



Marš sa Drine

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To: Mr. Emanuele Giaufret, Ms. Mateja Norčić Štamcar

The delegation of the European Union in Belgrade

emanuele.giaufret@eeas.europa.eu

Cc: Artur.lorkowski@energy-community.org Energy Community Secretariat,

cc: Thomas.waitz@europarl.europa.eu co-chair of the European Green Party

11. August 2022

Dear Ms. Norčić Štamcar, Mr. Giaufret and the EU delegation in Serbia,

Thank you for [your letter](#) of July 15th. It is good that we agree on a common interest to better inform the Serbian public about the energy transition and environmental protection. As members of civil society, we want to be involved in this process. Given that the cross boundary impact of many energy related projects in Serbia will affect citizens of the EU, our interest is rooted in justice for all peoples.

We agree that behavioral change is imperative from all citizens, including those with roles in government in Serbia and the EU. When change comes from all sides of our social structures, civil society organizations will be able to contribute more, as you mentioned is important. This was also mentioned in [The European Parliament's Resolution RC-B9-0600](#) which called on *"the Commission and the European External Action Service to strengthen their cooperation with and support for civil society."*¹

We appreciate this decision, and your efforts to do the same. While we cannot comment on the NECP strategy as we have yet to see a draft, and we await a response from the Ministry for Mining and Energy to [our letter](#) of June 29, we are happy to connect with you on our common interest and duty to better inform the public. Therefore per your request, here are some of our constructive proposals:

1. Please arrange that we receive from the Ministry of Mining the minutes from the Jadar working group meetings held in 2020 and 2021.² Citizens have a right to know what is being planned in their "economic interest" and how proposed developments may affect them.³
2. Please reveal the purpose of the [Jadar Project Agreement](#)⁴ between German-Austrian company Thyssen with Rio Tinto and the Faculty of Bor, a branch of the University of Belgrade, engaging the faculty as "consultant" for the Jadar Project on March 11th, two months after the Serbian government canceled the same⁵. Given that Thyssen has its seat in the EU, we are also interested in your delegation's opinion of this partnership being formalized with a Serbian state institution at a time when the project was canceled.

¹ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/RC-9-2021-0600_EN.html

²

<https://priviprvinaskali.com/clanci/dren/ekologija/zorana-mihajlovic-uporno-odbija-zahteve-za-pristup-zapisnicima-radne-grupe-za-implimentaciju-projekta-jadar.html>

³The Ministry rejected a freedom of information request for the Jadar Working Groups' meeting minutes citing that "making the minutes public would lessen the ability of the state to control economic processes and the economic interests of Serbia." We believe if something is beneficial to Serbia it is in all our interest to know about it.

⁴ <https://www.dropbox.com/s/kbzqwm76oo2l05/odgovor%20od%20ministarstva%20.pdf?dl=0>

⁵ https://www.dropbox.com/s/iwir5r7rfzftlj/Confidentiality%20Agreement_Jadar%20sa%20aneksom.pdf?dl=0

⁵ <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ztygwe99pyy4whp/AACCyDorgSuO88laOkLns5TFa?dl=0>

3. Please make available to us all documents (letters, meeting minutes, notes, agreements, permits, emails and any other sources) between Rio Tinto, the Republic of Serbia and the EU (any and all governing wings/institutions) regarding the Jadar Project.
4. Please provide us with the delegation's opinion on Rio Tinto Chairman, Simon Thompson's comments about reviving the Jadar project "[now that elections are out of the way](#)".⁶
5. Please provide us with the delegation's opinion of [evidence](#) that was published yesterday⁷ showing Project Jadar is still being developed with Bechtel?⁸ How do you think Rio Tinto's response,⁹ which contradicts the published correspondence, and shows disregard for Serbian law, is going to affect the public's relationship to the green transition?
6. Please provide us with information on how you are urging your counterparts in the Serbian government to adopt EU standards and practices in order to better inform the public.

[The European Parliament's joint motion for a resolution RC-B9-0600/2021](#) expressed "deep concern over serious problems with corruption and the rule of law in the environment area [in Serbia], over the general lack of transparency and over environmental and social impact assessments of infrastructure projects" including those from "multinational companies such as Rio Tinto;" In the resolution they called on "EU and the Serbian authorities to follow up on the legitimate concerns expressed in the environmental protests and to urgently address these problems during the [EU accession] negotiations."¹⁰

As active participants of those protests and as people who will be affected by foreign investments, we deserve to know everything about Rio Tinto, Thyssen, DMT, and other foreign corporations on many other projects nationwide, whose business plans affect our lives, livelihoods, not to mention endanger the environment we live in.

As we await a response from the Ministry of Mining in Serbia, we again thank you for opening this conversation and look forward to being able to inform the Serbian public further with the information you provide.

In grateful solidarity,

1. Bojana Novaković - on behalf of
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2. **SEOS - ZNAMO DA NE DAMO** (Association of Ecological Organizations Serbia)
znamodanedomo@gmail.com
 - i. Ljiljana Bralović - on behalf of [Suvoborska Greda](#)
 - ii. Zlatko Kokanović - on behalf of [Ne damo Jadar](#)
 - iii. Ilijana Čutura - on behalf of [Eko Brigada Jagodina](#)
 - iv. Dragan Simović - on behalf of [Zaštito Dobrinju i okolinu](#)
 - v. Milena Orubović Djukić - on behalf of [Za čist Kosjerić](#)
 - vi. Marica Živanović Poljo - on behalf of [Neko brine za Levač](#)
4. Marina Pavlić - on behalf of
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⁶ Page 17, AGM Meeting minutes May 5th <https://www.dropbox.com/s/8649isgaze4i7uc/RT%20AGM%202022%20transcript.pdf?dl=0>

⁷ https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid07QRENr45SF8nVw96CXi7xHWE19t7KcnHqrA4TsfJLiCMh2DqBsiHqN7spTq2T9l&id=112633037882323

⁸ <https://balkangreenenergynews.com/rio-tinto-to-complete-feasibility-study-for-jadar-lithium-project-in-serbia/>

⁹ <https://riotintoserbia.com/mediji/saopštenja-za-javnost/2022/2022-08-10-Interna-studija-izvodljivosti-mora-biti-završena>

¹⁰ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/RC-9-2021-0600_EN.html