

Schuman Lecture 2009

The European Union's Contribution to Security in the 21st Century

THURSDAY 26 FEBRUARY, 12:00 – 1:00PM

Finkel Theatre, John Curtin School of Medical Research, ANU, Garran Road, Canberra
RSVP by 10.00am Friday 20 February – E: europe@anu.edu.au

SPEAKER: Ms. Helga Schmid, Director Policy Unit Council of the European Union

Abstract: The European Security and Defence Policy was created as part of the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy in response to Europe's inability to prevent the atrocities happening in the Western Balkans in the nineties. Over the last ten years the European Union has grown to become a capable and active security actor across three continents using a unique range of instruments at its disposal – economic relations, development assistance, military and civilian crisis management capabilities and more. However, as we face increasingly diverse and interlinked threats and challenges – from the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to fragile states and the security effects of climate change – we need to further increase our capabilities as well as our ability to cooperate with partners both in our neighbourhood and across the world. Australia is an important partner for the EU, building on effective multilateralism and shared global responsibilities.

Biography: Helga Maria Schmid, Director of the Policy and Early Warning Unit of the Council General Secretariat of the European Union since January 2006, is one of the closest advisors to the EU-High Representative for the Foreign and Security Policy, Javier Solana. Before joining Solana's team Helga Schmid, a German diplomat, worked in the cabinets of both Foreign Ministers Klaus Kinkel and Joschka Fischer. She headed Foreign Minister Fischer's Political Staff from 2003 until end of 2005. Ms Schmid joined the German Foreign Service in 1988. Beginning of the 90's she worked *inter alia* as press and public affairs officer for the German Embassy in Washington. Ms Schmid studied English and French as well as literature, history and politics at Munich University and the Sorbonne, Paris.



The annual *Robert Schuman Lecture* celebrates the remarkable achievements of European integration since its modest beginnings in the European Coal and Steel Community in 1951, announced in a declaration by French Foreign Minister Schuman. The Australian National University has recognised this achievement and foresight by coordinating an Annual Schuman Lecture since 1996. The first lecture was delivered by Lord Leon Brittan, the then Vice President of the European Commission. Since then, the University has coordinated annual Schuman Lectures by distinguished speakers, including The Right Honourable Chris Patten, CH, Commissioner for External Relations, The Right Honourable Alexander Downer, Justice Michael Kirby of the Australian High Court, Professor Sir Neil MacCormick QC FRSE FBA LLD Diitt, and HE Ambassador Miguel Angel Moratinos.

