36th Plenary Meeting of GRECO
(Strasbourg, 11-15 February 2008)

SUMMARY REPORT
I. Opening of the Plenary Meeting

1. The 36th Plenary Meeting of GRECO was chaired by Mr Drago KOS (President, Slovenia). The list of participants appears in Appendix I to this report.

2. The President opened the meeting by welcoming all representatives, referring in particular to those who had been newly nominated.

II. Adoption of the agenda

3. The plenary was informed that Mr Martin KREUTNER, Chair, European Partners against Corruption who had been invited to an exchange of views at the present meeting, had unfortunately had to cancel his trip to Strasbourg due to an unforeseen professional obligation. An exchange of views with Mr Kreutner would be scheduled at a forthcoming plenary meeting. The agenda was adopted as it appears in Appendix II to this report.

III. Information provided by the President, Delegations and the Executive Secretary

4. The President reported that he had visited Tajikistan in December 2007, where he was informed by the authorities of their interest in joining GRECO. He had attended the 7th annual conference of the European Partners against Corruption (EPAC) – Helsinki, 12-14 December 2007 - where he had urged the European Commission and EPAC to ensure that non-European Union member States were involved in some way in the planned European Anti-Corruption Network, to avoid the division of European anti-corruption efforts.

5. Referring to the Bureau 42 meeting (cf. Greco (2008) 3E) the President informed participants that, at the request of the Swiss authorities, the examination of the Joint First and Second Round Evaluation Report on Switzerland had been postponed to GRECO 37. Exchanges of views with Mr Dimitri VLASSIS, Chief of the Crime Conventions Section, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and Ms C. MILLER of the Council of Governmental Ethics Laws (COGEL) would be organised at forthcoming plenary meetings. Moreover, following the exchange of views held in December 2007 with Mr Franz-Hermann BRÜNER, Director General of the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), and in line with the Memorandum of understanding between the Council of Europe and the European Union, further ways to form synergies with the activities of OLAF and other appropriate European Union bodies would be explored in coming months.

6. The Bureau would resume at a later stage its discussion on possible actions to be taken to provide support to members in implementing GRECO recommendations. The tour de table on Thursday might provide the Bureau with some elements for making a more reasoned assessment of the possible need for action in this area (cf. paragraphs 23-24).

7. Bearing in mind GRECO’s workload in 2008 and 2009, the President proposed that GRECO’s 10th anniversary celebration could take the form of a one-day conference organised back-to-back with the October plenary meeting in 2009. Scheduling in this way would make it possible to organise an appropriately high-level event in the most economical way possible (cf. paragraph 28 below);

8. The President reminded the plenary of Rule 3 of the Rules of Procedure, according to which GRECO is a body composed of representatives appointed on a permanent basis. The intention of the rule is to allow for consistency in GRECO’s monitoring work and to facilitate respect of its confidentiality rules. Delegations to GRECO can
include a maximum of two representatives and two substitutes. It is essential that Heads of Delegation inform the Secretariat of changes in the composition of delegations promptly so that the accuracy of the official List of Representatives and mailing lists can be maintained at all times. It was recalled that participants in plenary meetings can only be drawn from the official List of Representatives.

9. The President provided an update on the situation in Slovenia. The law on the ratification of the United Nations Convention against Corruption had been adopted without the articles which foresaw removing powers from the Commission for the Prevention of Corruption. However, new draft legislation providing for the abolition of the commission as of 1 January 2009 would undergo a first reading in parliament in February.

10. The representative of Switzerland informed the plenary of the publication of a second revised edition of a booklet entitled “Preventing corruption – information for Swiss businesses operating abroad” produced by the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs, in collaboration with the Federal Office of Justice, the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, representatives of the business community and Transparency International. The booklet was designed to raise awareness and to provide practical tools. It contains, inter alia, information on relevant legislation and codes of conduct as well as case studies involving a number of scenarios and a prevention toolkit. The booklet had been produced in 4 languages and widely distributed.

