

In respect to the alert created on June 2, 2020 regarding the topic: Lawsuits filed against the Romanian Centre for Investigative Journalism

The Romanian legislation, in full compliance with all international standards and commitments, ensures protection of all fundamental rights and freedoms, including the freedom of expression, which covers the freedom of the press.

The jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights in cases related to freedom of expression triggered changes to the Romanian legal framework, including the Criminal Code. After the ECHR decision in *Cumpănă and Mazăre* from 2004, Romania repealed the criminal provisions incriminating insult and defamation. There were no other ECHR judgements pointing to possible legislative issues that would impede upon the freedom of expression.

Moreover, Law no. 504/2002 on audiovisual provides for the protection of journalists and the confidentiality of their sources of information.

The executive branch cannot interfere with rulings of the judiciary. These rulings may be challenged only through judiciary appeals, as provided by the law.