

EUROBAROMETER 70

4. New Topics

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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. Some questions, in particular those on topical subjects examined in this part of the report, were asked only in the 27 European Union Member States.

The second half of 2008 was strongly marked by the turbulent financial crisis which has affected economies and the lives of citizens throughout the world¹.

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 volume 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). 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.

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

¹ 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).

It should be remembered that there are three kinds of reports 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 (composed of several volumes) analyses in depth all the answers to the questions asked in a standard Eurobarometer wave. For this wave, this full report has been divided into four different reports: the three "standard" volumes which deal with the Eurobarometer's historical indicators, and this report on topical subjects.

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

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 (n° 70) and is part of the Eurobarometer 70 wave.

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
<i>D-E</i>	<i>East Germany</i>
DE	Germany
<i>D-W</i>	<i>West Germany</i>
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.

IV. NEW TOPICS

This section examines the following subjects:

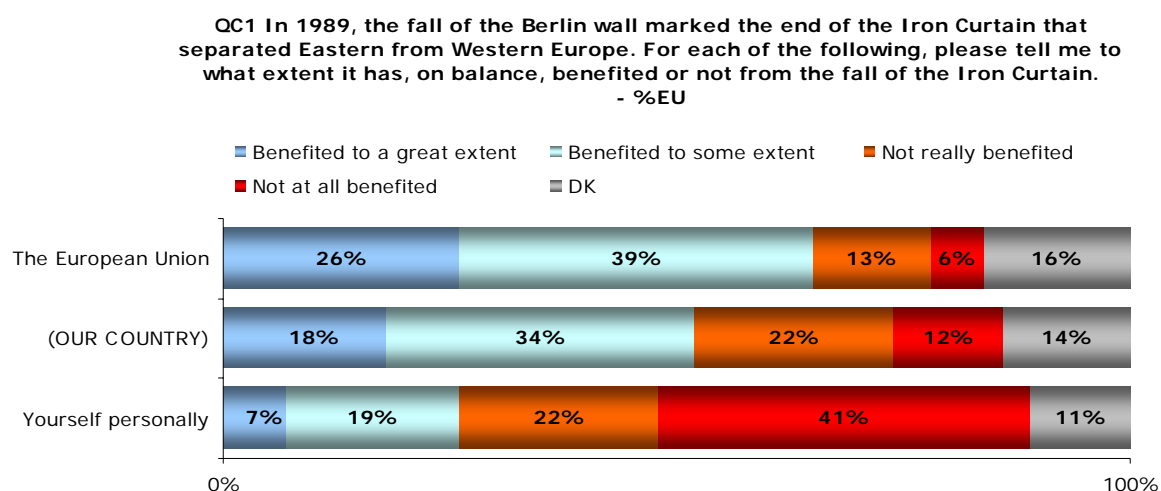
1) The fall of the Iron Curtain: the impact of the fall of the Iron Curtain on the European Union, at national level and personally, that is to say for the interviewees themselves.

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.

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 %)².



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). Finally, it is less marked as regards the perceived benefits for the European Union (difference of 8 points).

² 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.

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.

