

Ref: CommHR/DM/sf 30-2020

Prime Minister Janez JANŠA
Republic of Slovenia

Strasbourg, 7 December 2020

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing to you concerning the recent announcement by the Government Communications Office of Slovenia that public funding of the Slovenian Press Agency (STA) has been suspended. As part of my mandate, I pay particular attention to the promotion and respect of media freedom in all Council of Europe member states. This event appears to be one of the various incidents reported to me that point to a worsening of the working environment for journalists and media outlets in Slovenia over recent months. As you know, the STA was founded in 1991 and it became a well-respected outlet, including at international level. It maintains high standards of journalism and delivers a valuable public service by providing reliable information to the people of Slovenia.

The Republic of Slovenia, as the founder and owner of the STA, provides a major share of the agency's finances through state budget subsidies for its public service activities. I am worried therefore that the suspension of public funding may seriously hamper the STA's work, possibly even jeopardising its continued operation.

I trust you would agree that well-funded and robust public service media are an essential element of a democratic society. I am therefore kindly asking you to use your authority as Prime Minister to ensure that the decision to suspend public funding for the STA is promptly reversed.

I look forward to continuing constructive dialogue with you on this and other issues.

Yours sincerely,



Dunja Mijatović