Olga Dubovik †

Olga Dubovik, Chief Researcher of the Sector of Environmental, Land and Agricultural Law at the Institute of State and Law of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Doctor of Legal Sciences, Professor, died unexpectedly at the age of 72 on March 28, 2021. Olga Dubovik worked at the Institute of State and Law for more than 45 years (since 1976).

Olga Dubovik was born in Ufa on November 22, 1949. In 1972, she graduated with honors from the Law Faculty of the Lviv State University. From 1972 to 1975, she attended the post-graduate school of the All-Union Institute for the Study of the Causes and Development of Crime Prevention Measures under the USSR Prosecutor’s Office. Under the guidance of academician A.N. Kudryavtsev, Olga Dubovik prepared her candidate of legal sciences dissertation on the topic “Decision-making in the mechanism of criminal behavior”, which she defended in 1976. At the Institute of State and Law of the Russian Academy of Sciences, she defended her doctoral dissertation on the topic “The mechanism of action of the environmental law (legal and sociological aspects)”.

Olga Dubovik was a research fellow at Max Planck Society (1988-1998), Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (1990-1991, 1993-1994), John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation (1996-1997), University of Washington (2000, 2001, 2002). She participated in a number of international projects, including “Criminal law protection of the environment” (Freiburg, Germany, 1988-1989); “Rational environmental policy – rational environmental law” (Bielefeld, Germany, 1998-1999), constantly participated in international scientific events dedicated to environmental and criminal law, which were held in different countries (Russia, Germany, China, Poland). She always chose the most relevant and socially significant report topics.

Olga Dubovik was a postgraduate student of famous Russian academician Vladimir Kudryavtsev, who specialized in the field of criminology and criminal law. Following his example, she had a broad scientific outlook and was not
confined to one legal specialty. She not only participated in the interdisciplinary scientific research initiated by V. N. Kudryavtsev but also addressed his ideas and concepts in her works. Olga Dubovik developed a model of the environmental law mechanism of action on the basis of large-scale sociological research, as well as a new scientific direction – environmental criminology – based on the results of research on ecocorruption in such areas as illegal trade in the environment, ecocertification and ecolicensing, theory of the causes of environmental crimes, theory of environmental conflicts. Olga Dubovik’s last published monograph became “Environmental Conflictology (prevention and resolution of environmental and legal conflicts)”, which was largely the result of her many years of research on the problems of legal conflictology. This project was implemented in the early 1990s at the Institute of State and Law of the Russian Academy of Sciences, and Academician V. N. Kudryavtsev was its inspiration and leader.

Olga Dubovik published more than 400 scientific papers, including such fundamental works as “The causes of environmental crimes” (Moscow, 1988) (co-authored with A. E. Zhalinsky); “The mechanism of law in environmental protection” (Moscow, 1994); “Environmental crimes. Commentary to Chapter 26 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation” (Moscow, 1998), “Environmental law of Eastern Europe” (Moscow, 2018), “Environmental Conflictology (prevention and resolution of environmental and legal conflicts)” (Moscow, 2019). Dubovik was the responsible editor of the book “Practical guide for environmental police” (Moscow, 2003), collections: “Modern environmental law in Russia and abroad” (Moscow, 2001); “Modern medical law in Russia and abroad” (Moscow, 2003), a monograph “Legal responsibility for environmental offenses” (Moscow, 2011), numerous comments on environmental legislation, published in 2011-2016. It should be noted that after the death of her husband – one of the leading Russian scientists in the field of criminal law and criminology, Doctor of Law, Professor Alfred Ernestovich Zhalinsky – Olga Dubovik took on a huge effort to prepare a four-volume edition of his works collection.
Olga Dubovik was fluent in German and Polish. In this regard, one of her scientific tasks was to inform the Russian scientific community about the current trends and tendencies in the development of environmental and criminal law abroad. In periodicals, you can find numerous reviews of the works by leading legal scholars in the field of environmental and criminal law from Germany, Poland and other European countries. She also paid close attention to the analysis of environmental law norms of the European Union, having published more than 20 works on this topic.

Olga Dubovik’s scientific heritage, dominated by scientific works of a fundamental nature and significant for legal doctrine and legal policy, will serve as a basis for new scientific researches in the field of environmental and criminal law for many years to come.

Olga Dubovik led an active educational work to promote progressive environmental and legal ideas and views, actively cooperated with state bodies in the process of discussing and making environmentally significant decisions. She was a member of the Scientific Advisory Council under the Mayor of Moscow, Board of the Department for Nature Management and Environmental Protection of the Government of Moscow, in 1994-1999. She was a member of the Supreme Scientific Council under the Committee on Ecology of the State Duma of the Russian Federation.

Olga Dubovik devoted a significant part of her time to training the young generation of environmental lawyers. Under her direct supervision, twenty-seven candidate and one doctoral dissertations were defended at the Institute of State and Law of the Russian Academy of Sciences. Her bright memory will forever remain in the hearts of her students, for whom she opened the way to legal science.

Olga Dubovik was a caring mother and grandmother, she tried to spend all her free time with her family. Her human qualities always attracted people to her, and during her life she has made many friends. For all of them, her passing away is an irreparable loss. A talented scientist, a wonderful Teacher, a kind and
sympathetic person, a wise and loving mother and grandmother – this is how she will remain in her relatives and friends’ memory.

Olga Dubovik has been buried in Hamburg (Germany) next to her husband.

Tatiana Rednikova