

Presentation at the 27th meeting of the World Tourism Network on Child Presentation by Sylvia Harten.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Due to the tight time schedule I will briefly explain the multidisciplinary approach of the Dutch Police in the combat against child pornography and travelling child sex offenders. These two issues are already for some years highly on the Dutch political agenda, but especially the problem with travelling child sex offenders has up until now not received the attention it deserves.

But first of all I would like to explain the approach of the Dutch Police. In 2008 a reinforcement program against child abuse (images) and travelling child sex offenders was established for the improvement of the combat against these crimes in terms of efficiency and effectiveness. I'm one of the project leaders and my responsibility is developing the new approach against travelling child sex offender matters. Two other project leaders joined me to this conference.

The Minister of Justice and Security ordered the Dutch police to double the capacity of investigators (from 75 to 150) dealing with these two kind of crimes against children and also to move the focus from the downloader of child porn to the perpetrator and the victims in a multidisciplinary approach together with the public- and private partners. We will do this in a new child porn police organization, that will be operational this year and which consists of a team of 40 people who will be working on a national and international level, and 110 people working regionally.

In the past we police thought that we could solve crime by ourselves without any interference of third partners. But nowadays we must confess that this is an impossible approach. Especially if we're talking about travelling child sex offenders who go across borders and are active both in the real as the digital world.

Regarding the issue of Travelling Child sex offenders I think this is the right platform to discuss in which way we can cooperate together to make it difficult if not impossible for (previous) offenders to travel abroad. And travelling is related to your branch.

How can you help us to prevent foreigners to travel to for instance third world countries and to create awareness to other travelers who are confronted with child sex offenders.

The difficulty is that these offenders commit the crime without being noticed or monitored by their own law enforcement agencies.

Up to this point we've already had meetings with the Dutch Police, the Royal Netherlands Marechaussee and several travel agencies to look for ways to launch a campaign at the airports in the Netherlands. Aim of this campaign is to create awareness of this problem amongst travelers and encourage them to report suspicious acts.

I must say I can feel the willingness of the travel agencies to support us on behalf of protection of young children abroad.

Together we should enforce the combat of crime against children and create awareness amongst travelers without damaging the image of your branche.

We are looking for much more cooperation with you and I hope we can discuss some matters after this conference.

Are you willing to support us, or do you have any recommendations or experiences please contact me

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Thank you very much for your attention!