

National Europe Centre Seminar Series

EUROPE: THE STATE OF THE UNION

WEDNESDAY 22 APRIL 2009, 17.15 – 18.15PM

National Europe Centre, 1 Liversidge Street, Building 67C, ANU

RSVP by Thursday 17 April 12.00pm - E: europe@anu.edu.au

SPEAKER: DR ANTONIO MISSIROLI

Abstract:

In late 2008, the EU appeared worldwide as a dynamic and effective international player - be it in Georgia or the financial crisis - thanks in part to America's weakness and in part to France's resoluteness. Where does it stand now? Uncertainty over the fate of the institutional reforms enshrined in the Lisbon Treaty remains and it is unlikely to wane until the autumn. The European Parliament and the Commission are coming to the end of their terms in a few months, and the EU starts to feel the heat of the economic downturn at a time when it looks - in turn - as a 'lame duck'. Will it be able to get its act together, offer Obama's America a credible partnership, and tackle the numerous challenges of the early 21st century?

Biography:

Dr Missirolì is the Director of Studies at Brussels' pre-eminent think-tank, the European Policy Centre. He holds a PhD in Contemporary History from the Scuola Normale Superiore (Pisa) and a Masters in International Public Policy from the School of Advanced International Studies, John Hopkins University in Bologna. He is also a professional journalist who contributes to newspapers and periodicals across Europe and is well known in European policy circles as a respected and influential commentator on EU affairs. His publications include papers and books on CFSP, ESDP, EU institutional matters, Scandinavia, political opposition, Central Europe and Italian foreign policy.



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