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COMPLETE

Collector: Nano Consult - Industry (Web Link)
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PAGE 2: Section I - Identification

Q1: Please provide the following details (*compulsory):

Organisation*:	Precheza
Town/City:	Prerov
Country*:	Czech republic
Contact name:	Petr Pikal
E-mail address:	

Q2: Received contributions may be published on the Commission's website, with the identity of the contributor. Please state your preference with regard to the publication of your contribution:

My contribution may be published under the name indicated

Q3: We might need to contact you to clarify some of your answers. Please state your preference below:

I am available to be contacted

Q4: Did your organisation participate in the online survey (undertaken by RPA/BiPRO for the European Commission in early 2014) on the administrative burden of the notification schemes?

Yes

PAGE 3: Section II - Organisation Information

Q5: Please indicate which of the following applies to you or your members (tick all that apply):

Respondent skipped this question

Q6: Please indicate the four-digit NACE code of your primary and secondary business sector (if applicable). If you require information regarding NACE codes, please visit the European Commission Competition webpage at http://ec.europa.eu/competition/mergers/cases/index/nace_all.html

Respondent skipped this question

Q7: Please indicate the number of employees.

Respondent skipped this question

Q8: Please indicate the approximate annual turnover of your organisation and the annual turnover which relates to nano-related products (where these include nanomaterials as well as mixtures and articles containing nanomaterials).

Respondent skipped this question

Q9: Please indicate the number of nano-related products (where these include nanomaterials as well as mixtures and articles containing nanomaterials) that you place on the national market.

Respondent skipped this question

Q10: Please indicate the number of nano-related products (where these include nanomaterials as well as mixtures and articles containing nanomaterials) that you place on the EU market.

Respondent skipped this question

Q11: Please indicate the number of nano-related products (where these include nanomaterials as well as mixtures and articles containing nanomaterials) that you place on the global market.

Respondent skipped this question

Q12: Please indicate the number of customers and, if applicable, number of suppliers for all your nano-related products combined (where these include nanomaterials as well as mixtures and articles containing nanomaterials).

Respondent skipped this question

PAGE 4: Section III – Problem definition and objectives

Q13: Please rate the importance of the following objectives on a scale between 1 (not important at all) and 5 (very important).

- | | |
|--|---|
| a) Provide decision makers, regulatory authorities and professional users with information that allows for an appropriate response to health or environmental risks of nanomaterials | 4 |
| b) Provide consumers with relevant information on products containing nanomaterials on the market | 3 |
| c) Maintain competitiveness and innovation of businesses bringing nanomaterials or products containing nanomaterials to the market (including SMEs) | 4 |
| d) Ensure consumer trust in products containing nanomaterials | 5 |
| e) Ensure the availability of relevant information on the presence of nanomaterials or products containing nanomaterials on the market | 3 |
| f) Ensure the proportionality of the information requirements and the associated costs and administrative burden. | 4 |
| g) Protect confidential business information | 4 |

Q14: To what degree (from 1 - not at all to 5 - fully) does the current legislative framework (including the REACH and CLP Regulations and product-specific legislation) and the currently available databases (including the JRC web platform, see http://ihcp.jrc.ec.europa.eu/our_databases/web-platform-on-nanomaterials) meet the following objectives?

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| a) Provide decision makers, regulatory authorities and professional users with information that allows for an appropriate response to health or environmental risks of nanomaterials | 5 |
| b) Provide consumers with relevant information on products containing nanomaterials on the market | Do not know |
| c) Maintain competitiveness and innovation of businesses bringing nanomaterials or products containing nanomaterials to the market (including SMEs) | 2 |
| d) Ensure consumer trust in products containing nanomaterials | 2 |
| e) Ensure the availability of relevant information on the presence of nanomaterials or products containing nanomaterials on the market | 4 |
| f) Ensure the proportionality of the information requirements and the associated costs and administrative burden. | 3 |
| g) Protect confidential business information | 3 |

Q15: To what extent do you agree with the following statements from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree):

- | | |
|---|---|
| a) The current level of available information on the presence of nanomaterials and products containing nanomaterials on the market is insufficient for an adequate response to health and environmental risks | 2 |
| b) The current level of available information on the presence of nanomaterials and products containing nanomaterials on the market is insufficient for informed consumer choice | 2 |
| c) The current level of available information on the presence of nanomaterials and products containing nanomaterials on the market is detrimental to consumer trust | 3 |
| d) The available information on the presence of nanomaterials and products containing nanomaterials on the market is presented in an incoherent or ineffective way | 4 |
| e) The establishment of national registries and notification schemes causes market fragmentation and hampers trade within the internal market | 5 |

