

EUROBAROMETER 70

Public opinion in the European Union

Fieldwork: October - November 2008

Publication: June 2010

This survey was requested and coordinated by the Directorate-General for Communication.
http://europa.eu.int/comm/public_opinion/index_en.htm

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INTRODUCTION

This wave of the standard Eurobarometer was carried out between 6 October and 6 November 2008. It was conducted in 31 countries and territories: the 27 Member States of the European Union, the three candidate countries (Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey) and the Turkish Cypriot Community in the zone not controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus.

The last two waves of the Standard Eurobarometer revealed significant changes in European public opinion, the economic crisis being the main factor shaping the perceptions and opinions of Europeans in autumn 2008.

Whereas in spring 2007 (EB67) it was possible to speak of an “economic feel-good factor” to illustrate the significant influence on European public opinion of the extremely favourable short-term economic forecasts, this situation was reversed in spring 2008 to become an “economic feel-bad factor”.

The economies of several European countries would go into recession in 2009, resulting in negative GDP growth in those countries. Already in the last quarter of 2008 there were difficulties for another indicator, namely employment, and the outlook remains gloomy for the current year: the overall rate of unemployment in the European Union is likely to increase until 2010.¹

These changes have had a profound effect on the confidence of European citizens, not only as regards their general feeling of well-being but also as regards their attitude to public life. This first volume of the Standard Eurobarometer EB70 establishes the context in which public opinion with regard to the European Union should be interpreted. It presents and analyses life in the European Union as it is perceived by citizens, whether in personal, economic, social or political aspects; their expectations for the future, and their main concerns. It also examines how Europeans perceive the direction in which the European Union and their country are going. Finally, this first part also examines to what extent citizens of the twenty seven European Union Member States trust their political institutions and legal systems.

¹<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/09/67&format=HTML&aged=0&language=FR&guiLanguage=en>

This Eurobarometer was commissioned by the European Commission's Directorate-General Communication and was carried out by TNS Opinion & Social. The methodology used is that of the Standard Eurobarometer surveys of the Directorate-General Communication ("Research and Political Analysis" Unit).²

The general analysis and the socio-demographic analysis are based on the results of the EU27 Member States, that is to say the average of the results of the twenty seven Member States. This average is weighted in accordance with the actual population of each of the Member States.

In this report, we analyse the results and changes at two levels: first, the average of the twenty-seven Member States (EU27) and, secondly, averages at national level. The averages for previous years represent the results obtained for all the Member States of the European Union, as it was composed at the time the surveys were conducted. We also comment briefly on the way in which the answers vary according to certain socio-demographic characteristics of respondents (gender, age, etc.), as well as certain other indicators, such as the image that the European Union conjures up for citizens, their trust in the European Union, their knowledge of the European Union and their political leanings.

It should be remembered that there are three kinds of report for the Eurobarometer. The report entitled "First results" examines trend indicators and a selection of new subjects intended to give a rapid operational overview of European public opinion on key issues.

Secondly, this full report (consisting of several volumes) analyses in depth all the answers to the questions asked in a Standard Eurobarometer wave. For the present wave, the full report has been divided into four different reports: the three "standard" volumes – including this volume which deals with life in the European Union -, which examine the Eurobarometer's historical indicators, and a volume dealing with topical subjects.

Finally, the national reports are produced in the national language(s) of the country concerned. They focus more on comparisons between national results and the European Union average. These various reports are published on the European Commission's "Public Opinion" Internet site on the Europa website.

² A technical note concerning the interviews conducted by the institutes of the TNS Opinion & Social network is annexed to this report. This specifies the methods used for the interviews and the confidence intervals used.

The European Commission's "Public Opinion" Internet site can be consulted at the following address

http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/index_en.htm

We wish to thank the people interviewed who gave their time to take part in this survey. Without their active participation, this study would not have been possible.

Note

This standard Eurobarometer was carried out between 6 October and 6 November 2008. In this report, the countries are referred to by their official abbreviation.

ABBREVIATIONS

EU27	European Union - 27 Member States
DK	Don't know
BE	Belgium
CZ	Czech Republic
BG	Bulgaria
DK	Denmark
D-E	East Germany
DE	Germany
D-W	West Germany
EE	Estonia
EL	Greece
ES	Spain
FR	France
IE	Ireland
IT	Italy
CY	Republic of Cyprus*
CY (tcc)	Zone not controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus
LT	Lithuania
LV	Latvia
LU	Luxembourg
HU	Hungary
MT	Malta
NL	The Netherlands
AT	Austria
PL	Poland
PT	Portugal
RO	Romania
SI	Slovenia
SK	Slovakia
FI	Finland
SE	Sweden
UK	The United Kingdom
HR	Croatia
TR	Turkey
MK	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**

* Cyprus as a whole is one of the twenty-seven European Union Member States. However, the "acquis communautaire" has been suspended in the part of the country which is not controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus. For practical reasons, only the interviews carried out in the part of the country controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus are included in the "CY" category and in the EU27 average. The interviews carried out in the part of the country that is not controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus are included in the "CY(tcc)" (tcc: *Turkish Cypriot Community*) category.

** MK is a provisional abbreviation which in no way prejudices the definitive name of this country, which will be agreed once the current negotiations at the United Nations have been completed.

I. LIFE IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

This part of the report establishes the context in which public perceptions of the European Union should be interpreted. We shall analyse here the answers to the questions dealing with the following subjects:

1) Personal aspects: the extent to which European citizens are satisfied with the life they lead, their financial situation and job situation, their future expectations for life in general, as well as for their financial situation and job situation, and their main concerns.

2) Social and societal aspects: the social experiences of European Union citizens, examined via numerous aspects linked to the quality of life: the area where they live, the cost of living, the affordability of housing and energy; opinions regarding certain social benefits, the views of citizens on the co-existence of people from different cultural and religious backgrounds, and poverty. Finally, this chapter will look at the question of the environment.

3) Economic aspects: how Europeans perceive the economic situation at national, European and world levels, as well as their opinion of the employment situation at national level; future expectations in these areas.

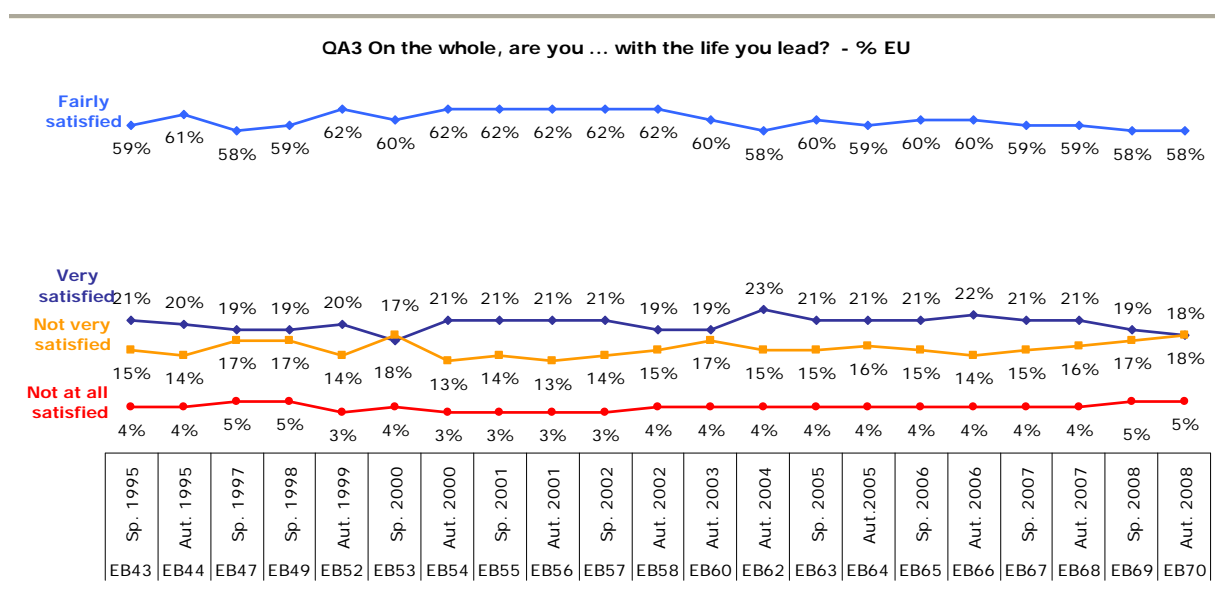
4) Political aspects: the perception of the direction followed by the European Union and at national level, as well as levels of trust in national institutions.

1. PERSONAL ASPECTS

1.1. The personal situation of Europeans at the current time

- The vast majority of Europeans are satisfied with the life they lead -

The vast majority of European Union citizens are satisfied with the life they lead³ (76%). However, this indicator continues to decline, following the deterioration noted in spring 2008 (-1). On the other hand, almost one in four citizens (23%) are dissatisfied, which is the highest level in ten years.






The level of satisfaction varies in accordance with the socio-demographic characteristics of the people polled. Thus, the youngest Europeans are more likely to be satisfied with the life they lead (85% of those in the 15-24 age group versus 73% of those aged 55 or over).

The level of satisfaction also tends to increase with the respondent's level of education: 84% of the people polled who studied up to the age of 20 and beyond are satisfied with the life they lead compared with 67% of those who left school before the age of 16.

³ QA3 On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the life you lead?

The standard of living is, logically, a predominant factor in determining whether or not respondents are satisfied with the life they lead: almost nine out of ten managers (88%) are satisfied with their life versus 75% of manual workers, 81% of white-collar employees and just over half (55%) of unemployed people.

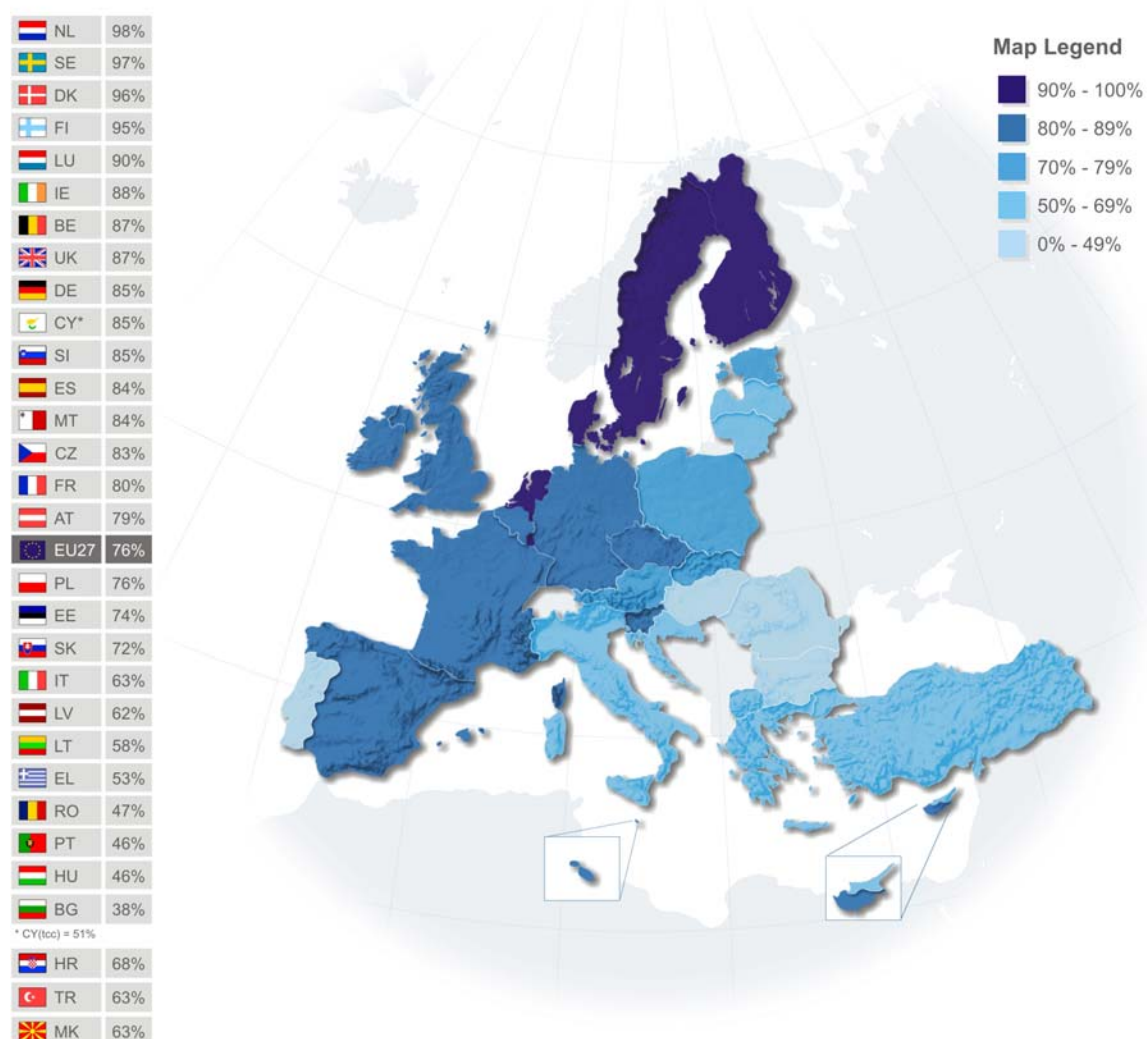
QA3 On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the life you lead?

	Very satisfied	Fairly satisfied	Not very satisfied	Not at all satisfied
EU27	18%	58%	18%	5%
Age				
 15-24	24%	61%	12%	3%
25-39	17%	60%	18%	4%
40-54	16%	59%	19%	5%
55 +	18%	55%	20%	7%
Education (End of)				
 15-	14%	53%	24%	8%
16-19	15%	60%	19%	5%
20+	24%	60%	13%	3%
Still studying	28%	60%	10%	2%
Respondent occupation scale				
 Self-employed	18%	61%	17%	4%
Managers	24%	64%	10%	2%
Other white collars	18%	63%	15%	3%
Manual workers	15%	60%	19%	5%
House persons	19%	56%	19%	5%
Unemployed	8%	47%	34%	11%
Retired	17%	55%	20%	8%
Students	28%	60%	10%	2%

Levels of satisfaction also vary significantly from one country to another, illustrating the existence of real geographical variations in the way in which citizens perceive living conditions. Almost all respondents in the Netherlands (98%) and in the Nordic countries (97% of respondents in Sweden, 96% in Denmark and 95% in Finland) are satisfied with the life they lead, as are 90% of citizens in Luxembourg. On the other hand, in the two new Member States, as well as in Portugal and Hungary, a majority of respondents are dissatisfied: almost 60% of respondents in Bulgaria, as well as just over half of citizens in Hungary, Portugal (54% in both countries) and Romania (51%) are dissatisfied.

Question: QA3. On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the life you lead?

Answers: Very satisfied + Fairly satisfied



A majority of citizens in the candidate countries are satisfied with the life they lead: this is the opinion of 68% of respondents in Croatia and 63% of inhabitants of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and of Turkey.







Changes in the level of satisfaction with the personal situation vary considerably from one State to another. For example, Wave 70 reveals a sharp deterioration for this indicator in Greece, where the proportion of satisfied respondents has declined by 12 points since last spring. It has also fallen by 6 points in Romania and Portugal and by 5 points in Cyprus and Luxembourg. Nevertheless, on the same question, the proportion of satisfied respondents has increased in some countries, though these gains are smaller than the losses.

The proportion of satisfied respondents has increased by 4 percentage points in Turkey (where the percentage of interviewees satisfied with the life they lead has recovered slightly following the sharp decline recorded during the last wave), by 3 points in Slovakia and Germany, and by 2 points in Sweden, the Netherlands and France.

The table below shows changes in the satisfaction index, that is to say the difference between the total level of satisfaction and the total level of dissatisfaction. This index confirms even more eloquently the extent to which the indicator has deteriorated over the last six months.

QA3 On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the life you lead?

Main evolution of the satisfaction index*

		EB69	EB70	Diff.
	EU27	+55	+53	-2
	TR	+21	+30	+9
	DE	+64	+70	+6
	SK	+38	+44	+6
		⋮	⋮	⋮
	CY	+80	+70	-10
	RO	+6	-4	-10
	PT	+4	-8	-12
	EL	+30	+6	-24

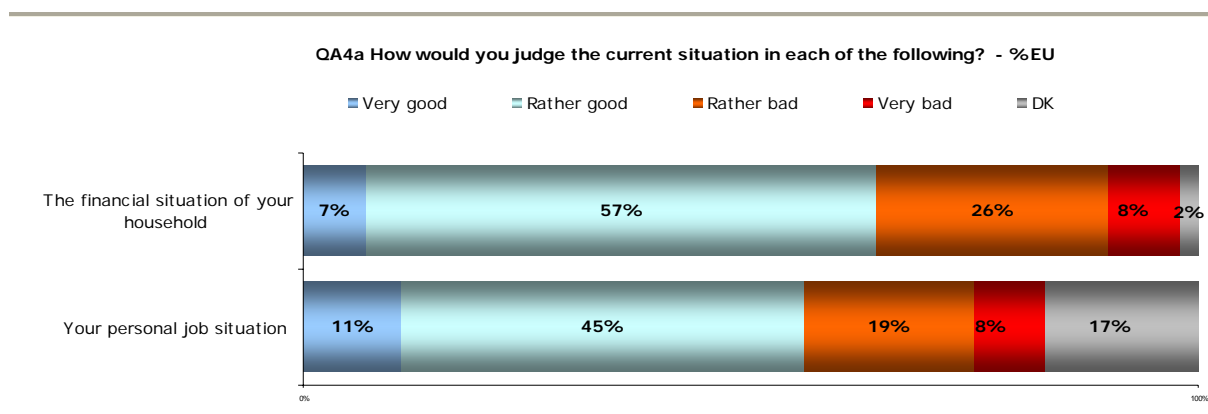
*Difference between "satisfied" and total "Not satisfied".

1.2. Opinions about the current situation

1.2.1. Financial and job situations

- Europeans remain positive about their personal economic situation -

Despite an extremely difficult world economic context, Europeans tend to be positive about their **personal financial situation**⁴: 64% are positive about the financial situation of their household and 56% consider that their current job situation is good.



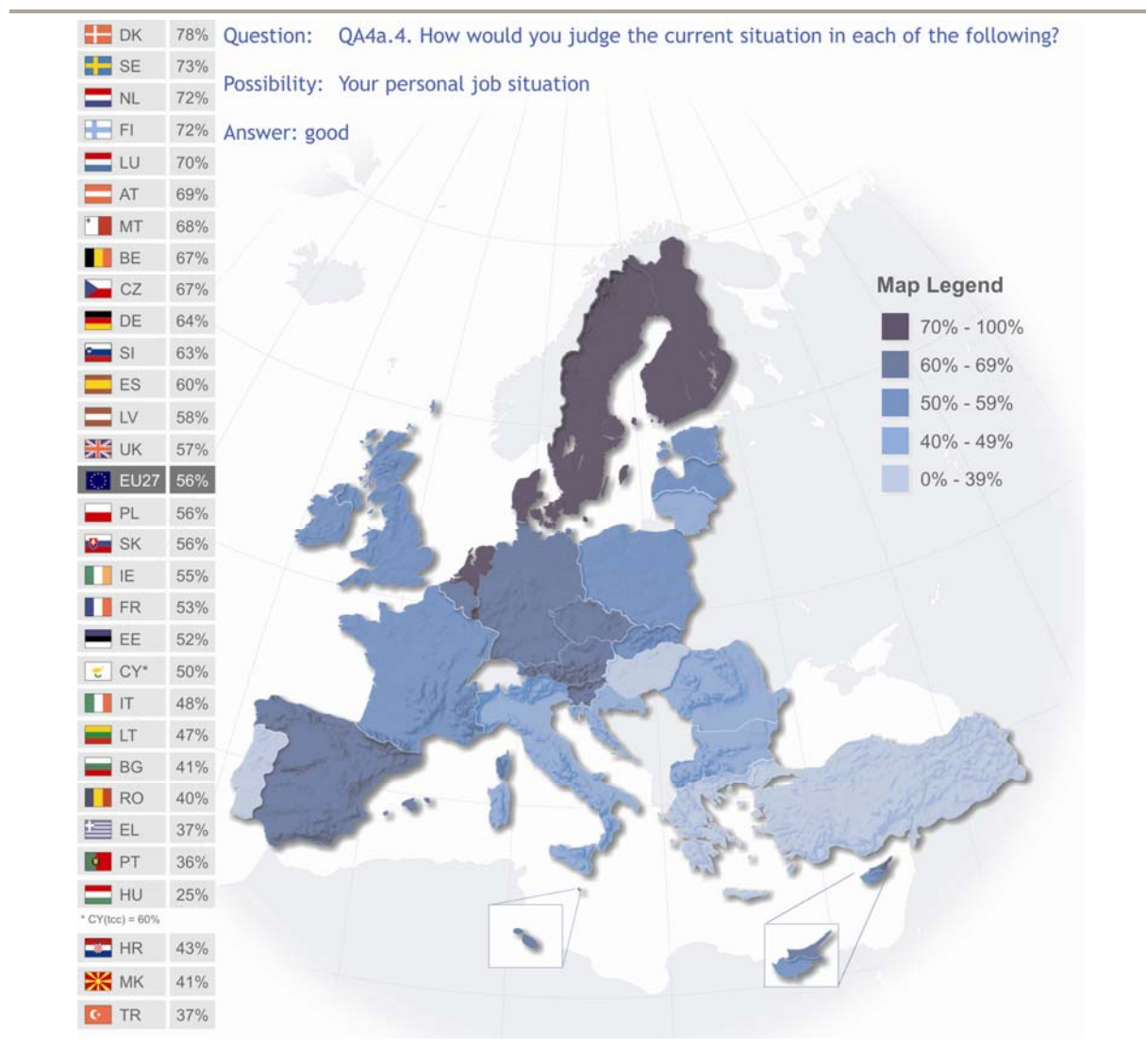
The household financial situation is seen as extremely positive in the Netherlands and the Nordic countries, where it is judged favourably by approximately nine out of ten citizens: 92% of respondents in the Netherlands, 91% in Sweden, 89% in Finland and 86% in Denmark. However, the results by country illustrate once again the existence of a geographical divide in the perception of living conditions. Citizens in Southern and Eastern European countries are the least positive in this regard. The situation is seen as being particularly difficult in Hungary, where almost three-quarters of the population consider that the financial situation of their household is poor (73%). This opinion is also shared by 68% of respondents in Portugal, 62% in Bulgaria and by just over half of respondents in Greece and Romania (54% and 53% respectively).

In the candidate countries, a majority of respondents are negative about the financial situation of their household in Turkey (53%) while opinions are clearly divided in Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

⁴ QA4 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following: your personal job situation; the financial situation of your household?

An examination of the socio-demographic characteristics of the people polled reveals some variations on this question. Men (67%), the youngest respondents (67%) and those who stayed the longest in full time education (76%) are, once again, more positive about their personal economic situation.

The same geographical division (Nordic countries/Southern and Eastern European countries) is apparent in respondents' evaluations of their **personal job situation**. Thus, levels of satisfaction are particularly high in Denmark (78%), Sweden (73%), Finland (72%) and the Netherlands (72%). Citizens in Southern and Eastern Europe are again the least positive. A majority of interviewees are negative about their personal job situation in Hungary (54%) as are a very high proportion of respondents in Bulgaria (47%), Portugal (45%), Italy (42%) and Greece (40%).



Respondents in the candidate countries are negative about their personal job situation, especially in Turkey where just over half of citizens (51%) consider it to be poor.





A socio-demographic analysis reveals some differences between the categories. In general, the level of satisfaction expressed by men (61%), interviewees aged between 25 and 39 (66%) and those who stayed the longest in full-time education (70%) is clearly above the European average (56%).

If we restrict our analysis to the answers given by respondents who are currently in employment⁵ it can be observed that the differences disappear as regards the gender (the level of satisfaction expressed by men and women who are working is almost identical) and age of respondents. On the other hand, these differences remain for the "level of education" variable, with a difference of almost 20 points between working respondents who studied up to the age of at least 20 and who are "satisfied" (81%) and those who left school before the age of 16 (62%).

Although the level of satisfaction remains very high in all job categories, the differences by level of education noted above among working people are mirrored in the answers given by senior managers, the group with the most positive perception of their personal job situation (with almost nine out of ten respondents considering it to be "good").

⁵ Respondents who work are: self-employed people, managers, other employees and manual workers.

QA4a.4 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?
Your personal job situation

		Very good	Rather good	Rather bad	Very bad
	EU27	11%	45%	19%	8%
	Sex				
	Male	13%	48%	18%	7%
	Female	10%	42%	19%	8%
	Age				
	15-24	11%	44%	17%	6%
	25-39	13%	53%	22%	8%
	40-54	12%	52%	23%	8%
	55 +	10%	33%	15%	7%
	Education (End of)				
	15-	7%	35%	22%	12%
	16-19	11%	46%	21%	8%
	20+	18%	52%	15%	4%
	Still studying	9%	41%	12%	4%
	Education (End of) / working respondents				
	15-	9%	53%	26%	9%
	16-19	13%	58%	21%	5%
	20+	20%	61%	14%	3%
	Respondent occupation scale				
	Self-employed	12%	57%	24%	5%
	Managers	25%	60%	11%	2%
	Other white collars	13%	61%	19%	5%
	Manual workers	12%	57%	23%	6%
	House persons	5%	37%	25%	11%
	Unemployed	2%	19%	39%	31%
	Retired	9%	27%	13%	8%
	Students	9%	41%	12%	4%

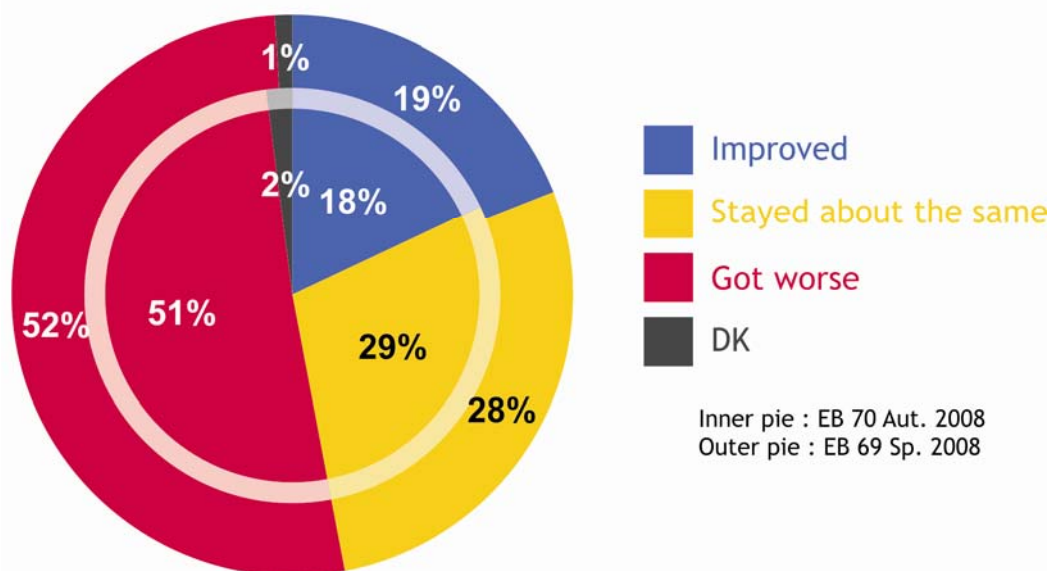
1.2.2. Focus on purchasing power in the European Union

To obtain an additional insight into the state of mind of Europeans in the context of the economic crisis, we have repeated the exercise carried out during the previous wave, by asking two specific questions on purchasing power. This focus on concrete economic aspects enables us to gain a better understanding of the difficulties facing EU27 citizens in their everyday life.

- A widespread feeling that purchasing power has declined –

In the first question, respondents were asked to compare their current purchasing power with the situation five years earlier⁶. The results obtained show that the majority of Europeans consider that their purchasing power has shrunk over the last five years (51%), while almost three out of ten citizens (29%) consider that it has stayed about the same and fewer than two in ten (18%) consider that it has improved. The general picture revealed by the answers is almost identical to that obtained last spring.

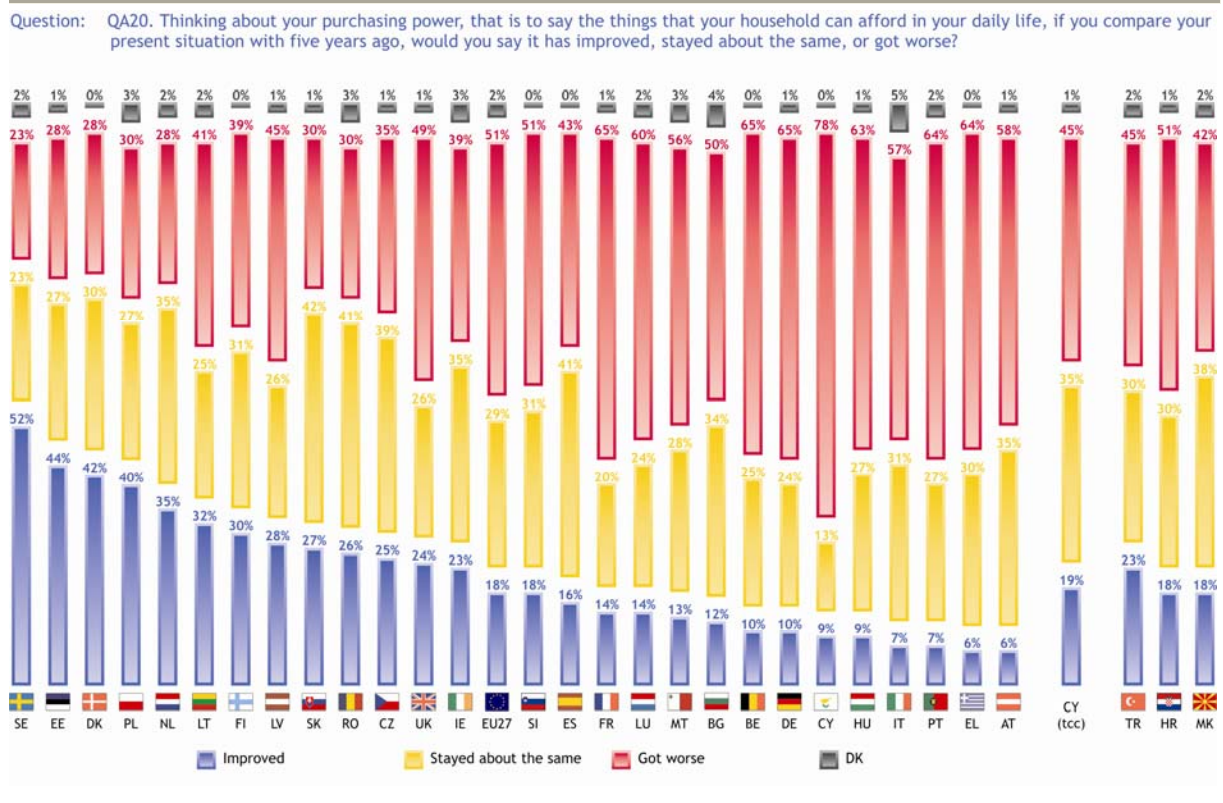
Question: QA20. Thinking about your purchasing power, that is to say the things that your household can afford in your daily life, if you compare your present situation with five years ago, would you say it has improved, stayed about the same, or got worse?



Nevertheless, an analysis by country reveals a situation slightly different from that noted six months earlier. While six months earlier an absolute majority of respondents in three Member States considered that their purchasing power had improved over the last five years (Sweden, Denmark and Estonia), today Sweden (52%) is the only country where an absolute majority hold that opinion. In Estonia (44%), Denmark (42%), Poland (40%) and the Netherlands (35%), there is still fairly strong support for the view that the situation has improved since this view is shared by a relative majority of the people polled.


QA20 Thinking about your purchasing power, that is to say the things that your household can afford in your daily life, if you compare your present situation with five years ago, would you say it has improved, stayed about the same, or got worse?

This means that at the current time a majority of citizens in nineteen of the 27 European Union Member States consider that their purchasing power has declined: the perception of a deterioration in purchasing power is particularly dramatic in Cyprus (78%) and remains equal to or higher than 60% in Germany (65%), Belgium (65%), France (65%), Greece (64%), Portugal (64%), Hungary (63%) and Luxembourg (60%).



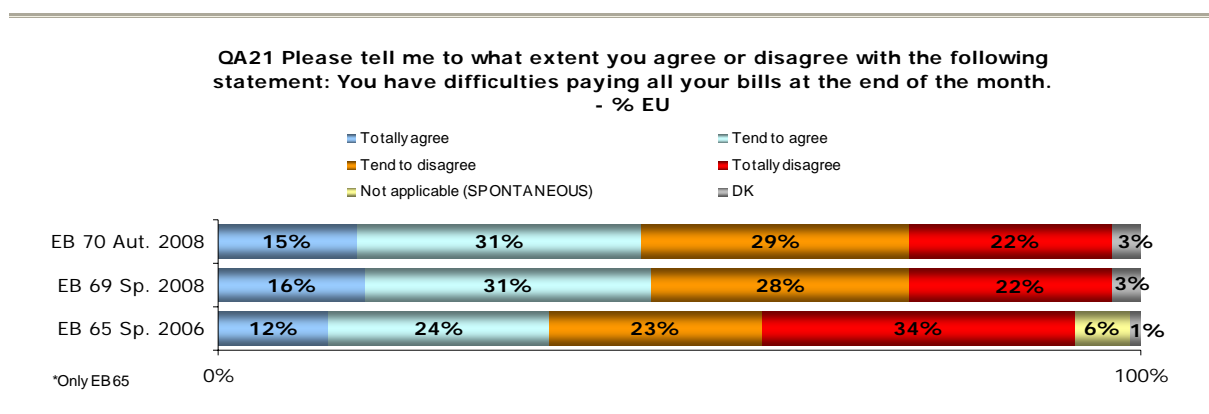
The answers recorded in the candidate countries are close to the European average. The majority of respondents in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (42%), Turkey (45%) and Croatia (51%) consider that their purchasing power has declined over the last five years.

QA20 Thinking about your purchasing power, that is to say the things that your household can afford in your daily life, if you compare your present situation with five years ago, would you say it has improved, stayed about the same, or got worse?

		Improved	Stayed about the same	Got worse	DK
	EU27	18%	29%	51%	2%
	Respondent occupation scale				
	Self-employed	20%	32%	46%	2%
	Managers	34%	29%	36%	1%
	Other white collars	24%	29%	45%	2%
	Manual workers	21%	26%	52%	1%
	House persons	11%	31%	56%	2%
	Unemployed	12%	20%	66%	2%
	Retired	8%	30%	61%	1%
	Students	28%	34%	33%	5%
Difficulties paying bills					
	Agree	12%	24%	63%	1%
	Disagree	25%	33%	41%	1%
Satis. life you lead					
	Satisfied	22%	31%	45%	2%
	Not satisfied	7%	22%	69%	2%

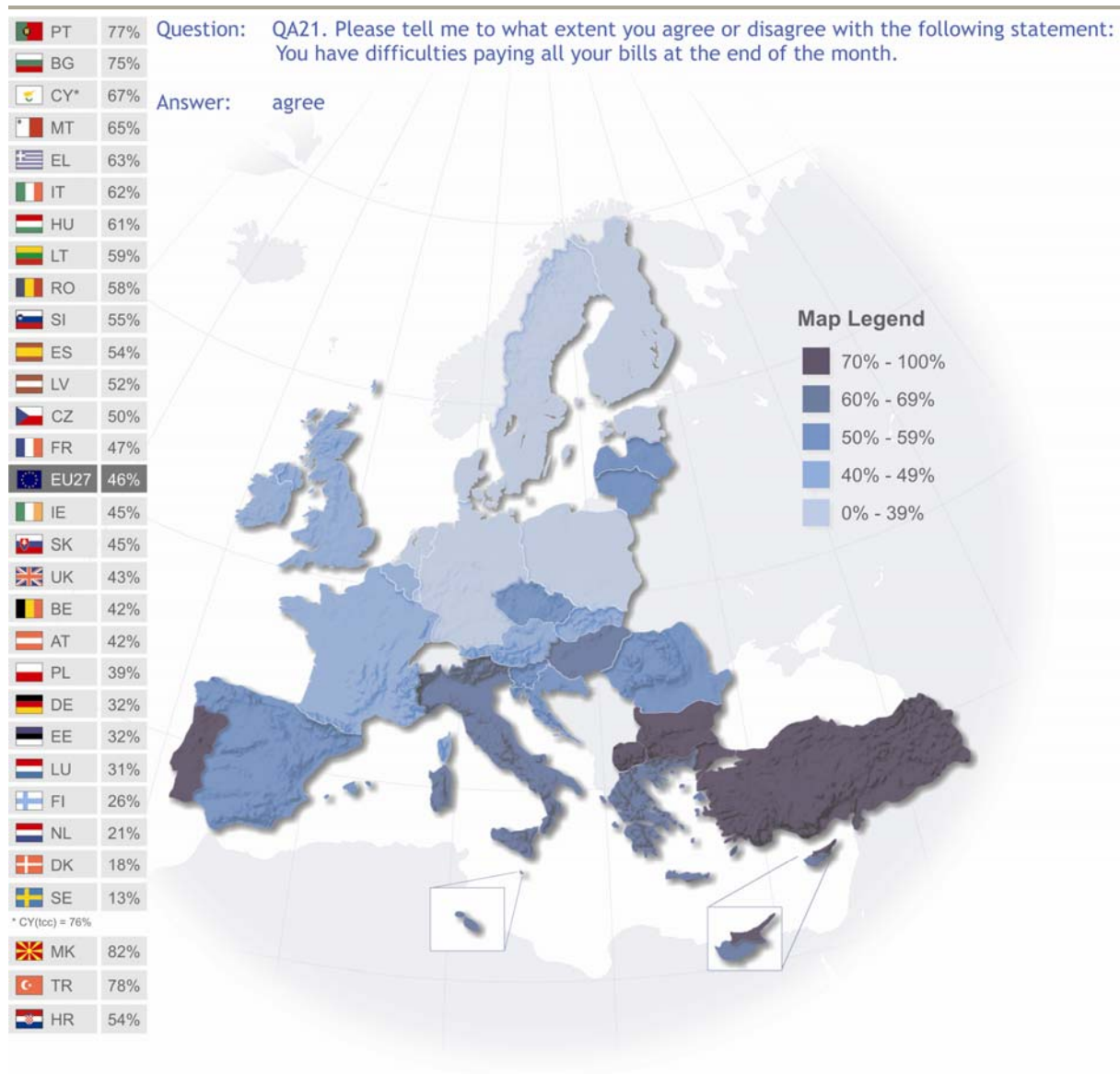
It will be seen that in all the socio-professional categories, the number of respondents who consider that their purchasing power has declined over the last five years is far higher than the number of those who take the opposite view. It is important to emphasise the extent to which those categories which are potentially more vulnerable in the current context, such as unemployed people (66%) and pensioners (61%), consider that their purchasing power has declined. Finally, even among Europeans who state that they do not struggle to pay their bills at the end of the month (this question is analysed in detail below) and those who are satisfied with their current life, a majority consider that their purchasing power has declined over the last five years (41% and 45% respectively).

Secondly, we asked citizens about the financial difficulties they may have: 46% of respondents stated that they had difficulties paying all their bills at the end of the month, while a small majority, 51%, said that this was not the case. The situation has changed only very slightly since the previous wave. Although this indicator showed significant changes between spring 2006 (EB65) and spring 2008 (EB69) (the number of people finding it hard to pay their bills at the end of the month increased by 11 points between those two Eurobarometer⁷ waves), the number of people who “totally agree” with the statement has decreased slightly in the current wave (-1 point). At the same time, there has been an increase in the proportion of “tend to disagree” answers.



Once again, the map of answers by country reveals very marked differences between the Nordic countries and Southern and Eastern European Union countries.

⁷ QA21 Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statement: You have difficulties paying all your bills at the end of the month.



A majority of citizens in thirteen Member States have difficulties: Portugal (77%), Bulgaria (75%) and Cyprus (67%) are the countries with the highest proportions of respondents who have difficulties paying their bills at the end of the month. On the other hand, fewer than three out of ten respondents have financial difficulties in Finland (26%), the Netherlands (21%), Denmark (18%) and Sweden (13%).

These differences illustrate the considerable differences in living standards within the European Union, with on the one side Northern and Western European countries where households seem to be relatively less affected by the consequences of the economic crisis, and on the other side Southern and Eastern European countries where households seem to have more serious financial problems.

Similarly, in the three candidate countries, a majority of the people polled said that they were experiencing financial difficulties. Approximately eight out of ten respondents have such difficulties in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (82%) and Turkey (78%)., While still representing a majority of respondents, this proportion falls to 54% in Croatia.

There are significant differences in accordance with the respondent's socio-demographic profile: the age when respondents completed their education and their job – often closely correlated factors as regards the standard of living of respondents – are important discriminants. Thus, respondents who left school at 15 or earlier (54%), manual workers (51%) and of course unemployed people (71%) find it harder than respondents who stayed longer in full-time education (35%) and managers (31%) to pay all their bills at the end of the month

1.3. Future expectations

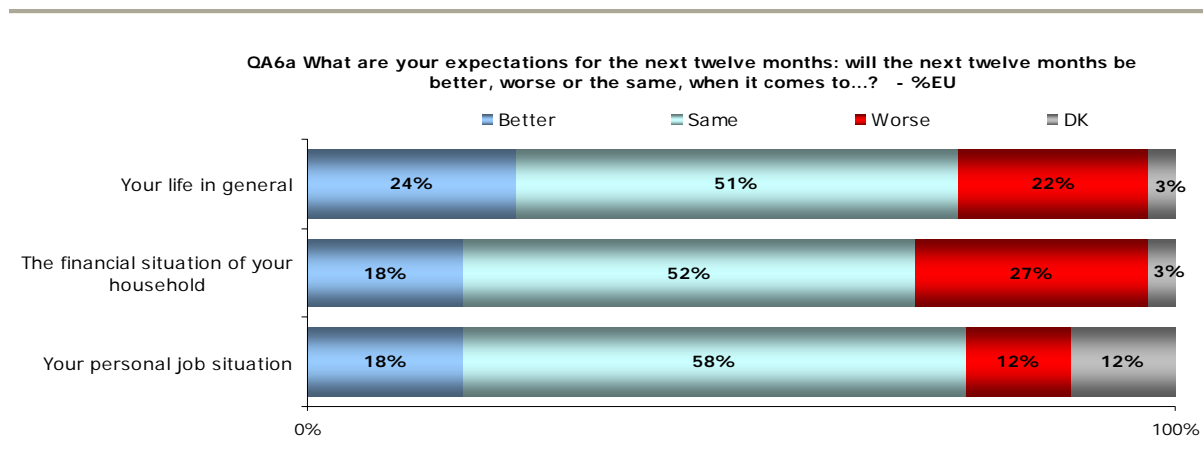
1.3.1. Personal prospects

Europeans are also asked at regular intervals to share their short-term expectations regarding their personal situation: expectations regarding their life in general, the financial situation of their household and their job situation.

- Increased pessimism regarding personal prospects -

The results reveal that expectations in all three areas of personal life have deteriorated and respondents are particularly pessimistic as regards their projected financial situation and job situation.

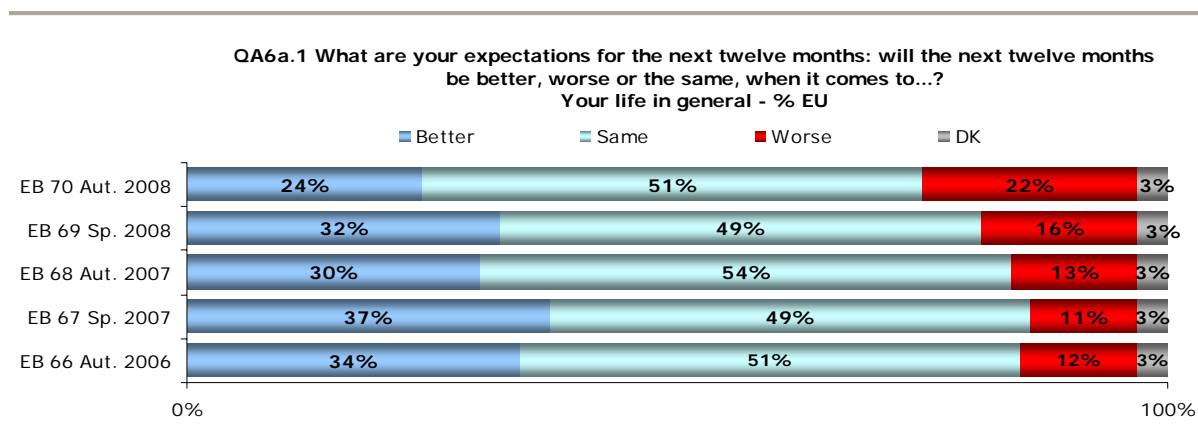
Although a majority of Europeans are currently satisfied with the life they lead, fewer than a quarter are confident about their personal prospects: only 24% expect an improvement over the next twelve months. However, half of respondents (51%) expect things to remain the same and finally 22% believe that life will become more difficult.⁸



The level of pessimism regarding short-term prospects has increased since spring 2008 (+ 6 percentage points). At the same time, optimism has fallen by 8 percentage points while the proportion of Europeans who do not expect their life to change during 2009 has increased by 2 percentage points.

⁸QA6 What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to ...

1. Your life in general; 4. The financial situation of your household; 5. Your personal job situation;






On this question, there are variations in accordance with the socio-demographic characteristics of the people polled. The youngest and most educated respondents are once again the most confident: 45% of those in the 15-24 age group think that their life will get better over the next twelve months, compared with only 10% of those aged 55 or over who expect their situation to improve in the short term.

Similarly, 28% of respondents who studied up to the age of 20 or over are confident about the future while only 13% of those who left school before the age of 16 share their optimism.

It is also noteworthy that confidence increases with the number of people in the household. However, in all likelihood, this is the result of age, as the oldest respondents are more likely to live on their own.

QA6a.1 What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...? - Your life in general

	Better	Same	Worse	DK
EU27	24%	51%	22%	3%
Age				
 15-24	45%	40%	12%	3%
25-39	34%	45%	18%	3%
40-54	20%	52%	25%	3%
55 +	10%	61%	26%	3%
Education (End of)				
 15-	13%	56%	27%	4%
16-19	23%	51%	23%	3%
20+	28%	51%	18%	3%
Still studying	43%	44%	10%	3%
Respondent occupation scale				
 Self-employed	27%	50%	20%	3%
Managers	27%	52%	19%	2%
Other white collars	27%	50%	20%	3%
Manual workers	28%	48%	21%	3%
House persons	19%	55%	23%	3%
Unemployed	31%	38%	26%	5%
Retired	9%	60%	27%	4%
Students	43%	44%	10%	3%
Household composition				
1	18%	54%	24%	4%
2	20%	53%	24%	3%
3	27%	51%	19%	3%
4+	29%	48%	20%	3%

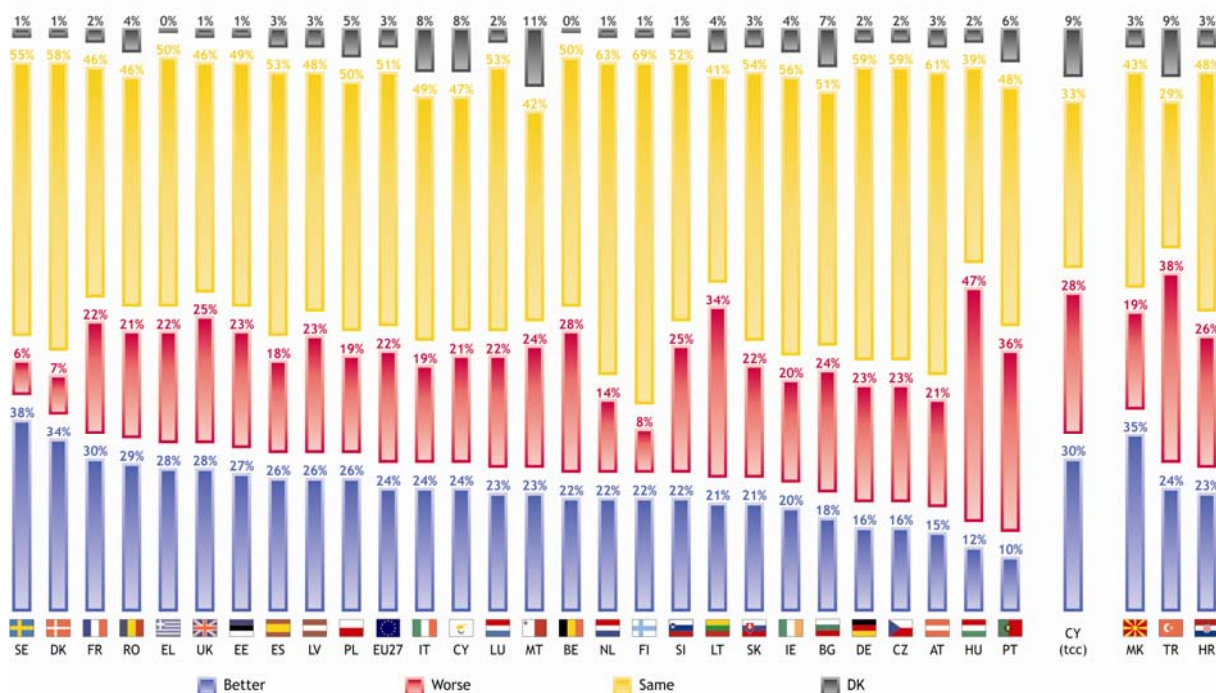
The results vary considerably between Member States. Almost four out of ten interviewees in Sweden (38%) and Denmark (36%), and 30% in France expect things to improve in the coming year. This optimism is shared by between 25% and 29% of respondents in Estonia, Spain, Latvia, Poland, Romania and the United Kingdom.

On the other hand, in seven Member States, negative forecasts easily outweigh positive projections: that is the case in Germany (23% versus 16% who are optimistic), Bulgaria (24% versus 18%), the Czech Republic (23% versus 16%) and Belgium (28% versus 22%). The level of pessimism is even more clear-cut in Lithuania (34%) and Portugal (36%), where more than a third of the people polled think that their life will become more difficult in the near future (compared with 21% and 10% respectively who take the opposite view). Finally, expectations are particularly pessimistic in Hungary, where almost half of respondents (47%) expect their life to become more difficult over the coming year, compared with only 12% who are optimistic.

In the candidate countries, the majority of respondents in Croatia (48%) and four out of ten respondents in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (43%) expect things to stay the same, while only 29% of respondents in Turkey share their opinion. The latter are very pessimistic about their personal life over the next twelve months: 38% expect things to get worse, compared with 19% of respondents in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and 26% in Croatia.

Question: QA6a.1. What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?

Option: Your life in general



An analysis of changes in the results reveals that optimism has declined everywhere in Europe, while pessimism has increased very sharply. This trend also affects the Nordic countries, which are comparatively more satisfied and traditionally more optimistic than the European Union on average. Thus, since spring 2008 (EB 69) the proportion of positive forecasts has fallen by 9 percentage points in Denmark, 11 percentage points in Finland and 12 percentage points in Sweden.

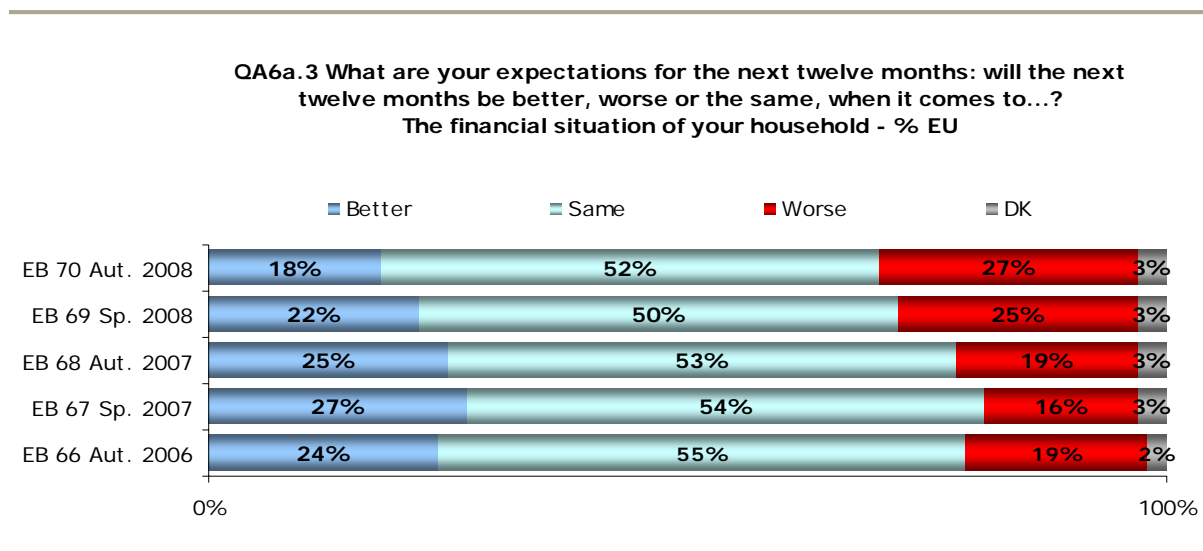
In total, the proportion of negative forecasts has increased in 24 of the 27 Member States, with a very significant downturn in expectations in Belgium, Ireland, Lithuania and the United Kingdom (+13 percentage points), as well as in Slovenia (+12), Cyprus, Luxembourg and Malta (+11 in these three countries). It is to be noted that levels are stable in Bulgaria (24%) and Portugal (36%), and have declined in Italy (19%, - 2 points).

In the candidate countries, the proportion of negative forecasts has increased in Croatia (+6 points), but has fallen slightly in Turkey (-5) and is unchanged in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.




1.3.2. Financial situation

Less than a fifth of Europeans consider that the financial situation of their household will improve over the coming year (18%), while just over half of them do not expect any change (52%). Finally, more respondents expect their financial situation to deteriorate (27%) rather than get better. This trend was noted for the first time in spring 2008.

A comparison of these results with the previous wave reveals a further deterioration in the outlook: confidence continues to fall and has lost 4 percentage points, while the number of respondents who consider that their financial situation will get worse over the next twelve months has increased by 2 points, as has the proportion of interviewees who consider that the situation is likely to remain the same (52% versus 50% in spring 2008).



Once again, the youngest respondents seem to be far more confident than the oldest about the future: 31% of those aged between 15 and 24 and 28% of those in the 25-34 age group expect the financial situation of their household to improve in the near future, compared with 17% of those aged between 40 and 54 and 7% of those aged 55 or over. Moreover, respondents who stayed in full-time education beyond the age of 19 are considerably more optimistic than those who left school the earliest (22% versus 10%). There are few differences between the various occupational categories as regards the proportion of optimists. However manual workers (27%), and above all unemployed people (34%), are considerably more worried than managers (23%) regarding changes in the financial situation of their household over the next twelve months.

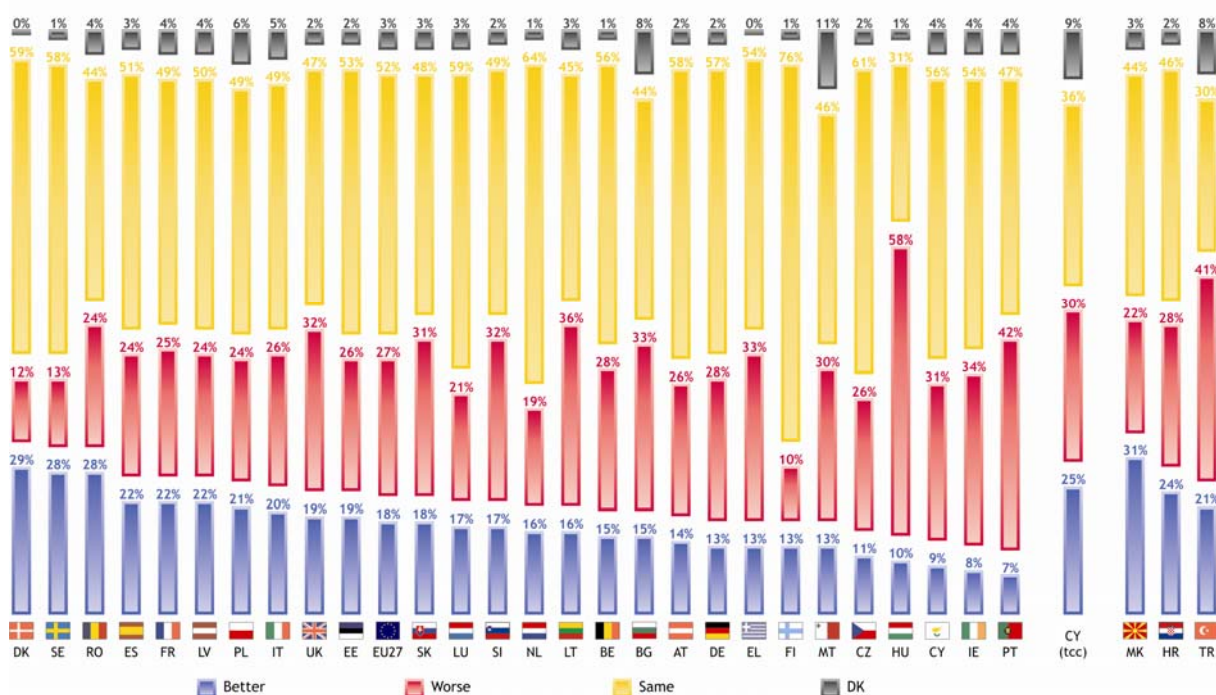
QA6a.3 What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...? - The financial situation of your household				
	Better	Same	Worse	DK
EU27	18%	52%	27%	3%
Age				
 15-24	31%	47%	17%	5%
25-39	28%	45%	24%	3%
40-54	17%	50%	30%	3%
55 +	7%	59%	32%	2%
Education (End of)				
 15-	10%	53%	34%	3%
16-19	19%	49%	29%	3%
20+	22%	53%	23%	2%
Still studying	27%	52%	15%	6%
Respondent occupation scale				
 Self-employed	22%	50%	26%	2%
Managers	22%	53%	23%	2%
Other white collars	23%	50%	24%	3%
Manual workers	23%	48%	27%	2%
House persons	16%	50%	31%	3%
Unemployed	23%	37%	34%	6%
Retired	6%	59%	33%	2%
Students	27%	52%	15%	6%

While an analysis by country once again reveals significant differences between Member States, it highlights above all, as a common characteristic, the weight of gloomy forecasts in comparison with optimistic ones: the difference between favourable and unfavourable forecasts is negative in 23 Member States. There are only four countries in which the proportion of optimists exceeds the proportion of respondents who expect the financial situation of their household to deteriorate: this is the case for just under three out of ten citizens in Romania and Sweden (28% each) and in Denmark (29%). It is also the case in Finland (13%). It should be noted that six months ago this was the prevailing trend in 15 of the 27 Member States.

On the other hand levels of confidence are at their lowest in Portugal and in particular in Hungary. In these countries, 42% and 58% of respondents respectively are pessimistic about the outlook for the financial situation of their household. The outlook is also seen as gloomy by three out of ten respondents, or more, in Malta (30%), Cyprus and Slovakia (31%, for both countries), the United Kingdom and Slovenia (32% each), Greece and Bulgaria (33% each), Ireland (34%) and Lithuania (36%).

Question: QA6a.3. What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?

Option: The financial situation of your household

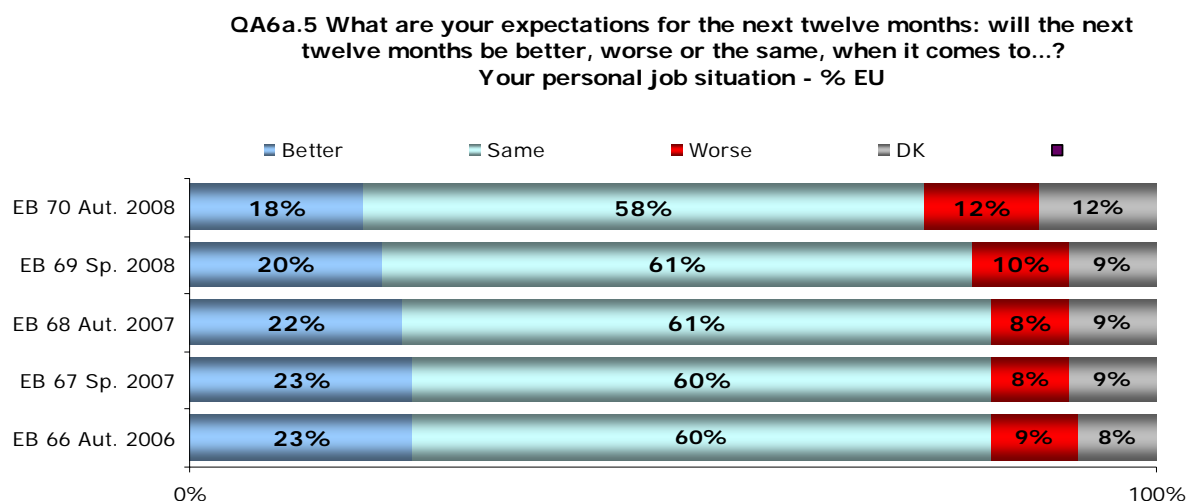


Respondents in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia are relatively more optimistic than citizens of the other candidate countries: 31% of them consider that the financial situation of their household will improve over the next twelve months compared with 24% of respondents in Croatia and 21% in Turkey. The latter are the most pessimistic about the outlook for their personal finances with 41% expecting things to get worse. 46% of respondents in Croatia do not expect any change.

1.3.3. The job situation

Just fewer than six out of ten Europeans expect their job situation to remain the same over the next twelve months (58%), while a fifth expect it to improve (18%) and a small proportion (12%) expect that it will deteriorate.

In comparison with the figures recorded in spring 2008, the proportion of people polled who consider that their job situation will improve and the proportion of respondents who expect things to remain the same have fallen by 2 and 3 percentage points respectively; on the other hand, the proportion of respondents who expect things to get worse has increased by 2 percentage points.






The youngest and most educated respondents are once again more likely to be confident about their future job situation. A third of respondents in the 15 to 24 age group (36%) are optimistic compared with only 4% of those aged 55 or over.

An analysis by occupational category reveals a certain level of optimism about job prospects which is shared by almost three out of ten unemployed people (28%), as well as by more than a fifth of managers (24%), white collar employees and self-employed people (23% each) and manual workers (21%).

QA6a.5 What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?

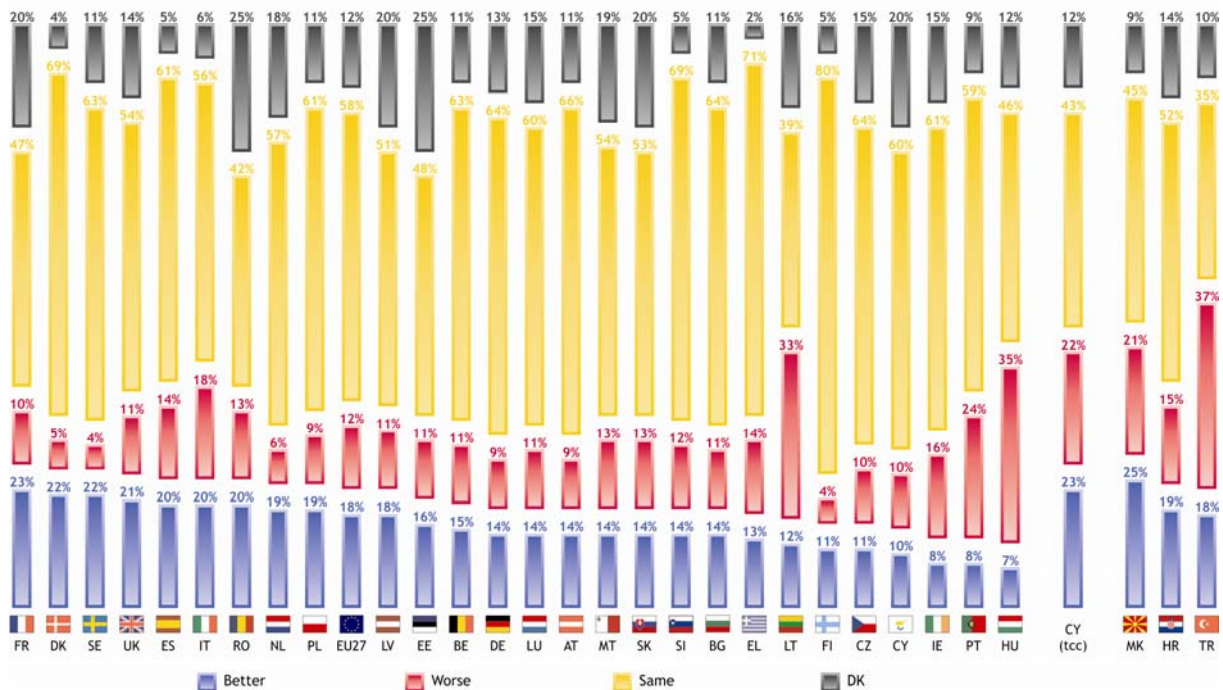
Your personal job situation

	Better	Same	Worse	DK
EU27	18%	58%	12%	12%
Age				
 15-24	36%	42%	9%	13%
25-39	27%	54%	14%	5%
40-54	16%	62%	17%	5%
55 +	4%	64%	9%	23%
Education (End of)				
 15-	7%	62%	14%	17%
16-19	17%	58%	14%	11%
20+	23%	58%	10%	9%
Still studying	33%	44%	6%	17%
Respondent occupation scale				
 Self-employed	23%	58%	16%	3%
Managers	24%	61%	12%	3%
Other white collars	23%	60%	13%	4%
Manual workers	21%	59%	16%	4%
House persons	12%	64%	12%	12%
Unemployed	28%	36%	23%	13%
Retired	3%	62%	8%	27%
Students	33%	44%	6%	17%

Levels of confidence about job prospects are more mixed than six months earlier and at best are only as high as a fifth or just over a fifth of the population: that is the case in France (23%), Denmark (22%), Sweden (22%), the United Kingdom (21%) and Romania, Italy and Spain (20% respectively). Portugal, and to an even greater extent, Lithuania and Hungary stand out by the high proportion of respondents who are pessimistic: this is the case for 24%, 33% and 35% of the interviewees respectively, i.e. 12 points, 21 points and 23 points above the European Union average.

Question: QA6a.5. What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?

Option: Your personal job situation



As regards the candidate countries, the majority of respondents in Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (52% and 45% respectively) expect things to stay the same over the next twelve months. Just over a third of respondents in Turkey (35%) expressed a similar opinion, while a like proportion (37%) expect their job situation to deteriorate; the majority of citizens in Turkey are therefore pessimistic.

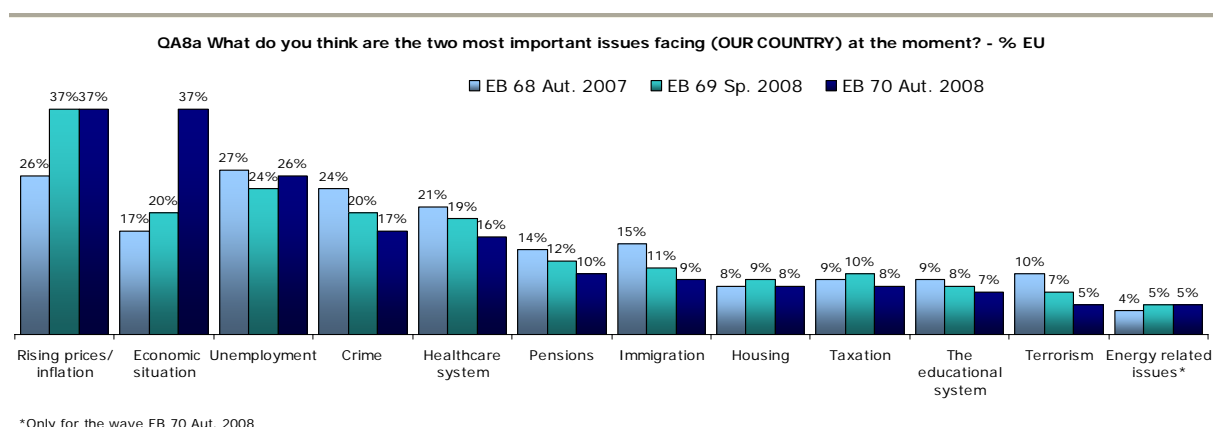
In fact, **we can talk of an “economic feel-bad factor” which now affects aspects of the personal situation of citizens, even if it does not affect all countries.**

As regards life in general, the state of mind is now more negative than six months ago throughout the European Union.

1.4. The concerns of European citizens

- Inflation and the economic situation have replaced unemployment as the leading concern of Europeans for their country -

The “economic feel-bad factor” referred to earlier in this report also figures prominently in the concerns of Europeans: **in autumn 2008, rising prices/inflation and the economic situation were the two most frequently mentioned national concerns⁹.**



The gloomy economic situation has perceptibly shaped changes in opinions in recent months. Inflation, which was the main concern in spring 2008, has been joined by the economic situation in autumn 2008 (37% each). These two subjects are now the immediate concerns of Europeans, dethroning fears about unemployment and crime, the latter now being less frequently mentioned. **Compared with the results obtained six months earlier, the proportion of respondents mentioning the economic situation has increased by 17 points and the proportion of interviewees mentioning inflation, which had increased by 11 points between autumn 2007 and spring 2008, has remained at the same level in autumn 2008.**

In fourteen Member States, **inflation** is the main national concern. It was mentioned by more than half of respondents in Austria (61%), Latvia (59%), Slovenia (57%), Bulgaria and Lithuania (56% each), but on the other hand it was mentioned by fewer than a fifth of respondents in the Netherlands (18%), Denmark (12%) and Sweden (8%).

⁹ QA8a What do you think are the two most important issues facing (OUR COUNTRY) at the moment?

Since spring 2008, the extent to which **inflation** is seen as one of the two most important issues has changed: Cyprus (+18 points) is the only country to have recorded an increase in excess of ten points in the proportion of respondents considering that **inflation/rising prices** is an important problem at national level. On the other hand, the score for inflation/rising prices has fallen by at least ten points in Slovenia (-14), Latvia (-12) and France (-10).

The **economic situation** is the main national concern in nine Member States. The Netherlands comes in first place (64%), followed some way back by Greece (51%) and Estonia (50%), while Malta (18%) and Finland (16%) bring up the rear.

Since spring 2008, the percentage of respondents who consider that the **economic situation** is an important problem at national level has increased by at least ten points in 19 of the 27 Member States. The biggest increases were recorded in the Netherlands (+42 points), followed by Denmark (+32) and Sweden (+30).

Compared with the European average, there are significant differences in national priorities in the three candidate countries. The most frequently mentioned issue in Croatia is **crime**, which was mentioned by 62% of interviewees; **terrorism**¹⁰ is the main national concern in Turkey (mentioned by almost seven out of ten respondents) while **unemployment** is the main concern in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (60%).

Inflation, the economic situation and, to a lesser extent, **unemployment**: Europeans' main concerns revolve around the economy: inflation, the economic situation in general and unemployment. However, there are substantial differences from one country to another.

¹⁰ For the full results by country, readers should consult the tables annexed to this report.

QA8a What do you think are the two most important issues facing (OUR COUNTRY) at the moment? (MAX. 2 ANSWERS)

	Rising prices \ inflation	Economic situation	Unemployment	Crime	Healthcare system	Pensions	Immigration	Housing	Taxation	The educational system	Energy related issues	Terrorism
EU27	37%	37%	26%	17%	16%	10%	9%	8%	8%	7%	5%	5%
BE	43%	45%	19%	12%	3%	13%	12%	9%	12%	3%	12%	2%
BG	56%	29%	17%	30%	17%	15%	1%	1%	4%	6%	7%	1%
CZ	44%	25%	17%	26%	28%	18%	5%	7%	5%	4%	6%	2%
DK	12%	38%	6%	33%	36%	3%	17%	3%	4%	12%	6%	11%
DE	42%	34%	24%	11%	21%	12%	5%	1%	9%	17%	9%	3%
EE	45%	50%	20%	22%	13%	8%	1%	2%	9%	5%	7%	1%
EL	40%	51%	35%	19%	10%	9%	5%	1%	9%	9%	1%	1%
ES	28%	44%	45%	8%	3%	3%	13%	19%	3%	3%	0%	14%
FR	41%	38%	35%	14%	8%	14%	7%	15%	5%	6%	3%	3%
IE	28%	39%	34%	22%	38%	3%	4%	6%	6%	7%	2%	1%
IT	44%	39%	27%	15%	6%	6%	11%	2%	16%	5%	3%	3%
CY	46%	30%	7%	25%	8%	6%	11%	17%	6%	3%	3%	1%
LV	59%	45%	26%	17%	12%	16%	1%	3%	6%	5%	4%	0%
LT	56%	34%	14%	20%	14%	8%	3%	7%	12%	7%	15%	1%
LU	49%	30%	20%	11%	6%	5%	8%	27%	4%	19%	4%	3%
HU	42%	45%	40%	11%	19%	11%	1%	2%	9%	3%	9%	0%
MT	41%	18%	14%	8%	4%	3%	48%	6%	8%	2%	28%	1%
NL	18%	64%	4%	26%	25%	5%	11%	6%	2%	13%	5%	6%
AT	61%	30%	21%	8%	13%	11%	12%	2%	9%	8%	5%	4%
PL	36%	24%	21%	11%	43%	16%	3%	7%	5%	4%	5%	1%
PT	44%	35%	43%	16%	11%	10%	2%	4%	10%	4%	1%	2%
RO	48%	35%	11%	17%	19%	13%	5%	11%	9%	7%	4%	3%
SI	57%	29%	16%	10%	12%	22%	3%	10%	9%	4%	3%	1%
SK	46%	29%	26%	17%	26%	15%	1%	10%	4%	5%	6%	2%
FI	36%	16%	21%	14%	39%	12%	4%	5%	9%	7%	16%	1%
SE	8%	43%	38%	16%	25%	6%	8%	2%	5%	18%	8%	1%
UK	21%	34%	16%	34%	10%	7%	23%	14%	7%	4%	8%	9%
HR	33%	35%	33%	62%	5%	15%	0%	2%	2%	2%	1%	3%
TR	16%	32%	51%	5%	4%	1%	1%	0%	2%	5%	1%	68%
MK	31%	41%	60%	26%	3%	3%	3%	3%	5%	2%	5%	2%

The three highest results per country are shown in bold, while the lowest results per country are shown in italics. The grey rectangles show the highest results per item while the rectangles with black borders show the lowest results per item.

Unemployment, which is in third place in the European average (26%), is the most widespread concern in Spain (45%) and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (60%); it was the second most frequently mentioned subject in Portugal (43%), Sweden (38%) and Turkey (51%). In addition, increases of at least ten points were recorded in Ireland (+19), Sweden and Spain (+18), and Latvia (+11). On the other hand, in Germany the score for this item has fallen by 11 points since the previous wave.

The **healthcare system** is the main concern in Poland (43%) and Finland (39%), and the second most important concern in Ireland (38%), Denmark (36%) and the Czech Republic (28%). It comes in fifth place at European level, with a score of 16%.

Finally, a certain number of distinctive characteristics are noteworthy. The perception of the risk of **terrorism** is now predominant in Turkey (68%, +24 points), but has fallen significantly in Spain (14%, -17 percentage points). **Immigration** is the main concern in Malta (48%) and stands in third place in the United Kingdom (23%). In the latter country, **crime** ranks jointly with the economic situation as the main concern (34% for both subjects). Crime is also the main concern in Croatia (62%) and obtained the second highest score in Bulgaria (30%) and the Netherlands (26%).




The other issues on which Europeans were polled obtained less than 10% of replies at European level (10% as regards pensions). It should be noted however that **housing, which obtained an average score of 9%**, was mentioned by almost three out of ten respondents in Luxembourg and by two out of ten interviewees in Spain.

Finally, 19% of respondents in Sweden mentioned **protecting the environment** as one of the two main issues facing their country, compared with a European Union average of 4%, while 28% of citizens in Malta mentioned **energy-related issues**, compared with a European average of 5%.

A socio-demographic analysis reveals some variations. For example, a third of the youngest respondents mentioned **unemployment** as one of the two main issues facing their country (32% of those aged 15 to 24 versus 26% in the 25-39 age group) while a fifth of the oldest respondents mentioned **crime** (21% of those aged 55 or over, versus 16% of those aged 15 to 24 and 13% of the 25-39 age group). Logically, 44% of unemployed people are particularly concerned about **unemployment** (in first place, with a clear lead over **inflation**, which is in second place in this category, with a score of 36%, up by 2 points since the previous wave). On the other hand, this item was mentioned by 29% of manual workers, 25% of employees and 20% of managers.

Even if certain trends persist, there has been a reduction in differences by ideological positions concerning, for example, issues relating to crime or immigration, or social issues such as unemployment and education. There is a consensus among those on the left and right of the political spectrum regarding the economy and inflation.