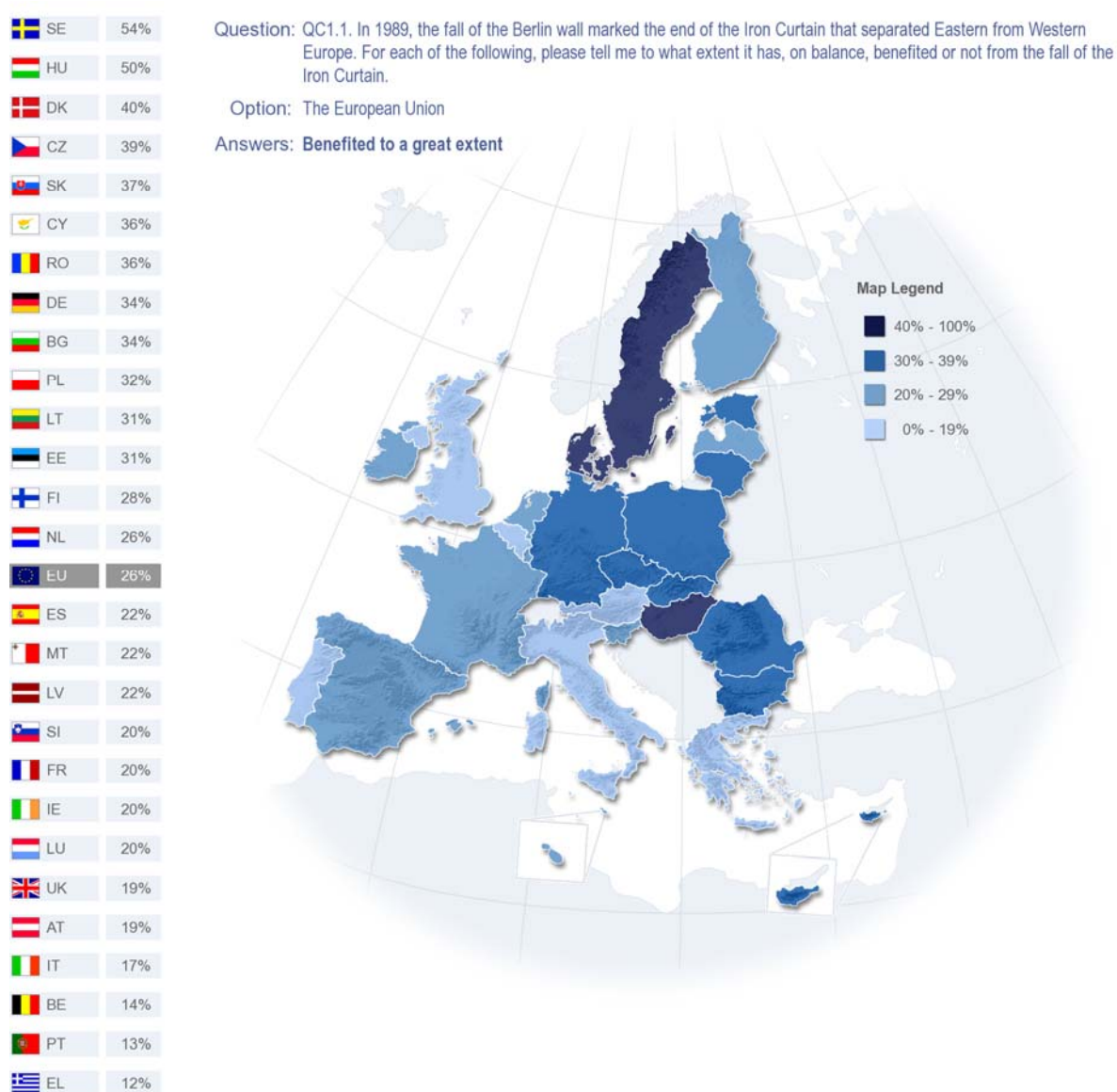
- Benefited

	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.

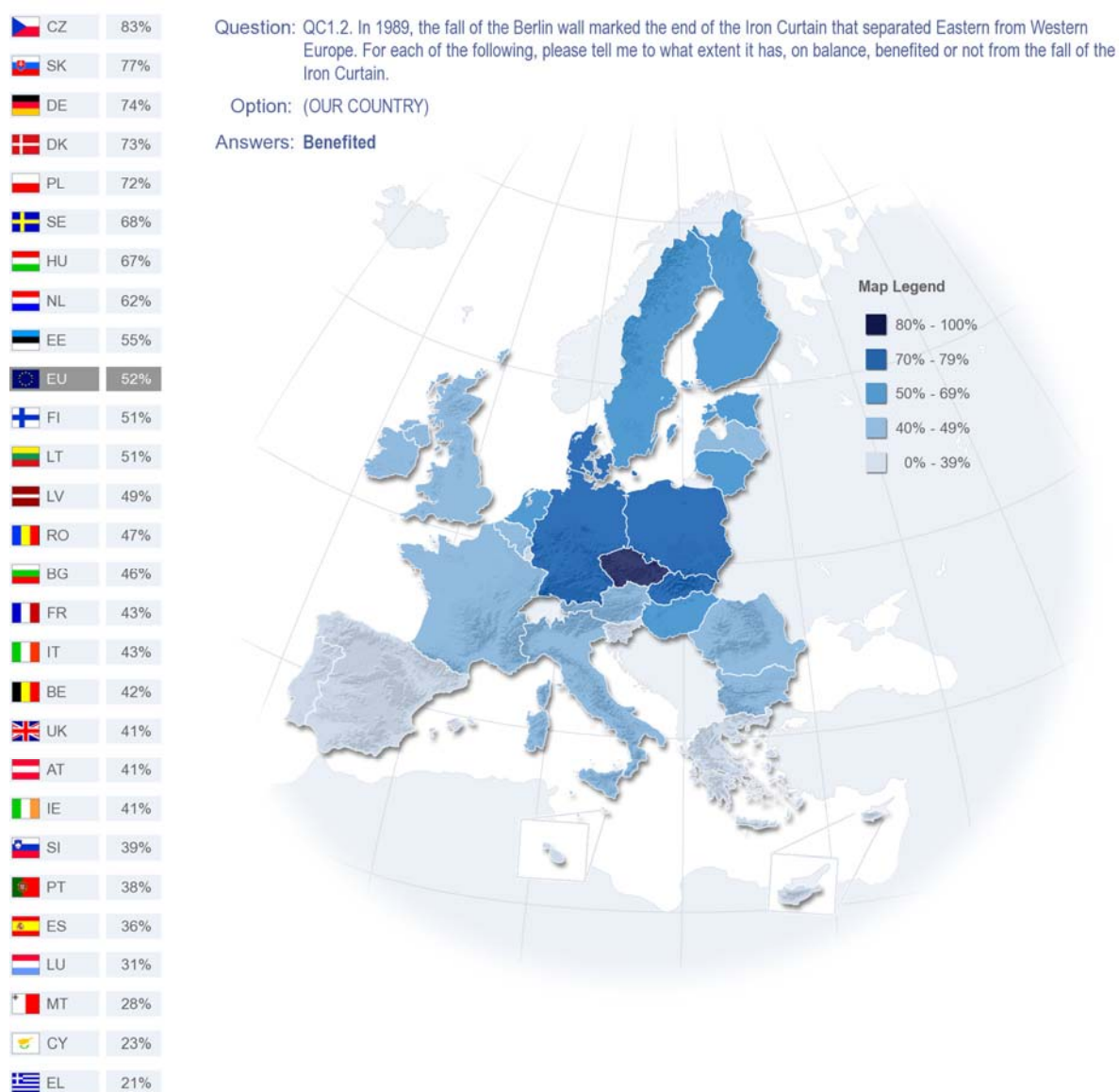
On the other hand, respondents in Greece demonstrate a certain indifference, or in any event tend to be less emphatic, since more than four out of ten people polled (44%) consider that on the whole the European Union has not benefited from this historic event. This opinion is shared by a not insignificant 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.



