



PERMANENT REPRESENTATION OF GREECE
TO THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

The Permanent Representative

Strasbourg, April 20th, 2016
F. 6686/31/AS 445

Dear Secretary General, *Dear Secretary General*

Further to your informative remarks during the Committee of Ministers' session on 10th September 2015 and onwards with regard to the establishment of the CoE Platform for the Protection of Journalism and Safety of Journalists, as well as your specific suggestions to the CoE member states as to "submit timely and comprehensive responses, where an alert concern our country, so that they can also be published", I would like to forward herewith the pertinent responses on behalf of the competent Greek Authorities upon three specific complaints against Greece, which have been posted to the aforementioned Platform.

In view, also, of your valuable observation during the said CoE session that possible replies of the countries on the complaints against them, shall be also published, considering that "this is the best way to make sure all points of view are represented", I would also like to kindly ask you as for the said three replies of my country to be timely published in the Platform.

While remaining convinced that the attached document moves to the right direction in terms of content and concurrently builds upon your previous, relevant, suggestions and observations in this crucial for the function of democracy field of human rights, like the safety of journalism, I would like once more to avail myself of this opportunity in reassuring

my Government's constant and sincere will for a deep and fruitful cooperation with all the organs and mechanisms of this Organization.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Stelios Perrakis', written over a vertical line that extends downwards through the name.

Professor Stelios Perrakis

Ambassador

To: H.E. Mr. Thorbjorn Jagland

Secretary General

Council of Europe

**SUBJECT: Newly-established Council of Europe On-Line Platform
for the protection of journalism and safety of journalists.
Complaints against our Country.**

With regard to three complaints against our Country posted to the Council of Europe On-Line Platform for the protection of journalism and safety of journalists, we would like to inform you of the following:

**1) Injury of journalist Manolis Kypraios – 2 April 2015 (“Police Assault
Against a Photographer in Greece”)**

A Preliminary Administrative Inquiry (PDE) was ordered by the Hellenic Police to investigate the incident following complaints that the injury was caused by a stun grenade thrown by police officers.

During investigation, the Preliminary Administrative Inquiry was converted into a Sworn Administrative Inquiry (EDE), which was completed **offering no evidence to substantiate disciplinary offences committed by police officers.**

As far as the criminal investigation of the case is concerned, upon an order by the Head of the Public Prosecutor’s Office at the First Instance Court of Athens, an *ex officio* preliminary investigation was carried out and criminal proceedings were initiated (on 25-11-2011) against unknown perpetrators on charges of intentional infliction of grievous bodily harm. The relevant case-file was forwarded to the 3rd Regular Investigating Judge of Athens. **The case is pending in the main investigation phase.**

The competent service of the Hellenic Police is monitoring the case and the progress of the criminal investigation, **with a view to reopening the disciplinary case if the criminal investigation offers new inculpatory evidence or leads to an irrevocable conviction against a police officer.**

Moreover, Mr. Kypraios initiated a lawsuit against the Greek State (on 1-8-2011) seeking compensation, which is still pending in court. However, following a decision imposing interim measures, **the journalist has already received preliminary compensation.**

