

**EU-Presidency Conference**  
**“The role of precaution in GMO policy”**  
**18 - 19 April 2006, Vienna, Austria**

**Agenda**

**Tuesday 18 April 2006**

8:30 – 9:30 **Registration at Hofburg venue (Redoutensäle)**

9:30 – 10:00 **Welcome notes:**

**Maria Rauch-Kallat**, Minister for Health and Women  
**Werner Wutscher**, General Secretary, Ministry for Agriculture,  
Forestry, Environment and Water Management

**Session 1: Political/Regulatory Context**

Chairperson: **Hugo-Maria Schally**, DG Environment (International Affairs),  
European Commission

10:00 – 10:30 Opening presentation: **Christine von Weizsäcker**, Germany  
“Precaution goes without saying, but comes with controversies”

10:30 – 11:00 **Kathryn Tierney**, DG Environment, European Commission  
“Implementing EU legislation on GMOs -- is there room for  
precaution?”

11:00 – 11:30 *Morning break*

11:30 – 12:00 **Liina Eek**, Ministry of the Environment, Estonia  
“Interpretation of the Precautionary Approach to GMOs in CEE  
countries. Use it or abuse it?”

12:00 – 13:00 Panel discussion with a panel encompassing the speakers  
and the following additional participants:

**David Wield**, Open University, United Kingdom  
**Eric White**, Legal Service, European Commission

Closing remarks by Chairman **Hugo-Maria Schally**

13:00 – 14:30 *Lunch*

**Session 2: Scientific Background**

Chairperson: **Thomas Jakl**, Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and  
Water Management, Austria

14:30 – 15:00 **Brian Wynne**, Centre for the Study of Environmental Change (CSEC),  
Lancaster University, United Kingdom  
“GMO risk assessment under conditions of biological (and social) complexity”

15:00 – 15:30 **Jürgen Zentek**, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany  
“Risk assessment in the food chain: GMO's in food producing animals”

- 15:30–16:00 *Afternoon break*
- 16:00 – 16:30 **Christopher Pollock**, Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research (IGER), United Kingdom  
"Assessing the wider impacts of novel crops; lessons from the farm-scale trials of genetically-modified herbicide-tolerant crops"
- 16:30 – 17:30 Panel discussion with a panel encompassing the speakers and the following additional participants:  
**Margaret Mellon**, Union of Concerned Scientists, USA  
**Katja Moch**, Öko-Institut Freiburg, Germany
- Closing remarks by Chairman **Thomas Jakl**
- 20:00 *Evening Event – Naturhistorisches Museum Vienna*

### Wednesday 19 April 2006

#### Session 3: Practical Experience

- Chairperson: **Michel Haas**, Ministry for Health and Women, Austria
- 9:00 – 9:30 **Brian Wynne**, on behalf of David Gee, European Environment Agency  
"Some consequences of the use and non-use of precaution on large scale, long latency hazards: 1896-2000"
- 9:30 – 10:00 **Harry Kuiper**, GMO-Panel EFSA, RIKILT - Institute of Food Safety, The Netherlands  
"Precaution in Risk Characterisation of GM Plants Regarding Food/Feed Safety and Environmental Impact"
- 10:00 – 10:30 *Morning break*
- 10:30 – 11:00 **Jan Husby**, GenØk – Norwegian Institute of Gene Ecology, Norway  
"Precaution, sustainability, socio-economic and ethic considerations - The Norwegian Gene Technology Act as an example"
- 11:00 – 12:15 Panel discussion with a panel encompassing the speakers and the following additional participant:  
**Simon Barber**, Plant Biotechnology Unit, EuropaBio
- 12:15 – 12:30 Summary and Conclusions by **Helmut Gaugitsch**, Umweltbundesamt/  
Federal Environment Agency, Austria
- Closing of the Conference with Farewell Snack*

Panel discussions in all 3 sessions will feature introductory statements by panel members followed by discussion of questions put forward by the audience.