



## Vote for the 1000f/m<sup>3</sup> asbestos OEL on 27 September in EMPL

### STOP ASBESTOS DEATHS - ZERO CANCER NOW

*Honourable Member,*

We, the ETUC and the sectoral European trade union federations, represent the workers in the sectors still dealing with the deadly asbestos heritage. Among other, construction workers, firefighters, miners, and workers in cleaning or waste disposal are regularly exposed to asbestos.

On 27 September, in the EMPL Committee you will vote on the **legislative report on Protecting Workers from Asbestos** (the “Villumsen report”). The compromises agreed by all democratic political groups make excellent proposals towards better protection of workers and citizens.

#### **What is still under dispute?**

The **Occupational Exposure Limit (OEL)** determines the number of asbestos fibres per m<sup>3</sup> air allowed in workplaces without dedicated protection measures. The current EU minimum standard is set at 100.000 f/m<sup>3</sup> (0.1 f/cm<sup>3</sup>). Scientific and medical experts agree: This OEL is by far outdated.

Instead, **an OEL of 1000 fibres/m<sup>3</sup> (0,001 fibres/cm<sup>3</sup>) is urgently needed** to effectively protect workers from cancer.<sup>1</sup>

For the EMPL vote, most political groups have tabled a **compromise for a new OEL to be set at 1000 fibres/m<sup>3</sup> (0,001 fibres/cm<sup>3</sup>)**. **Please vote in favour!**

Unfortunately, an **alternative compromise** tabled by EPP and ECR **seeks to delete a concrete recommendation** by the European Parliament. **Please vote against!**

#### **Why is this so important?**

**3.17 million people have died** in the last 40 years in EU 28 as a consequence of inhaling asbestos fibres. Experts of the International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH) alert that with the outdated OEL the EU risks to continue with some **90,000 asbestos deaths every year**<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/325201013\\_Global\\_Asbestos\\_Disaster](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/325201013_Global_Asbestos_Disaster)

<sup>2</sup> The Lancet, October 2020 // <https://vizhub.healthdata.org/gbd-compare/>

European Federation  
of Building  
and Woodworkers



**Vote for the compromise with the OEL of 1000 fibres/m<sup>3</sup>**

Workers and citizens rely on you, dear Member of European Parliament, to protect them from cancer. If you are politically bound to not support the compromise with the OEL of 1000 fibres/m<sup>3</sup>, please consider abstaining. Protect the next generation of workers from death by cancer now!

Yours sincerely,

**Tom Deleu**  
General Secretary  
EFBWW

**Luca Visentini**  
General Secretary  
ETUC

**Jan-Willem Goudriaan**  
General Secretary  
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**Susan Flocken**  
European Director  
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**Livia Spera**  
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**Kristjan Bragason**  
General Secretary  
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**Luc Triangle**  
General Secretary  
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**Oliver Roethig**  
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President  
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