



Strasbourg, 15 September 2026

T-PVS/Files(2026)2020/09_gov

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee
46th meeting
Strasbourg, 7-11 December 2026

Bureau of the Standing Committee
22-24 September 2026
Strasbourg

Open File: 2020/9

**Possible negative impact of hydro-power plant
development on the Neretva River (Bosnia &
Herzegovina)**

- GOVERNMENT REPORT -

Document prepared by the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Update for the Autumn Bureau Meeting
September 2026**

PROGRESS REPORT (07)

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Report of Bosnia and Herzegovina for the Bureau meeting of 22 to 24 September 2026

11th September 2026

Abstract

There have been no significant changes regarding the implementation of Recommendation No. 217 (2022) concerning the potential negative impact of hydropower development on the Neretva River. However, progress has been made towards the proposed designation of Mount Prenj as a protected area, including the upper Neretva River. The Faculty of Forestry of the University of Sarajevo, in cooperation with the Faculty of Science, has been engaged in preparing the Expert Justification for the designation of Mount Prenj as a protected area. The competent authorities of the Republic of Srpska and the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina support further coordination on the implementation of the Recommendation. The upper Neretva, upstream of the Ulog Hydropower Plant (HPP), remains intact, with no construction of the planned small hydropower plants undertaken. The Ministry of Spatial Planning, Construction and Ecology is seeking to terminate the relevant concession and pursue protection of the area under the applicable nature protection legislation.

Monitoring of the Neretva and the operation of the Ulog HPP continues. The Environmental permit for the HPP was renewed in accordance with applicable legislation, without reducing the existing environmental protection measures.

With regard to the previous report submitted by the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina – *Government Report T-PVS/Files(2025)2022-9_gov*, the competent ministries responsible for environmental protection [*the Ministry of Spatial Planning, Construction and Ecology of Republic of Srpska* (hereinafter: MSPCE) and *the Federal Ministry of Environment and Tourism* (hereinafter: FMET)] emphasize that there have been no significant changes compared to what was previously submitted, nor are there any additional updates or activities concerning *Recommendation No. 217 (2022) of the Standing Committee*, adopted on 2nd December 2022, regarding the possible negative impact of hydropower plant development on the Neretva River (Bosnia and Herzegovina).

It is worth highlighting, however, progress related to the initiative of *the Federal Ministry of Environment and Tourism, in cooperation with the City of Konjic*, to establish a new protected area of Prenj (potentially under the National Park category). The valorization process and study for the designation of the new protected area will take into consideration the upper part of the Neretva River. The Federal Ministry of Environment and Tourism announced that one of the examples of its cooperation with the Faculty of Forestry was the project “Expert Justification for the Designation of Mount Prenj as a Protected Area.” The document is being jointly prepared by the Faculty of Forestry and the Faculty of Science of the University of Sarajevo, with the support of the Ministry, the City of Konjic and UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina. More importantly, UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina announced the presentation of the Expert Study for the Designation of Prenj Mountain as a Protected Area. Professors and experts from the Faculty of Forestry and the Faculty of Science of the University of Sarajevo participated in its preparation. At that time, the expert team stated that the process was in its final phase and that approximately 30 university professors and experts had been involved. This process will include an economic evaluation of the area as well as the drafting of the relevant law/act

on designation, in accordance with Article 145 of the Law on Nature Protection („Official Gazette of FBiH“, Nos. 66/13 and 10/25).

We would like to underline that the upper part of the Neretva River, upstream from the constructed Ulog hydropower plant, remains intact. The Ministry is seeking a solution for the termination of the concession and intends to proceed in the direction of designating the area as protected according to Law on Nature Protection. Accordingly, no activities related to the construction of the planned small hydropower plants in the area upstream from the Ulog hydropower plant have been carried out.

At the beginning of 2026, the Ministry of Spatial Planning, Construction and Ecology organised a meeting with Mr Gabriel Singer, Prof. at the Department of Ecology, University of Innsbruck, and Ms Jelena Ivanić from the Centre for Environment in Banja Luka. The meeting provided an opportunity to present and discuss the findings of research conducted on the Neretva River, both upstream and downstream of the Ulog Hydropower Plant (HPP). Following the meeting, the Ministry reaffirmed its continued monitoring of developments concerning both the section of the Neretva River upstream of the Ulog HPP, including the concession area designated for the development of hydropower facilities, and the operation of the Ulog HPP. In accordance with the procedures prescribed by the applicable legislation, the Environmental permit for the Ulog HPP was renewed. The renewal procedure did not result in any revision of the operating regime that would have the effect of relaxing or reducing the environmental protection measures applicable to the project. The implementation of the obligations arising from the Environmental permit, as well as the supervision and inspection of compliance with the prescribed environmental protection measures, falls within the competence of the Republic Administration for Inspection Affairs, as the competent inspection authority of Republic of Srpska.