



Conference on
"The Economics of Energy Markets"

IDEI Toulouse, June 20 and 21, 2008

The Institut D'Economie Industrielle (IDEI, Toulouse) is organizing its fifth conference on the Economics of Energy Markets in Toulouse on June 20 and 21, 2008. The conference will take place in Hôtel Mercure Atria (5 minutes walk from the university/IDEI).

The 2008 conference will in particular cover the following topics (the list is not exhaustive):

- **Investment:** Reliability of supply in natural gas and electricity is intensively debated in many countries. Investment in electricity generation and transmission is also a key ingredient for both an efficient organization of the industry and the overall reduction in market power. The conference will investigate how market and regulatory mechanisms provide incentives for choosing the volume of gas storage facilities as well as the investment and the mix of technology in electricity production to address efficiency, reliability and environmental concerns. How much, how and where nuclear power is back on the agenda should also be a central topic.
- **Unbundling:** The current legislation on gas and electricity in Europe imposes that the distribution and transmission systems be operated through legally separate entities where vertically integrated undertakings exist. But, in the Energy Package of September 2007, the European Commission considers that network ownership and operation should be unbundled, either by forbidding joint ownership of transmission assets and competitive activities (production and supply) or by creating "Independent System Operators". The conference will welcome papers investigating the consequences of the two alternative modes of separation on daily management, investment and security.
- **Coordination:** The multiplicity of regional/national transmission organizations in Europe and the US, some of them operating in both the electricity and natural gas industries, raises questions as to the coordination of congestion management, the achievement of a single competitive market, and the provision of proper incentives for investing in interconnection capacity. The proposal by the European Commission to establish an Agency for the cooperation of National Energy Regulators, with binding decision powers, to complement National Regulators. Is this additional layer of regulation the correct answer to the coordination problem or should the Agency replace the national entities?
- **Retail competition:** Since July 2007, all end-use consumers in the European Union have the ability to choose among competing suppliers of electricity and natural gas. The performance of retail competition programs has not been analyzed comprehensively. We invite empirical research submissions that examine the performance of retail competition in different settings, barriers to competition and the attributes of retail competition programs that affect performance as well as papers on the provision of energy services that combine gas and electricity.
- **Climate change and energy markets:** Public policy in the matter of environmental externalities has been shifting towards market mechanisms. We welcome analytical and empirical papers analyzing the impact of permit mechanisms on electricity markets, in particular the effects of permits on bidding behavior, the measurement of windfall profits and the pass-through of emission costs on electricity prices. As regards renewable sources of energy, we also invite papers contrasting the European way (feed-in tariffs and green certificates) and the US way (renewable energy portfolio standards and tax incentives).

The scientific committee includes Natalia Fabra (Universidad Carlos III de Madrid), Nils-Henrik von der Fehr (University of Oslo), Richard Green (University of Birmingham), Bill Hogan (Harvard University), Paul Joskow (Sloan Foundation), Steven Littlechild (University of Cambridge), David Newbery (University of Cambridge), Ignacio Perez-Arriaga (Universidad Pontificia Comillas), Yves Smeers (CORE/UCL), Jean Tirole (IDEI), Frank Wolak (Stanford University) and Catherine Wolfram (University of California, Berkeley).

Submission of papers:

If you would like to submit a paper, complete the enclosed form and return it to Ms. Christelle FAUCHIE by email at elecconf@cict.fr, or by fax at +33 (0)5 61 12 86 37.

All proposals to present papers must include an abstract, and the abstract must reach IDEI by March 15, 2008 (use the Pre-registration Form). A preference will be given to submissions of a complete paper, though. The program and list of presenters will be confirmed and notification will be made to presenters by April 15, 2008. Completed drafts of accepted papers are due by May 15, 2008.

Ticket fares are reimbursed to speakers on a negotiated basis and their hotel room paid directly by the conference organizing committee (this does not apply to co-authors). Please indicate on your reply form whether you will be able to cover your own travel costs, or whether you will require funding.

The registration fee for non speaker participants is **200 €**, plus a 100 € fee for lunches and conference dinner. Both fees are waived for speakers, discussants, and IDEI's partners. The registration fee (but not the lunch and dinner fee) is waived for non-speaking academic participants and students.

Pre-registration for non-presenters:

Individuals wishing to participate in the Conference but not intending to submit a paper are asked to express their interest in attending by completing and returning the attached "**Pre-registration Form.**" Further information on the conference and accommodation will be sent to those who have pre-registered.

On-line registration for conference attendance will be available from May 1, 2008 to June 1, 2008. Pre-registrants will be asked to confirm their registration at that time.

We hope you will be able to join us for an intellectually stimulating conference, with potentially significant academic, strategic, and policy outcomes.

Yours sincerely,

The organizers: Claude Crampes, Thomas-Olivier Léautier and Jean Tirole

Please note the deadlines:

for abstract:	March 15, 2008
for completed drafts:	May 15, 2008
for registration:	June 1, 2008

<http://idei.fr/>