

Second day of the Fifteenth Meeting
MC(15) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 8

**DECISION No. 9/07
COMBATING SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF
CHILDREN ON THE INTERNET**

The Ministerial Council,

Alarmed that the growth of the Internet has generated an enormous global expansion of the viewing and distribution of child pornography and of its profits, including for criminal organizations,

Reaffirming participating States commitment to implement Brussels Ministerial Council Decision No. 15/06 and taking note of the efforts of the OSCE executive structures to assist participating States in this regard,

Taking into account the proceedings of the 20 and 21 September 2007 experts meeting on the sexual exploitation of children on the Internet and of the 18 and 19 October 2007 Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on combating the sexual exploitation of children,

Determined to combat this growing phenomenon, including through increasing OSCE activity to address it, decides to:

1. Encourage participating States that have not already done so to establish a national operational centre, or other structure as appropriate, to increase co-ordination and to involve to the extent possible public-private partnership in order to more effectively address issues related to sexual exploitation of children;
2. Call on participating States that have not already done so to collect and store information, in accordance with national provisions on the protection of personal data, on persons convicted of child sexual exploitation or abuse in order to facilitate the apprehension of perpetrators and monitoring of their probation, and to develop, where appropriate, instruments to enable the exchange of information internationally among law enforcement agencies pertaining to sex offenders' convictions and disqualifications;
3. Encourage participating States that have not already done so to establish a system that allows law enforcement to work with public broadcasting and quickly send out a public alert when a child is found missing, when appropriate;

4. Urge participating States that have not already done so to consider criminalizing the intentional acquisition and possession of child pornography, given that the viewing and possession of child pornography stimulates the growth of this illicit industry;
5. Advocate that participating States that have not already done so set up specific national hotlines for the reporting of child abuse, including sexual exploitation of children on the Internet;
6. Call on participating States to support, as appropriate, increased data collection and research on sexual exploitation of children and child pornography on the Internet in order to better understand the scope and trends of the problem and thereby increase the effectiveness of programmes to combat it;
7. Advocate that participating States, in accordance with national legislation concerning the protection of personal data, work not only on a national basis but also on an international basis with Internet service providers, credit-card companies, banks and other relevant corporations to prevent the use of the Internet for sexual exploitation of children and to impede payment methods in order to make the crime less profitable in order to address demand for child pornography on the Internet;
8. Reiterate our call on the participating States to facilitate legal protection, assistance, appropriate medical care, rehabilitation and reintegration programmes for child victims of sexual exploitation and, where appropriate, to ensure the safe return of children trafficked internationally;
9. Urge OSCE participating States to further enhance specialized training for law enforcement, teachers and health professionals, as appropriate, on combating child pornography on the Internet, including by taking advantage of existing programmes such as that offered by the International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children, and tasks the relevant OSCE executive structures to facilitate contacts in this regard;
10. Task the relevant OSCE executive structures to assist OSCE participating States, on their request, with the implementation of this decision and Ministerial Council Decision No. 15/06, within available resources and without prejudice to existing activities;
11. Task, within existing resources, the OSCE Secretariat to set up within the POLIS website of its Strategic Police Matters Unit a multilingual section devoted to combating sexual exploitation of children on the Internet, and in this regard the POLIS section should create an expert forum that would facilitate access of participating States' law enforcement agencies to best practices and available investigative techniques or software, access to legislative drafting assistance or legislative models, and provide awareness-raising information and web links for the public;
12. Task the OSCE Secretariat to organize in 2008 an OSCE on-line workshop through the POLIS website on sexual exploitation of children on the Internet, funded with extra-budgetary contributions;

13. Task the Secretary General, in consultation with the participating States, to consider ways to increase OSCE expertise on the issue, within existing resources and with due regard to the activities of other international organizations;
14. Invite OSCE Partners for Co-operation to voluntarily share the commitments of the participating States on combating sexual exploitation of children.