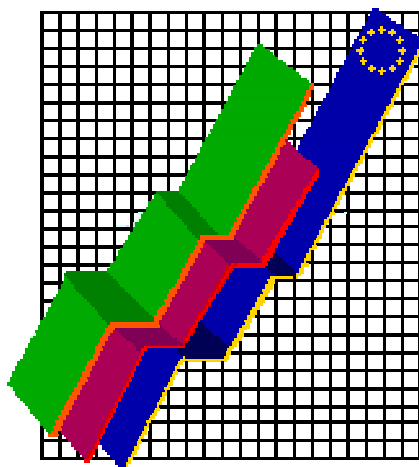


## CANDIDATE COUNTRIES EUROBAROMETER 2002

### FIRST RESULTS



The latest Candidate Countries Eurobarometer<sup>1</sup> (wave 2002.2, 12,147 people interviewed face-to-face in all the 13 countries that have applied for EU membership between 2 September and 16 October 2002) focuses in particular on standard indicators of the level of support for EU membership.

- It confirms a high level of support for membership, which will, in the respondents' view, be of benefit to their countries.
- The Eurobarometer also shows that trust in the European Union remains high, despite very low levels of self-perceived knowledge and information.
- This survey also indicates that the outcome of the referenda on membership could be more influenced by low turnout than by opposition to membership.
- Finally, it reveals a high level of support for the Euro, as well as for the idea of a Constitution for the European Union.

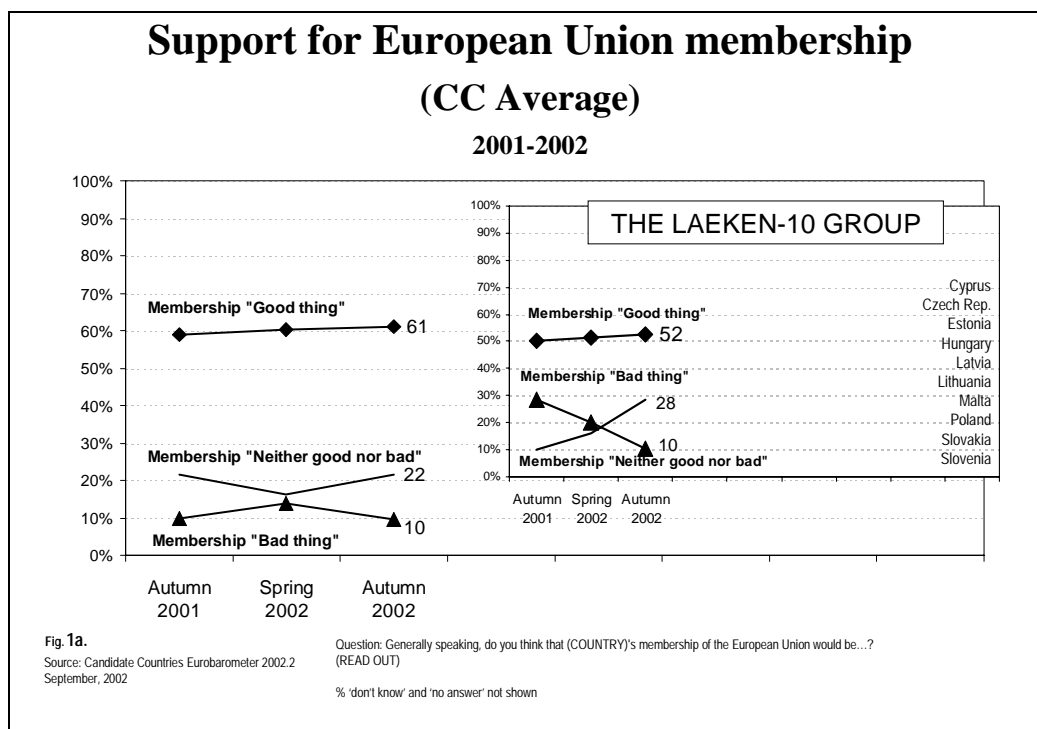
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<sup>1</sup> See technical and methodological specifications in annex.

## 1. A high level of support for EU membership, and real benefits foreseen

- **61% support membership: a very positive general trend, in spite of large differences between countries**

More than 6 people out of 10 in the candidate countries (61%) regard their country's membership of the EU as "a good thing" (2 percentage points more than last year).



