



*Standard Eurobarometer*



European  
Commission

# EUROBAROMETER 63.4

PUBLIC OPINION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

## SPRING 2005

NATIONAL REPORT  
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY  
**LUXEMBOURG**

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## **Luxembourg Eurobarometer Survey**

# **Very reserved attitude towards the future expansion of the EU**

Only one-third of Luxembourg's population is in favour of the future enlargement of the EU

The first six months of 2005 were marked by two major 'European' events in Luxembourg. The first was Luxembourg's Presidency of the Council of Ministers and the second was the referendum of the Treaty establishing the European Constitution, held on the 10<sup>th</sup> July 2005. European topics have, for more than six months, dominated the political events of the day. The various official meetings that were held in Luxembourg were given wide coverage by the media, and the two European Summits held during the first six months of 2005 were directly reported on.

The Eurobarometer Survey 63.4 undertaken on behalf of the European Commission during spring 2005 examines the ways of and views on life of the population in the 25 EU Member States. The image of the European Union and trust in European and national political institutions were also analysed.

The European Union, acting on the world stage, receives strong support from Luxembourg's population. The majority of those who participated in the Eurobarometer Survey in Luxembourg clearly stated they are not in favour of the future expansion of the EU.

The Eurobarometer Survey sample requires that +/- 1.000 persons be interviewed in each EU country. Luxembourg's quota for EB 63.4 was 504 due to the fact that three-quarters of the population are Luxembourg nationals and one-quarter of the population are nationals of other European countries. In his comment, the special report, which was drawn up for the Representative of the European Commission in Luxembourg, is referring to Luxembourg's population overall, rather than uniquely residents of Luxembourgish nationality.

### **Reference to contentedness with the way of life and pessimism regarding employment market developments**

A high proportion (95%) of the Luxembourg poll is satisfied with their way of life. Most residents do not expect their own situation to change within the next year and more than 40% expect an improvement of their own situation within the next 5 years. Despite the fact that in the employment market most expect there to be a setback within the next 12 months, not many people expect their own professional situation to change for the worse. With regard to the entity of the EU, the population in Luxembourg believes that their own situation is better and that the quality of life has outpaced the EU as a whole.

### **Luxembourg, Roman Catholic and cosmopolitan**

Luxembourg is a cosmopolitan country where more than one-third of the population is of another nationality, and one-third of the workforce comprises commuters coming from the three neighbouring countries (France, Belgium and Germany). Simply to communicate on a daily basis, the country's residents are well able to use several languages. French at 97% is ahead of German (which is at 89%), which, in turn, is followed by Luxembourgish (87%). In fourth position is English at 67%. English is

becoming more and more essential for an increasing number of people, mainly for professional reasons.

Luxembourg remains a Catholic country with 79% stating that it was their religion. However, the number of churchgoing Catholics is slowly decreasing among the younger age groups.

### **High levels of trust in national and European institutions**

The residents of Luxembourg, in general, place great trust in their institutions – above all, in their government (68%), their legal system (65%) and their House of Parliament. These scores have not changed since the Eurobarometer survey in autumn 2004. In Luxembourg, which is where the headquarters of several European institutions are, trust in European institutions is far greater than in other EU countries in general. Levels of trust in Luxembourg's national institutions are equal to levels of trust in the European Union. It is generally noted that the people who trust the national institutions tend to trust the European Union as well (and vice versa).

Luxembourg is in favour of being a member of the EU, with 80% of the poll registering a positive opinion (decrease of 5 points since autumn 2004). This is the highest score in any of the European member countries. This result is due to the fact that 72% of Luxembourg residents believe that being a member of the EU is of great benefit to their country. This number has not changed since autumn 2004.

### **Luxembourg's Presidency of the Council of Ministers benefits from high levels of awareness and is perceived as important**

In Luxembourg, 82% of the people interviewed know about Luxembourg's EU Presidency. Interviewed about the importance of Luxembourg's Presidency of the Council of Ministers, more than three-quarters of the population consider it to have been important.

### **The image of the European Union: Common currency, freedom of movement and peace**

In Luxembourg, the EU has a positive image among 58% of the population (61% in autumn 2004, -3 points); 11% of the population (+ 2 points) hold a negative image and almost one-third decline to give an opinion. For the population of Luxembourg, the EU mainly represents the common currency – with almost identical levels for freedom of movement and peace. The sense of belonging to their country is important to nine out of ten citizens both in the EU and in Luxembourg; however, Luxembourg residents feel considerably more attached to the EU than EU citizens do as a whole.

### **A good knowledge and sufficient information about the European Union, but insufficient awareness about the structure of the EU's budget**

Luxembourg residents have a much higher level of knowledge about the EU than most of the other residents of the EU. Luxembourg is situated in second place behind the Netherlands and Denmark. There has been a slight increase in the figure since the last Eurobarometer survey in autumn 2004. The main sources of information are television, radio and newspapers both in the EU25 overall and in Luxembourg. In Luxembourg, the figures for viewing television news and reading daily newspapers are higher than in other EU countries. With regard to the information about European matters, television broadcast is way ahead of the printed press and radio. A major number of people think they get sufficient information about the EU through the media.

Almost one in three people interviewed thinks that the most important part of EU budget expenditure is on administrative tasks and personnel and building expenses. Only 21% (EU: 17%) correctly know that the greatest proportion of expenditure relates to the agricultural sector. There has been no major change in the figures in this regard since autumn 2004

### **The Luxembourg poll judges the role of the EU regarding environmental protection and peace positively**

The role of the EU (environmental protection, peace, economic growth, fight against poverty and terrorism) is seen as positive by European citizens in general, particularly in Luxembourg. Luxembourg residents think that their country's economic situation and that of the EU is good. This view is shared by most of those surveyed throughout the EU.

### **A weaker economy in Europe than in the United States and in Japan, but a stronger social welfare in Europe**

The economy of the European Union is weaker than the one of the United States and Japan. Only one-third of the people interviewed in Luxembourg (EU: 35%) think that the EU could become the strongest global economic power within the next five years.

Levels of social welfare in the EU are globally judged to be ahead of the United States. On the other hand, the United States is seen to be further ahead in terms of research, innovation and entrepreneurial spirit.

Globalization is equated with delocalization for the majority of the people interviewed in both Luxembourg and in the EU. For 7 out of 10 people, the motive behind delocalization is the search for profit.

### **Rejection of the future expansion of the EU in Luxembourg and in most of the other countries in the EU**

Together with Germany, Austria and France, Luxembourg is against the future expansion of the EU. The membership of Turkey and Albania was most strongly opposed. However, certain countries that have not currently got EU membership applications pending (Norway, Switzerland and Iceland) would be welcome to join.