

EUROBAROMETER 72

PUBLIC OPINION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

AUTUMN 2009

NATIONAL REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

GERMANY

Standard Eurobarometer 72 / Autumn 2009 – TNS Opinion & Social

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

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Satisfaction with life

- 85% (+1 point) of Germans are satisfied with their own life.

Expectations for the next 12 months

- *Personal situation*: 19% of Germans (+3 points) and 26% (-1 point) of Europeans expect their personal situation to get better.
- *Economic situation of the country*: 27% (+3 points) of Germans and 28% (+3 points) of Europeans expect the economic situation of their country to get worse.
- *The financial situation of the personal household*: 68% (-1 point) of Germans and 57% (-1 point) of Europeans do not expect changes to the financial situation of their household.
- *Employment situation*: 47% (-4 points) of Germans and 40% (-4 points) of Europeans believe that the unemployment rate in their country will increase.
- *Personal job situation*: 67% (-3 points) of Germans and 59% (+/-0 points) of Europeans are convinced that their personal job situation will stay the same over the course of the next year.
- *Economic situation in the EU*: 46% (+3 points) of Germans and 38% (+/-0 points) of Europeans expect the situation of the EU-economy to stay the same over the next year.

The two most important personal problems facing Germans and Europeans today

- 36% (+/-0 points) of Germans and 38% (+/-0 points) of Europeans still see rising prices as the biggest personal problem. For Germans, the healthcare system is the second biggest problem (28%, +6 points). Europe-wide, the economic situation is the second biggest problem for respondents (26%, +/-0 points).

The two most important issues facing Germany at the moment

- Unemployment is the most important problem facing Germany today, according to 58% (+5 points) of respondents in Germany, followed by the economic situation (46%, -3 points).

Membership of the European Union

- 60% (-1 point) of Germans and 53% (+/-0 points) of Europeans think that their country's European Union membership is a good thing.
- 57% (+/-0 points) of Germans and 57% (+1 point) of Europeans believe that their country has benefited from being a member of the European Union.

Image of the EU

- Germans (47%, +1 point) and Europeans (48%, +3 points) have a good image of the EU.

Personal associations with the EU

Positive:

- Freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the EU (Germany: 54%, +7 points / EU: 46%, +4 points), the Euro (Germany: 50%, +5 points / EU: 37%, +4 points), peace (Germany: 47%, +4 points / EU: 28%, +3 points), democracy (Germany: 32%, +3 points / EU: 26%, +4 points), a stronger say in the world (Germany: 28%, +2 points / EU: 25%, +2 points), cultural diversity (Germany: 26%, +1 point / EU: 22%, +3 points).

Negative:

- Bureaucracy (Germany: 37%, +2 points / EU: 20%, +1 point), waste of money (Germany: 34%, +/-0 points / EU: 21%, +1 point), more crime (Germany: 26%, +6 points / EU: 14%, +3 points), unemployment (Germany: 19%, +4 points / EU: 14%, -1 point), not enough control at external frontiers (Germany: 18%, +6 points / EU: 14%, +2 points), loss of cultural identity (Germany: 9%, +/-0 points / EU: 11%, +1 point).

Democracy in Europe

- 48% (+2 points) of Germans and 53% (-5 points) of Europeans are satisfied with the way democracy works in their own country.
- 57% (+5 points) of Germans and 54% (+2 points) of Europeans are satisfied with the way democracy works in the European Union.

Support for key projects of EU integration

- 66% (-3 points) of Germans and 60% (-1 point) of Europeans support the Euro.
- A relative majority of Europeans supports further enlargement of the EU (46%, +3 points). Even in Germany, the attitude towards enlargement is changing slowly: 31% (+4 points) of the respondents are in favour of further enlargement of the EU to include other countries in future years.
- One strategy of EU integration has been the speed of building Europe being faster in one group of countries than in the other countries. At the moment there is not much support for this strategy (Germany: 43%, +/-0 points against / EU: 43%, +1 point against).

Attitudes towards the EU integration process

- 70% (+2 points) of Germans 61% (+5 points) of Europeans think that the EU has grown too rapidly.
- Germans (48%, +4 points) and Europeans (46%, +4 points) have the impression that, at the current time, the European Union is short of ideas and projects.
- 83% (-4 points) of Germans and 75% (+2 points) of Europeans are convinced that the EU is indispensable in meeting global challenges.

