

EUROBAROMETER 73

Public Opinion in the European Union

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Standard Eurobarometer 73

Spring 2010

PUBLIC OPINION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

Volume 1

Survey conducted by TNS Opinion & Social at the
request of European Commission –
Directorate-General Communication

Coordinated by the European Commission –
Directorate-General Communication

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INTRODUCTION

This Eurobarometer survey was carried out between 5 May and 28 May 2010 in 32 countries and territories¹: the 27 Member States of the European Union, the three candidate countries (Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey), Iceland and the Turkish Cypriot Community in the part of the country not controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus.

Since the start of the global financial and economic crisis at the beginning of autumn 2008, the Eurobarometer has recorded strong opinion shifts in Europe. Very responsive to economic news and forecasts, the confidence of Europeans deteriorated significantly at the end of 2008 and the beginning of 2009 before signs of an upturn in confidence and renewed optimism about the future emerged during the last half of 2009, as can be seen from the results of Eurobarometer 72, conducted in autumn 2009.

The first half of 2010 was characterised by signs of a recovery in global economic forecasts but there were also strong disparities between the various regions of the world and in particular in Europe. Thus, in April 2010, shortly before the fieldwork for this Eurobarometer, the IMF increased its world growth forecasts to 4.2% (up from the +3.9% forecast in January), on the basis that *"The global recovery is proceeding better than expected"*. At the same time, growth forecasts for the euro zone were revised downwards (to 0.8% from the 0.9% forecast by the IMF in January). These trends were confirmed by the IMF at the beginning of July 2010.

All eyes are therefore focused on Europe, with the IMF considering that it *"is coming out of recession at a slower pace than other regions"*. The main obstacles to recovery identified include the budget crises in several European States, in particular Greece. To deal with the risk of contagion and the growing debt levels of Member States, the European Union reacted in May by proposing a support plan for European countries faced with difficulties. However, the Member States had some difficulty in reaching an agreement on this plan, to which the IMF eventually contributed.

At the same time, unemployment stabilised at high levels in Europe in May 2010: 9.6% in the European Union and 10% for the euro zone², its highest level since the introduction of the single currency. It is worth taking account of this background when reading the report.

In this context of contrasting indicators, which are more optimistic for the global situation, but gloomier – or mixed – in Europe, this Eurobarometer shows a hardening of European public opinion in the first half of 2010.

¹ Please consult the technical specifications for the exact dates of the fieldwork in each country.

² Eurostat/Euro-indicators/Press release/02 July 2010 epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_PUBLIC/.../3-02072010-AP-FR.PDF

After improving in EB72 (autumn 2009), perceptions of the situation of national economies and the European economy have again deteriorated. In addition, the future does not look encouraging: Europeans are increasingly pessimistic not only about their country's economy but also about the European and global economies. Unemployment is still the main national concern and forecasts remain gloomy, even if there are some signs that tensions are easing.

Although previous waves of the Eurobarometer had already recorded a gradual decline in public confidence at the end of 2008 (EB70) and at the beginning of 2009 (EB71), what is new this time is the fact that the European Union has, for the first time, suffered considerably from the knock-on effects. For example, support for national membership of the EU and perceptions of the benefits of membership have declined. But above all, for the first time since 2004, respondents are more likely to distrust the European Union than to trust it.

Whereas knowledge of the European institutions and understanding of the way the European Union works have improved, this increased awareness still needs to be converted into favourable opinions regarding the European Union.

* * *

The full Standard Eurobarometer report consists of two volumes. This volume (volume 1) analyses the results of the historical indicators of the Standard Eurobarometer. The second volume (volume 2) presents the state of European public opinion on other themes: globalisation; the financial and economic crisis; citizenship; Europe 2020.

Volume 1 consists of three main parts. In the first part, we examine the personal, social, societal, economic and political aspects of life in the European Union as perceived by its citizens. We examine the financial and personal situation of citizens, their main concerns and expectations for the future.

This first part of the report also explores the interest of citizens in politics, their views on the direction in which things are going in their own country and in the European Union, and analyses the extent to which citizens trust national institutions.

The second part of the report presents the trend indicators measuring the perceptions and opinions of citizens about the European Union and its institutions, including support for membership of the European Union and the related benefits. It also looks at views on the way democracy works in the European Union and the extent to which citizens are aware of how the European Union works.

The third part of the report focuses on the European Union's competences and what citizens consider to be the most appropriate level of decision-making. It examines the measures which should be given priority in order to strengthen the European Union in the future and assesses how far Europeans support the Union's policies. Finally, we analyse opinions on the future of the European Union.

The results are analysed in principle at three levels:

- the average for the 27 Member States;
- nationally, that is to say to what extent results vary from one country to another;
- at socio-demographic level, that is to say variations noted in accordance with respondents' socio-demographic characteristics, as well as other opinion indicators, such as the way in which citizens perceive the European Union's image, their trust in the European Union, their knowledge of the European Union and their position on the left or right of the political spectrum.

The general analysis and the socio-demographic analyses are based on the average for the 27 Member States. This average is weighted so that it reflects the actual population of each Member State. The averages for previous years represent the results obtained in all the Member States of the European Union, as it was composed at the time the survey was conducted.

This Eurobarometer was requested 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 Speechwriting" Unit)

A technical note concerning the interviews carried out by the institutes of the TNS Opinion & Social network is annexed to this report. It specifies the method used for the interviews and the confidence intervals

It should be borne in mind that three types of reports exist for this Standard Eurobarometer.

1) First results: this report provides a summary of the most striking results with regard to the trend indicators, thereby providing a rapid overview of European public opinion on key issues.

2) Report: the detailed analysis of the results of all the questions.

3) National sheets: the graphic representation of the results for each country or territory covered by the survey, illustrating comparisons between the national results and the European Union average.

The Eurobarometer's Internet site can be consulted at the following address:

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

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

In this report, the countries are referred to by their official abbreviation, as shown below.

ABBREVIATIONS

EU27	European Union – 27 Member States
DK	Don't Know
BE	Belgium
BG	Bulgaria
CZ	The Czech Republic
DK	Denmark
DE	Germany
EE	Estonia
EL	Greece
ES	Spain
FR	France
IE	Ireland
IT	Italy
CY	Republic of Cyprus*
CY (tcc)	Zone not controlled by 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**
IS	Iceland

* Cyprus as a whole is one of the 27 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).

** 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.

The specific results for CY(tcc), HR, TR, MK and IS are shown in the Annex to this report containing the data tables.

1. LIFE IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

This part of the report defines the background against which the public's perception of the European Union in spring 2010 should be interpreted. We shall analyse here the answers to the questions addressing the following subjects:

1) Personal aspects: the extent to which Europeans are satisfied with the life they lead, their personal job and financial situations, their future expectations regarding their life in general, as well as their financial and job situations, and finally their main personal concerns.

2) Social and societal aspects: assessments of the cost of living, energy prices and the quality of life in each Member State compared with the European average; the situation of the environment nationally, how it compares with the EU27 average and future expectations.

3) Economic aspects: assessments of the economic situation at national, European and global levels and of the national economic situation in comparison with the European average; satisfaction with the national employment situation and in comparison with the EU27 average; expectations regarding the economic outlook at national, European and global levels including employment and, finally, the main national concerns.

4) Political aspects: interest in politics; perceptions of the direction in which things are going at national level, as well as in the European Union and in the United States; trust in national institutions (political, judicial and military) and in the media.

1. PERSONAL ASPECTS

1.1 The personal situation of Europeans at the current time

- A majority of Europeans are still satisfied with the life they lead -

The vast majority of European citizens (78%) are still satisfied with the life they lead³. Less than a quarter (22%) are dissatisfied. These proportions are in line with those recorded in autumn 2009. The proportion of “very satisfied” Europeans (21%, +1 percentage point) is still considerably higher than the proportion of “very dissatisfied” (6%, +1) Europeans. A core of almost six out of ten (57%, -1) continue to be “fairly satisfied”.

However these results conceal significant geographic disparities within the European Union. Personal satisfaction in the Nordic countries remains considerably higher than the EU average (98% in Denmark, 96% in Sweden and 95% in Finland). Personal satisfaction is also high in Luxembourg (96%), the Netherlands (95%) and the United Kingdom (92%). On the other hand, in several southern and eastern European countries a majority of respondents are dissatisfied. This is the case in Romania (64% dissatisfied), Bulgaria (59%), Greece (58%) and Portugal (56%).

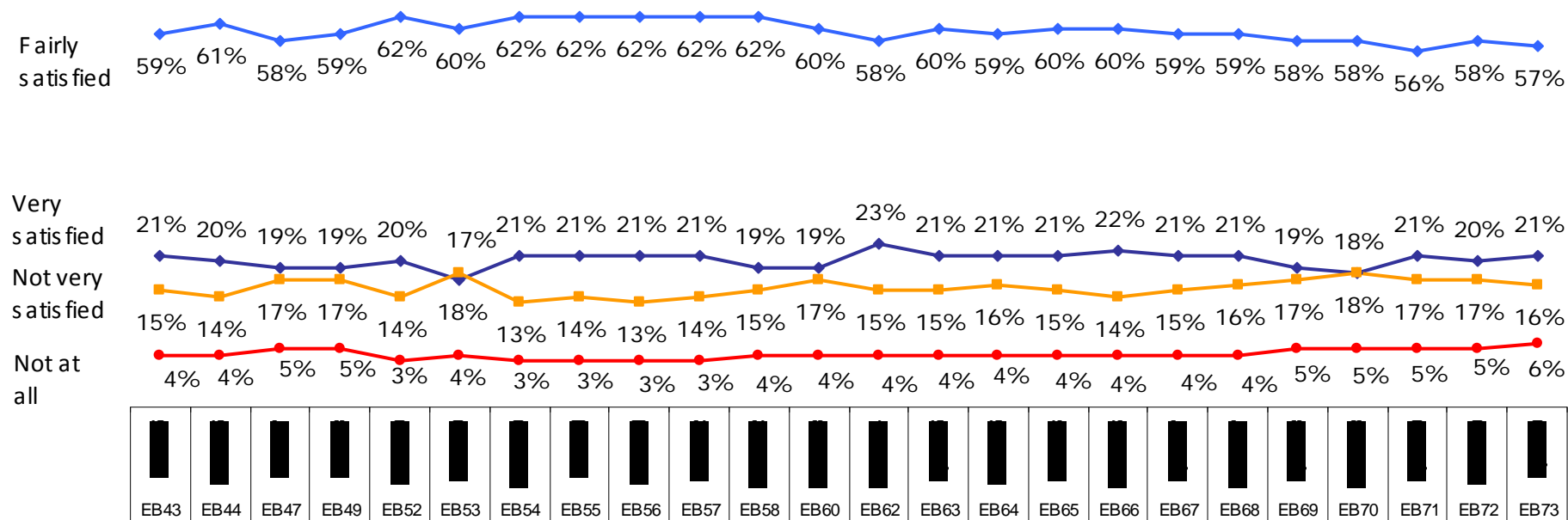
Despite the fact that the way in which Europeans perceive their personal situation remains unchanged in a majority of countries, there have been significant changes in some. For example, the severity of the economic crisis seems to have had an impact on the way respondents in Romania perceive their personal situation (36% are satisfied with the life they lead, 11 points lower than in Eurobarometer 72 carried out in autumn 2009, while the proportion of respondents who are “not at all satisfied” has increased steeply: +12 to 29%). This is also true in Greece (42%, -16 and 22% “not at all satisfied”, +12), Portugal (44%, -9) and to a lesser extent Lithuania (50%, -5). It is worth noting that the significant decline in satisfaction in Greece follows a significant increase in satisfaction in the previous survey: personal satisfaction levels had increased from 44% to 58% between spring 2009 and autumn 2009.

In contrast, respondents in Hungary seem to be significantly more satisfied (50%, +8 of satisfied respondents versus 50% dissatisfied respondents, -8). As a result, the situation there is now evenly balanced. The already high levels of satisfaction have increased further in Poland (79%, +4), Malta (76%, +4) and Spain (77%, +3).

































Satisfaction has also increased significantly in the Turkish Cypriot Community (64%, +14).

³ QA1 On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the life you lead?

