

Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications DETEC

Federal Office for the Environment FOEN Waste and Raw Materials Division

# Swiss Regulation of Agrofuels and

### **Prospects for Future Fuels**

17 November 2008 - LCA-Forum

# Agenda

- · Swiss Regulation
- Biofuels Life Cycle Assessment Ordinance
- Procedure
  - Verification of Completeness
  - Verification of Credibility
  - Verification of Compliance With Ordinance
- · Conclusions

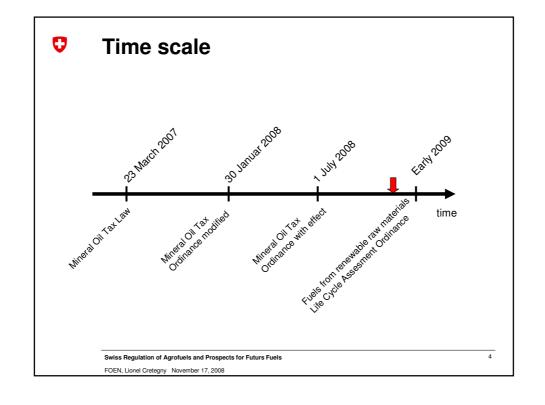
Swiss Regulation of Agrofuels and Prospects for Futurs Fuels

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# Legislative Action

#### Parliament

Amendment
Renewable fuels? •••• Mineral Oil Tax Act

#### Federal Council

- environmental protection
- · energy policy objectives
- criteria for environmental and socially acceptable production conditions

Mineral Oil Ordinance

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## Mineral Oil Ordinance

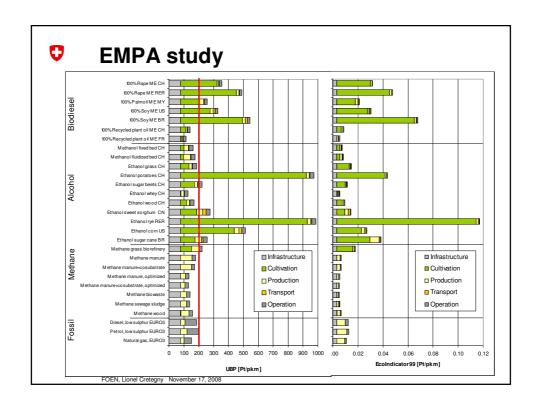
- ·Social criteria
- •Environmental criteria
  - •Generate at least 40% less greenhouse gases than fossil petrol (I CA)
  - •Do not generate a significantly greater environmental impact than fossil petrol (LCA)
  - •Do not endanger "rainforest conservation" and biological diversity when the requisite renewable feedstocks are cultivated.

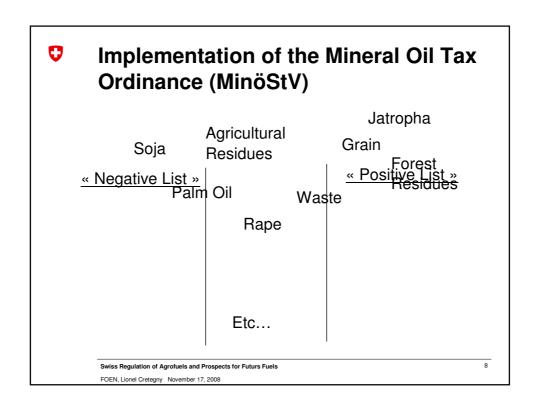


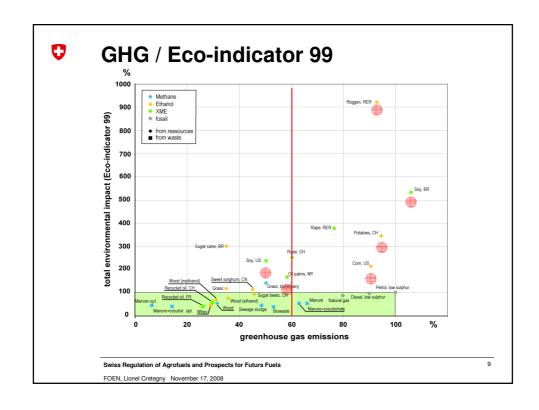
#### **Mineral Oil Tax exoneration**

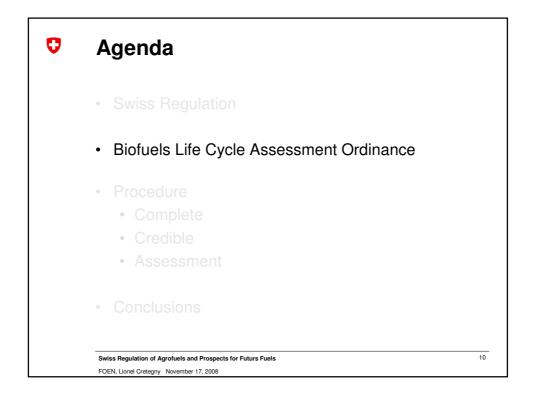
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## **Over the Cycle Assessment Ordinance**

