

**Question for written answer E-001430/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Phasing out coal-based electricity generation

Analysis of EU electricity data¹for 2022 shows that markets barely responded to the energy crisis by switching to coal generation. The relatively minor 28 TWh year-on-year increase in coal-based electricity generation covered less than 1/6th of the 185 TWh combined drop in nuclear and hydroelectric output in 2022 and was limited to only some Member States (mainly Germany, Italy and Bulgaria).

However, in several Member States decision makers proposed extending the lifetime of coal power plants and/or mines beyond the coal phase-out dates they had committed themselves to. These announcements were made with reference to the energy crisis without providing any sound justification for the need to extend the use of coal to meet vital domestic needs.

1. How does the Commission assess requests from Member States that want to deviate from their original coal phase-out commitments and prolong the economic lifetime of coal assets?
2. Has the Commission, to date, recommended placing the coal plant capacity identified into a Strategic Reserve Scheme, as recommended by the Electricity Market Regulation?
3. In cases where Member States deviate from the coal plant retirement timeline enshrined in the Territorial Just Transition Plans, will these decisions have consequences for Just Transition Mechanism (JTM) and Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) funding?

Submitted: 2.5.2023

¹ <https://ember-climate.org/insights/research/european-electricity-review-2023/>