11. The Executive Secretary reported on the following developments since GRECO’s 35th Plenary Meeting (December 2007):

- he had been informed by the Head of the delegation of Ukraine of a roundtable discussion organised by the Ministry of Justice in Kiev on 14 December 2007 on GRECO’s Joint First and Second Round Evaluation Report on Ukraine and implementation of the recommendations issued. The roundtable gathered representatives of civil society and government. According to the authorities, this innovative initiative had been very successful and had paved the way for further future cooperation with civil society in the fight against corruption;

- it was expected that the internal consultations apparently underway in Belarus regarding an agreement on the privileges and immunities of members of GRECO evaluation teams (a prerequisite for accession of Belarus to GRECO) would be concluded by the time the Criminal Law Convention on Corruption (ETS 173) entered into force on 1 March 2008;

- authorisation to publish the Addenda to First Round Compliance Reports on Bosnia and Herzegovina and on Malta as well as the Second Round Compliance Report on Romania had not yet been given by the countries concerned; authorisation of the publication of the Third Round Evaluation Report on Slovenia was expected to be given shortly;

- the Bureau had discussed ways in which to achieve a more targeted distribution of GRECO’s work and he invited the plenary to make proposals as to organisations, institutions or individuals who could benefit from receiving GRECO reports directly, accompanied by a letter from the Secretariat;

- Bureau 42 had agreed that national language versions of GRECO reports and/or links to such translations could be placed on GRECO’s website accompanied by a disclaimer indicating that the translations were not official and that GRECO was not responsible for their accuracy;
- the Criminal Law Convention on Corruption (ETS 173) would enter into force with respect to Georgia on 1 May 2008, the Civil Law Convention on Corruption (ETS 174) would enter into force with respect to Montenegro on the same date; the instrument of ratification by Montenegro of the Additional protocol to the Criminal Law Convention on Corruption (ETS 191) had been prepared but had not yet been transmitted and Spain was now moving ahead with the ratification of ETS 173;

- the Secretariat had participated in a Conference of Experts on the Promotion of the Rule of Law organised by the 2007 German presidency of the G8 (Berlin, 30 November 2007), in the Closing Conference of the EuroMed Justice Programme (Brussels, 17 December 2007) and in a conference organised by Transparency International in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice of Finland to discuss follow-up action to GRECO’s Third Round recommendations to Finland on the Transparency of Party Funding (Finland, 22 January 2008); on the latter, Björn JANSON reported that the Minister of Justice of Finland, representatives of TI and representatives of all political parties represented in Parliament, as well as representatives of the media took part in the discussions; the government would establish a working party on implementation of the recommendations.

IV. First Round Compliance Procedure – Moldova

12. The draft Addendum to the First Round Compliance Report on Moldova was based on information provided by the authorities of the country as required by the conclusions of GRECO’s First Round Compliance Report. Following a detailed reading, GRECO adopted the Addendum to the First Round Compliance Report on Moldova (Greco RC-I (2005) 4E Addendum) and thus terminated the first round compliance procedure in respect of that country.

13. The authorities of Moldova were invited to authorise publication of the Addendum as soon as possible.

V. Second Round Compliance Procedure – Greece and Ireland

14. The draft Second Round Compliance Reports on Greece and Ireland had been prepared, on the basis of Situation Reports submitted by the authorities of the countries concerned, in consultation with Rapporteurs designated on behalf of Armenia and Spain for Greece and on behalf of Portugal and the Slovak Republic for Ireland. The Rapporteurs communicated their observations on the draft compliance reports to the plenary and a detailed reading of the reports followed.

15. GRECO adopted the Second Round Compliance Report on Greece (Greco RC-II (2007) 14E) subject to considerable amendments to be made in the light of information which had not been made available to the Secretariat and Rapporteurs before the plenary meeting. The President and the Executive Secretary stressed that the submission of significant last-minute information in the context of the consideration of a draft compliance report, as was the case with the draft report on Greece, was an utterly uneconomical approach; it involved a massive waste of plenary time and made a sound assessment of the merits of the information provided extremely painstaking and hazardous. They expressed the hope that such situations would be avoided in future.

16. Furthermore, GRECO adopted the Second Round Compliance Report on Ireland (Greco RC-II (2007) 11E). The deadline fixed for the submission of additional information regarding the implementation of recommendations was 31 August 2009 in both cases.
17. The authorities of Greece and Ireland were invited to authorise publication of the reports as soon as possible.

