

## **Verification in a future Climate Change Treaty – technology and policy issues**

Maria Dominguez, Judge Business School, University of  
Cambridge, UK (p/g student 2010-12)

William J. Nuttall, Professor of Energy, The Open University, UK.  
Email: [william.nuttall@open.ac.uk](mailto:william.nuttall@open.ac.uk)

### **Abstract**

Currently Earth Observation systems are driven primarily by two separate government missions: defense and environmental science. The first represents the main observation application for the military and intelligence agencies. Civilian space agencies provide support for environment missions as the main application for their Earth Observation Satellites. Thus far the European Union has led global calls for deep greenhouse gas emissions reduction. Europe has done much to support the development of low carbon energy sources. Future Climate Treaty verification may be provided either by a global monitoring body or via separate regional capabilities. Following an online Delphi consultation undertaken in 2010 we suggest that the EU needs to improve its depth and visibility of thought on this important aspect of climate treaty policy. This work seeks to assess and advance European understanding of these issues as they relate to governments and the aerospace sector. Recommendations are made concerning treaty negotiations, technical matters, European policy and the European space industry.

**Keywords:** Climate Change, Earth Observation, International Treaties, Satellite Technology