QA8a What do you think are the two most important issues facing (OUR COUNTRY) at the moment? ? (MAX. 2 ANSWERS)

	Rising prices\ inflation	Economic situation	Unemployment
EU27	37%	37%	26%
Age			
 15-24	35%	35%	32%
25-39	39%	40%	26%
40-54	38%	40%	27%
55 +	35%	32%	23%
Education (End of)			
 15-	40%	30%	29%
16-19	40%	37%	26%
20+	31%	42%	22%
Still studying	34%	38%	28%
Respondent occupation scale			
 Self-employed	38%	45%	20%
Managers	29%	43%	20%
Other white collars	38%	44%	25%
Manual workers	41%	36%	29%
House persons	40%	35%	25%
Unemployed	36%	35%	44%
Retired	36%	30%	23%
Students	34%	38%	28%

- Inflation and the economic situation are also the two most important issues currently facing Europeans personally -

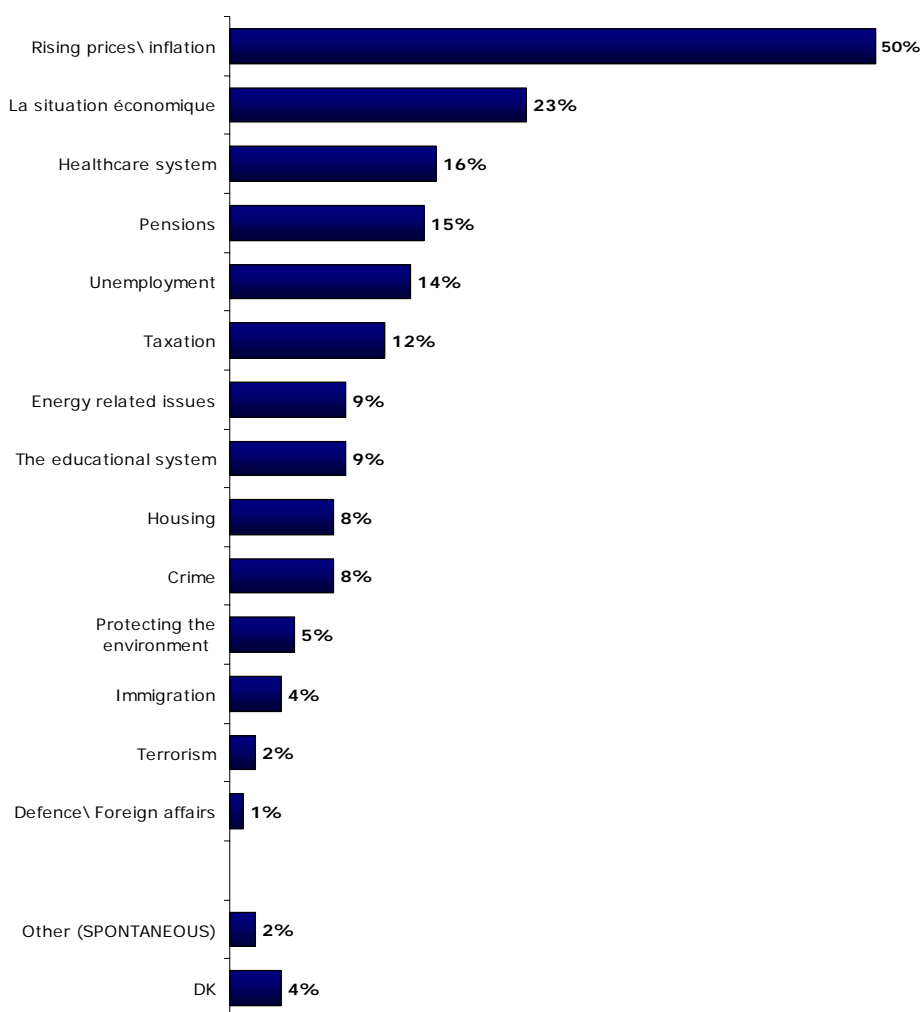
For the first time, respondents were then asked to indicate the two most important issues facing them personally at the current time¹¹. The influence of the economic crisis is also obvious in the order in which they rank these personal concerns: rising prices/inflation tops the list (50%), followed a long way back by concerns about the economic situation (23%).

¹¹ QA8b And personally, what are the two most important issues you are facing for the moment?

After these two subjects, the following concerns stand in second place at national level:

- ◆ **the healthcare system** in the Czech Republic (18%), Germany (20%), Slovakia (22%), Poland, Sweden (28% each) and Finland (29%);
- ◆ **pensions** in Bulgaria, Hungary, Austria and Slovenia. In Austria (18%) and Hungary (22%), this issue was mentioned as frequently as the economic situation;
- ◆ 28% of respondents in the Netherlands are worried about the **education system**, which they mentioned as frequently as the economic situation and inflation;
- ◆ finally, **energy-related issues** are the second most important personal concern for respondents in Malta (31%).

QA8b And personally, what are the two most important issues you are facing at the moment? (MAX. 2 ANSWERS) - % EU



A comparison between national and personal concerns confirms the predominance of economic factors in the answers of the people polled. **Inflation** was the most frequently mentioned issue both as a personal concern (50%) and as a national concern (37%): it is seen as by far the most serious problem facing respondents personally, because it has an indirect impact on everyday life. The **economic situation** is ranked in second place among the personal concerns of European citizens, but it is seen more as a national issue than as a personal concern (37% versus 23%). Similarly, **unemployment** is seen more as a national problem (26%) than as a personal problem (14%). On the other hand, several “social and societal” aspects are logically mentioned slightly more frequently at personal than at national level: **pensions** (15% versus 10%), **taxation** (12% versus 8%), **the education system** (9% versus 7%) and **energy-related issues** (9% versus 5%). These subjects have a direct effect on living conditions and even more so on the financial situation of the people polled.

In the candidate countries, **rising prices/inflation** is the main concern of respondents in Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The **economic situation** is the main concern in Sweden (32%) and Turkey (48%) and is the second most important issue in 19 Member States, as well as in Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The Netherlands is the only country where citizens think first and foremost of the **healthcare system** (32%).

QA8b And personally, what are the two most important issues you are facing at the moment? (MAX. 2 ANSWERS) - %
EU

	Rising prices/ inflation	La situation économique	Healthcare system	Pensions	Unemployment	Taxation	Energy related issues	The educational system	Housing	Crime	Protecting the environment
EU27	50%	23%	16%	15%	14%	12%	9%	9%	8%	8%	5%
BE	56%	24%	6%	12%	10%	15%	18%	5%	8%	11%	7%
BG	66%	20%	19%	22%	12%	7%	7%	8%	5%	10%	2%
CZ	56%	14%	18%	16%	5%	9%	13%	6%	12%	5%	6%
DK	32%	22%	20%	9%	7%	11%	5%	9%	11%	16%	10%
DE	58%	16%	20%	17%	11%	14%	17%	12%	7%	3%	3%
EE	55%	27%	18%	15%	12%	18%	4%	9%	6%	7%	2%
EL	59%	43%	14%	15%	14%	10%	2%	13%	1%	8%	7%
ES	44%	34%	7%	8%	18%	8%	0%	6%	15%	5%	3%
FR	58%	18%	11%	17%	15%	14%	8%	8%	14%	7%	9%
IE	48%	28%	31%	8%	20%	11%	6%	11%	7%	13%	3%
IT	47%	32%	7%	8%	18%	21%	4%	6%	3%	11%	2%
CY	56%	29%	10%	11%	7%	7%	6%	8%	15%	6%	7%
LV	70%	30%	15%	13%	17%	7%	4%	10%	9%	3%	2%
LT	71%	20%	19%	11%	11%	16%	8%	8%	10%	6%	1%
LU	54%	21%	8%	7%	11%	7%	6%	18%	20%	15%	6%
HU	62%	22%	15%	22%	19%	9%	16%	7%	9%	3%	1%
MT	53%	12%	6%	11%	11%	10%	31%	4%	6%	3%	8%
NL	28%	28%	32%	11%	4%	10%	7%	28%	7%	10%	7%
AT	67%	18%	14%	18%	11%	11%	9%	9%	5%	7%	6%
PL	43%	11%	28%	20%	14%	7%	3%	9%	8%	3%	2%
PT	55%	31%	9%	16%	22%	13%	1%	4%	6%	8%	7%
RO	54%	28%	20%	16%	8%	14%	3%	10%	12%	6%	5%
SI	57%	13%	12%	21%	11%	10%	5%	11%	9%	2%	6%
SK	52%	22%	22%	14%	8%	5%	15%	11%	14%	6%	7%
FI	40%	15%	29%	18%	11%	14%	15%	8%	12%	6%	11%
SE	20%	32%	28%	20%	15%	7%	9%	18%	14%	11%	15%
UK	38%	21%	12%	15%	14%	9%	19%	7%	13%	14%	5%
HR	61%	33%	11%	23%	19%	3%	3%	6%	10%	10%	3%
TR	32%	48%	9%	6%	34%	4%	3%	8%	7%	3%	2%
MK	47%	37%	7%	7%	47%	6%	7%	5%	4%	10%	5%

The three highest results per country are shown in bold, while the lowest results per country are shown in italics. The grey rectangles show the highest results per item while the rectangles with black borders show the lowest results per item.

In general, the “economic feel-bad factor” is predominant and influences the way in which citizens in the majority of European Union countries perceive the outlook for the coming years as regards their personal life, financial situation and job prospects.

The persistence and extent of economic tensions in the world confirm the decline of concerns linked to crime, terrorism, immigration, and to social issues such as healthcare systems and pensions, which have been overtaken by three aspects more directly linked to this crisis: prices, the economic context in general and, to a lesser extent, for the time being, unemployment.

2. SOCIAL AND SOCIETAL ASPECTS

In order to gain a better understanding of the social experiences of European Union citizens, this Eurobarometer also examines numerous aspects relating to the quality of life in the European Union and the three candidate countries. In this chapter, we shall analyse, first of all, the way in which European generally perceive the area where they live. We shall then examine their opinions about the cost of living and turn the spotlight on the cost of housing and energy prices. We shall continue with an analysis of opinions about certain social benefits in order to examine, finally, opinions on the way in which the various countries are tackling the challenges facing modern societies: multiculturalism, that is to say the coexistence within our societies of people from different cultural or religious backgrounds, and poverty.

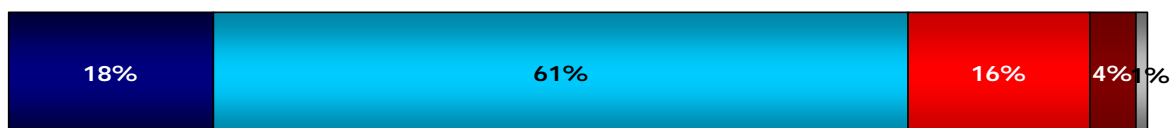
2.1. The area where citizens live

– Eight out of the citizens are positive about the area where they live –

The vast majority of Europeans (79%) are positive about the area where they live¹², while 20% of interviewees take the opposite view.

QA5a.1 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?
The area you live in

■ Very good ■ Rather good ■ Rather bad ■ Very bad ■ DK



¹² QA5a.1 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? The area you live in

Subjective urbanisation is one of the variables which seems to have the most influence on opinions in this domain. Thus, there is a difference of 10 points between the favourable opinions expressed by respondents living in a rural village (84%) and those living in large cities (74%). Where citizens are positive about the area where they live, this is directly linked to satisfaction with life in general: while 85% of those who are satisfied with the life they lead are positive about the area where they live, this proportion falls to 60% among those who are dissatisfied with their life.

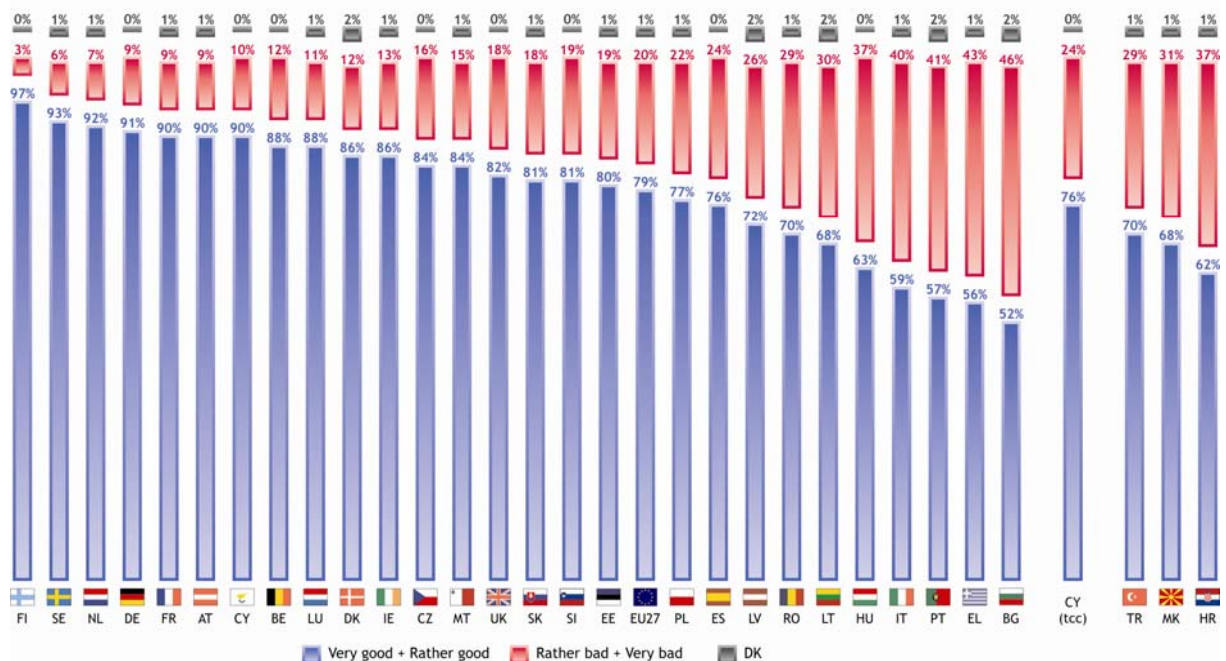
QA5a.1 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?
The area you live in

	Very good	Rather good	Rather bad	Very bad	DK
EU27	18%	61%	16%	4%	1%
Subjective urbanisation					
Rural village	22%	62%	12%	3%	1%
Small/ mid size town	16%	62%	17%	4%	1%
Large town	15%	59%	20%	5%	1%
Satis. life you lead					
Satisfied	21%	64%	12%	3%	0%
Not satisfied	7%	53%	30%	9%	1%

Almost all respondents in Finland (97%), Sweden (93%), the Netherlands (92%), Germany (91%), France, Cyprus and Austria (90%) are positive about the area where they live. The number of positive answers is equal to or higher than 80% in Belgium, Luxembourg (88% each), Ireland (86%), Denmark (86%), the Czech Republic (84%), Malta (84%), the United Kingdom (82%), Slovakia and Slovenia (81%).

Question: QA5a.1. How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?

Option: The area you live in



On the other hand, just over half of respondents in Bulgaria (46%) and four or more out of ten citizens in Greece (43%), Portugal (41%) and Italy (40%) are negative about the area where they live.

As regards the candidate countries, 70% of citizens in Turkey, 68% in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and 62% in Croatia like the area where they live.

2.2. The cost of living

- Concerns about inflation and price levels translate into dissatisfaction when it comes to judging the cost of living -

When asked for their views on the cost of living in their respective countries¹³, almost eight out of ten citizens were critical, with 29% considering that it is “very bad”.

QA5a.5 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following ?
The cost of living in (OUR COUNTRY)

■ Very good ■ Rather good ■ Rather bad ■ Very bad ■ DK



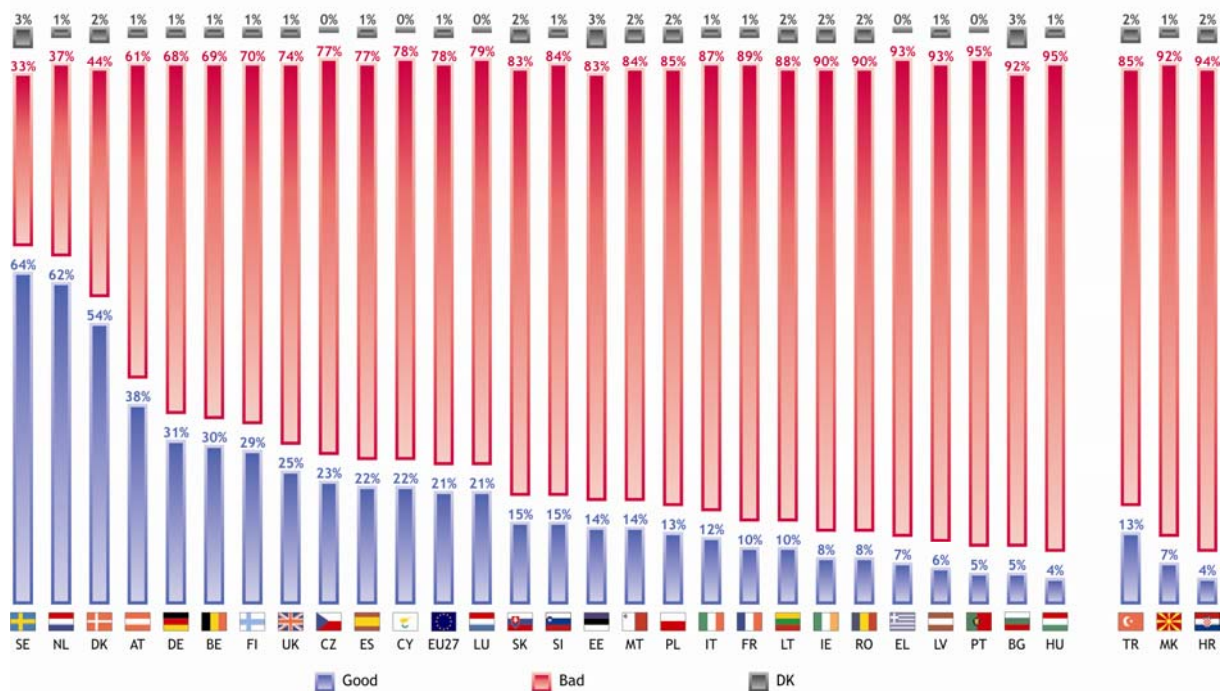
Once again, most of the Northern European countries are an exception to the widespread pessimism in Europe on this issue: more than six out of ten citizens in the Netherlands (62%) and Sweden (64%) are positive about the situation, as are just over half of the people polled in Denmark (54%). In the rest of the European Union, there are differences in the intensity of negative opinions. In Latvia, for example, 60% of the people polled consider that the situation is “very bad”.

We can then distinguish a group of 8 countries where the proportion of the most critical opinions (that is to say those who believe that the situation is “very bad”) is equal to or exceeds 40%: these countries are Malta (40%), Portugal (44%), Italy (44%), Romania (46%), Bulgaria (47%), Ireland (48%) and Greece (49%).

¹³ QA5a.5 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? The cost of living in (OUR COUNTRY)

Question: QA5a.5. How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?

Option: The cost of living in (OUR COUNTRY)





A third group consists of countries where a proportion of the population varying between a fifth and a third considers that the situation is very bad: the Czech Republic (21%), Spain (23%), Luxembourg (26%), Cyprus (26%), Estonia (27%), Slovenia (28%), the United Kingdom (28%), Slovakia (30%), Lithuania (30%), Poland (32%) and France (32%).

In the three candidate countries, almost nine out of ten respondents are negative about the cost of living in their country. Respondents in Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia are relatively more negative, with approximately six out of ten people polled (59% and 60% respectively) considering that the situation is “very bad” compared with four out of ten respondents in Turkey who share that view.

QA5a.5 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?

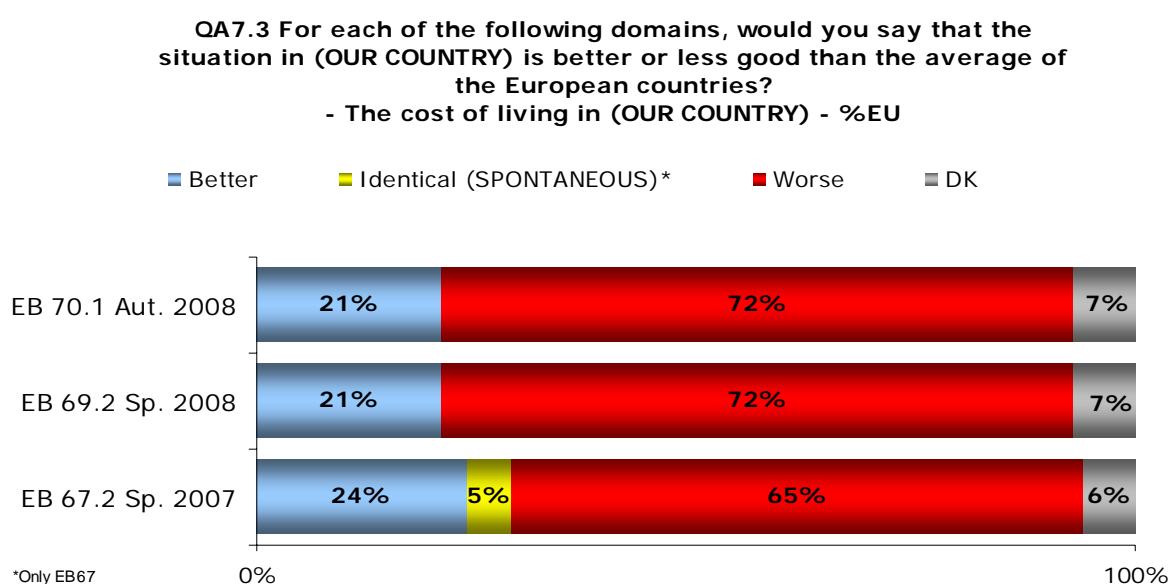
The cost of living in our community

		Total "good"	Total "bad"	DK
EU27		21%	78%	1%
Education (End of)				
	15-	16%	83%	1%
	16-19	18%	81%	1%
	20+	28%	71%	1%
	Still studying	28%	68%	4%
Respondent occupation scale				
	Self-employed	23%	76%	1%
	Managers	30%	69%	1%
	Other white collars	22%	78%	0%
	Manual workers	18%	81%	1%
	House persons	19%	80%	1%
	Unemployed	13%	86%	1%
	Retired	21%	78%	1%
	Students	28%	68%	4%

A socio-demographic analysis reveals some significant differences, in particular as regards the level of the respondent's education and occupation (these two variables are, as explained previously, closely correlated). The most educated respondents (28%) and managers (30%) are slightly more likely than the European average (21%) to consider that the cost of living situation in their country is good. However, they remain very negative in their analysis. This trend – a better evaluation of the situation among the most educated interviewees and managers, i.e. those who have a better standard of living – applies to almost all the aspects relating to everyday life tested in this question.

2.2.1. The cost of living situation at national level compared with the European average

As regards the cost of living, in a context where inflation has become both a national priority and the main personal concern of inhabitants, a vast majority of the people polled (67%) consider that the situation in their country is worse than the European average. These results have fallen slightly since the Eurobarometer wave last spring, when the proportion of dissatisfied respondents was 72%. Approximately one in four interviewees expressed the opposite view (26%).¹⁴



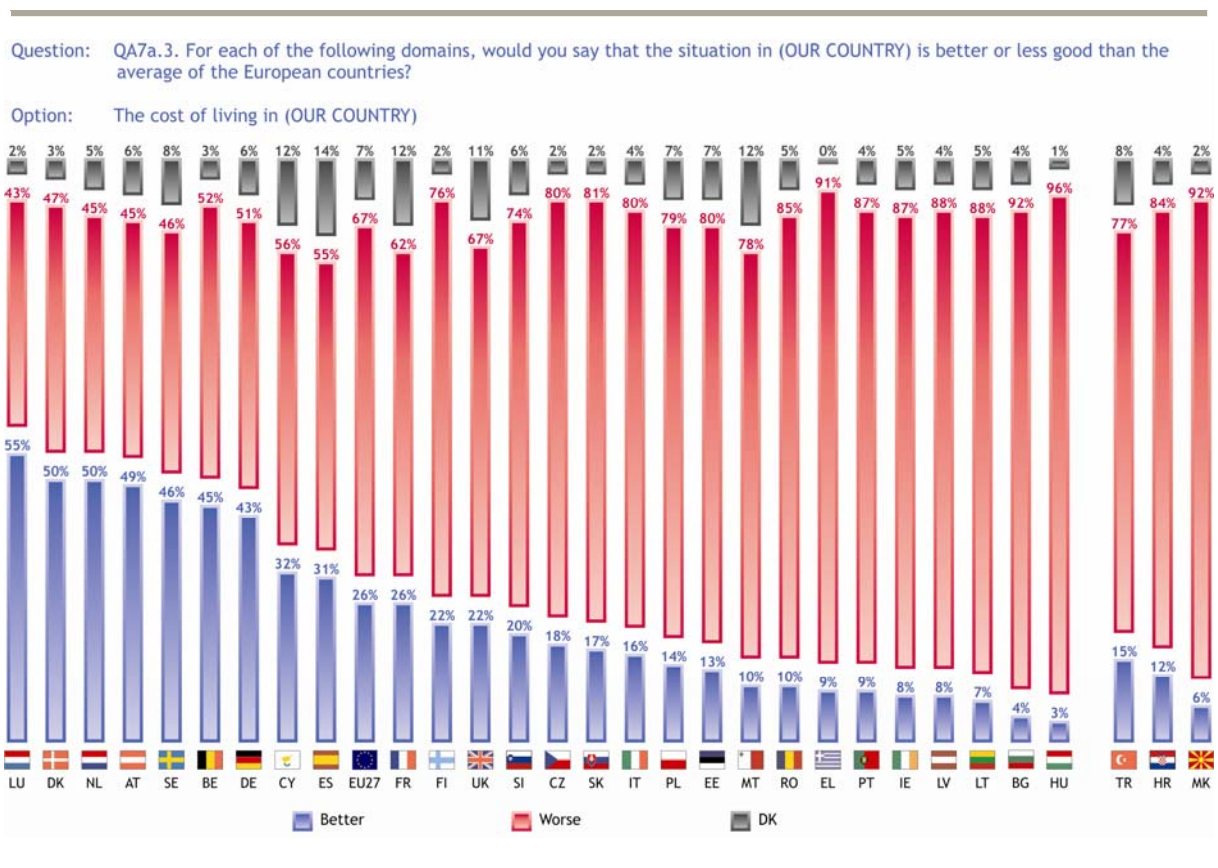
Respondents in Luxembourg (55%), the Netherlands (50%), Denmark (50%), Austria (49%) and Sweden (46%) are the most likely to consider that the situation regarding the cost of living is better in their country than the European average. This perception has increased since spring 2008 in these countries, except for Luxembourg.

¹⁴ QA7a.3 For each of the following domains, would you say that the situation in (OUR COUNTRY) is better or less good than the average of the European countries? The cost of living in (OUR COUNTRY)

It should be noted that the question was worded differently in spring 2007 (EB67), when respondents had the option of answering "identical".

It is interesting to note that, as observed previously, citizens in Sweden, the Netherlands and Denmark are the least likely to mention inflation as the main problem facing their country. On the other hand, citizens in Luxembourg (49%) and Austria (61%) are more likely than the European average to mention this problem¹⁵: they consider that their country is suffering from rising prices but nevertheless remain satisfied with this situation compared with the European average.

The perception is far less positive in Hungary where almost all the people polled (96%) consider that the situation is worse in their country than the European average. This opinion is also shared by more than nine out of ten respondents in Bulgaria (92%) and Greece (91%) and by more than eight out of ten interviewees in Lithuania, Latvia (88%), Ireland and Portugal (87%), and Romania (85%).



A socio-demographic analysis confirms the trend described previously: the assessment of the situation improves with the respondent's level of education and occupation.

¹⁵ See 1.4: The concerns of European citizens, page 32 of this report

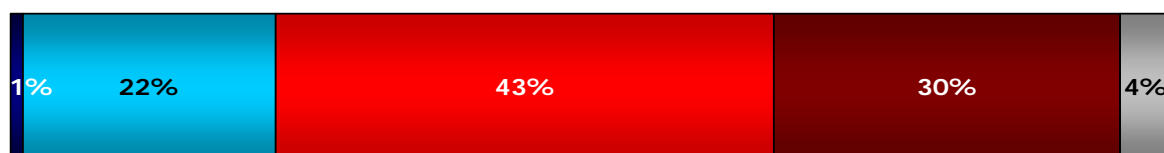
2.3. The affordability of housing

- The cost of housing in the European Union is given the thumbs down -

A majority of Europeans are critical of the cost of housing in their respective countries¹⁶; in total, 73% of the people polled consider the situation in this area to be bad, 30% even stating that it is “very bad”.

QA5a.9 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following ?
The affordability of housing in (OUR COUNTRY)

■ Very good ■ Rather good ■ Rather bad ■ Very bad ■ DK



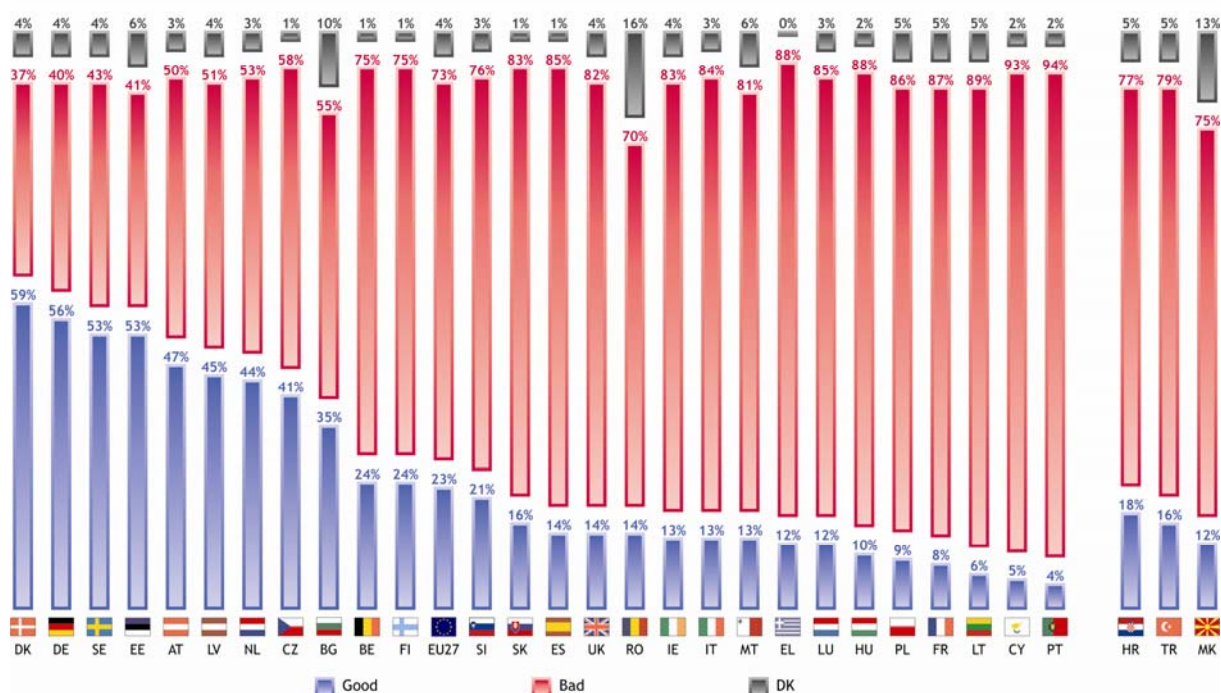
Positive opinions outweigh criticisms in only 4 Member States: Denmark (59% versus 37% negative opinions), Germany (56% versus 40%), Estonia (53% versus 41%) and Sweden (53% versus 43%).

In the rest of the European Union, the results are negative, and respondents are sharply critical. For example, in Portugal, Cyprus, Lithuania, France and Poland, fewer than one in ten citizens are positive compared with around nine out of ten taking the opposite view (94%, 93%, 89%, 87% and 86% respectively).

¹⁶ QA5a.9 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? The affordability of housing in (OUR COUNTRY)

Question: QA5a.9. How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?

Option: The affordability of housing in (OUR COUNTRY)



Levels of discontent are equally high in Greece (88%), Hungary (88%), Spain, Luxembourg (85% each), Italy (84%), Slovakia, Ireland (83% each), the United Kingdom (82%) and Malta (81%). As many as seven out of ten respondents are unhappy with the cost of housing in Romania (70%) and the corresponding proportion is slightly higher in Belgium (75%), Finland (75%) and Slovenia (76%).

Six out of ten respondents consider that the national situation as regards the affordability of housing is bad in the Czech Republic (58%) and Bulgaria (55%). Finally, respondents in Austria and the Netherlands are comparatively more divided, with 50% and 53% respectively viewing it negatively versus 47% and 44% who are positive about the situation.

Finally, opinions in the candidate countries are very close to the European average: 75% of respondents in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, 77% in Croatia and 79% in Turkey are critical of the cost of housing in their respective countries.

A socio-demographic analysis does not reveal any significant differences by category.

2.4. The affordability of energy

In the first half of 2008 energy prices, in particular oil prices, increased considerably before easing towards the end of the year.

In addition, energy dependency is a major problem within the European Union, with an average energy dependency rate of 54%, although the rate exceeds 90% in Cyprus, Malta, Luxembourg and Ireland¹⁷.

- More than two-thirds of Europeans consider that energy is not affordable -

This situation, which is both structural and cyclical, influences interviewees' responses. When asked for their views of the affordability of energy in their country of residence¹⁸, more than two-thirds of Europeans (69%) said that the situation was bad, compared with a quarter (26%) who expressed the opposite view.

QA5a.8 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following ?

The affordability of energy in (OUR COUNTRY)

■ Very good ■ Rather good ■ Rather bad ■ Very bad ■ DK



Citizens in four countries are especially negative about energy costs. In Hungary, 95% of respondents are critical and 93% of respondents in Greece, 91% in Portugal and 88% in Cyprus agree.

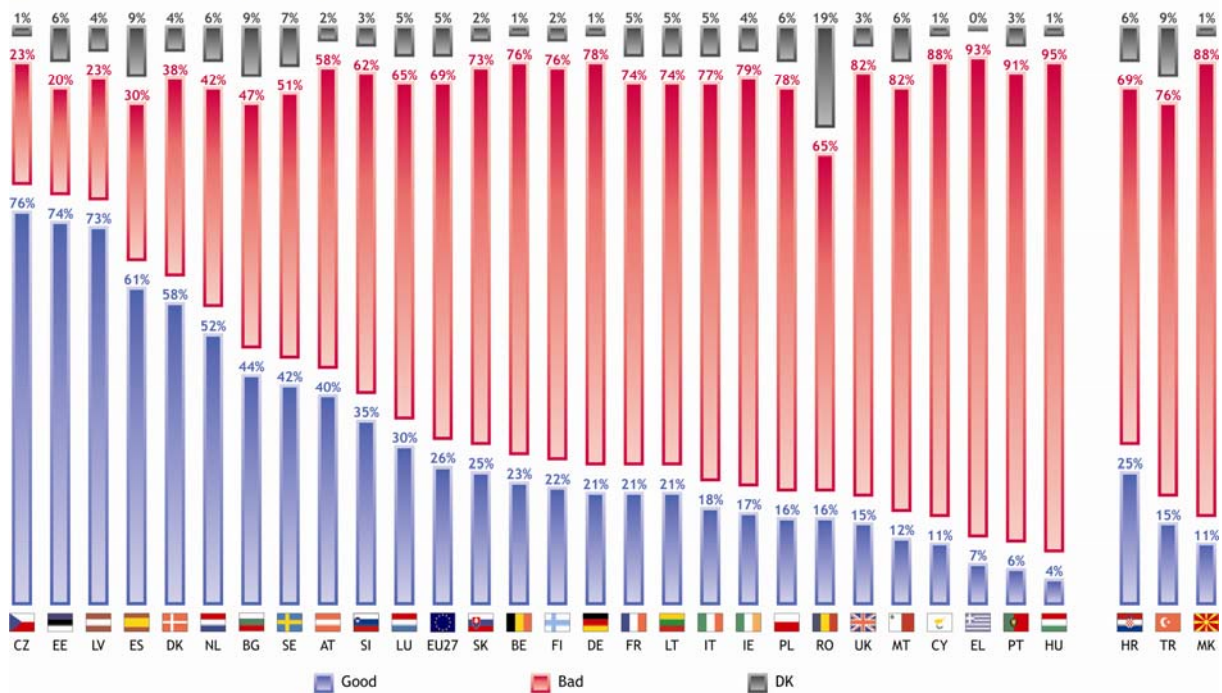
¹⁷ Eurostat press release: 10 July 2008

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/pls/portal/docs/PAGE/PGP_PRD_CAT_PREREL/PGE_CAT_PREREL_YEAR_2008/PGE_CAT_PREREL_YEAR_2008_MONTH_07/8-10072008-FR-AP.PDF

¹⁸ QA5a.8 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? The affordability of energy in (OUR COUNTRY)

Question: QA5a.8. How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?

Option: The affordability of energy in (OUR COUNTRY)



Levels of discontent are also above the European average in Malta (82%), the United Kingdom (82%), Ireland (79%), Germany (78%), Poland (78%), Italy (77%), Belgium and Finland (76% each).

Opinions in France, Lithuania, Slovakia, Luxembourg, Romania and Slovenia are more or less in line with the European average.


Although a majority of respondents are critical of the situation in Austria (58% of negative opinions versus 40% of positive opinions), Sweden (51% versus 42%) and Bulgaria (47% versus 44%), opinions in these countries are relatively more divided when it comes to assessing the affordability of energy.

On the other hand, the verdict is positive in the Netherlands (52% versus 42%), Denmark (58% versus 38% of negative opinions), and, even more markedly, in Spain (61% versus 30%), Latvia (73% versus 23%), Estonia (74% versus 20%) and the Czech Republic (76% versus 23%).

The general perception in the candidate countries is also negative, as in the majority of the European Union countries. However, there are certain differences in intensity: thus, while almost nine out of ten citizens in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia have a negative opinion of the affordability of energy in their country (compared with one in ten citizens who take the opposite view), three-quarters of respondents in Turkey (76%) share this view as do just over two-thirds of respondents in Croatia (69%).

QA5a.8 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?

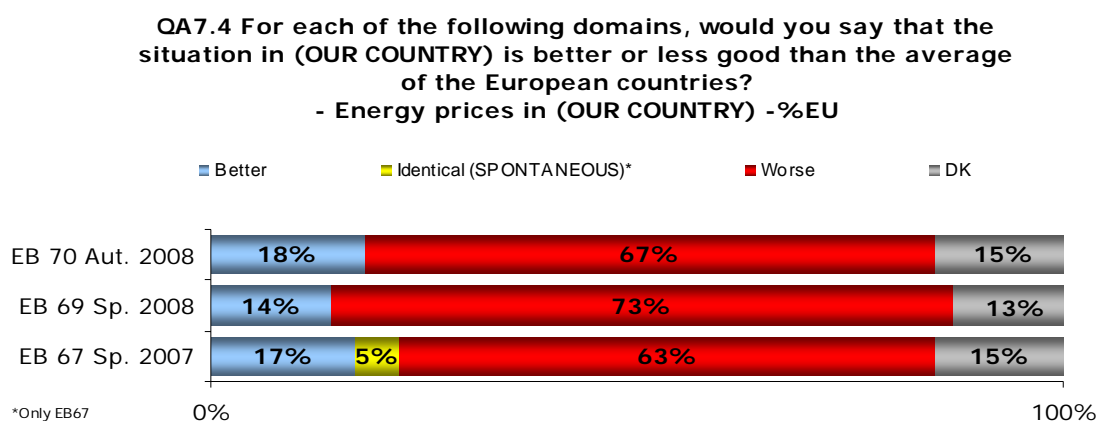
The affordability of energy in our community

	Total "good"	Total "bad"	DK
EU27	26%	69%	5%
Age			
 15-24	31%	58%	11%
25-39	28%	69%	3%
40-54	25%	72%	3%
55 +	24%	72%	4%

There is widespread dissatisfaction in all the socio-demographic categories, even if the level is slightly less pronounced among the youngest interviewees. The proportion of 'DON'T KNOW' answers is slightly higher among the latter group, perhaps because they do not yet pay their own energy bills.

2.4.1. The national situation regarding energy prices compared with the European average

Two-thirds of Europeans (67%) consider that the situation regarding energy prices is worse in their country than it is on average in the European Union¹⁹. A fifth (18%) take the opposite view. The feeling of comparative disadvantage has declined since six months earlier, when it was shared by almost three-quarters of respondents.



Because they benefit from more advantageous fuel prices than citizens in neighbouring countries, inhabitants of Luxembourg are the only respondents who consider that the energy price situation is better in their country than on average in the European Union (53%). A relative majority of respondents in Austria (46%) also share this view, as do 35% of respondents in Sweden and Slovenia.

On the other hand, in Hungary (91%), Greece (90%), Bulgaria (82%) and Portugal (81%), the vast majority of respondents consider that the energy price situation is worse in their country than on average in the European Union. Some citizens are now relatively less critical than they were six months earlier: a large majority of respondents in Germany (69%) still consider that the current energy price situation is worse than it is on average in the European Union, but fully 86% did so six months earlier.

¹⁹ QA7a.3 For each of the following domains, would you say that the situation in (OUR COUNTRY) is better or less good than the average of the European countries? Energy prices in (OUR COUNTRY)

2.5. Social benefits

– *Very pronounced national differences* –

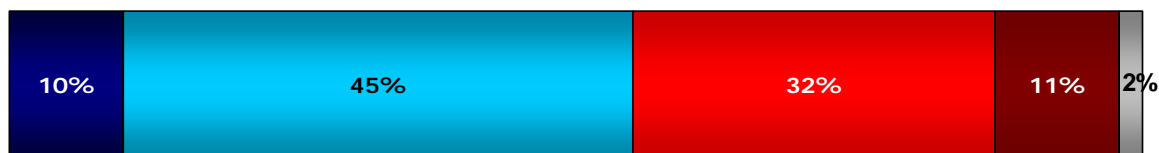
Against the backdrop of the economic crisis, the perception of the quality of social benefits in each of the Member States is an important factor in assessing the living conditions of Europeans. We therefore asked the interviewees to give their opinion on a certain number of social benefits in their country.

2.5.1. Healthcare services

More than half of Europeans (55%) are positive about the quality of healthcare services in their respective countries compared with 43% who take the opposite view. A breakdown of answers reveals a very varied picture between countries²⁰.

QA5a.2 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following ?
Health care provision in (OUR COUNTRY)

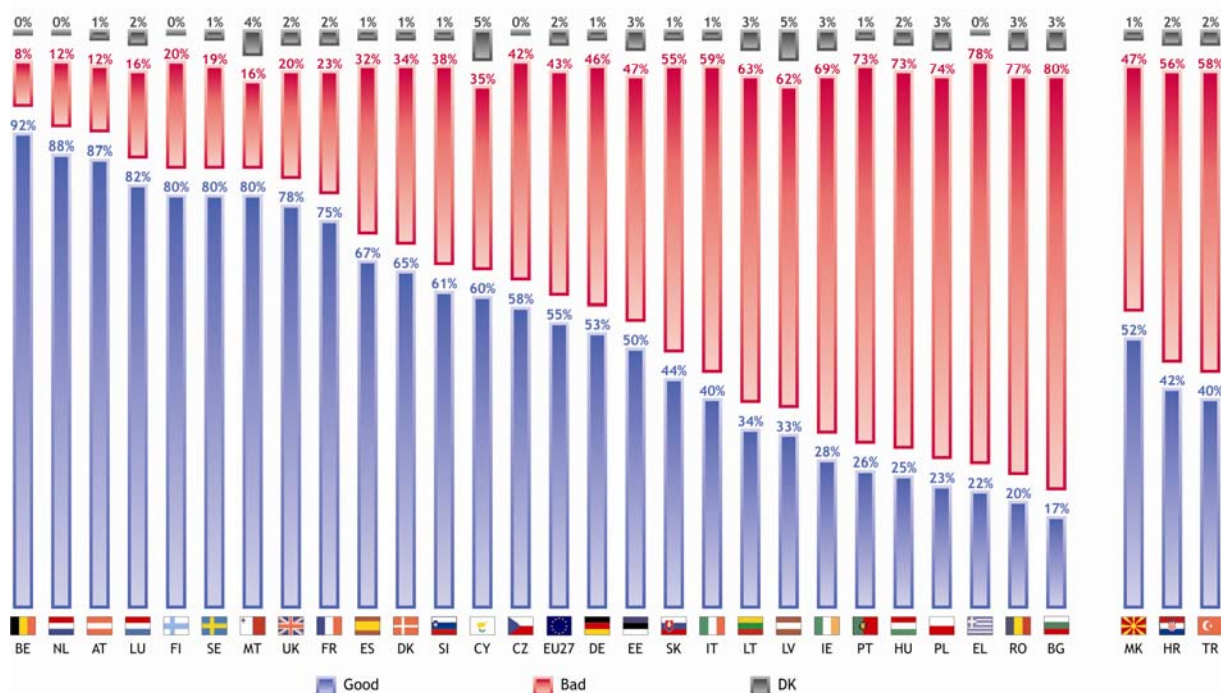
■ Very good ■ Rather good ■ Rather bad ■ Very bad ■ DK



²⁰ QA5a.2 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? Healthcare provision in (OUR COUNTRY)

Question: QA5a.2. How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?

Option: Health care provision in (OUR COUNTRY)



Sixteen European Union Member States are positive about healthcare services in their country. Respondents in Belgium (92%), the Netherlands (88%) and Austria (87%) are the most satisfied European Union citizens in this area, with approximately nine out of ten interviewees having a positive opinion. This opinion is also shared by approximately 80% of the population in Luxembourg (82%), Malta (80%), Finland (80%), Sweden (80%) and the United Kingdom (78%). In France, three-quarters of respondents are positive about the situation, as are approximately 7 out of 10 respondents in Spain (67%) and Denmark (65%), and approximately three-fifths of the respondents in Slovenia (61%), Cyprus (60%) and the Czech Republic (58%). Opinions are more divided in Germany and Estonia, with fairly close proportions of positive answers (53% and 50%) and negative answers (46% and 47%).

In eleven countries, negative opinions about healthcare provision outweigh positive views: this applies in Slovakia (55%), Italy (59%), Latvia (62%) and Lithuania (63%). The proportion of dissatisfied respondents is around 70% in Ireland (69%), Portugal (73%), Hungary (73%) and Poland (74%). Finally, it is even more pronounced in Romania (77%), Greece (78%) and Bulgaria (80%).

For this question, there is a significant division between the countries which have joined the European Union since 2004 and the oldest Member States: 63% of respondents in the oldest Member States believe that the provision of healthcare services is good compared with only 28% of respondents in the most recent Member States. These significant differences may suggest that there is a “two-speed” Europe when it comes to healthcare provision.

In the candidate countries, a majority of respondents in Croatia (56%) and Turkey (58%) consider that healthcare services are bad in their respective countries. Respondents in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia are more divided on this question, 52% being positive about the healthcare situation while 47% take the opposite view.

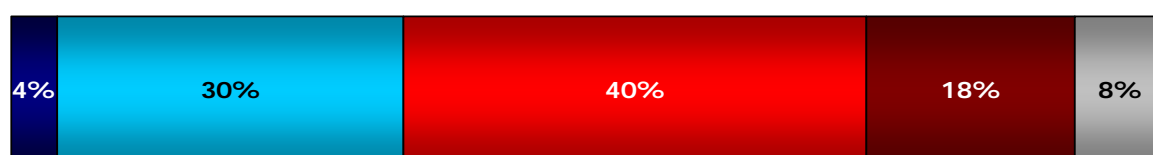
2.5.2. The pension system

A large majority of Europeans (58%) consider that the situation as regards the provision of pensions in their country is “bad”. A third (34%) of respondents take the opposite view while 8% were unable to express an opinion²¹.

QA5a.3 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following ?

The provision of pensions in (OUR COUNTRY)

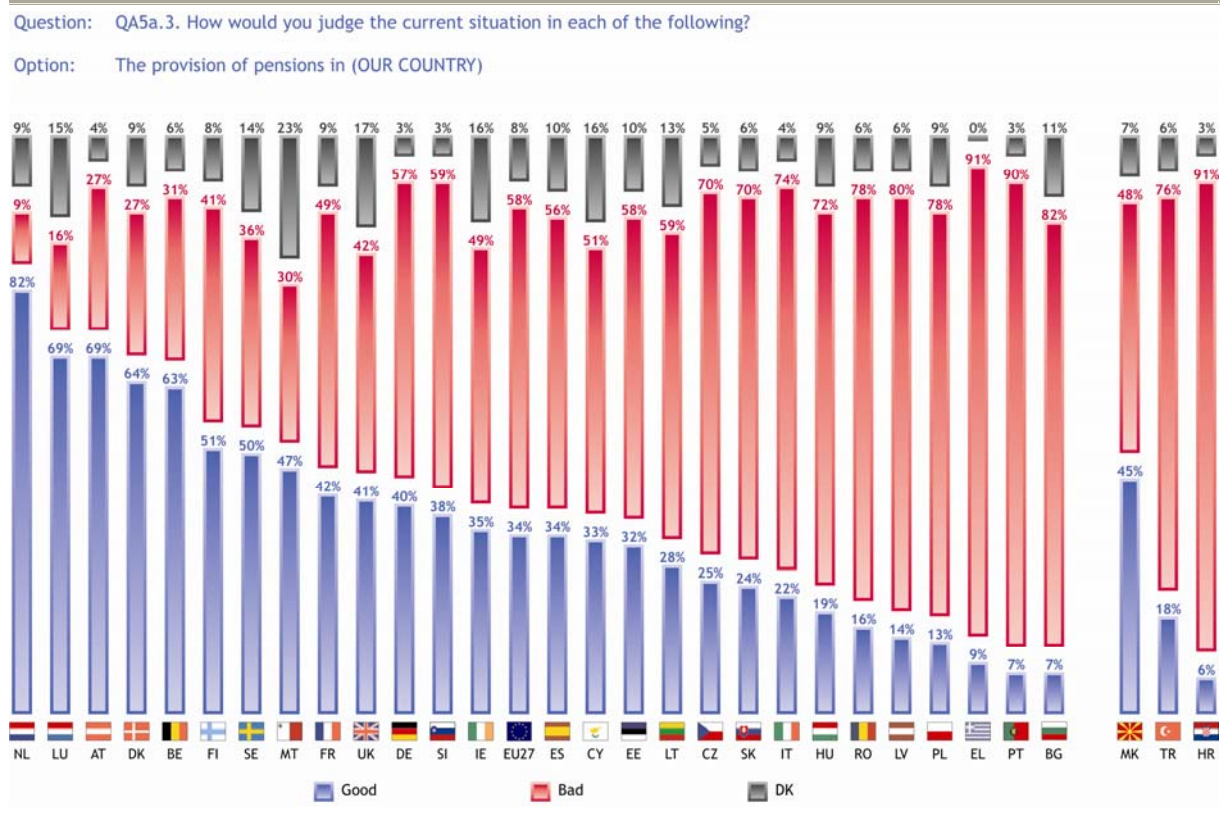
■ Very good ■ Rather good ■ Rather bad ■ Very bad ■ DK



An analysis of the results by country reveals a mixed situation in which only countries in Northern Europe are markedly positive.

²¹ QA5a.3 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? The provision of pensions in (OUR COUNTRY)

Thus, half of the people polled in Finland (51%) and Sweden (50%), around two-thirds of those in Belgium (63%), Denmark (64%), Austria (69%) and Luxembourg (69%), and more than 80% of respondents in the Netherlands are positive about pensions provision in their country. A relative majority of respondents (47%) are also positive about their country's pension system in Malta. However, a significant proportion of respondents in Malta felt unable to express an opinion on this question (23%).



Opinions are far more divided in France and the United Kingdom where 49% and 42% respectively consider that the situation is bad compared with 42% and 41% who take the opposite view.

In the rest of the European Union the balance is negative though with some slight differences in intensity. In Cyprus and Ireland, for example, half of respondents (51% and 49% respectively) are critical of the pension system, compared with a third of respondents who take the opposite view (33% and 35% respectively). Respondents in Spain are slightly more dissatisfied (56%), as are those in Germany (57%), Estonia (58%), Slovenia (59%) and Lithuania (59%). However, 40% of respondents in Germany and 38% in Slovenia answered positively, as did a third in Spain (34%) and Estonia (32%).


Opinions are more negative in Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Italy, where approximately seven out of ten respondents are critical of the situation compared with a quarter of respondents in Slovakia and the Czech Republic, and a fifth in Hungary and Italy who are positive about the pensions situation. Finally, opinions are very negative in Romania and Poland (78% in both countries), Latvia and Bulgaria (80%), and in particular in Portugal and Greece, where nine out of ten respondents are negative about pensions provision. Note that in Greece almost half of respondents consider that the national situation in this area is "very bad".

On the question of pensions, there is once again a division between the old and new Member States: 53% of respondents in the countries which joined the EU before 2004 consider that pensions provision in their country is bad compared with 75% of citizens in the countries which joined the European Union recently. Despite this difference, it is worth emphasising that a majority of respondents in both groups are negative about their country's pension system.

The candidate countries present some marked differences. While opinions are somewhat divided in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (48% of negative opinions versus 45% of opposite opinions), the results are very negative in Turkey (76%) and above all in Croatia where 91% of the people polled are critical of their country's pension system.

QA5a.3 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?

The provision of pensions in (OUR COUNTRY)

		Total "good"	Total "bad"	DK
EU27		34%	58%	8%
Respondent occupation scale				
	Self-employed	30%	64%	6%
	Managers	45%	50%	5%
	Other white collars	35%	59%	6%
	Manual workers	32%	59%	9%
	House persons	30%	62%	8%
	Unemployed	25%	61%	14%
	Retired	38%	60%	2%
	Students	30%	47%	23%

An analysis of the occupation variable reveals fairly significant differences: whereas 45% of managers are satisfied with pensions provision of in their country, this proportion falls to 32% among manual workers, 30% among self-employed people and only 25% among unemployed people. However, it is important to point out that the Europeans who in principle are the best informed on the subject, namely pensioners, are slightly more likely than the European average to be satisfied with their country's pension system.

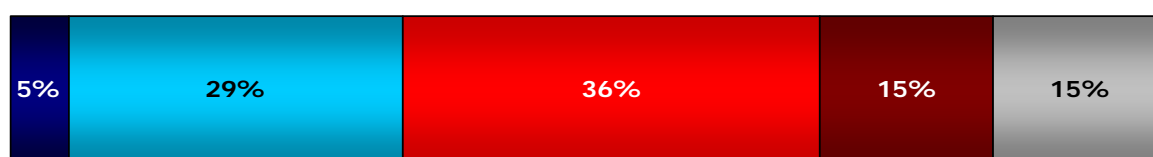
2.5.3. Unemployment benefits

More than half of Europeans are negative about the situation regarding unemployment benefits in their country, compared with 34% who consider that it is rather good²².

QA5a.4 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following ?

Unemployment benefits in (OUR COUNTRY)

■ Very good ■ Rather good ■ Rather bad ■ Very bad ■ DK

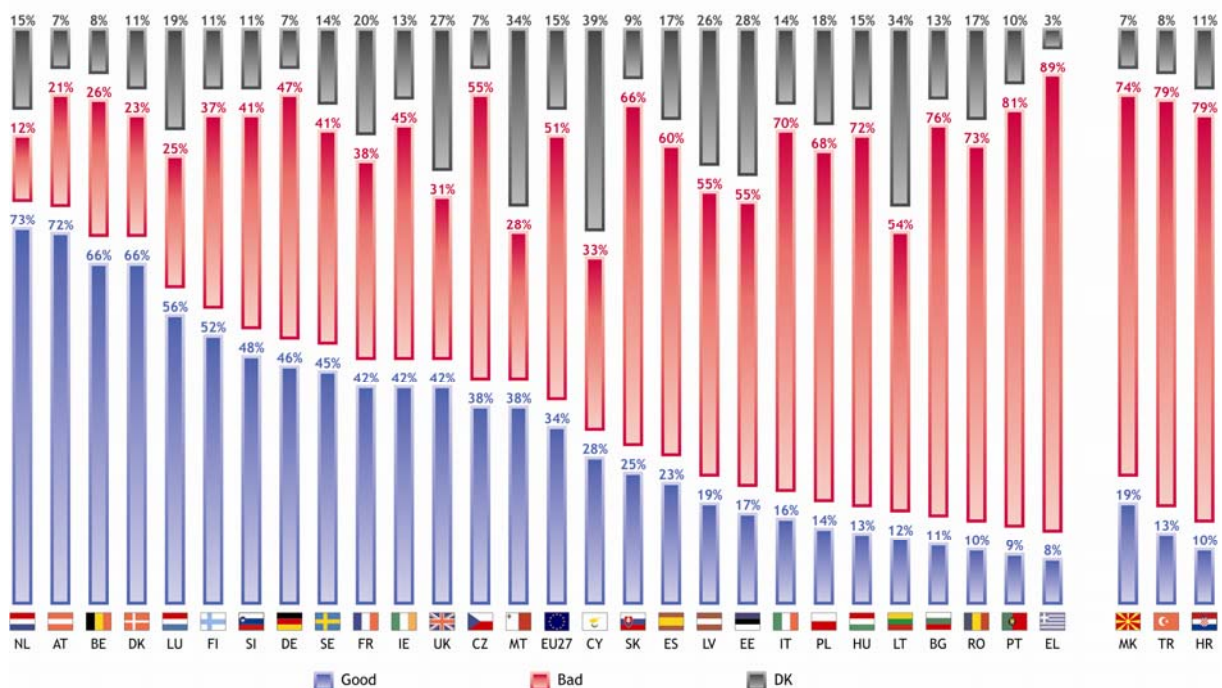


An analysis by country once again reveals situations which vary from one State to another, with countries in Northern Europe again forming a separate 'bloc', in positive terms, from the rest of the European Union. Thus, almost seven out of ten respondents in the Netherlands (73%), Austria (72%), Denmark (66%) and Belgium (66%) consider that the situation as regards unemployment benefits at national level is "good". This opinion is shared by more than half of the people polled in Luxembourg (56%) and Finland (52%).

²² QA5a.4 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? Unemployment benefits in (OUR COUNTRY)

Question: QA5a.4. How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?

Option: Unemployment benefits in (OUR COUNTRY)



While a relative majority of respondents also tend to have positive opinions in France (42% versus 38%) and the United Kingdom (42% versus 31%), it should be noted that in these two countries, a fifth and more than a quarter of the population respectively were unable to express an opinion on this question. The proportion of 'DON'T KNOW' answers was even higher in Malta (34%) and Cyprus (39%) where almost four out of ten respondents expressed no opinion.

The subject seems to be more divisive in Slovenia (48% positive versus 41% negative), Ireland (42% versus 45%), Germany (46% versus 47) and even in Sweden (45% versus 41%).

More respondents are negative than positive on the subject of unemployment benefits in sixteen Member States. Levels of criticism are relatively more moderate in Lithuania (54%), Latvia (55%) and Estonia (55%); in these countries the percentage of 'DON'T KNOW' answers is very high (34%, 26% and 28% respectively). Although the proportion of dissatisfied respondents is similar in the Czech Republic (55%), the latter also recorded a not insignificant proportion of positive answers (38%). A large majority of respondents are critical of the situation as regards unemployment benefits in Spain (60%), Slovakia (66%) and Poland (68%), and even more so in Italy (70%), Hungary (72%) and Romania (73%).

Finally, the level of dissatisfaction can be regarded as extremely worrying in Bulgaria (76%), Portugal (81%) and Greece (89%); in the latter country, 40% of the people polled consider that the situation in this area is “very bad”.

Finally, a very large majority of respondents are dissatisfied in the three candidate countries. This view is shared by 74% of respondents in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and by 79% respondents in Turkey and Croatia.

While the respondent's age creates almost no differences in Europeans' answers, the level of education is once again an important discriminant. Whereas interviewees who left school before the age of 16 are particularly critical (24% are satisfied with unemployment benefits compared with 57% who consider that they are bad), the most educated respondents are split almost equally on this aspect (44% versus 43%).

Moreover, although, as we have seen European pensioners are more satisfied than the European average with the provision of pensions in their country, unemployed people are instead particularly critical of their unemployment benefits: 67% of them consider that they are inadequate, compared with 40% of managers and a European average of 51%. Finally, interviewees with the lowest opinion leadership rating are the most scathing about unemployment benefits²³.

²³ The opinion leadership index, in four categories (1. ++; 2. +; 3. -; 4. --) is constructed by combining the results of the following two questions




QA1. When you get together with friends, would you say you discuss political matters frequently, occasionally, or never?

QA2. When you hold a strong opinion, do you ever find yourself persuading your friends, relatives or fellow workers to share your views? Does this happen...? Frequently - Occasionally - Never

Thus, if an interviewee often or occasionally tries to convince another person or often discusses politics, he or she will be considered as an opinion leader in category 1 (++). On the other hand, if an interviewee rarely or never tries to convince another person and never discusses politics, he or she will not be considered as an opinion leader and will be classified in category 4 (--).

QA5a.4 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?

Unemployment benefits in (OUR COUNTRY)

	Total "good"	Total "bad"	DK
EU27	34%	51%	15%
Age			
 15-24	32%	49%	19%
25-39	35%	54%	11%
40-54	35%	54%	11%
55 +	31%	48%	21%
Education (End of)			
 15-	24%	57%	19%
16-19	33%	54%	13%
20+	44%	43%	13%
Still studying	33%	46%	21%
Respondent occupation scale			
 Self-employed	35%	53%	12%
Managers	48%	40%	12%
Other white collars	35%	53%	12%
Manual workers	33%	55%	12%
House persons	28%	54%	18%
Unemployed	25%	67%	8%
Retired	30%	48%	22%
Students	33%	46%	21%
Leadership			
++	41%	49%	10%
+	38%	49%	13%
-	31%	52%	17%
--	24%	55%	21%

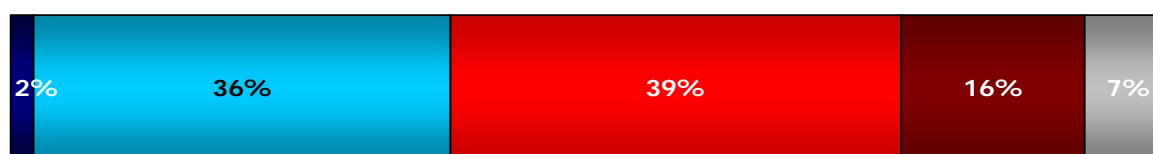
2.5.4. The way in which public administration runs

The majority of Europeans are critical of the way in which public administration runs in their country: more than half of the people polled (55%) share this opinion compared with 38% who instead express a positive view²⁴.

QA5a.10 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following ?

The way public administration runs in (OUR COUNTRY)

■ Very good ■ Rather good ■ Rather bad ■ Very bad ■ DK

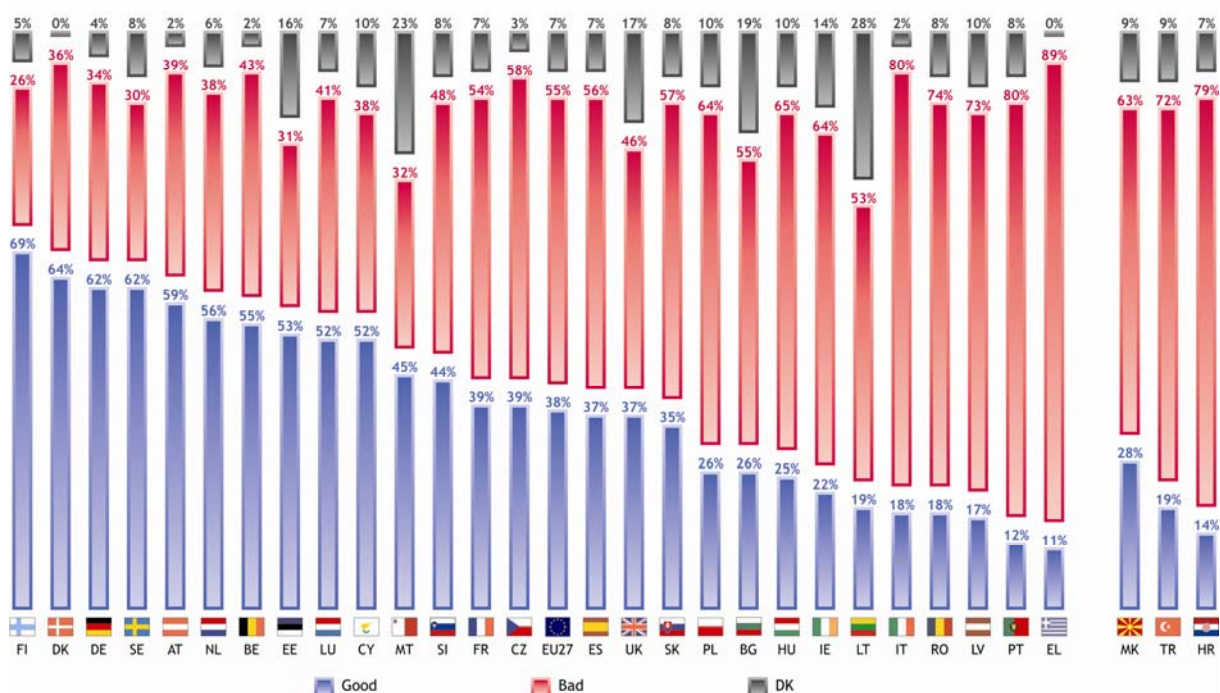


The countries where more than 50% of respondents are negative about their country's public administration are mainly located in Southern Europe (Greece, Italy and Spain) or in Eastern Europe (Romania, Hungary, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Bulgaria). With Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania and France, there is a group of 14 countries in total in which the weight of negative opinions varies between 53% (Latvia) and 89% (Greece).

²⁴ QA5a.10 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? The way public administration runs in (OUR COUNTRY)

Question: QA5a.10. How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?

Option: The way public administration runs in (OUR COUNTRY)



Although comparatively less critical than the average, a relative majority of respondents in the United Kingdom (46% versus 37%) and Slovenia (48% versus 44%) are nevertheless negative.

The Northern European countries, accompanied this time by Cyprus and Malta, form instead a bloc of respondents most satisfied about the way in which public administration runs. However, levels of satisfaction vary from 52% in Cyprus to 69% in Finland.

The candidate countries are closer to the Southern and Eastern EU countries: thus 63% of citizens in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia have a negative opinion which is shared by 72% of the people polled in Turkey and 79% of respondents in Croatia.

A socio-demographic analysis again reveals the trends previously highlighted: the most educated respondents and managers are the most satisfied with the way in which public administration runs.

2.6. The way in which inequalities and poverty are treated

According to the experts the scope of the economic crisis threatens to deepen inequalities, not only between the different regions of the world but also within the most developed western countries. As we have noted, the state of mind of Europeans has clearly been influenced by the economic crisis and its practical consequences. In this context, which could be described as “heightened sensitivity”, **the verdict of Europeans on the way in which each country tackles the issue of poverty and inequalities is very negative**²⁵: thus 67% consider that the situation is “bad” compared with 27% who take the opposite view.

QA5a.7 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following ?
The way inequalities and poverty are addressed in (OUR COUNTRY)

■ Very good ■ Rather good ■ Rather bad ■ Very bad ■ DK

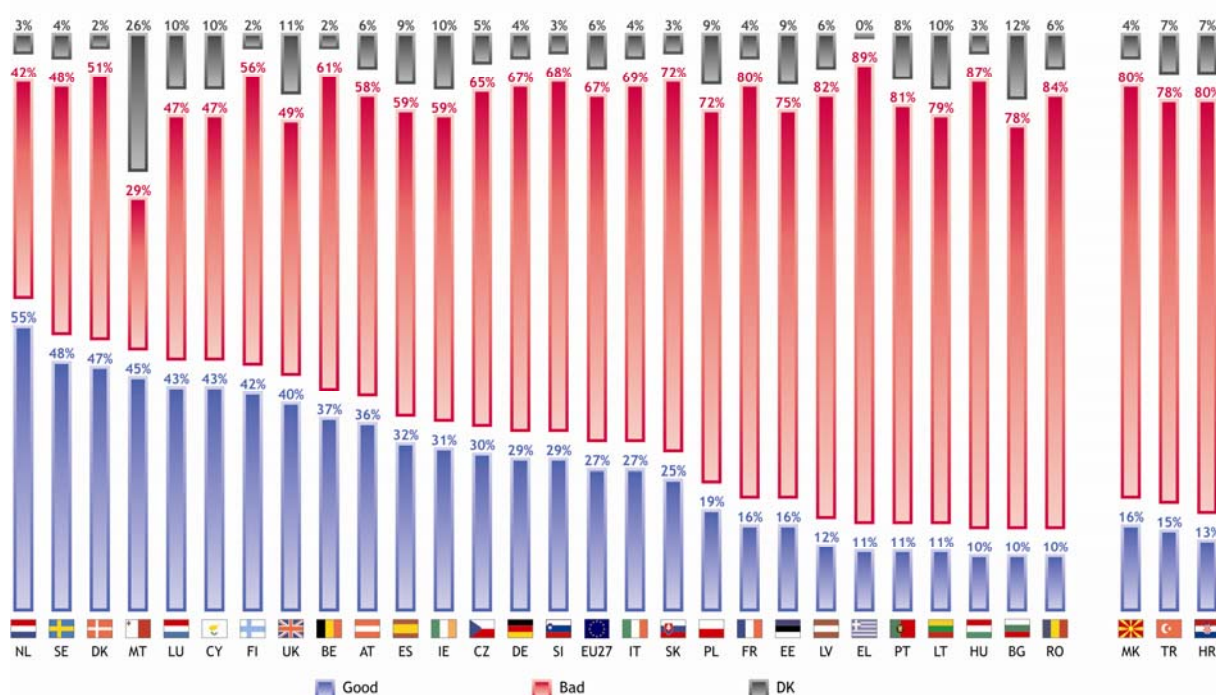


Three-quarters or more of respondents in Estonia (75%) and 78% of those in Bulgaria, 79% in Lithuania, 80% in France, 81% in Portugal, 82% in Latvia and 84% in Romania are critical of the situation. Moreover, their views are now shared by almost nine out of ten respondents in Hungary (87%) and Greece (89%).

²⁵ QA5a.7 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? The way inequalities and poverty are addressed in (OUR COUNTRY)

Question: QA5a.7. How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?

Option: The way inequalities and poverty are addressed in (OUR COUNTRY)



In six countries, the results are fairly close to the European average: the Czech Republic (65% negative opinions versus 30% who take the opposite view), Germany (67% versus 29%), Slovenia (68% versus 29%), Italy (69% versus 27%), Slovakia (72% versus 25% positive opinions) and Poland (72% versus 19%).

Although they are still negative, some countries have a proportion of positive opinions slightly above the European average. Thus, Belgium records 61% negative opinions versus 37% positive opinions; Spain and Ireland record 59% negative opinions compared with 32% and 31% of opposite opinions; 58% and 56% of respondents in Austria and Finland respectively are critical of the situation compared with 36% and 42% who take the opposite view.

Opinions are far more divided in Sweden (48% negative opinions and the same proportion of positive opinions), Denmark (51% versus 47%), Cyprus and Luxembourg (47% versus 43%) and the United Kingdom (49% versus 40%).

Only two European Union countries show a positive trend. In Malta 45% of respondents are positive about the way in which inequalities and poverty are dealt with in their country, compared with 29% who take the opposite view. This is also the case in the Netherlands where 55% of respondents are positive versus 42% who are critical of the situation.

In the three candidate countries, the picture remains very negative for approximately 80% of the people polled (80% in Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and 78% in Turkey).

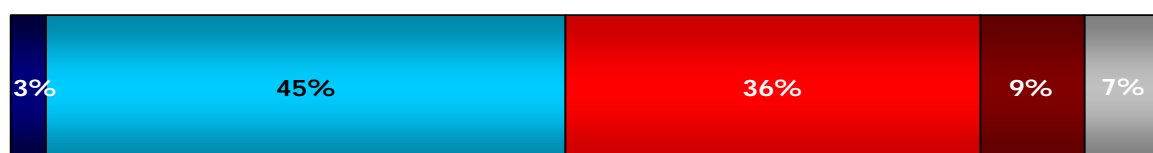
On this aspect of the social situation at national level, the differences between the various socio-demographic categories of respondents are small: although managers (33%) are more positive than unemployed people (20%), all categories of respondents are critical of the situation.

2.7. Relations between people from different cultural or religious backgrounds

Europeans are divided about the relations between people from different cultural or religious backgrounds or different nationalities in their country²⁶: 48% consider that the situation is “good”, compared with 45% who take the opposite view. From a national point of view, the countries which are the most clearly divided on this question are the Netherlands (50% consider that relations are good versus 49% who disagree) and, to a lesser extent, Slovakia (50% versus 46%), Belgium (52% versus 46%) and Germany (51% versus 45%).

QA5a.6 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following ?
Relations in (OUR COUNTRY) between people from different cultural or religious backgrounds or nationalities

■ Very good ■ Rather good ■ Rather bad ■ Very bad ■ DK

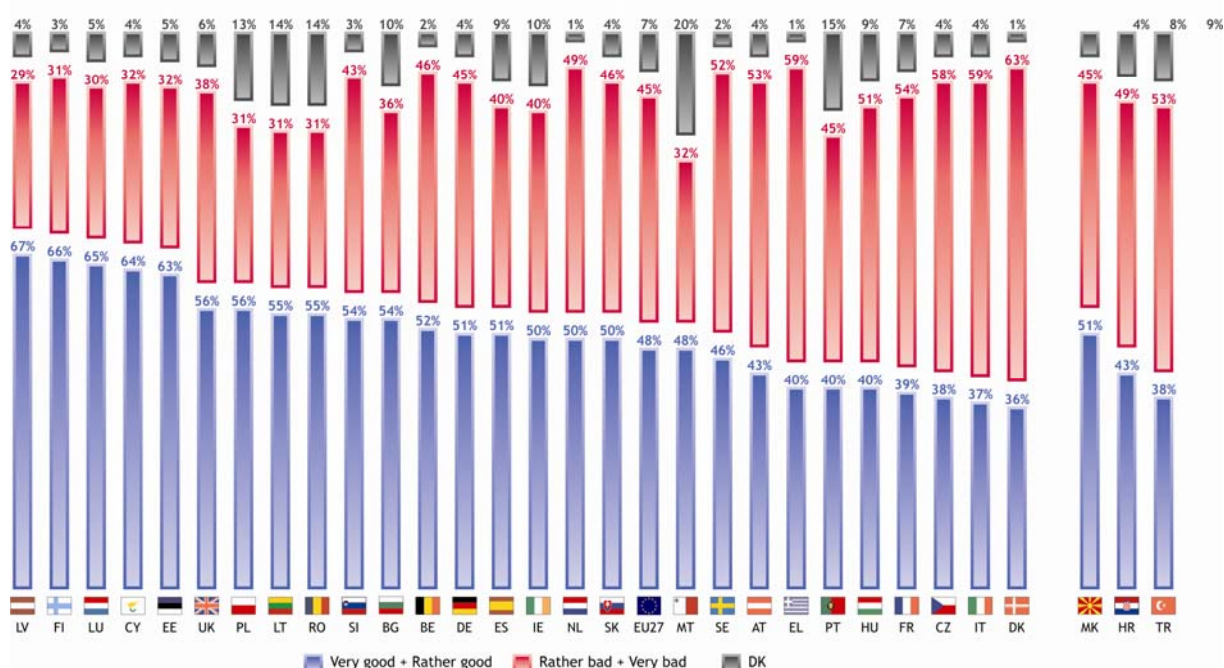


The European Union citizens who are most satisfied with relations in their country between people from different cultural and/or religious backgrounds are those in Estonia (63%), Cyprus (64%), Luxembourg (65%), Finland (66%) and Latvia (67%). This satisfaction is also shared by a majority of respondents in Poland and the United Kingdom (56% in both countries), Romania (55%), Lithuania and Bulgaria (55% each) and by approximately half of respondents in Spain (51% versus 40% who take the opposite view), Ireland (50% versus 40%) and Malta (49% versus 32%).

²⁶ QA5a.6 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? Relations in (OUR COUNTRY) between people from different cultural or religious backgrounds or nationalities

Question: QA5a.6. How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?

Option: Relations in (OUR COUNTRY) between people from different cultural or religious backgrounds or nationalities






On the other hand, more respondents are negative than positive in Sweden (46% of positive answers versus 52% of opposite opinions), Austria (43% versus 53%) and Hungary (40% versus 51%). The situation is criticised by a majority of respondents in France (54% versus 39% of positive opinions), the Czech Republic (58% versus 38%), Italy (59% versus 37%) and Greece (59% versus 40%). Finally, Denmark is the country in which negative opinions outweigh positive ones the most emphatically, with almost two-thirds of interviewees considering that co-existence between people from different cultural or religious backgrounds in their country is "bad" (63%) versus 36%.

The majority of citizens in Turkey are also negative on this issue (53%), while respondents in Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia are divided: in Croatia, respondents are relatively more likely to be negative about this aspect of life in their country (49%) than positive (43%). In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, although 51% of interviewees are positive about the situation, a very significant proportion (45%) considers that the situation in the country is "bad".

QA5a.6 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?

