

Adoption: 21 November 2025
Publication: 12 December 2025

Public
GrecoRC4(2025)5

FOURTH EVALUATION ROUND

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

SECOND ADDENDUM TO THE SECOND COMPLIANCE REPORT BELGIUM

Adopted by GRECO
at its 101st plenary meeting (Strasbourg, 18-21 November 2025)

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The [Fourth Round Evaluation Report on Belgium](#) was adopted by GRECO at its 63rd plenary meeting (28 March 2014) and made public on 28 August 2014, following authorisation by Belgium. GRECO's Fourth Evaluation Round deals with "Corruption Prevention in respect of Members of Parliament, Judges and Prosecutors".
2. In the [Compliance Report](#), adopted by GRECO at its 73rd plenary meeting (21 October 2016), it was concluded that the very low level of compliance with the recommendations was "globally unsatisfactory" within the meaning of Rule 31, paragraph 8.3, of its Rules of Procedure. GRECO therefore decided to apply Rule 32, paragraph 2 (i), in respect of members not in compliance with the recommendations contained in the mutual evaluation report and called on the head of the Belgian delegation to submit a report on progress in implementing the outstanding recommendations.
3. In the [Interim Compliance Report](#), adopted by GRECO at its 79th plenary meeting (23 March 2018), it was concluded that Belgium had made little progress in implementing the recommendations and that the level of compliance with the recommendations remained "globally unsatisfactory". In accordance with Rule 32, paragraph 2 (ii) a), GRECO drew the attention of the head of the Belgian delegation to the failure to comply with the relevant recommendations and the need to take determined action with a view to achieving tangible progress as soon as possible.
4. In the [Second Interim Compliance Report](#), adopted by GRECO at its 83rd plenary meeting (21 June 2019), GRECO concluded that Belgium had made some progress, two of the fifteen recommendations having been implemented in a satisfactory manner, twelve partly implemented and one not implemented. The level of compliance with the recommendations at that stage was no longer "globally unsatisfactory".
5. In the [Second Compliance Report](#), adopted by GRECO at its 87th plenary meeting (25 March 2021), GRECO concluded that Belgium had not made sufficient or decisive progress in fully implementing the recommendations, since the vast majority of recommendations remained partly implemented, and that consequently the situation was again "globally unsatisfactory". GRECO decided to once again apply Rule 32 and asked the head of the Belgian delegation to provide a report on the progress made in implementing the outstanding recommendations.
6. In the [Third Interim Compliance Report](#), adopted by GRECO at its 91st plenary meeting (17 June 2022), GRECO concluded that the overall level of compliance with the recommendations was no longer "globally unsatisfactory".
7. In the [Addendum to the Second Compliance Report](#), adopted by GRECO at its 96th plenary meeting (22 March 2024), GRECO urged the Belgian authorities to take determined and prompt action with a view to addressing the eight pending recommendations and asked the head of the Belgian delegation to provide a report on the measures taken to implement these recommendations by 30 June 2025 at the latest. That report was submitted on 30 June 2025 and formed the basis for the present report.
8. GRECO selected France (in respect of parliamentary assemblies) and Monaco (in respect of judicial institutions) to appoint Rapporteurs for the compliance procedure. The Rapporteurs appointed were Lise CHIPAULT, on behalf of France, and Jean-Laurent RAVERA, on behalf of Monaco. They were assisted by GRECO's Secretariat in drawing up this report.

9. This Second Addendum to the Second Compliance Report assesses progress in implementing the outstanding recommendations since the previous compliance report and provides an overall appraisal of the level of Belgium's compliance with these recommendations.

II. ANALYSIS

10. In its Evaluation Report, GRECO made 15 recommendations to Belgium. In the subsequent Compliance Reports, GRECO concluded that recommendations vii, ix, x, xi, xiii, xiv and xv had been implemented satisfactorily or dealt with in a satisfactory manner, and recommendations i, ii, iii, iv, v, vi, viii and xii had been partly implemented. Compliance with the eight outstanding recommendations is therefore assessed below.

Corruption prevention in respect of members of parliament

Recommendation i

11. *GRECO recommended ensuring that consistent and effective regulations are in place for MPs i) in respect of gifts, donations and other benefits accepted by MPs, providing in particular for their public disclosure, as well as of donors' identities, and ii) regulating the question of foreign donors.*
12. It is pointed out that the second part of this recommendation was deemed to be implemented in previous reports, given that foreign gifts were now dealt with in the law on the financing of political parties. However, the first part of the recommendation was only partly implemented, as GRECO noted that parliamentarians' stated intentions with regard to the management of gifts received had not yet been translated into applicable rules.
13. The Belgian authorities report that the working group on political parties at the Chamber of Representatives is planning to incorporate rules on gifts into the Law of 4 July 1989 on limiting and monitoring election expenditure on elections to the Chamber of Representatives and on open financing and accounting of political parties. To this end, experts on the parliamentary committee responsible for monitoring electoral expenditure are currently drawing up definitions of "gift" and "symbolic gift".
14. During the plenary session on 20 June 2025, the Senate considered a proposed amendment to the Code of Ethics for Senate members, appended to the Senate's Rules of Procedure, with regard to the rules governing gifts.¹ The proposal aims to ensure that official gifts exceeding a symbolic value of €150 are recorded in a public register of gifts, and will be examined by the Senate Bureau in the coming weeks.
15. GRECO notes again that the regulations on gifts to parliamentarians continue to be the subject of stated intentions by both chambers, but that these intentions have not yet been translated into applicable rules. While the desire to clarify the definitions of gifts and official or symbolic gifts is positive, it points out that it has previously recommended that gifts received by members of parliament and the identity of donors should be made public. The amendment tabled in the Senate seems to be moving in that direction, which is a positive step. However, the work in progress in the Chamber of Representatives does not appear to relate to the public disclosure of gifts.

