

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Interested Parties  
FROM: American Edge Project  
RE: U.S., European Voters Want Transatlantic Cooperation to Counter China Threat  
DATE: June 2021

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### **New Poll: U.S., European Voters View China's Growing Tech Influence as Global Economic and Security Threat** ***Eight-in-10 Believe U.S., EU Must Work Together to Defend Shared Values***

As the European Union and United States gear up to formally announce a new technology and trade partnership, a new poll finds that voters on both sides of the Atlantic are aligned on a common set of values and interests, and share concerns about China's growing tech threat.

The survey, conducted by Ipsos on behalf of the American Edge Project, shows voters are clear-eyed about what it will take to counter China's increasingly confrontational geopolitical maneuvers and influence campaigns. As a result, they are calling for the U.S. and EU to work together to defend their shared values, confront common threats, and preserve the economic and security benefits of today's internet technologies. **To do so, they want a coalition of democratic nations to lead the way and set the rules and standards for the internet.**

The poll surveyed 1,000 registered voters in the U.S., 1,000 registered voters in the United Kingdom, 1,000 registered voters in France, 1,000 registered voters in Germany, and 500 voters in Belgium between May 19 and May 27, 2021.

Key findings include:

- **U.S. and European voters are reaffirming their shared values – and view China warily.** Voter sentiment across the surveyed countries indicates that the alliance is fundamentally strong. By a six-to-one ratio, Americans believe Europe shares its values more than China does. Similarly, UK voters are seven times more likely to say the U.S. shares their values compared to China; Belgian voters are five times more likely, French voters are five times more likely, and German voters are three times more likely. U.S. and European voters also agree that China “promotes censorship of ideas” (78% in U.S., 73% in Europe), “uses state-sponsored technology companies to discriminate and repress minorities” (73% in U.S. and Europe), and “supports surveillance of political opponents” (72% in U.S., 70% in Europe). Accordingly, these voters also agree “we must protect an open, accessible, and free internet in the U.S./EU” (86% in U.S., 84% in Europe).
- **Voters on both sides of the Atlantic agree that China is an economic and security threat that must be checked urgently.** Overwhelming majorities agree that “the way that the Chinese and Russian governments approach the rules governing technology is a threat to the U.S./EU” (82% in U.S., 70% in Europe), and that “China's growing influence is a threat to the U.S./EU economy” (77% in U.S., 72% in EU). Unsurprisingly, voters are also alarmed by the prospect of “foreign countries gaining a technological advantage over the U.S. and Europe” (83% concern in U.S., 79% in Europe). This is likely because they agree that the more China and Russia control the global internet, the more it will hurt their national security *and* their democracies.

“The more China and Russia control the global internet, the more it will hurt [COUNTRY]’s <b>national security</b> .”	“The more China and Russia control the global internet, the more it will hurt the health of [COUNTRY]’s <b>democracy</b> .”
78% agree in the U.S. 77% agree in France 76% agree in the UK 74% agree in Belgium 72% agree in Germany	78% agree in the U.S. 77% agree in France 75% agree in the UK 72% agree in Belgium 63% agree in Germany

- **In response, U.S. and European voters are calling for greater cooperation with each other to balance China’s growing influence.** Voters surveyed across the Western alliance strongly agree that “we should work with our allies in the U.S. and Europe against common threats” (87% in U.S., 82% in Europe); “Europe and the U.S. should work together to defend our shared values” (86% in U.S., 81% in Europe); and that “the EU and the U.S. should work together to preserve the economy, national security, and other benefits of today’s internet and related technology” (82% in U.S., 80% in Europe). These voters recognize that there is strength in unity, and want a coalition of democratic nations – not China – to set the rules and standards for the internet (coalition preferred by 51% in U.S. and 50% in Europe; China preferred by 3% in U.S. and Europe).

**The bottom line:** As U.S. and EU negotiators draw close to a comprehensive technology and trade partnership, their voters are firmly behind them. They believe the U.S. and EU champion a common set of values that both China and Russia fundamentally oppose, and that without stronger multilateral ties, China’s technological and political ascendancy threatens their way of life.

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**Additional methodology notes:**

These are some of the findings of an Ipsos poll conducted between May 19-27, 2021, in the U.S. and UK and May 21-27, 2021, in France, Belgium and Germany, on behalf of the American Edge Project. For this survey, a sample of 4,500 adults age 18+ who are registered to vote in the U.S., Germany, UK, Belgium, France interviewed online.

The sample was randomly drawn from Ipsos’ online panel, partner online panel sources, and “river” sampling and does not rely on a population frame in the traditional sense. Ipsos uses fixed sample targets, unique to each study, in drawing a sample. Weighting has been employed to balance demographics and ensure that the sample’s composition reflects that of the adult population according to the most recent country level-census data.

Statistical margins of error are not applicable to online non-probability polls. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error and measurement error. Where figures do not sum to 100, this is due to the effects of rounding. The precision of Ipsos online polls is measured using a credibility interval. In this case, the poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 1.7 percentage points for all respondents. Ipsos calculates a design effect (DEFF) for each study based on the variation of the weights, following the formula of Kish (1965). This study had a credibility interval adjusted for design effect of the following (n=4,500, DEFF=1.5, adjusted Confidence Interval=+/-3.2 percentage points).

**About American Edge Project**

The American Edge Project is a newly formed coalition dedicated to the proposition that American innovators are an essential part of U.S. economic health, national security and individual freedoms.

For more information, visit <https://americanedgeproject.org/>

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