

Press release

15th December 2024

## **Death of Éric Jonckheere, Chairman of ABEVA**

Éric Jonckheere, Chairman of the Belgian Association of Asbestos Victims, died on Friday evening 13 December as a result of mesothelioma, the most serious asbestos-related disease. He was 66 years old.

His illness was caused by exposure to asbestos when he was growing up near the Eternit factories in Kapelle-op-den-Bos. Four other members of his family have already died from the same causes.

ABEVA is deeply saddened. It offers its solidarity to all Éric's family, his partner and his children.

For four years, Éric resisted his illness with admirable courage and tenacity, while carrying out his duties and our fight on behalf of asbestos victims with particularly positive energy.

Éric told us again recently that he was not driven by a feeling of revenge, but above all by the imperative need for justice, recognition of wrongdoing and fair compensation for victims from those responsible for their illnesses. This is the thrust of the legal action he has taken, which has so far been successful.

This is also the meaning of his fight - our fight - to prevent such tragedies from happening again in the future, by removing asbestos from all places likely to continue to generate hazards, primarily schools and other public places, with the help of those responsible.

Naturally, ABEVA will continue to fight these battles, which it has been involved in for almost 25 years, and to which Éric has made a major and tireless contribution.

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*For further information, and until ABEVA's next general meeting, ABEVA's communications will be handled by Marc MOLITOR.*

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