



Paris, April 4th, 2008

## **Germany: Europe's leading country in Europe Angela Merkel: Europe's most influential political personality**

**A Harris Interactive exclusive poll, in partnership with the channel of international information France 24 and the *International Herald Tribune***

The latest **Harris Interactive / France 24 / *International Herald Tribune*** poll shows that European's view Germany as the leading country in Europe today; and as having the greatest influence over Europe in the next ten years. Moreover, Angela Merkel is perceived as the most influential political personality in Europe.

Results to be released on April 4<sup>th</sup> 2008 on France 24's "The Talk of Paris" and published in the *International Herald Tribune* of April, 4<sup>th</sup> 2008.

### ***Methodology***

*This poll was conducted online by Harris Interactive, in partnership with France 24 and The International Herald Tribune, among a total of 6,478 adults (aged 16-64) within France, Germany, Great Britain, Spain and the United States; and adults (aged 18-64) in Italy, from 27<sup>th</sup> February to 6<sup>th</sup> March 2008. The data were weighted, where necessary, by age, gender, education, region and Internet usage to make it representative of the general population profile for each country. Propensity score weighting was applied to adjust for respondents' propensity to be online.*

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The poll explores a variety of issues, including:

- European country leadership:
  - o Which countries are currently leaders in Europe?
  - o Which country will have the most influence on the rest of Europe in the next 10 years?
- European leadership:
  - o Who are the most influential personalities in Europe?
  - o Who has the potential to be the next President of Europe?

*Please note that any communication of these results has to be made with technical elements such as: survey methodology, fieldwork dates, name of the agency, sample size.*

## EUROPEAN COUNTRY LEADERSHIP: WHICH COUNTRIES?

The majority of French (68%), Spanish (57%) and Germans (57%) regard **Germany** as the leading country in Europe today.

Whilst still favouring Germany, the British and Italians are more divided in their opinion between Germany and Great Britain.

A high percentage of Americans (63%) consider Great Britain to be the current the leader of Europe.

### Which one of the following countries do you consider the "leader" of Europe today?

Base : All respondents

	French	German	British	Italian	Spanish	American
<i>Unweighted base</i>	1,122	1,125	1,109	1,011	1,054	1,057
Germany	68%	57%	35%	39%	57%	20%
Great-Britain	6%	13%	33%	34%	24%	63%
France	19%	18%	20%	9%	10%	9%
Spain	3%	1%	1%	11%	4%	1%
Italy	*	*	1%	2%	1%	1%
Another country from the European community	4%	10%	10%	5%	4%	5%

When Europeans are asked to indicate which country will have the most influence on the rest of Europe in the next 10 years, once again it's **Germany** that comes out top.

### And which one of the following countries do you think will have the most influence on the rest of Europe in the next 10 years?


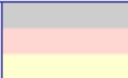

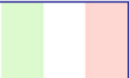
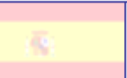

Base : All respondents

	French	German	British	Italian	Spanish	American
<i>Unweighted Base</i>	1,122	1,125	1,109	1,011	1,054	1,057
Germany	52%	53%	35%	33%	44%	26%
Great-Britain	8%	14%	28%	26%	21%	50%
France	27%	17%	20%	12%	17%	13%
Spain	6%	1%	2%	17%	11%	3%
Italy	1%	1%	2%	5%	1%	3%
Another country from the European community	6%	13%	13%	7%	7%	6%

\* : less than 0,5%

### Countries "leader" of Europe today vs in the next 10 years

Base : All respondents

		French		German		British		Italian		Spanish		American	
													
<i>Unweighted base</i>		1,122		1,125		1,109		1,011		1,054		1,057	
Germany	<i>today</i>	68%	-16%	57%	-4%	35%	0%	39%	-6%	57%	-13%	20%	+6%
	<i>next 10 years</i>	52%		53%		35%		33%		44%		26%	
Great Britain	<i>today</i>	6%	+2%	13%	+1%	33%	-5%	34%	-8%	24%	-3%	63%	-13%
	<i>next 10 years</i>	8%		14%		28%		26%		21%		50%	
France	<i>today</i>	19%	+8%	18%	-1%	20%	0%	9%	+3%	10%	+7%	9%	+4%
	<i>next 10 years</i>	27%		17%		20%		12%		17%		13%	
Spain	<i>today</i>	3%	+3%	1%	0%	1%	+1%	11%	+6%	4%	+7%	1%	+2%
	<i>next 10 years</i>	6%		1%		2%		17%		11%		3%	
Italy	<i>today</i>	*	+1%	*	+1%	1%	+1%	2%	+3%	1%	0%	1%	+2%
	<i>next 10 years</i>	1%		1%		2%		5%		1%		3%	
Another country from the European community	<i>today</i>	4%	+2%	10%	+3%	10%	+3%	5%	+2%	4%	+3%	5%	+1%
	<i>next 10 years</i>	6%		13%		13%		7%		7%		6%	

