

# Not So Happy New Year Wishes To National And Multinational Corporations From The World's Most Engaged, Influential

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## **Not So Happy New Year Wishes To National And Multinational Corporations From The World's Most Engaged, Influential**

**Toronto, Washington, London** - As 2008 dawns across the world, a majority of the world's most engaged citizens is letting it be known that large companies have too much influence on the decisions of their government and they want a more aggressive crack down on the activities and influence of national and multinational corporations, a new survey reports today.

The poll of 22,000 covering 22 of the world's leading and burgeoning powerhouse economies, indicates that public opinion among the most active, connected and engaged global citizens is putting global and national corporations at risk for potential government interventions and tighter regulatory incursions because its most elite citizens will back such moves.

The key findings of the poll indicate:

### ***Three Quarters [74%] Believe That Large Companies Have Too Much Influence on Decisions of Their Government...***

Three quarters [74%] of the intelligaged citizens throughout the 22 countries surveyed agree that large companies have "too much influence on the decisions" of their government compared with just 26% who disagree. In ranked order, the results are as follows:



Argentina -- 85% [*agree*] versus 15% [*disagree*]

France -- 85% versus 15%

Brazil -- 84% versus 16%

United States -- 82% versus 18%

Canada -- 80% versus 20%

Germany -- 80% versus 20%

Mexico -- 79% versus 21%

Turkey -- 79% versus 21%

South Korea -- 79% versus 21%

Australia -- 78% versus 22%

India -- 76% versus 24%

Great Britain -- 75% versus 25%

Russia -- 75% versus 25%

Spain -- 74% versus 26%

Czech Republic -- 74% versus 26%

Belgium -- a 74% versus 26%

Italy -- 72% versus 28%

Netherlands -- 69% versus 31%

Sweden -- 65% versus 35%

Japan -- 57% versus 43%

Poland -- 57% versus 43%

Of the various block regions around the world, Latin American intelligaged citizens [83% versus 17%] are the most likely to agree with this proposition compared with North Americans [81% versus 19%], Europeans [73% versus 27%] and those in the Asia-Pacific block [70% versus 30%].

***Almost As Many [72%] Believe Their Government Should Be More Aggressive In Regulating Activities of National and Multinational Corporations...***

A full majority [72%] of the intelligaged citizens surveyed across the 22 countries believe that the government of their country "should be more aggressive in regulating the activities of national and multinational corporations". This compares with 28% who take the *contrary point of view*. In ranked order, the results indicate the following:

Argentina -- 87% [*agree*] versus 13% [*disagree*]

Mexico -- 86% versus 14%

Brazil -- 84% versus 16%

Australia -- 82% versus 18%

France -- 80% versus 20%

Great Britain -- 80% versus 20%

Russia -- 80% versus 20%

Belgium -- 79% versus 21%

India -- 77% versus 23%

Spain -- 77% versus 23%

Canada -- 77% versus 23%

Turkey -- 73% versus 27%

Czech Republic -- 70% versus 30%

Germany -- 69% versus 31%

Italy -- 67% versus 33%

Sweden -- 67% versus 33%

United States -- 67% versus 33%

Singapore 65% versus 35%

Netherlands -- 62% versus 38%

Poland -- 54% versus 46%

South Korea -- 47% versus 53%

Japan -- 42% versus 58%

Of the various block regions around the world, those intelligaged citizens in Latin American block [86% versus 14%] are more likely than those in the three other block regions to believe that the government in their country "should be more aggressive in regulating the activities of national and multinational corporations": North America [72% versus 28%], Europe [71% versus 29%] and Asia-Pacific [67% versus 33%].

### ***Majority [69%] Believe Large Companies More Powerful Than Governments...***

Seven in 10 [69%] of the intelligaged citizens surveyed across 22 nations believe that "large companies are more powerful than governments" [versus 31% who do not believe that "large

companies are more powerful than governments."]. In ranked order, the results indicate the following:

Argentina -- 85% versus 15%

France -- 82% versus 19%

Germany -- 80% versus 20%

Belgium -- 80% versus 20%

Spain -- 77% versus 43%

Canada -- 77% versus 23%

Mexico -- 76% versus 24%

Czech Republic -- 74% versus 26%

Italy -- 74% versus 26%

Australia -- 72% versus 28%

Sweden -- 72% versus 28%

United States -- 70% versus 30%

Netherlands -- 70% versus 30%

Great Britain -- 70% versus 30%

South Korea -- 70% versus 30%

Brazil -- 67% versus 33%

India -- 67% versus 33%

Russia -- 61% versus 39%

Poland -- 60% versus 40%

Turkey -- 56% versus 44%

Japan -- 43% versus 57%

Singapore -- 39% versus 61%

Of the various block regions around the world, those intelligaged citizens in the Latin American block [76% versus 24%] are slightly more likely than those in Europe [74% versus 26%] and North America [73% versus 27%] to believe that "large companies are more powerful and governments" compared with the Asia Pacific block at 58% versus 42%.

