

EUROBAROMETER 69

PUBLIC OPINION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

SPRING 2008

NATIONAL REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

LUXEMBOURG

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Eurobarometer Survey in Luxembourg

Increased pessimism regarding the financial situation of the household, as well as the economic situation of Luxembourg and the EU

Inflation remains the main national problem

Inflation is considered to be the main national problem by the respondents of Luxembourg (43%), representing a rise of 5 points since the Eurobarometer survey in autumn 2007. It is followed by housing (37%) and the educational system (25%), both being minor problems at European level, unemployment (24%, a fall of 8 points compared to autumn 2007), insecurity (11%) and immigration (10%).

The Eurobarometer 69.2 survey was carried out by the European Commission, in spring 2008, in 30 countries or territories: 27 Member States, three applicant countries (Croatia, Turkey and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) and the territory of the Turkish Cypriot Community. It provides a picture of the lives of citizens and their perceptions with regard to a range of issues. The image of the European Union and trust in the European and national political institutions are also analysed.

The sample of the Eurobarometer surveys comprises approximately 1 000 people per Member State. Luxembourg is an exception with a sample made up of 501 people for the EB 69.2, and it is representative of its population (73% of people with Luxembourgish nationality and 27% of nationals of other EU Member States). In its commentary, the special report, prepared on behalf of the Representation of the European Commission in Luxembourg, refers to the inhabitants of Luxembourg, an entity that covers not only citizens of Luxembourgish nationality.

Satisfaction with the lives they lead and expectations regarding the next year

95% of Luxembourg's respondents are satisfied with the life they lead. 54% of the respondents do not expect their personal situation to change in the coming twelve months but, in general, 33% of the respondents expect an improvement in their personal situation. There is an increase in pessimism in terms of the expectations towards the economic situation in comparison to spring 2007. 49% (39% in 2007) of the respondents are pessimistic when considering the future of Luxembourg's economic situation, 16% (8% in 2007) concerning the future of the financial situation of their households, and 47% (36% in 2007) are worried about the economic situation of the European Union.

Trust in institutions and the European Union

The trust the inhabitants of Luxembourg place in national institutions remains high. The level of trust in the national Government and the national Parliament reaches 55%. At the same time, 55% of the respondents of Luxembourg affirm that they tend to trust the EU (62% in spring 2007). The European institutions have a high degree of popularity; it is higher in Luxembourg than at European level. The European Parliament and the European Central Bank enjoy the trust of a majority of the respondents (59%), followed by the European Commission (54%) and the Council of the European Union (49%).

The image of the European Union

With 73% (82% in autumn 2007 and 74% in spring 2007), a vast majority of Luxembourg's respondents believe that Luxembourg's EU membership is a good thing; at the same time, 68% think that it is beneficial. The inhabitants of Luxembourg consider the main benefit of this membership to be an improvement of the cooperation between Luxembourg and other countries (46%). The main concern voiced by respondents is that the European Union endangers the employment of Luxembourg's citizens.

The European Union evokes a positive image for 53% of respondents from Luxembourg. For a majority of the respondents, the EU represents the liberty to travel, study and work anywhere within the European Union.

Decision-making

The fight against terrorism, protection of the environment, defence and foreign affairs and the fight against crime are the decisions which, according to the respondents, should be taken jointly within the European Union. In contrast, decisions concerning pensions, taxes and the educational system should be taken directly by Luxembourg's Government.

Purchasing power and the future life of children

For 62% (EU: 52%) of respondents, their purchasing power has decreased compared to five years ago. A quarter of the population (EU: 47%) have difficulties paying all the bills at the end of the month, and 77% (EU: 61%) are convinced that the life of today's children will be harder than the life of the preceding generation.

Enlargement of the European Union

Luxembourg, France and Austria are the most opposed to future enlargements of the European Union. However, Switzerland, Norway and Iceland, three non-applicant countries, would be welcomed into the European Union according to respondents in Luxembourg, when asked their opinion country by country. Turkey and Albania would be the least welcome countries.