

Editorial

The European Journal of Risk Regulation opens this new issue with a symposium devoted to the European Parliament's role in risk governance. By building upon a workshop organised at the European Parliament's premises in Strasbourg last Spring, it focuses on the operation of the little-known, yet important, Parliament's own Science unit: the Science and Technology Options Assessment (STOA). The symposium is opened by STOA's former chair, MEP Paul Rübigen, and boasts the contributions of two among the most vocal MEPs in the area of health, safety and environmental risk in the EU: Michael Harbour (Conservative Party) and Jo Leinen (S&D). Moreover, the contributions by René von Schomberg, one of the most authoritative voices on the precautionary principle, Dirk Hudig, the chair of the European Risk Forum, Michael Rogers, a former member of the Bureau of European Policy Advisors, and Miro Smriga complete the symposium. A special thank goes to Michael Rogers, the editor of this symposium as well as to Theodoros Karapiperis, STOA's Head of Unit, for their dedication and enthusiasm in putting together these valuable contributions.

In addition to the Symposium, this issue contains three original articles that deal with some of the most actual regulatory challenges facing policymakers: the New Environment-Trade Debate within the WTO and the EU's ongoing regulatory reform for genetically modified organisms. The first contribution is an authoritative essay by Alessandra Arcuri, from Erasmus University Rotterdam, who comments upon the recent *US-Tuna II* Panel Report. She not only questions the reasoning which led the Panel to consider the measure as a 'technical regulation' but criticizes also the applied least trade-restrictive test. The second and third articles both provide a critical examination of the EU's current GMO regime and refer to the ongoing reform. While Vesco Pascalev follows the saga of BASF's genetically modified potato "Amflora" – the second cultivation authorisation ever granted under the present GMO regime –, Claudio Mereu, one of the most active EU risk regulation lawyers, provides an in-depth analysis of the EU's regulatory framework for genetically modified organisms and highlights the various interests at stake.

As usual, our correspondents keep us updated on the latest developments in different risk regulation policies by covering issues such as the regulation of biosimilars, nanotechnologies and their labelling, as well as the conditions for mandating compulsory licensing.

Several annotations of important risk-related EU and WTO rulings complete the issue, among which the recent Appellate Body report in *US-Clove Cigarettes*.

Finally, the call for papers of the 2nd HEC Paris Workshop on Regulation devoted to Lifestyle Regulation: The case of alcohol, tobacco and unhealthy diets is published at the end of the journal. This promising international conference will gather for the first time researchers, policy makers, industry representatives and other stakeholders to reflect on the role that the European Union should play in promoting healthier lifestyles,

in light of the moral, philosophical, legal and political challenges associated with the regulation of individual choices. The event will take place at HEC Paris Le Chateau on September, 20-21, 2012 under the leadership of Amandine Garde from the University of Durham, UK and myself.

I wish you a pleasant reading!

Alberto Alemanno