

Strasbourg, 1 July 2016

Greco(2016)11

72nd GRECO Plenary Meeting
(Strasbourg, 27 June – 1 July 2016)

DECISIONS

At its 72nd Plenary Meeting (Strasbourg, 27 June – 1 July 2016), the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) took the following decisions (cf. the Summary Report of the meeting - Greco(2016)12):

1. adopted the agenda as it appears in the Summary Report of the meeting;

Information

2. took note of the list of items discussed and decisions taken by Bureau 76 (Greco(2016)10);
3. took note of the information provided by the President, the Director of Information Society and Action against Crime, and the deputy to the Executive Secretary;
4. took note of the information provided by Stanislas FROSSARD, Executive Secretary of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS) on recent Council of Europe work in the field of good governance in sport;

Fourth Evaluation Round

5. adopted the Fourth Round Evaluation Reports on:

- Cyprus (GrecoEval4Rep(2016)7)
- the Czech Republic (GrecoEval4Rep(2016)4)
- the Republic of Moldova (GrecoEval4Rep(2016)6)

and set the deadline of 31 January 2018 for the submission of Situation Reports on measures taken to implement the recommendations contained in the reports;

6. noted with satisfaction that the authorities of the Republic of Moldova authorise the publication of the report mentioned in decision 5 above;
7. invited the authorities of Cyprus and the Czech Republic to authorise, as soon as possible, the publication of the reports mentioned in decision 5 above;
8. adopted the Fourth Round Compliance Report on:

- “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” (GrecoRC4(2016)8)

and set the deadline of 31 January 2018 for the submission of a situation report on additional measures taken to implement the recommendations;

9. adopted the Fourth Round Compliance Report on:

- Spain (GrecoRC4(2016)1)

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

10. pursuant to Rule 32, paragraph 2(i), requested the head of delegation of Spain to provide a report on progress in implementing the recommendations by 31 July 2017 at the latest;
11. invited the authorities of “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” and Spain to authorise, as soon as possible, the publication of the reports mentioned in decisions 8 and 9 above;

Third Evaluation Round

12. adopted the 3rd *Interim* Third Round Compliance Report on:

- Bosnia and Herzegovina (GrecoRC3(2016)7)

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

13. pursuant to Rule 32, paragraph 2 (i) of the Rules of Procedure, requested the head of delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina to provide a report on the action taken to implement the pending recommendations by 30 April 2017 at the latest;

14. in accordance with Rule 32, paragraph 2 (ii) c) invited the Secretary General of the Council of Europe to send a letter to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina on that member’s non-compliance with GRECO’s recommendations and the need to take firm action to achieve tangible progress as soon as possible;

15. noted that several requests to the authorities to submit a Situation Report for this procedure had remained unanswered and that, pursuant to the decision taken by GRECO’s Bureau at its 76th meeting (Vienna, 20 May 2016), the draft 3rd Interim Compliance Report submitted for examination and adoption at the present meeting was prepared without reference to information submitted by the authorities;

16. adopted the 3rd *Interim* Third Round Compliance Report on:

- Switzerland (GrecoRC3(2016)8)

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

17. pursuant to Rule 32, paragraph 2 (i) of the Rules of Procedure, requested the head of delegation of Switzerland to provide a report on the action taken to implement the pending recommendations by 30 April 2017 at the latest;

18. in accordance with Rule 32, paragraph 2 (ii) c) invited the Secretary General of the Council of Europe to send a letter to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Switzerland on that member’s non-compliance with GRECO’s recommendations and the need to take firm action to achieve tangible progress as soon as possible;

19. invited the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Switzerland to authorise, as soon as possible, the publication of the reports mentioned in decisions 12 and 16 above;

20. took note of the information provided concerning the high-level mission to Copenhagen (25 May 2016) carried out as part of the Third Round non-compliance procedure in respect of Denmark;

