Editorial

It is with utmost pleasure that I can introduce the first issue of the International Chemical Regulatory and Law Review (ICRL). The field of national and international chemical regulation and policy is highly dynamic and rapidly changing, and as such requires constant scrutiny. Accordingly, the ICRL was conceptualised to become a forum to discuss the latest developments, laws and policies covering topics, *inter alia*, like REACH and similar frameworks, the regulations on biocides, transport of hazardous materials, crop protection or questions of intellectual property. The ICRL offers a platform for a comprehensive exchange between practitioners, regulators, policy makers and academics.

Ten years after REACH came into force, stakeholders and companies face a remarkably complex regulatory environment – not only on a European, but also on an international level. The discussions concerning, for example, ‘K-REACH’ or ‘T-REACH’ (referring to regulations in Korea and Turkey similar to the EU REACH Regulation) illustrate that legislative activities in the field of chemicals are certainly not limited to the EU and its Member States but, in contrast, can be observed worldwide. With this in mind, the ICRL has a clear international focus which aims to provide its readers with the most important and practically relevant global developments including in Asia, the US and Australia.

The two lead articles of the inaugural issue are exemplary of the ICRL’s international approach. In their contribution, Hartmut Scheidmann and Matthias Kottmann examine the implications Brexit has on REACH and CLP. Highlighting the enormous challenges Brexit poses for the chemical industry both in the UK and continental Europe, the authors conclude their piece with a precautionary note for businesses operating in this area.

Meanwhile, Mohamad Mova AlÁfghani and Dyah Paramita address the regulatory challenges in the phasing-out of Persistent Organic Pollutants in Indonesia – the world’s fourth-ranking country in terms of population and one of the most significant markets in South-East Asia. In their detailed analysis, the authors elaborate on the gaps within the Indonesian legal framework and suggest specific changes.

In every issue, short and concise reports will inform the reader about recent national and international developments like new legislation or judgments. The first report by Elena Todorova deals with an intensively discussed amendment of the Bulgarian Narcotic Substances and Precursors Control Act that will allow the marketing for industry use of 1,4-butanediol and γ -Butyrolactone (both considered drug precursors) containing mixtures.

In her report on South Korea, In Woo Kim summarises the proposed amendments to 'K-Reach', also known as the Act on Registration, and Evaluation of Chemicals (ARECs) and further changes in the country's chemical regulatory landscape. In particular, she notes that companies and stakeholders should be aware of a new Act on Household Chemical Products and Biocides, already nicknamed the 'K-BPR' following the EU regulation on biocidal products (BPR).

Staying in Asia, Yue Hang's report provides an overview of the Chinese Government's 'ban on foreign waste' - the 'Prohibition of the Entry of Foreign Garbage and Promote the Reform of the Management System for the Import of Solid Waste'. To implement this new 'Circular', China has stopped the import of several solid wastes, such as domestic waste plastics, unsorted waste paper, textile waste and vanadium slag. The order, which attracted global media attention, is expected to have further substantial effects on worldwide waste streams.

In their comprehensive case note, Jean-Philippe Montfort and Thomas Delille carefully analyse the recent VECCO-Case. Here, the Court of Justice of the European Union confirmed the ruling of the General Court of the European Union regarding the conditions under which the European Commission may grant an exemption from the authorisation process for certain uses or category of uses pursuant to Article 58(2) of the REACH Regulation. Furthermore, the authors assess what this jurisprudence will mean for the future interpretation and application of Article 58(2) REACH.

In addition to articles and reports, ICRL will also carry sections on recent changes in legislation and European and national court rulings. This issue will include a brief update and commentary on the very interesting Commission draft regulation for the change of certain REACH annexes to address nanomaterials explicitly and ECHA's restriction proposal on the use of oxo-plastics and microplastics.

Only a legal publisher with great staff can realise a project like the ICRL. At this point, I would like to thank the Lexxion-Executive Editor, Jakob McKernan, for his fantastic work, support and, last but not least, sometimes great patience. Also, I would like to thank Wolfgang Andreae for placing his confidence in me as the Managing Editor. Lastly, I thank all the members of our Editorial Board for contributing their ideas and time.

As mentioned at the beginning, the ICRL understands itself not only to be a 'classic' law review but also as a forum and platform for innovation and the exchange of ideas. I would like to cordially invite you to participate in this exchange and to contribute your expertise, thoughts and ideas. As a good law review lives on the critical input from its readers, we of course look forward to receiving suggestions on how to improve the journal, but for now I hope that you enjoy the first issue of the ICRL!

Tobias J Schulz
Managing Editor