

# EUROBAROMETER 60.1

PUBLIC OPINION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

## AUTUMN 2003

### NATIONAL REPORT UNITED KINGDOM

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This document does not represent the point of view of the European Commission.  
The interpretations and opinions contained in it are solely those of the authors.

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**Notes for the reader:**

1. The following are the abbreviations for Member States used in the tables in this report:

<b>B</b>	Belgium
<b>DK</b>	Denmark
<b>D West</b>	'Old' Länder/Western Germany
<b>D Total</b>	Germany
<b>D East</b>	'New' Länder/Eastern Germany
<b>GR</b>	Greece
<b>E</b>	Spain
<b>F</b>	France
<b>IRL</b>	Ireland
<b>I</b>	Italy
<b>L</b>	Luxembourg
<b>NL</b>	Netherlands
<b>A</b>	Austria
<b>P</b>	Portugal
<b>FIN</b>	Finland
<b>S</b>	Sweden
<b>UK</b>	United Kingdom

The distinction between the old and new German Länder has been maintained in the Eurobarometer since 1990. This is because marked differences of opinion between these two parts of the country are still evident.

2. The abbreviation used for the whole of the European Union is EU15.
3. Numbers are rounded so that 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4 will appear as 1 and 1.5 and upwards will appear as 2. It should be noted that percentages may total more than 100% because of the rounding up of figures or where questions allow for more than one response.
4. In tables which give the 'high' and 'low' figures, where a particular set of figures produces numbers such as 1.7, 1.8 and 1.9, only the highest figure(s) will be selected and shown as 2. A similar practice is followed for numbers such as 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4 where the lowest figure(s) will be taken and shown as 1.
5. On the analysis of socio-demographic data, only those statistics which are out of line with the general pattern or which show a noteworthy trend are mentioned.

Accordingly, where figures relating to such factors as gender, age or educational level show minimal variation, these will not be mentioned.

6. For the sake of presentation and brevity, those who have been educated until age 20 or beyond will also be referred to as 'the most educated' or 'those who had received the most education' while those whose education had ended at age 15 or younger will be referred to as 'the least educated' or 'those who had the least education'.

Similarly, those people aged 15 to 24 may be referred to as the 'youngest age group' or 'the youngest' while those aged 55 or more as the 'oldest age group' or 'oldest'.

Also, the phrase 'rural area or village' may also be expressed as 'country' and 'large town' as 'city'.

## **Introduction**

This report looks at UK citizens' views about various aspects of the European Union and compares them with typical attitudes held across the Union (EU15 averages) and also highlights major differences with other individual member states.

Views are assessed across the European Union and results are based on both a country-by-country view and a socio-demographic analysis which attempts to highlight both the similarities and differences by such varied factors as age, education, occupation, etc.

The main data making up this report were gathered between 1 October to 7 November 2003 and are part of wave 60.1 of the Standard Eurobarometer. Reference, where relevant, will be made to comparable data collected in previous Eurobarometer surveys – the most recent of which was undertaken in April 2003.

Details of the technical specifications of the survey are included in the Annexes to this document.

A copy of the questionnaire is also included in the Annexes.

For comparative purposes and to detect medium-term trends in European Union citizens' views, previous surveys are analysed where potential trends are observed.

## **The UK sample**

Of the UK sample, comprising 1,370 persons, 96% were British – a figure very much in line with the EU15 average with the exception of Luxembourg where of those polled more than one quarter (28%) did not have Luxemburgish identity.

In each country, a number of sampling points were chosen which would reflect the population size and density. This random sampling technique gives an accurate representation of metropolitan, urban and rural areas.

Starting addresses were selected at random and further addresses were selected as every *n*th address by standard random route procedures.

All interviews were face-to-face in respondents' homes.

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## Editorial Highlights

Amongst a regular review of attitudes on a wide range of subjects, these Eurobarometer reports have consistently shown that the level of interest in the UK towards EU affairs is usually the lowest in the Union.

There is a steady flow of evidence that this lack of interest has as one of its primary causes a basic lack of knowledge on EU affairs.

This has earned the UK the title of the "don't know, don't care" capital of Europe.

This fundamental lack of knowledge and lack of interest also combine to generate high levels of distrust in such EU Institutions as the European Parliament and the European Commission.

In an important part of this poll, peoples' trust in the European Commission (as distinct from trust in the European Union in general) is reviewed.

The U.K. figures show that only 26% of those polled tend to trust the European Commission compared with figures of 60% or more in Greece, Italy, Ireland and Luxembourg and an EU15 average of 46%. A further 30% of the UK sample expressed no opinion.

There are therefore 44% of the U.K. who do not trust the EC. This is the highest percentage in the Union and not just substantially above the EU15 average of 28% but isolates the UK as being the only EU15 member where there are **more** people not trusting rather than trusting the European Commission.

On an historical basis the UK has had a "net distrust" of the European Commission in Eurobarometer Surveys since 1999 - the only time this did not occur was in the Autumn of 2001 after the events of "9/11" when 35% of those polled tended to trust and 33% tended not to trust the European Commission.

It is also interesting to put these figures in a wider context. Although in this latest poll only 26% of the UK trust the European Commission, this is still a noticeably greater confidence level than that accorded to the British press where, as has been seen earlier in this report, only 17% of the sample tend to trust this medium.

There are, however, signs that although still at the lower end of the scale, the UK is closing the gap between its knowledge level compared with that of other EU countries as shown by the EU average.

For example, while, in 2000, 25% of UK citizens said they knew nothing at all about the European Union, by Autumn 2003, this figure has almost halved to 14%. Although still twice as large as the EU average, it is a major step in the right direction.

As a spin-off, there has also been a major increase in the UK's support for joint action within the EU on a number of issues.

As will also be seen within this report, there is also substantial and growing evidence that higher levels of education are bringing more awareness of the work and function of the European Union.

It would appear that a spin-off of increased education and awareness also leads to a better appreciation of European affairs.

Other hopeful portents include the fact that 34% of UK citizens feel that there is too little media coverage of the European Union, while only 17% consider it to be too much.

Perhaps as importantly, more than a quarter of the UK poll (27%) think that such media coverage as there is presents a 'too negative' picture of EU affairs.

Younger people are also, generally, more open to both receiving information on the Union and have a more favourable view on the subject.

It is also encouraging to note the very strong approval in the UK on the issue of teaching school children about Union matters which gains the support of more than two-thirds (68%) of the UK poll.

The key for the future would seem to be based upon continuing to increase the level of knowledge of UK citizens on EU affairs focusing both on the methods of communication and the main target groups concerned.

The press continues to generate little trust amongst readers which negates the popularity of this medium, while television and radio continue to generate high levels of trust.

The Internet (trust in which has yet to be analysed) is rapidly becoming an important source of information and it is relevant to note its high adoption rate among both younger people and those with a higher level of education.

The major problem area in terms of target market remains a rump of older people, house persons, as well as those with less education.

In the short term, the practical solution would appear to be a more focused approach on the means of communicating news and information on the EU with emphasis being placed on media which not only have reach but are 'trusted'.

This would tend to the use of TV, radio and the rapidly growing Internet rather than methods such as information leaflets, brochures and EU information networks where usage has remained at minimal levels for a number of years.

The continuing programme of educating children on EU affairs is a crucial part of a long-term strategy that should be continued and developed.

The question of how to get information to older and less well-educated people still remains a stumbling block in this total process but, overall, the situation in the UK as regards knowledge of and attitude towards the European Union is perhaps showing early signs of improving.

## I. CONTEXT

These three questions (Q. 4, 5 and 26) look at respondents' satisfaction with their lives, their expectations for 2004 and what they consider the two most important issues to be that face their country.

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

#### Country analysis

	Very satisfied	Fairly satisfied	Not very satisfied	Not at all satisfied	Don't know
B	23	60	13	3	2
DK	61	35	3	1	1
D.W	16	60	18	3	3
D.T	14	59	20	5	3
D.O	7	55	28	10	1
Gr	13	50	28	8	0
E	19	64	15	2	1
F	13	63	19	4	2
Irl	28	57	10	1	3
I	12	64	21	3	0
L	38	49	9	2	2
NL	40	51	8	2	0
A	24	58	12	2	3
P	4	52	33	10	2
Fin	25	66	9	1	0
S	36	57	5	1	1
UK	31	57	9	3	1
EU15	19	60	17	4	1

31% of UK citizens were very satisfied with the life they led – a figure very similar to the 30% in April 2003 and the 31% and 32% in 2002. Although well short of the 61% recorded in Denmark and the 40%, 38% and 36% observed in the Netherlands, Luxembourg and Sweden respectively, this figure was still well above the 19% EU15 average.

The lowest percentage in the European Union was in Portugal where only 4% were very satisfied with their lives.

#### UK socio-demographic analysis

There were no major socio-demographic variations by gender, age, education or occupation.

### Q.5.1 What are your expectations for the year to come: will 2004 be better, worse or the same, when it comes to your life in general?

#### Country analysis

	Better	Worse	Same	Don't know
B	25	12	59	4
DK	31	4	64	1
D.W	17	20	58	5
D.T	17	21	57	4
D.O	17	27	53	4
Gr	35	23	38	5
E	39	5	52	4
F	37	15	44	4
Irl	39	6	49	7
I	38	7	50	6
L	32	12	54	3
NL	25	15	58	3
A	22	11	65	2
P	26	26	40	7
Fin	36	3	58	2
S	41	3	54	3
UK	48	6	44	3
EU15	33	12	51	4

UK citizens were the most optimistic in the Union when it came to looking at their expectations of life in general in 2004 and 48% of those polled believed their lives would be better compared with an EU15 average of 33%. This compares with a UK figure of 43% twelve months previously and 34% in the EU15 – a rise of five percentage points in the UK and a fall of one point across the Union.

Across the EU, the majority of people (51%) believed their lives would be the same while only 12% believed their lives would be worse.

However, on a country-by-country basis, there were some noticeable discrepancies in that 26% of the Portuguese, 23% of Greeks and 21% of Germans also shared this pessimistic view.

#### UK socio-demographic analysis

Younger people were considerably more optimistic in their expectations with regard to life in general for the coming year. 68% of those aged 15 to 24 thought that life would be better, as did 59% of those aged 25 to 39.

However, the figures fall to just 33% for those aged 55 and above.

Education also had a strong bearing on this issue with a positive viewpoint being taken by 59% of those educated to age 20 or beyond compared to just 35% of those who had left school aged 15 or less.



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**Q.5.2 What are your expectations for the year to come: will 2004 be better, worse or the same, when it comes to the economic situation in (OUR COUNTRY)?**
**Country analysis**

	Better	Worse	Same	Don't know
B	11	51	33	5
DK	20	23	49	8
D.W	14	56	25	6
D.T	13	57	25	5
D.O	9	62	25	4
Gr	16	56	23	55
E	27	24	40	10
F	17	52	26	5
Irl	20	40	30	10
I	15	50	29	7
L	15	46	35	4
NL	13	62	23	3
A	17	32	46	5
P	15	52	26	8
Fin	18	25	53	5
S	21	35	36	8
UK	15	34	41	10
EU15	16	46	31	7

While in relation to the previous question, there was a very strong UK belief that individual lives would be better in 2004, this was greatly reduced when it came to looking at the economic situation in the country in general.

Compared with an EU15 average of 16% and figures as high as 27% in Spain and 20% in Ireland and Denmark, only 15% of UK citizens shared this view.

The UK also had a high level of 'don't knows' which, at 10%, were matched only by those from Ireland and were noticeably above the 7% of the EU15 average.

**UK socio-demographic analysis**

There were no major socio-demographic variations by gender, age, education or occupation.

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**Q.5.3 What are your expectations for the year to come: will 2004 be better, worse or the same, when it comes to the financial situation of your household?**
**Country analysis**

	Better	Worse	Same	Don't know
B	19	16	60	5
DK	26	6	66	2
D.W	12	33	51	5
D.T	11	34	50	5
D.O	10	38	49	4
Gr	23	27	47	3
E	27	9	57	6
F	28	22	46	5
Irl	26	13	50	11
I	22	13	59	5
L	21	16	61	2
NL	20	31	47	2
A	17	15	65	2
P	17	26	52	5
Fin	25	7	65	2
S	29	13	56	2
UK	33	11	52	3
EU15	23	20	53	5

As has been observed in previous Eurobarometer surveys, UK citizens have a noticeably more optimistic view about the financial situation in their own household as opposed to in the country as a whole.

While across the EU15 the level of confidence in relation to the economic situation in the Member State as opposed to the financial situation in the individual household rises from 16% to 23%, the figures relating to the UK more than double from 15% to 33%. A year previously, the UK figure was 31%.

Most Europeans (53%) believe the financial situation in their household would remain the same and this was a view held by 52% of the UK poll.

**UK socio-demographic analysis**

Older people were considerably less optimistic about their domestic financial situation and only 16% of those aged 55 or more held a positive view as opposed to 50% of those aged 25 to 39.

Higher levels of education also increased optimism as was shown by the fact that a positive view was held by 44% of those educated to age 20 or beyond as opposed to 20% of those who had received the least education.

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**Q. 5.4 What are your expectations for the year to come: will 2004 be better, worse or the same, when it comes to the employment situation in (OUR COUNTRY)?**

**Country analysis**

	Better	Worse	Same	Don't know
B	10	60	27	5
DK	20	44	31	6
D.W	11	60	23	7
D.T	10	62	22	6
D.O	6	70	20	3
Gr	15	55	25	5
E	25	26	35	14
F	18	53	23	7
Irl	20	41	29	10
I	16	44	31	9
L	16	55	24	5
NL	12	64	19	4
A	15	44	35	6
P	12	58	21	9
Fin	15	43	38	3
S	18	41	31	10
UK	18	28	43	12
EU15	16	47	29	8

Most (47%) of EU15 citizens believe that the employment situation in their country would be worse in 2004 and this figure rises even further in the Netherlands (64%) and Germany (62%).

At the far end of the scale, only 26% of Spaniards and 28% of Britons believed this would be the scenario.

18% of UK citizens believed the employment situation would improve – an increase from the 16% holding this view a year before compared with figures of 16% being the EU15 average for the two years in question.

A substantial 43% of Britons believed the employment situation would remain unchanged – a feeling subscribed to by only 29% of the whole EU15 sample.

**UK socio-demographic analysis**

There were no major socio-demographic variations by gender, age, education or occupation.

### Q.5.5 What are your expectations for the year to come: will 2004 be better, worse or the same, when it comes to your personal job situation?

#### Country analysis

	Better	Worse	Same	Don't know
B	16	9	67	8
DK	18	3	76	4
D.W	12	12	64	12
D.T	12	14	63	12
D.O	11	18	57	13
Gr	23	16	47	14
E	27	6	59	8
F	25	10	55	10
Irl	25	6	58	11
I	24	5	64	7
L	17	12	61	11
NL	18	12	58	12
A	16	8	66	9
P	16	15	60	10
Fin	16	4	74	7
S	22	7	64	8
UK	29	4	57	11
EU15	21	9	60	10

As has been seen in previous Eurobarometer surveys, there is an apparent mismatch between UK respondents' expectations regarding the employment situation when viewed from a general perspective compared to their own personal situation.

Accordingly, as seen in Question 5.4, while only 18% of the UK poll believed the employment situation in the country as a whole would be better in 2004, this figure should be compared with the 29% who believed that their personal job situation would be better in the same period. This latter figure is a noticeable increase over the 25% recorded a year previously.

This compares with an EU15 figure of 21% as regards respondents' personal job situation – a decrease from the 23% a year previously.

Low levels of expectation are noted in Germany where only 12% of those polled believed their personal job situation would be better in 2004.

#### UK socio-demographic analysis

There was a noticeable variation in expectation related to age on this issue. Taking the positive view that their personal job situation would be better in 2004 were 54% of those aged 15 to 24, 38% of those aged 25 to 39, 24% of those aged 40 to 54 but only 12% of those aged 55 or more.

A marked variation was also seen based upon level of education with only 16% of the least educated compared with 37% of the most educated believing their personal job situation would improve in 2004.

White-collar workers and managers formed the most optimistic group with figures of 43% and 38% respectively – somewhat surprisingly, in the same range as the unemployed (47%).

**Q. 26 What do you think are the two most important issues facing our country at the moment?**

<b>UK Ranking</b>	<b>ISSUES</b>	<b>UK</b>	<b>EU 15</b>	<b>EU 15 ranking</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Low</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Fighting crime</b>	48	28	<b>2</b>	NL 52	E 11
<b>2.</b>	<b>Immigration</b>	32	14	6	UK 32	FIN 5
<b>3.</b>	<b>Healthcare system</b>	21	16	5	S 49	E 3
<b>4.</b>	<b>Fighting terrorism</b>	17	12	7	E 51	FIN 2
<b>5=</b>	<b>Fighting unemployment</b>	12	42	<b>1</b>	GR 65	UK 12
<b>5=</b>	<b>Educational system</b>	12	7	9=	S 19	E 2
<b>7.</b>	<b>Pensions</b>	10	11	8	A 25	IRL 3
<b>8.</b>	<b>Taxation</b>	9	7	9=	FIN 17	NL 3
<b>9.</b>	<b>Economic situation</b>	8	27	<b>3</b>	D 41	UK 8
<b>10.</b>	<b>Public transport</b>	6	2	11=	L 10	P,S & D 1
<b>11=</b>	<b>Rising prices/inflation</b>	5	19	<b>4</b>	I 41	DK 1
<b>11=</b>	<b>Housing</b>	5	4	14=	L 15	D 0
<b>11=</b>	<b>Foreign affairs/defence</b>	5	2	11=	E 5	L 0
<b>14.</b>	<b>Protecting the environment</b>	3	2	11=	DK 9	D & NL 1
<b>15=</b>	<b>Other</b>	2	1	14=	UK 2	S, I & D 0
<b>15=</b>	<b>Don't know</b>	2	1	14=	E 4	DK, GR, F 0

48% of the UK poll viewed crime as being one of the two most important issues facing the country at the present time – substantially more than the 28% EU15 average and ranked only second to the 52% recorded in the Netherlands. This 48% figure shows a substantial increase over the 39% recorded eight months before, in March 2003 (EB 59.1).

The second most widely cited issue facing the UK was seen to be immigration - quoted by 32% of those polled and more than twice as high as the EU15 average of 14%. This 32% is the same as in March 2003.

Unemployment – the most important issue in the view of 42% of EU15 citizens – was only rated important by 12% of the UK poll but is markedly up from the 5% seen in EB 59.1.

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This is in stark contrast to 65% of Greeks and 63% of Germans both of whom considered unemployment as the most important issue facing their country at the moment.

More than a quarter (27%) of EU citizens viewed the economic situation as being one of the two most important issues their countries were facing and in Germany and the Netherlands, these figures were 41% and 40% respectively.

The comparable figure for the UK was only 8% - down from 12% eight months earlier.

### **UK socio-demographic analysis**

Looking at the issue of **fighting crime**, there were no significant socio-demographic variations by gender, age or occupation but a higher level of education reduced the importance of this issue with figures of 56% amongst the least educated decreasing to 44% amongst those who had received the most education.

The importance of fighting crime was seen to be substantially more in cities (54%) than in the country (41%).

Turning to the issue of **immigration**, there were minimal variations by gender, age and occupation.

There is an indication that higher levels of education reduce the importance of this issue. Accordingly, while this issue was of import to 30% of the least educated and 36% of those educated to between age 16 and 19, the figures fall to just 18% of those educated to age 20 and beyond.

The issue of **healthcare** was more relevant to women (24%) than men (18%) but there were only minor variations based upon age.

Higher levels of education led to increased concern over this issue, while occupation had little impact on the matter.

