

MICK ANTONIW MS/AS

Member of the Senedd for Pontypridd
Aelodau O'r Senedd dros Bontypridd



Mr Ruslan Stefanchuk
Head of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine
01008
Kyiv
5 Hrushevskoho Str

25 November 2021

Dear Mr Stefanchuk

I am an elected Member of the Welsh Parliament as well as the Counsel General and Minister for the Constitution in the Welsh Government.

I am a second generation Ukrainian with many family members in Ukraine whom I regularly visit.

I am also a former member of the EU Committee of the Regions task force on Ukraine. Wales is a country with a long industrial history and consequently we have had many thousands of citizens who have become ill, disabled or died as a consequence of asbestos exposure including Chrysotile asbestos.

We all support the international ban on all forms of asbestos including Chrysotile. It is therefore of great concern to me and other members of the Welsh Parliament that as a result of lobbying of vested interests Ukraine may not implement a complete ban on all forms of asbestos including Chrysotile.

We would urge you to oppose all such use and implement a full ban.

I attach below a Statement of Opinion on this issue which has been tabled in the Welsh Parliament.

Yours sincerely,

Mick Antoniw MS

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Statement of Opinion - tabled at the Welsh Parliament

1. *Asbestos in all its forms including Chrysotile Asbestos is a significant cause of industrial disease, disability and in many cases the cause of the death of people in Wales each year.*
2. *All Asbestos is banned from use in Wales as an occupational and public hazardous substance.*
3. *This Senedd Cymru/Welsh Parliament supports the international campaign to end the mining and use of asbestos and notes with concern the efforts by vested interests in Russia and Kazakhstan to continue to mine and promote asbestos products around the world and in particular in Ukraine*
4. *Supports the campaign in Ukraine to ban the use of Chrysotile asbestos.*
5. *Urges the Ukrainian Parliament to resist corporate interests and establish an immediate and complete ban on the use of Chrysotile asbestos in Ukraine.*