QA1 On the whole, are you ... with the life you lead? - % EU



**QA1 On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the life you lead? -
% Total satisfied**

		EB71 Sp.2009	EB72 Aut.2009	EB73 Sp.2010	Diff. Sp.2010- Aut. 2009
	EU27	77%	78%	78%	=
	HU	44%	42%	50%	+8
	MT	82%	72%	76%	+4
	PL	76%	75%	79%	+4
	IE	88%	85%	88%	+3
	ES	75%	74%	77%	+3
	LV	54%	57%	60%	+3
	SK	69%	72%	75%	+3
	FR	84%	82%	83%	+1
	IT	70%	71%	72%	+1
	CY	85%	81%	82%	+1
	UK	89%	91%	92%	+1
	BG	40%	38%	38%	=
	DK	98%	98%	98%	=
	EE	73%	73%	73%	=
	LU	96%	96%	96%	=
	NL	96%	95%	95%	=
	AT	83%	85%	85%	=
	FI	96%	95%	95%	=
	SE	96%	96%	96%	=
	BE	91%	89%	88%	-1
	DE	84%	85%	84%	-1
	SI	86%	86%	85%	-1
	CZ	82%	82%	78%	-4
	LT	57%	55%	50%	-5
	PT	51%	53%	44%	-9
	RO	47%	47%	36%	-11
	EL	44%	58%	42%	-16
	CY (tcc)	53%	50%	64%	+14
	HR	63%	63%	69%	+6
	TR	61%	59%	65%	+6
	MK	67%	66%	61%	-5
	IS*	-	-	98%	-

* Not asked in Iceland in EB71 and EB72.




A majority of respondents in the candidate countries are also satisfied with the life they lead: Croatia (69%, +6 since autumn 2009), Turkey (65%, +6) and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (61%).

Included in the Eurobarometer for the first time, Iceland mirrors and even exceeds the performance of other Nordic countries with a particularly high score of 98%.

A socio-demographic analysis of the results reveals some differences: for the European Union as a whole, young people are generally the most likely to be satisfied with the life they lead (85% of those aged 15 to 24, including 27% who are “very satisfied”, compared with 76% of those aged 55 or over). The level of education of respondents also seems to have an influence: 86% of those who studied up to the age of 20 or beyond are satisfied, compared with 68% of those who left school before the age of 16.

The respondent's occupation and standard of living remain the most discriminating factors for perceptions of personal satisfaction. Thus, while 92% of managers are satisfied with their life, only 56% of unemployed people are satisfied. Similarly, while 89% of citizens who almost never have difficulties in paying their bills are satisfied, the corresponding percentage of those who have financial difficulties “most of the time” is as low as 42%.

QA1 On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the life you lead?

	Total 'Satisfied'	Total 'Not satisfied'	DK
EU27	78%	22%	-
Age			
 15-24	85%	14%	1%
25-39	78%	22%	-
40-54	75%	25%	-
55 +	76%	24%	-
Education (End of)			
 15-	68%	32%	-
16-19	74%	25%	1%
20+	86%	14%	-
Still studying	89%	11%	-
Respondent occupation scale			
 Self-employed	79%	21%	-
Managers	92%	8%	-
Other white collars	82%	18%	-
Manual workers	77%	22%	1%
House persons	72%	27%	1%
Unemployed	56%	44%	-
Retired	74%	25%	1%
Students	89%	11%	-
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	42%	58%	-
From time to time	65%	34%	1%
Almost never	89%	11%	-

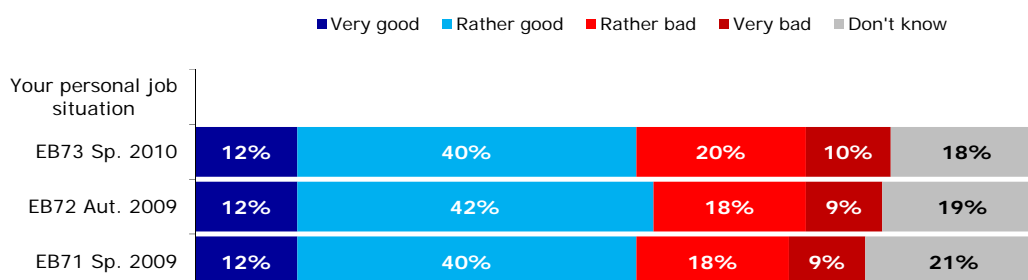
1.2 How Europeans perceive their personal job and financial situations

- Perceptions of personal job situations have deteriorated slightly, while views on the household's financial situation are unchanged -

1.2.1. The personal job situation

Just over half of Europeans consider that their personal job situation is “good” (52%)⁴. This proportion has fallen slightly since autumn 2009 (-2 points), returning to the level of spring 2009. The number of respondents who consider that their personal job situation is “very good” is unchanged (12%). Negative opinions have risen by 3 points: 30% of Europeans now view their personal job situation as “bad” (including 10%, +1, “very bad”).

QA4a4. How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? - % EU



































Once again the indicators are particularly positive in the Nordic countries: 79% of respondents in Denmark see their personal job situation as “good” (including 45% “very good”), 77% in Sweden (including 42% “very good”) and 72% in Finland. Levels of satisfaction also exceed 70% in Austria and Luxembourg (71% in both cases).

In contrast, in three EU countries, only around a quarter of respondents are satisfied with their personal job situation, namely in Hungary (22%), Romania (25%) and Greece (27%).

These last two countries have also recorded the most significant changes since the autumn 2009 wave. Personal job satisfaction has fallen by 10 points in Greece and by 7 points in Romania. However, they are not the only countries where perceptions of personal job situations have deteriorated: levels of satisfaction have also fallen in the United Kingdom (56%, -5), Italy (48%, -5), the Czech Republic (56%, -5) and Cyprus (43%, -6).

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

Some countries have seen an improvement, which seems to have strengthened over the last two surveys: Denmark (79% satisfied respondents, +4 points since Eurobarometer 71, carried out in spring 2009), Poland (57%, +5), Slovakia (56%, +6) and Sweden (77%, +3).

QA4.4 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? - Your personal job situation - Total 'Good'					
		EB71 Sp.2009	EB72 Aut.2009	EB73 Sp.2010	Diff. Sp.2010 - Aut.2009
	EU27	52%	54%	52%	-2
	LU	69%	66%	71%	+5
	DK	75%	76%	79%	+3
	IE	46%	41%	44%	+3
	PL	52%	54%	57%	+3
	SK	50%	53%	56%	+3
	BE	72%	66%	68%	+2
	ES	49%	47%	49%	+2
	HU	25%	20%	22%	+2
	AT	69%	69%	71%	+2
	SI	63%	56%	58%	+2
	SE	74%	75%	77%	+2
	EE	43%	43%	44%	+1
	BG	37%	34%	34%	=
	LV	46%	45%	45%	=
	LT	37%	35%	35%	=
	PT	40%	41%	41%	=
	FR	54%	49%	48%	-1
	NL	64%	65%	64%	-1
	FI	75%	73%	72%	-1
	MT	58%	54%	52%	-2
	DE	56%	64%	61%	-3
	CZ	57%	56%	51%	-5
	IT	52%	53%	48%	-5
	UK	54%	61%	56%	-5
	CY	53%	49%	43%	-6
	RO	32%	32%	25%	-7
	EL	28%	37%	27%	-10
	CY (tcc)	54%	49%	59%	+10
	HR	43%	35%	42%	+7
	TR	37%	34%	32%	-2
	MK	39%	40%	39%	-1
	IS*	-	-	73%	-

* Not asked in Iceland in EB71 and EB72.

In the candidate countries, a minority of respondents in Turkey (32%, -2 points) and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (39%, -1 point) are satisfied with their personal job situation. However there has been a significant improvement in Croatia since autumn 2009, where the proportion of satisfied respondents has increased by 7 points (to 42%, versus 41% of dissatisfied respondents) and now represents the majority opinion.





Finally, in Iceland, almost three-quarters of respondents (73%) consider that their personal job situation is “good”.

In socio-demographic terms, differences of perception remain. Men are more likely than women to be positive about their personal job situation (56%, compared with 49% of women). Similarly, while the generations that most recently entered the job market are satisfied (60% of those aged 25 to 39 see their personal job situation as “good”), older people (44% aged 55 or over) and the youngest respondents (46% of those aged 15 to 24) are less enthusiastic. However it should be noted that many of the respondents in these two categories are no longer, or not yet, concerned by this question, which explains the high ‘DK’ rate (35% of older people and 24% of the 15-24 age group).

Managers (86%) and the most educated respondents (68% of those who studied up to the age of 20 or beyond) are also more likely to be satisfied than the least educated respondents (37% of those who left school before the age of 16) and manual workers (67%), although a substantial majority of the latter are satisfied. Only 11% of unemployed people are satisfied (while 82% consider that their situation is “bad”).

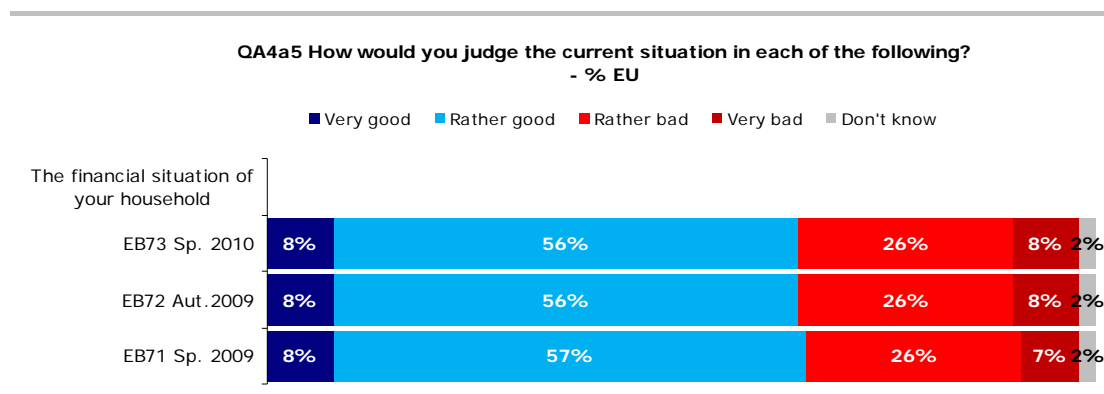
But this question is also linked, unsurprisingly, to living standards: 63% of those who almost never have difficulties in paying their bills consider that their personal job situation is “good” compared with only 21% of those who struggle to pay their bills “most of the time”.

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

	Total 'Good'	Total 'Bad'	DK
EU27	52%	30%	18%
Sex			
 Male	56%	29%	15%
Female	49%	29%	22%
Age			
 15-24	46%	30%	24%
25-39	60%	35%	5%
40-54	59%	35%	6%
55 +	44%	21%	35%
Education (End of)			
 15-	37%	34%	29%
16-19	53%	33%	14%
20+	68%	21%	11%
Still studying	45%	21%	34%
Respondent occupation scale			
 Self-employed	66%	31%	3%
Managers	86%	11%	3%
Other white collars	73%	24%	3%
Manual workers	67%	31%	2%
House persons	30%	39%	31%
Unemployed	11%	82%	7%
Retired	37%	18%	45%
Students	45%	21%	34%
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	21%	66%	13%
From time to time	41%	45%	14%
Almost never	63%	16%	21%

1.2.2. The household financial situation

Almost two-thirds of Europeans (64%) consider that the financial situation of their household is “good” (versus 34% who think that it is “bad”)⁵, a figure which remains unchanged since autumn 2009. A core of 56% of Europeans continues to think that their financial situation is “rather good” and only a minority of respondents opted for the two extremes: 8% said that their situation was “very good” and 8% said it was “very bad”.



The same national differences exist for this question as for the question on life in general. Respondents in northern and western European countries are more likely to consider that the financial situation of their household is particularly good, especially in Denmark (89%), Finland (89%), Luxembourg (88%), the Netherlands (86%) and Sweden (86%), as well as in Belgium (80%) and the United Kingdom (78%).

































Southern and eastern European countries tend to be the most negative about the financial situation of their household (7 of the 27 Member States are negative). In some cases there have been significant changes. The household financial situation is seen as “good” by a small minority in Hungary (28%), Bulgaria (29%, a proportion only slightly higher than those who see it as “very bad”, 24%) and Portugal (37%). But this is also now the case in Greece (37%, -13) and Romania (35%, -9), where there has been a very marked shift in perceptions.

The situation has also deteriorated considerably in Cyprus, even if a majority of respondents there are still positive (56% of respondents consider that the financial situation of their household is “good”, -13 points since autumn 2009). After a significant decrease in autumn 2009, the situation has stabilised at just above 50% in Ireland (55%, +2), Malta (56%, +1) and Spain (56%, +2).

