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Election of judges to the European Court of Human Rights

List and curricula vitae of candidates submitted by the Government of Bulgaria

Communication[1]
Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly

1. The list of candidates was submitted by the Bulgarian Government on the basis of the Bulgarian alphabatical order. At its meeting on 8-9 January 2024, the Committee instructed the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly to revise the document in order to present the list of candidates following the Latin script, so as to avoid any confusion during the vote.

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1. List and curricula vitae of candidates submitted by the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria

Letter from Ms Maria Spassova, Ambassador of the Republic of Bulgaria to the Council of Europe, to Ms Chatzivassiliou-Tsovilis, Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly, dated 27 October 2023

[…]

Pursuant to the Decision No. 468 of the Council of Minister of the Republic of Bulgaria, the nominated candidates of the Republic of Bulgaria are listed in alphabetical order according to the Bulgarian alphabet, as follows:

– Ms Galya Goranova Valkova

– Ms Diana Petrova Kovacheva

– Mr Dragomir Nikolov Yordanov

2. Information on national selection procedure for the position of a judge of the European Court of Human Rights

2.1. Introduction

By a letter dated 16 September 2022 from Sir Paul Mahoney, Chair of the Advisory Panel of Experts on Candidates for Election as Judge to the European Court of Human Rights, Bulgaria was informed that the term of office of the Bulgarian judge Yonko Grozev would expire on 12 April 2024 and it was requested to submit a list of three candidates for election as judge, their professional curricula vitae and information on the procedure followed for their election.

2.2. Preliminary issues

The Ministry of Justice took timely action to conduct a selection procedure for candidates for a new Bulgarian judge in the European Court of Human Rights. On 21 December 2022, the Ministry's official website published a call for public consultations on a draft order of the Minister of Justice laying down the criteria to be met by candidates for appointment as a judge in the European Court of Human Rights and the regulation of the selection procedure. After refining the texts in the frameworks of the public consultations, the Minister of Justice issued Order No. JIC-04-17/20 January 2023. A Selection Committee was also set up. A public interview with the candidates was held on 3 April 2023. At the meeting held on the same day, the Committee concluded that at that time there were no three candidates who met the criteria of Order No. JIC-04-17/20 January 2023 of the Minister of Justice and the criteria adopted by the Committee. The Committee therefore unanimously decided not to carry out a ranking and accordingly not to draw up a list of three ranked candidates. For this reason, the first selection procedure for candidates of the Republic of Bulgaria for a judge in the European Court of Human Rights, held pursuant to Order No JIC-04-17/20 January 2023 of the Minister of Justice, was terminated.

2.3. Selection procedure

2.3.1. Publication of an selection procedure notice

On 20 April 2023, the Ministry of Justice re-launched a selection procedure for candidates for a new Bulgarian judge in the European Court of Human Rights by Order No. JIC-04- 139/20 April 2023 of the Minister of Justice (hereinafter also referred to as the 'Order'). The selection procedure notice, as well as a copy of the order with the appendices thereto, were published on the website of the Ministry of Justice, the Supreme Judicial Council, the Supreme Court of Cassation, the Supreme Administrative Court, the National Institute of Justice, the Supreme Bar Council, the Union of Bulgarian Jurists and in the newspaper 24 Chasa – a national daily newspaper (according to item 4 of the order).

2.3.2. Submission of an application and documents required for participation in the selection procedure

The deadline for submitting an application and the necessary documents for participation in the selection was 29 May 2023.

The following thirteen applications were received in the Ministry of Justice within the deadline set, in alphabetical order (according to the Bulgarian alphabet, with the first name being the leading one):

– Mr Viktor Yosifov Soloveichik
– Ms Galya Goranova Valkova
– Ms Diana Petrova Kovacheva
– Mr Dragomir Nikolov Yordanov
– Ms Ekaterina Nikolaeva Georgieva
– Mr Ivan Petkov Boev
– Ms Iskra Todorova Alexandrova
– Ms Katerina Borislavova Yocheva
– Ms Krasimira Neofitova Milachkova
– Ms Maria Hristova Popova
– Ms Milena Vladimirova Kadieva
– Mr Plamen Evgeniev Borisov
– Ms Tatyana Emilova Bachvarova

2.3.3. Admission on the basis of the documents of the applicants who meet the criteria referred to in item 1 of Order No JIC-04-139/20 April 2023

2.3.3.1. Selection Committee (the 'Committee')

Pursuant to item 6 of the order, the Selection Committee shall be composed of an odd number of members – experts in public international law and in European law, including human rights law, experts in English and experts in French. The Committee shall be composed of at least two judges, a habilitated lecturer in legal sciences, an expert from the Human Rights Directorate in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a lawyer, a representative of a non-profit legal entity active in the field of human rights, and a university lecturer in each of English and French philology. Members of the Committee must have sufficient proficiency in English and French. The Minister of Justice appoints the personnel composition of the Committee, comprising at least seven core members, including its Chairperson, and an equal number of reserve members.

In this regard, in response to letters sent by the Minister of Justice, the relevant institutions and non-governmental organisations appointed their representatives and Order No. JIC-13- 78/29 May 2023 was issued to determine the composition of the Committee for the selection of the candidates of the Republic of Bulgaria for a judge in the European Court of Human Rights, as follows:

Chairperson:

– Prof. Dr. Plamen Panayotov – Professor, Department of Criminal Law at the Faculty of Law, Sofia University 'St. Kliment Ohridski'

Core members:

1. Ms Iliana Papazova-Markova – Judge of the Civil College of the Supreme Court of Cassation;
2. Ms Lyubka Petrova – Judge at the Third Division of the Supreme Administrative Court;
3. Assoc. Prof. Simeon Groysman – Habilitated Lecturer, Department of Theory and History of State and Law at the Faculty of Law of Sofia University 'St. Kliment Ohridski';
4. Mr Angel Bandzhov- Director of the Human Rights Directorate at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
5. Attorney-at-law Alexander Kashamov – member of the Supreme Bar Council;
6. Mr Stanislav Kostov – Chair of the Management Board of the Bulgarian Lawyers for Human Rights Foundation;
7. Chief Asst. Dr. Ilina Amer – Habilitated Lecturer in English Philology in the Faculty of Classical and New Philologies of Sofia University 'St. Kliment Ohridski ';

8. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zhana Toncheva – Habilitated Lecturer in French Philology in the Faculty of Classical and New Philologies of Sofia University 'St. Kliment Ohridski'.

Reserve members:

1. Ms Galina Toneva-Dacheva – Judge in the Criminal College of the Supreme Court of Cassation;
2. Ms Anna Dimitrova – Judge in the Fifth Division of the Supreme Administrative Court;
3. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hristo Hristev – Habilitated Lecturer, Department of International Law and International Relations at the Faculty of Law of Sofia University ‘St. Kliment Ohridski’;
4. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zdravka Krasteva – Habilitated Lecturer, Department of Criminal Law at the Faculty of Law, Sofia University ‘St. Kliment Ohridski’;
5. Ms Yordanka Parparova – Senior Diplomatic Officer II rank in the Human Rights Directorate in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
6. Attorney-at-law Nina Sedefova – Member of the Supreme Bar Council;
7. Mr Nikolay Runevski – Member of the Management Board of the Bulgarian Lawyers for Human Rights Foundation;
8. Chief Asst. Penka Hristova – Habilitated Lecturer in English Philology in the Faculty of Classical and New Philologies of Sofia University ‘St. Kliment Ohridski’;
9. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Margarita Ruski-Vandova – Habilitated Lecturer in French Philology in the Faculty of Classical and New Philologies of Sofia University ‘St. Kliment Ohridski’.

2.3.3.2. Session for the admission on the basis of the documents of the candidates who meet the criteria referred to in item 1 of Order No. JIC-04-139/20 April 2023.

On 1 June 2023, the first session of the Selection Committee was held for the admission, on a document basis, of the candidates meeting the criteria set out in item 1 of the order.

With regard to the applications received, the Chairperson, Prof. Dr. Plamen Panayotov and Mr Alexander Kashamov, announced that they participated in the Consultative Council on Constitutional Affairs under the Ombudsman of the Republic of Bulgaria, Ms Diana Kovacheva, who was a candidate in the procedure in her personal capacity. In this regard, the Committee discussed whether there was a conflict of interests and unanimously resolved that there was no conflict of interest. However, in order to leave no doubt about the impartial discussion and decision-making of the Committee regarding the candidate Diana Petrova Kovacheva in these cases the Committee resolved that Prof. Dr. Plamen Panayotov and Mr Alexander Kashamov will be replaced by backup members of the Committee.

By minutes of the same date, the Committee announced its resolution to admit on a document basis to participation in the selection procedure in accordance with item 7, letter (a) of the order the following persons, listed in alphabetical order (according to the Bulgarian alphabet, the first name being the leading one):

– Mr Viktor Yosifov Soloveichik
– Ms Galya Goranova Valkova
– Ms Diana Petrova Kovacheva
– Mr Dragomir Nikolov Yordanov
– Ms Ekaterina Nikolaeva Georgieva
– Mr Ivan Petkov Boev
– Ms Iskra Todorova Alexandrova
– Ms Katerina Borislavova Yocheva
– Ms Krasimira Neofitova Milachkova
– Ms Maria Hristova Popova
– Ms Milena Vladimirova Kadieva
– Mr Plamen Evgeniev Borisov
– Ms Tatyana Emilova Bachvarova.

After verification of the documents submitted by the candidates under item 2, letter (d) of the order, certifying the respective degree of proficiency in English and French in accordance with the requirements laid down in item 1, letter (f) of the order, the Committee exempted Mr Viktor Yosifov Soloveichik, Mrs Diana Petrova Kovacheva and Mr Dragomir Nikolov Yordanov from the written language test and scheduled a date for the written test in English and French for the candidates who had not certified the required level of proficiency in the language(s) with documents.

