

EN
E-001426/2019
Answer given by Mr Arias Cañete
on behalf of the European Commission
(14.6.2019)

The Commission is engaged in a continuous dialogue with Slovak authorities on the future of coal-related activities in the country. The Commission has not received any additional information from Slovak authorities on the possible opening of another mining area. Since the response to parliamentary question E-006288/18 was sent, the Commission can provide the following updates:

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for extracting coal from the 12th mining district of DP Nováky I, requested by mining company Hornonitrianske bane Prievidza as, ul. (HBP) in December 2016 and restarted in September 2017, remains ongoing¹.

Technical assistance to the Slovak government – provided by the Commission through the Structural Reform Support Service (SRSS) – to support the development of an action plan for the region of Upper Nitra is ongoing. The objective of the action plan, as defined by the request from Slovak authorities, is to support the transition of the region away from coal-related activities. The action plan is planned to be adopted by the authorities in the coming weeks. Public consultations were organised in the Trenčín self-governing region in April and May 2019 in order to engage with local stakeholders and receive their input prior to the adoption of the action plan.

As regards the temporary public service obligation in favour of Slovenské elektrárne (SE) to secure the electricity supply via its coal-fired Nováky power plant until 2023, the Commission is concluding the assessment of its compatibility with State aid rules.

Irrespective of the outcome of the procedure, the feed-in tariff for electricity production from domestic coal is set to be discontinued by 2023, as indicated by resolution 580/2018 of 21 December 2018 by the Slovak government².

¹ <https://www.enviroportal.sk/sk/eia/detail/exploatacia-uhlia-v-12-tazobnom-poli-dp-novaky-i->

² <https://rokovania.gov.sk/RVL/Resolution/17440/1>