



Anses dialogue committee on « Nanomaterials & health »

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In charge of developing relationships with stakeholders

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Core values

Independence, impartiality

A code of conduct and independent committees which stakeholders can solicit, collegial and multidisciplinary scientific panels, prevention of conflicts of interests, public funding, etc.

Transparency

Assessment process, minority opinions, publication of opinions, public declarations of interest, public calls for experts and research projects, etc.



Access to stakeholders
Charter on the openness of expertise to society, contribution of civil society, dialogue committees, etc.

Excellence/scientific expertise
Selection of experts through open calls for applications

Department of Information, Communication and Dialogue with Society

ANSES “contributes to information, training and dissemination of scientific and technical documentation and to public debate”

Dialogue with stakeholders

- ✓ Meetings with associations, industry, other stakeholders
- ✓ **Dialogue committees for issues of specific societal concern (nanomaterials and health, EMF and health)**
- ✓ Public consultations on draft reports
- ✓ The structure and composition of the Board of administrators (thematic steering committees)

Human, economic and social sciences

- Initiatives to introduce human, economic and social sciences in support of collective expertise – multidisciplinary working groups and 1 dedicated working group
- Socio-economic analysis namely within the framework of REACH

Communication

- ❖ Publicly available scientific opinions
- ❖ Conferences and public meetings
- ❖ Web sites, newsletters and other publications

Missions of the « Risks and Society » Unit

Composed of 4 staff members specialised in the field of politics sociology and economy

1. Promoting the use of **social sciences** in support to collective expertise (expert committees and working groups of experts)
2. Carrying out a **societal watch** on the links between science and society
3. **Contributing to public debate** and to the promotion of the Agency's work (opinions and reports)
4. Implementing the **opening up of expertise** and establishing a **dialogue with stakeholders**

Opening up expertise to civil society

Charter signed in 2011 by 5 public organisations (involved in research and sanitary/environmental risk assessment) aiming at:

- **Improving transparency** on the results of expertise and methods used in risk assessment
- **Sharing scientific knowledge and uncertainties** (divergences, minority positions and possible controversies among experts)
- **Capacity-building among stakeholders** for a better understanding and possible contribution to the assessment procedure (information, training, public debate, etc.)



A wide range of stakeholders

➤ ANSES deals with **NGOs , trade unions and companies** involved in many sectors :

- **human health and safety** in the fields of **environment, work and food**



- **animal health and welfare and plant** protection



Involvement of stakeholders

- ❖ **Governance bodies:** Board of Directors, Thematic steering committees: **Food, Environment, Occupational health, Animal health, Plant protection**
- ❖ Along the **risk assessment process:** Consultations, hearings by expert groups, feedback events to explain opinions (methodology, uncertainties, results and recommendations), capacity-building (ad'hoc training sessions)
- ❖ Dedicated **dialogue committees** on controversial issues : Radiofrequencies (EMF), **Nanomaterials**

Context

- Heated and tumultuous **National Public debate on nanotechnologies** in 2009-2010 organised by the CNDP (National Commission for Public Debate)



Le débat public est clos

Le débat s'est déroulé du 15 octobre 2009 au 24 février 2010.

La CPDP remercie l'ensemble des participants au débat.

Compte-rendu et bilan du débat



Context

- ❖ **Does not** aim at improving social **acceptability of nanotechnologies** but focused on the potential impacts of nanomaterials on human health
- ❖ Scope **limited to the safety** of these technologies and does not deal with the utility of nanotech innovation or implementation
- ❖ Going further than a top-down communication on risks and promoting **upstream engagement** of actors
- ❖ Committee set up in **November 2012**
- ❖ **Tight links with the permanent working group** and dedicated **scientific committee** on NM within Anses (4 experts are members and others regularly invited)

Aims and objectives

- Discussing the **state of knowledge**, **RA methodologies**, on going **scientific debates** on the dangers resulting from exposure to NM

- Enriching work **orientations** of the scientific committee and working group in charge of NM by:
 - Exchanging and debating on the results of the completed expertise and the perspectives
 - Questioning their validity and field of implementation
 - Making proposals on research orientations or new expertise to be initiated
 - Producing recommendations on the best ways to convey and disseminate the information

Composition

Open call for candidacies published on Anses internet site (all proposals selected) and pro-active approach of some actors

19 members (NGOs, Federations of companies, trade unions)

+ **4 experts** of the Anses NM working group and scientific committee (CES and GT President and Vice-President)

+ Anses **staff members** working on related issues

Composition : NGOs and trade unions

7 NGOs representatives from various fields:

- Consumers
- Science and Society
- Environment
- Patients
- Families
- Womens' network



Women in Europe
for a Common
Future

3 trade unions representatives :

- GGT (two branches)
- CFDT



Composition : Federations of industries

9 Industry representatives from various sectors :

- Cosmetics
- Aeronautic/Informatics
- Veterinary drugs
- Food
- Minerals
- Energy
- Chemicals
- Water
- Confederation of French employers (MEDEF)



