



Pekka Kallioniemi @P_Kallioniemi

Mar 14, 2025 · 20 tweets · [P_Kallioniemi/status/1900530145024209295](https://twitter.com/P_Kallioniemi/status/1900530145024209295)

In today's Vatnik Soup, I'll introduce a Serbian academic, Ratko Ristić. He's best known for engaging in pro-Kremlin, ultranationalist politics and propaganda while undermining business ties between Serbia and the EU.

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Serbia, along with Belarus, remains Russia's staunchest European ally amid its aggression against Ukraine. Not only have they refused to impose sanctions, but Serbia has also become a regional disinformation hub, destabilizing the wider region.


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Beyond foreign malign influence, Serbia's nationalist-revisionist regime – rooted in the 1990s – has aligned with Russia's aggressive, anti-liberal nationalist bloc. Serbian far-right groups are also well-known supporters of Russian imperialism.



Ratko Ristić is a professor at the University of Belgrade (UB), working in the Faculty of Forestry. His expertise in forestry has apparently made him a “geopolitical expert,” and he’s well known in Serbian media for his staunch anti-Western, revisionist views.



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Ratko Ristić

Ratko Ristić

Prof. Dr. Ratko Ristić is a full professor and Dean of the University of Belgrade - Faculty of Forestry. He is engaged in doctoral, master and undergraduate study levels at the Department for Ecological Engineering in the Protection of Soil and Water Resources - Chair of Erosion and Torrent Control. So far, he has published over 130 research papers dealing with erosion and torrent control, land degradation, hydrology, watershed management, landscape restoration and natural disasters prevention. He worked as a responsible engineer or associate engineer in the implementation of 73 main projects and 70 other projects (conceptual projects, feasibility studies, environmental impact assessment studies, elaborates). These projects resulted in the construction of a total of 56 facilities, of which he managed 17. He was the leader of erosion control and stream restoration projects in Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Greece. He is a member of IAHS (International Association of Hydrological Sciences) and WASWC (World Association for Soil and Water Conservation). From 2011 to 2017 he was a member of the Supervisory Board of the Innovation Fund of Serbia. In 2017, he was appointed representative of Serbia in the UNCCD (United Nation Convention Combat Desertification), Committee on Science and Technology.




Ratko Ristić

Latest publications and peer-reviewed articles >


As UB's vice-rector for international activities, Ristić has been pressured to cut ties with Russian institutions. But this hasn't stopped him – he still attended the Kremlin-backed Nevsky Forum in June 2024.

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Region



Ratko Ristić
Vice Rector for International Activities, University of Belgrade, Republic of Serbia



Mikhail Romanov
Deputy of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation

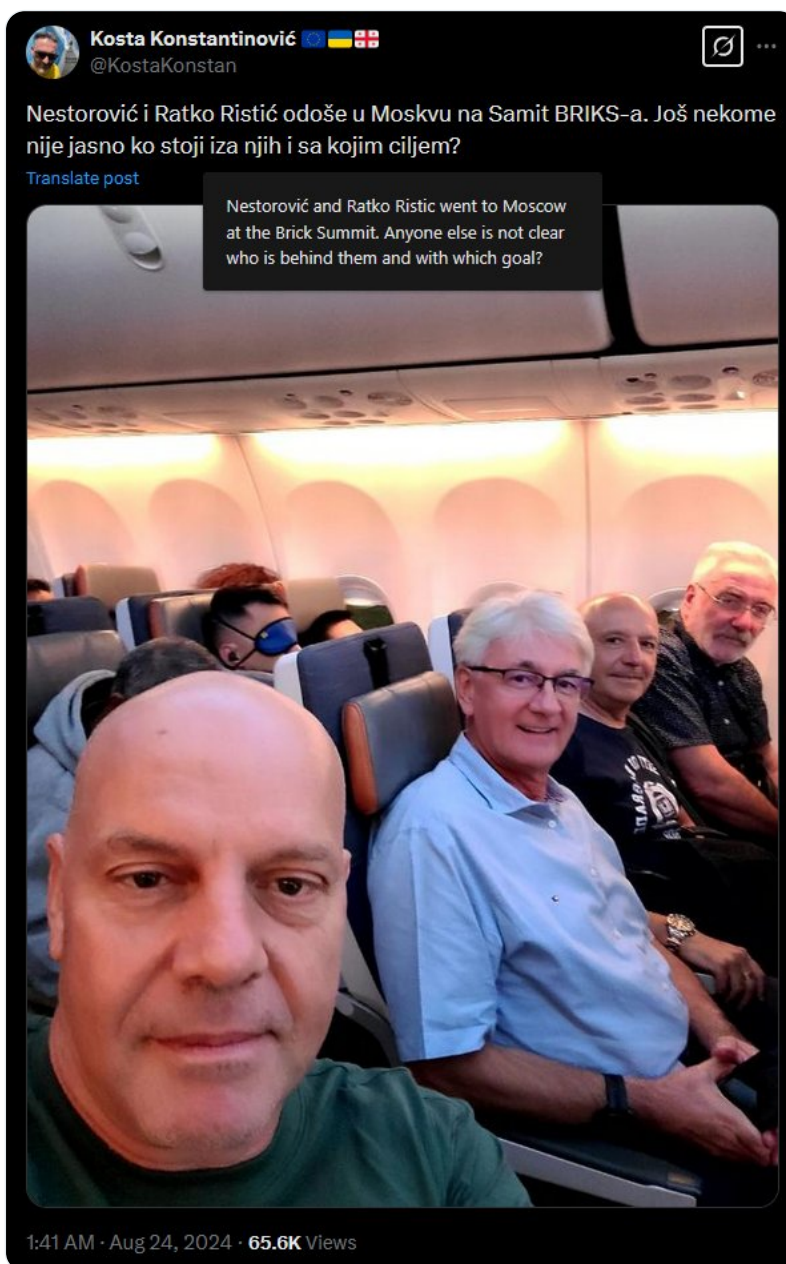


Stanislav Eremeev
Deputy of the Legislative Assembly of the Leningrad Region

Ristić hasn't hidden his close ties to Russian politicians. In Aug 2024, he visited Russia with the group "We – Power of the People" to meet State Duma members Sergey Glazyev and Sergey Baburin. Glazyev was one of the funders of the pro-Kremlin protests in Ukraine in 2014.

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For years, he has argued against sanctions on Russia, claiming Serbia should distance itself from “Western values.” He also ran on pro-Russian extremist election lists in 2023 (“Nationalist Gathering”) and 2024 (“We – Power of the People”).

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WE THE POWER OF THE PEOPLE

Prof. Dr. Branimir Nestorović

One movement – so much power
 strength of experience, strength of justice, strength of nature, strength of honor, strength of courage, strength of the family, the strength of the people united in the defense of Serbia.

Join

SRPSKA STRANKA ZAVEŠNICI

TITLE **ABOUT US** PROGRAM DOCUMENTS ACTIVITY CONTACT

ABOUT US

SERBIAN PARTY COVENANTS

The Covenant People Movement founded a group of twenty people in early 2012, which gathered at the barricades of the Serbian people in Kosovo and Metohija, organized numerous rallies and protests, participated in humanitarian work, marked significant historical dates and spread state-building and patriotic thought.

The name of the movement is chosen by model of historical experience in which the central point is occupied by the Kosovo Covenant, as a centuries-old inspiration of numerous rulers, scientists, poets, writers, warlords and the greatest Serbian minds.

Over time, the Covenants receive increasing support across the country, the region and the Serbian displacement. In the spring of 2016, the movement organizes the largest anti-NATO demonstration in Europe, and a few months later it performs in parliamentary elections, winning more than 30,000 votes and gaining great sympathy from citizens.

On the international field, the Covenants make friends both in the East and the West. They establish cooperation with sovereignist parties across Europe, which respect the most important Serbian state and national interests. Representatives of the movement's leadership are participating in numerous meetings and diplomatic forums with officials of the Russian Federation in Moscow and Belgrade.

