

51st IAA SYMPOSIUM ON THE SEARCH FOR EXTRATERRESTRIAL INTELLIGENCE (SETI) –
The Next Steps (A4)
SETI 2: SETI and Society (2)

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THE WORLD CONFIGURATION IF ALIENS WERE OUR NEIGHBORS

Abstract

Space fascinates, makes us dream and the great technological advances of the last decades allow now the most fortunate among us to go there for fun and thrill.

Notwithstanding, the Universe remains mysterious, immensely empty, and inhospitable, whereas our species hardly leaves its terrestrial cradle. How would we react, if another species worried about our badly controlled progress, showed up?

Dream of a lawyer or premonitory dream could consist of imagining a community made up of aliens and humans. What could happen if the Moon and Mars were to be shared and if this freedom of space access did not concern only terrestrial space actors? What compromise might be found? What organization would the states be ready to accept? What framework should be put in place in order to respect the principles of cooperation and peace that the international community holds dear? What would be the consequences for the current structure of international relations? The answers to these questions depend on many factors, the first of which is the hostility of this extraterrestrial community, then the form of intelligence and the capacity of communication as well as the sensitivity of both human beings and aliens. On the basis of past experiences and findings of the present time, it is the future that is taking shape.