

Strasbourg, 17 June 2022

Greco(2022)6

91st GRECO Plenary Meeting
Strasbourg | KUDO (online), 13-17 June 2022

DECISIONS

At its 91st Plenary Meeting (Strasbourg | KUDO (online), 13-17 June 2022) which was chaired by 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 at its last meeting (Bureau 99: Greco(2022)5);
4. took note of information provided as follows:

The President of GRECO

- on 24 February 2022, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe had been notified of the Government of Kazakhstan's interest in acceding to the Criminal Law Convention on Corruption (ETS no. 173), the request was before the relevant Rapporteur Group this week and would then go to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe for decision;
- the request by Morocco to be invited to accede to the Criminal and Civil Law Conventions on Corruption (ETS Nos. 173 and 174) had been approved by the Committee of Ministers on 20 October 2021;
- his participation in a hearing on "Respect for the rule of law and fight against corruption within the Council of Europe", organised by the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (29 April 2022) at which follow-up to GRECO's findings and recommendations issued to the Assembly in 2017 had been discussed;
- the consistently positive feedback and expressions of support received during his annual exchange of views with the Committee of Ministers during which he had presented GRECO's 2021 General Activity Report; as usual on that occasion, he had presented the state of implementation of GRECO's Fourth and Fifth Round recommendations; the publication of the report on 2 June 2022 following a launch in Brussels attended by the media, diplomats, and the members of the European Union's delegation in GRECO, had given rise to considerable media coverage across the GRECO membership;
- the President invited delegations to take steps to help ensure that reports adopted by GRECO are published within a reasonable timeframe (cf. item 30 below);
- he thanked the delegations of Finland and the United States of America for the voluntary in-kind contributions made by covering the cost of their participation in the present meeting;

The Executive Secretary:

- Tanja GERWIEN would join GRECO's Secretariat as a Senior Legal Adviser on 1 July 2022 from the Secretariat of the Venice Commission, replacing Liubov SAMOKHINA (currently on sabbatical leave);

Evaluation procedures

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

5. adopted the Fifth Round Evaluation Reports on:
 - **Ireland** (GrecoEval5Rep(2020)2)
 - **Hungary** (GrecoEval5Rep(2021)3)
 - **Montenegro** (GrecoEval5Rep(2022)2)and set the deadline of 31 December 2023 for the submission of situation reports on measures taken to implement GRECO's recommendations;
6. invited the authorities of Ireland, Hungary and Montenegro to authorise, as soon as possible, the publication of the reports mentioned in decision 5 above;
7. noted that nine Fifth round evaluation visits were scheduled in 2022: Austria, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Portugal, Romania and Türkiye;

Compliance procedures

Third Round – Incriminations; Transparency of party funding

8. adopted the 2nd Addendum to the 2nd Third Round Compliance Report on:
 - **Denmark** (GrecoRC3(2022)2)and closed the compliance procedure in respect of this member in this round while noting a low level of progress in respect of transparency of political financing;
9. adopted the Addendum to the 2nd Third Round Compliance Report on:
 - **Switzerland** (GrecoRC3(2022)3)and pursuant to Rule 31 revised, paragraph 9, asked the Head of delegation of Switzerland to submit additional information on the implementation of certain recommendations by 30 June 2023;
10. invited the authorities of Denmark and Switzerland to authorise, as soon as possible, the publication of the reports mentioned in decisions 8 and 9 above;

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

11. adopted the 3rd *Interim* Fourth Round Compliance Report on:
 - **Belgium** (GrecoRC4(2022)17)and decided not to continue applying Rule 32 in the case of this member;
12. pursuant to Rule 31 revised, paragraph 8.2 asked the Head of delegation of Belgium to submit additional information on action taken to implement certain recommendations by 30 June 2023;

