

PROPOSITIONS

Thesis

The deadlock in European GM Crop authorisations as a wicked problem by design

A need for repoliticisation of the decision-making process

1. The deadlock in decision-making on the authorisation of GM crops in Europe is not a wicked problem by nature but a wicked problem by design.
2. 'Alarming studies' illustrate the limitations of scientific knowledge in decision-making about technology safety.
3. After two decades of deliberative and participatory processes to facilitate opinion transformation about GM crops, a consensus has not been reached. Therefore, we have to conclude that a repoliticisation of the decision-making process is needed now or even overdue.
4. A regulatory framework for contested technologies that relies both strongly on precaution and science carries a serious risk that the decision-making process becomes a perpetuum mobile.
5. The European Commission's behavior of evading political decision-making about GM crop authorisations may be justified from a strategic perspective of accountability towards MS and international parties, but from a democratic perspective, it cannot be justified towards both proponents and opponents of GM crops.
6. It is impossible to take policy decisions about complex issues based on all available scientific evidence.
7. A free and uncoerced debate between stakeholders in the absence of power structures is an unrealistic ideal.
8. A pandemic cannot be conquered by virologists.
9. Achieving behavioral changes in society, for example in the situation of a pandemic, is as complicated as training a cat.
10. Decision-making, like photography, captures a moment in time.
11. Running is cheaper than therapy.