

The petition against the Rio Tinto's mine in Serbia was signed by over 100,000 people

Petition "STOP lithium mine! Rio Tinto - Go away from the Drina!" which was announced four months ago by the association Kreni-promeni has so far been signed by over 102 thousand people. The goal of the petition is to suspend the Jadar Project for the exploitation of lithium in the vicinity of Loznica.

The project Jadar intends to be implemented by the Anglo-Australian mining company Rio Tinto, and the petition was sent to the Prime Minister of the Republic of Serbia, Ana Brnabic, who announced in her prime minister's speech last year that Serbia would establish a strategic partnership with that company.

In addition to her, a petition was sent to Zorana Mihajlovic, the Minister of Mining and Energy, and the petition calls for a ban on the project of a lithium mine and a metal processing complex in the Jadar Valley.

The text of the petition states that the Jadar valley is bordered by mountains, surrounded by water, known as the most fertile land in Serbia.

"The government and the company ignore scientists and mining experts, threatening to cause irreparable damage to the environment and people, as well as local citizens who do not want to give up their agricultural land that belongs to their families' with generations," the petition reads.

It is added that Rio Tinto is known in the world for numerous environmental incidents. At the end of last week, the President of Serbia, Aleksandar Vucic, also spoke about the work with Rio Tinto, saying that a referendum should be organized in connection with that project, at which citizens would say what they think about the Jadar Project.

The representative of the Association for the Protection of Constitutionality and Legality (UZUZ), Savo Manojlovic, who is one of the organizers of the petition against Rio Tinto, said afterwards that the President of Serbia could not choose whether to represent citizens or a foreign company, but should represent interests of the citizens.

After the address of the President of Serbia, the number of signatories of the petition began to grow sharply.

Among the signatories of the petition are Dragana Djordjevic, scientific advisor at the Institute of Chemistry, Technology and Metallurgy, Ljiljana Tomovic, a full professor at the University of Belgrade, Aleksandar Jovanovic Zuta from the Defend the Rivers of Stara Planina Movement, and numerous environmental associations.

Representatives of Rio Tinto, on the other hand, claim that everything will work according to the law in the Jadar Valley, as well as that they will invest at least 140 million euros in environmental protection, Nova Ekonomija reports.