

**Question for written answer E-000133/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Coal mining and the Just Transition Fund

The energy crisis has triggered debates in the Czech Republic about the possible extension and expansion of coal mining.

In the Moravian-Silesian Region, discussions are ongoing concerning the possibility of opening the closed CSA and Darkov deep coal mines, which could start operating in 2028, producing one million tonnes of hard coal per year by 2042 and employing 2 700 new miners.

The company 'Severočeské doly' is currently preparing an application to extend mining at the Bílina mine from 2030 to 2035, with the possibility of extending mining to 2050 in a second phase.

Both of these plans contradict the Czech Government's declaration of an end to coal mining and burning by 2033, as well as the territorial just transition plans for the country's coalmining regions, which was approved by the Commission in September 2022.

1. What would be the implications of the approval of these plans for the distribution of funds from the Just Transition Fund and would the Moravian-Silesian and Ústí nad Labem Regions receive just transition funding if mining were prolonged compared to the original plan approved by the Commission?
2. How would this situation be resolved and would the Czech Republic face any further restriction on the use of funds from the European budget?
3. If so, how would this restriction be implemented?

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