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## FOURTH EVALUATION ROUND

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

## ADDENDUM TO THE SECOND COMPLIANCE REPORT

ROMANIA

Adopted by GRECO at its 101<sup>st</sup> Plenary Meeting  
(Strasbourg, 18-21 November 2025)

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## I. INTRODUCTION

1. This Addendum to the Second Compliance Report on Romania assesses the measures taken by the Romanian authorities to implement the recommendations issued in the Fourth Round Evaluation Report on the country (see paragraph 2) dealing with "Corruption prevention in respect of members of parliament, judges and prosecutors"
2. The [Fourth Round Evaluation Report](#) on Romania was adopted at GRECO's 70<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting (4 December 2015) and made public on 22 January 2016, following authorisation by Romania.
3. The [Compliance Report](#) on Romania was adopted by GRECO at its 78<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting (8 December 2017) and made public on 18 January 2018, following authorisation by Romania. The report concluded that only two of the 13 recommendations contained in the Fourth Round Evaluation Report had been implemented satisfactorily or dealt with in a satisfactory manner and four had been partly implemented. This very low level of compliance was considered "globally unsatisfactory" in the meaning of Rule 31, paragraph 8.3 of GRECO's Rules of Procedure. GRECO therefore decided to apply Rule 32, paragraph 2(i) and requested further information from the Romanian delegation.
4. The [Interim Compliance Report](#) was adopted by GRECO at its 83<sup>rd</sup> Plenary Meeting (21 June 2019) and made public on 9 July 2019, following authorisation by Romania. The level of compliance remained "globally unsatisfactory" and the Romanian authorities were requested to submit further information.
5. GRECO decided at its 78<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting (4-8 December 2017) to apply the Rule 34 Ad hoc procedure<sup>1</sup> in respect of Romania as a result of the 2017 reforms in Romania that critically affected the criminal justice system (including the status of judges and prosecutors). GRECO adopted the [Rule 34 Ad hoc Report](#) at its 79<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting (19-23 March 2018) assessing issues closely related to the scope of the Fourth Round Evaluation Report. The [Follow-up Report to the Ad hoc Report](#) was adopted by GRECO at its 83<sup>rd</sup> Plenary Meeting (17-21 June 2019) and made public on 9 July 2019, following Romania's authorisation. GRECO decided to terminate the ad hoc procedure and to continue evaluating Romania's compliance with the pending recommendations from the Rule 34 Ad hoc Reports under the on-going Fourth Round Compliance Procedure.
6. The [Second Interim Compliance Report including Follow-up to the Ad hoc \(Rule 34\) Report](#) was adopted by GRECO at its 87<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting (25 March 2021) and made public on 5 May 2021. The level of compliance remained "globally unsatisfactory" and the Romanian authorities were requested to submit further information.
7. In the [Third Interim Compliance Report including Follow-up to the Ad hoc \(Rule 34\) report](#), adopted by GRECO at its 92<sup>nd</sup> Plenary Meeting (2 December 2022) and made public on 25 January 2023. GRECO concluded that the level of compliance with the recommendations was no longer "globally unsatisfactory" and discontinued the application Rule 32.
8. In the Second Compliance Report including Follow-up to the Ad hoc (Rule 34) report, adopted by GRECO at its 97<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting (21 June 2024) and made public on 8 August 2024, GRECO concluded that eight out of the 13 recommendations in the Fourth Round Evaluation Report and all the recommendations of the Follow-up Report

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<sup>1</sup> Rule 34 of GRECO's Rules of Procedure provides for an ad hoc procedure that can be triggered in exceptional circumstances, such as when GRECO receives reliable information concerning institutional reforms, legislative initiatives or procedural changes that may result in serious violations of the Council of Europe's anti-corruption standards.

to the Ad hoc Report (Rule 34) had been implemented satisfactorily or dealt with in a satisfactory manner by Romania. GRECO concluded that the adoption of the Second Compliance Report terminated the compliance procedure in respect of the Follow-up to the Ad hoc (Rule 34) procedure.

9. With regard to the outstanding recommendations from the Fourth Round Evaluation Report, GRECO requested that the Head of the Romanian delegation submit a report on the measures taken to implement them. That information was submitted on 30 June 2025, and was subsequently supplemented, serving as the basis of the present report.
10. GRECO selected Denmark to appoint a Rapporteur for the compliance procedure (in respect of parliamentary assemblies). The Rapporteur appointed was Jonathan GASSEHOLM. He was assisted by GRECO's Secretariat in drawing up the current Report.

