

German business leaders endorse Chancellor Merkel's foreign policy – DIAS Study

First German Study on Foreign Trade Policy Matters

Düsseldorf, 31 July 2008

Despite their public objections to sanctions against trading partner Iran and the chilling effect of the Dalai Lama audience on relations with China, the top executives of German companies remain highly pleased with the foreign policy initiatives of Chancellor Angela Merkel.

This is the most striking result of the first **DIAS Study**, a comprehensive countrywide opinion survey of the captains of German industry on the business-related foreign policy performance of the chancellor and the German government.

All but 2% of the surveyed panel of decision-makers – selected from 800 German companies in all geographic regions and all branches of private industry – assigned favorable ratings to their chancellor's foreign policy stance. Those ratings ranged from 68% who described Merkel's policy engagement as "good" to 12% who found it "very good" and 18% who checked off "satisfactory".

Somewhat less favorable was the evaluation assigned by **DIAS Study** respondents to the general thrust of the German government's foreign policy affecting the companies and their business conditions. In response to this survey question, only 58% assigned a rating of "good". Another 34% of the respondents chose "satisfactory", while 2% found the government's general policy to be "very good".

The **DIAS Study** – the first foreign economic policy survey of its kind in Germany – was initiated by DIAS, the Düsseldorf Institute for Foreign and Security Policy (Düsseldorfer Institut für Außen- und Sicherheitspolitik) in partnership with Handelsblatt newspaper and Droege & Comp. With 800 personal telephone interviews, this DIAS survey was conducted from Hamburg by polling organization PSEPHOS-Institut für Markt-, Politik and Sozialforschung during the period May 6-28, 2008.

Since this is the first survey made for the new, semiannual **DIAS Study** editions scheduled for publication in June and December, comparative figures are unavailable.

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Longer text at: www.dias-online.org/44.0.html

DIAS Study

Edward F. Roby

Senior Fellow

E-Mail: robby@dias-online.org

Phone: +49 6171 71554

DIAS

Niels-Jakob Küttner

Head Press & PR

E-Mail: kuettner@dias-online.org

Phone: +49 160 2971035

Düsseldorf Institute for Foreign and Security Policy

Düsseldorfer Institut für Außen- und Sicherheitspolitik (DIAS)

Universitätsstr. 1 Geb. 24.91

40225 Düsseldorf - GERMANY

DIAS, the Dusseldorf Institute for Foreign and Security Policy, was founded in 2003 by young scientists at the Heinrich Heine University of Düsseldorf and experts from the private economy. **DIAS** is an independent, nonpartisan and interdisciplinary think tank which also offers strategy consulting for clients from the public and private sectors. As a platform for foreign and security policy, the institute enables and moderates the dialogue and exchange of ideas between future leaders in politics, economy, academia and society. The institute is headed by *Dr. Dimitrios Argirakos, Marc André Gimmy, Prof. Dr. R. Alexander Lorz LL.M. (Harvard), John Kayser, Dr. Burkhard Theile, and Dr. Barbara Weber*. On a regular basis, **DIAS** invites competent and prominent speakers and dialogue partners to hold speeches and panel discussions in Düsseldorf, the capital of the most densely populated “Land” in Germany. **DIAS** has made a commitment to the three pillars of “research, vocational training, consulting” and is understood to be the independent German network for foreign and security policy in the 21st century.