

Ellis, Alex

From: Ellis, Alex
Sent: Saturday, November 30, 2024 12:11 PM
To: Ellis, Alex
Subject: Statements from Serbian Leadership Regarding the Ibar-Lepenac Canal Incident

Greetings,

I am writing to share statements from Serbian President Aleksandar Vučić and Foreign Minister Marko Đurić regarding the recent attack on the Ibar-Lepenac canal. Serbia strongly condemns this act of sabotage, which threatens the well-being of communities relying on this vital infrastructure for electricity, agriculture, and drinking water.

Serbia denies the unfounded accusations made by Prime Minister Albin Kurti's government and calls for an impartial, transparent investigation to identify the perpetrators. Below are the full statements from President Vučić and Minister Đurić, outlining Serbia's position and its readiness to support restoration efforts in the region.

Minister Marko Đurić:

Serbia condemns in the strongest possible terms the recent attack on the Ibar-Lepenac canal. This deeply troubling act of sabotage jeopardizes the lives and livelihoods of countless individuals in the region. Ibar-Lepenac is a critical waterway essential for electricity production, agriculture, drinking water, and the overall well-being of the communities it serves. Such destructive actions are unacceptable and threaten the fragile stability we are striving to maintain. While Kurti's ethnonationalist regime has rushed to point fingers at Belgrade without evidence, we believe that such premature accusations are a deliberate diversion, potentially pointing to the involvement of Albin Kurti's regime. These baseless allegations undermine efforts for constructive dialogue and serve only to escalate tensions in an already delicate situation.

Serbia unequivocally demands responsibility for the perpetrators of this reckless attack.

Serbia stands ready to, if needed, assist financially and technically in repairing the damage to the Ibar-Lepenac canal, demonstrating our commitment to the welfare of all people in the region, regardless of ethnicity or political affiliation. We urge the relevant international authorities to carry out a thorough, transparent investigation to identify and hold accountable those responsible for this act.

We call on all parties to resist provocations and prioritize dialogue, mutual understanding, and cooperation. Serbia remains committed to peace, stability, and cooperation as the foundation for a prosperous and united future in the Balkans.

President Aleksandar Vučić:

Serbia unequivocally denies any involvement in the recent attack on the Ibar-Lepenac canal. The baseless accusations leveled against Serbia, made hastily and without any supporting evidence, are deeply irresponsible and concerning. Such unfounded claims are aimed to tarnish Serbia's reputation, as well as to undermine efforts to promote peace and stability in the region. When accusations are made so quickly and without foundation, it raises legitimate questions about the motives behind these statements. Are those who hastily point fingers without proof attempting to deflect attention from their own knowledge of or potential involvement in the incident?

Serbia firmly calls for a thorough, impartial, and transparent investigation into this act of sabotage. We urge international partners to assist in uncovering the truth and ensuring those responsible are held accountable.

In addition to supporting investigative efforts, Serbia stands ready to provide technical, financial, and logistical assistance to mitigate the consequences of this attack. Our offer includes expertise in repairing the canal, financial support for restoration, and supplementary electricity supply to affected areas to ensure the livelihoods of citizens are not jeopardized.

Aleksandar Vučić

President of the Republic of Serbia

Please let us know if there are any questions or if additional context would be helpful.

Best regards,

Alex

This material is distributed by BGR Government Affairs, LLC on behalf of the Embassy of the Republic of Serbia. Additional information is on file with the Foreign Agents Registration Unit of the Department of Justice, Washington, DC.