

A study



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**European Space Agency  
Agence spatiale européenne**

# Europeans and space activities

How do Europeans perceive issues related to space?

**October 2019**

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# Summary

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# Study methodology



Study carried out **online** between **25 September – 3 October 2019**.



Sample of **5,395** Europeans, comprising 5 representative samples of the national population aged 18 or over in each of the following countries:

- Sample of 1,062 people representative of the population aged 18 and over in Germany
- Sample of 1,054 people representative of the population aged 18 and over in France
- Sample of 1,064 people representative of the population aged 18 and over in the United Kingdom
- Sample of 1,138 people representative of the population aged 18 and over in Italy
- Sample of 1,077 people representative of the population aged 18 and over in Spain



Approach to quotas and adjustment applied to each of the following variables in each national sample: interviewee's gender, age, socio-professional category and region

The influence of each country in the global sample has been **weighted according to the number of inhabitants** aged 18 or over in each country.



Reading aid for the detailed results:

- The figures shown are expressed as percentages.
- For the purposes of this document, the term “Europeans” refers to inhabitants of 1 of the 5 countries covered by this study. The results obtained in the different countries are represented by flags:

# Confidence interval

The confidence interval (sometimes called “margin of error”) determines the trust which can be placed on a particular value, taking into account the value observed and the sample size. If the calculation of the confidence interval concerns randomised surveys, it is generally acknowledged that the figure would be close to that obtained from surveys carried out with a quota method.

Sample size	5% or 95%	10% or 90%	20% or 80%	30% or 70%	40% or 60%	50%
100 interviews	4.4	6	8	9.2	9.8	10
200 interviews	3.1	4.3	5.7	6.5	6.9	7.1
300 interviews	2.5	3.5	4.6	5.3	5.7	5.8
400 interviews	2.2	3	4	4.6	4.9	5
500 interviews	2	2.7	3.6	4.1	4.4	4.5
600 interviews	1.8	2.4	3.3	3.8	4	4.1
800 interviews	1.5	2.1	2.8	3.2	3.4	3.5
1,000 interviews	1.4	1.8	2.5	2.9	3	3.1
2,000 interviews	1	1.3	1.8	2.1	2.2	2.3
3,000 interviews	0.8	1.1	1.5	1.7	1.8	1.8
4,000 interviews	0.7	0.9	1.3	1.5	1.6	1.6
6,000 interviews	0.6	0.8	1.1	1.3	1.4	1.4

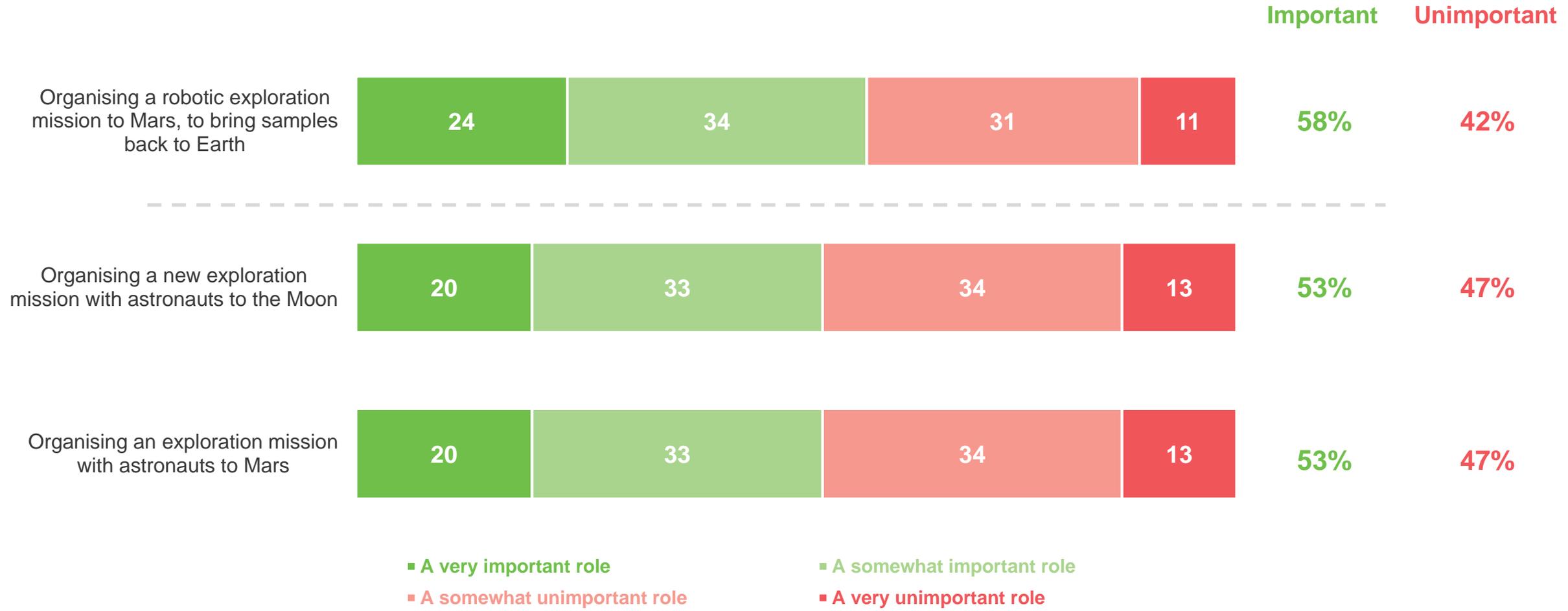
# Space exploration



# 6 out of 10 Europeans believe that Europe should play a significant role in organising a robotic exploration mission to Mars to bring samples back to Earth

In your opinion, how important should Europe's role be in each of the following space projects?

