.

48. Further, the Chair informed the Committee that on 7 February, the Committee of Ministers decided to invite Tunisia to accede to the Convention, following the expression of interest from the Tunisian Government. The Committee welcomed this development and underlined the importance of securing the financial resources necessary for the monitoring of Tunisia's implementation of the Convention by GRETA.

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#### Agenda item 11 – Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee

49. The Executive Secretary of the Convention reminded the Committee that the current Chair and Vice-Chair were elected on 10 March 2017, for a first term of office of one year. To ensure the continuity of the Committee's work between this and the next meeting, the Committee had been invited to hold the election of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee at this meeting. Pursuant to Rule 4 of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee of the Parties, the term of office of the Chair and Vice-Chair may be renewed once.

50. The Committee elected, by acclamation, Ambassador Christopher Yvon (United Kingdom) as its Chair and Ambassador Ms Corina Călugăru (Republic of Moldova) as its Vice-Chair, for a second term of office of one year, starting on 9 February 2018.

#### Agenda item 12: Dates of future meetings

51. The Committee decided to hold its 23rd meeting on Friday, 9 November 2018.

#### Agenda item 13: Other business

52. The Chair drew the Committee's attention to the fact that terms of office of seven of the 15 members of GRETA would expire on 31 December 2018 and an election to fill the vacant seats would take place at the next meeting of the Committee. The Committee was informed that a letter inviting States Parties to nominate candidates for GRETA members, pursuant to the Rules on the Election Procedure of Members of GRETA, would be circulated in due course.

53. The President of GRETA drew attention to the fact that out of the eight GRETA members whose terms of office continue until 31 December 2020, six were men and therefore it would be important to ensure that the new composition of GRETA is gender balanced.

#### Agenda item 14: Adoption of the list of decisions taken

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

## Appendix I

### Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the draft agenda
3. Exchange of views with the President of GRETA
4. Examination of GRETA's reports on the implementation of the Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings by Greece (first evaluation round) and Belgium, Poland, Serbia, Slovenia and "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" (second evaluation round) and adoption of recommendations in respect of these Parties
  - 4.1 *Greece*
  - 4.2 *Belgium*
  - 4.3 *Poland*
  - 4.4 *Serbia*
  - 4.5 *Slovenia*
  - 4.6 *"The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"*
5. Government reports submitted in reply to Committee of the Parties recommendations
  - First evaluation round*
    - 5.1. *Switzerland*
  - Second evaluation round*
    - 5.2. *Montenegro*
    - 5.3 *Romania*
    - 5.4 *United Kingdom*
6. Follow up to be given to Government reports submitted in reply to Committee of the Parties recommendations
7. Event to mark the 10th anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings
8. Activities aimed at strengthening the implementation of GRETA's conclusions and the Committee of the Parties' recommendations
9. Information on the anti-trafficking activities of other international organisations of interest to the Committee of the Parties
10. State of signatures and ratifications of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings
11. Dates of future meetings
12. Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee
13. Other business
14. Adoption of the list of decisions taken

## Appendix II

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

#### ALBANIA / ALBANIE

Ms Alma KASA  
*Chargé d'Affaires a.i.*  
Deputy Permanent Representative  
to the Council of Europe

#### ANDORRA / ANDORRE

M. Josep Areny Ache  
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

Ms. Julia Prummer  
Task Force on Combatting Human Trafficking  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

#### AZERBAIJAN / AZERBAÏDJAN

Mr Agil Gunashov  
Deputy Permanent Representative  
to the Council of Europe

#### BELGIUM / BELGIQUE

M. Jean-François Minet, Attaché  
SPF Justice  
Direction générale de la Législation, des Libertés et  
Droits fondamentaux  
Service de la Politique criminelle  
Cellule criminalité grave et organisée  
Unité traite et trafic des êtres humains

#### BELARUS/ BÉLARUS

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

#### BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA / BOSNIE-HERZÉGOVINE

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

#### BULGARIA / BULGARIE

Mme Katya Todorova  
Ambassadeur  
Représentante Permanente  
auprès du Conseil de l'Europe

Mme Jordanka Parparova  
Adjointe à la Représentante Permanente

#### CROATIA / CROATIE

Ms Ankica Vrkljan Sučić  
Deputy to the Permanent Representative  
to the Council of Europe

#### CYPRUS / CHYPRE

Mr Michael Karagiorgis  
Deputy Permanent Representative  
to the Council of Europe

#### CZECH REPUBLIC / RÉPUBLIQUE TCHÈQUE

Mr Jiří Šlais  
Deputy Permanent Representative  
to the Council of Europe

#### DENMARK / DANEMARK

Mr Arnold De Fine Skibsted (*apologised/excusé*)  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative to the Council of Europe

#### ESTONIA / ESTONIE

Ms Kärt Juhasoo-Lawrence  
Deputy Permanent Representative  
to the Council of Europe

