



DA VENIAM SCRIPTIS QUORUM NON GLORIA NOBIS  
CAUSA, SED UTILITAS OFFICIUMQUE FUIT

## Chairman of Verkhovna Rada (Head of Ukrainian Parliament)

Mr. Dmytro Razumkov

Address: 01008, Ukraine, Kyiv, 5 M. Hrushevskogo Str.

E-mail: razumkov@rada.gov.ua

## Head of the Committee on Public Health, Medical Assistance and Medical Insurance of the Verkhovna Rada

Mr. Mykhailo Radutskyi

Address: 01008, Ukraine, Kyiv, 5 M. Hrushevskogo Str.

Email: radutskyi@rada.gov.ua

16 April 2021

## COLLEGIUM RAMAZZINI

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## Re: Ukraine Ban on Asbestos

Dear Mr Razumkov and Mr. Radutskyi,

The Collegium Ramazzini is an independent, international academy founded in **1982** with the mission to **advance knowledge of occupational and environmental health, prevent the occurrence of disease, and save lives.**

Our members are physicians and scientists from thirty-five countries; our mission is to **increase scientific knowledge of the environmental and occupational causes of disease** and transmit this knowledge to decision-makers, the media, and the global public to better inform public policy.

In 1999 and in 2004, the Collegium issued calls for international action to ban asbestos to prevent hundreds of thousands of "entirely preventable" deaths every year. In March 2010, the Collegium Ramazzini called again for global action on the asbestos hazard highlighting the carcinogenicity of ALL forms of asbestos, including chrysotile (white) asbestos:

"All forms of asbestos are proven human carcinogens. All forms of asbestos cause malignant mesothelioma, lung, laryngeal, and ovarian cancers, and may cause gastrointestinal and other cancers. No exposure to asbestos is without risk. Asbestos cancer victims die painful lingering deaths. These deaths are almost entirely preventable. When evidence of the carcinogenicity of asbestos became incontrovertible, concerned parties, including the Collegium Ramazzini, called for a universal ban on the mining, manufacture, and use of asbestos in all countries around the world (J Occup Environ Med. 1999;41:830-832)... in many countries that have banned other forms of asbestos, the so-called "controlled use" of chrysotile asbestos is exempted from the ban, an exemption that has no basis in medical science but rather reflects the political and economic influence of the asbestos mining and manufacturing industry. All countries of the world have an obligation to their citizens to join in the international endeavor to ban all forms of asbestos. An international ban on asbestos is urgently needed."<sup>1</sup>

It is gratifying to see that since that statement was made by the Collegium in 2010, more and more countries have banned the use of all forms of asbestos

<sup>1</sup> Asbestos Is Still with Us: Repeat Call for a Universal Ban. Collegium Ramazzini. (2010).

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/20705571/>



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including chrysotile and that even the former chrysotile-producing countries of Brazil and Canada have outlawed chrysotile asbestos production, processing, and use.

**On behalf of the Collegium, we urge the Government of Ukraine to persist with its efforts to protect citizens from deadly exposures to all types of asbestos, including chrysotile. The Collegium would be pleased to assist your efforts in any way you might find useful and we await communication from you regarding future assistance.**

Sincerely,

**COLLEGIUM RAMAZZINI**

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