



SWITCH OFF PUTIN:

European attitudes towards
an embargo on Russian fossil
fuels

8th April 2022

REPLANET



Nearly 70% of Europeans want to 'Switch Off Putin' by boycotting Russian oil and gas

New research shows that nearly 70% of Europeans want an immediate boycott of Russian oil and gas, adding to pressure on European politicians - led by Germany - who are refusing to stop sending billions to the Kremlin in return for fossil fuels exports, despite the atrocities committed by Russian forces in Ukraine.

Our polling, carried out in six European countries, shows that feelings are running high: on a scale of 1 (strongly disagree) to 7 (strongly agree), 55% of people chose 6 or 7 in response to the statement 'This country should immediately stop buying Russian oil

and gas'. Only 15% of Europeans disagree with the statement and want to continue purchasing energy from the Kremlin, and a tiny 6% strongly disagree.

This poll shows that a big majority of people across Europe support the agenda underlying [our report 'Switch Off Putin'](#), which sets out how Europe can achieve immediate energy independence from Moscow by taking strong measures to curb demand and find alternative supplies.

Full data sets, subject to attribution to RePlanet and Savanta ComRes [here](#).



Methodology

This poll was carried out by Savanta ComRes on behalf of the environmental NGO RePlanet. Over 12,000 adults were polled across Europe, roughly 2,000 each in the UK, Germany, Poland, France, Sweden and the Netherlands. Recruitment was completed via online methodology, inviting a nationally representative sample based on age, gender and region. Weighting was applied to adjust the demographic distribution to a nationally representative sample (based on age, gender and region) for each country. Polling was carried out between 29 March and 1 April for the UK, 31 March to 4 April for Germany and France, and 31 March and 5 April for Sweden, the Netherlands and Poland.

Full data sets for all polling available [here](#), on condition of attribution to RePlanet & Savanta ComRes.

About RePlanet

The [Switch Off Putin](#) campaign is organised by [RePlanet](#) - a new, charitably-funded pan-European environmental NGO with campaigners in 13 different European nations. United under the emerging philosophy of eco-humanism, RePlanet is unique among environmental NGOs for promoting the use of technologies such as advanced nuclear power, cellular agriculture and gene editing. It aims to see 50% of Europe rewilded, the climate cooled and energy prosperity achieved in the Global South. The Switch Off Putin report and polling was conducted by the RePlanet Research Institute, headed by cognitive scientist Dr Inari Kulmunki.



Majority of Europeans support an immediate boycott

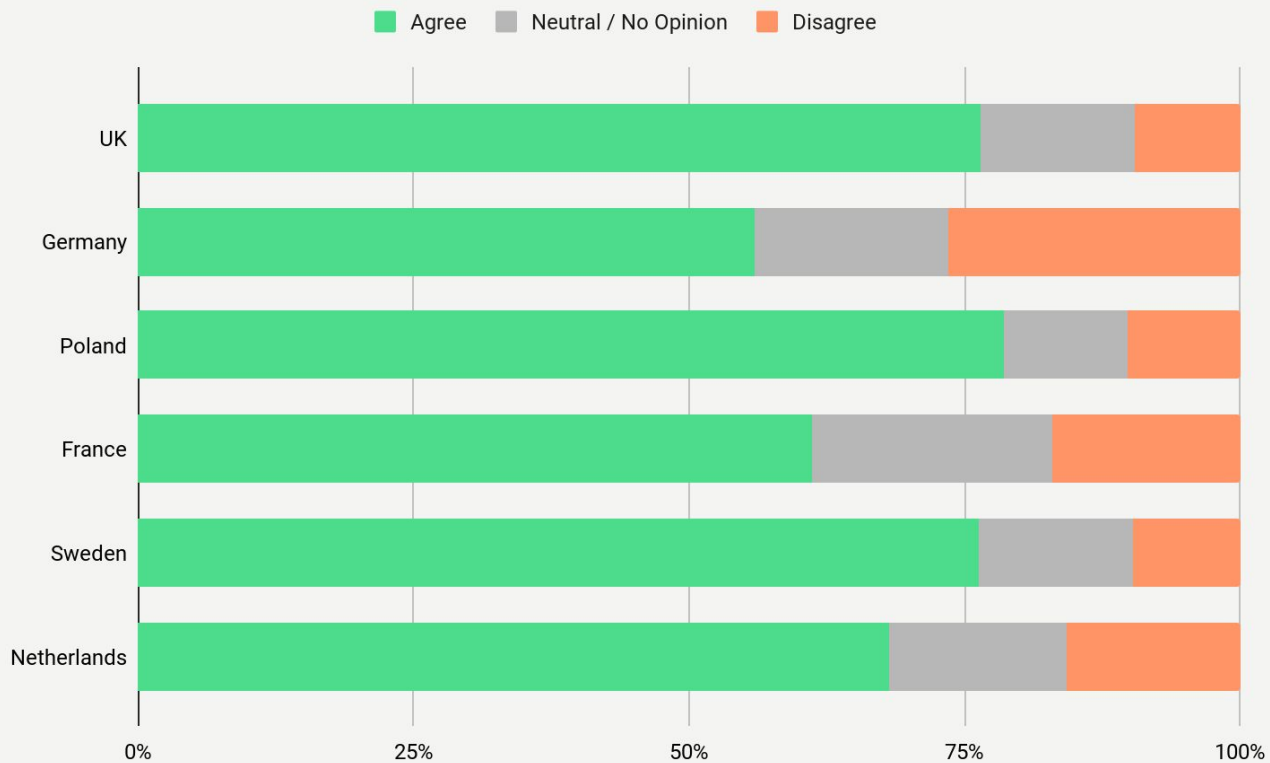
In terms of an immediate boycott on Russian oil and gas:

