

**Question for written answer E-013106/2015  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Siegfried Mureşan (PPE)**

Subject: Possibility of amending state aid scheme No SA.33033

State aid scheme No SA.33033, which was notified by the Romanian Government in 2011, provides for the closure of three coalmines considered to be uncompetitive. The state aid received under that scheme will run up until 2018.

However, the economic situation in the Jiu Valley is a very particular one. The area is heavily dependent on mining, and the closure of these three coalmines could exacerbate social tensions. The unemployment rate in Hunedoara County is above the national average, and one third of all the county's unemployed come from the Jiu Valley. This year alone 460 employees at the Petrila mine have been, or will be, laid off, and production at the facility is to be cut back, in line with the state aid scheme, on 31 December.

In these circumstances, and in view of the serious social and economic situation in the county, the state aid scheme should be reviewed and the length of time allowed prior to the closure of mines – and in particular the Petrila mine – considered uncompetitive should be increased.

1. Can the Commission state whether any request has so far been made for such a review on the part of the Romanian authorities?
2. Is it legally possible to amend the scheme, and what conditions would need to be fulfilled for this to happen?