



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

**Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and
Environmental Activities**

Vienna, 26 March 2003

**To: All OSCE Delegations
Partners for Co-operation
Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation**

Subject: Consolidated Summary of the Second Preparatory Seminar for
the Eleventh OSCE Economic Forum, Ioannina, Greece, 17-18 February
2003.

I attach herewith the Consolidated Summary of the Second Preparatory Seminar for the Eleventh Economic Forum “National and International Economic Impact of Trafficking in Human Beings”, Ioannina, Greece, 17-18 February 2003 to be disseminated to all OSCE Delegations.



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

**Co-ordinator for OSCE Economic
and Environmental Activities**

Vienna, 25 March 2003

CONSOLIDATED SUMMARY

**SECOND PREPARATORY SEMINAR FOR THE ELEVENTH OSCE ECONOMIC FORUM:
NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC IMPACT OF
TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS**

IOANNINA, GREECE, 17-18 FEBRUARY 2003

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction.

The Ioannina Seminar, the second seminar that was held in preparation for the Economic Forum in Prague, in May 2003, underpinned the wide ranging economic aspects and impact of trafficking in human beings. The event was organised by the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities in close co-operation with the Chairmanship of the Netherlands, as well as in collaboration with the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Municipality of Ioannina. The topic, “The National and International Economic Impact of Trafficking in Human Beings” attracted an overwhelming number of participants. Over 170 representatives from 41 OSCE Participating States and Partners for Co-operation, from academic circles and 25 International and Non Governmental Organisations as well as several OSCE institutions and most of the OSCE Field Offices engaged in the discussions. The seminar was inaugurated by the Greek Head of OSCE and Council of Europe Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Charamboulos Christopoulos, as well as by the Secretary General of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Frank Majoor, representing the OSCE CiO.

Trafficking has become a prominent issue on the international agenda and it affects all OSCE participating States in all its dimensions. Economic perspectives such as the root causes, the links between trafficking networks, financial flows, transportation routes and the impact on the overall national and international economy have not been sufficiently analysed to date.

This seminar was the second of a series of three addressing the topic of trafficking. The first was held on 11-12 November 2002 on the economic impact of trafficking in Small Arms and Light Weapons and the third on 17-18 March 2003 on the economic impact of trafficking in drugs. In all three events the security related and economic aspects are analysed and discussed in order to prepare the way for concrete suggestions for the Economic Forum in Prague, in May 2003.

Objectives of the Second Preparatory Seminar

The seminar aimed to complement the work being done in the framework of the OSCE /ODIHR, the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings, the OSCE Informal Group on Equal Opportunities for Men and Women and Anti-Trafficking, as well as by other International Organisations and various NGO's with an economic perspective to this issue. It also took into account the current work on the OSCE Action Plan on Trafficking in Human Beings. Experts from the participating States and many different international organisations and non governmental organisations were invited to present their inside knowledge and explain their views in order to stimulate discussion on the economic angles of this kind of trafficking. Lively discussions led the debate towards concrete suggestions for further consideration by national governments in the Economic Forum.

Structure of the Seminar.

The Seminar was structured around plenary working groups, containing short presentations on a specific aspect of trafficking in human beings. They covered the whole scope from legislation, data collection, economic causes, the demand for sex work and cheap labour to the supply through ever more organised trafficking networks as well as to prevention and reintegration and the improvement of international law enforcement co-operation. A wide range of examples of the impact was given and in some cases further illustrated by country case studies. In the discussions delegates, academics and representatives of the international organisations and non governmental organisations freely expressed their views and contributed to formulating suggestions.

Suggestions

The seminar achieved its objective in shedding new perspectives on the economic aspects and impact of trafficking of human beings. The scope of the discussions and the suggestions were presented by the rapporteurs in the closing plenary session. Many useful suggestions were put forward, which can provide valuable input for further discussion and consideration by OSCE Participating States in the Economic Forum in 2003. Also the suggestions can be valuable input to the OSCE Action Plan to combat Human Trafficking, which is currently being drafted, as well as to possible activities of the OSCE Institutions and Field Missions. Underneath the addressees of the suggestions are mentioned in brackets.

Data collection and/or research

- Participating States are advised to take measures to improve data collection on trafficking in human beings. These data should be put comprehensively together in order to make full use of them for policy programming (participating States).
- More in depth and long term research is needed to complete and analyse the picture on the root causes, demand and supply, the trafficking networks and the economic consequences of the various kinds of trafficking in human beings, in all participating States (participating States).

Addressing root causes

- Facilitating economic recovery policies will increase social-economic and political stability in countries of origin and will decrease deep poverty migration and reduce supply factors of trafficking (participating States, OSCE).
- Programs should be established to promote good governance and transparency. They should furthermore be socially and gender balanced in order to enhance economic development and social inclusion at the same time. Wage equality among men and women should be promoted. Better access to information should be given to women to encourage them to pursue higher paying jobs (participating States).
- State Institutions should support gender mainstreaming activities and enhance women's employment through facilitating business opportunities for Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs). Efforts should be directed to maximize chances of local employment and minimize chances of being lured abroad. Such efforts should be focussed on high-risk groups (participating States). Organize Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SME) training targeted at high risk groups (OSCE).
- Job- and business skills training programs could be coupled with flexible financing and access to credit (participating States).
- More and better targeted information campaigns are needed to inform the population about the risks of accepting employment abroad (participating States).
- ODIHR and the Office of the Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities should work to assist OSCE participating States, in consultation with NGO's, to develop legal mechanisms to combat discrimination against women with respect to economic and educational opportunities (participating States).

Law enforcement

- Common efforts should be taken to agree upon and implement bilateral and multilateral law enforcement co-operation to combat the various kinds of trafficking (participating States).
- An increase of efforts to combat organised crime is needed, because an increased involvement of it in trafficking is faced. Prosecution should be further strengthened and legal structures which criminalize trafficking should be developed (participating States).
- Destination countries should become more active and committed to combat trafficking e.g. in the field of victim identification, protection and provision of services (participating States).
- The grey economy and corrupt business practices undermine legitimate enterprises and challenge government authorities, thereby creating an environment more conducive to trafficking. Effective legislation and policies coupled with strict enforcement procedures are essential to combat trafficking. Anti-money laundering legislation and its enforcement is just one example (participating States, OSCE).
- Trafficking in human beings is committed for economic purposes. Possibilities to use tax inspection or other investigating units to check the origin of suspicious assets, fortunes and real estate as an investigative tool could be further examined. The sharing of intelligence is also advisable (participating States).
- Ensure that all OSCE participating States have an article in the criminal code that allows courts to seize and redirect assets of convicted traffickers into social and community services to compensate victims and benefit potential victims of trafficking. Support capacity building efforts and promote internal cooperation of law enforcement authorities to undertake financial crimes investigation (participating States).
- Review registration, licensing of and supervision of all business enterprises in order to disrupt trafficking operators and discourage new trafficking possibilities. In parallel, promote the development public information systems to allow individuals to check the legitimacy of businesses, particularly those advocating employment abroad (participating States).
- Participating States are advised to establish a national rapporteur system to help coordinate policy and advise the government and others on modus operandi of the perpetrators, on the victims and on financing of trafficking. The best practices should be gathered and shared among the participating States (participating States).
- ODIHR and the OSCE Police Unit should continue to develop training materials on trafficking targeted at law enforcement authorities; consult with the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) in Budapest regarding possibilities for incorporating this training into ILEA programs; identify law enforcement trainers to conduct training; and facilitate funding training sessions for law enforcement authorities in OSCE participating States expressing interest in such training (OSCE).

Protection of victims

- Encourage all OSCE participating States to create an Office of Victims of Crime that is sufficiently funded and can assist victims of crime, including victims of trafficking (participating States).

- A better co-operation and sharing of information is needed between countries of origin, transit and destination to be more active and committed in the fight against trafficking, e.g. in the field of victim identification (participating States).
- Further analysis is also needed of the impact of trafficking on health care, taking due account of the treatment of victims of trafficking (participating States).
- Anti-trafficking policies with clear protocols, avoiding re-victimisation, should be developed for victims of trafficking who return to their country of origin (participating States).
- Establish the legal status of the victims of trafficking, their protection and rights in order to distinguish them from illegal workers and migrants (participating States).
- There are many different views with regard to victim witness protection programs. The main points should be discussed. The OSCE may consider drawing up a list of countries, that are willing to be assigned a quota of victims for who a safe stay can neither be guaranteed in the country of destination nor in the country of origin (OSCE).
- National referral systems should set up and to the extent possible, addressing the multi-faceted needs of the victims (participating States).

OSCE and its Institutions

- Suggestions of the Ioannina seminar will provide input to the OSCE Action Plan. The Action plan will provide further guidelines on the commitments of countries and the role of the various OSCE institutions (participating States).
- Based on the Action Plan the OSCE should further develop its own activities in the field of fighting trafficking and do so in co-operation with other organisations (participating States, OSCE).
- Further discussions on facilitating legal and safe migration among OSCE countries in context of labour market shortages is necessary (participating States).
- The Action Plan will provide guidelines on the scale and the scope of operation of OSCE Field Missions, including the role of anti-trafficking activities (participating States, OSCE).
- The OSCE should continue to recognise the important role of NGO's, in the prevention of trafficking and reintegration of its victims and further support them (participating States, OSCE).
- The Action Plan will provide guidelines and standards on OSCE anti-trafficking work. Assistance to children of victims is but one important aspect (participating States, OSCE).
- The need for prevention programs, such as economic empowerment of women at risk, and re-integration programs, such as social support and social activity, should be highlighted in the Action Plan (participating States, OSCE).
- The OSCE should consider drawing up a list of best practices to combat trafficking to ensure full and effective use of the financial support available (OSCE).

OSCE Field Missions

- OSCE Field Missions, employing the platform concept, could organize workshops and information exchanges with main stakeholders: NGO's, police, government agencies, journalists to raise awareness about trafficking and needed solutions (OSCE).

A number of annexes has been attached to complete your picture of the Second Preparatory Seminar. For further reading, please note that background documents from this seminar can be found on the OSCE web site under www.osce.org/eea or requested at the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities.

OPENING PLENARY

Opening Remarks

by **Mr. Marcin Swiecicki**, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities
Chairperson of the Opening Plenary Session

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Distinguished colleagues and guests,

I would like to welcome all of you to the Second Preparatory Seminar for the Eleventh OSCE Economic Forum. First of all I would like to thank the Government of Greece, represented here by H.E. ambassador Charalambos Christopoulos for hosting this important event. It is an honour for me to be a part of this meeting and I would like to thank the Dutch Chairmanship, and in particular, Secretary General of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Frank Majoor and his team, for the excellent co-operation extended to my office in organising this event. I am also very pleased that an impressive number of OSCE delegations have attended this seminar.

Let me welcome representatives of other international organisations: the International Organisation for Labour, the International Organisation for Migration and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, whose input towards understanding the nature of the dirty business of trafficking, and contribution to combating it, is most valuable.

I also welcome representatives of NGOs, whose contribution will be crucial in our deliberations.

The topic of our seminar, 'The Economic Impact of Trafficking in Human Beings', which is a euphemistic name for slavery of 21st century, is really of greatest relevance to OSCE's work, and I do believe that through analysing and discussing the economic impact of trafficking in human beings, this meeting will result in highly valuable suggestions to be debated at the Economic Forum.

Every year, the Prague Economic Forum is the main event within the Economic and Environmental Dimension. For 2003 the theme of "Trafficking in Human Beings, Drugs, Small Arms and Light Weapons: National and International Economic Impact" was selected, and today's seminar is the second in a row of three. While the first seminar held in Sofia in November of last year covered the economic impact of trafficking of small arms and light weapons, the third will cover the economic impact of trafficking in drugs, and will be held in March 2003 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. I do believe that these three meetings will allow us to advance our work in addressing all three important kinds of trafficking and will thus prepare a relevant agenda for the Eleventh Economic Forum. Fortunately, we are not starting from scratch.

OSCE is already committed to combating trafficking in human beings, as reflected in the 1991 Moscow Document, the Charter for European Security adopted in Istanbul in 1999, and the Ministerial Council Decision adopted in Vienna in 2000 to prevent and combat trafficking in human beings. In that same year, the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights' 'Action Plan 2000 for Activities to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings' was drafted.

Equally important are the Permanent Council Decision No. 426, and the Ministerial Council Decision No. 6, adopted in Bucharest in 2001, as well as last December's Ministerial Council Declaration on Trafficking in Human Beings. This declaration recognises and supports the work that is already being done by ODIHR's Anti-Trafficking, and Gender units. These units, based in Warsaw and in OSCE field missions take a comprehensive approach to facilitate national efforts to prevent trafficking in human beings. Among others, the role of the OSCE Advisor on Gender Issues is stressed. I welcome Ms. Beatrix Attinger who is with us today.

In addition, important work is being done by the Stability Pact Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings, under the auspices of OSCE, as a driving force in the promotion of regional co-operation to combat trafficking in Southeast Europe. I welcome to our meeting Dr. Helga Konrad, Chair of the Task Force.

And the good work continues: the Chairman-in-Office and the Permanent Council take an active approach on the matter. The OSCE Informal Working Group on Gender Equality and Anti-trafficking in Human Beings has been tasked to revise the Proposed Action Plan 2000, which I mentioned earlier. The Informal Working Group will work out a new draft for further appropriate action by 25 July 2003. I welcome to our seminar, Your Excellencies Ambassador Daniel Del Marmol and Ms. Vera Gratcheva, co-chairpersons of the OSCE Informal Working Group on Gender Equalities and Anti-trafficking.

