

Editorial

The EJRR opens this new issue by hosting a special issue on Transnational Risks and Multilevel Regulation. As illustrated by its editors, Alessandra Arcuri, Fabrizio Cafaggi and Marta Simoncini in their opening editorial, the research question behind their inquiry was to examine how different regulatory *fora* (including public and private regulators, public-private partnerships, international regulatory networks and international organisations) deal with the transboundary nature of risks in different sectors (ranging from environmental and food safety regulation to the regulation of air traffic and financial markets). The papers selected were originally presented and discussed at the European University Institute (EUI) in May 2012 during a Workshop organised within the framework of the HILL project on transnational private regulation and entitled 'Mapping the global regulatory space for risk governance'.

I seize this chance to thank Alessandra, Fabrizio and Marta for believing in this editorial project since its inception, exactly a year ago, and congratulate them for lining up such an impressive groups of distinguished authors. I am sure that our readers will greatly enjoy the findings of this special issue as well as the individual contributions.

In addition to the special, this issue hosts three original articles that deal with some of the timeliest, yet thorny, risk regulatory challenges facing the risk world today. The first article discusses the challenges raised by the emergence of a growing body of evidence linking the world's most widely used pesticides, the neonicotinoids, to the sudden decline in bee colonies. It is a wonderful risk regulation story which contains all the necessary ingredients to make it the poster child of the current European struggle in regulating risk in the most sensitive way for society as a whole. It also offers an interesting new method on how to analyse the different risk regulatory approaches existing across the Atlantic amid the upcoming negotiations that may lead to the conclusion of a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership.

The second article examines instead the highly mediatised issues raised by the operation of credit rating agencies. Their regulation pursues two conflicting objectives: enhancing rating accuracy on the one hand, and restoring market discipline on the other. It is argued that policy-makers eventually need to confront this dichotomy so that a normatively coherent and consistent regulatory regime can be designed and implemented. The last article focusses in turn on the motivations governments are driven by in the promotion of electric cars: risk management or industrial policy. In this comparative analysis across various jurisdictions, the authors evaluate the adopted policies in light of their implications for scholars and practitioners of alternative transportation, economic development, environmental policy, international trade, regulation, and sustainability.

As usual, our correspondents keep EJRR readers updated on the latest developments in different risk regulation sectors by covering various issues, such as the regulation of human and marine genetic resources, the labelling of honey contaminated by GMO traces as well as the latest developments in the world of regulatory reform and risk communication.

Furthermore, the issue contains comments and two annotations of important risk-related WTO and EU judgments, such as the latest CJEU decisions dealing with the EU Passengers Rights Regulation and the ruling in *Deutsches Weintor*, the first judgment on the interpretation of the controversial Health Claim Regulation.

Finally, the EJRR, in the wake of the publication of David Vogel's *The Politics of Precaution: Regulating Health, Safety, and Environmental Risks in Europe and in the United States* (Princeton University Press, 2012) and Jonathan Wiener et al.'s *The Reality of Precaution – Comparing Risk Regulation in the United States in Europe* (Earthscan/RFF Press, 2011), hosts a special book review symposium devoted to the precautionary principle. To this purpose, it collected five original book review essays, commenting upon both books. Two final replies to these commentators by David Vogel and Jonathan Wiener and his co-authors close this symposium.

I wish you a happy and fruitful reading.

Alberto Alemanno