

STATEMENT

about the competition of an academic position "Professor" in the professional field 4.2. Chemical Sciences (Physical Chemistry), announced in the State Journal, issue 25/26.03.2019

by Prof. Dr. Milen Georgiev Bogdanov, Faculty of Chemistry and Pharmacy, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", Member of the Scientific Jury appointed by Order No. RD 38-224 of May 10, 2019 by the Rector of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

The only one candidate participating in the announced competition is Assoc. Prof. Stoyan Ivanov Karakashev.

The documents submitted by the applicant are in accordance with the requirements of the Law for the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Rules for its implementation, the Rules for the conditions and the order for acquiring scientific degrees and occupying academic positions at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", as well as the minimum national requirements for higher education and teaching in the field of higher education 4.2. Chemical Sciences.

Stoyan Karakashev obtained his Master Degree in Theoretical Chemistry and Chemical Physics at the Faculty of Chemistry at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" in 1995. In 2002 he defended his doctoral thesis on "Theoretical adsorption models and their application on ionic, non-ionic and mixed surfactants on the surface of water / air", under the supervision of Assoc. Prof. Stefan Manev. The candidate has held the following positions: research fellow at the Institute of Biophysics of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (2001-2003); guest researcher at the Department of Engineering Chemistry at Newcastle University, Australia (2003-2004); research associate in the same unit (2004-2006); Research Fellow, Department of Engineering Chemistry, Queensland University, Australia (2007-2008); project manager at the Department of Physical Chemistry, FHF-SU (2008-2009); Chief Assistant (2009-2013) and Associate Professor (2013 - present) at the same unit. After joining the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", Assoc. Prof. Karakashev implements a number of short specializations in foreign scientific units – for example, the Leibniz Institute for Polymer Research (Germany), the University of Utah (USA), the University of Cambridge (UK), the University of Illinois (Chicago, USA), with visits to Germany and the USA under DAAD and Fulbright scholarship programs, respectively. The candidate was a reviewer in renowned international journals, as well as a guest editor of special editions covering the topic of the competition. During his professional career, Assoc. Prof. Karakashev is the author and co-author of 90 scientific publications, 2 of which are book chapters. An up-to-date report in SCOPUS gives 662 citations of his articles and h -index: 15.

Assoc. Prof. Karakashev participates in this competition with 21 scientific papers on the ion-specific effects on foams, properties of super-wetting agents, flotation of mineral particles, chemical instant destruction of foams and intelligent foams and emulsions. These articles are published in reputable international journals in the field of this competition, such as *Adv. Colloid Interface Sci.* ($IF^{5\text{-year}} = 9.259$), *Colloid Surf. A* ($IF^{5\text{-year}} = 3.131$), *J. Phys Chem. B* ($IF^{2018} = 2.923$), etc. Of these, 15 (71%) are

original Research articles and 6 (29%) are Reviews. By number of co-authors, scientific papers can be categorized as follows: self-published (4 articles), with one co-author (4 articles), with two or more co-authors (13 articles). In 13 of the articles (62%) Assoc. Prof. Karakashev is the corresponding author, which shows his leading role in the conducted research.

The presented author's contribution on the nature of his scientific works are written in a concise manner, by marking the contributions of each individual article, which does not outline the overall picture of the scientific direction developed by Assoc. Prof. Karakashev. Instead, the cooperation that the candidate has achieved is highlighted. I cannot skip the fact that some paragraphs in this text were copied directly from the same report prepared by the candidate for the competition of the position of Associate Professor six years earlier. In accordance with the regulatory requirements, the applicant has also submitted a Habilitation Work, written on 197 pages. Here, following the aforementioned approach, Assoc. Prof. Karakashev offers a consecutive translation of 9 of his scientific publications, again without attempting to summarize and systematize the results according to the generally accepted requirements for such type of scientific work.

The applicant declares participation or leadership in 10 research projects. It is noteworthy that 9 of them (90%) were realized before 2013, i.e. during the period before taking up the academic position of Associate Professor. There has also been a decline in participation in scientific conferences – 19 (79%) out of 24 reported have been realized in the period 1999-2011.

From the presented information on academic load, it can be seen that Assoc. Prof. Karakashev is a lecturer of compulsory courses "Physical Chemistry 2" and "Environment and Dispersion Systems" given for Bachelor students in Chemistry and Ecochemistry, respectively, as well as of the elective courses "Electrochemistry and Electrokinetic Phenomena", "Physical Chemistry of Surfaces", "Foams, Antifoams and Detergents" and "Surfactants" in various programmes. No information has been provided on the implementation of scientific guidance within the framework of the training process at the Faculty, which, in my opinion, should be a mandatory requirement for any applicant for the academic position Professor.

In conclusion, the applicant's achievements go beyond the minimum national requirements in the field of Chemical Sciences and fully meet the requirements for the occupation of the academic position of "Professor" at the Faculty. Therefore, I recommend Assoc. Prof. Dr. Stoyan Ivanov Karakashev to be appointed as "Professor" in the Department of Physical Chemistry at the Faculty of Chemistry and Pharmacy, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

Sofia, July 31, 2019

Signature

/Prof. Milen Bogdanov, PhD/