

THE FEDERAL TRUST

for education & research

enlightening the debate on good governance

PRESS INFORMATION

Date: 20.1.11

Contact: Brendan Donnelly

020 7320 3045

07956 379 129

CITIZENSHIP AND THE LISBON TREATY - CAN THE BRITISH EVER BE EUROPEAN CITIZENS?

The Federal Trust is today (20 January 2011) holding a conference on Citizenship and the Lisbon Treaty - asking Can the British ever really be European Citizens?

The event, which is at Mary Sumner House, 24 Tufton Street, London SW1P 3RB, from 2 to 5.30pm, is being held in collaboration with the Global Policy Institute of London Metropolitan University and is co-funded by the London Representation of the European Commission.

Can the British, in the light of their long history of separation, physical and political, from the European continent ever be European Citizens in a real sense? Perhaps the Coalition Government, with its mixture of differing attitudes towards Europe, can persuade the British to move on from their historic position of isolation and play the part at the heart of Europe that the major European nations would like to see them take on.

Opening the conference will be **Georgia Georgiadou**, from the European Commission where she is the Policy officer in the Citizenship Unit of the Directorate General Justice. She will present recent developments regarding EU citizenship focusing on judicial advances regarding the member states' competence in the sphere of nationality. "I will look at how the Treaty of Lisbon enhanced the notion of European citizenship and the rights attached to it; and how the Commission's new ambition and new course of action aimed at making EU citizenship a tangible reality in EU citizens' daily lives."

Richard Laming, chairman of the Federal Union, will look at the way in which EU institutions and policies promote the idea of European citizenship. "What would it take," he asks, "for European citizenship to play a bigger role in the lives of the British people?"

From Edinburgh University where she is deputy head of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, **Professor Jo Shaw** will examine the poor fit between UK law and EU free movement law. "How can the British be European citizens if it is so hard for other EU

citizens to be 'European citizens' in a true sense when in the UK?" she asks. "In practice Europeans often face many obstacles to exercising their free movement rights, especially in relation to the application of the immigration rules to many who fall within the scope of the EU law, but often are treated by UKBA (United Kingdom Border Agency) and the media as if they are just 'ordinary' immigrants, to be controlled and not encouraged. This is a particularly serious problem as far as new member state nationals are concerned

Other speakers will be **John Palmer**, former political director and current board member of the Brussels-based think tank European Policy Centre, and Director of the Federal Trust **Brendan Donnelly**.

ENDS

Notes

The Federal Trust was founded in 1947 by Sir William Beveridge to examine the interactions between regional, national, European and global levels of government. It has always had a strong interest in the European Union and Britain's place in it.

This conference is the fourth in a series to examine the effect of the new British government on Britain's role in Europe.

The final conference in the series will be held on

20th May 2011, Britain in Europe - launch of the report based on findings from the conferences.

For further information please contact: Alison Sutherland
alison.sutherland@fedtrust.co.uk or telephone : 07951 061 137