



Committee on  
Education, Research  
and Technology Assessment

Sports Committee



OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT  
AT THE GERMAN PARLIAMENT

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Public meeting and discussion of experts  
on

## Gene doping

Presentation and discussion of the findings of the  
technology assessment (TA) project

on Wednesday, 12 March 2008, 14.00 – 16.30 h  
in room 3.101, Marie-Elisabeth Lüders Building  
Adele-Schreiber-Krieger-Straße 1, Berlin

### Programme

- 14.00 hrs **Welcome and introduction** by the chairpersons of the Committee on Education, Research and Technology Assessment and the Sports Committee  
**Ulla Burchardt**, Member of the Bundestag  
**Dr Peter Danckert**, Member of the Bundestag
- 14.15 hrs **Presentation of the findings** of the TA project on gene doping  
by the Head of the Office of Technology Assessment at the German Parliament (TAB)  
and the project staff:  
**Prof Armin Grunwald**  
**Dr Katrin Gerlinger**  
**Dr Arnold Sauter**
- 14.45 hrs **Comments of the parliamentary groups**  
**Axel E. Fischer** (CDU/CSU)  
**Swen Schulz** (SPD)  
**Detlef Parr** (FDP)  
**Dr Petra Sitte** (The Left Party)  
**Winfried Hermann** (Alliance 90/The Greens)

- 15.15 hrs      **Questions and comments from the audience and the press**
- Discussion**
- 16.15 hrs      **Concluding remarks** by
- Ulla Burchardt**, Chairwoman of the Committee on Education, Research and  
Technology Assessment
- Dr Peter Danckert**, Chairman of the Sports Committee
- 16.30 hrs      **End of the meeting**

It seems likely that increasingly sophisticated molecular biology techniques and knowledge of the function of genes and cells will lead to the development of new substances and methods which may help to create a new "quality" of doping. The growing complexity of the options available for influencing the activity of genes in order to enhance physical capacity will be coupled with the difficulties in proving that banned doping actions have taken place.

Although it is at present difficult to establish how widespread and frequent the use of gene doping is, both the system of controls and sanctions in organised sport and the state's legal norms will be faced with new challenges.

In view of the potential explosiveness of this issue and the necessity for lawmakers to tackle these problems early on, the Sports Committee requested an investigation of the issues surrounding "gene doping" by the Committee on Education, Research and Technology Assessment.

The Office of Technology Assessment at the German Parliament, which serves as a scientific advisory body to the German Bundestag, carried out the investigation. The results are being presented to Parliament and the public and debated today.

*Prof Armin Grunwald (TAB)*

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