

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001479/25
to the Commission
Marcin Sypniewski (ESN)
(9 April 2025)**

Subject: Possible merger of coal companies receiving state aid

Three major coal companies receiving state aid and subject to the EU notification procedure are currently carrying out mining activities in Poland: Polska Grupa Górnicza (PGG), Południowy Koncern Węglowy (PKW) and Węglokoks Kraj (WK). Each of them operates separately, even though they produce coal almost exclusively for commercial power and heating, competing with each other in the same market and often for the same customers.

This leads to overlapping organisational structures, complexities in the settlement of state aid and difficulties in the implementation of protective packages for employees — relocations are only possible within a single company.

Taking the above into consideration:

1. Would it be acceptable to merge PGG, PKW and WK into a single economic entity that would continue the transformation process and be covered by a single state aid mechanism?
2. Would such an organisational change require an update or a renotification of state aid?
3. Does the Commission acknowledge that there are reasons to simplify the organisational structure of coal mining in Poland, in line with practices used in other Member States?

Submitted: 9.4.2025

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Ribera on behalf of the European Commission
(12 June 2025)**

In its assessment of whether a specific case of state aid being provided is or is not compatible with the internal market, the Commission follows Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. The Commission is not in a position to comment on the compatibility of state aid in general terms.

In general, it is for Member States to decide if they wish to support a specific company or sector and to design support measures in line with EU law.

Similarly, the Commission is not in a position to comment on a potential merger in general terms. The Commission would only assess the compatibility with the internal market of a potential merger between Polska Grupa Górnicza (PGG), Południowy Koncern Węglowy (PKW) and Węglokoks Kraj (WK) if it fell within the scope of the EU Merger Regulation ⁽¹⁾. As with every merger, the Commission would investigate the merits of such merger based on the facts of the case.

⁽¹⁾ Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 of 20 January 2004 on the control of concentrations between undertakings (the EC Merger Regulation) (OJ L 24, 29.1.2004, p. 1, ELI: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2004/139/oj?eliuri=eli%3Areg%3A2004%3A139%3Aoj&locale=en>).