- Overall, 70% agree vs 15% disagree with an immediate boycott of Russian oil and gas
- Poland had the highest agreement (79% agree vs 10% disagree), followed by the UK (77% vs 10%) and Sweden (76% vs 10%)
- Even in Germany, which is highly dependent on Russian gas, a strong majority wants to see an immediate boycott (56% vs 27%)
- The high level of agreement is consistent between both sexes (72% male and 68% female respondents agree)
- Support for a boycott is particularly strong in older people (75% in 55-65 age group, and 79% in 65+)



OVERALL SUPPORT FOR AN IMMEDIATE EMBARGO

'This country should immediately stop buying Russian oil and gas.'



Support for a 'massive increase' in low-carbon energy

Europeans overwhelmingly back calls for a massive increase in spending towards low-carbon energy production in order to find new sources of clean power to replace Russian oil, gas and coal. In response to the statement 'Our government should massively increase spending on low carbon energy production to accelerate our energy independence':

- Overall nearly **three-quarters of Europeans** support a massive expansion of clean energy (74% agree vs 10% disagree)
- Support was **highest in Poland** (81% vs 8%) and the UK (80% vs 7%)
- **Even Germany** sees highly convincing majority support, with 70% agree vs 15% disagree
- Poland shows particularly strong support, with 57% choosing category 7 (on a scale of 1-7 where 1 is 'strongly disagree' and 7 is 'strongly agree'), compared to 42% as the European average
- There is majority agreement in all age groups, but particularly strongly in older people.

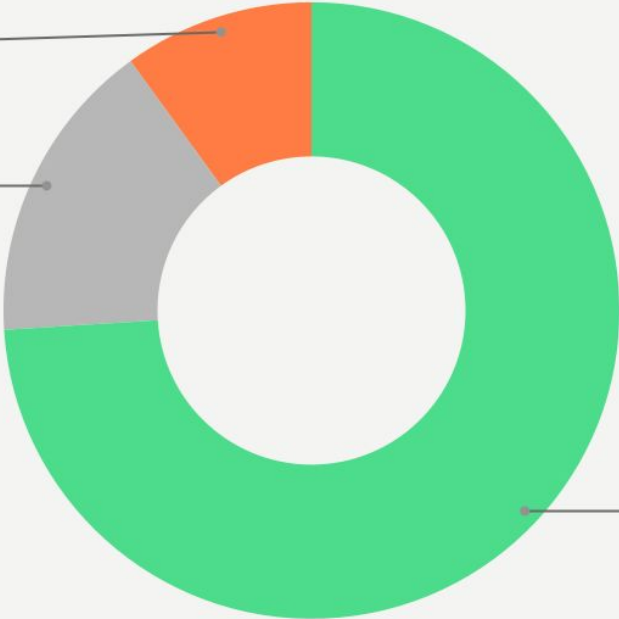


EUROPEAN SUPPORT FOR A "MASSIVE INCREASE" IN SPENDING ON LOW CARBON ENERGY

'Our government should massively increase spending on low carbon energy production to accelerate our energy independence'