The Committee also fixed the date and place of conduction of the public interview referred to in item 3, letter (e) of the order.

On the same date, 1 June 2023, the following was published on the website of the Ministry of Justice:

– Minutes from the conducted session of the Committee;

– A final list of the persons admitted on a document basis to participate in the procedure for the selection of candidates for a judge in the European Court of Human Rights in accordance with item 7, letter (a) of the order.

2.3.4. A written test in English and French to certify the degree of proficiency in the foreign language concerned for candidates who have not certified their proficiency in the language with the documents referred to in item 2, letter (d) of Order No. JIC-04-139/20 April 2023.

In accordance with the Committee's resolution, written tests in English and French were held on 5 June 2023 to certify candidates' proficiency in the respective foreign language.

A session was held on the same day, at which the Committee admitted to the public interview the following persons listed in alphabetical order (according to the Bulgarian alphabet, the first name being the leading one):

– Mr Viktor Yosifov Soloveichik

– Ms Galya Goranova Valkova

– Ms Diana Petrova Kovacheva

– Mr Dragomir Nikolov Yordanov

– Ms Ekaterina Nikolaeva Georgieva

– Ms Katerina Borislavova Yocheva

– Ms Krasimira Neofitova Milachkova

– Mr Plamen Evgeniev Borisov

– Ms Tatyana Emilova Bachvarova.

The Committee did not admit the following persons, listed in alphabetical order (according to the Bulgarian alphabet, the first name being the leading one), to the public interview:

– Mr Ivan Petkov Boev – the candidate did not sit for a written test for certification of sufficient proficiency in English;

– Ms Iskra Todorova Alexandrova – failed the written test for certification of sufficient proficiency in English;

– Ms Maria Hristova Popova – failed the written test to certify sufficient proficiency in French;

– Ms Milena Vladimirova Kadieva – failed the written test to certify sufficient proficiency in French.

The Committee adopted criteria of equal relative weighting in the evaluation of the candidates under item 7, letter (c) of the order, as follows: thorough knowledge of the national legal system, including in the field of human rights; knowledge of substantive and procedural law under the ECHR; the candidate's views on the role of the judge in the European Court of Human Rights; and current trends in the practice of applying the ECHR.

The request of Ms Iskra Todorova Alexandrova, received in the Ministry of Justice on 2 June 2023 was discussed at the session. The request was to replace the core member of the Committee, Lyubka Petrova, by a reserve member when making decisions regarding the candidate Iskra Todorova Alexandrova in order to avoid conflict of interest. The Committee did not grant this request, arguing that prerequisites for the presence of a conflict of interest had not been established.

The Committee discussed, but did not grant either, an objection received from the candidate Ivan Petkov Boev that the document submitted by him evidencing his proficiency in English, which according to his allegations met the requirements under item 2, letter (d) of the order, was not recognised.

The minutes of the session were posted the same day, 5 June 2023, on the website of the Ministry of Justice.

On 6 June 2023, due to an objection received in the Ministry of Justice from the candidate Ivan Petkov Boev against his being not admitted to the public interview, with an enclosed new document for English language proficiency, an extraordinary session of the Committee was arranged. After a cumulative assessment of the documents submitted by the candidate, the Committee unanimously decided that the candidate had certified a sufficient level of proficiency in English and admitted him to an interview.

The minutes from the session were posted the same day, 6 June 2023, on the website of the Ministry of Justice.

2.3.5. Public interview, including in English and French

A public interview was held in the Ministry of Justice on 8 June 2023. The order of hearing was determined by lot drawn by each candidate. The only person present in the room during the conduction of the interview was the candidate being interviewed.

In accordance with the Committee's resolution adopted on 1 June 2023, in the hearing and evaluation of the candidate Diana Petrova Kovacheva, Prof. Dr. Plamen Panayotov and Mr Alexander Kashamov were replaced by the reserve members, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zdravka Krasteva and attorney-at-law Nikolay Runevski, as a reserve member of the Supreme Bar Council instead of attorney-at-law Nina Sedefova who was not able to participate (Order No. ЛС-13-82 of 08 June 2023).

In order to ensure transparency and publicity during the public interview, senior magistrates, representatives of the Ombudsman institution, Constitutional Court judges, academics, NGOs, media and other stakeholders were invited.

The public interview with each of the candidates admitted included:

– a short statement on the rote of the judge in the European Court of Human Rights;

– hearing the replies to the questions put by the Committee members;

– hearing of the answers to the questions put by the invited persons.

The hearing was held in Bulgarian with some questions having been asked in one of the official languages of the Council of Europe – English or French.

Each member of the Committee assessed each candidate by putting a score on their overall performance. The lowest score was 2 whereas the highest score was 6. The final ranking of the candidates was based on their average score.

