

## Protest against destruction of Romanian virgin forests for a power line

**14 protected areas are damaged by clear-cutting /  
EU must intervene against the disregard of nature  
conservation law in Romania**

04.03.2020 | Activists from the environmental organisations ROBIN WOOD and Agent Green have been protesting since this morning against clear-cutting in the Romanian virgin forests of the Carpathians to build a high-voltage power line. The action takes place in the virgin forests of Iardaștița in southwest Romania, where the energy company Transelectrica, which is majority-owned by the Romanian state, wants to build the power line LEA ("linie electrică aeriană" - overground power line) from the southern Portile de Fier via Reșița and completely across the Carpathians to northern Arad.

ROBIN WOOD climbers\* stretched a 50 meter long banner with the inscription: "SAVE ROMANIAN PRIMARY FORESTS! At the same time, several dozen Agent Green activists\* formed a human chain and unrolled a banner with the demand: "Electric Power Line Portile de Fier - Reșița NOT through National Parks".

Romania has the largest intact natural and virgin forest areas in the EU outside Scandinavia. The planned power line will cut through 14 protected areas although these areas are irreplaceable for climate and species protection in Europe. Among them are Natura 2000 areas under European protection and virgin forests, which are classified as strictly protected by the Romanian government itself.

At the beginning of February 2020, the EU-Commission wrote to the Romanian government asking to stop illegal logging in Romania, thus initiating official infringement proceedings against the EU member state.

"Romania apparently wants to create facts here before the infringement proceedings get underway and Romania has to answer to the European Court of Justice for the destruction of protected areas", says ROBIN WOOD-activist Lea.

# ROBIN WOOD

During today's protests the activists alerted the police and contacted the forest guard, the environmental guard and the representatives of the Ministry of the Environment, demanding to suspend the logging and to carry the LEA project on alternative routes that avoid the protected natural areas. Agent Green has now initiated proceedings against all the authorities involved and sent a new complaint to the EU-Commission.

"Transelectrica project represents the quintessence of corruption in Romania. Transelectrica has all kinds of authorizations and agreements to pretend a sort of legality for a project that harms 14 natural protected areas with the agreement of Romanian Parliament and Government. We definitely cannot let them continue", says Gabriel Paun, President of Agent Green.

"The Romanian government does not protect the country's valuable primary forests. Therefore the forest nature conservation organisations must stand together internationally and the EU-Commission must also act now. Europe's last primary forests must not become victims of corruption and greed for profit. We depend on the ecosystem services of these forests and they cannot be replaced by any technology", says Jana Ballenthien, ROBIN WOOD forest campaigner.

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## **For editorial offices:**

If you are interested in freely available photo and video material of the campaign, please contact the ROBIN WOOD press office, Ute Bertrand, presse@robinwood.de.

## **Further links:**

ROBIN WOOD protest at the international forest conference of the European Commission in Brussels:

<https://www.robinwood.de/pressemitteilungen/robin-wood-protest-zur-internationalen-waldkonferenz-br%C3%BCssel>

# ROBIN WOOD

Agent Green on the European Green Deal as a protection tool for the last European natural and primary forests:  
<http://en.agentgreen.ro/greendeal/>

Euronatur on infringement proceedings:  
<https://www.saveparadiseforests.eu/de/eu-ergreift-rechtliche-schritte-gegen-rumaeniens-behoerden-wegen-illegaler-abholzungen-der-letzten-urwaelder-europas/>

Spectacular climbing action by ROBIN WOOD, Agent Green and Euronatur in the Romanian Carpathians against the construction of a national road through UNESCO World Heritage Sites:  
<https://www.robinwood.de/pressemitteilungen/spektakul%C3%A4re-kletteraktion-zum-schutz-der-urw%C3%A4lder-den-karpaten>