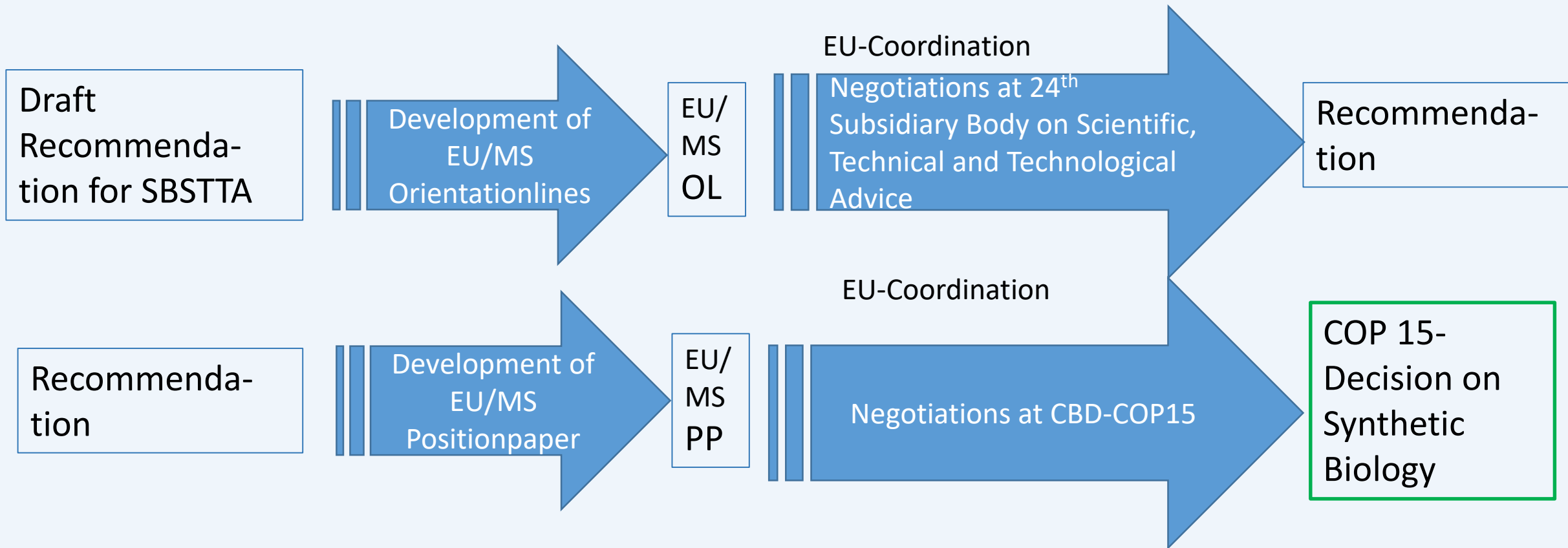




**Synthetic Biology, Including Gene Drives, in the
Context of preparations to CBD-COP 15
-The Status quo-**

Birgit Winkel, BMU, 8th December 2020

On the way to CBD-COP 15 in Kunming – Preparations



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Content of Recommendations:

- **Focus on the establishment of the horizon scanning process.**
- Do not contain a recommendation on whether or not synthetic biology should be considered a new and emerging issue as recommended in decision 14/19.
- Do not contain a proposal on how to deal with the potential deliberate release of Gene Drive Organisms.

Discussions in the EU



Unity under MS:

- The provided recommendation does not define the Horizon Scanning process well enough.
- The process is important und must be well defined.

Different Opinions of MS on the following issues:

- Recalling of Paras 9 to 11 of decision 14/19 concerning applying the precautionary approach when considering the use of GDO.
- Instalment of a multidisciplinary technical expert group to assist horizon scanning process.
- Should the Horizon Scanning process depend on the availability of resources?

The EU and its member States Orientation Lines



Orientation lines:

- Support an efficient horizon scanning process that is suitable to assess and identify the potential positive and potential negative impacts of synthetic biology.
 - Propose to recall paragraphs 9 to 11 of Decision 14/9, and emphasise a precautionary approach with respect to engineered gene drives.
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- European Parliament's call for a global moratorium on the release of Gene Drive Organisms at CBD COP15 was taken into account.
 - The call for a moratorium is not supported in the EU and its MS OL for different reasons.
 - Instead a precautionary approach with respect to engineered gene drives is emphasised.

Thank you!



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