## II. ANALYSIS

11. GRECO addressed 13 recommendations to Romania in its Evaluation Report. In the Second Compliance Report including Follow-up to the Ad hoc (Rule 34) Report, GRECO concluded that recommendations ii, v, vii, viii, x, xi, xii and xiii had been implemented satisfactorily or dealt with in a satisfactory manner. Recommendation i had been partly implemented and recommendations iii, iv, vi and ix remained not implemented. Compliance with the remaining recommendations is dealt with below.

### *Corruption prevention in respect of members of parliament*

#### Recommendation i

12. *GRECO recommended that the transparency of the legislative process be improved (i) by further developing the rules on public debates, consultations and hearings, including criteria for a limited number of circumstances where in camera meetings can be held, and ensuring their implementation in practice; (ii) by assessing the practice followed and accordingly revising the rules to ensure that draft legislation, amendments to such drafts and the agendas and outcome of committee sittings are disclosed in a timely manner, and that adequate timeframes are in place for submitting amendments and (iii) by taking appropriate measures so that the urgent procedure is applied as an exception in a limited number of circumstances.*
13. GRECO recalls that, in the Second Compliance Report, this recommendation was still only partly implemented due to the lack of progress since previous reports. For part (i) of the recommendation, clear rules or criteria were still missing regarding when meetings could be held in camera for both Chambers. For part (ii), GRECO acknowledged that the digitalisation of the legislative process was a good step forward, but additional measures were still needed. For part (iii), no information was provided.
14. The authorities report that Decision no. 25/2025 amends and updates the Senate Regulation to require that committees' work be recorded via minutes, transcripts, or audio-video recordings, removing the need for separate Senate committees' decisions on this. To enhance transparency, two new paragraphs were introduced to the Senate Regulation to mandate that a detailed summary of committees' meetings—covering agenda, discussions, attendance, and voting results—be drafted and published on the Senate website within 10 days, unless the meeting is secret. Additionally, announcements and live broadcasts of legislative debates are posted online to promote openness. No new information was provided by the Chamber of Deputies.

15. GRECO notes that, regarding part (i) of the recommendation, no new information was provided by the authorities. Regarding part (ii), GRECO welcomes the introduction of new rules aimed at increasing the openness of the Senate's work, including committee meetings. No new developments were reported concerning the Chamber of Deputies. Regarding part (iii), no new information has been submitted<sup>2</sup>.

16. GRECO concludes that recommendation i remains partly implemented.

#### Recommendation iii

17. *GRECO recommended that measures be taken (i) to clarify the implications for members of parliament of the current provisions on conflicts of interest independently of whether such a conflict might also be revealed by declarations of assets and interests and (ii) to extend the definition beyond the personal financial interests and (iii) to introduce a requirement of ad hoc disclosure when a conflict between specific private interests of individual MPs may emerge in relation to a matter under consideration in parliamentary proceedings – in the plenary or its committees – or in other work related to their mandate.*

18. GRECO recalls that, in the Second Compliance Report, this recommendation was not implemented. While the National Anticorruption Strategy for 2021–2025 included some possible actions in this area (objective no. 5.2 on ensuring integrity in the exercise of public functions), no concrete measures had been taken so far.

19. The authorities have not provided any new information.

20. In the absence of any new development reported, GRECO concludes that recommendation iii remains not implemented.

#### Recommendation iv

21. *GRECO recommended establishing a robust set of restrictions concerning gifts, hospitality, favours and other benefits for parliamentarians, and ensuring that the future system is properly understood and enforceable.*

22. GRECO recalls that this recommendation was not implemented in the Second Compliance Report as no new information was provided.

23. The authorities have not provided any updated information in this area.

24. In the absence of any new development reported, GRECO concludes that recommendation iv remains not implemented.

#### Recommendation vi

25. *GRECO recommended the introduction of rules on how members of parliament engage with lobbyists and other third parties who seek to influence the legislative process.*

26. GRECO recalls that, in the Second Compliance Report, this recommendation was not implemented. GRECO noted that some aspects of the recommendations could possibly be dealt with by the National Anticorruption Strategy for 2021–2025 which

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<sup>2</sup> See also [EC Rule of Law Report \(2025\), Country Chapter Romania](#), cf.: legislative unpredictability, the frequent use of Government Emergency Ordinances, problems with the quality of legislation and regulatory burden, remain primary concerns for businesses and civil society organisations.

included some possible actions in this area (objective no. 3.2 on extending the Single Register of Transparency of Interests (RUTI) to include MPs). However, no concrete action had been taken yet.

