



Groupe d'Etats contre la corruption
Group of States against corruption

DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS
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Third Evaluation Round

Compliance Report on Albania

“Incriminations (ETS 173 and 191, GPC 2)”

“Transparency of Party Funding”

Adopted by GRECO
at its 50th Plenary Meeting
(Strasbourg, 28 March – 1 April 2011)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present Compliance Report assesses the measures taken by the authorities of Albania to implement the 12 recommendations issued in the Third Round Evaluation Report on Albania (see paragraph 2), covering two distinct themes, namely:
 - **Theme I – Incriminations:** Articles 1a and 1b, 2-12, 15-17, 19 paragraph 1 of the Criminal Law Convention on Corruption (ETS 173), Articles 1-6 of its Additional Protocol (ETS 191) and Guiding Principle 2 (criminalisation of corruption).
 - **Theme II – Transparency of party funding:** Articles 8, 11, 12, 13b, 14 and 16 of Recommendation Rec(2003)4 on Common Rules against Corruption in the Funding of Political Parties and Electoral Campaigns, and - more generally - Guiding Principle 15 (financing of political parties and election campaigns).
2. The Third Round Evaluation Report was adopted at GRECO's 42nd Plenary Meeting (15 May 2009) and made public on 17 September 2009, following authorisation by Albania (Greco Eval III Rep (2008) 7E [Theme I](#) / [Theme II](#)).
3. As required by GRECO's Rules of Procedure, the Albanian authorities submitted a Situation Report on measures taken to implement the recommendations. This report was received on 20 December 2010, and served as a basis for the Compliance Report.
4. GRECO selected Armenia and Slovenia to appoint Rapporteurs for the compliance procedure. The Rapporteurs appointed were Ms Anna MARGARYAN, Chair of Criminal Law and Criminology, lecturer, Yerevan State University, Faculty of Law, Armenia, and Ms Vita HABJAN, Assistant Head, Sector for Prevention, Commission for the Prevention of Corruption, Slovenia. They were assisted by GRECO's Secretariat in drawing up the Compliance Report.
5. The Compliance Report assesses the implementation of each individual recommendation contained in the Evaluation Report and establishes an overall appraisal of the level of the member's compliance with these recommendations. The implementation of any outstanding recommendation (partially or not implemented) will be assessed on the basis of a Situation Report to be submitted by the authorities 18 months after the adoption of the present Compliance Report.

II. ANALYSIS

Theme I: Incriminations

6. It is recalled that GRECO in its evaluation report addressed 5 recommendations to Albania in respect of Theme I. Compliance with these recommendations is dealt with below.
7. The authorities of Albania report that a draft law amending the Criminal Code was prepared by the Ministry of Justice in January 2010 to comply with GRECO recommendations. After a consultation of relevant ministries and organisations, this draft law was approved by the Council of Ministers on 27 October 2010 and transmitted to the Parliament. It was adopted by the Legal Commission of Parliament in December 2010.

Recommendation i.

8. *GRECO recommended to take the legislative measures necessary to ensure that active and passive bribery of foreign public officials, members of foreign public assemblies, officials of international organisations, members of international parliamentary assemblies, as well as judges and officials of international courts, are explicitly criminalised in accordance with Articles 5, 6, 9, 10 and 11 of the Criminal Law Convention on Corruption (ETS 173).*
9. *The authorities of Albania indicate that the above-mentioned draft law amending the Criminal Code will introduce into the Criminal Code new articles criminalising active and passive bribery of foreign public officials, members of foreign public assemblies, employees of public international organisations, members of international public assemblies (Articles 244/a and 259/a, respectively)¹, as well as active and passive bribery of judges and officials of international courts² (Articles 319/a and 319/d, respectively).*
10. *GRECO welcomes the draft amendments to the Criminal Code, which expressly criminalise active and passive bribery of foreign and international officials, as requested by the recommendation. However, as these amendments have not yet entered into force, compliance with this recommendation is not yet complete.*
11. *GRECO concludes that recommendation i has been partly implemented.*

Recommendation ii.

12. *GRECO recommended to take the necessary legislative measures in order to ensure that foreign jurors as well as domestic and foreign arbitrators are explicitly covered by the bribery provisions of the Criminal Code in conformity with the Additional Protocol to the Criminal Law Convention on Corruption (ETS 191).*

¹ Article 244/a CC – Active corruption of foreign public officials/employees

“Promising, proposing or granting, directly or indirectly, any kind of irregular benefit for oneself or other persons, to a foreign public official, employee of a public international organisation, member of a foreign public assembly, or member of an international parliamentary assembly to perform or not to perform an action related to his duty or function is punishable by imprisonment of from six months to three years and with a fine of from three hundred thousand to three million lek”.

