

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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WRITTEN DECLARATION

for inclusion in the register

pursuant to Rule 51 of the Rules of Procedure

by Charles Tannock, John Bowis, Chris Davies, Jean Lambert and Peter Skinner

on asbestos-related fatalities

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Declaration on asbestos-related fatalities

The European Parliament,

- expressing concern at the fact that scientists predict that the total number of asbestos-related fatalities over the next thirty years in Western Europe could exceed 500 000,
 - welcoming the motion agreed by the European Asbestos Seminar on 7 and 8 June 2001, which called for the establishment of local, national and international networks and accurate recording of the locations of asbestos,
 - recognising the work being done by asbestos victims' groups, NGOs and social movements throughout Europe to improve the plight of asbestos victims,
1. Calls upon national governments of the Member States
 - to develop and implement techniques for treating waste containing asbestos;
 - to end the use of asbestos for chlorine production;
 - to harmonise criteria for diagnosing asbestos-related diseases and procedures for claiming compensation;
 - to share medical knowledge so that all sufferers of asbestos-related diseases have equal access to the most effective treatments;
 2. Instructs its President to forward this declaration to the Council and the Commission.