Views of Leaders from Europe and the USA on the Future of Transatlantic Security and Various Anti-terrorism Strategies

The future of common security and anti-terrorism measures are critical questions for leaders on both sides of the Atlantic. Gallup Europe, along with a consortium of transatlantic partners, has conducted an important poll of government officials, members of national legislative bodies, heads of major corporations, media entities and NGOs about their views on the future of transatlantic security and anti-terrorism laws. The survey was carried out between April 11 and May 15, 2006 with a total of 116 completed interviews.

The responses to the nine questions posed by Gallup / Friends of Europe are summarized below.

Transatlantic anti-terrorist cooperation is mostly working effectively but there is room for improvement.

1. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Transatlantic anti-terrorist cooperation is working effectively.

The majority (63%) of the European and US leaders who responded to our survey mostly agree that transatlantic anti-terrorist cooperation is working effectively and three percent of the respondents completely agree with it. However, one-third of the respondents (33%) mostly disagree with this statement but only one percent of the leaders completely disagree that the transatlantic anti-terrorist cooperation is working effectively.

Split views on NATO’s coherent response to global terrorism since 9/11

2. NATO’s member governments have responded to global terrorism by implementing a coherent anti-terrorism strategy since 9/11.

Forty-eight percent of the European and American leaders in our survey mostly disagree that NATO’s member governments have responded to global terrorism by implementing a coherent anti-terrorism strategy since 9/11 and an additional seven percent of the respondents completely disagree on this statement. Less than half (43%) mostly agree that NATO’s member governments implemented a coherent anti-terrorism strategy but only two percent completely agree with this.
According to the leaders some European governments have more faith in cooperation arrangements with the US authorities than with each other

3. Some European governments have more faith in cooperation arrangements with the US authorities than with each other

The majority of the US and European Union leaders in our survey agree that some European governments have more faith in cooperation arrangements with the US authorities than with each other, 63% mostly agree and 19% completely agree with this statement. Some 19% of the leaders mostly disagree whereas no one completely disagrees with this statement.

Split views also on US and Europe’s post 9/11 efforts on anti-terrorism

4. Post-9/11 efforts to construct new anti-terrorism defenses in both the US and Europe have had the effect of souring transatlantic relations without making a substantial contribution in security terms.

Forty-five percent of the US and European leaders in our survey mostly disagree and two percent completely disagree that post 9/11 efforts to construct new anti-terrorism in both the US and Europe have had the effect of souring transatlantic relations without a substantial contribution in security terms. Closely to this, 45% agree with this statement and nine percent completely agree with it.

There is a strong need for US and European NATO members to improve anti-terrorist measures

5. The US and its European NATO allies need to improve their anti-terrorist measures in the following areas:

Strong consensus on the need to improve the infrastructure protection

a) Infrastructure protection

Eighty-nine percent of the US and European Leaders of our survey have a consensus on the need to improve anti-terrorism measures in infrastructure protection. Only 11% mostly disagree that infrastructure protection improvement is needed.

Consensus on the need to improve intelligence sharing

b) Intelligence sharing

Fifty-eight percent of our respondents agree completely that the US and its European NATO allies need to improve their anti-terrorist measures in the intelligence sharing, 35% mostly agree that intelligence sharing needs to be improved. Only seven percent mostly disagree on this issue.
**Need to improve border, airport and seaport protection**

c) Border, airport, and seaport protection

Thirty-eight percent of the US and European leaders of our survey agree completely and 43% mostly agree that the US and its European NATO allies need to improve their anti-terrorist measures in the border, airport and seaport protection areas. On the other hand, close to one-fifth of the respondents (17%) mostly disagree and an additional two percent completely disagree that further improvement is needed in this respect.

**Majority of respondents feel need to improve anti-terrorist measures in public health**

d) Public health

Thirty-seven percent of the US and European leaders of our survey agree completely and 47% mostly agree that the US and its European NATO allies need to improve their anti-terrorist measures in public health. Only one percent completely disagrees but 15% mostly disagree on the need for improvement in public health with regard to anti-terrorism measures.

**Crisis management should also be improved**

e) Crisis management

Forty-four percent of the respondents agree completely that crisis management should be improved and another 48% mostly agree on the need for improving transatlantic crisis management. Only eight percent mostly disagree and no one completely disagrees on this issue among our leaders.

**Majority of the US and EU Leaders agree that the anti-terrorism measures in USA risk infringing on civil liberties.**

6. The anti-terrorism measures being adopted in the United States risk infringing on civil liberties.

Forty-one percent of the US and European leaders in our survey agree completely and 32% mostly agree that the anti-terrorism measures adopted in the USA risk infringing on civil liberties. However, 22% mostly disagree and five percent completely disagree that anti-terrorism measures risk infringing on civil liberties in the US.

**Fewer leaders think that the anti-terrorism measures being adopted in Europe risk infringing on civil liberties than those in USA.**

7. The anti-terrorism measures being adopted in Europe risk infringing on civil liberties.

Close to half (48%) of the US and EU leaders who responded to our questions mostly disagree and another ten percent completely disagree that the anti-terrorism measures being adopted in Europe risk infringing on civil liberties. Only 12% of the leaders in our survey completely agree that the anti-terrorism measures being adopted in Europe risk infringing on civil liberties but another 30% mostly agree on this issue.
Close to two-thirds of our respondents agree that concerns over the infringement of civil liberties are greater in Europe than in USA.

8. Concerns over the infringement of civil liberties as a result of anti-terrorist measures are greater in European countries than in the United States.

Sixty-two percent of the US and European leaders who responded to our survey agree that concerns over the infringement of civil liberties as a result of anti-terrorist measures are greater in European countries than in the United States. However, close to one-third (31%) of the respondents in our survey mostly disagree and another seven percent completely disagree with this statement.

Majority of our respondents believe there will be a shift in the makeup of US and European defense industries and defense spending

9. The growing emphasis on anti-terrorist measures and technologies will bring about a major shift in the makeup of US and European defense industries and defense spending.

More than half (53%) of the transatlantic leaders mostly agree and an additional 24% completely agree that the growing emphasis on anti-terrorist measures and technologies will bring about a major shift in the makeup of US and European defense industries and defense spending. On the other hand, 22% mostly disagree and another one percent completely disagrees with the above statement.