



National and Kapodistrian University of Athens
School of Law, Economics and Political Sciences
Faculty of Political Science and Public Administration

INVITATION

The Postgraduate Programmes in “European and International Studies” and in “Southeast European Studies” of the Faculty of Political Science and Public Administration of the University of Athens have the pleasure to invite you to a lecture by

Jan Zielonka, Professor of European Politics at the University of Oxford.

on **“The EU as an international actor: unique or ordinary?”**

The lecture will take place on Friday, **March 11th 2011**, at 4.30 p.m., KET room (42-44 Aiolou Street, 2nd floor)

***Abstract:** It is often argued that the EU is a peculiar if not unique international actor. Unlike other major actors it is a largely civilian power promoting universal norms in its vast neighbourhood and beyond. This paper will test this proposition by comparing the EU’s external policy to those of the United States, China and Russia. Five variables will be examined: (1) international aspirations and self-images; (2) governance form and structure; (3) means of governance; (4) borders and the scope of governance; and (5) centre-periphery relations. The paper will conclude that all four actors share certain important characteristics. They all represent huge territorial units with sizable power resources across various fields. They all consciously apply these power resources to influence if not manipulate domestic politics in their respective peripheries. They all justify their power politics by reference to noble norms and values, but because of its peculiar governance system, fuzzy borders and predominantly civilian policy means, the EU practices its politics differently from the three other actors considered here.*

Professor P.C. Ioakimidis
Director of the Postgraduate Programme in
“European and International Studies”

Associate Professor Dimitris A. Sotiropoulos
Director of the Postgraduate Programme in
“Southeast European Studies”

Contact: Marina Petrelli (2103688964, eisweb@pspa.uoa.gr) &
Anna Vallianatou (2013688965-6, postgrad_SEE@pspa.uoa.gr).