

Debate 2002'0722 b: Horizontal gene transfer, some reactions to Debate 2002'0717 a

Dear friends,

first some corrections:

the Guardian article is now on the server, sorry for those who tried hard to download it until yesterday.

<http://www.botanischergarten.ch/debate/Guardian20020717.pdf>

there was no reference for the Biofutur comment of John Heritage, here it is:

And it has been published Sept. 1999, No. 192, you can find out this on the biofutur-website.

<http://www.botanischergarten.ch/debate/biofutur.pdf>

Klaus

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now a most interesting reply from Conrad von Kamecke
conrad.von.kamecke@monsanto.com

Dear Klaus,

Thank you once again for the excellent information.

I would like to add one aspect to a point you make in your message. While the public and political perception in the EU widely is that we have a phaseout mandated for ALL antibiotic resistance marker genes, the reality is different: Thanks to science-based support from a sufficiently large number of Members of the European Parliament, the wording of Article 4, Number 2, Directive 2001/18 (the new 90/220) says:

"Member States and the Commission shall ensure that GMOs which contain genes expressing resistance to antibiotics in use for medical or veterinary treatment are taken into particular consideration when carrying out an environmental risk assessment, with a view to identifying and phasing out antibiotic resistance markers in GMOs WHICH MAY HAVE ADVERSE EFFECTS ON HUMAN HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT.

Not ALL marker genes are to be phased out - only those "which may have adverse effects". Efforts to further define what this means in scientific terms are under way. A definition process within the OECD might be a good option.

Best regards
Conrad

the intended changes fit very well with my comments, a good and unintended matching,
if you want.

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a comment from

From: "Abigail Salyers" <abigails@uiuc.edu> President 2001 of the 42,000 member
American Society for Microbiology
sent to AgBioWorld yesterday, presumably as a reply to the copy of my Debate from July
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Date: Sun, 21 Jul 2002 14:11:42 -0500

Subject: skewed priorities

<http://www.botanischergarten.ch/debate/Salyers.pdf>

Abigail Salyers puts the 'case' of horizontal gene transfer' into the balanced perspective of
a person who deals with REAL, and not virtual problems.
Nothing to add or contradict from my side.

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A comment from the New Scientist from July 18

from Andy Coghlan

<http://www.botanischergarten.ch/debate/NewScientistHG20020718.pdf>

The facts put precisely in line. And how 'naive' or better said with professional scare
attitude the comments of the Friends of the Earth.

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and some additional literature references

<http://www.botanischergarten.ch/debate/LitHGeneTransferBiosafety.pdf>

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<http://www.botanischergarten.ch/debate/leader.htm>

<http://www.botanischergarten.ch/start.htm>

<http://www.bio-scope.org>

<http://www.academia-engelberg.ch>