

Question for written answer E-002517/2022
to the Commission
Rule 138
Anna Zalewska (ECR)

Subject: Funding from the Just Transition Fund for the Konin lignite mining region

The ZE PAK group, which operates lignite mines and power plants, is being decarbonised at an unprecedented rate. However, around 3 300 people are still employed there.

The Adamów power plant, which is part of ZE PAK, was closed at the beginning of January 2018, implementing the Commission decision on the basis of the derogation described in the directive of 24.11.2010 stating that the operation of generation assets at the Adamów plant must be terminated at the beginning of January 2018.

On 1 October 2020, ZE PAK decided to adopt a strategy that will see the last coal-produced electricity flow by the end of this decade. In the coming years, ZE PAK will produce more and more energy from RES. Once coal mining is finished, only green energy will be produced. An important direction in the new PAK strategy is the production and use of hydrogen.

The aim is to build a modern, integrated enterprise with a diversified base of generation assets. The funds to cover the cost of these activities were to come from the Just Transition Fund. Unfortunately, the region has not yet received financial support from the Commission.

For the past 14 months own funds have been used to carry out some of the activities. It is essential, however, to provide financial cushioning for laid-off workers; that is the goal for the European Funds. The lack of funding will lead to economic and social collapse.

1. Why is funding for the region from the Just Transition Fund being withheld?
2. When will financial support (in accordance with approved plans) be provided for a site that has declared an energy transition?