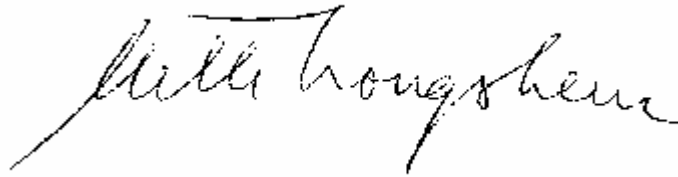


PC.DEL/1095/04
8 November 2004

ENGLISH only

To: All Delegations
Secretariat

Please find attached the summary of the meeting of the **Informal Working Group on Gender Equality and Anti-Trafficking** held on 25 October 2004.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kongshem", written in a cursive style.

Ambassador Kongshem,
Chairperson of the Group

**Summary
of the meeting of the Informal Working Group
on Gender Equality and Anti-Trafficking**

25 October 2004

Chairperson: Ambassador Mette Kongshem (NORWAY)

1. Adoption of the agenda:

The *Chairperson* suggested to discuss agenda items 4 and 5 before the other agenda items in view of the invited guests. Thereafter, the agenda was adopted.

2. Finalization of the draft 2004 Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality:

The *Chairperson* noted that the draft 2004 Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality (AP) was nearly finalized. She noted, however, that one delegation had presented three new amendments to the text. The amendments were highlighted in bold on pages 1, 3 and 6. *Delegations* entered into a drafting mode. In conclusion, the delegations were able to agree on a final text. The *Chairperson* thanked all delegations for their cooperative attitude, dedicated efforts and hard work during the drafting of the AP. She stated that she would present the AP to the OSCE Chairmanship, which would then include it on the agenda of the Preparatory Committee for discussion and hopefully it would be followed by a Permanent Council decision.

3. Discussion of the PC decision on the Action Plan:

The *Chairperson* introduced the PC decision on the AP. She asked delegations whether there should be a short PC decision adopted on the AP, or whether there ought to be an MC decision. *Delegations*, including the representative of the OSCE Chairmanship, agreed on adopting a PC decision, followed by an MC endorsement. *Delegations* entered into a drafting mode. *One delegation* referred to the financial implications of the AP and suggested that the Informal Working Group on Gender Equality and Anti-Trafficking meet with the ACMF to discuss such issues, before forwarding the draft decision to the Preparatory Committee. A *group of delegations* noted that any financial implications of the AP ought to be included in the 2005 Unified Budget. The *Chairperson* concluded that the text could not yet be finalized and added that informal consultations would be held to further discuss the draft decision.

4. The Special Representative of the CiO, Dr. Konrad: Presentation of the work program of the OSCE Mechanism to provide assistance to participating States to combat trafficking in human beings;

The *Special Representative on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (SR) (SEC.GAL/245/04)* outlined her work plan for 2004 - 2005. She stated that the main focus of the SR would be to translate the OSCE Action Plan on Trafficking in Human Beings into practice. She listed the objectives she wished to pursue as SR, they included the following: motivating governments to accept their responsibilities for curbing human trafficking; supplying governments with decision and policy-making aids in the context of combating

human trafficking; assisting in developing national structures required for efficient internal and trans-national co-operation; raising awareness about the complexity of the problem of trafficking; taking account of all dimensions of trafficking; ensuring effective interaction between all agents and stakeholders involved in the fight against human trafficking; co-operating with OSCE institutions and field missions and lastly, ensuring high visibility of the OSCE's fight against human trafficking. The *SR* noted that the objectives mentioned would be achieved through the following activities: the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons, country visits, international/regional/national conferences; annual reports as well as ensuring the flow of information and transparency.

The *Senior Advisor, Anti-Trafficking Assistance Unit (ATAU)*, Ms. Gracheva, introduced the staff members of the ATAU. She noted that the ATAU would fully assist and support the Special Representative in her tasks. She added that she would soon distribute a programme outline of the ATAU's work over the next two years.

The *Chairperson* thanked the *SR* for her comprehensive presentation. She mentioned the *SR*'s recent visit to Norway, where she had met with several politicians and NGO representatives. *One delegation* asked for more information regarding future co-ordination within the OSCE. It furthermore noticed that the annual meeting of national focal points had not been mentioned. It suggested that such a meeting ought to be held in the near future. The *SR* replied that there were still some focal points which had not yet been appointed. *Another delegation* expressed its support for a broader approach in dealing with the trafficking in human beings. *A delegation* referred to the draft Convention on Human Trafficking of the Council of Europe and wondered whether the *SR* had co-operated with the CoE in this context. The *SR* replied that she had closely co-operated with the CoE on the draft convention. She hoped that the issue of victim protection would be further highlighted and positively noted that a monitoring mechanism would be included in the convention. *One delegation* observed that there was a knowledge gap regarding the rapidly changing working methods of traffickers. In this context, the *SR* underlined the importance of improving legislations and increasing law enforcement.