There were no major socio-demographic variations by gender, age, education or occupation with respect to the **fight against terrorism**.

## II. LEVEL OF TRUST IN VARIOUS INSTITUTIONS

This chapter looks at the levels of trust that EU citizens have in various institutions.

**Q.6 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.**

### Q.6.1 The Press

#### Country analysis

	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Don't know
B	56	41	4
DK	53	41	6
D.W	46	45	9
D.T	44	47	9
D.O	38	56	6
Gr	48	48	4
E	58	38	4
F	58	38	4
Irl	49	44	7
I	41	50	9
L	54	39	8
NL	55	38	7
A	48	43	8
P	51	37	12
Fin	52	42	6
S	34	60	6
UK	17	78	6
EU15	44	49	7

The level of trust that UK citizens have for the press is particularly low. At 17%, it is less than half that seen in any other EU15 nation with the next lowest figure (Sweden) at 40%.

This UK figure is also noticeably lower than the 20% noted in March 2003

While the EU15 average of those tending to trust the press is 44% (down from the 47% seen in March 2003), this figure reaches 58% in France and Spain, 56% in Belgium and 55% in the Netherlands.

Overall, however, Union citizens tend not to trust the press and, while 7% of their number have no opinion on this, 49% are in the 'tend not to trust' camp.

#### UK socio-demographic analysis

There were no major socio-demographic variations by gender, age or education. However, the self-employed (8%) and managers (14%) were considerably below the 21% of UK citizens who tended to trust the press.

## Q.6.2 The Radio

### Country analysis

	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Don't know
B	68	28	4
DK	76	19	6
D.W	61	29	10
D.T	60	31	9
D.O	56	37	6
Gr	55	41	4
E	65	31	4
F	66	30	4
Irl	76	20	4
I	53	36	12
L	59	34	7
NL	68	25	7
A	66	29	5
P	65	27	8
Fin	77	17	6
S	73	21	6
UK	60	31	10
EU15	62	31	8

The oldest electronic medium – radio – has a relatively high level of trust across the EU with 62% of those polled tending to trust it, although this figure is down from the 65% recorded in March 2003 (EB 59.1).

This figure rises to more than three-quarters of Finns, Danes and Irish, as well as 60% of the UK poll – a figure showing a two percentage point fall since the previous survey.

### UK socio-demographic analysis

There were no significant socio-demographic variations by gender, age, education or occupation amongst the 60% of UK citizens tending to trust this medium.



### Q.6.3 Television

#### Country analysis

	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Don't know
B	63	34	3
DK	70	25	5
D.W	61	30	9
D.T	60	32	8
D.O	55	39	6
Gr	48	51	1
E	46	51	3
F	49	47	3
Irl	72	24	4
I	39	53	8
L	56	36	6
NL	67	29	4
A	67	29	5
P	65	32	4
Fin	71	23	6
S	64	31	6
UK	54	38	8
EU15	54	41	6

More than half (54%) of UK and EU15 citizens tended to trust television, although these figures show a decrease from the 50% and 57% respectively earlier in the same year. In Ireland and Finland, these figures exceeded 70%.

Only in Spain, Italy, France and Greece did less than half of those polled tend to trust television.

#### UK socio-demographic analysis

There were no noticeable socio-demographic variations by gender, age or occupation. However, only 48% of those educated to age 20 or beyond compared with 59% of those who had left school aged 15 and younger tended to trust this medium.

#### Q.6.4 Justice/the (NATIONALITY) legal system.

##### Country analysis

	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Don't know
B	34	61	5
DK	79	16	5
D.W	56	34	10
D.T	55	36	10
D.O	50	41	9
Gr	68	30	2
E	41	52	7
F	39	56	5
Irl	48	41	11
I	41	48	11
L	54	37	10
NL	50	43	7
A	67	26	8
P	47	47	6
Fin	68	25	6
S	58	36	7
UK	43	49	9
EU15	47	45	8

Across the European Union, slightly more citizens tended to trust their national legal system than those taking the contrary view with figures of 47% and 45% respectively. In March 2003, the gap was appreciably larger (51%/41%).

This small two percentage point differential at October 2003 conceals the fact that the situation is radically different in EU countries.

For example, there are high levels of trust in the legal system observed in Denmark (79%), Finland and Greece (68%) and Austria (67%).

Considerably lower levels of confidence are seen in Belgium (34%) and Italy and Spain (41%).

The UK has a higher number of citizens tending not to trust the legal system (49%) compared with 43% who do and these figures reverse the situation earlier in 2003 where those trusting this medium were 47% compared with 43% not trusting.

##### UK socio-demographic analysis

Women were less likely to trust the legal system with only 39% of their number in this category compared with 47% of men.

While there was no noticeable variation by age, 61% of those educated to age 20 and beyond compared with 41% of those who had left school aged 15 or less took this view.

While 59% of managers tended to trust the legal system, this view only found favour with 33% of manual workers.

## Q.6.5 The Police

### Country analysis

	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Don't know
B	52	44	4
DK	90	9	1
D.W	75	19	6
D.T	73	20	6
D.O	68	24	8
Gr	67	32	1
E	57	37	6
F	55	41	4
Irl	64	28	8
I	66	25	9
L	64	39	6
NL	59	37	5
A	73	21	6
P	61	35	4
Fin	89	9	2
S	67	25	7
UK	60	34	6
EU15	64	30	6

While virtually two-thirds (64%) of EU citizens tended to trust the police this figure conceals variations as extreme as the 89% and 90% figures noted in Finland and Denmark and 55% in France and 52% in Belgium.

The UK figure at 60% was slightly less than the EU15 average.

Both the UK and EU15 figures show a decline in trust since early 2003 with a fall from 65% to 60% in the UK and from 67% to 64% in the case of the EU15.

### UK socio-demographic analysis

There were no noticeable socio-demographic variations by gender, age or education.

Managers (68%), other white-collar workers (67%) and the unemployed (65%) were more likely to trust the police than manual workers and house persons where the figures were 53%.

## Q.6.6 The Army

### Country analysis

	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Don't know
B	55	36	9
DK	72	17	11
D.W	65	20	16
D.T	64	20	16
D.O	60	23	17
Gr	83	15	2
E	56	34	10
F	61	31	9
Irl	75	15	10
I	65	25	10
L	60	28	13
NL	54	33	13
A	64	24	12
P	67	24	9
Fin	88	7	5
S	53	33	14
UK	72	17	11
EU15	64	25	11

72% of the UK poll tended to trust the army – a figure eight percentage points ahead of the 64% EU15 average but itself considerably less than the 88% observed in Finland and the 83% in Greece.

The UK and EU figures show a decline from 79% and 66% respectively in the previous survey.

### UK socio-demographic analysis

There were no major socio-demographic variations by gender or age. However, an increased level of education had a noticeable effect on trust level with figures of 77% for the least educated and 63% at the other end of the educational spectrum.

## Q.6.7 The religious institutions

### Country analysis

	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Don't know
B	39	52	9
DK	72	18	10
D.W	43	42	15
D.T	39	44	17
D.O	24	53	24
Gr	60	37	3
E	37	54	10
F	34	52	14
Irl	33	53	13
I	55	34	11
L	36	54	10
NL	38	47	15
A	44	49	7
P	64	31	5
Fin	69	24	7
S	19	67	14
UK	37	46	17
EU15	42	45	13

Across the EU, 45% of those polled tended not to trust religious institutions – a figure slightly higher than the 42% who trusted them. In the UK, this trust figure was 37% - up from 34% earlier in the year.

There were substantial variations on a country-by-country basis and, while 72% of Danes and 69% of Finns tended to trust these institutions, support levels fell to just 19% in Sweden.

### UK socio-demographic analysis

While there were minimal variations by gender or education, older people had a noticeably higher level of trust of religious institutions with figures of 44% from those aged 55 or more compared with 30% or less from those aged 15 to 39.

## Q.6.8 Trades Unions

### Country analysis

	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Don't know
B	44	47	9
DK	53	34	13
D.W	27	58	15
D.T	27	57	16
D.O	29	53	19
Gr	44	49	7
E	33	56	12
F	36	54	10
Irl	43	35	22
I	31	54	14
L	44	44	12
NL	50	35	15
A	43	47	10
P	41	48	11
Fin	57	30	13
S	42	44	15
UK	35	47	18
EU15	35	51	14

Half of EU15 citizens (51%) polled tended not to trust trades unions and this figure rises to 57% in Germany and 56% in Spain.

Taking a contrary view were citizens of Denmark, the Netherlands and Finland where more than half of those polled tended to trust these institutions. In fact, in Finland, this figure reaches 57%.

In the UK, the figure is 35% - showing an increase from the 33% in early 2003 but still below the 41% recorded in Autumn 2001.

### UK socio-demographic analysis

No clear pattern emerges based on age or gender but increased education gives a higher propensity to trust this group with figures of 42% from the most compared with 32% from the least educated.

## Q.6.9 Political parties

### Country analysis

	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Don't know
B	22	72	6
DK	39	48	14
D.W	12	78	9
D.T	12	80	9
D.O	8	85	7
Gr	20	77	3
E	23	69	9
F	12	82	7
Irl	22	67	11
I	11	78	10
L	26	60	14
NL	26	65	9
A	19	72	8
P	17	78	5
Fin	19	70	11
S	18	71	10
UK	12	79	9
EU15	15	77	9

Three-quarters of EU15 citizens (77%) tend not to trust political parties and, in France, this figure reaches 82%. The UK figure is broadly in line with the Union average at 79%.

Since the early part of the year, these distrust figures had increased by two percentage points in both the UK and across the Union.

Only in three countries did political parties have a minimal level of trust with 39% of Danes and 26% of Dutch and Luxembourgers expressing a positive opinion compared with a Union average of 15% and a figure of 12% in the UK.

### UK socio-demographic analysis

There were no noticeable patterns by gender, age, education or occupation.

## Q.6.10 Big companies

### Country analysis

	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Don't know
B	30	63	7
DK	49	35	16
D.W	23	62	15
D.T	23	62	15
D.O	23	62	15
Gr	24	69	7
E	37	51	12
F	29	61	9
Irl	31	53	16
I	31	52	17
L	36	52	13
NL	38	52	10
A	36	53	12
P	37	52	11
Fin	30	57	13
S	21	65	14
UK	23	64	13
EU15	29	58	13

Only in one EU15 Member State did a majority of those polled tend to trust big companies.

This positive view taken by 49% of Danes is twenty percentage points ahead of the EU15 average of 29% and more than twice as large as the figures seen in Germany, Greece, Sweden. In the UK, the figure has increased from 21% to 23% over the previous nine months.

### UK socio-demographic analysis

Only 16% of respondents aged 55 or more tended to trust big companies compared with 28% of those aged 15 to 24.

Trust levels also declined with education with the result that while 13% of the most educated tended to trust them this figure was just half of the 26% educated to age 15 or less holding this positive view.



**Q.6.11 The (NATIONALITY) government.****Country analysis**

	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Don't know
B	38	54	8
DK	53	39	8
D.W	25	63	12
D.T	24	65	11
D.O	21	70	8
Gr	47	50	3
E	42	50	8
F	30	64	7
Irl	31	60	10
I	27	62	11
L	60	31	9
NL	37	57	6
A	40	51	9
P	39	55	6
Fin	49	41	10
S	42	49	9
UK	24	68	9
EU15	31	60	9

Only a quarter (24%) of UK citizens trusted their government – the lowest figure in the EU and a figure seven percentage points over than the EU15 average figure of 31%.

In fact, the UK and EU15 average figures have shown a substantial fall over the past two years. In the autumn of 2001, 43% of the UK poll and 48% of the EU15 trusted their governments. These were historically high figures caused perhaps by the after-effects of 9/11. By the Spring of 2003, these figures had fallen to 33% and 37% respectively and were to tumble even further to just 24% and 31% by the autumn.

In only three countries did more people tend to trust their government than took the opposite view and trust figures of 49%, 53% and 60% were recorded in Finland, Denmark and Luxembourg respectively.

**UK socio-demographic analysis**

Older people were noticeably less trusting than their younger counterparts as regards the government. While 31% of those aged 15 to 24 trusted this institution, this figure falls to just 17% amongst people aged 55 or more.

Conversely, higher levels of education increase trust in that while this sentiment is felt by 21% of the least educated, it reaches 30% of those who had received most education.

**Q.6.12 The (NATIONALITY) parliament.****Country analysis**

	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Don't know
B	40	52	8
DK	68	24	8
D.W	33	53	14
D.T	31	56	13
D.O	25	65	10
Gr	54	43	3
E	41	46	13
F	33	55	12
Irl	34	55	10
I	33	53	14
L	53	33	15
NL	41	51	8
A	43	45	12
P	46	46	8
Fin	52	40	9
S	53	38	10
UK	27	62	12
EU15	35	53	12

Just 27% of UK citizens – the lowest figure amongst the EU Member States - tended to trust their parliament compared with an EU15 average of 35%.

The UK figures which were 47% in the Autumn of 2001 decreased to 37% in the Spring of 2003 before falling to just 27% some eight months later. This sharp decline may be fall-out from the Iraq/Kelly affair.

Similar falls were seen on the broader EU15 front with figures declining from 51% (Autumn 2001) to 42% (Spring 2003) to 35% in this latest survey.

Only in the Nordic states (Finland, Sweden and Denmark), and in Greece and Luxembourg did the parliament earn the trust of more than fifty percent of those polled.

The figures for Denmark are totally atypical with more than two-thirds (68%) of Danes tending to trust their parliament.

**UK socio-demographic analysis**

Men were more trusting of the Parliament than women with figures of 31% compared with just 22%.

A higher level of trust was also observed amongst young people with more than a third (34%) of those aged 15-24 trusting Parliament compared to just 22% of those aged 55 or more.

While 21% of those who had received least education trusted Parliament, this figure virtually doubles with 39% of those educated to age 20 or beyond.

While just 17% of house persons held this positive view, figures for the self-employed (33%) and managers (36%) were considerably higher.

## Q.6.13 The European Union

### Country analysis

	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Don't know
B	45	47	8
DK	40	47	12
D.W	35	42	23
D.T	35	42	23
D.O	36	43	21
Gr	68	30	5
E	57	30	14
F	37	49	14
Irl	53	27	21
I	57	25	18
L	52	38	11
NL	38	45	17
A	36	52	13
P	61	25	14
Fin	33	53	14
S	28	61	11
UK	20	58	22
EU15	41	42	17

There was a high level of 'don't knows' in the data making up the EU15 results with 17% of respondents not knowing whether or not they trusted the European Union. Particularly high figures were noted in Germany (23%), the UK (22%) and Ireland (21%).

There was a virtually even divide between the 41% of EU15 poll that tended to trust the European Union compared with 42% taking the contrary view.

However, within these almost identical figures are concealed substantial variations.

For example, amongst the EU15 average of 41% who tended to trust the EU were figures as high as 65% in Greece and 61% in Portugal compared with just 20% in the UK and 28% in Sweden.

Taking the figures of those not trusting the European Union, figures as diverse as 25% of Italians and 61% of Swedes combined to make up the 42% EU15 average.

The UK trust figure has fallen from 31% in the Autumn of 2001, through 24% (Spring 2003) to the current level of just 20%.

The EU15 average has also fallen sharply over the same period with figures of 53% to 44% to 41%.

### UK socio-demographic analysis

The UK figures show one of the highest 'don't know' scores at 22% and within this figure are substantially more women (27%) than men (17%).

Making up the very high UK tending not to trust figure of 58%, were higher than average figures of 68% of those aged 55 or more. This high level of distrust was also noticed amongst people with lower levels of education and two-thirds (66%) of those not trusting the European Union had left school aged 15 or younger.

Looking at attitudes based upon occupation, there was, perhaps surprisingly, little variation between managers (60%), other white-collar workers (58%) and manual workers (57%).

In the UK, one segment could be isolated where a majority tended to trust the European Union.

Accordingly, 42% of those still studying held this positive view while 40% took the contrary position and 18% did not know.

### **Trust in the European Commission**

In Q26 peoples trust in the European Commission (as distinct from trust in the European Union in general) is reviewed.

The U.K. figures show that only 26% of those polled tend to trust the European Commission compared with figures of 60% or more in Greece, Italy, Ireland and Luxembourg and an EU15 average of 46%. A further 30% of the UK sample expressed no opinion.

There are therefore 44% of the U.K. who do not trust the EC. This is the highest percentage in the Union and not just substantially above the EU15 average of 28% but isolates the UK as being the only EU15 member where there are **more** people not trusting rather than trusting the European Commission.

On an historical basis the UK has had a "net distrust" of the European Commission in Eurobarometer Surveys since 1999 - the only time this did not occur was in the Autumn of 2001 after the events of "9/11" when 35% of those polled tended to trust and 33% tended not to trust the European Commission.

It is also interesting to put these figures in a wider context. Although in this latest poll only 26% of the UK trust the European Commission, this is still a noticeably greater confidence level than that accorded to the British press where, as has been seen earlier in this report, only 17% of the sample tend to trust this medium.

**Q.6.14 The United Nations****Country analysis**

	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Don't know
B	43	48	10
DK	74	16	10
D.W	42	39	20
D.T	41	39	20
D.O	39	40	21
Gr	36	59	6
E	55	31	14
F	40	45	15
Irl	62	19	19
I	50	33	18
L	51	35	14
NL	51	37	12
A	50	36	14
P	59	25	16
Fin	62	24	14
S	73	18	10
UK	51	31	18
EU15	48	36	16

More than half (51%) of the UK poll tended to trust the United Nations – a figure close to the 48% EU15 average and a number showing a five percentage point increase over the figures earlier in the year, although lower than the historical high at 59% in the Autumn of 2001.

Noticeable amongst those most trusting of this organisation were 74% of the Danish and 73% of the Swedish poll.

Making up the 36% of EU citizens who took the contrary view were 59% of Greeks and 48% of Belgians at one end of the scale and less than 20% of Danes, Swedes and Irish.

**UK socio-demographic analysis**

Within the 51% of UK citizens who tended to trust the United Nations were more men (55%) than women (47%).

While there was no discernible pattern based upon age, those with the most education (61%) were more likely to hold this positive view than those who had left school at the earliest opportunity where the figure is only 51%.

There were some noticeable variations by occupation with 62% of both managers and the retired in the 'trusting' camp compared with just 42% of manual workers and an even smaller 31% of house persons.

**Q.6.15 Charitable or voluntary organisations****Country analysis**

	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Don't know
B	58	35	8
DK	57	31	12
D.W	51	31	18
D.T	51	31	18
D.O	48	33	19
Gr	63	32	5
E	62	28	10
F	62	27	10
Irl	63	21	17
I	57	31	12
L	58	30	13
NL	64	27	9
A	56	32	12
P	61	29	10
Fin	51	36	13
S	45	39	16
UK	68	22	11
EU15	59	29	12

59% of EU15 citizens tended to trust charitable or voluntary organizations while the UK figure of 68% was the largest recorded in the Union and up from 65% earlier in the year.

While only 45% of Swedes tended to trust these organizations, this figure was still larger than that for those who took the contrary view.

There was a 12% 'don't know' factor in response to this question and particularly high figures were noted in Germany (18%), Ireland (17%) and Sweden (16%).

**UK socio-demographic analysis**

There were no major socio-demographic variations by gender, age or education.

However, a substantial percentage of managers (82%) trusted these organizations compared with just 63% of manual workers and 57% of house persons.

### III. GENERAL PERCEPTION OF THE EU

In this section, respondents were asked for their broad views on their attitudes and beliefs concerning the European Union, whether membership had brought benefits to the country and how they felt about the future of the Union.

Respondents were also asked about their views relating to being British and being a European Union citizen.

Lastly, they were asked to express their views about the roles played by the United States and the European Union on the global stage.

