

Majority of Europeans back reducing fossil fuel imports to make Europe safer, polling shows

YUOGOV POLL FINDINGS COMMISSIONED BY E3G, TRANSPORT & ENVIRONMENT AND THE ELECTRIFICATION ALLIANCE

New polling data across five major European countries shows strong support for electrification and clean energy investment. These views cut across traditional left-right political divides. Over 6 in 10 (64%) believe that reducing dependence on imported fossil fuels makes Europe safer, when averaged across five countries surveyed. 8 out of 10 Europeans surveyed say that European countries should be working together, of which six say that cooperation has become more important in the current geopolitical context. At time of publication, the crisis in the Strait of Hormuz has continued for over 100 days.

A YouGov poll conducted in May 2026 shows that the citizens surveyed see clean energy independence as a safety issue, not just a climate concern. The poll was jointly commissioned by E3G, Transport & Environment and the Electrification Alliance and designed to test public attitudes on clean energy solutions and security, following the outbreak of the crisis in the Strait of Hormuz.

Citizens believe that reducing dependence on imported fossil fuels makes Europe safer

% who agree, by country



Source: YouGov Plc. survey

Support for electrification, clean energy investment, and European industrial action commands support across the political spectrum in countries surveyed. This is not a left-wing only cause: centre-right voters track close to or above national averages on almost every measure, and in some cases are among the most supportive groups in their countries.

While the current energy crisis has propelled energy security to the top of the political agenda, the consensus demonstrated in this polling shows that policymakers can confidently take action to reduce fossil fuel dependence knowing the public is with them.

This polling was conducted by YouGov as part of the YouGov European Political Monthly (EPM) survey. Questions were fielded across France, Germany, Spain, Italy, and Poland, counting 5,149 nationally representative adults polled from 6th-18th May 2026.

Key findings

- ▶ **Over 6 in 10 (64%) believe that reducing dependence on imported fossil fuels makes Europe safer, when averaged across five countries surveyed.**
- ▶ More than half of respondents back government financial support for **heat pumps**: Italy (71%), France (66%), Germany (61%), Spain (58%), and Poland (51%).
- ▶ **EU EV funding** commands majority support in four of the five countries: Spain (63%), Germany (58%), Italy (57%), and France (54%). In those same four countries, most respondents also back direct government support for **household EV purchasing**: Italy (56%), Spain (56%), France (56%), and Germany (54%).
- ▶ **European cooperation** is seen as more important during the current geopolitical situation: 68% in Spain, 67% in Germany, 62% in France, and 61% in Italy. In Poland, 45% agree and a further 32% say cooperation should happen regardless of the current situation.
- ▶ **Right-wing voters are among the most supportive groups**: 70% of CDU/CSU voters (Chancellor Merz's parliamentary bloc) back EU EV funding; 76% of Fratelli d'Italia voters support government funding for heat pumps; and 66% of French President Macron voters support government EV funding.

Findings per country

Italians overwhelmingly back electrification as the path to energy security, from Fratelli and Meloni voters to the left.

- ▶ Over 65% of Italians believe reducing fossil fuel dependence would make Europe safer. This security argument lands across the full width of the political spectrum (right-wing voters Fratelli d'Italia at 72% and centre-left Partito Democratico at 75%).

- ▶ Italy also records the highest support for heat pumps of any country surveyed (71% nationally) but the most striking finding is where that support comes from: Fratelli d'Italia voters, the backbone of Prime Minister Meloni's governing coalition, back government support for heat pumps at 76%. Italy's numbers are not just high; they are politically unanimous in a way that should command attention.

In France, Le Pen and Macron voters agree on heat pumps

- ▶ In a country defined by sharp political polarisation, French voters on opposite sides of the Macron-Le Pen divide are in near-perfect agreement on clean home heating: 69% of Macron voters and 67% of Le Pen voters support government financial support for heat pumps.
- ▶ Broad support for clean energy measures is consistent across the board: 62% believe reducing fossil fuel dependence would make Europe safer; 54% support EU funding for EV production and charging infrastructure; and 56% support government funding for household EV purchases. Meanwhile, 56% back greater EU cooperation during the current geopolitical situation.

Germany reports strongest cross-party support for European cooperation including, strikingly, among AfD voters

- ▶ Two-thirds (67%) of Germans say European cooperation has become more important. That figure includes 45% of AfD voters, with an extra 34% of this group saying that countries should be looking to work together anyway, a result that sits sharply at odds with the party's broader political positioning.
- ▶ Meanwhile, 68% overall believe European energy independence would make Europe safer (joint highest with Spain). On industrial policy, 70% of CDU/CSU voters support EU funding for electric vehicle manufacturing and charging infrastructure. This is virtually identical to the 68% recorded among SPD voters, and a striking vote of confidence for electromobility despite ongoing national debates on EV policy. On heat pumps, CDU/CSU support reaches 66%.

