



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
Ministerial Council  
Maastricht 2003**

MC.DEC/2/03  
2 December 2003

Original: ENGLISH

---

**2nd day of the Eleventh Meeting**  
MC(11) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 8

**DECISION No. 2/03  
COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS**

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming the commitments that participating States have adhered to in the field of combating trafficking in human beings, especially the 2000 Vienna Ministerial Council Decision No. 1, the 2001 Bucharest Ministerial Council Decision No. 6, and the 2002 Porto Ministerial Declaration,

Recalling furthermore Permanent Council Decision No. 557 of 24 July 2003 on the adoption of the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, which provides participating States with a comprehensive toolkit to combat trafficking in human beings through a multidimensional approach, covering protection of victims, prevention of trafficking in human beings, and prosecution of those who facilitate or commit the crime,

With the goal of enhancing the OSCE's efforts in fighting trafficking in human beings,

1. Decides to endorse the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings as annexed to this Decision; and
2. Establishes, under the aegis of the Permanent Council, an OSCE mechanism to provide assistance to participating States to combat trafficking in human beings. The mechanism will consist of two parts, complementing the activities of each other: a Special Representative appointed by the Chairmanship-in-Office, and a special unit in the OSCE Secretariat,

The mechanism is set up to:

- (a) Assist OSCE participating States in the implementation of commitments and full usage of recommendations proposed by the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings;

- (b) Ensure co-ordination of OSCE efforts in combating trafficking in human beings across all three dimensions of the OSCE;
- (c) Strengthen co-ordination among the relevant authorities of the participating States and between the OSCE and other relevant organizations;
- (d) Raise the public and political profile of the combat against trafficking in human beings;
- (e) Operate in the whole OSCE area and as appropriate, assist the participating States, in a spirit of co-operation and following consultations with the respective authorities of the relevant participating States in aiming at the implementation of their commitments in combating human trafficking;
- (f) Provide and facilitate advice and technical assistance in the field of legislation as well as policy development, together, as necessary, with other OSCE structures engaged in this field;
- (g) Be ready to offer advice to senior level authorities representing the legislative, judicial, and executive branches in participating States and discuss with them the implementation of the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings and commitments in the field of combating trafficking in human beings. In specific cases calling for special attention, seek direct contacts, in an appropriate manner with the participating State concerned and discuss the provisions of advice and concrete assistance, if needed;
- (h) Co-operate with National Rapporteurs or other national mechanisms established by participating States for co-ordinating and monitoring the anti-trafficking activities of State institutions. It will also co-operate with relevant Non-Governmental Organizations of the participating States. Furthermore, it will assume responsibility within the OSCE for hosting and facilitating meetings for the exchange of information and experience between national co-ordinators, representatives designated by participating States, or experts on combating trafficking in human beings;
- (i) Closely co-operate and co-ordinate with the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and other OSCE Institutions, the Secretary General, relevant structures of the Secretariat including the Office of the Co-ordinator for OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA), the Strategic Police Matters Unit (SPMU), the Senior Gender Adviser, as well as, where appropriate, the OSCE field operations. The mechanism will draw on the expertise within these OSCE structures, and will see that duplication is avoided. Participate when appropriate in the work of the Informal Working Group on Gender Equality and Anti-Trafficking in Human Beings;

- (j) Co-operate and co-ordinate with relevant international actors such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Children's Fund, the International Labour Organization, as well as the International Organization for Migration, the International Centre for Migration Policy Development, the European Union, the Council of Europe, the Stability Pact Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings, the Council of Baltic Sea States, the Southeast European Co-operative Initiative, Interpol and Europol;
3. Affirms that the Special Representative will be politically accountable to, and will report regularly and when appropriate to the Permanent Council. It will function in accordance with Decision No. 8 of the Tenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council in Porto;
4. Calls on the Chairmanship-in-Office to appoint as Special Representative a prominent personality with relevant expertise, according to OSCE procedures, following consultations with participating States through the Preparatory Committee on his or her mandate. In order to ensure continuity for the Special Representative to carry out his or her responsibilities initially for at least the duration of two successive Chairmanships, the Chairmanship-in-Office will consult with the next incoming Chairmanship-in-Office on this appointment, and the next incoming Chairmanship-in-Office will, within its prerogative, undertake to prolong the Special Representative's duties for the duration of that Chairmanship-in-Office, in accordance with Decision No. 8 of the Tenth Ministerial Council Meeting in Porto;
5. Tasks the Permanent Council to establish the above-mentioned special unit, as a part of the OSCE Secretariat, with contracted or seconded staff. The Special Representative will have the capacity of the special unit at his or her full disposal in order to effectively implement the above-mentioned tasks;
6. Agrees that both parts of the mechanism will be funded by the participating States through the OSCE Unified Budget in accordance with existing procedures. The ACMF will elaborate, in consultation with the Chairmanship-in-Office and the Secretary General, administrative and funding modalities for the mechanism and submit its recommendations to the Permanent Council for approval in time for their inclusion into the OSCE 2004 Unified Budget.