Satisfaction has increased in Hungary (+6 points), Denmark (+5) and Poland (+4).

⁵ QA4a.5 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? The financial situation of your household.

QA4.5 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?
- The financial situation of your household - Total 'Good'

		EB71 Sp.2009	EB72 Aut.2009	EB73 Sp.2010	Diff. Sp.2010 - Aut.2009
	EU27	65%	64%	64%	=
	HU	26%	22%	28%	+6
	DK	89%	84%	89%	+5
	PL	57%	56%	60%	+4
	SK	53%	58%	61%	+3
	BE	79%	78%	80%	+2
	IE	61%	53%	55%	+2
	ES	62%	54%	56%	+2
	LV	46%	46%	48%	+2
	AT	71%	72%	74%	+2
	SI	70%	65%	67%	+2
	BG	32%	28%	29%	+1
	MT	63%	55%	56%	+1
	FI	89%	88%	89%	+1
	UK	75%	77%	78%	+1
	DE	73%	73%	73%	=
	IT	61%	59%	59%	=
	FR	69%	67%	66%	-1
	PT	41%	38%	37%	-1
	EE	72%	68%	66%	-2
	NL	88%	88%	86%	-2
	SE	88%	88%	86%	-2
	CZ	64%	62%	59%	-3
	LT	52%	48%	45%	-3
	LU	89%	91%	88%	-3
	RO	43%	44%	35%	-9
	EL	48%	50%	37%	-13
	CY	66%	69%	56%	-13
	CY (tcc)	54%	54%	61%	+7
	HR	49%	40%	48%	+8
	TR	44%	38%	39%	+1
	MK	50%	52%	50%	-2
	IS*	-	-	73%	-

* Not asked in Iceland in EB71 and EB72.

In the candidate countries, positive opinions have gained ground in Croatia, where 48% consider that the financial situation of their household is “good”, +8 points, versus 50%. A small majority of respondents are positive in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (50/48), but opinions are more negative in Turkey (39/57).

Finally, in Iceland, the results are once again in line with those recorded in the EU Nordic Member States: 73% say that the financial situation of their household is “good”.

As with the previous indicators, the most educated respondents, managers and those with the least financial difficulties tend to be more satisfied.

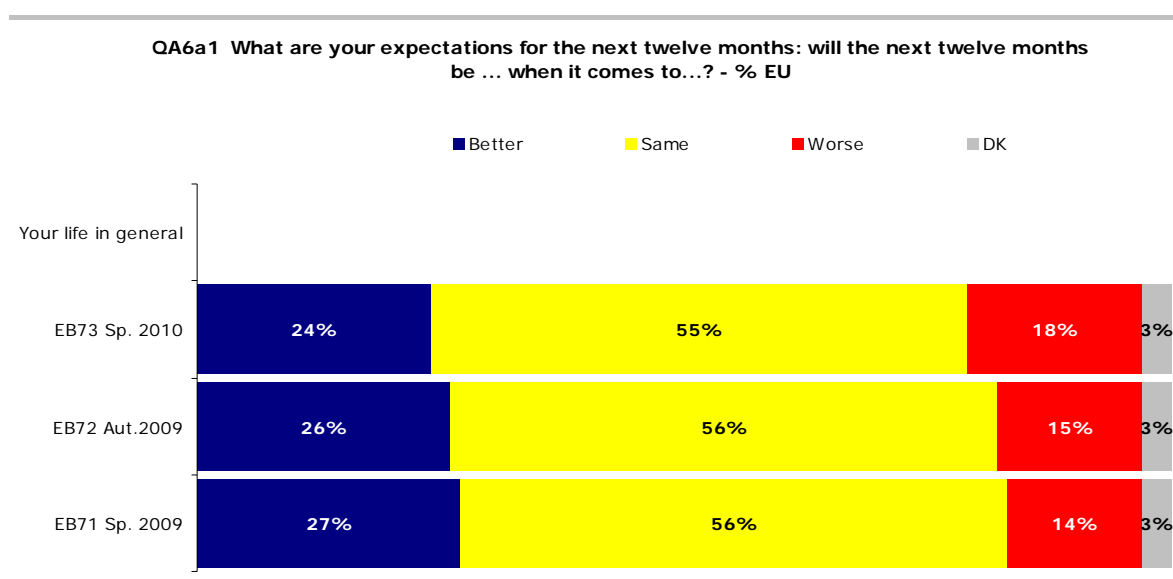
1.3 Expectations for the near future

- Europeans are slightly more pessimistic about the outlook for their life in general and their financial situation.

Their personal job expectations are more or less unchanged -

1.3.1. Personal life

A majority of Europeans are satisfied with the life they lead and they are still more likely to believe that their lives in general will get better rather than worse over the next twelve months. However, expectations for the future are slightly less optimistic than in autumn 2009⁶. 24% of respondents think that things will be better in the coming months (-2 points), compared with 18% who think that the next twelve months will be “worse”, 3 points higher than in the last Eurobarometer survey (EB72, autumn 2009). 55% expect their life in general to remain the same over the coming year (-1 point). The results are therefore close to those recorded in the autumn 2008 wave (EB70), when only 24% of Europeans expected an improvement in their life over the coming year, while 51% expected things to stay the same and 22% expected things to get worse.



Four of the 27 Member States stand out by their optimism since more than a third of respondents expect their life to improve over the coming year, namely Sweden (46%), the United Kingdom (36%), Estonia (35%) and Denmark (34%).

On the other hand, two countries are particularly pessimistic: Greece, where more than half of respondents expect the year to be “worse” (52%), and Romania (45%).

⁶ QA6a.1 What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...? Your life in general.

To fine-tune our analysis of these results, we used an optimism index, which takes into account the gap existing between optimistic and the pessimistic forecasts in a country (if the index is positive optimism outweighs pessimism and vice versa).

Whereas in autumn 2009 ten Member States had a negative index (i.e. pessimists outnumbered optimists), in spring 2010 only six countries have a negative index. There has been a clear improvement in Hungary⁷ where optimism, which was the minority opinion six months earlier, now predominates (index up by 30 points), and in Latvia (+28), Ireland (+20), Malta (+15) and Bulgaria (+12).

































Although views are also substantially more positive in Lithuania (+19), a majority of respondents in that country are still pessimistic.

Despite these improvements, the European average has decreased, which reflects the fact that expectations regarding personal life have deteriorated in several countries, and sometimes spectacularly. This is the case in Greece: the index was positive in autumn 2009 but has lost 50 points in spring 2010. In Romania, it has fallen by 22 points and by 12 points in Portugal.

In some countries, although the indices remain positive, they have fallen significantly: Luxembourg (-16), France (-11) and Spain (-8).

⁷ However, it should be remembered that the legislative elections were held in Hungary on 11 and 25 April 2010, just before this Eurobarometer survey (interviews carried out between 5 and 28 May).

QA6.1 What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?
- Your life in general

		EB72 Aut.2009 Better- Worse	EB73 Sp.2010 Better- Worse	DIFF. Sp.2010- Aut.2009
	EU27	+11	+6	-5
	HU	-24	+6	+30
	LV	-11	+17	+28
	IE	-5	+15	+20
	LT	-22	-3	+19
	MT	-3	+12	+15
	BG	-8	+4	+12
	SK	-6	=	+6
	EE	+17	+21	+4
	PL	+4	+8	+4
	CZ	-2	-5	-3
	BE	+11	+12	+1
	DK	+30	+30	=
	CY	+3	+3	=
	FI	+25	+24	-1
	SE	+42	+41	-1
	IT	+4	+2	-2
	AT	+4	+6	-2
	SI	+6	+3	-3
	NL	+19	+15	-4
	DE	+5	-1	-6
	UK	+29	+22	-7
	ES	+18	+10	-8
	FR	+23	+12	-11
	PT	-8	-20	-12
	LU	+20	+4	-16
	RO	-7	-29	-22
	EL	+9	-41	-50
	CY (tcc)	-3	+10	+13
	HR	-12	-4	+8
	TR	-7	-3	+4
	MK	+12	+10	-2
	IS*	-	+29	-

* Not asked in Iceland in EB72.

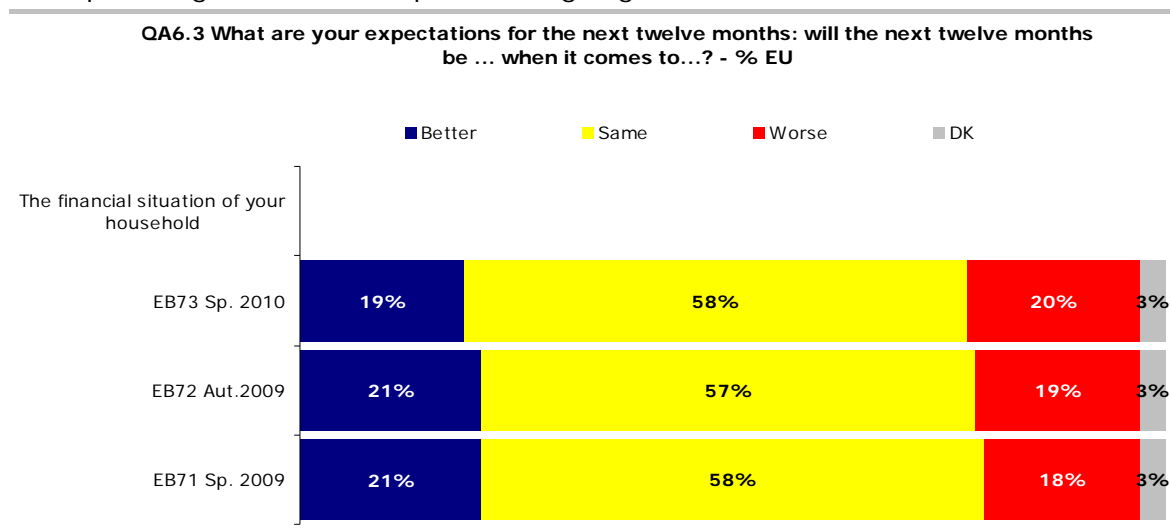
In the candidate countries, as in most of the Member States, a majority of respondents do not expect their personal life to change in the coming months. However, pessimism still outweighs optimism in Turkey (27% versus 24%) and Croatia (24% versus 20%), despite an improvement in both countries. Optimism outweighs pessimism in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, where 31% think that their life will be better in the next twelve months, versus 21%.

This is also the case in Iceland, where 35% of respondents are confident that their life in general will be better over the next twelve months, whereas only 6% are worried about changes over the short term.

Fairly logically, optimism is higher among young people and decreases with age: 42% of those aged 15 to 24 think that their life will be better over the coming year, compared with 33% of those in the 25-34 age group, 22% of those in the 40-54 age group and 11% of those aged 55 or over. Just over a third of unemployed people think that their life will be better next year (35%, compared with 28% of managers, and 27% of manual workers, compared with only 17% of house persons).

1.3.2. The household financial situation

After stabilising in autumn 2009, the expectations of Europeans regarding the financial situation of their household have deteriorated slightly. A majority of respondents still believe that things will not change during the coming year (58%, +1)⁸ and 20% of Europeans now expect things to be worse (+1). Only 19% now expect the financial situation of their household to improve 19% (-2). Changes are limited and the results are far from the particularly pessimistic scores of autumn 2008, when 18% expected an improvement, 52% thought that the situation would remain the same and 27% expected things to be worse; but the figures illustrate a general downward trend in the confidence of Europeans against a backdrop of the ongoing crisis.



⁸ QA6a.3 What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...? The financial situation of your household.

In almost all Member States, a majority of respondents do not expect the financial situation of their household to change over the coming year.

































More than a quarter of respondents expect things to improve, and four countries are particularly optimistic: Sweden (36%), Estonia (31%), the United Kingdom (27%) and Denmark (26%).

Greece and Romania (56% and 44% respectively) are again the only two States where pessimism far outweighs expectations that the financial situation of their household will remain the same or improve.

An analysis of optimism index evolutions reveals that expectations have considerably improved since autumn 2009 in several countries, even if a majority of respondents remain pessimistic: Hungary, where the index measuring the difference between optimistic and pessimistic views has surged by +35 points, Ireland (+20), Lithuania (+18), Malta (+14) and Bulgaria (+8). In Latvia (+27), this improvement has even resulted in a reversal of the majority opinion and optimism now exceeds pessimism.

