

New GRECO Paper: Whistleblower Protection in Law Enforcement

Thomas Wahl



News

On 10 December 2025, GRECO published a [new thematic paper](#) that outlines GRECO's findings on and approach to whistleblower protection within the context of its Fifth Evaluation Round. The [Fifth Evaluation Round](#) focused on the prevention of corruption and the promotion of integrity within central governments (persons with top executive functions) and law enforcement agencies.

GRECO highlights that the significant role of whistleblowers in the fight against corruption, in both the public and the private sector, and notes that the Council of Europe has pioneered high standards of whistleblower protection. In the 5th evaluation round, GRECO dedicated a specific chapter to whistleblower protection in the police aiming at breaking the culture of "codes of silence" and promoting integrity within law enforcement agencies. The thematic paper presents a review of GRECO's findings in three areas:

- The legal framework for whistleblower protection;
- The provision of training, information and advice;
- The monitoring of whistleblower protection.

Another chapter spotlights examples of good or promising practices from member states that could inform future reforms.

Overall, GRECO found that important gaps remain although progress in whistleblower protection has been made in many member states. According to GRECO, the 5th round of evaluation called to mind that member states should address the following issues:

- Adequate rules on whistleblower protection;
- Clearer reporting channels;
- Strong safeguards against both direct and subtle forms of retaliation;
- Ensure strict confidentiality.

Several member states have been required by GRECO to review their legislation on whistleblower protection, with a view to strengthening its effectiveness. Many other countries were asked to prohibit reprisals within police services. Moreover, GRECO stressed the need to raise awareness, provide specialised training, and collect and monitor data to allow assessment of effectiveness.

Lastly, GRECO emphasised that it will continue to explore several issues relating to whistleblowing in the [6th Evaluation Round](#), which focuses on preventing corruption and promoting integrity at the sub-national level and launched in 2025.

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