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**FORGING THE EUROPEAN UNION'S CONSTITUTION
FORMER PRESIDENT OF FRANCE TO SPEAK
AT NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER**

Philadelphia, PA (February 2, 2005) – Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, former President of France and President of the Convention for the proposed European Union Constitution, will deliver a major address at a special evening program presented in partnership with the World Affairs Council of Philadelphia on Tuesday, March 8, 2005 at the National Constitution Center. President Giscard d'Estaing will deliver a forward-looking speech about his experiences leading the convention in Brussels, his predictions on passage of the EU Constitution, and also parallels between the Constitutional Conventions of Europe and the American colonies.

A reception on the Grand Hall Overlook will begin at 6 p.m., followed by the address in the Kimmel Theater at 6:45 p.m. and a dinner on the Grand Hall Overlook at 8 p.m.

Reservations are required. Admission to the reception, program and dinner costs \$100; reception and program, \$45; program only, \$20. For tickets, please call 215-561-4700 or visit www.wacphila.org. The program is sponsored in part by Rohm & Haas, EscoZodiak, Ametek, PricewaterhouseCoopers, and Georges Perrier, Owner and Chef, *Le Bec Fin*, who is providing a special dessert.

“The National Constitution Center is honored to host President Giscard d'Estaing, whose experience at the Constitutional Convention in Europe offers a glimpse into the founding of our own country,” said Richard Stengel, President and CEO of the Constitution Center. “In a museum entirely dedicated to the Constitution, Giscard d'Estaing is one of our most fitting guests – a modern-day Founding Father of the European community, and one of the world's

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great advocates for Constitutional democracy.”

“We’re so pleased that President Giscard d’Estaing will make another appearance before the World Affairs Council of Philadelphia,” said Buntzie Ellis Churchill, WAC Philadelphia President. “The relevance of the EU’s constitution extends beyond Europe, perhaps most notably to emerging democracies like Iraq, as they begin the process of writing their own constitutions and creating a framework upon which their representative governments will be based.”

According to a December 2003 *New York Times* article, some European leaders, including Giscard d’Estaing, were quick to align the Constitutional Convention in Europe and its forerunner in Philadelphia. Giscard d’Estaing called the Brussels convention “Europe’s Philadelphia moment.”

About Valery Giscard d’Estaing

In 1974, Giscard d’Estaing defeated Francois Mitterrand to become President of France. While in office, he reduced the voting age to eighteen and played a crucial role in several international initiatives including the creation of the European Council, the European Monetary System, the Disarmament Institute and the North-South Conference. In December 2001, Giscard d’Estaing was appointed by the European Council as Chairman of the Convention on the Future of Europe.

About the World Affairs Council of Philadelphia

The World Affairs Council of Philadelphia is a private, non-profit, non-partisan educational organization dedicated to creating a more informed citizenry on matters of national and international significance. Established in 1949 as a forum for discussing differing points of view, the Council does not endorse candidates for public office or lobby for policies. Membership is open to all who share its principles. The Council currently serves over 120 corporate members and their CEOs, and more than 4,000 other executives and individual members.

About the National Constitution Center

The National Constitution Center, located at 525 Arch St. on Philadelphia’s Independence Mall, is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing public

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understanding of the U.S. Constitution and its relevance to Americans' daily lives. Opened on July 4, 2003, the museum dramatically tells the story of the Constitution from Revolutionary times to the present through more than 100 interactive, multimedia exhibits, film, photographs, text, sculpture and artifacts, and features a powerful, award-winning theatrical performance, "Freedom Rising". Also, serving as a nonpartisan forum for constitutional debate, the Center presents – without endorsement – programs that contain diverse viewpoints on a broad range of issues. Admission to the National Constitution Center is \$7 for adults and \$5 for seniors ages 62 and up, children ages 4-12, and active military personnel. Group rates are also available. For more information, call 215.409.6600 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

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