#### Q.7 Generally speaking, do you think that (OUR COUNTRY)'s membership of the European Union is...?

##### Country analysis

	A good thing	A bad thing	Neither good nor bad	Don't know
B	56	12	29	3
DK	57	22	19	2
D.W	49	9	32	10
D.T	46	10	34	10
D.O	37	12	42	8
Gr	62	7	30	2
E	62	7	27	4
F	44	17	36	3
Irl	73	6	15	6
I	58	10	28	4
L	77	6	15	2
NL	62	12	23	3
A	35	20	42	4
P	55	11	26	8
Fin	39	22	37	2
S	40	32	27	2
UK	28	29	30	13
EU15	48	15	31	6

Opinion in the UK was virtually equally divided on this issue with 28% believing membership was a good thing, 29% believing it to be a bad thing and 30% seeing it as neither a good nor a bad thing.

These UK figures show a decline from the last survey where those believing membership to be a good thing had fallen from 30% to 28%. Across the EU, the fall was even greater with figures dropping since the Spring of 2003 from 54% to 48% - the lowest level since May 2001.

The most negative sentiment is observed in Sweden where 32% of those polled see membership as being a bad thing.

The most positive attitude expressed by people stating that membership was a good thing is seen in Luxembourg (77%) and Ireland (73%).

The UK 'don't know' figure on this issue, at 13%, although more than twice as large as the EU15 average of 6% has shown a steady decline from the 22% seen in May 2000.

It appears that as this 'don't know' factor declines, opinions become polarized.

In May 2000, those who thought membership was a good thing made up 25% of the poll while those taking the opposite view numbered 24%.

Three years later, both figures had risen by three and five percentage points respectively, while the middle ground opinion had moved marginally from 29% to 30%.

### **UK socio-demographic analysis**

Among the high 'don't know' figures of 13% in the UK were 16% of women and 9% of men.

34% of UK men considered membership of the EU to be a good thing compared with just 23% of women.

Age also was a major factor. While 38% of those aged between 15 and 24 believe membership to be a good thing, this figure declines steadily with age and reaches only 25% of all those aged 55 or more.

A higher level of education makes a radical difference to attitude. Accordingly, virtually half of those (48%) of those educated to age 20 or more believe the UK's membership of the EU is a good thing compared with 27% who see it as a bad thing and 25% who either have no opinion or consider membership to be neither good nor bad.

At the other end of the educational scale, a substantial 16% 'don't know' and just 23% consider membership to be a good thing compared with 36% taking the contrary view.

38% of managers compared with 25% of other white-collar workers, 24% of manual workers and just 16% of house persons hold this positive view about membership.



## **Q.8 Taking everything into consideration, would you say that (OUR COUNTRY) has on balance benefited or not from being a member of the European Union?**

### **Country analysis**

	Benefited	Not benefited	Don't know
B	57	31	12
DK	67	21	12
D.W	38	34	27
D.T	37	37	27
D.O	30	45	25
Gr	75	17	8
E	66	19	15
F	48	33	19
Irl	82	9	9
I	49	35	16
L	69	21	10
NL	54	34	12
A	40	45	15
P	65	22	13
Fin	40	47	13
S	31	50	19
UK	30	45	24
EU15	46	34	19

Fewer than one in three (30%) of UK citizens believed that their country had benefited from being a member of the European Union – the lowest figure in the Union – one percentage point below the 31% noted in Sweden and substantially below the EU15 average of 46%.

This 30% in the UK shows a fall from the 32% earlier in the year, while the EU15 figure has slipped from 50% to 46%.

However, a high 'don't know' factor of one in four UK citizens (24%) means that fewer UK citizens (45%) than Swedes (50%) and Finns (47%) took the negative view in saying that their country had not benefited from membership.

### **UK socio-demographic analysis**

Noticeably more men (36%) than women (25%) believed that the UK had, on balance, benefited from being a member of the European Union.

Marked differences were also apparent by age with 41% of those aged 15 to 24 believing the country had benefited compared with 28% taking the opposite view.

Only 25% of people in the oldest age bracket (55 or more) took this positive view and 54% of their number believed the country had not benefited.

Substantial variations were also noted based upon educational level. While just 22% of those who had left school at the earliest opportunity believed the UK's membership of the EU had been beneficial, substantially more than twice this number (52%) of those who had received education to age 20 or more held this positive view.

Looking at results by occupation, 32% of other white-collar workers saw membership as a positive factor, while this was a view held by 40% of managers and just 16% of house persons.

**Q.9 In general, does the European Union conjure up for you a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image?**

**Country analysis**

	Very positive	Fairly positive	Neutral	Fairly negative	Very negative	Don't know
B	6	39	38	10	3	3
DK	6	29	34	21	8	2
D.W	6	35	35	11	4	8
D.T	5	34	38	12	5	7
D.O	3	27	45	15	5	5
Gr	14	44	31	6	3	2
E	15	41	35	5	1	3
F	7	38	31	15	6	3
Irl	23	46	18	5	2	7
I	12	48	26	9	2	4
L	14	43	29	8	4	2
NL	5	34	41	14	5	2
A	9	22	38	20	5	6
P	10	51	20	10	2	7
Fin	4	29	36	24	4	4
S	4	29	27	30	9	1
UK	4	23	29	21	13	10
EU15	8	36	32	13	5	5

To achieve a broad picture on this issue, the editor has 'bundled' together the 'very' positive and 'fairly' positive responses and termed them 'positive', and, similarly, taken the 'fairly' negative and 'very' negative responses and described them as 'negative'.

The UK 'don't know' response to this question at 10% is twice as high as the EU15 average.

While the EU15 negative factor totaled 18%, the comparable figure for the UK is substantially higher at 34%, although this is down from the 36% earlier in the year, while the EU15 figure shows a small increase from 17% to 18%.

In fact, 13% of the UK poll had a very negative view on this issue compared with an EU15 average of just 5%.

This broad position is confirmed when looking at the positive totals. Across the European Union, this broadly positive view is held by 44% of those polled down from 48% earlier in the year. In the UK, this figure reaches 27% a slightly smaller percentage decline from 28%.

There is, however, a small but noted drift towards a more positive view in the UK with those holding a 'fairly positive' view increasing from 16% in 2000 to 23% in the Autumn of 2003.

The Irish figures show a totally different picture and, amongst the seven out of ten citizens of that country (69%) holding a positive view, 23% held a 'very' positive view – virtually three times as high as the EU15 average of 8%.

29% of the UK poll had a neutral view on this issue – a figure not dissimilar to the 32% recorded across the European Union.

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**UK socio-demographic analysis**

In this instance, the UK 'don't know' factor of 10% is made up of 7% of the male and a considerably larger 13% of the female sample.

Using the same bundling technique as above, the positive view on the Union is held by 32% of men and just 23% of women making up the 27% average of those taking this positive view.

While 35% of those aged 15 to 24 had a positive view of the European Union, this figure decreases with age to the stage where it is a view held by only 21% of those aged 55 or more.

As has been noted previously, education plays a major role in increasing positive views towards the EU in general.

Accordingly, only 20% of the least educated compared with 42% of the most educated hold this positive view.

When the positive views of the younger members of this poll are taken into account, the figures for those people still studying mean that the majority of this group takes a positive view of the European Union.

35% of managers compared with just 16% of house persons also took this positive view.

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## Q. 10 What does the European Union mean to you personally?

Editor's note: Because of the relative complexity of this question and multiple choice facility, the socio-demographic analysis for the data is incorporated with the country analysis by individual issue.

In this question, respondents were asked what the European Union meant to them personally with a range of issues. This report will focus on those issues that attracted more than a quarter (25%) of either the UK or EU15 poll.

### Country and socio-demographic analysis

The most important issue was seen to be the **freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the European Union**. This was cited by virtually half (49%) of EU15 citizens and 41% of the poll in the UK.

The UK figures have risen steadily from 35% in 2002 to 38% (Spring 2003) to 41% in this latest poll while the average EU figures have stayed flat.

In Finland, this aspect of the European Union was selected by two-thirds (66%) of the poll.

This freedom was important to nearly half (49%) of those aged 15 to 24 but, perhaps unsurprisingly, was cited by only 38% of those aged 55+.

A similar pattern is seen with education in that, while this concept appeals to just 36% of those who had left school aged 15 or before, interest rises substantially to 63% of those educated to age 20 and beyond.

Similar high figures (62% or more) are seen amongst managers and the self-employed, while low scores are noted with house persons (24%) and the unemployed (21%).

48% of EU15 citizens cited the **euro** as what the European Union meant to them and, in Finland and Belgium, this figure reached 65% and 64% respectively. This 48% is down from the 49% earlier in the year.

In the UK, however, this figure reached only 29% - similar to the 28% in Denmark and 24% in Sweden. The UK figure is up from the 24% earlier in 2003.

While the UK average was just 29%, high figures were noted amongst those whose education had continued beyond age 20 (30%) or who were still studying (41%). On the other hand, relatively low figures were seen among those who had left school aged 15 or less (21%) and those aged 55 or more (25%).

**Peace** was cited by 32% of EU15 citizens and 46% of Germans.

In the UK, however, the figure falls to just 19% - the lowest in the European Union. Again, however, this figure is up from the 16% in April 2003.

There were no noteworthy variations by gender, age, education or occupation.

While 28% of EU15 citizens said that **cultural diversity** was what the European Union meant to them, this was a factor given by only 17% of the British poll and 13% of the Irish.

In the UK, there were no noteworthy variations by age but education again played a significant part with this aspect being of importance to only 9% of the least educated compared with 34% of those at the other end of the scale.

There were similar variations by occupation with this aspect of the European Union being embraced by 31% of the self-employed compared with just 10% of house persons.

27% of the EU15 poll said that the European Union meant a **stronger say in the world** – a view held by 38% of the Dutch poll but only 19% of the UK poll.

There were no significant UK variations on a socio-demographic basis in regard to this issue.

Three negative reactions also generated responses from 25% or more of the UK or EU15 polls.

27% of the UK sample and 24% of the EU15 said that the European Union meant a **waste of money** to them. These figures are, however, dwarfed by the 49% of Swedes who felt this way.

This UK 27% average (up from 25% in Spring 2003) was made up of a wide range of figures on a socio-demographic basis. Accordingly, this view was held by 36% of those aged 55 or more compared with just 16% of those aged 15 to 24.

A similar broad divide was seen when comparing the views of those still studying (13%) and those whose education had finished at age 15 or before where this view was held by more than one in three (35%).

An even higher adherence to this view was noted among 40% of the retired.

31% of the UK poll thought that the European Union represented **bureaucracy** – a sentiment even more strongly held by 49% of Swedes and 39% of Danes.

Only 5% of Greeks, 6% of the Portuguese, 7% of Italians and 8% of Spaniards, however, held this negative view, thereby helping to bring the EU15 average down to 22%.

The bureaucracy sentiment met with the support of 36% of the male compared with 27% of the female poll in the UK.

It also attracted 41% of those aged 55 or more compared with 25% or less of those aged 15 to 39.

Higher levels of education also reinforced this view with 33% of those educated to age 15 citing this compared with 41% of those educated to age 20 or more.

Interestingly, the figure for those still studying was relatively low at 28%.

44% of managers compared with just 15% of house persons and the unemployed also held this view on the European Union.

The UK was the country most sensitive to the **loss of its cultural identity** in this context and 30% of its poll said this was what the European Union meant to them. The EU15 average was 15%.

Among the 30% of UK citizens to whom loss of cultural identity was one of the consequences of the European Union were a higher than average percentage (36%) of people aged 55 or more.

## Q. 11 What feeling does the European Union give you personally?

Editor's note: Because of the relative complexity of this question and multiple choice facility, the UK socio-demographic analysis for the data is incorporated with the country analysis by individual issue.

### Country and socio-demographic analysis

	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	EU 15
indifference	26	19	17	15	26	19	20	16	16	20	21	16	20	20	<b>34</b>	21
mistrust	16	23	20	9	7	27	6	10	13	24	27	15	28	35	<b>26</b>	19
hope	34	35	39	50	42	36	48	52	44	30	32	44	36	36	<b>24</b>	38
anxiety	19	14	25	17	2	31	5	9	19	8	28	4	23	26	<b>18</b>	18
rejecting it	4	3	7	2	1	4	2	1	1	12	10	2	12	12	<b>12</b>	6
DK	6	13	7	3	5	3	11	3	6	10	5	7	7	5	<b>10</b>	6
trust	25	27	16	27	33	19	15	29	28	32	16	21	17	11	<b>7</b>	20
enthusiasm	5	6	2	5	9	8	23	7	6	5	4	9	6	10	<b>7</b>	6

More than a third of the UK poll (34%) had a feeling of **indifference** when it came to their views on the European Union and, in fact, this was a view expressed by 21% of all EU15 citizens. This UK figure is down slightly from the 32% in Spring 2002/

There were no significant variations on a socio-demographic basis.

26% of UK citizens (compared with 20% in 2002) admitted to having a feeling of **mistrust** with regard to the European Union. This figure is exceeded, however, by France (27%), Austria (27%), Finland (28%) and a particularly high figure of 35% in Sweden. The EU15 average was 19%.

While there were no major variations by gender or occupation, mistrust was much more highly felt by older people. Accordingly, while this was a sentiment felt by 15% of 15 to 24 year olds, it increases to 26% for those aged 40 to 54 and 36% for those aged 55 or more.

Education also had a marked effect on these figures with 35% of those who had left school aged 15 or less giving this as their reaction to the European Union compared with 24% of those educated to age 20 or more. Combining the attitudes deriving from age and educational status produces a figure of just 12% amongst those still studying.

On a more positive note, however, a quarter (24%) of the UK poll said that **hope** was the feeling the European Union gave them, although this figure is the lowest in the EU15 and considerably less than the EU15 average of 38%.

Making up this 24% figure were 28% of men and 20% of women. Age had minimal bearing on these figures but hope levels rose from the least educated (18%) to twice this amount with this sentiment being felt by 36% of those educated to age 20 or beyond.

18% of both UK and EU15 citizens had a feeling of **anxiety** about the European Union.

Anxiety was a feeling particularly held by older people and the figures rise from 9% amongst the youngest to 26% amongst the oldest UK citizens taking part in this poll.

There were no major variations by education or gender but, by occupation, figures as varied as 33% for the self-employed, 27% for the retired compared with 16% for managers and 15% for manual workers were noted.

However, some of these sample sizes were 25 or less; therefore, no firm conclusions should be drawn from this set of statistics.

Taking an extreme view were 12% of UK, Finnish, Swedish and Dutch citizens who **rejected** the European Union compared with an EU15 average of 6%.

While 10% of the youngest group rejected the EU, this figure rises to 15% of those aged 55 or more and this sentiment was more strongly felt by people with less education.

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**Q. 13 Are you yourself for or against the development towards a European political union?**
**Country and socio-demographic analysis**

	<b>B</b>	<b>DK</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>GR</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>IRL</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>NL</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>FIN</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>UK</b>	<b>EU 15</b>
For	62	39	54	74	67	50	54	72	62	57	45	65	32	36	27	53
Against	23	46	21	13	13	31	14	11	22	29	35	11	49	51	48	26
DK	15	16	25	13	20	19	32	17	17	14	20	24	20	13	25	21

There was a very high 'don't know' quotient in response to this question with one in five (21%) of all EU15 respondents being in this category.

Higher than average 'don't know' figures were noted in Ireland (32%) and in both Germany and the UK (25% each).

These UK figures were made up of 29% of the female poll and 21% of the male.

While 53% of EU15 citizens were in favour of development towards a European political union, this aim met with the favour of just 27% in the UK.

This figure was made up of 23% of the female and 32% of the male poll.

In the UK, young people (15-24) were much keener on this idea and 40% of their number were in favour compared with just 20% of those aged 55 or more.

Education also played a major part in shaping views on this issue. While 20% of those educated to age 15 or less supported this development, the figure is more than twice this – at 42% – for those educated to age 20 or beyond.

Amongst those still studying, the figure rises even further to 52%.

While the idea is positively viewed by only 20% of the retired, it finds favour with 31% of managers.

Looking at those who were actually against this development were more than half (51%) of Swedes, as well as 49% of Finns and 48% of Britons, compared with an EU15 average of just 26%.



## Q. 14 Imagined reactions to a theoretical scrapping of the European Union

### Country analysis

	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	EU 15
Very sorry	45	37	42	43	36	35	51	51	63	40	34	49	29	26	17	37
Indifferent	29	15	31	46	49	37	31	32	27	33	36	33	31	35	45	37
Very relieved	9	11	12	5	4	19	6	8	6	17	18	6	30	28	29	15
DK	8	10	15	5	12	9	12	10	5	10	13	13	10	11	9	11

Slightly more than one in three (37%) of EU15 citizens were **indifferent** to this hypothetical scenario and in the UK this figure was one of the larger recorded at 45%. In May 2002, the UK figure was 47%.

On the other hand, while 37% of EU15 citizens would be **very sorry** about the demise of the European Union with constituent figures as high as 63% in Luxembourg and 51% in Ireland and Italy, only one in six (17%) of UK citizens shared this emotion. The UK figures in 2002 were 20%.

Turning to those EU citizens who would be **very relieved** if this scenario were realized, while this sentiment was felt by 6% or less of Portuguese, Luxembourgers, Greeks and Irish, figures of 28% from Sweden, 29% from the UK and 30% from Finland, at the other end of the opinion spectrum, made up the 15% EU15 average.

The 'don't know' factor across the European Union on this issue was 15%.

### UK socio-demographic analysis

Making up the 9% UK '**don't know**' factor were 12% of women but just 6% of men.

Looking in more depth at the make-up of the 17% of UK citizens who would be **very sorry** if the EU were to be scrapped, was a notably higher proportion of men (20%) than women (14%). While there were only minor variations based upon age, education was a major influence in that those who had left school earliest had just 13% of their number having this attitude compared with 33% of those educated to age 20 or beyond.

Amongst the 29% who would be **very relieved** at this event were just 15% of those aged 15 to 24 but 42% of those aged 55 or more.

While 39% of those who had left school at age 15 or before also held this view the figures fall to 20% of those educated to age 20 and beyond and 12% of those still studying.

45% of the retired would also be very relieved compared with 23% of managers. The self-employed had a higher than average representation in this group with 36% of their number holding this view.

**Q. 43 In the near future do you see yourself as a .....****Country analysis**

	<b>UK</b>	<b>EU15</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Low</b>
<b>nationality</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>UK 62</b>	<b>L 24</b>
<b>nationality and European</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>I 60</b>	<b>UK 28</b>
<b>European and nationality</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>L 14</b>	<b>FIN 2</b>
<b>European only</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>L 15</b>	<b>FIN 1</b>

The largest group (47%) of EU15 citizens think of themselves as having their own nationality and being European. However, this view is only held by 28% of UK citizens compared with 60% of Italians.

In fact, 62% of UK citizens consider themselves as being just British – the highest figure of any country with respect to its nationality. This figure is, however, down from the 64% earlier in 2003 and well below the 70% in September 2001.

The most 'European' feeling nation was Luxembourg where 14% considered themselves European and Luxembourgish and a further 15% discounted their nationality in favour of being European only.

**UK socio-demographic analysis**

Making up the 62% UK average who saw themselves solely as British were 65% of women and 58% of men.

Increased age tended to reinforce this view. Accordingly, this was a stance adopted by 57% of those aged 15 to 24 compared with 69% of those aged 55 or more.

Education also had a radical effect on this attitude in that it was held by just 38% of those educated to age 20 or beyond compared with nearly three-quarters (72%) of those who had left school aged 15 or younger.

While three-quarters (77%) of house persons and two-thirds (68%) of the retired held this view, it attracted only 40% of managers.

