



To: Mr. Li Keqiang, The Prime-minister of the People's Republic of China, english@mail.gov.cn
cc. His Excellency Wang Fuguo, The Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Braće Begića 17, 71000 Sarajevo, chinaemb_ba@mfa.gov.cn

His Excellency Zhi Zhaolin, The Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Montenegro, Radosava Burića bb, 81000 Podgorica, Montenegro, chinaemb_me@mfa.gov.cn, chinaemb_me@hotmail.com

His Excellency Huo Yuzhen, The Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Romania, Bucuresti, Sos. Nordului nr. 2, Sector 1, 014 101, chinaemb_ro@mfa.gov.cn

His Excellency Zhang Wanxue, The Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Serbia, Augusta Cesarca 2V, Belgrade, Serbia, chinaemb_yu@mfa.gov.cn

His Excellency Mr. Zhang Xiyun, The Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Ukraine, No. 32, Grushevskogo Str., Kyiv 01901, Ukraine, chinaemb_ua@mfa.gov.cn, chinaembassy@kiev.relc.com, cschinaembassy@kiev.relc.com

25 November, 2013

Dear Prime Minister Li Keqiang,

On the occasion of your visit to Bucharest, we would like to welcome you and wish you a successful China – Central and Eastern European Countries summit.

Given that many of the planned investments by Chinese companies in our region are in the energy sector, we would like to urge you to consider the need for our countries to phase out the use of fossil fuels and concentrate on a transformation to an energy-efficient economy, based on environmentally sustainable forms of renewable energy.

We are aware that several projects potentially involving Chinese investors and financing are planned in the coal sector in central and eastern Europe, including Ugljevik III and Tuzla 7 in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Pljevlja II in Montenegro, Jaworzno in Poland, Rovinari in Romania, Kostolac B3 in Serbia and a series of mining and conversion projects in Ukraine. The coal sector has already caused significant harm to people's health and the environment in the region, as well as contributing heavily to climate change. In Serbia alone, air pollution from coal is estimated to cause 2100 premature deaths annually, while in Poland the figure is 3500.¹ While new power

¹ HEAL: background data for the report The Unpaid Health Bill: How coal power plants make us sick, 2013, http://www.env-health.org/IMG/pdf/heal_report_the_unpaid_health_bill_how_coal_power_plants_make_us_sick_final.pdf

stations are likely to be somewhat less polluting than old ones, they will still cause ill health and deaths and prevent our countries from meeting the EU's long-term policy goals of 80-95% greenhouse gas emissions reduction and decarbonisation of the energy sector by 2050. In addition, initial indications from the offers submitted for the Pljevlja II and the Environmental Impact Assessment study for Kostolac B3 suggest that the levels of pollution from the proposed plants may not be in line with the EU's Industrial Emissions Directive². Such plants would also not be allowed to be constructed today in China, according to the world-class standards introduced in China as of the beginning of 2012.³

Fortunately, there is a wealth of potential in our region for increased efforts in the field of energy efficiency and sustainable forms of renewable energy, and we would invite Chinese investors to concentrate their efforts in these areas.

We thank you for your consideration of our letter and look forward to enhanced efforts by Chinese companies to invest in clean technologies in our region.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Mark Fodor, Executive Director, CEE Bankwatch Network

On behalf of:

Mr Miodrag Dakic, Energy and Climate Change Co-ordinator, Center for Environment, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mr Denis Zisko, Center for Ecology and Energy, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Ms Jelena Marojevic-Galic, Programme Director, Green Home, Montenegro

Mr Ionut Apostol, President, Bankwatch Romania

Ms Natasa Djereg, Director, CEKOR - Center for Ecology and Sustainable Development, Serbia

Mr Yury Urbansky, Executive Director, National Ecological Center of Ukraine

² For more details on initial offers submitted for Pljevlja II, please see Risks for the Pljevlja II project due to inadequate environmental standards of the preliminary offers, September 2013, <http://bankwatch.org/sites/default/files/Pljevlja-inadequate-standards.pdf>. For Kostolac B3, the draft version of the Environmental Impact Assessment at http://www.merz.gov.rs/sites/default/files/TE_Kostolac%20B3%20EIA%20oktobar%202013-v2.pdf shows that the plant is not likely to be in line with the Industrial Emissions Directive's limit on NOx of 150 mg/Nm³.

³ Emission standard of air pollutants for thermal power plants GB 13223-2011 replacing GB13223-2003 and putting into effect as of Jan.1, 2012, http://english.mep.gov.cn/standards_reports/standards/Air_Environment/Emission_standard1/201201/t20120106_222242.htm, unofficial English translation at: <http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/bfinamore/NRDC%20Unofficial%20English%20Summary.docx>.