

## **Regarding the reports on the Tegernsee searches**

There has recently been a lot of false and scandalous coverage regarding the searches of the house in Tegernsee, incorrectly labelled as belonging to Alisher Usmanov. Mr Usmanov has also been accused of actions he has never committed without any evidence and often with reference to anonymous sources. Baseless and defamatory accusations are being made against a person who has always ensured the integrity and transparency of his wealth, as well as the thoroughness and accuracy of his tax payments.

Firstly, as we have reiterated on numerous occasions, Mr Usmanov does not own any houses in Germany. The real estate belongs to family trusts and was rented by Mr Usmanov at market price. Claims that the rent for the properties was lowered are false. Mr Usmanov paid a market-based rent for the house in Tegernsee, where he stayed while undergoing medical treatment. The price was completely justified and reasonable for a property of this standard and in this region, which is confirmed by the relevant lease agreements.

Secondly, Mr Usmanov did not pay for the security of the house from funds 'frozen' after the unjustified EU sanctions were imposed on him, or from any other sources, as has been alleged in a number of publications. We have repeatedly stated that Mr Usmanov has not taken any action to evade or circumvent sanctions.

Numerous publications have gone even further with the absurd allegations that Mr Usmanov carried out 'machinations with the multi-billion USM holding' in the allocation of options in the business to his managers. This is a prime example of jumping to conclusions. Back in 2012, Mr Usmanov decided to gradually withdraw from business and to start selling his shareholdings in the newly created USM holding to his managers and partners who helped him build it. He has never made any secret of the fact that he was selling (rather than gifting) these shares at a reasonable discount, paying all the associated taxes, as is the practice around the world, in order to encourage management with company options. Why is it that a billionaire from Seattle or Munich would be praised for this, while a billionaire from Tashkent is confronted about it? Why was Mr Usmanov not criticised before the EU sanctions were imposed, and why is it that information about the alleged irregularities is only discussed eight years later? Moreover, we have previously stated that because Mr Usmanov has never been a tax resident of Germany and had no center of vital interests there, the sale of the USM shares in 2014 therefore cannot be a matter for the tax police of that country, nor can the transfer of property to relatives, which was also carried out in strict compliance with the law.

Furthermore, there has never been any 'rare jewellery' in the Tegernsee house that Mr Usmanov rented, including the Carl Fabergé Eggs. Those which are being passed off by the media as originals are clearly souvenirs worth several thousands of euros, made with artificial gems and bought in Munich as gifts for friends and relatives in Uzbekistan. The presumption here is that a man who has honestly and legally earned a large fortune and has donated billions to charity can afford them.

Finally, as we have expressed from the outset, this investigation has all the hallmarks of a political persecution. The persecution of a patron of the arts guilty only of having assets in Russia.

Mr Usmanov is stunned by the illegality of the actions being taken against him, and by the fact that the media is reporting empty and unsubstantiated allegations as though they are crimes that have been committed and proved.

Instead of asking questions and getting answers in the normal manner and obtaining evidence of the legitimacy of the operations, accusations are being built on false statements and on invented documents of opportunists and blackmailers, which remarkably form the basis of the Munich and Frankfurt prosecutors' decisions.

Making and spreading inaccurate rumours and speculations is just one instance of unjustified pressure and an attempt to create a media scandal against Mr Usmanov's solid reputation.

It is clear that the addition of more fabricated information only goes to add to the questions regarding the validity and quality of the actions being taken by the German law enforcement agencies.

Alisher Usmanov's Press office.