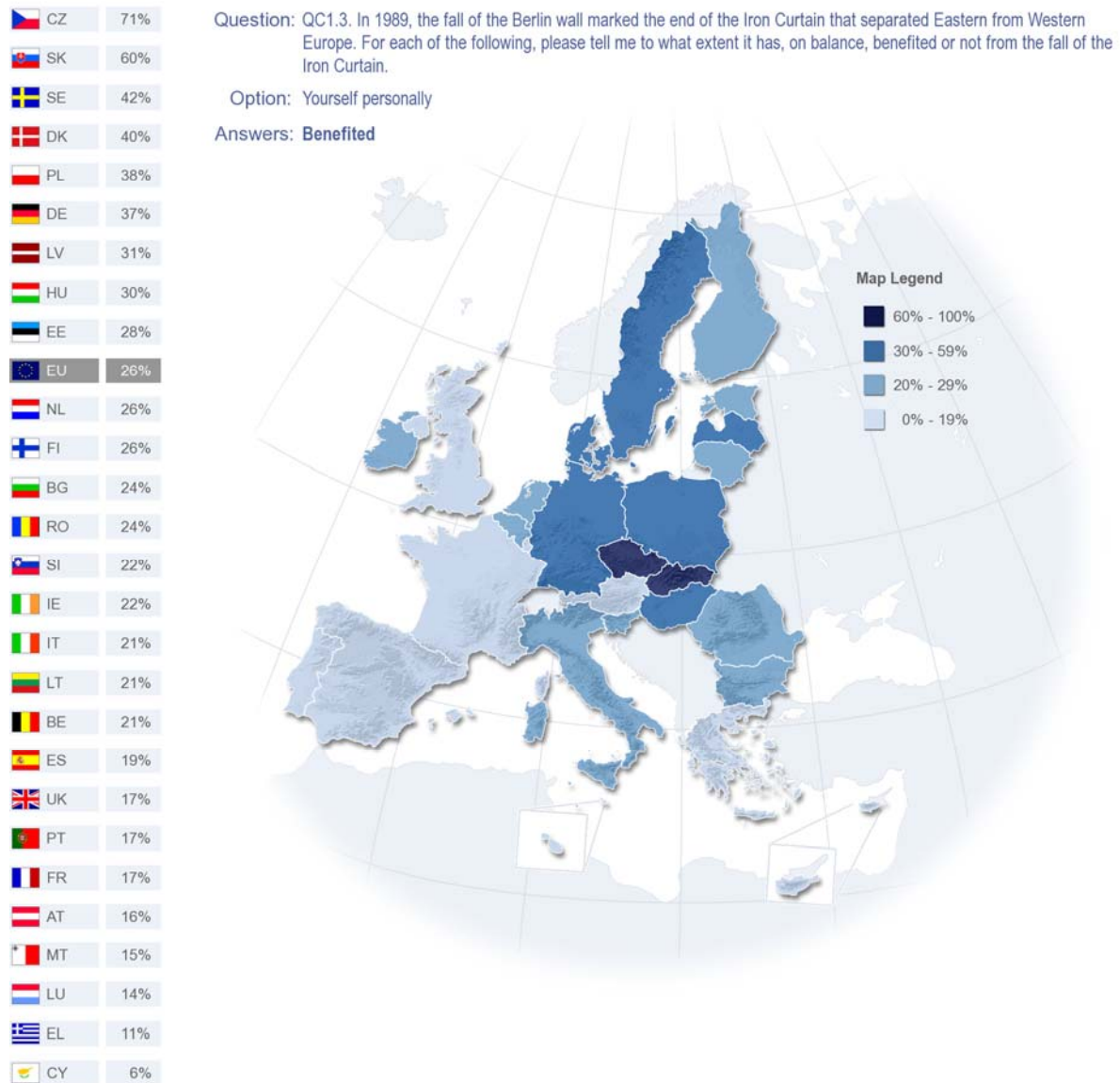
When asked to assess the effects of the fall of the Berlin Wall on their own country, and leaving aside the case of Germany analysed above, a majority of respondents are positive about its consequences in 17 Member States. This is particularly true in the Czech Republic and Slovakia where 83% and 77% 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.

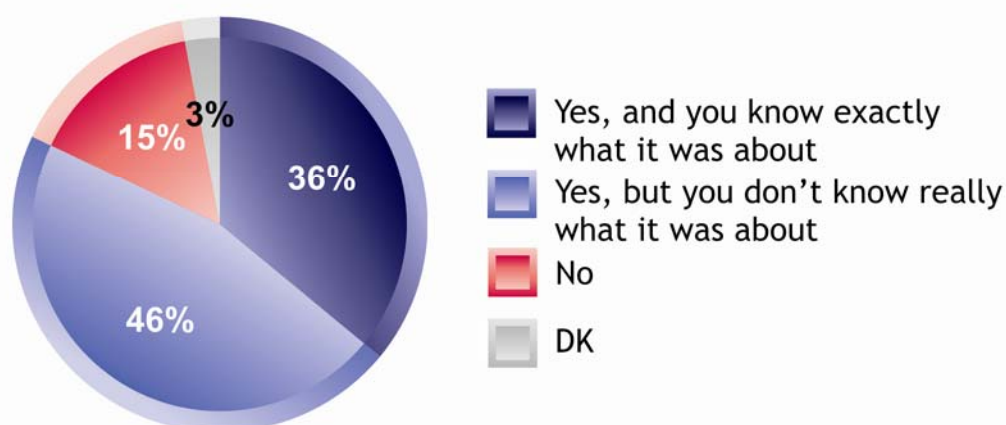
% "Benefited" by End of Education						
		Education (End of)				
		EU	15-	16-19	20+	Still studying
QC1 In 1989, the fall of the Berlin wall marked the end of the Iron Curtain that separated Eastern from Western Europe. For each of the following, please tell me to what extent it has, on balance, benefited 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 about³. 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).

³ 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 EU⁴					
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%

