





DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS DIRECTORATE OF MONITORING

Strasbourg, 15 May 2009

Public Greco RC-II (2008) 9E

Second Evaluation Round

Compliance Report on Georgia

Adopted by GRECO at its 42nd Plenary Meeting (Strasbourg, 11-15 May 2009)

I. INTRODUCTION

- 1. GRECO adopted the Second Round Evaluation Report on Georgia at its 31st Plenary Meeting (8 December 2006). The report (Greco Eval II Rep (2006) 2E) was made public by GRECO on 15 January 2007, following authorisation by the authorities of Georgia.
- 2. In accordance with Rule 30.2 of GRECO's Rules of Procedure, the Georgian authorities submitted their Situation Report (RS Report) on measures taken to implement the recommendations on 1 July 2008.
- 3. At its 26th Plenary Meeting (5-9 December 2005), GRECO selected, in accordance with Rule 31.1 of its Rules of Procedure, Latvia and Norway to appoint Rapporteurs for the compliance procedure. The Rapporteurs appointed were Mrs Violeta ZEPPA-PRIEDĪTE on behalf of Latvia and Mr Atle ROALDSOY on behalf of Norway. The Rapporteurs were assisted by the GRECO Secretariat in drafting the Compliance Report (RC Report).
- 4. The objective of the RC Report is to assess the measures taken by the authorities of Georgia to comply with the recommendations contained in the evaluation report.

II. ANALYSIS

5. It is recalled that in its evaluation report, GRECO addressed 14 recommendations to Georgia. Compliance with these recommendations is dealt with below.

Recommendation i.

- 6. GRECO recommended to establish guidelines and thorough training for those officials (law enforcement officials and prosecutors) who are required to apply the new rules on confiscation and seizure, paying particular attention to financial investigations.
- 7. The Georgian authorities report on the adoption of guidelines on practical issues relating to seizure and confiscation of illegal assets by the General Prosecutor's Office in February 2009 to serve as a working document for the staff of the prosecution service. The authorities furthermore indicate that the training centre of the General Prosecutor's Office has organised training activities for the prosecutors who are required to apply the new rules on confiscation and seizure and for officials of other state bodies, in particular, a 2 day seminar on investigation of corruption offences for 35 prosecutors (in December 2008, with the support of the Council of Europe) and a training seminar aimed at improving coordination and collaboration between competent state bodies in the field of money laundering, which also dealt with "anticorruption activities" and "investigative techniques" (in November 2008, under the auspices of the Embassy of the United States of America). In addition, the authorities report on the organisation of several training activities in the field of money laundering during the period 2007-2008 including, inter alia, a workshop on investigation and prosecution of money laundering cases for prosecutors and specialised investigators of the General Prosecutor's Office as well as officials of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and of the Financial Monitoring Service, dealing with topics such as relevant legislation, sources of information and international cooperation in the area of money laundering (in October 2007). Finally, the authorities explain that according to section 193 of the Criminal Procedure Code, the main responsibility for preparing and deciding on measures of seizure and confiscation lies with prosecutors and judges, and that in 2007, judges were also provided with guidelines and training in this area.

- 8. <u>GRECO</u> takes note of the reported establishment of guidelines on seizure and confiscation for prosecutors, of training activities on investigation and prosecution of corruption and money laundering offences for law enforcement officials with the support of the Council of Europe and of the Embassy of the United States of America and of guidelines and training for judges who are competent for deciding on prosecutors' requests for confiscation and seizure.
- 9. GRECO concludes that recommendation i has been implemented satisfactorily.

Recommendation ii.

- 10. GRECO recommended to abolish, or at least substantially lower, the threshold of 5,000 Georgian Lari, with regard to corruption as predicate offence to money laundering.
- 11. The <u>authorities</u> state that, pursuant to legal amendments to section 194 of the Criminal Code of 4 July 2007 which entered into force on 19 July 2008, the threshold of 5,000 Georgian Lari with regard to corruption as a predicate offence to money laundering has been abolished. Furthermore, tax evasion is no longer excluded from the list of predicate offences, in contrast to the situation at the time of adoption of the evaluation report which expressed concerns in this respect.
- 12. <u>GRECO</u> takes note of the information provided and welcomes the fact that the reported amendments to the provision on money laundering not only abolish the value threshold with regard to corruption as predicate offence but also no longer exclude tax evasion from the list of predicate offences.
- 13. GRECO concludes that recommendation ii has been implemented satisfactorily.

