



## Relation with the Committee of the Parties

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81. Through their complementary and co-operative actions, GREVIO and the Committee of the Parties represent the two vital branches of the monitoring mechanism of the convention. Rule 26 of GREVIO's internal Rules of Procedure stipulates in its first paragraph that the President (of GREVIO) shall periodically meet with the Committee of the Parties to inform it about the state of the work of GREVIO and progress in preparing GREVIO's reports and conclusions concerning the measures taken by the Parties to implement the provisions of the Istanbul Convention, as well as any other issue relating to the good functioning of the monitoring mechanism of the convention. The second paragraph of this rule foresees that "GREVIO may decide to invite the Chair of the Committee of the Parties for exchanges of views".

82. During the period covered by this report, robust and regular channels of communication have been built between the two pillars of the monitoring mechanism of the convention. At GREVIO's first meeting in September 2015, an exchange of views was organised with the First President of the Committee of the Parties of the convention, Erdoğan Işcan, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Turkey to the Council of Europe. The close relationship between these two bodies was maintained under the subsequent presidency of Elisabeth Walaas, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Norway to the Council of Europe. During the period covered by this report, five exchanges of views between the President of GREVIO, Feride Acar, and the Committee of the Parties took place.<sup>85</sup>

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85. Please see Appendix 1 for a list of the exchanges of views held between the President of GREVIO and the Committee of the Parties.

83. These regular meetings focused on the state of implementation of the convention and on GREVIO's reports and conclusions on measures taken by the states parties to comply with the provisions of the convention. These discussions were also an opportunity for state representatives to provide feedback on their experiences of the monitoring process as a transparent, co-operative and constructive dialogue aimed at delivering expertise based on mutual goodwill and the willingness to facilitate national progress in eradicating violence against women. Furthermore, the exchange of views served to discuss GREVIO's needs in terms of financial and human resources, and to strengthen the co-ordination between the monitoring mechanism of the convention and other regional and international mechanisms (such as the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women), in order to avoid overlap between the different monitoring processes.

84. At its fourth meeting, the Committee of the Parties agreed on how to proceed in the adoption of its recommendations on the basis of GREVIO's reports, in accordance with Article 68 (12) of the convention: 1) the Committee of the Parties recommends that the state party concerned takes measures to implement all the conclusions in GREVIO's baseline evaluation reports; 2) in addition, the committee requires the state party concerned to report back within a three-year period on progress made in implementing GREVIO's proposals falling under the category "GREVIO urges", as well as all the proposals referring to Chapter 1 and 2 of the convention that have been considered by GREVIO as falling under the category of "GREVIO strongly encourages".<sup>86</sup>

85. On 30 January 2018, the Committee of the Parties adopted its four first recommendations on the implementation of the convention by Albania, Austria, Denmark and Monaco. A year later, on 28 January 2019, the Committee of the Parties adopted its second round of recommendations on the implementation of the convention by Montenegro, Portugal, Sweden and Turkey.

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86. In formulating its suggestions and proposals, GREVIO has adopted the use of different verbs which correspond to different levels of urgency, noting that all levels are important. These are, in order of priority, "urges", "strongly encourages", "encourages" and "invites". GREVIO uses "urges" where it considers that immediate action is required to bring the party's legislation or policy into compliance with the Istanbul Convention, or to ensure its implementation. "Strongly encourages" is used where GREVIO has noted shortcomings that need to be remedied in the near future in order to ensure a comprehensive implementation of the convention. A third level of urgency is indicated by the use of "encourages", which is used for shortcomings that require attention, though possibly at a later stage. Lastly, the verb "invites" points to small gaps in implementation that the party is requested to consider closing or to proposals made to provide guidance in the implementation process.