



Standard Eurobarometer



European
Commission

EUROBAROMETER 64

PUBLIC OPINION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

FIRST RESULTS

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http://europa.eu.int/comm/public_opinion/index_en.htm

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INTRODUCTION

The current Standard Eurobarometer was carried out between 10 October and 5 November 2005 in a difficult political context of the aftermath of the negative referenda on the European Constitution in France and in the Netherlands and difficult discussions on the budget of the European Union.

Clearly, these events have made their mark on public opinion, making the name of the survey all the more relevant: a barometer measures something at a specific point in time and that fluctuates as conditions and context change. This Standard Eurobarometer reflects the public opinion of Europeans at a time of reflection and debate. On a positive note, it should be stated that confidence in the economy has improved over the past sixth months. Though the economic situation and unemployment in particular continue to concern many Europeans, optimistic forecasts about the national situation tend to have a positive influence in the public's perception of the European Union.

This Standard Eurobarometer covers 30 countries or territories: the 25 Member States, the two accession countries (Bulgaria and Rumania) and the two candidate countries (Croatia and Turkey). It was commissioned by the Directorate-General Press and Communication of the European Commission and was carried out by TNS Opinion & Social, a consortium formed by TNS and EOS Gallup Europe. The methodology used is that of the Standard Eurobarometer surveys of the Directorate-General Press and Communication ("Opinion Polls, Press Reviews, Europe Direct" Unit). A technical note concerning the interviews, carried out by the institutes of the TNS Opinion & Social network, is annexed to this report. This note specifies the interview method used, as well as the confidence intervals¹.

***The Eurobarometer web site can be consulted at the following address:
http://europa.eu.int/comm/public_opinion/index_en.htm***

¹ The results tables are included in the annex. The totals indicated may show a one point difference with the sum of the individual units. This might be due to the rounding of some results. It should also be noted that the total of the percentages in the tables of this report may exceed 100% when the respondent has the possibility to give several answers to the same question.

The countries are represented by their official abbreviations. The abbreviations used in this report correspond to:

ABBREVIATIONS

EU25	European Union - 25 Member States
EU15	European Union - 15 Member States before the most recent enlargement (1 st May 2004)
NMS	New Member States – 10 Member States which joined the EU during the last enlargement
BE	Belgium
CZ	Czech Republic
DK	Denmark
DE	Germany
EE	Estonia
EL	Greece
ES	Spain
FR	France
IE	Ireland
IT	Italy
CY	Republic of Cyprus*
LV	Latvia
LT	Lithuania
LU	Luxembourg
HU	Hungary
MT	Malta
NL	The Netherlands
AT	Austria
PL	Poland
PT	Portugal
SI	Slovenia
SK	Slovakia
FI	Finland
SE	Sweden
UK	The United Kingdom

* Cyprus as a whole is one of the 25 European Union Member States. However, the “acquis communautaire” is suspended in the part of the country that is not controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus. For practical reasons, only the interviews conducted in the part of the country controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus are recorded in the category “CY” and included in the EU25 average. If results of the sample in the non-government controlled areas are displayed, these are abbreviated as “CY(tcc)” (Turkish Cypriot community).

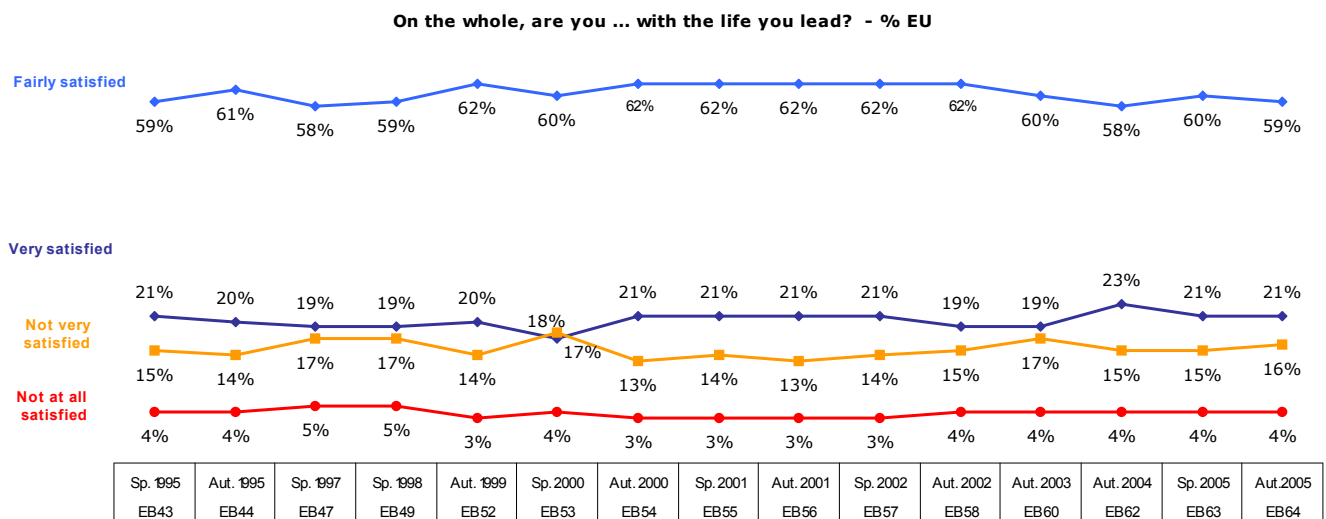
1. The climate of opinion

In this first chapter we present the climate of opinion in Europe as a backdrop to people's attitudes about the European Union, its policies and its institutions. What is the state of mind of European citizens at the end of 2005 and what are their expectations and main concerns for the coming year?

1.1. Life satisfaction

- Life satisfaction remains positive -

The level of satisfaction of European citizens with the life that they lead shows little change over time. Their state of mind is positive and the vast majority of people in the European Union are on the whole satisfied with the life that they lead (80%)².



However, this average level of satisfaction hides differences between results obtained in the new Member States and those coming from the former EU15. There is indeed a 13 points difference in the intensity of this perception: 69% are globally satisfied with the life they lead in the new Member States while 82% share the same view in the former EU15.

² QA3. On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the life you lead?

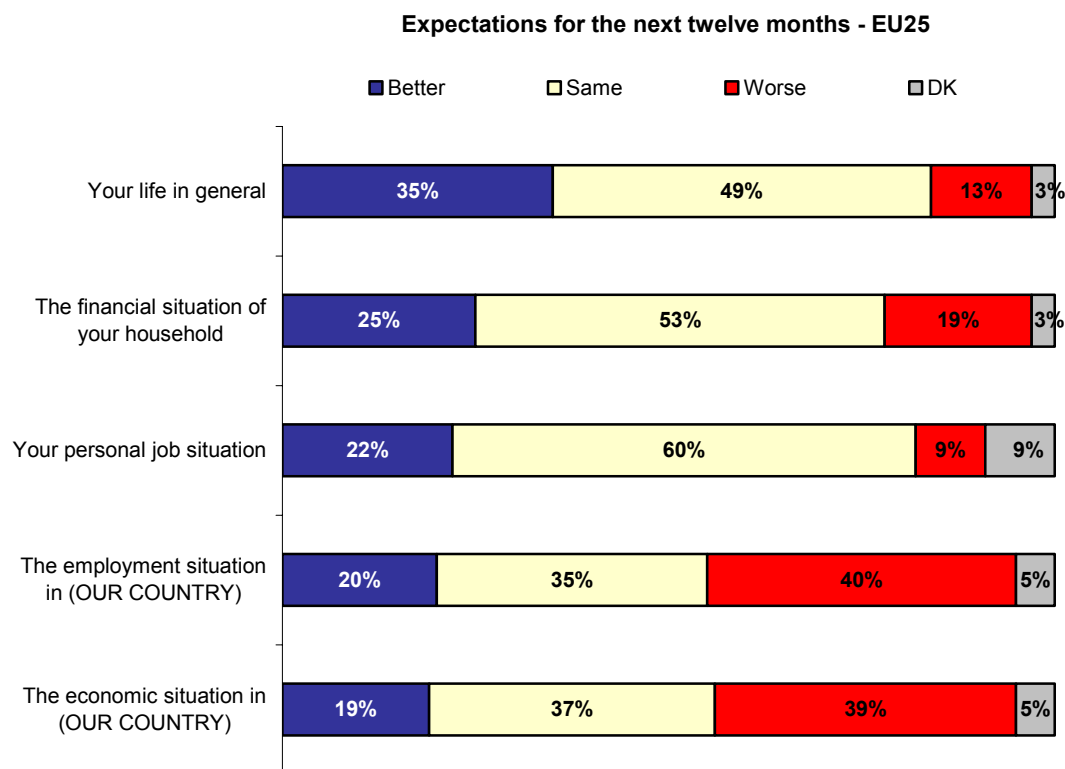
1.2. Future expectations

European citizens hold positive expectations about their personal situation. They are less optimistic about the employment situation and the economic situation in their country. However, there are large variations between the Member States³.

- Sustained pessimism about the national economic and employment situation -

The most positive expectation concerns **life in general**: 35% of respondents believe that it will improve over the next twelve months, while 49% do not expect any changes and only 13% believe that it will be worse. These results are very similar to those obtained last spring.

European citizens are also relatively optimistic about **the financial situation of their household** and **their personal job situation**. Nonetheless, a substantial minority (19%) believes that the financial situation of their household will worsen over the next twelve months.



The confidence expressed by interviewees about their personal situation stands in sharp contrast to the way they feel about **the employment and economic situation in their country**. The most widespread expectation is that these two aspects will deteriorate over the next twelve months (40% and 39%, respectively).

³ QA4. What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will they be better, worse or the same, when it comes to ...?

1° your life in general 2° the economic situation in (OUR COUNTRY) 3° the financial situation of your household 4° the employment situation in (OUR COUNTRY) 5° your personal job situation

However, in comparison to the spring 2005 survey, expectations about the employment situation reveal a slightly more upbeat state of mind. The proportion of positive responses has increased by two points whilst negative responses are now two points lower.

Furthermore, the pessimistic outlook in respect of these two national indicators certainly does not pertain to all Member States. In fact, in Estonia, Lithuania, Ireland and Denmark, citizens with optimistic expectations for the next twelve months outnumber those with pessimistic expectations. At the same time, in Portugal, Greece and Cyprus, more than six out of ten respondents believe that both the economic situation as well as the employment situation in their country will get worse in the next twelve months.

1.3. The main concerns of European citizens

The pessimism expressed about the national economy and employment situation is also exemplified by the replies of respondents concerning the two most important problems confronting their country.

- Unemployment still the dominant concern though significantly less so than in spring 2005 -

Unemployment is the preponderant concern: advanced by 44% of respondents, it is still the main worry among citizens, though the extent to which EU citizens consider unemployment to be one of the most important problems confronting their country has gone down for the first time since 2003 (-6 points)⁴.

As in spring 2005, at 57% concerns about unemployment continue to affect a much broader spectrum of the population in the new Member States than is the case in the fifteen old Member States (42%). However, the noted positive development applies to an equal degree to the new Member States and the old Member States.

The **economic situation** is the second most frequently mentioned concern. At 26%, this score has not changed significantly since the previous survey. In the fifteen old Member States, the extent to which this is a concern ranges from 4% in Ireland to 43% in Germany. In the new Member States, it is most widespread in Malta (44%) and least widespread in Estonia (16%).

For one European citizen out of four, **crime** is one of the most important issues facing their country (24%). This issue comes in third place. Though at the level of the European Union as a whole this figure has remained stable over the past year, significant shifts have been recorded at the country level. The largest increase has occurred in the United Kingdom (41%, +10 points); the largest decrease has been recorded in Austria (14%, -10 points) and Hungary (19%, -10 points). Concern for this issue ranges from 10% in Malta to 46% in Lithuania.

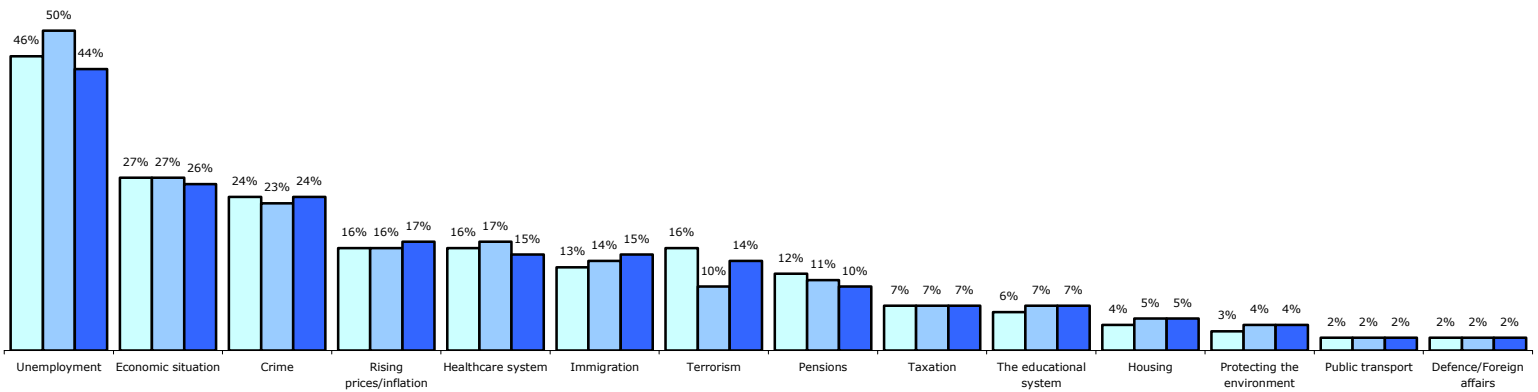
⁴ QA30. What do you think are the two most important issues facing (OUR COUNTRY) at the moment?

Price increases, healthcare systems, immigration, terrorism and pensions form a second group of concerns with scores ranging between 17% and 10%. In comparison to spring 2005, more people now consider **terrorism** one of the two most important issues facing their country. However, this increase is limited to a few countries, and in particular those where terrorist attacks or threats took place. In the UK, a 20 point increase has been recorded (from 14% to 34%) and in the Netherlands an increase of 18 points has been recorded (from 22% to 40%). At 32%, concern for this issue has also increased significantly in Denmark, despite the absence of attacks or real threats (+20 points). In other countries like Germany (4%) or Portugal (1%) and in the new Member States (3%) terrorism is not an important issue.

Following the March 2004 attacks in Spain, 31% of Spanish respondents are still concerned, though this has steadily declined from 59% in autumn 2004 and 46% in spring 2005.

The two most important issues facing (OUR COUNTRY) at the moment - % EU

EB62 Aut. 2004 EB63 Sp.2005 EB64 Aut.2005



2. Being a member of the European Union today

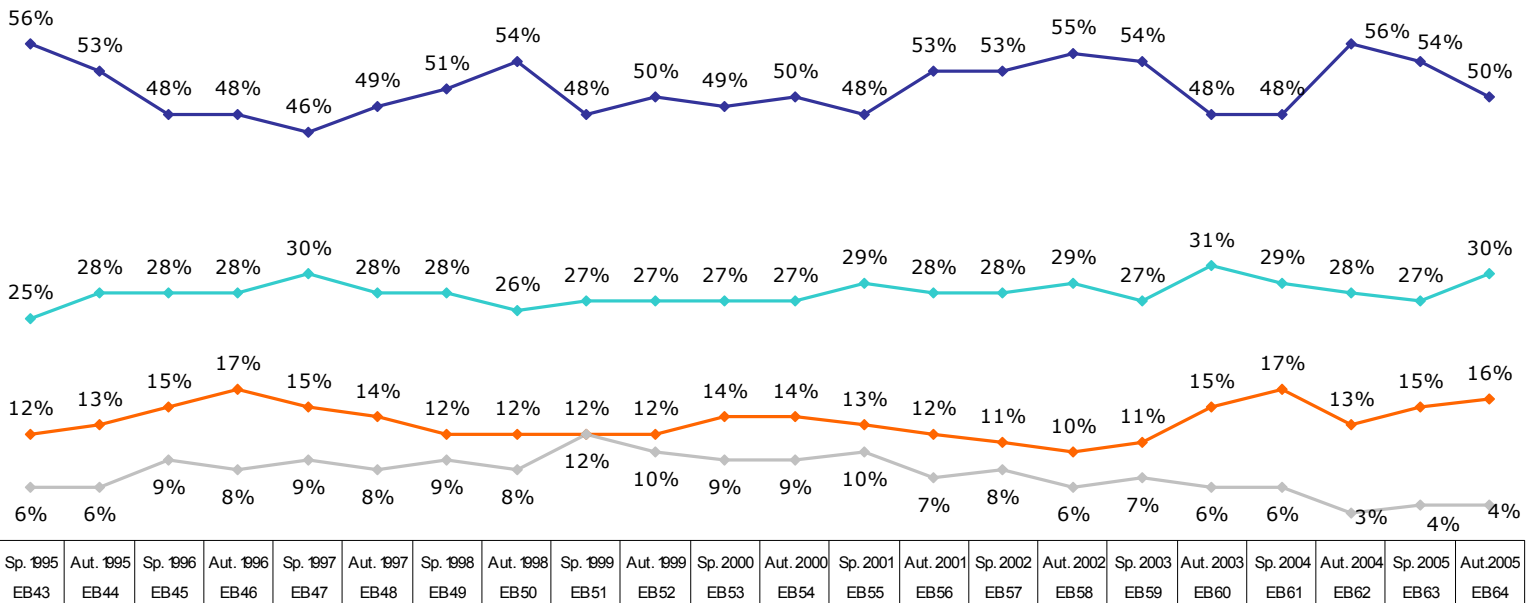
2.1. Support for membership of the European Union

- Slight decline in support for European Union membership -

After the significant increase recorded in autumn 2004 following the accession of 10 new Member States, **the view that one country's membership to the European Union is a good thing has slightly decreased from 54% to 50%**⁵.

Support to the membership of the European Union - % EU

◆ A good thing ◆ A bad thing ◆ Neither good nor bad ◆ DK

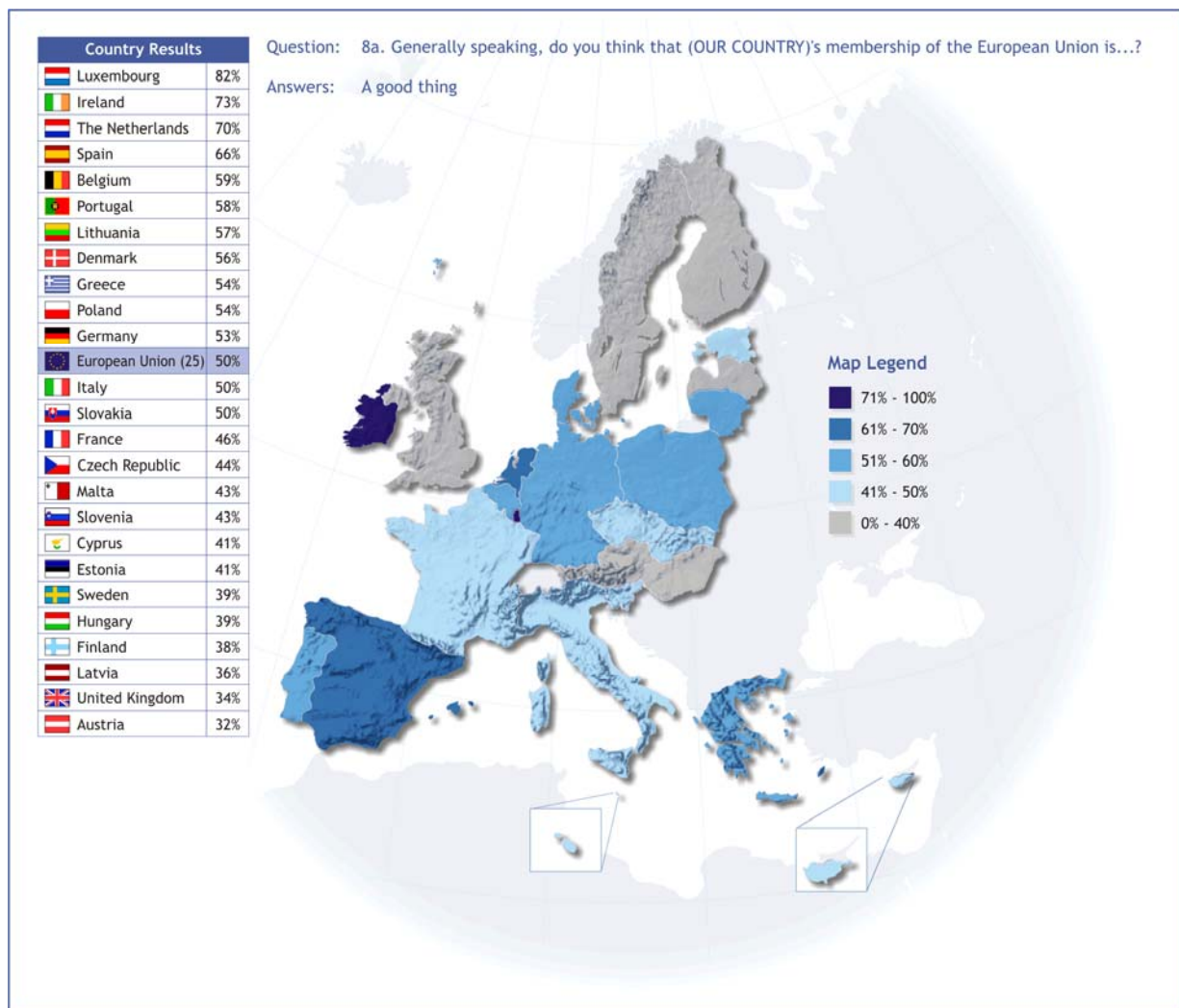


⁵ QA8. Generally speaking, do you think that (OUR COUNTRY)'s membership of the European Union is ...? - a good thing - a bad thing - neither good nor bad

At 16%, opposition to membership to the European Union remains low. Negative opinions only exceed 20% of the survey population in the countries which are traditionally more sceptical about the building of Europe, namely Sweden (32%), the United Kingdom (28%), Austria (25%) and Finland (22%).

The much noted cleavages in public opinion between Member States continue to exist:

- ◆ In the countries that are part of the **euro zone**, there generally is broad consensus that membership of the European Union is a good thing for them (54%). The six countries with highest support levels are all euro zone members, headed by Luxembourg (82%).
- ◆ Two euro zone countries – Austria and Finland – form a clear exception and are generally grouped together with the UK and Sweden as **countries where scepticism towards the European Union reigns**.
- ◆ In the **new Member States**, public opinion remains somewhat volatile and the level of “neutral” replies in these countries is particularly high. This is particularly true in Latvia (47%), Slovenia (46%), the Czech Republic (44%), Estonia, Hungary and Slovakia (all 42%).



A country analysis of the shifts in the percentages since the previous survey shows the following developments:

- ◆ No significant shifts or only very minor shifts took place since spring 2005 in Spain, Ireland, Cyprus, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, Poland and the United Kingdom.
- ◆ A shift away from outright support and towards more neutral opinions has been recorded in the Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, France, Italy, Slovenia and Slovakia. In Greece, recorded increases in neutral opinions are not mirrored by a decrease in outright support.
- ◆ In Belgium, support for membership clearly dropped and is accompanied by a significant increase in opposition. The same applies to a lesser extent to the Netherlands, Finland, Sweden, Latvia and Portugal. In Austria, the significant drop of 5 points is not accompanied by a significant increase in levels of opposition and public opinion is now more diffuse.

% A good thing	Spring 2005	Autumn 2005	Diff. Sp. 2005/ Aut. 2005
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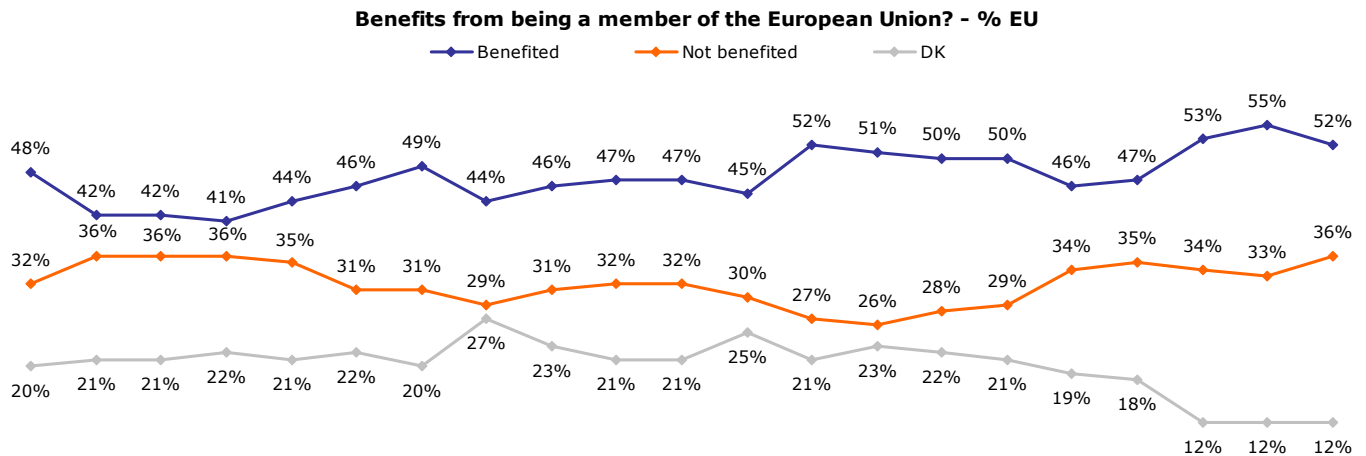
EU25	54%	50%	-4
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MT	40%	43%	+3
LU	80%	82%	+2
PL	53%	54%	+1
ES	66%	66%	0
IE	75%	73%	-2
LT	59%	57%	-2
EL	56%	54%	-2
CY	43%	41%	-2
UK	36%	34%	-2
DK	59%	56%	-3
HU	42%	39%	-3
SK	54%	50%	-4
FR	51%	46%	-5
CZ	49%	44%	-5
SE	44%	39%	-5
DE	58%	53%	-5
AT	37%	32%	-5
IT	56%	50%	-6
SI	49%	43%	-6
LV	42%	36%	-6
NL	77%	70%	-7
PT	61%	54%	-7
EE	48%	41%	-7
FI	45%	38%	-7
BE	67%	59%	-8

2.2. The benefits of membership

- Slight drop in support for the perceived advantages of European Union membership -

After a steady increase in positive responses over the past two years reaching the highest level since 1991, **a decrease of 3 points has now been recorded in the percentage of European citizens who feel that their country has benefited from European Union membership.** Today, 52% of Europeans consider that as a whole their country has benefited from European Union membership, compared to 36% (+3 points) who take the opposite view. Despite this shift, public opinion remains positive with a difference of 16 points between those who feel their country has benefited and those who feel their country has not benefited⁶.