2.3.6. Assessment, ranking and announcement of the candidates nominated by the Committee in alphabetical order in a main list and in a reserve list according to the ranking

On the basis of the results of the conducted interview, the Committee adopted a basic list in alphabetical order (in accordance with the Bulgarian alphabet, with the first name being the leading one) of the names of the first three candidates ranked according to item 7, letter (h) of the order, as follows:

– Ms Galya Goranova Valkova

– Ms Diana Petrova Kovacheva

– Mr Dragomir Nikolov Yordanov

The Committee also adopted a reserve list of candidates in accordance with the final scores in accordance with item 7, letter (i) of the order as follows:

– Mr Viktor Yosifov Soloveichik

– Ms Krasimira Neofitova Milachkova

– Ms Ekaterina Nikolaeva Georgieva

– Mr Plamen Evgeniev Borisov

– Mr Ivan Petkov Boev

– Ms Tatyana Emilova Bachvarova

– Ms Katerina Borislavova Yocheva

On the same day, 8 June 2023, the prepared minutes with the lists referred to in item 7, letters (h) and (i) of the order were posted on the website of the Ministry of Justice.

2.3.7. Adoption of a resolution of the Council of Ministers on the approval of the national candidates in a main and a reserve list

On 5 June 2023, the Council of Ministers adopted Decision No. 468 of 7 July 2023 whereby it definitely appointed the candidates of the Republic of Bulgaria for judges in the European Court of Human Rights and approved the reserve list of candidates.

Appendix 1 – Curriculum vitae of Diana Petrova KOVACHEVA

I. Personal details:

Name, forename: KOVACHEVA, Diana Petrova

Sex: female

Date and place of birth: 16 July 1975, Sofia

Nationality: Bulgarian

II. Education and academic and other qualifications

– December 2021, Bulgarian Academy of Science, Institute for the State and the Law – Professor in International Law and International Relations

– July 2016 – December 2021, Bulgarian Academy of Science, Institute for the State and the Law (Institute for Legal Studies) – Associated Professor in International Law and International Relations

– June 2010, Supreme Commission for Attestation (BAK), Bulgarian Academy of Science, Institute for Legal Studies - Doctor in International Law and International Relations, Ph. D. Topic: "Establishment of the International Criminal Court. Main Aspects of its Jurisdiction"

– October 2007 – July 2008, Université Nancy 2, Ministry of Higher Education and Research – Master degree in European union law, "Mastère Droit de la Construction Européenne", Master degree in Law, Economy and Governance, Department "European Studies", Master's thesis: The Role of OLAF in the Protection of the Financial Interests of the EU" (in French)

– October 2007 – July 2008, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" Faculty of Law, Master's degree in international relations: Law of the European Union

– October 2006 – July 2007, Université Nancy 2, France, Centre Européen Universitaire – Inter-university diploma "Legal and Judicial system of the European Union", Postgraduate studies: European Union Law

– October 2006 – July 2007, Joint programme among Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" Faculty of Law, Université Nancy 2, France, Université Robert Schuman, France – Postgraduate studies, Diploma in Law "Legal and Judicial System of the European Union"

– October 1993 – June 1999, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", Faculty of Law – Master degree in Law, Diploma for Higher Education

– Ministry of Justice, June 1999 – June 2000 – Certificate for legal probation

– First English Language School, Ministry of Science and Education – Diploma Certificate for Fluency in English Language (private pupil)

– 19th Secondary School "Elin Pelin", Sofia – Diploma for Secondary Education

– 2000, Ministry of National Education of France – Diploma for Fluency in French (DALF)

III. Relevant professional activities

a. Description of judicial activities

N/A

b. Description of non-judicial legal activities

– 5 September 2019 (inauguration) – 21 May 2020 (election), Sofia, National Ombudsman of the Republic of Bulgaria – **Ombudsman of the Republic of Bulgaria**

– January 2016 – September 2019, Sofia, National Ombudsman of the Republic of Bulgaria – Deputy-Ombudsman of the Republic of Bulgaria

– Since December 2021, Sofia Bulgarian Academy of Science Institute for Legal Studies – **Professor in International Law and International Relations**

– July 2016 – December 2021, Sofia Bulgarian Academy of Science Institute for Legal Studies – Associated Professor in International Law and International Relations

– Since October 2017, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" – **Professor** /Associate professor in the Masters programme, International Public Law, International Protection of Human Rights (classes in English and Bulgarian)

– Since January 2014, Council of Europe – **Legal Consultant** in Human rights protection, judicial reform and anticorruption

– Since September 2013, Sofia, University for National and World Economy, **Professor**/Associated professor, Law of the European Union, International Humanitarian Law, International Public Law

– December 2013 – July 2016, Sofia, Bulgarian Academy of Science Institute for Legal Studies – Chief Assistant in International Law and International Relations

– September 2013 – January 2016, Sofia, Transparency International Bulgaria – Lead Legal Researcher

– 30 November 2011 – 13 March 2013, Sofia, Ministry of Justice – Minister of Justice

