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Original: ITALIAN

SUPPLEMENTARY ITEM

DRAFT RESOLUTION

ON

"PROTECTION FROM ASBESTOS CONTAMINATION"

**Principal Sponsor
Mr. Claudio D'Amico
Italy**

BELGRADE, 6 JULY TO 10 JULY 2011

DRAFT RESOLUTION

Protection from Asbestos Contamination

Principal Sponsor: Claudio D'Amico, MP (Italy)

1. Whereas the term "asbestos" applies to a set of fibrous silicate minerals, and is a particularly hazardous agent since exposure to the fibre can cause long-term damage to health, and in particular to the respiratory tract,
2. Noting that some of the most common diseases among workers exposed to asbestos in the course of their employment are the formation of pleural plaques and pulmonary fibrosis known as "asbestosis". As long ago as 1935, evidence was found to associate exposure to asbestos with lung cancer. Since then it has been proven that this mineral produces *lung cancers* in humans, the extremely rare *pleural and peritoneal mesothelioma*, and an increase in cancers of the upper respiratory tract (larynx), the stomach, and perhaps also ovarian cancer, and tumours of the biliary tract, kidneys, lymph glands and, according to some writers, probably a rise in leukaemia,
3. Underlining that 70% of the cases of exposure to asbestos occur in occupational contexts, because this fibre is present in numerous working environments, with the result that large numbers of workers are being exposed to a potential health hazard,
4. Emphasising that one epidemiological problem linked to mesothelioma is the fact that many countries have no comprehensive statistical data on the spread of this pathology. This lack of data is all the more serious because it also refers to major asbestos manufacturing countries,
5. Recognising that many countries in the West have adopted specific measures to reduce the risks of exposure to asbestos and provide incentives to remove and dispose of it. Taken together, all the statutory rules and regulations introduced in different legal and supranational systems to address the asbestos problem can be reduced to attaining these three objectives: to limit damage to human health caused by exposure to asbestos by introducing an appropriate system of social security; to prevent the use of this material in the building industry; to remove asbestos from existing buildings and ensuring its disposal as special waste,
6. Noting that the rules and regulations are often not being enforced, and that despite the statutory measures introduced by governments governing the gradual disposal of asbestos, it is still present at dangerously high levels in many homes, in the roofs, pipes, drinking water tanks, chimneys or under vinyl flooring. Commonly agreed international measures should therefore be adopted to intensify the measures to combat asbestos use, monitor each others' results in this regard and promote closer scientific cooperation, also by conducting epidemiological surveys,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

7. To adopting domestic measures to ban asbestos once and for all, and advocate its gradual removal from both public buildings and private buildings and disposing of it with total security, preventing its release into the environment, the ground or underground, guaranteeing workers appropriate protection against the risks connected with exposure to asbestos during their work;
8. To monitoring the results achieved by implementing these measures, also by drafting regular reports encouraging the sharing of information on all the initiatives being taken to encourage the dissemination of best practices;
9. To promoting the introduction or the enhancement of epidemiological surveys of asbestos exposure, in order to make it possible for common preventive measures, or the early diagnosis of correlated diseases, to be adopted internationally.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT to the DRAFT RESOLUTION

on

“PROTECTION FROM ASBESTOS CONTAMINATION”

[Set out text of Amendment here:]

Principal Sponsor:

Mr/Mrs	Family Name in Capital Letters	Country	Signature

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