

**THE MINISTRY OF ADMINISTRATION AND INTERIOR – FOCUSED ON COMBATING  
TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS**

In the context of the efforts made by Romania to join the European Union on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2007, preventing the actions of trafficking in human beings has been of permanent interest for the Ministry of Administration and Interior. Its specialized structures have closely watched the fulfilling of the European experts' recommendations.

Therefore, the activities of combating the above-mentioned phenomenon have been intensified, even by developing the relationships of foreign co-operation, the goal being the assurance of the protection of our citizens and the alignment to the international standards.

Thus, between January 2005 – August 2006, the Border Police found and dismantled 70 networks of trafficking in human beings, consisting of over 350 traffickers.

During the current year, only in May and June, 70 traffickers involved in trafficking in human beings were found.

The General Directorate of Combating Organized Crime and the General Inspectorate of Border Police instrumented, last year and during the first semester of the current year, almost 1300 files related to trafficking in human beings, where 2300 persons were involved, out of which 500 were arrested or retained.

During the same period of time, almost 1200 traffickers in human beings were sent to justice and 250 traffickers were sentenced.

At the same time, the General Directorate of Combating Organized Crime and the General Inspectorate of Border Police heard about 3800 potential victims of trafficking in human beings.

The Monitoring Report, presented in May 2006, by the European Commission, appreciated the progress made by Romania in the field of combating trafficking in human beings, by setting up the National Agency of Preventing Trafficking in Human Beings and Monitoring the Assistance for the Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings.

This agency is under the process on becoming operational. Its attributions will be extended in order to be able to offer a better assistance to the victims of trafficking in human beings.

The eight governmental centers destined to the victims can offer assistance to 95 persons, for the time being. During the month of May, the Agency assisted 130 victims, out of which 80 were aged under 18.