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: individual name and name of organization.
Postal address, email address, telephone number, Skype contact.

Asbestos Usage

- How much asbestos (metric tonnes) was used in your country before its use was banned?
- What types of asbestos were used (chrysotile, crocidolite, amosite)?
- When was national asbestos consumption at its highest?
- What were the main purposes for which the asbestos was used?
- How common was the use of asbestos in schools, hospitals, public buildings and homes; what per cent of these buildings still contain asbestos?
- 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?

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?
- 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.

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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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• 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
  ➢ recognize asbestos-related diseases as occupationally-caused
    ✓ what diseases are recognised as occupationally caused?
    ✓ are self-employed workers compensated?
  ➢ provide protection for workers at-risk of exposure: i.e. construction workers, demolition workers, asbestos removal workers
  ➢ 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?
• What is the government’s policy for removing asbestos from schools, hospitals, public buildings and homes?

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

• Does the Government provide help for patients with ARDs?
• 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.
• 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?

Key Issues: National and European

• Identify the top five issues your country needs to address regarding its asbestos legacy.
• What do you think are the priority asbestos issues requiring action by the European Parliament?

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?

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