

**Question for written answer E-002338/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Konstantinos Arvanitis (The Left)

Subject: Asbestos in public facilities in Greece

Asbestos is yet to be removed from many public facilities in Greece such as army barracks, public buildings and landfill sites¹.

Specifically, in 2009, asbestos was found in the main Hellenic Post (ELTA) building in Patras, which was constructed in 1974. The expert who was appointed to assess the situation suggested the asbestos should be removed in full to ensure the company's compliance with Directive 2009/148/EC on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to asbestos at work.

It is now 2024 and the asbestos in the building has still not been removed, with workers reporting illnesses and deaths related to neoplastic diseases. In fact, since 2018, the company has been issued with fines by the Labour Inspectorate for putting its workers at risk. Meanwhile, the expert in question was fired² after she insisted on the need for the company to comply with the European directive.

Other such cases include the former Chitzos factory, the Markopoulos army barracks in Chania, the Greek army's Technical Equipment Training Centre, etc.

Taking into consideration Directive 2009/148/EC, which is currently in force, and its recent amendment (Directive (EU) 2023/2668), what steps does the Commission plan to take to ensure that this dangerous material is removed from public buildings, in compliance with European legislation, and to ensure the protection of the health and safety of citizens?

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¹ <https://www.in.gr/2024/07/07/greece/o-amiantos-dilitiriazeti-akomi-tin-ellada/>

² https://www.efsyn.gr/ellada/koinonia/440342_ypothesi-erin-mprokobits-sta-elta-patras