Q16: With regard to health and environmental hazards and risks of specific nanomaterials/types of nanomaterials, please tick the relevant boxes:

I am aware of health and/or environmental hazards of specific nanomaterials/types of nanomaterials

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I am not aware of any classified nanomaterials,

I am aware of DNELs/PNECs/OELs set for specific nanomaterials/types of nanomaterials

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I am aware of significant exposure of workers/users/consumers to specific nanomaterials/types of nanomaterials

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Please explain your responses (if any, please report the nanomaterials, the health and/or environmental hazards, any relevant classification, any DNELs/PNECs/OELs, any exposure and in which condition):

There are many classified materials and their nanoform shall be classified the same way. However I do not know any material which is classified as nanomaterial but not classified as not nano chemical, maybe with exception of metals or flammable/oxidable materials which in case of dust like particles (mostly not in nano range) can be explosive or self igniting.

Q17: With regard to the past and current use of nanomaterials (tick the relevant box):

I am not aware of any health and/or environmental incidents which have occurred

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Please explain (if any, please report the events and any scientific publication):

Although there are many articles regarding negative effects of nanomaterials I am not aware of any real incident which can be attributed to nanomaterials even that some nanomaterials are produced in big quantities for decades (carbon black, SiO₂, TiO₂).

Q18: The establishment of an EU nanomaterial registry (tick the relevant box):

Would not significantly contribute to reducing the health and/or environmental risks related to the use of nanomaterials

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If appropriate, please explain further:

There is clear evidence that nanomaterials are not more hazardous than materials with bigger particles. Nanotoxicity: challenging the myth of nano-specific toxicity, Ken Donaldson and Craig A Poland, Current Opinion in Biotechnology 2013, 24:1–11. So simple registration of all nanomaterials does not contribute to reducing any risks.

Q19: In case information on the presence of nanomaterials in your products were made available, what impact do you think this would have on your clients? (Please tick all that would apply)

- b) They would try to avoid those products,
- c) Their purchasing decisions would not be affected
- ,
- d) They would search for more information,

Please explain:

With all discussions about nanomaterials, general public tend to perceive nanomaterial and nanotechnology as a threat instead of benefit. Therefore although nanotechnology is declared as Key Enabling Technology, there is substantial effort to give it negative label and finally to ban it from EU.

Q20: Do you believe that the public availability of information on the presence of nanomaterials in products would be likely to...(choose one of the following answers)

- c) generate insecurity or stigmatise such products, and thus have a negative effect on the market for the concerned products
- ,

Comments:

There is widely increasing misunderstanding that nano = toxic which is not true. In sunscreens the only working TiO₂ material is nanoTiO₂ and many studies confirmed that there is negligible risk regarding this particular material. So uninformed customer tends to use sunscreen without nano label although it can perform much worse than similar sunscreen with nano TiO₂.

PAGE 7: Section VI - Innovation and competitiveness

Q21: With regard to innovation, do you believe that information on nanomaterials and products containing nanomaterials that could be gathered in a nanomaterial registry would...(choose one of the following answers)

- c) hamper innovation in the EU (e.g. through concerns about confidential business information or through additional costs related to providing information)
- ,

Comments:

Resulting impact of such registry will strongly depend on the way how it is maintained and advertised and what information it will provide to possible audience. If it creates more trust than fear then it could be beneficial. However when I look at French nanoregister web page I do not find any help for making up my mind about nanomaterials.

Q22: With regard to competitiveness of EU companies manufacturing nanomaterials or products containing nanomaterials, do you believe that information on nanomaterials and products containing nanomaterials that could be gathered in a nanomaterial registry would...(tick all that apply)

- f) hamper the competitiveness of European companies against extra-EU companies
- ,

Please explain

Again the result depends on a way the registry is maintained. However I am pessimistic about its impact.

PAGE 8: Section VII – Possible impact of a registry on your company/members of your association

Q23: Overall, how would a possible obligation to notify nanomaterials at the EU level affect your company/the members of your association, assuming that no exemptions were to be made from 1 (no impact) to 5 (significant impact):

- | | |
|--|---|
| a) with respect to nanomaterials on their own | 4 |
| b) with respect to nanomaterials in mixtures | 4 |
| c) with respect to articles with intended release of the nanomaterials | 1 |
| d) with respect to articles containing nanomaterials in general (i.e. in case also articles without an intended release of nanomaterials were to be covered) | 1 |

Please explain:

We produce nano TiO₂ and its suspensions. Some iron oxide pigments can also be regarded as nanomaterials (although they are used without any change from stone age). So we produce only nanomaterials as such or their simple mixtures.

