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# FOURTH EVALUATION ROUND

Corruption prevention in respect of members of parliament, judges and prosecutors

# SECOND COMPLIANCE REPORT LIECHTENSTEIN

Adopted by GRECO at its 100th plenary meeting (Strasbourg, 3-6 June 2025)

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## I. <u>INTRODUCTION</u>

- 1. This Second Compliance Report assesses the measures taken by the authorities of Liechtenstein to implement the recommendations issued in the Fourth Round Evaluation Report on Liechtenstein, which was adopted at GRECO's 85<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting (25 September 2020) and made public on 16 December 2020, following authorisation by Liechtenstein. GRECO's Fourth Evaluation Round deals with "Corruption prevention in respect of members of parliament, judges and prosecutors".
- 2. In the <u>Compliance Report</u>, adopted at its 91<sup>st</sup> Plenary Meeting (17 June 2022) and made public on 21 July 2022 with Liechtenstein's authorisation, GRECO concluded that the very low level of compliance with the recommendations was "globally unsatisfactory", within the meaning of Rule 31 revised, paragraph 8.3 of its Rules of Procedure. GRECO therefore decided to apply Rule 32 concerning members found not to be in compliance with the recommendations contained in the Evaluation Report and asked the Head of delegation of Liechtenstein to submit a report on the progress in implementing the outstanding recommendations.
- 3. In the <u>Interim Compliance Report</u>, adopted at its 95<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting (1 December 2023) and made public on 11 March 2024, following authorisation by Liechtenstein, GRECO concluded that the level of compliance with the recommendations was no longer "globally unsatisfactory" within the meaning of Rule 31 revised, paragraph 8.3 of the Rules of Procedure. GRECO therefore decided not to continue applying Rule 32 concerning members found not to be in compliance with the recommendations contained in the Evaluation Report. In application of paragraph 8.2 of Article 31 of the Rules of Procedure, GRECO asked the head of the Liechtenstein delegation to provide a report on the measures taken to implement the outstanding recommendations. That report was received on 19 December 2024 and, together with information supplied subsequently, served as the basis for this compliance report.
- 4. This <u>Second Compliance Report</u> evaluates the progress made in implementing the ten outstanding recommendations (i, ii, v, vi, vii, viii, ix, xii, xiv and xvi) since the adoption of the *Interim* Compliance Report and provides an overall assessment of Liechtenstein's level of compliance with these recommendations.
- 5. GRECO selected Finland (in respect of parliamentary assemblies) and Austria (in respect of judicial institutions) to appoint rapporteurs for the compliance procedure. The appointed rapporteurs were Ms Venla MÄNTYSALO, on behalf of Finland and Ms Brigitte ROM, on behalf of Austria. They were assisted by the GRECO secretariat in drawing up this compliance report.

## II. ANALYSIS

6. GRECO addressed 16 recommendations to Liechtenstein in its Evaluation Report. In the *Interim* Compliance Report, GRECO concluded that recommendations iii, iv, x, xi, xiii and xv had been implemented satisfactorily, recommendations ii, v, vi, vii, viii, ix, xii and xvi had been partly implemented and recommendations i and xiv had not been implemented. Compliance with the outstanding recommendations is dealt with below.

