



Follow-Up on Recommendations in the Vilnius Declaration

Annual Session 2010

**Third General Committee on Democracy,
Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions**

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for the Vice-Chair of the Committee, Mr. Robert Aderholt*

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Note on sources: In September 2009, the International Secretariat circulated a questionnaire to OSCE PA Delegations, asking for information on the implementation of OSCE PA recommendations. Unless otherwise referenced, information in this report can be found in the responses provided by parliaments, which are available from the OSCE PA International Secretariat. The International Secretariat wishes to thank those Delegations which provided answers, as well the OSCE Secretary General for information provided on behalf of the OSCE.

Third General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions: Resolutions and Recommendations

Introduction

Parliamentarians representing 50 OSCE participating States met in Vilnius from 29 June to 3 July 2009 to assess developments and challenges relating to security and co-operation, focusing on the general theme of *The OSCE: Addressing New Security Challenges*. In addition to addressing the human dimension of the general theme, the Third General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions passed resolutions dealing with protecting unaccompanied minors and combating the phenomenon of child begging, promoting human rights and civil liberties, election observation, the death penalty, aid and assistance to refugees, anti-Semitism, and freedom of expression.

This report considers actions taken by the OSCE and its participating States in relation to the OSCE PA's recommendations. With the strong support of parliamentary delegations and the OSCE governmental side, the report is intended to provide a general overview of relevant developments by participating States and the OSCE.

While the majority of the recommendations addressed here are found in the OSCE PA's Vilnius Declaration of July 2009, key themes from past Declarations have also been considered, to ensure greater continuity and scope. The International Secretariat would like to thank the delegations which responded to the OSCE PA International Secretariat's Questionnaire for their support; the information provided by these answers have been an invaluable source in our research. Responses from delegations are available from the International Secretariat, and PA members are encouraged to examine this valuable source of information, in the interests of continuing exchanges of best practice.

Human Trafficking, Protecting Children and Criminal Sentencing

I. Vilnius Declaration, Chapter III, Resolution on Co-operation for the Enforcement of Criminal Sentences, and Resolution on Protecting Unaccompanied Minors and Combating the Phenomenon of Child Begging

The Vilnius Declaration addresses the problem of human trafficking on multiple occasions. Chapter III of the Declaration, which deals with the humanitarian aspects of the global economic crisis, expresses concern that “women’s economic dependency on men, particularly in times of economic difficulty, makes women easy targets for oppression and abuse, as well as potential victims of prostitution and human trafficking.” It urges “the OSCE, its field missions and participating States to redouble efforts to combat trafficking in human beings through preventive programmes and increase public awareness.” The Resolution on Co-operation for the Enforcement of Criminal Sentences calls for international co-operation to develop minimum standards in criminal sentencing and ensure mutual recognition of sentences.

In Vilnius, OSCE parliamentarians also placed a particular focus on combating sexual abuse and exploitation of children as well as more generally protecting the rights of children and adolescents. The Resolution on Protecting Unaccompanied Minors and Combating the Phenomenon of Child Begging recommends, in particular, that “an OSCE representative with observer status should be present at all international fora dealing with protecting the rights of children and adolescents.”

II. OSCE Initiatives

Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

In 2009, the then OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Eva Biadet, met with National Authorities in Armenia, UK, Turkmenistan, Finland, Iceland and the Russian Federation to discuss action against trafficking in human beings. The Special Representative also implemented substantive country assessments in co-operation and agreement with individual participating States, including Spain, Romania and Kazakhstan.

The OSCE held a high-level conference on 14-15 September in Vienna with the intent of providing examples of best practices regarding the prevention of trafficking in human beings. The US Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, three UN Special Rapporteurs, as well as experts from the World Bank, the International Labour Organization, and the International Organization for Migration provided interventions to the conference.¹

¹ OSCE Conference: Prevention of Modern Slavery: "An Ounce of Prevention is Worth a Pound of Cure" Vienna, 14-15 September 2009, http://www.osce.org/conferences/prevention_09.html

On 10 December 2009 Ms. Biaudet presented to the Permanent Council a document entitled “An Agenda for Change: Implementing the Platform for Action against Human Trafficking,”² which noted the tremendous progress in the anti-trafficking arena. She also, however, drew attention to the many gaps and recognized the significant challenges that still remain. The report contains information on the progress of OSCE anti-trafficking efforts and sets forth the agenda for the next three years. Recently, the work of the Office has focused on three main issues: raising the public and political profile of combating trafficking in human beings, raising the visibility of OSCE action on trafficking in human beings, and integrating efforts to tackle trafficking in human beings. The report also called for prioritizing actions against child trafficking and trafficking for sexual exploitation, which remains the most common type of trafficking. Efforts to raise public awareness and the called-for focus on protecting children are fully in line with OSCE PA recommendations.

There has been increasing concern over the disappearance of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in recent years. These missing children often end up as victims of various types of exploitation including sexual exploitation and forced involvement in petty-crime, domestic slavery, or begging in the street. Two main socio-economic roots of this phenomenon were cited at the September Alliance against Trafficking in Persons Conference: marginalization and discrimination. Ms. Biaudet called upon the States to adopt new child-sensitive approaches to trafficking and to co-ordinate actions of OSCE Missions in all regions. Ms. Biaudet advocated for a number of urgent steps to be taken:

- Children must be protected regardless of their immigration status;
- Children should receive assistance, and not be subject to punishment or detention, as this also puts children at risk of various forms of exploitation;
- A decision regarding the safe return must be made for a child, based upon a process determining what is in the best interest of that child. The return of victims without proper risk assessment and best interest determination puts children at continued risk of re-trafficking.

During 2009 the Special Representative and her Office participated in more than 40 events, including conferences, seminars and meetings involving youth and students (One World Week, the Future of Childhood Conference, the International Affairs programme of the United World College of the Adriatic, etc).

In January 2010, Maria Grazia Giammarinaro (Italy) assumed the position as OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings. As one of her first acts, she addressed the PA’s Winter Meeting in February, where she called for multiple sides of the problem to be addressed, such as organized crime, migration, human rights protection, gender equality, development, and economic issues.

In response to a request for information, OSCE Secretary General Marc Perrin de Brichambaut indicated that the OSCE’s Strategic Police Matters Unit (SPMU) has been following up the

² OSCE Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, “An Agenda for Change: Implementing the Platform for Action Against Human Trafficking,” http://www.osce.org/publications/cthb/2009/12/41953_1410_en.pdf

events and practices it began in 2007 and 2008, aimed at improving law enforcement's response to counter sexual exploitation of children on the Internet. The SPMU has built a thematic portal within its POLIS online policing information system devoted to assisting participating States in finding information concerning the topic.

