

On 13 April 1995, Belgium has adopted a law containing measures to punish trafficking in human beings and child pornography. This law was aimed at fighting more efficiently the issues linked to tourism for sexual purposes and international networks of child trafficking.

In this perspective, the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs** has asked its embassies and consulates abroad to pay attention to any reprehensible fact falling under this law, especially when Belgians are involved. The different diplomatic delegations have been invited to transfer all relevant information gathered locally to Brussels (newspaper articles charging a Belgian, reports from a local NGO or capture of a Belgian for such facts). All information is transferred to the Trafficking in Human Beings Unit of the Federal Police.

At the level of the international organisations, Belgium plays an active role. In 2006-2007, under the Belgian Presidency of the OSCE, a ministerial decision has been taken to fight sexual exploitation of children. Besides that, Belgium has actively taken part in the negotiations of the Council of Europe to draft the Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse. This Convention has been signed by Belgium on 25 April 2007 in Lanzarote.

In December 2008, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has also participated in the Third World Congress against sexual exploitation of children in Rio.

The involvement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in this awareness raising campaign is perfectly in line with its previous actions. Simultaneously with the launch of the new campaign “Stop child prostitution. be”, Belgian embassies and consulates will be requested to carry on the initiatives undertaken before and to play a proactive role in the promotion of this campaign.