

ГЛАСЪТ НА ГРАЖДАНСКОТО ОБЩЕСТВО



## Madness?!? The former scandalous head of the CPC Petko Nikolov was arranged by Borisov without a competition for head of the Patent Office

August 24th, 2016 | by gino



**Petko Nikolov, the long-time former scandalous head of the Commission for Protection of Competition (CPC), has been appointed chairman of the Patent Office.** He was appointed by order of Prime Minister Boyko Borissov. Naturally, this appointment took place **without a competition with a personal order from the Prime Minister**. The Patent Office is responsible for the protection of industrial property. Before his replacement as head of the CPC at the end of June, Petko Nikolov was the longest surviving head of a regulator in Bulgaria. He remained at the helm of the antitrust authority for almost 13 years - from 2003 to 2016.

Nikolov remained chief for more than half a year after the expiration of his second term, and even before he was replaced it was said that "out of gratitude for the work done" GERB would provide him with a new appetizing position. At the time, however, this was denied by the rulers.

### Nikolov got along with six governments

Former NMSS cadre Petko Nikolov survived the change of six governments. He will go down in history with the unprecedented number of deals he has approved. With his blessing came the sales of Bulgartabac, Kremikovtzi, BTC, Gorubso Madan, the electricity distribution companies CEZ, EVN and Energo Pro, TPP Varna, TPP Maritsa East 3", ports, shipyards, airports, etc.

**A typical example of the "qualities" of Nikolov's CPC is the rise of Delyan Peevski.** For example, the changes around Bulgartabac's ownership have been approved over the years with ease and completely formally by the CPC. In 2010, the antitrust authority fined the publisher of Capital and Dnevnik, Economedia, for unfair competition on a complaint by New Bulgarian Media Group Holding (NBMG) to Peevski's mother, Irena Krasteva, who was then publishing in "Telegraph", "Monitor" and "Politics". Then the CPC accepted that the allegations in Capital's publications that KTB controls the publications because it finances them are incorrect because NBMG has a clear owner, ie. the publications have damaged Krasteva's reputation and trust in the media.

In 2012, the CPC imposed a record fine (77% of all fines imposed for the year) of BGN 16 million on the importer of Hyundai - Industrial Commerce. The record sanction can also be seen as a blow in favor of the then main owner of CCB Tsvetan Vassilev, who imported "Kia".

In 2015, after the Vassilev-Peevski rupture and the bankruptcy of KTB, scanned pages from a porter's notebook were sent to the media, containing a list of names of people who visited a banker in his office at KTB. Among them was the name of Petko Nikolov.

About half a year ago, the CPC issued an unprecedented ruling blocking a deal for the Dunarit weapons factory in favor of Delyan Peevski. Before the bankruptcy of KTB, it was considered that the company was owned by Tsvetan Vassilev. Recently, however, the new CPC staff, led by Yulia Nenkova, approved a deal to acquire the company from Emco.

Regarding the fight against cartels, the successes of the CPC under Petko Nikolov were deplorable. The agency has failed to prove price negotiations for medicines, banking services and fuels, although proceedings are still under way against major oil companies.

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