

EUROBAROMETER 69

PUBLIC OPINION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

SPRING 2008

NATIONAL REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CYPRUS

TURKISH CYPRIOT COMMUNITY

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This study (Standard Eurobarometer, Eurobarometer 69) was carried out between 28 March 2008- 30 April 2008 in 31 countries and/or regions. This included the 27 member states of the EU as well as the three candidate states. A survey of the Turkish Cypriot Community (TCC) was also carried out.

When the EB 68 study was carried out in autumn 2007, 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, the feeling within the TCC was then that there would not be a solution to the Cyprus Problem in the short term had intensified and there was a high level of mistrust for the international community at large and the European Union more specifically. This negative momentum has changed significantly during the period when EB 69 was carried out.

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.

During this period the aid programme for the Turkish Cypriot Community announced by the European Union has been very visible in the press. Financial assistance under this aid regulation focuses on five priority objectives as follows: Developing and restructuring of infrastructure (approx. € 129,25 million); Promoting social and economic development (approx. €70.2 million); Fostering reconciliation, confidence building measures, and support to civil society (approx. € 13 million); Bringing the Turkish Cypriot community closer to the European Union (approx. € 9.5 million); Preparing the Turkish Cypriot community to introduce and implement the *acquis communautaire* (approx. € 13.46 million). During the period in question approximately € 83 million were already tendered and € 38 million contracted from this programme.

In addition to the aid programme, political developments took place on the Cyprus issue. The leaders of the two communities started a series of meetings and technical committees and working groups were formed and started meeting.

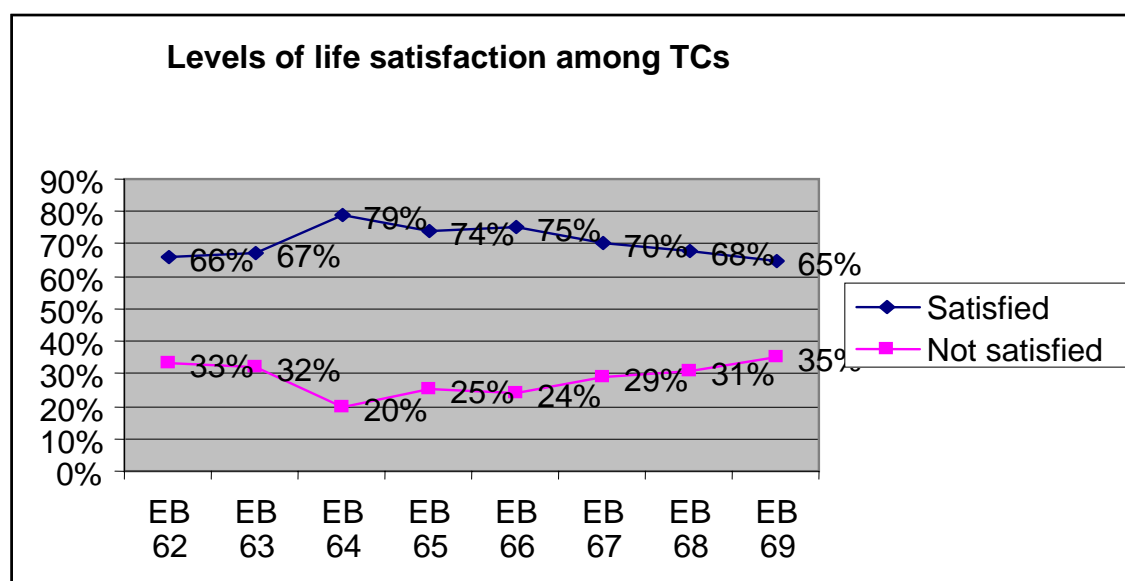
The period within which the EB 69 was carried out is one where the global economic crisis and its effects on the TCC were felt intensely by Turkish Cypriots. Rising oil prices have led to rising prices in the TCC just like in the rest of Europe.

The European economy has been the main driver of the public opinion during this wave of Standard Eurobarometer. The rising prices and slower economic growth have been the main factors affecting the public opinion.

There has been an increase in the level of trust towards the EU in the EU 27 average, whereas there has been a decrease in the levels of trust towards the individual EU institutions (except for the ECB). While there is a decrease in the levels of trust in EU institutions in the EU 27 average, TCs have shown an opposite attitude whereby their levels of trust towards individual EU institutions, as well as the EU in general, have increased.

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

As is the case among the Turkish Cypriots, we can see that the level of satisfaction with life within the EU 27 member states has decreased during EB 69. The decrease in the Turkish Cypriots' levels of life satisfaction is striking and has fallen below the pre-referendum of 2004 levels for the first time.



The level of optimism among TCs is lower than the EU 27 average.

The percentage of those in the TCC who expect things in economic matters to get worse in the next 12 months is higher than the percentage of those who expect things to get better. On the other hand, TCs are more optimistic about economic matters in the EU.

Expectations in the EU for the next 12 months:

	Better	Same	Worse	Optimism Index
Life in General	32%	49%	16%	16
Economic situation in the country	16%	33%	46%	-30
Household's financial situation	22%	50%	25%	-3
Employment	21%	34%	39%	- 17
Personal	20%	61%	10%	10

employment				
Economic Situation on the EU	18%	38%	26%	-8

Expectations in the TCC for the next 12 months:

	Better	Same	Worse	Optimism Index
Life in General	30%	36%	17%	13
Economic situation in the country	19%	34%	31%	- 12
Household's financial situation	22%	47%	17%	5
Employment	17%	30%	33%	- 16
Personal employment	22%	45%	13%	9
Economic Situation on the EU	24%	28%	11%	13

The level of optimism with respect to life in general among TCs in the EB 68 study was 22%. This figure fell to 13% in EB 69.

