



MEMORANDUM

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: American Edge Project
RE: U.S. and European Voters Want Transatlantic Cooperation to Preserve Technological Edge,
Counter Russia-China Threats
DATE: June 2023

New Poll: U.S. and European Voters Are Increasingly United Against Chinese and Russian Threats to Global Economy and Security

Eight-in-10 Believe the U.S. and Europe Must Work Together to Defend Western Values, Avoid Heavy Regulations That Would Hurt Domestic Technology and Advantage China

A new poll by the American Edge Project finds that U.S. and European voters continue to be aligned on common values and shared concerns about the growing technological threats posed by China and Russia.

The U.S., EU, and UK have a long history of cooperating on a wide range of issues of mutual interest – and technology has been no exception. However, controversial ideas on regulation and enforcement have recently emerged of what that cooperation should look like and on what its priorities should be. This makes the American Edge Project's new survey a timely one that provides clear-cut guidance from U.S. and European voters alike about what those collaborative priorities should be. It shows voters on both sides of the Atlantic want to jointly defend their shared values against foreign adversaries and avoid onerous regulations that threaten the economic and security benefits of today's internet technologies. **To do so, they are calling for a coalition of democratic nations to lead the way and set the rules and standards for the internet.**

The poll surveyed 1,005 registered voters in the U.S., 1,011 registered voters in the U.K., 1,020 registered voters in France, 1,003 registered voters in Germany, and 500 voters in Belgium (with Brussels considered the de facto capital of the European Union) between April 26 and May 5, 2023. The survey is a continuation of research by the American Edge Project that began in 2021 and continued in 2022, with similar polls surveying comparable audiences.

Key findings include:

- **U.S. and European voters share common values – and view China and Russia warily.** Sentiment across the surveyed countries indicates that voters believe the Western alliance has strong shared values. Both sides of the Atlantic agree that “Europe and the U.S. should work together to defend our shared values” (82% in U.S., 79% in Europe). Both sets of voters believe the other “allows for a free and open internet” (85% in U.S., 79% in Europe) and “allows for freedom of speech, even for ideas you disagree with” (79% in U.S., 73% in Europe). The shared values stand in stark contrast to values exhibited by China and Russia. By a nearly six-to-one ratio, Americans believe Europe shares its values more than either China or Russia does. Similarly, U.K. voters are nearly nine times as likely to say the U.S. shares their values compared to China and Russia; French and German voters are seven times as likely; and Belgian voters are three times as likely.
- **Voters are deeply concerned about China and Russia's growing technological influence and the economic and security threats their gains pose.** An overwhelming number of voters in the U.S. and Europe agree that the growing technological influence of China and Russia is a threat to their country's national security (81% in U.S., up five points from last year; 74% in Europe, up two points from last year) and their economy (80% in U.S., up four points from last year; 73% in Europe, up three points from last year). They are also alarmed by the prospect of Chinese and Russian organizations launching political influence campaigns in the U.S. (90% in U.S., 86% in Europe) and in Europe (89% in U.S., 88% in Europe). Due to this growing influence, Western voters are troubled about increased threats from Russia and China – over nine in 10 are concerned about Russian cyberattacks on their country's critical infrastructure (95% in U.S., up six points from last year; 92% in Europe, equal to last year) and Chinese cyberattacks on their country's critical infrastructure (94% in U.S., up four points from last year; 93% in Europe, up two points from last year).

“The more China and Russia control the global internet, the more it will hurt [COUNTRY]’s <u>national security</u> .”	“The more China and Russia control the global internet, the more it will hurt [COUNTRY]’s <u>economy</u> .”
81% agree in the U.S. (+5 since 2022) 80% agree in the UK (+1) 77% agree in France (+3) 71% agree in Germany (-3) 69% agree in Belgium (+7)	80% agree in the U.S. (+4 since 2022) 79% agree in the UK (+0) 74% agree in France (+2) 70% agree in Germany (-2) 70% agree in Belgium (+12)

- Western voters are highly concerned about domestic tech regulation and its negative effect on competition with China.** Voters on both sides of the Atlantic oppose regulations that would undermine American and European technology and advantage China. They oppose heavily regulating their own technology sectors, hurting their ability to compete with China’s technology sector (87% in U.S., 78% in Europe), and are concerned about Europe and the U.S. passing laws that more heavily regulate each other’s technology sectors, which would create a vacuum for China to fill with its technology (86% in U.S., 79% in Europe).
- An overwhelming number of U.S. and European voters want greater technological cooperation with each other to guard against China and Russia’s growing influence.** Voters surveyed across the Western alliance strongly agree that the U.S. and Europe must cooperate more closely to protect and strengthen their technological edge against foreign threats. They agree allies in the U.S. and Europe should work together against common threats (84% in U.S., 80% in Europe), and against common adversaries (84% in U.S., 79% in Europe). Specifically, they agree that “Europe and the U.S. should work together to strengthen their defenses against Chinese digital threats, such as data theft, technology espionage, and forced technology transfers for foreign businesses operating within their borders” (83% in U.S., 80% in Europe); that the “EU and the U.S. should work together to preserve the economic, national security, and other benefits of today’s internet and related technology” (83% in U.S., 79% in Europe); and that “Europe and the U.S. should work together to build stronger digital infrastructure” (84% in U.S., 79% in Europe). To preserve today’s internet, voters across the Western alliance increasingly want a coalition of democratic nations to set the rules and standards for the internet: a U.S.-EU coalition is preferred by 51% in the U.S., up by six points from last year; it is preferred by 47% in Europe, up by three points from last year. In comparison, just 6% of U.S. voters and 3% of European voters want China to set internet rules and standards.

The bottom line: As threats continue to rise from China and Russia, U.S. and European voters want their governments to strengthen the Western alliance and work together to defend against common adversaries and preserve the benefits of today’s internet and technology. They believe the U.S. and Europe share a common set of values – values that China and Russia oppose – and that stronger multilateral ties are necessary to secure their technological edge and the economic and security benefits it delivers.

Additional Methodology Notes

2023 Survey Methodology:	2022 Survey Methodology:	2021 Survey Methodology
<p>American Edge Project conducted a survey between April 26 and May 5, 2023, in the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and Belgium. A sample of 4,539 adults age 18+ who are registered to vote were interviewed online.</p> <p>The following number of interviews were done: 1,005 interviews in the U.S. 1,011 interviews in the U.K. 1,020 interviews in France 1,003 interviews in Germany 500 interviews in Belgium</p> <p>The margin of error among these audiences at the 95% confidence interval level is +/- 3.1%.</p>	<p>American Edge Project conducted a survey between August 7th and August 21st, 2022, in the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and Belgium. A sample of 4,500 adults age 18+ who are registered to vote were interviewed online.</p> <p>1,000 interviews were done in each of the following: the United States, the United Kingdom, France, and Germany, as well as 500 interviews done in Belgium.</p> <p>The margin of error among these audiences at the 95% confidence interval level is +/- 3.2%.</p>	<p>American Edge Project conducted a survey between May 19th and May 27th, 2021, in the United States and the United Kingdom, and May 21st-27th, 2021 in France, Belgium and Germany. A sample of 4,500 adults age 18+ who were registered to vote were interviewed online.</p> <p>1,000 interviews were done in each of the following: the United States, the United Kingdom, France, and Germany, as well as 500 interviews done in Belgium.</p> <p>The poll had a credibility interval of +/- 3.2% for all respondents.</p>

About American Edge Project

The American Edge Project is a 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/>