

**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 26 June 2020 entitled
„Slovak Investigative Journalist Peter Sabo Finds Bullet in His Mailbox“**

With regard to the alert submitted to the Platform to promote the protection of journalism and safety of journalists on 26 June 2020 entitled „Slovak Investigative Journalist Peter Sabo Finds Bullet in His Mailbox“, the Slovak Republic wishes to state the following:

The investigator of the competent department of the criminal police (Regional Directorate of the Police Force in Trnava) conducts criminal prosecution in this case. The bullet found in the mailbox was seized by the police. In cooperation with relevant experts, the police performs procedural acts not only as a part of the criminal proceedings, but also within the operational line.

Minister of the Interior of the Slovak Republic, Roman Mikulec, considers absolutely unacceptable that such intimidating practices as placing ammunition in boxes are still carried out today. The Minister promised to do all in his powers in order to prevent the tragedy such as the murder of journalist Ján Kuciak ever happening again. As far as the legislation and competencies allow, he shall be informed of the progress in the investigation.

President of the Police Force of the Slovak Republic, Milan Lučanský, commented the incident on the social network: "I appreciate the wit of the journalist's family, since they reacted rationally and immediately reported the matter to the police. We have taken the necessary measures, which for tactical reasons I will not specify. An investigation is underway, but we will not disclose any details at this stage."

Slovak Republic wishes to reiterate its commitment to fully cooperate with the Platform and to provide further information concerning a development of the investigation.