(State: Audition Stage - Summer 2008 / Requirement upon the proof)

#### Art 2:

- Description of production chain: Cultivation of resources, production of fuels, transport (in kg, km, litres, etc. in accordance with the application form)
- Proof that no threat is posed to rainforests or other CO2storing ecosystems and biological diversity
- Special ecological benefits of the fuels (voluntary)

#### Art 4:

- Exact description of the cultivation land.
- Use of the land between the 1st January 2005 and the cultivation
- · Respect of environmental dispositions
- · Respect of good practices.

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## **©** Biofuels Life Cycle Assessment Ordinance

(State: Audition Stage - Summer 2008 / Assessment Procedure)

#### Art 12

- Resource cultivation endangers neither "rainforests" nor biological diversity if:
- cultivation does not take place within or in the immediate vicinity of national or international protected areas;
  - cultivation does not take place on lands converted after the year 2005 which were originally either covered with primary vegetation or were considered to be habitats of special conservation value;
  - the relevant environmental protection provisions are complied with; and
  - good practice is applied in feedstock cultivation

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## **U** Biofuels Life Cycle Assessment Ordinance

(State: Audition Stage - Summer 2008 / Assessment procedure)

- Art 14.
  - GHG emissions at least 40% smaller than fossil fuels
- Art 15.
  - UBP score not greater than 25% than fossil fuels.
  - FOEN considers ecological practices of production modes.

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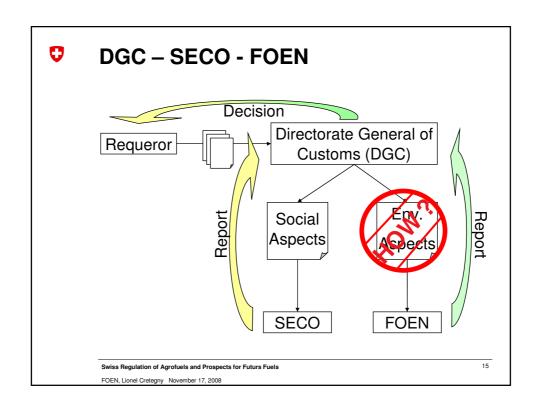
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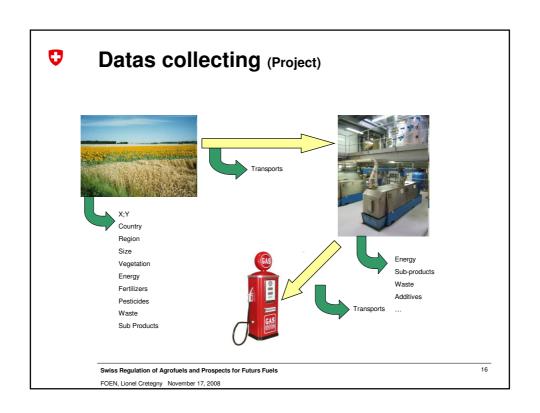
# Agenda

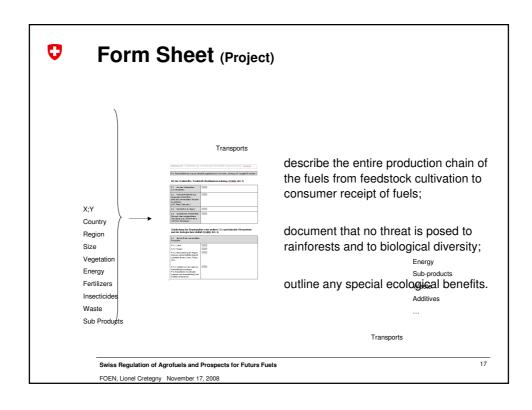
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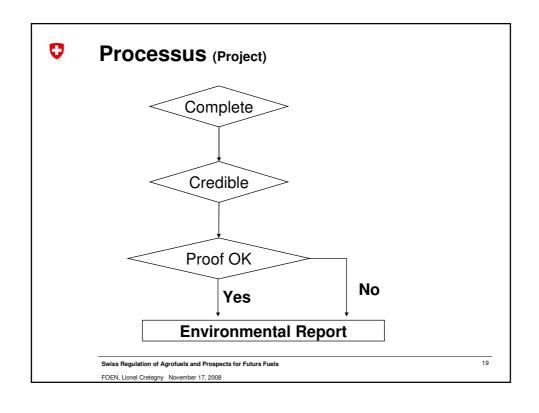


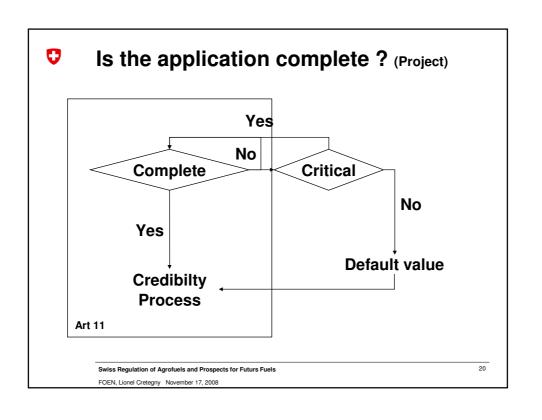
# Summary (Project)

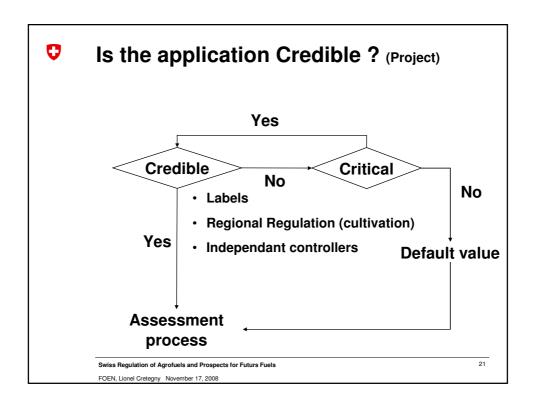
- Each application is assessed individually (according to the Mineral Oil Tax Ordinance)
- Applicants make their statements on a form sheet, supplemented with supporting documents where necessary
- Applications set out for each resource:
  - Description of production chain: Cultivation of resources, production of fuels, transport (in kg, km, litres, etc. in accordance with the application form)
  - Proof that no threat is posed to rainforests or other CO2storing ecosystems and biological diversity
  - Special ecological benefits of the fuels (voluntary)

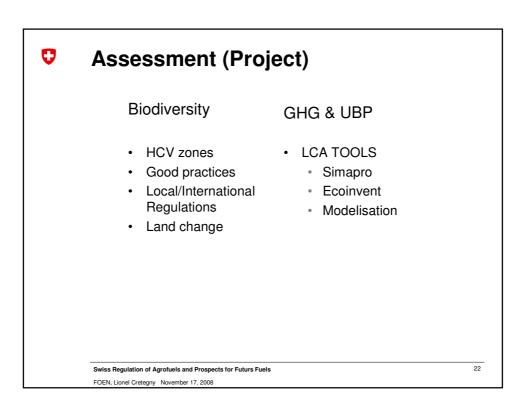
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# Outlook / unresolved points:

- For a **contribution to climate protection** to be made, CO2storing ecosystems must not be endangered.
- Proof of origin of feedstocks is key to the assessment of the absence of a direct threat to CO2-storing ecosystems and biological diversity.
- Without a certification system that monitors origins and quantities of feedstocks and fuels across the full chain of custody from cultivation to consumption, it is difficult to assess these criteria.
- International cooperation and coordination, such as in the Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels, EPFL, Lausanne, CEN/TC 383 or ISO are essentials

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## Future Fuels

- 2nd Generation
  - LCA shows that results are dependant on the choice of raw materials and on the agricultural phase (as first generation biofuels)
  - Ordinance to be applied
  - Case by case assesment

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## Summary

- Switzerland has a restrictive attitude to biofuels. Switzerland has adopted, with effect from 1 July 2008, binding and strict ecological criteria for public promotion – and is the first country to do so worldwide. Switzerland thus also underscores that food production has priority. Minimum social criteria are prescribed as well.
- According to the Mineral Oil Tax Ordinance it is to be assumed in particular that fuels made from grain (including maize) and from palm oil and soy do not meet these criteria.
- Large-scale agricultural production of biogenic fuels is neither realistic nor purposeful in Switzerland. It would result in domestic food and feedstuff production being displaced, which would then have to be substituted increasingly by imports.

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# Summary

- The production of biogenic fuels from biomass residues has a good environmental life cycle inventory. Moreover, it does not compete with food production.
- As a matter of principle, saved fuel is the best fuel.
   Economic and efficient energy use should have priority, in the mobility sector as elsewhere. For instance: Choice of economic and efficient vehicles at purchase.
- · Thank you for your attention!

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