TCs think that the situation in the TCC in all fronts (the economy, employment, inflation etc) is worse than the situation in the EU.

	Better	Worse
Economic Situation	31%	58%
Employment	23%	65%
Inflation	41%	50%
Energy Prices	33%	51%
Quality of Life	31%	55%

Only 21% of the TCs who participated in the study believe that things are going in the right direction in the TCC. This is in fact affecting the life satisfaction level of TCs which keeps dropping.

	TCC
Right direction	21%
Wrong direction	50%

TCs think the Cyprus Problem (37%) as well as the economic situation (30%) and unemployment (30%) are the most important issues facing the TCC.

Inflation seems to be a bigger problem for the TCs in this study than it was in the EB 68. (28%, with a 14 percentage point increase since EB 68)

	EB 68.1	EB 69.2
Cyprus Problem	44%	37%
Economic Situation	32%	30%
Unemployment	32%	30%
Inflation	14%	28%
Crime	21%	19%
Taxation	10%	10%
Education	8%	8%
Immigration	7%	7%
Health	6%	6%
Terrorism	3%	4%
Pensions	2%	3%
Housing	2%	3%
Protection of the Environment	3%	2%
Energy Issues	4%	1%

TCs trust the police more than any other institution in the TCC.

There seems to be a similar trend in the EU.

	TCC		EU 27	
	Trust	Don't Trust	Trust	Don't Trust
Press	49%	38%	%44	%50
Radio	53%	30%	%61	%32
TV	55%	35%	%53	%43
Internet	52%	22%	%36	%37
Police	75%	18%	%63	%32
Political Parties	22%	65%	%18	%76
EU	49%	30%	%50	%36
UN	39%	36%	%54	%30

Only a quarter of the TCs who participated in this survey believe that there is transparency in the TCC.

Only 26% of the TCs said they think there is transparency in the TCC, while 43% of TCs said things are transparent in the EU.

There has been an important increase in the levels of trust among TCs towards the EU and its institutions.

The level of trust for the EU has increased by 17 percentage points to reach 49% in the EB 69. There has been a smaller increase in the level of trust to the EU in the EU 27 average.

Although there has been an increase in the level of trust TCs feel towards the UN in this study, this level is lower than the level of trust in the EU. When we look at the levels of trust TCs feel towards different institutions of the EU, we can see that the most trusted institution is the European Parliament.

	EU 27		TCC	
	Trust	Don't Trust	Trust	Don't Trust
EP	52%	27%	44%	26%
European Commission	47%	27%	41%	28%
EU Council	43%	26%	47%	24%
ECB	50%	24%	42%	23%

There has been an increase in the percentage of TCs who believe that the full implementation of the acquis would be a good thing for the TCC.

While the percentage of TCs who viewed the possible full implementation of the acquis in the TCC as a good thing was 47% in the EB 68, this percentage increased to 56% in the EB 69.

Similarly the percentage of TCs who believe the TCC will benefit from the full implementation of the acquis has increased by 6% in EB 69 (from 55% to 61%).

Turkish Cypriots who said they believe the full implementation of the acquis in the TCC is a good thing and will benefit the TCC, say the reason for this is that the EU would mean more economic opportunities and more democracy for the TCC.

There has been an important increase in the EU image among TCs.

There has been a 12% increase in the EU image among TCs (from 40% in EB 68 to 52% in EB 69). This increase is parallel to the increase in the TCs' level of trust in the EU and the stronger view that the TCC will benefit from EU membership.

The EU has more of an economic meaning for the Turkish Cypriots.

Although the EU 27 average tends to signal that European citizens mostly see the EU as meaning the freedom to travel, Euro and peace, Turkish Cypriots, mostly because they are not able to enjoy fully most of these privileges, tend to see the EU more in economic terms. Thus, for TCs, the EU means the following: economic welfare (40%), social security (34%) and peace (30%).

	EB 68.1	EB 69.2	EB 68.1	EB 69.2
	EU 27	EU 27	TCC	TCC
Economic welfare	20%	17%	38%	40%
Social Security	10%	9%	34%	34%
Peace	33%	26%	34%	30%
Democracy	22%	21%	32%	29%
Freedom to travel or study anywhere in the EU	52%	49%	18%	24%
Cultural Diversity	27%	22%	21%	21%
Stronger say in the world	26%	22%	16%	17%
Loss of cultural identity	12%	11%	17%	12%
Unemployment	14%	11%	13%	8%
Waste of money	20%	19%	5%	8%
Euro	39%	35%	14%	7%
Bureaucracy	21%	18%	7%	6%
More crime	17%	15%	8%	5%
Not enough control at external frontiers	18%	18%	5%	4%

There has been an increase in the level of optimism among Turkish Cypriots with respect to the future of the EU.

Compared to the EB 68 study, there has been a 3 percentage point decrease in the optimism levels of the EU 27 countries whereas TCs' level of optimism with respect to the future of the EU rose by 18%.

Levels of optimism

	EB 68.1	EB 69.2	EB 68.1	EB 69.2
	EU 27	EU 27	TCC	TCC
Optimistic	66%	63%	49%	68%
Pessimistic	26%	28%	39%	18%

The highest support for Turkish membership comes from the Turkish Cypriots.

While the EU 27 average for Turkey's membership is quite low, (31% for, 55% against) Turkish Cypriots seem to be quite positive for Turkey's membership of the EU. (84%)

After Turkey, the countries that have the support of TCs for EU membership are: Bosnia, Switzerland and Norway.

Lastly, it is possible to say that TCs view globalisation as increased foreign investment into the TCC.