

## OPINION

by Prof. Virginia Zhelyazkova, DSc from  
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of the materials submitted for participation in the competition  
for occupying the academic position "Associate Professor" in  
Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"  
in professional direction 3.8. Economy  
(Customs Regulations in International Trade)

In the competition for the academic position " Associate Professor", announced in the State Gazette, no. 48 of 28.06.2022 and on the website of the Sofia University (SU) "St. Kliment Ohridski", as the only candidate appears Chief Assistant Professor Tsvetan Madanski, PhD, from the same university.

### **1. General presentation of the procedure and the presented materials**

I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury under the present procedure by order RD-38-487/09.08.2022 of the Rector of SU "St. Kliment Ohridski". By decision of the scientific jury (Protocol No. 1 of 09/07/2022), I am tasked with preparing an opinion on the present procedure.

To participate in the announced competition, as the only candidate appeared Chief Assistant Professor Tsvetan Madanski, PhD, from SU "St. Kliment Ohridski".

Dr. Madanski submitted the following materials for consideration by the scientific jury:

- Autobiography;
- Diploma for acquired educational and scientific degree "PhD";
- Habilitation thesis on the topic of the announced competition;

- Other publications related to the competition and their summaries;
- Reference to the fulfillment of the national minimum requirements laid down in the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB) and the Regulations for its implementation;
- Reference to contributions in scientific publications;
- Reference to the citations of scientific works in publications of other scientists;
- Employment certificate;
- Documents certifying the applicant's participation in various projects.

I accept the publications submitted for consideration in connection with this proceeding.

They, as well as the activity on the implementation of various projects, are fully sufficient for the fulfillment of the minimum national requirements for the activity of the candidate, laid down in the LDASRB and the Regulations for its implementation for the occupation of the academic position of "associate professor" in Professional Field 3.8 Economics. At the time of preparation of this opinion, there is no reason to doubt the authenticity of the candidate's scientific output.

## **2. General characteristics of the applicant's activity**

Dr. Madanski is distinguished by many years of practical experience in the field of the current competition - for more than 20 years he worked in the customs system in the Republic of Bulgaria, holding various positions and rising to the position of Chief Secretary of the Customs Agency in the period 2014-2018. Since 2019, he is Chief Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Economics of SU "St. Kliment Ohridski", where he teaches and directs a dedicated Master's program titled "Customs and Tax Control". This symbiosis of in-depth practical knowledge and academic development make the candidate particularly valuable as a teacher, bridging theory and practice, for the Faculty of Economics of SU. The candidate's entire scientific production and activity undoubtedly fall within

the scope of the announced competition for the academic position of "associate professor".

The candidate has submitted two monographic studies, one book chapter in Russian, and a book based on his dissertation work for the award of the his Ph.D. All of them fall into the area of the current competition:

- Madanski, Ts. (2022), Current issues of indirect taxes, 190 pp. BAS publishing house "Prof. Marin Drinov", Sofia, ISBN ISBN 978-619-245-239-1 2. Madanski, Ts. (2021),
- Customs regulations and economic aspects of the import of goods into the EU, 216 pages. BAS publishing house "Prof. Marin Drinov", Sofia, ISBN 978-619-245-148-6 3. Madanski, Ts. (2019),
- Madanski, Ts. Stefanov, (2022) Legal and financial and economic means of achieving the goals of sustainable development. Customs traffic control of productions that violate intellectual property rights. Influence of production and trade of fake and counterfeit products in some sectors of the economy of the European Union (paragraph 1.7) (p.525-542), ISBN:978-5-00172-310-3, Monograph "Izdatelstvo Prometei", Moscow, Reviewed, International
- Madanski, Ts. (2019), Factors for the effectiveness of customs control over the traffic of counterfeit and pirated goods that violate intellectual property rights, 200 pages, BAS Publishing House "Prof. Marin Drinov" ISBN 978-954-322-986-4 /dissertation work/

Apart from these, Dr. Madanski is the author of a textbook on customs control in two editions and a study aid on taxes and duties, as well as a total of 13 scientific articles and reports on this issue.

The candidate's papers undoubtedly contain both theoretical and applied contributions, with a certain preponderance of the latter. Among the contributions of theoretical nature, the author's reading of a number of customs regulations in the context of combating money laundering stands out. This is an extremely

topical matter in recent years, and Dr. Madanski examines it in depth from a conceptual point of view.

Next, he gives his interpretation of basic concepts in the field of customs management. Particularly valuable is the consideration in his works of the digitization of customs activity, its main directions, and problems. It is noteworthy that the candidate examines and analyzes digitalization both in its preventive role for violations of excise legislation and, more broadly, in its role in limiting the spread of the gray economy. This is also a very relevant aspect of modern customs management, and its importance has increased especially in the last few years.

An indisputable serious contribution of a practical and applied nature is the presentation in an accessible way and in a discussion mode of basic concepts and situations in the field of customs management. This is a very complex and at the same time extremely important activity both for the state and for business, and its knowledge by economics students is mandatory, but at the same time, it is not taught enough in Bulgarian higher schools. This is also due to the lack of textbooks and teaching aids, as well as the insufficient number of trained teachers in this matter. With his textbooks and in general with all his scientific production Dr. Madanski undoubtedly contributes to the formation of students' knowledge on this issue.

### **3. Critical remarks, questions and recommendations**

I have no serious criticisms of the candidate. I am impressed by the scientific output of Dr. Madanski, which is a reflection of the symbiosis between science and practice in a person's working career.

I address the following questions to the candidate, to which he can give an answer from his position of many years of experience as a manager and specialist in the field of customs management:

- Do you think that the non-tariff measures recently implemented in the context of the EU Green Deal for third countries will be effective on the one hand in achieving a "green" economy and on the other hand in protecting Union producers?
- Do you support the thesis that with the application of more diverse non-tariff measures, our country would protect its producers from foreign competition and increase the quality of imported goods?

## **CONCLUSION**

Based on the above, I give my positive assessment of the materials provided for consideration in connection with the present procedure and vote "FOR" the occupation of the academic position "associate professor" in 3.8 Economics (Customs regulations in international trade) in the Faculty of Economics of SU "St. Kliment Ohridski" by Chief Assistant Professor Tsvetan Madanski, Ph.D.

07.10.2022

City. Sofia

Prepared the opinion: (s)

*/Prof. Virginia Zhelyazkova, DSc/*