



**Maynooth  
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**School of Business Research Seminar Series 2017-2018**

***‘Analysing the heavy goods vehicle “écotaxe” in France:  
European policies, national specificities and tax acceptance’***

**Dr Patrick Rigot-Müller**

**Date: Wednesday, 27 September 2017**

**Time: 12.00pm**

**Venue: Eolas Meeting Room 1, Eolas Building**

**Keywords:**

Road tax acceptance, transport policy, freight transport, green taxation, greater Paris

**Paper Abstract**

In 2014, France abandoned the implementation of the “écotaxe”, a country-wide Electronic Tolling System designed to charge for the use of national and local roads, which were not covered by the traditional toll system. The renouncement happened at a late implementation stage, when the infrastructure was already deployed. According to a recent report from the French body in charge of auditing public expenses, it generated a cost of 953 million euros.

In this paper we analyse the perception by the main economic agents towards the “écotaxe”, in the greater Paris area. We drew upon our dataset of 21 interviews with 36 CEOs, managers and experts from major transport and shippers companies and federations. Data was collected in March 2014. The results show that although the idea of the “écotaxe” had been accepted as a general principle, two particular elements of the French context contributed to undermine the acceptance process: a flat-rate recharging scheme and untaxed motorways.

**About the Speaker**

Dr Patrick Rigot-Müller is a lecturer in Operations and Supply Chain at Maynooth University School of Business. His research interests include Maritime Transport, Transport Policy, Sustainable Supply Chains and Global Logistics. He has previously worked for Normandy Business School and Newcastle University. He has published articles in conferences and peer-reviewed academic journals such as, recently, Energy Policy or Technological Forecasting and Social Change.

He has an extensive industry background with more than 15 years of experience in Supply Chain, with projects realised in the areas of industrial strategy, logistics strategy, network design... for a wide range of companies and public bodies. He obtained his doctorate in Industrial Engineering at the Ecole des Mines de Paris.

To RSVP, please email [business@nuim.ie](mailto:business@nuim.ie).