

Measuring the Attitudes of Israelis Towards the European Union and its Member States

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung – Israel Office
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The Centre for the Study of
European Politics and Society

KEEVOON 
Research, Strategy & Communications

- Strong support for EU, its member states and leaders
- Growing support for Germany
- Significant and surprising differences between Israeli Jews and Israeli Arabs on EU involvement, intervention and favorability
- Overwhelming support for Israel joining EU among Israeli Jews
- Support for Israel joining NATO as well as NATO involvement in the West Bank and Gaza among Israeli Jews
- 40% of Israeli Jews might be eligible for EU citizenship
- France shows tremendous gain in support due to Pres. Sarkozy
- Significant decline in support for Turkey



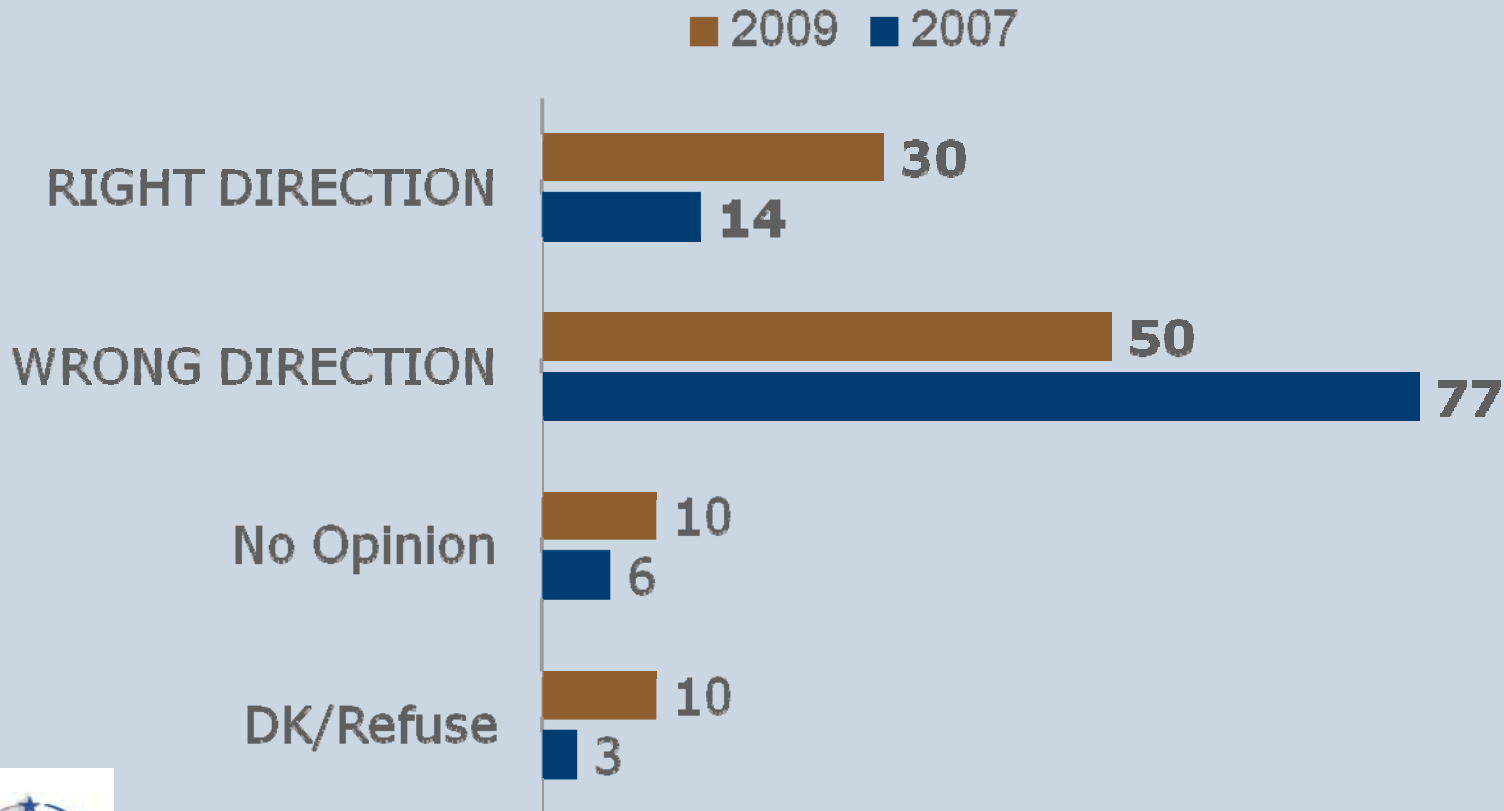
Survey Methodology

- Conducted by KEEVOON Research, Mitchell Barak, Director
- Dr. Sharon Pardo, BGU, Academic Adviser
- Dr. Lars Hansel, Israel Representative, KAS
- Calls done by Mutagim – Tel Aviv
- Data Processing - Utah, US

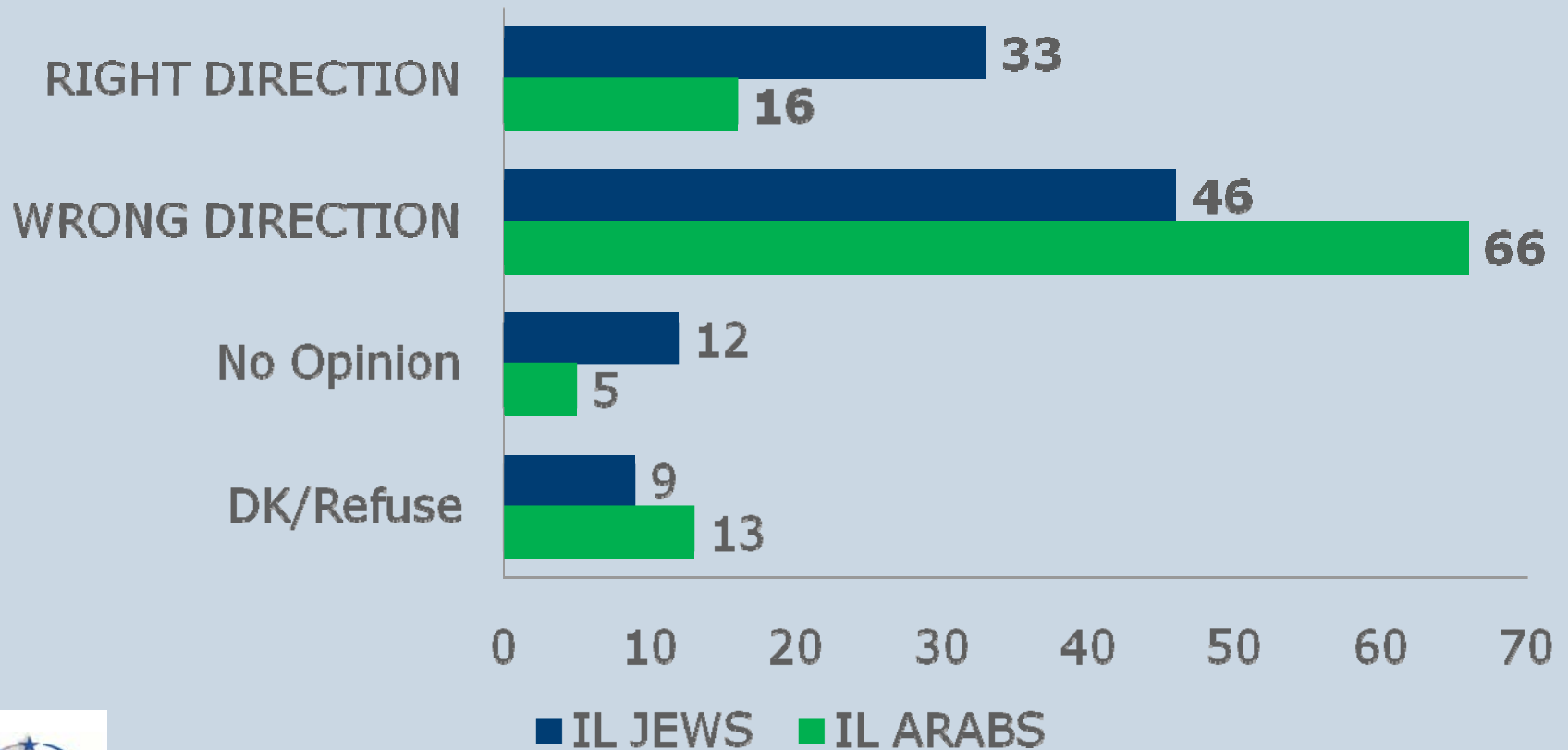
- Representative sample, demographically weighted
- + - 4.1% margin of error
- April 1-5, telephone survey
- 600 respondents
 - 500 Israeli Jews, interviewed in Hebrew
 - 100 Israeli Arabs interviewed in Arabic
- Similar survey done in February 2007



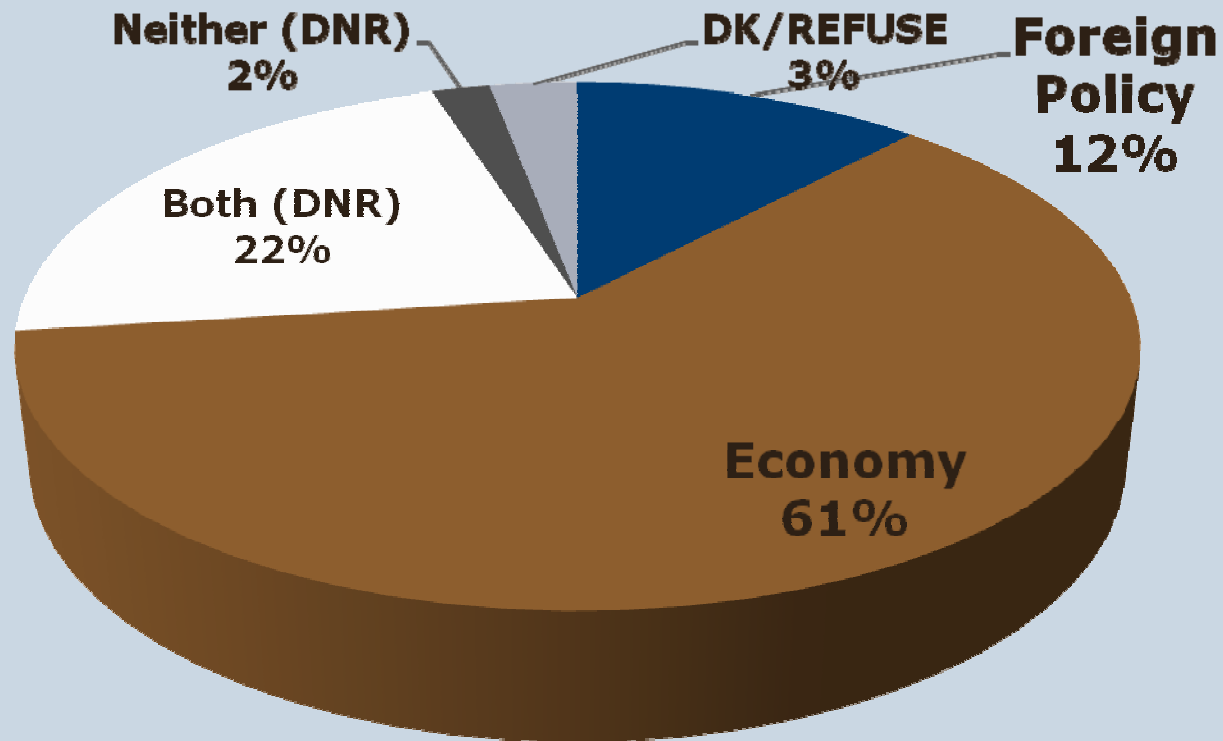
Do you think that things in Israel are going in the right direction, or do you feel things are going in the wrong direction?



Do you think that things in Israel are going in the right direction, or do you feel things are going in the wrong direction?



Of the following, what do you think should be the main focus of Israel's new government?



Which country currently holds the Presidency of the EU?

