



The Malta Initiative

Achievements so far and future steps

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Structure

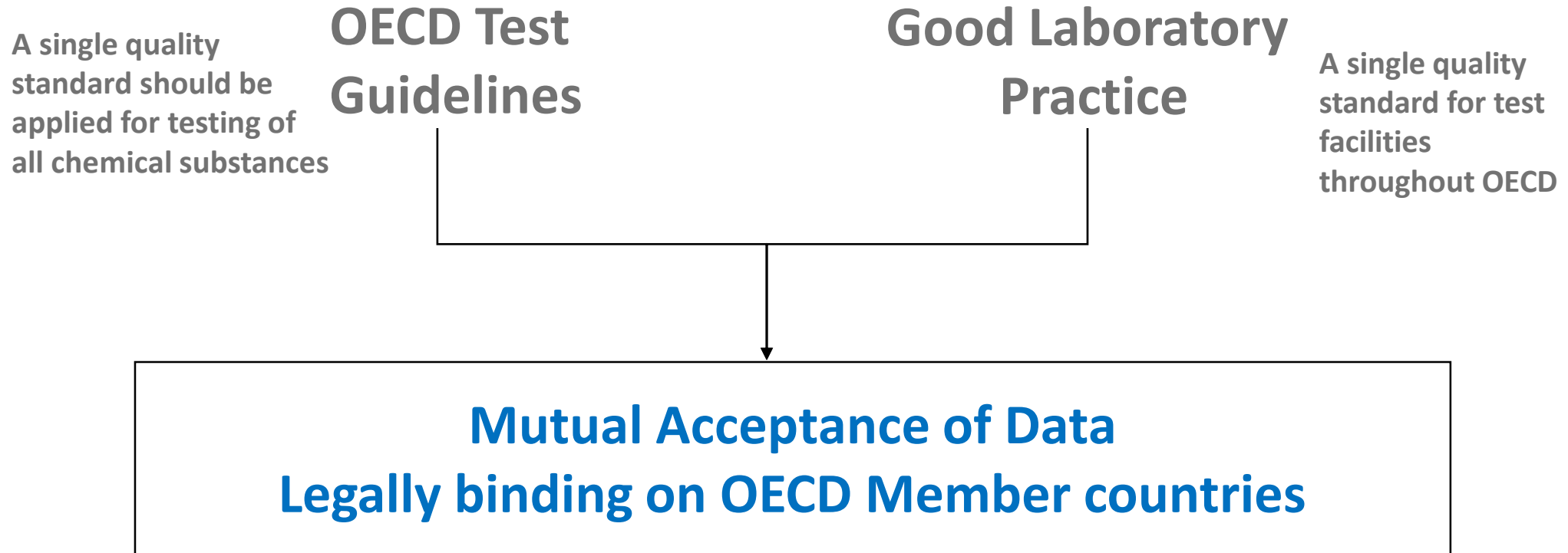
- Global needs for comparable research results
- Advantages of the OECD Chemical Programme
- What is the Malta Initiative?
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- Achievements of the Malta Initiative
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Global needs for comparable research results

- We act in a global market.
- We need research for sustainable innovation and legal requirements.
- Research results must be comparable and reproducible.
- Therefore we need international standards eg. ISO/OECD.
- OECD Test Guidelines (TG) are internationally harmonised.
- The advantage of using OECD TGs with Good Laboratory Praxis (GLP) is the Mutual Acceptance of Data (MAD) for OECD member countries.

Mutual Acceptance of Data (MAD) Principle



- Avoids duplication of testing (saving resources)
- Reduces use of animals
- Reduces trade barriers



