



## **Views of US Plans in Iraq**

### **EUROPE BACKGROUNDER**

#### **France**

The French are among those most convinced both that US-led forces should withdraw from Iraq within the next 12 months and that they probably will remain there indefinitely. Three-quarters (75%) of French respondents believe that US troops should withdraw according to a one-year timeline (41%) or immediately (34%). Very few (15%) say that they should stay until the security situation improves. Three in five (59%) also believe that the United States plans to have permanent military bases in Iraq, while only one in five (21%) say it will withdraw all of its troops once Iraq has stabilized.

#### **Germany**

Like the other European publics surveyed, Germans think that the US-led forces should withdraw from Iraq within a year. A majority also believes, however, that the United States plans to keep permanent military bases there. Seventy-two percent say that the US-led forces should pull out either according to a one-year timeline (39%) or immediately (33%). One-quarter (24%) feels that the troops should stay until security in Iraq improves. Nearly three in five (59%) also say they believe that the United States plans to have permanent military bases in Iraq while only 28 percent say its troops will leave once Iraq is stable.

#### **Great Britain**

Like other European publics, a majority of Britons—whose government has begun pulling some of its forces out of Iraq—believe that US-led forces should withdraw within a year. They are unique, however, in that they believe the United States does plan to remove all troops from Iraq once it has stabilized. Sixty-five percent of the British public says that US-led forces should withdraw within one year (38%) or immediately (27%), while 27 percent feel that they should stay until the security situation improves. Great Britain is one of only three countries (and the only European country) with a majority that believes the United States plans to eventually pull out of Iraq completely. Fifty-six percent say the United States plans to remove all its forces once Iraq is stable, while 31 percent say they believe it intends to have forces there indefinitely.

#### **Italy**

Italians share the view of nearly all publics polled that US-led troops should leave Iraq within a year. They are among those most sceptical (second only to Mexican and Turkish respondents) that the United States plans to remove its forces. More than seven in 10

(72%) Italian respondents feel that US-led forces should withdraw from Iraq according to a one-year timetable (44%) or immediately (28%). Less than one-quarter (23%) think that they should remain until Iraq is stable. Nearly three-quarters (73%) say the United States intends to have a permanent military presence in Iraq and less than one-fifth (19%) say it will eventually withdraw.

## **Russia**

Most Russians would like US troops to withdraw from Iraq in the near future, though a modest majority believes that the United States instead plans to establish permanent bases there. Seventy-two percent of Russians favor the US-led forces leaving Iraq within a year: 49 percent say this should happen immediately and 23 percent gradually. Less than one in ten (9%)—among the lowest of the 22 countries polled—believe foreign forces should stay in Iraq until it is stable. A majority of Russians (54%) also think the United States plans to have permanent military bases in Iraq, while just 20 percent say that it plans to remove its forces.

## **Spain**

A majority of Spaniards—whose government ordered its troops home from Iraq in 2004—think the rest of the US-led forces should withdraw within a year, though a considerable number believe the United States intends to keep them there permanently. More than two-thirds (68%) say that US-led forces should leave immediately (47%) or within one year (21%), while just 18 percent say they should stay until Iraq is stable. But Spaniards are a bit less inclined than other Europeans to think the United States plans to keep military bases in Iraq. Nearly half (48%) feel that the United States intends to have permanent bases, while 28 percent say they believe it will remove its forces when Iraq is stabilized.

For more information on this poll, please see the Questionnaire/Methodology:  
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