

Alexander Ochs, Detlef Sprinz:

Europa Riding the Hegemon? Transatlantic Climate Policy Relations

Following the US retreat from the Kyoto Protocol on global climate change, transatlantic relations on this issue have been in disarray. While the EU has become the dominant actor promoting the reduction of so-called greenhouse gases, the US has largely embarked on a domestic strategy to deal with a global problem – to which it is a major contributor. In this paper, we will review the state of global and transatlantic climate relations and probe (via counterfactual thought experiments as well as results from expert interviews) the changes and potential shape of a transatlantic climate rapprochement. Furthermore, we will outline the actual strategies used by the EU in coping with the current US position of international political detachment and conjecture which strategies the EU might use in case hopes for a rapprochement may prove illusory.

Status: first draft of commissioned paper due by 01 Sept. 2004