Let me also mention The Berlin Conference on Europe Against Trafficking, co-organised by OSCE and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany in October 2001. This Conference produced an impressive volume of suggestions on how to combat trafficking in human beings.

Last but not least OSCE has anti-trafficking focal points established in virtually all OSCE field presences. This impressive network is working not only on legal issues, but also on reacting to particular cases, advising governments, and raising awareness. I welcome our OSCE field officers present here.

Without further ado, I have the honour to give the floor to the speakers:

- H. E. Charalambos Christopoulos, representing the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Greece;
- H.E. Frank Majoor, Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, and representing the OSCE Chairmanship;
- Mr. Panayotis Kanmmenos, Vice Chair of the Committee on Political Affairs and Security of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

[speeches follow]

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before I give a floor to our esteemed keynote speaker, let me share with you some preliminary remarks on possible root causes from the supply as well as demand side of the human trafficking issue.

Let me start with demand side.

Trafficking in persons is not limited to the sex industry. There is ample evidence of trafficked persons exploited in agriculture, construction, home services, restaurants, and the garment industry. How did they get there?

In many developed countries there is a labour deficit for low-wage jobs. Over-regulation of labour markets and/or restrictive immigration rules prevent the covering of these labour shortages with legally employed persons. What follows is a grey zone that includes illicit employment of migrants and trafficked persons.

Demographic trends will exacerbate deficits. The ratio of the population within the working age group (20-64) to senior citizens (65 years and older) is rapidly falling. In 2000, there were 3.73 working age persons per one senior citizen in the EU; in 2050 there will be only 1.78. The attached table No 1 illustrates this trend in greater detail.

Will growing demand be met by accessing countries as soon as they get unrestricted access to EU labour markets which is envisaged for 2011 at the latest? Demography tells us: NO. The accessing countries of Central Europe and Baltic have the same characteristic regarding ageing. The decline in the ratio of working age population to senior citizens is even steeper than in the 'EU fifteen'. Table 2 illustrates these tendencies very clearly.

The wage differential between the fifteen current members, and accessing countries which constitute the important incentive for migrants, will be gradually reduced.

What about next wave of EU enlargement?

Trends in other group of candidates are very similar that is illustrated by Table 3. The total population of an enlarged European Union of 25 countries will drop from 452 million in 2000 to 424 million in 2050 (Perhaps there will be more members than 25 but such was the demographic forecast that I found). In that number the share of senior citizens will grow from 15,8% to 29,4 %; in absolute numbers from 71 million to 125 million. This in itself will create a demand for additional labour in services, housekeeping, health care services, and the like.

If present trends continue, unsatisfied demand for labour, even in an enlarged EU will intensify. Restrictions on immigration will not reduce the unsatisfied demand, but rather exacerbate the labour shortages in certain categories. Legal barriers to meet unsatisfied demand will fuel a black market, illicit migration and trafficking. Illegally employed person is much easier subjected to exploitation by traffickers than legally employed one.

Whenever strong demand exists and is blocked by legal regulations, market rewards lead to illicit activities no matter how seriously law penalises such behaviour. Let me recall the case of alcohol prohibition in the USA from 1920-1933.

In 1920 the causes for introduction of prohibition seemed very noble: to protect families, to increase productivity, to lower criminal acts, to improve health. The results were just the opposite. The eruption of a black market followed. An unprecedented increase in organised crime occurred. Corruption, from custom officers and street policeman, to high-ranking officials, flourished. The tax base shrunk. Contaminated alcohol caused health problems. Court and prison systems were out-stretched. Not surprisingly, prohibition was abandoned and more realistic regulations on the production and sale of alcohol was introduced.

Questions to be answered:

Can controlled legal migration fill a gap between demand and supply for low paid jobs, and in this way reduce illicit migrations and opportunities for trafficking business? Will a liberal approach to immigration suffice to stop trafficking? Should immigration be targeted to meet specific demand?

How can we ensure that increased migration does not result in social anomie goes beyond the scope of this seminar.

Let me turn now to supply side of trafficking in humans.

There is no proof beyond doubt that the poorer the region (or country), the more vulnerable it is to trafficking. But there is significant evidence and common sense reasoning to suggest that such a correlation exists. Therefore, poverty, and the feeling of hopelessness makes it easier for traffickers to approach their victims. The level of GDP per capita can be used as a proxy indicator of root causes of trafficking business. Countries with the lowest GDP per capita are the most vulnerable. Below are two tables providing indicators of vulnerability. Table 4 presents 10 countries with the lowest levels of GDP per capita within the OSCE region, based on EBRD data. The effects of the low-level GDP per capita can be moderated by noticeable fast improvement in the economic situation. Therefore the Table 5 presents the level of GDP produced in 2001, as percentage of 1989 GDP, as calculated on the basis of the IMF estimates from the 1989-1999 period and latest EBRD data on economic growth. Sixteen countries with the deepest drop in their economic activities are shown. These tables speak for themselves. Only in the last 2-3 years are some of these countries showing economic improvement. It remains to be seen if these improvements are sustainable.

Twelve years of transition to market resulted in alarming differences in economic development. Whether due to an inherited situation, to military conflicts, remoteness, lack of cadres, policy mistakes, inadequate foreign assistance, or all these factors; there is a threat of increased vulnerability to trafficking and other undesired and/or criminal activities: transnational organised crime, illicit migration, trafficking in drugs and weapons.

Furthermore, the fight against those scourges is more difficult for governments of poor country. If rich countries are unable to eliminate all those scourges, how can poor countries with unequipped governments and law enforcement agencies cope with these undesirable phenomena?

The elimination of poverty and helping to put the most vulnerable countries on a track of economic development, is the most needed instrument reducing opportunities for trafficking for obvious reasons. Development will provide the opportunity to live in dignity and not be lured by suspected agents and their deceiving offers.

I thank you for your attention to my remarks on some root causes on demand and supply side of trafficking in human beings.

Let me now give the floor to our distinguished keynote speaker from the International Labour Organisation, Mr. Roger Plant.
[speech follows]

Thank you for your stimulating contribution laying out the basic elements which we will have to tackle in our discussions in the Working Groups. We haven't discussed it before but I have found also some common issues in yours and my presentations for further deliberations.

I am confident that we will spend two highly stimulating days together and I am looking forward to our debate. I would now like to open the floor for discussion, should any delegation or participant want to make a contribution to this opening session.

I thank you for your attention. I close the opening plenary session.

TABLES

Table 1

Work age persons (20-64) per one senior citizen (65+) in selected EU countries in 2000-50.

	2000	2025	2050
EU	3,73	2,55	1,78
of which:			
Italy	3,48	2,39	1,49
Germany	3,79	2,85	1,74
France	3,67	2,52	1,98
UK	3,80	2,88	2,13
Spain	3,63	2,62	1,39
Netherlands	4,55	2,66	2,04
Sweden	3,40	2,37	1,98
Greece	3,51	2,49	1,46

Forecasts by US Census's Office:

Assumptions: - fertility trends basically stable as they used to be in recent decade

- life expectancy continues to grow

- migration balances reflecting recent historical levels.

Table 2

Work age persons (20-64) per one senior citizen (65+) in Central Europe and Baltic accessing countries in 2000-50

	2000	2025	2050
Accessing Countries	4,69	2,84	1,72
of which:			
Central Europe			
Czech Republic	4,56	2,59	1,46
Hungary	4,25	2,77	1,68
Poland	4,89	2,84	1,76
Slovakia	5,31	3,13	1,67
Slovenia	4,44	2,67	1,54
Baltic States			
Estonia	4,10	2,96	1,88
Latvia	4,00	2,86	1,84
Lithuania	4,50	3,35	2,16

Table 3a

Work age persons (20-64) per one senior citizen (65+) in Balkan region (remaining EU candidate countries and potential future candidates) in 2000-50

	2000	2025	2050
<u>EU remaining candidates:</u>			
Bulgaria	3,68	2,49	1,37
Romania	4,58	3,31	1,79
Turkey	9,15	5,86	2,54
Balkans (exc. those in other groupings above)			
Albania	7,71	5,04	2,84
BiH	7,39	3,47	2,09

Table 3b

Selected other countries for reference:

Future close EU neighbours :

Russia	4,85	3,23	2,08
Ukraine	4,35	3,34	2,13

For reference:

USA	4,74	3,06	2,59
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USA enjoys higher fertility rates than most European countries and the highest immigration rate among OSCE countries exempt for Luxembourg.

Table 4

Ten countries with the lowest income per capita among OSCE participating States in 1999 (purchasing power parity in USD)

Tajikistan	981
Uzbekistan	2092
Armenia	2210
Kyrgyz Republic	2223
Azerbaijan	2322
Moldova	2358
Albania	2892
Turkmenistan	3099
Ukraine	3142
Georgia	3606

Table 5

GDP in 2001 as percentage of it in 1989 (or one year before the beginning of transformation) in selected transition countries
(1980 = 100%)

Moldova	41
Ukraine	47
Georgia	49
Tajikistan	55
FYR of Macedonia	59
Azerbaijan	64
Armenia	65
Russia	67
Latvia	73
Kyrgyz Republic	75
Lithuania	77
Bulgaria	82
Turkmenistan	85
Kazakhstan	86
Romania	86
Croatia	86

OPENING PLENARY

Welcoming Address

by **H.E. Charalambos Christopoulos**, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Greece

Ladies and Gentlemen, dear guests,

We are here, in the historic and beautiful city of Ioannina that so warmly received us in hosting this seminar, for a distinguished moment in the history of the OSCE: to tackle one of the main scourges of our era: the trafficking in human beings.

As we speak today, at this very moment, thousands of innocent and vulnerable human beings, especially women and children, are being held against their will and forced to exploitation of all forms by transnational organized criminal groups, that deprive them of their fundamental human rights and freedoms under slavery-like practices. In parallel, this inhumane form of criminal activity, which is motivated by search of illegal profit, poses a major threat to our principles of security, rule of law and democracy.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Undoubtedly “modern day slavery” is one of the most alarming social, economic and political problems facing our countries. It is exacerbated not only because of the economic gap between developed and developing countries, but also because the latter suffer from gender and social inequality, the weakness of the democratic institutions, endemic corruption, and so forth.

Greece, due mostly to her geographical position, is both a transit and destination country for hundreds of victims of human trafficking, originating mainly from the regions of the Balkans and Central and Eastern Europe.

However, I am glad to say that Greece has managed to equip herself with all the necessary tools and measures in order to combat the phenomenon not only in suppressive terms, but, and foremost, in terms of protection and assistance to all victims of human trafficking, guided by the appropriate international agreements and conventions.

Of course, the cross-border nature of this scourge implies the imperative need to act at a regional and international level so as to enhance the cooperation amongst countries of origin, transit and destination on all fronts: prevention, suppression and protection of victims.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The elimination of trafficking in human beings requires strong political will. This political will is reflected in the most appropriate way at the recent Ministerial Council Declaration on Trafficking in human Beings, adopted last December at the OSCE Porto Ministerial Meeting.

We are all aware of the very important role that the OSCE has played and will continue to play in the combating of this modern day slavery, using its numerous institutional instruments and tools. I would also like to take the opportunity to commend the very important work carried out by the Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings, under the Stability Pact for South-eastern Europe.

This seminar organized by the OSCE, not only provides the possibility to highlight the economic dimension of the phenomenon and its implications at national and international level but also demonstrates once again OSCE's commitment to eradicate all threats against human rights, security and stability in the region of Eurasia and to enhance future cooperation.

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Second Preparatory OSCE Seminar. I am convinced that our work will have a fruitful impact in shaping our future cooperation and in guiding our next steps regarding this crucial issue.

OPENING PLENARY

Introductory Remarks

by **Frank Majoor**, Secretary-General, Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
representing the Chairmanship

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman,

Ladies and Gentlemen. It is always a pleasure to be the guest of the Greek government. Not just for the beautiful scenery – not least in Ioannina – but also for the warm hospitality of the Greek people. There is, however, another good reason for being in Greece today. The current Greek Presidency of the European Union and the importance attached by Greece to human trafficking issues, particularly in the Balkans, more than justify the choice of venue. The Greek government's knowledge of the region and its active approach are invaluable.

Ladies and Gentlemen, before broaching the topic of this seminar – trafficking in human beings – may I remind you why the Netherlands proposed making 'trafficking' a major theme of its OSCE Chairmanship in 2003. The traditional OSCE approach to security is truly comprehensive. Security is more than just arms control, conflict prevention, crisis management and sorting out political differences. Without due regard to human rights and economic and ecological development, no sustainable security, no lasting peace can be achieved. The Netherlands considers trafficking to be a clear example of a new threat to the security and stability of the whole OSCE region. Trafficking doesn't just cross borders, it also crosses dimensions. It not only causes human misery, it also devastates national economies and puts intolerable pressure on political systems. Criminal networks are increasingly infiltrating the formal economy. That is why trafficking is an OSCE issue: because of its clear human rights implications and because of its potential long-term impact on security and stability through human and economic deprivation. And this, in short, is why the Netherlands has proposed 'trafficking' as a major theme for this year's OSCE Economic Forum in Prague.

Trafficking takes many forms. Trafficking in human beings, a particularly repulsive crime, is a rapidly growing scourge and the topic of our deliberations in Ioannina. Drugs trafficking is a multibillion dollar business directly affecting the economies of all our countries. It also has a serious destabilising impact on our societies. And finally, trafficking in small arms and light weapons is clearly a direct threat to security. Too often these three forms of trafficking have been studied in isolation. While in the real world international criminal networks have diversified their activities in a way that would make multinationals in the legitimate economy envious, the response and insight of international bodies (and even law-enforcement agencies) have remained limited. Recent research from the Netherlands underlines this fact. In 50% of the human trafficking cases, the perpetrators were involved in either drugs or the small arms trade as well. So attempts to tackle just one form of trafficking can only lead to partial and temporary solutions. By bringing to light the linkages in the trade between these three commodities, a proper understanding of the problem of trafficking can emerge and work can start on a real and comprehensive solution. Another significant finding that emerged from this research was that only 6% of those involved in human trafficking are involved in smuggling human beings alone. All the more reason to address these two issues separately in terms of policy.

Ladies and Gentlemen, focusing on trafficking in human beings, what is the aim of this seminar, what does the Netherlands want to achieve in concrete terms? But first of all, where does the OSCE stand on the issue? What have its experiences been so far?

The OSCE has proven its strong commitment to combating trafficking in human beings over the years. Awareness-raising at government level in the participating States, but also through the field missions on the ground. For example, providing shelters for victims and close collaboration with NGOs in caring for them. Training police and border guards to recognize the problem. Witness protection and legislation. In its anti-trafficking policies, the OSCE has always stressed the importance of a multifaceted approach. On the understanding that without the three P's – (prevention, prosecution and protection) all efforts at improvement will remain futile.

The OSCE has sought inspiration in the work of the ILO and other international organisations active in this field. The ILO is in a strong position, with its constituency of international trade unions. The OSCE has 55 participating States in permanent dialogue on security in a broad perspective, and a strong network of human rights NGOs. Exchanging experiences, learning from each other, avoiding duplication and dovetailing our activities. But most important of all: being a body where states can put their real political commitment into practice. All in the cause of fighting trafficking in human beings.

The OSCE Action Plan for Trafficking in Human Beings deserves to be mentioned. The last OSCE Ministerial Council in Porto, in December 2002, mandated the OSCE to further develop the Action Plan, which was taken up by the Working Group on Equal Opportunities for Men and Women and Anti-Trafficking co-chaired by Belgium and Russia. The areas for action identified in 2000 needed updating. The full involvement of the ODIHR, the OSCE field missions and the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe in this process has proven fruitful. And the progress made so far seems to be promising, practical and action-oriented. The deadline is set for July 2003. Which means that the findings and suggestions of both Ioannina and the Economic Forum in Prague can be taken on board.

The OSCE Action Plan consists of three levels. First of all the commitment of the 55 participating States. Genuine political commitment to implementing the UN Palermo Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons of 2000, for instance. Or visible progress in implementing the relevant articles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Secondly, the OSCE's role as an awareness-raising body, putting the issue solidly on the international agenda and keeping it there. Not just among governments, but also with the general public. And thirdly, at the project level. The OSCE, with its widespread field-office presence and its local knowledge and networks, is well placed to help with a range of relevant projects. How the various levels of intervention will look in the end will be determined partly by the outcome of this seminar. The ideas raised here and studied further in the coming months will prove essential in giving impetus to the Action Plan.

The joint declaration by the OSCE and the Council of Europe after the meeting in The Hague on the 5th of February is another case in point. The joint commitment to combating trafficking in human beings and to cooperating closely on the issue, taking into account the two organisations' areas of specialist expertise, is an important movement in the right direction. Combining the legal expertise of the Council of Europe and its technical support in drafting legislation, with OSCE's strength at field-office level looks like a promising strategy for the future. In the same vein, I should mention the Target-Oriented Meeting of three international organisations, the UN, the OSCE and the Council of Europe, on 13 and 14 February. This effort to better coordinate the organisations' policies in fighting human trafficking is essential.

Ladies and Gentlemen, let me conclude by mentioning two points that I think should come out of this seminar. Two issues that should become clear to all of us to prevent misconceptions in the future.

First of all, it is time to start realising that trafficking in human beings goes beyond the sex industry. There are more and more indications of trafficking in human beings for other exploitative purposes: forced labour in various industries: the construction sector, restaurants and hotels, greenhouses, domestic labour, to mention just a few. But also begging and stealing, and, even though still at an anecdotal level, cases of trafficking for the purpose of organ transplantation. These forms of trafficking involve not only women and minors, but men as well. In some countries in Central Europe, indications are that the number of cases of trafficking in men equals or even exceeds the number of cases involving women. The traditional image of young women being traded just as sex slaves needs to be readjusted. And so need our strategies to efficiently tackle this scourge.

My second and final point is an explanation of why trafficking in human beings is being addressed in the OSCE Economic Forum. Until now, our attention to trafficking in human beings has mostly focused on legislation and human rights aspects. With a particular focus on victims of sexual exploitation. An understandable first focus because of the obvious human distress caused by this crime. The Netherlands, however, hopes to widen our scope by paying more attention to the root causes of the problem. The feminisation of poverty, the unequal economic opportunities and development in different countries – to mention only two causes in the countries of origin. Not forgetting the deficiencies of the labour markets in the countries of destination. The economic push and pull factors must therefore be determined and the profits must be calculated. Because criminals operate, like real entrepreneurs looking for opportunities and profit. If we do not take these considerations into account, the criminal networks will remain one step ahead of those trying to combat trafficking in human beings. The stakes in human terms, and in terms of political and economic stability, are simply too high to let this happen.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

OPENING PLENARY

Introductory Remarks

by **Mr. Panayotis Kammenos**, Vice-Chair of the Committee on Political Affairs and Security,
OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Greek Delegation, the Presidency of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the Committee on Political Affairs and Security, I would like to welcome you to this Second Preparatory Seminar on trafficking, here at Ioannina.

I am very proud that this seminar is conducted in Greece because of its proximity to the Balkans, which is a region highly afflicted by the phenomenon of trafficking. Greece, as a member of the OSCE and of the European Union, is particularly dedicated in fighting trafficking in order to ensure an acceptable degree of stability within the Balkan region and within Europe.

The OSCE has always emphasized the link between political stability and security, economic prosperity and human rights. This is the reason why the activities of the OSCE's three distinct Committees are so closely related.

Trafficking in human beings is a phenomenon that affects all three committees in the same manner. Political stability and security constitute the basis for a stable and viable economic environment. Likewise, political and economic stability are necessary for the respect of human rights. Trafficking is closely linked to these notions because economic and political instability increases the likelihood that a country will become a source of trafficking victims. As to human rights, we can all agree that trafficking is an abhorrent violation of these rights.

It has been proved that the vast majority of trafficking victims come from politically unstable countries, which are economically fragile as well. Generally, these countries are not equipped with the appropriate institutional frames allowing the respect of human rights as well as the punishment of their violators. Concretely, such countries do not or cannot uphold the basic principles of human rights such as the equality between sexes. This is why victims of trafficking (mostly women and children), in the hope that foreign countries will provide them with better living conditions (for example, better wages and good working conditions), are lured by some criminal networks into various degrading forms of exploitation.

As vice-chair of the Committee on Political Affairs and Security and as a member of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, I would like to re-emphasize the absolute priority given to the battle against trafficking; a concept that should clearly not exist in a modern and civilized world.

This second seminar will continue to amplify the battle against trafficking by analyzing and developing new and old issues concerning this hideous phenomenon, which scourges our modern society.

We hope that this seminar will continue revealing its merits by helping partner States, International Organizations, NGOs etc. to raise awareness on this issue and implement concrete measures of containment and eventually on the long run, eradication of trafficking.

I wish to thank you for your attention.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DIMENSIONS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING: BROADENING THE PERSPECTIVE

Keynote speech

by **Mr. Roger Plant**, Head, Special Action Programme to Combat Forced Labour, ILO Geneva

Your Excellencies

Distinguished participants all,

Of the countless conferences and meetings that have taken place recently on the subject of trafficking, this one is evidently different. By placing its emphasis on the economic dimensions, it is encouraging all OSCE governments and other social actors to take a holistic and “big picture” approach to the problems. It is an important development, and one that permits our societies to prepare the ground for what so many declarations and plans of action have so far only paid lip service to – namely: the need for truly comprehensive and integrated programmes against human trafficking in origin, transit and destination countries alike, combining prevention in its broadest sense, victim identification and protection, law enforcement, punishment of the offenders and compensation of the victims, awareness-raising throughout society, and strengthening of the various national institutions needed to eliminate the scourge of this modern slavery-like practice.

In these opening comments I have been asked above all to prepare the ground for our deliberations over the next two days, by setting out some parameters of this “broader perspective” on trafficking.

What do we mean by this “broader perspective”? To begin with, it may be best to turn the question around. What is the main conventional wisdom on human trafficking today? What are the legal and conceptual entry points? What are the main operational approaches and institutional actors? On each of these points one can then examine some limitations, discussing the need and implications of a broader perspective.

Anti-trafficking: conventional approaches and wisdom, and the main policy debates

Over the past year I have attended, together with many colleagues and friends in this room today, a seemingly ever-growing number of meetings and policy deliberations on trafficking in persons. Similar discussions, and sometimes similar differences of opinion, appear to pervade many of these discussions. We need to begin with basic semantics and definitions, as to what exactly trafficking is, and who the victims are likely to be.

Semantics and definitions: the nature of trafficking

The narrowest perspective, actually quite widely held, is that trafficking concerns essentially the sexual exploitation of women and children. Media attitudes tend to promote these perceptions. There is nothing more shameful than to see a child or young woman forced into prostitution, moved against her will, confined, beaten, and subject to a spiralling situation of debt from which she can never extricate herself. As the problems grow, and the response of public authorities seems inadequate, it is perhaps small wonder that journalists give most attention to this form of modern slavery.

A slightly broader focus extends the scope while still – following the Trafficking Protocol of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime – giving primary attention to women and children. They can be exploited for domestic labour, begging and stealing on the streets, and other activities in the largely informal economy. The emphasis is still on women and children as vulnerable groups, particularly subject to exploitation by trafficking agents.

The broadest perspective sees large numbers of migrant workers as potential victims of trafficking, particularly the irregular migrants moved by recruiting and transporting agents across national borders. Here, there may be no distinction between men, women and children. The argument – of key importance for this meeting and its follow-up at the Prague Economic Forum in May – is that trafficking can occur largely as a result of imbalances in labour demand and labour supply, as obstacles are placed in the way of regular migration. Governments, perhaps keen to cater to anti-immigration sentiments among the electorate, can put up barriers against regular labour migration. But for all kinds of reasons – demographic, wage rates and others – employers in the informal and also formal economy may seek to employ irregular migrants. There can be serious labour shortages, as in seasonal agricultural activities such as fruit-picking. Or they may simply prefer to employ these irregular migrants, to depress wages and take advantage of unprotected workers. In any event, all of this can create a dangerous breeding ground for traffickers. If the profits are high, and the risks of detection and punishment are low, trafficking intermediaries can exploit these imbalances.

The link between irregular migration and human trafficking is a sensitive one. Some governments, at least until now, have refused to consider the two issues together. Others insist that no meaningful progress can be made against trafficking unless they are dealt with as related issues. Overall, there does appear to be a shift towards seeing trafficking in this broadest sense, at least including the forced labour conditions to which men, women and children (the bulk of them, migrant workers in destination countries) can be exposed in various sectors of the economy. The point is made, in the last report of the US State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking. It is made in the so-called "Brussels Declaration" of the European Union and the International Organization for Migration. The trend can also be seen in some domestic legislation, or recent draft law, in the OSCE countries. Earlier trafficking laws, for example in Belgium and Italy, appear to focus largely on the light of women and children in the sex sector. Russia's new draft law – to have its first reading in the Russian Duma this week – reflects the new broader approach. In the Russian draft, basic definitions of trafficking cover debt bondage, serfdom, forced or compulsory labour, and slavery. Labour exploitation in home servitude and catering, in production, agricultural work and criminal business are specifically listed among the activities where the victims of trafficking can be subject to criminal exploitation.

To conclude on semantics, this broader definition of trafficking may be important. Forced labour and coercion for some OSCE countries can be as real and serious a concern as trafficking for sexual exploitation. Yet there can be another and very different concern, which surfaced at a workers' consultation we held in Geneva last month, on the forced labour outcomes of trafficking and migration in Europe. What does it mean in practical terms to identify a man, woman or child as a victim of trafficking? What are the implications for the victim, in terms of compensation, rights of residence, and labour rights? A representative from the UK Trade Unions Congress actually argued that it was negative from the workers' perspective to be identified as a victim of trafficking: that this was the discourse of governments, concerned essentially with security issues, and the repatriation of irregular migrants to their places of origin. Trafficked persons may be given a stay of deportation, through limited rights of residence while evidence is presented against the offenders, and their cases are resolved.

This was an interesting perspective, hotly debated at our meeting this January. And it leads on to the next point of my presentation, the operational approaches and institutional actors.

