

# EUROBAROMETER 66

PUBLIC OPINION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

## AUTUMN 2006

NATIONAL REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CYPRUS  
TURKISH CYPRIOT COMMUNITY

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## **Standard Eurobarometer 66 for the Turkish Cypriot Community (TCC).**

### **Turkish Cypriots are satisfied with their lives**

75% of Turkish Cypriots who participated in this survey said they are satisfied with their lives. TC women (78%) are more satisfied with their lives compared with TC men (72%).

Turkish Cypriots, whose levels of satisfaction with life had increased greatly in the EB 64 wave, which was carried out between 14-29 October 2005, are now back to a more stable level satisfaction with life, after the slowing down of both internal and external political and economic developments.

### **Although they are satisfied with their lives, Turkish Cypriots think things are going in the wrong direction in the TCC.**

54% of Turkish Cypriots believe things are going in the wrong direction in the TCC. On the other hand, only 29% of Turkish Cypriots believe things are going in the wrong direction in the EU.

### **Turkish Cypriots are more optimistic about life in general than personal employment and employment prospects in the TCC.**

When asked about their future expectations, Turkish Cypriots listed the following in the order of optimistic to least optimistic expectations: Life in general, financial situation of their household, financial situation of the community, personal employment and employment in the community.

More educated Turkish Cypriots tend to be more optimistic about the future.

Similarly, TC women tend to be more optimistic about the future than TC men. But when it comes to future expectations about personal employment, TC men are more optimistic than TC women (better: TC women: 35%, TC men: 40%).

### **TCs see the Cyprus issue as the most important issue facing the TCC.**

52% of TCs who participated in the EB 66 listed the Cyprus issue as the most important issue facing their community. The EB 66 wave was different from the previous Standard Eurobarometer waves in that it included the Cyprus issue as one of the options to the question 'What do you think are the two most important issues facing the TCC at the moment?'.

Due to the addition of the Cyprus issue to the listed options in this question, the percentage of Turkish Cypriots who listed the economic situation, unemployment and crime as the most important issues went down.

The economic situation, which was listed as the most important issue (48%) facing the TCC in the EB 65 wave, is now listed as the third most important issue (35%). Similarly, crime, which was listed as the third most important (17%) issue facing the TCC in EB 65, is now lower in the list of issues with only 5% of the responses.

TC men think the Cyprus issue is a bigger problem than TC women do (55% and 48% respectively). On the other hand, TC women find unemployment to be a bigger problem than TC men do (44% and 31% respectively).

**According to the 15-24 age group, the most important issue facing the TCC is unemployment.**

The different priorities of different age groups may be noted in responses to this question. The over-55 age-group thinks the Cyprus issue is the most important issue facing the TCC and, for this age group, unemployment is only third on the list.

**TCs trust the police most (69%).**

This figure is very similar to the EU 25 average. The level of trust among TCs towards political parties is only 27%. There has been a 6% decrease in the level of trust for political parties since EB 65 was carried out.

**The level of trust for the EU and UN has gone down since EB 65**

Although there has been a stable level of trust in the TCC for the EU, which has been around 50% since the first time Standard Eurobarometer was carried out in the TCC, this level went down to 45% in EB 66.

Similarly the level of trust for the UN went down from 48% to 41%.

TC women tend to trust the EU more than TC men do.

TC youth tends to trust the EU more than older TCs do.

**The level of trust in the TCC for other institutions is as follows:**

There is a negative relationship between age and education levels and the level of trust for the press. As the level of education or age increases, the level of trust in the TCC for press decreases. Nevertheless, as age increases the level of trust for radio increases.

TC men tend to trust the press more than TC women do (50% and 46% respectively).

67% of the 15-24 age-group TCs trust the internet, while this figure is only 17% in the over-55 age group.

TC men tend to trust the internet more than TC women do (48% and 34% respectively).

TC women tend to trust the police more than TC men do (71% and 69% respectively). As age increases in the TCC, the level of trust in the police tends to increase as well.

The level of trust in religious institutions decreases as the level of education of TCs increases.

Young TCs tend to trust trades unions more than older TCs do.

**TCs trust the European Parliament most.**

TCs trust levels are highest in the European Parliament, followed by the Commission and the European Council.

This reflects the fact that TCs tend to trust European institutions that they have heard of before. 81% of TCs said they have heard of the European Parliament in the past, while 76% have heard of the Commission and 71% of the European Council.

When we look at the EU 25 and candidate countries' average levels of trust in the European Parliament, TCs have the third lowest level of trust in the European Parliament after the United Kingdom and Turkey.

A similar distribution can be seen for the level of trust in the European Commission as well. TCs have the third lowest level of trust in the European Commission after the United Kingdom and Turkey.

**TCs think EU membership will have positive effects on different areas.**

A majority of TCs think EU membership will have a positive effect on the TCC. According to the TCs, living standards and economic issues will be more positively affected by EU membership than other issues. TCs think the least positive effect of EU membership will be felt on security and agriculture.

