

PRESS RELEASE – THE STATE OF THE UNION IN BRIEF

THE STATE OF THE UNION 2012 takes place in the historic *Palazzo Vecchio* (Florence City Hall) on 9 May, the anniversary of the Schuman Declaration, and continues on 10 May. The conference brings together leading academics, policy-makers, and business and opinion leaders to debate EU policies and the functioning of EU institutions and to provide an analysis of the European Union's current situation and its future. The participation is by invitation only and the conference is an exclusive occasion for dialogue and networking.

The Conference is opened by the Prime Minister of Italy, **Mario Monti** and **José Manuel Barroso**, President of the European Commission will deliver the closing remarks of the first day.

9 MAY**9.30 - 13.00, SESSION 1 ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE FOR EUROPE**

The session on *Economic Governance for Europe* reflects on the severe sovereign debt crisis that has been threatening the eurozone for the last two years. While policy-makers promised to do whatever necessary to resolve the crisis, the situation continues to worsen. Far-reaching decisions have already been taken (reform of the Stability and Growth Pact, the establishment and widening of the EFSF, the establishment of the ESM, etc.), but so far these actions have not brought a stop to the crisis. There is broad consensus that the governance of the Eurozone will have to be changed fundamentally to reduce its fragility and ensure its survival.

Two panels will discuss various questions and challenges to these developments: 'Eurozone Crisis and EU Institutions: What is the Optimal Design?', and 'What Implications for the Integration Process and the Outer World?'

EUI Professor of Economics **Elena Carletti** is the academic coordinator of the session and panel discussions will be moderated by **Tony Barber** (*Financial Times*) and **Alessandro Plateroti** (*Il Sole 24 Ore*). Among the speakers are: **Olli Rehn**, Vice President, Commissioner for Economic and Monetary Affairs, European Commission; **Michel Barnier**, Commissioner for Internal Market and Services, European Commission; **Fulvio Conti**, CEO, Enel; **Barry Eichengreen**, Professor of Economics and Political Science, UC Berkeley; **Luca Cordero di Montezemolo**, President, Ferrari S.p.a.

14.30 – 18.00, SESSION 2: THE EU IN A NEW WORLD

The second session on *The EU in a New World* focuses on how European integration is seen both as an example of globalisation and as an answer to its challenges. For some, European integration embodies many of the promises and fears that globalisation itself generates and provides a case study for possible global developments. For others, it is a unique and distinctive process that cannot be exported to the global level but is destined to play a fundamental role on that global stage.

The two panels in this session explore two traditional dimensions of the relationship between Europe and globalisation from the perspective of the 'emerging powers' at the Global level, with a

focus on the current financial crisis. The first panel asks ‘What Is New in the World and Why Does It Matter for the EU?’, and the second panel is entitled ‘What EU for a New World?’

EUI Professor of Law **Miguel Poiares Maduro** is the academic coordinator of the session and panel discussions will be moderated by **David Tweed** (Bloomberg Television) and **Quentin Peel** (*Financial Times*). Among the speakers are: **Mark Leonard**, Director, European Council on Foreign Relations; **Anne-Marie Slaughter**, Professor of Politics and International Affairs, Princeton University and Former Director of Policy Planning for the US Department of State and **Javier Solana**, President of ESADEgeo and Former EU High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy

10 MAY

8.45 – 18.15, SESSION 3: EU ENERGY POLICY

On 10 May, the second day of the STATE OF THE UNION, the focus area is *EU Energy Policy*. This session aims, in four panels, to assess current policy trends in four key areas. The first panel examines the ‘EU Internal Energy Market’, which is meant to be achieved by 2014. Who should do what in order to succeed? At what conditions? And what could be the benefits: lower prices? Better supply? Or fairer equalisation of energy access all across Europe? The second panel looks at European efforts in the ‘Mitigation of Climate Change’. This issue has been very high on the EU agenda since 2007. But is there a better way to combine the various tools used to reduce green house gas emissions? Could a ‘bankrupt’ Europe eventually afford to have any climate change policy? ‘Energy Security of Supply’ is the focus of the third panel. The EU produces fewer and imports more and more fossil fuels. How fast can the EU transition to ‘green’ energy? Are we able to get enough investments inside and outside the EU both sufficient and distributed timely according to our needs? Finally, panellists will examine European Energy Policy itself as a whole in the panel ‘Three Energy Pillars or Three Energy Policies?’ The EU claims to stand on three strong energy pillars: the Internal Market, the Mitigation of Climate Change and the Security of Supply. Are these pillars really reinforcing each other under the same umbrella policy or do they inevitably conflict and contradict?

Jean-Michel Glachant, Director of the Florence School of Regulation, is the academic coordinator of the session and chairs one panel. The other panel moderators will be **Claude Mandil** (Former Director, International Energy Agency), **Denny Ellerman** (Loyola de Palacio Climate Policy Research Unit at EUI), **Leigh Hancher** (Tilburg University) and **Simon Wright** (*The Economist*). Among the other participants are: **Jürgen Großmann**, CEO, RWE; **Daniel Dobbeni**, CEO, Elia and President, ENTSO-E; **Philip Lowe**, Director-General, European Commission – DG Energy; **Jos Delbeke**, Director-General, European Commission – DG Climate Change; **Alberto Pototschnig**, Director, ACER.

THE STATE OF THE UNION - PARTNERS

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THE STATE OF THE UNION

9/10 MAY 2012
SALONE DEI CINQUECENTO
PALAZZO VECCHIO
FLORENCE - ITALY

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