

EUROBAROMETER 68

PUBLIC OPINION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

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NATIONAL REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CYPRUS

TURKISH CYPRIOT COMMUNITY

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This survey (Standard Eurobarometer, Eurobarometer 68) was carried out between 25 September and 3 November 2007 in 31 countries and/or regions. This included the 27 member states of the EU as well as the three candidate states and the Turkish Cypriot Community (TCC).

In interpreting the results of this study, it is important to analyze the results within the context of the developments in the Turkish Cypriot Community over the last year. When the EB 68 study was carried out, there was a very positive environment throughout Europe in terms of the European economy and an increase in support for membership of the EU. While this was taking place in Europe as a whole, the feeling within the TCC that there would not be a solution to the Cyprus Problem in the short term has been intensifying. Similarly, an increasing number of TCs now believe that the promises made to the TCC by the European Union have not been kept and/or carried out. Another contributing factor to the 'negative feeling' within the TCC has been the gradual slowdown of the 'economic boom' that had been taking place over the last few years.

Thus, while there were positive feelings throughout Europe towards the European Union in this Eurobarometer, the level of support among TCs towards this institution continued to fall.

Turkish Cypriot Community's levels of satisfaction with life and optimism continue to decrease.

68% of Turkish Cypriots who participated in the study said they are satisfied with their lives. The average level of life satisfaction in EU 27 is 80%. Turkish Cypriots tended to have a higher than average level of life satisfaction in the earlier Eurobarometer studies due to the political developments that took place in 2004. Nevertheless, the positive political and economic climate was not sustainable and the level of satisfaction and optimism started falling at the time of the EB 66 study. We have seen a further decrease in the level of life satisfaction in EB 68.

Two-thirds (67%) of Turkish Cypriots who participated in the survey said the economic situation in the Turkish Cypriot Community is 'good'.

When compared to the EU 27 average, TCs seem to be happier with the economic situation in their community than other European citizens. 48% of European citizens believe their national economy is good while 49% said it is bad.

Additionally, 67% of Turkish Cypriots said the European economy is in a good situation. 19% of TCs did not put forward an opinion on how they see the European economy, which may be interpreted as TCs' lack of information on the European economy.

Turkish Cypriots complain about unemployment in the Turkish Cypriot Community

52% of Turkish Cypriots who took part in this study said the unemployment situation in the TCC is bad. Thus, while TCs have positive feelings about the economy in the TCC, they are more critical about the level of employment.

53% of TCs said the situation of environment in the Turkish Cypriot Community is good.

When compared to the EU 27 average, Turkish Cypriots feel better about the environment. Additionally, there has been a 2 point increase in the percentage of TCs who feel good about the environment compared to EB 66.

57% Turkish Cypriots think social welfare in the Turkish Cypriot Community is good.

10% of TCs who participated in the survey said social welfare in the TCC is very good, while the percentages of those who considered it fairly good, fairly bad, and very bad were 47%, 23% and 14% respectively.

There has been a 3 percentage point decrease in the number of TCs who think social welfare in the TCC is good since EB 67.

The majority (67%) of TCs expect their lives to be better or remain the same in the next 12 months

38% of TCs expect their lives to be better in the next 12 months while the same percentage of TCs think their lives will stay the same. Only 16% of TCs think their lives will be worse in the next 12 months.

Compared to EB 67, there has been a 2 point decrease in the percentage of TCs who think their lives will be better in the next 12 months.

It is possible to form an optimism index by subtracting the percentage of individuals who think their lives will be worse in the next 12 months from the percentage of those who think their lives will be better. The optimism index for EU is 17, while for TCs this number is 22.

TCs are more optimistic about the economic situation in Europe than they are about the economic situation in the Turkish Cypriot Community.

Turkish Cypriots listed the Cyprus Problem (44%), unemployment (32%) and the economic situation (32%) as the most important issues facing the Turkish Cypriot Community.

The Cyprus Problem was listed by TCs as the second most important issue (after unemployment) in the EB 67 study. In EB 68, the Cyprus Problem became the most important issue for TCs.

There is a 7 point decrease in the percentage of TCs (21%) who think crime is an issue.

Only one-fifth of the TCs who participated in this study said things are going in the right direction in the TCC. Interestingly, a higher percentage (35%) of Turkish Cypriots think things are going in the right direction in the EU.

Turkish Cypriots trust the police the most

82% of TCs said they trust the police. Only 13% said they trust political parties.

	I trust	I don't trust
Police	82%	16%
Religious institutions	64%	29%
Labor unions	37%	52%
Political parties	13%	79%
Consumer Associations	27%	53%

The level of trust among Turkish Cypriots towards the EU and its institution continues to fall.

There has been a 4 point decrease in the percentage of Turkish Cypriots who said they trust the European Union (32%) since EB67.

The level of trust among TCs towards the United Nations fell from 42% in EB 66 to 30% in EB 68.

Similarly, the level of trust among TCs towards the European Commission is only 29% while the EU 27 average is 50%.

Only 33% of TCs said they trust the European Parliament.

Only 47% of Turkish Cypriots say EU membership is a good thing.

While support for the EU is at its highest throughout Europe, trust levels in the EU among Turkish Cypriots continue to fall. There has been a 13 point decrease in the percentage of TCs who said they think EU membership is a good thing since EB67.

Nevertheless, 59% of TCs think the Turkish Cypriot Community will benefit from EU membership.

72% of TCs think their voice is not taken into account in the European Union.

72% of Turkish Cypriots said they do not think the interests of the Turkish Cypriot Community are taken into account in the European Union.

Only 41% of TCs who participated in the survey said they know how the European Union works.

Only 29% of TCs said they think the TCC will have more of a say in the EU in the future.

Two-thirds of TCs said they are informed about political affairs in the European Union.

Media and the European Union

44% of TCs who participated in this survey said TV channels talk sufficiently about the EU while 30% believe TV talks too much about the EU. The remaining 22% said there is not enough on the TV about the European Union.

Similarly, 43% believe radio stations talk sufficiently about the EU, while 18% said they talk too much about the EU. The remaining 26% said there is not enough on the TV about the European Union.

Likewise, 40% of TCs believe the press talks sufficiently about the EU, while 30% said it talks too much about the EU. The remaining 20% said there is not enough in the press about the European Union.

41% of TCs said they find TV stations to be too positive about the EU, while only 27% find them to be objective.

30% of TCs said they find radio stations to be objective about the EU, while 28% find them to be too positive.

39% of TCs said they find the press to be too positive about the EU, while only 24% finds the press objective about the EU.

Turkish Cypriots tend to trust television more than they trust other media sources.

49% of TCs said they trust television, while 47% trust the radio and 44% trust the press. The fact that only 28% of TCs said they trust the internet is closely related to the low percentage of TCs who use the internet.

	I trust	I don't trust
Press	44%	51%
Radio	47%	45%
Television	49%	47%
Internet	28%	32%