

**6th Annual International Symposium on Preventing Human Trafficking:
Strengthening Cooperation, Developing a Multilevel Approach**



Tuesday 1st December 2015

Thon Hotel Brussels City Centre,
Brussels



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Overview

Trafficking in human beings is one of the most critical international human rights issues of our time, which can be classified as a modern form of slavery. Almost every country in the world is affected by trafficking, whether as a country of origin, transit or destination for victims. Article 3 of the UNODC's 'Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons' defines trafficking in persons as the 'recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation'.

On the basis of this definition it is evident that the global scale of human trafficking is difficult to quantify, due to the hidden nature of the crime. It is important to highlight that there are different methodologies in the process of recording data, as well as conflicting differences between national legal definitions, which make it difficult to compare and assess trends across EU Member States. However, the International Labour Organization (ILO) estimates that 21 million people worldwide were trafficked this year, and numbers are not likely to decrease. In Europe, over the three years 2010-2012, 30,146 victims were registered in the 28 Member States with women and children particularly affected, representing 56% of victims of forced economic exploitation and 89% of forced commercial sexual exploitation. In addition to this, trafficking in human beings is often linked with other forms of organised crime and is considered the second source of illicit profits for organised criminals after those obtained from the drugs trade.

Moreover, progress in prosecution and conviction remains limited because of the complex nature of cases. This confirms the need to raise public awareness of trafficking, improve training in order to better identify victims, and develop better co-operation and multi-agency working – all are critical in the fight against trafficking. The modus operandi of criminal groups and traffickers is always evolving, and the increased use of the internet as a means of recruitment and trafficking poses serious challenges to police and other relevant services.

At EU level, there are two tools to act as guidance in the field of human trafficking: the 'EU Directive 2011/36' which lays down provisions to prevent trafficking, protect victims and prosecute traffickers and, to underpin this, the 'EU Strategy towards the Eradication of Trafficking in Human Beings 2012-2016', which sets out concrete and practical measures to be implemented over the next few years, placing victims at the forefront. At a global level, the Group of Experts on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings. This comprehensive framework has contributed to significantly scale down the phenomenon and reduce legal uncertainty but much more still needs to be done in order to permanently eradicate human trafficking in Europe.

With the current humanitarian crisis in the Mediterranean region and the proliferation of migrant smugglers, the risk of making immigrants easy prey for traffickers and exploiters in the countries where they seek asylum and fill the ranks of the victims of trafficking is stronger than ever. Therefore, it is of key importance that international, national and local organisations join forces to improve multi-agency cooperation to better help victims of human trafficking, track perpetrators and share information. In order to encourage greater political will, facilitate policy discussion and explore comprehensive solutions to properly recognise the needs of all victims of human trafficking, Public Policy Exchange is proud to host this annual symposium and welcomes the participation of all key partners, responsible authorities and stakeholders. The Symposium will support the exchange of ideas and encourage delegates to engage in thought-provoking topical debate.

“ When I took office as Commissioner in charge of Home Affairs almost five years ago, one of my main priorities was to work towards the eradication of trafficking in human beings. Back then, eradicating trafficking was not high on the political agenda and there was a lax attitude towards the crime in many countries. Today, we can be proud over what has been achieved to prevent this slave trade of our time. We have moved from words to real action. We must continue our work tirelessly, in Europe and beyond our borders. We owe it to the women, men, girls and boys who, as we speak, are being kept against their will and exploited in appalling conditions. Every victim of human trafficking is a victim too many.”

Cecilia Malmström, Commissioner, European Commission
May 2015

Venue and Accommodation

Thon Hotel Brussels City Centre
Avenue du Boulevard 17
1210 Brussels
Belgium



Why Attend?

- ✓ Discuss ongoing and future policy initiatives and priorities in Europe in the field of human trafficking
- ✓ Explore strategies to protect the victims of trafficking and efficiently prosecute criminals
- ✓ Investigate strategies to increase cooperation and coordination between EU States, civil society, law enforcement bodies as well as non-EU countries to gather reliable data and monitor the implementation of anti-trafficking policies
- ✓ Determine recommendations for future actions at policy and practical level and share best practice

Who Should Attend?

