"The Internationalization of Science and International Science Policy in Germany and the United States" – Luncheon Discussion, November 10th, 2009, 1776 I Street, NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC.

On November 10th the German Research Foundation (DFG) together with the American Friends of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (AFAvH) hosted about 20 representatives of different organizations involved in science policy and science funding to a luncheon at the DFG North America office. The moderators Cathleen Fisher (AFAVH) and Marion Müller (DFG) were very honored to welcome Dr. Georg Schütte, Secretary General of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (AvH), Dr. Carri Wolinetz, Director of Scientific Affairs and Public Relations of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB), and Mr. William "Bill" Bates, Vice President of Governmental Affairs of the Council on Competitiveness, as panelists. The core questions that were addressed in the presentations of the panel were the following: How important is international co-operation for scientists in Germany and the US? How far has internationalization progressed in the world of science already? Where is the process of internationalization headed? What advantages and problems may occur in the ongoing process?

In his presentation Georg Schütte described the German higher education system and especially focused on the ongoing reforms: a) Bologna Treaty as the basis regarding the system's structure and an equalization of university degrees across Europe, b) introduction of – compared to U.S. standards – moderate tuition fees as a new finance source for higher education institutions, c) introduction of competitive elements among Germany's universities through the launching of the Excellence Initiative, d) distribution of stimulus money (Konjunkturpaket II) for infrastructural improvements within the universities. All of these approaches serve to establish Germany's higher education system as a leader in the internationalization process throughout the world.

Carri Wolinetz gave insight on the US view on the increasing connection of science world wide. This development has indeed lead to a decrease in the US dominant role in science. In her presentation she addressed what "internationalization" means: Does it mean to be attractive for foreign scientists as a country? Does it mean to co-operate with scientists all over the world? Does it mean to fund one country's own sciences intensively in order to be able to compete with others? Dr. Wolinetz also distinguished between science and science policy, with the latter aiming primarily at framework conditions such as visa regulations, harmonization of national laws and international treaties to make the former possible in an international setting.

Bill Bates carried forward some of the questions that had arisen in Wolinetz' talk, especially on the decision of a nation – in his case the U.S. – on how to deal with the process of internationalization in the science world: Do you want to co-operate or compete? From an economic point of view the main goal of science is innovation to drive (national) economic growth. As innovation is still inevitably connected to minds and people, the decision has to be to either educate one nation's own pool of scientists or attract well educated people from elsewhere. In either case, a country has to offer incentives for people to stay or come. Bill Bates' talk emphasized the competitive elements in science internationalization.

In succession to the three presentations, the challenges and opportunities in the internationally connected science world in a competitive or cooperative manner were discussed further. In this context, Hillary Clinton's announcement to extend/establish US scientific engagement in the Middle East was also talked about: Is this engagement's aim to *assist and influence* to strengthen U.S. dominance and enforce competition, or is it to *learn* which would be more of a co-operation?