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## Regional Workshop for Employers' Organisations from the Southern Caucasus and Destination Countries on Strategies against Human Trafficking and Forced Labour

Hotel "Intourist"  
Batumi, Georgia  
23 – 24 September 2010

### **Aid Memoire**

**Objective:** To share challenges to effective action and good practices related to the main thematic areas of the conference. To develop recommendations for employers for more effective approaches in combating forced labour and trafficking in human beings in the Caucasus and in the countries of destination. To increase cooperation and networking between international and national stakeholders by providing them with a regional forum, the conference in Batumi.

**Background and Justification:** The EU funded regional project "Strengthening of comprehensive anti-trafficking response in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia" takes place in the Caucasus region covering Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia and seeks to contribute to the progressive reduction of trafficking in human beings in these three countries.

The Conference is a regional component of the Project and will contribute to the development of a coherent anti-trafficking strategy for the Employers' Organizations to take action against forced labour and trafficking in human beings.

## **The strategy**

The three countries of the Caucasus cannot and should not be seen in isolation of a larger regional picture. Migratory flows, demographic and economic pressures, labour market reforms all bear influence over the pull and push factors of migration and corresponding risks and vulnerabilities to Trafficking in Human Beings and forced labour.

Likewise, it is imperative that the three countries albeit all three are predominantly source/origin countries in their own right attempt to place their efforts to address Trafficking in Human Beings and Forced Labour within a larger regional context. It is envisaged to have alongside participants from the region to have representatives from the destination countries, namely Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus, Greece, Turkey, and selected EU countries such as Austria and Germany and Spain including one Baltic State, represented by Employers' Organizations. (Further, a number of resource persons assigned to thematic issues of the conference will enable to contribute to a structured discussion, quality assurance and input. The conference envisages the total of 40 participants.)

The conference aims at addressing through plenary and working group sessions two thematic issues:

- i) To review and learn more about international good practices and totake stock of creating innovative initiatives in the context of the Caucasus;
- ii) To develop an interactive forum for cooperation between Employers in the Caucasus and destination countries, as a contribution to the ILO's Business Alliance against Forced Labour and Trafficking.

**Outcome:** By bringing together the Employers' Organizations from the countries of origin (Caucasus Region) and countries of destination, the conference will contribute to development of a coherent anti-trafficking strategy of Business and Employers and will encourage better cooperation between the actors. It is envisaged that in both thematic areas practical and specific recommendation will be drafted and especially innovative approaches will be assessed with the view of their replication. The recommendations developed by the Conference are envisaged to contain a number of practical and concrete measures.