

OPINION

by Dr. Hristo Atanasov Ormandzhiev

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Tarnovo

regarding a doctoral dissertation submitted for the award of the educational and scientific degree “**doctor**”

in: field of higher education 3. “Social, Economic and Legal Sciences”

professional area 3.6. Law

doctoral programme “Constitutional Law”

Author: Vasil Georgiev Iliev

Dissertation title: Fundamental Obligations of Citizens in the Bulgarian Constitutions

Academic supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hristo Yordanov Paunov

1. General presentation of the procedure and the doctoral candidate

By Order No. RD-22-2395 of 26 November 2025 of the Rector of Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv, I was appointed a member of the scientific jury for conducting the public defense procedure of the doctoral dissertation entitled “Fundamental Obligations of Citizens in the Bulgarian Constitutions” for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree “doctor” in field of higher education 3. “Social, Economic and Legal Sciences”, Professional Area 3.6 “Law”, Doctoral Programme “Constitutional Law”.

The author of the dissertation is Vasil Georgiev Iliev – a full-time doctoral candidate at the Department of Public Law Sciences under the academic supervision of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hristo Yordanov Paunov at Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv.

The set of materials submitted in hard copy complies with Art. 36(1) of the Rules for the Development of the Academic Staff of PU and includes all required documents: application to initiate the defense procedure, CV (European format), minutes of the departmental council, dissertation, abstract, list of scientific publications, copies of the publications, list of citations, and declaration of originality and authenticity. The candidate has provided the required number of publications and corresponding scientometric data.

In view of the foregoing, from a formal standpoint the requirements have been complied with and, respectively, all documents required under the applicable statutory and secondary legislation for the conduct of the final session of the jury for the public defense of the doctoral dissertation of the doctoral candidate Vasil Georgiev Iliev have been duly submitted..

Vasil Georgiev Iliev was born on 31 March 1998. He graduated from the Faculty of Law of PU "Paisii Hilendarski". During his studies he served as Deputy Chair of the Faculty Student Council and as a member of the University Student Council. After graduation, he worked as a legal adviser, legal consultant, and attorney's assistant, which demonstrates active professional legal practice. He has excellent command of English, which substantially supports his research work.

2. Relevance of the topic

The topic is highly relevant. The doctoral candidate reviews the existing literature and, on the basis of the available sources, develops a comprehensive dissertation study.

3. Knowledge of the problem

The dissertation demonstrates an in-depth knowledge of the subject matter. The analysis of fundamental obligations extends not only to national constitutions but also historically—to Ancient Greece and Rome and, in modern times, to the constitutions of various European states.

4. Research methodology

The principal research methods employed include the historical method – through examining the subject matter in its historical development up to contemporary society – as well as the comparative method, with regard to the legal regulation of the fundamental obligations in the respective states. In addition, for the purpose of deriving legal conclusions, the doctoral candidate also applies the methods of analysis and synthesis. Through the use of these methods, the study achieves comprehensiveness of the subject matter and successfully fulfills the objectives set out in the dissertation.

5. Characteristics and evaluation of the dissertation and its contributions

The dissertation consists of three chapters, a conclusion, and a bibliography. The first chapter provides a historical analysis of the legal and historical aspects of legal obligations in the ancient world, followed by a historical overview of the fundamental obligations of citizens in the Constitutions of Poland, France, Bavaria, and Spain. The author appropriately draws the necessary distinctions between legal obligation and juridical obligation, as well as between subjective and fundamental obligations, and examines

the content of the legally significant term “fundamental obligation of the citizen” within the Bulgarian constitutions, together with the theories concerning the emergence of fundamental obligations.

Of particular interest is the classification proposed by the doctoral candidate, whereby fundamental obligations of citizens are divided into proprietary and non-proprietary, duty-based, public, and personal. The modes of performance of these fundamental obligations are also examined, namely voluntary and compulsory performance.

The second chapter analyses the fundamental obligations of citizens under the Tarnovo Constitution and includes a comparative review of their constitutional entrenchment in the Constitutions of 1947 and 1971.

The third chapter, which constitutes the core part of the dissertation, focuses on the fundamental obligations of citizens under the Constitution of 1991, the issue having first been considered in connection with the constitutional draft proposals.

A distinctive feature of the dissertation is Section 4 of Chapter Three, entitled “Author’s Position,” in which, on the basis of a comparative analysis of foreign legal systems, the introduction of a new civic obligation concerning the protection of cultural heritage is proposed.

International human rights instruments and the obligations they impose on states and citizens are likewise examined.

The conclusion summarizes the principal findings of each chapter. The bibliography is extensive and impressive, comprising a wide range of sources in Bulgarian and English, the case law of the Constitutional Court, verbatim records of the Grand National Assembly, and issues of the State Gazette.

6. Publications and personal contribution - a list of publications has been submitted with the documents. These publications correspond to the subject matter of the dissertation and address the fundamental obligations of citizens under the Constitutions of 1947 and 1971, as well as the obligation of the state to guarantee the fundamental right to freedom of movement. The doctoral candidate’s personal contribution to the preparation of the dissertation is clearly discernible, both in its analytical part and in the proposals advanced *de lege ferenda*.

7. Abstract - It has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the relevant regulations; its structure corresponds to the content of the dissertation and accurately reflects the principal results achieved therein.

8. Recommendations for the future use of the dissertation's contributions and results - the study contains scientific contributions in several directions:

- a historical review of the fundamental obligations of citizens in several states;
- a comparative analysis of the obligations of citizens in national constitutions;
- a **de lege ferenda** proposal for the introduction of a new civic obligation concerning the protection of cultural heritage.

CONCLUSION

The dissertation *contains scientific, applied scientific, and practical results that constitute an original contribution to legal scholarship* and **comply with all requirements** of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), the Regulations for the Implementation of the LDASRB, and the relevant Rules of Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv.

The dissertation demonstrates that the doctoral candidate, Vasil Georgiev Iliev, **possesses** in-depth theoretical knowledge and professional competence in the field of Constitutional Law and **exhibits** the qualities and skills necessary for the independent conduct of scholarly research.

In view of the foregoing, I confidently give my **positive evaluation** of the research conducted, as presented in the reviewed dissertation, abstract, and the results and contributions achieved, and **I propose that the esteemed scientific jury award the educational and scientific degree of “doctor”** to Vasil Georgiev Iliev in Field of Higher Education 3. “Social, Economic and Legal Sciences”, Professional Area 3.6 “Law”, doctoral programme “Constitutional Law”, for which I shall vote unequivocally in favour.

03.02.2026

Prepared by:.....

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hristo Ormandzhiev