

**Question for written answer E-003974/2020
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Cindy Franssen (PPE)

Subject: Action plan for asbestos-free Union

The use of asbestos is now largely banned in the EU. It has been proven that asbestos has carcinogenic properties and it has been classified accordingly under the CLP regulation. An increasing number of Member States have already been seeking to remove asbestos entirely from buildings and products on their territory.

Under current European waste legislation, it is still admissible to dispose of non-friable asbestos in landfills for non-hazardous waste. While public health rules regarding friable asbestos are more stringent, it often finds its way to landfills with potential consequences for the health of local residents and workers, leaving asbestos fibres present in the environment. This is unsustainable in the long term, particularly if the quantity of asbestos waste increases significantly over the coming years.

1. When will the Commission propose an updated EU-wide programme of harmonised measures to achieve an asbestos-free Union as soon as possible?
2. Will the Commission focus more on new methods ¹ of achieving the long-term elimination of asbestos from our environment under the circular economy action plan?
3. Is the Commission supporting scientific research into innovative and sustainable ways of processing harmful asbestos?

¹ For example, vitrification or denaturation.