

**Question for written answer E-004776/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

José Gusmão (The Left), **Marisa Matias** (The Left)

Subject: Asbestos-ridden housing in Bairro da Fraternidade, Guarda

Asbestos was widely used in construction (from 1945 and until the 90s) due to its low cost and properties of elasticity, robustness, fire-proofing, good thermal and acoustic insulation as well as resistance to high temperatures, chemicals, rot and corrosion.

However, asbestos exposure can cause diseases such as asbestosis, mesothelioma and lung and gastrointestinal cancer.

In 2005, Portugal transposed Commission Directive 1999/77/EC of 26 July prohibiting the use and sale of asbestos and products containing it into national law. Sixteen years later, however, much remains to be done.

The Bairro da Fraternidade neighbourhood in Guarda is owned by the Institute for Housing and Urban Renewal (IHRU). Dozens of families live there, in poor-quality, asbestos-ridden housing. Some people have already fallen ill. This unacceptable state of affairs must be remedied without further delay.

In the light of the above, what steps will the Commission take to compel Portugal to comply with European and national legislation on asbestos-removal in Bairro da Fraternidade, Guarda?