

Editorial

The European Journal of Risk Regulation closes the year with an issue particularly rich of contents and ideas.

Under the guest-editorship of *Paul Verbruggen* and *Tetty Havinga*, the first quintet of articles forms a Special issue on the interplay between public and private food regulation. Against the backdrop that today's world food governance is increasingly shaped and influenced by a broad range of public and private entities acting at national and international level, the contributors to this Special seek to unravel the intimate, yet complex, ties between these actors within governance arrangements regulating food safety and sustainability. This 'hybridisation' of food regulation and governance is analysed by discussing various public-private arrangements in Europe, the United States as well as along the global supply chains. This set of contributions offers valuable empirical insights on the rise, design and challenges of mixed governance arrangements in the food sector. They do so by focusing on the various phases of the policy cycle, from agenda-setting and rule-making to evaluation and review.

In addition to this collection, this issue hosts a Symposium providing a first detailed critical analysis of the recently adopted EU reform on GMO regulation. In the first piece, *Nicolas de Sadeleer*, offers an extensive legal analysis on the marketing and cultivation authorisations. He argues that the EU regulatory framework is the product of a trade-off between centripetal – the internal market with its principle of mutual recognition – and centrifugal – the acknowledgment of the various national hostilities towards GMO – forces. It is in this particular context of unprecedented 'renationalisation' of EU competence that *Sara Poli* offers a critical comment on the new legislation, which – due to its fragmented nature – might spread out other areas of EU activity, thus having a rather unpredictable domino effect. Finally, by taking the GM review and reform proposal as case in point, *Vesco Paskalev* pinpoints the institutional and legal flaws of the current GMO regulation system, which – in his view – could be addressed by inter alia enhancing the European Commission's control over EFSA.

Our research article section opens with a timely and thoughtful essay by *Alessandro Spina* devoted to Pope Francis' Encyclical letter *Laudato Si*, commenting upon it from a science, technology and risk regulation viewpoint. As highlighted by the author, the Papal letter is dense with references to specific environmental issues and offers, as such, an important message for the governance of science and technology and what role ethical considerations ought to play in it. In the following articles, our authors evaluate existing tools used for the risk assessment of nanomaterials, investigate the behavioural effect of magnitude on judges' decision-making in mass litigations, and discuss the possible legal consequences of the currently applicable animal testing bans under the EU cosmetics legislation.

Our correspondents provide us with an insightful review of the latest developments in different risk regulation sectors. They cover *inter alia* the ISDS Carve-out for tobacco control measures in the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP), the growing problem of match-fixing in the sport-betting world, as well as the most significant changes brought to the pharmaceutical sector by the recently adopted EU Clinical Trials Regulation.

Several annotations of important EU judgments – notably the *Facebook* case, prompted by the activism of Max Schrems, – and two book reviews complete the issue.

Finally, we want to thank the growing community of colleagues in academia and practice, who generously devoted their time and energy to act as peer reviewers in 2015. We publish their names below in sign of appreciation.

It has been another great year for the EJRR. We strived to – and hopefully succeeded – in offering both timely analysis of the latest risk regulation developments and in-depth, theoretically rich contributions.

In wishing you and your families happy holidays, we reiterate our commitment to keep our readers and authors reflecting and possibly nurture many more debates to come.

Alberto Alemanno and Cliff Wirajendi