As a nationally responsible force, the Covenants are working on connecting with all the most important political and social factors of the Serbian people in the Republic of Srpska, Montenegro, Macedonia and on the formerness of the Republic of Srpska Krajina. In response to numerous political, economic and social challenges – the Covenants adopt a comprehensive National and State Strategy, which is becoming the programmatic foundation of the organization.

The line committees are compiling and publish the Platform for the Restoration of Sovereignty in Kosovo and Metohija, the Serbian Economic Development Plan, the Demographic Recovery Document and the Strategy for Countering Color Revolutions and Anti-Constitution Non-Governmental Organizations.

After seven years of the existence and action of the Covenant Movement, the Main Committee unanimously decides to regone a political party. Thanks to the support of more than 11,000 citizens of Serbia, the Serbian Party of Covenants was officially established in August 2019. At the first Congress, the leadership of the party was elected, which is on the political scene with concrete solutions, enriched by the personnel structure, people from knowledge, experience and integrity and a consistent belief in the principles around which all members of the Serbian Party gather Covenants.

Ristić has actively participated in pro-Kremlin events. In Dec 2024, he was a main speaker at an event by “Doctors and Parents for Science and Ethics,” (man there’s a lot of irony in that name) a Serbian anti-vaxxer conspiracy group.

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Субота, 14. децембар 2024.
Ин Хотел

[11:50] PART TWO OF THE PROGRAM – CONTRAINDICATIONS IN MEDICINE AND THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF CHOICE

[11:50 – 12:05] Covid-19 vaccine adverse reactions and consequences. What do we know today? – *Prof. Dr. Danijela Dobrosavljević Vukojević, Serbia*

[12:05 – 12:20] Freedom of choice: medical-ethical aspect – *Dr. Jovana Stojković, Serbia*

[12:20 – 12:35] Quality control of vaccines and medicines – *Prof. Dr. Violeta Stanimirović, Serbia*

[12:35 – 12:50] Patients and doctors in a systemic crisis of the healthcare system – *Prim. Dr. Marija Divić, Croatia*

[12:50-13:05] Covid-19 vaccines are unnecessary and harmful to children – *Prof. Dr. Drago Đorđević, Serbia*

[13:05 – 13:20] **DISCUSSION**

[13:20- 14:10] **LUNCH BREAK**

[14:10] PART THREE – ENVIRONMENT AND HUMAN HEALTH

[14:10– 14:30] Environmental protection, sustainable development and public health – *Prof. Dr. Ratko Ristić, Serbia*

[14:30-14:45] After 25 years of war: What has been done to remediate the environmental and health consequences? – *Prof. Dr. Jasmina Vujić, USA*

[14:45-15:00] Ecocides from the bombing to the present day – *Dr. Milica Tomašević, Serbia*

[15:00-15:10] The equality between the "green agenda" and the medical agenda: a conspiracy against man – *Biologist Aleksandra Knez Milojković, Serbia*

[15:10-15:20] Defending health and nature is our duty to Creation and the Creator – *Zvezdan Kalamar, Serbia*

Serbia is full of extremist pro-Kremlin media outlets – even paramilitary groups. Ratko loves them. He publicly supports Dejan Petar Zlatanović (owner of disinformation media channel Srbinfo) and Damijan Knežević (leader of the hooligan group People's Patrols).

NOVA SRPSKA POLITIČKA MISAO
časopis za političku teoriju i društvena istraživanja

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CHRONICLE: BOBBY FISHER (1943), AMERIGO VESPUCI (1454), MOLOTOV (1890) AND YURI GAGARIN (1934); 1817. KNEZ SIMA

Thursday, March 9, 2023.
Cyrillic | **Latin**

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Chronicle

Doors: Petition of Public Figures for the Immediate Release of Detained Zlatanović and Knežević

Tuesday, February 21, 2023.

We demand the immediate release of unlawful detained journalists Dejan Petar Zlatanovic and social activist Damnjan Knezevic after the Sretenje protest in front of the Presidency in Belgrade.

