

Recensioni

Vicente Rodríguez Fuentes (ed.)

From agricultural to food Law. The new scenario
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Food is mainly produced by agriculture and agriculture is mainly devoted to the production of food. Food production and agriculture are interconnected and cannot be understood without taking into account that they are both part one of integrated economic and cultural activity of human beings: the production, commerce and consumption of food. Inevitably, food law permeates agricultural law and vice versa.

Historically, since the creation of the , the regulation of agricultural activities has been one of the main areas of European Legislation. In parallel, harmonisation of food law has been essential in achieving a unified European market.

While agricultural law was already a well-developed legal discipline, regulated both by the legal traditions of the Member States and by the several treaties that have formed the European Union, food law is a newer field whose limits are not as well defined and whose structure and content are not yet complete. Food law is, in part, consumer law and in part, market regulation. Sometimes it resembles pharmaceutical law and sometimes it is agricultural law.

The book, edited by Vicente Rodríguez Fuentes, contains some of the papers discussed during the Congress of the European Food Law Association held in in 2012, and devoted to the study of Food Law and its agricultural dimension, on how food and agricultural law relate to one another and how the boundaries between them are becoming increasingly overlapping.

The Congress was divided into four different sessions, each with its respective speakers. Similarly, the book is structured into four sections, divided into chapters written by some of those speakers.

In the first chapter Ferdinando Albisinni describes the evolution from agricultural law to food law, from the EEC Treaty to the judicial decisions that have created a corpus of European food law and how these decisions have shaped the current legal system of the European Union. Kai Purnhagen, Cerkia Bramley, Bernd van der Meulen and Harry Bremmers discuss, in the subsequent chapter, a new dimension of food law - private food law - a concept established during the previous EFLA Con-

gress in Amsterdam, in 2010.

The second part is devoted to the regulation of food quality, which has traditionally been the subject of agricultural law, as applied to designations of origin and geographical indications. This part of the book, by way of continuation to the previous session, begins with a chapter written by Donald Rennie, President of the European Council for Rural Law, on the new Common Agricultural Policy. This is followed by a chapter written by Mariano López on the importance of the regulation of quality as the origin of food law. The regulation of food quality finds its more classic expression in designations of origin and geographical indications. In the following chapter, Giorgio Bocedi sets out how one of the oldest and better-known protected designations of origin, *Parmigiano Reggiano*, defends itself against those attempting to take advantage of the reputation and name of the product. Then Angel Martínez Gutierrez analyses some similarities and differences between the protection of geographical indications and trade marks, in an insightful and critical chapter.

The third part of the book is devoted to the control of food-safety and the workings of the food-alert system. Three lawyers from different jurisdictions analyse the situation in their countries, Nicolas Conte-Salina in Germany, Vicente Rodríguez Fuentes in Europe and Spain and Ricardo Carvajal in the USA. Finally, since the main impact of a food alert affects product reputation, a communications expert, Jorge Cachinero, Group Senior Director at Llorente & Cuenca, addresses in his chapter the importance of managing reputation when affected by a food alert.

The fourth and last session of this book is devoted to food trade, to how prices are formed in the market. Nicole Coutrelis contributes to this study with a chapter on the application of competition law to Agricultural Law, both historically and after the reformed CAP. Finally, Alessandro Artom discusses the regulation of food transactions within the Italian legal system.

The content of the chapters of this book is heterogeneous. Some authors are academics, others are practising lawyers and one them a communication expert. They came from different countries and professional backgrounds.

This gives the book a unique comparative practical/legal perspective and varied professional points of view, which are very well suited to the hybrid nature of food and agricultural law.