



## **"The Talk of Paris"**

**A Harris Interactive Survey for The Talk of Paris, France 24  
and the *International Herald Tribune***

**Aired on April 27<sup>th</sup> 2007 on France 24**

**and published in the *International Herald Tribune* of April 27<sup>th</sup> 2007**



**INTERNATIONAL  
Herald Tribune**

## Summary

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**Technical note**

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**Survey conducted online by Harris Interactive for The Talk of Paris, France 24 and the *International Herald Tribune*, from March 28<sup>th</sup> to April 12<sup>th</sup> 2007.**

This survey was conducted online by Harris Interactive among a total of 6,587 adults, including 5,519 (aged 16 and over) within France, Germany, the UK, Spain and the USA, and 1,068 (aged 18 and over) in Italy, between 28<sup>th</sup> March and 12<sup>th</sup> April 2007. Figures for factors including age, sex, education level and region were weighted where necessary to bring them into line with their actual proportions in the population. A propensity score weighting procedure was also applied to adjust for respondents' propensity to be online. This procedure provides added assurance of accuracy and representativeness.

Weighted and unweighted bases are shown below, and results/percentages represented here are weighted.

*Unweighted bases* for the survey are: Total 6,587; France 1,114; Germany 1,123; the UK 1,146; Italy 1,068; Spain 1,075 and the USA 1,061.

*Weighted bases* for the survey are: Total 6,548; France 1,110; Germany 1,094; the UK 1,155; Italy 1,068; Spain 1,061 and the USA 1,060.

**Sample Source** : Harris Interactive relied on the Harris Poll OnlineSM panel as the primary sample source for this survey. This multimillion member online panel consists of potential respondents who have been recruited through online, telephone, mail, and in-person approaches to increase population coverage and enhance representativeness. All panel members have agreed to be invited to participate in online surveys through a confirmed opt-in approach.

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.

## Comments

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## Comments

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For the weekly show "The Talk of Paris" aired on April 27<sup>th</sup> 2007 on "France 24" channel and for the *International Herald Tribune* published on April 27<sup>th</sup> 2007, Harris Interactive sought the opinion of the citizens of 6 countries (5 European countries and the USA) about what the next French President should do.

This survey was conducted online among a total of 6,587 adults, including 5,519 (aged 16 and over) within France, Germany, the UK, Spain and the USA, and 1,068 (aged 18 and over) in Italy: France 1,114; Germany 1,123; the UK 1,146; Italy 1,068; Spain 1,075 and the USA 1,061.

## Comments

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### ***A good opinion of France and the French among Europeans, however not completely shared by the British and the Americans***

Among the Europeans interviewed, France benefits from a good image overall: 74% of the Germans, 69% of the Italians and 63% of the Spanish have a good opinion of France. However, this opinion is not shared by the Americans and the British: 31% have positive opinions for the first ones and 43% for the latter.

Even if 62% of the French have a good image of their country, it's interesting to note that 35% of them still have a negative image.

The opinion towards the French is more mixed, except among the Germans, of which 73% have a good opinion of the French people. Although 63% of the Italians also have a good opinion of the French people, the Spanish, who mostly had a good opinion of France, are no more than 54% in sharing this opinion about French people.

A quarter of the British don't have any opinion of the French people, but only 41% of them have a positive opinion of the French. More surprisingly, only 51% of the French have a good opinion of themselves. And 44% of them give a negative opinion about their compatriots.

### ***The European constitution crisis: a priority to be solved***

For all Europeans, solving the EU constitution crisis is the top priority for the next French President in terms of foreign policy: 45% of the French rank this stake at the first place, 38% of the Spanish, 31% of the Germans, 30% of the Italians and finally 19% of the British.

In order to solve this crisis, the Europeans have also widely asked for the approval of a new constitutional treaty by referendum. 40% of the French are in favour of this solution to get out of the constitution crisis, as well as 37% of the des Italians and 35% of the Spanish.

As far as the Germans are concerned, they are more mixed: 26% of them are in favour of a referendum on a new constitutional treaty and 24% for the approval by national parliaments. In the other European countries surveyed, the solution of going through an approval by national parliaments comes second (after the approval by referendum): 23% of the French, 21% of the Italians, 13% of the Spanish and 12% of the Italians. A majority of the Americans don't give any opinion on that subject: 57% of them said so.

## Comments

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### *The enlargement of the EU: no consensus about that topic throughout Europe*

Only the Italians and the Spanish think that the next French President should support the enlargement of the EU: 39% of the Italians (vs. 27% who quoted the need to oppose the enlargement) and 42% of the Spanish (vs. 15%).

The Germans are also split on that issue as 29% of them consider the next French President should support the enlargement and 33% of them think he should oppose. 14% of them believe that France should neither support nor oppose this enlargement. Concerning the British, most of them think the next French President should oppose the enlargement: 32% (that is a 15-point gap with the supporters of an action in favour of the enlargement).

The French have also widely expressed an opposition to the enlargement of the EU: 43% of the French think the next French President should oppose the enlargement, a quarter of them think he shouldn't do anything. Hardly 20% of the French feel that their future President should act in favour of the enlargement though.

## Comments

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### *France, an acknowledged power on the international stage*

In all the countries surveyed, the status of France on the international stage is not questioned. In fact, for a majority of the citizens interviewed, France has to retain its permanent seat on UN's Security Council because of its role and influence on the world stage: 68% of the French, 46% of the Spanish, 43% of the Germans, 41% des Italians, 39% of the British and 33% of the Americans share this opinion.

In each of these countries, the options for France to give up its Security Council seat because it's no longer one of the world's main economic or political power, or in order to allow the creation of seats for Europe and a major country from another continent were not much considered by the interviewees.

In this context, it seems also important for a majority of the citizens interviewed to improve the relations between France and the USA. The Americans themselves have widely chosen this path: 74%.

The French also mainly wish for an improvement of the relations between the 2 countries (41%), instead of maintaining the status quo (27%) or even distance France further from the USA (20%).

Italians, British, Spanish and Germans also share this opinion with respectively: 48%, 44%, 44% and 38% of opinions expressed in favour of the improvement of the relations.

Finally, regarding the countries where France was once a colonial power, the majority of the persons interviewed believe that its policy should be to continue to play a strong peace-keeping role, but without sending military troops: 68% of the Italians, 62% of the French, 59% of the Spanish and the Germans, 42% of the British and 36% of the Americans. The French have also mainly chosen this type of action. Totally exiting or continuing to intervene militarily receive only a little support among the French (respectively 14% and 16%).

## Comments

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### ***The French nuclear policy: heading to a gradual stopping?***

According to the Europeans interviewed, regarding nuclear power, the next French President should head more to a gradual stopping of the French nuclear programme, and this, to the benefit of alternative energy sources. 48% of the Spanish, 45% of the Italians or 40% of the Germans would prefer this option.

This opinion is the main one expressed in these countries. As far as the French are concerned, they are divided: 44% would like their next President to go that way, but 22% would prefer France to retain its nuclear programme, while letting its neighbours decide for themselves. Another part of the French (22%) even thinks that it should go further by convincing France's fellow EU member states to follow its example.

Regarding the agricultural world trades, the French position clearly distinguishes itself from the other European countries interviewed. In fact, even if 55% of the French believe that France should stick to its guns and protect its farmers, hardly one fifth of the Germans, British, Italians or Spanish think alike (with respective scores of 11%, 15%, 17% and 19%). All these countries would like France to grant less money to the farmers, thus taking into account other countries' positions: opinion shared by 61% of the Germans, 55% of the Italians, 52% of the British and finally 50% of the Spanish. As for the Americans, they are split between a protectionist attitude for France and the respect of other countries' opinion.

## General opinion of France

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## General opinion of France

In general, what is your opinion of France, are you...

	French	German	British	Italian	Spanish	American
<i>Weighted base</i>	1,110	1,094	1,155	1,068	1,061	1,060
<b>Positive (total)</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>31%</b>
Very positive	8%	12%	12%	8%	18%	8%
Somewhat positive	54%	62%	31%	61%	45%	23%
<b>Negative (total)</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>47%</b>
Somewhat negative	31%	11%	20%	15%	17%	31%
Very negative	4%	1%	8%	2%	2%	16%
No opinion	3%	14%	29%	14%	18%	22%

## **General opinion of the French people**

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## General opinion of the French people

In general, what is your opinion of the French people...

