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Public Consultation on Risk Assessment of Nanotechnologies: Summary of contributions

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Scientific Hearing on Risk Assessment of Nanotechnologies
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Structure

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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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?

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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!

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Thank you for your attention!