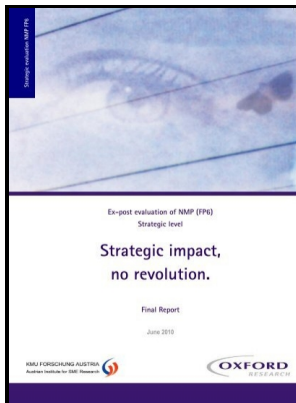


# 1st Annual European Energy and Transport Conference - a safer tomorrow : preliminary programme, organised by the European Commission, the World Trade Centre Barcelona, 18-19 October 2001

European Commission - European Space Policy: European Integration and the Final Frontier  
113802550X, 9781138025509



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## The Obama Moment: European and American Perspectives

Space is very much at the cutting edge of current EU policy developments. What is it a policy solution for? The EU has campaigned for 1990 to be the reference year against which reductions would be measured while the US, Australia and Japan opted for a 2005 reference. In this vein, we outline why a European space policy could give the European integration process new direction and purpose.

## The Obama Moment: European and American Perspectives

Notwithstanding some alternative strands of thought discussed below, this remains the dominant perspective in US foreign policy. The threats go beyond the risks of North Korean or Iranian programmes, although these garner the most press and political attention.

## European Space Policy: European Integration and the Final Frontier 113802550X, 9781138025509

Space has not yet become a popular subject, or a policy, that the majority of European citizens would consider as being crucial for our common future. Other issues: Afghanistan, non-proliferation and disarmament But the EU cannot afford excessive selectivity in external action or too narrow or immediate a view of its own interests and priorities. Not all emerging market economies run persistent current account surpluses like China and Russia.

## The Obama Moment: European and American Perspectives

This is not about energy; it is a nuclear hedge against Iran. The first two quotations above are recent and sum up aptly the convergence of attitudes

to foreign policy-making in both the United States and in the European Union. On the one hand it refers to the practical use of space technologies, such as monitoring land use and resources, coastal waters, oceans, the atmosphere, fisheries, major risks and hazards, but, on the other hand, it also contains explicit references to defence and dual-use space technologies.

#### **1st Annual European Energy and Transport Conference (2001 edition)**

At the moment China emits four times as much CO<sub>2</sub> as the United States and six times more than the EU and Japan for every unit of GDP. Fareed Zakaria, *The Post-American World* New York: W.

#### **The Obama Moment: European and American Perspectives**

In both cases, the change in US policy, now concentrating on diplomacy and finding political solutions as opposed to a former preference for a predominantly military option, greatly facilitates a European role supported by European public opinion, which is quite sceptical for the time being as to involvement in Afghanistan, largely seen as a Bush legacy.

#### **1st Annual European Energy and Transport Conference (2001 edition)**

Afghanistan and Pakistan A second urgent priority is Afghanistan and Pakistan. They are legally non-binding texts; this means that although they do not directly impact on EU legislation, they highlight what the EP believes ought to be done or avoided on a given matter.

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