

**Question for written answer E-002825/2018  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Bart Staes (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: Use of asbestos by European companies

'Breathless', a documentary by filmmaker Daniel Lambo and the Storyhouse production company, which was shown at the Moov Film Festival, reveals how the Eternit company is using asbestos, a deadly substance prohibited in the EU, in third countries such as India, where it is causing serious illnesses such as cancer on a massive scale. The Commission is apparently powerless to impose any penalties for such practices, despite the fact that, under Regulation (EU) No 649/2012 concerning the export and import of hazardous chemicals, companies are required inform the national authorities when they export hazardous chemicals such as asbestos. At the same time, it appears that local populations in these third countries have not been informed about the risks of such harmful substances.

In view of this:

1. Can the Commission say to what extent exports of hazardous substances are being monitored under Regulation (EU) No 649/2012 and how this is being done?
2. What procedures will be adopted by the Commission, in cooperation with the Member States, to investigate any such practices by European multinational and other companies?
3. Is the Commission prepared to make efforts to protect local populations and workers more effectively and raise awareness among them?