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Introducing the Eurobarometer

Eurobarometer public opinion surveys ("Standard Eurobarometer surveys") have been conducted each Spring and Autumn since Autumn 1973. From Autumn 2001, they have been conducted on behalf of the Directorate-General Press and Communication (Opinion Polls) of the European Commission. They have included Greece since Autumn 1980 (Eurobarometer 14), Portugal and Spain since Autumn 1985 (Eurobarometer 24), the former German Democratic Republic since Autumn 1990 (Eurobarometer 34) and Austria, Finland and Sweden from Spring 1995 (Eurobarometer 43) onwards.

An identical set of questions was asked of representative samples of the population aged fifteen years and over in each Member State. The regular sample in standard Eurobarometer surveys is 1000 people per country except in Luxembourg (600) and in the United Kingdom (1000 in Great Britain and 300 in Northern Ireland). In order to monitor the integration of the five new Länder into unified Germany and the European Union, 2000 persons have been sampled in Germany since the Eurobarometer 34: 1000 in East Germany and 1000 in West Germany.

In each of the 15 Member States, the survey is carried out by national institutes associated with the European Opinion Research Group, a consortium of Market and Public Opinion Research agencies, comprising INRA (EUROPE) and GfK Worldwide. 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 report for each of the Member States are weighted by sex, age, region and size of locality. The figures given for the European Union as a whole 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.

This report, which was drawn up by the Directorate-General Press and Communication of the European Commission, Opinion Polls (Head of Sector : Mr. Thomas Christensen), is an internal working document of the European Commission.

Types of surveys in the Eurobarometer series

The European Commission (Directorate-General Press and Communication) organises general public opinion surveys aimed at specific target groups as well as at the public at large. It also conducts qualitative surveys (group discussion, in-depth interview) in all Member States and, occasionally, in third countries. There are four different types of polls available:

- *Traditional standard Eurobarometer surveys, with reports published twice a year, and Special Eurobarometer surveys (see Annexe D for list), which use the same methodology as standard Eurobarometer*
- *Candidate Countries Eurobarometer, based on the same methodology as standard Eurobarometer, with reports published once each year*
- *Telephone Flash EB, which are also used for special target-group surveys (eg. Top Decision Makers)*
- *Qualitative research ("focus groups"; in-depth interviews)*

The Eurobarometer Website address is:
http://europa.eu.int/comm/public_opinion/

EUROBAROMETER 57 - NATIONAL STANDARD REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: **BELGIUM**

Survey carried out for the European
Commission's Representation in
Belgium

« This document does not reflect the views of the European Commission. Any interpretations or opinions expressed in this report are those of the authors alone »

October 17, 2002

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Introduction

This Executive summary presents the main points of the Eurobarometer 57.1 report. This report is the fruit of a survey carried out in Belgium and in the fourteen other member states of the European Union during April 2002. Almost 16,000 EU citizens were interviewed in total, 1,045 of whom were Belgians. In each of the national groups the interviewers ensured that all of the socio-demographic trends (age, level of studies, income, political beliefs, profession, geographical origin, etc.) were represented so that the information gathered would best represent public opinion in the entire country.

This report is subdivided into three parts of unequal sizes, the content of which was determined by the type of questions asked. The first part is called simply, "The Belgians". Its goal is to highlight the social behaviour of the people interviewed, such as fears, kind of information looked for, confidence in certain institutions, etc. The second and largest part is entitled "The Belgians and the European Union". It contains the most questions, covering such diverse areas as the Belgians' knowledge of the Union, the sources of information used and favoured, priorities and fears, the institutions, the way in which the Union works, the euro, etc. Finally, the third part is called "The Belgians and Enlargement". It is the shortest part as it only contains six questions. It does, however, provide interesting information on Belgian opinion regarding the enlargement process.

The Belgians

Life and personal situation

From the point of view of their quality of life and their personal situation, the Belgians have quite a positive outlook. They are relatively happy with their quality of life at the moment, and consider it to be at least as good as, or even better than, it was five years ago. The Belgians are also optimistic about the future and hope that their lives will improve over the five years to come.

Reservations

The Belgians do not seem to have many misgivings about the future. In fact, they seem relatively confident about it. However, organised crime and terrorism do represent two factors that are a cause for worry for 7 out of 10 Belgians. The possibility of a nuclear power plant accident is also a cause of apprehension for 1 out of 2 Belgians.

Confidence in the institutions

Out of the 17 institutions proposed, radio (71%), television (68%) and the written press (60%) had the highest levels of confidence. These three media occupy a vital place in people's lives, as has already been seen in the previous Eurobarometer report. This fact was confirmed in this current report, particularly in the question regarding the EU information sources preferred by the people interviewed (see Part Two). It was also clear that Belgians were more likely to have confidence in the supranational

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institutions (such as the UNO, the European Union and NGOs) than in their own national institutions (government, parliament, etc). The religious institutions (58.5%, not particularly confident), the Belgian justice and legal systems (59%, not particularly confident) as well as political parties (68.5%, not particularly confident) represent the three institutions which inspire the least amount of confidence.

Information

In general, the Belgians are not particularly interested in information, no matter what the area concerned. Overall, the inhabitants of Brussels are more interested than the Wallonians or the Flemish. Social problems, the environment and culture are the three themes which attract the attention of the greater majority of Belgians.

The Belgians and the European Union

Knowledge of the European Union

While the Belgians believe that they know little about the European Union they do think that they know more than most of the other EU citizens questioned. This observation has already been made in earlier Eurobarometer reports. We may note here that 85% of the people interviewed believe that children should be taught at school about the way in which the institutions of the EU work. There is thus a fairly clear demand in this area.

Sources of information on the European Union

Television, the daily papers and the radio are the main sources of information about the European Union. Television is the preferred medium for 3 out of 5 Belgians, daily newspapers and the radio that of approximately 1 out of 3 Belgians. These are the media that Belgians would like to see prioritised for delivering information on the EU. This was already noted in the Eurobarometer 56.3 report and has now been confirmed. The next choice of sources is a little more complex. After radio, all of the people surveyed are in favour of more detailed brochures (22%), the Internet (15,5%) and short brochures (14,5%). But certain characteristics, such as the target-group's age, should be taken into account. For example, for young people between the ages of 15-24, the Internet is as attractive as, or even more attractive than, radio or the daily newspapers.

Attitude towards the European Union

The Belgians have a relatively positive attitude towards the EU. They consider being a member state to be quite a good thing and believe that Belgium has benefited from its membership of the Union. For them the Union has a positive image and, overall, only 7% of Belgians would like membership to be abandoned. The people interviewed do not strongly believe that they have received many personal advantages as a result of Belgium's membership of the EU. But they do appreciate the euro, and the freedom to travel, study and work where they wish within the European Union. For 1 out of 4 Belgians the Union also represents peace, more influence on the international scene, cultural diversity and economic

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prosperity. When questioned about their feelings about the EU, hope (42%) and confidence (32%) are the first feelings to be mentioned by the majority of Belgians. There are reservations, however, depending on professional categories, and the unemployed are more likely to be indifferent towards the EU than to express hope and confidence.

Reservations

The Belgians express confidence but also reservations in regard to the EU. The fears felt by the people questioned are linked mainly to security and social issues. 66.5% of Belgians are worried about an increase in drug trafficking and 64% of them fear an increase in unemployment. Furthermore, more than 1 out of 2 Belgians (55%) worry that decisions in the EU could be imposed by the big countries. On the other hand, there is little concern about the loss of national or cultural identity.

Identity

While the Belgians have a positive opinion of the EU, this does not mean that there has been a radical change in national identity. The people interviewed see themselves as being, first, Belgian and European (49%), then only Belgian (33%). They next see themselves as being both European and Belgian (10%) and finally only European (7%). The Belgians, and particularly the Wallonians, remain quite proud of their nationality. But this does not prevent the Belgians from being reasonably proud to be European.

The Belgians and the European Institutions

We saw at the beginning of Part Two that the Belgians believe they know little about the EU. However, we noticed then that the European Institutions were fairly well known, since more than 50% of people said that they had heard of six of them. People thus know and recognise their importance, since six of the ten institutions mentioned are considered to be important by 50% of people surveyed. The best known and the most important to the Belgians are, in decreasing order of recognition: The European Parliament, The European Commission, The Court of Justice of the European Union and the Council of the European Union.

The question of confidence in the institutions is more delicate. Only the European Parliament and the European Commission receive more than 50% of votes of confidence. The European Central Bank and the Court of Justice are put in 3rd and 4th place. Nevertheless, all the institutions receive more votes of confidence than votes of distrust, except the Regional committee and the Social and Economic Committee. We noted that in the question regarding the institutions, there was a record number of non responses. This may be because the people questioned do not really know the institutions, even though many said that they had heard of them. With regard to the European Commission in particular, Belgians say that they are in favour of the president of the Commission being elected, whether by the citizens (36%) or by members of the European Parliament (35%).

How the European Union Works

An important question is that of the principle of subsidiarity, which means that the EU assumes responsibility for affairs which cannot be efficiently dealt with by national, regional or local governments.

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Overall, 58% of Belgians are in favour of this principle. Of the 27 sectors proposed, the people surveyed said that 18 of them should be managed at Community level. The main five areas where the Belgians would like decisions to be taken by the EU as a whole are:

- The fight against international terrorism (85%)
- The currency (80%)
- The fight against the trafficking and exploitation of humans (78%)
- Foreign policy towards countries outside the European Union (78%)
- Information on the European Union, its policies and its institutions (77%)

The five areas where the Belgians are in favour of a decision being taken by their own government are:

- The police (68%)
- Education (66%)
- Justice (62%)
- Health and social security (60%)
- The prevention of urban delinquency (56 %)

Belgians believe that the right to veto should be retained for countries in the case of an important or sensitive decision. Moreover, they do not want financial contributions to be made directly to the European Union.

Priorities and actions to be supported

Amongst certain **actions** undertaken by the EU, 82% of Belgians say they are particularly in favour of monetary union, 75% are in favour of a common security and defence policy and 85% believe that children should be taught about the way in which the Union works.

The **actions** that the Union should prioritise, according to the Belgians, cover three main areas: security, social issues and food safety. These three areas bring together 6 **actions** to be taken :

- Ensure peace and security in Europe (90.5%)
- Fight against unemployment (90%)
- Guarantee the quality of food products (90%)
- Fight against poverty and social exclusion (89.5%)
- Fight against terrorism (89%)
- Fight against organised crime and drug trafficking (89%)

Only 27% of people questioned believed **welcoming new members to be a priority**.

The euro

Finally, in regard to the euro, the Belgians believe that it is quite a good thing that the Franc was replaced by the euro. They also say that they are relatively at ease with the new currency.

Belgians and Enlargement

In Part Two, we saw that the Belgians do not believe welcoming new members into the EU to be a priority, even if they are not particularly against the process. Part Three, dedicated to enlargement, provides more details on this question.

The Belgians' opinion of enlargement

The first question in Part Three confirmed the fact that the majority of Belgians are not opposed to enlargement. But they do have some reservations. While 18% are in favour of an enlargement open to all countries, 39.5% would prefer this enlargement to be limited to certain countries. More than 1 in 4 Belgians (27%) admit to being totally against the enlargement of the Union. This is a higher percentage than that obtained in the previous Eurobarometer report (EB 56.3 carried out in Autumn 2001). The Wallonians are the most opposed to the enlargement process, with 31.5% against it.

Information about enlargement

It is evident that considerable efforts will need to be made regarding information about enlargement,, since the majority of Belgians feel that they are not well informed. Of course, some of the general public are less well informed than others. In particular, people who are unemployed, retired, live in rural areas, or who are over the age of 55 felt particularly badly informed. These are the groups that most need to be targeted.

A vision of the nation of Europe

The three European countries that people would most like to see becoming part of the European Union are economically and politically stable countries, but are not in fact candidate countries. These are Switzerland and Norway, each of which receives 75% support, and Iceland, which has 58% support. Of the candidate countries, Malta (51%), Cyprus (48%), Hungary (46%) and Poland (45%) obtained the most positive votes. All the other candidate countries obtained more negative votes than positive ones.

Decision-making in an enlarged Union

Almost 1 out of 2 Belgians (47%) believes that when the European Union has 25 or more members, decisions should be made by a majority of member states. One out of 4 Belgians is not in agreement with this and would prefer decisions to be taken unanimously by all the member states. Finally, 14% of people interviewed think that a flexible system depending on the type of decision to be made would be needed.

The consequences of enlargement

A large number of people surveyed (72%) believe that with enlargement it will be more difficult to make decisions within the EU. Forty eight percent believe that it is necessary to reform the institutions and the way in which the EU works before bringing in new members. But the Belgians also think that enlargement could bring positive elements. According to 66% of them, the more members the Union has, the more

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important it will be in the world, and according to 64% of them, the Union will be culturally richer with more members.

A financial question worries Belgians in particular: the possibility that enlargement will be expensive for countries who are already members of the Union, such as Belgium. The Belgians are also against the idea that the Union should give financial aid to the applicant countries before they become members.



EUROBAROMETER 57 - NATIONAL STANDARD REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

DENMARK

Survey carried out for the European
Commission's Representation in
Denmark

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October 17, 2002

Executive Summary

This Executive Summary presents the overall results from the EU Eurobarometer Poll 57.1 The answers for the survey were collected in Denmark between March 29, 2002 and April 30, 2002.

The main conclusions of the survey are as follows:

1. Enlargement

Support for enlargement – the Baltic States are favourites to join

A total of 78% of the Danish population support EU enlargement in some form. However, when asked to prioritise the list of candidate countries currently participating in enlargement negotiations, the Danes have clear favourites. At the top of the list are the three Baltic States, whose admission to the EU is supported by as many as 69% of the population. At the bottom of the list we find Bulgaria and Turkey, where the admission of the latter is supported by only 31% of the Danish population.

Norway, Switzerland and Iceland are welcome to join the EU – if they want to do so

The Danes are also very positive towards the admission of countries not participating in the current negotiations. The candidacy of Norway, Switzerland and Iceland is widely supported, if they decide to join the EU, with Norway's admission receiving an astonishing 88% level of support. On the other hand, the Danes are clearly opposed to admitting countries such as Croatia, Macedonia, Yugoslavia and Bosnia-Herzegovina into the EU; as many as 43% of the Danish population are against the admission of these countries. These figures indicate that the Danes seem to prefer countries that they know well and which have a strong economy.

The Danes support majority decisions once EU Enlargement is complete

57% of the Danes support the practice of majority decisions in the EU, if the number of EU members grows to 25 or more, while 33% want the principle of unanimous decisions to be practiced. These figures indicate a wish for more efficient decision-making process within the EU. Sixty-five per cent of the population support reform of the structures of the EU institutions before welcoming new member countries.

More members will strengthen the political influence of the EU – but will result in a more complicated decision-making process

No less than 79% of the Danish population believe that the political influence of the EU on the world scene will increase in proportion to the number of new members being admitted. At the same time, nearly the same amount of people express their concern that decision-making at the European level will be more complicated as the number of member countries grows.

Sixty-six percent of the Danes tend to believe that enlargement is going to cost money for existing member countries like Denmark, while 21% tend to believe that enlargement is not going to cost money. Only 23% of the Danes are of the opinion that new EU members will lead to increased unemployment in Denmark

Low level of information on enlargement

The Danish population does not feel well informed about enlargement. Women feel slightly less informed than men ; 66% of women stated that they had not been well informed. The best informed group is the oldest group of Danes (age 55+). In the 15-24 age group, 12% believe that they have not been informed at all.

2. EU Institutions

High awareness of the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Court of Justice of the European Communities

The European Commission, the European Parliament and the Court of Justice of the European Communities are all known to more than 92% of the Danes. The institutions with the lowest awareness are the Committee of the Regions of the European Union and the European Court of Auditors; the latter known to only 20% of the Danes.

Overall confidence in EU Institutions is low

Generally, confidence in EU Institutions is low, with less than half of the population expressing confidence in key institutions such as the European Commission and the European Parliament. The one exception is the Court of Justice of the European Communities, in which 70% of the population express confidence.

The institutions that receive the lowest levels of confidence are also the institutions that are perceived as the most important for everyday life in Europe. The three most important institutions are the European Parliament, the Court of Justice of the European Communities, and the European Commission. The least important is the European Court of Auditors.

Clear support for EU membership

Danish EU membership is clearly supported by the population: 60% of the Danes are in favour, while only 16% are opposed. In particular, men (66%) and the 15-24 age group (72%) support EU membership. Only twice in the last 12 years has overall support for EU membership among the Danes fallen below 50%.

EU membership is beneficial for Denmark

All things considered, 68% of the Danes believe that EU membership has been a benefit for Denmark. Only a modest 17% of the population believe that EU membership has not been beneficial. For many Danes, EU membership has often been seen as a cost-benefit calculation. In that light, EU membership has been a benefit almost every year since 1972.

EU has a neutral-to-positive image

Slightly more than a third of the Danes believe that the image of the EU is neutral, whereas 32% find that the EU has a positive image. However, only 6% believe that the image of the EU is very positive.

The youngest Danes feel most personal advantages – and the oldest Danes feel the fewest advantages

For one half of the Danish population EU membership has provided as many personal advantages as disadvantages. And for one third of the population there have been either some or many personal advantages. Men in particular have felt more personal advantages. There is a connexion between age and personal advantages: there is a clear tendency that the younger you are, the more personal advantages of EU membership are perceived.

Health care, social welfare, media, education, and culture are areas of essential national interest

The five areas mentioned above – and particularly health care and social welfare – are widely regarded as areas of essential national interest. Areas where a majority of Danes want the EU to make decisions include foreign policy towards countries outside the EU, support for regions with economic problems, scientific and technological research, and humanitarian aid.

The European Parliament should elect the President of the European Commission

Forty per cent of the Danish population believe that the responsibility for electing the President of the European Commission should be in the hands of the majority of the European Parliament.

Proud to be Danish

Ninety per cent of the Danish population are either very proud or fairly proud to be Danish.

Nearly a Danish majority for an EU constitution

Nearly half of the Danes (49%) believe that the EU should have its own constitution.

Confidence in the police is high – and low in the political parties

When the Danes express their confidence in 17 different institutions, the police and the military come out on the top. The police have a confidence rating of 89%.

The lowest confidence rating is awarded to the political parties (35%), while the National Parliament (Folketinget) as an institution has a 63% confidence ratio rating. This low confidence in the democratic institutions is similar to that of other EU countries.

Less than half of the Danes tend to express confidence in the EU

A little less than half of the Danish population tend to express confidence in the EU as an institution, whereas 42% tend not to have confidence in the EU. These figures are, however, in accordance with the other EU countries, where 46% tend to have confidence in the EU.

Stronger Danish confidence in institutions compared to the EU average

The Danes have a higher degree of overall confidence in the 17 institutions included in the survey than is registered in other EU countries.

3. The Euro

Almost half of the Danish population are positive towards replacing the Krone with the euro

47% of the Danes believe that replacing the Krone with the euro would be a very good or a fairly good idea. However, 20% of the population are neither positive nor negative. Consequently, the Eurobarometer Poll offers no indication as to how this group of 20% will vote in the case of a referendum on this issue.

Minor regional differences in the attitude towards the euro – men are more positive than women

A comparison between Danish regions reveals only minor differences. Men are significantly more positive towards the euro than women. For example, fewer than 40% of women believe that the euro is either a very good or a fairly good thing.

Support for the Euro increases slightly with age

The strongest overall support for the euro is found in the age group 40+, but this is only slightly higher than in the younger age groups.

4. Information Channels on the EU

The Danes feel they have a good level of knowledge about EU matters

Compared to other EU countries Denmark is only surpassed by Austria when it comes to how the population estimates its general knowledge about the EU, its policies, and institutions. The average score for Denmark is 4.95; Austria's score is 5.31, while United Kingdom at the bottom of the list with a score of 3.57. The EU average is 4.35.

TV, newspapers, and radio are the preferred information channels on EU matters

The Danes prefer easily accessible information channels such as television, daily newspapers, and radio when they seek information on EU matters. This choice of media is the same across all sex and age groups.

The least popular media among the Danes

Meetings, CD-ROMs, contacts with trade unions and trade associations, information offices, public offices, and bulletin boards are generally preferred by just a small minority of Danes. There are, however, some differences between certain age groups.

Young men use the Internet to a large degree

The Internet is a widely popular source of information, which is used in some form by an average of 26% of the Danes. Young men in particular use the Internet to seek information on the EU.

The Danes gather information through debate and discussion

The Danes like to discuss politics and, consequently, 36% of the population get information on the EU via such debate. This is particularly the case among the youngest age groups, but even in the age group 25-39 almost 50% seek EU information through debates and discussion.

Consistency between preferred and actual information channels

There is a reasonable degree of consistency between the information channels actually used by the Danes to seek information on the EU and the information channels that they prefer to use.

Young Danes prefer more alternative media than older Danes

Compared to the other age groups young people in the 15-24 age group have a stronger preference for books with complete descriptions, detailed information brochures, brief information leaflets, posters, or videotapes. But, regardless of age, the preferred information channels are still television, daily newspapers, radio, debates, and the Internet.

Strong interest in social issues and the environment

The Danes are very attentive to news about social issues and the environment, where up to 60% pay a lot of attention. Only 29% pay a lot of attention to news about the EU, but it is important to point out that a total of 60% of the Danish population pay at least a little attention to news about the EU. This indicates some interest in EU matters.

