

Preface and acknowledgements

This book is a result of the Center for Research in Regulated Industries' (CRR I) 18th Conference on Postal and Delivery Economics which was held on June 2–5, 2010 in Porvoo, Finland. This conference and this book follow earlier conferences and workshops. In 1990, the first Conference on Postal and Delivery Economics was held at Coton House, Rugby, England, July 22–25, 1990, in honor of the 150th anniversary of the Penny Post and the contributions of Sir Rowland Hill. To date there have been 18 conferences, three workshops and now 17 edited volumes as part of CRR I's program on Postal and Delivery Economics.

The 2010 Conference was made possible by the support of its generous sponsors. We would like to thank sponsors not only for financial support, but also for their advice and encouragement, and for serving on the organizing committee. We would like to thank the following for their advice and comments: José Amado da Silva, John Baldwin, Jody Berenblatt, Kristin Bergum, Robert Bernau, Geoff Bickerton, Lawrence Buc, Bernhard Bukovc, Philip Burns, Eduardo Cardadeiro, Gary Carroll, João Castro, Julien Coulier, Robert Curry, Bernard Damiens, Mary Davies, Gene Del Polito, Paul Dudley, Richard Eccles, Kari Elkälä, Charles Fattore, Stephen Ferguson, Alessandra Fratini, Damien Geradin, Stephen Gibson, Ruth Goldway, Stefano Gori, Robert Hammond, Greg Harman, John Hearn, Jan Bart Henry, Stuart Holder, George Houppis, Christian Jaag, Luis Jimenez, Denis Joram, Pekka Leskinen, David M. Levy, Martin Maegli, Walter Maschke, Leonardo Mautino, Heikki Nikali, Chris Osborne, Chris Paterson, Wolfgang Pickave, Alberto Pimenta, Leon Pintsov, Michael Ravnitzky, Ian Ridgway, Bernard Roy, Jim Sauber, Michael Scanlon, Gennaro Scarfiglieri, Rob Sheldon, Michael Shinay, Paul C. Smith, Nancy Sparks, Gregory Swinand, Michael Tate, Joëlle Toledano, Urs Trinkner, Mark van der Horst, Joost Vantomme, Sture Wallander, John Waller, Tim Walsh and David Williams.

The host country plays an important role in these conferences. This year's conference, the 18th Conference on Postal and Delivery Economics, benefited greatly from the efforts of our host Itella Corporation. Heikki Nikali, who has had a long and fruitful association with the conference, was a gracious host. He and his colleagues provided both advice and assistance on numerous occasions and contributed greatly to the success of the event.

We would like to thank our distinguished dinner speakers, Jukka Alho of the Itella Corporation, Ruth Goldway of the US Postal Regulatory Commission, and Billy Hayes of the Communication Workers Union. These speeches addressed current issues of regulation and postal reform against the background of the ongoing financial crisis, maintaining the conference tradition of stimulating presentations by distinguished leaders in the industry.

We benefited from the contributions of Francelis Montes de Oca. Francelis, Assistant Director of CRR I, provided outstanding administrative support of this conference, CRR I's other conferences and assisted us with this book. We would like to thank all

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