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FOURTH EVALUATION ROUND

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# FOURTH EVALUATION ROUND

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

# ADDENDUM TO THE SECOND COMPLIANCE REPORT

# CZECHIA

Adopted by GRECO at its 102nd Plenary Meeting
(Strasbourg, 23-27 March 2026)

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## I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Addendum to the Second Compliance Report assesses the measures taken by the authorities of Czechia to implement the recommendations issued in the Fourth Round Evaluation Report on Czechia (see paragraph 2).

2. The Fourth Evaluation Round Report on Czechia was adopted by GRECO at its 72nd Plenary Meeting (1 July 2016) and made public on 2 November 2016, following authorisation by Czechia. GRECO's Fourth Evaluation Round deals with "Corruption prevention in respect of members of parliament, judges and prosecutors".

3. In the Fourth Round Compliance Report, which was adopted by GRECO at its 80th plenary meeting (22 June 2018) and made public on 28 February 2019, following the authorisation by the Czech authorities. GRECO 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 Czech delegation to submit a report o progress in implementing the outstanding recommendations.

4. The Interim Compliance Report was adopted at the 84th Plenary meeting (6 December 2019) and made public on 5 March 2020, following authorisation by the Czech authorities. GRECO concluded that Czechia had made little progress in implementing the recommendations and that the level of compliance with the recommendations remained "globally unsatisfactory".

5. The Second Interim Compliance Report was adopted by GRECO at the 88th Plenary meeting (22 September 2021) and made public on 16 June 2023, following authorisation by the Czech authorities. GRECO concluded that the level of compliance was no longer globally unsatisfactory" in the meaning of Rule 31, paragraph 8.3 of the Rules of Procedure. Application of Rule 32 was discontinued, and Czechia was requested to submit additional information regarding the implementation of the outstanding recommendations.

6. The Second Compliance Report was adopted by GRECO at the 93rd Plenary meeting (24 March 2024) and made public on 16 June 2023, following authorisation by the Czech authorities. GRECO concluded that the very low level of implementation of its recommendations (lower than in the previous report) was again globally unsatisfactory, Consequently, it decided to apply again Rule 32 and asked the head of the Czech delegation to provide on a report on the progress made in implementing the outstanding recommendations.

7. The Third Interim Compliance Report was adopted by GRECO at the 98th Plenary meeting (22 November 2024). Its publication has not yet been authorised by the Czech authorities. GRECO concluded that the overall level of compliance with the recommendations was no longer "globally unsatisfactory" and asked the head of the Czech delegation to provide a report on the measures taken to implement the outstanding recommendations. This report, received by GRECO on 1st December 2025, served as the basis for the present Addendum to the 2nd Compliance Report.

8. This Addendum to the 2nd Compliance Report evaluates the progress made in implementing the pending recommendations since the adoption of the Third Interim Compliance Report and provides an overall appraisal of the level of compliance with these recommendations.

9. GRECO selected Türkiye (with respect to parliamentary assemblies) and the Slovak Republic (with respect to judicial institutions) to appoint rapporteurs for the compliance procedure. The Rapporteurs appointed were Mr Erce Rıdvan YILDIRIM, on behalf of Türkiye and Ms Radka MONCOĽOVÁ on behalf of the Slovak Republic. They were assisted by GRECO's Secretariat in drawing up this report.

## II. ANALYSIS

10. It is recalled that GRECO addressed fourteen recommendations to Czechia in its Evaluation Report. In the most recent report, the Third Interim Compliance Report, six of the fourteen recommendations had been implemented satisfactorily and the other eight recommendations had been partly implemented. Compliance with the eight outstanding recommendations is dealt with below.

