



April 15, 2013

Dear Parties to the Rotterdam Convention:

We call on every country attending the 6th Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention to support putting chrysotile asbestos on the Convention's list of hazardous substances, as the Convention's expert scientific body (the Chemical Review Committee) is, for the fourth time, recommending.

Chrysotile asbestos represents 100% of the global asbestos trade today and, over the past one hundred years, 95% of all asbestos traded was chrysotile asbestos. There is an overwhelming scientific consensus that all forms of asbestos, including chrysotile asbestos, are hazardous to health. Yet, for the past many decades, the asbestos industry covered up and denied the scientific evidence that all asbestos can cause disease and death. As a consequence, many thousands of people have lost their lives, including our loved ones and comrades.

In February 2012, an Italian court sentenced two Eternit asbestos executives to 16 years in prison for their criminal conduct in having covered up the hazards of asbestos, thus causing a human and environmental catastrophe. Yet today, the asbestos industry is exporting asbestos to developing and middle income countries, while continuing to deny its hazards.

The Rotterdam Convention requires that countries exporting hazardous substances practice responsible trade and obtain prior informed consent before exporting a hazardous substance on the Convention's list, thus enabling countries to protect the health of their citizens and the environment.

All Parties to the Convention have a duty to practice responsible trade and to respect the right of prior informed consent.

We, who have witnessed at first hand the terrible suffering and death caused by asbestos, urgently call on every Party to the Convention to support placing chrysotile asbestos on the Convention's list of hazardous substances.

Romana Blasotti Pavesi
President, AFEVA (Association of Asbestos Victims Families, Casale, Italy)
Piazza Castello 31, 15033 Casale Monf.to AL Italy

ENDORSED BY THE FOLLOWING ORGANISATIONS THAT REPRESENT THOUSANDS OF ASBESTOS VICTIMS AROUND THE WORLD:

National Association of Asbestos Victims (ANDEVA), France

Association of Asbestos Victims (ABEVA), Belgium

Asbestos Victims Support Groups' Forum (AVSGF), UK

Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization (ADAO), USA

Brazilian Association of Asbestos Exposed People (ABREA), Brazil

Spanish Federation of Associations of Asbestos Victims and Communities (FEDAVICA), Spain

Asbestos Diseases Society of Australia (ADSA), Australia

Canadian Society for Asbestos Victims (CANSAV), Canada

Korean Federation for Asbestos Victims

Occupational Health and Safety Association (OHSA), India

Asbestos Interest Group in Kuruman, South Africa

Krantikari Majdoor Sangh, Mumbai, India

Agrupación Peruana de Expuestos y Víctimas del Asbesto (APEVA), Peru

German Asbestosis Victims Group

Dutch Asbestos Victims Committee

Committee for Asbestos Mine Victims in Korea

Busan committee for asbestos Victims in Korea

Merseyside Asbestos Victims Support Group, UK

Northeast Asbestos Support and Awareness Group, UK

A Walk to Remember Victims of Asbestos – Canada and USA

Victims of Asbestos/Industrial Disease, Canada

Canadian Voices of Asbestos Victims, Canada

Saskatchewan Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization (SADAO), Canada

Japan Association of Mesothelioma and Asbestos-related Disease Victims and Their Families, Japan

Hong Kong Association for the Rights of Industrial Accident Victims (in the ARIAV), Hong Kong

Gippsland Asbestos Related Diseases Support Inc. (GARDS), Australia

Asbestos Victims Society of South Australia Inc. (ADSSA), Australia

Bernie Banton Foundation, Australia