Press Release

Liberec, 24 May 2021

**Reserve sources of potable water, protective mound, and annual assessments of the impact of mining on the countryside within the framework of inter-governmental Czech and Polish committee. That is, among other things, what the Czech side will demand from the Polish side in association with Turów**

**On Friday the 21st May 2021, the Court of Justice of the European Union issued a resolution on immediate suspension of mining in the Polish brown coal mine Turów. The Czech Republic filed a complaint to suspend the mining in a form of an action, because according to its opinion, the process of expanding the mine on the Polish side was not in accordance with valid European legislation. The Liberec Region also supported the filing of the action. The Czech and the Polish side now face negotiations regarding compensations, which were described by the Governor of the Liberec Region in a letter sent to the Marshal of the Lower Silesian Voivodeship in February this year. Among them, there is the establishment of a protective earth mound and green wall, and the construction of reserve water mains.**

*“State investor PGE must abide by the same rules and legal regulations like everybody else, impacting by their activity the territory, property, and rights of others. They must be willing to search for and find agreement with those who will be affected by their acts. Blockades of state borders, protest events, or attacks in social media will not resolve this dispute. The path leads through negotiations and mutual communication full of respect, which will not be about who wins, but rather about the observance of European Law,”* Governor Martin Půta said. *“After all, we kept saying that we were ready to meet with the Polish side at one table and negotiate pursuant to valid European rules. We have been appealing them to do so for the past two years. The last time was in February, when I sent a letter to the Polish Marshal, suggesting possible solutions to the situation. These points have also been negotiated by the former Minister of Foreign Affairs Tomáš Petříček in Warsaw early this year. I am sorry to say that until today, I didn’t receive any response from the Polish side, from the Polish investor PGE,”* said Půta.

There is disinformation and misinterpretation on the Polish side regarding what the Czech side actually wants. That is why the Liberec Region publishes the letter of Governor Martin Půta, which clarifies this. The letter was addressed to the Polish Marshal prior to filing the Czech Republic’s action at the Court of Justice of the EU.

*“I consider the proposals for negotiation as reasonable, justified, and supported by facts, whether it is the strengthening of the water source in Uhelná, or the establishment of the protective mound. Other conditions depend on the Czech and Polish negotiations, best if based on an interstate contract. That is also why I believe a committee should be formed with representatives fo both states, to make objective annual assessments of the impact of mining in the Polish brown coal mine Turów on local citizens and countryside, which we try to protect,”* Governor Martin Půta added.

Today, the Czech and Polish parties meet in the Liberec Region for the first consultations in the given matter. However, all subsequent and legally binding negotiations will be held at an interstate level.

**Mgr. Andrea Fulková**

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