Should the following decisions be made by national governments, or made jointly within the European Union?

- Policy issues that should be dealt with cooperatively between the member states and the European Union are: terrorism: Germany: 88%, +1 point / EU: 80%, +1 point, protecting the environment: Germany: 84%, +3 points / EU: 70%, +3 points, defence and foreign affairs: Germany: 77%, +1 point / EU: 67%, +3 points, energy issues: Germany: 77%, +2 points / EU: 67%, +4 points, fighting crime: Germany: 76%, -1 point / EU: 60%, +1 point, scientific and technological research: Germany: 76%, +3 points / EU: 72%, +/- 0 points, fighting inflation: Germany: 74%, +3 points, / EU: 59%, +5 points, competition: Germany: 71%, +2 points / EU: 59%, +2 points, agriculture and fisheries: Germany: 68%, +2 points / EU: 52%, +2 points, immigration: Germany: 67%, +3 points / EU: 63%, +3 points, support for regions facing economic difficulties: Germany: 65%, -5 points / EU: 60%, -2 points, economy: Germany: 64%, +4 points / EU: 57%, +6 points, transports: Germany: 61%, +/- 0 points / EU: 53%, +5 points, consumer protection: Germany: 59%, -2 points / EU: 51%, +3 points.
- Policy issues that should be dealt with by the member states exclusively are: Pensions: Germany: 79%, +/- 0 points / EU: 69%, -1 point, taxation: Germany: 69%, +4 points / EU: 65%, -1 point, health: Germany: 67%, +2 points / EU: 62%, -2 points, social welfare: Germany: 65%, -1 point / EU: 64%, -1 point, fighting unemployment: Germany: 55%, +/- 0 points / EU: 53%, -4 points, the educational system: Germany: 54%, +/- 0 points / EU: 60%, -4 points.

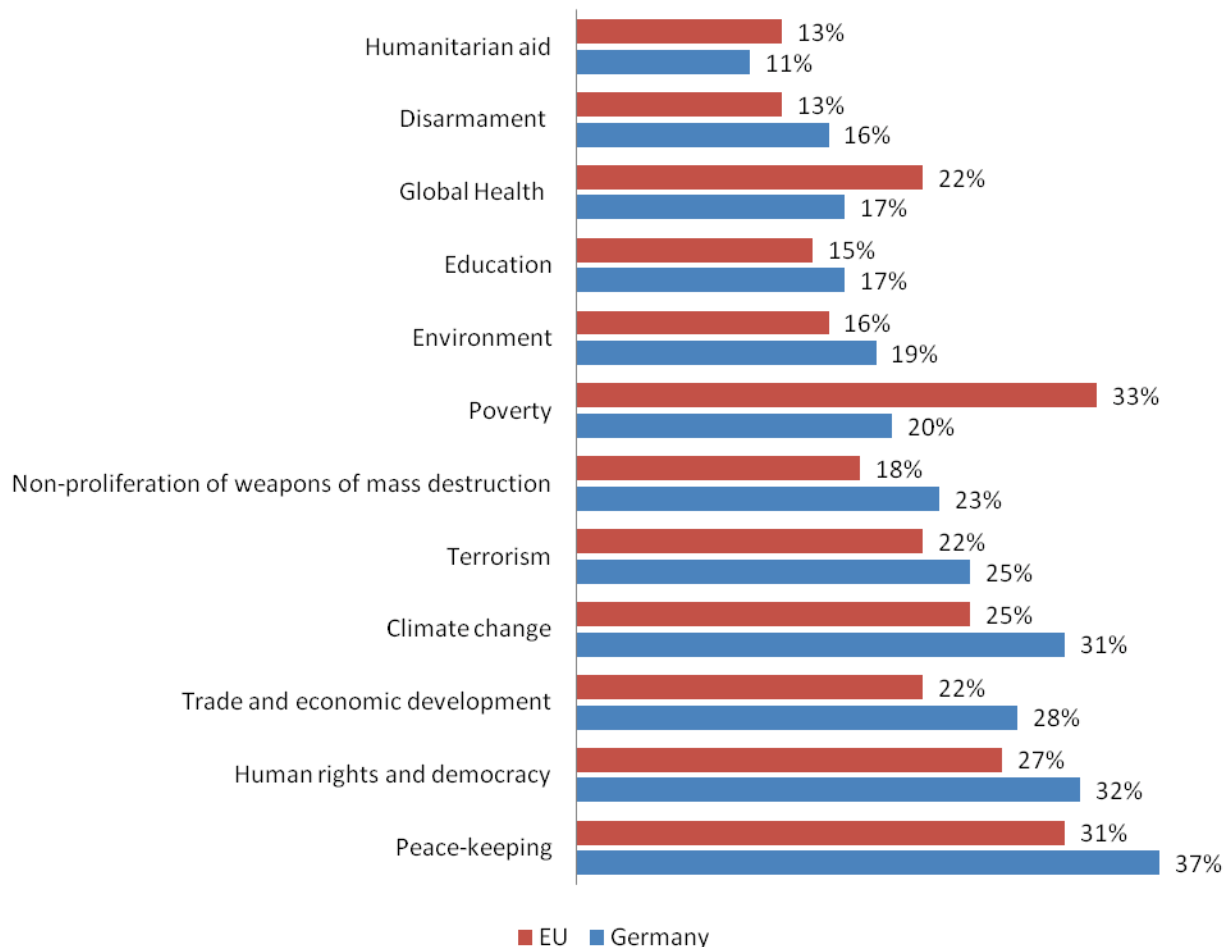
On which global threats and challenges should the European Union focus its attention in its relations with the rest of the world?

