

**Question for written answer E-005193/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Safety of anti-asbestos respirator masks

The French press has recently raised concerns over potential widespread malfunctions affecting anti-asbestos 'Proflow' respirator masks made by the company 3M. These masks are believed to be used by around 70% of the 35 000 asbestos-removal workers in France. 3M is a major producer in the sector at European level, with production plants in various Member States.

1. Does the Commission have any data on the extent of this problem in the EU?
2. What is the Commission doing to ensure that market control mechanisms for respirator masks are in place and that Member States are conducting proper quality controls of these masks?
3. As part of its forthcoming legislative initiative in 2022 on the 'protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to asbestos at work', does the Commission intend to include specific measures for personal protective equipment?