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Foreword

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FOREWORD

The European Union Center of California hosted the joint Claremont-University of California Undergraduate Research Conference on the European Union on April 19-20, 2007, at Scripps College in Claremont, California. A total of 38 students presented papers written on various topics related to the European Union. These students hailed from eleven different schools: Brigham Young University, Claremont McKenna College, Pitzer College, Pomona College, San Francisco State University, Scripps College, UC Davis, UC Los Angeles, UC San Diego, UC Santa Barbara, and the University of Washington. This volume is a compilation of the top papers presented at the conference.

The student conference was modeled on professional academic conferences. Each student presented her or his own research to a panel moderated by a faculty discussant whose primary tasks included providing constructive feedback and stimulating discussion of the issues at hand. The conference was designed with specific goals in mind. One such goal was to promote the visibility of European Union Studies and expose the participants to different intellectual and academic traditions within this field. Another was to motivate student research and hone analytical, writing and presentation skills. A third goal was to strengthen the curriculum on European Union Studies at participating campuses by encouraging faculty interaction with students, not only with respect to their expertise in particular research areas but also by conveying general knowledge about contemporary Europe to students. Hence, the research presented in this volume reflects a collaborative effort to involve students in academic research and policy debates on issues vital to the European Union in a manner that both strengthens curriculum and facilitates interactions between students and faculty.

There is a striking range of subject matter in the students' papers. **Kirsten Bender** discusses the European Union's environmental policy in light of the large-scale accession of new member states from central and eastern Europe. **Robert Block** asks whether the egalitarianism of the Scandinavian countries will survive in an increasingly globalized European Union. **Jason Gorn** focuses on the German auto industry in the European free market, while

Jason Grishkoff asks which theoretical framework best captures the wide range of European policy choices made from 1989–1993. **Jonathan Jones** addresses the European relationship with Russia as a natural gas supplier, a topic has assumed center stage in geopolitical discussions. Euroskeptics and their politics are the focus of **Cathryn Kobe**'s study, while stateless unions and their representation in the European Union are examined by **Jeannine Plamondon**. **Michael Powell** analyzes the role of partisan politics in determining the tone of US–EU relations. **Marvin Smith** uses the lens provided by a strategic ruling of the European Court of Justice to chart the globalization of the soccer industry. **Elizabeth White** examines the impediments to eventual Turkish membership in the European Union, looking closely at Article 301 and free speech. Finally, **Jacob Ziemann** looks at ways to reform the constitutional treaty of the European Union in light of alternative understandings of the democratic deficit.

This conference would not be possible without the fiscal and administrative support of the Institute of European Studies at UC Berkeley.

We are grateful to both of our keynote speakers for sharing their enthusiasm for the European Union. Ambassador David Aaron, Senior Fellow at the RAND Corporation and Former Ambassador to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development spoke on challenges facing Europe today while Hannele Tikkanen, Delegation of the European Commission to the USA, reflected on the fifty years that the European Union has been in place.

Additionally, the conference owes a debt of gratitude to the faculty discussants who donated their time and expertise with the students, including Hilary Appel, Nigel Boyle, Steven Casper, Elizabeth Crighton, Donald Crone, Patricia Dillon, Thomas Ilgen, Rebecca Larsen and Lukas Loncko; they were joined by Hannele Tikkanen of the Delegation of the European Commission to the USA and Katerina Veverkova of the European Union Center of California. The participation of these individuals established a high standard for, and enriched the experience of, the students at the conference. Finally, the administration of the conference by Katerina Veverkova was indispensable to its success; and the fine editing of this volume by Polly

Baranco allows us to share the results of the conference with a wider audience.

The student participants are owed the greatest debt of gratitude. Their outstanding contributions demonstrated serious intellectual maturity and genuine research skills, and resulted in a conference that was both successful and stimulating.

David M. Andrews, Director
European Union Center of California