



## Implications of the **US Elections** for Foreign Policy, Climate Change and International Security

Room EAS300, Eastman Building  
European Parliament, Brussels  
12 November 2008, 14:00-18:00

Given the crash of 2008 and the linked crises in finance, trade, environment and foreign policy, the US Presidential election result seems more important than ever, both for citizens of the United States and for those in the rest of the world who did not have a vote. What will be the implications for foreign policy and Trans Atlantic relations?

Are European expectations of a President Obama un-realistically high? Barack Obama is seen as environmentally benign when compared with President George W Bush, but what can we expect in terms of environmental policy in the first hundred days of his presidency?

Will the pressure from the US Military really lead to a reduction in dependence on fossil fuels? Will the US, in returning to the negotiating table as an active participant, bring with it new thoughts on the relationship between climate change and security. Will it be prepared to back near term mitigation measure on issues such as switching some gasses out of Kyoto and into the Montreal Protocol, or dealing with Black Carbon and Biochar issues?

Obama has indicated that he will not wait for his inauguration to start working on climate change, but will the position of the new Administration already be influential in discussions in Poznan? An what will be the role of the Democrat controlled Congress be in the months leading up to Copenhagen and in the years to come? As the world thinks again about the Bretton Woods institutions, what should Europe be arguing for? Given the internal fight over Europe's climate policy and the potential institutional confusion of 2009, does Europe have the determination to make its voice heard?

14:00 - 15:00

★ Session 1: Foreign Policy & Climate after the Vote ★

Moderator: **RONALD A. KINGHAM**, Director / Brussels Liaison, Institute for Environmental Security

- **STEVEN EVERTS**, Cabinet of Mr Solana, General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union
- **G. DAVID BANKS**, Senior Advisor for International Affairs & Climate Change at the White House Council on Environmental Quality
- **SPYROS KOUVELIS**, Member of Parliament, PASOK / Member, Global Legislators Organisation for a Balanced Environment (GLOBE-Europe)
- **FRITS HESSELINK**, Commission on Education and Communication, IUCN / Convenor of the *Roundtable Workshop on Environment & Security: Challenges for Change* at the IUCN World Conservation Congress, 6 October 2008
- **Discussion**

Comments by **TOM SPENCER**, Vice Chairman, Institute for Environmental Security / Former Chairman, European Parliament Foreign Affairs Committee

15:00 - 16:00

★ Session 2: New American Ideas on Climate Change ★

Moderator: **SPYROS KOUVELIS**, Member of Parliament, PASOK / Member, Global Legislators Organisation for a Balanced Environment (GLOBE-Europe)

- **MORGAN PITTS**, Research Director, Presidential Climate Action Plan  
- *"The First 100 Days of the New Administration"*
- **ANDREW VINCENT ALDER**, California Representative, Institute for Environmental Security / IES Specialist on Concentrated Solar Power  
- *"New American Ideas on Climate Change - Two Challenges for President Obama:*  
1) *Expansion of Solar Power*  
2) *A New Environmental Role for the Military"*
- **DURWOOD ZAELKE**, President, Institute for Governance & Sustainable Development -  
- *"Abrupt Climate Change: Near Term Mitigation Strategies"*
- **Discussion**

Comments by **FRANK SCHWALBA-HOTH** / Former MEP

16:00 - 16:30

☕ Coffee Break ☕

16:30 - 18:00

★ Session 3: Implications for Poznan and Copenhagen ★

Moderator: **TOM SPENCER**, Vice Chairman, Institute for Environmental Security / Former Chairman, European Parliament Foreign Affairs Committee

- **AVRIL DOYLE**, MEP, Member Environment Committee / Rapporteur for the Review of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme, European Parliament
- **STEFFEN SMIDT**, Danish Ambassador for Climate Change
- **JAMIE SHEA**, Director of Policy Planning in the Private Office of the Secretary General of NATO
- **ULRICH ECKLE**, Energy, Climate Change, Food Safety & Security, US Desk, DG RELEX, European Commission
- **Discussion**

Comments by **ANDERS WIJKMAN**, MEP / President, Global Legislators Organisation for a Balanced Environment (GLOBE-EU) & **MICHAEL RYAN**, Defense Advisor, US Mission to the European Union



This Seminar is organised by the Institute for Environmental Security and the Global Legislators Organisation for a Balanced Environment (GLOBE-EU and GLOBE-Europe) in partnership with EurActiv

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