



Strasbourg, 16 May 2012

Greco (2012) 9E

55th GRECO Plenary Meeting
(Strasbourg, 14 - 16 May 2012)

DECISIONS

At its 55th Plenary Meeting (Strasbourg, 14 - 16 May 2012), the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO):

1. adopted the agenda as it appears in the Summary Report of the Meeting (Greco (2012) 10E);

Information

2. took note of the information provided by the President, delegations and the Executive Secretary (cf. the Summary Report of the meeting);
3. took note of the information provided by the Action against Crime Department on anti-corruption co-operation programmes (technical assistance);

Third Evaluation Round

4. adopted the Third Round *Interim* Compliance Reports on
 - Belgium (Greco RC-III (2012) 5E) and
 - Denmark (Greco RC-III (2012) 11E)
5. concluded that in both cases, the response to the recommendations was still "globally unsatisfactory" in the meaning of Rule 31, paragraph 8.3 of the Rules of Procedure;
6. decided to apply Rule 32, paragraph 2(ii) of the Rules of Procedure and, pursuant to paragraph 8.2 of Rule 31, asked the Heads of Delegation of Belgium and Denmark, to submit reports by 28 February 2013 on the implementation of the outstanding recommendations;
7. invited the authorities of Belgium and Denmark to authorise, as soon as possible, the publication of the reports mentioned in decision 4 above;
8. adopted the Second Third Round Compliance Reports on:
 - Estonia (Greco RC-III (2012) 1E)
 - Iceland (Greco RC-III (2012) 2E) and
 - Slovenia (Greco RC-III (2012) 6E);
9. in the case of Estonia and Iceland, in accordance with Rule 31, paragraph 9 of the Rules of Procedure, asked the Heads of Delegation to submit by 28 February 2013 additional information on the implementation of the outstanding recommendations;
10. in the case of Slovenia, concluded that the response to the recommendations was "globally unsatisfactory" in the meaning of Rule 31, paragraph 8.3 of the Rules of Procedure and decided to apply Rule 32 of the Rules of Procedure and, pursuant to paragraph 2(i) of that Rule, asked the Head of Delegation of Slovenia to submit by 30 November 2012 a report on the implementation of the outstanding recommendations;
11. decided to postpone the reading of Theme I and the adoption of the Second Third Round Compliance Report on the United Kingdom (Themes I and II) to GRECO 56, having carried out the reading of Theme II at the present meeting;

12. invited the authorities of Estonia, Iceland and Slovenia to authorise, as soon as possible, the publication of the reports mentioned in decision 8 above;
13. noted that the President urges delegations to promote within the competent authorities the need to push for stronger political will to obtain higher levels of compliance with GRECO's recommendations;
14. approved the list of rapporteur countries for Third round compliance procedures regarding Armenia, Montenegro, Portugal and Romania (Greco Eval III (2012) 2 – Eng. only);

Fourth Evaluation Round

15. held a Round table on the prevention of corruption in respect of judges and prosecutors;
16. took note of feedback on the first Fourth round evaluation visits provided by the delegations of Poland, Slovenia and the United Kingdom, evaluators and the secretariat and asked the Secretariat to reflect it in the report of the meeting;
17. validated the following points agreed on by Bureau 59:
 - if invited to, the Secretariat, rather than the evaluators, should meet the domestic media – preferably at the *beginning* of an evaluation visit – to provide background information on GRECO's purpose and *modus operandi*;
 - as of the Fourth Evaluation Round, recommendations issued in evaluation reports, even at the drafting stage, should no longer be introduced by the phrase "... the GET recommends" but should read "... GRECO recommends";
 - once authorisation is given, member States should agree a same-day publication date with the Secretariat and both the date of adoption and date of publication should be clearly marked on the cover of the published report;
 - a translation of published reports in the domestic language(s) should be made available on a domestic website and rendered easily accessible, and the location of the report (i.e. the internet link) should be communicated to the Secretariat;
18. approved the composition of the team in charge of the Fourth round evaluation of the Slovak Republic (Greco Eval IV (2011) 1 bil. of 20 April 2012);

Election for the Fourth Evaluation Round

19. elected by secret ballot Zorana MARKOVIC (Serbia) to the vacant seat in the Bureau;

Exchanges of views

20. held an exchange of views with representatives of the Agency for Combating Economic Crimes and Corruption, Kazakhstan (financial police);
21. in this connection, welcomed Kazakhstan's interest in joining GRECO;
22. held an exchange of views with the Executive Secretary of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS) of the Council of Europe;

Gender equality policy of the Council of Europe

23. took note of the briefing by the Head of the Council of Europe's Gender Equality Division as well as GRECO's secretariat on how a gender perspective may impact on the issue of corruption generally and/or inform GRECO's work ;
24. noted that delegations had been asked to respond to a few questions designed to prompt and help them prepare for their participation in the round table on gender and corruption that would be held at GRECO 56;

Cooperation with the European Union

25. welcomed that, in the absence of any visible progress concerning EU participation in GRECO, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe was paying close attention to this issue in his current and forthcoming high-level contacts with the European Commission;
26. noted with satisfaction that GRECO would be invited to be represented at the third and all following meetings of the Commission's Group of Experts on Corruption which is tasked with assisting the Commission in drawing up the EU Anti-Corruption Report;

Calendar of forthcoming meetings

27. noted that the Bureau had held its 60th Meeting in the margins of the present plenary meeting (14 May 2012);
28. noted that the 56th Plenary Meeting would be held in Strasbourg on 20 – 22 June 2012 (three day meeting).