#### FINLAND / FINLANDE

Ms Liisa Valjento, Counsellor  
Unit for Human Rights Courts and Conventions  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

## FRANCE

M. Jean-François Goujon-Fischer  
Adjoint au Représentant Permanent  
auprès du Conseil de l'Europe

## GEORGIA / GÉORGIE

Mr Mikheil Sulaberidze  
Deputy to the Permanent Representative  
to the Council of Europe

## GERMANY / ALLEMAGNE

Ms Antje Wunderlich  
Unit 403 Protection of Women from Violence  
Federal Ministry for Family Affairs,  
Senior Citizens, Women and Youth

## GREECE / GRECE

M. Stelios Perrakis, Ambassadeur  
Représentant Permanent  
auprès du Conseil de l'Europe

M. Georgios Skemperis  
Adjoint au Représentant Permanent

Dr Kornilia Chatzinikolaou  
Expert Advisor  
Office of the Greek National Rapporteur

## HUNGARY / HONGRIE

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

## ICELAND / ISLANDE

Mr Kristján Andri Stefánsson (*apologised/excused*)  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
Permanent Representative to the Council of Europe

## IRELAND / IRLANDE

Mr Conor Nelson  
Deputy to the Permanent Representative  
to the Council of Europe

## ITALY / ITALIE

M. Marco Marsilli  
Ambassadeur  
Représentant Permanent  
auprès du Conseil de l'Europe

## LATVIA / LETTONIE

Mr Ivars Pundurs  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
Permanent Representative to the Council of Europe

Ms Sandra Kauliņa  
Deputy Permanent Representative

## LIECHTENSTEIN

Mr Daniel Ospelt (*apologised/excused*)  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
Permanent Representative to the Council of Europe

## LITHUANIA / LITUANIE

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

Mr Aurimas Tumėnas  
Deputy to the Permanent Representative

## LUXEMBOURG

Mme Christine Goy  
Représentante Permanente Adjointe  
auprès du Conseil de l'Europe

## MALTA / MALTE

Ms Kathleen Vella  
Deputy Permanent Representative  
to the Council of Europe

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA /  
REPUBLIQUE DE MOLDOVA

Ms Corina Călugăru  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative to the Council of Europe

Mr Andrei Ursu  
Deputy to the Permanent Representative

## MONACO

Mme Chrystel Chanteloube  
Adjointe au Représentant Permanent  
auprès du Conseil de l'Europe

## MONTENEGRO / MONTÉNÉGRO

Mr Pavle Karanikić  
Deputy Permanent Representative  
to the Council of Europe

Ms Marijana Radunović, Senior Advisor  
National Office against Trafficking in Human Beings

## NETHERLANDS / PAYS BAS

Mr Roeland Böcker (*apologised/excusé*)  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
Permanent Representative to the Council of Europe

## NORWAY / NORVÈGE

Ms Elisabeth Walaas (*apologised/excusé*)  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
Permanent Representative to the Council of Europe

## POLAND / POLOGNE

Ms Iwona Marczyk-Stepniewska  
Deputy to Permanent Representative  
to the Council of Europe

Ms Anna Romanowska, Counsellor to the Minister  
Unit for European Migration Network and  
Combating Human Trafficking  
Department for Analyses and Migration Policy  
Ministry of the Interior and Administration

## PORTUGAL

Mme Manuela Caldas Faria  
Représentante Permanente Adjointe  
auprès du Conseil de l'Europe

M. Carlos Teixeira  
Stagiaire

## ROMANIA / ROUMANIE

Mr Alexandru Atanasiu  
Deputy to the Permanent Representative  
to the Council of Europe

## SAN MARINO / SAINT-MARIN

M. Dario Rossi  
Chargé d'Affaires *a.i.*  
auprès du Conseil de l'Europe

## SERBIA / SERBIE

Ms Aleksandra Djurović  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
Permanent Representative to the Council of Europe

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GROUPE D'EXPERTS SUR LA LUTTE CONTRE LA  
TRAITE DES ÊTRES HUMAINS (GRETA)

Ms Siobhán Mullally  
President of GRETA



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Directorate General of Democracy /  
Direction générale de la Démocratie

Secretariat of the Council of Europe  
Convention on Action against Trafficking in  
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Mr Luke TILDEN

## Appendix III

### Statement by the President of GRETA, Ms Siobhán Mullally

Mr Chair, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Since the last meeting of the Committee of the Parties on 13 October 2017, GRETA has held one plenary meeting, in November 2017, at which it adopted final reports concerning Serbia, Slovenia and “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” under the second evaluation round of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings.

Three other final GRETA reports, concerning Greece (first evaluation round) and Belgium and Poland (second evaluation round) were published following the last Committee of the Parties’ meeting. These six GRETA reports are the subject of draft recommendations that you will discuss and adopt today. I would therefore like to highlight some of GRETA’s findings and conclusions from these reports.

