

Preface and acknowledgements

This book is a result of the Center for Research in Regulated Industries' (CRR) 21st Conference on Postal and Delivery Economics, which was held May 29 to June 1, 2013 at the Portmarnock Hotel, County Dublin, Ireland. The 1st Conference was held in 1990 in the UK. Over the twenty plus years after the 1st Conference, the industry has seen considerable change. These include the opening of postal markets to competition for most countries in the European Union on January 1, 2011. Even more important is the increasing impact of multi-modal competition. As a result of email, social networks, and Internet advertising, important questions are being raised about the future of mail. The conference and this book attempt to address some of the resulting challenges. They follow earlier conferences and workshops. This is the 21st edited volume in CRR's program on Postal and Delivery Economics.

The 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 intellectual contributions, advice and encouragement, and for supporting service on the organizing committee: Mohamed Adra, John Baldwin, Chris Beaty, Jody Berenblatt, Kristin Bergum, Geoff Bickerton, Stephen Brogan, Jim Bruce, Robert Campbell, Margaret Cigno, João Confraria, Angela Cox, Bernard Damiens, Gene Del Polito, Paul Dudley, Richard Eccles, Charles Fattore, Stephen Ferguson, John Fletcher, Alessandra Fratini, Damien Geradin, Ruth Goldway, Stefano Gori, Herbert Götz, Benjamin Gough, Robert Hammond, John Hearn, Jan Bart Henry, Paul Hodgson, Stuart Holder, George Houppis, Christian Jaag, Luis Jimenez, Denis Joram, Keith Kellison, George Kuehnbaum, David M. Levy, François Lions, Martin Maegli, Leonardo Mautino, Meloria Meschi, Heikki Nikali, Henrik Ballebye Okholm, Chris Paterson, Ted Pearsall, Wolfgang Pickavé, Michael Ravnitzky, Jim Sauber, Michael Scanlon, Gennaro Scarfiglieri, Rob Sheldon, Michael Shinay, Soterios Soteri, Nancy Sparks, Gregory Swinand, Urs Trinkner, Mark van der Horst, Joost Vantomme, Tim Walsh, David Williams, F.W. Worth and Ralf Wojtek.

This year's conference benefited greatly from the efforts of the host, An Post. Colm Farrelly was incredibly helpful during the conference, enabling it to operate very smoothly. He and 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: Donal Connel, Chief Executive Officer, An Post, Ruth Goldway, Chairman, United States Postal Regulatory Commission, and Joseph Corbett, Chief Financial Officer, USPS. These speeches addressed current issues of regulation and postal reform against the background of increasing multi-modal competition in the postal sector, maintaining the conference tradition of stimulating presentations by distinguished leaders in the industry.

In addition, we thank all authors and participants of the conference. Absent their contributions, the conference and this book would not have been possible. The usual

disclaimers are applicable. In particular, the views expressed reflect the views of the authors and are not necessarily those of the sponsors.

We end with a very special remembrance. On August 24, 2012 Paul R. Kleindorfer died from Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis after an ordeal lasting over a year. Throughout, Paul continued to work on various projects – including his duties as co-editor of the book for the 2012 Conference – almost until his dying day. He added his brilliance and joie de vivre to the conferences over more than 20 years. We are privileged to have known Paul and devote this book to his memory.

Michael A. Crew and Timothy J. Brennan

