

Dissemination Workshop – Danish “Better Control of Nanomaterials” Initiative

Experiences, Activities, and Position of the German Environment Agency (UBA)

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Why are nanomaterials different?

Nanomaterials (NM) are not more critical than other chemical substances. As with other chemicals there are more and less hazardous ones.

However !

The instruments of the environmental risk assessment consider particles – especially NM – inadequately.

For the assessment of environmental effects as well as fate & behaviour the adaptation of assessment instruments and information requirements is needed.

Aims and Demands of UBA

Use the benefits but avoid negative effects on the environment ...

Nanospecific adaptation of:

- relevant regulations of chemical safety
- assessment instruments like test guidelines, guidances

Main focus: nanospecific adaptation of REACH as the central chemicals regulation

Additional adaptation of specific regulation for sensitive applications (e.g. biocides, plant protection products, pharmaceuticals)

Enhanced level of information on nanomaterials in products on the market

UBA activities

Realisation of and cooperation in national and European **research projects on NM safety**

- Input for **committee work** and **priority setting for the environmental enforcement**
- OECD WPMN (SSP, TG/GD development), RIP-on1, GAARN, NMWG, and others

link: <http://www.umweltbundesamt.de/en/topics/chemicals/nanotechnology/research-development-projects>

Development of the **proposal on how to implement NM into REACH** together with BfR and BAuA (2012)

- „Annex“ document (2013) as interim solution based on the agreements in the EU Environment Council (03/13) and Competitiveness Council (02/13)

link: <http://www.umweltbundesamt.de/en/publikationen/nanomaterials-reach>

Substance evaluation of nZnO, nCeO₂ and MWCNT together with BfR and BAuA (Draft CoRAP 2016-2018) to gain data for an assessment and therewith support its safe use

Development of a **proposal for an European register for nano-products (2012)** and performance of an impact assessment

link: <http://www.umweltbundesamt.de/en/publikationen/concept-for-a-european-register-of-products>

We can act now!

Sufficient information for an adaptation of regulation is on the table!

Current level of information and instruments for environmental hazard assessment are sufficient

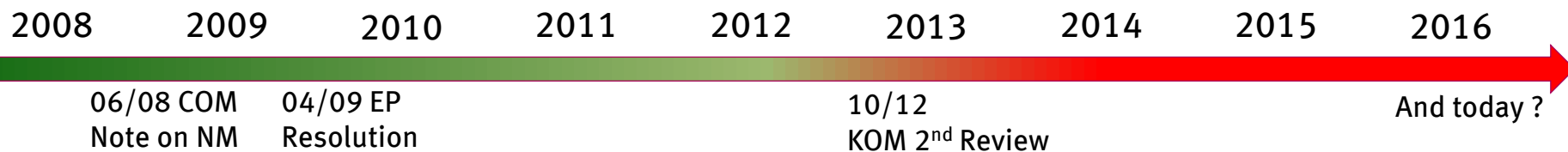
- for a preliminary risk assessment
- to amend REACH and annexes, respectively

Further adaptations might be necessary

- e.g. environmental fate & behaviour
- some aspect of exposure (assessment) can be addressed via guidance update

REACH/Nano review possibly needed after some years

- whether regulation is sufficient or adaptation based on scientific progress is needed



Thank you for your attention!

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The screenshot shows the UBA website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the UBA logo and menu items: Das UBA, Themen (highlighted), Presse, Publikationen, and Daten. A search bar is also present. Below the navigation bar, the breadcrumb trail reads: Themen > Chemikalien > Nanotechnik. The main heading is "Nanotechnik". Below the heading is a large image of a molecular lattice structure. Underneath the image, the text reads: "Nanostrukturen sind mehr als 1.000-mal kleiner als der Durchmesser eines Menschenhaares. Quelle: eugenesegev / Fotolia.com". A paragraph follows: "Im Alltag begegnet uns vielfach die Nanotechnik. Nanotechnische Produkte sind allgegenwärtig. Nanotechnik ist in ihren Auswirkungen aber noch nicht vollständig erforscht. Besonders die Wirkung auf Mensch und Umwelt ist noch weitgehend unbekannt. Das UBA fördert geeignete Innovationen, macht aber auf Risiken aufmerksam und entwickelt Handlungsempfehlungen." Below this text, there is a date "08.08.2013" and a note "48 mal als hilfreich bewertet". A "Link" section contains the text: "Nanotechnik - Chancen fördern und Risiken mindern. Nanotechnik ist die gezielte Herstellung und Anwendung von Prozessen und Materialien, die aus abgrenzbaren strukturellen". To the right of the main content, there is a sidebar with a "Themen" menu where "Nanotechnik" is selected. Below the menu, there are sections for "Verwandte Artikel" (with a sub-item "Nanomaterial") and "Verwandte Publikationen".

UBA's research and activities related to NM:

<http://www.umweltbundesamt.de/en/topics/chemicals/nanotechnology>