Once again, Greece, Romania and Portugal are the three countries with the most marked deterioration. In Greece, the index has fallen spectacularly (-51 points), whereas it was positive six months earlier. The index has fallen by 17 points in Romania and by 15 points in Portugal.

QA6.3 What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?
- The financial situation of your household

		EB72 Aut.2009 Better-Worse	EB73 Sp.2010 Better-Worse	DIFF. Sp. 2010 - Aut. 2009
	EU27	+2	-1	-3
	HU	-37	-2	+35
	LV	-18	+9	+27
	IE	-25	-5	+20
	LT	-26	-8	+18
	MT	-16	-2	+14
	BG	-16	-8	+8
	SE	+20	+27	+7
	PL	-5	+1	+6
	BE	+2	+6	+4
	IT	-5	-1	+4
	EE	+13	+16	+3
	AT	+2	+5	+3
	SK	-8	-5	+3
	CY	-19	-17	+2
	NL	+4	+5	+1
	FI	+15	+16	+1
	DK	+20	+20	=
	CZ	-11	-14	-3
	SI	-1	-4	-3
	DE	-2	-7	-5
	FR	+11	+6	-5
	UK	+18	+13	-5
	ES	+9	+3	-6
	LU	+14	+1	-13
	PT	-11	-26	-15
	RO	-12	-29	-17
	EL	+2	-49	-51
	CY (tcc)	-14	+10	+24
	TR	-15	-5	+10
	HR	-21	-13	+8
	MK	+6	+2	-4
	IS*	-	+12	-

* Not asked in Iceland in EB72.

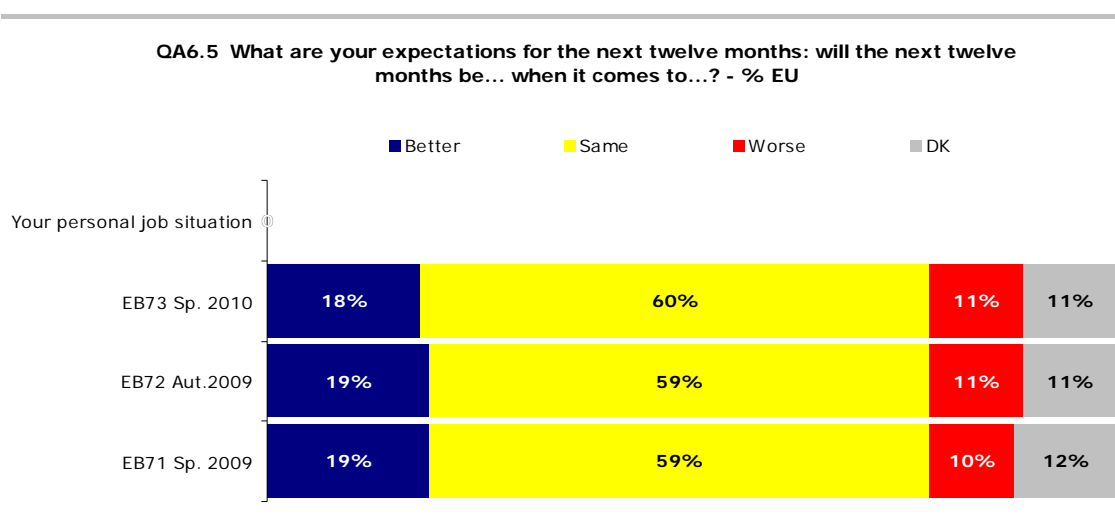
In the candidate countries, optimism about the financial future of households has increased in Turkey (index up by 10 points) and Croatia (+8), although it is still the minority opinion. Optimism predominates in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, despite a slight dip in the index (-4).

Optimism outweighs pessimism in Iceland.

Throughout the European Union, the most vulnerable categories are the most likely to expect their financial situation to deteriorate: 40% of those who struggle to pay their bills “most of the time” think that the financial situation of their household will be “worse” over the next twelve month, compared with 26% of those who have financial difficulties “from time to time” and 14% of those who “almost never” have such difficulties.

1.3.3. Personal job situation

The expectations of Europeans regarding their personal job situation are more or less unchanged⁹: six out of ten Europeans continue to believe that their personal job situation will not change over the coming year (60%, +1). The proportion of those who expect an improvement (18%), despite a fall of one point, still exceeds the proportion of respondents who expect things to get worse (11%, unchanged). It should be borne in mind that this is the indicator which has deteriorated the least since the outbreak of the global financial and economic crisis in autumn 2008.



The results are consistent with the previous indicators measuring the expectations of respondents for their personal life and for changes in their household financial situation over the coming year. Thus, in almost all European countries, an even larger majority of respondents do not expect their personal job situation to change.

⁹ QA6a.5 What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...? Your personal job situation.

































There are few countries which are more optimistic than the European average on the personal job front; we may mention Sweden (31% believe that their personal job situation will be better over the next twelve months), the United Kingdom (25%) and Estonia (24%).

Conversely, respondents are particularly pessimistic in Greece (35% think that the next twelve months will be "worse"), Lithuania (28%), Romania (26%) and Portugal (25%).

The index shows that respondents are far more optimistic than in autumn 2009 in Hungary (the index has increased by 28 points) and Lithuania (+14), even if pessimism still predominates in both countries. Optimism about the personal job outlook now outweighs negative opinions in Latvia (index up by 14 points), Bulgaria, Ireland and Italy. The situation in all these countries had deteriorated significantly in the previous survey.

Three countries again record a significant increase in pessimism: Greece (where the index has fallen by 34 points), Romania (-10) and Portugal (-8).

QA6.5 What are your expectations for the next 12 months: will the next 12 months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?
-Your personal job situation

		EB72 Aut.2009 Better-Worse	EB73 Sp.2010 Better-Worse	DIFF. Sp. 2010 - Aut. 2009
	EU27	+8	+7	-1
	HU	-29	-1	+28
	LV	-6	+8	+14
	LT	-30	-16	+14
	BG	-5	+6	+11
	BE	+6	+15	+9
	IE	-6	+1	+7
	IT	-4	+3	+7
	SE	+20	+27	+7
	EE	+11	+17	+6
	MT	+2	+4	+2
	PL	+6	+8	+2
	SK	-3	-1	+2
	LU	+14	+15	+1
	AT	+7	+8	+1
	SI	+4	+5	+1
	DK	+17	+17	=
	NL	+12	+12	=
	UK	+19	+19	=
	FI	+14	+13	-1
	CZ	-3	-6	-3
	DE	+8	+5	-3
	CY	+1	-2	-3
	ES	+13	+9	-4
	FR	+20	+15	-5
	PT	-5	-13	-8
	RO	-5	-15	-10
	EL	+6	-28	-34
	CY (tcc)	-13	+9	+22
	HR	-10	-2	+8
	TR	-13	-6	+7
	MK	+5	-1	-6
	IS*	-	+12	-



* Not asked in Iceland in EB72.

In most of the candidate countries, as in many Member States, a majority of respondents do not expect their personal job situation to change, while pessimism outweighs optimism in Turkey (27% versus 21%), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (19% versus 18%) and Croatia (16% versus 14%).

In Iceland, where the question was asked for the first time, optimism outweighs pessimism (18% versus 6%).

In socio-demographic terms, and against the background of the current debate on the employment of older people in several countries, it will be seen that those in the 40-54 age group are more likely than Europeans on average to expect their personal job situation to deteriorate over the coming year (16% versus 11% on average). 38% of unemployed people expect an improvement in their personal job situation (whereas 33% expect things to stay the same and 20% expect things to get worse). Improvement is expected by 21% of managers and 20% of employees and manual workers.

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

	Better	Worse	Same	DK
EU27	18%	11%	60%	11%
Age				
 15-24	34%	8%	45%	13%
25-39	29%	12%	54%	5%
40-54	16%	16%	63%	5%
55 +	5%	9%	68%	18%
Respondent occupation scale				
 Self-employed	24%	15%	58%	3%
Managers	21%	9%	68%	2%
Other white collars	20%	13%	64%	3%
Manual workers	20%	14%	62%	4%
House persons	11%	13%	61%	15%
Unemployed	38%	20%	33%	9%
Retired	4%	7%	67%	22%
Students	31%	6%	47%	16%

1.4 The concerns of Europeans

- Economic issues are still at the heart of the concerns of Europeans -

At a time of crisis, the personal concerns of Europeans¹⁰ continue to be dominated by economic issues¹¹, and things have not changed since the previous survey in autumn 2009 (EB72). Thus, rising prices remain the most pressing problem (38%, unchanged since autumn 2009), ahead of the economic situation (25%, -1 point). Unemployment is still a serious cause of concern (21%, +1), but has stabilised after the sharp increase recorded between autumn 2008 and spring 2009.

This first group is followed by social issues: healthcare systems (18%, unchanged since autumn 2009) and pensions (16%, +1), are still serious concerns.

The five issues which top this list of personal concerns are unchanged since spring 2009 (EB71), with rather little variation in intensity. Taxation was mentioned by 14% of Europeans (+1).

Crime is still rankled 8th in the list of European concerns (8%, =), after the education system (10%, +1). Housing is seen as a serious personal concern by 6% of Europeans (unchanged).

The scores for energy and the environment are unchanged: 6% and 5% respectively.

Finally, immigration remains well down the list in 12th place (3%, -1).

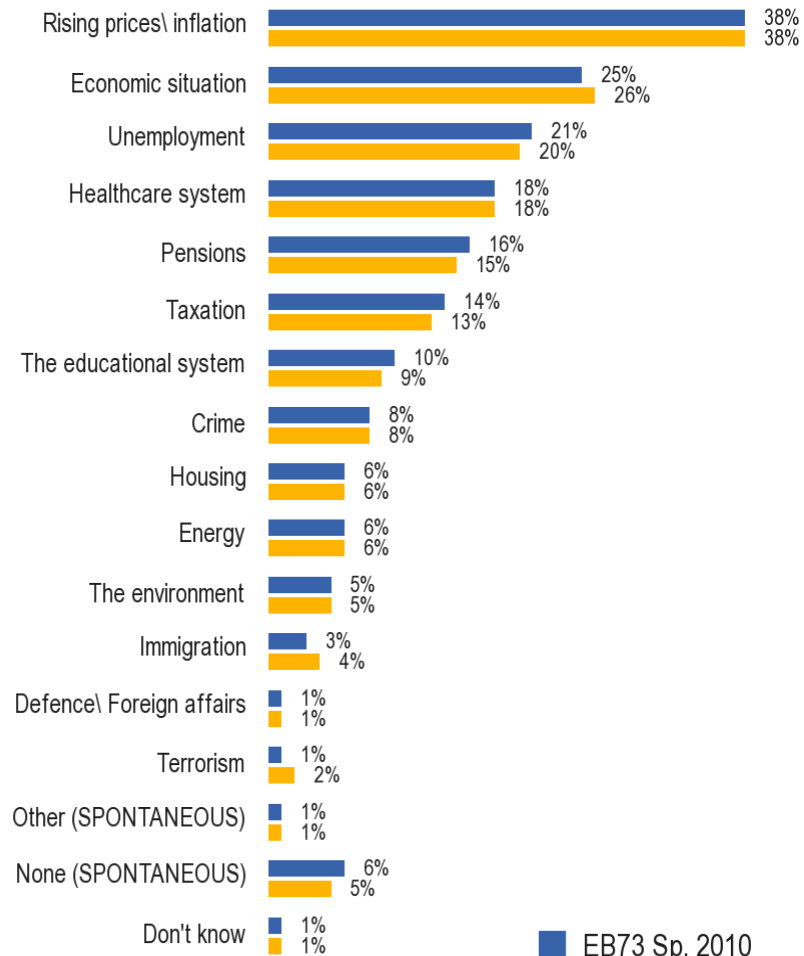
Defence/foreign affairs (1%, unchanged) and terrorism (1%, -1) are also still very low on the list of personal concerns.

The graph on the next page shows changes for the five main items since EB70, carried out in autumn 2008, when this question on the personal concerns of Europeans was asked for the first time.

