Technical progress has paradoxical characters: immediate advantages (at least on the face of it), but long-term drawbacks, associated fragmented scientific approach, social demand (spontaneous or stimulated?) for technical progress and associated loss of confidence, etc. The FP6, which continues to focus on the competitiveness of the European Union in relation to other developed countries, takes place in this paradoxical context. Indeed, it does not envisage the development of an economic system that is adequate in technical terms, appropriate to the environment and respectful of humans, even if tendencies not falling entirely within the sphere of economics do emerge.

In such a context, the humanist visions defined in our occupational risk prevention assignment must rather be integrated into the process of innovation, the central relevance of the FP6, by contributing elements to redefine the paradigm of performance. Different ways of co-operation could be envisaged to strengthen the place of humans in the current climate of rapid and complex change. These will be the subject of the presentation.