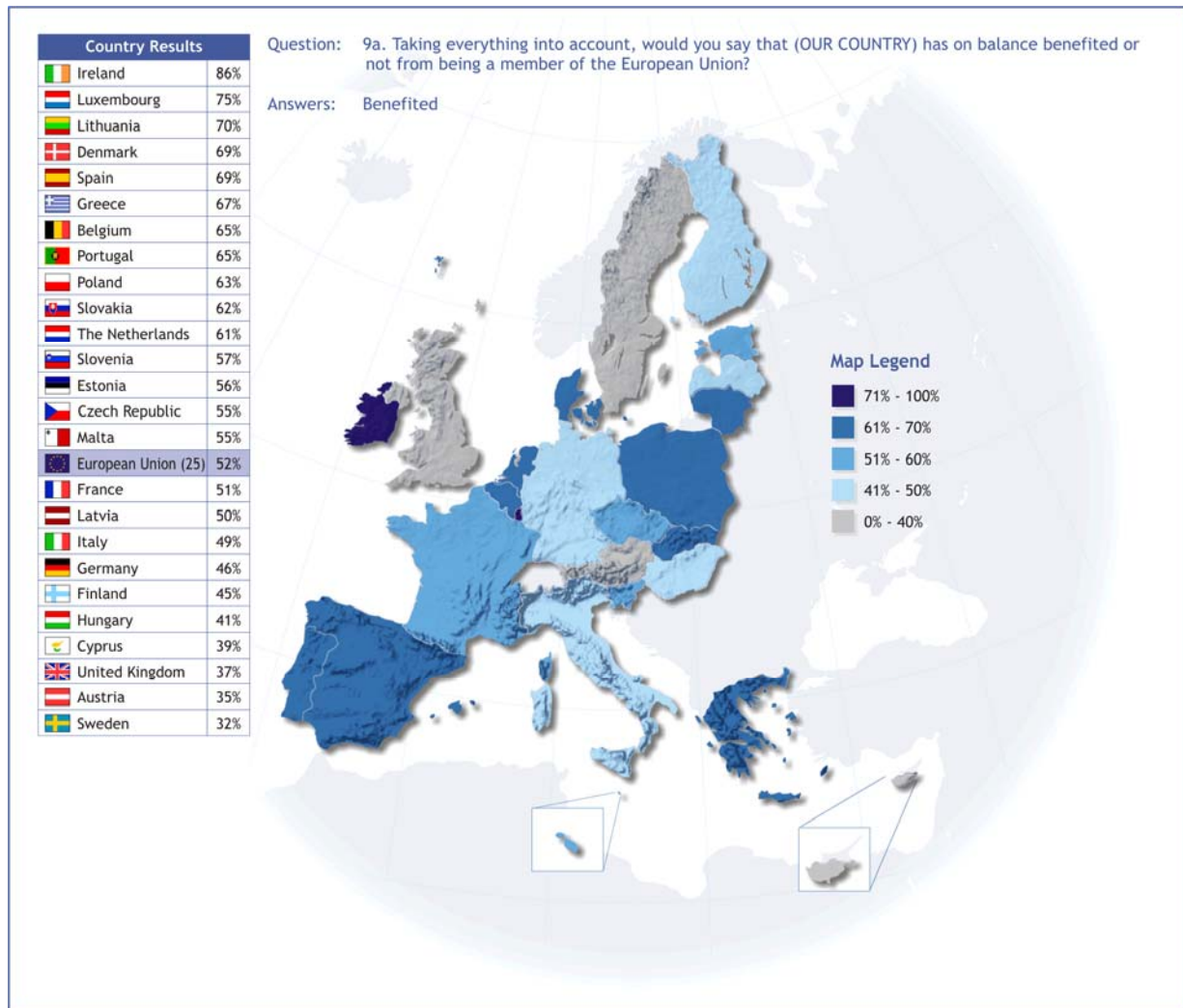
Aut. 1994	Aut. 1995	Aut. 1996	Sp. 1997	Aut. 1997	Sp. 1998	Aut. 1998	Sp. 1999	Aut. 1999	Sp. 2000	Aut. 2000	Sp. 2001	Aut. 2001	Sp. 2002	Aut. 2002	Sp. 2003	Aut. 2003	Sp. 2004	Aut. 2004	Sp. 2005	Aut. 2005
EB42	EB44	EB46	EB47	EB48	EB49	EB50	EB51	EB52	EB53	EB54	EB55	EB56	EB57	EB58	EB59	EB60	EB61	EB62	EB63	EB64

Once again, Ireland has the highest score in terms of citizens who perceive positively the advantages of membership of the European Union (86%), followed by Luxembourg (75%).

Eighteen months after accession, **public opinion about the perceived benefits of membership remains positive in the new Member States.** On average, close to 6 out of 10 respondents (58%, -1 point in comparison with the spring wave) declare that their country has benefited from being a member of the European Union, with the highest scores once again recorded in Lithuania (70%). Cypriots remain the most critical. Only 39% feel that their country has benefited from membership, while 53% hold the opposite view.

⁶ QA9. Taking everything into consideration, would you say that (OUR COUNTRY) has on balance benefited or not from being a member of the European Union?

In the 15 old Member States, more than half of the citizens continue to feel that their country has benefited from membership (51%). After Ireland and Luxembourg, this view is shared by at least 6 out of 10 people in Denmark, Spain (both 69%), Greece (67%), Belgium (65%) and the Netherlands (61%).



Sweden is the only 'old' Member State where more than half of the people feel their country has not benefited from European Union membership (56%). However, in Austria (48%), the United Kingdom and Finland (both 47%), this is also the majority view.

A country analysis of the shifts in the percentages since the previous survey shows the following developments:

- ◆ Focusing firstly on the two countries which in their referenda voted against the Constitution, a slight increase in the feeling that their country has not benefited from EU membership has been recorded (+4 points). In both the Netherlands and France, two important issues that are directly related to the perceived advantages of membership – contributions to the budget in the Netherlands and CAP subsidies in France – have been the focus of political debate just prior to the survey. Thus, rather than linking the recorded shift to the 'no' vote in the referenda, these events must be taken in consideration when trying to understand the change in public opinion.

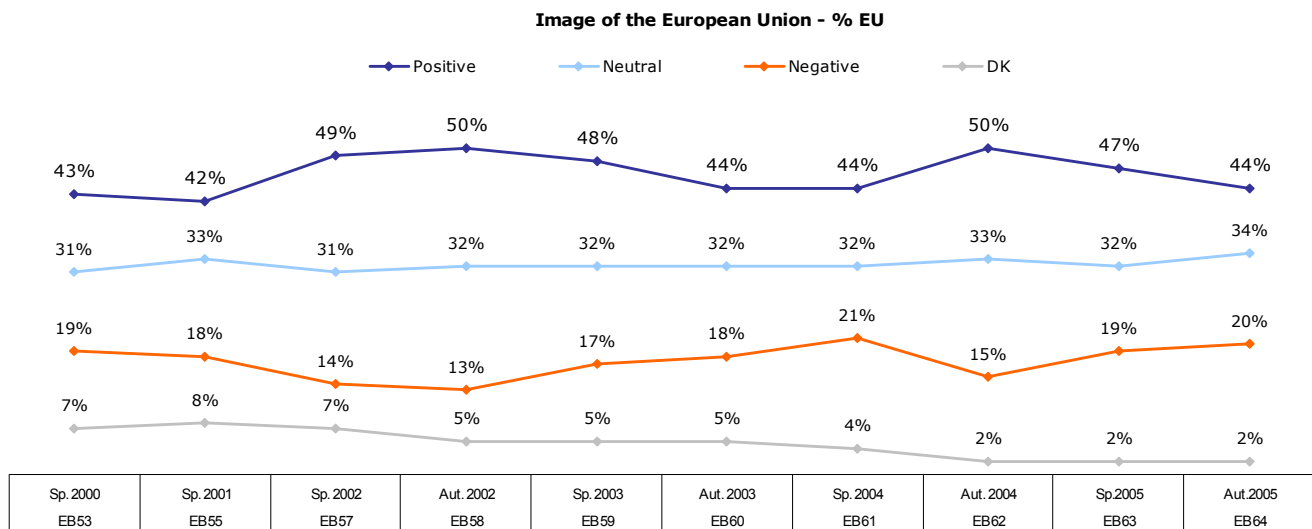
- ◆ In Latvia, Sweden, the United Kingdom, Belgium, Finland, Italy, Germany, Hungary a significant drop in positive responses has been accompanied by a significant increase in negative responses.
- ◆ In Greece, a significant increase in negative responses has been recorded but this shift is not mirrored by a significant decrease in positive responses.
- ◆ In Austria and Slovenia, a significant decrease in positive responses has been recorded but this shift is not mirrored by a significant increase in negative responses.
- ◆ Finally, on a positive note, a significant positive development has been recorded in Luxembourg.

% Benefited	Spring 2005	Autumn 2005	Diff. Sp. 2005/ Aut. 2005
EU25	55%	52%	-3
LU	72%	75%	+3
MT	53%	55%	+2
PL	62%	63%	+1
ES	69%	69%	0
IE	87%	86%	-1
DK	70%	69%	-1
SK	63%	62%	-1
CZ	56%	55%	-1
EL	69%	67%	-2
PT	67%	65%	-2
EE	58%	56%	-2
LT	72%	70%	-2
FR	53%	51%	-2
CY	41%	39%	-2
IT	52%	49%	-3
UK	40%	37%	-3
BE	69%	65%	-4
DE	50%	46%	-4
SE	36%	32%	-4
SI	62%	57%	-5
FI	50%	45%	-5
HU	47%	41%	-6
NL	67%	61%	-6
AT	41%	35%	-6
LV	57%	50%	-7

2.3. The European Union's image

-Further decline in feeling that the image of the European Union is positive-

Support for the view that the image of the European Union is positive has gone down for the second consecutive time and now stands at 44%. Although EU citizens for whom the European Union conjures up a positive image continue to outnumber those for whom the Union conjures up a negative image, the gap between the two camps is narrowing⁷.



