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From. Prof. Zhivko Asenov Krustanov; Agricultural Institute - Stara Zagora, Breeding of farm animals, biology and biotechnics of breeding

Subject: competition for "Professor" in "Special industries (Industrial game)", Field of higher education 6. Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, Professional field 6.3 Animal Husbandry, at the Department of Animal Husbandry - Non-ruminants and Other Animals at the Faculty of Animal Husbandry at TRU.

1. Information about the competition

The competition is announced for the needs of the Department/Faculty of TRU announced in Official Gazette 22/16.03.2021.

I participate in the composition of the scientific jury of the competition according to the Order № 1173/25.05.2021. of the Rector of TRU.

2. Brief information about the candidates

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Evgeni Raychev has nearly 20 years of teaching experience at Thracian University, Faculty of Agriculture. In 1989 he graduated from the Higher Institute of Zootechnics and Veterinary Medicine, Stara Zagora, majoring in zooengineering. Since 2003 he has been Assistant in the section "Rabbit and Game Breeding" and since 2009 Chief Assistant. In 2003 he successfully defended his PhD thesis on the topic. From 2015 to the present he has been an associate professor at the Department of Animal Husbandry-Non-ruminants and Other Animals, Section of Rabbit and Game Husbandry.

3. Fulfilling the requirements for the academic position

Assoc. Prof. Raichev has provided convincing evidence of fulfilling the requirements for the academic position of Professor. For points "A" and "C", a successfully defended dissertation for the award of the PhD degree and a habilitation thesis have been submitted.

For indicator group 'D', the candidate has provided evidence including participation in 25 publications in refereed and world-indexed journals and one in a non-refereed journal, resulting in a performance of 211 points against a requirement of 200.

For item 'E', with a requirement of 100 points, the candidate has provided evidence of citations to scientific papers involving him for 1330 points, which is evidence of respectable scientific achievement in his field of research. It is important to note that the majority of the publications are in journals of high international prestige and impact factor, which is an honour for the author and the scientific organisation in which he works.

Evidence is presented under item 'F' which includes the candidate's

participation in an international contract between the University of Thrace and the University of Tokyo, which has played a major role in the scientific development of the candidate and his collaborators. The data also show an over-performance on this indicator of 120 points against a requirement of 100.

The requirements were also exceeded for indicator "G" - 110 fulfilled with a requirement of 70 and for indicator "H" 60 achieved with a requirement of 50, as well as for indicator "I" 40 with a requirement of 35, for indicator "J" Assoc. Prof. Raychev met the requirement of 20 points.

4. Evaluation of teaching and learning activities for each candidate

The candidate for this competition has a long teaching experience, having further developed his skills with specialization in the Faculty of Education of TrU.

He has supervised 11 successfully defended PhD students, demonstrating the ability to spark sustained research interest in the audiences he teaches.

The successful defense of a PhD student supervised by him, as well as his participation in international educational projects are an indisputable argument in favor of the qualities of Assoc. Prof. Raichev.

Assoc. Prof. Raichev is also the author of a textbook and two curricula in Ornithology and Theriology.

He is also a member of the editorial board of two prestigious scientific publications.

5. Brief description of the presented scientific works/publications

In the scientific production of Assoc. Raichev's scientific research has three main areas. A significant number of publications of high scientific quality are on topics related to genetic studies with phylogenetic and taxonomic status in wild species: badger, spotted ferret, weasel and brown bear. The next two areas deal with scientific issues related to etholo-ecological aspects in the life history of native medium-sized carnivores and research related to the resolution of the human-wildlife conflict, among others.

In the present competition the candidate has submitted a Habilitation thesis - a monograph -on the topic "The jackal *Canis aureus*". Alpha Vision, Stara Zagora, 116 p. ISBN: 978-619-7595-11-6, as well as 25 scientific articles published in refereed and indexed scientific journals, most of them with Impact Factor and/or Quartile. One of the articles was published in a non-refereed peer-reviewed scientific journal.

Evidence of over one hundred citations in Scopus and Web of Science is provided, which is an indisputable argument in favour of the high quality of the candidate's scientific work.

6. Synthesized evaluation of the main scientific and applied contributions of the candidates

Claims with a significant volume of scientifically applied contributions are presented, which can be argued to be very well defended in the candidate's publications.

7. Main critical remarks and recommendations

The scientific work presented by the candidate is highly appreciated among our and the international scientific field. In this connection, I do not consider that I have any remarks that are constructive and useful for the creative development of Assoc. Prof. Raichev.

8. Conclusion

The scientific works submitted for this competition and the evidence of the positive resonance among the scientific field as well as of the teaching and learning activities of Assoc. Prof. Raychev are a convincing argument in favour of the impression of convincing fulfillment of the requirements of the Law on Research and Development and the PRAS of the TRU-city. Stara Zagora for holding the academic position of PROFESSOR.

I take the liberty to present to the esteemed scientific jury my positive opinion on the election of Assoc. Raychev as "Professor" in the scientific specialty "Special industries (Industrial game)", field of higher education 6. Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, professional field 6.3 Animal Husbandry.