

Research Infrastructure

**QualityNano**

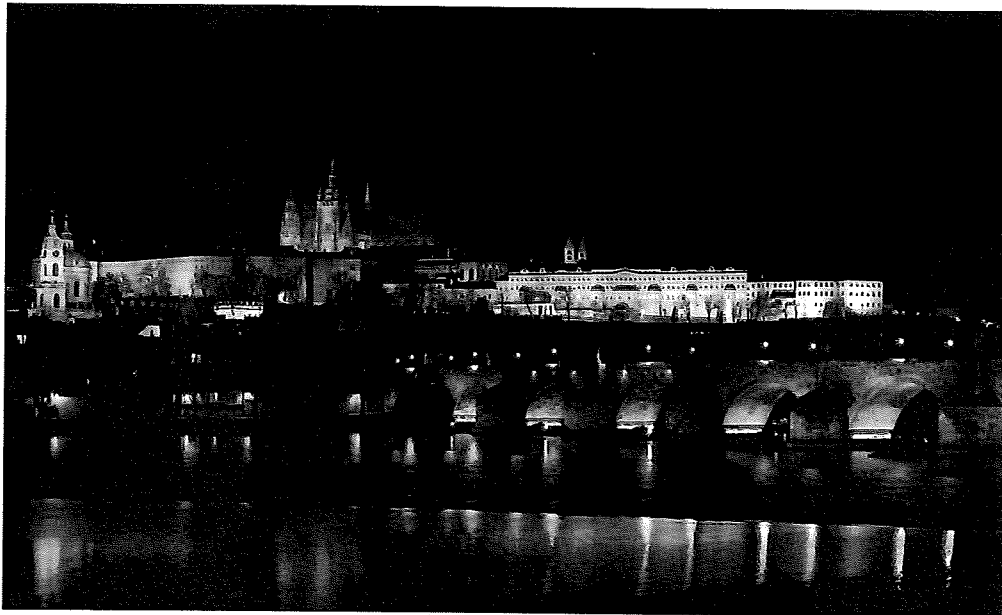
# Abstract Book

2nd QNano Integrating Conference

**“Quality in nanosafety assessment – driving best practice and innovation”**

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## 6.12. Hot off the press: Emerging law of nanotechnology in the report before the Council of Europe

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In 2012, the Council of Europe (CoE) Parliamentary Assembly began the first steps towards nanotechnology regulation with a view to respecting the scientific precautionary principles. The CoE is the health and human rights vanguard for law governing the right to health, public health and consumer protection throughout Europe, and its human rights court has remained a leading model for jurisprudence throughout the world. The CoE has 47 (forty seven) Member nations. Its jurisdiction therefore embraces 800 million people. Switzerland is a member of the CoE, as are many nations that are excluded from the European Union.

The CoE commissioned an expert report, "Nanotechnology: balancing benefits and risks to public health and the environment" prepared by author of this presentation. This presentation outlines the report in its legal, scientific and political context, and concludes with suggestions for participation in the forthcoming public debates April 26, 2013.

This presentation will occur in the rare moment between the first round of discussion of the Report and its official debate before the full Parliamentary Assembly, one month later. This will afford participants an extraordinary timely opportunity to consider these issues for participation in the legislative process in Strasbourg, France.

This expert report on nanotechnology was enthusiastically accepted at the CoE meeting of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development in Moscow, Russian Federation on November 19, 2012. The same report is now slated for public debate before the entire Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly in the main headquarters at Strasbourg France, on or before April 26, 2013. The report is an essential part of understanding the future public discourse concerning nanotechnology safety and the regulation of nanotechnology in commerce for three reasons:

1. First, the report was praised because of its excellent synthesis of leading issues in nanotechnology regulation confronting all civil society, including but not limited to bioethics issues, impact on human and non-human health, environmental impact and the promising impact of nanomedicine for improving everyone's quality of life.

2. Second, the CoE is using the report as one of several resources for determining which path it will follow regarding possible treaties or international agreements governing the use and monitoring of nanotechnology as it impacts health and the environment when applied in commerce, including nanomedicines.

3. Third, CoE legal instruments frequently are the basis of juridical determinations in the Court of Human rights and serve as influential models for the world.