International Conference

**The Austrian Presidency of the European Union:**
Constitutional Treaty, Budget and Enlargement: Milestones or Stumbling Blocks?

**Date:** 19/20 May 2006

**Venue:** Sitzungssaal der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, Dr. Ignaz Seipel-Platz 2, 1010 Vienna

**Friday, May, 19th, 2006**

10.00 – 10.30: **Welcome Address**
*Heinrich Neisser, Austrian Political Science Association, Vienna*

**Introductory Speech**
The Privy Council with no King: Between Management and Vision
*Sonja Puntscher Riekmann, Institute of European Integration Research, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna*

10.30 – 12.00

1. **Panel** *Europe’s Institutions: In Whose Name?*

The Relations between European Parliament, European Commission and the Council of the European Union
*Othmar Karas, Member of the European Parliament*

The Role of Council Presidencies
*Peter Ludlow, Eurocomment*

The Council’s Agenda
*Jean Claude Piris, General Director of the Legal Service, Council of the European Union*

Discussant: *Hussein Kassim, University of London*
Chair: *Johannes Pollak, EIF*

12.00 – 14.00: Lunch Break

14.00 – 15.30


*Elisabeth Tichy-Fisslberger, Austrian Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

The Re-negotiation of the Constitution
*Andrew Duff, MEP*
The Commission’s View
Marc Fähndrich, Representation of the European Commission in Austria

Discussant: Carlos Closa Montero, Centro de Estudios Políticos y Constitucionales
Chair: Peter Slominski, EIF

15.30-16.00: Coffee Break

16.00 – 17.30
3. Panel Reflections on the State of the Art – Part II: Balancing the Budget

The Financial Perspective Re-considered
Stefan Lehner, European Commission, Directorate General for Budget

Reform Options for the EU Budget
Manfred Lödl, Austrian Federal Ministry of Finances

The European Parliament’s Vision for the Budget
Herbert Bösch, MEP

Discussant: Iain Begg, London School of Economics
Chair: Isabella Eiselt, EIF

Saturday, May, 20th, 2006

10.00 – 12.30

Why Enlarging at all?
Thomas Mayr-Harting, Political Director, Austrian Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Taking Stock: Romania, Bulgaria and Turkey
Maria Åsenius, Adviser, Cabinet Rehn, European Commission

The European Parliament’s Vision for Enlargement
Karsten Mecklenburg, European Parliament

Discussant: Christine Arnold, University of Maastricht
Chair: Monika Mokre, EIF

Organizers: Austrian Academy of Sciences, Institute of European Integration Research, Austrian Political Science Association

Sponsors: City of Vienna, Federal Ministry for Education, Science and Culture, Federation of Austrian Industry