One common theme in the reports is the need for better identification and protection of victims of trafficking among asylum seekers, refugees and migrants. Due to its geographical situation, Greece has been at the forefront of the arrival of an increasing number of asylum seekers and migrants, while Serbia and “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” have been “transit” countries. The refugee protection crisis creates new opportunities for traffickers and criminal networks intent on exploitation. Many people on the move, forcibly displaced by conflict, poverty, systemic discrimination, are in very difficult economic situations and are particularly vulnerable to exploitation as they struggle to continue their journey, to seek protection, or to reunite with families, or to find work. Despite what we know about the prevalence of exploitation and risks faced, the number of victims of trafficking identified among asylum seekers and migrants remains low.

In this context, the recently circulated ‘zero draft’ of the United Nations Global Compact on Migration, due for adoption this year, contains an objective specifically on preventing and combating trafficking in persons in the context of international migration. This draft will now be the subject of formal negotiations between UN Member States and GRETA would like to ensure that the legal standards on the rights of victims of human trafficking contained in the Council of Europe Convention are better reflected in the final Compact adopted, given the significance of the Council of Europe’s contribution to ensuring that the human rights of victims of trafficking remain a priority for all States.

Another central issue of concern in the six GRETA reports is the prevention of child trafficking and the identification and referral to assistance of child victims of trafficking. While some good practices have been identified in some countries, there is an urgent need to ensure better protection of unaccompanied and separated children by strengthening co-ordination between different frontline agencies as well as between countries and to increase the capacity of relevant staff to identify vulnerabilities and to safeguard the rights of children more effectively, and without delay. The provision of specialised support and services, including appropriate child-friendly accommodation and access to education, and the timely appointment of legal guardians, can help prevent the disappearance of unaccompanied children.

As stressed in GRETA’s 6th General Report, which was published in 2017, the prevention of child trafficking should be integrated in national and international strategies for combating violence against children and promoting the best interests of all children, regardless of migration status.

I would like to highlight a third area common to the six reports under consideration, which is the right of victims of trafficking to effective access to compensation and legal redress. GRETA's reports highlight that very few victims of trafficking have received compensation from the perpetrators of the crime of trafficking, (with the exception of Belgium where there has been an increase in compensation awards to victims of trafficking during criminal proceedings). Compensation awards are rarely enforceable because property is not seized at early stages and when the time to enforce a judgment comes there is no money to be found. Moreover, there is a lack of State compensation schemes effectively accessible to victims of trafficking, regardless of their citizenship and residence status. In this respect, I am happy to note that the Council of Europe is currently implementing projects in Serbia and "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", with EU funding (under the Horizontal Facility) which include as a specific focus, strengthening capacities to guarantee effective access to compensation for victims of trafficking. Effective access to compensation for victims is an important remedy for human rights violations, and in the context of human trafficking, it is also critical to assisting victims in recovery and reintegration, both of which are critical, in turn, to prevention of re-trafficking.

As I already informed you at your last meeting, in June 2017 GRETA launched an urgent procedure in respect of Hungary, pursuant to Rule 7 of the Rules of procedure for evaluating implementation of the Convention by the Parties. As part of this procedure, GRETA carried out a visit to Hungary from 18 to 20 December 2017. The visit focused on the identification and referral to assistance of victims of human trafficking among asylum seekers held in the transit zones at the border to Serbia and examined the measures taken to prevent trafficking of unaccompanied and separated children by creating a protective environment for them. The report concerning this urgent procedure will be considered by GRETA at its next plenary meeting in March, following which it will be sent to the Hungarian authorities for comments and subsequently published.

As regards GRETA's plans for 2018, according to the amended schedule of evaluation visits, there will be nine visits under the second evaluation round and three under the first evaluation round (to Turkey, Liechtenstein and Monaco). One of the visits, to Italy, has already taken place last week, and the visit to San Marino is forthcoming later this month. GRETA is also planning to launch the third evaluation round of the Convention by the end of the year and there will be an additional GRETA meeting in May to work on the draft questionnaire. GRETA intends to strengthen the on-going dialogue with States in-between evaluations, by following up on the main recommendations and providing assistance to implement them, and when needed, launching "urgent procedures" to address problems requiring immediate attention to prevent or limit serious violations of the Convention.

GRETA will also continue building synergies with other Council of Europe monitoring bodies, as well as co-operation with relevant international organisations and civil society. In this context, GRETA recently held an exchange of views with MONEYVAL, to discuss common areas of concern in relation to financial investigations and money laundering linked to human trafficking criminal networks. This has been a key area of concern in GRETA's monitoring work and engagement with States in relation to criminal justice responses.

A continuing concern is to try to ensure more effective measures of prevention, to reduce vulnerability to human trafficking and to prevent the serious human rights violations that are occurring in Europe.

