



Strasbourg, 4 December 2009

Greco (2009) 29E

45th GRECO Plenary Meeting
(Strasbourg, 30 November – 4 December 2009)

DECISIONS

At its 45th Plenary Meeting (Strasbourg, 30 November – 4 December 2009), the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO):

1. adopted the agenda as it appears in the Summary Report of the meeting (Greco (2009) 30E);

Information

2. took note of the information provided by the President, the Vice-President and the Executive Secretary (cf. the Summary Report of the meeting - Greco (2009) 30E);

Second Evaluation Round

3. adopted the Addendum to the Second Round Compliance Report on Romania (Greco RC-II (2007) 9E Addendum);
4. invited the authorities of Romania to authorise, as soon as possible, the publication of the report mentioned in decision 3 above;
5. took note of oral information provided by the Head of the Dutch delegation concerning further developments with regard to the implementation of recommendations ii, iii and v which had been assessed as partly implemented in the Addendum to the Second Round Compliance Report on the Netherlands (Greco RC-II (2007) 7E Addendum);

Third Evaluation Round

6. adopted the Third Round Evaluation Reports on:
 - Croatia (Greco Eval III Rep (2009) 1E – Themes I and II)
 - Germany (Greco Eval III Rep (2009) 3E – Themes I and II)
 - Ireland (Greco Eval III Rep (2009) 4E – Themes I and II);
7. noted with satisfaction that the authorities of Croatia and Germany authorise the publication of the reports mentioned in decision 6 above;
8. invited the authorities of Ireland to authorise, as soon as possible the publication of the report mentioned in decision 6 above;
9. adopted the Third Round Compliance Report on Finland (Greco RC-III (2009) 2E);
10. noted with satisfaction that the authorities of Finland authorise the publication of the report mentioned in decision 9 above;
11. in the absence of the delegation of the United Kingdom – but with its consent – examined the Third Round Compliance Report on the United Kingdom (Greco RC-III (2009) 3E) and decided to postpone the final adoption of the report to the first Plenary Meeting in 2010, urging the delegation of the United Kingdom to ensure its presence during that meeting;
12. postponed the examination of the Third Round Compliance Report on Slovenia to its first Plenary Meeting in 2010 owing to the belated submission of information concerning Theme II – “Transparency of Party Funding”;
13. having regard to the low number of fully implemented recommendations as reflected in the Third Round Compliance Reports on Finland and the United Kingdom, asked the Bureau to discuss the possible need to revise GRECO’s Rules

of Procedure, in particular as regards the use of the non-compliance procedure pursuant to Rule 31 paragraph 8.3¹;

14. approved the composition of evaluation teams in charge of 2010 Third Round evaluations (Greco Eval III (2007) 1bil Rev of 26 November 2009);
15. approved the list of rapporteur countries for Third Round Compliance Procedures regarding Estonia, Iceland, Luxembourg and the Netherlands (Greco Eval III (2009) 11E);

Fourth Evaluation Round

16. examined the thematic proposals by Bureau 51 as they appear in document Greco (2009) 26E;
17. noted that a majority of the delegations which took the floor expressed support for thematic option 2, i.e. "Human rights and corruption prevention in parliaments, public administration and the private sector";
18. entrusted the Bureau to revise and refine its proposals in light of the discussions held at the present meeting;

Programme of Activities for 2010

19. adopted its Programme of Activities for 2010 as it appears in document Greco (2009) 22E Final;

Tenth General Activity Report (2009)

20. took note of Bureau 51 proposal as it appears in its meeting report (Greco (2009) 25E) and decided to include a substantive section on "Experience with the criminal offence of trading in influence" in its Tenth General Activity Report (2009);
21. noted with satisfaction that the Head of the French delegation would assist with identifying a suitable French expert for drawing up the aforementioned section;
22. alternatively, agreed to entrust the President with drafting a substantial section on "Human rights and corruption" (cf. Greco (2009) 25E) in case an appropriate expert for dealing with the topic referred to in decision 20 was not available;

Enhanced cooperation with the European Union

23. took note of the Stockholm Programme as finalised at the meeting of the Justice and Home Affairs Council on 30 November and 1 December 2009 (document 17024/09 - CO EUR-PREP 3 - JAI 896 - POLGEN 229 - 2 December 2009) and, in particular, section 4.4.5. on "Economic crime and corruption";
24. expressed its willingness to contribute to the development of a comprehensive anti-corruption policy of the European Union, in line with the invitation addressed by the European Council to the Commission;

¹ Despite the low number of fully implemented recommendations, GRECO considered that the response by both countries to the recommendations issued in their respective Third Round Evaluation Reports (Greco Eval III Rep (2007) 2E Finland and Greco Eval III Rep (2007) 3E United Kingdom) could not – owing to a number of positive developments – be qualified as "globally unsatisfactory" in the meaning of Rule 31 paragraph 8.3 of GRECO's Rules of Procedure.

25. welcomed, in particular, the invitation by the European Council to the Commission to submit a report, in 2010, to the Council on the modalities for the Union to accede to GRECO and, in this connection,
26. expressed its willingness to discuss such modalities with the competent services of the European Union in light of GRECO's Statute, the Criminal Law Convention on Corruption (ETS 173) and the Civil Law Convention on Corruption (ETS 174), which already provide for the possibility of the European Union to participate in GRECO;

Calendar of forthcoming meetings

27. noted that the Bureau will hold its 52nd meeting in Strasbourg on 1 March 2010;
28. decided to hold its 46th Plenary Meeting in Strasbourg on 22-26 March 2010.