



SENATE OF THE PARLIAMENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

14TH TERM

97th

RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE

Delivered on the 6th session held on 25th January 2023

on the Package on the protection related to exposure to asbestos

Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2009/148/EC on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to asbestos at work /Senate Print no. N 210/13, COM(2022) 489/

Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on working towards an asbestos-free future: a European approach to addressing the health risks of asbestos /Senate Print no. K 211/13, COM(2022) 488/

Senate

I.

- 1. Welcomes** the Commission's efforts to reduce exposure to carcinogens such as asbestos as part of the Europe's beating cancer plan and the Zero pollution action plan;
- 2. Supports the Government's position**, in particular with regard to:
 - the promotion of the integrated and comprehensive approach to tackling the issue of asbestos in buildings and its impact on health and increased incidence of cancer;
 - emphasis on measurement accuracy and promoting the widest possible use of electron microscopy (EM) as a standardized measurement method;
 - efforts to improve the protection of workers from exposure to asbestos, which occurs mostly during handling and dispersal of asbestos fibres during construction work in the course of renovation or demolition of buildings with asbestos-containing materials;
 - support for a legislative proposal concerning the mandatory screening and

registration of asbestos in buildings;

- support for the exploration of alternative ways of dealing with asbestos waste in an environmentally friendly way;

3. However, the Senate draws attention to the need

- to maintain a level playing field in the EU single market, for example by ensuring that sampling and measurement methodologies are standardised and uniform across the EU;
- to minimize unnecessary administrative and economic burdens, for example, by making the registration of buildings and the screening of the presence of dangerous asbestos mandatory not across-the-board, but in the case of an imminent danger, thus for instance when buildings need to be renovated or demolished; or by making the registration of buildings mandatory for the buildings built before the complete ban on the use of asbestos in construction (in the Czech Republic in 2005);

4. Calls on the Government

to make efforts to meet the European Commission's appeals concerning:

- the best use of all specific opportunities under EU programmes and funds to cover initiatives that focus on asbestos screening and removal;
- the integration of strategies on asbestos removal in all relevant national programmes and policies, particularly in the implementation of the National Recovery Plan;
- dissemination of information on EU funding opportunities at regional and local level;

II.

1. Requests

the Government to inform the Senate no later than on 30th April 2023 about the way this Resolution was taken into account and about the further development of negotiations;

2. Authorises

the President of the Senate to forward this Resolution to the European Commission.

Miloš Vystrčil
sign manual
President of the Senate

Petr Vícha
sign manual
Senate Verifier