

Strasbourg, 18 March 2016

Greco(2016)7

71st GRECO Plenary Meeting
(Strasbourg, 14-18 March 2016)

DECISIONS

At its 71st Plenary Meeting (Strasbourg, 14-18 March 2016), the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO):

1. adopted the agenda as it appears in the Summary Report of the meeting (Greco(2016)8);

Information

2. took note of the information provided by the President and the Executive Secretary (cf. the Summary Report of the meeting);
3. took note of the list of items discussed and decisions taken by Bureau 75 (Greco(2016)5) and, in that context, took particular note of the test questions proposed by the Swiss Delegation which could provide guidance when assessing the level of implementation of “consider” recommendations;

Gender Equality Rapporteur

4. designated Vita HABJAN BARBORIČ (Bureau member, Head of delegation, Slovenia) as GRECO’s Gender Equality Rapporteur during the absence of Helena LIŠUCHOVÁ (Bureau member, Head of delegation, Czech Republic);

Third Evaluation Round

5. adopted the Third Round Evaluation Reports on:

- Liechtenstein (GrecoEval3Rep(2016)2)
- San Marino (GrecoEval3Rep(2016)1)

and set the deadline of 30 September 2017 for the submission of Situation Reports on measures taken to implement the recommendations contained in the reports;

6. invited the authorities of Liechtenstein and San Marino to authorise, as soon as possible, the publication of the reports mentioned in decision 5 above;

7. adopted the 2nd Third Round Compliance Report on:

- Austria (GrecoRC3(2016)1)

and terminated the Third Round compliance procedure in respect of that member;

8. invited the authorities of Austria to authorise, as soon as possible, the publication of the report mentioned in decision 7 above;

9. adopted the 2nd Third Round Compliance Reports on:

- Belgium (GrecoRC3(2016)2)
- Germany (GrecoRC3(2016)5)
- Sweden (GrecoRC3(2016)3)
- the United States of America (GrecoRC3(2016)6)

and, in accordance with Rule 31, paragraph 9 of the Rules of Procedure, requested the Heads of Delegation of those member States to submit additional information regarding the implementation of certain recommendations by 31 December 2016 at the latest;

10. invited the authorities of Belgium, Germany, Sweden and the United States of America to authorise, as soon as possible, the publication of the reports mentioned in decision 9 above;

Fourth Evaluation Round

11. adopted the Fourth Round Compliance Reports on:

- Albania (GrecoRC4(2016)6)
- Denmark (GrecoRC4(2016)7)
- France (GrecoRC4(2016)2)

and set the deadline of 30 September 2017 for the submission of situation reports on additional measures taken to implement the recommendations;

12. invited the authorities of Albania, Denmark and France to authorise, as soon as possible, the publication of the reports mentioned in decision 11 above;

13. adopted the *Interim* Fourth Round Compliance Report on:

- Iceland (GrecoRC4(2016)3)

and decided not to continue applying Rule 32 in the case of that member;

14. in accordance with Rule 31, paragraph 8.2 of the Rules of Procedure, requested the Head of Delegation of Iceland to submit additional information regarding action taken to implement certain recommendations by 31 December 2016 at the latest;

15. noted with satisfaction that the authorities of Iceland authorise the publication of the report mentioned in decision 13 above;

16. adopted the *Interim* Fourth Round Compliance Report on:

- Latvia (GrecoRC4(2016)4)

and concluded that the level of compliance with the recommendations remains “globally unsatisfactory” in the meaning of Rule 31, paragraph 8.3 of the Rules of Procedure;

17. in accordance with Rule 32, paragraph 2 (i) of the Rules of Procedure, requested the head of delegation of Latvia to provide a report on the action taken to implement the pending recommendations by 31 March 2017 at the latest;

18. pursuant to Rule 32, paragraph 2 (ii) a) of the Rules of Procedure, instructed its President to send a letter – with a copy to the President of the Statutory Committee – to the head of delegation of Latvia on the need to take determined action with a view to achieving tangible progress as soon as possible;

19. invited the authorities of Latvia to authorise, as soon as possible, the publication of the report mentioned in decision 16 above;

20. approved the list of rapporteur countries for the Fourth Round compliance procedure in respect of Azerbaijan (GrecoEval4(2016)3);

