



PUBLIC LECTURE

Helen Wallace

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The Council of the European Union: Insights from Recent Research

Tuesday, 5 June 2007, 16:00

IHS, Stumpergasse 56,
1060 Wien, HS II

Professor Wallace will report on newly available data on voting in the Council of the European Union available at www.councildata.cergu.gu.se and the insights that these provide into how negotiations take place in the Council. Despite the rules for taking decisions by qualified majority voting member governments seem to prefer to reach their decisions more often by consensus rather than with explicit voting. This pattern has so far persisted in the enlarged European Union of 27 members. What is much harder to establish is how the voting rules operate implicitly in shaping decisions.

Helen Wallace was Director of the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies at the European University Institute in Florence, Italy (2001-2006). Previously, she was Jean Monnet Professor of Contemporary European Studies and founding Director of the Sussex European Institute at the University of Sussex (1992-2001). From 1998, she was also Director of the British Economic and Social Research Council's "One Europe or Several?" Programme (1998-2001). Since 2006, she is a member of the "Better Regulation Commission" of the British government. Some of her recent publications include "Policy-Making in the European Union", with Mark Pollack and William Wallace (OUP [5th ed.], 2005); "The Council of Ministers of the European Union", with Fiona Hayes-Renshaw (Palgrave [2nd ed.], 2006); and "Visions, Votes and Vetoes: Reassessing the Luxembourg Compromise 40 Years On", co-editor with Jean-Marie Palayret and Pascaline Winand (P.I.E. Peter Lang, Brussels, 2006).