Across all 13 candidate countries, the levels of support observed do not rise significantly. However, opposition has fallen compared to Spring 2002, and has returned to the level of one year ago.

These favourable results are even more striking in the 10 countries that are likely to join the Union by 2004 (the "Laeken Group"), where **the number of people who are against their country's membership records a drop of about 20 percentage points within one year.**

The latest wave of the Candidate Countries Eurobarometer confirms that people in Romania (78%), Bulgaria (68%), Hungary (67%) and Turkey (65%). are the most in favour of their country's membership.

On the other hand, a majority of people do not think that their country's accession would be "a good thing" in Estonia (32% "good thing", 42% "neither good nor bad", 16% "a bad thing"), in Latvia (35%, 33% and 21%) and in Slovenia (43%, 37% and 14%).

## Support for EU Membership

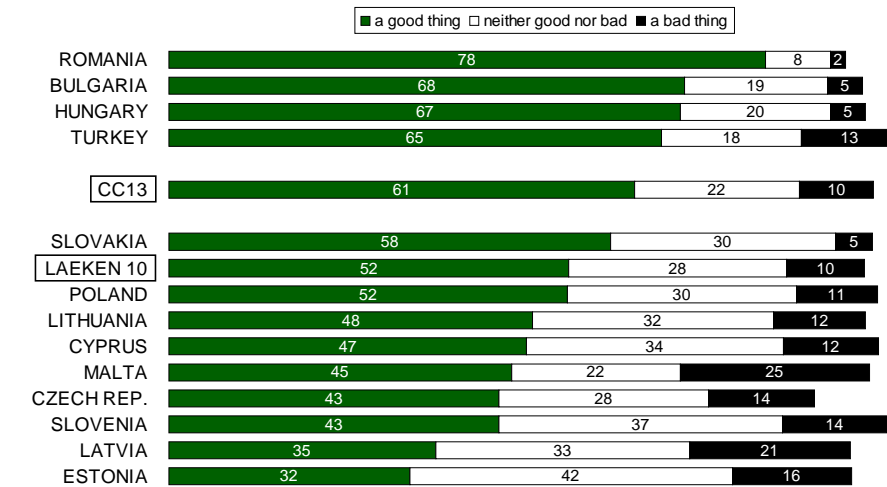


Fig. 1b.

Source: Candidate Countries Eurobarometer 2002.2  
September, 2002

Question: Generally speaking, do you think that (COUNTRY)'s membership of the European Union would be...?

% 'don't know' and 'no answer' not shown

### ➤ Benefits are foreseen, more for the country than for the respondents themselves

The idea that candidate countries will benefit from EU membership is very widely shared: **two thirds (67%) of citizens** of the 13 countries surveyed are of this opinion, which represents 4 percentage points more than in March.

## Benefit from European Union membership, for the country

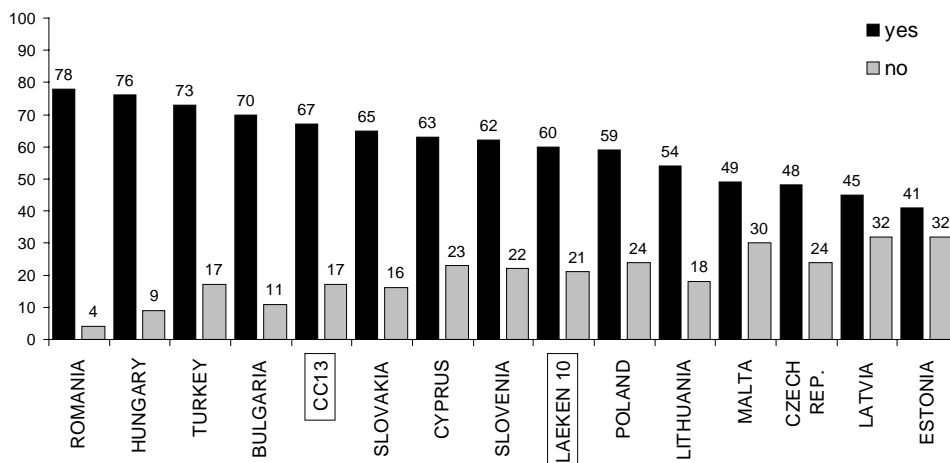


Fig. 7b.

Source: Candidate Countries Eurobarometer 2002.2  
September, 2002

Question: Taking everything into consideration, would you say that (COUNTRY) could get advantages or not from being a member of the European Union?