Country	TOTAL	IL JEWS	IL ARABS
Germany	9%	6%	26%
France	12%	12%	14%
Holland	2%	1%	2%
England	6%	7%	1%
Italy	2%	2%	1%
Switzerland	1%	1%	1%
Spain	3%	3%	2%
Sweden	2%	2%	1%
Czech Republic	16%	19%	3%
Poland	1%	1%	1%
Other	4%	5%	1%
DK/Refuse	42%	41%	47%

LEADERS

LEADER	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	NEVER HEARD/DK /REF
OBAMA	74%	11%	15%
BLAIR	68%	14%	18%
SARKOZY	64%	14%	22%
MERKEL	56%	6%	38%
BROWN	35%	14%	51%
BERLUSCONI	35%	18%	47%
SOLANA	26%	28%	47%



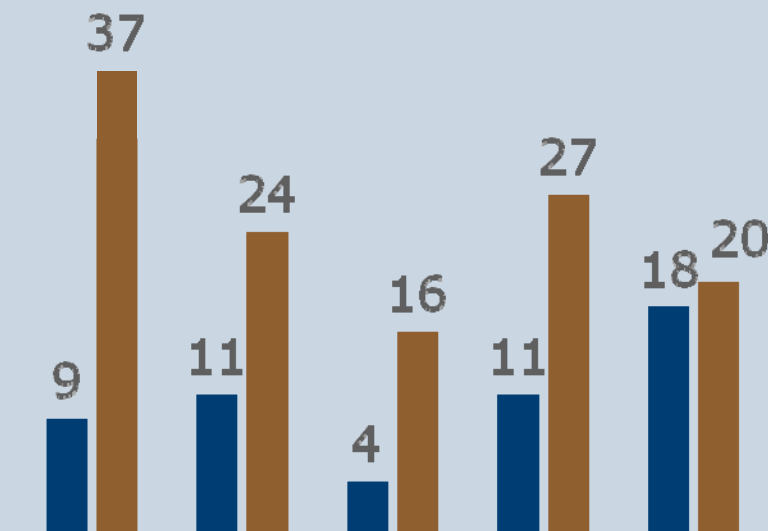
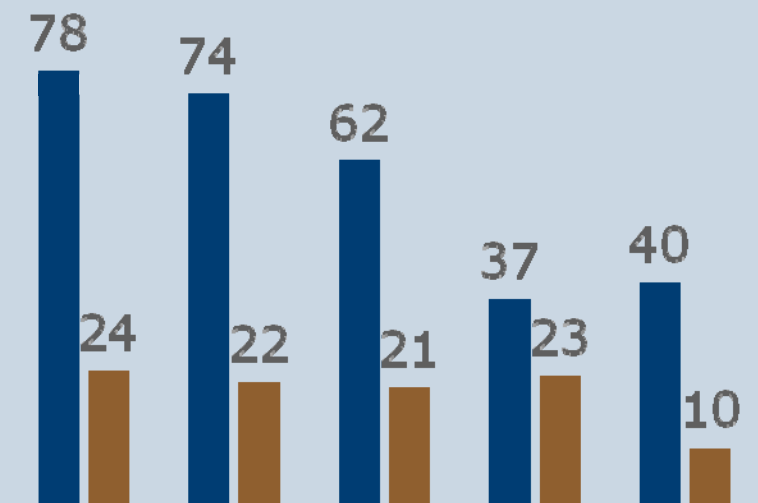
Leaders by JEWS and ARABS

FAVORABLE

UNFAVORABLE

■ IL JEWS ■ IL ARABS

■ IL JEWS ■ IL ARABS



BLAIR
SARKOZY
MERKEL
BROWN
BRLSCN

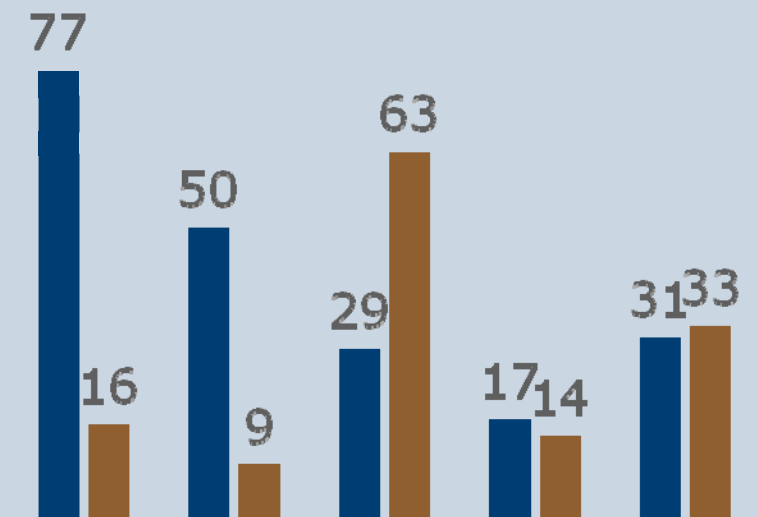
BLAIR
SARKOZY
MERKEL
BROWN
BRLSCN



Leaders Compared to 2007

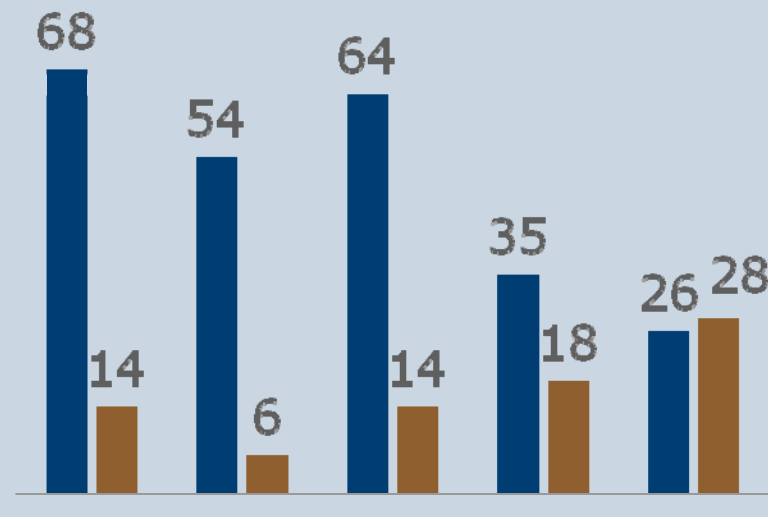
2007

■ FAV ■ UNFAV



2009

■ FAV ■ UNFAV





Dr. Angela Merkel

		TOTALS
Very FAVORABLE	14%	
Somewhat FAVORABLE	42%	56%
Somewhat UNFAVORABLE	4%	
Very UNFAVORABLE	2%	6%
Never Heard Of	24%	
Don't Know / Refuse	14%	38%



Who Likes Dr. Merkel – 56%

- 88% of Labor voters
- 86% of Meretz voters
- 81% of Israelis age 61 +
- 74% of men age 41 +
- 74% of Israelis who visited Germany in last 3 yrs
- 73% of Ashkenazi vs. 50% of Sephardi
- 72% of secular
- 64% of those who visited Europe in last 3 years



Government

- 88% of Labor voters
- 56% of Likud
- 52% of Yisrael Beiteinu
- 50% of Mafdal
- 28% of Shas

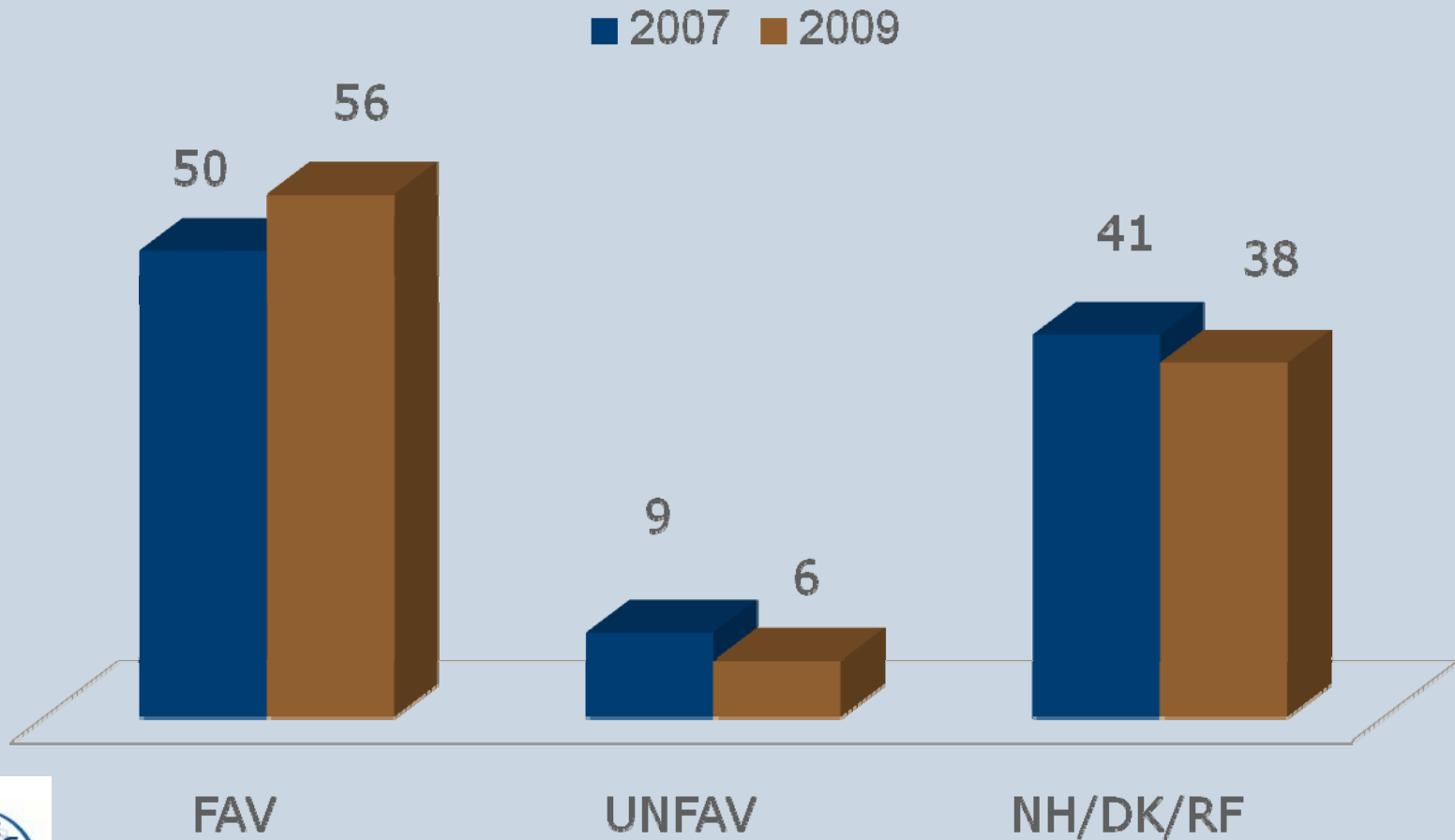
Opposition

- 86% of Meretz voters
- 66% of Kadima
- 46% of Arab parties



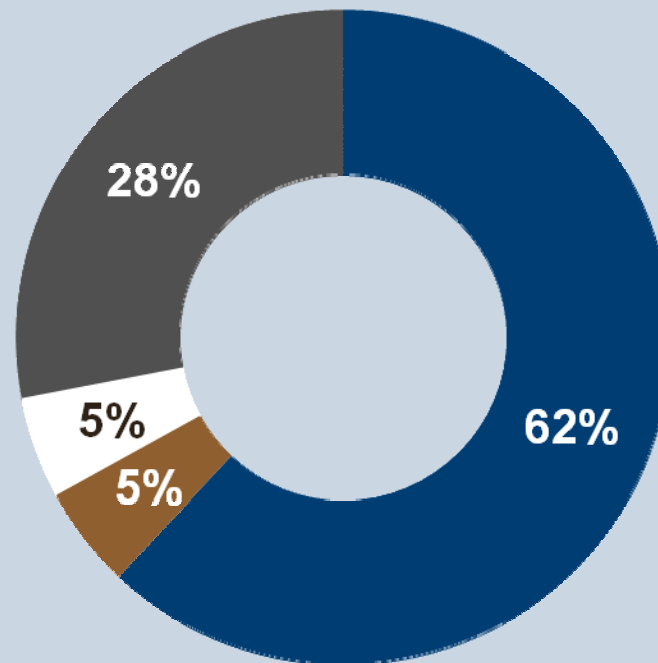


Dr. Angela Merkel



Angela Merkel serves as Germany's first woman Chancellor. Do you think that Merkel improves or diminishes Germany's image among other countries?

■ IMPROVES ■ DIMINISHES ■ NO DIFF (DNR) ■ DK/REF



COUNTRIES

Country	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DK
USA	82%	14%	4%
ITALY	69%	19%	12%
UK	69%	22%	9%
GERMANY	65%	26%	9%
FRANCE	64%	26%	10%
SWITZERLAND	60%	21%	19%
CZECH REPUBLIC	58%	15%	27%
SPAIN	57%	29%	14%
TURKEY	34%	58%	8%
RUSSIA	33%	54%	13%

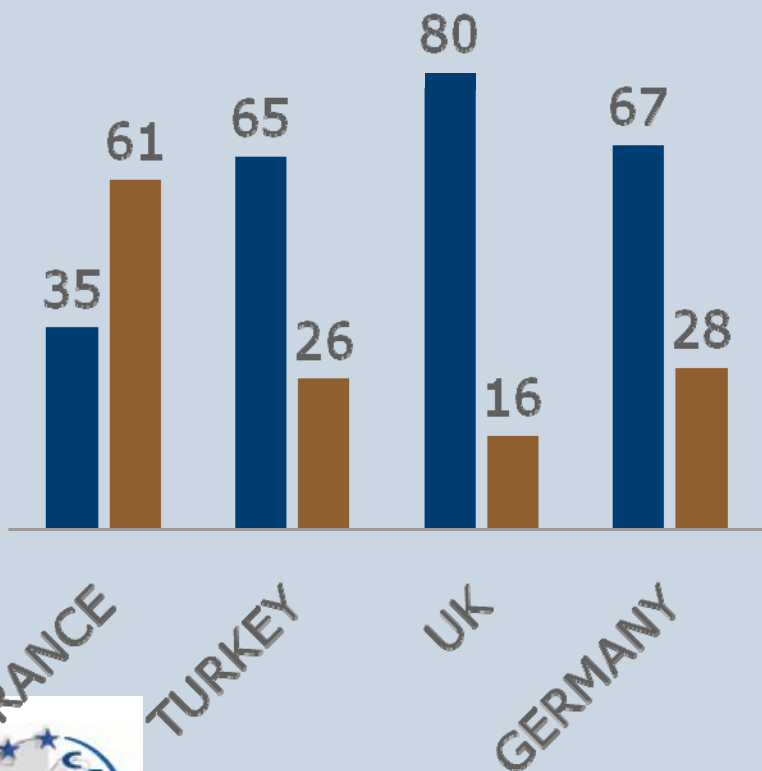


Selected Countries – Comparing 2007 & 2009



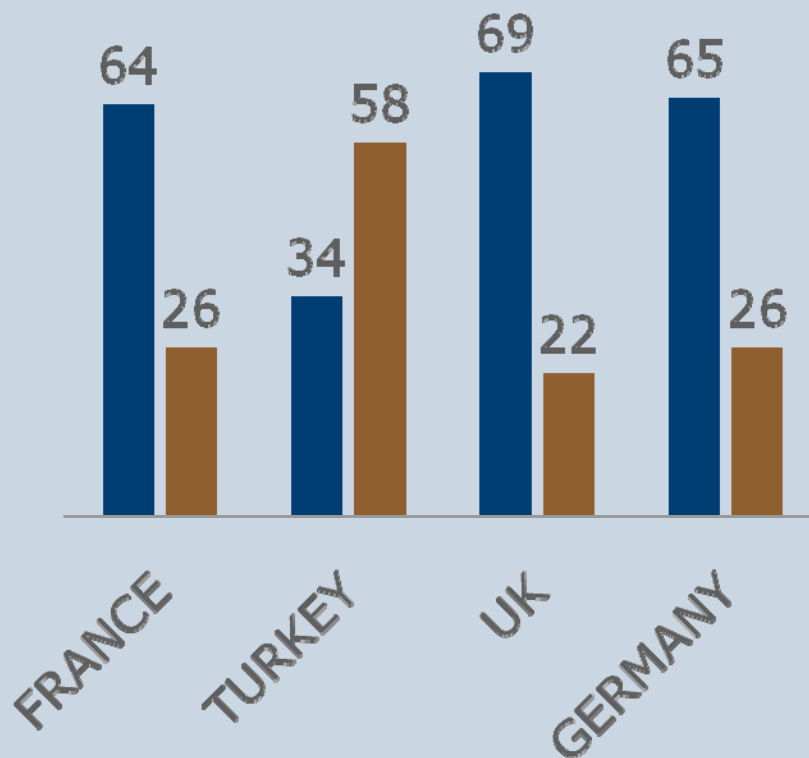
2007

■ FAV ■ UNFAV



2009

■ FAV ■ UNFAV



Who Likes Germany?

