

OPINION

by Associate Professor Stanimir Petrov Iliev, PhD

docent from the professional field "National Security" at the Academy of the Ministry of Interior, member of the scientific jury for a competition announced in the State Gazette No. 49 of 17.06.2025 for the academic position of "associate professor" in the field of higher education 9. "Security and Defense", professional field 9.1. "National Security", ("Migration Processes and Risks for National Security") at the Academy of National and Information Security, Plovdiv

1. Review subject and candidate biographical data

I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury by order reg. No. 105/05.01.2026 of the rector of the Academy of National and Information Security, city of Plovdiv in connection with a competition announced in the State Gazette No. 49 of 17.06.2025 for the academic position of "associate professor" in the field of higher education 9. "Security and Defense", professional field 9.1. "National Security", ("Migration processes and risks for national security").

By decision of a meeting of the scientific jury, I have been appointed to prepare an opinion.

One candidate, Dr. Miloš Svrček, participated in the competition announced in the State Gazette No. 49 of 17.06.2025.

To participate in the competition, the candidate has submitted the following documents:

- higher education diploma;
- diploma for the educational and scientific degree "doctor";
- certificate of fulfillment of the minimum national requirements;
- creative autobiography;
- summary of scientific works;
- list of scientific results and citations of the candidate;
- list of scientific works - evidence of achievements in the scientific field of the competition, which are not repeated by those submitted for the educational and scientific degree "doctor" and the scientific degree "doctor of sciences".

The documents submitted in this way (on paper and electronic media) are in accordance with the requirements of Order Reg. No. 105/05.01.2026 of the Rector of the

Academy of National and Information Security, city of Plovdiv regarding the announcement of the competition and in accordance with the requirements of the Law on National and Information Security of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its implementation.

Miloš Svrček graduated from the Faculty of Law of the Comenius University in Bratislava in 2007, and in 2021 he also received a master's degree in the field of "political science" from the Department of Political Science at the Alexander Dubček University of Trenčín in Trenčín. In March 2025, after successfully defending his thesis, he received a master's degree from the IPE Management School in Paris.

In the period 2009–2013, he studied for a doctorate in criminal law at the Faculty of Law of the Pan-European University in Bratislava. He also completed two one-year postgraduate studies in diplomacy and international relations at the Karol Rybarik University at the Comenius University and postgraduate studies in commercial law at the International Education Society in London.

The candidate has a rich professional background. He has held a number of positions in the state administration in Slovakia. He has worked at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Justice and the Personal Data Protection Office of the Slovak Republic. In the period 2011 - 2016 he was the Director of the Legal Department in the Road Transport Section or Public-Private Partnership in the Projects Department of the Ministry of Transport and Construction of the Slovak Republic, where he participated in several national transport projects. From 2020 to 2023 he worked as a member of the National Council of the Slovak Republic and is the author of dozens of legislative proposals, including three amendments to the Constitution of Slovakia. In the National Council of Slovakia he was the Deputy Chairman of the Parliamentary Club for Legislation and was a member of the Constitutional Law Commission of the National Council of the Slovak Republic. From 2024 to the present he is an assistant professor at the Department of Security Sciences of the Institute of Security Sciences of the University of Security Management in Košice.

2. Actuality and general characteristics of the scientific production

The candidate for the academic position of "associate professor", Dr. Miloš Svrček, in connection with the announced competition, has presented a correct list of his scientific production after being awarded the ONS "doctor", not presented in other procedures for holding academic positions or obtaining scientific degrees. The author's scientific interest is related to issues of migration, terrorism, and countering organized crime. The habilitation

thesis submitted for review is on the topic: "Terrorism as a consequence of international migration". Its relevance is undeniable. It is determined by the profound changes that have occurred in recent decades over humanity due to the threats of terrorism. In the modern world, the problems related to this type of threat are particularly relevant. Terrorism is one of the great challenges of the new world order that humanity, states and peoples face every day. Already in the last century, terrorism has become a problem that military and non-military organizations around the world are engaged with.