% 'don't know' and 'no answer' not shown

In the 10 countries of the "Laeken Group", we notice that people perceive even more clearly the benefits from EU membership: 60% of the interviewees say that their country will benefit from it, which represents **6 percentage points more than six months ago**.

Nevertheless, people in the candidate countries do not clearly perceive the benefits that they could personally gain from EU membership: 52% think that they will personally benefit from it, whereas 30% are of the opposite opinion (respectively, 41% and 37% in the 10 "Laeken Group" Countries).

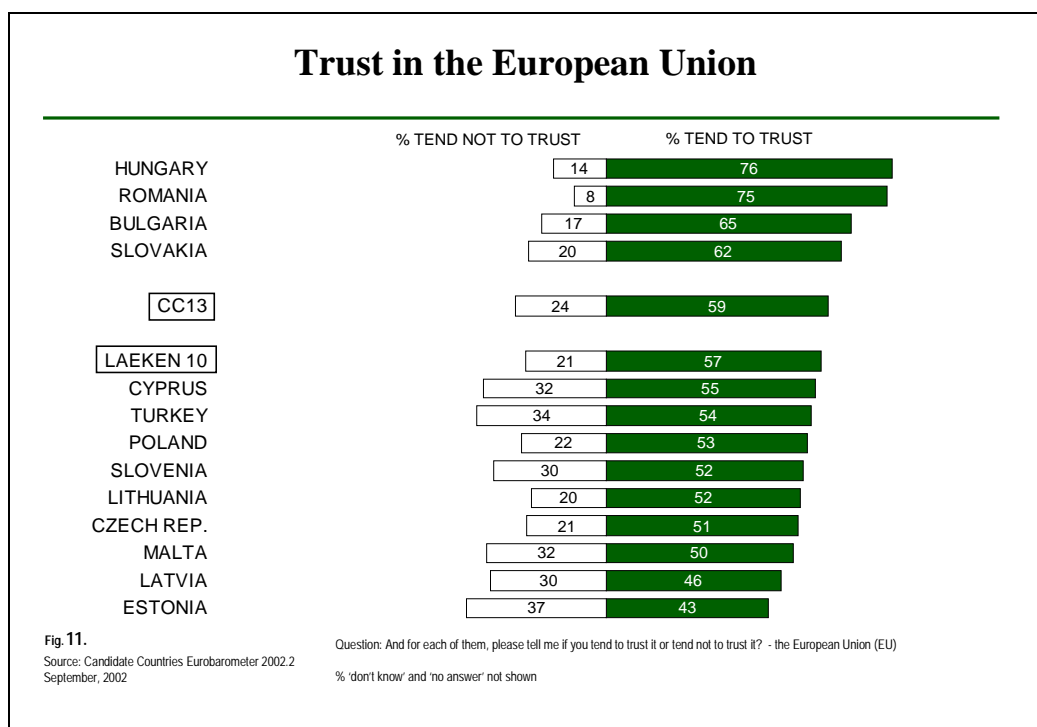
## 2. Trust in the European Union remains high, despite low levels of knowledge and information

### ➤ 6 out of 10 people tend to trust the EU

The general level of trust in the European Union has remained stable since Autumn 2001: **59% of the citizens in the candidate countries express such trust**.

In the 10 countries that are likely to join the Union by 2004, the level of trust is very similar: 57%.

However, from one country surveyed to another, the level of trust varies greatly: from 76% in Hungary, 75% in Romania and 65% in Bulgaria, to 43% in Estonia, 46% in Latvia and 50% in Malta.



