

Statement of the Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic to the Council of Europe to the alert submitted to the Platform to promote the protection of journalism and safety of journalists on 4 April 2018 entitled „ Slovak Journalist Gets a Suspended Sentence for Defamation“

Further to the previous communication concerning the case of the Slovak journalist Lukáš Milan the Slovak Republic would like to inform that following the examination of the file by a superior prosecutor, the criminal charge against Mr Lukáš Milan was withdrawn by a prosecutor in charge, due to serious faults caused during the pre-trial procedure. The case is now in the pre-trial phase, which means that Mr Lukáš Milan is not in a legal position of the defendant.

Moreover, we would like to inform, that the Council of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Culture during its meeting on 14 June 2018 adopted a resolution, by which it set up the Ad hoc Working Group on the Legal Protection of Journalists. This Working Group will consist of governmental and non-governmental representatives including representatives of a journalistic community. Its main task will be a preparation of a proposal concerning further legislative steps to be adopted in the area of protection of journalists (with respect to the protection of journalist's sources, protection of journalist against criminal proceeding and civil proceedings for defamation).