Disagree
10.0%

Neutral / No Opinion
16.0%

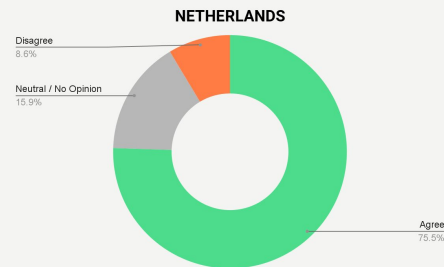
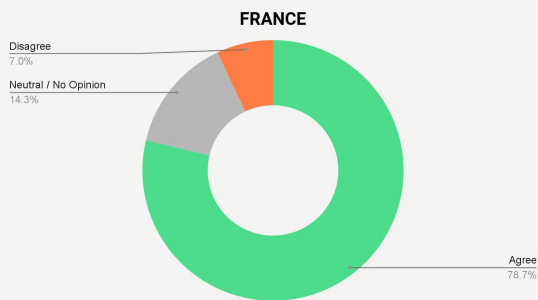
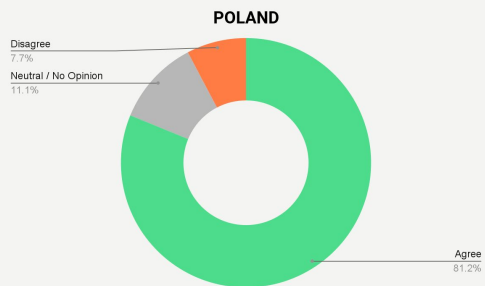
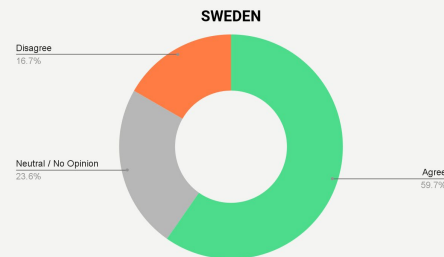
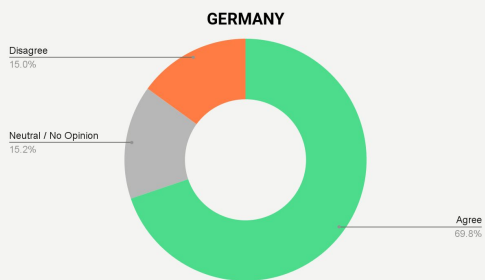
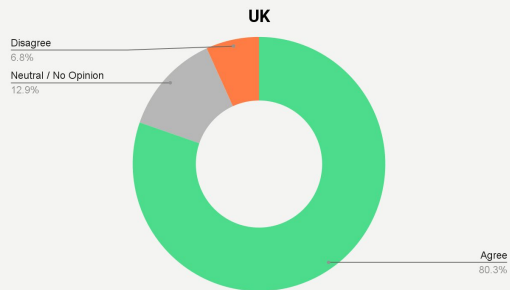


Agree
74.0%



EUROPEAN SUPPORT FOR A "MASSIVE INCREASE" IN SPENDING ON LOW CARBON ENERGY

'Our government should massively increase spending on low carbon energy production to accelerate our energy independence'



