

**Question for written answer E-000873/2015  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Ivan Jakovčić (ALDE)**

Subject: 'Asbestos-Free Europe'

The Republic of Croatia, in common with many other European countries, used to have a substantial production of asbestos-based products. Many European countries have various programmes aimed at reducing the harmful effect of asbestos on human health. Croatia, too, through the competent Ministry of Environmental Protection has for years been implementing various programmes aimed at reducing the presence of asbestos and its harmfulness to the environment and human health. However, asbestos is still in use in Croatia and in many other European countries in many family homes and public buildings such as schools, hospitals, etc. Since, as is known, the carcinogenicity of this material is very high, and a mere wind suffices to spread it, the hazard to human health is exceptional.

Does the Commission accept the idea of starting an 'Asbestos-Free Europe' programme that would contribute to safely removing everyday harmful effects of asbestos?

I am convinced that such a campaign, which would be financially supported by the EU and the Member States, regions and cities, could have a very positive effect, as was the case with many other European campaigns that had a positive response and achieved good results, especially for the environment and the health of citizens.