The reports of human trafficking networks apparently operating with impunity in Libya, has been of particular concern to us, given that many victims of trafficking in Europe arriving in Italy and Spain have arrived from Libya, experiencing horrific human rights violations en route. More effective international cooperation to prevent such human rights violations and to combat the impunity of such criminal networks is urgently required.

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The 10th anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention will be an occasion to analyse remaining gaps in the implementation of the Convention, new challenges and more effective law, policy and practice measures to combat human trafficking. We hope in particular to highlight the work of civil society actors, and the need for a more systematic focus on prevention, and on ensuring that the human rights of victims are effectively protected.

However, I must stress that maintaining the monitoring cycle and adhering to the work calendar adopted by GRETA depends to a large extent on the human resources of the Secretariat. At a time of budgetary cuts, this can become a challenging task. The post of one administrator has remained vacant since December 2016 and GRETA has been functioning without a principal administrative assistant for quite some time, despite both posts being envisaged in the biannual Programme and Budget. Due to the unfavourable staffing situation in the Secretariat, GRETA had to postpone the visit to Italy from 2017 to early 2018, and there have been other negative side effects (e.g. as there is no French-drafting administrator in the Secretariat, more documents need to be sent to translation). It is essential to maintain the credibility and authority of GRETA's monitoring work, by ensuring that GRETA evaluation reports are timely, relevant and of the highest standards of accuracy.

I understand that the Committee of Ministers has decided to invite Tunisia to accede to the Council of Europe Anti-Trafficking Convention, as a result of which the Convention's scope of application will be extended beyond Europe. This is a very welcome development, which we hope will be followed by other ratifications outside of the Council of Europe extending the scope of our work on prevention and protection in particular. I hope that financial means will be secured to cover the monitoring of this additional party to the Convention together with our on-going monitoring and cooperation work.

Thank you for your attention.

## Appendix IV

### Statement by Ms Kornilia Chatzinikolaou, Expert Advisor in the Office of the Greek National Rapporteur on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to each of you who contribute to fighting against such a hideous crime as human trafficking. We would like to thank particularly the members of GRETA for the excellent collaboration with all stakeholders in Greece during the preparation of the first evaluation round's report.

We would like to underline that we will be discussing the first evaluation round today, because Greece ratified the Convention in 2013. Many and important steps have been made since then: legislative developments, the official establishment and active engagement of the Office of the National Rapporteur, the planning and development of the National Referral Mechanism, the promotion of strong partnerships between competent State agencies, grassroots organisations and the private and cultural sector, among others. In 2018, the updated National Action Plan will also be launched.

Most significantly, we would like to reiterate the Greek State's strong political will to combat human trafficking, as the establishment of the Office of the National Rapporteur in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs clearly declares. For the Greek institutions, the eradication of trafficking in human beings and the protection of victims are a priority.

At this point, we would like to share with you some recent development in Greek Government's fight against human trafficking which are aligned with GRETA's recommendations:

1. In December 2017, a National Law defining the minimum of services to be provided by the State to victims of crime (including victims of trafficking) was voted and entered into force.
2. The new Guardianship Law is being prepared and will soon be voted.
3. The SOPs of the National Referral Mechanism have been elaborated.
4. Specialised trainings for labour inspectors and health professionals have been planned to take place in the first half of 2018, and more specialised trainings are being prepared.
5. A Vulnerability Assessment has been developed, which will be applied to all First Reception Centers. This Vulnerability Assessment includes human trafficking indicators. We expect that this unified Vulnerability Assessment will promote the identification of THB victims among migrants and asylum seekers.

Thank you for your attention.

## Appendix V

### Statement by Ms Anna Romanowska, Counsellor to the Minister in the Unit for European Migration Network and Combating Human Trafficking of the Polish Ministry of the Interior and Administration

First of all, I would like to stress that the Polish authorities appreciate very much the constructive and open dialogue with GRETA and the Committee of the Parties during the second evaluation round. Meetings that took place during the period were an excellent opportunity to discuss all of the matters important for combating trafficking in human beings in Poland.

The recommendations made by the Committee of Parties on the basis of GRETA's report will be helpful guidelines for us in the nearest future; we are going to consider the suggestions for activities proposed by the Council of Europe to support Poland in its anti-trafficking efforts.

As we have mentioned in our response to the recommendations, we are going to continue our work, basing first of all on the National Action Plan against Trafficking that is still in force (for the years 2016-2018).

The most important legislative plans for the nearest future are legal amendments that are necessary to make changes to the Border Guard and Police's competence provisions so that these institutions can collect and process data on trafficking in human beings' victims, what is of key importance to implement of a single national database, as recommended by GRETA.

