

Squaring the Circle? American and European Expectations of the Obama Administration

A Transatlantic Panel Debate

19 January 2009, 7.00 – 8.30 p.m.

Agenda

Hotel Sofitel Brussels Europe
Place Jourdan 1
1040 Brussels

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Conference language: English

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The Bertelsmann Stiftung and Gallup are delighted to offer a unique opportunity to delve deeper into the American political scene on the eve of Barack Obama's inauguration.

On the evening's agenda:

Via video link from Washington

- **Frank Newport**, Gallup's Editor-in-Chief will review the organisation's polling results on voters' preferences and expectations that explain Obama's victory based on the "Gallup Daily" tracking. Frank will also elaborate on US citizens' rapidly changing political priorities due to the current economic crisis.
- US guest commentator **Jim Hoagland**, Associate Editor and Chief Foreign Correspondent of the Washington Post, will look at the extent to which voters' attitudes will bind the Obama administration and determine its political agenda.

In Brussels

- A distinguished panel (**Erika Mann**, Member of the European Parliament and Chairwoman of the Transatlantic Policy Network (TPN); **Alan Seatter**, Director, DG External Relations, European Commission; **Steven Everts**, Council of the European Union; **Josef Janning**, Senior Director, Bertelsmann Stiftung) will present a European view on:
 - the main priorities for Obama's transatlantic agenda in regard to economic issues, international relations and global challenges
 - matters of common interest and possible areas of transatlantic tension
 - a possible new era for transatlantic relations.

The debate will be moderated by **Simon Taylor**, European Voice.

The audience will have the opportunity to join the debate via a Q&A session with both the Washington and Brussels speakers.

The debate will be followed by a reception

*As one of Europe's largest private foundations the **Bertelsmann Stiftung** is committed to promoting social change. The Stiftung's main objective is to inspire and enable people to take a proactive stance in shaping our globalising world. The focus of its project activities is on strengthening social cohesion, enhancing participatory government, and encouraging international dialogue.*

*By exploring the opinions and attitudes of citizens, **Gallup** facilitates the understanding of complex European and world issues and helps decision-makers shape their agendas. **Gallup** believes that collecting and sharing information is a vital part of policy-making and a key step in empowering citizens.*