



EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE



GABINETTO G.P. VIEUSSEUX

**The Word Europe
17-18 November 2006
Palazzo Vecchio, Florence**

Where does the idea of Europe come from? Is it a radical answer to the two World Wars which stained it with blood during the 20th Century? Or are the roots embedded in a more distant past?

Today, as the process of European integration seems to stall, following the opposition expressed in France and Holland's referendums, these questions are once again of great current interest. Is it possible to find an answer to today's crisis by returning to the origins of the European project, to the inspiration which drove the creators and Founding Fathers of the European Union to take the first steps of that process? Is it possible that hidden within that original inspiration are the clues to rediscover the historical necessity and the innovative charge for a more convincing Europe, more mature, better equipped to meet the challenges of a global world?

It is in this key that the Gabinetto Vieusseux and the European University Institute are organising a conference dedicated to "The Word Europe" which will be held in Florence on 17 and 18 November 2006. Key speakers will be observers, academics and political figures who will reconstruct the most significant steps of the first period in the process of integration (between 1949 – 1956 circa) with an eye to today's problems: the agricultural policy, the role in international relations, the European Constitution project. The meeting will be structured in three half-days and one concluding round table. The first half-day is dedicated to the interventions by leading participants in the European project. The following two half-days are dedicated to contributions from principal figures from the recent past and the present in the integration process together with academics (historians, legal experts, economists) who have studied the problems and phases of that process as well as the forming of the idea of Europe in the Old World. The concluding round table is dedicated to the possible futures of the European Union after the various enlargement phases.

Speakers invited

1. The birth and value of an idea: Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, Enrique Barón Crespo, Jean-Luc Dehaene, Jacques Delors, Joschka Fischer, Bronislaw Geremek, Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, Helmut Kohl, Alexander Kwasniewski, Lord Patten of Barnes, Jorge Sampaio, Kostas Simitis, Constantinos Stephanopoulos, Graham Watson
2. An itinerary between economics, politics, culture: Piero Graglia, Antonio Varsori, Andrea Manzella, Marcello De Cecco, Luisa Passerini, Bruno De Witte, Giuseppe Mammarella, Nicola Verola, Lorenzo Bini Smaghi.
3. Concluding round table: Giuliano Amato, Antonio Maccanico, Tommaso Padoa Schioppa, Massimo D'Alema