



Strasbourg, 22 September 2021

Greco(2021)7

88th GRECO Plenary Meeting
Strasbourg | KUDO (online), 20-22 September 2021

DECISIONS

At its 88th Plenary Meeting (Strasbourg | KUDO (online), 20-22 September 2021) which was chaired by Mr Marin MRČELA (President of GRECO, Croatia), the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO):

1. noted the President's welcome message to newly nominated Heads of Delegation and representatives, thanking them for the contribution they make to the collective work in GRECO where their input and coordination at national level facilitate the concrete results of GRECO's monitoring, and for their expertise which is important in the mutual evaluation process during the examination of reports addressed to other member States;
2. adopted the agenda of the meeting;

Information

3. took note of the items discussed and decisions taken by the Bureau since the last Plenary Meeting (Bureau 95: Greco(2021)5 and Bureau 96: Greco(2021)6);
4. took note of the information provided by the President of GRECO on:
 - the very positive and encouraging feedback from the Ambassadors of member States on the occasion of his annual exchange of views with the Ministers' Deputies (1401st meeting, 14 April 2021) which preceded the publication of GRECO's General Activity Report for 2020;
 - his participation in a workshop on *The European Union's current role in GRECO and ambitions for the future: how to move towards full membership* organised by the European Parliament's Committee on Budgetary Control (14 June 2021) at which he had recalled that the door to full membership of the EU in GRECO remains open, as directly envisaged in GRECO's Statute;
 - his [statement](#) at the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGASS) Against Corruption (2-4 June 2021) at which he had confirmed GRECO's readiness to support the UNGASS 2021 political declaration entitled *Our common commitment to effectively addressing challenges and implementing measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation*;
 - his participation at the UNGASS side-event co-organised by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and GRECO's Secretariat on [Building Transparent, Accountable and Inclusive Institutions](#) (2 June 2021);
 - his meeting with Ms Irina VENEDIKTOVA, Prosecutor General of Ukraine (10 September 2021);
 - the procedure underway for Morocco to accede to the Criminal Law Convention on Corruption (ETS No. 173) and the Civil Law Convention on Corruption (ETS No. 174) and by doing so join GRECO, effective once an agreement on the privileges and immunities of the representatives of members of GRECO and members of evaluation teams has entered into force in respect of Morocco;

took note of information shared by the Executive Secretary as regards

- the preparation of GRECO's budgets for 2022 and 2023, in the framework of the procedure for the adoption of the Council of Europe's Programme and Budget for the next four years;
- the preparation of the annual meeting between the Secretary General of the Council of Europe and the presidents of the Organisation's monitoring and advisory bodies (25 October 2021);

Evaluation procedures

5. welcomed the fact that it had been possible to resume GRECO's on-site evaluation visits, with four completed since June (Lithuania, Greece, Serbia and Kazakhstan) and four more planned before the end of the year (Montenegro, Hungary, Ireland and Bulgaria);

Compliance procedures

Fourth Round – Corruption prevention in respect of members of parliament, judges and prosecutors

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

- **Denmark** (GrecoRC4(2021)13)

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

7. pursuant to Rule 32, paragraph 2 (i), asked the Head of delegation of Denmark to provide a report on progress in implementing the outstanding recommendations by 30 September 2022 at the latest;
8. pursuant to Rule 32, paragraph 2 (ii) b), invited the President of the Statutory Committee to send a letter to the Permanent Representative of Denmark to the Council of Europe on the level of non-compliance with GRECO's recommendations;

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

- the **Czech Republic** (GrecoRC4(2021)17)

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

10. pursuant to Rule 31 revised, paragraph 8.2 of the Rules of Procedure asked the Head of delegation of the Czech Republic to submit additional information regarding action taken to implement certain recommendations by 30 September 2022;

11. adopted the *Interim* Fourth Round Compliance Reports on:

- **Armenia** (GrecoRC4(2021)15)
- **Poland** (GrecoRC4(2021)18)

and concluded in both cases that the level of compliance with the recommendations remains "**globally unsatisfactory**" in the meaning of Rule 31 revised, paragraph 8.3 of the Rules of Procedure;

12. pursuant to Rule 32, paragraph 2 (i), asked the Heads of delegation of Armenia and Poland to provide reports on progress in implementing the outstanding recommendations by 30 September 2022 at the latest;
13. pursuant to Rule 32, paragraph 2 (ii) a), invited the President of GRECO to send a letter to the Heads of delegation of Armenia and Poland - with a copy to the President of the Statutory Committee - on the need to take determined action with a view to achieving tangible progress as soon as possible;