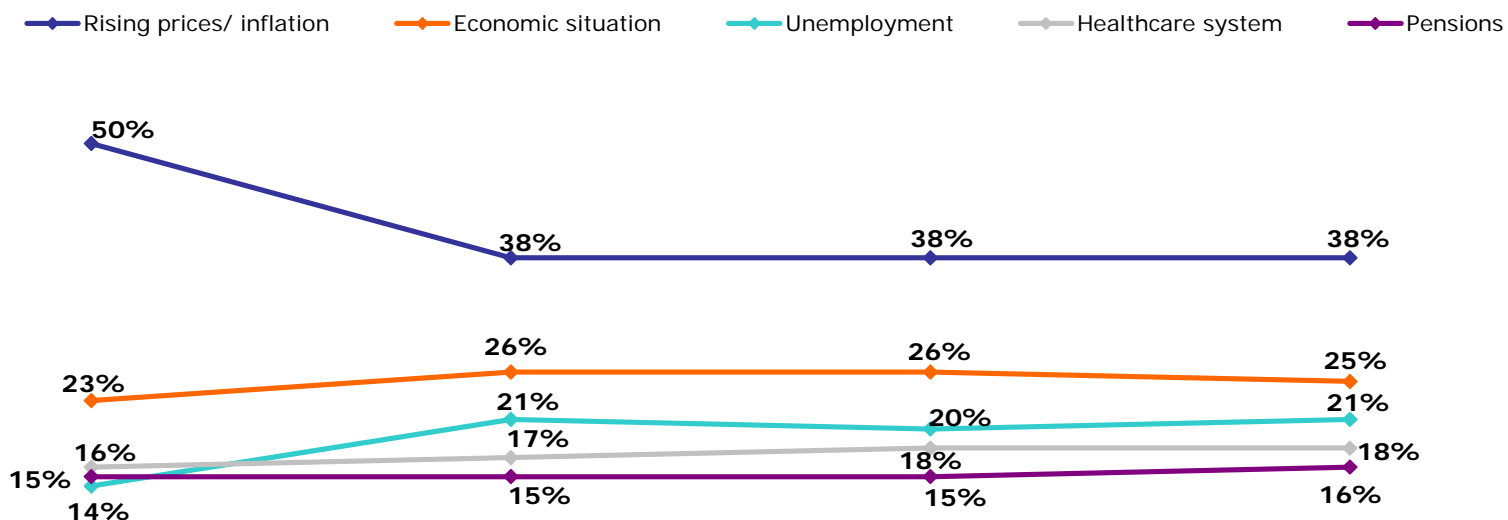
¹⁰ The concerns of Europeans at national level are examined in chapter 3.3.

¹¹ QA8a And personally, what are the two most important issues you are facing at the moment?

QA8a. And personally, what are the two most important issues you are facing at the moment?



QA8a And personally, what are the two most important issues you are facing at the moment? (MAX. 2 ANSWERS) - % EU



Aut. 2008	Sp. 2009	Aut. 2009	Sp. 2010
EB 70	EB71	EB72	EB73

Although the scores for the economic situation and unemployment are similar in EU15¹² and NMS12¹³ countries, respondents in the NMS12 countries are far more concerned about rising prices (44% versus 36% for EU15), healthcare systems (25% versus 16%) and pensions (19% versus 15%). Conversely, respondents in the EU15 countries are more concerned about taxation (15% versus 9% in the NMS12), the education system (11% versus 7%), crime (9% versus 5%) and immigration (4% versus 1%).

An analysis of the results by country reveals some important differences: **rising prices** are still a major concern in many European countries, and were mentioned by more than half of respondents in Hungary (57%), Malta (54%), Austria (52%) and Lithuania (51%).

However, the Nordic countries are an exception; inflation was never mentioned by more than 20% of respondents in any of these states.

It will be seen that concerns about inflation have increased considerably since EB72, carried out in autumn 2009, in Estonia (+9), Greece (+7) and Portugal (+6).

The **economic situation**, mentioned by many Europeans, remains the major concern in Greece (54%, +7 points since EB72 and as much as +12 points since EB71 conducted in spring 2009), Ireland (41%, -3) and Spain (41%, -1). This issue was also the most frequently mentioned item in Latvia (39%), though less often than in autumn 2009 (-7 points), Estonia (33%, placed equal with inflation, -1) and Denmark (24%, -1).

Unemployment is seen as particularly worrying by respondents in Ireland (37%, +5), Spain (34%, +2) and Latvia (32%, -1). The countries in which respondents seem the least concerned about this issue are Luxembourg (11%), Malta (11%) and the Netherlands (12%).

Northern European countries are more concerned than the rest about their **healthcare system**: this is the first concern in the Netherlands (32%, -3), Finland (32%, unchanged) and Sweden (31%, -4 points). However this concern is slightly less prevalent in Denmark (22%, +2). In Poland, the healthcare system is the second most important personal concern of respondents (33%, +4).

Pensions were mentioned most frequently in Slovenia (26%), Hungary (23%) and France (22%) where this item is up by 4 points in the context of proposed pension reforms.

¹² The EU15 countries are the 15 Member States which were already members of the European Union before May 2004. The EU15 countries are Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

¹³ The NMS12 countries are the 12 Member States which acceded in May 2004 or January 2007. The NMS12 countries are Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, the Republic of Cyprus, Lithuania, Latvia, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovenia and Slovakia.

































The education system remains of primary concern for respondents in the Netherlands (24%) and Sweden (21%), while the lowest scores were recorded in Malta and Portugal (5% in both countries). The Netherlands and Sweden also stand out by the greater importance attached by respondents to **environmental issues** (10% and 23% respectively).

Concerns about **crime** have gained ground in Belgium (14%, +3) which recorded the highest score for this item, followed by Denmark, Cyprus, Austria and the United Kingdom (13% in all four countries).

Economic concerns also predominate in the candidate countries. Rising prices are the main worry of respondents in Croatia (50%, -2 points), whereas unemployment is the main cause of concern in Turkey (49%, +6) and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (46%, -2).

On this question, Iceland differs from the Nordic States that are members of the EU, since rising prices (41%) and taxation (23%) were frequently mentioned.

QA8a And personally, what are the two most important issues you are facing at the moment? (MAX. 2 ANSWERS)




		Rising prices\inflation	Economic situation	Unemployment	Healthcare system	Pensions	Taxation	The educational system	Crime	Housing	Energy	The environment	Immigration	Terrorism	Defence\ Foreign affairs
	EU27	38%	25%	21%	18%	16%	14%	10%	8%	6%	6%	5%	3%	1%	1%
	EU15	36%	26%	21%	16%	15%	15%	11%	9%	5%	6%	5%	4%	2%	1%
	NMS12	44%	24%	21%	25%	19%	9%	7%	5%	6%	4%	3%	1%	0%	1%
	BE	43%	15%	17%	8%	14%	15%	6%	14%	7%	14%	6%	7%	1%	0%
	BG	44%	35%	28%	23%	20%	7%	7%	7%	3%	3%	2%	0%	0%	0%
	CZ	41%	26%	13%	19%	18%	11%	6%	3%	9%	6%	3%	1%	0%	0%
	DK	14%	24%	18%	22%	12%	8%	15%	13%	7%	4%	9%	7%	2%	2%
	DE	41%	20%	16%	25%	16%	15%	14%	3%	1%	10%	3%	2%	1%	1%
	EE	33%	33%	25%	17%	14%	21%	12%	5%	5%	4%	4%	1%	0%	0%
	IE	31%	41%	37%	26%	10%	10%	9%	12%	4%	5%	3%	2%	1%	0%
	EL	50%	54%	23%	9%	17%	13%	8%	10%	1%	0%	2%	2%	0%	0%
	ES	25%	41%	34%	5%	12%	14%	6%	9%	9%	2%	3%	4%	3%	0%
	FR	42%	17%	16%	14%	22%	10%	11%	10%	9%	6%	7%	2%	1%	0%
	IT	42%	28%	24%	9%	6%	25%	7%	9%	3%	2%	4%	6%	3%	2%
	CY	50%	40%	18%	7%	8%	3%	9%	13%	7%	1%	4%	7%	1%	2%
	LV	24%	39%	32%	23%	13%	19%	12%	2%	8%	2%	2%	1%	0%	0%
	LT	51%	26%	29%	15%	15%	25%	7%	3%	5%	6%	1%	1%	0%	-
	LU	29%	21%	11%	9%	12%	13%	18%	12%	14%	4%	5%	4%	1%	1%
	HU	57%	28%	24%	16%	23%	8%	6%	8%	7%	9%	2%	0%	0%	0%
	MT	54%	17%	11%	14%	9%	9%	5%	2%	3%	39%	9%	7%	1%	-
	NL	24%	29%	12%	32%	14%	10%	10%	8%	8%	4%	10%	2%	0%	1%
	AT	52%	22%	16%	14%	15%	10%	10%	13%	6%	3%	5%	8%	3%	1%
	PL	45%	12%	21%	33%	19%	6%	6%	4%	6%	3%	3%	1%	-	1%
	PT	48%	30%	27%	15%	15%	17%	5%	7%	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%
	RO	43%	35%	19%	25%	21%	14%	10%	6%	5%	0%	3%	1%	1%	1%
	SI	42%	14%	15%	15%	26%	11%	13%	2%	9%	2%	5%	0%	0%	0%
	SK	38%	27%	17%	20%	16%	6%	8%	4%	9%	8%	6%	0%	0%	0%
	FI	20%	22%	20%	32%	21%	15%	8%	8%	8%	7%	11%	5%	1%	1%
	SE	10%	23%	21%	31%	20%	12%	21%	8%	10%	8%	23%	5%	0%	1%
	UK	29%	21%	19%	18%	18%	14%	12%	13%	7%	8%	5%	8%	3%	1%
	CY (tcc)	24%	41%	41%	13%	5%	9%	12%	11%	4%	1%	6%	2%	2%	-
	HR	50%	35%	22%	12%	19%	9%	9%	6%	7%	3%	2%	0%	0%	0%
	TR	25%	41%	49%	6%	8%	4%	8%	5%	1%	2%	3%	1%	17%	1%
	MK	25%	38%	46%	18%	8%	6%	6%	7%	4%	5%	4%	2%	2%	2%
	IS	41%	32%	16%	15%	14%	23%	16%	3%	11%	2%	3%	1%	0%	0%
		Highest percentage per country				Lowest percentage per country									
		Highest percentage per item					Lowest percentage per item								

Concerns also vary in accordance with the respondent's socio-demographic profile. Thus there are fairly significant differences depending on the respondent's age. Europeans aged under 40 are more concerned than average about unemployment (31% of those aged 15 to 24 and 26% of the 25-39 age group) and housing (9% and 10% respectively). The youngest respondents also stand out by the fact that they are more worried about the education system (25% of respondents aged 15 to 24).

Respondents aged 55 or over are more likely to mention pensions (35% of this group). In contrast, pensions are not a major concern for respondents in the 40-54 age group (only 9%), who are far more concerned about prices and the economic situation. Older people are also particularly concerned about healthcare systems (26%).

There are also fairly sharp differences by occupation; managers and the most educated respondents are less concerned than average about unemployment which, unsurprisingly, is by far the main concern of unemployed people (77%). However, they are particularly interested in education (19% of managers and 14% of those who studied up to the age of 20 or beyond) and the environment (8% in both cases). For their part, manual workers are particularly worried about rising prices (45%), while self-employed people are concerned about the level of their taxes (29%). Europeans who struggle to pay their bills most of the time are more likely to mention economic issues: 42% mentioned rising prices (compared with 35% of those who almost never have financial difficulties), 40% mentioned unemployment (versus 14%) and 36% mentioned the economic situation (versus 21%).

