

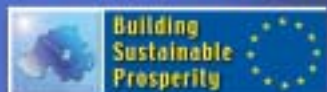


Europe at the crossroads



Queen's University
Belfast

Institute of Governance, Public Policy and Social Research



Building
Sustainable
Prosperity



nicva

promoting the voluntary sector

Tuesday 15 November 2005
NICVA, 61 Duncairn Gardens, Belfast

PROGRAMME

- 9.30 **Registration**
- 9.45 **The UK Presidency of the European Union and Government's vision for the future**, The Stakeholder Manager, Foreign and Commonwelath Office
- 10.00 **Europe at the crossroads – where can it go and where should it go?** Miguel Mesquita da Cunha, Professor of European Studies, Saint-Cyr and former political advisor to the President of the European Commission
- Followed by table discussion*
- 10.30 **The Treaties of Europe - how we arrived at the constitution**, Dr David Phinnemore, QUB
- Tea, coffee and table discussion*
- 11.00 **The debate that never happened...**
- Why I would have voted Yes**, John O Farrell, journalist
- Why I would have voted No**, Eamonn McCann, journalist
- 11.30 **Plenary discussion session**
- 12.30 **Protecting the European social model**
To be confirmed
- Followed by table discussion*
- 1.00 **Lunch**
- 1.30 **Can the divisions be healed, how can we move forward?** Professor Elizabeth Meehan, QUB

Followed by table discussion

- 2.00 **What has Europe ever done for...**
- Civil society?**
Seamus McAleavey, NICVA
- Peace building?**
Duncan Morrow, Community Relations Council
- Local government?**
Laura Leonard, Belfast City Council
- Workers?**
Peter Bunting, ICTU
- The environment?**
Clare McKeown, Office of the Sustainable Development Commissioner
- 3.00 **Plenary discussion session**
- 4.30 **Close**

About our keynote speaker:

Professor Miguel Mesquita da Cunha teaches at three French colleges (Saint-Cyr, Collège Interarmées Défense, Ecole de l'air). From 1999 to 2003 he was a member of the Group of Political Advisors to the President of the European Commission. Before this he held several high level positions in the Commission including; Political Counsellor of the EU Delegation in Japan for three years, five years in the personal team of the Political Director of the Commission and two years in charge of the EU's Mediterranean development programmes. Sr Mesquita da Cunha has also worked for NATO. He holds both French and Portuguese citizenship and speaks English, French, Portuguese, Spanish and Italian. Miguel is married with four children and is interested in the performing arts, literature and judo.

Europe at the Crossroads

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Given the internal divisions over Iraq, the two no votes on the Constitutional Treaty and the difficulty in agreeing on the budget, this conference explores the kind of Europe we want to live in.

Is it more than an economic community driven by the need to compete in an increasingly global market? The Commission's own opinion polls, run by 'Eurobarometer', show that most 'No' voters fear a weakening of social solidarity and social inclusion. Among the top seven reasons given for voting No in France, nearly all reflected the fear that the EU, and their country, was moving in a 'neo-liberal' direction, ignoring issues like unemployment and social solidarity. In the Netherlands, two thirds of the total electorate saw the No vote as an opportunity to change the Constitutional Treaty in a more 'social' direction.

This conference aims to update participants on current thinking within and about the EU, outline possibilities for the future direction of the Union, illuminate how the EU impacts on our daily lives and facilitate discussion on what kind of Europe we want.



Booking Form:

Please complete and return the form to Cathy Breslin, NICVA, 61 Duncairn Gardens, Belfast BT15 2GB, by Monday 7 November.

Name: _____

Organisation: _____

Address: _____

Tel: _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

Please tick if you have any particular dietary or other requirements.

Please specify: _____

Please use a separate (photocopied) form for each delegate. If you require any further information regarding the conference, please contact Cathy Breslin on 028 9087 7777, or fax: 028 9087 7799, or email: cathy.breslin@nicva.org.

**Northern Ireland Council
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