

STATEMENT

From: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Margarita Nikolova Cheshmedzhieva, Department of "Public Law Sciences", at the Faculty of Law and History, at South-West University "Neofit Rilski"

Regarding: Doctoral thesis for the award of the educational and scientific degree

DOCTOR

in the field of: Administrative Law and Administrative Process

Professional direction: 3.6. Law.

Area of higher education: 3. Social, Economic, and Legal Sciences.

Author of the doctoral thesis: **VASIL MLADENOV PETROV**, a regular form doctoral student at the Department of "Public Law Sciences" at the Faculty of Law Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" with a scientific supervisor Assoc. Prof. Dr. Bogdan Yordanov

Topic of the doctoral thesis: "**Constitution, Internal Organization, and Competence of the Municipal Council**"

Dear members of the Scientific Jury,

With Order No. RD-21-1717 from 05.10.2023, issued by the Rector of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski", I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury for the defense of the doctoral thesis of the doctoral candidate Vasil Mladenov Petrov on the topic: "Constitution, Internal Organization, and Competence of the Municipal Council", and at the first meeting of the jury, I have been tasked with preparing a position statement.

I. Candidate Information.

The candidate for the acquisition of the Educational and Scientific Degree "Doctor" Vasil Mladenov Petrov has been trained in the doctoral program "Administrative Law and Administrative Process" at the Department of "Public Law Sciences" of the Law Faculty of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski", professional direction 3.6 Law. He was enrolled in the regular form of training with Order No. R33-537 dated 03.02.2020 by the Rector of the university, on the topic of the doctoral thesis "Constitution, Internal Organization, and Competence of the Municipal Council", scientific supervisor Assoc. Prof. Dr. Bogdan Yordanov.

Mr. Petrov has passed all the necessary exams that are provided in his individual plan and has presented his doctoral thesis in a completed form according to the specified deadlines. The scientific research work, conducted by the doctoral candidate during the period of his doctorate, includes 3 publications on the topic of the doctoral thesis. For the preparation of this statement, I have been provided with: a biography, an order for the enrollment of the doctoral candidate, the doctoral thesis, an abstract, an order for dismissal with the right to defend, a list and copies of Petrov's scientific publications related to the topic of the doctoral thesis, and a declaration of originality of the work.

II. General Characteristics of the Doctoral Thesis and Contributing Aspects.

The work presented to our attention meets the minimum requirements and standards for academic research. Undoubtedly, the doctoral candidate is well acquainted with the problem and has approached its development in depth and with scientific integrity. In his work, Vasil Petrov demonstrates the ability to process scientific literature, analyze normative texts and case law, as well as to formulate his own proposals for optimizing legislation. The style is academic, and the terminological apparatus is correctly used. The choice of the topic of the presented research is determined by the doctoral candidate's lasting scientific interests in the issues of local self-government.

At first glance, the topic of the activities, constitution, and competence of the municipal council may seem familiar to the scientific community as it has been written about by both administrative and constitutional experts. However, it is important to note that despite this, the topic of the doctoral thesis remains current, not only due to changes in the regulatory framework and the dynamic development of social relations in the field of local self-government but also due to the lack of a comprehensive independent theoretical study on the topic. The issue of increasing the efficiency and accountability of local self-government bodies is also current.

The doctoral thesis consists of 196 pages and includes an introduction, four chapters, a conclusion, and a bibliographic reference of the literature used. The bibliography includes 63 sources, and there are 642 footnotes.

I believe that the object and subject of the scientific research are correctly defined. The doctoral thesis demonstrates a good understanding of the theory and methodology of the problem, leading to the achievement of the set goals and objectives. The main theses presented by the doctoral candidate are correct and result from an in-depth study of the problems. The main

results of the research are derived from the individual chapters of the work, summarized in the conclusion, and are linked to proposals de lege ferenda. The publications are the result of the author's scientific research and are related to the doctoral thesis. The abstract presented by the doctoral candidate meets the requirements and provides a complete idea of the concept, structure, main ideas, and results of the doctoral research.

As significant scientific merits of the presented doctoral work, the following could be pointed out:

The particular usefulness and contribution of the doctoral thesis are expressed in the fact that specific suggestions for improvement in the organization of the municipal council and the refinement of the legal framework in the field of local self-government are provided, some of which are formulated as ideas and proposals, while others as concrete suggestions de lege ferenda.

The work represents a comprehensive theoretical and systematic study of the activities, constitution, organization, and competence of the municipal council as a body of local self-government. The analysis in the third and fourth chapters contains original author's conclusions and conclusions.

The author demonstrates confidence in scientific research, approaching the case law and scientific literature on the topic analytically and critically.

The presented work has a pronounced practical significance, as the municipal management bodies establish the necessary connection between the population, territorial communities, and central state bodies. The achieved results can also serve the municipal councils to improve their activities for the benefit of the local community.

Some notes and recommendations can be made to the work.

I believe that the research would be enriched if a comparative legal analysis is made between the positive and negative practices in the activities of the municipal council in Bulgaria and the legal status of local self-government bodies in the countries of the European Union. It is recommended that the author's position and opinion on the analyzed issues be more clearly expressed. The notes made in no way detract from the positive evaluation the work deserves.

III. Conclusion.

In conclusion, I express my positive evaluation that the doctoral thesis presented for defense before a scientific jury on the topic "**Constitution, Internal Organization, and Competence of**

the Municipal Council" meets the requirements of Art. 6, para. 3 of the Higher Education Act and Art. 27, para. 2 of the Regulations for its application. It contains scientific and scientifically applied results, representing a contribution to science, and demonstrates that the candidate possesses in-depth theoretical knowledge in administrative law and process, as well as the ability to develop independent scientific research. Therefore, I will, with conviction, positively vote for the awarding of the educational and scientific degree "**Doctor**" in professional direction 3.6. Law, scientific specialty "Administrative Law and Administrative Process" to **Vasil Mladenov Petrov**.

14.12.2023
Blagoevgrad

Prepared by:
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Margarita Cheshmedzhieva