



Strasbourg, 31 July 2025

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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

45th meeting

Strasbourg, 8-12 December 2025

Bureau of the Standing Committee

16-18 September 2025

Strasbourg

Open File: 2020/9

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

- COMPLAINANT REPORT -

Document prepared by

*Center for Environment on behalf of the other Complainants: Aarhus Center in Bosnia and
Herzegovina, EuroNatur, RiverWatch, CEE Bankwatch Network & ClientEarth*

Update Report dated 31 July 2025

CENTAR ZA ŽIVOTNU SREDINU
CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENT



No: 328/25
Banja Luka, 31st July 2025

Directorate General of Democracy
Council of Europe
Bern Convention
Avenue de l'Europe
F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex, France

To:
bern.convention@coe.int

Attn.:

Mr. Mikaël Poutiers - Secretary of the Bern Convention
Mikael.POUTIERS@coe.int
Mr. Marc Hory - Project Manager - European Diploma for Protected Areas and Emerald Network
Marc.HORY@coe.int
Ms. Marta Medlinska
Marta.MEDLINSKA@coe.int
Ms. Aleksandra Bujaroska
aleksandra.bujaroska@energy-community.org

SUBJECT: Update report on Open File: 2020/9, Possible negative impact of hydro-power plant development on the Neretva River (BaH)

Dear Mr. POUTIERS,
Dear Mr. HORY,
Dear Ms. MEDLINSKA,
Dear Ms. BUJAROSKA,

In relation to your letter requesting an update report, please be informed that there was no further progress in implementation of the Recommendations No. 217 (2022). All inputs presented on the 44th Standing Committee Meeting **in December 2024** are still relevant and, so far, there was no movement afterwards.

However, we recall our previous **update report**, and Bureau's decision from 6th December 2024 on accepting the proposal to have a coordination meeting with the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to discuss the implementation of the Recommendation No. 217 (2022).

Once again, we thank the Standing Committee for acceptance of this proposal—and since, according to the latest report from Focal Point¹, no party objects the proposal to have a coordination meeting—we kindly ask the Bureau to take steps necessary to have this meeting as soon as possible (ideally in-person).

¹ Government Report - [T-PVS/Files \(2025\)2020-09_gov](#) from 14th February 2025

We kindly ask the Bureau to share any plans and/or information on the place/date/format of the coordination meeting, and let us know if any facilitation for this is needed.

Thank you in advance.

Sincerely,

President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to be 'Tihomir Dakić', is written over a circular blue stamp. The stamp contains a stylized drawing of a person with arms raised, and the text 'CENTAR ZA ŽIVOTNU SREDINU' in the upper half and 'CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENT' in the lower half.

Tihomir Dakić

On behalf of the other Complainants:

Aarhus Center in Bosnia and Herzegovina

EuroNatur

RiverWatch

CEE Bankwatch Network

ClientEarth

Update Report dated 11 February 2025



CENTAR ZA ŽIVOTNU SREDINU
CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENT



No: 49/25

Banja Luka, 11th February 2025

**Directorate General of Democracy
Council of Europe
Bern Convention
Avenue de l'Europe
F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex, France**

To:

bern.convention@coe
.int

Attn.:

Mr. Mikaël Poutiers - Secretary of the Bern Convention

Mikael.POUTIERS@coe.int

Mr. Marc Hory - Project Manager - European Diploma for Protected Areas and Emerald Network

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Ms. Marta Medlinska

Marta.MEDLINSKA@c

oe.int Ms. Aleksandra

Bujaroska

aleksandra.bujaroska@energy-community.org

SUBJECT: 7th Update report on Open File: 2020/9, Possible negative impact of hydro-power plant development on the Neretva River (BaH)

Dear Mr. POUTIERS,

Dear Mr. HORY,

Dear Ms. MEDLINSKA,

Dear Ms. BUJAROSKA,

Hereby we are submitting our seventh update report regarding the case file No. 2020/9 (Possible negative impact of hydro-power plant development on the Neretva River, BaH).

Please be informed that there was no further progress in implementation of the Recommendations No. 217 (2022).

All inputs presented on the 44th Standing Committee Meeting in December 2024 are still relevant and, so far, there was no movement afterwards.

We would, however, like to use this opportunity to recall the Standing Committee's decision from 6th December 2024 on accepting the proposal to have a **coordination meeting with the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to discuss the implementation of the Recommendation No. 217 (2022).**

A joint meeting would benefit all parties and hopefully would facilitate some movement after the Recommendations have been adopted and sent to relevant authorities in 2022. Therefore, we thank the Standing Committee for acceptance of this proposal, and we kindly ask the Bureau to take steps necessary to have this meeting as soon as possible.

In that regard, we would appreciate more information on when the meeting could take place, and what form of meeting is envisaged.

Of course, if possible, we would strongly recommend having an in-person meeting in Banja Luka and/or Sarajevo. In case this is not be possible, an on-line meeting would also be acceptable.

Please let us know if any facilitation in that regard is required, as we might be able to provide some assistance.

Thank you in advance.

Sincerely,

President



Tihomir Dakić

On behalf of the other Complainants:
Aarhus Center in Bosnia and Herzegovina
EuroNatur
RiverWatch
CEE Bankwatch Network
ClienEarth

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Centar za životnu sredinu / Center for Environment