Spain is all in, from EVs to energy independence

- ▶ Spain records the highest or joint-highest figures across nearly every measure surveyed. Government funding for EVs and heat pumps earns majority support at 56% and 59% respectively. Approximately 6 in 10 (63%) support EU funding for EV manufacturing and charging infrastructure, while 68% believe European energy independence would make Europe safer (joint highest support alongside Germany). The same number believe that it is more important now for countries to work together.
- ▶ A majority of Partido Popular (55%) voters (PP, Spain's conservative right-wing opposition) support more government funding for heat pumps and more EU (65%) and

government funding for EVs (52%) . On the latter, PP voters are only 10 points behind PSOE's 62% (Spain's governing socialist party).

Heat pump support commands a majority in Poland

- ▶ Support for heat pump deployment in Poland is 51%, while 58% of respondents believe that reducing Europe's dependence on imported oil and gas would make Europe safer. Every political group except the United Right (opposition party, at 47%) records above 65% on the latter point, with Koalicja Obywatelska (KO, the centre-right governing coalition) at 77%. Although Poland is an outlier, even here the direction of travel is clear.
- ▶ Support for EV subsidies (37%) and home charging points (39%) falls short of a majority, and Poland is the only country where opponents outnumber supporters when it comes to EV subsidies (government financial support for purchasing EVs and for installing home charging points opposed at rates of 44% and 42%, respectively). However, on European cooperation, 45% believe the geopolitical situation makes it more important for countries to work together, with 32% believing they should work together anyway.
- ▶ The centre-right governing coalition tells a particularly interesting story: Koalicja Obywatelska voters back EU EV funding at 69% (far above the Polish national average (50%)) and two-thirds (66%) support government funding for heat pump installations.

What should policymakers do with these findings?

These findings demonstrate a **political opportunity**. Europe now has the chance to rebuild a shared political narrative around independence, protection and prosperity that positions the clean energy transition not as a burden, but as a project of European safety.

At a time when citizens are demanding greater stability and security, continued defence of fossil fuel dependence means defending volatility, external vulnerability and economic fragility. That is an increasingly untenable position.

The opportunity this creates for driving the electrification debate as a mainstream, non-partisan, European project, is significant.

Our three asks

- ▶ **Accelerate electrification.** With strong public support for electrification across Europe, the EU has an opportunity to deliver an Electrification Action Plan that meets that mandate. The plan should accelerate heat pumps, EVs, and charging infrastructure as the backbone of energy security.
- ▶ **Reduce fossil fuel dependence.** Europeans have made it clear: less fossil fuels means greater security. Policymakers must approach reducing fossil fuel dependence as a goal in its own right, pursued with the same zeal as the electrification rollout.

- ▶ **Increase energy cooperation.** European countries must work together to overcome Europe's vulnerabilities, and build energy independence, as supported by its citizens. This means cooperating on grids, infrastructure, and joint procurement, to ensure a resilient and affordable clean energy transition for all Member States.

Annex

Polling methodology

All figures, unless otherwise stated, are from YouGov Plc. Total sample size was 5,149 adults. Fieldwork was undertaken between 6th - 18th May 2026. The survey was carried out online. The figures have been weighted and are representative of all adults in the countries surveyed (aged 18+).

The following questions were asked to all respondents:

1. *To what extent, if at all, would you support or oppose your government increasing financial support to households for each of the following?*
 - a. *Purchasing electric vehicles*
 - b. *Installing electric vehicle charging points in homes*
 - c. *Installing heat pumps*
2. *To what extent, if at all, would you support or oppose the EU specifically funding the development and expansion of electric vehicle production and charging infrastructure in the EU?*
3. *To what extent, if at all, would you support or oppose governments imposing taxes on oil and gas companies across all of Europe who see higher-than-usual profits as a result of higher global energy prices?*
4. *Do you think the current geopolitical situation makes it more or less important for countries to work together, or does it make no difference?*
5. *Imagine that Europe reduced its dependence on imported oil and gas, instead investing in European energy sources. Do you think this would make Europe more or less safe, or would it have no impact?*

About

E3G

E3G is an independent think tank working to deliver a safe climate for all.

We drive systemic action on climate by identifying barriers and constructing coalitions to advance the solutions needed. We create spaces for honest dialogue, and help guide governments, businesses and the public on how to deliver change at the pace the planet demands.

More information is available at www.e3g.org

TRANSPORT & ENVIRONMENT (T&E)

Transport & Environment (T&E) is Europe's leading advocate for an accelerated transition for clean transport and energy. Its vision for the coming years is to deliver a zero-emission transport and energy system that is affordable, circular, and has minimal impacts on our health and the environment.

<https://www.transportenvironment.org/>

The Electrification Alliance

The electrification Alliance is a coalition of leading associations who believe that electricity is the key energy carrier for an efficient, decarbonised, and cost-effective European future. The alliance brings together experts from renewable energy, transport, heating, grid infrastructure, and electrification technologies, united by a shared vision: a future where electricity drives Europe's energy system, reducing emissions, enhancing energy efficiency, and ensuring affordable power for all. For more information: electrification-alliance.eu

COPYRIGHT

This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution – NonCommercial – ShareAlike 4.0 License.

© E3G 2026