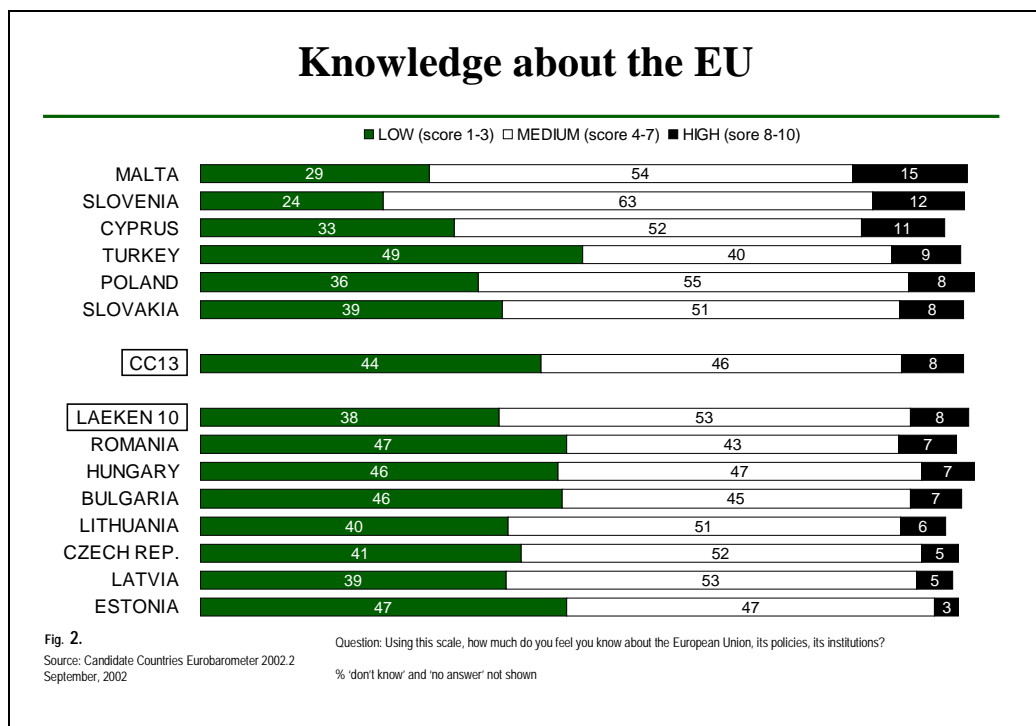
It is worth noticing that 29% of people in Lithuania, 28% in the Czech Republic and 24% in Poland lack an opinion on this issue.

➤ **A very low level of knowledge and information**

**Forty-four percent of people in the candidate countries consider that they know “a little” about the European Union, whereas only 8% think they know “enough” and a further 14% do not know anything at all.**

**In the 10 countries where people will probably have to vote on membership very soon, 8% think that they know enough about the EU, 38% know only a little and a further 7% do not know anything at all.**

It is only in Malta, in Slovenia and in Cyprus that more than 1 respondent in 10 considers his/her level of knowledge “satisfactory”.



Similarly, **70% of people interviewed feel either “not well informed” or “not informed at all” about their own country's accession process.** 28% feel they are “well informed” or “very well informed” about it.

### 3. In a referendum, 69% would vote for membership, but there could be a low turnout

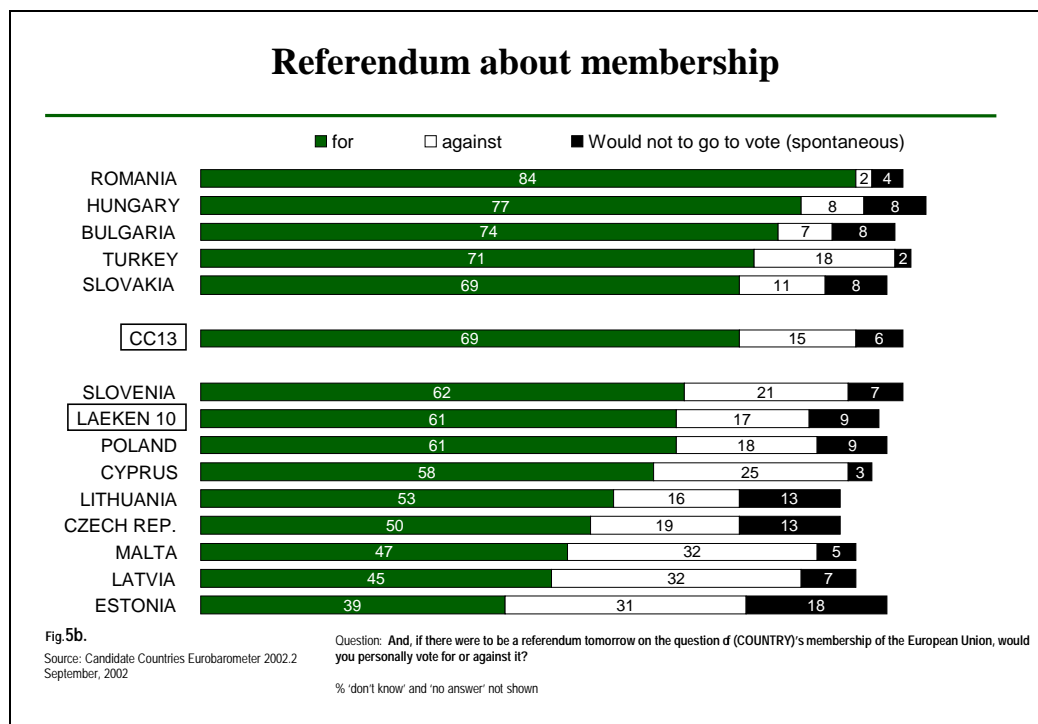
#### ➤ 7 in 10 people would cast a favourable vote

Two-thirds of the respondents (69%) declare that they would vote in favour of their country joining the EU if a referendum was organised, that is **3 percentage points more than in Spring this year**.

In the 10 countries of the "Laeken Group", 61% (+4) would express their support for membership, whereas only 17% intend to vote against.

The proportion of positive voting intentions among the 13 candidates ranges from 84% in Romania and 77% in Hungary to 39% in Estonia, 45% in Latvia and 47% in Malta.

**In each of the candidate countries, those who would vote in favour of membership outnumber those who would vote against.**



#### ➤ The uncertainty of abstention

Barely more than half (54%) of citizens in the "Laeken Group" countries plan to vote, and **only 1 in 4 (27%) would definitely vote**.

Across the 13 candidate countries, 60% would certainly vote and a further 23% might do so.

## Likelihood of participation in the EU referendum

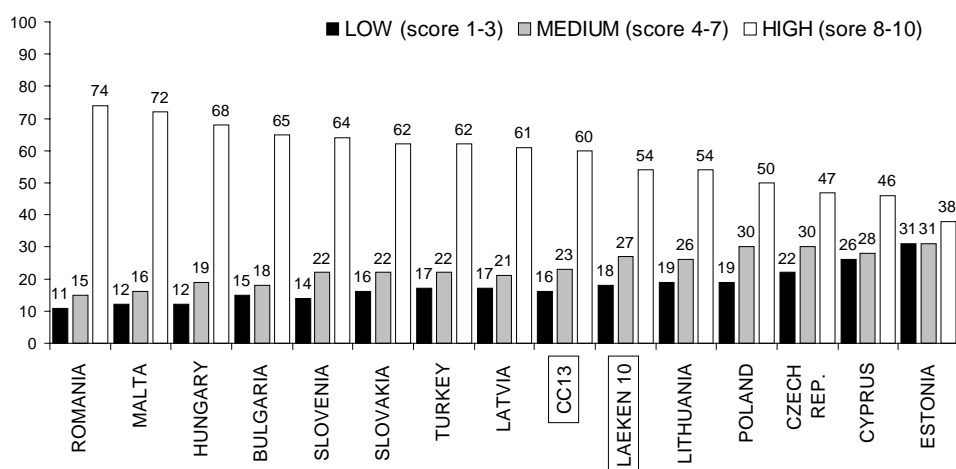


Fig. 6.

Source: Candidate Countries Eurobarometer 2002.2  
September, 2002

Question: And, using this card, can you tell me how likely it is that you would vote in a referendum on the question of (COUNTRY)'s membership of the European Union?  
Please use this scale, which goes from 1 to 10, where 1 indicates that you will definitely not vote in the referendum, and 10 indicates that you will definitely vote in that referendum. You can use the numbers between 1 and 10. (Show card with scale)

% 'no', 'don't know' and 'no answer' not shown

Nevertheless, those who are the most likely to vote are also those who would most probably vote in favour of membership.

### Likelihood of participation, and voting intention on EU referendum

(%, on CC-13 level)

WOULD CAST A VOTE	LIKELIHOOD OF PARTICIPATION ON EU REFERENDUM		
	Low (score 1-3)	Medium (score 4- 7)	High (score 8-10)
for	19	65	<b>89</b>
against	<b>42</b>	16	8
undecided, wouldn't participate	39	19	3
<i>total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>

