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**Public**  
**Greco RC-I/II (2015) 1E**

## **Joint First and Second Rounds Evaluation**

### **Summary of the Compliance Report on Belarus**

Adopted by GRECO  
at its 67<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting  
(Strasbourg, 23-27 March 2015)

The publication of Evaluation and Compliance Reports shortly after their adoption is a long-standing practice among GRECO member States. This serves two important purposes: ensuring overall transparency of the GRECO process and facilitating the implementation of recommendations at domestic level by raising awareness of GRECO's findings across society.

The Joint First and Second Round Evaluation Report on Belarus was adopted by GRECO at its 56<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting (June 2012) and the authorities were invited to authorise, as soon as possible, its publication, to translate it into the national language and make the translation public. At its 62<sup>nd</sup> Plenary Meeting (December 2013), GRECO decided that in the absence of an authorisation from the authorities of Belarus to publish the entire Evaluation report, a summary would be made public on 3 February 2014 ([Greco Eval I/II \(2013\) 1E](#)).

Subsequently, the Joint First and Second Round Compliance Report – assessing the measures taken by the authorities of Belarus to comply with the recommendations contained in the above report – was adopted by GRECO at its 64<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting (June 2014). It also invited the authorities to make the document public under the same terms as above. On 21 February 2015, at its 71<sup>st</sup> meeting, the Bureau noted with particular concern that Belarus had still not authorised the publication of their compliance report. It thus urged the authorities of Belarus to authorise, as soon as possible, the publication of the two aforementioned reports. The Bureau also instructed the Secretariat to prepare a summary of the compliance report with a view to its adoption by the plenary at its 67<sup>th</sup> meeting (23-27 March 2015) and publication, pursuant to Rule 34, paragraph 2 of the Rules of Procedure.

**At the above 67<sup>th</sup> meeting, GRECO decided that this summary of the compliance report, would be made public on 27 May 2015, in the absence of an authorisation from the authorities of Belarus to publish the said report in full.**

The following contains the Conclusions from the Joint First and Second Rounds Compliance Report on Belarus<sup>1</sup>:

112. **“(…) GRECO concludes that Belarus has implemented satisfactorily or dealt with in a satisfactory manner less than a fifth of the twenty-four recommendations contained in the Joint First and Second Rounds Evaluation Report.**
113. Recommendations vi, vii, xiv and xxiii have been implemented satisfactorily. Recommendations i, ii, x, xix, xx and xxi have been partly implemented. Recommendations iii, iv, v, viii, ix, xi, xii, xiii, xv, xvi, xvii, xviii, xxii and xxiv have not been implemented.
114. The fight against corruption is on the agenda of Belarus. But the above result in the implementation of recommendations is clearly disappointing. The country has managed to achieve meaningful progress only in respect of the training and specialisation of law enforcement personnel, consideration of a new mechanism of *in rem* confiscation and the introduction of accounting and reporting obligations based on international standards. A majority of recommendations have received no tangible follow-up, whereas the specific situation of corruption clearly calls for an ambitious approach and more determined action. For instance, the country still needs to adopt an adequate anti-corruption strategy and action plan for its implementation, and to establish a mechanism for the proper monitoring of reforms in this area. GRECO expresses particular concern that in a variety of areas which are absolutely crucial, no initiatives are even announced or planned. As a consequence, the executive branch of power (especially the presidential function) retains powers which are disproportionate in a democracy.

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<sup>1</sup> Document Greco RC-I/II (2014) 1E

For instance, disciplinary sanctions may still be imposed on any judge by the President of Belarus without the initiation of formal disciplinary proceedings, in accordance with article 122 of the Code of the Judicial Organisation and Status of Judges. GRECO also recalls that the Republic of Belarus is the first GRECO member State not to have authorised the publication of the Evaluation Report. Publication would ensure overall transparency of the GRECO process and facilitate the implementation of recommendations at domestic level by raising awareness of GRECO's findings across society.

115. In view of the above, GRECO therefore concludes that the current very low level of compliance with the recommendations is “globally unsatisfactory” in the meaning of Rule 31, paragraph 8.3 of the Rules of Procedure. GRECO therefore decides to apply Rule 32 concerning members found not to be in compliance with the recommendations contained in the Evaluation Report, and asks the Head of the Belarusian delegation to provide a report on progress in implementing the outstanding recommendations by 31 December 2014 at the latest, pursuant to paragraph 2(i) of that rule.
116. Finally, GRECO urges the authorities of Belarus to authorise, as soon as possible, the publication of this report as well as the related Evaluation Report, to translate them into the national language and to make the translations public.”