

**Question for written answer P-002703/2019
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Stanislav Polčák (PPE)

Subject: Continued operations in the Turów lignite mine

The Polish State company PGE is planning to prolong lignite mining activities very close to the Czech border, not far from the towns Hrádek nad Nisou, Uhelné, Václavice and Oldřichov na Hranice (Liberecký kraj). The mining activities could cause environmental problems, affecting the 30 thousand or so inhabitants of Hrádec, Chrastavská and the Frýdlantska, in particular by polluting the drinking water supply. Although the relevant European and international laws require a thorough assessment of the potential effects of the described project to be carried out before any irreversible decisions are taken, the authorities of the Polish city of Bogatynia have already taken steps to approve changes to the town's urban planning so that the mining activities can continue, without giving the Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic, the Liberec Region and other bodies the chance to express their duly justified reservations.

1. Is the Commission aware of these plans to continue lignite mining in Turów? Has it issued a warning to the Polish authorities – or is it currently preparing to issue a warning – for this breach of European law?
2. Is Poland's approach – adopting changes to a territorial plan without taking account of third-party reservations – in line with the legal provisions it adopted under Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of the European Union, of which it notified the Commission in line with Article 13 of that same Directive?
3. In connection with this case, and under Article 12(3) of the abovementioned Directive, is the Commission planning to make concrete proposals to the European Parliament and the Council in order to ensure sufficient coordination? If so, what are those proposals?