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## **Group of States against Corruption (GRECO)**

### **PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES 2019**

Adopted by GRECO 81 (Strasbourg, 3-7 December 2018)

## OBJECTIVES and ACTION

1. The primary objective of the Group of States against Corruption's (GRECO) monitoring work is to improve policies, legislation and institutional arrangements for preventing and combating corruption in its member States.<sup>1</sup> Alignment with the anti-corruption standard-setting treaties and texts of the Council of Europe is actively sought as a means to eliminate corruption and abuse of position in the public and private spheres so that public trust in the rule of law, public institutions and democratic processes can be consolidated or restored and a level playing field provided for competition within both the profit and non-profit making sectors. GRECO plays a leading role in the efforts of its members to tackle corruption by advising on remedies to address shortcomings, assessing the action taken in response to its monitoring findings and recommendations, and actively pushing for reform.

2. A strong sense of ownership is attained through the methodology that is applied by GRECO where a dynamic process of mutual evaluation and peer pressure comes into play with input from evaluation teams, compliance rapporteurs and validation by the plenary. On the specific themes of each evaluation round,<sup>2</sup> each member State is provided with a detailed appraisal and set of tailored recommendations. Subsequent impact assessments ("compliance procedures") serve to verify achievements and to actively encourage progress towards implementation of the recommendations. In that context, additional stages and measures are applied in cases of non-compliance (as provided for by Rule 32 of the Rules of Procedure).

3. The aim of securing further support for adherence to the Council of Europe's anti-corruption standards, follow-up to GRECO's country-specific monitoring findings and recommendations, as well as the mutual reinforcement of efforts within the international anti-corruption community, is further pursued. This is done by (i) ensuring that GRECO's findings serve as a basis for Council of Europe anti-corruption cooperation activities, (ii) maintaining and intensifying contacts with external partners and (iii) providing public access to GRECO's reports ([www.coe.int/greco](http://www.coe.int/greco)) in a country's national language(s) as well as in English and French.

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<sup>1</sup> 49 members (all Council of Europe member States as well as Belarus and the United States of America): Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Republic of Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom and United States of America.

<sup>2</sup> The new, Fifth Evaluation Round started in 2017 and covers "the prevention of corruption and promotion of integrity in central governments (top executive functions) and law enforcement agencies". The Fourth Evaluation Round was devoted to Corruption prevention in respect of members of parliament, judges and prosecutors. The Third Evaluation Round covered two themes: Theme I – the incriminations provided for in the Criminal Law Convention on Corruption (ETS n° 173), its Additional Protocol (ETS n° 191) and Guiding Principle 2 (Resolution (97) 24) and Theme II – the transparency of party funding as understood by reference to the Committee of Ministers' Recommendation on Common Rules against Corruption in the Funding of Political Parties and Electoral Campaigns (Rec(2013)4).

## PROGRAMME

4. In 2019, GRECO will turn 20. A major event to mark this anniversary (which will coincide with the Council of Europe's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary) is planned under the French Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers in 2019. This event will be an occasion for member states to celebrate GRECO's successes of the past two decades, take stock of progress in carrying out the Fifth Evaluation Round, and look ahead at the challenges and opportunities for GRECO in an evolving European and global landscape for the years to come. This event will also be an opportunity to follow up on some of the conclusions of the Šibenik Conference organised under the Croatian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers in October 2018.

5. GRECO will continue with its Fifth Evaluation Round in 2019. The attention directed to central government (top executive functions) constitutes a logical extension to the Fourth Round with its implications for shaping citizens' attitudes vis-à-vis their political institutions and democracy in general. Furthermore, the specific risk factors involved in the work of law enforcement agencies are being carefully considered given that these agencies form a cornerstone of the fight against corruption and integrity is therefore fundamental.

6. The order of the country visits in the Fifth Round will in principle continue to follow the same pattern as the Fourth Round. The evaluations will, whenever possible, include agencies responsible for border control, so that corruption does not hamper the proper management of migration flows. Gender issues are mainstreamed throughout the Fifth Round evaluation questionnaire and reports. In line with its new Rule 34, GRECO will react proactively whenever a situation which requires its attention arises. The provisional schedule for 2019 is appended.

