Conference on Neil MacCormick:

Legal Reasoning and European Laws: The Perspective of Neil MacCormick

San Domenico di Fiesole, Villa La Fonte
Friday 21 May 2010

Co-sponsored by:
LAW Department, Max Weber Programme, Global Governance Programme (RSCAS),
and The Legal and Political Theory Working Group, European University Institute

Sir Neil MacCormick (1941-2009) was one of the most distinguished legal philosophers and scholars of our
generation. Educated in Glasgow and Oxford, he taught and wrote extensively on a wide range of subjects from
philosophy to constitutional European law. In MacCormick we find a unique combination of a passionate
commitment to the Scottish National party and to the cause of Scottish independence with a rigorous intellectual
pursuit of the questions of sovereignty and European nationality. This conference aims to pay tribute to the wide
range of his scholarship and explore the interconnections between the issues that engaged him throughout his
career. The intention is to contribute not only to the fields of legal philosophy and the political theory of the
European Union, but also to foster cooperation between scholars from both areas.
Programme

9:00 Opening Remarks
-- Josep Borrell (EUI, President)
-- Neil Walker (Edinburgh U.)
-- Massimo La Torre (Catanzaro U. / Hull U.)

9:40 Session: Legal Reasoning 1: Practical Reasoning in Law and Morality - Chair: D. Patterson (EUI)
Commentators: Irit Samet (MW Fellow) and Giovanni Sartor (EUI)

11:15-11:45 Break

11:45 Session: Legal Reasoning 2. Rhetorics and the Rules of Law - Chair: Giovanni Sartor (EUI)
-- David Duarte (Lisbon U.): “Natural Language Constraints on Normative Interpretative Propositions”
-- Antonino Rotolo, Giorgio Bongiovanni, Corrado Roversi (Bologna U.): “Constitutive Rules and Coherence in Legal Argumentation: The Case of Extensive and Restrictive Interpretation”
Commentators: Jernej Letnar Černič (MW Fellow) and Gianluigi Fioriglio (MW Fellow)

13:15-14:15 Lunch

14:15-15:45 Session: Europe, Nationality, Sovereignty I: Commonwealth of Nations in a Post-Sovereign Europe - Chair: M. Maduro (EUI)
-- Christoph Moellers (Humboldt U.): “The meaning of Democracy in Post-Sovereign Federation”
-- Nenad Stojanovic (University of Zürich): “Mononational and Multinational States: A Valid Dichotomy?”
Commentator: Matej Avbelj (European Faculty of Law, Nova Gorica)

15:45-16:15 Break

16:15-17:45 Session: Europe, Nationality, Sovereignty II: Legal Pluralism in the European Context - Chair: M. Maduro (EUI)
-- Nico Krisch (Hertie School of Governance): “Pluralism, or: The Fear of Disorder”
Commentators: Miriam Ronzoni (MW Fellow) and Christian Schemmel (MW Fellow)