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STATEMENT

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member of a jury in the competition for the academic position of “**associated professor**” in the professional area 4. „Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Informatics, professional field 4.4. „Earth sciences”, specialty „Oceanology“, scientific profile "Wave processes, coastal hydrodynamics and risk in the coastal zone", scientific section "Coastal zone dynamics" at the IO-BAS, Varna, Bulgaria

This statement was prepared according to the Order of the Director of the Institute of Oceanology of the Bulgarian Academy of Science (IO-BAS) No. 298/26.09.2025 on the scientific jury members for the announced competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" and the first meeting of the scientific jury held on 10.10.2025. It is in accordance with the requirements of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB), the Regulations for its implementation (PPZRASRB), the Regulations of the BAS and the Regulations of the Institute of Oceanology in relation to the Act.

I. Requirements for the candidate

The only participant in the competition is Head Asst. Prof. Dr. Natalia Kamenova Andreeva, who works in the scientific section "Coastal Zone Dynamics" at the Institute of Oceanology - BAS, Varna. The submitted documents for the competition are complete and on time. The candidate meets the requirements for applying for the academic position of "associate professor" according to Art. 24 (1) ZRASRB, Art. 53 (1) PPZRASRB, and Art. 52 of the Regulations on the terms and procedure for acquiring scientific degrees and occupying academic positions at the Institute of Oceanology at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, namely:

- She has acquired the educational and scientific degree "doctor" in the professional field 4.4. Earth Sciences (Oceanology) in 2013;
- She has more than 5 years of experience in the relevant scientific field 4.4. Earth Sciences
- She has been a Head Assistant Prof. at the Institute of Oceanology-BAS for 14 years
- She has submitted publications in specialized scientific journals.
- She meets the minimum requirements according to PPZRASRB for the field 4.4. Earth Sciences
- No plagiarism has been proven in scientific papers in accordance with the established procedure
- She has participated in more than 2 projects with external funding for the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

Dr. Andreeva completed two master's degrees: one in "Oceanology" in 1997 at the Naval Academy of Varna, and the other in "Ecology" at the University of Chemical Technology and Metallurgy, Sofia, Bulgaria, in 1999. She defended her doctoral degree at the Institute of Oceanology in Varna in 2013, in the same professional field 4.4. Earth sciences. Since then, she has worked in the Coastal Zone Dynamics Section of the IO-BAS. According to the documents presented, I do not find any violations in the procedure, I consider the criteria for the candidate's eligibility to the competition to be met, which gave me reason to express my statement.

II. Requirements for scientific research activity of the candidate

According to the requirements of Art. 24 (1), item 3 of the ZRASRB and Art. 53 (1) item 3 of the PPZRASRB, the candidate has presented scientific publications in specialized publications, as follows: 23 articles in refereed and indexed journals according to the scientometric databases Scopus and Web of science, as well as 5 in publications that are not refereed or indexed there. She is an author of 3 chapters in monographs in co-authorship with other colleagues. In 7 of the publications, Andreeva is the first author, which indicates a significant participation in the research conducted.

The review of the articles shows the following required points by indicators:

Indicator C=129 points (100 points required by the Rules of the IO-BAS)

Indicator D=238 points (220 points required by the Rules of the IO-BAS)

A large part of the publications are devoted to the analysis of the wind-wave climate and storm surge activity along the Bulgarian Black Sea coast, using different approaches to reconstruct long time series of wind and wave data. Another important topic is the study of the relationship between the morphodynamics of sandy beaches and the general atmospheric circulation, using field measurements and statistical methods. The scientific results are applied to assess the vulnerability to wind-wave impact, the risk of coastal flooding, as well as to assess the energy potential of sea waves. The results of the research are presented in 62 conference reports.

In the scientometric database Scopus.com, 244 citations of 34 documents are found, with an H-index of 6. Thus the indicator related to citations is also fulfilled:

Indicator E=905 points (60 required by the Rules of the IO-BAS).

The candidate also has an extensive record of research projects participation– 10 international and 18 national, all of which are funded by external to the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences sources. The topics are mostly spatial planning in coastal zones, approaches to increasing coastal resilience, monitoring of the marine environment and assessment of anthropogenic impact on the marine environment.

III. Personal impression, recommendations and notes

I have no particular comments. I believe that the career of Natalia Andreeva is consistent and dedicated and the promotion to associate professor is the next natural step.

IV. Conclusion

The examination of the materials submitted for the competition did not reveal any violations in the procedure. The requirements of Art. 24 (1), item 1, item 2 and item 3 of the ZRASRB, Art. 53 (1), item 1, item 2 and item 3 of the PPZRASRB, art. 2 item 4.3 of the Regulations of the BAS related to the ZRASRB and art. 52 of the Regulations of the IO-BAS in relation to the ZRASRB.

Based on the documents submitted for the competition by the Head Asst. Prof. Dr. Natalia Andreeva and the publications presented by her, my assessment of her candidacy for the academic position “associate professor” in professional field 4.4. Earth sciences (Oceanology) is positive. I recommend that the Scientific Council of the IO-BAS approves the election.

Date: 12.11.2025