

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Brits and Germans are deeply divided on EU: poll

49% of people in the UK would vote to leave the EU if there was a referendum, while 57% of Germans would vote to stay in the Union

Amid EU budget talks between David Cameron and Angela Merkel, a YouGov poll reveals that Brits and Germans are deeply divided in their views of the European Union.

Asked how they would vote in a referendum on the UK's membership in the EU, a plurality (49%) of the British public say they would vote to leave the Union. Only 28% would vote to stay in the EU, and 17% say they don't know how they would vote.

Meanwhile, the poll found that a majority (57%) of Germans would vote to stay in the EU, with only 25% saying they would vote to leave the Union, and 9% unsure of how they would vote.

There is also a gulf between Brits and Germans in terms of whether they consider their own country influential in European affairs. Only 23% of Brits consider the UK to be influential in Europe, while 59% of Germans believe their country is influential in the EU.

Where public opinion in both countries converges is when respondents are asked whether they are optimistic or pessimistic about the future of the EU, with a majority of people in Britain and Germany saying they are pessimistic about the future of the Union.

- 65% of Brits say they are pessimistic about the future of the EU, while only 22% say they are optimistic
- 54% of Germans are pessimistic about the future of the EU, and 39% are optimistic

Commenting on the findings, YouGov Director of Political and Social Research Joe Twyman said:

“The noticeable distance between how people in Britain and Germany feel about their country's membership of the European Union underlines the scale of the challenge facing both David Cameron and Angela Merkel in trying to come to an agreement over the EU's budget. On one hand, Merkel must try and bring member nations onside with her pro-European, inclusive agenda – which includes an increase in the budget. In contrast, Cameron must attempt to be perceived as a constructive member of the Union, while at the same time trying to satisfy public opinion in his own country, where a significant proportion are opposed to Britain's membership in the EU. The fact that pessimism about the future of the EU is the one issue on which both Brits and Germans agree offers some insight into how people in both countries rate the chances of Ms Merkel and Mr Cameron arriving at such an agreement.”

The findings are the latest results of YouGov's EuroTrack survey, a multi-country study tracking public opinion in the UK, Germany, France, Denmark, Sweden, Finland and Norway.

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Notes to editors:

Total sample size was 1,637 British Adults/1,018 German Adults/ 1,031 French Adults / 1,008 Danish Adults / 1,012 Swedish Adults / 918 Finnish Adults / 956 Norwegian Adults aged 18+. Fieldwork was undertaken 19th – 28th October. The survey was carried out online. All figures, unless otherwise stated, are from YouGov Plc.

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YouGov is considered a pioneer of online market research and has a panel of 2.5 million people worldwide, including over 350,000 people in the UK representing all ages, socio-economic groups and other demographic types.

As the most quoted market research agency in the UK, YouGov has a well-documented and published track record illustrating the accuracy of its survey methods.

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