

*Brussels, 02/09/2010
Ares/2010/ 556484*

Dear President,

The European Commission thanks the Austrian Nationalrat for sharing its opinion on the Commission proposal of the 29 March 2010 for a Directive on combating trafficking in human beings, and protecting victims {COM(2010)95}.

We agree that only common action at EU level may be effective to combat these most serious crimes.

The European Commission agrees that the financial impact of prosecution of new forms of crimes and of more extensive protection of victims is difficult to estimate at this stage. However, the Commission points out that it has indeed carried out an estimation of the costs involved in some of the measures proposed, where the financial impact may be most evident {see impact assessment accompanying the proposal for a Council Framework Decision on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings, and protecting victims, repealing Framework Decision 2002/629/JHA (COM(2009) 136 final)(SEC(2009) 358)}.

The provision on the criminal responsibility of legal persons will be subject to a detailed analysis in the Council and the European Parliament. In the context of these discussions, the Commission takes note of the remarks of the Nationalrat.

Yours faithfully,

*Ms Barbara Prammer
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