Priority question for written answer P-001910/2020
to the Commission
Rule 138
Anna Cavazzini

Subject: Health and environmental impacts of the Turów opencast lignite mine

On 24 March 2020, the Polish state-run company PGE announced that the Polish Government had granted it a permit for six additional years of exploitation at the Turów opencast lignite mine, on the border between Poland, Czechia and Germany. Members of the public had no opportunity to raise objections to the project during the proceedings leading to the granting of the new licence. A second application to expand the mine and continue mining until 2044 is currently under consideration, despite the high levels of emissions generated by the mine and its impact on water quality and levels and on the health of citizens in three Member States.

1. How is the Commission dealing with the Turów project’s permanent violations of EU law, especially of the Water Framework Directive’s toxic substances discharge limit?

2. Is it considering legal action in the form of an infringement procedure against Poland?

3. How is it going to ensure that the continued operation of the Turów mine and power plant is compatible with the EU’s climate neutrality objective and the European Green Deal?