

Strasbourg, 21 June 2024

Greco(2024)13

97th GRECO Plenary Meeting
Strasbourg, 17-21 June 2024

DECISIONS

At its 97th Plenary Meeting (Strasbourg, 17-21 June 2024) 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 their contribution to GRECO's work where their input and coordination at national level facilitate the results achieved by 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 105th meeting (Greco(2024)11);
4. took note of information provided as follows:

Marin Mrčela, President of GRECO

- his annual exchange of views with the Committee of Ministers and presentation of GRECO's [General Activity Report for 2023](#) (Strasbourg, 29 May 2024) at which very positive feedback was given on the importance of GRECO's work and findings; the report was made public the following day at a media launch event in Brussels ([media coverage](#));
- GRECO would take part in the first meeting of the Anti-Corruption Partnership Forum to be organised by the European Commission and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (online, 3 July 2024) – an initiative agreed on by the participating organisations at an event held in the margins of the 10th Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption in December 2023;
- an application would be made by GRECO and the Federation for European Education (FEDE) to present the innovative educational module they developed jointly at one of the "labs" at the World Forum for Democracy that is being organised by the Council of Europe on the theme "Democracy and diversity – can we transcend the divides?" (Strasbourg, 6-8 November 2024);
- his planned participation in an exchange of views with the Steering Committee on Democracy (CDDEM) in October 2024;
- he thanked the Delegations of Monaco, Norway and the United States of America for the in-kind contributions made by covering part or all of the costs related to their participation in the present meeting;
- Delegations were invited to take steps to help ensure that reports adopted by GRECO are published within a reasonable timeframe (cf. item 32 below);

Livia Stoica Becht, Executive Secretary of GRECO

- contributions by the Secretariat and participation in the following meetings: 2024 OECD Global Anti-Corruption and Integrity Forum (Paris, 26-27 March 2024); event on "Experience and prospects for cooperation between PACE and Kazakhstan" held in the margins of the 2nd part of the 2024 Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (Strasbourg, 18 April 2024); first meeting of the Council of Europe Steering Committee on Democracy (CDDEM) on a

framework of parameters to facilitate the application and implementation of the Reykjavík Principles for Democracy (Strasbourg, 13 May 2024); visit of representatives of the Supreme Court and the Judicial Administration of Kazakhstan (Strasbourg, 14 May 2024); Council of Europe/European Commission consultations concerning the 2024 EU Enlargement Package; and OECD Working Group on Bribery in International Business Transactions (Paris, 11-13 June 2024);

- contributions by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe and the Director, Directorate of Security, Integrity and the Rule of Law to high-level segments of the 21st International Anti-Corruption Conference (IACC) "Confronting global threats: Standing up for integrity" held concurrently with the present plenary meeting (Vilnius, 18-21 June 2024);

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:

- **Andorra** (GrecoEval5Rep(2023)7)
- **Monaco** (GrecoEval5Rep(2023)8)
- **Switzerland** (GrecoEval5Rep(2023)6)

and set the deadline of 31 December 2025 for the submission of situation reports on measures taken to implement GRECO's recommendations;

6. invited the authorities of Andorra, Monaco and Switzerland to authorise, as soon as possible, the publication of the reports mentioned in decision 5 above;
7. noted that the Fifth Round evaluation visit to Liechtenstein had taken place on 15-19 April 2024 and the Fifth Round evaluation visit to San Marino would take place on 24-28 June 2024;

Third Round – Incriminations; Transparency of party funding

8. noted that the Third Round evaluation visit to Kazakhstan would take place on 9-13 September 2024;

Compliance procedures

9. noted the President's call on all Heads of delegation to strictly respect the submission deadlines fixed by GRECO in each adopted report, as well as the deadlines for comments on draft reports; this was essential to ensure the proper conduct of the compliance procedures;

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

10. adopted the 2nd Fourth Round Compliance report – including follow-up to the Ad hoc (Rule 34) report on:

- **Romania** (GrecoRC4(2024)5)

11. closed the compliance procedure in respect of the recommendations addressed to Romania in the Ad hoc (Rule 34) procedure;

12. pursuant to Rule 31 revised, paragraph 9, asked the Head of delegation to submit additional information on the implementation of certain recommendations addressed to Romania in the Fourth Evaluation Round by 30 June 2025;
13. adopted the 2nd Fourth Round Compliance Report on:
 - **San Marino** (GrecoRC4(2024)8)and closed the Fourth Round compliance procedure in respect of this member;
14. adopted the 2nd Addenda to the 2nd Fourth Round Compliance Reports on:
 - **Spain** (GrecoRC4(2024)10)
 - **Switzerland** (GrecoRC4(2024)7)and closed the Fourth Round compliance procedure in respect of these members;
15. noted with satisfaction that the authorities of San Marino authorise the publication of the report mentioned in decision 13 above;
16. invited the authorities of Romania, Spain and Switzerland to authorise, as soon as possible, the publication of the reports mentioned in decisions 10 and 14 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:
 - **Hungary** (GrecoRC5(2024)12)
 - **Ireland** (GrecoRC5(2024)8)
 - **Montenegro** (GrecoRC5(2024)10)
 - **Serbia** (GrecoRC5(2024)9)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 2025 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:
 - **Finland** (GrecoRC5(2024)7)
 - **Iceland** (GrecoRC5(2024)11)
 - **Slovenia** (GrecoRC5(2024)6)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 2025 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 Finland, Iceland and Slovenia - 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 Hungary, Ireland, Montenegro, Serbia, Finland, Iceland and Slovenia to authorise, as soon as possible, the publication of the reports mentioned in decisions 17 and 18 above;

