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**Mr. Matjaž Gruden**  
**Policy Planning Director**  
**Council of Europe**

**Subject: Reply of the Republic of Slovenia on the alert concerning allegations of police pressure on the editorial team of the on-line media outlet Pod črto contained in the article “Vedno večji pritiski na delo medija Pod črto” (Increasing pressure on the Pod črto portal)**

Dear Mr. Gruden,

Please find an information provided by the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Slovenia which concerns alert published on the Platform to promote the protection of journalism and safety of journalists on 24 January 2018, titled *Slovenian Media under Police Pressure to Reveal Journalistic Sources*.

»The Slovenian police respects freedom of the media and their role in the development of democracy. Police and criminal police officers carry out their work in accordance with the law and do not put pressure on the work of the media in any way.

On 23 January 2018 *Pod črto* published an article entitled »Vedno večji pritisk na delo medija Pod črto; Sova nas toži zaradi blatenja ugleda, policija nas vabi na pogovore, ...« (Increasing pressure on the *Pod črto* portal; Sova is suing us for defamation, and the police call us in for talks), which contains misleading and false claims concerning the pre-trial investigation conducted by officers of the Criminal Police Division of the Ljubljana Police Directorate.

The pre-trial investigation is being carried out in accordance with the law and the police are not putting any pressure on the media outlet and its work.

In August 2017, the police received a written report filed by a law firm on behalf of the injured party, concerning irregularities in the provision of official records. Having examined the report, criminal police officers found that there were reasons to suspect the criminal offence of Abuse of Personal Data under Article 143 of the Criminal Code had been committed. For this reason the Ljubljana Police Directorate launched a pre-trial investigation pursuant to Article 148 of the Criminal Procedure Act directed by

the Celje District State Prosecutor's Office. Article 148 of the Criminal Procedure Act requires that the police preserve objects that may serve as evidence and gather all information that may be useful for the successful conduct of criminal proceedings. This is exactly what criminal police officers of the Ljubljana Police Directorate are doing in this case as they are collecting information from any person that may provide useful information on the criminal offence.

In order to provide objective information to the public, you are requested to publish our explanation on your website.

I am of course happy to provide any additional information if needed.

Yours sincerely,



Eva Tomič  
Ambassador

Permanent Representative of Slovenia

