

VIENNA LECTURE ON THE EUROPEAN UNION

**In the shadow of the law: EU social policy
between the ECJ and politics**

By **Dorte Sindbjerg Martinsen**
Department of Political Science
University of Copenhagen

On Monday, 18 March 2013, 17:00
at Campus of the University of Vienna, Aula, Hof 1.11, 1090 Vienna

The European Court of Justice (ECJ) has long been famous for its central, at times controversial, role in European integration. However, how politics respond to legal integration in the concrete processes of policy-making, i.e. in the daily legislative processes, remains rather unexplored. This lecture analyses the policy-making dynamics of social Europe where the ECJ has at times interpreted the scope of European law beyond what member states intended. It examines how the case law of the Court is subsequently responded to by the decision-makers of the European Union, i.e. the Commission, the Council of Ministers and the EP. Does the case law of the Court substantiate further steps of integration or do decision-makers respond by over-ruling the Court?

Commentators:

Legal perspective: Wolfgang Mazal, Department of Labour Law and Law of Social Security, University of Vienna

Social sciences perspective: Guido Schwellnus, Institute for European Integration Research (EIF), University of Vienna

Chair: Gerda Falkner, Institute for European Integration Research (EIF), University of Vienna

Lecture to be followed by a discussion and a wine & cheese reception.

Registered and unregistered participants are welcome; we kindly ask for your registration at eif@univie.ac.at or +43 1 4277 22402.