

**Question for written answer E-011157/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Mercedes Bresso (S&D), Patrizia Toia (S&D), Simona Bonafè (S&D), Renata Briano (S&D), Caterina Chinnici (S&D), Sergio Gaetano Cofferati (S&D), Brando Benifei (S&D), Paolo De Castro (S&D), Pier Antonio Panzeri (S&D), Enrico Gasbarra (S&D), Massimo Paolucci (S&D), Luigi Morgano (S&D), Nicola Caputo (S&D), Alessia Maria Mosca (S&D) and Daniele Viotti (S&D)

Subject: Asbestos in the European Union

Although the manufacture of asbestos-based products and goods is banned in the European Union, this extremely dangerous fibre is still responsible for thousands of deaths every year. According to the World Health Organisation, between 20 000 and 30 000 people contract diseases linked to exposure to asbestos every year. There is still asbestos in many public buildings, including hospitals and schools, as well as in various structures, ships, piping and the like.

Since asbestos poses a serious threat to the health of European citizens, and with reference to the resolution of the European Parliament of 30 January 2013¹, can the Commission answer the following questions:

1. What is the situation as regards EU legislation on the production, sale and use in production processes of materials containing asbestos or asbestos by-products and, in particular, are there any exceptions/waivers and, if so, what are they?
2. Does the Commission think it would be appropriate to launch a European plan to identify all the sites in the EU where asbestos is to be found and, if so, what would the timescale be?
3. Does the Commission think it would be appropriate to launch a European asbestos-removal plan in response to the requests made in the aforementioned resolution of the European Parliament that removal plans be put in place by 2028?

¹ Texts adopted P7_TA(2013)0093