

## S T A T E M E N T

according to an announced competition for the academic position "docent", in the scientific specialty "Organization and management outside the sphere of material production (internal order and security)", in the field of higher education 9, "Security and defense", professional direction 9.1. "National security", - Environmental security, as an element of national security, announced in SG No. 56, p. 129 of 2022

*Candidate in the competition: **Dr. Atanaska Tuntova***

*Author of the statment: **Prof. Dr. Tomo Borisov***

*Identification number in NACID: No. 38532; Register of scientific activity in the Republic of Bulgaria; <https://ras.nacid.bg/dissertation-preview/38532>*

*Basis for drawing up the opinion: Order No. 35/31.10.2022 of the Rector of the Higher School of Security and Economics, Plovdiv*

**Plovdiv**

**2022**

## **I. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF MATERIALS SUBMITTED**

In the list of scientific publications of the candidate in the competition for associate professor - Dr. Atanaska Tuntova, 16 titles are included, of which 15 are for review.

They can be classified into the following groups:

- Monographs - 1;
- Articles and scientific reports - 14.

Developments submitted for review meet the requirements for scientometric data. This makes the applicant's claims justified, with a view to occupying the academic position of "docent".

## **II. GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CANDIDATE'S TEACHING AND RESEARCH ACTIVITY**

The presented works were issued after obtaining the scientific degree "doctor". In addition, they fully comply with the requirements for scientometric indicators, with a view to occupying the academic position "associate professor".

Dr. Tuntova's research activity is dedicated to current issues related to the protection of national security. Especially in the field of environmental security. It is above all about the legal regulation and the organization of work. A place is devoted to the study of the various problems accompanying security from the point of view of ecology. Approaches to overcome them are also indicated.

I am not aware of any plagiarism data, which gives me reason to say that the publications from the point of view of authorship meet the requirements for

participation in a habilitation competition. Moreover, I believe that some of the suggestions that we have reflected in the opinion as inputs can be used by competent authorities and also by non-specialists.

### **III. EVALUATION OF SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE PAPERS PROPOSED FOR EVALUATION**

1. In his study, in the nature of a monograph with the title "*Environmental security as an element of national security*", the focus is on the problems related to the main aspects of security at the national level, in connection with the preservation of the environment. It is primarily about the main components of importance for the environment and their use by man, with a view to preserving them in their natural form and fit for use. The author's reflections are mainly on water, air and soil, without which the human individual could not exist. In this way, their importance for national security and more is emphasized. On the basis of this principled position, some details are shared, as well as views on a change in the attitude towards nature, especially from the point of view of its preservation.

It is emphasized not only the nature and importance of the ecological environment, but also the possibilities for its development, with a view to preserving it in its natural form for use by the human individual and society. This in itself determines the importance of the main policies not only in a given region, but also at national and global level.

Along with the basic concepts, the research of the legislation and some strategic documents on the subject, a major emphasis of the research falls on the risks and threats of climate change, resource depletion and their relation to security. Chapter three is devoted to this question.

Differentiated consideration of the role of each of these factors greatly facilitates the analytical activity. Offering good practices in the context of the subject under consideration further raises the level of the work and speaks of the good awareness of the author and his capabilities, from the point of view of analysis and recommendations.

*The contributions* in the monograph can be summarized as follows:

### **1.1. Scientific contributions**

- first of all, we will note the presence of an analysis of the theoretical aspects related to ecology and their practical use. We allow ourselves to note this contribution in the first place, because the basic concepts have a direct relation to legal regulation, which in turn helps to protect security in a national aspect. In this connection, we should note the systematization of the definitions existing in the scientific literature up to that point;
- the need to systematize the factors from an ecological point of view, influencing the development of ecosystems, is substantiated. This also applies to their interaction with different types of systems, as a factor for national security;
- The study of legal regulation is the other significant contribution. The norms that define one or another activity are important both from the point of view of their application and for the effective protection of national security;
- The interrelationship of ecology, the environment and man is examined in a differentiated and detailed way. Selection can also be seen as a factor in the context of security protection for each country. This is because it allows for their systematic study and examination of the role of each;
- In the order of research of this type, an analysis of the socio-economic aspects of this phenomenon has also been made. This allows for the study of its role for society and each of us;

- The presence of content analysis further increases the level of work and also allows for the systematic identification of risks and threats to the environment.

### **1.2. Practical and applied contributions**

- The main practical-applied effect that we will mention are the presented opportunities for using green technologies and the circular economy for the protection of natural resources;
- Promotion of the National Security Strategy and the policies included in it, which relate to people's relationship with nature, is also essential;
- The analysis of the prerequisites for the implementation of the National Security Strategy, related to the use of human resources and the inevitable financial one, is also among the main practical-applied contributions;
- The possibilities of self-purification and self-restoration of the environment that surrounds us is something that does not even need comment, because it is among the most important achievements, which, if it turns out to be possible, will be of fateful importance to man. In this sense, if only this of the achievements in the candidate's monographic research is achieved, it will be of great importance for generations.

The overall study and the contributions made give reason to assume that the proposed work is a complex scientific study that realistically recreates the main aspects and risks from the point of view of ecology and national security. In this sense, the work can be useful not only for scientific and practical workers, but also for the population.