Preventing corruption of members of parliament

Recommendation i

- 7. GRECO recommended that measures be taken to increase the transparency of the legislative process insofar as the preliminary examination of draft legislation by parliamentary commissions is concerned.
- 8. <u>GRECO recalls</u> that this recommendation was not implemented in the *Interim* Compliance Report. It took note of the reasons provided by the authorities for not increasing the transparency of the legislative process around the work of parliamentary commissions. Even if the scope of work of parliamentary commissions on draft legislation appears to be very narrow, GRECO called on the authorities to nevertheless give proper consideration to this recommendation. It reiterated that measures to increase transparency should be taken so that the general public and media have ways of easily following the commissions' work when they are dealing with legislative drafts.
- 9. The authorities of Liechtenstein reiterate that parliamentary commissions have only advisory powers and no decision-making or resolution authority, which remains the exclusive competence of Parliament in public sessions. Legislative functions (involving the creation of general and abstract norms) are always carried out within the framework of a public parliamentary session, under defined procedural rules. Over 95% of legislative proposals are submitted to Parliament by the executive for deliberation in a first and second reading, followed by a final vote. However, the Parliament can establish ad hoc committees (special commissions) composed of representatives from the parliamentary groups. These commissions can draft legislative proposals or review and revise proposals submitted by the government. Nevertheless, the legislative drafts prepared or revised by such committees are not binding for the Parliament and must be formally debated and approved in a public session. During the introductory debate, the Parliament also has the option to decide not to proceed with a proposal. If a decision to discontinue is made, the proposal is considered obsolete, meaning no further action will be taken. The Parliament may also refer a legislative proposal back to the respective commission or the government for further revision. The commission or government can then revise the proposal in light of the debate and resubmit it to Parliament for consideration. As of 2024, no ad hoc commissions have been established, nor have any legislative proposals been referred back for revision or deemed obsolete following an introductory debate.
- 10. <u>GRECO</u> notes that no measures have been taken to address the recommendation and increase the transparency of the legislative process at the level of parliamentary commissions. While GRECO understands that the main legislative functions are carried out by the Parliament in public sessions and that no *ad hoc* commissions were established in 2024, it nevertheless is of the view that some measures should be in place to ensure an adequate level of transparency in the event that a legislative proposal is to be examined by such a commission.
- 11. In these circumstances, <u>GRECO concludes that recommendation i remains not</u> implemented.

#### Recommendation ii

- 12. GRECO recommended that a code of conduct for members of parliament be adopted, covering various relevant integrity matters, containing practical guidance and being made accessible to the public.
- 13. <u>It is recalled</u> that this recommendation was partly implemented in the *Interim* Compliance Report. GRECO welcomed the adoption of a Code of Conduct for members of parliament, which entered into force on 1 March 2023. The Code, which had been made public on the website of the Parliament, governs the broader conduct of MPs and deals with a number of integrity issues such as conflicts of interest, gifts and

- other advantages and relations with third parties. However, GRECO noted that the Code could benefit from further development and guidance.
- 14. The authorities of Liechtenstein consider that financial interests have been reflected in the Code of Conduct, since it stipulates that members of parliament act within the scope of their parliamentary mandate solely in the public interest and do not obtain or seek any direct or indirect financial benefit or other advantage (Article 1b of the Code of Conduct). Members of parliament should also not demand any direct or indirect financial benefit or other advantage in exchange of influencing or voting on parliamentary submissions that have been introduced in Parliament or one of its committees, nor should they accept or receive such an advantage. They should strictly avoid any situation that could amount to corruption (Article 2b of the Code of Conduct).
- The authorities also emphasise that each article of the Code of Conduct is accompanied by explanatory comments and thereby contains practical guidance, Article 4 of the Code of Conduct (on gifts and other advantages) being no exception. The explanatory box to Article 4 mentions that this provision reflects Article 9d of the Parliament's Rules of Procedure. A distinction is made between personal gifts, for which the value limit of CHF 200 applies (EUR 209), and those given to members of parliament in their capacity as its representatives. For the latter, there is no value limit; however, they must be handed over to the Presidium if their value exceeds CHF 200 (EUR 209). The Presidium decides on further use, for example, by keeping such gifts in the Parliament's collection or by passing them on to a museum or a library. Regarding Article 4 paragraph 3 of the Code of Conduct, it should be noted that the exception concerning expenses must remain within a reasonable scope. A paid first-class flight with a stay in Abu Dhabi for the entire family would clearly not be covered. So far, in 2024, no reports have been submitted to the Presidium regarding this matter. In the context of parliamentary visits, if possible, the exchange of gifts is generally avoided nowadays.
- 16. Furthermore, regarding conflicts of interest, the Liechtenstein authorities state that, in cases of suspected conflicts of interest, members of parliament are required, in accordance with the rules of procedure, to seek a statement or decision from the Presidium or, in specific cases, the "extended" Presidium. As of 2024, no such request has been submitted to the Presidium. In the annual accountability report concerning the government, parliament, and courts, such requests are also made public for transparency. The parliamentary service maintains and continuously updates a record of any changes in the interests of members of parliament (such as memberships in associations, profit and non-profit organisations, political institutions, etc.). This list is published on the parliament's official website.
- 17. <u>GRECO</u> takes note of the information and additional clarifications provided by the authorities concerning the Code of Conduct. In line with its established jurisprudence, GRECO underscores the importance of the code as a living document. Therefore, as experience with its implementation evolves, it may require further adjustments in emerging or challenging areas (such as, for example, in relation to contacts with third parties, an issue that has yet to be fully developed see below under recommendation v). GRECO encourages the responsible advisory committee (extended Presidium) to draw from its current and future experience and supplement guidance on the application and interpretation of the Code of Conduct, as necessary.
- 18. <u>GRECO concludes that recommendation ii has been dealt with in a satisfactory</u> manner.

