

# REACHforLIFE Press Release



## REACHforLIFE speaks up for science in EU nanotech laws

**Brussels 24 April 2009:** With the adoption today of MEP Carl Schlyter's report in the European Parliament on the "Regulatory aspects of nanomaterials", REACHforLIFE would like to lend its support to the report's call for "an EU-wide public debate on nanotechnologies and nanomaterials and on the regulatory aspects of nanomaterials."<sup>1</sup> Nevertheless, REACHforLIFE appeals to decision-makers to bear in mind three critical points during this debate.

Firstly, **sound science should underpin policy-making in the field of nanotechnology, therefore ensuring that EU regulation is rational.** The Foundation Nanonet, a non-profit organisation which aims to popularise and promote knowledge about nanotechnologies in society, supports this point, affirming that: *"Science is crucial in protecting consumers and the environment which is sufficient reason to ensure that it is given proper consideration in the legislative process concerning nanotechnologies."*

Secondly, **the incorporation of provisions concerning nanomaterials in cross-cutting EU policies should not lead to contradictions and overlaps.** Past experience teaches us that it is all too easy to overlook Better Regulation in the formulation of horizontal laws, thereby resulting in legislation which is contradictory rather than consistent.

Thirdly, research into nanotechnologies has attracted increasing investment, but **REACHforLIFE cautions against improper and conflicting legislation that could result in stunting a vital and burgeoning area for research in Europe.**

### **About REACHforLIFE**

The objective of REACHforLIFE is to launch a debate, the aim of which is to move away from a mistrust of science and towards a balanced approach in applying sound scientific evidence in the EU decision-making process. In particular it is calling for the official scientific risk assessments to be trusted and upheld in the EU's legislative infrastructure.

Our campaign is pan-European, embracing the Brussels regulatory landscape and the EU Member States, particularly France, Germany, the Netherlands, and the UK.

REACHforLIFE was founded in June 2008 and currently comprises the companies Albemarle, Chemtura, and ICL-IP – [www.reachforlife.eu](http://www.reachforlife.eu)

REACHforLIFE will be hosting a series of roundtables on the proper use of science in policy-making during the months of May and June, and any organisation interested in participating may contact the REACHforLIFE Press Office – [pressoffice@reachforlife.eu](mailto:pressoffice@reachforlife.eu)

<sup>1</sup> [Regulatory aspects of nanomaterials](#), 07.04.2009 p. 13

#### **About Foundation Nanonet**

Foundation NANONET is a non-profit organization which aims to popularize and promote knowledge about nanotechnologies in the society, to inform about the importance of nanotechnologies for health and environment as well as to support the transfer of knowledge and innovation between research groups and companies. Further information is available at [www.nanonet.pl](http://www.nanonet.pl)

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