



## **Financial Times/Harris Poll Monthly Opinions of Adults from Five European Countries and the United States**

**October 2007** - Below are the most recent data from the Financial Times/Harris Poll, a monthly poll of adults from six countries in Europe and the United States. The countries include France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Spain and the United States.

For more information about the polls and to view the articles by the Financial Times that are based on these data, visit [www.ft.com](http://www.ft.com). For inquiries, contact Tracey Mc Nerney at 585-214-7756 or [tmcnerney@harrisinteractive.com](mailto:tmcnerney@harrisinteractive.com).

### **Source**

This FT/Harris Poll was conducted online by Harris Interactive among a total of 6,645 adults (aged 16-64) within France (1,122), Germany (1,126), Great Britain (1,138), Spain (1,090) and the United States (1,041) and adults (aged 18-64) in Italy (1,128) between 3 and 15 October 2007.

### **Complete survey methodology**

This **FT/Harris Poll** was conducted online by Harris Interactive among a total of 6,645 adults (aged 16-64) within France, Germany, Great Britain, Spain, and the United States and adults (aged 18-64) in Italy between 3 and 15 October 2007. Figures for age, sex, education, region and Internet usage were weighted where necessary to bring them into line with their actual proportions in the population. Propensity score weighting was used to adjust for respondents' propensity to be online.

**Unweighted bases** for the survey are: Total (6,645); France (1,122); Germany (1,126); Great Britain (1,138); Italy (1,128); Spain (1,090) and the United States (1,041).

Weighted bases for the survey are: Total (6,644); France (1,122); Germany (1,126); Great Britain (1,138); Spain (1,091); Italy (1,128); and the United States (1,039).

All sample surveys and polls, whether or not they use probability sampling, are subject to multiple sources of error which are most often not possible to quantify or estimate, including sampling error, coverage error, error associated with nonresponse, error associated with question wording and response options, and post-survey weighting and adjustments. Therefore, Harris Interactive avoids the words "margin of error" as they are misleading. All that can be calculated are different possible sampling errors with different probabilities for pure, unweighted, random samples with 100% response rates. These are only theoretical because no published polls come close to this ideal.

Respondents for this survey were selected from among those who have agreed to participate in Harris Interactive surveys. The data have been weighted to reflect the composition of the adult populations within those countries that were surveyed. Because the sample is based on those who agreed to participate in the Harris Interactive panel, no estimates of theoretical sampling error can be calculated.

*These statements conform to the principles of disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls and the British Polling Council.*

**TABLE 1  
FAMILIARITY WITH EU REFORM TREATY**

“Now for some questions on Europe. How familiar are you with the newly proposed EU reform treaty?”  
Base: All EU adults in five countries and US adults

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1,138	1,122	1,128	1,090	1,126	1,041
Extremely familiar	2	1	1	1	1	*
Very familiar	3	6	3	3	3	2
Somewhat familiar	27	38	34	43	30	14
Not at all familiar	68	56	62	54	67	84

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding

\* = Less than 0.5%

**Across the board, majorities are unfamiliar with the newly proposed EU treaty. France and Spain are the countries where people are most familiar with it as pluralities are very or somewhat familiar with the treaty in both of these countries.**

**TABLE 2  
PERMANENT PRESIDENT AND POWER OF EU**

“Among other things, the treaty establishes a permanent President of the European Council, appointed by national governments for a period of two and a half years. This would replace the current system where the President of the European Council rotates every 6 months. Based on this information, please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statement?”

The appointment of a permanent president would increase the power of the EU.”

Base: All EU adults in five countries and US adults

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1,138	1,122	1,128	1,090	1,126	1,041
<b>AGREE (NET)</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>40</b>
Strongly agree	10	13	8	15	7	10
Somewhat agree	24	32	37	28	36	30
Neither agree nor disagree	53	39	36	36	40	49
<b>DISAGREE (NET)</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>11</b>
Somewhat disagree	9	10	12	11	9	8
Strongly disagree	4	6	7	9	8	3

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding

**In looking at the appointment of a permanent EU President a plurality of the adults in Italy, France, Spain and Germany agree that this appointment would increase the EU’s power while just one-third of British adults feel this way. A majority of British and US adults neither agree nor disagree as do large numbers in the other countries as well.**

**TABLE 3  
PERMANENT PRESIDENT AND CONTINUITY**

“Among other things, the treaty establishes a permanent President of the European Council, appointed by national governments for a period of two and a half years. This would replace the current system where the President of the European Council rotates every 6 months. Based on this information, please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statement?

