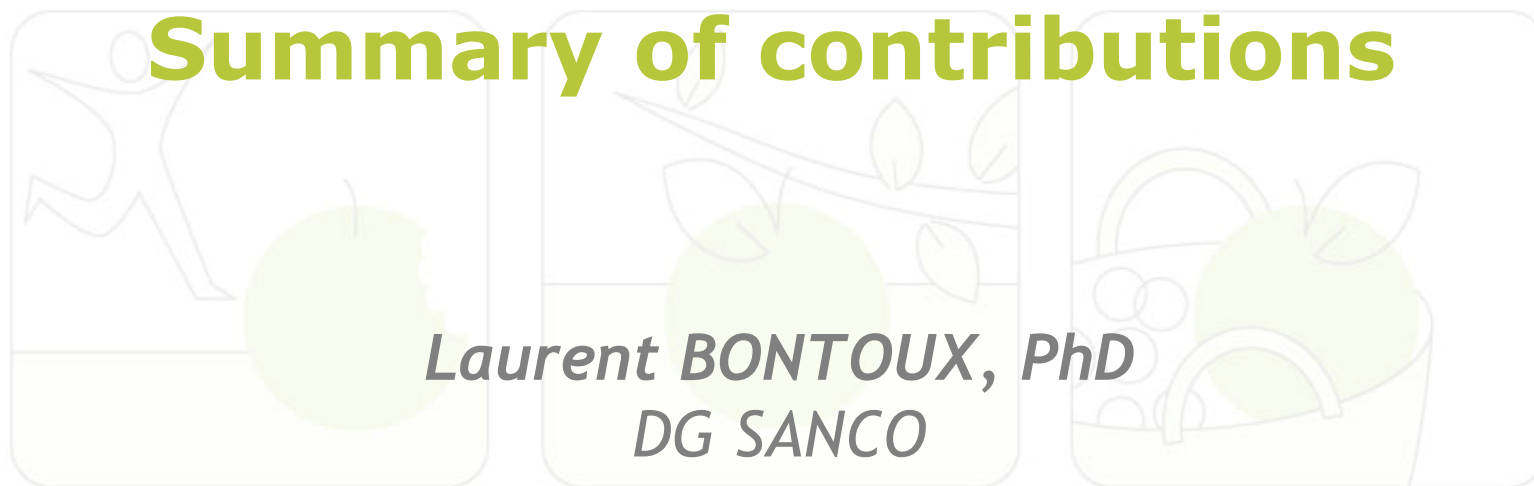




Public Consultation on Risk Assessment of Nanotechnologies: Summary of contributions



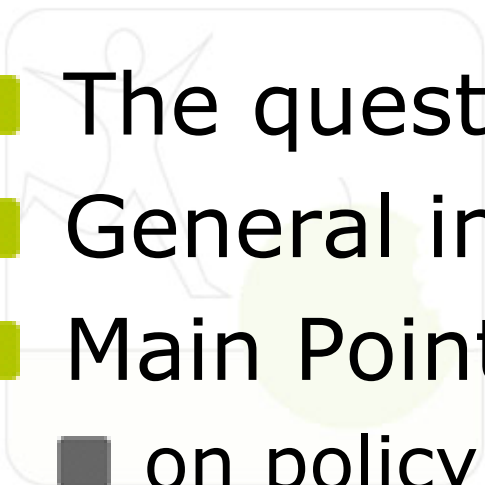
*Laurent BONTOUX, PhD
DG SANCO*

European Commission

**Scientific Hearing on Risk Assessment of Nanotechnologies
Brussels, 10 September 2009**

Structure

- The questions
- General information
- Main Points
 - on policy
 - on risk assessment
- Conclusions



The questions

- What future topics for the relevant EU Risk Assessment Committees and Bodies?
- What are the main potential risks that could emerge from the use of nanomaterials in the future?
- Other issues to be discussed at the scientific hearing on RA of nanotechnologies

General information

Type	Number
Individual	7
NGO	23
Business (companies and trade associations)	9
Public authority	5
Research organisation	4
Standardisation body	1
Withheld	8

- Several duplicates

Main policy points - 1

- Bans/moratorium on products of nanotechnologies before “sufficient” safety research has been done - Remove marketed products until they are “proven safe”
- Strong wish to know what products are on the market: calls for compulsory registration
- Strong precautionary approach
- New, adequate and effective regulation
- Research, in particular an international co-ordinated research programme

Main policy points - 2

- Consultation among regulatory bodies
- More public communication/public debate and labelling
- A new form of governance
- Assessment of the effectiveness of control measures + database of all test results available

Main points RA - 1

■ Main topics

- Exposure (Human + Environment)
- Characterisation of nanoparticles
- Development and validation of tools and methods
- Definitions

■ Overall, strong focus on risks at the work place

■ Many agree with case by case approach to risk assessment

Main points RA - 2

- Much support for current EU RA approach; desire to collaborate with EU authorities
- General industry support for the SCENIHR approach and some support for SCENIHR's "Expert Judgement Matrix" and for a tiered approach to RA. Some NGOs call for doing away with in vivo tests
- General call for the refinement and validation of methods and for the development of international standards
- Call for a life-cycle approach to identify hazards; must address end of life issues

Main points RA - 3

- Many want clear definitions. Nanotechnologies vs engineered nanoparticles. No support for definitions based on a single physico-chemical property (e.g. size). Distinction carbon based nanosubstances vs other nanoparticles?
- Specific surface area of nanomaterials generates debates but there are proposals to classify engineered nanoparticles according to their physico-chemical structure.
- Some blanket requests for "*extensive investigation of risks from the use of products from nanotechnologies in all sectors and circumstances*".

