

Strasbourg, 24 March 2017

Greco(2017)9

75<sup>th</sup> GRECO Plenary Meeting  
(Strasbourg, 20-24 March 2017)

DECISIONS

At its 75<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting (Strasbourg, 20-24 March 2017), the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO):

Launch of the 5<sup>th</sup> Evaluation Round (Monday 20 March, 09h30-13h00)

1. Welcomed the organisation of the high-level event to mark the official beginning of the 5<sup>th</sup> Evaluation Round on Preventing corruption and promoting integrity in central governments (top executive functions) and law enforcement agencies [\[recording\]](#) and noted the strong support for GRECO's work;
2. welcomed this occasion to gather inputs from national and international public and private sector stakeholders, including insights on their expectations;

75<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting (see also the Summary Report of the meeting (Greco(2017)10)

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

#### Information

4. took note of the information provided by the President of GRECO and the Executive Secretary;
5. took note of the list of items discussed and decisions taken by Bureau 79 (Greco(2016)8), and in that context, took particular note of the following:
  - the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe has requested GRECO's opinion on the Code of conduct for members of the Parliamentary Assembly – a draft opinion will be examined by the Bureau at its 80<sup>th</sup> meeting and by GRECO at its 76<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting (Strasbourg, 19-23 June 2017) with a view to its adoption;
  - the Conference of International non-Governmental Organisations of the Council of Europe (Conference of INGOs) has requested an opinion on the risks of corruption or conflicts of interest facing the Conference of INGOs and its legal framework and rules of procedure to tackle them – a draft opinion will be examined at a future Bureau meeting;
  - in 2017, the Council of Europe's Directorate of Internal Oversight (DIO) will carry out an evaluation of the effectiveness of the Council of Europe's support to member States focused on the impact of the fight against corruption – in that context, DIO would contact certain delegations in GRECO directly ;

#### Evaluation procedures

##### *Fifth Round*

6. took note of the information provided by the Secretariat on the state of preparation of the Training for Evaluators of the 5<sup>th</sup> Round (Strasbourg, 3-5 May 2017) – heads of delegation who have not yet confirmed the participation of evaluators (one covered by GRECO's budget and up to two at the expense of the national authorities) are asked to do so as quickly as possible;
7. noted also that, as a result of the training, guidance for evaluators will be developed;
8. approved the composition of the evaluation teams responsible for the 5<sup>th</sup> Round evaluations of Finland, Iceland, Slovenia and the United Kingdom (GrecoEval5(2017)2rev2) having noted that it is highly recommended that all evaluators included in the composition of these teams take part in the Training;

9. called on the authorities of Albania, Italy and Liechtenstein to appoint evaluators for the 5<sup>th</sup> Round as soon as possible;

#### Compliance procedures

##### *Joint First and Second Evaluation Rounds*

10. adopted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Addendum to the Joint First and Second Round Compliance Report on:
- Liechtenstein (GrecoRC1-2(2017)1)
- and terminated the compliance procedure in respect of that member, in this round;
11. invited the authorities of Liechtenstein to authorise, as soon as possible, the publication of the report mentioned in decision 10 above;

##### *Third Round*

12. adopted the Addenda to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Third Round Compliance Reports on:
- France (GrecoRC3(2017)9)
  - Malta (GrecoRC3(2017)6)
  - Romania (GrecoRC3(2017)7)
  - Ukraine (GrecoRC3(2017)8)
- and terminated the compliance procedures in respect of those members, in this round;
13. decided to postpone the adoption of the Addendum to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Third Round Compliance Report on Andorra to the 76<sup>th</sup> Plenary meeting (Strasbourg, 19-23 June 2017);
14. adopted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Addenda to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Third Round Compliance Reports on:
- Azerbaijan (GrecoRC3(2017)4)
  - Hungary (GrecoRC3(2017)2)
- and terminated the compliance procedure in respect of those members, in this round;
15. noted with satisfaction that the authorities of Malta authorise the publication of the report mentioned in decision 12 above;
16. invited the authorities of Azerbaijan, France, Hungary, Romania and Ukraine to authorise, as soon as possible, the publication of the reports mentioned in decisions 12 and 14 above;

##### *Fourth Round*

17. adopted the Fourth Round Compliance Reports on:
- Germany (GrecoRC4(2017)1)
  - Lithuania (GrecoRC4(2017)3)
  - Malta (GrecoRC4(2017)5)
- and, in the three cases, set the deadline of 30 September 2018 for the submission of a situation report on additional measures taken to implement the recommendations;

