

PUBLIC SEMINAR

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

The Politics of the World Summit on Sustainable Development: The actions of Australia and the EU compared

Dr Simon Lightfoot
Liverpool John Moores University

Tuesday 9 August, 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)

The 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) has been identified as a benchmark for gauging the character of contemporary global environmental politics and as such, it represents an ideal opportunity for assessing current attitudes to the concept of sustainable development in both Australia and the EU. To put the current debate into context, the paper will briefly outline how both parties have historically engaged with the concept of sustainable development and the role played by both Australia and the EU at the 1992 Rio Summit.

The main body of the paper will examine in detail the policy positions adopted by Australia and the EU for the WSSD. It will outline those areas of policy convergence as well as highlight differences in policy priorities between the two and offer brief explanations as to why these differences occurred. It will also highlight the extent to which these priorities were informed by the definition of sustainable development operationalised by both actors. There will also be comment on the influence of both parties on the outcome of the WSSD and their view of the outcome. Finally, this discussion will allow examination of whether the EU and Australia are promoting different norms of sustainable development, both domestically and in international summits.

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