



**FRIEDRICH NAUMANN
FOUNDATION** For Freedom.

European Dialogue

European Citizens' Perspectives on EU Foreign Policy

Values, Security, and the Veto-System



European Citizen's Perspectives on EU Foreign Policy: Values, Security, and the Veto-System

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Abstract

**Sample size of approx
275 people in each
country**

10 EU countries

April 14th to 17th 2023

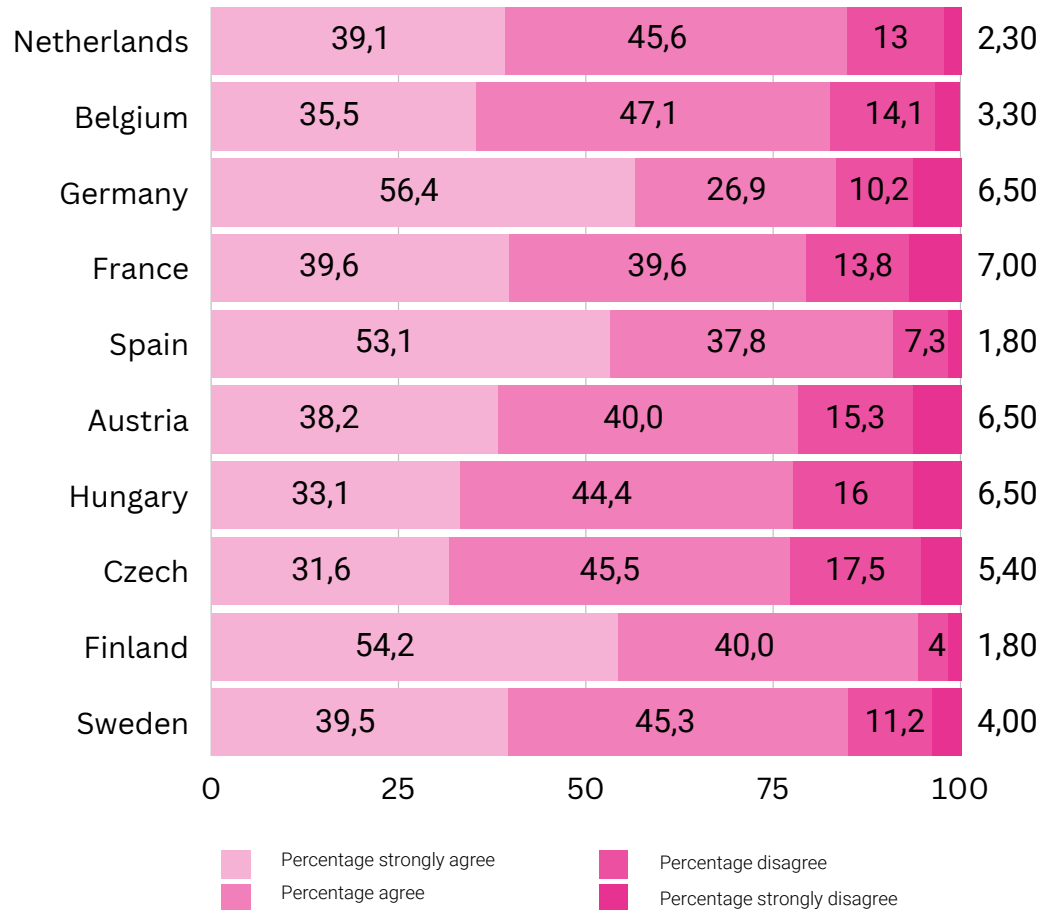
The research consists of 2 types of questions:

Single questions: respondents are presented with four answer options: “strongly agree”, “agree”, “disagree”, or “strongly disagree”.

Multiple-choice: these questions require respondents to select two answers for each question.