#### Recommendation v

- 19. GRECO recommended that rules on contacts between members of parliament and third parties seeking to influence parliamentary proceedings be introduced.
- 20. <u>GRECO recalls</u> that this recommendation was partly implemented in the *Interim* Compliance Report. GRECO noted that Article 2 of the Code of Conduct contains some rules concerning MP's relations with third parties who might seek to influence their parliamentary role. However, GRECO considered that complimentary provisions to these basic rules needed to be developed as well as more elaborated guidance to MPs on "do's and don'ts" in their relations with third parties, inside or outside Parliament.
- 21. <u>The authorities of Liechtenstein</u> have nothing to report in respect of this recommendation.
- 22. In the absence of any new development, <u>GRECO concludes that recommendation v</u> remains partly implemented.

#### Recommendation vi

- 23. GRECO recommended (i) introducing a system of public declarations of the members of parliament's financial and economic interests (income, assets and significant liabilities); and (ii) that consideration be given to including in the declarations information on spouses and dependent family members (it being understood that such information would not necessarily be made public).
- 24. <u>GRECO recalls</u> that this recommendation was partly implemented in the *Interim* Compliance Report. GRECO noted that MPs were obliged to declare their professional and other activities, whether paid or not, when taking up their office and at the beginning of each year thereafter. These declarations were made public on the website of the Parliament. While this was a step in the right direction, and may prove useful for addressing potential conflicts of interest, GRECO was concerned that the content of these annual declarations did not respond fully to the recommendation as nothing was included on income, assets and liabilities. As for the second part of the recommendation, GRECO noted that no further action had been carried out to consider including in the declarations information on spouses and dependent family members.
- 25. Regarding part (i) of the recommendation, the authorities of Liechtenstein submit that, at this point, no new information can be provided. They underline that the topic of assets declarations continues to be a subject of controversial debate within the Parliament. The majority is of the opinion that the matter is considered confidential and highly personal (data protection, confidentiality, and personal privacy) and should not be made public, in line with the tradition of the liberal constitutional state and the general socio-political understanding in Liechtenstein. As regards part (ii) of the recommendation, the authorities do not provide any new information.
- 26. In the absence of any progress, <u>GRECO concludes that recommendation vi remains partly implemented</u>.

#### Recommendation vii

27. GRECO recommended that measures be taken to ensure the appropriate supervision and enforcement of the future obligations concerning disclosure and the standards of conduct of members of parliament.