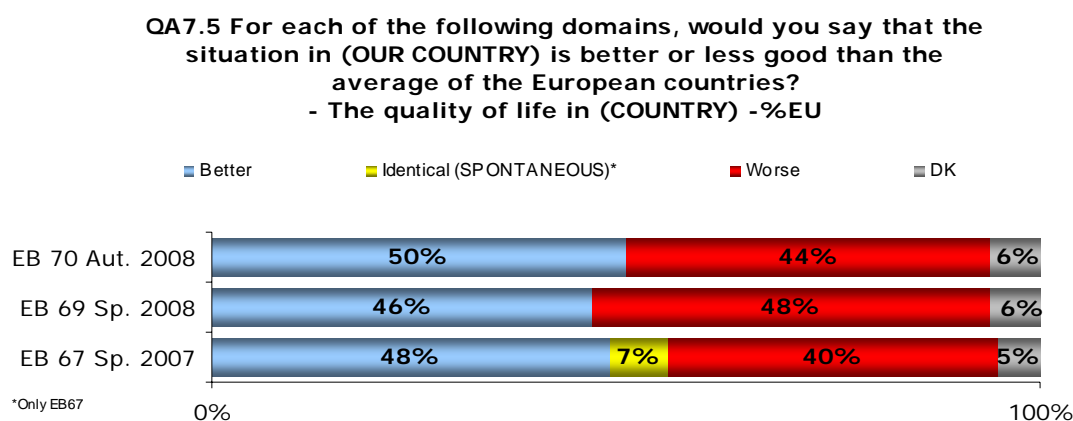
Relations in (OUR COUNTRY) between people from different cultural or religious backgrounds or nationalities

	Total "good"	Total "bad"	DK
EU27	48%	45%	7%
Age			
 15-24	51%	43%	6%
25-39	51%	45%	4%
40-54	48%	46%	6%
55 +	46%	45%	9%
Education (End of)			
 15-	45%	46%	9%
16-19	47%	47%	6%
20+	52%	44%	4%
Still studying	51%	43%	6%
Left-Right scale			
 (1-4) Left	48%	47%	5%
(5-6) Centre	49%	45%	6%
(7-10) Right	50%	45%	5%

It is interesting to note that, on this question, the differences between socio-demographic categories are fairly small. There are no real divisions between generations or from an educational or political point of view: respondents on the left of the political spectrum are fairly close to those on the right, on a subject which is sometimes politically divisive.

2.8. Quality of life at national level compared with the European average

Europeans are divided when it comes to comparing the quality of life in their country with the EU27 average. However, less concrete, more subjective factors, such as the supposed qualities of the climate and food, are probably taken into account by respondents when assessing their quality of life. Unlike the situation with regard to economic indicators on this question, respondents tend to think that the quality of life in their country is better (50%) than the average in other countries in the European Union²⁷. However, a substantial proportion of respondents (44%) take the opposite view. In fourteen countries, citizens consider that their national quality of life is inferior to the average in the rest of the European Union.²⁸



The most satisfied respondents are to be found in Northern Europe: 88% of respondents in Finland, 87% in Denmark and 81% in Sweden. Their opinion is shared by 84% of respondents in Austria and the Netherlands, more than eight out of ten in Luxembourg (82%) and 79% in Belgium, three-quarters in Cyprus (76%) and approximately seven out of ten in France (71%) and Germany (70%). A majority of respondents in Ireland (63%), Spain (57%) and, to a lesser extent, Slovenia (51%) and the United Kingdom (49%) also share this view.

²⁷ See chapter 3.1, opinions on the economic situation.

²⁸ QA7a.5 For each of the following domains, would you say that the situation in (OUR COUNTRY) is better or less good than the average of the European countries? The quality of life in (OUR COUNTRY)

At the other end of the scale, almost all respondents in Hungary (96%) and Bulgaria (93%) are convinced that the quality of life in their country is below the EU27 average. Respondents in Latvia (89%), Romania (86%), Lithuania (84%), Portugal (81%), Poland (80%), Estonia (78%), Slovakia (73%) and the Czech Republic (69%) and approximately six out of ten citizens in Greece (61%) and Italy (58%) share their opinion.

There is once again a significant division between the old and new Member States: 60% of respondents in the Member States which joined the EU before 2004 consider that their quality of life is better than the European average compared with only 14% in the new Member States.

The scores in the candidate countries on this question differ significantly from the European Union average, since 85% of respondents in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, 78% in Turkey and 72% in Croatia consider that the quality of life in their country is below the EU27 average.

In fact, apart from the general assessment of the area where they live, which is positive for a majority of respondents, the results of this Eurobarometer wave **are somewhat negative as regards the social and societal aspects of life of European Union citizens.**

This analysis has confirmed that the **concerns about prices and inflation, examined previously, have a palpable influence on the daily life of the interviewees**, who are critical of the cost of living in general and, more particularly, the affordability of housing and energy.

Opinions regarding **social benefits**, in the areas of healthcare, pensions and unemployment benefits, **again reveal significant differences between the Nordic countries and the rest of the European Union.** In a context of severe medium-term anxiety caused by the crisis in the world economy, citizens are extremely critical of the situation in their answers to the questions relating to poverty and inequalities.

Finally, the systematically critical nature of the answers in some countries in the south of the European Union, such as Portugal and Greece, and in the east, such as Hungary and Bulgaria, is worth noting.

A socio-demographic analysis underlines once again the trends described previously: managers (58% consider that the quality of life is better in their country than the average of the European countries, compared with 39% who take the opposite view) are more positive than self-employed people (46% versus 49%) and unemployed people (44% versus 49%). In this instance, there is a fairly sharp difference between respondents on the left of the political spectrum, a majority of whom are positive (56% versus 40%) and those on the right who are split down the middle on this question (48% versus 48%).

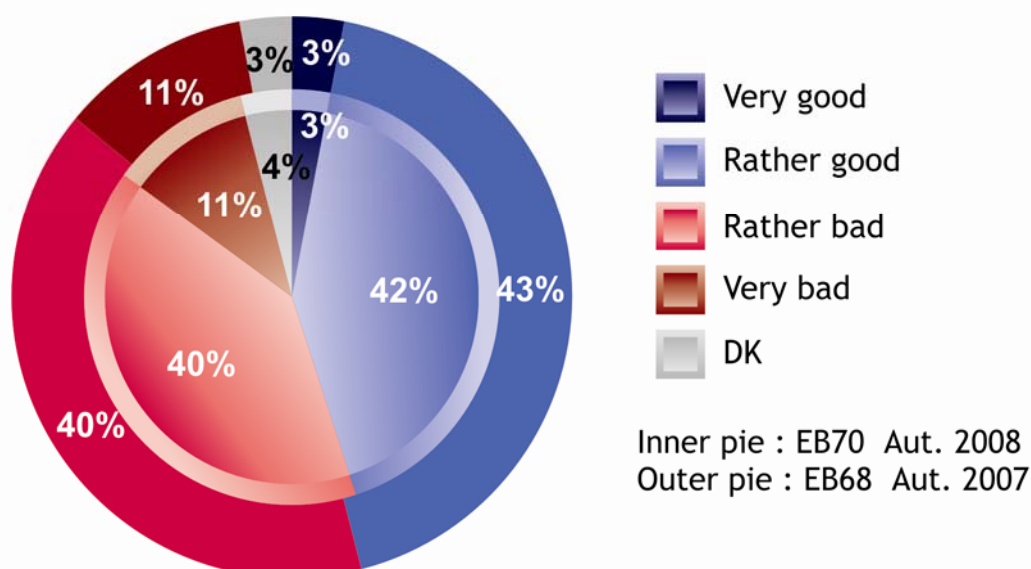
2.9. The situation of the environment

2.9.1. The current situation

Europeans are divided as regards the situation of the environment in their country²⁹: 45% consider that it is good compared with 51% who are critical. From a comparative point of view, positive opinions have fallen only slightly (-1 percentage point) since the question was last asked³⁰.

Question: QA4a.7. How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?

Option: The situation of the environment in (OUR COUNTRY)



Negative opinions outweigh positive opinions in 12 of the 27 Member States: the situation of the environment is considered to be particularly bad in Greece, where 76% of respondents share this opinion. Respondents in Italy (71%), Hungary (70%) and Romania (70%) take a similar view of the situation, as do 65% in Bulgaria, 64% in Portugal, 60% in France, 59% in Spain and 55% in Malta.

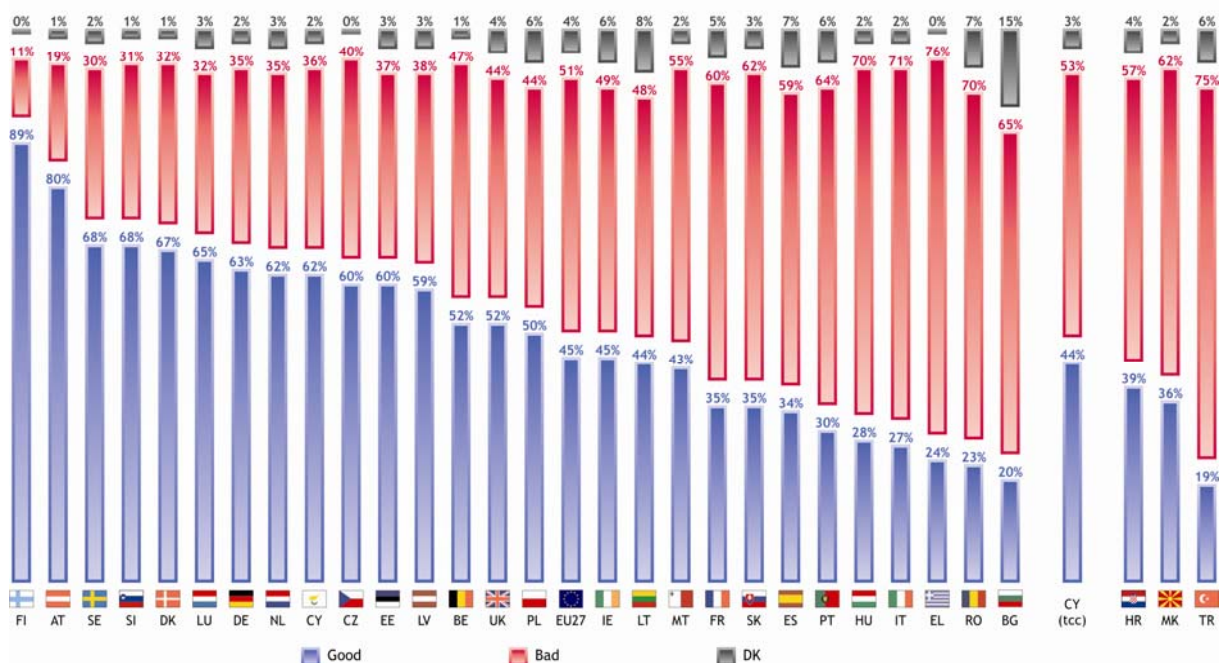
²⁹ QA4a.7 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? The situation of the environment in (OUR COUNTRY)

³⁰ Eurobarometer 68 wave

Respondents in Ireland and Lithuania are clearly divided on the subject of the environment: 45% and 44% respectively consider that the situation of the environment in their country is “good”, while a similar proportion (49% in both cases) take the opposite view.

Question: QA4a.7. How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?

Option: The situation of the environment in (OUR COUNTRY)





At the other end of the scale, fifteen countries are positive about the situation of the environment. Finland and Austria top the list with respectively 89% and 80% of respondents satisfied with the situation of the environment. Approximately two-thirds of interviewees in Sweden and Slovenia (68% in both cases), and in Denmark and Luxembourg (67% and 65% respectively) share this opinion.

On the other hand, the citizens interviewed in the three candidate countries are far more critical: 57% of respondents in Croatia are negative about the situation of the environment, as are 62% in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and 75% of interviewees in Turkey.

QA4a.7 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?

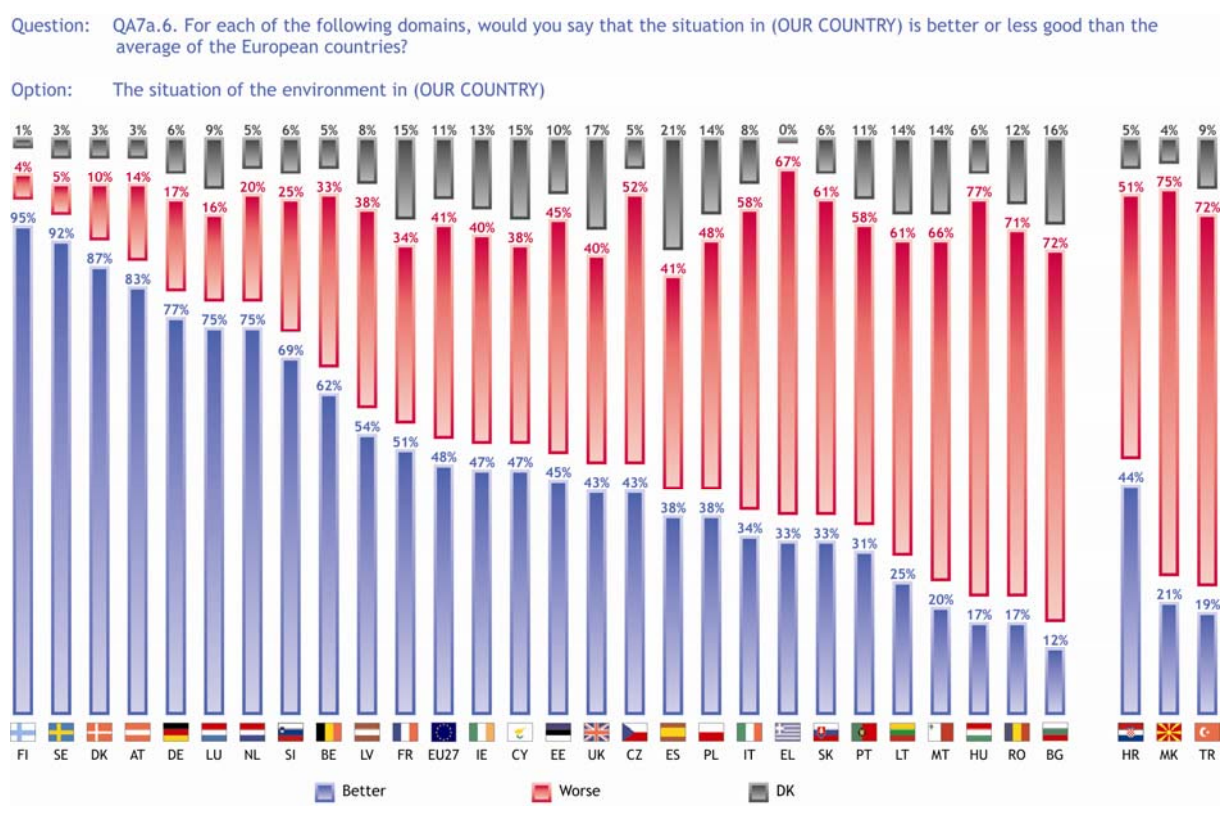
The situation of the environment in (OUR COUNTRY)

	Total "good"	Total "bad"	DK
EU27	45%	51%	4%
Gender			
 Male	47%	49%	4%
Female	43%	53%	4%
Subjective urbanisation			
 Rural village	47%	48%	5%
Small/ mid size town	45%	51%	4%
Large town	43%	53%	4%

A socio-demographic analysis reveals that women are more critical than men in their assessment of the situation of the environment in their country. Moreover, people living in urban areas are slightly more severe in their judgement than those living in rural areas.

2.9.2. The situation of the environment at national level compared with the European average

As with opinions on the quality of life in general, respondents tend to consider that the situation of the environment in their country is better (48%) than the average of the Member States³¹. However, views here are far more divided, with 41% of the people polled taking the opposite view.



Once again levels of satisfaction in the Nordic countries are far higher than the European average: almost all the interviewees in Finland (95%), more than nine out of ten respondents in Sweden (92%) and 87% in Denmark consider that the environment in their country is better than the average of the Member States. More than eight out of ten respondents in Austria (83%), 77% in Germany, and 75% in Luxembourg and the Netherlands share their opinion.

³¹ QA7a.6 For each of the following domains, would you say that the situation in (OUR COUNTRY) is better or less good than the average of the European countries? The situation of the environment in (OUR COUNTRY)

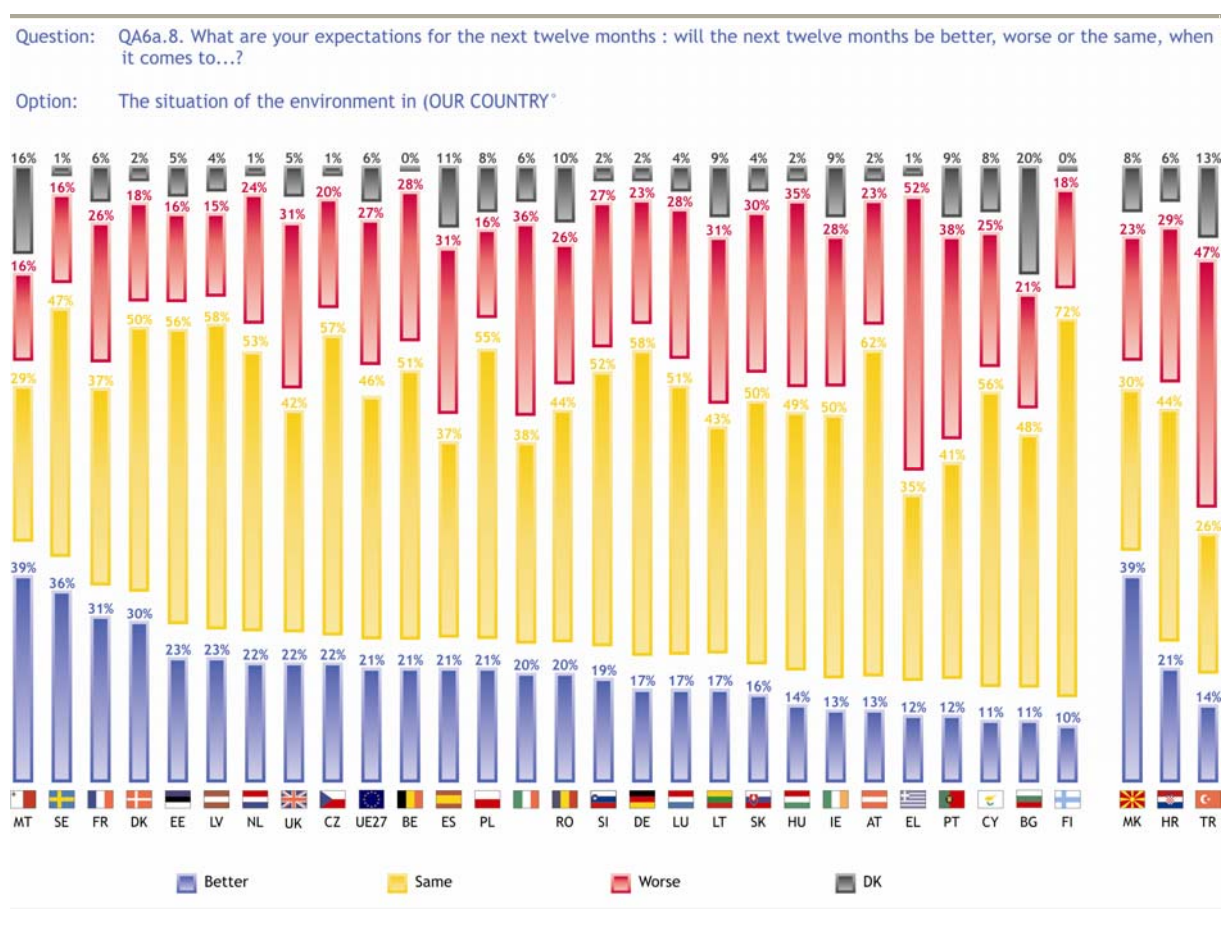
On the other hand, the perception of the situation of the environment is very negative in Hungary (77%), Bulgaria (72%) and Romania (71%). Two-thirds of respondents in Greece (67%) and Malta (66%) consider that the quality of the environment in their country is not as good as it is on average in the 27 Member States.

Finally, this negative opinion is very widespread in Turkey and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, where it is shared by approximately three out of four citizens (72% and 75% respectively). On the other hand, respondents in Croatia are more divided. When asked to compare their situation with that the rest of the European Union, 51% consider that the situation of the environment in Croatia is worse, compared with 44% who are positive about the situation in Croatia.

There are few differences between the socio-demographic categories.

2.9.3. Future expectations

In a context where short and medium-term expectations have deteriorated, just over two out of ten Europeans are confident about the future of the environment in their country: 21% expect things to get better over the next twelve months compared with 46% who expect things to stay the same over the coming year and, finally, 27% who expect the situation to deteriorate.³²



Respondents in Malta (39%), Sweden (36%), France (31%) and Denmark (30%) are comparatively more optimistic than the average of European citizens. However, more than half of the people polled in Greece (52%) and a third of respondents in Poland (38%), Italy (36%) and Hungary (35%) are gloomy about the outlook.


³² QA6a.8 What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...? The situation of the environment in (OUR COUNTRY)

Approximately three out of ten respondents also share this opinion in Spain (31%), Lithuania (31%), the United Kingdom (31%), Slovakia (30%), Belgium, Ireland and Luxembourg (28% in all three cases).

Future expectations differ significantly in the candidate countries. A small majority of respondents in Turkey are pessimistic (47%), while a relative majority of respondents are optimistic in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and 44% in Croatia expect things to stay the same.

QA6a.8 What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?

The situation of the environment in (OUR COUNTRY)

		Better	Same	Worse	DK
	EU27	21%	46%	27%	6%
	Age				
	15-24	28%	43%	23%	6%
	25-39	23%	45%	27%	5%
	40-54	20%	46%	30%	4%
	55 +	17%	48%	28%	7%

A socio-demographic analysis reveals that young people are slightly more optimistic than the oldest respondents: 28% of those aged 15 to 24 expect the situation of the environment to get better compared with 17% of those aged 55 or over. However, a majority of respondents in all categories expect things to stay the same over the next twelve months.

3. ECONOMIC ASPECTS

3.1. Judgments of the economic situation

- Perceptions of the current economic situation are resolutely negative -

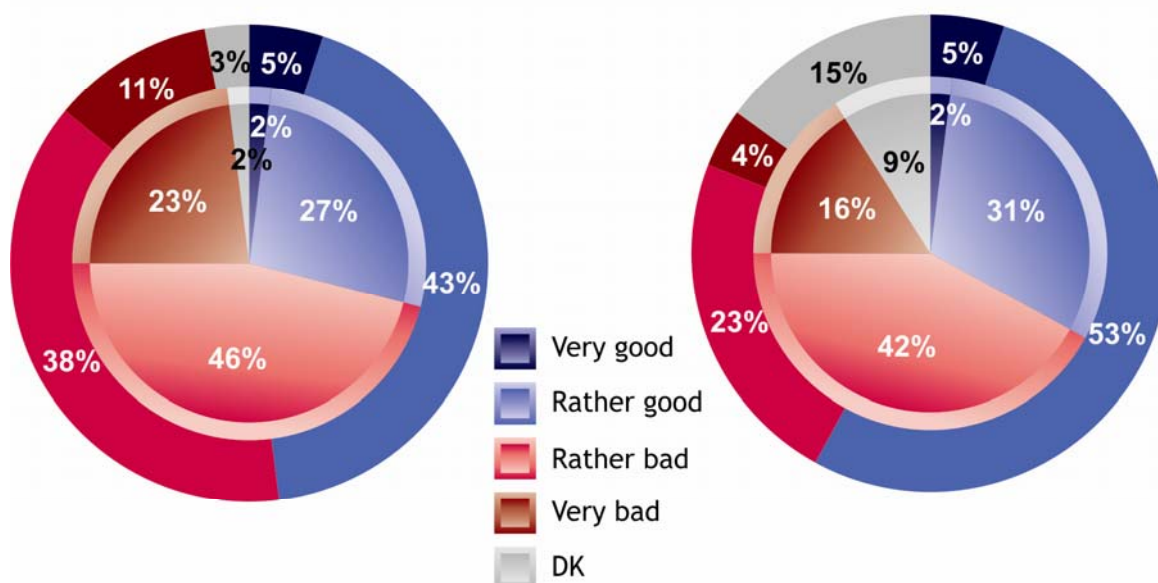
Europeans are invited at regular intervals to assess the economic situation in their country and in the European Union. For the first time, they were also asked for their views on the world economic situation³³.

3.1.1. The national, European and world economic situation

- An undeniably negative assessment –

Question: QA4a.1. How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?

Option: The situation of the (NATIONALITY) economy



Inner pie : EB70 Aut. 2008
Outer pie : EB68 Aut. 2007

Whereas in autumn 2007 the public perception of the economic situation was somewhat divided, the climate one year later is clearly pessimistic.

³³ QA4a How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?

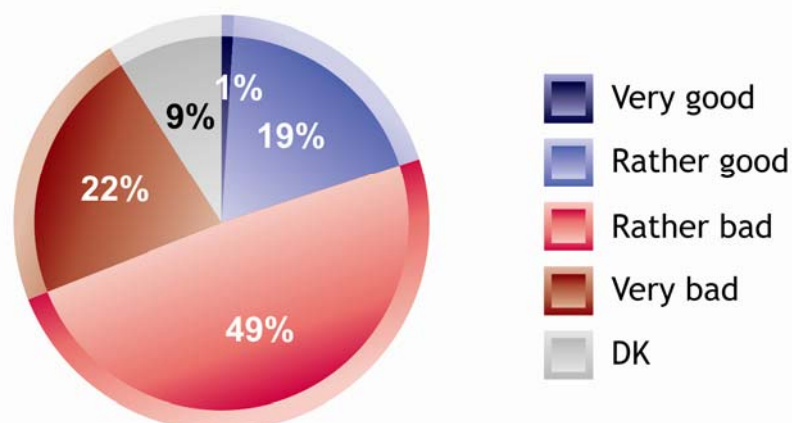
- 1) The situation of the (NATIONALITY) economy
- 2) The situation of the European economy
- 3) The situation of the economy in the world

The latest observations show that the public perception of the economy is now undeniably negative, with a large majority of respondents considering that the current situation of their country's economy is bad. Opinions are also particularly negative as regards the world economy, which Europeans were invited to assess for the first time: 71% consider that it is bad. A slightly smaller proportion shares this opinion as regards the national economy (69%). It is noteworthy that the situation of the European economy is perceived in a slightly more positive light (33% describe it as good) than the situation of the national economy (29%) and the world economy (20%).

All socio-demographic categories agree that the situation is gloomy, at national, European and world levels alike. However, a detailed analysis reveals that the categories which have the highest standard of living, that is to say the most educated respondents and managers, are more positive than the least advantaged categories, and in particular those who left school before the age of 16 and unemployed people.

Question: QA4a.3. How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?

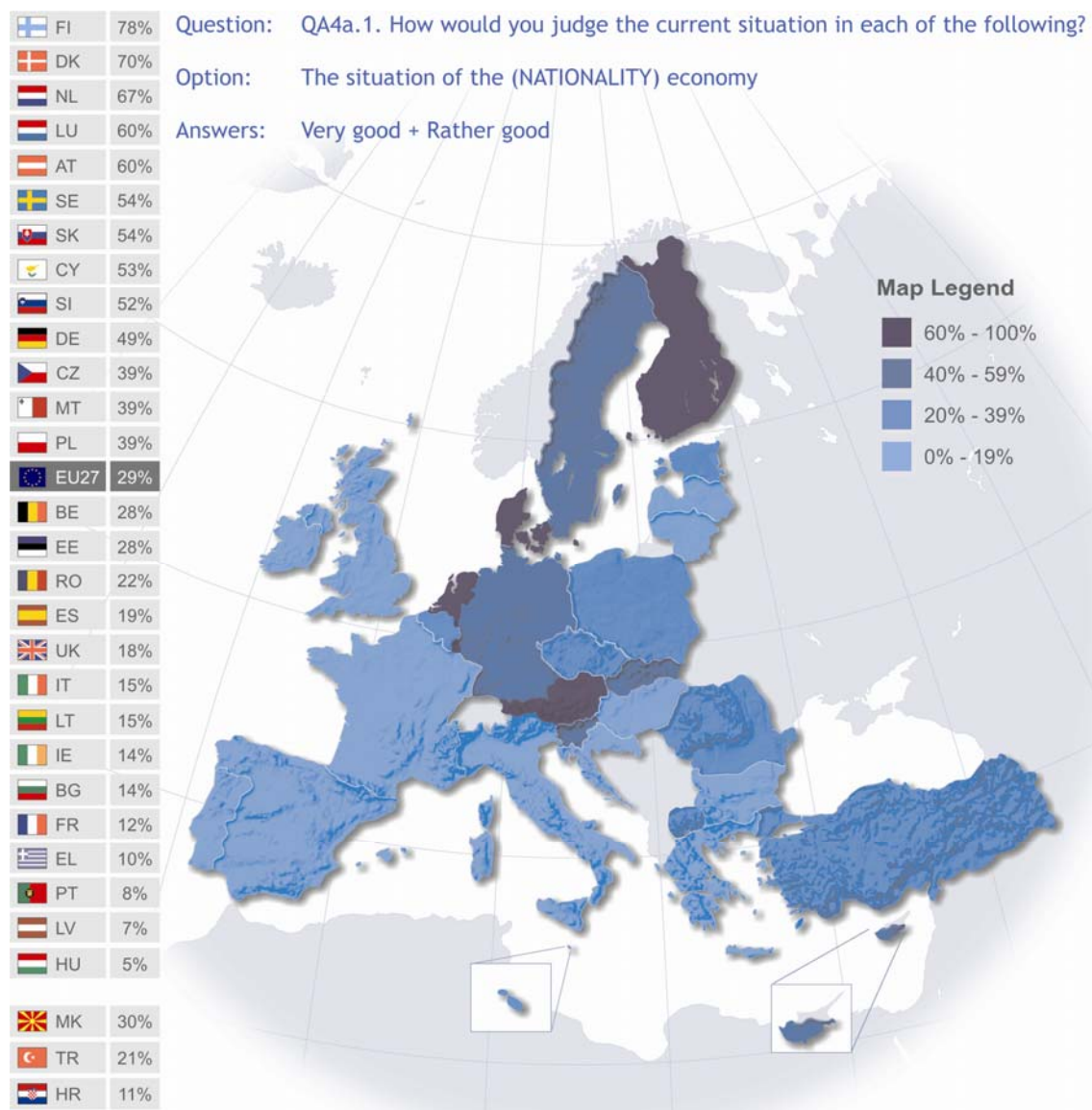
Option: The situation of the economy in the world*



*Question asked for the first time in this wave

An analysis by country reveals that some countries are far more positive than others. Respondents in Southern European countries and the States which recently joined the European Union are especially critical of the situation of the national economy. This is also the case in the countries in which the financial sector has been particularly badly shaken by the crisis, such as the United Kingdom, Ireland, Belgium and France.

A significant proportion of respondents in Hungary (94%), Portugal (92%), Latvia (91%), Greece (90%) and France (85%) are also negative about their national economy. This is also the case in Ireland and Italy (84% in both countries), Lithuania (82%), Bulgaria and Spain (80% each) and the United Kingdom (79%). There are similar responses, though to a lesser extent, in Romania (74%) and Belgium (72%). In some countries, a particularly significant proportion opted for the most negative answer ("very bad"): this answer was given by almost half of respondents in Greece (48%) and Hungary (45%), and by 42% of respondents in Ireland and 40% in the United Kingdom.



Respondents in Western European and the Nordic countries are the most likely to be positive about their **national economy**. Finland (78%), Denmark (72%) and the Netherlands (67%) stand out by their positive assessment of the situation of the national economy. Six out of ten citizens in Austria and Luxembourg (60%) share this opinion. For their part, Slovakia (54%), Cyprus (53%) and Slovenia (52%) are the only new Member States in which more than half of the population consider that the situation of the national economy is good.

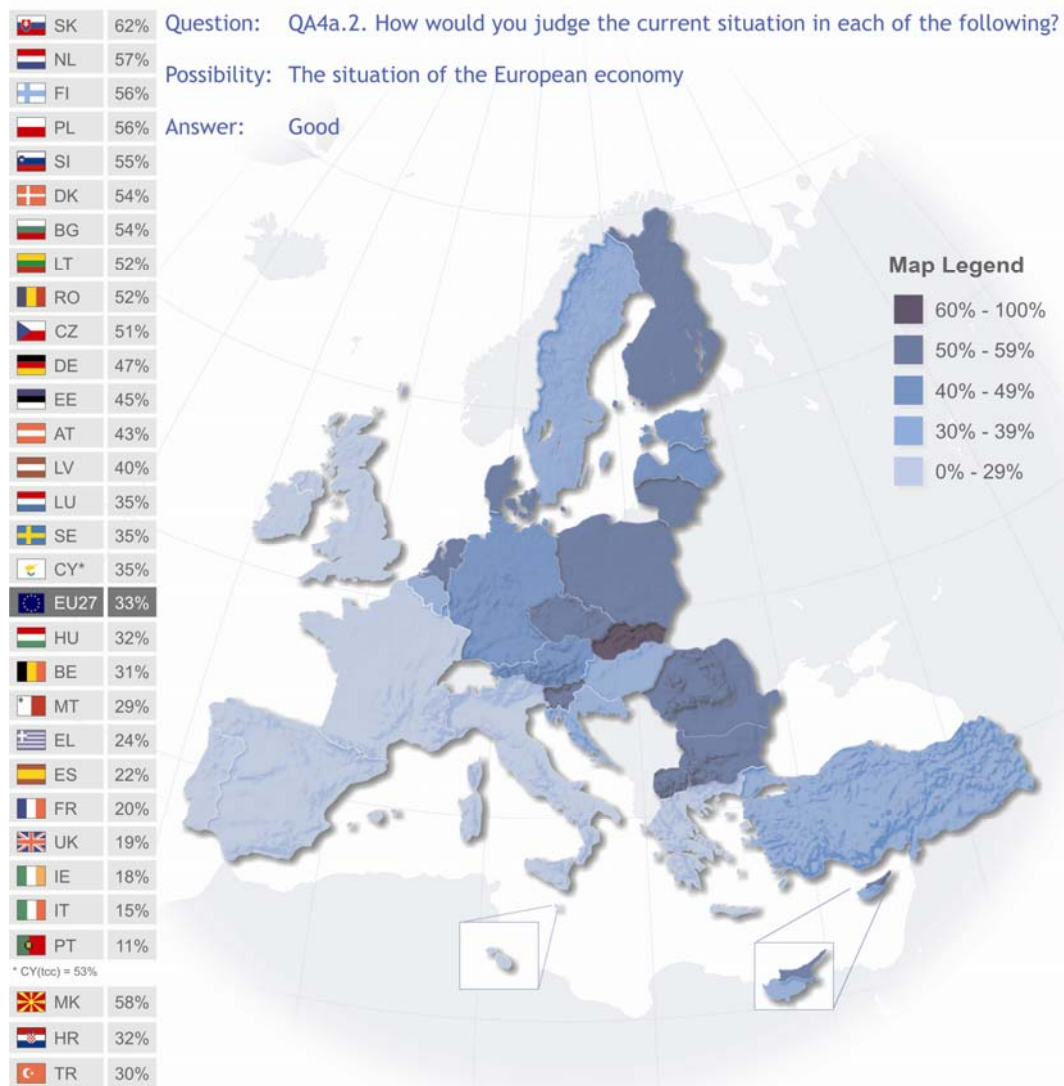
In the three candidate countries, opinions are predominantly negative: 87% of respondents in Croatia, 75% in Turkey and 69% in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia are negative about their national economy.

In terms of changes in this indicator, two developments should be highlighted. There has been a rise of 9 percentage points in Slovakia, which is the only country where citizens are now more positive than during the Eurobarometer wave of autumn 2007 (EB68). Interestingly, the positive result in Slovakia coincides with its entry into the euro area, scheduled for 1 January 2009 (i.e. a few weeks after the survey was conducted). It is conceivable that the planned switch to the euro had a positive impact in the minds of respondents in Slovakia. In contrast, the deterioration in perceptions of the national economy is dramatic in Ireland (-62 percentage points) and remains very significant in the United Kingdom (-45), Estonia (-39), Belgium (-37) and Spain (-31).

Finally, it should be noted that the situation is also less well perceived than one year ago in two countries where the results of the trend indicators, including the economic situation in the three areas measured, are generally very positive, namely in Sweden (-32 points as regards the situation of the national economy) and Denmark (-27).

Responses to the question about the **European economy**, show a different pattern from those regarding the national economy. Although some trends have persisted, for example the fact that respondents in Southern Europe are the most critical in their assessments, others have changed. For example, it is significant that citizens in certain countries in Northern Europe (Sweden) and Central Europe (Austria and Luxembourg), while satisfied with the situation of their national economy, are critical when they assess the situation at European level.

The States which have recently joined the European Union are in general more positive with regard to the **European economy**. This applies, for example, to respondents in Slovakia (62%), Poland (56%), Slovenia (55%) and Bulgaria (54%).

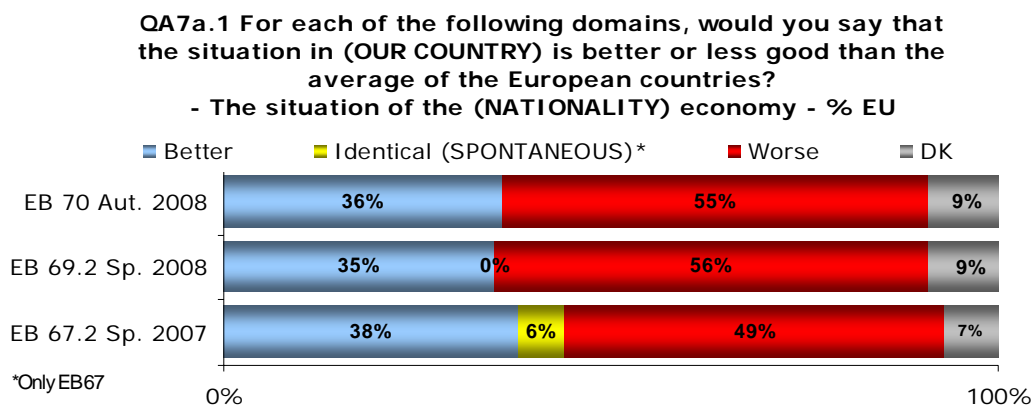


From a comparative point of view, opinions regarding the **European economy** have deteriorated in all the Member States, with public opinion very closely reflecting the economic outlook for 2009.

Finally, a majority of respondents in all European Union countries have a negative perception of the economic situation **in the world**. Only Poland is equally divided with 41% of positive opinions and 41% of negative opinions.

- Respondents perceive their national economy as less dynamic than that of the other European Union countries -

When asked for their views on the state of their national economy in comparison with that of the average of the European States, the majority of the people polled are negative: 55% of them consider that their national economy is in less robust health than the EU27 average, compared with 36% who take the opposite view³⁴.



There are substantial national differences on this question. Almost nine out of ten respondents in Denmark and Luxembourg (88% each), and Finland (86%) and more than eight out of ten in Sweden (83%) and the Netherlands (82%) consider that their national economy is in better shape than the average for the European Union. This opinion is shared by a vast majority of respondents in Austria (72%), Cyprus (65%) and Germany (63%), and by more than half in Belgium (54%).

On the other hand, almost all respondents in Hungary (96%), and a very large majority in Latvia (91%), Greece and Bulgaria (88% in both cases), Lithuania (86%), Portugal (84%) and Estonia (81%) take the opposite view.

Moreover, 76% of respondents in Italy, 75% in Romania and more than 70% in the Czech Republic and Poland (73% and 72% respectively) consider that the economic situation in their country is not as good as it is on average in the European Union.

³⁴ QA7a.1 For each of the following domains, would you say that the situation in (OUR COUNTRY) is better or less good than the average of the European countries?

It is to be noted that the question was worded differently in spring 2007 (EB67) when respondents had the possibility to answer "identical."

It should be noted that this opinion is shared by two-thirds of respondents in Slovakia (67%) and by almost six out of ten in Spain (59%), Slovenia and Ireland (58% in both cases). The change in this last country is particularly striking: six months earlier, Ireland was among the group of countries in which the national economy was considered to be doing comparatively better.

As regards the candidate countries, the vast majority of respondents consider that the situation of their national economy is not as good as it is on average in the European Union. This view was held by 85% of respondents in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, 81% in Croatia and seven out of ten in Turkey (70%).

3.1.2. The employment situation

As in the case of the economy, the majority of respondents are negative about the national employment situation³⁵: seven out of ten consider that it is bad, compared with three out of ten who are positive about the situation. Although to a lesser degree than for the other economic indicators, results for this indicator also reveal a trend towards a more negative perception of the situation.

An analysis by country reveals a relatively mixed picture. For example, in Portugal, almost all interviewees (95%) are negative about the situation. This opinion is shared by a very large majority of respondents in Hungary (93%), Greece (92%), Spain (89%), France (88%) and Italy (86%). It is interesting to bear in mind that some countries in this group began to record historical rises in their unemployment rate in September and October 2008³⁶.

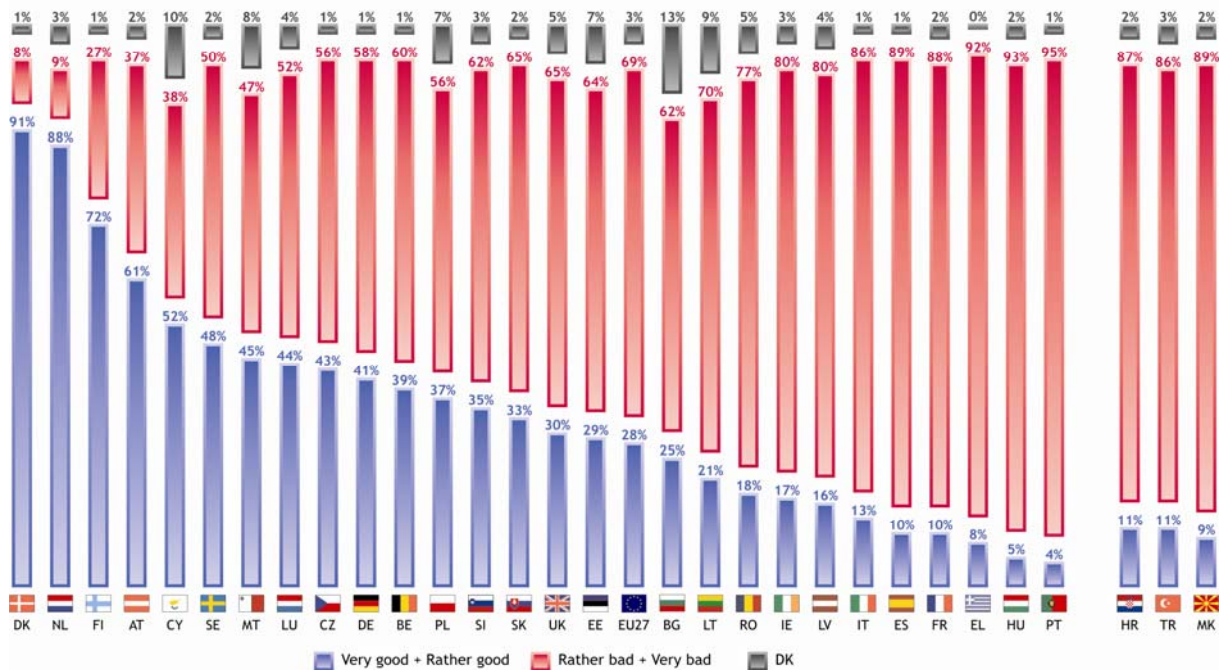
Opinions are slightly less emphatic in Slovakia, the United Kingdom and Estonia, where approximately two-thirds of the people polled consider that the national employment situation is bad (65% in the first two cases and 64% in Estonia). Approximately 60% of respondents also share this assessment in Bulgaria, Slovenia (both 62%), Belgium (60%) and Germany (58%). Moreover, around half of the people interviewed in the Czech Republic (56%), Poland (56%) and Luxembourg (52%) hold a similar opinion.

³⁵ QA4a.6. How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? The employment situation in (OUR COUNTRY)

³⁶ <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/tgm/table.do?tab=table&language=en&pcode=teilm020&tableSelection=1&plugin=1>

Question: QA4a.6. How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?

Option: The employment situation in (OUR COUNTRY)



Citizens in Sweden and Malta are deeply divided on this subject, with respectively 50% and 47% of negative answers versus respectively 48% and 45% of positive opinions. Finally, only five countries consider that the national economy is in good shape. This opinion is supported by half of respondents in Cyprus (52%), more than six out of ten in Austria (61%), approximately three-quarters of respondents in Finland (72%) and almost nine out of ten respondents in the Netherlands (88%) and Denmark (91%).

Opinions on the national employment situation have improved in several new Member States - Bulgaria, 25%, +3; Slovenia, 35%, +3; Poland, 37%, +3; Slovakia, 33%, +7, Cyprus, 52%, +7 -, but the rise is most striking in Germany (41%, +10 points). During the past year, unemployment has fallen in Germany, even if the economic slowdown is likely to cause a (temporary) increase in 2009.

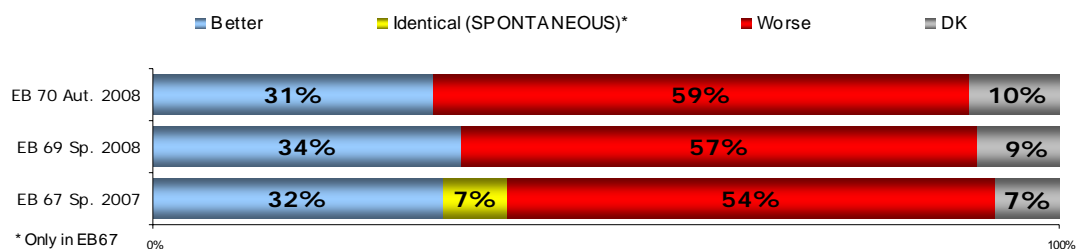
On the other hand, confidence has fallen the most sharply in Ireland (-55 points), followed by Estonia (-33 points), Sweden (-31 points), and Lithuania and Spain (-29 points in both countries).

In the candidate countries, there is widespread pessimism as regards the employment situation with almost nine out of ten respondents in the three countries describing the national situation as "bad".

A socio-demographic analysis confirms once again the main trends noted in this survey regarding opinions on the economic situation, with differences corresponding to the respondent's level of education and occupation. A significant proportion of managers consider that the employment situation in their country is "good" (44% versus 55% who take the opposite view), while, logically, unemployed people are far more critical (13% versus 86%). Moreover, respondents on the left of the political spectrum are far more critical (27% versus 71%) than those on the right (35% versus 63%).

Logically, similar trends emerge when Europeans are asked to compare the employment situation in their country with the European average. Almost six out of ten respondents (59%) consider that the situation in their country is not as good as the EU27 average. Approximately a third of respondents believe that it is better (31%)³⁷.

QA7a.2 For each of the following domains, would you say that the situation in (OUR COUNTRY) is better or less good than the average of the European countries?
- The employment situation in (OUR COUNTRY) - % EU



Respondents in Denmark (90%), the Netherlands (83%), Luxembourg (80%), Sweden and Austria (73% in both cases) and Finland (71%) consider that the employment situation in their country is better than the European Union average, while a very large majority of citizens in Hungary (91%), Greece (88%), Portugal (86%), Latvia (85%), Lithuania (80%), Romania (78%), Bulgaria (77%), Italy and Slovakia (76% each) and Poland (74%) take the opposite view. In total, a majority of respondents in eight Member States consider that the national economy is better than the average of the European countries; the opposite view is held in nineteen Member states.

³⁷ QA7a.2 For each of the following domains, would you say that the situation in (OUR COUNTRY) is better or less good than the average of the European countries? The employment situation in (OUR COUNTRY)
 It is to be noted that the question was worded differently in spring 2007 (EB67) when respondents had the possibility to answer "identical."

The proportion of Europeans who consider that the employment situation is better in their country than the European Union average has increased by 2 percentage points, while the percentage of respondents taking the opposite view has fallen by 3 points since spring 2008.

Once again, opinions in Ireland have been radically transformed: while six months earlier 48% of respondents were positive about the employment situation in Ireland compared with the European Union average, the corresponding percentage in this survey has fallen by 20 points (28%). The proportion of positive answers has also decreased significantly in Lithuania, from 24% to 9%.

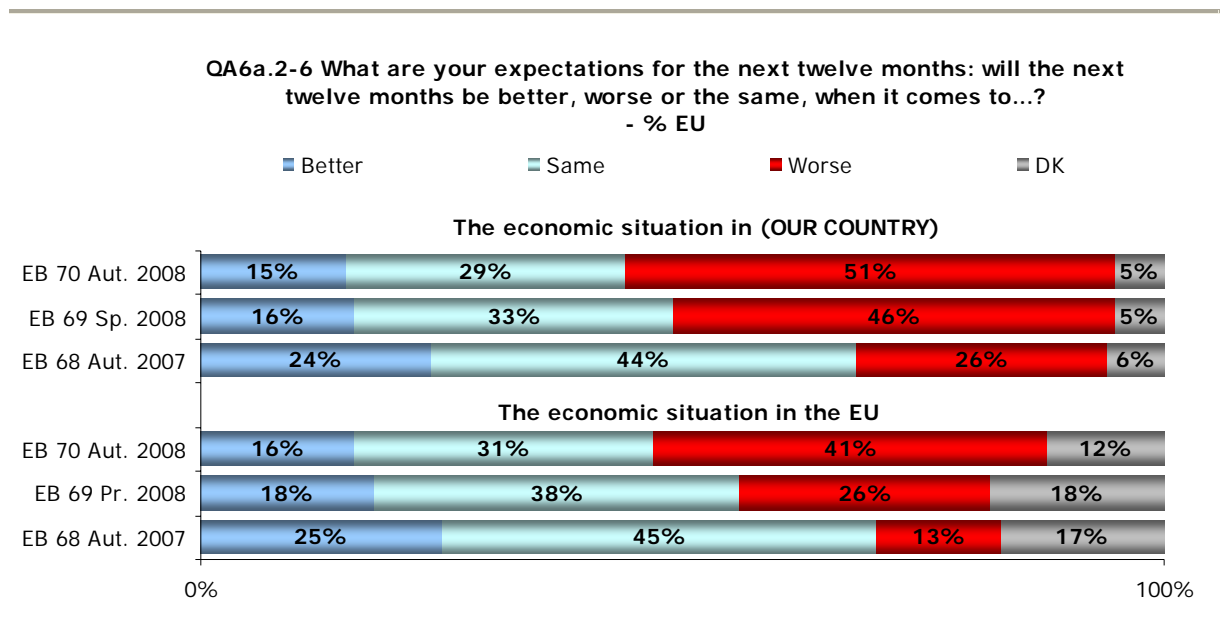
3.2. Future expectations

3.2.1. The national, European and world economic situation

- Deep pessimism regarding the short-term economic outlook -

In autumn 2008, economic forecasts for the next twelve months reveal a profound pessimism: **the majority of European citizens believe that the economic situation in their country (51% “Worse”), the world economic situation (49%) and the economic situation in the European Union (41%) will deteriorate over the next twelve months.** In all three cases, barely one in ten people are optimistic about the future (15% as regards the national and world economies, and 16% in the case of the European Union’s economy).

The loss of confidence since spring 2008 is especially striking as regards forecasts for the economy of the European Union: the proportion of “worse” answers has increased by 15 percentage points from 26% to 41%. The proportion of respondents who are optimistic has declined (-2 points), as has the proportion who consider that things will stay the same over the next twelve months (-7 points).



QA6 What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?

	The economic situation in (OUR COUNTRY)			The economic situation in the European Union			The economic situation in the world		
	Better	Worse	Same	Better	Worse	Same	Better	Worse	Same
EU27	15%	51%	29%	16%	41%	31%	15%	49%	25%
BE	15%	63%	22%	12%	60%	26%	12%	65%	22%
BG	12%	35%	40%	21%	15%	28%	18%	20%	23%
CZ	10%	46%	41%	14%	36%	43%	13%	47%	34%
DK	21%	43%	34%	14%	49%	32%	20%	53%	23%
DE	9%	57%	31%	8%	47%	38%	9%	57%	27%
EE	16%	53%	26%	17%	31%	36%	16%	35%	31%
EL	7%	66%	26%	11%	55%	33%	8%	64%	27%
ES	18%	51%	26%	18%	36%	29%	15%	42%	26%
FR	19%	53%	23%	19%	46%	23%	17%	51%	21%
IE	5%	69%	22%	4%	53%	29%	4%	58%	24%
IT	21%	42%	32%	21%	35%	35%	20%	44%	28%
CY	8%	46%	37%	8%	45%	18%	6%	54%	12%
LV	12%	49%	35%	19%	25%	41%	19%	25%	40%
LT	10%	60%	24%	16%	38%	30%	16%	40%	26%
LU	13%	54%	25%	11%	60%	20%	11%	67%	16%
HU	8%	70%	20%	15%	46%	30%	13%	56%	22%
MT	19%	45%	19%	21%	25%	20%	17%	40%	14%
NL	13%	64%	21%	12%	63%	22%	10%	71%	16%
AT	12%	49%	35%	10%	52%	31%	12%	60%	22%
PL	20%	31%	41%	23%	19%	39%	22%	24%	34%
PT	7%	58%	30%	7%	46%	34%	7%	51%	28%
RO	25%	31%	36%	30%	20%	30%	25%	27%	26%
SI	18%	46%	32%	18%	38%	37%	16%	46%	31%
SK	19%	40%	38%	20%	32%	38%	16%	47%	27%
FI	5%	56%	38%	5%	61%	29%	5%	71%	20%
SE	24%	49%	24%	18%	50%	22%	17%	56%	18%
UK	15%	59%	22%	11%	48%	25%	12%	57%	20%
HR	14%	51%	31%	17%	36%	35%	16%	42%	30%
TR	15%	53%	23%	21%	38%	21%	17%	44%	19%
MK	33%	31%	31%	37%	18%	26%	31%	24%	25%

As regards forecasts for the national economy, a majority of respondents are pessimistic, including in some countries where respondents are positive about the current situation, such as the Netherlands, where two-thirds of respondents are pessimistic about the future and Finland, where more than half (56%) share this lack of confidence. Respondents in Romania (25%), Sweden (24%) and, to a lesser extent, Denmark (21%), Italy (21%) and Poland (20%) are relatively less worried than the average of citizens in the European Union.

As regards expectations in the candidate countries, a majority of respondents are negative in Croatia (51%) and Turkey (53%). Respondents in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia are sharply divided: while a third of them are confident about the outlook for the country's economy, a similar proportion (31%) are pessimistic or expect things to stay the same.

Approximately six out of ten respondents in Luxembourg and Belgium (60%), Finland and the Netherlands (61%) and 55% in Greece expect **the European economic situation** to deteriorate over the next twelve months. At the other end of the scale, respondents in Romania are the most confident about the outlook for the European economy: 30% expect an improvement. Approximately a fifth of interviewees in Poland (23%), Bulgaria, Malta, Italy (21% for all three countries) and Slovakia (20%) are also optimistic about the future of the European economy.

Almost four out of ten respondents in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (37%) expect the **economic situation in the European Union** to improve over the coming year. On the other hand, a relative majority of respondents in Turkey (38%) expect the situation to get worse. Finally, 36% of respondents in Croatia think that the situation will deteriorate, while 35% do not expect it to change.

In 24 European Union countries, a majority of respondents are pessimistic about the **world economy**. However, the extent of this pessimism varies considerably: it is shared by seven out of ten respondents in Finland and the Netherlands (71% each), Luxembourg (67%) and Belgium (65%), but falls below the 50% level in the Czech Republic (47%), Slovakia (47%), Slovenia (46%), Italy (44%), Spain (42%), Malta and Lithuania (40% each) and Estonia (35%).

In the candidate countries, pessimism predominates in Turkey (44%) and Croatia (42%). Almost a third of respondents in Croatia (30%) expect things to stay the same while a fifth of respondents in Turkey (20%) were unable to express an opinion. Although very

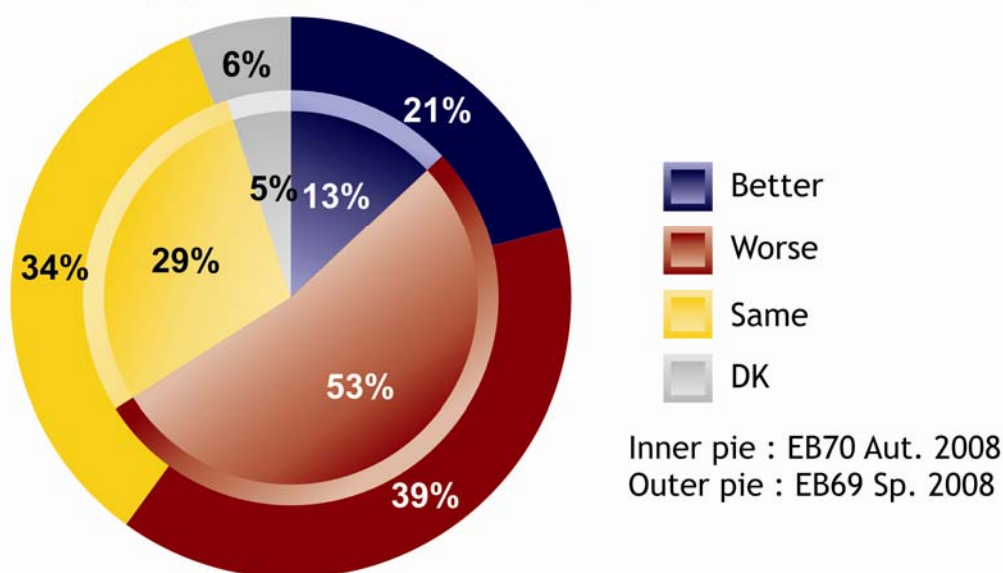
divided, a relative majority in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia are optimistic about the outlook for the world economic situation (31%). A quarter of them do not expect any changes (25%), while a similar proportion (24%) is pessimistic. Finally, 20% expressed no opinion.

3.2.2. The national employment situation over the next twelve months

The expectations of Europeans regarding the outlook for the employment situation in their country are fairly logically correlated with their forecasts for the national economy. It is therefore not surprising that barely one in ten citizens expect an improvement (13%). Half of the people interviewed (53%) fear that things will get worse while 29% expect things to stay the same³⁸. Once again levels of pessimism continue the upward trend noted at the time of the spring wave (+ 14 percentage points) while optimism has declined (- 8 percentage points), as has the proportion of respondents who expect the situation to remain unchanged (- 5).

Question: QA6a.4. What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?

Option: The employment situation in (OUR COUNTRY)



³⁸ QA6a.4 What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...? The employment situation in (OUR COUNTRY)

It will be seen that while in spring 2008 (Eurobarometer wave 69), optimism outweighed pessimism in nine Member States³⁹, this is no longer the case in any Member State. All that can be said is that the proportion of optimists exceeds the European average in five countries: in Malta and Poland, where approximately a quarter of respondents are positive about the employment outlook (23% and 24% respectively); Romania and Slovakia (21% in both cases); and Italy (19%), where a fifth of respondents are optimistic about the outlook for this indicator.

Public perceptions are in line with official forecasts: the European Commission's autumn 2008 forecasts for 2008-2010 warn of negative employment growth in the euro area in 2009 followed by stagnation in 2010; the unemployment rate is expected to increase by around 1 point according to the same forecasts⁴⁰.

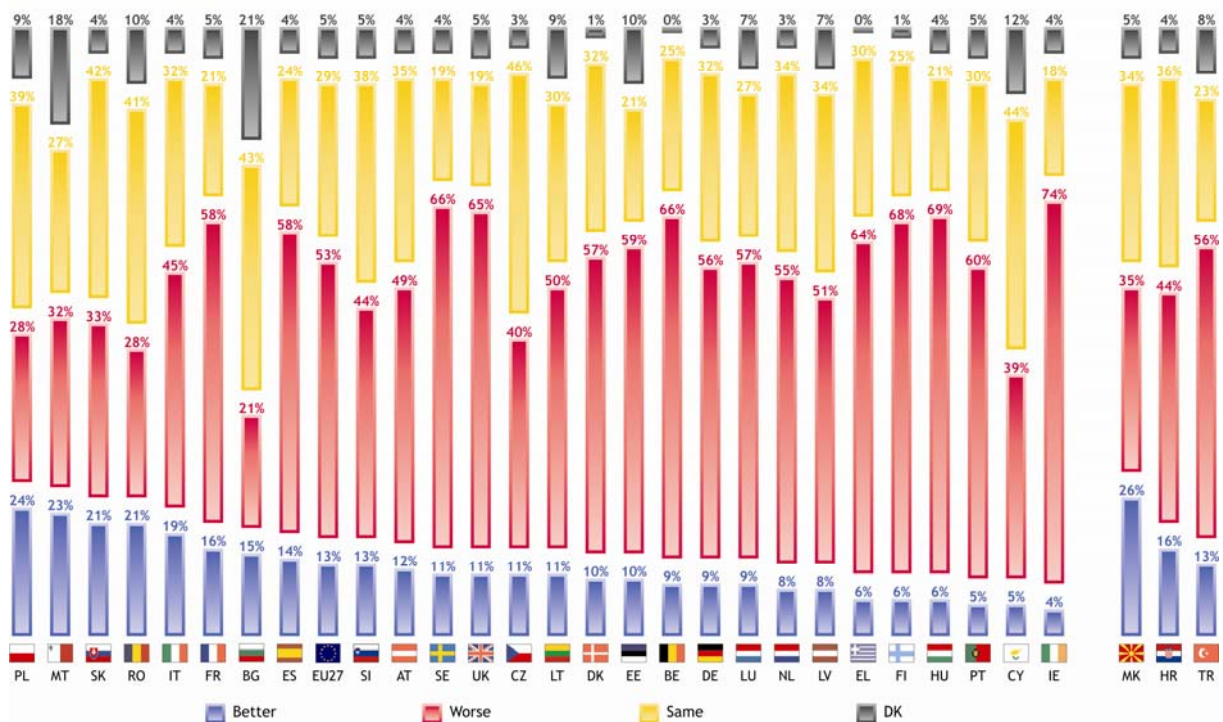
The results by Member State reveal a climate of pessimism not only in the countries which have been more affected by the crisis, but also in the States where the economy and official employment forecasts are relatively less gloomy: thus, the pessimism of respondents in Ireland (74% of whom expect the national employment market to deteriorate) and Hungary (69%) is shared by approximately two-thirds of the people interviewed in Finland (69%) and Sweden (66%), and by more than half of citizens in Luxembourg (57%) and Denmark (57%).

³⁹ Poland, Malta, Lithuania, Slovakia, Romania, the Netherlands, Finland, the Czech Republic and Bulgaria

⁴⁰ For more details, see the European Commission's autumn economic forecasts for 2008-2010 : http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/publications/publication13290_en.pdf

Question: QA6a.4. What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?




Option: The employment situation in (OUR COUNTRY)



In the Czech Republic and Cyprus, the proportion of respondents who do not expect any major changes exceeds the proportion who expects the situation to deteriorate: 46% and 44% respectively, versus 40% and 39%. This is also the case in Slovakia (42% versus 37%), Bulgaria (43% versus 21%), Poland (39% versus 28%) and Romania (41% versus 28%).

The majority of respondents in Turkey (56%) and a relative majority in Croatia (44%) expect the national employment situation to deteriorate. As for the economy, respondents in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia are more divided: a third are pessimistic about the employment outlook over the next twelve months, while a similar proportion expect the situation to remain unchanged (34%); on the other hand, one in four expect the situation to improve.

QA6a. The employment situation in the next twelve months in (OUR COUNTRY)

	Better	Worse	Same	DK
EU27	13%	53%	29%	5%
Age				
 15-24	22%	37%	34%	7%
25-39	16%	50%	31%	3%
40-54	12%	59%	26%	3%
55 +	8%	57%	28%	7%
Education (End of)				
 15-	9%	57%	27%	7%
16-19	14%	52%	30%	4%
20+	14%	56%	27%	3%
Still studying	21%	38%	34%	7%
Respondent occupation scale				
 Self-employed	13%	55%	30%	2%
Managers	14%	59%	25%	2%
Other white collars	15%	52%	30%	3%
Manual workers	15%	51%	30%	4%
House persons	13%	54%	28%	5%
Unemployed	15%	52%	27%	6%
Retired	9%	55%	28%	8%
Students	21%	38%	34%	7%

An analysis of the results by socio-demographic categories confirms the deteriorating climate among groups which are traditionally more confident: thus, only a fifth of the youngest respondents (22%) and just over one in ten of the most educated respondents (14%) expect an improvement in the employment situation in their country.

QA6 What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?

		EURO ZONE	NON EURO ZONE
The economic situation in (OUR COUNTRY)	Better	15%	17%
	Worse	53%	46%
	Same	28%	31%
The employment situation in (OUR COUNTRY)	Better	13%	15%
	Worse	55%	48%
	Same	28%	30%
The economic situation in the European Union	Better	14%	18%
	Worse	45%	35%
	Same	31%	31%
The economic situation in the world	Better	13%	17%
	Worse	53%	42%
	Same	25%	26%

Respondents in the euro area are more worried than those in other European Union States about the four aspects tested. This is true for the national economic outlook but also as regards their expectations for the economic situation of the European Union as a whole and for the world economy.

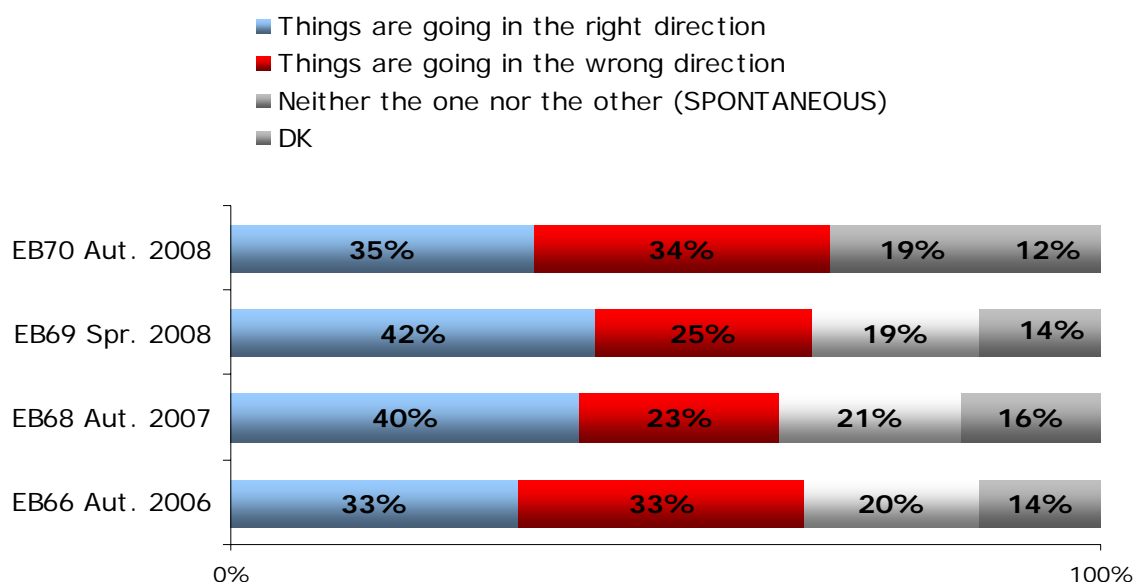
4. POLITICAL ASPECTS

4.1. The general perception of the direction followed in the European Union

- Europeans are negative about the direction followed at national level and have doubts about the direction taken by the European Union -

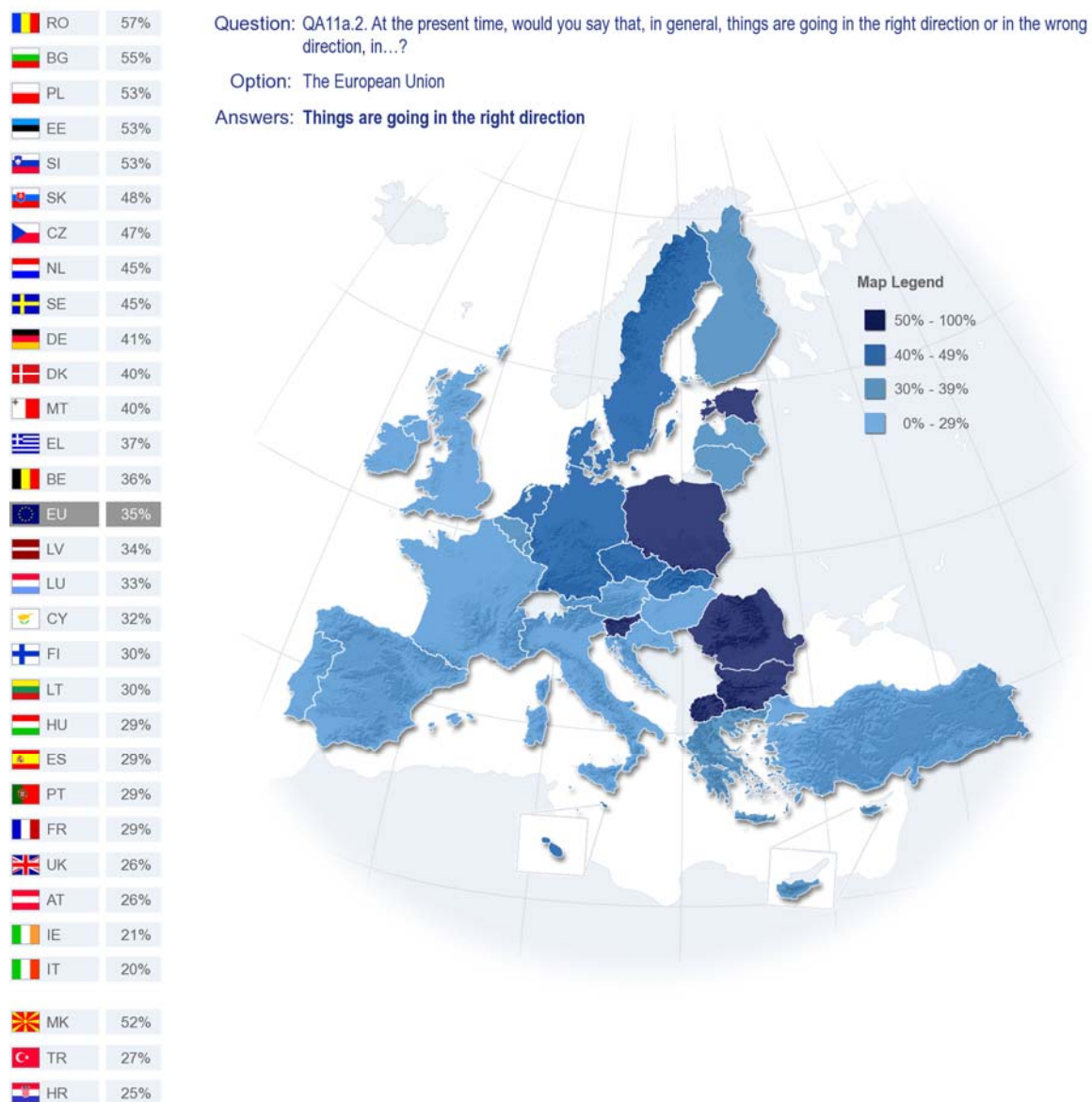
Concerns about the economic situation also influence the opinions of Europeans about the direction in which things are going both at national level and at the level of the European Union. Opinions on the direction in which things are going in the European Union⁴¹ are now divided: 35% consider that they are going in the right direction and 34% that they are going in the wrong direction. **This contrasts sharply with spring 2008, when a majority of respondents considered that things were going in the right direction.**

QA11a.2 At the present time, would you say that, in general, things are going in the right direction or in the wrong direction, in the European Union? - % EU



⁴¹ QA11a.2 At the present time, would you say that, in general, things are going in the right direction or in the wrong direction...? In the European Union

Respondents in Romania (57%), Bulgaria (55%), Poland, Estonia and Slovenia (53% in all three cases) are the most likely to consider that things are going in the right direction in the European Union. This opinion is shared by a small majority of respondents in the Czech Republic (47%), which at the time this survey was conducted was due to take over the EU Presidency within a matter of weeks, and in Slovakia (48%). However, only a fifth of respondents in Italy (20%) and Ireland (21%) agree with this view.







On the other hand, approximately half of respondents in Finland (54%), France (51%) and the United Kingdom (47%) consider that things are going in the wrong direction in the European Union. This opinion is also shared by a narrow majority of respondents in Denmark (44%), Austria (44%), Belgium (43%) and Greece (42%), and by interviewees in Luxembourg (38%), Italy and Lithuania (39% in both cases), Spain (37%) and Ireland (35%).

The majority of respondents in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia are convinced that things are going in the right direction in the European Union (52%). This confidence is shared by 27% of the population in Turkey and 25% in Croatia. In all three cases these results are 13 points lower than the scores recorded in the previous wave. It should be noted that in Turkey almost one in three respondents (29%) did not answer this question.

A socio-demographic analysis reveals some significant differences between respondent categories: more than four out of ten citizens in the 15 to 24 age group (42%) and among those having studied up to the age of 20 or over (43%) consider that things are going in the right direction in the European Union, compared with a third of the oldest age group (32%) and a quarter of those who left school before the age of 16 (24%). The categories who are most optimistic about their personal future are also those who are the most positive about the direction in which things are going in the European Union.

QA11a.2 At the present time, would you say that, in general, things are going in the right direction or in the wrong direction, in...? - The European Union

	Things are going in the right direction	Things are going in the wrong direction	Neither the one nor the other (SPONTANEOUS)	DK
EU27	35%	34%	19%	12%
Age				
 15-24	42%	27%	18%	13%
25-39	36%	35%	19%	10%
40-54	33%	38%	19%	10%
55 +	32%	35%	19%	14%
Education (End of)				
 15-	24%	40%	21%	15%
16-19	34%	36%	19%	11%
20+	43%	33%	16%	8%
Still studying	46%	23%	19%	12%
Membership EU				
A good thing	53%	22%	16%	9%
A bad thing	9%	71%	12%	8%
Neither good nor bad	18%	41%	28%	13%
Image of EU				
 Positive	56%	20%	16%	8%
Neutral	23%	37%	25%	15%
Negative	7%	71%	13%	9%
Objective knowledge of the EU				
 Bad	21%	34%	18%	27%
Average	35%	34%	20%	11%
Good	40%	35%	18%	7%
Understand how the EU works				
Agree	50%	29%	16%	5%
Disagree	24%	41%	20%	15%

Objective knowledge of the European Union is another determinant on this question: a difference of 19 points separates respondents with a good knowledge of the European Union and those who gave the same answer but are less knowledgeable about the Union when it comes to deciding whether things are going in the right direction in the European Union (40% versus 21%). An understanding of how the European Union works has a similar influence, with a difference of 26 percentage points between those who understand how the European Union works (50%) and those who have a poor grasp of how it works (24%).

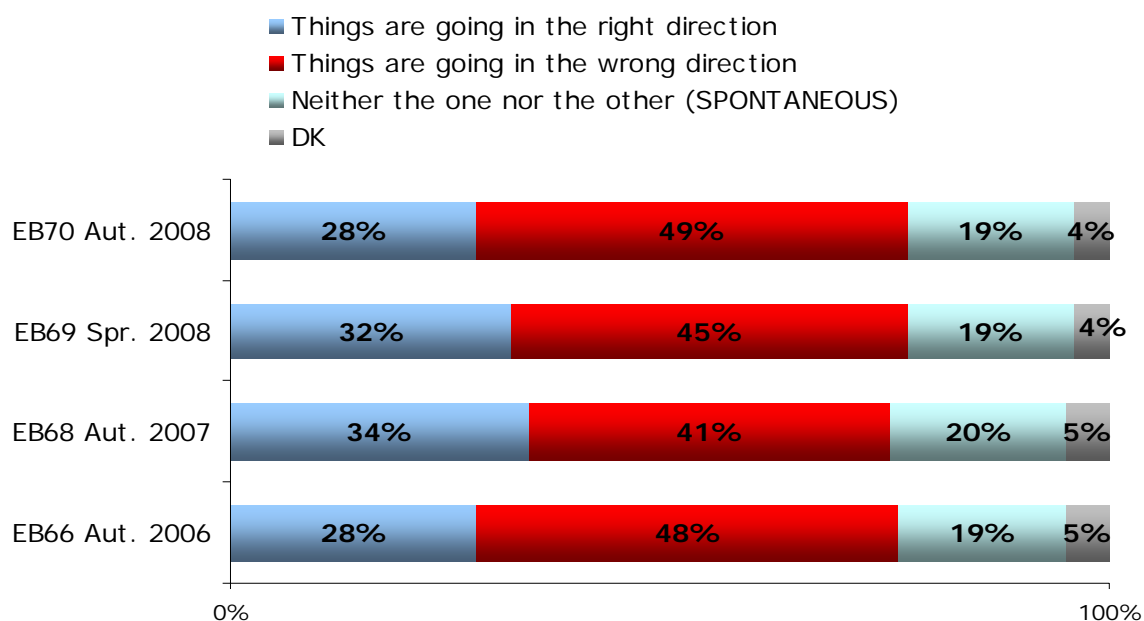
Europeans who think that their country's membership of the European Union is a good thing are clearly more likely to consider that things are going in the right direction (53% versus 9% of those who take the opposite view), as are the respondents who think that their country has benefited from its membership of the European Union (52% versus 14% of those who take the opposite view). Finally, probably the most influential variable on this question remains the image that the European Union conjures up for the individual interviewed. The more positive this image, the more likely the respondent is to consider that things are going in the right direction (56% versus only 7% of those for whom the European Union's image is negative). In general, the attitude of European citizens is consistent: those who are pro-European are by far the most positive in their assessment of the direction followed by the European Union.

4.2. The general perception of the direction followed at national level

Dubious about the direction followed by the European Union, Europeans are even more sceptical in their assessment of the direction followed at national level⁴². **Almost half of European citizens consider that, at the current time, things are going in the wrong direction in their country** (49%, +4 points). Almost three out of ten Europeans are satisfied (28%) and a fifth (19%) spontaneously said that things are going neither in the right nor wrong direction.

After the rise recorded 6 months earlier, negative opinions have again increased, this time by 4 points, since the spring 2008 survey. The proportion of satisfied respondents has decreased at the same time by 4 points.

