



Draft Baseline version – 1 July 2013

Amendment proposals to the BSPC Secretariat no later than 19 August 12:00 Danish time

Conference Resolution

Adopted by the 22nd Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC)

The participants, elected representatives from the Baltic Sea States*, assembling in Pärnu, Estonia, 26-27 August 2013,

discussing Co-operation in the Baltic Sea Region, Economic Growth and Innovation, Green Growth and Energy Efficiency, and Creative Entrepreneurship,

emphasizing the importance of the parliamentary dimension of cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region, and asserting that it strengthens the democratic legitimacy of cooperation,

reaffirming their commitment to the principles of sustainable economic and social development, and reiterating their appeal to governments to make sincere and forceful efforts to implement the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan,

stressing the mutually beneficial interaction between CBSS and BSPC at all levels and in all fields, and acknowledging that a close coordination between the legislative and executive branches will facilitate the implementation of programmes and projects for the benefit of the Baltic Sea Region and its citizens,

call on the governments in the Baltic Sea Region, the CBSS and the EU,

Regarding Co-operation in the Region, to

1. make sustained efforts to facilitate mobility within the Region and tear down administrative and physical hurdles, such as customs regulations and practices, and visa restrictions between Schengen and non-Schengen countries, for an unimpeded mobility of people and enterprises;
2. facilitate the establishment and work of democratic NGOs in the Baltic Sea Region, and to provide political and financial support for their international cooperation and activities;

3. acknowledge the importance of the Baltic Sea Secretariat for Youth Affairs for youth cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region, and to support its work as well as the establishment of an annual Baltic Sea Youth Forum;

Regarding Growth, Innovation, Creativity and Entrepreneurship in the Baltic Sea Region”, to

4. initiate and support awareness-raising activities on the necessity of innovation for the sustainable development and competitiveness of the Region, applying a comprehensive approach that recognizes innovation as a key element both in the production of goods and the provision of services, and places strong emphasis on environmental sustainability and social cohesion;

5. foster a conducive climate for innovation, for instance by developing national programmes and strategies for innovation and by instructing public agencies and authorities to adopt action plans for innovative management and operations;

6. promote the generation and regeneration of innovative knowledge and skills in basic and higher education, for instance by making innovation a more explicit strand in educational curricula and by allocating resources to basic R&D on innovation;

7. take legislative and regulatory measures to ensure an enabling administrative groundwork that encourages innovation and eliminates bureaucratic obstacles;

8. provide fiscal incentives for innovation, such as tax reliefs to stimulate the establishment and growth of innovative enterprises and services;

9. ensure availability and access to funding and seed money to support innovative initiatives and enterprises, and to facilitate the development of bankable projects in the field of innovation;

10. exploit the synergies and added value by enhancing interregional cooperation on innovation in the Baltic Sea Region, e.g. by facilitating mobility and by supporting knowledge diffusion, networks and clusters on innovation both within and between sectors;

11. strengthen innovation, growth and cooperation within the maritime economy, e.g. by supporting research and development in marine technologies, such as alternative propulsion systems, by facilitating interregional cooperation in shipping and ship-building, and by developing logistics and infrastructure for the provision of LNG in Baltic Sea ports;

12. to encourage the development of new cleaner technologies and support the use of the best currently available technologies in order to improve maritime safety, develop clean fuels and energy efficient solutions for both land and water transport in the Baltic Sea Region;

13. promote entrepreneurship and a joint transnational cooperative platform for tourism, being a sector that can contribute substantially to innovation and growth in the Baltic Sea Region;

14. take measures to harmonize labour market and security standards for employees in the creative economy, and launch action plans for enhanced transparency, tolerance and diversity in society, being key elements in a creative economy;
15. make efforts to ensure that the transformation to a knowledge-based society is not detrimental to economic progress or living conditions in urban and rural areas, e.g. by promoting urban-rural innovation cluster opportunities;
16. allocate funds in the INTERREG Baltic Sea Region Program for the upcoming funding period beginning in 2014 to enable the support of projects devoted to "Culture and cultural identity" and model projects in the sector of creative industries;