Favorable – 65%

- 90% of Meretz voters
- 83% of men 41+
- 81% of Yisrael Beiteinu voters
- 80% of Labor voters
- 77% of secular
- 75% of men (vs. 56% of women)
- 75% of ages 51-60
- 71% of Kadima voters
- 69% of Arab party voters



ENTITIES

ENTITIES	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DK/REF
EU	60%	26%	14%
NATO	54%	22%	23%
UN	45%	46%	9%
VATICAN	38%	42%	20%



ENTITIES by JEWS and ARABS

ENTITY	IL JEWS FAV	IL JEWS UNFAV	IL ARAB FAV	IL ARAB UNFAV
EU	63%	24%	47%	37%
NATO	61%	20%	25%	34%
UN	45%	47%	41%	44%
VATICAN	40%	43%	32%	36%



Selected Entities – Comparing 2007 & 2009

2007

2009

■ FAV ■ UNFAV

■ FAV ■ UNFAV

60

58

56

60

38

42

45 46

34

32

38

26



VATICAN

UN

EU

VATICAN

UN

Who Likes / Dislikes the EU?

Favorable – 60%

- 77% of Kadima voters
- 75% of Labor voters
- 72% of age 51 +
- 71% of Meretz voters
- 70% of secular
- 70% of men 41 +

Unfavorable – 26%

- 50% of Mafdal/Ichud voters
- 45% of Ultra-Orthodox
- 40% of Arab party voters
- 37% of Orthodox
- 36% of men 18-40
- 35% of 18-22 year old



Government

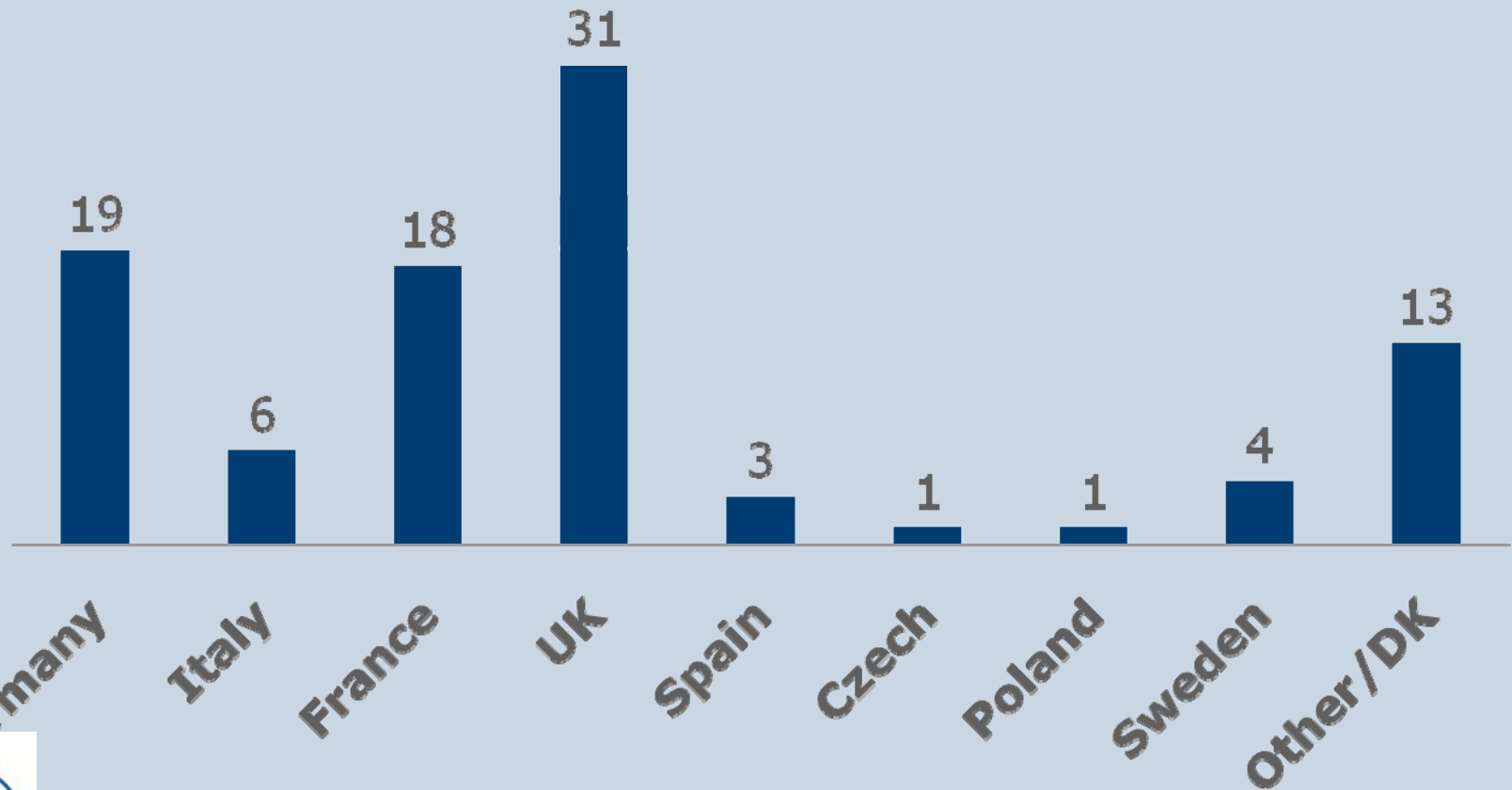
- 75% of Labor voters
- 56% of Likud
- 52% of Yisrael Beiteinu
- 52% of Shas
- 45% of Mafdal

Opposition

- 77% of Kadima voters
- 71% of Meretz
- 43% of Arab parties



Of the following countries, which would you like to see have the strongest relationship with Israel?



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IL JEWS

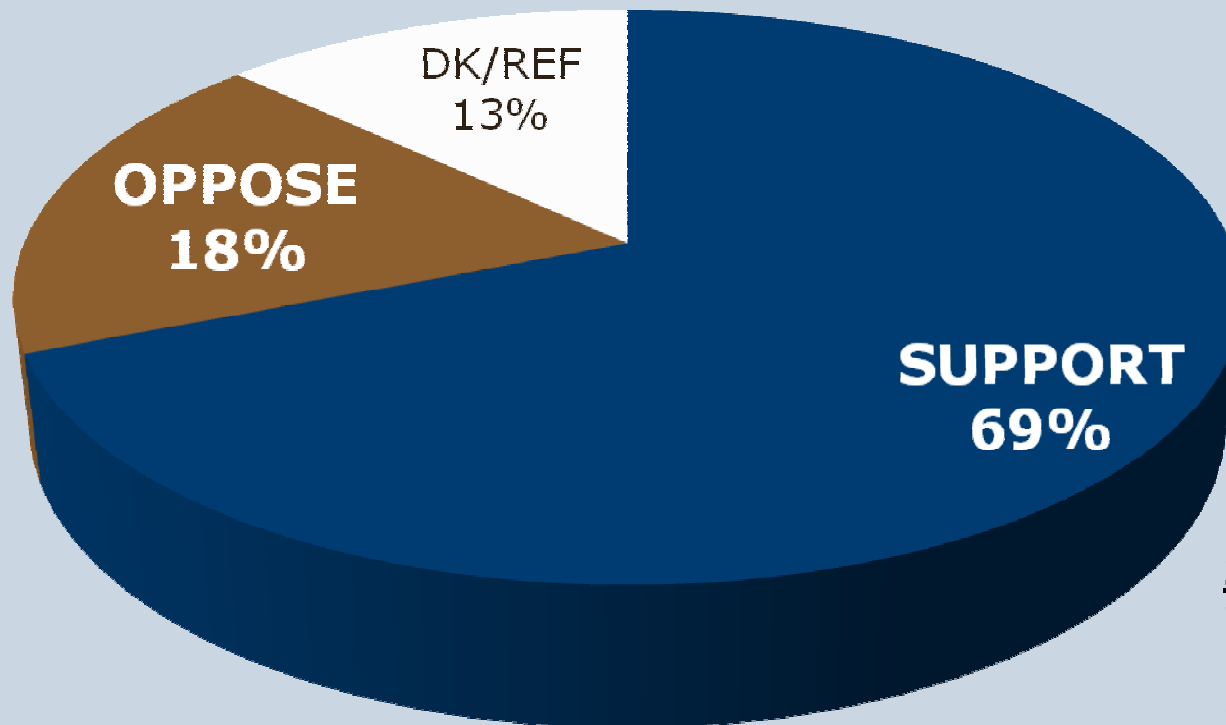
- UK 36%
- France 19%
- Germany 18%
- Italy 6%

IL ARABS

- Germany 24%
- France 13%
- UK 9%
- Italy 7%



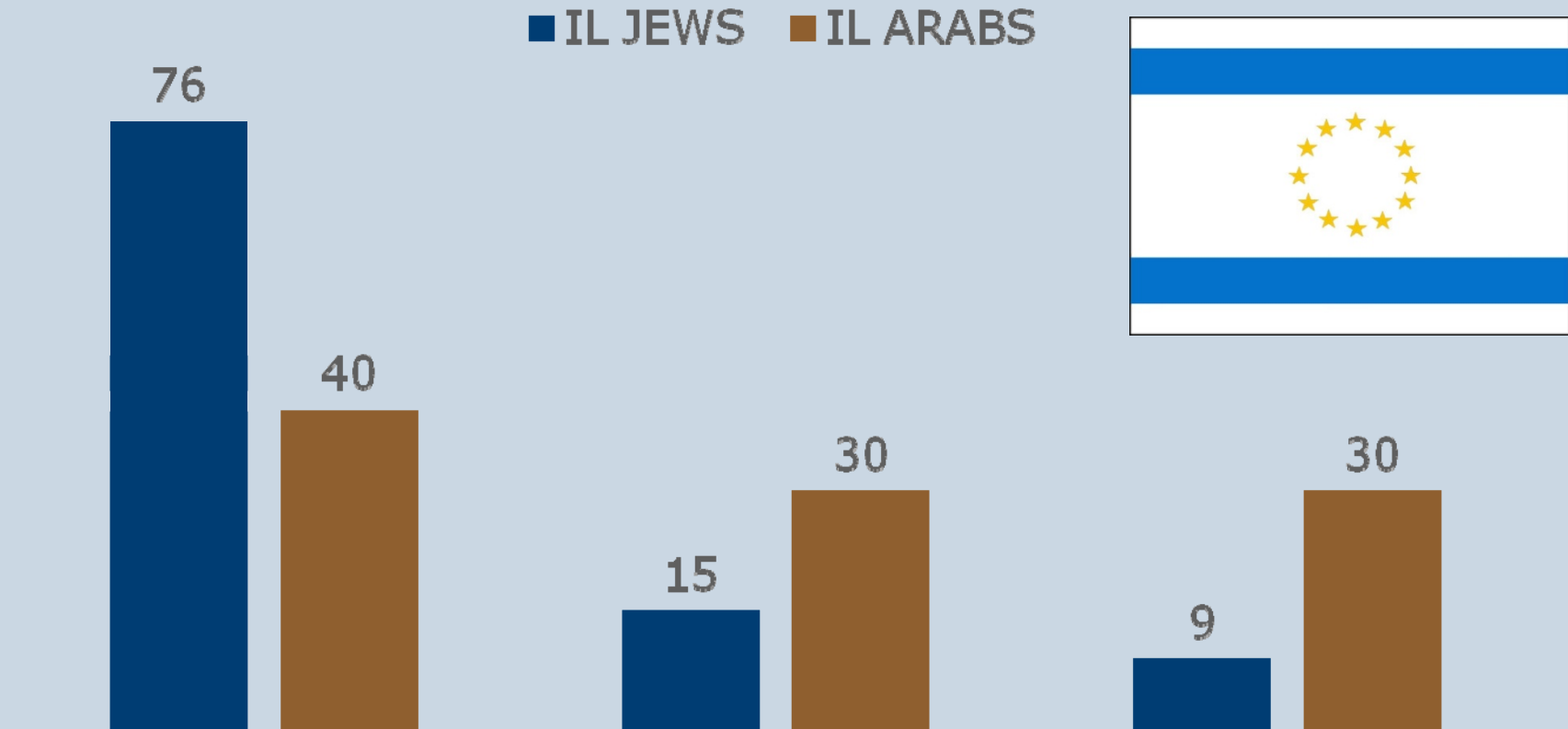
There has been some talk that Israel could one day join the European Union. Would you support or oppose Israel joining the EU?



