

Strasbourg, 10 October 2014

Greco (2014) 13E

65th GRECO Plenary Meeting
(Strasbourg, 6-10 October 2014)

DECISIONS

At its 65th Plenary Meeting (Strasbourg, 6-10 October 2014), the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO):

1. adopted the agenda as it appears in the Summary Report of the meeting (Greco (2014) 14E);

Information

2. took note of the information provided by the President and the Executive Secretary, with reference, in particular, to the discussions held at the 69th Meeting of the Bureau (Greco (2014) 12E) and by other representatives (cf. the Summary Report of the meeting);

Fourth Evaluation Round

3. adopted the Fourth Round Evaluation Report on:

- Azerbaijan (Greco Eval IV Rep (2014) 2E)
- Germany (Greco Eval IV Rep (2014) 1E)
- Ireland (Greco Eval IV Rep (2014) 3E)

and set the deadline of 30 April 2016 for the submission of Situation Reports on measures taken to implement the recommendations contained in the reports;

4. invited the authorities of Azerbaijan, Germany and Ireland to authorise, as soon as possible, the publication of the fourth round evaluation reports mentioned in decision 3 above;
5. approved the composition of the evaluation teams responsible for the Fourth Round evaluations of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, the Republic of Moldova, Romania and Turkey (Greco Eval IV (2014) 7 Rev);
6. took note of the President's request to delegations to review their lists of evaluators for the Fourth Round to ensure they are up-to-date, that the profiles correspond to the needs of the round and that the evaluators are available and aware of the tasks that will be assigned to them if they are selected to take part in an evaluation;
7. approved the list of rapporteur countries for the Fourth Round compliance procedures in respect of Finland, Iceland, Luxembourg and the Netherlands (Greco Eval IV (2014) 6);

Third Evaluation Round

8. adopted the 2nd Third Round Compliance Report on:

- Azerbaijan (Greco RC-III (2014) 13E)
- Bulgaria (Greco RC-III (2014) 12E)

and, in accordance with Rule 31, paragraph 9 of the Rules of Procedure, requested that the Heads of delegation of Azerbaijan and Bulgaria submit additional information regarding the implementation of recommendations by 31 July 2015 at the latest;

9. adopted the 2nd Third Round Compliance Report on:

- Serbia (Greco RC-III (2014) 15E)

and terminated the Third Round compliance procedure in respect of that member;

10. noted with satisfaction that the authorities of Serbia authorise the publication of the 2nd third round report mentioned in decision 9 above;
11. invited the authorities of Azerbaijan and Bulgaria to authorise, as soon as possible, the publication of the 2nd third round reports mentioned in decision 8 above;
12. adopted the Addendum to the 2nd Third Round Compliance Report on:
 - Poland (Greco RC-III (2014) 16E)
 - the Slovak Republic (Greco RC-III (2014) 23E)and terminated the Third Round compliance procedure in respect of both members;
13. adopted the Addendum to the 2nd Third Round Compliance Report on:
 - Spain (Greco RC-III (2014) 7E)and, in accordance with Rule 31, paragraph 9 of the Rules of Procedure, requested the Head of delegation of Spain to submit additional information regarding the implementation of recommendations by 31 July 2015 at the latest;
14. noted with satisfaction that the authorities of the Slovak Republic authorise the publication of the addendum to the 2nd third round compliance report mentioned in decision 12 above;
15. invited the authorities of Poland and Spain to authorise, as soon as possible, the publication of the addenda to the 2nd third round compliance reports mentioned in decisions 12 and 13 above;
16. adopted the 3rd *Interim* Third Round Compliance Report on:
 - Denmark (Greco RC-III (2014) 18E)and concluded that the level of compliance with the recommendations remained “globally unsatisfactory” in the meaning of Rule 31, paragraph 8.3 of the Rules of Procedure;
17. pursuant to Rule 32, paragraph 2(i) of the Rules of Procedure, requested the Head of the Delegation of Denmark to provide a report on progress in implementing the pending recommendations by 31 July 2015 at the latest;
18. considered requesting the authorities of Denmark to receive a high-level mission (Rule 32, paragraph 2(iii)) in order to discuss on the spot with all stakeholders concerned the ways of expediting the legislative and policy changes highlighted in the 3rd *interim* report and agreed to postpone that decision until the examination of the progress report mentioned in decision 17 above;
19. adopted the 3rd *Interim* Third Round Compliance Report on:
 - Belgium (Greco RC-III (2014) 20E)
 - Germany (Greco RC-III (2014) 19E)and decided not to continue applying Rule 32 in the case of both members and, in accordance with Rule 31, paragraph 8.2 of the Rules of Procedure, requested the Heads of delegation of Belgium and Germany to submit reports on progress in implementing the pending recommendations by 31 July 2015 at the latest;

