

Press Release

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Series of Council of Europe Human Trafficking Seminars to be continued on 19 and 20 October in Rome

Strasbourg, 13.10.2006 – The third information and awareness raising seminar in the framework of the Campaign to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings will be dedicated to Italy, a Council of Europe member state which, for more than 10 years, has faced an increase in trafficking in human beings.

On 19 and 20 October, Council of Europe speakers together with national experts in human rights, criminal and prosecution matters as well as NGO representatives will discuss the specific situation in Italy and measures taken in other countries (Albania, Greece, Malta, Portugal, Spain and Turkey). Special attention will be paid to the promotion of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings which is a new and effective tool at European level to combat this new form of slavery. There will also be a presentation on the role of the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights in the fight against trafficking.

The Rome seminar will be opened by Barbara Pollastrini, Minister for Rights and Equal Opportunities of Italy and Andrea Manzella, Member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. Jan Kleijssen, Director of the Human Rights Directorate General, will address the forum on behalf of the Council of Europe.

The event – which will take place in the **Palazzo Marini, via Poli 19 (Sala delle Colonne)** - is co-organised between the Council of Europe Directorate General of Human Rights and the Department of Equal Opportunities Presidency of the Council of Ministers of Italy.

The seminar is open to the press.

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