PROFILE

Detlef Bartsch, Prof.

Nationality: German

Date of birth: 12.08.1961

Participation in COST Action FP0905:

Member of Management Committee, Leader of WG3 (Socio-economic implications)

ESR at the time of starting the Action: Yes

Contact data:

Institution/Organisation: Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL)
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Institute web page: www.bvl.bund.de

Research area and species (key words):

Environmental risk assessment, GMO, biosafety research, decision making, monitoring

CURRICULUM VITAE (Max 2 pages)

Present position

2004 – present: Scientific Director and Head of unit 404 'Coexistence & GMO monitoring', Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL)

Education/Professional Career

2002-2004	Deputy head of unit 'Genetechnology' at Robert-Koch Institute (RKI), Berlin
2002	Senior researcher at Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF), Müncheberg
1999-2002	Senior researcher at RWTH Aachen University of Technology, Institute for Ecology
1997-1999	Fellowship at University of California Riverside, Botany Department
1992-1997	Senior researcher at RWTH Aachen University of Technology, Institute for Ecology
1990-1992	Post Doc at Technical University of Berlin, Institute for Ecology
1987-1990	PhD student University of Göttingen, Institute of Geobotany

Others

2003-present	Member of the GMO Panel of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), WG Environment

Research Projects (relevant to Action)

2008-2009

BEETLE - EU
- Working Group leader
The main objective of the project was:
- Identification of potential long-term effects of genetically modified (GM) crops on health and the environment (including biodiversity)
- Prioritization of potential risks and delimitation of uncertainties

2006-2009

TRANSCONTAINER- EU
- Working Group Leader
The main objective of the project was:
- Promoting co-existence of GM and non-GM (including organic) agriculture in Europe by using stable, environmentally safe and commercially viable biological containment strategies in crops economically relevant for Europe, and improvement and simplification of rules for co-existence
- Assessing the economic, environment and consumer impact of implementing biological containment strategies in Europe
- Enhancing understanding and acceptance, by stakeholders and the general public, of co-existence through biological containment strategies by invoking dialogue with and between these groups, and by facilitating informed policy and public debates on their consequences for co-existence measures.

2004-2007

SIGMEA - EU
- Participant
The main objective of the project was to set up a science-based framework, strategies, methods and tools for assessing ecological and economic impacts of GM crops and for an effective management of their development within European cropping systems, i.e. to create a practical toolbox.

Selected Publications and Communications (relevant to Action)

Bartsch, D., Gathmann, A., Hartley, S., Hendriksen, N.B., Hails, R., Lheureux, K., Kiss, J., Mesdagh, S., Neemann, G., Perry, J. Renckens, S., Schiemann, J., Sweet (2007) First EFSA experiences with monitoring plans. Journal für Verbraucherschutz und Lebensmittelsicherheit (Journal of Consumer Protection and Food Safety), Volume 2, Supplement 1, 33-36.

Bartsch, D, Gathmann, A., Saeglitz, C., Sinha, A. (2009) Field testing of transgenic plants.in: Stewart, C.N. (ed.) Plant biotechnology and genetics: principles, techniques and applications. Wiley and Sons: 311-324.

Bartsch, D., Buhk, H.J., Engel, K.H., Ewen, C., Flachowsky, G., Gathmann, A., Heinze, P., Koziolek, C., Leggewie, G., Meisner, A., Neemann, G., Rees, U., Scheepers, A., Schmidt, S., Schulte, E., Sinemus, K., Vaasen, A. (2009): BEETLE - Long-term effects of genetically modified (GM) crops on health and the environment (including biodiversity): prioritization of potential risks and delimitation of uncertainties. German Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety, BLaU-Umweltstudien and Genius GmbH, http://ec.europa.eu/environment/biotechnology/pdf/beetle_report.pdf, 133 p. + Annexes

RESEARCH INSTITUTE (Max 1 page)

Description

The Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL) is an autonomous superior federal authority under the jurisdiction of the Federal Ministry of Consumer Protection, Food and Agriculture. The duties of the authority are stipulated in the BVL-Act as well as in various specialist laws in the area of food, commodities, feed, plant protection, veterinary medical products and genetic engineering legislation.

The BVL is the leading federal authority responsible for the field of genetic engineering in Germany. The BVL fulfils the mandate as national competent authority according to the Genetic Engineering Act (Gentechnikgesetz) and Ordinances of the European Union. The BVL thus assesses notifications for the experimental use of genetically modified organisms (GMO). The BVL is also involved in the approval of GMOs in connection with food and feed. The BVL gives advice to the Federal Government as well as the Federal States (Bundesländer) and their bodies on issues of biological safety in genetic engineering.

GMO are subject to environmental monitoring after they have been approved in the European Union. The holder of the approval, i.e. usually the company that developed the GMO, is responsible for the organization and implementation of this monitoring. The notifiers are requested to submit their monitoring plans to the BVL for assessment and should report on a yearly basis on the results of monitoring. The BVL has the right to order special safety measures in cooperation with the inspection agencies of the Bundesländer in the event of unforeseen adverse effects. The BVL may also initiate proceedings to temporarily limit or prohibit the placing on the market of a GMO or a GMO product within Germany if a serious risk for human health or the environment is likely to occur.

The BVL carries out own research activities related to risk assessment and risk management.

Infrastructure

The BVL is divided into a head section, to which the Press Office and the cross-sectional units Central Steering Unit, Administration and Information Technology are directly subordinated as well as three expert departments and a group of units. BVL has approximately 400 employees, and 35 of them are working in the Department of Genetechnology. The overall budgetary volume of the BVL is about 30 million euros per year.

The BVL is also a member of the European Network of GMO-Laboratories, which continues to develop the special GMO detection system in accordance with the current status of science.