2007
75% Support
18% Oppose
7% DK/REF



There has been some talk that Israel could one day join the European Union. Would you support or oppose Israel joining the EU?



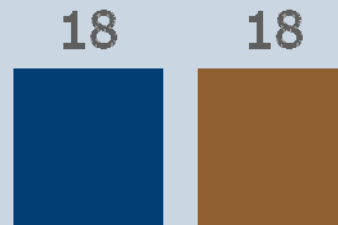
SUPPORT

OPPOSE

DK/REF

Would you support or oppose Israel joining the EU? 2007 & 2009

■ 2007 ■ 2009



SUPPORT

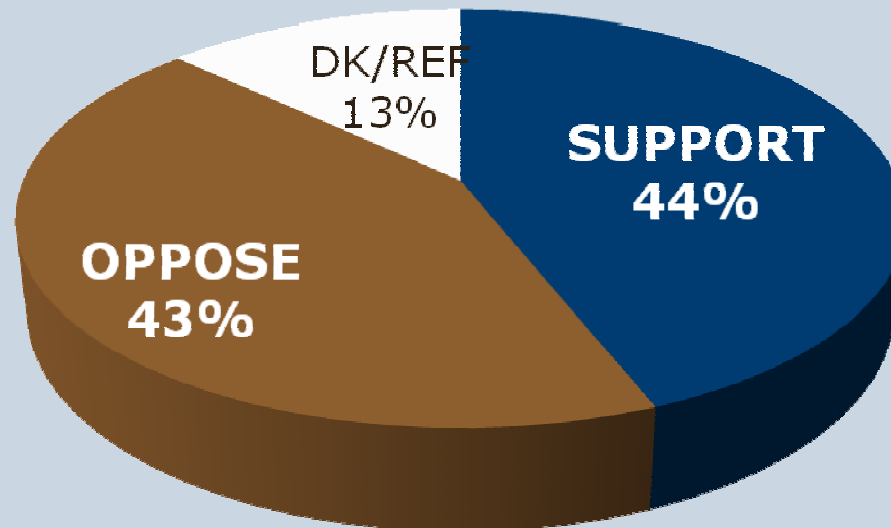
OPPOSE

DK/REF



If Israel joined the EU, Israelis would be able to live or work anywhere in Europe, the shekel would have to be replaced eventually with the EURO, and the law of return might be amended. Would you support or oppose Israel joining the EU?

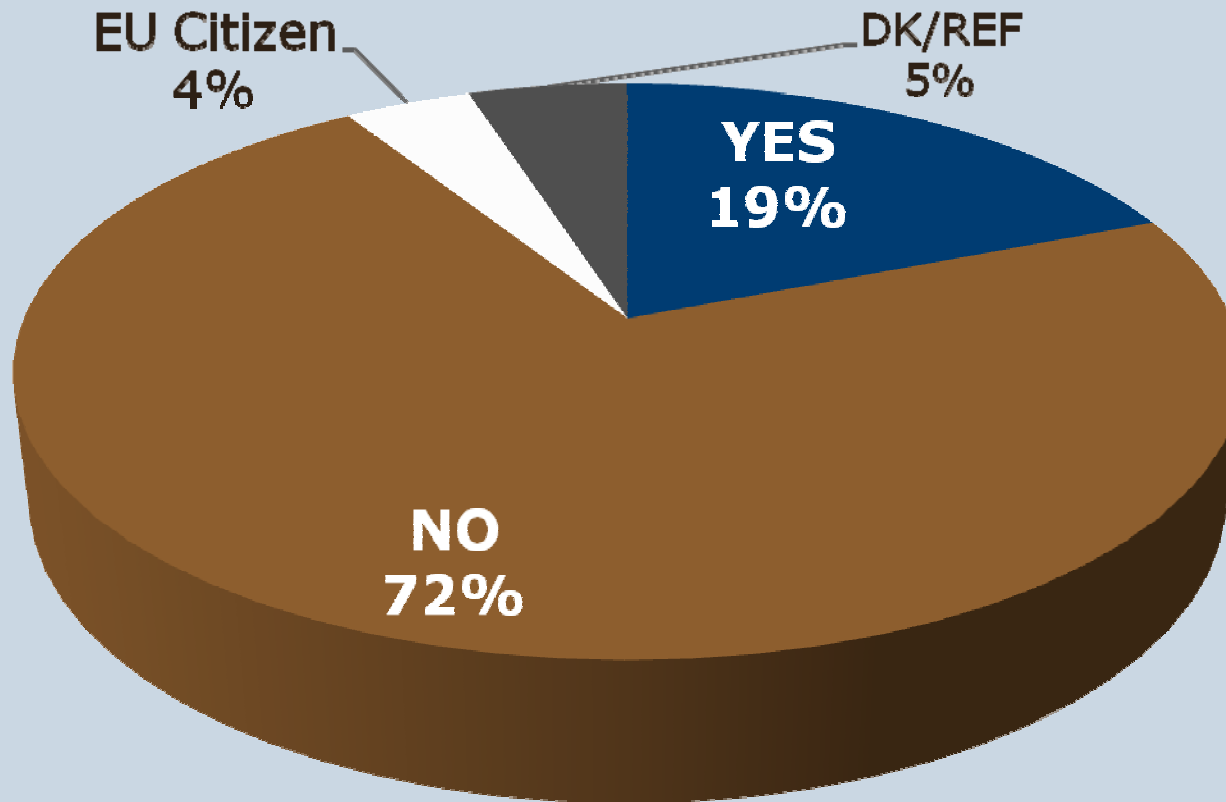
Among those who supported joining the EU
(69%)



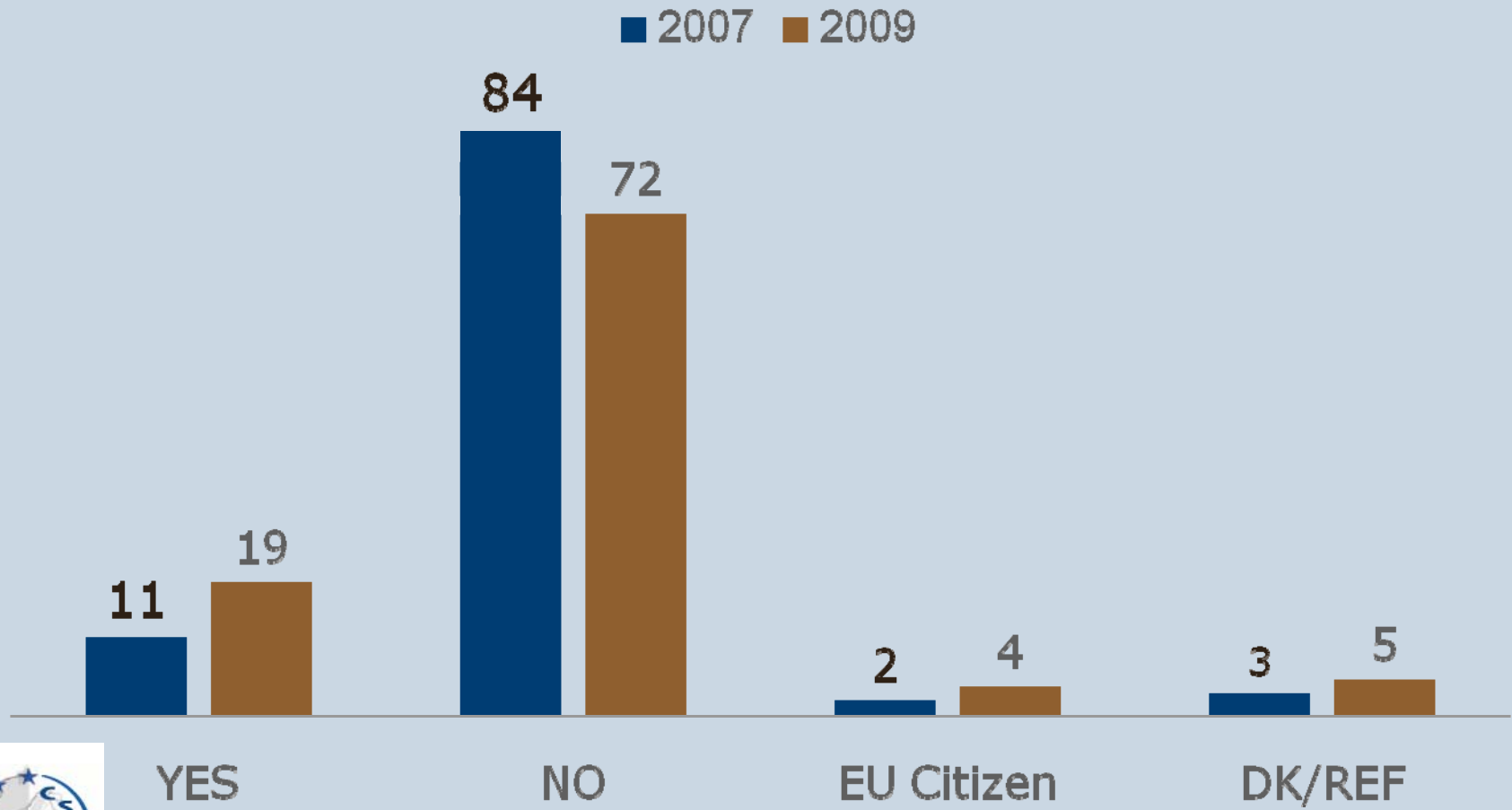
Support
86% Meretz
70% Labor
63% Secular
60% Kadima
57% Ashkenazi
43% Yis Beiteinu



If you were granted citizenship from one of the EU countries would you and your family relocate to Europe?



If you were granted citizenship from one of the EU countries would you and your family relocate to Europe?
2007 & 2009



There has been some talk that Israel should join NATO which might mean that in the event of an attack, NATO countries would help Israel defend itself. By the same token Israel would be obligated to help defend NATO countries under attack. Would you SUPPORT or OPPOSE Israel joining NATO?

SUPPORT

54

OPPOSE

33



DK/REF

13



Support for Joining NATO By Party

Government

- 70% of Labor voters
- 67% of Yisrael Beiteinu
- 59% of Likud
- 56% of Shas
- 41% of Mafdal

Opposition

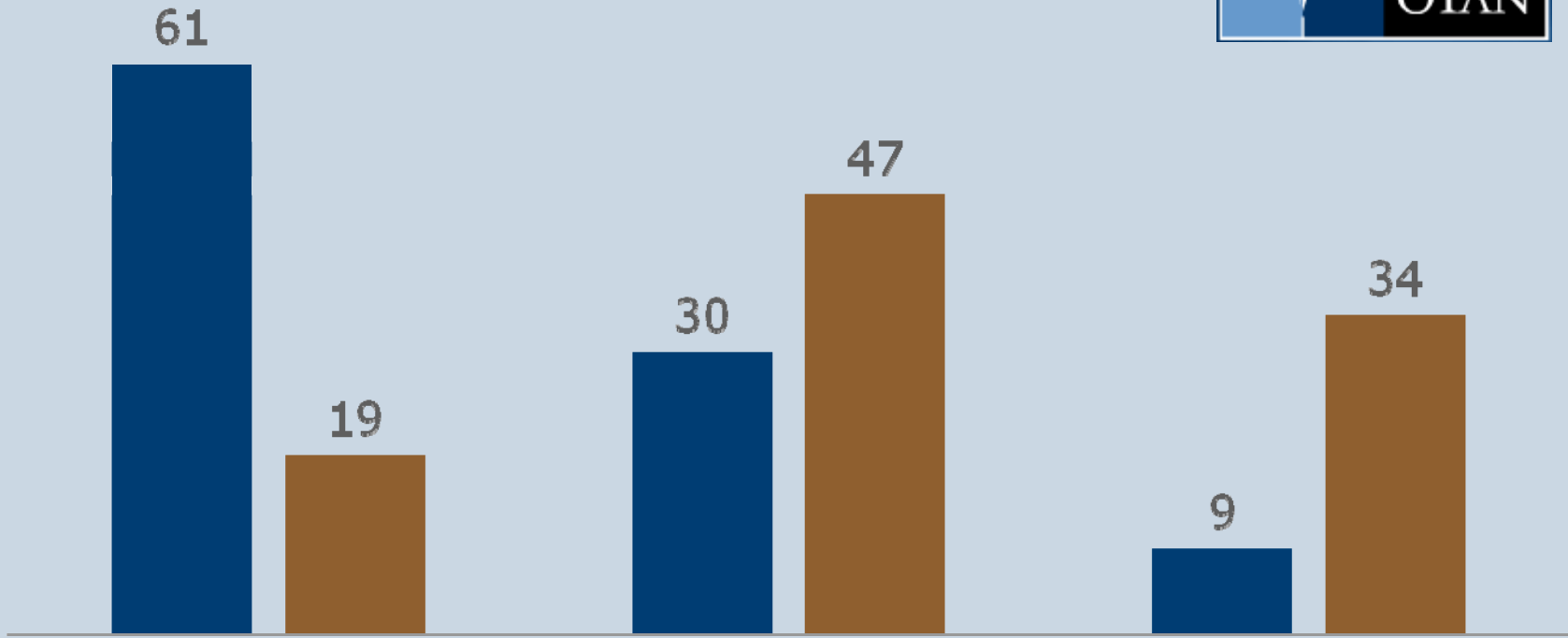
- 67% of Meretz voters
- 63% of Kadima
- 51% of Arab party voters