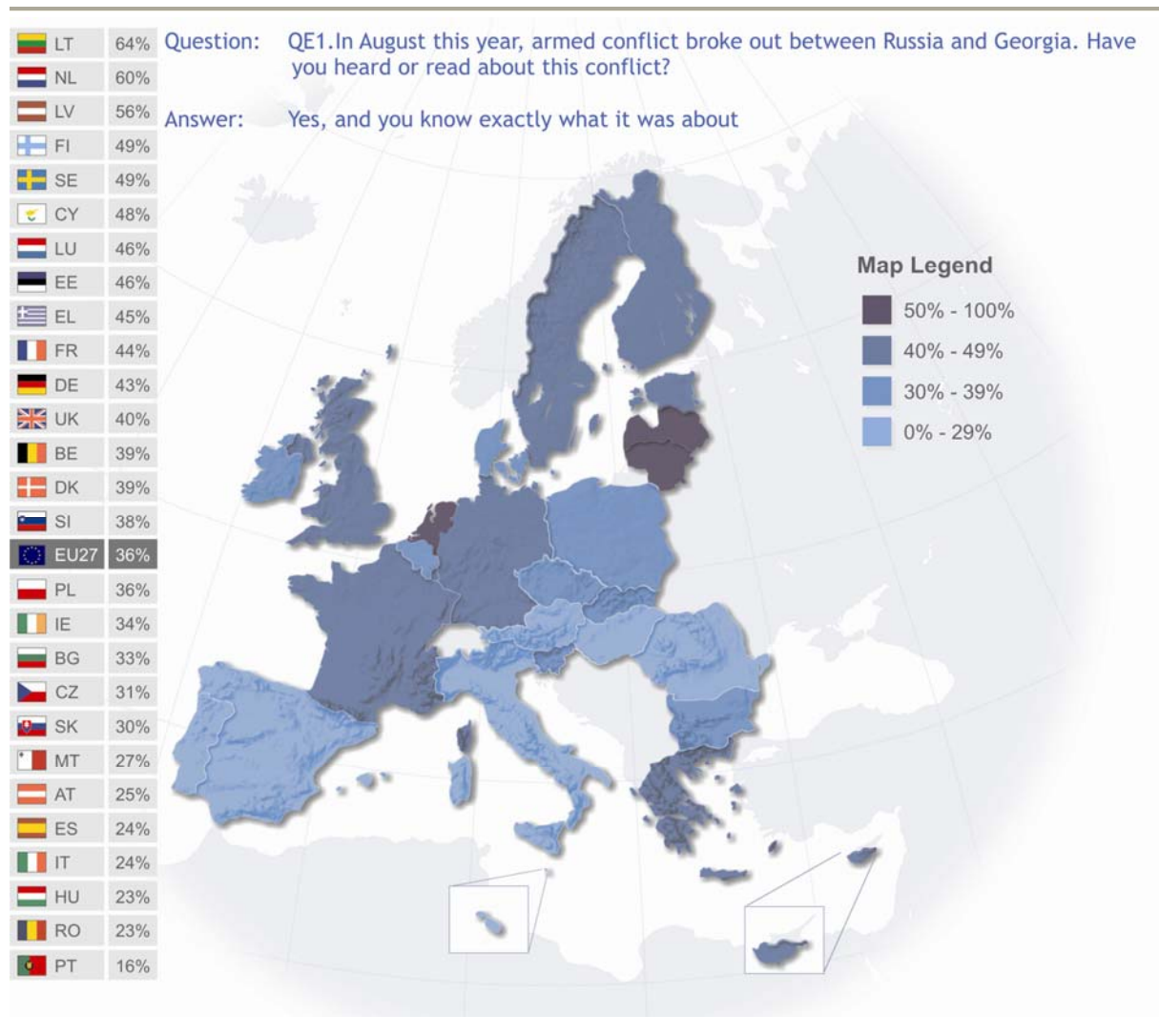
⁴ The objective knowledge indicator is constructed from the respondents' answers to 4 questions about the European Union: 1. The EU currently consists of fifteen Member States; 2. Every 6 months, a different Member State becomes the President of the Council of the European Union; 3. The euro area currently 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%).

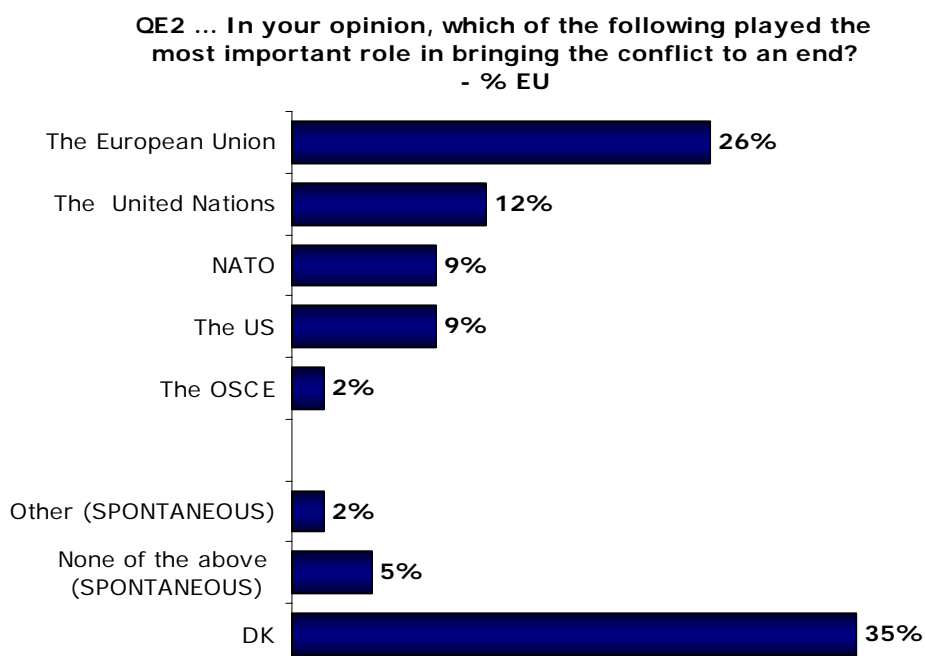
There is no real geographical logic pattern to detailed knowledge of the conflict: the map below does not reveal a clear trend suggesting that respondents in countries geographically close to the conflict have a better knowledge of the subject. It is to be noted however that respondents in Latvia and 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%)⁵. 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 OSCE⁶. 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. 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).

