

Meeting with Rio Tinto

Friday, 25 March 2022

Participants:


EUD





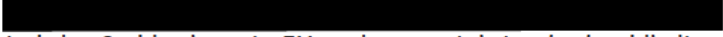


Rio Tinto:




The meeting was arranged following the request of Rio Tinto to brief  on the current state of affairs of the Jadar project, and as a follow-up of a previous EUD meeting with Rio Tinto on 21 January 2022.

Key Points Discussed:

- Revised strategy for the Jadar Project: Lessons learned & the way forward
 - Impact of Russian war of aggression in Ukraine on the industry
 - Rio Tinto's investments in the EU (France & Slovakia)
1. **Rio Tinto indicated their change of strategy based on lessons learned:** A revised strategy for the Jadar project has been conducted following three weeks of internal reflection and follow-up consultations with domestic and international experts. Eleven weeks after the government's decision to annul the spatial plan for the project, **the company focuses on becoming a community centric organisation.**
 2. 
 3. **Dedication towards environmental standards:** A brochure with the title 'Developing a safe, responsible & sustainable mining project for Serbia' has been prepared 
 Delegation highlighted work to bring Serbia closer to EU environmental standards while it was for the Serbian authorities to carry out the necessary EIAs.
 4. **Stakeholder engagement on the frontline – agricultural projects support:** By continuing its communication strategy and with enhanced actions of support to the local communities, the company aims at increasing the projects' sustainability, both at a local and a national level. As

a starting point, the company has considered the launch of agricultural projects. Cooperation with the University of Novi Sad has been initiated in this regard. Rio Tinto inquired about EU regional and rural development funds and whether there could be an option for cooperation. [REDACTED] informed about the IPARD EU programme on Agriculture and Rural Development managed through the Ministry of Agriculture.

5. [REDACTED]

6. **Local opposition to government's decision and support to Jadar:** According to the company, many community members of Loznica wrote to the PM to express their disappointment on the government's decision to annul the spatial plan for the project.

7. **Views on a possible local referendum:** A referendum could indicate the will of the inhabitants of the 12 villages of the area of Loznica, who according to the company would be the key players in the execution of the project, and those who would benefit the most. A local referendum would thus favour the company. A nationwide referendum including Belgrade, where the most negativity comes from, could produce a more complicated dynamic.

8. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]