Operational approaches, and institutional actors

An increasing amount of donor money is going into anti-trafficking projects and programmes. There is policy advice on new legislation, national action plans, institutional strengthening, and a growing number of operational programmes. At the overall policy level there is a tendency to break down anti-trafficking activities – perhaps too rigidly, and in too compartmentalised a way – into prevention and overall awareness-raising; victim identification and protection; law enforcement and institutional strengthening; and repatriation and rehabilitation.

To some extent the breakdown of these activities is important, because certain things are better done by some institutions than others. NGOs are particularly good at the community level, whether in awareness-raising activities or in small-scale project implementation. A human rights approach is important for victim and witness protection. Police and judicial structures have a key role to play in investigating the trafficking networks, and in conducting eventual prosecutions. Human trafficking, as we all know, is but one of the several strands of trans-national organized crime. It takes a major effort to break into these trafficking networks. In practice, as most law enforcement agents will admit, rather little headway has been made.

Problems can arise, when one branch of the government or state apparatus sees counter-trafficking as its particular domain, in particular when it is addressed almost exclusively from a security standpoint. Indeed, the main government actors tend at present to be from ministries of interior and justice, from police departments and immigration officials, lending credence to the view that trafficking is addressed from a security perspective, with the ultimate objective of cracking down on irregular migrants and repatriating them to their places of origin. Many of the well-funded international programmes, implemented under the “trafficking umbrella”, are carried out with interior ministries as the main counterparts. Much of the emphasis is on repatriation, with repatriated persons receiving assistance for only a limited period of time in shelters in their countries of origin. Long-term and sustainable approaches to prevent trafficking and reintegrate the victims within their society are often lacking. There are limited efforts to tackle the root-causes of trafficking, or to provide for long-term solutions of employment and social protection.

Perceptions of an exclusively security-led approach are certainly leading to tensions among the international community and organizations, fully evident in the Brussels meeting last September. In perhaps rather simplified terms, practitioners are sometimes divided into “security” and “human rights” camps. Notably, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights has made a determined effort to stress the primacy of human rights, underlying all efforts against trafficking. The Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking, drawn up together with other specialized agencies of the United Nations system, make a strong case for seeing the individual and the rights of the individual as the entry point for all work against trafficking.

On this point I should like once again to refer to the Russian Federation, and its draft law against trafficking now submitted to the Duma. Russia is rather at the forefront of my mind, as I have just returned from an intense week of activities with various ministries, parliamentarians and other actors. Russia faces particularly great challenges, not only as an origin country for both women and men moving to Western Europe, but also as a destination country for countless

job-seekers from countries of the former Soviet Union. A significant thing is the wide range of ministries involved both in the initial drafting of the new law, and in its envisaged implementation mechanisms and responsibilities. They include – apart from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of the Interior and the Federal Border Service - the ministries of Labour and Social Development, Education, Health care and the General Procuracy of the Russian Federation. While the draft is at an early stage, and there is doubtless room for improving it, there seems every hope that law and policy can find the appropriate balance between security, labour and welfare, health and education, and human rights concerns.

Economic dimensions of trafficking: looking forward

An emphasis on a “human rights” or “security” approach can only present part of the huge challenges ahead, for effective national or international activities against trafficking. Whether in the case of sexual or labour exploitation (and the two kinds of exploitation can often merge), it occurs because people want to move from their communities or countries of origin to other areas where they have a better chance of earning a livelihood. There may be endless debates as to what comprise acceptable forms of income-earning (for example the extent to which prostitution can ever be considered voluntary, or whether it can be counted as legitimate economic activity). But the fact remains that, with very few exceptions, individuals end up in trafficked situations because they have seen better earnings and livelihood prospects elsewhere. When there is a demand for their services, but when barriers to legal migration persuade them to seek other means of entering destination countries, then the traffickers move in. At some stage the victims have been subject to deception, coercion and force. The degrees of coercion may change from case to case. It can be the flagrant coercion and violence affecting vulnerable young women. There can be far more subtle forms of pressure affecting adult males, such as the ever-present threat of denunciation to the authorities and deportation if they do not accept the work conditions offered to them.

In any case, beyond the human rights and security perspective, it is important to perceive trafficking in large part as a labour market failure. Employment policies and services are not working. Labour inspection services are not doing their job. Employers’ and business federations are not clamping down on the worst employers. Trade unions and labour organizations are unable to reach out to unprotected workers, and so on.

To recapitulate, serious headway can never be made against trafficking in persons, for as long as there is such strong demand for this irregular labour in destination countries, and in particular for as long as governments continue to allow the flourishing of an informal labour market in certain sectors without clamping down on abusive practices.

Issues for destination countries

Addressing these issues equitably and efficiently is not going to be an easy task for OSCE governments, particularly in today’s difficult economic and also political climate. It is sobering that last week’s high-level political meeting of the United Nations, the Council of Europe, the OSCE and others in Geneva had two main items on its agenda, trafficking and terrorism. With an ever-present risk of recession and rising unemployment, and with a growing feeling of human insecurity, much public opinion may not be in a generous mood to little known and little understood overseas cultures and individuals. It is all too easy for the popular or “tabloid” press to feed off this economic, political and personal insecurity, whipping up nationalist sentiments against overseas workers.

The important thing is that governments should not tolerate the emergence of a two-tier labour market, in which vulnerable workers find themselves in a situation of technical illegality, without recourse to labour protection, and at risk of situations of severe exploitation including forced labour.

In the destination countries, this calls for two things.

First, there is a need to look very soberly at demographic facts, labour market indicators and trends. For very basic demographic reasons, the wealthier industrialized countries now need – and will in future continue to need in growing numbers – an increasing supply of workers willing to do jobs and tasks that many nationals are simply unwilling to carry out. This is partly a function of wage trends and partly of the changing nature of employment and also pastimes. It may be commonplace to say that the “jobs for life” era is over. But even “jobs for a year” is becoming a rarer phenomenon in many sectors. Tourism in particularly the warmer climate countries, intensive agriculture, construction in particularly the colder climate countries, all of this is creating pressures for a seasonal labour market. And within this seasonal labour market, there can be much informality. With growing cost competition in such sectors as fruit and vegetable production, a steady supply of unprotected and vulnerable workers can serve to drive wage levels down. So it is important to have some idea where the jobs will be needed, how much labour can be supplied nationally, and what the requirements will be for imported labour. Public opinion needs to be fully informed of the need for and contribution of such migrant labour. Such campaigns may help defuse the nationalist and anti-immigrant sentiments that seem to be growing throughout the world.

Second, we need to look at the linkage between our standards and institutions for social and labour protection, and the incidence of trafficking. Labour institutions, such as employment and job placement services, labour inspection services and labour courts, are meant to protect workers. There can be a fine line between the legal and above-board employment services; and the job placement, visa and tourist agencies that are linked with the trafficking networks. There has been a difficult and often polemic debate over the past twenty years or so, as to the need to reduce state control over employment services, or to make labour markets less rigid and more flexible. Some European countries have since gone very far down the road of labour market flexibilisation, severely weakening inspection services, and permitting the proliferation of unregistered employment agencies.

These are complex issues, with labour market regulations, enforcement and protection systems varying greatly across the OSCE countries. The ILO’s Special Action Programme to Combat Forced Labour has recently commenced pilot research in different countries, examining where and why forced labour can be detected in different industrial sectors. Is it mainly – as in the case of Chinese migrants in France, or some Thai workers in the United States – a case of irregular migrants being exploited by trafficking networks and sweatshop owners from the countries of origin? Are the slavery-like conditions found mainly in the “black” or informal economy, where monitoring is difficult? Or do these conditions also exist in more mainstream industrial sectors, such as agriculture, construction, garments and textiles? Is forced labour more likely, where labour markets are most flexible? Parallel research is being carried out by our International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) in the Balkan countries, looking specifically at the causes and incidence of child trafficking.

Our research is at an early stage, covering only a few countries so far. And more participating countries will be needed, before we can get a more complete picture. Past research into the so-called Gangmaster system in the United Kingdom (where unregistered recruiting gangs provide seasonal labour to often large enterprises) has detected conditions of severe exploitation and forced labour in some cases. Abusive conditions have also been detected in the

German construction sector, as our trade union colleague from that country will later explain, and in the agriculture of several countries from Southern Europe. The proliferation of unregulated employment agencies may be part of the problem. More generally, authorities may turn a blind eye to technically illegal forms of recruitment and employment.

Issues for the sender countries

I shall say less about the sender countries. Some of the earlier comments about labour institutions are also applicable to them. But in parts of Central and Eastern Europe, for example, the underground economy is so large that these institutions are at present powerless to have a real impact.

It is a fairly obvious point that population movement across frontiers. – and by implication, the risk of more trafficking of all kinds – will continue for as long as growth and employment prospects remain bleak in the poorer OSCE countries. The point is often made however that it is not necessarily the poorest who seek to leave their places of origin. It is, instead, often the mismatch between livelihood aspirations and the chances of meeting those aspirations in the communities or countries of origin. Albanian research, for example, indicates how limited are the prospects for most university graduates of finding professional employment in the country.

As with the destination countries, much realism is now needed in social and labour market analysis. In the long run, an ideal solution is that the potential victims of trafficking should genuinely believe they have a stake in their own societies, and with assistance should prepare themselves to earn livelihood there. But that long run can be very far away. Under current conditions, one has to assume that pressures to migrate will remain extremely strong. So it is absolutely imperative that young persons, particularly young women, have the confidence that they can register for employment opportunities outside their countries and regions without falling prey to the trafficking networks. Whatever the difficulties, these institutions must be strengthened and enabled to carry out their professional functions. Increased protection is of particular importance for children, given the recent indications that child trafficking is on the rise in the Balkan countries.

Beyond that, the challenges of an economically effective anti-trafficking strategy – in such countries as Albania, Moldova, Romania and Ukraine, or the poorer of the Central Asian Republics and the Caucasus – are simply too big to be covered in a few minutes here. Suffice it to say that targeted programmes are needed, directed of course at the localities where the risk or incidence of human trafficking is greatest, but also ensuring that national budgets give full attention to infrastructure and human resources development in these regions. This is another reason why the anti-trafficking actors, in origin as well as destination countries, must spread far beyond policemen, prosecutors, and other migration and criminal justice officials.

Political will. Can it be built?

I am tempted, by way of conclusion, to say something of the ILO's integrated approaches to combating human trafficking. I shall refrain from detail, but would be happy to share our perspectives in the working sessions. Our overall approach is very similar to that outlined in the background note prepared for this meeting. Basically, we believe that with the exception of children who must receive special attention through prevention and rehabilitation programmes, the victims of trafficking are victims of labour market discrimination and must be enabled to participate in the labour market in their countries of origin and destination, as relevant, in a position of equality and with full respect for their human and labour rights. This means that

labour authorities, together with employers' and workers' organizations and other NGOs, need to be involved in all aspects of prevention, victim identification, and law enforcement. In exposing forced labour conditions, labour authorities can be an important complement to criminal justice.

For such a strategy to be effective, all OSCE governments, wealthier and poorer, need to address the realities of trafficking within their own countries. This is why our research, advocacy and law enforcement programmes address the origin and destination countries alike. Moving forward will require a firm demonstration of political will, to address the economic root causes of trafficking and identify the appropriate remedies. It is to be hoped that this seminar, and the Prague Economic Forum that comes after it, will represent decisive steps to building such political will.

Thank you.

REPORT OF WORKING GROUP I TRAFFICKING – CURRENT WORK IN OSCE AND TRAFFICKING NETWORKS

by Ms. Beatrix Attinger Colijn, OSCE Senior Adviser on Gender Issues.

Due to the lengthy presentations, there was little time for discussion. This report summarizes the 6 presentations and lists suggestions made by speakers, both, of the panel and from the floor.

Two speakers introduced the work of the OSCE in the area of trafficking. It was mentioned that the Porto Declaration (December 2002) has a more comprehensive approach than previous commitments and also addresses

- the need to look at root causes.
- The OCEEA, the SPMU and the Senior Adviser on Gender Issues are asked to play an increased role.

It was highlighted that the Informal Group on Gender Equality and Anti-Trafficking is elaborating a detailed action plan, which will integrate elements of the UNHCHR guidelines, the Brussels declaration and the conclusions of the Berlin conference in the areas of prevention, protection and prosecution.

ODIHR highlighted the intersection between its work and the economic area. It said

- there is a need to know more about the labour markets in all countries, about working conditions in countries of origin and destination.

A relevant conference is planned by ILO and ODIHR for later in the year.

Trafficking in women in the OSCE region: markets, networks and organized crime

Dr. Williams was struck by the expansion of problem and the increased role of organized crime. He also noted that so little had been achieved. Actions taken are merely cosmetic conformity with standards and norms, but there is no real implementation. Responding to ILO's approach to view trafficking as a side effect of shortage of labour, he stressed that sex markets are not connected with labour shortages in the countries of the EU and pointed out that

- trafficking should be dealt with as a very complex issue.

He said that trafficking in the OSCE area involves also countries outside the area and takes place within countries. He pointed out that trafficking is highly criminalized. There is a very low entry investment; criminals have a high lifestyle; some profit is invested in other illegal activities, others are invested into economic schemes and return in clean profits.

He noted that trafficking in persons uses the same routes like trafficking in drugs and arms. Sometimes criminals are engaged various types of trafficking. Human trafficking has also risen as alternative to arms trafficking after the conflicts when the market for arms collapses. A speaker suggested that

- the interface between trafficking in arms, drugs and human trafficking should be analysed.