Q24: Would disclosure of the notified information conflict with the confidentiality of business information?

Yes, there would be a conflict with business information confidentiality

If yes, please elaborate; you may differentiate according to the different information that may be required in a notification scheme (e.g.: if a notification is only per substance and general use, or if the exact use needs to be disclosed): Confidentiality depends on extent of information required.

Q25: Do you experience or expect any significant barriers for your company/members of your association from diverging registration obligations in the schemes in France/Belgium/Denmark?

Yes, we foresee significant barriers,

If yes, please describe these barriers? If each country has its own registry with specific nanomaterial definition and differing scope of information together with specific exclusions from registration then one material is considered nano in one country but not nano in other. I perceive this as a first step to market divergence of EU.

Q26: Is the market for your nanomaterials/products containing nanomaterials significantly different from Member State to Member State?

No, there is not any significant difference in the national markets for our products

Q27: In case the European Commission were to recommend a best practice model for national notification schemes based on the experiences in France, Belgium and Denmark, which elements of these systems can be considered as “best practice”?

I do not see any “best practice” in notification of all nanomaterial without respecting their real and proven toxic or other hazardous properties.

Q28: What would be the added value of a notification per use (i.e. for each mixture/article) compared to a notification per substance? – Please consider the usefulness of the information for public authorities, downstream user companies, workers and consumers.

Nanomaterials per se are not hazardous. Hazards of many materials can be quite well predicted from its chemical properties. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dust_explosion. Therefore notification per use do not add value as SDS shall contain all relevant information for safe use and handling of any chemical.

Q29: Which actors along the supply chain should be subject to notification requirements? (tick all that apply):

a) Manufacturers of nanomaterials,

b) Importers of nanomaterials,

Please explain:

If it was notification requirement (which is not a good way how to handle possible risks) I would keep it to those who shall have most information about their material. But until there is no clear and commonly understandable way how to define (and measure) what is and is not nanomaterial, registry does not enlighten the subject of nanomaterials.

Q30: The following should be subject to notification requirements (tick all that apply):

a) Substances,

b) Mixtures containing nanomaterials,

c) Articles with intended release of nanomaterials

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Please explain:

The same explanation as point 2 above.

Q31: Is there a need to exempt certain types of nanomaterials?

Yes, certain types of nanomaterials should be exempted from a notification system

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If yes, which types should be exempted and why? (in terms of specific properties, available knowledge, absence of hazards, etc.)

It depends on what is intended use of such registry. Basically I would keep away from registration such materials which are used for many years, with available long term epidemiological studies and/or proven toxicity information and safe history of use.

Q32: Is there a need to exempt certain uses of nanomaterials?

Yes, certain uses of nanomaterials should be exempted from a notification system

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If yes, which uses should be exempted and why? (in terms of specific exposure scenarios, available knowledge, absence of hazards, etc.)

Some nanomaterials are used in solid matrices and are not under reasonable circumstances expected to release from it.

Q33: If a Nanomaterials Observatory is established instead of an EU-wide registry, what type of information should be collected? (please tick all that apply)

- a) Information from existing notification systems,
- e) Information on the hazards and risks of nanomaterials

Q34: How should the information in a Nanomaterials Observatory be presented in order to reach the consumers, workers and authorities?

Through web page with easy access for everybody. Hazards and risks but also performance and benefits needs to be presented in comprehensible and neutral way. Possible interactive Q&A list like stackexchange.com. Maybe some staff which will be able to moderate discussions and also answer questions or find relevant information, consult it with experts, process it and present to web interface.

PAGE 11: Section X - Potential use and benefits of a nanomaterial registry

Q35: In what ways could the information on nanomaterials from registries be potentially useful (tick all that apply):

- e) Informed purchasing decisions by consumers,
- f) General education of the public

Q36: Please give a justification for your views (presented in the previous question) and describe which data would be necessary to allow the desired use (e.g. would information on substances alone be enough for informed consumer purchase decisions, or would this require information for each concerned product):

If the registry was only list of (some) nanomaterials it would not help in any purchase decision. If the registry was some kind of EU platform for evaluating threats and benefits of nanomaterials it could be of some use. But I wonder if Wikipedia would be perceived as more reliable and trustworthy source as it partly implements scientific method of keeping information up to date and correct.

Q37: What would be the added value of a European nanomaterial registry beyond the current framework of chemicals legislation, including REACH registration?

None, if it stays only half way as other registry schemes or chemicals legislation and does not provide an education and increase general trust among people.

Q38: Please provide any other comments that you would like to share regarding transparency measures for nanomaterials on the market.

Respondent skipped this question