



## **Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe**

### **Mission to Montenegro Regional Meeting of the Co-ordinators for Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings**

25-26 February 2010  
Hotel Maestral, Budva

Your Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a particular honour and pleasure for me, on behalf of the OSCE, to welcome you to this very important event, which brings together Coordinators from the region responsible for Fighting Trafficking in Human Being. It is an welcomed opportunity, together with the representatives and experts from different institutions and countries, to share their experiences, challenges and to identify the way ahead for strengthening regional cooperation in this area. It should contribute to the strengthening of their networking, commitment and coordinated action of the respective countries and institutions to prevent and fight trafficking in human beings for the purposes of all forms of exploitation in partnership with third countries, regions and organizations . Practice testifies that one of the most effective forms of prevention and combating trafficking is by joining efforts and participate in international operations on disclosure of criminal activities and in proper projects of cooperation. A complex, multidimensional approach and consolidation of law enforcement bodies and civil society action is needed on the national, regional and international level.

This is an opportunity to speak on how to combat one of the most serious form of human rights violation and “a form of highly profitable organized crime”, the issue which is high on the OSCE agenda and not only.

It has become more and more acknowledged that, unfortunately, no country is immune to trafficking in human beings, be it purely transit countries, or purely countries of origin or destination. Moreover, trafficking situations and scenarios often change rapidly. No trafficking situation is static and governments and other actors need to be equally flexible in addressing these changing circumstances. Trafficking often entails a long chain of events, maybe taking place over a long period of time, and governments need to prepare for a variety of responses to tackle this crime, including comprehensive prevention efforts, victim identification, assistance and protection, as well as enhanced investigation and prosecution. This should be combined with improved, more systematic co-operation between all actors inside and outside the country.

Combating trafficking in human beings be it for sexual exploitation, child trafficking or other forms of exploitation must continue to be made even more visible and with effective responses, always preserving the protection of the victim in the centre of our focus. Civil society plays an important role not only in identification and assistance, but also in the prevention of trafficking, in contributing to designing policies, in researching the problem of trafficking, as well as in assessing the impact of efforts to fight trafficking. Combating trafficking has never been and will never be an easy mission.

The OSCE has been a frontrunner in the battle against trafficking in human beings. The OSCE's approach to trafficking is characterized by its comprehensive security approach where the security of an individual is intertwined and indivisible from State security.

The OSCE Mission to Montenegro is continuously providing assistance to the host country's stakeholders in their anti-trafficking efforts.

This will continue to be the practice of the Mission, including by providing assistance in the implementation of the Action Plan for 2010-2011, as well as development of a new National Strategy for Trafficking in Human Being for period 2011-2016, developing concrete activities, or the support for strengthening national and regional activities to facilitate information-sharing and joining efforts in this area.

I wish you a pleasant staying and successful discussion.  
Thank you.