We believe that verbal delict cannot be the basis for determining the detention of 30 days, without any criminal offences committed. We call on all journalists, political parties and especially human rights associations to advertise and stand in defense of freedom of speech as one of the basic and constitutionally guaranteed human rights of all citizens of Serbia.



We point out the strengthening of media and legal repression towards all patriots who advocate respect for the Constitution of Serbia and the preservation of Kosovo and Metohija within Serbia. We confirm the conclusions of the St. Sava proclamation for the salvation of Kosovo and Metohija and again we ask the competent state institutions to reject the imposed Franco-German agreement on Kosovo and Metohija immediately and in its entirety.

We demand that the media and any other persecution of individuals and organizations opposed to this new Western ultimatum be stopped, but to divert criminal legal persecution towards those from the current government who agreed to sign this unconstitutional agreement.

In Belgrade, February 21, 2023.

1. Bosko Obradovic, MP
2. Prof. Dr. Tamara Milenković Kerković, MP
3. Milovan Jakovljevic, MP
4. Mr Ivan Kostic, MP
5. Radmila Vasic, MP
6. Borko Puškić, MP
7. - O. Nenad Ilic
8. - O. Darko Ristov Djogo
9. Prof. Dr. Miloš Ković
10. [Prof. Dr. Ratko Ristić](#)
11. Prof. Dr. Slobodan Samardzic
12. Prof. Dr. Caslav Koprivica
13. Prof. Dr. Ljiljana Colic

Ratko's vatnik-y activism also includes spreading nonsense about NATO. His favorite false claim is that NATO "intentionally" used depleted uranium bombs in 1999 to cause "long-term negative health effects" on Serbian citizens.

NEWS • POLITICS

Ratko Ristic: NATO bombs contaminate both land and water, more and more cancer patients

■ Written by: Srna 12.02.2021 15:23



Photo: Ratko Ristic: NATO bombs also pollute land and water, more and more cancer patients

Ratko Ristic, the Dean of the Faculty of Forestry in Belgrade, said in an interview with Srna that the number of cancers increased due to the NATO bombing of Serbia and the Republic of Srpska, and warned that only last year in Serbia more than 30,000 people died from cancer.

Address by Prof. Dr. Ratko Ristić, full professor at the Faculty of Forestry (dean of 2015 to 2021), Vice-Rector of the University of Belgrade, Chairman of the Environmental Protection Committee of that institution

Dear friends,

Those who are [Bombed Serbia in 1999](#), savage, illegally, with passionate hatred, those who occupied our Kosovo and Metohija, those who supported the demolition of churches, monasteries and the edifice of our cemeteries, in order to erase every trace of the Serbian presence, those who enabled the ethnic cleansing of 250 thousand Serbs who were expelled from Kosovo and Metohija, and those who today calmly observe the torture of their offences. **now they are offering us some strange agreement that does not solve any important issue, and there are a number of problems being opened.**

Interestingly, the same ones who were unmistakably on the side of the Serbian enemies in the last 30 years now offer us, recommend, demand [Excavating a third of our country in search of lithium](#), gold, silver and other mineral resources, although they are aware that this will **cause additional destruction of the environment, increase all levels of pollution and endanger even the damaged public health in our country.**

Therefore, if your homeland is in your heart, if you believe that freedom, justice, truth is the highest value for every individual and for any society, come on March 17 at 8 p.m. in front of the St. Sava Temple in Belgrade.

As is tradition, Ristić attacks those exposing Kremlin propaganda. He co-signed a petition against Serbian journalist/activist Dinko Gruhonjić, labeling him both “racist” and “neofascist.”

