

WHY ARE WE HERE?

- to understand risk perception
- to identify practical ways in which policy-making can be improved
- to help increase public's trust in science-based regulation

FACTS ON GM-AGRI FOOD

(1)

- no overall scientific agreement
- less concern about food safety
- more concern about environmental protection

FACTS ON GM-AGRI FOOD

(2)

- short-term benefits/risks to consumers?
- long-term benefits/risks to consumers?
- long-term benefits/risks to the environment?
- long-term benefits/risks to society?

WHY DID GM-AGRI FOOD FEARS EMERGE? (1)

- food safety failure?
- food safety scare?
- environmental disaster?
- environmental fear?

WHY DID GM-AGRI FOOD FEARS EMERGE? (2)

- who or what raised consumer concern?
- effects of *anti*-lobby
- effects of *pro*-lobby

RISK (1)

Distinguish:

- risk from hazard
- voluntary from involuntary
- certain from uncertain

RISK (2)

- no risk - free society
- every action or inaction carries risk
- risk inherent part of entrepreneurial society
- Lisbon objectives cannot be achieved without innovation and risk-taking

DIALOGUE (1)

- need ongoing **dialogue** between stakeholders
- which means **debate**
- talking **to** and not **at** each other
- rights and **responsibilities** of stakeholders

DIALOGUE (2)

- open minds
- common solutions to common problems
- balancing short-term and long-term
- balancing individuals and future generations

POLITICIANS

- short-term versus long-term
- Precautionary *Principle* easily invoked to justify ban
- why should politicians take risk not to ban?
- if hazard occurs, will be blamed before next election
- if no hazard likely, who will know and when?

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

- biotech modification = genetic modification
- fortified protection = irradiation

QUOTATIONS

- “We are better off not knowing how sausages and laws are made” (Bismarck)
- “the known unknown”
(*EV 50* non-European of the Year Donald Rumsfeld)

QUOTATIONS

- “Find me a one-armed scientist. I’m fed up with on the one hand, on the other ... ”
(Lyndon Johnson, distortion)
- “Human mind like parachute. Works best when open.” (Chinese proverb)

PRACTICAL WAYS TO IMPROVE DECISION-MAKING

- Consensus workshop
- ?
- ?
- ?

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