

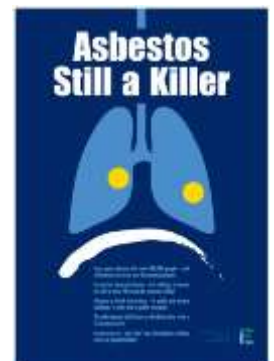
Trade Union Experiences in Europe

**Towards an asbestos free
world of work**

After the ban

By Ulrik Spannow, EFBWW & NFBWW
BWI International Asbestos Conference
6-7 May 2014 – Vienna

European Federation
of Building
and Woodworkers

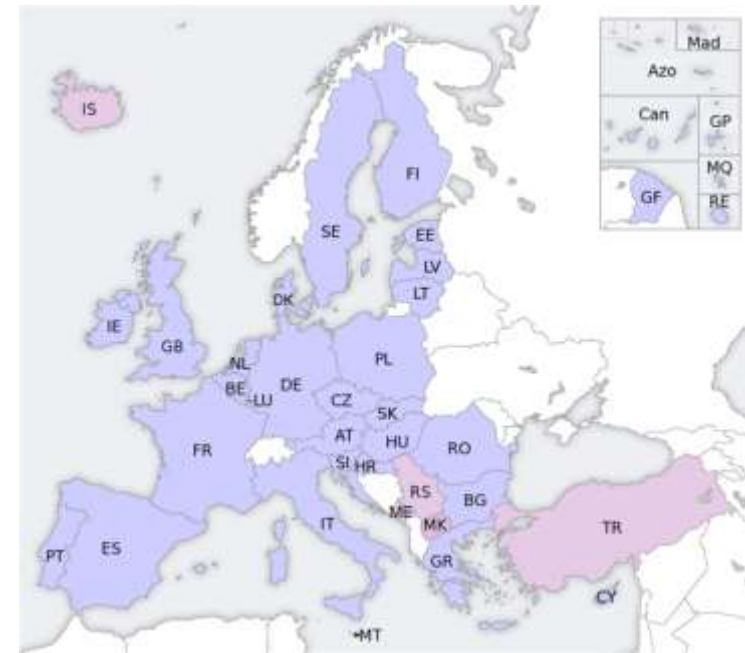


EUROPE



The European Union

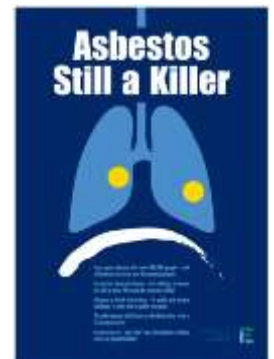
- 28 countries
- 500 million inhabitants
- 243 million persons at the labour market
- Unemployment 12%
- 15 million construction workers



THE EFBWW CAMPAIGN FOR AN ASBESTOS FREE EUROPE

This presentation

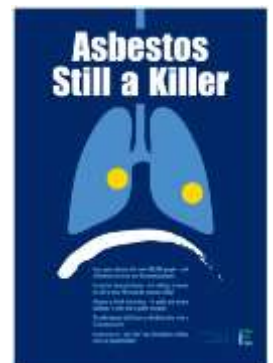
1. The Ban
 2. The EFBWW asbestos campaign
- targets, topics and challenges
 3. Reflections
- An example for global inspiration
 - A call for further action in the EU



ASBESTOS REGULATION LANDMARKS

A few landmarks

- Bans in some EU countries for 20-30 years
- EU regulation step by step
- **European ban** in 2003 with effect from 2005
 - extraction of asbestos
 - manufacture and processing of asbestos products
 - ➔ safer work conditions
- Still allowed to use asbestos in chlorine production
- Key EU regulation on Asbestos:
[DIR 2009/148](#)
- **The REACH Regulation**



THE EFBWW ASBESTOS CAMPAIGN

The challenge

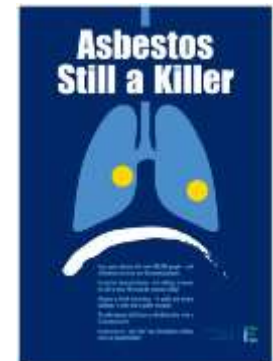
- Asbestos is the number one cause of death among occupational diseases in Europe
European Commission 2009/2012

Main goal of the EFBWW campaign

- Work in Europe shall be asbestos free
- Global ban

Where we are today

- European activities
- National activities



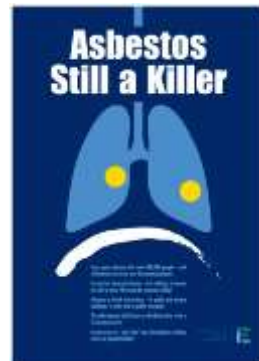
ASBESTOS FREE WORLD OF WORK ?