PROTEST LETTER REGARDING NEO-USTASHA IDEAS IN THE SERBIAN ACADEMIC PUBLIC



We express our deepest indignation at the unworthy behavior of a part of the academic community that in recent days has stood up for the right of Dinko Gruhonjić, an employee of the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Novi Sad, to insult the entire Serbian people, but also all decent, moral people, regardless of nationality, with neo-Ustasha statements, and to disgrace the very idea of the University. In response to the dissatisfaction of the students, who blocked the Faculty of Philosophy due to Gruhonjić's long-standing serious insults, the administration of this institution responded by fully siding with Gruhonjić. Instead of talking to these young people and finding a way to resolve the crisis, it has requested the help of the police and foreign embassies in its fight against its own students. The administration of the Faculty of Philosophy in Belgrade has also supported it in this. A letter of solidarity with Gruhonjić was signed by a number of professors from the University of Novi Sad and the University of Belgrade. Among them are those who are themselves known in the public for their neo-Ustasha statements and for punishing professors and students for the crime of opinion by expulsion from universities, legal prosecutions, and media defamation.

In this way, it was once again confirmed that the Serbian university is in a state of deep moral crisis. It turned out that it does not exist for the sake of students and the welfare of its own community, whose factual basis is mostly the Serbian people, but for the sake of preserving the "rights" of a privileged caste, whose privileges include the possibility of insulting the Serbian people with impunity, and of building a social and "academic" career on the basis of that. Dinko Gruhonjić is not known for any academic achievements. His anti-Serbian, openly racist views have nothing in common with academic discourse and behavior. He writes, among other things, about living in a "deeply degenerate society", among a "small primitive people", with "people of strange physiognomies and inarticulate language" whose "legs will be shorter and their gazes duller" in the future, and whose children want "only to finish the massacre that their fathers started". Anyone can read on the internet how Gruhonjić writes about Serbs. The Serbian people, who suffered genocide because of their fight against the Ustasha evil and Nazi-fascism, he accuses of fascism and compares to the Ustasha. Can one imagine a professor at an Israeli university who openly advocates Nazi views and who receives support for this from parts of the Jewish academic community?

Paradoxically, Ristić gained popularity among Serbia's so-called "pro-Western opposition" for opposing a lithium mine project in Jadar. As director of UB's Environmental Protection Committee, he was often quoted by Serbian media.

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Article | [Open access](#) | Published: 24 July 2024

The influence of exploration activities of a potential lithium mine to the environment in Western Serbia

[Dragana Đorđević](#) ✉, [Jovan M. Tadić](#), [Branimir Grgur](#), [Ratko Ristić](#), [Sanja Sakan](#), [Jelena Brezjanović](#), [Vladimir Stevanović](#) & [Bogdan Šolaja](#)

[Scientific Reports](#) **14**, Article number: 17090 (2024) | [Cite this article](#)

104k Accesses | **4** Citations | **1321** Altmetric | [Metrics](#)

i An [Author Correction](#) to this article was published on 22 October 2024

i This article has been [updated](#)

Abstract

The proposed exploitation of the Jadar Valley lithium/borate deposit in Serbia, by the Rio Tinto Corporation, indicates that it would become large-scale processing of boron- and lithium-containing ore. It would be one of the world's very first lithium mines in populated and agricultural area. The company claims that the envisioned mining will be in accordance with environmental protection requirements. The Jadar Valley deposits have been claimed to cover 90% of Europe's current lithium needs. Yet, local opposition to the mining has arisen due to potential devastating impacts on groundwater, soil, water usage, biodiversity loss, and waste accumulation. Research drilling by the mining company has already produced environmental damage, with mine water containing high levels of boron leaking from exploratory wells and causing crops to dry out. Furthermore, our investigations reveal substantially elevated downstream concentrations of boron, arsenic, and lithium in nearby rivers as compared to upstream regions. Additionally, here we show that soil samples exhibit repeated breaches of remediation limit values with environmental consequences on both surface and underground waters. With the opening of the mine, problems will be multiplied by the tailings pond, mine wastewater, noise, air pollution, and light pollution, endangering the lives of numerous local communities and destroying their freshwater sources, agricultural land, livestock, and assets.

The Jadar lithium deposit, discovered in 2004, could supply 90% of Europe's lithium needs. Geopolitically, Russia and China don't want Serbia growing closer to the West – especially since Jadar may hold Europe's largest lithium reserves.

