

Photo

Works on the Albanian part of the river, Photo: Damira Kalač

What will the Government do because of the Cijevna

MP Neđeljko Rudović asks Minister of Foreign Affairs Darmanović

MP **Neđeljko Rudović** sent an MP question to the Minister of Foreign Affairs **Srđan Darmanović** regarding the commencement of small hydro power plants construction on the Albanian part of the river Cijevna.

Rudović requested Darmanović to respond in which way his ministry, but also other competent line ministries, will react to the commenced SHPP construction, which can pose a threat to the river Cijevna watercourse on the Montenegrin territory.

”How did it happen that the Government of Montenegro knew nothing about that until it had been revealed by NGOs and the media“, reads the Rudović's question.

[*Inserted in the middle of the text:*]

Rama can be asked about HPP tomorrow

The Montenegrin Prime Minister Duško Marković has recently announced that he would personally ask the Albanian Prime Minister Edi Rama about the hydro power plants on the river running through the two states. Rama will attend the Economic Conference Montenegro 2018, to be held tomorrow and the day after tomorrow in Budva.

He reminds that the professional public has reported on several occasions up to that point that the works might have adverse impact also on the part of the Cijevna canyon passing through Montenegro.

”The Government of Montenegro, instead of an updated monitoring of everything that is happening in the neighbouring countries that may have implications on Montenegro, here reacts *post festum*. For now, we know that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has requested the relevant information through our embassy in Albania. Such information should have been acquired by our embassy to Tirana, which should have notified the superiors of everything prior to the start of the construction, if that had not been done already by competent authorities of Albania pursuant to the Convention on Transboundary Impacts“, reads the MP Rudović's question.

On the north of Albania, in the Kelmendi region, at least one SHPP is being built on the Cijevna. According to the information of the Vijesti, the construction of 14 SHPPs is planned on that river. From the Albanian Government they recently said that although there was interest of some entities in those projects, they had not granted any permit for a SHPP on the Cijevna up to that point.

The Cijevna canyon was declared last year in Montenegro a natural monument and a protected area of the second category.

More than a half of the river course runs through Montenegro. Several environmental activists from Montenegro pointed out that the Albanian party had been acting contrary to the provisions of the ESPOO Convention. Such allegations were confirmed by the Minister of Sustainable Development and Tourism Pavle Radulović. The Governments of Montenegro and Albania also signed this past summer the Framework Agreement on Cross-border Water Management.

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SHPPs are planned across the Balkans. Out of that number, 14 SHPPs are planned for construction on the territory of Albania. The Vijesti were told from the Government of Albania that they have several interested entities for four such projects