

Strasbourg, 23 March 2018

Greco(2018)6

79th GRECO Plenary Meeting
(Strasbourg, 19-23 March 2018)

DECISIONS

At its 79th Plenary Meeting (Strasbourg, 19-23 March 2018), the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) took the following decisions (see also the Summary Report of the meeting (Greco(2018)7):

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

Information

2. took note of the information provided by Marin MRČELA, President of GRECO, by Jan KLEIJSEN, Director of Information Society and Action against Crime of the Council of Europe, and by Gianluca ESPOSITO, Executive Secretary of GRECO;
3. took note of the list of items discussed and decisions taken by Bureau 83 (Greco(2017)4);

Evaluation procedures

Fifth Round

4. adopted the Fifth Round Evaluation Reports on:
 - Finland (GrecoEval5Rep(2017)3)
 - Iceland (GrecoEval5Rep(2017)4)and set the deadline of 30 September 2019 for the submission of a situation report on measures taken to implement the recommendations contained in the reports;
5. noted with satisfaction that the authorities of Finland authorise the publication of the report mentioned in decision 4 above;
6. invited the authorities of Iceland to authorise, as soon as possible, the publication of the report mentioned in decision 4 above;
7. approved the composition of the evaluation team responsible for the 5th Round evaluation of Malta (GrecoEval5(2018)1);

Compliance procedures

Third Round

8. adopted the *Interim* Third Round Compliance Report on:
 - Denmark (GrecoRC3(2018)6 - 6th *interim* report)and decided not to continue applying Rule 32 in the case of this member;
9. in accordance with Rule 31 revised, paragraph 8.2 of the Rules of Procedure, requested the Head of Delegation of Denmark to submit additional information regarding action taken to implement certain recommendations by 31 December 2018;
10. adopted the Third Round Compliance Report on:
 - Liechtenstein (GrecoRC3(2018)3)and set the deadline of 30 September 2019 for the submission of a situation report on additional measures taken to implement the recommendations;

11. adopted the 2nd Third Round Compliance Report on:
 - the Czech Republic (GrecoRC3(2018)1)and terminated the compliance procedure in respect of this member, in this round;
12. adopted the Addendum to the 2nd Third Round Compliance Report on:
 - Cyprus (GrecoRC3(2018)4)and terminated the compliance procedure in respect of this member, in this round;
13. adopted the Addendum to the 2nd Third Round Compliance Report on:
 - the Russian Federation (GrecoRC3(2018)5)and, in accordance with Rule 31 revised, paragraph 9 of the Rules of Procedure, requested the Head of delegation of the Russian Federation to submit additional information regarding the implementation of certain recommendations by 31 December 2018 at the latest;
14. adopted the 2nd Addendum to the 2nd Third Round Compliance Report on:
 - Georgia (GrecoRC3(2018)2)and terminated the compliance procedure in respect of this member, in this round;
15. invited the authorities of the Czech Republic, Cyprus, Denmark, Georgia, Liechtenstein and the Russian Federation to authorise, as soon as possible, the publication of the reports mentioned in decisions 8, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 above;
16. approved the list of rapporteur countries for the Third Round compliance procedures in respect of the following member States: Belarus, San Marino (GrecoEval3(2018)1);

Fourth Round

17. adopted the *Interim* Fourth Round Compliance Report on:
 - Belgium (GrecoRC4(2018)2)and concluded that the level of compliance with the recommendations remains “globally unsatisfactory” in the meaning of Rule 31 revised, paragraph 8.3 of the Rules of Procedure;
18. in accordance with Rule 32, paragraph 2 (i) of the Rules of Procedure, requests the Head of Delegation of Belgium to provide a report on the action taken to implement the pending recommendations by 31 March 2019 at the latest;
19. pursuant to Rule 32, paragraph 2 (ii) a) of the Rules of Procedure, invites its President to send a letter – with a copy to the President of the Statutory Committee – to the Head of Delegation of Belgium on the need to take determined action with a view to achieving tangible progress as soon as possible;

20. adopted the Fourth Round Compliance Report on:
- Bosnia and Herzegovina (GrecoRC4(2017)22)
- and set the deadline of 30 September 2019 for the submission of a situation report on additional measures taken to implement the recommendations;
21. adopted the 2nd Fourth Round Compliance Report on:
- the Netherlands (GrecoRC4(2018)1)
- and, in accordance with Rule 31 revised, paragraph 9 of the Rules of Procedure, requests the Head of Delegation of the Netherlands to submit additional information regarding the implementation of certain recommendations by 31 December 2018;
22. adopted the 2nd Fourth Round Compliance Report on:
- Slovenia (GrecoRC4(2018)3)
- and terminated the compliance procedure in respect of this member, in this round;
23. invited the authorities of Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Netherlands and Slovenia to authorise, as soon as possible, the publication of the reports mentioned in decisions 17, 20, 21 and 22 above;
24. approved the list of rapporteur countries for the Fourth Round compliance procedures in respect of the following member States: Andorra, Austria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Georgia, Italy, Republic of Moldova, Monaco, Russian Federation, Switzerland, Ukraine, United States of America (GrecoEval4(2018)2);

Rule 34 – Ad hoc procedure in exceptional circumstances

25. adopted an Ad hoc (Rule 34) Report on:
- Poland (Greco-AdHocRep(2018)1);
26. instructed its President to inform the Polish authorities about GRECO's findings, and decided to conduct an on-site visit to re-assess the out-dated parts of GRECO's Fourth Round Evaluation in respect of Poland, with a view to adopting an addendum to the Fourth Round Evaluation Report concerning corruption prevention in respect of judges;
27. adopted an Ad hoc (Rule 34) Report on:
- Romania (Greco-AdHocRep(2018)2)
28. instructed its President to inform the Romanian authorities about GRECO's findings and, in light of the report, requested the Head of delegation of Romania to submit a written up-date on the state of the proposed reforms concerning the justice system (including on institutional aspects and criminal law/procedure) at the next GRECO plenary meeting (18-22 June 2018);
29. noted with satisfaction that the authorities of Poland authorise the publication of the report mentioned in decision 25 above;
30. invited the authorities of Romania, to authorise, as soon as possible, the publication of the report mentioned in decision 27 above;

Publication of adopted evaluation and compliance reports¹

31. called on the authorities concerned to authorise without further delay the publication of the following reports:
- 2nd Addendum to the 2nd Third Round Compliance Report on Hungary (adopted in March 2017)
 - Fourth Round Compliance Report on Hungary (adopted in June 2017)
 - Fourth Round Compliance Report on Montenegro (adopted in October 2017)
 - Fifth Round Evaluation Report on the United Kingdom (adopted in December 2017);
32. reiterated its concern about the refusal of Belarus to authorise the publication of all the reports addressed to it by GRECO since June 2012 (Joint First and Second Round Evaluation Report, Compliance Report, 1st, 2nd and 3rd *Interim* Compliance Reports, and Third Round Evaluation Report);

General Activity Report (2017)

33. adopted its Eighteenth General Activity Report – 2017 (Greco(2018)1-fin);
34. instructed the Secretariat to forward the report to GRECO's Statutory Committee and to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, in accordance with Article 8, paragraph 1 of the Statute, and noted that the report will be presented by GRECO's President to the 1313th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies (10 April 2018) and published immediately after an event to launch the report that will be held in Brussels on 3 May 2018;

Budget, programme and working methods

35. took note of the budgetary situation for the biennium 2018/2019 (GRECO Statutory Committee document Greco-CS(2018)3) and of the following related information:
- as a result, it has been decided to defer certain activities until further notice which means that GRECO's October 2018 Plenary Meeting will not take place, and a number of reports have been postponed; the Secretariat has informed all delegations concerned and deadlines for situation reports have been adjusted accordingly;
 - the Statutory Committee, at its 23rd meeting on 13 February 2018, decided that "Additional voluntary contributions will partly fund the gap between the Programme and Budget as adopted in November 2017 and the revised Programme. Delegations are invited to inform the Secretariat by 15 May 2018 of their intention to make such contributions." (Greco-CS(2018)4-rev);
 - to date, the delegations of Armenia, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Ireland, Liechtenstein and Monaco have announced their intention to make an additional contribution and others have announced contributions "in kind" such as covering the travel and subsistence expenses of their experts or covering the cost of interpretation for on-site visits;

¹ *Action to be taken when publishing adopted reports* (as specified in decision 26, GRECO 58):

- 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.

Expertise to the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe – Item postponed

36. noted that the examination of the draft Assessment of the Rules and Procedures of the Congress, to be provided by GRECO under Rule 21.3 of its Rules of Procedure, is postponed, following a request by the Secretary General of the Congress;

Inter-secretariat cooperation – international anti-corruption monitoring bodies: Enhancing synergies

37. welcomed the proposals for enhancing synergies between the multilateral organizations responsible for anti-corruption review mechanisms as approved by Bureau 83 (15 February 2018) and contained in document Greco(2018)3-rev. This document was prepared by the Secretariat in the light of the discussions held on this item at GRECO 78 (4-8 December 2017), subsequent contributions sent by delegations and discussions held with the Secretariats of the OECD and UNODC (31 January 2018);
38. requested the Secretariat to revise the document in the light of the comments made by Delegations and decided to re-discuss this matter at the next GRECO plenary meeting (18-22 June 2018);
39. invited the Secretariat to pursue the on-going synergies and coordination with the Secretariats of the other multilateral organisations responsible for anti-corruption review mechanisms;

Topical anti-corruption developments/events in member States

40. took note of the information provided by the delegations of Greece, Italy, Monaco, Switzerland and Ukraine (cf. the Summary Report of the meeting – Item 4 of the Agenda);

Information from observer organisations and Council of Europe bodies

41. took note of the information provided by the representatives of the UNODC and the OECD;

Miscellaneous

42. took note of information provided on the state of preparation of the high-level Conference: *Strengthening transparency and accountability to ensure integrity: united against corruption* that will be organised, in cooperation with GRECO, by the authorities of Croatia in the framework of that country's Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers (Zagreb, 15-16 October 2018). The Programme will include a ministerial segment to which the Minister of Justice of Croatia will invite his counterparts in GRECO member States;

Forthcoming meetings

43. took note of the following dates :
- 84th Bureau meeting (Strasbourg, 1 June 2018)
 - 80th Plenary Meeting (Strasbourg, 18-22 June)
 - High-level conference organised in the framework of Croatia's Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers: *Strengthening transparency and accountability to ensure integrity: united against corruption* (Zagreb, 15-16 October 2018)
 - October Plenary Meeting – deferred until further notice
 - 81st Plenary Meeting (Strasbourg, 3-7 December 2018).