

Press Release

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Stop abduction, slavery and sale of child victims

Strasbourg, 27.02.2007 - Council of Europe Deputy Secretary General Maud de Boer-Buquicchio is visiting the United Nations to promote the Council of Europe's *Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings* ([CETS No. 197](#)) a comprehensive treaty open to ratification for countries worldwide – including the United States.

"It is believed that some 600,000 human beings are trafficked across international borders each year. That makes one victim of trafficking every minute. At this very moment, tens of thousands of predators are surfing the internet in search of images and sounds of sexual abuse and violence against children", said Maud de Boer-Buquicchio.

The Council of Europe is determined to break the vicious circle through raising awareness, helping the victims of modern day slave trade regain their freedom and - not least, through stemming demand for slave services.

The Convention was adopted in 2005. To date, it has been signed by 30 States but ratified only by four - Albania, Austria, Moldova and Romania. That is too slow – ten ratifications are needed for the Convention to become operational.

Deputy Secretary General Maud de Boer-Buquicchio is taking part in the United Nation's 51st session of the Commission on the Status of Women. She will address a special session "Girl child victims of trafficking" on Thursday, 1 March from 1:15 to 2:45 pm at the United Nation's ECOSOC Chamber. The session is open to the press.

For more information on the Council of Europe Convention and campaign against human trafficking:

http://www.coe.int/t/dg2/trafficking/campaign/default_EN.asp

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