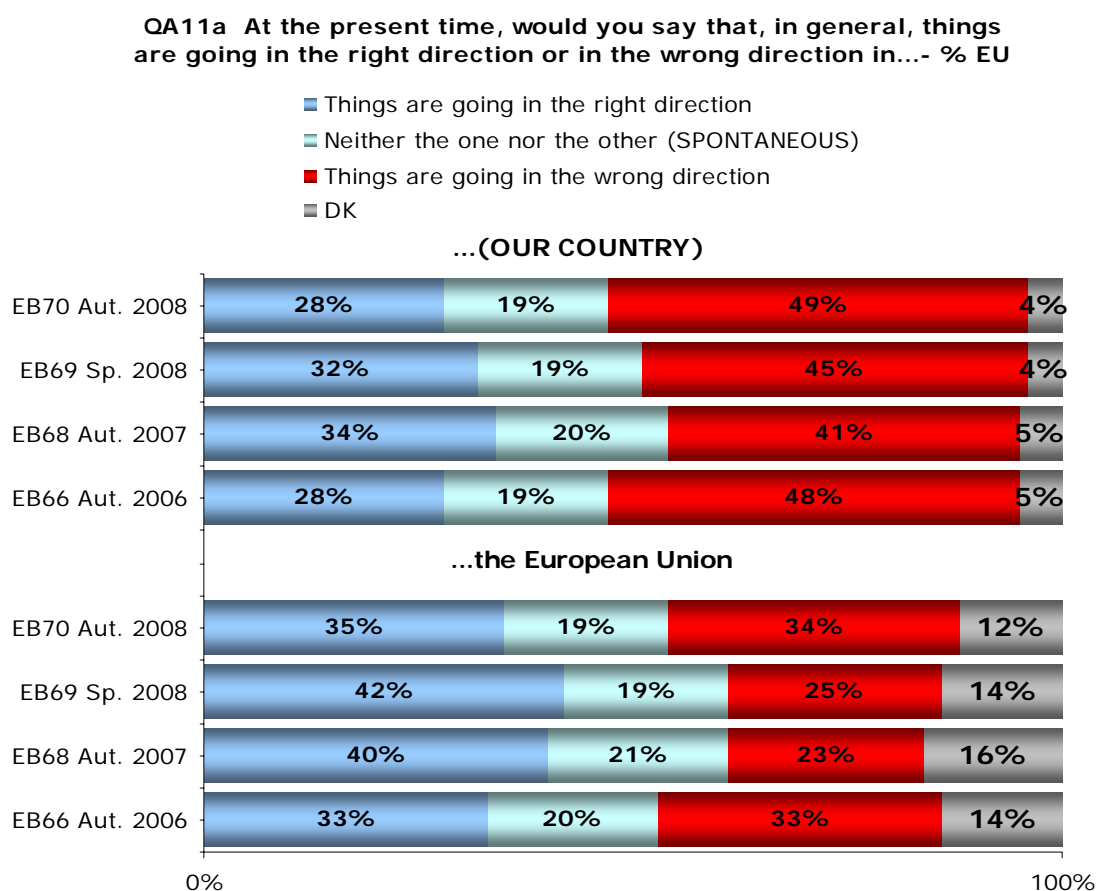
QA11a.1 At the present time, would you say that, in general, things are going in the right direction or in the wrong direction, in (OUR COUNTRY)? - % EU



⁴² QA11a.2 At the present time, would you say that, in general, things are going in the right direction or in the wrong direction...? In (OUR COUNTRY)

The difference between the answers recorded at national and at EU level deserves some comment. The proportion of respondents who consider that things are on the right track in the European Union is 7 percentage points higher than the corresponding proportion of respondents who think the same thing as regards their own country (35% versus 28%).

Similarly, Europeans are less pessimistic about the European Union than about their own country: whereas 49% of the people polled consider that things are going in the wrong direction in their country, this proportion falls to 34% when assessing the direction followed by the European Union.

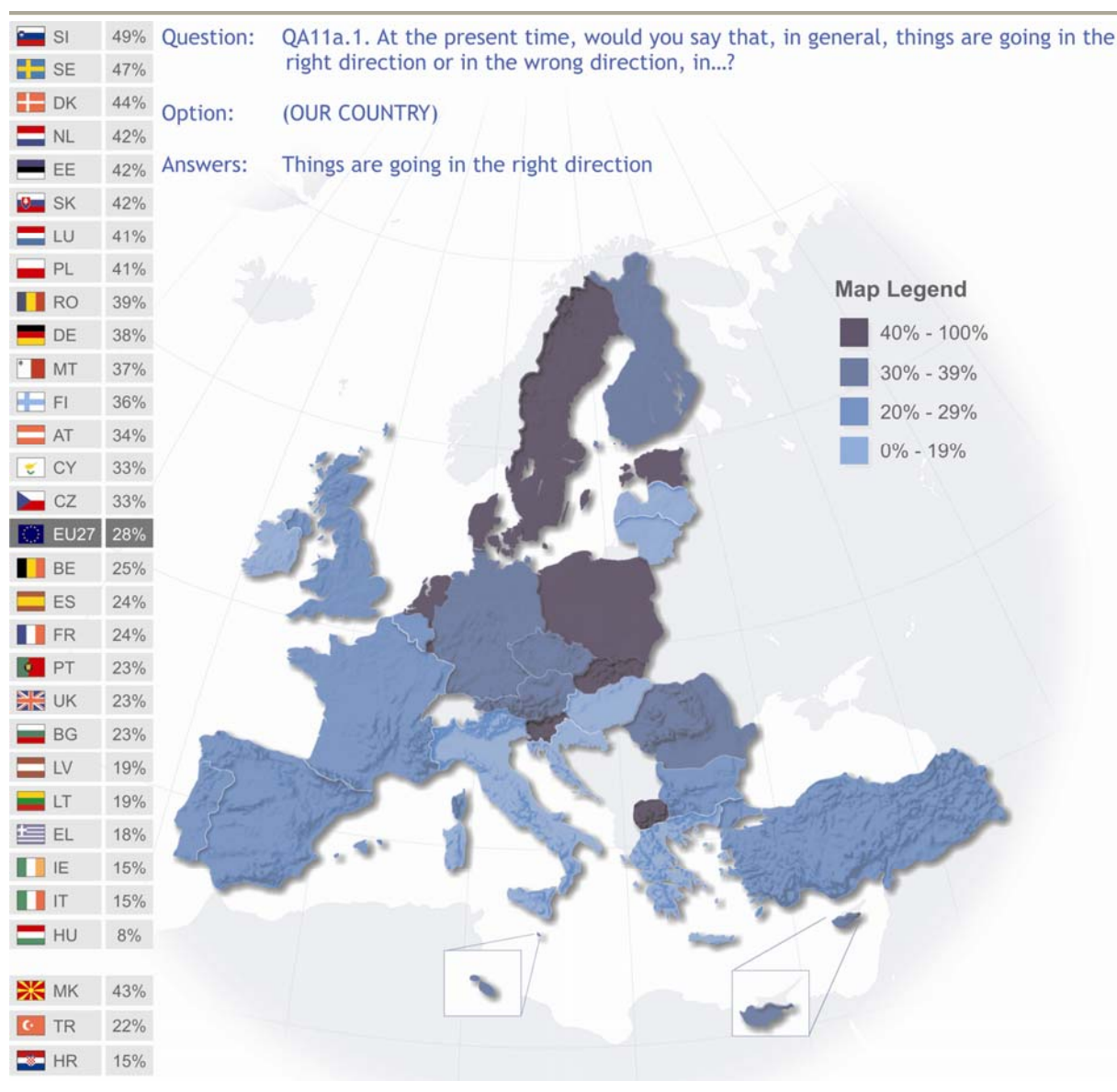


There are significant differences between the Member States concerning the direction followed at national level, as well as significant changes since the previous wave. While six months earlier the number of positive opinions exceeded the number of negative opinions in more than half of the Member States (14 out of 27), this is now the case in only nine countries.

This view was expressed by 49% of respondents in Slovenia, 47% in Sweden, and by a narrow majority in the Netherlands, Estonia and Slovakia (42% in all three cases), Luxembourg and Poland (41% in both cases).

Opinions on this question are sharply divided in Cyprus (33% positive opinions versus 35% negative views), Austria (34% versus 37%), Germany (38% versus 37%), Romania (39% versus 34%) and Denmark (44% versus 48%).



On the other hand, in Hungary (74%), Greece (69%), France and Lithuania (65% in both cases) and the United Kingdom (63%), Latvia (61%), Ireland (60%), Belgium (56%), Spain (53%) and Italy (50%), an absolute majority of respondents have the impression that things are going in the wrong direction in their country. This opinion is also shared by 49% of respondents in Finland, 48% in Denmark, 42% in Bulgaria and 41% in Portugal.



The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is the only candidate country where a majority of respondents are satisfied with the direction followed by their country (43%). On the other hand, a majority of respondents in Croatia and Turkey are dissatisfied, with two-thirds (63% and 64% respectively) considering that "things are going in the wrong direction in their country".

When cross-tabulated with the respondent's self-positioning on the political spectrum and key indicators regarding support for the European Union, an analysis of the results for this question does not reveal any notable divisions. Nevertheless Europeans with right-wing leanings are slightly more likely to consider that things are going in the right direction in their country (33% versus 29% of those on the left of the political spectrum).

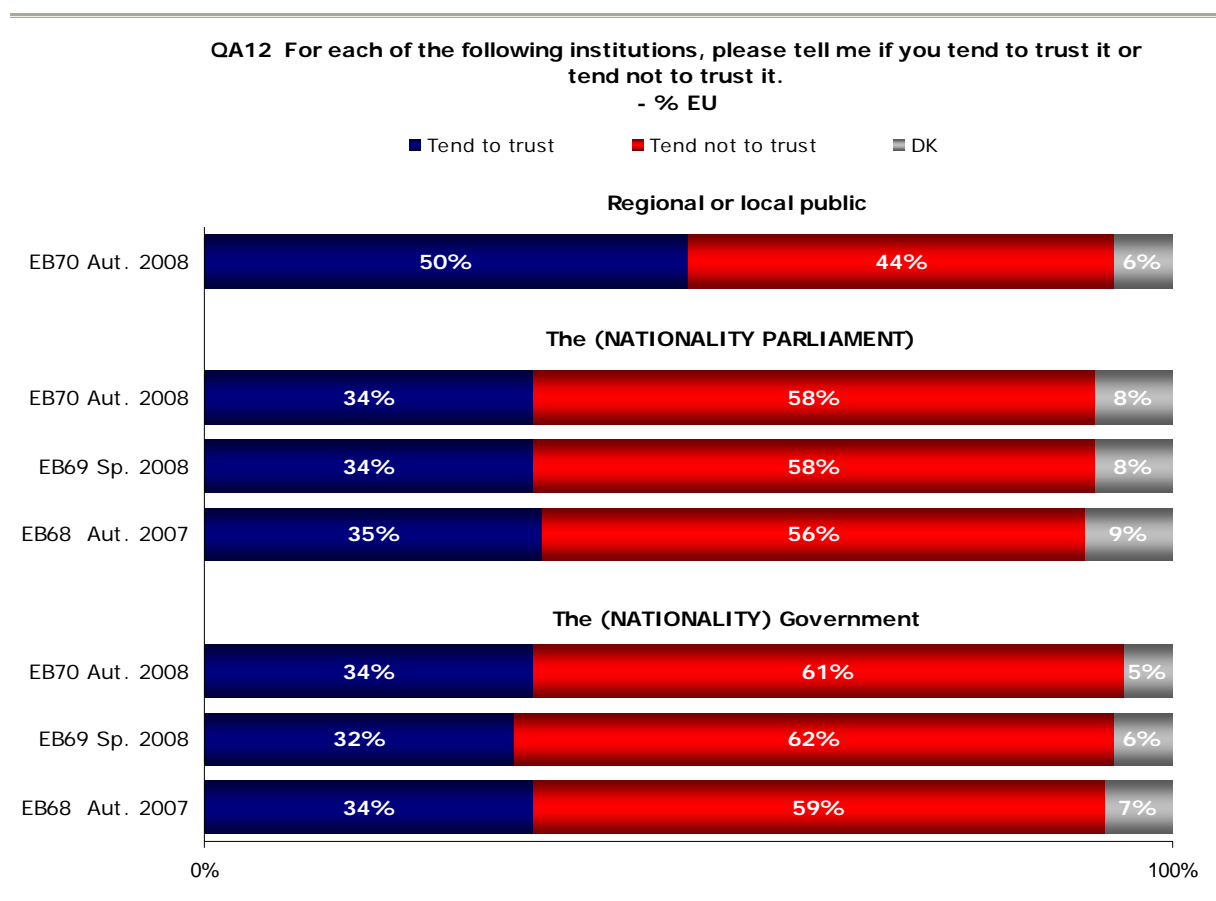
QA11a.1 At the present time, would you say that, in general, things are going in the right direction or in the wrong direction, in...? - (OUR COUNTRY)

	Things are going in the right direction	Things are going in the wrong direction	Neither the one nor the other (SPONTANEOUS)	DK
EU27	28%	49%	19%	4%
Left-Right scale				
 (1-4) Left	29%	50%	17%	4%
(5-6) Centre	29%	49%	19%	3%
(7-10) Right	33%	46%	18%	3%
Membership EU				
A good thing	43%	35%	18%	4%
A bad thing	9%	80%	9%	2%
Neither good nor bad	15%	57%	24%	4%
Benefit EU membership				
Benefited	41%	37%	19%	3%
Not benefited	12%	70%	16%	2%
Image of EU				
 Positive	45%	34%	18%	3%
Neutral	19%	54%	22%	5%
Negative	7%	79%	11%	3%

Opinions on the direction followed at national level also seem to be linked to attitudes and knowledge vis-à-vis the European Union: almost a majority of respondents for whom the European Union conjures up a positive image feel that things are going in the right direction in their country (45% versus 7% of those for whom the European Union's image is negative); this opinion is shared by a similar proportion of citizens who consider that their country's membership of the European Union is a good thing (43%) and by respondents who think that their country has benefited from its membership of the European Union (41%).

4.3. Trust in national institutions

- Citizens have more trust in regional or local public institutions than in national political institutions -



Once again the Eurobarometer data express the discontent and distance that a very significant proportion of citizens experience vis-à-vis the political institutions of their country: although 34% of respondents trust their government and their parliament, they are outweighed by the 61% and 58% respectively who take the opposite view⁴³.

This “snapshot” of the way Europeans perceive their national political institutions is more or less unchanged since spring 2008; there has been a slight increase (+ 2 points) in trust in national governments, while the percentage who do not trust them has decreased by one percentage point.

⁴³ QA12 I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain institutions. For each of the following institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.

1. Justice\the (NATIONALITY) legal system; 2. Political parties; 3. Regional or local public authorities; 4. The (NATIONALITY) government; 5. The (NATIONALITY) PARLIAMENT

In comparison to national institutions, it is the level of authority which is the closest to citizens, namely regional and local public institutions, which inspires the comparatively most positive opinions, with half of interviewees saying that they trust them, versus 44% who do not.

A majority of respondents in eight Member States trust their national parliament and government: Finland (68% for the government and 71% for the parliament), the Netherlands (66% and 64% respectively), Cyprus (65% and 63% respectively), Luxembourg (60% and 56%), Denmark (the government scored 60% while the parliament scored 75%), Sweden (56% and 64%), Austria (50% and 54%) and finally Malta (half of respondents trust the government and 57% trust the parliament). On the other hand, fewer than one in five respondents in Lithuania and Latvia (16% in both cases), or in Bulgaria (15%) and Hungary (16%) trust their national government. Results for the national parliament are particularly critical in Latvia (9%) and Bulgaria (8%), with fewer than one in ten interviewees trusting it.

As regards regional and local public authorities⁴⁴, 13 countries have a level of trust equal to or in excess of 50%: Spain (50%), Cyprus and Malta (with 56% in both cases), Luxembourg and Estonia (59% in both countries), France (62%), Belgium (63%), the Netherlands (64%), Germany (65%), Austria (67%), Sweden (68%), Denmark (70%) and Finland (72%).

⁴⁴ See also in the regard Special Eurobarometer 307: The role and impact of local and regional authorities within the European Union

QA12 I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain institutions. For each of the following institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.

	The (NATIONALITY PARLIAMENT)			The (NATIONALITY) Government			Regional or local public authorities		
	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	DK	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	DK	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	DK
EU27	34%	58%	8%	34%	61%	5%	50%	44%	6%
BE	40%	58%	2%	36%	63%	1%	63%	36%	1%
BG	8%	83%	9%	15%	74%	11%	31%	57%	12%
CZ	16%	82%	2%	20%	78%	2%	49%	48%	3%
DK	75%	23%	2%	60%	38%	2%	70%	28%	2%
DE	41%	52%	7%	42%	52%	6%	65%	31%	4%
EE	37%	59%	4%	48%	48%	4%	59%	35%	6%
EL	32%	68%	-	23%	77%	-	34%	66%	-
ES	40%	47%	13%	44%	49%	7%	50%	44%	6%
FR	36%	56%	8%	31%	65%	4%	62%	33%	5%
IE	36%	55%	9%	33%	61%	6%	40%	50%	10%
IT	27%	65%	8%	26%	67%	7%	25%	66%	9%
CY	63%	30%	7%	65%	29%	6%	56%	36%	8%
LV	9%	86%	5%	16%	79%	5%	44%	49%	7%
LT	11%	82%	7%	16%	77%	7%	31%	59%	10%
LU	56%	30%	14%	60%	32%	8%	59%	31%	10%
HU	16%	75%	9%	16%	74%	10%	45%	45%	10%
MT	57%	30%	13%	50%	37%	13%	56%	29%	15%
NL	64%	33%	3%	66%	32%	2%	64%	33%	3%
AT	54%	38%	8%	50%	41%	9%	67%	28%	5%
PL	13%	81%	6%	20%	74%	6%	41%	51%	8%
PT	38%	54%	8%	31%	61%	8%	43%	49%	8%
RO	19%	73%	8%	25%	69%	6%	39%	55%	6%
SI	34%	59%	7%	36%	57%	7%	39%	57%	4%
SK	41%	54%	5%	46%	50%	4%	45%	50%	5%
FI	71%	27%	2%	68%	30%	2%	72%	26%	2%
SE	64%	31%	5%	56%	40%	4%	68%	27%	5%
UK	30%	60%	10%	29%	67%	4%	47%	48%	5%
HR	19%	76%	5%	20%	75%	5%	23%	71%	6%
TR	49%	45%	6%	48%	47%	5%	37%	56%	7%
MK	27%	66%	7%	39%	56%	5%	28%	65%	7%

The pattern of answers obtained in the candidate countries reveals significant differences. For example, while three-quarters of respondents in Croatia do not trust their government (75%), this opinion is shared by far fewer, though still by a majority (56%), in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and opinions are divided in Turkey (48% trust it versus 47% who do not). Results for parliament are similar: large majorities in Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (76% and 66% respectively) do not trust it, while in Turkey respondents are, once again, very divided (49% trust their national parliament while 45% take the opposite view).

Finally, and against the trend noted in the European Union Member States, local or regional public authorities inspire less trust in the candidate countries and the results are negative: 71% of respondents in Croatia, 65% in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and 56% in Turkey do not trust these institutions.

A socio-demographic analysis reveals variations mainly corresponding to the respondent's level of education: while in the most educated category 41%, 43% and 56% respectively trust their country's national government, their parliament and the local or regional public authorities, this opinion is shared by only 30%, 29% and 46% of those who left school before the age of sixteen.

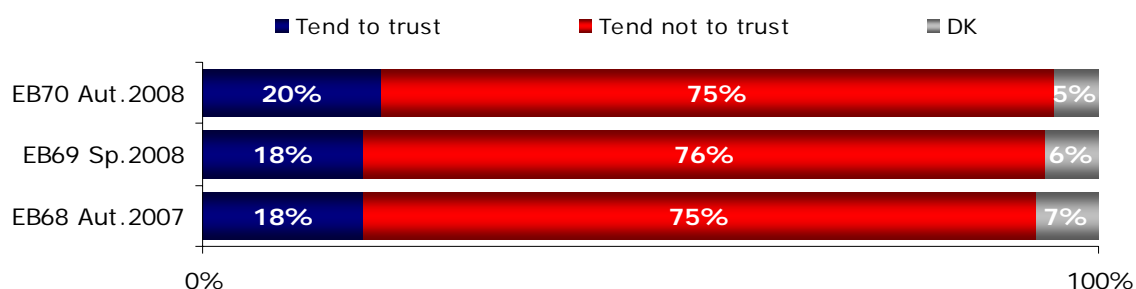
In a context in which the economy and employment will pose numerous challenges, the lack of trust expressed by self-employed people (63%), employees, (60%) and above all unemployed people (68%) and manual workers (65%) in their national government is significant.

QA12 I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain institutions. For each of the following institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.

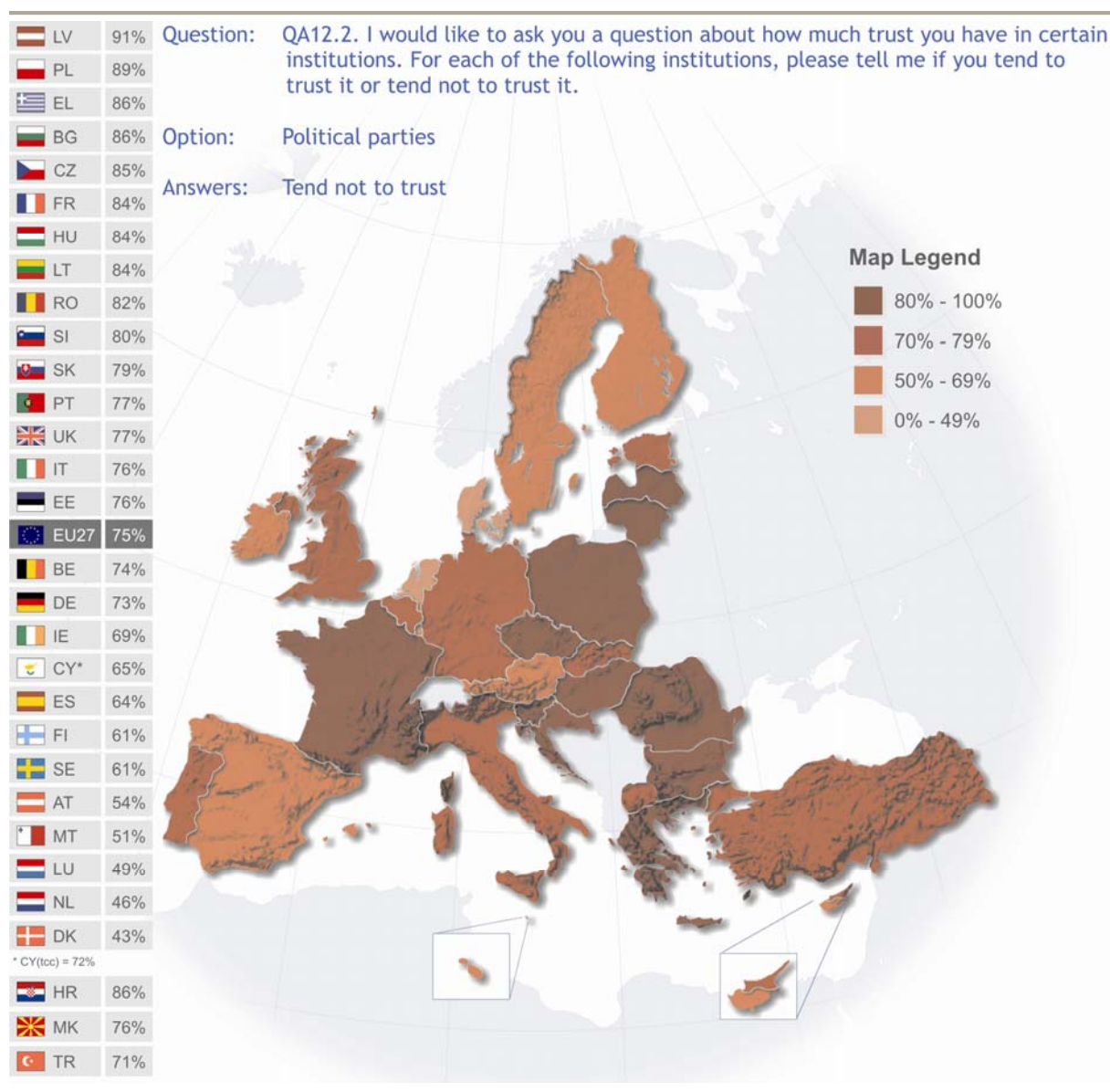
	Regional or local public authorities			The (NATIONALITY) Government			The (NATIONALITY) PARLIAMENT		
	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	DK	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	DK	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	DK
EU27	50%	44%	6%	34%	61%	5%	34%	58%	8%
Education (End of)									
15-	46%	48%	6%	30%	64%	6%	29%	62%	9%
16-19	49%	46%	5%	31%	64%	5%	31%	62%	7%
20+	56%	40%	4%	41%	55%	4%	43%	52%	5%
Still studying	54%	37%	9%	35%	55%	10%	36%	52%	12%
Respondent occupation scale									
Self-employed	44%	51%	5%	33%	63%	4%	34%	61%	5%
Managers	58%	38%	4%	41%	55%	4%	43%	52%	5%
Other white collars	49%	46%	5%	35%	60%	5%	36%	58%	6%
Manual workers	48%	47%	5%	30%	65%	5%	29%	64%	7%
House persons	45%	48%	7%	34%	59%	7%	33%	56%	11%
Unemployed	42%	52%	6%	27%	68%	5%	26%	66%	8%
Retired	52%	42%	6%	36%	59%	5%	34%	58%	8%
Students	54%	37%	9%	35%	55%	10%	36%	52%	12%

We have also examined the trust that citizens of the EU27 Member States have in their **national political parties**. In line with the results for national governments and parliaments, almost eight out of ten respondents do not trust the **political parties in their country**. A majority trust them in only two countries: Denmark (54%) and the Netherlands (51%). Levels of trust are nevertheless relatively high in Luxembourg (39%), Austria (38%), Finland (36%), Sweden and Malta (34% in both cases).

QA12.2 For each of the following institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.
Political parties - % EU



On the other hand, 91% of respondents in Latvia, 89% in Poland, 86% in Bulgaria and Greece and 85% in the Czech Republic do not trust their **political parties**; nor do 84% of interviewees in France, Lithuania and Hungary.



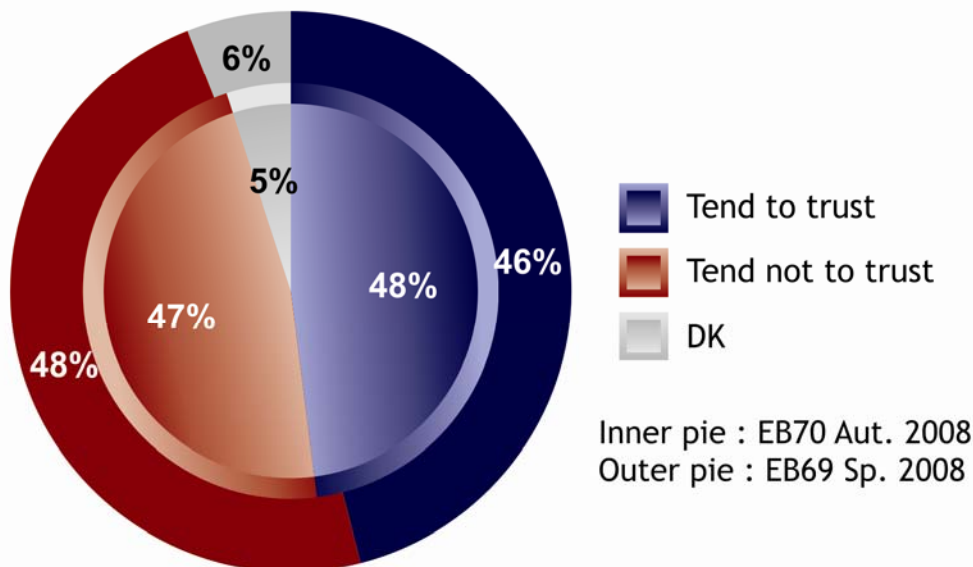
The levels of trust expressed in **their political parties** in the three candidate countries are close to those of interviewees in the European Union: 86% of respondents in Croatia, three-quarters of respondents in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (76%) and 71% in Turkey do not trust them.

As well as political institutions, we asked citizens of the EU27 countries whether or not they trust their **national justice/legal system**.

Europeans are very divided about their justice system: 48% trust it versus 47% who take the opposite view. Despite a slight increase in trust (+2 percentage points) this indicator has remained generally stable since spring 2008.

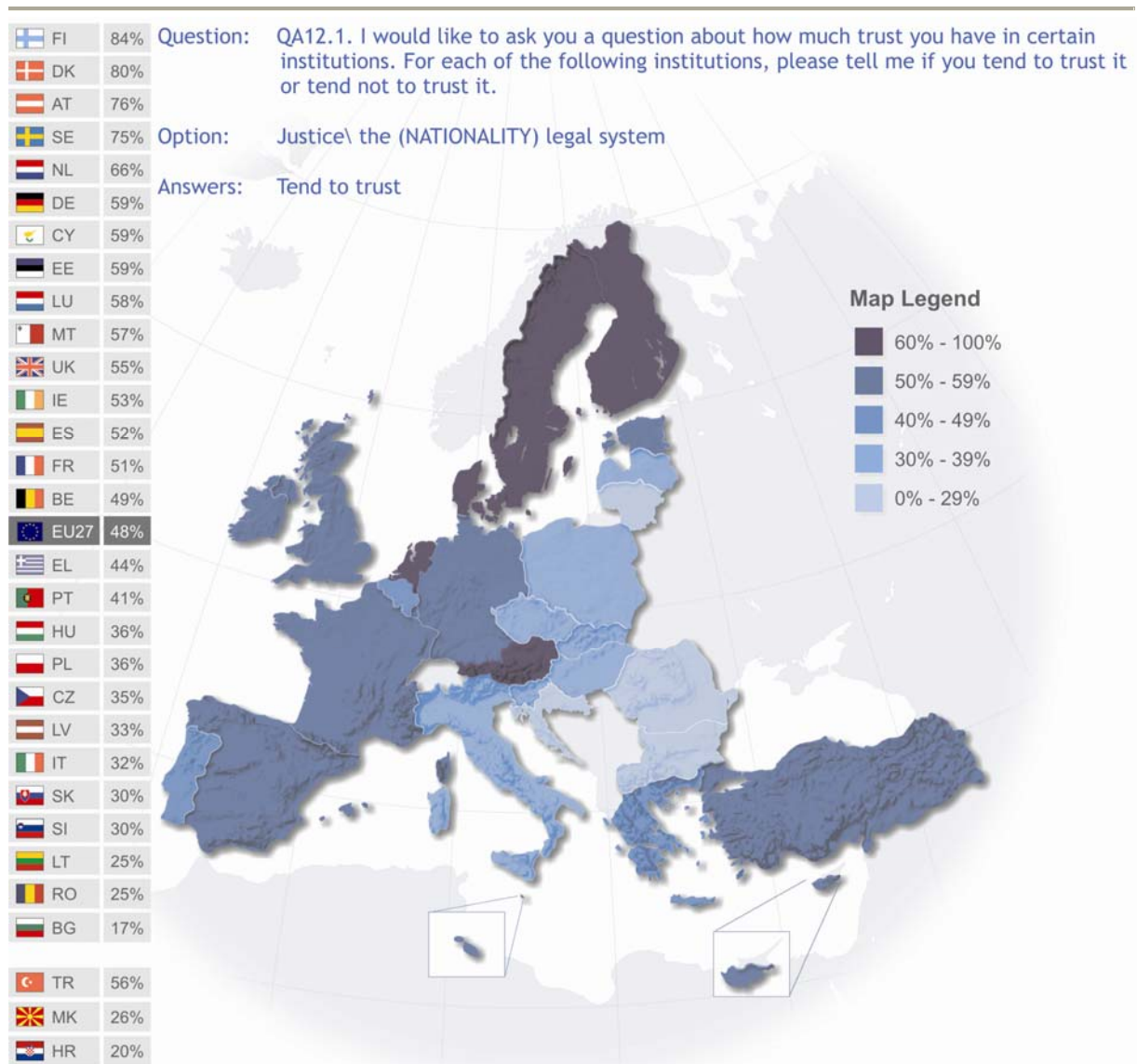
Question: QA12.1. I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain institutions. For each of the following institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.

Option: Justice\ the (NATIONALITY) legal system



Respondents in Finland and Denmark, followed by those in Sweden and Austria, are the EU citizens most likely to trust this institution: in Finland, 84% of respondents trust their **national justice/legal system**, as do 80% of those in Denmark. 76% and 75% of the people interviewed in Austria and Sweden trust their **judicial institutions**.

A majority of respondents in ten other countries are positive about this key institution, with scores varying between 66% in the Netherlands and 51% in France. However Belgium is very divided with 49% of positive opinions and 50% of negative views.



On the other hand, citizens in most Central and Eastern European countries as well as in countries in Southern Europe are critical of their justice system. This applies to seven out of ten respondents in Bulgaria (73%), Romania (69%), Lithuania (66%), Slovenia and Slovakia (65% in both cases) and six out of ten in the Czech Republic (62%), Italy and Latvia (59% in both cases), and Greece and Hungary (56% each).

In the candidate countries, the majority of respondents in Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia do not trust their **justice system** (74% and 66% respectively). On the other hand, a majority of respondents in Turkey trust their judicial system (56%).

CONCLUSION

Some economists have not hesitated to evoke the spectre of the Great Depression when analysing the events which marked the collapse of financial markets and resulted in the current economic situation. This climate has had a very strong influence on the results of this Standard Eurobarometer 70, since a considerable part of the interviews of this wave were conducted shortly after the collapse of Lehman Brothers, and its timing coincided with the announcement that the euro area was suffering from an economic downturn. We have observed worrying new developments in public opinion, which seem to be largely the result of the negative perceptions of the economic situation in autumn 2008 which have plunged European public opinion into gloom in every area.

The main trend influencing all the results of the survey is undoubtedly the very sharp deterioration in the assessment of the economic situation.

- ❖ A vast majority of respondents paint a gloomy picture of the current economic and employment situation in their country, the European Union and the world. The proportion of respondents who consider that the situation is good has fallen to 33% for the European economy (-25 points) and 29% for the national economy (-19).
- ❖ More than half of Europeans expect the situation of the economy (51%, +5 percentage points) and employment (53%, +14 points) to deteriorate over the next twelve months. Almost half of Europeans are of the same opinion as regards the world economy (49%) and 41% expect the European economy to deteriorate over the next twelve months (+15 points).
- ❖ Europeans are currently convinced that inflation and the economy are the two most important issues facing their country (37% for each issue). The proportion of respondents mentioning the economy as the main problem has increased by 17 points since spring '08, while the proportion mentioning inflation – which had increased by 11 points between autumn 2007 and spring 2008 – remains at the same level in autumn 2008. This new ranking in which crime and immigration are seen as less important issues once again highlights the influence of the current economic crisis on public opinion.

This “economic feel-bad factor” also impacts on the personal sphere, and is now severely affecting the personal well-being of Europeans.

- ❖ Although Europeans are currently positive about their personal economic situation (64% describe the financial situation of their household as good; the corresponding proportion for their job situation is 56%), there is a widespread feeling that purchasing power has declined, with negative perceptions gaining ground in 19 of the 27 European Union countries. It is also worthwhile emphasising the scale of this perception among the socio-professional categories which are potentially most vulnerable in the current context, such as unemployed people and pensioners.
- ❖ Several personal “well-being” indicators also reveal a downward trend: the assumption that life will not be as good in the future again gained ground between spring and autumn 2008 (+6 percentage points) and the gap between the people who expect an improvement and those who expect things to deteriorate fell by 14 percentage points.

Apart from respondents’ generally positive views about the area where they live, the data in this Eurobarometer wave paint a somewhat negative picture of the social and societal aspects of the life of EU27 citizens.

- ❖ Our analysis confirms that concerns about prices and inflation have a tangible impact on the everyday life of interviewees, who are critical of the cost of living in general and the affordability of housing in particular (73% of respondents consider that the situation in this area is bad) and energy, the cost of which more than two-thirds of Europeans see as unaffordable.
- ❖ Opinions on State welfare benefits in the areas of healthcare, pensions and unemployment benefits again reveal significant differences between the Nordic countries and the rest of the European Union. In a context of strong medium-term concerns caused by the world economic crisis, respondents are extremely critical in their answers to questions regarding poverty and inequalities: approximately seven out of ten (67%) consider that the situation is “bad”, compared with fewer than three out of ten who take the opposite view (27%).
- ❖ The systematically critical nature of the answers in some countries in the south of the European Union, such as Portugal and Greece, and in the east, such as Hungary and Bulgaria, should be stressed.

Concerns about the economic situation also influence the opinions of European on the direction in which things are going, both in their own country and in the European Union.

- ❖ Opinions on the direction in which things are going in the European Union⁴⁵ are today divided: 35% consider that things are going in the right direction and 34% think that things are going in the wrong direction. This contrasts sharply with the spring 2008 results, when respondents who considered that things were going in the right direction were still in the majority.
- ❖ On the other hand, Europeans are very sceptical about the direction followed at national level⁴⁶. Almost half of European citizens consider that, at the current time, things are going in the wrong direction in their country.
- ❖ The context has not improved the discontent and distance that a very significant proportion of citizens feel vis-à-vis their country's political institutions: almost six out of ten Europeans do not trust their national government and parliament. In line with this perception, three quarters of European citizens do not trust their country's political parties.
- ❖ In comparison to national institutions, it is the level of authority which is the closest to citizens, namely regional and local public institutions, which inspires the comparatively most positive opinions, with half of respondents saying that they trust them versus 44% who do not.

The consistency between the pattern of opinions revealed by this Eurobarometer and the macroeconomic context indicators is unequivocal: European opinion is critical of the current economic climate and worried about the future. The perceived fragility of the short-term outlook is further exacerbated by the distance felt by citizens vis-à-vis the world of politics in general, reflected in the lack of trust in national institutions (government and parliament) and political parties.

⁴⁵ QA11a.2 At the present time, would you say that, in general, things are going in the right direction or in the wrong direction...? In the European Union

⁴⁶ QA11a.2 At the present time, would you say that, in general, things are going in the right direction or in the wrong direction...? In (OUR COUNTRY)

II. THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS CITIZENS

INTRODUCTION

The financial crisis of 2007 has become in autumn 2008 an economic crisis. Relations between citizens and the European Union have clearly been affected by it and the results presented here must be examined in the light of the circumstances in which this survey was carried out.

This wave of the Eurobarometer confirms the trend of the previous waves of a more cautious, if not more critical perception by citizens of the European Union. Thus, trust in the European Union and the image it conjures up have now declined. The two previous waves of autumn 2007 and spring 2008 revealed a vision of the European Union which was more neutral and more cautious at the same time. The autumn 2008 results confirm this trend: fewer Europeans consider that the European Union's image is positive and the results illustrate a situation similar to that which existed in autumn 2006.

However, despite the negative climate, the decline noted in spring 2008 in positive answers regarding membership of the European Union and the benefits that countries derive from their membership has now stabilised. Although all the economic indicators have deteriorated, and while Europeans are worried about the consequences of the crisis on their country's economy and on their personal life, they continue to believe that membership of the European Union is a good thing. This proportion has even increased slightly since the last wave of the Standard Eurobarometer (EB 69).

The deterioration in the economic situation seems to have had an impact on levels of trust in European institutions as a whole, in particular as regards the Central Bank which has come under the spotlight in the context of the current crisis.

A very narrow majority of European citizens feel that the European Union provides them with economic stability; this feeling is more marked as regards stability related to membership of the euro area. In addition they want European integration to be accelerated⁴⁷.

⁴⁷ QA19b And which corresponds best to the speed you would like?

In this second part we shall examine the various aspects of the relationship between the European Union and its citizens. We shall examine their attachment to the European Union, what the European Union means to them, their support for their country's membership of the European Union, their perception of the benefits that membership brings and the resultant economic stability. This volume also looks at the question of democracy, and more particularly the representation of citizens in the European Union and their perception of the speed of European integration. A third part looks at the European institutions – how well known they are, the importance of their role for citizens and the trust that citizens have in them – as well as the European Union's image. Finally, this part examines subjective and objective knowledge of the European Union and looks at perceptions of the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

We shall examine various aspects of the relationship between the European Union and its citizens. This section addresses the following subjects:

1) Attachment to the European Union: the meaning of the European Union, support for membership of the European Union and the perceived benefits of membership at national level, and economic stability linked to membership of the European Union or the euro area.

2) Democracy: the representation of citizens in the European Union.

3) Views on the speed of the building of Europe: the way in which citizens perceive the speed at which Europe is being built and the speed at which they would like European integration to progress.

4) The European institutions: how knowledgeable citizens are about the European institutions, the perceived importance of the role that they play, the extent to which citizens trust the Community institutions and the European Union and the European Union's image.

5) The way in which the European Union works: subjective and objective knowledge of the way the European Union works and the perception of the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

1. Attachment to the European Union

1.1. What the European Union means to citizens

- Freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the twenty seven Member States, the single currency and peace are the three elements which best represent the European Union in the eyes of its citizens -

For more than four out of ten Europeans, the European Union represents first and foremost the freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the twenty seven Member States (44%)⁴⁸. This was the most frequently mentioned answer in 22 Member States. More than two-thirds of respondents in Estonia (69%), 63% in Finland, Sweden and Slovakia, 61% in Cyprus and six out of ten in Lithuania (60%) mentioned this aspect.

The second most frequently mentioned item is the euro (34%). This was more frequently mentioned in the euro area (42%) than in the other Member States (20%). More than half of respondents in Austria (58%), Belgium (57%) and Finland (55%) see in the single currency the symbol of the European Union.

Finally, more than a quarter of the people interviewed mentioned peace (27%), including 47% of respondents in Sweden, 45% in Germany, 44% in Greece, 42% in Cyprus and four out of ten respondents in Denmark (40%).

For 23% of the interviewees, the European Union represents a stronger say in the world; this was mentioned by 40% of respondents in the Netherlands and 34% in Denmark. More than two out of ten respondents (21%) see democracy as the symbol of the European Union, including 42% in Romania, 36% in Cyprus and 32% in Denmark.

Cultural diversity was mentioned by 20% of Europeans, including a third of respondents in France (32%), and economic prosperity was mentioned by 17% of respondents, including 36% in Romania, 32% in Slovakia, 30% in the Netherlands and 29% in Ireland and Bulgaria.

⁴⁸ QA14 What does the European Union mean to you personally? (ROTATE – SEVERAL ANSWERS POSSIBLE) – 1. Peace 2. Economic prosperity 3. Democracy 4. Social protection 5. The freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the EU 6. Cultural diversity 7. Stronger say in the world 8. The euro 9. Unemployment 10. Bureaucracy 11. Waste of money 12. Loss of our cultural identity 13. More crime 14. Not enough control at external borders 15. Other (SPONTANEOUS) 16. DK


Waste of money was mentioned by 19% of the people polled: 45% of respondents in Austria, for whom this item was the third most frequent answer given, 36% in Germany, 23% in the United Kingdom and 16% in Latvia. Waste of money was the second most frequently mentioned element in the United Kingdom and Latvia (ranked equally in the latter with bureaucracy).

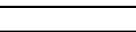
Bureaucracy was mentioned by 17% of respondents: 39% of respondents in Finland and 34% in Sweden – the third most frequently mentioned item in both countries -, 36% in Austria, a third of respondents in Denmark and Germany (33% and 32% respectively). This item was also the third most frequently mentioned item in the United Kingdom (22%). Finally, 16% of respondents mentioned the lack of external border controls (31% of respondents in Denmark and 30% in Austria). The four other items on which the respondents were polled obtained scores of less than 15%.

The freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the European Union is also what the European Union represents first and foremost in the eyes of respondents in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (61%) and Croatia (34%). Although 23% of interviewees in Turkey mentioned this item, respondents in that country highlighted first of all economic prosperity (32%), which was the second most frequently mentioned item in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (46%), ahead of peace (34%). A quarter of respondents in Croatia (24%) associate the European Union with the loss of their cultural identity. Almost one in five respondents in Turkey shares this opinion (19%).

QA14 What does the European Union mean to you personally?

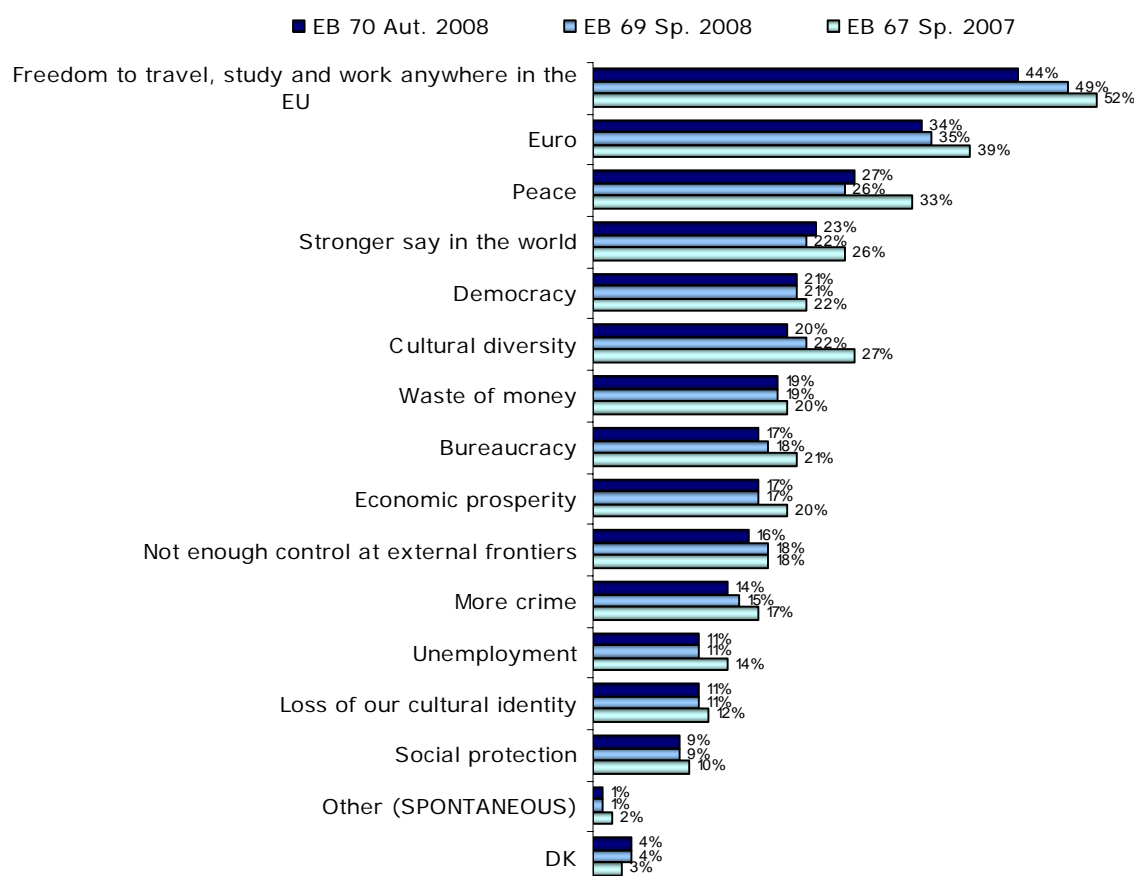
	Freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the EU	Euro	Peace	Stronger say in the world	Democracy	Cultural diversity	Waste of money	Economic prosperity	Bureaucracy	Not enough control at external frontiers	More crime	Unemployment	Loss of our cultural identity	Social protection
EU27	44%	34%	27%	23%	21%	20%	19%	17%	17%	16%	14%	11%	11%	9%
BE	44%	57%	34%	26%	23%	23%	23%	27%	14%	18%	16%	11%	8%	13%
BG	52%	13%	22%	15%	27%	13%	5%	29%	5%	4%	2%	3%	4%	15%
CZ	57%	28%	21%	21%	25%	13%	20%	18%	18%	16%	24%	9%	13%	8%
DK	58%	26%	40%	34%	32%	25%	17%	24%	33%	31%	20%	4%	12%	15%
DE	50%	45%	45%	24%	28%	25%	36%	13%	32%	22%	26%	15%	9%	7%
EE	69%	16%	31%	18%	16%	23%	12%	11%	18%	10%	10%	7%	9%	13%
EL	57%	44%	44%	32%	26%	27%	20%	19%	11%	23%	18%	31%	17%	17%
ES	28%	34%	9%	22%	19%	21%	8%	17%	8%	12%	6%	10%	5%	6%
FR	44%	45%	37%	30%	20%	32%	25%	11%	14%	19%	8%	13%	13%	6%
IE	49%	42%	23%	23%	18%	16%	9%	29%	11%	8%	12%	9%	14%	13%
IT	33%	35%	15%	20%	19%	14%	10%	15%	7%	12%	11%	8%	9%	9%
CY	61%	31%	42%	24%	36%	27%	17%	18%	7%	22%	36%	17%	24%	30%
LV	57%	11%	20%	11%	9%	12%	16%	11%	16%	8%	8%	11%	5%	10%
LT	60%	14%	21%	15%	17%	17%	9%	24%	6%	3%	4%	5%	6%	10%
LU	54%	46%	37%	29%	25%	21%	20%	22%	10%	24%	29%	8%	10%	17%
HU	52%	21%	19%	17%	19%	21%	12%	16%	12%	13%	14%	19%	6%	10%
MT	44%	26%	20%	32%	27%	16%	9%	22%	7%	9%	2%	8%	8%	12%
NL	55%	48%	32%	40%	18%	18%	10%	30%	27%	18%	13%	4%	12%	8%
AT	50%	58%	34%	29%	22%	21%	45%	17%	36%	30%	45%	26%	22%	14%
PL	56%	22%	21%	25%	19%	11%	7%	16%	11%	3%	4%	4%	7%	7%
PT	39%	36%	11%	17%	17%	19%	11%	16%	5%	17%	18%	23%	9%	9%
RO	54%	35%	31%	14%	42%	20%	9%	36%	9%	8%	10%	9%	9%	23%
SI	51%	41%	25%	24%	19%	20%	17%	24%	11%	13%	17%	9%	11%	12%
SK	63%	49%	24%	21%	24%	21%	14%	32%	13%	13%	21%	6%	12%	12%
FI	63%	55%	26%	17%	11%	23%	27%	17%	39%	11%	18%	3%	8%	5%
SE	63%	23%	47%	41%	26%	27%	29%	18%	34%	23%	19%	6%	8%	7%
UK	31%	11%	16%	15%	8%	14%	23%	13%	22%	19%	11%	9%	21%	7%
CY (tcc)	31%	11%	42%	19%	30%	21%	3%	45%	6%	3%	5%	10%	18%	32%
HR	34%	20%	17%	11%	17%	12%	13%	20%	10%	9%	20%	10%	24%	10%
TR	23%	6%	14%	10%	13%	11%	7%	32%	2%	4%	3%	10%	19%	17%
MK	61%	13%	34%	21%	22%	12%	4%	46%	4%	5%	7%	8%	7%	16%

 Highest percentage by item

 Lowest percentage by item

In an increasingly difficult economic context, it is interesting to note whether perceptions of what the European Union stands for have changed since the previous survey six months earlier. The main trend is that most of the items on which the respondents were polled have declined or remain stable. The scores of six items have fallen since spring 2008 including **the freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the twenty seven Member States** which has decreased by 5 points, but also **cultural diversity** and **not enough controls at external borders** (- 2 points for both), and finally **the euro, bureaucracy and crime** (- 1 point each); six items are stable; two items have increased very slightly: a stronger say in the world and peace (+ 1 point each).

QA14 What does the European Union mean to you personally?
- EU%



An analysis of the results in accordance with the respondent's socio-demographic profile reveals fairly different perceptions of the European Union for the various categories: young people are by far the most likely to mention **the freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the European Union** (54% of those aged 15 to 24 compared with 36% of those aged 55 or over). They are also more likely than the other categories to mention **the euro** (38% versus 32% of those aged 55 or over).





The oldest respondents were more likely to mention negative aspects. A fifth of them highlighted **bureaucracy** (19% versus 8% of those aged 15 to 24), **waste of money** (23% versus 10%) and **not enough controls at borders** (19% versus 10%).

More than half of the respondents who studied up to the age of 20 or over also mentioned **the freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the European Union** (55%) compared with three out of ten who left school before the age of 16 (30%). Fewer than one in five in the latter category said that for them the European Union represents **a stronger say in the world** (16%) compared with just under a third of those who studied up to the age of 20 or over (32%).

More than half of managers (54% versus 43% of manual workers and 50% of employees) say that the EU represents **the freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the European Union**. A quarter (26%) also mentioned **bureaucracy** compared with 15% of manual workers and 19% of employees.

Finally, there are fairly few differences correlating with the respondent's political leanings. However, respondents on the left of the political spectrum are more likely to mention **cultural diversity** (26% versus 17% of those on the right), while a fifth of those on the right mentioned **not enough controls at external borders** (19% versus 14%).

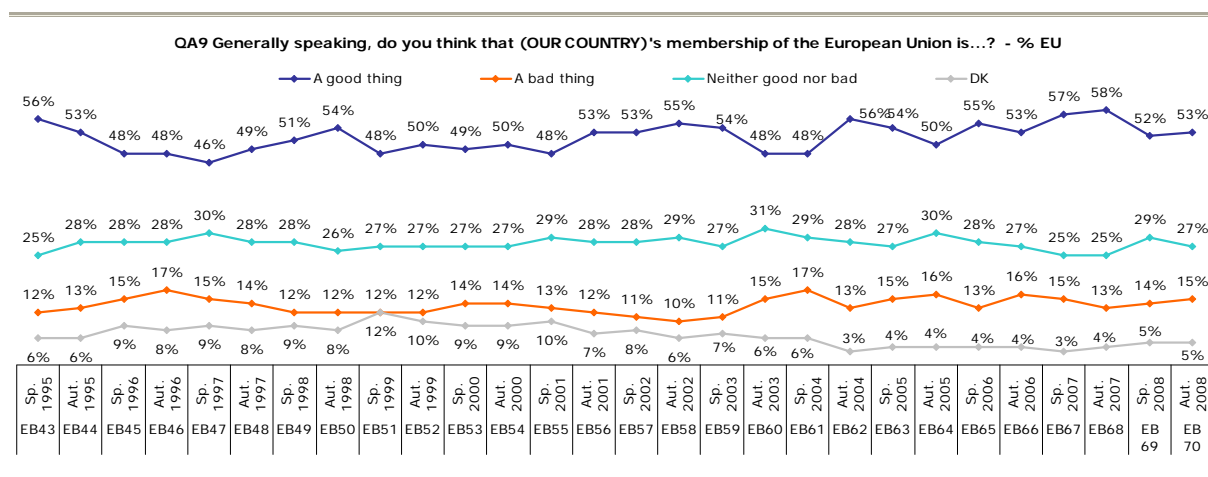
QA14 What does the European Union mean to you personally? (Selection of items)

	Freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the EU	Peace	Stronger say in the world	Cultural diversity	Waste of money	Bureaucracy	Not enough control at external frontiers
EU27	44%	27%	23%	20%	19%	17%	16%
Age							
 15-24	54%	24%	21%	25%	10%	8%	10%
25-39	48%	23%	25%	22%	17%	17%	14%
40-54	46%	27%	24%	21%	21%	20%	16%
55 +	36%	30%	21%	16%	23%	19%	19%
Education (End of)							
 15-	30%	23%	16%	13%	24%	15%	19%
16-19	44%	26%	22%	18%	21%	18%	17%
20+	55%	31%	32%	29%	17%	22%	13%
Still Studying	60%	28%	23%	26%	8%	10%	9%
Respondent occupation scale							
 Self- employed	48%	26%	27%	21%	20%	22%	18%
Managers	54%	33%	31%	29%	17%	26%	15%
Other white collars	50%	27%	28%	22%	17%	19%	14%
Manual workers	43%	23%	21%	20%	21%	15%	15%
House persons	37%	23%	18%	14%	17%	12%	16%
Unemployed	40%	17%	17%	17%	18%	13%	14%
Retired	35%	30%	21%	16%	24%	19%	20%
Students	60%	28%	23%	26%	8%	10%	9%
Left-Right scale							
 (1-4) Left	47%	29%	25%	26%	20%	19%	14%
(5-6) Centre	44%	28%	24%	20%	21%	18%	16%
(7-10) Right	45%	28%	25%	17%	19%	19%	19%

1.2. Membership of the European Union

- Support for membership of the European Union is stable -

Attitudes to the European Union are often influenced by the socio-economic context. However, the relationship is more complex than it might appear: a deterioration in the economic situation does not necessarily lead to a decline in the indicators concerning attitudes to the European Union, in particular because some respondents may see the EU as a bulwark against a deterioration in the economic situation. More than half of Europeans consider that their country's membership of the European Union is a good thing (53%), while for just over quarter of respondents (27%) it is neither a good nor a bad thing and 15% consider it to be a bad thing⁴⁹. The decline in positive opinions about membership of the European Union noted in spring 2008 has stabilised and the proportion of positive opinions has increased by one percentage point.



An analysis of the results by country reveals very sharp differences between Member States: respondents in the Netherlands (80%), Luxembourg (71%), Ireland (67%), Romania (66%), Poland and Belgium (65% in both cases) and finally in Denmark and Germany (64% each) are the most enthusiastic. Respondents in Latvia are unable to decide whether their country's membership of the European Union is a good or bad thing (49% consider that it is neither a good nor bad thing). Interviewees in the United Kingdom are also very divided on this question: 30% consider that it is a bad thing, while for 31% it is neither good nor bad and 32%, i.e. a very narrow majority, consider that it is a good thing.





⁴⁹ QA9a Generally speaking, do you think that (OUR COUNTRY)'s membership of the European Union is a good thing, a bad thing, neither good nor bad?

Apart from the United Kingdom (30%) and Latvia (21%), the highest proportions of respondents who consider that their country's membership of the European Union is a bad thing are to be found in Hungary, Cyprus, France and Austria (21% in all four countries, versus an average of 15%).

The results in the candidate countries are very mixed: almost two-thirds of respondents in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia are convinced that their country's membership of the European Union would be a good thing (62%) and almost four out of ten in Turkey (42%) share their opinion. On the other hand, the majority of respondents in Croatia see joining the European Union as a bad thing (38%), while a third of them think that it would be neither good nor bad (35%) and a quarter believe that it would be beneficial (23%).

A socio-demographic analysis confirms the trends traditionally noted for questions regarding attitudes to the European Union: men (57% versus 49% of women), young people (62% of the 15 to 24 age group versus 47% of those aged 55 or over), the longest educated (66% of the people who studied up to the age of 20 or over versus 39% of those who left school before the age of 16), and managers (66% versus 49% of manual workers and 58% of employees) are the most likely to be positive about their country's membership of the European Union.

QA9a Generally speaking, do you think that (OUR COUNTRY)'s membership of the European Union is...?

	A good thing	Neither good nor bad	A bad thing	DK
EU27	53%	27%	15%	5%
Age				
 15-24	62%	26%	8%	4%
25-39	55%	28%	13%	4%
40-54	53%	27%	17%	3%
55 +	47%	28%	19%	6%
Education (End of)				
 15-	39%	30%	23%	8%
16-19	50%	31%	15%	4%
20+	66%	21%	11%	2%
Still studying	70%	20%	6%	4%
Respondent occupation scale				
 Self-employed	57%	26%	14%	3%
Managers	66%	21%	12%	1%
Other white collars	58%	27%	11%	4%
Manual workers	49%	30%	17%	4%
House persons	42%	30%	18%	10%
Unemployed	43%	33%	17%	7%
Retired	46%	28%	20%	6%
Students	70%	20%	6%	4%
Objective knowledge of the EU				
Bad	33%	32%	19%	16%
Average	51%	30%	16%	3%
Good	62%	23%	13%	2%
Image of EU				
 Positive	83%	11%	4%	2%
Neutral	36%	47%	11%	6%
Negative	12%	29%	55%	4%

Almost two-thirds of respondents with a good knowledge of the European Union consider that their country's membership of the European Union is a good thing (62%), compared with a third of those whose knowledge is more limited (33%). Similarly, more than eight out of ten Europeans for whom the European Union conjures up a positive image are convinced of the benefits of their country's membership (83% versus only 12% of those for whom its image is negative)⁵⁰.
































Twelve countries have recorded an increase in positive opinions about membership of the European Union, including Slovenia (+ 7 points), the Netherlands, Slovakia and Sweden (+ 5 points each) – four States where respondents are among the least pessimistic about the current economic situation –, Finland and Germany (both + 4 points) and Austria and Estonia (+ 3 points each).

⁵⁰ QA9a A9a Generally speaking, do you think that (OUR COUNTRY)'s membership of the European Union is a good thing, a bad thing, neither good nor bad?

On the other hand, support for membership of the European Union has fallen fairly sharply in Malta (- 14 points), Cyprus (- 12 points) and, to a lesser extent, in Ireland (- 6 points), Lithuania (- 5 points) and Bulgaria (- 3 points). In total, support for membership has declined in thirteen Member States.

Support has fallen very sharply in the three candidate countries: - 10 points in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and - 7 points in Croatia and Turkey.

QA9a Generally speaking, do you think that (OUR COUNTRY)'s membership of the European Union is...? - A good thing

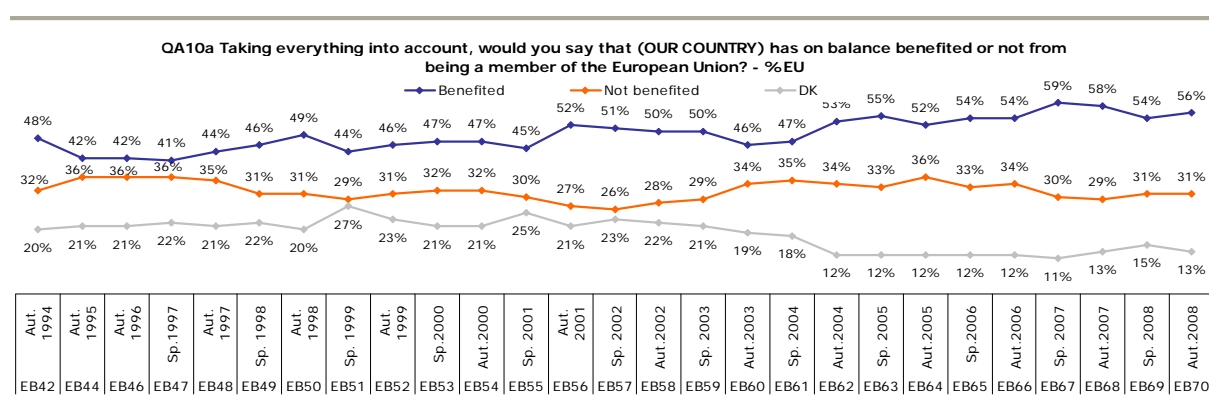
		Spring 2008 (EB69)	Autumn 2008 (EB70)	Evolution (% points)
	EU27	52%	53%	+1
	Slovenia	52%	59%	+7
	The Netherlands	75%	80%	+5
	Slovakia	57%	62%	+5
	Sweden	54%	59%	+5
	Germany	60%	64%	+4
	Finland	44%	48%	+4
	Estonia	58%	61%	+3
	Austria	36%	39%	+3
	Romania	64%	66%	+2
	United Kingdom	30%	32%	+2
	France	48%	49%	+1
	Italy	39%	40%	+1
	Poland	65%	65%	0
	Portugal	50%	50%	0
	Belgium	66%	65%	-1
	Denmark	65%	64%	-1
	Hungary	32%	31%	-1
	Czech Republic	48%	46%	-2
	Greece	47%	45%	-2
	Latvia	29%	27%	-2
	Luxembourg	73%	71%	-2
	Bulgaria	51%	48%	-3
	Spain	65%	62%	-3
	Lithuania	60%	55%	-5
	Ireland	73%	67%	-6
	Cyprus	52%	40%	-12
	Malta	60%	46%	-14
	Croatia	30%	23%	-7
	Turkey	49%	42%	-7
	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	72%	62%	-10

1.3. The benefits of membership of the European Union

1.3.1. The benefits of membership of the European Union

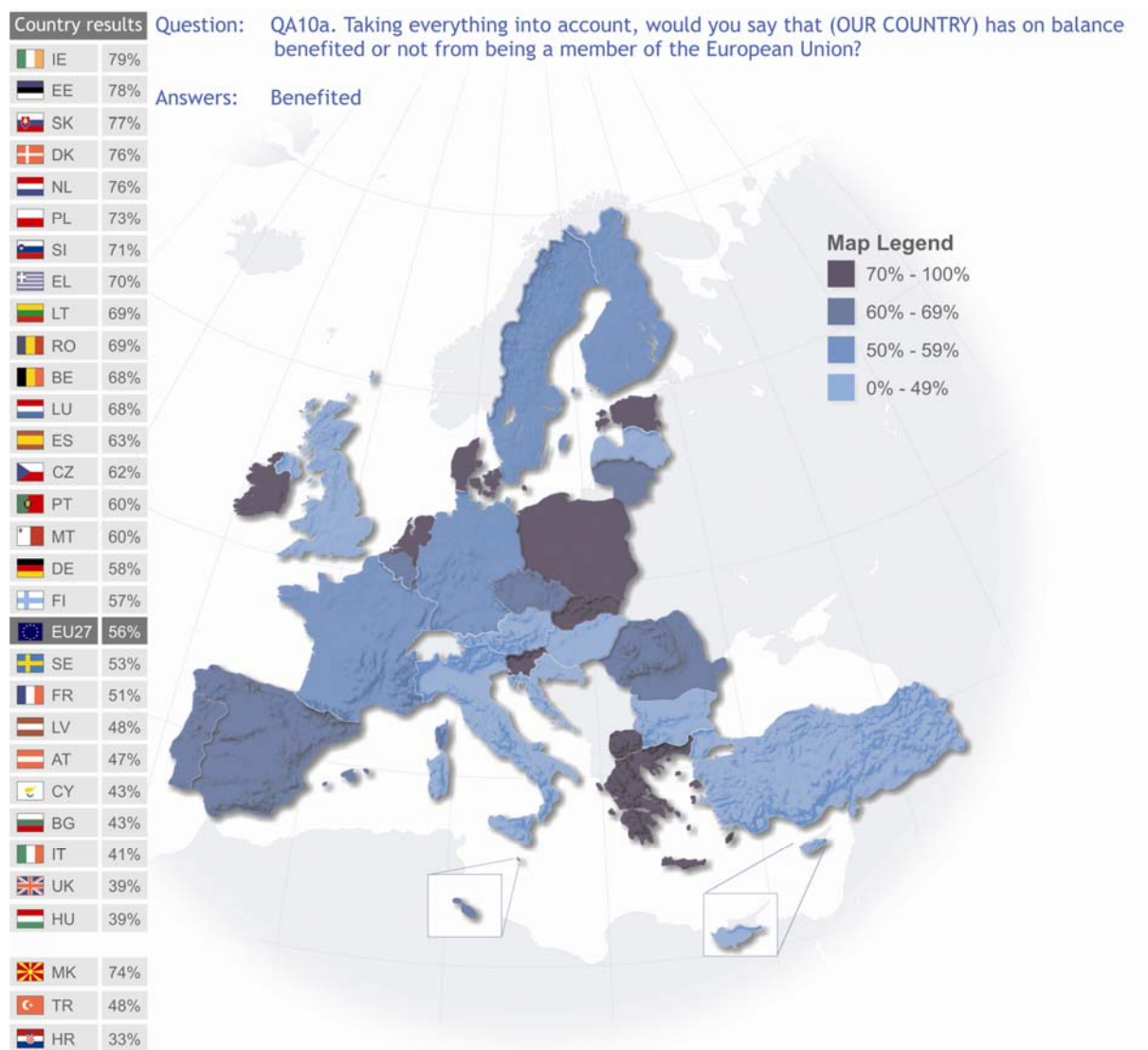
- The number of citizens who consider that their country has benefited from its membership of the European Union has increased slightly -

A majority of Europeans are convinced that their country's membership of the European Union is a good thing. Similarly, a majority consider that their country has benefited from its membership (56%), i.e. 2 points higher than in spring 2008⁵¹. The decline in the proportion of respondents, who view their country's membership of the European Union positively, noted since spring 2007, has been halted.



Positive opinions are the most widespread in Ireland (79%), Estonia (78%), Slovakia (77%), Denmark and the Netherlands (76% in both cases), Poland (73%), Slovenia (71%) and Greece (70%). The majority of respondents in Hungary (51%), the United Kingdom and Cyprus (46% each), Latvia (43%) and Austria (42%) take the opposite view. The Irish result is worth underscoring: a few months after the victory of the "no" vote in the referendum on the adoption of the Treaty of Lisbon, Ireland is the country with the highest proportion of respondents who consider that their country has benefited from its membership of the European Union.

⁵¹ QA10a Taking everything into account, would you say that (OUR COUNTRY) has on balance benefited or not from being a member of the European Union?


































Three-quarters of respondents in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia believe that their country would benefit from membership of the European Union (74%); the majority of respondents in Turkey share their opinion (48%), while more than half of those in Croatia are pessimistic (55% consider that their country would not benefit from membership of the European Union).

There are significant variations between Member States on this question. Compared with spring 2008, positive opinions have fallen in 12 countries and have risen in 12 others; in three Member States, they are identical to those recorded six months earlier.

The increase is significant in Austria (+ 11 points), the Netherlands and Finland (+ 6 points each). It stands at 4 points in Italy and Romania. On the other hand, the percentage of respondents who consider that their country has benefited from its membership of the European Union has fallen by 12 points in Cyprus, 9 points in Malta, 6 points in Lithuania and 4 points in Bulgaria and Poland. The increase in negative opinions in Cyprus and Malta has to be linked to the decline in support for membership of the European Union noted in the two countries, but must above all be put into perspective: last spring, i.e. a few months before their adoption of the euro on 1 January 2008, Cyprus and Malta had recorded a very strong increase both in support for membership of the European Union and in positive opinions regarding the benefits of membership. Although the scores recorded in these two States have fallen, they have in fact returned to their autumn 2007 level.

QA10a Taking everything into account, would you say that (OUR COUNTRY) has / would have on balance benefited or not from being a member of the European Union? - Has / Would have benefited

	Spring 2008 (EB69)	Autumn 2008 (EB70)	Evolution (%points)
 EU27	54%	56%	+2
 Belgium	70%	68%	-2
 Bulgaria	47%	43%	-4
 Czech Republic	64%	62%	-2
 Denmark	77%	76%	-1
 Germany	55%	58%	+3
 Estonia	76%	78%	+2
 Greece	73%	70%	-3
 Spain	66%	63%	-3
 France	49%	51%	+2
 Ireland	82%	79%	-3
 Italy	37%	41%	+4
 Cyprus	55%	43%	-12
 Latvia	48%	48%	0
 Lithuania	75%	69%	-6
 Luxembourg	68%	68%	0
 Hungary	36%	39%	+3
 Malta	69%	60%	-9
 The Netherlands	70%	76%	+6
 Austria	36%	47%	+11
 Poland	77%	73%	-4
 Portugal	61%	60%	-1
 Romania	65%	69%	+4
 Slovenia	71%	71%	0
 Slovakia	76%	77%	+1
 Finland	51%	57%	+6
 Sweden	50%	53%	+3
 The United Kingdom	36%	39%	+3
 Croatia	44%	33%	-11
 Turkye	58%	48%	-10
 Former Yougoslav Republic of Macedonia	82%	74%	-8

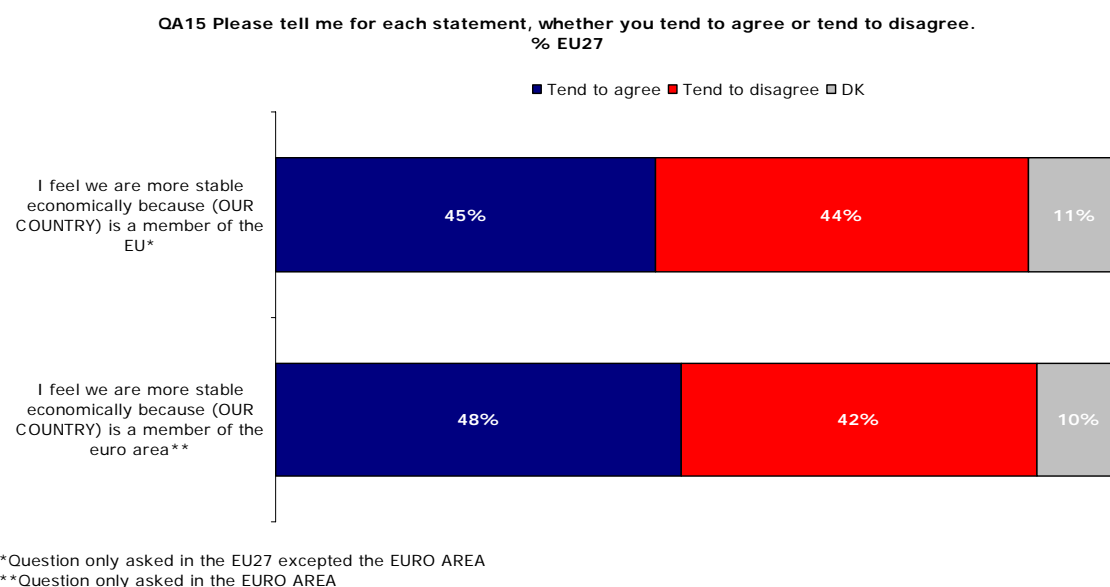
As with support for membership of the European Union, the feeling that membership would be beneficial for the country has fallen sharply in the three candidate countries: by 11 points in Croatia, 8 points in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and 10 points in Turkey.

The socio-demographic analysis is strongly correlated with that of the previous question: men (60% versus 52% of women), managers (67% versus 54% of manual workers and 62% of employees), as well as the youngest (67% of those aged 15 to 24 versus 49% of those aged 55 or over) and the longest educated respondents (68% of those who studied up to the age of 20 or over versus 41% of those who left school before the age of 16) are the most convinced that their country's membership of the European Union is a good thing and, quite logically, that their country has benefited from its membership.

Logically, the respondents who consider that the European Union has a positive image are also very likely to consider that their country has benefited from its membership of the European Union (82% versus 16% of those who consider that its image is negative), as are two-thirds of those who have a good knowledge of how the European Union works (65% versus 36% of those whose knowledge is not as good).

1.3.2. Economic stability linked to membership of the European Union and the euro area

As mentioned previously, the link between the economic situation and attitudes towards the European Union does not always work in the same way: the economic difficulties facing the interviewees do not automatically result in an increase in reservations about the European Union. Although some respondents may consider that the European Union aggravates the economic situation, for others it serves as a bulwark against the global economic difficulties. This way of viewing the European Union in a context of crisis may also apply to the euro.



In practice, the people interviewed are very divided on this: a very small majority of Europeans living in the twelve European Union countries which are not part of the euro area say they feel that they are more economically stable because their country is a member of the European Union (45% versus 44% who take the opposite view)⁵². This is the case in particular of two-thirds of respondents in Slovakia (65%) and of six out of ten in Denmark and Poland (61% in both cases). However, a majority of respondents in four Member States disagree with the statement that their country is more stable economically because of its membership of the European Union: Latvia (74%), Hungary (66%), the United Kingdom (54%) and Bulgaria (46%).

⁵² QA15a.1 Please tell me for each statement, whether you tend to agree or tend to disagree. *I feel we are more stable economically because (OUR COUNTRY) is a member of the EU*

Within the euro area, a clearer majority of respondents consider that they are more stable economically because their country is a member of the euro area (48% versus 42% who take the opposite view)⁵³. A majority of respondents in three Member States disagree with the statement: in France (52%), Cyprus (50%) and Italy (48%). On the other hand, three-quarters of respondents in the Netherlands (75%) and around two-thirds in Finland (66%), Slovenia (65%), Ireland (64%), Luxembourg (63%) and Belgium (62%) feel that they are more stable economically because their country is part of the euro area⁵⁴.

The results for the two questions are more or less stable: in both cases, the proportions of respondents who agree with the statements proposed have fallen by one point since spring 2008.




Gender and education are fairly significant discriminant on this question: the differences between men and women are fairly marked, with the latter being less convinced of the benefits of membership of the European Union (or the euro area) as a stabilising influence on the country's economy. Symmetrically, the longest educated respondents feel far more protected by their membership – whether of the European Union or the euro area – than those who left school before the age of 16.

On the other hand, it is interesting to note that the respondent's age has a very different influence depending on whether the question concerns membership of the European Union or of the euro area. Thus, while there are few differences by age groups on whether the fact of belonging to the euro area is a factor for economic stability, the opinions of young people and those of the oldest respondents differ substantially as regards the benefits of membership of the European Union: while a majority of the youngest respondents consider that it is a factor for stability (51% versus 36%), the opposite opinion predominates among respondents aged 55 or over (40% agree with the statement versus 48%).

⁵³ QA15a.2 Please tell me for each statement, whether you tend to agree or tend to disagree. *I feel we are more stable economically because (OUR COUNTRY) is a member of the euro area*

⁵⁴ The full results by country can be found in the annex to this report.

