

Council of Europe
The Secretary General

Strasbourg, 29 April 2016

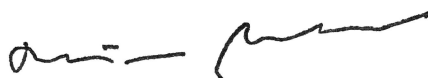
Dear Prime Minister,

I welcome the commitment of your Government to continue its efforts in order to preserve and enhance free, independent and pluralistic media as expressed in the response of your authorities to the alert posted on 24 March on the Council of Europe's Platform to promote the protection of journalism and safety of journalists.

The alert, submitted jointly by four NGO partners of the Council of Europe – the European Federation of Journalists, the International Federation of Journalists, Index on Censorship and the Committee to Protect Journalists – expressed concerns about political pressure on the Croatian public broadcaster and broadcast regulator. The response of your government reflects the understanding of the importance of the independence of the public broadcaster and of the broadcast regulator as key elements to ensure media pluralism and freedom. It is now essential to ensure that adequate safeguards – in law and in practice – exist against political bias in the domestic procedures for nomination, appointment, tenure and protection against illegal dismissal with regard to key positions within these bodies.

Against this background, I am offering Council of Europe expertise in ensuring that these adequate safeguards are duly enshrined in domestic law and implemented in practice.

Yours sincerely,



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