



PRIME MINISTER
AUBERGE DE CASTILLE, VALLETTA, MALTA

17 December 2020

MEP Sophie In 't Veld
Parlement Européen
Bât. WILLY BRANDT
06M055
60, rue Wiertz / Wiertzstraat 60
B-1047 Bruxelles/Brussel

Subject: Public inquiry into the assassination of Daphne Caruana Galizia

Dear Ms In't Veld

I refer to your letter dated 9 December 2020.

In my letter dated 5 October 2020, I explained the Maltese Government set up the Board of Public Inquiry (herein referred to as 'the Board') in accordance with Article 4(1) the Inquiries Act (Chapter 273 of the Laws of Malta).

Article 4(1) stipulates that a Board may be appointed by either the Prime Minister or by a Minister. In accordance with Article 4(4) and '*shall carry out such functions and other duties, and in such manner and within such time, as may be specified in the instrument appointing it*'. The Government has provided and will continue to provide the Board with all the resources it needs to fulfil its work and see that the full truth emerges.

The timeframe originally agreed for the Board to conclude its work as per the terms of reference was of nine months. This was extended from 19 August 2020 to 15 December 2020 following a request for an extension by the Board.

This week the Board decided to determine the limits of its terms of reference and has taken upon itself the decision to extend its deadline indefinitely.



The Maltese Government's position is not seeking to obstruct justice but is merely stating that everyone is subject to the law. The Board will have to take responsibility for its decision, taking into account their significance.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Dr Robert Abela
Prime Minister

Copy: Evarist Bartolo, Minister for Foreign and European Affairs
Dr Edward Zammit Lewis, Minister for Justice, Equality and Governance