

# EUROBAROMETER 70

PUBLIC OPINION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

## AUTUMN 2008

NATIONAL REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CYPRUS

TURKISH CYPRIOT COMMUNITY

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

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

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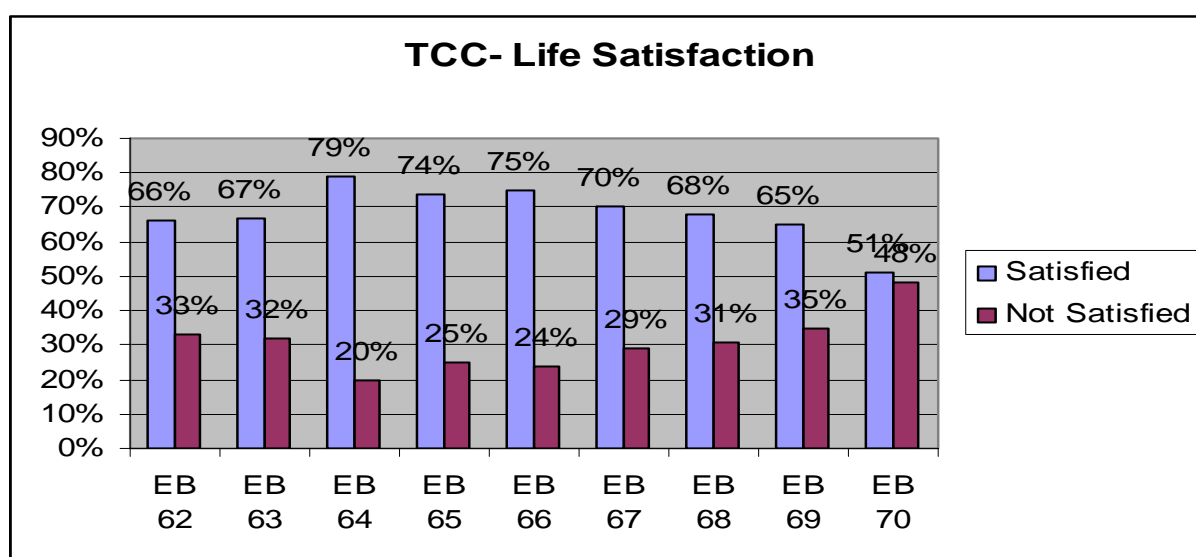
## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Life satisfaction levels of Turkish Cypriots continue to fall during this wave of Standard Eurobarometer.

Only 51% of Turkish Cypriots who have participated in this study said they are satisfied with their lives.

With 51%, Turkish Cypriots are among the least satisfied within the European Union.

Turkish Cypriot Community's levels of satisfaction with life has shown the biggest decrease since the first Turkish Cypriot Standard Eurobarometer study of EB62 by 14%, falling well under the EU average, in a period of 6 months.



The data examined show that the general trend of the Turkish Cypriot Community's levels of satisfaction with life since EB 64 has been falling steadily. Decreasing hopes about a settlement on the Cyprus Problem is shown as the main reason for the aforementioned trend.

However, the striking difference in the EB 70 study is the big drop in terms of the TC's level of satisfaction with life which, besides local factors, can be associated with the global economic crisis.

We can observe that, despite pessimistic economic expectations across the EU as a result of the global economic crisis, levels of satisfaction with life are generally high. This is not the case with the Turkish Cypriot Community. The TC's levels of satisfaction with life have decreased significantly in parallel with their economic expectations.

### **Turkish Cypriots perceive the economic situation in the TCC as bad.**

56% of Turkish Cypriots participating in the study stated that the economic situation of the TCC is bad. During the period during which the EB 70 was conducted, a general pessimism created by the global economic crisis can be observed across Europe.

### **Turkish Cypriots are more optimistic about the European economy than they are about the TCC economy.**

While Turkish Cypriots stated that the economic situation of the TCC is bad, when asked about the European economy, 56% replied it was 'good'.

On the other hand, only 33% of people in the EU perceive the situation of the European economy as good. Turkish Cypriots are among those who are more optimistic about the European economy in this period.

Perceptions of EU citizens regarding the global economy were also measured for the first time in EB 70. While Turkish Cypriots believe that the situation of the European economy is 'good', they think the situation of the global economy is 'bad'. 57% of Turkish Cypriots participating in the study stated that the situation of global economy is 'bad'.

