

**Question for written answer E-003293/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Pipes containing asbestos in the provinces of Florence, Prato, Pistoia and Arezzo

Directive 1997/77/EC indicates that 'no threshold level of exposure has yet been identified below which chrysotile asbestos does not pose carcinogenic risks'.

Report 2012/2065 (INI), approved by Parliament on 14 May 2013, expresses concern at the serious risk of asbestos-linked illnesses (caused by air or water contaminated with asbestos fibres), possibly manifesting themselves decades after exposure.

The 'Publiacqua S.p.A' water utility serves 46 municipalities in the provinces of Florence, Prato, Pistoia and Arezzo. A study published in October 2014 by Professor Ginevra Lombardi of the University of Florence indicates that asbestos was used in the manufacture of around 225 km of piping, 36% of which consists of arterial pipes linking water supply plant to secondary district pipes in this area.

Can the Commission say how it will encourage Member States to replace the pipes in question as soon as possible, thereby reducing the risk of contamination and of asbestos-related diseases for population of Tuscany?