5. The life of the Danes in the EU

The Danes discuss politics frequently – and like to persuade others of their views

Political discussions are popular among the Danes. 83% of the population engage in political discussions occasionally or frequently. And 20% of the population often try to persuade others of their views. This is twice the European average.

The Danes are happy with their life

64% of the Danish population are very satisfied with the life they lead. This is three times higher than the European average, where 21% are very satisfied.

The Danes feel that their situation has improved

Almost half the Danes have experienced improvements in their situation over the past five years. The most improvements have been felt by the 25-39 age group– with the 15-24 age group closely behind. In the 55+ age group is the highest number of people (22%), who feel that their situation has got worse over the past five years.

Forty per cent of the Danish population expect their situation to improve over the next five years, while 50% expect it to remain the same.

Terrorism and ethnic conflicts are the biggest fears

When asked what specific threats the Danes are most afraid of, terrorism and ethnic conflicts come out as the biggest fears.

Women are more afraid than men

Generally, women are more afraid than men as regards all the possible events included in the survey. And women are significantly more afraid than men when it comes to the possibility of a world war, a conventional war in Europe, and terrorism. For example, 71% of women are afraid of terrorism compared to 61% of men. For all of the suggested events it is the 55+ age group that expresses the strongest fear.

Fear of decisions imposed by the big EU member countries

Sixty six percent of the Danish population fear that decisions will be imposed by the bigger countries in the EU. This is almost as many as those who are afraid of increased drug trafficking or international organised crime. Only slightly more than 25% of the Danes are afraid that an economic crisis will occur

EUROBAROMETER 57 - NATIONAL STANDARD REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

GERMANY

Survey carried out for the European
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October 17, 2002

On the Road to Enlargement Image, Tasks and Future of the European Union

Main results

Positive development of the EU's image and the assessment of German membership of the EU

- In April 2002 the image of the European Union has strongly improved compared to the previous year. While in the spring of 2001 only 35% of the German population had a positive or very positive view of the EU, in April 2002 this number rose to 44%. In East Germany this share rose by 14 percentage points and thus twice as much as in West Germany (+7 percentage points).
- Fifty-two percent of the Germans look positively upon German EU-membership. In 1996 the citizens had a less positive view. Now their assessment is again within the EU average.
- More so than the rest of the EU citizens, the majority of Germans associate the euro, the freedom to travel, study and work, more influence in the rest of the world and cultural diversity with the European Union.
- With regard to their personal situation a majority holds that Germany's EU membership has brought them personally as many advantages as disadvantages.

Trust in the European Union is higher than trust in the national government

- Germans trust the European Union as much as they trust their national parliament and the EU enjoys more trust than the German government. On average, all EU citizens trust the EU more than their respective national parliaments.
- Those institutions that have an independent supervisory function, such as the European Court of Justice, the European Central Bank, and the Court of Auditors enjoy a high degree of trust and importance among the Germans.
- Germans consider the European "institutional triangle" of Parliament, Commission and Council of Ministers as less important than do European citizens as a whole.

Limited support for the planned enlargement of the European Union

- Support for EU enlargement is shrinking. Forty-three percent of the Germans (West: 42%, East: 48%) are generally in favor of enlargement of the European Union. This is less than in December 2001 (47%). This makes Germany one of the countries with the lowest degree of support for enlargement.
- This points to a development that can be observed in Germany as well as in the rest of the EU, where the approaching accession dates and the increasing media coverage seem to push the negative aspects of enlargement into the foreground.
- At the same time do Germans feel well informed or very well informed about the enlargement of the European Union. The perceived degree of information is higher among German citizens than in the EU as a whole. However, compared to the previous survey in the spring of 2001 the level of information remains relatively low in Germany (25%) and in the EU as a whole (21%).
- Due to the enlargement process, positive expectations, such as a more important role for Europe in the world, and maintaining peace and security in Europe, are

counterbalanced by concerns about rising unemployment, less financial aid from the EU for Germany, and higher costs for member states like Germany.

Broad support for a common foreign, security and defence policy

- A common foreign, security and defence policy within the European Union is supported by a broad majority of Germans (support for common security and defence policy: 79%, support for common foreign policy: 75%). This degree of support has been stable since the autumn of 2001 and is higher than the EU-average (security and defence policy: 71%, foreign policy: 64%).
- In the view of Germany's citizens the most important issues that the European Union should address are maintaining peace and security in Europe, the fight against terrorism and organized crime and the fight against unemployment.
- The majority of citizens in Germany and in the European Union as a whole think that these issues should be decided on jointly within the European Union rather than by national governments alone.

The majority of citizens want a European constitution

- A solid majority of Germans (65%) and European citizens in general (63%) think that the European Union should have a constitution.
- Especially within the context of the enlargement more than half of the Germans (55%) think that reform of the EU's institutions and decision-making processes should be made a priority before the admission of more member states. This share has increased since the last survey.

A positive attitude towards the Euro – despite the feeling of rising prices

- From the German point of view the switch to the euro went well. The proportion of the German population that considered the changeover as unproblematic (50%) is larger than in the Eurozone as a whole (35%).
- Following the introduction of the euro the positive attitude towards European Monetary Union with the Euro as the single currency has improved both in Germany (67%) and in the Eurozone (75%, +7 percentage points each).
- Three-quarters of Germans feel that, in the wake of the changeover, prices were generally rounded upwards in all areas. Indeed, 70% of citizens in the rest of the Eurozone hold this opinion, a larger share of the population thinking that prices rose only in some areas (Eurozone 15%, Germany 11%).

High degree of knowledge about the European Union among Germans

- According to their own assessment the Germans are among the best-informed citizens of the EU.
- The majority of Germans say that they follow news about the EU attentively.
- However, Germans are less interested in news about the EU than in news about other political and social issues. The proportion of those who are interested in news about the European Union is smaller than the EU-average.



EUROBAROMETER 57 - NATIONAL STANDARD REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

GREECE

Survey carried out for the European
Commission's Representation in
Greece

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October 17, 2002

Introduction

Between March 29th and May 1st of the year 2002, the European Opinion Research Group, a consortium of market and public research agencies, carried out wave 57.1 of the standard Eurobarometer, at the request of the European Commission Directorate-General Press and Communication, Opinion Polls.

The research covers the population of the respective nationalities of the European Member States, aged 15 years and over, resident in each of the member states. All interviews took place in person, at interviewees' homes and in their national language. The questions posed to interviewees evolved around two core topics as follows:

- i. ***Support for EU enlargement***
- ii. ***Support for EU policies, including the single currency***

The Greek sample, of 1002 Greek residents, shows complete homogeneity with regard to nationality. This fact allows us to consider that the research results and assumptions are representative of Greek national public opinion.

The research offers a comprehensive framework for satisfactorily analysing Greek public opinion both independently and comparatively within the framework of the 15 EU member-states. The wide range of themes covered within the framework of the research conducted allows us to analyse Greek public opinion with respect to its opinions, its concerns, its fears, its preferences and its expectations. Where possible, the findings of the present opinion poll are compared and contrasted with those of the previous standard Eurobarometer edition (56.2).

The first core topic of the research – enlargement - constitutes a key issue for the European Union as regards its future geo-political expansion. This issue is approached both as a policy and as a process.

The second main topic refers to a *fait accompli* for the European Union given that the euro already constitutes a single currency for the 15 member states of the European Monetary Union. Eurobarometer 57.1 is the first such survey to have been conducted after the launch of the euro and, in this respect, its results are perceived as exceptionally valuable.

The core research ends with various questions exploring the Greeks' knowledge of EU issues, their usage and preference in terms of information sources, and Greek feelings on European Union and other issues.

Finally, some other issues are examined in the research. The most noticeable refers to the respondents' sense of identity, as a majority of Greek citizens view themselves as primarily Greek and secondarily European.

Moreover, it is worth mentioning that:

- The overwhelming majority of the Greeks (83,5%) are very proud of their Greek nationality, while the relevant EU15 average is 44%.
- A clear majority of the Greeks have a positive view of their country's membership of the European Union, and 72% of respondents declare that the country has benefited from being a member.
- 6 out of 10 Greeks seem to have a positive image of the EU.
- Greeks express fears concerning the increase of unemployment in the course of the construction of Europe.
- Television seems to be the most common and most preferred source of information on EU issues for a majority of Greeks (72%).
- Only a small minority of Greeks (2,2%) appear to make use of the EU official information centres.

Support for EU enlargement

The first key issue dealt with by the research refers to the analysis of the Greeks' attitude to EU enlargement. The analysis investigates the Greeks' support for enlargement as well as the degree of knowledge and the preferences of Greek citizens.

The great majority (67%) of Greeks are in favour of enlargement of the EU. This is the second-highest level of support in the EU, surpassed only by Denmark (68%). However, the Greeks take a critical position on the issue. Specifically, when questioned on the immediate future of the EU, a majority of Greeks (53%) favour an enlarged European Union that includes only some of the countries wishing to join.

The Greek participants' answers on questions about the expected benefits and the negative aspects of enlargement reveal their concerns:

- The Greeks seem to agree (76%) that enlargement will secure peace and will enhance security in Europe.
- Enlargement will lead to enhancement of the international role of the EU according to 74% of Greeks and will enrich culture within the European Union (68%)
- Forty percent of the Greek respondents believe that enlargement will not entail additional cost for the existing member states, while 35% believe the opposite.
- The majority of Greeks are afraid that the EU enlargement will lead to an increase in unemployment.

- After the planned enlargement, one out of two Greeks (55%) would prefer decisions to be made unanimously by the member states rather than by a majority (32%). This is the highest score of any EU country.
- The probability of Greece having less power after enlargement seems not to constitute a serious fear for the majority of Greeks (45%).
- Forty-five percent of Greek respondents believe that once new countries have joined the European Union, Greece will probably receive less financial aid.
- The majority of Greeks (54%) believe that the EU must undertake institutional reforms before the accession of new members.
- 54% of the Greeks believe that the EU should financially support the candidate countries even before their accession.

It is worth noting that a small, but significant, percentage of Greeks - between 17% and 25% - appear not to have any opinion or view on the consequences and implications of EU enlargement.

The leading Greek preferences as regards the candidate countries are as follows: Cyprus (89%), Malta (69%) and Hungary (61%). Turkey appears to be the least favoured choice (20%). Furthermore, Greeks believe that countries such as Switzerland (78%), Norway (74%) and Iceland (69%) should join the EU. Finally, they are in favour of the accession to the EU of the former Yugoslavia republics, but not of Albania.

To conclude the issue of enlargement, it can be seen that the Greeks suffer from a significant deficit of information. Thus, only one in 100 Greek citizens believes themselves to be *very well informed* on EU enlargement. One in four feel *well informed*; one in two express doubts about their knowledge of enlargement (*not very well informed*); and 27% of the Greek respondents believe themselves to be *not at all informed* on enlargement.

Support for EU policies including the single currency

In general, Greeks appear to be in favour of joint decision-making by the EU and national governments. However, there are a few areas where it is preferred that decisions are taken by the national government.

It is clear that the area of defence constitutes a sensitive issue for the Greeks ; the great majority (64%) believe that all related decisions should be made solely by the national government and not jointly within the EU. Accordingly, although with lower percentages, the Greeks consider the national government as the appropriate authority to make decisions concerning the regulatory framework and rules for broadcasting and press (55%), education (53%), health and social welfare (51%) and cultural policy (51%).

Surprisingly enough, a significant percentage of Greeks (49%) appear to have a positive view of joint decision-making within the EU with regard to agriculture and fishing policy. However, a similar proportion (47%) of the Greeks are opposed to this idea, believing that agriculture and fishing policy is the national government's responsibility and that it alone should take decisions on such issues.

Nevertheless, the overwhelming majority of the Greek population views a great number of areas as part of a broader European policy and, thus, expresses the opinion that they should be subject to a common policy and to joint decision-making within the EU. More specifically, the areas in which the Greeks show willingness to share decisions on a European level are the following:

Scientific and technological research (76 %)
Information about the EU, its policies and institutions (73%)
Single European currency, Euro (72%)
Provision of humanitarian aid (70%)
Support to regions experiencing economic difficulties (66%)
Fight against poverty and social exclusion (65%)
Foreign policy towards countries outside the European Union (64%)
Fight against unemployment (62%)
Protection of the environment (58%)

Based on the poll results, the Greek sample appears even more receptive to sharing decision-making powers on a European level on a series of issues that are of major concern, such as the fight against international terrorism (81%), the fight against the trade and exploitation of human beings (76%), organized crime (73 %) and drugs (69%).

It is worth mentioning that almost seven in 10 Greeks view positively the possibility of the EU being responsible for matters that cannot be effectively handled by national, regional and local governments. Yet seven in 10 Greeks (65%) appear to be afraid of the possibility of decisions being imposed by 'big' member states.

A vast majority of Greeks (94%) believe that the fight against unemployment is the highest priority for action to be undertaken by the EU. Moreover, 94% also place a high priority on action that aims to protect consumers and guarantee the quality of food, as well as other products.

Greek respondents agree that priority be given to all the listed actions that could be undertaken by the EU. Of these, the fight against poverty and social exclusion (93%), protection of the environment (92%), the maintenance of peace and security in Europe (92%), the fight against organized crime and drug trafficking (92%), the fight against terrorism (92%), the successful implementation of the single European currency (87%) and guaranteeing individual rights and the

respect for the principle of democracy in Europe (82%) are seen as having the highest priority.

The Greeks are extremely supportive of the principle of a common foreign and security policy. In particular, the overwhelming majority (70%) of Greeks take a positive view of a European common foreign policy, with only 16% opposed to it.

A similar proportion (72%) approve of the principle of a common European defence and security policy, with only 14% opposed.

With reference to European Monetary Union, the Greeks appear to be amongst the most enthusiastic euro-supporters ; eight in 10 Greeks have a positive view of European Monetary Union with a single currency. Equally, eight in 10 Greeks say that they feel '*fairly to very*' comfortable about using the euro. A great number of Greek citizens - almost six in 10- take a positive view of the replacement of the national currency by the euro.

Other research findings of European interest

The majority of Greeks clearly express a sense of trust in the European Union, as well as in its institutions and bodies. Of these institutions, the European Parliament is the best known, is regarded as having the most important role and as being the most trustworthy. This is followed by the European Commission.

The Greeks are aware of the main EU institutions, such as the European Parliament (81%), the European Commission (73%), the Council of Ministers of the EU (68%), the Court of Justice of the European Communities, the European Central Bank (56%). On the other hand, Greeks are largely ignorant of (*they have not heard of*) institutions such as the European Ombudsman (50%), the European Court of Auditors (57 %), the Committee of Regions of the EU (63%) and the Economic and Social Committee of the EU (50%).

Some final observations include:

The majority of Greeks (68%) are favourable towards the idea of a Constitution for the European Union, while 69% of the Greeks strongly believe that the national right of veto for the most important or sensitive decisions must be retained in order to preserve essential national interests. Greek citizens also recognize the significance of the European Parliament's role in the appointment and resignation of the European Commission.

Olga Stavropoulou
Militos Emerging Technologies and Services



EUROBAROMETER 57 - NATIONAL STANDARD REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

SPAIN

Survey carried out for the European
Commission's Representation in
Spain

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October 17, 2002

INTRODUCTION

Standard Eurobarometer 57.1 is a Public Opinion survey undertaken by the Press Directorate General of the European Commission. This document is an executive summary of the report based on the Spanish data for this edition of Standard Eurobarometer, carried out in April 2002 (during the Spanish presidency of the Council of Ministers of the European Union).

This document includes the main conclusions of the Spanish report for each of the three major issues analysed in it, which are:

- Thematic analysis 1:

Spanish attitudes towards the European Union enlargement process.

- Thematic analysis 2:

Spanish attitudes towards the European Union, its policies and actions.

- Thematic analysis 3:

Knowledge and trust of Spanish citizens regarding the European Union.

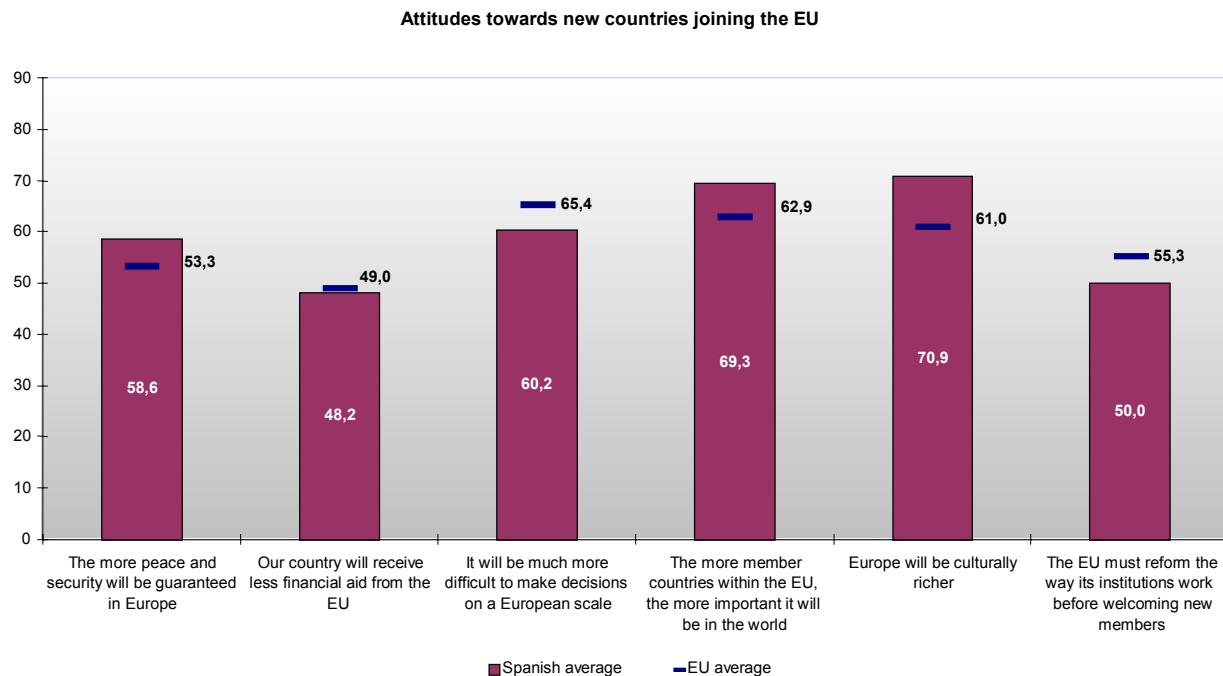
- ***General conclusions / Recommendations.***

For some of the main topics a comparison at European level is given in order to illustrate the divergence of certain Spanish attitudes.

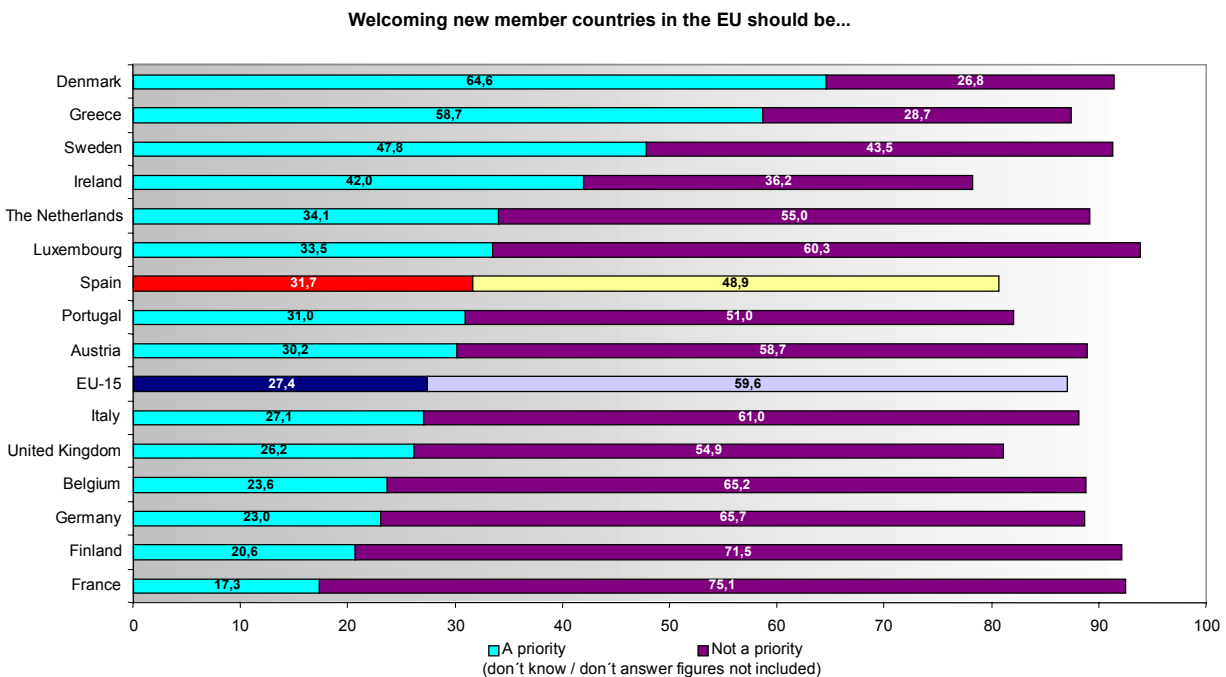
Thematic analysis 1:

SPANISH ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE EUROPEAN UNION ENLARGEMENT PROCESS.