– July 2003 – July 2004, Sofia, Open Society Institute Sofia – Director of project "Civic Convention for Amendments to the Bulgarian Constitution"

– September 2002 – November 2011, Sofia, Transparency International Bulgaria – Executive Director, Legal Advisor

– 2005 – 2007 and 2013 – 2016, Sofia, National Institute for Public Administration – Lecturer on International Legal Aspects of anticorruption, Legal ethics and anticorruption, Legal aspects of conflict-of-interest prevention

– June 2001 – August 2002, Sofia, Ministry of Justice, "International Legal cooperation and legal aid" Department – Senior Expert

– June 2000 – June 2001, Sofia, Bulgarian Academy of Science, Institute for Legal studies – Research fellow in International Law and International Relations

– June 1999 – June 2000, Sofia, Ministry of Justice – Legal Probation

c. Description of non-legal professional activities

N/A

IV. Activities and experience in the field of human rights

– 5 September 2019 (inauguration) – 21 May 2020 (election), Sofia, National Ombudsman of the Republic of Bulgaria – **Ombudsman of the Republic of Bulgaria**

– January 2016 – September 2019, Sofia, National Ombudsman of the Republic of Bulgaria – Deputy-Ombudsman of the Republic of Bulgaria

– Since December 2021, Sofia, Bulgarian Academy of Science Institute for Legal Studies – **Professor in International Law and International Relations**

– July 2016 – December 2021, Sofia, Bulgarian Academy of Science Institute for Legal Studies – Associated Professor in International Law and International Relations

– Since October 2017, Sofia, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" – **Professor/Associate professor in** the Masters programme, International Public Law, International Protection of Human Rights (classes in English and Bulgarian)

– Since January 2014, Council of Europe – **Legal Consultant** in Human rights protection, judicial reform and anti corruption

– Since September 2013, Sofia, University for National and World Economy – **Professor/Associated professor**, Law of the European Union, International Humanitarian Law, International Public Law

– December 2023 – July 2016, Sofia, Bulgarian Academy of Science Institute for Legal Studies – Chief Assistant in International Law and International Relations

– September 2013 – January 2016, Sofia, Transparency International Bulgaria – Lead Legal Researcher

– 30 November 2011 – 13 March 2013, Sofia, Ministry of Justice – Minister of Justice

– September 2002 – November 2011, Sofia, Transparency International Bulgaria – Executive Director, Legal Advisor

– June 2001 – August 2002, Sofia Ministry of Justice, "International Legal cooperation and legal aid" Department – Senior Expert

– June 2000 – June 2001, Sofia, Bulgarian Academy of Science, Institute for Legal studies – Research fellow in International Law and International Relations

Specialisations in Human Rights Protection

– June 2019, Italy, European Network of National Human rights Institutions (ENNHRI) OSCE, ODIHR – 2019 NHRI Academy, International Protection of Human Rights (advanced course)

– 2016, Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, Diplomatic Institute, Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Protection of Human Rights

– July 2006, Council of Europe, Bulgarian School of Politics – Summer University for Democracy of the Schools of Political Studies of the Council of Europe

– August 2003, Turku, Finland, Institute for Human Rights, Abo Akademi University – International Protection for Human Rights (advanced course)

– August 2001, Turku, Finland, Institute for Human Rights, Abo Akademi University – Monitoring on Human Rights and Election Monitoring

– 2000, New York, USA, Queen's College, City University of New York – International Human Rights Protection

– 2000, New York, USA Parliamentarians for Global Action – International Protection of Human Rights and International Criminal Justice (Probation and Practice)

V. Public activities

a. Public office

– June 2001 – August 2002, Sofia, Ministry of Justice, International Legal Co-operation and Legal Aid Department – Senior Expert (Civil Servant)

b. Elected posts

– 5 September 2019 (inauguration) – 21 May 2020 (election), Sofia, National Ombudsman of the Republic of Bulgaria – **Ombudsman** of the Republic of Bulgaria

– 28 January 2016 – September 2019, Sofia, National Ombudsman of the Republic of Bulgaria – Deputy Ombudsman of the Republic of Bulgaria

– December 2021, Sofia Bulgarian Academy of Science Institute for Legal Studies – **Professor in International Law and International Relations**

– 30 November 2011 – 13 March 2013, Sofia, Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Bulgaria – Minister of Justice

c. Posts held in a political party or movement

N/A

VI. Other activities

N/A

VII. Publications and other works

Scientific publications

– Scientific Books: 4

– Book Chapters: 2

– Manuals: 4

– Scientific Articles: 20

Scientific books

– International Standards and Challlenges for National Human Rights Institutions, “Prof. Marin Drinov” Publisher, 2021

– Individual as subject of the International Law. Legal Personality of the Individual in the Context of the International Law on Protection of Human Rights and the International Humanitarian Law, Ciela, 2018,

– International Criminal Court, establishment and complementary jurisdiction”, Sofia University, “St. Kliment Ohridski” publisher S., 2018