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BUSINESS | EUROPE

EU, Serbia sign key lithium deal

07/19/2024

The deal comes amid a global race to secure access to lithium, a key material for batteries. Serbia is expecting major investments in its controversial mining project.

f x



German Chancellor Olaf Scholz was in Belgrade for the signing of the key lithium deal. Image: Michael Kappeler/picture alliance

The European Union and Serbia signed a deal on Friday to develop a lithium mining project and production chains for batteries essential for electric vehicles.

"There will be no project without full protection, and we know it will happen because we are bringing the best experts from Europe to Serbia," said Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic ahead of the signing ceremony.

This aligns with the global mineral wars – while the US eyes rare earth minerals in Greenland, Canada, and Ukraine, China is securing other sources. Since 2004, Serbia has become a hotspot in this conflict.

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BRIEFING



European Parliament

Implementing the EU's Critical Raw Materials Act

SUMMARY

The EU's ability to boost its competitiveness, become a climate-neutral economy by 2050, sustain the green and digital transition and achieve strategic autonomy depends heavily on access to critical raw materials (CRMs). Key technologies, across all industries, depend on CRMs' unique physical properties.


The CRM Act (CRMA), aimed at making the EU's supply of CRMs more secure, resilient and sustainable, entered into force on 23 May 2024. The CRMA lists 34 CRMs, of which 17 are considered 'strategic' (SRMs). The act includes measures to strengthen the EU's raw materials supply chains, monitor and mitigate supply risks and increase the sustainability of the CRMs consumed in the EU. It sets the following non-binding benchmarks for the overall capacity at EU level to be achieved by 2030 (in terms of annual consumption of SRMs): the EU should mine 10 % of its annual needs, process 40 % of its needs, and cover 25 % of its needs through recycling. Furthermore, the EU should diversify its imports of SRMs and, for each SRM, should not depend on any single third country for more than 65 % of its supply by 2030. The CRMA also sets a number of deadlines for key developments up to 2031.

The time has now come to implement the new regulation. The CRMA has generally been hailed as a good first step in the right direction, but its weaknesses have also been highlighted. These include the lack of specific EU funding and doubt as to whether the measures to accelerate mining will prove effective. The EU's capacity to achieve the benchmarks for 2030 has therefore been questioned by a number of experts.

Many proposals for improving the EU's CRM policy have recently been put forward. The Draghi Report includes 11 specific priority actions, including setting up a dedicated EU CRM platform to deliver a more comprehensive and coordinated strategy covering the whole CRM value chain. The Letta Report suggests that the EU could use joint purchasing to set up strategic reserves of key CRMs to the benefit of the single market. Other proposals outlined in this briefing include measures to boost circularity, ensure coherence of EU law affecting the CRM sector, and develop global partnerships to diversify supply.










Ristić has led a disinformation campaign against the Jadar project, claiming Germany wants to turn Serbia into a “mining colony” for its auto industry and that the mine would cause irreversible environmental damage.


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BALKAN INFO

INTERVJU: Ratko Ristić - Narod neće dozvoliti da nam rudnici litijuma zapečate sudbinu! (19.9.2024)

BALKAN INFO - Zvanični kanal    1.5K      

29K views 5 months ago  #intervju #balkaninfo

Gost emisije "intervju" bio je Ratko Ristić, redovni profesor Šumarskog fakulteta, ali i prorektor za međunarodnu saradnju Univerziteta u Beogradu. Najčešći povod za režimske napade na Ristića je bio njegov dosledan angažman za očuvanje i zaštitu životne sredine, borba protiv izgradnje mini-hidroelektrana i protiv izgradnje rudnika litijuma. Često ističe kako je naš jedini spas povratak tradiciji i pravim vrednostima. Pristupio je pokretu „MI - Snaga naroda“, koji je okupio niz javnih ličnosti, poput Branimira Nestorovića, Aleksandra Pavića i drugih. Preporučujemo Vam da pogledate ceo intervju i sa: ...more

A collective letter from Serbia for the Financial Times:

A collective letter from Serbia was sent to the Financial Times magazine on June 17 on the occasion of the publication of the article "Serbia ready to give the green light **to** the Tinto Serbia

The first-time portal ON SCALI, as one of the signatories, publishes the integral content of the letter, which is partly shortened for the internet edition of FT – **Letter: Brussels backlash over Serbian lithium** mines.