Survey Results

1. The invasion of Ukraine by Russia clearly shows the need for a stronger joint European foreign policy.

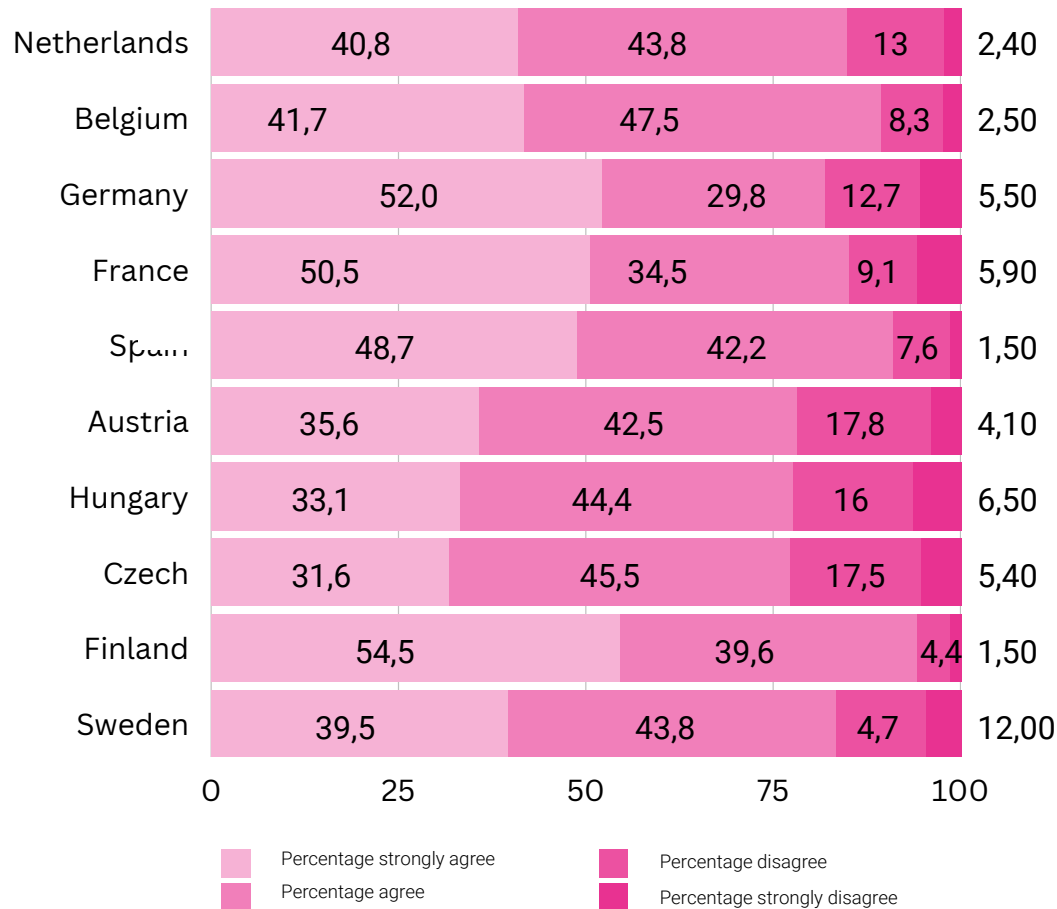


Conclusion

All 10 EU countries agree to strongly agree on the proposition for a stronger joint European foreign policy in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

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2. The invasion of Ukraine by Russia makes clear that it is time for EU member states to work closer together on defense and security.



