

EUROBAROMETER 69

PUBLIC OPINION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

SPRINGSRING 2008

NATIONAL REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SLOVAK REPUBLIC

This survey was requested and coordinated by Directorate-General for Communication.

This report was produced for the European Commission's Representation in the Slovak Republic.

This document does not represent the point of view of the European Commission.
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1. State of Opinion

Eurobarometer survey No. 69 confirmed that in Slovakia the level of satisfaction of people with the life they lead is lower than the European average. While, in the EU27, 19% of citizens are very satisfied, in Slovakia, it is only 10%. There is almost no difference in the "rather satisfied" category between Slovakia and the EU27. 59% of citizens in Slovakia and 58% in the EU27 are rather satisfied with the life they lead. However, in Slovakia, 25% of citizens are rather dissatisfied with the life they lead, that is 8 points above the EU27 average. 6% of citizens in Slovakia and 5% of citizens in the EU27 are not satisfied at all with the life they lead. Since the previous survey, in autumn 2007, there has been no shift in the assessment of the satisfaction with the life people lead in Slovakia.

However, as far as expectations related to the economic situation in their country are concerned, Slovaks are more positive than Europeans on average. However, there are also more people in Slovakia who expect a worsening of the situation, than those who expect improvement. An improvement of the situation is expected by 28% of Slovak citizens, which is 8 points more than in the EU27. A worsening of the economic situation in their country in the next twelve months is expected by 35% of Slovak citizens, that is 11 points less than in the EU27. No change is expected by one third of citizens. In terms of trends the assessment is not so positive. While there was no change in the number of Slovaks who expect improvement compared to the previous survey,, the number of those who expect a worsening of the situation has increased by 7 points. At the same time, since autumn 2007, the number of those who do not expect any change concerning the economic situation in their country in the next twelve months has decreased by 6 points. This negative trend is surprising taking into account that in this period the Slovak economy had grown, GDP has reached record-breaking figures and the first information on the slowing down of economic growth only appeared in the media in May 2008 when EB data had already been collected. Because of this, we can assume that the reasons for the growing pessimism of Slovaks were probably due to fears concerning the impact of the crisis happening in the world financial market on the Slovak economy, and also declining trust in the government's economic policy. Despite this negative trend, the Slovaks are the fourth most optimistic nation in the European Union, just behind the Maltese, Poles and Romanians in terms of their expectations concerning the economic situation in their country over the next twelve months.

Regarding the expectations pertaining to the financial situation of households in the next twelve months, Slovaks are less optimistic than they are about the economic situation in their country. On the other hand, they are also less pessimistic. In Slovakia, as well as in the EU on average, an improvement in the financial situation of their household is expected by less than a quarter of citizens (22%) and a worsening of the situation is expected by 31% of citizens in Slovakia and 25% in the EU27. Half of the EU27 citizens do not expect any change in this area in the next twelve months, in Slovakia, it is 5 points less. The trend of expectations of Slovak citizens concerning the financial situation of their households follows the trend of expectations concerning the economic situation in Slovakia. Between autumn 2007 and spring 2008 the number of citizens who expected a worsening of the situation has increased by 5 points and, at the same time, the number of Slovak citizens who in the next twelve months do not expect any change in the financial situation of their households has decreased by 6 points.

Slovaks are more optimistic than the European average in relation to expectations concerning the employment situation in their country. Almost one-third of Slovaks (32%) expect the situation to improve in the next twelve months, that is 11 points above the EU27 average. A worsening of the situation is expected only by a quarter of the Slovak citizens, that is 14 points less than in the EU27. 39% of Slovak citizens and 34% of EU27 citizens do not expect any change. This trend differs from that of the previous two questions, in so far as the number of citizens expecting a worsening of the situation has not increased since autumn

2007. The reason Slovak citizens have less pessimistic expectations concerning the employment situation in Slovakia in the next twelve months is probably due to the fact that the media have published information about the lack of qualified labour available to foreign investors in Slovakia.

