

SOFIA UNIVERSITY "ST. KLEMENT OHRIDSKI"

POSITION

by Professor Todor Tanev, Dr. Polit.Sci., Philosophy Faculty - SU

member of the Scientific Jury for the competition for the academic position "PROFESSOR" in professional field 3.3. Political Sciences (Political Science – Political Ideas), announced in the State Gazette, no. 24 of March 17, 2023 for the scientific and teaching activities of the only candidate

Associate Prof. Dr. Svetoslav Hristov Malinov.

The Scientific position, according to the statements of the Law for the development of the academic staff (LDAS), does not repeat the content of the review in an abbreviated form. The scientific legislator's grounds for requiring scientific opinion alongside reviews are specific. The scientific position mainly reflects the legality of the application, assessment of the level of scientific research and teaching of the candidate in view of its efficiency for the educational process and the compliance of the qualities of the presented works with the requirements of the Law according to the opinion and conscience of the selected member of the Scientific Jury. With this, the Opinion contributes to a motivated decision of the Scientific Jury.

1. Compliance with the requirements of Law for the development of the academic staff (LDAS)

The specific competition for Professor with candidate Assoc. prof. Dr. Svetoslav Malinov fully corresponds to the requirements of LDAS. In particular, all the requirements of the founding Art. 29, detailing the specific requirements for this type of competition. Associate Professor Malinov's candidacy meets the following conditions: 1. he has obtained the educational and scientific degree "doctor" (2009); 2. He has held the academic position of "associate professor" in the same university for more than five years; 3. he has submitted a monograph published specifically for the purpose of the competition with qualities of original scientific research; 4. he has presented other original research publications that are not co-authored; 5. he has presented other original scientific research publications that do not repeat those presented for obtaining the educational and scientific degree "doctor", although the list of publications which the candidate for "Professor" presents includes also publications that are from before 2009 and according to the existing "scientometrics" were used in the competition for the academic position "docent" (associate professor), but in competitions for professor according to Art. 29, para. 4 of the LDAS all submitted publications by the applicant should be "assessed as a whole"; 6. he meets the Minimum national requirements under Art. 2b, para. 2 and 3, respectively, to the requirements under Art. 2b, para. 5; 7. plagiarism or unreliability of the presented scientific data in the scientific works in accordance with the law has not proven; 8. The candidate has duly submitted the required reference for the fulfillment of the minimum national requirements under Art. 2b, para. 2 and 3, respectively, to the requirements under Art. 2b, para. 5, and a reference to the original scientific contributions, and has attached data which may be considered in my opinion as evidence in this regard; 9. The total of teaching hours required by law for the position claimed is ensured according to the rules of the Sofia University.

CONCLUSION: The election process at the "professor" position of Assoc. prof. Malinov would apparently be based on a regularly announced and conducted competition and as a result of the candidate having fulfilled the full range of conditions of LDAS.

2. Scientific and teaching profile of the candidate

The only candidate in the competition who is a professor in this competition is Svetoslav Hristov Malinov, associate professor at SU (since 2009) and doctor (since 2000). He is an educator and researcher with an internationally acquired qualification and a solid, particularly important practical training in the field of competitive nomenclature in high international political instances. This makes Dr. Malinov's candidacy specially valuable. To date, he has accumulated 25 years of academic research and teaching experience in the Philosophy Faculty of SU (Department of Political Science), consistently applying his expertise in the narrow field of the competition, which is an important argument in favor of Malinov's candidacy. He has carried out 5 scientific specializations abroad, all of them in particularly suitable for the theme of the competition and prestigious institutions, and these specializations are directly related to the theme of the competition. In addition to the Bulgarian master's degree in political science, Malinov has also acquired a British version of it. He defended successfully a dissertation for the acquisition of the scientific and teaching degree "doctor", which was submitted in the same thematic field. His research interests and publications focus on the classical political theory of democracy and its connections with political practice for the development of liberal democracy. Outside of his teaching and research work, but thematically directly related to them, Malinov held responsible positions in Bulgarian and international politics for long periods (mainly a national representative and deputy from the Bulgarian quota in the European Parliament). He has authored monographic studies and a certain number of articles and studies that fall entirely within the field of the competition. This is also the theme of his teaching activity. His participation in projects and scientific forums is satisfactory in number, however his scientific and applied activity with a political color prevails much more strongly - a member of committees of the European Parliament, Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, editor of a political periodical, head of the leading political science department in Bulgaria, lectures on political topics, regular appearances in major Bulgarian media. This very intense political activity makes Dr. Malinov, in my opinion, a valuable source of knowledge for Political Science students at Sofia University, which organized the competition.

CONCLUSION: The scientific and teaching profile of associate professor Dr. Svetoslav Malinov corresponds to the most specific requirements of the announced competition and presents him as a qualified candidate for the academic position of associate professor in the subject area of the competition.

3. General characteristics of the research and scientific-applied activity of the candidate

The candidate's scientific research and scientific applied activities coincide with the field of the competition and the needs of teaching in the "Political Science" academic discipline. This activity of his is distinguished by systematicity and steadfastness. His professional efforts to date have been productive. They have scientific value. The fact that a significant part of the publications are in English favors the significant presence of the candidate in the international scientific exchange.

The rest of the publications, in my opinion, can immediately be presented at the international level after translation and will be of interest there. The problematic of almost all scientific production of Dr. Malinov is a history of political thought, presenting and analyzing the ideas of political thinkers of the last 2 centuries. This fact betrays a significant professional general culture of the applicant. His publications can automatically be effective materials for the learning process. Malinov's general political science (I'm not talking about politics!) culture has made him and will make him a good politician and representative of practical political interests at the national and international level.

