PUBLIC LECTURE

Simon Hix
The London School of Economics and Political Science

What’s Wrong with the European Union and How to Fix It

Tuesday, 24 March 2009, 16:00
IHS, Stumpergasse 56, 1060 Wien, Lecture Room II

Professor Simon Hix will talk about some of the key ideas in his recent book "What's Wrong with the European Union and How to Fix It". The book identifies three major problems facing the EU: (1) policy gridlock; (2) low popular legitimacy; and (3) a democratic deficit. The solution to these problems, Hix contends, is the gradual development of what he calls "limited democratic politics". This development can be encouraged by changing some of the practices and procedures in the way the EU works, such as allowing more transparent scrutiny of legislative proposals and amendments in the Council, reforming the allocation of committee chairs and offices in the European Parliament, changing the way European Parliament elections work, and allowing a more open contest between rival candidates for the Commission President.

Simon Hix is a Professor of European and Comparative Politics at the London School of Economics. He has written several books on EU and comparative politics, including most recently "What's Wrong With the EU and How to Fix It" (Polity, 2008) and "Democratic Politics in the European Parliament" (Cambridge, 2007), and has had articles published in many top political science journals. He is co-editor of the journal European Union Politics. He has held visiting appointments at several other universities, including Stanford, Berkeley, UC San Diego, Sciences-Po, Hertie School of Governance in Berlin, College of Europe in Bruges, and Korean Institute for International Economic Policy in Seoul. Simon Hix has been a consultant for, among others, the UK Cabinet Office and the European Parliament, and has given evidence to the European affairs committees of the British House of Lords and House of Commons. In 2008 he won the Fenno Prize from the American Political Science Association (APSA) for his book "Democratic Politics in the European Parliament", in 2005 he won the Longley Prize from APSA for the best article on representation and electoral systems, and in 2004 he won a Fulbright Distinguished Scholar Award.