Strasbourg, 6 June 2025 Greco(2025)8

100th GRECO Plenary Meeting

Strasbourg, 3, 4 and 6 June 2025

DECISIONS

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Directorate General I
Human Rights and Rule of Law
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At its 100th Plenary Meeting (Strasbourg, 3, 4 and 6 June 2025) which was chaired by **David Meyer (President of GRECO, United Kingdom)** and by **António Delicado (Vice-President of GRECO, Portugal)** and **Panagiota Vatikalou (Bureau member, Greece)** for parts of the meeting, the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO):

1. noted the President's welcome message to Heads of delegation and representatives, thanking them for their contribution to GRECO's work where their input and coordination at national level facilitate the results achieved by GRECO's monitoring, and for the expertise they bring to the mutual evaluation process in the plenary for 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 at its 108th meeting (Greco(2025)7);

4. took note of information provided as follows:

David Meyer, President of GRECO

- the President had participated in the OECD Global Anti-Corruption and Integrity Forum (Paris, 26-27 March), including as a speaker in a session on *Addressing strategic corruption: How to leverage the anti-corruption toolbox;*

- he had also participated in a Round table organised by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on *Strengthening Ethics and Integrity in Parliaments* at which he had contributed to a panel on the *Importance of Codes of Conduct: best practice and case studies*, and Marja Tuokila, Counsel to the Legal Affairs Committee of the Finnish Parliament and GRECO Evaluator, had contributed to a panel on *Implementation and enforcement: Models, practical examples and case studies* (London, 31 March);

- the President's annual exchange of views with the Committee of Ministers (1530th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies, Strasbourg, 4 June) and presentation of GRECO's 25th General Activity Report (2024) which gave rise to numerous expressions of support for GRECO's work; and his meeting on the same day with the Minister of Justice of Malta which currently held the presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe;

- the letter received from the European Commission's Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers (DG JUST) congratulating GRECO and all its members on its 100th Plenary meeting, underlining that GRECO's monitoring work is a key source of expertise and reform, and the crucial support it provides to the European Union's rule of law efforts; the President would meet on 16 June 2025 with the European Commissioner for Democracy, Justice, the Rule of Law and Consumer Protection, Michael McGrath;

- in accordance with decisions previously taken by GRECO, the high-level missions to Türkiye and Poland had been scheduled for 18 June 2025 and 28 November 2025 respectively;

- in 2025, the first in the series of Sixth Round evaluation visits had taken place: to Estonia (Tallinn and Tartu, 7-11 April) and the Slovak Republic (Bratislava and Trenčin, 19-23 May); and the visits to Luxembourg (Luxembourg City and Dudelange, 22-26 September) and Slovenia (Ljubljana and Hrastnik, 24-28 November) were also scheduled;

- figures sent by the Chairwoman of the Federation for European Education (FEDE) on participation in the educational module developed jointly with GRECO to raise awareness among undergraduate students of corruption-related issues showed that, since September 2019, 32,391 students (average age: 22) in 17 countries had taken the course which is taught in 329 FEDE higher and vocational institutions;

- on behalf of the plenary, the President warmly thanked Tanja Gerwien for her dedicated service and professionalism as a member of GRECO's Secretariat and wished her every success in her new role in the field of children's rights policies;

- on behalf of the plenary, the President warmly thanked Penelope Prebensen for her outstanding contribution to the work of GRECO for more than two decades, expressed the Plenary's deep debt of gratitude for her unwavering professionalism and commitment, and wished her a long and happy retirement;

5. took note of information provided as follows:

António Delicado, Vice-President of GRECO

- the Vice-President had given the following talks: *The Group of States against Corruption on the making of strong anticorruption systems*, University of Pavia course on Transparency and Anti-Corruption Law (1 April); *The role of GRECO in the promotion of integrity and the prevention of corruption in municipalities*, Columbia University (7 April); and *The role of GRECO and other international review mechanisms in the creation and consolidation of strong anti-corruption systems*, Bissau Law School, Postgraduate course on corruption, money laundering and organised crime (7 May);

Panagiota Vatikalou (Bureau member)

- the Bureau member had participated as a speaker at the conference *Corruption prevention in international, European and national framework: contemporary challenges to the Rule of Law* co-organised by the National Transparency Authority of Greece, the Research Institute on Transparency, Corruption and Financial Crime of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Transparency International Greece, the Thessaloniki Bar Association and the Chamber of Commerce in Thessaloniki (9-10 May);

