

Editorial

The EJRR opens this new issue by hosting the first part of a well-timed and promising Symposium on the financial crisis in the EU. As illustrated by its editor, Giorgio Tosetti, in its opening editorial, this symposium, by approaching the crisis as an opportunity more than as trouble, offers a fresh normative perspective into the EU financial turmoil. I seize this chance to thank Giorgio for the impressive line up of distinguished contributors as well as Professor Niamh Moloney of the London School of Economics for supporting this editorial project since its inception, almost a year ago.

*In addition to the symposium, this issue contains three original articles that deal with some of the timeliest, yet thorny, risk regulatory challenges facing the risk world today: the public understanding of nuclear radiation, the role of expertise in damage assessment and the establishment of an evidence-based food safety system in China. The first article is an authoritative essay by Wade Allison, from Oxford University, who illustrates the recent nuclear disasters as failures of public understanding of science. He argues how, similar to what happened in the aftermath of Chernobyl, the impact of the released radiation on the population has been overstated with significant consequences for all those affected. Should you like this essay, I recommend to you Professor Allison's recent book: *Radiation and Reason: The Impact of Science on a Culture of Fear*, 2010. In the second article, "The Role of Experts in Assessing Damages – A Law and Economics Account", Michael Faure and Louis Visscher, by relying primarily on the insights of Law & Economics, offer an original analysis of the role of experts in the assessment of damages. Among the many findings, they illustrate how market based mechanisms may help to provide incentives to party appointed experts to provide an accurate and objective damage assessment. The last article discusses "China's Milk Scandals and Its Food Risk Assessment Institutional Framework". Pinghui Xiao argues that, similarly to what happened in Europe in the aftermath of the BSE crisis, the melamine milk scandals which have outraged China in recent times triggered a wave of badly-needed institutional reforms of the food safety system in the country. He provides a detailed and critical analysis of the emerging Chinese risk analysis framework within the newly-established Chinese food safety system.*

As usual, our correspondents keep EJRR readers updated on the latest developments in different risk regulation sectors by covering various issues, such as, inter alia, the new Plant Protection Products regime, the recent legislative failure on food manufactured from cloned animals, the establishment of a Unitary Patent Protection via enhanced cooperation, the latest developments on the regulation of nanotechnologies as well as an introduction to the role that neuroscience may play within risk regulatory decision-making.

Several annotations of important risk-related EU and WTO judgments as well as one from the Federal Supreme Court of Switzerland complete the issue.

Finally, the EJRR has, together with its sister journal, EFFL, co-sponsored the 3rd Summer Academy in Global Food Law and Policy on the shores of Lake Como at the end of July.

This successful event witnessed the participation of a significant number of EJRR readers and followers. A detailed account of the themes discussed during the academy will be published in the next issue of the journal.

I wish you a happy and fruitful reading and an energetic rentrée after the Summer break.

Alberto Alemanno