Article 259/a CC – Passive corruption of foreign public officials/ employees

“Asking for or receiving, directly or indirectly, any kind of irregular benefit or such a promise, for oneself or other persons, or accepting an offer or promise arising from the irregular benefit, by a foreign public employee, employee of a public international organisation, member of a foreign public assembly, or member of an international parliamentary assembly to perform or not to perform an action related to his duty or function is punishable with imprisonment of from two to eight years and a fine from five hundred thousand to three million lek”.

² Article 319/a CC – Active corruption of a judge or official of international courts

“Promising, proposing or granting, directly or indirectly, any kind of irregular benefit for oneself or other persons, to a judge or official of international courts, to perform or not to perform an action related to his duty or function is punishable by imprisonment of from one year to four years and a fine of from four hundred thousand to two million lek”.

Article 319/d CC – Passive corruption of a judge or official of international courts

“Asking for or receiving, directly or indirectly, any kind of irregular benefit or such a promise, for oneself or other persons, or accepting an offer or promise arising from the irregular benefit by a judge or official of an international court to perform or not to perform an action related to his duty or function is punishable by imprisonment of from three to ten years and by a fine from eight hundred thousand to four million lek.”

13. The authorities of Albania report that the draft amendments to the Criminal Code will introduce as new offences active (Article 319/b CC) and passive (Article 319/dh CC) bribery of local and foreign arbitrators, as well as active (Article 319/c CC) and passive (Article 319/e) bribery of members of foreign juries³.
14. GRECO welcomes the draft amendments which, if adopted, will ensure compliance with the recommendation.
15. GRECO concludes that recommendation ii has been partly implemented.

Recommendation iii.

16. *GRECO recommended to increase the maximum penalties for bribery offences in the private sector.*
17. The authorities of Albania explain that the already referred to amendments to the Criminal Code will increase the maximum penalties for bribery offences in the private sector from two to three years' imprisonment for active bribery and from three to five years for passive bribery.
18. GRECO welcomes the proposed amendments which, once adopted, will meet the concerns expressed by the recommendation by increasing the maximum penalties of Article 164/a and 164/b CC and which will also lead to an extension of the limitation period to five and ten years for active and passive bribery in the private sector, respectively.
19. GRECO concludes that recommendation iii has been partly implemented.

Recommendation iv.

20. *GRECO recommended to consider abolishing the requirement of dual criminality with respect to the offences of bribery and trading in influence committed abroad and thus withdrawing or not*

³ **Article 319/b CC – Active corruption of a local and foreign arbitrator**

“Promising, proposing or granting, directly or indirectly, any kind of irregular benefit for oneself or other persons to a local or foreign arbitrator to perform or not to perform an action related to his duty or function is punishable by imprisonment of from one year to four years and by a fine of from four hundred thousand to two million lek.”

Article 319/c CC – Active corruption of a member of a foreign jury

“Promising, proposing or granting, directly or indirectly, any kind of irregular benefit for oneself or other persons to a member of a foreign jury to perform or not to perform an action related to his duty or function is punishable by imprisonment of from one year to four years and by a fine of from four hundred thousand to two million lek.”

Article 319/dh CC – Passive corruption of a local and foreign arbitrator

“Asking for or receiving, directly or indirectly, any kind of irregular benefit or such promise, for oneself or other persons, or acceptance of an offer or promise arising from the irregular benefit, by a local or foreign arbitrator to perform or not to perform an action related to his duty or function is punishable by imprisonment of from three to ten years and by a fine of from eight hundred thousand to four million lek.”

Article 319/e CC – Passive corruption of a member of a foreign jury

“Asking for or receiving, directly or indirectly, any kind of irregular benefit or such promise, for oneself or other persons, or accepting an offer or promise arising from the irregular benefit by a member of a foreign jury to perform or not to perform an action related to his duty or function is punishable by imprisonment of from three to ten years by a fine of from eight hundred thousand to four million lek.”

renewing the reservation relating to Article 17 of the Criminal Law Convention on Corruption (ETS 173).