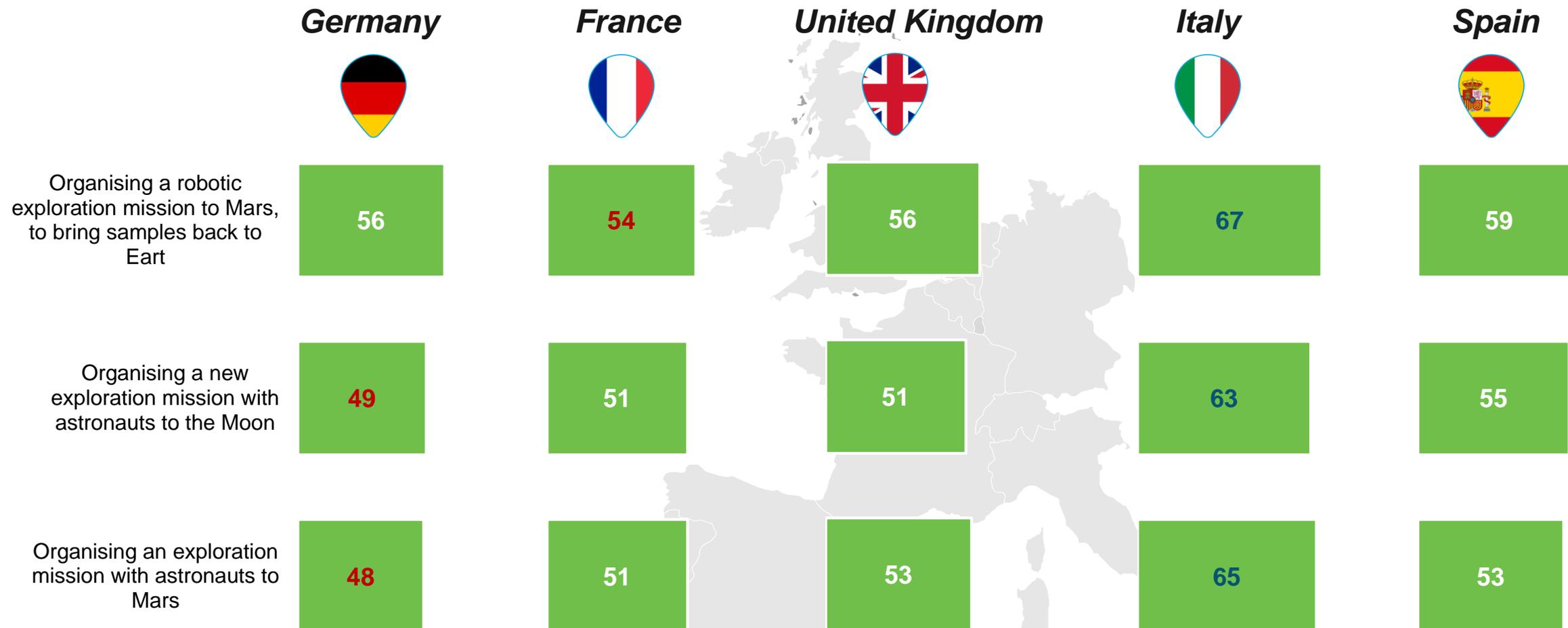
- To all, in % -



# Italian people believe that Europe should play a more significant role in every exploration mission, while German people would rather see Europe focus its efforts on robotic exploration

In your opinion, how important should Europe's role be in each of the following space projects?

- To all, in % of « Important » -



# Space safety & security



# 73% of Europeans agree that the major space powers are responsible for cleaning up space debris orbiting Earth, but 71% also think that private companies should be involved in the clean-up

Listed below are two statements concerning the cleaning up of space debris orbiting Earth. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

- To all, % -

Agree Disagree

The major space powers are responsible for cleaning up space debris orbiting Earth, even if it has been created in part by private space missions



73%

27%

Private companies should be involved in the cleanup of space debris orbiting Earth



71%

29%

■ Completely agree ■ Mostly agree ■ Mostly disagree ■ Completely disagree

# Italian and Spanish people are more convinced that both space powers and private companies should be involved in the clean-up of space debris, slightly more so than in Germany or in the UK

Listed below are two statements concerning the cleaning up of space debris orbiting Earth. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

- To all, in % of « Agree » -

## Germany



The major space powers are responsible for cleaning up space debris orbiting Earth, even if it has been created in part by private space missions

69

Private companies should be involved in the cleanup of space debris orbiting Earth

