



## **A Europe – Wide Referendum on the Lisbon Treaty? A debate on the Future of Europe**

**5th December 2008, 17:00 – 19:00**

Can a Euro Wide referendum on the treaty be an option between the two alternatives that have been mainstream so far (the "*treaty is dead*" one voiced by euro skeptics and the "*go ahead any way with the national parliaments' ratifications*" suggested by the euro federalists)? Is it realistic to call for Europe to "*focus on what the citizens want*" without giving to Europe the power to deliver, or to ask for more power without accepting that this must come with more representation? Could a euro wide referendum be the right opportunity to develop that European debate on the future of Europe that so far has been mostly limited to inner circles of experts? Could this be the opportunity to go beyond the decades long confrontation between ideologies on Europe (*Europe as an ever larger free market Vs the united states of europe*) that has produced this stalemate?

And why has the debate on Europe - and on democracy in general - been taking for granted that more participation of people and higher efficiency of institutions are amongst them in trade off one against the other?

These are some of the questions upon which Vision and Prometheus will hope to raise fresh ideas in a debate that is structured as follows.

## Agenda

**Chair:** Kyle Wingfield – The Wall Street Journal

- 17:00-17:30**      **The global crisis and the window of opportunity for Europe.**  
**Presentation of Vision – Prometheus Paper by**  
Francesco Grillo – Director Vision  
Koert Debeuf – Director Prometheus
- The feasibility of the referendum and possible outcomes**
- Sandro Gozi – Italian MP and Vice President of the Italian Parliamentary Commission on European Policies
- 17:30-18:00**      **Discussion: Which way forward for the European project and what about a Euro – wide referendum as alternative to mainstream options?**
- 18:00-18:30**      **The question of democracy: Do we still believe in what got us here?**
- Professor James Wickham  
Director of the ERC and Jean Monnet Professor of European Labour Market Studies – School of Social Science and Philosophy Trinity College Dublin
- Professor Tibor Dessewffy  
ELTE Institute of Sociology in Budapest
- 18:30-19:00**      **Discussion: Where can we go from here? the terms of a possible referendum campaign and the link with the next EP elections**
- 19:00**              **End of Conference and drinks**

The event will take place at the House of Representative, Le Palais de La Nation, Rue de Louvain, 1000-Bruxelles. For more information contact us at [euromerendum@vision-forum.org](mailto:euromerendum@vision-forum.org)