



ADVISORY GROUP OF EXPERTS

MINUTES No. 28

of the session of the Advisory Group of Experts

Kyiv

01 August 2026

Session opened: 9:13

Session closed: 9:21

Members of the Advisory Group of Experts present at the session:

Oksana Vasylchenko, Yaroslav Romaniuk, Vasyl Shakun (all – in person), Aleš Zalar, Maureen O'Connor, Hanna Suchocka (all – remotely, by means of electronic videoconferencing).

Alternate members of the Advisory Group of Experts present at the session:

Volodymyr Kuzmenko, Vitalii Makhinchuk (all – in person), Marek Zubik, Thomas Bill Griffith, Richard Barrett (all – remotely, by means of electronic videoconferencing).

Proposed agenda:

Heard:

Maureen O'Connor, who reported that the candidate Serhii Viktorovych Sotnikov had submitted a motion for the recusal of all foreign experts: both members and alternate members of the Advisory Group of Experts. She drew attention to the fact that the Law of Ukraine "On the Constitutional Court of Ukraine" does not provide for the possibility of moving for the recusal of alternate members of the Advisory Group of Experts, and that none of the alternate members of the Advisory Group of Experts carries out, in this competition, the evaluation of the candidate against the criteria established by law. She therefore proposed the following agenda:

1. On the consideration of the motion for the recusal of members of the Advisory Group of Experts from the evaluation of Serhii Viktorovych Sotnikov, candidate for the position of Judge of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine

Voted:

- Oksana Vasylchenko: "IN FAVOUR"
- Aleš Zalar: "IN FAVOUR"



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- Vasyl Shakun: "IN FAVOUR"
- Maureen O'Connor: "IN FAVOUR"
- Yaroslav Romaniuk: "IN FAVOUR"
- Hanna Suchocka: "IN FAVOUR"

In total: "IN FAVOUR" – 6 votes, "AGAINST" – 0 votes.

Resolved: to approve the proposed agenda.

Consideration of the agenda items:

Before the voting commenced, the Chair of the Advisory Group of Experts, Oksana Vasylchenko, informed the members of the content of the motion for the recusal of members of the Advisory Group of Experts from the evaluation of Serhii Viktorovych Sotnikov, candidate for the position of Judge of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine, and noted that the candidate Serhii Viktorovych Sotnikov had based the recusal motions on his disagreement with the provisions of the Law of Ukraine "On the Constitutional Court of Ukraine", with the evaluation procedure and the composition of the Advisory Group of Experts, in particular as regards the involvement of foreign experts in the competitive selection. At the same time, in his motion the candidate Serhii Viktorovych Sotnikov did not indicate the existence of any actual or potential conflict of interest, or of any personal or business relations with the members of the Advisory Group of Experts, and did not put forward any other grounds for recusal under Part Thirty of Article 10² of the Law of Ukraine "On the Constitutional Court of Ukraine".

1. On the consideration of the motion for the recusal of Maureen O'Connor, member of the Advisory Group of Experts, from the evaluation of Serhii Viktorovych Sotnikov, candidate for the position of Judge of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine

Heard:

Oksana Vasylchenko, who informed the members of the Advisory Group that Serhii Viktorovych Sotnikov, candidate for the position of Judge of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine, had submitted a motion for the recusal of the member of the Advisory Group, Maureen O'Connor, from the evaluation of him as a candidate for the position of Judge of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine, and that the members of the Advisory Group had had the opportunity to review the said motion prior to the respective session. As no additional



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questions arose regarding this motion, Oksana Vasylchenko asked the members of the Advisory Group of Experts whether they granted the motion for the recusal of the member of the Advisory Group, Maureen O'Connor, from the evaluation of Serhii Viktorovych Sotnikov, candidate for the position of Judge of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine.

Voted:

- Aleš Zalar: "AGAINST"
- Vasyl Shakun: "AGAINST"
- Oksana Vasylchenko: "AGAINST"
- Yaroslav Romaniuk: "AGAINST"
- Hanna Suchocka: "AGAINST"

In total: "IN FAVOUR" – 0 votes, "AGAINST" – 5 votes.

Resolved: to deny the motion for the recusal of Maureen O'Connor, member of the Advisory Group of Experts, from the evaluation of Serhii Viktorovych Sotnikov, candidate for the position of Judge of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine.

2. On the consideration of the motion for the recusal of Hanna Suchocka, member of the Advisory Group of Experts, from the evaluation of Serhii Viktorovych Sotnikov, candidate for the position of Judge of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine

Heard:

Oksana Vasylchenko, who informed the members of the Advisory Group that Serhii Viktorovych Sotnikov, candidate for the position of Judge of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine, had submitted a motion for the recusal of the member of the Advisory Group, Hanna Suchocka, from the evaluation of him as a candidate for the position of Judge of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine, and that the members of the Advisory Group had had the opportunity to review the said motion prior to the respective session. As no additional questions arose regarding this motion, Oksana Vasylchenko asked the members of the Advisory Group of Experts whether they granted the motion for the recusal of the member of the Advisory Group, Hanna Suchocka, from the evaluation of Serhii Viktorovych Sotnikov, candidate for the position of Judge of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine.

Voted:

- Aleš Zalar: "AGAINST"



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- Vasyl Shakun: "AGAINST"
- Maureen O'Connor: "AGAINST"
- Yaroslav Romaniuk: "AGAINST"
- Oksana Vasylchenko: "AGAINST"

In total: "IN FAVOUR" – 0 votes, "AGAINST" – 5 votes.

Resolved: to deny the motion for the recusal of Hanna Suchocka, member of the Advisory Group of Experts, from the evaluation of Serhii Viktorovych Sotnikov, candidate for the position of Judge of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine.

3. On the consideration of the motion for the recusal of Aleš Zalar, member of the Advisory Group of Experts, from the evaluation of Serhii Viktorovych Sotnikov, candidate for the position of Judge of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine

Heard:

Oksana Vasylchenko, who informed the members of the Advisory Group that Serhii Viktorovych Sotnikov, candidate for the position of Judge of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine, had submitted a motion for the recusal of the member of the Advisory Group, Aleš Zalar, from the evaluation of him as a candidate for the position of Judge of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine, and that the members of the Advisory Group had had the opportunity to review the said motion prior to the respective session. As no additional questions arose regarding this motion, Oksana Vasylchenko asked the members of the Advisory Group of Experts whether they granted the motion for the recusal of the member of the Advisory Group, Aleš Zalar, from the evaluation of Serhii Viktorovych Sotnikov, candidate for the position of Judge of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine.

Voted:

- Oksana Vasylchenko: "AGAINST"
- Vasyl Shakun: "AGAINST"
- Maureen O'Connor: "AGAINST"
- Yaroslav Romaniuk: "AGAINST"
- Hanna Suchocka: "AGAINST"

In total: "IN FAVOUR" – 0 votes, "AGAINST" – 5 votes.



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Resolved: to deny the motion for the recusal of Aleš Zalar, member of the Advisory Group of Experts, from the evaluation of Serhii Viktorovych Sotnikov, candidate for the position of Judge of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine.

In conclusion, Oksana Vasylchenko announced that the Advisory Group of Experts had denied the motions for the recusal of the members of the Advisory Group of Experts Maureen O'Connor, Hanna Suchocka and Aleš Zalar. Accordingly, they continue to exercise their powers with respect to the evaluation of the candidate Serhii Viktorovych Sotnikov.

Oksana Vasylchenko announced that all items on the agenda had been considered.

Chair of the Advisory Group of Experts

Oksana Vasylchenko

Video recording of the broadcast of the session:

