

Response provided by the Secretariat General for Communication and Media (SG-COMM) of the Presidency of the Hellenic Government to alert No 295/2025, uploaded on the Platform for the protection of journalism and safety of journalists.

Freedom of expression and freedom of the press are guaranteed under Article 14 of the Greek Constitution. The operation of the press is central to our democratic constitution and the Constitution wisely and accurately describes the terms and conditions of its operation, for the protection of the press and the Government, and stipulates that the manner of protection is further defined by a relevant law. In addition, the editorial independence, autonomy and dignity of journalists are further ensured in public and private media by Codes of Conduct for the journalistic profession.

Government spokesman Pavlos Marinakis has unequivocally condemned the attack against the journalist Panagiotis Rigopoulos from the very first day and urged all political parties to condemn the attack.

In alignment with Commission Recommendation (EU) 2021/1534 on ensuring the protection, safety and empowerment of journalists and other media professionals in the European Union, and Recommendation (CoR) CM/Rec (2016)4 of the Committee of Ministers to Member States on the protection of journalism and the safety of journalists and other media professionals in the European Union, and Recommendation (CoR) CM/Rec (2016)4 of the Committee of Ministers to Member States on the protection of journalism and the safety of journalists and other media professionals, a Task Force on the Protection, Safety and Empowerment of Journalists and Media Professionals was created in July 2022, on the basis of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), at the initiative of the Secretariat General for Communication and Media (SGCOMM) of the Presidency of the Hellenic Government and with the participation of five other ministries. The Task Force renewed its mandate for the fourth consecutive year, while adding representatives from two new institutions, in order to further enhance its structure and role: (1) the Hellenic Coastguard and the (2) National Cybersecurity Authority (Government Gazette B' 6728/2025).

Under Law no 5253/2025 (Government Gazette A' 212) entitled "Modernization of the legal framework for the organization and operation of the "Hellenic Radio and Television Company (ERT)" and strengthening its public character and its competitiveness in the media market –Adoption of measures for the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2024/1083 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 April 2024 establishing a common framework for media services in the internal market and amending Directive 2010/13/EU (European Media Freedom Act)", new competencies were introduced for the Task Force. More specifically, a National Action Plan for the Safety of Journalists is foreseen, with clear timelines, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. This Plan will be shaped with the valuable contribution of the Task Force, ensuring a coherent strategy for the implementation of reforms and the delivery of concrete results.

Furthermore, a new training module is now included in the educational program of the Police Academy, focusing on freedom of expression, freedom of the press and the safety of journalists, in the context of the continuous training of the Greek police and on issues of fundamental rights protection. This initiative entitled "Freedom of expression and information - Freedom of the Press," is implemented within the framework of cooperation between the police, UNESCO and the International Training Center for the Safety of Journalists and Media professionals (ICSJ) based in Thessaloniki, Greece. The module includes subjects such as the role of journalism as a pillar of democracy, hate speech as a restriction of freedom of expression, as well as protection against the dissemination of fake news. In addition, lectures are organized with the participation

of representatives of the journalistic community and police officers, of cultivating mutual understanding and developing collaborative practices that will contribute to the protection of rights, to strengthening trust and interaction between the police and the media.

Response provided by the Ministry of Citizen Protection of the Hellenic Republic and the Hellenic Police Headquarters to the alert No. 295/2025 uploaded on the Platform for the protection of journalism and safety of journalists.

Subject: “Alert on the Council of Europe Platform for the Protection of Journalism and Safety of Journalists regarding an assault against journalist Panagiotis Rigopoulos while covering strike demonstrations in Patras (on 14.10.2025)”.

In relation to the case in question, a case file was drawn up by the Patras Criminal Investigation Sub-Directorate against one (1) Greek national and approximately thirty (30) unknown perpetrators for violation of Articles 330, 334, 309, 378, 361 and 333 of the Greek Penal Code ("Unlawful Violence", "Disturbance of Domestic Peace", "Dangerous Bodily Harm", "Damage to the Property of Another Person", "Insult" and "Threat"). The case file was submitted to the Public Prosecutor at the Court of First Instance of Achaia on 27.10.2025."