

# EUROBAROMETER 72

PUBLIC OPINION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

## AUTUMN 2009

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### CYPRUS

### TURKISH CYPRIOT COMMUNITY (TCC)

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

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

This document does not represent the point of view of the European Commission. The interpretations and opinions contained in it are solely those of the authors.

## Introduction

This survey (Standard Eurobarometer, Eurobarometer 72) was conducted between 2-14 November 2009 in 31 countries or regions. This includes 27 member states, 3 applicant states, as well as the Turkish Cypriot Community (TCC).

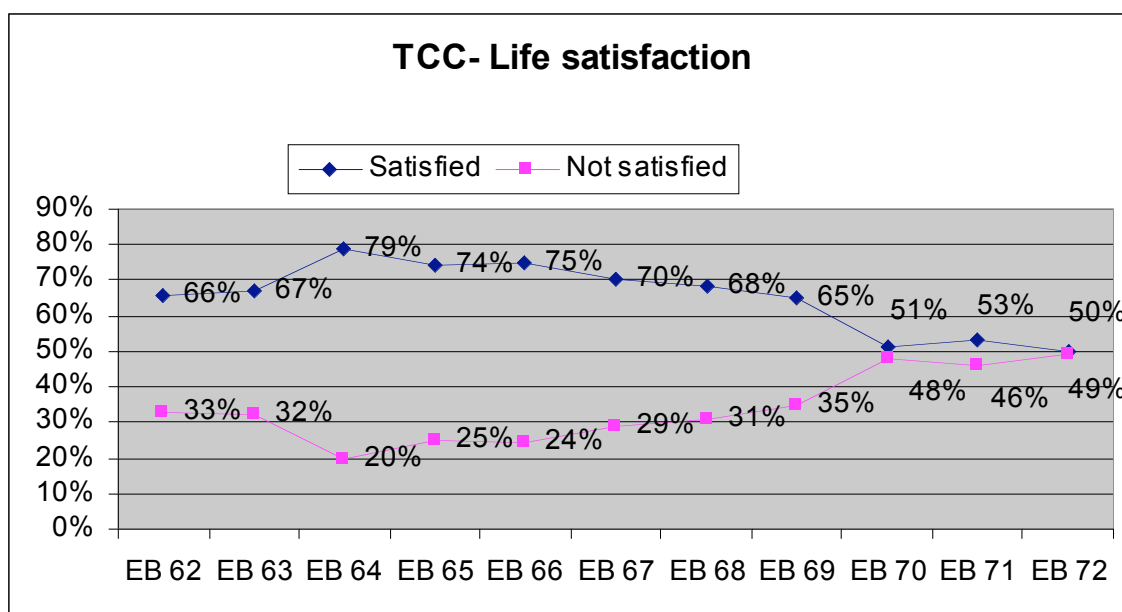
This survey is the 11th Standard Eurobarometer study conducted across the Turkish Cypriot Community. Field work was conducted by KADEM with a sample of 500 individuals as face-to-face interviews, under the consortium of TNS Opinion & Social, formed between Taylor Nelson Sofres and EOS Gallup Europe. The report of this study was prepared by Prologue Consulting Ltd.

The Standard Eurobarometer studies carried out throughout the EU since spring 2008 have demonstrated the effects of the global economic crisis on public opinion in the EU. EB 72 has shown some improvements among the perceptions of EU citizens with regards to the effects of the global economic crisis. Nevertheless, this has not been the case in the Turkish Cypriot Community (TCC). We see continued pessimism amongst TCs with regards to the economic situation in the TCC and the world.

In EB 71, trust levels in regard to the EU were very low among TCs. EB 72 shows some improvements on that front.

### Levels of life satisfaction among TCs continue to fall.

The level of satisfaction from life among TCs (50%) is below the EU 27 average of 78%. The level of life satisfaction shown by TCs is the lowest it has ever been since the Standard Eurobarometer was first carried out in the TCC. It could be said that the level of life satisfaction among Turkish Cypriots is related to their hopes of finding a solution to the Cyprus Problem.



