

**Question for written answer E-005165/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Aurélia Beigneux (ID)

Subject: Asbestos in drinking water

Asbestos cement pipes, especially when damaged, can cause asbestos to leach into drinking water. This proliferation of asbestos fibres increases the risk of ingestion.

To date, there is little scientific evidence that asbestos poses a health risk. For this reason, there is no established limit for the concentration of asbestos in drinking water.

However, in 2017, a study by ANSES¹ stated that the risk of contracting gastrointestinal cancers linked to the ingestion of asbestos could be underestimated. Across the Atlantic, the US Environmental Protection Agency has set a limit of 7 million asbestos fibres per litre of water.

In view of the above:

1. Will the Commission establish an asbestos concentration limit in drinking water, such as the one in the US?
2. Will it also introduce a programme to reduce contact of asbestos and drinking water?
3. Is the Commission encouraging the development of research in this area to ensure safe drinking water?

¹ ANSES: French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety