

**Official response of the Government of Poland to the alert submitted to the Platform to promote the protection of journalism and safety of journalists on 31 December 2015 entitled “Polish journalists targeted in Police wiretapping”**

*In response to the media alert on the Council of Europe Platform to promote the protection of journalism and safety of journalists entitled: “Polish Journalists Targeted in Police Wiretapping, Audit Reveals”, the Government of the Republic of Poland would like to reiterate its firm commitment to principles and values of the Council of Europe. This very approach made the current Government of the Republic of Poland to pay utmost attention to the issue of protection of the freedom of opinion and expression while preparing audit of the former government activity. Poland believes that the promotion of free, pluralistic and independent media and the safety of journalists are a cornerstone of the rule of law, democracy and good governance.*

*Taking into consideration that the right to freedom of expression offline and online as well as principle of openness and transparency of governmental action are the foundations of democratic society, the Government of Poland has informed the public opinion about the evidences of conversations’ recordings of around 80 individuals in Poland, including several journalists, ordered by the previous Government in 2014-2015. Therefore the current Government has initiated relevant procedures in order to thoroughly explain the allegations and hold those who abused their powers accountable.*

*The cases of wiretapping are being currently investigated by the relevant Polish authorities. In the course of the independent proceeding conducted by the Regional Prosecutor’s Office in Warsaw, various aspects and circumstances of the case are being examined.*

*We would like to assure you that as soon as the findings of the Prosecutor’s investigation are revealed, we will transmit the outcome to the Council of Europe.*