

Still 'United in Diversity?': 2014 European Parliament Elections

This panel of European ambassadors and scholars of Europe will present their views on the historic 2014 European Parliamentary Elections, what they mean for European integration and for the EU's role in the world. It is part of the commemoration of the 64th Europe Day, the 10th anniversary of EU Enlargement to Central and Eastern Europe and the tenth anniversary of the establishment of an EU Delegation in New Zealand.

Between 22-25 May 2014 400 million European Union citizens will elect a new European Parliament. Global financial crisis and the troubles of European Monetary Union are the backdrop against which these elections are playing out. However, crisis seems to have driven Europeans closer together and farther apart simultaneously. On the one hand, crisis pushed integration forward, toward fiscal and banking union, with an urgency not witnessed since the early days of European integration in the 1950s. On the other hand, some member states are ambivalent about this forward motion and might prefer movement in a different direction. Further, Eurosceptic and overtly nationalist parties have mobilized a growing number of voters throughout the EU. Is European integration moving forward, backward or both? The 2014 elections to the European Parliament offer insight into these issues. And they do so at a time when the European Parliament has gained important new powers in EU decision-making, including in: management of the budget; composition of the EU's core executive, the European Commission; and conclusion of treaties between the EU and other countries.

Wednesday, 07 May 2014 at 6pm in the Grand Hall, Parliament

RSVP by Monday, 05 May 2014 to yvonne.grosch@canterbury.ac.nz



Panelists of the Roundtable Discussion are:

- **Professor Enrique Banus** is (since 2007) the Director of the Master in Cultural Management at the Universitat Internacional de Catalunya (Barcelona). Enrique is a Jean Monnet Chair *ad personam* “European Culture” since 2003 and he is also a president (2009-2012) of the World European Community Studies Association (ECSA).
- **Michalis Rokas**, Chargé de Affaires, European Union Delegation to New Zealand. Prior to arriving in New Zealand, he was the Acting Head of Division for China, Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan and Mongolia at the European External Action Service. He has also been Administrator in the External Relations Directorate of the EU Headquarters in Brussels, responsible for relations with the European Parliament and other institutions.
- **Professor Martin Holland** established the National Centre for Research on Europe at the University of Canterbury in 2000 and was instrumental in setting up the NZ European Union Centres Network (EUCN), a network of eight universities in New Zealand aimed at promoting EU Studies, for which he is now Director. In 2006 Prof Holland was nominated a Jean Monnet Chair *ad personam*.
- **Ms Vicki Treadell** is the current British High Commissioner to New Zealand and Samoa and the current Governor of the Pitcairn Islands. Before her posting to New Zealand she held postings in Pakistan, India and Malaysia. She was appointed a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order (CVO) in 1989 and was made a Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michel and Saint George (CMG) in 2010.
- **HE Dr Anne-Marie Schleich**, Ambassador of Germany. She was the German Consul General in Melbourne from August 2008 until 2012 when she took up her post in Wellington. Before that, Dr Schleich held position in the German Embassies in Singapore and Bangkok and headed the Trade and Commerce Section of the Embassy in Islamabad. From 1998 to 2001 she was a foreign affairs advisor in the International Division of the Federal Chancellery in Bonn and Berlin. Dr Schleich has a PhD in Political Science from the University of Mannheim.

The event is hosted by the Mr Paul Goldsmith, MP, NZ Institute of International Affairs and the NZ European Union Centres Network with support from the EU Heads of Mission.

