



Republika e Kosovës
Republika Kosova - Republic of Kosovo
Qeveria - Vlada - Government

Ministria e Mjedisit, Planifikimit Hapësinor dhe Infrastrukturës
Ministarstvo životne sredine, prostornog planiranja i infrastrukture
Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure

Kabineti i Ministrit/ Kabinet Ministra/ Kabinet of the Minister

REFERENCË:	182/2022
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PËR:	Z. Orhan Hajrizi, Udhëheqës i Divizionit të Protokollit të Shtetit, Ministria e Punëve të Jashtme dhe Diasporës
CC:	Znj. Fëllënza Batusha, Zyrtare e Protokollit, Divizioni i Protokollit të Shtetit, Ministria e Punëve të Jashtme dhe Diasporës
PËRMES/PREKO/THROUGH:	Znj. Rineta Jashari, Shefe e Kabinetit dhe Këshilltare e Lartë Politike
NGA/OD/FROM:	Znj. Esidora Ismajli, Asistente e Ministrit të MPPH
TEMA/SUBJEKAT/SUBJECT:	Letër përcjellëse



I nderuar z. Hajrizi,

Ju lutem, që përmes kanaleve diplomatike nga ana e Protokollit të Shtetit të bëni përcjelljen e letrës së Ministrit të Ministrisë së Mjedisit, Planifikimit Hapësinor dhe Infrastrukturës së Republikës së Kosovës z. Liburn Aliu, për Ministrin e Ministrisë së Mjedisit dhe Planifikimit Jetësor të Maqedonisë së Veriut, z. Naser Nuredini.

Me respekt!



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*December 6, 2022
Prishtina, Republic of Kosovo*

Dear Minister Nuredini,

I hope this letter finds you well and that work is heading in the right direction as we finish this very eventful year. I started this November by heading the first Kosovo delegation to COP27 and presenting Kosovo's climate change adaptation strategy. I am pleased to say that we had a couple of bilateral meetings with common friends that praised you and your work whenever we talked about regional collaboration in the field of the environment.

As we are preparing for the increasing climate threats, I believe that regional collaboration is key to climate adaptation. Therefore, through this letter, I am informing you on a very important project for Kosovo and its ability to adapt toward climate change. As you might be aware, water capacities are at the front of our climate threats and hence it is of crucial importance for Kosovo to implement infrastructural projects on water capacities. One of the key hydro systems that will be most impacted according to a regional climate model is the Iber-Lepenci Hydro System.

In fact, the 'Iber-Lepenc Hydro System' project originated in the early 1960s to provide long-term water security for Kosovo by transferring water impounded by dams on the Iber and Lepenc rivers to Central Kosovo. While both the Iber and the Lepenc sub-system projects were developed to the detailed design stage, only the Iber Sub-system was completed. The Ujmani dam was impounded in 1979 and its associated HPP and canal system were built in the 1980s and have been in operation for more than 35 years.

The Regional Water Companies (RWCs) currently suffer from persistent water shortages, and supply rationing affects service areas in Central and South-East Kosovo.

The Kosovo Government has identified the development of the Lepenc catchment as the best available solution to this problem and has given it a high priority. With the support of EBRD, WBIF has funded a Feasibility Study for the Construction of the Lepenc Canal and Firaja and Shtime Dams (Lepenc Hydro System). This was completed in March 2020 and recommended a two-phased approach for the implementation of the Lepenc Hydro System, with Phase 1 dedicated to meeting the urgent water supply requirements of the region and Phase 2 intended for the longer-term needs, for irrigation.

The Phase 1 project will provide water to the over 400,000 people living in the project area who are currently experiencing water rationing, together with a reserve supply to the KEK thermal power plants to protect them from water supply interruptions if there are problems with the aging Iber canal system that it relies on at present.

The Phase 1 Preliminary Design and ESIA Study financed by WBIF and support by EBRD as Lead IFI started in June 2022. The scheme consists of a diversion dam at Firaja approximately 39.5 m high, in the upper Lepenc catchment just east of Shterpce, feeding a pipeline network providing untreated river water to the 3 RWCs (Prishtina, Bifurkacioni and Hidromorava). The Firaja Dam will impound up to 11Mm³ and divert up to 1.0 m³/second), 31 Mm³ / year (net of required environmental flows), to the RWC's service areas operating in the project area, via about 70 km of conveyance pipelines. The Phase 1 project will be further optimised during the Study, which includes the preparation of technical documentation. Construction is scheduled to start in early 2024 for completion by the end of 2026.

Most of the water diverted by the Phase 1 scheme would eventually have flowed into North Macedonia. The Ministry wishes to discuss the relatively small transboundary impact of this reduction in flow with the Government of North Macedonia in the context of the ongoing ESIA for the project. Please let us know when would it be possible to have a mutual meeting and have our teams meet up too.

Once again, I thank you for your cooperation and I look forward to a joint meeting with you, at your earliest convenience. Part of this meeting, it would be great to discuss also wider transboundary environmental issues and possible regional projects.


Liburn Aliu

Minister of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure

