



Association Belge des Victimes de l'amiante
Vereniging van Asbestslachtoffers in België
Belgian association of asbestos victims



Association Nationale de Défense des
Victimes de l'Amiante, France



AVSGF • UK

ASBESTOS VICTIMS SUPPORT GROUP FORUM

November 27, 2020

Emiliano Alonso, President
International Chrysotile Association
Alonso & Asociados
Avenue des Arts 10-11, bte 10
Brussels B-1210, Belgium

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Alonso & Asociados
Serrano 3, 5 Izquierda
Madrid 28001, Spain

November 27, 2020

Dear Emiliano Alonso,

We are writing to you in your position as the President of the International Chrysotile Association.

Overwhelming scientific evidence has demonstrated that all forms of asbestos cause deadly diseases and that it is not possible to use asbestos safely. Consequently, European countries, such as Belgium and Spain, where you live and where your lobbying companies are located, as well as other countries, have banned asbestos.

Clearly, if asbestos is harmful in Belgium and Spain and other European countries, it is likewise harmful in economically developing countries, where the International Chrysotile Association promotes its use.

Clearly, the populations of economically developing countries deserve to be protected from asbestos harm just as much as the populations of European countries.

Chrysotile asbestos represents 95% of all the asbestos sold over the past century. For more than two decades, chrysotile asbestos is the only form of asbestos sold in the world.

The International Chrysotile Association (ICA) denies the scientific evidence and promotes the use of chrysotile asbestos in economically developing countries, claiming that exposure to high levels of chrysotile asbestos fibres – ten to a hundred times higher levels than permitted by European countries – causes no harm to health. Not a single reputable scientific organisation in the world supports the position of the ICA.

The ICA lobbies at the United Nations to prevent chrysotile asbestos from being put on the Rotterdam Convention's list of hazardous substances, in spite of the fact that the Convention's expert scientific committee has repeatedly for many years called for it to be listed. The ICA thus denies developing countries their right to “prior informed consent”, which is provided by the Rotterdam Convention, and succeeds in continuing to sell chrysotile asbestos as an allegedly “safe” product without warnings.

The directors of the ICA represent asbestos mining companies in Russia, Kazakhstan and Zimbabwe and asbestos industrialists in India and Mexico. The ICA is funded by these asbestos companies and promotes their interests and profits.

The world's expert health organisations, such as the World Health Organization, the International Agency for Research on Cancer, the International Commission on Occupational Health, the Union for the International Control of Cancer, the International Social Security Association, the World Federation of Public Health Associations, among others, have all called for an end to the use of any form of asbestos.

The ICA vilifies these expert scientific organizations, alleging that they are part of a corrupt, ferocious, crusade to ban asbestos, which is being fed by “big, occult interests”.

For more than 15 years you have represented the ICA at UN and other meetings helping to promote the use of asbestos in economically developing countries and you now are the President of the organization.

We call on you to show integrity and to:

- Respect the overwhelming scientific evidence that all forms of asbestos should be banned;
- Stop promoting the use of asbestos in developing countries;

- Stop disseminating misinformation that causes harm and loss of life;
- Immediately resign your position as President of the International Chrysotile Association.

We await your response.

Eric Jonckheere, Président
Association Belge des Victimes de l'Amiante, Belgium

Jacques Faugeron, Président
Association Nationale de Défense des Victimes de l'Amiante, France

Giuliana Busto, President
Associazione Familiari Vittime Amianto, Italia

Joanne Gordon, Chair
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