## **Press Release**

The Head of the Special Prosecution Against Corruption and Organized Crime (SPAK), Mr. Altin Dumani, in exercising the powers of the Public Commissioner, was present today at the Appeal Chamber, to proceed with the judicial review of the appeal against decision no. 524/2022, issued by the Independent Qualification Commission (IQC), concerning the assessee, Ms. Elfrida Bregova serving as a prosecutor at the Prosecution Office by the First Instance Court of General Jurisdiction of Tirana.

During the verification of the parties' attendance, the presiding judge informed the parties that the Chamber had notified them about the correspondence with the construction company and NACIS, as well as the response letter from the State Intelligence Service. The presiding judge requested the parties' stances related to these documents and to express their views on how to proceed with hearing.

Having reviewed the contents of the response letters from the construction company, NACIS, and SHISH, the Head of the Special Prosecution requested to proceed with the remaining evidence gathered during the investigation by the IQC and the Appeal Chamber and to conclude the judicial review, allowing the case to move forward to the final arguments.

Regarding the response submitted by the construction company, the assessee likewise requested to proceed with the evidence administered in the IQC and the Appeal Chamber. Concerning SHISH decision to rule out from declassification the information included in the NACIS report, the legal representative of the assessee requested clarification on any modifications to the report in order to prepare a position on it.

The presiding judge stated that the adjudicating panel was not in a position to draw conclusions on the NACIS report and did not deem it necessary for the assessee to take a stance on the relevant matter. Consequently, the panel decided to close the judicial review and invited the parties to present their final arguments.

The Head of the Special Prosecution, referring to the content and probative value of the administered documents, stated that the assessee had managed to prove the contrary of the burden of proof regarding the asset assessment criterion. Regarding the appeal on the background assessment, the Head of the Special Prosecution noted that the CISD report had confirmed the assessee's eligibility to continue in office and, as such, remained a key reference for its findings.

Based on the above statements, the Head of the Special Prosecution requested the adjudicating panel to uphold Decision No. 524/2022, of the Independent Qualification Commission concerning the assessee, Ms. Elfrida Bregova.

The assessee, through her legal representative, concurred with the statements made by the Head of the Special Prosecution during the final arguments and, in conclusion, requested the reconfirmation in office.

After reviewing the parties' final arguments, the adjudicating panel withdrew for deliberation to reach a final decision, which will be announced on March 13, 2025 at 09:00.

The appeal and the elements of the case have been published on the official SPAK website, in the "Re-evaluation Process" section: <u>https://spak.gov.al/</u>

The Head of the Special Prosecution against Corruption and Organized Crime, in accordance with Article 179/b, paragraph 8 of the Constitution of the Republic of Albania, has been exercising the powers of the Public Commissioners as of 1 January 2025.