- Half of the Spanish feel that they are “not very well informed” about the enlargement process. Indeed, almost 30% of the population confirm that they feel “not at all informed”. The Spanish are very close to the rest of the EU-15 in terms of information-gathering about this topic.
- When it comes to supporting or opposing the enlargement process, 64% of the Spanish are in favour, but attitudes towards the development of the process are quite different: Thirty-four percent think that the European Union should be enlarged to include all the countries wishing to join while the same percentage think that the EU should be enlarged to include only some of these countries.
- The majority of the Spanish tend to agree with the idea that enlargement will make the European Union culturally richer and more important in the world after enlargement. The following graph shows some of the statements where the Spanish tend to agree, as well as the EU average.



- The opinions of the Spanish population differ significantly according to their socio-demographic characteristics when it comes to economic aspects of enlargement such an unemployment increase, or the possibility of Spain receiving less financial aid from the EU.
- Although Spain is close to the European average as to whether welcoming new members is considered a priority or not, it is worth noting the important differences between the EU members, as shown in the following graph.



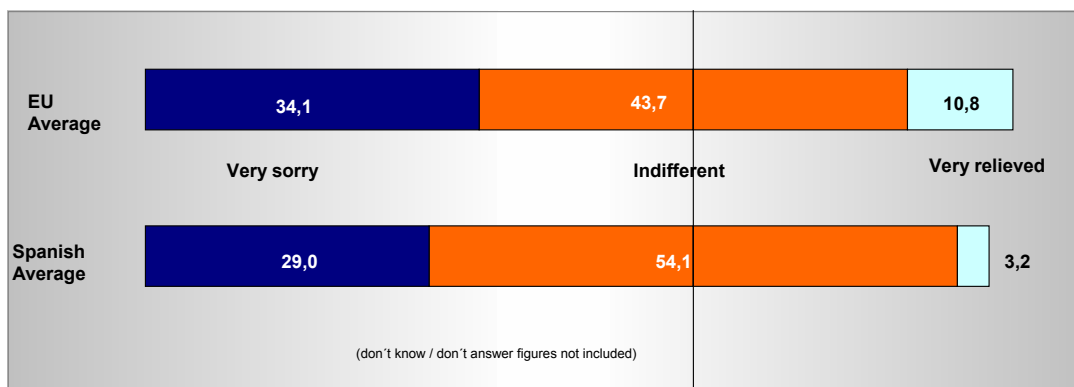
- Spanish citizens were also asked about how they thought decisions should be taken after the enlargement process: 36% think that the European Union's decisions should be taken unanimously by all member states, and 39% believe that decisions should be taken by a majority of the member states.

Thematic analysis 2:

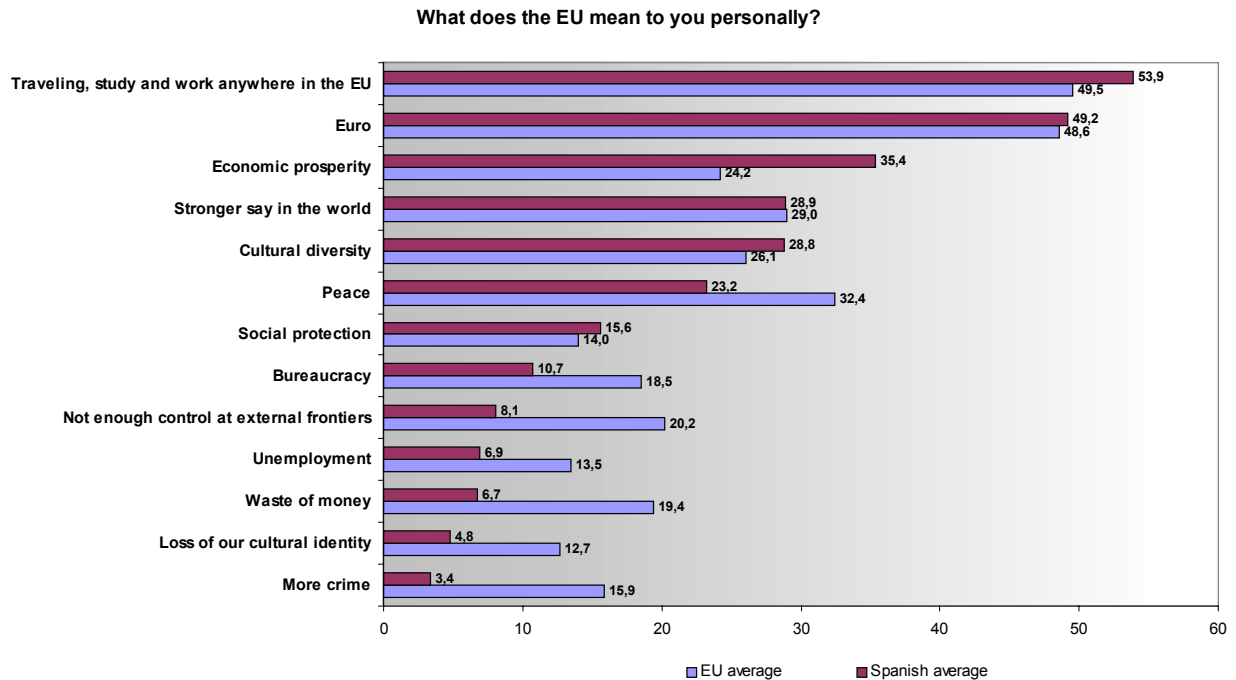
SPANISH ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE EUROPEAN UNION, ITS POLICIES AND ACTIONS.

- Spanish's membership of the European Union is considered to be a good thing by 66% of the group. Almost the same percentage think that Spain has benefited from being a member of the EU.
- Nevertheless, the Spanish seem to be rather indifferent to the threat of the disappearance of the European Union, compared with the EU average, as shown in the following graph.

If you were told tomorrow that the European Union had been scrapped, how would you feel?



-
- When asked to evaluate which actions should be a priority for the European Union, the Spanish think that fighting unemployment is the first priority (94%), closely followed by action to fight terrorism, poverty and social exclusion. Half of the Spanish think that European institutional reform is a priority, as well as welcoming new member states (32%).
- The Spanish seem to be quite comfortable using the euro and 14% believe that its introduction has been a very good thing, while 42% find it fairly good. Those who think that it has been neither good nor bad thing represent 32%.
- When asked what the European Union means for them, the freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the EU is the favourite response (54%). The following graph represents the Spanish and the EU-15 averages for some of these statements.

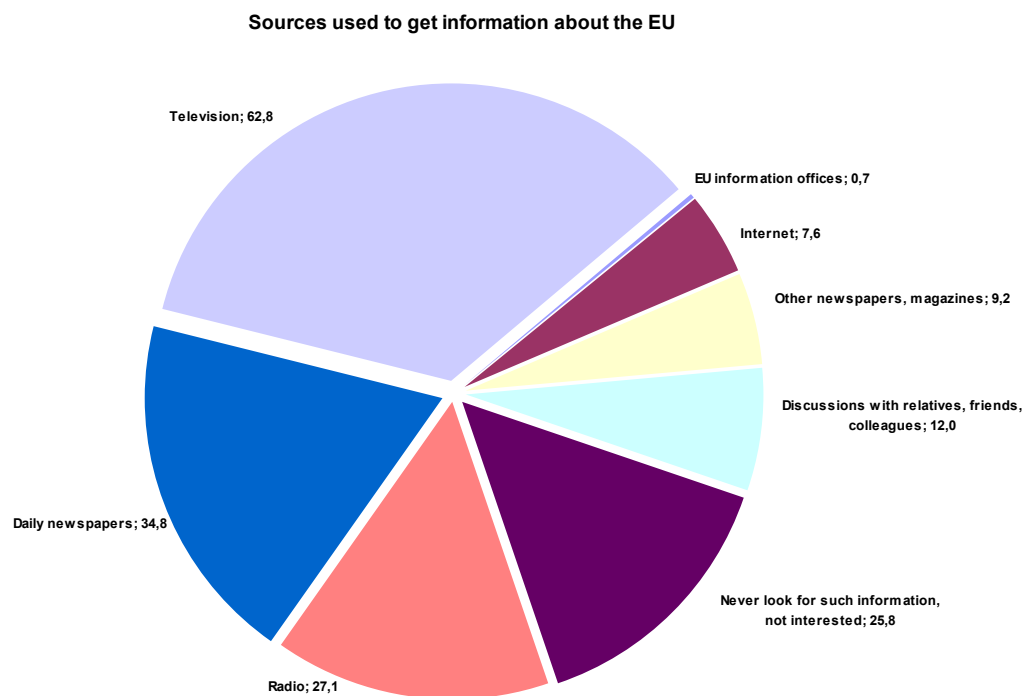


- Unemployment as a consequence of building the European Union constitutes one of the most important fears of the Spanish (66%). Almost 60% are also afraid of an increase in drug trafficking and international organised crime. A significant proportion of the Spanish consider that the national government and the EU should jointly take decisions on these two topics.
- Attitudes on education policy are almost equally divided; 47% of the Spanish think that decisions on education should be taken by the Spanish government alone, while 49% think that they should be taken jointly with the European Institutions. Nevertheless, more than 80% of the Spanish are in favour of teaching schoolchildren about the way European Union Institutions work, a figure similar to the EU-15 average on this topic.

Thematic analysis 3:

KNOWLEDGE AND TRUST OF SPANISH CITIZENS REGARDING THE EUROPEAN UNION.

- More than half of the Spanish say that they pay little attention to news about the European Union. Sixteen percent pay a lot of attention while 27% recognise that they do not pay any attention at all to EU information. These averages are quite similar to the EU-15 ones. People aged more than 55 and those between 15 and 24 years old are the two groups who are the most indifferent to news about the European Union.
- Television, radio and daily newspapers are the most common sources used by the Spanish to get information about the European Union. The following graph shows the averages for different information sources.



- The Spanish average of those not interested in information about the EU (27%) is slightly higher than the EU-15 average (21%), but it is unevenly distributed amongst the different professional groups: 30% of the retired, house persons and students never seek information about the European Union while only 9% of managers and 19% of self-employed say the same.

- More than 60 % of the Spanish affirm having heard about the Spanish Presidency of the European Union Council of Ministers, while half of the group think that it has been something important.
 - The Spanish have a fair knowledge of the European Union. When asked how much general knowledge they have of the EU, in a scale of 1 to 10 where 1 is “know nothing at all” and 10 is “know a great deal”, the Spanish average is situated at 4,03, very close to the EU-15 average (4,35).
 - The European Parliament, the European Commission and the Council of Ministers are the most well-known European Institutions amongst the Spanish (90%, 80% and 79% are the respective average of knowledge for each one). Moreover, these three Institutions are trusted the most, followed by the EU Ombudsman.
-

GENERAL CONCLUSIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS.

- As shown in the last analysis issue, the Spanish do not feel very well informed about European Union policies and actions. Indeed, around a third of them say they are not interested in any information about the EU. Nevertheless, the majority of the Spanish are in favour of teaching schoolchildren about the way European Institutions work. This could be a good way of increasing the interest of young people in the European Union.
- Regarding enlargement of the European Union, the Spanish are generally in favour, even if they do not see this process as one of the main priorities of the EU. The Spanish should receive more information about the enlargement process in order to evaluate better its consequences and importance for the future of Europe.
- Unemployment is one of the most important fears for the Spanish. They are also afraid of an increase in drug circulation and international organised crime. The fight against terrorism is a very important issue for the Spanish and one where, they say, the Spanish government and EU Institutions should work together.



EUROBAROMETER 57 - NATIONAL STANDARD REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

FRANCE

Survey carried out for the European
Commission's Representation in
France

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October 17, 2002

INTRODUCTION

The Eurobarometer 57.1 public opinion poll has been carried out by order of the European Commission in all the fifteen Member States of the European Union. In France, 1010 people were interviewed during April 2002.

This report gives an overview of French public opinion. It consists of three chapters.

Chapter 1 deals with the image of the European Union, general knowledge of the European institutions and support for the European currency.

Chapter 2 describes the French attitude towards enlargement of the European Union. It gives, among other issues, an overview of what the French think about the information supplied on this issue.

Chapter 3 is concerned with French opinion on the ongoing debate about the future of Europe. It focuses particularly on the new tasks of the EU, on the principle of a European Constitution and on the election of the president of the Commission.

1. THE IMAGE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION IN FRANCE

Eurobarometer 57.1 reveals some contrasting views in French public opinion.

- Half of the French population has a fairly good (40%) or very good (9%) image of the EU. Forty nine percent of those questioned also consider that membership of the Union has been beneficial for France.
- For a large majority of respondents (80%), the introduction of the European currency has been a success. Sixty-seven per cent of the French population are now in favour of the euro, whereas the number of opponents has fallen to 28%. However, French support for the new currency is one of the lowest in the euro zone. The French seem to accept the euro without showing great enthusiasm.
- Although euroscepticism seems to be on the decline, France is characterised by the large number of people who remain indifferent to the EU - between a third and half of the population. For these people (34% of the population), the image of the EU is neither "good" nor "bad", and the advantages and disadvantages of membership balance each other out.
- Some European institutions are far better known than others. The great majority of the French population has heard of the Parliament (92%), the Commission (82%), the Council (68%), the European Central Bank (67%) and the Court of Justice of the European Communities (62%). The other institutions, however, are little known. And the way the EU functions remains a mystery for three out of four in the population.

2. THE FRENCH ATTITUDE TOWARDS ENLARGEMENT

The Poll's results on the two areas considered as priorities by the European institutions, i.e. enlargement and the future of Europe, are even more ambivalent.

- Some characteristics of public opinion on enlargement are specific to France. In no EU Member State is the opposition to new accessions as strong as it is in France, where 33% of the population believe that no new members should be admitted.
- None of the candidate countries obtains a majority of public consent. Poland comes first (32% for and 51% against), followed by Malta (30% for and 52% against), Hungary (30% for and 53% against), the Czech Republic (26% for and 57% against), Bulgaria (25% for and 57% against), Slovakia and Romania (23% for and 59% against), Estonia and Latvia (22% for and 59% against), Lithuania and Slovenia (21% for and 60% against). Only 19% of the French are in favour of Turkey's membership, whereas 64% are against it.
- Less than 20% of those interviewed do not have an opinion on the membership of these countries. This figure is significantly lower than the EU-15 average.
- It is time to examine the reasons for such hostility more closely. While 80% of the French population feel poorly informed or entirely ignorant of how enlargement will take place and what its consequences will be, they nevertheless have no hesitation in expressing their opinion, which is in most cases negative. Peculiar to France is the small number of those who express no opinion. The period of indifference is over. As the moment approaches, public opinion is undoubtedly becoming more radical.
- This total ignorance of the issues at stake and the consequences of enlargement stimulate opposition. The absence of an organised public debate two years before enlargement is to take place means that the supporters of enlargement cannot put their views forward effectively.
- But the situation should change over the next few months. The European institutions therefore have only a limited amount of time left to promote a more favourable view of the applicant countries. A number of actions, which were already considered important in early autumn 2001, should be encouraged. These include providing information on enlargement to journalists, radio and television programmes, and the distribution of promotional material. The euro campaign mounted by the public authorities showed how, under certain conditions, a successful public information campaign can be carried out. To date, no similar campaign has been launched to explain the issues at stake in enlargement, and the workings of the process itself.

3. FRENCH OPINION AND THE FUTURE OF EUROPE

- The same goes for the Convention on the future of Europe. Despite wide media coverage when it was launched, the Convention is still not widely known. Only 32% of the French have heard of it. Moreover, a only small part of the population (20%) thinks it plays an important role. This phenomenon crosses social and geographical boundaries. Despite the intentions of its instigators, the Convention is not yet acting as a catalyst of democratic debate. This is a cause for concern given that that debate is already entering the decisive phase.
- If we examine the themes at the heart of the debate, we see that French public opinion is not far removed from that of other Europeans. When asked what the EU's priorities should be, the French call for more integration in some areas such as the fight against organised crime, the protection of the environment and consumer protection. Opinion in France is also favourable to common defence and immigration policies, whereas it is quite opposed to a transfer of justice, education and health policies.
- A majority of the French population supports the idea of a European Constitution: 59% declare themselves in favour and only 8% against it. When asked how the Commission president should be chosen, respondents express a preference for a system similar to the French presidential election. The option of a directly elected Commission president is supported by 41% of the population. That does not correspond to the views of other Europeans. Other institutional issues barely raise any interest in the population.

CONCLUSION

- It would seem that just as with the question of enlargement, an information campaign on the future of Europe is more necessary than ever.
- In itself, the type of information made available by the Commission (internet, brochures, CD-ROMs) is not at fault. The problem is rather the way this information is used by the public. Only 10% and 1% of those interviewed used the Internet and CD-ROMs respectively to obtain information on the activities of the European Union.
- If an information campaign is to be effective, the stress should be put on education. Efforts in this direction should obviously be concentrated on the state school system and on universities. Information campaigns on the euro have shown how to organise information sessions in places of work and leisure. A campaign on a similar scale should be organised to explain the issues in the debate on the future of Europe. In conclusion, if the mass media (television, radio, large-scale poster campaigns) is not used, the outcome of a referendum on European issues is far from certain.

EUROBAROMETER 57 - NATIONAL STANDARD REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

IRELAND

Survey carried out for the European
Commission's Representation in
Ireland

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October 17, 2002

Irish attitudes to European integration are somewhat puzzling. Favourable attitudes to European integration, as measured across a range of indicators, are extremely widespread in Ireland. Despite this, in a referendum in June 2001, the Irish people, by a majority of 54% to 46%, refused to ratify the Treaty of Nice.

This report examines Irish attitudes to European integration in some depth, drawing on the evidence of Eurobarometer No. 57. Fieldwork for the survey was conducted by Lansdowne Market Research between 29 March and 25 April, 2002.

This executive summary presents the evidence and findings of the report under seven headings:

- **overall attitudes to the European Union and to Ireland's membership of it**
- **reservations about integration in specific areas**
- **levels of knowledge of and engagement with EU affairs**
- **trust in European institutions**
- **trust in national institutions**
- **national and European identity and pride**
- **implications of the evidence considered given the Irish institutional and political context**

Overall Irish attitudes to the European Union and to Ireland's membership of the Union are characterised by:

- **widespread approval of Irish membership of the EU**
- **widespread perception of the benefits of EU membership, including personal benefits**
- **widespread positive image of the EU**
- **widespread positive attitudes to the euro**
- **very low levels of opposition to enlargement**
- **widespread willingness to see a substantial range of issues "Europeanised", in the sense of decisions on such issues being made jointly within the European Union rather than by the national government**
- **majority support for a common defence and security policy.**

This picture of overall positive attitudes must be qualified by noting two areas in which, far from being more supportive of integration than average, Irish people show significantly greater reservations about integration:

- Irish people are more likely than average to express reservations regarding a strongly supranational approach to defence
- as noted in the text of the report, this is quite compatible with majority support for a common defence and security policy
- in parenthesis, it is worth adding that there is a lesson to be learned from the different levels of support elicited by the alternative questions on security and defence policy; the lesson is that that complex issues must be very clearly and accurately presented to the public and that due attention must be paid to what might at first sight appear to be subtle nuances and distinctions; this implication applies particularly in countries that choose to involve the general public in decisions on such matters
- Irish people are also more likely than average to have reservations about a strongly supranational approach to policy dealing with refugees and, to a lesser extent, immigration.

Substantial qualifications to the generally positive picture of Irish attitudes to integration also arise from the low levels of engagement with and knowledge of European affairs found among Irish people:

- enthusiastic support for the European Union lags a long way behind general approval of the EU
- the lack of enthusiastic support for the European Union in Ireland points to a wider problem of lack of engagement with European issues and a lack of knowledge of European institutions and European affairs
- evidence regarding people's feelings about the EU across a number of dimensions (enthusiasm, hope, trust/mistrust, anxiety etc.) confirms the point that the majority of Irish people do not have strong personal feelings (either positive or negative) about the EU
- consistent with the low levels of engagement with EU issues, Irish people lack confidence in their grasp of EU issues
- specifically, Irish people's subjective sense of their knowledge of "the European Union, its policies and its institutions" is lower than that of people in the Union as a whole
- low levels of knowledge are found more frequently among the younger and older age groups in contrast to those in the middle age-cohorts; they are also substantially more likely among women (50% of whom are in the lower knowledge bracket, compared to 37 per cent of men); in occupational terms, low levels of knowledge are quite rare among managers but quite prevalent among manual workers and among the unemployed
- the evidence on knowledge and engagement suggests that improving the level of knowledge of European affairs among Irish people will be an uphill task; whether it

be television or radio, newspapers or other magazines, discussion with family and friends or use of the internet, Irish people report less frequent use of all available channels of information or communication compared to the EU average frequency of use; the corollary is that Irish people are significantly above average in reporting that they never look for such information or are not interested in it.

Turning to more general features of Irish political culture, including the political culture of European integration, the evidence shows that Irish levels of trust in the EU and its institutions are considerably higher than the corresponding levels of trust across the Union as a whole:

- subtracting the proportion of Irish people who tend not to trust the EU from the proportion who tend to trust it gives a substantially more positive measure of net trust in Ireland than in the EU as a whole
- net trust in the individual institutions of the EU is even more positive than net trust in the European Union as a whole; the European Parliament receives the highest rating, followed by the Commission, the Court of Justice, the European Ombudsman and the Council of Ministers
- again, the qualification about levels of knowledge and engagement is essential: the expression of trust in EU institutions just summarised is not necessarily backed up by adequate understanding or knowledge of the institutions in question or of what they do.

Trust in national institutions, particularly trust in national political institutions, tends to be lower than trust in EU institutions:

- much higher levels of net trust are accorded to European institutions as compared with Irish domestic political institutions, including the Dáil, the Government and the political parties (this pattern is not unique to Ireland)
- part of the explanation of this discrepancy in the Irish case lies in the much lower levels of don't know responses in the case of domestic political institutions; people are much more engaged with national politics and much more willing to take a view; the view that they take is also likely to be much more firmly grounded
- the second part of the explanation of the discrepancy is that trust has a very different connotation when applied to mainly apolitical institutions and organisations that are remote from daily experience compared to its meaning when applied to such highly political institutions as the national parliament, the government and the political parties
- in fact, on any realistic view of politics, critical attitudes and a healthy degree of scepticism are necessary parts of the checks and balances that are fundamental to democratic politics; in a national context, mistrustful citizens may be critical citizens as much or more than alienated citizens

- even bearing this qualification in mind, however, the evidence on levels of trust in institutions suggests that a communication or campaign strategy designed to influence people's attitudes to the European Union is likely to be more effective if it is seen to represent the views of the government and the parliament rather than being seen to represent solely the views of the political parties.

The picture of Irish attitudes to the European Union as being for the most part positive but as lacking in commitment and active engagement is confirmed by the evidence relating to national and European identity:

- even on the basis of an undemanding and prospective measure of European identity, the proportion of Irish people showing any degree of European identity amounts to a bare majority; the remainder identify themselves as "Irish only"
- this places Ireland firmly in the camp of countries with a less well developed sense of European identity, the only countries with a larger proportion identifying exclusively with their own nationality being Greece, Sweden, Finland and the United Kingdom
- the salience of Irish identity in Irish political culture is confirmed by the data on national pride - well over two-thirds of Irish respondents say that they are very proud to be Irish; a similarly strong sense of national pride is found among only two-fifths of the French and the Dutch and one-fifth of Germans; only in Greece does one find a higher proportion of people in the "very proud" category
- for many Irish people, however, pride in being Irish is quite compatible with pride in being European, albeit that the latter feeling is at a lower level of intensity
- the need to take the nationalist sensibilities underlying these data into account in any assessment of the climate of public opinion towards the EU in Ireland is confirmed by evidence deriving from a question about "the building of Europe, the European Union" and about the fears that this process may give rise to
- in this context fears of adverse economic or welfare consequences are significantly less common in Ireland than in the Union as a whole
- in contrast, Irish people are somewhat more likely to admit to fears about the imposition of decisions by the big countries and about loss of national identity and national culture
- in interpreting these data, one must bear in mind that the fears were posed by the question and, in this sense, were prompted by the question; the evidence **does not show** that substantial proportions of people are frantic about these issues and the proportions involved (ranging from just under two-fifths to three fifths) must be set along side the fact only one person in twenty indicated in response to another question that the EU caused them a feeling of anxiety
- in short, worries about "decisions being imposed by the big member states" or about "Ireland not really existing any more" or about the "loss of our national identity and culture" are, at most, potential or subliminal fears; given the role that nationalist

issues have played in Irish history, their incidence is not surprising and, without exaggerating their significance, there is need to take them into consideration in any comprehensive communication strategy.

The implications of any particular configuration of public opinion towards the EU depend on the institutional and political context within which ratification of EU treaties takes place:

- in the Irish case, the defining features of that context are, first, the requirement to hold a referendum on any significant treaty changes; second, the stipulation that any public funds expended on campaigning be allocated on a fifty-fifty basis between the 'yes' and the 'no' sides; and, third, the fact that there is a pro-integration (and pro-Nice) consensus among the political parties and among elected representatives
- the requirement to hold referendums on EU treaty changes puts additional demands on Irish citizens, placing them in the challenging position of making decisions on complex issues and therefore requiring them to have higher rather than average or lower levels of knowledge of and engagement with these issues
- the constitutional requirement that, if any public funds are allocated to referendum campaigning, they must be allocated equally to the 'yes' and the 'no' sides has tended to inhibit efforts to persuade and influence voters
- the fact that there is a pro-integration consensus among the political parties means that, over the years, European issues have not been widely debated and this has had an adverse effect on levels of knowledge and engagement among citizens
- remedying this deficit in party-led debate about Europe is made more difficult by the declining levels of attachment to political parties and by the low level of trust in parties (even though, it should be noted, the level of trust in parties in Ireland is higher than it is in the Union as a whole)
- the challenges resulting from this combination of constitutional requirements, political circumstances and the current climate of public opinion on European issues were dramatically illustrated by the defeat of the first referendum on the Treaty of Nice (7 June 2001)
- in particular, it is evident that the outcome of that referendum was determined more by abstention than by the growth of the 'no' vote (in fact, in absolute terms and as a proportion of the electorate, the 'no' vote actually declined between the Amsterdam and Nice referendums)
- in turn, the main explanation of the massive (65%) level of abstention in the first Nice referendum was the feeling on the part a substantial majority of the citizens that they did not understand the issues involved
- the feeling of not understanding the issues also contributed to the tendency to vote 'no' but the most important attitudinal factor in determining the 'no' vote was dissatisfaction with the way in which decisions are made in the EU

- in short, close examination of the evidence regarding Irish public opinion on European issues helps to identify the underlying aspects of public opinion that contributed to the defeat of the proposal to ratify the Nice Treaty in the referendum of 7 June 2001; in doing so, it points to the problematic aspects of public opinion that need to be dealt with if the extremely high level of abstention in that referendum and the consequences that flowed from it are to be avoided in future referendums on EU treaty changes, including in the forthcoming second referendum on the Treaty of Nice.

EUROBAROMETER 57 - NATIONAL STANDARD REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

ITALY

Survey carried out for the European
Commission's Representation in
Italy

« This document does not reflect the views of the European Commission. Any interpretations or opinions expressed in this report are those of the authors alone »

October 17, 2002

1. ENLARGEMENT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Not enough information and many doubts. The positive attitude toward the candidate countries seems to fall, even though Italians seem to feel more positively about enlargement than the average of the EU citizens.

The lack of information about the enlargement process is one of the key data that clearly emerges from the statistics: 81% of the sample in Italy feel they are 'not enough' or 'not at all' informed, and only 17% are convinced they have a sufficient or good level of information.

In Italy, enlargement of the EU to candidate countries is viewed favourably by 61% of the sample, a percentage higher than the EU average (50%). Only 19% of Italians are against the enlargement process (EU average 30%). The data suggest that Italians have a more positive attitude toward other countries joining the EU.

It is nevertheless worthwhile considering that analysis of the data based on opinions expressed about the entire range of EU politics shows that enlargement is the proposal that gathers the lowest agreement rate. It is also important to stress that some 61% of Italians don't consider enlargement a priority for the European Union.

Italians express a more positive attitude toward candidate countries than do the rest of the EU citizens. The majority of the sample (42%) would open the doors only to some of the countries willing to join the European Union (EU average 40%). Some 29% of Italians would prefer to let in all the candidates (EU average 21%) and 13% don't want any enlargement at all (EU average 21%).

Most Italians are in favour of the current candidate countries with the exception of Turkey. When considering the following five candidates, the percentage of Italians in favour of their accession exceeds 50%: Malta (59%), Hungary (56%), Cyprus (53%), Poland (53%) and the Czech Republic (51%). For 12 out of 13 countries the percentage of Italians in favour of accession is higher than the percentage against. Turkey is the only exception and is also the country showing the highest percentage of Italians against its accession.

It is important to stress that a significant number of Italians didn't express any opinion when asked if they were in favour of or opposed to the thirteen candidates. This question accounts for the highest number of 'don't know' answers in the entire poll, confirming the low level of knowledge and familiarity of Italians with the candidate countries and the mechanisms of the enlargement process. This finding prompts a careful analysis of the rest of the data.

Compared with the December 2001 data, increased levels of information can be seen both in Italy and in the EU. More specifically, the number of Italians who feel 'not at all informed' has decreased from 31% to 25%. At the same time, the percentage of Italians who feel 'not well informed' shrank from 55% to 50%. All in all, the information level is still not sufficient, but has registered a slight improvement.

When considering the Italian attitude toward enlargement, no major change is to be registered between the 2001 and the current data, even if a slightly higher percentage of the Italian and EU samples seem to be less open toward candidate countries. Based on this slight decrease, the attitude of the Italians remains more positive than the EU average.

Italians tend to have rather positive ideas regarding the consequences of enlargement. The majority stress its favourable aspects. At the same time, the fear of possible increases in unemployment or costs for the current member states is of less concern in Italy than in the rest of the EU. Some 52% of the sample are not worried about a possible increase in unemployment as a consequence of enlargement, while 41% of EU citizens think that, with the admission of the candidates, their country will experience higher unemployment rates.

The most important positive consequences of enlargement, according to Italians, are cultural enrichment, a more important role for the EU in the world and an increased guarantee of peace and security. More specifically, 72% think that a higher number of member states will mean a culturally richer Europe, while the EU average is considerably lower (61%). Most Italians (66%) identify the growth in the number of members with a growth in the importance of the EU in the world, and 53% think that more member states will be able to better guarantee peace and security.

The three less positive consequences of enlargement, stressed by the majority of the Italians, are: higher costs for the current Member States; less effective decision-making processes; and a decrease of financial aid from the EU to Italy. In particular, 60% of Italians are in agreement with the statement that the EU will face greater difficulty in the decision-making process after enlargement. However, the view that there will be a decrease in financial aid from the EU is less strongly held (31% against 38%).

2. THE CHANGEOVER AND THE EURO IN THE DAILY LIFE OF ITALIANS

Following the success of the changeover to the euro, the positive attitude of Italians toward the single currency continues to grow. The euro confirms itself as an instrument in the service of European identity.

Some 82% of Italians think that the changeover to a single currency in their country took place 'very well' or 'fairly well', and the EU data show the shift to the euro was generally a success in the whole Eurozone. Generally speaking, the currency change and the use of new banknotes and coins didn't cause major problems to Italians. Some 26% of the sample didn't experience any difficulty, while 60% experienced only temporary difficulties. The EU average shows even higher levels: no real difficulty for 35% of EU citizens and only temporary difficulties for 49%.

Italians have identified the mass media as the major source of assistance during the changeover. An important role was also played by friends and relatives, banks and

bank employees, supermarket employees, shop employees and national and regional authorities.

The great majority think that the banknotes and coins in the new currency are easy to recognise and use. Distinguishing between the banknotes is 'very' or 'fairly' easy for 79% of Italians. Banknotes are slightly more distinguishable than coins according to 94% of the sample. Banknotes are also indicated as more easily handled and used than the coins.

Taking into account the introduction of eight different Euro coins, some 61% of Italians feel it isn't a 'very' or 'fairly' complicated issue to deal with. When considering the possibility of a withdrawal of the one and two cent coins Italians are divided: 47% are in favour because they feel it is useless or complicated, while 49% think that the two coins are necessary to guarantee exact payments.

As far as the euro is concerned, Italians generally feel comfortable with its use, while the EU average shows a lower percentage of adjustment. Some 35% of Italians feel very comfortable, while the great majority (49%) feel fairly comfortable. Even after the introduction of the single currency 39% of the Italian sample still think 'always' in lire when looking at prices or paying in shops.

The most common conversion method is the one based on mental calculation: 70% of Italians always or often use this system. The *Euro-converter* is less popular, and only 24% of the poll use it 'regularly' or 'often'.

To remember prices in the new currency is, in general, 'very' (13%) or 'fairly' (46%) easy for the majority of Italians. For most of the sample the comparison of prices in euros is 'fairly' (47%) or 'very' (13%) easy. Reading and understanding bills and other documents in euros is 'not at all' or 'not very' complicated for the great majority of Italians (71%).

When it comes to the rounding off of prices, most of the Italian sample feel that they have been 'always' or 'often' rounded up in a wide range of activities and services. More specifically prices, have been 'always' or 'often' rounded up in food shops (85%), other small shops (80%), bars and restaurants (80%), services such as hairdressers and taxis (74%), leisure activities such as cinemas and swimming pools (60%), supermarkets (58%), vending machines (53%), public transportation (51%).

Some 41% of Italians do not feel the need for the indication of prices both in euros and lire. At the other extreme, 6% would prefer that price indications in the former national currency were never be eliminated. Italians immediately welcomed the euro with above average enthusiasm. Some 73% felt 'very' or 'fairly' happy upon the arrival of the new currency (the EU average 61%) and 43% of the Italian sample already feel fairly attached to the euro (EU average 32%).

Nevertheless, most Italians still feel attached to the Lira: 33% are still 'very' attached and 38% 'fairly' attached. Compared to the EU average, attachment to their former currency is much higher among Italians than among other EU citizens.

As a general overview, since the introduction of the Euro on January 1st 2002, 80% of Italians think that it is a 'very' or 'fairly' good thing. The EU average doesn't exceed 53%. Some 63% of Italians also feel that with the euro they feel more European than before, compared with the EU average of 48%.

3. THE EUROPEAN UNION'S INSTITUTIONS AND POLITICS

Italians confirm their 'pro-EU' attitude but, in general, knowledge of EU institutions and politics remains low.

Most Italians tend to trust EU institutions more than they do national institutions. The general knowledge level of EU institutions and politics tends to be 'medium' to 'low', though in line with, or slightly superior to, the average level registered in the EU.

The list of national and international social, political and economic institutions in which Italians tend to put their trust leads with the Italian army (68%), followed by the Italian police (67%) and the European Union (62%). The level of trust in the EU registered in Italy comes second only to that in Luxembourg (63%). The institutions that Italians tend to trust the least are Italian political parties (15%), the national public administration (29%), the Italian government (33%), the Trade Unions (34%) and the Italian Parliament (38%).

The remarkable levels of trust in EU institutions is not matched by a similar level of knowledge of EU institutions and politics. On a scale of 1 to 10, where 1 stands for total lack of knowledge and 10 for a maximum level, 21% of Italians consider themselves as being at level 5. The majority of the sample (44%) is in the range between 1 and 4, while 33% are in the levels between 6 and 10. The average in Italy is at 4.7, just under the average level of knowledge, but still just a few points over the EU average of 4.4.

The four EU institutions that Italians are most familiar with are the European Parliament (93%), the European Commission (77%), the European Central Bank (72%) and the Council of the EU (71%). These four institutions are also the ones that, according to most Italians, play a more effective role in EU life and which Italians tend to trust the most.

The EU Parliament is in first place for both importance (84%) and for trust (70%). It is followed by the EU Commission, which 77% of the Italian sample consider important and which 63% of Italians trust. This is followed by the European Central Bank (72% importance, 54% trust) and the EU Council (71% importance, 55% trust).

When looking for information about the EU, Italians use mostly TV (69%), daily newspapers (44%), magazines (26%), friends and relatives (23%) and the Internet (18%). When asked how would they prefer to be given information about the EU, Italians mainly indicated TV (54%), daily newspapers (32%), books with an overall

description (19%), a short leaflet (17%), magazines (16%), a brochure (15%) and the Internet (15%).

The list of institutions which have the most effective role in the daily life of Italians is headed by the Italian government (46%), followed by the Italian Parliament (40%), the regions (30%) and, last, the European Union (26%).

The great majority of Italians have a positive attitude toward Italy being a member State and benefiting from its membership. Some 69% feel that being an EU Member is a good thing, and only 3% think it's a bad thing. The EU average shows, respectively, a smaller percentage of positive answers (53%) and a higher percentage of negative answers (11%). On a European scale, Italy is in fourth place for its positive evaluation of EU membership, behind Luxembourg (81%), Ireland (78%) and the Netherlands (71%).

Most Italians (70%) think their country has benefited from becoming a member state (the EU average is at 51%) while 8% feel that Italy has not benefited (EU average 26%). The 'pro-EU' attitude of Italians clearly emerges when considering the feeling the EU gives them: 73% have a 'very' or 'fairly' positive image (EU average 49%) and only 4% have a 'very' or 'fairly' negative image of the EU (European average 14%). Italians are also more proud to be European than the EU average: some 81% are very or fairly proud compared with the 62% EU average.

Fears arising from EU development that most concern Italians are: an increase in drug trafficking and organised crime (55%); decisions imposed by big countries (51%); and an increase in unemployment (50%). On the other hand, the great majority do not fear that their country may 'disappear' (78%), nor do they fear the loss of national and cultural identity (67%), the loss of social benefits (56%) or an economic crisis (52%).

Some 80% of Italians are in favour of an EU Constitution and 70% would like the President of the EU Commission to be elected by the EU Parliament (37%) or by the citizens (33%). The majority (50%) would also maintain the right of veto to preserve essential national interests.



EUROBAROMETER 57 - NATIONAL STANDARD REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

LUXEMBOURG

Survey carried out for the European
Commission's Representation in
Luxembourg

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October 17, 2002

A majority of Luxembourg citizens would restrict enlargement to certain candidate countries

The level of opposition to enlargement has risen

When asked to say to what extent the European Union should be enlarged, people in Luxembourg have definite but restrictive views: 57% of them, compared with 40% at Community level, believe that the Union should confine itself to accepting only some of the candidate countries; only 14%, compared with 21% Community-wide, believe that all the countries wishing to join should be allowed in.

The results for Luxembourg have changed since the last Eurobarometer (EB 56.3) conducted in January/February 2002: the percentage of those in support of enlargement to include all Candidate countries has fallen from 20% to 14%. The level of opposition to enlargement has risen both in Luxembourg as well as across the European Union as a whole, going from 13% (EU: 14%) to 17% (EU: 21%).

This information was revealed by the Eurobarometer 57.1 survey conducted by the European Commission in Spring 2002. The survey gives a general overview of what Europeans think about enlargement, the information they receive about the EU and their general interest in political matters. The survey reflected Luxembourg's special demographic situation, with a sample comprising 72% Luxembourg nationals and 28% nationals of other EU Member States. In the commentary, the special report produced by the Commission representation therefore refers to "people in Luxembourg" from EU Member States, a broader concept than Luxembourg nationals proper.

Can this apparent coolness towards enlargement be attributed solely to lack of information? One third of people in Luxembourg feel that they are well or very well informed about enlargement, whereas the European average is only 20.5%.

As other enlargement-related topics were also covered by Eurobarometer 56.3, it may be useful to refer to that survey.

Decision-making will be more difficult

In the Eurobarometer survey, various questions were asked about the potential impact of enlargement, with respondents being asked for their agreement or disagreement with given statements about the consequences of enlargement. Throughout the EU and also within Luxembourg, the tendency is the same, although the percentage in Luxembourg endorsing the proposed statement is above the EU average in all cases. In Luxembourg, 80% of those questioned (EU: 65%) believe that the decision-making process will become more difficult with more member states, 77% (EU: 63%) believe that the EU will gain in importance in the world. For 77% (EU: 61%) the EU will be richer culturally, for 68% (EU: 55%) reform of the institutions will be inevitable ahead of enlargement, and for 54% (EU: 53%) peace will be more secure.

The main fear expressed by Luxembourg citizens concerning the future Europe is the increase in unemployment (70%); this is followed by decisions imposed by the large member states

(59.5%) and the loss of welfare benefits (53%). However, 51% believe that, after enlargement, EU decisions should be taken by majority vote of member states.

Luxembourg residents are less pessimistic about the future than are European citizens in general: nearly 50% of those questioned in Luxembourg believe that their situation will remain the same over the next five years, compared with 41% Europe-wide.

Sound knowledge of European matters

The majority of those questioned in Luxembourg feel that they have a good knowledge of the EU, with positive replies above the European average (Luxembourg: 51%, EU: 47%).

The three main sources of information on the EU used by people in Luxembourg are television (79%), daily newspapers (62%) and the radio (55%). This tendency is similar throughout the EU, although the percentages are substantially lower.

The vast majority of those questioned in Luxembourg (81%) are in favour of their country's membership of the EU, a view shared by only 53% of citizens across the EU.

Over two thirds (70%) of those questioned in Luxembourg believe that their country has benefited from membership of the EU, an opinion shared by only 51% of citizens EU-wide. A quarter of all EU citizens claim that their country has not benefited from EU membership, compared with 17.5% in Luxembourg.

A positive image of the Union and the institutions

The positive image which people in Luxembourg have of the EU is reflected in their views on the impact that integration has on their private life. Thirty nine percent of them feel that EU membership has offered them more or even far more advantages, while 49% think that the EU has brought as many advantages as disadvantages. For the EU as a whole these rates are not as high, at 28.5% and 42% respectively.

Of the 17 institutions listed, Luxembourg citizens place their trust first and foremost in the police (71%) and the government (70%). These are followed, in descending order, by the radio (65%), parliament (64.5%), the army (64%) and the public authorities (64%). With a score of 62%, the EU is in ninth place. Large companies (40%), religious institutions (39%) and political parties (32%) bring up the rear.

The order is different for the European Union in general. Most trust is placed in the army (66%) followed by the police (65%), the radio (61%) and charitable organisations (58%). European citizens in general put the EU (46%) in eighth position, which is ahead of other political institutions such as national parliaments (41.5%) and national governments (39%). Citizens express very little trust in political parties, with a score of 18%.

