



2019 **security**  
**radar.**

# *Wake-up call for Europe!*

## *Key Findings*

**FRIEDRICH  
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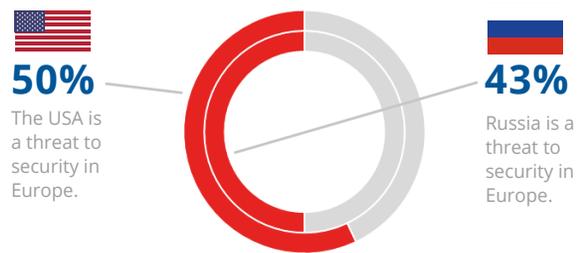
**FES Regionalbüro für  
Zusammenarbeit und  
Frieden in Europa**

FES Regional Office for  
Cooperation and Peace  
in Europe

## Concerned about European security

War and conflicts are manifest fears in Europe. European citizens think that new wars in Europe are likely and worry that their own country could be affected. The USA and Russia are perceived as threats. These concerns are revealed by a representative public opinion poll **'Security Radar 2019 - Wake-Up Call for Europe'**. The survey was conducted

in seven European countries – France, Germany, Latvia, Poland, Russia, Serbia and Ukraine – by the Vienna-based FES Regional Office for Cooperation and Peace in Europe in conjunction with the public opinion research institute Ipsos.



*\*Percentage of all respondents (combined answers 'fully agree' and 'somewhat agree')*  
*\*Deviations to 100% result from 'will remain unchanged', 'do not know' and 'no answer'*

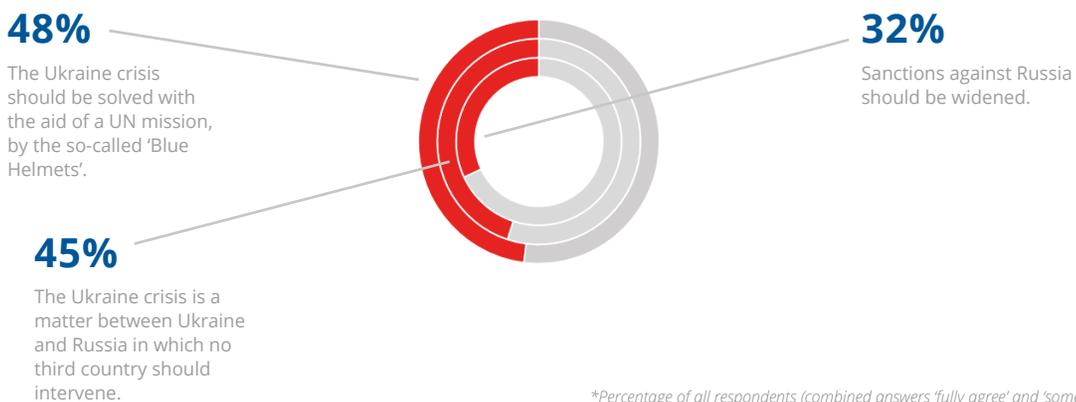
Half of the German respondents think that the USA is a threat to security in Europe, well ahead of any threat posed by Russia (33%). Even NATO enlargement (50%) and EU enlargement (41%) are viewed as greater threats to European

security. Conversely, in Poland and Ukraine Russia is clearly perceived as a threat (77% and 67%, respectively), less so in France (40%) and Serbia (23%).

## Ukrainians want to solve the conflict themselves

Fears of war in Europe are not merely abstract – the ongoing five-year conflict in and around Ukraine is a painful reminder. Survey respondents attribute responsibility for its escalation primarily to separatists (57% agree), Russia

(60%) and Ukraine itself (50%). Options of conflict resolution include a UN 'Blue Helmet' mission, a bilateral solution between Russia and Ukraine as well as a widening of sanctions against Russia.

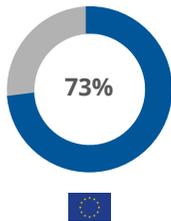


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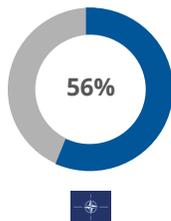
Remarkably, the majority of Ukrainians believe that the solution to the crisis should be left to Ukraine. NATO members-

hip is desired by 56% of Ukrainians (in Germany: 23%), while 73% wish to join the EU (in Germany: 26%).

**Ukraine should become a member of the EU.**



**Ukraine should become a member of NATO.**



**The conflict in and around Ukraine is a domestic matter and should be left to Ukraine.**



\*Percentage of Ukrainian respondents (combined answers 'fully agree' and 'somewhat agree')  
 \*Deviations to 100% result from 'will remain unchanged', 'do not know' and 'no answer'

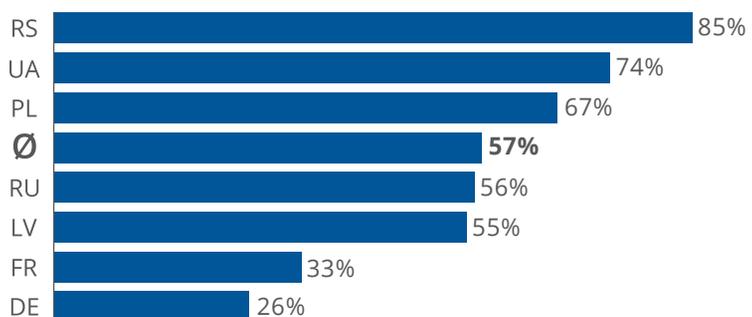
## Many European states dissatisfied with their status

A big challenge to a joint European security strategy is widespread discontent with one's international standing. Particularly Serbian, Ukrainian and Polish respondents think their countries do not have the status they deserve. Only the Germans and the French are satisfied with their countries'

respective status (71%, 59%). Additionally, Serbian and Russian respondents believe that other states actively prevent their countries from achieving true greatness (75%, 69%).

