

EUROPEAN UNION CENTRE

The EU Centre at RMIT in conjunction with the Monash European and EU Centre and the Contemporary European Studies Association of Australia (CESAA) invites you to attend:

The Asian Century: what it means for the EU and Australia

Presented by: Dr Gerhard Sabathil

Director, North East Asia and the Pacific, European External Action Service, Brussels

At the beginning of the 21st century, both Australia and the EU assign extreme importance to the Asian region. The Australian Government will soon issue a White Paper called 'Australia in the Asian Century'; the EU has already four of its strategic partners in the Asian continent, and conducting biennial high level dialogues with all Asian countries. Both the EU and Australia seem to be often facing the same challenge of pulling their weight fully at the global geopolitical scene, and in Asia in particular. The 'Asian century' is clearly a common denominator for EU's and Australia's foreign policies, but the underlying reasons and tools to address the current issues in the region – be it environment, conflict prevention, product safety, energy, climate change, disaster preparedness, emergency aid, post-crisis reconstruction, policing assistance, maritime security or counter-terrorism - are of more diverse nature.

Event details

Date: Monday 30 July, 2012

Time: 3.30 pm—5.00 pm

Venue: Melbourne City Conference Centre
333 Swanston Street, Melbourne
(opposite the State Library, corner Swanston and Lt Lonsdale Sts)



Keynote Speaker: Dr Gerhard Sabathil

Director, North East Asia and the Pacific, European External Action Service, Brussels

Prior to his appointment to the EASS, Dr Sabathil was Director for Foreign Policy Strategy and Coordination of the European Commission in Brussels. His career with the European Commission spans 26 years amongst others as Counsellor in the Delegation of the EU Commission for the Czech Republic, Slovakia and the OSCE in Prague; Representative of the Commission to Germany in Berlin; Ambassador of the European Commission for Norway and Iceland in Oslo, and Head of the Division for the Western Balkans in the Directorate General for External Relations, based in Brussels. Dr Sabathil is in Australia to conduct the 4th round of the EU–Australia negotiations aimed at concluding a legally binding Framework Agreement.

Free event – All welcome

Please **RSVP by Thursday 26 July 2012** to: eucentre@rmit.edu.au



The European Union Centre at RMIT is funded through a grant from the European Union and RMIT University.



For more information about the Centre, please visit www.rmit.edu.au/eucentre