Livia Stoica Becht, Executive Secretary of GRECO

- the Executive Secretary's participation in several events, including a meeting of the OECD Working Party on Public Integrity and Anti-corruption, notably as a speaker in a session on *OECD public integrity indicators: Update on integrity of the justice and disciplinary systems* (Paris, 28 March), and a side event on *Democratic reforms – basis of stability and prosperity* organised by the Consulate General of Kazakhstan during the 2nd part-session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (Strasbourg, 10 April);

- the Secretariat's participation in a special session on *Open data to prevent and combat corruption* during the 43rd Meeting of the Committee of Experts of the Follow-up Mechanism for the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC) (online, 12 March), and its contribution to continued discussions within the Council of Europe's Steering Committee on Democracy (CDDEM) on Draft parameters to facilitate the application and implementation of the Reykjavik Principles for Democracy (Strasbourg, 26-27 May);

- she thanked Giulia Giardino, Junior Legal Adviser for her highly appreciated contribution to the work of the Secretariat and welcomed Irene Martinolli, who had recently taken up a similar role; it was also expected that two seconded officials would join the team in September;

6. took note of the report by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe Towards a new democratic pact for Europe (2025) and related Roadmap towards a new democratic pact for Europe - *Building a resilient, inclusive and agile democracy* and noted the place of GRECO's anti-corruption work within that strategic framework;

7. took note of the Council of Europe Transparency Framework adopted at the 134th Session of the Committee of Ministers (Luxembourg, 13-14 May 2025), an explicit commitment by the ministers to transparency and accountability, and which was also of relevance to efforts to obtain the more prompt and consistent implementation by GRECO member states of the practice of authorising the publication of GRECO reports;

Evaluation procedures

Sixth Round - Preventing corruption and promoting integrity at the sub-national level

8. approved the composition of the teams responsible for the Sixth Round evaluations of Latvia, the Netherlands and Poland (GrecoEval6(2025)7);

9. recalled that member states are provided with a predetermined advance schedule for the Sixth Round to facilitate the identification of appropriate sub-national authorities for evaluation and it is essential that members meet the deadline fixed for communicating to the Secretariat the sub-national authorities they propose;

Rule 34 - Ad hoc procedure in exceptional circumstances

10. adopted the Ad hoc report (pursuant to Rule 34) on:

    - the **Slovak Republic** (Greco-AdHocRep(2025)1)

    and set the deadline of 31 December 2026 for the submission of a situation report on the measures taken to implement the recommendations contained in the Ad hoc report;

11. invited the authorities of the Slovak Republic to authorise, as soon as possible, the publication of the Ad hoc report mentioned in decision 10 above;

Compliance procedures

12. noted the President's call on all Heads of delegation to strictly respect the submission deadlines fixed by GRECO in each report adopted which was essential to ensure the proper conduct of compliance procedures;

13. took note of the information provided concerning the high-level mission to **Denmark** (7 April 2025) carried out pursuant to Rule 32 revised, paragraph 2 (iii) and led by GRECO's President, and the sincere thanks of the delegation to the Danish authorities and the Head of Denmark's delegation in GRECO, Clara Worsaae Møller, for its efficient organisation;

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

14. adopted the 2nd Fourth Round Compliance Report on:

    - **Liechtenstein** (GrecoRC4(2025)3)

    and pursuant to Rule 31 revised, paragraph 9, asked the Head of delegation to submit additional information on the implementation of the outstanding recommendations by 30 June 2026;

15. adopted the 2nd Addendum to the 2nd Fourth Round Compliance Report on:

    - **Ireland** (GrecoRC4(2025)2)

    and closed the Fourth Round compliance procedure in respect of this member;

16. invited the authorities of Liechtenstein and Ireland to authorise, as soon as possible, the publication of the reports mentioned in decisions 14 and 15 above;

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

17. adopted, in the framework of Rule 31 revised bis, the Fifth Round Compliance Reports on:

    - **Cyprus** (GrecoRC5(2025)13)
    - **Czechia** (GrecoRC5(2025)15)
    - **Romania** (GrecoRC5(2025)11)

    and noted that further progress was necessary to achieve an adequate level of compliance within the next 18 months, and set the deadline of 31 December 2026 for the submission by the respective Heads of delegation of a situation report on additional measures taken to implement the Fifth Round recommendations;

18. adopted the Addenda to the 2nd Fifth Round Compliance Reports on:

    - **Denmark** (GrecoRC5(2025)14)
    - **Malta** (GrecoRC5(2025)12)
    - the **Slovak Republic** (GrecoRC5(2025)16)
    - **Spain** (GrecoRC5(2025)17)

    and within the meaning of Rule 31 revised bis, paragraph 10, concluded that these members were **not in sufficient compliance** with the Fifth Round recommendations;