In spite of growing pessimism in expectations concerning the economic situation in Slovakia and the financial situation of households in the next twelve months, overall, Slovaks have a more optimistic view than the EU average, not only concerning the direction of the EU, but also of their own country. While, in the EU27, 45% of citizens think that in general, things are going in the wrong direction in their country, in Slovakia, only 19% of citizens have this opinion, which is a difference of 26 points. The difference in the number of citizens who think that things are going in the right direction in their country is less pronounced. In Slovakia 41% of citizens are of this opinion, which is 9 points above the EU average. The difference is caused by the fact that in Slovakia more than one-third of citizens (37%) think that things in Slovakia are going neither in the right direction nor in the wrong direction, while in the EU27 only 19% of citizens have this view on the direction of their country. The differences between the opinion of the Slovak citizens and EU27 citizens concerning the present direction of the EU follow a similar trend.. A quarter of EU27 citizens consider that things are going in the wrong direction in the European Union, while in Slovakia only 5% of citizens have this opinion. The majority of Slovaks (53%) think that things in the EU are going in the right direction. Only 42% of EU27 citizens have such a view on development in the Union. Since autumn 2007, the number of citizens who think that things in the European Union are going in the wrong direction has decreased by 5 points, while the number of citizens who think that things in the EU are going in the right direction has increased by 4 points. In terms of their own country, since autumn 2007, the number of citizens who think that things in Slovakia are going in the wrong direction has decreased significantly by 11 points, and the number of citizens who think that things are going in the right direction has increased by 7 points.

According to Slovak citizens as well as EU27 citizens, the most important issues facing their country at the moment are rising prices/inflation, unemployment, the economic situation, the healthcare system and crime. Slovak citizens, like EU27 citizens in general, rank the issue of rising prices/inflation as the most important issue facing their country: 43% of Slovaks and 37% of EU27 citizens are of this opinion. In second place is unemployment, which is considered as one of the most important issues by 29% of Slovak citizens and 24% of EU27 citizens. Slovaks ranked in third place the economic situation, which is considered to be an important issue by 28% citizens, while in the EU on average the economic situation and crime are ranked in third and fourth places respectively, with 20% of EU27 citizens deeming them important issues. Slovak citizens rank healthcare system in fourth place, with 26% of Slovaks considering this to be an important issue. Crime has been ranked fifth with 19% of Slovaks saying it is one of the most important issues their country is facing. In the EU, on average, healthcare is ranked in fifth place, with 19% of EU27 citizens considering it an important issue.

The most visible and dramatic trend is the increase in the perception of rising prices/inflation as the most important issue facing Slovakia. While in autumn 2007 33% of Slovaks considered rising prices/inflation to be one of the two most important issues facing their country, in spring 2008 this figure had reached 43%. Another distinctive change in opinion of the Slovaks is in the perception of housing as one of the most important issues. While only 7% of Slovak citizens considered housing to be one of the two most important issues facing their country in autumn 2007,, in spring 2008, this number had doubled with 13% of Slovaks considering this issue to be one of the most important. Rising prices of agricultural products, food and oil on the world markets as well as citizens' fears concerning the impact of the adoption of the new currency (euro), are some reasons for the growing perception that rising prices/inflation is the most important issue facing Slovakia.

2. Trust

Slovakia traditionally belongs to those countries of the EU27, whose citizens have a high level of trust in the European Union. Two-thirds (67%) of Slovaks trust the EU, while in the EU27 only half of citizens trust the Union. Only less than a quarter of Slovaks (23%) do not trust the EU, while in the EU27 more than one-third (36%) do not trust the Union. Thus, Slovakia is ranked in fourth place of the EU Member States in terms of the level of trust they feel in the European Union, just behind Cyprus, Estonia and Belgium. Since autumn 2007, their trust in the European Union has increased by 9 points and thus in spring 2008 the level of trust of Slovak citizens toward the Union has reached its highest level since Slovakia joined the EU in spring 2004. One of the reasons Slovak citizens trust the European Union is the fact that Slovaks perceive the EU as an association of democratic states with long-term democratic traditions and a higher political culture than in Slovakia.