People in Luxembourg are very familiar with the Community institutions, no doubt because a number of them have their headquarters in the capital or meet there; the scores are in all cases above the EU average: 97% (EU: 89%) of those questioned know the European Parliament,

94% (EU: 77.5%) the European Commission, 90% (EU: 67%) the Court of Justice, 89 % (EU: 73%) the European Central Bank and 83% (EU: 63%) the Council of Ministers.

The logical consequence of the above answers is that people in Luxembourg have far more confidence in the Community institutions than do people in the EU as a whole. The Court of Justice (71%, EU: 49%) leads the field, followed by the European Parliament (69%, EU: 54%), the European Central Bank (67%, EU: 46.5%), the European Commission (65.5%, EU: 47%) and the Council of Ministers (59%, EU: 40.5%).

The Convention on the future of the EU occupies last place both in Luxembourg as well as across the EU as a whole. However, in Luxembourg it elicits confidence among 43% of respondents, compared to 25% across the EU as a whole.

Strong positive feelings

How do people in Luxembourg feel about the EU? The first thing that strikes the reader is that in general there are more positive feelings than negative ones. In Luxembourg, positive feelings towards the EU are stronger than they are across the EU on average, while negative feelings are also less marked.

Of Luxembourg respondents, 61% think that the EU gives a feeling of hope, a view shared by only 47% of EU citizens. Forty-two percent of people in Luxembourg have a feeling of trust (29% EU-wide). There is a feeling of mistrust of the EU among 16% of all Europeans (compared to only 10% of replies in Luxembourg). The EU is rejected by 5% of all those questioned in Europe whereas only 2% of people in Luxembourg expressed this feeling.

First a national of one's own country, then European

As a rule most of those questioned consider themselves primarily nationals of their own country and only secondly Europeans, the rates being 48% for the EU as a whole and 43% in Luxembourg.

The sense of belonging to one's own country is stronger throughout the EU than in Luxembourg: the percentage of those who believe only in their own nationality (38%) is far higher than in Luxembourg (26%).

A sense of being first European and then a national of one's own country is felt by 13% of people in Luxembourg but only 7% of Europeans in general.

While 4% of European citizens consider themselves Europeans alone, the figure is 14% in Luxembourg.

Over three quarters of Luxembourg residents (78%) are proud to be European, an opinion shared by only 62% of all European citizens. Twenty-seven percent of European citizens take no pride in their citizenship compared with 16% in Luxembourg.

Education, health and social security must continue to be matters of national competence

In Luxembourg and throughout Europe in general, education, health and social security and basic rules governing the media are seen as matters for the national government alone.

The euro can now be considered part and parcel of everyday life in Luxembourg, as 89% of people there are comfortable or even very comfortable using the new single currency, compared with an average for Europe of only 63%.

Support for the direct election of the Commission President

Respondents were asked which of three possible methods they favoured for the selection of the President of the European Commission: appointment by the heads of state or government, election by the European Parliament or direct election by citizens. Direct election (42%) is the method favoured in Luxembourg, well ahead of election by the European Parliament (30%). The matter is less clear-cut for the EU in general, with 34% in favour of direct election and 31.5% in favour of election by the European Parliament. Appointment by heads of state or government is supported by only 18% of those questioned in Luxembourg and 14% of all EU citizens.

People in Luxembourg see the right of veto as an essential prerogative, with 67.5% stating that it must be retained in order to preserve national interests, compared with only 50% of all those questioned throughout the Union. Overall, nearly 25% across the EU are in favour of dropping it in order to improve the effectiveness of the EU, the corresponding figure in Luxembourg being only 17%.

Against a tax paid direct to the EU

At the present time each Member State pays part of its tax revenue to the European Union. Both in the EU in general and in Luxembourg a majority of those asked whether they would prefer to pay this contribution direct to the EU were against this practice, the scores being 51% and 53% respectively. Those in favour of such a tax are 21% Europe-wide compared with 27% in Luxembourg. There are many "don't knows": nearly 28% for Europe as a whole and over 19% in Luxembourg.



EUROBAROMETER 57 - NATIONAL STANDARD REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

NETHERLANDS

Survey carried out for the European
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Netherlands

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October 17, 2002

Chapter 1

The life of the Dutch

- The majority (93%) of the Dutch are either very satisfied or fairly satisfied with their lives. Forty-seven percent think that their daily lives have improved compared to five years ago.
- A large proportion (63%) of the Dutch are afraid of terrorism; this fear is followed by the fear of an ethnic conflict in Europe. Less than 23% are afraid of a conventional war or a nuclear war in Europe. However, compared to the EU average, the Dutch are less afraid of the above-mentioned events than other Europeans.
- A majority of the Dutch (71%) have a high level of trust in the mass media such as radio and television. 62% trust the United Nations and charities. The proportion of the Dutch people who trust the national government, the police and the national parliament varies between 58% and 61%. Political parties are the least trusted organisations; only 35% of the Dutch trust them. However, compared to the EU15 average of 18%, the Dutch still register a higher level of trust in political parties than do some other EU citizens. Forty-eight percent of the Dutch trust the European Union. Dutch people who do not trust the European Union often tend not to trust other institutions either.
- Ninety-three percent of the Dutch pay either a lot of attention or a little attention to news on social issues such as education, health care and poverty. Around half of the Dutch take note of news about the EU, but there is also a group (38%) that pays no attention at all to news about the EU. Compared to the Dutch, other Europeans are more interested in news about the EU. Dutch people who do not feel well informed about the EU pay less attention to news about the EU than do Dutch people who feel well informed about the EU.

Chapter 2

Indicators of support for the European Union

- On a scale from 1 (know nothing at all about the EU) to 10 (know a great deal about the EU) Dutch people fall at 4.3. Only one respondent out of 997 felt that s/he knew a great deal.

For most of the Dutch the most popular sources of information about the EU are the traditional mass media, such as television (65%), newspapers (55%) and radio (34%). These media are followed in popularity by the Internet, with 23% (mostly in the 15-39 age group) using it (the Internet) to find information about the EU.

Eighteen percent of the Dutch never seek information about the EU.

- When asked how they would like to be informed about the EU, the Dutch again show a preference for the traditional mass media such as television (65%), newspapers (48%) and radio (30%) as information sources. Twenty-six percent would like to have a short leaflet giving an overview. Only 3% indicate that they would prefer not to be informed about the EU.
- Generally speaking, the Dutch think that the Netherlands' membership of the EU is a good thing; only 6% think it a bad thing while 71% think it is a good thing. A majority (67%) would say that the Netherlands has benefited from being a member of the EU.
- Forty-one percent of the Dutch believe that the EU has brought them as many advantages as disadvantages, while 30% think that it has brought them more advantages.
- For 40% of the Dutch the EU conjures up a fairly positive image. For 39% the image is neutral while for 10% the image is negative.
- When asked what the EU means for the Dutch personally, 59% put the Euro in first place. This is followed by the freedom to work, travel and study everywhere in the EU.

- Regarding the European Union, 43% of the Dutch feel trust. The next most commonly held feeling is that of hope (33%). Only 4% feel fearful of the EU. On average, the Dutch have more trust in the EU than the average EU citizen.
- The institution best known to the Dutch is the European Parliament; 96% of the Dutch have heard of this. This is followed by the European Commission (84%) and the European Central Bank (83%). These same three institutions are the ones that the Dutch believe play an important role in the life of the EU.
- Fewer than 21% of the Dutch have heard of the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of Regions. The European Central Bank, The European Court of Justice and the European Parliament are the most trusted institutions; 60% or more of the Dutch trust them. Less than a third have trust in the Convention on the Future of Europe, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of Regions. Those Dutch people who are satisfied with their lives have, in general, more trust in the EU institutions than those who are less satisfied with their lives.
- When asked about their identity, 44% indicate that they see themselves only as Dutch, 46% see themselves first as Dutch and then as European, 8% first as European and then as Dutch and only 2% as only European. The majority (85%) of the Dutch are proud of being Dutch. The Dutch are more proud of being Dutch than of being European.
- The Dutch have a positive attitude towards the Euro. 61% think it is either a very good thing or a fairly good thing that the national currency has been replaced by the Euro. 68% feel very comfortable or fairly comfortable about using the Euro while 30% indicate that they feel not very comfortable or not comfortable at all. Older people feel less comfortable about using the Euro than do younger people.

Chapter 3

Decisions, responsibilities, priorities and issues within the European Union

- More than 70% of the Dutch think that the Dutch Government should take decisions in the fields of education, health and social security. On the other hand, a majority (>70%) think that decisions about currency, foreign policy and information about the EU should be made by the EU. There is disagreement regarding agriculture and fisheries, defence and the fight against poverty; as many people think that these issues should be dealt with by the national government as think that they should be dealt with by the EU.
- A majority (70%) believe that decisions about the police and urban and juvenile crime should be made by the Dutch government. More than 75% think that decisions regarding security issues, such as the fight against crime, the fight against the trade in human beings and the fight against international terrorism, should be taken by the EU. Compared to other Europeans, the Dutch are more favourable to decisions being made by the EU than by the national government.
- 79% of the Dutch are in favour of a common defence and security policy for the member states of the EU. 75% are in favour of the Euro and Economic Monetary Union and 56% are in favour of enlargement of the European Union.
- Even though 56% are in favour enlargement, only 34% believe it should be an EU priority. A large majority (>90%) think that peace and security, the fight against organised crime and the fight against poverty and social exclusion should be priority areas.
- Seventy-three percent of the Dutch think that the European Union should have a constitution. People who are opposed to the Euro also have more negative feelings towards a European constitution.
- Thirty-nine percent of the Dutch believe that the European Parliament should elect the President of the European Commission, while 31% believe that the President of the European Commission should be directly elected by the citizens of the EU.

- Fifty percent of the Dutch believe that the current right of veto for each Member State should be retained in order to preserve essential national interests. On the other hand, 32% want to give it up in order to make the EU more efficient.
- Currently, each member state contributes a part of its tax revenue to the EU. 19% of the Dutch would prefer to pay this directly to the EU, but 64% do not want to pay this tax directly to the European Union.

Chapter 4

Enlargement of the European Union

- Only 1% of the Dutch feel very well informed about the enlargement of the European Union. Twenty percent feel fairly informed, a majority (54%) feel not very well informed and 24% feel not informed at all.
- Fifty five percent of the Dutch feel that the European Union should be enlarged with some Candidate countries. A small majority (56% and 50%) is for accession of Malta and Hungary. Only a third is for accession of Bulgaria, Slovenia and Romania. For each country, around 20% indicate that they do not know whether they are for or against accession of that country. Dutch people who feel well informed about enlargement are more positive towards the accession of candidate countries to the European Union than people who feel less informed.
- When asked how the Dutch feel about accession of countries that do currently not have the status of candidate country it appears that more than 70% would be in favor of accession of Norway, Iceland and Switzerland. Less than 30% are in favor of accession of Central European countries such as Albania, Croatia or Macedonia.
- Almost 80% of the Dutch agree with the statement that after enlargement it will be more difficult to make decisions at a European level. Many (72%) think that the more member states the European Union will have, the more important it will become in the world. Twenty three percent agree with the statement that

enlargement will bring no extra cost for the Netherlands: in other words, a majority believes that enlargement will bring extra costs for the Netherlands.

EUROBAROMETER 57 - NATIONAL STANDARD REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

AUSTRIA

Survey carried out for the European
Commission's Representation in
Austria

« This document does not reflect the views of the European Commission. Any interpretations or opinions expressed in this report are those of the authors alone »

October 17, 2002

- 37 % of the Austrian population evaluate their country's membership in the European Union positively, 15 % rate it negatively, and 41 % state neither opinion. When the question is posed in a slightly different way, 40 % see advantages and 40 % disadvantages in EU membership. Compared to last year's Eurobarometer results, positive assessments have decreased in both cases. With regard to their personal lives 24 % of Austrians see personal advantages and 19 % disadvantages as a result of EU membership (47 % perceive both advantages and disadvantages).
- Overall, Austrians reveal a pragmatic and detached attitude towards the Union, which they relate above all to the common currency and to the freedom to travel, study and work in member states. While hope and trust characterise the positive feelings Austrians have towards EU membership, they nevertheless have some feelings of worry as well. Austrians' fears are concerned above all with a potential increase of unemployment and loss of social benefits. Few sense a threat to their national identity or existence. Only 12 % identify primarily and exclusively with Europe. Forty-five per cent indicate that their identity hinges exclusively on the Austrian nation and 39 % identify mostly with Austria.
- Austrians consider the most trustworthy EU institutions to be the European Central Bank, the European Court of Auditors, the European Parliament and the. However, since last year, Austrians have clearly lost confidence in the Parliament, the Council and in the Economic and Social Committee. Suspicion characterizes attitudes towards the Convention on the future of Europe, with which only a minority is familiar.
- Expectations of the EU focus on the maintenance of peace and security in Europe, the battle against unemployment, poverty and social exclusion, terrorism, crime and drug trafficking as well as on efforts for environmental protection and food safety.
- Preferences regarding the distribution of powers between the nation state and the Union depend on the specific topic: Austrians prefer joint decisions in the

fight against terrorism, human trafficking and organized crime as well as with regard to EU-relevant information, research and currency policies. The police, the legal system and health and social policies should preferably remain under the jurisdiction of the nation state.

- Sixty-two per cent of Austrians are in favour of a European Constitution. Two-thirds (67%) – higher than the EU average (of 50%) – believe that the right to a national veto on the most important and sensitive decisions should be maintained. Few (21%) – the same as the EU average – are in favour of taxation paid directly to the EU.
- A majority of Austrians (65%) support the enlargement process but it is not considered a top priority. Austrians prefer a selective accession strategy that focuses on Hungary, Malta, Cyprus and Slovenia. They also have a positive attitude towards the current non-candidate countries, Switzerland and Norway. Worries concerning enlargement relate primarily to the anticipated costs and negative effects on the national labour market. At the same time, there are hopes for an improved global position for the EU and for cultural enrichment.
- Austrians continue to perceive the advantages of enlargement in a rather abstract way. At the same time, they react negatively, and at the emotional level, to specific issues. Overall, attitudes have become a bit more sceptical than they were last year. Those respondents in the lower educational and social strata, as well as older people, report worry and anxiety more frequently than do others. This finding, however, correlates with domestic political and public debate.
- Austrians rate their own level of knowledge about EU enlargement, policies and institutions considerably higher than do respondents in most other member states. They also pay much more attention to news about the Union – even if this is of less interest than news about social, environmental, economic and political issues or sports.

- The mass media are the main source of information about the EU. This is the case for the population in general, and also for the lower educational and social strata, who display above-average scepticism towards the EU and enlargement. This finding should be taken into account by the EU as well as by national agencies when developing future information strategies so as to avoid excluding those who already demonstrate both a lack of information and a negative attitude towards the EU and enlargement.

EUROBAROMETER 57 - NATIONAL STANDARD REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

PORTUGAL

Survey carried out for the European
Commission's Representation in
Portugal

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October 17, 2002

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1. The European Union

1. 1. Information about the European Union, its politics and its institutions

One of the most striking results of the Portuguese survey is how little the Portuguese feel they know about the EU, its politics and institutions. On a scale of 1 to 10, the average of what the Portuguese feel they know about the EU is 3.8. This value is not much above the lowest point of the scale, which corresponds to the feeling of not knowing anything. This value, below the EU average (4.4), consistently places Portugal among the countries whose inhabitants feel worst informed about the EU. Still, it is important to outline that, generally speaking, most EU citizens say they feel uninformed about the EU.

This lack of information about the EU is not felt equally by all Portuguese citizens. Among women, elderly people and individuals with lower educational attainment or incomes, the percentage of people who say they feel “not very well” or “not at all” informed about the EU is 19% higher than average.

The majority (66%) of the Portuguese choose television as their main source of information about the EU. The Portuguese citizens' second choice is newspapers and magazines. These choices are not a Portuguese peculiarity: television and newspapers are also the sources of information most chosen among EU citizens in general. However, what is peculiar about the Portuguese is their almost exclusive reliance on television as a source of information about the EU.

Unsurprisingly, when asked how they would prefer to obtain information about the EU¹, the overwhelming majority (77%) choose television. Moreover, it is relevant to point out that, generally speaking, the Portuguese place a high level of trust in their media. Seventy-two percent of the Portuguese tend to trust television, while only 55% of EU citizens share the same opinion. From the above results, it is possible to conclude that the likelihood of an EU information strategy in Portugal successfully achieving the purpose of reaching the general public increases if television is used as a means of conveying such information.

1. 2. Evaluation of Portugal's membership

At first sight, lack of information about the EU does not prevent the Portuguese from making a positive assessment of Portugal's EU membership. As registered in previous Eurobarometers, the Portuguese have a very positive opinion about the EU and about its consequences for the country. There is a clear consensus among the Portuguese (69%) in considering that Portugal has benefited from EU membership, an opinion that most Portuguese have held at least since 1989.

¹ Note that only 712 Portuguese respondents answered this question, as the other approximately 28% had answered in the previous question that they never look for information about the EU.

The Portuguese are among the EU citizens who would feel most sorry if the EU was scrapped (50%) – much higher than the EU average. Furthermore, 65% of the Portuguese people state that in their opinion the EU has a rather positive image. This value, above the EU average (49%), places Portugal, together with Greece, Spain, Ireland, Italy, Luxemburg and the Netherlands, among the countries in which the attitude towards the EU is most positive.

The Portuguese are also the EU citizens who most trust the Union, with 66% - a value that surpasses the European average by 20 percent. Italy and Luxembourg follow Portugal, both with 62%. Moreover, the Portuguese tend to put more trust in the EU than they do in their own national government (44%).

Although, generally speaking, the Portuguese have a very positive opinion of the EU, there are some groups in Portuguese society that are more negative towards it than the average. Further statistical analysis proved that people who tend to trust the national government and people who say they feel more informed about the EU (who also form the more socially-advantaged strata of the Portuguese population) tend to make a more positive assessment of the Union.

1.3. Fears and priorities concerning the European Union

The Portuguese are, at present, mostly concerned with issues related to guaranteeing personal and economic security in Europe, issues which at the same time they consider to be priority actions for the EU. When asked what they fear most about the building of Europe, an overwhelming majority of the Portuguese, 81%, choose an increase in drug trafficking and international organised crime – issues which concern 65% of the EU's citizens. Percentages above 70 are also found in issues such as an increase in unemployment, economic crisis and the loss of social benefits. In all these matters, Portuguese levels of concern are well above the EU average, as well as those registered in the EB55 results.

With regard to the EU actions to which the Portuguese give priority, the same issues prevail, with a broad consensus among the national citizens. Ninety-four percent think that fighting unemployment is a priority, a value which, though slightly higher, is close to the EU 15 average (90%). Almost the same results occur with regard to fighting terrorism, poverty and social exclusion, and organised crime, as well as to maintaining peace and security in Europe. Moreover, it is important to mention that 70% of the Portuguese think that getting closer to European citizens, for example by giving them more information about the EU, should be a priority. But here, too, the Portuguese results match the EU average of 68%.

2. Enlargement

2.1. Information on enlargement

The overwhelming majority of the Portuguese say they feel uninformed about EU enlargement: 83% of the respondents answered that they feel “not very well” or “not at all” informed, against 16% who feel “very well” or “well” informed. Though an unsatisfactory result, this is a discreet improvement over the EB55 survey, where the same percentages were respectively 85 and 14%. However, 83% of those interviewed felt rather uninformed about Enlargement - still the second highest percentage among the EU countries. Yet, it is relevant to point out that this perception of lack of information, though with less worrying proportion, is common in almost all EU members, Finland being the only country where more than half of the citizens feel well informed.

The groups inside the Portuguese society referred to above as feeling more informed about the EU are also the ones who present the best results here.

2.2. Attitudes towards enlargement

The majority of the Portuguese is in favour of enlargement. When asked whether they are for enlargement or against it, 57% of respondents answered they are “for” it, while 18% said they are “against” it. The Portuguese attitude is much more positive than the average of the EU countries, especially regarding the percentage of respondents opposed to enlargement, which, in the EU average, reaches 30%.

Although there is broad support for enlargement in Portugal, the percentage of respondents who are for it is even higher among the younger age groups and people who pay attention to politics.

Results concerning the kind of enlargement the Portuguese would prefer show that 26% of the respondents believe that the Union should be enlarged to all applicants - the third largest percentage among EU nations and 8 points above the European average. This value is reinforced by the 26% of Portuguese who agree with enlargement to some applicants, while only 12% are totally against it (the EU average for this category is 21%). With these results, the Portuguese confirm their place among the EU citizens who make a more positive assessment of enlargement.

Regarding the 13 applicant countries, respondents were asked to say whether they agreed or not with each one of them becoming part of the EU. One of the most striking results in the Portuguese case is the high percentage of “don't know” answers, which varied, in these questions, from 32 to 36%, while the EU average does not surpass 25%. Secondly, the percentage of Portuguese who agree with the entry of each country is always below 50%. Globally, the Portuguese have a more positive attitude toward the applicant countries.

The majority of the Portuguese are very optimistic about the political consequences of enlargement. Sixty-eight percent of respondents believe that after enlargement Europe will be culturally richer and 67% think that the more member countries there are within the EU, the more important the EU will be in the world. Regarding security, which is undoubtedly one of the main issues at the moment, 57% of the Portuguese believe that after enlargement, peace and security will be better secured in Europe. Comparing these results with EU averages, we can again see the Portuguese in the front line of support for enlargement.

