

To
The chairman of the scientific jury
for the assessment of the dissertation work of Atanas Stoyanov for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "doctor"

STANDPOINT

by Assoc. Prof. Rositsa Nedkova Ivanova - Department of "Accounting and Analysis" of
UNSS, Doctor of Economics

of a dissertation for awarding the educational and scientific degree "**doctor**"
in Higher Education District 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, Professional direction 3.8.
Economy

Author: *Atanas Yanev Stoyanov - doctoral student of the Higher School of Insurance and Finance, doctoral program "Accounting, Audit and Analysis"*

Topic : *Current financial - accounting aspects of business combinations*

Scientific supervisor: *Prof. Emilia Milanova, PhD*

1. General description of the presented materials

By order No. 198 of 25/04/2023 of the Rector of the Higher School of Insurance and Finance, Prof. Doctor of Law Boris Velchev, I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury to ensure a procedure for the defense of a dissertation on the topic " **Current financial - accounting aspects of business combinations** " for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "**doctor**" in the Higher Education District 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, Professional direction 3.8. Economy. The author of the dissertation is Atanas Yanev Stoyanov - PhD student at the Department of Accounting and Auditing at the Higher School of Insurance and Finance.

The materials submitted by doctoral student Atanas Stoyanov include documents according to the presented inventory: application for public protection; dissertation work; abstract of the dissertation work; reference on the fulfillment of the minimum national requirements for acquiring the educational and scientific degree "doctor" in a professional direction 3.8. Economics; list of publications on the subject of the dissertation; list of all publications; a list of my known citations of my publications by other authors; a reference to the main scientific and scientific-applied contributions in the dissertation work; brief biographical data for the doctoral student and information on the fulfillment of the requirements for doctoral studies; declaration of originality and authenticity.

Doctoral student Atanas Stoyanov has attached 4 (four) articles published in the electronic journal of ICPA, 3 (three) of which are on the topic of the dissertation work.

After getting acquainted with the documents submitted by the doctoral student, I found that they fully correspond to the requirements. I have no comments on the submitted documents.

2. Brief biographical details of the applicant

Doctoral student Atanas Stoyanov was born in 1994. In 2017, he graduated from the University of National and World Economy (UNWE) with a Bachelor's degree in Accounting, and in 2018 OCS "Master" with specialization in the field of the public sector, also at UNWE. From 2019 until now, he has been studying at the Higher School of Insurance and Finance in the doctoral program "Accounting, Auditing and Analysis". In 2023, he specialized in the USA at the University of Pennsylvania. The higher education and specialization carried out are in full compliance with the doctoral program in which Mr. Atanas Stoyanov is studying.

3. Characterization and evaluation of the dissertation work

The dissertation work of doctoral student Atanas Stoyanov covers a text of 257 computer pages, and the exposition is structured in an introduction, three chapters, a conclusion and used literary sources, a total of 259 pieces, of which: in Bulgarian - 12 pieces; normative sources – 30 pcs.; foreign sources – 201 items; foreign databases – 6 pcs.; other internet sources – 10 pcs. Literary sources have been used correctly and in good faith.

The topic of the dissertation is current and definitely interesting both for the theory of accounting science and for accounting practice.

In the introduction of the dissertation, the following are clearly and precisely indicated: the topicality of the topic, emphasizing that there is no complex scientific study of the economic and accounting essence of business combinations in the specialized literature; the goal and four research tasks set by the author; the object and subject of scientific research; the research thesis; the approaches and methods used in the research; a brief review and justification of the content and structure of the dissertation was made; the limiting conditions of the research on the topic of the dissertation are indicated. In conclusion, I should note that in the introduction, the doctoral student presented the necessary scientometric characteristics on the subject of the dissertation authentically and in good faith.

The first chapter of the dissertation is entitled "Nature, historical development and motives for carrying out mergers and acquisitions. Legal-organizational framework regulating mergers and acquisitions as forms of transformation of commercial companies" and covers a text of 62 computer pages (p. 7-p. 69). The second chapter is entitled "Business combinations as an object of accounting and presentation in the financial statements of enterprises" and covers a text of 93 computer pages

(p. 70-p. 163). The third chapter of the dissertation presents the results of the conducted empirical research on the practical applicability of the derived and appropriately systematized guidelines for improving the existing approaches and methods for presenting business combinations in the financial statements of enterprises. This part of the dissertation covers a text of 70 computer pages (p.164-p.234). The above gives the basis to draw the conclusion that the structuring of the material in the dissertation work is justified, in a historical and logical sequence, and the separate three chapters are balanced.

At the conclusion of the dissertation, the doctoral student summarizes the content of the three chapters, skillfully brings out the results obtained from the research and, on this basis, systematizes the most important achievements in a scientific and practical-applied aspect. This approach allows doctoral student Atanas Stoyanov to summarize the scientific and scientific-applied contributions in the dissertation work.

The careful reading of the dissertation gives me reason to state that the presented historical facts, the regulatory framework, the different interpretations and the personal opinions of the doctoral student are presented reliably, correctly and convincingly.