**Q. 44 Would you say that you are very proud, fairly proud, not very proud, not at all proud to be your nationality?**

**Country analysis**

	<b>UK</b>	<b>EU 15</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Low</b>
<b>Very proud</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>GR 85</b>	<b>D 19</b>
<b>Fairly proud</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>P 52</b>	<b>IRL 25</b>
<b>Not very proud</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>D 17</b>	<b>GR 2</b>
<b>Not at all proud</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>D 8</b>	<b>IRL 0</b>
<b>Don't know</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>D 10</b>	<b>FIN 1</b>

To establish a broadly based figure, analysis of this issue was based upon adding the 'very proud' and 'fairly proud' figures to produce a 'proud' factor.

A similar process was conducted for the 'not very proud' and 'not at all proud' statistics.

Pride in one's nationality was a feeling broadly held by 85% of all EU15 citizens and 90% of those in the UK.

In Greece, this figure reaches 96% of those polled while, at the other end of the scale, were just two-thirds (66%) of Germans of whom 17% were **not very** proud of their nationality and 8% **not at all** proud.

**UK socio-demographic analysis**

There were no noteworthy variations on a socio-demographic basis except that the level of pride declines slightly with education.

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**Q. 45 And would you say you are very proud, fairly proud, not very proud, not at all proud to be European?**
**Country analysis**

	<b>UK</b>	<b>EU15</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Low</b>
<b>Very proud</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>L 30</b>	<b>D 8</b>
<b>Fairly proud</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>I 59</b>	<b>UK 39</b>
<b>Not very proud</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>NL 25</b>	<b>IRL 8</b>
<b>Not at all proud</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>UK 18</b>	<b>I 3</b>
<b>Don't know</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>D 16</b>	<b>GR 2</b>

The largest percentage of both the UK and the total European polls stated that they were **fairly proud** to be European although there is a nine percentage point differential between the 48% recorded amongst the EU15 compared with the 39% in the UK – the lowest percentage amongst the 15 Member States.

Bundling these figures together to create a 'proud' and 'not proud' average, 40% of the UK take the more negative route compared to just 28% in the EU15 average.

**UK socio-demographic analysis**

There were no major variations by gender but a tendency to become less pro-European was noted amongst older people and those with lower levels of education. No clear pattern emerges by respondents' occupation.

## EU CITIZENS' VIEWS ON THE ROLES PLAYED BY THE UNITED STATES AND THE EUROPEAN UNION

Question 47 looks at the views of EU citizens towards the United States and assesses that country's role in peace, the fight against terrorism, growth of the world economy, the fight against poverty and the protection of the environment.

As Question 48 covers exactly the same issues for the European Union, the editor has combined these two questions by subject to allow a comparison of attitude between these two major power blocs.

### **Qs. 47. 1 & 48.1 In your opinion, would you say that the United States/European Union tends to play a positive role, a negative or neither a positive nor negative role regarding peace in the world?**

#### **United States**

	<b>UK</b>	<b>EU15</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Low</b>
<b>Positive role</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>NL 45</b>	<b>GR 5</b>
<b>Negative role</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>GR 85</b>	<b>NL 34</b>
<b>Neither a positive nor a negative role</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>S 22</b>	<b>GR 7</b>
<b>Don't know</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>P 11</b>	<b>L 3</b>

The majority (53%) of EU15 citizens believe that the United States played a negative role regarding **peace in the world** and, this figure, although high, is less than the 58% earlier in 2003.

Most negative sentiment was seen in Greece where 85% of those polled held a negative view.

The most positive view on the United States' role regarding peace was in the Netherlands where 45% of those polled held this view.

In the UK, opinion was fairly evenly divided and, with 18%, taking a neutral position and 5% not expressing an opinion, the figures were split 37% towards a negative view and 40% towards a positive view. This 40% figure has, however, shown a steady downward trend from figures of 47% in 2002 and 45% in the Spring of 2003.

In the UK, men (46%) were noticeably more positive than women (35%) on this aspect of US behaviour.

No major patterns were seen by age, education or occupation.

#### **European Union**

	<b>UK</b>	<b>EU15</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Low</b>
<b>Positive role</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>D 70</b>	<b>UK 44</b>
<b>Negative role</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>UK 16</b>	<b>FIN 4</b>
<b>Neither a positive nor a negative role</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>A 34</b>	<b>P 15</b>
<b>Don't know</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>UK 16</b>	<b>L 3</b>

Compared with the United States, there was a substantially greater positive feeling regarding the EU's role regarding peace in the world with 60% of EU citizens taking this stance and figures as high as 70% in Denmark.

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While approximately a quarter of both UK and EU citizens believed the EU's role in this area was neither positive nor negative, only 9% of EU15 citizens and 16% of those in the UK took a negative view on this issue.

In the UK, women were considerably less sure on this issue than men and 21% of them had no opinion on this issue.

Taking the positive view on this aspect of EU activity, were 54% of the youngest age group compared with just 40% of those aged 55 or more.

Men (48%) were more likely than women (41%) to take this positive view and a similar variation was seen by levels of education with a positive view being taken by 47% of those educated to age 20 and more compared with just 36% of those who had left school aged 15 or less.

Managers and white-collar workers (51%) were also more likely to take this positive view than the unemployed (38%), the retired (37%) and house persons (35%).

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**Qs. 47. 2 & 48.2 In your opinion, would you say that the United States/ European Union tends to play a positive role, a negative or neither a positive nor negative role regarding the fight against terrorism?**

**United States**

	<b>UK</b>	<b>EU15</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Low</b>
<b>Positive role</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>NL 59</b>	<b>GR 11</b>
<b>Negative role</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>GR 75</b>	<b>DK 24</b>
<b>Neither a positive nor a negative role</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>A 20</b>	<b>GR 10</b>
<b>Don't know</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>P 10</b>	<b>L 3</b>

43% of EU citizens took a positive view of the role the US played regarding the **fight against terrorism** compared with 45% in the Spring of 2003.

In the UK, this feeling was substantially stronger with 55% taking a positive view, although this figure is substantially lower than the 68% in both Autumn 2002 and Spring 2003.

In the UK, men (59%) were more likely than women (51%) to take this positive view on the US's role in the issue of fighting terrorism.

While no clear patterns emerged by age, the view was more strongly accepted (60%) by the least educated compared with 46% of those educated to age 20 or more.

No clear patterns emerged on this issue by respondents' occupation.

**European Union**

	<b>UK</b>	<b>EU15</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Low</b>
<b>Positive role</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>FIN 61</b>	<b>UK 43</b>
<b>Negative role</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>UK 19</b>	<b>FIN 5</b>
<b>Neither a positive nor a negative role</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>A 37</b>	<b>P 17</b>
<b>Don't know</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>UK 16</b>	<b>GR 5</b>

EU15 citizens held a very strong view regarding the Union's role in the **fight against terrorism** with 54% seeing it as positive.

UK citizens, while having the same broadly positive view as the EU15, did so to a noticeably lesser extent in that only 43% gave a positive view of EU15 action compared with 55% when the same subject matter related to US activity.

In the UK, the female 'don't know' figure relating to EU activity in this area was more than twice as high as the male figure and stood at 22%.

Men (50%) had a substantially higher positive view than did women (36%).

There were no major variations or patterns established by age or education, and responses by occupation produced positive figures of 49% of the self-employed and 50% of white-collar workers compared with 34% of house persons and 30% of the unemployed.

**Qs. 47. 3 & 48.3 In your opinion, would you say that the United States/ European Union tends to play a positive role, a negative or neither a positive nor negative role regarding growth of the world economy?**

**United States**

	<b>UK</b>	<b>EU15</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Low</b>
<b>Positive role</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>IRL 55</b>	<b>GR 14</b>
<b>Negative role</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>GR 70</b>	<b>DK 17</b>
<b>Neither a positive nor a negative role</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>FIN 25</b>	<b>IRL 14</b>
<b>Don't know</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>P 16</b>	<b>GR 5</b>

EU15 opinion was fairly evenly divided on the US's role regarding the **growth of the world economy** with 34% taking a positive view against a slightly larger 36% adopting a negative position. These figures are virtually unchanged since Spring 2003.

Taking a strong positive view were 55% of the Irish compared with just 14% of Greeks.

In the UK, 40% of those polled had a positive opinion as opposed to 29% holding the contrary view. This positive figure is down from the 43% earlier in the year and the 44% in the Autumn of 2002.

In both the UK and EU15 figures, an identical 20% took a neutral position.

In the UK, the positive view was noticeably more widely held by men (46%) than women (34%).

There were no major patterns discernible by age, education or occupation.

**European Union**

	<b>UK</b>	<b>EU15</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Low</b>
<b>Positive role</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>L 56</b>	<b>UK 32</b>
<b>Negative role</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>F 24</b>	<b>DK 8</b>
<b>Neither a positive nor a negative role</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>S 40</b>	<b>IRL 17</b>
<b>Don't know</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>UK 20</b>	<b>GR 5</b>

40% of EU15 and 32% of UK citizens believed that the EU played a positive role regarding the **growth of the world economy**.

The highest support for this positive view came from Luxembourg where it represented 56% of that country's poll.

High 'don't know' figures were seen in UK at 20%.

Making up the UK 20% 'don't know' average were 13% of men and 27% of women. This high female figure is also reflected in the fact that the positive view is held by 36% of men but only 28% of women.

The positive view was more strongly held by the youngest age group (45%) than those aged 55 or more where the figure falls to 25%.

Education is also a major determining factor in that the positive view was held by only 21% of those educated up to age 15 compared with 41% of those educated to age 20 or beyond.



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There is also a noticeable difference by occupation with the positive view being held by 43% of white-collar workers, 42% of the self-employed and 36% of managers compared with just 23% of house persons and 22% of the retired.

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**Qs. 47. 4 and 48.4 In your opinion, would you say that the United States/ European Union tends to play a positive role, a negative or neither a positive nor negative role regarding the fight against poverty in the world?**

### United States

	UK	EU15	High	Low
<b>Positive role</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>IRL 38</b>	<b>GR 5</b>
<b>Negative role</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>GR 79</b>	<b>IRL 34</b>
<b>Neither a positive nor a negative role</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>S 34</b>	<b>E 15</b>
<b>Don't know</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>P 13</b>	<b>GR 4</b>

There was a high percentage (52%) of the EU15 poll who held a negative view on the US's role in the **fight against poverty in the world** and, in Greece, this figure rises to 79%. The UK figure of those taking a negative view is 40% which has risen steadily from 28% in 2002 and 32% in the Spring of 2003.

Analysing the 40% of UK citizens who had a negative view, there were only minimal variations by gender and age.

49% of those who had received the most education took this negative view compared with 37% of those who had left school aged 15 or younger.

There were also noticeable variations by occupation and, while 53% of the self-employed and 50% of managers held this view, it only applied to 28% of house persons and 34% of the unemployed.

Only 17% of the EU15 poll believed the US's role was a positive one, although this figure increases to 26% in the UK and 38% in Ireland.

### European Union

	UK	EU15	High	Low
<b>Positive role</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>L 56</b>	<b>S 27</b>
<b>Negative role</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>F 30</b>	<b>FIN 12</b>
<b>Neither a positive nor a negative role</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>S 46</b>	<b>P 20</b>
<b>Don't know</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>UK 21</b>	<b>GR 25</b>

Both the UK and EU15 average figures showed an increase in their positive reaction in this question of the **fight against poverty** when the focus moved from the US to the EU.

Taking a positive view of the Union's role in this area were 36% of EU15 citizens and 29% of those in the UK.

Luxembourg produced the highest figure in this area at 56%.

A third of EU15 citizens (33%) and 28% of those in the UK believed that the role was neither positive nor negative, while slightly more (22%) of the UK poll compared to 19% across the Union believed the role to be negative.

Analysing the positive view in more detail, it is seen in the UK that the view is noticeably more strongly held amongst the youngest age group (37%) than amongst the oldest (23%).

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There was also an increase in positive attitude related to increased levels of education. Accordingly, while this view was held by 22% of those educated to age 15 or less, this figure increases to 35% of those educated to age 20 or beyond.

While the positive view was held by 33% of men, it was held by just 26% of women.

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**Q. 47. 5 & 48.5 In your opinion, would you say that the United States/ European Union tends to play a positive role, a negative or neither a positive nor negative role regarding protection of the environment?**

**United States**

	<b>UK</b>	<b>EU15</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Low</b>
<b>Positive role</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>IRL 27</b>	<b>DK 6</b>
<b>Negative role</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>GR 77</b>	<b>IRL 39</b>
<b>Neither a positive nor a negative role</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>S 27</b>	<b>GR 10</b>
<b>Don't know</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>E 13</b>	<b>GR 5</b>

More than half the UK poll (52%) had a negative view on the US's role on the **protection of the environment**, and while this figure is somewhat below the EU15 average of 58%, it is well below the 77% recorded in Greece.

Focusing on the 52% of the UK poll who held a negative view on this aspect of US behaviour were 47% of the female poll and 58% of the male.

While there were no noteworthy variations by age, 65% of those who had received the most education – as opposed to just 47% of those at the other end of the educational spectrum – held this view.

While this negative view was held by 63% of managers and self-employed and 58% of white-collar workers, support fell to 45% of manual workers and 34% of house persons.

Ireland (27%) was the only EU member state where more than one in four of those polled took a positive view on US behaviour in this area. The average figures across the EU15 were 14% on this issue and 19% in the UK.

**European Union**

	<b>UK</b>	<b>EU15</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Low</b>
<b>Positive role</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>IRL 61</b>	<b>UK 38</b>
<b>Negative role</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>F 24</b>	<b>FIN 8</b>
<b>Neither a positive nor a negative role</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>I 32</b>	<b>P 16</b>
<b>Don't know</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>UK 20</b>	<b>L 6</b>

There is a reversal of opinion regarding the protection of the environment when the body under review changes from the USA to the EU and 46% of member states' citizens held a positive view on this issue with figures of 61% in Ireland. 38% of UK citizens also held this positive view.

The UK 'don't know' figure was again relatively high at 20% compared with an EU15 average of 12%.

Looking in more detail at the largest UK grouping (i.e. the 38% in whose opinion the EU played a positive role in this area), were 42% of the male and 33% of the female poll.

This gap of some nine percentage points decreases to just three percentage points (48%/45%) on a 'net' basis when the substantial 27% female 'don't know' score is removed.

Younger people have a noticeably more positive view in that this stance is adopted by 44% of those aged 15 to 24 and only 33% of those aged 55 or more.

There was also a noticeable variation based upon education with 31% of the least educated taking a positive view compared with 54% of those educated to age 20 or more.

47% of the self-employed and 48% of managers held this view compared with 35% of manual workers, 33% of house persons and 31% of the unemployed.

#### IV. MAIN DIMENSIONS OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

**Q. 27 For each of the following issues in our country, do you think that the European Union plays a positive, a negative or neither a positive nor negative role.....**

ISSUE	Positive		Negative		Neutral		Don't know	
	UK	EU15	UK	EU15	UK	EU15	UK	EU15
<b>Fighting terrorism</b>	38	49	27	18	19	22	16	11
<b>Foreign affairs</b>	35	46	26	16	19	23	21	15
<b>Defence</b>	34	44	29	16	20	26	18	14
<b>Protecting the environment</b>	34	39	27	21	21	27	18	13
<b>Economic situation</b>	25	31	35	33	21	24	20	11
<b>Fighting crime</b>	20	36	28	17	34	36	18	11
<b>Healthcare system</b>	19	20	33	26	29	41	19	14
<b>Educational system</b>	18	25	33	21	29	40	20	15
<b>Public transport</b>	18	23	29	16	34	46	19	15
<b>Rising prices/inflation</b>	17	18	39	49	24	22	21	11
<b>Fighting unemployment</b>	17	21	36	36	28	32	19	11
<b>Immigration</b>	15	23	53	40	18	26	15	12
<b>Taxation</b>	13	15	41	39	24	33	22	14
<b>Housing</b>	11	14	34	22	33	46	22	18
<b>Pensions</b>	11	13	37	31	28	40	23	16

The UK 'don't know' factor was a major feature of the results of this question with figures consistently above the EU15 average.

In addition, the strong UK negative view of the role played by the European Union was apparent in a number of issues such as **housing** (UK negative feeling 34%, EU15 negative feeling 22%).

Areas where the EU, from a UK viewpoint, was seen to have a more positive than negative role was in **fighting terrorism, foreign affairs, defence and protection of the environment**.

From an average EU15 viewpoint, these four areas were also listed and were augmented by the addition of **fighting crime, educational system and public transport**.

**Q. 28 a. For each of the following areas, do you think that decisions should be made by the national government or made jointly in the European Union?**

**Country analysis**

AREA	Jointly within the EU		National government alone		Don't know	
	UK	EU15	UK	EU15	UK	EU15
Information about the EU	65	73	27	19	9	8
Humanitarian aid	62	69	33	26	5	5
Scientific and technological research	59	66	35	28	7	6
Foreign policy towards countries outside the EU	58	72	32	20	10	8
Support to regions experiencing economic difficulties	53	58	39	36	9	6
Protection of the environment	51	62	45	34	4	3
Fight against poverty/social exclusion	48	57	47	39	5	4
Agriculture and fisheries policy	39	50	55	43	7	7
Cultural policy	38	42	54	51	8	8
Defence	31	50	63	45	5	5
Fight against unemployment	31	44	65	53	4	4
Health and social welfare	28	29	68	67	4	4
Basic rules for broadcasting and press	27	34	67	60	6	7
Currency	24	63	70	32	6	5
Education	21	32	75	64	4	4

There was a broad division in UK responses to this question between issues which are viewed as being domestic UK policy and those to which a broader EU approach would be more suited and decisions made accordingly.

Accordingly, relatively high figures of 50% or more in favour of joint action were noted in the UK for **information about the EU** (65%), **humanitarian aid** (62%), **scientific and technological research** (59%), **foreign policy towards countries outside the EU** (58%), **support to regions experiencing economic difficulties** (53%) and **protection of the environment** (51%).

In all these cases, the support for joint action within the EU was more popular when viewed from the standpoint of EU15 averages.

However, what is also apparent is the increasing attraction of joint decision-making within the EU to UK citizens with the UK figures moving relatively rapidly in line with EU15 averages.

This can be shown by looking at the percentages of UK citizens compared with EU15 averages in November 1999 and October 2003 who believed action should be taken jointly within the EU on the six most cited examples.

#### ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN JOINTLY IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

##### **Information about the EU**

	November 1999	October 2003	% +/- change
UK	51	65	+27%
EU15 average	70	73	+ 4%

##### **Humanitarian aid**

	November 1999	October 2003	% +/- change
UK	52	62	+19%
EU15 average	67	69	+ 3%

##### **Scientific and technological research**

	November 1999	October 2003	% +/- change
UK	51	59	+ 16%
EU15 average	65	66	+ 2%

#### **UK socio-demographic analysis**

This analysis looks at the three areas where there was greatest shift in UK attitude.

The prime situation where the majority of UK citizens believed decisions should be made jointly within the European Union, was **information about the EU** itself.

This view was more strongly held by men (68%) than women (62%) and had noticeably more support from younger people with 73% of those aged 15 to 24 being in agreement with this measure as opposed to just 60% of those aged 55 or more.

Education also had a major bearing on this issue and while this joint decision-making process was supported by 57% of those who had left school aged 15 or less, the figure rises to 80% of those educated to age 20 or beyond.

There was also a noticeable variation by occupation with joint decision-making being approved by 76% of managers but only 55% of house persons and 51% of the unemployed.

62% of the UK poll believed that **humanitarian aid** is an issue where decisions should be made jointly within the European Union and this received support from 76% of those aged 15 to 24 compared with just 59% of those aged 55 or more.



