

**Question for written answer P-014373/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Zoltán Balczó (NI) and Krisztina Morvai (NI)**

Subject: Adequacy - or otherwise - of the European Union's efforts to tackle the harmful impact of asbestos

This question is intended for Commissioner Vytenis Andriukaitis.

Article 6(a) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (2012/C 326/01) stipulates that the Union has the competence to carry out actions to support, coordinate or supplement the actions of the Member States to protect and improve human health. Article 3(1) of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union stipulates that everyone has the right to respect for his or her physical and mental integrity.

Since 1 January 2005, the use of asbestos has been banned throughout the Union.

Asbestos, which used to be widely used as a building material, causes serious tumours – mesothelioma – in the pleura after a latency period of 15-60 years if it enters the human respiratory organs.

Life expectancy once such tumours have developed is a maximum of one year.

It is estimated that, between now and 2030, the deaths of more than half a million people may be caused by cancers triggered by asbestos in the EU.

When will the Commission set up a European Asbestos Removal Fund to finance the removal of asbestos from public and private buildings?

When will the Commission set up a European Compensation Fund to finance compensation payments to citizens of the European Union who have fallen ill because of asbestos?