

THE ANU NATIONAL EUROPE CENTRE PRESENTS:



PUBLIC SEMINAR

## FUTURE ECONOMIC INTEGRATION IN THE EU: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

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Parking available in Balmain Lane, opposite University House. Light refreshments will be served after the seminar. This lecture is free and open to the public.

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Compared to 20 years ago, the process of European economic integration has substantially deepened and widened. The Single Market is a reality in the field of goods since 1993, even if it remains fragmented in some key services. The euro is a stable and credible currency having been launched in 1999. At the same time, the European Union has greatly expanded. In 1986, Spain and Portugal joined the existing 10 Member States. They were followed by Austria, Finland and Sweden in 1995 and by ten new Member States in 2004. The current EU-25 will soon be expanded to Bulgaria and Romania and Western Balkan countries are expected to join the EU by 2010.

Today's EU is not only much larger than it was 20 years ago, it is also much more heterogeneous. It is the combination of large but heterogeneous membership that poses challenges and offers opportunities to the European Union. The challenges relate to the completion of the Single Market, the expansion of the euro area and the smooth functioning of both the Single Market and the euro area. The opportunities relate to the new industrial organisation of the enlarged EU in the context of globalisation.

André Sapir is Professor of Economics at the European Centre for Advanced Research in Economics and Statistics [ECARES], Université de Bruxelles (ULB) and Senior Fellow of the Brussels European and Global Economic Laboratory (BREUGEL). He is also a Research Fellow of the Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR) and a Member of the European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso's Economic Policy Analysis Group. He was an Economic Adviser to European Commission President Romano Prodi (2001–2004) and the Chairman of the High-Level Study Group appointed by him that produced the 2003 report "An Agenda for a Growing Europe", widely known as the "Sapir Report". His research focuses on two areas: economic integration and international trade.

The views in this Lecture are those of the presenter and do not necessarily represent the views of The Australian National University

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