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Statement

by Associate Professor Dr. Hristo Ilkov Hristev, member of the scientific jury in the competition for the academic position of "associate professor" - area of higher education 3.3. Political Sciences (Political Science — International Relations and Conflict Management), announced SG no. 21 of 15.03.2022

I have been appointed as an internal member of a scientific jury for a competition for the academic position of "associate professor" in the field of higher education 3.3. Political Sciences (Political Science — International Relations and Conflict Management), announced SG No. 21 of 15.03.2022 In the competition for filling the intended academic position within the legally defined term, one application was submitted - that of Ch. Assistant Professor Iskren Ivanov, Ph.D. The application has been determined to be eligible.

Iskren Ivanov holds a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of St. Kliment Ohridski" (1.06.2007) and a master's degree in European studies from the University of St. Kliment Ohridski" (1.07.2009). He defended his doctorate degree in political science (international relations) in 2013, specializing in the issue of conflict management — 03.01.2016- 01.03.2016 at the University of Granada, Spain; countering terrorism — Princeton University, USA, 10.01.2019- 01.02.2019; International Security — US Military Academy, West Point, , 02/04/2019- 03/04/2019; US foreign policy — Columbia University, USA, 03/04/2019 — competition for the academic position "associate professor", 2.2. Political Sciences, State Gazette, no. 21 of 15.03.2022

04/04/2019 He conducted postdoctoral research in national security and international relations at the University of Delaware, USA — 01/01/2019- 05/01/2019 From 12/1/2013 to 04/24/2014 he was a part-time lecturer in international relations and foreign policy of USA in Dept "Political Science" of the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of St. Kliment Ohridski", and from 24.04.2014 until now he is the main assistant in political science (international relations and conflict management) in the department „Political Science" of the Faculty of Philosophy of the SU "St. Kliment Ohridski". He has experience as a visiting researcher at the New Sorbonne University - Paris 3 (May 1, 2019-July 1, 2019) and as a visiting lecturer at the University of Texas at Austin (January 1, 2021 - September 1, 2021).

For participation in the competition for the academic position of "docent" Iskren Ivanov submitted a habilitation thesis - a monograph entitled "Orthodox Geopolitics of Russia", University Publishing House "St. Kliment Ohridski", Sofia, 2019. In addition, the candidate has presented a published book based on a defended dissertation work, as well as 15 other publications.

Both the main scientific work submitted for participation in the competition and the other proposed publications reveal significant research potential and contain a number of elements of a contributing nature. Of particular importance in this connection is the research developed by the candidate, focused on Eurasianism as a foreign policy doctrine. In the framework of his monographic work, Iskren Ivanov skilfully reveals the main lines of the formation of the so-called Eurasian political doctrine, the specific contribution of the most prominent representatives of this doctrine, as well as the different phases of its development. Special emphasis is placed on the new Eurasianism, which transforms the classical Eurasian school into a religio-political doctrine, legitimizing Russia's actions in the system of international relations. Iskren Iliev skillfully develops the thesis that, in the face of neo-Eurasianism, the circles forming the Russian government in recent decades have found a suitable ideological concept to replace the Soviet ideology and fill the ideological vacuum in Russian society that was created after the collapse of the USSR. A special merit of the main work presented by Iskren Ivanov is that he manages to look beyond the general statements of the doctrine of Eurasia, by looking at the immaterial nature of the new Eurasianism — an aspect of the new Russian imperial doctrine that is poorly researched in scientific circles. Iskren Ivanov convincingly defends the understanding that it is the formation of an intangible value core in the neo-Eurasian doctrine that is the reason why neo-Eurasian hybrid strategies are sustainable and successful.

The other publications presented for participation in the competition outline a clear line of scientific interest and in-depth research work, focused primarily on the study of the establishment and use of the Eurasian doctrine as the main instrument of Russian foreign policy in the years of Vladimir Putin's regime. As significant contributions of Iskren Ivanov, the clarification of the relationship between the perception of the Eurasian doctrine as a defining conceptual category of Russian foreign policy and the deployment of the strategy of hybrid war as a key aspect of the management of the Putin regime should be considered, as well as the illumination of the instrumentalization of Orthodoxy as a "weapon" for foreign policy influence of the Russian regime in countries where sustainable European and democratic values are not consolidated.

As can be seen from the submitted report and accompanying documents, Iskren Ivanov meets the

minimum national requirements under Art. 26, para. 2 and 3 of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, established by the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB), as well as the requirements of Art. 24, para. 1, items 1 and 2 and 5 ZRASRB.

In view of the above, I express to the members of the scientific jury an opinion that a decision be adopted to propose to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Philosophy that Dr. Iskren Ivanov be elected as an "associate professor" in a competition for the academic position of "associate professor" - area of higher education 3.3. Political Sciences (Political Science — International Relations and conflict management), announced SG no. 21 of 15.03.2022

June 20, 2022
Sofia, Bulgaria

Hristo Hristev
Associate Professor