

## **US Public's Perceptions of How Other Countries View US Foreign Policy Increasingly Negative**

Amid intensifying international criticism and worldwide demonstrations against US policy on Iraq, the US public's perceptions of how other countries view US foreign policy continues to move in a negative direction. Asked, "on average, how do you think people in other countries rate how well the US is managing its foreign policy," a majority of 55% now gives a negative rating (19% neutral, 23% positive). The net rating (percentage giving positive ratings minus percentage giving a negative rating) has declined 6 percentage points since January and 16 percentage points since November, and now stands at minus 31%.

Asked specifically about European allies, 47% of US respondents assumed that people in those countries have a negative attitude toward US foreign policy (neutral 20%, positive 28%). The net rating has declined 8 percentage points since January and 31 percentage points since November, and now stands at minus 20%.

### **Continuing Decline in US Public's Ratings of US Policy Re: Europe, Russia, North Korea**

Perhaps in part due to the above-mentioned perceived declines in other countries' approval of US policy, Americans are also showing a continuing reduction in their satisfaction with US foreign policy on several fronts.

Asked how well the US is "handling relations with...our European allies," the percentage giving a positive rating has slipped to 46% (neutral 20%, negative 25%). The net rating is still a positive 21%, but down from a positive 36% in January and a positive 42% in November.

Views of US handling of relations with Russia have also slipped. Positive ratings stand at 45% (neutral 22%, negative 23%). Here too, while the net is still quite positive at plus 22%, it is significantly lower than in January at plus 31%, and in November at plus 39%.

US handling of relations with North Korea has dropped sharply, with 42% now giving it a negative rating (neutral 21%, positive 33%). The net rating is now a negative 9%, down 10 percentage points from January.

None of the areas rated showed any significant positive movement, while the overall foreign policy rating was statistically unchanged at plus 15%.