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".

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