- EU Officials
- Border Agency Staff
- Police Service and Police Authorities
- Interpol
- Missing Persons Units
- Diplomatic Missions
- Visa and Consular Sections in National Administrations
- Travel and Transportation Industry
- Licensing Enforcement Officers
- Housing Officials
- Children and Youth Services
- Social Services
- Public Health Practitioners
- Asylum and Refugee Groups
- Domestic Violence Co-ordinators
- Crime Reduction Partnerships
- Victim Support Organisations
- Local, Regional and National Authorities
- Local Authority Officers and Councillors
- Governmental Departments and Agencies
- School Authorities and Local Education Welfare Authorities
- Workers and Employers Confederations
- Licensed Entertainment Industry and Private Sector Organisations
- Media Organisations
- Academics and Research Institutes
- Migration Organisations
- Criminal Justice Specialists
- Judges and Magistrates
- Legal Professionals
- Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences
- NGOs

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Programme

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| 09:15 | Registration and Morning Refreshments |
| 10:00 | Chair's Welcome and Opening Remarks |
| 10:10 | Combating Human Trafficking at EU Level – Current Challenges and Future Initiatives <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trafficking in Human Beings - Definitions, Figures and Policy Developments• Challenges of Implementation and State of Play of the EU Directive on Human Trafficking• Discussing the Mid-term Report on the Implementation of the 'EU Strategy Towards the Eradication of Trafficking in Human Beings'• Recommendations for Future Policy Actions |
| 10:40 | First Round of Discussions |
| 11:10 | Morning Coffee Break |
| 11:30 | Cross-border Law Enforcement: Establishing Prevention Strategies, Prosecuting Trafficking Offenders <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Addressing the Fragmentation of Legal Frameworks Across Europe for Trafficking Human Beings, Sexual and Labor Exploitation• Strengthening Cross-border Criminal Justice Systems and Cooperation between Enforcement Agencies• Assisting States in Developing an Effective Criminal Justice Response to Migrant Smuggling• Preventing the Exploitation of Workers During Recruitment: Regulation and Enforcement Models |
| 12:00 | Second Round of Discussions |
| 12:30 | Networking Lunch |
| 13:30 | Identifying, Protecting and Assisting Victims of Trafficking <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developing National Mechanisms to Identify and Assist Victims at an Early Stage• Detecting Different Forms of Exploitation and Referring Victims to Appropriate Services• Promoting Training for Professionals Operating in the Field• Promoting Legal, Physical and Psychological Support to Victims• The Role of Technology in Human Trafficking: New Forms of Recruitment and Exploitation, and Challenges for Victim Identification |
| 14:00 | Third Round of Discussions |
| 14:30 | Afternoon Coffee Break |
| 14:50 | Strengthening Multilevel Cooperation and Coordination Amongst Key Stakeholders <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enhancing Key Stakeholders Cooperation and Coordination to Combat Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling• Resisting Human Trafficking Along Migration Routes and Improving Border Management• Promoting Multilevel Partnerships: Sharing Best Practice• Recommendations for Future Policy Actions |
| 15:20 | Fourth Round of Discussions |
| 15:50 | Chair's Summary and Closing Comments |
| 16:00 | Networking Reception |
| 16:30 | Close |

** Please note that the programme is subject to change without notice*

Event Details

Date: Tuesday 1st December 2015
Time: 10:00am – 4:30pm
Venue: Thon Hotel Brussels City Centre, Brussels



Speakers Include:

- ✓ **Peter Josef von Bethlenfalvy**,
Founder and Executive Director, CEIPA

Forthcoming Events

- ✓ Inclusive Entrepreneurship in Europe:
Creating Sustainable Employment and Growth
24th September 2015
- ✓ Young People and Sexual Health:
Towards Improved Standards for
Sexual Education in Europe
21st October 2015
- ✓ Smart Cities: Supporting an Innovative
and Sustainable Development of
Urban Areas
27th October 2015
- ✓ Addressing Europe's Drug Problem:
Combating Drug Trafficking and
Substance Misuse
28th October 2015
- ✓ Delivering on EU Food Safety:
Promoting a Safe and Sustainable Agri-
Food Chain
17th November 2015
- ✓ Tackling Youth Unemployment in
Europe: Improving Outcomes for the
Young Generation
25th November 2015

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