

EUROBAROMETER 71

PUBLIC OPINION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

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NATIONAL REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CYPRUS

TURKISH CYPRIOT COMMUNITY

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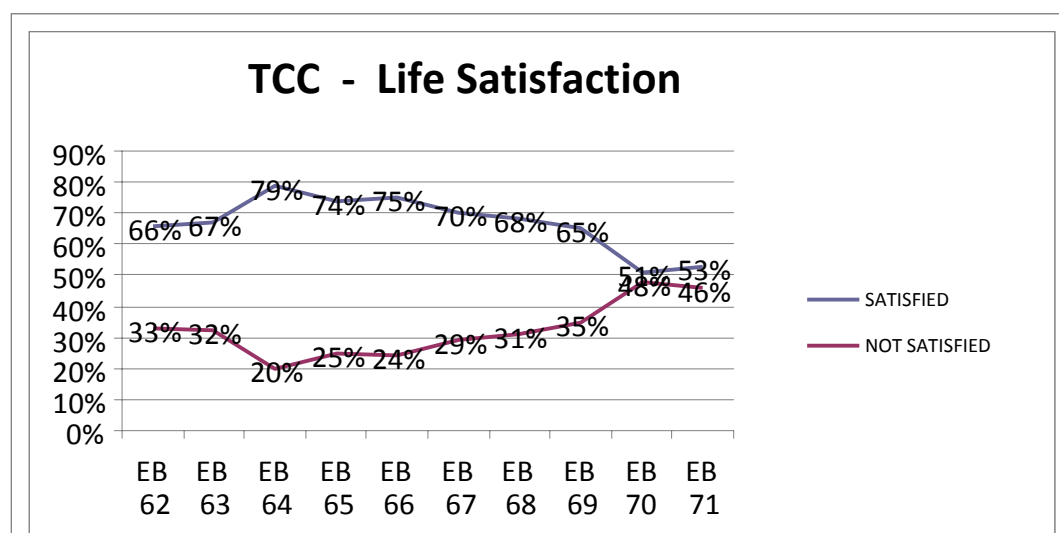
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This survey (Standard Eurobarometer, Eurobarometer 71) was conducted between 16 June and 6 July 2009 in 31 countries or territories. It covers 27 member states, 3 applicant states, as well as the Turkish Cypriot Community (TCC).

This survey is the 10th Standard Eurobarometer study conducted across the Turkish Cypriot Community. The field work covered a sample of 500 individuals via face to face interviews and was conducted by KADEM, as part of the consortium of TNS Opinion & Social, formed between Taylor Nelsen Sofres and EOS Gallup Europe. The report of this study was prepared by Prologue Consulting Ltd.

Life satisfaction levels of the Turkish Cypriots (53%) have remained below that of the EU 27 average (77%).

Although life satisfaction levels of the Turkish Cypriots increased by 2 percentage points in comparison with the EB 70 survey, a general sense of pessimism still prevails, as in previous surveys.



Turkish Cypriots exhibit a degree of optimism which is higher than the EU 27 average regarding their expectations of the future.

Turkish Cypriots, who have a pessimistic attitude in the survey as a whole, also exhibit what might be considered pessimistic expectations regarding the future. Although an improvement may be observed in their expectations in comparison with the EB 70 study, it can be seen that their level of optimism still falls below that of previous surveys. Nevertheless, the fact that Turkish Cypriots exhibit an optimism regarding the future that is higher than the EU 27 average should not be overlooked.

Although Turkish Cypriots have positive expectations regarding their own lives and the EU economy, they display a pessimistic outlook as regards the Turkish Cypriot Community's economy and the global economy as a whole.

	Better	Worse	Similar
Life in general	36%	25%	30%
Economic situation in the TCC	27%	41%	25%
Household financial situation	28%	25%	37%
Employment situation in the TCC	21%	39%	27%
Personal employment conditions	28%	20%	38%
Economic situation in EU	32%	26%	23%
Economic situation globally	29%	33%	21%

According to Turkish Cypriots, the two most significant challenges faced by the TCC are the economic situation and unemployment.

Turkish Cypriots list the economic situation as the most important challenge faced by the community in their evaluation of the general situation. Strikingly, the second most important challenge is unemployment. Meanwhile, the Cyprus Problem, at 27%, only comes in third. It can be observed that the Cyprus Problem, previously listed by Turkish Cypriots as the most important challenge, has begun to lose in importance in the EB 70 and EB 71 studies. The Cyprus Problem, which came in 2nd place in the EB 70 survey, dropped to 3rd place with the EB 71 study.

According to Turkish Cypriots, things are going wrong in the TCC.