Trust in the institutions of the European Union is also very high in Slovakia. The highest level of trust in Slovakia is traditionally towards the European Parliament (EP). 69% of Slovaks trust in the EP, that is 17 points above the EU27 average. In second place, there is the European Commission, with 61% of Slovak citizens trusting this institution (compared to 47% in the EU27) and, in third place, are the Council of the European Union and the European Central Bank, which both gain the trust of 58% of Slovak citizens (compared with 43% 50% of citizens in the EU27 respectively). In terms of trust in the European Commission, Slovakia is in fifth place compared to other Member States, just behind Belgium, Cyprus, The Netherlands and Portugal. As for the European Parliament, Slovakia ranks second just behind Belgium. The long-term high level of trust in the European Parliament by Slovak citizens is an interesting phenomenon, taking into consideration that Slovakia is one of the countries with the lowest number of MEPs (14 MEPs out of the total 785), which is a very low number to significantly influence decision-making. Furthermore, in the 2004 European elections, the turnout in Slovakia was only 16,96%: the lowest turnout out of all the Member States..

Slovaks traditionally show a higher level of trust towards media than towards state institutions. At the same time, Slovak citizens trust the media more than EU27 citizens. In addition, trust in the government in Slovakia is currently higher than the EU average. 78% of Slovak citizens trust in the radio (61% in the EU27), 71% of Slovak citizens trust television (53% in the EU27) and 56% of Slovak citizens trust the press (44% in the EU27). On the other hand, only 37% of Slovak citizens trust the national government (32% in the EU27) and only 34% of citizens trust the national parliament both in Slovakia and in the EU27 average. There is a significant difference when comparing the level of trust expressed by Slovak citizens in the national justice and legal system and the police with the EU27 average.. Only 31% of Slovak citizens trust the Slovak justice and legal system, that is 15 points below the EU27 average, and only 36% of Slovak citizens trust the police, that is 27 points below the EU27 average.

From a domestic point of view, it is interesting to note that the Eurobarometer No. 69 survey was carried out in Slovakia when the vibrant debate concerning the draft press law, submitted by the government to the parliament, was under way. The survey was carried out in the period around the time of the adoption of this controversial law that had been criticized by journalists, publishers and also by independent analysts. Therefore, it is interesting to note that, over the period from autumn 2004 to autumn 2007, the level of trust in the press oscillated within a narrow range between 51% and 53%, in spring 2008, it reached the highest level of 56%. Although it is only a modest increase of 4 points in comparison to the previous survey, it indicates that in the dispute between the government and the press more citizens sided with the press. The modest decrease of 3 points in the level of trust in the Slovak government which occurred between autumn 2007 and spring 2008 also suggests this might be the case.

3. View on the European Union

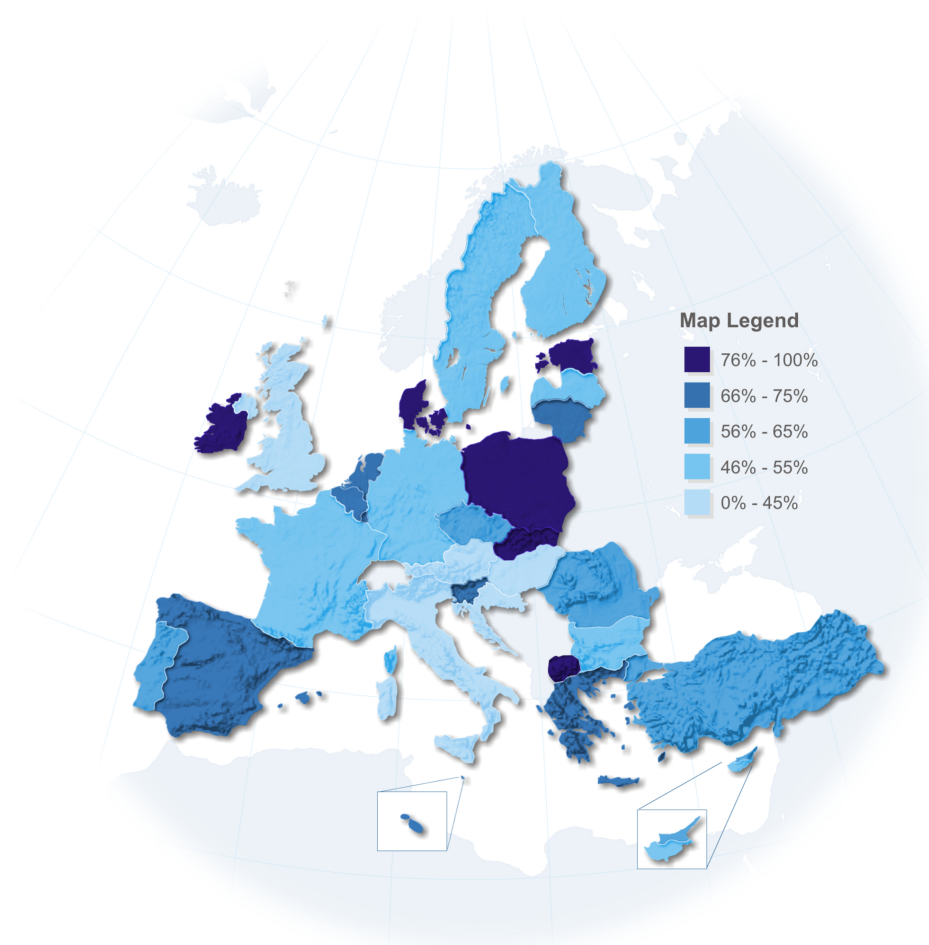
Slovakia traditionally belongs to the countries in which the majority of citizens consider membership of the European Union to be a good thing. In spring 2008, 57% of Slovaks shared this opinion, which is 5 points above the EU27 average. Only 6% of Slovak citizens consider Slovakia's membership of the EU to be a bad thing, a figure which is 8 points below the EU27 average. More than one-third (35%) of Slovak citizens think that their country's EU membership is neither a good nor a bad thing. In the EU27, 29% of citizens share this view on their country's EU membership. In terms of trends, no significant change has occurred since autumn 2007.