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Increased education led to increased support for this belief with 71% of the most educated holding this view compared with 55% of those at the other end of the educational scale.

The 59% of the UK poll who believed that decisions should be made jointly within the EU when they are related to **scientific and technological research** was made up of 65% of men but only 53% of women.

This view also received more support from younger people with 66% of people aged 15 to 24 supporting this idea compared with just 54% of those aged 55 or more.

There were also distinct differences based upon education with nearly three-quarters (74%) of those educated to age 20 or more supporting this view compared with less than half (49%) of those who had received the least amount of education.

Noticeable variations were also observed by occupation such as the 72% support from managers compared with just 41% from house persons.

#### ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN ALONE

##### **UK socio-demographic analysis**

On certain issues, it was apparent that both the UK and EU15 polls showed a strong belief that they should be handled by national governments.

Figures of more than 50% from both the EU15 and the UK in the five areas of **education, basic rules for broadcasting and press, health and social welfare, the fight against unemployment and cultural policy.**

**Defence** (in a similar way to the **euro**) was an area where UK thinking was at odds with average EU15 attitude.

63% of the UK poll saw this as being an area where decisions should be taken by the national government alone – a view shared by only 45% of the EU15.

Looking at the issue of **education** where 75% of the UK poll believed this decision should be made by the national government alone, this was supported by 77% of women and 73% of men.

There were only minor variations by age or education, while house persons (80%) and other white-collar workers (81%) had higher than average figures.

As far as **currency** - which attracted 70% support across the UK - is concerned, this received 73% support from those aged 55 or more compared with 65% from the youngest age group.

Only 58% of those who had been educated to the highest level supported this view compared with three-quarters (74%) of those who had left school aged 15 or younger.

The proportion of UK citizens believing that decisions should be made by the national government alone in relation to **health and social welfare** issues was more strongly felt by women (71%) than men (66%) and also by those with the least amount of education (71%) compared with those educated to age 20 or more where the figure was only 58%.

There were no discernible patterns by age.

**Q. 28 b. And for each of the following areas, do you think that decisions should be made by the national government or made jointly in the European Union?**

**Country analysis**

AREA	National government alone		Jointly within the EU		Don't know	
	UK	EU15	UK	EU15	UK	EU15
Police	83	70	15	27	3	3
Juvenile crime prevention	76	58	21	38	3	4
Urban crime prevention	75	63	21	33	4	4
Justice	75	65	22	32	3	4
Immigration policy	67	45	30	51	3	4
Accepting refugees	65	43	30	53	4	5
Rules for political asylum	64	41	31	53	5	5
Tackling the challenges of an ageing population	54	42	39	48	7	9
Fight against organized crime	49	25	48	71	3	4
Fight against drugs	41	29	56	68	3	4
Fight against the trade in and exploitation of human beings	26	17	68	79	6	4
Fight against international terrorism	23	13	73	84	4	4

As shown earlier, in Q 26, fighting crime is the UK's most important issue cited by 48% of that country's citizens compared with just 28% across the European Union in general. This attitude is reflected in the fact that three-quarters or more of those polled believed that four major issues (**police, juvenile crime prevention, urban crime prevention and justice**) related to crime in general, should be dealt with by the national government alone rather than jointly within the EU.

The belief that these issues should be dealt with by the national government has grown in both the UK and EU15. For example, figures supporting the belief that decisions relating to the **police** should be dealt with by the national government alone have risen in the UK and EU15 from 76% and 63% in 1999 to 83% and 70% respectively at the time of the 2003 poll.

These four crime-related issues attracted at least three-quarters of the UK poll to opt for decision-making to be made by the national government alone.

These were also the four areas where across the European Union a majority of citizens believed they should be dealt with by the national government alone, although the

weight of opinion was less intense than in the UK with figures ranging from 70% to 58% rather than the 75% to 83% observed in the UK.

On three other issues, 55% or more of UK citizens believed that decisions should be made jointly within the European Union and, accordingly, the fights against **international terrorism, against the trade in and exploitation of human beings and that against drugs** received the support of 73%, 68% and 56% of UK citizens respectively.

Across the European Union, the issue which generated the most support for joint EU action was the fight against **international terrorism** which obtained the support of 84% of respondents.

Looking at this and the previous sub-question, it would appear that in both the EU15 and UK citizens' minds, there is a clear and growing divide between issues best dealt with at a local/national level (police, crime prevention, justice, etc.) and other broader more European issues such as information on the EU, humanitarian aid and scientific and technological research where support for pan-EU action is confirmed and is seen to be growing.

### UK socio-demographic analysis

There were no major variations by age, gender or occupation amongst the 83% of UK citizens who believed the national government alone should make decisions regarding the **police** but support was at 85% amongst the least educated compared with just 77% among those whose education had continued to age 20 or beyond.

On the issue of **juvenile crime prevention**, which 76% of UK citizens believed should be dealt with by the national government alone, only minor variations were seen by gender, education or occupation while there was a tendency for older people to give this issue greater support.

Amongst the 75% of UK citizens taking the view that **urban crime prevention** should be dealt with by the national government alone was a noticeably higher proportion (79%) of people aged 55 or more compared with 70% or less of those aged less than 39.

Surprisingly, people living in large towns had 72% of their number taking this view compared with 76% of those living in rural areas.

There were no notable variations by gender or occupation amongst those taking the view that **justice**-related decisions should be made by the national government alone but this view was held by 77% of those aged 55 or more compared with 70% of the youngest group.

Increased levels of education reduced the level of this response and, accordingly, while this was a view held by 81% of those educated to age 15 or less support fell to 61% amongst those educated to age 20 or beyond.

Looking more closely at the 73% of UK citizens believing that decisions relating to the fight against **international terrorism** should be made jointly within the European Union were 78% of men compared with 69% of women.

Belief was more strongly held by young people with 78% of those aged 15 to 24 affirming this compared to 72% of the oldest age group.

There was a noticeable variation based on education with 68% of those who had left school at the earliest opportunity taking this view compared with 84% of those educated to age 20 or beyond.

This view was held by 59% of house persons as opposed to 80% of managers.

That decisions relating to the **fight against the trade in and exploitation of human beings** should be made jointly in the European Union was a view held by 72% of men compared with 64% of women and 76% of the youngest age group compared with 66% of the oldest.

There was a twenty three percentage point difference between the 65% of those educated to age 15 or younger compared with 88% of those still studying.

By occupation there were, again, noticeable variations with figures of 52% from house persons compared to 66% of manual workers, 70% of managers and 75% of other white-collar workers.

Making up the 56% of UK citizens believing that joint EU decisions should be made in the **fight against drugs** were 51% of women and 61% of men. While only minor variations were seen based upon age, there was a noticeable difference between the most (66%) and least (53%) educated.

While 68% of managers held this view, the figure decreases to just 43% of house persons and 44% of the unemployed - both groups in fact stating that this issue should be dealt with by the UK government alone.

**Q. 29 What is your opinion of each of the following statements? Please tell me for each statement whether you are for it or against it.**

### Country analysis

Statement	For		Against		Don't know	
	UK	EU 15	UK	EU 15	UK	EU 15
Teaching schoolchildren about the way the European Institutions work	68	81	18	10	13	9
The fact that the European Commission is composed of Commissioners coming from each of the Member States	59	72	17	10	24	18
Resignation of the President of the European Commission and Commissioners if they do not have the support of the majority of the European Parliament	55	67	17	11	28	22
EU being responsible for matters that cannot be effectively handled by national, regional and local governments	48	60	31	21	22	19
A common defence and security policy among EU Member States	48	70	35	19	18	12
Enlargement of the EU to include new countries	38	47	40	36	22	18
One common foreign policy among the Member States of the EU towards other countries	35	64	44	22	22	14
A European monetary union with one single currency - the euro	23	59	65	35	12	6

On all eight of these issues, the UK had a substantially greater 'don't know' factor than the EU15 average and, while, across the fifteen member states, in all instances, a majority of those polled were for the issue, on three of these matters (the euro, foreign policy and enlargement) a negative response was generated from the UK.

The most extreme negative related to the issue of European monetary union with **one single currency** which had the support of 59% of the EU15 compared with just 23% in the UK.

Similar patterns were seen in relation to the issue of **one common foreign policy** (64% compared to 35%) and **enlargement of the EU to include new countries** (47% to 38%).

The issue which found most support in the UK was that children should be taught about the way the European Institutions worked. This found favour with more than two out of three (68%) of the UK poll, although this figure is down from the 72% noted in the April 2003 poll.

### UK socio-demographic analysis

This analysis will look in detail at those three areas where the UK view was contrary to that expressed on average across the EU.

Of the 65% of UK citizens against the **euro** were 71% of people aged 55 or more compared with 62% of the youngest age group.

While there was only a small difference between the female (66%) and male (63%) figures, a substantial difference based upon education was noted.

Only 48% of those educated to age 20 or beyond were against the **euro**; this figure increases to 75% of those educated to age 15 or less.

Major differences were also observed by occupation with the 'against' camp numbering 73% of the retired compared with just 60% of managers and 57% of the self-employed.

The 44% of UK citizens who were against the idea of **one common foreign policy** showed no difference by gender, although the figures among those aged 15 to 24 were 36% compared with 50% of those aged 55 or more.

52% of people aged 55 or more were against **enlargement** compared with just 30% of those aged 15 to 24 amongst whom 49% were in favour of this policy.

There was a significant variation based upon educational level with 47% of the least educated being against enlargement compared with just 30% of those educated to age 20 and beyond and who, in fact, were substantially in favour of this policy.

The female 'don't know' score on this issue was a substantial 27% compared with 17% amongst men.

**Q. 30 For each of the following actions would you tell me if the following actions that the European Union could undertake should be a priority or not.**

**Country analysis**

Actions	A priority		Not a priority		Don't know	
	UK	EU 15	UK	EU 15	UK	EU 15
Fighting terrorism	89	89	5	7	6	4
Fighting organized crime and drug trafficking	88	88	6	8	6	4
Maintaining peace and security in Europe	85	89	8	7	7	4
Fighting illegal immigration	85	83	8	12	7	5
Fighting poverty and social exclusion	85	88	8	8	7	4
Protecting the environment	82	83	11	13	7	5
Fighting unemployment	80	90	12	6	8	4
Guaranteeing the quality of food products	78	83	14	12	8	5
Protecting consumers and guaranteeing the quality of other products	70	79	20	15	10	5
Guaranteeing the rights of the individual and respect for the principles of democracy in Europe	70	79	18	14	13	7
Getting closer to European citizens, for example, by giving them more information about the EU, its policies and its institutions	56	70	31	22	13	8
Reforming the institutions of the EU and the way they work	48	50	31	33	21	17
Asserting the political and diplomatic importance of the EU around the world	40	53	41	36	18	12
Welcoming new member countries	25	27	60	62	15	11
Successfully implementing the single European currency – the euro	22	58	64	34	14	8

Eight issues were common to both the UK and the average view taken across the Union in that they had the highest level of support in both with more than three out of four (78%) UK citizens deeming these issues to be of priority.

A major area of difference, however, relates to the **euro**, – the successful implementation of which is seen to be a priority by 58% of the EU15 as opposed to less than half that number (22%) in the UK.

**Asserting the political and diplomatic importance of the EU around the world** was also noticeably less important to UK citizens (40%) than to their counterparts across the EU15 (53%).

### **UK socio-demographic analysis**

There were no significant variations on a socio-demographic basis amongst the most important priorities cited by UK citizens to a large extent caused by the very high percentage levels of 85% or more.



**Q. 31 For each of the following areas, do you think action taken by the European Union is, or would be very effective, fairly effective, not very effective or not at all effective?**

Editor's note: In order to simplify the presentation of these data, the 'very' effective and 'fairly' effective actions are bundled to create 'effective' actions and, similarly, the 'not very' and 'not at all' effective actions are presented as 'not effective'.

**Country analysis**

Actions	Effective		Not effective		Don't know	
	UK	EU 15	UK	EU 15	UK	EU 15
Maintaining peace and security in Europe	54	68	27	22	19	10
Guaranteeing the quality of food products	52	56	29	34	19	11
Protecting consumers and guaranteeing the quality of other products	49	53	29	35	22	12
Guaranteeing the rights of the individual and respect for the principles of democracy in Europe	47	58	29	28	25	15
Fighting terrorism	47	53	36	35	17	11
Welcoming new member countries	47	50	24	31	28	18
Protecting the environment	46	48	35	41	19	11
Getting closer to European citizens, for example, by giving them more information about the EU, its policies and its institutions	41	46	38	42	22	12
Fighting organized crime and drug trafficking	40	45	41	43	20	12
Fighting poverty and social exclusion	38	35	42	50	19	10
Fighting unemployment	36	34	48	57	22	10
Asserting the political and diplomatic importance of the EU around the world	35	50	37	32	28	19
Successfully implementing the single European currency – the euro	33	54	44	31	21	10
Fighting illegal immigration	31	39	54	50	16	12
Reforming the institutions of the EU and the way they work	30	37	40	39	31	25

The gap between actions that EU citizens felt should be a priority (indicated in Q. 30) and the actual success in their implementation (Q. 31) is clearly shown here and the same applies to UK citizens.

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What is also highly noticeable are the substantially increased levels of 'don't knows' which, in the majority of cases, exceed 20% for the UK and are always double-digit when looking at the EU15 average.

The most effective area of action was seen to be the **maintenance of peace and security** in Europe – a view held by 54% of the UK poll and more than two-thirds (68%) of the EU15 average. These figures are, however, slightly down from the 58% and 69% seen a year previously.

In the wake of a number of food scares over the past years, 52% of the UK poll and 56% of that across the Union believed that action taken is effective in the area of **guaranteeing the quality of food products**. These figures compare with 57% seen in both the UK and EU15 twelve months before.

This view was also held with slightly lower figures (UK 49% and EU15 53%) on the broader issue of the **quality of other products**.

### **UK socio-demographic analysis**

60% of all males polled compared with 49% of females believed action **maintaining peace and security** to be effective and this view was also held by 63% of the youngest age group compared with just 48% of those aged 55 or more.

As time spent in education increased so did the belief that this action was effective with this view being held by just 48% of the least educated compared with 64% of those educated to age 20 or beyond.

48% of women thought EU action was effective in the area of **guaranteeing the quality of food products** compared with 57% of men.

Younger people had a more positive view than their older counterparts on this issue and 56% of those aged 15 to 24 saw EU action as being effective compared with just 49% of those aged 55 or more.

62% of those who had received the most education believe these actions to be effective compared with just 50% of those educated to age 15 or less.

39% of house persons as opposed to 59% of managers also held this positive view in the area of **guaranteeing the quality of food products**.

There were no significant variations by gender when the issue of the efficacy of the EU was raised in respect of **protecting consumers and guaranteeing the quality of other products**.

45% of those aged 55 or above believed EU action was effective – some way below the 54% of 15 to 24 year olds holding this view.

Amongst those educated to age 20 or beyond, 55% held this view compared with 45% of those who had left school aged 15 or less.

There were also noticeable variations by occupation with 36% of house persons deeming this action effective compared with 54% of managers and 50% of other white-collar workers.

**Q. 32 The European Union already has a Common Security and Foreign Policy and a European Security and Defence Policy. There is now a debate about how much further these should be developed. Do you tend to agree or tend to disagree with each of the following statements?**

### Country analysis

Statements	Tend to agree		Tend to disagree		Don't know	
	UK	EU 15	UK	EU 15	UK	EU 15
When an international crisis occurs, EU member states should agree a common position	71	81	14	9	15	10
The EU should have a rapid military reaction force that can be sent quickly to trouble spots when an international crisis occurs	68	69	18	19	14	13
The EU should have a common asylum policy towards asylum seekers	65	71	18	14	18	15
The EU should have a common immigration policy towards people from outside the European Union	64	71	16	13	20	15
EU foreign policy should be independent of US foreign policy	64	73	14	12	23	15
The EU should guarantee Human Rights in each member state, even if this is contrary to the wishes of some member states	62	76	14	9	24	15
The EU should work to guarantee Human Rights around the world, even if this is contrary to the wishes of some other countries	62	74	16	11	22	15
The EU should have its own Foreign Minister who can be the spokesperson for a common EU position	48	63	27	18	26	19
The EU should have its own seat on the UN Security Council	48	64	25	16	26	20
Member states which have opted for neutrality should have a say in EU foreign policy	35	47	36	30	29	23
Countries which will join the EU in 2004 as a result of enlargement should already have a say in EU foreign policy	31	35	43	45	26	20

The need for EU Member States to **agree a common position when faced with an international crisis** met with the agreement of eight out of ten (81%) of all EU citizens and was also the most widely accepted ideal amongst UK citizens where 71% tended to agree with the statement. Figures as high as 89% were observed in Italy while the lowest figure was, in fact, that seen in the UK.

The need for the EU to have a **rapid military reaction force** was accepted by more than two-thirds (68%) of UK and EU (69%) citizens. This was most welcomed by the Greeks and Italians (75%), while it was least popular amongst the Finns (53%).

81% of Greeks were the most enthusiastic EU Member State tending to agree that the Union should have a **common policy towards asylum seekers** and, while this was a view held by just 62% of Danes and 65% of UK citizens, the average EU15 figure was 71% taking this positive view.

There was a broad but small decline (usually of two percentage points) in the UK and EU15 figures compared with the views held earlier in 2003.

### **UK socio-demographic analysis**

Making up the 71% average in respect of the desirability of EU Member States agreeing a **common position when an international crisis** occurs, there were only minor variations by gender, age and education.

However, there was a wide disparity by occupation with this concept meeting with agreement from 79% of managers but only 63% of house persons and 62% of the unemployed.

The need for a **rapid military reaction force**, which met with the approval of 68% of the total poll, caused only minor variations by age, gender and education.

However, when looking at respondents' occupation, there was a noticeable difference between the 60% of house persons and 75% of managers taking this viewpoint.

There were only minor variations by gender, age and education amongst the 65% of UK citizens tending to agree that the EU should have a **common asylum policy**.

Once again, there were more noticeable variations by occupation with 74% of managers and 69% of the self-employed tending to agree with this concept compared with just 66% of manual workers, 55% of house persons and only 50% of the unemployed.

### Q. 33 In your opinion, should decisions concerning European defence policy be taken by national governments, NATO or the European Union?

#### Country analysis

	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	EU 15
<b>National governments</b>	17	32	24	25	23	22	34	11	16	21	36	32	46	37	32	24
<b>NATO</b>	19	29	15	1	13	9	9	12	16	26	9	7	3	7	24	15
<b>European Union</b>	49	29	44	66	46	49	34	66	53	43	40	46	42	40	23	45
<b>Other</b>	1	1	1	1	1	0	2	1	1	1	3	1	2	2	1	1
<b>DK</b>	14	9	17	16	14	8	15	19	23	10	12	10	13	14	21	15

Across the European Union, the most support on the question of decision-making concerning European defence came from 45% of those polled who believed that the decision should be made by the **European Union**, although this figure is down from the 49% holding this view in April 2003. The UK poll, however, gave this as the third option with just 23% of those polled taking this view - behind the 32% who believed that the decision should be made by the **UK government** and the 24% saying the decision should be made by **NATO**.

In the UK, the past six months have seen a two percentage point increase for both the **national government** and **NATO** options and a decline of three percentage points in the **EU** solution.

On this question, relatively high levels of 'don't knows' were seen with totals of 15% in general and 21% in the UK.

Taking away these 'don't know' figures and working on a net basis (i.e. those actually expressing an opinion) more than half (53%) of the EU15 sample favour the **European Union** decision-making option while, on the same basis, the largest support in the UK (41%) is accorded to the UK government as decision-maker.

