

Strasbourg, 2 December 2016

Greco(2016)21

74th GRECO Plenary Meeting
(Strasbourg, 28 November – 2 December 2016)

DECISIONS

At its 74th Plenary Meeting (Strasbourg, 28 November – 2 December 2016), the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) took the following decisions (cf. the Summary Report of the meeting - Greco(2016)22):

1. adopted the agenda as it appears in the Summary Report of the meeting;

Information

2. took note of the information provided by the President of GRECO and the Executive Secretary;
3. took note of the list of items discussed and decisions taken by Bureau 78 (Greco(2016)20);

Evaluation procedures

Fourth Round

4. adopted the Fourth Round Evaluation Reports on:
 - Georgia (GrecoEval4Rep(2016)3)
 - Switzerland (GrecoEval4Rep(2016)5)
 - the United States of America (GrecoEval4Rep(2016)10)

and set the deadline of 30 June 2018 for the submission of situation reports on measures taken to implement the recommendations contained in the reports;

5. noted with satisfaction that the authorities of Georgia authorise the publication of the report mentioned in decision 4 above;
6. invited the authorities of Switzerland and the United States of America to authorise, as soon as possible, the publication of the reports mentioned in decision 4 above;

Compliance procedures

Fourth Round

7. adopted the Fourth Round Compliance Reports on:

- Azerbaijan (GrecoRC4(2016)11)
- Norway (GrecoRC4(2016)12)

and, in both cases, set the deadline of 30 June 2018 for the submission of a situation report on additional measures taken to implement the recommendations;

8. adopted the 2nd *Interim* Fourth Round Compliance Report on:

- Slovenia (GrecoRC4(2016)14)

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

9. in accordance with Rule 31, paragraph 8.2 of the Rules of Procedure, requested the Head of delegation of Slovenia to submit additional information regarding action taken to implement certain recommendations by 30 September 2017 at the latest;

10. invited the authorities of Azerbaijan, Norway and Slovenia to authorise, as soon as possible, the publication of the reports mentioned in decisions 7 and 8 above;
11. approved the list of rapporteur countries for the Fourth Round compliance procedures in respect of the following member States: Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Lithuania, Malta, Montenegro, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Turkey (GrecoEval4(2016)10-rev);

Third Round

12. adopted the 2nd Third Round Compliance Report on:
 - Greece (GrecoRC3(2016)14)and terminated the Third Round compliance procedure in respect of that member;
13. adopted the 2nd Third Round Compliance Report on:
 - Italy (GrecoRC3(2016)13)and, in accordance with Rule 31, paragraph 9 of the Rules of Procedure, requested the Head of delegation of Italy to submit additional information regarding the implementation of certain recommendations by 30 September 2017 at the latest;
14. adopted the Addendum to the 2nd Third Round Compliance Report on:
 - Georgia (GrecoRC3(2016)12)and, in accordance with Rule 31, paragraph 9 of the Rules of Procedure, requested the Head of delegation of Georgia to submit additional information regarding the implementation of certain recommendations by 30 September 2017 at the latest;
15. adopted the Addendum to the 2nd Third Round Compliance Report on:
 - Portugal (GrecoRC3(2016)11)and terminated the Third Round compliance procedure in respect of that member;
16. noted with satisfaction that the authorities of Italy and Georgia authorise the publication, on Friday 2 December 2016, of the reports mentioned in decisions 13 and 14 above;
17. invited the authorities of Greece and Portugal to authorise, as soon as possible, the publication of the reports mentioned in decisions 12 and 15 above;
18. adopted the *Interim* Third Round Compliance Reports on:
 - Cyprus (GrecoRC3(2016)17 – 2nd *interim* report)
 - the Czech Republic (GrecoRC3(2016)10 – 4th *interim* report)and decided not to continue applying Rule 32 in both cases;