– International Aspects of the Fight against Corruption, Institute for Legal studies, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, S., 2016

Scientific Articles

– “The New Legal Subjects: are the Artificial Intelligence Systems among us?, De Jure Legal Review, 13 February 2022

– How long shall man be the measure of all things? Artificial Intelligence systems and the Protection of Human Rights: Overwhelming risks or Beneficial Opportunities?, Economic Alternatives Review (under print)

– “Article 228 from the Treaty of the Functioning in the European Union, the Treaty of Functioning of the European Union”, Blanke/Mangiameli, vol. III, Springer, (under print)

– “European Standards for independence and freedom of Expression of the Judiciary”, De jure Legal Review, 1/2019

– “Legal issues in the Cooperation among National Ombudsmen in South-East Europe”, Balkanistic Forum Legal Review, 2/2019

– “Human rights protection in the European Union: Is the European Ombudsman Legging behind?”, Papers of BAS, Humanities and social Sciences, 1/2018

– “Integrity Checks as Part of the Fight Against Corruption and the Protection of Human Rights: European standards and the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights”, Legal Review, 1/2018

– “Is there a Connection between Corruption and Human Rights? сп. International politics Legal Review, XIII, 1-2/2018

– “Effective Remedy for violations of art. 3 of the European Convention for Human Rights and the Jurisprudence of the European Court for Human Rights in Strasbourg”, Annual works of the University for National and World Economy, Sofia, 2017

VIII. Languages

Language	**Reading**			**Writing**			**Speaking**		
	very good	good	fair	very good	good	fair	very good	good	fair
First language:									
English	X			X			X		
Official languages:									
– English	X			X			X		
– French	X			X			X		
Other languages:									
Russian	X			X			X		

IX. In the event that you do not meet the level of language proficiency required for the post of judge in an official language, please confirm your intention to follow intensive language classes of the language concerned prior to, and if need be also at the beginning of, your term of duty if elected a judge on the Court

YES

X. Other relevant information

N/A

XI. Please confirm that you will take up permanent residence in Strasbourg if elected a judge on the Court

YES

Appendix 2 – Curriculum vitae of Galya VALKOVA

I. Personal details

Name, forename: VALKOVA, Galya

Sex: female

Date and place of birth: 25 March 1978

Nationality: Bulgarian

II. Education and academic and other qualifications

– Master of Law (University of National and World Economy, Sofia). Main disciplines studied: constitutional law, civil law, criminal law, family law, property law, contract law, international protection of human rights, international public and private law, EU law, participation in a legal clinic on civil law (2000-2005).

– Training under the Council of Europe programme, at the Registry of the European Court of Human Rights, on ECHR Human Rights Standards in the case law of the Court (seconded judge, 2014-2015).

– Children's Human Rights – An Interdisciplinary Introduction. Online course by the University of Geneva (UNIGE). www.coursera.org (March-April 2017)

– Intimate partner violence. Training at the National School for the Judiciary (ENM), Paris, France. Scholarship from the French Institute, Sofia, Bulgaria (March 2019).

– Family law and human rights. Training under the Council of Europe HELP programme (September-December 2019).

– Violence against women and domestic violence. Training under the Council of Europe HELP programme (October 2020).

III. Relevant professional activities

a. Description of judicial activities

– 06.03.2007 – 06.03.2010 – Junior judge at the Sofia City Court (seconded to the Sofia District Court from 08.02.2010 to 06.03.2010);

– 06.03.2010 – 04.10.2022 – Judge at Sofia District Court (seconded to the Sofia City Court from 22.10.2018 to 04.10.2022);

– November 2014 – June 2015 – Seconded judge at The Registry of the ECtHR (on a project of the Supreme Judicial Council, Bulgaria). Main activity – discussion of complaints against Bulgaria – assessment of the compliance of complaints with the admissibility criteria, summary of facts and complaints, opinions on applicable national law, participation in researches of the national law and practice of the ECtHR, visiting meetings of the Grand Chamber of the ECtHR and meetings of the Section, participation in translation into Bulgarian of the Dictionary of the European Convention on Human Rights, in co-operation with other departments of the Council of Europe;

– from 04.10.2022 – until now – **judge at the Sofia City Court**. Daily practice in areas relevant to human rights – family law, the rights of people with disabilities, the right to freedom of expression, the right to peaceful enjoyment of possessions.

b. Description of non-judicial legal activities

Lecturer at the National Institute of Justice, Sofia, Bulgaria (NIJ):

– of junior judges – topics: divorce and matrimonial claims, parental responsibility, domestic violence, proceedings for placement of a child in residential care under the Child Protection Act;

– distance learning: domestic violence – civil law context;

– webinar for judges and prosecutors: rights of people with disabilities in civil law contexts – according to the ECHR, the CRPD and EU law.

Member of the Human Rights Forum of the National Institute of Justice, Sofia, Bulgaria, thematic area: child-friendly justice. The forum assists NIJ in identifying and planning trainings, structuring learning resources, and organising round tables and meetings – exchange of good practices and professional experience. Personal participation in forum meetings, proposing and summarising topics, planning of events for exchange of experience.

