About me

• 30 years experience with asbestos
  – Compensation cases insulation workers
  – Bulding cooperation victims, trade unions, physicians and OCC Health clinics
• Guidelines and regulatory work nationally, EU and global (ILO)
• EU/India seminar 2011
• EFBWW asbestos action plan
Didn’t we solve the problem in the 80’s?

• Many buildings have been refurbished through 20 years, but…
• Urban trains, ships yes – but asbestos remains the largest problem in buildings – it means for construction workers and secondly for users and tenants of buildings
• Time works against us: Less and less knowledge of how asbestos has been used and installed – and asbestos will not be less dangerous...
Asbestos – an ongoing problem

• BAN – yes but still millions of tonnes
• Time working against us
• Break the curve of diseases: Even if no exposure from today, still ARD in 2060
• Lower exposures prolonged latency times?
• Safer removal
• Waste – impurities in aggregates?
3 ways of meeting asbestos occupationally

- The known project: Decision of removing asbestos
  - Specific Training
  - Certification or pre-qualification
  - Proving employees have been trained
- Asbestos in vocational training
- Great national differencies
- Leaving solely for professional asbestos-removal companies?
- Using reference projects from approved companies
- Linked in Asbestos Professionals

- The grey zone: Where you may meet asbestos unintended
  - Refurbishment and repair
  - Modernisation
  - Building service work
  - Demolition
  - Waste treatment
- Indoor climate
Still millions of tons of asbestos
Asbestos in EU

EFBWW action plan:
Safe removal
Registration
Training – actual SD project with FIEC on information modules
Recognition ARD – seminar and research
Compensation ARD

Other possible initiatives:
Financial pressure on Canada and Russia
WHO mutual diagnoses and recognition
New WTO cases – opposite Canada/France, unfair competition with companies still producing ACM

10/29/2012 Lars Vedsmand, Asbestos Coordinator EFBWW

Coalition partners – SLIC, victims’ organisations, research, prevention institutes, training providers

EP Questions for Commission
EP Empl Comitte
Hearing tomorrow
INI- report
Community strategy for H&S 2014-20
Cooperation

• Social dialogue – joint project on training manuals with European Construction Employers
• Other trade unions i.e. teachers
• Victims’ associations
• Authorities and possibly SLIC
• National parliaments
• EU-Commision
• Researchers and technological developers
• Asbestos removal companies
Information Modules

• Aimed at feasible fact-sheets for "non-asbestos" workers but also targeting house owners, self-employed people and do-it-yourself-markets

  - Younger generations are not aware of how asbestos was used and installed
  - Important to draw the attention of companies and workers on this problem and to provide them with the appropriate tools and information, in order to allow them to operate in the safest possible environment.

• Partners from Lithuania, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Belgium and Denmark
Information Modules

• Asbestos cement products
• Mastic
• floor coverings: Vinyl-asbestos tiles (flex panels)
• Asbestos containing adhesives for floor coverings
• Asbestos panels
• Sprayed asbestos: heat- and soundproofing (protection against fire and condensation on beams, connecting pieces and stays made of steel)
• Loose asbestos lagging
• Pipe ducts insulation against fire, heat, and cold
• fireproof coverings for storage heaters?
• Folder / Cover

10/29/2012
Lars Vedsmand, Asbestos Coordinator EFBWW
# Example fact-sheet

**1. Asbestos cement**

## Firmly bound

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pipes</th>
<th>Corrugated sheets (roof and walls)</th>
<th>Roof shingles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

## Activities involving little or no risk

- Walking on roofs
- Visual checks
- Transporting shaped pieces by hand
- Transporting individual asbestos sheets/boards by hand

## Activities involving an increased risk

- Cleaning the workplace (do not wipe with something that is dry)
- Transporting larger quantities by hand
- Cleaning gutters with an asbestos cement roof
- Cleaning with a soft brush or sponge
- Non-destructive disassembly
- Painting

## Activities involving a very high risk

- Destroying, breasting
- Cleaning with high-pressure water
- Wiping dust containing asbestos using something that is dry
- Grinding
- Cutting with an angle grinder

---

10/29/2012

Lars Vedsmand, Asbestos Coordinator EFBWW
Information Modules

- Steering group in February
- Fact-sheets presented April
- Seminar “Raising asbestos awareness” 2706
- 2nd and final seminar 9-10th October in Warsaw

10/29/2012
Lars Vedsmand, Asbestos Coordinator EFBWW
EP INI report asbestos

• Screening and registration:
  – Monitoring
  – Action plans
  – Energy – integration in other policies
  – Public asbestos registers
  – Obligations for house-owners
EP INI report asbestos

• Qualification and training
  – Asbestos removal
  – Construction companies and workers
  – Building technicians
  – Labor inspectors

• Removal programmes
  – Deadline for asbestos free Europe
  – Legislation
EP INI report asbestos

• Asbestos-related diseases
  – Reflecting progress of medical research
  – Common approach insurance comp
  – Change of proof of evidence
  – Establishing Advisory Boards

• Support for asbestos victims’ groups
  – Charter
  – Support for EU wide network
EP INI report asbestos

- Stop for exporting of waste
- Support for global ban of asbestos
  - WTO cases
  - Financial pressure
  - Export of knowledge
Questions for Commission

• We already have had MEPs asking Comm, a new supplementary line of questions are actually being prepared

• We also had 2 meetings with DG Empl concerning new initiatives: Poor outcome…Due to financial crisis the asbestos directive will not be opened and changed
Project on recognition and compensation

• ASBESTOS RELATED OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES IN EUROPE
• A follow-up from a former Eurogip project
  – The overall aim of the project is to prepare information and material on the issue of asbestos related diseases, its recognition, the recognition procedure and the compensation of this kind of diseases in the EU and candidate countries. It is the aim of the trade union organisations as well as from the victim organisations to use this material for the training/information of workers and victims (often two traits in the same person).
  – a research strategy. Today we have information on the recognition and compensation of asbestos-related diseases in 13 West-European countries from the EUROGIP report (April 2006). Similar information is also needed for Central and Eastern European countries.

10/29/2012
Lars Vedsmand, Asbestos Coordinator EFBWW
Project on recognition and compensation

– The project is also aiming at achieving better and more frequent collaboration between trade union organisations and the different asbestos victim organisations.

– Another main goal of the project is finally to facilitate the information and training of workers representatives and workers/victims regarding all aspects of the legal procedures regarding the recognition and compensation of asbestos related diseases.
Other asbestos-items

• Poland – Netherlands:
  – Microwave treatment of asbestos waste-Clapping the hands or ????
  – Scientific colleagues in Poland say NO.
• Asbestos waste as impurities in recycling of construction materials
• Working with people trying stopping ships
Conclusions

• Strong need for coordinated action
• Regulation
• Information
• Training
• Enforcement

DEADLINE FOR AN ASBESTOS-FREE EUROPE – as a strong signal also for rest of the world

10/29/2012
Lars Vedsmand, Asbestos Coordinator EFBWW
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

Lars Vedsmand, Asbestos Coordinator EFBWW

10/29/2012

Lars.vedsmand@batkartellet.dk