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

- **Monaco** (GrecoRC4(2021)16)

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

15. pursuant to Rule 31 revised, paragraph 8.2 of the Rules of Procedure, asked the Head of delegation of Monaco to submit additional information regarding action taken to implement certain recommendations by 30 September 2022;
16. adopted the 2nd Addendum to the 2nd Fourth Round Compliance Report on:
 - the **Netherlands** (GrecoRC4(2021)14)and terminated the compliance procedure in respect of this member in this round;
17. noted with satisfaction that the authorities of Armenia and Poland authorise the publication of the reports mentioned in decision 11 above;
18. invited the authorities of Denmark, the Czech Republic, Monaco and the Netherlands to authorise, as soon as possible, the publication of the reports mentioned in decisions 6, 9, 14 and 16 above;

Fifth Round – Preventing corruption and promoting integrity in central governments (top executive functions) and law enforcement agencies

19. adopted, in the framework of Rule 31 revised bis of the Rules of Procedure, the Fifth Round Compliance Reports on:
 - **Denmark** (GrecoRC5(2021)9)
 - **Malta** (GrecoRC5(2021)5)
 - **Slovak Republic** (GrecoRC5(2021)7)
 - **Spain** (GrecoRC5(2021)8)and noted in the four cases that further progress is necessary to demonstrate an acceptable level of compliance within the next 18 months, and set the deadline of 31 March 2023 for the submission by the respective Heads of delegation of a situation report on additional measures taken to implement the recommendations;
20. invited the authorities of Denmark, Malta, the Slovak Republic and Spain to authorise, as soon as possible, the publication of the reports mentioned in decision 19 above;

Recommendation 2208 (2021) by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe – *Transparency and regulation of donations to political parties and electoral campaigns from foreign donors*

21. adopted comments (Greco(2021)4-fin) on the Parliamentary Assembly's Recommendation 2208 (2021) and instructed the Secretariat to forward them to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe;

Exchange of views – Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA)

22. held an exchange of views with FIFA, with the participation of Alasdair BELL, Deputy Secretary General of FIFA and Bjørn BERGE, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe;
23. welcomed with interest the information provided on FIFA reforms to tackle corruption in sport, in particular the Transfer System Reform, as well as the exchange on possible avenues for future cooperation between FIFA and the Council of Europe, including GRECO;

Exchange of views – International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) and Expert Forum

24. held an exchange of views with Katherine ELLENA, Senior Global Adviser, Legal, IFES and Laura STEFAN, Executive Director, Expert Forum;
25. welcomed with interest the presentation of the report – [Piercing the Veil: Using Peer Reviews in the Fight against Corruption – a Guide for Transforming Analysis into Action](#), which in its analysis refers to the work of GRECO among others;

Topical anti-corruption developments/events in member States (Item 4)

26. took note of the information provided by delegations as follows: **Croatia** - on the procedure for the appointment of a new president of the Supreme Court; **Slovenia** – information related to the ongoing Rule 34 procedure in respect of that member State; the **Russian Federation** – on the establishment by Presidential decree of a new Anti-Corruption Action Plan 2021-2024;

Information from the [Economic Crime Cooperation Division](#), Action against Crime Department (DGI)

27. welcomed with interest the information shared by Mustafa FERATI, Head of Division, on the technical assistance provided to help beneficiary states to implement GRECO recommendations, and the idea of possible closer synergies between the economic crime cooperation work and GRECO where relevant;

Publication of Reports¹

28. called on the authorities of the member States concerned to authorise without further delay the publication of the reports recently adopted by GRECO;
29. noted with strong concern that Belarus has consistently not authorised the publication of the reports adopted and addressed to the authorities of the country since 2012;

Information from observer organisations and Council of Europe bodies

30. welcomed with interest the information provided by Jesper JOHNSON, Public Sector Integrity Division of the OECD on the OECD Public Integrity Indicators;

Future meetings

31. took note of the following dates:
 - 97th Bureau Meeting: 9 November 2021
 - 89th Plenary Meeting: 29 November – 3 December 2021
 - 90th Plenary Meeting: 21-25 March 2022
 - 91st Plenary Meeting: 13-17 June 2022
 - 92nd Plenary Meeting: 28 November – 2 December 2022.

¹ *Action to be taken when publishing adopted reports* (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.