¹<https://www.senate.be/www/webdriver?MItabObj=pdf&MIcolObj=pdf&MInamObj=pdfid&MItypeObj=application/pdf&MIvalObj=134217885>

16. GRECO concludes that recommendation i remains partly implemented.

Recommendation ii

17. *GRECO recommended that rules should be introduced for Members of Parliament on how to engage in relations with lobbyists and other third parties seeking to influence the parliamentary process.*
18. It is pointed out that this recommendation was partly implemented. At the time of adoption of the previous report, both houses of parliament were still considering how to draw up their own regulations to ensure transparency in relations between parliamentarians and third parties and lobbyists.
19. The Belgian authorities report that the political groups in the Chamber of Representatives are examining the European Parliament's lobby transparency register and will then assess which parts of this model could be used by the Chamber. At its session on 20 June 2025, the Senate considered a proposed amendment to its Rules of Procedure which would require lobbyists to join a register.² Parliamentarians would be prohibited from having any dealings with unregistered lobbyists. The Senate Bureau will also consider this amendment in the coming weeks.
20. GRECO regrets that, more than a decade since the adoption of the Fourth Round Evaluation Report, neither parliamentary chamber has proper rules for managing relations between parliamentarians, lobbyists and other third parties. The Senate is currently considering amendments to its rules, but the draft is still very much in its infancy and has not yet been adopted. Meanwhile, the Chamber of Representatives is still only in the early stages of considering the matter.
21. GRECO concludes that recommendation ii remains partly implemented.

Recommendation iii

22. *GRECO recommended i) that the system of declarations clearly include income, the various assets and an estimate of their value – whatever their form (including those held directly or indirectly, in Belgium or abroad) as well as liabilities, and that there be a duty to update the information in the course of a mandate; ii) that consideration be given to extending the system so as to include information on the spouse and dependent family members (it being understood that this information would not necessarily be made public).*
23. It is pointed out that this recommendation was partly implemented. The applicable law had refined and complemented the income bands to be declared in the case of MPs and widened the declaration to include liabilities. However, MPs were still not required to declare the exact amount of remuneration received in the exercise of private activities or the value of the assets. Furthermore, asset declarations were not updated in the course of a mandate. GRECO standards had not been followed in relation to the second part of the recommendation.
24. The Belgian authorities report that the implementation of this recommendation has not been discussed again in the Chamber of Representatives or the Senate.
25. GRECO takes note of the information provided and concludes that recommendation iii remains partly implemented.

²<https://www.senate.be/www/webdriver?MItabObj=pdf&MicolObj=pdf&MInamObj=pdfid&MItypeObj=application/pdf&MIvalObj=134217887>

Recommendation iv

26. *GRECO recommended that the various declarations, including those on assets, as supplemented in particular by information on income, should be subject to public disclosure and made more easily accessible through an official internet website.*
27. It is pointed out that this recommendation was partly implemented. In a previous report, GRECO had taken note of a plan for parliamentarians' biographical pages to include a link to their mandate declaration when published by the Court of Audit, together with some information regarding remuneration.
28. The Belgian authorities report that the implementation of this recommendation has not been discussed again in the Chamber of Representatives or the Senate.
29. GRECO regrets that its recommendation on the publication of parliamentarians' asset declarations is still not being given due consideration more than a decade after the adoption of the Evaluation Report.
30. GRECO concludes that recommendation iv remains partly implemented.

Recommendation v

31. *GRECO recommended that i) compliance with the current and yet to be adopted rules on the integrity of parliamentarians in the Codes of deontology and other pertinent rules (such as those on donations), be subject to effective supervision by the parliamentary assemblies themselves rather than only by the parliamentary political groups, and that at the same time the ability to act ex officio be granted to the future Federal Ethics Committee also in individual cases; ii) declarations of mandates and of assets be subjected to effective verification by strengthening the role of and interaction between the Court of Audit and the prosecutorial authorities, or by designating as the need may be another institution equipped with adequate means for these purposes.*
32. It is pointed out that this recommendation was partly implemented in previous compliance reports. In March 2018, GRECO welcomed measures to give greater authority to the Court of Auditors to impose sanctions in the event of failure to comply with the legislation on declarations of mandates and assets, to define an order of priority between criminal and administrative proceedings and to introduce electronic submission of the list of mandates to facilitate verification. These measures represented the beginning of the implementation of the recommendation. In its last report, GRECO regretted that no further steps had been taken to tighten the rules in line with the recommendation.
33. The Belgian authorities report that the implementation of this recommendation has not been discussed again in the Chamber of Representatives or the Senate.
34. GRECO once again regrets that the draft measures announced in 2018, which were consistent with the tenor of this recommendation, were never pursued. The absence of an effective system for monitoring declarations of mandates and assets, and for ensuring compliance with rules on parliamentary conduct, means that the shortcomings identified in the 2014 evaluation report have never been addressed.
35. GRECO concludes that recommendation v remains partly implemented.

