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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

2 – 6 December 2024 Strasbourg

Bureau of the Standing Committee

10-12 September 2024 Strasbourg

Open File: 2020/9

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

- REPORT BY THE GOVERNMENT -

Document prepared by the

Federal Ministry of Environment and Tourism of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Ministry of Spatial Planning, Construction and Ecology of the Republic of Srpska, through the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina / the Institute for Protection of Cultural, Historical and Natural Heritage of the Republic of Srpska

- July 2024 -

PROGRESS REPORT (04) Bosnia and Herzegovina

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

Attn.

Mr. Mikaël Poutiers, Secretary of the Bern Convention Ms. Marta Medlińska, Programme Manager

Reference: Open File 2020/9: Bosnia and Herzegovina: Possible negative impact of hydro-power plant development on the Neretva River, Updated report, hereby delivered

Consolidated report prepared by Dejan Radosevic, Bern Convention National Focal Point for Bosnia and Herzegovina
Banja Luka, 31st July 2024

Attachment to this Report:

[1]: Conclusion of the Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, October 31, 2023

Recommendation No. 217 (2022) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 2nd December 2022 on the possible negative impact of hydropower plant development on the Neretva River (Bosnia and Herzegovina), urges to halt the construction of the hydropower plant Ulog, cancel concessions for hydro-energetic system Gornja Neretva and halt all planning activities when it comes to construction of hydro-energy facilities on Candidate site for Emerald Network (BA0000002), taking into account other criteria in the Recommendation.

The Bureau of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention re-examined the abovementioned complaint during its meeting on 18-19 March 2024, in light of the most recently submitted reports by the authorities and complainant. Here follows the Bureau decision:

The Bureau thanked both parties for their reports, noting that there had been few updates to inform on since the last reporting period.

It nevertheless took note with concern that construction of the Ulog hydropower plant (HPP) continued, as did that of the Upper Horizons HPP project, and that concessions for the hydroelectric system Gornja Neretva had still not been cancelled.

The Bureau welcomed the information of the complainant that the final report of the 2^{nd} Neretva Science Week had been officially published, and that preliminary findings of the 3^{rd} study were also available.

The Bureau reiterated the call of the 43rd Standing Committee for the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to respect and implement Recommendation No. 217 (2022), including by suspending

construction of Ulog HPP, cancelling concessions for the hydroelectric system Gornja Neretva, and halting other planned HPP projects such as the Upper Horizons project, until the valuable Gornja Neretva area has received an appropriate nature protection. It also recalled that the Neretva River system is a key resource not just for Bosnia & Herzegovina but for the wider region, and irreparable harm was being done. Both parties were requested to submit their progress reports for the Bureau meeting in Autumn 2024, detailing progress on each point of the Recommendation, as well as any other relevant updates.

In that regard, the Bureau of the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention urges competent authorities to send a new progress report by 31st July 2024, to be addressed at the meeting of the Bureau on 10-11 September 2024.

In accordance with the request, the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina submit the following information:

We would like to inform you that the situation has remained unchanged in relation to the facts presented within the Progress report (03) submitted to the Bureau of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention on 1st March 2024, to be consider at the Bureau during its meeting on 18-19 March 2024

It is worth noting that on February 27, 2024 Bern Convention National Focal Point for Bosnia and Herzegovina informed the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina that the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention, at the meeting held from 27th November to 1st December of 2023, continued to consider complaint 2020/9 based on response on progress submitted by the ministries in charge against the Recommendation No. 217 (2022) on possible negative impact of hydro-power plant development on river Neretva.

As indicated in the previous Progress Report (03), designation of the new protected areas "Gornji tok Neretve", municipality of Gacko and "Prirodno plodiste pastrmke Ulog" municipality of Kalinovik has initiated. Initiatives have been accepted and merged into one, whilst the Republic Institute for the Protection of Cultural, Historical and Natural Heritage suggested the protection of a new protected area and submitted to the Ministry of Spatial Planning, Construction and Ecology a Study for establishment a new protected area in category IV, Protected habitat Neretva. A study has submitted on December 23, 2022. Decision making about subject Initiative has prolonged until Government of Republic of Srpska takes its position on final purpose of the subject area.

There has been no change in status of the hydro-energetic system Gornja Neretva (both Phase I and Phase II) since previous Progress Report.

Construction of hydro power plant Ulog has not halted as it falls outside of scope of the proposed protected area (Protected habitat Neretva) and construction of the plant does not jeopardize natural values significant for declaration of protected area.

The Federal Ministry of Environment and Tourism, in cooperation with the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry, has prepared for the Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina a joint Information on the identified needs for launching an initiative towards the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Information is about the protection of the interests of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina from the consequences of the construction the Ulog HPP and seven small hydropower plants, which make up hydropower system of the Upper Neretva that are located in Republic of Srpska. Suggested conclusions are also proposed.

The Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina at its 18th session held on October 30, 2023 has adopted Information with proposed conclusions V. no. 1548/2023 dated on October 30, 2023.

Conclusion of the Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (File no- 03-04-1219-1/2023 AN dated on October 31, 2023; see Atachment [1]):

- 1. The Information submitted by the Federal Ministry of Environment and Tourism and the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry on the identified needs for launching an initiative to the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina to protect the interests of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina from the consequences of the construction of hydro power plant Ulog in Republic of Srpska and seven small hydro power plants, which make up the hydro-energetic system Gornja Neretva (both Phase I and Phase II) is adopted by the Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- 2. The Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina will send the information from point 1 of the Conclusion to the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina as an Initiative to resolve the issue of the impact of the construction of hydropower plant Ulog and the hydro-energetic system Gornja Neretva (both Phase I and Phase II) on the state of water and the environment in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- 3. The Federal Ministry of Environment and Tourism and the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry are responsible for monitoring the implementation of this Conclusion, each within their own competences.
- 4. This Conclusion enters into force on the day of its adoption.

The Federal Ministry of Environment and Tourism by letter number: 04-19-737/21/22-3 dated on February 2, 2023 informed the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina about how they acted in relation to Recommendation No. 217 (2022) of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention, adopted on December 2, 2022 concerning the possible negative impact of the construction of hydropower facilities on the Neretva River (Bosnia and Herzegovina). In addition, Federal Ministry of Environment and Tourism informed the Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Environmental Protection of the Hercegovina-Nertva Canton about these issues and ordered that until the end of the process regarding the Complaint No. 2020/9 the condition of the area that is the subject of the appeal has not be deteriorated and that development activities related to hydropower facilities on the Neretva River have to be suspended.

Finally, it should be added that the Federal Ministry of Environment and Tourism has initiated activities, in cooperation with the City of Konjic, to establish a new protected area of Prenj (potentially in a category of National Park) and that valorization and studies for designation of a new protected area will take into consideration the upper part of Neretva river. In this sense, as particularly relevant, the Recommendation No. 217 (2022) of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention and possible negative impacts of the development of hydropower plants on the Neretva River will be taken into account. Related to this, Federal Ministry of Environment and Tourism has proposed to the Government of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, i.e. the Federal Ministry of Energy, Mining and Industry, that if the intention of building hydroelectric power plants on the upper part of Neretva river (HE Bjelimici and HE Glavaticevo) remains, it is necessary to develop a new document (Spatial Plan of the area of special characteristics), conducting a strategic assessment of the impact on environment and making decisions based on that. However, if concrete actions are taken, that will be presented in one of the following reports submitted to the Standing Committee of the Berne Convention.

Annex I Conclusion of the Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, October 31, 2023

BOSNA I HERCEGOVINA
FEDERACIJA BOSNE I HERCEGOVINE
VLADA

БОСНА И ХЕРЦЕГОВИНА Φ ЕДЕРАЦИЈА БОСНЕ И ХЕРЦЕГОВИНЕ B Л A Д A

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
FEDERATION OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
GOVERNMENT

Broj: 03-04-1219-1/2023 AN Sarajevo, 31.10.2023. godine

Federacija Bosne i Hercegovine FEDERALNO MINISTARSTVO OKOLIŠA I TURIZMA

 Primijeno:
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 Org. jed.
 Broj
 Priloga

 NU 1-10-1 - FRN
 Priloga

FEDERALNO MINISTARSTVO OKOLIŠA I TURIZMA Gđa. Nasiha Pozder, ministrica

FEDERALNO MINISTARSTVO POLJOPRIVREDE, VODOPRIVREDE I ŠUMARSTVA Gosp. Kemal Hrnjić, ministar

Poštovani,

U prilogu Vam dostavljam Zaključak Vlade Federacije Bosne i Hercegovine, V. broj: 1548/2023 od 30.10.2023. godine, koji je Vlada Federacije Bosne i Hercegovine donijela na 18. sjednici održanoj 30.10.2023. godine.

S poštovanjem,

Prilog: Kao u tekstu

SEKRETAR VLADE

dr.sci. Edita Kalajdžić

BOSNA I HERCEGOVINA FEDERACIJA BOSNE I HERCEGOVINE

VLADA

БОСНА И ХЕРЦЕГОВИНА ФЕДЕРАЦИЈА БОСНЕ И ХЕРЦЕГОВИНЕ

ВЛАДА

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA FEDERATION OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

GOVERNMENT

Na osnovu člana 19. stav (4) Zakona o Vladi Federacije Bosne i Hercegovine ("Službene novine Federacije BiH", br. 1/94, 8/95, 58/02, 19/03, 2/06 i 8/06), Vlada Federacije Bosne i Hercegovine na 18. sjednici, održanoj 30.10.2023. godine, donosi

ZAKLJUČAK

- 1. Prihvata se Informacija Federalnog ministarstva okoliša i turizma i Federalnog ministarstva poljoprivrede, vodoprivrede i šumarstva o identifiiciranim potrebama za pokretanje inicijative prema Vijeću ministara Bosne i Hercegovine za zaštitu interesa Federacije Bosne i Hercegovine od posljedica izgradnje HE Ulog u Republici Srpskoj i sedam mini hidroelektrana, koji čine hidroenergetski sistem Gornja Neretva.
- 2. Vlada Federacije Bosne i Hercegovine će informaciju iz tačke 1. zaključka uputiti Vijeću ministara Bosne i Hercegovine kao Inicijativu za rješavanje problematike uticaja gradnje HE Ulog i hidroenergetskog sistema Gornja Neretva na stanje voda i okoliša u Federaciji Bosne i Hercegovine.
- 3. Za praćenje realizacije ovog zaključka zadužuju se Federalno ministarstvo okoliša i turizma i Federalno ministarstvo poljoprivrede, vodoprivređe i šumarstva, svako u okviru svojih nadležnosti.
 - 4. Ovaj zaključak stupa na snagu danom donošenja.

V. broj: <u>/548</u> /2023 30.10.2023. godine Sarajevo PREMIJER Nermin Nikšić BOSNA I HERCEGOVINA FEDERACIJA BOSNE I HERCEGOVINE

VLADA

БОСНА И ХЕРЦЕГОВИНА ФЕДЕРАЦИЈА БОСНЕ И ХЕРЦЕГОВИНЕ

ВЛАДА

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA FEDERATION OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

GOVERNMENT

Na temelju članka 19. stavak (4) Zakona o Vladi Federacije Bosne i Hercegovine ("Službene novine Federacije BiH", br. 1/94, 8/95, 58/02, 19/03, 2/06 i 8/06), Vlada Federacije Bosne i Hercegovine na 18. sjednici, održanoj 30.10.2023. godine, donosi

ZAKLJUČAK

- 1. Prihvata se Informacija Federalnog ministarstva okoliša i turizma i Federalnog ministarstva poljoprivrede, vodoprivrede i šumarstva o identifiiciranim potrebama za pokretanje inicijative prema Vijeću ministara Bosne i Hercegovine za zaštitu interesa Federacije Bosne i Hercegovine od posljedica izgradnje HE Ulog u Republici Srpskoj i sedam mini hidroelektrana, koji čine hidroenergetski sustav Gornja Neretva.
- 2. Vlada Federacije Bosne i Hercegovine će informaciju iz točke 1. zaključka uputiti Vijeću ministara Bosne i Hercegovine kao Inicijativu za rješavanje problematike utjecaja gradnje HE Ulog i hidroenergetskog sustava Gornja Neretva na stanje voda i okoliša u Federaciji Bosne i Hercegovine.
- 3. Za praćenje realiziranja ovog zaključka zadužuju se Federalno ministarstvo okoliša i turizma i Federalno ministarstvo poljoprivrede, vodoprivrede i šumarstva, svatko u okviru svojih nadležnosti.
 - 4. Ovaj zaključak stupa na snagu danom donošenja.

V. broj: <u>1548</u> <u>/</u>2023 30.10.2023. godine Sarajevo PREMIJER

Vermin Nikšić

BOSNA I HERCEGOVINA FEDERACIJA BOSNE I HERCEGOVINE

БОСНА И ХЕРЦЕГОВИНА ФЕДЕРАЦИЈА БОСНЕ И ХЕРЦЕГОВИНЕ

ВЛАДА

VLADA

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA FEDERATION OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

GOVERNMENT

На основу члана 19. став (4) Закона о Влади Федерације Босне и Херцеговине ("Службене новине Федерације БиХ", бр. 1/94, 8/95, 58/02, 19/03, 2/06 и 8/06), Влада Федерације Босне и Херцеговине на 18. сједници, одржаној 30.10.2023. године, доноси

ЗАКЉУЧАК

- 1. Прихвата се Информација Федералног министарства околиша и туризма и Федералног министарства пољопривреде водопривреде и шумарства о идентификованим потребама за покретање иницијативе према Савјету министара Босне и Херцеговине за заштиту интереса Федерације Босне и Херцеговине од посљедица изградње ХЕ Улог у Републици Српској и седам мини хидроелектрана, који чине хидроенергетски систем Горња Неретва.
- 2. Влада Федерације Босне и Херцеговине ће информацију из тачке 1. закључка упутити Савјету министара Босне и Херцеговине као Иницијативу за рјешавање проблематике утицаја градње ХЕ Улог и хидроенергетског система Горња Неретва на стање вода и околиша у Федерацији Босне и Херцеговине.
- 3. За праћење реализације овог закључка задужују се Федерално министарство околиша и туризма и Федерално министарство пољопривреде, водопривреде и шумарства, свако у оквиру својих надлежности.
 - 4. Овај закључак ступа на снагу даном доношења.

В. број: <u>1548</u> /2023 30.10.2023. године

Сарајево

ермин Никшић

- March 2024 -

PROGRESS REPORT Bosnia and Herzegovina

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

Attn.

Mr. Mikaël Poutiers, Secretary of the Bern Convention Mr. Eoghan Kelly, Project coordinator of the Bern Convention

Reference: Open File 2020/9: Bosnia and Herzegovina: Possible negative impact of hydro-power plant development on the Neretva River, Updated report, hereby delivered

Consolidated report prepared by Dejan Radosevic, Bern Convention National Focal Point for Bosnia and Herzegovina
Banja Luka, 29th February 2024

Attachments to this Report:

[1]: The Official Response of the Ministry of Spatial Planning, Construction and Ecology, February 27, 2024 [2]: Conclusion of the Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, October 31, 2023

[3]: The official response of the Federal Ministry for the Environment and Tourism, February 27, 2023

Recommendation No. 217 (2022) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 2nd December 2022 on the possible negative impact of hydropower plant development on the Neretva River (Bosnia and Herzegovina), urges to halt the construction of the hydropower plant Ulog, cancel concessions for hydro-energetic system Gornja Neretva and halt all planning activities when it comes to construction of hydro-energy facilities on Candidate site for Emerald Network (BA0000002), taking into account other criteria in the Recommendation.

The Standing Committee of the Bern Convention examined the above-mentioned complaint at its 43rd meeting on 27th November to 1st December 2023 in light of the most recently submitted reports by the authorities and complainant. Here follows the Standing Committee decision:

- 1. Took note of the reports of both parties and thanked the representative of the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the complainant organisation, Center for Environment, for their presentations. It recalled that Recommendation No. 217 (2022) on the possible negative impact of hydro-power plant development on the Neretva River had been adopted last year at the 42nd meeting.
- 2. Regretted the news confirmed by both parties that the construction of the Ulog dam and hydropower plant (HPP) continued and was not planned to be suspended as called for in point 7 of Recommendation No. 217 (2022). In relation to the statement of the government that "Construction of HPP Ulog has not been halted as it falls outside of the scope of the protected area and construction of this plant does not jeopardize the natural values significant for declaration of a protected area", it recalled that the expert assessment of the site in October

2022 and unanimous support of the Contracting Parties of the Standing Committee to that assessment had taken a completely different position, stressing that the construction of this dam will cause irreparable damage in the region and along the river course.

- 3. Further took note that the Bjelimici and Glavaticevo HPP projects still remain in the Spatial plan but pointed out that the Federal Ministry of Environment and Tourism had urged that development activities related to hydropower facilities on the Neretva River have to be suspended until the end of the process regarding the Complaint No. 2020/9.
- 4. Furthermore pointed to the recent adopted Conclusion of the Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina on reacting to impacts on the water and environment of the HPPs being developed on Neretva, thus demonstrating that the authorities were beginning to take notice of the likely negative consequences.
- 5. Acknowledging the political complexities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, encouraged authorities at all levels to work together, as the river system is not restricted by borders.
- 6. Further took note that concessions had still not been cancelled for the two phases of the hydroelectric system Gornja Neretva, and that the Upper Horizons HPP scheme was ongoing. It again urged the authorities to follow points 8, 10 and 13 of the Recommendation by cancelling or banning these projects.
- 7. Called for the authorities involved to speed up if possible the process of declaring Gornji tok Neretve as a protected area and adopted Emerald Network site (point 1 of Recommendation No. 217 (2022)). It also urged them and the relevant stakeholders to make use of the data which civil society is collecting during the Neretva Science Week and similar initiatives. It recalled that there is a data gap in this area, and therefore new data gathered should be systematically welcomed and exploited.
- 8. Welcomed that a focal point for Bosnia and Herzegovina had been assigned as called for in the Recommendation.
- 9. Again, called for a suspension of construction of the Ulog HPP and fulfilment of Recommendation No. 217 (2022), encouraged better communication between authorities at different levels and NGOs, and requested that both parties provide update reports for the Spring Bureau meeting in 2024, and in particular to provide the state of play of the various HPP projects related to the complaint. The file remains open.

In this regard, the Bureau of the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention urges competent authorities to send a new progress report.

In accordance with the request, the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina submit the following information:

An information about the 43rd meeting of the Standing Committee has been delivered to the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina on December 6, 2023 by Bern Convention National Focal Point for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

On February 27, 2024 Bern Convention National Focal Point for Bosnia and Herzegovina informed the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina that the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention, at the meeting held from November 27 to December 1 of 2023, continued to consider complaint 2020/9 based on response on progress submitted by the ministries in charge against the Recommendation No. 217 (2022) on possible negative impact of hydro-power plant development on the Neretva river.

We would like to inform you that the situation has remained unchanged in relation to the facts presented within the Progress report submitted to the Secretariat on November 15, 2023 regarding the consideration at the 43rd meeting of the Standing Committee.

The Ministry of Spatial Planning, Construction and Ecology confirmed that in its official response (see Attachment [1]).

The Federal Ministry for the Environment and Tourism expressed itself orally on this issue and conveyed that certain actions have been taken towards the Government of the Federation of Bosnia

and Herzegovina, but that the official response have not yet been received and cannot be the subject of this report at this moment.

As indicated in the previous Progress Report, designation of the new protected areas "Gornji tok Neretve", municipality of Gacko and "Prirodno plodiste pastrmke Ulog" municipality of Kalinovik has initiated. Initiatives have been accepted and merged into one, whilst the Republic Institute for the Protection of Cultural, Historical and Natural Heritage suggested the protection of a new protected area and submitted to the Ministry of Spatial Planning, Construction and Ecology a Study for establishment a new protected area in category IV, Protected habitat Neretva. A study has submitted on December 23, 2022. Decision making about subject Initiative has prolonged until Government of Republic of Srpska takes its position on final purpose of the subject area.

There has been no change in status of the hydro-energetic system Gornja Neretva (both Phase I and Phase II) since previous Report.

Construction of hydro power plant Ulog has not halted as it falls outside of scope of the proposed protected area (Protected habitat Neretva) and construction of the plant does not jeopardize natural values significant for declaration of protected area.

The Federal Ministry of Environment and Tourism, in cooperation with the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry, has prepared for the Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina a joint Information on the identified needs for launching an initiative towards the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Information is about the protection of the interests of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina from the consequences of the construction the Ulog HPP and seven small hydropower plants, which make up hydropower system of the Upper Neretva that are located in Republic of Srpska. Suggested conclusions are also proposed.

The Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina at its 18th session held on October 30, 2023. adopted Information with proposed conclusions V. no. 1548/2023 dated on October 30, 2023.

Conclusion of the Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (File no- 03-04-1219-1/2023 AN dated on October 31, 2023; see Atachment [2]):

- 5. The Information submitted by the Federal Ministry of Environment and Tourism and the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry on the identified needs for launching an initiative to the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina to protect the interests of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina from the consequences of the construction of hydro power plant Ulog in Republic of Srpska and seven small hydro power plants, which make up the hydro-energetic system Gornja Neretva (both Phase I and Phase II) is adopted by the Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- 6. The Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina will send the information from point 1 of the Conclusion to the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina as an Initiative to resolve the issue of the impact of the construction of hydropower plant Ulog and the hydro-energetic system Gornja Neretva (both Phase I and Phase II) on the state of water and the environment in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- 7. The Federal Ministry of Environment and Tourism and the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry are responsible for monitoring the implementation of this Conclusion, each within their own competences.
- 8. This Conclusion enters into force on the day of its adoption.

Federal Ministry of Environment and Tourism (hereinafter: FMOiT) by letter number: 04-19-737/21/22-3, dated on February 2, 2023 informed the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina about how FMOiT acted in relation to Recommendation No. 217 (2022) of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention, adopted on December 2, 2022 concerning the possible negative impact of the construction of hydropower facilities on the Neretva River (Bosnia and Herzegovina). In addition, FMOiT informed the Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Environmental Protection of the Hercegovina-Nertva Canton about these issues and ordered that until the end of the process regarding the Complaint No. 2020/9 the condition of the area that is the subject of the appeal

has not be deteriorated and that development activities related to hydropower facilities on the Neretva River have to be suspended (see Attachment [3]).