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European Coal in Transition: “from an industrial legend to cutting-edge research for the future”

Jastrzębie-Zdrój, Poland, 15 May 2025 (and online)

EURACOAL
powering transition in Europe

European Association
for Coal and Lignite
AISBL



Welcome to this high-level event co-organised by EURACOAL and the European Research Executive Agency and kindly hosted by Jastrzębska Spółka Węglowa S.A. at Carbonarium, 50 kilometres southwest of Katowice. The goal is to highlight the impact of projects supported by the EU Research Fund for Coal and Steel (RFCS) on the just transition of Europe's coal regions and raise awareness of the fund's vital role in the regional transition towards the objectives of the European Green Deal.

This workshop will showcase several RFCS-funded projects, with a focus on methane emission abatement and the repurposing of coal mines.

The RFCS's role in supporting implementation of the EU Methane Regulation of 2024 under the Fit-for-55 policy package will be presented in detail given its potential to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Another panel will discuss how RFCS projects complement the Just Transition Mechanism with land restoration, repurposing of mining infrastructure and creating opportunities for new green jobs.

Participants will also be informed about the opportunities for future projects under the upcoming “Big-Ticket” and annual calls of the RFCS Research Programme for 2025-2026. Insights from the European Commission will be shared on EU priorities for coal-related research and the importance of aligning project proposals with the European Green Deal's objective of achieving a climate-neutral EU by 2050.

Project teams will share their experiences on managing successful projects, highlighting their ambitious goals and the results of their current work. The event will feature Q&A sessions and networking opportunities for those interested in current and future RFCS projects.

Agenda

08.30 Registration

Keynote speeches (with PL<>EN interpretation)

09.30 Mr. Ryszard Janta, President of Jastrzębska Spółka Węglowa S.A. (JSW)

09.40 Ms. Marzena Czarnecka, Polish Minister of Industry

09.50 Mr. Marc Lemaître, Director-General, European Commission DG Research & Innovation

10.00 Mr. Leszek Pietraszek, Vice-Marshal of the Silesian Voivodeship

10.10 Mr. Marc Tachelet, Director of the European Research Executive Agency

10.20 Ms. Alicja Krzemień, President of EURACOAL

10.30-11.15 Coffee break

Session 1 – Methane mitigation strategies at EU coal mines

11.15 “Reduction of methane emissions from post mining goafs to minimise their inflow into Ventilation Air Methane”

REM project presented by Artur Badyłak, Jastrzębska Spółka Węglowa S.A. (JSW)

“Reduction of Ventilation Air Methane Emissions in the Coal Mining Transformation Process”

ProVAM project presented by Carsten Walddörfer, Dürr Systems AG and Jacek Skiba, Central Mining Institute (GIG-PIB)

11.45 Panel discussion on how RFCS projects will help implement the new Methane Regulation (EU) 2024/1787 and move the EU towards its target of reducing net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030 (Fit for 55)

Panellists: Dinko Raytchev, Methane strategy team, European Commission DG ENER; Piotr Litwa, President, State Mining Authority (WUG); Magdalena Jarkulisz (tbc), Director of Oil and Gas Department, Polish Ministry of Industry; Ryszard Janta, President, Jastrzębska Spółka Węglowa S.A. (JSW); Jarosław Zagórowski, Director of Central Mining Institute (GIG-PIB)

With introduction of projects recently granted: “**Methane monitoring of abandoned coal mines**” (MEMO) by Hafid Baroudi, Director, Institut national de l'environnement industriel et des risques (INERIS); and “**Methane to Hydrogen Conversion for Emission Reduction and Energy Generation**” (METH2GEN) by Renata Cicha-Szot, Head of Department of Petroleum Engineering, Oil and Gas Institute (INiG).

Moderator: Jürgen Tiedje, Head of Unit for Industrial Transformation at European Commission DG Research & Innovation

Q&A

12.45-14.00 Lunch

Session 2 – RFCS projects on the repurposing of coal mines

14.00 **“Sustainable and intelligent mine waste management towards green deal economy pilot and demonstration project GI-mine (Green and Intelligent mine)”**

GI-MINE project presented by a representative of the Mongolian government (tbc) and Marcin Głodniok, Central Mining Institute (GIG-PIB) (including a 2-minute video)

From “RECOVERY of degraded and transformed ecosystems in coal mining-affected areas” to “Leveraging the competitive advantages of end-of-life underground coal mines to maximise the creation of green and quality jobs”

RECOVERY and GreenJOBS projects presented by Pedro Riesgo Fernández, University of Oviedo (including a 5-minute video)

“Transition Information Modelling for transition from coal exploitation to a re-vitalised post-mining land”

TRIM4Post-Mining project presented by Jörg Benndorf, TU Bergakademie Freiberg

14.30 Panel discussion on the repurposing of closed coal mines, on what has been achieved so far, and on what still needs to be done. Panellists will explore the impacts on jobs and what ambitions there are for new, green jobs.

Panellists: Robert Pollock, Senior Advisor to the EU Coal Regions in Transition Initiative; Grzegorz Sikorski, Director, Silesian Voivodeship Labour Office in Katowice; Jarosław Wieszołek, President of the Board, Spółka Restrukturyzacji Kopalń S.A. (SRK); Magdalena Chawuła, Programme Director – People, Cities, Regions, Forum Energii; Małgorzata Staś, Director of the Department of Development and Regional Transformation at the Marshal’s Office of the Silesian Voivodeship in Poland

With introduction of projects recently granted: **“Raising awareness of small local communities in the process of coal mining transition”** (RAISING) by Julia Haske, Head of Land use & Transition, Research Center of Post-Mining, Technische Hochschule Georg Agricola, Bochum; and **“From COal to Farm”** (COFA) by Christos Roumpos, Director of Mining Engineering and Closure Planning Department at the Public Power Corporation (PPC) of Greece.

Moderator: Sebastiano Fumero, Head of Unit for Future Low Emission Industries at the European Research Executive Agency

Q&A

Future opportunities, conclusions and closing remarks

15.30 *Next steps for the RFCS*

Jürgen Tiedje, Head of Unit for Industrial Transformation at European Commission DG Research & Innovation

15.45 *The RFCS Annual and Big-Ticket Calls 2025-2026 – opportunities for project proposers,* Sebastiano Fumero, Head of Unit for Future Low Emission Industries at the European Research Executive Agency

15.55 Concluding remarks by EURACOAL Secretary-General Brian Ricketts

16.10 Networking drinks