Regarding Green Growth and Energy Efficiency, to

17. strengthen efforts to create public awareness on how green growth and energy efficiency can support social welfare and economic development in the Region;
18. strengthen cooperation for developing common technical standards and building codes as well as common criteria for green public procurement (GPP), in order to create a larger market for new products and innovative solutions that support green growth;
19. support and strengthen efforts by the national grid operators to improve the connections of national grids across borders, in order to facilitate investments in renewable energy production and contribute to energy supply security;
20. further develop and implement financing schemes that support green growth and energy efficiency, and to develop legislation that facilitates innovative financing of energy efficiency investments in infrastructure, businesses and buildings;

Regarding Trafficking in Human Beings, to

21. follow up the 10 recommendations drawn up by the BSPC Rapporteurs on THB in their final report presented to the 22. BSPC in Pärnu, Estonia

Furthermore the Conference Decides to

22. establish a Working Group on Innovation on Social and health Care, to submit a first report at the 23rd BSPC;
23. adopt the BSPC Work Programme for 2013-2014;
24. welcome with gratitude the kind offer of the Parliament of Poland to host the 23rd Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference in _____ on _____ 2014.

*Parliaments of __, _____, _____.



Grundlegender Entwurf – 1. Juli 2013

Änderungsvorschläge an das Sekretariat der BSPC bis spätestens 19. August, 12:00 Uhr MESZ

Konferenzresolution

angenommen durch die 22. Ostseeparlamentarierkonferenz (BSPC)

Die Teilnehmer, die gewählten Vertreter der Ostseeanrainerstaaten*, die am 26. und 27. August 2013 in Pärnu (Estland) zusammengekommen sind,

die Themen "Zusammenarbeit in der Ostseeregion", "Wirtschaftswachstum und Innovationen", "grünes Wachstum und Energieeffizienz" und "kreatives Unternehmertum" erörternd,

unter Betonung der Bedeutung der parlamentarischen Dimension der Zusammenarbeit in der Ostseeregion und in der Feststellung, dass diese die demokratische Legitimität der Zusammenarbeit stärkt,

unter Bekräftigung ihres Bekenntnisses zu den Grundsätzen der nachhaltigen wirtschaftlichen und sozialen Entwicklung und unter erneutem Hinweis auf ihren Appell an die Regierungen, sich ernsthaft und entschlossen um die Umsetzung des HELCOM-Ostseeaktionsplans zu bemühen,

unter Betonung der für beide Seiten nützlichen Interaktion zwischen dem Ostseerat und der Ostseeparlamentarierkonferenz auf allen Ebenen und in allen Bereichen und unter Anerkennung der Tatsache, dass eine enge Koordinierung zwischen Legislative und Exekutive die Umsetzung von Programmen und Projekten zugunsten der Ostseeregion und ihrer Bürgerinnen und Bürger begünstigen wird,

fordern die Regierungen der Ostseeregion, den Ostseerat und die EU auf,

in Bezug auf die Zusammenarbeit in der Region

1. sich zugunsten der Bewegungsfreiheit von Menschen und Unternehmen nachhaltig für die Erleichterung der Mobilität innerhalb der Region einzusetzen und bürokratische und physische Hürden abzubauen, z.B. Zollbestimmungen und -praktiken und Visabeschränkungen zwischen Schengen-Staaten und Nicht-Schengen-Staaten;
2. die Gründung und Tätigkeit demokratischer nichtstaatlicher Organisationen in der Ostseeregion zu unterstützen und ihre internationale Zusammenarbeit und Aktivitäten politisch und finanziell zu unterstützen;

3. die Bedeutung des Ostsee-Jugendsekretariats für die Zusammenarbeit im Jugendbereich in der Ostseeregion anzuerkennen und dessen Arbeit sowie die Einsetzung eines jährlich stattfindenden Ostsee-Jugendforums zu unterstützen;

in Bezug auf Wachstum, Innovationen, Kreativität und Unternehmertum in der Ostseeregion

4. Initiativen zur Bewusstseinschärfung im Hinblick auf die Notwendigkeit von Innovationen für die nachhaltige Entwicklung und Wettbewerbsfähigkeit der Region ins Leben zu rufen und zu unterstützen und dabei einen umfassenden Ansatz zu verfolgen, der Innovationen als wichtiges Element bei der Herstellung von Waren und Bereitstellung von Dienstleistungen anerkennt und der ökologischen Nachhaltigkeit und dem sozialen Zusammenhalt einen großen Stellenwert beimisst;