The Ministerial Council has remained engaged with the issue of combating exploitation of children for a number of years, but did not address this in 2009. The main documents containing the OSCE commitments with a central theme in the Organization's anti-trafficking work still remain: Addendum to the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings: Addressing the Special Needs of Child Victims of Trafficking for Protection and Assistance,³ the Ministerial Council Decision 15/06 on Combating Sexual Exploitation of Children⁴ and the Ministerial Council Decision 9/07 on Combating Sexual Exploitation of Children on the Internet.⁵

The OSCE Ministerial Council has also regularly adopted decisions related to human trafficking, mirroring OSCE PA concern over the problem. Starting from 2000, anti-trafficking Ministerial Decisions have called on the OSCE participating States to sign and ratify the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons. The OSCE has supported the efforts of participating States to adopt national legislation in accordance with the Trafficking in Persons Protocol.⁶ To date, 40 of the 56 participating States have ratified the protocol.

OSCE Field Activities

OSCE field missions are particularly active in working to combat trafficking in human beings. Work includes enhancing awareness of the issue, supporting legislative initiatives, and helping to co-ordinate national action, among other measures. For example, the OSCE Mission to Moldova hosts monthly Technical Co-ordination Meetings (TCMs) aimed at further co-ordination among anti-trafficking actors and to encourage an ongoing exchange of information about activities and initiatives in the field. Regional TCMs also include local public authorities and local civil society representatives.⁷

In October 2009 the Centre in Ashgabat organized a visit of representatives from Turkmenistan to Ukraine in order to discuss measures against human trafficking, how to organize help for victims of trafficking, and how to improve inter-state co-operation. This visit was part of activities organized by the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat aimed at raising awareness regarding combating trafficking in persons.⁸ The Centre also organized a seminar for law-enforcement

³ Adopted by the Ministerial Council in 2005

⁴ Adopted in 2006

⁵ Adopted in 2007

⁶ OSCE Strategic Police Matters Unit, Report by the OSCE Secretary General on Police-Related Activities of the OSCE Executive Structures up to the End of 2009

⁷ <http://www.osce.org/moldova/13429.html>

⁸ OSCE Press Release: OSCE Centre in Ashgabat promotes sharing of best practices to combat human trafficking <http://www.osce.org/item/40470.html>

bodies in order to discuss concrete cases of trafficking for purposes of labour and sexual exploitation.⁹

In April 2010 the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat helped organize a training course on how to prevent human trafficking and promote safe migration. The course trained 33 volunteers and staff from the National Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan and other civil society organizations representing Turkmenistan's five regions to teach others about preventing human trafficking.¹⁰ Also that month, the OSCE Presence in Albania provided training support to a seminar on compensation and victims' legal rights for 14 judges and prosecutors working on international standards. Held in co-operation with the Centre for Legal and Civic Initiatives and the School of Magistrates in Durres, the event aimed to increase public awareness of the rights of trafficked persons.¹¹

OSCE Co-operation with other Intergovernmental Organizations

The Special Representative works closely with United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on promoting the implementation of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially women and children. An additional UN partner of the OSCE working in this sphere is the UN Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN GIFT).

III. National Initiatives on Human Trafficking

Recognizing the importance of the human trafficking issue and understanding that many challenges remain in dealing with this topic, many participating States have introduced National Action Plans to implement national strategies designed to address the issue.¹² Topics such as the protection of victims, seeking asylum from trafficking, combating trafficking for sexual purposes, as well as the introduction of more preventive measures, increasing knowledge among the police and increasing national co-operation are generally addressed within National Action Plans. Some of the measures deal exclusively with efforts to curb sexual exploitation via the Internet and protecting children.

Many participating States have signed and ratified two major conventions against human trafficking: the UN Convention against Trafficking and Transnational Organized Crime's Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children and the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings.¹³

⁹ OSCE Press Release: OSCE Centre in Ashgabat organizes anti-trafficking seminar for law-enforcement bodies <http://www.osce.org/item/41293.html>

¹⁰ OSCE Centre in Ashgabat Press Release: OSCE Centre supports training course to prevent human trafficking in Turkmenistan, 27 April 2010, http://www.osce.org/ashgabat/item_1_43638.html

¹¹ OSCE Presence in Albania, Bi-weekly Report No. 317: 19 April – 2 May 2010, SEC. FR/220/10, 5 May 2010

¹² Norway, the UK, Sweden, the Republic of Slovenia, Romania.

¹³ For a full list of signatories and ratifications, see annexes 1 and 2.

Many efforts have been devoted to establishing national agencies working with protection of victims and their reintegration into society, protection of witnesses involved in cases of human trafficking, as well as running awareness campaigns.

Bilateral co-operation initiatives intended to curb trafficking in human beings have also been established. For example, the German parliament passed a law on the agreement between Germany and Vietnam regarding co-operation, while Andorra offered Ukraine 15 000 euro to assist in establishing a project for combating trafficking in human beings.

Hungary launched a campaign from March to June 2009 targeting the users of organized trafficking services, namely males between the ages of 24-45. The campaign was supported by the Ministry of Justice and Law Enforcement, National police and others. The measures utilized by the campaign included dissemination of information via postal mail, Internet, leaflets and distribution of products with slogans to the targeted group.

Legislation introduced in the United States aims to bring additional financial resources to fight the trafficking of children, by authorizing the U.S. Secretary of State to enter into three-year “Child Protection Compacts” with countries that are eager but financially unable to effectively combat trafficking within their borders. Congressman Chris Smith, who serves as the Assembly’s Special Representative on Human Trafficking Issues introduced this legislation to the House of Representatives in 2009 and OSCE PA Vice-President, Senator Ben Cardin introduced similar legislation in 2010.¹⁴

The French National Consultative Commission on Human Rights provided a full report focused on French legislation concerning trafficking and exploitation of human beings covering the period of time from 2007-2009. Despite the fact that France is party to several treaties and conventions, victims of trafficking and exploitation within France still face serious difficulties, it says. A clear distinction between the act of trafficking and the general exploitation of human beings should be adopted in the legislature, and the Commission calls upon France to apply the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, not the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants.

Two bills were introduced in the Canadian legislature in order to amend the Refugee Protection Act. The first introduces measures to provide assistance and protection to victims of human trafficking, whereas the other enables the issuing of temporary residence permits to victims of trafficking. Switzerland administers projects in the country of origin or transit of trafficking victims and is working to develop standards in international organizations (UNODC and OSCE) regarding human rights. In 2003 the National Office for Co-ordination against Human Trafficking within the National Police (Fedpol) was established to conduct exchanges with international experts and provide training for national and foreign staff.