	French	German	British	Italian	Spanish	American
<i>Weighted base</i>	1,110	1,094	1,155	1,068	1,061	1,060
<b>Positive (total)</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>35%</b>
Very positive	4%	10%	11%	6%	13%	10%
Somewhat positive	47%	63%	30%	57%	41%	25%
<b>Negative (total)</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>38%</b>
Somewhat negative	39%	13%	23%	22%	25%	28%
Very negative	5%	1%	10%	3%	4%	10%
No opinion	5%	13%	26%	12%	17%	27%

## **French foreign policy**

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**French foreign policy**

**A new French President will take office in May. What should the new President's foreign policy priority be?**

	<b>French</b>	<b>German</b>	<b>British</b>	<b>Italian</b>	<b>Spanish</b>	<b>American</b>
<i>Weighted base</i>	1,110	1,094	1,155	1,068	1,061	1,060
Resolve Europe's constitutional crisis	45%	31%	19%	30%	38%	7%
Prevent Iran from producing nuclear weapons	12%	14%	18%	15%	10%	16%
Take the lead in negotiating a Middle East settlement	9%	15%	11%	20%	12%	7%
Reinforce France's ties with China	6%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%
Improve relations between France and the United States	4%	4%	8%	10%	3%	31%
Reinforce France's ties with Russia	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%	0%
Other	8%	4%	2%	3%	5%	4%
No opinion	14%	29%	40%	19%	30%	34%

## European Union enlargement

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## European Union enlargement

What action should the new French president take concerning European Union enlargement?

	French	German	British	Italian	Spanish	American
<i>Weighted base</i>	1,110	1,094	1,155	1,068	1,061	1,060
<b>Support (total)</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>27%</b>
Support and act as a motor of enlargement	11%	9%	5%	11%	12%	7%
Support	9%	20%	12%	28%	30%	20%
Neither support nor oppose	25%	14%	10%	16%	14%	9%
<b>Oppose (total)</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>12%</b>
Oppose	17%	14%	8%	15%	11%	3%
Oppose and act as a brake on enlargement	26%	19%	24%	12%	4%	9%
No opinion	12%	24%	41%	18%	29%	52%

## European Union consitution issues

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**European Union constitution issues**

**What action should the new French president take concerning European Union constitution issues?**

	<b>French</b>	<b>German</b>	<b>British</b>	<b>Italian</b>	<b>Spanish</b>	<b>American</b>
<i>Weighted base</i>	1,110	1,094	1,155	1,068	1,061	1,060
Propose a new Constitutional Treaty for the EU, to be approved by referendum in all European Union's member countries	40%	26%	19%	37%	35%	15%
Propose a new Constitutional Treaty for the EU, to be approved by national parliaments in all European Union's member countries	23%	24%	12%	21%	13%	10%
Hold a new referendum on the same Constitutional Treaty that the French rejected in 2005	11%	11%	9%	17%	20%	10%
Defend the status quo and take no action	10%	8%	18%	6%	6%	8%
No opinion	16%	31%	42%	19%	26%	57%

## **Relations with the USA**

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**Relations with the USA**

Concerning relations with the United States, what action should the new French President take?

	<b>French</b>	<b>German</b>	<b>British</b>	<b>Italian</b>	<b>Spanish</b>	<b>American</b>
<i>Weighted base</i>	1,110	1,094	1,155	1,068	1,061	1,060
Work to improve relations between France and the United States	41%	38%	44%	48%	41%	74%
Maintain the status-quo between France and the United States	27%	22%	15%	23%	17%	4%
Distance itself further from the United States	20%	13%	12%	12%	14%	3%
No opinion	12%	27%	29%	17%	28%	19%

## France and the UN

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**France and the UN**

Going forward, which one of the following actions do you think France should take?

	<b>French</b>	<b>German</b>	<b>British</b>	<b>Italian</b>	<b>Spanish</b>	<b>American</b>
<i>Weighted base</i>	1,110	1,094	1,155	1,068	1,061	1,060
Retain its permanent seat on the Security Council because of its role and influence on the world stage	68%	43%	39%	41%	46%	33%
Propose that France and Great Britain give up their seats to allow the creation of one new seat for Europe and another new seat for a major country from a different continent (e.g. India or Brazil)	13%	16%	6%	20%	14%	8%
Give up its Security Council seat because it is no longer one of the world's main economic or political powers	2%	6%	15%	11%	7%	19%
No opinion	17%	35%	40%	28%	33%	40%

## France as a former colonial power

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**France as a former colonial power**

In Africa and other parts of the Third World where France was once a colonial power, which one of the following actions do you think the new French President should take?

	<b>French</b>	<b>German</b>	<b>British</b>	<b>Italian</b>	<b>Spanish</b>	<b>American</b>
<i>Weighted base</i>	1,110	1,094	1,155	1,068	1,061	1,060
Play a strong peace-keeping role but keep its troops out	62%	59%	42%	68%	59%	36%
Continue to intervene militarily when regional crises erupt	16%	9%	21%	8%	7%	19%
Exit	14%	11%	9%	11%	13%	10%
No opinion	8%	21%	28%	13%	21%	35%

## France's nuclear program

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**France's nuclear program**

Regarding France's nuclear energy program, which one of the following actions do you think the new French President should take?