The assessment of Slovakia's EU membership is admittedly closely related to the evaluation as to whether the country has benefited from being a member of the EU. More than three-quarters of Slovaks (76%) think that Slovakia has benefited from being a member of the EU, while in the EU27 only slightly more than half the population (54%) have such a view.

Question: QA8. Taking everything into account, would you say that (OUR COUNTRY) has on balance benefited or not from being a member of the European Union?

Answers: Benefited

	IE	82%
	DK	77%
	PL	77%
	EE	76%
	SK	76%
	LT	75%
	EL	73%
	SI	71%
	BE	70%
	NL	70%
	MT	69%
	LU	68%
	ES	66%
	RO	65%
	CZ	64%
	PT	61%
	DE	55%
	CY*	55%
	EU27	54%
	FI	51%
	SE	50%
	FR	49%
	LV	48%
	BG	47%
	IT	37%
	AT	36%
	UK	36%
	HU	36%
* CY(tcc) = 61%		
	MK	82%
	TR	58%
	HR	44%



In terms of the proportion of citizens who think that their country benefited being a member of the Union, Slovakia is ranked fifth when compared to other Member States.. During the last year, opinions on this issue have started to change. Following a fall of 6 points in autumn 2007, in spring 2008, an increase of 6 points was observed. In spring 2007 as well as in spring 2008, the highest percentages of people who believed that Slovakia benefited from being a member of the EU were recorded. Those Slovak citizens who believe that their country benefited from EU membership feel this way as they believe that the European Union brings Slovak people new work opportunities (54%), membership improves cooperation between Slovakia and other countries (47%) and the European Union contributes to economic growth in Slovakia (44%).