Recommendation iii.

- 14. GRECO recommended to improve possibilities for information gathering by the Financial Monitoring Service (FMS), inter alia by improving its access to relevant databases.
- The authorities indicate that in January 2009, the Financial Monitoring Service (FMS) and the Ministry of Finance signed a memorandum of assistance and cooperation which aims at mutual and timely information sharing between the FMS and the tax and customs agencies by, inter alia, ensuring access to relevant databases (including the companies register and databases on tax payers and on customs operations). The implementation of the memorandum of cooperation is currently in progress. The authorities add that the FMS has also concluded such memoranda of cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior (in June 2008, concerning information on money laundering and financing of terrorism), with the Ministry of Justice, which includes the General Prosecutor's Office, the Notary Public and the Public Registry Agency responsible for the registration of immovable property transactions (in January 2009, with a view to implementing legal amendments to the "Law on Promotion of Prevention of Illegal Assets' Legalisation" of 19 March 2008), and with the newly established Financial Supervisory Agency which is competent for supervising all financial institutions (including the banking sector, the insurance sector, the securities market etc.). As regards cooperation between the FMS and the General Prosecutor's Office, it is stressed that on the basis of the above-mentioned memorandum of cooperation the FMS will receive quarterly information on the cases which it has reported to the Prosecutor's Office.

- 16. <u>GRECO</u> notes that the Financial Monitoring Service has signed memoranda of cooperation with several public agencies which have a clear potential to improve its possibilities for information gathering and feedback. GRECO urges the authorities to ensure that the relevant memoranda are fully implemented as soon as possible.
- 17. GRECO concludes that recommendation iii has been implemented satisfactorily.

Recommendation iv.

- 18. GRECO recommended to (i) develop and implement a common methodology and standards for carrying out audits in respect of the public sector, bearing in mind the particularities of its various components; (ii) strengthen the auditing of local authorities, and (iii) ensure effective auditing of state enterprises.
- 19. Concerning the first part of the recommendation, the <u>authorities</u> report that the new law on the Chamber of Control, which was adopted in December 2008 and is aimed at establishing a more effective and transparent external auditing system, foresees the introduction of performance audit as from 2012 (the relevant provision, section 2h of the law on the Chamber of Control, will enter into force on 1 January 2012, whereas the major part of the law entered into force on 10 January 2009). As regards the internal auditing of various state bodies, the authorities indicate that the development of a common methodology and set of standards, by working groups involving the Chamber of Control and the Ministry of Justice, is currently under preparation and is one of the main objectives of the "Strategy for Reforms of Internal Financial Control within the State Agencies" adopted by the government in March 2009.
- 20. As regards the second and third parts of the recommendation, the authorities indicate that the above-mentioned new law on the Chamber of Control explicitly empowers the Chamber to carry out financial and effectiveness audits of budgetary expenditure of local authorities and of state enterprises, including enterprises in which the state has a controlling share of more than 50%.
- 21. <u>GRECO</u> takes note of the information provided. It would appear that the new law on the Chamber of Control which explicitly empowers the Chamber to carry out financial and effectiveness audits of budgetary expenditure of local authorities and of state enterprises and the reform strategy for internal financial control are steps in the right direction. However, the authorities have not reported on the implementation in practice of these instruments, including the development and application of a common auditing methodology and auditing standards.
- 22. GRECO concludes that recommendation iv has been partly implemented.

Recommendation v.

- 23. GRECO recommended to implement uniform rules for the transparent, impartial recruitment and promotion of public servants and to take measures to ensure their fair and impartial appraisal.
- 24. The <u>authorities</u> state that on 6 February 2009, presidential orders no. 46 "on Approval of the Rules for Holding Competition for Recruitment and Appointment on Positions in Public Service" and no. 47 "on Approval of Appraisal Rules for Public Servants" entered into force. They are aimed at ensuring impartial and fair recruitment, appraisal and promotion within the public service. The authorities specify that these orders which complement the provisions of the Public

Service Law – establish the principles of impartiality, transparency, non-discrimination, publicity, collegiality and correctness. They set common standards and provide for detailed procedural rules ensuring, *inter alia*, that the selection and appraisal procedures are conducted by commissions taking their decisions by open majority voting, that information on these procedures are made public and that complaints concerning the procedure or result of selections and appraisals may be made to commissions of appeals.

