

The Information on Environmental Pollution in Zenica-Doboj Canton from February 2020, prepared by the Kemal Kapetanović Institute for the needs of the Cantonal Assembly, states that polluters irregularly report their emissions to the database of the Register of Plants and Pollution of the Federation of BiH and the database Registry on plants and pollution of Zenica-Doboj Canton, and often do not report the actual state of their emissions and the causes of such emissions; that the validation of reported emissions in most cases is not performed in accordance with the Instruction for the calculation of annual emissions of SO₂, CO₂ and particulate matter into the air for the obligations of the Regulation on types, charges and criteria for calculation of charges for air pollutants. It was emphasized that the population of Zenica, Kakanj, Visoko, Maglaj and Tešanj is exposed to air pollution (SO₂, suspended particles and sediments) higher than allowed while the inhabitants of Breza, Vareš, Olovo, Žepče, Zavidovići, Doboj-Jug and Usora are exposed to such pollution. in winter.

The Association of Citizens EcoForum claims that there are no reliable data on the number of people suffering from air pollution in the Zenica-Doboj canon, especially in the wider area of the city of Zenica where the largest polluters for that area are stationed.

“If you walk through the settlements around Mittal, you will easily find out that there is no house in which there is no cancer patient, of all kinds, especially lungs. A study has never been done on the direct connection between the Ironworks and Mittal with diseases of the population - bronchitis, leukemia and other similar diseases. As for the statistics - many lung patients were treated in Travnik or Tešanj, where there is a specialized hospital for lung diseases, and many of those patients die there, so it seems that the mortality rate is higher there than in Zenica. We proposed to the Government and the Institute to finance and do a study of the impact of cox plant on the health of citizens, because cox plant is a source of emissions of CO₂, benzene, benzene and benzoapyrene, which are proven carcinogenic compounds. Measurements of these emissions were Mittal’s obligation in the past two environmental permits and they never did, and the testing we proposed was supposed to be done on samples of people of different ages living around Mittal and the control group outside the pollution area, but it was never approved. ” , says Zlatan Alibegović, president of the Association. He emphasizes that the analysis of the Food Institute is only a statistical analysis, ie the collection of available data and their interpretation. For him, the reaction of the Ze-do Canton Prosecutor’s Office to their lawsuit against Arcelor Mittal is much more significant.

“We filed a lawsuit five years ago, they rejected us, so we complained to the FBiH Prosecutor’s Office, which found that there were grounds for suspicion that the applicants

committed the crime of environmental pollution, ie that they acted contrary to previously issued valid environmental permits. The Cantonal Prosecutor's Office considered the actions from our report a violation and returned the case to the Cantonal Prosecutor's Office, which now again claims that there is no evidence that Mittal pollutes the air in Zenica, "says Alibegović

"The population in the immediate vicinity of the dominant emission sources, and then in the urban and suburban area of the City of Zenica, is particularly exposed to exceeding the limit values of air pollutants. According to the legislation, it is no longer possible to approve the construction of any air pollutants reception of new quantities of pollutants in the atmospheric air of this area, without possible compensatory measures in terms of reducing emissions from existing sources at least in the amount that the planned plant would emit into the air ", warn the authors of the Information, emphasizing that pollution measurement is not constant in all areas.

Minister of Environment in the Government of Ze-do Canton Arnel Isak says that the biggest sources of pollution, according to the register of plants and pollution of Zenica-Doboj Canton, are emissions from industrial and energy plants, emissions from small combustion plants that mostly use solid fuel and traffic, and emissions from the services sector. Alibegović is afraid that there is no one in power in Ze-do Canton who understands the reflections of pollution on health.

Source: interview.ba