

**Question for written answer P-011213/2012
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Edit Herczog (S&D)

Subject: Two-year wait for approval for funding for structural reform of the Hungarian coal industry

In the past two years – since the scope of Council Regulation 1407/2002/EC was broadened – the Hungarian authorities and the Commission have held discussions, in which the Vértesi Erőmű Zrt and MVM Zrt companies have been constantly involved, on the issue of the structural reform of the coal industry on a number of occasions, yet there has not yet been a final decision or approval of funding. The discussion on reforming the calculating methodology for mining revenue has gone on for too long.

Since the Márkushegy mine is Hungary's only underground coal mine, the stakes are high. Funding to the tune of over HUF 40 billion needs to be approved in order to cover the exceptional cost of structural reform of the coal industry.

Is there a chance, in the Commission's view, of this amount being approved in an accelerated procedure if the Hungarian authorities can deliver results in terms of the environmental requirements, calculation methodology and clarification of cost components? Is it possible to identify the reasons why the procedure has been prolonged? Can we be certain that the Hungarian government has done all in its power to ensure that approval is obtained for funding for structural reform of the coal industry?