∅ = Total DE=Germany FR=France LV=Latvia PL=Poland RU=Russia RS=Serbia UA=Ukraine

*In my opinion, my country does not have the status in the world it deserves in comparison with other countries.*



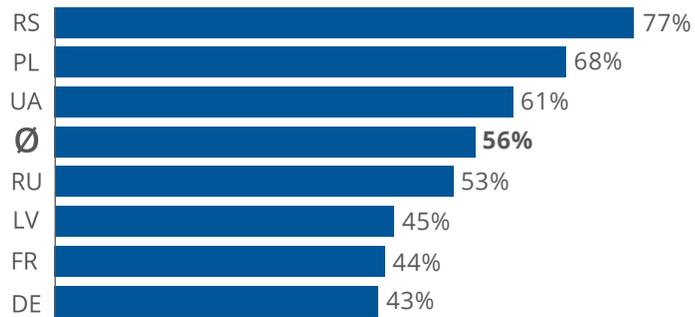
\*Combined answers 'fully agree' and 'somewhat agree'  
 \*Deviations to 100% result from 'will remain unchanged', 'do not know' and 'no answer'

Endorsement of increased military spending goes hand in hand with status dissatisfaction – particularly in Serbia, Poland and Ukraine (77%, 68%, 61%). This may be a serious

challenge for peace in Europe. In Germany, the majority of respondents (54%) are against more military spending.

∅ = Total DE=Germany FR=France LV=Latvia PL=Poland RU=Russia RS=Serbia UA=Ukraine

*My country should increase its military spending.*



\*Combined answers 'fully agree' and 'somewhat agree'

\*Deviations to 100% result from 'will remain unchanged', 'do not know' and 'no answer'

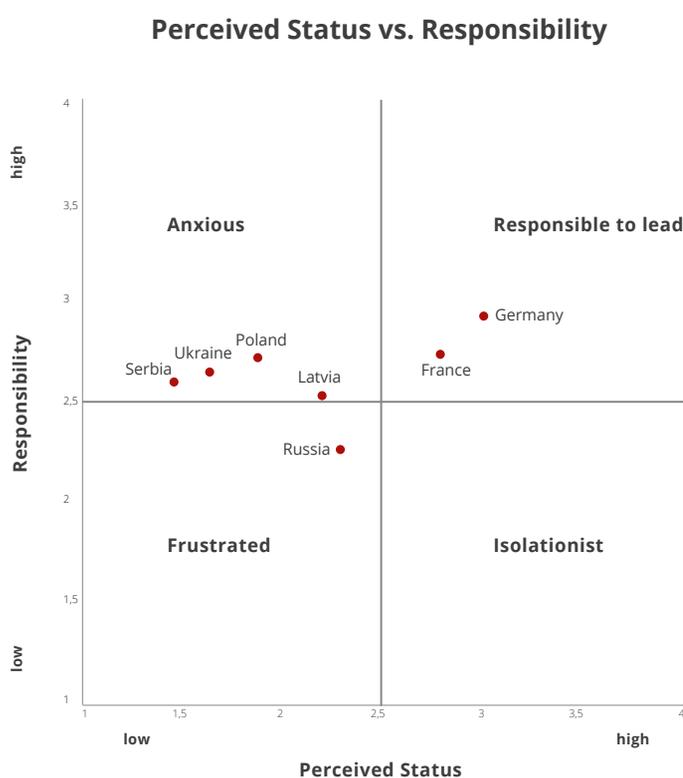
## No new East-West conflict

Unlike in the Cold War, with two major blocks ideologically opposed to one another, the current tensions in Europe hardly fit this pattern. Instead, the countries polled can be classified into three groups. **Germany and France** both want to assume more responsibility, are content with their international standing and are capable to lead a joint effort for an inclusive European security.

By contrast, **Russia** is considered a challenge for European security. The population is discontent with the status of the country and wishes for a purely in-

terest-based foreign policy. At the same time, it feels itself as part of the European cultural sphere.

The four countries of **Latvia, Poland, Serbia and Ukraine** share a dissatisfaction with their respective status. However, the wishes and interests of the population do not neatly correspond with either of the other two country groups. These four countries are moving between East and West. For a joint European foreign policy, this entails a challenge, but first and foremost a transformative potential.



## Strong desire for cooperation

What are possible avenues for cooperation and entry points for an inclusive European security strategy? The 'Security Radar 2019' offers some reassuring clues. In all the states considered by the study, overwhelming majorities want their countries to pursue an **active foreign policy** and play a significant role in solving international problems. All states (apart from Russia) also want to take more **international responsibility** and help other states, even if there are no direct benefits (57% on average). There is a widespread acceptance of the premise of **political and economic interconnectedness**. Against this backdrop, more than half of all respondents are in favour of **greater cooperation with Russia** – as are even 27% of the Ukrainians.

Military interventions are not perceived as a suitable solution to conflicts by any of the European states polled. Correspondingly, there is a clear mandate for relieving tensions

in international politics and the **peaceful mitigation of conflicts** in all European countries. Among **international organisations**, the UN, the EU and the OSCE, which stand for peaceful forms of cooperation between nations, have without exception very high approval ratings and should play a bigger role in the future (respectively 76%, 70% and 67% agree).

Apart from serious concerns and a partial backlash towards militarisation, the survey reveals a very clear longing for cooperation and peace in Europe. The odds are good for pursuing a peaceful and inclusive security policy strategy in Europe. The Security Radar 2019 very clearly shows the urgency of the matter. Now it is up to the politicians to follow through.



# *Imprint*

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