SUPPORT / OPPOSITION For Joining NATO

Cross-Tab by Survey Language

■ IL JEWS ■ IL ARABS



SUPPORT

OPPOSE

DK/REF

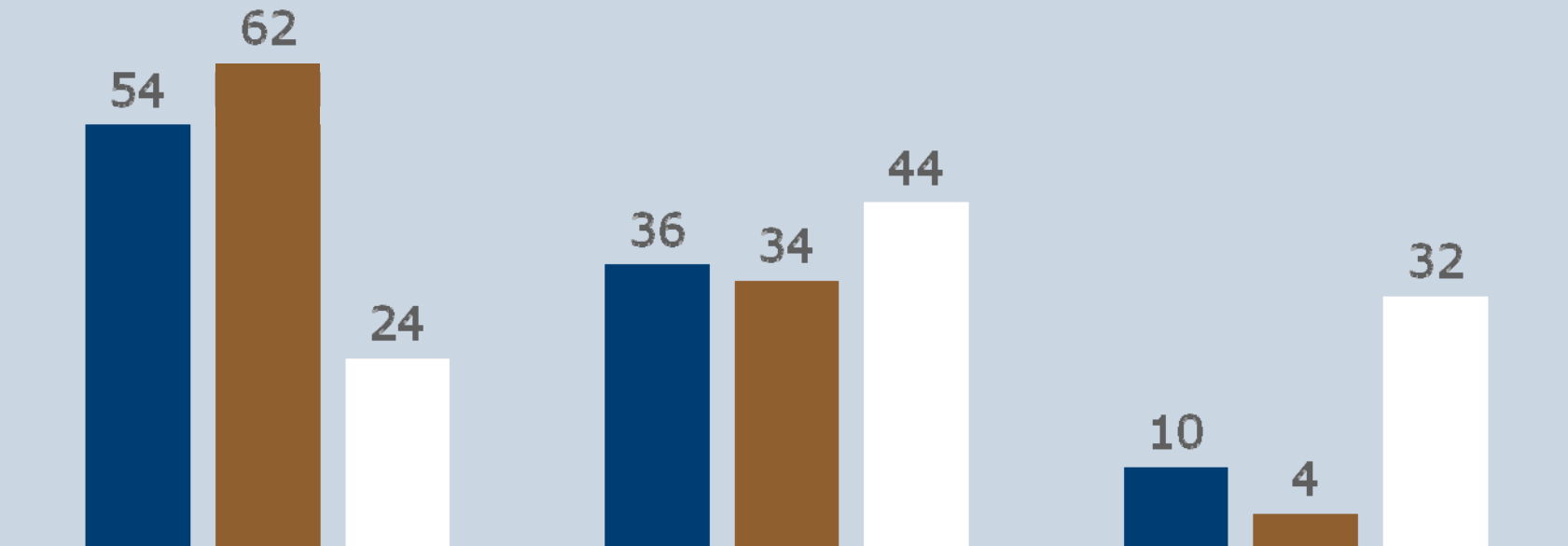
Supporters of Israel Joining NATO 54%

- 70% of Labor voters
- 67% of Yisrael Beiteinu and Meretz voters
- 65% of secular
- 65% of Jerusalem residents
- 64% of Tel Aviv residents
- 64% of men 41 +
- 63% of Kadima voters



There has been some talk that NATO may send troops to the West Bank and Gaza in a peace-keeping capacity. Would you support or oppose NATO troops stationed in the West Bank and Gaza?

■ TOTAL ■ IL JEWS ■ IL ARABS

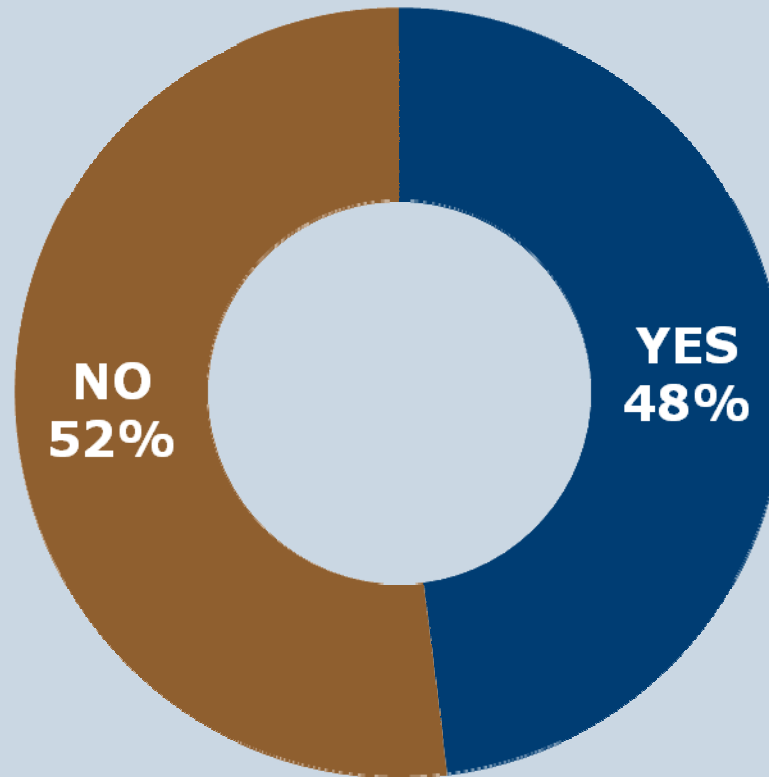


SUPPORT

OPPOSE

DK/REF

Have you visited Europe in the past 3 years either for business or pleasure?



Visited by Language
54% Hebrew
19% Arabic

2007
50% Visited



Which countries?

COUNTRY	TOTAL	IL JEWS	IL ARABS
France	35%	35%	29%
Italy	28%	30%	5%
UK	24%	25%	5%
Spain	18%	19%	10%
Germany	17%	16%	38%
Czech Rep.	15%	14%	19%
Greece	8%	8%	10%
Austria	8%	5%	43%
Switzerland	7%	8%	10%
Holland	7%	7%	10%
Hungary	7%	7%	10%
Bulgaria	6%	5%	24%
Belgium	5%	5%	10%
Romania	5%	5%	5%

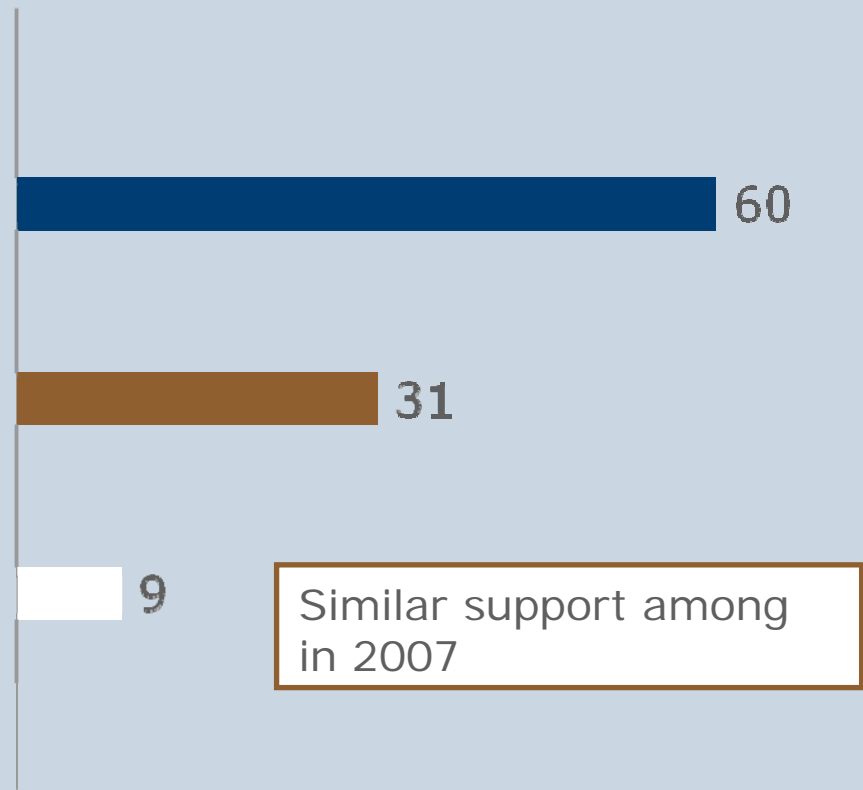


Since 1948 Israel has had very close relations with Germany. Do you think that in light of the Holocaust the modern state of Germany has a responsibility to always take Israel's side and support and defend us in the international arena?

Germany should **ALWAYS** support Israel because of the Holocaust

Germany has **NO** special obligation to support Israel because of the Holocaust

DK/REF



Support / Opposition of Israel based on Holocaust

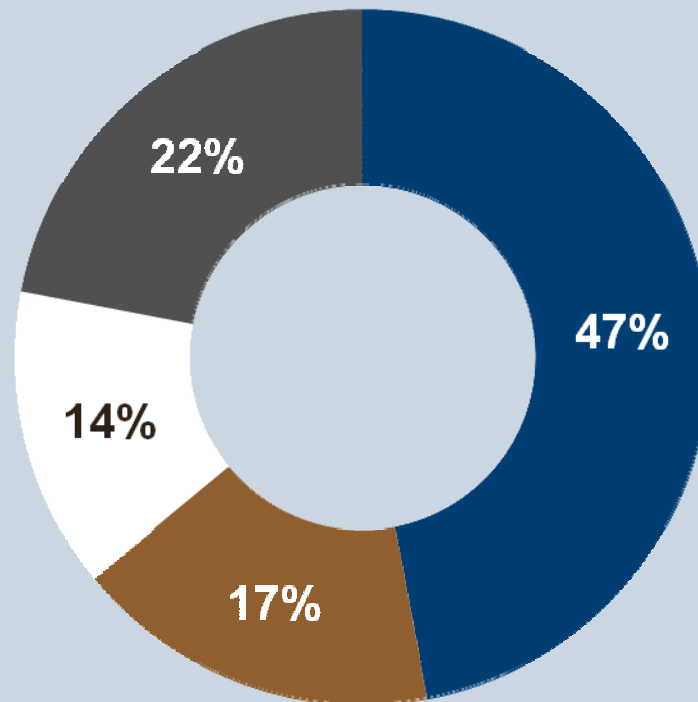
Cross-Tab by Survey Language

	TOTAL	IL JEWS	IL ARABS
Germany should always support Israel because of the Holocaust	60%	65%	36%
Germany has no special obligation to support Israel because of the Holocaust	31%	30%	35%
DK/REFUSE	9%	5%	29%

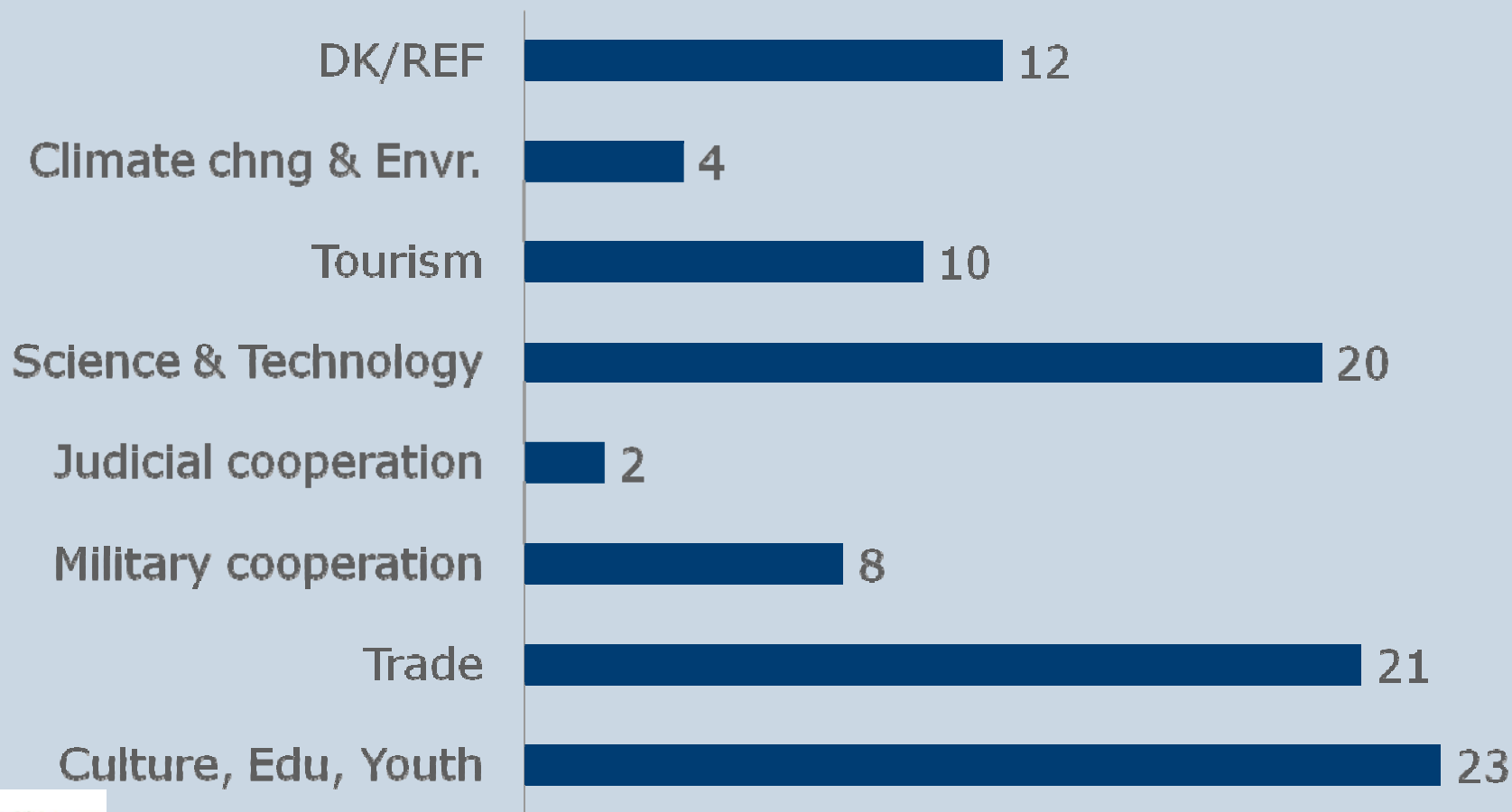


Should Germany play a greater or diminished role in the EU?

