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## **Council of Europe calls for sharpened measures to counter corruption among parliamentarians, judges and prosecutors in Montenegro**

Strasbourg, 26 August 2015 - The Council of Europe's anti-corruption body, Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) has published today its Fourth Round Evaluation [Report](#) on Montenegro. It focuses on the prevention of corruption of members of parliament, judges and prosecutors and provides recommendations to the Montenegrin authorities on addressing the deficiencies identified.

GRECO recognises the positive steps made by Montenegro in recent years to meet the commitments arising from its membership in the Council of Europe, as well as EU accession requirements. However, corruption continues to be an important concern in the country, with the lack of successful investigations and convictions, as well as the sense of impunity for high-level officials, which greatly undermines public trust in the political system and the judiciary.

GRECO calls on the authorities to carry through legislative reform—not only on paper, but also in practice, and to sharpen anticorruption measures within the legislature and judiciary, including by punishing cases of graft and misconduct more effectively. The Parliament is called upon to complement its recently adopted Code of Conduct with a credible enforcement mechanism.

GRECO also strongly recommends reinforced transparency, integrity and merit-based tools to help secure the impartiality and professionalism of judges and prosecutors and boost citizens' confidence in their work.

GRECO has certain doubts about the efficacy of the available accountability machinery in the judiciary. In the context of highly articulated personal and family relations in the relatively small territory of Montenegro, the prevention of conflicts of interest is a challenge in itself. The Group hopes that the new Agency for the Prevention of Corruption will have the required independence and capacity to fulfil its important functions.

By the end of 2016, Montenegro should submit a report on what has been done to implement the recommendations. GRECO will assess these measures in the first half of 2017 through its compliance procedure.

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