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Regional cooperation in space: policies, governance and legal tools (1)

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TRANSATLANTIC COOPERATION IN SPACE: EU-CANADIAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

Abstract

National Governments are keenly aware of the need for investment in space. Canada, as a formal cooperating state in the European Space Agency (ESA), and Germany, as a leading member state of ESA, are interlinked in Europe's space endeavours. Beyond ESA, Germany and Canada additionally have a strong history of bilateral cooperation on a range of space projects.

This paper discusses the novel interdependencies between clear national and now supranational space policies, using the examples of the Canada-European Union (EU) Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA). The agreement covers most aspects of the Canada-EU bilateral economic relationship, including space. The paper focuses on international space policies, strategic bilateral co-operation, and technical accomplishments. It takes a closer look at German-Canadian collaboration in space programmes and offers some reflection on the effect of both the EU and ESA's transatlantic involvement in the space domain.