- 25. <u>GRECO</u> notes that the establishment of uniform rules for the recruitment, promotion and appraisal of public servants has been reported and is confident that the implementation of these rules will ensure transparent and impartial procedures.
- 26. GRECO concludes that recommendation v has been implemented satisfactorily.

Recommendation vi.

- 27. GRECO recommended to implement measures to limit the influence of political personnel over the recruitment of and disciplinary proceedings against judges, in the interest of formal and substantive judicial independence.
- 28. The authorities report on several legal amendments aimed at enhancing the independence of the judiciary, which include constitutional changes in 2007 abolishing the President's power to appoint judges (see Article 73, paragraph 1j) of the Constitution) and assigning the power to appoint and dismiss judges solely to the restructured High Council of Justice whose chair is attributed, under the amended provisions of Article 86.1 of the Constitution, ex officio to the chairman of the Supreme Court, whose further members are eight judges elected by the Conference of Judges, four MPs appointed by Parliament and two members appointed by the President of Georgia, and whose Secretary is elected by the Conference of Judges (instead of being appointed by the President of Georgia). Moreover, it is stated that the composition of the disciplinary panel of the High Council of Justice has also undergone some changes and that pursuant to amendments to the "Law on Disciplinary Administration of Justice and Disciplinary Responsibilities of Judges of Common Courts of Georgia" which entered into force on 17 March and 29 December 2006, three of the panel's six members are judges of the common courts elected by the Conference of Judges and the three other members are elected by the High Council of Justice from among its members (however, several members of the Council such as, for example, its Secretary are excluded). In addition, the authorities report on the adoption on 11 July 2007 of the "Law on Rules of Communication with Judges of General Courts of Georgia" aimed at protecting the independence and impartiality of judges, and on plans to continue the reform of the judiciary, in particular presidential initiatives to introduce lifetime appointment of judges as well as jury trials in order to involve the wider public in the decision-making process.
- 29. <u>GRECO</u> takes note of the information provided according to which the recruitment of judges has been entrusted to the restructured High Council of Justice, and the composition of the disciplinary panel of the Council has also been amended. GRECO wishes to stress that judicial independence is a cornerstone of an effective fight against corruption and strongly encourages the authorities to continue the reform process in this field.
- 30. GRECO concludes that recommendation vi has been implemented satisfactorily.

Recommendation vii.

- 31. GRECO recommended to assess the implementation in practice of the provisions of the General Administrative Code on access to information to ensure that the public's right to access information is not unduly limited, and to provide training to those public servants designated to respond to requests for information.
- 32. The <u>authorities</u> stress that according to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, which is incorporated into chapter III of the General Administrative Code and which is complemented by the provisions of the Public Service Law, state agencies are obliged to ensure access to public information through specially designated persons and to submit yearly reports on the release of public information (including data on granted and rejected requests, reasons for rejection, violations of the relevant provisions by public officials etc.) to the President of Georgia whose administration assesses the status of information release and develops recommendations if necessary. It is reported that those reports were submitted by a total of 99 state agencies in 2007 indicating a number of altogether 211,967 requests for public information, 98.66% of which were granted and by 649 state agencies in 2008 indicating a number of altogether 258,463 requests for public information, 94.60% of which were granted. The authorities furthermore emphasise that the presidential administration also takes account of relevant assessments made by non-governmental organisations such as the Georgian Young Lawyers Association.
- 33. Moreover, the authorities report on the organisation of several training activities on the implementation of the provisions of the Administrative Code on access to information, in particular training provided by the General Prosecutor's Office to representatives of all district and regional prosecutors' offices in October 2007; training organised by the training centre of the Ministry of Justice for employees of the Ministry's department of civil matters in December 2007, for employees of the departments of human resources, legal affairs and systematisation of normative acts in April 2008, for representatives of the Ministry's national archive in May 2008 and for the staff of the Ministry's central administration and of its subordinated divisions and entities in October 2008 and in May 2009; and training for representatives of local authorities in the Kakheti region, in the Imereti region and in the Adjara autonomous republic in June and July 2008, in the framework of the Council of Europe project "Support to the National Anti-Corruption Strategy of Georgia" (GEPAC). The authorities furthermore affirmed, at a later stage, that all the specially designated persons from public agencies (see paragraph 32 above) had been covered by the training activities organised by the training centre of the Ministry of Justice and that it was planned to continue such training in the future.
- 34. <u>GRECO</u> notes that regular assessments of the implementation of the provisions of the General Administrative Code and of the Public Service Law on access to information by the administration of the President of Georgia have been reported, indicating that a very high proportion of requests have been granted during recent years. This is a welcome development. Moreover, GRECO notes that several training activities have been reported, but only for a limited number of state and local authorities and not for all officials designated to respond to requests for information, as required by the recommendation; in particular, no conclusive information was provided concerning concrete training activities for all the specially designated officials entrusted with responding to information requests.
- 35. On the basis of the information provided until the date of adoption of the present report, GRECO concludes that recommendation vii has been partly implemented.

