Panel Discussion

EU in the world: Post Lisbon - Implications and Challenges

The Lisbon Treaty, signed in December 2007, took two years to be ratified by all Member States and finally entered into force on 1 December 2009. The Treaty aims to improve democracy, transparency and to make the Charter of Fundamental Rights binding. But it is in the area of external relations and foreign policy that some of the more profound institutional changes are put in place. For example, instead of a 6-months rotating presidency, the European Council will be represented by a full-time President. In another newly created role, the appointment of Baroness Catherine Ashton as Vice President of the Commission and High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, and the creation of an European External Action Service, in effect merges the roles of the External Relations Commission with that of the Common Foreign and Security Policy High Representative. The European Parliament will also share more areas of co-decision with the Council.

These changes are meant to bring about a more coherent and coordinated voice by the EU on the world stage and even out the powers of the Council, Commission and Parliament. Yet there are already murmurings of a lack of administrative and policy clarity over the new roles. Commentators have mooted that at worst it may mute extended debate and strengthen the intergovernmental influence over the Union.

The EU Centre invites you to a panel discussion to debate some of these issues and also examine the impact the Lisbon Treaty would have on its commercial and diplomatic relations with third countries. Join Ambassador Dorian Prince, EU Fellow, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, Ms Anne Pollet-Fort, Associate Fellow of the EU Centre and part-time lecturer at NUS, and Dr Nicole Alecu de Flers, Visiting Fellow at the EU Centre and Researcher, Institute for European Integration Research, Austrian Academy of Sciences (OAW), for an afternoon of discussion and exchange at NTU@one-north campus, Executive Centre from 3.30pm to 5.30pm on 24 February 2010.

SPEAKERS

Dorian Prince, EU Fellow, LKYSPP, NUS
Ambassador Dorian Prince has worked for the EU for nearly 30 years. In that time, he has been involved in many aspects of EU integration, including the creation of the European single market, agricultural policy, industrial policy, the accession of new member states, the customs union and international trade policy. He has negotiated numerous trade agreements on behalf of the EU, both in multilateral organizations, GATT, WTO and OECD and bilaterally with over 60 partner countries. Most recently, he has served as EU Ambassador, first to Korea and then to Canada. He is on “sabbatical” from the Commission, and is Visiting EU Fellow at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy.

Anne Pollet-Fort, EU Centre Associate, NUS Lecturer and EC Official (on leave)
Anne Pollet-Fort has been a European Commission official for the last 10 years. She started her career in 1998 in the State Aid Directorate of the Directorate General for Competition. In 2000, she joined the unit responsible for assessment of state aid to the manufacturing industry, where she handled cases of state aid to companies in difficulty as well as aid to large investment project and coordination of state aid cases from the candidate countries. In 2003, she moved to the newly created unit “Enforcement and Monitoring” where she contributed to the development of the Commission policy on enforcement of Commission state aid decisions. Appointed Deputy Head of Unit, she was responsible for the reform of the State aid procedures as part of the modernisation of EU State aid control policy. Prior to her work at the European Commission, Anne worked three years for the EU Law Department of PriceWaterhouseCoopers in Brussels where she advised businesses on competition and trade law issues as well as legal issues related to the EU Single Market.

Anne is currently on leave from her work in the Commission. She is an Associate Fellow of the EU Centre and teaches part time in the European Studies Programme at NUS.

Nicole Alecu de Flers, EU Centre Visiting Fellow and Researcher, Institute for European Integration Research, Austrian Academy of Sciences (OAW)
Nicole Alecu de Flers is a researcher at the Institute for European Integration Research of the Austrian Academy of Sciences and lecturer at the universities of Vienna and Salzburg. She holds a Dr Phil degree in political science from the University of Vienna and a ‘Diplom’ degree in political science from the Freie Universität Berlin. Her main research interests are EU foreign policy and external relations, Europeanisation as well as inter-regional relations, especially between the EU and Asia.


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