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Council of Europe calls on Denmark to step up efforts against human trafficking

Strasbourg, 20.12.2011 - In its <u>first evaluation report ever on Denmark</u>, the Council of Europe's Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (<u>GRETA</u>) notes positive steps taken by the Danish authorities to combat trafficking in human beings, but also calls on Danish authorities to develop greater preventive measures and raise awareness about trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation – in particular in the agriculture, construction and cleaning sectors.

In the the 50-page report, GRETA expressed concern about a government focus on illegal immigration and identifying trafficking victims. It urges Danish authorities to ensure that potential victims of trafficking are treated in the first place as persons who have been exposed to human rights violations, rather than as offenders. Victims of trafficking also require more adequate recovery and reflection periods, rather than just an 'extended delay' to prepare their departure from the country, the report said.