Advantages of the OECD Chemical Programme

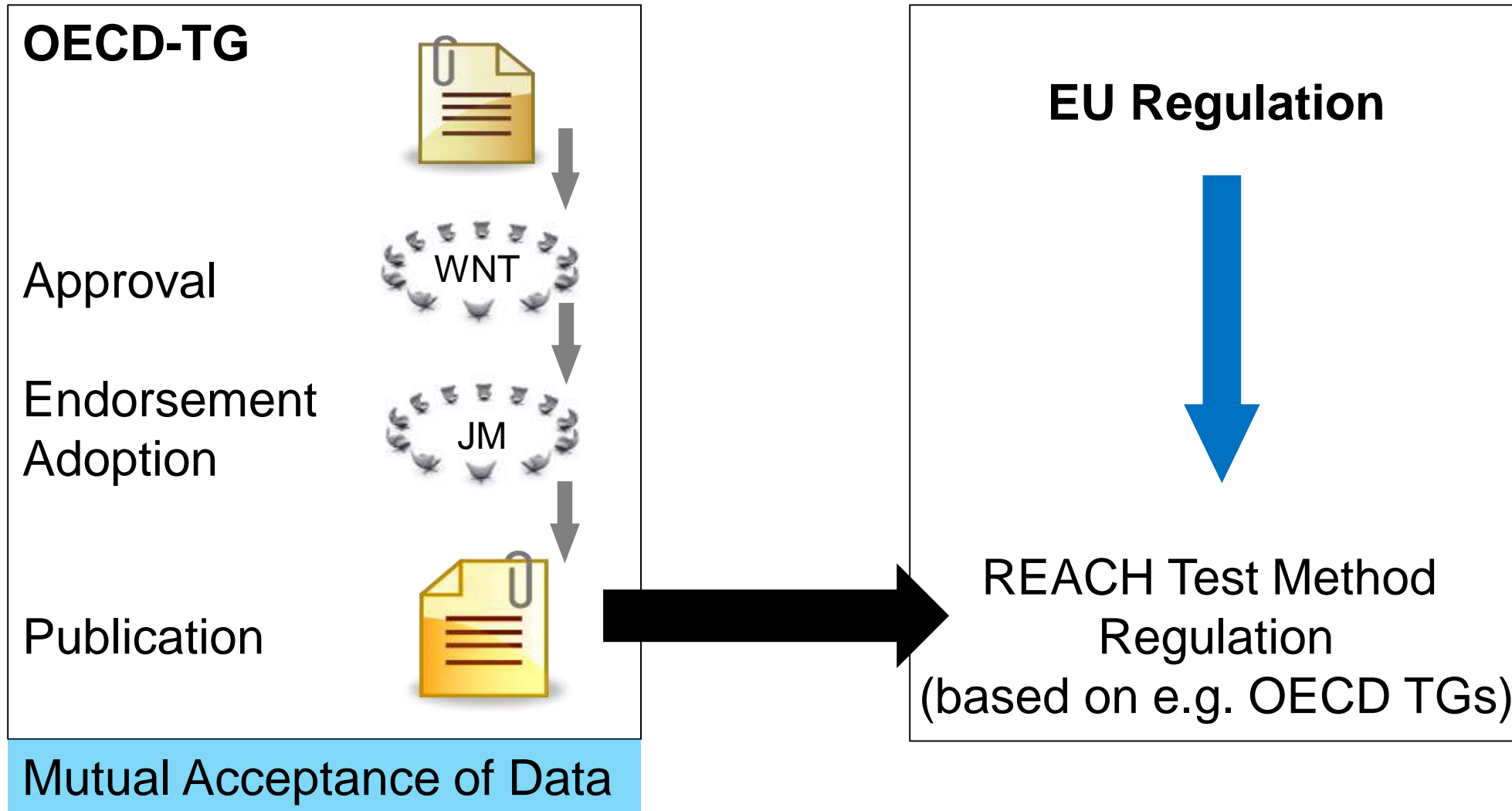
- International cooperation is unique.
- OECD works on the basis of consensus.
- OECD Test Guidelines and GLP lead to Mutual Acceptance of Data (MAD).
- Everyone has free access to the OECD Documents.

Advantages of the OECD Chemical Programme

OECD has established 150 Test Guidelines:

- Physical Chemical properties
- Bio-degradation and accumulation
- Eco toxicity
- Health Effects
- Other Test Guidelines

Challenging task for experts: Adoption to technical progress – currently for nanomaterials.





EU Regulation

Regulation on **R**egistration, **E**valuation, **A**uthorisation and Restriction of **C**hemicals (REACH), Novel Food, Cosmetics, Biocides, Medicine ...