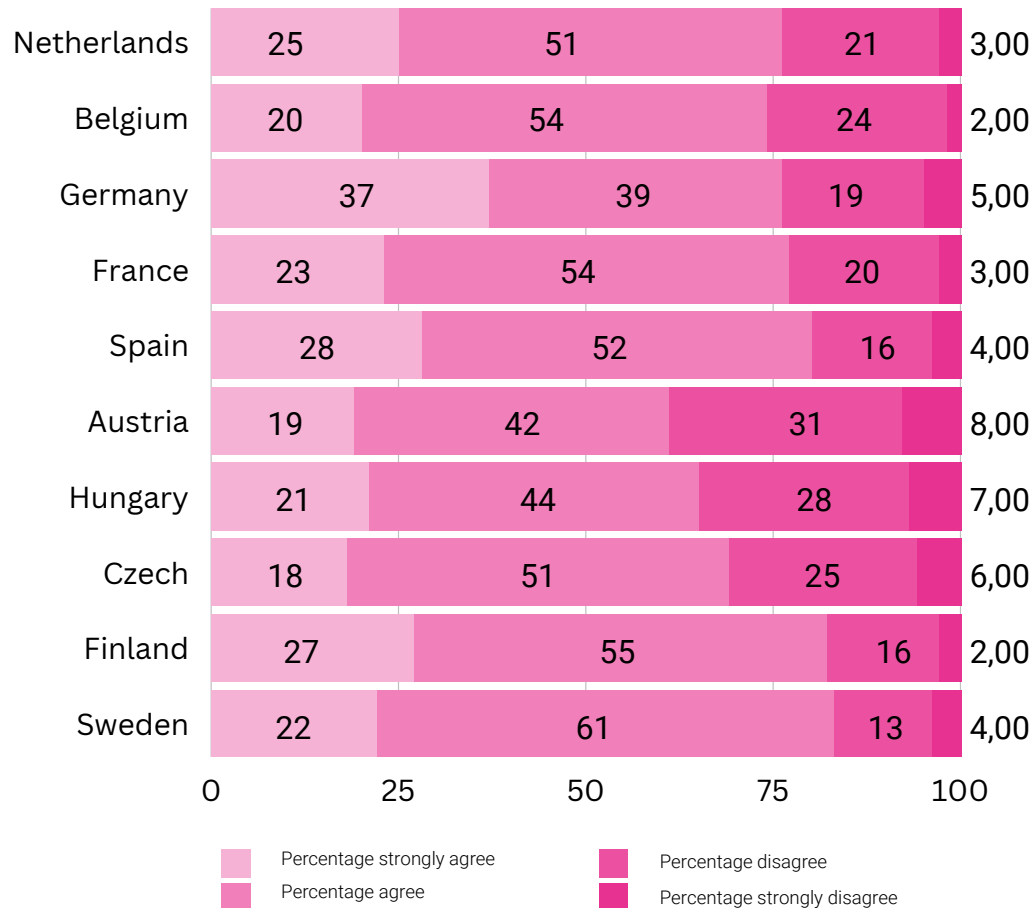
Conclusion

All 10 EU countries agree to strongly agree that's time for EU member states to work closer together on defense and security.

Take a closer look at Finland!

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3. The EU Council's veto system on matters of foreign policy stands in the way of a strong European response to security crises such as the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

