



Since more than 50 years FEBETRA (Federation of Belgian hauliers) looks after the interests of the Belgian sector for transport of goods by road for the account of third parties and logistic providers. Guarding the interest of the sector and the profession is our number one priority. Our main aim is that a maximum of our members can find themselves in the points of view of the federation.

As a professional organisation FEBETRA thinks that it is our job to participate as much as possible in projects tied to the line of work of our members. We are willing to share our experiences and those of our members and in doing so provide a positive contribution wherever and whenever possible

The federal police contacted FEBETRA for the first time in the year 2000 to ask for our co-operation in a project to tackle the phenomena of smuggling human beings by truck. It was an awareness campaign towards the drivers. Also, they got tips on how to prevent illegals climbing in their trucks to easy. Together with the police we developed a folder to be handed out to the truck drivers.

The federal police contacted FEBETRA again in the year 2002. This time they asked for our co-operation in a project concerning travelling abusers in Europe. This kind of abuse is no longer typical for South East Asia. Especially the former Warchau Pact countries and the eastern border regions of the European Union create problems in this field. Over there people are often considered as merchandise and most of the time the victims are minors.

First of all we checked how far we could go along with the police and ECPAT. We came to the decision that, though we had no specific experience in this matter, we could co-operate; our drivers belong clearly to the target group as they stay often for longer or shorter periods abroad and are to be found often in border regions.

FEBETRA used its members as a part of the prevention of sexual abuse of adults and especially children. We asked them to report any incident of sexual abuse that they witness in order to try to confine the problem and try to stop the activities of these abusers.

Meanwhile almost 10 years have passed and unfortunately sexual abuse of children is still an issue. Child prostitution is forbidden and has to be denounced. Even if the abuse took place abroad, the authors can still be obliged to appear before a Belgian court. But to attain this, it is necessary to charge the offenders and we need the help of everyone.

That's the reason why FEBETRA supports the new campaign and will continue to sensitize hauliers and truck drivers for such an important issue as sexual abuse of children.