

**Question for written answer E-001526/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Spanish government's coal plan

In December 2010, the Council adopted the decision on State aid to facilitate the closure of uncompetitive coal mines. Under this decision, uncompetitive mines are to be closed by 2018 at the latest.

Since then, the Spanish government has introduced a series of mechanisms, in agreement with the parties involved, aimed at maintaining mining and related industrial activity in the medium term and reducing the serious socio-economic impact that mine closures have on mining regions.

In 2013, the Spanish government gave a commitment to the mining industry that a new framework for action would be drawn up that would be implemented from 1 January 2015 onwards. The government was to send the corresponding ministerial order to the Commission so that this action framework could come into force. It appears, however, that this was not done: both the Association of Mining Areas (Acom) and the employers' federation for the industry (Carbuni3n) recently complained that the government had failed to take this step.

Has the Commission received any formal communication concerning the coal plan agreed between the Spanish government and the mining industry that was to have applied from 2015 onwards?

If so, what is the Commission's assessment of this plan?