



Invitation to press conference

EU and ILO to start promoting global asbestos ban

Time: Wednesday 30 August 2006 12–13

**Place: Finnish Institute of Occupational Health (Työterveyslaitos)
Haartmaninkatu 1 d, Helsinki, Finland**

Asbestos kills 100 000 workers a year worldwide, according to the International Labour Office (ILO). About 40 countries have eliminated the use of asbestos, but in several countries it is still used e.g. in the construction industry. Some two million tons of asbestos is produced annually in e.g. Russia and Canada.

In Finland asbestos was banned in 1994. Cancers caused by asbestos will still appear for the next twenty years, as it can take several decades to fall ill after exposure.

The European Commission, other EU Institutions and ILO are taking steps to start promoting a global asbestos ban. In the press conference Dr. Bernhard Brückner, member of the European Senior Labour Inspectors Committee (SLIC) and Mr. Jukka Takala, director of ILO's SafeWork programme will describe the measures the EU and ILO are going to take.

Director Jaakko Itäkannas from the Finnish Ministry of Social Affairs and Health and the experts from the Finnish Institute of Occupational Health (FIOH) will talk about the regulations and health effects of asbestos, and an asbestos project in Estonia. The press conference will be chaired by professor Harri Vainio from the Finnish Institute of Occupational Health.

Additional information:

EU: Dr. Bernhard Brückner, tel. +371 7 021 520, +371 288 843 87,
bernhard.brueckner@lm.gov.lv

ILO: Mr. Jukka Takala, tel. +041 79 203 5794, jukka.takala@ilo.org

Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Finland: Mr. Jaakko Itäkannas, tel. +358 3 262 72516, +358 40 758 1105, jaakko.itakannas@stm.fi

Finnish Institute of Occupational Health: Professor Harri Vainio, +358 30 474 2340,
harri.vainio@ttl.fi

Registrations by 29 August to kristiina.kulha@ttl.fi or tel + 358 30 474 2551,
Finnish Institute of Occupational Health.

A buffet lunch will be served during the press conference.

WELCOME



MINISTRY OF
SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND HEALTH
Finland