

**Question for written answer E-003973/2020**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Cindy Franssen (PPE)**

Subject: Exposure to asbestos fibres.

Asbestos fibres are classified under the CLP Regulation as a category 1A carcinogen, to which even the briefest exposure can cause lung cancer. In fact, the use of asbestos is banned in the EU.

Despite this, tonnes of asbestos remain present in our buildings and in various products. A number of Member States are intending to become totally asbestos-free in the foreseeable future. This will involve a major spike in asbestos removal operations, resulting in increased exposure of workers on the one hand and an enormous increase in asbestos fibres in surrounding areas on the other, placing the general public at risk.

The distinction between bonded and loose (friable) asbestos is no longer applicable due to the age of bonded asbestos materials that disintegrate on removal. Moreover, current legislation is hopelessly inadequate, given that individuals are free to dispose of semi-bonded asbestos.

1. When will the Commission bring asbestos removal requirements into line with this new reality?
2. What specific measures is it proposing to protect individuals more effectively and ensure that asbestos removal is done by professionals alone?
3. What measures is it proposing to further harmonise asbestos removal regulations and protect public health more effectively?