

EN  
E-000862/2018  
Answer given by Ms Thyssen  
on behalf of the Commission  
(10.4.2018)

The Commission shares the view that exposure to asbestos is a matter of serious concern which should be adequately tackled both at EU and national level.

Directive 2009/148/EC on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to asbestos at work<sup>1</sup> has been implemented in Spain by Royal Decree 396/2006<sup>2</sup>.

In light of the obligation of Member States to ensure compliance with the relevant EU Occupational Safety and Health legislation, it is for the competent national authorities to ensure the correct implementation of the national transposition measures and to decide on the approach to take regarding priorities on asbestos removal.

In order to facilitate the application of Directive 2009/148/EC, the Commission has published practical guidelines for the information and training of workers involved with asbestos removal or maintenance work<sup>3</sup>. In addition, the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU –OSHA) will stage a Healthy Workplaces Campaign on dangerous substances in 2018-2019.

Member States can allocate the European Structural and Investment Funds for handling and removal of asbestos in line with the objectives of the respective national or regional programmes. The Commission does not collect data on investment in this specific area.

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<sup>1</sup> Directive 2009/148/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to asbestos at work (codified version), OJ L 330, 16.12.2009, p. 28.

<sup>2</sup> Royal Decree 396/2006 of 31 March 2006 on Minimum Health and Safety Provisions Applicable to Work Involving a Risk of Exposure to Asbestos

<sup>3</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=7478&langId=en>