Recommendation vi

36. *GRECO recommended that infringements of the main present and future rules in respect of integrity of parliamentarians carry adequate sanctions and that the public be informed about their application.*
37. It is pointed out that this recommendation was partly implemented. Gradual sanctions had been imposed by the Court of Audit in the event of non-compliance with the rules on declarations of mandates. However, there were still no sanctions applicable for the main breaches of the ethical rules governing parliamentarians.
38. The Belgian authorities report that the implementation of this recommendation has not been discussed again in the Chamber of Representatives or the Senate.
39. In the absence of any new information, GRECO concludes that recommendation vi remains partly implemented.

Recommendation viii

40. *GRECO recommended that at the level of the two houses of parliament regular specialised training courses be given on questions of integrity for all parliamentarians.*
41. It is pointed out that this recommendation was partly implemented. GRECO noted that the Federal Ethics Committee intended to continue providing training for parliamentarians on integrity, which had thus far consisted of an initial general session. However, no steps had been taken to deliver this training on a regular basis.
42. The Belgian authorities report that a proposal to amend the Rules of Procedure of the Chamber of Representatives has recently been put forward.³ It aims to introduce a training course on the code of conduct which parliamentarians would be required to complete within six months of being sworn in. Under the proposal, the Speaker of the Chamber would then organise regular follow-up training sessions for members. These short follow-up courses will focus on a very specific theme and have a limited number of participants. The first session, open to members of both houses, was held on 23 September 2025. It addressed conflicts of interest that arise from holding a parliamentary office alongside directorships in private or public sector companies.
43. GRECO welcomes the information provided regarding the proposed amendment to the Chamber of Representatives' Rules of Procedure, which would make training on the code of conduct compulsory at the beginning of a parliamentarian's term of office. The regular organisation of optional training courses on specific subjects, the first of which already took place, is also a positive development.
44. GRECO concludes that recommendation viii has been implemented satisfactorily.

Corruption prevention in respect of judges and prosecutors

Recommendation xii

45. *GRECO recommended that an assessment of the arrangements for assigning cases between judges be carried out in due course.*
46. It is pointed out that this recommendation was partly implemented. GRECO welcomed the specific investigation conducted by the High Council of Justice into the arrangements for assigning cases to single-judge chambers. However, although the

³ [Doc. Parl., Chambre, 2025-2026, n° /001](#)

findings of this investigation suggested that the rules and practices concerning the distribution of cases between judges in appeal courts and courts of first instance were not uniform, the authorities had not wished to carry out the assessment requested in the recommendation.

47. The Belgian authorities report that the High Council of Justice and the Courts and Tribunals Board would be holding a meeting to discuss the recommendation.
48. GRECO notes that the information provided does not indicate that any progress has been made in implementing the recommendation as yet.
49. GRECO concludes that recommendation xii remains partly implemented.

III. CONCLUSIONS

50. **In view of the above, GRECO concludes that Belgium has made slight progress in implementing the recommendations. Eight of the fifteen recommendations set out in the Fourth Round Evaluation Report have now been implemented satisfactorily or dealt with in a satisfactory manner.** The seven other recommendations remain partly implemented.
51. More specifically, recommendations vii, viii, ix, x, xi, xiii, xiv and xv have been implemented satisfactorily or dealt with in a satisfactory manner, and recommendations i, ii, iii, iv, v, vi and xii remain partly implemented.
52. As to corruption prevention in respect of parliamentarians, measures have been taken to introduce regular training on integrity matters, the first session of which took place. Discussions continue to be held on topics such as rules on gifts and dealings with lobbyists. Overall, however, GRECO regrets that, more than a decade after the adoption of its Evaluation Report, the recommendations on corruption prevention in respect of members of parliament have been taken into account only to a very limited extent, and the main issues identified in the report remain unresolved.
53. The situation concerning judges and prosecutors remains unchanged with regard to the only remaining partly implemented recommendation: the arrangements for assigning cases between judges in the courts. All the other recommendations were fully implemented in previous reports, and GRECO welcomed the many improvements made, particularly with respect to ethics, recruitment, training and the disciplinary framework for judges and prosecutors.
54. The adoption of this Second Addendum to the Second Compliance Report terminates the Fourth Round compliance procedure in respect of Belgium. The Belgian authorities may, however, wish to inform GRECO of further developments with regard to the implementation of the outstanding recommendations (i, ii, iii, iv, v, vi and xii).
55. Lastly, GRECO invites the Belgian authorities to authorise publication of this report as soon as possible.