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