

Croatian media reported at the end of last year that in the municipality of Dvor on Trgovska gora, where the construction of a center for radioactive waste disposal is planned, measurements and sampling of radioactivity of the existing situation have begun. According to environmentalists, Croatia is actively working to make this location a landfill. Some environmental activists worry that the planned location on Trgovska Gora could become a repository for radioactive or institutional waste from across the EU.

Earthquakes affecting Croatia have brought additional concern among BiH citizens regarding plans in Zagreb to store radioactive waste in the seismic area in the Dvor municipality, along the border between the two countries, so that Sarajevo, as well as Banja Luka, are increasingly being a solution. That problem is also mentioned in the lawsuit before the International Court of Justice in The Hague. Due to the concerns of residents in a dozen or more municipalities in BiH and the potential threat to more than 250,000 people living in both entities in the border area, the BiH Council of Ministers formed a team of experts to address the issue late last year. If they conclude that the location of the “Cherkezovac” barracks on Trgovska Gora is inadequate for radioactive waste disposal and dangerous to life, health and the environment, the BiH Presidency will be able to file a lawsuit against Croatia before the International Court of Justice in The Hague, said Vitomir Popovic, a law professor. University of Banja Luka and Deputy Chairman of the Legal Team.

Milorad Dodik, a member of the Presidency from RS, also stated earlier that BiH will not hesitate to file a lawsuit against Croatia if they do not give up their intention to dispose of nuclear waste at the location along the border with BiH, explaining that the expert team should base BiH’s future moves. Vitomir Popovic explained for “Glas Srpske” that BiH can refer to the 1991 ESPO Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in Cross-Border Contact, which has an elaborate mechanism for what to do in such cases. “If a cross-border problem cannot be solved through diplomacy, then international arbitration or a lawsuit remain as options,” Popovic emphasized.

According to the media, the report of the expert team could soon be presented to the ministers in the Council of Ministers of BiH. The Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of BiH, Stasa Kosarac, says that good bilateral relations with the neighboring country should be preserved, announcing that BiH will seek legal protection if Croatia continues to emphasize the construction of a landfill on the site “Trgovska gora”. At the press conference in Sarajevo, Kosarac stated that there are no disagreements or open issues within BiH when it comes to Trgovska Gora, noting that all institutions agree on that issue. “Our position remains unchanged. “The ‘Cerkezovac’ site is not adequate for the construction of a radioactive and nuclear waste dump,” said Kosarac, and reminded of the

recent earthquakes around Petrinja, saying that experts in that area had indicated earlier that it was an earthquake area. Kosarac reminded that the locality “Cerkezovac” is only 44 kilometers away from Petrinja.

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