

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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31 March 1982

DOCUMENT 1-71/82

ORAL QUESTION (0-110/81)

pursuant to Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure
by Mr COLLINS, Mrs SEIBEL-EMMERLING, Mrs WEBER,
Mrs KROUWEL-VLAM, Mrs VAN HEMELDONCK, Mr BOMBARD
and Mr MUNTINGH

on behalf of the Socialist Group
to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: Asbestos Congress in Canada

Can the Commission explain what were the criteria in
its decision to sponsor this conference in Montreal
in May 1982, and what form this sponsorship will take?

Would the Commission explain why the Directorate-General
for Social Affairs had not been consulted during
preparatory work for this conference as other
Directorates-General had been?

Are they further aware that the ETUC, who were not
originally invited to participate, have interpreted
this Conference as being merely a display of publicity
for asbestos producers and manufacturers and that this
feeling has been reinforced by recent threatening
attitudes on the part of the Commission towards Sweden
if they continue to pass anti-asbestos legislation.

Does the Commission accept responsibility for the
contents of a letter sent by a Director General of

the Commission to the Swedish Government, (a letter which has been criticised in the Swedish press), threatening possible sanctions within the framework of GATT if the Swedish Government pursues its proposed legislation on asbestos?

Does the Commission approve of the fact that, on a certain number of occasions, specialists from Asbestos International Association participated in preparatory work on draft directives on asbestos, sometimes in the guise of government representatives and sometimes as representatives of the industry?