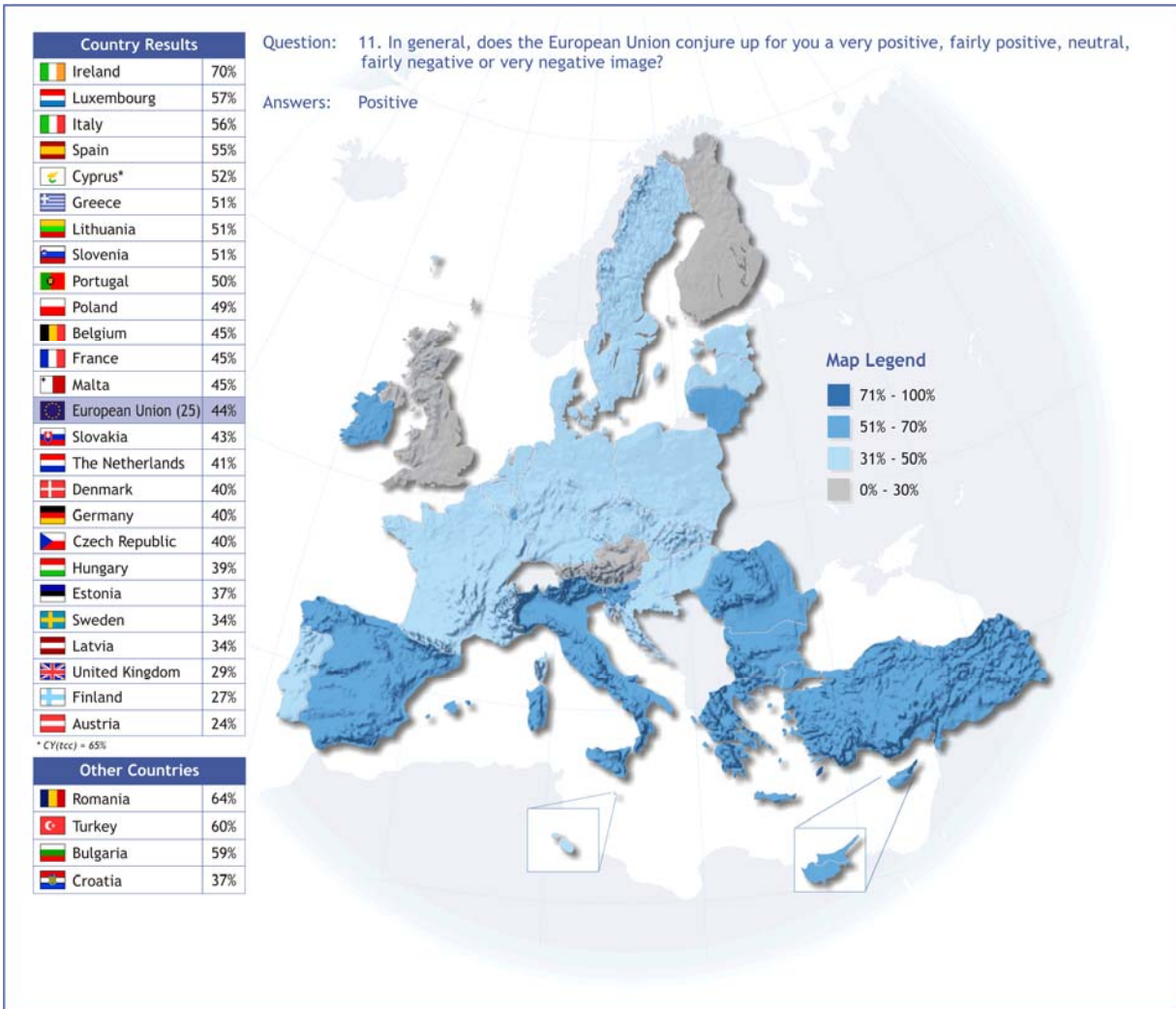
A country analysis of the shifts in the percentages since the previous survey shows the following developments:

- ◆ In Denmark a positive development has been recorded with a 5 point increase in the percentage of people with a positive image of the European Union. In the Netherlands, a small increase in positive responses has been recorded.
- ◆ Public opinion has not shifted significantly in Ireland, the United Kingdom, Luxembourg, Estonia, Poland and Germany.
- ◆ A shift from positive responses towards more neutral opinions has been recorded in Italy, Portugal, France, Spain, Malta and the Czech Republic.
- ◆ In Sweden and Greece negative responses increased but these are not mirrored by significant decreases in positive responses.
- ◆ In the other countries the development is negative. That is to say, significant decreases in positive responses are mirrored by significant increases in negative responses.

⁷ QA11. In general, does the European Union conjure up for you a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image?

% Positive	Spring 2005	Autumn 2005	Diff. Sp. 2005/ Aut. 2005
EU25	47%	44%	-3
DK	35%	40%	+5
NL	38%	41%	+3
IE	68%	70%	+2
LT	49%	51%	+2
UK	28%	29%	+1
SE	34%	34%	0
LU	58%	57%	-1
EE	38%	37%	-1
ES	57%	55%	-2
PL	51%	49%	-2
DE	42%	40%	-2
EL	54%	51%	-3
MT	48%	45%	-3
SK	46%	43%	-3
CZ	43%	40%	-3
FI	30%	27%	-3
CY	56%	52%	-4
FR	49%	45%	-4
HU	43%	39%	-4
SI	57%	51%	-6
PT	56%	50%	-6
LV	40%	34%	-6
AT	30%	24%	-6
IT	63%	56%	-7
BE	56%	45%	-11

Analyses of the European Union's image are not only relevant within the Member States but also as regards the perception of citizens in the accession and candidate countries. These analyses reveal that **in the accession and candidate countries the European Union generally conjures up a positive image among more people than is the case within most of the Member States.** The only exception is Croatia, although a significant improvement has been recorded. Where in spring 2005 only 28% of Croatians had a positive image of the European Union, this now stands at 37%.

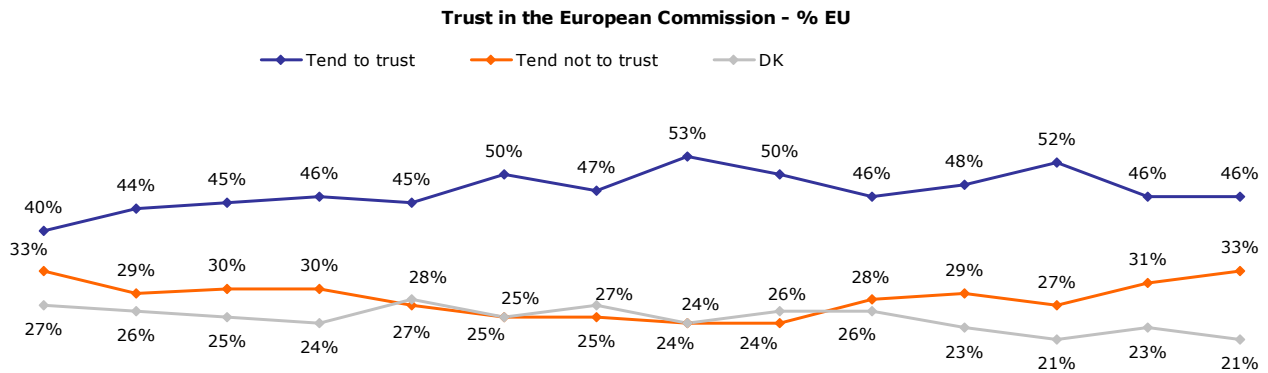


3. Confidence in European institutions

3.1. The European Commission

- Trust in the European Commission further erodes-

Although the decline in trust levels in the European Commission recorded in the first half of 2005 has been halted, the latest results point to a further rise in the proportion of citizens who tend not to trust this institution. The percentage of people who tend to trust the European Commission still stands at the level recorded in autumn 2003 (46%), whereas the percentage of people who tend not to trust it is now as high as in spring 1999. The difference between positive and negative opinions, however, remains favourable though the gap is becoming smaller and now stands at 13 points (compared with 25 in autumn 2004).



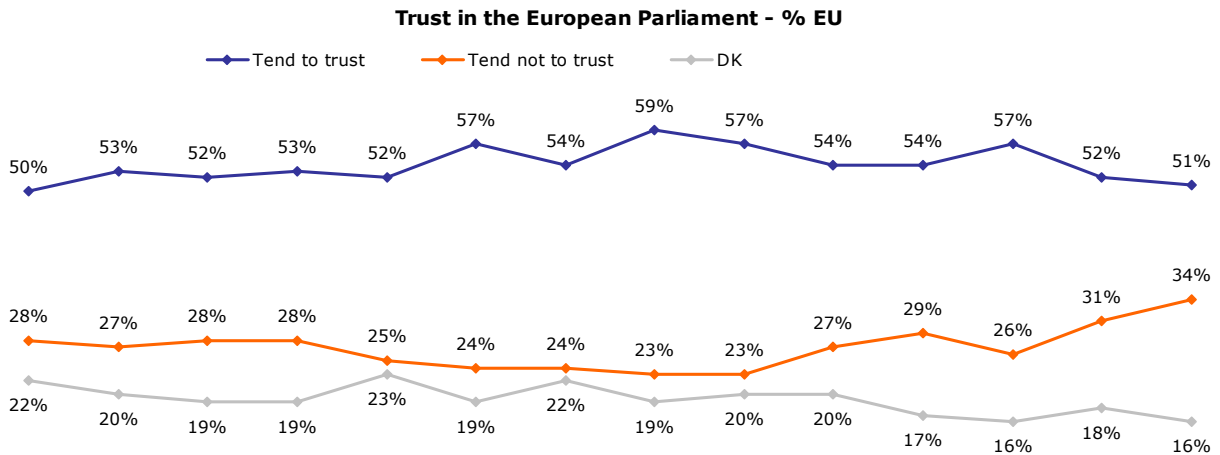
Sp. 1999	Aut. 1999	Sp. 2000	Aut. 2000	Sp. 2001	Aut. 2001	Sp. 2002	Aut. 2002	Sp. 2003	Aut. 2003	Sp. 2004	Aut. 2004	Sp. 2005	Aut. 2005
EB 51	EB 52	EB 53	EB 54	EB 55	EB 56	EB 57	EB 58	EB 59	EB 60	EB 61	EB 62	EB 63	EB 64

3.2. The European Parliament

- Less trust in the European Parliament -

The development recorded for the European Commission equally applies to the European Parliament: **although a majority of respondents (51%) continue to trust the European Parliament, the percentage that tends not to trust it has increased by 3 points.**

At 34%, levels of distrust in this institution are currently at a record high. Although the difference between positive and negative opinions is still favourable, the gap has over the years never been this small and now stands at 17 points (compared with 31 in autumn 2004).



Sp. 1999	Aut. 1999	Sp. 2000	Aut. 2000	Sp. 2001	Aut. 2001	Sp. 2002	Aut. 2002	Sp. 2003	Aut. 2003	Sp. 2004	Aut. 2004	Sp. 2005	Aut. 2005
EB51	EB52	EB53	EB54	EB55	EB56	EB57	EB58	EB59	EB60	EB61	EB62	EB63	EB64

3.3. Comparison between the institutions

European citizens still tend to have greater trust in the European Parliament than in the European Commission and, moreover, the confidence curves of the two institutions remain more or less parallel.

The level of trust decreases when examining the results for the European Council: 4 out of 10 citizens express their confidence in the European Council whereas 3 out of 10 exhibit a more negative opinion. It is worth noting that the “don’t know” response rate ranks at a similar level (29%).

A comparison with the spring 2005 survey reveals no particular pattern as far as the European Parliament and the European Commission are concerned. In six countries trust levels improved significantly and in eight countries the opposite is true. The development of a more critical stance among certain traditionally “enthusiastic” countries noted in the previous report has not persisted.

With regards to the European Council, we can observe a decline in trust levels in fifteen countries, being this deterioration especially significant in Hungary and the United Kingdom.

The United Kingdom continues to be the only country in which a majority of respondents tend not to trust either the European Parliament or the European Commission and the European Council.

The European Parliament			The European Commission			The European Council		
Sp.2005	Aut.2005	Diff. Sp.2005/ Aut.2005	Sp.2005	Aut.2005	Diff. Sp.2005/ Aut.2005	Sp.2005	Aut.2005	Diff. Sp.2005/ Aut.2005

EU25	52%	51%	-1	46%	46%	0	42%	40%	-2
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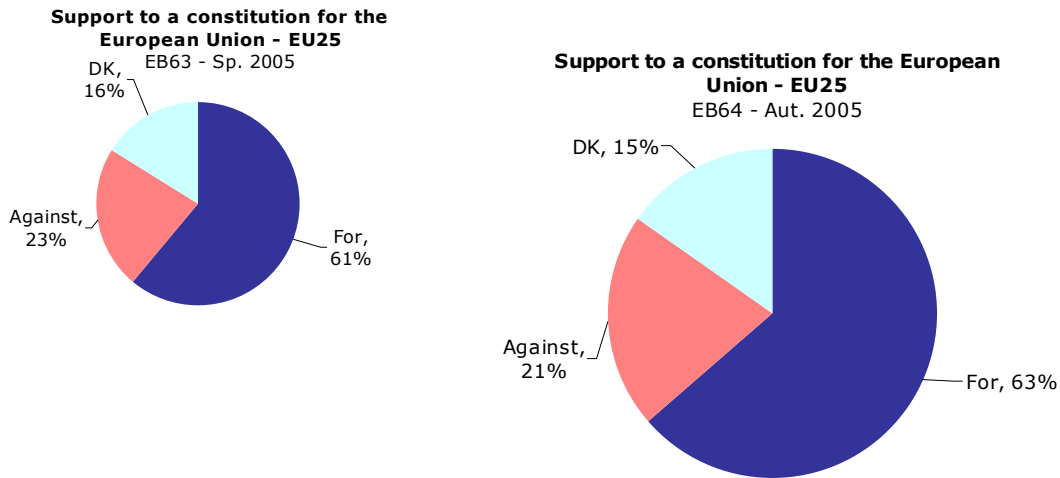
BE	67%	62%	-5	67%	61%	-6	57%	50%	-7
CZ	51%	56%	4	46%	53%	7	46%	50%	4
DK	56%	58%	2	50%	51%	1	50%	51%	1
DE	46%	53%	7	37%	43%	6	35%	40%	5
EE	54%	49%	-5	53%	48%	-5	48%	42%	-6
EL	59%	62%	3	53%	58%	5	50%	56%	6
ES	50%	52%	2	43%	48%	5	43%	43%	0
FR	50%	49%	-1	45%	44%	-1	38%	38%	0
IE	57%	60%	3	51%	60%	9	42%	47%	5
IT	66%	61%	-5	60%	57%	-3	54%	50%	-4
CY	62%	60%	-2	62%	57%	-5	62%	56%	-6
LV	47%	44%	-3	44%	42%	-2	38%	37%	-1
LT	56%	55%	-1	53%	51%	-2	47%	46%	-1
LU	67%	68%	1	61%	63%	2	51%	53%	2
HU	71%	62%	-9	65%	58%	-7	63%	54%	-9
MT	58%	63%	5	59%	60%	1	57%	54%	-3
NL	51%	53%	2	49%	51%	2	44%	40%	-4
AT	48%	49%	1	44%	43%	-1	37%	36%	-1
PL	52%	49%	-3	49%	46%	-3	45%	40%	-5
PT	63%	67%	4	59%	65%	6	52%	59%	7
SI	66%	61%	-5	64%	56%	-8	55%	53%	-2
SK	63%	65%	2	56%	57%	1	55%	55%	0
FI	56%	52%	-4	54%	48%	-6	46%	44%	-2
SE	51%	48%	-3	43%	42%	-1	27%	25%	-2
UK	35%	27%	-7	31%	26%	-5	27%	18%	-9

