

## **Most Adults in Largest European Countries, U.S. and China Agree Full Body Scanners Should be Introduced in Airports**

*Majorities in Europe support ban of Burqa, but not in U.S. or China*

**New York, N.Y. — March 3, 2010** — A new **Financial Times/Harris Poll** of adults under 65 finds support for increased security measures after the attempted bombing of a plane on Christmas Day. Majorities of those surveyed in the United States (64%), Great Britain (62%), Italy (58%), France (58%), and Germany (53%) as well as 46% of Spaniards and 44% of Chinese all agree that body scanners that X-ray the full body should be introduced at airports.

These are some of the findings of a **Financial Times/Harris Poll** conducted online by **Harris Interactive** among 7,256 adults aged 16-64 in France, Germany, Great Britain, Spain and the United States, adults aged 18-64 in Italy and adults aged 18-60 in China between February 3 and 10, 2010.

The support changes depending on country for other security measures. Seven in ten Italians (71%), two-thirds of Chinese (67%), over three in five Spaniards (63%), half of French adults (50%), just under half of Germans (48%) and 43% of Britons all agree that governments should increase security checks in public places such as parks, shopping centers, and other places where large groups gather. Americans are more divided. While two in five (40%) agree with this idea, 35% do not and one-quarter (26%) neither agree nor disagree.

The public is more divided when it comes to the amount of surveillance of individuals by the government already. Two in five Spaniards (40%), French adults (39%), Britons (39%), and Germans (38%) agree there is too much surveillance by governments. Two in five Italians (38%) feel there is not too much surveillance. Among the Chinese, while 34% agree there is too much surveillance already, 22% disagree and over two in five (43%) neither agree nor disagree. Americans are the most split on this issue. Just over one-third (35%) feel there is not already too much surveillance by the government while 32% agree there is and 33% neither agree nor disagree.

### **The Wearing of a Burqa**

A French government commission has proposed a ban of the Muslim burqa veil which covers the entire female body from head to toe. While a very strong majority of adults in France (70%) are in favor of such a ban, majorities in the other European countries are as well. Almost two-thirds of Spaniards (65%), 63% of Italians, 57% of British adults and 50% of Germans all would like to see such a ban implemented in their country. A majority of Chinese (54%) and 44% of Americans would not like to see such a ban implemented.

### **So what?**

Security is an issue that divides people. Clearly, one needs to feel safe and secure when on planes and in public places. At the same time, there is the concern that governments may be going too far with the amount of surveillance they currently have in place. There needs to be the careful balance of what protects their citizens and what doesn't feel as if big brother is always watching.

**TABLE 1**  
**AIRPORT SECURITY- NEEDS TO BE STEPPED UP**

“Following the failed attempt to explode a bomb on a plane in America on Christmas day, certain measures to increase not only airline security, but also security measures in other locations, are being discussed. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements about some of these measures? “

1. Body scanners that X-ray the full body should be introduced at airports.

Base: All EU adults in five countries, U.S and China

	United States	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	China
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Agree (NET):	64%	62%	58%	58%	46%	53%	44%
Strongly Agree	30%	38%	24%	28%	22%	24%	18%
Somewhat Agree	34%	24%	34%	31%	24%	29%	26%
Neither agree nor disagree	16%	20%	18%	14%	23%	17%	24%
Disagree (NET):	19%	18%	24%	28%	31%	30%	32%
Somewhat disagree	11%	8%	13%	16%	13%	16%	18%
Strongly disagree	9%	10%	11%	12%	18%	14%	14%

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

**TABLE 2**  
**SECURITY CHECKS IN PUBLIC PLACES- SHOULD BE INCREASED**

“Following the failed attempt to explode a bomb on a plane in America on Christmas day, certain measures to increase not only airline security, but also security measures in other locations, are being discussed. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements about some of these measures? ”

2. Governments should increase security checks in public places such as parks, shopping centres and other places where large groups gather.

Base All EU adults in five countries, U.S and China

	United States	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	China
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Agree(NET):	40%	43%	50%	71%	63%	48%	67%
Strongly Agree	13%	18%	17%	35%	34%	14%	37%
Somewhat Agree	26%	26%	33%	36%	30%	34%	30%
Neither agree nor disagree	26%	28%	27%	18%	20%	26%	15%
Disagree(NET):	35%	28%	24%	11%	17%	26%	18%
Somewhat disagree	21%	14%	15%	7%	8%	16%	9%
Strongly disagree	14%	14%	8%	3%	8%	10%	9%

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

**TABLE 3**  
**ANY SCOPE FOR MORE SURVEILLANCE BY THE GOVERNMENT?**

“Following the failed attempt to explode a bomb on a plane in America on Christmas day, certain measures to increase not only airline security, but also security measures in other locations, are being discussed. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements about some of these measures?”

3. There is already too much surveillance of individuals by the government.

Base: All EU adults in five countries, U.S and China

	United States	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	China
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Agree(NET):	32%	39%	39%	25%	40%	38%	34%
Strongly Agree	12%	18%	13%	7%	13%	16%	11%
Somewhat Agree	20%	21%	26%	18%	27%	22%	23%
Neither agree nor disagree	33%	30%	33%	37%	34%	31%	43%
Disagree(NET):	35%	32%	28%	38%	26%	31%	22%
Somewhat disagree	21%	17%	18%	25%	15%	19%	17%
Strongly disagree	14%	14%	10%	14%	10%	11%	5%

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

**TABLE 4**  
**OPINION ON THE PROPOSAL TO BAN BURQA IN FRANCE**

“In France, a government commission has proposed a ban of the Muslim burqa veil which covers the entire female body from head to toe. Would you like to see such a ban implemented in your country?”

Base: All EU adults in five countries, U.S and China

	United States	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	China
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	33%	57%	70%	63%	65%	50%	27%
No	44%	26%	18%	23%	21%	33%	54%
Not sure	23%	17%	12%	14%	13%	17%	19%

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

## Methodology

This **FT/Harris Poll** was conducted online by Harris Interactive among a total of 7,256 adults aged 16-64 within France (1,093), Germany (1,016), Great Britain (1,097), Spain (1,019), and the United States (1,006), adults aged 18-64 in Italy (1,004) and 18-60 in China (1,021) between February 3 and 10, 2010. 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.

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 of the respective countries. 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.

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

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## **About Harris Interactive**

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