

# PUBLIC SEMINAR

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

## European Foreign Policy: How Common Can it Be?

### Professor Carl Hodge

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**Wednesday 18 May, 12.30pm**

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

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Almost fifteen years after the Charter of Paris ended the strategic confrontation of the Cold War a common foreign and security policy for the member-states of the European Union is as elusive as it was at the outbreak of the serial wars of the Yugoslav succession. For some, the inability of CFSP to advance beyond the solemn declarations and formal commitments made at a succession of European summits – and toward a significant measure of collective European self-reliance in military capacity – is a measure of the failure of the European project initiated with the Treaty of Rome in 1957. Viewed from this perspective this “failure” is even more remarkable in light of the progressive unravelling of the Atlantic Alliance both before and after the events of September 11, 2001.

The decision *not* to develop a European military capacity, however, was in fact taken prior to 1957. No event since the demise of the European Defence Community in 1954 has created the fundamental shift in European national policies required to overturn Europe’s choice for economic prosperity at the price of military dependence. Moreover, the post-Cold War years revealed a progressive divergence in the defence and foreign policy priorities of the major European states even as Europe established monetary union and drafted a political constitution. Events following upon the election of George W. Bush to the presidency of the United States meanwhile accelerated but did not initiate strategic drift, both between the United States and its European allies and among the major European states. The non-existence of CFSP is neither a failure nor a tragedy but rather the product of historic choices and long-term developments in European and global affairs.

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