CONCLUSION: The publications with which the candidate participates in this competition meet the legal and professional requirements for holding the position of "Professor".

4. Main scientific and applied contributions

As a researcher of political treatises for over 2 decades, Dr. Malinov allows himself, not without solid reason, to finally leave the list of traditionally considered "minds". So he deliberately looks for different names, well-known enough to specialists, but sunk into oblivion. This did not happen by chance: the international guild of political scientists, concentrating on the theoretical foundations of democracy and liberalism, cautiously put a "taboo" on them, since they do not correspond to the "mainstream" of this ideology that won in the 19th century, on the contrary. This is precisely where the intrigue lies: the good knowledge, first, of classical political thought on democracy and liberalism and, second, the careful study of dissenters, which is something new, gives Svetoslav Malinov the enormous advantage of stating what actually happened after the French Revolution in the political thinking. The researcher is able to group this territory "outside" the democratic-liberal field in a model developed by himself (counter-revolutionary theory, anti-liberal theory, racist theory, anti-Semitic theory, the theory of political egoism and the theory of violence). Therefore, asserts Malinov, what is happening is not the emergence and eternal existence henceforth of democracy and liberalism as an ideology, but the emergence and development of an endless intellectual process – the unstoppable political radicalism. With this, Malinov's study "Dangerous Minds: Essays on the Political Radicalism of the Nineteenth Century" acquires the dignity of a political philosophy of the energy sources of constant ideological change. With this, the monographic study places its author among the group of significant political thinkers that it examines through its non-standard "inclusive" approach as opposed to the traditional "exclusive" one. This is the main scientific contribution of Malinov, in my opinion. Of course, this contribution is tangible and demonstrates a broad and robust professional culture necessary for good academic teaching at a higher level. On this basis, I can draw the following conclusions about the general scientific transfer of the candidate for professor at SU, Dr. Svetoslav Malinov: (1) his methodological approach leads to a very high degree of truthfulness of the conclusions made at a low and high level in his analysis; (2) his contribution to political science has a noticeable degree of significance, and not only to the national school of political science - it would be noticeable on the international stage, especially in the current ideological crisis in the Western world; (3) Malinov's analysis is distinguished by its systematicity; (4) it is also distinguished by its significant degree of theoreticality, i.e. contribution to theory development.

CONCLUSION: the scientific contributions of Dr. Svetoslav Malinov required for the competition are original, up-to-date and significant.

5. Characteristics of the teaching, methodical and project activities of the candidate

So far, Dr. Svetoslav Malinov has been teaching intensively in bachelor's and master's programs of the specialty in which the competition for "Professor" is announced. Both his previous teaching activity and the one stipulated in the competition for the position of "Professor" exceed the required hours. Dr. Malinov has repeatedly been a lecturer in Bulgarian and foreign academic institutions, scientific and applied forums. His political activity has resulted in rare high-quality expertise for the benefit of students and the collegiate community. Apart from that, Malinov has repeatedly participated in EP and EC forums. He is a member of authoritative professional organizations. He is a recognizable and desirable partner in lecturing in the specialty outside the university.

CONCLUSION: the teaching work of Assoc. prof. Dr. Svetoslav Malinov exceeds the standard requirements of LBAS for this competition and covers well the academic norms for it. Apart from all formal correspondences, his teaching work deserves a high overall positive evaluation, confirmed by the systematic expression of opinion both of the colleagues he works with and of the students he has been teaching for years. His presence in the scientific team is distinguished by high academic morale.

6. Critical notes and recommendations

According to the instructions of The Higher Attestation Commission, I would define the scientific contributions of Prof. Malinov as fully falling under "III. Theoretical summaries and solutions of large scientific and scientific-applied ones problems", more precisely: "1) Model, general research method, classification, etc.; 2) A scientific result, which represents a justified and proven regularity for solving private questions;... 5) Formulation and development of a specific categorical apparatus; 6) Derivation of generalizations having methodological and theoretical significance for the specific scientific field, as well as for other scientific fields close to it; and indirectly 7) Formulation of conclusions and recommendations for a given scientific direction, for professional and managerial activity." As absent, I can define item "a" - "formulation (substantiation) of a new theory or scientific problem, as well as item "d" " – "creating new classifications..." which I find being justified. However, I find "Revelation of the action of certain laws and regularities" and "empiricism" (direct output of analysis to practice) as missing mainly in the monographic study, but also in the general scientific work of Svetoslav Malinov.

CONCLUSION: I recommend Svetoslav Malinov to direct his next efforts to the latter fields based on his rich and valuable political experience combined with his brilliant theoretical training. I also think that the political science community would welcome a new monograph containing its own theory of future development in the Western world beyond classical Western liberal democracy, the beginnings of which can be seen in many places in Dr. Malinov's previous works.

7. Opinion about the candidate

I have known Svetoslav Malinov as a student and then colleague for over 26 years. In my capacity of head of the Department of Political Science in 1998 and his teacher before that, I assessed his qualities and invited him to participate in a competition for an assistantship, for which colleagues agreed to allocate a full-time position in the department. His development as a teacher and finally as head of the Department of Political Science and European politician proved the correctness of

the initial opinion of the college about his work and that he would be a useful and valuable member of the academic staff as a professor. He has proven good name by his monographs, articles and teaching activities to date.

OVERALL CONCLUSION:

In view of the findings and evaluations listed, I state that Associate professor Dr. Svetoslav Hristov Malinov meets the requirements for holding the academic position "Professor" in the professional field of the announced competition and I recommend the respected Scientific Jury to support his candidacy for awarding the academic position with conviction Professor.

25.07.2023

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