CLAIMS

1. A UV radiator unit comprising:
an elongated gas discharge lamp with a substantially cylindrical UV transparent lamp body having sealed ends for enclosing a gas volume, wherein the lamp body defines a longitudinal axis and has an outer diameter,
a UV transparent sleeve tube having an inner diameter that surrounds the lamp body and wherein the inner diameter is larger than the outer diameter of the lamp body, and at least one damping ring interposed between the lamp body and the sleeve tube, the damping ring comprising a first side element, a second side element that is separated by an axial distance in direction of the longitudinal axis from the first side element, a plurality of connecting portions that physically connect the first side element and the second side element, and openings between the connecting portions that allow for transmission of UV light in a radial direction from the lamp body to the sleeve tube.

2. The UV radiator unit according to claim 1, wherein the damping ring has at least one radially inwardly facing surface which frictionally engages an outer surface of the lamp body.

3. The UV radiator unit according to claim 1, wherein the connecting portions constitute portions of a largest diameter of the damping ring.

4. The UV radiator unit according to claim 1, wherein either the connecting portions contact the sleeve tube or a gap of less than 1 mm is disposed between the connecting portions and an inner surface of the sleeve tube.

5. The UV radiator unit according to claim 1, wherein frictional engagement between the damping ring and the lamp body is balanced against frictional engagement between the damping ring and the sleeve tube such that static friction between the damping ring and the lamp body is larger than static friction between the damping ring and the sleeve tube.

6. The UV radiator unit according to claim 1, wherein the connecting portions are arch-shaped and attached to the respective side elements, wherein the connecting portions have a basic width in a circumferential direction, and the basic width of the connecting portions has a minimum value at a point that is located centrally between the two side elements.

7. The UV radiator unit according to claim 6, wherein a point of minimum width of the connecting portions is also the point of a maximum outer diameter of the ring.

8. The UV radiator unit according to claim 1, wherein radially inwardly facing surfaces of the damping ring

include recesses that constitute spaces in which the radially inwardly facing surfaces do not contact the lamp body.

9. The UV radiator unit of claim **1**, wherein each opening extends to the inner diameter of the sleeve tube.

10. The UV radiator unit of claim **1**, wherein each opening exposes the sleeve tube to the lamp.

11. The UV radiator unit of claim **1**, wherein each opening extends to an outer diameter of the damping ring.

12. A damping ring that is configured to be positioned in a gap between a lamp body having a longitudinal axis and a sleeve tube of an ultraviolet radiator unit for centering said lamp body in said sleeve tube, the damping ring comprising:

a first side element, a second side element that is separated by an axial distance in direction of the longitudinal axis from the first side element, a plurality of connecting portions that physically connect the first side element and the second side element, and openings disposed between the connecting portions that allow for transmission of UV light in a radial direction from the lamp body to the sleeve tube.

13. The damping ring according to claim **12**, wherein the connecting portions constitute portions of a largest outer diameter of the ring.

14. The damping ring according to claim **12**, wherein the connecting portions are arch-shaped and attached to the respective side elements, wherein the connecting portions have a basic width in a circumferential direction, and a width of the connecting portions has a minimum value at a point that is located centrally between the two side elements.

15. The damping ring according to claim **12**, wherein a point of minimum width of the connecting portions is also the point of a maximum outer diameter of the damping ring.

16. The damping ring according to claim **12**, wherein radially inwardly facing surfaces of the damping ring include recesses which constitute spaces in which the radially inwardly facing surfaces do not contact the lamp body.

17. The damping ring of claim **12**, wherein each opening extends to the inner diameter of the sleeve tube.

18. The damping ring of claim **12**, wherein each opening exposes the sleeve tube to the lamp.

19. The damping ring of claim **12**, wherein each opening extends to an outer diameter of the damping ring.