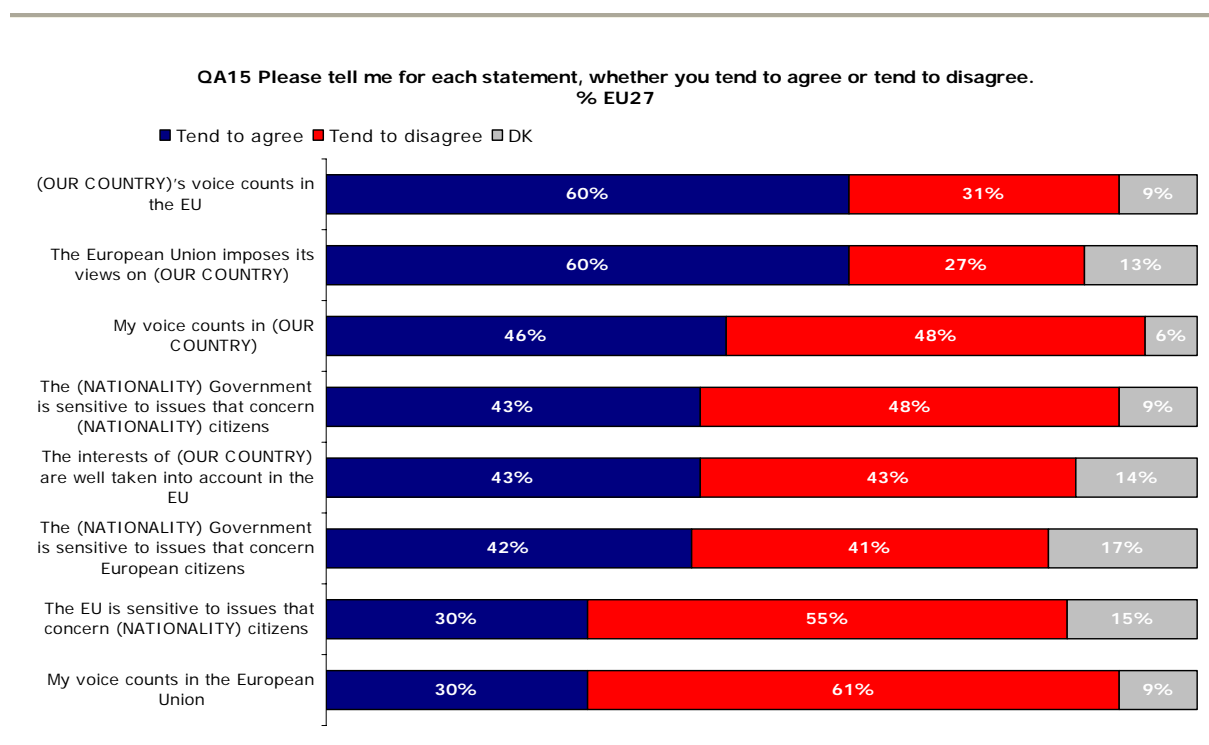
**QA15a Please tell me for each statement, whether you tend to agree or tend to disagree.
I feel we are more stable economically because...**

		(OUR COUNTRY) is a member of the EU			(OUR COUNTRY) is a member of the euro area		
		Tend to agree	Tend to disagree	DK	Tend to agree	Tend to disagree	DK
EU27		45%	44%	11%	48%	42%	10%
Gender							
	Male	49%	43%	8%	53%	39%	8%
	Female	41%	45%	14%	44%	44%	12%
Age							
	15- 24	51%	36%	13%	49%	41%	10%
	25- 39	45%	44%	11%	48%	43%	9%
	40- 54	47%	45%	8%	50%	42%	8%
	55 +	40%	48%	12%	48%	40%	12%
Education (End of)							
	15-	34%	52%	14%	39%	47%	14%
	16- 19	43%	46%	11%	47%	44%	9%
	20+	54%	38%	8%	61%	32%	7%
	Still Studying	53%	34%	13%	56%	34%	10%

2. Democracy in the European Union

2.1. The representation of citizens in the European Union

- The majority of Europeans consider that their country's voice counts in the European Union, but they also consider that the European Union imposes its views on their country -



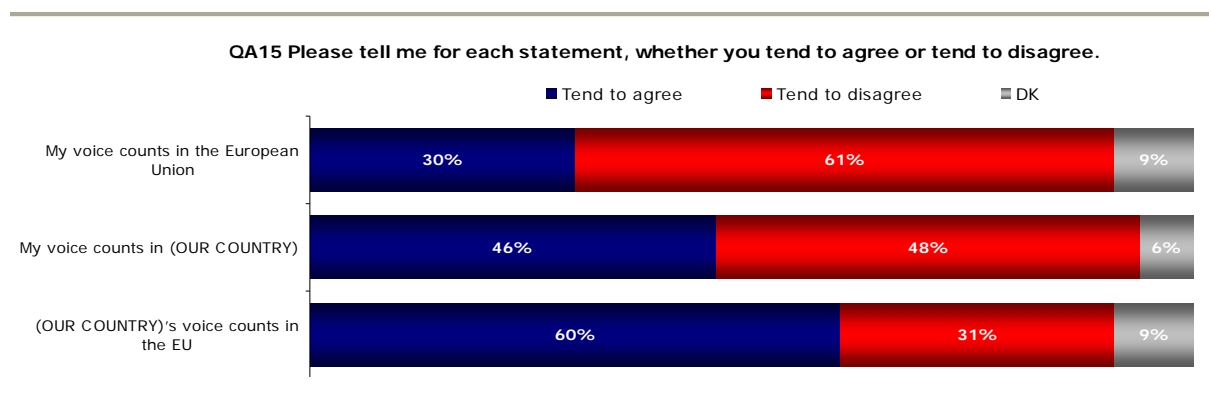
At a time relatively close to the European elections, which represent the main opportunity for citizens to make their voice heard at European Union level, it is particularly important to examine the question of the representation of citizens – in their country and in the European Union – and of their country within the EU27.

2.1.1. The weight of the voice of individuals, in their country and in the European Union; that of Member States within the European Union

Six out of ten Europeans consider that **their country's voice counts in the European Union** (60% versus 31% who think the opposite)⁵⁵. They are, however, far more divided on the question of whether **their voice counts in their country** (46% think that it does versus 48% who think the opposite). On the other hand, only a minority feel that **their voice counts in the European Union** (30% versus 61%)⁵⁶.

For the interviewees, therefore, there is a fairly clear differential between the perceived influence of their voice *in their country* (46%) and *in the European Union* (30%). This difference may be considered as revealing the distance which, for some respondents, characterises the relationship between citizens and the European Union.

The gap also widens when it comes to assessing the way in which their country's voice is taken into consideration in the European Union: a clear majority of Europeans consider that **their country's voice is heard in the European Union** (60%) compared with only 30%, as noted above, who consider that their own voice is heard in the European Union, even if this gap may seem logical (a citizen does not necessarily have the same weight as his or her country).



⁵⁵ QA15a.6 Please tell me for each statement whether you tend to agree or tend to disagree? – *The voice of (OUR COUNTRY) counts in the EU*

⁵⁶ QA15a.4 Please tell me for each statement whether you tend to agree or tend to disagree? – *My voice counts in (OUR COUNTRY)*

An analysis of the results by country reveals a number of significant differences. More than eight out ten respondents in Sweden and France (83% in both cases), 79% of respondents in Sweden, the Netherlands and Germany as well as two thirds in Denmark and Luxembourg (77%) consider that **their country's voice counts in the European Union**. On the other hand, in seven Member States, a majority of respondents take the opposite view: in Greece (59% of respondents disagree with the statement that "my country's voice counts in the European Union"), Latvia (52%), the Czech Republic, Italy and Austria (49% in all three cases), Romania (45%) and Bulgaria (40%).

QA15a Please tell me for each statement, whether you tend to agree or tend to disagree.

(OUR COUNTRY)'s voice counts in the EU				My voice counts in the European Union			My voice counts in (OUR COUNTRY)		
Tend to agree Tend to disagree DK				Tend to agree Tend to disagree DK			Tend to agree Tend to disagree DK		
EU27	60%	31%	9%	30%	61%	9%	46%	48%	6%
BE	73%	26%	1%	46%	52%	2%	61%	38%	1%
BG	35%	40%	25%	19%	59%	22%	26%	61%	13%
CZ	44%	49%	7%	20%	76%	4%	32%	66%	2%
DK	77%	20%	3%	49%	47%	4%	90%	9%	1%
DE	79%	16%	5%	35%	56%	9%	59%	37%	4%
EE	56%	37%	7%	23%	68%	9%	41%	55%	4%
EL	40%	59%	1%	26%	73%	1%	21%	79%	-
ES	52%	31%	17%	34%	57%	9%	48%	45%	7%
FR	83%	12%	5%	43%	52%	5%	71%	27%	2%
IE	59%	27%	14%	33%	52%	15%	48%	43%	9%
IT	41%	49%	10%	17%	71%	12%	19%	71%	10%
CY	52%	40%	8%	31%	57%	12%	43%	49%	8%
LV	39%	52%	9%	14%	79%	7%	17%	78%	5%
LT	46%	40%	14%	28%	57%	15%	21%	70%	9%
LU	77%	16%	7%	42%	49%	9%	66%	28%	6%
HU	47%	43%	10%	28%	64%	8%	29%	67%	4%
MT	62%	24%	14%	49%	34%	17%	55%	33%	12%
NL	79%	18%	3%	49%	46%	5%	79%	19%	2%
AT	43%	49%	8%	26%	66%	8%	62%	33%	5%
PL	62%	29%	9%	33%	54%	13%	44%	49%	7%
PT	46%	39%	15%	24%	65%	11%	34%	55%	11%
RO	36%	45%	19%	20%	61%	19%	19%	67%	14%
SI	79%	19%	2%	51%	45%	4%	74%	24%	2%
SK	49%	41%	10%	24%	67%	9%	42%	52%	6%
FI	69%	28%	3%	29%	67%	4%	77%	22%	1%
SE	83%	14%	3%	41%	51%	8%	90%	8%	2%
UK	47%	43%	10%	18%	76%	6%	36%	60%	4%
HR	36%	54%	10%	32%	58%	10%	63%	32%	5%
TR	24%	55%	21%	27%	54%	19%	22%	61%	17%
MK	23%	61%	16%	24%	66%	10%	48%	41%	11%

Although two large countries top the list, there does not appear to be an immediate correlation between the size of the country - in terms of population – and the feeling that its voice counts in the European Union. Thus, respondents in Spain (52%), the United Kingdom (47%) and Italy (41%) are less likely than the European average to share this opinion.

At an individual level, respondents in Slovenia are the most positive since 51% of them consider that **their voice counts in the European Union**⁵⁷. Half of respondents in the Netherlands, Denmark and Malta (49% in all three cases) share this opinion while only 14% in Latvia, 17% in Italy and 18% in the United Kingdom take a similar view. Approximately three-quarters of respondents in these Member States consider that their voice does not count in the European Union (79%, 71% and 76% respectively). 76% of Czech and 73% of Greek respondents share their opinion.

Finally, at national level, a very large proportion of respondents in Scandinavia (90% of respondents in Denmark and Sweden), three-quarters of interviewees in Slovenia (74%), 71% in France and two-thirds in Luxembourg (66%) consider that **their voice counts in their country**. This opinion is held by a minority of respondents in half of the Member States, and in particular in Latvia (17%), Italy (19%), Lithuania and Greece (21% in both cases).

⁵⁷ QA15a.3 Please tell me for each statement whether you tend to agree or tend to disagree? – *My voice counts in the European Union*

2.1.2. The sensitivity of the country and the European Union to the concerns of citizens of the country; that of the country to the concerns of European citizens

As regards the sensitivity of national governments⁵⁸ and the European Union⁵⁹ to the concerns of citizens, the results are fairly mixed. A large minority of respondents consider that **their government is sensitive to the issues that concern citizens of their country** (43% agree with the statement versus 48% who disagree); an almost identical proportion – representing this time the majority of those interviewed – consider that **their government is sensitive to the issues that concern European citizens** (42% agree with this statement while 41% take the opposite view)⁶⁰. On the other hand, a majority of respondents feel that **the concerns of the citizens of the country in which they live are not taken into account by the European Union** (55% versus 30% who believe, on the contrary, that the European Union is sensitive to the concerns of citizens of their country).

The same difference, described above, also exists here in similar proportions: Europeans have the feeling that national governments are slightly more attentive than the European Union to the concerns of citizens.

A minority of Europeans (but a majority of the Member States - 15 out of 27) consider that **their national government is sensitive to the issues that concern the citizens of their country** (43% versus 48% who take the opposite view). Three-quarters of respondents in the Netherlands and Denmark (77% and 76% respectively), seven out of ten in Finland (69%) and 61% of in Sweden consider that **their national government is sensitive to the concerns of their country's citizens**, while only 17% of respondents in Lithuania, 18% in Bulgaria, 19% in Greece and 21% in Latvia share their opinion.

⁵⁸ QA15a.9 Please tell me for each statement whether you tend to agree or tend to disagree? – *The (NATIONALITY) government is sensitive to issues that concern (NATIONALITY) citizens*

⁵⁹ QA15a.10 Please tell me for each statement whether you tend to agree or tend to disagree? – *The European Union is sensitive to issues that concern (NATIONALITY) citizens*

⁶⁰ QA15a.11 Please tell me for each statement whether you tend to agree or tend to disagree? – *The (NATIONALITY) government is sensitive to issues that concern European citizens*

On the other hand, a majority of Europeans consider that the **European Union is not sensitive to the concerns of citizens of their country**: 55% versus 30% who take the opposite view. Denmark (49%), Spain and Malta (38% and 39% respectively) are the only countries where a majority of respondents consider that the **European Union is sensitive to the issues that concern citizens of their country**. Fewer than one in five respondents in Austria (19%) and 23% of respondents in Finland and Latvia, 24% in the United Kingdom and a quarter in Hungary and Lithuania (25% in both cases) share their opinion.

Moreover, a very small majority of Europeans agree with the statement that **the national government is sensitive to the concerns of European citizens**: 42% versus 41% who think the opposite. Two-thirds of respondents in Cyprus (64%) and the Netherlands (63%), 57% in Denmark and 56% in Finland share this opinion compared with only 19% of respondents in Bulgaria (it will be noted however that 44% did not answer this question), 20% in Greece, 22% in Romania (where the 'DON'T KNOW' rate was 31%) and 24% in Latvia.

2.1.3. The extent to which the interests of the Member States are taken into consideration in the European Union and the European Union's influence on Member States

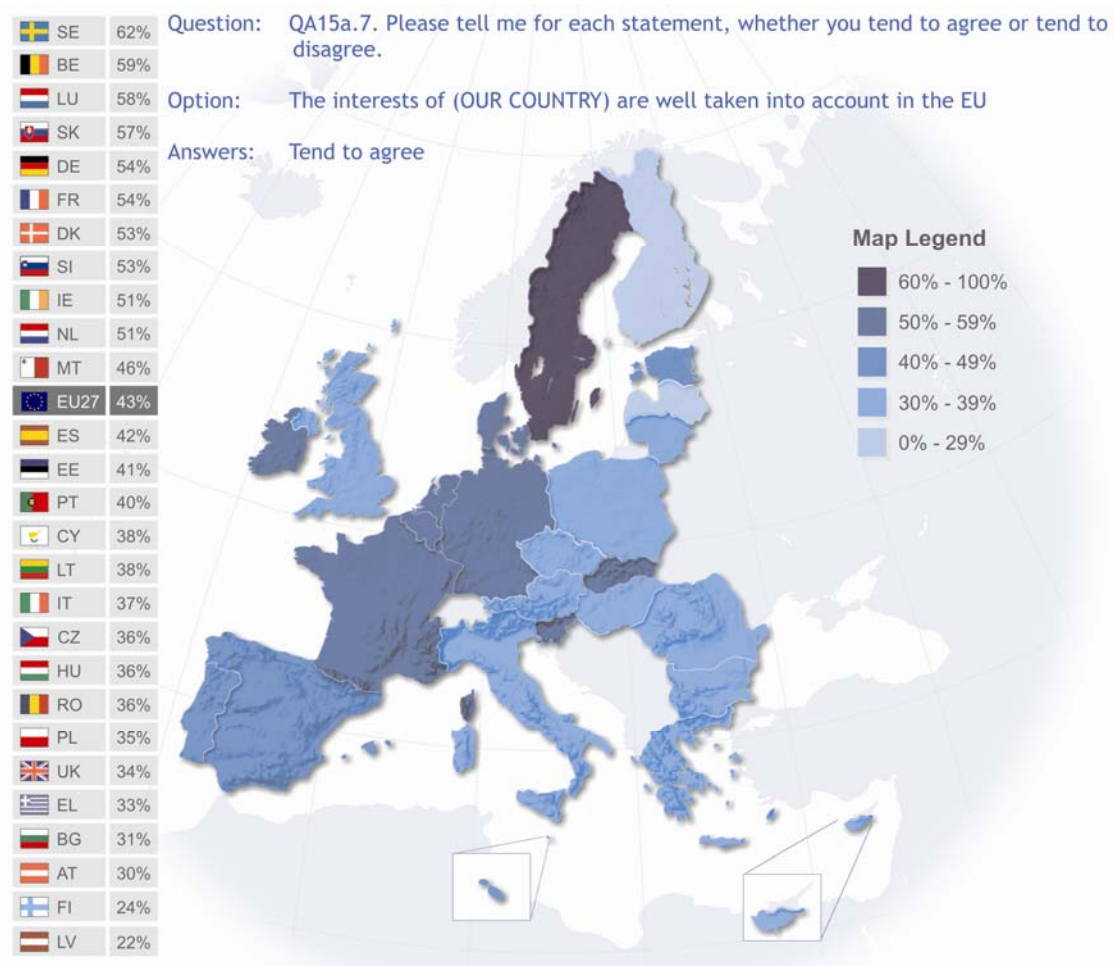
Finally, when asked about the relationship between the Member States and the European Union, a clear majority of respondents consider that the latter **imposes its views on their country** (60%)⁶¹. Moreover, they are split down the middle when it comes to assessing whether **their country's interests are properly taken into account in the European Union** (43% consider that they are, while a similar proportion take the opposite view)⁶².

Europeans are therefore fairly critical in their assessment of relations between their country and the European Union. Thus, while they consider, as noted previously, that their country's voice counts in the European Union, when the question is more specific and deals with the way in which the country's interests are taken into account in the European Union, Europeans are totally divided. And ultimately, a majority of respondents consider that the European Union imposes its decisions on the Member States.

⁶¹ QA15a.8 Please tell me for each statement whether you tend to agree or tend to disagree? – *The European Union imposes its views on (OUR COUNTRY)*

⁶² QA15a.7 Please tell me for each statement whether you tend to agree or tend to disagree? – *The interests of (OUR COUNTRY) are well taken into account in the EU*

More than six out of ten respondents in Sweden (62%), 59% in Belgium, 58% in Luxembourg and 57% in Slovakia consider that **their country's interests are properly taken into account within the European Union**. Less than a quarter of respondents in Latvia (22%) and Finland (24%), and 30% of respondents in Austria and 31% in Bulgaria share their confidence.



However, three out of five Europeans think that the **European Union imposes its views on their country**, including three-quarters of respondents in Cyprus and Greece (76% in both cases) and Latvia (75%) and 72% of respondents in Belgium, compared with only 48% of respondents in Luxembourg and 49% in Germany.

The scores for four aspects have declined since the spring 2008 Eurobarometer: - 2 points for the proportion of respondents who consider that **their country's interests are properly taken into account in the European Union** and for those who consider that **their voice counts in their country**, and - 1 point for those who consider that **their voice counts in the European Union** and that **their country's voice counts among the twenty seven Member States**. The proportion of people interviewed who consider that **the European Union imposes its views on their country** is stable. The other three aspects were tested for the first time in this wave.

In their views on three aspects, **respondents in the candidate countries** are in line with the European average. Thus, the majority of respondents in the three countries consider that the European Union is not sensitive to the concerns of their country's citizens (74% of respondents in Croatia, 62% in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and 56% in Turkey compared with a European Union average of 55%), that their voice does not count in the European Union (66% of respondents in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, 58% in Croatia and 54% in Turkey compared with an EU27 average of 61%) and, finally, that the European Union imposes its views on their country (78% of respondents in Croatia, 68% in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and 56% in Turkey compared with six out of ten European respondents – 60%).

On the other hand, the majority of the people interviewed in the candidate countries disagree that their country's voice counts in the European Union, compared with only 31% of respondents in the Member States. This difference may seem logical given the candidate status of these countries.





Respondents in Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia consider that their voice counts in their country (63% and 48% respectively) compared with only 22% of respondents in Turkey. Nevertheless a majority of respondents in Croatia and Turkey are convinced that their government is not sensitive to the concerns of its citizens (48% and 77% respectively versus 42% in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia who, like the EU27 respondents, are more divided).

Finally, although a small majority of respondents in Turkey (38%) consider that their government is sensitive to the concerns of European citizens, 69% of respondents in Croatia and 42% in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia take the opposite view.

A socio-demographic analysis reveals significant differences on these questions, in particular according to the respondent's gender and education. Thus, generally speaking, men and the longest educated respondents are again more likely than women and interviewees who left school before the age of 16 to consider that their voice counts (both in their country and in the European Union), but also that their country's voice counts in the European Union and that their country's interests are taken into account in the European Union. This raises the question of whether the difference between men and women on these questions may be linked to the differences in gender representation in political institutions.

Two-thirds of the interviewees who consider themselves to be on the right of the political spectrum think that the European Union imposes its view on their country (65% versus 58% of those on the left). Similarly, in comparison with respondents who are still studying, respondents who have completed their studies are more likely to consider that the European Union imposes its views on their country.

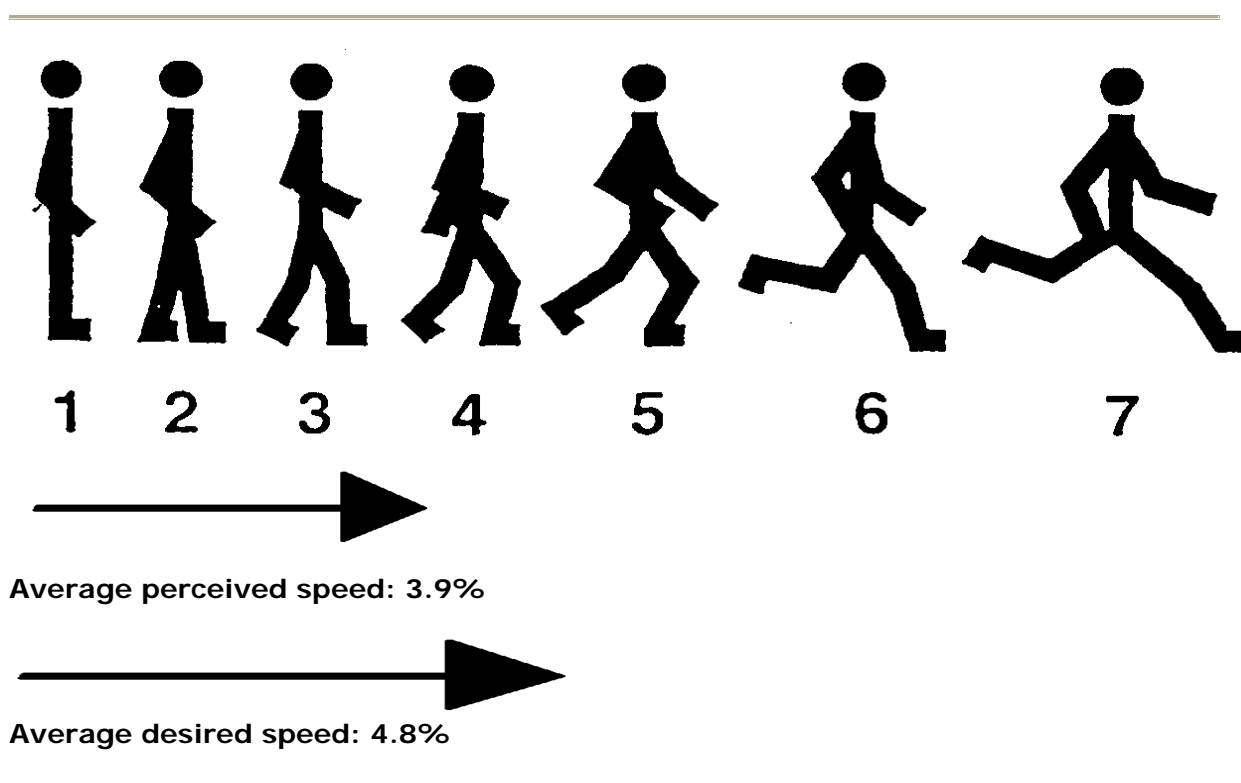
QA15a Please tell me for each statement, whether you tend to agree or tend to disagree.

The European Union imposes its views on (OUR COUNTRY)				My voice counts in (OUR COUNTRY)			The interests of (OUR COUNTRY) are well taken into account in the EU			My voice counts in the European Union		
	Tend to agree	Tend to disagree	DK	Tend to agree	Tend to disagree	DK	Tend to agree	Tend to disagree	DK	Tend to agree	Tend to disagree	DK
EU27	60%	27%	13%	46%	48%	6%	43%	43%	14%	30%	61%	9%
Gender												
 Male	61%	28%	11%	48%	47%	5%	46%	43%	11%	32%	60%	8%
Female	58%	26%	16%	45%	48%	7%	40%	43%	17%	28%	62%	10%
Age												
 15-24	51%	31%	18%	46%	45%	9%	49%	34%	17%	31%	57%	12%
25-39	59%	28%	13%	46%	49%	5%	44%	42%	14%	30%	62%	8%
40-54	63%	27%	10%	48%	47%	5%	42%	46%	12%	31%	61%	8%
55 +	61%	25%	14%	47%	48%	5%	40%	45%	15%	29%	62%	9%
Education (End of)												
 15-	58%	24%	18%	39%	55%	6%	35%	48%	17%	23%	68%	9%
16-19	62%	26%	12%	46%	50%	4%	42%	44%	14%	29%	63%	8%
20+	62%	29%	9%	58%	38%	4%	50%	39%	11%	39%	54%	7%
Still studying	51%	32%	17%	46%	43%	11%	52%	32%	16%	31%	55%	14%
Left-Right scale												
 (1-4) Left	58%	30%	12%	52%	44%	4%	48%	39%	13%	33%	60%	7%
(5-6) Centre	62%	26%	12%	49%	47%	4%	45%	43%	12%	32%	61%	7%
(7-10) Right	65%	26%	9%	51%	45%	4%	45%	45%	10%	34%	58%	8%

3. VIEWS ON THE SPEED OF THE BUILDING OF EUROPE

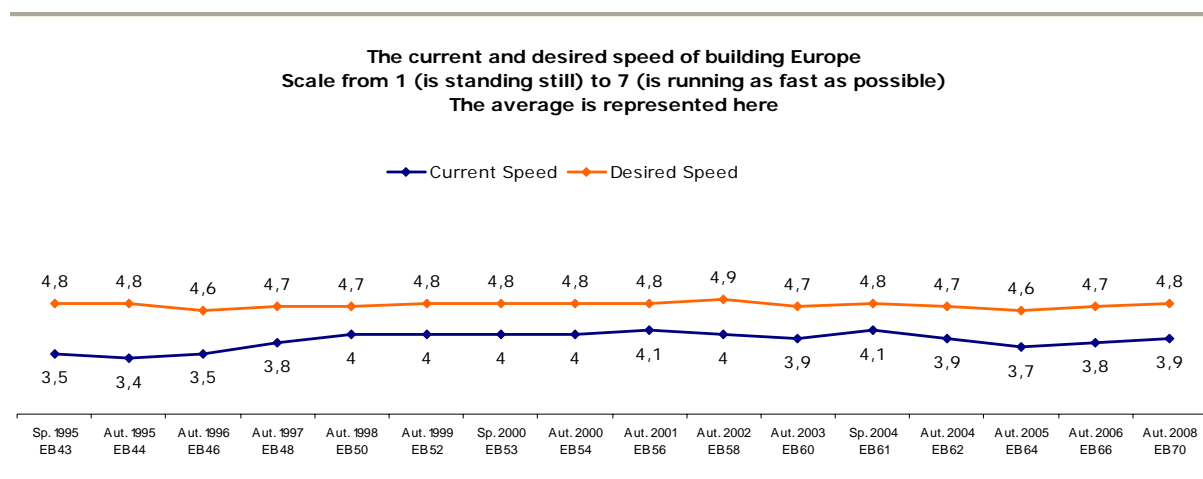
- European want the building of Europe to be accelerated and are against the idea of the building of Europe being faster in one group of countries -

On a scale of from 1 to 7, where 1 represents a figure at a standstill and 7 a figure running as fast as possible, Europeans estimate at 3.9 the current speed of building Europe.⁶³ They are therefore just below the mid-point score on the scale (4).



Both the perceived speed and desired speed are close to the levels of autumn 2005.

⁶³ QA19a In your opinion, what is the current speed of building Europe? Please look at these figures. N°1 is standing still, N° 7 is running as fast as possible. Choose the one which best corresponds with your opinion of the current speed of building Europe



The scores in Luxembourg and Malta are above the mid-point score (4.4 in both cases); respondents in Slovenia and Austria consider that the current speed of building Europe is 4.3, while for citizens in Spain and Romania it is 4.2. At the other end of the scale, respondents in Greece and Hungary gave the slowest speed: 3.5.

The respondents were then asked at what speed they would like European integration to proceed. The result of 4.8 is higher than the perceived speed today and almost one point above the mid-point score on the scale from 1 to 7⁶⁴. Nine Member States recorded scores above 5: the last two countries to have joined the European Union – Bulgaria and Romania (5.8); Greece with 5.7; Poland with 5.6; Hungary and Slovakia both with 5.4; Cyprus with 5.3; Portugal with 5.2 and finally Lithuania with 5.1.

Respondents in Finland (4) and Austria (4.1) are the least in favour of accelerating the building of Europe. They are the only countries which want to see European integration slowed down, since the former estimates the current speed at 4.1 and would like to see a speed of 4, while the latter assesses the current speed at 4.3 and would like a speed of 4.1. Respondents in the United Kingdom also want a speed of 4.1 for the building of Europe. This is however an improvement compared with their assessment of the current speed (3.8).

⁶⁴ QA19b And which corresponds best to the speed you would like?

While opinions in the candidate countries about the current speed of European integration are close to those of the EU27 countries (3.7 in Croatia, 3.5 in Turkey and 3.8 in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), respondents in the last two countries are very keen to see European integration proceed more quickly: up to 6.1 for inhabitants of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia – perhaps reflecting their wish to join the European Union rapidly – and 5.2 in Turkey. The result in Croatia is in line with the European average (4.8).

The youngest respondents are in favour of far faster European integration: those in the 15 to 24 age group assess the current speed at 4 and want to see it increased to 5.3, while those aged 55 or over estimate the current speed at 3.9 and would like it to reach 4.6. In general, all socio-demographic categories would like the building of Europe to go faster than the current speed.

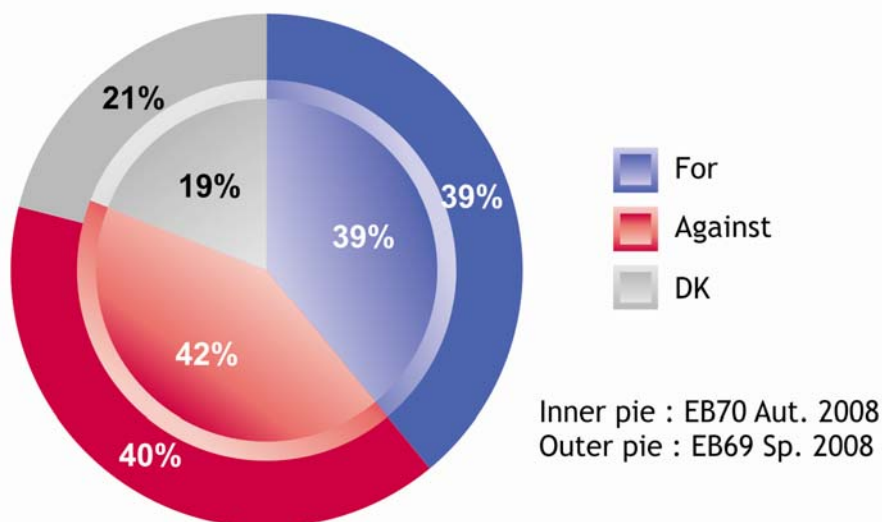
- Europeans are divided about the idea of a two-speed European Union -

A small majority of Europeans are against the building of Europe being faster in one group of countries, but overall the people interviewed are very divided on this question: 42% versus 39% who are against the idea⁶⁵. The proportion of respondents opposed to the idea of faster European integration in some States has increased by 2 percentage points since spring 2008, while the proportion of respondents in favour of the idea is stable.

⁶⁵ QA27.5 What is your opinion on each of the following statements? Please tell me for each statement whether you are for it or against it. – *The speed of building Europe being faster in one group of countries than in the other countries*

Question: QA27.5. What is your opinion on each of the following statements? Please tell me for each statement, whether you are for it or against it.

Option: The speed of building Europe being faster in one group of countries than in the other countries

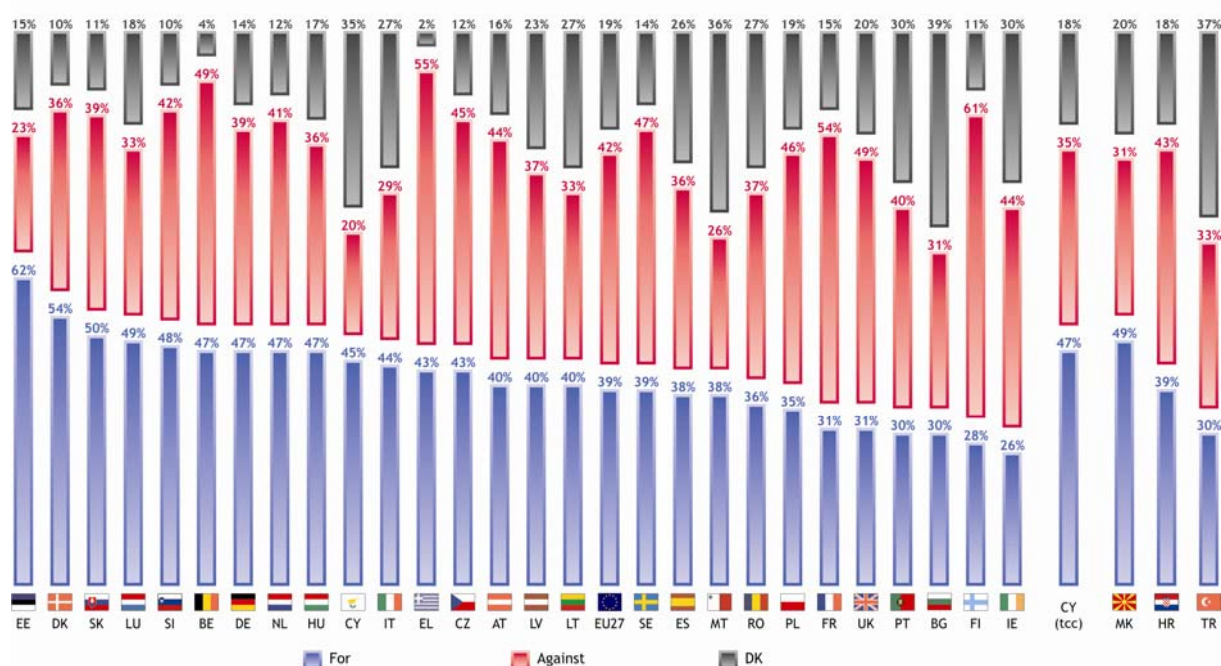


More than six out of ten respondents in Estonia (62%) and more than half in Denmark (54%) want European integration to be faster in some countries. Similar proportions of citizens in Finland (61%), Greece (55%) and France (54%) are against the idea. It will be seen that the majority of respondents in Bulgaria had no opinion on the question (39%), while 31% are against faster European integration in one group of countries and 30% are in favour of the idea.

The extreme position of the Irish is also striking. Respondents in Ireland are the least likely to want the building of Europe to proceed more quickly in one group of countries than in the other countries: after the "no" victory in the referendum on the adoption of the Treaty of Lisbon in their country, a significant proportion of respondents in Ireland seem to fear that the European Union will continue to move forward without them.




Question: QA27.5. What is your opinion on each of the following statements? Please tell me for each statement, whether you are for it or against it.

Option: The speed of building Europe being faster in one group of countries than in the other countries



The opinion of respondents in Croatia is very close to that of European respondents on this question: 43% approve of the idea of faster European integration in one group of countries. Respondents in Turkey are more divided: 30% are in favour of the idea, while 33% are against it and the majority – 37% - felt unable to express an opinion. Finally, respondents in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia are the most enthusiastic: half of them (49%) want some countries to press on more quickly with European integration.

QA27.5 The speed of building Europe being faster in one group of countries than in the other countries

		For	Against	DK
	EU27	39%	42%	19%
	Gender			
	Male	43%	42%	15%
	Female	36%	41%	23%
	Age			
	15-24	41%	41%	18%
	25-39	41%	42%	17%
	40-54	40%	44%	16%
	55 +	36%	40%	24%
	Education (End of)			
	15-	32%	41%	27%
	16-19	38%	44%	18%
	20+	45%	42%	13%
	Still Studying	45%	40%	15%
	Benefit EU membership			
	Benefited	47%	39%	14%
	Not benefited	30%	51%	19%

An analysis of the answers in accordance with the respondent's profile once again reveals significant differences correlating with gender and education: men are almost evenly divided, but a narrow majority of them are in favour of building Europe faster in some countries than in the others (43% versus 42%); women take the opposite view, though this is mainly the result of the high percentage of 'DON'T KNOW' answers (36% are for a two-speed Europe, while 41% are against the idea and 23% did not express an opinion).

There is an identical pattern between the longest educated respondents (45%, versus 42%, and 13%) and those who left school before the age of 16 (32%, versus 41% and 27% who did not express an opinion).

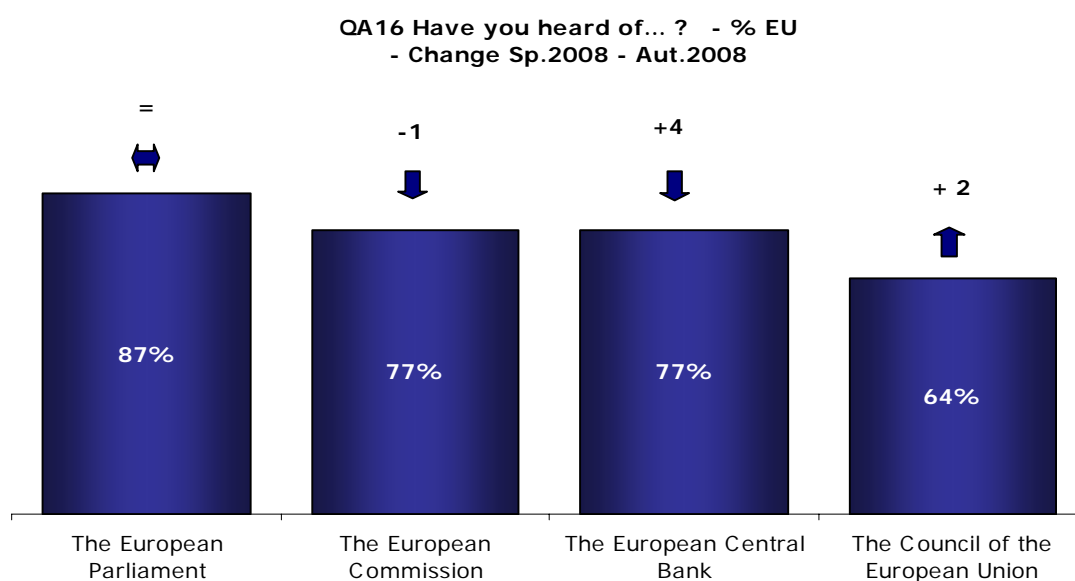
The results also correlate with perceptions of the benefits of European Union membership: the respondents who perceive such benefits are far more likely to be in favour of a European Union which continues to move forward, even if some countries advance more quickly than others (47% versus 39%). On the other hand, those who consider that their country has not benefited from its membership of the European Union would prefer European integration to proceed at the same speed in all European Union countries.

4. THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS

4.1. Knowledge of the European institutions

- Levels of awareness regarding the European institutions are stable in the case of the European Parliament and the European Commission, while knowledge of the Council of the European Union has increased slightly and awareness of the European Central Bank is substantially higher -

The European Parliament remains the institution with which Europeans are the most familiar: 87% of the people interviewed have heard of it. It is followed by the European Commission and the European Central Bank, in joint second place with 77% of respondents being aware of their existence, and then by the Council of the European Union (64%)⁶⁶.



Compared with spring 2008, these indicators are stable for the European Parliament (=) and for the European Commission (- 1 point), up slightly for the Council of the European Union (+ 2 points) and significantly higher for the European Central Bank (+ 4 points). The latter therefore seems to have benefited from increased media exposure due to the financial crisis.

⁶⁶ QA16 Have you heard of ... ? 1. The European Parliament 2. The European Commission 3. The Council of the European Union 4. The European Central Bank

A clear majority of Europeans consider that the European institutions play an important role⁶⁷: that is the opinion of approximately three-quarters of European respondents as regards the European Parliament and the European Central Bank (74% and 73% respectively). More than two-thirds think the same as regards the European Commission (68%) and more than six out of ten respondents are positive about the role played by the Council of the European Union (61%), which is the European institution with which citizens are the least familiar.

A very large number of respondents in Slovenia have heard of the European institutions and consider that they play an important role. Respondents in Belgium, Luxembourg and Finland are also strongly convinced of this. On the other hand, in the United Kingdom, the proportion of citizens capable of identifying the European institutions is still far lower than in the other Member States. Similarly, respondents in the United Kingdom are the least convinced of the importance of the role played by these institutions.

Almost all respondents in the Nordic countries (97% in Finland, 96% in Denmark and 95% in Sweden) have heard of the European Parliament, as have 97% in Slovakia and Luxembourg and 95% in the Netherlands. In the United Kingdom, more than two out of ten respondents (21%) have not heard of the only European institution elected by universal suffrage; that is also the case of 18% of respondents in Lithuania, 16% in Latvia and 15% in Italy.

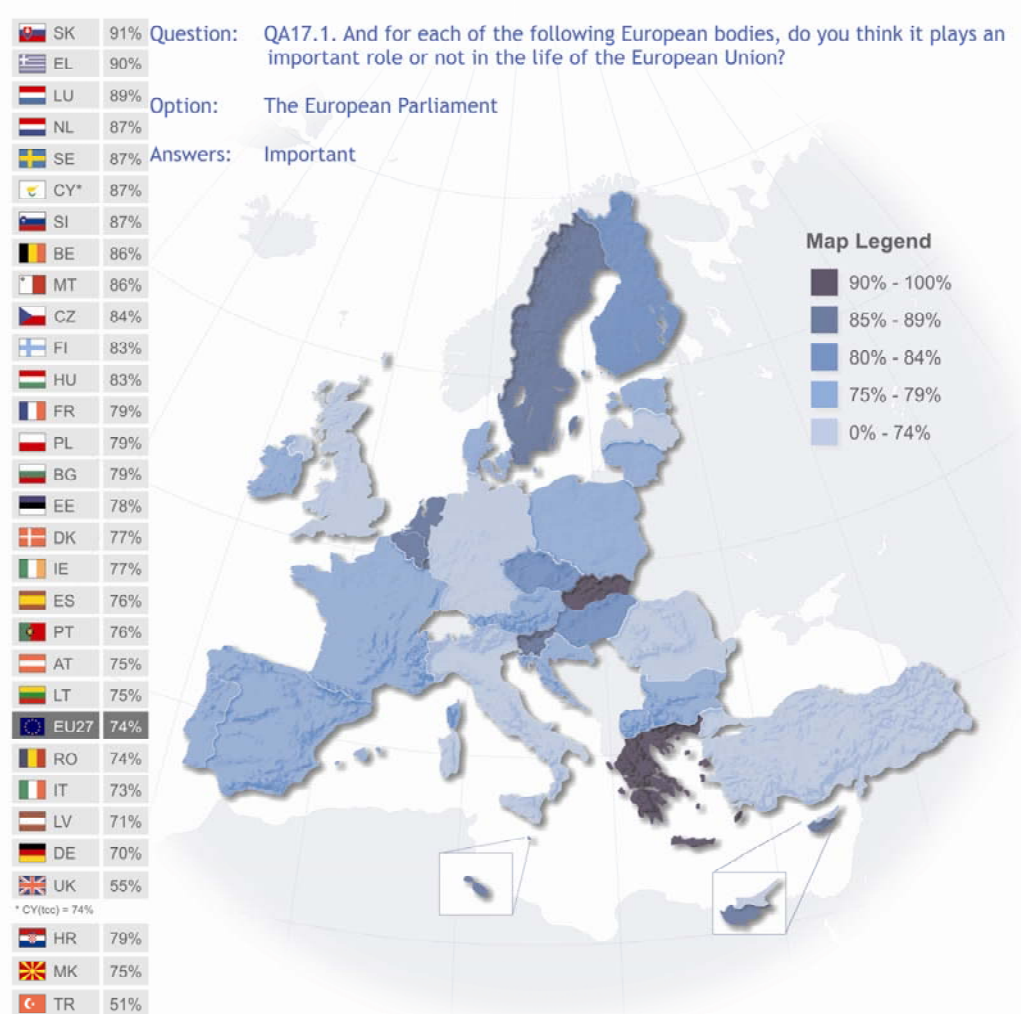
Respondents in Finland (96%), Luxembourg (94%) and Slovenia (90%) are the most likely to have heard of the European Commission. On the other hand, a quarter of respondents in Lithuania (25%) and 23% of Czechs and Latvians have never heard of it.

The European Central Bank is, logically, particularly well known among respondents living in the Member States in the euro area: 96% of respondents in Finland, 92% in Ireland, 91% in Slovenia, 90% in Germany and 89% in Luxembourg. More than eight out of ten respondents living in the euro area are aware of its existence (82% versus two-thirds – 66% - of citizens in the other Member States). On the other hand, fewer than two-thirds of respondents in Poland and Hungary (63% in both cases) and fewer than six out of ten respondents in the United Kingdom (59%) have heard of this institution.

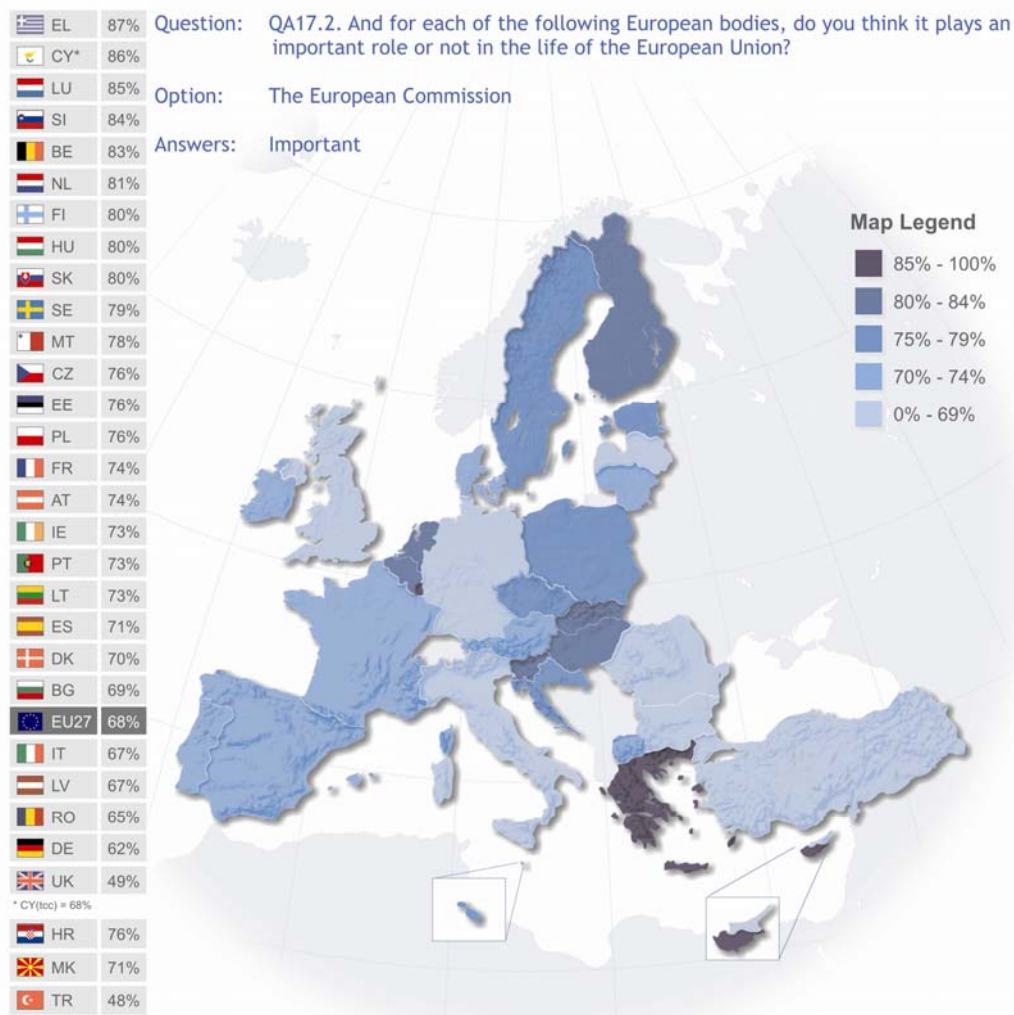
⁶⁷ QA17 And for each of the following European bodies, do you think it plays an important role or not in the life of the European Union? – 1. The European Parliament 2. The European Commission 3. The Council of the European Union 4. The European Central Bank

Finally, more than eight out of ten respondents in Slovenia, Slovakia and Cyprus (88%, 83% and 82% respectively) have heard of the Council of the European Union, compared with half of respondents in Sweden (52%) and a minority of respondents in the United Kingdom (40%).

In general, respondents in Cyprus, Greece and Slovenia are the most convinced of the importance of the European institutions. This opinion is far less widespread among respondents in the United Kingdom. For each of the institutions concerned, they are less likely to consider that they play an important role than respondents in any other Member State.






Respondents in Slovakia and Greece are the most convinced of the importance of the European Parliament's role (91% and 90% respectively), while only half of respondents in the United Kingdom share their opinion (55%). Only 49% of the latter believe that the European Commission plays an important role (versus 87% of respondents in Greece, 86% in Cyprus and 85% in Luxembourg) and 51% when it comes to the European Central Bank (compared with 89% of respondents in Finland, 88% in Greece and 87% in Slovenia, Sweden and the Netherlands). Finally, a very large majority of citizens in Greece, Cyprus and Slovenia (87%, 86% and 83%) consider that the Council of the European Union's role is important, compared with just over a third of respondents in the United Kingdom (36%) and half in Sweden (52%).



Awareness of the European institutions among respondents in Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is in line with the European average. A majority of respondents in these two countries are even more convinced than EU citizens of the importance of the role played by the Community institutions. On the other hand, respondents in Turkey are far less familiar with these institutions (on average, just over six out of ten respondents in Turkey have heard of them) and less convinced of the importance of their role. However, a high proportion (more than four out of ten) did not answer these questions.

A socio-demographic analysis reveals similar trends, irrespective of the institution in question: men are again more likely than women to have heard of the European institutions and to consider that they play an important role. Similarly, respondents who studied up to the age of 20 or over are more familiar with these institutions and are more convinced of the importance of their role than those who left school before the age of 16. Awareness of the existence of the institutions increases steadily up to the 40-54 age group before declining⁶⁸.




QA16 Have you heard of...?

		Yes			
		The European Parliament	The European Commission	The Council of the European Union	The European Central Bank
EU27		87%	77%	64%	77%
Gender					
	Male	90%	83%	70%	82%
	Female	84%	72%	58%	72%
Age					
	15-24	83%	72%	62%	68%
	25-39	88%	80%	65%	78%
	40-54	90%	83%	68%	82%
	55 +	85%	73%	60%	75%
Education (End of)					
	15-	79%	64%	52%	68%
	16-19	87%	78%	63%	77%
	20+	95%	90%	76%	88%
	Still studying	87%	76%	67%	73%

⁶⁸ QA16.2 Have you heard of ...? The European Commission/ QA17.2 And for each of the following European bodies, do you think it plays an important role or not in the life of the European Union? The European Commission

QA17 And for each of the following European bodies, do you think it plays an important role or not in the life of the European Union?

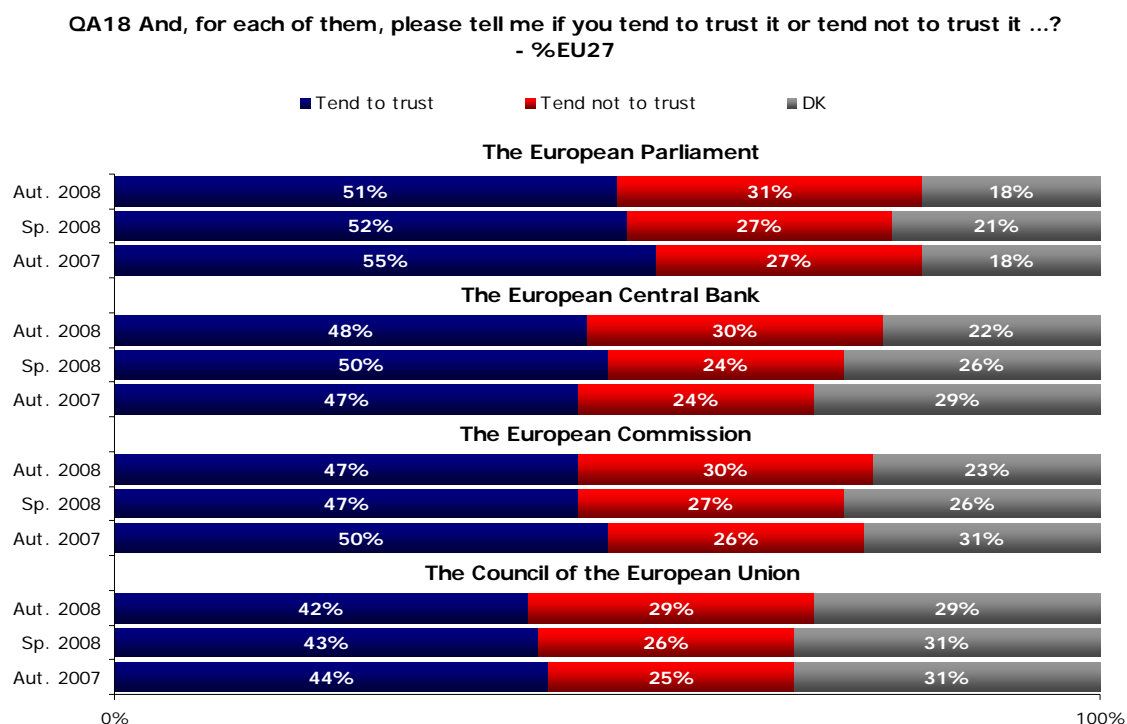
Answer : Important

	The European Parliament	The European Commission	The Council of the European Union	The European Central Bank
EU27	74%	68%	61%	73%
Gender				
 Male	77%	73%	64%	77%
Female	72%	65%	58%	69%
Age				
 15-24	78%	70%	66%	71%
25-39	77%	72%	64%	75%
40-54	75%	71%	61%	76%
55 +	70%	64%	57%	70%
Education (End of)				
 15-	64%	57%	52%	63%
16-19	75%	69%	61%	73%
20+	82%	80%	66%	84%
Still studying	83%	74%	70%	76%

4.2. Trust in the European institutions

- Trust in the European institutions remains relatively stable but distrust has increased -

In this context of economic crisis, it is interesting to establish to what extent trust in the European institutions has been influenced by the prevailing gloom. The majority of Europeans trust the institutions of the European Union: 51% for the European Parliament, 48% for the European Central Bank (but 52% in the euro area), 47% in the case of the European Commission and finally 42% for the Council of the European Union, with which citizens are less familiar (29% of 'DON'T KNOW' answers, i.e. 11 points higher than for the European Parliament for the same question)⁶⁹.

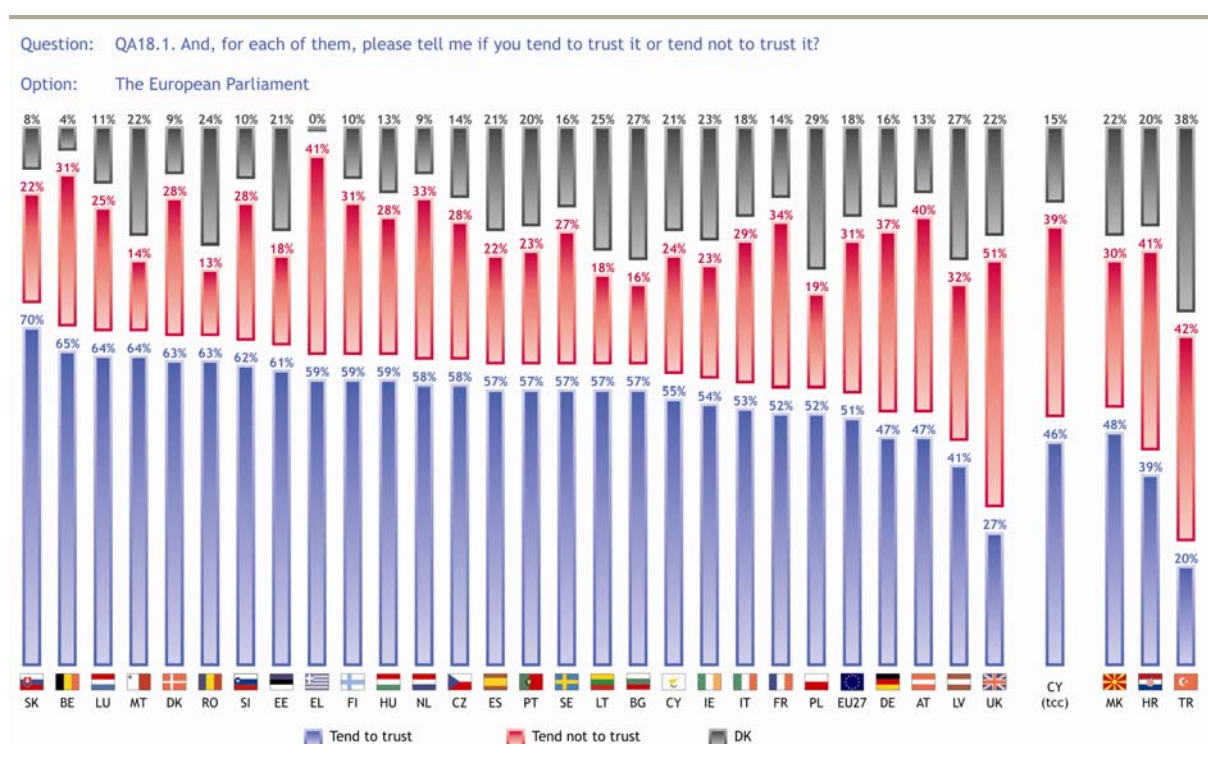


Trust in the European institutions has fallen slightly since spring 2008: - 1 point for the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union and - 2 points for the European Central Bank in a particularly gloomy economic climate. Trust in the European Commission remains unchanged.

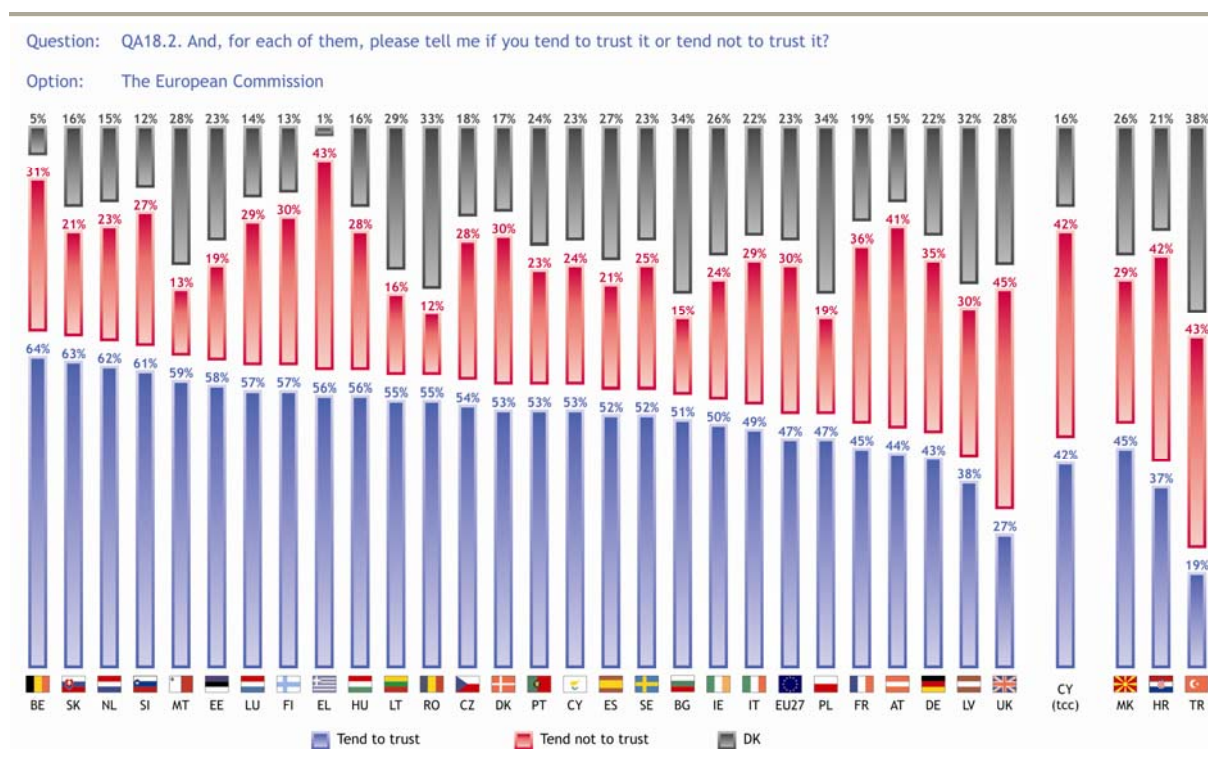
⁶⁹ QA18 And, for each of them, please tell me whether you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it? 1. The European Parliament 2. The European Commission 3. The Council of the European Union 4. The European Central Bank

However, the proportion of people polled who say that they do not trust the European institutions has increased in all cases: + 3 points for the European Commission and the Council of the European Union, + 4 points for the European Parliament and + 6 points for the European Central Bank. All in all, therefore, developments for these items are mixed: levels of trust are more or less holding up, but mistrust has increased for all the institutions on which the respondents were polled.

Respondents in Belgium and Slovakia and, to a lesser extent, in Luxembourg and Malta are the most likely to trust the institutions, while the United Kingdom is still the only Member State in a which a majority of respondents do not trust the four most important European institutions. Trust in the European institutions is also low in Latvia, Germany and Austria (except as regards the European Central Bank in the last two countries).



Seven out of ten respondents in Slovakia trust the European Parliament (70%), while two-thirds of respondents in Belgium (64%), Slovakia (63%) and the Netherlands (62%) trust the European Commission and six out of ten in Slovakia and Slovenia (62% and 60% respectively) trust the Council of the European Union. Finally, eight out of ten respondents in the Netherlands (79%), 72% in Finland and 70% on Denmark trust the European Central Bank.



High levels of 'DON'T KNOW' answers were recorded in Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Poland and Bulgaria to the questions regarding trust in these four institutions.






In the candidate countries, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is the only country where a majority of respondents trust the four European institutions. Unlike them, and respondents in EU27, the majority of respondents in Croatia and Turkey are sceptical. However, in particular in Turkey, a significant proportion of the people interviewed did not answer this question.

A socio-demographic analysis confirms once again the main trends described previously, in particular as regards the respondent's gender and level of education – men and the longest educated interviewees are not only the most knowledgeable about the institutions but also have the most trust in them.

In terms of the respondent's age, we note that while Europeans aged 40 to 54 are the most knowledgeable about the European institutions, respondents aged between 15 and 24 are the most likely to have confidence in the actions of these institutions, except for the Central Bank. Convinced of the importance of the role of the European institutions, as noted previously, interviewees on the right of the political spectrum are also more likely to trust them.

Finally, Europeans who believe that their country's membership of the European Union is a good thing and those who consider that their country has benefited from its membership of the European Union are again still the most likely to trust the European institutions.

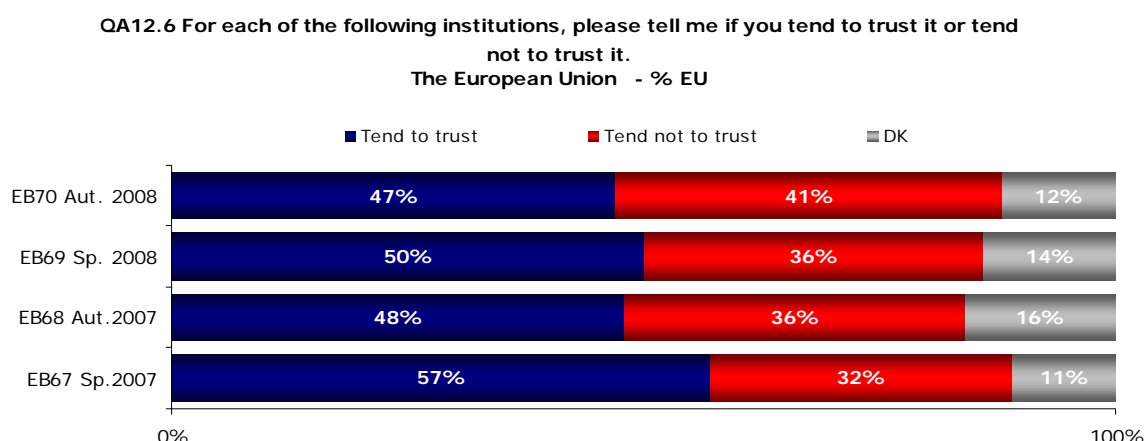
QA18 And, for each of them, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?

The European Parliament				The European Central Bank			The European Commission			The Council of the European Union		
	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	DK	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	DK	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	DK	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	DK
EU27	51%	31%	18%	48%	30%	22%	47%	30%	23%	42%	29%	29%
Gender												
 Male	53%	33%	14%	53%	29%	18%	50%	31%	19%	46%	29%	25%
Female	49%	30%	21%	44%	30%	26%	44%	29%	27%	40%	28%	32%
Age												
 15-24	55%	23%	22%	47%	26%	27%	50%	22%	28%	48%	22%	30%
25-39	53%	31%	16%	48%	32%	20%	49%	31%	20%	44%	30%	26%
40-54	51%	33%	16%	51%	29%	20%	48%	31%	21%	42%	30%	28%
55 +	48%	34%	18%	47%	30%	23%	43%	32%	25%	39%	30%	31%
Education (End of)												
 15-	40%	39%	21%	38%	37%	25%	36%	36%	28%	34%	35%	31%
16-19	50%	32%	18%	47%	31%	22%	46%	32%	22%	41%	30%	29%
20+	60%	27%	13%	60%	24%	16%	57%	26%	17%	51%	24%	25%
Still studying	61%	20%	19%	52%	23%	25%	54%	21%	25%	54%	19%	27%
Left-Right scale												
 (1-4) Left	54%	32%	14%	51%	31%	18%	49%	31%	20%	44%	29%	27%
(5-6) Centre	50%	34%	16%	50%	31%	19%	47%	32%	21%	43%	30%	27%
(7-10) Right	57%	30%	13%	55%	27%	18%	53%	28%	19%	48%	27%	25%
Membership EU												
 A good thing	70%	17%	13%	66%	17%	17%	65%	17%	18%	59%	16%	25%
A bad thing	17%	68%	15%	21%	59%	20%	16%	64%	20%	14%	61%	25%
Neither good nor bad	38%	39%	23%	34%	39%	27%	33%	38%	29%	30%	37%	33%

4.3. Trust in the European Union

- Trust in the European Union has declined -

The European Union has been even more affected by the economic gloom than its institutions: distrust has increased by 5 points since spring 2008 and now stands at 41%, while trust has fallen by 3 points to 47%⁷⁰.



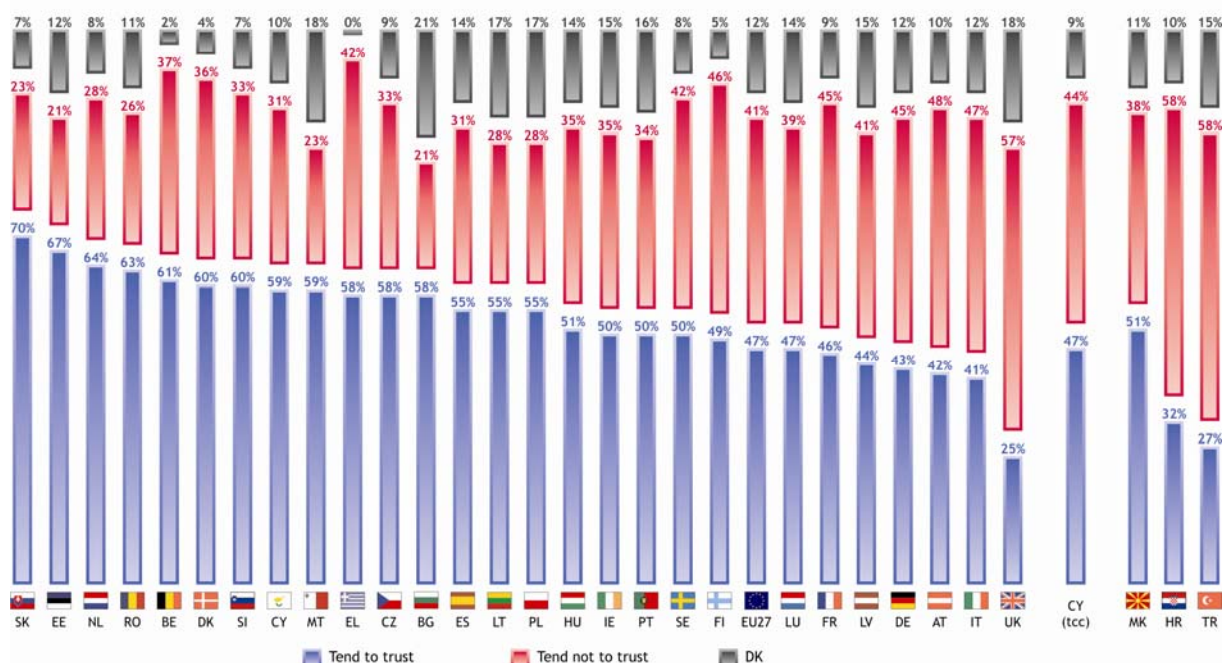
Seven out of ten respondents in Slovakia (70%), two-thirds in Estonia (67%), 64% of respondents in the Netherlands, 63% in Romania, 61% in Belgium and six out of ten in Denmark and Slovenia (60% in both cases) trust the European Union. A majority of respondents do not trust it in four Member States: in first place, the United Kingdom, where 57% of respondents distrust it (versus 25% who trust it), followed by Austria (48% who do not trust it versus 42% who trust it), Italy (47% who tend not to trust it versus 41% who tend to trust it) and Germany where 45% of respondents distrust the Union and 43% trust it.

Respondents in Finland, France and Latvia are very divided on this question.

⁷⁰ QA12.6 I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain institutions. For each of the following institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it. – *The European Union*

Question: QA12.6. I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain institutions. For each of the following institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.

Option: The European Union



The majority of respondents in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (51%) tend to trust the European Union, compared with a minority in Croatia (32%) and Turkey (27%).

There have been significant changes in the Member States on this question since the last wave. Trust has increased in five countries (+ 5 points in the Netherlands, + 4 points in Austria, + 3 points in Sweden and Slovakia and + 1 percentage point in Italy). Levels of trust are stable in Denmark and Germany (60% and 43% respectively). Trust has fallen considerably in Ireland – which, it will be recalled, voted no in the referendum on the Treaty of Lisbon a few months before this survey was conducted – and Cyprus (- 12 points in both cases), Spain (- 11 points), Portugal and Luxembourg (both - 8 points), Lithuania and Belgium (- 7 points each) and finally in Malta and Slovenia (- 6 points).

Levels of trust have also fallen in the three candidate countries, significantly in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (- 13 points) and to a lesser extent in Croatia (- 5 points) and Turkey (- 4 points).

When asked about the United Nations and NATO, Europeans confirmed their trust in these two institutions: 50% for the UN and 43% for NATO⁷¹. Trust in the UN, which is higher than that recorded for the European Union (+ 3 points), is nevertheless also down in comparison with spring 2008 (- 4 points). Trust in NATO is 4 points lower than the level of trust recorded for the European Union.




Three-quarters of respondents in Finland, Sweden and Denmark trust the United Nations (76%, 76% and 75% respectively), as do 65% of respondents in the Netherlands and 61% in Slovakia and Estonia. On the other hand, a majority of respondents in Greece (63%) and Cyprus (59%) do not trust this international body. Citizens in Denmark are also the most trusting of NATO (74%); their opinion is shared by more than six out of ten respondents in the Netherlands and Estonia (63% and 61% respectively), and by 59% of Belgians. As for the UN, a strong majority of respondents in Cyprus and Greece (77% and 74% respectively) distrust the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation. A majority of respondents in seven other Member States also distrust NATO: Finland (53%), Slovenia (52%), Austria (45%), Slovakia and Spain (44%), Italy (43%) and Sweden (41%).

A majority of respondents in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia trust the United Nations (53%) and NATO (47%), while respondents in Croatia and Turkey have far more reservations: 57% of the latter distrust the UN and 54% do not trust NATO; 51% of respondents in Croatia are suspicious of the UN and 56% do not trust NATO.

⁷¹ QA12 I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain institutions. For each of the following institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it. – 7. The United Nations 8. NATO

The youngest respondents, the longest educated and those on the right of the political spectrum are the most likely to trust the European Union, the United Nations and NATO. The divide is even more significant for NATO.

QA12 I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain institutions. For each of the following institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.

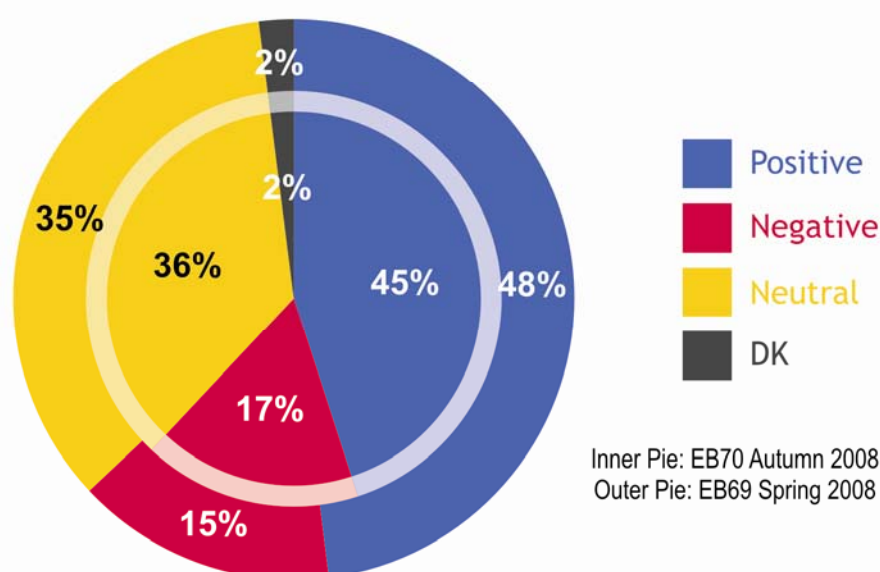
	EU	UN	NATO
	Tend to trust	Tend to trust	Tend to trust
EU27	47%	50%	43%
Age			
 15-24	56%	54%	49%
25-39	49%	52%	45%
40-54	46%	49%	43%
55 +	42%	46%	41%
Education (End of)			
 15-	37%	39%	35%
16-19	45%	49%	43%
20+	57%	60%	51%
Toujours étudiant	61%	58%	52%
Left-Right scale			
 (1-4) Left	49%	53%	41%
(5-6) Centre	46%	51%	46%
(7-10) Right	52%	55%	53%

4.4. The European Union's image

- For a small majority of citizens the European Union conjures up a positive image -

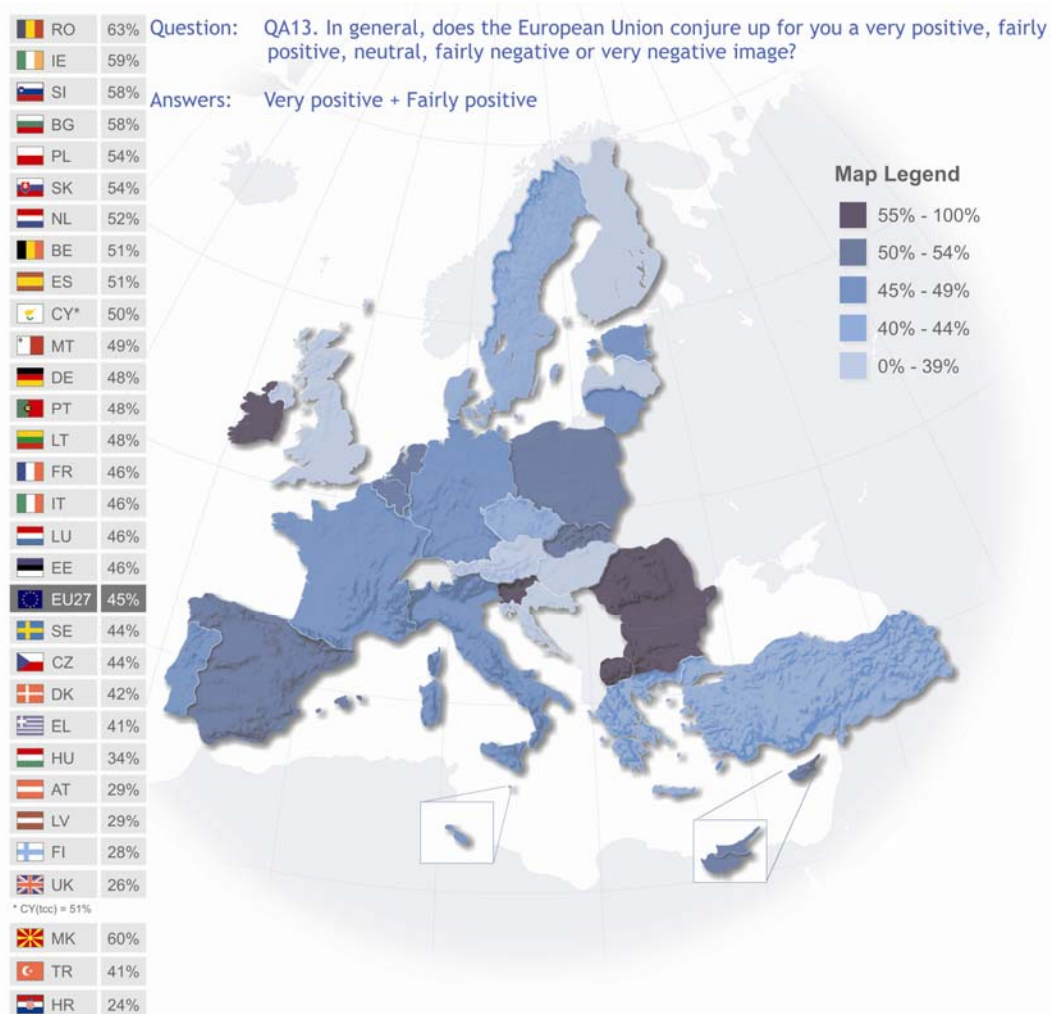
As trust in the European Union has declined, as we have just seen, it is logical that the European Union's image is less positive than in spring 2008. 45% of Europeans consider that the European Union's image is positive, i.e. 3 points lower than in spring 2008⁷². For 17% of respondents (+ 2 points) the European Union conjures up a negative image, while for a third its image is neutral (36%, + 1 point). Over the two previous Eurobarometer waves, a trend towards a more neutral and cautious vision of the European Union has emerged.