Iceland has among other things concluded a co-operation agreement with the Icelandic Red Cross on measures to combat human trafficking in Moldova. It has also taken progressive steps to tighten legislation within this field. In the spring of 2009, an Action Plan Against Human

¹⁴ “Vice-President Cardin and Special Representative Smith introduce legislation to combat child trafficking,” *News from Copenhagen* No. 340, 7 April 2010

Trafficking entered into force. The plan consists of nine actions of protection, prosecution and prevention. Among them is to the intention to ratify the European Convention on Action against Human Trafficking, to provide protection and aid to victims of human trafficking, banning the operation of strip clubs and purchasing sexual services.

The Spanish EU Presidency, the Swedish Ministry of Justice and the International Organization for Migration organized the 3rd National Networking Meeting in March 2010 in Madrid, Spain. The Meeting took place within the framework of the project “Towards Global EU Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings”, implemented by the Swedish Ministry of Justice in co-operation with the International Organization for Migration in Vienna, and with financial support from the European Commission.¹⁵

IV. National Initiatives on Protecting Unaccompanied Minors and Combating the Phenomenon of Child Begging, and Co-operation for the Enforcement of Criminal Sentences

For providing immediate reaction and improving the protection of children, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Estonia and France have established alert systems to detect situations dangerous to the well-being of children. In France various ministries, mass media, transportation companies as well as NGOs have signed an agreement to co-operate efficiently in case of a kidnapped minor. The alert can be launched if the following criteria are met:

- The act of kidnapping is proven.
- There is a real danger for the victim’s life.
- The victim is a minor.
- The prosecutor has information which can help to locate either the victim or the offender.

The message with the information is distributed through different channels, such as media outlets, messages on roads, voice messages in railway stations and the metro, and Internet sites.

Canada and the UK have introduced a national register in order to better protect the public and investigate crimes of a sexual nature more effectively. The National Sex Offender Registry has been in action since 2003, however, the draft introduced to the Canadian House of Commons has been suspended since the Parliament prorogued in December.

With respect towards fundamental rights and freedoms of young workers, Turkey and Estonia highlighted their ratification of the International Labour Organization Convention “Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour”. Similarly, Slovenia, Turkey and Hungary note that they joined the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols.

¹⁵ International Organization for Migration, 3rd National Networking Meeting, Towards EU Global Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, http://www.iomvienna.at/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=426%3A3-national-networking-meeting-toward-global-eu-action-against-trafficking-in-human-beings-5-maerz&catid=71%3Amenschenhandel&lang=en

Many countries expressed their concern regarding the sexual abuse of children and initiated a variety of measures intended to prevent the crime and help the victims re-integrate into society. Many Internet resources were created to raise awareness and provide information. In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia 30 trainings were organized to teach educators and psychologists how to identify children who may have been victims of sexual abuse. Taking into consideration the importance of the media in this issue, two training sessions were organized with 33 journalists on reporting about cases of violence against children. One of the most important outcomes of the training sessions is joint work on a draft code of conduct for the journalists when reporting on this subject. Monaco has signed a UN Protocol to combat exploitation and sexual abuse of children, child pornography and the child slave market.

In an attempt to harmonize the national policies and develop common practices, many participating States undertook a variety of initiatives both on the national and international level. The Council of Europe's European Committee on Crime Problems provided experts to comment on this issue. The activities of the Committee include: keeping abreast of the work of the conventions and commenting on best practices in their practical application; and examination of various steps and initiatives to improve the efficiency of international co-operation in criminal law.

The EU Framework Decision of February 2005 which refers to the principle of mutual recognition of financial penalties has been introduced into the national legal systems of some participating States, such as Germany, Luxembourg, Romania, Poland and the UK. Also, a number of countries have expressed their intention to establish bilateral agreements for legal assistance and co-operation, paying particular attention to the issues of extradition and transportation of criminals.

Election Observation

I. Vilnius Declaration, Resolution on Election Observation

The Resolution on Election Observation called upon the Parliamentary Assembly to continue to provide political leadership to OSCE election observation missions and urged participating States to fully honour their commitment to inviting the OSCE, including the OSCE PA and ODIHR, to observe national elections. It also called upon ODIHR to step up its efforts to prepare guidelines for the observation of electronic voting.

Furthermore, the Declaration called upon ODIHR, in consultation with the OSCE PA, to prepare a discussion paper on guidelines for the observation of voter registration. Finally, it called upon the Director of ODIHR to report to the Permanent Council and the Parliamentary Assembly on general trends with regards to the follow-up and implementation of recommendations of OSCE election observation missions.

II. OSCE Initiatives

OSCE participating States have continued to invite observers to monitor their national election proceedings and the OSCE PA has continued to provide political leadership to OSCE election

observation activities. The Assembly has worked closely with ODIHR on the basis of the 1997 Co-operation Agreement, as well as with other international parliamentary institutions. OSCE PA Members have been appointed by the OSCE Chairmanship as Special Co-ordinators to lead the OSCE short-term observation missions in Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Ukraine, Tajikistan and the United Kingdom. However, in January 2010, OSCE PA President Joao Soares reported to the Chairman-in-Office, the Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan Kanat Saudabayev, regarding certain problems encountered in co-operation with ODIHR. The President noted his disappointment that ODIHR refuses the idea that the OSCE works as one unified organization on observation missions, comprising the OSCE PA and ODIHR. He expressed concern that the ODIHR leadership refused to have the OSCE logo appear on the document issued by an observation mission, instead insisting that the ODIHR and the OSCE PA logos appear separately, side-by-side.

Following a request for information, ODIHR Director Janez Lenarcic informed that ODIHR is preparing a handbook on the observation of voter registration, which is expected to be produced during 2010. He also indicated that, following previous work on the topic, ODIHR expected to produce guidelines for observation of electronic voting in the course of 2010, however this has not been conducted in consultation with the OSCE PA.

At Working Session 16 of the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting of the OSCE in September/October 2009 it was noted that the Elections Department of ODIHR has continued to focus on the core activities of election observation and technical assistance. In the future, the Elections Department of the ODIHR suggested more of a focus on the training of observers, including LTOs. Finally, it was said that the ODIHR's election observation might be refined with particular focus on campaign financing.

In October 2009, Ambassador Lenarcic reported to the Permanent Council that ODIHR had undertaken follow-up activities in Belarus, Georgia, Montenegro, and Kazakhstan, and planned others in Albania, Moldova and Kyrgyzstan, and had prepared comments on electoral legislation in Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Ukraine. The ODIHR Director has not yet reported to the Parliamentary Assembly in regard to follow-up of election observation missions.