Main points RA - 4

- Concern that risk management be "*complete, scientifically sound and evidence-based*". Some stakeholders also call for risks/benefits evaluation
- Issues of dose metrics, the migration of engineered nanomaterials, toxicokinetics and biological effects
- Many calls for closing the current data and knowledge gaps
- Defense of nano TiO₂

Main points RA - 1

- But how to make best use of the existing scientific evidence?
- How fast can updates be reasonably performed?
- How to determine the best balance between general and specific?

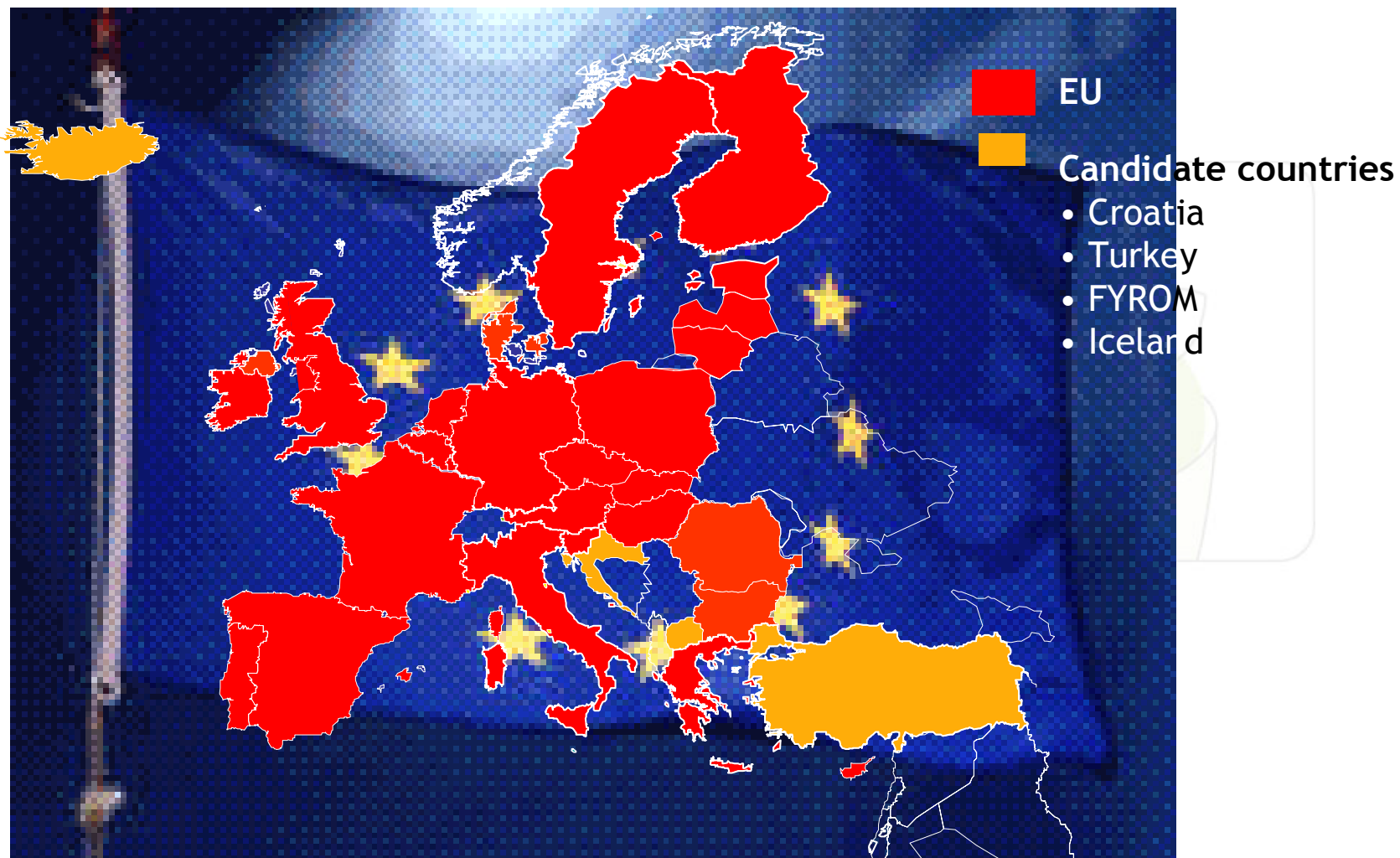
Conclusions

- Responses focussed mostly on policy issues and research needs than on future work of SCs
- But how to make best use of the existing scientific evidence for Risk Assessment?
- How fast can updates be reasonably performed?
- How to determine the best balance between general and specific?

Looking forward to interesting discussion today!



Thank you for your attention!



This paper was produced for a meeting organized by Health & Consumers DG and represents the views of its author on the subject. These views have not been adopted or in any way approved by the Commission and should not be relied upon as a statement of the Commission's or Health & Consumers DG's views. The European Commission does not guarantee the accuracy of the data included in this paper, nor does it accept responsibility for any use made thereof.