\* : less than 0,5%

## EUROPEAN LEADERSHIP: WHAT PERSONALITIES?

When respondents are asked about the most influential leader in Europe, Europeans strongly favour **Angela Merkel**, who is clearly ahead **Nicolas Sarkozy**, even among the French. **Gordon Brown**, although the top choice for Americans, is rarely perceived as an influential leader amongst Europeans. But at least one-third in each country, and over half of British adults, are not sure about any of these leaders.

### Today, who do you consider the most influential leader in Europe?

Base: All respondents

	French	German	British	Italian	Spanish	American
<i>Unweighted base</i>	1,122	1,125	1,109	1,011	1,054	1,057
Angela Merkel (Chancellor - Germany)	38%	29%	18%	27%	30%	8%
Nicolas Sarkozy (President of the Republic - France)	18%	10%	9%	13%	16%	9%
Gordon Brown (Prime Minister - United-Kingdom)	1%	3%	8%	11%	7%	23%
José Manuel Durão Barroso (President of the European Committee)	8%	11%	7%	11%	6%	6%
Jean-Claude Juncker (Prime Minister - Luxemburg)	1%	2%	*	1%	*	1%
José Sócrates (Prime Minister - Portugal)	*	*	*	*	*	*
Guy Verhofstadt (Prime Minister - Belgium)	0	*	*	*	*	*
Other	1%	2%	1%	5%	2%	1%
Not sure	32%	42%	56%	32%	38%	52%

Even if the idea to vote for a president of Europe is not endorsed widely within all respondent countries (especially in Great Britain) and that no political personality stands head and shoulders above others, **Angela Merkel** emerges as the individual who would gain the highest number of votes. Only the Americans and British would choose **Tony Blair** first for the presidency of Europe.

A point to emphasize: Angela Merkel is the only currently-active national leader to be perceived as a possible "President of Europe", facing "former" national or European leaders (such as Jacques Delors, Felipe Gonzales and Tony Blair).

### If you were to vote today for a "President of Europe", who would you choose?

Base: All respondents

	French	German	British	Italian	Spanish	American
<i>Unweighted base</i>	1,122	1,125	1,109	1,011	1,054	1,057
Tony Blair (Former Prime Minister - United-Kingdom)	8%	4%	13%	13%	8%	15%
Angela Merkel (Chancellor - Germany)	13%	11%	3%	16%	10%	3%
Felipe González (Former President of the Government - Spain)	1%	1%	*	4%	24%	*
Nicolas Sarkozy (President of the Republic - France)	7%	2%	2%	6%	5%	2%
Jose Luis Rodríguez Zapatero (President of the Government - Spain)	4%	*	1%	15%	5%	*
Jacques Delors (Former President of the European Committee)	14%	1%	1%	1%	1%	*
Václav Havel (Former President of the Republic - Czech Republic)	1%	4%	2%	1%	1%	1%
Joschka Fischer (Former Vice Chancellor - Germany)	*	9%	*	*	*	*
José Manuel Durão Barroso (President of the European Committee)	2%	3%	*	1%	1%	1%
Jean-Claude Juncker (Prime Minister - Luxemburg)	1%	5%	1%	1%	*	0
Gordon Brown (Prime Minister - United-Kingdom)	*	*	2%	1%	1%	3%
José Sócrates (Prime Minister - Portugal)	0	*	0	0	*	0
Guy Verhofstadt (Prime Minister - Belgium)	*	*	*	*	*	*
Bronislaw Geremek (European Deputy)	*	1%	0	*	*	*
Other	2%	2%	1%	3%	3%	1%
There should not be a "President of Europe"	21%	32%	46%	14%	16%	32%
Not sure	24%	25%	27%	25%	26%	41%

\* : less than 0,5%

**About Harris Interactive**

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