Recommendation viii.

- 36. GRECO recommended to establish clear rules for all employees in the public sector on receiving gifts and actual and potential conflicts of interest, and to provide for an appropriate mechanism for the enforcement of these rules.
- The <u>authorities</u> indicate that amendments to the Law on Conflicts of Interest and Corruption in Public Service, which had been prepared in cooperation with the Council of Europe in the framework of the project "Support to the National Anti-Corruption Strategy of Georgia" (GEPAC), were adopted by Parliament on 27 March 2009 and will enter into force on 1 June 2009. According to the amendments, the law will be applicable not only to high-level officials but to all public servants except for "subsidiary employees" (i.e. technical staff whose duties are limited to support activities and not related to performance of public service, e.g. plumbers, electricians, cleaners etc.). Moreover, the law contains more detailed rules concerning the acceptance of gifts by public servants, and the notions "public servant", "gift" and "conflict of interest" have been defined more clearly. The authorities furthermore report that chapter V of the aforementioned law contains provisions for its enforcement, including procedural rules in the case of failure by a public servant to submit a declaration of property (section 20 of the Law on Conflicts of Interest and Corruption in Public Service), as complemented by pertinent provisions of the Criminal Code which penalise the acceptance of illegal gifts (section 340 CC) as well as failure to submit a correct declaration of property (section 355 CC).
- 38. <u>GRECO</u> notes that the adoption of legislation establishing more detailed rules for all public servants except for "subsidiary employees" on receiving gifts and on conflicts of interest and including provisions for their enforcement complemented by pertinent provisions of the Criminal Code has been reported.
- 39. GRECO concludes that recommendation viii has been implemented satisfactorily.

Recommendation ix.

- 40. GRECO recommended to take measures to have code(s) of conduct adopted for all employees in the public sector, both at local and state level, in order to clarify and complement the rules on inter alia conflicts of interests, gifts and reporting of corruption.
- 41. The <u>authorities</u> state that draft amendments to the Public Service Law, which have passed all three readings in Parliament but have not yet been adopted, foresee the introduction of a new chapter VI.1 whose provisions based on the Model code of conduct for public officials of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe constitute a code of conduct for all public servants, both at local and state level. They specify that these draft provisions contain general rules of conduct including, *inter alia*, on conflicts of interest, reporting obligations and gift-giving (public servants are obliged to refuse any gift that can affect the performance of their official duties, to identify the giver and to make a report to their superior). The authorities furthermore indicate that under these draft provisions, on top of the general rules, specific codes of conduct for certain categories of public agencies or of public servants may be established, and that in addition to the codes of conduct for prosecutors and for the police, adopted in 2006, a code of ethics for employees of the penitentiary system of the Ministry of Justice was adopted in December 2007.

- 42. <u>GRECO</u> takes note of the reported draft amendments to the Public Service Law and urges the authorities to have the bill adopted.
- 43. GRECO concludes that recommendation ix has been partly implemented.

Recommendation x.

