

EUROBAROMETER 68

PUBLIC OPINION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

AUTUMN 2007

NATIONAL REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SPAIN

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NATIONAL REPORT SPAIN

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INTRODUCTION OF EB 68 - Autumn 2007 - SPAIN

Between 22 September and 3 November 2007, TNS - Demoscopia carried out wave EB68 of the Standard Eurobarometer in the 27 member states at the request of DG Communication. The current Spanish edition includes a Standard National Report (in Spanish) and an Executive Summary focusing on the main conclusions concerning the overall public opinion in Spain during autumn of 2007. The EB edition is also used as a framework for communication strategies by the EC Representation in Spain. The executive summary presented here will summarise the most important conclusions of the Spanish National Report.

Some socio-demographic analysis of the data is offered in the National Report in order to emphasise some of the findings for Spain. Additionally, there is a series of data offered in the form of a follow-up from consecutive Eurobarometer surveys, carried out in recent years. For these data the main trend is described for selected questions.

Novelties of EB 68, in respect to earlier editions, include the public opinion in respect of the current situation in Spain, as well as the perception of the public in respect to the future of the EU. As in earlier editions, this one shows the most important results in terms of the fears of the public and their trust in various national institutions. In addition, some interest is once again placed upon issues and activities which, according to the public, should represent a priority for the EU.

Finally, in this edition the Spanish public was asked about their trust in the media, as well as the type and amount of information they receive from the different forms.

The website of the Eurobarometer can be consulted at:

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

Theme 1: The general climate and level of satisfaction of the Spanish public

The Spanish group maintains its positive evaluation of next year

37% of the Spanish interviewees think that their life in the next year will be better, compared with 43% who held this view in the previous edition. Only 8% of the group think it will be “worse” while the majority, 52%, think that life will be the “same”

	Better	Worse	Same
Your life in general	37	8	52
The economic situation in Spain	28	22	44
The economic situation in your household	30	11	57
The employment situation in Spain	29	24	40
Your personal employment situation	26	6	64

Once again, the Spanish public consider terrorism to be the main worry right now in Spain.

- 37% of those interviewed hold this view, a decrease of 10 points since the earlier edition of EB67 (47%).

As for the perception that the public has of the Spanish economy, 46% rate it as “fairly good”. In a similar vein, 46% of those interviewed rate the social welfare system in Spain as “fairly good”, In contrast, 34% of the group consider it to be “fairly bad”.

In this edition, there seems to be a certain division in the opinions on the current situation in Spain. While 39% believe that things in Spain are going in “the right direction”, another 37% say that things are going in “the wrong direction”.

Levels of trust in the Spanish parliament and the Spanish government were very high among the interviewees. Half of the group (49%) said that they “tend to trust” the Spanish government. The other two national institutions that received high levels of trust were the army and trades unions.

Theme 2: Spanish opinion towards the EU

The Spanish public thinks that political decisions on social issues should only be taken by the Spanish government

In this edition of EB68, 64% of the Spanish public, think decisions on issues like terrorism or immigration should be taken jointly at EU level.

In contrast, decisions on issues like the education system (62%), the pension system (63%) or social welfare (63%), are thought to be the sole competence of the Spanish government. Likewise, decisions on the “fight against crime” (49%) or “unemployment” (54%) are thought to concern only the national government.

The majority of Spanish interviewees (47%) “tend to agree” that Spanish interests are taken into consideration in the EU. Furthermore, 58% of the Spanish say they “tend to agree” that, in the future, Spain will be more important in the EU.

Furthermore, 44% of the Spanish public thinks that things in the EU are “going in the right direction” and only 17% of the interviewees think the opposite. Similarly, when evaluating the future of the EU, 59% of the Spanish public feel “fairly optimistic” while another 10% feel “very optimistic”.

The fight against illegal immigration and crime should be the major priorities for the EU according to the Spanish public

47% of the Spanish public think that the EU should prioritise the fight against “illegal immigration”. The fight against crime, the environment and social issues are the other themes suggested by the Spanish interviewees.

Theme 3: The EU in the Spanish Media

The Spanish public needs more information on the EU

The majority (52%) of the Spanish interviewees feel “not very well informed”, another 14% feel “fairly well informed”, while only 3% feel “very well informed” on European political affairs.

44% of the group think that TV reports “enough” on the EU, while the EU-27 average for those who believe that TV reports “little” on the EU was 49%.

In relation to the national press, 12% of the Spanish public think that it reports “too much” on the EU, while 39% believe it reports “enough”.

Among the youngest age groups (15 to 24 year olds) 12% believe that the Internet provides “too much” information about the EU.

	too much	enough	objectively	too positively
Television	11	44	51	16
Press	12	39	48	12
Radio	11	37	47	13
Internet	7	21	28	7

In relation to the levels of trust towards the Spanish media, these were, again, at very good levels. For example, 55% of the interviewees “tend to trust” the national press, in contrast to the EU-27 average of 44%. In addition, 62% of the Spanish poll “tend to trust” radio compared to 27% who “tend not to trust” it.

As a source of information, TV was the form of media recording the highest levels of distrust both among the Spanish public and other EU citizens. In the Spanish case, 42% “tend not to trust” the TV, similar to the EU27 average of 43%.

CONCLUSIONS EB68

This edition of EB68 reveals that, on average, the Spanish public positively evaluate their personal situation (both in financial terms and in terms of employment) and tend to show the same levels of optimism towards the situation of Spain and the EU.

According to the interviewees, terrorism and unemployment are the main issues that Spain is facing right now, while immigration has a lower position in comparison to earlier editions. In relation to these issues, the Spanish public opinion is that political decisions should be taken jointly at EU level. Additionally, both the Spanish parliament and government have enjoyed very high levels of trust in this edition, in contrast to the majority of other EU member states where citizens tend not to trust their respective national political institutions.

Lastly, Spaniards trust the work of the EU and think that the EU is going in the right direction. As for the information they receive on European political affairs, they feel that they are “not very well informed”, but they trust the majority of the national media, through which they receive “enough information on the EU”, according to the results.
