
Information on: [Department of Transport and Regional Economics](#) / [Research Centre Freight and Passenger Transport – Steunpunt Goederen- en Personenvervoer](#)

Dear Ms,
Dear Sir,

The [Department of Transport and Regional Economics](#) of the University of Antwerp wishes all readers a **Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!** We hope that 2014 will be at least as interesting but also successful to you as 2013 was.



On 20 February 2014, the Department will host a **guest lecture by Prof. dr. Michael Ball** (Professor of Urban and Property Economics, University of Reading) on 'Global cities still face national and local pressures Paradoxes in London's contemporary housing market'. Full information and free but compulsory registration available through the [seminar webpage](#).



Every three years, **the Department awards the Mecator-Ortelius Prize** to a successfully defended PhD at a Belgian University. The Prize is funded by the Koninklijke Aardrijkskundig Genootschap Antwerpen. The PhD needs to deal with a topic in the fields of Social and Economic Geography, Regional Economics, Urban Economics or Spatial Planning. Submission of candidacies is possible through the [Prize webpage](#).

Following **lectures and conference presentations** have recently been given by Department members:

- On 16 December 2013: Ties Vanthillo participated to the 'werkgroep langetermijnvisie voor de sector transport & logistiek RESOC Mechelen', Mechelen
- On 13 December 2013: 'Subregionaal speerpuntenbeleid in Vlaanderen' by Ties Vanthillo, Ann Verhetsel and Thierry Vanelslander at Platform Streekontwikkelingsbeleid, Brussels
- On 12 December 2013: 'Les grandes évolutions du monde portuaire en Europe et leurs impacts: un exemple du Port d'Anvers' by Christa Sys at TDIE colloquium 'Quelle place pour les ports français dans l'espace européen au XXIème siècle?', Paris
- On 11 December 2013: 'Impact of scale increase of container ships on the generalized chain cost' by Thierry Vanelslander at 3rd International Workshop on Port Economics and Policy, and 'Port innovation in the past and in the future - The role of the actors' by Thierry Vanelslander at National University of Singapore Seminar on "Should ports focus on their core business?", Singapore
- On 6 December 2013: 'Key drivers of the containers routes developments' by Christa Sys at BNP Paribas Fortis Ports Practice, Antwerp
- On 6 December 2013: 'Can a crisis be a source of innovation' by Franziska Kupfer, Evy Onghena, Hilde Meersman and Eddy Van de Voorde at 10th Air Transport



Colloquium, Antwerp

- On 28 November 2013: '*Innovative and Intelligent Solutions in Logistics - A key towards competitiveness and success*' by Thierry Vanelslander at CLECAT 2013 Freight Forwarders Forum, Antwerp - [view presentations](#)

On 27-29 November 2013: Christa Sys participated to the course LIFE RAIL Bilbao-Santander-Bilbao, organized by the Escola Europe De Short Sea Shipping - [view pictures](#)

- On 22-25 November 2013: '*Basic concepts*', '*Econometric models of economic behaviour*' and '*Brief recap on demand forecasting and choice modelling*' by Hilde Meersman; '*Pricing (congestion pricing, revenue forecasting, toll roads)*' and '*Introduction to regulation. Objectives and forms of regulation. Public intervention. Nature of Markets and Market Failures*' and '*Forms and effects of competition between agents. Industry Structure. Market segmentation*' by Eddy Van de Voorde at TransportNET Transport Economics course, Lisbon

- On 22 November 2013: '*Improving the infrastructural conditions for inland navigation*' by Christa Sys at European Economic and Social Committee public hearing 'NAIADES II: Boosting and greening inland waterway transport', Brussels. The European Commission has recently proposed the NAIADES II programme that focuses on making long-term structural changes in the sector. Christa Sys participated the hearing. View [presentations](#) and [pictures](#).