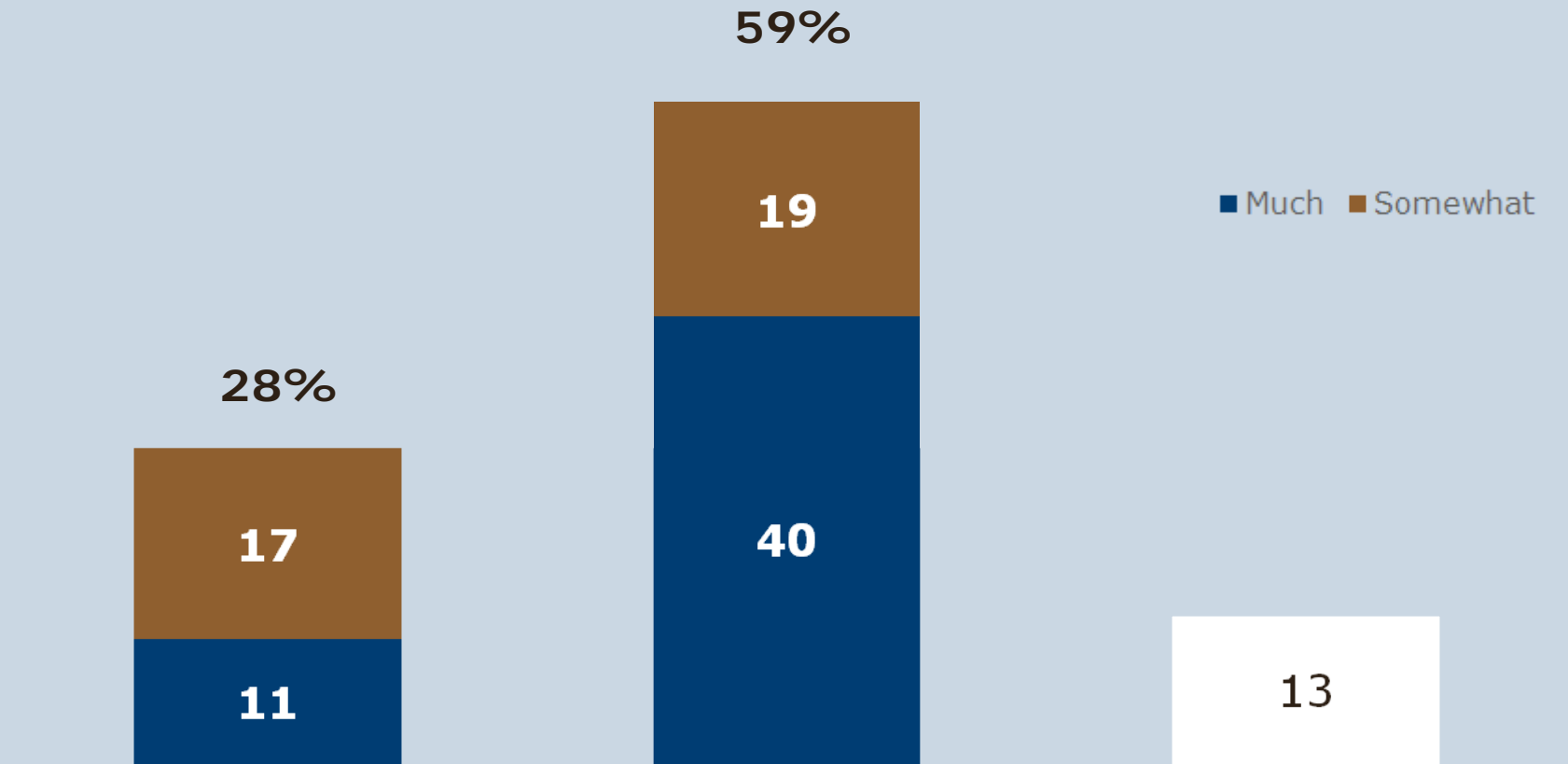
■ GREATER ■ DIMINISHED ■ About the Same (DNR) ■ DK/REF



Which area would you like to see strengthened in Israel – Germany relations?



The European Union is considering opening a dialogue with the Hamas.
Does this INCREASE or DIMINISH the possibility you will support the EU?



INCREASE

DIMINISH

DK/REF



אוניברסיטת בן-גוריון בנגב
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

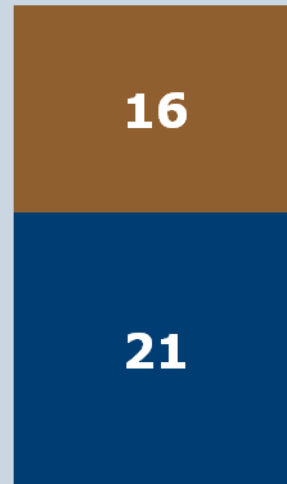
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The European Union is the largest donor to the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza and is committed to improving their humanitarian and economic situation. Does this INCREASE or DIMINISH the possibility you will support the EU?

47%

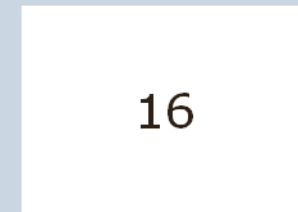


37%



■ Much ■ Somewhat

16



INCREASE

DIMINISH

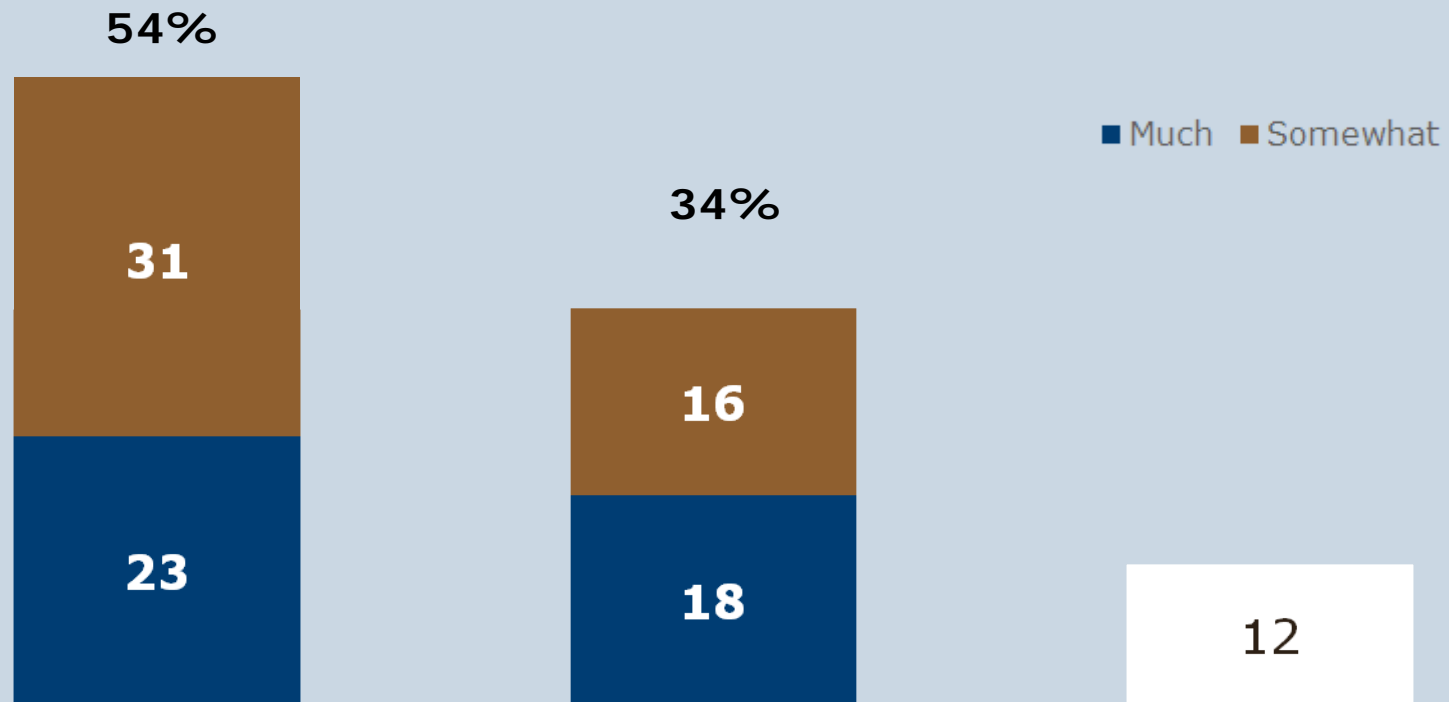
DK/REF



אוניברסיטת בן-גוריון בנגב
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

KEEVOON
Research, Strategy & Communications

The European Union supports a 2-state solution as the ONLY framework for resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Does this INCREASE or DIMINISH the possibility you will support the EU?



INCREASE

DIMINISH

DK/REF

EU Support for 2 State Solution as Only Framework – More Likely By Party

Government

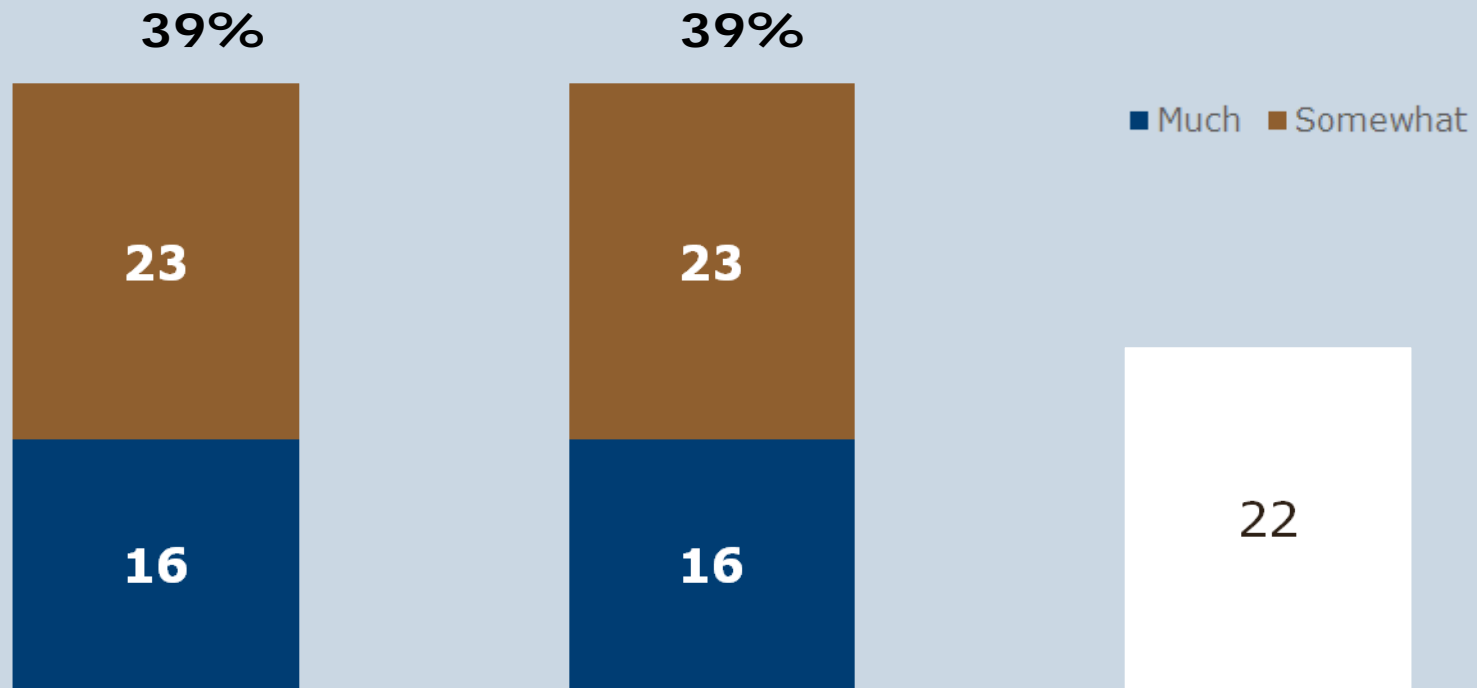
- 80% of Labor voters
- 43% of Yisrael Beiteinu
- 38% of Likud
- 32% of Shas

Opposition

- 81% of Meretz voters
- 66% of Kadima
- 66% of Arab party voters



Turkey and the EU negotiate Turkish membership in the EU and within the next 10 years Turkey may be accepted as a full member of the EU.
Does this INCREASE or DIMINISH the possibility you will support the EU?