The appointment of a permanent president would provide greater continuity.”

Base: All EU adults in five countries and US adults

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1,138	1,122	1,128	1,090	1,126	1,041
<b>AGREE (NET)</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>48</b>
Strongly agree	7	20	14	17	11	14
Somewhat agree	30	41	43	33	46	34
Neither agree nor disagree	46	25	28	31	29	40
<b>DISAGREE (NET)</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>
Somewhat disagree	8	9	10	11	7	6
Strongly disagree	10	5	5	8	6	6

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding

**French adults are most likely to agree that the appointment of a permanent EU president would provide greater continuity followed by Italians and Germans. Half of Spanish adults feel this way, while just under half of Americans think this would provide for greater continuity. British adults, again, look at this issue slightly differently than their European counterparts as just over one-third agree while almost half neither agree nor disagree that a permanent president would provide greater continuity.**

**TABLE 4  
PERMANENT PRESIDENT AND A EUROPEAN SUPERSTATE**

“Among other things, the treaty establishes a permanent President of the European Council, appointed by national governments for a period of two and a half years. This would replace the current system where the President of the European Council rotates every 6 months. Based on this information, please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statement?

The appointment of a permanent president would create a European superstate.”

Base: All EU adults in five countries and US adults

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1,138	1,122	1,128	1,090	1,126	1,041
<b>AGREE (NET)</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>27</b>
Strongly agree	12	9	7	10	3	8
Somewhat agree	24	28	27	26	16	19
Neither agree nor disagree	48	41	43	41	44	55
<b>DISAGREE (NET)</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>18</b>
Somewhat disagree	10	12	15	14	23	14
Strongly disagree	5	10	8	9	14	4

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding

**The idea of a permanent EU president creating a European superstate isn’t one that resonates – positively or negatively with people. Pluralities in all five European countries as well as over half of Americans neither agree nor disagree with this idea. Germans are most likely to disagree; over one-third of Germans disagree with this notion compared to less than one-quarter in the other five countries.**

**TABLE 5  
PERMANENT PRESIDENT AND EFFECTIVENESS**

“Among other things, the treaty establishes a permanent President of the European Council, appointed by national governments for a period of two and a half years. This would replace the current system where the President of the European Council rotates every 6 months. Based on this information, please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statement?

The appointment of a permanent president of the European Union would enable the EU to operate more effectively.”

Base: All EU adults in five countries and US adults

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1,138	1,122	1,128	1,090	1,126	1,041
<b>AGREE (NET)</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>45</b>
Strongly agree	6	17	14	14	9	11
Somewhat agree	23	38	42	30	35	34
Neither agree nor disagree	45	28	30	36	38	43
<b>DISAGREE (NET)</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>12</b>
Somewhat disagree	13	11	8	13	10	7
Strongly disagree	12	5	7	8	8	5

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding

Majorities of French and Italians believe that the appointment of a permanent president would allow the EU to operate more effectively as do pluralities of Spaniards, Germans and Americans. Again, British adults look at this issue differently as three in ten agree with this idea and one-quarter disagree, while a plurality neither agrees nor disagrees.

In looking at all four ideas surrounding the EU permanent presidency, French, Italian, Spanish and German adults mostly see the good associated with this part of the proposed treaty. The only thing they don't seem to think is that this will lead to an EU superstate. British adults, however, are more tepid towards these ideas and, this may mean they are more tepid to the idea of a permanent EU presidency.

**TABLE 6  
NATIONAL REFERENDUM ON TREATY**

“Do you think there should be a national referendum on the EU reform treaty?”