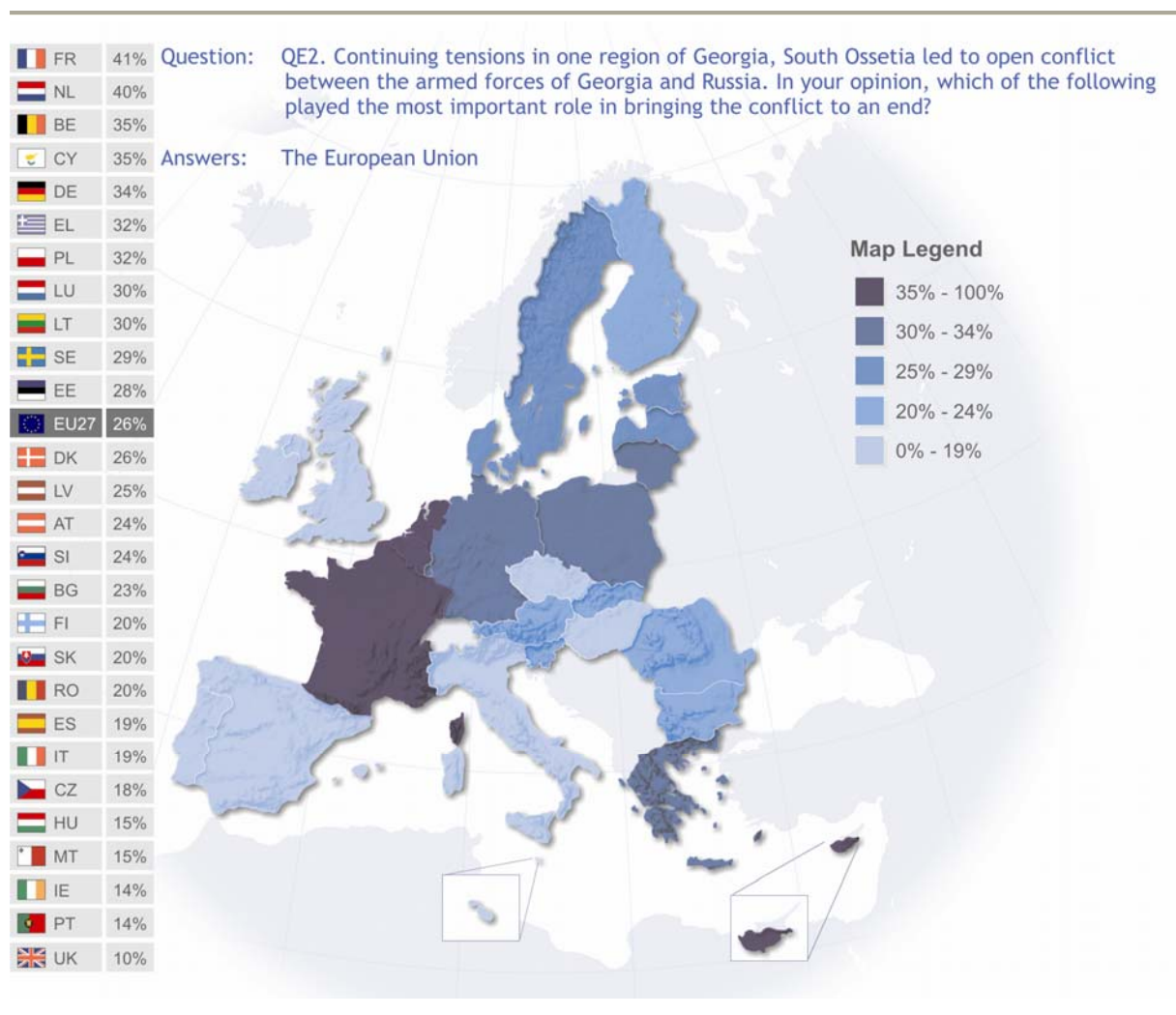
⁵ QE2 Continuing tensions in one region of Georgia, South Ossetia led to open conflict between the armed forces of Georgia and Russia. In your opinion, which of the following played the most important role in bringing the conflict to an end? (ROTATE)

⁶ "OSCE" stands for the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe. See: www.osce.org.

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 conflict⁷. 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.

⁷ 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%).

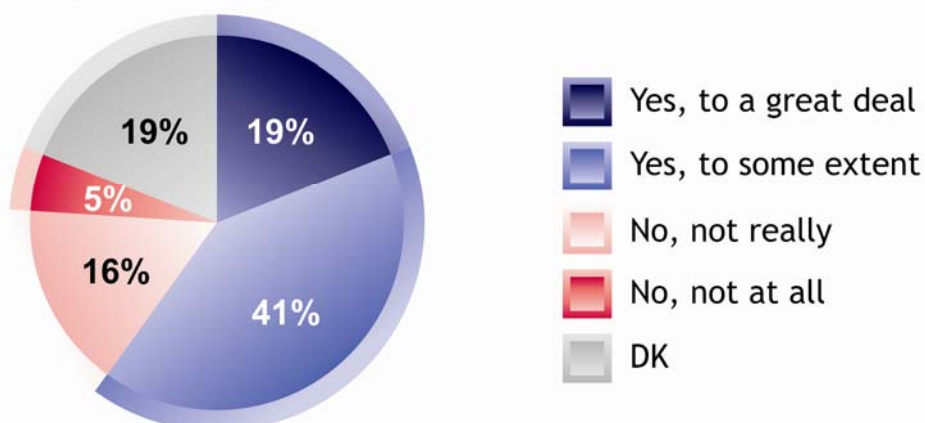
Similarly, the respondents who are in favour of a common foreign policy among Member States of the EU towards other countries are more likely to consider that the European Union played this key role (30% versus 26% on average).

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%).⁸

- 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%)**⁹. However, approximately one in five respondents are 'not really' or 'not at all' in agreement (21 %); a further fifth have no opinion (19 %).

