

2nd April 2020

Dear Mr President, dear colleagues,

We would like to inform you about the current situation regarding Turów mine located near Czech and German borders and the recent prolongation of its operation period which directly contradicts with Polish and EU law.

On 20th March 2020, the Polish authorities issued a decision, which enables further operation of this mine. The decision came against explicit disagreement of the Czech government, despite alerts from the Members of the European Parliament and ongoing steps of the European Commission, which is investigating numerous violations of EU law.

The decision, taken by the Polish Ministry of Climate, was secretive and not consulted with any of the affected parties - the Czech government, the Liberec region (located in northern Czechia) or NGOs and citizens. At the same time, the European Commission already asked Poland to explain alleged violation of directives, a letter to Commissioner Sinkevičius calling for urgent investigation of EU law violations was sent and a petition of 13 thousand EU citizens is being examined by the PETI committee under an urgency procedure.

The content of the decision is unclear as well as a period for which the operation period is prolonged. The only source of information provides the mining company itself which states that the prolongation of mining is for 6 more years with intention to continue the mining until 2044 and excavate all the coal in the deposit - it enables further enlarging to 30km² and going 330 meters below ground level.

Apart from violation of the legal principles, the prolongation of the operation period represents possible serious environmental consequences - loss of potable water for up to 30.000 Czech citizens, negative impact on air pollution, increased noise level, terrain shifts and increased greenhouse gas emissions.

We are convinced that the European Parliament should actively guard enforcement of legal principles and EU law, which are obviously violated by Poland in this particular case.

We would like to urge the European Commission to immediately examine this case, initiate the infringement procedure against Poland and if needed, submit the case to the European Court of Justice.

Yours sincerely,

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