



The Centre for European Studies  
in cooperation with the Institute of European, Russian and Eurasian Studies  
is pleased to invite you to a talk by

## Alexander Trechsel

Swiss Chair in Federalism and Democracy at the  
European University Institute (Italy)

# Direct Democracy and European Integration: Who is Accountable to Whom?

In recent years, instruments of direct democracy, such as referendums have become increasingly used in Europe to resolve contentious issues, for example the recent votes on the Lisbon Treaty in Ireland and the vote on Minarets in Switzerland. This talk explores connecting points between accountability and direct democracy. When the people have the last word, are the people responsible for the decision taken and and if so, to whom? A notion of '*reflexive accountability*' is developed to suggest how this responsibility might be best exercised.

### About the Speaker:

Alexander Trechsel received his Ph.D. in political science from the University of Geneva. His research interests include e-democracy, direct democracy, federalism, European integration and political behaviour. Currently, Alexander H. Trechsel is Professor of Political Science at the European University Institute (EUI) in Florence, Italy. He initiated and coordinates the new European Union Democracy Observatory (EUDO) at the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies of the EUI.

**Where: DT 2017, 20<sup>th</sup> Floor, Dunton Tower, Carleton University**

**When: Wednesday, January 27, 4:00 p.m.–5:30 p.m.**

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[www.carleton.ca/ces/events/events.htm](http://www.carleton.ca/ces/events/events.htm), or call 613-520-2600, ext. 1087.

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