Europe’s Asbestos Catastrophe: Supporting Victims, Preventing Future Tragedy

Questionnaire

The answers to these questions are intended to inform the discussion which will take place in Brussels on September 17 & 18, 2012 regarding the asbestos crisis in European countries.

The deadline for the completed questionnaire to be sent to the EFBWW is August 29, 2012. Please send completed questionnaire to Ann Cocquyt: email: acocquyt@efbh.be

Respondents Information

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Asbestos Usage

- How much asbestos (metric tonnes) was used in your country before its use was banned? one large cement-factory and one large producer of brakes and clutches. 25000 tonnes a year
- What types of asbestos were used (chrysotile, crocidolite, amosite) chrysotile and amosite
- When was national asbestos consumption at its highest Believe 1973-77 the peak in import
- What were the main purposes for which the asbestos was used Asbestos cement/brakes. Around 1970 was asbestos used for more than 3000 different products
- How common was the use of asbestos in schools, hospitals, public buildings and homes; what per cent of these buildings still contain asbestos? Since ban finally in 1986 lots have

1 This event is being organized jointly by the European Federation of Building and Woodworkers (EFBWW) and the International Ban Asbestos Secretariat (IBAS).
2 Clearly, not every respondent will be able to answer every question; if information is not available on a certain subject, feel free to write u/a (unavailable). We are looking to compile a snapshot of key issues in countries attending the Brussels events so would ask that you provide concise responses as the replies will need to be translated.

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been removed or encapsulated. As roofing it is estimated that there are 250 millions square meters. We need screening in order to get a more precise estimate.

- How is asbestos waste dealt with on a routine basis and after natural events such as storms, earthquakes, etc. which damage asbestos-containing roofing materials? Strict regulations to ensure non-dusty work

### Human Cost

- How many people are diagnosed with asbestos-related diseases (asbestosis, mesothelioma, asbestos-related lung cancer, ovarian and laryngeal cancer, and pleural plaques) every year in your country? App. 120 - 180
- How many asbestos-related deaths are recorded each year? Where possible, please provide data showing the annual number of asbestos-related deaths from 1990-2010.
- Please provide (as an attachment) annual data for diagnoses of the core asbestos-related diseases: asbestosis, mesothelioma, asbestos-related lung cancer, pleural plaques for the period 1990-2010.
- It is recognised that asbestos can be implicated in a wide range of other cancers (laryngeal, gastrointestinal, ovarian etc.); please give details of any diagnoses of cancers other than mesothelioma or lung cancer where asbestos has been, or was suspected to have been a causal factor. Laryngeal cancer - a few cases per year
- How many asbestos-related deaths have there been recorded annually for the period 1990-2010 (where such data are available). App 400-450

### Government Regulations and Policy

- Please name the government regulations which:
  - recognize asbestos-related diseases as occupationally-caused: [https://www.retsinformation.dk/Forms/R0710.aspx?id=125148](https://www.retsinformation.dk/Forms/R0710.aspx?id=125148) and the list: [https://www.retsinformation.dk/Forms/R0710.aspx?id=142665&exp=1](https://www.retsinformation.dk/Forms/R0710.aspx?id=142665&exp=1)
    - what diseases are recognised as occupationally caused?: asbestosis, pleural plaques, Widespread fibrosis of the pleura, with respiratory restriction, abdominal and lung mesothelioma, lung cancer, larynx cancer
    - are self-employed workers compensated? Yes if they have made an insurance for themselves
  - provide protection for workers at-risk of exposure: i.e. construction workers, demolition workers, asbestos removal workers. Work Environment Authority, Sector council for Health and Safety in Construction
  - mandate measures for minimizing hazardous exposures: to workers, consumers, the public
- Have surveys been carried out to determine the amount of asbestos in schools, hospitals, public buildings and homes? Padtly and is going on
- What is the government’s policy for removing asbestos from schools, hospitals, public buildings and homes? An action plan is being discussed after strong influence from trade unions

### State Help for Sufferers from Asbestos-related Diseases (ARDs)

- Does the Government provide help for patients with ARDs? Yes via the occ. Disease act
- Is this help part of the social security system? Yes
- What conditions does it cover?
- What are sufferers entitled to claim? Compensation in specific rates

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• What is the monetary value (in Euros) over a 12 month period for the average claimant? Often paid as a one-time amount, as people tend to die from ARD – 100-150,000 Euros

**Stakeholders**

• What groups (non-governmental organizations, charities, trade unions or government agencies) are active in raising awareness of the asbestos issue in your country; please provide names of groups and contact details. Especially trade unions but also joint work with employers (sector councils construction)
• Is there an active campaign regarding the asbestos hazard in your country; please provide details about it. If there is no such campaign, are there any plans for one in the future? Indeed! media contacts, political lobbying, contact to authorities

**Key Issues: National and European**

• Identify the top five issues your country needs to address regarding its asbestos legacy. A national action plan for removing of all existing asbestos
• What do you think are the priority asbestos issues requiring action by the European Parliament? INI report

**Personal Goals of September 2012 Asbestos Event in Brussels**

• What are you hoping to achieve through your attendance at the two-day event in Brussels on asbestos in September 2012?