



# International Relations in space: challenges and opportunities for Europe

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# 1. Space and IR

- IR are shaping Space:

- End of the Cold War had consequences on space activities:
  - Increasing number of actors
  - Diversification of their nature (public actors, private actors, NGOs, IOs)
- Space mirrors main transversal issues of IR:
  - Competition/cooperation
  - Unilateralism/ multilateralism
  - Polarity of the international system
  - Globalization and international trade
  - Global governance



- Space is shaping IR:

- Space policy is a complex issue-area at the intersection of the 3 major issue-areas in world politics:

- Security
- Welfare
- System of rule

- Space is associated with some of the major challenges of current world politics:

- Global warming
- Terrorism
- Proliferation
- Poverty/development
- Rule of law

## 2. Space and Europe's IR

- International space cooperation serves European interests:
  - International cooperation is contributing to Europe's space policy objectives :
    - Utilitarian cooperation
    - ISS, exploration
  - Space is contributing to Europe's foreign policy objectives:
    - Political cooperation
    - Climate change, sustainable development, humanitarian aid, security



- Space is illustrating Europe's positioning in the international system:
  - Space and Europe's international actorness:
    - Europe is an international actor under construction
    - Europe's actorness in space depends on the area (civilian/military space)
  - Space and Europe's international identity:
    - Is Europe a normative, a civilian, a civilizing or simply a weak power?
    - Discourse vs. Reality: critical analysis
    - Specific European identity in space cooperation?

## 3. Challenges for Europe's IR in space

- Structural challenges (long term)
  - Strive for internal cohesion
  - Find the right balance between cooperation and autonomy
  - Remain a credible cooperation partner for established spacefaring nations
  
- Short to medium-term challenges
  - Adapt to the emergence of new actors
  - Cope with the consequences of the economic crisis



## 4. Drivers of the conference

- Combine internal and external perspectives
- Combine policy and operational aspects
- Combine geographic and thematic approaches