Another delegation stressed the importance of addressing all three dimensions of human trafficking: countries of destination, intermediary countries and countries of origin. It also suggested that the *SR* should only hold country visits after having gathered information from the OSCE field presences. *One delegation* wondered what was the role of ODIHR regarding victim protection assistance. *Another delegation* asked whether there were already concrete projects resulting from the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons meeting. The *SR* replied that its work was more focused on general programmes, and added that single projects would follow in the future. The *Director of ODIHR* noted that his Office was streamlining and focusing its own activities to assist the *SR* in her tasks. He underlined the importance of considering the issue of victim protection. The *UNODC representative* supported developing joint strategies between different organizations and in this context underlined the importance of clearly knowing the division of labour amongst the various organizations.

5. Implementation of the OSCE Action to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings: focus on children:

The *Chairperson* underlined the need and the urgency to increase the focus on the rights and needs of children. She recalled that the Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings had not addressed this topic in enough detail.

- **Introduction by Iceland of a proposed draft Ministerial Decision on protecting the rights and needs of children victims of trafficking (PC.DEL/990/04):** *Iceland (PC.DEL/990/04)* introduced its proposed draft Ministerial Decision on protecting the rights of children victims of trafficking. It underlined the importance of increasing awareness on the issue. It believed that rights of children ought to be tackled as a separate issue. It suggested that the draft decision could be adopted at the Sofia MC.
- **Statement by Director Strohal, ODIHR on trafficking in children:** *The Director of ODIHR (D/ODIHR)* welcomed the proposal and noted that it was a timely initiative. He agreed that the AP had not sufficiently included the issue of the children's rights. He stressed that trafficking in children was a crime. He noted that child related activities had been included into ODIHR's activities, as for example legislative reviews concerning the rights of children. ODIHR was also engaged in several activities in participating States, especially focusing on the trafficking in Roma and Sinti children. He furthermore stressed the importance of co-ordinating with specialised NGOs when addressing the problem.
- **Statement by the Special Adviser on Police Matters, Mr. Monk, on trafficking in children:** *The Special Adviser on Police Matters (SAPM)* stressed the need to improve law enforcement regarding the trafficking in children. He noted that no country had sufficient expertise concerning the issue. He also mentioned that many NGOs dealing with the issue of child trafficking, had been infiltrated by pedofiles. He noted that recent research had shown that children were also being targeted through the internet or chat rooms. The *SAPM* noted that there was furthermore a lack of institutional memory regarding the problem. He believed that it was essential to know more about the distribution of work amongst the international organizations and NGOs concerning the issue.

Exchange of views on the proposed draft Ministerial Council decision:

The *Chairperson* mentioned that trafficked children tend to be dealt with through measures developed for trafficked persons in general. She stressed that specific measures had to be taken to separately address the children. It was furthermore important to co-ordinate efforts with other international organizations and NGOs.

Several delegations welcomed and supported the overall text of the draft Ministerial decision. They agreed that the AP had not sufficiently mentioned the problem of trafficking in children. *Several delegations* were willing to meet again in an informal group to further discuss the draft decision. *One delegation* noted the importance of avoiding the duplication of efforts with other international organizations. It also suggested to emphasize the role of legislations in the draft decision as well as to shorten the text. *Another delegation* noted that there were already two conventions which had covered the topic, those being: the Palermo Convention and the Council of Europe Regime on Monitoring. It therefore cautioned against inventing yet another one. *One delegation* announced that it would also soon introduce a proposal on trafficking in human beings relating to the NATO policy and peacekeeping. *Another delegation* noted that not all participating States had the relevant expertise to deal with the issue. It therefore suggested to add a sentence which stated that the OSCE institutions could help participating States in tackling the problem.

Iceland noted the positive reaction expressed by the delegations. It looked forward to further discussing the draft decision in an informal meeting. The *Chairperson* invited interested delegations to participate in such informal discussions. She also

mentioned that she would try to invite experts from international organizations to also share their views on child victims of trafficking and what further needs to be done. The *SR* noted that this issue would be discussed at the next Alliance against Trafficking Meeting.

6. Any other business:

The *Chairperson* informed delegations that the next meeting would take place on Monday, 15 November and that the last meeting before Sofia would be on 29 November. *One delegation* requested the OSCE Chairmanship not to schedule important meetings, such as the Working Group on Reform, at the same time as the Meeting of the Informal Working Group on Gender Equality and Anti-Trafficking. *Bulgaria* took note of the comment.