- 37% of Germans and 31% of Europeans want the EU to work for peace (,Peace-Keeping').
- 32% of Germans and 27% of Europeans want the EU to support human rights and democracy.
- 31% of Germans and 25% of Europeans want the EU to focus on the threat of global climate change.
- 28% of Germans and 22% of Europeans think that the support of trade and development should be a priority for the EU in its relations with the rest of the

world.

- 23% of Germans and 18% of Europeans want the EU to engage in the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.
- 20% of Germans and 33% of Europeans want the EU to play an active role in the fight against worldwide poverty.

QH1: On which global threats and challenges should the European Union focus its attention in its relations with the rest of the world?



Performance of the internal market of the EU

- 40% (+/-0 points) of Germans and 30% (-1 point) of Europeans are convinced that the European economy is performing better than the American economy.
- A small relative majority of Germans (35%, +2 points) believes that the European economy is performing better than the Japanese economy. 41% (+2 points) of Europeans think that the European economy is performing worse than the Japanese economy.

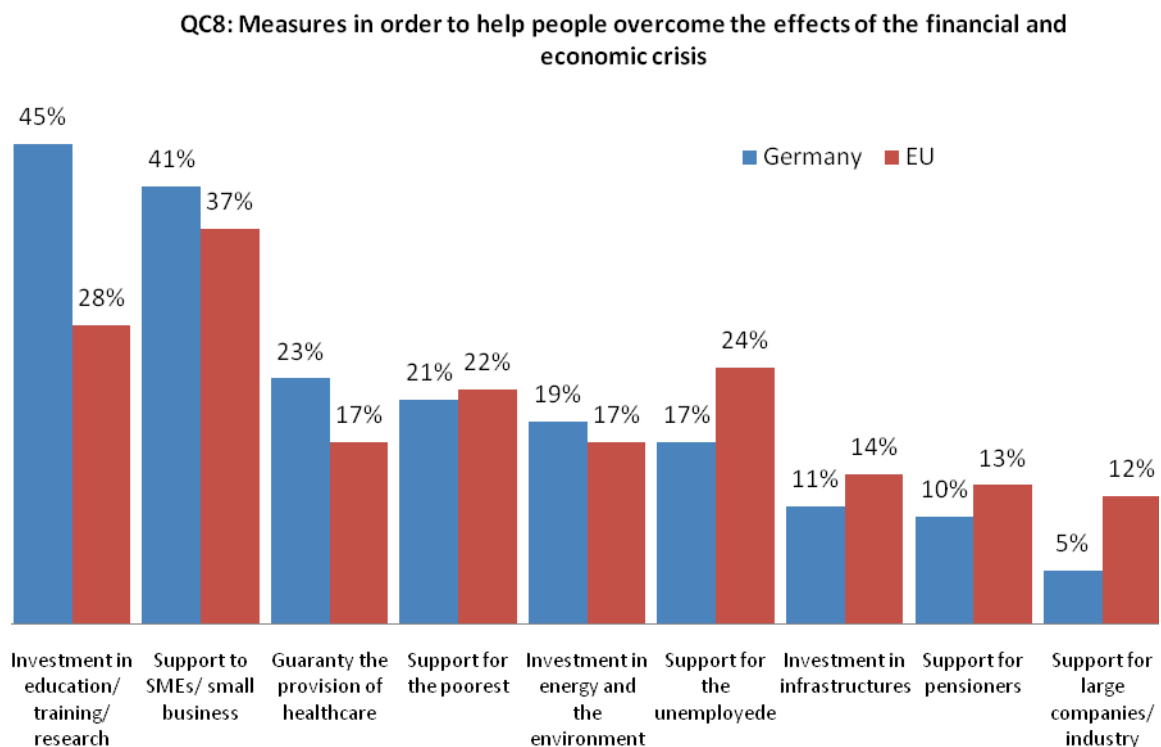
- A relative majority of Germans (37%, +1 point) and Europeans (43%, +5 points) think that the European economy is performing worse than the Chinese economy.

