

Strasbourg, 18 October 2013

Greco (2013) 13E

61st GRECO Plenary Meeting
(Strasbourg, 14-18 October 2013)

DECISIONS

At its 61th Plenary Meeting (Strasbourg, 14-18 October 2013), the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO):

1. adopted the agenda as it appears in the Summary Report of the Meeting (Greco (2013) 14E);

Information

2. took note of the information provided by the President and the Executive Secretary (cf. the Summary Report of the meeting), including, in particular, those taken from items 9, 10, 11, 12 and 15 of the report of the 65th Meeting of the Bureau (Greco (2013) 10E);
3. took note of the information provided by Delegations (cf. the Summary Report of the meeting);

Topical anti-corruption developments/events in member States

4. held a tour de table and took note of the status as regards ratification of the Council of Europe's anti-corruption instruments (ETS Nos. 173, 174 and 191) and withdrawal of declarations and reservations;
5. urged those member States who have not done so to ratify and withdraw any declarations and reservations promptly;

Fourth Evaluation Round

6. adopted the Fourth Round Evaluation Reports on:
 - the Slovak Republic (Greco Eval IV Rep (2013) 2E) and
 - Sweden (Greco Eval IV Rep (2013) 1E);
7. invited the authorities of the Slovak Republic and Sweden to authorise, as soon as possible, the publication of the reports mentioned in decision 6 above;
8. approved the composition of the teams in charge of the Fourth Round evaluations of Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Germany, Ireland and Lithuania (Greco Eval IV (2013) 10);

Third Evaluation Round

9. adopted the Third Round Compliance Reports on:
 - Andorra (Greco RC-III (2013) 12E)and fixed the deadline for providing additional information on the implementation of recommendations at 30 April 2015;
10. invited the authorities of Andorra to authorise, as soon as possible, the publication of the report mentioned in decision 9 above;

11. adopted the Third Round Compliance Reports on:

- Bosnia and Herzegovina (Greco RC-III (2013) 16E) and
- Switzerland (Greco RC-III (2013) 17E)

and concluded that the level of compliance with the recommendations was “globally unsatisfactory” in the meaning of Rule 31, paragraph 8.3 of the Rules of Procedure in both cases;

12. pursuant to Rule 32, paragraph 2(i) of the Rules of Procedure, requested the Heads of the Delegations of Bosnia and Herzegovina and of Switzerland to provide a report on progress in implementing the recommendations by 30 April 2014 at the latest;

13. invited the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Switzerland to authorise, as soon as possible, the publication of the reports mentioned in decision 11 above;

14. adopted Addenda to the Second Third Round Compliance Reports on:

- Estonia (Greco RC-III (2013) 10E) and
- Iceland (Greco RC-III (2013) 2E)

and closed the Third Round compliance procedure in respect of both members;

15. noted with satisfaction that the authorities of Estonia and Iceland authorise the publication of the reports mentioned in decision 14 above;

16. adopted the *Interim* Third Round Compliance Report on:

- Portugal (Greco RC-III (2013) 18E – Interim report);

17. decided not to continue applying Rule 32 in the case of that member and, in accordance with Rule 31, paragraph 8.2 of the Rules of Procedure, requested the Head of delegation of Portugal to submit additional information regarding the implementation of recommendations by 31 July 2014 at the latest;

18. invited the authorities of Portugal to authorise, as soon as possible, the publication of the report mentioned in decision 16 above;

19. adopted the 2nd *Interim* Third Round Compliance Reports on:

- Belgium (Greco RC-III (2013) 19E)
- Denmark (Greco RC-III (2013) 11E) and
- Germany (Greco RC-III (2013) 15E)

and concluded that the level of compliance with the recommendations remained “globally unsatisfactory” in the meaning of Rule 31, paragraph 8.3 of the Rules of Procedure in the three cases;

20. pursuant to Rule 32, paragraph 2(i) of the Rules of Procedure, requested the Heads of the Delegations of Belgium, Denmark and Germany to provide a report on progress in implementing the recommendations by 31 July 2014 at the latest;

21. pursuant to Rule 32, paragraph 2 (ii) c) of the Rules of Procedure, invited the Secretary General of the Council of Europe to send a letter to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Belgium, Denmark and Germany on the need to take determined action with a view to achieving tangible progress as soon as possible;
22. invited the authorities of Belgium, Denmark and Germany to authorise, as soon as possible, the publication of the reports mentioned in decision 19 above;
23. adopted the 3rd *Interim* Third Round Compliance Report on:
 - the Slovak Republic (Greco RC-III (2013) 21E)and concluded that the level of compliance with the recommendations remained “globally unsatisfactory” in the meaning of Rule 31, paragraph 8.3 of the Rules of Procedure;
24. pursuant to Rule 32, paragraph 2(i) of the Rules of Procedure, requested the Head of the Delegation of the Slovak Republic to provide a report on progress in implementing the recommendations by 31 July 2014 at the latest;
25. pursuant to Rule 32, paragraph 2 (ii) a) of the Rules of Procedure, instructed its President to send a letter – with a copy to the President of the Statutory Committee – to the Head of Delegation of the Slovak Republic, on the need to take determined action with a view to achieving tangible progress as soon as possible;
26. invited the authorities of the Slovak Republic to authorise, as soon as possible, the publication of the report mentioned in decision 23 above;

Joint First and Second Evaluation Rounds

27. adopted the Joint First and Second Round Compliance Report on:
 - Liechtenstein (Greco RC-I/II (2013) 1E)and fixed the deadline for providing additional information on the implementation of recommendations at 30 April 2015;
28. invited the authorities of Liechtenstein to authorise, as soon as possible, the publication of the report mentioned in decision 27 above;

Publication of adopted reports

29. reminded its members of the action to be taken when publishing adopted reports in order to ensure visibility of their work in GRECO (cf. GRECO 58, decision 26);

Recommendation 2019 (2013) of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe “Corruption as a threat to the rule of law”

30. adopted comments (Greco (2013) 11E Final) on Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation 2019 (2013) and instructed the Secretariat to forward them to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe;

Exchanges of views - postponement

31. took note of the postponement to the 62th Plenary Meeting of exchanges of views with Jean-Claude MIGNON, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and with Kitty NOOY, Prosecution Service Integrity Bureau (BI-OM) of the Netherlands;

Election for the Fourth Evaluation Round – Bureau - postponement

32. postponed to a forthcoming meeting the election to the vacant seat in the Bureau;

Miscellaneous

33. took note of the draft Recommendation on Protecting Whistleblowers (CDCJ-BU(2013)8 – Extract) the intention of which is to encourage the adoption of national frameworks in Council of Europe member States for the protection of whistleblowers based on a set of common principles;
34. expressed its preparedness to discuss with the European Committee on Legal Co-operation (CDCJ) how it might contribute to a possible monitoring of the Recommendation, bearing in mind the scope of its mandate as established by Articles 1 and 2 of GRECO's Statute;
35. stressed that the CDCJ might wish to invite comments from GRECO delegations concerning the draft Recommendation;

Forthcoming meetings

36. took note of the concept and draft programme for the Conference "Gender Dimensions on Corruption" that would be organised by GRECO, under the auspices of the President of the Senate and the Ministry of Justice of the Czech Republic, in Prague on 13 December 2013 – Heads of Delegation would soon receive information on practical arrangements;
37. noted that the Bureau would hold its 66th Meeting in Strasbourg on 8 November 2013;
38. noted that the 62nd Plenary Meeting would be held in Strasbourg on 2-6 December 2013.