

**March 7, 2024**

## **Press Release**

The Public Commissioner was present today at the Appeal Chamber where initiated the judicial review of the appeal filed against the Decision no. 592/2022, of the Independent Qualification Commission, for the assessee, Mr. Erion Pano, prosecutor at Tirana District Prosecution Office, and currently assigned to the position of Counselor at the High Prosecutorial Council.

After verifying the parties' attendance at the hearing, the presiding judge confirmed the prior acquaintance of the Appeal Chamber with the submissions from both parties regarding the case under review and likewise invited them to present their arguments during today's hearing.

The Public Commissioner, adhering to all the appeal grounds, stated that the assessee does not achieve a trustable level for the confirmation in office, since he does not prove the contrary of the burden of proof concerning the asset and proficiency assessment criteria.

In conclusion of the findings in the appeal, the Public Commissioner requested the adjudication panel to amend the decision no. 592/2022, of the Independent Qualification Commission, and the dismissal from office of the assessee, Mr. Erion Pano.

The legal representative of the assessee referred to the objections of raised grounds in the appeal related to the asset, given the circumstances, the assessee overturned the findings in the appeal regarding the proficiency criterion. Concluding his submissions, the assessee requested the re-confirmation in office.

The case rapporteur addressed questions to the Public Commissioner and the assessee, principally on the findings and submissions, which were related to the asset criterion. On the other hand, the Public Commissioner was requested to deposit in the Appeal Chamber the financial analysis of the assessee's income for the referral years for further findings on the asset criterion.

Subsequently, the adjudication panel administered the acts submitted by the Public Commissioner, also concluded the judicial review, and invited the parties to present their final conclusions at the upcoming hearing scheduled on April 4, 2024, at 10:00.

Based on point 1, Article 16 of the regulation 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”.

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