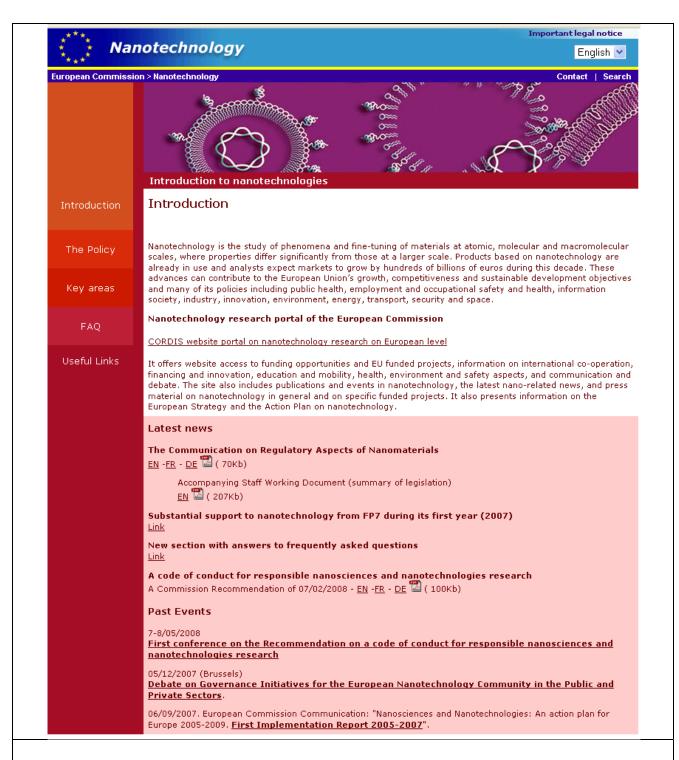
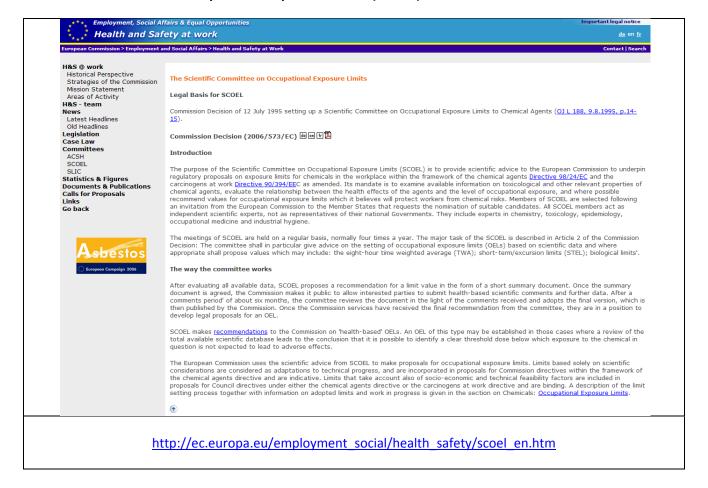
#### Dr. Achim Boenke

European Union, Directorate General Enterprise "Place of the issue of Emerging risks in EU policies"



http://ec.europa.eu/nanotechnology/index en.html

### Scientific Committee on Occupational Exposure Limits (SCOEL)



**Purpose** To provide scientific advice to the European Commission to underpin regulatory proposals on exposure limits for chemicals in the workplace, within the framework of the chemical agents Directive 98/24/EC and the carcinogens at work Directive 90/394/EEC as amended.

Its mandate is to examine available information on toxicological and other relevant properties of chemical agents, evaluate the relationship between the health effects of the agents and the level of occupational exposure, and where possible recommend values for occupational exposure limits which it believes will protect workers from chemical risks.

## **Indicative Occupational Exposure Limit Values (IOELVs)**

IOELVs may be established where the review of the available scientific data leads to the conclusion that it is possible to identify a clear threshold dose below which exposure to the substance is not expected to lead to adverse health effects.

In accordance with Article 3 of Directive 98/24/EC, on chemical agents, when establishing IOELVs feasibility factors (including socio-economic and technical) are not taken into account.

Directives containing IOELVs are adopted by the European Commission through the adaptation to technical progress procedure included in Article 17 of the Framework Directive, 89/391/EEC.

### **Binding Occupational Exposure Limit Values (BOELVs)**

BOELVs take account of socio-economic and technical feasibility factors as well as the factors considered when establishing IOELVs.

For any chemical agent for which a BOELV value is established at EU level, Member States shall establish a corresponding national binding OEL value which can be stricter, but cannot exceed the Community limit value.

