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Environmental Law

Information on potential environmental risks in new products

The case of nanomaterials

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Environmental information on product, making public access work

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WHAT ARE NANOs ?

- Very small (DNA strand 2nm, Red blood cell 1000nm, human hair is 80.000 nm wide, ...)
- Different properties from their bulk counterparts
 - Gold
 - Carbon
- Nanomaterials present in over 2500 products (“educated guess”):
Cosmetics, food, sport equipment, medical appliances, textiles, electronic devices, household products, building materials, chemicals intermediary, and more... ?



WHAT WE DO KNOW....

- Toxicology is different
- Some NMs can go in places when 'normal' chemical cannot go (Blood brain/placenta barrier)
- Trans generational effects
- Some CNTs behave like asbestos
- Some NMs have an impact on soil ecology, fish species, algae etc...



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AND DON'T KNOW....

- What exactly makes a nano toxic,
- Many aspect of toxicity (Toxokinetics, influence of coatings....)
- Which materials are out there
- How much of it there is
- What products contains nano...



What does the consumer know?

- Very little, Great discrepancies from one jurisdiction to another
- EU is most advanced with some interesting initiatives
 - Cosmetic regulation (EC No 1223/2009)
 - Biocide directive (98/8/EC)
 - Food information to consumers (EU No 1169/2011)
- The Strategic Approach for International Chemical Management (SAICM)
- **Implementation of Article 5.8 of Aarhus is still largely unsatisfactory in relation to NMs**



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BUT

Consumer info (art 5.8 Aarhus) is only one part of the problem...

Important to look at Art 5.1 a) and b) Aarhus which are required pre-conditions to public information and probably more problematic in the present case.



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Thank you for your attention

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Find out more about our activities at

www.ciel.org

<http://www.ipen.org/ipenweb/work/nano.html>