

**Question for written answer E-003944/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Marisa Matias (GUE/NGL), **José Gusmão** (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Portuguese imports of asbestos-containing materials

Asbestos is a natural fibre derived from six different types of mineral and has been shown to have carcinogenic effects when it is inhaled by people who, either occasionally or on a regular basis, are exposed to it.

Since 1 January 2005, the use and marketing of asbestos and/or asbestos-containing materials in the European Union has been banned by Directive 1999/77/EC and Directive 2003/18/EC, as transposed into Portuguese national law by Decree-Law No 101/2005 of 23 June 2005 and Decree-Law No 266/2007 of 24 July 2007.

Despite this ban, Portugal has recently imported an alarming quantity of hazardous materials – these totalled more than 50 tonnes in 2016 and 2017 – including asbestos-containing materials and waste containing asbestos to be put into landfill.

Given the undeniable dangers of asbestos to public health and the clear violation of existing legislation on the marketing of asbestos and/or asbestos-containing products, what measures will the Commission take in order to ensure that Portugal complies with the legislation in force and how will it monitor such compliance?