- 28. GRECO recalls that this recommendation was partly implemented in the Interim Compliance Report. GRECO welcomed the setting of a system of supervision of the Code through an advisory committee (extended Presidium), which may seek advice from external experts. However, it expressed misgivings as to the effectiveness of the Code's enforcement and requested additional information in this respect.
- The authorities of Liechtenstein point out that the advisory committee ("extended" Presidium) has been set up to deal with suspected or reported violations of the Code of Conduct (Article 10, paragraph 1, of the Parliament's Rules of Procedure). If the "extended" Presidium concludes that the member concerned has violated the Code of Conduct, it adopts a reasoned decision. Once the decision is final, the conclusion is to be announced by the President in Parliament and shall be published in a visible way on the website of the Parliament for the remainder of the electoral period. A report on the activities of the "extended" Presidium is to be included in the annual activity report of the Parliament. To date, no violation of either the provisions of the amended Rules of Procedure or the Code of Conduct has been reported.
- The authorities further underline that applying appropriate sanctions has been considered during the setting up of the supervision system. Taking into account that MPs are elected every four years, it is understood that all their actions are under public scrutiny. Therefore, making violations of the Code public already represents a very effective and extremely strong measure. The Constitution does not provide the Presidium or any other State Organ with the competence to impose further sanctions against MPs. The authorities conclude that making cases public is already the strongest measure possible within the framework of the Constitution and the Laws and applying further sanctions is not possible.
- GRECO takes note of the information provided by the authorities. It would appear that, in the context of Liechtenstein, the public nature of a finding of a breach may constitute an effective and dissuasive penalty, which names and shames the member concerned, and does not create a bureaucratic burden of the system (it is recalled that there are 25 MPs in Liechtenstein). GRECO notes that, up to now, no sanction has been applied. GRECO thus calls on the authorities to keep this matter under close review in order to preserve the credibility of the system. Accordingly, as Liechtenstein gains experience from supervising the Code, it should examine how its application (and the eventual effectiveness and dissuasiveness of the sanctioning regime) works in practice and whether subsequent adjustments are needed.
- 32. GRECO concludes that recommendation vii has been dealt with in a satisfactory manner.

Recommendation viii

- 33. GRECO recommended that (i) training and awareness-raising measures be taken in respect of members of parliament concerning the conduct expected of them under the rules on integrity and the declaration of interests; and (ii) MPs be provided with confidential counselling on these issues.
- It is recalled that this recommendation was partly implemented in the Interim Compliance Report. GRECO took note of the ongoing efforts to raise the awareness of MPs in respect of integrity related rules. As regards the second part of the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See the 2023 Report: Rechenschaftsbericht von Landtag, Regierung und Gerichten 2023, p. 14. "Furthermore, according to Art. 10 para. 2f of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament, the Presidium assesses the behaviour of members of parliament in accordance with the Rules of Procedure and Code of Conduct. Violations of the disclosure obligations, rules on recusal and the acceptance of gifts and other benefits were not identified or reported in the reporting year. As a result, there were in 2023 no audits of potential corruption issues by the responsible committee."

recommendation, GRECO considered that the current system would benefit from further refinement, given the dual mandate of the extended Presidium (supervision and counselling) and the fact that the provision of advice seemed to be circumscribed to issues relating to conflicts of interest, rather than more broadly to ethics and integrity related dilemmas that MPs may encounter when performing their function.

- 35. The authorities of Liechtenstein state as regards part (i) of the recommendation that, in February 2025, elections for parliament took place. As part of this renewal process, informational and awareness-raising events on the topics of conflicts of interest, ethics, and integrity are planned. Experts from the Public Prosecutor's Office and the judiciary will be invited to illustrate these issues using practical examples, particularly focusing on the criminal law implications. As to part (ii) of the recommendation, the authorities recall that MPs may seek confidential counselling from the Presidium of the Parliament according to Article 9b, paragraph 4, of the amended Rules of Procedure, in connection with Article 3, paragraph 3, of the Code of Conduct. Since the amendments to the Rules of Procedure, including the Code of Conduct, no request of advice from the Presidium has been made so far.
- 36. <u>GRECO</u> takes note of the information provided by the authorities, which describes information partly outlined in the previous report. GRECO expects further progress as regards training and awareness-raising measures in respect of members of parliament concerning integrity related rules. It reiterates that the system to seek confidential advice would need to be refined to notably cover ethical issues beyond conflicts of interest.
- 37. GRECO concludes that recommendation viii remains partly implemented.

