

OECD Working Group on Bribery

Public Summary Record

Plenary Meeting
7-10 March 2023



Made up of representatives from the Parties to the Anti-Bribery Convention, the OECD Working Group on Bribery meets four times per year.

Country reports on implementation of the Anti-Bribery Convention and the 2021 Anti-Bribery Recommendation

The Working Group on Bribery (WGB):

- Considered Chile's Phase 4 additional follow-up report on its implementation of 18 outstanding recommendations. Concluded that there was a lack of progress on all but one of the recommendations and invited Chile to provide a follow-up report in March 2024.
- Considered Costa Rica's Phase 2 additional follow-up report on legislative steps taken to address 25 outstanding recommendations. Encouraged Costa Rica to continue advancing on the reforms and invited Costa Rica to provide a follow-up report in December 2023.
- Adopted [Denmark's Phase 4 report](#) and [press release](#), which were published on 16 March 2023. Whilst welcoming certain positive developments including Denmark securing its first foreign bribery conviction in 2019, the report notes that Denmark gives insufficient priority to preventing, detecting, and sanctioning foreign bribery. The report makes a range of recommendations to increase Denmark's capacity to prevent and combat foreign bribery. The Working Group invited Denmark to report back in March 2024 on its implementation of key recommendations and in March 2025 on all recommendations and its enforcement efforts.
- Considered Greece's Phase 4 additional follow-up report on its implementation of 8 outstanding recommendations and one follow-up issue. Encouraged Greece to pursue positive initiatives and urgently proceed with reforms.
- Considered [Iceland's Phase 4 two-year follow-up report](#). Concluded that Iceland has fully implemented 6 recommendations, partially implemented 19 recommendations, and not implemented 3 recommendations. Invited Iceland to continue reporting to the Working Group on its enforcement actions in its annual Tour de Table update.
- Considered Israel's Phase 3 additional follow-up report on its implementation of two key recommendations. Acknowledged steps taken to address these recommendations but noted that relevant legislation has not been passed. Invited Israel to provide a follow-up report in March 2024.
- Considered Japan's Phase 4 expedited written report on its efforts to address concerns about sanctions for natural and legal persons, jurisdiction over legal persons, and the statute of limitations for foreign bribery and welcomed progress in these areas. Invited Japan to provide a follow-up report in June 2023.
- Heard an overview of the technical mission to Japan in November 2022
- Considered Korea's Phase 4 expedited written report on recent reforms of its Prosecution Service Act and Criminal Procedure Act. Concluded that despite its efforts to minimise possible negative effects of the reforms, Korea's capacity to investigate and prosecute foreign bribery cases may nevertheless be weakened. Invited Korea to report back in June 2023.
- Considered [Slovenia's Phase 4 two-year follow-up report](#). Concluded that Slovenia has partially implemented 12 recommendations and not implemented 19 recommendations. Invited Slovenia to provide a follow-up report in March 2024.

Ongoing and future WGB projects and events

The WGB:

- Heard preliminary remarks from incoming Chair, Daniëlle Goudriaan.
- Considered a note prepared by the Secretariat on the WGB's Programme of Work and Budget in light of budgetary pressures facing the WGB.
- Adopted the revised Phase 4 General Questionnaire, amended to reflect the 2021 Anti-Bribery Recommendation.
- Considered a discussion paper on the implementation of paragraph 60 of the Phase 4 procedures.
- Adopted a reference document prepared by the Secretariat on the due diligence warning procedure.
- Discussed reforms to the WGB's enforcement data methodology.
- Discussed the impact of data protection regulations on the WGB's work.
- Heard a presentation by the informal sub-group on the compilation of Phase 4 good practices and achievements.
- Heard the Secretariat present the Working Group's Global Relations Strategic Directions 2023-24.
- Considered a full assessment report on Romania's and Croatia's requests to accede to the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention. Agreed that Romania met the accession criteria and decided to invite Romania to become an Associate of the WGB and to accede to the Convention. Decided to reconsider Croatia's accession request in October 2023.

Reports from other OECD bodies, invitee countries and international organisations

The WGB:

- Heard the OECD Secretariat and Italy, as co-chairs with India of the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG) report on developments concerning the first ACWG meeting under India's G20 Presidency.
- Heard that Mauritius and Ukraine were respectively granted Participant status in the WGB on 25 and 28 February 2023.
- Heard that Saudi Arabia was granted an exceptional one-year extension of its Participant status until February 2024.
- Heard representatives of the EPPO, FATF, UNODC and World Bank provide updates on ongoing work.
- Heard a representative of Transparency International address WGB questions concerning the methodology of Transparency International's *Exporting Corruption* reports.

Tour de table

The WGB:

- Heard updates provided by Costa Rica, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Korea, Spain, and the United States on steps taken to implement and enforce the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention.