

Кутия | 18 | Dear Mr Vejnovic,

Изпратени | Чернови | 11 | Спам | Кошче | Папки | Добави папка

We refer to your follow-up message of 25 January 2018 to the European Investment Bank (EIB) requesting feedback on the specific issues raised in your recent report on European-financed small hydropower plants in the Balkans. We also refer to our partial response of 1 February 2018, to your follow up message of 19 February 2018. Your request has been handled in line with the [EIB Group Transparency Policy](#) (EIB-TP).

As indicated in our previous exchanges, the EIB is not involved in the appraisal and monitoring of small-scale sub-projects financed through financial intermediaries, as the EIB has no contractual relationship with final beneficiaries of intermediated loans. In line with the EIB-TP, information on individual sub-projects falls within the competence of the intermediary banks as part of the normal business relationship between the respective bank and its customer[1].

Notwithstanding the above, and on an exceptional basis, the Bank has addressed the issues raised in your report with the financial intermediaries concerned. We are pleased to provide you with our comments based on the feedback received from them and the promoters of the projects concerned.

In the case of the Ilovac small hydropower plant in Croatia, the project was subject to an EIA dated May 2010, followed by a Decision by the competent authority (Ministry for Environmental Protection, Physical Planning and Construction) of November 2010 that stipulates that environmental aspects of the project were acceptable, subject to implementation of environmental protection measures and environmental monitoring. One specific measure assigned on the promotor was to monitor the ecological and chemical status of the Kupa river basin, and to monitor the state of fish fauna once per year during winter season. These monitoring reports had to be disclosed by the promoter directly to the competent authority. It is the responsibility of the competent authority to ensure that the assessment was carried out properly and that the relevant environmental protection and monitoring measures have been met.

Regarding the Lipkovo and the Tearce 97-99 projects in the FYROM, the promoter noted that the CEE Bankwatch Network study was based on visits to the project's locations carried out in September 2017, which corresponds to the driest period of the year when all rivers in the region had very reduced inflow or were completely dried up. Due to the decreased water flow, the Lipkovo powerhouse was not in operation. In the case of Tearce 97-98, only one out of the three power plants (Tearce 97) was in operation, ensuring that the prescribed minimum water flow was respected. The promoter further noted that the forest degradation alongside the access roads is due to unlicensed woodcutting by the local population, and claimed to have informed local authorities repeatedly about the issue. Regarding the pool created by the Lipkovo intake, the promoter ensures that cleaning of the material deposits coming from the upper river flow take place regularly, once or twice per year. Over the course of this year, the promoter will also take into consideration the recommendations for the adjustment of the fish passages, including plans to install video-monitoring on the Kamena river in order to continually monitor the biological minimum in the fish passage, as well as the flow for taking the water intended for production of electricity.