*Corruption prevention in respect of members of parliament*

### Recommendation i

11. *GRECO recommended (i) ensuring timely publication of records of parliamentary committee meetings and enhancing the transparency of the work conducted in sub-committee meetings; (ii) introducing rules for members of parliament on how to interact with lobbyists and other third parties seeking to influence the legislative process and making such interactions more transparent.*

12. GRECO recalls that this recommendation had been assessed as partly implemented in the Third Interim Compliance Report. The first part had been partly implemented as some records of committees and subcommittee meetings were published. However, this was not the case for all, and the legal framework remained unchanged. The second part of the recommendation was also partly implemented, as a draft regulation on lobbying was being examined in second reading in the Parliament's Chamber of Deputies. GRECO found that this text could allow for more transparency in the interactions between lobbyists and MPs, but it recalled that the recommendation also called for rules on these interactions.

13. The Czech authorities state that the political majority in the Chamber of Deputies has declared plans to update the Rules of Procedure of the Chamber, but no information on possible changes in transparency of the work of subcommittee meetings has been published yet.

14. As regard the second element of the recommendation, the Act on Regulation of Lobbying, which was in second reading at the time of the previous report has been adopted by the Parliament and published on 12 June 2025, entering into force on 1st July 2025.

15. GRECO welcomes the entry into force of the Act on the Regulation of Lobbying, which introduces more transparency on contacts between lobbying and other third parties. However, as it already pointed out in its previous report, the Act does not provide for guidance for MPs on how to deal with lobbyists. The second part of the recommendation remains, therefore, partly implemented. No substantial progress is reported as regards the first part of the recommendation, which remains partly implemented as well.

16. GRECO concludes that recommendation i remains partly implemented.

### Recommendation ii

17. *GRECO recommended (i) that a code of conduct be adopted for members of parliament, made easily accessible to the public, and accompanied by explanatory*

*notes and/or practical guidance, including on conflicts of interest and related matters (e.g. gifts and other advantages, incompatibilities, additional activities and financial interests, post-employment situations, contacts with third parties such as lobbyists, declaration requirements, etc.); (ii) that the code of conduct be complemented by practical measures for their implementation, such as dedicated training, confidential counselling and awareness-raising.*

18. GRECO recalls that this recommendation had been partly implemented in the previous report. The Mandate and Immunity Committee adopted on 7 February 2024 Resolution no. 43 on Rules for Ethical Behaviour of Deputies. This was assessed as a positive step. However, GRECO noted that the resolution did not touch on other matters of relevance, namely additional activities, post-employment situations and contacts with third parties. Moreover, the rules foreseen by the Resolution would benefit from more explanation, comments or illustrative guidance. Most importantly, these rules were only valid for the current term of office of the Chamber of Deputies, as they had not been adopted at the level of the Chamber itself. Consequently, the first part of the recommendation was assessed as partly implemented by the Chamber of Deputies. It remained not implemented by the Senate, as no action had been taken by that chamber. As to the second part of the recommendation, it remained unimplemented in respect of both chambers, pending the adoption of a proper code of conduct.

19. The Czech authorities now inform that Resolution no. 43 and the appended Code of Ethics have been distributed by the newly established Mandate and Immunity Committee to all members of the new Chamber of Deputies on 21 January 2026, with a recommendation to act in accordance with the recommendations.

20. GRECO notes that the newly established Mandate and Immunity Committee has distributed the ethical rules adopted under the previous legislature to all members of the Chamber of Deputies, with a recommendation that they are to be followed. This is welcome. However, these rules are incomplete on several aspects, namely additional activities, post-employment situations and contacts with third parties, and they have still not been adopted at the level of the Chamber itself. It calls upon the Chamber to address these gaps. Meanwhile, the first part of the recommendation remains partly implemented by the Chamber of Deputies. As for the Senate, no measure towards implementation is reported. The first part of the recommendation remains, therefore, not implemented in respect of the Senate. The second part of the recommendation remains not implemented by both chambers.

21. GRECO concludes that recommendation ii remains partly implemented.

Recommendation iii

22. *GRECO recommended that enforceable rules on gifts and other advantages – including advantages in kind – be developed for members of parliament and made easily accessible to the public; they should, in particular, determine what kinds of gifts and other advantages may be acceptable and define what conduct is expected of members of parliament who are given or offered such advantages.*

23. GRECO recalls that this recommendation had been partly implemented in the last report, given that Article 5 of the aforementioned Resolution no. 43 did provide some enforceable rules on gifts.

