

Committee of Senior Officials  
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## **Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings (TF-THB) Action Plan 2005 - 2006**

CSO Chair has the pleasure of circulating the Action Plan to make a concerted effort to stop trafficking in human beings in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region, as adopted by the TF-THB on 24 – 25 January 2005 and later endorsed by the CSO by silence procedure.



REGERINGSKANSLIET

Ministry of Justice



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## **ACTION PLAN**

### **TO MAKE CONCERTED EFFORT TO STOP TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS IN THE BARENTS EURO-ARCTIC REGION**

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At the Barents Euro-Arctic 10 Year Anniversary Summit Meeting in Kirkenes, Norway, on 11 January 2003, the Prime Ministers issued a declaration. In the declaration the Prime Ministers committed themselves to a joint effort to stop trafficking in human beings in the region: “We will make a concerted effort to stop trafficking in human beings in the Barents Region.”

The Barents Euro-Arctic Council (BEAC) agreed upon the formation of the Task Force against trafficking in human beings in the Barents Euro-Arctic region with participation of Finland, Norway, Russia and Sweden.

The Task Force against trafficking in human beings in the Barents Euro-Arctic region was given the mandate by a decision of the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO).

The Task Force should address the situation in the counties of Lapland, Kainuu and Oulun Region in Finland, Finnmark, Nordland and Troms in Norway, Murmansk, Arkhangelsk and Karelia in Russia, and Norrbotten and Västerbotten in Sweden. If other counties in the Region are also found to be affected, they should be invited to join the initiative at a later stage.

The mandate stated a definition of trafficking in human beings, as defined in the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (the Palermo Protocol, 15 December 2000).

The objective for the Task Force against trafficking in human beings in the Barents Euro-Arctic region is to identify and implement measures required to fulfil the goal “to make concerted effort to stop trafficking in human beings in the Barents Region”, as directed by the Prime Ministers in the Declaration adopted at the Barents Euro-Arctic 10 Year Anniversary Summit Meeting in Kirkenes on 11 January 2003.

At the meeting of the Task Force against trafficking in human beings in the Barents Euro-Arctic region in Stockholm 9 – 10 September 2003 it was stated that a main

objective of the Task Force was to establish an Action Plan against trafficking in human beings in the Barents Euro-Arctic region.

A preliminary agreement on an Action Plan was taken in Tromsø, Norway, 3 – 4 February 2004 and the Action Plan was adopted in Vantaa, Finland, 24 – 25 January 2005.

As a first step the Action Plan involves the law enforcement agencies at regional and central level.

Fundamental principles of the Action Plan:

1. The implementation of the Action Plan creates possibilities to a more effective fight against trafficking in human beings in the Barents Euro-Arctic region.
2. The implementation of the Action Plan creates better possibilities for a fruitful cross-border cooperation in the region, which is the main purpose for the Task Force against trafficking in human beings in the Barents Euro-Arctic region.
3. The cross-border cooperation gives added value for the combat against other forms of organised crimes related to trafficking in human beings.
4. The methods of cooperation concerning Trafficking in Human beings in the Barents Euro-Arctic region can be duplicated to other forms of criminality and to other regions.

ACTION PLAN for 2005-2006:

1. Each country shall establish contact-points both at ministerial level and at regional and central level of the law enforcement agencies and also include the liaisons officers in the network.
2. The law enforcement agencies of the participating countries shall exchange relevant operational information concerning trafficking in the region without delay.
3. The participating countries shall exchange national reports concerning the situation of trafficking in the region yearly to the Chair of the BEAC Task Force. The reports shall be exchanged by the end of March yearly. Starting at the 31 of March 2005 the participating countries shall present the report of 2004.
4. The Task Force shall initiate the encouraging and developing of methods and cross-border cooperation at the regional level.
5. Each state shall contact their national part of the Baltic Sea Task Force on Organised Crime/Operational Committee (OPC) to establish a good cooperation. The chair of the BEAC Task Force against trafficking in human beings shall establish a contact with the secretariat of the Baltic Sea Task Force on Organised Crime.

6. All activities of the BEAC Task Force against trafficking in human beings shall be coordinated with the Baltic Sea Task Force on organised crime to avoid duplication of efforts and promote joint operations.
7. The Task Force shall arrange a seminar for representatives of the law enforcement agencies in the region. Preliminarily it will be arranged in Murmansk, Russia, April 2005.