Lecturer at the Academy of European Law (ERA), Trier, Germany, topics:

– Discrimination on the grounds of disability (relationship between EU law and UN Convention on the rights of the people with disabilities; the concept of disability and reasonable accommodation.);

– Problems arising from the placement of people with disabilities in social care institutions – a judge's perspective (fulfillment of the criteria established with the Case of Stanev v. Bulgaria, Grand Chamber judgement).

Lecturer at the Krastyu Tsonchev Lawyers Training Centre, Sofia, Bulgaria, topics: parental responsibility, domestic violence.

c. Description of non-legal professional activities

– October 2004 – June 2006 – Legislative Assistant at the Student Programme for Legislative Studies at the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria. The programme prepares legislative studies on topics assigned by MPs, the researched legislation is compared and summarised, identifying best working legislative frameworks.

– March 2019 – participation in the preparation of a request, on behalf of the President of the Sofia District Court, for an interpretative judgment on the issue: after a protection order has been issued under the Protection of Domestic Violence Act, is a new referral to the court admissible in a subsequent act of violence? Based on the request, the Supreme Court of Cassation issued the first interpretative judgment on the topic of civil law aspects of domestic violence. The answer to the question terminates the divergent case law practice and guarantees access to court for victims of systematic acts of domestic violence (protected rights under Art. 6, Art. 3 and 8 ECHR).

– February – April 2022 – a member of a working group at the Ministry of Justice for the preparation of an Act to amend and supplement the Protection against Domestic Violence Act. The amendments proposed by me and adopted by the working group provide for easier access to justice for victims of domestic violence, direct access to court for persons under full guardianship, ex officio taking of evidence, the introduction for the first time of the risk assessment being conducted by the court and the forthcoming preparation of a national risk assessment tool (case Kurt v. Austria, judgment of the Grand Chamber ECtHR).

IV. Activities and experience in the field of human rights

Daily practice as a judge in cases related to fundamental rights and freedoms – rights of people with disabilities, domestic violence, the right to freedom of expression, freedom of peaceful enjoyment of possessions, reflecting ECHR standards.

Certified trainer for the HELP Programme of the Council of Europe.

Organising seminars for judges on key judgments of the ECtHR relevant to their practice.

V. Public activities

N/A

VI. Other activities

a. Field

Mediation at the Center for Settlements and Mediation at the Sofia Regional and Sofia City Court, Sofia, Bulgaria.

b. Duration

March 2012 until now.

c. Functions

– February 2013 – March 2014 – President of the Centre;

– March 2012 – present – **volunteer**;

– **Member of GEMME** (European judges group for mediation).

VII. Publications and other works

– Guide for Magistrates on the Management of Cases Related to Domestic and Gender-Based Violence (co-author with prof. Shazia Choudhry – Oxford University, Faculty of Law, judge Maria Doncheva – Deputy Chairman of the Sofia Regional Court, Desislava Petrova – Deputy City Prosecutor of the Sofia City Prosecutor's Office and psychologist Diana Videva, Demetra Association). National Institute of Justice, project "Prevention and Counteraction of Violence against Women and Domestic Violence" under the Justice Programme of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism ((NFM) 2014-2021);

– The child resisting contact with the noncustodial parent – definitions, specifics and constructive approach to tackle the problem. (Advocacy Review Magazine, vol. 10, 2019, co-author with: Aneta Atanasova – Professor (Assistant) at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", Department: Developmental, clinical and abnormal psychology, Svetla Staykova – Professor (Assistant) at Medical University of Sofia, Department of Psychiatry and Medical Psychology, Elena Mihaylova, MD, child psychiatrist at Alexandrovska University Hospital);

– Protection from domestic violence – practical problems in acts of violence following a protection order issued under Art. 5, para. 1 of the Protection against Domestic Violence Act. (Advocacy Review Magazine, No. 3/2018, (co-author with judge Maria Doncheva – Deputy Chairman of the Sofia Regional Court);

– Family conflict and its fair resolution by the court. (Advocacy Review Magazine, Vol. 4-5/2015, co-author with Professor (Assistant) Dr. Rumen Petrov, New Bulgarian University, Department of Health and Social Work).

