

Strasbourg, 21 October 2016

Greco(2016)16

**73<sup>rd</sup> GRECO Plenary Meeting**  
(Strasbourg, 17-21 October 2016)

**DECISIONS**

At its 73<sup>rd</sup> Plenary Meeting (Strasbourg, 17-21 October 2016), the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) took the following decisions (cf. the Summary Report of the meeting - Greco(2016)17):

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 77 (Greco(2016)15);
3. took note of the information provided by the Director General - Human Rights and Rule of Law, the President of GRECO, and the Executive Secretary;

#### Evaluation procedures

##### *Fourth Round*

4. adopted the Fourth Round Evaluation Reports on:
  - Austria (GrecoEval4Rep(2016)1)
  - Italy (GrecoEval4Rep(2016)2)and set the deadline of 30 April 2018 for the submission of Situation Reports on measures taken to implement the recommendations contained in the reports;
5. invited the authorities of Austria and Italy to authorise, as soon as possible, the publication of the reports mentioned in decision 4 above;

##### *Third Round*

6. adopted the Third Round Evaluation Report on:
  - Belarus (GrecoEval3Rep(2016)3)and set the deadline of 30 April 2018 for the submission of a Situation Report on measures taken to implement the recommendations contained in the report;
7. invited the authorities of Belarus to authorise, as soon as possible, the publication of the report mentioned in decision 6 above;

#### Compliance procedures

##### *Fourth Round*

8. adopted the Fourth Round Compliance Report on:
  - Belgium (GrecoRC4(2016)9)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;

9. pursuant to Rule 32, paragraph 2(i), requested the Head of delegation of Belgium to provide a report on progress in implementing the recommendations by 31 October 2017 at the latest;
10. adopted the Fourth Round Compliance Report on:
  - Croatia (GrecoRC4(2016)5)and set the deadline of 30 April 2018 for the submission of a situation report on additional measures taken to implement the recommendations;
11. adopted the *Interim* Fourth Round Compliance Report on:
  - the Netherlands (GrecoRC4(2016)10)and decided not to continue applying Rule 32 in the case of that member;
12. in accordance with Rule 31, paragraph 8.2 of the Rules of Procedure, requested the Head of delegation of the Netherlands to submit additional information regarding action taken to implement certain recommendations by 31 July 2017 at the latest;
13. invited the authorities of Belgium, Croatia and the Netherlands to authorise, as soon as possible, the publication of the reports mentioned in decisions 8, 10 and 11 above;

#### *Third Round*

14. postponed the examination of the Addendum to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Third Round Compliance Report on Portugal (GrecoRC3(2016)11) to the 74<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting and asked the authorities of Portugal to send to the secretariat supporting information on the situation regarding the implementation of recommendations i, ii and iii, as well as any draft textual amendments to the draft Addendum, by 4 November 2016;
15. adopted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Third Round Compliance Reports on:
  - Monaco (GrecoRC3(2016)4)
  - the Russian Federation (GrecoRC3(2016)9)and, in accordance with Rule 31, paragraph 9 of the Rules of Procedure, requested the Heads of delegation of those member States to submit additional information regarding the implementation of certain recommendations by 31 July 2017 at the latest;
16. invited the authorities of Monaco and the Russian Federation to authorise, as soon as possible, the publication of the reports mentioned in decision 15 above;
17. postponed the examination of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Third Round Compliance Report on Italy (GrecoRC3(2016)13) to its 74<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting owing to the late submission of relevant information by the authorities;

### Publication of adopted reports

18. 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;<sup>1</sup>
19. noted the President's call on the authorities of Belarus to authorise, with no further delay, the publication of the following report:
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> *Interim* Joint first and Second Round Compliance Report (adopted in July 2016);
20. strongly urged the authorities of Belarus to lift the confidentiality of the Joint First and Second Round Evaluation Report (adopted June 2012), Compliance Report (adopted June 2014) and the *Interim* Compliance Report (adopted June 2015), summaries of which were published by GRECO pursuant to Rule 34, paragraph 2 of the Rules of Procedure on 3 February 2014, 27 May 2015 and 1 September 2016 respectively;

### Preparation of the Fifth Evaluation Round

21. examined the following *documents prepared by the working party* WP-Eval V:
  - Report of the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting (GrecoWP5(2016)4-rev)
  - Draft Final Activity of the working party (GrecoWP5(2016)5-rev);
22. adopted, with amendments, the Final Activity Report of the working party WP-Eval V which includes the Questionnaire for the Fifth Evaluation Round as well as advice of a practical nature (GrecoWP5(2016)5-fin);<sup>2</sup>
23. noted that GRECO will elect its President, Vice-President and Bureau members for the Fifth Evaluation Round at its 74<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting;
24. noted that GRECO representatives are invited to inform the Executive Secretary in writing if they wish to stand for election/or to nominate candidates, preferably by 18 November 2016, it being understood that, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure (Rule 5, paragraph 5), candidatures can be submitted up to 48 hours before the elections – all candidates will be asked to provide a very brief curriculum vitae;

### Exchange of Views

25. held an exchange of views with Emily O'REILLY, European Ombudsman;

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<sup>1</sup> - 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.

<sup>2</sup> However, the Russian Federation does not approve the questionnaire and the other documents of the 5th evaluation round as it considers that the procedure of selection of public officials for the evaluation, not based on objective criteria and allowing for exclusion of heads of many states, is discriminating and non-transparent in its nature, and is subject to wide range of discretion, which undermines the core principle of equal treatment. In this regard the Russian Federation reserves the right to take appropriate measures in the future.

### Topical anti-corruption developments/events in member States

26. took note of the information provided by the delegation of Turkey (cf. the Summary Report of the meeting – Item 4 of the Agenda);

### Miscellaneous

27. took note of a draft report prepared by Transparency International entitled “Civil society participation in the international meetings of anti-corruption review processes”, and that delegations are invited to transmit any comments they wish to make on it to the secretariat by 28 October 2016;

### Forthcoming meetings

28. noted that the Bureau will hold its 78<sup>th</sup> Meeting in Prague on 8 November 2016;
29. noted that the 74<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting will be held in Strasbourg on 28 November – 2 December 2016;
30. took note of the dates for Plenary Meetings in 2017 - GRECO 75: 20-24 March; GRECO 76: 19-23 June; GRECO 77: 16-20 October; GRECO 78: 4-8 December.