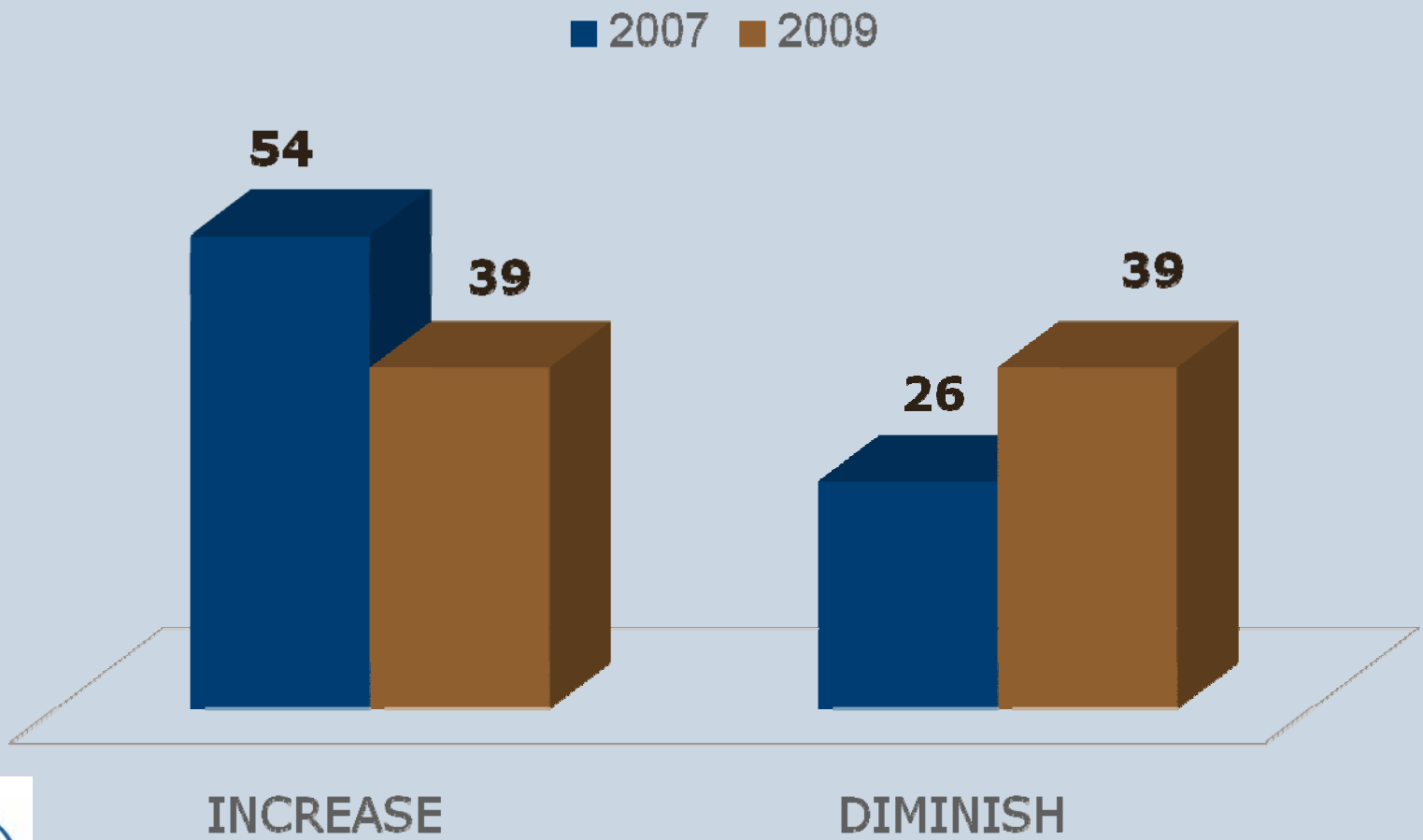


INCREASE

DIMINISH

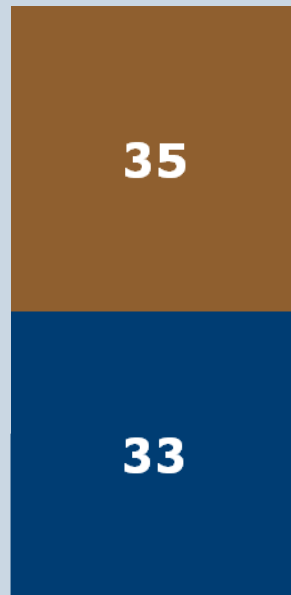
DK/REF

Turkish Membership in the EU – Increase or Diminish Support of EU



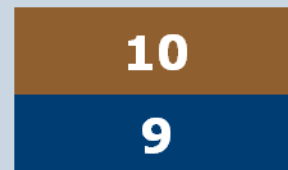
The EU is founded on democracy, the rule of law, human rights and respect for and protection of minorities

68%



■ Much ■ Somewhat

19%



13

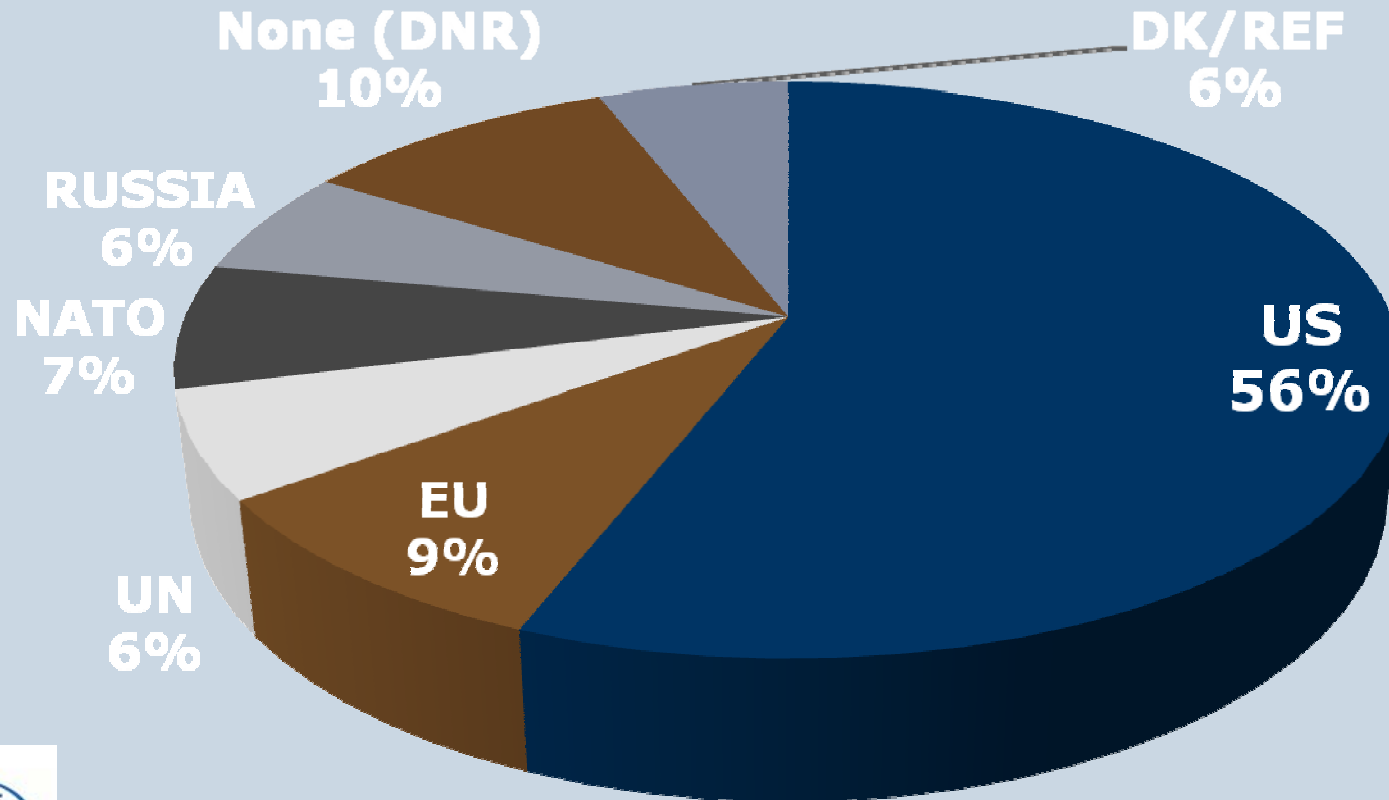


INCREASE

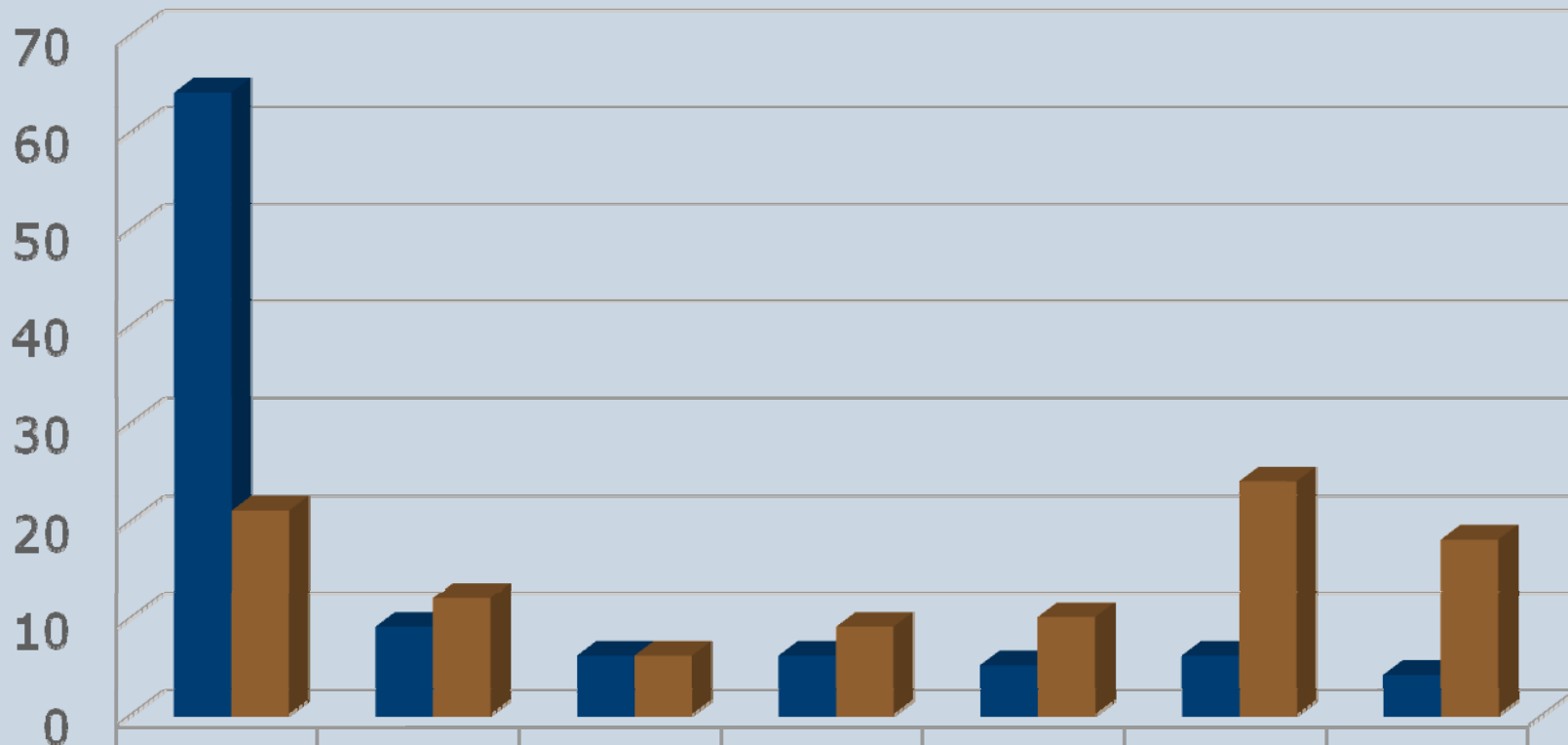
DIMINISH

DK/REF

Of the following, which would you most like to be involved in the solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?