24. The authorities refer to the information submitted under recommendations i and ii.

25. In view of the fact that Resolution no. 43 has been made applicable to the new Chamber of Deputies (see paragraphs 19 and 20), GRECO notes that there are

currently enforceable rules on gifts and other advantages applicable to members of the Chamber of Deputies. It recalls, however, that it found in a previous report that article 5 of Resolution no. 43 was not detailed enough to meet all requirements of the recommendation: it is namely not illustrative enough and it does not define which gifts may be acceptable or what conducts members are to adopt when it is not possible to refuse a gift. This recommendation remains, therefore, partly implemented in respect of the Chamber of Deputies. It remains not implemented in respect of the Senate, which has not taken any tangible measure to give effect to the recommendation.

26. GRECO concludes that recommendation iii remains partly implemented.

Recommendation iv

27. *GRECO recommended (i) requiring members of parliament to also submit declarations of activities, declarations of assets and declarations of income, gifts and liabilities at the beginning of their mandate, introducing an electronic declaration system and making declarations more easily accessible on the internet; (ii) making it clear that declarations must also include in-kind benefits provided to members of parliament; and (iii) considering widening the scope of the declarations to also include information on spouses and dependent family members (it being understood that such information would not necessarily need to be made public).*

28. GRECO recalls that this recommendation was partly implemented in the previous reports. The first part was partly implemented, as GRECO had noted in the Second Compliance Report a worrying trend towards a narrowing of the scope of, and the modalities of access to, the declarations. The second part had been fully implemented, while the third part remained not implemented.

29. The Czech authorities have not provided any new information.

30. GRECO concludes that recommendation iv remains partly implemented.

Recommendation v

31. *GRECO recommended significantly strengthening the supervision and enforcement of the various declaration requirements on members of parliament under the Act on Conflicts of Interest, notably by giving an independent monitoring mechanism the clear mandate, powers and adequate resources to verify in depth the declarations submitted, to investigate irregularities and to initiate proceedings and impose effective, proportionate and dissuasive sanctions if the rules are violated.*

32. GRECO recalls that this recommendation had been assessed as partly implemented reflecting improvements in the practice of supervising MPs' declarations. However, more effective, proportionate and dissuasive sanctions remained outstanding.

33. The Czech authorities have not provided any new information.

34. GRECO concludes that recommendation v remains partly implemented.

*Corruption prevention in respect of judges*

Recommendation vii

35. *GRECO recommended (i) that a code of professional conduct for all judges – accompanied by explanatory comments and/or practical examples, including guidance on conflicts of interest and related issues (e.g. on gifts, secondary activities, third party contacts/confidentiality, etc.) – be developed, communicated effectively to all judges and made easily accessible to the public; (ii) that it be complemented by practical measures for its implementation, including confidential counselling and dedicated training for both professional and lay judges.*

36. GRECO recalls that both elements of this recommendation were partly implemented. A new Code of Ethics and Judicial Training Tools had been developed. However, the Code was not applicable to all judges, it was not binding and lacked a supervisory and enforcement mechanism. As regards the second part of the recommendations, some training activities on ethics and integrity had been organised but they did not focus specifically on the Code and no measures had been taken to develop confidential counselling on these issues. GRECO had also encouraged the authorities to involve more judges, as well as lay judges, in these activities.

37. The authorities report that the Code of Ethics has been updated with explanatory comments that include relevant case-law, questions for self-examination by judges and practical examples on the conduct of judges. They state that the text has been endorsed by a majority of judicial councils, thereby addressing a critical issue highlighted in the previous compliance reports.

