

## Parliamentarians Against Human Trafficking

### GOOD PRACTICE EXCHANGE

The Hague, 26 January 2011

#### Participants

There were **37** participants attending the good practice exchange meeting. Out of them, there were **11** members of parliaments from 7 countries, including 3 MPs from the UK; and additionally MPs from Finland, Greece, Poland, Portugal, Romania and The Netherlands. Also **11** NGOs representatives from 7 countries have attended the seminar; they represented Finland, Greece, Poland, Portugal, Romania, The Netherlands and UK. Additionally, The National Rapporteur on Trafficking, representative of the Office of the National Rapporteur, police officer from Europol also took part in the event. Other participants were representatives of international inter-governmental organisation – IOM, American Embassy in The Hague, researchers, parliamentary clerks and assistants to MPs, interpreters and a project staff.

#### Outcomes

**11** parliamentarians constitute **11%** out of the final target that is to reach directly 100 parliamentarians. They came from **7** countries and that is **46%** of the final target of 15 countries.

#### Challenges

*We were not able to get on board German parliamentarians although we invited 6 of them. Each e-mail and printed invitation was followed by a phone call, but none of them were able to make a commitment to attend. Despite of earlier confirmation, no more MPs from the Dutch Parliament attended our meeting.*

#### Venue

The all-day event was held in the Assembly Room, Senate, Parliament of the Netherlands, Assembly Room, Senate Parliament of the Netherlands Binnenhof 22 2513 AA Den Haag.



## Programme

Good practice exchange meeting was opened by Senator Willem Bröcker, The Netherlands and Anthony Steen, chairman of Human Trafficking Foundation, UK.

There were two main themes envisioned for the best practice exchange programme. The first one **“The National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Being. The Dutch experience. How the NR might enhance work of MPs”** was delivered in a keynote speech, by **Ms Corinne Dettmeijer-Vermeulen, Dutch National Rapporteur** That was followed by a second key note speech **“How MPs could benefit from the Office of the National Rapporteur: The Dutch Parliamentarians’ Experience”**, delivered by Ard Van Der Steur MP, The Netherlands.

The morning panel session entitled **“How can parliamentarians build up parliamentary groups as part of an EU parliamentary network?”** and followed by countries overview: **“What has been done thus far in order to establish awareness of parliamentary groups in the Parliaments of participating countries?”** was chaired by Anthony Steen, the chairman of the Human Trafficking Foundation. This panel was fronted by Elisabeth Naucler MP (Finland), Maria Cardoso MP (Portugal), Nassos Alevras MP (Greece), Robert Biedron MP (Poland), Ard Van Der Steur MP (Netherlands), Massimo Martinelli (Italy), Peter Bone MP (UK), Lord McColl (UK), Anna Lo MLA (UK), Michael Connarty MP (UK).

Afternoon programme was devoted to discussion on **Co-operation between NGOs and the National Rapporteur office on anti -trafficking activities and co-operation between NGOs and parliamentarians.** Four panellists were NGO representatives from The Netherlands and Finland:

Sandra Classen (Blinn), Bas De Visser (Comensha), Theo Noten (ECPAT Netherlands), Jaana Kauppinen (Pro Centre Finland). Chairperson and a follow up discussion moderator was Marieke van Dorninck from La Strada International.

The seminar was concluded by Christine Beddoe, Director ECPAT UK and wrapped up by Stana Buchowska, PAHT Project Coordinator.

## Networking reception

Was held on Wednesday 25 January 2012, Wednesday 25 January 2012 in the Carlton Ambassador Hotel. Sophialaan 2 - 2514 JP The Hague. Reception was attended by **18** participants. It was important that HM Ambassador, Paul Arkwright came to support our European Commission-backed initiative to build a network of parliamentarians across the EU committed to fighting trafficking.



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## Challenges

*There were fewer participants who attended than we had expected, as a part of them were not able to make it due to bad weather conditions (cancelled flights).*

## Outcomes

Although that many outcomes - like a raised level of knowledge and awareness amongst decision makers and the general public, increased support for EU Directive and other anti-trafficking initiatives, enhanced cross-border and international cooperation, a network of MPs across Europe will be visible only on a long run - some concrete outcomes of the seminar are already observed:

- a. **raised awareness among participants** – including 11 parliamentarians - about the importance of the institution of National Rapporteur and its impact on quality of anti-trafficking work, MPs expressed their support for establishing an office of independent national rapporteur in their countries
  - participants have learned about the situation in other participants countries;
  - all MPs agreed upon building an European network of Parliamentarians against Human Trafficking and confirm their willingness to actively participated in it;
- b. **increased cooperation between MPs and NGOs**
  - all MPs exchange views and share experience with the leading NGOs from 7 EU countries; the most of them declared that they will continue to cooperate with NGOs afterward;
  - most of participants declared to inform their colleagues in their countries about the project and its initiatives, moreover, 3 of them already sent new contacts of MPs who will attend the next event(s);
  - Parliamentarians from Italy, Poland, Portugal and Romania declared their political and organisational/logistic support in organising the next project events;

The seminar laid the grounds for the future MPs network covering the most of EU countries.



## Conclusions

After the success of the first seminar and the Good Practice Exchange in The Hague, we are looking ahead to the regional seminar on legislation on victims protection that will be held in 22 March in Rome and the seminar on NRM in Warsaw, that will be held on 18 April 2012. The Hague Good Practice Exchange meeting was a very good follow up on the inaugural seminar, provided MPs with a platform to create the Parliamentarians against Human Trafficking network. This was the second of 11 events planned across Europe that will enable parliamentarians to learn good practice, share information and expand their contact with specialist NGOs and business leaders in Europe.



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