Question for written answer E-002317/2019
to the Commission
Rule 138
Guido Reil (ID)

Subject: Proposal for a regulation on coal

The Germany's Coal Finance Law of 2007 regulated the financing of the socially acceptable adaptation measures for older workers in the German coal industry until 31 December 2018. This law contained a revision clause, according to which the Bundestag, on the basis of a report from the Federal Government, was required to take a decision by 30 June 2012 at the latest on whether to promote coal mining beyond 2018.

By contrast, the Commission's proposal of 20 July 2010 for a regulation on coal provided for closure aid to cease on 1 October 2014. A compromise was reached: the end date remained scheduled for 2018, but the revision clause, which could have benefited miners, was dropped.

The Commission based its proposal on an impact assessment dated 20 July 2010. However, the impact assessment stated that, due to 'social aspects', subsidies for coal production should be terminated only in 2020 rather than 2014.[1]

How does the Commission explain the contradiction between its proposal that subsidies for coal mining be terminated by 2014 and the Impact Assessment's recommendation that they be phased out by 2020?

How did the Commission justify the time limit that was set?

Why did the Commission's impact assessment originally state a preference for an end to coal subsidies by 2020?

[1] European Commission, Summary of the Impact Assessment. Accompanying document to the Proposal for a Council Regulation on State aid to facilitate the closure of uncompetitive coal mines, SEC(2010)0851, 20 July 2012.