



NINTH SEMI-ANNUAL MUNK DEBATE ANNOUNCED

HAS THE EUROPEAN EXPERIMENT FAILED?

— Lord Peter Mandelson, Daniel Cohn-Bendit, Joseph Joffe and Niall Ferguson convene in Toronto, Canada to debate the future Europe —

Wednesday, April 11, 2012 – Toronto, Canada

With Spain, the fourth largest economy in Europe, teetering on verge of a massive Eurozone and IMF bailout, the Aurea Foundation announced today the resolution and presenters for the ninth semi-annual Munk Debate, to be held in Toronto on Friday, May 25th.

To encourage far-ranging discussion of an issue of global significance, the ninth semi-annual Munk Debate will table the motion: ***be it resolved, the European experiment has failed.***

In the sweep of human history, the European Union stands out as one of humankind's most ambitious endeavors. It encompasses half a billion people, twenty-seven member states, twenty-three languages and an economy valued at over \$15 trillion. Modern Europe's stunning achievements aside, its sovereign debt crisis has shaken the world's largest political and economic union to its core. Can the federal institutions and shared values of Europeans meet the challenges of debt crisis that are as much political as economic? Or, are Europe's current woes the result of deep structural faults that will doom the E.U. to breakup and failure?

Arguing ***for the resolution*** will be **Niall Ferguson**, renowned economic historian, internationally-acclaimed author, and a prolific commentator on contemporary economics and politics. He will be joined by **Josef Joffe**, publisher-editor of the German weekly *Die Zeit*.

Speaking ***against the resolution***, will be **Lord Peter Mandelson**. A Member of the House of Lord, Mandelson is the former E.U. Commissioner for Trade. Mandelson will be joined by **Daniel Cohn-Bendit**, co-president of the Greens/Free European Alliance Group in the European Parliament.

Rudyard Griffiths, director and moderator of the Munk Debates, comments: "Europe's ability to reform itself and survive this crisis is the big geopolitical 'known unknown' of our time. It effects everything from the future of the global economy to how countries around the world, especially federations like Canada, think about the risks and rewards of economic and political integration."

The Munk Debates provide a lively and substantive forum for leading thinkers to discuss the pressing issues of our time. Two debates are held each year in Toronto, one in the spring and one in the fall. Previous Munk Debate participants include former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Henry Kissinger, Christopher Hitchens, Paul Krugman, Lawrence Summers, Dambisa Moyo, UN Special Envoy for HIV AIDS Stephen Lewis, Mia Farrow and Fareed Zakaria.

The Munk Debates is a signature initiative of the Aurea Foundation, founded in 2006 by Peter and Melanie Munk to support Canadian institutions involved in the study and development of public policy.

“Our philanthropy is aimed primarily at improving the quality and vitality of public debate in Canada,” said **Peter Munk**, speaking about the rationale for the Munk Debates. “Whether it is the support we provide to the Munk School at the University of Toronto or the creation of the Munk Debates through our Aurea Foundation, Melanie and I are committed to broadening public knowledge, education and informed discourse,” Mr. Munk added.

The Munk Debates are open to the public. The debate on the Europe will take place in Toronto at Roy Thomson Hall on **Friday, May 25th** at 7:00 pm EDT. **Tickets go on sale to Munk Debate Premium Members at 10:00 AM on Tuesday, April 17th. Remaining tickets will go on sale to the public at 12:00 NOON on Thursday, April 19th.** For information on purchasing tickets, or premium membership, please visit www.munkdebates.com. Seating is limited.

The debate will also be broadcast live over the Internet for global viewing audiences. For more information on the livestream of the Munk Debate on Europe visit www.munkdebates.com

Media inquiries should be directed to:

Sherry Naylor
sherry@munkdebates.com
(416) 368-8253