Question: QA13. In general, does the European Union conjure up for you a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image?



For almost two-thirds of respondents in Romania (63%), 59% of respondents in Ireland and 58% in Bulgaria and Slovenia the European Union conjures up a positive image, compared with a quarter of respondents in the United Kingdom (26%), 28% in Finland and 29% in Latvia and Austria. In these four countries, a majority of the people polled consider that the European Union's image is neutral (37%, 52%, 54% and 39% respectively).

⁷² QA13 In general, does the European Union conjure up for you a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image?



















A majority of respondents in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia trust the European Union. Similarly, a majority consider that the European Union's image is positive (60%). This opinion is shared by the majority of respondents in Turkey (41%). For respondents in Croatia the European Union conjures up a neutral image (44%), while a quarter (24%) consider that its image is positive and almost three out of ten consider that it has a negative image (29%).

Changes by country confirm the increasing reservations of Europeans: the changes since spring 2008 show that positive opinions have declined, despite the increase recorded in the Netherlands (+ 9 points) and Germany (+ 4 points). Positive opinions have declined by at least 4 points in thirteen Member States: Malta, Cyprus and Spain (- 8 points), Portugal, Greece, Luxembourg and Belgium (-7 points), Finland and Ireland (- 6 points), Denmark and Hungary (- 5 points) and Romania and Poland (- 4 percentage points).

Finally, positive opinions have fallen by 8 points in Turkey and Croatia and by 7 points in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

The correlation between the various indicators of support for the European Union is once again perceptible: the European Union's image is closely linked to the results of the main Eurobarometer indicators. 73% of those respondents who state that they trust the European Union consider that its image is positive, compared with 19% of those who do not trust it. In addition, a vast majority of the respondents who consider that their country's membership of the European Union is a good thing (71%) and of those who consider that their country has benefited from its membership (66%) consider that the European Union's image is positive.

QA13 In general, does the European Union conjure up for you a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image?

		% "Total positive"		
		Spring 2008 (EB69)	Autumn 2008 (EB70)	Evolution (%points)
	EU27	48%	45%	-3
	The Netherlands	43%	52%	+9
	**	**	**	**
	**	**	**	**
	**	**	**	**
	Denmark	47%	42%	-5
	Hungary	39%	34%	-5
	Finland	34%	28%	-6
	Ireland	65%	59%	-6
	Belgium	58%	51%	-7
	Luxembourg	53%	46%	-7
	Greece	48%	41%	-7
	Portugal	55%	48%	-7
	Spain	59%	51%	-8
	Cyprus	58%	50%	-8
	Malta	57%	49%	-8
	Croatia	32%	24%	-8
	Turkye	49%	41%	-8
	Former Yougoslav Republic of Macedonia	67%	60%	-7

5. HOW THE EUROPEAN UNION WORKS

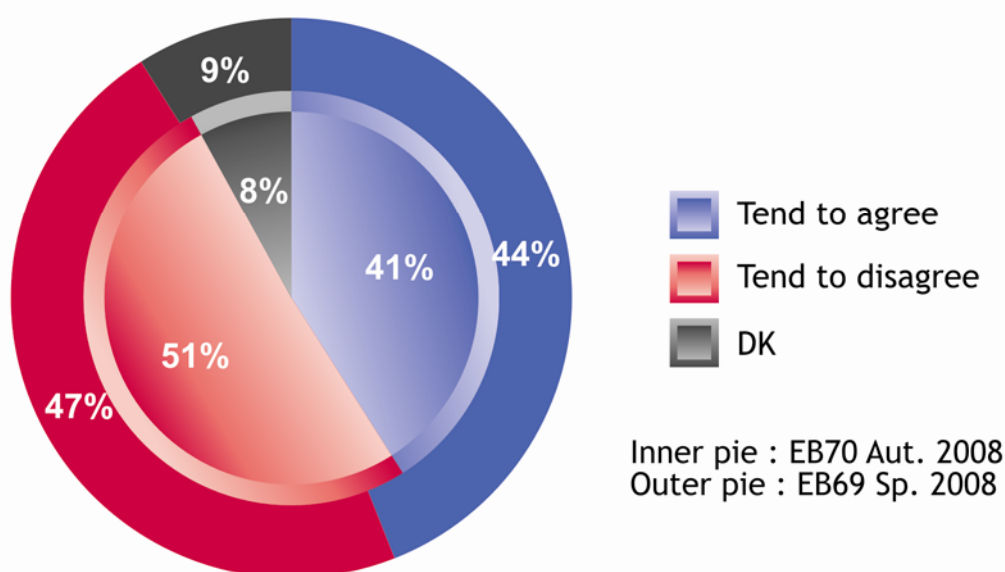
5.1. Knowledge of how the European Union works

- The majority of Europeans consider that they do not understand how the European Union works -

The majority of Europeans consider that they do not understand how the European Union works (51%, i.e. 4 points higher than in spring 2008), while four out of ten take the opposite view (41%, - 3 points)⁷³. The latter is the majority opinion in more than half of the Member States (16).

Question: QA15a.5. Please tell me for each statement, whether you tend to agree or tend to disagree.

Option: I understand how the European Union works



Two-thirds of respondents in Slovenia say that they understand how the European Union works (65%), as do six out of ten respondents in Cyprus (59%), 57% of respondents in Luxembourg, 56% in the Netherlands, 54% in Estonia and 53% in Belgium and Poland. Fewer than a quarter of respondents in Italy (23%), 31% in Bulgaria, 33% in Spain and 34% in Portugal share that opinion.






⁷³ QA15a.5 Please tell me for each statement whether you tend to agree or tend to disagree? – I understand how the European Union works

The level of subjective understanding of how the European Union works varies considerably from one candidate country to another. Croatia is the only candidate country where a majority of respondents consider that they understand how the European Union works (46% versus 43% who do not understand how it works). On the other hand only a minority of respondents in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (38% versus 46%) and a quarter of respondents in Turkey (26% versus 48%) share that view. It can thus be seen that in the candidate countries there is no link between considering that the European Union has a positive image and understanding how it works.

In the Member States, the respondents who have a good objective knowledge⁷⁴ of the European Union are those who have the best understanding of how it works (51% versus 18% of those whose knowledge of it is limited). Men (48% versus 35% of women), managers (62% versus 39% of manual workers and 46% of employees) and those who studied up to the age of 20 or over (58% versus 27% of those who left school before the age of 16) state that they understand how the European Union works.

QA15a.5 Please tell me for each statement, whether you tend to agree or tend to disagree.

I understand how the European Union works

	Tend to agree	Tend to disagree	DK
EU27	41%	51%	8%
Gender			
 Male	48%	45%	7%
Female	35%	57%	8%
Age			
 15- 24	43%	49%	8%
25- 39	44%	48%	8%
40- 54	44%	49%	7%
55 +	37%	55%	8%
Education (End of)			
 15-	27%	65%	8%
16- 19	40%	53%	7%
20+	58%	36%	6%
Still studying	46%	45%	9%
Respondent occupation scale			
 Self- employed	50%	42%	8%
Managers	62%	33%	5%
Other white collars	46%	47%	7%
Manual workers	39%	54%	7%
House persons	27%	66%	7%
Unemployed	33%	59%	8%
Retired	36%	56%	8%
Students	46%	45%	9%
Objective knowledge of the EU			
 Bad	18%	68%	14%
Average	40%	53%	7%
Good	51%	43%	6%

⁷⁴ For explanations regarding objective knowledge of the European Union, see the next chapter, 5.2; question QA24.

5.2. Objective knowledge of the European Union

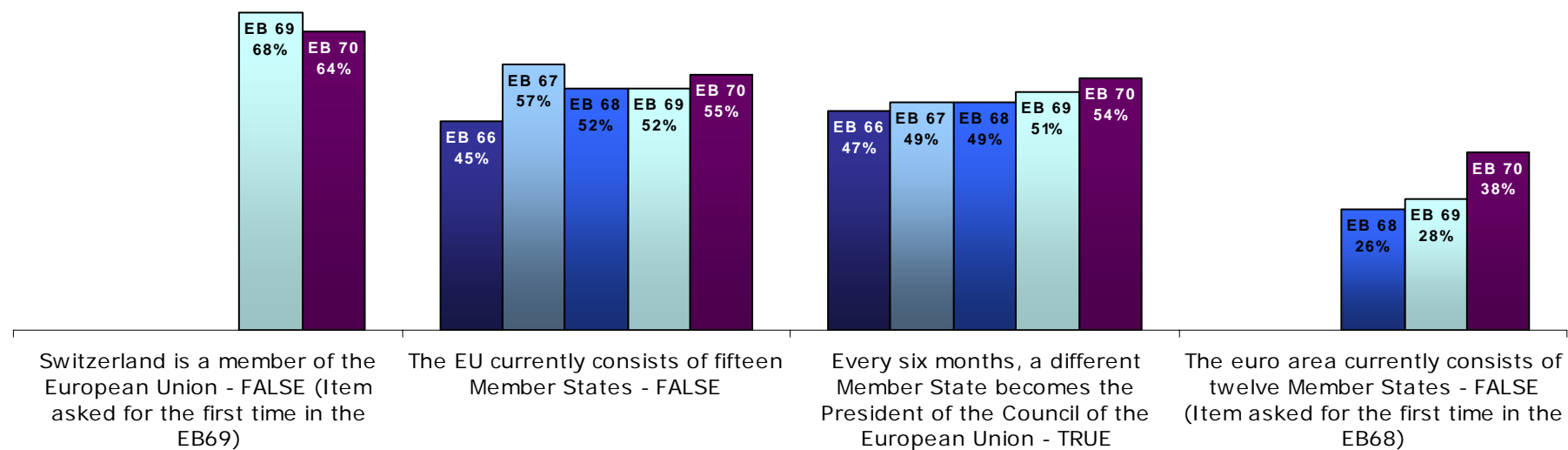
- Although a majority say that they do not know how it works, Europeans seem to be increasingly well informed about the European Union -

Although the majority of Europeans say that they do not understand how the European Union works, they are increasingly knowledgeable about it. On average, more than half of them gave the right answers to the questions they were asked to measure their knowledge of the subject (53%), compared with just over a fifth who gave the wrong answers (22%) and a quarter who did not answer the questions (25%)⁷⁵. The proportion of respondents capable of answering correctly has increased by 3 points, while the number of Europeans giving the wrong answers has fallen by 2 points and, finally, the proportion of respondents choosing not to answer the questions has fallen by 1 point since spring 2008.

Two-thirds of Europeans know that Switzerland is not a member of the European Union (64%, - 4 points since spring 2008) – a fact that is particularly well known in the neighbouring countries: 92% of citizens in Austria and 91% in Luxembourg. More than half of the respondents know that the European Union has more than fifteen Member States (55%, + 3 points) and that, every six months, a different country takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union (54%, + 3 points, including 83% of respondents in Slovenia which held the Presidency from January to June 2008, but only 56% of respondents in France which held the Presidency at the time the survey was conducted).

⁷⁵ QA24 For each of the following statements about the European Union, could you please tell me whether you think it is true or false. 1. The EU currently consists of fifteen Member States 2. Every 6 months, a different Member State becomes the President of the Council of the European Union 3. The euro area currently consists of twelve Member States 4. Switzerland is a member of the European Union

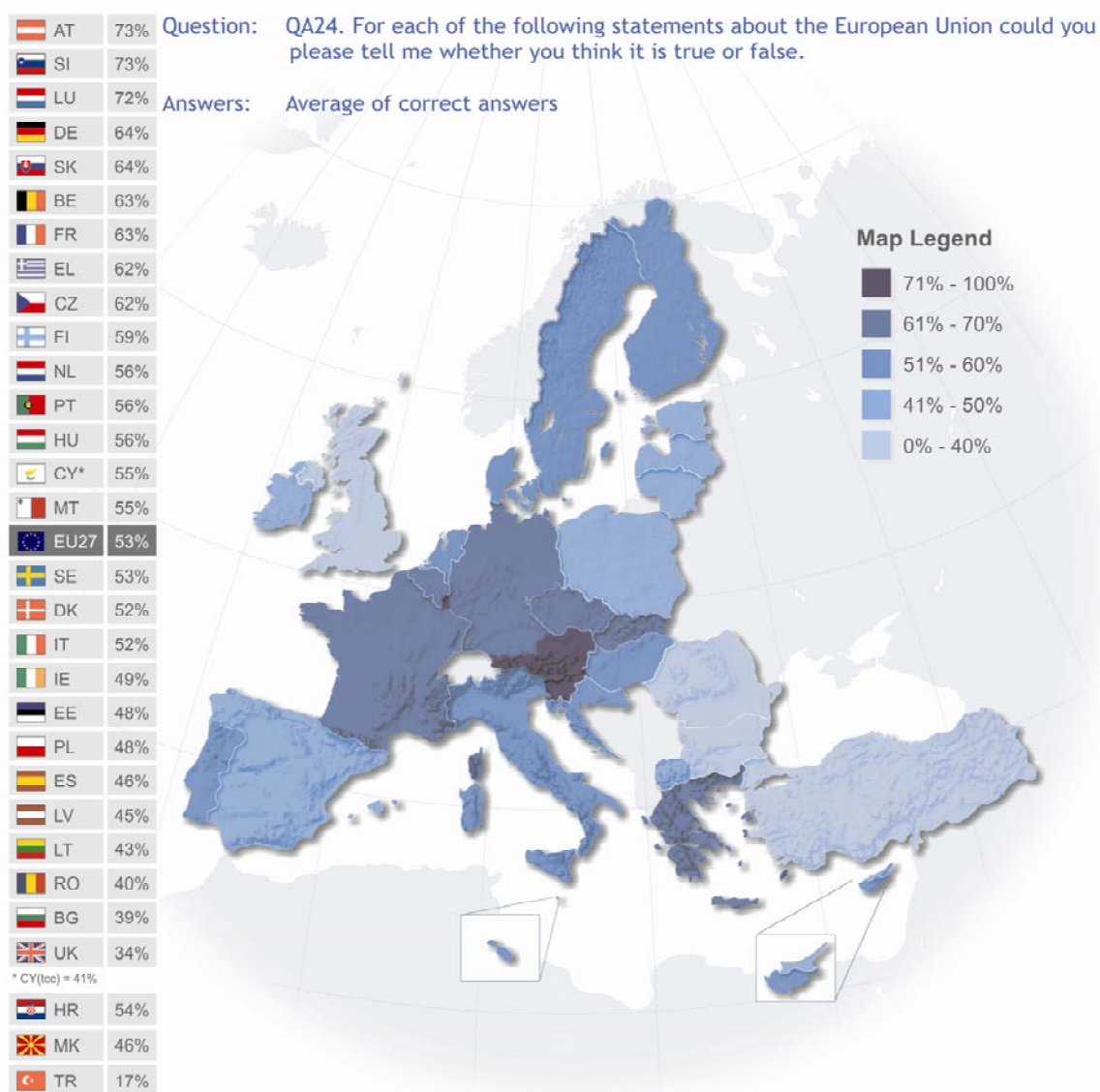
**QA24 For each of the following statements about the European Union could you please tell me whether you think it is true or false.
correct answers - % EU**



On the other hand, only 38% of the people polled are aware of the fact that the euro area is not composed of twelve Member States; this score includes 44% of the citizens of the euro area compared with 27% of those living in the other Member States. Nevertheless this represents an increase of 10 percentage points since spring 2008.

Respondents in Slovenia and Austria are the best informed Europeans: 73% of correct answers in both cases. Respondents in Luxembourg (72%) and, to a lesser extent, in Germany and Slovakia (64%), France and Belgium (both 63%), the Czech Republic and Greece (62% each) also have a good knowledge of the European Union. On the other hand, only a third of respondents in the United Kingdom (34%), 39% in Bulgaria and 40% in Romania gave the right answers to the questions they were asked. In these three Member States, the majority of respondents did not want or were unable to answer the questions they were asked about the European Union.




The proportion of 'DON'T KNOW' answers is also high in Latvia, Lithuania, Spain and Poland.



The scores in Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia are close to the European scores (an average of respectively 54% and 46% right answers to the four questions). On the other hand fewer than one in five respondents in Turkey gave the right answers (17%). There was also a high level of 'DON'T KNOW' answers in Turkey: 55% on average.

A socio-demographic analysis reveals that men (59% versus 47% of women) and the respondents who studied up to the age of 20 or over (63% versus 45% of those who left school before the age of 16) are more likely to be well informed. The level of right answers increases steadily up to the 40-54 age group before declining.

QA24 For each of the following statements about the European Union could you please tell me whether you think it is true or false.

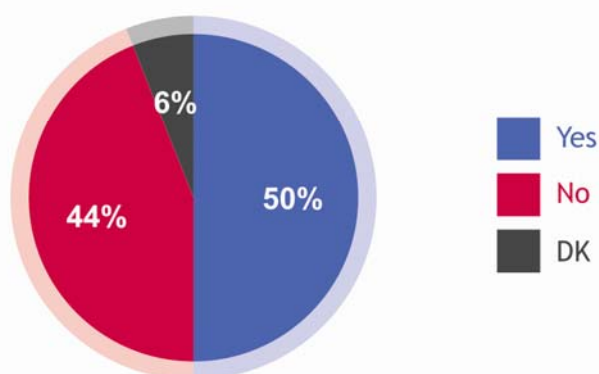
		Average of correct answers	Average of wrong answers	DK
EU27		53%	22%	25%
Gender				
	Male	59%	22%	19%
	Female	47%	22%	31%
Age				
	15-24	48%	26%	26%
	25-39	53%	24%	23%
	40-54	56%	22%	22%
	55 +	52%	18%	30%
Education (End of)				
	15-	45%	19%	36%
	16-19	52%	23%	25%
	20+	63%	22%	15%
	Still Studying	52%	26%	22%

5.3. The Presidency of the Council of the European Union

- Europeans are well informed about the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union which was current at the time of the survey, but far less well informed about the upcoming Czech Presidency -

Half of Europeans (50%) have read or heard something about the Presidency – then held by France – of the Council of the European Union⁷⁶. In sixteen Member States, the majority of citizens said that they were familiar with it. By way of comparison, in spring 2008, only 20% of Europeans had heard of the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, which at that time was held by Slovenia.

Question: QA29. In the European Union, each Member State, in turn, becomes the President of the Council of the European Union for six months. Right now, it's the turn of France. Have you recently read in the newspapers or heard on the radio or television or seen on the Internet anything about France's presidency?

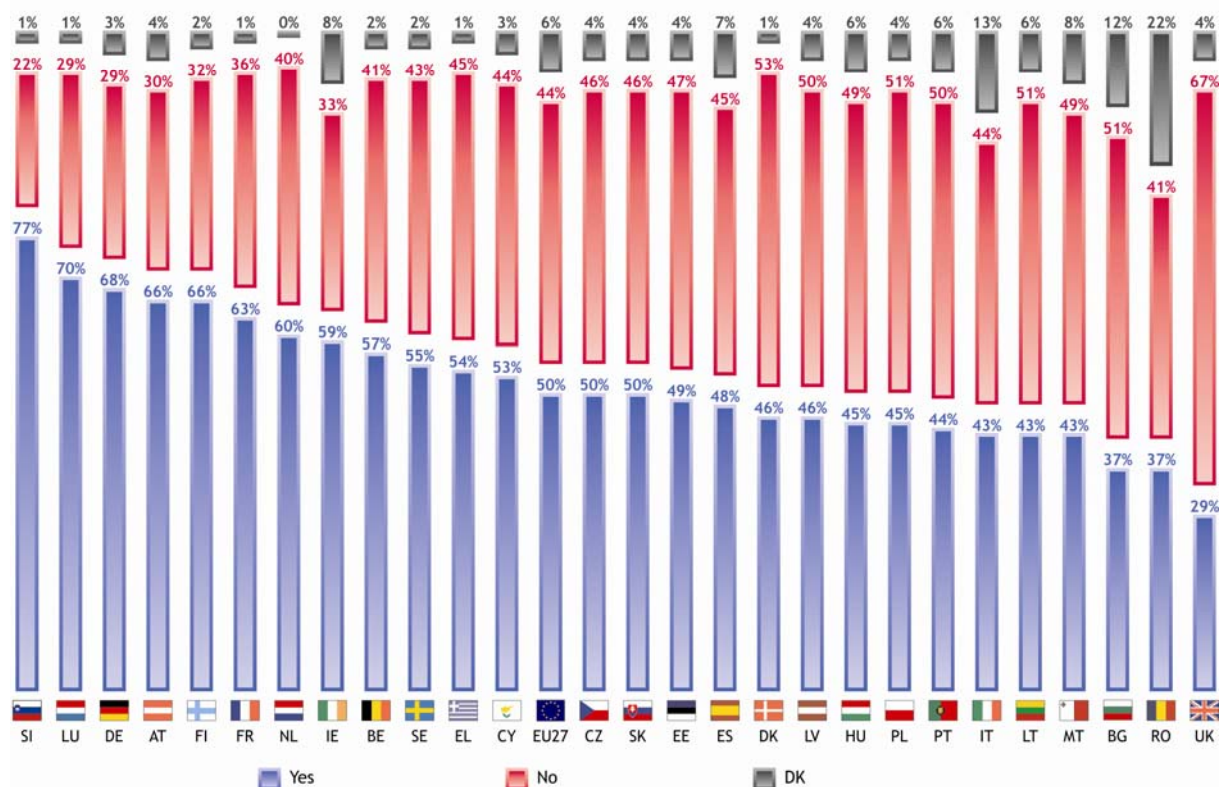


The French Presidency, which inter alia had to deal with the crisis in Georgia, seems to have made a particularly strong impression on Europeans, and not only in France. Moreover, it is interesting to note that the highest score for those who had seen, read or heard about the European Union Presidency was recorded not in France but in Slovenia, which held the Presidency before France from January to June 2008; more than three-quarters of respondents in Slovenia had heard something on this subject (77%).

⁷⁶ QA29 In the European Union, each Member State, in turn, becomes the President of the Council of the European Union for six months. Right now, it's the turn of France. Have you recently read in the newspapers or heard on the radio or television or seen on the Internet anything about France's presidency?

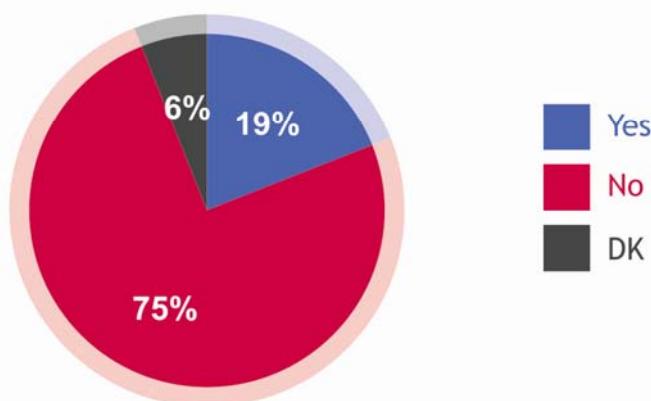
Seven out of ten respondents in Luxembourg (70%), 68% in Germans, two-thirds of respondents in Finland and Austrians (66% in both cases) and 63% in France had also read or heard something on this subject. On the other hand, only three out of ten respondents in the United Kingdom (29%) and 37% of Bulgarians and Romanians said that they had heard something about it.

Question: QA29. In the European Union, each Member State, in turn, becomes the President of the Council of the European Union for six months. Right now, it's the turn of France. Have you recently read in the newspapers or heard on the radio or television or seen on the Internet anything about France's presidency? (M)



A far smaller proportion of respondents (19%) have read or heard something about the future⁷⁷ Presidency of the European Union, held by the Czech Republic with effect from 1 January 2009⁷⁸.

Question: QA31. In the European Union, each Member State, in turn, becomes the President of the Council of the European Union for six months. From January the 1st 2009 it will be the turn of Czech Republic. Have you recently read in the newspapers or heard on the radio or television or seen on the Internet anything about Czech Republic's presidency?



An analysis of the results by country confirms that respondents in the Czech Republic were the best informed about their country's upcoming Presidency⁷⁹ (69%), followed some way back by respondents in Slovakia (41%), Slovenia (38%) and Austria (36%).

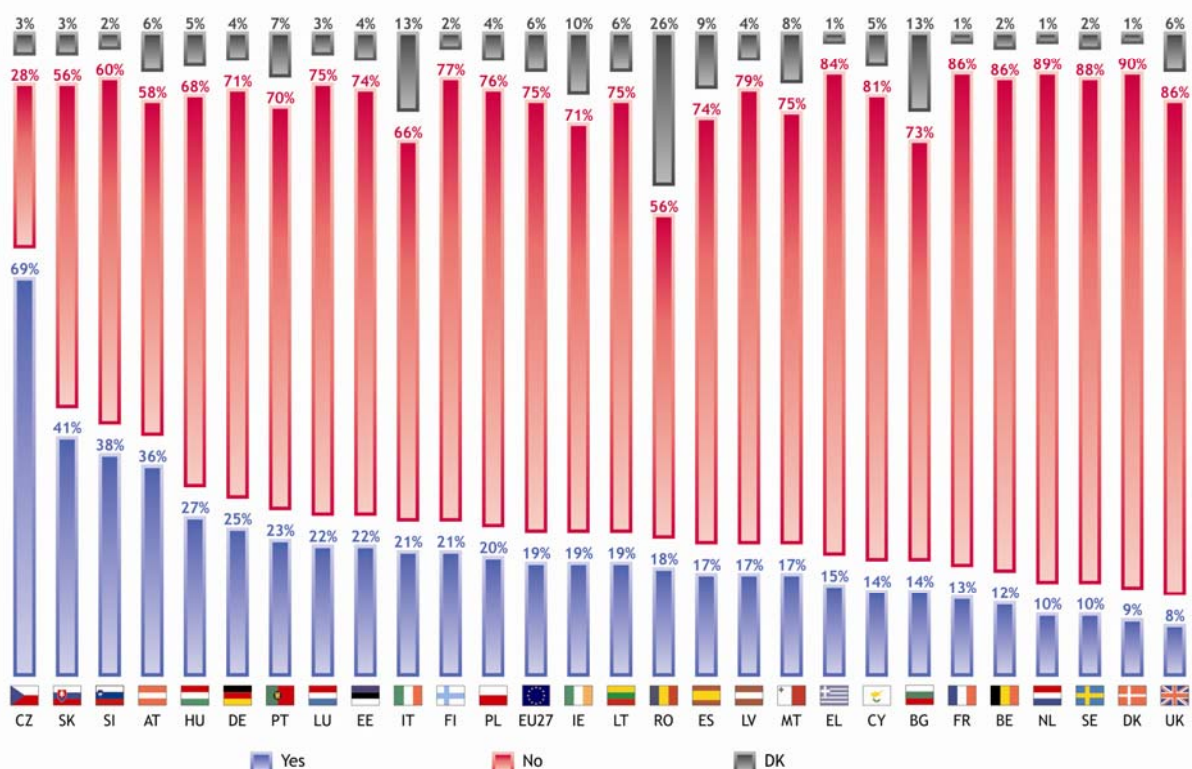
⁷⁷ It should be borne in mind that the survey was carried out a few weeks before the Czech Presidency.

⁷⁸ QA31 In the European Union, each Member State, in turn, becomes the President of the Council of the European Union for six months. From January the 1 2009 it will be the turn of Czech Republic. Have you recently read in the newspapers or heard on the radio or television or seen on the Internet anything about Czech Republic's presidency?

⁷⁹ It should be borne in mind that the survey was carried out a few weeks before the Czech Presidency.

On the other hand, respondents in France were far less well informed about the country which was to take over the Presidency of the European Union from France: only 13% had read or heard something in this regard. Moreover, only 12% of respondents in Belgium, 10% in Sweden and the Netherlands and 9% in Denmark showed any awareness.

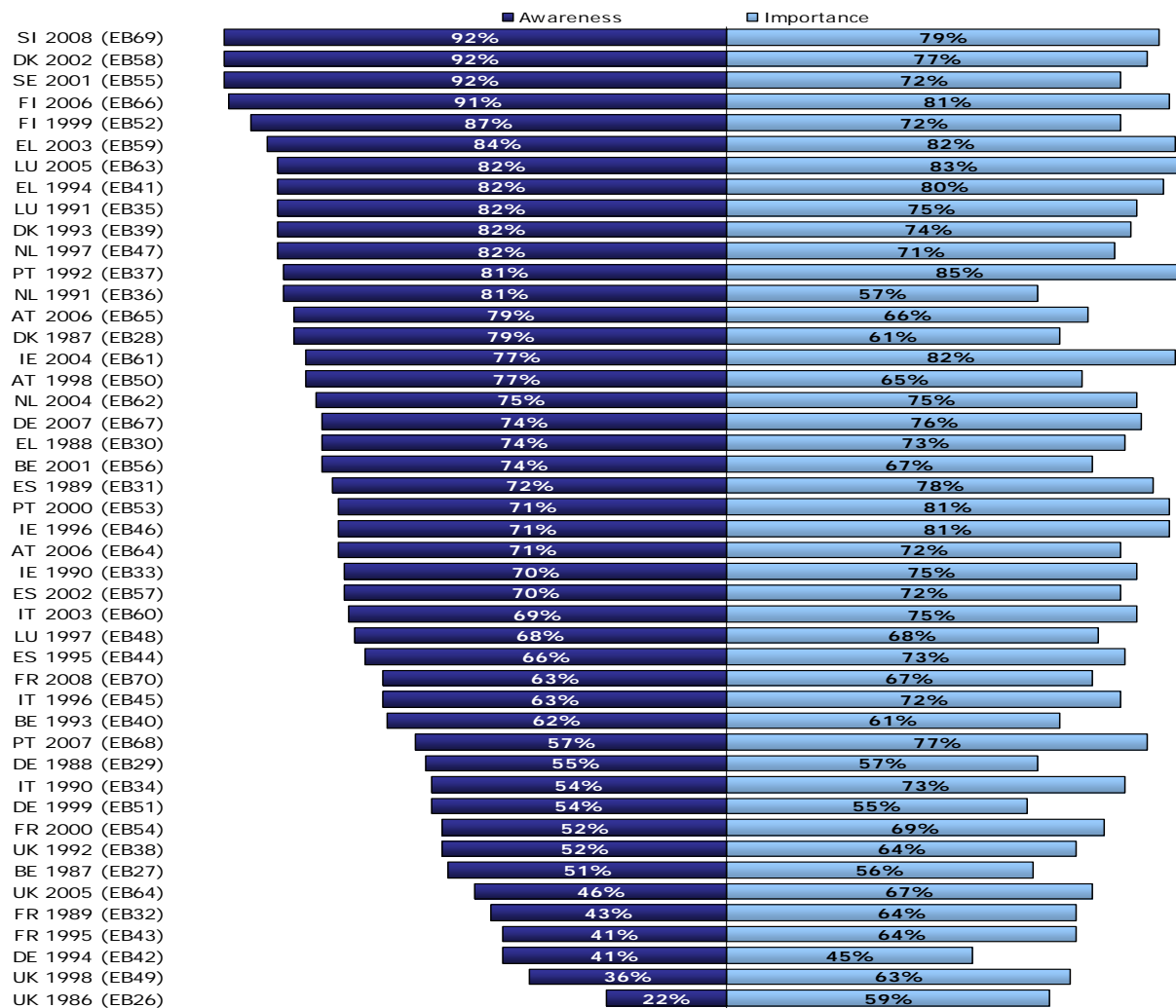
Question: QA31. In the European Union, each Member State, in turn, becomes the President of the Council of the European Union for six months. From January the 1st 2009 it will be the turn of Czech Republic. Have you recently read in the newspapers or heard on the radio or television or seen on the Internet anything about Czech Republic's presidency?



Two-thirds of respondents in France (67%) consider that holding the Presidency of the Council of the European Union is an important responsibility. Whether in terms of reputation or perceived importance, the comparison of the French results with those recorded in other countries at the time France held the Presidency reveals a certain gap between the very strong impact of the French Presidency at European level and its impact in France⁸⁰.




⁸⁰ QA30 Whether you have heard about it or not, do you think it is important or not that France is President of the Council of the European Union at this time? Would you say it is...?

QA29 + QA30 Awareness and importance of the European Council Presidency



A socio-demographic analysis of these results reveals that the perceived importance increases with the age of the interviewees: 51% of young people consider that it is important versus 77% of the oldest respondents. Moreover, we see that respondents in France who left school before the age of 16 are slightly more likely than the longest educated to consider that it is important for France to hold the Presidency of the Council of the European Union (72% versus 67%). This element is to be seen in conjunction with the differences noted according to the respondent's age, as the oldest respondents are frequently the least educated. Finally the political variable is also a discriminant: almost eight out of ten respondents on the right of the political spectrum share their opinion: 77% versus 59% of those on the left.

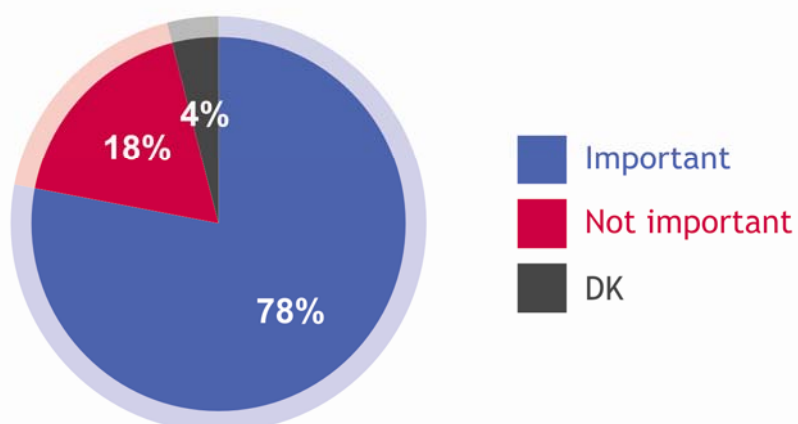
QA30 Whether you have heard about it or not, do you think it is important or not that France is President of the Council of the European Union at this time? Would you say it is...?

	Important	Not very important	DK
France	67%	27%	6%
Age			
 15-24	51%	40%	9%
25-39	61%	35%	4%
40-54	66%	27%	7%
55 +	77%	18%	5%
Education (End of)			
 15-	72%	20%	8%
16-19	66%	28%	6%
20+	67%	29%	4%
Still Studying	57%	35%	8%
Respondent occupation scale			
 Self- employed	59%	35%	6%
Managers	72%	23%	5%
Other white collars	77%	20%	3%

Almost eight out of ten respondents in the Czech Republic (78%) also consider that their country's Presidency of the Council of the European Union is an important moment, and almost three out of ten (27%) consider that it is even very important⁸¹. It must be remembered that this is the first time that Prague has assumed this responsibility since the country joined the European Union in 2004.


⁸¹ QA32 Whether you have heard about it or not, do you think it is important or not that Czech Republic will be President of the Council of the European Union from the 1st of January 2009? Would you say it is...?

Question: QA32. Whether you have heard about it or not, do you think it is important or not that Czech Republic will be President of the Council of the European Union from the 1st of January 2009? Would you say it is...?



Respondents in the Czech Republic who are on the right of the political spectrum were far more likely than those on the left to attach importance to the fact that the Czech Republic was about to take over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union (86% and 69% respectively).

QA32 Whether you have heard about it or not, do you think it is important or not that Czech Republic will be President of the Council of the European Union from the 1st of January 2009? Would you say it is...?

	Important	Not important	DK
Czech Republic	78%	18%	4%
Left-Right scale			
 (1-4) Left	69%	26%	5%
(5-6) Centre	82%	14%	4%
(7-10) Right	86%	12%	2%

CONCLUSION

The majority of Europeans are satisfied with their country's membership of the European Union. They are also widely convinced that their country has benefited from membership. The decline in positive opinions recorded in spring 2008 about membership of the European Union and the benefits of membership has stabilised.

Barely half of Europeans trust the European Union, and the proportion of Europeans for whom it conjures up a positive image is almost identical (45%). These figures confirm the trend of the previous two waves of the Eurobarometer; there is a more cautious, even more critical vision of the European Union in the eyes of the public.

The freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the European Union is, for citizens, what best symbolises the European Union, ahead of the single currency and peace. There are significant differences in this respect in accordance with the socio-demographic profile of the people polled, age in particular.

A very narrow majority of Europeans living in the twelve European Union countries which are not members of the euro area feel that their EU27 membership makes them more stable economically. This feeling is even stronger in the Euro area member countries, where respondents consider that the fact of sharing the single currency brings a certain stability to their country.

Despite a more reserved attitude towards the European Union, as described previously, **European citizens would nevertheless like to see the building of Europe advance more quickly than at the current time.**

As a whole, awareness of the European institutions is stable as are levels of trust in the four main Community institutions. **However, the particularly gloomy current economic climate has given rise to an increase in mistrust of all institutions, in particular as regards the European Central Bank.**

It seems that objective knowledge of the European Union has increased significantly among Europeans. However, a majority of them still do not understand how it works.

The French Presidency of the European Union has left its mark on Europeans. Half of European citizens remember having heard, read or seen something about it, compared with only 20% who gave similar response at the time of the Slovene Presidency.

III. THE EUROPEAN UNION TODAY AND TOMORROW

INTRODUCTION

This third part examines the way in which citizens perceive the European Union of today and tomorrow. It examines opinions on its competences and perceptions of the European Union budget. This volume also looks at how citizens assess European policies, whether or not they support enlargement of the European Union and the policies to which the European Union should give priority over the coming years. Finally, the last part of this volume looks at the way in which Europeans envisage the future.

This section deals with the following subjects:

1) The European Union's competences: opinions on the number of areas where the European Union has decision-making powers and an assessment of the best decision-making level – European or national – in twenty policy areas.

2) Knowledge of the European Union budget: knowledge of the European Union budget, the way the public believe it is spent and how they would like it to be spent.

3) Support for European policies: support for the single currency, a common foreign policy, a common defence and security policy.

4) Views on enlargement: views on the increase from 15 to 27 members, and support for further enlargement to include other countries in the coming years.

5) The European Union's priorities: the policy areas to which the Community institutions should give priority over the coming years to strengthen the European Union.

6) Citizens, the European Union and globalisation: the perception of globalisation, the European Union's role in coping with globalisation and knowledge of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund.

7) The future of Europeans: how European citizens assess their own future and that of their children.

1. THE EUROPEAN UNION'S COMPETENCES

The question of the level of competences is one of the key issues of European integration. To pose the question of decision-making in the European Union in various areas is tantamount to asking one of the fundamental questions of European integration: do Europeans want to press forward with closer integration and therefore with increased competences for the European Union or, on the contrary, are they satisfied with the current situation?

We asked Europeans a certain number of questions regarding the European Union's competences.

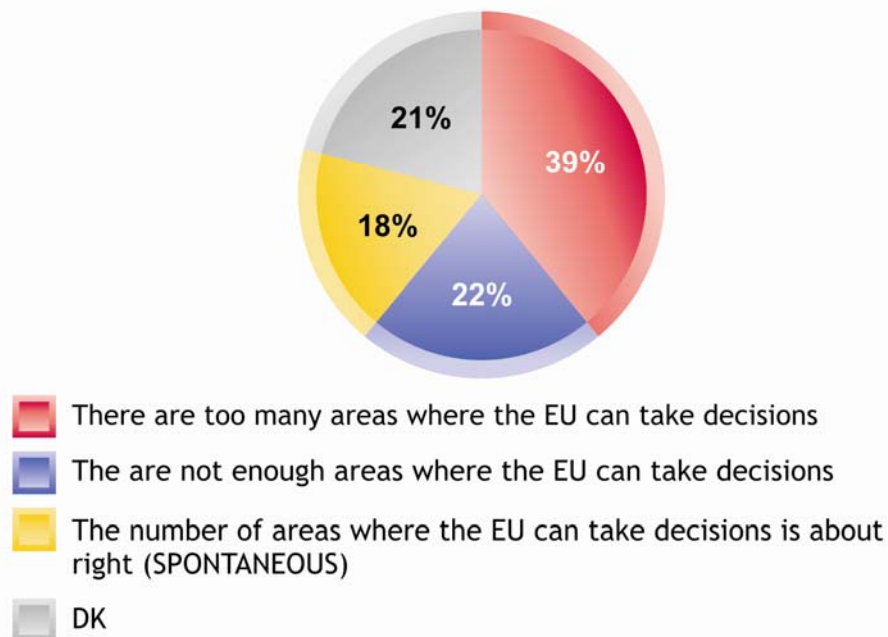
1.1. Opinions on the number of areas where the European Union has decision-making powers

– Almost two out of five Europeans consider that there are too many areas in which the European Union can take decisions –

A small majority of citizens consider that there are too many areas in which the European Union can take decisions (39%)⁸², compared with more than one in five Europeans who consider that it does not have enough decision-making powers (22%) and 18% who spontaneously say that they are satisfied with the current situation. Note that more than one in five respondents did not answer this question (21%).

⁸² QC3 Personally, regarding the areas where the European Union can take decisions, which opinion comes closest to your view? 1. There are too many areas where the EU can take decision; 2. There are not enough areas where the EU can take decision; 3. The number of areas where the EU can take decisions is about right (SPONTANEOUS)

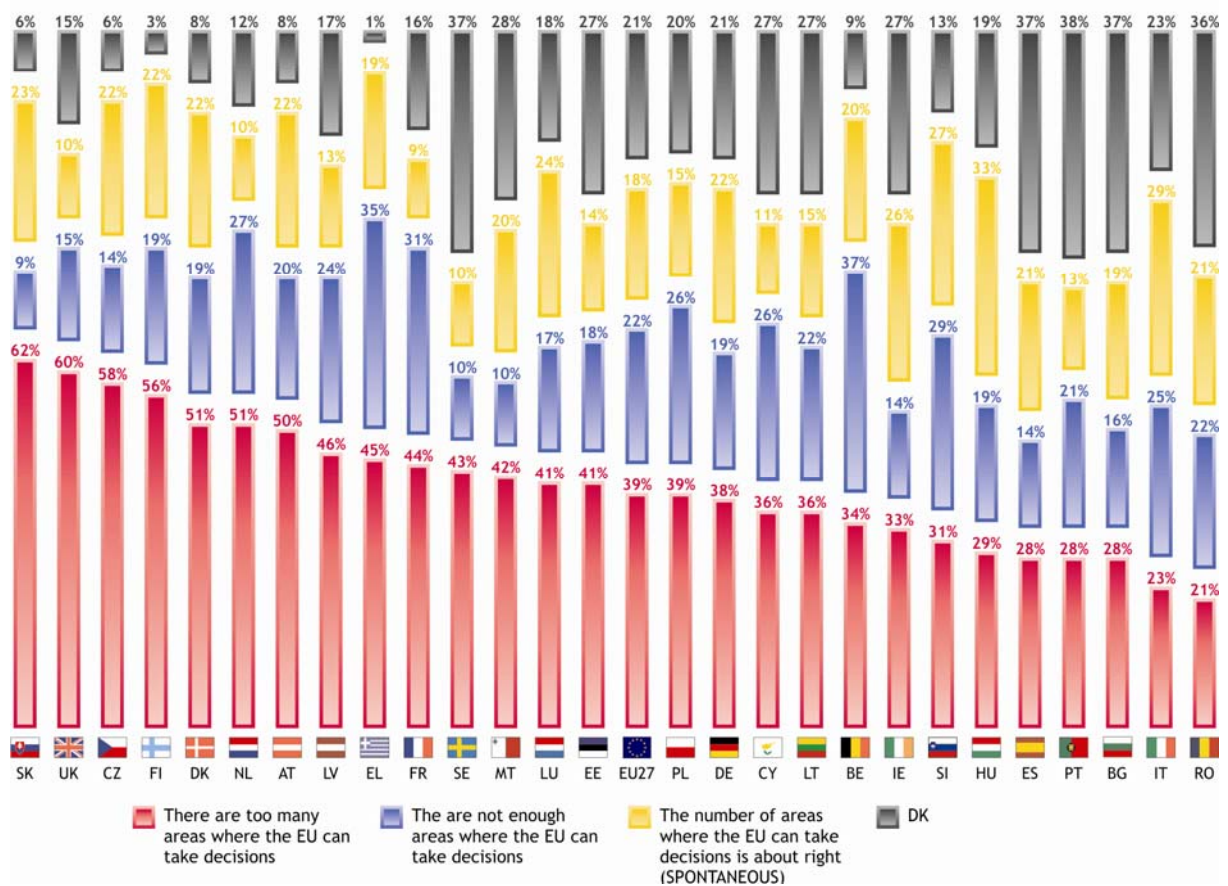
Question: QC3. Personally, regarding the areas where the European Union can take decisions, which opinion comes closest to your view?





An analysis of the results by country reveals the following differences:

- ◆ **A majority of respondents in twenty of the twenty seven Member States consider that there are too many areas where the European Union can take decisions.** A large majority of respondents hold this opinion in Slovakia (62%), the United Kingdom (60%), the Czech Republic (58%) and Finland (56%). It is not surprising to find these results in the United Kingdom and Finland, which are two countries which generally stand out for their reservations concerning the European Union in the Eurobarometer surveys.
- ◆ A majority of the respondents in Belgium consider that the number of areas where the EU can take decision is insufficient (37%).
- ◆ Hungary and Italy are the only countries where the majority of respondents spontaneously say that they are satisfied with the number of areas where the EU can take decisions (33% and 29% respectively).
- ◆ It should be noted that in five European Union countries, more than a third of respondents did not answer this question: Romania (36%), Spain, Sweden and Bulgaria (37%) and Portugal (38%). Except in Sweden, a majority of respondents answered 'DON'T KNOW' in these countries.

Question: QC3. Personally, regarding the areas where the European Union can take decisions, which opinion comes closest to your view?



QC3 Personally, regarding the areas where the European Union can take decisions, which opinion comes closest to your view?				
	There are too many areas where the EU can take decisions	The are not enough areas where the EU can take decisions	The number of areas where the EU can take decisions is about right (SPONTANEOUS)	DK
EU27	39%	22%	18%	21%
Age				
 15-24	34%	25%	20%	21%
25-39	39%	23%	19%	19%
40-54	41%	22%	18%	19%
55 +	40%	19%	17%	24%
Left-Right scale				
 (1-4) Left	39%	24%	19%	18%
(5-6) Centre	42%	21%	18%	19%
(7-10) Right	43%	23%	18%	16%
Trust in EU				
Tend to trust	33%	26%	24%	17%
Tend not to trust	49%	18%	14%	19%

A socio-demographic analysis reveals a number of not particularly significant differences:

- ◆ The younger the respondents are the more likely they are to consider that there are not enough areas where the EU can take decision: 25% of respondents aged between 15 and 24 think that this is the case compared with 19% of those aged 55 or over. This answer is in line with the trends noted for the questions concerning the building of Europe: the youngest respondents are often among the most “Europhile”.
- ◆ Respondents on the right of the political spectrum are also more likely than those on the left to consider that there are too many areas where the European Union can take decisions (43% versus 39%).
- ◆ Finally, the more respondents trust the European Union the more likely they are to think that there are not enough areas where the European Union can take decisions: 26% versus 18% of those who do not trust the European Union. Almost half of the respondents who say that they do not trust the European Union think that its competences cover too many areas (49%).

The results obtained for this question reveal an overall reluctance among respondents to see national competences transferred to the European Union. Nevertheless, the high levels of ‘DON’T KNOW’ answers also reveal difficulties of comprehension and a lack of information among Europeans on these questions, and may therefore explain in part the reservations expressed by citizens.

1.2. Assessment of the best decision-making level

- Scientific and technological research, protecting the environment and, above all, fighting terrorism are widely mentioned as areas in which the European Union should play a key role -

When asked to indicate the most effective decision-making level in twenty areas, Europeans are divided⁸³. A majority of them consider that decisions should be taken jointly within the European Union in the following twelve areas: fighting terrorism (79%), scientific and technological research (72%), protecting the environment (67%), defence and foreign affairs (64%), energy (63%), support for regions facing economic difficulties (62%), immigration (60%), fighting crime (59%), competition (57%), fighting inflation (54%), the economy (51%) and finally agriculture and fisheries (50%).

On the other hand, in six areas, a majority of respondents consider that decisions should be taken by the national government: pensions (70%), taxation (66%), social welfare (65%), health and the education system (64% in both cases) and fighting employment (57%).

Finally, in two areas – transport and consumer protection - European citizens are split down the middle: 48% of them consider that decisions should be taken jointly with the European Union, while a similar proportion would prefer decisions to be taken at national level.

It is interesting to note that, when given a detailed list of policies, Europeans seem to be more in favour of joint decision-making within the European Union whereas they are more hesitant *on principle* to see the European Union's competences extended⁸⁴.

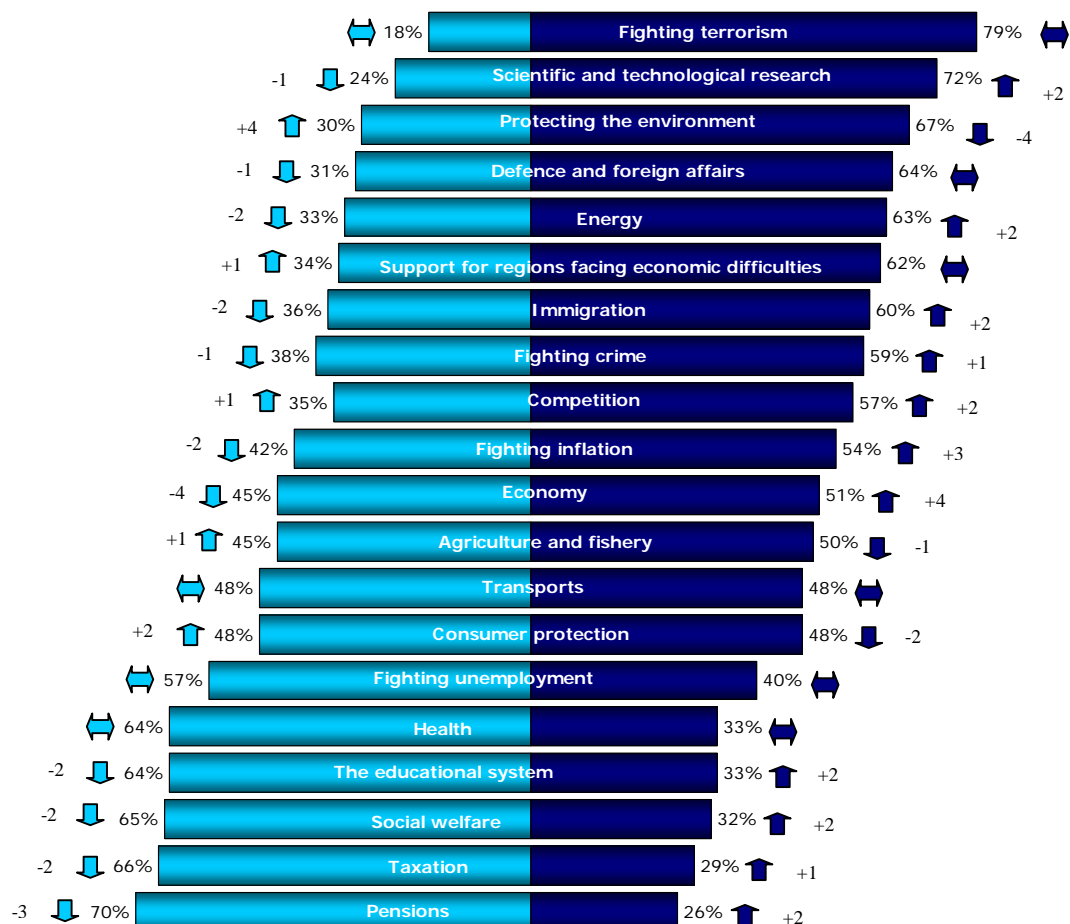
⁸³ QA25-26 For each of the following areas, do you think that decisions should be made by the (NATIONALITY) government or made jointly within the European Union?

1. Fighting crime; 2. Taxation; 3. Fighting unemployment; 4. Fighting terrorism; 5. Defence and foreign affairs; 6. Immigration; 7. The educational system; 8. Pensions; 9. Protecting the environment; 10. Health; 11. Social welfare; 12. Agriculture and fishery; 13. Consumer protection; 14. Scientific and technological research; 15. Support for regions facing economic difficulties; 16. Energy; 17. Competition; 18. Transports; 19. The economy; 20. Fighting inflation

⁸⁴ QC3 Personally, regarding the areas where the European Union can take decisions, which opinion comes closest to your view? See chapter 1.1 ***"Opinions on the number of areas where the European Union has decision-making powers"***.

QA25-26 For each of the following areas, do you think that decisions should be made by the (NATIONALITY) Government, or made jointly within the European Union?

■ (NATIONALITY) Government ■ Jointly within the EU



Results confirm the idea that Europeans see the European Union as an asset in coping with the new challenges created by globalisation. Almost half of the respondents think that the European Union enables citizens to benefit more fully from the positive effects of globalisation (48%).⁸⁵ For reasons of pragmatism and effectiveness, a majority of Europeans are therefore in favour of the Europeanisation of decision-making.

⁸⁵ QA34b To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: The European Union enables European citizens to better benefit from the positive effects of globalisation.

Moreover, this proportion has increased since spring 2008. **In eleven of the twenty areas on which respondents were polled, Europeans are more likely than they were six months earlier to consider that decisions should be taken jointly at European level.** There is an increase of 4 points for the economy and 3 points for fighting inflation which, it should be remembered, are the two main issues at national level and the two main personal concerns of Europeans.

The scores have increased by between 1 and 2 points for the nine other areas. The increases in support for European decision-making have all resulted in a decrease in the percentages of respondents favouring national decision-making. In a gloomy economic climate, it is conceivable that citizens consider that the European Union is more powerful than national governments and better placed to act effectively. It is also significant that this is a general trend, already recorded in Eurobarometer 69⁸⁶.

For protecting the environment, consumer protection and agriculture and fisheries the proportion of respondents who want decisions to be taken at national level has increased (+ 4 points, + 2 points and + 1 point respectively).

























































































Finally, the results are stable in the following six areas: fighting terrorism, defence and foreign affairs, support for regions with difficulties, transport, fighting unemployment and health.

To a significant extent for each question, respondents in Finland and the United Kingdom and, to a lesser degree, those in Denmark, Sweden and Austria are strongly in favour of the national government retaining its powers of decision in numerous areas.

On the other hand, respondents in Cyprus and, to a lesser extent, those in Portugal and Slovakia are often very likely to consider that it would be beneficial, in most sectors, for decisions to be taken at European Union level.

⁸⁶ See chapter 6, Europeans, the European Union and globalisation, page 52

QA25-26a For each of the following areas, do you think that decisions should be made by the (NATIONALITY) Government, or made jointly within the European Union? - Answer "Jointly within the EU"

	EU27	Highest score		Lowest score	
		1st	2nd	1st	2nd
Fighting terrorism	79%	 SK: 92%	 NL: 91%	 ES: 63%	 UK: 67%
Scientific and technological research	72%	 CY: 88%	 SK: 86%	 ES: 60%	 RO: 63%
Protecting the environment	67%	 NL: 82%	 DE: 81%	 FI: 50%	 IE: 51%
Defence and foreign affairs	64%	 SK: 85%	 LU: 85%	 FI: 18%	 UK: 43%
Energy	63%	 CY: 80%	 LV: 76%	 AT: 41%	 FI: 45%
Support for regions facing economic difficulties	62%				
Immigration	60%	 MT: 76%	 RO: 71%	 FI: 17%	 AT: 37%
Fighting crime	59%	 SK: 78%	 HU: 77%	 UK: 34%	 IE: 41%
Competition	57%	 NL: 71%	 DE: 69%	 ES /  UK: 44%	 FI: 47%
Fighting inflation	54%	 NL: 73%	 DE: 71%	 UK: 39%	 IE: 42%
Economy	51%	 LT: 69%	 CY: 68%	 FI: 22%	 SE /  DK: 31%
Agriculture and fishery	50%	 CY: 71%	 BE /  NL: 67%	 FI: 14%	 RO: 35%
Consumer protection	48%	 CY: 72%	 SK: 64%	 FI: 30%	 UK: 34%
Transports	48%	 SE: 71%	 BE: 67%	 FI: 22%	 UK: 25%
Fighting unemployment	40%	 SK: 59%	 PT: 58%	 FI: 21%	 DK /  UK: 27%
The educational system	33%	 SI: 50%	 CZ /  PT: 49%	 FI: 8%	 LU /  UK: 20%
Health	33%	 CY: 72%	 PT: 52%	 FI: 7%	 AT: 18%
Social welfare	32%	 CY: 61%	 PT: 51%	 FI: 6%	 SE: 11%
Taxation	29%	 PT: 46%	 IT /  CY /  SI: 41%	 FI: 10%	 DK: 11%
Pensions	26%	 PT: 46%	 CY: 48%	 FI: 4%	 SE: 8%

Our analysis of the national results will focus initially on the areas where Europeans are in favour of Europeanisation, then on those where they would prefer decisions to be taken at national level.

➤ **The areas where Europeans on the whole would like decisions to be taken jointly within the European Union**

A majority of respondents in each of the Member States would prefer decisions regarding **fighting terrorism, scientific and technological research** and **protecting the environment** to be taken at the European Union level.

Almost all respondents in Slovakia (92%), the Netherlands (91%), Hungary, Sweden and Denmark (90% in all three cases) are in favour of taking decisions regarding **fighting terrorism** at the level of the European Union. Fewer than seven out of ten respondents in the United Kingdom (67%) and Spain (63%), two countries strongly marked by terrorism in recent years, want this policy to be handled at this level.

Almost nine out of ten respondents in Cyprus (88%) and 86% in Slovakia, Luxembourg and Greece consider that the European Union should be the main decision-making body in the field of **scientific and technological research**. On the other hand, this view is shared by two-thirds of respondents in Finland, the United Kingdom and Austria (65% each), 63% in Romania and 60% in Spain.

More than eight out of ten respondents in the Netherlands and Germany (82% and 81% respectively) consider that decisions concerning **protecting the environment** should be taken jointly at European level, an opinion which is supported by only a very small majority of respondents in Finland (50% versus 49% who prefer the national level) and Ireland (51% versus 44%).

Finland, the United Kingdom and Sweden are the only countries where a majority of citizens consider that **defence and foreign affairs** are better managed at national level (80%, 51% and 50% respectively). It is conceivable that the result noted in Finland, which is very different from that of the other European countries, can be explained by the country's traditional neutrality in foreign affairs.

All the Member States want decisions to be taken at Community level when it comes to **support for regions facing economic difficulties**. This opinion is supported by more than eight out of ten respondents in the Netherlands (87%), Cyprus (83%), Malta and Luxembourg (81%). The corresponding proportion falls below 55% in the Czech Republic (54%), the United Kingdom (53%), France (52%) and Italy (50%).

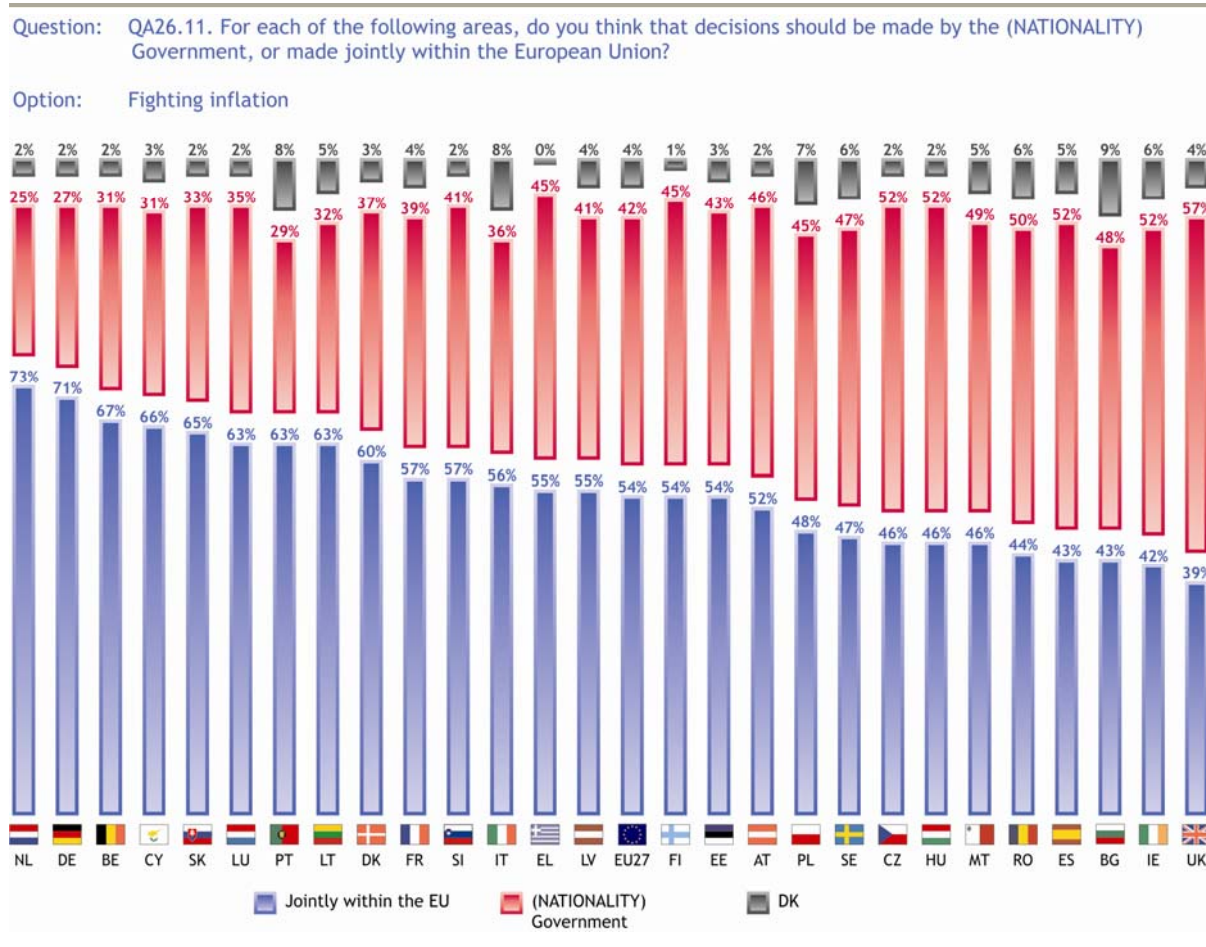
In the case of **fighting crime**, twenty three Member States would like to see problems tackled at European level. The United Kingdom (63%), Spain and Ireland (54% each) are the only countries where a majority of respondents consider that the national level is more appropriate. Greeks are divided on this question.

The majority of Member States want **energy** to be dealt with jointly at European Union level. Austria (56%), Finland (53%) and the United Kingdom (51%) are the only countries which would prefer to see this area dealt with at national government level.

Twenty Member States think the same as regards **immigration**, in particular respondents in Malta (76% compared with only 17% in Finland).

At a time when Europeans have been badly affected by the economic crisis, it is particularly interesting to analyse their preferred level of decision-making in the areas of **the economy** and **inflation**.

During the EB69 wave, eleven countries wanted decisions regarding **the economy** to be taken at national level; the number is now nine. In nineteen Member States the idea of deciding economic policy jointly has gained ground: + 10 points in France (54% versus 44%) and the Netherlands (65% versus 55%), + 9 points in Slovakia (63% versus 54%), + 8 points in Hungary (54% versus 46%) and the United Kingdom (34% versus 26%).



A majority of respondents in eighteen Member States also want political action against **inflation** to be taken at European level. More than seven out of ten respondents in the Netherlands (73%) and Germany (71%) want this, compared with fewer than 45% of respondents in Romania (44%), Spain and Bulgaria (43%), Ireland (42%) and the United Kingdom (39%). It should be emphasised that although respondents in the United Kingdom are the least likely in the European Union to want inflation to be tackled at European level, this is the country which has recorded the biggest change on this subject since the previous wave: + 11 points (28%, EB69).

Finally, more than eight out of ten citizens in Finland (85%) consider that the most appropriate decision-making level for **agriculture and fisheries** is the national level, while 67% of respondents in Belgium and the Netherlands and two-thirds in Germany (66%) favour the Community level.

➤ **The areas where Europeans on the whole want decisions to be taken at national government level**




A majority of respondents in twenty six Member States are in favour of decisions being taken at national government level as regards **taxation**, with Portugal being split down the middle on the subject. Respondents in countries in Northern Europe are the most likely to approve of this choice: 89% of respondents in Finland, 88% in Denmark and 85% in Sweden.

The situation for **health**, **social welfare** and **pensions** is almost identical; Cyprus and Portugal are the only exceptions, with widespread support for decision-making at European level. Only Slovenia and Portugal prefer decisions about education to be taken at European level. On the other hand, respondents in Northern Europe, in particular in Finland, are once again the most likely to prefer the national level.

Slovakia, Portugal, Cyprus and Lithuania are the only countries which consider that **the fight against unemployment** would be more effective if decisions were taken jointly within the European Union (59%, 58%, 51% and 50% respectively). Respondents in Finland and Denmark take the opposite view (78% and 72% respectively).

Although there are fairly significant differences between countries, differences by socio-demographic category are more limited. The youngest respondents are once again the most likely to believe that the European Union is the best decision-making level: for example 82% of respondents aged between 15 and 24 think that decisions about fighting terrorism should be taken jointly at EU27 level compared with 76% of those aged 55 or over. Six out of ten young people (60%) are in favour of Community decisions on the economy, while the majority of the oldest age group would prefer the national level (49%).

QA26.10 For each of the following areas, do you think that decisions should be made by the (NATIONALITY) Government, or made jointly within the European Union? - Economy

	(NATIONALITY) Government	Jointly within the EU	DK
EU27	45%	51%	4%
Age			
 15-24	36%	60%	4%
25-39	43%	54%	3%
40-54	46%	51%	3%
55 +	49%	46%	5%
Education (End of)			
 15-	50%	45%	5%
16-19	46%	51%	3%
20+	42%	55%	3%
Still studying	33%	62%	5%
Left-Right scale			
 (1-4) Left	42%	55%	3%
(5-6) Centre	46%	52%	2%
(7-10) Right	49%	48%	3%

Similarly, in the majority of cases – 16 out of the 20 policy areas on which respondents were polled in this survey – respondents on the left of the political spectrum are more likely than those on the right to consider that decisions should be taken at European level. A majority (55%) believe that decisions about the economy should be taken at EU level versus 48% of those with right-wing leanings (49% of the latter prefer the national level). However, when it comes to fighting crime, respondents on the right of the political spectrum are slightly more likely than those on the left to want decisions to be taken jointly within the European Union (61% versus 59%).

With a few exceptions, a general wish to see the European Union given greater decision-making powers has gained ground among respondents. The economic crisis may have played a role in this development.

2. KNOWLEDGE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION BUDGET

The European Union budget represents approximately 1% of the European Union's national wealth.⁸⁷ A large part of this budget is still allocated to agriculture and rural development, but an increasing proportion is devoted to measures intended to boost economic growth and strengthen cohesion between the Member States. We have therefore examined how knowledgeable citizens are about this budget.

2.1. Objective knowledge of the European budget

- A third of Europeans have never heard of the European Union budget -

Only one in ten Europeans knows about the European Union budget (10%), half of them have heard of it but do not really know what it involves (51%) and, finally, a third have never heard of it (33%). 6% of respondents did not answer this question. Europeans thus admit that they are ill-informed on this subject.

Question: QG1. The European Union has a budget that is spent on a wide range of different activities and investments, across all Member States and outside the European Union. Generally speaking, thinking about the European Union budget, would you say that...?



⁸⁷ http://ec.europa.eu/budget/budget_glance/what_for_en.htm

An analysis of the results by country reveals the following trends:

- ◆ **A majority of the respondents in twenty six of the twenty seven Member States** have heard about the European Union budget, but they do not know exactly what it involves. Greece is the only country where a majority of respondents have never heard of it (43%).
- ◆ Eight out of ten respondents in Sweden (80%), 76% in Finland, 71% in Denmark and 70% in Slovakia are vaguely familiar with it. This proportion falls to 44% in Spain, 42% in the United Kingdom and 39% in Greece.
- ◆ More than 4 out of ten respondents have never heard of this budget in the United Kingdom and Spain (41% each), 42% in France and 43% in Greece. On the other hand, fewer than one in five respondents have never heard of it in Slovenia and Malta (17% each), 15% in Bulgaria and 12% in Sweden.
- ◆ Finally, almost a quarter of respondents in Luxembourg have heard of and are very familiar with the budget (24%), compared with fewer than 5% of respondents in the Czech Republic (4%), Finland (3%), Estonia and Hungary (2% each).

It is interesting to note that respondents in the oldest European Union States are more likely not to have heard of the European Union budget: 36% versus 25% of the countries having joined since 2004. In addition, 60% of respondents in the most recent Member States have a vague knowledge of it, compared with half of interviewees in the oldest Member States.

2.2. The European Union budget: perceived expenditure and desired expenditure

After their general knowledge of the budget, we tried to measure the Europeans' knowledge concerning European budgetary expenditure per area. As in the EB66 wave (autumn 2006)⁸⁸ Europeans attach too much importance to administrative costs in relation to actual budget expenditure. For the first time, respondents were also asked in which areas they would like to see the budget spent⁸⁹. We will thus see that there is a significant difference between the Europeans' perception of the items on which the budget is spent and their wishes in this area.

- The proportion allocated to administrative costs is again over-estimated -

Asked about the way in which they believe the European Union budget is spent, a quarter of respondents (26%) say that it covers **administrative and personnel costs, buildings**⁹⁰. In autumn 2006, in a different question, Europeans also ranked administrative costs as the most important item of expenditure in the European Union budget (27%). It seems that the idea of the European institutions' operating costs has a strong hold on the minds of respondents whereas in fact expenditure on administration represents only a tiny part of the European Union budget.

Almost a quarter of European respondents consider that a large part of the European Union budget is used to boost **economic growth** or allocated to **agriculture and rural development** (24% each).

⁸⁸ QG2ab On which of the following do you think most of the European Union budget is spent? Firstly? Any others? The question was worded differently in autumn 2006 (EB66); "QA28 On which of the following do you think most of the European Union budget is spent." The respondents then had the possibility to choose from only six options – Employment and social affairs; Agriculture; Scientific research; Regional aid; Foreign policy and aid to countries outside the EU; Administrative and personnel costs, buildings; Other (SPONTANEOUS); DK - answer "identical."

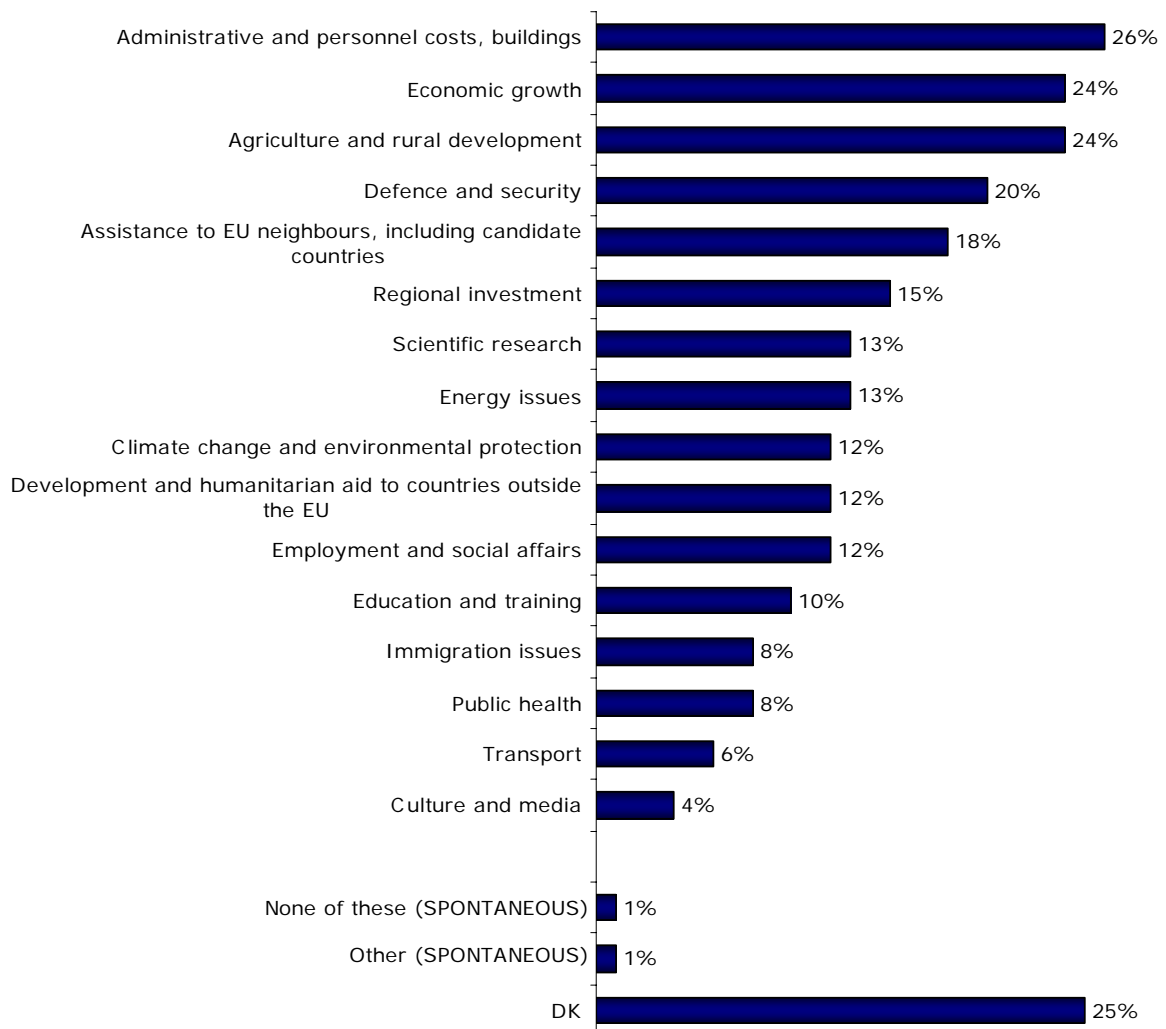
⁸⁹ QG3ab On which of the following would you like the European Union budget to be spent? Firstly? Any others?

⁹⁰ Our comments refer to the results of QG2T which is the total of the results, firstly, any others, of QG2.

One in five Europeans mentioned **defence and security** (20%), 18% cited **assistance to EU neighbours, including the candidate countries** and 15% mentioned **regional investments**. A quarter of respondents failed to answer the question, which emphasises the lack of information on this subject.

The other answers were mentioned by fewer than 15% of European citizens.

QG2 On which of the following do you think most of the European Union budget is spent? - %EU



An analysis of the results by Member State reveals the following differences:

- ◆ Although the heading “**Administrative and personnel costs, buildings**” was mentioned by a majority of respondents across the European Union, it was the most frequently mentioned answer in only five countries: Finland (53%), Germany (49%), Austria (45%), Luxembourg and Belgium (33%). In Belgium the same proportion of respondents also cited “**economic growth**”. Fewer than one in ten respondents in Lithuania (6%) and Romania (7%) mentioned administrative costs.
It is interesting to underscore the significant differences between the oldest and most recent Member States regarding “**administrative and personnel costs, buildings**”. Some 29% of respondents in the pre-2004 Member States mentioned this item, compared with only 15% in the post-2004 Member States.
- ◆ “**Economic growth**” was the most frequently mentioned item in eleven Member States. More than four out of ten respondents mentioned it in Greece and Cyprus (44% in both cases) and Slovakia (41%). The corresponding proportion falls to 17% in the United Kingdom.
- ◆ Five Member States mentioned “**agriculture and rural development**” most frequently, including Sweden (60%) and Denmark (51%) and two Member States highlighted “**defence and security**”.
- ◆ Finally, it is important to emphasise that in six Member States, a majority of respondents did not answer this question: 40% of respondents in the United Kingdom, 38% in Portugal and Bulgaria, 35% in Spain, 32% in Italy and 31% in Estonia were the most likely to give the ‘DON’T KNOW’ answer.