5. ein günstiges Innovationsklima zu fördern, beispielsweise durch die Entwicklung nationaler Innovationsprogramme und -strategien und durch die Aufforderung an öffentliche Organisationen und Behörden, Aktionspläne für innovatives Management und innovative Geschäftstätigkeit zu verabschieden;

6. die Gewinnung und Wiedergewinnung innovativer Kenntnisse und Fertigkeiten in Grundschulen und weiterführenden Schulen beispielsweise dadurch zu fördern, dass das Thema "Innovation" einen höheren Stellenwert in den Lehrplänen erhält und Ressourcen für Grundlagenforschung und -entwicklung bereitgestellt werden;

7. gesetzliche Maßnahmen und Regulierungsmaßnahmen zu treffen, um für günstige administrative Grundbedingungen zu sorgen, durch die Innovation gefördert und bürokratische Hemmnisse beseitigt werden;

8. steuerliche Anreize für Innovation zu schaffen, z.B. Steuererleichterungen zwecks Schaffung von Anreizen für die Gründung und das Wachstum innovativer Unternehmen und Dienstleistungen;

9. die Verfügbarkeit von und den Zugang zu Mitteln und Anschubfinanzierungen zur Unterstützung innovativer Initiativen und Unternehmen zu gewährleisten und die Entwicklung bankfähiger Projekte im Bereich Innovation zu fördern;

10. Synergien und Mehrwert durch den Ausbau der interregionalen Zusammenarbeit im Bereich Innovationen in der Ostseeregion zu nutzen, beispielsweise durch die Unterstützung von Mobilität und Verbreitung von Wissen und Innovationsnetzwerken und -clustern sowohl innerhalb bestimmter Sektoren als auch sektorübergreifend;

11. Innovationen, Wachstum und Zusammenarbeit in der maritimen Wirtschaft zu stärken, beispielsweise durch die Unterstützung von Forschung und Entwicklung in Meerestechnologien wie alternativen Antriebssystemen, Förderung der interregionalen Zusammenarbeit in der Schifffahrt und im Schiffsbau und Entwicklung der für die Bereitstellung von Flüssiggas (LNG) in den Ostseehäfen notwendigen Logistik und Infrastruktur;

12. die Entwicklung neuer sauberer Technologien zu fördern und die Nutzung der besten derzeit vorhandenen Technologien zu unterstützen, um die Sicherheit im

Seeverkehr zu verbessern und saubere Treibstoffe sowie energieeffiziente Lösungen für den Land- und Seetransport in der Ostseeregion zu entwickeln;

13. das Unternehmertum und eine gemeinsame transnationale Kooperationsplattform für den Tourismus zu fördern, da der Tourismus ein Sektor ist, der erheblich zu Innovation und Wachstum in der Ostseeregion beitragen kann;

14. Maßnahmen zur Harmonisierung des Arbeitsmarkts und der Sicherheitsstandards für Beschäftigte in der Kreativwirtschaft zu treffen und Aktionspläne für mehr Transparenz, Toleranz und Vielfalt in der Gesellschaft als Schlüsselemente für die Kreativwirtschaft auf den Weg zu bringen;

15. sich dafür einzusetzen, dass die Transformation in eine wissensbasierte Gesellschaft nicht auf Kosten des wirtschaftlichen Fortschritts oder der Lebensbedingungen in städtischen und ländlichen Gebieten geschieht, z.B. durch die Förderung von Innovationsclustern in den Städten und auf dem Land;

16. im Rahmen des INTERREG-Ostseeregionsprogramms Mittel für den nächsten, im Jahr 2014 beginnenden Finanzierungszeitraum bereitzustellen, um die Unterstützung von Projekten, die sich mit dem Thema "Kultur und kulturelle Identität" befassen, und Modellprojekten in der Kreativwirtschaft zu ermöglichen;

in Bezug auf grünes Wachstum und Energieeffizienz

17. die Maßnahmen zur Schaffung eines öffentlichen Bewusstseins im Hinblick auf die Frage zu verstärken, inwieweit grünes Wachstum und Energieeffizienz das Sozialsystem und die wirtschaftliche Entwicklung in der Region unterstützen können;

18. die Zusammenarbeit für die Entwicklung gemeinsamer technischer Standards und die Erarbeitung von Kodizes sowie gemeinsamen Kriterien für ein grünes öffentliches Beschaffungswesen (GPP) zu stärken, um einen größeren Markt für neue Produkte und innovative Lösungen zu schaffen, die grünes Wachstum unterstützen;

