

**Question for written answer E-001059/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Delegated act with restrictions on coking coal mines

The Commission's impact assessment accompanying its proposed methane regulation does not address the impact of mitigation measures on coking coal mines, such as restrictions on the venting of methane through ventilation shafts. The proposal nevertheless empowers the Commission to adopt such restrictions on coking coal mines via delegated acts to be adopted within only three years. Coking coal is a critical raw material, as was confirmed by the proposed critical raw materials act, which the Commission presented this March.

1. Why was the issue of coking coal not addressed in the impact assessment, and was the delegated act added to the text by a political decision just before publication of the proposal and not subject to an expert assessment?
2. How can the Commission justify the three year timeframe for it to adopt a delegated act imposing restrictions on coking coal mines, and what technological developments, including in vented air methane (VAM) technologies, justified the choice of this deadline?
3. Given that cost-efficient and reliable VAM technologies are not available on the market, how will decisions applying restrictions on coking coal mines affect the capacity of coking coal mine operators to obtain funds for necessary future investments?

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