### **The importance of economic issues is increasing among TCs.**

Turkish Cypriots cite the economic situation (51%) as well as unemployment (46%) as the most important issues facing the TCC. The Cyprus Problem continues to lose importance among TCs' perception of important issues.

|                                      | <b>EB 68</b> | <b>EB 69</b> | <b>EB 70</b> | <b>EB 71</b> | <b>EB 72</b> |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Cyprus Problem</b>                | 44%          | 37%          | 27%          | 27%          | 22%          |
| <b>Economic Situation</b>            | 32%          | 30%          | 35%          | 43%          | 51%          |
| <b>Unemployment</b>                  | 32%          | 30%          | 25%          | 37%          | 46%          |
| <b>Inflation</b>                     | 14%          | 28%          | 24%          | 18%          | 16%          |
| <b>Crime</b>                         | 21%          | 19%          | 18%          | 17%          | 21%          |
| <b>Taxation</b>                      | 10%          | 10%          | 14%          | 12%          | 6%           |
| <b>Educational System</b>            | 8%           | 8%           | 9%           | 5%           | 7%           |
| <b>Immigration</b>                   | 7%           | 7%           | 6%           | 6%           | 4%           |
| <b>Health System</b>                 | 6%           | 6%           | 12%          | 5%           | 11%          |
| <b>Terrorism</b>                     | 3%           | 4%           | 3%           | 7%           | 2%           |
| <b>Pensions</b>                      | 2%           | 3%           | 4%           | 1%           | 2%           |
| <b>Housing</b>                       | 2%           | 3%           | 5%           | 9%           | 1%           |
| <b>Protection of the environment</b> | 3%           | 2%           | 6%           | 2%           | 2%           |
| <b>Energy Issues</b>                 | 4%           | 1%           | 6%           | 2%           | 2%           |

### **59% of TCs believe things are going in the wrong direction within the TCC.**

59% of TCs who participated in the study said they believe things are going in the wrong direction within the TCC. Only 17% of TCs said they believe things are going in the right direction.

On the other hand, the average of those who say 'things are going in the right direction in my country' is 30% in the EU 27. 47% of EU 27 citizens said things are going in the wrong direction in their country.

36% of TCs said things are going in the right direction within the EU while the corresponding percentage is 40% among EU 27 respondents.

### **TCs are pessimistic with regards to the future**

TCs expect the economic situation and employment in the TCC to be worse off in the next 12 months. Similarly, they expect the economic situation in the world to be worse off. On the other hand, TCs said they expect the economic situation in the EU to get better.

|   | <b>Better</b> | <b>Worse</b> | <b>Same</b> |
|---|---------------|--------------|-------------|
| <b>Life in general</b>                  | 25%           | 28%          | 37%         |
| <b>Economic situation in the TCC</b>    | 15%           | 46%          | 32%         |
| <b>Financial Situation of household</b> | 17%           | 31%          | 45%         |
| <b>Employment in the TCC</b>            | 12%           | 39%          | 35%         |

|                                 |     |     |     |
|---------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| Personal employment             | 17% | 30% | 41% |
| Economic situation in the EU    | 29% | 27% | 27% |
| Economic situation in the world | 20% | 33% | 31% |
| Environment in the TCC          | 14% | 38% | 37% |

TCs are more pessimistic in this study compared to EB 71.

Of all Europeans, TCs are the most pessimistic group with regards to their expectations about the future.

### **TCs are optimistic about the implementation of the acquis in the TCC.**

62% of TCs said the implementation of the acquis in the TCC would be beneficial.

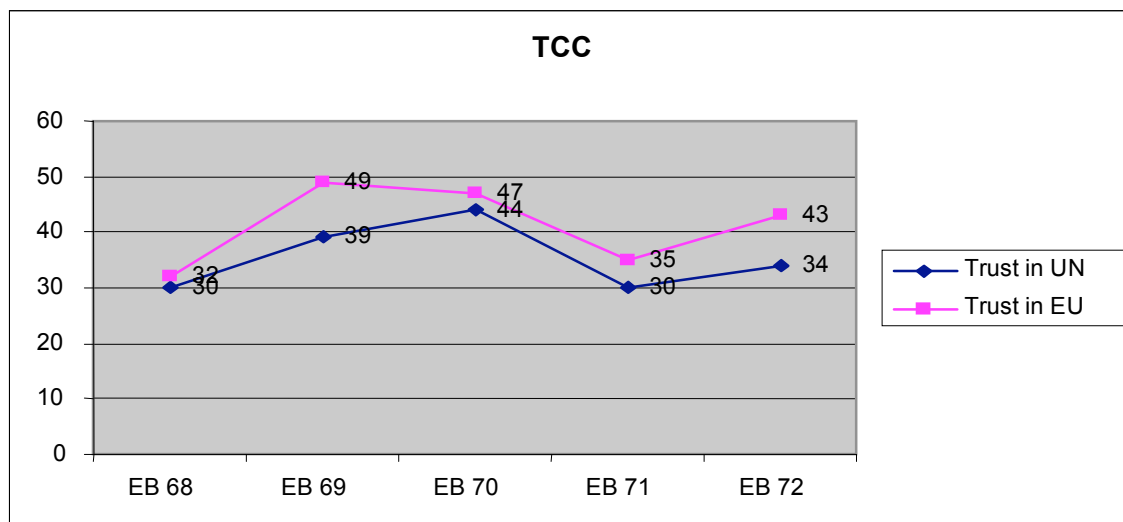
Similarly, 56% of TCs said the implementation of the acquis in the TCC is a good thing. This percentage has shown an 11 percentage point increase since EB 71.