Turkish Cypriots, who stated that the situation of the economy in the TCC is bad, when asked about the situation of their employment personally and the situation of their household finances, 60% and 68% respectively stated that it was good. 63% of Turkish Cypriots participating in the study thought that the employment situation in the TCC is bad. Similarly, 53% of Turkish Cypriots participating in the study thought that the environment was in a bad condition.

The percentage of Turkish Cypriots who are optimistic about the situation of their own employment and the situation of their household finances is higher than the EU 27 average. The percentages of those who perceive their situation positively on the same issues in the EU 27 are 56% and 64% respectively.

Turkish Cypriots, who are very pessimistic about the economic situation in the TCC, think that their buying power has worsened (45%) when compared to 5 years ago. This average highly resembles the average results in the EU 27.

76% of Turkish Cypriots participating in the study stated that they find it difficult to pay all their bills at the end of the month. The EU 27 average on this issue is 46%.

### **Turkish Cypriots are complaining about the cost of living.**

75% of the survey participants thought that the situation on this issue was bad in the TCC. Similarly, 66% and 60% of Turkish Cypriots thought energy

supplies in the TCC and execution of public administration matters were bad.

Turkish Cypriots are more negative than the EU average on the issues of economy, employment, cost of living, standard of living and situation of the environment in the TCC.

**Turkish Cypriots think that the economic situation and employment will get worse in the next 12 months.**

Turkish Cypriots strongly believe that the economic situation and employment will get worse in the TCC within the next 12 months. By examining this percentage, we can see that Turkish Cypriots paint a pessimistic picture. However, compared to the expectations within the next 12 months across the EU, we can say that the Turkish Cypriots have a more positive attitude than the average European citizen.

When we look at the EU 27 average, 53% of the survey participants think the employment situation will get worse. Similarly, 51% think the national economy and 49% think the world economy will deteriorate, while 41% think EU economy will get worse. Here again, we can say that the Turkish Cypriots are more optimistic than the average EU citizen.

**Turkish Cypriots think the economic situation is the most important issue facing the TCC.**

Turkish Cypriots have stated in the EB 70 study that the most important issue facing the TCC is the economic situation. When compared to the last two Standard Eurobarometer studies, we can observe that the Cyprus Problem is no longer the most important problem and economic issues are gaining priority among the Turkish Cypriots.

	<b>EB 68</b>	<b>EB 69</b>	<b>EB 70</b>
<b>Cyprus Issue</b>	44%	37%	27%
<b>Economic Situation</b>	32%	30%	35%
<b>Unemployment</b>	32%	30%	25%
<b>Inflation</b>	14%	28%	24%
<b>Crime</b>	21%	19%	18%
<b>Taxation</b>	10%	10%	14%
<b>Education System</b>	8%	8%	9%
<b>Immigration</b>	7%	7%	6%
<b>Health System</b>	6%	6%	12%
<b>Terrorism</b>	3%	4%	3%
<b>Pensions</b>	2%	3%	4%
<b>Housing</b>	2%	3%	5%
<b>Environmental protection</b>	3%	2%	6%
<b>Energy Issues</b>	4%	1%	6%

The survey participants were asked what the most important issue facing them personally is for the first time in the history of the Standard Eurobarometer. It is apparent from the table below that individual problems

are concentrated around economic issues, and the Cyprus Problem, which had been the second most important problem facing the TCC, is now the fifth priority on the list.

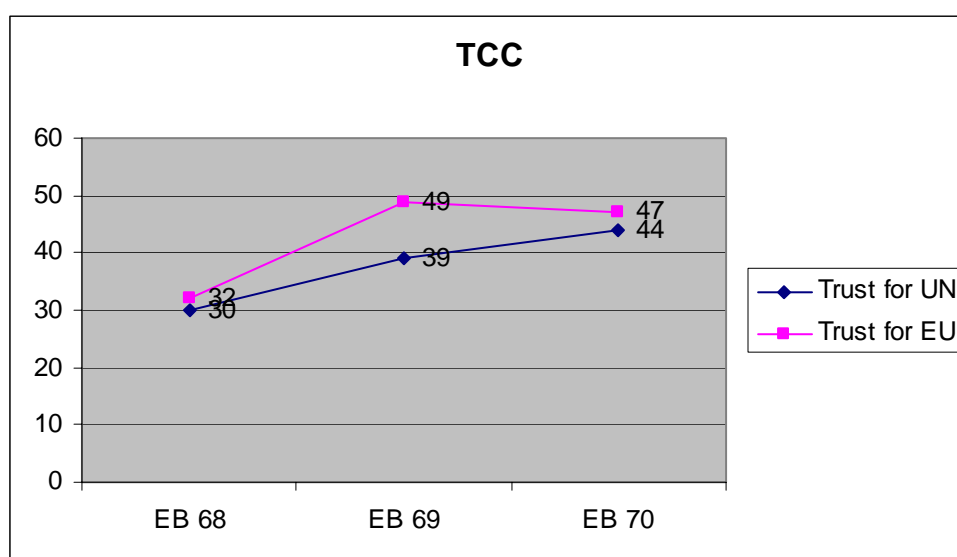
	<b>TCC</b>
<b>Crime</b>	6%
<b>Economic Situation</b>	42%
<b>Inflation</b>	37%
<b>Taxation</b>	12%
<b>Unemployment</b>	19%
<b>Terrorism</b>	2%
<b>Cyprus Issue</b>	14%
<b>KoHousing</b>	8%
<b>Immigration</b>	2%
<b>Health System</b>	14%
<b>Education System</b>	16%
<b>Pensions</b>	4%
<b>Protection of the Environment</b>	4%
<b>Energy Issues</b>	8%