- On 21 November 2013: '*The Performance and Efficiency of HSR systems in Europe and Asia*' by Department PhD fellow Jack Doornik at Transforum project Thematic Workshop Highspeed Rail, Lyon

- On 20 November 2013: '*Monitor Vlaams-Nederlandse Delta 2001-2012: De Opkomst van de Biogebaseerde Economie*' by Thierry Vanelslander and Joost Hintjens, together with Bart Kuipers and Martijn van der Horst of Erasmus University Rotterdam at Vlaams-Nederlandse Deltadag 2013, Dordrecht



- On 20 November 2013: 'Agglomeration and Embeddedness of Belgian Biotech Firms: The Role of Venture Capital' by Katja Bringmann, 'The role of rail in urban freight distribution – a literature review' by Katrien De Langhe, 'The performance of high-speed rail systems in Europe and Asia' by Department PhD fellow Jack Doomernik, 'Principal component analysis as a tool to rank ports and track their relative evolution' by Joost Hintjens and Thierry Vanelslander, 'Efficiency of airports in relation to their ownership' by Els Struyf at Faculty of Applied Economics Doctoral Day 2013, Antwerp
- On 14 November 2013: 'E-commerce distribution' by Roel Gevaers at TransportNET Urban Logistics course, Lyon
- On 11 November 2013: 'Thirty years of maritime history', lecture by Hilde Meersman and Eddy Van de Voorde at the opening session of the Seventh City of London Biennial Meeting "Looking Ahead with Optimism and Realism", The Costas Grammenos Centre for Shipping, Trade and Finance, Cass Business School, City University London, at the International Maritime Organisation, London
- On 30 October 2013: 'Monitor Vlaams-Nederlandse Delta 2001-2012: De Opkomst van de Biogebaseerde Economie' at Vlaams-Nederlands Zeehavenoverleg, by Thierry Vanelslander and Joost Hintjens, together with Bart Kuipers and Martijn van der Horst of Erasmus University Rotterdam, Antwerp

The Department during the latest four months had following **books** published by its members:

TPR members Thomas Vanoutrive and Ann Verhetsel edited a **book** in the NECTAR series on Transportation and Communications Networks Research: '[Smart Transport Networks - Market Structure, Sustainability and Decision Making](#)'.



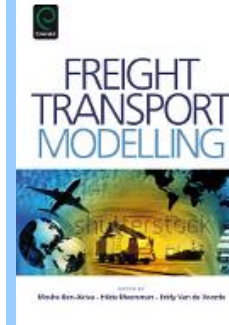
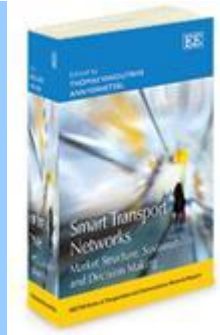
Hilde Meersman and Eddy Van de Voorde, together with Moshe Ben Akiva (MIT), edited a new **book** on [Freight Transport Modelling](#). The book is complementary to *Recent Developments in Transport Modelling - Lessons for the Freight Sector* (2008), and provides fully new insights. It addresses the need to develop new freight transport models and scientific tools to counter internal and external economic impacts, and delivers theoretical and empirical input on three levels: global, regional and local (urban). The book presents insightful contributions from respected international experts in transport economics and freight modeling.

The new and fifth edition of the **Handbook** on '[Transport Economics](#)' by Gust Blauwens and Eddy Van de Voorde, together with Peter De Baere, is now available for purchase. The book contains updated applications of industrial-economic transport management techniques, aggregate demand and supply analysis and transport policy foundations and measures. More information on content and online purchasing are available through the [book's web page](#).

For other **book publications** from the Department, please visit the [book publication web page](#).

For other **publications** by Department members, please check the Department's [academic bibliography](#). For an overview of the research projects currently going on at the Department, and for upcoming deliverables, please have a look at the Department's [research project pages](#).

Further details on the conferences where members contributed are available on the [Department's website](#). Requests for copies of the various presentations should be addressed to the organizers, as publishers of the



respective proceedings.

Department members have given a series of **press interviews** during the latest months. Full details, and related textual, audio and video material is available through [the Department's media page](#).

On 26 November 2013, dr. Jan Francke (Kennisinstituut voor Mobiliteitsbeleid) gave a **guest lecture** on Dutch freight transport model applications.

On 18 and 20 December 2013, students Maritieme Wetenschappen and Zee- en Vervoerrecht of the Department as well as the Masters programs of the Faculty of Applied Economics pay visits to the Port of Antwerp and a number of its terminals. The **excursions** are hosted by the Antwerp Port Authority.

On 11 December 2013, Jeroen Pruyn successfully defended his **PhD** on 'Shipping and shipbuilding scenario evaluations through integration of maritime and macroeconomic models' at Delft University of Technology. The PhD was supervised by Ubald Nienhuis (TUDelft), Hilde Meersman and Eddy Van de Voorde.