19. die Maßnahmen der nationalen Netzbetreiber zur Verbesserung der grenzüberschreitenden Verknüpfung nationaler Leitungen zu unterstützen und zu verstärken, um Investitionen in die Produktion erneuerbarer Energien zu unterstützen und zur Energieversorgungssicherheit beizutragen;

20. Finanzierungsprogramme weiterzuentwickeln und umzusetzen, die grünes Wachstum und Energieeffizienz fördern, und rechtliche Bestimmungen zu entwickeln, die die innovative Finanzierung von Energieeffizienzinvestitionen in Infrastruktur, Unternehmen und Gebäuden unterstützen;

in Bezug auf den Menschenhandel

21. die zehn Empfehlungen der Berichterstatter über Menschenhandel der Ostseeparlamentarierkonferenz aufzugreifen, die in ihrem der 22. Ostseeparlamentarierkonferenz in Pärnu (Estland) vorgelegten Abschlussbericht zu finden sind.

Darüber hinaus beschließt die Konferenz,

22. eine Arbeitsgruppe "Innovationen für soziale Betreuung und Gesundheitsversorgung" einzusetzen, die im Rahmen der 23. Ostseeparlamentarierkonferenz einen ersten Bericht vorlegen soll;

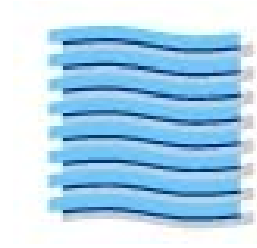
23. das Arbeitsprogramm der Ostseeparlamentarierkonferenz 2013-2014 zu verabschieden;

24. begrüßt dankbar das freundliche Angebot des Parlaments der Republik Polen, die 23. Ostseeparlamentarierkonferenz am _____ 2014 in _____ auszurichten.

*Die Parlamente __, _____, _____,

Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference

The BSPC Working Group on Trafficking in Human Beings



**Final report of the BSPC Rapporteurs on
Trafficking in Human Beings (THB)**

Johan Linander, MP and André Oktay Dahl, MP

August 2013

Background

In 2010 the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC) established a Working Group on Civil Security. The Working Group was to focus specifically on Trafficking in Human Beings (THB). The group presented its final report to the 20th BSPC in Helsinki in 2011.¹

In order to follow up the work of the group and the recommendations concerning THB made by the BSPC, the BSPC appointed two rapporteurs: Mr Johan Linander, MP and Vice Chair of the Swedish Riksdag's Standing Committee on Justice and Mr André Oktay Dahl, MP and Vice Chair of the Norwegian Storting's Standing Committee on Justice. Mr Linander and Mr Dahl served as Co-Chairs in the Working Group on Civil Security.

Mandate

The basic role of a BSPC rapporteur is to follow the development within a specific subject area (usually one in which the BSPC has established a working group), to provide briefings and updates on this development, to follow-up the implementation of BSPC recommendations within the subject area, to identify possible items for political attention, and, when necessary, to represent the BSPC in various activities within that area.

As a principle, rapporteurs are invited to present a report at the annual BSPC conference. In addition, rapporteurs may also choose to issue written reports. The BSPC Standing Committee, in its turn, may invite rapporteurs to provide status reports and updates; conversely, rapporteurs might wish to participate in Standing Committee meetings to discuss their activities and coordinate political positions.

Activities of the THB Rapporteurs 2011-2013

- Letter to the ministers responsible for the fight against Trafficking in Human Beings (THB) in the Baltic Sea states.
- Meeting in Stockholm on 25 May 2012 with the Swedish National Coordinator for the Fight against THB, Detective Superintendent Kajsa Wahlberg of the Swedish Police. Meeting with the Council of the Baltic Sea States Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings.
- Mr Linander participated in the Parliamentarians Against Human Trafficking seminar *Data Collection on Victims of THB* on 13–14 September 2012 in the *Assembleia da Republica*, Lisbon.
- Mr Linander participated on the CBSS seminar *Children Trafficked for Exploitation in Begging and in Criminality* in Vilnius on 29–30 November 2012.
- The rapporteurs met Corinne Dettmeijer-Vermeulen, Dutch National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings in The Hague on 10 December 2012.
- The rapporteurs participated in Parliamentarians Against Human Trafficking seminar *Regional Co-operation of the Police in Anti-Trafficking Work* in Stockholm on 13 March 2013.
- The rapporteurs met Eva Biaudet, the Finnish Ombudsman for Minorities and national rapporteur on THB in Helsinki on 6 May 2013.

