Rt Hon William Hague MP

Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

King Charles Street

London SW1A 2AH

DATE

**LONDON CONFERENCE**

**TUESDAY 16 OCTOBER, 2.30pm**

**CONFERENCE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS FROM EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTS**

First of all, I enjoyed reading your splendid article in the Council of British Chambers of Commerce in Europe magazine. In that connection, would you be willing yourself to open the first conference of its kind for around 100 parliamentarians from around the European Union? It will include the former Home Secretaries from Poland and Slovenia, the current leader of the Lower House in Romania, and parliamentarians from Finland, Greece, Estonia, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Portugal and Spain.

This is the end of the first year of the Commission funded experiment – it’s gone well. We’re bringing together academics, lawyers and NGOs doing pioneering work with victims and linked in closely with police. This is a two year programme, creating a Europe far more aware of the scale and horror of trafficking. Our APPG has played a major part in all the meetings and discussions.

Anthony Steen, our former colleague, is one of the moving spirits through the Human Trafficking Foundation which he now chairs. We all want very much to see you open in the inimitable way that only you can do. The reason is simple; you’re the only Minister who knows the history of this terrible scourge before it was outlawed in Wilberforce’s day.

I know the problems of committing so far ahead and the demands on your time. Would you be willing to consider this?

Peter Bone MP

Member of Parliament for Wellingborough