Accelerated deployment of wind and solar

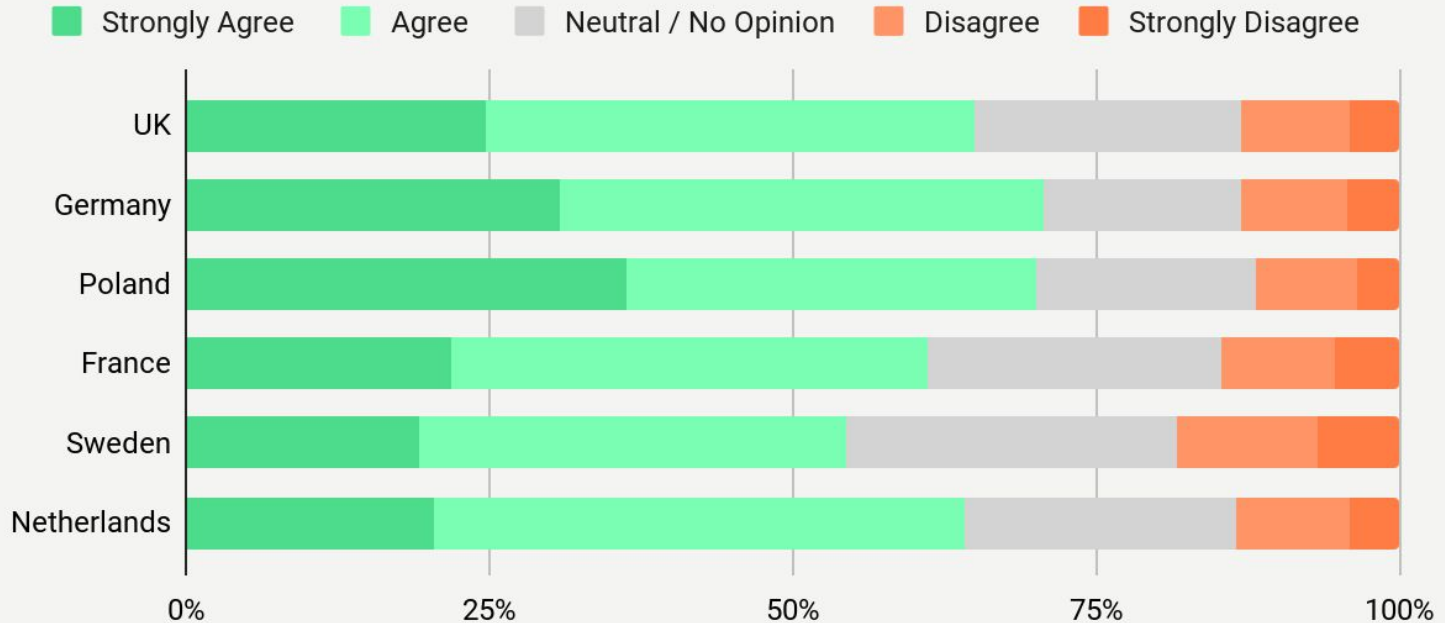
In order to increase the deployment of renewable energy and help us stop sending money to Russia, Europeans support a suspension of normal planning laws to accelerate the building of new wind and solar power plants.

- Support for this is highest in Germany (71% agree vs 13% disagree) and Poland (70% vs 12%)
- It is lowest in Sweden (54% vs 18%) and France (61% vs 15%).
- The European average is 64% agree vs 14% disagree.



SUSPENDING NORMAL PLANNING LAWS TO ACCELERATE WIND AND SOLAR

"Suspend normal planning laws, to accelerate the building of new wind and solar power"