***Majority [58%] Believe Government Should Have Complete Access to Private Information Of Corporations Doing Business in Their Country...***

Six in 10 [58 %] of the intelligaged citizens surveyed across the 22 nations believe that their "government should have complete access to the private information of corporations doing business in" their country. This compares with 42% who take the *contrary point of view*. In ranked order, the results indicate the following:

Turkey -- 80% [*agree*] versus 20% [*disagree*]

Argentina -- 72% versus 28%

Australia -- 71% versus 29%

France -- 70% versus 30%

Great Britain -- 69% versus 31%

India -- 69% versus 31%

Mexico -- 67% versus 33%

Canada -- 65% versus 35%

Brazil -- 65% versus 35%

Belgium -- 62% versus 38%

Netherlands -- 57% versus 43%

Spain -- 56% versus 44%

Singapore -- 55% versus 45%

Russia -- 55% versus 45%

United States -- 55% versus 45%

Sweden -- 54% versus 46%

South Korea -- 53% versus 47%

Japan -- 48% versus 52%

Czech Republic -- 31% versus 69%

Poland -- 30% versus 70%

Of the various block regions around the world, those intelligaged citizens Latin America [68% versus 32%], Asia-Pacific [62% versus 38%] and North America [60% versus 40%] are more likely than those in Europe [53% versus 47%] to believe that their government should have "complete access to the private information of corporations doing business" in their country.

***Split View: Half [52%] Think Their Big Industry Should Be Controlled By Government, Other Half [48%] Disagree...***



It would appear that from among the 22 countries surveyed there is a split view as to whether or not it is in the interest of the country where the intelligaged citizen resides that their "big industry should be controlled by the government". Just slightly over half [52%] of all those surveyed disagree that with this perspective but almost as many [48%] agree with this point of view.

Those countries where most are likely to *agree* that the government should control the "big industries" in their country, in ranked order, are:

Russia -- 85% versus 15%

Turkey -- 75% versus 25%

Mexico -- 62% versus 38%

Argentina -- 62% versus 38%

Germany -- 59% versus 41%

France -- 58% versus 42%

Spain -- 61% versus 39%

Those countries where most are likely to *disagree* that the government should control the "big industries" in their country, in ranked order, are:

Brazil -- 73% versus 27%

Japan -- 72% versus 29%

Belgium -- 71% versus 29%

United States -- 71% versus 29%

Canada -- 65% versus 35%

Italy -- 64% versus 36%

South Korea -- 60% versus 40%

India -- 57% versus 43%

Australia -- 56% versus 44%

Great Britain -- 56% versus 44%

And those countries most likely to *split opinion* as to whether or not "big industries" in their country should be controlled by the government are:

Sweden -- 53% [agree] versus 47% [disagree]

Singapore -- 50% [agree] versus 50% [disagree]

Netherlands -- 49% [agree] versus 51% [disagree]

Czech Republic -- 48% [agree] versus 52% [disagree]

Of the various block regions around the world, those intelligaged citizens in North America are most likely to disagree [68% versus 32%] with the perspective that it is in their country's interest that their "big industries should be controlled by the government" . This compares with each other block where opinion is split -- in Latin America, 50% agree and 50% disagree; in Europe, 48% agree and 52% disagree; and, in the Asia-Pacific region, 52% agree and 40% disagree.

### ***Majority [52%] Believe Government Regulation Too Little To Protect Rights of Workers in Their Country...***

When it comes to the rights of workers, a majority of those surveyed [52%] believe that there is "too little government regulation to protect the rights of workers in their country"

compared with 20% who indicate that there is "too much government regulation", and three in 10 [28%] of those surveyed who believe that the government regulation they have to protect workers rights is "about right".

Those countries where intelligaged citizens are likely to believe that there is *too little government regulation to protect the rights of workers* are, in ranked order:

Russia -- 80%

Great Britain -- 75%

Spain -- 74%

Argentina -- 73%

Mexico -- 70%

Poland -- 68%

Italy -- 65%

Brazil -- 61%

Germany -- 58%

Belgium -- 52%

France -- 50%

India -- 48%

Netherlands -- 45%

United States -- 43%

Australia -- 42%

South Korea -- 42%

Canada -- 41%

Great Britain -- 41%

Singapore -- 35%

Czech Republic -- 34%

Japan -- 33%

Sweden -- 25%

Those countries where intelligaged citizens are likely to believe that *there is "too much" government regulations to protect the rights of workers are*, in ranked order:

South Korea -- 36%

Japan -- 35%

Czech Republic -- 30%

Australia -- 29%

India -- 27%

Great Britain -- 26%

Netherlands -- 25%

Sweden -- 25%

France -- 24%

United States -- 22%

Singapore -- 22%

Belgium -- 16%

Mexico -- 16%

Italy -- 16%

Brazil -- 15%

Germany -- 14%

Canada -- 13%

Argentina -- 12%

Poland -- 12%

Turkey -- 11%

Russia -- 8%

Spain -- 5%

Those countries where intelligaged citizens are likely to believe that the amount of government *regulation to protect the rights of workers is "about right"* are, in ranked order:

Sweden -- 50%

Canada -- 46%

Singapore -- 43%

United States -- 34%

Great Britain -- 33%

Belgium -- 33%

Japan -- 32%

Netherlands -- 30%

Australia -- 29%

Germany -- 29%

France -- 26%

India -- 26%

Brazil -- 25%

Spain -- 21%

South Korea -- 21%

Poland -- 21%

Italy -- 19%

Argentina -- 15%

Mexico -- 14%

Turkey -- 14%

Russia -- 13%

Of the various block regions from around the world, Latin America (68%) is most likely to believe that there is *too little government regulation in their country for the protection of the rights of workers*, followed by European (51%) and Asia-Pacific (51%) countries. Least supporting this perspective are those in North America (42%).

As for those who are more likely to believe that there is *too much government regulation in their country for the protection of the rights of workers*, the Asia-Pacific (24%) region ranks first, followed by Europe (19%), North America (18%) and Latin America (14%).

And for those who are more likely to believe that the amount of government regulation they have in their country for the *protection of the rights of workers is "about right"*, North America (40%) leads Europe (30%), Asia-Pacific (25%) and Latin America (18%) regions

***Despite Majority Desire for More Government Control, Regulation of National and Multinational Corporations, Most [55%] Believe That Major Corporations Having Good Influence, Compared To Those Who Say They Are Having Bad Influence [45%]...***

And when it comes to evaluating whether major corporations have a "good" or "bad" influence on the way things are going in their country, there is a relatively split opinion among those surveyed -- 55% of the intelligaged citizens surveyed in the 22 nations indicate that major corporations are at "good" influence versus 45% who indicate that their influence is "bad".

Of the 55% who indicate that major corporations are having a "good influence" on the way things are going in their country, those most likely to believe so are from the following countries in ranked order:

Singapore -- 87%

India -- 83%

Russia -- 76%

Brazil -- 69%

Sweden -- 66%

Mexico -- 63%

Netherlands -- 63%

South Korea -- 58%

Japan -- 57%

Turkey -- 56%

Spain -- 55%

Belgium -- 55%

Italy -- 54%

Of the 45% who indicate that major corporations are having a "*bad influence*" on the way things are going in the country, those most likely to believe so are from the following countries come in ranked order:

France -- 72%

Germany -- 71%

Argentina -- 65%

United States -- 61%

Great Britain -- 60%

Czech Republic -- 55%

Canada -- 51%

Of the various block regions around the world, those which have the *most positive perspective on the influence of corporations* on the way things are going in their country are those in the Asia-Pacific region [67% "good influence" compared with 33% "bad influence"] and Latin America [56% "good influence" compared with 44% "bad influence"]. The *region with the most negative perspective* on the influence of corporations on the way things are going in their country is North America [56% "bad influence" compared with 44% "good influence"]. The region that is split in opinion as to the influence of corporations on how things are going in





their country is Europe where 51% believe that corporations are having a "bad influence" compared with 49% who believe that corporations are having a "good influence".

*The survey audience--the Intelligaged global population--is the **most involved and influential population per country**: a total of 100% are online, 68% voted in the last election they were eligible to do so, half have instigated political, economic and social discussions, and 37% have signed a petition within the past year. On the consumer behavior side, half (47%) chose to buy a product or service because of a company's ethical, social or environmental reputation and one third (33%) advised others against using a specific company or service for the same reason.*

*The Ipsos Global@dvisor-Reputation Risk Identifier is a bi-annual survey specifically constructed to understand the reputation risk environment critical to protecting the goodwill and equity—both financial and public—of corporate brands and operations. The field window was Oct 18th through Oct 31st, 2007. It surveyed over 22,000 "broad elites, Internet Intelligaged, and digital information opinion leaders about corporate, social & political, foreign investment, expansion, the environment, and other critical business risk affecting the business landscape", via 1,000 interviews each in 20 countries across the Ipsos global online panel access network, with results made available through the Global@dvisor research service digital platform within 20 days of initiating the global survey. The margin of error per country is +/-3.1, 19 times out of 20.*

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