21. The authorities of Albania stress that, pursuant to the draft amendments to the Criminal Code, a new paragraph will be added to Article 6 of the Criminal Code, according to which “*the requirement of dual criminality does not apply in cases of crimes of corruption in public or private sector, and in the case of exercising illegal influence*”. They add that they no longer request the Albanian Parliament to renew the reservation relating to Article 17 of the Criminal Law Convention on Corruption.
22. GRECO welcomes that this recommendation has not only been subject to scrutiny, but that draft amendments have been prepared to abolish the dual criminality requirement in respect of bribery and trading in influence offences which will, if adopted, strengthen Albania’s possibility to fight corruption committed abroad. It also welcomes the declaration by the Albanian authorities of their intention to no longer renew their reservation to Article 17 of the Criminal Law Convention, which expired on 1 January 2009.
23. GRECO concludes that recommendation iv has been implemented satisfactorily.

Recommendation v.

24. *GRECO recommended to ensure jurisdiction over all offences of public and private sector bribery and trading in influence committed abroad (i) by Albanian nationals, Albanian public officials or members of Albanian public assemblies; or (ii) involving Albanian public officials, members of Albanian public assemblies or officials of international organisations, members of international parliamentary assemblies or judges/officials of international courts with Albanian citizenship.*
25. The authorities of Albania indicate that the introduction by the draft amendments to the Criminal Code of new offences of bribery of foreign public officials, members of foreign public assemblies, officials of international organisations, members of international parliamentary assemblies, judges and officials of international courts, as well as foreign jurors and arbitrators (see paragraphs 9 and 13), combined with the abolition of the dual criminality requirement, will ensure Albanian jurisdiction over all categories of offences of public and private sector bribery and trading in influence committed abroad, as requested by the recommendation.
26. GRECO takes note of the information provided. As regards the first part of the recommendation, it accepts that the mentioned amendments to the Criminal Code will, if adopted, ensure jurisdiction of Albanian courts over bribery and passive trading in influence offences committed abroad by Albanian nationals. However, all the concerns expressed in the Evaluation Report (see paragraph 57) as regards this part of the recommendation are not lifted by the draft amendments. Article 6 of the Criminal Code, which establishes jurisdiction of Albanian courts over acts committed abroad by Albanian citizens still only applies to “*crimes*” and therefore excludes “*contraventions*” – *i.e.* offences for which the maximum sanctions are up to two years’ imprisonment, such as active bribery in the private sector or active trading in influence. While the draft amendments would increase the maximum sanction applicable to private sector bribery (see paragraph 17), which would accordingly become a crime, such is not the case for active trading in influence, which expressly figures in Article 245/1 CC as a “*criminal contravention*”, punishable by a maximum term of imprisonment of two years. Active trading in influence offences committed abroad by Albanian nationals would therefore remain out of the scope of jurisdiction of Albanian courts.

27. This concern also applies as regards the second part of the recommendation, since Article 7 CC, establishing the jurisdiction of Albanian courts over some offences committed by foreign citizens and involving Albanian nationals likewise refers to “*crimes*” and not “*contraventions*”. Offences of active trading in influence committed abroad and involving Albanian public officials, members of Albanian public assemblies or officials of international organisations, members of international parliamentary assemblies or judges/officials of international courts with Albanian citizenship would therefore remain out of the scope of jurisdiction of Albanian courts, all the more since the list of crimes mentioned in Article 7 CC as crimes against Albania or one of its citizens refers to “*crimes of active and passive corruption committed by persons exercising public duties/functions, as well as in the private sector*” and does not refer to the offence of trading in influence.
28. GRECO concludes that recommendation v has been partly implemented.

Theme II: Transparency of Party Funding

29. It was recalled that GRECO in its evaluation report addressed 7 recommendations to Albania in respect of Theme II.

Recommendation i.