20. invited the authorities of Belgium, Denmark and Germany to authorise, as soon as possible, the publication of the 3rd *interim* third round compliance reports mentioned in decisions 16 and 19 above;
21. adopted the *Interim* Third Round Compliance Report on:
 - Malta (Greco RC-III (2014) 21E)
 and concluded that the level of compliance with the recommendations remained “globally unsatisfactory” in the meaning of Rule 31, paragraph 8.3 of the Rules of Procedure;
22. pursuant to Rule 32, paragraph 2(i) of the Rules of Procedure, requested the Head of Delegation of Malta to provide a report on progress in implementing the pending recommendations by 31 July 2015 at the latest;
23. pursuant to Rule 32, paragraph 2 (ii) a) of the Rules of Procedure, instructed its President to send a letter – with a copy to the President of the Statutory Committee – to the Head of Delegation of Malta on the need to take determined action with a view to achieving tangible progress as soon as possible;
24. invited the authorities of Malta to authorise, as soon as possible, the publication of the *interim* third round compliance report mentioned in decision 21 above;

Publication of adopted reports

25. reminded its members of the action to be taken when publishing adopted reports in order to ensure visibility of their work in GRECO (cf. GRECO 58, decision 26);¹
26. urged the authorities of Belarus to now lift the confidentiality of the Joint First and Second Round Evaluation Report (Greco Eval I-II Rep (2011) 3E) and the Joint First and Second Round Compliance Report (Greco RC-I/II (2014) 1E) adopted in June 2012 and June 2014 respectively;

Topical anti-corruption developments/events in member States

27. took note of the information provided by Delegations, including information from a sample of countries on further follow-up given to Third Round recommendations once the related compliance procedures had been closed (cf. the Summary Report of the meeting);
28.
 - expressed concern regarding recent developments in Latvia and the possible dismantling of the Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau (KNAB);
 - reiterated its position, consistently expressed in its reports on Latvia, as to the need to ensure that the KNAB works free of political interference so that it can perform its functions in an independent and impartial manner and asked the Latvian Delegation to provide a further update on this worrying matter at GRECO 66;

¹

- agree a same-day publication date with the Secretariat
- clearly mark both the date of adoption and date of publication on the cover page
- make the national language version available and easily accessible on a domestic website
- notify the Secretariat of the location of the report by communicating the internet link to it
- include a link on the domestic website to the official language versions on GRECO’s website.

- asked the Secretariat to bring this matter to the attention of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe;

Exchange of views

29. held an exchange of views with Drago KOS, Chair of the OECD Working Group on Bribery in International Business Transactions (cf. the Summary Report of the meeting);

Follow-up to the report by the Secretary General on the State of democracy, human rights and the Rule of Law in Europe

30. approved the framework (conditions and responsibilities) for conducting with a member State an ad hoc focused dialogue on controversial developments or otherwise urgent issues related to its monitoring mandate and the international anti-corruption standards under its purview, in response to the call by the Secretary General on monitoring bodies to amend their operational practices so that the Council of Europe “can respond faster and more effectively to emergency situations and urgent requests from member States” (document Greco (2014) 10E Final);

European Union (EU) accession to GRECO

31. took note of information provided by the Executive Secretary (cf. the Summary Report of the meeting);

Review of Council of Europe Conventions

32. took note of the response sent on its behalf by the Bureau to the Chair of the European Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC) with respect to the Criminal Law Convention on Corruption and its Additional Protocol (ETS nos. 173 and 191) – document Greco (2014) 11E Revised, sent to delegations on 30 September 2014;

Forthcoming meetings

33. noted that the Bureau will hold its 70th Meeting in Strasbourg on 30 October 2014;
34. noted that the 66th Plenary Meeting will be held in Strasbourg on 8-12 December 2014.