

**Question for written answer E-002701/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Marisa Matias (GUE/NGL) and Alda Sousa (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Infringement by Portugal of legislation on identifying the risks to workers of exposure to asbestos

Following up on Written Question E-012695/13 and the answer thereto, could the Commission answer the following:

1. Has the Commission already taken action vis-à-vis the Portuguese authorities to determine their compliance with the rules on protecting public sector workers from the risks associated with exposure to asbestos in the workplace? If not, when does it intend to start this process?

We wish to highlight the fact that the Portuguese Government has itself failed, as an employer, to comply with the terms of Directive 2009/148/EC, Article 3(2) of which requires an assessment of the 'risk of exposure to dust arising from asbestos or materials containing asbestos' in order to determine the nature and degree of workers' exposure.

In some cases, civil servants are unaware of the dangers and continue to be exposed to asbestos fibres during the course of their work, without receiving any protection from their employer – in this case the Portuguese Government.

2. Does the Commission share the view that this situation, if confirmed, is an infringement of European legislation by the Portuguese State? If so, does it have the power to ensure that the terms of European directives are complied with, regardless of whether or not they constitute a formal requirement?