

The Commission is aware of concerns regarding possible actions by third countries which may attempt to interfere with the independence of Lithuanian judges and prosecutors. Could you please inform us if:

- 1. There have been any recent actions of such kind?**
- 2. Any efforts/initiatives have been taken in order to protect Lithuanian judges and prosecutors from these pressures?**

Competent Lithuanian institutions continue to closely monitor, assess the situation and interact with the Interpol General Secretariat and international partners, paying special attention to the further actions of Russia and its ally Belarus in initiating the unlawful and politically motivated international prosecution of Lithuanian judges, law enforcement officers and politicians.

In order to minimize Russia's possibility of exploiting Interpol's search channels (red notice), Interpol receives immediate updating reports concerning individuals potentially facing political persecution from the Russian Federation due to their involvement in investigating a civil case linked to the events of 13 January 1991. The latest update on one such individual, a judge, was transmitted in January 2024.

In February 2024, the Russian Federation publicly disclosed a list of citizens from Baltic and other countries targeted for actions deemed hostile to Moscow. In response, the Interpol National Central Bureau of Lithuania promptly investigated whether any international search alerts had been issued via Interpol channels for citizens of the Republic of Lithuania listed. Although no Interpol alerts were found, Lithuania notified Interpol's General Secretariat about these Lithuanian citizens, cautioning against potential unlawful, politically motivated search requests from the Russian Federation.

The Government of Lithuania is also taking additional precautionary measures to protect the relevant citizens of Lithuania, by actively informing them about the possible threats of travel to third countries, especially countries that maintain close relations with Russia and Belarus, and possible ways to protect themselves.