



## Vote for the asbestos report!

On 19 October, the plenary of the European Parliament will vote the legislative report on Protecting Workers from Asbestos. The EFBWW urges the European Parliament to adopt a firm position to protect the health of workers and calls on the Members of the European Parliament to vote for the asbestos report.

The EMPL MEPs already took the first step by agreeing on an ambitious report: They propose a European Strategy for the Removal of All Asbestos (ESRAA) with national asbestos removal programmes and public asbestos registries, support to homeowners, a revision of the EU Asbestos at Work Directive (AWD), better recognition and compensation for asbestos victims, and provisions for safe disposal of asbestos waste. All of this is in line with the EFBWW demands for better EU rules on asbestos.

Now it is time for the European Parliament to do the same and protect workers! EFBWW general secretary, Tom Deleu: “We cannot turn our backs on construction workers, firefighters, miners, and workers in cleaning or waste disposal, who are regularly exposed to asbestos. No one should be exposed to asbestos! Therefore, there is only one way and that is: Vote for the asbestos report!”. In EU 28, 3.17 million people have died in the last 40 years as a consequence of inhaling asbestos fibres. Let us stop this number from rising.

A Commission proposal to update the Asbestos at Work Directive 2009/148/EC is expected for 2022. This proposal will be the starting point for the negotiations between the two European legislators Council and the European Parliament.

### **Join us at our demonstration tomorrow!**

Construction workers, firefighters and asbestos victims will make their voices heard in front of the European Parliament tomorrow and alert MEPs to the importance of this report. The EFBWW, with the help of its French affiliates - CFDT Construction Bois, Fédération Nationale des Salariés de la Construction, Bois et Ameublement - FNSCBA-CGT, Fédération Générale FO Bâtiment, Bois, Papier, Carton, Céramique, and CFTC BATI-MAT-TP - are organising a demonstration, which will take place tomorrow between 08:00 and 11:00 am in front of the building of the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France. In addition to our delegation and to our French affiliates' delegations, the European Public Service Union (EPSU) and the French Association of Asbestos Victims (ANDEVA) will be present.

We would also like to count on your presence to raise awareness of this issue, which will remain on the agenda and will gain new relevance with the European Green Deal and the Renovation Wave. Asbestos is still present in an estimated 35 million buildings in the EU – buildings that will be renovated or demolished by workers in the course of the EU's Building Renovation Wave to reach the climate targets.

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**The European Federation of Building and Woodworkers (EFBWW)** is the European Workers' Industry Federation for the following sectors: building, woodworking, forestry and allied industries and trades. The EFBWW has 76 affiliated unions in 35 countries and represents a total of 1,500,000 members.