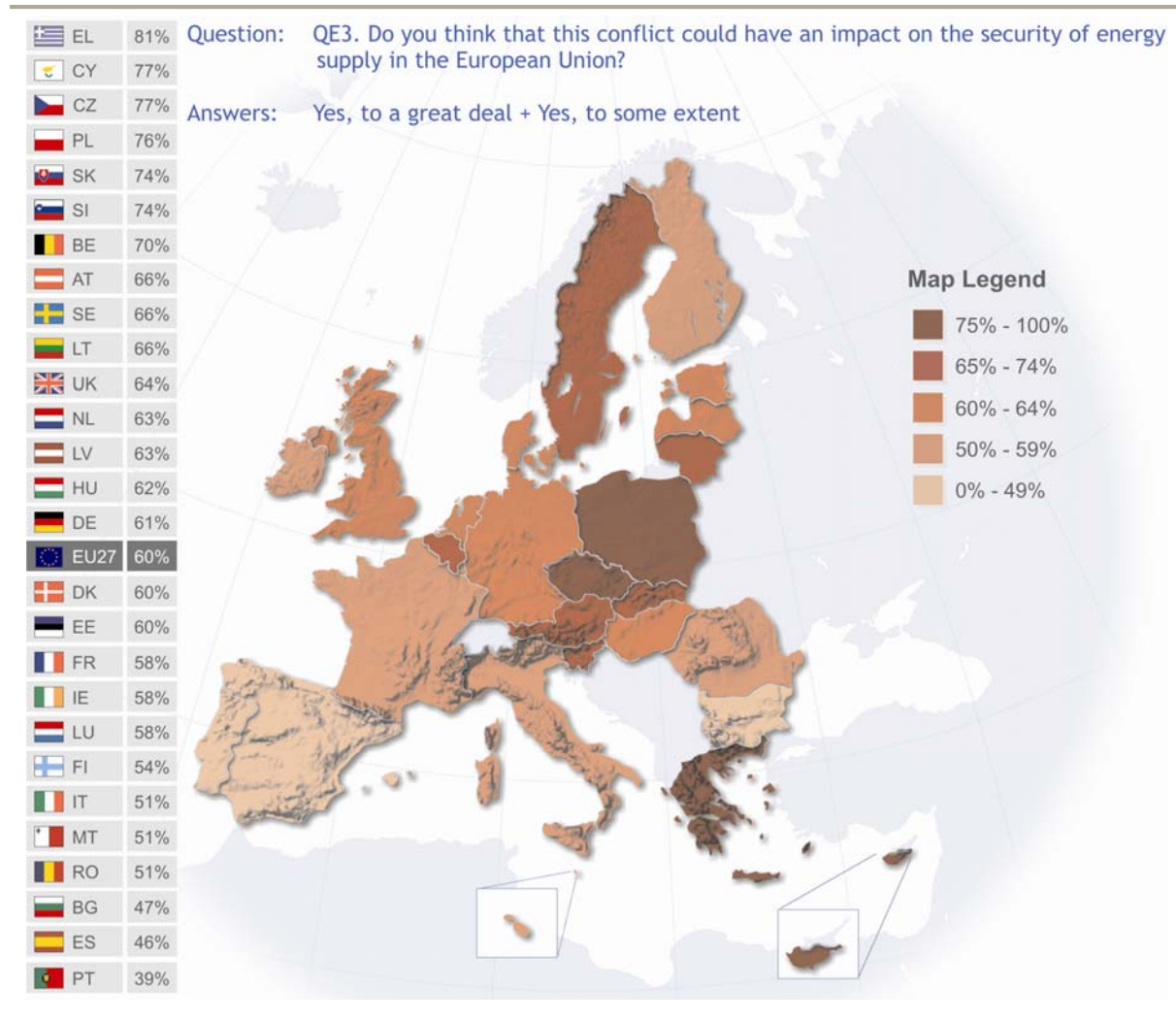
Question: QE3. Do you think that this conflict could have an impact on the security of energy supply in the European Union?



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 %).

⁸ http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_OFFPUB/KS-DK-08-001/EN/KS-DK-08-001-EN.PDF

⁹ 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%¹⁰ 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 suppliers¹¹. The same factor might come into play in France whose energy dependency rate is slightly below the European average (51%)¹², and whose imports of Russian gas represent only 16% of gas consumed.

¹⁰ 2006 figure: http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_OFFPUB/KS-DK-08-001/EN/KS-DK-08-001-EN.PDF

¹¹ 2006 figures: http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_OFFPUB/KS-DK-08-001/EN/KS-DK-08-001-EN.PDF

¹² 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%	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.

ANNEXES

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

TABLES

QC1.1 En 1989, la chute du Mur de Berlin a marqué la fin du Rideau de fer qui séparait l'Europe de l'Est de l'Europe de l'Ouest. Pourriez-vous me dire dans quelle mesure chacune des propositions suivantes a, tout bien considéré, bénéficié, ou non, de la chute du Rideau de fer?

L'Union européenne

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

QC1.1 Der Fall der Berliner Mauer im Jahr 1989 bedeutete das Ende des Eisernen Vorhangs der Ost- von Westeuropa trennte. Bitte sagen Sie mir, in welchem Maße jeder der Folgenden vom Fall des Eisernen Vorhangs profitiert hat oder nicht.

Die Europäische Union

	EU27	BE	BG	CZ	DK	D-W	DE	D-E	EE	EL
	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB
	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1
A grandement bénéficié	26	14	34	39	40	31	34	47	31	12
A plutôt bénéficié	39	47	33	45	41	41	40	37	36	37
N'a pas vraiment bénéficié	13	26	5	7	12	16	15	8	15	28
N'a pas bénéficié du tout	6	6	2	1	4	7	6	2	3	16
NSP	16	7	26	8	3	5	5	6	15	7
Bénéficié	65	61	67	84	81	72	74	84	67	49
Pas bénéficié	19	32	7	8	16	23	21	10	18	44

	ES	FR	IE	IT	CY	LV	LT	LU	HU	MT
	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB
	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1
Benefited to a great extent	22	20	20	17	36	22	31	20	50	22
Benefited to some extent	33	43	40	41	30	44	34	33	24	29
Not really benefited	8	16	7	14	4	14	8	26	14	4
Not at all benefited	4	6	7	11	6	4	5	11	3	11
DK	33	15	26	17	24	16	22	10	9	34
Benefited	55	63	60	58	66	66	65	53	74	51
Not benefited	12	22	14	25	10	18	13	37	17	15

	NL	AT	PL	PT	RO	SI	SK	FI	SE	UK
	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB
	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1
In großem Maße profitiert	26	19	32	13	36	20	37	28	54	19
In gewissem Maße profitiert	45	42	40	41	29	44	49	49	28	40
Nicht besonders profitiert	18	20	7	12	10	12	6	13	8	15
Überhaupt nicht profitiert	4	8	4	5	2	10	1	3	2	4
WN	7	11	17	29	23	14	7	7	8	22
Hat profitiert	71	61	72	54	65	64	86	77	82	59
Hat nicht profitiert	22	28	11	17	12	22	7	16	10	19

QC1.2 En 1989, la chute du Mur de Berlin a marqué la fin du Rideau de fer qui séparait l'Europe de l'Est de l'Europe de l'Ouest. Pourriez-vous me dire dans quelle mesure chacune des propositions suivantes a, tout bien considéré, bénéficié, ou non, de la chute du Rideau de fer?