30. *GRECO recommended to take appropriate measures to effectively implement the new provisions on election campaign funding contained in the 2008 Electoral Code, including for example the introduction of precise secondary legislation and of a standardised format for the auditing reports on campaign funding as well as the provision of guidance to political parties, and to assess the efficiency of the new provisions based on the collection of appropriate and detailed information and statistics.*
31. The authorities of Albania report, as regards the first part of the recommendation, that the Central Electoral Commission (hereafter CEC) adopted several instructions and decisions to implement the provisions on election campaign funding contained in the 2008 Electoral Code, namely Instruction No. 16 of 8 May 2009, establishing the rules and procedures for allocation and re-allocation of public funds to electoral subjects, Decision No. 266 of 1 June 2009 introducing models of donors’ declarations and of a register of donations and Instruction No.8 of 25 March 2009, setting up clear standards and procedures for the selection of licensed auditors by a drawing of lots system: 27 licensed auditors were subsequently selected and audited the funds received and spent by the electoral subjects for the 2009 parliamentary elections. Moreover, amendments to the law on political parties were adopted by the Parliament on 10 February 2011 and entered into force on 17 March 2011. These amendments, contained in Law No. 10374 “on some changes and addenda to Law No. 8580 on political parties” foresee among others the adoption by the CEC of a standardised format for auditing reports.
32. As regards the second part of the recommendation, the Albanian authorities state that the CEC assessed the provisions of part VII of the Electoral Code on Campaign and Election Financing on the basis of detailed information gathered from the political parties’ audit reports, contained in its 2009 Bulletin. Three round tables were also organised in 2010 and 2011 with political parties and civil society, in order to discuss the new provisions on election campaign funding. On the basis of this information, it was agreed that the new provisions of the Electoral Code had proven efficient and should serve as a model for the amendments to the law on political parties.

33. GRECO takes note of the information provided and welcomes the adoption by the CEC of decisions and instructions giving effect to the provisions of the Electoral Code on campaign financing in time for the 2009 parliamentary elections and that apparently resulted in a greater transparency and a degree of supervision over campaign financing. It also notes the measures taken to assess the efficiency of these new provisions and accepts that these measures are sufficiently meaningful to satisfy the requirements of the recommendation. However, considering the view expressed in the Evaluation Report (paragraph 69) that “the new transparency provisions would merit continuous evaluation of their functioning in practice” in order to guarantee their effective implementation, the Albanian authorities may wish to keep this issue under review.
34. GRECO concludes that recommendation i has been implemented satisfactorily.

Recommendation ii.

35. *GRECO recommended to take appropriate measures to ensure the implementation of the relevant provisions of the Electoral Code in such a way (i) that the lists of donations and of donors (in case of donations above a certain value as determined by the applicable regulations) are reported and published in an easily accessible manner within specified timeframes ; and (ii) that donations in kind are properly identified and evaluated and accounted for at their commercial value, both in the lists of donations and in the auditing reports.*
36. As regards the first part of the recommendation, the authorities of Albania report that, on the occasion of the campaign for the 2009 parliamentary elections, lists of donations and donors having contributed more than 100,000 ALL (about 800 EUR) to electoral subjects had been attached to the audit reports of those subjects and made public on the 2009 Assembly Election Bulletin and on the CEC website. They add that electoral subjects are obliged, under Article 90(2) of the Electoral Code, to deposit all donations above that amount received in cash on a special bank account, the number of which is reported to the CEC, which publishes it on its website.
37. Concerning the second part of the recommendations, the authorities state that the model register adopted by the CEC in its Decision No. 266 (see paragraph 31) foresees that donations in kind must also be declared. They are to be evaluated by the electoral subjects on the basis of a monthly price index published by INSTAT, the Institute of Statistics. In case the goods or services donated are not mentioned on the price index, they are to be evaluated on the basis of the market price at the time the donation was received.
38. GRECO takes note of the information reported, which meets the concerns raised by the recommendation.
39. GRECO concludes that recommendation ii has been implemented satisfactorily.

Recommendation iii.

40. *GRECO recommended to introduce a general ban on donations from donors whose identity is not known to the political party.*
41. The authorities of Albania report that the amendments to the Law No. 8580 on political parties, which were adopted by the Parliament on 10 February 2011, add to the law a new Article 23/1, of which paragraph 3 explicitly states that “receiving non-public funds donated by subjects who fail

to declare their identity, or whose identity is not clearly identified by the political party that is the beneficiary of the non-public fund, shall be prohibited”.

42. GRECO welcomes this change in the Law on political parties, which meets the expectations of the recommendation.

43. GRECO concludes that recommendation iii has been implemented satisfactorily.

Recommendation iv.