4. The European Constitution

4.1. Support for a European Constitution

- **Support for a European Constitution remains widespread** -

Despite the negative outcome of the referenda in France and the Netherlands to ratify the European Constitution **support for the idea of a European Constitution remains widespread**. 63% of European citizens support the concept of a constitution for the European Union, against 21% who oppose this idea⁸.



It is important to emphasise that this question measures **the extent to which people agree with the actual concept of a Constitution for the European Union and is not an evaluation of the content of the current Constitution under discussion**. Thus, the results should not be seen as an indication of how citizens would vote if referenda were to be organised nor linked directly to the outcome of referenda that have already been held. Nevertheless, the results obtained for France and the Netherlands cannot be ignored.

⁸ QA32.5. What is your opinion on each of the following statements? Please tell me for each statement, whether you are for it or against it.
A constitution for the European Union

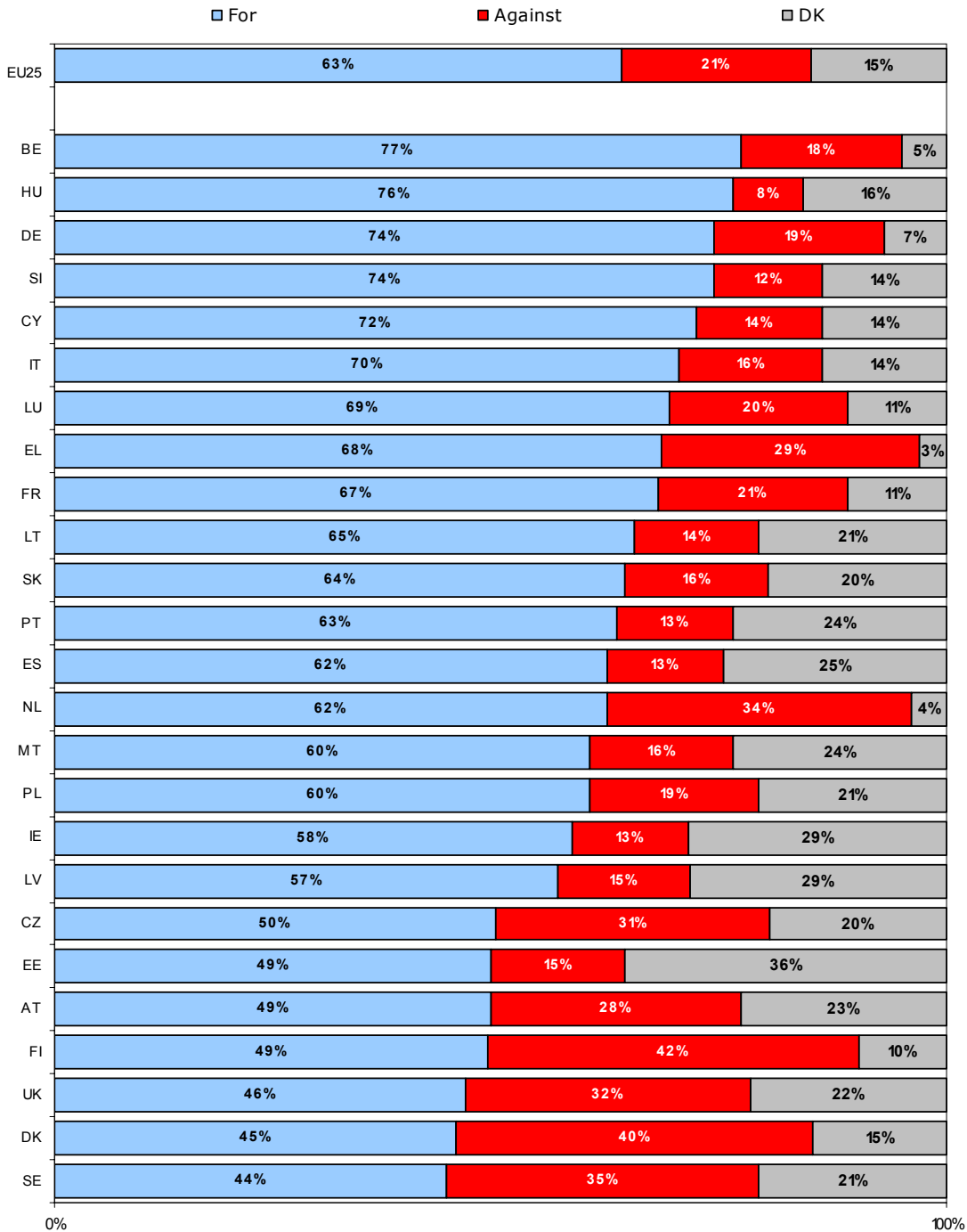
This Standard Eurobarometer survey indicates that **support for the idea of a constitution is now more widespread in France and the Netherlands than it was in spring 2005**. In the Netherlands, the percentage of people who support the idea of a constitution has increased by 9 points from 53% to 62%. The percentage that opposes this idea has gone down from 38% to 34%. In France, favourable responses have increased by 7 points to 67%. This is accompanied by an equally large drop in unfavourable responses so that the percentage of people in France who disagree that the European Union should have a Constitution now stands at 21%.

The increased support for the idea of a European Constitution does not only pertain to France and the Netherlands but also applies to numerous other countries and in particular to Malta, Greece, the Czech Republic, Luxembourg, Sweden and Germany.

	For Sp.2005	For Aut.2005	Diff. Sp.2005/ Aut.2005
EU25	61%	63%	+2
MT	50%	60%	+10
NL	53%	62%	+9
EL	60%	68%	+8
FR	60%	67%	+7
CZ	44%	50%	+6
LU	63%	69%	+6
SE	38%	44%	+6
DE	68%	74%	+6
SK	60%	64%	+4
IE	54%	58%	+4
PT	59%	63%	+4
UK	43%	46%	+3
DK	42%	45%	+3
FI	47%	49%	+2
AT	47%	49%	+2
BE	76%	77%	+1
LV	56%	57%	+1
ES	63%	62%	-1
PL	61%	60%	-1
CY	73%	72%	-1
HU	78%	76%	-2
SI	76%	74%	-2
EE	52%	49%	-3
IT	74%	70%	-4

The idea of a constitution for the European Union is most favourably received in Belgium (77%), followed by Hungary (76%), Germany and Slovenia (both 74%). Opinion is more divided in Denmark (with 45% for and 40% against) and Finland (49% and 42%, respectively). It is also to be noted that particularly in a number of countries a significant number of respondents has not (yet) formed an opinion. This applies to more than one third of the respondents in Estonia (36% of 'Don't know' replies) and close to 3 out of 10 respondents in Ireland and Latvia (both 29%).

Support to a Constitution for the European Union

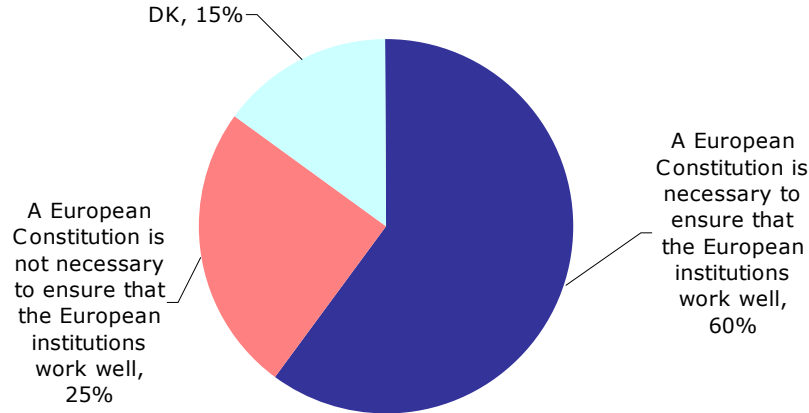


4.2. The future of the European Constitution

- Majority view is that a European Constitution is necessary to ensure that the European institutions work well -

Even though the ratification process of the European Constitution is currently being thought through following the negative outcome of the referenda in France and the Netherlands, **the majority of European citizens are of the view that a European Constitution is necessary to ensure that the European institutions work well**⁹.

Purpose of the European Constitution
EU25
EB64 - Aut. 2005

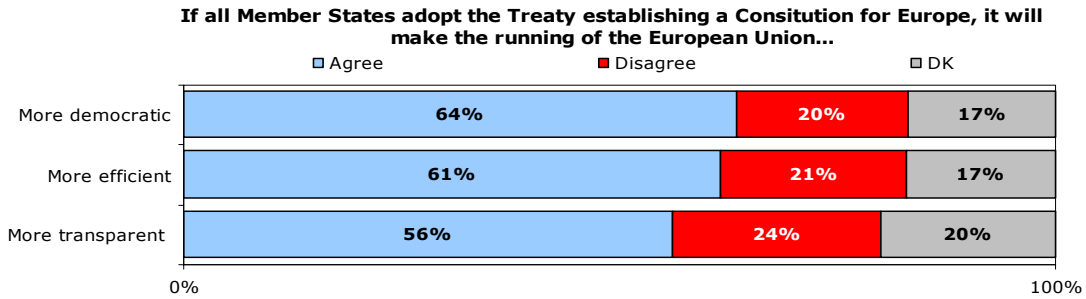


In the 15 old Member States this view is somewhat more pronounced than is the case in the 10 new Member States (61% vs. 56%). However, analyses at the country level indicate that at 78%, this opinion receives most widespread support in Belgium (an 'old' Member) and Slovenia (a 'new' Member) and that opposition to this view is most widespread in two of the 'old' Member States: Finland (51%) and the Netherlands (50%).

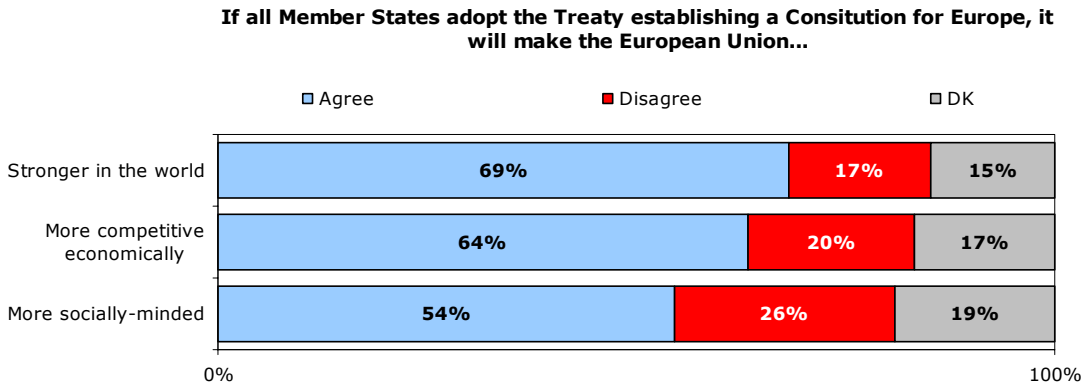
Focusing further on the two countries where the electorate voted against the Constitution shows that public opinion in the Netherlands is divided but that in France, at 68%, there is widespread support for the view that a European Constitution is necessary to ensure that the European institutions work well.

⁹ QA50 Which of the following two statements best describes your view ...?

