

**Question for written answer E-001887/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Tania González Peñas (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Asbestos in the Madrid metro system

Metro de Madrid, a publicly owned company run by the Community of Madrid, is still operating trains that contain asbestos. The company has known this since 2003, when the Servicio de Prevención Laboral (Workplace Risk Prevention Service) drew up a report at the request of the National Commission for Health and Safety at Work. The report states that asbestos, banned since 2001, was present in 65 passenger trains and 50 maintenance trains, as well as in 64 underground stations. What is more, between 2011 and 2012 the company sold two batches of trains of a model containing asbestos for use on suburban lines in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

It was not until 2017, when a worker was suspected of having developed lung cancer as a result of inhaling asbestos fibres, that specific preventive measures were taken. Once that case had been confirmed, the Ministry of Employment's Labour Inspectorate opened an investigation into a serious breach of the law.

It is likely that Directives 2004/37/EC and 2003/18/EC are being infringed.

1. Has the Commission taken action on this matter?
2. What approach does the Commission take in cases involving infringements of directives which have such serious public health implications?