We are still surrounded by asbestos

- Billions of tons of asbestos in the EU today
- Buildings, trains, ships are contaminated
- Workers, owners, tenants and users are potentially exposed

Main challenge

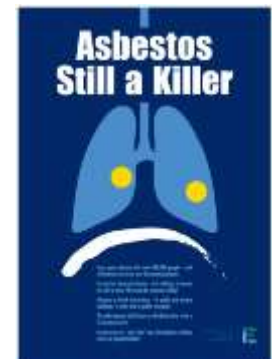
- Exposure to asbestos during removal, demolition, servicing and maintenance
- Decreasing awareness and knowledge on asbestos



EFBWW ASBESTOS CAMPAIGN

5 topics of the EFBWW campaign

1. Registration of all asbestos
2. Actions for safe removal
3. Better skills
4. Recognition of asbestos related diseases
5. Compensation



EFBWW ASBESTOS CAMPAIGN

Cooperation is key to decision making

- Trade Unions and Trade Union Federations
- Victims Organisations
- Employer organisations
- Labour Inspectorates + SLIC + IALI
- National Prevention Institutes
- Member States

- European Commission
- European Parliament
- Council of Ministers

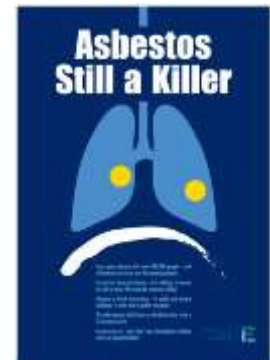
**Key EU
decision makers**

- ILO

INITIATIVE REPORT OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Major landmark in Europe

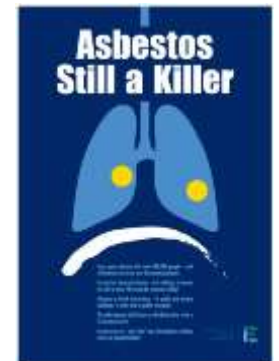
- Initiative Report adopted 14 March 2013
- Recommendation, not legislation
- Urges the Commission to take action
- Urges member states to take action
- Available in European languages



INITIATIVE REPORT OF THE EP

62 suggestions calling for

- Registration of Asbestos
- Restructuring programmes
- Training and qualification
- The recognition of all asbestos related diseases
- Support for victims
- World wide ban of asbestos



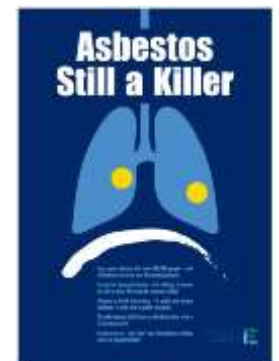
EFBWW ASBESTOS CAMPAIGN

Current task in the EU

- Valorisation of the EP Initiative Report

BUT

- How to motivate the European Commission?
- How to push decision makers at all levels?



EFBWW ASBESTOS CAMPAIGN

Project activities which involves the EFBWW

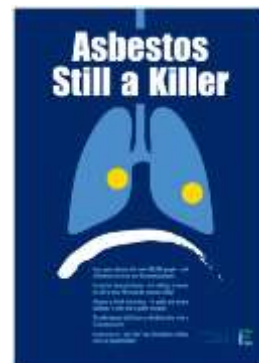
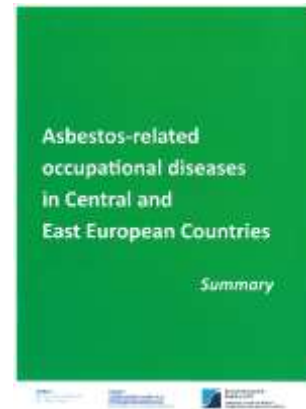
- Asbestos Information Material
 - a social partner project
- A folder with 10 information sheets
- Targeting non-asbestos workers
- Find the materials at the [EFBWW web](#)
- Join the seminars in
 - Budapest May 2014
 - Istanbul September 2014
 - Sofia October 2014
 - Brussels November 2014