In the legal context, referring to GRETA's recommendation for Poland to take steps to ensure that all possible foreign victims of trafficking, including European Union and European Free Trade Association (EU/EFTA) nationals, are consistently offered a recovery and reflection period, I would like to mention the draft amendment to the Law on entry into the territory of the Republic of Poland, the stay and departure from this territory of citizens of the European Union Member States and their family members, that will enable citizens of the EU, the EFTA and the Swiss Confederation or their family members, in relation to whom will be a presumption that they are victims of trafficking, to obtain a certificate confirming the existence of this presumption, similarly to the certificate issuing at presence to the third-country nationals.

I would like to also note that Poland is going to continue the training activities, also resulting from the National Action Plan against Trafficking for 2016-2018; within its framework various trainings, courses for the specialists and inter-institutional workshops are already carried out, but a range of additional measures will also be taken in the coming months.

As to GRETA's recommendation on the measures to be taken to identify gaps in the investigation and prosecution of human trafficking cases, Poland would like to inform that the National Prosecutor's Office is carrying the coordination process of these actions. Results of the above show that, as regards the problem of non-error identification in relation to preparatory actions and accusations, thanks to the coordination process, errors disclosed are being corrected on an on-going basis. It should be noted that the actions taken, including coordination, supervision and trainings are bringing expected effects. In addition, the Prosecutor's Office constantly monitors all cases concerning trafficking in human beings offences. Currently, about 50 persons at the level of district and regional prosecutor's offices supervise these cases, which, given the total number of cases in this category, means that in principle, all proceedings are subject to the assessment of a specialised prosecutor. Moreover, such proceedings are subsequently evaluated by the National Prosecutor's Office.

To conclude, despite the finding of further errors and shortcomings in the preparatory proceedings, taking into account the results from the analyses made by the Prosecutor's Office, it should be noted that investigations on trafficking in human beings in Poland are conducted at a good level.

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I would also like to inform you that we are going to keep a consultation and co-operation process between the governmental authorities and other partners, including NGOs involved in combating trafficking in human beings in Poland, for example by continuing works of the Interministerial Committee for Combating and Preventing Trafficking in Human Beings and the Interministerial Team for Trafficking in Human Beings.

I would like to stress that we are looking forward to continuing the constructive and fruitful dialogue and cooperation with GRETA and the Committee in the future.

## Appendix VI

Statement by Ambassador Aleksandra **Djurović**,  
Permanent Representative of Serbia to the Council of Europe

I would like to convey the gratitude of my authorities for the good co-operation they had with the GRETA and its Secretariat, especially during the visit of the experts to the Republic of Serbia in March 2017.

The relevant authorities of the Republic of Serbia consider GRETA's report and recommendations objective, helpful and valuable. They will be particularly important during the preparation of the Action Plan for the period 2019-2020 which is necessary for the implementation of the Strategy for Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking, especially of Women and Children and for Protection of Victims in 2017-2022.

In the letter of the Serbian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, Mr Nebojša **Stefanović**, which has been published together with the GRETA Report, you have been informed of the establishment of the Council for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings on 12 October 2017, that will be chaired by Mr **Stefanović**. During its next meeting the GRETA Report and the Recommendations will be considered and taken into account. I can assure you that adequate measures and employment of necessary resources for their implementation will be proposed.

The Republic of Serbia will provide any additional information and continue to report to the Secretariat of the Convention on activities related to the implementation of the Convention and the recommendations of GRETA through the National Anti-Trafficking Coordinator and the National Focal Point for Cooperation with GRETA.

Once again I would like to thank the Secretariat of GRETA, the Committee and you, Mr Chairman, for the good co-operation.



## Appendix VII

### Statement by Mr Boris Mesaric, Head of the Executive Secretariat of the Swiss Co-ordination Unit against Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants of the Federal Office of Police

Mr President,  
Madam Executive Secretary,  
Esteemed colleagues,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to go into more detail on the Swiss authorities' report on implementation of the Committee's recommendations.

The report is in today's meeting file and, as it would take too long to comment on all the measures taken in Switzerland, I will just make a few important points:

- Switzerland has taken the Committee's recommendations very seriously and has worked intensively to implement them. To that end, a working group has been set up within the framework of the National co-ordination service (SCOTT) and a new national action plan has been devised. The action plan explains how Switzerland intends to implement the Council of Europe's recommendations. A whole host of measures are planned in this respect.
- Firstly, where exploitation through labour is concerned, Switzerland intends to raise awareness among work inspectors and provide them with training and specific tools to more efficiently identify situations of exploitation through labour. That said, some new situations of exploitation through labour were identified last year, for which legal proceedings are on-going. The experience gained from the prosecutions brought will certainly come in very useful.
- On the question of identifying and assisting victims, a national victim protection programme is being devised. This programme describes and explains all the tools for assisting victims, from identification to repatriation, and gives instructions for their uniform application in Switzerland. An update of the SCOTT's list of indicators is also planned, as well as the issuing of guidelines for the identification of victims by the police. Those guidelines are being drawn up by an inter-cantonal working group of police officers. Finally, there is another working group tasked with improving the processes of identification of and care for victims of trafficking in human beings under the asylum procedure.
- With regard to the trafficking of minors, the needs of these minors will be taken into account and integrated in the measures I have mentioned. In addition, a new platform for interdisciplinary exchanges geared to action against trafficking in children will be set up to get people working together and exchanging information in this area.