QA8a And personally, what are the two most important issues you are facing at the moment? (MAX. 2 ANSWERS)

	Rising prices\inflation	Economic situation	Unemployment	Healthcare system	Pensions	Taxation	The educational system	Crime	Housing	Energy	The environment	Immigration	Terrorism	Defence\ Foreign affairs
EU27	38%	25%	21%	18%	16%	14%	10%	8%	6%	6%	5%	3%	1%	1%
Age														
 15-24	30%	24%	31%	8%	2%	10%	25%	8%	9%	3%	6%	4%	1%	1%
25-39	42%	30%	26%	12%	4%	17%	11%	7%	10%	6%	5%	3%	1%	1%
40-54	40%	30%	22%	19%	9%	17%	10%	7%	5%	7%	5%	3%	1%	1%
55 +	36%	19%	11%	26%	35%	10%	4%	9%	2%	5%	4%	4%	2%	1%
Education (End of)														
 15-	40%	23%	19%	21%	29%	12%	2%	10%	3%	5%	2%	4%	2%	1%
16-19	42%	27%	23%	18%	14%	15%	6%	7%	6%	6%	4%	4%	1%	1%
20+	33%	25%	16%	20%	13%	16%	14%	7%	7%	7%	8%	2%	2%	1%
Still studying	27%	23%	24%	8%	2%	8%	36%	7%	8%	2%	7%	3%	1%	1%
Respondent occupation scale														
 Self-employed	36%	41%	14%	13%	6%	29%	7%	6%	4%	6%	5%	3%	1%	1%
Managers	33%	24%	10%	17%	12%	19%	19%	6%	7%	7%	8%	2%	1%	1%
Other white collars	43%	29%	14%	16%	9%	17%	9%	9%	8%	7%	6%	4%	1%	1%
Manual workers	45%	27%	19%	16%	9%	17%	8%	9%	8%	7%	4%	3%	1%	1%
House persons	43%	25%	26%	17%	11%	14%	8%	8%	6%	4%	3%	4%	2%	1%
Unemployed	31%	31%	77%	9%	5%	5%	3%	6%	6%	3%	2%	2%	1%	0%
Retired	36%	16%	8%	30%	40%	8%	3%	9%	2%	6%	4%	4%	2%	1%
Students	27%	23%	24%	8%	2%	8%	36%	7%	8%	2%	7%	3%	1%	1%
Difficulties paying bills														
Most of the time	42%	36%	40%	13%	14%	12%	5%	6%	8%	3%	1%	2%	1%	0%
From time to time	43%	31%	27%	16%	13%	14%	8%	7%	6%	4%	3%	4%	1%	1%
Almost never	35%	21%	14%	20%	18%	14%	12%	8%	5%	7%	6%	4%	1%	1%

2. SOCIAL ASPECTS

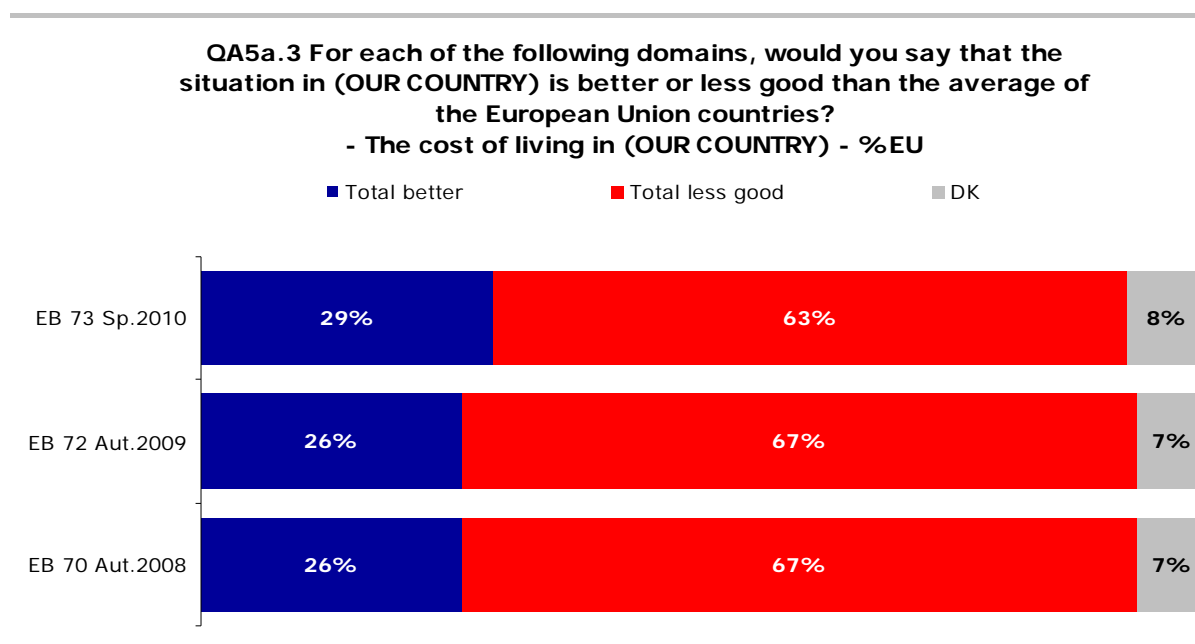
2.1 Views on the national situation

As noted above, the issue of purchasing power is still a major concern for Europeans. Furthermore, a majority continue to think that the cost of living is worse in their country than on average in the 27 Member States. However, respondents seem more relaxed than at the time of the previous Eurobarometer survey (EB72, autumn 2009). Respondents also seem to have become less gloomy in recent months when they assess the quality of life in their own country.

Although there has been a slight improvement in how respondents perceive the situation of the environment in their own country, and expectations appear to be stable, the evolutions vary from one Member State to another.

2.1.1 The national cost of living compared with the European average

More than six out of ten Europeans (63%) still believe that the cost of living in their country is worse than the EU average¹⁴. However, the proportion of respondents taking this view has fallen significantly: -4 points compared with autumn 2009 and as much as -9 percentage points compared with spring 2008. As a result, 29% of Europeans now consider that the situation is better than average in their country, 8 points higher than two years earlier.



¹⁴ QA5a.3 For each of the following domains, would you say that the situation in (OUR COUNTRY) is better or less good than the average of the European Union countries? The cost of living in (OUR COUNTRY).

More than a third of respondents in the EU15 countries (35%) consider that the cost of living in their country is better than the EU average. This proportion is far lower in the NMS12 countries (only 8% of respondents compared with 88% who take the opposite view).

An analysis of the results by country reveals that in a majority of European States, more than three-quarters of citizens believe that the cost of living is “worse” in their country. This is particularly true in southern and eastern European countries. More than 9 out of 10 respondents consider that they are worse off in Hungary, Lithuania, Greece, Romania and Bulgaria.

A majority of respondents in five countries consider that the cost of living is better in their country than in the rest of Europe and the proportion of respondents sharing that view has actually increased in most of them: Austria, where 61% of citizens think that the cost of living in their country is “better” than the European average, +4 points since autumn 2009; Sweden (57%, +2), the Netherlands (57%, +2), Luxembourg (52%, =) and Germany (52%, +7).

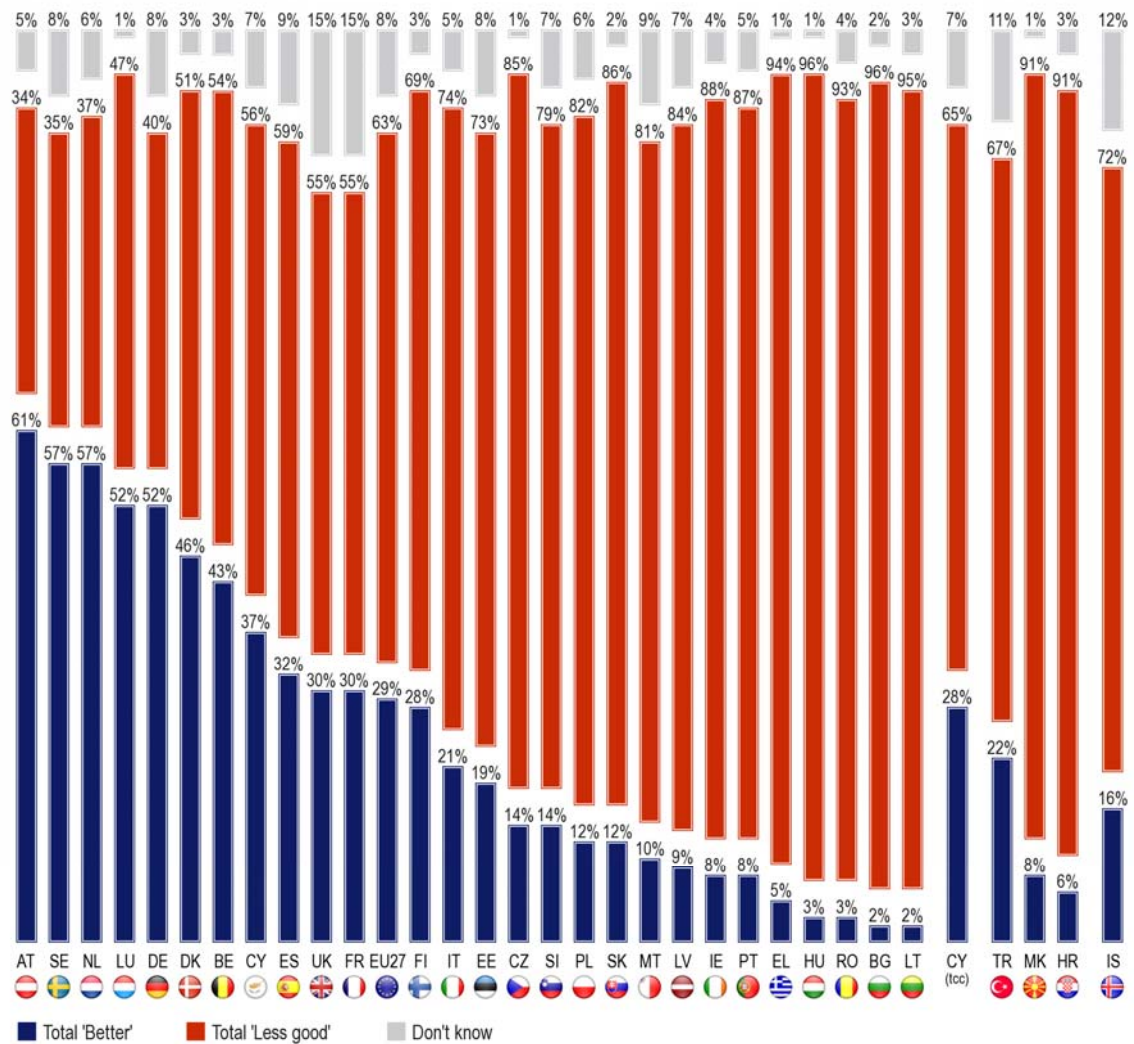
This impression has also gained considerable ground in Cyprus (37%, +8) and Spain (32%, +8), but is still the minority opinion.

In the candidate countries, respondents in Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia also agree with their neighbours; 91% in both countries think that the situation is “worse” in their country. This impression that the cost of living is less favourable in their country is also shared by a clear, though smaller majority in Turkey (67%).

Finally, more than seven out of ten respondents share this opinion in Iceland (72%).

QA5a.3. For each of the following domains, would you say that the situation in (OUR COUNTRY) is better or less good than the average of the European Union countries?

The cost of living in (OUR COUNTRY)

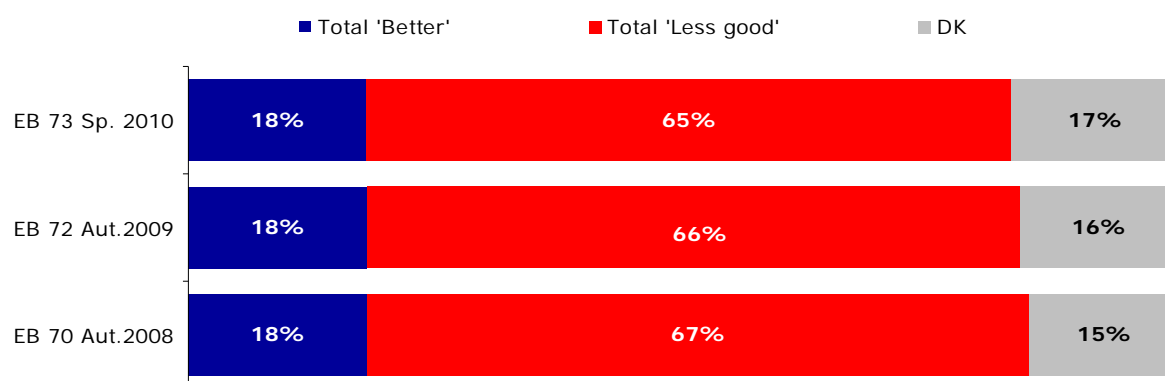


For CY (tcc): the cost of living in our community

2.1.2 National energy prices compared with the European average

Almost two-thirds of Europeans consider that the situation as regards energy prices is worse in their country than the average of the other European States (65%)¹⁵. However, this proportion has fallen continuously over the last two years (-8 points since spring 2008). Conversely, 18% think that the situation in their country is “better”, unchanged over the last eighteen months, after an increase of 4 points between spring and autumn 2008. Ultimately, it is the proportion of ‘DK’ answers that has increased: 17%, +4 since spring 2008.

QA5a.4 For each of the following domains, would you say that the situation in (OUR COUNTRY) is better or less good than the average of the European Union countries?
- Energy prices in (OUR COUNTRY) - %EU



Luxembourg is one of the few countries in which a majority of citizens consider that the situation as regards energy prices is better in their country than in other European countries (61%, +3 points in 6 months). That is also the case in Austria (52%, a rise of +5).

