



Council of the
European Union

**Brussels, 3 September 2024
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COVER NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
date of receipt:	30 August 2024
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Letter from Bulgaria to President-elect of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen suggesting candidates for Member of the Commission

Delegations will find in the [Annex](#) a letter from Mr Rumen ALEXANDROV, Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the European Union, forwarding the letter from Mr Dimitar GLAVCHEV, Prime Minister of Bulgaria, suggesting Ms Ekaterina ZAHARIEVA and Mr Yulian POPOV as candidates for Member of the Commission.

Encl.: IM 9879 2024



PERMANENT REPRESENTATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA TO THE EUROPEAN UNION
REPRESENTATION PERMANENTE DE LA REPUBLIQUE DE BULGARIE AUPRES DE L'UNION EUROPEENNE

The Permanent Representative
Le Représentant Permanent

E-MAIL

Received on
30. 08. 2024

IN 9879 2024
02-09-2024


Ref. № ПБ 1.1-792 /30.08.2024

Brussels, 30 August 2024

Dear Mr. Seibert,

Please find enclosed a letter from Mr. Dimitar Glavchev, Prime Minister of the Republic of Bulgaria to Ms. Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission on the nomination of two candidates for commissioner from Bulgaria. I attach also their respective CVs.

Sincerely,


Rumen Alexandrov
Ambassador, Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Bulgaria to the EU

Mr. Bjoern Seibert
Head of Cabinet of the President of the European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
Brussels

CC:
Mr János Bóka, Minister for European Union Affairs, President of the Council
Ms Thérèse Blanchet, Secretary-General of the Council

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REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA
PRIME MINISTER

Dear MS VON DER LEYEN,

Following your request and in accordance with the Decision of the Bulgarian government from 30.08.2024, it is my pleasure to formally submit the names of **Mrs. Ekaterina Zaharieva** and **Mr. Yulian Popov** as candidates for European Commissioner from Bulgaria.

Both candidates are chosen on the grounds of their professional competence and personal merit, in full respect of the requirements of Art.17 (3) of the Treaty on the European Union, as well as taking into account your commitment to a gender-equal College of Commissioners.

The nominees's CV's are enclosed to this letter.

I remain available for any further discussions on the matter.

Looking forward to our work together.

Sincerely yours,

DIMITER GLAVCHEV

TO
MS URSULA VON DER LEYEN
PRESIDENT-ELECT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

CC:
MR JÁNOS BÓKA
MINISTER OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS OF HUNGARY

MS THÉRÈSE BLANCHET
SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE COUNCIL
OF THE EUROPEAN UNION



EKATERINA ZAHARIEVA

Born on omissis in Pazardzhik, Republic of Bulgaria

Professional Experience:

50th National Assembly – member

2024 - to date

Parliamentary Group of GERB - UDF - member
Foreign Policy Committee - Vice-Chairman
Committee on European Affairs and Control of European Funds - member
Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe - Deputy Head
Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe - alternate representative
Bulgaria-Germany Friendship Group – Chairman

49th National Assembly, 48th National Assembly, 47th National Assembly, 46th National Assembly, 45th National Assembly, 44th National Assembly – member

2022-2024

Parliamentary Group of GERB - UDF - member
Foreign Policy Committee - Chairman and Vice-Chairman
Committee on Legal Affairs - member
Committee on Constitutional Affairs - member
Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe - Deputy Head
Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe - Deputy Head, Principal Representative and Alternate Representative
Bulgaria-Germany Friendship Group - Chairman
Friendship Group Bulgaria - Kosovo - Chairman
Friendship Group Bulgaria - United Kingdom - member
Friendship Group Bulgaria - Georgia - member
Friendship Group Bulgaria - Spain - member
Friendship Group Bulgaria - Italy - member
Friendship Group Bulgaria - Republic of Korea - member
Friendship Group Bulgaria - USA - member
Friendship Group Bulgaria - Ukraine - member
Friendship Group Bulgaria - Japan - member

Deputy Prime Minister for Judicial Reform and Minister of Foreign Affairs
2017 - 2021

Minister of Justice
2015 - 2017

Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Policy and Minister of Regional Development and Public Works

First and Second Care-taker Governments of President Rossen Plevneliev
March 2013 - May 2013, August 2014 - November 2014

Head of Cabinet and Secretary General of President Rossen Plevneliev
2011-2015

Deputy Minister of Regional Development and Public Works
2009-2011

Director of the Legal, Regulatory and Administrative Services Directorate
Ministry of Environment and Water
2003-2009

Lawyer
2001-2003

Education:

- Specialized at ENA School of Administration, Paris
- European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) - Council of Europe
- Institute of Public Administration, Dublin, Ireland
- Master of Laws, Plovdiv University "Paisiy Hilendarski"
- Bertholt Brecht Language High School, Pazardzhik

