

**INFORMATION
FOR DEVELOPMENTS FOLLOWING
VIRTUAL TECHNICAL MEETING
UNDER THE RULE OF LAW MECHANISM**

Following the information already provided regarding question 8 and the steps taken or planned to fulfil the outstanding recommendations of GRECO as regards preventing corruption and promoting integrity in central governments (top executive functions), we inform you that the inter-departmental working group which has been formed in April 2025 to draft a **Law Amending and Supplementing the Law on Administration** and a **Code of Conduct for Public Office Holders in the Central Government** has held four meetings. As we previously noted the working group consists of heads of inspectorates, experts and representatives from the non-governmental sector, members of the Civil Council to the National Council on Anti-Corruption Policies - Bulgarian Institute for Legal Initiatives and Transparency International (Bulgaria).

The working group activity is related to GRECO's recommendations which are set out as measures under Priority “Ensuring the democratic rule of law and protecting parliamentary democracy - strengthening institutions and freeing them from corrupting influences by pursuing anti-corruption policies and reforms in the justice system, ensuring fair and free elections, upholding human rights standards and the international legal order”, in the Justice section of the Programme for governance of the Republic of Bulgaria 2025-2029.

The **draft Law Amending and Supplementing the Law on Administration** aims to ensure the functional independence of the inspectorates and their heads in order to enable the effective performance of their role in the prevention and detection of integrity-related violations and other irregularities within the relevant executive bodies, including where such irregularities may involve persons holding senior government positions.

With regard to the **Code of Conduct for Public Office Holders in the Central Government**, it is envisaged to contain among others clear guidelines on conflicts of interests, anticorruption behaviour and other integrity issues. The draft seeks to set out an appropriate sanctioning mechanism.

The working group should complete its work by 30 September 2025 and is well advanced in its task.

In addition the Chief Inspectorate initiated the process for collecting information for the implementation of measures set in the Strategy for Prevention and Countering Corruption and its Roadmap. In attachment you can find information for the years 2023 and 2024.