Overwhelming support for nuclear

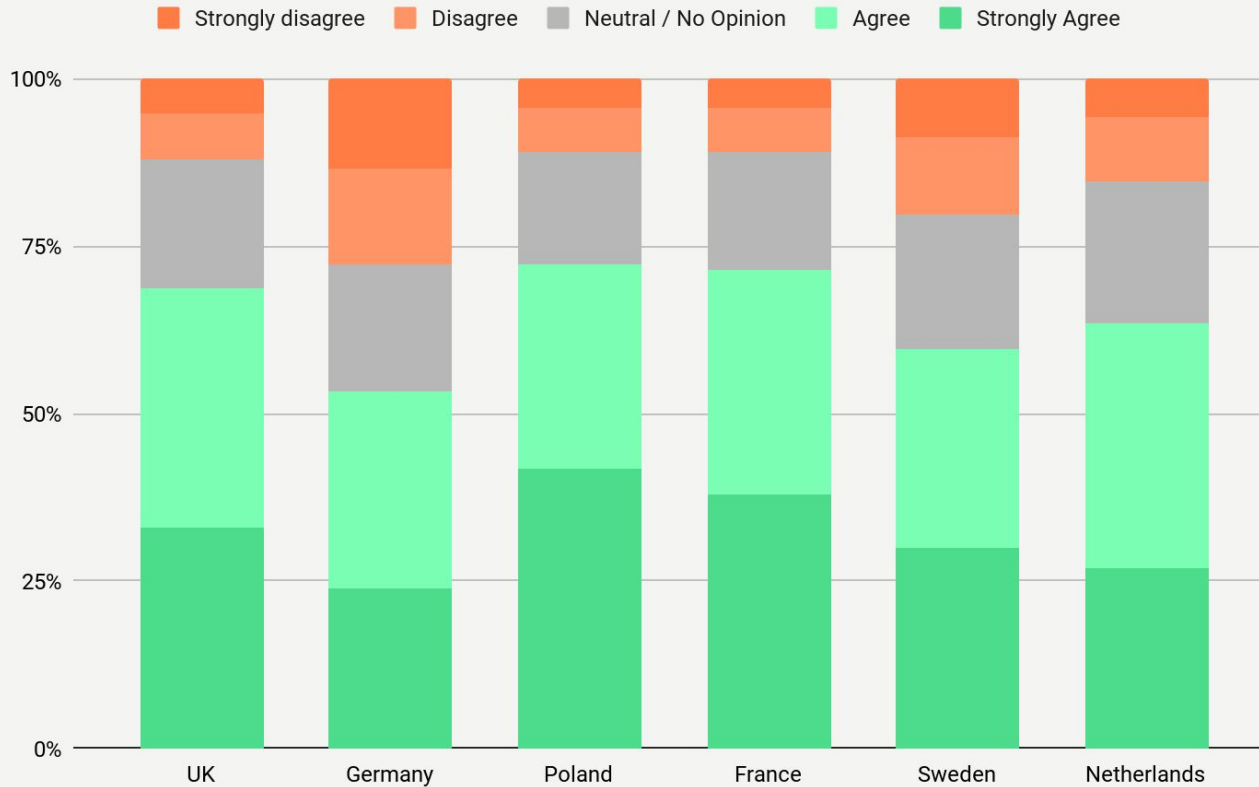
RePlanet's 'Switch Off Putin' report finds that it would be virtually impossible to get rid of Russian oil and gas unless nuclear shut-downs in several European countries are reversed, and currently shuttered nuclear plants are restarted. Our polling finds strong support for nuclear power in order to help deliver an immediate boycott of Russian fossil fuels, with a clear majority in each country agreeing that we should "go all out on building nuclear energy to simultaneously help stop climate change and stop payments to Russia".

- Overall in Europe nearly two thirds of respondents (65%) agreed on going 'all-out for nuclear'
- Europe-wide, 'strongly agree' was the single biggest category (32%), far outweighing 'strongly disagree' (7%)
- Even in Germany, 'strongly agree' is the biggest category (24%, or nearly a quarter), vs 13% 'strongly disagree'
- There is only a small disparity between male and female respondents (69% agree vs 61% agree)
- All age groups show a majority, which is strongest in the older age groups (58% agree in 18-25 age group, vs 72% agree in 65+ age group)
- Support is strongest in Poland (72% agree vs 11% disagree) and France (71% vs 11%)



OVERALL SUPPORT FOR GOING "ALL OUT" ON BUILDING NEW NUCLEAR

"This country should go all out on building nuclear energy to simultaneously help stop climate change and stop payments to Russia"



Further opinions on nuclear

A separate question addressed whether the life of nuclear power stations should be extended to help stop sending money to Russia. Even in Germany a clear majority supported extending the life of nuclear power plants (55% agreed vs 26% disagreed), while the European average was 60% agreed and 16% disagreed.

When the question was rephrased to ask whether 'We should phase out all nuclear energy, regardless of whether it can reduce our reliance on Russian oil and gas', 43% still disagreed, as compared to 35% agreeing. The biggest single category was 'strongly disagree', with 23%.



