

Recalling in this respect the importance of the participation of non-member States in the Council of Europe's activities against corruption and welcoming their valuable contribution to the implementation of the Programme of Action against Corruption;

Further recalling that Resolution No. 1 adopted by the European Ministers of Justice at their 21st Conference (Prague, 1997) recommended the speedy implementation of the Programme of Action against Corruption, and called, in particular, for the early adoption of a criminal law convention providing for the co-ordinated incrimination of corruption offences, enhanced co-operation for the prosecution of such offences as well as an effective follow-up mechanism open to member States and non-member States on an equal footing;

Bearing in mind that the Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe decided, on the occasion of their Second Summit held in Strasbourg on 10 and 11 October 1997, to seek common responses to the challenges posed by the growth in corruption and adopted an Action Plan which, in order to promote co-operation in the fight against corruption, including its links with organised crime and money laundering, instructed the Committee of Ministers, *inter alia*, to secure the rapid completion of international legal instruments pursuant to the Programme of Action against Corruption;

Considering moreover that Resolution (97) 24 on the 20 Guiding Principles for the Fight against Corruption, adopted on 6 November 1997 by the Committee of Ministers at its 101st Session, stresses the need rapidly to complete the elaboration of international legal instruments pursuant to the Programme of Action against Corruption;

In view of the adoption by the Committee of Ministers, at its 102nd Session on 4 May 1998, of Resolution (98) 7 authorising the partial and enlarged agreement establishing the "Group of States against Corruption – GRECO", which aims at improving the capacity of its members to fight corruption by following up compliance with their undertakings in this field,

der i den forbindelse understreger vigtigheden af, at ikke-medlemsstater deltager i Europarådets tiltag mod korruption, og værdsætter deres betydningsfulde bidrag til udmøntningen af handelsplanen mod korruption,

der endvidere minder om, at beslutning nr. 1 vedtaget af de europæiske justitsministre på deres 21. konference (Prag, 1997) opfordrede til en hurtig udmøntning af handlingsplanen mod korruption og i særdeleshed en fremskyndet vedtagelse af en strafferetskonvention, der samordner kriminalisering af korruption, styrker samarbejdet om strafforfølgning heraf og sikre en effektiv opfølgningsmekanisme, der kan benyttes af medlemsstater og ikke-medlemsstater på lige fod,

der erindrer om, at Europarådets stats- og regeringschefer på deres andet topmøde i Strasbourg den 10. og 11. oktober 1997 besluttede at søge fælles løsninger på de udfordringer, som den tiltagende korruption afstedkommer, og vedtog en handlingsplan, der med henblik på at fremme samarbejdet om bekæmpelse af korruption, herunder forbindelsen til organiseret kriminalitet og hvidvaskning af penge, bl.a. pålagde Ministerkomitéen at sikre, at der hurtigt udarbejdes internationale retsakter i overensstemmelse med handlingsplanen mod korruption,

der yderligere tager i betragtning, at beslutning nr. (97) 24 om de 20 vejledende retningslinier for bekæmpelse af korruption vedtaget på Ministerkomitéens 101. møde den 6. november 1997 understreger behovet for hurtigt at udarbejde internationale retsakter i overensstemmelse med handlingsplanen mod korruption,

på baggrund af, at Ministerkomitéen på sit 102. møde den 4. maj 1998 vedtog beslutning nr. (98) 7 om godkendelse af den partielle og udvidede aftale om oprettelse af »Sammenslutningen af Stater mod Korruption – GRECO«, som sigter på at forbedre medlemmernes mulighed for at bekæmpe korruption ved at følge op på overholddelsen af de forpligtelser, som medlemmerne har påtaget sig på dette område,