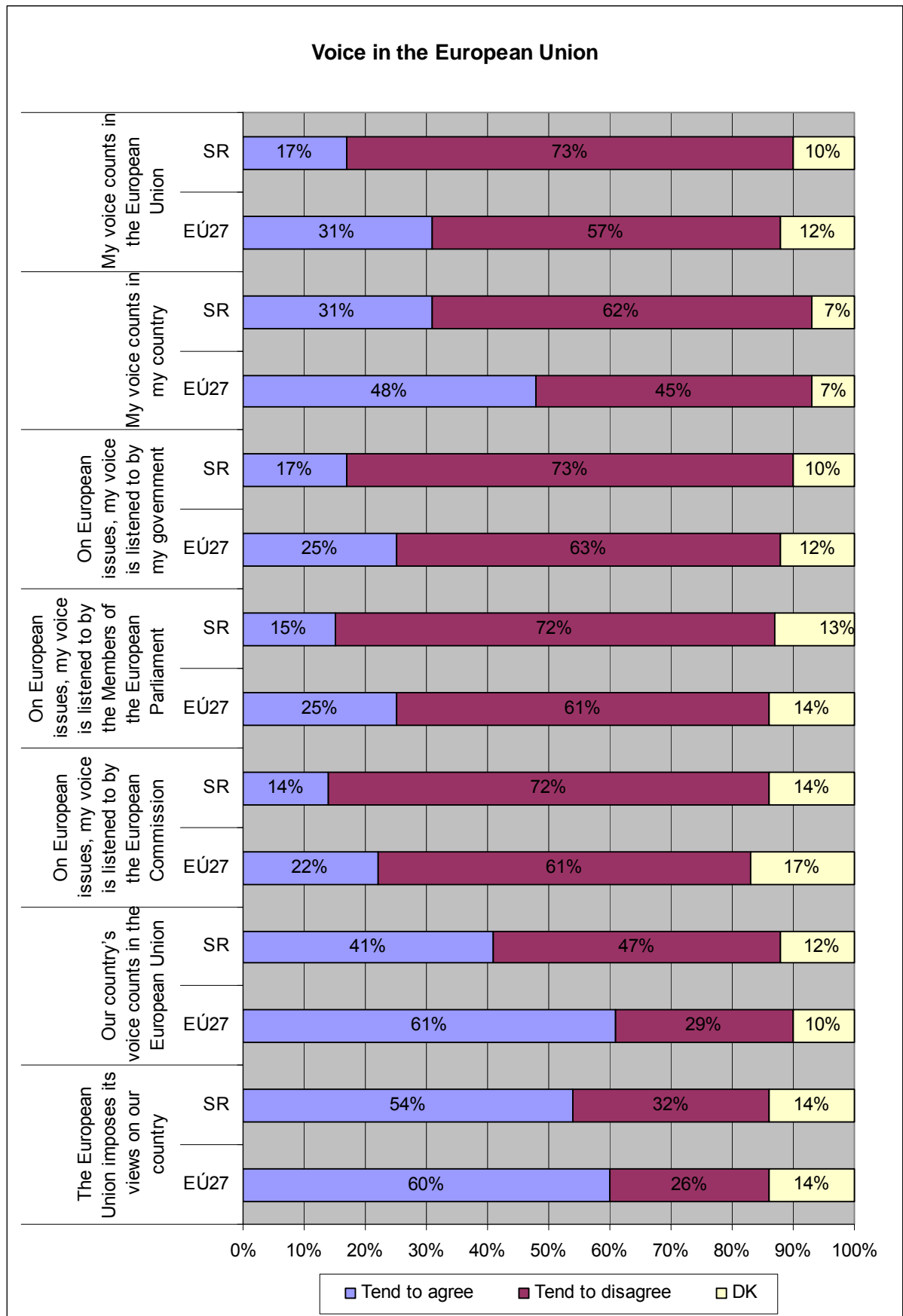
This euro-optimistic picture of the citizens of the Slovak Republic has some serious flaws when analysing responses to another set of questions within the Eurobarometer survey. 73% of Slovak citizens do not think that their voice counts in the European Union, while in the EU27 57% of citizens are of this opinion.. At the same time, only 62% of Slovak citizens think that their voice does not count in their own country (45% in the EU27). 73% of Slovaks do not think that their voice is listened to by the Slovak government concerning European issues.. In the EU27, only 63% of citizens have such a view concerning their government. 72% of Slovak citizens do not think that their voice is heard by the Members of the European Parliament on European issues. In the EU27, 61% of citizens share this opinion. In addition, 72% of Slovak citizens do not think that their voice is heard by the European Commission when discussing European issues. In the EU27, only 61% of citizens share this view.

Only 41% of citizens of the Slovak Republic are of the opinion that Slovakia's voice counts in the EU, while 47% of citizens do not agree with this view. In the EU27, 61% of citizens are of the opinion that the voice of their country counts in the European Union. At the same time, the majority of Slovaks (54%) think that the European Union imposes its views on Slovakia. In the EU27, 60% of citizens think that this is also the case for their country.

