

**December 10, 2024**

### **Press Release**

Today, the Public Commissioner appeared before the Appeal Chamber to proceed with the judicial review of the appeal against Decision no. 769/2024 of the Independent Qualification Commission regarding the assessee Ms. Sofia Zhila, former Inspector at the former High Council of Justice.

During the verification of the parties' attendance in the hearing, the presiding judge noted the absence of the assessee, Ms. Sofia Zhilla, and announced that, as of the commencement of the hearing, the Appeal Chamber had not received any information regarding the reasons for her absence. The presiding judge also informed that the assessee had submitted written arguments and new evidence to the Chamber in support of her objections.

Following consultations with the Public Commissioner regarding this situation, the adjudication panel decided to continue reviewing the case in the assessee's absence.

The Public Commissioner stated that, with the inclusion of the new documents submitted to the Appeal Chamber, the assessee is no longer in the circumstances outlined in the appeal. It was confirmed that she had reached the retirement age, and according to the Appeal Chamber's jurisprudence, and given that the Annex to the Constitution does not provide any specific regulation in this regard, the object and purpose of this process have become unattainable. Consequently, the Public Commissioner requested that the Chamber uphold Decision no. 769/2024, of the Independent Qualification Commission, but with a different reasoning.

The adjudication panel decided to open the judicial investigation, admit the new documents submitted by the assessee, and, after the Public Commissioner maintained the final request as outlined above, withdrew to deliberation chambers to issue the final decision, which will be announced on December 12, 2024, at 2:30 PM.

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.