38. GRECO welcomes the updated text of the Code of Ethics, which includes a comprehensive practical guide, consisting of a commentary and a selection of disciplinary case-law for each fundamental ethical principle. Each section (I. Independence, II. Impartiality, III. Integrity, Seriousness and Dignity, IV. Diligence, Expertise, Confidentiality) is then completed with a collection of questions which should serve to help judges navigate in ambiguous situations in which they may find themselves in their professional and private lives. The document is designed as an open file, which will be progressively complemented by new examples and relevant case-law. These arrangements are welcome, as GRECO has consistently underlined that ethical codes should be conceived as "living documents" and be updated as needed. Furthermore, GRECO notes that some enforcement arrangements are foreseen, since a breach of the Code's rules can, if certain statutory prerequisites are met, lead to disciplinary proceedings. However, the information provided by the authorities does not enable GRECO to conclude that the Code now unambiguously applies to all judges in Czechia. The first element of the recommendation remains, therefore, partly implemented.

39. As regards the second element of the recommendation, no new information is reported regarding training and counselling measures. This element also remains partly implemented.

40. GRECO concludes that recommendation vii remains partly implemented.

Recommendation ix

41. *GRECO recommended introducing the possibility for judges to challenge disciplinary decisions including for dismissal before a court.*

42. GRECO recalls that this recommendation had been assessed as partly implemented in the last compliance report, taking into account the adoption, at third reading by Parliament, of draft amendments introducing a review instance in disciplinary cases involving judges, prosecutors and bailiffs.

43. The Czech authorities now indicate that Act no. 438/2024, amending relevant parts of Act no. 7/2002 Coll., on proceedings in matters concerning judges, prosecutors and judicial bailiffs, as amended, entered into force on 1 January 2025.

44. GRECO welcomes the entry into force of Act no. 438/2024, which introduces the possibility for judges to challenge disciplinary measures, including dismissal, before a court.

45. GRECO concludes that recommendation ix has been implemented satisfactorily.

*Corruption prevention in respect of prosecutors*

Recommendation xiv

46. *GRECO recommended introducing the possibility for public prosecutors to challenge disciplinary decisions including dismissal before a court.*

47. GRECO recalls that this recommendation had been assessed as partly implemented in the previous report, as the amendments referred to under recommendation ix above introduced an instance review in disciplinary cases for prosecutors.

48. The authorities refer to the information submitted in paragraph 43.

49. GRECO welcomes the entry into force of Act no. 438/2024, which introduces the possibility for prosecutors to challenge disciplinary measures, including dismissal, before a court.

50. GRECO concludes that recommendation xiv has been implemented satisfactorily.

## III. CONCLUSIONS

51. In view of the foregoing, GRECO concludes that Czechia has implemented satisfactorily or dealt with in a satisfactory manner eight of the fourteen recommendations contained in the Fourth Round Evaluation Report. The other six recommendations are now partly implemented.

52. More specifically, recommendations vi, viii, ix, x, xi, xii, xiii and xiv have been implemented satisfactorily and recommendations i, ii, iii, iv, v and vii are partly implemented.

53. With respect to members of parliament, GRECO welcomes the entry into force of the Act on the Regulation of Lobbying. This text increases the transparency as regards contacts between MPs and lobbyists and other third parties. However, rules and guidance on such contacts are still missing. Most other recommendations have been addressed only incompletely.

54. As to judges, the entry into force of legislative amendments introducing a review instance in disciplinary cases is welcome, as is the comprehensive practical guide accompanying the Code of Ethics. However, it is not unambiguously clear that the Code applies to all judges. Complementary training activities and a counselling mechanism on ethics and integrity also need to be developed.

55. As regards prosecutors, GRECO welcomes that they also fall under the above-mentioned review instance in disciplinary cases. All recommendations concerning prosecutors are now fully implemented.

56. In view of the fact that six (out of fourteen) recommendations have yet to be fully implemented, GRECO in accordance with Rule 31 revised, paragraph 9 of the Rules of Procedure, asks the Head of Delegation of Czechia to submit additional information on the implementation of recommendations i to v and vii by 31 March 2027.

57. Finally, GRECO invites the authorities of Czechia to authorise, as soon as possible, the publication of the report, to translate it into the national language and to make this translation public.

58. GRECO also calls upon the authorities of Czechia to authorise, without further delay, the publication of the Third *Interim* Compliance Report, adopted by GRECO at its 98th plenary meeting (22 November 2024).