

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002204/26  
to the Commission  
Marcin Sypniewski (ESN)  
(1 June 2026)**

*Subject:* Closure of the Sośnica mine in Gliwice

In connection with the planned closure of the Sośnica mine in Poland, I would like to draw attention to the problem of the permanent loss of access to strategic raw material deposits. The mine has a concession until 2042 and has accessible reserves of semi-coking coal, which is used in steelmaking and coke production. If the mine is shut down, it may no longer be possible to continue extracting these deposits, even using the infrastructure of neighbouring mines. Coking coal has been recognised by the EU as a critical and strategic raw material.

In this connection:

1. Does the Commission have information on deposits of critical raw materials whose extraction may be permanently prevented as a result of the implementation of mine closure programmes, including the Polish social contract?
2. Has the Commission examined the impact of the closure of coal mines with coking coal reserves on the EU's raw material and industrial security, particularly in the context of steelmaking and the defence industry?
3. Is the Commission planning regulatory or financial measures to prevent the permanent loss of access to strategic deposits despite the technical feasibility of continued extraction?

Submitted: 1.6.2026

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné on behalf of the European Commission  
(4 August 2026)**

The Critical Raw Materials Act <sup>(1)</sup> recognises coking coal as a critical raw material, and relevant provisions, such as on spatial planning and exploration, therefore apply.

Furthermore, the Commission has adopted the proposal for the Industrial Accelerator Act <sup>(2)</sup> to boost industrial capacities and decarbonisation in strategic sectors, including the iron and steel making sector, while strengthening the EU's long-term resilience and prosperity.

At this stage the Commission has no information on the specific impact on deposits impacted by closure but will remain attentive to future developments in this regard.

The decision on closure of coal mines lies with the Member States and is laid out in their National Energy and Climate Plans and their Territorial Just Transition Plans.

The closures are negotiated with civil society. The Commission keeps under consideration the importance of secure and resilient supply chains for industrial ecosystems relevant to the EU's economic security and defence preparedness.

The Commission does not plan specific measures to prevent the permanent loss of access to coal deposits affected by closure decisions but the EU provides support for affected regions through the Just Transition Fund <sup>(3)</sup>, and the Research Fund for Coal and Steel <sup>(4)</sup> finances collaborative projects that address the safe repurposing of former coal mines and related infrastructure.

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<sup>(1)</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1252/oj/eng>.

<sup>(2)</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52026PC0100>.

<sup>(3)</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/1056/oj/eng>.

<sup>(4)</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/EN/legal-content/summary/research-fund-for-coal-and-steel-programme-and-guidelines.html>.