	<b>French</b>	<b>German</b>	<b>British</b>	<b>Italian</b>	<b>Spanish</b>	<b>American</b>
<i>Weighted base</i>	1,110	1,094	1,155	1,068	1,061	1,060
Phase out its nuclear program in favour of alternative energy sources	44%	40%	32%	45%	48%	21%
Convince its fellow EU member states to follow its example and use more nuclear energy as an answer to climate change	22%	18%	21%	24%	18%	22%
Retain its nuclear program but stop trying to persuade its neighbours to do the same	22%	18%	14%	15%	10%	14%
No opinion	12%	24%	33%	16%	24%	43%

**France's nuclear program**

**Why do you feel that France should phase out its nuclear program in favour of alternative energy sources?**

*Open-ended question - Base: people who think France should phase out its nuclear program*

*Only quotations getting 5% or more in at least one country are displayed*

	French	German	British	Italian	Spanish	American
<i>Weighted base</i>	484	436	375	486	505	219
To help the environment / climate / global warming etc.	26%	19%	20%	17%	26%	14%
Concerned about waste / disposal of nuclear waste / effect of waste on future generations	19%	18%	11%	10%	6%	10%
Nuclear energy/programme is dangerous	18%	22%	12%	17%	24%	16%
Should be looking at alternative energy sources (wind / solar etc.) / alternative energy is the way forward/future	18%	15%	18%	15%	18%	14%
To save the world/planet	10%	1%	4%	4%	4%	4%
Threat of nuclear accidents	5%	5%	2%	3%	2%	7%
Cost/nuclear programmes are too expensive	5%	2%	1%	1%	3%	2%
Alternative energy sources are safer/ safer sources of energy are available	3%	3%	7%	6%	12%	7%
All nuclear programmes should be stopped / all countries should phase out nuclear programmes	1%	6%	11%	6%	7%	11%
Safety / world safety	1%	7%	9%	8%	4%	4%
Don't believe in nuclear power/weapons etc.	0%	2%	7%	3%	5%	5%
To help world peace / nuclear programmes have a negative effect on world peace	0%	0%	2%	4%	2%	5%
Not sure	1%	1%	6%	3%	1%	2%

## France in the world trade talks

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**France in the world trade talks**

Regarding the slow progress in world trade talks concerning agricultural issues, which one of the following actions should France take?

	<b>French</b>	<b>German</b>	<b>British</b>	<b>Italian</b>	<b>Spanish</b>	<b>American</b>
<i>Weighted base</i>	1,110	1,094	1,155	1,068	1,061	1,060
Stick to its guns and protect its farmers	53%	11%	15%	17%	19%	26%
Make more concessions on agricultural subsidies to take account of the views of other countries	31%	61%	52%	55%	50%	24%
No opinion	16%	28%	33%	28%	31%	50%

## Sampling error

All surveys are subject to several sources of error. These include: sampling error (because only a sample of a population is interviewed); measurement error due to question wording and/or question order, deliberately or unintentionally inaccurate responses, non-response (including refusals), interviewer effects (when live interviewers are used) and weighting. With one exception (sampling error) the magnitude of the errors that result cannot be estimated. There is, therefore, no way to calculate a finite "margin of error" for any survey and the use of these words should be avoided.

With pure probability samples, with 100 percent response rates, it is possible to calculate the probability that the sampling error (but not other sources of error) is not greater than some number. With a pure probability sample of 6,587 one could say with a ninety-five percent probability that the overall results would have a sampling error of +/-1.5 percentage point. For individual countries, sampling error is +/-3 percentage points. However that does not take other sources of error into account. This online survey is not based on a probability sample and therefore no theoretical sampling error can be calculated.

## About Harris Interactive

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### About Harris Interactive®

Harris Interactive is the 12th largest and fastest-growing market research firm in the world. The company provides research-driven insights and strategic advice to help its clients make more confident decisions which lead to measurable and enduring improvements in performance. Harris Interactive is widely known for The Harris Poll, one of the longest running, independent opinion polls and for pioneering online market research methods. The company has built what it believes to be the world's largest panel of survey respondents, the Harris Poll Online. Harris Interactive serves clients worldwide through its United States, Europe and Asia offices, its wholly-owned subsidiary Novatris in France and through a global network of independent market research firms. The service bureau, HISB, provides its market research industry clients with mixed-mode data collection, panel development services as well as syndicated and tracking research consultation. More information about Harris Interactive may be obtained at [www.harrisinteractive.com](http://www.harrisinteractive.com).