

Global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration

Fifth Informal Thematic Session:

“Smuggling of migrants, trafficking in persons and contemporary forms of slavery, including appropriate identification, protection and assistance to migrants and trafficking victims”

Vienna, 04-05 September 2017

Vienna International Centre, Plenary Room

PANEL 2 – Trafficking in persons and contemporary forms of slavery Intervention (3 min.)

Ladies and gentlemen,

We consider trafficking in persons for the purpose of exploitation including slavery or practices similar to slavery as a severe violation of human rights and an assault of freedom, which has to be addressed by resolute and sustainable action by the international community. We have to tackle an increasing crime phenomenon, which is taking advantage of the global migration flows connected with large differences in economic living conditions and other push and pull factors.

Trafficking in persons and slavery are making profit out of the vulnerable situation of persons in the migration process but also within their home countries. Trafficking in persons and people smuggling are related but also distinct crimes.

According to the German Crime Situation Reports since 2008 a majority of around 75% percent of the victims are EU residents with free movement within the EU.

Since October 2016 trafficking in persons in Germany comprehends also exploitation of begging, criminal offenses and organ removal in addition to sexual exploitation and labour exploitation.

Germany aligns itself with the EU statement. In particular we intend to continue our multidisciplinary cooperation against trafficking in persons within the different cooperation frames such as EU, European Council, UNODC, OECD, Interpol but also the Santa Marta Group which is an alliance of international police chiefs and the Catholic Church. Trafficking in persons has to be tackled on all levels of society with every relevant stakeholder.

EMPACT THB (European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats – Trafficking in Human Beings) is an example of efficient European cooperation on operational police matters including other European bodies like Europol, Eurojust, Frontex, CEPOL, etc. This cooperation has improved the action against trafficking in persons in a significant way and demonstrates that coordinated action between countries of origin, transit and destination is a key factor for success. EMPACT THB also fosters cooperation with third countries like Nigeria and China.

This encouraging result is strongly promoted by concomitant European funding.

We have to keep in mind that trafficking in persons is a phenomenon which has taken profit of the vulnerability of persons through centuries of history. Through globalization and the connected migration flows it has come to an alarming extent these days. We have to take continuous, sustainable action, which is accompanied by sufficient provisions as legislation, international treaties, funding and personnel to effectively restrain this severe violation of human rights.

Thank you.