

“Transatlantic Security Issues from the Cold War to the 21st Century”

Geneva, 23-24 April 2009

PANEL 3: CULTURE, IDENTITY AND REPRESENTATION IN TRANSATLANTIC
RELATIONS

**European Anti-Americanism and Its Impacts on Transatlantic Security
Cooperation**

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The Clinton era was not immune to criticism and negative attitudes from abroad, but it became popular to refer to anti-Americanism after the election of George W. Bush to President of the United States, after the 9/11 terrorist attacks of 2001 in New York and Washington and especially in the run up to US-led Iraq war in 2003 and thereafter. Then anti-Americanism became a palpable political phenomenon almost throughout the world but it was particularly noteworthy in Western Europe where people were used to support strong mutual transatlantic ties. There has been a lot of debate about the causes and consequences of European anti-Americanism. The various explanations presented in the literature do not add up to a coherent model and it is still unclear which explanatory account is the most fundamental in general or in most individual cases. With the election of Barack Obama to President of the US the era of anti-Americanism in transatlantic relations can be over at least temporarily. Anyway, Obama’s presidency provides a new momentum to test various claims about anti-Americanism, in particular the degree to which the rise of anti-Americanism was caused by the Bush administration.