



FPC APPOINTS NEW DIRECTOR: STEPHEN TWIGG

ANNOUNCES NEW OFFICES IN USA AND CHINA AND NEW WORK ON RAPID TRANSITION TO RENEWABLES

On Monday 1 August 2005, Stephen Twigg commenced his appointment as Director of the Foreign Policy Centre (FPC). He announced moves to open permanent FPC offices in Washington and Beijing. He also outlined a series of new policy projects to be undertaken by the FPC, including work on how the UK can make a rapid move toward greater use of renewable energy sources.

‘The new FPC offices in China and Washington will make the FPC the only European foreign policy think tank with offices in both those capitals’, Mr Twigg said. ‘We want to be heard in the corridors of power where some of the biggest decisions about international affairs are being made. The Washington office will be headed by FPC Deputy Director, Keith Didcock.’

‘The FPC is well-positioned for this major leap in its development,’ Mr Twigg continued, ‘building upon high profile programmes launched in the last year and a half’. These include Middle East political reform, Emerging Economies (China, India, Russia), the Future of Russia and ‘Global Europe’.

Mr Twigg said that recent senior appointments in the FPC meant that it would have an expanded programme of events and publications this year. The appointments include Sarah Schaefer as Europe Director, Phil Fiske as Public Diplomacy Director, Seema Desai as Emerging Economies Director, Josephine Osikena as Manager of the Democratisation and Governance Programme, and Rawan Maayeh as Coordinator of the Civility Programme on Middle East political reform.

‘In the coming twelve months, the FPC will take up the challenge on energy use set out by the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary’, Mr Twigg said. ‘They both want urgent action on climate change and energy use. The government has described the need as vital to the country’s national security. The FPC is looking at an intensive nine month programme to map out how the UK can make a rapid transition to greater reliance on renewable energy sources.’

Notes for Editors:

1. Mr Twigg is available for interview or further comment and can be reached on 07956306980.
2. A former general secretary of the Fabian Society, Stephen Twigg was elected Labour MP for Enfield Southgate in 1997. In 2001, he became Parliamentary Secretary to former Foreign Secretary Robin Cook and in 2002 became a junior minister in the Department of Education. From 2004, Stephen was Minister for School Standards before losing his seat in the general election in May 2005.
3. The FPC was established in 1998 under the patronage of the Prime Minister, Tony Blair. It receives no core funding from the government and bids for all government funding competitively. It has received funding from a large number of charitable, corporate and governmental entities.