68

## France



74

71

## United Kingdom



70

68

## Italy



80

77

## Spain



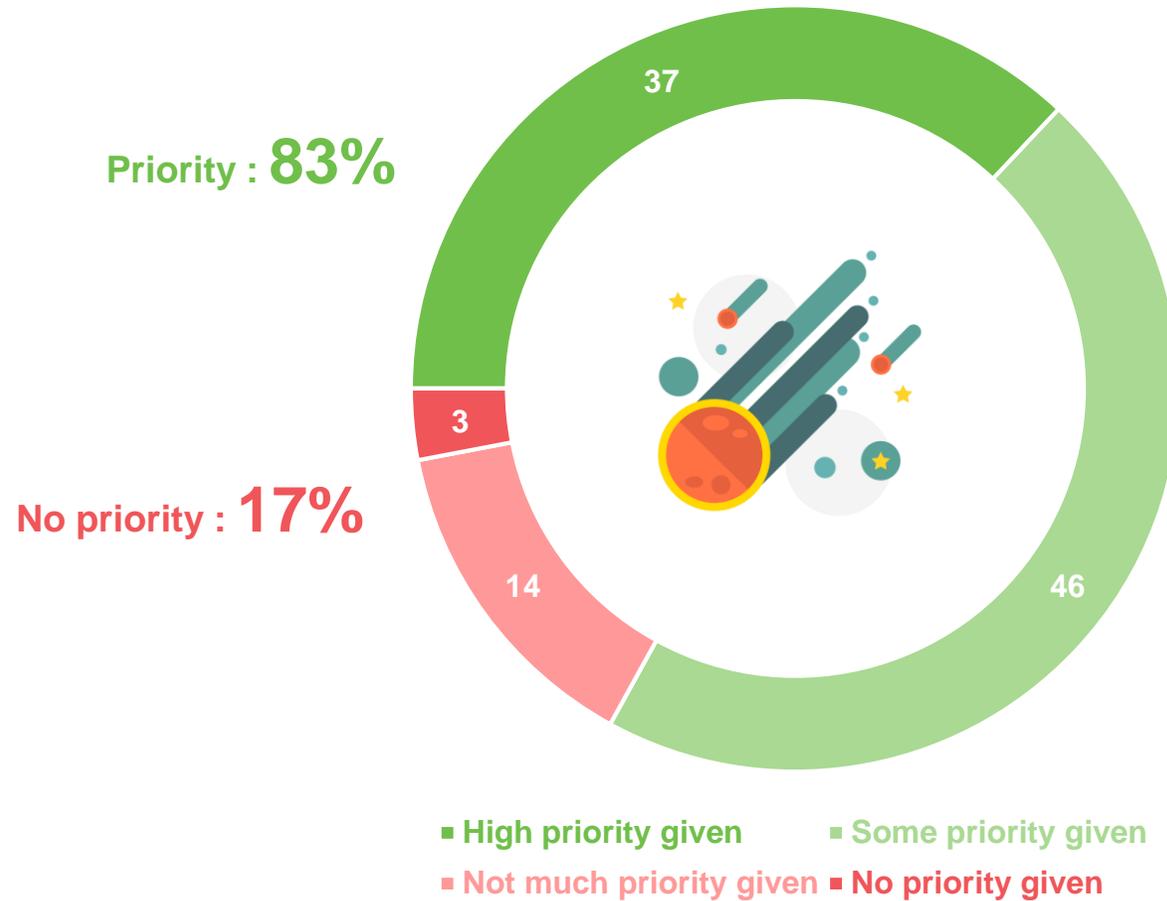
76

75

# A vast majority of Europeans believe that European space activities should prioritise developing methods to divert asteroids heading towards Earth

Do you believe that priority should be given or not for European space activities to develop methods to divert asteroids heading towards Earth?

- To all, in % -



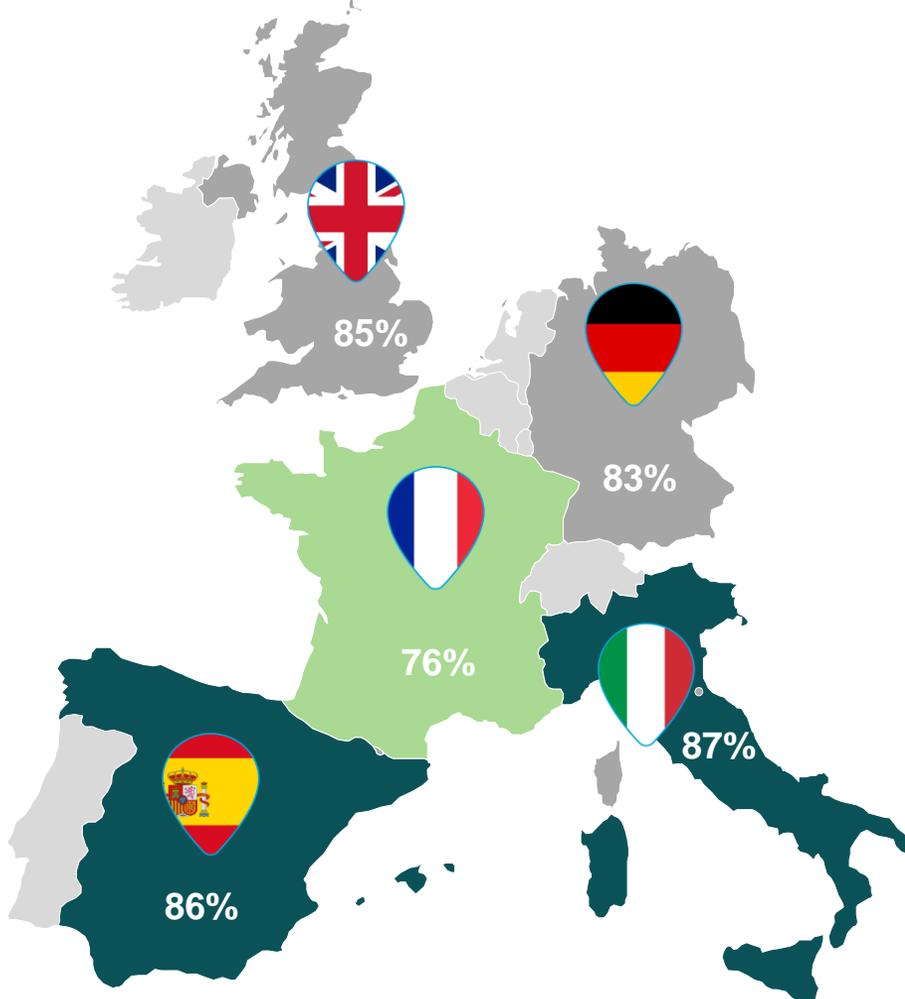
# More than ¾ of the population agree with this in all countries; and even more so in Italy and Spain

Do you believe that priority should be given or not for European space activities to develop methods to divert asteroids heading towards Earth?

- To all, in % of « Priority » -



European average:  
**83%**  
believe that should be  
given for European  
space activities



