

# European Community

## News Release

### WORLD SYMPOSIUM ON ASBESTOS

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A World Symposium on Asbestos will be held in Montreal from May 24th to 27th, 1982, under the auspices of the Government of Canada, the Government of Quebec and the Commission of the European Communities.

Placed under the theme "Asbestos, Health and Society", the programme of the Symposium has been designed and structured in such a manner as to yield an exhaustive evaluation of the current Asbestos situation and to promote the free expression of the differing views held throughout the world on the subject.

No aspect of the Asbestos issue will be ignored during the Symposium in which will participate more than 70 speakers and panellists coming from the five continents and each recognized as an authority in his own field, as well as some 600 other representatives of the scientific and medical community, the labour movement, government and industry from 60 countries.

In this respect, the Montreal Symposium promises to be the largest multi-disciplinary gathering of international scope ever to be held to discuss the Asbestos issue. It relates to the health and safety of workers and the public, environmental protection, the safety of Asbestos-based and substitute products, and the socio-economic impact of legislation and regulations.

Thus, the Symposium will attempt to provide an answer to the major concerns deriving from the production and use of Asbestos: "Is there a practicable no-effect level of exposure for Asbestos?" "Are the workers exposed to excessive risk?" "Should Asbestos be replaced?" "Is the general population at risk from cancer due to Asbestos exposure?"

However, the Symposium will not limit itself to drawing up as objective and complete an analysis as possible of the Asbestos situation, it will also endeavour to define the future direction of research and to identify the criteria which should form the rational foundation for legislation and regulations on Asbestos.

The orientation imparted to the programme of the Symposium is in line with the objectives of the three sponsoring bodies who have taken this initiative so that the international community may be better equipped to determine, with full knowledge of the most recent scientific, medical and technological data, the limits and possibilities of reconciling economic and commercial interests with social preoccupations, including the quality of life.

 **Delegation of the Commission  
of the European Communities**  
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