The results by country therefore confirm the relative lack of knowledge among citizens concerning the European Union budget and reveal significant differences of perception from one Member State to another.

	Administrative and personnel costs, buildings	Economic growth	Agriculture and rural development	Defence and security	Assistance to EU neighbours, including candidate countries	Regional investment	Scientific research	Energy issues	Climate change and environmental protection	Development and humanitarian aid to countries outside the EU	Employment and social affairs	Education and training	Immigration issues	Public health	Transport	Culture and media
EU27	26%	24%	24%	20%	18%	15%	13%	13%	12%	12%	12%	10%	8%	8%	6%	4%
BE	33%	33%	29%	25%	21%	19%	18%	18%	14%	19%	16%	9%	8%	15%	6%	4%
BG	10%	35%	24%	21%	12%	9%	17%	16%	10%	10%	13%	10%	3%	5%	6%	7%
CZ	20%	19%	18%	25%	19%	18%	15%	10%	14%	16%	13%	8%	6%	6%	9%	4%
DK	44%	23%	51%	25%	19%	30%	12%	14%	19%	17%	7%	5%	6%	4%	5%	3%
D-W	49%	19%	32%	24%	34%	20%	14%	9%	19%	20%	12%	5%	7%	4%	5%	4%
DE	49%	19%	32%	24%	34%	21%	14%	8%	18%	21%	11%	5%	7%	4%	5%	4%
D-E	46%	20%	30%	28%	33%	22%	15%	6%	15%	26%	10%	6%	7%	6%	3%	4%
EE	14%	21%	24%	27%	16%	11%	8%	16%	8%	12%	12%	11%	5%	12%	5%	4%
EL	33%	44%	22%	33%	30%	25%	29%	28%	13%	12%	11%	15%	4%	9%	6%	8%
ES	20%	19%	13%	15%	13%	7%	10%	9%	6%	9%	16%	12%	10%	10%	4%	8%
FR	27%	32%	28%	22%	18%	12%	14%	13%	8%	14%	12%	6%	7%	6%	7%	4%
IE	26%	35%	29%	12%	10%	23%	15%	18%	16%	7%	14%	16%	9%	13%	12%	5%
IT	15%	23%	9%	16%	11%	8%	18%	16%	7%	8%	14%	14%	16%	10%	7%	4%
CY	11%	44%	44%	14%	22%	9%	23%	25%	14%	6%	8%	15%	7%	16%	3%	3%
LV	20%	28%	23%	27%	14%	15%	10%	16%	6%	10%	12%	14%	4%	6%	6%	5%
LT	6%	39%	38%	26%	11%	9%	10%	27%	7%	8%	10%	12%	4%	10%	5%	4%
LU	33%	32%	25%	16%	30%	16%	13%	16%	19%	23%	21%	11%	6%	10%	5%	4%
HU	17%	33%	24%	18%	14%	14%	12%	23%	16%	10%	15%	14%	7%	9%	2%	4%
MT	14%	37%	14%	7%	6%	9%	10%	17%	13%	4%	11%	18%	13%	13%	3%	3%
NL	33%	31%	38%	27%	26%	21%	8%	7%	16%	14%	13%	6%	5%	8%	6%	3%
AT	45%	28%	31%	22%	29%	18%	16%	18%	22%	20%	18%	10%	11%	16%	16%	5%
PL	17%	19%	29%	16%	12%	14%	8%	11%	11%	7%	10%	11%	3%	9%	8%	2%
PT	20%	19%	10%	15%	11%	11%	11%	9%	5%	8%	17%	17%	5%	11%	8%	6%
RO	7%	34%	21%	18%	14%	17%	20%	18%	13%	8%	12%	15%	5%	8%	10%	2%
SI	36%	26%	37%	45%	20%	14%	16%	15%	12%	12%	14%	11%	3%	10%	8%	6%
SK	19%	41%	24%	30%	29%	32%	19%	22%	17%	10%	17%	15%	9%	7%	10%	4%
FI	53%	20%	42%	26%	17%	34%	7%	23%	20%	10%	18%	2%	5%	7%	5%	2%
SE	44%	32%	60%	16%	24%	43%	11%	16%	20%	12%	11%	5%	5%	3%	7%	1%
UK	18%	17%	16%	16%	13%	11%	7%	8%	10%	6%	9%	10%	9%	7%	5%	3%
Highest results by country									Highest results by item							
Lowest results by country									Lowest results by item							

The following socio-demographic differences were observed:

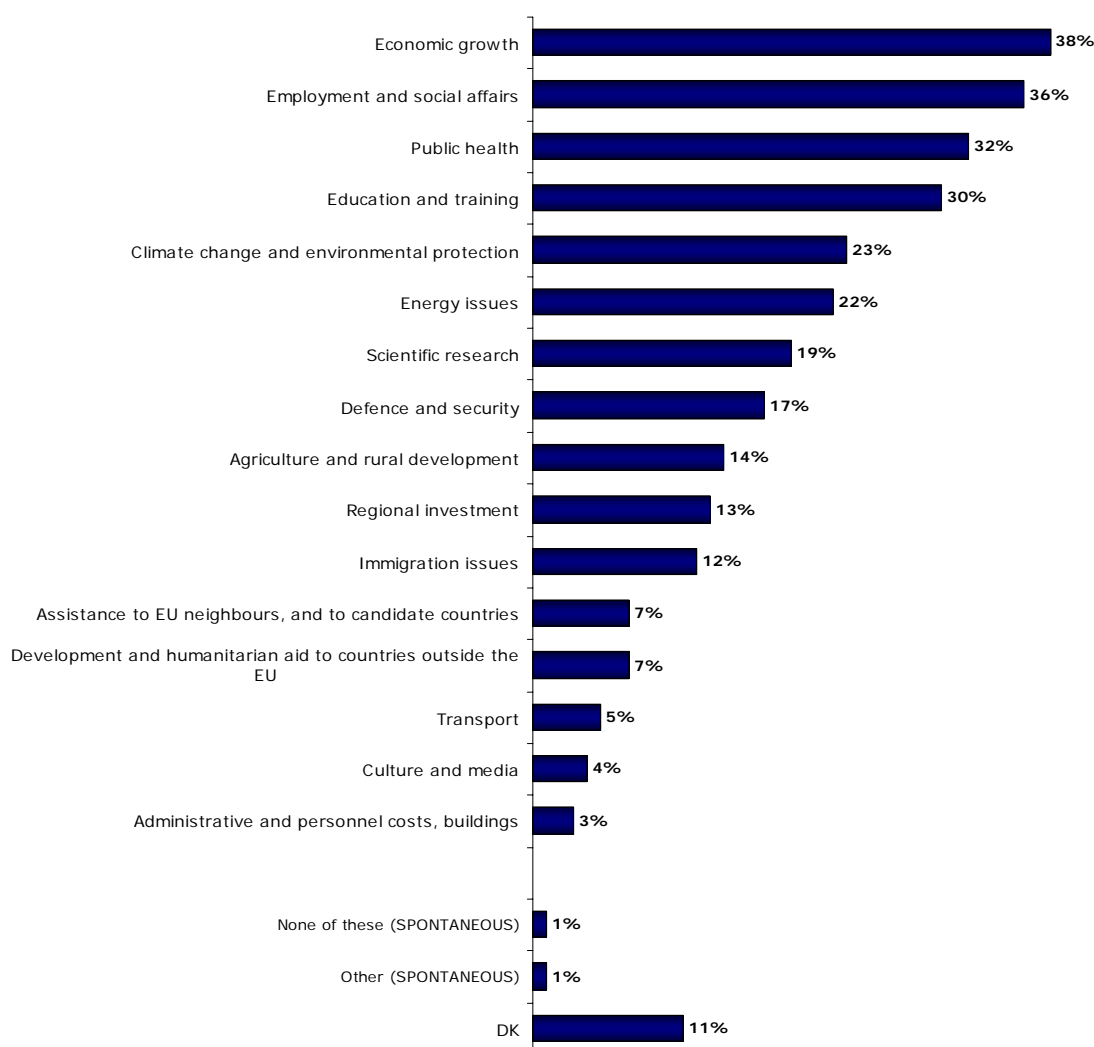
- ◆ Men are more likely to mention agriculture: 28% of men compared with 19% of women. On the other hand, 28% of women gave no answer versus 21% of men. However, the same proportion of men and women mentioned administrative costs (26% each).
- ◆ The younger the respondents are the more likely they are to mention economic growth: 29% of those aged under 25 compared with 20% of those aged 55 or over. Only 17% of those aged under 25 mentioned administrative costs compared with a range of 27-28% for those aged 25 or over (27% of the 25-39 age group, 28% of those aged 40-54 and 27% of those aged 55 or over). Young people therefore seem to have a more positive bias towards European budgetary expenditure than the other generations.
- ◆ Thus, 29% of the respondents who trust the European Union mentioned economic growth versus 21% of those who do not trust it. 31% of those who do not trust the European Union think that a large part of its budget is devoted to administrative costs, compared with 24% of respondents who trust it.

- Europeans want the European budget to be devoted to growth and social welfare -

When asked next how they *would like* the European Union budget to be spent, almost two out of five respondents said that they would like it to be devoted to **economic growth** (38%); an almost identical proportion mentioned **employment and social affairs** (36%)⁹¹.

A third (32%) mentioned **public health** and 30% cited **education and training**.

QG3 And on which of the following would you like European Union budget to be spent? - %EU



⁹¹ Our comments refer to the results of QG3T which is the cumulative total of the 'first' and 'any other' answers to QG3.

It is interesting to analyse these results in the light of those recorded for the previous question and to note any significant differences between *perceived* European budget expenses and what Europeans *would like* in this regard.

“Employment and social affairs” and **“public health”** which were mentioned by only 12% and 8% of respondents respectively as perceived expenditure are mentioned as desired expenditure by 36% and 32% of Europeans, i.e. a difference of 24 points between the two.

“Education and training” is mentioned more frequently as a desired area of expenditure than as a perceived expense (a difference of 20 points), as are to a lesser extent **“growth”** (14 point difference) and **“protection of the environment”** (12 point difference).

On the other hand, the score for **“administrative and personnel costs, buildings”** is 23 points lower (falling from 26% to 3%).

The scores for **“assistance to EU neighbours”** and **“agriculture and rural development”** are 11 and 10 points lower respectively. It should be noted that the latter item is more a perceived than a desired item of expenditure.

Finally, 11% of respondents did not express an opinion when asked for their views on desired expenditure, whereas the corresponding proportion of ‘DON’T KNOW’ answers was 25% when the respondents were asked for their views on how the European Union budget is spent.

The differences between *perceived* and *desired expenditure* are therefore fairly significant. This comparison can be seen as reflecting the first stirrings of a movement calling into question the focus of spending in the European Union. Nevertheless, this gap between perceived and desired expenditure must also be put into perspective given the fact that Europeans are not well-informed on this subject.

European Union budget

	QG2T On which of the following do you think most of the European Union budget is spent?	QG3T And on which of the following would you like European Union budget to be spent?	Difference QG3 - QG2 in percentage points	
Employment and social affairs	12%	36%	+24	↗
Public health	8%	32%	+24	↗
Education and training	10%	30%	+20	↗
Economic growth	24%	38%	+14	↗
Climate change and environmental protection	12%	23%	+11	↗
Energy issues	13%	22%	+9	↗
Scientific research	13%	19%	+6	↗
Immigration issues	8%	12%	+4	↗
Culture and media	4%	4%	0	↔
Transport	6%	5%	-1	↘
Regional investment	15%	13%	-2	↘
Defence and security	20%	17%	-3	↘
Development and humanitarian aid to countries outside the EU	12%	7%	-5	↘
Agriculture and rural development	24%	14%	-10	↘
Assistance to EU neighbours, and to candidate countries	18%	7%	-11	↘
Administrative and personnel costs, buildings	26%	3%	-23	↘
None of these (SPONTANEOUS)	1%	1%	0	↔
Other (SPONTANEOUS)	1%	1%	0	↔
DK	25%	11%	-14	↘

An analysis of the results by country reveals some fairly clear differences:

- ◆ **“Economic growth”** tops the list of desired budget allocations in eleven Member States. More than two-thirds of respondents in Greece (65%), and more than half in Lithuania (57%), Latvia (51%), Bulgaria and Hungary (55% each) mentioned it. This proportion falls to 25% in the United Kingdom and 16% in Finland.
The answers in the last two countries are in line with those obtained regarding competences: as we noted, respondents in Finland and the United Kingdom do not want the European Union to play a preponderant role in the economy⁹².
- ◆ In nine Member States, the most frequently mentioned item of expenditure was **“employment and social affairs”**. This was mentioned by more than half of respondents in Slovenia (56%) and Spain (51%).
- ◆ **“Public health”** was mentioned frequently in Cyprus (56%), Poland (37%) and the United Kingdom (27%). For 46% of respondents in Germany, **“education and training”** should be one of the most important budget items.
- ◆ It is not surprising to see that **“climate change and environmental protection”** is most frequently mentioned budget item in Sweden (59%) and Denmark (55%). These answers are in line with the strong environmental awareness noted in numerous surveys. There are striking differences in responses to this item: only 8% of citizens in Portugal and Latvia want to see environmental protection at the heart of the European Union budget.
- ◆ Finally, Malta stands out from the other Member States by putting the emphasis on **“energy issues”** and **“immigration issues”** (both 37%).

⁹² QC3 Personally, regarding the areas where the European Union can take decisions, which opinion comes closest to your view? See the previous chapter 1.2 **Assessment of the best decision-making level**

QG3T And on which of the following would you like European Union budget to be spent?

	Economic growth	Employment and social affairs	Public health	Education and training	Climate change and environmental protection	Energy issues	Scientific research	Defence and security	Agriculture and rural development	Regional investment	Immigration issues	Assistance to EU neighbours, including candidate countries	Development and humanitarian aid to countries outside the EU	Transport	Culture and media	Administrative and personnel costs, buildings
EU27	38%	36%	32%	30%	23%	22%	19%	17%	14%	13%	12%	7%	7%	5%	4%	3%
BE	46%	45%	37%	27%	27%	35%	21%	15%	12%	10%	11%	5%	9%	6%	3%	2%
BG	55%	37%	22%	25%	13%	26%	12%	30%	33%	10%	4%	10%	6%	8%	1%	0%
CZ	36%	38%	36%	29%	17%	19%	17%	20%	21%	17%	6%	4%	5%	7%	3%	1%
DK	25%	24%	30%	27%	55%	27%	29%	21%	12%	11%	17%	9%	19%	4%	3%	1%
D-W	36%	42%	29%	45%	41%	27%	29%	16%	11%	16%	10%	9%	10%	2%	6%	2%
DE	37%	44%	29%	46%	39%	25%	29%	16%	12%	18%	9%	9%	9%	2%	5%	3%
D-E	41%	54%	32%	50%	34%	19%	27%	13%	17%	27%	7%	8%	6%	1%	3%	5%
EE	39%	30%	37%	34%	10%	21%	15%	21%	25%	6%	4%	6%	3%	3%	4%	3%
EL	65%	42%	48%	41%	28%	17%	25%	18%	31%	11%	8%	12%	9%	4%	4%	1%
ES	39%	51%	38%	30%	14%	5%	12%	11%	11%	10%	21%	10%	9%	3%	8%	5%
FR	38%	43%	31%	26%	23%	21%	29%	20%	13%	9%	10%	5%	8%	6%	2%	1%
IE	45%	31%	39%	34%	19%	24%	9%	8%	15%	22%	12%	5%	7%	9%	4%	3%
IT	42%	22%	26%	23%	11%	25%	26%	17%	8%	13%	20%	6%	5%	5%	6%	4%
CY	52%	19%	56%	53%	40%	20%	21%	18%	30%	6%	10%	11%	10%	2%	2%	1%
LV	51%	34%	30%	37%	8%	19%	13%	21%	31%	13%	4%	5%	4%	5%	3%	2%
LT	57%	35%	35%	26%	9%	38%	12%	15%	22%	7%	7%	5%	4%	3%	4%	1%
LU	36%	43%	33%	40%	35%	26%	20%	18%	11%	10%	9%	10%	15%	11%	2%	2%
HU	55%	39%	31%	26%	26%	41%	13%	16%	36%	14%	5%	6%	3%	1%	3%	1%
MT	23%	19%	24%	28%	23%	37%	6%	6%	6%	8%	37%	2%	3%	3%	2%	2%
NL	39%	34%	35%	38%	37%	17%	19%	23%	11%	13%	9%	11%	13%	6%	4%	1%
AT	34%	44%	42%	26%	41%	36%	15%	17%	17%	24%	14%	10%	9%	15%	4%	5%
PL	32%	28%	37%	24%	10%	17%	12%	16%	17%	16%	3%	4%	6%	5%	3%	3%
PT	36%	47%	35%	33%	8%	13%	12%	23%	13%	14%	6%	5%	7%	5%	6%	2%
RO	38%	37%	31%	26%	18%	18%	12%	13%	35%	19%	9%	12%	6%	11%	6%	5%
SI	43%	56%	43%	32%	35%	13%	18%	9%	31%	15%	4%	6%	8%	3%	5%	1%
SK	42%	50%	28%	28%	25%	27%	22%	27%	22%	31%	7%	13%	6%	8%	4%	1%
FI	16%	44%	31%	9%	36%	31%	13%	19%	19%	19%	4%	6%	6%	3%	2%	3%
SE	39%	39%	25%	26%	59%	33%	28%	15%	12%	14%	12%	7%	14%	3%	4%	2%
UK	25%	16%	27%	23%	18%	23%	7%	18%	7%	8%	19%	5%	5%	6%	1%	2%
Highest results by country										Highest results by item						
Lowest results by country										Lowest results by item						

The socio-demographic differences are again relatively slight:

- ◆ Men are more likely than women to want the European budget to be used for **economic growth** (40% versus 35% of women). Women want employment and social affairs (37% versus 34%) and public health (34% versus 29%) to be given priority.
- ◆ Respondents aged between 40 and 54 are the most likely to want a significant part of the European budget to be allocated to measures to **boost growth**: 41% versus 33% of those aged under 25.
- ◆ Manual workers and respondents on the left of the political spectrum are the most likely to want the European budget to be devoted to **employment and social affairs** (40% and 39% respectively). They thus stand out from managers (35%) and respondents on the right of the political spectrum (33%). Respondents on the right of the political spectrum want priority to be given to **economic growth** (40% versus 36% of those on the left) and **defence and security** (20% versus 14%).
- ◆ It is interesting to underscore the influence of the type of area where the respondents live on their answers regarding certain budget items: thus, 20% of respondents living in rural areas want a large part of the European Union budget to be devoted to **agriculture**, compared with 11% of respondents living in urban areas (small, medium-sized and large cities).

3. SUPPORT FOR EUROPEAN POLICIES

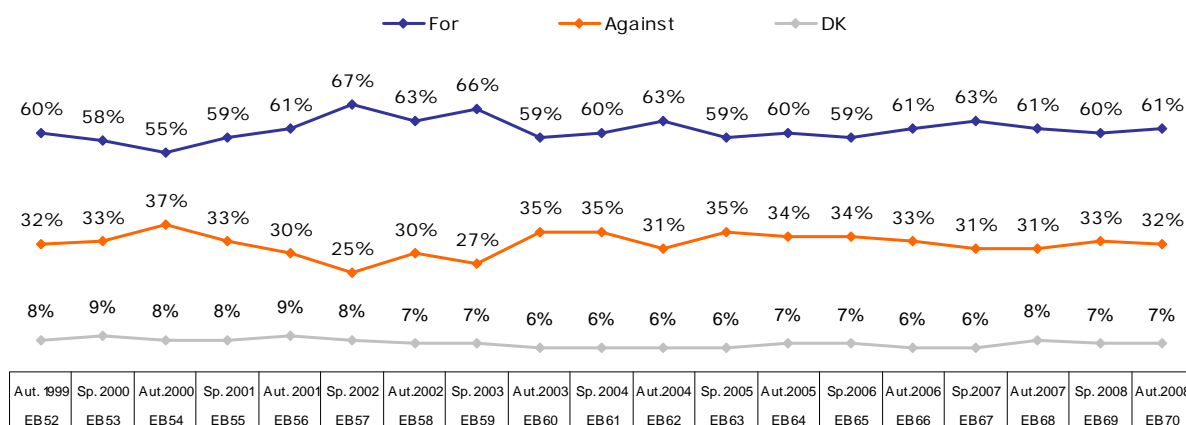
- Despite the economic crisis, support for European policies is stable –

When asked for their opinion on three current European policies, a large majority of Europeans support a common defence and security policy (75%), a common foreign policy towards other countries (68%) and, finally, the euro (61%). The results obtained for these questions are stable in relation to spring 2008: the world economic crisis has not affected the support of Europeans for these policies.

3.1. The single currency

Ten years after the creation of the euro, more than six out of ten Europeans are in favour of European monetary union with a single currency, the euro (61%)⁹³. This result is 1 point higher than in spring 2008. In a period of crisis, the euro is not called into question by Europeans. On the contrary, they restate their attachment to the single currency which they seem to see as an asset.

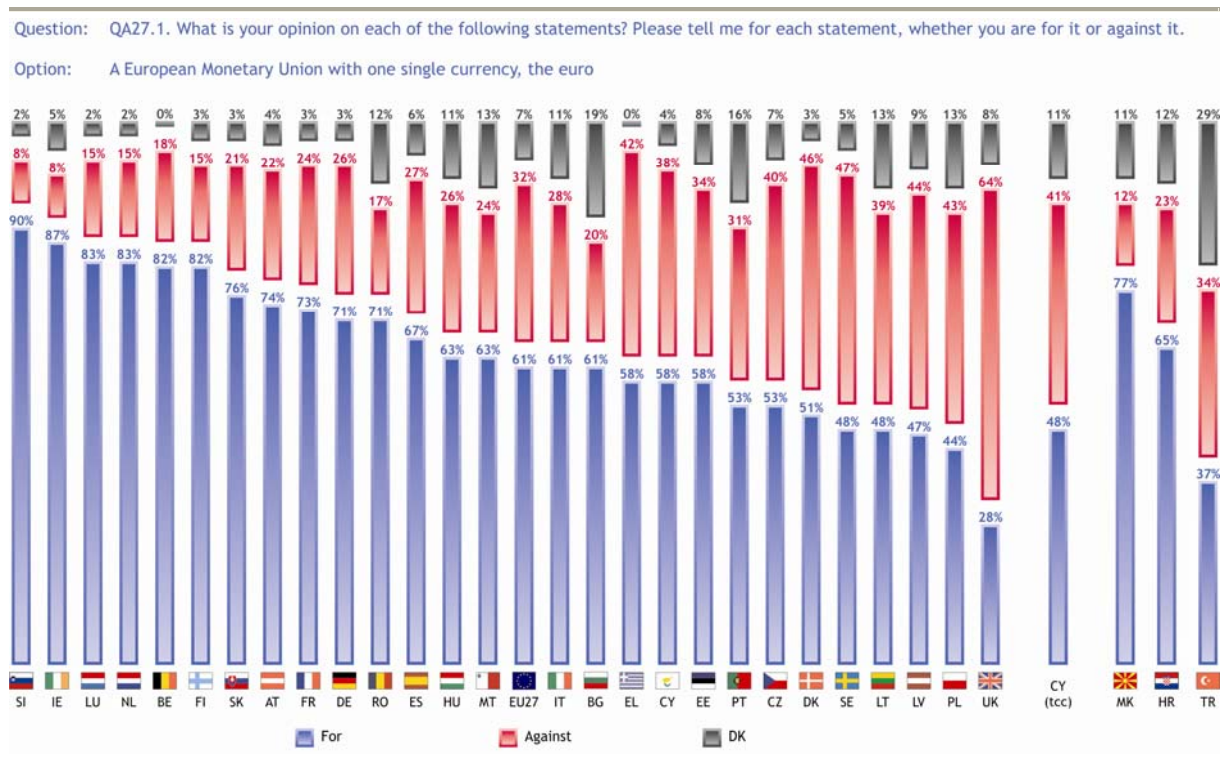
QA27.1 What is your opinion on each of the following statements? Please tell me for each statement, whether you are for it or against it.
-A European Monetary Union with one single currency, the euro-% EU



⁹³ QA27.1 What is your opinion on each of the following statements? Please tell me for each statement whether you are for it or against it. A European monetary union, with a single currency, the euro.

On average, support for the single currency remains stronger in the fifteen countries that are members of the euro area⁹⁴: 70% - i.e. 9 percentage points above the average, compared with 46% in the twelve other States. However, there are considerable differences between the fifteen euro area States. Thus, favourable opinions range from 90% in Slovenia to 53% in Portugal. More than eight out of ten respondents in Ireland (87%), the Netherlands and Luxembourg (83% each), Belgium and Finland (both 82%) are in favour of European monetary union with a single currency. In Slovakia, which joined the economic and monetary union on 1 January 2009, the euro is supported by 76% of respondents.

A majority of respondents replied positively in all the Member States, except for the United Kingdom where two-thirds of respondents (64%) are against European monetary union with a single currency. Despite the economic crisis and the fall of the pound, citizens in the United Kingdom still seem to be attached to their monetary sovereignty.



In comparison with spring 2008, support for the single currency has increased by 7 points in Greece, by 8 points in Austria and by 10 points in Slovakia – which at the time of the survey was due to join the euro area on 1 January 2009.

⁹⁴ The countries shown are those which were part of the euro area at the time the surveys were conducted; Germany, Austria, Belgium, Spain, Finland, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Greece, Slovenia, Cyprus and Malta.

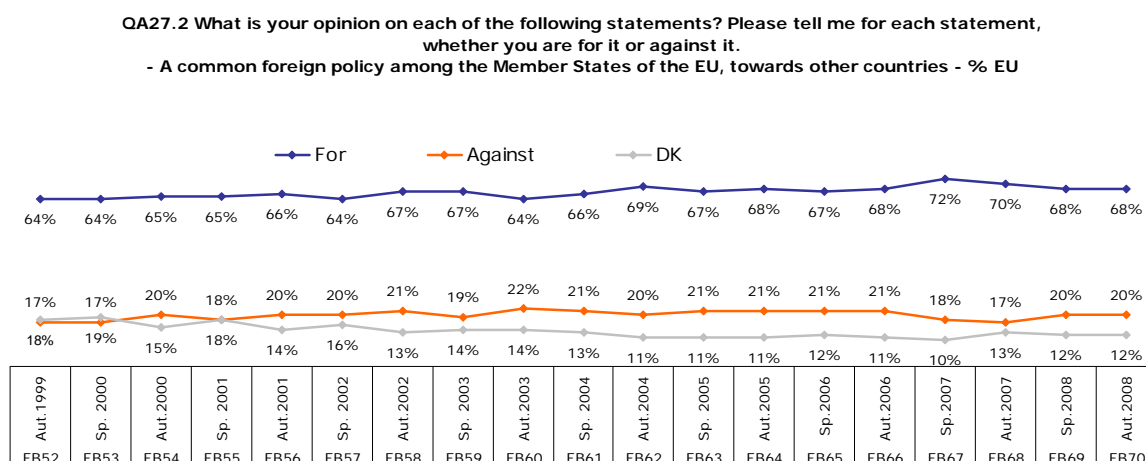
On the other hand, support has fallen by 5 points in Poland, by 7 points in Latvia and Bulgaria and by 9 points in Lithuania and Malta. It should be borne in mind that Malta had recorded a very strong level of support in spring 2008, just a few months after its adoption of the euro.

A socio-demographic analysis reveals the “traditional” differences noted for most of the indicators dealing with the European Union:

- ◆ The longer the respondents have studied, the more they are in favour of the single currency. Thus, 73% of respondents who have gone on to higher education support the euro, compared with 50% of those who left school before the age of 16, i.e. a difference of 23 points.
- ◆ More than seven out of ten managers (72%) are in favour of European monetary union. Almost two-thirds of self-employed people, employees and students are also in favour (all 67%). This proportion falls to 52% for unemployed people, 54% for housepersons and 55% for pensioners.

3.2. A common foreign policy

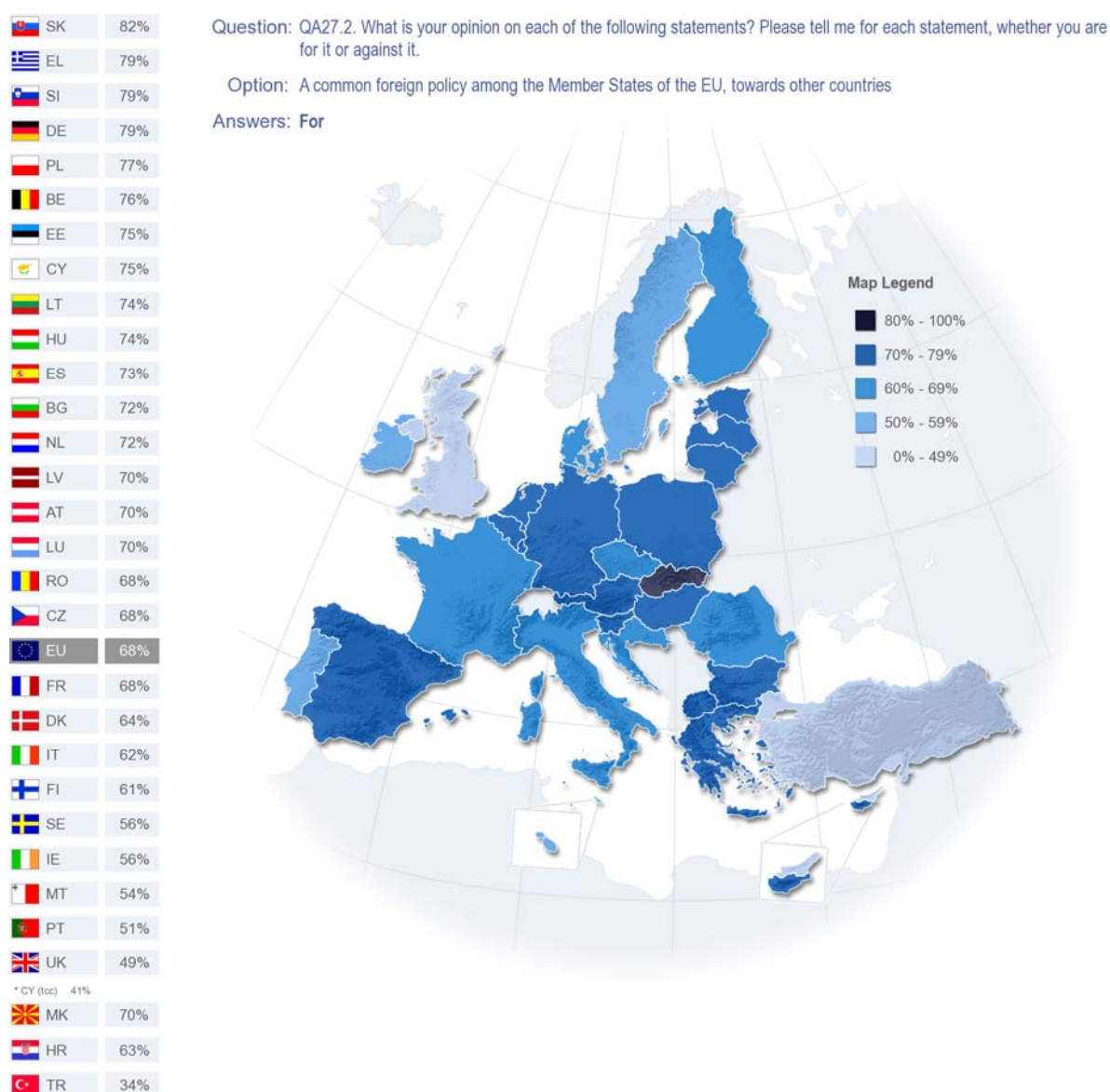
Almost seven out of ten respondents are in favour of a common foreign policy towards other countries (68%)⁹⁵. This support has remained stable since spring 2008.



A large majority of respondents are positive in all the Member States. Support is particularly strong in Slovakia (82%), Germany, Slovenia and Greece (all 79%).

On the other hand, fewer than half of interviewees in the United Kingdom (49%) and just over half in Portugal (51%) and Malta (54%) support a common foreign policy. It is significant, however, that in the last two countries the proportion of 'DON'T KNOW' answers for this question is high (29% and 27% respectively, compared with a European average of 12%). In Sweden and Ireland – two neutral States – only 56% of citizens are in favour of a common foreign policy, i.e. 12 points below the European average.

⁹⁵ QA27.2 What is your opinion on each of the following statements? Please tell me for each statement whether you are for it or against it. A common foreign policy among the Member States of the EU towards other countries.

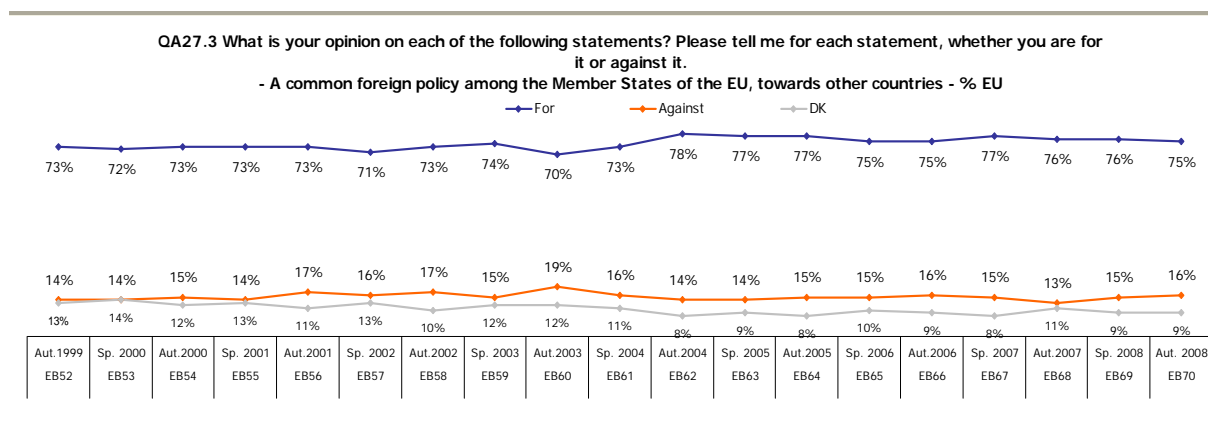


An analysis of the results obtained for a common foreign policy in the various socio-demographic categories reveals the same trends as for the question of the single currency:

- ◆ The longest educated respondents (76%) are the most likely to be in favour of a common foreign policy, compared with 60% of the respondents who did not go on to higher education.
- ◆ 77% of managers support a common foreign policy compared with 60% of housepersons, 64% of pensioners and 65% of unemployed people.

3.3. A common defence and security policy

A common defence and security policy obtained the highest score of all the policies on which the respondents were polled: three-quarters of Europeans are in favour of it (75%)⁹⁶. However, although a majority of respondents support this policy in all twenty seven member States, the level of support has fallen slightly since spring 2008 (- 1 percentage point).

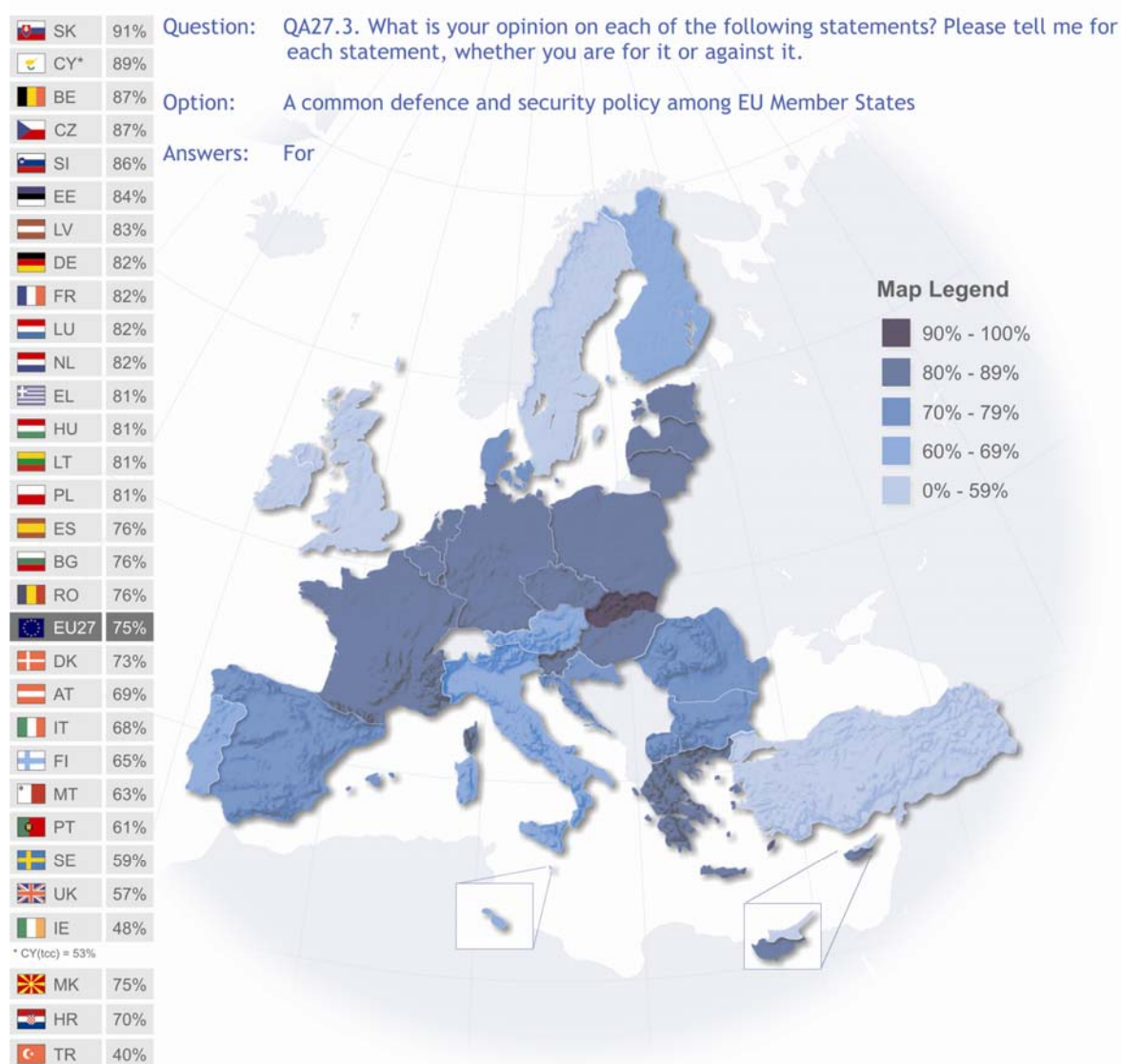


The results by country reveals variations in line with those noted for a common foreign policy. The most enthusiastic Member States are Slovakia (91%), Cyprus (89%), Belgium and the Czech Republic (both 87%) and Slovenia (86%).

Although support for this policy is in the majority in Ireland, only 48% of respondents support it. In the other neutral countries, the idea of a common defence and security policy is supported by 59% of respondents in Sweden, 65% in Finland and 69% in Austria, i.e. proportions which are again below the European average (75%). Almost six out of ten respondents in the United Kingdom (57%), 61% in Portugal and 63% in Malta are in favour of a common defence and security policy.

As for the previous question, a large number of respondents in the last two countries did not answer this question (26% and 25% respectively versus 9% on average in the European Union).

⁹⁶ QA27.3 What is your opinion on each of the following statements? Please tell me for each statement whether you are for it or against it. A common defence and security policy among EU Member States



A socio-demographic analysis reveals the same trends again: the longest educated respondents (82%), managers and self-employed people (81% each) are the categories most likely to support a common defence and security policy.

4. OPINIONS ON ENLARGEMENT

- Although Europeans consider that the increase from 15 to 27 countries has strengthened the European Union, they are divided regarding further enlargement -

Having looked at European integration, we shall now examine another key aspect of the building of Europe: enlargement. Since 2004, the European Union has grown considerably, with the number of Member States increasing from 15 to 27. We shall now look at how Europeans assess enlargement and their views on further enlargement in the future.

4.1. The assessment of enlargement

Just under half of Europeans consider that the increase in the number of Member States from 15 to 27 has strengthened the European Union (48%)⁹⁷. On the other hand, more than a third of respondents believe that the last two enlargements have weakened the European Union (36%).

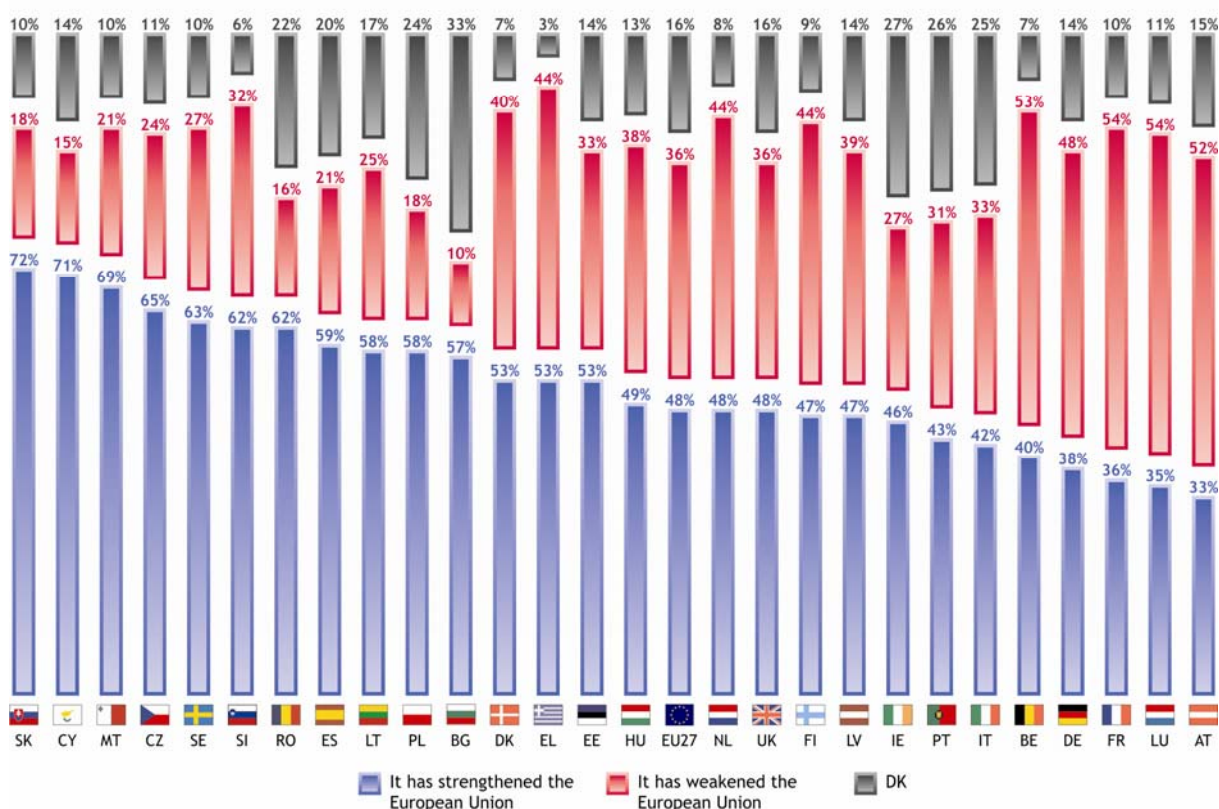
A majority of respondents in twenty two Member States consider that the addition of new members has strengthened the European Union; these include more than seven out of ten respondents in Slovakia and Cyprus (72% and 71% respectively), 69% in Malta, 65% in the Czech Republic, 63% in Sweden and 62% in Slovenia.

Five Member States – including four founder members of the European Union – take the opposite view: Luxembourg and France (54% in both cases), Belgium (53%), Austria (52%) and Germany (48%).

Almost six out of ten respondents in the Member States which have joined the European Union since 2004 think that the increase from 15 to 27 Member States has strengthened the European Union, compared with only 44% of respondents in the oldest Member States. Nevertheless, a majority of respondents in the latter remain positive about the enlargements since 2004.

⁹⁷ QC2 Since 2004, the European Union enlarged from 15 to 27 countries. Overall, how would you judge this enlargement of the European Union?

Question: QC2. Since 2004 the European Union enlarged from 15 to 27 countries. Overall, how would you judge this enlargement of the European Union?



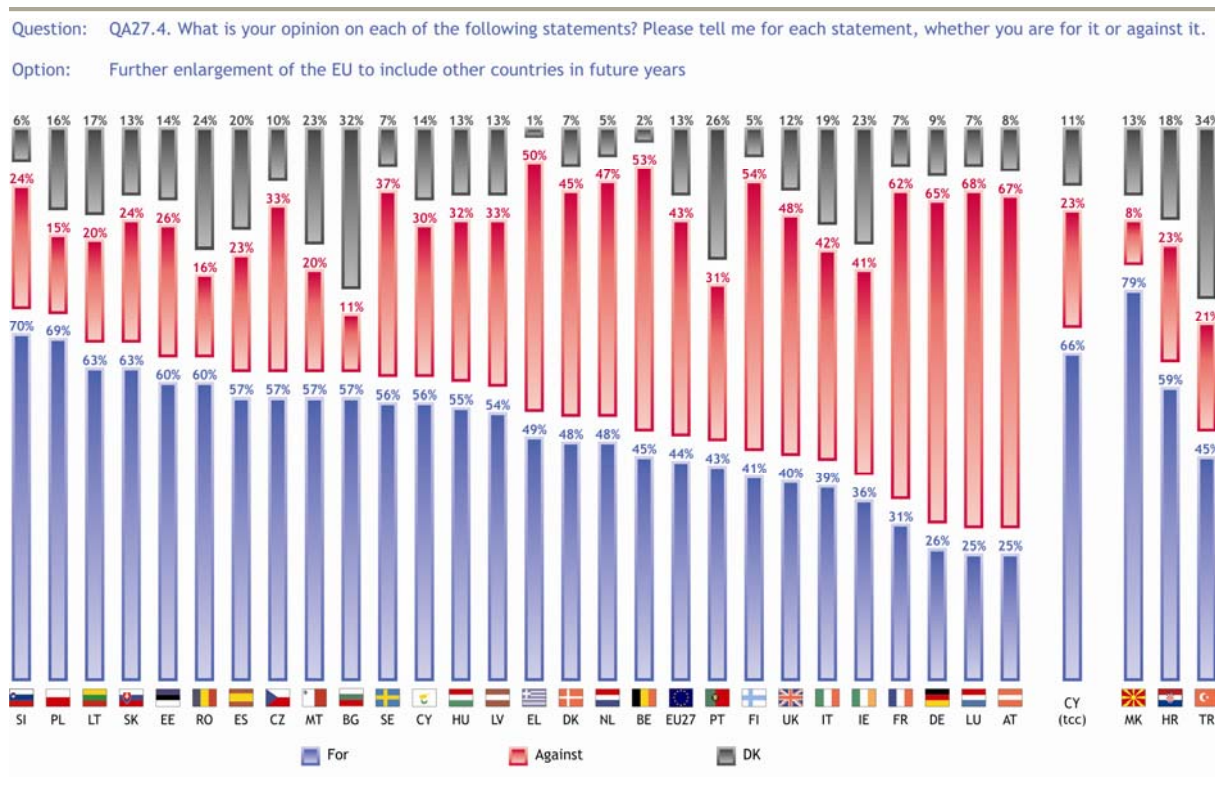
A socio-demographic analysis reveals the following differences:

- ◆ The younger the respondents are the more they tend to believe that enlargement to 27 Member States has strengthened the European Union: this opinion is held by 58% of those aged under 25 compared with 41% of those aged 55 or over.
- ◆ The respondents who went on to higher education are also more convinced of the benefits of the enlargements of 2004 and 2007: 52% are positive compared with 39% of those who left school before the age of 16.

4.2. Further enlargement

Fewer than half of Europeans are in favour of further enlargement of the European Union to include other countries in the coming years (44%), while an almost identical proportion are against the idea (43%)⁹⁸. Support for enlargement has declined by 3 points since spring 2008, while the percentage of respondents who are against the idea has increased by 4 points over the same period.

A majority of respondents in seventeen of the twenty seven Member States (three fewer than in spring 2008) support further enlargement. Support is strong among respondents in the twelve last Member States to join; further enlargement is supported by seven out of ten respondents in Slovenia (70%), 69% in Poland, 63% in Slovakia and Lithuania, 60% in Estonia and Romania, 57% in Czechia, Malta, Bulgaria and Sweden, 56% in Cyprus, 55% in Hungary, 54% in Latvia, 49% in Greece, 48% in Denmark, 48% in the Netherlands, 45% in Belgium, 44% in the EU27 average, 43% in Portugal, 41% in Finland, 40% in the United Kingdom, 39% in Italy, 36% in Ireland, 31% in France, 26% in Germany, 25% in Luxembourg and 25% in Austria.




On the other hand, only a very small minority of respondents in the oldest European Union Member States support the idea of further enlargement; the idea appeals to only 25% of respondents in Luxembourg, 26% in Germany and 31% in France.

⁹⁸ QA27.4 What is your opinion on each of the following statements? Please tell me for each statement whether you are for it or against it. Further enlargement of the EU to include other countries in the coming years.

Of the six European Union founder States⁹⁹, the Netherlands is the only country which supports further enlargement by a small majority (48% versus 47% who are against). Logically, a large majority of respondents in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (79%) are in favour of the enlargement of the European Union to include other countries in the coming years; however this figure has fallen by 11 points since spring 2008. Six out of ten in Croatia share this opinion (59%, + 8 points). A majority of respondents in Turkey continue to support enlargement, but the level of support has fallen by 7 points since spring 2008.

QA27.4 What is your opinion on each of the following statements? Please tell me for each statement, whether you are for it or against it.
Further enlargement of the EU to include other countries in future years

	For	Against	DK
EU27	44%	43%	13%
Age			
 15-24	56%	31%	13%
25-39	50%	39%	11%
40-54	44%	44%	12%
55 +	34%	51%	15%
Trust in EU			
Tend to trust	58%	32%	10%
Tend not to trust	30%	59%	11%
Image of EU			
Positive	57%	34%	9%
Neutral	39%	44%	17%
Negative	20%	69%	11%

On this question, there are fairly clear differences between the different socio-demographic categories: the majority of respondents aged between 15 and 24 are in favour of enlargement of the European Union in the coming years (56%), compared with only a third of those aged 55 or over (34%).

Moreover, almost two-thirds of respondents who trust the European Union (58%) are in favour of further enlargement, compared with only 30% of those who do not trust the Union. Almost six out of ten respondents for whom the European Union conjures up a positive image (57%) share this opinion, compared with only a fifth of those who consider that it has a negative image (20%).

⁹⁹ Germany, Italy, France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg.

5. THE EUROPEAN UNION'S PRIORITIES

- For citizens, energy issues, the fight against crime and immigration issues should be the European Union's priorities -

When asked to choose from a list of twelve issues to which the European institutions should give priority in the coming years to strengthen the European Union¹⁰⁰, three out of ten Europeans mentioned energy issues (30%) – in first place in seven Member States – then the fight against crime (29%) – which was ranked in first place in only one Member State, the Netherlands (44%) – and immigration issues (29%) – ranked first in four Member States, including Malta (62%) and the United Kingdom (43%). More than a quarter of respondents mentioned social issues and environmental issues (both 27%), and one in five mentioned solidarity with poorer regions (20%). 18% would like the emphasis to be placed on the internal market, 16% mentioned foreign policy and 15% scientific research.

The other policy areas listed obtained scores of less than 15%: European defence policy (14%) and European education policy (13%). Finally, only 6% of respondents mentioned cultural policy.

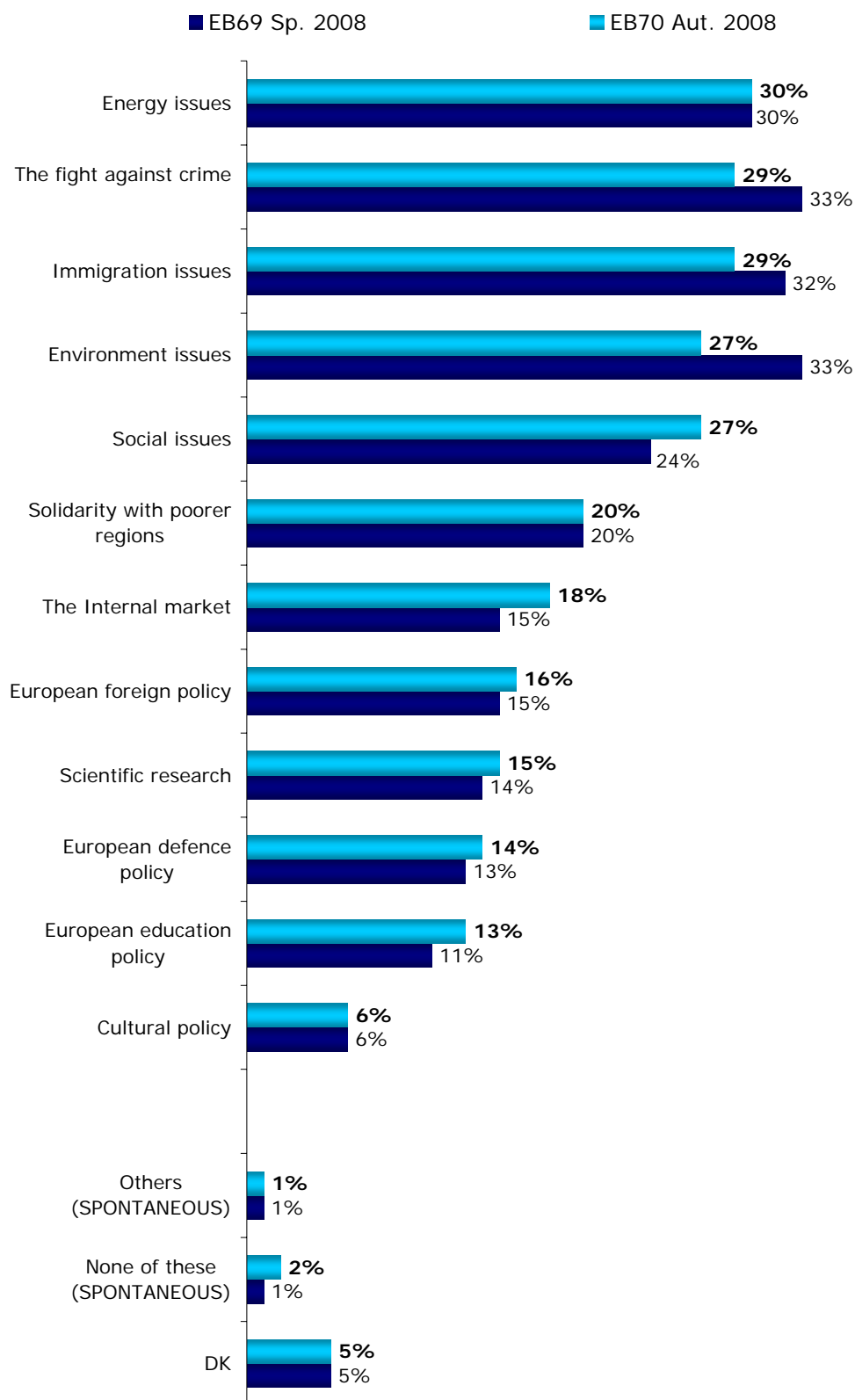
Six of the policy areas on which respondents were polled recorded a higher score than in spring 2008: social issues and the internal market (+ 3 points each), European education policy (+ 2 points) and European defence policy and scientific research (both + 1 point).

Three items recorded lower scores. The biggest decrease concerned environment issues, which have fallen by 6 points. The fight against crime has again fallen, this time by 4 points (after a fall of 3 points between spring 2008 and autumn 2007). Immigration issues have fallen by 3 points.

The four other policy areas on which respondents were polled are stable.

¹⁰⁰ QA28 European integration has been focusing on various issues in the last years. In your opinion, which aspects should be emphasized by the European institutions in the coming years, to strengthen the European Union in the future? 1. The internal market; 2. Cultural policy; 3. European foreign policy; 4. European defence policy; 5. Immigration issues; 6. European education policy; 7. Environment issues; 8. Energy issues; 9. Solidarity with poorer regions; 10. Scientific research; 11. Social issues; 12. The fight against crime.

**QA28 In your opinion, which aspects should be emphasized by the European institutions in the coming years, to strengthen the European Union in the future?
(MAX. 3 ANSWERS)**



An analysis of the results by country reveals fairly sharp differences: more than half of respondents in Hungary (54%), 50% in Lithuania, 49% in Malta and 44% in Belgium mentioned **energy issues** as the priority issue for the European Union. Apart from Malta, where immigration (62%) remains the main concern, energy was the most frequently mentioned policy issue in these countries.

The **fight against crime** was mentioned the most frequently by 44% of respondents in Denmark and the Netherlands and 41% in Sweden.

Social issues obtained the highest score in eight Member States. More than four out of ten respondents mentioned them in Latvia (44%), Portugal, Bulgaria and Slovenia (43% in all three cases) and in Austria and the Czech Republic (41% each). This item was also frequently mentioned by 40% of respondents in Lithuania and 39% in Estonia and Slovakia. Of these countries, only in Lithuania is there a more important priority than social issues: energy issues (50%).

Respondents in the Nordic countries are particularly concerned by **environmental issues** and a large proportion of them mentioned the environment as the issue to which the European institutions should give priority over the coming years (68% of respondents in Sweden, 48% in Denmark and 46% in Finland). 38% of respondents in the Netherlands, 37% in Austria and 36% in France share their opinion.

Solidarity with poorer regions was mentioned by 36% of respondents in Cyprus (versus a European average of 20%), while **European foreign policy** was mentioned by 29% of respondents in Romania (versus a European Union average of 16%). European defence policy was mentioned by a third of respondents in Estonia (32% versus 14% on average).

There are differences of more than 5 points between the oldest Member States and the States which have joined the EU since 2004 on the following issues:

- ◆ The most recent Member States are more likely than the oldest States to mention solidarity with poorer regions (25% versus 18%) and the internal market (22% versus 16%).
- ◆ On the other hand, the Member States which joined the European Union before 2004 more frequently mentioned immigration (33% versus 15%), environment issues (29% versus 20%) and the fight against crime (30% versus 24%).

QA28 European integration has been focusing on various issues in the last years. In your opinion, which aspects should be emphasized by the European institutions in the coming years, to strengthen the European Union in the future? (ROTATE – MAX. 3 ANSWERS)





	Energy issues	The fight against crime	Immigration issues	Social issues	Environment issues	Solidarity with poorer regions	The Internal market	European foreign policy	Scientific research	European defence policy	European education policy	Cultural policy
EU27	30%	29%	29%	27%	27%	20%	18%	16%	15%	14%	13%	6%
BE	44%	34%	33%	30%	29%	22%	17%	16%	18%	12%	9%	6%
BG	28%	31%	12%	43%	14%	25%	20%	23%	5%	15%	9%	4%
CZ	28%	38%	18%	41%	24%	16%	19%	14%	19%	16%	15%	3%
DK	26%	44%	37%	15%	48%	20%	15%	18%	20%	17%	12%	4%
DE	42%	32%	30%	30%	35%	13%	14%	20%	17%	15%	20%	3%
EE	28%	30%	14%	39%	19%	13%	12%	26%	10%	32%	14%	5%
EL	24%	24%	19%	34%	32%	34%	36%	20%	12%	12%	16%	7%
ES	8%	22%	38%	31%	17%	22%	14%	11%	13%	7%	13%	7%
FR	28%	28%	33%	30%	36%	26%	18%	16%	24%	15%	12%	4%
IE	37%	34%	34%	21%	24%	14%	24%	11%	7%	8%	16%	12%
IT	26%	28%	33%	19%	16%	10%	24%	15%	16%	11%	9%	12%
CY	24%	33%	24%	28%	27%	36%	25%	26%	10%	19%	18%	7%
LV	31%	29%	13%	44%	12%	21%	32%	15%	6%	15%	12%	4%
LT	50%	30%	16%	40%	8%	11%	25%	17%	9%	16%	11%	5%
LU	27%	25%	28%	21%	27%	20%	28%	27%	13%	15%	18%	3%
HU	54%	21%	15%	19%	24%	23%	31%	12%	12%	15%	11%	5%
MT	49%	13%	62%	12%	21%	12%	11%	8%	5%	10%	14%	4%
NL	24%	44%	24%	13%	38%	23%	18%	28%	18%	24%	15%	7%
AT	41%	39%	27%	41%	37%	14%	13%	18%	12%	10%	10%	5%
PL	31%	24%	10%	30%	16%	28%	20%	18%	10%	16%	9%	6%
PT	12%	37%	12%	43%	14%	29%	15%	7%	7%	11%	14%	8%
RO	24%	16%	22%	25%	25%	29%	22%	29%	9%	23%	18%	8%
SI	22%	27%	12%	43%	34%	24%	28%	11%	18%	9%	14%	5%
SK	34%	27%	15%	39%	26%	22%	26%	26%	14%	17%	18%	4%
FI	42%	38%	14%	23%	46%	27%	19%	20%	12%	18%	7%	3%
SE	33%	41%	28%	17%	68%	25%	17%	15%	17%	11%	9%	3%
UK	33%	30%	43%	17%	29%	13%	10%	8%	11%	13%	8%	5%
CY (tcc)	25%	16%	21%	14%	19%	26%	30%	23%	19%	20%	26%	22%
HR	18%	49%	8%	44%	14%	39%	26%	9%	5%	8%	6%	3%
TR	15%	15%	13%	11%	8%	23%	12%	14%	7%	7%	8%	14%
MK	25%	33%	17%	26%	12%	39%	26%	25%	7%	13%	8%	8%
Highest result by country									Highest result by item			
Lowest result by country									Lowest result by item			

Europeans on the left of the political spectrum are more likely to mention environmental issues (31% versus 26% of those on the right), social issues (29% versus 23%) and solidarity with poorer regions (23% versus 17%), while those on the right more frequently mentioned the fight against crime (31% versus 26% for those on the left of the political spectrum) and European defence policy (17% versus 13%).

Among young people, almost 3 out of 10 respondents mentioned environment issues (29%, compared with 24% of those aged 55 or over) and, fairly logically, European education policy (19% versus 10%).

Finally, more than a third of respondents who studied up to the age of twenty or beyond mentioned environmental issues (36% versus 20% of those who left school before the age of 16) and European foreign policy (23% versus 11%). On the other hand, more than a third of those who left school before the age of 16 want the European Union to give priority to the fight against crime: 35% versus 24% of the longest educated.

QA28 European integration has been focusing on various issues in the last years. In your opinion, which aspects should be emphasized by the European institutions in the coming years, to strengthen the European Union in the future?

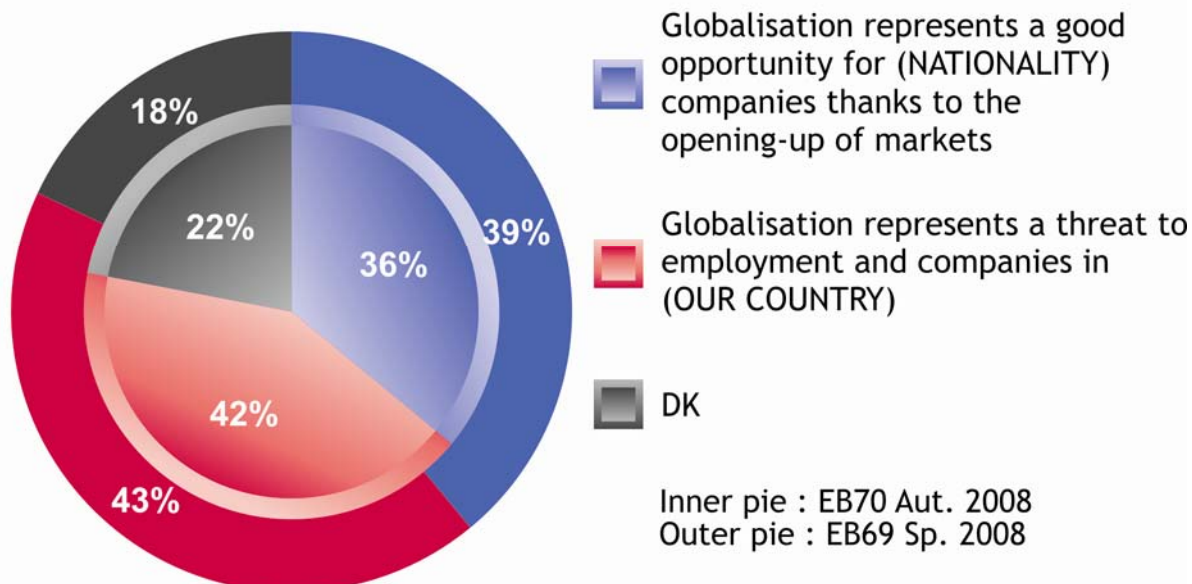
	Energy issues	Immigration issues	The fight against crime	Environment issues	Social issues	Solidarity with poorer regions	The Internal market	European foreign policy	Scientific research	European defence policy	European education policy	Cultural policy
EU27	30%	29%	29%	27%	27%	20%	18%	16%	15%	14%	13%	6%
Age												
 15-24	24%	28%	25%	29%	25%	22%	16%	15%	16%	11%	19%	9%
25-39	31%	28%	26%	30%	29%	20%	21%	17%	15%	13%	14%	7%
40-54	32%	29%	29%	28%	28%	19%	19%	18%	15%	15%	12%	5%
55 +	30%	30%	33%	24%	25%	18%	15%	15%	14%	15%	10%	5%
Education (End of)												
 15-	26%	31%	35%	20%	28%	18%	14%	11%	12%	12%	9%	6%
16-19	32%	29%	31%	27%	28%	19%	19%	15%	14%	15%	12%	5%
20+	34%	28%	24%	36%	26%	21%	20%	23%	17%	17%	14%	5%
Still studying	25%	26%	22%	32%	23%	23%	15%	17%	18%	11%	22%	9%
Respondent occupation scale												
 Self-employed	31%	31%	27%	28%	23%	15%	23%	22%	15%	16%	14%	6%
Managers	37%	30%	21%	39%	26%	19%	19%	23%	17%	16%	14%	5%
Other white collars	33%	29%	27%	29%	29%	19%	22%	17%	16%	14%	15%	5%
Manual workers	30%	28%	31%	27%	28%	21%	19%	15%	15%	14%	11%	5%
House persons	24%	31%	31%	22%	29%	17%	15%	12%	12%	11%	11%	7%
Unemployed	25%	28%	27%	22%	34%	23%	18%	11%	11%	10%	10%	6%
Retired	30%	29%	35%	23%	26%	19%	14%	15%	13%	15%	9%	5%
Students	25%	26%	22%	32%	23%	23%	15%	17%	18%	11%	22%	9%
Left-Right scale												
 (1-4) Left	30%	29%	26%	31%	29%	23%	16%	17%	16%	13%	14%	6%
(5-6) Centre	31%	31%	32%	28%	28%	19%	18%	16%	15%	15%	13%	6%
(7-10) Right	32%	29%	31%	26%	23%	17%	20%	20%	16%	17%	12%	5%
Highest results by demographic						Highest results by item						
<i>Lowest results by demographic</i>						Lowest results by item						

6. CITIZENS, THE EUROPEAN UNION AND GLOBALISATION

- Europeans see globalisation above all as a threat to employment and companies in their country; however a small minority see it as an economic opportunity -

A majority of Europeans consider that globalisation represents a threat to employment and companies in their country (42%, which is 1 point lower than in spring), compared with just over a third of them who instead see it as a good opportunity for companies due to the opening up of markets (36%, - 3 points)¹⁰¹. However the rate of 'DON'T KNOW' answers to this question has increased by 4 points, from 18% to 22%.

Question: QA33. Which of the following two propositions is the one which is closest to your opinion with regard to globalisation?



A majority of respondents in twelve Member States see globalisation as an opportunity. This view is supported by a large majority of respondents in the Scandinavian countries (73% of respondents in Denmark and 64% in Sweden) and the Netherlands (62%).

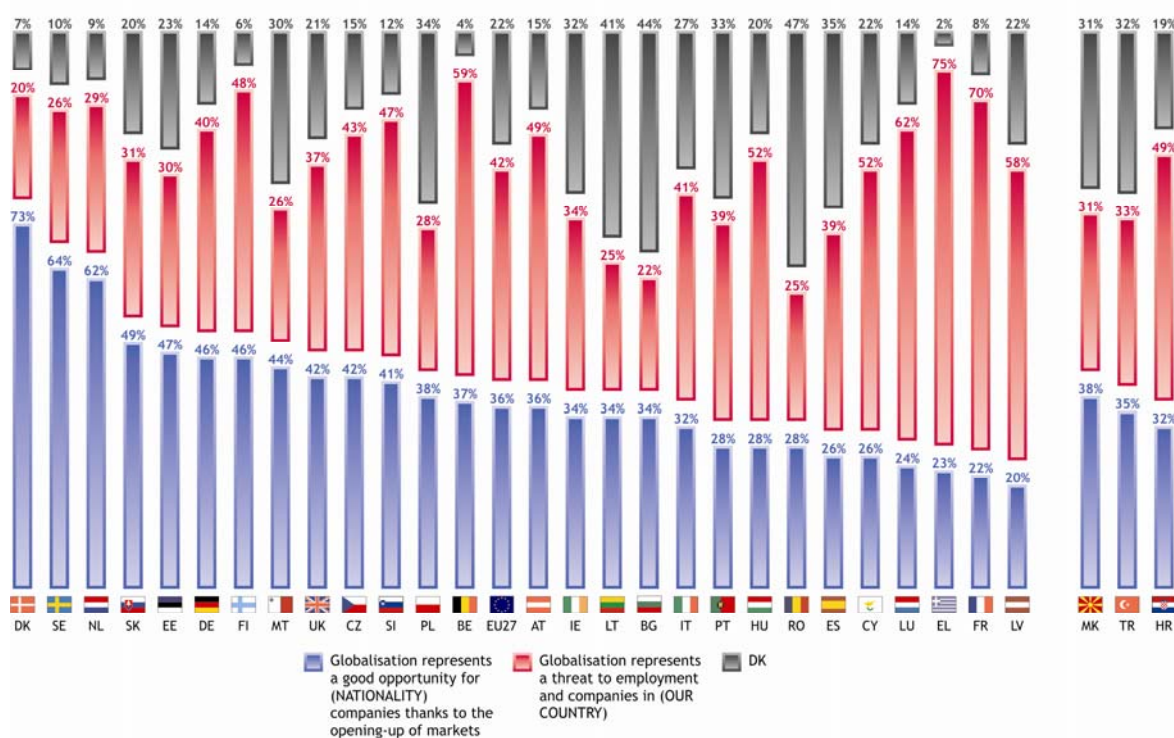
¹⁰¹ QA33a Which of the following two propositions is the one which is closest to your opinion with regard to globalisation?

On the other hand, fifteen Member States put the emphasis on the threat that globalisation represents. Three-quarters of respondents in Greece (75%), seven out of ten in France (70%) and 62% in Luxembourg share this view.

Respondents in Ireland are divided on the question: 34% see globalisation as a threat, while a similar proportion sees it as an opportunity. However, an almost identical percentage (32%) did not answer this question.

Among the most densely populated European countries, France and Spain stand out by having the lowest proportion of respondents who think that globalisation can be advantageous for companies in their country (22% and 26% respectively). This opinion is shared by 32% of respondents in Italy and 38% in Poland.

Question: QA33a. Which of the following two propositions is the one which is closest to your opinion with regard to globalisation?



It will be noted that many respondents felt unable to answer this question in the following Member States: Romania (47% versus a European average of 22%), Bulgaria (44%), Lithuania (41%), Spain (35%), Poland (34%) and Portugal (33%). These high rates of 'DON'T KNOW' answers reveal the difficulties that some European citizens have in understanding the concept of "globalisation".

- Important changes in opinion in the Member States -

In the majority of Member States (twenty one), the number of respondents who see globalisation as an opportunity for their country's companies has fallen. In Romania, the proportion who considers that globalisation represents an opportunity has fallen by 13 points. Support for this idea has also fallen significantly in Bulgaria and Malta (- 10 points each), Greece, Spain, Poland and Lithuania (all - 9 points).

On the other hand, in a minority of Member States (five), opinions have changed in the other direction. Thus, in Germany, the proportion of people polled who see globalisation as an opportunity has increased by 5 points, while the proportion of citizens who see it as a threat has decreased by 10 points. In Austria and the United Kingdom, the percentage of respondents who see globalisation as an opportunity has also increased by 5 points, while the proportion that see it as a threat has fallen by 7 and 5 points respectively. Results in Ireland and Sweden are stable on this question, remaining at 34% and 64% respectively.

Globalisation is seen as an opportunity by a narrow majority of respondents in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey (38% and 35% respectively). The proportion of people polled who did not answer this question is particularly high in these two countries (31% and 32% respectively). It is significant that in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the percentage of respondents who see globalisation as an opportunity has fallen by 19 points, while that of people who see it as a threat has increased by 10 points.

For their part, half of the respondents in Croatia consider that globalisation is a threat to jobs and companies (49%).

An analysis of the results by socio-demographic profile shows that the younger the respondents are, and the more they are to the right of the political spectrum, the more they are likely to be convinced of the benefits of globalisation. In addition, half of managers (53%) see globalisation as an opportunity for economic growth, compared with only 33% of manual workers and 28% of unemployed people.

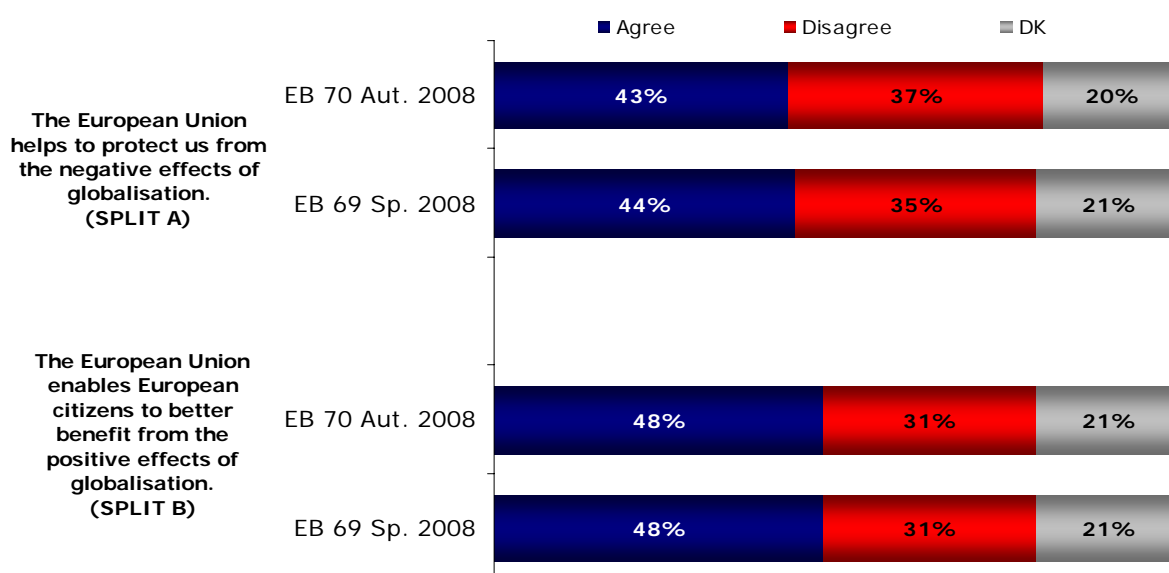
In order to examine the various aspects of globalisation, the sample was divided into two equivalent groups and each group was asked a different question on globalisation and the European Union's capacity to play a role in it¹⁰². One proposal was worded in a more negative way, and the other in a positive way.

¹⁰² QA34a To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: the European Union helps to protect us from the negative effects of globalisation. (SI 'SPLIT A')

- The tendency to see the European Union as enabling citizens to benefit from the positive effects of globalisation is stable -

As in spring 2008, we note that regardless of the way in which the question is worded, a relative majority of respondents acknowledge that the European Union plays a role which both enables its citizens to benefit from globalisation (48%, a result which has remained stable since spring 2008, and a view which is supported by a majority of respondents in twenty three Member States), and protects them against its negative effects (43%, down by 1 point, but supported by a majority of respondents in nineteen countries). However, a fifth of respondents did not answer this question in each of the two groups (21% and 20% respectively).

QA34 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement:



More than half of respondents in the Netherlands, Belgium and Slovakia (56%, 55% and 51% respectively) consider that the European Union helps to **protect them against the negative effects of globalisation**. A majority of respondents in six Member States take the opposite view: Greece (60%), Latvia (57%), France (56%), Slovenia (48%), Luxembourg (43%) and the United Kingdom (39%). Respondents in Hungary are split down the middle on this question (40%).

QA34b To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: the European Union enables citizens to better benefit from the positive effects of globalisation. (SI 'SPLIT B')

A large majority of Northern European Union countries consider that the European Union enables them to **benefit more from the positive effects of globalisation** (73% of respondents in Denmark, 66% in Sweden and 62% in Finland). 63% of respondents in the Netherlands agree with this statement. A majority of respondents in four Member States take the opposite view: Greece (57%), France (50%), Slovenia (44%) and Latvia (39%).





In four countries, the majority of respondents reject both statements: France, Greece, Latvia and Slovenia.

