



The screenshot shows the Agence Europe website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for HOME, ABOUT, SUBSCRIPTIONS, and CONTACT, along with a 'Connection' button. Below the navigation bar is a large banner image depicting silhouettes of people working in an office or construction setting. The main content area displays the article title: 'European construction industry is concerned about position to be taken by European Parliament Employment and Social Affairs Committee on asbestos'. The article is dated '25 April 2023' and is categorized under 'SOCIAL - EMPLOYMENT - EDUCATION / SOCIAL'. A 'Contents' sidebar on the right lists three items: 'SUDAN: Josep Borrell welcomes successful evacuation of more than 1,200 EU nationals and calls for an urgent ceasefire', 'ETHIOPIA: EU ready to gradually normalise relations with Addis Ababa to support sustainable peace', and 'MOLDOVA: EU strengthens support for country's resilience'.

Brussels, 24/04/2023 (Agence Europe)

European construction industry is concerned about position to be taken by European Parliament Employment and Social Affairs Committee on asbestos

On Monday 24 April, two days before the vote in the European Parliament Employment and Social Affairs Committee on the revision of the directive on occupational exposure to asbestos (see [EUROPE 13153/8](#), [13160/31](#)), the European Construction Industry Federation (FIEC) expressed its concerns.

In a statement, the FIEC considers the demands to be “*unrealistic*” and says that they will have a “*very significant financial impact*”. The provisional agreement reached provides for the occupational exposure limit value (OEL) to be lowered by 100 times, from the current OEL to 0.001 fibres/cm³, within 4 years of the entry into force of the revised directive. During this transition period, it will also be necessary to organise the changeover to the electron microscopy technique, which will become the reference calculation method, whereas some countries still use the phase contrast technique.

“According to some estimates made at national level, where the OEL has been lowered by 10 times, over a period of several years, the costs of the entire asbestos removal process have been multiplied by 3 to 4, depending on the type of work to be done”, warns the FIEC.

“A more realistic approach would be sticking to the European Commission’s proposal for an OEL lowered to 0.01 fibres/cm³, coupled with a transition period of at least 5 years.”

Link to the position: <https://aeur.eu/f/6i0> (Original version in French by Solenn Paulic)