

The Communication of Innovation in the Biosciences and The Acceptance of Novel Technologies: the Case of Nanomaterials

organised by the European Academies Science Advisory Council (EASAC)
and the Joint Research Centre (JRC)

Innovation Convention Fringe Event

*Square Brussels Meeting Centre
Brussels, 6 December 2011
11.00-12.30, Studio 201*

Moderator: Dr Geoff Watts (BBC Science Journalist, London)

Participants of the Panel:

- * Prof. Elke Anklam (Director, JRC Institute for Health and Consumer Protection, Ispra)
- * Dr Robin Fears (EASAC Biosciences Programme Secretary, Cambridge)
- * Dr Sébastien Gallet (Research and Innovation Programme Manager, CEFIC, Brussels)
- * Dr Antje Grobe (Board Member Risk Dialogue Foundation, St. Gallen)

Research and innovation are of pivotal importance for the EU's sustainable economic growth and competitiveness and subsequent beneficial effects on the job market. But what happens when scientifically tested innovations in the Biosciences are not accepted by the European public, or the public of individual Member States? How can policy-makers prevent that public opinion turns against research and new technologies that could have a highly beneficial effect on the economies of Europe? The successful communication of novel research and technologies must be seen as a prerequisite for an economically beneficial integration of most Bioscience innovations in Europe.

EASAC and the JRC have been collaborating closely in the field of communication of research and innovation in the Biosciences. In October 2011 the two organisations presented a joint report on the "Impact of Engineered Nanomaterials on Health: Considerations for Benefit-Risk Assessment". This report contains science-based policy-recommendations for the institutions of the EU. For this Fringe Event at the Innovation Convention, EASAC and the JRC are bringing together leading experts in the field to discuss the communication of this novel technology to the public.