The monograph submitted for review has the characteristics of independent research and a lasting presence of critical and in-depth thinking. The methods used in the study make an exceptionally good impression. The professional experience of Dr. Miloš Svrček in the field is visible in the scientific publications submitted for review, where he skillfully used them to gather the empirical information necessary for the researched issues.

The problems that are considered in the scientific works of Dr. Miloš Svrček are related to one of the most pronounced crises in the world, namely the activation of terrorism both internationally and regionally. Considering the events that have occurred in recent years: France (the attacks in Paris in 2015), Belgium (the attacks in Brussels in 2016), as well as the dozens of attacks in Turkey and the current threat of terrorism to all EU member states, we define the problems related to terrorism as one of the most current. The choice of the topic in the presented monograph is initially determined by the candidate's long-standing scientific interests in issues of terrorism as a consequence of immigration to Europe. The professional interest is reflected in the entire study. The interdisciplinary approach in the study should be emphasized, which is undoubtedly its great merit. The conclusions made by the candidate in the future could be of particular use in teaching a number of academic disciplines, as well as conducting individual courses. The monographic work is also characterized by the presence of practical value, which can be illustrated by real problems related to terrorist activity in the EU.

The habilitation work on the topic: "Terrorism as a consequence of international migration" examines the main problems related to migration and its consequences in a negative way, namely the generation of violence. The monographic study aims to scientifically present and evaluate these statements, indicating the reasons.

According to the author, an important part of the study is the definition of migration policy, its subcategories and individual rights, migration and the terrorism resulting from it, and finally security education, which can serve as theoretical studies of migration policy.

The monograph is devoted to the issues related to the security aspects of migration policy in the EU, an area that is poorly studied from the point of view of political science. It describes not only their emergence and overall development within the individual countries of Central Europe, but also their mutual impact on the respective countries. Attention is focused on the definition of the terms migrant, migration and the consequences of international migration. The characteristics of the EU migration policy constitute the basis for the analysis of the individual periods of the development of the EU migration policy. The word globalization is intertwined in every intention of the world powers to fulfill their economic and power intentions. The pursuit of capital is often hidden behind the protection of human rights and the right to democracy. One of the main culprits of these events, makes great efforts to belittle their own opinions and beliefs, mainly on African and Asian countries and impose on them something that is not natural for them or does not belong to their social and religious development.

Despite the fact that free movement is perceived as one of the main privileges of EU member states, all the initial advantages of the Schengen area now fall into the category of possible security threats. The author of the work pays special attention to the topic of security challenges from the perspective of Central European countries during the migration crisis and their possible impact on individual countries. In this way, he considers specific risks to the security of Europe at the present time.

The aim of the monograph is to provide a clear picture of how the positions of the Central European countries – the Slovak Republic, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland as well as the Visegrad Four countries and Austria – differ with regard to individual security challenges. The aim of the Visegrad Four activities is not to isolate or weaken existing relations with other countries, but to support cooperation with other countries, especially neighbouring countries. The monograph analyses the attitudes of the mentioned countries towards security issues in Europe. At the same time, the current security situation and all potential and major threats to security in Europe are described, while a clear analysis of the countries is given based on their attitudes towards security challenges in the region. Through a comparative analysis of the approaches of individual countries, the study obtains an assessment of the entire region and indicates possible future directions within the framework of security issues. Attention is paid to international migration as an element that in recent years has been classified as one of the characteristic and increasingly intense manifestations of the processes of globalisation. The monographic study presents analysis, conclusions and

recommendations based on the research on the topics of migration and terrorism. The empirical part of the work characterizes the national migration context of Slovakia.

3. Pedagogical activity

The candidate is a leading lecturer at the University of Security Management in Košice in academic disciplines providing basic knowledge, skills and competencies on issues related to international law and counter-terrorism. He teaches in academic disciplines such as environmental law, constitutional law, political science, security and others. As a lecturer, Dr. Miloš Svrček actively participates in training courses for acquiring the OKS "bachelor" and "master", as well as in a number of courses and seminars. He teaches in academic disciplines such as "Theory and methodology of security management", "Cybersecurity", "Legal aspects of security management" and others. His participation in a number of international seminars and projects related to the research problem should be added to his teaching activity.

