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**EUROPEANS WOULD BACK MERKEL OVER MACRON AS 'EU PRESIDENT,' SAYS SURVEY**

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BY JOSHUA POSANER

Angela Merkel may be preparing to say goodbye to frontline politics but many across Europe would support her taking a leading role in the EU, according to a survey published Tuesday by the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR) think tank.

Given a hypothetical choice between Merkel and French President Emmanuel Macron becoming EU president – a job that in real life doesn't exist – a clear majority opted for the German chancellor, according to the survey.

Some 58 percent of Dutch respondents, 57 percent of Spanish and 52 percent of Portuguese gave Merkel support in this fantasy race, compared to 6 percent, 9 percent and 11 percent respectively in favor of Macron.

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Kaynak/Source: