



Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe

Commission des Eglises auprès des Migrants en Europe

Kommission der Kirchen für Migranten in Europa



CCME AND CARITAS EUROPA JOINT PRESS RELEASE OF

1st March 2004 European Churches initiate review of progress in combating trafficking in women International conference to assess “achievements and challenges 18 months after the Brussels declaration” An international conference organised by the Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME) and Caritas Europa on 4th March in Brussels will review the progress made over the last 18 months in the fight against trafficking in women.

The conference is part of the launch of phase II of the European network, “Christian Action and Networking against Trafficking” (CAT). The activities of the network are co-funded by the EU AGIS programme and the World Council of Churches. The public conference will examine the conclusions and consequences of the “Brussels Declaration”. The “Brussels Declaration” - result of a European conference in September 2002 - contains highly relevant conclusions and recommendations on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings. Practitioners from Churches, NGOs and public officials from more than 15 European countries will exchange their experiences in the fields of prevention of trafficking, assistance to trafficked persons and discuss ways forward. A particular focus will be on the cooperation between Churches, NGOs and public institutions - one of the central conclusions of the “Brussels Declaration”.

Four prominent members of the European Parliament will chair the different sessions of the conference and offer their reflections. Representatives of the European Commission as well as of the EU “Expert Group on Trafficking in Human Beings” will present their recent activities in the field. Torsten Moritz, coordinator of the CAT project, commented: “18 months ago, the Brussels Declaration summarised central recommendations for combating trafficking.

Since then, a lot of progress has been made in the fight against this criminal human rights violation. It is now time to make visible how different actors are joining forces to combat trafficking.

The conference will also point out where progress is slow and more efforts need to be made.” The conference will be held in the European Parliament, rue Wiertz 47, 1000 Brussels

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Conference Programme: <http://www.cec-kek.org/English/Conferenceprogramme.pdf>

Visit: www.coatnet.org The CAT (Christian Action and Networking against Trafficking in Women) Project is coordinated by the Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME). It is funded by the European Commission AGIS Programme and (since Dec. 2003) the World Council of Churches' Diakonia and Solidarity Team . The views expressed and information provided by the project and the partners involved do not necessarily reflect the point of view of the European Commission or the World Council of Churches and do in no way fall under the responsibility of the European Commission or the World Council of Churches.

