



*Making Europe more social and supportive: it does concern me! Europe is about us!*

## THEMATIC WORKSHOP:

### Combating trafficking in human beings

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#### Issues

*In brief*

#### Background:

Trafficking in human beings is a regional and transnational phenomenon which affects every country whether it is outside the European Union or a European Union Member State (the European Union includes countries of origin, transit or destination for victims). Today, a growing number of victims is being identified within the European Union, notably among the most vulnerable groups: minors, ethnic minorities, etc. In this context, a transnational response is required and it is therefore essential to organise the fight against trafficking of human beings around a **system of close cooperation at an international level and also at a European level**, between institutional and non-profit association stakeholders involved in this process in areas such as **prevention work among vulnerable populations, training in identifying victims for stakeholders** who come into contact with potential victims, **protection and care for victims, advocacy initiatives** supporting the fight against trafficking in human beings or **raising awareness among the general public**. European bodies have embraced these issues the last years, leading to the drafting of joint legislation aimed at stopping the perpetrators of trafficking in human beings and offering better protection to victims. This represents significant progress, but in practice, Member States are reluctant to implement these new laws in practical terms. On the ground, cooperation between government authorities and non-profit associations is still too limited to fight this phenomenon effectively. Therefore it is now necessary to introduce mechanisms for transnational cooperation on a formal basis. **A transnational, multidisciplinary, global approach** must be developed and/or

	<p>reinforced across all stages of the process: raising awareness, prevention, identification, protection and eradication.</p> <p><u>Issues:</u> How can we introduce a transnational and multidisciplinary system within the European Union and outside the European Union with the aim of combating more effectively the phenomenon of trafficking in human beings?</p>
<p><b>What is the European Union doing or failing to do in this area?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The European Commission launched the <b>EU Civil Society Platform Against Trafficking in Human Beings</b> on 31 May 2013, which brings together some one hundred civil society organisations established within the European Union. This pan-European platform, of which Le Secours Catholique-Caritas France and four other French organisations are members, provides a forum for sharing experiences and ideas between these European, national or local non-profit associations working for human rights, women's rights, gender equality, and migrants' rights to housing. This forum therefore allows stakeholders in the field to reflect on political priorities at a European level and on how to collaborate with stakeholders outside the European Union, share best practice to help victims of the traffic in human beings more effectively and fight the demand. The creation of this platform will also enable the European Union to have access to updated information relating to the problems encountered by stakeholders in civil society relating to in their work in the field.</li> <li>- This type of initiative and the adoption of joint legislation notwithstanding, the European Union should exert more pressure on its Member States so that these measures are more effective at a national level.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Current regulations and laws in this area</b> <i>(where relevant)</i></p>	<p><u>The European Union :</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Directive 2011/36/UE of the European Parliament and Council of 5 April 2011</b> relating to trafficking of human beings, the fight against this phenomenon and the protection of victims which replaces the Council's framework decision 2002/629/JAI. It introduces rules on a European scale relating to the definition of criminal offences and sanctions for trafficking in human beings and sets out measures to prevent this phenomenon more effectively and to enhance protection for victims. By the deadline for transposition into national law, only 6 Member States had met their obligations. The remaining States were called to order, but no sanctions were imposed.</li> </ul> <p><u>The Council of Europe:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The <b>Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings</b>, signed in Warsaw on 16 May 2005.</li> </ul>

	<p>The Warsaw Convention focuses mainly on protecting victims, safeguarding their rights, preventing trafficking and pursuing traffickers.</p> <p>- <b>Report on the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings in France</b>, first evaluation cycle, 28 January 2013.</p>
<p><b>Questions, focal points</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How can we develop cooperation mechanisms at a European level between the various stakeholders who come into contact with victims (police departments, the law, social welfare services, specialist non-profit associations, etc.) working to combat trafficking in human beings?</li> <li>- How can we combat the phenomenon of trafficking in human beings when the perpetrators take ever greater advantage of the globalisation of communications and use virtual platforms such as the internet to control their victims remotely and thus escape prosecution?</li> <li>- How can we ensure that the least economically developed European countries have the resources required to carry out investigations into victims' circumstances, establish social monitoring and ensure the protection of victims who want to return to their own countries?</li> <li>- How can we ensure that all European countries develop effective responses to guarantee the protection of victims of trafficking in human beings, irrespective of their age or the type of exploitation they have experienced?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Suggested workshop facilitation approach:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Individual presentations by participants, each ending with their own completed version of the statement “For me trafficking in human being means ...”</li> <li>- Set out the issues and present the current state of the fight against trafficking in human beings at a European level in a lively manner (examples of collaborative projects at a European level, etc.) [facilitator].</li> <li>- Accounts from people who have been the victims of human trafficking in order to demonstrate the flaws in the current prevention, identification, protection and eradication systems in Europe and beyond.</li> <li>- Time allocated for discussion and sharing of ideas on best practice in terms of cooperation on a European scale, etc. The question can be raised of what further contribution the European Union could make to the fight against trafficking in human beings.</li> <li>- Conclusion:</li> </ul> <p>The production of a final document based on the following question: What demands and avenues for thought should be communicated to members of parliament within the framework of the European elections? This document is intended in a broader sense to act as an advocacy resource in other fora.</p>	

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