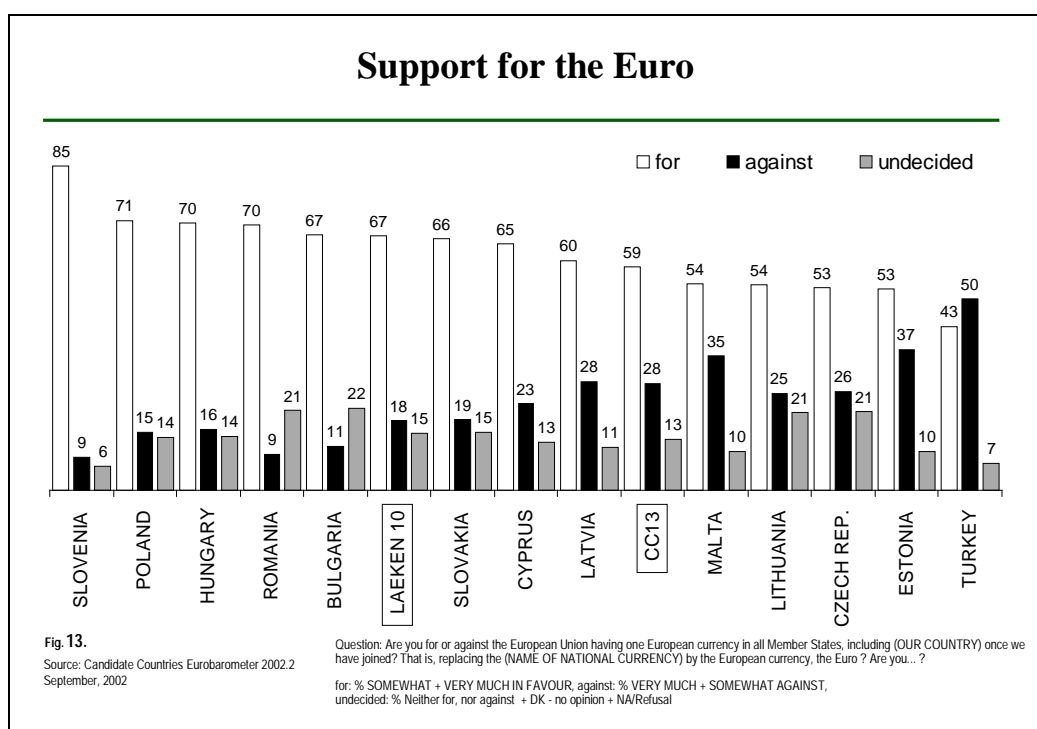
## 4. Clear support for the Euro as well as for a Constitution for the EU

### ➤ 59% in favour of a changeover to the Euro

In the 13 candidate countries, nearly **6 respondents out of 10 (59%) would favour a changeover to the Euro** in their own country, abandoning their current national currency, 28% would be against, and 13% have no opinion.

Slovenians (84%), whose national currency is less than ten years old, are the most willing to introduce the Euro, whereas opponents are a majority in Turkey (50%) and relatively numerous in Estonia (37%) and in Malta (35%).

However, in each of the "Laeken Group" countries, a majority is in favour of introducing the Euro.



### ➤ Two-thirds favour a European Constitution

Finally, **66% of citizens in the candidate countries think that the European Union should have a Constitution.**

In none of the 13 candidate countries are there more than 20% of opponents to such a Constitution, but half of the people in Lithuania and 40% in the Czech Republic and in Bulgaria have no opinion on this subject.



