

EVALUATION REPORT

By Assoc. Prof. Emiliya Lyubomirova Siderova, PhD, Varna Free University “Chernorizets Hrabar”

on the competition for conferral of the academic position “Associate Professor” in the professional direction 3.6. Law (Public Law), higher education area 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, promulgated by Trakia University – Stara Zagora (State Gazette, issue 99/13.12.2022) in the Faculty of Economics for the purposes of the Department of Industrial Business and Entrepreneurship

with a sole candidate: Petar Radoslavov Iliev, Doctor in Law

Dear members of the Academic Jury,

The sole participant in this competition for conferral of the academic position of “Associate Professor” in the professional field of 3.6. LAW (Public Law) is Dr. Petar Radoslavov Iliev.

I. Background of the candidate

The candidate Dr. Petar Radoslavov Iliev graduated Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” in 2003 with high honours as a Master of Law. During his studies he completed several specializations, two of which outside the country. He enrolled as a full-time doctoral student at the same university and in 2012 successfully defended his thesis on “The Legislative Process in the Republic of Bulgaria”. From 2006 to 2021 he served on a tenure track position as an assistant professor, and later on was promoted to senior and chief assistant in the Department of Constitutional and Legal Sciences with the Law Faculty of SU “St. Kliment Ohridski”. In 2022 he also taught as an honorary assistant at the University of Library Studies and Information Technologies (UniBIT) the elective course in Law Principles of Leadership at a master’s degree level. Together with his lecturing and academic career, in 2004 he registered with the Sofia Law Collegium as an attorney, and since 2010 he has been a managing associate of “Iliev and Partners” Attorneys-at-Law. Since 2014 he has held leading positions in various national and international organizations whose main activity includes developing international projects and participating in scientific events. He has won a number of awards and recognitions. Dr. Iliev speaks English and Spanish.

II. General characteristics of the research works, submitted for evaluation

For the purposes of this competition, the candidate has submitted 13 research works, published after the acquisition of his educational and scientific degree of “Doctor” in November 2012 – a 211-page-long monograph, entitled *Principles of the organization and activity of the judicial power in the Bulgarian rule of law*, published in 2023, and 12 research works, of which 4 studies and 8 articles showing his continuous interest in the area of Constitutional Law.

The topic of the habilitation work of Dr. Petar Iliev, *Principles of the organization and activity of the judicial power in the Bulgarian rule of law* is not a novelty in law studies. It has been explored by a number of authors, mainly constitution experts, including me, as a long-term reader (over 10 years) of the course “Structure of the Judicial Power” presented in an eponymous work in 2012,

as has been correctly noted by the author. The pertinence of his work, however, is unarguable because it constitutes the first complete monographic study focused solely on principles. The work has a significant theoretical and applied practical value, especially when serious judicial reform is urgently necessary at the background of a complex political situation.

Structurally, the monograph is divided into an introduction, four chapters, conclusion and references. The first chapter, called “The independent judicial power in the system of separation of powers” investigates the place of the judicial power in the Bulgarian constitutional model and the administration of justice as an activity inherent to the court. The second and third chapter are dedicated to the primary and secondary principles of organization and the activity of the judicial power. Here the author examines the principles and guarantees for independent judicial activity and the work of the other two state organs, included in the sub-system of the judicial power – the Prosecutor’s Office and the Investigation Services in alignment with the Constitution and the fundamental Judicial System Act. The fourth chapter, “The rule of law principle” stands out with an analysis of the practice of the Constitutional Court on the rule of law and the principle of separation of powers. In the conclusion the author has inferred that the reviewed principles are “manifestations and forms of independence of the judicial power in the light of the Bulgarian rule of law” (page 187). The candidate has suggested *de lege ferenda* the establishment of commercial courts and courts of appeals for trade.

In two of his research publications the author complements his studies on the judicial power with an analysis on the Higher Judicial Council and the judicial power within the separation of powers. The other publications address issues related to the authority and the acts of the National Assembly, the breach of competence, distribution of legislative functions of the Parliament and the government, the bar, national security, freedom of religion and confession and the constitutional aspects of the right to property, economic system and ownership, according to the Tarnovo Constitution.

The descriptive list of the scientific contributions, prepared by the candidate accurately reflects his achievements with respect to the habilitation work and the other 12 presented research works, and therefore I fully agree with it.

CONCLUSION

After familiarizing myself with the materials submitted for this competition, the analysis of their significance, scientific and applied scientific contributions contained therein, I express my firm belief that the candidate Dr. Petar Radoslavov Iliev has met the requirements set out in art. 24, par. 1, item 3 in relation to art. 27, par. 3 from the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB) for the conferral of the academic position “Associate Professor” with his published monograph and equally valuable articles in professional academic journals. The monograph, submitted for evaluation has a high scientific value with the rigorous analysis on the problems included in it. It contains serious theoretical syntheses related to the tackling of scientific and applied scientific issues with marked actuality. This is also valid for the

other scientific production of the candidate. I think that they fully comply with the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

With regard to the above, by virtue of art. 26, par. 3 and 4 of LDASRB I offer my positive evaluation and recommend the Academic Jury to advise the Scientific Council at Trakia University to vote in favour of conferring the academic position of “Associate Professor” in the professional direction 3.6. Law (Public Law) to Dr. Petar Radoslavov Iliev.

08.04.2023

Associate Professor Emiliya Siderova, PhD