Prospects for a European Constitution – Prospects for more Legitimacy?

The Convention on the Future of Europe was established under the impression of manifold legitimacy problems facing European Union today. The work of the Convention has developed with impressive speed and substance. Only weeks before the presentation of the Constitutional Proposal to the Heads of State and Government, the critical question remains whether the Convention is able to meet the optimistic expectations placed upon it. The key question of all: will the emerging European Constitution be able to solve the legitimacy problems of European governance? Will it lead to more democracy and more efficient decision-making procedures?

ZEI has invited practitioners and experts from all over Europe who will provide instructive internal and external views on the current state of deliberations of the Convention. You are cordially invited to join us for a stimulating discussion.

Prof. Dr. Ludger Kühnhardt, Director,
Center for European Integration Studies

PROGRAM

13th May

18.00 **Registration at ZEI**

18.30 **Dinner**

After Dinner Speach
Nikolaus Meyer-Landrut,
Spokesman of the European Convention

14th May

Chairman: Dr. Hubert Iral (ZEI)

9.30 **The current state of the Constitutional process: internal and external views on the Convention's deliberations**

Speakers:

Walpurga Speckbacher
Head of Chairman's Private Office (Secretariat of the European Convention)

Kirsty Hughes
Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS), Brussels

Carlos Closa
Universidad de Zaragoza, Spain

10.15 **Discussion**

11.00 **Coffee Break**

11.30 **The Convention Method as a tool for more democracy? A critical assessment**

Speakers:

Marcus Höreth
Center for European Integration Studies (ZEI), Bonn, Germany

Christopher Lord
University of Leeds, United Kingdom

12.30 **Lunch Break**

Chairman: Dr. Marcus Höreth (ZEI)

13.30 **Expected outcomes of the Convention: towards a more legitimate Union?**

Speakers:

Francisco Torres
Institudo de Estudos Europeeus da Universidade Católica, Portugal

Franz Eichinger
Director, General Secretariat, Council of the European Union

Iván Bedo
Magyar Rádio, Hungary

15.30 **End of Conference**