Languages:

- English
- German

Personal:

- Married, one son

Julian Popov

CV

Leading expert on European and national policies in the field of energy, climate, environment and institutional development in the public and private sectors (twice ranked by EurActiv as the 24th and 25th most influential voice in EU energy policies); member of the European Council on Foreign Relations, former Minister of Environment and Water (caretaker government 2013 and regular 2023-2024), Goodwill Ambassador for Energy and Climate Policies (Bulgaria), former Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Building Performance Institute Europe (BPIE, Brussels, Europe's leading independent think tank on energy performance of buildings), over 30 years experience at board level in politics, non-governmental and private sectors, including chairman and executive director; extensive work on projects with the European Commission, EBRD, World Bank, British, German, Bulgarian and other governments.

First executive director and long-time member of the Board of Trustees of the New Bulgarian University, former chairman of the Bulgarian School of Politics, initiated the project "African Schools of Politics" and then co-founded The Tunisian School of Politics in collaboration with the Dutch and Finnish governments. Author and co-author of several books and a large number of articles on EU policies in the field of climate policies, energy, environment, EU enlargement and sustainable development, published in leading international media (Financial Times, The Independent, Project Syndicate, Energy Monitor /New Statesman, Huffington Post, Al Jazeera, Gazeta Wyborcza, EU Observer, European Voice and others).

Positions held until June 2023

- Chairman of the Building Performance Institute Europe (BPIE), Brussels (since 2014)
- Senior Fellow, European Climate Foundation, Brussels/The Hague/Berlin/Warsaw/London (since 2008)
- Member of the advisory board of the EIT Climate KIC, Brussels (since 2020)
- Member of the Advisory Board of the Energy Policy Group think tank, Romania (since 2018)
- Member of the Advisory Board of REKK, a leading energy think-tank in CEE, Hungary (since 2017)
- Member of the Management Board of Balkan Green Foundation, Kosovo (since 2016)
- Member of the Board of Trustees of the New Bulgarian University (since 1994)

Recent Previous Positions:

- Bulgarian School of Politics, Dimitrii Panitsa, Chairman of the Board of Directors (2006-2013)
- Goodwill Ambassador of Bulgaria for energy and climate policy (from 2017-2019)
- American University in Bulgaria, Member of the Board of Trustees (2010 – 2013).
- Tunisian School of Politics, co-founder and member of the Strategic Council (2012 – 2013)
- Cambridge University, Sustainable Leadership Program, Advisory Board Member (2012-2014)

Selected positions and contracts after 1994:

2023 - 2024	Minister of Environment and Water
2008 – 2023	Senior Policy Advisor, European Climate Foundation, The Hague, Brussels, London, Berlin
2012 – 2013	Council of Europe, Advisor - Impact Assessment of the Network of 18 Policy Schools in Europe and North Africa.
2013	Minister of Environment and Water, (caretaker government) Bulgaria
2007 – 2008	Civil Society Development Trust, Advisor

2005 - 2008	Blackfriars Advice Centre , Member of the Management Board. BAC is one of the largest centres for independent civil legal advice in the UK.
2004	Author of a study on environmental, economic and political trends in 12 countries of the former USSR, (for the European Commission).
2001 - 2002	Lead Consultant, EC-funded Volga River Management Analysis.
1999 - 2001	Leading consultant in the development of the concept and distance learning program of the Russian Bankruptcy Agency.
1999 - 2000	Project Evaluation Advisor, EBRD.
1996 - 1999	Senior Advisor, UNECIA Ltd, a consultancy representing 10 leading UK universities.
1997 - 1998	Advisor to the Center for Quality Support at the British Open University. (Quality Support Centre at the Open University, formerly Council for National Academic Awards 1992).
1996	Advisor to the EC for the development of a training program in Bulgaria.
1995 - 1997	Senior advisor of the European Association of Distance Learning Universities (European Association of Distance Teaching Universities , The Netherlands).
1994 - 1995	Strategic advisor to the chancellor of the British Open University.

Positions until 1994:

- 1990 – 1994 – Executive Director and one of the founders of the New Bulgarian University.
- 1989 - 1990 – Director of the Angel Karaliychev Literary Museum
- 1985 – 1990 - Head of criticism and art department, Torch magazine
- 1977 – 1979 – Military service, Harmanli, Chirpan, Stara Zagora

Education:

- Specialised executive courses in financial management, environment, economics, human resources management, etc. in the period 1991-1994
- Open University Business School - Management Certificate (1992)
- Sofia University, Bulgarian Philology (1985)

Languages

Bulgarian, English, Russian

Contact

Julian Popov

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