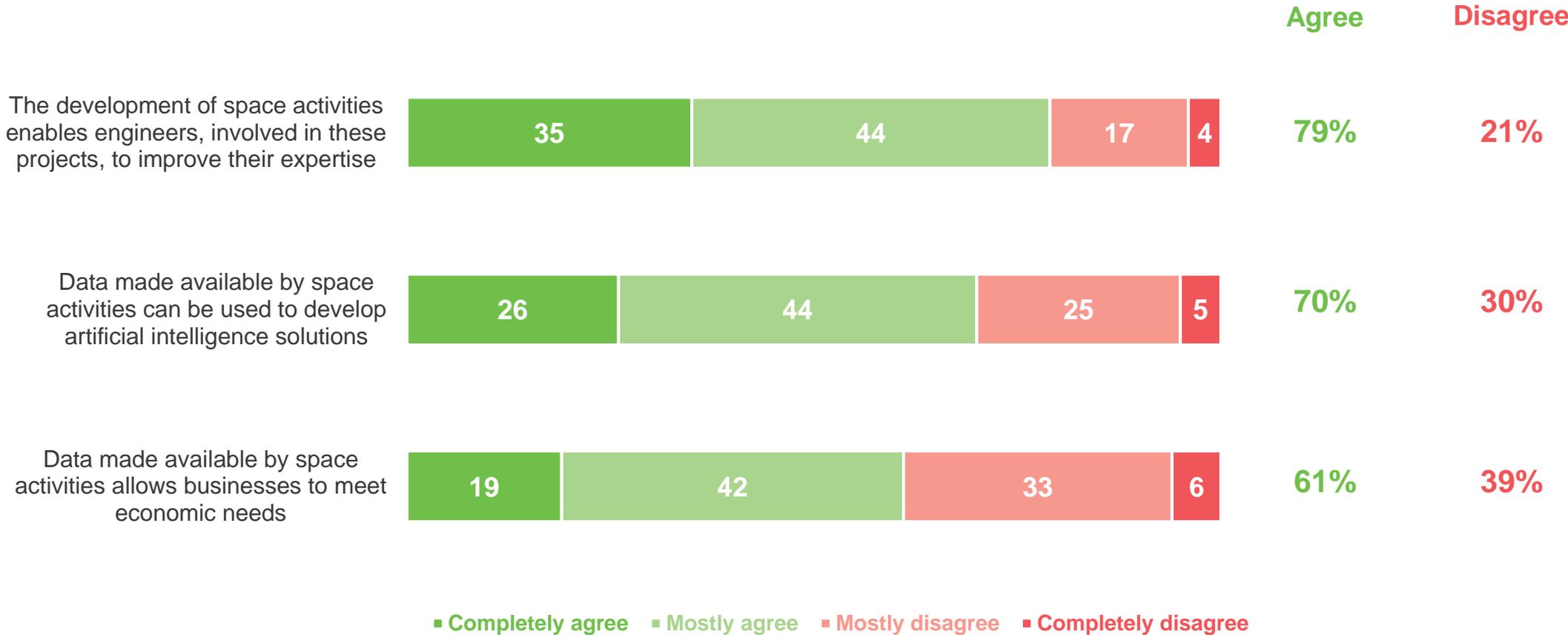
# Applications of space activities



**A majority of Europeans believe that the development of space activities mainly enables engineers to improve their expertise, but can also be used to develop AI solutions or to allow businesses to meet economic needs**

Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements regarding space activities?

- To all, % -



# In Italy and Spain, people are more convinced that space activities bring multiple benefits to the economy

Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements regarding space activities?

- To all, in % of « Agree » -

**Germany**



**France**



**United Kingdom**



**Italy**



**Spain**



The development of space activities enables engineers, involved in these projects, to improve their expertise

74

75

79

87

79

Data made available by space activities can be used to develop artificial intelligence solutions

63

67

66

80

76

Data made available by space activities allows businesses to meet economic needs

56

58

57

70

64

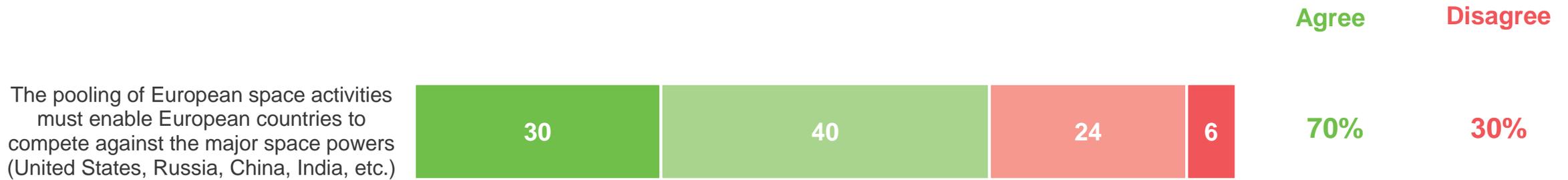
# European cooperation in space activities



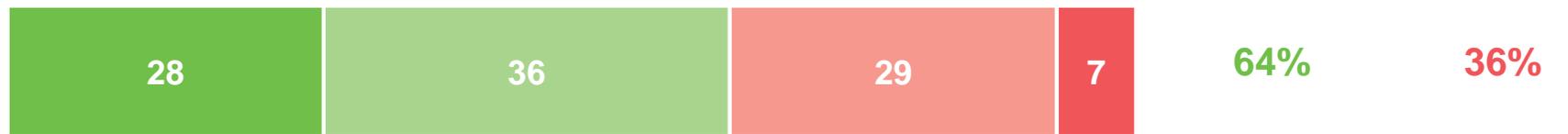
## 2 out of 3 Europeans agree that European countries working together on space activities would enable them to compete against the major space powers, and that these activities should be independent of decisions made by other major powers

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

- To all, % -



European space activities should be independent of decisions made by other major powers (United States, Russia, China, India, etc.)

