

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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ORAL QUESTION (O-123/78)

with debate, pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure
by Mr W. MULLER, Mr ANDERSEN, Mr HOFFMANN, Mr HANSEN
and Mr ALBERTINI

to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: Health hazards of asbestos

In its resolution of 16 December 1977¹ adopted
on the basis of a report by its Committee on the
Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection
(Doc. 344/77) the European Parliament called on
the Commission to take steps to restrict the use
of asbestos, to press ahead with research into the
development of substitutes and to take appropriate
action on improving health protection at places of
work where asbestos is used.

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¹ OJ No C 6, 9 January 1978, p.138

Will the Commission state:

1. What specific action has so far been taken to put Parliament's demands and recommendations into effect?
2. What progress has been made towards getting asbestos included in the list of dangerous substances (Council Directive of 27 June 1967)?
3. What practical conclusions has the Commission drawn from the fact that various Member States have independently adopted national bans or restrictions on the use of asbestos or are considering doing so?
4. Does the Commission recognize that the incidence of incapacity and death from asbestosis contracted in the course of asbestos spraying has risen alarmingly, and that improved protection at the place of work is therefore urgently necessary?
5. Can it be assumed that, in response to the need to safeguard public health and to prevent distortions of competition resulting from discrepancies between the different provisions adopted by the Member States, the Commission will submit a proposal for a directive to the Council as soon as possible?