

## **OPINION**

**By Assoc. Prof. Ivan Kyosev, PhD**

**Faculty of Law**

**Sofia University „Sv. Kliment Ohridski“**

on the materials submitted for participation in a competition

for the academic position of Associate Professor in

the Faculty of Law of the University of Plovdiv

“Paisii Hilendarski”

in field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences,

Professional field 3.6 Law

(History of the State and Law)

Desislava Vasileva Stoyankova took part in the competition for „associate professor“ for the needs of the Faculty of Law, announced in State Gazette № 31 of 11 April 2025.

By Order No RD 22-1349/11.06.2025 of the Rector of Plovdiv University ‘Paisii Hilendarski’ (PU), I was appointed as a member of the scientific jury in a competition for the academic position of ‘associate professor’ at the Plovdiv University in the area of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional field 3.6 Law (History of the Bulgarian State and Law), declared for the needs of the Faculty of Law.

The candidate, Dr Desislava Vasileva Stoyankova, from the Faculty of Law of University of Plovdiv „Paisii Hilendarski”, has submitted documents for the competition.

Dr. Desislava Vasileva Stoyankova graduated from the Faculty of Law of the University of Plovdiv „Paisii Hilendarski“, where she acquired a specialty in Law in

2004. In 2015 she successfully defended her doctoral dissertation and obtained the educational and scientific degree of Doctor of Law.

Since 2013 the candidate has held the academic positions of assistant and since 12.03. 2020 Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Law of Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski'.

As a candidate for the academic position of associate professor, Desislava Stoyankova has gone through the necessary stages of career development and has the required qualifications, scientific potential and professional experience.

In the context of the competition for the academic post of associate professor, the candidate submitted: two monographic studies and 3 articles and studies published in authoritative scientific journals and collections. Publication summaries have also been provided and a proper contribution summary has been prepared. There is a condition laid down in the Promotion of Academic Staff in Republic of Bulgaria Act that the candidate for the academic position of associate professor must submit a published monographic work or equivalent publications in specialised scientific journals that do not repeat those submitted for obtaining the educational and scientific degree of doctor, that has been fulfilled.

The submitted publications contain scientific contributions in the field of work of the candidate: History of State and Law.

The main monograph study presented is: 'State bodies in the Bulgarian constitutions – National Assembly, Council of Ministers, Head of State – 1879-1991. Legal and Historical Analysis' (Plovdiv, University of Economics „Paisii Hilendarski“, 2025, 420 p.)

The scientific contributions of the candidate in the main monograph 'State bodies in the Bulgarian constitutions – National Assembly, Council of Ministers, Head of State – 1879-1991. Legal-historical analysis' may be set out in the following guidelines:

The monograph is characterized by good structure of the content, and a merit of the paper is the historical introduction with which the reader is introduced into the studied matter. Consistently, the status and powers of the higher bodies of state power are presented and analyzed. Particularly significant is Chapter Five of the paper, which outlines the historical evolution of the bodies of government from 1879 to 1991 during the three constitutional epochs - monarchical, socialist and democratic. A significant contribution of the candidate is the careful analysis of the transformation of the institution of the head of state - from the princely power under the Tarnovo Constitution, through the socialist legal framework and to the presidential institution in the modern parliamentary democracy.

Desislava Stoyankova shows skills to present and analyze with the arsenal of modern legal science the legal-political and legal-normative features of the higher bodies of state power of the new Bulgarian state. The structure and powers of the collective state bodies of the legislative and executive powers, as well as of the Head of State, are presented in detail.

In summary, the candidate demonstrates a thorough knowledge of the constitutional framework of the Bulgarian institutions from the analyzed historical period and legal-historical context, demonstrates a clear scientific style of expression and convincingly substantiates her conclusions.

Also presented are three articles devoted to the analysis of the legal framework of the National Assembly in the Bulgarian Constitutions (the „National Assembly in the Bulgarian Constitutions“, Collection „30 Years of the University of National and World Economy“, 2022), of the public policy factors influencing the adoption of the democratic constitution of 1991 (the „Public Policy Factors in the Adoption of the Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria“, p. Studia juris, Issue 2, 2021) and „On the Law of Obligations and Contracts“, the candidate demonstrates skills both to analyse

large-scale legal and public policy issues and questions of sectoral legal disciplines in a legal-historical context.

The teaching and scientific activities of Desislava Stoyankova meet the requirements of the competition for the academic position of Associate Professor. They are in accordance with the requirements of the Promotion of Academic Staff in Republic of Bulgaria Act and the Regulation on its implementation. The candidate has the qualities of a scientist and a respected teacher. I express my positive assessment and agreement that the Scientific Jury should prepare a proposal report to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Law for election of Chief Ass. Prof. Dr. Desislava Vasileva Stoyankova for the academic position of Associate Professor at the University of Plovdiv „Paisii Hilendarski” in the professional field 3.6 Law (History of the State and Law).

Drafted the opinion:

Assoc. Prof. Ivan Kyosev Ph.D.

11 August 2025  
Sofia