These figures indicate that Slovaks, on the one hand, do not think that they have significant influence or any influence at all on the goings-on in the European Union, nor do they feel that the national or European institutions listen to their voice on European issues, but rather that the EU imposes its views on their country. However, it seems that the citizens of the Slovak Republic not only accept this situation, but they are even comfortable with such a situation. In spite of the above-mentioned view expressed by Slovak respondents, the majority of the citizens not only trust the European Union as a whole and also its individual institutions, but, at the same time, they think that Slovakia has benefited from being a member of the EU. The fact that the majority (57%) of Slovak citizens do not think they understand how the European Union works (that is 10 points more than in the EU27 in general) plays a certain role in this. In terms of trends, in spring 2008 there was the lowest number of people in Slovakia since spring 2005 who believed that their voice counts in the EU – only 17% of Slovak citizens had this view. In comparison to the previous survey, the number of Slovaks who agree with the opinion that the voice of their country counts in the EU has decreased from 48% to 41%.

The vast majority of citizens of the Slovak Republic prefer that in areas such as fighting crime, fighting terrorism, defence and foreign policy and immigration, the national government should make decisions jointly within the European Union. Slovaks tend to support joint decision-making in these areas much more than EU27 citizens as a whole. This has been a long-term attitude of Slovaks in regard to these issues. The reason for this attitude is probably the assumption of Slovak citizens that Slovakia, as a small country, is not able to assure its security independently and therefore it must cooperate closely with other countries in this area. Anti-American sentiments, which result in Slovaks preferring the European Union over NATO as the security provider, also have some influence on these attitudes.

Question: Please tell me for each statement, whether you tend to agree or tend to disagree.



Joint decision-making of the national government together within the European Union is preferred by Slovaks in regard to areas such as support for regions facing economic difficulties, fighting unemployment, competition, energy and economy. The reason for this is that Slovak citizens assume that such joint decision-making will also bring certain financial support in the form of Structural Funds and Cohesion Funds to Slovakia. Moreover, they assume that Slovakia, as a small country, does not have a chance to develop independent policy in these areas in the globalised world.

In the case of agriculture, however, the majority of Slovak citizens (57%) prefer that the Slovak government makes decisions independently, while in the EU27 the majority of citizens (51%) prefer joint decision-making in this area. Slovak citizens refuse the joint decision-making of the Slovak government and the EU in the area of taxation, with 74% of citizens (that is 6 points above the EU27 average) preferring that the national government makes the decisions in this area exclusively.

4. Future of the European Integration

Slovaks have a markedly optimistic view of the future of European integration. Almost two-thirds (65%) of Slovak citizens are fairly optimistic about the future of European Union, which is 11 points above the EU27 average. Another 7% are even very optimistic about the future of the EU. Citizens who are fairly pessimistic and very pessimistic about the future of the European Union make up less than a quarter (24%) of Slovaks. In terms of trends,, no significant change in opinion has occurred.

According to the citizens of the Slovak Republic, the European Union should focus on social issues, environmental issues and the fight against crime in the coming years. Social issues should be the priority of the European Union according to 36% of Slovak citizens, while in the EU27 only 24% of citizens think that this area should be a priority of the EU. There is mutual support for the issue of the environment as an EU priority in the coming years, with 36% of Slovaks and 33% of EU27 citizens in favour. Regarding the issue of the fight against crime, 32% of Slovak citizens and 33% of EU27 citizens believe that this should be a priority of the EU. Similar differences to those in the case of social issues exist between Slovaks' opinion and that of the EU27 average in the case of immigration issues. However, in this case, EU27 citizens on average put more emphasis on solving this issue. 32% of EU27 citizens think that the European Union should focus on this issue in the coming years, while in Slovakia only 19% of citizens share this view. In terms of trends, in the previous six months, a few significant changes occurred in the opinion of the Slovak citizens concerning the priorities of the European Union in the coming years. Since autumn 2007 till spring 2008, the number of Slovak citizens who mentioned social issues as one of the priorities of the EU in the coming years has decreased by 5 points. On the other hand, Slovaks have increased the emphasis placed on environment issues. In spring 2008, in comparison to autumn 2007, the number of Slovak citizens who mentioned environment issues as one of the areas on which the European Union should focus in the coming years increased by 7 points.

