



INVITATION

SEMINAR IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Nanotechnology - threat or opportunity? Who is really in charge of policy making in cutting edge technology?

Hosted by Olle Schmidt (MEP - ALDE) and Anders Wijkman (MEP - EPP-ED). Organised by Karita Research in association with the Scientific Technology Options Assessment (STOA), Global Legislators Organisation for a Balanced Environment (GLOBE EU) and Sällskapet Politik och Näringsliv (SPN).

Venue: European Parliament, Room A5G-2

Date: March 5, 2008, 13h30 - 17.30 followed by a reception

Nanotechnology is growing worldwide. Huge investments are made by USA, Europe and Japan, new players like China and India are joining. Like other new technologies, nanotechnology is the subject for great hope and fear. Proponents envision **revolutionized healthcare**, consumer goods and construction industries. Opponents show **nightmare scenarios** of self-replicating nano-scale robots and a new asbestos crisis.

Lacking appropriate means for **challenging the arguments**, politicians run the risk of committing to a viewpoint too early. In response to this, and using nanotechnology as the case in question, the concept of a *European Transparency Arena* will be discussed at the seminar. Such an Arena will have the purpose to support the European Parliament in its decision-making on issues with a high technological and scientific content. The arguments of stakeholders will be challenged from different angles, hidden values will be explored and ethical issues will be discussed.

We look forward to seeing you and discuss these matters at the seminar!

Olle Schmidt (MEP) and Anders Wijkman (MEP)

Attachments

Seminar agenda

Registration form - to be sent to kjell.andersson@karita.se by February 20, at the latest.

Contact persons

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Seminar organiser: Karita Research

AGENDA

- 12.45 Registration and security**
- 13.30 Welcome, Olle Schmidt, MEP**
- 13:40 Nanotechnologies' promises - a new industrial revolution.**
Steffi Friedrichs, Director, Nanotechnology Industries Association
- 14:10 There should be a nanotech moratorium**
Pat Mooney, Executive Director, ETC Group, Canada
- 14.40 Break with coffee**
- 15.00 The need for transparency and its political implications**
Cecilia Malmström, Minister for EU Affairs, Swedish Prime Minister's Office
- 15.30 A European Transparency Arena for political insight and accountability**
Kjell Andersson, Managing Director, Karita Research
- 16.00 Panel Debate moderated by Anders Wijkman**
Introductory comments by Satu Hassi (MEP, GLOBE member), Dorette Corbey (MEP, STOA panel) and Robert Goebbels (MEP- PSE)
- 17.30 Reception**