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By e-transmission only

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Date 15-11-2019
Concerning Reply of the Kingdom of the Netherlands concerning an Alert on the Journalist platform of the Council of Europe (coercive detention of a journalist)

Dear Mr. Gruden,

Our Ambassador to the Council of Europe duly notified to us the alert inserted to the Platform on 28 October 2019 on the coercive detention of NOS reporter Robert Bas. We herewith would like to take the opportunity to respond to it.

Please allow me to refer to the letter sent by the Minister of Justice and Security, Ferd Grapperhaus, to the President of the House of Representatives on 29 October 2019 concerning the coercive detention of the journalist Robert Bas for failure to comply with a judicial order. The letter is a non-official translation of the Dutch version.

After being held in coercive detention for a period of 30 hours, Robert Bas was released on 25 October 2019. The court of Rotterdam ruled that Robert Bas had the right to refuse to give evidence regarding questions which would force him to reveal information about his sources (ECLI:NL:RBROT:2019:8376).

I hope that the information satisfies your concerns on this matter.

Yours sincerely,



R. Huijser
Director of the Directorate of European and International Affairs