Base: All EU adults in five countries and US adults who are at least somewhat familiar with treaty

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	387	554	429	574	371	168
Yes	75	63	72	65	76	51
No	14	27	17	21	19	20
Not sure	11	10	10	14	5	29

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding

In all five European countries, majorities of those who are at least somewhat familiar with the reform treaty believe that there should be a national referendum on the EU reform treaty. The country with the softest support is France (which, of course, voted “no” to the proposed new constitution the last time if was put forth) where just over one-quarter do not think there should be a national referendum.

**TABLE 7**  
**IMPACT OF TREATY ON INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY**

“Would the proposed reform treaty have a positive or negative impact for [Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, U.S.] or no impact at all?”

Base: All EU adults in five countries and US adults who are at least somewhat familiar with treaty

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	387	554	429	574	371	168
Positive impact	17	35	49	44	42	31
No impact at all	10	12	16	14	18	12
Negative impact	51	21	13	16	20	32
Not sure	21	32	23	26	19	25

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding

**A majority of British adults who are at least somewhat familiar with the treaty believe it will have a negative impact on Great Britain. This, by far, is the highest negative numbers amongst the European countries. Almost half of Italians who are familiar with it believe the reform treaty would have a positive impact on Italy as do pluralities of Spaniards and Germans. While just one-third of French adults who are familiar with the treaty believe the impact on France will be a positive one, one-third are not sure and just one in five believe the impact will be negative. Among US adults who are familiar with the treaty, the reaction is a bit mixed as almost one-third believe the impact on the US would be positive and almost the same number believe it would be negative.**

**TABLE 8**  
**MOST POWERFUL EU ORGANIZATION**

“Which of the following organizations do you regard as the most powerful in the EU today?”

Base: All EU adults in five countries and US adults who are at least somewhat familiar with treaty

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	387	554	429	574	371	168
The European Parliament	21	21	28	34	19	17
The European Commission	15	31	26	17	21	13
National governments of all EU countries	18	22	22	23	24	28
The European Court of Justice	27	18	12	11	21	7
Other organisation	2	9	2	4	12	4
Not sure	16	*	10	11	3	31

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding

\* = Less than 0.5%

**Among those who are familiar with the proposed treaty, there are considerable differences between the countries as to which organisation they regard as most powerful. In Great Britain, a plurality believe the European Court of Justice is most powerful while in France, a plurality regard the European Commission as most powerful. The European Parliament is regarded as most powerful by pluralities of Italians and Spaniards who are familiar with the treaty. In Germany and the U.S., the national governments of all EU countries are regarded by pluralities as most powerful.**

**TABLE 9  
BRITISH POLITICAL LEANING**

“Regardless of whether or how you may have voted in past elections or how you may vote in future ones, which party do you normally think of as your party?”

Base: All British adults

	Great Britain
	%
Unweighted base	1,138
Labour	25
Conservative	22
Liberal Democrat	9
Other party	9
No party	25
Not sure	10

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding

**Currently, one-quarter of British adults consider Labour as their party while just slightly less than that consider the Conservative party their party. One in ten say they are a Liberal Democrat while the same number consider themselves part of some other party, including those which only campaign in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland, as well as fringe parties. One-quarter do not think of themselves as a supporter of any one party.**

**TABLE 10  
VOTING IN NEXT ELECTION**

“How certain will you be to vote in the next election?”

Base: All British Adults

	Great Britain	Labour	Cons.	Liberal Democrat	Other Party	No party
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1,138	292	262	134	92	246
Absolutely certain to vote	34	43	45	47	48	15
Very certain to vote	20	23	26	19	33	8
Probably will vote	20	20	15	29	14	19
Probably will not vote	9	4	3	1	3	24
Certainly will not vote	8	8	5	1	*	20
Not sure	10	2	5	2	2	14

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding

**Looking ahead to the next election, one-third of British adults say they are absolutely certain to vote followed by one in five who say they are very certain to vote and an additional one in five who probably will vote. History suggests that these percentages will increase as the election approaches.**

**TABLE 11  
CALLING ELECTION**

“Do you think Gordon Brown should call a snap election, or not?”

