

Press Release

11 June 2013

International gathering focusses on need for evidence-based policy-making across European Union

- European Risk Summit to advance international principles as a way forward for science-based rule-making

One hundred expert speakers and international delegates comprising policy-makers, regulators, governing bodies, industry and academia from the chemicals, pharmaceuticals, food, environmental and related sectors, are gathering in Dublin today and tomorrow for a two-day European Summit to examine the role of science in the formulation of legislation, regulation and directives.

The European Risk Summit, hosted by the Irish Medicines Board, is seeking to help establish international principles as a way forward for science-based rule-making that will support the future of European sustainability, innovation and economic development on the global stage.

The Risk Summit is discussing the advantages of evidence and risk-based rulemaking as well as the challenges of formulating European directives/regulations and, by extension, national legislation on hazard classifications.

Pat O'Mahony, Chief Executive, Irish Medicines Board, said at the conference:

"The Irish Medicines Board is delighted to host the European Risk Summit in Dublin as part of Ireland's Presidency of the European Union. Regulation must be driven by evidence and research. The work of the IMB is entirely focussed on promoting evidence-based and risk-informed policy making."

Professor Ragnar Löfstedt Director, King's Centre for Risk Management, said:

"There is a growing level of public distrust toward certain regulators in Europe mainly as a consequence of the increased number of regulatory scandals which has plagued Europe for the past twenty years such as the recent horsemeat scare in Ireland, the tainted blood scandal in France or the 'mad cow' crisis in the UK. Gatherings such as the European Risk Summit are vital to bring together the regulatory and scientific arenas to share insights and identify best practice in legislating for risk across Europe."

Kevin Bradley, President of the Nickel Institute, commented:

"A risk-based approach to public policy is vital for European industry. It can provide a higher degree of certainty around business continuity, without which industry is faced with many difficult decisions in terms of R&D planning and new investment. Risk-based approaches and a more comprehensive acknowledgement of science-based evidence enables innovation which is, of course, needed for continued European competitiveness."

For information on the event, visit www.risksummit.eu and follow the Summit on Twitter @eurisk2013.

*****ENDS*****

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*Please note that photography from the event to follow from Jason Clarke Photography
(Email: info@jasonclarkephotography.ie / Mobile: 00 353 87 252 0782)*

Note to Editors:

About the Summit:

The European Risk Summit (*an associated event of Ireland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union*) brings together policy-makers, regulators, governing bodies, industry and academia from the chemicals, pharmaceuticals, food, environmental and related sectors to explore the role of science in the formulation of legislation, regulation and directives. The Summit will discuss international principles as a way forward for science-based rule-making. This topical discussion will have a considerable impact on the future of European sustainability, innovation and economic development on the global stage. The European Risk Summit is hosted by the Irish Medicines Board and supported by King's College London and the Nickel Institute.

Summit Website: www.risksummit.eu

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