LES ENTREPRISES
DE L'EAU



ania
L'alimentation c'est la vie



Operating procedures

Presidency :

- Independent person (specialist in concertation issues)
- on a voluntary basis (not paid)
- to ensure neutrality and bienveillance towards all actors
- appointed by the Director General of Anses

Meetings 2 or 3 times a year :

- 5 meetings up to now
- 1 planned in April 2015

Main issues discussed

- Overview of **French institutions and organisms involved** in the field of NM
- Research orientations and needs** (PNREST: call for projects financed by Anses) and presentation of on-going or concluded studies
- Update on current state of knowledge** and on-going works of the dedicated Anses expert group (without disclosing recommendations before the expertise is being completed)
- Anses **opinions** on carbon nanotubes, silver nanoparticles, assessment methods, etc.

Main issues discussed

- **Transversal topics** such as:

Nanos and food (EFSA /AVICENN /ANIA/ NANOGENOTOX EU project),

Occupational health and NP (CFDT – INRS – MOBIRISQUES study)

with the view points from several stakeholders

- French **r-Nano database**: declaration procedure, data processing, 2013 results (number of tons per industrial field)
And 2014 summary (to be presented in April 2015)

Positive outcomes

Following positive impacts can be drawn (as an observation) from this experimental procedure:

- **Sharing of information** (societal watch) among participants
- **Capacity-building**: Better understanding of Anses recommendations and more accurate conveying of information to the public
- Questions raised on the **selection criteria for the studies** included in the report and **assessment methodologies**
- **Degree of controversy** varies with the **subject**, state of evidence, level of uncertainty (Nanos appear to be less controversial at present than RF and GMOs) and depends on the **status of the mobilisations**: number and modes of action of NGOs, personality of the spokespersons, etc.

Further steps and perspectives

- **Need to assess the real benefits: Upcoming sociological study on the qualitative impacts of stakeholders' participation**

A research contract with a team of sociologists specialised in participation will shortly begin

Will be conducted at the global level of governance

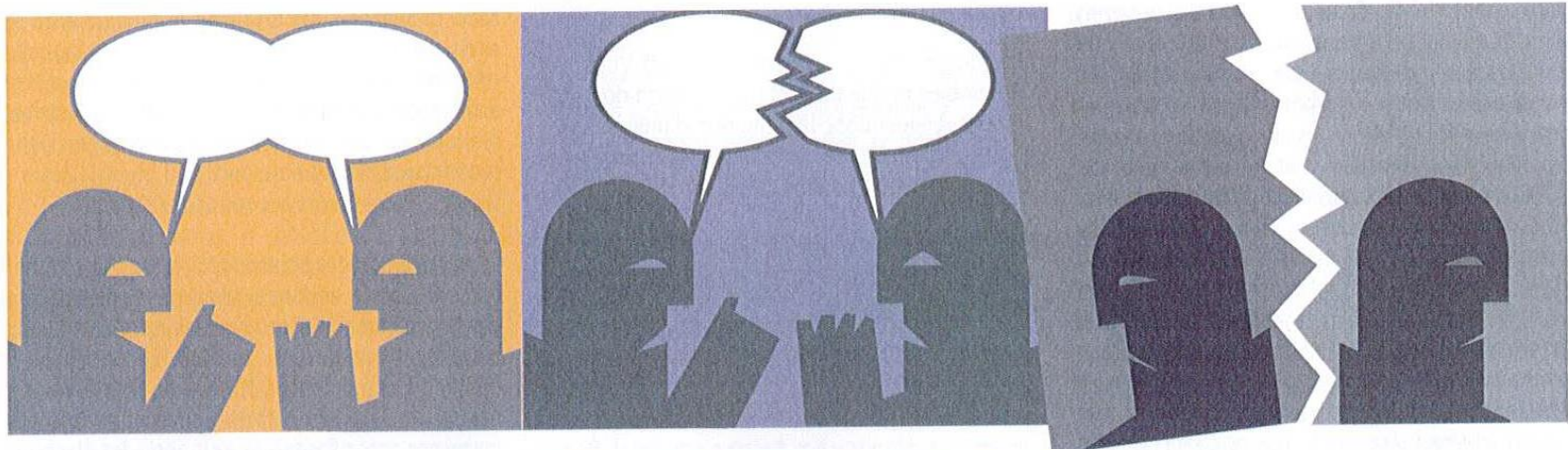
Will cover all the different ways of involving stakeholders within Anses (including dialogue committees)

- **To which extent this opening up of expertise improved the quality and robustness of scientific risk assessment and of the recommendations delivered to decision-makers**

- Potential contradictions in the expectancies of the actors engaged in the process: **diminishing the degree of controversy, getting information for better action, gaining in visibility/legitimacy, etc.**

Dialogue is fragile

De la difficulté du dialogue



Source : Illustration of an NGO's Newsletter dealing with radiofrequencies – October 2013
« Confidence is long to build up but can be quickly lost »

anses
alimentation, environnement, travail



Thank you for your attention

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