Although a broad positive consensus exists among the Portuguese about the political consequences of enlargement, the same does not occur regarding the economic ones. Sixty-five percent of the Portuguese tend to agree with the sentence: "Once new countries have joined the EU, Portugal will receive less financial aid from it", against 15% who disagree. Similarly, 47% agree that there will be more unemployment in Portugal. Contrary to what happens with the evaluation of enlargement's political consequences, the Portuguese in general are more pessimistic in economic matters than the EU average.

Finally, in spite of the general positive attitude towards enlargement, the majority of the Portuguese (51%) do not consider it a priority. This value is well below those registered for EU actions the overwhelming majority of the Portuguese consider to be a priority. Still, Portuguese results do not stray from the European averages. In fact, the percentage of Portuguese who do not think enlargement should be a priority is 10 points below the EU average. In other words, here again the Portuguese show a more positive attitude towards enlargement than the EU average.

3. Portugal and the Future of the European Union

3. 1. Information about the Future of the European Union

Portugal is consistently among the countries where respondents feel greater difficulties in expressing their opinions about the Institutional Reform of the EU. The most unfamiliar issue among Portuguese people seems to be how their financial contribution to the EU is paid: 42% of respondents "don't know". With this value, Portugal is the country with the highest proportion of respondents who were unable to give a valid answer to this question.

Unsurprisingly, the highest percentages of "don't know" answers are found among women and individuals with less education or income.

3. 2. Allocation of responsibilities between the EU and the Portuguese Government

The Portuguese believe that the majority of decisions, in a great variety of areas, should be made not by the national government alone, but jointly within the EU. The areas in which there is the largest consensus about sharing decisions with the EU are those regarding security and human

rights. Seventy-six percent of the Portuguese believe that the national government alone can't fight international terrorism and 70% have the same opinion about the fight against the trade in, and exploitation of, human beings. Portuguese results do not vary greatly from the European averages, which also attribute high percentages to the same categories.

It is important to note that the Portuguese prefer to share decisions with the EU in areas they consider priorities, namely, the fight against unemployment, against terrorism, against poverty and social exclusion, and against organised crime, as well as the protection of the environment.

Police, justice, education and basic rules for the media are the only four areas in which more than 50% of the Portuguese consider decisions should be handled only by the Portuguese Government, without the interference of the EU. These results match those found in almost all EU countries and consequently the EU averages, which are around 60% in these issues.

As we have seen before, the Portuguese tend to trust the EU more than they do their own national government, which may explain this tendency to share decisions with the EU, in particular, those considered to be priorities. In fact, statistical analysis has shown that among the people who tend to trust the EU are the highest percentages of individuals who think decisions should be shared.

3. 3. Institutional Reform of the European Union

The majority of the Portuguese (60%) consider reforming the institutions of the European Union and the way they work a priority – a value above the EU average (53%).

Fifty-seven percent of the Portuguese share the opinion that the EU should have a Constitution, while only 5% think otherwise. However, the Portuguese are more resistant to the idea of paying a financial contribution directly to the EU: only 17% of respondents support this measure, while 42% are against it. Similarly, only 15% of the Portuguese believe that the right of veto each member state enjoys should be given up in order to make the EU more efficient, while 44% think that it should be retained in order to preserve essential national interests. Generally speaking, the Portuguese results are similar to those found for the EU average.

Regarding the way the President of the European Commission should be appointed, the Portuguese are divided among the three possible answers. Of these, 26% would prefer the President to be elected directly by the EU citizens, 21% think the President should continue to be appointed by the Heads of State and national governments and 18% believe the President should be elected by the European Parliament.

EUROBAROMETER 57 - NATIONAL STANDARD REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

FINLAND

Survey carried out for the European
Commission's Representation in
Finland

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October 17, 2002

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

The report presents Finnish public opinion on enlargement of the EU, on the trust Finns feel towards different institutions and on the level of knowledge Finns have of EU affairs as well as their acceptance of the decisions made by the EU. The report is based on the analysis of results obtained from the Eurobarometer survey carried out in Finland and the other member states of the EU in March, April and May 2002.

1. The attitudes of the Finns on enlargement of the EU

More than half of Finns (51 %) feel very well or well informed about enlargement of the EU. However, 48 % of Finns feel they are not very well or not at all well informed about the enlargement. In comparison with the two previous Eurobarometer surveys, the proportion of Finns that feel very well or well informed about enlargement has gone down by 6 %-points during the last three months and has returned to the level of spring 2001.

Men feel better informed about enlargement than do women. Fifty-eight percent of men and 44 % of women feel very well or well informed about enlargement. In particular, managers, the retired, the self-employed and house people feel better informed about enlargement than do other socio-demographic groups. People living in large towns feel better informed about the enlargement than do those living in rural areas or villages.

Almost half of Finns (48 %) feel that the EU should be enlarged to include only some of the countries wishing to join. Twenty-two percent feel that the EU should be enlarged to include all the countries wishing to join and 20 % say the EU should not be enlarged by any additional countries.

Three months ago more than half of Finns (51 %) felt the EU should be enlarged to include only some of the countries wishing to join. The proportion of Finns who feel that the EU should be enlarged to include all the countries wishing to join has stayed the same, but the proportion of those who feel that the EU should not be enlarged at all has risen by 6 %-points.

A larger proportion of women (27%) than of men (17 %) are in favour of enlarging the EU to all the countries wishing to join. The unemployed and the retired more than other groups feel that the EU should be enlarged to include all the countries wishing to join. Manual workers, managers, students and the self-employed in particular feel that the EU should be enlarged to include only some of the countries wishing to join. People living in large towns and in the Uusimaa region feel more than the average that the EU should be enlarged to include only some of the countries wishing to join.

People who finished their studies at the age of 15 in particular are among those who feel that the EU should not be enlarged by any additional countries. Also, people living in rural areas or villages feel more than the average that the EU should not be

enlarged. Those living in Northern Finland feel more than the average that the EU should be enlarged to include all the countries wishing to join. After the planned enlargement of the EU the number of member states will increase from 15 to more than 25. Finns were asked how EU decisions should then be made. Almost half (47 %) feel that EU decisions should still be made unanimously by all member states. Thirty-nine percent of Finns feel that decisions should be made by a majority of the member states.

Women (43 %) more than men (34 %) are in favour of decisions being made unanimously, while 54 % of men and 41 % of women are in favour of making decisions by a majority of the member states. Among those who feel that EU decisions should be made by a majority of the member states after enlargement are managers (61 %) and people who finished their studies at the age of more than 20 years (51 %). House people (46 %) and white-collar workers (44 %) are more in favour of unanimous decisions than the average. When comparing the regions we notice that in particular people living in large towns (54 %) and in Uusimaa (55 %) feel that EU decisions should be made by a majority of the member states after enlargement.

Finns were presented with two lists of countries and asked whether they would be in favour of or against it becoming part of the EU. One list contained the countries currently negotiating about membership and Turkey. The other list contained the countries of the former Yugoslavia, Albania, Norway, Iceland and Switzerland.

A majority of Finns are in favour of the Baltic countries (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania) joining the EU. More than half of Finns are also in favour of Hungary, Malta, the Czech Republic, Cyprus and Poland becoming part of the EU. The country whose accession to the EU Finns feels the most in favour of is Estonia; 67 % of Finns are in favour of Estonia becoming part of the EU. On the other hand, a majority of Finns, 52 %, are against Turkey joining the EU.

In comparison with previous Eurobarometer surveys that reflected the attitudes of Finns on enlargement, we see that the Finns have become somewhat more positive towards the present candidate countries joining the EU. The proportion of Finns in favour of Turkey joining the Union has gone down steadily between 1995 and 2001. During the last year, however, Finns have become somewhat more positive towards Turkey joining the Union.

For the Finns, the countries of the former Yugoslavia or Albania are not very popular potential members of the EE; a majority are against the membership of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), Albania or Bosnia and Herzegovina. On the other hand, a very high proportion of Finns are in favour of Norway (86 %), Switzerland (84 %) and Iceland (80 %) joining the EU.

Eighty percent of Finns tend to agree with the statement that with more countries, it will be much more difficult to make decisions on a European scale. However, only 60 % of Finns think that the EU must reform the way its institutions work before welcoming new members. 75 % of Finns think that the more member countries there are within the EU, the more important the EU will be in the world. Most Finns also feel

that the EU will be culturally richer with more member states. And 61 % of Finns tend to agree with the statement that the more countries there are in the EU, the more peace and security will be guaranteed in Europe.

Finns do tend to have a rather negative view of the economic effects of enlargement. Seventy percent believe that once new countries have joined the EU, Finland will receive less financial aid from the EU. In addition, 67 % think that enlargement will cost more for existing member countries like Finland. However, Finns do not agree with the statement that the more countries there are, the more unemployment there will be in Finland; 51 % of Finns tend to disagree with the statement and 36 % tend to agree with it.

In comparison with previous Eurobarometer surveys we can see that the proportion of Finns who believe that enlargement will bring more unemployment to Finland has gone up since June 2001. In addition, a larger proportion of Finns than before believe that Finland will receive less financial aid from the Union once new countries have joined.

As previous Eurobarometer surveys have already shown, the Finns feel better informed about enlargement than do citizens of other EU countries. The proportion of those citizens who say they have been very well or well informed about enlargement is the highest among all the EU countries.

On average, the Finns are much more in favour of Estonia joining the EU than are other EU citizens. A larger proportion of Finns than of other EU citizens are also in favour of Norway and Iceland joining the Union. Citizens of the other Nordic countries, namely Sweden and Denmark, are also more in favour of Norway and Iceland joining than are those of other EU countries.

2. The trust Finns feel towards social institutions

The Eurobarometer survey asked Finns to say what levels of trust they have in certain social institutions. A major proportion of Finns trust the army and the police (both 88 %). A majority of Finns also trust radio (75 %), television (71 %), the justice and the Finnish legal systems (68 %), the religious institutions (68 %), the United Nations (67 %), trade unions (59 %), the Finnish government (54 %), charitable or voluntary organisations (54 %), the press (54 %) and the Finnish parliament (53 %). However, only 39 % of Finns trust the EU. Almost half of Finns, 49 %, say they do not trust the EU.

In particular, people aged 15-24 years (58 %), students (58 %) and people living in large towns (49 %) tend to trust the EU. On the other hand, people living in Central Finland (60 %) and in Northern Finland (59 %), as well as those who finished their studies at the age of 15, tend not to trust the EU.

However, when asked whether the Finns trust different EU institutions, a majority of Finns answered they trust the European ombudsman (60 %), the European Central Bank (58 %), the Court of Justice of the European Communities (58 %), the European Parliament (54 %) and the European Commission (51 %). The Convention

on the Future of the EU was not very well known among Finns and less than one in three Finns say they trust it.

The trust the Finns have in different EU Institutions has stayed the same or has slightly increased since 1999. In particular, the trust the Finns have in the European Commission, the Council of Ministers of the EU and the European Central Bank has increased according to the present Eurobarometer survey and the one carried out in December 2001.

Finns feel very strongly that decisions concerning police affairs (84 %) and immigration policy (81 %) should be made by the Finnish government and not jointly within the EU. In particular, decisions concerning the fight against international terrorism, the fight against the trade in, and exploitation of, human beings as well as the fight against organised crime should, in the opinion of the majority of Finns, be made jointly within the EU.

The Finns do not have an unanimous opinion on how the President of the European Commission should be elected. 35 % of Finns say he should be elected by the majority of the European Parliament, 29 % say he should be elected directly by the citizens of the EU and 22 % of Finns say he should be nominated by the Heads of State and government of the EU.

In the EU, each Member State has the right of veto for the most important or sensitive decisions. Finns were asked whether this right of veto should be retained in order to preserve essential national interests or whether it should be given up in order to make the EU more efficient. Sixty-two percent of Finns think that the right of veto should be retained. 27 % of Finns would be ready to give it up in order to make the EU more efficient.

At present, each member state passes on to the EU a part of its tax revenue. The Finns were asked whether they would prefer to pay this contribution directly to the EU. A majority of Finns (56 %) would not prefer to do this, while 22 % are in favour of the idea. Demographic analysis shows that in particular people aged 40-54 years and those who finished their studies at the age of 15 as well as the unemployed tend to prefer to pay a part of their tax contribution directly to the EU.

In comparison with the results in other EU countries, Finns are not as afraid of particular threats mentioned in the survey, such as world war, terrorism, organised crime or ethnic conflicts in Europe, as are citizens in other EU countries. Finns also have more trust in the mentioned social institutions than do EU citizens on average. The trust the Finns have in the police, the army and the trade unions is the highest among all EU member states. However, the Finns trust the EU less than do EU citizens on average. Of all EU countries, only in Sweden and in the United Kingdom is the proportion of citizens who say they trust the EU smaller than in Finland.

62 % of Finns think the right of veto of each Member State should be retained after enlargement. This proportion is among the highest in the EU member states, immediately following Denmark, Greece, Luxemburg and Austria.

3. The Finns' level of knowledge of EU affairs and their support for decisions made by the EU

The Finns' level of knowledge of EU affairs was measured by asking on a scale from 1 to 10¹ how much the Finns feel they know about the EU, its policies and its institutions. The Finns estimate their knowledge of European affairs at 4.5. Men feel they know more (4.84) about the EU than do women (4.19). In addition, managers (5.28), people living in large towns (5.15), people living in Uusimaa (5.05), people who finished their studies at an age of more than 20 years (4.99), students (4.88), house people (4.87), people aged 15-24 years (4.77), the self-employed (4.65) and people aged 40-54 years all feel they know more about the EU than the average.

Those who feel they know less than average about the EU, its policies and its institutions include people who finished their studies at the age of 15 (3.94), people living in Central Finland (3.96), the unemployed (4.02), those who finished their studies at the age of 16-19 (4.03), manual workers (4.05) and people living in Northern Finland (4.09)

A majority of Finns use television (67 %) and daily newspapers (52 %) as their main sources of information about the EU, its policies and its institutions. Twenty-three percent of Finns use Internet for this purpose. Only 8 % of Finns use the information sources offered by the EU, such as EU information offices, Euro-info centres, Euro-info points and Euro-libraries.

Generally speaking, two in five Finns find Finland's membership of the EU a good thing. Eighteen percent of Finns find it a bad thing and 38 % find it neither good nor bad. For 41 % of Finns the EU conjures up a neutral image. 30 % of Finns find the EU conjures up a very or a fairly positive image and for 24 % it conjures up a very or fairly negative image.

Taking everything into consideration, two in five Finns would say that Finland has on balance benefited from being a member of the EU. A slightly larger proportion of Finns, 43 %, would say that Finland has not benefited from being a member, while 17 % of Finns have no opinion on this.

Finns mostly have a positive feeling about the EU. For 44 % of Finns, the EU gives a feeling of hope. For 27 % it gives a feeling of trust. Only 17 % of Finns mistrust the EU and only 9 % of Finns feel that they reject the EU.

The Eurobarometer survey asked respondents to estimate whether Finland being a member of the EU has brought personal advantages or disadvantages. A majority of Finns (59 %) feel that Finland's membership of the EU has brought as many advantages as disadvantages. Nineteen percent of Finns feel Finland's membership has brought many more or more advantages and 16 % of Finns think it has brought many more or more disadvantages.

Demographic analysis shows that in particular people living in large towns (32 %), students (31 %) and managers (30 %) tend to think that Finland being a member of the EU has brought him many more or more advantages. On the other hand, the self-

¹ 1 = I know nothing at all, 10 = I know a great deal

employed (30 %), people who finished their studies at the age of 15 (26 %), the unemployed (24 %) and people living in rural areas (22 %) feel it has brought many more or more disadvantages.

Sixty four percent of Finns are in favour of European Monetary Union with a single currency, the Euro. In addition, 74 % of Finns say that successfully implementing the single European currency, the Euro, should be a priority in the list of actions that the EU could undertake. Almost half the Finns (43 %) find the replacement of the Finnish Markka by the Euro to be a very or a fairly good thing, 28 % find it neither a good nor a bad thing while 28 % find it a very or a fairly bad thing.

A larger proportion of men (51 %) than of women (36 %) finds the replacement of the Finnish Markka by the Euro a very good thing or a fairly good thing. More than half of those living in large towns (64 %), managers (61 %), people living in Uusimaa (56 %), people aged 15-24 years (55 %), white collar workers (52 %), people who finished their studies older than 20 years (52 %) and students (51 %) find the replacement of the Finnish Markka by the Euro a very good or a fairly good thing. On the other hand, people who finished their studies at the age of 15 (42 %), people living in Northern Finland (39 %), people living in rural areas (36 %) and the unemployed (35 %) find the replacement of Finnish Markka by the Euro to be a very bad or a fairly bad thing.

On a scale from 1 to 10¹, the Finns estimate their knowledge about the EU, its policies and its Institutions higher, at 4.5, than do EU citizens on average (EU average 4.35). When looking for information about the EU, the Finns use the Internet more than any other EU citizens except the Danish.

After the Greek and the Irish, the Finns are the most proud of their nationality. The Finns are also prouder of being Europeans than the citizens of other EU countries on the average. However, only 41 % of the Finns think that Finland's membership of the EU is a good thing, as opposed to the EU-wide average of 53%.

4. Conclusions

The main findings of this Eurobarometer survey with regard to the attitudes of the Finns on EU enlargement are:

- The Finns feel better informed about the enlargement than do citizens of other EU member states. More than half of the Finns feel very well or well informed about the enlargement of the EU. However, almost as large a proportion of Finns say they feel not very well or not at all well informed about the enlargement. In comparison with the two previous Eurobarometer surveys, the share of those Finns that feel very well or well informed about enlargement has gone down by 6 points during the last three months and has returned to the level of spring 2001. Men feel better informed than women about enlargement.
- Almost half of the Finns feel that the EU should be enlarged to include only some of the countries wishing to join. One in five feel that the EU should be

¹ 1 = I know nothing at all, 10 = I know a great deal

enlarged to include all the countries wishing to join and as many again say the EU should not be enlarged at all.

- In comparison with the previous Eurobarometer surveys, the Finns have become somewhat more positive towards the present candidate countries joining the EU. Two in three Finns are in favour of Estonia joining the EU. At least four in five Finns are also in favour of Norway, Switzerland and Iceland becoming member of the EU. On the other hand, Finns have a very strong opinion that Turkey, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), Albania or Bosnia and Herzegovina should not become part of the EU.

The main findings of this Eurobarometer survey with regard to the trust Finns feel towards certain social institutions are:

- Almost half of the Finns say they do not trust the EU. However, a majority of Finns say they trust the European Ombudsman, the European Central Bank, the Court of Justice of the European Communities, the European Parliament and the European Commission.
- Three in five Finns tend to think that the right of veto of the member states for the most important or sensitive decisions should be retained, but almost one in three Finns would be ready to give up the right of veto in order to make the EU more efficient.

The main findings of this Eurobarometer survey with regard to the level of knowledge of Finns on EU affairs and their support for the decisions made by the EU are:

- The Finns estimate their knowledge of EU affairs to be at an average level of 4.5. Men feel they know more about the EU than do women. The Finns estimate their level of knowledge about the EU higher than EU average.
- A majority of Finns use television and daily newspapers as the main source of information about the EU, its policies and its institutions. Only 8 % of Finns use the information sources of the EU, such as EU information offices, Euro-info centres, Euro-info points and Euro-libraries.
- Generally speaking, two in five Finns find Finland's membership of the EU a good thing. For two in five Finns the EU conjures up a neutral image. For one in three Finns, the EU conjures up a very or a fairly positive image. Two in five Finns say that, taking everything into consideration, Finland has on balance benefited from being a member of the EU. However, a slightly larger proportion of Finns say Finland has not benefited from being a member.
- A majority of Finns feel Finland's membership of the EU has brought them personally as many advantages as disadvantages. In particular, people living in large towns, students and managers tend to think that Finland being a member of the EU has brought many more or more advantages.
- 64 % of Finns are in favour of the Euro. Almost half of the Finns find the replacement of the Finnish Markka by the Euro to be a very good or a fairly good thing. One in three Finn finds it neither a good nor a bad thing.

EUROBAROMETER 57 - NATIONAL STANDARD REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

SWEDEN

Survey carried out for the European
Commission's Representation in
Sweden

« This document does not reflect the views of the European Commission. Any interpretations or opinions expressed in this report are those of the authors alone »

October 17, 2002

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The report “EU on the Verge of Change—Views from Sweden” is based on the results of a European Union opinion poll carried out in Sweden in Spring 2002. The Eurobarometer poll is conducted regularly across the member states and each time contains questions covering a range of current issues. On this occasion, the main focus was on EU enlargement, on whether and how to reform the EU’s power structures and on support for the euro. In another set of questions, respondents were asked to assess the performance of national and EU authorities. Further sub-sections dealt with what respondents thought should be the EU’s political priorities or were designed to pinpoint the levels of support among EU citizens for future planned action or legislative change.

THE FUTURE OF THE EU

1000 people were interviewed in Sweden between April 1 and May 1, 2002. Interestingly, a majority of them supported a large number of the ideas currently discussed by the Convention on the Future of Europe, charged with presenting suggestions on how to reform the EU in the face of enlargement. An institutional, and perhaps also constitutional, reform of the Union is intended to ensure the smooth running of the EU after 10 or more new members come aboard.