The rapporteurs presented their mid-term report to the 21st Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference in St Petersburg on 26-28 August 2012²

1. Summary

¹ See <http://www.bspc.net/page/show/216>

² See <http://www.bspc.net/file/show/607>

Despite the fact that most countries have introduced measures against THB, such as national action plans and new legislation against THB, trafficking - or human slavery - has not been reduced³.

The number of convictions against traffickers is still low. More and more forms of THB can be seen; THB for forced labour, THB for theft and other criminal activities (whereby the victims are forced to commit crimes), THB for begging, THB for identity theft, THB for forced marriage, THB for trade in children and even for trade in human organs.

Our main impression from our work is that the fight against THB is far from over. We need harder and smarter efforts to combat THB.

2. Recommendations

The BSPC Working Group on THB set out a number of recommendations in its final report⁴, the implementation of which would be a major contribution to the fight against THB. We strongly recommend every government to systematically follow up these recommendations.

In addition, we, as rapporteurs, would like to add 10 recommendations of our own. They are based on the information we have obtained and the dialogues we have pursued during the course of our work. We believe that these 10 recommendations should be implemented in all the states in the Baltic Sea Region, if not done so already.

Coordination of measures against THB

1. ***All countries need an independent national rapporteur on THB***
2. ***All countries need to have a national action plan against all forms of THB***

Every country needs to improve the coordination of measures against THB. Often, there are several government bodies and branches that in different ways are involved in the fight against THB. Without close coordination, this could prove less effective, in some cases even counterproductive. It is possible for traffickers to exploit the lack of coordination to avoid detection.

Governments need to coordinate all their policies against THB so that every government body knows how it should work and how it is supposed to coordinate its work with other bodies and nongovernmental organisations (NGOs). There must be clear lines of communication and a system for reporting THB cases. To achieve this, a national action plan against THB is a key element.

In order to ensure the long-term coordination of anti-THB measures, we recommend the appointment of independent national rapporteurs. By 'independent' we mean that national rapporteurs should not be placed within the police or be under direct government control.

If the national rapporteur is a part of the police force, it may cause victims of THB to be reluctant to give information. For obvious reasons, it would also be difficult for national rapporteurs to criticize the police.

Neither should national rapporteurs be subordinated to or under direct government control. National rapporteurs must be independent in order to be able to scrutinize the government's and other authorities' work against THB. National rapporteurs must report directly to parliament on a regular basis.

³ See http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-13-322_en.htm

⁴ See <http://www.bspc.net/file/show/516>

National rapporteurs and their offices must conduct their work with a high degree of transparency and should be organised either as an independent institution (the Dutch example) or as a part of an existing institution (the Finnish example). The mandate must not only include THB but also other forms of exploitation that could be related to THB.

The job of national rapporteurs is to collect statistics on THB and to analyse the data. Further, rapporteurs must provide information and knowledge about THB to authorities that are involved in the fight against THB, including the police, prosecutors and judges. Moreover, national rapporteurs have a responsibility to inform the public in general and increase the awareness of THB in society.

National rapporteurs must have the right to examine individual cases of THB and to receive information from the investigating authorities about cases of suspected THB currently under investigation.

National rapporteurs must establish a hotline or other form of communication that provides a expedient channel for the general public to report possible cases of THB. The possibility to contact an independent rapporteur rather than the police might contribute to lowering the threshold for reporting cases of THB. The actual criminal investigation of possible THB cases is the responsibility of the police.

National rapporteurs must be provided with sufficient resources and manpower to be able to carry out their responsibilities fully and effectively.

Measures to prevent THB

3. *Stop demand*

4. *Social responsibility for people at risk, potential victims*

Each country needs legislation that prohibits every exploitation of known victims of THB. However, in some – perhaps most – cases people are not aware of the fact that they are exploiting victims of THB. Information to the general public to increase general awareness of the existence of THB is essential.

Every country has the responsibility to protect its citizens from exploitation. Even greater demands must be placed on all countries to fight discrimination against Roma and other vulnerable groups. The majority of those forced or lured into THB belong to very vulnerable groups in their countries of origin.