### **43% of TCs said they trust the EU.**

There has been an 8 percentage point increase in the levels of trust to the EU among TCs since EB 71.

|             | <b>Tend to Trust</b> | <b>Tend not to trust</b> |
|-------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>EU</b>   | 43%                  | 47%                      |
| <b>UN</b>   | 34%                  | 54%                      |
| <b>NATO</b> | 36%                  | 49%                      |

The levels of trust in the EU and the UN among TCs have changed greatly over the past five Standard Eurobarometer waves.



In EB 72, TCs attract attention as the group that is the least trusting of the EU. The level of trust among the EU 27 poll is 48%, while this percentage is 43% among TCs.

### Awareness on the EU Institutions

The EU institution that the TCs are most aware of is the European Parliament, while there is least awareness among TCs of the European Central Bank.

|                       | I am aware | I am not aware |
|-----------------------|------------|----------------|
| European Parliament   | 78%        | 14%            |
| European Commission   | 70%        | 22%            |
| EU Council            | 71%        | 21%            |
| European Central Bank | 62%        | 27%            |

### Levels of trust in the EU Institutions

The EU institution that is most trusted by TCs is the European Parliament. Although a higher percentage of TCs said they are aware of the European Commission than the EU Council, the levels of trust in these institutions are reversed. More TCs tend to trust the EU Council than the European Commission.

|                       | Tend to trust | Tend not to trust |
|-----------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| European Parliament   | 45%           | 38%               |
| European Commission   | 38%           | 42%               |
| EU Council            | 40%           | 41%               |
| European Central Bank | 37%           | 38%               |

### There has been a large increase in the proportion of TCs having a positive image of the EU since EB 71.

49% of TCs believe the EU has a positive image. This is 7 points higher than the percentage of TCs who believed the EU had a positive image in EB 71. Similarly, 48% of EU 27 citizens believe the EU has a positive image.

### The EU means economic welfare and social protection for TCs.

For the average EU 27 citizen, the EU means freedom of movement and the euro, while TCs see the EU in terms of economic welfare and social protection.

|   | EU 27 | TCC |
|---|-------|-----|
| Peace                                       | 28%   | 26% |
| Economic welfare                            | 18%   | 46% |
| Democracy                                   | 26%   | 24% |
| Social protection                           | 11%   | 36% |
| Freedom of movement within the EU           | 46%   | 29% |
| Cultural diversity                          | 22%   | 19% |
| Having a bigger say in the world            | 25%   | 25% |
| Euro  | 37%   | 10% |
| Unemployment                                | 14%   | 10% |
| Bureaucracy                                 | 20%   | 7%  |
| Waste of money                              | 21%   | 5%  |
| Loss of cultural identity                   | 11%   | 14% |
| Increased crime                             | 14%   | 7%  |
| Insufficient protection at external borders | 14%   | 4%  |

### **Attitudes about different EU policies...**

#### *'Euro and European Monetary Union...'*

63% of TCs who participated in the study said they support the Euro and the European Monetary Union. This is similar to the EU 27 average (60%).

|                | <b>EU 27</b> | <b>TCC</b> |
|----------------|--------------|------------|
| <b>For</b>     | 60%          | 63%        |
| <b>Against</b> | 33%          | 28%        |

#### *'Further enlargement of the EU...'*

64% of TCs said they support the further enlargement of the EU. The rate of support for further enlargement among the EU 27 is only 46%.

|                | <b>EU 27</b> | <b>TCC</b> |
|----------------|--------------|------------|
| <b>For</b>     | 46%          | 64%        |
| <b>Against</b> | 43%          | 25%        |

#### *'Europe with different speeds...'*

49% of TCs said they support the idea of Europe with different speeds. There is a high percentage of TCs who did not comment on this issue, showing that this concept is not well understood among TCs.

|                | <b>EU 27</b> | <b>TCC</b> |
|----------------|--------------|------------|
| <b>For</b>     | 40%          | 49%        |
| <b>Against</b> | 43%          | 34%        |

**TCs believe the EU should focus on foreign affairs, the fight against crime, social and health issues and economic issues in order to have more power in the future.**

TCs believe the EU should focus on foreign affairs (30%), the fight against crime (29%), social and health issues and economic issues in order to have more power in the future.