GRECO's Statute

22. decided to propose to GRECO's Statutory Committee amendments to Article 15 of GRECO's Statute with regard to the publication of reports adopted by GRECO in the framework of its evaluation processes no later than five months from adoption, and instructed the Secretariat to transmit the proposal to GRECO's Statutory Committee;

Rules of Procedure

23. examined draft amendments to GRECO's Rules of Procedure proposed by the Bureau (Greco(2024)8-rev) and adopted, with the changes agreed in the plenary, revised Rules of Procedure (Greco(2024)8-fin);

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

24. took note of the preliminary schedule of 6th Round evaluation visits; Estonia, Luxembourg and the Slovak Republic had volunteered to be evaluated first in 2025, followed by Cyprus with other members selected according to the customary sequence of evaluations based on the chronology of the previous (5th) Round; proposed dates would be communicated to the members concerned in the coming weeks; the first 6th Round evaluation reports would be adopted in 2026;
25. recalled that national delegations had been invited to send to the Secretariat, by 1 September 2024, the names, contact details, working language(s) and curricula vitae of up to five experts to be included in the List of Evaluators for the 6th Round;
26. noted that GRECO will elect its President, Vice-President and five Bureau members for the 6th Evaluation Round at its 98th Plenary Meeting (18-22 November 2024);
27. Representatives of member States were invited to inform the Executive Secretary in writing if they wish to stand for election or to nominate candidates, preferably by Monday 4 November 2024, close of business, it nevertheless being understood that, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure, candidatures could be submitted up to 48 hours before the elections – all candidates would be asked to provide a brief curriculum vitae;

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

28. took note of information provided at the request of the Bureau by the Delegations of Poland¹ and the Slovak Republic² as well as the information provided by Croatia, Georgia and Germany;
29. decided to keep under review the situation in Italy, the Slovak Republic and Poland, and requested the respective Heads of delegation to submit by 1 September 2024 a report on the identified issues of concern for the attention of GRECO's Bureau; agreed to re-examine these matters at its 98th Plenary meeting (18-22 November 2024);
30. welcomed the proposal by the Delegation of the United States of America (Greco(2024)12) regarding member States' engagement with civil society to counter corruption, agreed that Bureau 106 would report to the 98th Plenary meeting, after consideration of all delegations' proposals on how to further improve GRECO's engagement to the benefit of both GRECO members and GRECO's evaluation processes - to be submitted to the Secretariat by 22 July 2024;

Information from observer organisations and Council of Europe bodies

31. welcomed the information provided by the representative of the European Commission;

Publication of Reports³

32. called on the authorities of the member States concerned to authorise without further delay the publication of reports previously adopted by GRECO;⁴

Celebration of GRECO's 25th anniversary

33. welcomed the high-level session held on Thursday 20 June to mark [GRECO's 25th anniversary](#) and noted with pleasure the support expressed for GRECO's work by all high-level speakers as well as members and observers;
34. warmly thanked Ambassador Sandy Moss, Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the Council of Europe and President of GRECO's Statutory Committee for the reception he gave on the same occasion;

¹ On the possible dismantling of the Central Anti-Corruption Bureau (CBA) and planned legislative and institutional measures.

² On the recently adopted legislation introducing amendments to the Criminal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure, on the Constitutional Court's interim decision (PL. ÚS 3/2024) suspending the effectiveness of some of the adopted amendments and on the suppression of the Office of the Special Prosecution which became effective on 20 March 2024.

³ *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.

⁴ **Adopted in March 2023:** Fifth Round Evaluation Report on Azerbaijan; **adopted in December 2023:** Fifth Round Evaluation Report on Türkiye, 2nd Fifth Round Compliance Reports on Denmark and Spain; **adopted in March 2024:** Joint First and Second Round Compliance Report on Kazakhstan, 2nd Addendum to the 2nd Fourth Round Compliance Report on Georgia and Addendum to the 2nd Fourth Round Compliance Report on Germany, Fifth Round Evaluation Reports on Georgia and Italy.

Any other business

35. decided that henceforth, follow-up given to recommendations addressed to a member State in the Ad hoc (Rule 34) procedure should be assessed in specific reports, and not combined with another ongoing compliance procedure;

Future meetings

36. took note of the following dates:

- **106th Bureau Meeting:** online, 7 October 2024
- **98th Plenary Meeting:** Strasbourg, 18-22 November 2024
- **99th Plenary Meeting and Training for 6th Round Evaluators:** Strasbourg, 17-19 March 2025 (Plenary) and 20-21 March 2025 (Training)
- **100th Plenary Meeting:** Strasbourg, Tuesday 3 June – Friday 6 June 2025 (midday)
- **101st Plenary Meeting:** Strasbourg, Tuesday 18 November – Friday 21 November 2025 (midday).