By voting "no" in their referendums on 29 May and 1 June, 2005, respectively, French and Dutch citizens rejected the Constitution for Europe. Although it must be ratified by all Member States of the European Union to be enacted, the two "no" votes do not necessitate an end to the constitutional project. At present, 14 Member States have ratified the ‘Treaty Establishing a Constitution for Europe’.¹ In the light of these successes and failures, the European Council extended the ratification period to allow for reflection, explanation and discussion in all countries, whether or not they have ratified the Constitution. The state of these discussions will be examined by the European Council under the Austrian Presidency in the first half of 2006. The German and the Finnish governments have already announced to support the constitutional process under their Presidencies in 2006 and 2007.

The outcome of this unique process of reflexive constitution-making is contingent on a variety of factors, including substantive, context related and procedural issues. It depends, most notably, on how European constitutional ratification debates impact domestic public spheres. The aim of this workshop is to take stock of the patterns and dynamics of public opinion formation in and across European public spheres, by systematically assessing the news media from the old and the new Member States. We will scrutinise commonalities and differences in how public discourses have reflected the ratification crisis to answer a range of critical questions: Will ratification debates foster convergence and, hence, the emergence of a European sphere of political communication? Or, by contrast, will they provoke re-nationalisation, driving Member publics further apart? As regards the constitutional text, what are the most divisive issues? To what extent do the meanings of constitutional norms vary in different domestic contexts? What kinds of political and social actors have access to domestic public spheres and which of them do not? Which claims in favour of or against constitutional ratification are raised, and what different strategies of justification do they employ?

¹ Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain (Feb 8th, 2006).
The workshop brings together researchers from three projects: “Citizenship and Constitutionalisation in the New Europe: Transforming the Public Sphere” (ConstEPS) based at the University of Bremen; “EU social constituency”, based at Oslo, Berlin, and Leeds; and “Media and Ethics of a European Public Sphere, from the Treaty of Rome to the ‘War on Terror’” (EMEDIATE), located at the EUI/Florence.

**PRELIMINARY PROGRAM:**

Arrival: Thu evening, May 18th

First day: Fri, May 19th (European University Institute, Villa Schifanoia)

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<tr>
<td>9:00</td>
<td>Welcome</td>
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<td>9:30</td>
<td><strong>Key note speech: NN</strong> (to be confirmed)</td>
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| 10:30 | **Failures of ratification - challenges to the European public sphere?**  
- Hans-Jörg Trenz/J.E. Fossum/ (ESF): When the people come in: Constitution-making and the belated politicisation of the EU  
| 13-14h| LUNCH |
| 14–18:30h | **Exploring ratification debates in old and new Member States: Europeanisation or re-nationalisation?**  
- Julie Firmstone/Emily Gray/Paul Statham: UK  
- Agustin José Menéndez: Spain  
- Erik Jentges/Regina Vettes: Germany, France  
- Marit/Eckholm/Geir Olav Löken/Hans-Joerg Trenz: Scandinavian countries |
| 20h   | DINNER |

Second day: Sa, May 20th (Villa La Stella/ Sala Affreschi)

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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>9-13h</td>
<td><strong>Exploring domestic public spheres: continuation</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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2 ConstEPS is financed by Volkswagen Foundation; for information see: http://www.monnet-centre.unibremen.de/projects/consteps/index.html.

3 This project is financed by ESF; for information see: http://www.arena.uio.no/about/staff/trenz.xml.

4 EMEDIATE is supported by the 6th FP of the EU, see: http://www.ije.it/Personal/Strath/projects/mediate.htm.
- Petra Rakusanova: Czech Republic
- Tatjana Evas: Latvia and Estonia
- Aleksandra Wyrozymska: Poland
- Sönke Maatsch: France
- Kathrin Packham: UK and Germany

13-14h  LUNCH

14-17h  The ratification crisis in public light: comparative assessments
- Bo Strath: A constitutional crisis – but is it a Constitution?

20h  DINNER

Participants:

ConstEPS (Bremen-Kracow-Prague):
Evas, Tatjana
Gattig, Alexander
Liebert, Ulrike
Maatsch, Sönke
Mach, Zdzislaw
Mansfeldova, Zdenka
Packham, Kathrin
Pozarlik, Gregor
Rakusanova, Petra
Schönlau, Justus
Wyroizumska, Aleksandra

ESF (Berlin-Oslo-Leeds):
Firmstone, Julie
Fossum, John-Eric
Gray, Emily
Jentges, Eric
Löken, Geir Olav
Menéndez, Agustin José
Statham, Paul
Trenz, Hans-Jörg
Vetters, Regina

Emediate (EUI-Berlin):
Schulz-Forbeck, Hagen
Strath, Bo

EUI faculty: Christian Jörges, u.a.
Key note speaker
Policy makers