

**MINUTES
of the National Committee Session**

17 March 2009

Site: Chisinau, Government Building Conference Room

Date/Time: 17 December 2007, 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Present: NC members (V. Zubic – Deputy Minister of Interior Affairs, Valentin Mejinschi - NC Chairman; Maria Bubuioc, NC Secretary, Valeriu Hincu – CCTIP Director; GPO – Eduard Bulat; MFA – Valeriu Ostalep, Deputy Minister); IOM (Martin Wyss, Stela Rotaru, Irina Todorova, Tatiana Jardan), OSCE Mission (Judith Hale, Otilia Bologan-Vieru); US Embassy (Radu Foltea, Inesa Nicolaescu); La Strada (Ana Revenco); Causeni Law Centre (Ion Oboroceanu); NGO Interaction (Oxana Alistratova), mass-media.

Absent: -

Distributed Documents: Agenda for the NC Session of 17 March 2009.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. *Welcome and introduction*

Mr. Valeriu Mejinschi, Chairman of the National Committee welcomed the participants of the NC session and greeted the audience. Mr. Mejinschi introduced Marina Bubuioc, NC Secretary.

2. *Combating trafficking in human beings. Presentations offered by Valeriu Hincu, Director of CCTIP and Eduard Bulat, Head of AT Department, GPO*

Mr. Valeriu Hincu, CCTIP Director reported a reduction of trafficking cases with 14.3% in 2008 compared with 2007. In 2008 there were 166 criminal cases started, out of which - 72 cases on trafficking in human beings; 8 cases on trafficking in children; 15 cases on illegal withdrawal of children from the country; 71 cases of pimping. 90 cases were finalized and sent to court. Among the main countries of destination for Moldovan victims, Mr. Hincu mentioned Turkey, Cyprus, United Arab Emirates. 80% of the victims were trafficked for sexual exploitation; 16% for labor exploitation and 2% for begging.

Mr. Hincu also mentioned that 30 persons were rescued from being trafficked. In addition, Turkey was mentioned as the most problematic in the sense of rogatory commissions. A question arose from the audience on the cases of legal persons organizing illegal migration of person abroad or even trafficking.

Mr. Eduard Bulat from the General Prosecutor's Office replied that there was only one case identified against a legal entity for trafficking in human beings, however there are more cases of

organizing illegal migration for persons. Mr. Bulat informed on the increased number of cases of illegal withdrawal of children from the country by their parents who are working abroad.

Mr. Bulat gave a short report on the number of cases investigated and sent to court by the General Prosecutor's Office. Thus, in 2008, there were 202 criminal cases with a total number of 253 accused persons. Out of these, 68 persons were sanctioned (58 – with imprisonment for a period of 7-23 years). In 2009, 32 cases were investigated with 11 persons accused, out of which – 9 persons received imprisonment sentences. In several cases the judges wrongly applied the sanction of imprisonment with suspension.

3. *Preventing trafficking in human beings. Presentation offered by Ms. Lilia Pascal, Head of AT and Gender Department of the Ministry of Social Protection, Family and Child (MSPFC).*

Ms. Pascal informed the audience about the activities undertaken by the MSPFC aimed at preventing trafficking in human beings. These included: awareness-raising campaigns, roundtables, national conferences (eg. 21-22 October 2008, on NRS), AT Day (18 October 2008), extension of NRS in 7 more districts. She mentioned the active involvement of the ministry in the work of the Coordination Unit of the NRS located in the MSPFC building. In total, the Ministry reported 203 cases of preventing THB.

Ms. Pascal informed the audience on the increased number of victims who report labor exploitation. She further mentioned the fact that the social services available to the VoTHB does not differ from the services offered to all victims. It is foreseen to have 900 community social assistants involved in the implementation of the integrated social system.

She further mentioned the efforts undertaken to harmonize the existing national legislation with the provisions of the newly adopted Law to Prevent and Combat Violence in the Family. A special governmental Committee was created to align the existent legislation to the provisions of the law.

4. *Reports by members of the National Committee and intervention by IOM*

Mr. Valeriu Ostalep, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs reported on the international cooperation in the anti-trafficking field. He mentioned the bilateral agreements signed by Moldova with various countries and that 12 conventions have been signed and ratified by Moldova. Moldova is also a member of the GRETA group which is the group of experts from all member states signatories of the Council of Europe Convention on Actions against Trafficking in Persons.

Ms. Stela Rotaru, Repatriation Specialist at IOM, intervened with a brief informative note on trafficking trends and figures. She reported on the increased number of repatriations compared to 2008 and 2007 years. She mentioned, among others, Cyprus and United Arab Emirates as the most problematic countries for repatriating victims of trafficking.

Mr. Zubic, Deputy Minister of Interior reported on the recently-adopted laws to tackle illegal migration, such as the Law on asylum (adopted on 18 December 2008) and the Law on the status

of the foreigners. Mr. Zubic also reported on the fact that the curriculum of the Police Academy was amended to include additional hours for the course on combating THB. He further reported on the operational database on persons involved in trafficking which is contained at CCTiP and on the memorandums for understanding (MoUs) signed between state agencies and NGOs. He also noted, in this context, the inefficiency of the territorial anti-trafficking committees.

Ms. Viorica Dumbraveanu, Deputy Minister of Social Protection, Family and Child mentioned the good collaboration that exists between this state agency and the international partners: IOM, Terre des Hommes, and OSCE Mission to Moldova. She mentioned that the Ministry co-chairs the Technical Coordination Meetings in the AT and Gender field together with the OSCE Mission.

Ms. Dumbraveanu reported on the latest developments within the National Referral System, and namely: it is being implemented in 16 districts, 2 municipalities and 1 town. She further informed on the number of repatriations carried out in 2008 together with the MFA – a total of 44 repatriations of unaccompanied children.

5. Interventions by IOs and NGOs

Mr. Mejinschi presented the audience the draft NC Decision to be adopted.

Ms. Revenco, Director of Centre “La Strada” asked the National Committee to consider presenting a report on the implementation of the last National Action Plan to Combat THB, and the issues of protecting the working migrant to be included in the next NC session agenda.

Ms. Judith Hale, ATG Programme Manager of OSCE Mission, reiterated the issue of creating a permanent Secretariat for the National Committee.