

## Who is Cătălin Burcescu, the new head of OSIM: a political turncoat rejected by the PNL commission for the evaluation of candidates, but re-assessed by the Prime Minister's team

17 May 2021, 06:19

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*Cătălin Burcescu, in 2016, when he was sworn in as county councillor. Two years later he resigned from the PNL to switch to ALDE. Now he's back to his first love and has been rewarded with the top job at the OSIM.*

The [Cîtu government](#) [23 December 2020 - 5 October 2021] has appointed Cătălin Burcescu as head of OSIM, a politician who left for a job with [ALDE](#) when [Tăriceanu's](#) party was governing alongside the [PSD](#), but returned to the [PNL](#) after the change of the [Dăncilă](#) cabinet. Although an internal PNL committee rejected Burcescu's appointment to OSIM, citing the issue of academic qualifications, at the insistence of Senator [Eugen Pîrvulescu](#), the prime minister accepted the PNL Teleorman proposal.

Four months have passed since the PNL in Teleorman announced their people to be appointed to senior positions in various institutions at a national level.

Among them was Cătălin Burcescu, backed by PNL Teleorman president Eugen Pîrvulescu for the head of OSIM, political sources told "Adevărul".

But an internal committee, made up of several liberal leaders, rejected his dossier, as the issue of his academic qualifications was raised. Although there is no mandatory requirement of legal or technical studies for the head of OSIM, the position has usually been filled in recent years by people with legal or administrative expertise, as was the case of university professor Bucura Ionescu, a patent specialist, or Mitrita Hahue, an official in the institution with over 20 years of experience.

Moreover, during the [Grindeanu](#) government [4 January 2017 – 29 June 2017] there was a timid attempt to change the legislation on the OSIM's leadership, by introducing amendments requiring legal or technical studies for the institution's leadership. But this was abandoned, in the context of the ousting of the cabinet [following a vote of no confidence] by [Dragnea's](#) social democrats.

Burcescu, however, graduated from the Faculty of Cinematography at the Media University, followed by a Master's degree in Public Administration at Dimitrie Cantemir University.

The importance of the relevant studies is due to the fact that OSIM deals with the issue of granting patents, titles of inventions, trademarks, geographical indications, etc., and the head of OSIM is, among other things, the chairman of the Appeals Commission.

However, following Pîrvulescu's negotiations, the former ALDE member was eventually appointed.

Incidentally, another person proposed by the head of the PNL Teleorman, i.e. the person for the head of the Agency for Mineral Resources (Alina Cațan), was rejected in March, citing integrity issues.

As far as Burcescu is concerned, the head of the Teleorman PNL has reassessed him [in a favourable manner], although three years ago he criticised him after his departure to the ALDE.

In August 2018, Eugen Pîrvulescu declared to PSNews: *"Until 30-odd days ago Cătălin Burcescu was a county councillor of the PNL, he went to the ALDE with [MP Ică Calotă Florică](#), president of the Teleorman ALDE, with the understanding that he would be found a place in the Ministry of Energy. At the moment, Mr Burcescu is employed in the Ministry of Energy on a grandfatherly salary and a semi-senior position. That was the deal, to go to ALDE on a salary of 8,000-9,000 lei, as someone told me (...) So Cătălin Burcescu wanted to go to Bucharest, negotiated with Calotă, and as I understand also with [Tăriceanu](#), and got a job in the Ministry. From my point of view, Ică Calotă, a deputy, practices a great, great traffic of influence - you can't take a local councillor in office, and bring him to the Ministry to get him to switch over to ALDE".*

Meanwhile, the same leader who attacked Burcescu and Ică Calotă [in 2018] ended up putting one of them [Calotă] in [a seat eligible for deputy](#) in 2020, and supporting the second one [Burcescu] for a job.

### **16,600 lei salary**

Burcescu's experience in public office is limited to the position he has held since July 2018 at Energetic Services Muntenia, where he was for a time deputy director and is currently still listed as commercial director. According to the official regulations governing OSIM's organisation and operations, the Director General has the rank of secretary of state and a similar allowance, i.e. a gross salary of 16,600 lei.

### **Original text in Romanian at:**

[https://adevarul.ro/news/politica/cine-e-catalin-burcescu-noul-sef-osim-traseist-respins-comisia-pnl-analiza-candidaturilor-reevaluat-echipa-premierului-1\\_60a14b195163ec42711c0f33/index.html](https://adevarul.ro/news/politica/cine-e-catalin-burcescu-noul-sef-osim-traseist-respins-comisia-pnl-analiza-candidaturilor-reevaluat-echipa-premierului-1_60a14b195163ec42711c0f33/index.html)