(NOTRE PAYS)

QC1.2 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.

(OUR COUNTRY)

QC1.2 Der Fall der Berliner Mauer im Jahr 1989 bedeutete das Ende des Eisernen Vorhangs der Ost- von Westeuropa trennte. Bitte sagen Sie mir, in welchem Maße jeder der Folgenden vom Fall des Eisernen Vorhangs profitiert hat oder nicht.

(UNSER LAND)

	EU27	BE	BG	CZ	DK	D-W	DE	D-E	EE	EL
	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB
	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1
A grandement bénéficié	18	6	15	36	26	37	42	60	22	3
A plutôt bénéficié	34	36	31	47	47	33	32	28	33	18
N'a pas vraiment bénéficié	22	41	19	9	18	16	14	6	23	34
N'a pas bénéficié du tout	12	10	13	1	5	12	10	4	9	41
NSP	14	7	22	7	4	2	2	2	13	4
Bénéficié	52	42	46	83	73	70	74	88	55	21
Pas bénéficié	34	51	32	10	23	28	24	10	32	75

	ES	FR	IE	IT	CY	LV	LT	LU	HU	MT
	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB
	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1
Benefited to a great extent	8	8	7	9	4	13	20	7	30	8
Benefited to some extent	28	35	34	34	19	36	31	24	37	20
Not really benefited	18	29	20	25	17	21	14	40	19	11
Not at all benefited	14	14	12	18	42	16	16	19	8	25
DK	32	14	27	14	18	14	19	10	6	36
Benefited	36	43	41	43	23	49	51	31	67	28
Not benefited	32	43	32	43	59	37	30	59	27	36

	NL	AT	PL	PT	RO	SI	SK	FI	SE	UK
	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB
	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1
In großem Maße profitiert	16	9	30	5	18	11	23	11	31	8
In gewissem Maße profitiert	46	32	42	33	29	28	54	40	37	33
Nicht besonders profitiert	24	35	12	24	20	20	12	33	18	28
Überhaupt nicht profitiert	5	18	5	11	11	28	4	8	5	11
WN	9	6	11	27	22	13	7	8	9	20
Hat profitiert	62	41	72	38	47	39	77	51	68	41
Hat nicht profitiert	29	53	17	35	31	48	16	41	23	39

QC1.3 En 1989, la chute du Mur de Berlin a marqué la fin du Rideau de fer qui séparait l'Europe de l'Est de l'Europe de l'Ouest. Pourriez-vous me dire dans quelle mesure chacune des propositions suivantes a, tout bien considéré, bénéficié, ou non, de la chute du Rideau de fer?

Vous personnellement

QC1.3 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.

Yourself personally

QC1.3 Der Fall der Berliner Mauer im Jahr 1989 bedeutete das Ende des Eisernen Vorhangs der Ost- von Westeuropa trennte. Bitte sagen Sie mir, in welchem Maße jeder der Folgenden vom Fall des Eisernen Vorhangs profitiert hat oder nicht.

Sie persönlich

	EU27	BE	BG	CZ	DK	D-W	DE	D-E	EE	EL
	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB
	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1
A grandement bénéficié	7	4	6	25	13	10	12	18	11	3
A plutôt bénéficié	19	17	18	46	27	21	25	42	17	8
N'a pas vraiment bénéficié	22	32	20	13	34	23	22	21	21	25
N'a pas bénéficié du tout	41	42	36	3	22	45	40	17	43	62
NSP	11	5	20	13	4	1	1	2	8	2
Bénéficié	26	21	24	71	40	31	37	60	28	11
Pas bénéficié	63	74	56	16	56	68	62	38	64	87

	ES	FR	IE	IT	CY	LV	LT	LU	HU	MT
	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB
	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1
Benefited to a great extent	4	3	4	6	1	7	8	5	11	5
Benefited to some extent	15	14	18	15	5	24	13	9	19	10
Not really benefited	11	26	23	17	8	15	13	29	30	7
Not at all benefited	47	47	29	50	77	43	54	48	37	49
DK	23	10	26	12	9	11	12	9	3	29
Benefited	19	17	22	21	6	31	21	14	30	15
Not benefited	58	73	52	67	85	58	67	77	67	56

	NL	AT	PL	PT	RO	SI	SK	FI	SE	UK
	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB
	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1
In großem Maße profitiert	4	4	11	2	9	6	14	6	21	4
In gewissem Maße profitiert	22	12	27	15	15	16	46	20	21	13
Nicht besonders profitiert	26	22	22	26	19	14	14	27	27	28
Überhaupt nicht profitiert	42	59	31	42	39	54	13	42	21	41
WN	6	3	9	15	18	10	13	5	10	14
Hat profitiert	26	16	38	17	24	22	60	26	42	17
Hat nicht profitiert	68	81	53	68	58	68	27	69	48	69

Eurobarometer 70



QE1 En août cette année, un conflit armé a éclaté entre la Russie et la Géorgie. Avez-vous entendu parler ou lu quelque chose à propos de ce conflit ?

QE1 In August this year, armed conflict broke out between Russia and Georgia. Have you heard or read about this conflict?

QE1 Im August diesen Jahres gab es eine bewaffnete Auseinandersetzung zwischen Russland und Georgien. Haben Sie von diesem Konflikt gehört oder darüber gelesen?