There are different trafficking networks, ranging from “ friends and fiancé operations”, to broad criminal organizations and criminal-controlled companies. And there are hybrid networks with a mix of players. Dr. Williams concluded that

- trafficking needs a comprehensive approach and clearly target demand and supply through education and law enforcement, the capacity of the inhibitors needs to be increased, in order to increase the risk for traffickers.

There was a discussion on the role of NGOs, in particular their role as inhibitors: some questioned their capacity as inhibitors and views mitigation as their main field, while others stressed that NGOs could achieve the closure of brothels. One expert demanded

- that more punitive strategies should be developed and
- that there is a need for a comprehensive strategy, including programmes for staying in the country after returning.

Trends and profits in various kind of trafficking in the Balkans

Mr. Binder deplored that the international community took such an academic approach and seemed to ignore reality. He described two situations where allegedly trafficking in human beings was going on unpunished. Several speakers voiced concern about the impression his statements had created and asked for clarifications with regard to official response to such findings. A speaker highlighted the efforts made in one country to

- further strengthen prosecution and develop legal structures which criminalize trafficking.

Trafficking, causes, profits and money laundering

Dr. Shelley started with strongly disagreeing with the nexus between trafficking and labour issues as main focus. She stressed that root cause of trafficking is also an issue of capital, or particularly, the absence of capital in the countries of origin.

She looked at 5 different models of trafficking and smuggling: the post-soviet model, the Chinese model, the so-called supermarket model, Balkan crime groups, and the so-called rational actor model, each with a different structure, different focus and different level of human rights violation. She recommended

- building of capacity for analysis of the problem
- better co-ordination of law enforcement bodies
- more training on how to combat trafficking
- training, especially for staff
- a focus on economic opportunities for women
- a focus on the profits of trafficking networks
- the freezing and confiscation of assets, and
- investigation into non-taxation of economic activities.

Focusing on money laundering, Anna Kotrotsou stressed that laundering proceeds from illicit activities is criminalized in Greece. Money laundering is destabilizing structures of states, and the growth of trafficking in human beings is followed by increase of money laundering. One delegate expressed strong doubts that money laundering was malicious and said that most economies are happy to accept money, whether illegal or not.

One OSCE participating State was highlighted as a country that had made big head ways in combating trafficking in the last 6 months. In that country, root causes were believed to be the social and economic problems of a country in transition, such as the relatively low standard of living, unemployment and insufficient support for the private sector.

One speaker suggested

- that trafficking in organs should also be added to the focus

It said this type of trafficking was not new, but a form that is not researched so much.

Several speakers addressed the presence of armed forces in the region as a pull factor. It was recommended

- that there should be more systematic training of peacekeepers to create awareness for their linkage to the problem and consequently to change behaviour.

REPORT OF WORKING GROUP II

TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS AND ECONOMIC ASPECTS

**by Ms. Marjo Cromptvoets, Senior Policy Officer Illegal Migration and Human Trafficking,
MFA, The Netherlands.**

Developing better indicators of trafficking – Some examples of the Balkans

Dr. Frank Laczko – IOM

Summary

If you want to better understand the economic aspects of trafficking in human beings, we need to have better information, eg. data and statistics on the different forms of trafficking.

Data from Germany and the Netherlands show an increase in the number of victims of trafficking over the past ten years. The key country of origin of the victims differs from one country to another. If we look at human trafficking purely as a matter of demand and supply, why then are Moldovan women traveling to Eastern Europe rather than Western Europe?

In the middle of 2001 IOM started to collect information on victims in the Balkan and their socio-economic background, recruitment methods and where they expected to go. So far about nearly 600 persons have been interviewed. The information accrued could be further exploited to get more information on the supply side.

The economic causes of trafficking in the Balkans

Dr. Helga Konrad

Summary

The new globalized economy has increased income disparities between the richest and poorest countries. Vulnerable groups, like women are the main victims from the effects of globalization of the world economy. Although most South-Eastern European countries have experienced a certain economic growth in recent years, this has not been beneficial to all groups within society. The transition to the market economy not generated formal employment but shifted their work to informal and casual sectors. Huge disparities in earnings appear (example: a doctor in Moldova earns €25 per month while a trafficker can earn €170.000 annually from one young woman)

War and crises also changed the social structure of life and caused dramatic shifts, that affect women more negatively than men. The feminisation of poverty (lower wages, low-ranking jobs, lower wages, combined with a return to ‘traditional’ gender roles), is one of the biggest push factors for women seeking work abroad.

The key to sustained economic development is social inclusion.

Country case study: Moldova

Mr. Vasile Faina

Summary

Many young woman from Moldova are trafficked abroad. They end up as prostitutes or working in the agricultural and household sector. Information on practical steps taken to combat the trafficking of (Moldovan) women is lacking.

Decline of living standards, poverty, low incomes, low educational levels and an unstable government, just to mention a few, stimulate many young Moldovan women in their wish to leave the country. The government has taken numerous steps in recent years to counter trafficking of human beings, like the anti-trafficking division that was established in Moldova in 2000.

Suggestions:

1. Measures should be taken to improve data collection to better understand the economic aspects of trafficking in human beings.
 - Since more and more data become available, more attention should be paid to putting the data together in a comprehensive manner, so as to make full use of them.
 - There is a no research network on economic and other aspects of trafficking on a regular basis where trends in trafficking can be discussed continuously , where information can be exchanged and best practices identified.
 - One country succeeds in collecting data and another one doesn't. This seems to imply; collection of data depends on (political will), effort and priority.
2. Programmes to combat human trafficking should be socially balanced economic programmes, focusing on economic development and social inclusion at the same time.
3. OSCE should draw up a list of best practices/best approaches to combat trafficking to ensure full and effective use of the financial support available.
4. The existence of conflicts within the OSCE region and their consequences should be regarded as one of the negative factors that impede (social and) economic development of states and lead to the flourishing of various illegal activities, such as trafficking in human beings.
5. Trafficking in human beings is committed for economic purposes. Perpetrators should be hit where it hurts most. A better co-ordination and sharing of intelligence is needed in order to improve confiscation of assets.

Not mentioned in my public reporting:

- To discuss within the OSCE the possible impact of gradually introducing a more liberal or non-visa regime between interested OSCE participating States, in order to allow free movement of people and to promote economic and humanitarian relations within OSCE family in order to assist the economic development of nations and the fight against trafficking in human beings.
- Guidelines on the scale and the scope of operation of OSCE field missions should be further elaborated.
- There are many different views with regard to the management and set up of victim witness protection programmes. The main points should be discussed. The OSCE may consider drawing up a list of countries, where each country accepts a certain quota of victim witnesses.
- Prevention programmes focusing on economic empowerment of women at risk, and re-integration programmes focusing on social support and social activity, should become one of the priorities of the OSCE counter trafficking-strategy.
- National referral systems should be set up and should be, to the extent possible, tailor-made for each and every victim.
- A better co-operation and sharing of information is needed between countries of origin, transit and destination to be more active and committed in the fight against trafficking, eg. in the field of victim identification.
- A non-repressive approach in tackling human trafficking is more successful than a purely law enforcement-oriented approach.

REPORT OF WORKING GROUP III TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS AND LABOUR MARKETS

by Ms. Cordula Wohlmutter, Project Officer, OSCE Project-Co-ordinator in Ukraine.

The presentations by the experts provided input for a most lively debate in which many international organizations and NGOs freely voiced their thoughts and proposals for suggestions and concrete actions. These were concentrated around the themes of the Working Group; the demand for sex work and cheap labour as well as trafficking in minors. Focussing on the main factors the discussions lead to the following important statements.

Demand:

There is a growing demand for commercial sexual services, for cheap labour and demand for opportunities to migrate.

The demand for commercial sexual services acts as a stimulus for trafficking, which is not being helped by the fact that there is no definition of “sexual exploitation” in the UN Palermo Protocol and therefore the States Parties address prostitution in their respective laws without clarity in this issue.

The use of commercial sexual services is not given in nature, but it is socially constructed and taught. In order to reduce the demand for commercial sexual services therefore respective policies and creative, less punitive and long-term strategies need to be developed.

The role of racism, xenophobia and prejudice against minority ethnic groups and most vulnerable groups of women and children is recognized as encouraging employers to exploit these groups. In this regard the full regulation of commercial sex industry will not help. What is needed is the change in attitude towards these groups.

From a human rights perspective migration and trafficking are linked, therefore legal labour migration channels contribute to both reducing trafficking in children and women and the smuggling of migrants.

So further discussions on how to facilitate the safe migration among OSCE countries in context of labor market demands are needed.

This should lead to better managed migration policies.

Supply:

The main supply factor is often voiced being poverty. But this is a very complex issue, since it includes different community values, clear rift in gender equality, unemployment, social-economic causes, as well as ineffective school systems, the collapse of institutional care and lack of governmental support.

Taking all the above into account, the following suggestions emerged:

Suggestions:

Facilitating economic recovery policies helps reducing the major supply factors of trafficking. Fully recognize the right to education to and care for children from the perspective of their rights as human beings.

State Institutions should support gender mainstreaming activities and enhance women’s employment through facilitating business opportunities for Small and Mediums Enterprises (SMEs).

Enhancing civil society

Policies with clear protocols, avoiding re-victimization should be developed for returnees.

A redoubling of efforts to combat organised crime is needed, because we face an increased involvement of it in trafficking. Enforcement has already been stepped, but that also meant that the services of the traffickers become more and more expensive.

Underground economic activities undermine economies and enhance trafficking; they need therefore to be addressed.

Increase of social-economic and political stability in countries of origin will decrease deep poverty migration: the more stability, the less migrants.

OSCE recognizes the important role of NGO's, in the fight against trafficking and should further support them. Guidelines and standards on anti-trafficking work should be further developed. Assistance to children of victims is but one important aspect.

Common efforts to agree upon and implement bilateral and multilateral law enforcement cooperation.

The elaboration of a multilateral framework for company registration systems would disrupt trafficking business possibilities, such as shady employment agencies.

OSCE should further develop its own activities in the field of fighting trafficking and co-operate with other organizations.

The OSCE should support (further) elaboration of suggestions for OSCE States for action on national and international level.

Essential are prevention- and rehabilitation work as well as harmonisation of the anti-trafficking legislation.

REPORT OF WORKING GROUP IV EXPERIENCES AND PRACTICAL STEPS FOR THE FUTURE

by Ms. Katherine Brucker, Political Officer, United States Mission to OSCE.

The overriding theme in this session was that cooperation, coordination and a comprehensive approach are essential to successfully preventing and combating trafficking and to prosecuting traffickers.

Prevention efforts cannot be conducted in a vacuum, and states have to be prepared to take on a wide range of problems, such as stabilizing the economy, promoting good governance, strengthening the rule of law, and providing job training and access to credit. Lack of attractive and viable employment opportunities at home is the main reason people seek work abroad. All of this must be accompanied by real efforts to establish and maintain political stability, which is cited as one of the main factors leading to brain and body drain. It is important to have a well-trained, strong and independent judiciary and prosecutor's office. This, coupled with effective democratic institutions and sound economic policies will create conditions conducive to domestic and foreign direct investment and the expansion of legitimate employment opportunities.

On the law enforcement side, regional cooperation and coordination is essential to successful operations, such as Mirage, organized by the SECI Center. Lessons learned from Mirage and input from NGOs should be incorporated into planning for future operations.

National, regional and international efforts and best practices must be collected and shared. The comprehensive nature of these efforts fits well into the OSCE's approach to security.

Suggestions:

- Work to improve self-esteem, job skills, knowledge of job market to maximize chances of employment and minimize hopelessness and chances of being lured abroad. Focus this effort on high-risk groups.
- Work with local employers to encourage offering internships to develop job skills. Promote mentoring.
- Inform population about possible risks of accepting employment abroad.
- Establish national rapporteur system (or designate similar body as such) to inform government and others on modus operandi, perpetrators, victims and financing. Gather and share best practices. Promote wage equality; work to train women to assume higher paying jobs.
- Develop possibilities for legal employment abroad.
- OSCE field presences, using platform concept, could organize workshops and information exchanges with main stakeholders: NGOs, police, government agencies, journalists to raise awareness about trafficking.
- EED Strategy document should include suggestions and commitments aimed at creating economic conditions conducive to growth and job creation with a view to encouraging people to seek employment at home and not seek risky employment opportunities abroad.
- Job training must be coupled with flexible financing, access to credit.
- Encourage states to develop multi-agency, multi-level task forces to coordinate policies for ministerial, senior policy and working level groups.

- Ensure that all OSCE participating States have an article in the criminal code that allows courts to seize and redirect assets of convicted traffickers into social and community services to benefit victims and potential victims of trafficking.

- Encourage all OSCE participating States to create an Office of Victims of Crime that is funded and can assist victims of crime.

Office of the Coordinator for Economic and Environmental Affairs (OCEEA):

- Programs should be established to promote good governance and transparency – other practices that perpetuate political stability and legitimacy and address poverty and marginalization, particularly among the most vulnerable groups of the population in countries of origin, transit, and destination.
- Organize small and medium sized enterprise (SME) training targeted at high risk groups (women, youth). Greater attention needs to be made to development strategies that focus on job creation and small business development. The availability of economic opportunities can prevent women from being trafficked.
- Examine the factor of health care (mental, physical) consequences and costs in the treatment of victims.

Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR):

- ODIHR and the Office of the Economic Coordinator should work to OSCE participating States, in consultation with NGOs, to develop legal mechanisms to combat discrimination against women with respect to economic and educational opportunities.
- ODIHR and the OSCE Police Unit should continue to develop training materials on trafficking targeted at law enforcement authorities; consult with the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) in Budapest regarding possibilities for incorporating this training into ILEA programs; identify law enforcement trainers to conduct training; and fund training sessions for law enforcement authorities in OSCE participating States expressing interest in such training.

OSCE Police Advisor:

- Develop training materials relating to asset forfeiture practices based on best practices from OSCE participating States.

CLOSING PLENARY

Concluding Remarks

by **Frank Majoor**, Secretary General of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
representing the OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office

Thank you very much, Mr Chairman.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we have all heard the presentations by the working group rapporteurs. They reflect the bleak reality of a world plagued by trafficking in human beings. These two days have underscored the urgent need for the OSCE and its participating States to engage even more actively in stopping this type of activity. The objective is to find ways of stopping criminal networks endangering our nations and our fellow-citizens. With its local knowledge and experience and its presence in the field, the OSCE is well placed to take up the challenge.

In these closing remarks, I would like to underline some observations and conclusions that I find of particular importance.

First, trafficking in human beings does not just exist in the sex industry, this was made abundantly clear by many speakers. Forced labour and exploitation (or as the UN Palermo Protocol puts it, slavery or practices similar to slavery) can be found in the construction sector, agriculture, hotels and restaurants and the domestic sphere. More research into these sectors is needed to give a better and more precise picture of the size of the problem and the best ways to deal with it.

Secondly, both trade unions and employers' associations must be involved more closely in fighting trafficking in human beings and forced labour. Their knowledge of the labour market, both legal and illegal, can be extremely helpful in achieving a better understanding of situations where forced labour occurs. This knowledge is essential to effectively addressing the problem. Concepts like *responsible business practice* and *fair trade* play an important role in this regard.

Thirdly, prevention is essential (and particularly the economic angle in prevention programmes). We must identify vulnerable groups in societies of origin at an early stage. Prevention should be more than awareness raising: it should provide economic empowerment through micro-credit schemes, job training and education to those most likely to be ensnared by traffickers. This requires more than just money. It has all been said during our meeting, but I deem it important to underline these conclusions. Even more important is a thorough knowledge of the social dynamics of the societies of origin. Some of the speakers have highlighted the importance of economic, social and political stability as well as the prospect for a decent life on an individual level. A person's perception of a lack of these opportunities in the country of origin creates the breeding ground for trafficking.

And the same is true of the victims when they return to their home countries after being expelled. Without economic prospects, alternative income opportunities, start-up capital and sufficient education, the risk is great that they will fall victim again. Proper reintegration and economic empowerment of the returnees is therefore essential to breaking the chain. It is a point that has been raised by speakers with experience in the protection of the victims and as

they have indicated it is of the utmost importance not to forget the destiny of possible children involved. Without proper education and care, they are the next generation that is vulnerable to trafficking.

Fourthly, to get a clearer picture of the magnitude of the problem, it is worth considering setting up more Bureaus of National Rapporteurs on Trafficking in Human Beings. The Dutch experience of this system of independent record keeping has been both informative and shocking. But we should recognise that trafficking can only be properly tackled with reliable statistics which honestly reflect the sheer numbers involved. At the same time, it should be stressed that the gathering of information should clearly serve the purpose of policy-making. Without a direct link between research, statistics and action, the Bureau of National Rapporteurs on Trafficking in Human Beings risks becoming a toothless watchdog.

Fifthly, once again, the inter-linkages between trafficking in human beings and other forms of trafficking were brought to our attention by various speakers and have been extensively discussed. This again underlines that the linkages do exist and that we must be aware of the fact that effective anti-trafficking policies and concrete action should go beyond the focus of just one trafficking commodity.

And finally, I would like to come back to the economic push and pull factors fuelling the trade. Criminals are calculating business people. They weigh up opportunities and risks. Potential victims are often pushed by economic desperation or pulled by the bright lights of more prosperous destinations. Only by understanding the economic rationale of all involved in the trade can we develop the right measures to stop it.

Ladies and Gentlemen, this seminar is only a first small step on the road to eradicating trafficking in human beings, but it has helped to highlight the economic impact of the trade. The next step, the next challenge, is to identify the links between the three types of trafficking: small arms, drugs and human beings. The OSCE's Economic Forum in Prague this May should bring these three streams together. While the criminal networks often operate in all three fields at the same time, researchers and policy-makers have too often observed them in isolation. This awareness should bring us to the next step, action-oriented recommendations to turn the tables in the fight against trafficking. The OSCE's Action Plan to combat trafficking in human beings, currently being prepared, is a further step on the road to combat trafficking.

You may call it 'courageous' to challenge the traffickers, but doing nothing is extraordinarily more dangerous. In this respect, I would like to end with the words of the great Hungarian-born British writer Arthur Koestler to remind us of our obligation towards the people of the OSCE region. "If the creator had a purpose in equipping us with a neck, he surely meant us to stick it out."

Finally, let me take this opportunity to once more thank all those who contributed to the success of this seminar. First of all the Host Country, Greece, the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the very hospitable city of Ioannina, as well as the OSCE Office of the Coordinator for Economic and Environmental Activities and the valuable contributions of the moderators, rapporteurs and speakers.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

CLOSING PLENARY

Closing remarks

by **Mr. Marcin Swiecicki**, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear participants,

I would like to welcome you all to the Closing Plenary Session. Over the last two days we have heard very interesting presentations on a wide range of the economic aspects of trafficking in human beings. New research and data were presented and lead us into frank discussions. I have the pleasure to start this session by giving the floor to the rapporteurs of the working groups. They will summarize the discussions and concentrate on the suggestions. After hearing the rapporteurs, we will have time for a brief discussion, followed by the summarizing remarks on behalf of the Netherlands Chairmanship by H.E. Mr. Frank Majoor, and closing remarks by H.E. Mr. Charamboulos Christopoulos of the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs, our host.

The report on Working Group I entitled Production – Current work in OSCE and Trafficking Networks will be presented by Ms. Joythi Kanics.

The report on Working Group II entitled Trafficking in human beings and Economic Aspects will be presented by Ms. Marjo Cromptoets.

The report on Working Group III entitled Trafficking in human beings and Labour Markets will be presented by Ms. Cordula Wohlmutter.

The report on Working Group IV entitled Experiences and Practical Steps for the Future will be presented by Ms. Katherine Brucker.

Now the floor is open to your comments.

I would like to thank the rapporteurs for all their work and give the floor to H.E. Frank Majoor, Secretary-General of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs to make his summarising remarks.

[speech follows]

Thank you very much.

Now I like to ask H.E. Mr. Charamboulos Christopoulos of the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs, our host, for his concluding remarks.

[speech follows]

Thank you very much, Mr. Christopoulos for your kind words.

It is not easy to summarise everything that has been said these days, but we heard many different views and good proposals. This too proves the added value of this seminar.

There is no single solution to the problem of trafficking. Too deep economic differences, lack of awareness, weak law enforcement contribute to it. There are linkages between labour markets, migration, law enforcement and economic development. To debate e.g. link between trafficking and labour market shortages, therefore, comes as no surprise.

In this context, some participants raised the issue whether better managed immigration policies can reduce opportunities for traffickers. Views differ on this.

There is, however, an uncontested conviction that the most desirable solution to trafficking in humans would be to ensure economic development in countries of origin in order to allow vulnerable groups to have better prospects for jobs and decent life. Then they would become less easy targets for traffickers.

OSCE recognises this and further works on it. The existing documents and current work have already been mentioned in our Opening Session and first Working Group. I add that the work on the Strategy Document enhancing the economic and environmental dimension of the OSCE is going on.

It will be a part of OSCE strategy to approach root causes of poverty and its related consequences.

We should remind that raising awareness remains necessary. We should broaden the reach of awareness raising campaigns and improve their effectiveness.

The Consolidated Summary of the Seminar will be soon made available to the Delegations and to the participants. It will also be available to you all on our website. At the 11th Economic Forum, we will attempt to debate the suggestions regarding follow up actions by the OSCE, participating States and my office.

Before closing I once again would like to thank our Greek hosts in particular H.E. Mr. Charamboulos Christopoulos and the Mayor and Council of Ioannina. I would also like to thank the Netherlands OSCE Chairmanship, represented by H.E. Mr. Frank Majoor, Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and his teams in The Hague and Vienna. Special words of thanks also go to all the moderators, the stimulating speakers and rapporteurs. Our deliberations would of course not have been possible without all the participants in the event, and I would like to thank you all for your support and contributions. All the OSCE Delegations taking part, the many Field Missions and institutions, the International Organizations, NGOs and Academics, thank you very much.

And I also want to express my thanks to the interpreters and the Greek logistic team, for their excellent work. Last but not least, I am very grateful to the colleagues of my Office who have been working with great dedication to arrange for all substantial and logistic aspects of the Seminar.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, it was an honour and a great pleasure to be with all of you and I am looking forward to our continuing co-operation. Thank you and I wish all of you a safe journey to your home country.

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

The phenomenon of trafficking and the combat against it have become a prominent issue on the international policy agenda in recent years. It affects all OSCE States in all its dimensions. Accordingly the OSCE Permanent Council stipulated in its Decision No. 490 that the theme of the Eleventh OSCE Economic Forum (Prague, Czech Republic, 20-23 May 2003) is to be: ‘Trafficking in Human Beings, Drugs, Small Arms and Light Weapons: National and International Economic Impact’. The economic perspectives, such as the root causes, the links between trafficking networks, financial flows, transportation routes, and the impact on the economy, have not been sufficiently analysed to date and will be discussed as interrelated issues requiring joint action by OSCE States.

The seminar in Ioannina, Greece, is the second in a series of three preparatory seminars leading up to the Economic Forum. Each of the seminars deals with a specific form of trafficking i.e. trafficking in human beings, trafficking in small arms and light weapons, and trafficking in drugs. The three seminars will be instrumental in obtaining insight in the interlinkages between the various types of trafficking.

The Ioannina seminar on 17 and 18 February 2003 will focus on the economic aspects and impact of trafficking in human beings in the OSCE region. The seminar aims to complement the work being done in the framework of the OSCE /ODIHR, the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings, the OSCE Informal Group on Equal opportunities for Men and Women and Anti-Trafficking, as well as by other International Organisations and various NGO’s with an economic perspective. In doing so it should contribute to the formulation of a policy agenda on the trafficking in human beings with that economic perspective.

Considering the issue of trafficking in human beings, a clear distinction is to be made between trafficking and smuggling. Smuggling refers to the facilitation of a person’s illegal entry into a state for profit and where there is voluntary participation from the side of the smuggled person. Trafficking, however, clearly refers to the act of forcing, deceiving or misleading a person into prostitution or other forms of forced labour situations, for which the consent of the trafficked person, at least during some stages of the trafficking process, is absent. The seminar in Ioannina will focus on trafficking rather than smuggling. In addition it should be mentioned that migration is a far wider subject, referring to the movement of people from one place or country to the other. This subject will also not be on the agenda of the Seminar in Ioannina.

The issue of trafficking in human beings will be dealt with from the perspective of the UN Protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against transnational organised crime, also known as the Palermo Protocol. This perspective takes into account a broad spectrum of situations of exploitation and forced labour, i.e. not just situations where women and children are exploited (predominantly in the sex industry), but also other forms of forced labour will be dealt with too (such as domestic labour, agricultural sector, etc).

As point of reference: Article 3 of the Palermo Protocol stipulates that “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 or of the giving or receiving of 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 exploitations, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs”.

From the economic perspective issues like root causes of trafficking, transportation routes, trafficking networks, demand for various forms of cheap labour (which in turn can offer room for forced labour exploitative situations), the impact of trafficking on the economies of the various countries in the OSCE region and possibilities to enhance an agenda for future co-operation can be discussed.

The aim is to discuss in consecutive working groups the following questions.

On the supply side of the trafficking chain questions and issues to be dealt with are:

- What are the main places of origin in the OSCE region and what trends can be seen?
- What economic aspects can be distinguished as the root causes that make certain groups vulnerable to become victims of trafficking networks? (Poverty, grave disparities between and within the participating States, the lack of sound social security networks, structural long-lasting unemployment, gender inequality in society and social exclusion, etc);
- What are the economic consequences for the regions of origin concerned? (the balance between losses like loss of human capital and benefits such as 'remittances', the impact on investment climate, etc);

On the demand side of trafficking:

- What industries can be distinguished where demand for forced labour is an issue?
- What are the motives and consequences for these industries in terms of e.g. maintaining a competitive position? (demand for cheap labour);
- What deficiencies in the labour market can be distinguished that contribute to a demand for forced labour? (demand for cheap labour vs. lack of labour in countries of destination)
- Where does the demand originate? (demand for sex work, demand for cheap labour in certain industries, trafficking networks, intermediaries?);
- What is the economic impact for the countries of destination? (in terms of legal vs. illegal working environment, safety and security, etc);

On the issue of networks, intermediaries and transportation:

- What are the main transportation routes and trafficking networks involved?
- How is trafficking financed? (including issues like corruption and money laundering);
- What is the estimated extent of economic benefits for the trafficking organisations? (contrary to trafficking in drugs and weapons, the financial benefit of exploiting labour have a longer time frame and more systematic approach);
- To what extent are these trafficking networks linked to other trafficking networks i.e. the ones that deal with drugs or small arms and light weapons?

On the future perspective of the economic factors affecting trafficking:

- How will the demand for cheap labour in destination countries develop?
- What can be done to develop economic viable alternatives to trafficking?
- What are the consequences of the demographic trends in destination countries?
- What are the trends in poverty and unemployment in supply countries?
- What are the perspectives of reducing the economic disparities among the OSCE countries?
- How much can one count on the reduction of economic root causes of trafficking



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

The Secretariat

Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and
Environmental Activities

Vienna, 17 February 2003

11th OSCE Economic Forum.
Second Preparatory Seminar: National and International Economic Impact of
Trafficking in Human Beings
Ioannina, Greece, 17-18 February 2003

ANNOTATED AGENDA

Sunday 16 February 2003

17:00- 19:00 Registration at the Hotel du Lac.

20:30 Reception hosted by H.E. Frank Majoor, Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of The Netherlands at the Hotel du Lac.

Monday 17 February 2003

8:00 Registration

9:00 – 10:15 Opening Plenary (open to the Press).

- Opening remarks Mr. Marcin Swiecicki, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities.
- Welcoming address H.E. Charalambos Christopoulos, Head of OSCE and CoE Department of the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- Introductory remarks H.E. Frank Majoor, Secretary General of the Ministry Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands.
- Introductory remarks Mr. Panayotis Kammenos, Vice-Chair of the Committee on Political Affairs and Security, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.
- Keynote speech Mr. Roger Plant, ILO: Economic and social issues in Trafficking: the Need to Broaden the Perspective.

Discussion

10:15 – 10:45 Coffee break

Monday 17 February 2003 (continuation)

10:45 – 12.30 Working group I: Trafficking – Current work in OSCE and trafficking networks.

Moderator: Dr. Helga Konrad, The Stability Pact Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings.

Rapporteur: Ms. Beatrix Attinger Colijn, OSCE Senior Adviser on Gender Issues.

Current work in OSCE.

Introductions to the work on Trafficking in OSCE

Speaker: **H.E. Danielle Del Marmol-Guilbert**, Co-Chairperson of the OSCE Informal Working Group on Gender Equalities and Anti- Trafficking, Permanent Representation of Belgium to the OSCE

Speaker: **Ms. Joythi Kanics**, OSCE ODIHR Anti-Trafficking Unit.

Trafficking Networks.

Trafficking in women in the OSCE Region: markets, networks and organized crime.

Speaker: **Prof. Phil Williams**, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, University of Pittsburg.

- Trends and profits in various kinds of trafficking in the Balkans.
Speaker: **Mr. David Binder**, retired correspondent New York Times/NBC News.
- Trafficking, causes, profits and money laundering.
Speaker: **Dr. Louise Shelley**, Director Transnational Crime and Corruption Center (TRACCC), USA.
- Trafficking, causes and profits and money laundering.
Speaker: **Ms. Anna Kotrotsou**, Ministry of Public Order, Greece.

Discussion

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 15:30 Working group II: Trafficking in human beings and Economic Aspects.

Moderator: Dr. Vera Gracheva, Co-Chairperson of the OSCE Informal Working Group on Gender Equalities and Anti- Trafficking, Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the OSCE.

Rapporteur: Ms. Marjo Cromptvoets, Senior Policy Officer Illegal Migration and Human Trafficking, MFA, The Netherlands.

Root causes of Trafficking.

- Developing better indicators of Trafficking – Some examples from the Balkans.
Speaker: **Dr. Frank Laczko**, Chief Division of Research and Publications, IOM, Geneva.
- The economic causes of trafficking in the Balkans
Speaker: **Dr. Helga Konrad**, Chair Stability Pact Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings.

Monday 17 February 2003 (continuation)

- Country case study: Moldova.
Speaker: **Mr. Vasile Faina**, Department on Trafficking in Human Beings, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Moldova.

Discussion

15:30 – 16:00 Coffee break

16:00 – 18:30 **Working group III: Trafficking in human beings and Labour Markets.**

Moderator: Ms. Laura Lederer, Senior Adviser on Trafficking, US Department of State.

Rapporteur: Ms. Cordula Wohlmutter, Project Officer, OSCE Project-Co-ordinator in Ukraine.

Trafficking: the demand for sex work/ the trafficking in minors.

- Trafficking: a demand lead problem.
Speaker: **Ms. Julia O'Connell Davidson**, Nottingham University, UK.
- Trafficking in Minors: The economic impact of child trafficking in Moldova, Romania, Ukraine and Albania.
Speaker: **Dr. Thanh-Dam Truong**, consultant for the ILO International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC).
- Trafficking in minors: the pull factors in Eastern and Western Europe.
Speaker: **Ms. Muireann O'Brian**, Former Executive Director, End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking in Children for Sexual Purposes (ECPAT)¹.

Discussion

Trafficking and the demand for cheap labour.

- Trafficking for labour exploitation: Economic Aspects.
Speaker: **Mr. Gijbrecht van Liemt**, Consultant ILO Working Group on Forced Labour.
- Labour market perspectives of the countries of origin.
Speaker: **Dr. Catalin Ghinararu**, Scientific Researcher, National Scientific Research Institute for Labour and Social Protection, Romania.
- Labour market issues of the countries of destination.
Speaker: **Mr. Frank Schmidt-Hullman**, Head European Construction and International Department, IG Bau, Germany.

Discussion

20:00 Evening Reception at the Epirus Palace, hosted by the Mayor and Municipal Council of Ioannina.

¹ Currently active for the Dublin Rape Crisis Center (RCC), Ireland.

Tuesday, 18 February 2003

9:00 – 11:00 Working group IV: Experiences and Practical steps for the Future.

Moderator: Ms. **Kristiina Kangaspunta**, Centre for International Crime Prevention, UNODC .

Rapporteur: Ms. **Katherine Brucker**, United States Mission to OSCE.

- Prevention and empowerment programmes in Ukraine and the Russian Federation.
Speaker: **Ms. Amy Heyden**, Winrock International.
- Combating trafficking in human beings: international co-operation in law enforcement and border control.
Speaker: **Mr. Stavros Vallidis**, Liaison Officer, SECI Center, Romania.
- The National Anti-Trafficking rapporteur system.
Speaker: **Ms. Monika Smit**, Netherlands Bureau of National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings.
- Country case study: Ukraine. Trafficking in persons; economical causes and solutions.
Speaker: **Ms. Kateryna Cherepakha**, La Strada, Ukraine.

Discussion

11:00 – 11:45 Coffee Break

11:45 – 13:00 Closing Plenary Session: Conclusions and Suggestions (Open to the Press).

Presentations by the Rapporteurs.

Concluding Remarks	Ambassador Paul Brouwer , Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Greece.
Closing Remarks	H.E. Charalambos Christopoulos , Head of OSCE and CoE Department of the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
Closure	Mr. Marcin Swiecicki , Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities.

Tuesday afternoon: Optional

Lunch at the Hotel du Lac.

Excursion by boat to the Monastery on the Island in Lake Ioannina, organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Greece.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Participating Delegations

ALBANIA

Tozaj, Mr. Dolor	Adviser on Trafficking - Office of Minister of State to the Prime Minister, Council of Minister.
Jasharllari, Colonel Avni	Head of Sector for Fight against Illegal Trafficking, Ministry of Public Order.

GERMANY

Beissert, Mr Jörn	First Secretary, Permanent Mission of The Federal Republic of Germany to the OSCE.
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Erdelmann, Ms. Anna	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit GmbH, Sectoral project: Legal and Social Policy Advice for Women.

UNITED STATES

Walsh, Ms Maureen	General Counsel, Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe.
Lederer, Ms. Laura	US Department of State.
Brucker, Ms Katherine	Political Officer, US Mission to the OSCE.
Norin, Ms. Leaksmy	OSCE Desk Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Hristodoulaki, Ms. Cissy	Labour Specialist, US Embassy to Greece.
Miller, Ms. Bonnie	US Embassy to Greece.
Werner, Ms. Alison	Political Officer, US Embassy to Greece.
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Shahinyan, Ms. Gyoilnara
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Department of Human Rights,
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BELARUS

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BELGIUM

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Zaharia, Mr Zacharias Chief Inspector, Research & Development Unit, Police force .

Georgiadis, Mr. Panikos

CROATIA

Werft, Ms. Ivana Legal Adviser, Secretary of the National Committee for the Suppression of Trafficking in Persons, Croatian Government, Office for Human Rights.

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López-Barrón, Amb José M. Ambassador for Humanitarian and Social Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Martinez Montes, Mr Luis Francisco Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Spain to the OSCE.

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de Kerdrel, Mr. Guillaume OSCE Desk Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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Christopoulos, Ambassador Charalambos Head of the OSCE and CoE Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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Kondonis, Dr Haralambos	Special Advisor, Dept of S/E Europe (A3), Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
Vuohula, Mr Eero	Advisor, Directorate General for External Relations OSCE and Council of Europe, European Commission.
Bogensperger, Mr. Bernhard	Policy officer Unit: Eastern Europe, Caucasus, Central Asia, European Commission, DG External Relations.
Trillard, Ms. Elisa	Specialized consultant.

HUNGARY

Haupt, Mr. Erik	Desk Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Department for Security Policy.
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IRELAND

Moran, Amb Brendan	Head of Mission, Ambassador, Permanent Mission to the OSCE.
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ITALY

Barberi, Ms. Alessandra	Department of Equal Opportunities, Prime Minister's Office.
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KYRGYZSTAN

Toimatov, Mr. Almaz	Deputy Head of Delegation, Permanent Delegation of the Kyrgyz Republic to the OSCE.
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Kikerekova, Ms. Tanja	Head, Macedonian Commission to Combat Trafficking, Department for Civil and Minorities Rights, Ministry of Justice.
Kusinikova, Ms. Nikica	Program Coordinator, Institute for Sustainable Communities.
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Parks, Mr Paul	Country Director, Institute for Sustainable Communities.

Ristova, Judge Milka
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Ristovski, Mr. Goran
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Ten Tusscher, Ms. Bea
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Vollebregt, Ms. Jola	Policy Advisor on THB, National Policy Agency.
Triantafyllou, Ms. Martha	Trade and Cultural Officer, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Greece.
Apostolidis, Ms. Natasha	Political Press Department.

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Kapilewicz, Ms Ewa	Senior Specialist, International/EU Team, Secretariat of the Government Plenipotentiary for Equal Status of Women and Men.
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Leonte, Mr Gabriel	Economic and Environmental Expert - OSCE Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
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RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Gracheva, Ms. Vera	Senior Counsellor, Co-Chairperson of the OSCE Informal WG-Trafficking, Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the OSCE.
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Proshin, Mr. Vladimir	Head of Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Department of Economic Cooperation.
Tikawov, Mr Valery	Counsellor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
Nikitin, Mr Vadim	Interpreter, Ministry for Foreign Affairs.
Zaytsev, Mr Nikolai	Interpreter, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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Thoolen SMA, Ür- Frans Emil

Expert, Refugee Desk, Holy See, Pontif, Council, Migrants and Itinerant People.

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MEDITERRANEAN PARTNER FOR COOPERATION

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Hasala, Ambassador Atef	Embassy of the Hashmite Kinddom of Jordan to Greece.
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Vallidis, Mr Stavros	Liaison officer of Greek Police, SECI Regional Center for Combating Transborder Crime.
Vermot Mangold, Dr Ruth-Gaby	Member of the Parliament, COUNCIL OF EUROPE, Büro Hekate.
Suikkari, Ms. Satu-Maria	Legal Officer, COUNCIL OF EUROPE, Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights.
Lange, Ms. Gisela	ILO- International Labour Organization.
Lintuluoto, Ms. Liisa	First Officer, Serious Crime Department, EUROPOL.
van Liemt, Mr Gijsbert	Consultant (Economist), ILO - International Labour Organization.
Plant, Mr. Roger	Head, ILO- Internatiolnal Labour Organization, Special Programme to combat forced labour.
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Ulrich, Mr. Louis	Programme Coordinator, IOM - International Organization for Migration.
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Kangaspunta, Ms. Kristiina	Programme Officer, UN ODC – United Nations Office on Drug and Crime, Global Programme against Trafficking in Human Beings, Centre for International Crime Prevention.
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Gerxhaliu, Ms. Selvete	UNMIK/OMIK
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OSCE INSTITUTIONS

Kammenos, H.E. Panayotis	Vice Chairman of the Committee on Political Affairs and Security, Greek Delegation of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.
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Uhl, Ms. Bärbel	Expert on Anti-Trafficking Issues, OSCE ODHIR Anti Trafficking Unit.
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Behrendt, Mr. Marc	Democratization Officer, OSCE Mission to Georgia.
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Vasiljevic, Mr. Dusan	Head of Economic and Environmental Department, OSCE Mission to Serbia and Montenegro.
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Strasser, Ms. Andrea	Democratization Officer, Human Dimension, OSCE Office in Yerevan.
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Portillo, Ms. Monica	Rule of Law Officer, OSCE Spillover Mission to Skopje.

