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Reaction on text published in daily newspaper “Kurir”, from 13. July 2014. under title “ECO- LOBY IS CLOSING “KOLUBARA”?”

On Saturday, 12th July, CEKOR received e-mail from journalist of “Kurir” at 2.42 p.m. with the two questions:

„Respected Mrs. Đereg,

Please, if you could in shortest term, during the day, to answer these questions:

1. Why " Centar za ekologiju i održivi razvoj" (CEKOR) tries to persuade EBRD in Serbia to not approve financial support for sanation of flood damages in energy sector in order to urgently recover electricity production from coal and lower damage for EPS and the country because of electricity imports?

2. Which are motives of CEKOR-a to openly work against the interests of the state and is it so that behind the letter to EBRD requesting not to invest into electricity production from coal in Serbia stands EPS competition, e.g. sellers of electricity and producers of renewable energy sources? „

CEKOR have answered following:

„Respected Slavica,

As an answer to your questions:

CEKOR is trying to convince both EBRD and other donors in Serbia to provide as larger and as purpose oriented assistance as possible in order to empower country to produce enough electricity and heating while the same time not to endanger health and life of citizens of Serbia. We requested that EBRD relief debt of Serbia related to EBRD loan through which citizens of Serbia should repay for the mechanisation equipment for coal that was flooded and is out of use. We do want EBRD to put efforts in sanation of energy sector.

The Government of Serbia is doing efforts to achieve commitments taken within the enlargement process of EU and CEKOR is trying to support these efforts. The same as the Government of Serbia, we think that improvement of health of citizens is the most important national aim and that this aim can be achieved by national reforms and with the help of international assistance. It is known well among Serbian government that health costs related to burning of lignite are bigger than the value of so produced energy and that Serbia has capacities in renewable energy sources significantly in European scale. By using those resources and improving energy efficiency growth and employment rates are increasing which is also aim of this Government.

I hope that from the above said it is clear that we do not work against citizens and whole Serbia, but for their interests solely!

Unfortunately, journalist from „Kurir” have not published our complete answer, so we are publishing it on our web sit.