Notably, 67% of the Swedish sample said there should be changes in the way the institutions work before the EU becomes larger. Moreover, a majority of 53% thought the union ought to develop its own constitution. It should also make greater efforts to get closer to the EU citizens, for instance by giving them more information. This view was expressed by four out of five interviewees (84%) in Sweden. Three out of five (59%) agreed with the statement that areas which could not be handled efficiently at the national level should be taken over by the EU. But such areas of agreement were few and disparate, according to the interviewees. Overall, they felt that the EU’s powers of legislation should not be extended to include more policy areas at the expense of the member states. Decision-making on “important” issues like environmental protection, the fight against unemployment, currency matters or agricultural policy should be the sole responsibility of the member states, the better part of the respondents in Sweden claimed.

However, there were a few areas — seven, to be exact — where respondents thought political responsibility could be shared. These included foreign policy and the distribution of support money to regions in difficulty, according to 53 and 52% respectively. Furthermore, many respondents in Sweden wanted the member states to make joint efforts to fight international terrorism (82 %), human trafficking and other kinds of abuse of the individual (71

%), and/or organised crime (68 %). A comfortable majority, 65%, said also that efforts to inform citizens about the Union's activities could be more efficiently dealt with jointly by the EU and the member states.

EU ENLARGEMENT

Eurobarometer found broad support in Sweden for the enlargement of the EU to include new member countries. Slightly more than three out of five interviewees (61%) were in favour of enlargement — a figure indicating that support was a good deal stronger in Sweden than in many other EU countries and than in the Union on average.

But the majority of the respondents were in no hurry to see enlargement happen. Just under half the Swedish sample (48%) thought that welcoming new member states should be a priority for the Union, compared to one out of four respondents EU-wide (27%). Moreover, the largest group (30%), in relative terms, of interviewees in Sweden said only “a few” of the countries wishing to join the 15-state-strong Union should be allowed to do so. One out of eight did not believe in the statement that enlargement would not bring about additional costs for Sweden (e.g. to the country's regular payments to the EU of already collected tax money). The strongest support for EU enlargement was found at the extremities of the country. More people were in favour in the Malmö region (south) and in Norrland, covering the northernmost and middle part of Sweden, than for instance in Gothenburg, the country's second biggest city on the west coast. In addition, fewer women than men supported enlargement.

THE EURO

Another hot potato, especially in the three countries that have so far chosen not to enter the European Monetary Union, is whether the euro should be adopted to replace national currencies. At the time of the poll, 49% of the respondents in Sweden were in favour of swapping the krona for the euro, with 42% against and the rest undecided or declining to indicate a preference.

In the Eurobarometer poll, 47% of respondents thought that the changeover should be a political priority, and almost as many, 46 %, did not think so. Support was weakest in the northernmost and central regions of Sweden.

ATTITUDES TOWARD MEMBERSHIP AND TO THOSE IN POWER

Many interviewees in Sweden seemed unimpressed by the performance of those in power. Three out of five said they tended not to trust the EU, while 29% said they did. However, respondents gave greater trust ratings when asked about individual institutions. Thirty-nine percent claimed to have confidence in the European Commission, 45 % in the European Parliament and 41% in the Council of Ministers. The three main EU institutions also fared better than the national political parties, which were not trusted by seven out of ten. On the other hand, 54 and 59% respectively of the interviewees said they had confidence in the Swedish government and the parliament, the *Riksdagen*.

Barely two out of five (38%) of the people interviewed in Sweden agreed that the country's EU membership was "a good thing". One out of four disagreed with the statement. Within the country, people in Gothenburg were least in favour of membership. Pro-EU support was strongest in the Malmö region, which is the Swedish region in the poll which is situated closest to the EU's centre. Overall, more women than men questioned the benefits of Sweden's EU membership.

Moreover, almost half of the interviewees did not think that joining the Union had been good for the country, while 29% said it had. Fifty-four percent would describe themselves as being "Swedish only," while 38% saw themselves as "Swedes and Europeans". In answer to a question on what, if anything, interviewees felt on hearing the words "European Union," the largest group in the sample (45%) answered that it gave them hope. The second largest group (33%), or one out of three interviewees, said it made them feel mistrust. Another fifth (22%) said it left them indifferent. The last group could possibly correspond to the one in five respondents who confessed, in a different context, never to look for information about the EU as it did not interest them. The rest of the interviewees, those who did welcome receiving such information, tended to get it from the news media, mainly from the television (62 %), daily newspapers (49 %), radio (36 %) and/or the Internet (23 %). Almost one third of the respondents (29%) mentioned discussions with colleagues, friends and relatives as a source of information about the EU.

EUROBAROMETER 57 - NATIONAL STANDARD REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

UNITED KINGDOM

Survey carried out for the European
Commission's Representation in
United Kingdom

"This document does not reflect the views of the European Commission. Any interpretations or opinions expressed in this report are those of the authors alone"

October 17, 2002

Methodology

The fieldwork for this report was carried out in the UK between 30th March and 24th April 2002 at the request of the Press and Communications Directorate-General of the European Commission (Opinion Polls).

In total, 15,987 interviews were conducted across Europe between 29th March and 1st May with 1,306 taking place in the UK. Figures quoted in this report are rounded up to the nearest whole number, so that, for example, 14.5% will be shown as 15%.

Scope

This report analyses the current attitude in the UK on a wide range of issues relating to European matters.

In particular, it focuses on levels of knowledge of and attitudes towards the European Union and its institutions. It studies the prevalent feelings in the UK towards Europe and attitudes towards issues of sovereignty, national identity, education on European matters, etc. and highlights areas where the UK sample indicates attitudes and beliefs that are at variance with the rest of the EU.

The Euro and the way it is perceived by the British people is also an important part of this report, as is the question of enlargement.

The UK has historically tended to be the “don’t know” capital of the EU when looking at the level of public knowledge on matters European. What emerges from this report is a high level of distrust of the institutions of the European Union.

There are many and varied views as to the reason for the inherently suspicious attitude of the British towards the European Union. One of these may be a feeling that life in the UK is particularly good and that being more closely tied to the EU would not bring any additional benefit.

What will emerge from this report is not only the low level of knowledge about the European Union and its functions but also a relatively high lack of confidence and trust in the EU. The high level of mistrust may largely be generated by the often-evidenced lack of knowledge rather than judgment based upon an analysis of facts.

In this executive summary of the analysis of the findings of Eurobarometer 57.1, the editor looks at the possible reason for the UK’s lack of knowledge and also examines the issue of whether the “don’t know” attitude also extends to being that of “don’t care”.

There is, however, one area where there is hope in this scenario – the patterns shown by the UK students of today. Whereas thirty years ago when students were seen to be basically anti-establishment, the data generated by Eurobarometer 57 shows a different picture.

Although the figures in terms of interest in EU matters show the same low level as the average figures for the UK as a whole, what does emerge is a relatively high level of trust in government (both national and on a European basis) as well as a generally more positive attitude to the European Union and the benefits it has brought the UK.

In particular, 44% of students see the European Union as being a “good thing” – a view subscribed to by only 32% of the total poll. Furthermore, this pro-EU stance is further developed with 56% of students believing that the UK has benefited from membership as opposed to a UK average of 31%

Sources of information

People’s opinions are conventionally based upon information and their analysis of that information. It is relevant, therefore, to look at the level of trust people have in the various sources of information available to them. The confidence they have in these channels of communication directly affects their perception and interpretation of the information that is delivered.

In a country, such as the UK, where the level of knowledge on the European Union is relatively low, then the public perception of mass media channels is critical in the delivery of any further information.

When asked if they tended to trust information obtained from the **press** (Q8.1), on average 44% of EU citizens viewed the press positively. Amongst these were more than 50% of Belgians, Danes, Spaniards, French, Luxemburgers, Dutch, Portuguese and Finns. However, the UK figure at 20% shows the lowest level of trust of the Press of any EU state – only a third of the level of trust in Belgium.

Radio as a medium (Q8.2) has a much higher level of trust than the press across the whole of Europe. On average, 61% of EU citizens tend to trust radio, and in seven countries the figure exceeds two-thirds of the population. In the UK, the trust factor is close to this EU15 average and is felt by 59% of the population.

Television as a trusted source of information falls between press and radio, and across Europe, 55% of the population see it in a positive light (Q 8.3). The UK figure at 58% is slightly higher than the EU average and although lagging behind Portugal (72%), Finland and the Netherlands (71%) is well ahead of the Greeks, where only one person in three (34%) trusts the medium.

Trust in Institutions

Q8 examines the trust that UK citizens have in institutions such as the Police, the national legal system, the Army, Trades Unions, political parties and the Civil Service. In all these areas, the UK results were very much in line with the EU 15 average.

Similarly, the level of trust in the **national Government** shown by the UK was virtually the lowest in the EU with only one person in three (33%) tending to trust the government. Only the French (30%) had less trust in their government.

Within the UK figures, one of the more interesting statistics was that 42% of students 'tended to trust' the Government. In terms of trusting **Parliament**, students (41%) were again well ahead of the UK average of 32%.

These figures are to be compared with countries such as Holland, Sweden, Denmark and Luxembourg where levels of trust ranged between 58% and 65%.

There was a reasonably high level of "don't knows" in the part of the survey dealing with trust in the **European Union** (Q8.14) with an average of one in six people (17%) across the Union not knowing whether they trusted the EU or not. However, the figures for the UK once again confirmed the "don't know" status of the country with nearly one person in four (24%) being in this category when asked if they tended to trust the European Union.

On average, EU countries tended to trust the European Union more than they trusted their national governments. When the "don't know" figures are excluded from the data concerning trust in both national governments and the European Union, it is seen that, overall, there is a higher tendency to trust the European Union than a particular national government. Overall, based upon a net figure (i.e. excluding "don't knows") the EU 15 average for tending to trust the national government was slightly less than half those polled at 47%.

Using the same "net" basis, the average level of trust towards the European Union was nearly 20% higher with 55% of Europeans who expressed a view stating they tended to trust the EU. The UK net figure moves marginally from a trust rating of domestic government of 33% (the lowest in the EU) to the second lowest rating at 36% when looking at trust in the EU.

It would appear that the British trust neither their own government nor the European Union.

There appears to be a low level of attention paid to news about the European Union in the UK with 41% paying no attention at all. This is the largest figure from any country in the EU and is substantially higher than the average of 30%.

It is, in the editor's opinion, this factor which generates the high level of "don't knows" from the UK sample to many of the questions in this Eurobarometer survey.

The survey also looked at the **general level of knowledge of the European Union**, its policies and its institutions. In Q10, respondents were asked to rate themselves on a scale of 1 to 10 with 1 representing "no knowledge at all" and 10 indicating "knowing a great deal". The level of total ignorance of EU matters exceeded 10% in only five of the 15 Member States. The average across the Union for "no knowledge at all" was 10% of the total sample. However, the figure for the UK was 22% - more than twice the European average.

When the figures for the two lowest levels of knowledge were aggregated across the EU, they accounted for 21% of all respondents. The corresponding figure for low knowledge levels in the UK was 37%, higher than in any of the Member States.

In Q11, respondents were asked which **sources of information on the European Union** they used to get information about the EU. Perhaps the most significant reaction from the whole EU15 sample was a spontaneous answer that they did not look for such information and/or they were not interested. This reply was given by a substantial 21% of those surveyed overall in the EU and by 37% of the UK poll. This lack of interest in EU affairs by a large proportion of the UK sample is an underlying characteristic of this poll and is in line with general trends shown in the past.

Q13 is a blunt question which asks whether respondents viewed their **country's membership of the European Union** as a good or bad thing. Even in such a gut-reaction question, the level of UK "don't knows" at 15% was virtually double the EU average of 8%. Including the "don't knows" in the analysis, the UK had the lowest percentage of respondents who viewed membership as a good thing with only one third (32%) of those polled believing this as compared to an EU 15 average of more than half (53%).

When looking at the broad question of the **image of the EU** (Q15) the UK again has a high level of "don't knows" with 12% of those polled in this category compared with an EU average of 7%.

In addition, of those polled in the UK and actually expressing an opinion (i.e. the net figure) those with a very negative attitude (14%) and a fairly negative attitude (20%) made up more than one in three (34%) of the sample. This compares with a EU15 average of less than half this figure (15%).

On questions which related to the fundamental building blocks of the EU, it is apparent that UK citizens have relatively little knowledge of the existence and functions of the key working component institutions of the Union and have low confidence levels in their working.

"Don't know", "don't understand", and "don't trust" would appear to be the UK mantra when looking at the European Union.

Although there are some areas where the UK felt that decisions should be made jointly within the European Union and not just by the national government, overall, the response to Q24 concerning **sovereignty** showed an unwillingness to cede authority to the European Union on a number of issues.

However, some subjects attract support for pan-European decision making and, in these areas, the UK also had a majority of those polled believing that decisions in these areas should be made by the whole European Union.

At the time this survey was being conducted (April 2002), the **Euro** was already the official currency in 12 of the 15 EU states and had been in circulation for nearly four months. Unsurprisingly, the 12 countries in the Euro zone were substantially in favour of European Monetary Union with one single currency, the Euro. Seventy-five

percent of those polled in the Eurozone were for the Euro, 19% against it and 6% were undecided

However, when looking at the three EU states not yet in the Euro, not only were the “don’t knows” more than twice as high at 15% but only 35% were in favour of the adoption of the Euro with 50% against. In the UK, the figures were even more anti Euro with 52% against, 31% for and 17% not knowing.

Enlargement (Q25.4) was still a grey area for many EU citizens, with 20% not knowing if they were for or against it. However, those in favour were 50% of those polled, with 30% being against it.

The sample polled in the UK were only marginally in support of enlargement with 38% agreeing, 35% disapproving and a substantial 27% in the “don’t know” camp.

There is a recognised need across Europe to ensure that EU citizens are well informed as to the structure and functions of the various institutions that make up the European Union. This is particularly true in the UK where, as has been demonstrated above, there is a substantial lack of knowledge in this field.

It therefore comes as perhaps more a disappointment than a surprise that only 68% of the UK poll were in favour, in response to Q25.7, which asked whether responders were for or against teaching schoolchildren about the way European Union institutions work.

This is the lowest figure in the EU and small compared with the 81% overall EU15 average and the scores of the Swedes and Luxemburgers, which were in excess of 90%. Once again, in this question, the UK emerges as the “don’t know” champion of Europe with 15% of those polled not having an opinion as against an EU15 average of 9%.

Finally, the two countries which had the strongest fear concerning the **loss of national identity and culture** were the UK (61%) and Greece (57%).

Eurobarometer 57 - Spring 2002 - Questionnaire

Q.1. Not applicable

Q.2. When you get together with friends, would you say you discuss political matters frequently, occasionally, or never?

Frequently.....	3	
4	1	
Occasionally.....		2
Never.....		3
DK.....		4

Q.3. When you hold a strong opinion, do you ever find yourself persuading your friends, relatives or fellow workers to share your views? Does this happen ? **(READ OUT)**

Often.....	35	1
From time to time		2
Rarely.....		3
Never.....		4
DK.....		5

Q.4. On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the life you lead?
(READ OUT)

Very satisfied.....	36	1
Fairly satisfied.....		2
Not very satisfied.....		3
Not at all satisfied.....		4
DK.....		5

Q.5. If you compare your present situation with five years ago, would you say it has improved, stayed about the same or got worse ?

Improved.....	37	1
Stayed about the same.....		2
Got worse.....		3
DK.....		4

Q.6. In the course of the next five years, do you expect your personal situation to improve, to stay about the same or to get worse ?

Improve.....	38	1
Stay about the same.....		2
Get worse.....		3
DK.....		4

Q.7. Here is a list of things that some people say they are afraid of.
For each of these, please tell me if, personally, you are afraid of it, or not?

READ OUT ▼	AFRAID	NOT AFRAID	DK
A world war	39 1	2	3
A nuclear conflict in Europe	40 1	2	3
A conventional war in Europe (not nuclear, bacteriological or chemical)	41 1	2	3
The accidental launch of a nuclear missile	42 1	2	3
An accident in a nuclear power station	43 1	2	3
The spread of nuclear, bacteriological or chemical weapons of mass destruction	44 1	2	3
Ethnic conflicts in Europe	45 1	2	3
Terrorism	46 1	2	3
Organised crime	47 1	2	3
Epidemics	48 1	2	3

Q.8. I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain institutions. For each of the following institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it ?

READ OUT ▼	TEND TO TRUST	TEND NOT TO TRUST	DK
1. The press	49 1	2	3
2. Radio	50 1	2	3
3. Television	51 1	2	3
4. Justice/the legal system	52 1	2	3
5. The police	53 1	2	3
6. The army	54 1	2	3
7. The Church	55 1	2	3
8. Trade unions	56 1	2	3
9. Political parties	57 1	2	3
10. The Civil service	58 1	2	3
11. Big companies	59 1	2	3
12. The [COUNTRY'S] government	60 1	2	3
13. The [COUNTRY'S] parliament	61 1	2	3
14. The European Union	62 1	2	3
15. The United Nations	63 1	2	3
16. Non-Governmental Organisations	64 1	2	3
17. Charitable or voluntary organisations	65 1	2	3

Q.9. In general, do you pay attention to news about each of the following ?

(SHOW CARD 'Q.9' WITH SCALE)

READ OUT ↓	A LOT OF ATTENTION	A LITTLE ATTENTION	NO ATTENTION AT ALL	DK
1. Politics	66 1	2	3	4
2. Social issues such as education, health care, poverty, etc.	67 1	2	3	4
3. The European Union	68 1	2	3	4
4. The economy	69 1	2	3	4
5. Sport	70 1	2	3	4
6. The environment	71 1	2	3	4
7. Foreign policy/ international affairs	72 1	2	3	4
8. Culture	73 1	2	3	4

Q.10. Using this scale, how much do you feel you know about the European Union, its policies, its institutions? (SHOW CARD 'Q.10' WITH SCALE)

READ OUT	KNOW NOTHING AT ALL										KNOW A GREAT DEAL	DK
74-75	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	

Q.11. When you are looking for information about the European Union, its policies, its institutions, which of the following sources do you use?
What others?

(SHOW CARD 'Q.11'- READ OUT - MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

Meetings.....	76	1,
Discussions with relatives, friends, colleagues.....		2,
Daily newspapers.....		3,
Other newspapers, magazines.....		4,
Television.....		5,
Radio.....		6,
The Internet.....		7,
Books, brochures, information leaflets.....		8,
CD-Rom		9,
European Union information on notice boards in libraries, town halls, railway stations, post offices		10,
European Union information offices, Euro-info Centres, Euro-info Points, Euro-libraries, etc.....		11,
National or regional government information offices.....		12,
Trade Unions or professional associations.....		13,
Other organisations (consumer organisations, etc.).....		14,
A member of the European Parliament or a member of [COUNTRY's] Parliament.....		15,
Other (SPONTANEOUS)		16,
Never look for such information, not interested (SPONTANEOUS)		17, GOTO Q.13
DK.....		18,

DO NOT ASK THOSE WHO ANSWERED "NEVER LOOK FOR SUCH INFORMATION, NOT
INTERESTED
CODE 17 AT Q.11

Q.12. In general, how would you prefer to get information about
the European Union? How else? (SHOW CARD 'Q.12' - READ OUT
- MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

A short leaflet, that just gives an overview.....94	1,
A more detailed brochure.....	2,
A book giving you a complete description.....	3,
A video tape.....	4,
On the Internet.....	5,
A CD- rom.....	6,
A computer terminal allowing you to consult databases.....	7,
From the television.....	8,
From the radio.....	9,
From daily newspapers.....	10,
From other newspapers, magazines.....	11,
From posters.....	12,
I do not want information about the European Union (SPONTANEOUS)	13,
None of these ways (SPONTANEOUS).....	14,
DK.....	15,
..	

ASK ALL

Q.13. Generally speaking, do you think that [COUNTRY]'s membership
of the
European Union is ...? (READ OUT)

A good thing..... 109	1
A bad thing.....	2
Neither good nor bad.....	3
DK.....	4

Q.14. Taking everything into consideration, would you say that
[COUNTRY]
has on balance benefited or not from being a member of the
European Union?

Benefited..... 110	1
Not benefited.....	2
DK.....	3

Q.15. In general, does the European Union conjure up for you a
very positive,
fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative
image?

Very positive.....	111	1
Fairly positive.....		2
Neutral.....		3
Fairly negative.....		4
Very negative.....		5
DK.....		6

Q.16. Do you think that [COUNTRY] being a member of the European Union has brought you personally.....?
(SHOW CARD 'Q.16' - READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY)

Many more advantages.....112

1	
More advantages.....	2
As many advantages as disadvantages.....	3
More disadvantages.....	4
Many more disadvantages.....	5
DK.....	6

Q.17. If you were told tomorrow that the European Union had been scrapped, would you be very sorry about it, indifferent or very relieved?

Very sorry.....	113	1
Indifferent.....		2
Very relieved.....		3
DK.....		4

Q.18. What does the European Union mean to you personally?
(SHOW CARD Q.18' READ OUT - MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE - ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM/BOTTOM TO TOP)

Peace.....	
114.....	1,
Economic prosperity.....	2,
Social welfare/benefit system.....	3,
Freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the European Union.....	4,
Cultural diversity.....	5,
Stronger say in the world.....	6,
The euro.....	7,
Unemployment.....	8,
Bureaucracy.....	9,
Waste of money.....	10,
Loss of our cultural identity.....	11,
More crime.....	12,
Not enough control at borders with non EU member countries..	13,
Other (SPONTANEOUS)	14,
DK.....	15,

Q.19. Have you ever heard of... ?

