Acknowledgements

I wish to thank Professor M. Faure for having constantly supported my research with enthusiasm during my Ph.D. career and for having provided me with guidance to overcome the obstacles I have encountered in the accomplishment of this book. I also thank Professor E. Digiulio for his useful advice and for having believed in me from the very beginning of my Ph.D. research.

Moreover, I am grateful to the General Director of the Italian Ministry of the Environment C. Clini for the opportunity he gave me to follow closely the European climate policy decision-making process. This helped me to understand that applying economic analysis to real political issues is greatly more interesting to me than performing pure economic analysis that nobody (other than other economists) is interested in reading.

Of course I feel in debt with my father, Professor A. Clò, because with his daily work he showed me the meaning of intellectual integrity and independence. Moreover, a special thought goes to all the members of both the RIE company (Energy and Industrial Research) and the Italian quarterly review ENERGIA, because the environment is not an ‘independent variable’ and its analysis requires a deep knowledge of the industrial and energy markets. I greatly thank them for all I could learn from their great working experience and for their unique human qualities.

Many thanks go to Professor A. Arcuri and Professor E. Woerdman for letting me join the ‘polluter-pays principle’ team with great enthusiasm despite being a young and inexperienced Ph.D. candidate. They have been a wonderful example of intellectual openness and I hope the future will provide us with new occasions to work jointly again.

A general thanks goes to all the professors and staff of the European Doctorate in Law and Economics department (particularly to Professor V. Denicolò and Professor M. Motta), to A. Biancardi and the AREL (Legal Research Agency) for giving me the opportunity to present my work to a highly qualified audience, and to my former Ph.D. colleagues in Rotterdam and in Bologna for their friendship and the patience they showed with me and with the ETS.

A particular thanks goes to F. Boffa, F. Clò and C. Desogus (my two elegant paranymphs), F. Flor, S. Gambuto, G. Grifa, G. Marcotullio,
Acknowledgements

R. Mercuri, D. Osti, F. Renzetti, C. Stagnaro, I. Steiner, S. Verde, N. Wellekoop, S. Weishaar and M. Zini for the stimulating discussions we have had during these years on the topics I have analysed in this book.

A unique thanks goes to my unique brother Filippo, to my mother Licia and to my whole family for having supported and stood by me, always and ever.

Last but not least, I wish to thank Valentina for reminding me daily of the hidden value of the details and for teaching me that what I do is no more important than how I do it.

This book is based on my Ph.D dissertation defended in September 2010 and concluded in April 2010. Any event following this date could not be taken properly into account.