

**Question for written answer E-001783/2021
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Angelo Ciocca (ID)

Subject: Promoting the reduction of asbestos

With more than 3 000 reported deaths since the 1970s, Broni is one of the most severely affected towns in Italy in terms of the number of victims of asbestos. However, these figures are provisional because, although the former Fibronit factory has been disused since 1994, studies have calculated that peak mortality will be reached right now, between the years 2020 and 2025.

40% of cancer cases can be prevented by putting in place effective prevention strategies to tackle the causes of cancer development. Exposure to carcinogenic substances, such as asbestos, is certainly one of them, to the extent that the European Union has included waste containing this substance on its list of hazardous waste. In Italy alone, some 6 000 deaths per year can be attributed to asbestos: however, despite this, there were still between 32 and 40 million tonnes of asbestos waiting to be cleaned up in Italy in 2019.

Europe's Beating Cancer Plan announced only EUR 4 billion of investment in this sector, compared to almost EUR 200 billion a year spent in Europe to cover cancer-related expenditure.

Can the Commission therefore say:

1. what policies it intends to adopt in order to eliminate asbestos residues once and for all;
2. whether it intends to encourage asbestos removal by making EU funds available to bear the costs?