III. National Initiatives / Best Practices

In keeping with its OSCE commitments, in April 2010 the United Kingdom for the first time invited the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to observe its national elections. The invitation followed the UK's 2006 Electoral Administration Act, which specifically introduced provisions for observers to be accredited to attend polling stations and the vote count. Accepting the UK's invitation, the OSCE PA deployed an observation mission for the UK's 6 May parliamentary elections, which included Members of Parliament from Azerbaijan, Georgia, Italy, Kazakhstan, Portugal, Russia and Tajikistan. It was the first time that the PA had observed a British election and was also the first time a PA observation consisted of a majority of parliamentarians from the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Moratorium on the Death Penalty

I. Vilnius Declaration, Resolution on Moratorium on the Death Penalty and Towards its Abolition

In the resolution adopted during the Vilnius Session, the OSCE PA condemns all executions wherever they take place, and calls upon participating States that currently retain the death penalty to declare an immediate moratorium on executions. Specifically, the resolution calls upon Belarus and the Government of the United States of America to adopt a moratorium on executions, as well as on Kazakhstan and Latvia to amend their Criminal Codes with a view to complete abolition. The resolution also encourages awareness-raising activities against recourse to the death penalty, including by the ODIHR and OSCE missions.

II. OSCE Initiatives

The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights develops, conducts and provides support to awareness-raising campaigns. ODIHR also conducts training on relevant international human rights mechanisms for national lawyers who deal with death penalty cases. ODIHR published on 29 September 2009 its tenth annual background paper on “The Death Penalty in the OSCE Area.”¹⁶ Covering the period 1 July 2008 until 30 June 2009, the paper is based primarily on information provided by the participating States and highlights developments that have occurred since the last publication. The report provides detailed information on the legal status of capital punishment in each of the OSCE’s 56 participating States.

OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting

At the 2009 OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting held from 29 September to 9 October in Warsaw, Working Session Four addressed a range of issues including the abolition of capital punishment. During the session many speakers called for the abolition of capital punishment, and for an immediate moratorium on its use. The death penalty resolution in the Vilnius Declaration was broadly welcomed. Some speakers highlighted the need for more awareness-raising exercises in the OSCE area.

Recommendations coming out of the discussion broadly followed the recommendations in the OSCE PA resolution of July 2009.

Recommendations included:

- All participating States which still maintain the possibility to apply capital punishment should abolish it for all crimes;
- There should be a moratorium on the death penalty and an affirmation of the right to life;
- National parliaments should form coalitions against the death penalty.

¹⁶ “The Death Penalty in the OSCE Area,” Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, 29 September 2009, http://www.osce.org/publications/odihr/2008/09/33276_1187_en.pdf

III. National Trends and Initiatives

OSCE participating States have committed themselves to keeping the question of capital punishment open and to exchange information on the abolition of the death penalty. In recent years increasing numbers of OSCE States have abolished the death penalty and in the States that retain it, its use appears to be on the decline.

In some OSCE participating States the death penalty is retained in law but there is a moratorium on executions, such as in Kazakhstan,¹⁷ the Russian Federation and Tajikistan, while executions may legally be carried out during wartime in Latvia. The two OSCE States that retain the use of capital punishment, Belarus and the United States, have not issued moratoriums and continued to carry out executions in the reporting period. In U.S. there were 52 documented executions in 2009.¹⁸ Two executions were reportedly carried out in Belarus in March 2010.

Despite the continued use of the death penalty, it is clear that the practice is on the decline throughout the OSCE area, with Amnesty International praising the fact that no executions took place in Europe in 2009,¹⁹ and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) documenting that the use of capital punishment is also receding in the United States. The ACLU states in a report released in March 2010 that “A growing number of [U.S.] states are choosing permanent imprisonment over the death penalty ... In 2009 the number of new death sentences nationwide reached the lowest level since the death penalty was reinstated in 1976.”²⁰

The issue of capital punishment was a priority during the Swiss Council of Europe presidency, and they are launching a campaign to abolish the death penalty in Belarus. Switzerland launched several initiatives such as a United Nations resolution on Moratorium on the Death Penalty. Also, Switzerland hosted the fourth World Congress Against Death Penalty in Geneva in February 2010.

Maternal Mortality

I. Vilnius Declaration, Resolution on Maternal Mortality

Lamenting that there has been “no significant progress in achieving the fifth goal of the Millennium Declaration of 2000 calling for a 75 per cent reduction in global maternal mortality by 2015,” the Vilnius Declaration calls on OSCE participating States “to make stronger and more consistent efforts to reduce maternal mortality both at home and abroad through greater financial investment and participation in global initiatives.” It also urges the United Nations, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to remain seized of the matter.

¹⁷ “(...)Noting that an amendment of 21 May 2007 to the Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan abolished the death penalty in all cases save for acts of terrorism entailing loss of life and for especially grave crimes committed in wartime(...)”, the OSCE PA, Vilnius Declaration 2007

¹⁸ “Death Sentences and Executions 2009,” Amnesty International, <http://www.amnesty-eu.org/static/documents/2010/AIDeathSentencesandExecutions09.pdf>

¹⁹ “Death Sentences and Executions 2009,” Amnesty International, <http://www.amnesty-eu.org/static/documents/2010/AIDeathSentencesandExecutions09.pdf>

²⁰ “Death in Decline ’09,” ACLU of Northern California, 29 March 2010, http://aclunc.org/docs/criminal_justice/death_penalty/death_in_decline_09.pdf

II. International Trends

According to the World Health Organization's latest data, from 2005, in 56 of the 68 priority countries where 98 per cent of maternal deaths occur, mortality ratios are still high, exceeding 300 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births. The global maternal mortality ratio is 400 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births versus 430 in 1990. The WHO notes that this average annual decrease is less than one per cent, far below the 5.5 per cent annual decline that is required to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.²¹

According to UN information, throughout most of the Central Asian republics, the maternal mortality rate is greater than 100 deaths for every 100,000 live births. However the official figures from Uzbekistan show a much better situation. In many developing countries cultural and religious taboos, as well as shortages of qualified health personnel aggravates the situation.²²

However, a study by *The Lancet*, a leading British medical journal, found that the rate at which women die in childbirth or soon after delivery has fallen by about 40 per cent since 1980, with dramatic reductions in India, China, Brazil and Egypt. *The Lancet* study, published in May 2010, found that there were 342,900 maternal deaths worldwide in 2008, down from 526,300 in 1980,²³ indicating substantial progress in recent years towards the Millennium Development Goals. "Although only 23 countries are on track to achieve a 75% decrease in MMR by 2015," *The Lancet* concluded, "countries such as Egypt, China, Ecuador, and Bolivia have been achieving accelerated progress."

III. National Trends and Initiatives

Several countries declared that their policies were based around the development goals of the UN Millennium Declaration, two of which are directly related to reproductive health issues. Romania and Belgium support their partners with both material and financial aid, which enables them to develop their own health programmes designed to reduce maternal death rate. Other governments put their efforts into improving the health care system within their own countries addressing such issues as: prenatal care, care for working women and for postnatal care. However, the maternal mortality trend is not necessarily positive necessarily throughout the OSCE area.

