

WRITTEN QUESTION E-4248/06
by Christa Prets (PSE)
to the Council

Subject: Trafficking in human beings; trafficking in women for purposes of sexual exploitation - telephone helplines

The European Parliament resolution on 'strategies to prevent the trafficking of women and children who are vulnerable to sexual exploitation' calls on Member States to set up national and international telephone helplines against trafficking in women, which would be publicised through information campaigns on national and local television, inter alia. The EP resolution on 'forced prostitution in the context of world sports events' likewise calls on Member States to set up a multilingual telephone hotline followed by a high-profile publicity campaign designed to provide the necessary information, counselling, safe housing and legal aid to women and children and other victims forced into prostitution and in order to inform other victims, who frequently find themselves isolated in residential units or industrial zones, unable to speak the language of the country of transit or destination and with no basic information on whom to turn to or what to do.

Does the Council have any information about the provision of telephone helplines and the level of use made of them during the Football World Cup in Germany?

Will the Council take measures to establish an EU-wide telephone helpline (emergency number) against trafficking in women/human beings?

For some years, a common European emergency services number, 112, has been in use. It was technically possible to coordinate this throughout the EU. Could the Council conceive of taking that system as an inspiration or basis for organising a helpline against trafficking in human beings?