Slovaks are also more in favour of the enlargement of the European Union than EU27 citizens on average. In Slovakia, as in the EU27 as a whole, the highest support is for the membership of Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Croatia. Besides these countries, the majority of Slovak citizens only support the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and, surprisingly, Ukraine. The membership of Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia in the European Union is supported by less than half of Slovaks, although the support for these countries in Slovakia is above the EU27 average. The lowest support for membership in the EU is for Kosovo, Albania and Turkey. In the case of these three countries, it has to be said that, in Slovakia, support for their EU membership is below the EU27 average. In the case of these three countries it should be pointed out that the majority of Slovaks are actually

against their membership in the European Union. The greatest difference between the opinion of Slovak and EU27 citizens is in the case of Croatia, whose EU membership is supported by 79% of Slovaks, that is 27 points above the EU27 average.

In terms of trends, we can state that in comparison to the survey undertaken in autumn 2006, when this question was asked last time in the Eurobarometer poll, the support for all countries has decreased with the exception of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, which has maintained the same level of support and Iceland, for which the level of support for its EU membership has increased. The decrease in the level of support in the case of Serbia, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina is probably the most surprising. In the case of these countries, support for their membership has fallen below 50% in Slovakia.

In the case of Serbia, the decreasing support for its EU membership from 53% to 45% is surprising, first of all due to traditional pro-Slavic Slovak's sentiments, but also because Serbia is a priority country from the point of Slovak foreign policy, and Slovak representatives have declared their support for Serbia's EU membership for a long period of time. The reason for the change in the opinion on the part of the Slovak poll might be due to the domestic political problems of Serbia, which led to the government crisis and early parliamentary elections, the unsolved cases of Ratko Mladić and Radovan Karadžić, who are accused of war crimes and had not been arrested yet, as well as the unstable situation related to the declaration of the independent Kosovo. In the case of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the decrease in support for their EU membership (from 59% to 47%) is surprising given this country has made significant progress in solving problems that have troubled it since the end of the conflict. This progress has been achieved under the auspices, and with the significant contribution, of the Slovak diplomat Miroslav Lajčák. This fact led to the extensive coverage of the progress achieved in the Slovak media. On the other hand, it may be that the extensive coverage of the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina that caused Slovaks to better understand the extent of the problems in this country, might be the reason for the declining support for Bosnia and Herzegovina's EU membership.

"STANDARD" EUROBAROMETER 69 TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Between 25th March and 4th May 2008, TNS Opinion & Social, a consortium created between Taylor Nelson Sofres and TNS opinion, carried out wave 69.2 of the EUROBAROMETER, on request of the EUROPEAN COMMISSION, Directorate-General for Communication, "Research and Political Analysis".

The "STANDARD" EUROBAROMETER 69 is part of wave 69.2 and covers the population of the respective nationalities of the European Union Member States, resident in each of the Member States and aged 15 years and over. The "STANDARD" EUROBAROMETER 69 has also been conducted in the three candidate countries (Croatia, Turkey and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) and in the Turkish Cypriot Community. In these countries, the survey covers the national population of citizens and the population of citizens of all the European Union Member States that are residents in these countries and have a sufficient command of the national languages to answer the questionnaire. The basic sample design applied in all states is a multi-stage, random (probability) one. In each country, a number of sampling points were drawn with probability proportional to population size (for a total coverage of the country) and to population density.

In order to do so, the sampling points were drawn systematically from each of the "administrative regional units", after stratification by individual unit and type of area. They thus represent the whole territory of the countries surveyed according to the EUROSTAT NUTS II (or equivalent) and according to the distribution of the resident population of the respective nationalities in terms of metropolitan, urban and rural areas. In each of the selected sampling points, a starting address was drawn, at random. Further addresses (every Nth address) were selected by standard "random route" procedures, from the initial address. In each household, the respondent was drawn, at random (following the "closest birthday rule"). All interviews were conducted face-to-face in people's homes and in the appropriate national language. As far as the data capture is concerned, CAPI (*Computer Assisted Personal Interview*) was used in those countries where this technique was available.

