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Luncheon Briefing Invitation

***Democracy and Decentralisation in India:
Local Government in Madhya Pradesh***

Guest Speaker: Dr Girish Kumar

Fellow in Political Science at the *Centre de Sciences Humaines*, New Delhi

Discussant: Dr Apurba Kundu
Senior Research Fellow, EIAS

Chair: Mr Dick Gupwell
Secretary-General, EIAS

Tuesday, 25th November 2003

12.30 (Sandwiches) 13.00-14.30 (Briefing and Q&A)

European Institute for Asian Studies (EIAS)

Rue des Deux Eglises 35, B-1000 Brussels

(Metro: Arts-Loi/Kunst-Wet)

Since independence, India has made repeated attempts to find a political space for *panchayats* (local councils). Constitutionalising *panchayats* in 1992 has met with mixed success in Indian states. The case of *panchayats* in Madhya Pradesh will be used to illustrate the capacity of the present political system to provide genuine support to the project of decentralisation and local democracy.

Dr Girish Kumar is a Fellow in Political Science at the *Centre de Sciences Humaines*, New Delhi. He previously served as a consultant/fellow/researcher at the National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad, LBS National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie, and European Institute of Asian Studies, Brussels. Dr Kumar has published articles in the *Economic and Political Weekly* (Delhi) and *Défis-Sud* (Brussels), and is the co-author of *State Politics and Panchayats in India* (2003), and *West Bengal Panchayat Elections 1993* (1996).

Dr Kumar will start to speak at 13.00. Sandwiches will be served from 12.30. In view of the limited number of places, you are requested to register your participation with Ms Zoe McCarthy, European Institute for Asian Studies, Brussels, **by fax on 02 230 5402**. We very much look forward to meeting you.

Entry is free for EIAS members, press, and officials of European Union Institutions;

For all others a charge of €10,00 applies

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Please **confirm by Monday, 24th November 2003** via fax (02 230 5402) to Zoe McCarthy (EIAS).

Name:

Organisation:

I **will / will not** (delete as applicable) be able to attend the Luncheon Briefing on 25th November 2003.