

# ANNUAL ANU SCHUMAN LECTURE

THE VICE CHANCELLOR OF THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY IS PLEASED TO INVITE YOU TO:

## A More Democratic European Union: Reflections on the Proposed Constitution

**Professor Sir Neil MacCormick QC FRSE FBA LLD DIitt**

Regius Professor of Public Law and the Law of Nature and Nations, The University of Edinburgh and Freehills Visiting Fellow, UNSW

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**Europe Day, Monday 9 May, 6.00–7.00pm**

The Hall, University House, The Australian National University  
A reception will take place following the lecture

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The Convention on the Future of Europe drafted a 'Constitution for Europe', and the Treaty encapsulating the constitution, with certain amendments to the Convention's draft was agreed in June 2004 and signed in October 2004. The process of ratification - or not - is now under way in the Member States. Does it deserve to be ratified? Should the EU have a 'constitution at all? Will the constitution cure the 'democratic deficit' of the European institutions? Is democracy conceivable in a union of diverse Member States that do not add up to a single demos? The lecture will answer these questions in a qualified positive way.

Professor Sir Neil MacCormick QC FRSE FBA LLD DIitt has been Regius Professor of Public Law and the Law of Nature and Nations in the University of Edinburgh since 1972, with responsibility for teaching and research in jurisprudence and the philosophy of law. Currently he holds a Leverhulme Personal Research Chair for a project on 'Law, State and Practical Reason', from which the first volume to be published was *Questioning Sovereignty: Law, State and Nation in the European Commonwealth* (Oxford: OUP, 1999).

From 1999 to 2004 Neil MacCormick served a term as a Member of the European Parliament for Scotland, and in that capacity also took part in the Convention on the Future of Europe that drafted the 'Treaty Establishing a Constitution for Europe' whose ratification is currently being debated. A short book reflecting on these experiences entitled *'Who's Afraid of a European Constitution?'* (London: Societas, 2005) will be published this July. His interests are in the philosophy of law, political philosophy and constitutional theory, currently with particular reference to European Union issues. As a member (and former Vice-President) of the Scottish National Party) he has also contributed a number of essays on the theory of 'liberal nationalism'. For some years Freehills has endowed an annual visit to the University of New South Wales Law School, by an eminent legal academic from abroad. Professor Sir Neil MacCormick is this year's Freehills Visiting Professor at the Law School.

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**RSVP:**

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