VI. Third Evaluation Round

18. In line with standing practice, an in-depth reading of the draft Third Round Evaluation Reports on the Slovak Republic and the United Kingdom\(^1\) took place with the participation of the Evaluation Teams who had carried out on-site visits to the countries concerned. Before adoption, the reports underwent a second reading of drafts revised in the light of the discussions held during the first reading.

19. GRECO adopted the Third Round Evaluation Reports on the Slovak Republic (Greco Eval III Rep (2007) 4E – Themes I and II) and on the United Kingdom (Greco Eval III Rep (2007) 3E – Themes I and II). The authorities of both countries were invited to authorise publication of the reports as soon as possible.

20. Following discussions during the examination of the above reports, and in light of Article 8 of Recommendation Rec(2003)4 of the Committee of Ministers on common rules against corruption in the funding of political parties and electoral campaigns, it was clarified by GRECO that the funding of electoral campaigns of candidates for election and of political activities of elected representatives was included in the scope of the Third Evaluation Round.


VII. General Activity Report (2007)

22. GRECO adopted its Eighth General Activity Report (2007) (Greco (2008) 1E Final) – including a chapter on “revolving doors / pantouflage” prepared by Ms Jane LEY, Deputy Director, Office of Government Ethics (United States of America). GRECO was of the opinion that this chapter would no doubt be of major interest to a large audience, including policy makers and academics. In order to disseminate it as widely as possible, members were invited to arrange for the chapter to be translated into their national language - where appropriate - and for it to be made available to the public. The Secretariat was instructed 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, iii of the Statute.

VIII. Tour de table

23. GRECO held a tour de table on challenges faced in implementing certain recommendations issued during the First and/or Second Evaluation Rounds. It was the second to be organised following the Bureau 37 decision – and the subsequent measures taken - to further strengthen GRECO’s compliance procedure (cf. Greco (2006) 26E). The challenges described by delegations centred, for the most part, on recommendations on the following themes: the scope of and procedures for lifting immunities; specialised anti-corruption agencies and bodies (establishment, independence, resources); liability of legal persons (in particular, corporate criminal liability) and revolving doors/pantouflage. Other matters raised included the time needed to implement recommendations which require legislative changes, the adherence of newly formed governments to commitments established under previous governments (in

\(^{1}\) Theme II only – the first and second readings of Theme I were carried out at GRECO 35 (December 2007).
the case of GRECO: implementation of recommendations and adequate reporting on implementation) and awareness of the fact that the responsibility for implementing GRECO recommendations is not solely that of the government, but it can lie with any of a number of institutions (e.g. the Judiciary, Parliament, ...). Representatives exchanged information on the ways in which they intended to address the various difficulties encountered.

24. The President reminded the plenary of preliminary discussions held within the Bureau on possible action that could be taken to provide support, where appropriate, to members who face difficulties in implementing certain recommendations. The idea was not to envisage further technical assistance activities as these were already managed within a clearly defined in-house framework. Consideration could be given to other forms of tailored support. Several speakers wondered if it was possible for GRECO to reconcile its role as a monitoring body with providing formal advice/assistance on how to implement recommendations resulting from its monitoring. Any advice given could not bind the plenary as regards the conclusions it might reach when later assessing a member’s efforts to implement a recommendation. It was suggested that the Secretariat could possibly provide members with access to resources which might provide guidance (legislation, guidelines, research papers, etc).

25. The Secretariat was asked to prepare and publish a separate summary record of the tour de table.

IX. Miscellaneous

26. The plenary briefly discussed the outcome of the Second Session of the Conference of States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (Indonesia, 28 January – 1 February 2008), particularly with regard to future review of the implementation of the UN convention, a decision on which had not yet been reached. The current pilot project on review would continue until the Third Session of the conference which would be held in Qatar in 2009, countries interested in joining the pilot project could reportedly do so before end March 2008.

X. Adoption of decisions

27. The decisions of the 36th Plenary Meeting were adopted, as they appear in document Greco (2008) 4E.

XI. Forthcoming meetings

28. Stressing that its peer-review process continued to place increased demands on the plenary in particular as regards the volume and complexity of the reports produced, and bearing in mind its foreseeable future workload (which was largely determined by a continuous stream of new accessions since 2001), GRECO agreed that it would be necessary to hold five plenary meetings in 2008 and in 2009. Moreover, a one-day high-level conference to celebrate GRECO’s tenth anniversary would be held during the week of its October 2009 plenary meeting. The Bureau would prepare proposals for the sub-topics to be examined and possible speakers to be invited.

