



Council of Europe

Note  
to Editors

tel : +33 (3)88 41 25 60 / fax : +33 (3)88 41 39 11 / e-mail : [pressunit@coe.int](mailto:pressunit@coe.int)

(English only)

## **GRECO's first visit to Italy: assessing compliance with Council of Europe anti-corruption standards**

Strasbourg, 10.10.2008 – The Council of Europe's Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) will visit Italy for the first time on 13-17 October to evaluate the steps taken by the Italian authorities to curb corruption in accordance with the Council of Europe's standards. Italy joined GRECO as its 45<sup>th</sup> member on 30 June 2007.

The evaluation visit will focus on issues such as the prevention of corruption in public administration, independence and specialisation of law enforcement and the judiciary, immunity from prosecution enjoyed by holders of public office, preventing the use of organisations and enterprises as shields for corruption, and measures for depriving persons involved in corruption of the related proceeds or profit.

During the visit the GRECO evaluation team will meet representatives of the Presidency of the Council of Ministries, the Ministries of Justice and of Economy and Finance, the Council of State, the Bank of Italy, the judiciary, the Court of Auditors, the *Difensore Civico*, lawyers, parliamentarians, academics, the Chamber of Commerce, trade associations and unions, independent auditing experts, NGOs and journalists.

Following the visit next week, the adoption of the Joint First and Second Round Evaluation Report on Italy is expected to take place during the first half of 2009. A further evaluation of Italy, in the framework of GRECO's presently ongoing Third Evaluation Round, which deals with incriminations of corruption and transparency of party funding, will be carried out at a later stage.

GRECO, which comprises 45 member states of the Council of Europe and the United States of America, monitors states' compliance with the organisation's standards on the fight against corruption. It carries out country visits and prepares evaluation reports which include targeted recommendations to states to improve their capacity to combat corruption.

[More information on GRECO](#)

### **Press contact:**

Roberto Tumbarello, Press correspondent in Italy, Mob. +39 335 69 38 216 ; [rtumbarello@tin.it](mailto:rtumbarello@tin.it)

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