These measures, and the other measures set out in the national action plan will help Switzerland to up its game in combating trafficking in human beings.

Thank you for your attention.

## Appendix VIII

### Statement by Ms Marijana **Radunović**, Senior Advisor at the National Office against Trafficking in Human Beings of Montenegro<sup>1</sup>

Montenegro is vigorously committed to conducting measures and activities towards the full respect of the highest values, principles and standards of the Council of Europe Convention in Action against such global issue, as human trafficking is.

In reference with this, the National Office for Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings along with relevant institutions carefully considered GRETA's recommendations and invested significant efforts in their implementation in order to improve the fight against human trafficking in Montenegro. By implementing the recommendations received from GRETA during the second evaluation round, I firmly believe that we had a share in achieving significant results in view of strengthening professional capacities of the representatives to the competent authorities, establishing a multidisciplinary framework based on the protection of human rights of the victims, improving the mechanism of protection, reintegration and referral of the victims, as well as regional and international cooperation. At the same time, the normative framework in action against human trafficking was also improved.

Let me introduce you briefly with some of the latest activities that were implemented with a view to implementing the Convention:

- As for normative framework, on June 29 2017 the Parliament of Montenegro adopted the Law on modification to the Criminal Code of Montenegro containing alterations in relation to Art. 210 (Mediation in Prostitution) and Art. 444 (Trafficking in Human Beings), as well as some new related Articles, and also those that are directly related to human trafficking.
- In the field of prevention, a number of campaigns were conducted aiming to raising awareness of entire public in relation to the human trafficking phenomenon, especially among vulnerable population, such as children and younger ones from the Roma and Egyptian population.
- To the end of strengthening professional capacities of the representatives to the competent State authorities responsible for proactive identification, referral, protection and reintegration of the potential victims and victims of human trafficking, as for quality prosecution of perpetrators of this offence, certain training were developed and implemented in cooperation with the Human Resources Management Authority, the Centre for Training in Judiciary and State Prosecution, the Police Academy, as well as with the support of international organisations.
- In part of the proactive identification of potential victims and victims of human trafficking, and of criminal prosecution of perpetrators, certain operations have been undertaken by the Police Department within the regular actions such as 'Beggar' and 'Trafficking'.
- In the field of protection/integration/reintegration, the Government of Montenegro proceeded through the Ministry of Interior/ National Office for Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings with allocating necessary resources for the functioning of the Shelter for victims of human trafficking in Montenegro for the provision of accommodation and necessary assistance to the victims of human trafficking. Guidelines for non-punishment of victims have also been made. Further, certain meetings were initiated with the management of the Employment Agency and the Union of Employers of Montenegro in order to improve the possibility of reintegration of victims in our country, and made guidelines on the non-punishment of trafficking victims which is one of the most important recommendations of the esteemed GRETA expert team.

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<sup>1</sup> This statement is reproduced in the form in which it was submitted by the Montenegrin representative, responsible for its content.

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- With a view to intensifying regional and international cooperation, the National coordinator for the fight against trafficking in human beings, along with the national coordinators from Albania and Kosovo<sup>2</sup> have signed the Declaration on the implementation of the Standard Operational procedures (SOPs) with the aim of identification, referral, voluntary return and protection of the victims of human trafficking. At the same time we proceeded with activities on improving cooperation at the regional level with the Republic of Macedonia by developing the Protocol on cooperation. We also envisaged similar activities to be carried on in the further period with the Republic of Serbia.

We appreciate that the Report submitted to the Secretariat within the GRETA second evaluation round and delivered to you in accordance with the planned dynamics provides an overview of the progress made and challenges and commitments to further strengthening of the anti-trafficking system.

Montenegro has paid special attention to the implementation of GRETA's recommendations and in the forthcoming period we will continue with upgrading of the already established and also developing new mechanisms in the field of combating trafficking in human beings, in order to fully and in a quality manner implement all the provisions of the Council of Europe Convention to combat trafficking in persons.

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<sup>2</sup> All references to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations' Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

## Appendix IX

Statement by Mr Alexandru Atanasiu,  
Deputy to the Permanent Representative of Romania to the Council of Europe

Thank you, Mr Chairman. I would also like to thank the President of GRETA for her presentation.

Romania has both the technical infrastructure and expertise in combating and preventing trafficking in human beings, regardless of the form of exploitation in which it is manifested. Following GRETA's recommendations, a new National Strategy against trafficking in Human Beings and a National Action Plan for implementation are about to be approved, thus ensuring the coherence and consistency of actions from the perspective of national anti-trafficking policies at the national level.