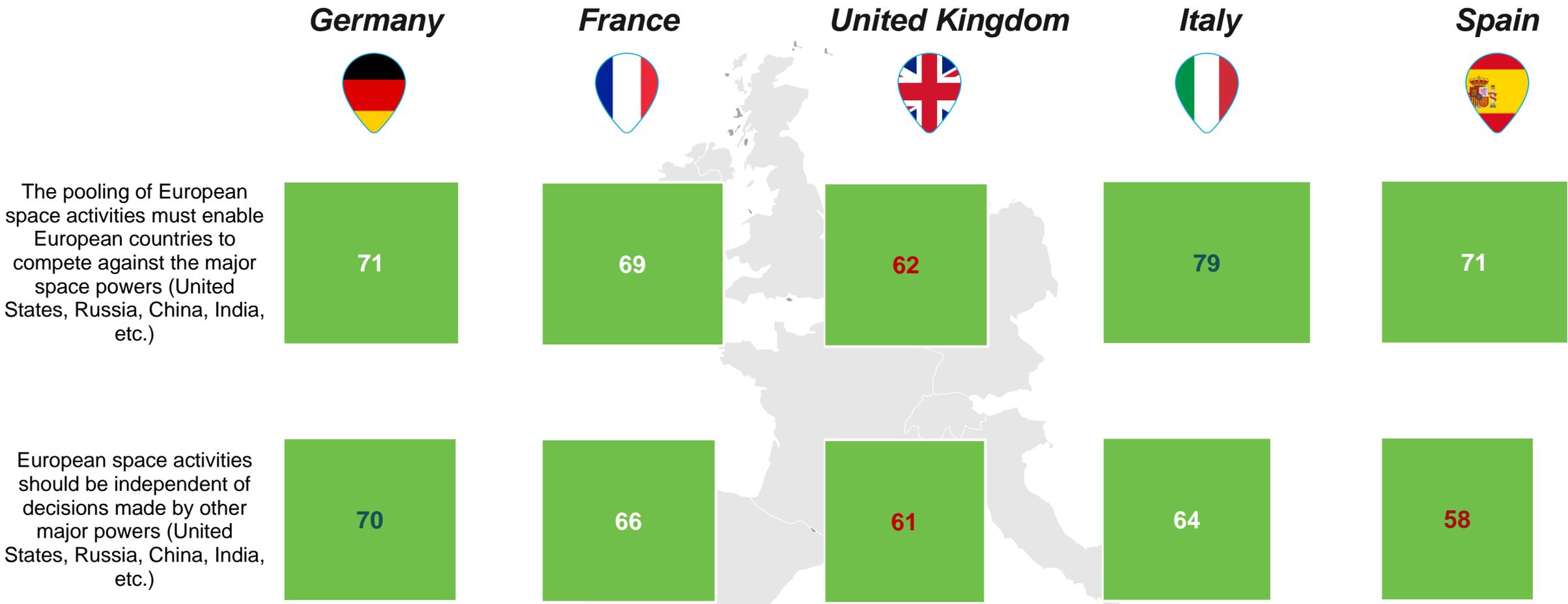


■ Completely agree ■ Mostly agree ■ Mostly disagree ■ Completely disagree

# These expectations regarding pooling European resources are shared in all countries, even if British people show less enthusiasm than their continental counterparts

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

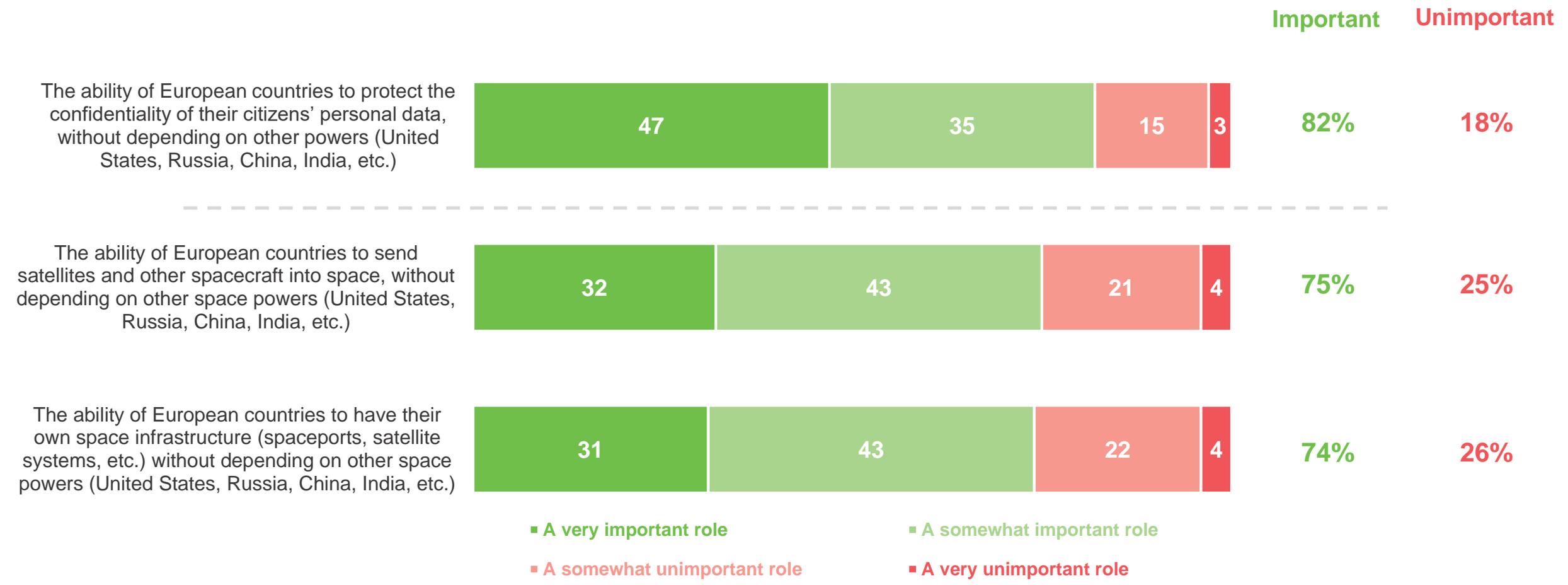
- To all, in % of « Agree » -



# More specifically, at least 3 out of 4 Europeans believe it is important to protect the independence of European space activities, not only regarding their citizens' personal data, but also regarding their access to space

More specifically, how important do you consider the independence of European space activities compared to other major space powers (United States, Russia, China, India, etc.), in the following areas...?

