



Canberra, 18 April 2007

European Commissioner highlights EU-Australia cooperation in higher education

European Commissioner in charge of Education Training and Youth, Mr. Ján Figel', will be the key guest speaker at the University of Sydney's International Forum on Thursday, 19 April highlighting the future of EU-Australia cooperation in higher education.

The Commissioner's address will focus on *The Future of Education - Bologna and Beyond* with Commissioner Figel' welcoming Australia's efforts to become "Bologna-compatible", having already a three-cycle degree system and a national qualifications framework.

In Europe, the Bologna Process is helping to reform Higher Education in Europe making it more competitive and more attractive for the citizens of Europe as well as for citizens and scholars from other continents like Australia.

Commissioner Figel' has commended Australia on its plans to adopt a credit-transfer system and a diploma supplement that will benefit students from both the EU and Australia by helping them to get their studies recognised overseas. The ultimate goal is to make the education systems of both continents more compatible with each other.

The University of Sydney's International Forum series brings together leaders and thinkers from around the world to present their views on strategic international issues and the way in which these issues may impact on Australia and the globe. The forums provide the opportunity for staff and students to engage more with the international community and have more hands on involvement in international issues.

His Excellency Bruno Julien, Ambassador of the European Commission to Australia and New Zealand will also address the Forum about the overall bilateral EU-Australia relationship.

Commissioner Figel' is visiting Australia as guest of the Australian Government and his address at the International Forum is being sponsored by the Department of Education, Science and Training.

The Forum will be held on Thursday, 19 April from 11:00am in the MacLaurin Hall, Main Quadrangle Building, University of Sydney.

Program and registration available at: <http://www.usyd.edu.au/international/news/current.shtml>

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