Opinions in Sweden have deteriorated, and a majority of respondents now consider that the country's situation is “worse” than the European average (39%, +8, while 37% think that it is “better”, -5).

Several countries have a high ‘DK’ rate for this question, including more than a quarter of respondents in the Netherlands, France, the United Kingdom and Spain. Generally speaking, however, European citizens are negative about the situation in their country. Respondents in Hungary, where 95% of respondents consider that the situation in their country is “worse”, and in Greece (91%) are once again among the most pessimistic, but opinions have also hardened in Lithuania (92%, +8) and Romania (85%, +7).

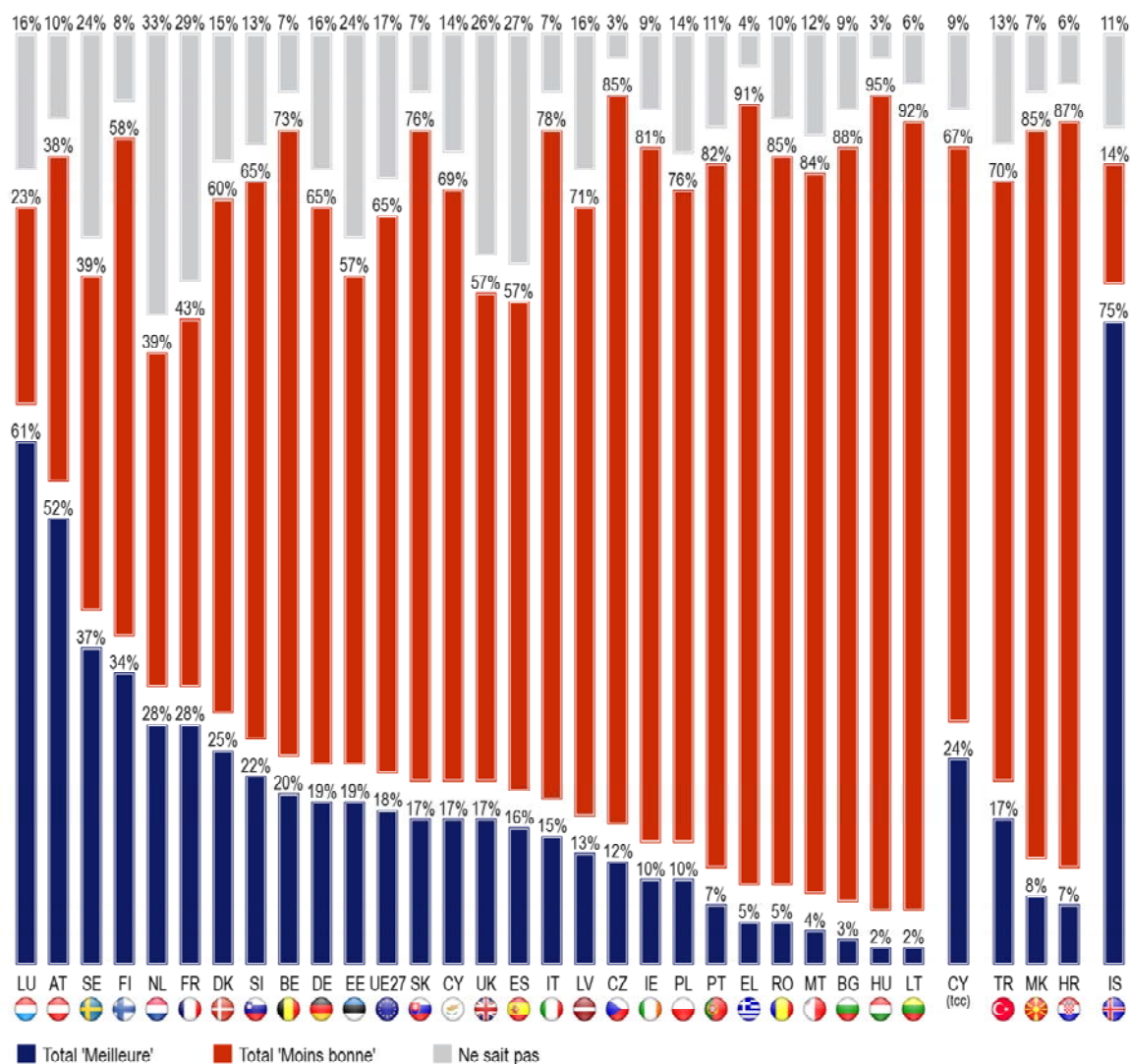
¹⁵ QA5a.4 For each of the following domains, would you say that the situation in (OUR COUNTRY) is better or less good than the average of the European Union countries? Energy prices in (OUR COUNTRY)

In the candidate countries, perceptions are also negative in Turkey (70%), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (85%) and Croatia (87%).

Finally, Iceland, in particular because of the widespread development of renewable energy sources in the country, is an exception, with 75% of respondents saying that the situation in their country is “better” than the European average.

QA5a.4. Pour chacun des domaines suivants, diriez-vous que la situation en (NOTRE PAYS) est meilleure ou moins bonne que celle de la moyenne des pays de l'Union européenne ?

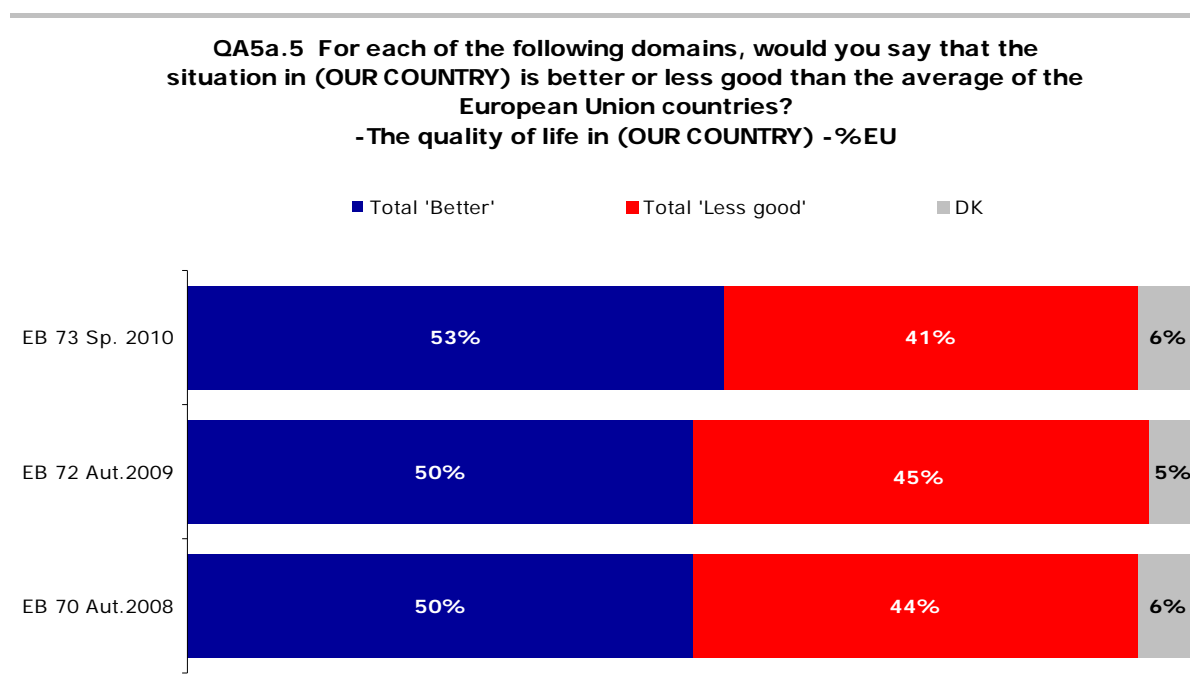
Les prix de l'énergie en (NOTRE PAYS)



For CY (tcc): Energy prices in our community

2.1.3 The national quality of life compared with the European average

Assessment of the quality of life is one of the indicators which has improved the most in recent years. A majority of Europeans consider that the quality of life is “better” in their country than in the European Union on average (53%)¹⁶, three points higher than in autumn 2009, and as much as seven points higher than in spring 2008. 41% of Europeans take the opposite view, representing a decline of seven points since spring 2008.



The answers to this question vary considerably from one Member State to another. While a clear majority of respondents in the EU15 countries (64%) consider that the quality of life is better in their country than in the Member States as a whole, this view is supported by only a minority of respondents in the NMS12 countries (11% compared with 85% who think that it is “worse”).

A majority of respondents share this view in 14 of the 27 Member States. Respondents in the Nordic countries (in Denmark 93% believe the quality of life is “better”, including 29% who think it is “much better”; 88% say it is better in Sweden and Finland), Luxembourg (91%), the Netherlands (90%), Austria (87%), Germany (82%) and Belgium (80%) are the most convinced.

Respondents in Germany (82%, +7), Ireland (63%, +7), Spain (53%, +6) and the United Kingdom (58%, +5) are considerably happier with the quality of life in their country than in autumn 2009.

¹⁶ QA5a.5 For each of the following domains, would you say that the situation in (OUR COUNTRY) is better or less good than the average of the European Union countries? The quality of life in (OUR COUNTRY).

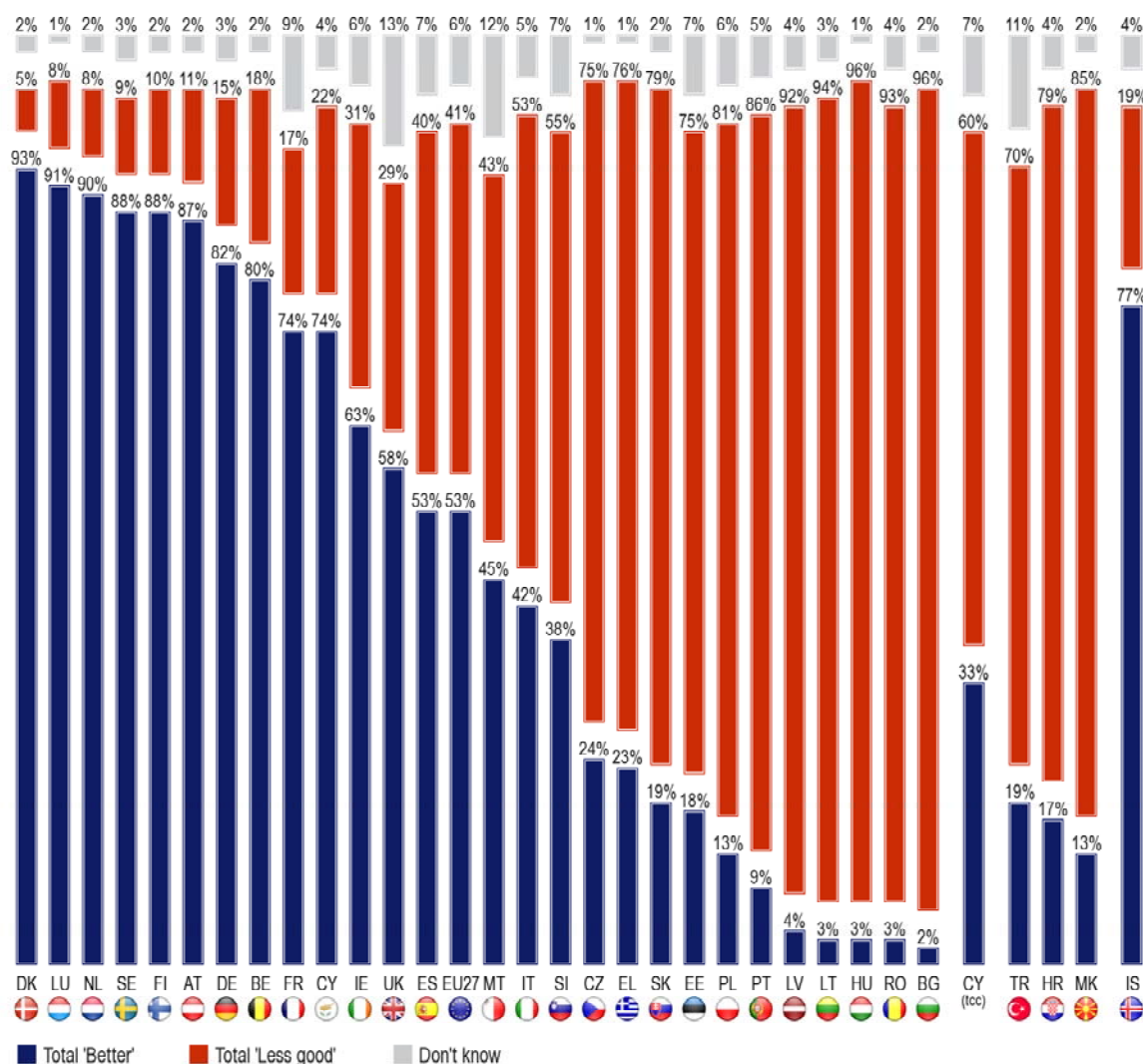
However, the situation seems to have deteriorated sharply in Greece, where 76% of respondents think that the quality of life in their country is worse than the European average - an increase of 7 points since autumn 2009 - and 33% consider that the quality of life is “definitely worse”, Portugal (86%, +9) and Romania (93%, +6). We have already seen that the previous indicators (quality of life, standard of living and personal situation) have also declined the most sharply in these countries.