13. adopted the 2nd *Interim* Fourth Round Compliance Report on:
 - **Germany** (GrecoRC4(2022)21)and decided not to continue applying Rule 32 in the case of this member;
14. pursuant to Rule 31 revised, paragraph 8.2 asked the Head of delegation of Germany to submit additional information on action taken to implement certain recommendations by 30 June 2023;
15. adopted the Addenda to the 2nd Fourth Round Compliance reports on:
 - **Georgia** (GrecoRC4(2022)11)
 - **Italy** (GrecoRC4(2022)15)and pursuant to Rule 31 revised, paragraph 9, in both cases asked the respective Heads of delegation to submit additional information on the implementation of certain recommendations by 30 June 2023;
16. adopted the 2nd Fourth Round Compliance Report on:
 - **Portugal** (GrecoRC4(2022)20)and concluded that the level of compliance with the recommendations is “**globally unsatisfactory**” in the meaning of Rule 31 revised, paragraph 8.3;
17. pursuant to Rule 32, paragraph 2 (i), asked the Head of delegation of Portugal to provide a report on progress in implementing the outstanding recommendations by 30 June 2023 at the latest;
18. adopted the Fourth Round Compliance report on:
 - **Liechtenstein** (GrecoRC4(2022)18)and concluded that the level of compliance with the recommendations is “**globally unsatisfactory**” in the meaning of Rule 31 revised, paragraph 8.3;
19. pursuant to Rule 32, paragraph 2 (i), asked the Head of delegation of Liechtenstein to provide a report on progress in implementing the outstanding recommendations by 30 June 2023 at the latest;
20. adopted the Fourth Round Compliance report on:
 - **San Marino** (GrecoRC4(2022)10)and set the deadline of 31 December 2023 for the submission of a situation report on additional measures taken to implement the recommendations;
21. noted with satisfaction that the authorities of Italy and San Marino authorise the publication of the reports mentioned in decisions 15 and 20 above;
22. invited the authorities of Belgium, Germany, Georgia, Portugal and Liechtenstein to authorise, as soon as possible, the publication of the reports mentioned in decisions 11, 13, 15, 16 and 18 above;

Exchange of views – International Partnership against Corruption in Sport (IPACS)

23. held an exchange of views with IPACS represented by Pâquerette GIRARD ZAPPELLI, IPACS Vice-President (International Olympic Committee – IOC), Giuseppe DELEONARDIS, Head of Compliance, Risk and Internal Controls (IOC), and Konstantina OROLOGOPOULOU, IPACS and Governance Coordinator (IOC);
24. welcomed with interest the information provided on the work of this multi-stakeholder platform for mitigating the risk of corruption in sport in which GRECO's Secretariat participates regularly and GRECO's President and Vice-President had both taken part, and noted the supplementary information provided by several delegations and the interest they expressed in possibly engaging in the work of IPACS;

Recommendation 2229 (2022) by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe – *How to put confiscated criminal assets to good use?*

25. noted the importance attached by certain delegations to the issues addressed in the Parliamentary Assembly's Recommendation 2229 (2022) and their appreciation of the Assembly's engagement in this field;
26. adopted comments on the recommendation (Greco(2022)4-fin) and instructed the Secretariat to forward them to the Committee of Ministers;

Election for the Fifth Evaluation Round – one Bureau member

27. elected, by secret ballot, António DELICADO (Portugal) as member of the Bureau. The President thanked the candidates for their interest and commitment;

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

28. took note of information provided by the delegations of Albania, Bulgaria, Cyprus and the United States of America;

Information from observer organisations and Council of Europe bodies

29. took note of information on ongoing work and initiatives planned provided by the delegation of the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA) represented by Ambassador Thomas STELZER, Dean and Executive Secretary, and by the delegation of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, represented by Mr Titus CORLĂȚEAN (Romania – Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights);

Publication of Reports¹

30. called on the authorities of the member States concerned to authorise without further delay the publication of the reports recently adopted by GRECO;²

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.

² **Adopted in September 2021:** 2nd Interim Fourth Round Compliance Report on the Czech Republic; **Adopted in December 2021:** Ad hoc (Rule 34) Follow-up Report on Slovenia, Interim Fourth Round Compliance Report on Bosnia and Herzegovina, 3rd Interim Fourth Round Compliance Report on Hungary; **Adopted in March 2022:** 2nd Addendum to the 2nd Third Round Compliance Report on Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2nd Fourth Round Compliance Report on Ireland, Addendum to the 2nd Fourth Round Compliance Report on North Macedonia, 2nd Addendum to the 2nd Fourth Round Compliance Report on Croatia, Fifth Round Evaluation Report on Serbia.

Future meetings

31. took note of the following dates:

- 100th Bureau Meeting: 3 November 2022
- 92nd Plenary Meeting: 28 November – 2 December 2022
- 93rd Plenary Meeting: 20-24 March 2023
- 94th Plenary Meeting: 5-9 June 2023
- 95th Plenary Meeting: 27 November – 1 December 2023.