

**Information provided by the Romanian authorities in response to the alert
submitted to the Council of Europe's Platform to Promote the Protection of
Journalism and Safety of Journalists regarding AGERPRES**

Following the alert on October 9th, 2017 regarding the Romanian draft legislation concerning the National News Agency AGERPRES, we would like to bring to your attention some clarifications in respect to the situation of AGERPRES, resulted after consultation of the national Romanian authorities, namely the Romanian Parliament and the Ministry of Culture and National Identity:

In conformity with the Law no. 19/2003 on the organization and functioning of the National News Agency AGERPRES, the Agency is a public service, under the control of the Romanian Parliament. According to the applicable procedure, resulting from the legislation in force, its director, having State secretary rank, is nominated by the Prime-Minister of Romania and validated by a vote by the Romanian Parliament. As provided by Law no. 19/2003, he/she may not be a member of a political party, nor may he/she be active within any other public or private media organization. The same incompatibility rules apply to the members of the Managing Council and the AGERPRES journalists. Consequently, the editorial independence and the political balance of the public media institution are ensured by the provisions of the said-mentioned Law.

According to the information received from the competent authorities, the draft amendments to the Law no. 19/2003 promoted recently aim exclusively at providing in the legislation the possibility to dismiss the Director General of AGERPRES if the Annual Report of the Agency is rejected by the Parliament.

Having in mind that the legislative amendments do not envisage any change of statute of AGERPRES, nor the editorial autonomy, the professional statute of the journalists or the allocation of resources, the independence of AGERPRES is not put into question.