

**Debate on a European harmonization  
of marketing regulations  
for fertilizers, soils improvers and growing  
media**

**Austria**

9<sup>th</sup> September 2009, Paris

## Products manufactured in Austria; mostly used in agriculture



- Mineral Fertilizer : **appr. 1,3 M t**
- Organic and organic-mineral fertilizer: **appr. 5 kt, mostly traded**
- growing media: **mostly traded; appr. 250 kt**
- soil improvers (e.g. rock meal): **appr. 30 kt, mostly traded**
- plant adjuvants (e.g. plant extracts): **appr. 3 kt**
- Digestate from biogas plants: **appr. 400 kt, 250 kt traded**
- Manure: **appr. 28 M m<sup>3</sup>, mostly not traded**
- Compost: **traded amount appr. 400 kt, no imports**

# Legislation in Austria



- **Fertilizer Law 1994**
  - Base Legislation, covers fertilizer, growing media, soil improvers and plant adjuvants
- **Fertilizer Ordinance 2004**
  - Special Requirements for „the placing on the market“ of national fertiliser
- **EC Directive 2003/2003 for EC Fertilizer**
- **EC Directive 1774/2002 Animal By Products**

carried out by BAES – Federal Office for Food Safety

# Further Regulations in Austria



- Compost Ordinance
  - Delineates quality criteria for production
- Province legislation
- Guidelines published by the national advisory board for soil fertility and soil protection
  - e.g. guidelines for appropriate fertilization (different crops), proper use of compost, biogas slurry etc.
- National and EU standards
  - e.g. covering soil, compost, growing media, soil improvers

# Potential Risks



- Excess of nutrients (especially N) – codes of good practice
- Heavy metals, residues of organic pollutants, hazardous microbes – no actual problem, sufficient national regulations in AT
- Pharmaceutical residues
- Growing media: suitability for special plants, guidelines for use
- Prove of effectiveness for soil improvers and plant adjuvants
- Imprecise declaration of raw materials
- Dilution of harmful raw materials and substances
- Complexity of analysing efforts

# Fertiliser Ordinance

Limit Values for Heavy Metals in mg/kg d.m.



		Fertiliser, soil conditioner	Mineral Fertiliser >5 % P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	Growing media
Lead	mg/kg dm	100	100	50
Cadmium	mg/kg dm	3	75 mg/kg P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	1
Chromium	mg/kg dm	100	2500	70
Nickel	mg/kg dm	100	100	70
Mercury	mg/kg dm	1	1	0,5
Vanadium	mg/kg dm	-	4000	-

# Limit Values for Organic Pollutants and Salmonella in fertilisers, growing media and soil improvers



Parameter	Unit	
Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH)	mg kg <sup>-1</sup> dm	6
Pesticides (Σ of ten compounds) e.g. DDT, DDE, δ- HCH	mg kg <sup>-1</sup> fm	0,5
Polychlorinated biphenyls PCB	mg kg <sup>-1</sup> dm	0,2
Dioxins (2-,3-7-,8-TCCD)	ng TE kg <sup>-1</sup>	20
Caesium-134 and Caesium-137	Bq g <sup>-1</sup> product	0,5
Salmonella in 50 g F.M.	CFU/g	0

# Fertiliser Ordinance

## Labelling requirements



- Name and adress of the responsible manufacturer
- Labelling of the Type (one of 12 types)
- Declaration of the nutrition content (growing media in ranges: e.g. 100-400 mg/l nitrogen)
- Grain size, grinding fineness, ...
- Used raw material in organic fertiliser, growing media, soil conditioner and plant aids
- Information about application scope and rate, storage and safety instructions



# Benefits of EU - legislation



- Increase of harmonization of „Fertilizers“
- Decrease of efforts for Regulation EC 764/2008
- Harmonized declaration
- Facilitation of trade
- Framework for appropriate application

# Means to support harmonization



- Variety of national regulations (legislation, standards, guidelines, voluntary agreements)
- Lots of advantages and disadvantages
- Expert group to integrate, based on existing regulations and recent developments, the needs of consumers, farmers and the industry (WG Fertilizer, TC/CEN, ...)