Why many European citizens feel that the Union needs a Constitution is further illustrated by the answers to the next two questions¹⁰. As was the case in the spring of 2005, when the ratification process was still under way, the majority of European Union citizens consider that **adoption of the Treaty will make the way in which the European Union functions more democratic (64%), more efficient (61%) and more transparent (56%)**.



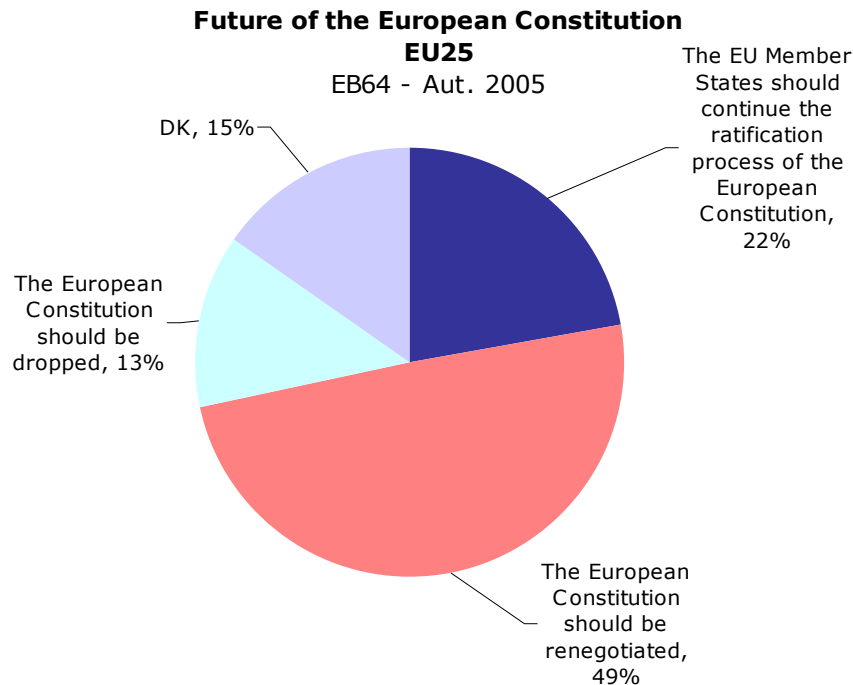
Equally, the majority of European Citizens continue to feel that **adoption of the European Constitution would strengthen the Union’s position in the world (69%), would make it economically more competitive (64%) and would make it more socially minded (54%)**.



These results mirror those obtained in the spring 2005 survey.

¹⁰ QA47 and QA48. For each of the following please tell me whether you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree. If all Member States adopt the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe, it will make...?

Clearly therefore, **public opinion about the future of the European Constitution is optimistic. However, the most widespread view is that the Constitution should be renegotiated (49%)**. Around one citizen in five feels that the Member States should continue the ratification process (22%) and a small minority of European citizens believes that the European Constitution should be dropped (13%)¹¹.



This is the majority view in all Member States, with the exception of Malta where support to continue the ratification process is most popular (41%). The people of France (65%) and the Netherlands (64%) are most likely to hold the view that the European Constitution should be renegotiated. **The outcome of the referendum in these two countries has certainly not resulted in a desire to drop the European Constitution altogether: only 15% and 16%, respectively, hold this view.** The desire to discontinue the ratification process is least strong in Hungary (4%). It is most widespread among the Danes (31%), who tend to be fairly critical about the democratic processes of the European Union.

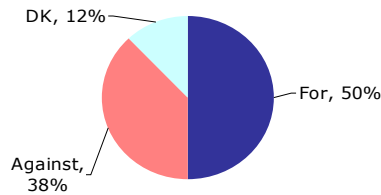
¹¹ QA49 13 countries have ratified the European Constitution, but France and the Netherlands voted "no". Which of the following best describes your view ...?

5. Support for future enlargement

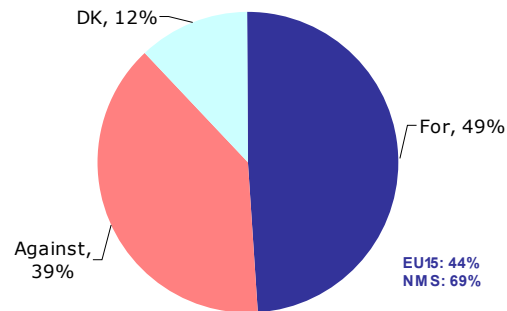
- Close to half of EU citizens support further enlargement but the gap between those in favour and those against narrows -

The latest survey shows that **49% of the respondents in the 25 current Member States are in favour of further enlargement of the European Union in future years and that 39% oppose this**¹². Although very similar to the results obtained in spring 2005, a further narrowing of the gap between supporters and opponents can be observed pointing to a more critical attitude towards further enlargement.

Support to further enlargement of the European Union - EU25
EB63 - Sp. 2005



Support to further enlargement of the European Union - EU25
EB64 - Aut. 2005

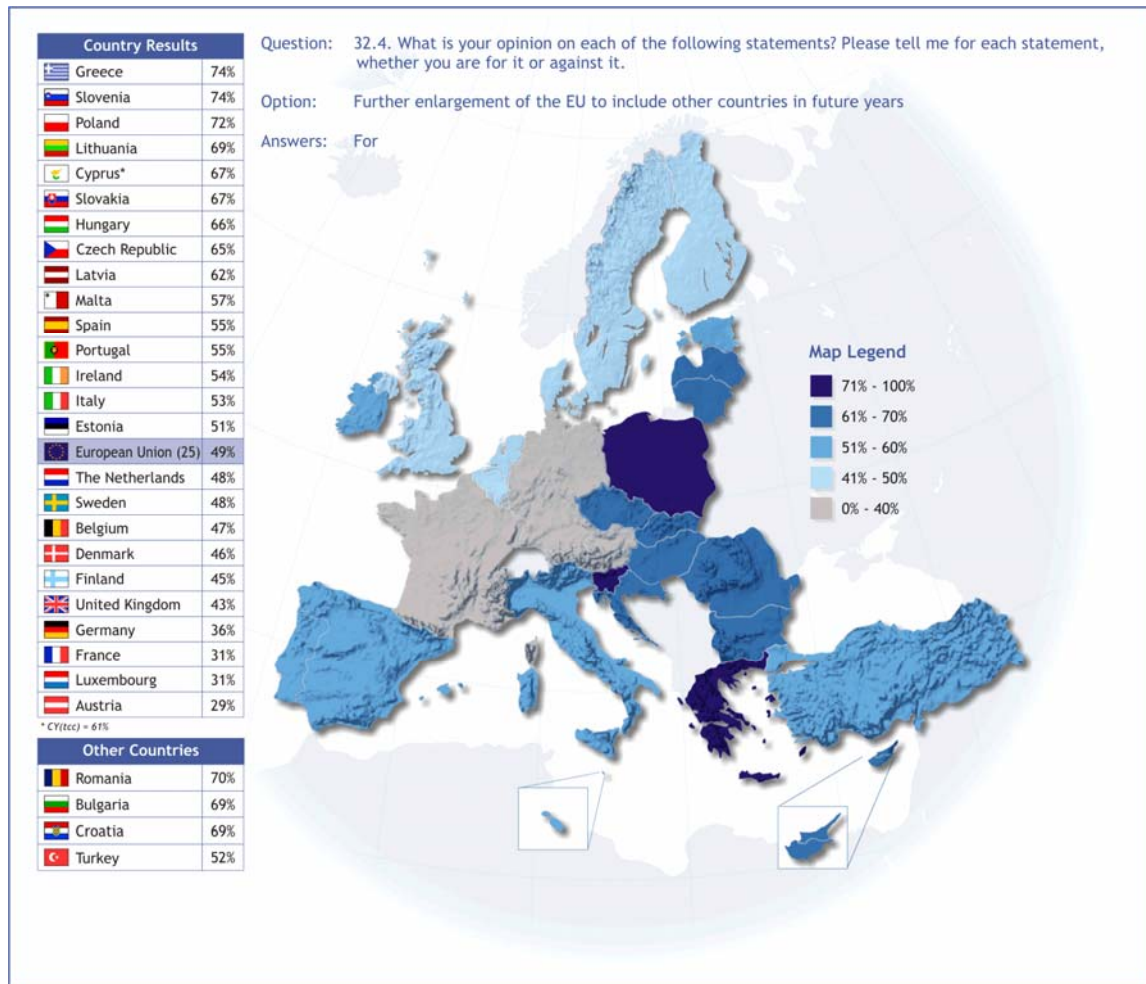


Public opinion about further enlargement continues to be volatile and to vary significantly from country to country, with highest support levels obtained in Greece (74%), Slovenia (74%) and Poland (72%). This contrasts sharply with the reluctance, if not outright opposition to further enlargement in Austria, Luxembourg, France and Germany, where around 6 out of 10 respondents are against further enlargement.

In the accession and candidate countries around 7 out of 10 persons interviewed support further enlargement, with the exception of Turkey, where support levels dropped from 66% in spring 2005 to 52% in autumn 2005.

¹² QA32.4. What is your opinion on each of the following statements? Please tell me for each statement, whether you are for it or against it.

Further enlargement of the European Union to include other countries in future years.



Support for further enlargement of the European Union continues to be stronger in the ten new Member States. Although the size of the difference between the results obtained in the fifteen old Member States and the ten new Member States (25 points) highlights the diversity of opinions as regards the geographical evolution of the European Union, it is slightly less pronounced than was the case in spring 2005.

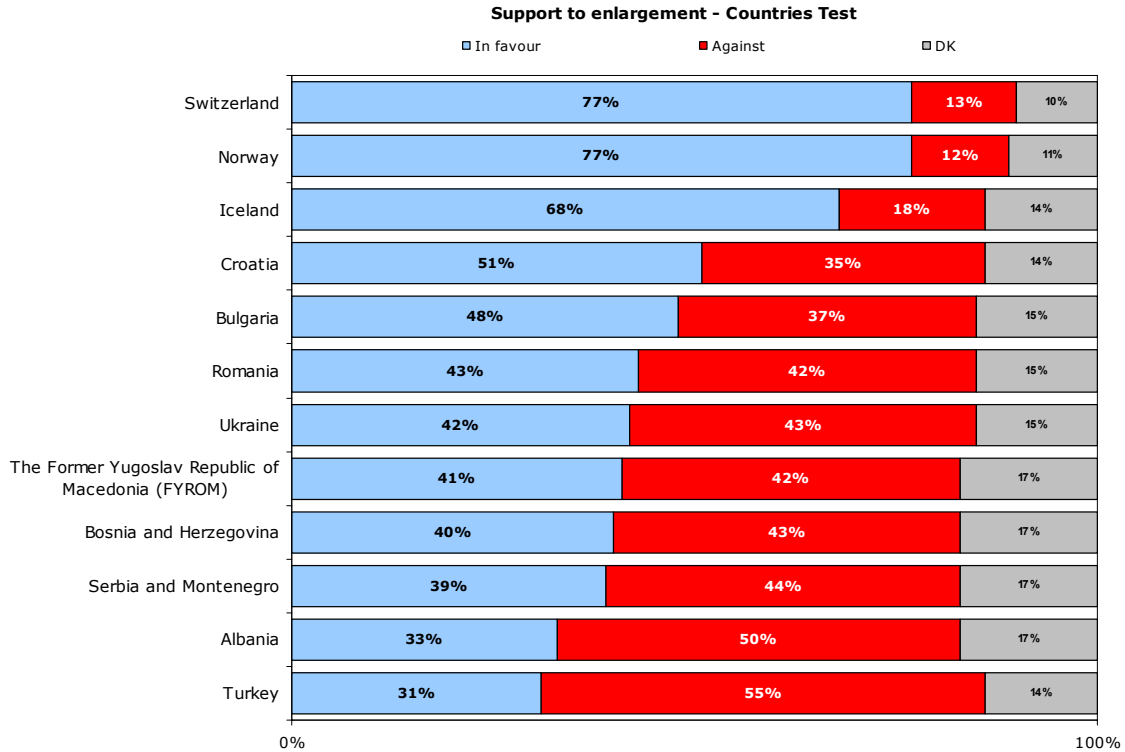
In six of the ten new Member States support there is now less outright support for enlargement. In Latvia, Lithuania, Slovenia and Cyprus, this translates into increased levels of opposition, while in Estonia, Malta, Slovakia and Poland people now appear less certain of their views towards further enlargement.

In addition to Greece, public opinion in the 15 'old' Member States appears to be somewhat more positive in the Netherlands and Germany. On the other hand, in Sweden, Italy, Denmark and the United Kingdom, opposition to further enlargement increased significantly.

When analysed in detail, support for further enlargement reveals strong support for the accession of three member countries of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA): Iceland (68%) and in particular Norway (77%) and Switzerland (77%)¹³.

