

Council of Europe
The Secretary General

Strasbourg, 11 January 2017

Dear Prime Minister,

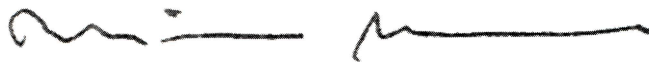
As we enter into a new year, big challenges remain as to how to deal with the ongoing arrival of migrants and refugees to Europe. Large scale arrivals have placed significant pressure on many member states of the Council of Europe. This includes, of course, Slovenia, given its geographical position.

It is understandable that a number of countries have felt it necessary to amend their approaches, in order to reflect new realities. In doing so, it is vital that national legislative reforms continue to uphold important human rights guarantees.

I am concerned by amendments to the Aliens Act proposed by your government which, if adopted, will change the conditions of entry and expulsion of migrants and asylum seekers into Slovenia, raising a number of issues under the European Convention on Human Rights, such as the right to due process, the consideration of individual circumstances in the processing of applications and protection of all migrants and asylum seekers against ill treatment, including "non-refoulement".

I would like to recall my letter of 15 April 2016, and once again offer the advice and assistance of my Special Representative on Refugees and Migration, Ambassador Tomáš Bocek. The Council of Europe has important judicial expertise in this area, based on the Convention and the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights, and we stand ready to offer our services to your government.

Yours sincerely,



Thorbjørn Jagland

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