



Strasbourg, le 9 mai 2016

Représentation Permanente
de la Belgique
auprès du Conseil de l'Europe

N°44

Monsieur Thorbjørn Jagland
Secrétaire Général
Conseil de l'Europe
67000 Strasbourg

Concerne: Conseil de l'Europe – Réaction de la Belgique concernant les plaintes sur la Plateforme pour renforcer la protection du journalisme et la sécurité des journalistes – cas BDW (Brussel Deze Week – Brussels this week).

Monsieur le Secrétaire Général,

En complément de ma lettre du 29 avril 2016, je vous prie de trouver ci-dessous la réaction officielle des autorités flamandes suite à la plainte sur la plateforme internet de protection de journalistes concernant le cas de BDW (Brussel Deze Week – Brussels this week) et de sa rédactrice en chef Mme Anne Brumagne.

Quote

Council of Europe: Anne Brumagne's dismissal reported to the Platform for the Protection of Journalists
Response from the Flemish Community

Dear Mr Secretary-General,

The Flemish Community has given its full support to the establishment of the "*Platform to promote the protection of Journalism and safety of journalists*" by the Council of Europe. The free press is without question an elementary cornerstone of our democracy. This implies that the media are able to do their job in safety, and that threats and violence against journalists are appropriately dealt with.

In response to the message posted on the Platform regarding the dismissal of the editor of *Brussel Deze Week* (Brussels This week), the Flemish Community would like to go on record and make it clear that none of the competent ministers interceded in this dismissal in any way.

The dismissal of editor Anne Brumagne was an independent decision taken by the VBM not-for-profit organisation. The minister has no jurisdiction in this matter. Interceding in VBM's personnel matters would go against the principles of the independent operation of a

subsidised media company. Similarly, it goes without saying that the minister is not qualified to reappoint Anne Brumagne either, as the case may be.

Pursuant to the Media Decree, radio and television broadcasting stations are required to have an editorial charter in place. The government has consistently advocated the implementation of an editorial charter. It is up to the independent editorial offices to take the initiative in this. In the interim, such a charter has been prepared by the new Vlaams-Brusselse Media organisation.

unquote

Je vous prie d'agréer, Monsieur le Secrétaire Général, l'assurance de ma haute considération.



Mattias Creffier
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of two overlapping circles at the top and a stylized line below them. Below the signature, the name "Mattias Creffier" is written in a standard font, followed by "Chargé d'Affaires a.i." in a smaller font.

Copie : M. Matjaz Gruden, Directeur de la planification politique