

OPINION

by Prof. Dr. Bogdan Dragnev Yordanov

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Regarding: the dissertation work of Radoslav Yordanov Mitev "Local self-government in cities with regional division", presented for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "doctor" in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences; professional direction 3.6. Law; doctoral program "Administrative Law and Administrative Process"

I present this opinion on the basis of Order No. RD-21-438/24.02.2023 of the Rector of the Plovdiv University "Paisiy Hilendarski" for the appointment of a scientific jury for the acquisition of the Doctor of Science degree. By decision of the scientific jury from its first meeting, I have been assigned to prepare an opinion.

The doctoral student has submitted a duly formatted set of documents. The abstract is correctly prepared in the volume required by the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of the University of Plovdiv and reflects the contributions of the dissertation work. The PhD student has submitted two completed publications and one accepted for publication, which fulfills the minimum national requirements.

My conclusions regarding the content of the scientific work are as follows:

The presented dissertation is a comprehensive analytical study of local self-government in cities with regional divisions in the Republic of Bulgaria, a topic that is poorly researched and developed, and the legislation, which largely dates from 1991 - 1995, does not adequately reflect the dynamics of modern life in large cities and their problems. The practical experience of the dissertation student (lawyer in the regional administration in the city of Plovdiv) gave him observations of the daily problems of the regional administration, which he made sense of and studied the legislation in this area.

My conclusions are basically the following:

pages long. The structure of the content is divided into an introduction, four chapters, a conclusion and a bibliography. A significant amount of relevant literature was searched, and due to the insufficient development of the problem of cities with regional division in the legal literature, the dissertationer resorted to researching the literature in the scientific fields of regional economy and administration and management, which is justified in view of the interdisciplinary nature of the topic .

A good impression is made by the large amount of studied case law.

Historical and formal-logical methods (in the analysis of legal acts) as well as the comparative legal method were mainly used.

In the introductory part, the dissertation clearly defines the subject of the research, which determines the logical and systematic integrity of the work.

The first chapter traces the historical development and the concept of local self-government from the period of its origin to its regulation in the modern stage. A review was also made of the changes in the administrative-territorial structure of the Republic of Bulgaria.

The dissertation has made an effort to discover the legislation of the Principality of Bulgaria and the Kingdom of Bulgaria, drawing parallels (where possible) with the current system, with the Law on Metropolitan City Administration, the Law on Municipalities and City Management, the Law on Urban Municipalities, the Law for the Metropolitan Municipality, the Ordinance-law for the Metropolitan Municipality. Studies on this legislation are not many in the modern legal literature. The key moment in 1995 is highlighted with the adoption of ZATURB and the amendment of the 1995 ZMSMA, which introduced the regional division of large cities and the creation of regional councils (today they do not exist) and regional mayors, as well as the adoption of the Law on Territorial division of the Metropolitan Municipality and the big cities.

The second chapter examines the constitution of districts in large cities, as well as the legal status and powers of the mayor of a district. The thesis that the regions in big cities have their important place for the optimal management in big cities with their specific problems (redevelopment , population density, traffic congestion, etc.) is defended with arguments and examples. The proposal to restore regional councils in cities with regional division is beneficial. The reasoning about the need for regional division in cities with a population of more than 100,000 people, and not, as now, more than 300,000 people, is also helpful - practice shows that so far, nearly 30 years after the creation of a regional division, there is no precedent 100- a city of a thousand has been divided into districts.

It is helpful to clarify the institution of the "incompatibility" of the mayor of a district. The legal acts that are issued by this mayor, as well as the possible control over him, have been studied in detail. A number of things are derived from practice due to the shortcomings in the legislation regarding this body of local self-government.

Chapter Three examines the powers of the mayor of a region under the Law on Local Self-Government and Local Administration, the Law on Territorial Planning, the Law on Public Procurement, the Law on Municipal Property, and the Law on Condominium Management. Here, the dissertator relied on his experience in regional administration and researched the legislation in order to systematize the powers scattered under various special laws, insofar as the general norm of Art. 46 ZMSMA does not indicate many of the real powers of the mayor of the region. The author compares the acts of the Metropolitan Municipality and the municipalities of Plovdiv and Varna, as such a comparison is a novelty in the doctrine. The study of the powers of a financial nature in the preparation and implementation of the municipal budget is useful, as well as the conclusions that it is wrong not to form an independent budget for the region in the big city.

The fourth theoretical chapter gives a comparative legal view with the study of the acts of the Council of Europe and the European Union related to the role of local self-government and gives an idea of the management in some large European cities - Paris, Athens and Budapest.

Critical notes:

The dissertation is subject to some revisions in the event of publication. For example, the dissertation consists of four chapters, but on some pages it is wrongly indicated that there

are five chapters. The weaknesses are easily remedied and do not affect my positive assessment of the work.

In conclusion: I find that the dissertation work is valuable and shows scholarly effort and opportunity for the dissertationer to make in-depth research and theoretical-practical conclusions.

In view of this, I find that the scientific jury should award the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" to Radoslav Mitev in the Department of Higher Education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional direction 3.6 Law, doctoral program "Administrative Law and Administrative Process".

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Assoc. Dr. B. Yordanov