44. *GRECO recommended (i) to require that annual accounts of political parties provide detailed information on income (including a specification of each donation received and, in case of donations over a certain value, the identification of donors, as well as the indication of donations in kind, accounted for at their commercial value), expenditure, debts and assets and that they include – as appropriate – the accounts of entities related, directly or indirectly, to political parties or otherwise under their control; (ii) to introduce a standardised format and independent auditing of those party accounts by certified experts; and (iii) to ensure that those accounts are made easily accessible to the public, within timeframes specified by law.*

45. The authorities of Albania submit that, in order to comply with the first and second parts of the recommendation, Article 23 of the Law No. 8580 on political parties was amended in February 2011 to introduce an obligation for political parties to submit once per year to the CEC financial reports containing detailed information on their funding sources and on their expenses, based on standardised templates to be approved by the CEC. According to the same article, they also have to provide information on entities directly or indirectly linked to them or otherwise under their control. Further, they point out that Article 17 of the same law was also amended and now specifies that the funding sources of political parties are comprised of public funding, membership fees, assets and non-public funds, namely “*financial donations, donations in kind, services, sponsorships, loans or guarantees, as well as any other financial transaction*”. The identification of donors is foreseen by the above-mentioned new Article 23/1 of Law No. 8580 (see paragraph 41), which imposes upon the political parties an obligation to record the identity of donors, whatever the amount donated, and introduces an obligation to publish lists of donations and donors having contributed more than 100,000 ALL (about 800 EUR).

46. The authorities add, as regards the second part of the recommendation, that the February 2011 amendments to Law No. 8580 introduce a yearly independent auditing procedure of political parties accounts by certified experts, who are to be selected by the CEC through a competition at the beginning of each calendar year (Articles 23/2 and 23/3, Law No. 8580). The relevant procedure and timeframes are to be specified by the CEC by way of internal decisions and instructions and the CEC is currently in the process of drafting, with the assistance of Council of Europe experts within the PACA project (Project against Corruption in Albania), a standardised format for audit reports.

47. Finally, Article 23 of Law No. 8580, as amended, foresees that the political parties’ annual financial reports and audit reports shall be published on the CEC’s website no later than 30 days from the date of their submission by the political parties.

48. GRECO takes note of the information submitted and welcomes the amendments to Law No. 8580, which introduce a clear obligation upon political parties to submit detailed information on their annual resources and expenses, as required by the first part of the recommendation.

Implementation of the second part of the recommendation is also well under way, with the introduction of an external audit procedure by certified auditors and the drafting of a standardised format for audit reports. As this format has not yet been introduced, however, this part of the recommendation cannot yet be regarded as fully implemented. As regards the third part of the recommendation, GRECO notes with satisfaction that a requirement by the CEC to publish the political parties' annual and audit reports has been introduced by the amended Law No. 8580. Yet, a gap still remains as the Law does not specify a timeframe within which political parties have to submit their yearly report to the CEC, but rather allows the CEC to define this timeframe. GRECO takes the view that, in the interest of legal certainty and transparency, a clear deadline should be specified for the submission by political parties of yearly reports to the CEC and it therefore invites the Albanian authorities to fill in this gap.

49. GRECO concludes that recommendation iv has been partly implemented.

Recommendations v and vi.

50. *GRECO recommended*

to establish comprehensive supervision of the complete accounts of political parties, including structural funding from private sources (recommendation v)

to ensure that an independent mechanism is in place for the monitoring of the funding of political parties and electoral campaigns, and that it is given the mandate, the authority, as well as adequate resources to effectively and pro-actively supervise such funding, to investigate alleged infringements of political financing regulations and, as appropriate, to impose sanctions (recommendation vi).

51. The authorities of Albania report that the February 2011 amendments to Law No. 8580 give an overall mandate to the CEC to supervise and monitor the complete accounts of political parties, both as regards regular party finances and election campaign funding and to impose sanctions in case provisions of the law are infringed (Article 15/2 of Law No. 8580). This institution was preferred to the Supreme State Audit, which previously held competence in respect of the monitoring of public funds received by political parties, but had not carried out any actual supervision over political parties. The amendments to Law No. 8580 also gave to the CEC the same investigation powers over political parties' regular finances as those it already held over election campaign funding, namely the power to interview individuals, carry out inspections at the parties' offices and obtain information from the banks and other third persons (Article 23/2 of Law No. 8580). The financial implications of these amendments were accepted by the Ministry of Finance, subject to a detailed assessment of its budgetary needs by the CEC, to be carried out later this year.
52. GRECO notes with satisfaction that a single independent agency is now responsible for the overall and comprehensive supervision of political parties' finances and that it appears to possess an adequate mandate and sufficient powers of investigation. Although these new powers have not yet been accompanied by the actual granting of additional financial and personnel resources, GRECO acknowledges that the Ministry of Finance has agreed to provide them in due course..
53. GRECO concludes that recommendations v and vi have been implemented satisfactorily.

Recommendation vii.