Challenges of Globalisation

- 69% (+4 points) of Germans and 61% (+2 points) of Europeans are convinced that globalisation is an opportunity for economic growth.
- 65% (-2 points) of Germans and 60% (-2 points) of Europeans are, at the same time, convinced that globalisation increases social inequalities.
- Germans (85%, +1 point) and Europeans (74%, +1 point) believe that globalisation requires common global rules ("worldwide governance").

Measures in order to help people overcome the effects of the financial and economic crisis

- 45% (+6 points) of Germans and 28% (+2 points) of Europeans want the EU to invest in education/ training/ research.
- 41% (-1 point) of Germans and 37% (+/-0 point) of Europeans are convinced that the best way to ease the crisis is to support small business.



- 23% (+7 points) of Germans and 17% (+4 points) of Europeans want the EU to guarantee the provision of health care.
- 21% (-1 point) of Germans and 22% (+2 points) of Europeans believe that the

European Union has the duty to protect the poorest from the effects of the crisis.

Effective measures aimed at combating the current economic and financial crisis

- 68% (-3 points) of Germans and 67% (+1 point) of Europeans support a more important role for the European Union at an international level in regulating financial services.
- 67% (-3 points) of Germans and 68% (+1 point) of Europeans believe that the surveillance and supervision by the EU of the activities of the most important international financial groups could be an effective measure in combating the crisis.
- 78% (-2 points) of Germans and 73% (+2 points) of Europeans support a stronger coordination of economic and financial policies between the European Union Member States.

Which institution is best able to take effective actions against the effects of the financial and economic crisis?

- 26% (+/-0 points) of Germans and 18% (-2 points) of Europeans think that the G20 is best able to take actions against the effects of the crisis.
- 24% (+1 point) of Germans and 22% (+1 point) of Europeans trust the EU to be best able to fight the crisis.
- The national government is in third place. 16% (+6 points), according to German respondents and 19% (+7 points) of Europeans believe that the effects of the crisis should be dealt with by their national government.

What could be done to improve the performance of the European economy?

- 78% (+2 points) of Germans and 60% (-4 points) of Europeans believe that the improvement of education and professional training would make the European economy stronger.
- 68% (+5 points) of Germans and 47% (+/-0 points) of European think it would help most to invest more in research and innovation.

Which aspects should be prioritised in the European Union in order to fight climate change?

- 56% of Germans and 44% of Europeans want the EU to develop environmentally-friendly industries, services and technologies to fight climate change.
- 39% of Germans and 33% of Europeans want the EU to take into account the fight against climate change in all EU policies.

- 27% of Germans and 26% of Europeans want the EU to help develop clean cars.
- 26% of Germans and 36% of Europeans want the EU to reduce CO2 (carbon-dioxide) emissions from transport and electricity.
- 23% of Germans and 20% of Europeans demand of the EU to secure energy supply.
- Only 9% of Germans and 10% of Europeans want the EU to develop the use of nuclear energy.

General attitude towards reforms

- 71% of Germans and Europeans think that reforms that benefit future generations should be pursued even if that means some sacrifices for the present generation.

Reforms of the financial system in the EU

- 32% of Germans and 26% of Europeans support a stronger European system of supervision of financial markets and financial institutions.
- 27% of Germans and 24% of Europeans want more accountability of financial managers, including bonuses.
- 25% of Germans 26% of Europeans want more transparency of benefits, costs and risks on financial markets.