

**Opening Remarks by Ambassador Noé van Hulst,  
Permanent Delegation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the OECD,  
on the occasion of the ProSafe-OECD Joint Scientific Conference  
on science based support for the regulation of manufactured nanomaterials  
Paris, November 29, 2016**

- *Check Against Delivery* -

On behalf of the Dutch government, I would like to welcome you to this Scientific Conference organised jointly by the OECD and the ProSafe Project. This conference is also the final conference of NANoREG. A major project in which over 80 partners from Europe, Brazil and South Korea have collaborated to develop methods to test and assess nanomaterials from a regulatory point of view. The Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment coordinates both projects.

In the coming three days, you will evaluate and discuss the scientific results of 5-10 years of "nanosafety research". The objective is to come to a common understanding on what the risks are and how to assess the environmental, health and safety effects of nanomaterial with a view to provide a science based basis for developing clear and predictable regulations. This will help regulatory bodies and industry to test and assess the risks of nanomaterials and reduce the uncertainty in this field; thus creating a better environment to support innovation. Furthermore the results of the conference will form the basis for setting priorities for future research and harmonisation of test methods.

The Conference is a unique event. It not only brings together the "crème de la crème" of the "nanosafety science community", it also marks a milestone in collaboration in the nanosafety community. Compared to other fields of science like for example climatology and astronomy, big data sharing within the nanosafety community is still in its infancy as methods to test and assess the effects of nanomaterials on environment, health and safety are harmonised only to a limited extent, and most of the generated data is poorly accessible. The good news is that things are changing. There's an increasing awareness that collaboration is key to addressing the challenges we face, as demonstrated by the NANoReg project.

The NANoREG project - with over 80 partners from 18 countries - has proven that it is possible to develop a concerted research effort, generating agreements on test methods and quality control in order to create reliable and comparable data. The project has demonstrated that there is a clear willingness to share information. As one of the first EC projects, the NANoREG project will make all its data and deliverables publicly available. Data will be stored in the database developed by the FP7 project eNanoMapper and be available for all interested parties. It will hopefully set an example that will be followed by all other nanosafety projects. This conference highlights not only the need, but also the willingness to collaborate.

I would like to congratulate the ProSafe Coordinator with this initiative and of course say thank you to the ProSafe Task Force, under the leadership of Klaus Steinhauser and Phil Sayre for compiling the Joint Document, and to UBA, the German Federal Environmental Agency, and the OECD secretariat for all the organisational work for this conference.

It is up to you to discuss the Joint Document and arrive at joint conclusions that will lead us further on the road of practical and responsible testing and assessing of nanomaterials

I wish you a fruitful and enjoyable conference!