

Brussels, 14 July 2009

European Commission authorises State Aid for Spanish Coal

The European Commission has decided today not to raise any objections to the plan for accessing coal reserves for 2008–2010 nor to the annual State Aid for the corresponding coal production. The overall support granted by Spain as current production aid amounts to € 1.247bn.

On the basis of the information provided by the Spanish authorities, the Commission has established that the aid to the coal sector only covered the difference between the production costs and revenues of the mining units. In addition, Spain continues to reduce the mining capacity of its coal industry and the relevant State subsidies.

The Commission has come to the conclusion that the proposed aid measures respect the provisions of the Council Regulation on State aid to the coal industry¹ and are therefore compatible with the proper functioning of the common market.

¹ Council Regulation (EC) No 1407/2002 of 23 July 2002 on State aid to the coal industry, OJ L.205, p.1, 2.8.2002