Support is also relatively widespread for Croatia (51%) and Bulgaria (48%). Public opinion is more divided for Romania, Ukraine, FYCROM, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia and Montenegro.

Finally, a clear majority of citizens are opposed to membership being granted to Turkey or Albania: 55% and 50% respectively of citizens are opposed to their accession.



¹³ QA44. For each of the following countries, would you be in favour or against it becoming part of the European Union in the future?

Citizens in the new Member States also have a more open and approving attitude than respondents in the fifteen old Member States in terms of support for the inclusion of specific countries. However, in comparison to spring 2005, public opinion in the new Member States has become significantly more negative with regards to all the countries included in the list, whereas the shift in the fifteen old Member States is more moderate.

% For	EU15		NMS10	
	EB64	– shift EB63	EB64	– shift EB63
Switzerland	76%	0	83%	-4
Norway	76%	-1	82%	-3
Iceland	67%	-2	72%	-4
Croatia	47%	-1	70%	-2
Bulgaria	45%	-1	64%	-6
Romania	41%	-2	53%	-5
The Former Yug. Rep. of Macedonia (FYROM)	39%	-1	51%	-6
Bosnia and Herzegovina	39%	0	50%	-6
Ukraine	38%	-3	57%	-9
Serbia and Montenegro	36%	-2	50%	-4
Albania	32%	-1	40%	-7
Turkey	29%	-3	38%	-10

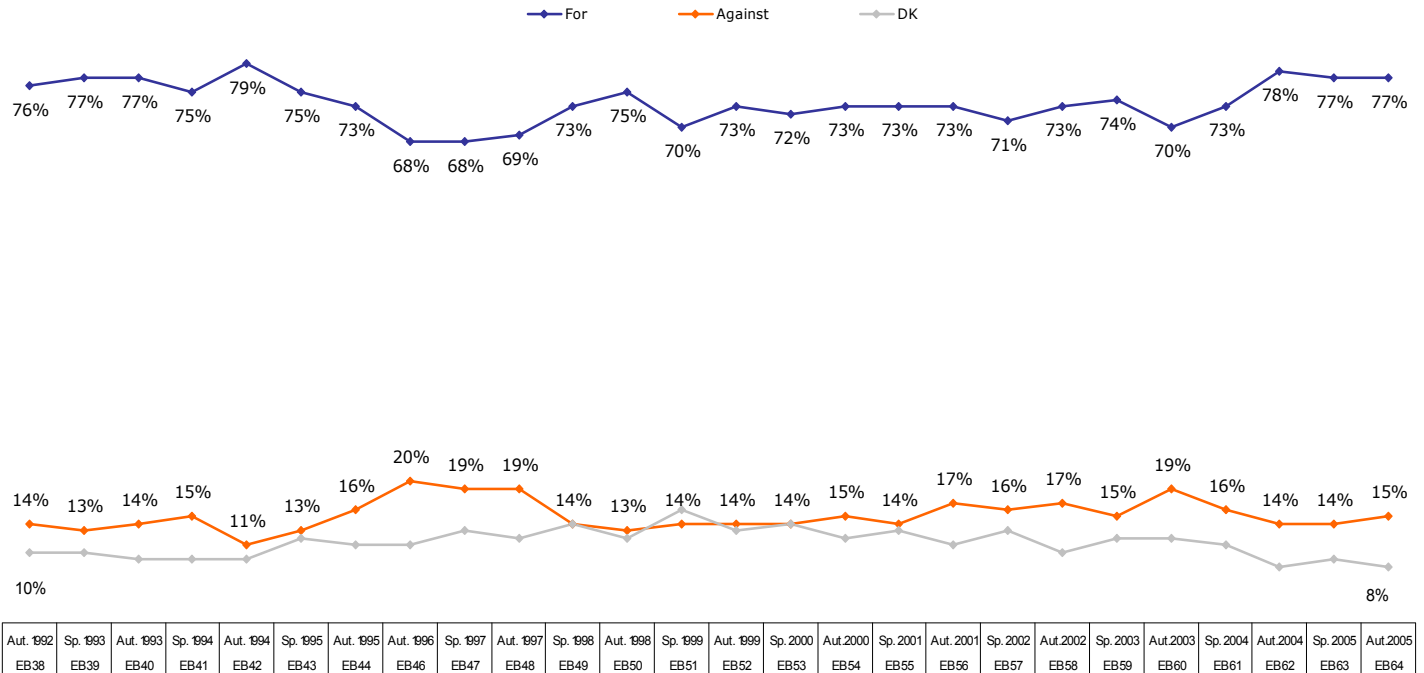
6. Common foreign and security policy

6.1. Support for a common security and defence policy

- Stable support for ESDP -

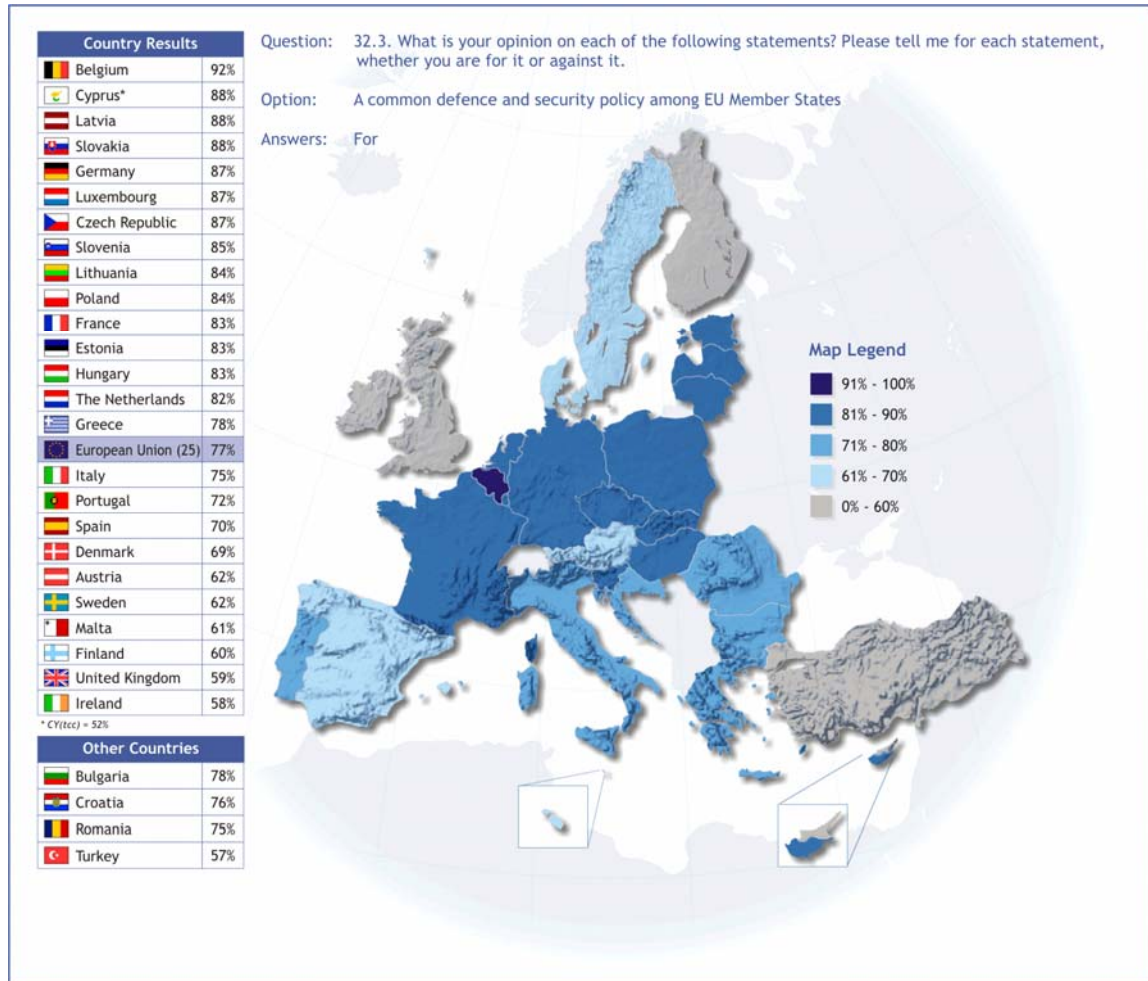
European public opinion is still very receptive to issues relating to the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP). At 77%, support for a common security and defence policy remains at the same high level obtained in spring 2005¹⁴.

Support to a common defence and security policy among the European Union member states - % EU



¹⁴ QA32.3. What is your opinion on each of the following statements? Please tell me for each statement, whether you are for it or against it.
A common defence and security policy among European Union Member States

The intensity of this support is even stronger in the ten new Member States: there is a difference of 10 points between the average obtained in the fifteen old Member States and that recorded in the ten new Member States (75% and 85% respectively).

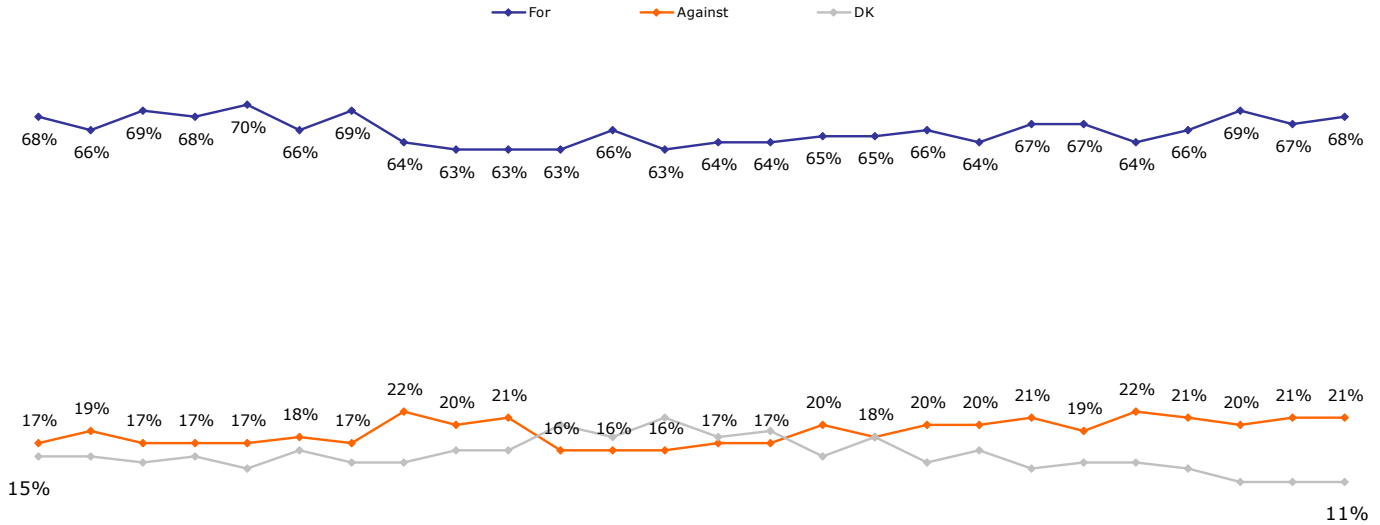


6.2. Support for a common foreign policy

- No change in support for a common foreign policy -

Support for a common foreign policy also remains stable since the last survey¹⁵: more than two out of three European citizens continue to support this idea (68%).

