

CALL FOR PAPERS

Joint European Central Bank/Banque de France conference

**Retail payments at a crossroads:
economics, strategies, and future policies**

Date: 21 and 22 October 2013

Venue: Crowne Plaza Hotel, Paris, France

Deadline for submission: 15 May 2013

The European Central Bank and the Banque de France are hosting a conference entitled “Retail payments at a crossroads: economics, strategies, and future policies” on 21 and 22 October 2013.

Retail payment markets and infrastructures are essential for the proper functioning of a market economy, and for people’s trust in the currency of that market as a means of exchange. Besides their function as an overseer of retail payments, central banks also need to build trust, facilitate integration and improve the efficiency as well as the security of retail payment instruments. The most prominent integration example in the field of retail payments in Europe is the establishment of the “Single Euro Payments Area” – in short, SEPA. This project aims to harmonise and integrate retail payment markets that were previously purely domestic. In addition to the increased integration of retail payment markets, developments in information and communication technologies have a fundamental impact on retail payments. As such, in the near future many changes are to be expected as regards new business models, innovative payment services (e.g. mobile and internet payments) and payment behaviour, as well as security and trust in retail payment instruments. Given the fact that retail payments are currently at a crossroads, it is important to understand the economics driving future developments and to take a forward-looking perspective regarding the factors that are likely to affect payment developments.

The objective of this conference is twofold. First, it aims to improve the general understanding of retail payment economics based on recent academic research and, more specifically, to help identify possible developments and dynamics that will shape the future retail payments landscape. Second, it aims to provide a forum for debate among market participants, policy-makers, regulators and researchers.

To this end, the conference organisers invite authors – whether from academia, public authorities (including central banks), special interest groups or the private sector – to submit original, theoretical and empirical papers covering at least one of the following related themes:

- recent and future developments in retail payments and retail payment economics;
- impact of the economic crisis on retail banking and retail payments;
- payment habits and the use of different payment instruments;
- integration of retail payment markets;
- consolidation, economies of scale and efficiency in the retail payments industry;
- cost, pricing and network externalities relating to retail payments;
- competition versus cooperation of market participants in payment services and other network industries;
- governance and (self-) regulation in the field of retail payments;
- financial inclusion of under- and unbanked people;
- payment innovations, including virtual currencies, e-identity and internet/mobile payments;
- security (including fraud, counterfeiting, and cyber-attacks), trust, and data protection in retail payments;
- lessons learnt from other two-sided markets and network industries and their applicability to retail payments.

Each submission should nominate a corresponding author and include this author's e-mail address and an abstract. All papers submitted on time will be reviewed by the conference organisation committee, and authors will be informed as to whether or not their papers have been accepted in August 2013. If a paper has been accepted for presentation at the conference, the authors also agree to have the submitted paper published on the conference website, to revise it based on discussion at the conference, and to allow the updated paper to be included in the ECB Working Paper Series following the conference. In addition, authors of the best papers will be invited to submit their paper for a special issue on Retail Payments of the [Journal on Financial Market Infrastructures](#). Travel and accommodation costs can be reimbursed for one academic speaker per accepted paper.

The deadline for submissions to the conference is 15 May 2013. Papers should be sent by e-mail in pdf format to the following two e-mail addresses:

payments-conference-2013@ecb.europa.eu
and
payments-conference-2013@banque-france.fr.