Base: All British adults (before the decision not to have a snap election was made)

	Great Britain	Labour	Cons.	Liberal Democrat	Other Party	No party
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1,083	283	253	129	88**	227
Yes	41	36	58	46	36	39
No	27	36	21	31	30	22
Not Sure	32	28	21	23	34	39

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding

\*\* = small base

**Two in five British adults believe that the Prime Minister should have called the snap election while just one-quarter say he should not have. Among his own party, feelings on this are split as just over one-third think Prime Minister Brown should have called the election and the same believe he should not have. Conservatives are a bit more sure as over half think he should have called the election as do just under half of Liberal Democrats.**

**TABLE 12  
POSSIBLE RESULTS OF SNAP ELECTION**

“If Gordon Brown were to call a snap election, what would you have expected the outcome to be?”

Base: All British adults (before the decision not to have a snap election was made)

	Great Britain	Labour	Cons.	Liberal Democrat	Other Party	No party
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1,083	283	253	129	88**	227
<b>EXPECTED LABOUR TO WIN (NET)</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>46</b>
Expected Labour to win by a small margin	41	55	32	42	45	36
Expected Labour to win by a large margin	14	29	6	10	18	10
<b>EXPECTED CONSERVATIVES TO WIN (NET)</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>
Expected the Conservatives to win by a small margin	16	5	42	15	12	11
Expected Conservatives to win by a large margin	2	1	6	2	-	1
Expected a party other than Labour or conservatives to win	2	-	*	9	1	3
Not sure	22	9	13	22	18	36
Decline to answer	3	-	*	1	5	3

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding

\* = less than 0.5%

- = no response

\*\* = small base

**If a snap election had been called, just over half of British adults believe Labour would have won while just under one-in five think the Conservatives would have won. Just under one-quarter are unsure. Following party lines, over four in five of Labour party members believe Labour would have won. Just under half of Conservatives thought their party would have won while two in five thought Labour would hold on and win. Even among those in the Labour party optimism was controlled as over half felt that Labour would win by a small margin.**

**TABLE 13  
GORDON BROWN'S JOB PERFORMANCE**

"Thinking about Gordon Brown's first four months as Prime Minister, has his performance been better, worse or in line with what you expected?"

Base: All British adults

	Great Britain	Labour	Cons.	Liberal Democrat	Other Party	No party
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1,138	283	253	129	88*	227
His performance has been better than I expected	27	45	21	28	25	13
His performance has been in line with what I expected	45	42	56	47	52	42
His performance has been worse than I expected	8	3	17	9	11	9
Not Sure	20	9	7	16	12	36

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding

\*\* = small base

**Overall, Britons are not unhappy with Gordon Brown's performance these past few months. Just over one-quarter believe it has been better than they expected while a plurality believe it was in line with their expectations. One in five, however, are not sure. Among his own party, a plurality believe his performance has been better than they expected while two in five say it has been in line with their expectations. Even Conservatives can not find great fault with his performance as less than one in five say his performance has been worse than they expected and one in five say it has been better.**

**TABLE 14  
BEST PRIME MINISTER**

"Irrespective of how you may vote in the next general election, who would make the best Prime Minister?"

Base: All British adults

	Great Britain	Labour	Cons.	Liberal Democrat	Other Party	No party
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1,138	292	262	134	92	246
Gordon Brown	31	73	11	26	30	14
David Cameron	20	6	56	16	6	12
Menzies Campbell	5	2	1	16	3	6
Other candidate	13	2	15	15	33	13
Not Sure	32	17	17	26	27	55

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding

\*\* = small base

**The Prime Minister is significantly more popular than the other party leaders. Of the three candidates named, three in ten say Gordon Brown would make the best Prime Minister while one in five say it would be David Cameron. The largest percentage, however, goes to "not sure" showing there is still work to be done for any candidate in the public's eye. Looking at their own parties, Cameron has more work to do as just over half of Conservatives believe he would make the best Prime Minister while Brown has the backing of three-quarters of his own party.**

**TABLE 15**  
**MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE TO INDIVIDUALS**

“Of the following issues, which one is most important to you and your family?”

