

Voice of the People

**Manuscript
EU and research
BRT, Germany**

Crew:

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Duration: 3:35

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0'02

Presenter:

The European project is the more successful and its economies the more flourishing the more countries pull in the same direction. This is especially true when it comes to research. The EU realized that and supports research with subsidies of millions of euros. The EU intends to create a European association of researches to promote the exchange of information and experience. Furthermore, the EU wants to create a strong economic market that is able to vie with the US market. The discussions about genetically-modified food also show which problems these plans can entail. There must be limits – even or especially in Europe. And it is the tasks of the politicians to set them.

1. Question: What is going to happen with genetically modified food?

0'41

Answer, Otto Wiesheu, CSU, Bavaria's minister for economic affairs:

European law stipulates that genetically modified food has to be labelled. The problem is that Americans import certain food or animal food that only contains a very small amount of genetically modified food or that cannot be detected anymore. Americans are of the opinion that in these cases the food does not have to be labelled. There are two different cultures and opinions, an American one and a European one. However, I assume that the European regulations will be enforced. However, this is an international controversy.

2. Question: Why can the European market still vie with the markets of low-wage countries?

1'26

Answer, Otto Wiesheu, CSU, Bavaria's minister for economic affairs:

I think the reason for that is that the European market produces high-quality products, due to innovations, research and development and well-organized networks and brilliant production. We have to produce better quality to make up for our high prices. Cheap quantity alone will not be sufficient, customers want high-quality products and that is still what Europe is renown for.

3. Question: What is Europe's export "best sellers"?

1'59

Answer, Otto Wiesheu, CSU, Bavaria's minister for economic affairs:

In Germany, Bavaria can offer its automobile industry and a number of other industrial products. Europe on the whole can be proud of its automobile industry, electrical engineering and its electronics. When it comes to mechanical engineering Germany sticks out more than other EU countries. Chemistry is strength of Germany and some other EU members but a weakness of other EU members. Regarding the service sector, Europe has a lot of catching up to do compared to the US and other countries. In a nutshell, Europe's export "best sellers" are industrial products, especially those that require high technological knowledge.

4. Question: Everybody is talking about globalization. Would it not be more important to concentrate on Europe first?

2'57

Answer, Otto Wiesheu, CSU, Bavaria's minister for economic affairs:

Europeanization is part of globalization. Due to the EU enlargement to the East, customs barriers are a thing of the past, the division of labour and international cooperation has increased and suppliers come ever more often from Eastern European countries. But you can also see that, if you look at the textile or automobile industry as well as the home electronics industry, such as TVs. More and more often they come from the Far East and other regions. That has been the other side of the medal of cutting customs barriers etc.