

Preface

The Europäische Akademie deals with the scientific study of the consequences of scientific and technological advances for individuals and society, as well as for the natural environment with the lifesciences being an important focus of its work.

The genetic engineering in animal species traditionally used as livestock has experienced a renaissance in recent time caused by the huge advances in the methods of animal biotechnology and by an increasing amount of sequencing information available. Applications reach from the use of transgenic animals for the production of biopharmaceuticals, to the alteration of the meat or milk quality or to the improvement of disease resistance of the animals. Besides these expected beneficial traits, livestock genetic engineering also raises a number of complex moral, legal and social questions as well as questions on the animal welfare of transgenic livestock that yet have not been thoroughly discussed. To initiate discussion the Europäische Akademie and the Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften jointly organized a symposium on “New applications of livestock genetic engineering” that took place from 21st to 22nd of September 2007 in Berlin. The results of the symposium are published in these proceedings. The symposium was carried out in connection with an interdisciplinary project group of the Europäische Akademie on ‘Pharming’. The results of this project are published in parallel to these proceedings in the same book series (volume 35): “Pharming. Promises and risks of biopharmaceuticals derived from genetically modified plants and animals”.

I would like to thank the authors Joseph Carnwath, Ph.D. (Neustadt, Germany), Professor Dr. Louis-Marie Houdebine (Jouy en Josas, France), Professor Dr. Matthias Kaiser (Oslo, Norway), Dr. Wilfried Kues (Neustadt, Germany), Professor Dr. Heiner Niemann (Neustadt, Germany), Professor Angelika Schnieke, Ph.D. (Munich, Germany), Dr. Cornelius Van Reenen (Lelystad, The Netherlands), Professor Gary Walsh, Ph.D. (Limerick, Republic of Ireland) and the scientific coordinators of the symposium Dr. Margret Engelhard (Bad Neuenahr-Ahrweiler, Germany), Kristin Hagen, Ph.D. (Bad Neuenahr-Ahrweiler, Germany) and Dr. Mathias Boysen (Berlin, Germany) for their commitment to this project. Especially I would like to thank one of the authors, Professor Schnieke, for her great support during the planning phase of the symposium. In addition, I thank Katharina Mader and Friederike Wütscher from the Europäische

Akademie for the organisation of the symposium and the editing of this proceeding.

The Federal Ministry of Education and Research (Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung, BMBF) and the Hermann und Elise geborene Heckmann Wentzel-Stiftung is hereby acknowledged for the funding of the symposium.

Bad Neuenahr-Ahrweiler, July 2008

Carl Friedrich Gethmann

Genetic Engineering in Livestock

New Applications and Interdisciplinary Perspectives

Engelhard, M.; Hagen, K.; Boysen, M. (Eds.)

2009, XVI, 146 p. 8 illus., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-3-540-85842-3