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Answer given by Mr Breton
on behalf of the European Commission
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The Commission recognises the dangers of asbestos. The revised Asbestos at work Directive[1] lays down limit values for workers' exposure to asbestos, as well as sets obligations for employers to identify and address asbestos risks in buildings[2]. In addition, the Waste Framework Directive[3] requires Member States to ensure that waste management is carried out without endangering human health or the environment.

The Commission has been engaging with EU citizens, national authorities and stakeholders to prepare the proposal on the screening and registration of asbestos in buildings. This included an event of the High-Level Construction Forum in 2022[4] and an Open Public Consultation in 2023[5].

Since then, an impact assessment has been prepared to identify the optimal combination of measures. The Commission is already advanced in its internal preparatory processes, and it will be up to the new Commission to decide on the most appropriate way forward.

[1] https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02009L0148-20231220
[2] Before beginning demolition, maintenance or renovation work on premises built before the entry into force of the Member State's asbestos ban, Article 11 provides for the employers' obligation to identify presumed materials containing asbestos, in particular by obtaining information from the owners of premises, from other employers and from other sources, including relevant registers. If such information is not available, the employer shall ensure an examination by a qualified operator.
[3] https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:02008L0098-20240218
[4] https://ec.europa.eu/docsroom/documents/53026
[5] https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/13543-Asbestos-screening-registering-and-monitoring/public-consultation_en