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

Name: Pallagi Gyula, ÉFÉDOSZSZ

Asbestos Usage

• How much asbestos (metric tonnes) was used in your country before its use was banned?
  We can only estimate that million tons of asbestos were used, only in the 80s 600,000 tons were built in.

• What types of asbestos were used (chrysotile, crocidolite, amosite)?
  All types were used. Crocidolite from the beginning of the 20th century, but mostly chrysotile.

• When was national asbestos consumption at its highest?
  Between 1960 and 1982.

• What were the main purposes for which the asbestos was used?
  Asbestos cement pipes and roofing slates, heat and sound insulation, pipe and wall insulation, boiler insulation, asbestos tiles, gaskets, vehicle parts

• How common was the use of asbestos in schools, hospitals, public buildings and homes; what per cent of these buildings still contain asbestos?
  The measurement has been done for community housing, 172-175 000 m² and another 250-300 000 m² is estimated for industrial and public buildings regarding sprayed asbestos, we can calculate with 150 million m² roofing material and 86 million m tube, altogether 1,6 million ton material, around 40% of the buildings contain asbestos.

---

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.

With financial support from the European Union
• 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?

Asbestos is classified as hazardous waste and its usage is regulated by EU directives. Crocidolite is banned since 1992, other types are banned since 2005. Before demolition of an asbestos containing building a survey and a risk assessment has to be done and the local H&S authority should be informed 15 days in advance. Fortunately big storms, earthquakes are not common in Hungary, but after storms the roofing is often repaired by unprepared and uninformed people.

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?

There are no specific data available, yearly 3-400 deaths can be related to asbestos

• 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.

• How many asbestos-related deaths have there been recorded annually for the period 1990-2010 (where such data are available).

Government Regulations and Policy

• Please name the government regulations which:
  ➢ prohibit the import, use and sale of asbestos
    41/2000 (XII. 20.) EüM-KöM
  ➢ recognize asbestos-related diseases as occupationally-caused
    ✓ what diseases are recognised as occupationally caused?
    27/1996 (VIII. 28) NM
    ✓ are self-employed workers compensated?
  ➢ provide protection for workers at-risk of exposure: i.e. construction workers, demolition workers, asbestos removal workers
    26/2000 (IX. 30) EüM
  ➢ mandate measures for minimizing hazardous exposures: to workers, consumers, the public
    98/2001 (VI. 15.) Korm. Rendelet

• Have surveys been carried out to determine the amount of asbestos in schools, hospitals, public buildings and homes?

Yes, but the public is not informed.

• What is the government’s policy for removing asbestos from schools, hospitals, public buildings and homes?

There is no governmental programs for asbestos removal since 2004, just regional projects.

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

• Does the Government provide help for patients with ARDs?

There is no significant help for asbestos victims above the ordinary.

With financial support from the European Union
• Is this help part of the social security system?
• What conditions does it cover?
• What are sufferers entitled to claim?
• What is the monetary value (in Euros) over a 12 month period for the average claimant?

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.

Levegő Munkacsoport (environmental NGO)
1075 Budapest, Károly körút 3/a. Ill. em. 2.
Post: 1465 Budapest, Pf. 1676
levego@levego.hu
www.levego.hu

• 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?
  No, there is not.

Key Issues: National and European

• Identify the top five issues your country needs to address regarding its asbestos legacy.
  Asbestos removal
  Protective measures to be observed strictly during the removal of asbestos
  Information for the population
  Compensation for victims
  Accurate health assessment to determine the number of victims

• What do you think are the priority asbestos issues requiring action by the European Parliament?
  Raising the asbestos-related knowledge, the potential of national or transnational programs aiming for the safe removal

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?
  Returning home with renewed and updated information on how we can contribute to solving the domestic asbestos problem.

With financial support from the European Union