



CCME - Caritas Europa Press Release of 22nd December 2004

“Report of EU Experts’ Group on Trafficking in Human Beings: A solid basis for future measures in the fight against Trafficking”

Caritas Europa and CCME welcome the report of the EU Experts’ Group on Trafficking in Human Beings.

Representatives of both organisations congratulate the Experts’ Group for their thorough and comprehensive work, which should be the starting point for further action and implementation in the member states of the EU. They welcome the human rights approach, which puts trafficked persons and their rights at the centre of the attention.

“From the perspective of our member organisations, who are dealing in their daily work with the protection of and the support for trafficked persons the emphasis given to this aspect in the fight against trafficking can be seen as a huge step forward in redressing the imbalance in policies against trafficking in human beings, which so far have been predominantly focussing on measures of crime control and restrictive migration policies”, said Doris Peschke, General Secretary of CCME.

For Marius Wanders, Secretary General of Caritas Europa “the importance given to the NGO’s throughout the report as relevant actors in the fight against this crime is highly appreciated. The report is not only an encouragement but also an orientation for the future work of our member organisations”.

Both, Mrs. Peschke and Mr. Wanders agreed that one of the major challenges for the coming years is to open up legal channels for migration in order to reduce the numbers of trafficked persons. They concluded that the real work for the Member States starts now!

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Caritas Europa and CCME are jointly carrying out the project “Christian Action and Networking against Trafficking in Women” CAT, which is supported by the European Commission AGIS Programme.