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De : "Trafficking" <Trafficking@coe.int>

À : "representationbosnie@wanadoo.fr" <representationbosnie@wanadoo.fr>

Objet : Election of members of the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA)

Strasbourg, 29 March 2022

Ambassador Ivan ORLIĆ
Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina
to the Council of Europe

Subject: Election of members of the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA)

Dear Ambassador,

The terms of office of seven of the 15 members of the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) will expire on 31 December 2022.¹ The election to fill the vacant seats will be held at the 31st meeting of the Committee of the Parties of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, which is envisaged to take place in the second half of November - beginning of December 2022 in Strasbourg. The precise date of that meeting will be fixed at the 30th meeting of the Committee of the Parties, provisionally scheduled to take place on 10 June 2022.

Taking into account that no two members of GRETA may be nationals of the same State (Article 36, paragraph 3, sub-paragraph c, of the Convention), the following **40 Parties** to the Convention have the right to nominate candidates for GRETA membership: Albania, Andorra, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Republic of Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, Ukraine and the United Kingdom.

In accordance with Rule 9 of Resolution CM/Res(2013)28 on rules on the election procedure of the members of GRETA, your government is invited to submit to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe the names and curricula vitae of no more than three candidates who have the required qualifications and capacity to serve on GRETA. The curricula vitae should be submitted in English or French using the model set out in the appendix to Resolution CM/Res(2013)28. The term of office of a member of GRETA is four years, renewable once.

In accordance with Rule 12 of Resolution CM/Res(2013)28, only candidates whose names and curricula vitae have been received by the Secretariat of the Convention **at the latest two months before the date of the election** shall be allowed to stand for election. Since the meeting at which the election will be held is envisaged to take place in the second half of November - beginning of December 2022, the deadline for submitting candidatures for membership in GRETA is set at **11 September 2022**. Should the meeting be organised later than envisaged, you will receive a letter informing you of the new deadline.

I would like to recall the provisions which should be taken into account when selecting the candidates.

The Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings provides in its Article 36 that members of GRETA shall be chosen among persons of high moral character, known for their recognised competence in the fields of human rights, assistance and protection of victims and action against trafficking in human beings or having professional experience in the areas covered by the

Convention. They shall sit in their individual capacity, shall be independent and impartial, and shall be available to serve GRETA effectively.

Resolution CM/Res(2013)28 specifies in its Rule 3 that individuals holding decision-making positions as regards defining and/or implementing policies in the field of action against trafficking in human beings in government or in any other organisation or entity, which may give rise to a conflict of interest with the responsibilities inherent to membership of GRETA, shall not be eligible.

Further, Rule 10 of Resolution CM/Res(2013)28 provides that, in order to help ensure gender balance among the members of GRETA, when nominating more than one candidate, each State Party shall take all the necessary and appropriate steps with a view to nominating at least one man and one woman. I would like to draw your attention to the fact that out of the eight GRETA members whose terms of office continue until 31 December 2024, three are women and five are men, and therefore it would be important to ensure that the new composition of GRETA is gender balanced.

With a view to ensuring a multidisciplinary expertise in the new composition of GRETA, it would be desirable to propose candidates from professional backgrounds which are not represented in GRETA, such as child protection specialists, professionals providing legal, psychological or medical assistance to victims of human trafficking, judges and labour inspectors with experience in the anti-trafficking area.

In order to enable the efficient work of GRETA, candidates are expected to have a good command of at least one of the official languages of the Council of Europe (English or French).

Finally, pursuant to Rule 11 of Resolution CM/Res(2013)28, it is the responsibility of each Party to ensure that the national selection procedure leading to the nomination of candidates for GRETA is in accordance with published national guidelines or otherwise transparent and designed to lead to the nomination of the most qualified candidates.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,



Petya Nestorova

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Enclosures:

- [Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings](#)
- [Resolution CM/Res\(2013\)28 on rules on the election procedure of the members of the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings](#)

[1] Six of these members, who are the nationals of Austria, Bulgaria, Georgia, Iceland, Ireland and Italy, will complete their first term of office and can stand for re-election, while the other one, who is national of France, is ending her second term of office and cannot be re-elected.