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## section syndicale **CGT Eternit Terssac**

**Jean-Paul Teissonnière,**  
**lawyer of the victims of industrial crimes indicted ...**  
**for defamation by the firm Eternit**

*press release, september 6, 2012*

Today in Paris, an Eternit trial is opening. Who is the defendant? Jean-Paul Teissonnière, a famous lawyer who is defending Eternit workers, victims of asbestos. He dared to publicly compare Eternit methods in France and Italy. In Turin, February 13, 2012, Stephan Schmidheiny and Louis Cartier Marchienne, former Swiss and Belgian executives of the firm Eternit have been convicted of crimes against asbestos victims and sentenced to 16 years in prison and to heavy compensation. The contribution of Eternit-France executives to the silence on asbestos health effects is equal to that of those who were condemned in Turin, one of them being none other than ... Louis Cartier de Marchienne himself! He was a member of the board of Eternit France since 1977 to 1992.

Eternit-France executives dare to say that "their company would never applied Eternit working conditions similar or comparable in any way to those in Casale Monferrato!" and claim for difamation against Jean-Paul Teissonnière who compared Eternit France and Eternit in Casale.

In the absence of diseases notification management by the Public Health institutions in France, the identification of victims is established by citizen movements. Many patients or families of dead victims remain unknown. However, between 1987 and 2011, among the workers and former workers of Eternit France, unions and associations were able to identify approximately 2,500 asbestos victims, including more than 400 deceased victims.

Such is the French justice system, which promptly acts when a multinational firm - responsible for thousands of victims – claim for defamation against the lawyer of the victims, while these victims are waiting since 15 years for their criminal claims to be taken into account.

The CGT Union of the Eternit factory in Terssac and the associations which initiate this press release pay homage to Jean-Paul Teissonnière for his unwavering commitment to the defense - in courts – of the rights of workers and families affected by asbestos. Each of their members can testify to the judge of the facts which are proving the responsibility of Eternit in the health disaster due to asbestos in France and Italy.

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