The Romanian evidence of trafficking identified annually shows a steady downward trend, from 756 victims identified in 2016 to 662 in 2017. It maintains a high scale of sexually exploited victims, as well as female minors exploited within the country. Romania is not characterised as a destination country but for its own citizens, and they are trafficked in various forms, among the most common are those in the sphere of sexual exploitation.

From the point of view of preventing trafficking in human beings and improving the general public's knowledge of its manifestations, Romania has advocated the need to implement demand reduction campaigns in the destination countries that are to be correlated with those of reducing the supply in the countries of origin.

The actions to prosecute and condemn the perpetrators of trafficking in human beings (including juveniles) are also at a high level. Only in 2016, the number of people sent to trial reached to 350 and that of those condemned to 333.

The co-operation with civil society in the field of trafficking prevention, as well as assistance to victims of trafficking in human beings represents an asset for Romania in the fight against this type of crime. Many joint actions aimed both to prevent trafficking in human beings and recovering trafficked persons, repatriating them, providing a suitable climate for recover or support victims for the damage recovery process are just a few of the elements that define a very good cooperation between public institutions with active NGOs in this field.

Let me conclude by stating the high appreciation of this delegation to GRETA's activity; in the difficult financial situation that the Council of Europe is facing now, one of our top priorities is to ensure that the monitoring bodies – including GRETA – are not to be affected by the budget cuts. We have already stated this position in the recent GR-PBA meetings and we will continue to do so in the following relevant CM meetings.

We are looking forward and we are committed to continue our good co-operation.

## Appendix X

Statement by Mr Adam Fry, Europe Lead,  
Modern Slavery Unit, Home Office, UK

The UK is committed to ending the evils of modern slavery and human trafficking and I would like to thank GRETA again for its support and guidance on this issue.

1. GRETA urges the UK authorities and devolved administrations to make further efforts to ensure that all victims of trafficking are provided with adequate support and assistance, according to their individual needs, beyond the 45-day period covered by the NRM, with a view to facilitating their reintegration and recovery as well as guaranteeing their protection.

The UK recognises the importance of ensuring that victims are identified and have the support they need to recover and rebuild their lives.

This is why the UK Government has continued to fund specialist support and accommodation for victims of modern slavery for a minimum reflection and recovery period of 45 days, while Scotland is legislating to provide 90 days. Equivalent support for adult victims of modern slavery is in place in Northern Ireland.

In October 2017, Ministers announced a wide range of measures to reform the NRM, the process by which the government identifies and supports victims of modern slavery. The reform will ensure that there is:

1. quicker, more certain decision making;
2. better support to victims before, during and after the NRM;
3. improved identification of victims of modern slavery and;
4. a process for addressing the specific vulnerabilities of children who are supported outside of the NRM.

We expect these changes to come into effect in Autumn 2018.

2. Recalling the recommendations made in its first report, GRETA once again urges the UK authorities to take steps to improve the identification and protection of child victims of trafficking, in accordance with the best interests of the child.

In November 2017 the Department for Education published its guidance on "Care of unaccompanied migrant children and child victims of modern slavery".

It sets out the steps local authorities should take to plan for the provision of support for looked-after children who are unaccompanied migrant children, and who may be victims, or potential victims, of modern slavery.

I include a link to the guidance below. Information on accommodation can be found from page 20 onwards. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/care-of-unaccompanied-and-trafficked-children>

3. GRETA urges the UK authorities to:
- enshrine in the law applicable in England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland the right to a recovery and reflection period as defined in Article 13 of the Convention;

- ensure that all possible victims of trafficking, including children, are offered all the measures of protection and assistance stated in Article 12, paragraphs 1 and 2, of the Convention during the recovery and reflection period.

In October, Government announced we will invoke Section 50 of the modern slavery act and regulate the support provided to victims of modern slavery. This will put the support on a statutory footing. We will also develop statutory guidance for supporting victims.

4. GRETA urges the UK authorities to adopt measures and to facilitate and guarantee access to compensation for victims of THB

We are committed to ensuring those that are applying for leave to remain can access legal aid to support them to do so.

5. GRETA urges the UK authorities to ensure that the best interests of the child are effectively respected, protected and fulfilled, including through pre-removal risk and security assessments, in particular for unaccompanied children, by specialised bodies, working with relevant partners in countries of return; such assessments should also ensure effective enjoyment of the child's right to education and measures to secure adequate care or receipt by the family or appropriate care structures in countries of return (Article 16 (5) of the Convention).