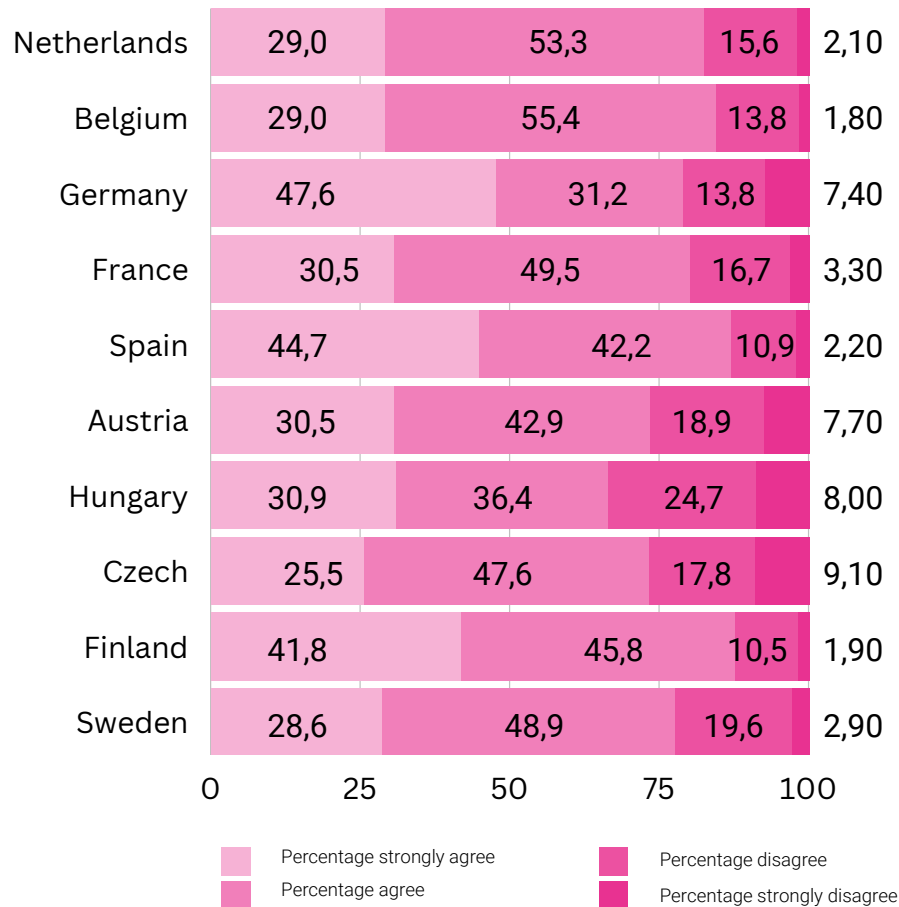


Conclusion

All 10 EU countries agree with this statement. Respondents from Austria, Hungary, and the Czech Republic are slightly less positive.

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4. The EU council should reform the veto system on matters of foreign policy and move to a clear majority voting system.



Conclusion

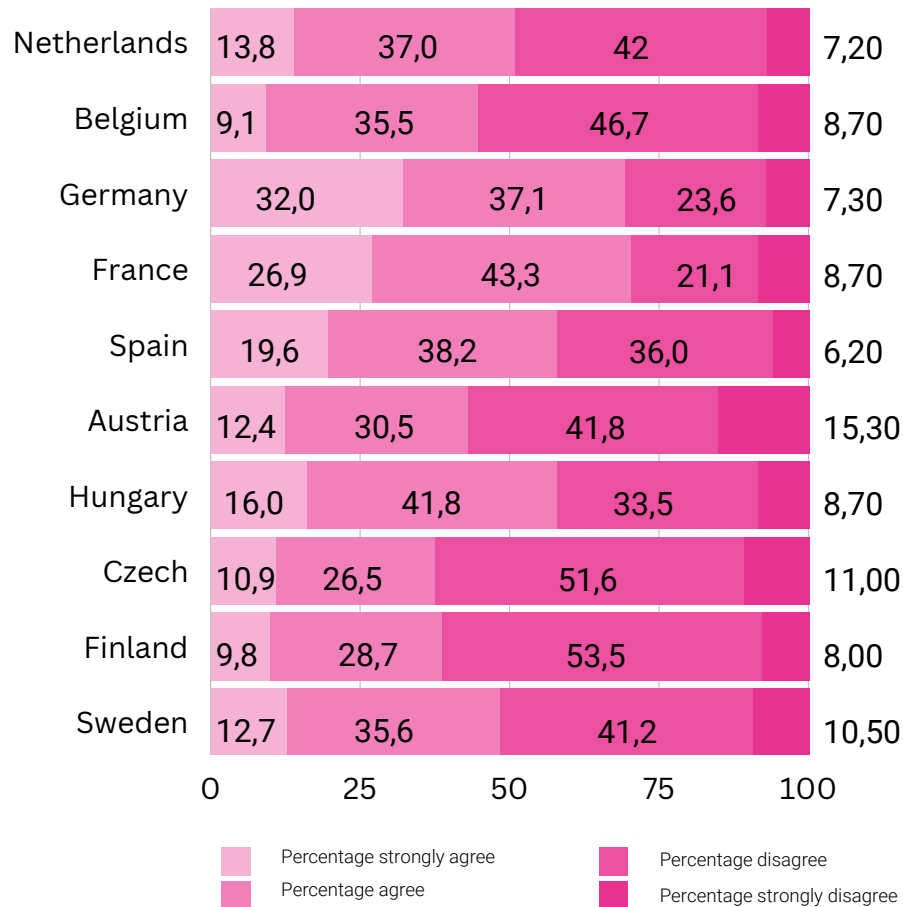
Once again, the ten EU countries agree with this statement.

Especially: Finland, Spain, Belgium, the Netherlands, France, Germany, and Sweden.

Respondents from Hungary, Austria, and the Czech Republic are also in favor of a clear majority voting system, but less strongly than respondents from the above-mentioned countries.

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5. Germany and France should take a more leading role in matters of EU Foreign policy.



Conclusion

It is not surprising that respondents from France and Germany are most in agreement with this statement.

Respondents from the Czech Republic, Finland, and Austria see absolutely no need for a more leading role in matters of EU Foreign policy for Germany and France.

