



**Doc. 14610**

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## The role of Azerbaijan in the corruption scandal at the Parliamentary Assembly

**Reply to Written question<sup>1</sup>:** Written question No. 730 (Doc. 14551)  
Committee of Ministers

1. The Committee of Ministers considers that corruption in all its forms is unacceptable and poses a major threat to the core values defended by the Council of Europe, in particular the rule of law. The fight against corruption is therefore a high priority for the Organisation. It is also the main priority of the Croatian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers, which will organise, in co-operation with the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO), a high-level conference on “Strengthening transparency and responsibility aimed at prevention of corruption”, on 15-16 October 2018, in Šibenik (Croatia).

2. On 20 June 2018, the Committee of Ministers adopted its reply to [Recommendation 2128 \(2018\)](#) of the Parliamentary Assembly on the “Follow-up to the report of the Independent Investigation Body on the allegations of corruption within the Parliamentary Assembly”, in which it concurred with the Assembly that all member States should take appropriate action against corruption practices. It also informed the Assembly that GRECO would take the findings of the Independent Investigation Body’s report into account in its monitoring of the member States mentioned in the report. In this respect, GRECO decided at its last plenary meeting (18-22 June 2018) to ask the Azerbaijan delegation to provide additional, supplementary information on the prevention of corruption of members of parliament in the framework of the ongoing Fourth Round compliance procedure. The delegation of Azerbaijan indicated to the Committee of Ministers its readiness and openness to pursue co-operation with GRECO in this context.

3. The Committee of Ministers reiterates that it is of utmost importance that the Organisation not only ensures the highest level of integrity in its activities but also ensures that its relevant rules and regulations are in line with the highest standards. It will continue to follow this matter closely.

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1. Adopted at the 1322<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Ministers’ Deputies (5 September 2018).