Publication of adopted reports

21. reminded its members of the action to be taken when publishing adopted reports in order to ensure visibility of their work in GRECO (as specified in decision 26, GRECO 58) and noted in particular the importance of agreeing a same-day publication date with the Secretariat;¹
22. noted the President's call on the authorities concerned to authorise, with no further delay, the publication of the following reports:
 - Joint First and Second Round Evaluation Report (adopted June 2012), Compliance Report (adopted June 2014) and *Interim* Compliance Report (adopted June 2015) on Belarus
 - Fourth Round Evaluation Report on Turkey² (adopted October 2015)
 - *Interim* Third Round Compliance Reports on Cyprus and Turkey³ (adopted December 2015)
 - Addendum to the Second Third Round Compliance Report on Azerbaijan⁴ (adopted December 2015);

Preparation of the Fifth Evaluation Round

23. held an exchange of views with two experts:
 - Robert ŠUMI, Police Superintendent, Head of Research and Social Skills Centre, Ljubljana
 - Andreas WIESELTHALER, Director, Federal Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAK), Vienna

who provided insight into the key issues that might be addressed in relation to corruption prevention and the promotion of integrity in law enforcement agencies;
24. on the basis of lead questions prepared by the Secretariat and discussed by Bureau 75 (Greco(2016)3-rev) held a discussion on the scope and the content of the 5th Evaluation Round and agreed to communicate the comments made to the Working Party (WP-Eval V) entrusted with assisting GRECO in the preparation of that round, in view of its first meeting (Strasbourg, 6-7 April 2016);

General Activity Report

25. adopted its Sixteenth General Activity Report – 2015 (Greco(2016)1-fin) which will include a feature article submitted by Magnus ÖHMAN from the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES);
26. instructed the Secretariat 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 of the Statute and noted that the report will be published immediately after it has been presented by GRECO's President to the 1258th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies (1 June 2016);
27. invited its members to translate the feature article into their national languages and to make it available to the public;

¹ - agree a same-day publication date with the Secretariat
- clearly mark both the date of adoption and date of publication on the cover page
- make the national language version available and easily accessible on a domestic website
- notify the Secretariat of the location of the report by communicating the internet link to it
- include a link on the domestic website to the official language versions on GRECO's website.

² The Fourth Round Evaluation Report on Turkey was made public on 17 March 2016.

³ The *Interim* Third Round Compliance Report on Turkey will be made public on 21 March 2016.

⁴ The Addendum to the Second Third Round Compliance Report on Azerbaijan was made public on 14 March 2016.

Exchange of views

28. held an exchange of views with a delegation from the Kyrgyz Republic:
- Liudmila USMANOVA, Deputy Prosecutor General
 - Talantbeck MAMYROV, Senior Prosecutor, Department of International Legal Co-operation, Office of the Prosecutor General
 - Kalyskhan KHASANOVA, National Programme Officer, Economic and Environmental Dimension, OSCE Centre Bishkek
29. in that connection, welcomed once again the Kyrgyz Republic's interest in joining GRECO in the future;

Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) Recommendation 2087 (2016)

30. adopted comments (Greco(2016)4-fin) on PACE Recommendation 2087 (2016) – *Judicial corruption: urgent need to implement the Assembly's proposals*, and instructed the Secretariat to forward them to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe;

European Union participation in GRECO

31. took note of the answer given by the European Commission to a written question (E-013204-15) from a group of European Parliament members, in which the Commission reiterates its commitment to EU participation in GRECO and states that discussions between it and the Council of the European Union on the details for participation are ongoing;
32. took note of the document *EU priorities for cooperation with the Council of Europe in 2016-2017* adopted by the Council of the European Union on 18 January 2016, in which it is again stated that EU participation in GRECO could contribute to more co-ordinated anti-corruption policies in Europe and strengthen the impact of their respective anti-corruption endeavours, that the analysis of the implications of the EU's full participation in GRECO is still ongoing, and also that participation remains the long-term objective;
33. expressed concern about the apparent lack of concrete progress towards accession of the European Union to GRECO since the Commission adopted a Communication on this matter in October 2012⁵;

Topical anti-corruption developments/events in member States

34. took note of the information provided by Delegations (cf. the Summary Report of the meeting – Item 4 of the Agenda);

Forthcoming meetings

35. noted that the Bureau will hold its 76th Meeting in Vienna on 20 May 2016;
36. noted that the 72nd Plenary Meeting will be held in Strasbourg on 27 June – 1 July 2016.

⁵ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council and the European Economic and Social Committee on the Participation of the European Union in the Council of Europe Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) – Brussels, 19.10.2012 COM(2012) 604 final.