

Norwegian answers to questions to governments concerning trafficking

BSPC Working Group on Civil Security

1. Why has the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (CETS No.: 210 (2007)) not yet been signed and/or ratified?

The Norwegian minister of Justice, Mr Knut Storberget, gave an answer to this question in November 2010 where he states that the ratification is connected to the implementation of the new Norwegian penal code. This process takes time due to the work of upgrading the computer systems of the Police.

If this process drags out in time, the minister will consider changing the current penal code in accordance with the Council of Europe Convention in order to facilitate Norwegian ratification. (The minister repeated this answer in Parliament on 8 February 2011).

2. How are judges, lawyers, prosecutors, police and immigration authorities trained to identify and assist victims of trafficking?

There is no formalized training for judges or lawyers on victims of trafficking. The Directorate of Police and the Coordination Unit for Victims of Trafficking (KOM) organizes various trainings on the identification of victims. KOM has organized large national seminars the last years, where both police officers, child welfare workers, asylum reception personnel and others attend.

3. Has the police participated together with the police in other Baltic Sea States in joint investigation teams concerning trafficking? If so, what is the experience from such cooperation? If not, what is the reason?

Norwegian police have carried out several trafficking investigations with connections to other Baltic Sea States. Such investigations have been undertaken by agreement on a case-by-case basis, not as formally established joint investigative bodies. The Nordic police cooperation agreement simplifies investigations within the five Nordic countries. There has not been any evaluation of the investigations that have been carried out. Many recent cases have involved Lithuania, and the police report that the cooperation with this country is working well. This however, does not mean that it is always easy to get foreign partners to give the desired priority to their part of investigations, but this can also be the case between police districts in national cooperation. Available resources and legal systems are not the same in the countries in the region, a fact that must be taken into account.