

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

8.5.2006

PE 371.772v01-00

## AMENDMENTS 1-20

### Draft opinion

(PE 370.108v02-00)

**Philippe Busquin**

Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee - Nanosciences and nanotechnologies: An action plan for Europe 2005-2009  
(COM(2005)0243 – 2006/2004(INI))

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Amendment by Hiltrud Breyer

Amendment 1

Paragraph 1

1. Emphasises ***that*** the advances which the development of nanosciences and nanotechnologies (N&N) ***might have*** the potential to help bring about in a significant number of policy areas directly affecting citizens (public health, energy, transport, sustainable development, etc) ***should be assessed against the full range of potential risks of N&N to human health and the environment as well as their social and ethical implications before any N&N based products are put on the market;***

Or. en

Amendment by Hiltrud Breyer

Amendment 2

Paragraph 1 a (new)

- 1a. Considers that the Commission's action plan is unbalanced insofar as it calls for major support for Research and Development (R&D) as well as the transformation of that knowledge into products to be brought onto the market even though very little is known about the risks of N&N, and even though the Commission admits that toxicity and potential health effects may increase with the very nature of N&N;*

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Amendment by Hiltrud Breyer

Amendment 3  
Paragraph 1 b (new)

***1b. Points to the opinion of the Commission's Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks (SCENIHR) adopted on 28-29 September 2005 which concluded that there are "major gaps in the knowledge necessary for risk assessment. These include nanoparticle characterisation, the detection and measurement of nanoparticles, the dose-response, fate, and persistence of nanoparticles in humans and in the environment, and all aspects of toxicology and environmental toxicology related to nanoparticles". Furthermore points to the conclusion of SCENIHR that "existing toxicological and ecotoxicological methods may not be sufficient to address all of the issues arising with nanoparticles";***

Or. en

Amendment by Hiltrud Breyer

Amendment 4  
Paragraph 1 c (new)

***1c. Is very concerned that in light of the new and different properties of products based on N&N and the methodological deficiencies to adequately assess such products, the current legislative framework is not sufficient to address the risks of N&N products; is shocked to learn from SCENIHR that despite the lack of an adequate legislative framework, nanoparticles are already being used in sensitive consumer products such as inter alia cosmetics, detergents, paints and textiles; considers that all consumer products based on N&N should be recalled given the absence of the necessary checks and balances;***

Or. en

Amendment by Hiltrud Breyer

Amendment 5  
Paragraph 2

***2. Considers that the resources devoted to research in the field of N&N should be***

*strictly limited to those areas which exclude any exposure of workers or the general public, as well as any releases to the environment, until a specific regulatory system on N&N is put in place which allows for the detection and measurement of nanoparticles, appropriate risk assessment and which ensures traceability, labelling and liability of products based on N&N;*

Or. en

Amendment by Hiltrud Breyer

Amendment 6  
Paragraph 2 a (new)

**2a.** *Considers that Community support for research in the field of N&N should only be given to projects that spend at least half of the available resources into assessing the risks of N&N;*

Or. en

Amendment by Hiltrud Breyer

Amendment 7  
Paragraph 3

**3.** *Emphasises the importance of creating (**deletion**) a genuine dialogue between all of the stakeholders associated with N&N and between the latter and the public in general before products based on N&N are put on the market;*

Or. en

Amendment by Johannes Blokland

Amendment 8  
Paragraph 4

**Delete**

Or. nl

Amendment by Hiltrud Breyer

Amendment 9

Paragraph 4

4. Stresses the need for ambitious ***and balanced*** information campaigns aimed at improving the public's level of knowledge, in order to enable the challenges ***and implications*** associated with N&N to be better understood;

Or. en

Amendment by Hiltrud Breyer

Amendment 10

Paragraph 5

5. Supports the setting up of ethical committees which, by providing independent ***ethical*** advice, ***can help avoid unethical R&D in N&N and can*** help ensure that the public is properly informed ***about the ethical questions raised by N&N***;

Or. en

Amendment by Hiltrud Breyer

Amendment 11

Paragraph 6

6. Stresses that corporate social responsibility must be shown by businesses, which must help disseminate objective information ***about*** scientific discoveries in the N&N field, ***their intended uses, and their risks and benefits for society***;

Or. en

Amendment by Hiltrud Breyer

Amendment 12

Paragraph 7

7. Emphasises that all applications and uses of N&N must comply with the high level of protection for human health, consumers, workers and the environment laid down by the European Union; ***as a consequence, calls on the Commission to provide a report to the European Parliament by the end of 2006 to assess what adaptations are necessary to the acquis to be able to ensure such high level of protection for all applications and uses of N&N***;

Amendment by Evangelia Tzampazi

Amendment 13

Paragraph 7

7. Emphasises that all applications and uses of N&N must comply with the high level of protection for human health, consumers, workers and the environment laid down by the European Union ***and insists on the need for the codification of nanomaterials, which will lead to the drawing up of standards, which will in turn boost efforts to identify any risks, calls on the Commission to take the necessary initiatives to this effect;***

Or. el

Amendment by Johannes Blokland

Amendment 14

Paragraph 7 a (new)

- 7a. ***Points out that detailed European and national legislation exists to protect personal privacy and that the ever-greater miniaturisation of equipment, combined with developments in the ICT sphere, are increasing the risk of the inadvertent disclosure or unethical use of confidential information; therefore calls for further investigation of the effectiveness of European legislation in the light of these developments;***

Or. nl

Amendment by Johannes Blokland

Amendment 15

Paragraph 7 b (new)

- 7b. ***Emphasises that understanding of the potential damage to health and the environment of new, synthetic nanoparticles is still limited and, consequently, the effects of nanoparticles that are not readily soluble or biodegradable should be investigated, in accordance with the precautionary principle, before such particles go into production and are put on the market;***

Or. nl

Amendment by Hiltrud Breyer

Amendment 16

Paragraph 8

8. Stresses that assessment of the technological risks posed (from conception to disposal or recycling) to human health, consumers, workers and the environment must be carried out throughout the life cycle of N&N products ***before they are put onto the market;***

Or. en

Amendment by Johannes Blokland

Amendment 17

Paragraph 8 a (new)

- 8a. Considers that within the framework of the new European chemicals legislation (REACH) nanoforms of existing materials should be treated as new substances, because of their unique properties; in particular, the question of whether the threshold levels for production and import laid down within that framework are also adequate for nanoparticles should be investigated .***

Or. nl

Amendment by Hiltrud Breyer

Amendment 18

Paragraph 9

9. ***Considers that*** the importance of miniaturisation of products with regard to helping reduce waste and ensure better use of energy ***due to N&N needs to be balanced against the risks of N&N;***

Or. en

Amendment by Hiltrud Breyer

Amendment 19

Paragraph 10

10. ***Considers that*** the Commission ***has failed*** to address problems at an early stage with a view to the development of these ***(deletion)*** future technologies, ***as manifold products are already on the market in very sensitive applications, even though the current***

*regulatory regime is not equipped to deal with the specific risks of N&N;*

Or. en

Amendment by Hiltrud Breyer

Amendment 20

Paragraph 11

11. Supports *(deletion)* the Commission to play a role and speak with one voice on the international stage *to ensure a balanced discussion of N&N.*

Or. en