



Campaigning on Irish
coal imports from
Cerrejón mine in
Colombia

THE DATA

Cerrejón Coal Imports to Ireland

- ▶ Over 90% of coal imported to Moneypoint since 2011 has been sourced from Colombia, predominantly from Cerrejón, rest from Drummond mine
- ▶ The figures: 12.5 million tons of coal imported since 2011, of which almost 7.5 million tons came from Cerrejón – sold by CMC

ESB Moneypoint Coal Deliveries 2017 - 12/04/18

Ship	Bill of Lading (Tonnes)	Country Of Origin	Mine Of Origin	Selling Company	Port Of Origin	Date Of Departure	Port Of Arrival	Date Of Arrival
MV Anangel Horizon	164329.000	Colombia	Cerrejon	CMC	Puerto Bolivar	20-Dec-16	Moneypoint	07-Jan-17
MV Navios Azimuth	165648.000	Colombia	Cerrejon	CMC	Puerto Bolivar	29-Dec-16	Moneypoint	21-Jan-17
MV Cape Amanda	167691.710	Colombia	Drummond	EDF Trading Limited	Puerto Drummond	17-Jan-17	Moneypoint	05-Feb-17
MV Mineral Kyoto CMC	166329.000	Colombia	Cerrejon	CMC	Puerto Bolivar	18-Feb-17	Moneypoint	07-Mar-17
MV Saronic Trader	83070.000	United States	Pittsburgh & Seam	Coal Energy & Resources	Baltimore	23-Feb-17	Moneypoint	21-Mar-17
MV Baltia	71515.438	Russia	Kusbass Region	Suek AG	Murmansk	16-Mar-17	Moneypoint	06-Apr-17
MV Iron Fritz	163365.460	Colombia	Drummond	EDF Trading Limited	Puerto Drummond	31-Mar-17	Moneypoint	18-Apr-17
MV Polymnia	162536.000	Colombia	Cerrejon	CMC	Puerto Bolivar	08-May-17	Moneypoint	23-May-17
MV Cape Flamingo	166654.000	Colombia	Cerrejon	CMC	Puerto Bolivar	03-Jul-17	Moneypoint	17-Jul-17
MV Nordkap	74982.600	Russia	Kusbass Region	Suek AG	Ust-Luga	21-Aug-17	Moneypoint	01-Sep-17
MV Besiktas Kazakhstan	157758.640	Colombia	Drummond	EDF Trading Limited	Puerto Drummond	15-Oct-17	Moneypoint	28-Oct-17
MV Cape Claudine	167084.150	Colombia	Drummond	EDF Trading Limited	Puerto Drummond	11-Dec-17	Moneypoint	27-Dec-17
MV Evgenia	162099.000	Colombia	Cerrejon	CMC	Puerto Bolivar	27-Dec-17	Moneypoint	26-Jan-18
MV Kambanos	80024.668	Russia	Kusbass Region	Suek AG	Murmansk	09-Feb-18	Moneypoint	18-Feb-18
MV Frontier Harvest	164161.000	Colombia	Cerrejon	CMC	Puerto Bolivar	17-Feb-18	Moneypoint	09-Mar-18
MV Pupilinge	76618.320	Russia	Kusbass Region	Suek AG	Murmansk	11-Mar-18	Moneypoint	22-Mar-18
Total	2193866.986							

QUESTIONS IN THE DÁIL

Dáil debates

- ▶ July 12, 2018 – Deputy Seán Crowe asks Simon Coveney, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, “As the main shareholder in the ESB will the Government direct it to stop importing coal from this mine immediately and end the use of coal, which is the dirtiest of all fossil fuels in Ireland?”
- ▶ Response given by Deputy Catherine Byrne: “The question of where the Moneypoint plant sources its coal is a matter for the ESB and the Deputy may wish to pursue this matter further with the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment. ... Ireland does not yet have an embassy in Colombia although we will open one there shortly, but the EU delegation in Bogotá has been active on behalf of member states in this area. ... Pending the opening of an Irish embassy in Colombia, we will continue to monitor developments in the country as closely as possible.”

Questions in the Dáil

- ▶ July 24, 2018 – Deputy Seán Crowe asks Simon Coveney, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, “if his attention has been drawn to the Cerrejón mine in the north-east of Colombia...*and does he believe that countries should stop important [sic] coal from this mine considering the significant abuses and environmental degradation it creates.*”
- ▶ Coveney’s written response: “I am aware of the specific mine to which the Deputy refers, and of the difficult situation which currently obtains [sic] for environmental and indigenous rights defenders in Colombia...I remain concerned at reports of mining activities having a negative impact on local populations or on the environment, as well as of reported abuse of workers.”

Dáil Debate

- ▶ October 4, 2018 – Simon Coveney, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, asked by Deputy Seán Crowe “Is the Minister aware that the ESB is importing millions of tonnes of coal from Colombia, specifically from the infamous Cerrejón mine? Has he been made aware that the coal is coming from mines which are notorious for destroying the environment, displacing communities and attacking local community activists? The Government is the main shareholder in the ESB. Has the Minister's Department had discussions with the ESB on the human rights due diligence that should follow, detailing the notorious abuses in the Colombian mines from where it sources coal?”

Dáil Debate

- ▶ October 4, 2018 – response from Simon Coveney: “In relation to the ESB, I was not aware of what the Deputy referred to. I have been to the Moneypoint power plant a number of times. Clearly, a lot of coal is imported. However, the Government has committed to ending the use of coal as a source of power generation by the mid-2020s. I am happy to say we will see a move away from a reliance on imported coal. However, it cannot happen overnight without a significant disruption to power supplies. It needs to be planned for and phased in over time. I am not familiar with the sourcing contracts and with whom they are with, as that is a matter for ESB senior management. I can, however, certainly raise the question.”

