

Ref: POL/0049/2018

Strasbourg, November 15th, 2018

Dear Mr. Gruden,

Dear Matjaz,

In reply to the alert on the Platform to promote the protection of journalism and safety of journalists from 25 September 2018 with regard to Austria, I would like to forward the following statement of the Austrian Federal Government:

The Austrian Federal President, Mr. Alexander van der Bellen, and the Austrian Federal Chancellor, Mr. Sebastian Kurz, in their reactions made it clear, that any restrictions on press freedom are unacceptable and that any discrimination or the exclusion or boycott of selected media outlets must not occur and is not permitted in Austria.

The freedom of expression and freedom of the media have been longstanding priorities of Austria's domestic and foreign politics. The Austrian Federal Government will continue its strong support for these fundamental freedoms and will in particular honour relevant commitments made in the context of the international organisations including the Council of Europe.

We remain at your disposal for any further clarification or exchange on this issue.

Yours sincerely,

Gerhard Jandl

Ambassador Gerhard Jandl
(Permanent Representative)

Mr. Matjaz Gruden
Director of Democratic Participation
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