

REPUBLIKA E KOSOVËS - РЕПУБЛИКА КОСОВО - REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO GJYKATA KUSHTETUESE УСТАВНИ СУД CONSTITUTIONAL COURT

Prishtina, 02 March 2020 Ref. no.:VVMP 1525/20

DECISION ON EXTENSION OF INTERIM MEASURE

in

Case No. KO203/19

Applicant

The Ombudsperson

Constitutional review of specific Articles of Law No. 06/L-114 on Public Officials

THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO

composed of:

Arta Rama-Hajrizi, President Bajram Ljatifi, Deputy President Bekim Sejdiu, Judge Selvete Gërxhaliu-Krasniqi, Judge Gresa Caka-Nimani, Judge Safet Hoxha, Judge Radomir Laban, Judge Remzije Istrefi-Peci, Judge, and Nexhmi Rexhepi, Judge

Applicant

1. The Referral was submitted by the Ombudsperson Institution of the Republic of Kosovo (hereinafter: the Applicant).

Challenged Law

2. The Applicant challenges the constitutionality of specific provisions of Law No. o6/L-114 on Public Officials (hereinafter: the challenged Law), published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Kosovo (hereinafter: the Official Gazette), on 11 March 2019, and which entered into force six (6) months after its publication in the Official Gazette, namely Articles 2 (paragraph 3), 5 (paragraph 1, subparagraph 1. 2 and paragraph 2), 10 (paragraphs 1 and 2), 11, 14 (paragraph 5), 15 (paragraphs 4 and 6), 17 (paragraph 7), 31 (paragraph 3), 32 (paragraph 5), 33 (paragraph 5), 34 (paragraph 16), 35 (paragraph 6), 37 (paragraph 5), 38 (paragraph 7), 39 (paragraph 11), 40 (paragraph 12), 41 (paragraph 6), 42 (paragraphs 10 and 11), 43 (paragraph 13), 44 (paragraph 4), 48 (paragraph 9), 49 (paragraph 6), 52 (paragraph 7), 54 (paragraph 6), 67 (paragraph 11), 68 (paragraph 8), 70 (paragraph 8), 71 (paragraph 8), 75, 80 (paragraph 4), 83 (paragraph 18) and 85 of the challenged Law.

Subject matter

- 3. The subject matter of the Referral is the constitutional review of the aforementioned provisions of the challenged Law, which according to the Applicant's allegations are not in compliance with paragraph 2 of Article 132 [Role and Competencies of the Ombudsperson] of the Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo (hereinafter: the Constitution) and other constitutional provisions governing the status of independent constitutional institutions.
- 4. The Applicant, moreover, regarding the status of the officials of Kosovo Forensic Agency (hereinafter: the KFA), personnel of Kosovo Prosecutorial Council (hereinafter: the KPC) and Police of Kosovo, although not specifying the specific articles of the Constitution, raises the issue of compatibility of the provisions of the challenged Law with the constitutional principle of equality before the law and the principle of separation of the state powers.
- 5. In this respect, the Applicant requests the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Kosovo (hereinafter: the Court) to impose interim measure for "immediate suspension of the challenged provisions, namely Articles 2 (paragraph 3), 5 (paragraph 1, subparagraph 1.2, paragraph 2), 10 (paragraphs 1 and 2), 11, 14 (paragraph 5), 15 (paragraphs 4 and 4); 17 (paragraph 7), 31 (paragraph 3), 32 (paragraph 5), 33 (paragraph 5), 34 (paragraph 16), 35 (paragraph 6), 37 (paragraph 5), 38 (paragraph 7), 39 (paragraph 11), 40 (paragraph 12), 41 (paragraph 6), 42 (paragraphs 10 and 11), 43 (paragraph 13), 44 (paragraph 4), 48 (paragraph 9), 49 (paragraph 6), 52 (paragraph 7), 54 (paragraph 6), 67 (paragraph 11), 68, (paragraph 8); 70 (paragraph 8), 71 (paragraph 8), 75, 80 (paragraph 4), 83 (paragraph 18) and Article 85 of the [challenged Law], or at least suspension of the application of these provisions in relation to the Ombudsperson".

Legal basis

6. The Referral is based on paragraph 2, sub-paragraph 1 of Article 113 [Jurisdiction and Authorized Parties] and paragraph 2 of Article 116 [Legal Effect of Decisions] of the Constitution; Articles 22, 27, 29 and 30 of Law No.

03/L-121 on the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Kosovo (hereinafter: the Law); and Rules 32, 56, and 57 of the Rules of Procedure of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Kosovo (hereinafter: the Rules of Procedure).

Proceedings before the Court after the approval of the interim measure

- 7. On 19 November 2019, the Judge Rapporteur recommended to the Court the approval of interim measure. On the same date, the Court unanimously decided to approve the interim measure until 28 February 2020.
- 8. On 25 November 2019, the Secretariat of the Assembly submitted to the Court the documentation regarding the procedure for review and approval of the challenged Law in the Assembly.
- 9. On 27 November 2019, the KPC and the KFA submitted to the Court the comments regarding the Referral.
- 10. On 29 November 2019, the Ministry of Public Administration (hereinafter: the MPA), and the Kosovo Police submitted to the Court the comments regarding the Referral.
- 11. On 6 December 2019, the Court communicated documents submitted by the Secretariat of the Assembly as well as comments received by the KPC, KFA, the Kosovo Police and the MPA to the parties involved in the case with instructions to submit their comments to the Court, if any, within seven (7) days.
- 12. On 12 December 2019, the MPA notified the Court that "after reviewing and analyzing the comments submitted by the [KFA, KPC] and the Kosovo Police, we consider that we have submitted all our comments regarding these institutions in the reply sent to you on 29.11.2019", submitting once again the comments of 29 November 2019.
- 13. On 26 February 2020, the Judge Rapporteur recommended to the Court the extension of the interim measure in the case KO203/19, approved by the Court on 19 November 2019. On the same date, the Court unanimously decided to approve the extension of the interim measure imposed by the Court on 19 November 2019, until 28 April 2020.

As to the extension of interim measure

- 14. The Court refers to its Decision on the Interim Measure of 19 November 2019 in this case.
- 15. The Court notes that the parties interested in the admissibility and merits of this Referral have submitted a considerable volume of documents and comments and that the Court considers that all the arguments presented by the parties should be taken into consideration.

16. Therefore, without prejudice to any further decision to be rendered by the Court in the future regarding the admissibility or the merits of this Referral, the Court decides to extend the interim measure until 28 April 2020.

FOR THESE REASONS

The Court, in accordance with Article 116.2 of the Constitution, Article 27 of the Law and Rule 57 of the Rules of Procedure, on 26 February 2020, unanimously

DECIDES

- I. TO EXTEND the interim measure decided by the Decision on Interim Measure in case KO203/19 of 19 November 2019, until 28 February 2020;
- II. TO EXTEND SUSPENSION of the implementation in entirety of Law No. 06/L-114 on Public Officials, in the duration specified in item I;
- III. This Decision will be communicated to the parties;
- IV. This Decision will be published in accordance with Article 20 (4) of the Law; and
- V. This decision is effective immediately.

Judge Rapporteur

President of the Constitutional Court

Safet Hoxha

Kopje e vërtetuar Arta Rama-Hajrizi
Overena kopija
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