

Comment on the statement on data protection attached to this alert as an additional information

We believe the Council of Europe “Platform to promote the protection of journalism and safety of journalists” shall not go beyond its remits and should avoid providing a room for irrelevant manipulations.

Nevertheless, we would like to communicate the following:

Within the response to COVID-19 pandemic, Armenia made limitations to the Article 15 of the Convention and our international partners, including Council of Europe Secretary General are duly informed about it.

With regards to the Law on Making Supplements to the Law on the Legal Regime of State of Emergency and respective Government Decision, it should be noted that this regulation is obviously provisional and is limited by the period of the state of emergency.

The Law envisages the following additional guarantees:

- all the data collected for this aim during the state of emergency either depersonalized or personalized will be destroyed in a prescribed manner and should not be kept;
- control over the process of destroying data will be carried out by the Parliament with participation of all parliamentary factions;
- any breach of the rules set for the collection and processing of personal data, as well as for destroying the data after the emergency shall entail a criminal liability.

We are in contact with relevant Council of Europe bodies, dealing with data protection and actively cooperating in this field.