	EU27	BE	BG	CZ	DK	D-W	DE	D-E	EE	EL
	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB
	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1
Oui, et vous savez exactement de quoi il s'agissait	36	39	33	31	39	43	43	44	46	45
Oui, mais vous ne savez pas exactement de quoi il s'agissait	46	41	49	52	51	48	48	48	51	44
Non	15	19	11	16	9	8	8	8	2	10
NSP	3	1	7	1	1	1	1	0	1	1
Oui	82	80	82	83	90	91	91	92	97	89

	ES	FR	IE	IT	CY	LV	LT	LU	HU	MT
	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB
	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1
Yes, and you know exactly what it was about	24	44	34	24	48	56	64	46	23	27
Yes, but you don't know really what it was about	40	44	43	48	44	41	32	39	57	46
No	33	12	17	21	7	3	3	14	18	21
DK	3	0	6	7	1	0	1	1	2	6
Yes	64	88	77	72	92	97	96	85	80	73

	NL	AT	PL	PT	RO	SI	SK	FI	SE	UK
	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB
	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1
Ja, und Sie wissen genau darüber Bescheid	60	25	36	16	23	38	30	49	49	40
Ja, aber Sie wissen nicht genau darüber Bescheid	35	60	55	44	53	49	56	45	44	39
Nein	5	14	9	34	13	12	13	6	7	19
WN	0	1	0	6	11	1	1	0	0	2
Ja	95	85	91	60	76	87	86	94	93	79

QE2 Des tensions continues dans une région de Géorgie, l'Ossétie du Sud, ont débouché sur un conflit ouvert entre les forces armées russes et géorgiennes. Selon vous, parmi les acteurs suivants, qui a joué le rôle le plus important pour mettre fin à ce conflit ? (ROTATION)

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)

QE2 Anhaltende Spannungen in einer Region Georgiens, Süd Ossetien, führten zu diesem offenen Konflikt zwischen den Streitkräften Georgiens und Russlands. Welcher der folgenden Akteure spielte Ihrer Meinung nach die wichtigste Rolle bei der Beendigung dieses Konfliktes? (ROTIEREN)

	EU27	BE	BG	CZ	DK	D-W	DE	D-E	EE	EL
	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB
	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1
Les Nations Unies	12	15	5	16	13	15	15	15	9	11
L'OTAN	9	14	4	8	9	10	10	11	10	10
L'Union européenne	26	35	23	18	26	35	34	31	28	32
Les Etats-Unis	9	12	5	10	16	5	5	5	14	19
L'OSCE	2	2	4	7	4	2	2	2	5	3
Aucun de ceux-là (SPONTANE)	5	2	5	7	3	6	7	11	7	6
Autres (SPONTANE)	2	1	3	1	1	1	2	3	6	6
NSP	35	19	51	33	28	26	25	22	21	13

	ES	FR	IE	IT	CY	LV	LT	LU	HU	MT
	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB
	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1
The United Nations	9	7	17	13	5	10	12	12	13	10
NATO	3	9	7	13	2	11	10	12	11	7
The European Union	19	41	14	19	35	25	30	30	15	15
The USA	6	7	9	9	14	13	14	7	8	11
The OSCE	0	2	0	2	0	2	1	1	5	1
None of the above (SPONTANEOUS)	4	1	3	6	5	10	5	4	4	1
Other (SPONTANEOUS)	2	4	2	0	4	8	3	2	1	2
DK	57	29	48	38	35	21	25	32	43	53

	NL	AT	PL	PT	RO	SI	SK	FI	SE	UK
	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB
	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1
Die Vereinten Nationen	17	13	7	14	8	13	19	8	22	18
NATO	12	15	8	5	9	7	8	4	4	10
Die Europäische Union	40	24	32	14	20	24	20	20	29	10
Die USA	7	10	7	8	12	10	7	10	13	12
Die OSZE	2	1	2	1	3	3	13	33	3	2
Keine davon (SPONTAN)	2	8	7	5	3	6	4	4	2	7
Sonstiges (SPONTAN)	1	1	1	0	0	6	1	2	1	1
WN	19	28	36	53	45	31	28	19	26	40

QE3 D'après-vous, ce conflit pourrait-il avoir un impact sur la sécurité de l'approvisionnement en énergie dans l'Union européenne ?
 QE3 Do you think that this conflict could have an impact on the security of energy supply in the European Union?
 QE3 Glauben Sie, dass dieser Konflikt Auswirkungen auf die Sicherheit der Energieversorgung innerhalb der Europäischen Union haben könnte?

	EU27	BE	BG	CZ	DK	D-W	DE	D-E	EE	EL
	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB
	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1
Oui, tout à fait	19	26	12	28	20	11	12	15	14	37
Oui, dans une certaine mesure	41	44	35	49	40	49	49	46	46	44
Non, pas vraiment	16	20	14	10	23	24	24	23	19	12
Non, pas du tout	5	2	5	4	6	8	8	12	8	3
NSP	19	8	34	9	11	8	7	4	13	4
Oui	60	70	47	77	60	60	61	61	60	81
Non	21	22	19	14	29	32	32	35	27	15

	ES	FR	IE	IT	CY	LV	LT	LU	HU	MT
	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB
	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1
Yes, to a great deal	12	22	20	11	56	14	20	20	18	17
Yes, to some extent	34	36	38	40	21	49	46	38	44	34
No, not really	8	19	10	18	2	19	13	21	15	7
No, not at all	2	6	3	5	4	10	6	6	6	3
DK	44	17	29	26	17	8	15	15	17	39
Yes	46	58	58	51	77	63	66	58	62	51
No	10	25	13	23	6	29	19	27	21	10

	NL	AT	PL	PT	RO	SI	SK	FI	SE	UK
	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB
	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1	70.1
Ja, in großem Ausmaß	16	15	33	9	19	34	22	6	21	26
Ja, bis zu einem gewissen Grad	47	51	43	30	32	40	52	48	45	38
Nein, nicht wirklich	27	19	9	20	15	11	12	28	13	12
Nein, sicher nicht	3	5	2	5	4	6	2	4	7	3
WN	7	10	13	36	30	9	12	14	14	21
Ja	63	66	76	39	51	74	74	54	66	64
Nein	30	24	11	25	19	17	14	32	20	15