

**05 April 2022**

**Press release**

The Public Commissioner was present today at the Appeal Chamber while continued the judicial review of the appeal filed against the Decision no. 393/2021, of the Independent Qualification Commission, of the assessee, Mr. Gerd Hoxha, judge at Tirana Court of First Instance.

Following the verification of the parties present in the hearing, the Public Commissioner presented his appeal grounds.

Standing on all the appeal grounds, in support of the Recommendation of the International Monitoring Operation, the Public Commissioner requested the opening of the investigation and gathering of relevant evidence, according to the seeking appeal and the submissions in today's hearing session.

Afterwards, the assessee, objected to the appeal grounds and, in their rebuttal, requested that in addition to the acts, which are in the file of the decision of the Independent Qualification Commission, to submit new evidence related to the allegations raised in the public denunciations.

Following the assessee's response to the questions addressed by the international observer, the adjudication panel decided to open the investigation and to accept the evidence lodged to the Chamber, as well as to conduct the financial analysis requested by the Public Commissioner. As regards to the denunciations, the adjudication panel announced that they will express in the following hearing, which will be held on May 6, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.

Pursuant to point 1, Article 16 of the Regulation “On the Activity of the Institution of Public Commissioners”, the appeal and the elements of the case are published on the official website of this institution: <http://ikp.al/ankime>

The Institution of Public Commissioners has been established and operates under Article 179/b and the Annex of the Constitution of the Republic of Albania and Law No. 84/2016, “On the Transitional Re-evaluation of Judges and Prosecutors in the Republic of Albania”.

Public Commissioners represent the public interest during the transitional process of re-evaluation of judges and prosecutors in the Republic of Albania.