Only 16% of those who participated in the survey stated that things are going right in the TCC. That this figure is in a downward trend from 21% in EB69 only goes to show that Turkish Cypriots are pessimistic about the way things are going in the TCC and that this sense of pessimism is on the increase.

On the other hand, 30% of Turkish Cypriots believe things are going well in the EU. Considering 38% did not express any opinions on this question, it is clear that Turkish Cypriots are not well-informed about the EU.

‘We take one day at a time’

48% of Turkish Cypriots claim they take one day at a time and cannot make any plans for the future considering the current situation. Around 35% in the EU 27 share this view.

	EU 27	TCC
Your current situation does not allow you to make plans for the future. You take one day at a time	35%	48%
You know what you will do in the next six months	29%	18%
You have a long term perspective on how your household will fare in the next 1-2 years	31%	18%

According to Turkish Cypriots, it is difficult to find employment in Turkish Cypriot Community even with high qualifications.

Turkish Cypriots have listed unemployment as the most important challenge, in addition to economic conditions, and 68% of them have stated that it is hard to find employment even with high qualifications. On the other hand, a segment of 20% of the poll stated that they feel the opposite.

Turkish Cypriots, who do not show any optimism towards finding employment even in the year 2030, feel that it will also be difficult to find employment this year, even with high qualifications (60%).

Across the EU 27, however, it can be observed that expectations regarding future employment are more positive. Only 54% of EU citizens predict that it will be difficult to find a job with high qualifications in the year 2030.

‘The economy is doing well’

50% of Turkish Cypriots who participated in the study have stated the TC economy is in good condition. In comparison to the EB 70 study, Turkish Cypriots find the TC economy in better condition now.

Turkish Cypriots who participated in the survey consider that the financial condition of their household is in good condition (54%) and that personal employment is in a good situation (54%). However, at the same time, they felt that the global economy is in worse condition than the EU economy.

67% of Turkish Cypriots who participated in the study expressed that the TC economy was affected by the global crisis.

Turkish Cypriots feel that the USA and EU would be able to take the most effective precautions against the global crisis.

Turkish Cypriots think that USA (21%) and EU (20%) can take the most effective precautions against the global crisis. On the other hand, 14% think that it would be more effective for the national governments to produce solutions.

Across the EU, however, the most common perception is that EU is more effective than the USA and national governments in creating solutions. Also, the belief that the G20 would be more effective in finding a solution is more common across the EU 27 than among Turkish Cypriots.

Turkish Cypriots think that the services of the welfare system are not as wide-reaching as they should be.

Turkish Cypriots consider that social welfare services are not as wide-reaching as they should be (66%) and that the system is too expensive for the Turkish Cypriot Community (50%). Nevertheless, they think it can be a useful model for other countries (50%) to follow.

Turkish Cypriots were not optimistic regarding their expectations of the condition of the welfare system in the year 2030. 45% consider that the welfare system will not be far-reaching enough even in the year 2030, and 57% think that the system will continue to cost the Turkish Cypriot Community far too much.

There is a 2% increase in people's trust in political parties.

69% of Turkish Cypriots who participated in the poll said they did not trust political parties. In comparison to this, across the EU 27, distrust in political parties is at 76%. As a result of the time period when the study took place, the sense of trust in political parties expressed by the Turkish Cypriot Community, who, in the recent past, had had a general election, saw a 2 percentage point increase in comparison to the EB 70 study. On the other hand, across the EU 27, there was a 1 point drop in this figure.

Values...

Although 61% of citizens across the EU 27 felt that the government interfered with their lives too much, half of Turkish Cypriots (50%) said they did not agree with this statement.

70% of Turkish Cypriots who participated in the study said that the free market was the most ideal way to achieve economic prosperity.

44% of Turkish Cypriots who participated in the study suggested that it would be better to accord less priority to money in the future.

Turkish Cypriots who participated in the survey support the development of technology (77%).

Turkish Cypriots think that social equality should be given highest priority in the struggle against the global crisis.

Turkish Cypriots are divided into two camps regarding how change should be brought about. Nearly half of Turkish Cypriot participants argue that change should be made incrementally, while the other half feels change should be made more radically.

Turkish Cypriots say their current highest priorities are paying their bills (56%) and paying off their debts (52%).

There is a significant decrease in the level of trust in the EU among Turkish Cypriots.

Strikingly, after Hungary and the United Kingdom, Turkish Cypriots are the least trusting in the EU with a 12 percentage point drop in their trust in the EU in comparison to the EB 70 study.

Turkish Cypriots, who showed a significant sense of optimism in their trust for the EU in the EB 69 study, traded this attitude for distrust only after 1 year.

Turkish Cypriots, who generally display a level of trust in the EU which is higher than the EU 27 average, saw their figure fall below the EU average in this survey.