### **Biological Limit Values (BLVs)**

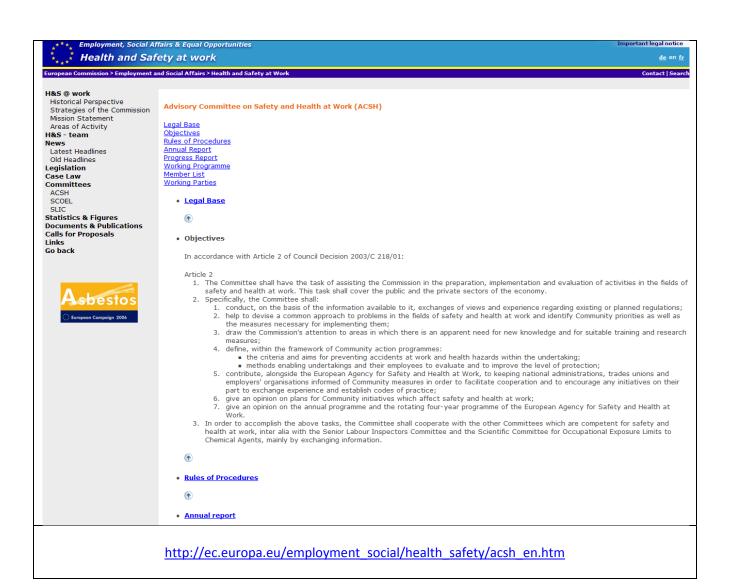
In accordance with Article 3(6) of Directive 98/24/EC on chemical agents the Commission may establish biological limit values (BLVs) based on independent scientific assessment of the latest available scientific data.

In establishing all types of limit value the availability of measurement techniques is taken into account.

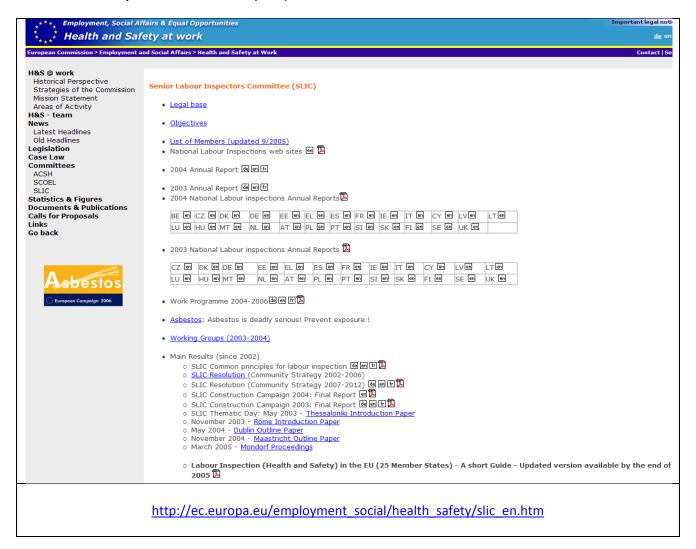
# Advisory Committee on Safety and Health at Work (ACSH)

- 1. The Committee shall have the task of assisting the Commission in the preparation, implementation and evaluation of activities in the fields of safety and health at work. This task shall cover the public and the private sectors of the economy.
- 2. Specifically, the Committee shall:
  - 1. conduct, on the basis of the information available to it, exchanges of views and experience regarding existing or planned regulations;
  - 2. help to devise a common approach to problems in the fields of safety and health at work and identify Community priorities as well as the measures necessary for implementing them;
  - 3. draw the Commission's attention to areas in which there is an apparent need for new knowledge and for suitable training and research measures;
  - 4. define, within the framework of Community action programmes:
    - the criteria and aims for preventing accidents at work and health hazards within the undertaking;
    - methods enabling undertakings and their employees to evaluate and to improve the level of protection;

- contribute, alongside the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work, to keeping national administrations, trades unions and employers' organisations informed of Community measures in order to facilitate cooperation and to encourage any initiatives on their part to exchange experience and establish codes of practice;
- 6. give an opinion on plans for Community initiatives which affect safety and health at work;
- 7. give an opinion on the annual programme and the rotating four-year programme of the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work.
- 3. In order to accomplish the above tasks, the Committee shall cooperate with the other Committees which are competent for safety and health at work, inter alia with the Senior Labour Inspectors Committee and the Scientific Committee for Occupational Exposure Limits to Chemical Agents, mainly by exchanging information.



### **Senior Labour Inspectors Committee (SLIC)**



The Committee, in assisting the Commission, shall work towards the achievement of the following objectives:

- 1. defining common principles of labour inspection in the field of health and safety at work and developing methods of assessing the national systems of inspection in relation to those principles;
- 2. promoting improved knowledge and mutual understanding of the different national systems and practices of labour inspection, the methods and legal frameworks for action;
- 3. developing exchanges between national labour inspection services of their experiences in monitoring the enforcement of secondary Community law on health and safety at work, so as to ensure its consistent enforcement throughout the Community;
- 4. promoting exchanges for labour inspectors between national administrations and the setting up of training programmes for inspectors;
- 5. drawing up and publishing documents to facilitate the activities of labour inspectors;

- 6. developing a reliable and efficient system of rapid information exchange between labour inspectorates on all problems encountered in monitoring the enforcement of Community legislation in the field of health and safety at work;
- 7. establishing active cooperation with labour inspectorates of third countries, so as to promote the work done by the Community on health and safety at work and to assist in resolving any cross-border problems;
- 8. studying the possible impact of other Community policies on labour inspection activities relating to health and safety at work and working conditions

#### European Agency for Safety and Health at Work –European Risk Observatory



# EU Strategy 2007-2012: 25% cut in accidents at work by 2012

### **OSHA Work Topics**

- NanoImpactNet. FP7 multidisciplinary European network on the health and environmental impact of nanomaterials
- More and more people face phychosocial risks at work
- Nanotechnologies and occupational health and safety
- New biological threats in European working environment
- Avian flu-Protection of workers
- Work related Hearing Loss-What is the extent of the problem?
- Exposure to Noise-What is the extent of the problem?
- EU experts forecast changes in occupational risks