

Mechanism for Conducting Checks of Property Declarations of Persons Occupying High State Positions

By means of the amendments to the *Law on the Publicity of Property of Persons Occupying High State Positions in force from 01.01.2007*, a new order for submission of property declarations by the persons occupying high State positions and a new mechanism for checking such declarations have been introduced. According to the law, the persons occupying high State positions declare their property every year not later than 30 April, as well as upon their stepping into and release of duty. The declarations` format shall be approved by the Chairman of the National Audit Office. The persons shall declare realty; motor road, water and air vehicles; money; receivables and liabilities over BGN 5 thousand in local or foreign currency; securities, shares in companies of limited liability and partnerships by shares, registered shares in joint stock companies including shares acquired through participation in privatization transactions; income received outside these for the position taken, etc. Following the elapse of the legally established term the Audit Office shall carry out a check of the declarations submitted and compare the data introduced by the persons with the data from the different State registers. Whenever a discrepancy is established or in case the obliged persons have failed to submit declaration, the chairman of the Audit Office shall send a list with the names of the individuals to the Executive Director of the National Revenue Agency for initiating checks under the Tax and Social Security Code.

In 2007 *bilateral agreements for cooperation and interaction* have been signed between the Audit Office of Republic of Bulgaria, the National Revenue Agency, the Association of the Commercial Banks in Bulgaria and the Prosecution of Republic of Bulgaria.

The institutions hold *monthly meetings to share information* and discuss issues related to: the execution of the signal function of the Audit Office should there be data for crime, established in the course of an audit assignment; the checks assigned by the Public Prosecution to the authorities of the Audit Office and by the National Revenue Agency, etc.

In 2007 all officials of the Public Register Directorate and the auditors carrying out audit of the political parties have been trained.