

# PUBLIC SEMINAR

THE NATIONAL EUROPE CENTRE AT THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY IS PLEASED TO INVITE YOU TO:

## European Perspective on Precaution

### Professor Dr. Nicolas de Sadeleer

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**Tuesday 19 July, 12.30pm**

at the National Europe Centre  
The Australian National University, 1 Liversidge Street,  
Parking available in Balmain Lane, opposite University House  
(Light refreshments will be served after the seminar)

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Laid down in paragraph 2 of Article 174 of the EC Treaty (a provision declaring the principles underpinning Community action in the field of environmental protection), the precautionary principle is however not defined by the Treaty framers, even though there are various definitions in international environmental law.

Whereas the academics have long clashed over a number of questions with respect to the status of the principle, Community case law has not only managed to extend the scope of application of the precautionary principle to all policies involving scientific uncertainty, but has also introduced extremely useful clarifications on the application of the principle, in particular in the domain of public health. Praised by some, disparaged by others, the principle is indeed no stranger to controversies.

The speaker will analyse recent Court of First Instance and European Court of justice judgments dealing with health and environmental protection issues, which have clarified both the status of that principle and its manner of application.