7. In order to make the best use of the budgetary resources available to GRECO, the plenary's core evaluation and compliance work is scheduled to match on-site visits and the drafting work to be accomplished with the tabling of reports for formal adoption by the plenary. Budgetary uncertainty means that again 3 instead of 4 plenary meetings are planned. Any impact on adherence to the rules on deadlines in compliance procedures will be managed by the Secretariat setting new deadlines in consultation with the countries concerned. It is also imperative that GRECO maintains some degree of flexibility in its planning in order to properly respond to scheduling requirements that cannot be anticipated at the time of adoption of the present programme, for instance, additional reporting obligations due to the application of Rule 32 (non-compliance). The schedule may therefore be subject to adjustments in the course of the year.

8. While the Fifth Round is underway, the compliance procedures for preceding rounds will continue. Even though implementation of GRECO's recommendation is sustained, it is slowing down and greater efforts should be made by all States to better comply fully with them. GRECO's General Activity Report will continue to provide data on the level of compliance with recommendations from the Fourth Evaluation Round to enable countries to focus their efforts in the areas where reforms are more needed. GRECO's evaluation reports and recommendations also serve as a yardstick for member states when implementing Target 5 of Sustainable Goal 16 ("Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms").

9. Following a decision by the Committee of Ministers (not objected to by the two GRECO members that are not members of the Council of Europe: Belarus and the United States of America), Kazakhstan and Tunisia have been invited to accede to GRECO. Accession can take effect, however, only once an agreement on the privileges and immunities of the representatives of members of GRECO and members of evaluation teams has been concluded and has entered into force, and upon receipt by the Secretary General of a notification of accession by these countries, pursuant to Article 4, paragraph 4, of the Statute of GRECO. Once the accession process is complete, GRECO will discuss the modalities and timing for evaluating both Kazakhstan and Tunisia under the previous four rounds.

10. GRECO's external exposure is sustained. Through its formal links with the United Nations (represented by the UNODC), the OECD (Working Group on Bribery in International Business Transactions and Working Party of Senior Public Integrity Officials) and the Organization of American States (OAS), it will continue to play a leading role in promoting synergies and coordination across the four main convention-based anti-corruption monitoring bodies. Through cooperation with the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA), the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the OSCE (OSCE/ODHIR) and International IDEA, GRECO and its Secretariat will continue to respond to the significant number of requests for input it receives (written submissions – including comments and opinions, presentations and participation in external meetings). GRECO will continue to explore further opportunities for closer cooperation with the successive Presidencies of the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group, and the G7, international development banks (notably, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)) and the "Bretton Woods" institutions (the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank), building on the positive cooperation established in 2017 and 2018 with all these bodies. As part of the overall contribution of the Council of Europe to the International Partnership Against Corruption in Sport (IPACS), GRECO will contribute through its evaluation and compliance reports to efforts for ensuring transparency and integrity in the selection of venues for major sporting events. GRECO will also continue to explore ways to ensure participation of the EU in GRECO.

11. GRECO will cooperate with other Council of Europe bodies, notably the Committee of Ministers, the Parliamentary Assembly, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, the Conference of INGOs, the European Court of Human Rights and the Commissioner for Human Rights and, as appropriate, continue to support the strengthening of integrity frameworks. Cooperation with the competent bodies of the Council of Europe involved in the promotion of the Organisation's gender equality and mainstreaming policies will be ensured through its Gender Rapporteur. GRECO and its Secretariat will also seek opportunities for synergies and joint initiatives in areas of pertinence to GRECO's mandate with other Council of Europe bodies, for instance, the Venice Commission, the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS) and the Consultative Council of European Judges, and will provide detailed analysis on topical anti-corruption issues. GRECO will also continue to follow transversal topics whenever corruption or integrity-related issues are raised, such as in the areas of Human Rights, gender, education, sport.

12. In addition, in 2019, GRECO will carry out the annual statutory tasks of adopting its Nineteenth General Activity Report which will contain comprehensive information and data on GRECO's activities in 2018, and its Programme of Activities for 2020. The budget for the biennium 2020-2021 will be prepared within the Programme and Budget procedures of the Organisation, and formally adopted by GRECO's Statutory Committee.

PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE 2019

Eval I/II High-level Visit <b>BELARUS</b>	<b>January</b>	Minsk
Eval V visit <b>SPAIN</b>	<b>21-25 January</b>	Madrid
<b>[Statutory Committee (to be confirmed)]</b>	<b>January/February</b>	<b>Budget]</b>
<b>Bureau 86</b>	<b>15 February</b>	
<b>GRECO 82</b> Plenary Meeting, Strasbourg	<b>18-22 March</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Eval V Rep</b> Malta, Sweden, “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”</li> <li>2. <b>RC-I/II 4<sup>th</sup> interim*</b> Belarus</li> <li>3. <b>RC-III</b> Belarus</li> <li>4. <b>RC-III Add</b> Turkey</li> <li>5. <b>2<sup>nd</sup> RC-III 2<sup>nd</sup> Add</b> Germany</li> <li>6. <b>RC-IV interim*</b> Luxembourg, Serbia, Turkey</li> <li>7. <b>RC-IV</b> Georgia, Switzerland, United States of America</li> <li>8. <b>2<sup>nd</sup> RC-IV</b> Azerbaijan, Latvia, Norway</li> <li>9. <b>2<sup>nd</sup> RC-IV Add</b> Slovak Republic</li> <li>10. General Activity Report 2018</li> </ol>
Eval V visit <b>FRANCE</b>	<b>8-12 April</b>	Paris
Eval V visit <b>CROATIA</b>	<b>8-12 April</b>	Zagreb
<b>Bureau 87</b>	<b>May/June</b>	
Eval V visit <b>BELGIUM</b>	<b>3-7 June</b>	Brussels
<b>20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event</b>	<b>June or October</b>	<b>Organised under the Chairmanship of France of the Committee of Ministers</b>
<b>GRECO 83</b> Plenary Meeting, Strasbourg	<b>17-21 June</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Eval V Rep</b> Denmark, Slovak Republic, Spain</li> <li>2. <b>RC-III 6<sup>th</sup> interim*</b> Switzerland</li> <li>3. <b>2<sup>nd</sup> RC-III Add</b> Denmark</li> <li>4. <b>2<sup>nd</sup> RC-III 2<sup>nd</sup> Add</b> Russian Federation</li> <li>5. <b>RC-IV interim*</b> Portugal, Romania</li> <li>6. <b>RC-IV 2<sup>nd</sup> interim*</b> Belgium, Spain</li> <li>7. <b>2<sup>nd</sup> RC-IV</b> Germany, Lithuania, Malta</li> <li>8. <b>2<sup>nd</sup> RC-IV Add</b> Iceland</li> </ol>
Eval IV visit <b>LIECHTENSTEIN</b>	<b>24-28 June</b>	Vaduz
Eval IV visit <b>SAN MARINO</b>	<b>9-13 September</b>	San Marino
<b>[Statutory Committee (to be confirmed)]</b>	<b>September</b>	<b>Budget]</b>
Eval IV visit <b>BELARUS</b>	<b>14-18 October</b>	Minsk
<b>Bureau 88</b>	<b>November</b>	
<b>Statutory Committee</b>	<b>November</b>	<b>Programme/Budget 2020-2021</b>
Eval V visit <b>ALBANIA</b>	<b>18-22 November</b>	Tirana
Eval V visit <b>NORWAY</b>	<b>25-29 November</b>	Oslo
<b>GRECO 84</b> Plenary Meeting, Strasbourg	<b>2-6 December</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Eval V Rep</b> Belgium, Croatia, France</li> <li>2. <b>2<sup>nd</sup> RC-III 2<sup>nd</sup> Add</b> Italy</li> <li>3. <b>RC-IV interim*</b> Czech Republic, Denmark</li> <li>4. <b>RC-IV</b> Andorra, Monaco, Russian Federation, Ukraine</li> <li>5. <b>2<sup>nd</sup> RC-IV</b> Armenia, Bulgaria, Greece, Montenegro</li> <li>6. <b>2<sup>nd</sup> RC-IV Add</b> Netherlands</li> <li>7. Programme of Activities 2020</li> </ol>
Eval V visit <b>GERMANY</b>	<b>9-13 December</b>	Berlin

\* *Interim* compliance report, pursuant to Rule 32, paragraph 2(i)