VIII. Languages

Language	**Reading**			**Writing**			**Speaking**		
	very good	good	fair	very good	good	fair	very good	good	fair
First language:									
Bulgarian	x			x			x		
Official languages:									
- English	x			x			x		
- French		x				x			x
Other languages: N/A									

IX. In the event that you do not meet the level of language proficiency required for the post of judge in an official language, please confirm your intention to follow intensive language classes of the language concerned prior to, and if need be also at the beginning of, your term of duty if elected a judge on the Court

YES

X. Other relevant information

N/A

XI. Please confirm that you will take up permanent residence in Strasbourg if elected a judge on the Court

YES

Appendix 3 – Curriculum vitae of Dragomir YORDANOV

I. Personal details:

Name, forename: YORDANOV, Dragomir

Sex: Male

Date and place of birth: 28 September 1967, Sofia, Bulgaria

Nationality: Bulgarian

II. Education and academic and other qualifications

– 9th French Language School, Sofia, Secondary education (1981 – 1986)

– Law Faculty, Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski, Master in Law (1988 – 1993)

– Training at Ecole Nationale de la Magistrature, Paris, France (January-June 1996)

– Training in Public Policy and Public Administration, Martin School of Public Policy and Public Administration, University of Kentucky and Internship in judicial administration, education and research and information services at the National Center for State Courts, USA, Georgetown University East and Central European Scholarship Program (August 2006 – February 2007)

III. Relevant professional activities

a. Description of judicial activities

– Junior judge, Sofia City Court (August 1994 – September 1996) Hearing first and second instance civil, commercial and administrative cases as junior member of a panel of three judges.

– Judge, Sofia Regional Court (September 1996 – June 1999) Hearing first instance criminal cases as single judge or presiding judge.

– Criminal Judge at District Court Level, European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo EULEX (December 2008 – April 2011) Hearing first, second and last instance criminal cases at Municipal, District and Supreme Court level; Monitoring, mentoring and advising local Judiciary.

b. Description of non-judicial legal activities

– Executive Director, Magistrates Training Center (July 1999 – December 2003). Setting up the first national training institution for magistrates in Bulgaria. Organising trainings to magistrates on professional skills, European Law, Human Rights.

– Deputy-Director/Program Director, National Institute of Justice (January 2004 – March 2011). In charge of the training programs and the international co-operation of the national judicial training institution.

– Director, National Institute of Justice (April 2011 – July 2016). In charge of the overall policies and operations, training activities and publications and the international co-operation of the national judicial training institution.

– Expert in international projects in the field of the Rule of Law and Justice in Western Balkans, Eastern Europe, Mediterranean and Central Asia (2014 – ongoing). Assessing, providing recommendations and conducting capacity building activities on different aspects of the Rule of Law and Justice.

– **Member of the Board of Trustees, Academy of European Law ERA** (2016 – ongoing). The Board of Trustees advises the Executive Board and Management Board particularly with regard to the planning of the programme of events (including on Human Rights).

– **Part-time lecturer at the New Bulgarian University** (2008 – ongoing). Delivering courses (including on Human Rights) at the Department of Political Sciences, Anglophone and Francophone programs.

– **Executive Director, European School of Enforcement** (2017 – ongoing). Setting up the training institution and organising training for Public Enforcement Agents.

– **Long-Term Expert, EU/Kosovo Justice Sector Programme EUKOJUST** (October 2020 – ongoing). In charge of the project activities pertaining to judicial training and capacity building, particularly related to Kosovo Justice Academy.

c. Description of non-legal professional activities

N/A

IV. Activities and experience in the field of human rights

– Internship at the European Court of Human Rights, Strasbourg, France (April – June 1997)
– Applying ECHR as a national judge (1994-1999) and an international judge (2008-2011)
– Training police officers on ECHR and drafting a handbook for them (1999)
– Organising trainings, publications and professional exchanges for magistrates in the field of Human Rights (1999-2016)
– Teaching Human Rights courses at New Bulgarian University (2012/13 – ongoing)

V. Public activities

a. Public office

– Judge (1994-1999, 2008-2011)
– Deputy-Director / Program Director, National Institute of Justice (2004 – 2011)
– Director, National Institute of Justice (2011 – 2016)
– Minister of Justice, Caretaker Government (March – May 2013)

b. Elected posts

N/A

c. Posts held in a political party or movement

N/A

VI. Other activities

N/A

VII. Publications and other works

– "The police activity in the light of the European Convention of Human Rights", Handbook for police officers; 2000 (co-author)
– "The administration of justice in Europe and the evaluation of its quality: the situation in Bulgaria", research project, GROTIUS program of the EU; 2002-2003 (co-author)
– "Study on Best Practices in training of judges and prosecutors", Final Report, European Commission; 2014 (co-author)
– "Private Enforcement Agents: The Newest Legal Profession in Bulgaria", article in "The Future of Legal Europe: Will We Trust in It?", ISBN: 978-3-030-68253-8, Springer, 2021 (author).

VIII. Languages

Language	**Reading**			**Writing**			**Speaking**		
	very good	good	fair	very good	good	fair	very good	good	fair
First language:									

Bulgarian	X			X			X		
Official languages:									
– English	X			X			X		
– French	X			X			X		
Other languages:									
Russian	X			X			X		

IX. In the event that you do not meet the level of language proficiency required for the post of judge in an official language, please confirm your intention to follow intensive language classes of the language concerned prior to, and if need be also at the beginning of, your term of duty if elected a judge on the Court

YES

X. Other relevant information

N/A

XI. Please confirm that you will take up permanent residence in Strasbourg if elected a judge on the Court

YES