29. GRECO noted that, following an invitation from the Federal Ministry of Justice of Germany, the Bureau would hold its 43rd meeting in Berlin on 7 March 2008. The 37th Plenary Meeting would be held in Strasbourg on 31 March – 4 April 2008.
APPENDIX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS / LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS

ALBANIA / ALBANIE
Mr Oerd BYLYKBASHI (Head of delegation)
Director, Department of Internal Administrative Control and Anti-Corruption (DIAC)
Council of Ministers

ANDORRA/ANDORRE
Mme Maribel LAFOZ JODAR (Chef de délégation)
Commissaire de Police

M. Ivan ALIS SALGUERO
Avocat, Assesseur du Ministère de l’Intérieur et de la Justice

ARMENIA / ARMENIE
Mr Karen GEVORYAN
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AUSTRIA / AUTRICHE
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Mr Erich KÖNIG

Ms Silvia THALLER
Judge, Directorate for Penal Legislation, Federal Ministry of Justice

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Mr Inam KARIMOV (Head of delegation)
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BELGIUM / BELGIQUE
Mlle Claire HUBERTS (Chef de délégation)
Conseillère adjointe, Service des questions pénales, générales et intales, DG de la Législation pénale et des Droits de l’Homme, Ministère de la Justice

M Paul MULS
Premier conseiller de direction, Secrétaire de la commission de contrôle des dépenses électorales Chambre des représentants

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA / BOSNIE-HERZEGOVINE
Mr Sead TEMIM
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BULGARIA / BULGARIE
Mr Georgi RUPCHEV (Head of delegation)
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CROATIA / CROATIE
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Ms Milada Vaněčková
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Apologised / Excusé

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SLOVENIA / SLOVENIE  
Mr Drago KOS  
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Chairman, Commission for the Prevention of Corruption

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Mme Muriel BARRELET  
Collaboratrice scientifique, Office fédéral de la Justice

M Jean-Christophe GEISER  
Collaborateur scientifique, Office fédéral de la justice

"THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA" / "L'EX-RÉPUBLIQUE YOUGOSLAVE DE MACÉDOINE"  
Apologised / Excusé

TURKEY / TURQUIE  
M Ergin ERGÜL (Chef de délégation)  
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Mr Tom WAKELEY
Foreign & Commonwealth Office

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Ms Jane LEY
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PRESIDENT OF THE STATUTORY COMMITTEE OF GRECO / PRÉSIDENT DU COMITÉ STATUTAIRE DU GRECO
M. Bruno GAIN - Apologised / Excusé
Ambassadeur, Représentant Permanent de la France auprès du Conseil de l'Europe

PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE / ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE
Apologised / Excusé

REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CDCJ / REPRÉSENTANT DU CDCJ
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REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CDPC / REPRÉSENTANT DU CDPC
Mr Damir VEJO
Head of the Department for Organised Crime and Corruption, Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina

OBSERVER UNITED NATIONS – UNODC / OBSERVATEUR NATIONS UNIES – ONUDC
Apologised / Excusé

OBSERVER OECD / OBSERVATEUR OCDE
Apologised / Excusé

GRECO EVALUATION TEAMS / EQUIPES D’EVALUATION DU GRECO

EVAL III – United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni - Theme II
Theme II – Party Funding
Mr David WADDELL (Ireland / Irlande)
Secretary, Standards Commission, Standards in Public Office Commission,

M Jean-Christophe GEISER (Switzerland / Suisse)
Collaborateur scientifique, Office fédéral de la justice

Mr Marcin WALECKI (Scientific expert)
Senior Adviser for Political Finance, Max Weber Fellow, European University Institute

EVAL III – Slovak Republic / République Slovaque - Themes I & II
Theme I – ETS 173
Ms Silvia THALLER (Austria / Autriche)
Judge, Directorate for Penal Legislation, Federal Ministry of Justice
Ms Magdolna HAJDÚ (Hungary / Hongrie)
Prosecutor, General Prosecutor’s Office, Department for International and European Affairs