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia acknowledges that the maternal mortality rates decreased very slowly during the past 10 years.²⁴ Antenatal health care covers 96 per cent of pregnant women. In 2009 the National Perinatal Committee with technical support from UNICEF conducted a study and drafted a Perinatal Health Strategy. The Ministry of Health has been working on a Reproductive Health Strategy where safe motherhood is listed as one of the

²¹ World Health Organization, Millennium Development Goal 5,
http://www.who.int/making_pregnancy_safer/topics/mdg/en/index.html

²²RFE/RL: UN Conference Highlights Failures To Reduce Maternal Deaths, 28 October 2009
http://www.rferl.org/content/UN_Conference_Highlights_Failures_To_Reduce_Maternal_Deaths/1863374.html

²³ The Lancet, Volume 375, Issue 9726, Pages 1609 - 1623, 8 May 2010

²⁴ National Response of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, p. 35

priorities, broadening the Mother and Child Health Care Programme as well as upgrading medical equipment.

As president of the G-7/G-8 for 2010 Canada made improving the health of women and children, particularly the reduction of maternal and infant mortality in the world's poorest nations its priority. Efforts include: promoting clean water, better nutrition and training of health workers. Canada has also contributed to the multi-donor maternal health initiative led by UNICEF and the Afghan Ministry of Public Health to reduce maternal mortality throughout Afghanistan and deliver a safe motherhood information campaign.

Together with international partners the government of the United Kingdom is playing a pivotal role in the UN Secretary General's "Joint Effort" on maternal, newborn and child health. The Joint Effort aims to build on current commitments and develop a Global Action Plan to be agreed at the 2010 UN General Assembly. The UK Department for International Development is in the process of developing a new reproductive and maternal health strategy paper to accelerate progress on maternal health which incorporates lessons from a review of our project portfolio and which will guide DFID's future investments and feed into country plans.

Amnesty International recently released a report documenting that maternal mortality ratios have increased in the United States from 6.6 deaths per 100,000 live births in 1987 to 13.3 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2006, although they note that some of the recorded increase is due to improved data collection. "More than two women die every day in the USA from complications of pregnancy and childbirth," Amnesty International notes.²⁵

Aid and Assistance to Refugees

I. Vilnius Declaration, Resolution on Aid and Assistance to Refugees

In the Vilnius Declaration the OSCE PA urged participating States to undertake the necessary action in order to lend economic and material support to United Nations intervention to promptly provide aid to refugees in areas of armed conflict, civil war, natural disasters or persecution. Additionally, the Parliamentary Assembly urged the recognition of refugee status and the provision of aid and assistance as close as possible to refugees' country of origin.

II. OSCE/UNHCR Work

The situation of refugees in the OSCE region was addressed during the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in September-October 2009. A representative of the UN High Commission for Refugees reported during the meeting that at the end of 2008, globally, around 42 million people were forcibly displaced, which included 15.2 million refugees, while the total number of internally displaced people as a result of armed conflict was estimated at 26 million. Of that number, 4.75 million persons of the UNHCR's concern are in the OSCE region.²⁶

²⁵ Amnesty International: *Deadly Delivery – The maternal health care crisis in the USA*, 2010.

²⁶ "Refugee Protection and Displacement in the OSCE Region – Commitments for Protection and Solutions", UNHCR Contribution to the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting 2009, Warsaw, 28 September to 9 October 2009, http://www.osce.org/documents/odhr/2009/09/39804_en.pdf

Among the 4.75 million people of the UNHCR's concern in the OSCE region, there are 2.5 million refugees and asylum seekers, 1.3 million internally displaced persons and more than 900,000 returnees, stateless and other persons of concern.²⁷ Many of those stateless are in the CIS region. Particular concern was expressed regarding the statelessness of 706,000 persons in 2008 in the OSCE region; stateless people around the world whose protection needs are generally poorly understood are often subject to a protracted delay until a solution is found.

The UNHCR has continued to support states amending existing legislation in the OSCE region to align their national legislation with international refugee law, standards and good practice, including, *inter alia*, Denmark, Ireland, the Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom. Noting that stateless persons are present in many of the OSCE countries, it is expected that identification and registration of them can help facilitate the acquisition of nationality for these people, such as the large scale projects that exist in Ukraine, the Russian Federation, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. There are successful examples of the OSCE-UNHCR co-operation in South-Eastern Europe, Southern Caucasus, parts of Central Asia, and in Eastern Europe.

The UNHCR representative outlined that resettlement is a key protection tool, and noted that while it only benefits a small number of refugees overall, 86 per cent of the total number of all resettled refugees in the period 1999-2008 were resettled to the OSCE region.

At the 2009 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, the following recommendations were made regarding refugees and internally displaced persons in the OSCE area:

- The OSCE, especially the Office of High Commissioner on National Minorities, should give special attention to the solution of the situation of refugees and internally displaced persons resulting from the conflict in Georgia in August 2008;
- OSCE participating States should review the implementation of OSCE commitments concerning migrants, refugees and IDPs and discuss gaps.

The OSCE PA 2009 Resolution on labor migration called for greater co-ordination in regional policies, and for improved national efforts to fight hate crimes against labor migrants in host countries.²⁸

III. National Initiatives

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia reports that it has adopted a comprehensive set of legal acts. The institutions in the country assume a range of obligations regarding the care and accommodation of asylum seekers which is supported by a separate chapter in the National Budget. For example, a shelter for asylum seekers has been operational since 2008. Integration

²⁷ "Refugee Protection and Displacement in the OSCE Region – Commitments for Protection and Solutions", UNHCR Contribution to the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting 2009, Warsaw, 28 September to 9 October 2009, http://www.osce.org/documents/odihr/2009/09/39804_en.pdf

²⁸ For follow-up action in regards to this resolution, please see the Interim Follow-Up Report prepared for the First Committee, "Political Affairs and Security"

of refugees is guided by the Strategy on Integration of the Refugees and Foreigners 2008-2015 and the Action Plans from the Strategy. Broad support including accommodation, employment, education, healthcare, social protection and management of the process of integration is provided.

Lithuania reported that it guarantees legal aid to asylum seekers and Romania hosts an Emergency Transit Center in Timisoara. Slovenia gives financial support, education and health care to refugees. The United Kingdom recently renewed its commitment to support refugees by the publication of a refugee strategy document and it runs the Gateway Resettlement Programme in partnership with the UNHCR. Hungary is planning to implement a work force programme to give more effective access of refugees to the labour market. The Government of Estonia is compiling a national action plan in 2010 to define and create strategies that take into account a gender perspective in international missions and development aid. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs oversees the working group created to accomplish this plan.

