

## Editorial

Faithful to its commitment to addressing practical issues in risk regulation, the EJRR cannot miss any opportunity to comment on a natural event of significance in this area. One such event was the recent volcanic ash crisis. We thus open our second issue with a timely mini-symposium devoted to the European regulatory response to the recent air traffic disruption caused by the eruption of the Icelandic volcano Eyjafjallajökull. Although largely spontaneous, this symposium offers our readers two commentary articles written by two “transatlantic volcano refugees”: Professor Vincent Brannigan, University of Maryland, was stranded in Europe and I myself was caught in the United States for an entire week last April. Our hope is that these personal insights into the recent volcanic ash crisis might trigger further and deeper research into such a textbook example of emergency risk regulation. Comments from our readers are welcome and a selection of replies will be published in the next issue (Please send your comments to [alemanno@hec.fr](mailto:alemanno@hec.fr)).

This second issue of EJRR contains an interesting set of articles devoted to European regulatory approaches to nanotechnologies, food safety and medical devices. In particular, the contribution by Diana Bowman, Joel D’Silva and Geert van Calster addresses the regulatory challenge of defining nanomaterials under European Union law. Following the recast of the Cosmetics Directive, the EU has become the first jurisdiction in the world to offer a legislative definition of nanomaterials and to require cosmetic products that contain nanoscale ingredients to be labelled as such. The authors offer a cutting-edge analysis of the European legislator’s pioneering regulatory action. The second article is authored by Liana Giorgi and Annuradha Tandon, who offer an original comparative study of the risk analysis models followed by the EU and the Codex Alimentarius when establishing food safety standards. The case of maximum levels for aflatoxins in nuts exemplifies the difficulties involved in the alignment process between the EU and the international food community, as represented within the Codex Alimentarius Commission. Bernhard Lobmayr, in turn, introduces the EJRR readers to the regulation of medical devices by contrasting the EU and US approaches. While offering a detailed examination of how risks related to medical devices are currently being addressed across the Atlantic, he explores the controversial question of how much government control is needed in medical device regulation. This contribution is particularly timely due to the ongoing review of the EU medical devices legal framework.

In this issue, the EJRR correspondents have renewed their commitment to inform our readers about the latest developments in several areas of risk regulation in the EU and also internationally. Besides the well-established sections devoted to Biotechnologies, Pharmaceuticals, Intellectual Property and Risk Communication, this issue welcomes

the launch of two new sections, one dedicated to Nanotechnologies and the other to Food issues. Our hope is that these reports will inspire future research on promising risk regulatory issues, such as the regulation of traditional herbal medicinal products, the reform of the EU consumer information regime, the future of the EU authorization system for the cultivation of GMOs, as well as the controversial patentability of medical methods. As with all content submitted to the EJRR, manuscripts in this category are reviewed by independent referees. However, the focus is intended to be practice-oriented and usually at least one of the two referees is a practitioner.

This issue also hosts a wealth of case notes analysing some recent case-law of the European Court of Justice and the WTO Appellate Body. Finally, a couple of remarkable book reviews of recently published manuscripts complete this issue.

I encourage all EJRR readers to consider submitting their work to us for future issues. Be aware that starting July 2010 EJRR will implement the Cosis.net Management System. All new manuscripts will henceforth have to be submitted via this system. Cosis.net is designed to streamline the submission process by reducing the average duration of our double blind review system.

I hope that you will enjoy this issue as much as the inaugural one. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and happy summer.

*Alberto Alemanno*