OSCE SECRETARIAT

Swiecicki, Mr. Marcin	Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities.
Baltes, Mr. Marc	Deputy Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities.
Del Vechio, Mr. Timothy	Police Affairs Officer, Strategic Police Matters Unit.
Attinger Colijn, Ms. Beatrix	Senior Adviser on Gender Issues, OSCE Gender Issues.
Santiago Fink, Ms. Helen	Senior Economic Affairs Officer, Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities.
Kersten, Mr. Ivo	Adviser, Office of the Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities.
Gredler, Ms. Andrea	Assistant, Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities.

NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Avakian, Ms. Elise	President of Armenian Relief Society in Greece
Barbarian, Ms. Eva	Secretary of the Armenian Relief Society in Greece.
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Ghinararu, Dr. Catalin	Scientific Secretary, National Scientific Research Institute for Labour and Social Protection, Romania .
Heyden, Ms Amy	Director, Trafficking Prevention Programs, Winrock International
Karimova, Ms. Nodira	Director, Istiqbolli Avlod "Generation of the Future", Uzbekistan.
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Koumblomati, Ms. Antigoni	Director, C.V.M.E. Ioannina, Greece
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Morozova, Ms Galina	Director, Feminist League of Koksmetry, Kazakhstan.
O' Brian, Ms. Muireann	Dublin Rape Crises Center, RCC
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ACADEMIC

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TRADE UNION

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Embassy to Greece.

SUGGESTIONS AND PROPOSALS
BY THE OSCE PARTICIPATING STATES

February 18, 2003

OSCE Second Preparatory Seminar: Economic Impact of Trafficking in Human Beings

U.S. Delegation Recommendations for Possible OSCE Activities

OSCE Participating States:

- Encourage that all OSCE participating States have an article in the criminal code that allows courts to seize and redirect assets of convicted traffickers into social and community services to benefit victims and potential victims of trafficking.
- Encourage all OSCE participating States to create an Office of Victims of Crime that is funded and can assist victims of crime.
- Encourage all OSCE participating States to develop multi-agency, multi-level taskforces to coordinate policies for ministerial, senior policy, and working level groups.

Office of the Coordinator for Economic and Environmental Affairs (OCEEA):

- Programs should be established to promote good governance and transparency – other things that perpetuate political stability and legitimacy and address poverty and marginalization, particularly among the most vulnerable groups of the population in countries of origin, transit, and destination.
- Organize small and medium sized enterprise (SME) training targeted at high risk groups (women, youth). Greater attention needs to be made to development strategies that focus on job creation and small business development. The availability of economic opportunities can prevent women from being trafficked.
- Examine the factor of health care (mental, physical) consequences and costs in the treatment of victims.

Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR):

- ODIHR and the Office of the Economic Coordinator should work with OSCE participating states, in consultation with NGOs, to develop legal mechanisms to combat discrimination against women with respect to economic and educational opportunities.
- ODIHR and the OSCE Police Unit should continue to develop training materials on trafficking targeted at law enforcement authorities; consult with the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) in Budapest regarding possibilities for incorporating this training into ILEA programs; identify law enforcement trainers to conduct training; and fund training sessions for law enforcement authorities in OSCE participating states expressing interest in such training.
- Encourage ODIHR and the Stability Pact Anti-trafficking Taskforce to collaborate on possible anti-trafficking training for international peacekeepers.
- Organize educational roundtables for journalists (also, law enforcement, border control) to raise awareness about trafficking.

OSCE Police Advisor:

- Develop training materials relating to asset forfeiture practices based on best practices from OSCE participating States.

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF
AZERBAIJAN AT THE 2ND PREPARATORY SEMINAR OF THE OSCE
ECONOMIC FORUM "NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC
IMPACT OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS"**

17-18 February 2003, Ioannina, Greece

Distinguished Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Azerbaijani delegation I would like to greet participants of this seminar and express my gratitude to the OSCE for organizing this important event. Special thanks go to our Greek hosts for the hospitality extended to us as well as excellent environment provided to ensure successful outcome of this meeting.

Dear colleagues,

Trafficking in human beings, as one of negative consequences of the transition process is rather a new and thus not fully explored problem in Azerbaijan. Until recently, a widespread understanding of the problem was non-existent in Azerbaijan. However, significant developments triggered by current globalization trends that we have all witnessed for the last years visibly re-shaped the fabric of our societies. Cooperation with international organizations, such as the OSCE and the International Organization for Migration revealed the existence of the problem in Azerbaijan and the necessity to fight against it.

The root causes of this phenomenon in Azerbaijan lie with social and economic situation specific to a transit economy. Economic problems currently experienced by Azerbaijan, such as relatively low standard of living, unemployment, insufficient support to development of the private sector, which is the backbone of a market economy, have evoked the outflow of the country's population in search for a better life in developed countries.

The problem is further aggravated by existence in the country of Imln refugees and IDPs as a result of the Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan. These people, that are by definition socially vulnerable, survive in inadequate living conditions in tent camps, railway wagons and other temporary shelters for 14 years already. The occupation of 20% of the Azerbaijani territories by Armenian military forces resulted in 132 km of the state border with Iran not being controlled by the Government of

Azerbaijan. These territories are used as channels for various kinds of illegal activities such as trafficking in persons, drugs, weapons etc.

Moreover, the exposure of Azerbaijan to global migration challenges and transnational trafficking practices has worsened the situation. Since Azerbaijan is increasingly used as a transit country for illegal migration and particularly, for trafficking in human beings, due to its favorable geographical location.

Although this problem is not regarded as a national calamity, Azerbaijan fully realizes potential dangers of trafficking for the nation's future and exerts all efforts to efficiently address this issue at the current stage.

The Government continues to make every effort to ensure stabilization of macroeconomic development and the environment conducive to acceleration of the investment process in the country. Azerbaijan is one of major stakeholders in implementation of large-scale energy projects and strives to efficiently integrate into the multilateral trading system.

Rich natural potential and highly skilled human resources of Azerbaijan, combined with the country's good economic performance, offer positive prospects for our close involvement in development of international cooperation, for example, in the spheres of tourism and information technologies.

National Program on Poverty Reduction that has recently been elaborated, defines the strategy for the country's long-term social and economic development.

The work on improvement of the respective legal framework is under way. Azerbaijan joined a number of international legal instruments in this field and is undergoing necessary domestic procedures for ratification of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols. The new Criminal Code regulates such kinds of crimes related to trafficking as slavery, sexual abuse, violence of sexual nature, forcible sexual activity, trade of minors. Nevertheless, there are gaps in the current legislation and its implementation since it does not determine trafficking in human beings as a crime per se and provides for no prosecution for traffickers.

The inter-ministerial working group established by the Decree of the President is working on the amendments to the national criminal legislation in order to bring it in line with international standards. The working group is currently drafting a new article to the Criminal Code prescribing criminal prosecution (5 years) for trafficking in women.

Besides, the National Anti-trafficking Plan of Action is being elaborated by the Government of Azerbaijan jointly with the OSCE and IOM that envisages a wide range of activities in order to efficiently combat this phenomenon. Moreover, the Program of Cooperation between the Government of Azerbaijan and IOM for 2003 has been already elaborated. The document provides for measures on education, training, awareness raising, assistance to and protection of victims, legislative measures etc. in the field of combating trafficking.

At present, the Government is working on the draft of the State Concept on Migration Policy where particular emphasis is made on the issues of trafficking in

human beings. On the basis of the Concept the National Program on Management of Migration Processes will be drafted.

In this regard, international organizations have an important role to play in assisting Azerbaijan to efficiently tackle the problem. In 2002 IOM in conjunction with UNFP A completed a research project on trafficking in human beings, especially that of women and children for the purpose of sexual exploitation in Azerbaijan. The project included a base-line survey on trafficking, a comparative analysis of national legislation and international laws, capacity assessment of national NGOs and mass media in addressing trafficking issues.

As a result of an active co-operation between the IOM, UNFP A and the Government of Azerbaijan, two round table discussions on illegal women migration were held in 2002 in Baku. These round tables were the first public discussions of the issues related to smuggling and trafficking in female migrants in Azerbaijan, which brought together government officials, representatives of foreign diplomatic missions, international organizations, national NGOs and mass media.

This notwithstanding, a lot remains to be done in Azerbaijan in this respect. The economic constituent of the problem of trafficking in human beings prevails over all other push factors that cause this phenomenon. Therefore, improvement of the economic fabric of our society is regarded as one of essential remedies.

Economic diversification, creation of conducive investment conditions as well as private sector development, especially SMEs development, and related to this, implementation of a socially-oriented economic policy will help considerably reduce the scale of the problem and relieve its negative implications for the country in future.

Institutional development and strengthening of national capacities, such as establishment within law enforcement bodies of specialized departments responsible for combating trafficking in human beings, would serve as an important tool to keep the problem in close control.

Creation of opportunities for legal migration is also one of pre-requisites for prevention of the problem. Destination countries should consider the possibilities for persons, in particular for women and girls to emigrate legally for work, education and vocational training.

Given the transnational nature of trafficking, the problem cannot be tackled by efforts of any single country .Awareness raising, education, training of the staff of government agencies concerned, medical and psychological assistance to the victims of trafficking in their reintegration to society , improvement of domestic legislation could be cited as immediate measures to address the issue at the current stage.

Dear participants,

It is impossible to respond to changing migratory trends on an ad-hoc basis. Undimensional approach to migration management is unlikely to solve the problem. There is a growing awareness that contemporary migration can no longer be treated as an isolated issue but must be considered as a process to be managed in a comprehensive

manner. To this end, establishment of cooperation between the countries concerned as well as international organizations is crucial.

We welcome the Porto Decision on enhancing the OSCE economic dimension and deem it important to elaborate the OSCE Strategy Document on Economic and Environmental Dimension as well as the OSCE Plan of Action on Combating Human Trafficking and reiterate the commitment of Azerbaijan to contribute to these challenging tasks.

We do believe that, based on the exchange of information and views of participants, this seminar will serve as an important guideline for OSCE future activities in this field as well as for the countries concerned in pursuing their respective national policies.

Thank you for your kind attention.

PROPOSALS OF THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

to the Conclusions of the 2nd Preparatory Seminar of the 11th Economic Forum „National and International economic Impact of tRafiicking in Human Beings“.

Working Group II: Trafficking in Human Beings and Economic Aspects.

February 17-18, 2003 Ioannina, Greece

The existence of conflicts in the OSCE region and their consequences should be regarded as one of negative factors that impede social and economic development of states and lead to the flourishing of various illegal activities, such as trafficking.

Uncontrolled territories emerged as a result of these conflicts serve as hotbeds for trafficking in weapons, drugs, human beings etc.

The Delegation of Azerbaijan kindly request the OSCE Secretariat to reflect this position on the Conclusions of the present seminar.

Proposal of the Kyrgyz Delegation
For final recommendations
of the OSCE Second Preparatory Seminar:

National and International Economic Impact of Trafficking in Human Beings.

- *To start discussions within the OSCE on gradual introducing of a more liberal or non-visa regime between interested OSCE participating states, in order to allow free movement of people and promote economic and humanitarian relations within OSCE family and thus to assist economic development of these nations.*

Ioannina, Greece, February 18, 2003

CONTRIBUTION BY THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Madam Chair,

The subject matter of this Seminar is of great importance for all OSCE participating States. In this regard I would like first to thank the Dutch Chairmanship for timely raising a number of trafficking-related issues to be discussed the next May at the 11-th Economic Forum in Prague. We would also like to express our thanks to the authorities of Greece and the OSCE Secretariat for excellent preparation and organization of this Seminar.

Bearing in mind that the objective of this Seminar is to prepare the Forum it would be appropriate to put emphasis on development of recommendations for further discussion in Prague. Possible recommendations by this Seminar could be divided into three groups:

- recommendations regarding OSCE activities;
- recommendations regarding joint activities to be carried out by the OSCE in co-operation with other international organizations in the spirit of the Platform for Co-operative Security;
- recommendations for OSCE participating States for activities at national level and in different multilateral formats.

As far as the OSCE activities are concerned we share the ILO view that anti-trafficking programs should be of comprehensive nature that is to cover origin, transit and destination countries.

We support the anti-trafficking program for 2003-2004 initiated by the Dutch Chairmanship to be implemented by the OSCE mission in Moldova in co-operation with local authorities. At the same time we believe that such programs should be developed not only for countries hosting OSCE missions but also for other countries of origin, for example neighboring Romania. These programs could be carried out by the Office of the Coordinator for OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, the

ODIHR and/or other OSCE bodies. Same relates to programs targeted at destination countries.

We share the view expressed by distinguished Economic Coordinator Mr. Marcin Swiecicki that victims of THB are victims of discrimination at labor market and not only victims of sex industry. The notion of labor exploitation should also cover such areas as domestic services, industry, agriculture, as well as criminal business (participation in armed groups, illegal production, etc.)

We would like to attract attention to the statement made by the representative of Kyrgyzstan who raised a very important, although rather complicated and multifaceted, question of visa-free movement in the OSCE area.

The Russian delegation is in favor of a consistent, multidimensional, step by step approach in addressing THB problem. A series of measures is to be developed including preventive measures, police officers' training, rehabilitation programs, etc. Assessment of existing legislation and comparative analysis of anti-trafficking laws of the OSCE participating States and their compliance with international standards, with the view of their subsequent harmonization, seems to be extremely important. It will help to eradicate this criminal business. We are looking forward to further consultations with our partners on this topical issue.

Thank you for your attention.