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## Transatlantic Space Cooperation Workshop

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## Transatlantic Space Cooperation Workshop

In 2008, the Eisenhower Center for Space and Defense Studies established the Transatlantic Space Cooperation Workshop series. This workshop series brings together a community of scholars and experts from the United States and Europe, including the European Union (EU), European Space Agency (ESA), and NATO, to share lessons learned, debate, and network on joint priorities in the civil, security, and commercial space.

The first workshop was held in Brussels, Belgium in June 2008. Participants in this workshop examined U.S., European, and EU security space priorities, and considered NATO's space role. Discussions began with an opening panel where senior U.S, EU, and NATO officials briefed participants on current security space priorities before participants explored issues more in-depth. The goal of the workshop was to educate senior leadership from the U.S., EU, and NATO on philosophies and strategies for collective space security and deterrence in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The workshop was successful in initiating dialogue on harmonizing transatlantic security space strategies.

The second workshop was held in Berlin, Germany in September 2009. The 2009 workshop fostered dialogue regarding the potential for greater cooperation across the Atlantic to make the most efficient use of capabilities where possible across the civil, security, and commercial space areas. Issues discussed at the 2009 workshop included: developments over the past year in transatlantic space cooperation; joint priorities in protection of critical space infrastructure; transatlantic cooperation on Earth observations for security and stability; and future avenues for advancing transatlantic cooperation.

Within this context, workshop participants discussed approaches to transatlantic space cooperation based on establishing best practices for responsible spacefaring activities, such as practices of control and operations of space assets, and mitigating orbital debris.

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There were as well discussions on the common need for advancing data coordination and sharing in Earth observation programs. Participants expressed the view, in particular those from Europe, that the multilateral preferences of the United States Obama Administration offer an opportunity to re-examine ways to

advance transatlantic space cooperation in terms of sharing information, data, and capabilities. In this regard, there was the realization among participants on both sides of the Atlantic that limited budgets for space activities in relation to demands on programs will facilitate greater cooperation between the U.S. and Europe across the different space sectors.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>There was little focus during the 2009 workshop on military space cooperation between the U.S. and Europe. And, there was little attention to a possible role of NATO in this context. Europe is not well synchronized in the area of military space limiting military space cooperation with the U.S.