## TABLE – SUMMARY OF THE MAIN INDICATORS

### CANDIDATE COUNTRIES EUROBAROMETER 2002.2, TREND INDICATORS

	Membership good thing <sup>1</sup>	Referendum about membership <sup>2</sup>	Country benefit from membership <sup>3</sup>	Personal benefit from membership <sup>4</sup>	Trust in the European Union <sup>5</sup>
<b>CC13</b>	<b>61 (+ 1)</b>	<b>69 (+ 3)</b>	<b>67 (+ 4)</b>	<b>52 (+ 5)</b>	<b>59 (—)</b>
<b>LAEKEN 10</b>	<b>52 (+ 1)</b>	<b>61 (+ 4)</b>	<b>60 (+ 6)</b>	<b>41 (+ 2)</b>	<b>57 (- 1)</b>
BULGARIA	68 (+ 4)	74 (+ 1)	70 (+ 4)	41 (- 6)	65 (- 7)
CYPRUS	47 (- 6)	58 (- 7)	63 (- 5)	37 (- 8)	55 (- 7)
CZECH REP.	43 (—)	50 (- 1)	48 (+ 4)	36 (+ 2)	51 (- 3)
ESTONIA	32 (- 3)	39 (- 5)	41 (- 2)	29 (+ 4)	43 (- 4)
HUNGARY	67 (+ 2)	77 (+ 3)	76 (+ 3)	48 (+ 6)	<b>76 (+ 4)</b>
LATVIA	35 (+ 3)	45 (+ 3)	45 <b>(+ 6)</b>	33 (- 1)	46 (- 5)
LITHUANIA	48 (+ 5)	53 (+ 3)	54 <b>(+ 6)</b>	40 (+ 3)	52 (—)
MALTA	45 <b>(+ 7)</b>	47 (+ 5)	49 (+ 3)	40 (+ 1)	50 <b>(+ 4)</b>
POLAND	52 (—)	61 <b>(+ 8)</b>	59 (+ 8)	40 (+ 1)	53 (- 2)
ROMANIA	<b>78 (+ 1)</b>	<b>84 (- 1)</b>	<b>78 (+ 1)</b>	52 (+ 2)	75 (—)
SLOVAKIA	58 (- 3)	69 (—)	65 (+ 3)	44 (—)	62 (- 2)
SLOVENIA	43 (+ 3)	62 (+ 6)	62 (+ 4)	33 (+ 2)	52 (- 3)
TURKEY	65 (—)	71 (+ 1)	73 (+ 2)	<b>70 (+ 12)</b>	54 (+ 1)

<sup>1</sup> Generally speaking, do you think that (COUNTRY)'s membership of the European Union would be...? (a good thing / a bad thing / neither good nor bad) [good thing] -- compared to: Spring 2002

<sup>2</sup> And, if there were to be a referendum tomorrow on the question of (COUNTRY)'s membership of the European Union, would you personally vote for or against it? (for / against / would not vote (spontaneous) ) [for] -- compared to: Spring 2002

<sup>3</sup> Taking everything into consideration, would you say that (COUNTRY) could get advantages or not from being a member of the European Union? (yes, it could / no, it couldn't) [yes, it could] -- compared to: Spring 2002

<sup>4</sup> Do you think that (COUNTRY) becoming a member of the European Union would bring you personally advantages, or not? (yes / no) [yes] -- compared to: Autumn 2001

<sup>5</sup> For each of them, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it? -- the European Union (tend to trust / tend not to trust) [tend to trust] -- compared to: Autumn 2001

## **CANDIDATE COUNTRIES EUROBAROMETER**

### **Technical Specifications**

The European Commission launched a new series of surveys on the model of Standard Eurobarometer in the countries that are applying for European Union membership. The aim of this new tool is to gather information from the societies that are likely to become members of the European Union in a way that is fully comparable with the Standard Eurobarometer. Using this tool the Commission is able to provide decision makers and the European public with opinion data that helps to understand similarities and differences between the EU and the Candidate Countries. The Candidate Countries Eurobarometer (CC-EB) continuously tracks the support for EU membership, and the change of attitudes related to European issues in the candidate countries.

The present document covers the results of the wave of surveys conducted in September 2002, in the 13 Candidate Countries: Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Turkey.

An identical set of questions was asked to representative samples of the population aged fifteen years and over in each candidate country. The regular sample in Candidate Countries Eurobarometer surveys is 1.000 people per country except for Cyprus and Malta (500).

In each of the 13 Candidate Countries, the survey is carried out by national institutes associated with and coordinated by The Gallup Organization, Hungary. This network of institutes was selected by tender. All institutes are members of the "European Society for Opinion and Marketing Research" (ESOMAR) and comply with its standards.

The figures shown in this document for each of the candidate countries are weighted by sex, age, region, size of locality, education level, and marital status. The figures given for the candidate countries as a whole (CC-13) are weighted on the basis of the adult population in each country.

Due to the rounding of figures in certain cases, the total percentage in a table does not always add up exactly to 100%, but a number very close to it (e.g. 99 or 101). When questions allow for several responses, percentages often add up to more than 100%. Percentages shown in the graphics may display a difference of 1% compared to the tables because of the way previously-rounded percentages are added.

### **Sample Specifications**

Between the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September and the 15<sup>th</sup> of October 2002, The Gallup Organization Hungary carried out wave 2002.2 of the Candidate Countries Eurobarometer, at the request of the EUROPEAN COMMISSION, Directorate-General Press and Communication, Public Opinion Sector.

