

Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics  
Committee on Science and Technology  
U.S. House of Representatives  
19 November 2009

**Hearing**  
**“The Growth of Global Space Capabilities:  
What’s Happening and Why It Matters”**

Statement of  
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Madame Chairwoman and Members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to appear today. In this intervention, I would like to provide European perspectives on the implications of the growth of global space-faring capabilities and to point out some implications of these current trends for the trans-Atlantic relations.

In the outset, please allow me to introduce to you the European Space Policy Institute (ESPI), which is the central European think tank for space policy, created following a decision by the Member States of the European Space Agency (ESA) and established as an independent institution in Vienna, Austria. ESPI prepares analyses and conducts activities addressed to policy-makers in Europe with the aim of facilitating the decision-making processes in the field of space policy.

1. In addressing the first issue, the European perspectives on the implications of the growth of global space-faring capabilities, it should be pointed out that Europe regards this trend as basically positive, but also identifies numerous threats. The opportunities are twofold: a raising number of space-faring countries and a broadening of space programs and missions can be a beneficial tool for supporting joint efforts for dealing with global problems. Two examples are global climate change monitoring and disaster management and mitigation. In both cases, the number of coordinated satellite missions cannot be large enough in order to achieve the highest impact possible. A second area of opportunities lies in the possibility to develop markets for space-related products and services on an international and global scale. Threats, however, can be seen in the proliferation of critical technologies or in the field of lacking regulations in emerging

space-faring countries, leading to “flags of convenience” and distorting fair international competition. Europe also understands that it can lose international prestige, if it is passed by space powers like China or India, which could have consequences for the attractiveness of Europe as a high-technology partner. But this consequence should only encourage Europe to further increase its own efforts.

2. The consequences of these trends for the trans-Atlantic relations can be set out as three categories:

- a promising field, which is cooperation in the field of space for security,
- a necessary field, which is space as a strategic economic issue area and tool to deal with climate change,
- a potential field, which is space exploration.

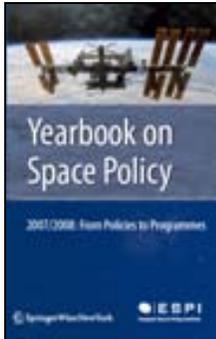
In our view, the most promising field for trans-Atlantic cooperation today is space for security. Space Situational Awareness should be addressed and organized in a cooperative way between the U.S. and Europe. The European Draft Code of Conduct for Outer Space Activities is the first major European diplomatic initiative in this field and should be actively supported by the U.S., since it matches completely its interests. Other areas for cooperation could be space for internal security/homeland security, maritime security and responsive space, where both the U.S. and Europe could benefit from closer cooperation. In addition to that, the U.S. could consider benefitting from recent technology developments made in Europe, for example in the field of radar sensors.

A necessary field for trans-Atlantic cooperation is the coordination in issues related to space as a strategic economic area. ESPI has recently published a joint memorandum with the Space Policy Institute at George Washington University identifying numerous actions. Amongst them are the protection of the radio frequency spectrum for space services, the promotion of open, inter-operable standards and the promotion of open international markets in space goods and services as well as closer international consultations on the development or modification of domestic regulations. The U.S. and Europe should also jointly lead efforts in using space for tackling the global problems like climate change.

Before that background, space exploration – while leading the debate – can only be regarded as a potential field of trans-Atlantic cooperation. While first deliberations have to be made now, the priority has to be the full and successful use of the ISS as the basis for an international space exploration program.

In summarizing, I first of all would like to point out that the trans-Atlantic relations should receive your high attention, since they are crucial in organizing the most important aspects of space activities: space for security and space as a strategic economic field. Dialogue and partnership in this field (with the European Union and the European Space Agency on the European side) should be intensified and institutionally strengthened. The single issues, I have mentioned in these areas, require roadmaps for implementing joint activities. This might be reflected in the ongoing space policy review in the U.S. A strong U.S.-European partnership can strengthen security and successfully tackle global challenges.

## Selection of recent ESPI publications relevant to the topic (download from [www.espi.or.at](http://www.espi.or.at)):



### **Yearbook on Space Policy 2007/2008: From Policies to Programmes**

Editors: Kai-Uwe Schrogl, Charlotte Mathieu, Nicolas Peter

published: 2009

Publisher: SpringerWienNewYork

Hardcover, 311 p.; Illustrations, Figures, Bibliography and Index

ISBN: 978-3-211-99090-2



### **Space Security - A Formative Role and Principled Identity for Europe**

ESPI Report 16

by: Wolfgang Rathgeber and Nina-Louisa Remuß

published: February 2009

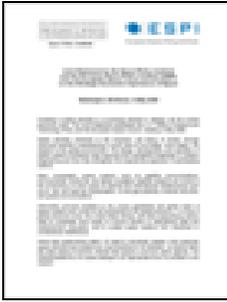


### **Space Exploration 2025: Global Perspectives and Options for Europe**

ESPI Report 14

by: Nicolas Peter

published: August 2008



**Joint Statement by the Space Policy Institute and the European Space Policy Institute (ESPI) on the Strategic Economic Importance of Space; Washington, DC/Vienna (May 2009)**



**Space Power and Europe in the 21st Century**  
ESPI Perspectives 21  
by: Nicolas Peter  
published: April 2009



**Space Traffic Management**  
**The new comprehensive approach for regulating the use of outer space**  
ESPI Flash Report 3  
by: Kai-Uwe Schrogl  
published: October 2007



**Ten Steps to Achieve Fair and Responsible Use of Outer Space**

(December 2008)