

# EUROPEAN UNION CENTRE

The EU Centre at RMIT presents:

## Battle for Kiev: EU, Russia and Ukraine's Ambitions to join the European Community

One of the most significant geopolitical highlights of 2013 was the surprise decision by Ukraine to postpone signing of an agreement with the European Union (EU) during a special summit in Vilnius, Lithuania, in November 2013. After years of hard preparatory work and an almost certainty that by 2014 Ukraine would become a new candidate for the admission in the EU, President Viktor Yanukovich made a last minute decision, which saw a significant shift in Ukraine's political and economic agenda from being EU-oriented to becoming Russia-driven.

The decision to freeze discussions with the EU divided the Ukrainian society, sparked large-scale protests in the country's capital, and even raised concerns for the future of the EU political family. This seminar will consider possible reasons behind Kiev's decision to once again reorient itself towards Russia, the current state of Russia-EU relations and the future of Ukraine.

### Event details:

Tuesday 4 February, 2014

12:30pm -2:00pm

RMIT City campus

Court room 2, building 20, level 2

Enter via building 1 (124 La trobe Street or Bowen Street)

**Speaker:** Dr Alexey D Muraviev, Curtin University, Perth, Western Australia

Free Event. All Welcome.

A light lunch will be served.

Please RSVP to [eucentre@rmit.edu.au](mailto:eucentre@rmit.edu.au) by Friday 31 January for catering purposes.



Dr Alexey D. Muraviev is Head of the Department of Social Sciences and International Studies at Curtin University, Perth, Western Australia. He is a Coordinator of the International Relations and National Security programs and the founder and Director of the Strategic Flashlight forum on national security and strategy at Curtin.

He has published widely on matters of national and international security.

His research interests include problems of modern maritime power, contemporary defence and strategic policy, Russia's strategic and defence policy, Russia as a Pacific power, transnational terrorism, Australian national security, and other.

Alexey is a member of the Australian Member Committee, Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region (AU-CSCAP); member of Russia-NATO Experts Group; member of the International Institute for Strategic Studies, London; reviewer of the Military Balance annual defence almanac; member of the Executive Committee, Australia-Russia dialogue, member of the Research Network for Secure Australia; member of the Australian Institute of International Affairs (W.A. branch), member of Curtin's Australia Asia Pacific Institute, and other organisations and think tanks.

In 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010, the Australian Research Council (ARC) College of Experts has nominated Dr Muraviev as an "expert of international standing".