

Barbora Poyner, a spokeswoman for the Energy Community, also confirmed that Bosnia and Herzegovina is threatened by new sanctions by the Energy Community due to the guarantee for Block 7 of the coal-fired thermal power plant in Tuzla.

Namely, the continuation of the online public debate, started on October 9, is scheduled for November 6 before the Energy Community Advisory Committee, at which BiH will be defended by a lawyer who will be hired by Elektroprivreda BiH for more than 200,000 euros (excluding VAT). On the agenda of the meeting will be a dispute between EnZ and BiH over the construction of Block 7 of the Tuzla thermal power plant.

During the first part of the one-and-a-half-hour hearing, held on October 9, the keynote speaker was a lawyer from Serbia hired by Elektroprivreda BiH, although it should be the job of the government – the line ministry, ie the BiH State Aid Council. EnZ and BiH, and not between EnZ and Elektroprivreda.

However, since Elektroprivreda's lawyer mostly talked about procedural matters in his presentation, the Advisory Committee was obviously not satisfied, they rejected his evidence, and BiH was given another chance. That chance is being given on November 6, by which time Elektroprivreda will be able to hire a new one or consult with the old, already mentioned lawyer from Serbia, in order to try to resolve the dispute with EnZ in favor of BiH.

The dispute was initiated in December last year, because there is no agreement between EnZ and BiH on whether the guarantee for the Chinese loan for the construction of Block 7 is state aid or not. It is a guarantee by which the FBiH authorities are the guarantor of Elektroprivreda BiH for a loan from the Export-Import Bank of China in the amount of 614 million euros.

Denis Žiško from the Center for Ecology and Energy told Vijesti.ba that two scenarios are possible: either a new lawyer is wanted or it is a cover for retroactive payment of a lawyer from Serbia who already represented our country on October 9.

Ziško attended that online meeting at which, as he said, the “pepper-paid” lawyer of Elektroprivreda BiH tried unsuccessfully on procedural grounds to drop the case, avoiding a discussion about the essence of the problem.

“That timing is interesting, that we are starting to work more seriously on solving the problem when the advance is paid, that is, when the process has already started and when the money has already entered the system. It is a classic bringing before the final act”, believes Žiško.

For now, it is not known what sanctions the Energy Community will impose on BiH, and one of the possibilities is to ban the export of electricity to EU countries.



Possible sanctions of Bosnia and Herzegovina due to Block 7 of coal-fired TPP in Tuzla

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