



Press Release

Prishtina – 20 December 2018

The Independent Commission for Mines and Minerals - ICMM is an independent agency determined by the Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo. The ICMM shall regulate mining activities in Kosovo in accordance with the Law No. 03/L-163 on Mines and Minerals, amended and supplemented by the Law No.04/L-158 (hereinafter LMM), with subnormative acts issued pursuant to the present law, and the Mining Strategy. The ICMM shall act in the public interest and independently exercise the powers and carry out the functions assigned to it by the LMM.

The ICMM shall be directed by a Board comprised of 5 members, who according to applicable legislation have a mandate of 5 (five) years. Director manages the executive part of the ICMM who has a mandate of 3 (three) years and the Chief Inspector of Mines manages the Inspectorate of Mines. Structure and other staff of the ICMM consist of the main departments with professional staff and other supporting units with defined duties and responsibilities. The total number of employees in the ICMM during 2017 was 76 employees.

The ICMM has held in total 32 regular meetings of the Board during 2018, then it was organized the Conference for promotion of the mining sector Kosovo - Albania and there were other activities presented below.

Applications for Licences and Permits:

Applications received by ICMM during 2018 were in total 257 applications for Licenses and Permits. From them, there were 106 for Exploration License, 49 for Mining License, and 102 Special Operation Permits.

346 applications for Licenses and Permits were reviewed, from them there were 124 Exploration, 94 Mining and 128 Special Operation Permits (the reason why there are more reviewed applications than the number of applications is that there were applications since 2017 and some applications were reviewed more than once).

Table 1: Applications for Special Operation Permits during 2018

Approved - issued Special Operation Permits	77
Asphalt Base	6
Concrete Base	32
Sorting plant (separation base)	39
Received and refused applications	25
Approved applications, but not withdrawn permits	26
Total reviewed	128

Table 2: Applications for Exploration Licenses during 2018

Issued Exploration Licenses	88
Hard rock	53
Industrial material	6
Metallic minerals	20
Sand and gravel	7
Coal and Bitumen	2
Received and refused applications during 2018	18
Approved applications, not withdrawn licenses	18
Total reviewed	124

Table 3: Applications for Mining Licenses during 2018

Issued Mining Licenses	34
Hard rock	29
Industrial material	1
Sand and gravel	4
Received and refused applications during 2018	10
Approved applications, not withdrawn licenses	16
Total reviewed	94

The difference between the applications received during 2018 and approved – issued Licenses is justified with the fact that Mining Licenses have been approved and issued also during 2018 that have applied during 2017.

Inspections:

Inspectorate of ICMM has had a high working dynamics of the visits and inspections in field during 2018.

Table 4: Inspections during 2018

Regular inspection	26
Ad-hoc inspections	275
Inspection of pre-blasting fields	547
Inspection of blasting fields	482
Inspection of illegal exploitations	97
Sequestration of Lignite and Sand and Gravel	16
Other inspections	214
Inspections in total	1657

Regarding confiscations, the Inspectorate of ICMM in joint inspections with MESP confiscated 14 trucks (2 and 10 tons) and two large sand transporters were confiscated by Inspectorate of ICMM.

A joint presentation of information brochure for illegal operations has been done with the Department for Investigation of Serious Crimes and MESP in all regions of the Republic of Kosovo (8 in total).

A message against the phenomenon of illegal operations in the mining sector in the following year in order to interrupt this phenomenon is:

The fight against illegal operators will also be intensified in 2019, so we invite relevant institutions to continue to support our actions as well as the common ones. Taking concrete tasks in cases of sequestration by the Kosovo Police is a concrete assistance that we need for 2019 and the allocation of spaces by the Municipalities to put the sequestered material. We wait as well for a considerable assistance by the judiciary bodies to act fairly in the sequestration and confiscation of machineries according to criminal charges since the most of these illegal operators have more than 10 reports for illegal exploitation.

During 2018, the ICMM forwarded **87 criminal charges** against illegal operators in the mining sector to the Prosecution. This number will be increased until the end of the year because there are several cases that will be sent.

ICMM is the body responsible for evaluation and collecting royalties, taxes and administrative fines. Revenues for 2018 are presented in the table below.

Table 5: Revenues for 2018

Ordinal No.	Description	Revenues 2018
1	Administrative Taxes	367,539.98
2	Administrative Fines	338,173.48
3	Royalties	25,039,531.99
4	Revenues from the Insurance Company	
5	Deposits	25,000.00
6	Returns	-4,300.00
	Total	25,765,945.45

Objectives 2019

ICMM foresees to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of its duties and responsibilities by continuing the upgrade of internal control system and governance in general and specific objectives in particular:

- Implementation of mining legislation, policies and mining strategy
- Licensing of mining enterprises in compliance with LMM, the mineral resources management plan, mining strategy and the sustainable utilization of mineral resources
- Monitoring – inspection and also implementation of all Laws related to mining sector by the licensed enterprises and implementation of action plan to prevent and prohibit illegal operators
- Attraction of investors through promotions of mining potential that Kosovo has and offers
- Increase the level of transparency, communication and upgrade of information technology system in order to enable efficiently work in ICMM and provide services to investors, companies and citizens.
- Prevention and prohibitions of the informal economy in the mining field.

The challenges in the future

Taking into account the rights and responsibilities specified in the LMM and other general rules on the one hand and undertaking activities to implement them in practice on the other hand, and when we add to this the concepts of development trends in this field, we can consider as a special challenge for the RKS institutions and as well for the ICMM. We can distinguish challenges to achieve the objectives set for the future as following:

- Approval of the Law on Mines and Minerals (with amendments) will create safety and facilitation for the companies interested for investments in mining sector in the Republic of Kosovo
- Prevention of the informal economy (prevention and prohibition of illegal mining activities, illegal operations) and sequestration of means and their mineral commodities
- Increase the quality and safety at work in mining operations. Although the function of the mining sector in Kosovo is accompanied by good security, it still remains a challenge for the Inspectorate of Mines to adopt and implement the technical and security standards applied in the EU countries with cooperation with the relevant institutions
- Failure to treat on time the cases submitted to Courts. Penal sanctions imposed by the Courts are not reaching the effect to prevent the prohibition of illegal operations
- Drafting and approval of the sub-normative acts necessary and indispensable for the implementation of the LMM

- Continuous implementation of activities deriving from the implementation of the Mining Strategy and the Mineral Resource Management Plan.
- Continuous implementation of activities deriving from the implementation of mining policies.

Best regards from:

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