

Das Institut für europäische Integrationsforschung
der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften
lädt ein:

VIENNA LECTURE ON THE EUROPEAN UNION

By Vivien Schmidt (Boston University)

The European Union in search of political identity and legitimacy

Abstract:

The problems of identity and legitimacy in the EU are significant, but tangentially interconnected. The problems for EU identity derive not solely from the fact that European citizens have not developed much sense of *being* European because they have not been *doing* a lot in the EU; it is also that national elites have not been *saying* much about what the EU has been doing - except in moments of crisis. The problems for legitimacy derive not only from the ways in which the EU works - with more emphasis on 'output' *for* the people than 'input' *by* the people. It is also that the EU's development challenges nationally constructed identities at the same time that it alters the traditional workings of national democracy. And this in turn adds to problems for citizen identification with the EU and their perceptions of its legitimacy. So the question is: would politicizing the EU help build more identity and legitimacy? Or would this only increase the problems?

Moderated by:

Gerda Falkner (Director of EIF; Professor, University of Vienna)

Date: 8 June 2010, 17h00

Wine&Cheese reception to follow

Place: Sitzungssaal der ÖAW, Dr. Ignaz Seipel-Platz 2, 1010 Wien

Organised by: Institute of European Integration Research