Tolerance questions / Non-discrimination

I. Vilnius Declaration, Resolution on Anti-Semitism, Resolution on Divided Europe Reunited: Promoting Human Rights and Civil Liberties in the OSCE Region in the 21st Century

The OSCE PA continued previous work on combating intolerance in the OSCE region with a resolution in Vilnius on anti-Semitism. In this resolution, OSCE parliamentarians call on the OSCE to seek methods by which to co-ordinate the response of participating States to combat the use of the Internet to promote incitement to hatred. Endorsing the declaration of the London Conference on Combating Anti-Semitism, the PA reaffirms that, “with the support of the OSCE, measures must be adopted to assess the effectiveness of existing policies and mechanisms in countering anti-Semitism, including the establishment of publicly accessible incident reporting systems, and the collection of statistics on anti-Semitism.”

II. OSCE Initiatives

At Working Session Ten of the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting of the OSCE in September/October 2009 one of the main topics addressed was combating anti-Semitism. It was mentioned that data gathering is a fundamental pre-requisite to identifying responses to hate crimes, since reporting on hate crime still needs much improvement.²⁹ Community policing needs to be improved as well, and participating States were called upon to make a real commitment toward using community policing.

Recommendations for action within this field included a call for a Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting to focus on the problem of anti-Semitism during the first quarter of 2010.

²⁹ “Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, Consolidated Summary”, OSCE, Warsaw 28 September – 9 October 2009

17th OSCE Ministerial Council

The OSCE Ministerial Council Decision 09/09 on Hate Crime “tasks the ODIHR to explore and in co-operation with relevant international organizations and civil society partners, the potential link between the use of the Internet and bias-motivated violence and the harm it causes as well as eventual practical steps to be taken.”³⁰

Broadly in line with OSCE PA recommendations, the Ministerial Council urged participating States to:

- Collect, maintain and make public, reliable data on hate crimes and violent manifestations of intolerance;
- Enact specific legislation to combat hate crimes, providing for effective penalties that take into account the gravity of such crimes;
- Take appropriate measures to encourage victims to report hate crimes, recognizing that under-reporting of hate crimes prevents States from devising efficient policies;
- Conduct awareness raising and education efforts directed towards communities and civil society groups that assist victims of hate crimes;
- Nominate a national point of contact on hate crimes to periodically report to the ODIHR reliable information and statistics on hate crimes.

The OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) recalls that “we cannot increase security in Europe without looking at minority issues.”³¹ The HCNM intends to resume a study of integration policies for “new minorities” requested by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Edinburgh 2004. The HCNM task will be to focus on the “how” of integration and to develop integration guidelines for OSCE states.³²

On 22 March, the ODIHR organized a meeting on "Incitement to hatred vs. freedom of expression: Challenges of combating hate crimes motivated by hate on the Internet." The meeting brought together some 100 experts from the OSCE's 56 participating States to discuss legal issues and practical challenges in combating Internet-inspired hate crimes, review successful examples of prosecuting such crimes and share good practices in addressing the phenomenon. Participants were urged by the Director of the ODIHR to remember that the fight against cyber hate must be stepped up without infringing on free speech.³³

III. National Initiatives

OSCE participating States have initiated bills to eliminate hate crimes violence and discrimination. Also broad measures against anti-Semitism and education on the Holocaust were

³⁰ The 17th OSCE Ministerial Council, 2 December 2009, Decision no. 09/09

³¹ Address by Knut Vollebaek HCNM 23 February 2010, accessed 21 May 2010, http://www.osce.org/documents/hcnm/2010/02/43088_en.pdf

³² Address by Knut Vollebaek HCNM 18 February 2010, accessed 21 May 2010, http://www.osce.org/documents/hcnm/2010/02/43085_en.pdf

³³ OSCE Press Release: Fight against cyber hate must be stepped up without infringing on free speech, director of OSCE rights body says, www.osce.org

taken. A thorough overview of events related to Holocaust memorial actions can be found in the report “Holocaust Memorial Days in the OSCE Region - An overview of governmental practices,” produced by the ODIHR earlier this year.³⁴

The Andorran Ministry of Foreign Affairs has appointed a representative who is responsible for collecting information on hate crimes and responds annually to the ODIHR’s questionnaire regarding hate crimes and the governmental activities undertaken to promote tolerance and non-discrimination.³⁵

Recently, the Belgian Centre of Studies and Documentation of War and Contemporary Society (CEGES) published a report indicating that the Belgian authorities were not powerless under the German occupation in World War Two to prevent the policy of anti-Semitism. Senators Philippe Mahoux and Alain Destexhe and members of the Belgium delegation to the OSCE PA have drafted a resolution recognizing the responsibility of Belgian authorities for persecution of Jews in Belgium.

The German Government also works on strengthening the understanding of the importance of visiting the memorials of victims of National Socialism in Poland, the Czech Republic and other countries. The Federal Government’s Memory of Victims of National Socialism youth programme is co-funded by Israel, Poland and the Czech Republic. Furthermore the Czech Republic has established an Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes and Security Services Archive.³⁶

A joint commission on national and ethnic minorities was established in 2009 in Poland, as well as a monitoring team the National Programme. General education curricula on xenophobia, anti-Semitism, racism and chauvinism and tolerance of other cultures have been developed. With it came educational materials on the history of Jews and anti-Semitism in Europe. Poland’s Institute of National Remembrance - Commission for the Prosecution of Crimes against the Polish Nation (IPN) set up in 1998 is responsible for collecting and managing the records of the security organs during the Cold War; investigations of Nazi and communist crimes; and educational activity. The IPN co-operates with other NGOs like the KARTA Centre Foundation which work on the same field.

In order to improve transparency and ensure education on totalitarian history, a number of participating States have launched a campaign to organize commemorative events in various educational institutions and include studies of the two world wars and the Holocaust in curricula. National institutes to study and provide information on historical and political archives were established in Luxembourg, Slovenia, and the Czech Republic among other countries. At the end of 2008 the Romanian Government, for example, created the Study Centre on Communism and Post-Communism including the Institution for Investigating the Crimes of Communism and the Memory of the Romanian Exile.

³⁴ ODIHR: Holocaust Memorial Days in the OSCE Region - An overview of governmental practices, January 2010, www.osce.org

³⁵ The responses of Andorra can be found at: www.tandis.odihr.pl

³⁶ National response of the Czech Republic, item D

To be able to discuss human rights and equality issues, while examining the changing nature of conflict between countries and peoples, children in the United Kingdom learn about the impact and nature of the two world wars and the Holocaust. Also, according to the Hate Crime Action plan the UK has committed to working with partners within ODIHR to seek common responses from OSCE participating States relating to relationships with Internet Service Providers and sharing of information within OSCE participating States.

