



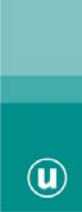
# Public information

Workshop GMOs – The NBF of Croatia  
Zagreb, Croatia, December 16/17, 2004

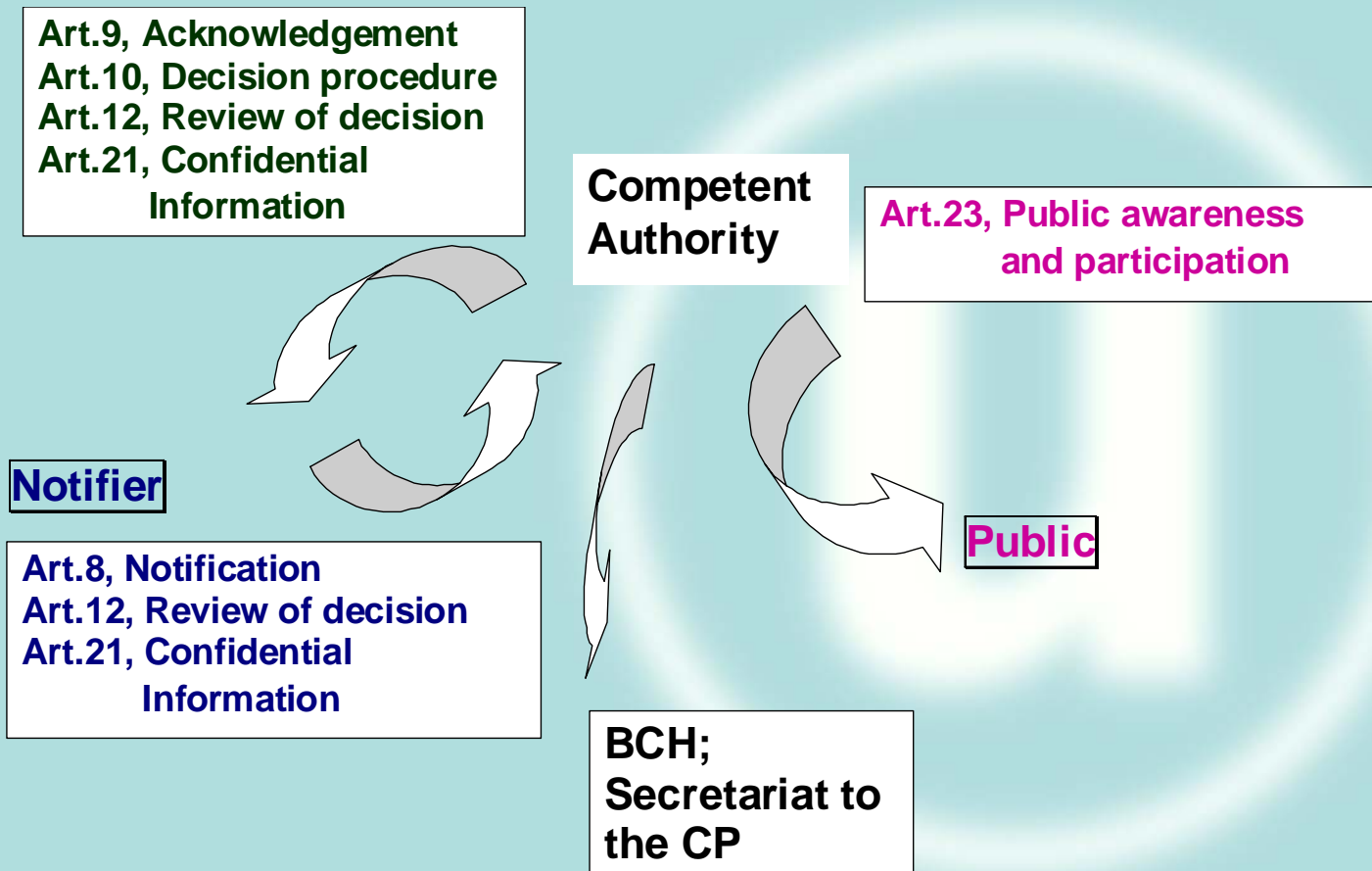
**Helmut Gaugitsch**



- Public Information as a prerequisite for Public Participation
- EU Directive 2001/18/EC
- Example: Austrian GMO Regulations
- UN-ECE Aarhus Convention



# Communication requirements under the Cartagena Protocol

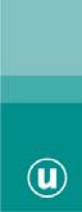


# EU Directive 2001/18/EC – Part B

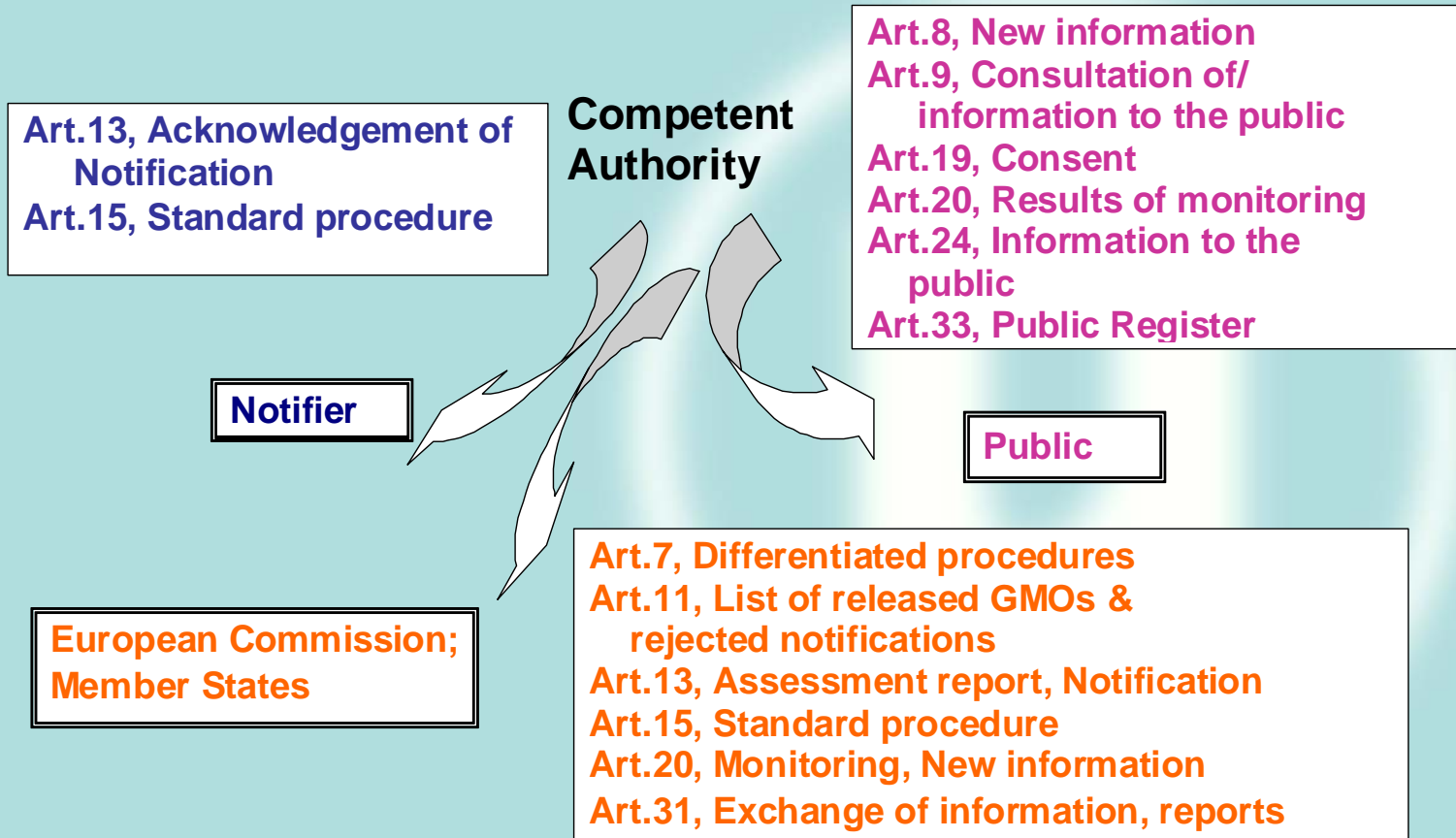
- Art 9: Consultation of and information to the public
  - compulsory public consultation
  - arrangements, including reasonable time-period (not more than additional 30 days)
  - information on all part B releases
  - EC shall make available SNIFs (JRC Ispra)

# EU Directive 2001/18 – Part C

- Art 24: Information to the Public
  - EC shall immediately make available SNIF of the Notification (JRC Ispra)
  - Assessment Reports
  - Comments within 30 days (JRC Ispra, Internet), to competent authority
  - assessment reports and opinions of the Scientific Committee for all products (consent and rejected)



# Communication requirements under EU Directive 2001/18/EC



# EU Directive 2001/18/EC - Registers

- Commission:
  - recording the information on genetic modification of GMOs
- Member States:
  - locations of part B and C releases
- Confidentiality

# Austrian legislation

- Deliberate release of GMOs for research and development (part B)
- Notification in newspapers
- public: 3 weeks to take a look and make comments
- public hearing
- right to appeal: notifier, owner of the plot, neighbours, Federal State

# Aarhus Convention – GMO Guidelines

- Guidelines on Access to Information, public Participation and Access to Justice with Respect to GMOs
- UN - ECE Aarhus Convention
- Adopted at MOP-1 (October 2002) together with a decision on GMOs (legally binding approach)
- <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/mop1.htm>

# Aarhus Guidelines/1

- Voluntary, non-legally binding
- Guidance to the practical implementation of the Aarhus Convention with respect to GMOs
- Chapters
  - Public Information
  - Public Participation
  - Access to Justice
  - Implementation, Annexes

# Aarhus - Information

- Broad Scope
- Collection and dissemination of information by public authorities
  - lists, registers, files
- Information on Products such as labelling and accompanying documentation, other fora

# Aarhus - Participation

- Scope: broad, criteria
- Public Notice
  - government gazette, newspapers, town-hall, Internet
- Access to the notification and/or draft decision: hard copy, Internet
- Comments, public hearing
- Final decision by the CA

# Aarhus – Implementation and Annexes

- Capacity building, review, handbook
- Annexes
  - Use of Terms
  - Contents of the Public Notice
  - Information in public participation process
  - Ways for Public Authorities
  - Contents of lists, registers, files

# Aarhus – Legally Binding approach

- Working Group under the Convention
- Controversial discussions
- Interrelationship with the Cartagena Protocol
- MOP-2 in May 2005 (Almaty, Kasachstan)
- Decision?

- Information sharing through several means
- Transparency
- Define stakeholders - Who should be involved? What are their interests?
- Where in a decision making process should stakeholders be involved?
- To what extent? Through which means?
- Regard to history, experiences with administrative and political system so far, resources
- Responsibility for the process