The tendency, on the other hand, within the EU 27 is that the EU should focus on economic issues (33%), social and health issues (26%), the fight against crime (24%) and migration issues (24%).

46% of TCs, like EU 27 average respondent, believe the EU is lacking new ideas and projects.

53% of TCs believe the EU is needed in facing global hardships. This level of faith in the EU is higher among the EU 27 countries (75%).

**The levels of awareness and knowledge on the EU among TCs are low.**

Only 48% of TCs interviewed said they understand how the EU works. 35% of TCs said they do not understand how the EU works. This, in addition to the percentage of TCs who did not comment (17%) on whether they understand how the EU works or not, shows that the level of understanding of the EU is low among TCs.

The level of knowledge about the EU among TCs is only 32% whereas the EU 27 average of knowledge on the EU is 42%.

**TCs view globalization as a positive thing.**

Turkish Cypriots tend to believe that there is a need for global rules with regards to globalization (68%), globalization contributes to economic growth (64%), helps people open up more easily to outside cultures (62%) and means more foreign investment (%58).

63% of TCs said the EU is capable of and has the necessary tools to protect its interests in the global economy.

**According to TCs, the EU is more successful in bringing out the positive outcomes of globalization than protecting against its negative effects.**

58% of TCs interviewed said the EU is successful in protecting its citizens against the negative effects of globalization. On the other hand, 65% of TCs interviewed said the EU is successful in helping its citizens benefit more from the positive aspects of globalization.

**TCs believe the economic situation and employment in the TCC are bad.**

67% of the TC respondents said the economic situation in the TCC is bad. Similarly, 72% believe employment in the TCC is bad. This has shown a large increase from 51% in EB 71. Turkish Cypriots tend to be more optimistic with regards to their own personal situation, as well as the economic situation in the EU.

|   | <b>Good</b> | <b>Bad</b> |
|---|-------------|------------|
| <b>Economic situation in the TCC</b>        | 31%         | 67%        |
| <b>Economic situation in Europe</b>         | 57%         | 35%        |
| <b>Economic situation in the world</b>      | 36%         | 58%        |
| <b>Personal employment</b>                  | 49%         | 46%        |
| <b>Financial situation of the household</b> | 54%         | 43%        |
| <b>Employment in the TCC</b>                | 20%         | 72%        |
| <b>Environment in the TCC</b>               | 24%         | 74%        |

**TCs said the situation is worse in the topics listed when compared with the EU.**  
About three out of four of the TCs interviewed in this study said the situation of the economy, employment, inflation, environment, energy prices and the standard of living in the TCC is worse than those in the EU.

|                                      | <b>Better</b> | <b>Worse</b> |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| <b>Economy in the TCC</b>            | 19%           | 79%          |
| <b>Employment in the TCC</b>         | 16%           | 80%          |
| <b>Inflation in the TCC</b>          | 18%           | 79%          |
| <b>Energy Prices in the TCC</b>      | 17%           | 76%          |
| <b>Standard of Living in the TCC</b> | 23%           | 74%          |
| <b>Environment in the TCC</b>        | 19%           | 77%          |

**TCs have pessimistic expectations with regards to the future of the economic crisis.**

59% of the TCs interviewed in this survey believe that the worst days in the global economic crisis are not yet over. This shows some similarity to the EU 27 average (54%).

Additionally, 62% of TCs said they cannot make any plans concerning their future. This kind of uncertainty with regard to the future does not exist to the same extent in the EU 27, where only 35% of the respondents said they cannot make plans for the future.

**29% of Turkish Cypriots said the EU is in the best position to take the most effective steps against the global economic crisis.**

According to TCs, after the EU, the most effective solutions to the global economic crisis can come from: the IMF (18%), the USA (15%), their own government (14%) and the G20 (17%) respectively. Respondents within the EU 27 generally tend to believe their own government is in a better position to take effective steps against the global economic crisis.

**Turkish Cypriots say their household's financial situation is worse off compared to five years ago.**

Like the EU 27 figures (45%), 44% of TCs believe their households are worse off financially than they were five years ago.