21. welcomed the fact that frank and constructive discussions were held with the Minister of Justice Søren PIND and other officials of the government, and separately with representatives of political parties with seats in parliament (*Folketing*);

22. was pleased to note the Minister's commitment to take immediate concrete action in response to pending Third Round GRECO recommendations (Theme II: transparency of party funding), and that, to that end, broad discussions with all political parties represented in the Danish Parliament were about to start;

Joint First and Second Evaluation Rounds

23. adopted the 2nd *Interim* Joint First and Second Round Compliance Report on:

- Belarus (GrecoRC1/2(2016)1)

and concluded that the level of compliance with the recommendations remains "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 delegation of Belarus to provide a report on the action taken to implement the pending recommendations by 30 April 2017 at the latest;

25. in accordance with 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 Minister for Foreign Affairs of Belarus on that member's non-compliance with GRECO's recommendations and the need to take firm action to achieve tangible progress as soon as possible;

26. invited the authorities of Belarus to authorise, as soon as possible, the publication of the report mentioned in decision 23 above;

27. adopted the Addendum to the Joint First and Second Round Compliance Report on:

- San Marino (GrecoRC1/2(2016)3)

and terminated the Joint First and Second Round compliance procedure in respect of that member;

28. invited the authorities of San Marino 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 (specified in decision 26, GRECO 58) and noted in particular the importance of agreeing a same-day publication date with the Secretariat;¹

30. noted the President's call on the authorities concerned to authorise, with no further delay, the publication of the following reports (all adopted in March 2016):

- Third Round Evaluation Report on San Marino
- 2nd Third Round Compliance Reports on Austria and Belgium;

¹ - agree a same-day publication date with the Secretariat
- clearly mark both the date of adoption and date of publication on the cover page
- make the national language version available and easily accessible on a domestic website
- notify the Secretariat of the location of the report by communicating the internet link to it
- include a link on the domestic website to the official language versions on GRECO's website.

31. strongly urged the authorities of Belarus to lift the confidentiality of the Joint First and Second Round Evaluation Report (adopted June 2012) and Compliance Report (adopted June 2014), summaries of which were published by GRECO pursuant to Rule 34, paragraph 2 of the Rules of Procedure on 3 February 2014 and 27 May 2015 respectively;
32. adopted, pursuant to the same Rule, a Summary of the Joint First and Second Round *Interim* Compliance Report on Belarus (adopted June 2015) and decided that the summary will be made public on 1 September 2016 if the authorities of Belarus do not authorise publication of the full report by that date;

Preparation of the Fifth Evaluation Round

33. held an *exchange of views* with Claire DAAMS, Basel Institute of Governance, who provided insight into the key issues that might be addressed in relation to corruption prevention and the promotion of integrity in government;
34. examined the following *documents prepared by the working party* WP-Eval V:
 - Report of the 1st meeting (GrecoWP5(2016)3)
 - Draft questionnaire for the Fifth Evaluation Round (GrecoWP5(2016)2-rev)
 - Provisional list of reference texts for the Fifth Evaluation Round (GrecoWP5(2016)1-rev2);
35. in that connection, held an exchange of views and noted that additional proposals for the working party concerning these documents could be submitted to the Secretariat by 1 September 2016 at the latest;

Exchange of Views

36. held an exchange of views with Mady DELVAUX, Member and former Chair of the Advisory Committee on the Conduct of Members of the European Parliament and Maria GANDOLFO, Head of the Members' Administration Unit;

Topical anti-corruption developments/events in member States

37. took note of the information provided by delegations (cf. the Summary Report of the meeting – Item 4 of the Agenda);

Forthcoming meetings

38. noted that the Bureau will hold its 77th Meeting in Strasbourg on 9 September 2016;
39. noted that the working party WP-Eval V will hold its 2nd meeting in Strasbourg on 28-29 September 2016;
40. noted that the 73rd Plenary Meeting will be held in Strasbourg on 17-21 October 2016.