

**REPLY OF THE SLOVENIAN MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR TO THE PUBLICATION OF THE »SLOVENIAN JOURNALIST ERIK VALENČIČ RECEIVES DEATH THREAT« ALERT ON THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE'S PLATFORM TO PROMOTE THE PROTECTION OF JOURNALISM AND SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS**

Clarification on the procedure of the criminal complaint made by journalist Erik Valenčič.

On 29. 8. 2021, Erik Valenčič filed an oral criminal complaint and a motion for prosecution at the Ilirska Bistrica Police Station for the criminal offence of threats under Article 135 of the Criminal Code (KZ-1) against the perpetrator who had allegedly called him on 25. 8. 2021, after he testified before the Parliamentary Commission for the Supervision of Intelligence and Security Services (KNOVS), and threatened him during their conversation (the journalist initially reported the date as 25. 7. 2021, but later explained that he had made a mistake in the date).

On 2. 9. 2021, the District State Prosecutor's Office of Koper was informed of the suspicion of the commission of a criminal offence and gave directions to the Police regarding further proceedings.

An individual threat assessment was carried out, indicating a low level of threat to the victim of the criminal offence.

The Police have interrogated the suspect and are continuing to gather information. After the information is gathered, a criminal complaint will be filed with the competent District State Prosecutor's Office.

In addition to the above clarification from the Police, we would like to inform that Slovenia, as the country holding the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, addressed the protection of journalists at the Justice and Home Affairs Council on 7 October 2021 in Luxembourg. A Presidency discussion paper titled: Protecting journalists and rights defenders against abusive litigation was published for discussion in the justice part of the Council (Presidency discussion paper ST 12134 2021).