# Preventing corruption of judges

As a backdrop to this report, the authorities indicate that a further draft consultation paper concerning legislative changes in the Court Organisation Act and other laws was published on 14 February 2023.2 This legislative project addresses three main recommendations by GRECO. Regarding recommendation xi (consideration of a full professionalization of all judges and limiting the number of part-time judges) it suggests remodelling the judicial courts landscape in Liechtenstein significantly in order to reduce the number of part-time judges from 43 to 23. Concerning recommendations xii and xvi with respect to the requirement of confidential advice, the draft consultation paper contains the legal securement of the Association of Liechtenstein judges' role as advisor offering confidential counselling on integrity matters to all judges and public prosecutors. The consultation period ended on 15 May 2023. The Government bill concerning the judicial reform<sup>3</sup> was approved and submitted to Parliament on 14 May 2024. In its session on 14 June 2024, the Parliament discussed the report and proposal concerning the judicial reform in the first reading. The Government, in its session on 1 October 2024, adopted a statement concerning the amendment of the constitution, the Court Organisation Act and other laws (judicial reform).4 The Parliament discussed and adopted the amendment to the Constitution, the Court Organisation Act, and other laws (judicial reform) in accordance with the statement of the Government during its public session on 8 November 2024, in the second reading.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> <u>Draft consultation paper</u> "Vernehmlassungsbericht der Regierung betreffend die Abänderung der Verfassung, des Gerichtsorganisationsgesetzes und weiterer Gesetze (Reform im Justizwesen)."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Bericht und Antrag Nr. 48/2024.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Stellungnahme der Regierung an den Landtag des Fürstentums Liechtenstein zu den anlässlich der ersten Lesung betreffend die Abänderung der Verfassung, des Gerichtsorganisationsgesetzes und weiterer Gesetze aufgeworfenen Fragen (Justizreform), <u>Bericht und Antrag Nr. 105/2024</u>.

#### Recommendation ix

- 39. GRECO recommended that (i) the role of the judiciary in the selection process of judges be significantly increased; (ii) all vacancies for posts of judges be made public by law and that the procedure be made more transparent; (iii) integrity requirement for the selection of judges be introduced and guided by precise and objective criteria which are to be checked before appointment and that such criteria be made public.
- 40. It is recalled that in the *Interim* Compliance Report, GRECO considered this recommendation partly implemented. It welcomed the development of integrity criteria to be checked prior to judicial appointments, thus meeting the requirements of part (iii) of the recommendation. However, GRECO regretted that there was no new information on how the role of the judiciary in judicial appointments had been increased since the last reporting exercise (first part of the recommendation). GRECO recalled its concern that judicial appointments are largely in the hands of the executive and legislative powers and that the statutory composition of the Judges Selection Board should be reviewed so that the role of the judiciary be given more prominence, with judges appointed by their peers. The second component of the recommendation had already been assessed as implemented satisfactorily in the Compliance Report.
- 41. As regards part (i) of the recommendation, the authorities of Liechtenstein refer to the information provided in previous compliance reports and state that no new additional information can be provided at this point. They indicate that the new composition of the Judges' Selection Board (2025–2029 legislative period) includes the former President of the Austrian Supreme Court and the President of the Association of Liechtenstein Judges and Public Prosecutors (VLRS).
- 42. As no new developments have been reported, <u>GRECO concludes that recommendation ix remains partly implemented.</u>

#### Recommendation xii

- 43. GRECO recommended that (i) training on integrity matters based on the future judicial code of conduct be set up; (ii) confidential advice be made available to all judges.
- 44. <u>It is recalled</u> that this recommendation remained partly implemented in the *Interim* Compliance Report. GRECO noted that the annual training course on ethics, to be offered to all judges in Liechtenstein, had not yet taken place and that the position of adviser in charge of the confidential counselling had not been secured yet.
- 45. Regarding the first part of the recommendation, the authorities of Liechtenstein recall that the codes of conduct adopted by all Liechtenstein courts deal with training on integrity matters and with developing further the adopted codes of conduct. The Administrative Court, together with the "Private Universität im Fürstentum Liechtenstein", organised the first training course, which took place on 4 April 2024. Training courses are to take place annually. The second training session is currently under preparation and is scheduled to take place in autumn 2025.
- 46. Regarding part (ii) of the recommendation, the authorities indicate that the possibility of confidential advice for all judges has been *de facto* possible since 1 April 2022.<sup>5</sup> The legal basis to provide a permanent possibility of confidential advice<sup>6</sup> has been

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Bericht und Antrag Nr. 48/2024 (p. 218).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> This role is carried out by Dr. Gerhard Mislik, retired Presiding Judge of the Princely Court of Appeal. One inquiry has been so far dealt with.

