

Strasbourg, 17 October 2002

Greco (2002) 31E

11th GRECO Plenary Meeting
(Strasbourg, 15-17 October 2002)

Decisions

The Group of States against corruption (GRECO), during its 11th plenary meeting in Strasbourg on 15-17 October 2002, having deliberated, took the following decisions:

1. adopted the agenda as it appears in document Greco (2002) OJ11;
2. noted the information provided by the Vice-President on his participation in the Meeting of the Steering Group of the Stability Pact Anti-Corruption Initiative (Rome, 25-26 September 2002);
3. noted the information provided the Executive Secretary regarding the organisation by the Open Society Institute of a Roundtable on Fighting Corruption in an Enlarged Europe, to be held on 18 November 2002 and instructed its Vice-President, Mr Manfred Möhrenschlager, its Scientific Expert and the Executive Secretary to participate in this event on behalf of GRECO;
4. took note of contacts established between the Secretariat and the organisers of Global Forum Three which will take place in Seoul in May 2003 and agreed to examine at a future meeting the contribution to be made by GRECO to this event;
5. noted with satisfaction the participation as Observer of the OECD Secretariat at the present meeting;
6. having carried out a first reading of the Draft First Round Evaluation Report on the "former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" as reproduced in document Greco Eval I Rep (2002) 7E (P3), and introduced a number of amendments to the draft;
7. invited the delegation of the "former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" to submit additional written comments on the first reading version of the draft report by 4 November 2002 and postponed the second reading to its forthcoming 12th Plenary;
8. examined the Preliminary Draft Questionnaire for the Second Evaluation Round (document Greco (2002) 28E) and introduced amendments which will be reflected in a Revised Draft to be prepared by the Secretariat and distributed for information and consideration at the Cyprus Training Seminar for Expert-Evaluators;
9. invited Heads of Delegation to submit to the Secretariat in writing by 15 November 2002 proposals for additional questions to be included in the draft questionnaire, and gave mandate to the delegation of the United Kingdom to submit a revised drafting of Part II of the questionnaire ("Public administration and corruption");
10. agreed to resume consideration of the draft questionnaire at its forthcoming 12th Plenary;
11. endorsed the proposal by the Secretariat to prepare a checklist for the purposes of complementing the information provided by the questionnaire in order to assist Second Round Evaluators during evaluation visits;
12. debated the proposals by Sweden (document Greco (2002) 16E) on the organisation of the Second Evaluation Round, as well as the proposals made orally by a large number of delegations regarding improvements to be made to the evaluation procedure;

13. following the debate referred to in decision 12 above, GRECO decided the following:
 - replies to the questionnaire should be made available to the Secretariat at least three months before the visit takes place (so that evaluators would be provided with the descriptive part at least one month before the visit),
 - the Secretariat should prepare a draft model of the descriptive part for the next plenary meeting,
 - the descriptive part of draft evaluation reports will be prepared by the Secretariat, in consultation with the member submitted to evaluation before the relevant visit takes place,
 - in order to improve the consistency of reports and to assure equal treatment, measures should be considered; it was notably agreed that the role of the Secretariat should be strengthened in the drafting process (the analytical part would be prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of simplified written contributions by the evaluators),
 - the reports should be considerably shorter and more focused,
 - the consideration of draft evaluation reports by the Plenary should not take place later than 6 months following the visit, in case of non-respect of this deadline an explanation will be provided to the Plenary;
14. instructed the Secretariat to prepare amendments to the Rules of Procedure of GRECO in order to take account of decision 13 above;
15. instructed the Secretariat to prepare a draft manual for Second Round Evaluators, and agreed to re-examine at a later stage the question of a list of criteria to be met for making recommendations;
16. took note of the Executive Secretary's proposal to simplify the procedure for examining draft evaluation reports, notably by discontinuing the use of intervenors and agreed to examine this proposal in the context of amendments to be made to the Rules of Procedure;
17. debated the possibility of intensifying relations with civil society and non-member States with a view to furthering the objectives of GRECO;
18. agreed with the proposal to hold general discussions on important issues pertaining to GRECO's evaluation work;
19. agreed, as regards the follow-up procedure and agenda of work, that:
 - the deadline for the countries to submit a follow-up report by December 2002 is postponed (end of March 2003),
 - the Secretariat would submit a paper on the modalities of the follow-up procedure, together with the Bureau, and would prepare a draft programme of activities for 2003;
20. reminded the members of GRECO to designate, in conformity with Article 10 paragraph 4 of its Statute and as soon as possible, a maximum of five experts to participate in the evaluation procedures in the framework of GRECO's Second Evaluation Round;
21. approved the Programme for the Cyprus Training Seminar (document GRECO SEM/EVAL II (2002) 2 Rev. 2);
22. took note with satisfaction of the Information Note for the Cyprus Training Seminar (document GRECO SEM/EVAL (2002) 1 Rev. 1 and invites Heads of Delegations to transmit nominations, as indicated in the Information Note, to the

Secretariat by 25 October at the very latest, it being understood that the budget of GRECO will bear the travel and subsistence expenses of a maximum of three participants per member country;

23. took note with satisfaction of the decision by the Greek authorities to authorise the publication of the Evaluation Report on Greece, adopted at the 9th Plenary Meeting of GRECO (May 2002) as it appears in document Greco Eval I Rep (2001) 15E;
24. took note of the publication on GRECO's website of the Evaluation Reports on Norway and Denmark adopted at the 10th Plenary Meeting of GRECO (July 2002) and of the Evaluation Report on Greece adopted at the 9th Plenary Meeting of GRECO (May 2002);
25. took note of the lists of intervenors, approved by the Bureau in accordance with Rule of Procedure 29, paragraph 2, for GRECO's 12th, 13th and 14th Plenary Meetings, as they appear in document Greco Eval I (2002) 38, 39 and 40 bilingual;
26. approved document Greco Eval I (2001) 17 of 16 October 2002 on the composition of First Round evaluation teams as approved by the Bureau;
27. took note of the information provided by the Executive Secretary as regards Mexico's interest to become a member of GRECO and agreed to hold an exchange of views with a delegation of this country at its next plenary meeting;
28. noted that the Bureau will hold its 15th meeting in Paphos (Cyprus) on 20 November 2002;
29. agreed to hold its 12th plenary meeting in Strasbourg on 9-13 December 2002.