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January 20, 2025

# **Old Habits Die Hard**

Renegotiating the Global Order starts today

Isabell Hoffmann & Catherine E. De Vries

Bertelsmann Stiftung

## The Global Order back on the centre stage

- > Donald **Trump is back** with seemingly greater power than before.
- > European elites mostly behave like **deer in the headlights**.
- The European public on the other hand seems to be rather unmoved by his reelection. In November 2024, we published the report "Old Habits Die Hard" in which we looked at the state of the transatlantic partnership in the wake of the US elections. Main findings:
  - 80 years of prime partnership had created a solid base of mutual appreciation and similar sensitivities. Europeans and Americans still see in each other their most valuable ally, NATO is highly regarded, cooperation trumps competition.
  - However, eight years of American hyper-polarization at home and mixed messaging abroad had taken their toll. In September 2024, 63% of Europeans agreed that it is time for Europe to go its own way compared to 25% in 2017.
- > A check-back in December 2024 showed no significant change in the data.
- Other sustainable changes: Issues around defense and security get strong support. General stress levels are up. Economic worries deepen.
- > How can European leaders defend the global order whilst coping with the political back-clash?

### Who's the European Union's most valuable ally?

Only one answer possible

United States United Kingdom India Israel Brazil	China	a 🗌 C	Canada	J	lapan		Sau	ıdi A	rabi	а
EU27										
51%		13%		10%	7	%	6%	4	3	3 3
Belgium										
43%	14%		9%	11%	, )	5	4	5	4	5
France										9999
48%	14	1%	8%	6	12%		5	4	3	3 3
Germany										
54%		10	%	10%	7	%	5	4	4	3 3
Italy										
47%	119	%	13%		6%	9%	, •	5	4	2 3
Netherlands										
50%		16%		5	9%		5	4	3 3	5
Poland										
65%				13%		4	4	3	3 3	3 2
Spain										
55%		12	2%	7%	5	5	5	5	4	4 3

September 2024

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United States United Kingdom Saudi Arabia Israel India	Russ	sia	China		Canad	a	Japar	1	
EU27									
54%		1	L5%		7%	7%	6%	4	3 <mark>2</mark> 2
Belgium									
44%	22%			5	5	9%	5	3	33
France									
51%		16%	6	5	5 5	9%	4	4	33
Germany									
56%			12%	7	7%	7%	7%	4 2	2 3 2
Italy									
59%			11%	5	7%	10%	5 3	3 4	3 21
Netherlands									
47%	22	2%			5 4	8%	4	3	4 3
Poland									
64%				16%		4	4	4 2	2 <mark>2</mark> 2
Spain									
52%		17	%		4 69	<mark>%</mark> 7%	6 4	4	33
December 2024									
					eup	inion	5   wha	t do yo	u think?

# In the last half century, Europe and the United States have often cooperated closely. Do you think that it is time for the EU to go its own way?

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Γ

Agree Disagree			
EU27			
63%		37%	
Belgium			
64%		36%	
France			
64%		36%	
Germany			
63%		37%	
Italy			
65%		35%	
Netherlands			
54%		46%	
Poland			
40%	60%		
Spain			
65%		35%	

Agree Disagree				
EU27				
62%			38%	%
Belgium				
62%			389	%
France				
63%			37	%
Germany				
66%				34%
taly				
62%			38%	%
Netherlands				
54%		46%		
Poland				
42%	58%			
Spain				
63%			37	%
December 2024				
				eupinions   what do you think?

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Isabell Hoffmann Daniela Schmidt Phone: +49 30 275 788 126 isabell.hoffmann@bertelsmann-stiftung.de

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