Your article "Serbia is ready to give the green light to the Rio Tinto lithium mine" shows that, when it comes to money, the EU and political leaders are ready to turn a blind eye to the will of the people and to cooperate with the illiberal leader, who served under the dictatorship of Slobodan Milosevic. It is no secret that Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic maintains his power by intimidating and fixing votes, and that he is connected with organized crime and corruption.

Reporting that "after municipal elections, the Serbian government seems to believe that the coast is clean to continue with the Jadar project" and that its cancellation was a "political decision" - to avoid unrest ahead of the elections, you acknowledge that Vucic and the EU are playing a geopolitical game that requires the imposition of a suspicious mine for hundreds of thousands of people in Serbia who do not want it.

If there was a "green" mining, then there would be no need for expensive PR exercises, such as a privately funded and conducted working draft study "Environmental Impact Assessment", without legal legitimacy, published by Rio Tinto in Serbia last week, and it is not part of any Serbian (ecological) regulatory procedure. Moreover, President Vučić cannot give the green light to Rio Tinto because the project has no legal basis, all his licenses have been annulled, but also because it is outside his legal jurisdiction as a president.

However, he announced to the international media, and not to us in Serbia, that political leaders are coming to Belgrade next month. - Why? Due to the official announcement on the project without legal basis, without an ecological permit and without a spatial plan?

Along with colleagues from the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts (SANU), Ristić has spread disinformation about Jadar across Serbian media, boosting his popularity among Serbian citizens.

Abstract

Ratko Ristić, Ivan Malušević, Petar Nešković, Angelina Novaković, Šumar Faculty of Forestry University of Belgrade

The implementation of the Jadar project is planned in the vicinity of the city of Loznica, on the surface that covers several thousand hectares of land under forest, agricultural and urbanized surfaces. The opening of mines, the formation of landfills, exploitation of groundwater, the treatment of sulfuric acid ore, the construction of access roads and permanent changes in the purpose of the space, will irreversibly change and degrade the existing picture of the area and jeopardize biodiversity. The eventual beginning of the exploitation of the mineral jadarite involves massive earthworks, the shrug of the terrain on almost 900 hectares and the cluttering of the peer part of the basin of the Stavica stream. The significant potential of the already determined tourist region will be irrevocably destroyed, with significant sites of cultural-historical and spiritual importance. Displacement of the population, the permanent elimination of opportunities for advanced and profitable agricultural production, the constant risk of pollution of air, water and soil, essentially reduce the economic and environmental perspective of Radjevina.

The city of Loznica is located a small distance from dangerous pollutants such as the landfills of the "Stolice" mines (antimon) and "Zajača" (antimon and lead), and in the city area there is an abandoned complex of the Viscose factory, with huge quantities of toxic and carcinogens. The location of the Jadar project is only 15 kilometers from the center of Loznica. The current international reputation of the company "Rio Tinto", i.e. local branches under the name "Rio Sava", do not inspire confidence in the safety of production processes, environmental protection and the treatment of workers. Particularly unclear is the benefit for the state of Serbia, if one can talk at all about any compensation for such massive degradation of space and a lasting risk to the health and safety of the population.

Ristić and others have exploited Serbian fears about the environment while staying mostly silent on the severe environmental damage caused by Chinese and completely silent on Russian mining projects elsewhere in Serbia.

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Despite being promoted by Serbian media as an “expert opposition” to Serbia’s pro-Russia government, Ristić subtly serves Russian interests while actively fueling anti-EU sentiment.

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The 2nd edition of “Vatnik Soup – The Ultimate Guide to Russian Disinformation” is officially out!

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Vatnik Soup — Kleart

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Thanks to @Mio_Kapor for helping me brew this soup.

...