



Annual Conference of the European Parliamentary Technology Assessment – Network, 2011

“Hope-, Hype- and Fear-Technologies – the Role of Science and Politics”

Hope, hype and fear are the attributes of a very heterogeneous group of technologies. They are believed to have the potential to solve global problems (hope), they are associated with far-reaching visions of the future and with over-reaching expectations (hype), and because of their impacts that are difficult to foresee and even less to control, they raise concerns no matter whether they are well founded or not (fear). Therefore, these technologies attract a high degree of public and political attention. This results in serious pressure on decision makers to take action and to shape the development of these technologies in spite of but also because of a precarious knowledge base and diffuse interests.

At the EPTA conference three exemplary cases will be explored. Key questions are: How do agenda setting processes proceed, which political strategies are employed to tackle the problems, how does the interaction between science and politics progress, and what part do media and societal discourses play?

Venue

German Bundestag
Marie-Elisabeth Lüders Building, room E 3101
Adele-Schreiber-Krieger-Straße 1
10117 Berlin
(ID-card/passport is necessary to enter the building)

Further Information

www.tab-beim-bundestag.de/en/news/20110712.html

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EPTA Conference Hope-, Hype- and Fear-Technologies – the Role of Science and Politics

Programme
Thursday 20th October 2011

10:00	Welcome and opening words Ulla Burchardt, MP Chairwoman of the Committee on Education, Research and Technology Assessment, German Bundestag	13:00	Case Study: Internet and Cyberdemocracy Chair: Lars Klüver The Danish Board of Technology Keynote speaker: Prof. Thomas Zittel Professor for Comparative Political Science at the Goethe University Frankfurt/Main, Germany	15:00	Case Study: Geo-/Climate Engineering Chair: Prof. David Cope Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (POST), UK Keynote speakers: Barton J. Gordon, J.D. Former Chairman of the U.S. House Committee on Science and Technology, USA
10:15	Introduction Prof. Armin Grunwald Office of Technology Assessment at the German Bundestag (TAB)	13:20	Statements: Lina Ben Mhenni (tbc), Tunisia Axel E. Fischer, MP Chairman of the Enquete Commission "Internet and Digital Society", German Bundestag	15:30	Statements: Lord Phil Willis House of Lords, former Chairman of the UK House of Commons Science and Technology Committee, UK
10:30	Case Study: Nanotechnology Chair: Dr. Michael Nentwich Institute of Technology Assessment of the Austrian Academy of Sciences (ITA) Keynote speaker: Prof. Bernadette Bensaude-Vincent Professor of History and Philosophy of Science at the Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, France		Bart van Malderen, MP Flemish Parliament Tore Tennøe The Norwegian Board of Technology Mario Valducci, MP Chairman of the Committee on Transport, Post and Telecommunications Chamber of Deputies, Italy	15:45	Discussion
10:50	Statements: Claude Birraux, PhD, MP Parliamentary Office for Evaluation of Scientific and Technological Options (OPECST), France Prof. Frans Brom Rathenau Institute, Netherlands Dr. Thomas Jakl Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, Austria Timothy M. Persons, PhD U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), USA	13:45	Discussion	16:30	Résumé Drs. Jan Staman Rathenau Institute, Netherlands
		14:30	<i>Coffee break</i>	17:00	<i>Drinks</i>
11:15	Discussion				<i>Optional (Registration required):</i>
12:00	<i>Lunch</i>			18:00	<i>Guided tour of the Reichstag Building</i>
				20:00	<i>Farewell dinner</i> <i>Restaurant "Naked Lunch"</i> <i>Anklamer Str. 38, second backyard</i>