Net figures for other countries show support from 73% of Italians and 71% of Greeks expressing a view for the **European Union** option, 32% of Danes for the **NATO** option and 50% of Finns who wished the decision to be made by their **national government**.

#### UK socio-demographic analysis

Making up the 32% average amongst UK citizens forming the largest group who believed these decisions should be made by the **national government** were higher than average figures from those with the most education (37%) and managers (41%).

The **NATO** option (favoured by 24% of the UK poll) found higher than average levels of support from those who had left school aged 15 or less (30%) and the retired (33%).

The **European Union** option which was favoured by 23% of the UK poll found substantially higher levels of support amongst those educated to age 20 or beyond where the preference level rose to 36%.

Young people (aged 15 to 24) also gave this a higher than average 28% level of support.

Compared with an average of 21% 'don't knows' noticeably higher figures were observed amongst women (28%), the unemployed (34%) and house persons (39%).

### Q. 34 Which of these three options do you prefer for the immediate future of the European Union?

#### Country analysis

	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	EU 15
The EU should be enlarged to include all the countries wishing to join	18	18	15	22	38	12	30	37	15	23	19	31	29	37	28	25
The EU should be enlarged to include only some of the countries wishing to join	38	58	41	57	34	35	38	32	43	50	43	36	41	26	28	37
The EU should not be enlarged to any additional countries	33	18	27	11	6	41	12	14	32	20	27	16	23	23	21	23
None of these	4	2	4	2	5	4	1	5	5	3	5	3	1	5	6	4
Don't know	7	5	13	9	17	8	19	12	6	4	6	14	6	10	18	12

The most popular option in this question on an EU15 basis was that the EU should be **enlarged to include only some of the countries wishing to join**. This average figure of 37% was considerably higher in the Netherlands (50%), Greece (57%) and Denmark (58%), while, in the UK, it was relatively low at 28%.

The UK figures show a gain from the 27% in early 2003, while the EU figures show a three percentage point fall.

This 28% was also the number of UK citizens who believed in an 'open door' policy which **would allow all countries who wished to join the EU being admitted**. This policy was particularly popular in Spain (38%) and Italy and Sweden (37% each), while the EU15 average was one in four of those polled at 25%.

23% of EU15 citizens favoured the 'shut door' policy whereby the EU **should not be enlarged to any additional countries**. This view found particular favour in France (41%), Belgium (33%) and Luxembourg (32%), while the figure in the UK was slightly less than the EU15 average at 21%.

The UK figures have not changed since early in 2003 while those of the EU15 show a two percentage point increase.

A substantial 19% of the Irish, 18% of the UK and 17% of the Spanish polls were unable to express an opinion. The UK figures show a polarisation of attitude as the 'don't know' figures are down slightly from the 21% earlier in the year and well below the 31% seen in 2001.

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## **UK socio-demographic analysis**

Making up the 18% 'don't knows' within the UK were substantial variations between the male figures of 11% and those of the female population which reached 23%.

Both genders contributed equally to the 6% average who specifically excluded all of the main options.

Making up the 28% of the UK poll who favoured the 'open door' policy thereby allowing all countries who wished to join to become members of the EU were 34% of those aged 15 to 24 compared to just 22% of those aged 55 or more.

There were noticeable variations by length of education with this view being taken by 33% of those educated to age 20 or beyond compared with just 22% of those who had left school aged 15 or younger.

While only 20% of the retired favoured this view, it was supported by 29% of managers and 34% of manual workers.

'Selective' enlargement of the EU allowing only some of those countries wishing to join to achieve membership was supported by a further 28% of the UK poll with just minor variations by age but greater support from those who had spent more time in education.

This option was particularly attractive to managers (40%) but found favour with only 25% of manual workers and 19% of house persons.

Making up the 21% of UK citizens who did not wish the EU to be enlarged were a relatively high percentage (28%) of people aged 55 or more compared with just 15% of those aged 15 to 39.

This 'shut door' policy was also more attractive to those people with least education with figures of 23% being noted amongst those who had left school aged 15 or younger compared with 18% of those educated to age 20 or more.

Retired people had 30% of their number supporting this option compared with just 16% of the unemployed and manual workers.

## V. REFORM OF EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS

### Q. 49 Do you think that the European Union should or should not have a constitution?

#### Country analysis

	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	EU 15
<b>Should</b>	68	46	63	74	65	60	53	74	66	67	64	55	49	63	48	62
<b>Should not</b>	15	33	9	10	8	8	6	5	9	16	6	9	33	13	14	10
<b>Don't know</b>	18	21	28	16	27	32	40	21	25	17	29	36	19	25	38	28

62% of the EU thought that the European Union should have a constitution and this figure rises to 74% in both Greece and Italy. EU15 figures in this report have remained relatively stable in surveys since 2001 at which point they were also 62%.

In the UK, support runs at just 48%, ahead of the 46% in Denmark and just behind the 49% in Finland. The UK figures have risen from 44% in 2001, although they are lower than the 52% noted in April 2003.

The level of 'don't knows' on this issue was very high with individual figures of as much as 40% from Ireland, 38% from the UK and 36% from Portugal all contributing to the EU15 average of 28%.

Even in France – the cradle of modern European constitutions – the 'don't know' factor reaches almost one in three of those polled – at 32%.

If the exercise is done to remove the 'don't know' element and focuses solely on those who expressed an opinion, the EU15 figure expressing this net position shows that 86% of those people expressing an opinion are in favour of the European Union having a constitution.

In Italy, this figure reaches 94%, in the UK 77% and even the lowest figure across the Union yields 58% approval in Denmark.

#### UK socio-demographic analysis

56% of males compared with just 42% of females thought that the European Union should have a constitution and this figure takes into account the 45% of women who did not express an opinion on this issue.

Amongst those supporting the idea, there were no noticeable variations by age but the idea received considerably more support from those with more education with 65% of those for whom the process had continued to age 20 taking this view compared with just 40% amongst people who had left school aged 15 or younger.

There were also substantial variations by occupation which were, as in the case of females noted above, strongly affected by high 'don't know' figures.

Accordingly, 56% of house persons did not express a view on this issue which was a contributory factor to the fact that only 33% of this group supported the idea of a constitution compared with 68% of managers and 65% of the self-employed.



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**Q. 50 Which, if any, of the following statements comes closest to your own opinion? The President of the European Commission should be.....**

Editor's note: To improve the flow of the text and to avoid unnecessary cross-referencing, the country-by-country statistics and the UK socio-demographics are put together in the analysis of each of these responses.

**Country and socio-demographic analysis**

	UK	EU15	High	Low
<b>Directly elected by the citizens of the European Union</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>L 50</b>	<b>FIN 19</b>
<b>Don't know</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>E 30</b>	<b>FIN 12</b>
<b>Chosen both by the European Parliament as well as Heads of State or Heads of Government</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>FIN 36</b>	<b>E 11</b>
<b>Solely elected by the European Parliament</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>NL 23</b>	<b>UK 9</b>
<b>Solely nominated by the Heads of State or Heads of Government of the EU</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>FIN 21</b>	<b>B 6</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>A 2</b>	<b>FIN 0</b>

A third of EU15 citizens (34%) and a slightly higher percentage (37%) of UK citizens made the **direct election of the President of the Commission by the citizens of the European Union** their most popular choice. In the previous survey, in April 2003, the figures in both the UK and EU15 were 33%.

This figure rises as high as 40% in Greece, 43% in Belgium and 50% in Luxembourg, while figures at the opposite end of the scale are noted in Finland (19%) and Sweden (26%).

In the UK, this option was selected by 40% of men and 34% of women and there were only minor variations by age or education. This method was also attractive to managers (49%) and students (43%), while less support was seen from house persons (29%) and the unemployed (30%).

'**Don't knows**' made up the next largest respondent group on this issue with figures of 28% in the UK, 29% in Portugal and Ireland, and 30% in Spain combining with figures of 12% in Finland and Luxembourg and 13% in Austrian, the Netherlands and Denmark to produce an EU15 average of 22%. The figures in the UK show a rise from 25% to 28% and, in the EU15, the increase is from 16% to 22%.

In the UK, this '**don't know**' stance was adopted by 35% of women compared with 20% of men.

As might be expected, education plays a noticeable part in this response with 31% of those who had left school aged 15 or younger being in the 'don't know' camp as opposed to only 15% of those educated to age 20 or beyond.

There were some major variations in these figures by occupation with 43% of the unemployed and 38% of house persons saying they **did not know** compared with just 9% of managers.

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The option that **the President of the European Commission should be chosen by both the European Parliament and the Heads of State or Heads of Government of the fifteen Member States** was the third most popular response attracting 18% of both the EU15 and the UK polls.

This option was particularly favoured by Finns (36%) and Swedes (31%), while it appealed to only 12% of Spaniards.

In the UK, this option had no major socio-demographic variations by age, gender or education and no clear pattern was established by respondents' occupation.

The option that the President of the Commission should be **solely elected by the European Parliament** found favour with just 9% of the UK and 15% of the EU15 poll, although high figures from Greece (20%) and the Netherlands (23%) were noted.

The least favoured of the specific options provided whereby the President of the Commission would be **solely nominated by the Heads of State or Heads of Government of the fifteen Member States of the EU** was the preferred option for just 7% of UK citizens and 11% of EU15 citizens although a noticeably higher level of support was observed among 21% of the Finnish poll.

**Q. 51 The European Council is composed of Heads of State or Heads of Government of member states and the President of the Commission. The presidency of the European Council is taken by each country in turn, for a period of six months. Do you think that.....**

1. **the six-month period should be retained because it gives each member state a chance to hold the Presidency of the European Union on a regular basis.**
2. **the period of the Presidency should be extended because six months is too short a period to achieve significant results.**
3. **Don't know.**

### Country analysis

	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	EU 15
<b>Retained</b>	27	48	24	37	26	22	30	35	37	27	44	32	46	35	18	27
<b>Extended</b>	53	39	53	45	36	59	34	45	50	60	36	41	44	50	49	49
<b>Don't know</b>	21	14	23	19	38	19	36	20	13	13	20	28	10	16	33	24

Virtually half (49%) of the individual UK poll and the EU15 average believed that the period of the Presidency should be **extended beyond six months in order to achieve significant results**. These figures are very similar to the 51% of the EU and 50% of the UK poll of April 2003. This view appealed to as many as 60% of the Dutch and 59% of the French in the poll.

Noticeably less support for this extended period was given by the Irish (34%) and the Austrian and Spanish polls where a figure of 36% was noted.

27% of EU15 citizens, however, took a contrary view and believed **the six-month period should be retained as it gives each Member State the chance to hold the Presidency on a regular basis**.

A number of countries were particularly keen for the current system to be continued and noticeably high figures in this respect were seen in Denmark (48%), Finland (46%) and Austria (44%). The UK figure in support of this was the lowest in the Union at just 18%.

Making up the 24% of EU15 citizens who **did not have an opinion** on this issue were high proportions of Spaniards (38%), Irish (36%) and UK citizens (33%).

### UK socio-demographic analysis

There was a higher percentage (54%) of men supporting the **extension of the Presidency period** than women (45%).

While there were no clear patterns established by age, 59% of those educated to age 20 or beyond, as opposed to just 44% of the least educated favoured this option.

67% of managers as opposed to just 34% of house persons opted for a **longer presidential period**.

Looking at the '**don't knows**' who made up a third of the UK poll were a noticeably higher percentage of women (39%) than men (25%).

Again, there were no noticeable variations by age, but, as might be expected, 38% of those educated to age 15 or less were in the 'don't know' camp compared with just 20% of those whose education had continued to age 20 and beyond.

**Q. 52 Currently, each member state has the right of veto in certain areas. In the future, should a right of veto.....**

**Country analysis**

	<b>UK</b>	<b>EU15</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Low</b>
<b>Be retained in order to preserve essential national interests</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>GR 65</b>	<b>E 29</b>
<b>Don't know</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>E 44</b>	<b>DK 9</b>
<b>Be limited to a very few essential areas</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>DK 30</b>	<b>E 15</b>
<b>Be given up for all decisions in order to make the European Union more efficient</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>B 19</b>	<b>GR 4</b>

40% of UK citizens and a similar 41% of EU15 citizens believed that the right of veto should **be retained in order to preserve essential national interests**. While the UK figure has not changed since earlier in 2003, the EU15 average has fallen sharply from 47% reflected in part by an increase of three percentage points among the 'don't knows'.

This view met with considerable favour amongst an absolute majority of Greeks (65%), Austrians (61%), Luxembourgers (54%) and Danes (53%).

At the other end of the scale, only 29% of Spaniards thought that the right of veto should be retained but this low figure is substantially affected by the 44% of Spaniards who did not express an opinion on this issue – a figure substantially greater than the 31% **'don't know'** factor in the UK and the overall 24% across the EU15.

The next most popular option held by 18% of UK citizens and 22% of citizens across the Union was that the right of veto should be **limited to a very few essential areas**.

This view was held by 30% of Danes but only 15% of Spaniards, Portuguese and Greeks.

Only one in eight UK citizens (12%) and a similar 13% of EU15 respondents supported the notion that the **veto should be given up totally in order to make the EU more efficient**. This somewhat draconian measure met with the approval of 19% of Belgians, 18% of the Dutch and 17% of the Italians but only 4% of Greeks.

**UK socio-demographic analysis**

**Retaining the right to the veto** was a more popular option amongst men (45%) than women (35%) but there were no major variations by age or education.

No clear patterns emerged by respondents' occupation in relation to this response.

The **'don't know'** option attracted 22% of the male and 39% of the female vote and was slightly more prevalent amongst younger people than their older counterparts.

Looking at the socio-demographic variants amongst those who believed the **right of veto should be limited to a very few essential areas** produced only minor variations by gender and age, but a substantial increase in line with longer time spent in education with figures of 16% for the least educated and 33% of those educated to age 20 or beyond.

32% of managers held this view compared with just 17% of manual workers and 10% of house persons and the unemployed.

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## VI. INFORMATION ON THE EU

### Q. 15 How much do you feel you know about the European Union, its policies and its institutions?

#### Country analysis

This question uses a subjective view of respondents' feelings as to their level of knowledge about the European Union with the figure one being allocated to those who considered they **knew nothing at all** on this subject rising to ten for those who considered they **knew a great deal**.

The statistic that emerges most strongly is that, compared with the EU15 average of 7% who claim to **know nothing at all** about this subject, the figure for the UK is twice as large at 14%. However, this is a radical improvement as the response to this question was 22% earlier in the year and at the turn of the century was 25%.

The EU figure for April 2003 was three percentage points higher at 10%.

Apart from figures of 13% in Portugal and 11% in Ireland, no other Member State had more than 8% in this category.

This 'know nothing' factor in the UK is reflected in all other parts of this self-assessment with the UK figures being consistently at the bottom end of the knowledge spectrum.

#### UK socio-demographic analysis

Looking in more depth at this '**know nothing**' grouping, there were more than twice as many women (19%) as men (8%) in this category

Unsurprisingly, education had a major effect on these figures with a minimal 2% of those educated to age 20 as opposed to 19% of those who had left school aged 15 or less making up this group.

Age was also a determinant, albeit less markedly than education, with 19% of people aged 15 to 24 compared with 11% of those aged 55 or more making up this 14% 'know nothing' average.

Turning to the figures relating to occupation, there were just 3% of managers in this '**know nothing**' category compared with 9% of other white-collar workers, 18% of manual workers, 25% of house persons and 28% of the unemployed.

As might be expected, the largest proportion of those educated to age 20 or beyond (23%) ranked themselves five in terms of knowledge on this zero to ten scale.

23% of managers ranked themselves four and a further 23% ranked themselves five on the same basis.

## Q. 16 Sources of information about the European Union

Editor's note: In this analysis, the broad phrase 'making use of the medium' relates solely to the use of a given medium for information about the EU and does not refer to general usage of this medium.

### Country and UK socio-demographic analysis

	UK	EU15	High	Low
Television	54	66	S 81	IRL 50
Daily newspapers	44	46	S 74	P 23
Radio	28	31	S 54	P 15
Never look for such information, not interested	25	17	IRL 28	L & S 7
Discussions with relatives, friends, colleagues	18	21	S 39	IRL 12
The Internet	18	16	NL 27	GR 7
Other newspapers, magazines	16	20	FIN 35	E 7
Books, brochures, information leaflets	10	9	S 26	P 3
EU info. on notice boards in libraries town halls, railway stations, post offices	4	3	FIN 9	P & S 2
National or regional government information offices	4	2	UK 4	GR 1
Trades Unions or professional associations	3	3	DK 7	P 0
A member of the European Parliament or a member of the UK Parliament	3	2	FIN 8	P 0
Meetings	3	3	S 5	P 1
EU info. offices, Euro-info Centres, Euro-info Points, Eurolibraries, etc.	2	2	FIN 7	E 0
Other organisations (consumer organisations, etc.)	2	2	DK 5	E 0
Don't know	2	1	D & UK 2	GR 0
CD-Rom	1	1	D 2	P 0
Other	1	1	S 3	GR 0

In this multiple choice question, **television** was cited by two-thirds of the EU15 poll (66%) as being a source of information about the European Union.

This medium was particularly favoured by Swedes (81%) and the Dutch (77%), while the UK at 54% had the lowest score apart from Ireland (50%). The UK figures, however, show a noticeable increase from 49% a year previously compared with a fall from 69% to 66% in the EU15 average over the same period.

Within the UK sample, this medium was used more by older people with 58% of those aged 55 or more selecting it compared with 45% of those in the youngest age group. This medium was also used in this way by 58% of men compared with 51% of women and 63% of those of the most educated compared with 54% of those who had left school aged 15 or younger.

**Daily newspapers** were one of the sources of information on the European Union for 44% of the UK sample and a similar 46% across the European Union.

Whilst only 23% of the Portuguese got their EU information in this way, the figure rises to 74% in Sweden.

Men (49%) made more use of this medium than women (40%), as did people aged 55 or more.

Higher levels of education also increased use of this medium with 56% of the best educated compared with 42% of the least educated listing it.

Managers (55%) and other white-collar workers (51%), as well as 50% of the retired were relatively heavy users of this medium compared with just 24% of the unemployed and 29% of house persons.

The press, however, suffers from being one of the least trusted sources of information.

**Radio** – one of the UK's more trusted sources of information (see Q. 6 passim) – was cited by 28% of UK citizens and 31% of the EU15 poll as a source of information on the EU.

Major users of this medium were the Swedes (54%), Luxembourgers (49%), Austrians (47%) and Danes (46%).

This medium had noticeably higher usage among men (34%) than women (23%), and 33% of those aged 55 or more compared with just 23% of those aged 15 to 24.

Those with the most education were also more likely to use this medium with those educated to age 20 or more having 36% of their number in this category compared to 27% of those at the other end of the educational scale.

41% of the self-employed and 40% of managers use this medium compared with just 19% of house persons.

A quarter (25%) of the UK sample **never looks for such information or were not interested** compared with an EU15 average of 17%.

The highest figures across the Union (28%) were observed in Ireland while this view only attracted only 7% of Swedish and Luxembourgish respondents.

In the UK, this response was given by 31% of women and 19% of men.

While there were no strong patterns established by age, this was a view that polarized respondents by educational level with just 9% of the most educated responding in this way compared with 30% of those who had left school aged 15 or younger.

There were noticeable variations by occupation with figures of 41% for the unemployed and 42% for house persons compared with just 12% of managers and 19% of other white-collar workers.

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**Discussions with relatives, friends, colleagues, etc.** - this method of obtaining information on the European Union was one used by 21% of EU15 citizens a figure composed of 18% of the UK poll and figures as varied as 11% of the Irish and 39% of the Swedish polls.