**TCs do not feel the effects of the Single Market and globalization in their daily lives.**

When asked about the effects of the Single Market on transportation, telecommunications, the banking sector, etc, 46% of TCs said there is a positive effect, while 10% spoke of the negative effects the Single Market has on these sectors. About one-third of TCs who participated in this study did not answer this question, leading to the conclusion that TCs are not able to experience the effects of the Single Market in their daily lives.

The majority (61%) of EU 25 participants said the Single Market has positive effects on transportation, telecommunications, the banking sector, etc.

EU 15 participants also spoke about the positive effects of the EU on different sectors, but to a lesser degree (59%) than the EU 25 average (61%). This shows that new members are more aware of the positive effects of EU membership.

TCs were asked whether TC companies' competitiveness compared with ten years ago has changed with the Single Market. 38% of TCs think it has increased, while 18% said the level of competitiveness of TC companies has stayed the same. The fact that 30% of TCs did not respond to this question again shows that TCs are having a hard time feeling the effects of Single Market.

Similarly, TCs find it difficult to assess the effects of globalization in their daily lives. Since the integration of TCs into the world economy has not been completed, only 36% said globalization is a good opportunity for TC companies, while 25% saw it as a threat. 41% of TCs who participated in the survey did not respond to this question.

**TCs think investment in the following need to be increased in order to improve the European economy:** education and vocational training (60%), transportation

infrastructure (43%) and research and innovation (35%). The EU 25 average shows different tendencies among citizens of the EU 25 countries. EU 25 citizens think investment in the following needs to be increased in order to improve the European economy: education and vocational training (65%), research and innovation (47%) and managing company creation (43%).

**Although TCs are satisfied with the economy they are not satisfied with the level of employment.**

54% of TCs said they are happy with the economic situation in the TCC, but are not satisfied with the employment situation there. 79% of TCs said the economic situation in Europe is good.

**The values of the TCC can be listed as follows:**

Respect for human life (50%), equality (43%) and peace (37%). The EU 25 values are a bit different: peace (52%), respect for human life (43%) and human rights (41%).

**The majority of TCs (55%) think their voice does not count in the EU.**

This is very similar to the EU 25 average (57%). EU citizens do not think their voices are taken into account in the EU.

**38% of TCs think they understand how the EU works while 40% said they do not.**

22% of TCs did not respond to this question, which also reflects the fact that TCs are not very aware of how the EU works. The majority of EU citizens (51%) in the EU 25 countries said they do not understand the way EU works.

**TCs do not feel close to the EU.**

Nevertheless, the percentage of TCs who feel close to EU affairs (30%) is higher than the EU 25 average.

**70% of TCs think the implementation of the acquis in the TCC will have advantages.**

As was the case for the questions above, TC women tend to think more positively about the advantages of the full implementation of the acquis in the TCC than TC men.

**TCs said they cannot feel the effects of EU membership in their daily lives.**

While citizens of the EU 25 countries talk about the advantage of the freedom to travel across borders due to less border controls, TCs said they do not feel this in their daily lives.

TCs (47%) do not think the role of the EU in world peace is as positive as what EU 25 citizens think (60%). After citizens in Turkey (41%), the UK (44%) and Austria (46%), TCs are least enthusiastic about the positive effects of the EU on world peace.

**TCs (56%) support the political union of the EU.**

TC youth tends to be more supportive of political union than older TCs. Similarly, TC women (58%) are more supportive of political union than TC men are (54%). As the level of education of TCs rises, so, too, does support for the political union of the EU.

**TCs think the fight against unemployment should be a priority for the EU.**

TCs listed the following priorities for the EU: fight against unemployment (38%), fight against poverty (26%) and fight against organized crime (24%).

The following are the priorities for the EU listed by EU 25 citizens: fight against poverty (43%), fight against unemployment (40%), and protection of peace and security in Europe (29%).

**Only 43% of Turkish Cypriots said they support the European Constitution.**

36% of TCs said they have no opinion on the issue. A higher percentage of EU 25 citizens than TCs support the EU Constitution. This reflects the fact that TCs have not been involved in the discussions on the EU Constitution.

Although TCs have not decided whether they support the EU Constitution, they believe the Constitution will help the EU be more democratic (60%). Although this figure is below the EU 25 average (66%), it is higher than support in the UK, Austria and Denmark. One out of every five TCs refused to respond to this question.

46% of TCs think the EU Constitution would help with the working of EU institutions. Similarly, one out of three TCs who participated in this survey refused to respond to this question.

**Turkish Cypriots support EU enlargement (54%).**

While young TCs tend to support EU enlargement more, the over-55 age group is more hesitant about the enlargement of the EU.

Support for EU enlargement in the TCC (54%) is higher than the EU 25 average (46%).

Similarly, a higher percentage of TCs (68%) think Turkey's membership of the EU will increase the level of security in the region than the EU 25 average (33%).

TCs support Turkey's membership of the EU more than they support the membership of any other candidate country or other countries that are likely to be candidates.