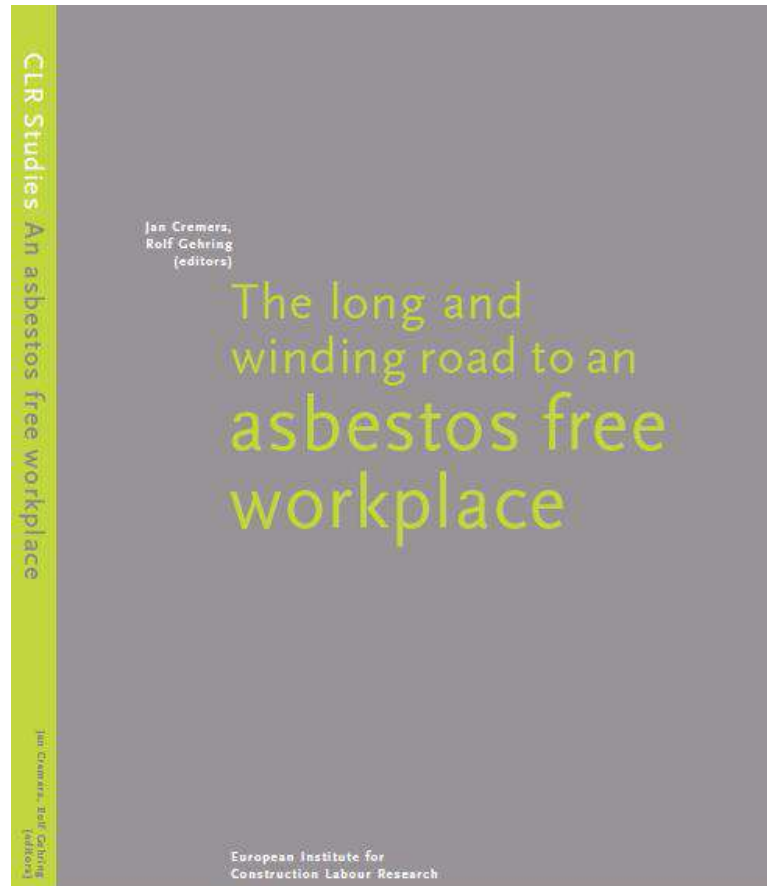
EFBWW ASBESTOS CAMPAIGN

Other activities

- Conferences & action days
- ABClean: An European certification for asbestos trainers
 - Leonardo Da Vinci project
- Recognition and Compensation
 - with IBAS and ETUC
- Mayors' Conference in Brussels
 - with victims organisations, the EU Committee of Regions and others
- More actions for the years to come



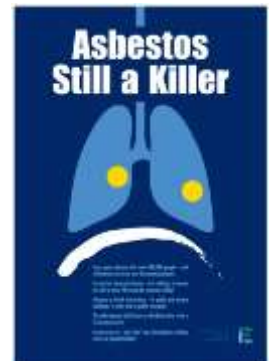
CLR STUDY ON ASBESTOS



7

CLR
Studies 7

International Books

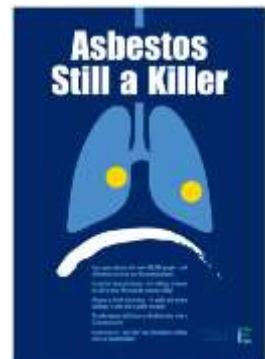


EFBWW ASBESTOS CAMPAIGN

Our main challenge ?

National initiatives are key

- Legislation, action plans, programmes etc.
- Key challenges:
 - registration & safe removal
 - training
 - inspections
 - compensation
 - etc.
- Action is needed by every EU member state
- The EFBWW affiliates must push



REFLECTIONS

1. Which lessons to take home?
2. How to improve the EFBWW campaign
 - at European level?
 - at national level?