Within the UK, this information gathering method was more likely to be used by young people (23%) than those aged 55%+ (16%).

32% of the best educated compared with just 12% of the least educated used this forum for gathering EU information.

This was also an avenue used by 25% or more of managers, other white-collar workers and the self-employed compared with just 9% of house persons.

As a method of looking for this information, the **Internet** was selected by 18% of UK citizens and 16% of people across the European Union. The UK figures have doubled from the 8% figure of November 1999 and the EU15 average has also grown strongly from the 6% noted at the same time.

Noticeably higher figures involving more than a quarter of those countries' polls were seen in the Netherlands (27%), Sweden (27%), Denmark (27%) and Finland (26%).

Only 10% or less of Greeks, Portuguese and Spaniards made use of this medium.

There were more than twice as many men (24%) than women (11%) who used the Internet for this purpose.

There were also noticeable variations by age and education. 33% of people aged between 15 and 24 selected the medium compared to just 7% of those aged 55 or more.

Also, while only 5% of those educated to age 15 or less were in this category, more than seven times this number (37%) was observed among those educated until age 20 or more.

Variations in the 'wired society' were apparent when it is seen that only 5% of house persons used this medium compared with 38% of managers.

16% of the UK poll used **other newspapers and magazines** to look for information about the European Union compared with 20% of the EU15 average.

While the number of Spaniards using this medium was only 7%, it reaches 5% in Finland.

While there were only minor variations in the UK by gender or age, in the analysis of this medium, there were noticeable variations based on education and occupation.

While only 12% of those educated to age 15 or less used this medium, the figure rises to 22% of those at the other end of the educational scale.

Similarly, while this was a media choice of 30% of the self-employed and managers, the figure falls to just 11% of manual workers and house persons.

Books, brochures and information leaflets were one of the information sources chosen by 10% of UK citizens and a similar 9% average across the EU15.

This medium was, however, used by more than a quarter of Swedes (26%) compared with just 3% of the Portuguese and 4% of Greeks.



Within the UK, there were just minor variations by gender and age. However, 17% of the most educated used this medium as a source of information about the EU compared with just 5% who had had least amount of education.

While this medium was used by 18% of managers, the figures fall to just 6% of house persons and 4% of the unemployed.

The remaining potential sources about the European Union rate no more than 4% of the UK poll in any instance and do not achieve more than 3% support on an EU15 basis.

In fact, in the UK, using European Information Points, Euro Libraries, etc. has remained insignificant in the UK (2% in 2000 and 4% in 2003) – similar to the use of MEPs (2% in 2000 and 3% in 2003).

## Q. 17 Preferred sources of information about the European Union

This question was not asked to those people who said they never looked for information about the European Union.

### Country and UK socio-demographic analysis

	UK	EU15	High	Low
<b>From the television</b>	48	60	P 74	UK 48
<b>From daily newspapers</b>	37	39	NL 54	P 23
<b>From the radio</b>	25	28	DK 49	I 17
<b>A more detailed brochure</b>	22	21	F 24	P 11
<b>On the Internet</b>	18	15	DK 28	GR 7
<b>A short leaflet that just gives an overview</b>	16	16	S 28	E 9
<b>From other newspapers, magazines</b>	12	15	DK 21	GR 7
<b>A book giving you a complete description</b>	12	11	GR 15	A 4
<b>Don't know</b>	9	5	S 13	NL 0
<b>A video tape</b>	8	5	I 9	GR 1
<b>A computer terminal allowing you to consult databases</b>	6	5	I 8	GR 2
<b>From posters</b>	4	4	S 6	GR 1
<b>A CD-Rom</b>	3	5	L 6	GR 1
<b>I do not want information about the European Union</b>	2	2	A 6	DK, GR, FIN & S 1
<b>None of these ways</b>	1	1	GR 2	DK 0

The five most preferred sources of information viewed from a UK perspective are now analysed in more detail with reference both externally to EU15 averages and internally into UK socio-economic data.

**Television** was the preferred source of information about the European Union by both the domestic UK (48%) and EU15 (60%) polls.

In fact, compared with the other Union countries, the UK had the lowest figure while, in Portugal, the figure rises to 74%.

Marginally more men (51%) than women (46%) would prefer to use this medium and while there were no clear patterns established by age, this option contrary to the pattern shown in Q. 16, shows a greater preference (52%) from the less educated than the most educated (44%).

There were no discernible patterns with respect to occupation.

39% of EU15 and 37% of UK citizens would like to get information on the European Union from their **daily newspapers**. On looking at the EU15 as a whole, this was the medium selected by 54% of the Dutch poll but only 23% of the Portuguese.

In the UK, this figure has risen (if somewhat erratically) from 26% in 1999, while, across the EU, the figures have remained relatively flat.

Within the UK, daily newspapers were an option selected by 40% of men and 33% of women.

No clear patterns emerged based upon age, educational level or by occupation.

**Radio** was given as one of the preferred options for this purpose by 25% of UK and 28% of EU15 citizens. Again, in the UK, this figure shows a steady increase virtually doubling from 13% in 1999, while EU15 figures again remain fairly steady.

Across the European Union, the medium was most selected for this purpose by the Danes (49%) while it was one of the choices of just 17% of the Italian sample.

Of the 25% making up the UK average, there were minimal variations by age or education while it was the choice of 30% of males but only 21% of females.

The sample sizes by occupation become relatively small and interpretation of these data is potentially unsound.

**A more detailed brochure** appeals to very similar percentages of the UK poll (22%) and the EU15 average (21%).

This means of distributing information on the European Union finds slightly higher than average favour with 24% of French and Germans but is an option selected by only 11% of the Portuguese.

Within the UK, there are marginal variations by gender and age and the sample size by occupation again renders accurate analysis a risky process.

However, this medium gains the support of 32% of the most educated compared with just 19% of other educational categories.

While on average 15% of EU15 citizens would prefer to use the **Internet** as a source of information on this area, the figures range from just 7% in Greece and 10% in Spain and Portugal to 28% in Denmark. The UK figure is at the higher end of the range at 18%.

It is worth commenting that the growth of Internet as a preferred source has doubled on an EU15 basis from 7% in 1999 to 15% in the latest poll and figures in the UK show an increase trebling from 6% to 18% over the same period.

As might be expected, the socio-demographic profile of those wishing to use the Internet for this purpose is very much skewed on an age/educational basis.

Accordingly, 32% of those educated to age 20 and 33% of 15 to 24 year olds select this option compared with just 5% of those who left education aged 15 or earlier and 8% of those aged 55 or more.

There is also a notable variation between the male (22%) and female (14%) preference figures.

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There were also substantial differences between preferences of the self-employed (36%), managers (35%) and groupings such as manual workers (12%), house persons (8%) and the retired (5%).

The next two preferred sources in the UK were **other newspapers and magazines** and **a book giving a complete description** - both with 12% support.

**Q. 18 Generally speaking, do you think that the (NATIONALITY) media talk too much, about the right amount, or too little about the European Union?**

**Country analysis**

	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	EU 15
<b>Too much</b>	8	7	3	10	22	15	10	7	5	4	9	8	9	8	17	11
<b>About the right amount</b>	57	70	45	41	50	45	53	40	58	36	56	38	63	56	35	44
<b>Too little</b>	29	20	40	42	22	35	21	48	28	51	25	41	25	32	34	37
<b>DK</b>	6	4	12	7	7	5	16	5	9	9	10	13	3	4	14	9

The largest proportion of UK respondents (35%) felt that the level of media coverage of the EU was **about the right amount**. This feeling was held by 44% of the EU15 average and particularly high figures were noted in Denmark (70%), Finland (63%), Austria and Sweden (56%) and Ireland (53%).

There was, however, a substantial number of EU citizens who felt that the level of media coverage on this subject was **too little**.

This sentiment is seen more clearly when the percentage of those feeling that media coverage was **too much** are compared within this group.

Accordingly, 34% of UK citizens and 37% across the Union feel that there is **too little** media coverage compared with figures of just 17% and 11% respectively for those believing in media coverage being **too much**.

Noticeably hungry for more information on EU matters was the Netherlands where the **too little/too much** ratio was 51% to 4%, Italy (48%/7%), Greece (42%/10%) and Portugal (41%/8%).

**UK socio-demographic analysis**

There were broadly very small variations by socio-demographic factors on this particular issue indicating that, although 35% of UK citizens think there is about the right amount of media coverage there is a noticeable division of opinion on this important issue with twice as many people considering that media coverage is too light on EU issues than those taking the contrary view.

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**Q. 19 And, do you think that the (NATIONALITY) media present the European Union too positively, objectively or too negatively?**
**Country analysis**

	<b>B</b>	<b>DK</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>GR</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>IRL</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>NL</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>FIN</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>UK</b>	<b>EU 15</b>
<b>Too positively</b>	20	23	20	24	40	24	14	27	27	20	28	16	36	28	12	23
<b>Objectively</b>	57	59	42	54	38	39	50	38	49	47	50	46	53	47	35	41
<b>Too negatively</b>	9	9	7	6	4	16	7	9	8	14	6	13	4	13	27	12
<b>Don't know</b>	15	9	31	16	18	22	30	26	16	19	17	25	7	13	27	24

The key result of this question is that more than a quarter (27%) of UK citizens believe that the UK media present the European Union too negatively compared with less than half (12%) this number who think it is presented too positively.

This 27% of UK citizens believing that the media paint too gloomy a picture is more than twice the EU15 average and substantially ahead of the country with the next highest score (France with 16%).

The UK 'don't know' figure is 27% - slightly ahead of an unusually high EU15 average figure of 24%.

The statistic is that only 12% of UK citizens believe that the national media take **too positive** a view on EU matters is virtually half the 23% EU15 average and well below the 40% recorded in Spain and 36% in Finland.

35% of the UK poll believed the media presented an objective picture in this area – some six percentage points behind the 41% EU15 average.

**UK socio-demographic analysis**

Making up the 27% of the UK poll who believed that media coverage of the EU was too negative were 31% of men and 24% of women.

There were minimal variations by age but the figure rises to 44% of the most educated compared with 25% of those who had left school aged 15 or less.

Managers were in the vanguard of people holding this view with 41% - some three times as high a figure as the 13% recorded amongst the unemployed.

**ANNEX I****STANDARD EUROBAROMETER 60.1  
TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS**

**Between 1<sup>st</sup> October 2003 and 7<sup>th</sup> November 2003, 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 60.1 of the standard Eurobarometer, on request of the EUROPEAN COMMISSION, Directorate-General Press and Communication, Opinion Polls.**

The Standard EUROBAROMETER 60.1 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 N<sup>th</sup> 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.

<u>COUNTRIES</u>	<u>INSTITUTES</u>	<u>N° INTERVIEWS</u>	<u>FIELDWORK DATES</u>	<u>POPULATION 15+ (x 000)</u>
Belgium	INRA/IPSOS BELGIUM	1022	7/10 – 7/11	8,458
Denmark	GfK DENMARK	1000	9/10 – 5/11	4,355
Germany (East)	INRA/IPSOS DEUTSCHLAND	1023	4/10 – 24/10	13,164
Germany (West)	INRA/IPSOS DEUTSCHLAND	1016	4/10 – 24/10	56,319
Greece	MARKET ANALYSIS	1001	6/10 – 2/11	8,899
Spain	INRA/IPSOS ESPAÑA	1000	6/10 – 1/11	34,239
France	CSA-TMO	1015	9/10 – 27/10	47,936
Ireland	LANSDOWNE Market Research	1014	6/10 – 30/10	3,004
Italy	Demoskopea	1008	1/10 – 28/10	49,531
Luxembourg	ILRes	587	3/10 – 7/11	357
The Netherlands	INTOMART	1006	7/10 – 4/11	13,010
Austria	SPECTRA	1010	3/10 – 29/10	6,770
Portugal	METRIS	1000	3/10 – 28/10	8,620
Finland	MDC MARKETING RESEARCH	1018	9/10 – 5/11	4,245
Sweden	GfK SVERIGE	1000	1/10 – 3/11	7,252
Great Britain	MARTIN HAMBLIN LTD	1055	1/10 – 5/11	46,370
Northern Ireland	ULSTER MARKETING SURVEYS	307	7/10 – 28/10	1,314
TOTAL NUMBER OF INTERVIEWS		16082		

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 or national statistic offices. 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/public\\_opinion/](http://europa.eu.int/comm/public_opinion/). All Eurobarometer datafiles are stored at the Zentral Archiv (Universität Köln, Bachemer Strasse, 40, D-50869 Köln-Lindenthal), available through the CESSDA Database <http://www.nsd.uib.no/cessda/europe.html>. They are at the disposal of all institutes members of the European Consortium for Political Research (Essex), of the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (Michigan) and of all those interested in social science research.

Readers are reminded that survey results are estimations, the accuracy of which, everything being equal, rests upon the sample size and upon the observed percentage. With samples of about 1,000 interviews, the real percentages vary within the following confidence limits:

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%

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**ANNEX II**

A. YOUR SURVEY NUMBER

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B. COUNTRY CODE

--	--

C. OUR SURVEY NUMBER

6	0	1
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D. INTERVIEW NUMBER

--	--	--	--	--	--

Q.1. What is your nationality? Please tell me the country(ies) that applies(y).  
(MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

Belgium

1,

Denmark

2,

Germany

3,

Greece

4,

Spain

5,

France

6,

Ireland

7,

Italy

8,

—&gt; Q.2

Luxembourg

9,

Netherlands

10,

Portugal

11,

United Kingdom (Great Britain, Northern Ireland)

12,

Austria

13,

Sweden

14,

Finland

15,

Other countries

16,

—> Close  
interview

DK

17,

EB60.0 - Q.1. - TREND

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

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

EB59.1 - Q.2. - TREND

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 ..... 1  
from time to time ..... 2  
rarely ..... 3  
never ..... 4  
DK..... 5

EB59.1 - Q.3. - TREND

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

EB58.1. - Q. 4. - TREND

Q. 5. What are your expectations for the year to come: will 2004 be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?

	READ OUT	BETTER	WORSE	SAME	DK
1	your life in general	1	2	3	4
2	the economic situation in (OUR COUNTRY)	1	2	3	4
3	the financial situation of your household	1	2	3	4
4	the employment situation in (OUR COUNTRY)	1	2	3	4
5	your personal job situation	1	2	3	4

EB58.1 - Q. 5. - TREND

Q.6. 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	1	2	3
2	Radio	1	2	3
3	Television	1	2	3
4	Justice/the (NATIONALITY) legal system	1	2	3
5	The police	1	2	3
6	The army	1	2	3
7	The religious institutions	1	2	3
8	Trade unions	1	2	3
9	Political parties	1	2	3
10	Big companies	1	2	3
11	The (NATIONALITY) government	1	2	3
12	The (NATIONALITY) Parliament (USE PROPER NAME FOR LOWER HOUSE - FR: "ASSEMBLEE NATIONALE", GE: "BUNDESTAG", UK: "HOUSE OF COMMONS")	1	2	3
13	The European Union	1	2	3
14	The United Nations	1	2	3
15	Charitable or voluntary organisations	1	2	3

EB59.1 - Q.4. - TREND

**Let's continue with some questions on the European Union.**

Q.7. Generally speaking, do you think that (OUR COUNTRY)'s membership of the European Union is...?

- a good thing ..... 1
- a bad thing ..... 2
- neither good nor bad ..... 3
- DK ..... 4

EB59.1 - Q.9. - TREND

Q.8. Taking everything into consideration, would you say that (OUR COUNTRY) has on balance benefited or not from being a member of the European Union?

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

EB59.1 - Q.10. - TREND

Q.9. In general, does the European Union conjure up for you a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image?

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

EB59.1 - Q.11. - TREND

Q.10. What does the European Union mean to you personally? (SHOW CARD - READ OUT - MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE - ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM/BOTTOM TO TOP)

Peace.....	1,
Economic prosperity .....	2,
Social protection .....	3,
Freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the European Union.....	4,
Cultural diversity .....	5,
Stronger say in the world .....	6,
Euro .....	7,
Unemployment.....	8,
Bureaucracy.....	9,
Waste of money .....	10,
Loss of our cultural identity .....	11,
More crime.....	12,
Not enough control at external frontiers .....	13,
Other (SPONTANEOUS) .....	14,
DK.....	15,

EB59.1 - Q.13. - TREND

Q.11. Does the European Union give you personally the feeling of...? (SHOW CARD - READ OUT - MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

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

EB57.1 - Q.30. - TREND

- Q.12. a) In your opinion, what is the current speed of building Europe? Please look at these figures (SHOW CARD WITH SCALE). N°1 is standing still, N°7 is running as fast as possible. Choose the one which best corresponds with your opinion of the current speed of building Europe?

b) And which corresponds best to the speed you would like? (SHOW SAME CARD)

READ OUT		Q. 12. a.	Q. 12. b.
		CURRENT SPEED	DESIRED SPEED
1	standstill	1	1
2		2	2
3		3	3
4		4	4
5		5	5
6		6	6
7	runs as fast as possible	7	7
8	DK	8	8

EB58.1 - Q. 17. a. & 17. b.- TREND

- Q.13. Are you, yourself, for or against the development towards a European political union? (M)

For ..... 1  
 Against ..... 2  
 DK ..... 3

EB32 - Q.42. – TREND MODIFIED

- Q.14. 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 ..... 1  
 Indifferent ..... 2  
 Very relieved ..... 3  
 DK ..... 4

EB57.1 - Q.17. - TREND



- Q.15. Using this scale, how much do you feel you know about the European Union, its policies, its institutions? (SHOW CARD WITH SCALE)

KNOW NOTHING AT ALL								KNOW A GREAT DEAL		DK
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11

EB58.1 - Q. 9. - TREND

- Q.16. When you are looking for information about the European Union, its policies, its institutions, which of the following sources do you use? Which else? (SHOW CARD - READ OUT - MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

Meetings .....	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 Centers, 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 European Parliament or a member of (NATIONAL PARLIAMENT) .....	15,
Other (SPONTANEOUS) .....	16,
Never look for such information, not interested (SPONTANEOUS) .....	17, GO TO Q.18.
DK .....	18,

EB58.1 - Q. 10. - TREND

**DO NOT ASK THOSE WHO ANSWERED "NEVER LOOK FOR SUCH INFORMATION, NOT INTERESTED", CODE 17 IN Q.16.**

Q.17. In general, how would you prefer to get information about the European Union?  
How else?

(SHOW CARD - READ OUT - MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

A short leaflet, that just gives an overview .....	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,

**EB58.1 - Q. 12. - TREND**

**ASK ALL**

Q.18. Generally speaking, do you think that the (NATIONALITY) media talk too much, about the right amount or too little about the European Union?

Too much .....	1
About the right amount .....	2
Too little .....	3
DK .....	4

**EB60.1 - NEW**

Q.19. And do you think that the (NATIONALITY) media present the European Union too positively, objectively or too negatively?

Too positively .....	1
Objectively .....	2
Too negatively .....	3
DK .....	4

**EB60.1 - NEW**

Q.20. Have you heard of...?