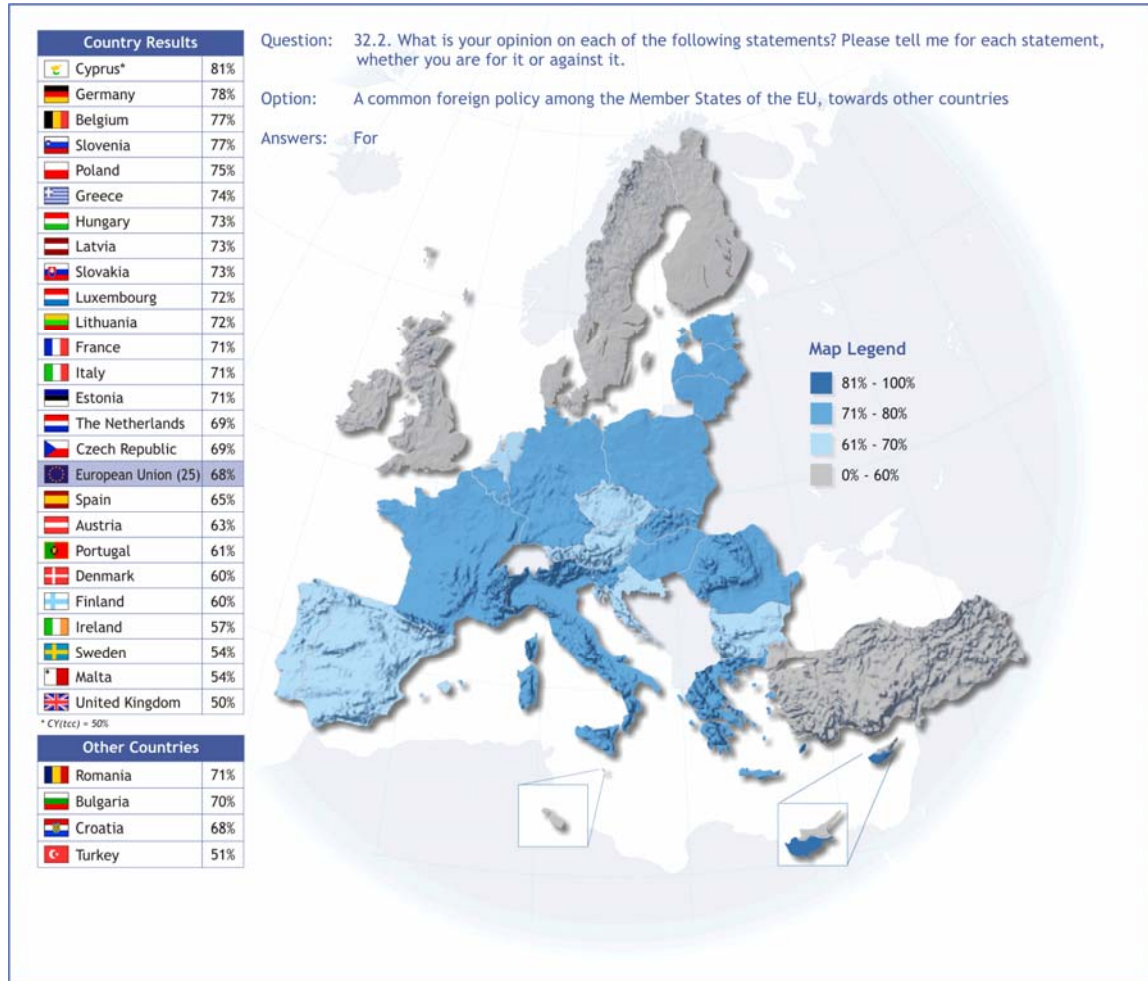
Support to one common foreign policy among the member states of the European Union, towards other countries - % EU



Aut. 1992	Sp. 1993	Aut. 1993	Sp. 1994	Aut. 1994	Sp. 1995	Aut. 1995	Aut. 1996	Sp. 1997	Aut. 1997	Sp. 1998	Aut. 1998	Sp. 1999	Aut. 1999	Sp. 2000	Aut. 2000	Sp. 2001	Aut. 2001	Sp. 2002	Aut. 2002	Sp. 2003	Aut. 2003	Sp. 2004	Aut. 2004	Sp. 2005	Aut. 2005
EB38	EB39	EB40	EB41	EB42	EB43	EB44	EB46	EB47	EB48	EB49	EB50	EB51	EB52	EB53	EB54	EB55	EB56	EB57	EB58	EB59	EB60	EB61	EB62	EB63	EB64

¹⁵ QA32.2. What is your opinion on each of the following statements? Please tell me for each statement, whether you are for it or against it. One common foreign policy among the Member States of the European Union, towards other countries

As with support for the ESDP, the intensity of support for a common foreign policy is stronger in the ten new Member States, albeit if somewhat less pronounced: there is a difference of 7 points between the average obtained in the fifteen old Member States and that recorded in the ten new Member States (67% and 74% respectively).



7. Speed of European construction

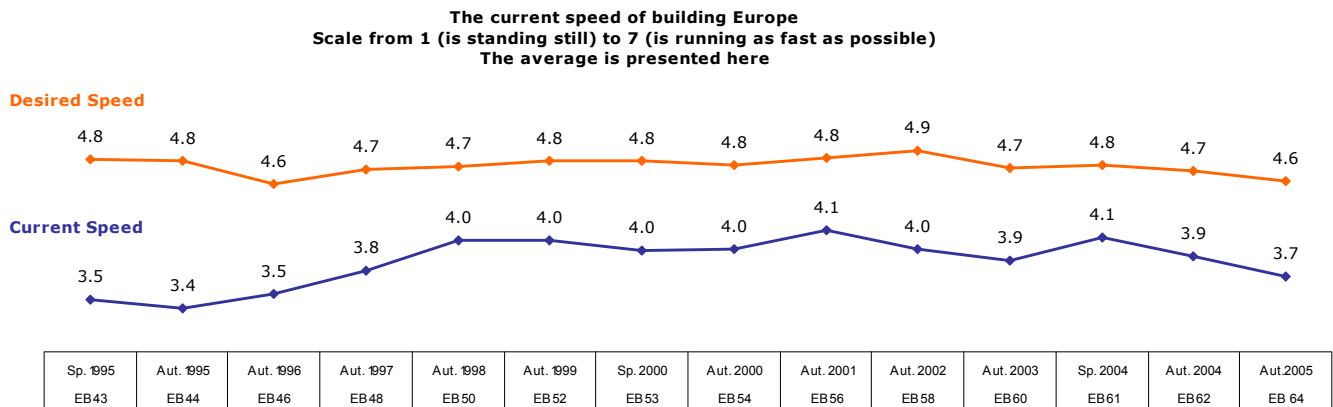
The perception of the speed of building the European Union is measured in the Eurobarometer by a visual graph showing a moving figure linked to values. An average is calculated on that basis¹⁶. This question distinguishes between the perceived current and desired speed of building Europe.

- The gap between the current speed and the desired speed of building Europe increases -

The desired speed of building Europe is higher than the perceived speed of building Europe. The difference between the two has reached a level not attained since 1997.

However, both the perceived current speed and the desired speed of building Europe have decreased since autumn 2004 and are at a level comparable to that measured in 1997.

Public opinion is thus in line with the Union's current period of reflection regarding the future of the European Constitution: the perceived development of Europe is not as fast as it has been in previous years and the desire for an increase in the speed is less pronounced than it has been in the past.



¹⁶ Q.A17. a) In your opinion, what is the current speed of building Europe? Please look at these figures. 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?

CONCLUSIONS

This Standard Eurobarometer survey, carried out in autumn 2005, shows a further weakening in the main indicators of support to the European Union though at the same time the European public remains in favour of the Union's main policies and supportive of the adoption of a European Constitution.

- ◆ After the tumultuous events at the end of spring 2005 that resulted in a period of reflection and debate, support for the three main indicators has declined. Support for EU membership now stands at 50% (-4), the score for the perceived benefits of membership is 52% (-3) and the European Union's image is positive according to 44% of its citizens (-3).
- ◆ These results are accompanied by a slight decline in confidence levels for the Commission and the Parliament. Though trust levels have remained stable since the previous survey, the latest results reveal a slight increase in the percentage of people who say they tend not to trust these two institutions.
- ◆ Whilst a slightly more critical stance is noticeable with regards to further enlargement of the European Union, particularly so in the new Member States, support for the two other main policies of the European Union, the European Security and Defence Policy and the European Common Foreign Policy remains solid.
- ◆ Despite the "no" vote in the French and Dutch referenda to ratify the European Constitution, at 63%, support for the idea of a constitution has intensified. Furthermore, the majority of European citizens (60%) are of the view that the Union needs a Constitution both for its internal functioning and its role and position in the outside world.
- ◆ Moreover the majority of European Union citizens consider that adopting the European Constitution will make the way in which the European Union works more democratic, efficient and transparent.
- ◆ The Union's current period of reflection is in line with public opinion about the perceived and desired speed of the building of Europe. The perceived speed at which Europe is developing is slower than in previous years and the desire for a faster Europe is less pronounced than it has been in the past.
- ◆ The public appears receptive to the intentions of the European Union to interact more with European Union citizens. At the moment, only around a quarter of citizens feel involved in European affairs (26%), while 47% say they would like to be more involved.

ANNEXES

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

EUROBAROMETER « STANDARD » 64

Between the 11th of October and the 15th of November 2005, TNS Opinion & Social, a consortium created between Taylor Nelson Sofres and EOS Gallup Europe, carried out the wave 64 of the "STANDARD" EUROBAROMETER, on request of the EUROPEAN COMMISSION, Directorate-General Press and Communication, Opinion Polls.

This STANDARD EUROBAROMETER 64 covers the population of the respective nationalities of the European Union Member States, resident in each of the Member States and aged 15 years and over. The STANDARD EUROBAROMETER 64 has also been conducted in the two acceding countries (Bulgaria and Romania) and in the two candidate countries (Croatia and Turkey) as well as in the Turkish Cypriot Community. In these countries, the survey covers the national population of citizens of the respective nationalities and the population of citizens of all the European Union Member States that are residents in those countries and have a sufficient command of one of the respective national language(s) to answer the questionnaire. The basic sample design applied in all states is a multi-stage, random (probability) one. In each 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.

In order to do so, the sampling 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 countries surveyed according to the EUROSTAT NUTS II (or equivalent) and according to the distribution of the resident population of the respective nationalities in terms of metropolitan, urban and rural areas. In each of the selected sampling points, a starting address was drawn, at random. Further addresses (every Nth address) were selected by standard "random route" procedures, from the initial address. In each household, the respondent was drawn, at random (following the "closest birthday rule"). All interviews were conducted face-to-face in people's homes and in the appropriate national language. As far as the data capture is concerned, CAPI (*Computer Assisted Personal Interview*) was used in those countries where this technique was available.

ABREVIATIONS	COUNTRIES	INSTITUTES	N° INTERVIEWS	FIELDWORK DATES		POPULATION 15+
BE	Belgium	TNS Dimarso	1.024	13/10/2005	06/11/2005	8.598.982
CZ	Czech Rep.	TNS Aisa	1.161	14/10/2005	05/11/2005	8.571.710
DK	Denmark	TNS Gallup DK	1.032	16/10/2005	13/11/2005	4.380.063
DE	Germany	TNS Infratest	1.534	14/10/2005	08/11/2005	64.174.295
EE	Estonia	Emor	1.000	14/10/2005	06/11/2005	887.094
EL	Greece	TNS ICAP	1.000	17/10/2005	05/11/2005	8.674.230
ES	Spain	TNS Demoscopia	1.015	15/10/2005	05/11/2005	35.882.820
FR	France	TNS Sofres	1.009	11/10/2005	07/11/2005	44.010.619
IE	Ireland	TNS MRBI	1.009	13/10/2005	13/11/2005	3.089.775
IT	Italy	TNS Abacus	1.000	19/10/2005	10/11/2005	49.208.000
CY	Rep. of Cyprus	Synovate	502	17/10/2005	06/11/2005	552.213
LV	Latvia	TNS Latvia	1.033	14/10/2005	07/11/2005	1.394.351
LT	Lithuania	TNS Gallup Lithuania	1.020	15/10/2005	04/11/2005	2.803.661
LU	Luxembourg	TNS ILReS	510	12/10/2005	05/11/2005	367.199
HU	Hungary	TNS Hungary	1.000	18/10/2005	06/11/2005	8.503.379
MT	Malta	MISCO	500	14/10/2005	05/11/2005	322.917
NL	Netherlands	TNS NIPO	1.041	21/10/2005	13/11/2005	13.242.328
AT	Austria	Österreichisches Gallup-Institute	1.020	14/10/2005	03/11/2005	6.679.444
PL	Poland	TNS OBOP	1.000	17/10/2005	07/11/2005	31.610.437
PT	Portugal	TNS EUROTESTE	1.003	17/10/2005	08/11/2005	8.080.915
SI	Slovenia	RM PLUS	1.034	11/10/2005	07/11/2005	1.663.869
SK	Slovakia	TNS AISA SK	1.096	17/10/2005	02/11/2005	4.316.438
FI	Finland	TNS Gallup Oy	1.028	13/10/2005	09/11/2005	4.279.286
SE	Sweden	TNS GALLUP	1.033	14/10/2005	06/11/2005	7.376.680
UK	United Kingdom	TNS UK	1.320	12/10/2005	15/11/2005	47.685.578
BG	Bulgaria	TNS BBSS	1.001	19/10/2005	31/10/2005	6.695.512
HR	Croatia	Puls	1.000	13/10/2005	06/11/2005	3.682.826
RO	Romania	TNS CSOP	1.000	13/10/2005	31/10/2005	18.145.036
TR	Turkey	TNS PIAR	1.005	14/10/2005	07/11/2005	47.583.830
CY (tcc)	Turkish Cypriot Community	KADEM	500	14/10/2005	29/10/2005	157.101
TOTAL			29.430	11/10/2005	15/11/2005	442.620.588

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 offices. For all countries surveyed, a national weighting procedure, using marginal and intercellular weighting, was carried out based on this Universe description. In all countries, gender, age, region and size of locality were introduced in the iteration procedure. For international weighting (i.e. EU averages), TNS Opinion & Social 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.

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 points	± 2.5 points	± 2.7 points	± 3.0 points	± 3.1 points

TABLES