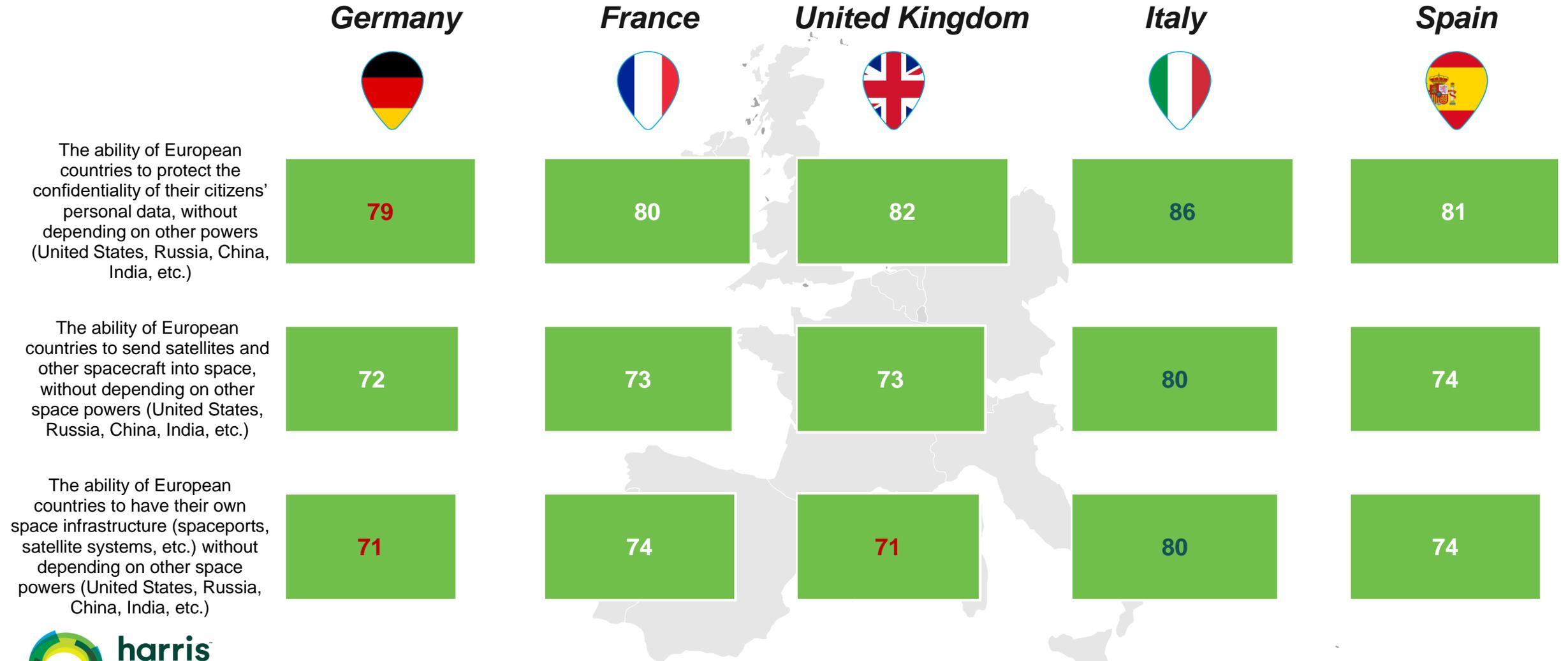
- To all, % -



# These opinions about European independence in space activities are shared in all countries, and even more so in Italy

More specifically, how important do you consider the independence of European space activities compared to other major space powers (United States, Russia, China, India, etc.), in the following areas...?

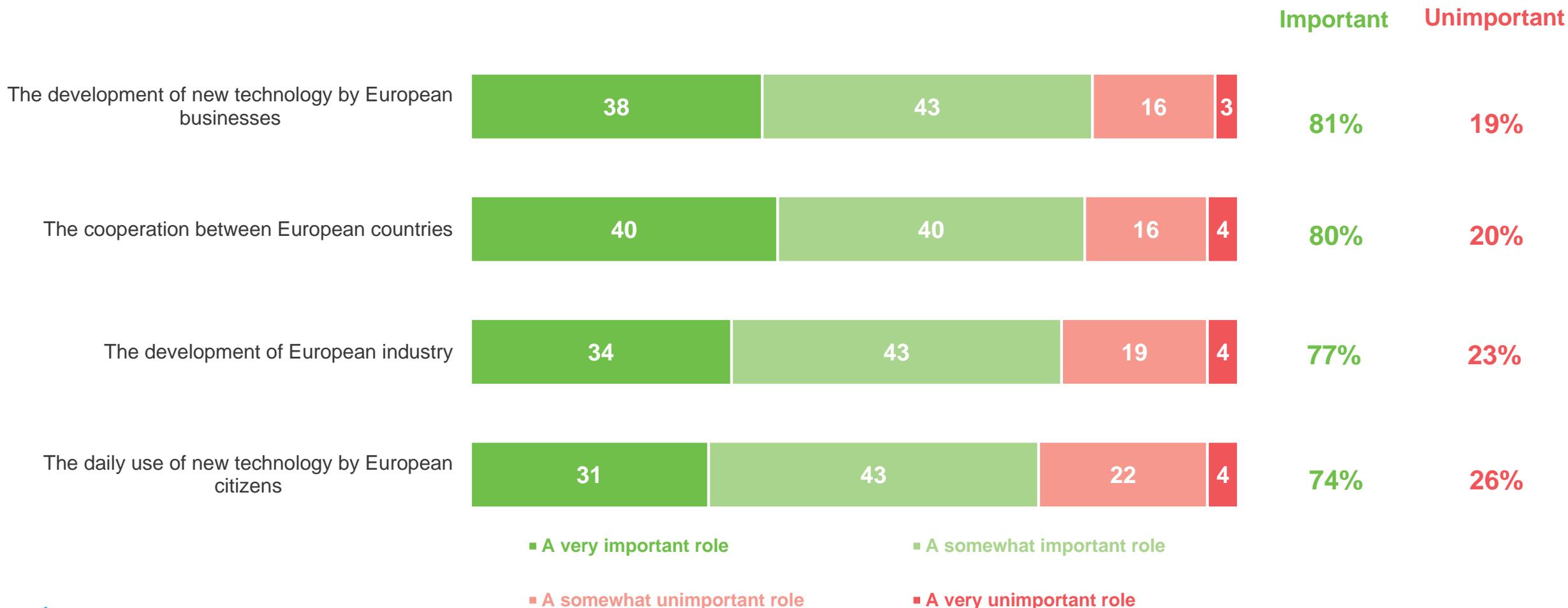
- To all, in % of « Important » -



# Overall, Europeans believe that European space activities play an important role in developing industry and new technologies, as well as in encouraging cooperation between countries

How important do you believe the impact of the development of European space activities is on the following areas... ?