54. *GRECO recommended to clearly define infringements of existing and yet to be established regulations on general party funding and to introduce effective, proportionate and dissuasive sanctions for these infringements.*
55. *The authorities of Albania stress that the February 2011 amendments to the law on political parties introduce in this law a new Article 23/4⁴, which sets out administrative sanctions, to be applied by the CEC, for the infringements of this law.*
56. *GRECO notes that administrative sanctions, ranging from fines to a suspension of public funding for up to five years were introduced in the law on political parties for violations of general party funding provisions and that they appear to be in line with the requirements of Article 16 of Recommendation Rec(2003)4. Although GRECO would have favoured a more specific wording of the sanction applicable to the persons in charge of the finances within the political parties, foreseen in the first paragraph of Article 23/4 of the Law on Political Parties, it accepts that all infringements of the law on political parties have been accompanied by adequate sanctions.*
57. *GRECO concludes that recommendation vii has been dealt with in a satisfactory manner.*

III. CONCLUSIONS

58. **In view of the above, GRECO concludes that Albania has implemented satisfactorily seven of the twelve recommendations contained in the Third Round Evaluation Report.** With respect to Theme I – Incriminations, recommendation iv has been implemented satisfactorily and recommendations i, ii, iii and v have been partly implemented. With respect to Theme II – Transparency of Party Funding, recommendations i, ii, iii, v and vi have been implemented satisfactorily, recommendation vii has been dealt with in a satisfactory manner and recommendation iv has been partly implemented.
59. In particular, concerning incriminations, Albania is in the process of preparing substantial amendments to the Criminal Law which, if adopted, will meet the concerns of most of GRECO's recommendations. GRECO regrets, however, that some ambiguities remain in the draft amendments as regards jurisdiction over bribery and trading in influence offences committed abroad and urges the Albanian authorities to take determined action to remove these ambiguities.

⁴ Article 23/4, Law on Political Parties:

"The infringement of the provisions of the funding of political parties by the person in charge of finances within the political party or the individual assigned by the party statute [to carry out this duty] shall be punishable by a fine of 50 000 to 100 000 ALL (about 400 to 800 EUR).

The infringement of the obligation of the political party to cooperate with the certified accounting expert assigned by the Central Election Commission shall be subject to a fine of 1 000 000 to 2 000 000 ALL (about 8 000 to 16 000 EUR).

Failure or refusal to make the financial sources of the party transparent or to allow the auditing by the certified accounting expert of Central Election Commission to take place shall be subject to a fine ranging from 2 000 000 to 5 000 000 ALL and a five year suspension to fund the political party (about 16 000 to 40 000 EUR).

The failure to submit the financial report within the established timeframe or the submission of reports which fail to comply with the standardized template approved by the Central Election Commission shall be subject to a fine of 50 000 to 100 000 ALL (about 400 to 800 EUR).

Non-public funds received by the political party, if the identity of the donor is unknown or not clearly defined, shall be passed on to the Central Election Commission.

Receipt of non-public funds in excess of one hundred thousand ALL and the failure to go through with the transaction through a bank account shall be subject to a fine of 30% of the donated amount."

60. Insofar as the transparency of political funding is concerned, significant efforts have been carried out to comply with nearly all the recommendations. New legislation is already in place to enhance the transparency of general party funding, including as regards donations and donors, to ensure comprehensive monitoring by the Central Electoral Commission over both the routine activities and the campaign funding of political parties and to define sanctions for the infringements of the financing rules contained in the law on political parties. GRECO expects that additional financial and personnel resources will soon be provided to the Central Electoral Commission to allow it to fulfil its new mandate. Some measures were also adopted to give effect to the provisions on campaign funding contained in the 2008 Electoral Code and to assess their efficiency. The preparation of a standardised format for political parties' audit reports is also well under way and GRECO is confident that this format will be adopted in due course in order to fully implement the remaining recommendation.
61. In the light of what has been stated in paragraphs 58 to 60, GRECO commends Albania for the substantial reforms carried out with regard to both themes under evaluation, and which show that, already at this stage, Albania complies with more than half of the recommendations issued in the Third Round Evaluation Report. It encourages Albania to pursue its efforts in order to implement the pending recommendations within the next 18 months. GRECO invites the Head of the delegation of Albania to submit additional information regarding the implementation of recommendations i-iii and v (Theme I – Incriminations) and recommendation iv (Theme II – Transparency of Party Funding) by 31 October 2012 at the latest.
62. Finally, GRECO invites the authorities of Albania to authorise, as soon as possible, the publication of the report, to translate the report into the national language and to make this translation public.