The Department launched new **forecasts on freight transport in Belgium**. They are based on forecasts of the economic evolution by the International Monetary Fund and the Belgian Federal Planning Office. Twice per year, the Department provides an updated impact analysis forecast for Belgian freight transport. The forecasts and corresponding market analysis and interpretation can be found on [this link](#).



On 5-6 September, 2013, Raimonds Aronietis and Christa Sys participated at the **7th RETROFIT project General Assembly (GA7) meeting** in Rotterdam (The Netherlands). EU FP7 research project RETROFIT, aims at combining available and newly developed technologies to fit existing ship configurations to improve energy efficiency and cleanness while at least maintaining but preferably improving the ships' economic performance. The GA7 was held at the foundation of the 'Centre for Maritime Technology and Innovation' (CMTI), the coordinator of the project.

The RETROFIT project has reached a development level where results can be presented to stakeholders from industry and end users. Therefore, on Thursday 7 November 2013, the Industry Interest group came together to discuss the project results.

On the same day, the midterm conference 'Green technologies for existing ships' was jointly hosted by the joint RETROFIT and GRIP projects at the Europort 2013 fair in Rotterdam. Green technologies, voyage simulation and energy consumption, retrofit process, and regulatory framework developments were the main topics discussed. Conference presentations can be found [online](#).

On 6 December 2013, the Department hosted its **10th Air Transport Colloquium**, in co-operation with TransportNET. This year's presentations and discussions focused on the topic of "Innovations in the Sky - The Need for Changes in Passenger and Cargo Transport".

As in the previous years, the colloquium hosted interesting presentations by members from academia, policy and business, and brought together academic and business participants. Topics that were dealt with during the day include:

- The influences of competition and regulation on airport innovation
- The impact of the crisis on innovation



- The convergence of business models
- Low-cost airlines and cargo
- Cargo innovation at airports
- Mergers and acquisitions as innovation

The day concluded with a panel discussion with important market players and involving all conference participants. Pictures of the event can be found [online](#).

On 6 and 7 November 2013, in the frame of the EU-funded COST Action 'P3T3 - PPP's in transport-trends and theory' (TU 1001), the Department of Transport and Regional Economics, the Research Unit on Public Administration & Management (Department of Political Sciences) and the Law Faculty of the University of Antwerp jointly hosted a **two-day international conference on Public-Private Partnerships under the title 'Global challenges in PPP : cross-sectoral and cross-disciplinary solutions?'**.

This conference was not just an academic conference on PPP, but had a number of specific features:

- High-profile key note speakers from the PPP academic community and high level policy community;
- Finished research and as well 'research in process' was presented and discussed;
- Confrontation of PPP research with insights and needs of practitioners and policy makers
- Focus on intersectorality: the conference enhanced the mutual learning between different sectoral fields where PPP's can be applied, so as to derive cross-sectoral conclusions;
- Focus on interdisciplinarity, i.e. all disciplines were treated (engineering, economics & accounting, legal, public management, political science...) and confronted their insights.

The full program as well as the post-conference page can be found [online](#).





The [Research Centre on Freight and passenger flows](#) exists two years. Therefore, the **open Research Meeting** of 5 December 2013 was the ideal opportunity to present the state-of-the-art of the most important results for each research stream.

The Research Meeting unites all the members of the Research Centre. This meeting is a forum to create and promote synergies at scientific research, also related to doctoral research. It is especially at this level that the cooperation of the members of the consortium is monitored and guaranteed.

The following topics were presented:

- 'Airport - Analysis & quantification logistics chains - Els Struyf (UA)
- 'Commuting to Gateways - Thomas Vanoutrive (UA)
- 'Understanding the automobile transport lock-in' - Toon Zijlstra (UA)
- 'Evaluation framework for a more sustainable urban supply - Koen Mommens (VUB)
- 'Simulations of the intermodal landscape by means of the LAMBIT-model' - Dries Meers (VUB)
- 'Port policy, competitiveness and welfare - Measures to reinforce the Flemish ports - Christa Sys, Thierry Vanelslander (UA)

On 9 December 2013, director Evy Onghena of the Research Centre on Freight and passenger flows attended a **sounding board meeting of the PIEK 2 project**. With

Het [Steunpunt Goederen- en Personenvervoer](#) (MOBILO) bestaat twee jaar. Een ideale gelegenheid dus om tijdens de **open Research Meeting** van 5 december 2013 een stand van zaken te geven van de belangrijkste resultaten per onderzoekstroom.

De open Research Meeting verenigt alle leden van het Steunpunt op een informele manier, alsook andere onderzoekers van beide consortiumpartners, m.n. UA/TPR en VUB/MOSI. Op die manier zijn synergieën mogelijk bij wetenschappelijk onderzoek.

Volgende presentaties stonden op het programma:

- 'Luchthaven - Analyse & kwantificering logistieke ketens' - Els Struyf (UA)
- 'Pendelen naar Poorten' - Thomas Vanoutrive (UA)
- 'Understanding the automobile transport lock-in' - Toon Zijlstra (UA)
- 'Evaluatiekader voor een duurzamere stadsbevoorrading' - Koen Mommens (VUB)
- 'Simulaties van het intermodale landschap met het LAMBIT-model' - Dries Meers (VUB)
- 'Havenbeleid, concurrentiekracht en welvaart - Maatregelen ter versterking van de Vlaamse havens' - Christa Sys, Thierry Vanelslander (UA)

Op 9 december 2013 woonde directeur Evy Onghena van het Steunpunt Goederen- en Personenvervoer de **klankbordgroep bij van het PIEK 2-project**. Met dit project binnen Flanders Logistics wil

this project, the Flemish government aims at investigating how the distribution of goods to supermarkets can be organized in a more efficient and sustainable way. Five distributors (Colruyt, Delhaize, Carrefour, Albert Heijn and Lidl) and 58 cities and municipalities are participating in the project. Other partners are Comeos, VVSG, Research Centre Commodity and Passenger Flows, Transport en Logistiek Vlaanderen, Febetra, UPTR, Febiac and UNIZO. The meeting aimed at informing the cities and municipalities about the project approach and planning. More information about the project can be found on the following website: <http://www.piek-technum.be/>

On 4 November 2013 the **10th Flanders Inland Shipping Network (FISN) event** took place. FISN unites all actors involved in inland shipping in Flanders. FISN formulated six strategic objectives for the Flemish inland navigation sector. These objectives are the framework for the discussions and presentations during the FISN-event. Christa Sys presented a study by Prof. Meersman, Prof. Van de Voorde, Magali Slaets and Michèle Van Spilbeeck about the relationship between inland shipping and the construction sector in Belgium. Edwin Van Hassel presented his research about opportunities for cooperation in the segment of large, dry bulk inland shipping vessels. Through an improved structure of the sector, more specifically in the form of cooperatives, the problem of overcapacity in this segment could be solved. Watch the [presentations](#) and [pictures](#) of the event.

de Vlaamse overheid onderzoeken hoe goederenvervoer naar supermarkten efficiënter en duurzamer kan verlopen. Aan het project nemen 5 distributeurs (Colruyt, Delhaize, Carrefour, Albert Heijn en Lidl) deel en 58 Vlaamse steden en gemeenten. Andere partners zijn Comeos, VVSG, Steunpunt Goederen- en Personenvervoer, Transport en Logistiek Vlaanderen, Febetra, UPTR, Febiac en UNIZO. Tijdens de klankbordgroep werden de steden en gemeenten ingelicht over het plan van aanpak. Voor meer informatie over het project: <http://www.piek-technum.be/>

Op 4 november 2013 vond het **10de Flanders Inland Shipping Network (FISN) event** plaats. Het FISN verenigt alle actoren die nauw betrokken zijn bij de binnenvaart in Vlaanderen. De zes strategische doelstellingen van FISN vormen het kader voor de gesprekken en presentaties.

Christa Sys presenteerde tijdens het FISN-event een studie van Prof. Meersman, Prof. Van de Voorde, Magali Slaets en Michèle Van Spilbeeck naar de relatie tussen de binnenvaart en de bouwsector in België.

Edwin Van Hassel presenteerde een mogelijke oplossing voor de overcapaciteit in het segment van de grote binnenvaartschepen die droge lading vervoeren. Hij stelt een verbeterde structuur voor, meer bepaald onder de vorm van samenwerking in een poolsysteem onder één management.

Bekijk de [presentaties](#) en [foto's](#) van het event.





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