



Marš sa Drine

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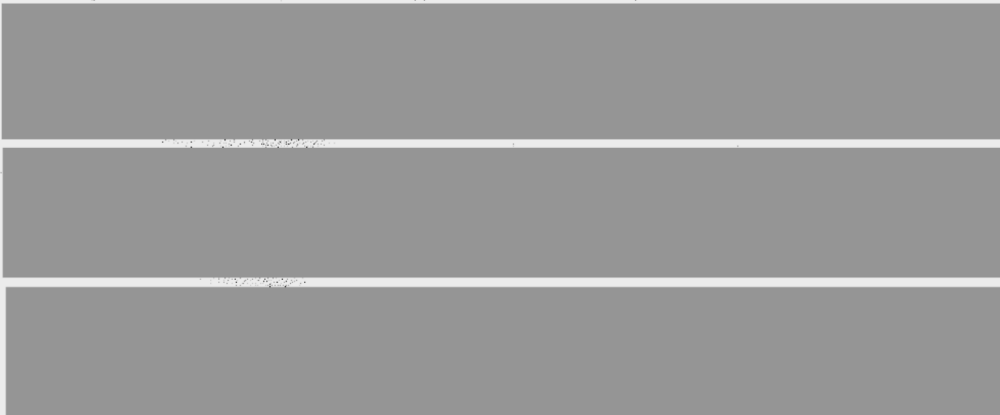
29 June 2022

Re: Civil Society response to Trilateral Energy Transition meeting

Dear Minister Mihajlović, Ambassador Giaufret and Director Lorkowski,

In light of the [minutes](#) from your meeting dated 21 February 2022¹ we want to address the messaging used to describe Serbian people's relationship to the Green Transition. It is of great concern that these minutes label Serbia's public as "resistant."²

EE, RES and GHG as requested by EnC. Transparency of the process is of high importance to the Ministry since there is a resistance to energy transition among the public in Serbia.



DPM thanked all participants for participation and closed the meeting.

Putting aside the gleaming irony of mentioning transparency on a page of redacted text, we wish to make clear that labeling the Serbian public as "resistant" to the energy transition is grossly misleading and unacceptable. Among our [network](#) are members of the Serbian Academy of

¹ <https://www.energy-community.org/news/Energy-Community-News/2022/02/22.html>

² https://www.dropbox.com/s/7iksravi3boxecp/2.%20Minues_MoME%20EnC%20EUD%20mtg%2021.2.2022_redacted.pdf?dl=0

Sciences, farmers, environmental law experts, agriculturalists, civil rights advocates, landowners, teachers and students. We all support and promote the rule of law and environmental protection, which is evident in the concerns raised at the meeting with the EU embassy in December 2021.³ It is these concerns that formed the basis for weekly protests leading to the historic blockades of 2021⁴ and show that the Serbian people are *resistant* to dirty mining, multinational occupation, the threat of expropriation and destruction of land, water and air. Any "green" transition should never allow such destruction. We and the people stood up precisely because we are in favor of a just transition.

In your meeting, Serbia's mining minister mentioned the *"importance of explaining the green transition to the people of Serbia."* We could not agree more, however we still do not have an NECP strategy. Unlike North Macedonia and Albania, who [already submitted their drafts](#) to the Energy Community Secretariat, the Serbian Mining Ministry started their draft in April 2021.⁵ We have not seen the draft version even though it was announced in January 2022.⁶ Here, [Zorana Mihajlović stated that](#) *"no one has the right to impose their view as the only correct one or to try and stop the changes or obstruct the adoption of strategic documents important for the development of Serbia."* This applies to all of you as well. Such an important matter can not be the jurisdiction of any one single person or authority. Moreover, until the public sees a draft, and comments on it, no one can claim public opinion to be resistant. Your labeling is deeply disrespectful, undignifying and highly inappropriate towards the Serbian public.

We can not assume to understand why you chose to label the plight for environmental justice as "resistant" to the green transition. In the event that such statements continue, we have no choice but to assume that your true motive is to divide and conquer public opinion with the aim to undermine legitimate concerns that may be raised by stakeholders and the public alike. If that were to occur, we will use all means available to us to uphold free speech and ensure accountability from the part of public institutions and their representatives.

Sincerely,

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³ https://www.dropbox.com/s/ll7b4j8b7hxig5m/3.%20Note%20-%20HoD%20Meeting%20with%20NGOs%20Opposing%20to%20Rio%20_redacted.pdf?dl=0

⁴ <http://zoomer.rs/16-dana-aktivizma-marina-pavlic-od-nas-zavisi-da-li-cemo-dopustiti-da-vlasti-odlucuju-o-sudbini-nasih-domova/>

⁵ <https://balkangreenenergynews.com/serbia-starts-drafting-national-energy-and-climate-plan/>

⁶ <https://balkangreenenergynews.com/serbia-finishing-its-draft-energy-climate-policy-for-public-review/>

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