READ ↓ OUT	YES	NO	DK
1. the European Parliament	129 1	2	3
2. the European Commission	130 1	2	3
3. the Council of Ministers of the European Union	131 1	2	3
4. the Court of Justice of the European Communities	132 1	2	3
5. the European Ombudsman	133 1	2	3
6. the European Central Bank	134 1	2	3
7. the European Court of Auditors	135 1	2	3
8. the Committee of the Regions of the European Union	136 1	2	3
9. the Economic and Social Committee of the European Union	137 1	2	3
10. the convention on the future of the European Union	138 1	2	3

Q.20 And for each of the following European institutions, do you think it plays an important role or not in the life of the European Union?

READ ↓ OUT	IMPORTANT	NOT IMPORTANT	DK
1. The European Parliament	139 1	2	3
2. The European Commission	140 1	2	3
3. The Council of Ministers of the European Union	141 1	2	3
4. The Court of Justice of the European Communities	142 1	2	3
5. The European Ombudsman	143 1	2	3
6. The European Central Bank	144 1	2	3
7. The European Court of Auditors	145 1	2	3
8. The Committee of the Regions of the European Union	146 1	2	3
9. The Economic and Social Committee of the European Union	147 1	2	3
10. The convention on the future of the European Union	148 1	2	3

Q.21 And, for each of them, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?


READ ↓ OUT	TEND TO	TEND NOT	
--------------------------------	----------------	-----------------	--

		TRUST		TO TRUST	DK
1.	The European Parliament	149	1	2	3
2.	The European Commission	150	1	2	3
3.	The Council of Ministers of the European Union	151	1	2	3
4.	The Court of Justice of the European Communities	152	1	2	3
5.	The European Ombudsman	153	1	2	3
6.	The European Central Bank	154	1	2	3
7.	The European Court of Auditors	155	1	2	3
8.	The Committee of the Regions of the European Union	156	1	2	3
9.	The Economic and Social Committee of the European Union	157	1	2	3
10.	The convention on the future of the European Union	158	1	2	3

NO QUESTIONS Q.22 & Q.23

ASK ALL

Q.24a) For each of the following areas, do you think that decisions should be made by the [COUNTRY'S] government, or made jointly within the European Union?

READ OUT - ROTATE 	BY THE [COUNTRY'S] GOVERNMENT	JOINTLY WITHIN THE EUROPEAN UNION	DK
1. Defence	161 1	2	3
2. Protection of the environment	162 1	2	3
3. Currency	163 1	2	3
4. Humanitarian aid	164 1	2	3
5. Health and social welfare	165 1	2	3
6. Basic rules for broadcasting and press	166 1	2	3
7. Fight against poverty/social exclusion	167 1	2	3
8. The fight against unemployment	168 1	2	3
9. Agriculture and fishing policy	169 1	2	3
10. Support to regions which are experiencing economic difficulties	170 1	2	3
11. Education	171 1	2	3
12. Scientific and technological research	172 1	2	3
13. Information about the European Union, its policies and institutions	173 1	2	3
14. Foreign policy towards countries outside the European Union	174 1	2	3
15. Cultural policy	175 1	2	3

Q.24b) And, for each of the following?

READ OUT - ROTATE	THE [COUNTRY'S] GOVERNMENT	JOINTLY WITH EUROPEAN UNION	DK
1. Immigration policy	176 1	2	3
2. Rules for political asylum	177 1	2	3
3. The fight against organised crime	178 1	2	3
4. Police	179 1	2	3
5. Justice	180 1	2	3
6. Accepting refugees	181 1	2	3
7. Juvenile crime prevention	182 1	2	3
8. Urban crime prevention	183 1	2	3
9. The fight against drugs	184 1	2	3
10. The fight against the trade in, and exploitation of, human beings	185 1	2	3
11. The fight against international terrorism	186 1	2	3
12. Tackling the challenges of an ageing population	187 1	2	3

Q.25. What is your opinion on each of the following statements?
Please
tell me for each statement, whether you are for it or
against it.

READ OUT - ROTATE	FOR	AGAINST	DK
1. A European Monetary Union with one single currency, the euro	188 1	2	3
2. One common foreign policy among the member states of the European Union, towards other countries	189 1	2	3
3. A common defence and security policy among the European Union member states	190 1	2	3
4. The enlargement of the European Union to include new countries	191 1	2	3
5. The European Union being responsible for matters that cannot be effectively handled by national, regional and local governments	192 1	2	3
6. The resignation of the President of the European Commission and the European Commissioners if they do not have the support of a majority in the European Parliament	193 1	2	3
7. Teaching school children about the way European Union institutions work	194 1	2	3

Q.26 I am going to read out a list of actions that the European Union
could undertake. For each one, please tell me, if in your

opinion
it should be a priority, or not?

READ OUT ▼	PRIORITY		NOT A PRIORITY	DK
1. Welcoming new member countries	195	1	2	3
2. Getting closer to European citizens, for example by giving them more information about the European union, its policies and its institutions	196	1	2	3
3. Successfully implementing the single European currency, the euro	197	1	2	3
4. Fighting poverty and social exclusion	198	1	2	3
5. Protecting the environment	199	1	2	3
6. Guaranteeing the quality of food products	200	1	2	3
7. Protecting consumers and guaranteeing the quality of other products	201	1	2	3
8. Fighting unemployment	202	1	2	3
9. Reforming the institutions of the European Union and the way they work	203	1	2	3
10. Fighting organised crime and drug trafficking	204	1	2	3
11. Asserting the political and diplomatic importance of the European Union around the world	205	1	2	3
12. Maintaining peace and security in Europe	206	1	2	3
13. Guaranteeing the rights of the individual and respect for the principles of democracy in Europe	207	1	2	3
14. Fighting terrorism	208	1	2	3
15. Tackling the challenges of an ageing population	209	1	2	3

Q.27. In the near future, do you see yourself as ... ?
(SHOWCARD 'Q.27' - READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY)

From [COUNTRY] only.....	210
.....	1
From [COUNTRY] and European	
.....	2
European and from [COUNTRY].....	
.....	3
European only.....	
.....	4
DK.....	
.....	5

Q.28. Would you say you are very proud, fairly proud, not very proud, not at all proud to be **(NATIONALITY AS SPECIFIED IN QUESTION 1 OF QUESTIONNAIRE)? (ONE ANSWER ONLY)**

Very proud.....	211....	1
Fairly proud.....		2
Not very proud.....		3
Not at all proud.....		4
DK.....		5

Q.29. And would you say you are very proud, fairly proud, not very proud, not at all proud to be European? **(ONE ANSWER ONLY)**

Very proud.....	212....	1
Fairly proud.....		2
Not very proud.....		3
Not at all proud.....		4
DK.....		5

Q.30. Does the European Union give you personally the feeling of...?
(SHOW CARD 'Q.30' - READ OUT - MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

enthusiam.....	213	1,
hope.....		2,
trust.....		3,
indifference.....		4,
anxiety.....		5,
mistrust.....		6,
rejecting it.....		7,
DK.....		8,

Q.31. Some people may have fears about the building of Europe, the European Union. Here is a list of things which some people say they are afraid of. For each one, please tell me if you, personally, are currently afraid of it, or not?

READ OUT ↓	CURRENTLY AFRAID OF IT	NOT CURRENTLY AFRAID OF IT	DK
1. An economic crisis	221 1	2	3
2. An increase in drug trafficking and international organised crime	222 1	2	3
3. An increase in unemployment	223 1	2	3
4. The loss of social benefits	224 1	2	3
5. The loss of our national identity and culture	225 1	2	3
6. Decisions imposed by the big member countries	226 1	2	3
7. [COUNTRY] not really existing anymore	227 1	2	3

Q.32 On 1st January 2002, the euro replaced the [COUNTRY's currency]. Do you think that this is...? **(SHOW CARD 'Q.32' - READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY)**

a very good thing..... 228 1
a fairly good thing..... 2
neither a good nor a bad thing..... 3
a fairly bad thing..... 4
a very bad thing..... 5
DK..... 6

NO QUESTION 33

PUNCHER NOTE: NO

COL. 229

ASK ALL

Q.34. How comfortable do you feel about using the euro? Would you say you are...? **(SHOW CARD 'Q.34' - READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY)**

very comfortable..... 230 1
fairly comfortable..... 2
not very comfortable..... 3
not at all comfortable..... 4
DK..... 5
I have not used it yet **(SPONTANEOUS)**..... 6

NOW, LET'S TALK ABOUT ANOTHER TOPIC: ENLARGEMENT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Q.35. Which of these 3 options do you prefer for the immediate future of the European Union? **(SHOW CARD 'Q.35' - READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY)**

The European Union should be enlarged to include all the countries wishing to join..... 231 1
The European Union should be enlarged to include only some of the countries wishing to join..... 2
The European Union should not be enlarged to include any additional countries..... 3
None of these **(SPONTANEOUS)**..... 4
DK..... 5

Q.36a) For each of the following countries, would you be in favour of, or against it, becoming part of the European Union in the future?

READ OUT - ROTATE ▼	IN FAVOUR	AGAINST	DK
1. Czech Republic	232 1	2	3
2. Slovakia	233 1	2	3
3. Poland	234 1	2	3
4. Hungary	235 1	2	3
5. Romania	236 1	2	3
6. Slovenia	237 1	2	3
7. Estonia	238 1	2	3
8. Latvia	239 1	2	3
9. Lithuania	240 1	2	3
10. Bulgaria	241 1	2	3
11. Cyprus	242 1	2	3
12. Malta	243 1	2	3
13. Turkey	244 1	2	3

Q.36b) And for each of the following countries, would you be in favour of, or against it, becoming part of the European Union in the future?

READ OUT ▼	IN FAVOUR	AGAINST	DK
1. Switzerland	245 1	2	3
2. Norway	246 1	2	3
3. Bosnia and Herzegovina	247 1	2	3
4. Croatia	248 1	2	3
5. The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)	249 1	2	3
6. Yugoslavia (Federal Republic)	250 1	2	3
7. Iceland	251 1	2	3
8. Albania	252 1	2	3

Q.37. After the planned enlargement of the European Union, the number of member states will increase from 15 to more than 25. In your opinion, should European Union decisions then be made...?

(SHOW CARD 'Q.37' - READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY)

Unanimously by all member states.....253 1
 By a majority of the member states..... 2
 It depends (SPONTANEOUS)..... 3
 DK..... 4

Q.38. Thinking about the enlargement of the European Union to include new European countries, do you tend to agree or tend to disagree with each of the following statements?

READ OUT - ROTATE ▼	TEND TO AGREE	TEND TO DISAGREE	DK
1. The more countries there are in the European Union, the more peace and security will be guaranteed in Europe	254 1	2	3
2. Enlargement will not cost more for existing member countries like [COUNTRY]	255 1	2	3
3. After enlargement to include new countries, [COUNTRY] will become less important in Europe	256 1	2	3
4. The more countries there are, the more unemployment there will be in [COUNTRY]	257 1	2	3
5. The European Union should help future member countries financially, even before they join	258 1	2	3
6. Once new countries have joined the European Union, [COUNTRY] will receive less financial aid from it	259 1	2	3
7. With more countries, it will be much more difficult to make decisions on a European scale	260 1	2	3
8. The more member countries within the European Union, the more important it will be in the world	261 1	2	3
9. With more member countries, Europe will be culturally richer	262 1	2	3
10. The European Union must reform the way its institutions work before welcoming new members	263 1	2	3

Q.39. How well informed do you feel about enlargement, that is new countries joining the European Union? Do you feel ...? **(READ OUT)**

Very well informed.....	264	
1		
Well informed.....		2
Not very well informed.....		3
Not at all well informed.....		4
DK.....		5
...		

Q.40. Do you think that the European Union should or should not have a Constitution?

Should.....	265	1
Should not.....		2
DK.....		3

Q.41. Which, if any of the following statements comes closest to your own opinion? The President of the European Commission should be ...

(READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY)

nominated by the Heads of governments of the European Union.	266	1
elected by the majority of the European Parliament.....		2
directly elected by the citizens of the European Union.....		3
Other (SPONTANEOUS)		4
DK.....		5

Q.42. In the European Union, each Member State has a right of veto on the most important or sensitive decisions. In other words, each country can block such a decision even if the others support it.

Should this right of veto.....

(SHOW CARD - 'Q.42' - READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY)

be retained in order to protect essential national interests.....	267	1
be given up in order to make the European Union more effective.....		2
DK.....		3

Q.43. At present, each member state passes on to the European Union a part of its tax revenue. Would you prefer to pay your contribution directly to the European Union, or not?

Yes.....	268	1
No.....		2
DK.....		3

DEMOGRAPHICS

ASK ALL

D.1. In political matters people talk of "the left" and "the right".
How would you place your views on this scale?
(SHOW CARD 'D.1' - DO NOT PROMPT. IF CONTACT HESITATES, ASK TO TRY AGAIN)

	LEFT									RIGHT
369-370	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Refusal..... 371 1
DK..... 2

NO QUESTIONS D2 TO D6

D.7. Could you give me the letter which corresponds best to your own current situation? (SHOW CARD 'D.7 - READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY) 372-373

Married..... 01
.....
Remarried..... 02
.....
Unmarried. Currently living with partner..... 03
Unmarried. Having never lived with a partner..... 04
Unmarried. Having previously lived with a partner, but now on my own.. 05
Divorced..... 06
.....
Separated..... 07
.....
Widowed..... 08
.....
Other
(SPONTANEOUS)..... 09
.....
Refusal
(SPONTANEOUS).....
.. 10

D.8. How old were you when you stopped full-time education ?
(IF STILL STUDYING : CODE 00 - GO TO D.10)

		374-375
--	--	---------

NO QUESTION D.9

D.10. **GENDER**

Male..... 376 1
Female..... 2

D.11 How old are you?

		377-378
--	--	---------

NO QUESTIONS D12 TO D14

- D.15. a) What is your current occupation ?
b) **(IF NOT DOING ANY PAID WORK CURRENTLY - CODES 01 TO 04 IN D.15a)** Did you do any paid work in the past ? What was your last occupation ?

	a) CURRENT OCCUPATION	b) LA OCCUPA.
NOT WORKING	379-380	-----
Responsible for ordinary shopping and looking after the home, or without any current occupation, not working	01	-----
Student	02	-----
Unemployed or temporarily not working	03	-----
Retired or unable to work through illness	04	-----
SELF EMPLOYED		381-3
Farmer	05	01
Fisherman	06	02
Professional (lawyer, medical practitioner, accountant, architect, ...)	07	03
Owner of a shop, craftsmen, other self employed person	08	04
Business proprietors, owner (full or partner) of a company	09	05
EMPLOYED		
Employed professional (employed doctor, lawyer, accountant, architect)	10	06
General management, director or top management (managing directors, director general, other director)	11	07
Middle management, other management (department head, junior manager, teacher, technician)	12	08
Employed position, working mainly at a desk	13	09
Employed position, not at a desk but travelling (salesmen, driver, ...)	14	10
Employed position, not at a desk, but in a service job (hospital, restaurant, police, fireman, ...)	15	11
Supervisor	16	12
Skilled manual worker	17	13
Other (unskilled) manual worker, servant	18	14
NEVER DID ANY PAID WORK	-----	15

NO QUESTIONS D.16 TO D.18

ASK ALL

D.19 Are you, in your household, the person who contributes most to the household income? **READ OUT**

Yes..... 383 1
 No..... 2
 Both equally..... 3
 DK..... 4

NO QUESTION D20

IF CODE 2 AT D.19, ASK

D.21.a) What is the current occupation of the person who contributes most to the household income ?

D.21.b) **(IF NOT DOING ANY PAID WORK CURRENTLY - CODE 01 TO 04 AT D.21a)**

Did he/she do any paid work in the past? What was his/her last occupation?

	CURRENT OCCUPATIO	LAST OCCUPATI
NOT WORKING	384-385	-----
Responsible for ordinary shopping and looking after the home, or without any current occupation, not working	01	-----
Student	02	-----
Unemployed or temporarily not working	03	-----
Retired or unable to work through illness	04	-----
SELF EMPLOYED		386-387
Farmer	05	01
Fisherman	06	02
Professional (lawyer, medical practitioner, accountant, architect, ...)	07	03
Owner of a shop, craftsmen, other self employed person	08	04
Business proprietors, owner (full or partner) of a company	09	05
EMPLOYED		
Employed professional (employed doctor, lawyer, accountant, architect)	10	06
General management, director or top management (managing directors, director general, other director)	11	07
Middle management, other management (department head, junior manager, teacher, technician)	12	08
Employed position, working mainly at a desk	13	09
Employed position, not at a desk but travelling (salesmen, driver, ...)	14	10
Employed position, not at a desk, but in a service job (hospital, restaurant, police, fireman, ...)	15	11
Supervisor	16	12
Skilled manual worker	17	13
Other (unskilled) manual worker, servant	18	14
NEVER DID ANY PAID WORK	-----	15

NO QUESTIONS D.22 TO D.24

D.25. Would you say you live in a ... ? **(READ OUT)**

Rural area or village..... 388 1

Small or middle sized town.....	2
Large town.....	3
DK.....	4

THERE ARE NO QUESTIONS D.26 - D.28

D.29. We also need some information about the income of this household to be able to analyse the survey results for different types of households. Here is a list of income groups. **(SHOW INCOME CARD 'D.29')** Please count the total wages and salaries PER MONTH of all members of this household; all pensions and social insurance benefits; child allowances and any other income like rents, etc. ... Of course, your answer as all other replies in this interview will be treated confidentially and referring back to you or your household will be impossible. Please give me the letter of the income group your household falls into **BEFORE** tax and other deductions.

389-390

B.....	01	T.....
.....	03	
F.....	04	
E.....	05	
H.....	06	
R.....	07	
M.....	08	
S.....	09	
D.....	10	
A.....	11	
Q.....	12	
U.....	13	
B.....	14	
C.....	15	
Refusal.....	16	
DK.....	17	

THERE ARE NO QUESTIONS D30-D32

STANDARD EUROBAROMETER 57.1

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Between March 29 and May 1 2002, the European Opinion Research Group, a consortium of Market and Public Opinion Research agencies, made out of INRA in Belgium – I.C.O. and GfK Worldwide, carried out wave 57.1 of the standard Eurobarometer, on request of the EUROPEAN COMMISSION, Directorate-General Press and Communication, Opinion Polls.

The Standard EUROBAROMETER 57.1 covers the population of the respective nationalities of the European Union Member States, aged 15 years and over, resident in each of the Member States. The basic sample design applied in all Member States is a multi-stage, random (probability) one. In each EU country, a number of sampling points was 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 Member States according to the EUROSTAT NUTS 2 (or equivalent) and according to the distribution of the resident population of the respective EU-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.

COUNTRIES	INSTITUTES	N° INTERVIEWS	FIELDWORK DATES	POPULATION 15+ (x 000)
Belgium	INRA BELGIUM	1045	29/03 – 30/04	8,326
Denmark	GfK DANMARK	1000	29/03 – 30/04	4,338
Germany(East)	INRA DEUTSCHLAND	1051	29/03 – 28/04	13,028
Germany(West)	INRA DEUTSCHLAND	1000	29/03 – 28/04	55,782
Greece	MARKET ANALYSIS	1002	29/03 – 28/04	8,793
Spain	INRA ESPAÑA	1000	29/03 – 28/04	33,024
France	CSA-TMO	1010	02/04 – 29/04	46,945
Ireland	LANSDOWNE Market Research	984	29/03 – 25/04	2,980
Italy	INRA Demoskopoea	1000	29/03 – 28/04	49,017
Luxembourg	ILRes	602	29/03 – 30/04	364
The Netherlands	INTOMART	997	29/03 – 28/04	12,705
Austria	SPECTRA	1000	29/03 – 28/04	6,668
Portugal	METRIS	1000	29/03 – 28/04	8,217
Finland	MDC MARKETING RESEARCH	1010	29/03 – 28/04	4,165
Sweden	GfK SVERIGE	1000	01/04 – 01/05	7,183
Great Britain	MARTIN HAMBLIN LTD	1004	30/03 – 24/04	46,077
Northern Ireland	ULSTER MARKETING SURVEYS	307	03/04 – 22/04	1,273
TOTAL NUMBER OF INTERVIEWS		15987		

For each country a comparison between the sample and the universe was carried out. The Universe description was derived from Eurostat population data or from national statistics. For all EU member-countries a national weighting procedure, using marginal and intercellular weighting, was carried out based on this Universe description. As such in all countries, minimum gender, age, region NUTS 2 were introduced in the iteration procedure. For international weighting (i.e. EU averages), INRA (EUROPE) applies the official population figures as provided by EUROSTAT in the Regional Statistics Yearbook (data for 1997). The total population figures for input in this post-weighting procedure are listed above.

The results of the 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, French and German. 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/dg10/epo>. 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:

Observed percentages	10% or 90%	20% or 80%	30% or 70%	40% or 60%	50%
Confidence limits	± 1.9%	± 2.5%	± 2.7%	± 3.0%	± 3.1%

**STANDARD EUROBAROMETER 57.1
CO-OPERATING AGENCIES AND RESEARCH EXECUTIVES**

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