



Notification Number: 1996/259/F

Decree amending Decree No. 88-466 of 28 April 1988 concerning asbestos-containing products.

Date received : 08/07/1996
End of Standstill : Closed
Invocation of the Emergency Procedure : Yes

Message

REP PERMANENTE ROYAUME UNI

REP PERMANENTE IRLANDE

REP PERMANENTE GRECE

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ATT. MR. Z.P. MAVROUKAS

HELLINIKOS ORG. TYPOPISEOS
ATT. MR. MELAGRAKIS

DGS INTERNATIONAL BELGIUM

DEPT. OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY, QUALITY AND EDUCATION DIVISION,
ATT. MRS. B. O'GRADY

INST INDUST RESEARCH.
ATT. MR. J. NULTY

KOMMERSKOLLEGIUM
ATT. MS. KERSTIN CARLSSON

MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
ATT. MS. TOLONEN

EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION SURVEILLANCE AUTHORITY

EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION
ATT. MS. BAKKE-D'ALOYA

TELEX 002

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION - SG (96) D/51192/2



DIRECTIVES 83/189/EEC, 88/182/EEC AND 94/10/EC
TRANSLATION OF TELEX 001
NOTIFICATION 96/0259/F

- 3B1 : 9601192.EN

1. Structured Information Line

TLX 002 IND- 96 0259 F-- EN ----- 960708 --- ---

2. Member State

France

3. Department Responsible

Secretariat general du comite interministeriel pour les
questions de cooperation economique europeenne
2, boulevard Diderot - 75012 PARIS.
Delegue ministeriel aux normes
22, rue Monge - 75005 PARIS

3. Originating Department

Ministere de l'Economie et des Finances
Direction Generale de la Concurrence, de la Consommation et
de la Repression des Fraudes
59, Boulevard Vincent Auriol
75703 PARIS CEDEX 13

4. Notification Number

96/0259/F

5. Title

Decree amending Decree No. 88-466 of 28 April 1988 concerning
asbestos-containing products.

6. Products Concerned

Asbestos (chrysotile)

7. Notification Under Another Act

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8. Main Content

The aim of the Decree is to add to the list of banned
products containing asbestos in the form of chrysotile: (1)
various products for domestic use which may, as a result of
wear and tear, release asbestos fibres; (2) non-treated
insulating panels and (3) heating-insulation materials.

9. Brief Statement of Grounds

The preventive measures to counter the risks presented by
asbestos-containing products must be increased, taking into
account the risks associated with both intermittent
high-exposure and prolonged low-exposure.



10. Reference Documents - Basic Texts

Decree No. 88-466 of 28 April 1988 concerning asbestos-containing products.

11. Invocation of the Emergency Procedure

Yes.

12. Grounds for the Emergency

At the request of the Minister for Employment and Social Affairs, a report has been submitted to the government on "the danger to health presented by the main types of asbestos exposure".

This report, drawn up by a group of experts brought together by the National Institute of Health and Medical Research [French designation: INSERM], whose authority and independence are undisputed, establishes that the danger to health represented by asbestos fibres still permitted on the French market is much more serious and real than previously estimated.

In view of the fact that the continuing presence on the French market of high-consumption products for which there exist substitute chrysolite-fibre products exposes the French population to a high risk which is not justified and which may be immediately eliminated by withdrawing these products from the market, the Prime Minister has decided in favour of the immediate entry into force of the Decree forming the subject of the present Notification.

Furthermore, the French authorities are considering whether they might avail themselves of the emergency procedure provided for in amended Directive 83/189/EEC, inasmuch as they face a situation characterised:

- on the one hand, by its unforeseeable nature, connected as it is with the recent submission of the INSERM report which updates certain scientific data

- and on the other hand, by the emergence of an immediate risk;

and for which public opinion, to a large extent made aware by the media, expects immediate and specific prohibitive measures.

It should be noted that the measures in question are in line with those taken by other Member States.

13. Confidentiality

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14. Fiscal measures

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D. WILLIAMSON
COMEUR
NNNN