

**July 22, 2024**

## **Press Release**

Today, the Public Commissioner was present at the Appeal Chamber to continue the judicial review of the appeal filed against the Decision no. 661/2023, issued by the Independent Qualification Commission, pertaining to the assessee, Mr. Besnik Hoxha, serving as a judge at the First Instance Court of Tirana General Jurisdiction.

Upon verifying the attendance of the parties in the hearing, the presiding judge invited them to present the final arguments.

The Public Commissioner, adhering to the appeal grounds and the submissions presented during the hearing, determined that the assessee failed to prove the opposite of the burden of proof concerning the asset assessment criterion and the identified conflict of interest circumstances. These need to be assessed by the Chamber, within the context of the proficiency and integrity of the judge. In conclusion of the final arguments, the Public Commissioner requested the adjudication panel to amend the decision no. 661/2023, and to dismiss from office the assessee, Mr. Besnik Hoxha.

The legal representative opposed the Public Commissioner's stances, alleging that the assessee achieves a trustable level for confirmation in office.

After hearing the parties' conclusions, the adjudication panel decided to close the judicial review and withdrew to the hearing chamber to reach the final decision, which will be announced on July 25, 2024, at 16:00.

Pursuant to 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.