Nanomaterials: provisions and new perspectives in the framework of REACH&CLP Regulations

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Nanomaterials (NMs) and nanotechnologies have highly technical and applicative worldwide impact. New materials represent a continuous legislative challenge to reduce the level of uncertainty on the evaluation of their safety and to promote the scientific and industrial innovation.

Considering that the level of production of nanomaterials significantly raises, the regulatory monitoring will have to be oriented at the nanoscale in a more specific and pragmatic way.

In the light of this perspective, the Regulations No. 1907/2006 on the registration, evaluation, authorization and restriction of chemicals (REACH) and No.1272/2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures (CLP) are progressively under study to better identify how to address nanomaterials in relation to chemicals legislation. In order to generate specific information on nanomaterials for REACH and CLP, the European activities follows these key points: the amendment and the adaptation of REACH Annexes, the proposal to modify the CLP guidelines to become efficient when it comes to nanomaterials, the review of the EU Commission's Recommendation (2011/696/EU) on the definition of NMs.

Furthermore at the scientific and institutional European level, on June 2017 the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) launched the EU Observatory for Nanomaterials (EU-ON), that will implement the reliable source of information on NMs, the transparency of information on nanomaterials in the European market and the awareness among the different categories concerned (legislators, authorities, industry, workers, NGOs, consumers).