Fight the traffickers

5. *Effective fight against THB with national special units in the police force and in the prosecution service.*

6. *Legislation that is applicable to all forms of THB and that criminalises everyone involved in THB crime.*

Knowledge and awareness of THB is essential for local crime prevention authorities. Every police officer must have sufficient training and awareness to be able to spot or suspect THB in e.g. the following situations: forced labour, children that steal under supervision of adults, organised begging, etc.

Later, when THB cases are being investigated, they often turn out to be so complicated that the local police cannot be expected to have the specialist knowledge or resources to be able to prioritise this type of case. For this reason, every country needs a national special unit or task force against THB, both in the police force and in the prosecution service. These special units must include a variety of specialists: economists and auditors to follow and confiscate the

proceeds of crime, social workers to help children and other victims of THB, specialists on interviewing children, computer experts to disclose THB on the Internet. In other words, the investigative team must be multidisciplinary.

It is also of the outmost importance that every country has effective legislation that is applicable to all forms of THB and that criminalises everyone involved in THB crimes. The legislation first introduced by several countries against THB was directed at exploitation for sexual purposes only. However, it is just as important to have legislation that applies to all other forms of THB. Mandatory minimum sentences must be of such a magnitude as to act as a severe deterrent against all forms of THB.

The legislation must also be reviewed on a regular basis. Too often, it is obvious that even the legislation that has been put in place does not contribute to obtaining convictions against traffickers.

Help and assistance to all victims of THB

7. *Minimum 30 days unconditional period of reflection for all victims of THB.*

8. *Cooperation with the social services of the country of origin for repatriation*

The crime victim support programme must be independent of the judicial process. Victims of THB must have the right to relevant support and protection even if they choose not to file a complaint, give evidence or participate in a trial against their traffickers. The crime victim perspective must be maintained regardless of the legal action.

Every victim of THB must have the right to a 30-day unconditional period of reflection, even if they have chosen not to file a complaint with the police. This period of reflection is not supposed to be simply a period of passive waiting, but must be filled with health care, treatment and support to enable the victims to carry on with their lives.

The country in which the victim is located has a responsibility for the situation the victim is returned to. Contact must be made with the victim's country of origin before repatriation.

In cases where it is believed that a threat to the victim in the country of origin may exist, for example if the victim has given evidence against the traffickers, some form of witness protection programme must be available in the country of origin. In the worst case, it must be possible for victims of THB to be provided with a new identity.

If the victim's security cannot be guaranteed, or if the victim refuses to return due to fear of being re-trafficked, a permanent residence permit must be offered.

Improved international cooperation

9. *Improve the option of joint investigations*

10. *Organised collaboration between the various countries' special THB task forces and the national rapporteurs.*

Almost all THB is a transnational crime. Victims and traffickers often have one country of origin, while the exploitation takes place in another country. This means that investigators must work internationally. In the European Union (EU) there is the option of establishing Joint Investigative Teams (JIT). This tool must also be made available to countries outside the EU.

International investigations of THB cases, not least those that require telephone tapping, often demand substantial resources and turn out to be expensive. As a result, countries that have a police force whose resources are under strain might not be able to participate in investigations. In order to ensure that a lack of resources does not hinder THB investigations, some sort of

joint financing mechanism should be established.

To ensure seamless international cooperation in cross-border THB investigations, members of the special THB task forces must meet on a regular basis. One example of this could be for economists and auditors to get together to compare information in order to track the proceeds of THB.

National rapporteurs must have an international network and meet regularly to exchange information and experience.

Trafficking in human beings is a transnational crime and national borders must not provide a means for the slave traders to escape prosecution and punishment.

3. Concluding remarks

Every parliament has the responsibility to make sure that these recommendations are considered and followed up. As legislators, we have the primary responsibility for the situation in our countries. No longer can people close their eyes to the unavoidable fact that slavery does exist in our countries. Human beings are not free, but are forced to sell sex, commit crimes, beg or be otherwise exploited.

As legislators we also have the responsibility to review the legislation. No victim of THB is helped by legislation that does not work in practice. As legislators we must also supervise and control the work of the government and its administration in the fight against THB. If it does not prove effective, we, the legislators, must act.

Trafficking in human beings is slavery in our time. We must not tolerate that this hideous crime continues to take place in our midst.