

**Official response of the Government of the Slovak Republic to the alert submitted  
to the Platform to promote the protection of journalism and safety of journalists on 25  
November 2016 entitled „Slovakia´s Prime Minister uses Offensive Language towards  
Journalists  
at a Press Conference“**

The Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic does not see the reason to apologize to some Slovak journalists whose way of informing about and of evaluation of events in Slovakia is in contradiction with principles of a transparent journalism. The Prime Minister is aware and fully respects the irreplaceable role of free media in the system of a democratic society. It is not a coincidence that the Slovak Republic is on 12th place in the freedom of media in the world. It is then obvious that the Government of M. Robert Fico respects independent status of media and has never adopted any measures which would limit this freedom.

The expressions which the Prime Minister has used concerning some journalists – it was not thus a general position as it was purposely misinterpreted – could be seen as an appeal for a self-reflection. Despite the fact that there have been published SMS messages which clearly proved the coordination of the particular interests of some politicians with the acts of some journalists, there was no self-reflection on the side of journalists. At the same time, professional associations were equally silent including those which are today making appeals to the Prime Minister to apologize. The only organization, which addressed the critical state of the Slovak journalism after the publishing of the communication between the opposition politicians and some Slovak journalists, was the Transparency International Slovakia which has appealed for self-reflection of the Slovak journalists (the evaluation of the situation concerning the situation of the Slovak journalism is available on the website of Transparency International Slovakia, in category of blogs, after publishing of the above-standard SMS communication of some of Slovak journalists with an opposition politician. The title of the blog is “What have we learned from the Kočner SMS about our journalists“).

The Prime Minister is convinced that the political life in Slovakia needs honest journalists. Those who are critical, free, who are addressing in fair and balanced manner all politicians. The Prime Minister expresses his hope that the Slovak journalism will proceed to its own self-reflection and will draw the consequences from its moral failure.