The majority of respondents in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia consider that the European Union helps to protect them against the negative effects of globalisation (48%) and even more that it enables them to benefit more from its positive effects (55%). Respondents in Croatia and Turkey agree on the last point (41% and 38% respectively), but disagree with the idea that the European Union helps to protect them against the negative effects of globalisation (52% and 34% respectively). More than a third of respondents in Turkey did not answer the two questions.

From a socio-demographic point of view, a majority of men, the youngest respondents and the longest educated respondents believe that the European Union enables them to benefit more from the positive effects of globalisation. The differences by socio-demographic profile are more clear-cut when the statement is worded positively.

Managers, employees and students are the most likely to agree with the statement that the European Union helps to protect them against the negative effects of globalisation. Self-employed people, managers and students are the most convinced of the European Union's positive role in helping citizens benefit more from globalisation.

QA34 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement:

The European Union helps to protect us from the negative effects of globalisation.						The European Union enables European citizens to better benefit from the positive effects of globalisation.				
	Totally agree	Tend to agree	Tend to disagree	Totally disagree	DK	Totally agree	Tend to agree	Tend to disagree	Totally disagree	DK
EU27	7%	36%	27%	10%	20%	8%	40%	24%	7%	21%
Sex										
 Male	9%	38%	28%	10%	15%	10%	43%	23%	8%	16%
Female	5%	35%	26%	9%	25%	6%	36%	25%	7%	26%
Age										
 15-24	9%	38%	24%	9%	20%	8%	46%	17%	3%	26%
25-39	7%	38%	27%	10%	18%	8%	43%	24%	8%	17%
40-54	7%	36%	30%	11%	16%	10%	39%	25%	8%	18%
55 +	6%	34%	26%	9%	25%	7%	34%	26%	8%	25%
Education (End of)										
 15-	5%	31%	27%	9%	28%	6%	29%	26%	9%	30%
16-19	6%	37%	27%	10%	20%	8%	39%	25%	8%	20%
20+	9%	41%	28%	10%	12%	11%	46%	23%	6%	14%
Still studying	12%	37%	24%	8%	19%	9%	50%	17%	3%	21%
Left-Right scale										
(1-4) Left	8%	38%	27%	10%	17%	9%	40%	27%	7%	17%
(5-6) Centre	7%	36%	29%	10%	18%	8%	41%	26%	7%	18%
(7-10) Right	8%	41%	27%	8%	16%	11%	44%	22%	6%	17%
Respondent occupation scale										
 Self-employed	6%	35%	34%	10%	15%	11%	46%	24%	6%	13%
Managers	9%	43%	28%	10%	10%	11%	50%	23%	5%	11%
Other white collars	7%	40%	30%	8%	15%	10%	44%	24%	8%	14%
Manual workers	8%	36%	26%	11%	19%	8%	38%	26%	7%	21%
House persons	4%	33%	20%	10%	33%	7%	28%	20%	6%	39%
Unemployed	7%	31%	26%	11%	25%	6%	32%	25%	10%	27%
Retired	5%	34%	27%	9%	25%	7%	34%	26%	9%	24%
Students	12%	37%	24%	8%	19%	9%	50%	17%	3%	21%

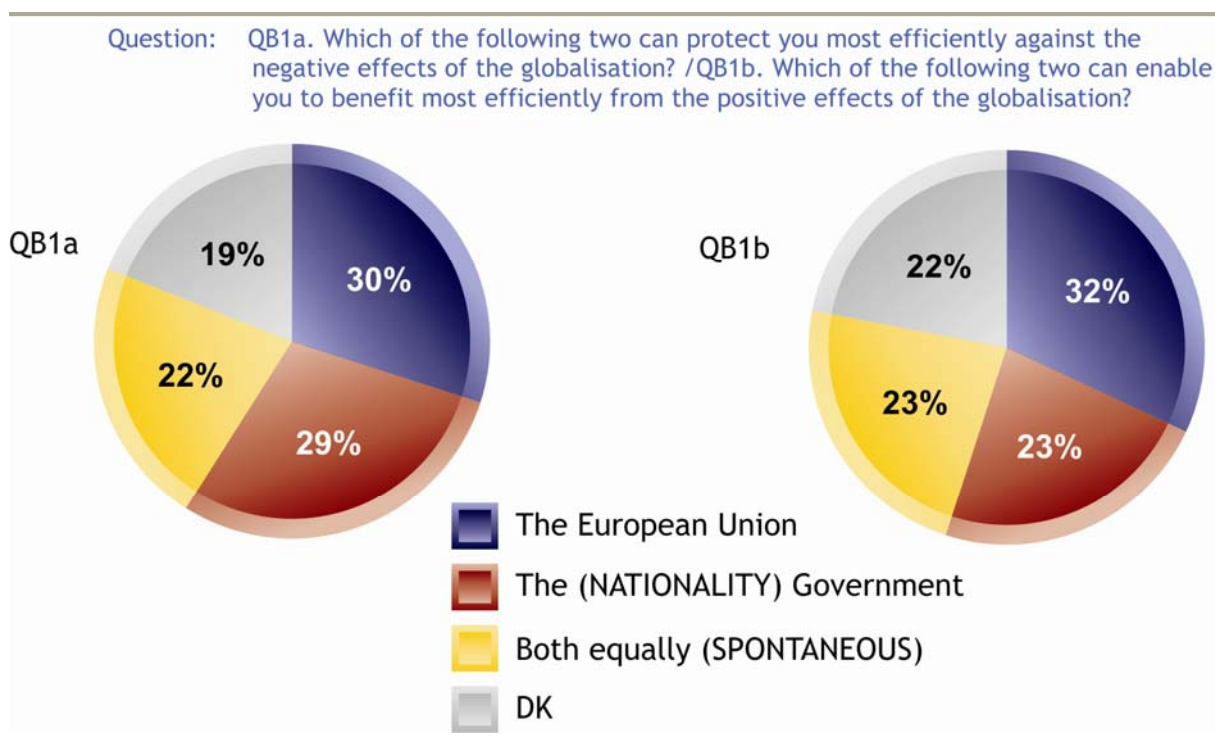
- The European Union and national governments shoulder to shoulder to protect citizens against the negative effects of globalisation;
on the other hand the European Union no longer seems in a position to help citizens benefit effectively from the positive effects -***

The sample was again divided into two equivalent groups and each group had to answer a differently worded question on the role of European and national institutions in coping with globalisation¹⁰³.

A narrow majority of Europeans consider that the European Union is better placed to protect them the most effectively from the negative effects of globalisation (30% versus 29% who mentioned their national government and 22% who spontaneously replied "both equally"). The majority is more clear-cut in the answers to the positively worded question, since a third of respondents consider that the European Union is more capable of helping them to benefit from the positive effects of globalisation: 32% versus 23% who prefer the national government and a similar percentage of respondents who spontaneously stated that both are equally capable of helping citizens benefit effectively from globalisation.

¹⁰³ QB1a Which of the following two can protect you most efficiently against the negative effects of globalisation (SI 'SPLIT A')

QB1b Which of the following two can enable you to benefit most efficiently from the positive effects of globalisation? (SI 'SPLIT B')



Respondents in Denmark, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom are again the most likely to put the national government first: 47% of respondents in Denmark, 46% in Finland, 41% in the United Kingdom and 40% in Sweden consider that their national government protects them better against the negative effects of globalisation. 45% of respondents in Finland, 43% in Denmark, 36% in the United Kingdom and 25% in Sweden also consider that it enables them to benefit more effectively from the positive effects of globalisation.

On the other hand, respondents in the Netherlands, France, Belgium and the Czech Republic favour the European Union: 46%, 43%, 43% and 40% respectively consider that the European Union is the most capable of protecting them against the negative effects of globalisation. 48% of respondents in the Netherlands, 46% in France, 42% in Belgium and 41% in the Czech Republic think that the European Union is more capable of enabling them to benefit as fully as possible from the positive effects of globalisation.

The proportion of 'DON'T KNOW' answers to these questions is particularly high in eight Member States: in Lithuania, Bulgaria, Malta, Spain, Estonia, Romania, Ireland and Latvia the 'DON'T KNOW' rate is above 25% regardless of the question asked (positive or negative wording).

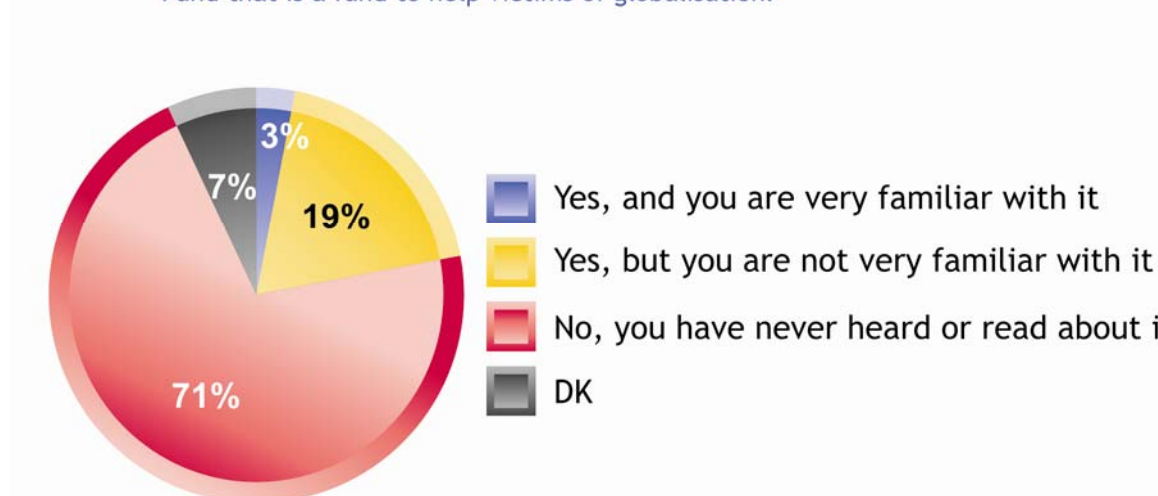
It is also worth emphasising that a narrow majority of men consider that the European Union is more capable of protecting them effectively against the negative effects of globalisation (34%, compared with 29% who mentioned their national government); women put more trust in their government (26% of them mentioned the European Union versus 29% who opted for the national government). However, women are more likely not to answer this question: 23% of 'DON'T KNOW' answers versus 15% for men.

Moreover, in line with the results noted throughout this survey, the propensity to trust the European Union increases with the respondent's level of education. This is true in this case regardless of how the question is worded: 22% of respondents who left school before the age of 15 consider that the European Union is better placed to help them benefit from the positive effects of globalisation, compared with 42% of those who completed their studies after the age of 19. 21% and 38% respectively believe that the European Union will protect them the most effectively against the negative effects of globalisation.

- The vast majority of Europeans are not familiar with the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund -

More than seven out of ten Europeans have never heard of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (71%). One in five have heard of it but are not fully familiar with it (19%). Only 3% of the people polled are fully familiar with this fund and its role.

Question: QB2. Have you ever heard or read about the European Globalisation adjustment Fund that is a fund to help victims of globalisation?



In five Member States, more than three out of ten respondents are familiar with the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund: in Slovakia and Portugal (36% in both cases), in Italy (34%), Austria (33%) and Malta (31%).

On the other hand, only one respondent in ten in the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Denmark (10% and 11% respectively in the other two cases), 13% of respondents in Cyprus, 14% in Estonia and 15% in France are aware of its existence.

Knowledge of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund is higher among the most educated categories and among respondents who are the best informed about the European Union. Thus, 25% of respondents who completed their studies after the age of 19 and 30% of those who consider that they understand how the European Union works have heard of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund. The respondents with the highest leadership index¹⁰⁴ have the highest level of awareness, at 33%.

¹⁰⁴ The opinion leadership index is constructed by combining the results of two questions: QA1. When you get together with friends, would you say you discuss political matters frequently, occasionally, or never? And QA2. When you hold a strong opinion, do you ever find yourself persuading your friends, relatives or fellow workers to share your views? Does this happen...? Frequently - Occasionally - Never

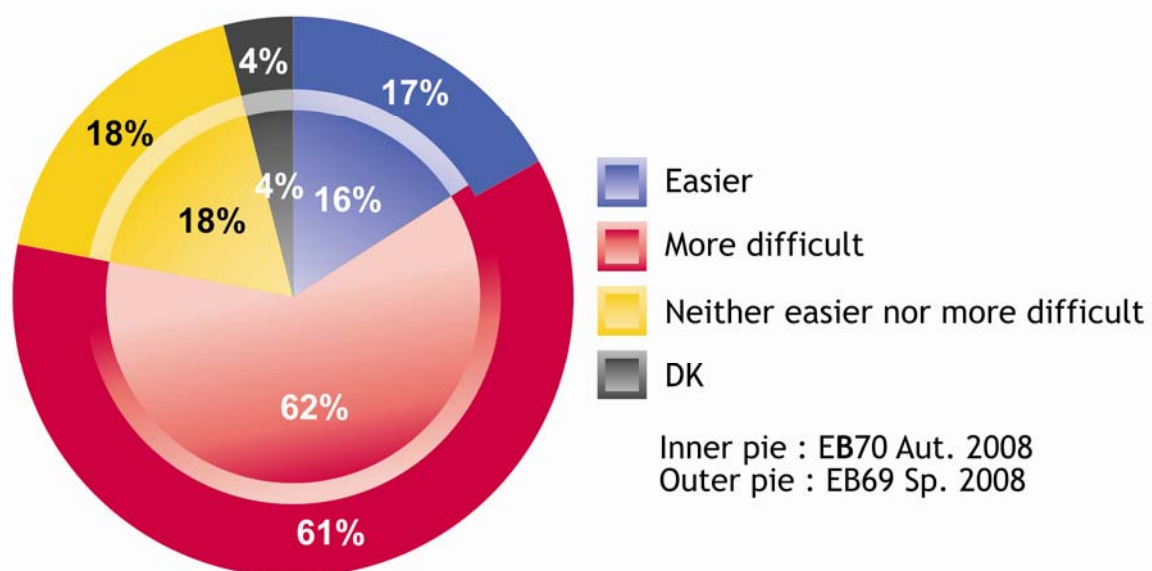
Thus, if an interviewee often or occasionally tries to convince another person or often discusses politics, he or she will be considered as an opinion leader in category 1 (+ +). On the other hand, if an interviewee rarely or never tries to convince another person and never discusses politics, he or she will not be considered as an opinion leader and will be classified in category 4 (--).in the opinion leadership index .

7. THE FUTURE OF EUROPEANS

- Six out of ten Europeans are convinced that their children's lives will be more difficult than their own -

More than six out of ten Europeans are convinced that the life of today's children will be more difficult than that of their own generation (62% versus 16% who take the opposite view and 18% who think that it will be neither easier nor more difficult). The proportion of respondents who expect life to be more difficult for their children has increased very slightly since 2008 (+ 1 point), while that of respondents taking the opposite view has decreased by one point¹⁰⁵.

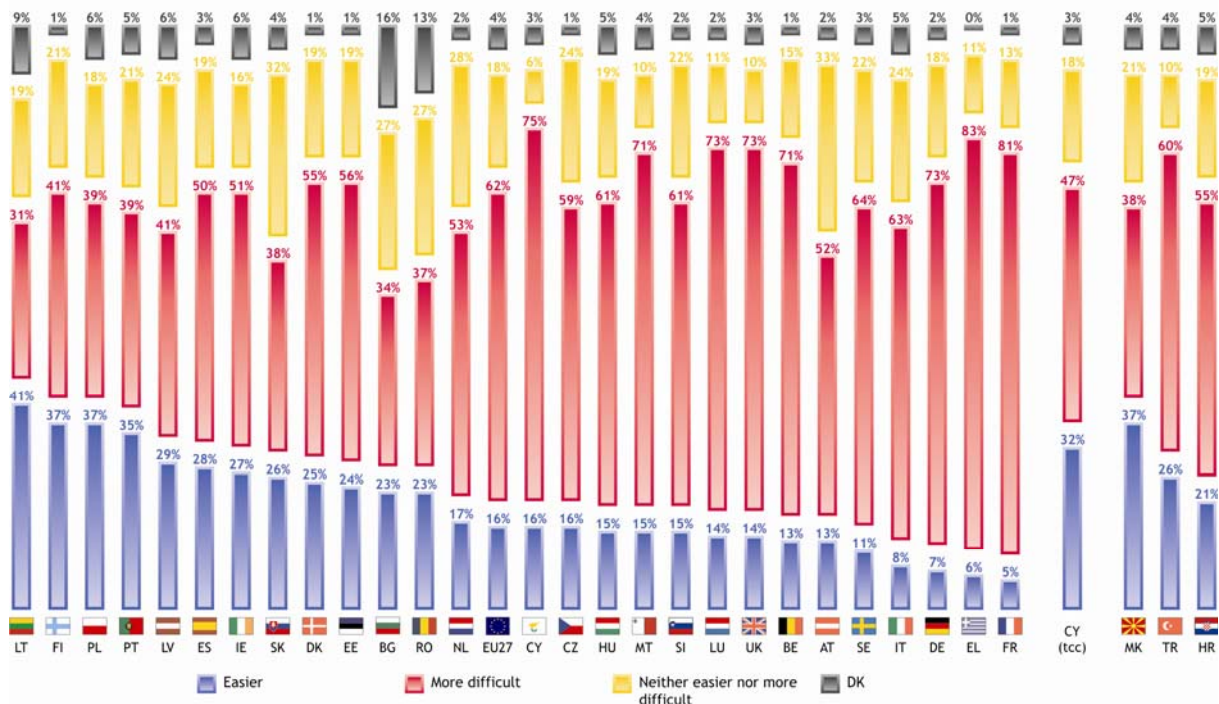
Question: QA22. Generally speaking, do you think that the life of those who are children today will be easier, more difficult or neither easier nor more difficult than the life of those from your own generation?



Respondents in the oldest European Union Member States tend to be the most pessimistic: in Greece (83%), France (81%), Germany, Luxembourg and the United Kingdom (all 73%) and Belgium (71%). However, three-quarters of respondents in Cyprus share their opinion (75%), as do seven out of ten in Malta (71%).

¹⁰⁵ QA22 Generally speaking, do you think that the life of those who are children today will be easier, more difficult or neither easier nor more difficult than the life of those from your own generation?

Question: QA22. Generally speaking, do you think that the life of those who are children today will be easier, more difficult or neither easier nor more difficult than the life of those from your own generation?



On the other hand, many countries which joined the European Union in May 2004 or in January 2007 are confident: Lithuania, which is the only Member State where this is the majority view (41% of respondents think that the life of their children will be easier than theirs); Poland (37%), Latvia (29%), Slovakia (26%), Estonia (24%) and Bulgaria (23%). More than a third of respondents in Finland and Portugal (37% and 35% respectively) share this opinion, as do 28% in Spain, 27% in Ireland and a quarter in Denmark (25%).

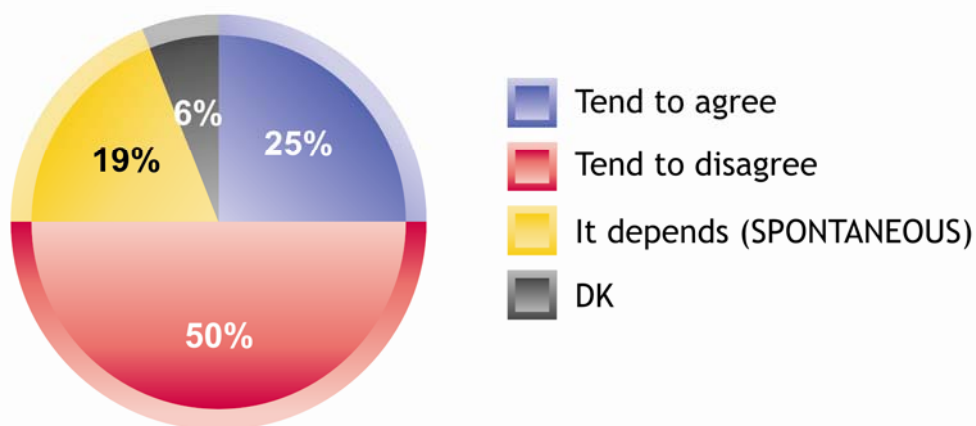
Respondents in the candidate countries are slightly more confident than the average of European Union citizens, perhaps because they expect their country's accession to the European Union to help improve their daily life. Almost four out of ten respondents in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (37%), more than a quarter in Turkey (26%) and 21% of respondents in Croatia think that their children will have an easier life than they did, compared with a European Union average of 16%.

From a socio-demographic point of view, there is clear difference which correlates with the respondent's position on the political spectrum. 66% of respondents on the left of the political spectrum consider that the life of today's children will be more difficult than that of their own generation, compared with 59% for those on the right.

- Half of Europeans believe that children in their country would not have a better life if they emigrated elsewhere -

Half of Europeans disagree with the statement that “children who live in (OUR COUNTRY) would have a better life if they emigrated to another country” (50%). A quarter of the people polled agree with this statement (25%) and 19% consider that it depends on the circumstances.




Question: QA23. Please tell me whether you tend to agree or to disagree with the following statement: The children who live in (OUR COUNTRY) would have a better life if they emigrated to another country.



Almost nine out of ten respondents in Denmark and Finland (89% and 88% respectively), 84% in the Netherlands, 79% in Sweden, 78% in Belgium and Luxembourg disagree with this statement. On the other hand, a majority of respondents in four Member States agree with this statement: the United Kingdom (49%), Lithuania (43%), Poland (40%) and Bulgaria (38%). 37% of respondents in Portugal and Romania share this view.

Three out of five respondents in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia consider that their children would have a better life if they emigrated to another country (59%). This is the only country in which a majority of respondents hold this view. More than four out of ten respondents in Croatia and Turkey take the opposite view (43% and 41% respectively).

An analysis of the results by socio-demographic categories reveals few differences. Only the respondent's level of education creates notable variations: 57% of respondents who completed their studies after the age of 20 do not agree with the idea that their children would have a better life if they emigrated to another country, compared with 49% of respondents who left school before the age of 16.

QA23 Please tell me whether you tend to agree or to disagree with the following statement: The children who live in (OUR COUNTRY) would have a better life if they emigrated to another country.					
	Tend to agree	Tend not to agree	It depends (SPONTANEOUS)	DK	
EU27	25%	50%	19%	6%	
Gender					
 Male	25%	51%	18%	6%	
Female	24%	49%	20%	7%	
Education (End of)					
 15-	23%	49%	19%	9%	
16-19	27%	47%	20%	6%	
20+	22%	57%	17%	4%	
Still studying	27%	50%	17%	6%	
Left-Right scale					
 (1-4) Left	23%	53%	18%	6%	
(5-6) Centre	25%	52%	18%	5%	
(7-10) Right	25%	53%	17%	5%	

CONCLUSION

Although a small majority of citizens consider that there are too many areas in which the European Union has decision-making powers, **Europeans are by and large in favour of the Europeanisation of public powers and this support has increased since spring 2008.** A majority of respondents consider that decisions should be taken jointly at European level in twelve of the twenty policy areas on which they were polled, including the fight against terrorism, scientific and technological research and protecting the environment.

Europeans also mention energy issues, the fight against crime and immigration issues as some of the main areas to which the European institutions should give priority over the coming years to strengthen the European Union.

Finally, support for European policies remains stable, but while Europeans consider that the increase from 15 to 27 Member States has strengthened the European Union, they are divided about the prospect of further enlargement.

A narrow majority of Europeans see globalisation as a threat to employment and companies in their country; this fear strikes a chord with the concerns previously expressed about the economic and job situations in their country. Thus, a small majority see the European Union as a source of protection against the negative effects of globalisation. Faced with globalisation, Europeans show that they are aware that what is at stake extends way beyond the national context and consider that the European Union is better placed to enable them to benefit more effectively from the positive effects of globalisation.

A third of Europeans have never heard of the European Union budget and over-estimate the weight of administrative and personnel costs which they believe account for the bulk of current expenditure. **Particularly concerned about the current economic crisis, they would like to see the European budget allocated as a matter of priority to economic growth, social affairs and employment.**

These worries are also reflected in a fairly pessimistic vision of the future: **more than six out of ten Europeans are convinced that the life of today's children will be more difficult than that of their own generation.** However, when they think in terms of geography rather than time, the majority of Europeans tend to think that the children who live in their country would not have a better life if they emigrated elsewhere.

IV. NEW TOPICS

INTRODUCTION

The second half of 2008 was strongly marked by the turbulent financial crisis which has affected economies and the lives of citizens throughout the world¹⁰⁶.

The second key event which occurred during the second half of 2008 was triggered during the night of 7-8 August when the Caucasus was plunged into war, more precisely when the ongoing tensions in a region of Georgia, South Ossetia, resulted in an open conflict between the Russian and Georgian armies.

This is the backdrop to the subjects examined in this fourth volume of the Standard Eurobarometer, which examines the perceptions and opinions of Europeans concerning the fall of the Iron Curtain and its consequences, and the conflict in Georgia. We shall examine more precisely the way in which Europeans assess the fall of the Iron Curtain, and their answers to questions linked to the parties that played a role in ending the war in Georgia and the effects of the conflict on the European Union's energy supplies.

This section examines the following subjects:

1) The fall of the Iron Curtain: the impact of the fall of the Iron Curtain on the European Union, at national level and personally, that is to say for the interviewees themselves.

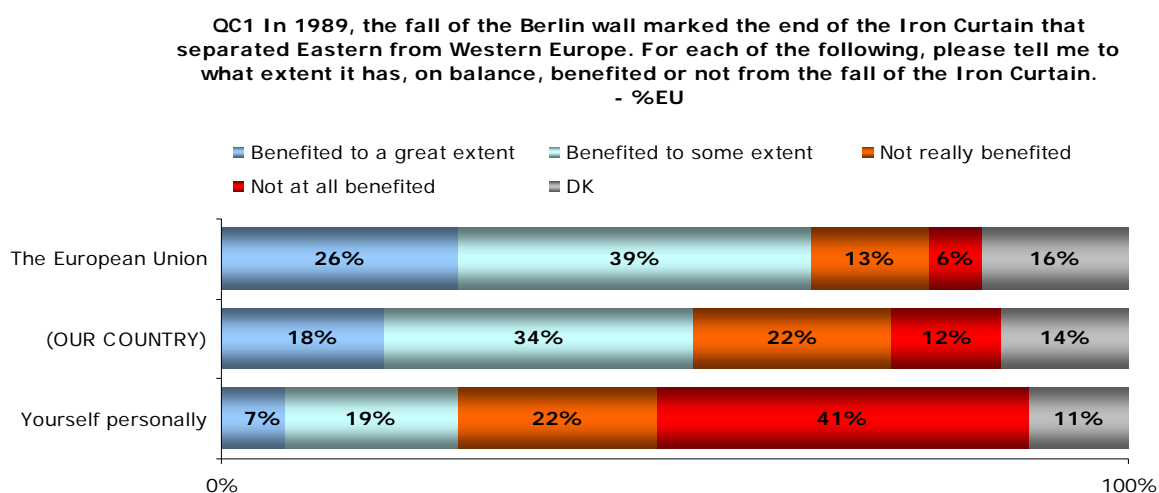
2) Europeans and the conflict in Georgia: identification of the international parties seen by the public to play a key role in ending the conflict in South Ossetia, and the perceived influence of this conflict on the security of the European Union's energy supplies.

¹⁰⁶ The crisis, which has affected the opinions of Europeans on the bulk of the subjects in this wave of the Eurobarometer, is examined in particular in part I.1, personal aspects (page 7 of the first volume), and I.3, economic aspects (page 86 of the first volume).

1. THE FALL OF THE IRON CURTAIN

- Two-thirds of Europeans consider that the fall of the Berlin Wall has benefited the European Union -

The Iron Curtain divided Europe into two separate parts from the end of the Second World War up to 1989, when the fall of the Berlin Wall opened the way to further enlargement of the European Union. **A high proportion of Europeans (65%) consider that the European Union has, all things considered, benefited from the fall of the Iron Curtain.** On average, 52 % of Europeans consider in addition that their **country has benefited from its fall**, and finally just over a quarter of citizens consider that **they have benefited from it personally** (26 %) ¹⁰⁷.



There is a clear geographical divide in opinions regarding the fall of the Iron Curtain. The most obvious symbolic frontier concerns the perceived benefits at *national* level: in the 12 most recent Member States, 63% of respondents think that their country has benefited from the fall of the Iron Curtain, compared with just under half of respondents in the “oldest” Member States (49 %). The gap between the two groups of countries is practically as wide as regards the *personal* benefits (difference of 13 points between the proportion of “benefited” answers in the 12 recent Member States and in the EU15).

¹⁰⁷ QC1.1 In 1989, the fall of the Berlin wall marked the end of the Iron Curtain that separated Eastern from Western Europe. For each of the following, please tell me to what extent it has, on balance, benefited or not from the fall of the Iron Curtain? The European Union; (OUR COUNTRY); Yourself personally.

Finally, it is less marked as regards the perceived benefits for the European Union (difference of 8 points).

QC1 For each of the following, please tell me to what extent it has, on balance, benefited or not from the fall of the Iron Curtain.

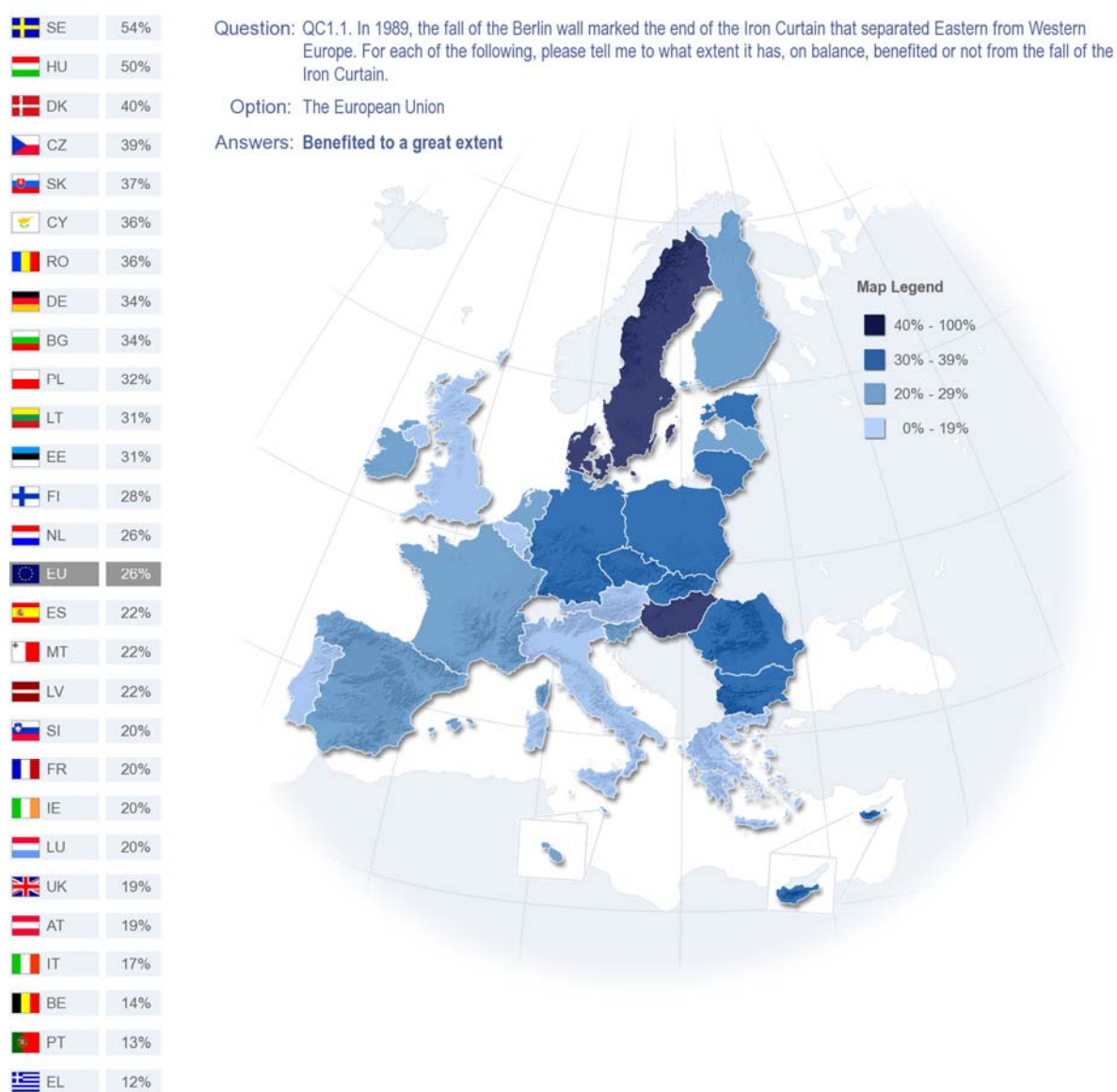
- Benefited

	EU15	NMS12
The European Union	63%	71%
(OUR COUNTRY)	49%	63%
Yourself personally	23%	36%

It is particularly interesting to analyse the differences between the people polled in the former East and West Germany in these results. In both parts of Germany, citizens acknowledge that the fall of the Berlin Wall, which divided their country, has benefited the European Union, although East German respondents are more positive (84% versus 72% of West German respondents). Opinions diverge more about the benefits for Germany: 7 out of 10 respondents think that their country has benefited from the fall of the Iron Curtain in West Germany, but the corresponding proportion increases to 88 % among respondents in the former East Germany. Finally, there is a profound division between East and West as regards the personal benefits obtained thanks to the fall of the Iron Curtain. While there is little doubt among interviewees in East Germany that they have benefited personally from this historic event (60%), the opposite seems to apply in West Germany (only 31% of respondents think that they have benefited from the fall of the Wall, with 68% disagreeing).

A detailed analysis of the national results reveals other pieces of interesting information. Thus, when it comes to assessing the consequences of the fall of the Berlin Wall for the European Union as a whole, some countries stand out from the rest by their enthusiasm, that is to say by the proportion respondents who consider that the European Union has "benefited to a great extent" from this historic event. That is logically the case of some Member States which have recently joined the European Union and were located on the other side of the Iron Curtain before it came down, such as the Czech Republic (39%) and above all Hungary (50%). But it is also the case of respondents in some Nordic countries, in particular Sweden where just over half of the people interviewed gave the most positive answer, and Denmark, where four out of ten citizens share their opinion.

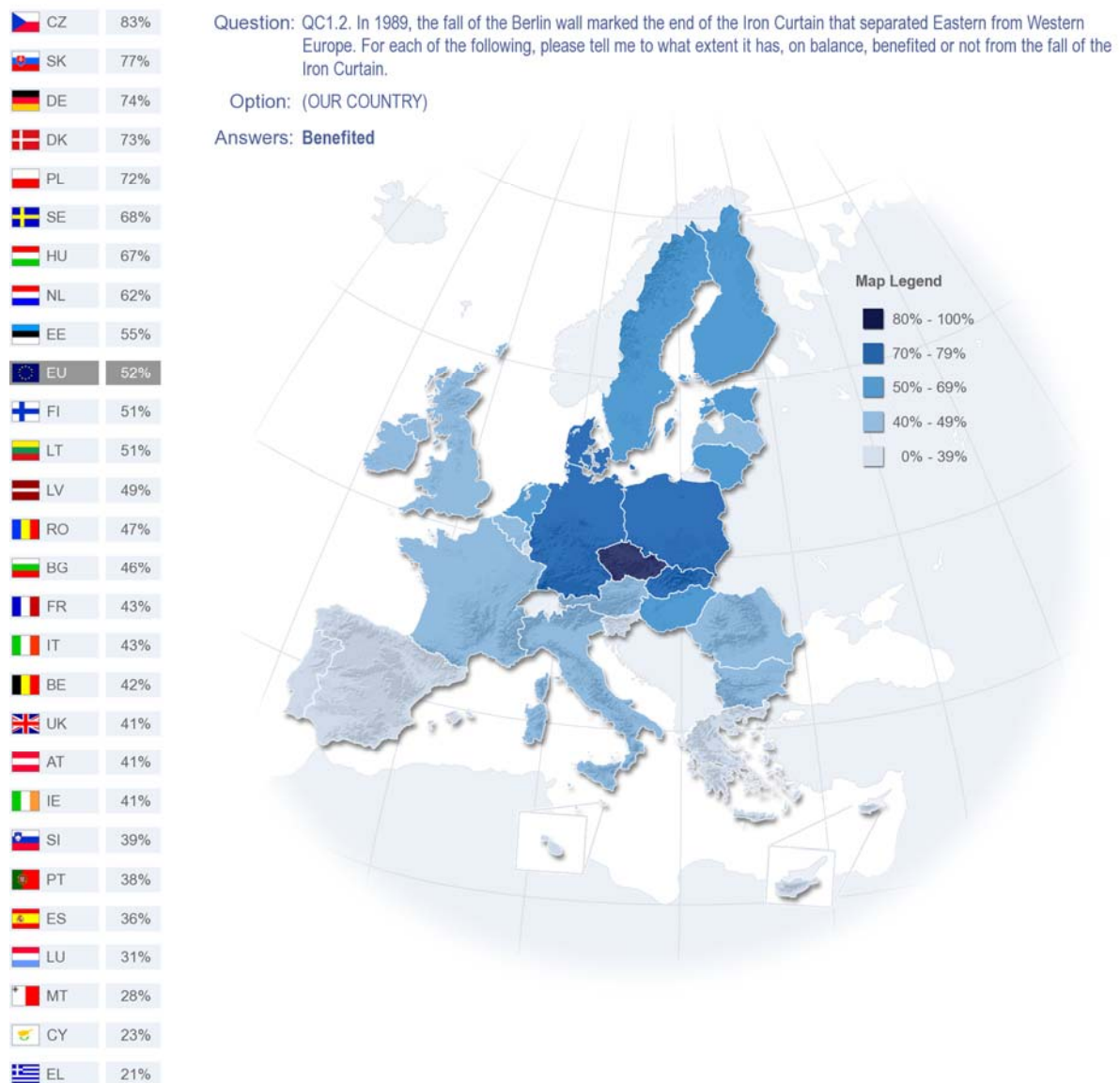
On the other hand, respondents in Greece demonstrate a certain indifference, or in any event tend to be less emphatic, since more than four out of ten people polled (44%) consider that on the whole the European Union has not benefited from this historic event. This opinion is shared by a not insignificant proportion of respondents in Luxembourg (37%) and Belgium (32%). Finally the high percentage of 'DON'T KNOW' answers in Malta (34%), Spain (33%) and Portugal (29%) is noteworthy.



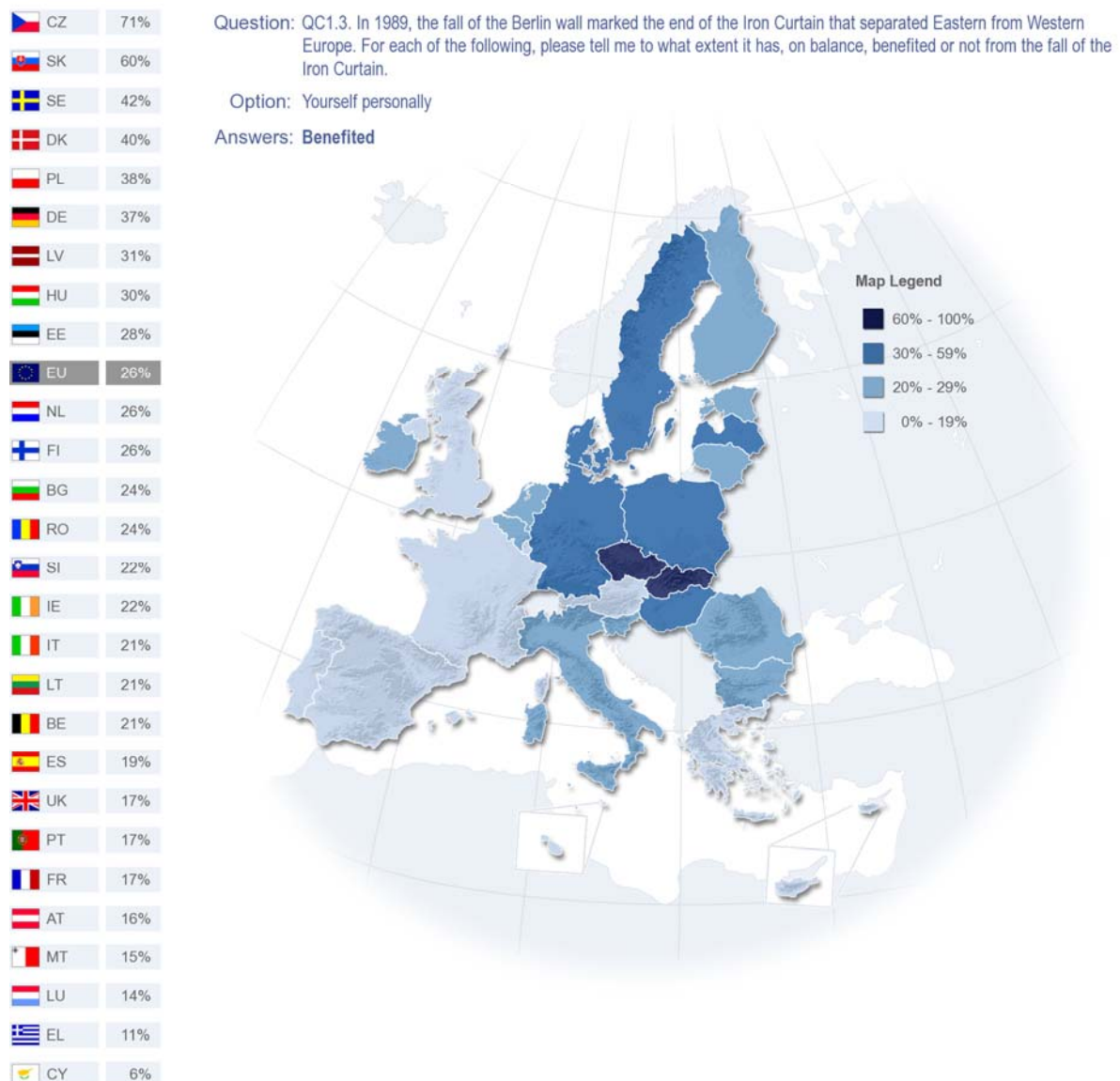
When asked to assess the effects of the fall of the Berlin Wall on their own country, and leaving aside the case of Germany analysed above, a majority of respondents are positive about its consequences in 17 Member States.

This is particularly true in the Czech Republic and Slovakia where 83% and 77% of respondents consider that their country has benefited to a great extent from the fall of the wall. In Germany, Denmark and Poland more than seven out of ten respondents share this opinion, as do more than 60% of citizens in Sweden (68%), Hungary (67%) and the Netherlands (62%). It is not really surprising that views on these events, the twentieth anniversary of which was celebrated a few months before the survey, are more detached in Southern European countries.

Thus, in Malta, fewer than 30% of respondents consider that their country has benefited from the fall of the wall, and the proportion is even lower in Cyprus (23%) and Greece (21%). The level of 'DON'T KNOW' answers is again high in Malta (36%), Spain (32%) and in Ireland and Portugal (where it is as high as 27%)



From a personal point of view, 71% of respondents in the Czech Republic and 60% in Slovakia consider that they have benefited personally from the fall of the Iron Curtain. This view, shared by 42% of the people polled in Sweden and 40% in Denmark, once again contrasts with the detachment demonstrated by respondents living in the south of the European Union.



Finally, from a socio-demographic point of view, a European for whom the fall of the Iron Curtain has been beneficial on all three counts – at European level, nationally and personally – is far more likely to have studied longer (studying up to at least the age of 20) than to have left school earlier. The table below illustrates the importance of education in this regard.

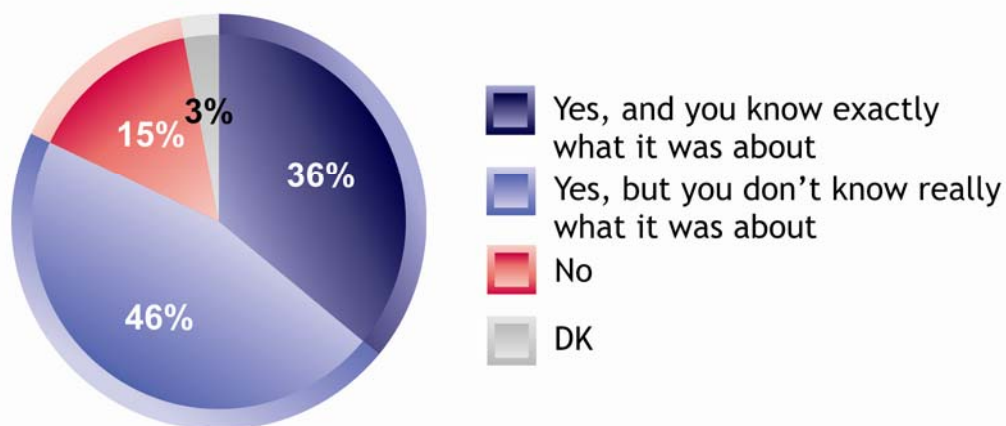
% "Benefited" by End of Education						
		Education (End of)				
		EU	15-	16-19	20+	Still studying
QC1 In 1989, the fall of the Berlin wall marked the end of the Iron Curtain that separated Eastern from Western Europe. For each of the following, please tell me to what extent it has, on balance, benefited or not from the fall of the Iron Curtain.	The European Union	65%	54%	65%	77%	69%
	(OUR COUNTRY)	52%	41%	51%	64%	58%
	Yourself personally	26%	17%	25%	36%	30%

We note, to conclude this chapter, that approximately a fifth of the youngest Europeans, in the 15-24 age group, are slightly more likely to feel unable to express an opinion on these key events in Europe's recent history.

2. EUROPEANS AND THE CONFLICT IN GEORGIA

One in three Europeans (36%) have heard or read something about the conflict in Georgia and know exactly what it was about¹⁰⁸. However, almost half of the people interviewed (46%) are less well informed since although they have heard or read something about the conflict they do not really know what it was about. In total, therefore, more than eight of ten Europeans have heard or read something about the conflict between Georgia and Russia; the conflict received fairly wide media coverage, even if a relative majority of respondents are not familiar with the details of the conflict.




Question: QE1. In August this year, armed conflict broke out between Russia and Georgia. Have you heard or read about this conflict?



From a socio-demographic point of view, the best informed Europeans are those who have been educated to a high level: more than half of those having who studied up to at least the age of 20 (53%) are familiar with the details of the conflict. This level of information contrasts with that of respondents who left school before the age of 16 (25%). There are also significant differences by gender, with 46% of men saying that they know exactly what it was about compared with 27% of women. By age groups, the high level of detailed knowledge among those aged 40 or over (40% among those aged 40 to 54 and 39% among respondents aged 55 or over) falls substantially in the youngest age segment (26% of the 15-24 age group).

¹⁰⁸ QE1 In August this year, armed conflict broke out between Russia and Georgia. Have you heard or read about this conflict?

The presence of new information technologies seems once again to act as a determinant: 43% of those who have an Internet connection at home have heard about the conflict and know exactly what it was about, compared with 27% of those who do not have an Internet connection at home.

QE1 In August this year, armed conflict broke out between Russia and Georgia. Have you heard or read about this conflict?		Yes, and you know exactly what it was about	Yes, but you don't know really what it was about	No	DK
EU27		36%	46%	15%	3%
Gender					
	Male	46%	41%	11%	2%
	Female	27%	50%	20%	3%
Age					
	15-24	26%	46%	24%	4%
	25-39	34%	48%	15%	3%
	40-54	40%	47%	11%	2%
	55 +	39%	44%	15%	2%
Age at which completed education					
	15-	25%	49%	23%	3%
	16-19	34%	49%	15%	2%
	20+	53%	39%	6%	2%
	Still studying	32%	45%	19%	4%
Internet connection at home					
Yes		43%	44%	11%	2%
No		27%	48%	21%	4%
EU membership					
Good thing		43%	45%	10%	2%
Bad thing		33%	45%	19%	3%
Neither good nor bad		28%	49%	20%	3%
Benefited from EU membership					
Benefited		42%	45%	11%	2%
Not benefited		33%	47%	18%	2%
Image of the EU					
Positive		43%	44%	11%	2%
Neutral		29%	49%	19%	3%
Negative		35%	46%	17%	2%
Objective knowledge of the EU¹⁰⁹					
Bad		12%	45%	35%	8%
Average		33%	49%	16%	2%
Good		48%	43%	8%	1%
Understands how the EU works					
Tends to agree		52%	39%	8%	1%
Tends to disagree		24%	51%	22%	3%

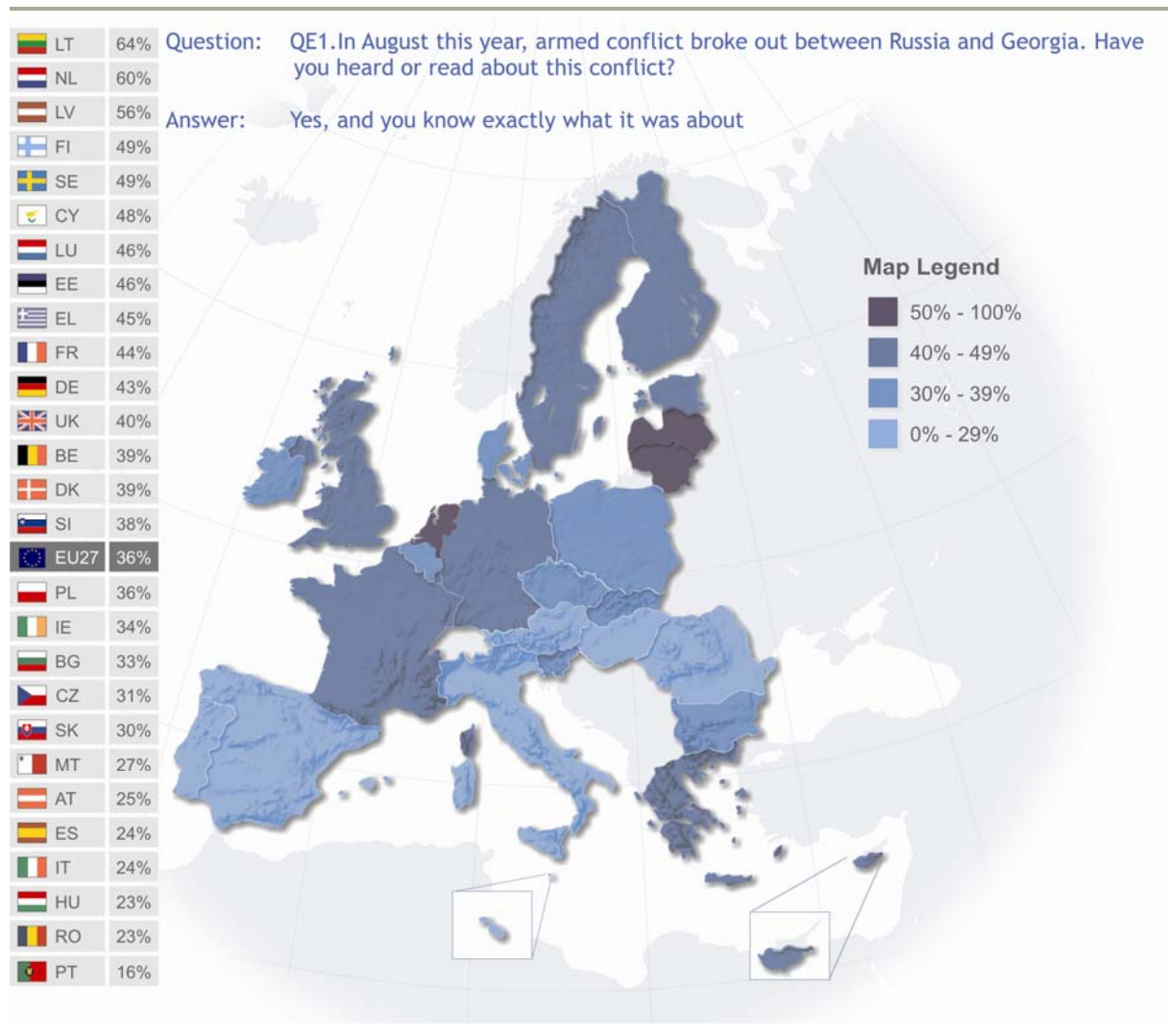
¹⁰⁹ The objective knowledge indicator is constructed from the respondents' answers to 4 questions about the European Union: 1. The EU currently consists of fifteen Member States; 2. Every 6 months, a different Member State becomes the President of the Council of the European Union; 3. The euro area currently consists of twelve Member States; 4. Switzerland is a member of the European Union. The respondents are asked to say whether each of these statements is true or false. See part II 5.5.2, Objective knowledge of the European Union, page 62 of volume II.

In general, respondents who have the most positive opinion and attitudes about the European Union, and those in the categories with a good objective knowledge of the European Union and a better understanding of how it works, tend to have the most in-depth knowledge of the conflict. Finally, those who are in favour of a common EU foreign policy towards other countries are better informed of the facts than those who are against the idea (41% having of those in favour of a common foreign policy have a detailed knowledge of the conflict, compared with 32% of those who are against a common foreign policy). Here again, it is important to bear in mind that these various categories are characterised by a level of education which is higher than the European average.

Awareness and knowledge of the conflict vary perceptibly from one European country to another. Respondents in two Baltic States, Lithuania and Latvia, together with those in the Netherlands, are very well informed, with approximately six out of ten citizens declaring that they are aware of the ins and outs of the conflict (64% of respondents in Lithuania, 60% in the Netherlands and 56% in Latvia). Respondents are also well informed about the details of the conflict in Finland (49%), Sweden (49%), Cyprus (49%), Estonia (46%), Luxembourg (46%) and Greece (45%). Awareness levels are also above the European average in six other European Union countries: France (44%), Germany (43%), the United Kingdom (40%), Belgium (39%), Denmark (39%) and Slovenia (38%).

At the other end of the scale, only one in four respondents in Malta (27%), Austria (25%), Spain (24%), Italy (24%), Hungary and Romania (both 23% in both cases), are aware of the details of the crisis in the Caucasus. This percentage falls to as low as 16% in Portugal, where a third of the people interviewed (34%) were unable to answer this question. The level of 'DON'T KNOW' replies was almost identical in Spain (33%).

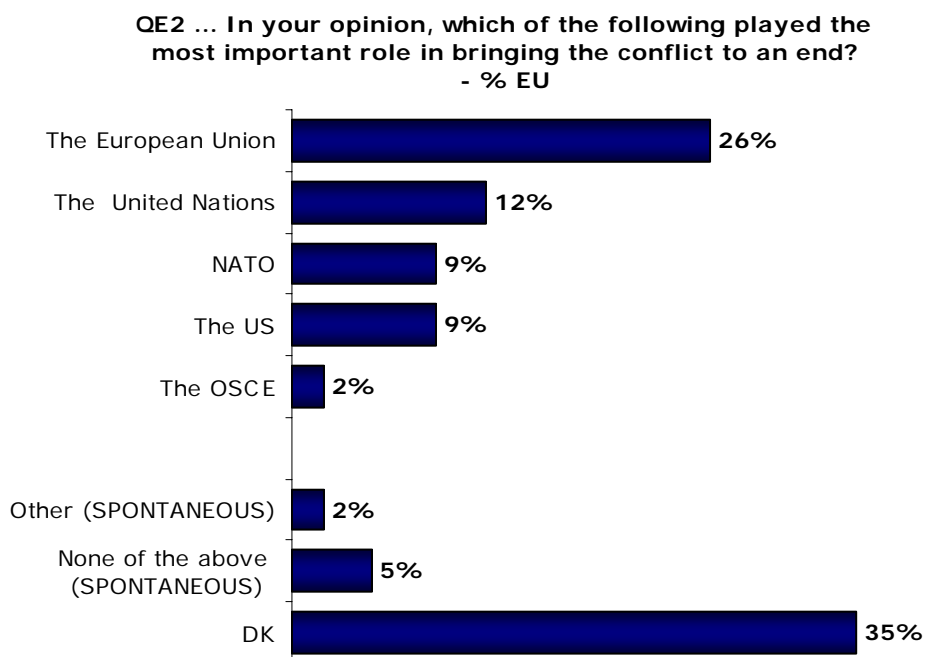
There is no real geographical logic pattern to detailed knowledge of the conflict: the map below does not reveal a clear trend suggesting that respondents in countries geographically close to the conflict have a better knowledge of the subject. It is to be noted however that respondents in Latvia and Lithuania have detailed knowledge of the conflict.



Coinciding with the end of President George W. Bush's mandate at the White House, some media and analysts regard the European Union's mediation as decisive in resolving the Georgian conflict. This opinion seems to be shared by a significant proportion of Europeans.

- The European Union is seen as the party which played the main role in bringing an end to the conflict, but a relative majority of respondents were unable to express an opinion -

Just over a quarter of Europeans consider that the European Union played the most important role in bringing the conflict in Georgia to an end (26%)¹¹⁰. Far fewer Europeans attribute this role to another international body or country: 12% mentioned the United Nations, an identical proportion of 9% cited NATO and the United States, while only 2% opted for the OSCE¹¹¹. However, the majority of respondents did not know which party played the most important role in bringing the conflict to an end (35%): this may mean that public opinion tends to be ill-informed on this subject, but also the public is unable to choose between the various parties on this question.



The results by country confirm the trend noted at European level. Among the five international bodies/countries mentioned in the question, the respondents in almost all Member States mentioned the European Union the most frequently.

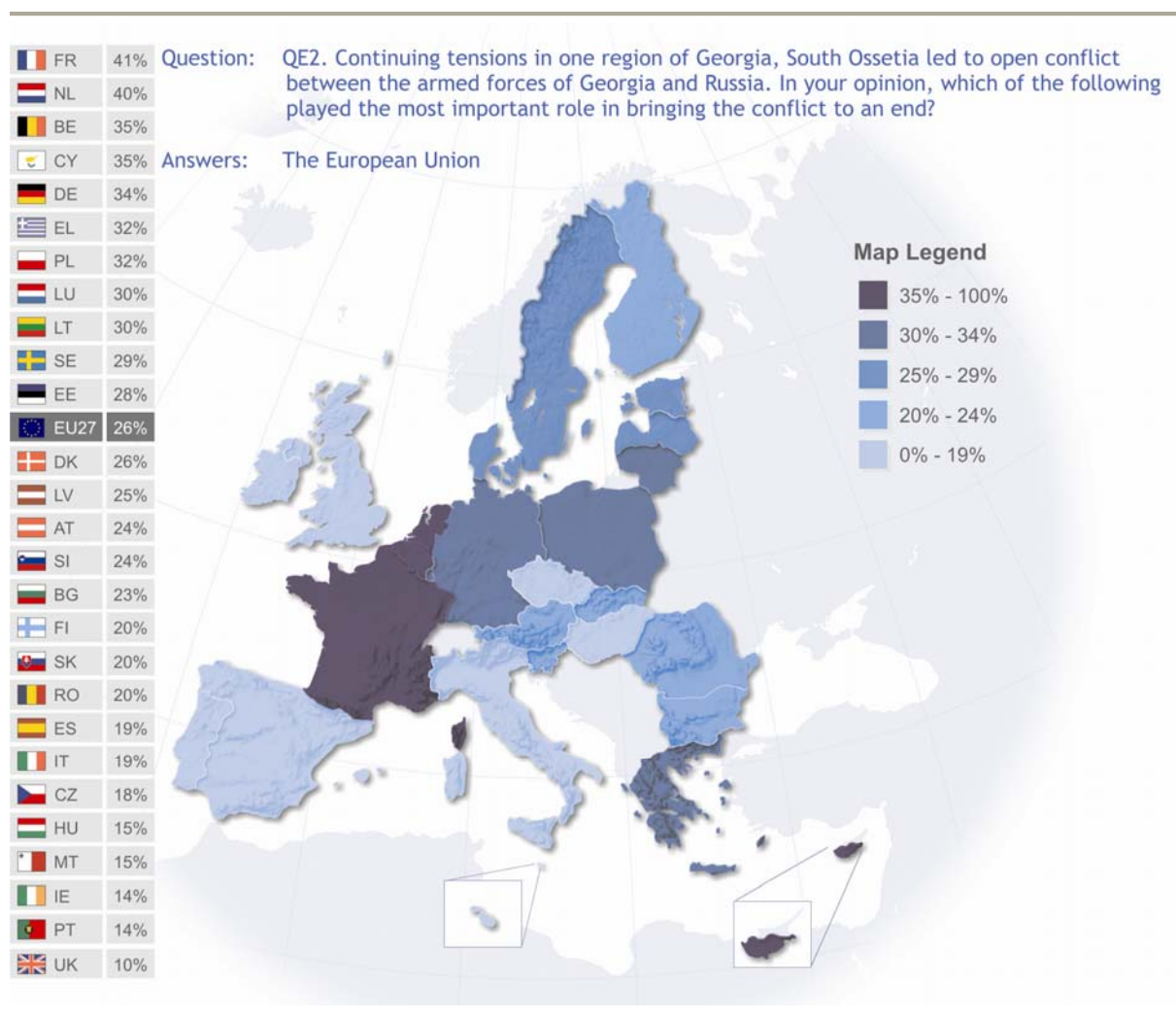
¹¹⁰ QE2 Continuing tensions in one region of Georgia, South Ossetia led to open conflict between the armed forces of Georgia and Russia. In your opinion, which of the following played the most important role in bringing the conflict to an end? (ROTATE)

¹¹¹ "OSCE" stands for the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe. See: www.osce.org.

The United Kingdom and Ireland are the only real exceptions: in those two countries the United Nations was mentioned more frequently than the European Union (respectively, 18 % and 10 % in the United Kingdom, 17% and 14% in Ireland). In addition, the European Union and the United Nations were ranked equally in Portugal (14%) and obtained extremely close scores in Slovakia (20% and 19% respectively). However, in 16 of the 27 Member States the most frequent answer was 'DON'T KNOW', with the highest scores being recorded in Spain (57 %), Portugal and Malta (53% in both countries) and Bulgaria (51 %).

These high 'DON'T KNOW' rates obviously affect the interpretation of the results by country. The differences in the proportions of respondents who consider that the European Union played the key role can be explained chiefly by the extent of the 'DON'T KNOW' category. Given the role played by the French President Sarkozy, President of the European Union during the crisis, however, it is interesting to note that France has the highest proportion of respondents who are convinced that the European Union played the most decisive role in ending the conflict (41 %). The other countries in which more than a third of respondents share this opinion are the Netherlands (40 %), Cyprus and Belgium (both 35%) and Germany (34%). These trends are accentuated if we analyse only the answers given by those who are the most knowledgeable about the conflict¹¹². In this sub-category of the population, the proportion of respondents mentioning the "European Union" increases to 69% in France, 50% in the Netherlands, 49% in Poland, Belgium and Cyprus, and 46% in Germany.

¹¹² That is to say the interviewees having heard or read about the conflict and being aware what it was about. This is covered by QE1



It should be noted that the proportion of respondents who consider that the European Union played the main role in bringing the conflict to an end is the highest among those who stayed the longest in full-time education (36% versus 19% of those who left school at the age of 15 or earlier). From the point of view of attitudes towards the European Union, the categories that are the most likely to consider that the European Union played the most important role in resolving the conflict are those groups which are the most positive about the European Union's image (33% compared with an average of 26%) and about membership of it the Union (32%), along with those that who think their country has benefited from membership (31%). It is also the case of Europeans who have the most trust in the European Union (31%).

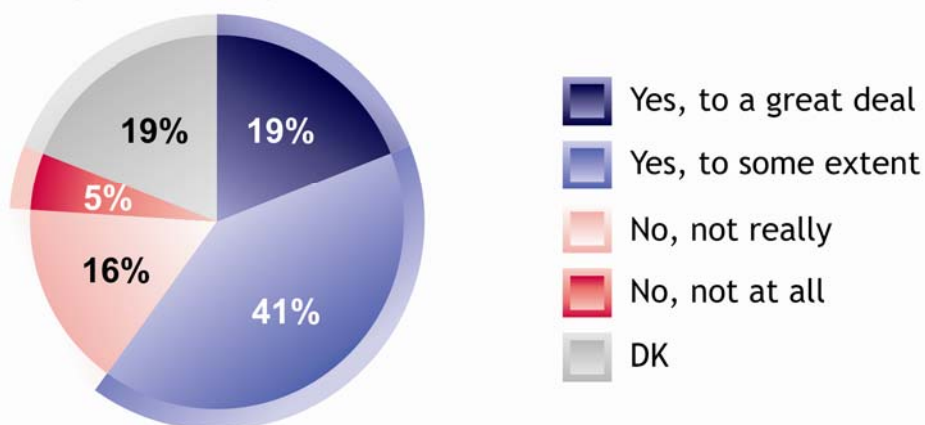
Similarly, the respondents who are in favour of a common foreign policy among Member States of the EU towards other countries are more likely to consider that the European Union played this key role (30% versus 26% on average).

One of the geo-political issues of the conflict was the security of Europe's energy supplies. **It should be remembered that the European Union's energy dependency rate was 54% in 2006.** Since 1997, the European Union's net imports have increased by 29% and the energy dependency rate has increased by 9% (in 1997, it was still under the 50% mark, at 44%).¹¹³

- Most Europeans are worried about the effect of the conflict on energy supplies in Europe -

At the time the information was collected (October 2008), Europeans were very concerned about the influence of the Georgian conflict on Europe: **three out of five think that this conflict could have an effect on the security of energy supplies in the European Union (60%)**¹¹⁴. However, approximately one in five respondents are 'not really' or 'not at all' in agreement (21 %); a further fifth have no opinion (19 %).

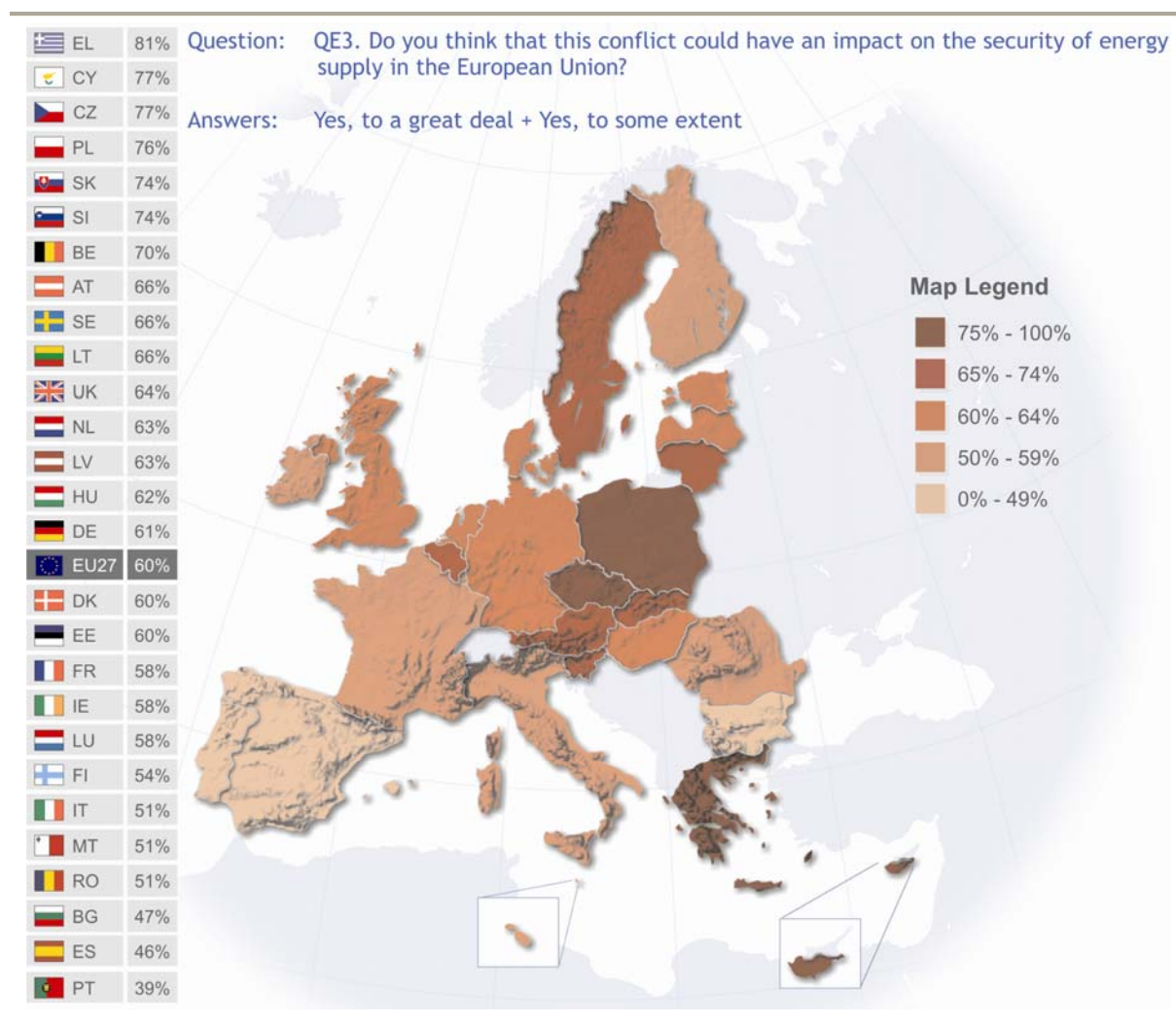
Question: QE3. Do you think that this conflict could have an impact on the security of energy supply in the European Union?



Respondents in Greece (81%) are the most concerned about the repercussions of the Georgian conflict on the European Union's energy supplies. More than seven out of ten respondents share this concern in the Czech Republic and Cyprus (77 %), Poland (76 %), and in Slovakia and Slovenia (74 %).

¹¹³ http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_OFFPUB/KS-DK-08-001/EN/KS-DK-08-001-EN.PDF

¹¹⁴ QE3 Do you think that this conflict could have an impact on the security of energy supply in the European Union?



Geographical proximity and energy dependency, and more concretely dependency on Russian energy sources or other external suppliers, play a role in the concerns regarding the impact of the Georgian conflict on the security of energy supplies. For example, Greece, which is the country where respondents are the most concerned, is 72%¹¹⁵ dependent on imported energy. Concerns are relatively lower in Spain and Portugal: although they have high energy dependency rates (Spain and Portugal import respectively 81% and 83% of the energy they consume), Russia is not one of their main suppliers¹¹⁶. The same factor might come into play in France whose energy dependency rate is slightly below the European average (51%)¹¹⁷, and whose imports of Russian gas represent only 16% of gas consumed.

¹¹⁵ 2006 figure: http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_OFFPUB/KS-DK-08-001/EN/KS-DK-08-001-EN.PDF

¹¹⁶ 2006 figures: http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_OFFPUB/KS-DK-08-001/EN/KS-DK-08-001-EN.PDF

¹¹⁷ 2006 figure: http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_OFFPUB/KS-DK-08-001/EN/KS-DK-08-001-EN.PDF

Given the significant fluctuations in the rate of 'DON'T KNOW' answers, it is again difficult to compare national opinions accurately. The highest proportion of 'DON'T KNOW' answers are to be found in Spain (44%), Malta (39%), Portugal (36%) and Bulgaria (34%).

From a socio-demographic point of view, levels of concern vary by age group (65% of the respondents aged between 40 and 54, 59 % of those aged 55 or over and more than 60% of those aged between 25 and 39, versus 50 % of those aged between 15 and 24) and in particular with the respondent's level of education (68% of respondents who studied up to the age of 20 or over compared with 52% of those who left school at the age of 15 or earlier).

Finally, concerns about the consequences of the conflict for energy supplies are far higher among respondents who are the best informed about the conflict: three out of four consider the European Union's energy supplies will suffer as a result of the conflict, compared with 62% of those who have simply heard about the conflict without knowing exactly what is was about.

		QE1 In August this year, armed conflict broke out between Russia and Georgia. Have you heard or read about this conflict?				
		Total	Yes, and you know exactly what it was about	Yes, but you don't know really what it was about	No	DK
QE3 Do you think that this conflict could have an impact on the security of energy supply in the European Union?	Yes, to a great deal	19%	31%	15%	4%	4%
	Yes, to some extent	41%	44%	47%	21%	13%
	No, not really	16%	16%	17%	15%	8%
	No, not at all	5%	5%	4%	6%	5%
	DK	19%	4%	17%	53%	71%
	Total Yes	60%	75%	62%	25%	16%
		Total No	21%	21%	22%	13%

CONCLUSION

During the first half of 2008 the European Union was faced with the turmoil caused by the financial crisis and the conflict in the strategic region of the Caucasus. 2008 was also the twentieth anniversary of a major event, the fall of the Iron Curtain, which has changed the face of the continent for ever, and which was the first step toward the EU27 as we know it today.

Against this backdrop, the results of this Eurobarometer wave reveal that **European public opinion is convinced of the benefits that the events of 1989 have brought to the European Union and aware, despite a limited knowledge of the facts, of the decisive role played by the European Union in resolving the conflict between Georgia and Russia:**

- ❖ Two-thirds of the people polled consider that the European Union has benefited from the fall of the Iron Curtain, but this conviction is only shared by one in two Europeans as regards the effects on their own country, and by one in four when it comes to assessing whether they have benefited from it personally;
- ❖ There is a clear geographical divide on this subject, and respondents in the 12 most recent Member States are the most convinced that they have benefited at national level and personally;
- ❖ In socio-demographic terms, the respondent's level of education plays a decisive role when it comes to grasping the importance of these events. The analysis also shows that the youngest Europeans find it somewhat difficult to express an opinion on this topic;
- ❖ On the subject of a more recent chapter in European history, more than one out of three European Union citizens has heard or read about the conflict in Georgia and knows exactly what it was about. The level of education and access to new information technologies in the home play a decisive role as regards the level of information of citizens;

- ❖ More than one out of three Europeans are incapable of determining who played the most important role in bringing the conflict to an end. Nevertheless, just over a quarter think that it was the European Union which played the most decisive role. This proportion is as high as 40% among those who are the best informed about the conflict, that is to say those "who have read or heard about the conflict and know exactly what it was about". In this sub-category of the population, the number of respondents who mentioned the "European Union" increases to 69% in France, 50% in the Netherlands and 49% in Poland, Belgium and Cyprus. Therefore, the level of knowledge of the conflict logically affects the respondent's perception of the role of the various parties.

STANDARD EUROBAROMETER 70 TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Between the 6th of October and the 6th of November 2008, TNS Opinion & Social, a consortium created between Taylor Nelson Sofres and EOS Gallup Europe, carried out wave 70.1 of the EUROBAROMETER, on request of the EUROPEAN COMMISSION, Directorate-General for Communication, "Research and Political Analysis".

The STANDARD EUROBAROMETER 70 is part of wave 70.1 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 EUROBAROMETER 70.1 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 was 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	1.002	10/10/2008 06/11/2008	8.786.805
BG	Bulgaria	TNS BBSS	1.006	09/10/2008 20/10/2008	6.647.375
CZ	Czech Rep.	TNS Aisa	1.026	06/10/2008 22/10/2008	8.571.710
DK	Denmark	TNS Gallup DK	1.029	06/10/2008 02/11/2008	4.432.931
DE	Germany	TNS Infratest	1.526	10/10/2008 02/11/2008	64.546.096
EE	Estonia	Emor	1.000	10/10/2008 03/11/2008	887.094
EL	Greece	TNS ICAP	1.000	10/10/2008 02/11/2008	8.691.304
ES	Spain	TNS Demoscopia	1.000	09/10/2008 06/11/2008	38.536.844
FR	France	TNS Sofres	1.027	06/10/2008 31/10/2008	46.425.653
IE	Ireland	TNS MRBI	1.000	06/10/2008 31/10/2008	3.375.399
IT	Italy	TNS Infratest	1.061	08/10/2008 24/10/2008	48.892.559
CY	Rep. of Cyprus	Synovate	503	08/10/2008 02/11/2008	638.900
CY(tcc)	Turkish Cypriot Comm.	KADEM	500	07/10/2008 27/10/2008	143.226
LV	Latvia	TNS Latvia	1.002	10/10/2008 04/11/2008	1.444.884
LT	Lithuania	TNS Gallup Lithuania	1.011	09/10/2008 28/10/2008	2.846.756
LU	Luxembourg	TNS ILReS	500	06/10/2008 03/11/2008	388.914
HU	Hungary	TNS Hungary	1.002	10/10/2008 02/11/2008	8.320.614
MT	Malta	MISCO	500	09/10/2008 03/11/2008	335.476
NL	Netherlands	TNS NIPO	1.041	09/10/2008 05/11/2008	13.017.690
AT	Austria	Österreichisches Gallup-Institut	1.003	06/10/2008 28/10/2008	7.004.205
PL	Poland	TNS OBOP	1.000	11/10/2008 31/10/2008	32.155.805
PT	Portugal	TNS EUROTESTE	1.000	11/10/2008 03/11/2008	8.080.915
RO	Romania	TNS CSOP	1.053	07/10/2008 03/11/2008	18.246.731
SI	Slovenia	RM PLUS	1.006	07/10/2008 04/11/2008	1.729.298
SK	Slovakia	TNS AISA SK	1.006	09/10/2008 26/11/2008	4.316.438
FI	Finland	TNS Gallup Oy	1.004	15/10/2008 06/11/2008	4.353.495
SE	Sweden	TNS GALLUP	1.002	13/10/2008 03/11/2008	7.562.263
UK	United Kingdom	TNS UK	1.308	07/10/2008 02/11/2008	50.519.877
HR	Croatia	Puls	1.000	08/10/2008 29/10/2008	3.734.300
TR	Turkey	TNS PIAR	1.003	08/10/2008 05/11/2008	47.583.830
MK	Former Yugoslav Rep. of Macedonia	TNS Brima	1.009	07/10/2008 16/10/2008	1.648.012
TOTAL			30.130	06/10/2008 06/11/2008	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