

# Regulating Nanomaterials: A Transatlantic Agenda

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The Royal Institute of International Affairs has published a briefing paper entitled "Regulating Nanomaterials: A Transatlantic Agenda" which identifies key issues and challenges in nanomaterials regulation and aims to stimulate the debate on how to promote coordinated and convergent approaches in the EU and US.

The paper provides a concise summary of the key findings of the project Regulating Nanotechnologies in the EU and US, which was carried out by a consortium of research institutions from both sides of the Atlantic: the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) and Chatham House (the Royal Institute of International Affairs) in the UK, and the Environmental Law Institute (ELI) and the Project on Emerging Nanotechnologies (PEN) at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in the United States. The project was funded by a research grant from the European Commission, and involved extensive consultation with experts and stakeholders in nanomaterials regulation on both sides of the Atlantic.

Key outcomes of the project are summarised as follows:

- The US and EU need to strengthen international regulatory cooperation if the commercial promises of nanotechnologies are to be fulfilled;
- Persistent scientific uncertainty could limit the effectiveness of existing regulatory frameworks and risk assessment approaches. International efforts to create scientific building blocks for risk assessment of nanomaterials should be expanded;
- The EU and US need to provide significantly increased funding for research into the environmental, health and safety risks of nanomaterials and promote greater coordination of such funding at an international level;
- Governments should strengthen existing mandatory reporting requirements for nanomaterials in commercial use and, where necessary, create new ones;
- US and EU authorities should explore the implications of potentially diverging consumer labelling requirements for nanomaterials, given international trade obligations, and work towards common approaches on standards for labelling;
- In view of the ongoing and accelerating globalisation of nanotechnologies, the EU and the US should complement existing international initiatives with the development of international governance capacity in other areas (UNEP, WHO), not least to ensure that developing countries are more involved in international decision-making.

View the full briefing paper [here](#)

The briefing paper is based on a larger report, [Securing the Promise of Nanotechnologies: Towards Transatlantic Regulatory Cooperation](#).

More information about the project visit- [Regulating Nanotechnologies in the EU and US: Toward Effectiveness and Convergence >>](#)