

**Statement of the Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic to the Council of Europe to the alert submitted to the Platform to promote the protection of journalism and safety of journalists on 4 April 2018 entitled „ Slovak Journalist Gets a Suspended Sentence for Defamation“**

With regard to the case of the Slovak journalist Lukáš Milan the Slovak Republic would like to draw attention to the fact that a verdict was delivered in the form of the criminal order. This type of judgment is one of several options of criminal proceeding conclusion and its goal is to make a court proceeding faster and more effective. In case of disagreement with this type of judgment, the defendant has a right to lodge an objection. If the defendant does so the criminal order is revoked and the court shall order a public hearing. This was also the case of Mr Lukáš Milan. The public hearing in respect of Mr Lukáš Milan shall be held in May this year.

To conclude the Slovak Republic would like to express a full readiness to provide any further information as regards the development of the case concerned.