- 44. GRECO recommended to introduce clear rules requiring all employees in the public sector to report suspicions of corruption in public administration and to ensure that those who report such suspicions in good faith are adequately protected from adverse consequences.
- The authorities state, with regard to the first part of the recommendation, that the draft 45. amendments to the Public Service Law (see paragraph 38 above) foresee an obligation on all public servants to report to their supervisor any evidence or grounded suspicion of illegal activity, including corruption, and to report to law enforcement bodies in cases where the supervisor does not adequately respond to the information submitted or where a public servant does not have a supervisor (draft section 73.5 of the Public Service Law). As regards the second part of the recommendation, the authorities stress that the amendments to the Law on Conflicts of Interest and Corruption in Public Service (see paragraph 34 above) include provisions on protection of whistleblowers reporting in good faith which are meant to prohibit, inter alia, discriminating, intimidating or exerting pressure on whistleblowers; initiating any criminal, civil, administrative or disciplinary proceeding against whistleblowers; or dismissing or temporarily discharging whistleblowers from their official position (sections 20.1 to 20.9 of the Law on Conflicts of Interest and Corruption in Public Service). In addition, it is reported that witness protection measures as provided by the Criminal Procedure Code are applicable to public servants reporting on suspicions of corruption and appearing as a witness in the ensuing criminal proceedings, and that Parliament has ratified the Second Optional Protocol of the UN Convention Against Torture whose Article 13 obliges State parties "to ensure that the complainant and witnesses are protected against all ill-treatment or intimidation as a consequence of his complaint or any evidence given".
- 46. <u>GRECO</u> takes note of the information provided with regard to the introduction of measures for whistleblower protection and to draft amendments to the Public Service Law which foresee a general reporting obligation. GRECO urges the authorities to have these draft amendments adopted.
- 47. GRECO concludes that recommendation x has been partly implemented.

Recommendation xi.

- 48. GRECO recommended to take appropriate measures to promote the wider use of disqualification sanctions in respect of persons acting in a leading position in a legal person (for instance, by providing training on this issue to judges and prosecutors), and to establish a suitable mechanism for the enforcement of such disqualification sanctions.
- 49. The <u>authorities</u> indicate that in February 2008, the Supreme Court released guidelines and recommendations on problematic issues of court practice in criminal law cases for judges and other legal professionals, with a specific focus on the selection of sanctions according to the gravity and circumstances of the commission of a crime and, in particular, on the application of disgualification sanctions for corruption-related offences. They furthermore report on guidelines

for prosecutors on sanctions, including disqualification and other supplementary sanctions, established by the General Prosecutor's Office and approved by the Minister of Justice in February 2009. In addition, the authorities refer to section 25 of the Law "on Procedure of Execution of Non-custodial Penalties and Probation" which defines the procedure to be observed by the probation service implementing disqualification sanctions, including periodical monitoring of the convicted person's compliance with the sanction imposed and, in case of violation of the disqualification sanction, a request to the convicted person's employer to dismiss the him/her from the position or bar him/her from the occupation indicated in the judgment.

- 50. <u>GRECO</u> acknowledges the reported establishment of guidelines covering the application of disqualification sanctions for corruption-related offences and encourages the authorities to take further measures to promote the wider use of such sanctions in respect of persons acting in a leading position in a legal person.
- 51. GRECO concludes that recommendation xi has been implemented satisfactorily.

Recommendation xii.

- 52. GRECO recommended (i) to amend the provisions on corporate liability in the Criminal Code to ensure that legal persons can be held liable in cases where lack of supervision or control by a natural person has made possible the commission of active bribery, money laundering or trading in influence and (ii) to provide appropriate training on criminal liability of legal persons to all officials concerned with a view to ensuring that full use of these provisions is made in cases of active bribery, trading in influence and money laundering.
- 53. The <u>authorities</u> state that, with regard to the first part of the recommendation, amendments to the Criminal Code entered into force on 11 October 2008 according to which legal persons can be held liable also in cases where the lack of supervision or control by a "responsible person" (i.e. a person in a leading position) makes the commission of a crime by a subordinate person for the benefit of that legal person possible, or where a crime is committed on behalf of or through and/or for the benefit of a legal entity irrespective of whether the individual committing the crime has been identified or not (section 107.1 CC). As regards the second part of the recommendation, the authorities report on specialised training for prosecutors and investigators on criminal liability of legal persons and on the implementation of the above-mentioned legal amendments in this field, which was organised by the General Prosecutor's Office with the assistance of the Council of Europe in the framework of the project "Support to the National Anti-Corruption Strategy of Georgia" (GEPAC), in July 2008. Moreover, they indicate that three seminars for judges on amendments to the Criminal Code and to the Criminal Procedure Code, organised during the period October to December 2007, also included the topic criminal liability of legal persons.
- 54. <u>GRECO</u> notes that criminal liability of legal persons which had been introduced in July 2006 has been extended to cases where the lack of supervision or control by a person in a leading position makes the commission of a crime by a subordinate person possible. This is a major achievement. Moreover, GRECO notes that a training seminar on corporate liability for a number of prosecutors as well as seminars for judges on amendments to the Criminal Code and to the Criminal Procedure Code have been organised. GRECO welcomes the fact that the "GEPAC" project included such a training seminar, however, it must be recalled that criminal liability of legal persons constitutes a new concept in Georgian law, requiring substantial training for all officials concerned at the domestic level.

