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Council of Europe's anti-corruption group publishes summary of its confidential report on Belarus, says implementation of previous recommendations clearly disappointing

Strasbourg, 27.05.2015 – Belarus seeks to address corruption but results of the [implementation](#) of previous recommendations are “clearly disappointing”, says the [summary of the Compliance report](#) by the Council of Europe's Group of States against Corruption ([GRECO](#)) published today.

GRECO concludes that Belarus has implemented satisfactorily or dealt with in a satisfactory manner only four out of the twenty-four recommendations contained in the [Joint First and Second Round Evaluation Report](#), adopted in 2012, the summary says. “The country has managed to achieve meaningful progress only in respect of the training and specialisation of law enforcement personnel, consideration of a new mechanism of *in rem* confiscation and the introduction of accounting and reporting obligations based on international standards.”

The Council of Europe's anti-corruption group notes that a majority of recommendations have received no tangible follow-up, whereas the specific situation of corruption in Belarus clearly calls for an ambitious approach and more determined action.

“GRECO expresses particular concern that in a variety of areas which are absolutely crucial, no initiatives are even announced or planned. As a consequence, the executive branch of power (especially the presidential function) retains powers which are disproportionate in a democracy,” the document reads.

The conclusion is therefore that the current very low level of compliance with the recommendations is “globally unsatisfactory”.

The Compliance report adopted in June 2014 covered the period since the adoption of the Evaluation report in June 2012 and assessed measures taken by the authorities of Belarus to comply with the recommendations it contained. Belarus did not authorise the publication of the full report, and GRECO decided that only a summary of the Compliance report would be made public today.

Belarus is not a member of the Council of Europe, but a party to a number of the Council of Europe's [conventions](#), including the Civil Law Convention on Corruption, the Criminal Law Convention on Corruption and the Additional protocol to the latter. GRECO monitors the implementation of the organisation's anti-corruption instruments by all the States Parties.

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The Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) is a Council of Europe body that aims to improve the capacity of its members to fight corruption by monitoring their compliance with anti-corruption standards. It helps states to identify deficiencies in national anti-corruption policies, prompting the necessary legislative, institutional and practical reforms. Currently it comprises the 47 Council of Europe member states, Belarus and the United States of America.

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