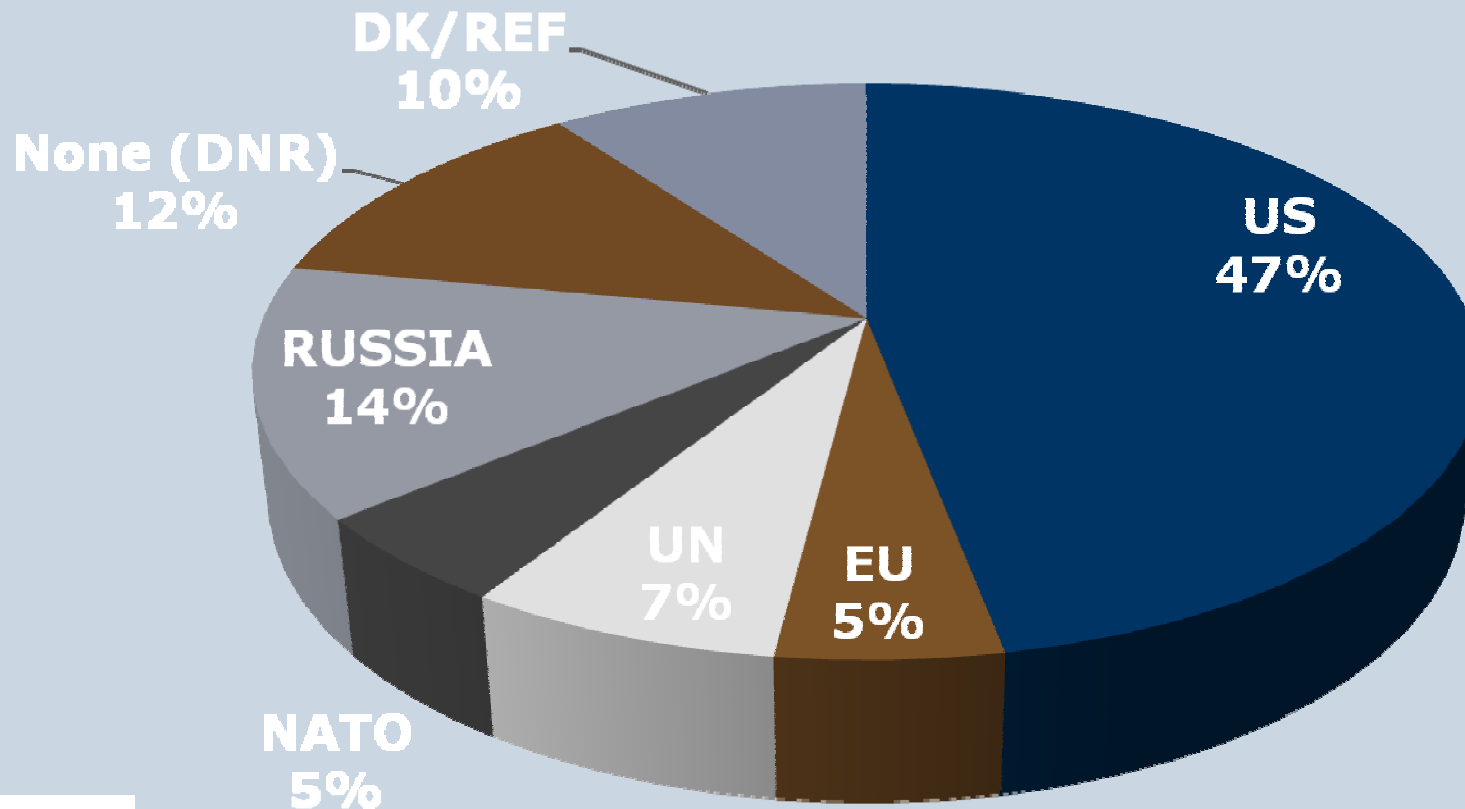
Of the following, which would you most like to be involved in the solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?



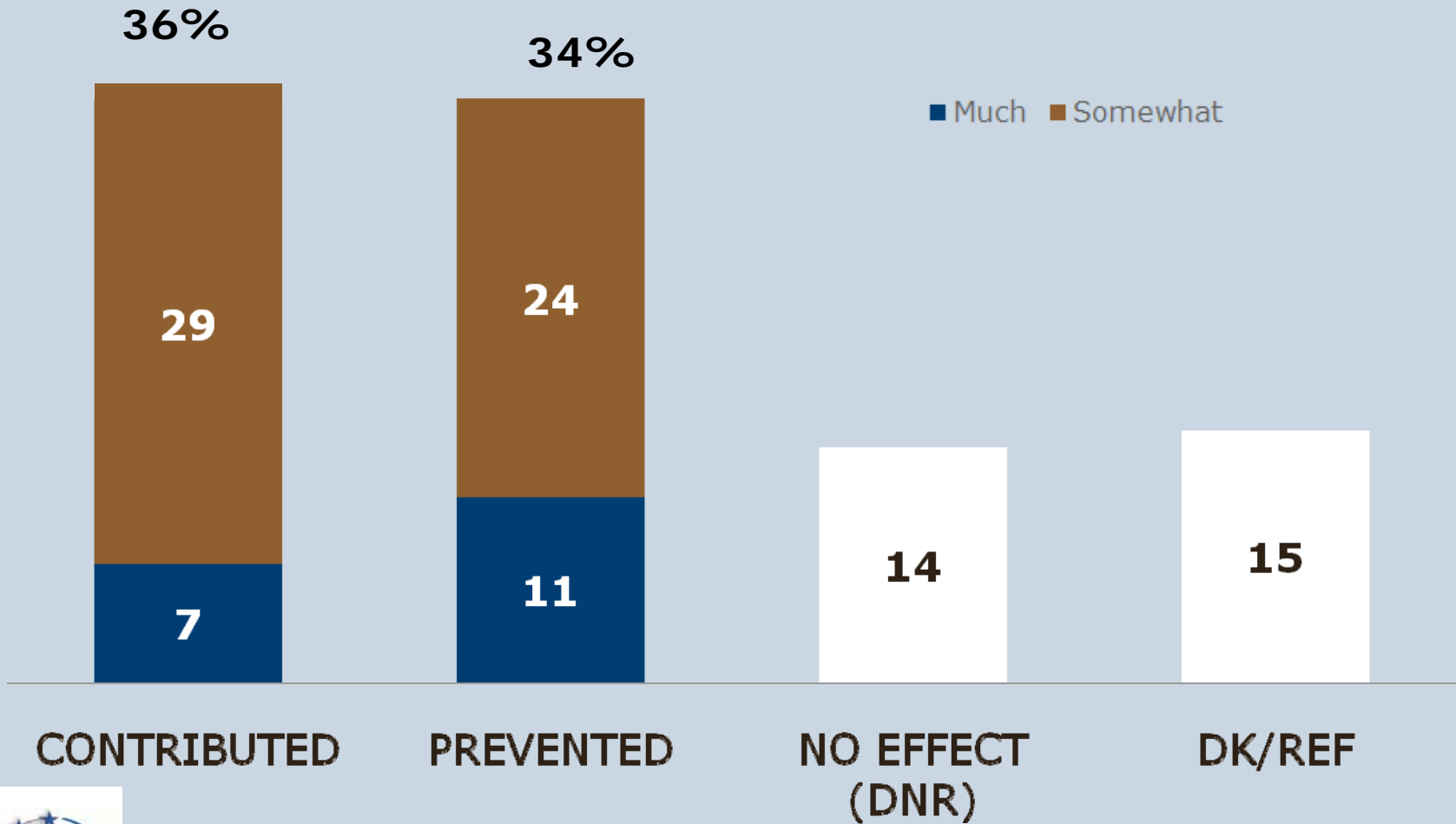
	US	EU	UN	NATO	Russia	None	DK/Ref
IL JEWS	64	9	6	6	5	6	4
IL ARABS	21	12	6	9	10	24	18



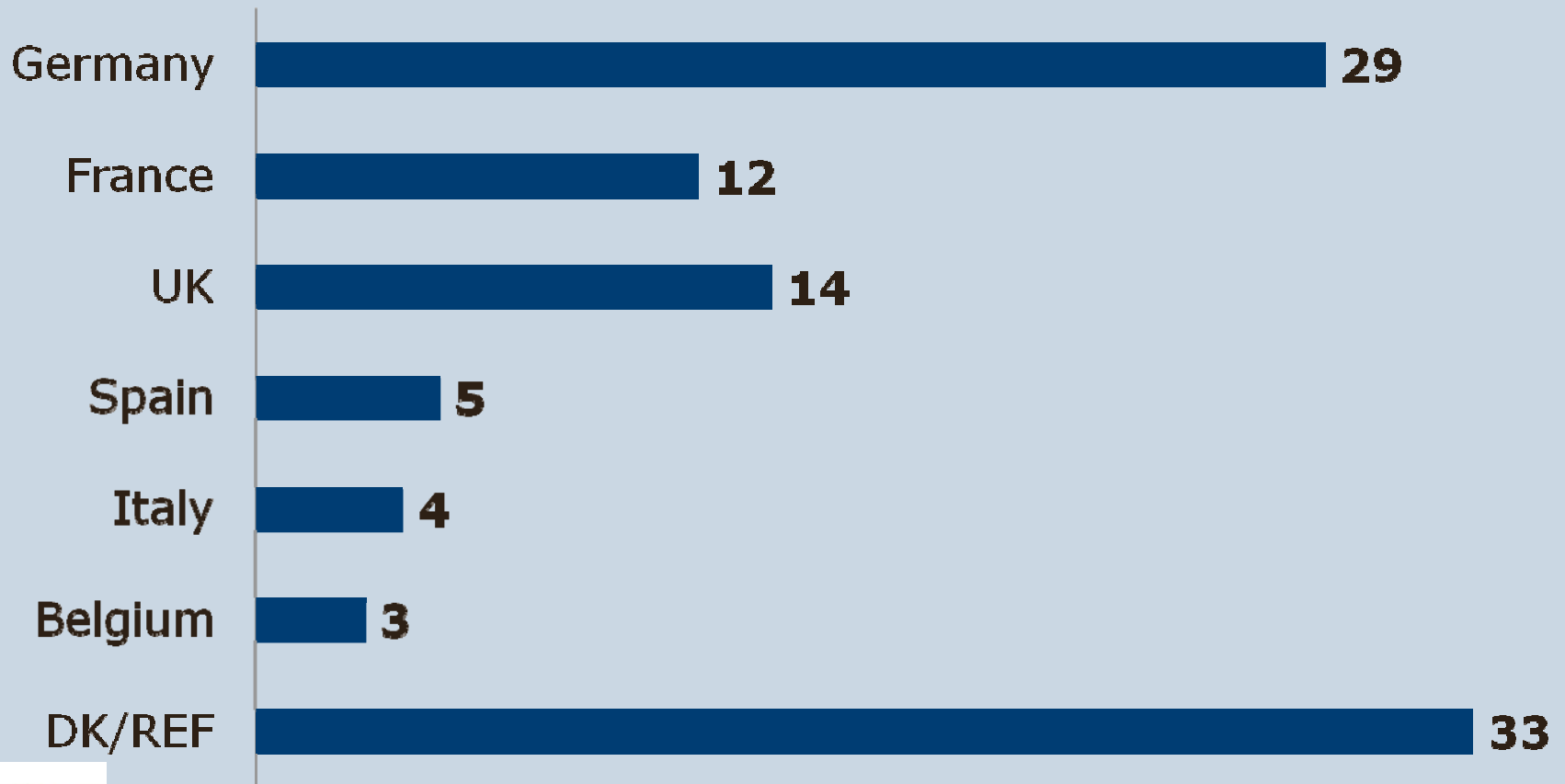
Of the following, which do you think is most capable of stopping the Iranian nuclear threat?



Do you think the EU has contributed or prevented progress in the Peace Process over the last few years?

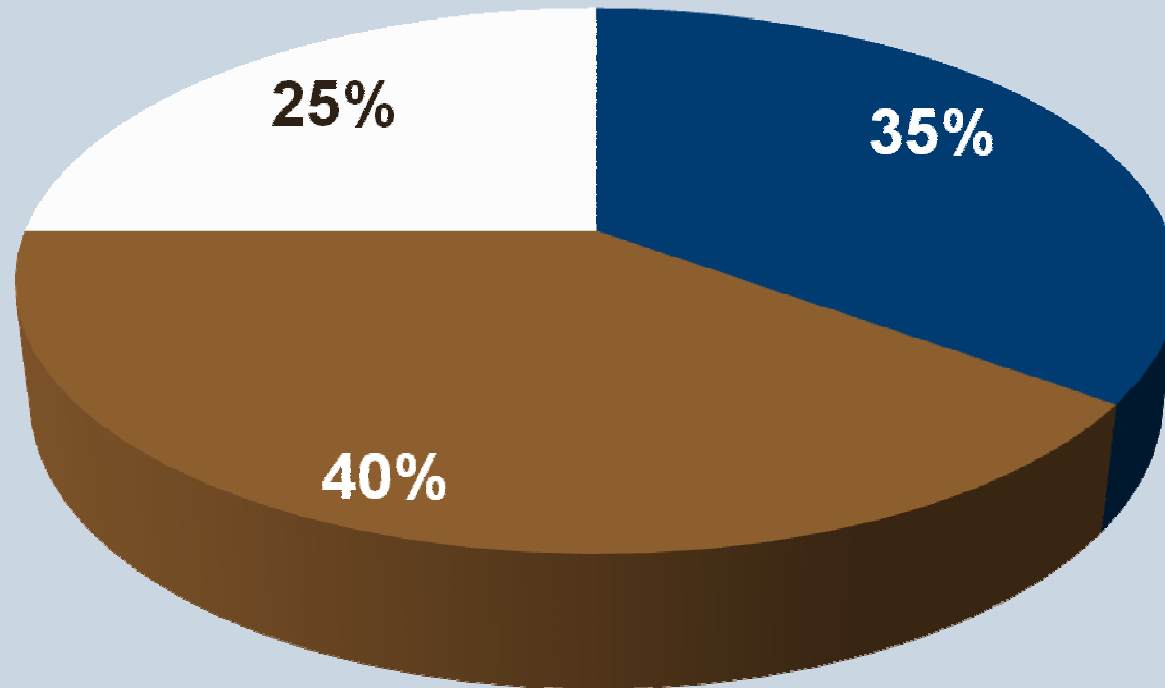


Who is Israel's largest European trading partner?



Do you think that Jewish Communities in Europe will flourish or decline over the next 10 years?

■ FLOURISH ■ DECLINE ■ DK/REF



40% of 500 Hebrew Speakers are eligible for EU Citizenship

- Poland 14%
- Germany 6%
- Romania 6%
- Hungary 5%
- Czech Republic 2%
- Austria 2%

36% Eligibility in 2007

33% Identified 1 country
7% Identified 2 countries



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