

Third seminar of the Parliamentarians against Human Trafficking project

Rome, 22 March 2012

ANTI TRAFFICKING LEGISLATION

ON PROTECTION OF VICTIMS

Venue

The seminar took place in Defence Committee Room, Italian Senate, *Palazzo Madama*, in the Italian Parliament and was hosted by the Italian Senate. The lunch was offered by the Italian Senate and hosted by Senator Filippo Berselli and Senator Alberto Maritati.

Participants

There were **44** participants from **10** countries attending the seminar. Out of them, there were **22** members of parliaments, including **10** MPs from Italy; **3** MPs came from UK, **2** from Slovenia and one parliamentarian each from Cyprus, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania and Spain. This composition of parliamentarians reflects a general tenet that the largest group of MPs will come from the host country. Also **8** NGOs representatives attended the seminar, including **4** Italian, **2** from Romania and one each from Slovenia and UK. Additionally, **two** prosecutors, **one** police officer and **two** EC experts on trafficking from Germany and the UK also took part in the event. Other participants were parliamentary clerks and assistants to MPs, interpreters, parliamentary staff and project staff.

Outcomes

22 parliamentarians constitute **22%** out of the final target that is to reach directly 100 parliamentarians. They came from 10 countries and that is **66%** of the final target of 15 countries.

Programme

The meeting kicked off with a welcome address from Senator Filippo Berselli, Chairman of the Italian Senate Justice Commission. Senator Berselli was then joined by Anthony Steen, Chairman of the Human Trafficking Foundation, who emphasised the importance of mobilising MPs across the EU to fight human trafficking. Three keynote speeches from key figures involved in the formulation and enforcement of anti-trafficking legislation in Italy were given. Firstly; The Italian experience on : Anti-



Trafficking Legislation on identification, protection and assistance to victims of Trafficking was delivered by Corrado Lembo, Deputy Prosecutor from the Court of Santa Maria Capua Vetere. Then, Prosecutor Giusto Sciacchitano, Deputy Prosecutor from the National Anti-Mafia Office spoke about “International collaboration in protection and assistance to victims of trafficking”. Finally, Senator Alberto Maritati delivered his keynote presentation on development perspectives of Anti-trafficking legislation on the protection of victims.

We were delighted by the attendance of Senator Renato Schifani, Speaker of the Italian Senate, who addressed the seminar to commend the work being done across Europe to tackle human trafficking.

Also the morning session programme included a panel discussion chaired by Baroness Butler Sloss. During ‘countries overview’ session, parliamentarians from Cyprus, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Spain and the UK shared their information on what is being done about victim identification, protection assistance and reintegration, as well as an update on work done in their countries since January’s seminar in The Hague.

This panel discussion was followed up by Q&A session chaired by Prof. Ryszard Piotrowicz, a member of EC Group of Experts on Trafficking.

The afternoon session was chaired by Baerbel Heidi Uhl, former chairperson of the EC Group of Experts on Trafficking and provided participants with the opportunity to hear detailed case studies on victim protection by Anna Bonifazi, Chief Office from the Carabinieri, and Maria Pia Vigilante, Chair of ‘La Giraffa’ NGO.

The seminar was concluded by Anthony Steen, Chairman of Human Trafficking Foundation and wrapped up by Stana Buchowska, PAHT Project Coordinator.

Networking reception

was held the night before seminar in the Leon’s Place Hotel, Rome and was attended by **26** participants.

Outcomes

Although 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 in the long run - some concrete outcomes of the seminar are already observable:



- a. **raised awareness among participants** – including 22 parliamentarians - about the legal aspects of victims, identification, assistance and protection. Participants have learned about the situation in other participants' countries;
- all MPs confirmed their willingness to continue to build a European network of Parliamentarians against Human Trafficking and to actively participate in it;
- b. **increased cooperation between MPs, NGOs and public authorities**
- all MPs exchanged views and shared experiences with the NGOs representatives, police, and prosecutor offices ;
 - Parliamentarians from Italy, Poland, Portugal and Romania declared their political and organisational/logistic support in organising the next project events;
- c. **The seminar enhanced the grounds for the future MPs network covering the most of EU countries.**

Conclusions

After the success of this seminar, we are looking ahead to the Warsaw seminar on the National Referral Mechanism which will be held on 18 April 2012. The number of 22 MPs from 10 European countries, who are interested in working to raise awareness of human trafficking and to prevent it, is really encouraging. This was the third of 10 events planned across Europe that will enable parliamentarians to learn good practice, share information and expand their contact with specialist NGOs, experts and business leaders in Europe.