55. GRECO concludes that recommendation xii has been partly implemented.

Recommendation xiii.

- 56. GRECO recommended to develop guidelines and effective training to improve the ability of tax inspectors to detect corruption offences, in particular as regards bribes concealed as legitimate expenses.
- 57. The <u>authorities</u> report that in February 2009, the Revenue Service of the Ministry of Finance approved guidelines for tax inspectors on detection of corruption offences, including in particular the issue of bribes concealed as legitimate expenses (order no. 446). The guidelines are based on the OECD Bribery Awareness Handbook for Tax Examiners and contain main indicators of fraud and bribery, methods and special procedures for inspection as well as a checklist to be applied by tax inspectors during inspections. Moreover, it is reported that the Investigative Department of the Revenue Service organised a training programme for altogether 44 tax officers of the department during the period April to October 2008, with the assistance of the customs and tax administration of the Netherlands, including several seminars and study visits to the Netherlands focusing on detection and investigation of fraud in the field of tax and customs, and covering issues related to the detection of corruption offences.
- 58. <u>GRECO</u> welcomes the establishment of guidelines aimed at improving the ability of tax inspectors to detect corruption offences as well as the carrying out of some relevant training activities for tax inspectors. However, it would appear that only a limited number of tax inspectors specialised in investigating tax matters have benefited from the training.
- 59. GRECO concludes that recommendation xiii has been partly implemented.

Recommendation xiv.

- 60. GRECO recommended to revise the existing legal provisions on accounting offences and sanctions to ensure that the creation or use of invoices or other accounting documents containing false or incomplete information or unlawfully omitting to make records of payments, in order to commit, conceal or disguise corruption and trading in influence, are liable to criminal or other sanctions.
- 61. The <u>authorities</u> state that in order to bring the national legislation into line with the requirements of Article 14 of the Criminal Law Convention on Corruption (ETS 173), which was ratified by Georgia on 14 December 2006, a new section 204.1 was inserted in the Criminal Code (in force since 29 December 2008), according to which the creation, use or registration of incorrect or incomplete accounting documents by a person entrusted with accounting responsibilities, in order to obtain a personal benefit, to influence or conceal commercial activity is punishable by a fine.
- 62. <u>GRECO</u> welcomes the fact that the recent introduction of accounting offences in the Criminal Code took account of the recommendation and of the standards established by Article 14 of the Criminal Law Convention on Corruption.
- 63. GRECO concludes that recommendation xiv has been implemented satisfactorily.

III. CONCLUSIONS

- 64. In view of the above, GRECO concludes that Georgia has implemented satisfactorily or dealt with in a satisfactory manner just over half of the recommendations in the Second Round Evaluation Report. Recommendations i, ii, iii, v, vi, viii, xi and xiv have been implemented satisfactorily. Recommendations iv, vii, ix, x, xii and xiii have been partly implemented.
- Georgia has made noticeable efforts to comply with a number of GRECO recommendations, in particular through several legislative projects, for example constitutional changes aimed at strengthening the independence of the judiciary; amendments to the Criminal Code with regard to criminal liability of legal persons and with regard to corruption as a predicate offence for money laundering; the adoption of a new law on the Chamber of Control; and amendments to the Law on Conflicts of Interest and Corruption in Public Service, including measures for protecting public officials who report in good faith suspicions of corruption ("whistleblowers"). Georgia is still working on further improvements such as pursuing the reform of the judiciary and amending the Public Service Law. The Georgian authorities now face the challenging task of ensuring that the existing legislation is vigorously implemented in practice. For this purpose, some steps have already been taken - partly with strong support from abroad, inter alia, from the Council of Europe –, including the introduction of guidelines and training activities. These initiatives could, however, be usefully extended in order to ensure that all officials concerned receive specific and thorough training at the domestic level, and be complemented by specific measures in several areas. GRECO urges the authorities to persist in their efforts to make sure that the outstanding recommendations are dealt with in an effective manner.
- 66. GRECO invites the head of the Georgian delegation to supply additional information on the implementation of recommendations iv, vii, ix, x, xii and xiii by 30 November 2010.
- 67. Finally, GRECO invites the Georgian authorities to authorise publication of this report as soon as possible, translate it into the national language and make this translation public.