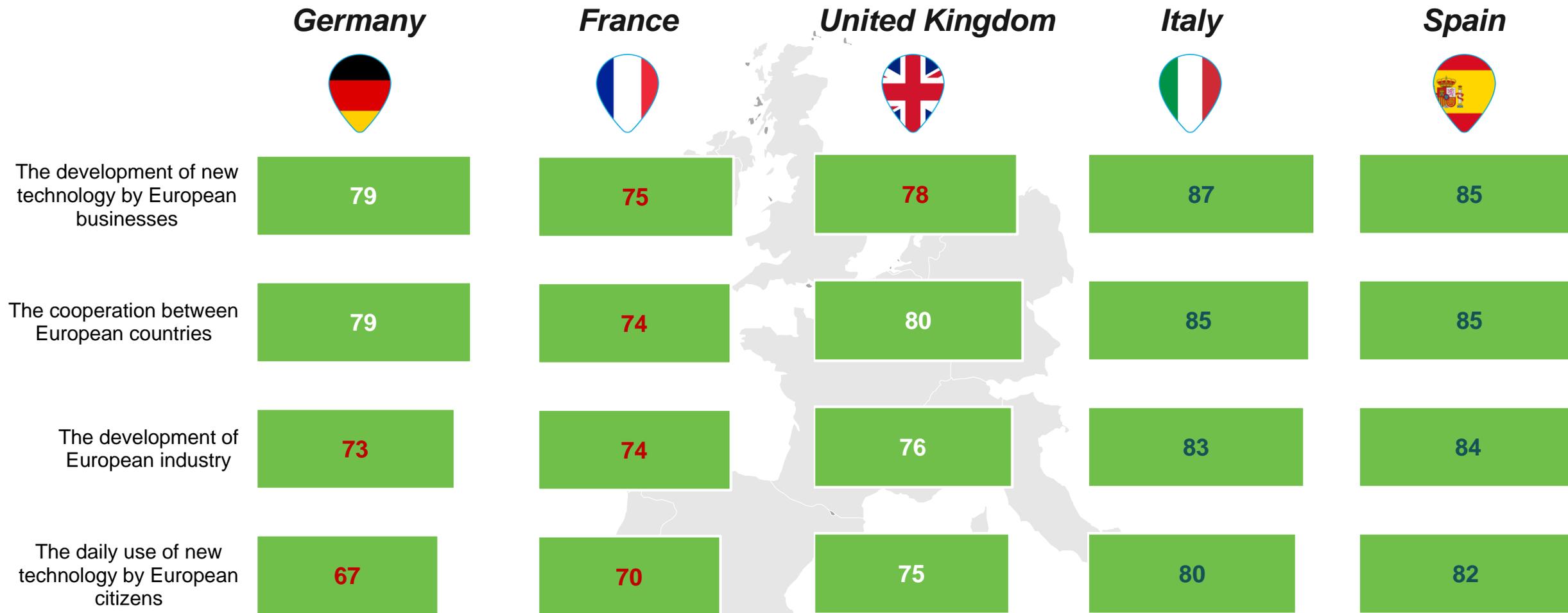
- To all, % -



# Once again, Italian and Spanish people prove more enthusiastic about the impact European space activities have, while French people are slightly less convinced of each benefit

How important do you believe the impact of the development of European space activities is on the following areas... ?

- To all, in % of « Important » -



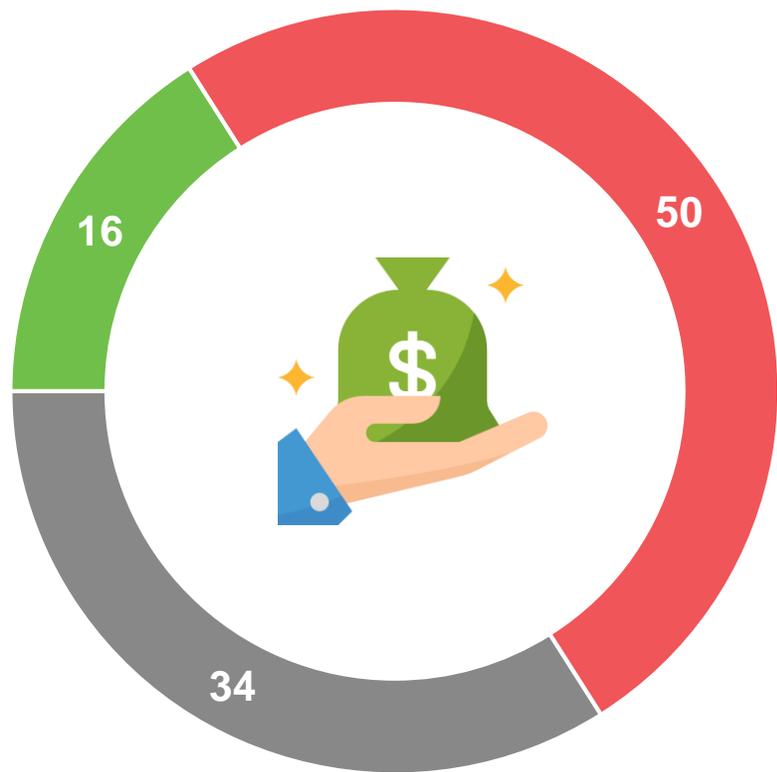
# Funding of space activities



# Half of Europeans believe that European space activities are currently underfunded, while only 16% think that they currently receive too much public funding

Do you believe that in relation to other major space powers (United States, Russia, China, India, etc.), European space activities currently have too much, not enough or the right amount of public funding?

