



THE LONDON SCHOOL
OF ECONOMICS AND
POLITICAL SCIENCE ■

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London, 28/11/14

Department of
International Relations

Madam/Sir,

I was asked to write a letter assessing Jozef Bátora's overall academic performance in connection with his application for professorship in political science at Comenius University, and am more than happy to oblige.

I first met Jozef in 1999 in my capacity as external examiner for his MPhil. thesis in the University of Bergen. Already at this early stage of his career, Jozef had shown clear potential for academic work. We had the pleasure of working together on a co-authored article on the impacts of the information revolution on the Norwegian foreign ministry (published in *Diplomacy & Statecraft*, 2002). Since then I have followed his academic endeavors and we have met on numerous academic occasions attending conferences, sitting in the same panels and organizing PhD courses in Oslo, around Europe as well as in the United States.

Jozef has chosen to connect his study of diplomacy to broader social science theorizing, which is very useful for that subdiscipline. He finds it useful to apply new institutionalist approaches and organization theory to conceptualize stability and change of diplomacy in the context of the information revolution and European integration. Jozef is part of a growing cohort of international relations scholars interested in diplomacy and realizing the limits of classical IR approaches as well as the limits of empirically informed approaches. His most recent book – *Fringe Players and the Diplomatic Order: Towards a New Heteronomy?* (Palgrave, 2014, co-authored with Nik Hynek) – illustrates the usefulness of taking the notion of diplomacy as an institution seriously and using new institutionalist approaches in political science and organization theory oriented approaches to analyze it. This also applies to his other studies of change dynamics in diplomacy published as articles in peer reviewed journals, most notably in *Journal of European Public Policy* (2005) and *Journal of Common Market Studies* (2013). By using this approach, Jozef has provided the academic community studying international politics with innovative insights that pave the way for new research.



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I am familiar with Jozef's activities as an academic entrepreneur connecting the Slovak academic milieu in political science and international relations to the international scholarly community. I spot three kinds of useful activities. First, in 2007, Jozef founded an internationally oriented peer reviewed working paper series at the Institute of European Studies and International Relations at Comenius University (IESIR Working Papers). I had the pleasure of contributing the first paper to this series and it has since grown to a carrier of new research mostly emanating from Comenius University. Secondly, Jozef has been organizing international PhD-schools and courses at IESIR and invited me to teach one such course in 2010. Finally, he has also taken over as coordinating editor of Journal of International Relations and Development (JIRD) in 2012. This is a primary peer reviewed outlet for international relations research in Central Europe with a global reach that attracts submissions from scholars around the world. I welcome Jozef's commitment to serving the academic community and his determination to nurture Central European scholarship in IR.

As a colleague, Jozef is a pleasant presence with well-developed social skills and a wide network of international contacts among academics and practitioners of international relations.

To sum up, already in his relatively young years, Jozef has already made significant contributions to the scholarly discipline of political science and international relations. It is without hesitation and with no reservations that I recommend Jozef Bátora to be awarded the title of full professor by Comenius University.

Iver B. Neumann

Montague Burton Professor of IR