
Position Paper of the Trade Council 'Security and Justice'

Re-establishing trust in law enforcement and justice bodies

In the aftermath of the murder of investigative journalists Ján Kuciak and Daphne Caruana Galizia, the TC JUS and SEC demand strong political stands by and determined reactions of all key actors in all sectors and at all levels.

Moreover, the members of the CESI trade councils 'Justice' & 'Security' – predominantly comprised of law enforcement officers - believe that an accurate, independent and transparent investigation must be opened and that a fact-driven reality check should be set in place in order for trust in the judiciary to be restored at national and EU level.

The CESI trade councils strongly condemn these murders as touching upon the very fundament of our societies, in particular as they also seem to relate to citizens' access to impartial justice and corruption.

The activities of free media are a fundamental part of democracy, the rule of law and the division of power. When journalists are threatened, intimidated or harmed, these principles are in danger. The belief and trust of the people in the state's ability to guarantee the independence of their administration, fundamental rights, democracy, the rule of law, the independence of state authorities and not least the citizens' safety, is severely undermined. Overreactions put in danger the presumption of innocence and everyone's right to a fair trial. Determined reactions of politicians, the judicature and law enforcement are now needed to demonstrate that the principles of our democratic societies are not negotiable.

A strong state that can guarantee both freedom and security requires strong, incorrupt and self-confident law-makers, judges and law enforcement officers. We, the members of the CESI TCs are standing for them – and for the safety of citizens and journalists. For our freedoms and rights!

The lessons from Malta and Slovakia should teach us one thing: in order to uphold democratic values, freedom of the press and fundamental rights, there should be a good balance between freedom and security and the institutions and the law enforcement bodies should remain independent, trustworthy and disconnected from politics.