

Question for written answer E-007833/2014
to the Commission
Rule 130
Glenis Willmott (S&D)

Subject: Import and use of asbestos in the EU

In its evaluation of the 2007-2012 EU strategy on safety and health at work, the Commission noted that little progress has been made in reducing occupational diseases, including occupational cancers. It also acknowledged that exposure to asbestos remains a risk to workers.

In May 2013 Parliament adopted by an overwhelming majority a report calling for the total elimination of asbestos in the EU by 2028. The report also noted that although three Member States still make use of a derogation allowing the use of asbestos fibres in electrolysis cells, technical alternatives to this do exist and are already used successfully in other Member States.

Given that Directive 1999/77/EC recognises that there is no level of exposure to chrysotile asbestos fibres, or products containing them, that does not pose a carcinogenic risk, does the Commission agree that it would be irresponsible to extend the derogation allowing the import of these fibres into the EU?

Furthermore, does the Commission agree that extending this derogation would go against the EU's stated aim of achieving the long-term global elimination of asbestos?