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Photo: Patrycja Stefanek

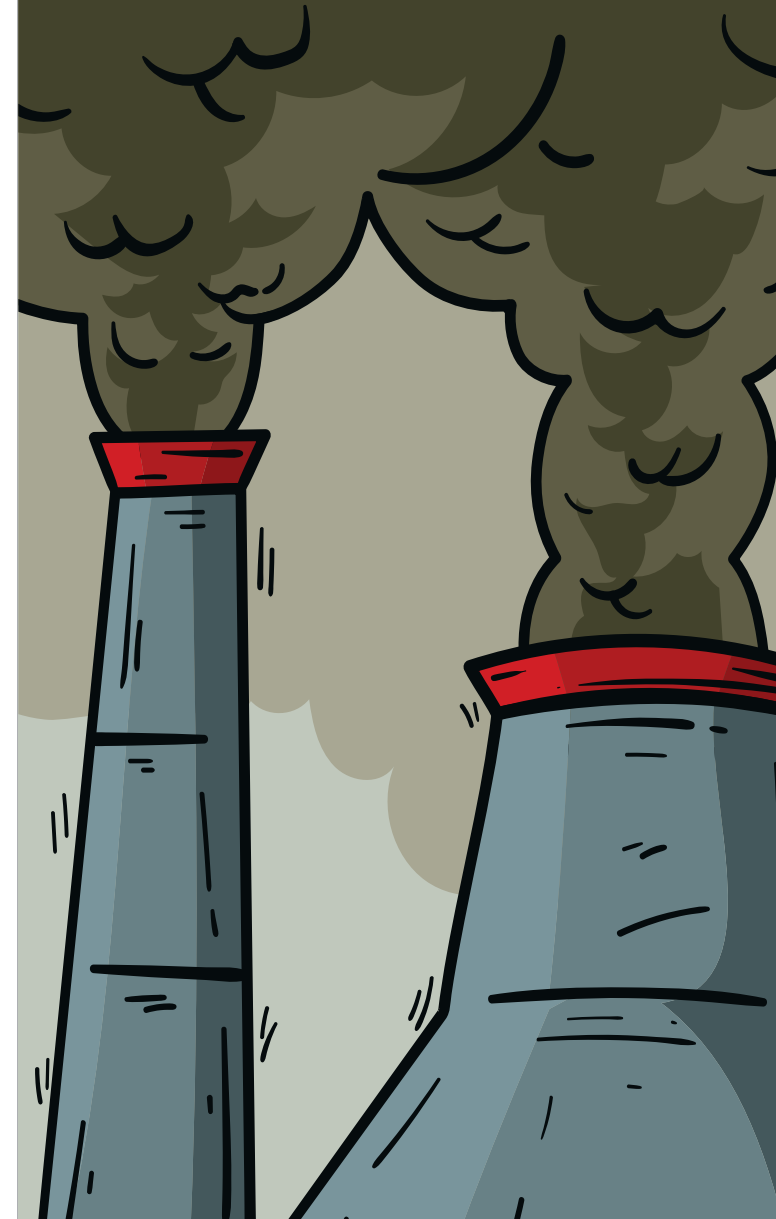


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**TURÓW**



# About Turów

Turów lignite mine located in Lower Silesia, Poland is extracting 5-6 mln tonnes of lignite a year which are burned in the nearby 2 GWe power plant of the same name. The location of the mine on the border with both Germany (Saxony) and Czechia (Liberecký kraj) has resulted in negative impacts of lignite mining on the two neighbouring territories accumulated over the years. After a decision from 2012 to build a new almost 0,5 GW unit which started operation in May 2021 it was clear that PGE – the owner of both the mine and the power plant and at the same time the biggest energy utility in Poland owned by the Polish government – will try to prolong the mining at Turów mine for another 20 to 25 years.

This has been faced with strong opposition from civil society especially in the Czech Republic but also from the German border town of Zittau. Given the fact that it was the first time the mining concession for Turów was renewed with Poland as the EU Member State civil society, local and regional administration have tried to address the negative impact of Turów mine on the groundwater in Czechia and Germany but also to protest against its negative climate and

environmental impact (noise and air pollution). After many years of trying to force PGE to address the issues raised, the Czech Republic was forced to resort to bringing the case against Poland to the Court of Justice of the European Union which in the decision from May 2021 ordered Turów mine to immediately stop extraction. Unfortunately PGE and the Polish government decided to ignore the court decision and the mine has been operating illegally now for close to 150 days to the great disappointment and despair of families on the Polish-Czech border who as are already having to choose whether to take a shower or wash dishes.



Photo: Patrycja Stefanek

On September 20th, 2021 the Court of Justice of the European Union imposed a fine of 500 000 euros daily for not implementing its earlier decision from May 2021 to immediately stop extraction at the mine.

Turów mine is underwritten by PZU – a state controlled Polish biggest insurance company. PZU does not have any policy restricting underwriting for coal mines and power plants nor investments in companies such as PGE operating them. In spite of numerous calls from civil society PZU did not align its underwriting nor investment practice with Paris agreement nor has it cut ties with companies such as PGE even when they defy EU highest court verdicts.

This is one more reason why PZU's main reinsurers: Swiss Re, Munich Re, Hannover Re, Gen Re (Berkshire Hathaway), Lloyd's of London and VIG Re should put pressure on PZU to drop underwriting companies such as PZU and eliminate coal from their treaty reinsurance.