Safety and health at work is everyone’s concern. It’s good for you. It’s good for business.

Asbestos hearing
European Parliament 18 September 2012

Dr. Christa Sedlatschek, Director
European Agency for Safety and Health at work
normal lung

asbestosis + cancer
Groups potentially exposed

- Construction workers
- Shipbuilding/trains and repair
- Welder, sheet metal worker, boilermaker,
- Rubber, paper, paints and varnishes
- Electricians, mechanics
- Ceramics
- Laboratory workers
- ETC………..
EU-OESA activities

- Participation in Dresden declaration 2003
- Asbestos an issue in EU-OESA campaigns:

  - 2004 Construction campaign
    Facts 31 – Asbestos in construction in 20 languages

  - 2010-11 Maintenance campaign
    E-fact 48: Safe maintenance – asbestos in building maintenance
    – EFBWW and EBCcampaign partners

- EU-OESA supported the SLIC campaign, see
EU Senior Labour Inspector s Committee’s campaign 2006

- Problems with:

  - identifying asbestos
  - drawing up an inventory of asbestos-containing material
  - accidental exposure in refurbishment and maintenance work
  - risk assessment and appropriateness of working methods
  - removal and disposal of asbestos cement
  - waste disposal and OSH
  - licensing and certification of companies in removal and disposal of asbestos
  - information for the general public and training of inspectors, employers and workers.
In many countries asbestos work related to ‘sporadic exposure at low intensity’
- Workers at risk are mainly in maintenance
- Railway trains, recycling of (roof) tiles, transport containers
- Removal of weakly bound asbestos products more strictly regulated, detailed technical provisions described in each country’s regulations.

Recommendations
- New forms of communication and training, easy-to-understand (graphic, pictorial) information - certificates
- Work plan, instruction on site
- Coordinator, expert, responsible for monitoring on site
- Securing of waste and transport, landfill certificates
- Waste disposal scored worst on risk assessment, dust-free equipment, documentation, training and monitoring.
Healthy Workplaces Campaign 2012-13
“Working together for risk prevention”
Further information

• Visit the campaign website
  www.healthy-workplaces.eu

• To find out about events and activities in your country, contact your national focal point
  www.healthy-workplaces.eu/fops