



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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SOC 225

NOTE

from : The Danish delegation
to : COUNCIL (Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs)

**Subject : Social aspects of human trafficking
(Any other business item)**

Delegations will find attached a note by the Danish delegation on the above-mentioned subject in view of the Council (EPSCO) on 30 and 31 May 2007.

Social Aspects of Human Trafficking

The Camp

On 18-20 April 2007 the “Stop Trafficking Camp – Boosting the Social Dimension” was held in Elsinore, Denmark.

The Camp was organised with a view to kick-starting the process of working with the Social Dimension of trafficking at EU level.

The purpose of the Camp was to identify main issues and find ways of preventing and combating the social problems that cause human trafficking and the social problems in turn arising from human trafficking by:

- Sharing knowledge and experiences to identify EU-based solutions
- Design specific, practical initiatives and tools that can be further refined at EU level.

The Camp was a high-speed process of innovation and resulted in 14 specific proposed initiatives, each of which can help put focus on the social aspects of trafficking at EU level.

There were 36 participants - memberstates, NGO's and independent persons.

The Social Dimension of Trafficking in Human Beings

At the meeting of the EPSCO Council on 1 December 2006, the Danish Minister for Social Affairs presented a non-paper in which it was suggested that Ministers for Social Affairs should discuss the social aspects of trafficking in human beings and consider which initiatives can be set in motion.

Human trafficking is a major cross-border problem for all EU Member States. It is a European problem that needs European solutions. Each Member State deals with the consequences in its own territory, but with a cross-border problem of this scale, Member States must communicate, coordinate and engage in mutual learning. It is also important that we collaborate with the NGOs in the field.

Some EU initiatives in the area are already underway, one being the Action Plan on Trafficking in Human Beings. These initiatives have all had a special focus on the legal aspects of the problem. The time has come to turn our attention to the social problems that cause human trafficking and the social problems in turn arising from human trafficking.

The social dimension of human trafficking refers to the social conditions under which people live before, during and after becoming victims of human trafficking. The concept also encompasses the social factors in the countries of origin and destination that enable and foster human trafficking.

Today, people who are trafficked have certain serious economic and social problems in common and, in many cases, already belong to marginalised groups before falling victim to trafficking. Life as a victim of human trafficking only worsens their situation, and to many of them, reintegrating into society on returning to the home country seems impossible.

However, social activities cannot stand alone. Cooperation should to a wide extent cross sectors, cultures and formal structures.

The proposed initiatives

Social aspects of trafficking in human beings demand development of new and different approaches and tools.

The proposed initiatives of the camp underline that:

- There is common understanding of the urgent need to work together across boundaries in this field
- The social dimension is integral to preventing and combating trafficking at European level
- We must have a set of fundamental social values to guide our work in this field
- Openness and determination are needed to resolve the problems we face with human trafficking

The innovation of new initiatives during the Camp was based on five specific, carefully selected themes. The five themes were:

- Prevention.
- Identification
- Preparing victims' return to their home country
- A new life for returning victims
- Documentation

The 14 proposed initiatives divided into themes:

1. Prevention

1.1. Hotline, 777

A hotline that works all over Europe. Allows all potential victims to receive immediate help and reliable information. For example, guidance can be given as to whether a job offered is in fact a real job.

1.2. No trafficked children in the streets of Europe

The proposed initiative seeks to avoid the trafficking of children for any form of exploitation. The proposal includes the following elements:

- Information campaigns at European level, giving local information about protection centres for children
- Constructive cooperation with countries of origin, authorities and families.

1.3. My Vision – Empowerment of Young People

The project will focus on preventive activities based on resources and the young people's own wishes.

2. Identification

2.1. Euro Support Centre for Trafficking and Exploitation

Establishment of a centre tasked with identifying victims of trafficking, e.g. by developing standards for identification and guidelines for victim support. The proposed initiative includes a website to be used by NGOs, social workers, etc.

The centre should be seen as part of the New European Agency for Fundamental Rights in Vienna. The proposed initiative is inspired by a EUROPOL proposal.

2.2 Including identification and social support of victims of human trafficking on the EU social agenda

The proposed initiative is to ensure that we use the Open Method of Coordination to combat poverty and social marginalisation.

3. Preparing victims' repatriation

3.1. Resource Centre

The objective is to collect and update information on reliable focal points in countries of origin and provide support to victims of human trafficking.

3.2. Specialised Unit on Counselling

The proposed initiative will establish a specialised unit (a meeting place as well as outreach activities) that provides many kinds of help to victims. The proposed initiative is considered to be suited as a model for activities in all member states.

3.3. Remuneration of trafficked persons

Victims should be remunerated for the work they have performed. The remuneration is financed out of the money seized from traffickers and which traffickers have paid in fines.

4. A new life for returning victims

4.1. Who does what - Referral System

Each EU member state appoints a specific authority to have an overall view of services offered to victims of human trafficking.

4.2. One approach - one million options

Each victim should be offered an action plan that maps out individual needs and launches relief measures and development initiatives for the individual.

4.3. A friend for the New Life

Each victim of human trafficking is given a professional contact in both the countries of origin and destination. The contact provides information and consulting services and works to find permanent solutions that take into account the wishes of the victims.

5. Documentation

5.1. European Cooperation Against Trafficking – E-CAT

A general knowledge and cooperation centre for documenting social initiatives connected with human trafficking. The centre should collect documentation for best practice and documentation at the European level and ensure common standards for documentation. It could be placed within an existing EU institution, e.g. the future Gender Equality Institute in Vilnius. The centre could be developed over several phases – the first phase may, for example, be concentrated on trafficking in girls and women.

5.2. National Cooperation Against trafficking – X-CAT

A register collecting knowledge and documentation from national knowledge and registration institutions. The register should feed documentation to E-CAT.

5.3. National Action Plan on Social Inclusion - NAPs

The national initiatives against the social consequences of human trafficking should be included in the NAP.

Slides presenting the themes can be viewed at:

<http://www.social.dk>, choose “ministeriets områder”, “internationalt” and ”bekæmpelse af menneskehandel”.