

2nd EFFL Summer Academy on Global Food Law & Policy: Another smashing Success*

The 2nd EFFL Summer Academy on Global Food Law & Policy was held in Cadenabbia, at the beautiful Villa La Collina, the former summer home of Konrad Adenauer, on Lake Como, Italy, from 26 to 30 July 2010. Alberto Alemanno, professor of law at HEC Paris, and Barbara Klaus, international food lawyer, together with Lexxion, the publisher of the European Food and Feed Law Review (EFFL), gathered 25 selected participants whose geographic origins from around the world were reflected in the Academy's theme: international and European food law. And their professional backgrounds were just as diverse as their countries of origin homelands, with participants from academia, national food safety authorities, EU institutions, industry, and law firms.

The course spanned five days and included interactive seminar sessions with top experts in the field, with the main purposes of examining global food law and policy and understanding the position of EU food law within the global context. To this end, the seminars, activities, and the range of participants allowed for an interdisciplinary approach, with presentations by lawyers, industry representatives, university scholars, and former and current EU officials.

The first session of the Academy provided an important introduction to global food law by Professor Alemanno. His four "stories" created a clear narrative of the genesis of EU food law, the development of transatlantic relations, the place of EU regulation in the global context, and the potential impacts from the intersection of global and EU food law. The following session presented by Barbara Klaus, a lawyer with Meyer and Meisterernst, was a more in-depth presentation of EU food law, specifically the General Food Law Regulation (EC) No 178/2002. Together, these sessions set the stage for the presentations in the days that followed, and they formed a strong, informational foundation for the participants, allowing the latter to equally contribute and learn from the experience.

A closer look at the new frontiers and the challenges that face European food regulation was the main theme of the second day of the Academy. Firstly, the chair of EFSA's

Scientific Committee, Vittorio Silano, addressed the new frontiers faced by EFSA, which have been brought about by new botanical products and animal cloning. Later, Dirk Detken, the Head of the Legal and Policy Affairs Unit at EFSA, continued with the theme of EFSA's regulatory challenges from a legal perspective. His presentation reviewed EFSA's specific responsibilities, its functions, and the problems that it faces in administering these tasks. In addition, Mr. Detken examined how EFSA works to be the centralized reference point for European food regulation and where it fits on the international stage.

On the third day, Andreas Kadi provided a fascinating look at EU regulations from the perspective of industry. As chief science officer of Red Bull Europe, Mr. Kadi fielded many questions on the different challenges and regulations that multinationals must face in order to operate globally. He also focused on requirements concerning foodstuffs, including the EU explanation of what makes a food "novel", and key issues for the industry, such as the use of illegitimate factors in regulatory procedure in the Southampton colours case. Andre Evers, food and veterinary officer of the European Commission, concluded the day by focusing on the system of official food controls within the EU and from third countries, highlighting some weaknesses of the system and also providing insight into the relationship between member-states and EU oversight. Implementation and enforcement are aspects that are often overlooked in discussions of food law; thus Mr. Evers caught the audience's attention by delving into how these controls actually work in practice.

A debate on food quality enlivened the morning session of Day 4. Marsha Echols, Director of the World Food Law Institute in Washington D.C., led participants in defining quality in a discussion that revealed clear differences in the culinary and cultural traditions among the participants. The role of the private sector in product quality labelling was also intensively discussed, leading several attendees to suggest that the topic could be examined at the next Summer Academy. In the day's afternoon session, Susanne Kettler and Peter Kugel revealed the secrets of data sharing in a dynamic presentation that explored the complexities of the development, purchase, submitting, protecting and sharing of scientific data.

On the last day, Geoffrey Podger, the first Director of the European Food Safety Authority, delivered a spirited talk about his experiences in the development of EU food law, providing an insider's seasoned view of both EU regulations and the position of EFSA within the EU institutional framework. By using the example of the BSE crisis to provide an overview of the difficulties faced by regulatory regimes when science, law, and public interest intersect, Mr. Podger analysed the relationship between risk evaluation and risk communication. The Academy closed with an animated moot court, where the participants debated a case study on mandatory country of origin labeling (CoOL) regulation. It was a great opportunity to put into practice the information acquired during the course, whether as a representative of the European Commission, industry, or the European Consumers' organization.

In conclusion, the 2nd EFFL Summer Academy on Global Food Law & Policy left the participants with a stronger understanding of the subject and the hope to meet again at future events. The high level of motivation among all participants and the wonderful group of professionals with impressive, though different, backgrounds created an excellent interdisciplinary learning environment, in which experts and scholars could interact freely and exchange ideas. Seminars were educational, well-presented, and above all interesting. The beautiful venue of Villa La Collina on Lake Como made the event even more pleasurable, and the high level of organisation truly allowed the attendees to enjoy both the academic sessions and the social activities.

Maria Olimpia Barros Pinto, Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, Pisa/Italy

Patricia Ann Stapleton, The Graduate Center–CUNY, New York/USA

* This report was published in issue 6/2010 of the European Food and Feed Law Journal (EFFL).