18. adopted the Fourth Round Compliance Report on:
- Ireland (GrecoRC4(2017)7)
- and concluded that the level of compliance with the recommendations is “globally unsatisfactory” in the meaning of Rule 31, paragraph 8.3 of the Rules of Procedure;
19. pursuant to Rule 32, paragraph 2(i), requested the head of delegation of Ireland to provide a report on progress in implementing the recommendations by 31 March 2018;
20. adopted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Fourth Round Compliance Report on:
- the United Kingdom (GrecoRC4(2017)6)
- and terminated the compliance procedure in respect of that member, in this round;
21. adopted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Fourth Round Compliance Report on:
- Poland (GrecoRC4(2017)2)
- and, in accordance with Rule 31, paragraph 9 of the Rules of Procedure, requested the head of delegation of Poland to submit additional information regarding the implementation of certain recommendations by 31 December 2017 at the latest;
22. noted with satisfaction that the authorities of Poland authorise the publication of the report mentioned in decision 21 above;
23. invited the authorities of Germany, Ireland, Lithuania, Malta and the United Kingdom to authorise, as soon as possible, the publication of the reports mentioned in decisions 17, 18 and 20 above;

#### Publication of adopted evaluation and compliance reports<sup>1</sup>

24. noted the President’s call on the authorities concerned to authorise without further delay the publication of the following reports:
- Joint First and Second Round Evaluation Report on Belarus (adopted in June 2012)
  - Joint First and Second Round Compliance Report on Belarus (adopted in June 2014)
  - *Interim* Joint First and Second Round Compliance Report on Belarus (adopted in June 2015)
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> *Interim* Joint First and Second Round Compliance Report on Belarus (adopted in July 2016)
  - Third Round Evaluation Report on Belarus (adopted in October 2016)
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> *Interim* Third Round Compliance Report on Turkey (adopted in December 2016);

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<sup>1</sup> *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.

### Exchange of views

25. held an exchange of views with Giovanni KESSLER, Director-General, European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), European Commission, and noted the potential for cooperation between OLAF and GRECO ahead of GRECO's new evaluation round;

### General Activity Report (2016)

26. adopted its Seventeenth General Activity Report – 2016 (Greco(2017)3-fin) which includes a feature article submitted by Emily O'REILLY, European Ombudsman;
27. 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 1285<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Ministers' Deputies (3 May 2017);

### Rules of Procedure

28. agreed on the structure of a new compliance procedure as presented in document Greco(2017)2-rev2 which will be fine-tuned by the Bureau at its next meeting;
29. instructed the Bureau to re-examine draft rules 34 and 39 at its next meeting and decided to continue discussing these draft rules at its 76<sup>th</sup> Plenary meeting (Strasbourg, 19-23 June 2017);
30. instructed the Executive Secretary to ask for a legal opinion of the *Jurisconsult* on whether, in the light of GRECO's Statute, it is possible in GRECO's Rules of Procedure to provide for:
  - the automatic publication of evaluation and compliance reports 3-6 months after their adoption
  - procedures for dealing with requests for information and ad hoc evaluations on matters falling within GRECO's mandate;

### Non-member States

31. noted that Kazakhstan has reiterated its interest in accession to GRECO and that the establishment of an agreement on privileges and immunities of GRECO representatives and evaluation teams is the last stage to be reached in that process;
32. noted that Tunisia has requested to accede to GRECO and decided to invite a delegation from Tunisia to an exchange of views at its 76<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting (Strasbourg, 19-23 June 2017);

### Requests for observer status

33. decided unanimously to grant observer status in GRECO to the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA);
34. decided unanimously to grant observer status in GRECO to the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE);

### Topical anti-corruption developments/events in member States

35. took note of the information provided by the delegations of Azerbaijan, Belarus, Denmark, Cyprus, Georgia, Greece, France, Moldova, the Netherlands and Romania (cf. the Summary Report of the meeting – Item 4 of the Agenda);

### New GRECO website

36. welcomed the redesign of the website and its new features such as access to reports by country as well as by evaluation round, FAQs and a section on GRECO in the media;
37. noted that a DGI search-engine will be operational by the end of the year and that the Twitter feed of the Executive Secretary will be included on GRECO's website;
38. requested all GRECO members to provide the Secretariat before GRECO 76 with the web link, name (in national language) and e-mail address of any National Anti-Corruption Authorities – that information will be added to a dedicated webpage on GRECO's website;

### Forthcoming meetings

39. took note of the following dates :
  - Training course for 5<sup>th</sup> Round evaluators (Strasbourg, 3-5 May 2017)
  - 80<sup>th</sup> Bureau meeting (Zagreb, 19 May 2017)
  - 76<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting (Strasbourg, 19-23 June 2017)
  - Conference on *Lessons learned from GRECO's Fourth Evaluation Round* (Prague, 9-10 November 2017).