- To all, in % -



■ Too much ■ Not enough ■ The right amount

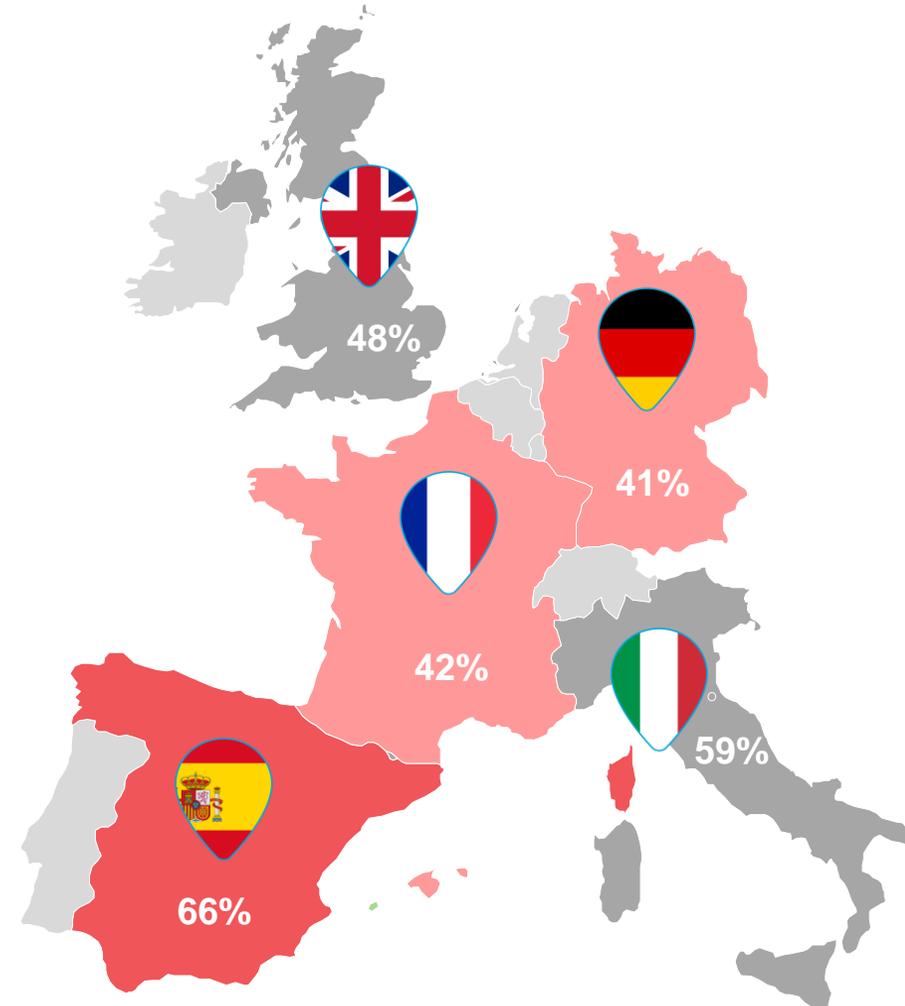
# French and German people are less prone to believing that space activities are underfunded, contrary to Spanish people

Do you believe that in relation to other major space powers (United States, Russia, China, India, etc.), European space activities currently have too much, not enough or the right amount of public funding ?

- To all, in % of « **Not enough** » -



European average:  
**50%**  
believe that European  
space activities  
currently have **not  
enough** public funding



**On average, European citizens claim they would want €287 of their taxes to go towards the development of European space activities. However, one should keep in mind that the general public have little or no idea as to how their taxes are currently distributed**

Of the taxes that you personally pay each year, what is the annual amount (in euros/GBP per year\*) that you would like to see going towards the development of European space activities ?

- To all, in % -

**European average:**

**287 €**

**per year per citizen**

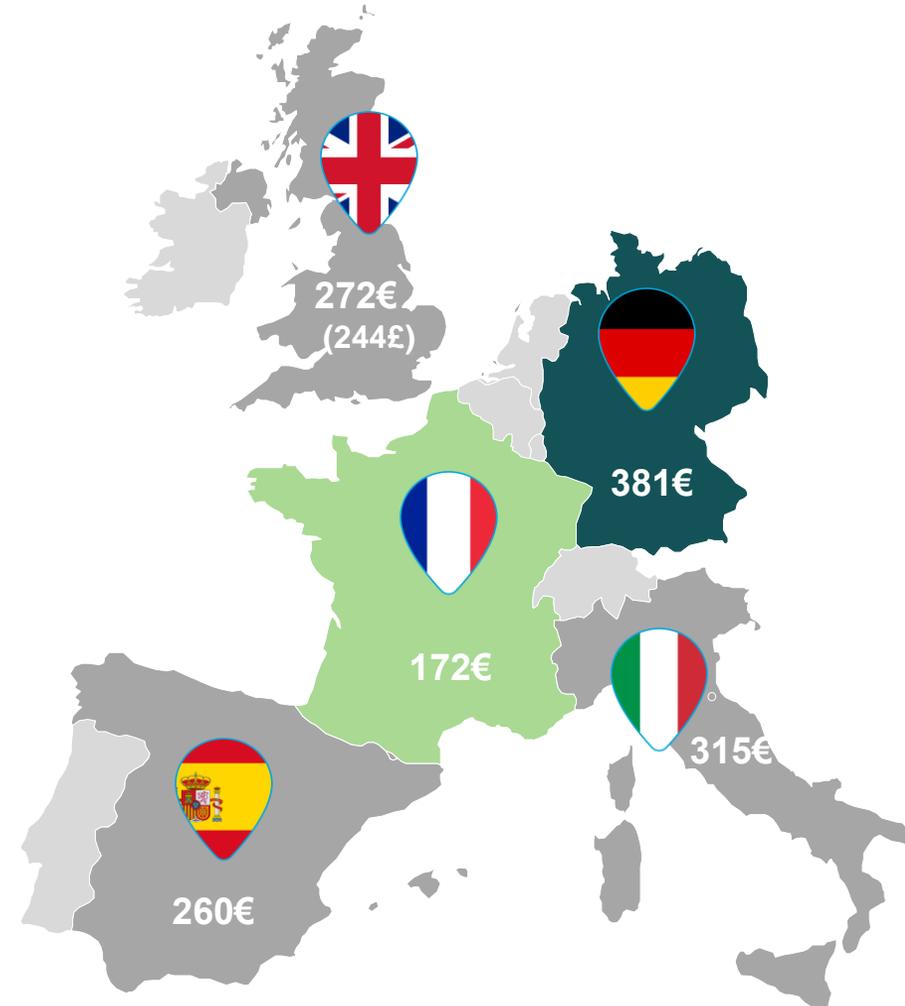


# French people are prepared to contribute a significantly lower amount, while German people are happy with a higher amount

Of the taxes that you personally pay each year, what is the annual amount (in euros/GBP per year) that you would like to see going towards the development of European space activities ?

- To all, on average -

European average:  
**287€**  
per year per citizen



# Contacts

Please note any **distribution of these results** must be accompanied by the following details:  
the **name of the institute**, the **name of the study's sponsor**,  
the **survey method**, the **dates it was carried out** and the **sample size**.

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