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**Council of Europe Platform to promote the protection of journalism and safety of
journalists – alert No. 39/2023 – response by the Austrian authorities**

Strasbourg, 12.04.2023

Dear Director Gruden,

With reference to alert no. 39/2023 titled “*Bellingcat Director Christo Grozev Forced to Relocate from Austria Following Security Threat*”, published on the website of *the Platform to promote the protection of journalism and safety of journalists* on 16 February 2023, I have the honour to transmit herewith the response by the competent Austrian authorities:

“The Republic of Austria attaches particular importance to the unrestricted exercise of journalistic activity and the guarantee of freedom of the press. The exercise of fundamental rights and freedoms is ensured by the Austrian security authorities in fulfilment of the tasks assigned to them by law.

With regard to the subject matter, Austria would like to reiterate that the Austrian security authorities are aware of the facts mentioned. The responsible security services have taken the necessary steps and the measures deemed appropriate since the situation arose. For reasons of security, it is not possible to provide more detailed information.”

I should be grateful for this response to be made public on the Platform website.

Sincerely,

Aloisia Wörgetter
Permanent Representative of Austria to the Council of Europe
Electronic signature

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