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Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

**PROVISIONAL
2006/2004(INI)**

4.4.2006

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

for the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

on Nanosciences and nanotechnologies: An action plan for Europe 2005-2009
(2006/2004(INI))

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety calls on the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Emphasises the advances which the development of nanosciences and nanotechnologies (N&N) has the potential to help bring about in a significant number of policy areas directly affecting citizens (public health, energy, transport, sustainable development, etc);
2. Supports the Commission's readiness to very substantially increase the resources devoted to research in the field of N&N, which is of fundamental importance to Europe's future development;
3. Emphasises the importance of creating the conditions for a genuine dialogue between all of the stakeholders associated with N&N and between the latter and the public in general;
4. Stresses the need for ambitious information campaigns aimed at improving the public's level of knowledge, in order to enable the challenges associated with N&N to be better understood;
5. Supports the setting up of ethical committees which, by providing independent scientific advice, will help ensure that the public is properly informed and help create a climate of trust based on awareness of the possible risks and the benefits associated with the use of discoveries in the field of nanotechnologies;
6. Stresses that corporate social responsibility must be shown by businesses, which must help disseminate objective information and mobilise scientific discoveries in the N&N field in order to contribute to sustainable development and improvement of citizens' living conditions;
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;
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;
9. Emphasises the importance of miniaturisation of products with regard to helping reduce waste and ensure better use of energy;
10. Supports the Commission's intention to address problems at an early stage with a view to the development of these promising future technologies;
11. Supports the efforts made by the Commission to play a role and speak with one voice on the international stage.