In this poll, Turkish Cypriots can be seen to have the least trust in the European Parliament after Turkey and United Kingdom.

In comparison with previous surveys, there is a significant drop in the TCC's level of trust in the EU institutions. Aside from this, the European Parliament, the most well known institution among Turkish Cypriots, is also the one that is most trusted. While the trust Turkish Cypriots feel for the European Commission is only 30%, the figure is 29% in relation to the European Central Bank.

Across the EU 27, levels of trust in the European Parliament, European Commission and European Central Bank are at 48%, 44%, and 44% respectively.

While 24% of Turkish Cypriots had stated they did not trust the European Parliament in the EB 70 survey, this number went up to 46% in the EB 71 poll. Similarly, the proportion of Turkish Cypriots who trust the Commission went down from 42% to 30%, while the figures for those trusting the European Central Bank dropped from 39% to 29%.

Only 45% of Turkish Cypriots believe that EU membership is a good thing.

Only 45% of Turkish Cypriots believe that EU membership is a good thing. This percentage is below the EU 27 average (53%). When previous studies are considered, it can be seen that Turkish Cypriots generally display a higher sense of optimism regarding EU membership than the EU average. However, this trend has been reversed in this survey.

Turkish Cypriots who, in the EB 69 survey, had high expectations regarding EU membership (56%), saw their figures begin a downward trend in the EB 70 and EB 71 polls.

In comparison to the EB 70 study, EB 71 showed a decline among the Turkish Cypriots Community in their optimism regarding the full implementation of the *acquis communautaire*.

In the year following the EB 69 study, this sense of optimism declined by 11 percentage points, falling even below its EB 68 level.

57% of Turkish Cypriots believe that full implementation of the *acquis communautaire* would be beneficial for the TCC.

In the meantime, 57% of Turkish Cypriots still believe that full implementation of the *acquis communautaire* would be beneficial for the TCC.

This figure has only fallen by 1 percentage point in comparison to the EB 70 study.

While 51% of Turkish Cypriots believed the EU had a positive image in the EB 70 poll, there was a 9% drop in this number in this study. Across the EU 27, this figure has stayed the same (45%). As is the case in regard to other questions of trust, the image of the EU among Turkish Cypriots has experienced a decline compared to the EU 27 average.

The EU means economic prosperity (39%) and social security for Turkish Cypriots. Meanwhile, across the EU 27, EU signifies free travel, employment, etc. (42%) and the Euro (33%).

Turkish Cypriots think their voices are not heard by the EU.

Only 21% of Turkish Cypriots think their voices are heard by the EU. At the same time, even fewer Turkish Cypriots (17%) believe the voice of the Turkish Cypriot Community is heard by the EU.

EB 71	I agree	I disagree
My voice is heard by the EU	21%	68%
My voice is heard by the TCC	34%	57%
I understand how the EU works	37%	39%
The voice of the TCC is heard by the EU	17%	70%

Only 37% of Turkish Cypriots say they understand how the EU works. Only 34% of Turkish Cypriots who participated in this study feel that their voice is heard by the TCC.

The institution Turkish Cypriots most often hear of within the European Union is the European Parliament (75%).

	Yes	No
European Parliament	75%	18%
European Commission	73%	19%
European Central Bank	65%	23%

59% of Turkish Cypriots support the Euro. Similarly, the further expansion of the EU has a support level of 62%. Turkish Cypriots do not support the 'multi-speed Europe' idea (43%). The fact that 20% of Turkish Cypriot respondents did not express an opinion in regard to this question shows how distant Turkish Cypriots feel from this issue.

55% of Turkish Cypriots say that they see globalization as an opportunity for economic growth.

At the same time, 52% of Turkish Cypriots feel that globalization increases social inequality.

67% of Turkish Cypriots believe that globalization should be managed according to global rules.

Turkish Cypriots say that they would like the EU to prioritise economic and social rights (40%), and combating human trafficking (32%).

Turkish Cypriots, like average EU 27 respondents, find the EU's efforts to protect human rights insufficient.

Turkish Cypriots say that they do not have adequate information about the EU's efforts to protect human rights (62%). This view is observed across the EU 27 (70%).

Turkish Cypriots, like EU 27 respondents, consider that the most important factors making up the EU identity are democratic principles and geography.

Turkish Cypriots do not identify themselves as European. Only 26% of Turkish Cypriots who participated in the survey identified themselves as such.

	EU 27	TCC
European	75%	26%
Turkish Cypriot	94%	88%
Inhabitant of the Region	91%	82%
Citizen of the World	64%	70%

54% of Turkish Cypriots who participated in the study express a sense of optimism about the future of the EU.

While 36% of Turkish Cypriots predict that lives of EU citizens will be more difficult in the future, 35% predict that it will be easier.