Leader's Questions

- ▶ December 13, 2018 – Question by Deputy Maureen O'Sullivan to Minister Coveney in the context of the upcoming International Development White Paper and the policy incoherence with our tax system:

“When we discussed the EU-Colombia trade agreement, we were assured about these human rights agreements and yet since then there have been land grabs, forcible displacement, exploitation and intimidation of workers. We have had the scandal of the Cerrejón mine, the role of the ESB and the fact that CMC, the Coal Marketing Company, is registered in Dublin.

If the Government was committed to policy coherence, it would implement our business and human rights policy.”

ADVOCACY

Dept. Communications, Climate Action & Environment

- ▶ September 17, 2018 – four NGOs wrote to Joint Committee on Communications, Human Rights and Environment, encouraged them to invite the ESB to come before the Committee and have a public meeting on importation of Cerrejón coal
- ▶ Ctte responded and said they would write to ESB about the matter

Bettercoal

- ▶ The ESB, in their written response to the Joint Ctte on CCAE, referred to Bettercoal assessment of Cerrejón – Bettercoal is a coal buyer's network
- ▶ According to Bettercoal, Cerrejón 'substantially meets' the Bettercoal human rights principles around indigenous and tribal people, and meets their other 3 human rights principles
- ▶ The ESB also mentions that the Bettercoal assessment noted that in 2007 Cerrejón commissioned a third party panel to evaluate their social responsibility and that Cerrejón had largely complied with the recommendations of the panel

Bettercoal

- ▶ One of the most important issues raised by the independent panel was the forced displacement of Tabaco in 2001, which to date remains without relocation or reparations
- ▶ In 2018, the assertion that Cerrejón had implemented the recommendations of the independent was debunked in an article – **‘Ten Years on from the Independent Evaluation of Cerrejón,’** by Aviva Chomsky, Salem State University
- ▶ “Over and over, the company has evaded social responsibility by insisting on the letter rather than the spirit of the law, and refused to carry out what is clearly its moral and ethical, as well as legal, responsibility.”

IRELAND'S RESPONSIBILITY

Ireland's role in Colombia peace process

- ▶ In the Dáil debate on July 12th, Sean Crowe highlighted the incoherency of Ireland's support for Colombia's peace process and purchasing coal from Cerrejón, because of the violence in La Guajira.
- ▶ July 24, 2018. Minister Coveney in PQ written response: "the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has an ongoing commitment to support peace and human rights in Colombia as well as its transition to a post-conflict society."

PRESS RELEASE: Colombians threatened with death for opposition to mega-mining project as defenders visit UK

by Lydia on [15 October, 2018](#) in [Press Releases](#)



PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 15/10/18

Indigenous Colombians threatened with death for opposition to mega-mining project as defenders visit UK

“Death to all these scum”: threats made by far-right paramilitaries promise to “clean” the region of indigenous Wayúu campaigning against mega-mining projects by UK-listed companies in their ancestral lands. They come as [a week of action](#) launches in London to highlight the issue. Delegates are arriving from the United States, Brazil, Chile and Colombia, including Wayúu community leader, Misael Socarras Ipuana.

Peace in
La
Guajira?

Tax Justice

- ▶ Coal Marketing Company (CMC), Cerrejón's global sales company, is based in Ireland
- ▶ Colombia's Corporate Tax Rate: 34%
- ▶ Ireland's Corporate Tax Rate: 12.5%
- ▶ Séan Crowe T.D. in Dáil Debate, July 12, 2018: "The mine is operated by multinational companies such as Glencore, which is currently under investigation in the US for massive corruption and money laundering in its mining operations throughout the world, and Coal Marketing Company, CMC, which has offices here in Dublin. I have seen documents which show that this is the company from which we are buying coal. ...the Government facilitates the huge tax avoidance in which these mining companies partake. Colombian taxpayers are, therefore, actively subsidising the mines which are destroying their environment, health and livelihoods, while the perpetrators avoid tax. This is clearly an issue."



WHAT ARE WE CALLING FOR?

In Ireland

- ▶ Moneypoint phase-out: An Irish divestment from Cerrejón coal on human rights grounds - before we stop burning coal anyway - would send strong message that Cerrejón's impacts on, and actions towards, affected communities are not acceptable
- ▶ Urgent change in our energy production and consumption patterns
- ▶ Tax justice

In La Guajira

- ▶ Responsibility = Long Term Solidarity
- ▶ Call for adequate reparations and compensation for communities. At very minimum respect for agreements already made
- ▶ Closure of mine must include a just transition for workers



African descent families occupy Cerrejon mine in Colombia to demand their rights

by Richard on [18 January 2019](#) in [News](#)



On Wednesday, 16 January 2019, 50 people from the community of Roche staged a non-violent occupation of part of the vast Cerrejon coal mine – owned by London-listed multinationals Anglo American, BHP and Glencore – to demand respect for their rights as people of African descent and to pressure the Cerrejon Coal company into good-faith negotiations over a range of issues. Organisations and individuals from Europe and North America have issued the following declaration in solidarity with the community.

THANK YOU!

- ▶ Contact: coordinator@lasc.ie
- ▶ Facebook: Latin America Solidarity Centre – LASC
- ▶ Twitter: @LASCDublin