

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3887/02

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to the Commission

Subject: Protection against exposure to asbestos

1. Given that the amended Directive 83/477/EEC, when adopted by the Council, will bring about substantial improvements in the protection of workers against asbestos-related risks, but that it falls short in protecting the wider environment and preventing exposure to asbestos outside the immediate workplace, is the Commission prepared to consider what initiatives could be taken at European level to minimise exposure to asbestos affecting those living and working around sites and buildings containing asbestos and the environment as a whole?
2. Is the Commission prepared to take appropriate steps in order to establish whether national registers of sites and buildings containing asbestos would be a useful instrument (a) in determining the extent of the problem of potential asbestos contamination, and (b) in connection with precautionary measures to be taken in the event of disasters?
3. Has the Commission taken note of the fact that there are strong indications that asbestos-polluted waste originating from the Netherlands has been 'illegally' dumped in Belgium? If so, what measures can the Commission take to end this practice?