6. What is the biggest lesson for the EU from the Russian invasion of Ukraine?

- 1 EU member states need to cooperate more.

- 2 EU needs stronger defense cooperation.

- 3 Sanctions are not enough.

Conclusion

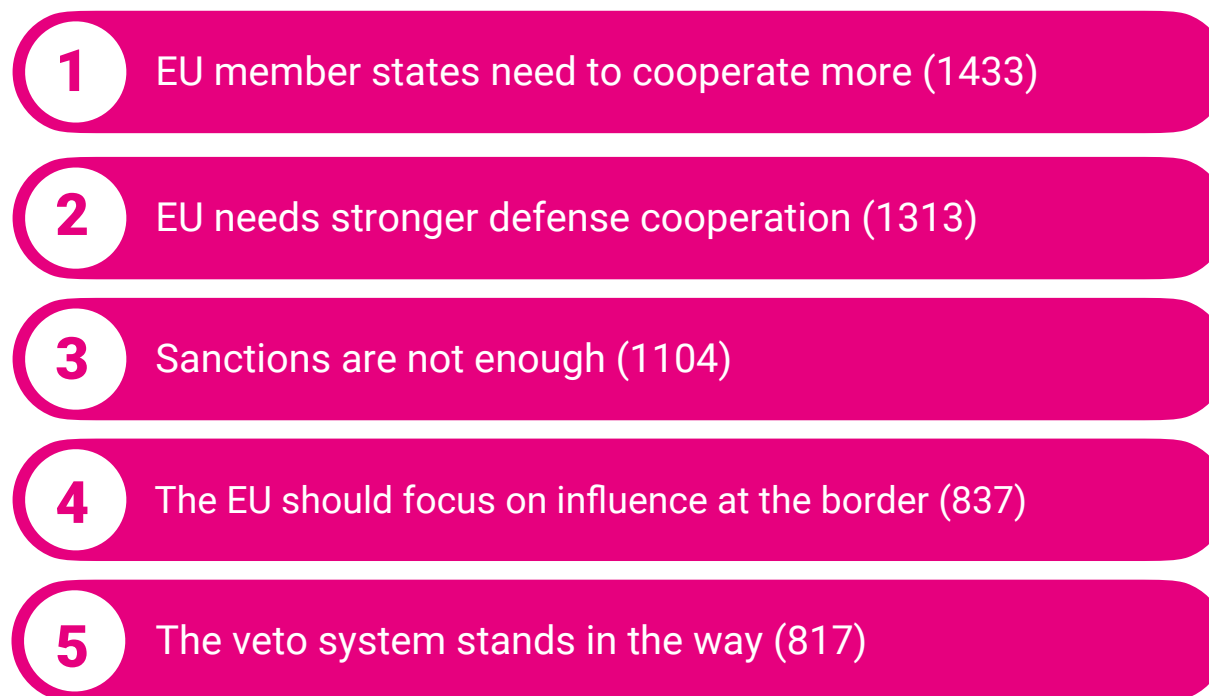
Respondents had to select two answers for each multiple-choice question.

Respondents from the Czech Republic, Hungary, Austria, Spain, and the Netherlands most strongly believe that EU member states need to cooperate more in response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Sweden, Finland, France, Germany, and Belgium are most in favor of a stronger defense cooperation within the EU.

Sample Size: 2752

6. What is the biggest lesson for the EU from the Russian invasion of Ukraine?



Sample Size: 2752

6. What is the biggest lesson for the EU from the Russian invasion of Ukraine?



1. EU member states need to cooperate more (137).
2. EU needs stronger defense cooperation (128).



1. EU needs stronger defense cooperation (118).
2. EU member states need to cooperate more (116).



1. EU needs stronger defense cooperation (145).
2. EU member states need to cooperate more (132).



1. EU needs stronger defense cooperation (129).
2. EU member states need to cooperate more (127).



1. EU needs stronger defense cooperation (154).
2. EU member states need to cooperate more (147).



1. EU member states need to cooperate more (138).
2. EU needs stronger defense cooperation (124).



1. EU member states need to cooperate more (159).
2. EU needs stronger defense cooperation (124).



1. EU member states need to cooperate more (137).
2. EU needs stronger defense cooperation (135).



1. EU member states need to cooperate more (162).
2. Sanctions are not enough (116).



1. EU needs stronger defense cooperation (147).
2. EU member states need to cooperate more (134).

Sample Size: 2752

7. If the EU should have a stronger joint foreign policy, what should its priorities and/or characteristics be?



Conclusion

This is remarkable (or maybe not remarkable at all): the respondents from the 10 EU member states prioritize security as the most important aspect for a stronger joint foreign policy.

