



New Approaches Towards Human Trafficking in the EU: Raising Awareness and Developing Integrated Action

"Trafficking in persons shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability of the giving or receiving payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs..."

- Article 3, Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish
Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children
United Nations, 2000

Radisson Blu
EU Hotel
Brussels

18th November 2009

Organised by



Centre for
Parliamentary
Studies



"An International Symposium for gathering knowledge, discussing the latest challenges and sharing best practices in EU-wide counter-trafficking policy"

"Although the Commission, the Council and Member States have been active in the field of anti-trafficking policy, the factual situation shows substantial weaknesses. Figures concerning criminal proceedings are not high enough. Trafficking is still a high profit and low risk crime. As to victims' assistance and protection, only a few countries have adopted policies that can be considered a real response to the estimated scale of the criminal phenomenon, meaning hundred thousands trafficked in Europe every year."

"We are aware that trafficking victims are often the most vulnerable, be third country or EU nationals. Very often they are children exploited in prostitution, labour, servitude, begging, illicit activities. To protect their fundamental rights is an absolute imperative, and is also in the interest of justice."

"The Commission calls on the EU and Member States to make an extra push in 2009, and commit themselves to implement a few anti-trafficking key-actions..."

- Vice-President Jacques Barrot, EU Commissioner, October 2008

Abstract and Programme

The problem of Human Trafficking is an increasingly disturbing phenomenon in Europe with terrible consequences for victims, the majority of which are forced into prostitution, street crime, domestic servitude or other forms of labour exploitation. Furthermore, as well as devastating the lives of individuals, this crime has far-reaching implications for the social, economic and organisational fabric of every affected community in Europe.

Recently, several reports have highlighted the urgent need to raise public awareness of trafficking, improve training in order to better identify victims, and develop better institutional co-operation and multi-agency working – all critical in the fight against trafficking, which alarmingly includes large numbers of children. In order to tackle its multi-level and cross-border roots effectively, a multi-disciplinary and comparative approach at EU and national level is required, alongside a renewed political will to combat this problem.

With latest statistics indicating that little progress has been made in tackling human trafficking in the EU, this special International Symposium, hosted by the *Centre for Parliamentary Studies*, offers an invaluable opportunity for local, regional and national authorities to gather comparative knowledge, discuss the latest challenges and share examples of cross-border best practices. Tackling human trafficking in new and innovative ways requires action on several levels:

- An appraisal of current policy initiatives and priorities of the EU
- Delineation of existing co-operation and multi-agency frameworks at local, national and trans-national levels
- Identify gaps and explore possible solutions for creating more robust and integrated multi-level structures to improve co-ordination and information exchange between statutory authorities
- Analyse and learn from tangible examples of best practices in different member states to establish recommendations for future actions

In order to encourage greater political will, facilitate policy discussion and explore comprehensive and integrated solutions to tackling human trafficking, the *Centre for Parliamentary Studies* is proud to host this first event as part of a series of international conferences aimed at raising awareness of this 'hidden' crime and welcomes the participation of all key partners, responsible authorities and stakeholders. The Symposium will support the exchange of ideas and encourage delegates to engage in thought-provoking topical debate.



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Wednesday 18th November 2009
Radisson Blu EU Hotel, Brussels

09:00 *Registration & Morning Refreshments*

10:00 **Chair's Welcome and Opening Remarks**

Brice De Ruyver PhD, Professor of Criminal Law, University of Ghent (confirmed)

10:10 **EU Policy Priorities to Combat Human Trafficking**

- The economics of human trafficking – challenges posed by the transnational phenomenon
- Reinforcing efforts to implement best practices through co-ordinated EU approach
- Preventive measures, constitutive actions and future plans
- Racism, migration and integration policies within the EU
- Tackling stock of trends in human trafficking
- Risks undermining our fundamental values

Speaker:

Ms. Sabine Zwaenepoel, Deputy Head of Unite, Fight against Organised Crime, DG JFC, European Commission (confirmed)

10:40 *First Round of Discussions*

11:00 *Morning Coffee Break*

11:20 **Human Trafficking in Member States; Developing Integrated Action**

- Identifying the right partners in Europe – co-operation challenges
- Collaboration and institutionalised communication with national agencies, local agencies & partners – differences & challenges ahead
- Tackling the entire trafficking chain and identifying the root causes of trafficking
- Broader policy on migration – contribution in reducing and preventing human trafficking
- Simplifying and co-ordinating judicial procedures at national level

Speaker:

Mrs. Monica Zanette, Project Manager, Counter Trafficking, International Organisation for Migration (confirmed)



- 11:50 **Second Round of Discussions**
- 12:10 ***Networking Lunch***
- 13:10 **Raising Awareness of Human Trafficking at Regional and Local Level**
- A 'hidden' crime with 'hidden' victims
 - Identifying different forms of human trafficking across the EU – pre-emptive measures
 - Existing information exchange and monitoring systems in Europe – maximizing the impact of actions taken at regional level
 - Pre-emptive measures at school – potential programmes and best practices
 - Engaging and integrating new and non-EU states into the structure for cooperation against human trafficking
- Speaker:**
***Mr. Wilbert van Hövell, Regional Representative of UNHCR
Regional Representation in Brussels (tbc)***
- 13:50 **Third Round of Discussions**
- 14:10 ***Short Break***
- 14:20 **Case Study: The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights' (FRA) Experience in Human Trafficking**
- Recommendations to the next Belgium EU Presidency in 2010
 - Increasing the profile of the scale of human trafficking at the highest level of the EU; the potential role of the future Presidencies
 - Recommended EU actions towards victims and survivors of human trafficking
- Speaker:**
***Dr. Niraj Nathwani, Programme Manager Legal Research, FRALEX
Co-ordinator, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights
(confirmed)***
- 14:50 **Fourth Round of Discussions**
- 15:10 **Chair's Summary and Closing Remarks**
- 15:20 ***Networking Reception & Refreshments***
- 16:20 ***Symposium Close***