



School of Continuing Education
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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UWM WORLD AFFAIRS CONFERENCE EXAMINES EUROPEAN TRANSITION

MILWAUKEE - As was displayed by their response to the U.S. call for war on Iraq, European Union nations are not yet quite all "singing from the same hymnbook." Was this response an indicator of future changes and further challenges to be expected from the EU?

The Institute of World Affairs at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee School of Continuing Education is hosting a daylong look at this and other questions. "Europe in Transition: Integration or Fragmentation?," explores major issues facing the EU. Among them are how expansion affect the structure of the organization; how individual nation states will deal with unemployment, immigration, national and cultural identity, security, and democracy; and the likelihood that the EU will the U.S. as the world's current sole superpower. The May 1 conference is at the UWM Union Wisconsin Room, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd.

Morning background sessions, primarily designed for high school students (but open to all), deliver information and analysis to provide knowledge and context for the afternoon sessions. The afternoon portions of the conference focus on steps being taken now by the EU and the future scenarios to which those steps might lead.

The 12:45 pm conference keynote address features Ambassador Dr. Gunter Burghardt on The Future Shape of Europe. Burghardt, Head of Delegation of the European Commission, speaks live via videoconference from Washington.

Among planned afternoon sessions are:

Maturing Friends, Developing Rivals? The U.S. and the EU -- Dr. Esther Brimmer, Deputy Director, Center for Transatlantic Studies;

Europe's New Foreign and Defense Policy -- Mara Rudman, Vice President, Cohen Group, Washington D.C.; and

Institutions and Democracy: Where is Europe Headed? --Desmond Dinan, George Mason University.

Charlene Barshefsky, Wilmer, Cutler and Pickering, has been invited to deliver the afternoon's featured address, on trade with the European Union, to close the conference, which ends at 5:15 pm.

The conference is presented in cooperation with the UW-Madison European Studies Alliance, the European Union Delegation to the U.S. and the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations. The conference fee is \$50 for the general public and \$40 for IWA members. Student scholarships are available.

To learn more, contact Ljiljana Komnenic, 414-227-3361, or e-mail ljiljana@uwm.edu. Visit the Web site www.sce-iwa.uwm.edu. Click on the program area Wisconsin World Affairs Geographic Conference.

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