Sample Size: 2752

7. If the EU should have a stronger joint foreign policy, what should its priorities and/or characteristics be?



Sample Size: 2752

7. If the EU should have a stronger joint foreign policy, what should its priorities and/or characteristics be?



1. Security (158).
2. Defend human rights and democracy (117).



1. Security (155).
2. Defend human rights and democracy (107).



1. Security (122).
2. Defend human rights and democracy (111).



1. Security (138).
2. Defend human rights and democracy (134).



1. Security (140).
2. Defend human rights and democracy (109).



1. Security (136).
2. Defend human rights and democracy (132).



1. Security (144).
2. Defend human rights and democracy (139).



1. Security (139).
2. Defend human rights and democracy (136).



1. Security (190).
2. Defend human rights and democracy (115).



1. Security (182).
2. Defend human rights and democracy (116).

Sample Size: 2752

8. What is the biggest danger facing the EU right now, that we could address with a stronger joint EU foreign policy?



Conclusion

Respondents from Hungary and Austria see immigration as the biggest danger facing the EU right now.

While the other EU member states consider the threat of Putin's Russia as the biggest danger.

Sample Size: 2752

8. What is the biggest danger facing the EU right now, that we could address with a stronger joint EU foreign policy?



Sample Size: 2752

8. What is the biggest danger facing the EU right now, that we could address with a stronger joint EU foreign policy?



1. The threat of Putin's Russia (120).
2. Immigration (87).



1. The threat of Putin's Russia (123).
2. Immigration (93).



1. The threat of Putin's Russia (110).
2. Immigration (87).



1. The threat of Putin's Russia (148).
2. Increasing Chinese power (79).



1. The threat of Putin's Russia (118).
2. Immigration (72).



1. The threat of Putin's Russia (116).
2. Losing our position as a leading economy (75).



1. Immigration (94).
2. The threat of Putin's Russia (86).



1. Immigration (109).
2. The threat of Putin's Russia (98).



1. The threat of Putin's Russia (138).
2. Immigration (109).



1. The threat of Putin's Russia (175).
2. Increasing Chinese power (75).

Sample Size: 2752

9. Which values should be central to a joint EU foreign policy?



Conclusion

Respondents from 9 EU member states see security as the most important value in a joint EU foreign policy.

Austrian respondents consider human rights as the most important value in joint EU foreign policy.

Sample Size: 2752

9. Which values should be central to a joint EU foreign policy?



Sample Size: 2752

9. Which values should be central to a joint EU foreign policy?



1. Security (166).
2. Freedom (132).



1. Security (168).
2. Freedom (102).



1. Security (140).
2. Human rights (127).



1. Security (151).
2. Freedom (95).



1. Security (131).
2. Human rights (113).



1. Security (138).
2. Human rights (137).



1. Human Rights (123).
2. Freedom (108).



1. Security (158).
2. Human rights (123).



1. Security (160).
2. Freedom (100).



1. Security (185).
2. Human rights (119).

Sample Size: 2752

Key Takeaways



Important values are Security, human rights and freedom



Answers are quite similar across EU



Security is a big concern EU wide



Talking about more cooperation on foreign policy is a winner

1. Respondents are influenced in their thinking about EU foreign policy by Russian invasion of Ukraine and draw concrete lessons from it. The general sentiment is towards stronger EU cooperation.

2. Respondents agree on the need for more cooperation on foreign policy across the board

3. Security is their biggest concern and together with defending human rights & democracy a clear driver for a joint EU foreign policy. Economy plays insignificant role.

4. The respondents clearly see the benefit of moving to a non-veto system.

5. The most important values for a EU foreign policy are security, human rights and freedom.

Sample Size: 2752

Imprint

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