The Candidate Countries Eurobarometer 2002.1 covers citizens of each of the countries that are applying for European Union membership aged 15 and over, with the exception of Estonia and Cyprus. In Estonia, the survey covered permanent residents aged 15 and over. In Cyprus, the sample covered the territory of the Republic of Cyprus only. The basic sample design applied in all candidate countries is a multi-stage, random (probability) one. In each country, a number of sampling points were drawn with probability proportional to population size (for a total coverage of the country) and to population density.

For doing so, the points were drawn systematically from each of the "administrative regional units", after stratification by individual unit and type of area. They thus represent the whole territory of the Candidate Countries Region according to the EUROSTAT NUTS 2 (or equivalent; if there are no such regions, we used NUTS 3 or equivalent regions for sampling) and according to the distribution of the resident population of the respective nationalities in terms of metropolitan, urban and rural areas. In each of the selected sampling points, a starting address was drawn, at random. Further addresses were selected as every Nth address by standard random route procedures, from the initial address. In each household, the respondent was drawn, at random. All interviews were face-to-face in people's home and in the appropriate national language. In countries with significant minorities the respondents had a chance to respond in their mother tongue (in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in Russian, and in Romania in Hungarian).

Countries	Institutes	Number of Interviews	Field Work Dates	Population (x 000)
Bulgaria	VITOSHA RESEARCH	1000	15-Sept – 28-Sept	8,487
(Republic of) Cyprus	CYMAR MARKET RESEARCH	500	2-Sept – 25-Sept	663
Czech Republic	THE GALLUP ORGANIZATION, CZECH REP.	1000	2-Sept – 30-Sept	10,229
Estonia	SAAR POLL	1000	5-Sept – 22-Sept	1,446
Hungary	THE GALLUP ORGANIZATION, HUNGARY	1015	4-Sept – 22-Sept	10,198
Latvia	LATVIAN FACTS LTD.	1000	13-Sept – 30-Sept	2,439
Lithuania	BALTIC SURVEYS	1008	6-Sept – 17-Sept	3,701
Malta	MISCO	500	5-Sept – 26-Sept	379
Poland	THE GALLUP ORGANIZATION, POLAND	1000	1-Sept – 22-Sept	38,666
Romania	THE GALLUP ORGANIZATION, ROMANIA	1001	9-Sept – 31-Sept	22,546
Slovakia	FOCUS CENTER FOR SOCIAL AND MARKET ANALYSIS	1123	16-Sept – 16-Oct	5,391
Slovenia	CATI CENTER	1000	20-Sept – 9-Oct	1,986
Turkey	KONSENSUS RESEARCH & CONSULTANCY	1000	2-Sept – 26-Sept	56,473
Total number of interviews		12647		162,790

For each country a comparison between the sample and the universe was carried out. The Universe description was derived from population data from national statistics. For all Candidate Countries a weighting procedure, using marginal and intercellular weighting, was carried out, based on this Universe description. As such in all countries, gender, age, region NUTS 2, settlement size, household size, and education level were introduced in the iteration procedure. For international weighting (i.e. CC-13 averages), Gallup applies the official population figures as provided by national statistics. The total population figures for input in this post-weighting procedure are listed above.

The results of the Candidate Countries Eurobarometer studies are reported in the form of tables, datafiles and analyses. Per question a table of results is given with the full question text in English. The results are expressed as a percentage of the total. The results of the Eurobarometer surveys are analysed and made available through the Directorate-General Press and Communication, Opinion Polls of the European Commission, rue de la Loi 200, B-1049 Brussels. The results are published on the Internet server of the European Commission: [http://europa.eu.int/comm/public\\_opinion/](http://europa.eu.int/comm/public_opinion/). All Eurobarometer datafiles are stored at the "Zentral Archiv" (Universität Köln, Bachemer Strasse, 40, D-50869 Köln-Lindenthal), available through the CESSDA Database <http://www.nsd.uib.no/cessda/europe.html>. They are at the disposal of all institutes members of the European Consortium for Political Research (Essex), of the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (Michigan) and of all those interested in social science research.

Readers are reminded that survey results are estimations, the accuracy of which, everything being equal, rests upon the sample size and upon the observed percentage. With samples of about 1.000 interviews, the real percentages vary within the following confidence limits (in case of a sample of 1.000 people – confidence intervals for N=500 sample are larger):

Observed percentages	10% or 90%	20% or 80%	30% or 70%	40% or 60%	50%
Confidence intervals	± 1.9%	± 2.5%	± 2.7%	± 3.0%	± 3.2%