



Senate
Att.: Mr Ludek Sefzig
Chairman of the Committee on European Affairs
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**Chairman of the European
Affairs Committee**

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**Request to include trafficking of human beings
on the agenda of the XLI COSAC in Prague on 10-12 May 2009**

21 November 2008

Dear Mr. Sefzig,

I would like to propose to you as the incoming President of COSAC that the question of combating and preventing trafficking in human beings be placed on the agenda of the forthcoming COSAC in Prague on 10-12 May 2009.

Trafficking in human beings is a gruesome and current problem, not only in distant countries but also in Europe. It comprises serious violations of fundamental rights and human dignity and involves ruthless practises exploiting mostly children and women. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) about 500.000 people might be trafficked to Europe every year. The total number of cases investigated in the EU was 1.569 in 2006.

In other words trafficking in human beings is still a low-risk crime.

Even though the European Union has already adopted some legislative measures to combat trafficking in human beings – such as the Framework Decision of 19 July 2002 – further strengthening of the commitment of the EU and our Member States is needed.

Recently the European Commission confirmed this need in a report (17 October 2008), which concluded that there is still a serious gap between legislation in force in Member States and the actual implementation. The Commission therefore stressed that it would be considering revising the EU's Framework Decision.

Putting the question of combating trafficking in human beings on the agenda of the forthcoming COSAC, would allow national parliaments to contribute to any future initiatives of the European Commission in due course.

Needless to say, the subject is one of unusually great concern to all member

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parliaments. I should be grateful for your consideration of the Folketing's proposal and remain,

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Svend Auken', written in a cursive style.

Svend Auken
Chairman of the European Affairs Committee