



Brussels, 09 January 2013

Dear members of the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety Committee,

The undersigned NGOs and Trade Unions are writing to ask you, as representatives of EU citizens, to echo our concerns in relation to the way nanomaterials are currently being addressed within the EU regulatory framework. As you know, the European Commission published a second regulatory review in October 2012, together with a staff-working document, in response to the European Parliament's Resolution of 24 April 2009 on regulatory aspects of nanomaterials.

Trade unions, consumer organizations, and environmental NGOs are extremely concerned about the questionable scientific basis of the document, as well as serious inconsistencies between the scientific assessments of the situation (in the staff working document) and the (absence of) regulatory responses put forward to address the safe production and use of nanomaterials.

The review's only concrete suggestion is a slight amendment of REACH annexes and guidance documents. This very limited proposal grossly fails to address the current loopholes of the nano regulatory framework, REACH in particular, as confirmed by numerous reports¹. It further fails to take into consideration all but one suggestion (regarding the definition) of the European Parliament's Resolution of 24 April 2009 on regulatory aspects of nanomaterials.

The regulatory review does not address the need to register nanomaterials below one ton, the need to consider nanomaterials as new substances, or the need to have a chemical safety report for nanomaterials. Similarly, no EU-level register of products containing nanomaterials is foreseen, despite the call for such a register by the Parliament and several Member States.

Given the weakness of these initiatives announced by the Commission, we invite you to voice your concerns, and to demand on behalf of European citizens, that significant actions are implemented within the EU - as a matter of urgency to prevent the potential risks of nanomaterials and to ensure that further development of this new technology proceeds safely.

In annex, you will find the letter that NGOs and Trade Unions have sent to the Commission with our concerns and proposals for urgent actions, as well as the largely unsatisfactory response of the Commission.

Yours sincerely,

SIGNATORIES

¹ See for example: "[Just out of REACH](#)", how REACH is failing to regulate nanomaterials and how it can be fixed", or "[High time to act on Nanomaterials](#)".



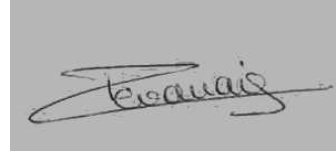
Jeremy Wates,
Secretary General
European Environmental Bureau – EEB



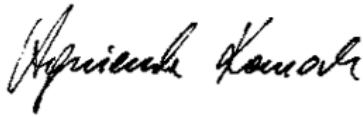
Bernadette Ségol,
Secretary General
European Trade Union Confederation – ETUC



Monique Goyens,
Director General
The European Consumers Organisation - BEUC



Laura Degallaix,
Secretary General
European Environmental Citizens' Organisation for
Standardisation – ECOS



Agnieszka Komoch
Acting director
Friends of the Earth Europe



Olaf Bandt
Director Policy and Communications
BUND e.V. (Friends of the Earth Germany)



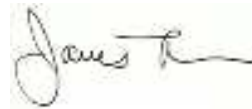
Stephen Russell
Secretary General
The European Consumer voice in Standardisation
ANEC



Sascha Gabizon
Executive Director
Women in Europe for a common Future - WECF



David Azoulay
Managing attorney
The Centre for International Environmental Law
CIEL



James Thornton
CEO
ClientEarth

Annexes:

- 1- Letter to Commissioners
- 2- Response from Commissioners