- adopted by the Parliament on 8 November 2024. To this end, a new provision was introduced in the Judicial Service Act (*Richterdienstgesetz*).<sup>7</sup>
- 47. GRECO notes with satisfaction that a first training course for Liechtenstein judges on judicial ethics took place in April 2024 and will be repeated every year. The first part of the recommendation has therefore been implemented satisfactorily. As for the second part of the recommendation, amendments to legally secure confidential advice for judges have been adopted. Confidential advice is now made available to all judges on a permanent basis, as required by the recommendation. GRECO hopes that the implementation of the new provision will be accompanied by further awareness-raising activities in the future, so that judges be informed on a regular basis about the possibility to seek confidential advice on integrity related issues.
- 48. GRECO concludes that recommendation xii has been implemented satisfactorily.

Preventing corruption of prosecutors

Recommendation xiv

- 49. GRECO recommended that adequate safeguards be added to Article 50 of the Public Prosecutors Act against it being used to dismiss a particular prosecutor as a retaliation measure.
- 50. <u>GRECO recalls</u> that this recommendation was not implemented in the *Interim* Compliance Report. It noted that nothing new had been reported in addition to what was already presented in the Compliance Report. No legislative changes had occurred since then. While GRECO understood that, in the context of Liechtenstein, it might not be possible to scrap this provision altogether, it nevertheless encouraged the authorities to revise its wording in light of the recommendation, for instance by introducing transparent and objectives guarantees.
- 51. The authorities of Liechtenstein now report that the Government adopted a consultation report on 22 October 2024 regarding amendments to the Criminal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure, the Penal Execution Act, the Act on Criminal Records and the Expungement of Judicial Convictions, the Public Prosecutors Act (StAG) and the Juvenile Court Act. This consultation report<sup>8</sup> also contains a proposal for an amended version of Article 50 of the Public Prosecutors Act.<sup>9</sup>
- 52. The proposed draft paragraphs 1a and 1b are to specify the characteristics of "substantial operational or economic reasons." An operational reason exists particularly when there is insufficient workload for the number of prosecutors available. It is further specified that the government must determine that the insufficient workload has persisted for at least two years. Conversely, paragraph 1b defines an economic reason as existing, for example, when the Parliament does not approve the corresponding budget. The newly proposed paragraph 3 legally establishes the right to appeal. The procedure will follow the provisions of the Public

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Article 25a of the Judicial Service Act (Advisory body for judges): Judges are entitled to receive confidential advice, in particular on ethics and integrity issues, from an advisory body appointed by the Government.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> See public consultation report of the Government: "<u>Vernehmlassungsbericht der Regierung betreffend die Abänderung des Strafgesetzbuches, der Strafprozessordnung, des Strafvollzugsgesetzes, des Gesetzes über das Strafregister und die Tilgung gerichtlicher Verurteilungen, des Staatsanwaltschaftsgesetzes sowie des Jugendgerichtsgesetzes." (p. 101 f.)</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Article 50 paragraph 1 provides that the government may terminate the employment relationship with a public prosecutor for essential operational or economic reasons, in particular in the event of a loss of financial resources, if the position cannot be eliminated in the near future via the natural fluctuation of the staff (i.e. retirement, resignation, no filling of vacant positions). Dismissal for operational or economic reasons should therefore only be considered as a last resort.

Administration Act.<sup>10</sup> Finally, the newly proposed paragraph 4 stipulates that any dismissal under Article 50, along with the corresponding removal of the position from the staffing plan, must be published in the State Calendar. This ensures that decisions under Article 50 are transparent and understandable to the public. The public consultation process of the draft amendments to the Public Prosecutors Act was closed on 22 January 2025. The Government bill is currently in preparation and is to be presented to Parliament for a first reading in the second half of 2025.

- 53. <u>GRECO</u> takes note of the information provided by the authorities, which indicate that a number of amendments to Article 50 of the Public Prosecutors Act have been proposed. These amendments define more clearly the criteria allowing for the dismissal of a prosecutor, establish a right to appeal and provide for more transparency. The implementation of these proposals would represent a positive step. However, these amendments have not been adopted yet. GRECO therefore considers that the requirements of this recommendation have only been partially met for the time being.
- 54. GRECO concludes that recommendation xiv has been partly implemented.