He has teaching experience as an assistant at the Goethe University College in the period 2014 - 2015.

I positively evaluate the teaching work of Dr. Miloš Svrček, taking into account his active work in fulfilling his duties directly related to the management of the state administration in Slovakia.

4. Main contributions (scientific and scientific-applied) and results: characterization and evaluation

Doctor Miloš Svrček demonstrates the necessary qualities as a teacher, researcher and expert. The main part of his scientific and applied research is focused on the intersection of law, national security and public administration aimed at security. In search of new approaches and even a system for practical implementation in his main research topics related to the legal aspects of countering terrorism as a consequence of illegal immigration in Slovakia, it can be attributed to the professional field of "National Security" with certain contributions related to:

- Study and analysis of trends in terrorism and the tactics used by terrorist organizations. Based on a historical review, the concepts of "security", "terrorism" and "migration" are examined in detail. Dependencies between the three concepts are established. On page 128, the candidate examines the main concepts related to terrorism.

- A comparative analysis of the different approaches to strengthening the security of various EU member states from Central Europe after the fall of the "Iron Curtain" and their democratization, namely the Visegrad Four countries and Austria, has been made.

- An in-depth analysis of migration to and from Slovakia has been made, and a contemporary "picture" of immigration processes in the country and the policy pursued for their integration has been presented.

- In a practical and applied sense, an Analysis of the attitude of young people between the ages of 18 and 25 to the problem of illegal migration and the threat to Slovakia has been prepared, based on an empirical sociological study conducted, financed under a separate project.

- An exemplary model for the essence of the educational system for introducing security topics and, within it, on security education in higher education has been presented.

The reflections of Dr. Miloš Svrček, published in authoritative publications, have high applied value. Written in the last years of his creative and scientific development, they are always focused on current issues regarding terrorism and migration and are related to the candidate's specific commitment as a scientist and researcher.

5. Critical notes and recommendations

Some well-intentioned remarks and recommendations could be made to the author without reducing the scientific value of the scientific production proposed for review. They are related to the main legal acts considered. The analysis, which is almost absent especially when considering the EU regulatory acts, is not sufficient. I would recommend that the author expand their analysis by emphasizing their impact on public life and the need for their adaptation in accordance with the new methods of committing terrorist acts as a result of immigration. In the monographic study submitted as a habilitation thesis, there are also some inaccuracies such as:

- In item 3.1.10. "European Union Policy in the Field of Migration and Asylum", the main legal acts of the EU regulating the conditions and mechanisms for granting asylum are presented, which were repealed by the 2024 Migration Pact with entirely new legal instruments in the field of the Common European System for Providing International Protection. The 2024 Migration Pact has not been studied, but a 2008 Pact (the 2008 European Pact on Immigration and Asylum) is mentioned, which does not exist.

- The information on the current state of the Schengen area as of the date of publication of the monograph has not been updated.

- There are some inaccuracies with acts and their application. For example, the Maastricht Treaty did not enter into force in 1992, but in 1993 (on November 1).

- The illustrations in the photographs presented in the habilitation thesis should indicate the sources from where they were used or are the author's.

The notes and recommendations made do not in any way affect my overall positive impression of the scientific production submitted for review.

6. Conclusion

Based on the above and having in mind the legally defined criteria and indicators for holding the academic position of "associate professor", I allow myself to make the following conclusion:

The scientific production presented by the candidate, Dr. Milos Svrcek, contains scientific and applied scientific results that represent an original contribution to science and fully meets the conditions and requirements of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its implementation. The monographic work is a confirmation that Dr. Milos Svrcek possesses in-depth theoretical knowledge, combined with practical experience. Evaluating the submitted monographic work and the other publications dedicated to extremely topical and practically significant topics, in my capacity as a member of the scientific jury, I give a positive assessment of the candidate, Dr. Milos Svrcek, for holding the academic position of "associate professor".

Prepared:

Assoc. Prof. Stanimir Iliev, PhD

29.01.2026

Sofia