



## **The David Hume Institute**

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### **NEWS RELEASE**

## **The David Hume Annual Lecture 2006**

**6.00pm 1 March 2006**

**Venue: The Royal Society of Edinburgh, 22-26 George Street, Edinburgh**

**with speaker**

**Sir Neil MacCormick**

**‘The European Union  
and the Idea of a Perfect Commonwealth’**

Supported by  
**The Royal Bank of Scotland Group (RBS)**

**Chair**

Sir Stephen Lamport, RBS Group

**Jeremy Peat, Director of The David Hume Institute said:** "The David Hume Institute is delighted that Sir Neil MacCormick has agreed to deliver the 2006 Hume Lecture. His involvement is wholly appropriate, both because of his long association with the David Hume Institute – Sir Neil is our Honorary Vice President - and because of his expertise on European issues, our selected topic for this year.

Sir Neil will set out his thoughts on the possible future direction for the great experiment that is European Union, at a time when the future path for the nations of Europe and the EU as a whole is perhaps more uncertain than has been the case for several decades. His choice of title for this lecture deliberately echoes Hume and the ‘Idea of a Perfect Commonwealth’ - a rather splendid line to pick up and develop at such an occasion and it is expected that there will be lively and informed discussion following this lecture".

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**Sir Stephen Lamport, Group Director – Public Policy and Government Affairs, Royal Bank of Scotland Group said:** "We are delighted to once again support this year's David Hume lecture. We look forward to an enlightened debate and very much hope our guests enjoy the evening."

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**Professor Sir Neil MacCormick**

Regius Professor of Public Law and the Law of Nature and Nations in the University of Edinburgh since 1972; Leverhulme Research Professor 1997-9 and since 2004 (Dean of Law Faculty, 1973-76, 1985-88; Provost Faculty Group of Law and Social Science and Dean of Faculty of Social Science, 1994 –97; Vice-Principal for international affairs, 1997-99)

During leave of absence 1999-2004, served as Member of the European Parliament (Scotland, Scottish National Party/European Free Alliance). Member of European Parliament Committees on Legal Affairs and the Single Market (co-ordinator for the Greens/European Free Alliance Group); Constitutional Affairs Committee; Vice-President of the Temporary Committee (2000-01) on the Echelon Interception System. Alternate member on the Convention on the Future of Europe 2002-3. A Vice-President of the Scottish National Party 1999-2004.

Member, Houghton Committee on Financial Aid to Political parties 1975-6; Member, Broadcasting Council for Scotland 1985-89; Member, Research Council European University Institute (1989-95); Member, Scottish Examinations Board 1993-95; Member, Sutherland Committee on Criminal Appeals in Scotland 1995-96; Member, Economic and Social Research Council 1993-99; Member, Governing Council, European Science Foundation 1997-99

**Notes to Editors:**

The views that will be expressed by the speaker are his own and do not commit the Trustees or Officers of the Institute or the event's sponsor in any way.

**Issued by:** The David Hume Institute, 25 Buccleuch Place, Edinburgh EH8 9LN

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