

GREECE

Strengthening specific aspects of the Rule of Law.

Measures taken by the Hellenic Republic to implement the Greek voluntary pledge.

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1. In January 2013 an overall national anti-corruption strategy was presented aiming to reinforce coordination and exchange of information between institutions, including via the appointment of a national coordinator and strengthen financial investigation and prosecution of corruption, particularly in high-risk sectors. In April 2013 law 4152/2013 established in Greece the institution of the National Anti-Corruption Coordinator and also provided for the setting-up of a national coordination committee, which covers all relevant public institutions and law enforcement bodies, as well as the Ombudsman and an advisory body (including civil society and international organizations). In May 2013 the Government appointed, for a term of five years, a national anti-corruption coordinator who reports to the Prime Minister and Parliament.

2. The implementation of the anti-corruption relative legislation has become a political priority in Greece. The penal code and the relative legislation has been harmonized to the recommendations of the international treaties related to anti-corruption fighting (GRECO, UN and OECD). Moreover, anti-corruption policies have become more visible in the political agenda in Greece.

3. Integrity in politics and in Judiciary is a very serious issue for Greece. Codes of conduct for the cabinet and the MPs have been conducted, offering an effective monitoring tool towards accountability at central level. While in the Judiciary, in addition to the pre-existent general prosecutor's office and the two specialized prosecution services relevant for the fight against corruption, the prosecution service in charge of economic crimes set up in 1987 and the prosecution service in charge of corruption offenses (set up in 2011), Greece has set up in the first half of 2013 additional specialized offices of the public prosecutor against corruption tasked with supervising and coordinating investigations of corruption. Two such specialized prosecution offices were established in Athens and Thessaloniki, the jurisdictions with the highest number of complex corruption cases. //