**Theme II – Party Funding**
Mr Douglas STEWART (United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni) - Apologised / Excusé
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Mr Costel POPA (Romania / Roumanie)
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Mr Remco NEHMELMAN (Netherlands / Pays-Bas)
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Ms Elsa GARCIA-MALTRÁS DE BLAS (Spain / Espagne)
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**RC-II Ireland / Irlande**
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Mr Daniel GABCO (Slovak Republic / République Slovaque)
Head of the Department of Strategic Analysis and International Co-operation
Combating Corruption Bureau, Police Force Presidium

**COUNCIL OF EUROPE SECRETARIAT / SECRETARIAT DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE**
Mr Wolfgang RAU, Executive Secretary of GRECO, Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs (DG-HL)

Mr Björn JANSON, Deputy to the Executive Secretary, DG-HL

Mr Christophe SPECKBACHER, Administrative Officer, DG-HL

Ms Laura SANZ-LEVIA, Administrative Officer, DG-HL

Ms Tania VAN DIJK, Administrative Officer, DG-HL

Mr Michael JANSSEN, Administrative Officer, DG-HL

Ms Elspeth REILLY, Assistant, DG-HL

Ms Penelope PREBENSEN, Administrative Assistant, DG-HL

Mme Laure HEIM, Assistant (Evaluation rounds), DG-HL

Mme Marie-Rose PREVOST, Assistant, (Evaluation rounds), DG-HL

Ms Simona GHITA, Webmaster, DG-HL

Ms Alessia GUARINO, Stagiaire, DG-HL

**INTERPRETERS / INTERPRETES**

Mme Sally BAILEY
Mme Bettina LUDEWIG
Mme Isabelle MARCHINI
APPENDIX II

AGENDA / ORDRE DU JOUR

1. Opening of the meeting / Ouverture de la réunion - 09h30

2. Adoption of the agenda / Adoption de l’ordre du jour

3. Information from the President, Delegations and the Executive Secretary (including on Bureau 42) / Information du Président, de Délégations et du Secrétaire Exécutif (y compris sur Bureau 42)

4. First reading of draft Evaluation Reports / Première lecture de projets de Rapport d’Évaluation:

First Evaluation Round / Premier Cycle d’Évaluation:
- United Kingdom* / Royaume-Uni* (Monday / lundi)
- Slovak Republic / République Slovaque (Tuesday – Wednesday / mardi – mercredi)

Evaluation teams and national delegations concerned are requested to be present as follows: / Les Equipes d’évaluations et délégations nationales concernées sont priées d’être présentes comme suit:
- United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni (Monday 09h00 – 18h00 / lundi 09h00 – 18h00)
- Slovak Republic / République Slovaque (Tuesday 09h00 – Wednesday 13h00 / mardi 09h00 – mercredi 13h00)


9. Tour de table – compliance issues** / Tour de table – questions relatives à la conformité**

* Theme II "Party Funding" only / Thème II "Financement des partis politiques" seulement

** Heads of delegation are invited to select up to two recommendations addressed to their country (Rounds 1, 2 and/or 3) whose implementation poses particular challenges; to briefly describe the challenges and to indicate in which way it is intended to address them / Les Chefs de délégations sont invités à sélectionner un maximum de deux recommandations adressées à leur pays (Cycles 1, 2, et/ou 3) et dont la mise en œuvre soulève des difficultés particulières ; à décrire brièvement ces difficultés et à indiquer la manière dans laquelle il est prévu de les surmonter.
10. **Second reading** and adoption of the draft Third Round Evaluation Reports on the United Kingdom*** and on the Slovak Republic (Friday) / **Deuxième lecture** et adoption des projets de Rapport d’Evaluation du Troisième Cycle sur le Royaume-Uni*** et sur la République Slovaque (**vendredi**)

11. Miscellaneous / **Divers**

12. Adoption of decisions / **Adoption des décisions**

13. Dates of next meetings / **Dates des prochaines réunions**

*** Second reading of Theme II “Party Funding” only and adoption of the report on the United Kingdom as a whole (both readings of Theme I “Incriminations” were carried out at GRECO 35 – December 2007) / **Deuxième lecture du Thème II “Financement des partis politiques” et adoption du rapport sur le Royaume-Uni dans son ensemble (les deux lectures du Thème I “Incriminations” ont été effectuées lors de GRECO 35 – décembre 2007)**