#### Recommendation xvi

- 55. GRECO recommended that (i) training on various topics relating to ethics and integrity be provided on a regular basis for prosecutors, and (ii) the possibility be given to prosecutors of obtaining confidential advice on these subjects.
- 56. <u>It is recalled</u> that this recommendation remained partly implemented in the *Interim* Compliance Report. In relation to the second part of the recommendation, GRECO noted that the position of adviser in charge of the confidential counselling on integrity matters to judges and prosecutors had not been secured yet. The first part of the recommendation had already been assessed as implemented satisfactorily in the Compliance Report.
- 57. With regard to part (ii) of the recommendation, the authorities of Liechtenstein refer to the consultation paper concerning legislative changes in the Court Organisation Act and other laws, launched by the Government, and which also addresses the securement of the system for offering confidential counselling (see above, recommendation xii). On 8 November 2024, the Parliament adopted an amendment to the Public Prosecutors Act, introducing Article 42a, which refers to the new Article 25a of the Judicial Service Act (also adopted on 8 November 2024), and stipulates that the Government appoints an advisory body, from which public prosecutors may seek confidential counselling, particularly on issues of ethics and integrity, analogue to the one for judges.
- 58. <u>GRECO</u> notes that the possibility for prosecutors to request advice on ethics and integrity issues in confidence has been enacted into law. The second part of the recommendation has therefore been complied with.
- 59. GRECO concludes that recommendation xvi has been implemented satisfactorily.

# III. CONCLUSIONS

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60. In the light of the foregoing, GRECO concludes that Liechtenstein has implemented or dealt with in a satisfactory manner ten of the sixteen recommendations in the Fourth Round Evaluation Report. Of the other

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Gesetz über die allgemeine Landesverwaltungspflege (LVG).

- recommendations, five have been partly implemented and one has not been implemented.
- 61. More specifically, recommendations ii, iii, iv, vii, x, xi, xii, xiii, xv and xvi have been implemented satisfactorily, recommendations v, vi, viii, ix and xiv have been partly implemented and recommendation i has not been implemented.
- 62. Regarding members of parliament, limited progress has been achieved since the adoption of the previous report. GRECO regrets that no tangible progress has been achieved to increase the transparency of the legislative process at the level of parliamentary commissions. While a Code of Conduct for members of parliament has been adopted, some rules need to be complemented, particularly rules on contacts between members of parliament and third parties seeking to influence parliamentary proceedings. Resolute steps are also necessary to expand confidential counselling and effectively implement training and awareness-raising measures in respect of integrity related rules. Finally, the regime of public declarations needs to be reviewed and proper consideration should be given to including in the declarations submitted by members of parliament the relevant information on spouses and dependent family members. GRECO trusts that the new legislature will give impetus to concrete steps towards the implementation of the outstanding recommendations.
- 63. In the case of <u>judges</u>, GRECO welcomes that a first training course on ethics, open to all judges in Liechtenstein, has taken place and that confidential advice has been made available to all judges on a permanent basis. That said, it reiterates that additional steps must be taken to increase the role of the judiciary in the selection process of judges.
- 64. With respect to <u>prosecutors</u>, almost all recommendations have been fully implemented, which is commendable. Only one recommendation remains partly implemented, as amendments to Article 50 of the Public Prosecutors Act, providing for additional safeguards in case the Government terminates the employment relationship with a public prosecutor, have yet to be adopted.
- 65. In view of the fact that six out of 16 recommendations are yet to be implemented, GRECO, in accordance with Rule 31 revised, paragraph 9 of its Rules of Procedure, asks the Head of delegation of Liechtenstein to submit additional information on the measures taken to implement the outstanding recommendations (i.e. recommendations i, v, vi, viii, ix, and xiv) by 30 June 2026.
- 66. Finally, GRECO invites the Liechtenstein authorities to authorise, as soon as possible, the publication of the report, to translate it into the national language and to make the translation public.