



**HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF JUSTICE
THE MINISTER**

Athens 28/04/2021
No.Prot.: 1354

Mrs. Sophie in 't Veld

Chair - Democracy, Rule of Law and
Fundamental Rights Monitoring Group
(DRFMG)

Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and
Home Affairs - European Parliament

Dear Mrs. Chair,

I would like to thank you for your sincere condolences that you, acting as Chair of the Democracy, Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights Monitoring Group, extended to both the Prime Minister of Greece, Mr. K. Mitsotakis and myself.

The continued interest of the EU Institutions in crime involving journalists provides valuable moral support to the women and men fighting to ensure that the journalists all over Europe and all over the world are able to safely perform their jobs, without being afraid for their lives.

Greece fully aligns itself with your consideration for the protection and unrestricted functioning of journalists and the safeguarding of the independence of journalism. This is a fundamental pillar of our Constitution, which guarantees the protection of freedom of speech and the right to information (Article 14 Par. 1).

Furthermore, for the uninterrupted exercise of the function of journalism and the safety of journalists, the State provides them in accordance with the relevant legislation police custody in the same way as to public government officials (Ministers, official of public administration, Judges, Prosecutors , etc.), when there is a threat against their life and physical integrity.

We were all deeply shocked by the murder of Georgios Karaivaz, in broad daylight a few meters away from his home. This criminal act was immediately condemned in the most absolute way by the Greek Government and by the Greek society in its entirety.

In the immediate aftermath of the assassination the Greek Prime Minister held an emergency meeting with the competent Minister for Citizens Protection and requested a fast and thorough investigation of the case in order to bring those accountable to justice.



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Solving this case is a must priority for Hellenic Police while preliminary investigation is carried out by the competent Authority in a methodic and particularly rigorous way in order for the culprits to be apprehended and brought to Justice.

Nevertheless, as soon as the relevant procedures are finalized and when the Ministry of Justice, according to law, is able to share the information that you requested, we will communicate it to you.

Regarding the engagement of Europol in the investigation, I inform you that Hellenic Police and Europol are in close cooperation in accordance with the operational needs and Europol Regulation.

In the above context, let me reassure you dear Chair, that at the very beginning all State authorities have been mobilized and have prioritized this case as extremely urgent in order to bring to Justice those responsible as soon as possible.

With kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Konstantinos Tsias

CC:

Mr. David Sassoli, President of European Parliament

Mr. Juan Fernando López Aguilar, Chair of LIBE Committee