

General Secretariat of the European Women's Lobby
For the attention of the Secretary General

Berlin, 05.08.2011

Dear Mrs,

To whom it may concern,

Referring to your campaign "Together for a Europe Free from Prostitution" and your essay in the „European Women's Voice“ spring 2011 edition, posted on 17 June 2011, we, the KOK e.V., would like to comment:

The KOK is reading your opinion on and analysis of the current situation regarding the topics of trafficking in persons, especially in women in Germany with great concern. In particular your remark that since the implementation of the German Prostitution Act, there would have been an increase in organised crime in the sex industries cannot be found in the sources you refer to. This development, you argue, could be seen in the increase of human trafficking investigations by 70% over the period 2005 to 2009. ("At this time, government and NGO reports show that in countries where prostitution is regulated such as in Germany (...); trafficking and organised crime surrounding the sex industries there has increased. According to a 2009 report by the German Federal Police, investigations into cases of sex trafficking have increased by 70% over a five year period (2005-2009)"). This quote is referring to the National Situation Report from the German Federal Police Department of 2009, as well as to the Government report from 2007 regarding the effects of the German Prostitution Act.

It is correct, that looking at the bare numbers there has been an increase in closed criminal investigations since the year 2005. The number of closed criminal investigations, however, cannot be interpreted in such a way that there has been an increase of human trafficking since the introduction of the Prostitution Act, as is also explicitly stated in the source your statement quotes, the 2007 evaluation report of the German Government, page 45:

„It is difficult to find statistical evidence to either prove that the Prostitution Act has reduced crime or promoted criminal prosecution or that it has instead promoted crime and hindered criminal prosecution, since no statistical investigations have been carried out which provide evidence of the detailed relationships between prostitution and concomitant crime and which could reliably provide evidence for either of the two developments. Neither crime statistics compiled by the police at federal level nor statistics on criminal prosecutions in this area provide

any valid data as to the impact of the Prostitution Act on criminal prosecution. (...) However, **no trend can be observed regarding the number of cases of trafficking in human beings (the former Sections 180b, 181 Criminal Code) following the amendment to the Prostitution Act** (emphasis added). For methodological reasons it is also not possible to draw any conclusions regarding which of the possible factors are responsible for which proportion of cases. “

<http://www.bmfsfj.de/BMFSFJ/Service/Publikationen/publikationsliste,did=100352.html>

Also, our member organisations, the German specialised counselling centres for trafficked persons, have not reported such a massive influx of human trafficking related cases since the implementation of the Prostitution Act.

Much to our regret, your article is presenting a misleading description of the topics of human trafficking and prostitution in Germany. We are concerned that in your article, numbers as well as statistical correlations have been placed out of context and have been inapplicablely quoted, thus establishing causalities between social phenomena that cannot be proven and in our view are not appropriate. It is our concern that this may lead to an incorrect picture being transported into the public that in turn may lead to inappropriate and even counterproductive actions.

We are kindly looking forward to your response and are at your disposal for further questions.

The KOK is a network of 37 specialised counselling centres for trafficked persons/trafficked women in Germany. For further information, please visit our homepage www.kok-buero.de.

Sincerely,