19. pursuant to Rule 32 revised, paragraph 2 (i) asked the respective Heads of delegation to provide a report on progress in implementing the outstanding recommendations by 30 June 2026 at the latest;

20. in accordance with Rule 32 revised, paragraph 2 (ii) c), invited the Secretary General of the Council of Europe to send a letter to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, Malta, the Slovak Republic and Spain - with a copy to the Heads of delegation concerned – on the need for determined action to be taken with a view to achieving tangible progress as soon as possible;

21. invited the authorities of Cyprus, Czechia, Romania, Denmark, Malta, the Slovak Republic and Spain to authorise, as soon as possible, the publication of the reports mentioned in decisions 17 and 18 above;

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

22. at its 107th meeting, the Bureau had agreed that this regular agenda item continues to be valuable for information provided by delegations on their own initiative, or in response to a request from GRECO, the Bureau or the President regarding specific issues of concern or good and promising practices;

23. took note of information provided at the request of the Bureau by the Delegations of Malta,[1] the Republic of Moldova,[2] Romania,[3] Spain,[4] as well as information shared by Georgia,[5] Türkiye[6] and Ukraine [7];

24. invited Delegations that wished their presentations to be distributed to all GRECO members to send them to the Secretariat by the end of the week;

Information from observer organisations and Council of Europe bodies

25. took note of the information provided by the representative of the European Union on topical developments in the anti-corruption area;

Publication of Reports[8]

26. noted the President's call on the authorities of the member States concerned to authorise without further delay the publication of reports previously adopted by GRECO;[9] particularly the following delegations: Azerbaijan and Türkiye (reports from 2023); Czechia, Hungary and Türkiye (reports from 2024);

[1] On changes in criminal legislation and the system of magisterial inquiry.
[2] On developments since the information given at GRECO 99, related to the proposal to merge the Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office and the Prosecutor's Office for Combatting Organised Crime and Special Cases, and to reduce the number of prosecutors' offices.
[3] On good practice in the preparation of the national strategy for preventing recidivism 2025-2029.
[4] On further progress made in the implementation of recommendations since the closure of the Fourth Round compliance procedure in respect of Spain.
[5] On the recently adopted Foreign Agents Registration Act.
[6] On training organised recently for the judiciary on international anti-corruption monitoring bodies, including GRECO and its processes.
[7] On the recent publication of the OECD Integrity and Anti-Corruption Review of Ukraine.

[8] *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.

[9] **Adopted in March 2023:** Fifth Round Evaluation Report on Azerbaijan; **adopted in December 2023:** Fifth Round Evaluation Report on Türkiye; **adopted in June 2024:** Fifth Round Compliance Report on Hungary; **adopted in November 2024:** Fourth Round 2nd Compliance Report on Hungary, Fourth Round 5th Interim Compliance Report on Türkiye and Fourth Round 3rd Interim Compliance Report on Czechia; **adopted in March 2025**: Third Round Evaluation Report on Kazakhstan, Fourth Round 4th Interim Compliance Report on Portugal, Fifth Round Compliance Reports on Azerbaijan and Portugal, Fifth Round 2nd Compliance Report on Germany, Fifth Round Addenda to the 2nd Compliance Reports on the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Poland and the United Kingdom.

Side event – Transitioning from the 5th to the 6th Evaluation Round and Engaging with NGOs (5 June)

27. warmly welcomed the organisation by GRECO's Secretariat of this outreach event, the discussions around a newly published study GRECO's Fifth Evaluation Round - Top Executive Functions in Central Governments and Law Enforcement Agencies – Key Principles, Challenges and Trends, and the opportunity provided by the event for exchanges between representatives of numerous civil society organisations and other experts on issues related to the 5th and 6th Evaluation Rounds;

Any other business

28. took note with interest of the Parliamentary Assembly's Report and Resolution 2596 (2025) Respect for the rule of law and the fight against corruption within the Council of Europe ;

Future meetings

29. took note of the following dates:

- **109th Bureau Meeting**: Online, September/October 2025 - date to be determined
- **101st Plenary Meeting**: Strasbourg, Tuesday 18 November – Friday 21 November 2025 (midday) – **in person only**
- **102nd Plenary Meeting**: Strasbourg, 23-27 March 2026 – **in person only**
- **103rd Plenary Meeting**: Strasbourg, 8-12 June 2026 – **in person only**
- **104th Plenary Meeting**: Strasbourg, [16-20 November 2026 – **tbc**] – **in person only**.