

## KORS: The city of Loznica has no authority or right to ‘prejudge’ the decision on the lithium mine

The city of Loznica has no authority and did not have the preconditions to make a decision on opening a lithium mine and has no right to “prejudge” the decision on the Rio Tinto “Jadar” project, the Coalition for Sustainable Mining in Serbia (KORS) announced today. In response to the writings of some opposition media and those with a national frequency that the City of Loznica made the decision to open the mine, KORS stated that the Assembly of the City of Loznica adopted the Spatial Plan which also envisages a lithium mine, but that it is invalid.

Members of the Assembly of the City of Loznica voted yesterday by a majority of votes for the Spatial Plan in which the lithium mine was drawn.

“The city of Loznica has no authority or preconditions to make a decision on opening a mine, because three days ago the Government of Serbia made a decision on amending the Special Purpose Plan which, last year, illegally foresaw the opening of a lithium mine even before it was completed. A study on the impact of mines on the environment as a precondition for the adoption of a spatial plan”, it is stated in the announcement of KORS.

It is added that “these non-professional media are part of the machine of the company Rio Tinto, which tries to convince all citizens in all ways, by trampling on the legal system of Serbia, that the matter is over, that things have been decided and that the mine will be open”.

As, as it is stated, a valid and legal Spatial Plan of special purpose has not been adopted yet, “the ‘Jadar’ project is without any valid permit, including land conversion during 2020, so all decisions regarding the mine are illegal”.

It is pointed out that, in the event that Rio Tinto obtains all permits in an illegal and unconstitutional way, the protests of dissatisfied citizens say that they will never get a “social permit to open a mine, which is a sovereign and inalienable right of citizens”.

Source: Beta