

**THEMATIC COMPILATION OF RELEVANT INFORMATION SUBMITTED
BY BULGARIA**

ARTICLE 7, PARAGRAPH 3 UNCAC

TRANSPARENCY IN FUNDING OF POLITICAL CANDIDATES AND PARTIES

BULGARIA (THIRD MEETING)

Paragraph 3 of article 7

3. Each State Party shall also consider taking appropriate **legislative** and **administrative measures**, consistent with the objectives of this Convention and in accordance with the fundamental principles of its domestic law, to **enhance transparency in the funding of candidatures for elected public office** and, where applicable, the **funding of political parties**.

- Has your country adopted and implemented the measures described above? (Check one answer)

(Y) Yes

Such measures are provided under the Law on the political parties (promulgated in SG 28/2005) and the Election code (promulgated in SG 9/2011)

- Have you ever assessed the effectiveness of the measures adopted to enhance transparency in the funding of candidatures for elected public office and, where applicable, the funding of political parties?

(Y) Yes

The political party financing was examined within the Third evaluation round of GRECO. The report on Bulgaria could be found on the Internet (bot on the pages of GRECO and the Bulgarian Ministry of justice).

The Bulgarian authorities have already taken on board most of the recommendations of the GRECO report in this regard while elaborating the new *Election Code*, adopted on 19 January 2011 (promulgated in the State Gazette, No. 9 of 28 January 2011). More specifically, Chapter 8 of the *Election Code* reflects the following 11 recommendations in the GRECO report:

- clarify the ban on fundraising events,
- improved accountability of beneficiaries in financing election campaigns by third persons;
- adequate use of the banking system for revenues and expenditures, including introducing the requirement for bank account to service the election campaign;
- detailed regulation of permissible revenues and expenditures in election campaigns;

- a clear ban on donations by legal persons in election campaigns for all types of elections;
- a clear requirement for providing accounts for all revenues and expenditures related to election campaign;
- a common obligation to publish in a timely manner the financial reports of election campaign;
- clear criteria on the use of public means for purposes of election campaigns;
- rules for preservation of the financial reports of elections campaigns;
- ensuring subsequent control over financing of election campaigns and respective clear responsibility of the Auditing Authority; and
- additional sanctions for violations of the rules for financing election campaigns, including with regard to physical persons.

Currently, competent bodies and experts in the National Assembly are studying possibilities for additional legislative changes to achieve even greater transparency in the area of financing of political parties, including through amendments to the *Law on Political Parties*.

The Bulgarian authorities will present their report on the implementation of all recommendations included in the third GRECO report as required, by 20 April 2012.