ABBREVIATIONS	COUNTRIES	INSTITUTES	N° INTERVIEWS	FIELDWORK DATES		POPULATION 15+
BE	Belgium	TNS Dimarso	1.003	01/04/2008	04/05/2008	8.786.805
BG	Bulgaria	TNS BBSS	1.000	27/03/2008	07/04/2008	6.647.375
CZ	Czech Rep.	TNS Aisa	1.014	02/04/2008	17/04/2008	8.571.710
DK	Denmark	TNS Gallup DK	1.005	02/04/2008	04/05/2008	4.432.931
DE	Germany	TNS Infratest	1.534	29/03/2008	28/04/2008	64.546.096
EE	Estonia	Emor	1.006	27/03/2008	21/04/2008	887.094
EL	Greece	TNS ICAP	1.000	28/03/2008	17/04/2008	8.691.304
ES	Spain	TNS Demoscopia	1.033	27/03/2008	26/04/2008	38.536.844
FR	France	TNS Sofres	1.040	27/03/2008	27/04/2008	46.425.653
IE	Ireland	TNS MRBI	1.004	28/03/2008	30/04/2008	3.375.399
IT	Italy	TNS Abacus	1.022	25/03/2008	26/04/2008	48.892.559
CY	Rep. of Cyprus	Synovate	504	31/03/2008	24/04/2008	638.900
CY(tcc)	Turkish Cypriot Comm.	KADEM	500	28/03/2008	30/04/2008	143.226
LV	Latvia	TNS Latvia	1.008	02/04/2008	29/04/2008	1.444.884
LT	Lithuania	TNS Gallup Lithuania	1.021	01/04/2008	22/04/2008	2.846.756
LU	Luxembourg	TNS ILReS	501	26/03/2008	29/04/2008	388.914
HU	Hungary	TNS Hungary	1.000	28/03/2008	26/04/2008	8.320.614
MT	Malta	MISCO	500	26/03/2008	16/04/2008	335.476
NL	Netherlands	TNS NIPO	1.041	01/04/2008	26/04/2008	13.017.690
AT	Austria	Österreichisches Gallup- Institut	1.000	27/03/2008	20/04/2008	7.004.205
PL	Poland	TNS OBOP	1.000	30/03/2008	23/04/2008	32.155.805
PT	Portugal	TNS EUROTESTE	1.001	26/03/2008	24/04/2008	8.080.915
RO	Romania	TNS CSOP	1.019	25/03/2008	23/04/2008	18.246.731
SI	Slovenia	RM PLUS	1.003	01/04/2008	27/04/2008	1.729.298
SK	Slovakia	TNS AISA SK	1.085	01/04/2008	20/04/2008	4.316.438
FI	Finland	TNS Gallup Oy	1.004	02/04/2008	04/05/2008	4.353.495
SE	Sweden	TNS GALLUP	1.007	28/03/2008	27/04/2008	7.562.263
UK	United Kingdom	TNS UK	1.306	01/04/2008	24/04/2008	50.519.877
HR	Croatia	Puls	1.000	28/03/2008	24/04/2008	3.734.300
TR	Turkey	TNS PIAR	1.003	29/03/2008	27/04/2008	47.583.830
MK	Former Yugoslav Rep. of Macedonia	TNS Brima	1.006	29/03/2008	06/04/2008	1.648.012
TOTAL			30.170	25/03/2008	04/05/2008	453.865.399

For each country a comparison between the sample and the universe was carried out. The Universe description was derived from Eurostat population data or from national statistics offices. For all countries surveyed, a national weighting procedure, using marginal and intercellular weighting, was carried out based on this Universe description. In all countries, gender, age, region and size of locality were introduced in the iteration procedure. For international weighting (i.e. EU averages), TNS Opinion & Social applies the official population figures as provided by EUROSTAT or national statistic offices. The total population figures for input in this post-weighting procedure are listed above.

Readers are reminded that survey results are estimations, the accuracy of which, everything being equal, rests upon the sample size and upon the observed percentage. With samples of about 1,000 interviews, the real percentages vary within the following confidence limits:

Observed percentages	10% or 90%	20% or 80%	30% or 70%	40% or 60%	50%
Confidence limits	± 1.9 points	± 2.5 points	± 2.7 points	± 3.0 points	± 3.1 points