The Swiss Service for Combating Racism (SCRA) co-ordinates all preventative action against racism, anti-Semitism and xenophobia. The SCRA finances projects, provides expertise and facilitates exchanges of contact details of organizations and special services. Since 2004 Switzerland has been part of the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research. On every 27 January Swiss schools hold commemoration services on the liberation of the concentration camp “Auschitz-Birkenau”.

The Living History Forum is a Swedish public authority established in 2003 which, using the Holocaust and other crimes against humanity as a starting point, works with issues on tolerance, democracy and human rights from both a national and international perspective. The focus of the Forum’s activities is to increase especially young people’s knowledge about the Holocaust and to promote democracy, tolerance and human rights through exhibitions, seminars, debates, lectures and its own reference library open to the public. It provides training courses for teachers and supports the development and use of teaching materials. Early in 2010 the Swedish Riksdag also voted in favour of a proposal from the Government to abolish the period of limitation for the crimes of genocide and gross crimes against international law.

In 2008, a report on hate crime in Iceland was published. The report is an overview of the work that the OSCE has been carrying out since the Ministerial Council endorsed the Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Decision No. 4/13 in Maastricht in 2003. The report also covers the responsibility of the National Commissioner of the Police as a National Point of Contact for Hate Crimes. Various recommendations are made in the report, including suggested changes to the Constitution, amendments to the General Penal Code, a more rigid recording of hate crimes and improving awareness among Police officers and employees in the Judiciary system.

Slovenia reported that it signed the European Council Framework Decision of 2008 to combat certain forms and expressions of racism and xenophobia. A study Centre for National Reconciliation for studying totalitarian history was also established in 2009. Its main task is to study and document the violations of fundamental human rights and freedoms, which were caused by totalitarian regimes in Slovenia in the 20th century. Romania is a member of the Task Force for International Co-operation on Holocaust Education Remembrance and Research. At present the national policy in this field is based on a comprehensive legal framework which includes the principles of non-discrimination and gender equality as core principles. Attention is paid to the situation of the Roma minority especially regarding education and cohesion.

In 2005 the Government of Liechtenstein decided to introduce an annual public Holocaust Memorial Day in Liechtenstein on 27 January in order to institutionalize the enhancement of public awareness. Special attention has been paid to education in schools, among other things by improving teaching materials by taking into account the research results on recent Liechtenstein

history by an Independent Commission of Historians, which conducted a study on the role of Liechtenstein in the Second World War. Liechtenstein developed a national action plan against racism in 2003, which focused on raising awareness of different forms and origins of racism and on the implementation of a comprehensive integration policy.

In the Republic of Cyprus, the Ombudsman's duties have been extended so that the office is now an independent authority to deal with and decide upon discrimination matters. The Cyprus police force has established a special office for combating discrimination with a special training for officers in this field. At the same time mechanisms for investigating complaints against police misconduct have been also introduced.

In 2009 Estonia became a member of the UN's Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) where it also held the vice-presidency in 2009, bringing particular focus to the rights of women and indigenous nations. It also co-operates closely with UN special rapporteurs, OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM), Council of Europe human rights commissioner and EC rapporteurs against racism and intolerance. In 2009 the Minister of Foreign Affairs Toomas Paet and OSCE HCNM Knut Vollebaek co-hosted a regional expert round table for presenting the so-called Bolzano/Bozen package of recommendations.

In November 2009 the French Labour Minister outlined methods for achieving gender equality in work places. He suggested the introduction of sanctions for enterprises which violate this condition. The Minister said that he hopes to introduce this practice legally in the first trimester of 2010. He also expressed his hope for increasing the number of women in top-level-managerial positions by establishing quotas and special rules concerning the representation of women.

Freedom of Opinion and Expression

I. Vilnius Declaration, Resolution on Strengthening OSCE Engagement on Freedom of Opinion and Expression and Resolution on Freedom of Expression on the Internet

The OSCE PA's Resolution on Strengthening OSCE Engagement on Freedom of Opinion and Expression underlines the need for mutual co-operation between the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media and the participating States for development of the media, undertaking projects aimed at capacity building and training for media outlets and promoting dialogue between the media and the government. The victims of violations of media rights should have an effective remedy; acts of violence and threats, as well as terrorist acts against journalists are to be investigated and those responsible should be brought to justice.

In its Resolution on Freedom of Expression on the Internet, the OSCE PA calls upon the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media to monitor the policies and practices of participating States regarding the free flow of information and ideas relating to political, religious or ideological opinion or belief on the Internet, including Internet censorship, blocking and surveillance. It also requests the OSCE Chair-in-Office to draw additional attention to the issue of Internet censorship, blocking and surveillance by convening a Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting or similar meeting focused on these and related issues.

II. OSCE Initiatives

Representative on Freedom of the Media

In response to a request for information on work in this field, the then OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Miklos Haraszi noted with regret the failure of the participating States to adopt the Draft Ministerial Council Decision “On Fostering Freedom of the Media and Enhancing Pluralism”, prepared by his Office. The decision was meant to boost pluralism, combat violence against media workers and fight intimidation of investigative journalism and critical opinion.

Dunja Mijatovic of Bosnia and Herzegovina was appointed OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media on 11 March 2010. Ms. Mijatovic has continued to speak out against pressure against independent journalists and provided commentary on draft legislation of OSCE participating States within related fields.

The Declaration from the OSCE’s 12th Central Asia Media Conference, “Calls on governments to facilitate the freer and wider dissemination of information, including through modern information and communication technologies, so as to ensure wide access of the public to government information.”

Human Dimension Implementation Meeting

During the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in September-October 2009, Mr. Haraszi expressed his concern regarding the lack of pluralism in the media as well as the continued criminalization of libel and insult and the massive fines designed to put media outlets out of business. For those countries that have adopted strict laws on the media, Mr. Haraszi drew particular attention to the fact that the goal of limiting terrorism often serves as an improper basis for laws that seek to curb free speech. He warned against combining crimes with political disputes or criticism on the Internet.

III. National Initiatives

To enhance access to information, in mid-2009 the United Kingdom published the Digital Britain White Paper to set the Government’s policy for a universal service commitment. This document was also designed to set a route map for a National Plan (launched early 2010) on digital participation.

Hungary has adopted a new Civil Code which aims to protect journalists and the editorial offices for the content of their reports, if sources are cited. This provision is intended to ensure that the media itself is not necessarily held responsible for the accuracy of the content it conveys, only for accuracy in communicating this content.

Luxembourg informed that it recently reviewed its old act on freedom of speech and media, to adjust measures to address modern issues and come in line with the European Convention on Human Rights.

