

“Innovation in Network Industries: Accounting, economic and regulatory implications”

Joint Call for Papers for

Network Conference at the SASE Annual Meeting, Madrid, 23-25 June 2011

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Workshop, Ecole Polytechnique, Paris, 16 March 2011

Network industries lie at the heart of economy and society. They provide key infrastructures and technologies, and have deserved indeed special missions of general interest. Therefore, they used to be organized as publicly owned monopolistic entities, thus subject to administrative law and regulation. Nowadays, these industries are undergoing major economic transformations. From one side, they have been gradually opened up to competition, which has drastically changed their structure and functioning. From another side, the rapid digitization of our economies and society, fuelled by network information and knowledge technologies, favors the emergence of new industrial players and new services, as well as it changes the design, production, distribution and consumption of related goods and services. Finally, industrial deregulation, technological change, financialization and globalization effects, international accounting convergence, the ongoing financial crisis, just to name some, have challenged industrial affairs. This has increased the risk of developing disparate and even rival modes of governance and regulation, with divergent functioning, implementation patterns and rationale.

Such transformations raise important issues, including the *financial needs* required for the deployment of technological change, and the changing *role of regulation*. From one side, the development and implementation of new technologies require massive investments that call for careful forms of legal-economic design and policy. From another side, such evolutionary process defies the received theoretical perspectives on the role of the State and of the Law. Different concepts of regulation arise: either as a regulatory framework establishing a level playing field, as a strategic instrument to be exploited in industrial affairs, or as a driver towards greater economic efficiency and social effectiveness.

In this context, network industries (telecommunications, postal services, energy, water and so on) are of utmost importance. Lessons for accounting, economics and law can be learned from their experience and transformations, especially at the theoretical and regulatory levels. The present conference and workshop aim to contribute to the ongoing debate on management, governance and regulation of these industries by shifting towards greater recognition of the fundamental implications of their ongoing transformations. Scholars adopting different perspectives on these matters (and coming from different disciplines) are invited to share their views in order to generate ideas and suggestions for addressing the current issues and advancing knowledge about effective and efficient management, governance and regulation of regulated industries. Special attention is deserved to the development and deployment of related technologies by individuals, groups, organizations, society, and nations for the improvement of economic and social welfare.

The Conference and workshop are receptive to a wide variety of phenomena and topics related to the design, management, use, valuation, and impacts of innovation and regulation at different levels of analysis (i.e., individuals, groups, firms, networks, societies, and nations). High quality theoretical, empirical, design, and analytical work are welcomed. The conference and workshop seek for research and position papers that examine topics from a wide range of theories and viewpoints

including, but not limited to, economics, law, organization theory, organization behavior, sociology, political studies, and strategic management. The topics of interest include:

- Reshaping public and private: beyond market versus the state
- Role and timeliness of antitrust and regulation policies, including functional separation policies
- The changing notion of public interest, including the “general economic interest mission” introduced by European Union, and the consumers’ and societal viewpoints
- Changing value chains, industrial configurations, and products and services
- Emerging business models and competitive strategies
- Competition and co-operation in network industries
- Financing and developing innovation and technological renewal, including the issue of network infrastructure ownership
- Appropriability and knowledge transfers
- Network access, openness and neutrality
- Standard-setting in regulated industries
- The place and role of accounting systems in regulated industries, including standard costing and regulatory pricing
- Financing, managing, and reporting intangibles

Selected proceedings will be eligible for publication by “Accounting, Economics and Law – A Convivium” – <http://www.bepress.com/ael>

Proposals for communications or panels should be submitted through the SASE Annual Meeting procedure (by selecting the Research Network n° P as target) and to yuri.biondi@free.fr. Further information is available on the SASE website: www.sase.org - **deadline is to January 15, 2011.**

Conference Managing Board

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Under the auspices and with the collaboration of the Innovation and Regulation Chair Unit:

www.innovation-regulation.eu

In collaboration with the SASE Research Network n° P: “Accounting, Economics, and Law”:

www.sase.org

Agenda

- Workshop, Ecole Polytechnique, Paris, 16 March, 2011
- SASE Network Conference, Madrid, 23-25 June, 2011

The Paris Workshop is an informal meeting with limited places intended to prepare the SASE Network Conference to be held in Madrid during the SASE Annual Meeting. **Please mention your interest for one or both events in your submission. Deadline is to January 15, 2011.**