4. Contributions and significance of the development for science and practice

Four scientific and scientific-applied contributions are indicated in the dissertation work. They are expressed in the following:

1) a historical overview of the separate waves of mergers and acquisitions was carried out. From the standpoint of the historical-logical approach, the doctoral student has detailed and thoroughly distinguished the individual waves, clearly and accurately indicated the characteristic features and scope of each of the waves, systematized the factors that led to the emergence and subsequent development of the individual waves, summarized the strengths and weaknesses of the anti-trust legislation in a historical aspect in the USA, the legislation in this area in the European Community (European Union) and in Bulgaria. On the basis of a critical analysis of the legal-organizational framework regulating mergers and acquisitions, advocated in the Bulgarian legal and legal literature, the doctoral student comes to the conclusion that there is a gap in the Bulgarian legislation, which is due to the lack of a norm for determining the ratio of replacement of the shares and shares in cases where none of the commercial companies participating in the transaction is a public company (p. 44). We fully support the PhD student's opinion that macroeconomic conditions, various government decisions and technological progress are the main prerequisites for the emergence and subsequent development of M&A waves, and that the in-depth analysis and evaluation of information on the progress of individual waves will lead to the reduction of the entropy and

the errors allowed in the implementation of the business combinations, thus reducing the number of failed transactions.

2) Existing flaws in the fair value concept have been eliminated. The doctoral student comes to the conclusion that "since the transaction between market participants at the valuation date is ordinary, the fair value excludes any mandatory and/or forced transactions" (p.77). The doctoral student makes a proposal to "eliminate the existing shortcomings of the fair value in the absence of a primary market for a given asset or liability and in the case of the impossibility of determining the fair value, except by formulating unobservable hypotheses, then instead of the fair value, the accounting valuation should be carried out at the acquisition price ", which in specific cases would help achieve a far more reliable assessment. Also, the PhD student makes a reasoned proposal for the need to "introduce a certain minimum required amount of transactions below which the volume or activity for the asset and liability is considered to have significantly decreased."

3) The doctoral student thoroughly and with the necessary arguments proves the need for the introduction of mandatory accrual of amortization expenses of the commercial reputation during its useful life (p. 135). According to him, the useful life of the commercial reputation should be "directly dependent on the necessary time period for full integration of business combinations" (p.136). After a comprehensive and in-depth review of the specialized literature in this field, the doctoral student came to the conclusion that this period is 5 years. (p. 136).

4) a proposal was presented to include indicators for integrated reporting in the disclosures to IFRS 3 Business Combinations in their role as non-financial indicators for measuring the success of business combinations. The inclusion of non-financial indicators will increase the information assurance of users of general purpose financial statements. The need to use non-financial indicators also arises from the fact that, in addition to the universal legal succession in business combinations of all rights, obligations and modalities of one legal entity or fractional parts of them passing to another entity, business combinations influence and have an impact and outside the framework of the companies involved in the transformation, namely on customers, suppliers, investors, competitors, banks, regulatory authorities, etc. Suitable for achieving this goal is the proposed system of 35 general indicators for complex and consistent reporting of value creation in a long-term time aspect.

In conclusion, I should note that I support the stated contributions in the dissertation. They are the result of the doctoral student's scientific research on the topic of the dissertation and are his personal contribution. The contributions in the dissertation have a theoretical character and enrich the scientific theory of accounting as an independent science and as an important function of enterprise management. The contributions also have a practical-applied nature for solving existing problems in practice. The ideas proposed by the doctoral student, specified as scientific and scientific-applied

contributions, are significant and can be used in practice for its improvement in matters of accounting recognition, initial and subsequent evaluation, reporting and presentation of business combinations in the financial statements of enterprises.

5. Evaluation of publications on the dissertation work

Doctoral student Atanas Stoyanov has presented four articles, three of which are related to research on the topic of the dissertation work. They are published in the ICPA electronic magazine as follows: issue 3/ of 2019; No. 2/2020; No. 4/2020 and No. 3/2022. The articles are correctly indicated in the Author's Reference to the dissertation work.

6. Assessment of compliance with minimum national requirements

From the reference on the minimum national requirements for obtaining the educational and scientific degree "doctor" in the professional direction 3.8. Economics, presented in the set of documents described in item 1 of the opinion prepared by me, it can be seen that doctoral student Atanas Stoyanov fulfills the minimum national requirements for this.

7. Abstract

The abstract of Atanas Stoyanov's dissertation work has been prepared in accordance with the established requirements and presents sufficiently, fully and accurately the content, the achieved results and the contributing moments in the work.

8. Critical remarks and recommendations

I have no critical remarks on the conducted scientific research on the topic of the dissertation work and on the set of presented materials.

CONCLUSION

The dissertation contains scientific, scientific-applied and applied results, which represent an original contribution to science and meet all the requirements of the Act on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ADASRB) and the Regulations for implementation of the ADASRB. The presented materials and results on the subject of the dissertation fully correspond to the specific requirements of the Regulations for the admission and training of doctoral students in the Higher School of Insurance and Finance.

The dissertation shows that the candidate Atanas Yanev Stoyanov has in-depth theoretical knowledge and professional skills in Professional Direction 3. 8. Economics, demonstrating qualities and skills for independent conduct of in-depth scientific research.

Due to the above, I confidently give my positive assessment of the conducted scientific research on the topic of the dissertation, according to the materials provided by the doctoral student,

described in item 1 of the statement prepared by me (dissertation, abstract, achieved results and contributions), and I offer to the honorable scientific jury to award the educational and scientific degree "doctor" to Atanas Yanev Stoyanov in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences; Professional direction 3.8. Economy.

May 21, 2023

Prepared the opinion:

(Assoc. Prof. Rositsa Ivanova, PhD)