



PERMANENT REPRESENTATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
MALTA TO THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Strasbourg, 20 September 2021

Dear Mr Director,

I am pleased to enclose herewith the reply received from the Maltese authorities concerning the Alert 162/2021 submitted to the Platform to Promote the Protection of Journalism and Safety of Journalists on 31 August 2021.

In accordance with the procedure, I kindly ask you to upload it to the Platform.

Please accept, Mr Director, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Lorenzo Vella

Encl: Response of Maltese Authorities

Matjaž Gruden  
Director  
Directorate of Democratic Participation  
Council of Europe

Reference is being made to the spoofing attempts, recently undertaken in Malta, intended to generate online content that is specifically designed to deceive the public.

In line with the press statement issued by the Office of the Prime Minister on 30 August 2021, the Maltese Government not only expresses its concern over said generated articles, but fully condemns said acts as being acts that have no place in society.

Whilst the Police continue their investigations, the Prime Minister has also asked the National Cybersecurity Committee to come up with proposals on how to step up the fight against such acts.

It is also worth noting the fact that the Prime Minister of Malta himself was also the victim of a similar attempt on 15 August 2021, when emails were sent to journalists on his behalf – a matter that was immediately reported to the Malta Information and Technology Agency (MITA).

The Maltese Authorities will keep the Council of Europe Platform to Promote the Protection of Journalism and Safety of Journalists updated on the developments of the case.