



PERMANENT REPRESENTATION OF GREECE  
TO THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

*The Permanent Representative*

Strasbourg, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017  
F. 6686/AS 488

Dear Secretary General,

Further to your informative remarks during the Committee of Ministers' session on 10<sup>th</sup> 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 response on behalf of the competent Greek Authorities upon an incident concerning the arrest of a Greek journalist on libel charges, which has been posted to the aforementioned Platform on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2017. Furthermore, I would like to kindly ask you as for the said reply of my country to be timely published in the Platform.

While seizing that opportunity to extend to you my wholehearted gratitude for your sincere and truthful cooperation with the Greek Authorities, I would like once more to renew my Government's unwavering commitment to the challenging mandates of the organs and mechanisms of this Organization.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Stelios Perrakis

Ambassador

To: H.E. Mr. Thorbjorn Jagland

Secretary General

Council of Europe



**HELLENIC REPUBLIC  
MINISTRY OF CITIZENS' PROTECTION  
HELLENIC POLICE**

As regards the incident in question, we would like to inform you that the Hellenic Police acted in full compliance with the Greek law and judicial orders.

More specifically, on 09.04.2017, Ms. Stavroula Nikolopoulou filed a complaint for libel against Mr. Konstantinos Vaxevanis at the Police Station of Kallithea.

The Head of the Prosecution Department of the Public Prosecutor's Office at the Athens Court of First Instance was immediately informed of the case.

The Prosecutor considered the offence as "libel committed through the press" and ordered the arrest of the journalist.

On 10.04.2017, Mr. Vaxevanis presented himself voluntarily at the Police Station of Kallithea and, following this, he was taken to the Public Prosecutor at the Athens Court of First Instance.