In efforts to protect cultural heritage, as called for in the Vilnius Declaration, preventive measures are being pursued by a number of countries in order to contribute to the preservation and protection of cultural heritage sites. Several States have joined the UNESCO World Heritage Convention and the European Convention for Protection of Archaeological Heritage and introduced its commitments into practice. To ensure the prevention and protection of cultural heritage sites, San Marino, the Czech Republic, the United Kingdom and Slovenia have recently updated their legislation on protection and conservation of cultural centres and cultural heritage sites. Recognizing the role of UNESCO, many countries ratified and follow the commitments of its World Heritage Convention of 1972. Germany and Monaco are currently working on legal implementation of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention into their law.

Poland recently changed its act for protection of heritage and simplified the procedure of taking antiques out of the county. Poland ratified and signed the United Nations Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the illicit import, export and transfer of ownership concerning the protection of the world cultural and natural heritage.

Guided by several domestic and international legal acts, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has established a network of cultural heritage protection institutions in 2004. A new special body for cultural heritage protection, entitled Cultural Heritage Protection Office, was created within the Ministry of Culture. The Office's centres operate on local and national levels. A National Register of Cultural Heritage keeps all central and municipal registers of immovable and movable cultural items.

ANNEX 1

OSCE countries' participation in the **Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children**, supplementing the **United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime**³⁷

Participant	Signature	Ratification, Acceptance(A), Approval(AA), Accession(a), Succession(d)
Albania	12 Dec 2000	21 Aug 2002
Armenia	15 Nov 2001	1 Jul 2003
Austria	12 Dec 2000	15 Sep 2005
Azerbaijan	12 Dec 2000	30 Oct 2003
Belarus	14 Dec 2000	25 Jun 2003
Belgium	12 Dec 2000	11 Aug 2004
Bosnia and Herzegovina	12 Dec 2000	24 Apr 2002
Bulgaria	13 Dec 2000	5 Dec 2001
Canada	14 Dec 2000	13 May 2002
Croatia	12 Dec 2000	24 Jan 2003
Cyprus	12 Dec 2000	6 Aug 2003
Czech Republic	10 Dec 2002	
Denmark	12 Dec 2000	30 Sep 2003
Estonia	20 Sep 2002	12 May 2004
Finland	12 Dec 2000	7 Sep 2006 A
France	12 Dec 2000	29 Oct 2002
Georgia	13 Dec 2000	5 Sep 2006
Germany	12 Dec 2000	14 Jun 2006
Greece	13 Dec 2000	
Hungary	14 Dec 2000	22 Dec 2006
Iceland	13 Dec 2000	
Ireland	13 Dec 2000	
Italy	12 Dec 2000	2 Aug 2006
Kazakhstan		31 Jul 2008 a

³⁷ <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/CTOC/countrylist-traffickingprotocol.html>

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Kyrgyzstan	13 Dec 2000	2 Oct 2003
Liechtenstein	14 Mar 2001	20 Feb 2008
Lithuania	25 Apr 2002	23 Jun 2003
Luxembourg	13 Dec 2000	
Malta	14 Dec 2000	24 Sep 2003
Moldova	14 Dec 2000	16 Sep 2005
Monaco	13 Dec 2000	5 Jun 2001
Montenegro		23 Oct 2006 d
Netherlands	12 Dec 2000	27 Jul 2005 A
Norway	13 Dec 2000	23 Sep 2003
Poland	4 Oct 2001	26 Sep 2003
Portugal	12 Dec 2000	10 May 2004
Romania	14 Dec 2000	4 Dec 2002
Russian Federation	12 Dec 2000	26 May 2004
San Marino	14 Dec 2000	
Serbia	12 Dec 2000	6 Sep 2001
Slovakia	15 Nov 2001	21 Sep 2004
Slovenia	15 Nov 2001	21 May 2004
Spain	13 Dec 2000	1 Mar 2002
Sweden	12 Dec 2000	1 Jul 2004
Tajikistan		8 Jul 2002 a
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	12 Dec 2000	12 Jan 2005
Turkey	13 Dec 2000	25 Mar 2003
Turkmenistan		28 Mar 2005 a
Ukraine	15 Nov 2001	21 May 2004
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	14 Dec 2000	9 Feb 2006
United States of America	13 Dec 2000	3 Nov 2005
Uzbekistan	28 Jun 2001	12 Aug 2008

ANNEX 2**Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings**

Member States of the Council of Europe

States	Signature	Ratification	Entry into force
Albania	22/12/2005	6/2/2007	1/2/2008
Andorra	17/11/2005		
Armenia	16/5/2005	14/4/2008	1/8/2008
Austria	16/5/2005	12/10/2006	1/2/2008
Azerbaijan	25/2/2010		
Belgium	17/11/2005	27/4/2009	1/8/2009
Bosnia and Herzegovina	19/1/2006	11/1/2008	1/5/2008
Bulgaria	22/11/2006	17/4/2007	1/2/2008
Croatia	16/5/2005	5/9/2007	1/2/2008
Cyprus	16/5/2005	24/10/2007	1/2/2008
Czech Republic			
Denmark	5/9/2006	19/9/2007	1/2/2008
Estonia	3/2/2010		
Finland	29/8/2006		
France	22/5/2006	9/1/2008	1/5/2008
Georgia	19/10/2005	14/3/2007	1/2/2008
Germany	17/11/2005		
Greece	17/11/2005		
Hungary	10/10/2007		
Iceland	16/5/2005		
Ireland	13/4/2007		
Italy	8/6/2005		
Latvia	19/5/2006	6/3/2008	1/7/2008
Liechtenstein			
Lithuania	12/2/2008		
Luxembourg	16/5/2005	9/4/2009	1/8/2009
Malta	16/5/2005	30/1/2008	1/5/2008
Moldova	16/5/2005	19/5/2006	1/2/2008
Monaco			
Montenegro	16/5/2005	30/7/2008	1/11/2008
Netherlands	17/11/2005	22/4/2010	1/8/2010

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Norway	16/5/2005	17/1/2008	1/5/2008
Poland	16/5/2005	17/11/2008	1/3/2009
Portugal	16/5/2005	27/2/2008	1/6/2008
Romania	16/5/2005	21/8/2006	1/2/2008
Russia			
San Marino	19/5/2006		
Serbia	16/5/2005	14/4/2009	1/8/2009
Slovakia	19/5/2006	27/3/2007	1/2/2008
Slovenia	3/4/2006	3/9/2009	1/1/2010
Spain	9/7/2008	2/4/2009	1/8/2009
Sweden	16/5/2005		
Switzerland	8/9/2008		
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	17/11/2005	27/5/2009	1/9/2009
Turkey	19/3/2009		
Ukraine	17/11/2005		
United Kingdom	23/3/2007	17/12/2008	1/4/2009

Non-member States of the Council of Europe

States	Signature	Ratification	Entry into force
Canada			
Holy See			
United States of America			