	READ OUT	YES	NO	DK
1	the European Parliament	1	2	3
2	the European Commission	1	2	3
3	the Council of Ministers of the European Union	1	2	3
4	the Court of Justice of the European Union	1	2	3
5	the European Ombudsman	1	2	3
6	the European Central Bank	1	2	3
7	the European Court of Auditors	1	2	3
8	the Committee of the Regions of the European Union	1	2	3
9	the Economic and Social Committee of the European Union	1	2	3

EB59.1 - Q.15. - TREND MODIFIED

Q.21. And for each of the following European bodies, 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	1	2	3
2	The European Commission	1	2	3
3	The Council of Ministers of the European Union	1	2	3
4	The Court of Justice of the European Union	1	2	3
5	The European Ombudsman	1	2	3
6	The European Central Bank	1	2	3
7	The European Court of Auditors	1	2	3
8	The Committee of the Regions of the European Union	1	2	3
9	The Economic and Social Committee of the European Union	1	2	3

EB59.1 - Q.16. - TREND MODIFIED

Q.22. And, for each of them, 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 European Parliament	1	2	3
2	The European Commission	1	2	3
3	The Council of Ministers of the European Union	1	2	3
4	The Court of Justice of the European Union	1	2	3
5	The European Ombudsman	1	2	3
6	The European Central Bank	1	2	3
7	The European Court of Auditors	1	2	3
8	The Committee of the Regions of the European Union	1	2	3
9	The Economic and Social Committee of the European Union	1	2	3

EB59.1 - Q.17. - TREND MODIFIED

Q.23. a) On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the way democracy works in (OUR COUNTRY)? (SHOW CARD WITH SCALE)

b) And how about the way democracy works in the European Union? (SHOW SAME CARD)

	READ OUT	VERY SATISFIED	FAIRLY SATISFIED	NOT VERY SATISFIED	NOT AT ALL SATISFIED	DK
Q. 23.a	In (OUR COUNTRY)	1	2	3	4	5
Q. 23.b	In the European Union	1	2	3	4	5

EB58.1 - Q. 22. a. & b. - TREND

**ASK Q.24. AND Q.25. ONLY IN ITALY**

Q.24. In the European Union, each member state, in turn, becomes the President of the Council of Ministers for six months. Right now, it's the turn of Italy. Have you recently read in the newspapers or heard on the radio or television anything about the Italian presidency?

Yes ..... 1

No ..... 2

DK ..... 3

EB59.1 - Q. 18. - TREND

Q.25. Whether you have heard about it or not, do you think it is important or not that Italy is President of the Council of Ministers of the European Union at this time? Would you say it is...? (READ OUT)

very important .....	1
important .....	2
not very important .....	3
not at all important .....	4
DK .....	5

EB59.1 - Q. 19. - TREND

### ASK ALL

Q.26. What do you think are the two most important issues facing (OUR COUNTRY) at the moment? (SHOW CARD - READ OUT - MAX. 2 ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

Crime .....	1,
Public transport .....	2,
Economic situation .....	3,
Rising prices/inflation .....	4,
Taxation .....	5,
Unemployment .....	6,
Terrorism .....	7,
Defence/Foreign affairs .....	8,
Housing .....	9,
Immigration .....	10,
Health care system .....	11,
The educational system .....	12,
Pensions .....	13,
Protecting the environment .....	14,
Other (SPONTANEOUS) .....	15,
DK .....	16,

EB59.1 - Q.5. - TREND

Q.27. And for each of the following issues in (OUR COUNTRY), do you think that the European Union plays a positive role, a negative role or neither positive nor negative role?

	READ OUT	POSITIVE ROLE	NEGATIVE ROLE	NEITHER POSITIVE NOR NEGATIVE ROLE	DK
1	Fighting crime	1	2	3	4
2	Public transport	1	2	3	4
3	The economic situation	1	2	3	4
4	Rising prices/inflation	1	2	3	4
5	Taxation	1	2	3	4
6	Fighting unemployment	1	2	3	4
7	Fighting terrorism	1	2	3	4
8	Defence	1	2	3	4
9	Foreign affairs	1	2	3	4
10	Housing	1	2	3	4
11	Immigration	1	2	3	4
12	Health care system	1	2	3	4
13	The educational system	1	2	3	4
14	Pensions	1	2	3	4
15	Protecting the environment	1	2	3	4

EB60.1 - NEW

Q.28. a) For each of the following areas, do you think that decisions should be made by the (NATIONALITY) government, or made jointly within the European Union?

	READ OUT - ROTATE	(NATIONALITY) GOVERNMENT	JOINTLY WITHIN EUROPEAN UNION	DK
1	Defence	1	2	3
2	Protection of the environment	1	2	3
3	Currency	1	2	3
4	Humanitarian aid	1	2	3
5	Health and social welfare	1	2	3
6	Basic rules for broadcasting and press	1	2	3
7	Fight against poverty/social exclusion	1	2	3
8	The fight against unemployment	1	2	3
9	Agriculture and fishing policy	1	2	3
10	The support to regions which are experiencing economic difficulties	1	2	3
11	Education	1	2	3
12	Scientific and technological research	1	2	3
13	Information about the European Union, its policies and institutions	1	2	3
14	Foreign policy towards countries outside the European Union	1	2	3
15	Cultural policy	1	2	3

EB58.1 - Q. 25. a. - TREND

Q.28. b) And, for each of the following?

	READ OUT - ROTATE	(NATIONALITY) GOVERNMENT	JOINTLY WITHIN EUROPEAN UNION	DK
1	Immigration policy	1	2	3
2	Rules for political asylum	1	2	3
3	The fight against organised crime	1	2	3
4	Police	1	2	3
5	Justice	1	2	3
6	Accepting refugees	1	2	3
7	Juvenile crime prevention	1	2	3
8	Urban crime prevention	1	2	3
9	The fight against drugs	1	2	3
10	The fight against the trade in, and exploitation of, human beings	1	2	3
11	The fight against international terrorism	1	2	3
12	Tackling the challenges of an ageing population	1	2	3

EB58.1 - Q. 25. b. - TREND



Q.29. 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	1	2	3
2	One common foreign policy among the member states of the European Union, towards other countries	1	2	3
3	A common defence and security policy among European Union member states	1	2	3
4	The enlargement of the European Union to include new countries	1	2	3
5	The European Union being responsible for matters that cannot be effectively handled by national, regional and local governments	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	1	2	3
7	Teaching school children about the way European Union institutions work	1	2	3
8	The fact that the European Commission is composed of commissioners coming from each of the member states (N)	1	2	3

EB59.1 - Q.23. - TREND MODIFIED

Q.30. 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	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	1	2	3
3	Successfully implementing the single European currency, the euro	1	2	3
4	Fighting poverty and social exclusion	1	2	3
5	Protecting the environment	1	2	3
6	Guaranteeing the quality of food products	1	2	3
7	Protecting consumers and guaranteeing the quality of other products	1	2	3
8	Fighting unemployment	1	2	3
9	Reforming the institutions of the European Union and the way they work	1	2	3
10	Fighting organised crime and drug trafficking	1	2	3
11	Asserting the political and diplomatic importance of the European Union around the world	1	2	3
12	Maintaining peace and security in Europe	1	2	3
13	Guaranteeing the rights of the individual and respect for the principles of democracy in Europe	1	2	3
14	Fighting terrorism	1	2	3
15	Fighting illegal immigration	1	2	3

EB58.1 - Q. 27. - TREND

Q.31. For each of the following areas, do you think action taken by the European Union is, or would be very effective, fairly effective, not very effective or not at all effective? (SHOW CARD WITH SCALE)

	READ OUT	VERY EFFECTIVE	FAIRLY EFFECTIVE	NOT VERY EFFECTIVE	NOT AT ALL EFFECTIVE	DK
1	Welcoming new member countries	1	2	3	4	5
2	Getting closer to European citizens, for example by giving them more information about the European Union, its policies and its institutions	1	2	3	4	5
3	Successfully implementing the single European currency, the euro	1	2	3	4	5
4	Fighting poverty and social exclusion	1	2	3	4	5
5	Protecting the environment	1	2	3	4	5
6	Guaranteeing the quality of food products	1	2	3	4	5
7	Protecting consumers and guaranteeing the quality of other products	1	2	3	4	5
8	Fighting unemployment	1	2	3	4	5
9	Reforming the institutions of the European Union and the way they work	1	2	3	4	5
10	Fighting organised crime and drug trafficking	1	2	3	4	5
11	Asserting the political and diplomatic importance of the European Union around the world	1	2	3	4	5
12	Maintaining peace and security in Europe	1	2	3	4	5
13	Guaranteeing the rights of the individual and respect for the principles of democracy in Europe	1	2	3	4	5
14	Fighting terrorism	1	2	3	4	5
15	Fighting illegal immigration	1	2	3	4	5

EB58.1 - Q. 28. - TREND

- Q.32. The European Union already has a Common Security and Foreign Policy and a European Security and Defence Policy. There is now a debate about how much further these should be developed. 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 European Union should have a rapid military reaction force that can be sent quickly to trouble spots when an international crisis occurs	1	2	3
2	When an international crisis occurs, European Union member states should agree a common position	1	2	3
3	The European Union should have its own Foreign Minister, who can be the spokesperson for a common European Union position	1	2	3
4	The European Union should have its own seat on the United Nations Security Council	1	2	3
5	Member states which have opted for neutrality should have a say in European Union foreign policy	1	2	3
6	Countries which will join the European Union in 2004 as a result of enlargement should already have a say in European Union foreign policy	1	2	3
7	European Union foreign policy should be independent of United States foreign policy	1	2	3
8	The European Union should guarantee Human Rights in each member state, even if this is contrary to the wishes of some member states	1	2	3
9	The European Union should work to guarantee Human Rights around the world, even if this is contrary to the wishes of some other countries	1	2	3
10	The European Union should have a common immigration policy towards people from outside the European Union	1	2	3
11	The European Union should have a common asylum policy towards asylum seekers	1	2	3

EB59.1 - Q.24. - TREND

- Q.33. In your opinion, should decisions concerning European defence policy be taken by national government, by NATO or by the European Union? (ONE ANSWER ONLY)

National governments ..... 1  
 NATO ..... 2  
 The European Union ..... 3  
 Other (SPONTANEOUS) ..... 4  
 DK ..... 5

EB58.1 - Q. 30. - TREND

Q.34. Which of these three options do you prefer for the immediate future of the European Union?  
(SHOW CARD - READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY)

The European Union should be enlarged to include all the countries wishing to join..... 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 any additional countries ..... 3

None of these (SPONTANEOUS)..... 4

DK..... 5

EB59.1 - Q.46. - TREND

Q.43. In the near future, do you see yourself as...? (SHOW CARD - READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY)

(NATIONALITY) only .....	1
(NATIONALITY) and European.....	2
European and (NATIONALITY).....	3
European only.....	4
DK.....	5

EB59.1 - Q.12. - TREND

Q.44. 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 .....	1
Fairly proud.....	2
Not very proud .....	3
Not at all proud.....	4
DK.....	5

EB57.1 - Q.28. - TREND

Q.45. 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 .....	1
Fairly proud.....	2
Not very proud .....	3
Not at all proud.....	4
DK.....	5

EB57.1 - Q.29. - TREND

Q.46. People may feel different degrees of attachment to their town or village, to their region, to their country or to European Union. Please tell me how attached you feel to...

a) your city/town/village? (SHOW CARD WITH SCALE)

b) your region? (SHOW SAME CARD)

c) (OUR COUNTRY)? (SHOW SAME CARD)

d) Europe? (SHOW SAME CARD)

	READ OUT	VERY ATTACHED	FAIRLY ATTACHED	NOT VERY ATTACHED	NOT AT ALL ATTACHED	DK
a	your city/town/village	1	2	3	4	5
b	your region	1	2	3	4	5
c	(OUR COUNTRY)	1	2	3	4	5
d	Europe (M)	1	2	3	4	5

EB58.1 - Q. 31. - TREND MODIFIED

Q.47. In your opinion, would you say that the United States tend to play a positive role, a negative role or neither a positive nor a negative role regarding...?

	READ OUT	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE	NEITHER POSITIVE NOR NEGATIVE	DK
1	peace in the world	1	2	3	4
2	the fight against terrorism	1	2	3	4
3	growth of the world economy	1	2	3	4
4	the fight against poverty in the world	1	2	3	4
5	protection of the environment	1	2	3	4

EB59.1 - Q.27. - TREND

Q.48. And in your opinion, does the European Union play a positive role, a negative role or neither positive nor negative role regarding...?

	READ OUT	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE	NEITHER POSITIVE NOR NEGATIVE	DK
1	peace in the world	1	2	3	4
2	the fight against terrorism	1	2	3	4
3	The growth of the world economy	1	2	3	4
4	the fight against poverty in the world	1	2	3	4
5	The protection of the environment	1	2	3	4

EB60.1 - NEW

Q.49. Do you think that the European Union should or should not have a Constitution?

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

EB59.1 - Q.30. - TREND

Q.50. Which, if any, of the following statements comes closest to your own opinion? The President of the European Commission should be...? (SHOW CARD - READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY)

solely nominated by the Heads of State or Heads of Government of the European Union ..... 1  
solely elected by the European Parliament ..... 2  
chosen both by the European Parliament as well as Heads  
of State or Heads of Government ..... 3  
directly elected by the citizens of the European Union..... 4  
other (SPONTANEOUS) ..... 5  
DK..... 6

EB59.1 - Q.34. - TREND



- Q.51. The European Council is composed of Heads of State or Heads of Government of member states and the President of the Commission. The presidency of the European Council is taken by each country in turn, for a period of six months. Do you think that...? (READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY)

the six-month period should be retained because it gives each member state a chance  
to hold the Presidency of the European Union on a regular basis ..... 1

the period of the Presidency should be extended because six months is too  
short to achieve significant results ..... 2

DK..... 3

EB59.1 - Q.35. - TREND

- Q.52. Currently, each member state has the right of veto in certain areas. In the future, should a right of veto...?

be retained in order to preserve essential national interests ..... 1

be limited to a very few essential areas ..... 2

be given up for all decisions in order to make the European Union more efficient ..... 3

DK..... 4

EB59.1 - Q.36. - TREND

**DEMOGRAPHICS**

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

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

Refusal..... 11

DK..... 12

**EB60.0 - D.1. - DEMO TREND****NO QUESTIONS D.2. TO D.6.**

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

Married..... 1

Remarried ..... 2

Unmarried, currently living with partner..... 3

Unmarried, having never lived with a partner..... 4

Unmarried, having previously lived with a partner, but now on my own..... 5

Divorced..... 6

Separated ..... 7

Widowed ..... 8

Other (SPONTANEOUS) ..... 9

Refusal (SPONTANEOUS)..... 10

**EB60.0 - D.7. - DEMO TREND**

- D.8. How old were you when you stopped full-time education? (INT.:IF "STILL STUDYING", CODE '00')

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**EB60.0 - D.8. - DEMO TREND****NO QUESTION D.9.**

- D.10. Gender.

Male ..... 1

Female..... 2

**EB60.0 - D.10. - DEMO TREND**

- D.11. How old are you?

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EB60.0 - D.11. - DEMO TREND  
**NO QUESTION D.12. TO D.14.**

D.15. a) What is your current occupation?

**IF NOT DOING ANY PAID WORK CURRENTLY – CODES 1 TO 4 IN D. 15. a.**

b) Did you do any paid work in the past? What was your last occupation?

	<b>D.15.a.</b> CURRENT OCCUPATION	<b>D.15.b.</b> LAST OCCUPATION
NON-ACTIVE	1	
Responsible for ordinary shopping and looking after the home, or without any current occupation, not working		
Student		
Unemployed or temporarily not working		
Retired or unable to work through illness	4	
SELF EMPLOYED	5	1
Farmer		
Fisherman		
Professional (lawyer, medical practitioner, accountant, architect, etc.)	7	3
Owner of a shop, craftsmen, other self-employed person	8	4
<b>Business proprietors, owner (full or partner) of a company</b>	9	5
EMPLOYED	10	6
Employed professional (employed doctor, lawyer, accountant, architect)		
<b>General management, director or top management (managing directors, director general, other director)</b>	11	7
<b>Middle management, other management (department head, junior manager, teacher, technician)</b>	12	8
<b>Employed position, working mainly at a desk</b>	13	9
<b>Employed position, not at a desk but travelling (salesmen, driver, etc.)</b>	14	10
<b>Employed position, not at a desk, but in a service job (hospital, restaurant, police, fireman, etc.)</b>	15	11
<b>Supervisor</b>	16	12
<b>Skilled manual worker</b>	17	13
<b>Other (unskilled) manual worker, servant</b>	18	14
<b>NEVER DID ANY PAID WORK</b>		15

## EB60.0 - D.15. - DEMO TREND

**NO QUESTIONS D.16. TO D.18.**D.19. Are you in your household, the person who contributes most to the household income?  
(READ OUT)

Yes ..... 1

No ..... 2

Both equally ..... 3

DK ..... 4

EB60.0 - D.19. - DEMO TREND

**NO QUESTION D.20.****IF "NO", CODE 2 IN D.19.**

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

**IF "NOT DOING ANY PAID WORK CURRENTLY", CODE 1 TO 4 IN D.21.a.**

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

	<b>D.21.a.</b> CURRENT OCCUPATION	<b>D.21.b.</b> LAST OCCUPATION
<b>NON-ACTIVE</b>	1	
Responsible for ordinary shopping and looking after the home, or without any current occupation, not working		
Student		
Unemployed or temporarily not working		
Retired or unable to work through illness		
<b>SELF EMPLOYED</b>	5	1
Farmer		
Fisherman		
Professional (lawyer, medical practitioner, accountant, architect, etc.)		
Owner of a shop, craftsmen, other self-employed person		
<b>Business proprietors, owner (full or partner) of a company</b>	9	5
<b>EMPLOYED</b>	10	6
Employed professional (employed doctor, lawyer, accountant, architect)		
<b>General management, director or top management (managing directors, director general, other director)</b>		
<b>Middle management, other management (department head, junior manager, teacher, technician)</b>		
<b>Employed position, working mainly at a desk</b>		
<b>Employed position, not at a desk but travelling (salesmen, driver, etc.)</b>	14	10
<b>Employed position, not at a desk, but in a service job (hospital, restaurant, police, fireman, etc.)</b>	15	11
<b>Supervisor</b>	16	12
<b>Skilled manual worker</b>	17	13
<b>Other (unskilled) manual worker, servant</b>	18	14
<b>NEVER DID ANY PAID WORK</b>		15

EB60.0 - D.21. a. &amp; b. - DEMO TREND

**NO QUESTIONS D.22. TO D.24.**

D.25.	Would you say you live in a...? (READ OUT)	
	rural area or village .....	1
	small or middle sized town .....	2
	large town .....	3
	DK.....	4

**EB60.0 - D.25. - DEMO TREND****NO QUESTIONS D.26. TO 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 CARD) 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.	
	B .....	1
	T.....	2
	P .....	3
	F.....	4
	E .....	5
	H .....	6
	L.....	7
	N .....	8
	R .....	9
	M.....	10
	S .....	11
	K .....	12
	Refusal.....	13
	DK.....	14

**EB60.0 - D.29. - DEMO TREND**

**INTERVIEW PROTOCOLE**

P.1. - DATE OF INTERVIEW	DAY		MONTH	

P.2. - TIME OF THE BEGINNING OF THE INTERVIEW	HOUR		MINUTES	
(INT.:USE 24 HOUR CLOCK)				

P.3. - NUMBER OF MINUTES THE INTERVIEW LASTED	MINUTES		

- P.4. Number of persons present during the interview, including interviewer.
- Two (interviewer and respondent)..... 1
- Three ..... 2
- Four ..... 3
- Five or more..... 4

- P.5. Respondent cooperation
- Excellent ..... 1
- Fair..... 2
- Average ..... 3
- Bad ..... 4

- P.6. Size of locality (LOCAL CODES)

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- P.7. Region (LOCAL CODES)

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- P.8. Postal code

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P.9. Sample point number

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P.10. Interviewer number

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P.11. Weighting factor

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P.12. a) Fixed telephone available in the household?

Yes ..... 1

No..... 2

b) Mobile telephone available in the household?

Yes ..... 1

No..... 2

**ASK ONLY IN LUXEMBOURG, BELGIUM AND FINLAND**

P.13. Language of interview

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