**There has been a decrease in the level of trust in the EU among Turkish Cypriots.**

47% of Turkish Cypriots stated that they trust the EU. However, Turkish Cypriots' trust in the UN is limited to 44% and is equal to the average of those who stated that they do not trust the UN. Only 35% of Turkish Cypriots stated that they trust NATO.

In general, the EU27 average shows trust in the UN is higher than the trust in the EU. The TC responses are exactly the opposite.

Based on the last three Standard Eurobarometer waves, we can see that trust levels of Turkish Cypriots towards the UN are increasing while their trust levels towards the EU have a fluctuating trend.



**Satisfaction levels of Turkish Cypriots from EU membership are decreasing.**

53% of Turkish Cypriots who participated in this study considered that the full implementation of the *acquis communautaire* in the TCC would be a good thing.

We can draw a parallel between the decrease in the belief that full implementation of the *acquis* in the TCC is a good thing and the decrease in the trust levels in the EU which reflects a decreasing optimism towards EU membership.

Turkish Cypriots' level of support for EU membership is equal to the EU 27 average of 53%.

Similarly, 58% of Turkish Cypriots believe that full implementation of the *acquis communautaire* would be beneficial for the TCC.

However, when compared to the EB 69 study, the 3% decrease in the average of Turkish Cypriots who believed that full implementation of the *acquis* is a good thing is parallel to the 3% decrease in the percentage of those who believed that full implementation of the *acquis communautaire* would be beneficial for the TCC.

### **Turkish Cypriots trust the European Parliament the most among the EU institutions.**

The level of trust of the Turkish Cypriot Community in the EP is higher than the EU 27 average. Nevertheless, this is not the case for the European Commission. There, the level of trust among Turkish Cypriots is lower than the EU 27 average.

### **The EU has a positive image among Turkish Cypriots (51%).**

This is higher than the EU 27 average (45%).

#### **What does EU mean?**

	<b>EU 27</b>	<b>TCC</b>
<b>Peace</b>	27%	42%
<b>Economic welfare</b>	17%	45%
<b>Democracy</b>	21%	30%
<b>Social welfare</b>	9%	32%
<b>Freedom to travel, study or work anywhere within the EU</b>	44%	31%
<b>Cultural Diversity</b>	20%	21%
<b>Have a stronger say in the world</b>	23%	19%
<b>Euro</b>	34%	11%
<b>Unemployment</b>	11%	10%
<b>Bureaucracy</b>	17%	6%
<b>Waste of money</b>	19%	3%
<b>Loss of cultural identity</b>	11%	18%
<b>Increased crime</b>	14%	5%
<b>Insufficient control at external borders</b>	16%	3%

The EU means economic welfare (45%), peace (42%) and social security (32%) for Turkish Cypriots respectively. The meaning of the EU for EU 27

respondents is somewhat different: freedom to travel, study or work anywhere in the EU (44%), Euro (34%), and peace (27%).

***Turkish Cypriots think their voice as individuals or as the Turkish Cypriot Community is not taken into account in the European Union.***

Turkish Cypriots think their personal voices are not taken into account in the EU (58%) or within the TCC (55%).

Similarly, 57% of TCs think that the views of the TCC are not taken into account in the EU.

Parallel to this view, 51% of TCs think the EU is imposing its ideas on the TCC.

**Turkish Cypriots want the European Union to expand at a faster pace than it is currently expanding.**

Turkish Cypriots, like the EU 27 average, want the EU to expand and enlarge at a faster pace than it already is.