19. in accordance with Rule 31, paragraph 8.2 of the Rules of Procedure, requested the Heads of delegation of Cyprus and the Czech Republic to submit additional information regarding action taken to implement certain recommendations by 30 September 2017;
20. adopted the *Interim* Third Round Compliance Report on:
 - Denmark (GrecoRC3(2016)16 – 5th *interim* report)
 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;
21. pursuant to Rule 32, paragraph 2 (i) of the Rules of Procedure, requested the Head of delegation of Denmark to provide a report on the action taken to implement the pending recommendations by 30 September 2017, recalling the commitment to progress with implementation, made by the authorities during the high-level meeting held in Copenhagen in May 2016;
22. agreed that the authorities of Denmark will be invited to report on progress in the implementation of the recommendations assessed in the report mentioned in decision 20 above, under Item 4 – “Topical anti-corruption developments/events” of the Agenda of the 75th Plenary Meeting (March 2017);
23. adopted the *Interim* Third Round Compliance Report on:
 - Turkey (GrecoRC3(2016)15 – 3rd *interim* report)
 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;
24. pursuant to Rule 32, paragraph 2 (i) of the Rules of Procedure, requested the Head of delegation of Turkey to provide a report on the action taken to implement the pending recommendations by 30 September 2017 and, in accordance with paragraph 2 (ii) c) of the same rule, invited the Secretary General of the Council of Europe to send a letter to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkey on that member’s non-compliance with GRECO’s recommendations and the need to take determined action to achieve tangible progress as soon as possible;
25. invited the authorities of Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark and Turkey to authorise, as soon as possible, the publication of the reports mentioned in decisions 18, 20 and 23 above;

Publication of adopted reports¹

26. noted the President’s call on the authorities concerned to authorise the publication of the following reports (all adopted in October 2016):
 - Fourth Round Evaluation Reports on Austria and Italy
 - Third Round Evaluation Report on Belarus
 - Fourth Round Compliance Report on Belgium
 - *Interim* Fourth Round Compliance Report on the Netherlands;

¹ *Action to be taken when publishing adopted reports* (as specified in decision 26, GRECO 58):

- 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.

27. strongly urged the authorities of Belarus to lift the confidentiality of all the reports addressed to them by GRECO in the framework of the Joint First and Second Round evaluation and compliance procedures since June 2012;

Preparation of the Fifth Evaluation Round (launch in 2017)

28. took note of information on the organisation of a launching event, as well as training for evaluators (cf. the Summary Report of the meeting);
29. noted the call on all Heads of Delegation to ensure that the details of the evaluators nominated by their authorities for the new round are sent to the secretariat by 31 January 2017 at the latest (cf. e-mails of 26 October and 14 November 2016) and that evaluators have the knowledge and skills required as set out in the Final Activity Report of the working party WP-Eval V adopted by GRECO in October 2016 (GrecoWP5(2016)5-fin);
30. held the elections for the Fifth Evaluation Round (mandates from 1 January 2017) and:
- elected, by secret ballot, Marin MRČELA (Croatia) as President of GRECO;
 - elected, by secret ballot, Agnès MAITREPIERRE (France) as Vice-President of GRECO;
 - elected, by secret ballot, the following representatives to sit on the Bureau (English alphabetical order of countries):

Helena LIŠUCHOVÁ (Czech Republic)
Aslan YUSUFOV (Russian Federation)
Vita HABJAN BARBORIČ (Slovenia)
Ernst GNÄGI (Switzerland)
David MEYER (United Kingdom);

Programme of Activities 2017

31. adopted its Programme of Activities for 2017 (Greco(2016)18-fin);
32. noted that if the examination of compliance reports needs to be postponed to ensure a feasible agenda for plenary meetings, the Secretariat will agree – with the members concerned – appropriate new deadlines for situation reports;

Exchange of view

33. held an exchange of views on experiences with international anti-corruption peer review mechanisms: enhancing synergies and sharing good practices, and invited delegations to share their experience with the secretariat, in writing, by 31 January 2017;

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);

Miscellaneous

35. noted, in connection with the Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport (Budapest, 29 November 2016), that the Executive Secretary invites all delegations to send to him by mid-January 2017 any information on completed cases related to private sector corruption (articles 7 and 8 of the Criminal Law Convention on Corruption, ETS 173);
36. agreed that it is not necessary to maintain a restricted access section on the new version of GRECO's website as working documents and reports adopted (whether confidential or not) are systematically sent to all representatives of member States in GRECO directly by e-mail;

Forthcoming meetings

37. took note of the following dates :
 - 79th Bureau meeting (Strasbourg, 24 February 2017)
 - Launch of the Fifth Evaluation Round (event to be held in Strasbourg, 20 March 2017, 09h30-13h00) followed by the 75th Plenary Meeting (Strasbourg, afternoon of 20 March – midday 24 March 2017)
 - Training for Fifth Evaluation Round evaluators (Strasbourg, 3-5 May 2017)
 - Conference on *Lessons learned from GRECO's Fourth Evaluation Round* (Prague, 9-10 November 2017).