

INVITATION TO A BRIEFING ON THE UNITED STATES RELEASE OF

## *Repairing the Damage*

### *Possibilities and limits of transatlantic consensus*

#### **IISS Adelphi Paper 389**

Friday, 16 November 2007

3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Ronald Reagan Building/International Trade Center, Oceanic Suite  
1300 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington DC

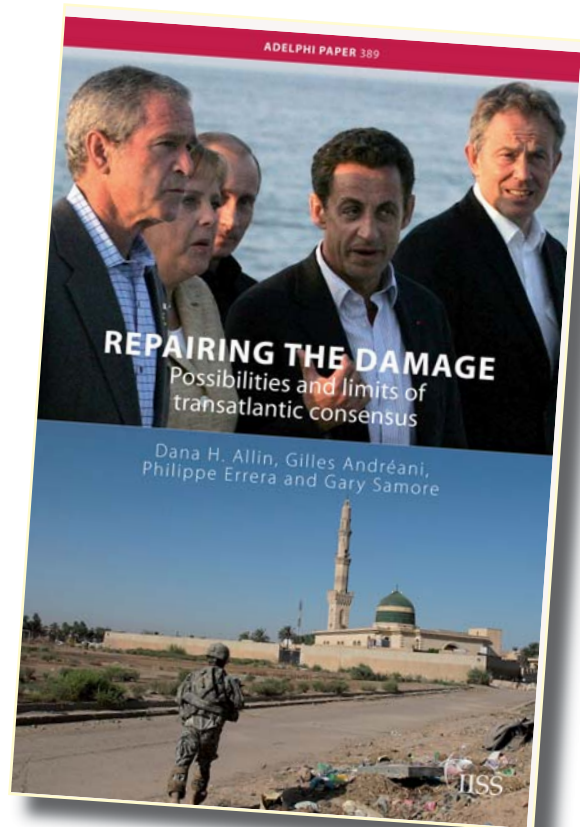
Two of the co-authors, **Dr Dana Allin**, IISS Senior Fellow for Transatlantic Relations and Editor of *Survival*, the IISS quarterly journal; and **Gilles Andréani**, twice head of policy planning in the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, will brief and take questions.

*A limited number of complimentary copies will be available and will be issued only to attendees of the briefing.*

The damage that has been done to the transatlantic alliance will not be repaired through grand architectural redesigns or radical new agendas. Instead, the transatlantic partners need to restore their consensus and cooperation on key security challenges with a limited agenda that reflects the essential conservatism of the transatlantic partnership during the Cold War and the 1990s. There will inevitably be big challenges, such as the rise of China, where transatlantic disparities in strategic means and commitments preclude any common alliance undertaking. Yet such limits are nothing new. The absence of a common transatlantic commitment to counter-insurgency in Iraq may cause resentments, but so too did the lack of a common commitment to counter-insurgency in Vietnam.

This paper suggests ten propositions for future transatlantic consensus – that is to say, ten security challenges for which the allies should be able to agree on common approaches. These run the gamut from an effective strategy to prevent Iran from developing a nuclear-weapons capability to transatlantic leadership for international cooperation against global warming. If pursued with seriousness and a reasonable degree of transatlantic unity, these propositions could constitute the foundations of an effective partnership. They are, in the authors' view, the basis for a consensus on the most pressing security challenges of the twenty-first century.

The time is right for this kind of serious re-dedication to alliance purposes. There has already been some effort to repair the damage; moreover, new leaders are in place in or coming to the countries that were major protagonists of the transatlantic crisis: Germany, France, Britain and, in 2009, the United States. It is possible that these four new leaders will be better able to put the disputes of the recent past behind them. This extended essay is a guide to the possibilities, and also the limits, of a new start.



RSVP required by 15 November. As space is limited, RSVPs will be accepted in the order in which they are received. Please send acceptances only to [events-washington@iiss.org](mailto:events-washington@iiss.org) or tel 202 659 1490.