



**World Commission on the Ethics  
of Scientific Knowledge and Technology**

**Meeting of the Working Group on  
the Ethics of Nanotechnologies**

**Brussels, Belgium, 27-28 April 2011  
UNESCO Liaison Office in Brussels**

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**ANNOTATED AGENDA**

**27 April 2011**

**10:30 – 11:30 Opening**

*Welcome address*  
Alain Pompidou, President of COMEST

*Overview of COMEST's previous and ongoing work on nanotechnologies and converging technologies*  
Philippe Busquin, Chair of the COMEST Working Group on the Ethics of Nanotechnologies

*Overview of UNESCO activities on ethical challenging related to emerging technologies*  
John Crowley, UNESCO Division of Ethics of Science and Technologies

Discussion

**11:30 – 13:00 Introductory discussion: emerging technologies and ethical challenges**

Moderated by Alain Pompidou  
*As an introduction to the discussion, the UNESCO Secretariat will offer an overview of the hypothesis of technological "convergence" and of its possible scientific, social, political and ethical implications.*

**13:00 – 14:00 Buffet lunch at UNESCO premises**

**14:00 – 15:30 Nanotechnologies and biotechnologies: exploring the frontier**

Moderated by Marta Kollárová, Member of COMEST

*The discussion will focus inter alia on relations between the work of COMEST and of the International Bioethics Committee (IBC), and will also consider the implications for “humanism” in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.*

**15:30 – 15:45 Coffee break**

**15:45 – 17:00 Global policy challenges**

Moderated by Khalid Al-Ali, Member of COMEST

*The discussion will focus inter alia on possible issues for interagency coordination within the UN system, as well as on scope for cooperation between UNESCO and other bodies such as the European Commission and the OECD, and, where relevant, on regional and national policy issues.*

**28 April 2011**

**9:30 – 11:00 Systematic review of comments on the COMEST report “Nanotechnologies and Ethics: Policies and Actions”. Part I: Identifying Challenges and Issues**

Moderated by Tafeeda Jarbawi, Member of COMEST

**11:00 – 11:30 Coffee Break**

**11:30 – 13:00 Systematic review of comments on “Nanotechnologies and Ethics: Policies and Actions”. Part II: Policies and Actions**

Moderated by Susanna Sommer

**13:00 – 14:00 Buffet lunch at UNESCO premises**

**14:00 – 15:30 Proposals for follow-up**

Moderated by John Crowley

*The discussion will focus first on follow-up, if appropriate, to the conclusions of the COMEST Ordinary Session in 2009 and Extraordinary Session in 2010: nurturing partnerships in Asia and the Americas, enhancing cooperation with the European Commission and UN agencies, responding to specific concerns expressed in the Arab region. The implications of the discussions during the meeting itself will then be reviewed.*

**15:30 – 15:45 Coffee break**

**15:45 – 17:00 Adoption of outline proposals, recommendations, and conclusions to be forwarded to the 7<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of COMEST (September, 2011)**

Moderated by Philippe Busquin

*In particular, the participants will be requested to consider whether, in light of the critical review of COMEST’s 2008 report, a further report is needed, and if so to sketch its orientation and the process by which it should be developed.*