

Editorial

With the release by Greenpeace Netherlands of 248 pages of TTIP negotiating texts – the so-called TTIP leaks –, the homonymous trade and investment agreement currently under negotiation came under intense public scrutiny. While TTIP opponents found in the disclosed documents their worries and fears confirmed, supporters trivialised the importance of the leaked texts. Whether they are a game changer or not, they revealed for the first time the US negotiating position in a significant number of policy areas. As such, the TTIP leaks provide an unprecedented opportunity to not only analyse the contrasting positions of the EU and US on several issues in the ongoing negotiations, but also to test the veracity of the competing narratives devised by opponents and proponents of the agreement. To what extent do their respective storylines find support in the actual texts? And, most importantly, what do the TTIP leaks mean for the ongoing negotiations and future agreement? At a time in which the ongoing negotiations enters a maker-breaker moment, the European Journal of Risk Regulation – under the lead of Alexia Herwig and myself – took the initiative to host a Symposium that provide a record-time timely analysis (at least by an academic publication standard) of most of the documents released. It contains 10 research-based opinion pieces by leading academics and practitioners who have been closely following the negotiations in their respective areas of expertise.

In addition to this collection, the EJRR features a special issue devoted to one of most hotly discussed issues facing the risk world today: the rise of autonomous machines. Finding their origin in a conference hosted by our guest editors Professors *Thomas Burri* and *Isabelle Wildhaber* that they hosted at their home university of St. Gallen (HSG), the six contributions to this Special address the main legal implications of artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning and autonomous robots and vehicles. The result is an insightful reflection on how the law can contribute to integrate automation, robotics and AI into our daily lives.

As usual, our issue also hosts a set of original research articles attempting to answer the following salient risk regulatory questions: How could regulators avert harmful but legal corporate behaviour without creating new legislation? To what extent are impact assessments and ex-post evaluations of EU law used in subsequent corresponding evaluative instruments? Which non-discriminatory strategies could be used to efficiently protect female workers from the risks of occupational exposures?

Thanks to our correspondents, EJRR readers are kept abreast on the latest developments in different risk regulation sectors by covering various issues, such as the EU's pesticide approval practice –recently questioned by the European Ombudsman –, the promotion of the off-label use of medicines, and the way international investment agreements can define, manage and distribute risks.

Finally, we close our issue with a couple of case notes – one discussing the patenting of isolated nucleic acids, the other devoted to the registration of geographical indica-

tions – as well as two book reviews. They are both devoted to one of the flaws of the digital age: personal data mining.

Last but not least, we are happy to inform you that the EJRR will be published as from 2017 under a new flag: the world's oldest publishing house, Cambridge University Press.

Happy summer and happy reading,

Alberto Alemanno and Cliff Wirajendi