Question for written answer E-003852/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: Coal-exit subsidies or rewards for burning coal? Commission's double standards in relation to Germany

The Commission has approved billions of euros of compensation for Germany for the early closure of its lignite mines and power stations. Meanwhile, these stations have been reactivated in recent years under the pretext of securing the electricity supply during the energy crisis. This means that German providers receive public money for their 'coal exit' while continuing to burn it in practice.

This approach raises serious questions about the credibility of EU climate policy and about the fair treatment of Member States. While stricter requirements and restrictions are being imposed in many countries, Germany, the EU's largest economy, is receiving special treatment as it still gains subsidies while prolonging its coal operations.

This not only negatively impacts the competitiveness of other countries but also undermines trust in the Commission itself for accepting such contradictions.

In light of the above:

1. How does the Commission justify granting billions of euros in compensation to Germany for the closure of power plants that have been reactivated?

2. Does the Commission not recognise that these actions create blatant inequality in relation to other Member States, which have to bear the costs of the transition without similar advantages?

3. How does the Commission intend to rebuild trust in its own climate and energy policies, given that it accepts obvious contradictions and double standards in the case of Germany?

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