27. The authorities report that discussions on lobbying have continued, including within the framework of Romania's accession to the OECD. On 30 September 2025, Parliament adopted a legislative proposal amending Article 12 of Law no. 96/2006 on the Statute of Deputies and Senators to enhance transparency in parliamentary activity. The law was challenged before the Constitutional Court; the appeal was dismissed, so the law may enter into force, but at the time of adoption of the present report it has not yet done so.
28. The amendment requires deputies and senators to act transparently and maintain an open, equitable dialogue with citizens and third parties. It introduces the Single Register of Transparency of Interests (RUTI)—a public online platform recording meetings between MPs and third parties seeking to influence legislative initiatives.
29. Deputies and senators must create RUTI accounts and may meet only with third parties registered in the system. Third parties must also register, provide required data, and update information annually or as needed; failure to do so leads to removal from RUTI. Registration must occur at least three days before requesting a meeting, implying commitment to transparent and ethical conduct. MPs must publish meeting details in RUTI 48 hours before planned meetings or within 48 hours after unplanned ones. Non-compliance triggers a written warning. Entries must include the participants' names, represented entities, meeting date and place, and purpose.
30. The Joint Standing Bureaus approve a user guide for RUTI's operation. The Secretaries-General of both Chambers must prepare an annual public report on RUTI's functioning, including relevant information and statistics.
31. GRECO takes note of the information provided regarding the establishment of a lobbying register, which introduces registration and disclosure obligations for both lobbyists and MPs, together with enforcement and monitoring mechanisms. The adopted amendments are expected to enter into force imminently.
32. Pending the effective entry into force of the law, GRECO concludes that recommendation vi has been partly implemented.

#### Recommendation ix

33. GRECO recommended that the parliamentary authorities establish for their members (i) a system of counselling through which parliamentarians can seek advice on integrity matters and (ii) provide dedicated and regular training on the implications of the existing and yet-to-be adopted rules for the preservation of the integrity of parliamentarians, including the future Code of Conduct.
34. GRECO recalls that this recommendation remained not implemented in the Second Compliance Report, as no new information was provided.
35. The authorities indicate that the Senate's Legal Commission proposed measures to the Permanent Bureau of the Senate to improve integrity counselling and training for parliamentarians, including a potential agreement with the National Integrity Agency (ANI) and the creation of specialised training/department in each Chamber of parliament.

36. GRECO welcomes the Senate's proactive approach to strengthening integrity in parliament, particularly through proposed measures to provide training and counselling to MPs. However, these proposals still need to materialise in practice.
37. GRECO concludes that recommendation ix remains not implemented.

### **III. CONCLUSIONS**

38. In view of the foregoing, GRECO concludes that Romania has implemented satisfactorily or dealt with in a satisfactory manner eight out of thirteen recommendations contained in the Fourth Round Evaluation Report. Of the remaining recommendations, two have been partly implemented and three have not been implemented.
39. More specifically, recommendations ii, v, vii, viii, x, xi, xii and xiii have been implemented satisfactorily or dealt with in a satisfactory manner. Recommendations i and vi are partly implemented and recommendations iii, iv, and ix remain not implemented.
40. Regarding members of parliament, work still lies ahead. The Senate has taken steps to enhancing transparency in both plenary and committee work. It has also made proposals to strengthen integrity in parliament by providing for specialised training and counselling; however, these proposals have yet to materialise in practice. No update has been provided by the Chamber of Deputies on actions taken to address GRECO's concerns in these areas. No progress has been recorded on introducing criteria for when in-camera meetings can be held, nor on ensuring that the urgent legislative procedure is applied only as an exception.
41. There is substantial progress on lobbying. A legislative proposal introducing registration and disclosure requirements for lobbyists and MPs, together with enforcement and monitoring mechanisms, was adopted in September 2025 and is expected to enter into force imminently. No progress has been reported on preventing conflicts of interest or on establishing robust restrictions concerning gifts, hospitality, favours, and other benefits for parliamentarians.
42. With regard to both judges and prosecutors, it is recalled that all recommendations concerning them were considered implemented in previous compliance/follow-up to the ad hoc Rule 34 reports.
43. Pursuant to paragraph 9 of Rule 31 revised of the Rules of Procedure, GRECO requests the Head of Delegation of Romania to provide a report regarding the action taken to implement the outstanding recommendations (i.e. recommendations i, iii, iv, vi and ix) by 30 November 2026.
44. Finally, GRECO invites the authorities of Romania to authorise, as soon as possible, the publication of this report, to translate it into the national language and to make the translation public.