2. *The article* "Environmental security - challenges and opportunities" aims to analyze the state of the environment and the impact on security. It is also focused on the influence of the human factor on the ecological environment and the threats to the existence of humanity. This is a question of importance not only for the relationship between environment and man, but also for the entire world community, with a visible change in the management behavior of the competent authorities. It is emphasized that environmental pollution can cause serious diseases caused by it. Special attention is paid to the threats to the environment and ecological security, as well as the possibilities for the prevention of human risks. It is emphasized that changes in the environment hinder individual security. This happens by affecting livelihoods and thereby hindering individual security. All this affects the security of the population in the respective city and country.

A special place in the publication is devoted to the fact that the modern concept of ecological security should mean the creation of safe existence and functioning of ecological and social systems in the conditions of their surrounding environment. According to the author, this is the basis of finding the right solutions to avoid environmental catastrophes. This is precisely the contribution of this publication from the point of view of the state of national security.

3. The topic of environmental security at the modern stage has not been overlooked in Ms. Tuntova's publications. This is another proof of the exceptional empathy on the issues, to protect the national security in the context of ecology.

Thus, in his publication in the nature of an *article* dedicated to environmental security through the prism of modern issues, issues related to the depletion of natural resources and the impact of this fact on the environment are touched upon. Based on the fundamental conclusion that the relationship of man with the environment and security is of key importance for the design of policies in the field

of environmental security, recommendations are made with a view to taking actions to preserve the environment, hence the health of people.

The article also states that the problem in the relationship between man and nature is at all possible levels - from individual, through regional, to global. However, the defining element is the person. It is noted that he plays the role of both producer and consumer. The challenge is finding the harmony. All this necessitates rethinking the content of the concept of "security" and its meaning at the modern stage. More specifically, it is about the fact that the problems of national security are no longer just the state of the armed forces or those for maintaining order in the country. The environmental threat is one of the challenges at the modern stage and has a serious impact on national security.

Other important potential dangers for national security, mostly related to natural and other cataclysms threatening the population, have not been overlooked. In the article, environmental security is defined as a specific object for the state of various types of systems, as well as the processes that take place in them. Moreover, environmental security is a factor in the state's ability to protect citizens under its jurisdiction.

The main conclusion that emerges from the publication is that it is time to take the necessary measures, with a view to preserving the normal state and functioning of the environment.

4. Of great value from the point of view of environmental security, as an element of national security and modern threats and opportunities is the publication of a *scientific report*. It's about the impact on the environment.

The analysis is devoted to the threats that the depletion of natural resources can cause. Attention is paid to one of the main parts of security for the future, from the point of view of renewable sources and the introduction of the so-called "circular

economy". In this way, the importance of the main types of environmental risks that we can define as a threat to national security is emphasized. It is emphasized that it is necessary to find potential opportunities for securing a better future.

The analysis carried out is based on the generally accepted concept of security. The importance of this concept, both theoretically and from the point of view of its application in the modern world, is emphasized. Still in this connection, the role of institutions in guaranteeing security on a global scale is emphasized. The main finding is that ecology is directly related to national security. This key conclusion for the practical activity can also be accepted as one of the contributions both in this publication and in the overall scientific research activity of the candidate.

Central to the publication is the identification of threats to the environment and environmental security. The main aspects of environmental security are also discussed. Attention was also paid to the impact of the environment on human health. This problem with reason according to the author for taking measures. It was concluded that the state of the environment, and rather its deterioration, can be a serious threat not only to the individual, but also to the countries and the world as a whole. In this sense, it can be said that it is necessary to unite the efforts of all countries. Moreover, a new policy concerning the relationship between man and nature is needed to ensure the future of the population. In other words, the destructive impact of man on nature must be stopped.

The fact that our country has a wide spectrum is not overlooked, as the author himself expresses by norms regulating ecological processes. However, it was also noted that our country's budget is inadequate to extreme natural disasters. The emphasis on this issue is also from the point of view of the fact that the casualties

and destruction from these problems are more than those arising from the military conflicts.

In conclusion, it is concluded that ecological balance requires not only economic measures, but also high public awareness. Undoubtedly, good institutional governance is also necessary.

The rest of the publications that are included in the list presented by Mrs. Tuntova also have their importance and cannot in any way be neglected when we talk about evaluation from the point of view of their character and importance. We have allowed ourselves to select only some of them, which, in our opinion, trace the development of the candidate for the academic position of "associate professor" and clearly show his affinity to certain problems, mainly related to the protection of national security, in the context of environmental problems. We must note that the scientific output of Mrs. Tuntova is not only theoretically but also practically sound and can be useful both to specialists and to a large part of the population in the protection of national security from the point of view of ecology.

The presence of citations complements the overall excellent impression of the level of scientific production of Dr. Tuntova.

#### **IV. PERSONAL IMPRESSIONS OF THE CANDIDATE'S WORK**

I do not know Mrs. Tuntova personally. However, bearing in mind the level of her scientific production and the career that has accompanied her up to this point, as a researcher and supervisor, I can conclude that she is a serious person with clearly developed qualities, whose habilitation will be well-deserved.

## V. CONCLUSION

The scientific and managerial activity of Dr. Tuntova, as well as the presented scientific publications, give me the reason to recommend to the DEAR JURY to select her, with a view to her taking the academic position of "associate professor".

14.11.2022

Sofia

Written by:

Prof. Dr. Tomo Borisov