Editorial

Dear Readers,

As this issue of ICRL goes to print we are finally at the cusp of a Brexit deal. After almost 3 years of negotiations and dead end talks, the EU and the United Kingdom have come to an agreement which satisfies (almost) everyone. However, while the news that the parties managed to come to an arrangement which prevents a hard border in Ireland and allows the UK to pursue trade deals was welcomed, the future of the UK's relationship with the EU's regulatory institutions such as ECHA remain uncertain and, crucially, subject to the successful conclusion of an FTA. Although the future of the EU – UK relationship remains unsettled, I have no doubt that contributors to ICRL will keep us abreast of the latest developments and provide us with important analysis as it pertains to chemical regulations. In the meantime, our attention lies on current legal and regulatory developments.

Our lead article provides a concise outlook on the current Food Contact Materials (FCM) Regulations in several markets around the globe, with emphasis on key markets wherein FCM are regulated: USA, EU, China, Japan, Switzerland and the Mercosur region. As well as focusing on recent developments in FCM regulations, Paraschiv and Sobocinski detail trends in relation to the implementation of new regulations in other areas such as industrial chemicals, globally driven by the general trend on harmonisation and circular economy requirements.

In Issue 2/2019 of ICRL, Björn Hannsen, ECHA's Executive Director, outlined key issues facing practitioners and regulators working in the chemicals sector. In this issue, Andrew Fasey and Luca Bolzonello of the ECHA Board of Appeal cast an eye backwards, and analyse examine four processes under the REACH Regulation in which the Board of Appeal has left a mark, and explore its main contributions and challenges over the last ten years. If you are interested in how the BoA functions and would like to understand its processes, this opinion piece ought not to be missed.

Offering the first ICRL contribution from South America, Jaime Sales and Agustín Harte offer us a detailed overview of Argentina's regulatory and legal regime. As the continent's second largest economy and with chemicals accounting for 15% of imports, Argentina is an attractive export destination for European chemical companies. A company exploring this market should be aware of the different pieces of legislation that impact the manufacture, import and commercialisation of chemicals in the country as they frequently involve a wide variety of ministries, secretariats, and offices.

Concluding our issue we have a case note dealing with two recent decisions concerning the SVHC Status of Bisphenol A. With a detailed analysis of both *PlasticsEurope v ECHA* cases (Case T-185/17 and Case T-636/17), the annotation by Ahlhaus and Öttinger is a valuable addition to the on-going discussions on the regulatory efforts regarding Bisphenol A.

As always, I would like to thank everybody who contributed to this issue and of course welcome any feedback on this or any other issue of the journal. If you would like to contribute to a future issue please get in touch with one of our Editorial team.

Tobias Schulz
Managing Editor