

To the attention of Matjaž GRUDEN

Dear Mr Gruden,

In response to the alert with regard to Hungary that has been submitted to the Platform for the Promotion of the Protection of Journalism and Safety of Journalist concerning the New Pro-Government Media Conglomerate, I would like to convey the following information received from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary:

“As it has been emphasized many times, the Hungarian media market represents various viewpoints, anyone who watches different channels or reads the newspapers and the online news portals can witness that – the most watched Hungarian TV channel or the most read internet site are all extremely critical towards the government. The Hungarian press is more diverse than in many Western European countries. The Act on the Prohibition of Unfair Market Practices and Restriction of Competition allows the government to proclaim certain corporate mergers’ strategic importance at national level. So far the government has taken such a decision 21 times, the fusion of the Central European Press and Media Foundation is the 22nd one. The prime justification of the government's decision is to ensure the future existence of print media in Hungary and the long-term survival of local, especially county forums.”

Yours sincerely,

Agnes Kertész
Ambassador