



**Response by the Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL) to statements made by
Minister Antic, Serbian Minister of Energy on HEAL's report**

The Unpaid Health Bill – how coal power plants in the Western Balkans make us sick”

Article with Ministers Statement in Serbian here: <http://www.blic.rs/vesti/drustvo/koliko-nas-truju-termoelektrane-srpske-vlasti-demantuju-podatke-alijanse-za-zdravlje/p505j7m>

The Minister dismisses HEAL's evidence questioning HEAL's data source, and then arguing that there are no or little health impacts from Serbian coal power plants because the relevant filters have been installed.

Vlatka Matkovic Puljic, Health and Energy Office, Balkans Region, comments:

To calculate the health costs of coal power generation in Serbia and the other Western Balkans countries HEAL has worked together with Dr. Mike Holland, who is a leading expert on health impact assessment, cost benefit analysis in the field. **Dr. Holland has carried out these assessments for the EU Commission and the World Health Organization (WHO), and the methods used in our report are those used by the EU Commission and WHO.**

It seems strange that the Minister is questioning the data source, and saying it is unclear. We clearly set out the methodology in our report, there is even a Youtube video where our expert explains it, and it is all online. For the report, **HEAL used official national Serbian data on the emissions of each existing coal plant, which Serbia has had to communicate to the European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (E-PRTR)** run by the European Agency for the Environment (European Environment Agency (EEA)). The Republic of Serbia is required to communicate data on emissions of all industrial facilities. This is data that is publicly available (<http://prtr.ec.europa.eu>)

The data used on emissions used in HEAL's report is for the year 2013, the last year for which the Republic of Serbia reported emissions.

Regarding the investments into filters made, indeed there have been numerous investments made to reduce emissions. However, these improvements started from a situation where the coal power plants were even more heavily polluting than today.

It is HEAL's understanding that the filter improvements were made before 2013, so the data shows that even with the filters coal power plants still have large emissions.

<http://europa.rs/eng/energy/> (in Serbian <http://europa.rs/energetika/>)
http://www.eps.rs/Godisnjilzvestaji/Godisnjak_EPS_2014_07082015_sr.pdf

The official Serbian data on emissions shows that for 2013, Serbian coal plants still emitted large amounts of hazardous air pollutants PM2.5, SO2 and NOx, and that they are among the top 10 emitters on PM2.5, SO2 and NOx in Europe.

In his statement, the minister states that emissions of particulate matter have been greatly reduced. However, he does not mention emissions of sulphur dioxide and NOx, which are still very high. According to Serbian official data, Nikola Tesla A and B, and Kostolac are among the top ten polluters of SO2 coal plants in Europe. SO2 is of concern because it reacts in the atmosphere to form particulate matter, which has a range of health impacts.

It is therefore not correct of the Minister to claim that the pollution from Serbian power plants is below the European average.