→ requires approved test methods = e.g. OECD Testguidelines

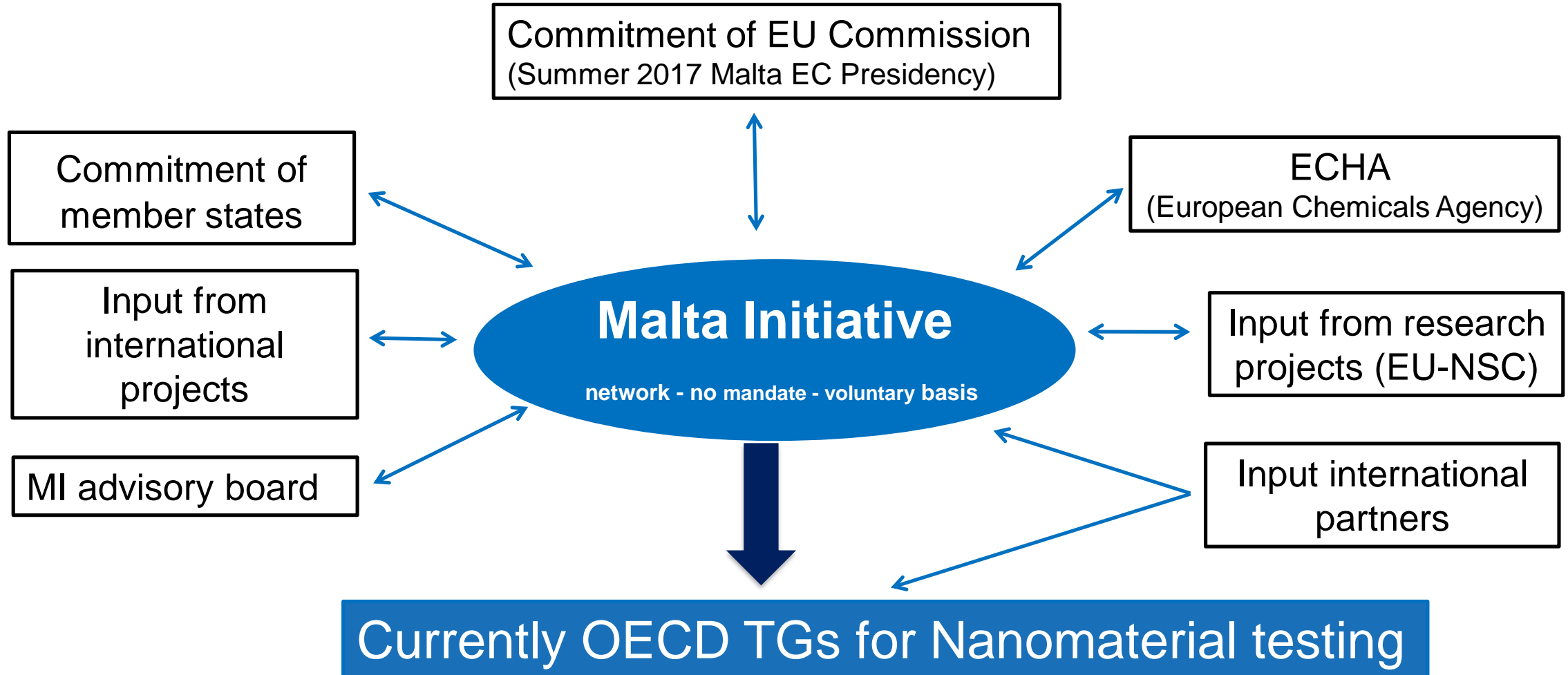
For access to EU market all requirements of EU Regulation have to be fulfilled.

Responsible for that are the manufacturers/importers.



What is the Malta Initiative?

- Malta Initiative (MI) – during the European Council Presidency in Malta 2017 the idea became concrete to build a network that advocates for appropriate test methods (first step: for nanomaterials).
- MI is a network of international experts.
- MI works on a voluntary basis without any official mandate.
- MI addresses the importance of internationally harmonised and standardised testing and measurement methods.





Aims of the Malta Initiative

- We want to strengthen trust in sustainable innovation and enforceable legislation.
- Therefore clear and **enforceable** legislation is needed (= one of the key factors for long term investments of industry – **safe and sustainable innovation**).
- International standards help to **overcome trade barriers**.
- EU funded research projects strengthen the international cooperation of experts from research, industry and regulation.
- Starting point was the adoption of Test Guidelines to nanomaterials.
- Short term: Calls within EU funding programme for research and innovation
- Long term: EU Testmethod Strategy



Achievements of the Malta Initiative

- MI spotlighted the **importance of internationally harmonised tools and their adoption to technical progress.**
- MI initiated calls under the EU Research Programme.
- MI is supporting the development or adoption of more than 20 OECD Testguidelines
- MI



Possible next steps

- Website to be more visible
- Position Paper
- Campaigning for more financial support
- Presentation on conferences
- Scientific articles in journals/newspapers?
- Bring the complex to a political level
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Conclusions

- We need **safety research for sustainable innovation that is in line with legal requirements.**
- **OECD Test Guidelines make research results comparable and reproducible.**
- Malta Initiative is one example how to bring stakeholders together.
- Only international cooperation leads to sustainable success.
- The work on OECD TG/GDs and work on other standards needs a **systematical approach underpinned with financial solutions.**
- **We need a long-term and adequately funded EU Testmethod Strategy!**



Contact

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