Base: All British adults

	Great Britain	Labour	Cons.	Liberal Democrat	Other Party	No party
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1,138	292	262	134	92	246
Health	22	23	15	34	19	25
The economy	15	16	28	15	8	9
Crime	12	9	11	17	8	17
Immigration	12	8	18	3	29	7
Education	11	13	10	8	10	10
Environment	8	10	4	9	5	12
Housing	5	9	4	4	7	5
Terrorism	4	3	6	2	5	2
Transport	3	5	3	4	2	3
Iraq	1	*	*	3	3	1
Agriculture	1	2	*	-	2	-
Other issue	5	1	*	1	3	10

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding

\* = less than 0.5%

– = no response

\*\* = small base

**When it comes to themselves and their families, health is the most important issue, followed by the economy and then crime and immigration. For those who consider themselves part of the Labour party it is health, followed by the economy and then education. Conservatives say the economy is most important followed by immigration. This shows a clear division between priorities for the two political parties.**

**TABLE 16**  
**MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE TO GREAT BRITAIN**

“Of the following issues, which one is most important to Great Britain?”

Base: All British adults

	Great Britain	Labour	Cons.	Liberal Democrat	Other Party	No party
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1,138	292	262	134	92	246
Immigration	29	25	40	22	32	27
The Economy	19	23	24	26	13	12
Crime	11	12	7	8	12	15
Terrorism	10	10	10	10	3	11
Health	8	5	5	13	11	9
Education	6	7	4	8	4	7
Environment	6	8	1	9	6	7
Housing	4	5	4	2	13	2
Transport	1	1	1	*	-	2
Iraq	1	2	1	1	1	*
Agriculture	1	2	*	-	3	-
Other issue	3	-	2	-	1	8

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding

\* = less than 0.5%

- = no response

\*\* = small base

**Immigration would have been a huge issue – IF the election had been held in October. Looking at what issue is most important for Great Britain as a whole, immigration moves to the top, followed by the economy and then crime. The top two issues are the same for both parties – immigration and then the economy with a change for third. For Labour, it is crime, but for Conservatives, terrorism moves up and is third in importance.**

**TABLE 17**  
**MOST IMPORTANT FOREIGN RELATIONSHIP**

“Which foreign relationship do you regard as most important for Great Britain to sustain?”

Base: All British adults

	Great Britain
	%
Unweighted base	1,138
The European Union	36
United States	35
The Middle East	7
China	7
Russia	4
Japan	2
Africa	1
Other foreign relationship	8

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding

**While the EU is the foreign relationship that is regarded as most important for Great Britain to sustain, right behind it is the relationship with the United States. All other foreign relationships are much further down the list in terms of importance after these two.**

**TABLE 18  
COMPETENCY OF GOVERNMENT IN HANDLING CRISES**

“How competent or incompetent do you think the government has been in handling each of the following crises?”

Base: All British adults

		Flooding	Foot and Mouth disease	Blue Tongue	Terrorist Attacks	Northern Rock
Unweighted base		1,138	1,138	1,138	1,138	1,138
<b>COMPETENT (NET)</b>	%	<b>20</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>34</b>
Very competent	%	2	5	3	6	6
Competent	%	18	28	27	37	28
Neither incompetent or competent	%	28	32	44	28	33
<b>INCOMPETENT (NET)</b>	%	<b>52</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>33</b>
Incompetent	%	35	23	19	22	23
Very incompetent	%	17	12	7	8	10

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding

Looking at some of the recent crises that the British government has had to handle, the recent flooding, was not the government’s finest moment as a majority believe this crisis was handled incompetently and only one in five believe it was handled in a competent manner. The terrorist attacks are viewed as the one crisis the government handled most competently. People are divided on Foot and Mouth Disease and Northern Rock as one-third believe those were handled competently and one-third believe they were handled incompetently. When it comes to Blue Tongue, a plurality believes it was handled neither competently nor incompetently.

**About Harris Interactive**

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