

Report for May 11 2011

Speaker: Professor Martin Holland

President, European Union Studies Association New Zealand
Vice President, Asia-Pacific EU Studies Association
Jean Monet Chair of European Integration and International Relations,
Director, National Centre for Research on Europe, University of Canterbury

On May 11 2011, Professor Martin Holland spoke at the New Zealand Institute of International Affairs (Palmerston North Branch) held at International Pacific College.

Prof Holland has served as an European Union (EU) election observer, advised on a range of EU policy areas and is internationally recognized for his work on EU development and security and the perceptions of the EU, especially within the Asia-Pacific region. Prof Holland was also instrumental in setting up the New Zealand European Union Centres Network, a group of seven universities in New Zealand aimed at promoting EU studies.

His topic was the EU's global ambitions and challenges for the future, in which he described the successes and failures of the EU's hard and soft power initiatives, currency and membership policies, and implications for EU leadership and direction given various intra and interstate concerns. Prof Holland's talk was illuminated with many examples from his own experience and various news sources.

Following his presentation, the floor was open to several questions from the audience, which included: issues of sovereignty in foreign policy making, the potential of war given the EU's establishment of a military force, the role of a common language given the large number of member countries and cultures.

The seminar was very well-received and enjoyed by all who attended. The NZIIA Palmerston North Branch looks forward to more seminars from Prof Holland in future.