Risk assessments are conducted by Local Authorities and a range of guidance is available. If police, Home Office staff or other frontline staff in contact with the child have any suspicion that the child may have been trafficked, they must be referred to the local authority who should convene a strategy discussion with all agencies, and initiate enquires under section 47 of the Children Act 1989. It may be appropriate to take emergency action to secure the safety of the child. The local authority should follow guidance set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children. They also should follow the instructions set out in the National Referral Mechanism: guidance for child first responders and follow child protection procedures, including the Victims of modern slavery – frontline staff guidance and well as following the procedures set out in Independent Child Trafficking Advocates: early adopter sites (2017)

Finally, as I said at the time, international co-operation on this issue goes beyond exchanges between individual member states and GRETA. The UK would be very happy to share its experiences in tackling Modern Slavery / Human Trafficking with other member states. If anyone is interested in doing this they should contact our mission to the Council in the first instance.

## Appendix XI

### Statement by Mr Vladimir Koman, from the Information Centre for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Crime Prevention of the Ministry of the Interior - Slovak Republic

Let me start by thanking for this possibility to address the Committee of the Parties to the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings today and on behalf of the Government of the Slovak Republic express appreciations for the cooperation with this Committee and the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, which is highly valued by relevant authorities in the Slovak Republic. Let me also appreciate the professional and experienced perspective on the implementation of the Convention by those bodies, including advice and recommendations addressed to my country with regard to further improvement of a current state.

Following the GRETA's conclusions, this Committee adopted recommendation on the implementation of the Convention by the Slovak Republic and the Government of the Slovak Republic was requested to submit information on the measures adopted to address the issues for immediate action identified and also further conclusions emerging from the GRETA's second evaluation report.

The information provided by the Slovak Republic on improvement of the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings by the Slovak Republic was sent to the Secretariat and subsequently to the Committee.

Let me now draw your attention to the measures adopted since the last information was provided:

#### Legislation

In 2017, Act No. 274/2017 on Victims of Crime and on Amendments to Certain Acts was approved by the Government and came into force as of 1 January 2018. This act, for the first time, is defining the victim of trafficking as a particularly vulnerable victim and as it was submitted in the last report from the Slovak Republic; most of the recommendations from the previous reports were implemented into this act, e.g. the use of technical devices designed to record sound and images to prevent secondary victimisation, or to conduct a hearing in a clear and substantive manner so that the hearing in the next proceedings may not be repeated and so on.

The Government of the Slovak Republic also approved an update of the National Strategy for the Protection of Children against Violence, which sets up new tasks within its long-term strategic goals, as well as the update of the National Project to Support the Protection of Children against Violence. The main objective is the systematic coordination of bodies involved in child protection.

In 2017, a blueprint of the National Programme for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings for the years 2019-2023 was drafted and nowadays it was addressed to the Expert Group on the fight against trafficking in human beings for their comments and proposals.

Let me also inform you that the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic in cooperation and consultation with professionals from Caritas Slovakia prepared a blueprint of a leaflet on victims' rights in criminal proceedings, which will serve as a basic aid to inform victims of trafficking of the criminal proceedings.

#### Assistance

In 2017, the Ministry of the Interior concluded a service contract with a non-governmental organisation providing pre- assisted voluntary returns for the victims and also a service contract with the non-governmental organisation to ensure the operation of the National helpline for the victims of trafficking. Both of the contracts were concluded based on the outcome of the public procurement. Currently, a public procurement for the provision of services to the victims for another 4-year period is under preparation.

## Inspections

The members of the National unit to combatting illegal migration in cooperation with the labour inspectorates carried out 212 inspections of entrepreneurs with the focus on identifying of trafficking in human beings. Within the framework of the above-mentioned inspections aimed at observing the prohibition of illegal employment, control of aliens' residence and detection of victims of trafficking in human beings, a total number of 2514 persons were inspected, of which 883 were citizens of the Slovak Republic and 1631 were foreigners. The inspections identified 35 business entities that violated the provisions of the Act on Illegal Labour and Illegal Employment by employing 15 citizens of the Slovak Republic and 214 foreigners. Illegally employed citizens originated from: Serbia 109, Ukraine 73, Bulgaria 9, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" 7, Hungary 7, Bosnia and Herzegovina 4, Ecuador 2, Croatia 2, Mali 1. 66 out of the 214 foreigners were present in the territory of the Slovak Republic without a residence permit. No victim of trafficking in human beings was identified.

During the whole year 2017, Caritas Slovakia carried out preventive lectures for the asylum seekers from Afghanistan, Syria, Iran, Egypt, Vietnam, India, Pakistan, China, Libya, Iraq and "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia".

## Protection

In 2017, 88 victims of trafficking in human beings were identified in the Slovak Republic, 19 of whom willingly enrolled in the Programme of support and protection. 75 of them were formally identified by the police. 87 victims voluntarily agreed to cooperate with the police. In 2017, 37 cases of criminal prosecution for the offence of trafficking in human beings were commenced. In 19 cases the allegations were brought against 72 perpetrators, 50 of which were male and 22 were women.

To conclude let me express assurances of willingness of the Slovak government to continue dialogue and further cooperation with this Committee and the Group of experts.