BAROMETER OF THE ELCANO ROYAL INSTITUTE (BRIE)

16th EDITION
RESULTS OF NOVEMBER 2007
PRESS SUMMARY

Madrid, December 2007
TECHNICAL DATA

- **Universe**: General Spanish population, aged 18 and over.
- **Sample size**: N = 1,200 interviewees.
- **Methodology used**: Telephone (call to interviewee’s home).
- **Sample structure**: Stratified, directly proportionate to the distribution of the Spanish population with proportionate quotas according to the age and sex.
- **Sample error**: ±2.9% for global data (1,200n); ±4.1% for sub-samples (800n); p = q = 0.5 and a confidence interval of 95.5%.
- **Survey period**: Between 26 November and 3 December 2007.
- **Field work**: Gabinete de Análisis Demoscópico (GAD).
ZAPATERO’S FOREIGN POLICY HANDED A PASS GRADE

- Spaniards approve the foreign policy implemented by the government of prime minister José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero. **Fifty-four percent rate it positively**, compared with **39%** who hold a negative view of it.

As might be expected, **responses on this issue are linked to the ideology** of those surveyed. **Seventy-nine percent of socialist (PSOE) voters approve the policy**, whereas only **24%** of conservative (PP) voters do.

- Furthermore, **37% believe that it has been better than the foreign policy implemented by the Aznar government**, compared with **26%** who believe it has been worse.
Once again, the division is along ideological lines. Fifty-nine percent of PSOE voters believe that it has been better, although 21% of PP voters also agree.
OPTIMISM REGARDING MOROCCO

- For 47% of Spaniards, relations with Morocco are now better than they were under Aznar, whereas 30% think they have deteriorated.

- Forty-seven percent of Spaniards believe this will continue to be the case in 2008.

[Graph showing public opinion on Spain-EU influence, Spain-US relations, Illegal immigration, Spain-Morocco relations, and Spain-Venezuela relations regarding whether they will get better, stay the same, get worse, or be DK/NA.]

- In Spain-EU influence, 29% believe it will stay the same, 29% believe it will get better, 12% believe it will get worse, 9% believe it will stay the same, and 10% are DK/NA.

- In Spain-US relations, 26% believe it will stay the same, 26% believe it will get better, 13% believe it will get worse, 9% believe it will stay the same, and 10% are DK/NA.

- In Illegal immigration, 19% believe it will stay the same, 27% believe it will get better, 11% believe it will get worse, 9% believe it will stay the same, and 10% are DK/NA.

- In Spain-Morocco relations, 25% believe it will stay the same, 25% believe it will get better, 16% believe it will get worse, 9% believe it will stay the same, and 10% are DK/NA.

- In Spain-Venezuela relations, 24% believe it will stay the same, 24% believe it will get better, 13% believe it will get worse, 9% believe it will stay the same, and 10% are DK/NA.
• In this regard, an overwhelming majority (79%) of Spaniards think that the recent visit by the King and Queen of Spain to Ceuta and Melilla will not affect bilateral relations.

• This is probably also because for Spaniards this is not a priority issue. Of the problems regarding the relationship with Morocco, immigration (56%) is the one which Spaniards consider to be most important.

CHÁVEZ: THE LOWEST-SCORING LEADER

• Spaniards do not think that the incident at the Ibero-American Summit in Santiago de Chile between the King and Hugo Chávez will have a decisive impact on relations between Spain and Venezuela. Only 36% think that it will have consequences for bilateral relations, compared with 60% who think it will not.
• **At all events, the episode has pushed Hugo Chávez's approval rating down by one and-a-half points since last summer's Barometer**, to 1.4 on a scale of 0 to 10. However, in the spring of 2004, on average Spaniards gave him a pass.

• **Chávez has become the worst-rated international leader** in Spain, below even Fidel Castro and George W. Bush, who are traditionally Spaniards’ least favoured leaders.

• **Sixty-five percent of Spaniards** believe that the purpose of the **nuclear research programme** announced by the Venezuelan president might be military and not civilian.
Spaniards distrust Chávez as much as they do Ahmadinejad, since before the CIA report released last week, 72% also believed that the purpose of the Iranian nuclear research programme was military.
CONCERN IN SOCIETY REGARDING ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- The possible development of nuclear arms in Iran is one of the global problems which worries Spaniards the most: **40% consider it a very significant threat for Spain**.

- They are also worried by international terrorism, which **one out of every two Spaniards (46%) see as just as much of a threat as the terrorism of ETA**.

- Spaniards are also very worried by **global warming, which they consider to be the third most significant threat**. This leads 75% of them to closely follow the news concerning the environment. Forty-seven percent say that Spaniards are not yet worried enough.

- **Energy supply is also among the problems which generate the most concern in society**, second only to global warming among environmental concerns. **Thirty-seven percent believe that this is a very serious threat to Spain**.
SPANIARDS KNOW ABOUT FOREIGN POLICY

- **Eighty-two percent are right in saying that Spain depends on other countries for its energy supply.** It is safe to say that Spaniards are starting to acquire an approximate knowledge of Spain’s interests and policies abroad.

- **In a 10-point test, Spaniards got seven questions right and only the following three wrong:**

  1. 64% believe that Spain belongs to the United Nations Security Council.
  2. 49% believe that Spain is the leading investor in Latin America.
  3. 46% believe that Spain already devotes 0.7% of GDP to development cooperation aid.