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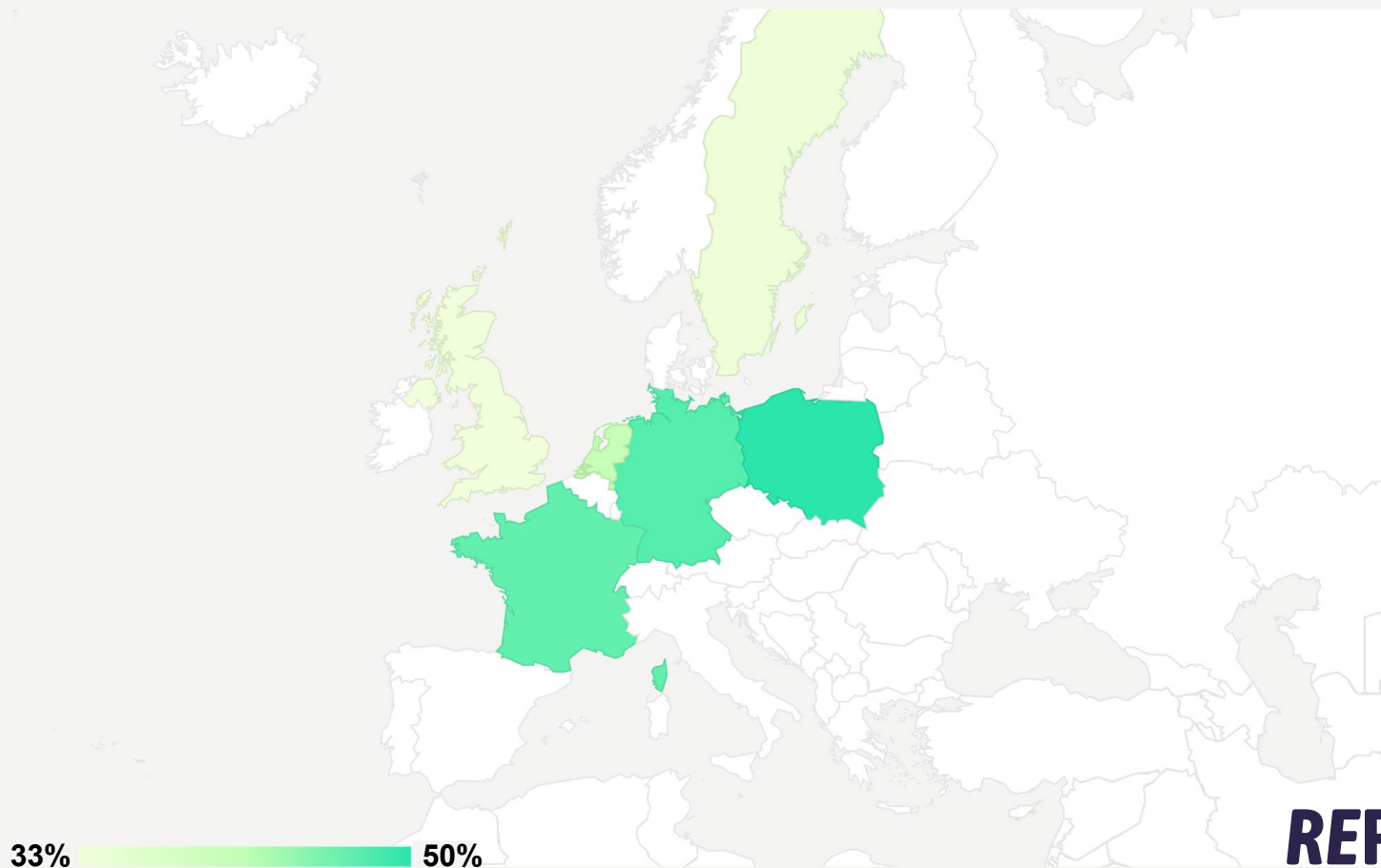


Energy rationing and other measures

- Overall 46% of Europeans are prepared to extend the life of coal-fired plants to help get off Russian oil and gas
- Overall 42% agree with the need to reduce demand by temporarily rationing the use of energy (31% disagree)
- Support for energy rationing is strongest in Poland (50% support, 25% oppose) and also high in Germany (47% support) and France (46%).
- Support for energy rationing is weakest in the UK (33% support) and Sweden (evenly split, with 34% support and 35% oppose)
- There is strong support for European solidarity in energy to cope with the loss of Russian supply, with 62% agreeing and 17% disagreeing
- Europeans are reluctant to compromise on emissions reductions by using coal instead of gas (35%)
- Paying more for energy is very unpopular, with only 16% agreeing that 'I would be prepared to pay substantially more for my energy use'
- A majority of Europeans (53%) are prepared to eat less meat to reduce the burden on Ukrainian wheat exports



SUPPORT FOR ENERGY RATIONING



33%

50%

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liberate nature | elevate humanity