

PROFILE

Dr. Helmut Gaugitsch

Nationality: Austria

Date of birth (Optional): 23 February 1963

Participation in COST Action FP0905:

Member of MC, Member of WG 3

ESR at the time of starting the Action: Not

Contact data:

Institution/Organisation: Umweltbundesamt (Environment Agency Austria) GmbH, Unit
Land Use & Biosafety

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Institute web page: <http://www.umweltbundesamt.at>

Research area and species (key words):

GMO Risk Assessment and Monitoring, Environmental Impact of various landuse activities, sustainable agriculture, Policy development and analysis

CURRICULUM VITAE (Max 2 pages)

Present position Since 1991, Umweltbundesamt (Environment Agency Austria, Head of Unit Landuse & Biosafety)

Education/Professional Career

1986	Position/Fellowship etc.
1989	PhD Molecular Biology
1991	Post Doc Human Molecular Immunology
Till now	Umweltbundesamt (Environment Agency Austria)

Others

Till now	Member of the Austrian Advisory Committee on GMOs
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Research Projects (relevant to Action)

Various projects
on GMO risk
assessment and
management

Selected Publications and Communications (relevant to Action)

Spök,A.; Hofer,H.; Lehner,P.; Valenta,R.; Stirn,S. & Gaugitsch,H. (2005): Risk Assessment of GMO Products in the European Union. Toxicity assessment, allergenicity assessment and substantial equivalence in practice and proposals for improvement and standardisation. Umweltbundesamt, Berichte, Band 253, Wien.

Jank, B.; Rath, J. & **Gaugitsch, H.** (2006): Co-existence of agricultural production systems. Trends Biotech. Vol 24 (5), 198-200.

H. Gaugitsch (2006): The impact of the OECD on the development of national/international risk/safety assessment frameworks. Environmental Biosafety Research, Vol 5, 219-222.

H. Gaugitsch et al. (2007): Review of scientific evidence including latest findings concerning Austrian safeguard measures for GM-Maize lines MON810 and T25. Forschungsberichte des Bundesministeriums für Gesundheit, Familie und Jugend, Sektion IV. Band 1/2007, Wien.

H. Gaugitsch et al. (2007): Risk Assessment of “stacked events”. Forschungsberichte des Bundesministeriums für Gesundheit, Familie und Jugend, Sektion IV. Band 2/2007, Wien.

H. Gaugitsch (2008): Editorial: Balancing the views on GM crops. Science for Environment Policy. Special Issue. December 2008.

H. Gaugitsch & M. Eckerstorfer (2009): Public Access to Information and Participation in Decision-Making regarding LMOs: Experience and Lessons Learned from the European Union and Austria. Biosafety Protocol News Issue 6/2009: 4

RESEARCH INSTITUTE (Max 1 page)

Description

Description

Environment Agency Austria is the expert authority of the Federal Government for environmental protection and environmental monitoring in Austria. Among its staff are more than 300 experts of all environmentally relevant disciplines. Dealing with the full range of environmental protection issues, the main tasks of the Agency are:

- Assessment of the state of the environment and of its changes and pressures, incl. national state of the environment reporting to the Austrian Parliament
- Development of measures to avoid/reduce environmental pressures
- Providing expert knowledge in the process of planning and implementing environmental policy decisions
- Contributing to the implementation and enforcement of environmental laws (among others, in the area of genetically modified organisms)
- Specialised environmental analyses in the agency's laboratories
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Environment Agency Austria is part of the EPA network (a network of environmental protection agencies) and part of the Interest Group on GMO risk assessment and monitoring as well as of the ENCA network (European Nature Conservation Agencies).

Expertise in the field of GMOs with respect to regulatory aspects (national and EU)

According to the Austrian Act on Genetic Engineering the Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management receives copies for comments concerning all applications for deliberate release and placing on the market of GMOs. The Federal Ministry has delegated this responsibility to the Environment Agency Austria, which is also the representative of the Federal Ministry in the Austrian Commission on genetic engineering and its scientific subcommittee.

Environment Agency Austria is one of the Austrian delegates to the EU Committee of the Competent Authorities and to the Regulatory Committee according to Art. 30 for the EU-directive 2001/18/EG (replacing the EU directive 90/220/EEC, the former Art 21 committee). Environment Agency Austria has also participated in the EU working group of the Council to amend directive 90/220/EEC and participates in many EU working groups (of the Council and the Commission) which deal with GMOs. Upon request Environment Agency Austria has given advice to the European Parliament on GMO related matters.

Expertise in the field of risk-assessment and Monitoring of GMOs

Environment Agency Austria has performed risk assessments for various notifications for deliberate release and placing on the market of GMOs (in the context of EU Directive 90/220/EEC and 2001/18/EC respectively and the Austrian Law on Genetic Engineering). For more than 10 years Environment Agency Austria has carried out scientific studies in order to evaluate and develop the criteria and scientific basis for risk assessment and the monitoring of GMOs. Various studies on this topic have been published by the experts of the Environment Agency Austria, also in collaboration with other scientific institutions. The results of these studies have been presented on numerous occasions in national and international fora and have been used as the basis for training courses and workshops, e.g. in countries of the CEE region.

Infrastructure