In the candidate countries, a clear majority of respondents in Turkey (70%), Croatia (79%) and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (85%) consider that the quality of life in their country is “worse”.

Finally, respondents in Iceland are again particularly positive: 77% consider that their quality of life is “better” than in the European Union on average.

QA5a.5. For each of the following domains, would you say that the situation in (OUR COUNTRY) is better or less good than the average of the European Union countries?

The quality of life in (OUR COUNTRY)

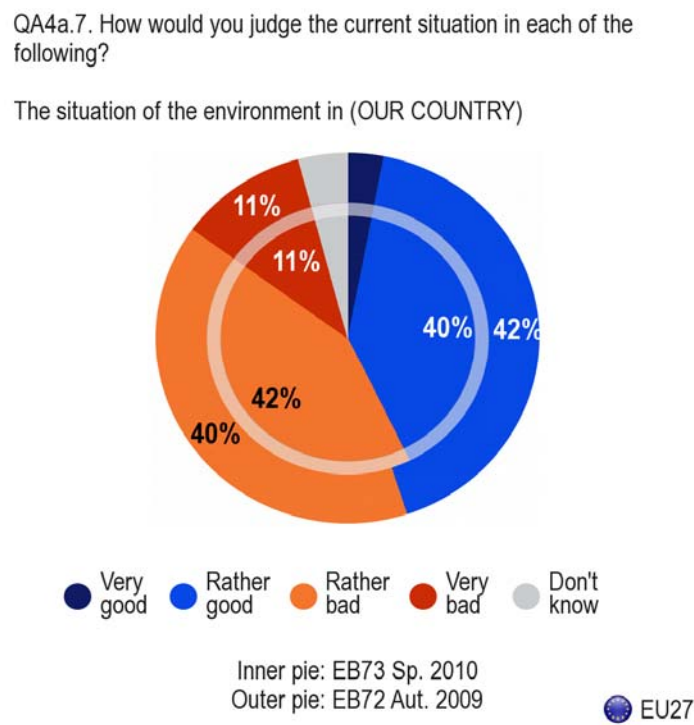


For CY (tcc): The quality of life in our community

2.2 The environmental situation

2.2.1 The situation of the environment at national level

A narrow majority of Europeans continue to consider that the situation of the environment in their country is “bad”¹⁷, but this proportion has decreased: 51%, -2 percentage points lower than in autumn 2009. 45% of Europeans express satisfaction. (+2). For this indicator, therefore, the levels have returned to those of autumn 2008. Only a small minority opted for the most “emphatic” opinions. It will be noted, however, that 11% of Europeans consider that the situation of the environment in their country is “very bad” (versus 3% “very good”).



A majority of respondents in 15 of the 27 Member States are positive about the situation of the environment in their country.

Citizens in the Nordic countries are particularly satisfied: this is the case for 86% of respondents in Finland, 78% in Sweden and 70% in Denmark. A large majority of respondents are also positive in Luxembourg (79%) and Austria (75%).

In contrast more than 70% of respondents are dissatisfied in five Member States: Hungary (71%), Romania (71%), Italy (73%), Bulgaria (73%) and Greece (75%).

¹⁷ QA4a.7 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? The situation of the environment in (OUR COUNTRY).

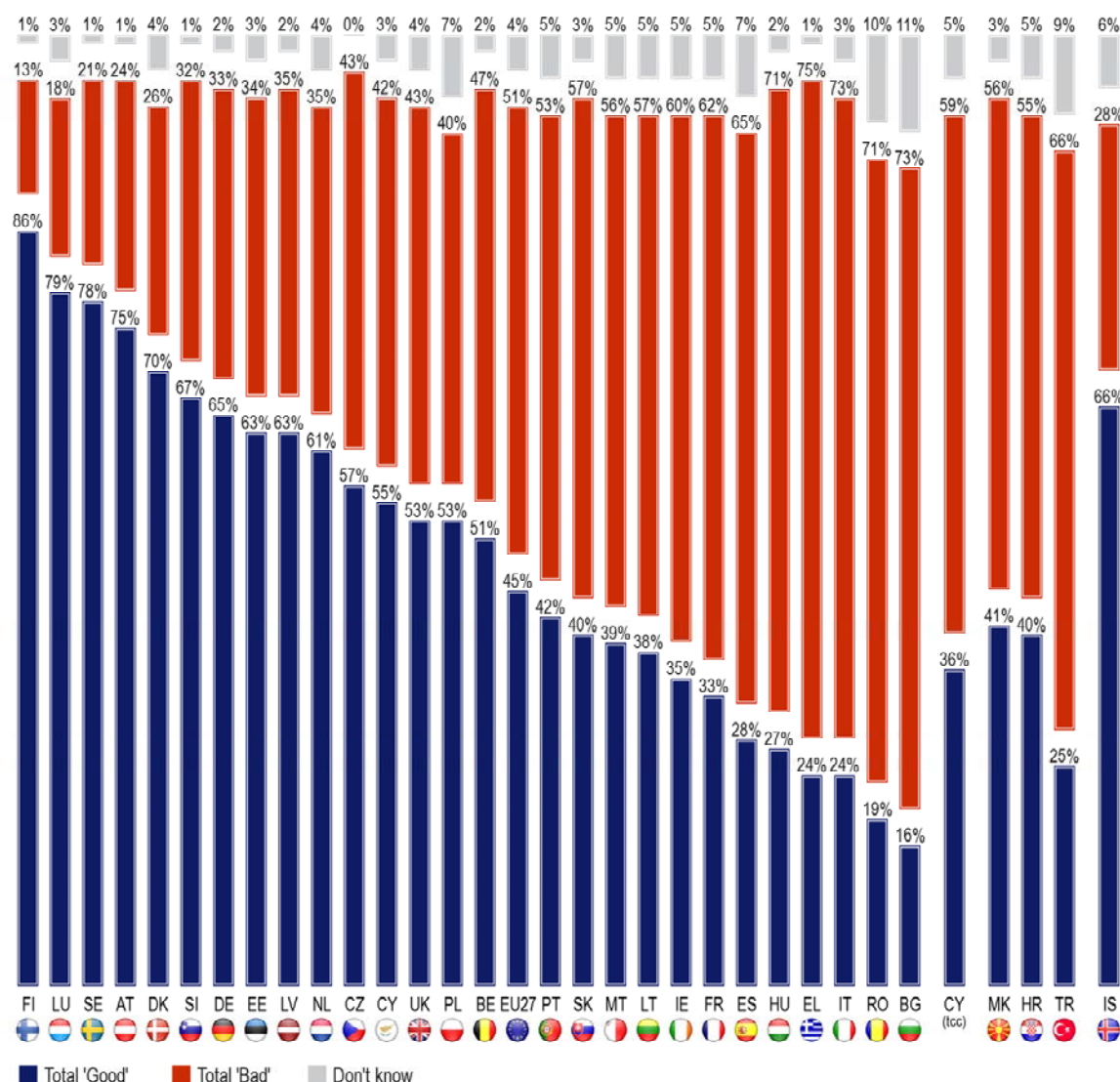
Furthermore, respondents are considerably more positive in two countries where the scores for this indicator had dipped in the previous wave: the United Kingdom, where 53% consider that the situation of the environment in their country is “good”, +8, and Spain (28%, +7). Opinions in Portugal (42%, +12) and Malta (39%, +10) are also more positive than in autumn 2009.

In the candidate countries, a majority of respondents consider that the situation of the environment is poor in Turkey (66%, -6 points) and, to a lesser extent, in Croatia (55%, unchanged). That is also the case in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, but negative opinions have declined sharply (56%, -11).

The results in Iceland are in line with those recorded in the other Nordic countries, with 66% of positive opinions.

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

The situation of the environment in (OUR COUNTRY)







For CY (tcc): The situation of the environment in the Turkish Cypriot Community

A socio-demographic analysis reveals few significant differences. However, men are slightly more likely than women to be positive about the situation of the environment in their country (47%, compared with 42% of women). This is also true for the most educated respondents (49% of those who studied up to the age of 20 or beyond, compared with 39% of those who left school before the age of 16). Respondents who almost never have difficulties paying their bills are more positive (51%) than those who have financial problems most of the time (31%). Finally, it makes little difference whether the respondent lives in a rural area, where 45% of whom consider that the situation of the environment in their country is “good” or a large town (43%).

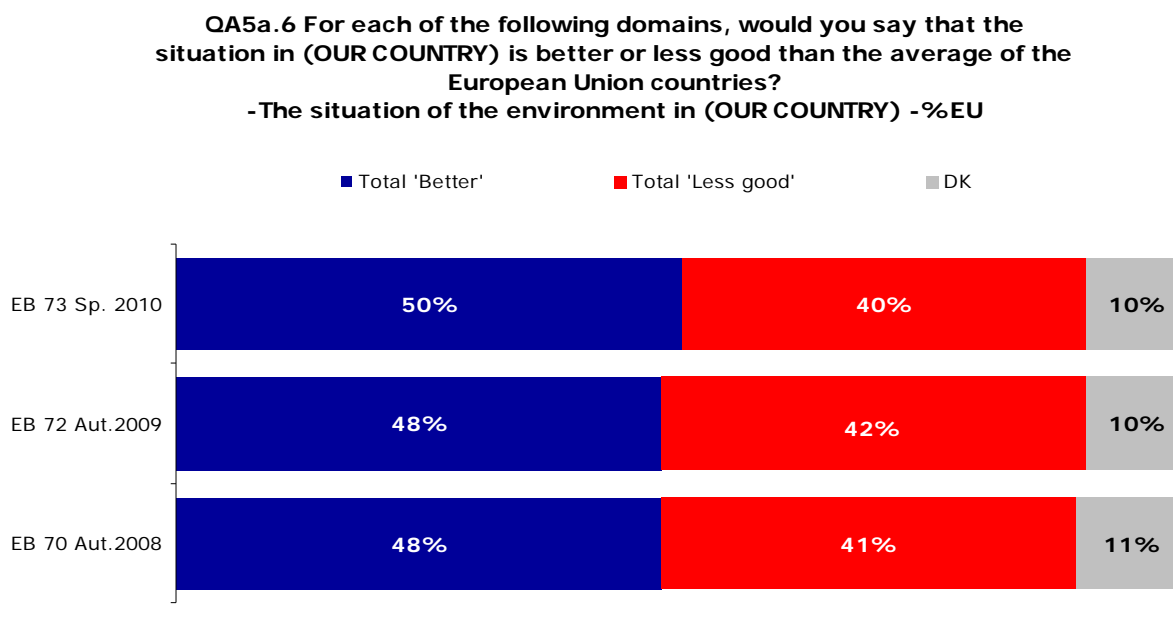
We note that opinions about the environment often mirror the way in which respondents perceive the general direction in which their country is going. Thus, a majority of citizens who think that things are “going in the right direction” in their country consider that the situation of the environment is “good” (61%), whereas 60% of those who think that things are going “in the wrong direction” are also negative about the environmental situation.

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

	Total 'Good'	Total 'Bad'	DK
EU27	45%	51%	4%
Sex			
 Male	47%	50%	3%
 Female	42%	53%	5%
Education (End of)			
 15-	39%	55%	6%
16-19	44%	53%	3%
20+	49%	48%	3%
Still studying	48%	47%	5%
Subjective urbanisation			
 Rural village	45%	50%	5%
Small/mid size town	45%	52%	3%
Large town	43%	53%	4%
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	31%	63%	6%
From time to time	36%	59%	5%
Almost never	51%	46%	3%

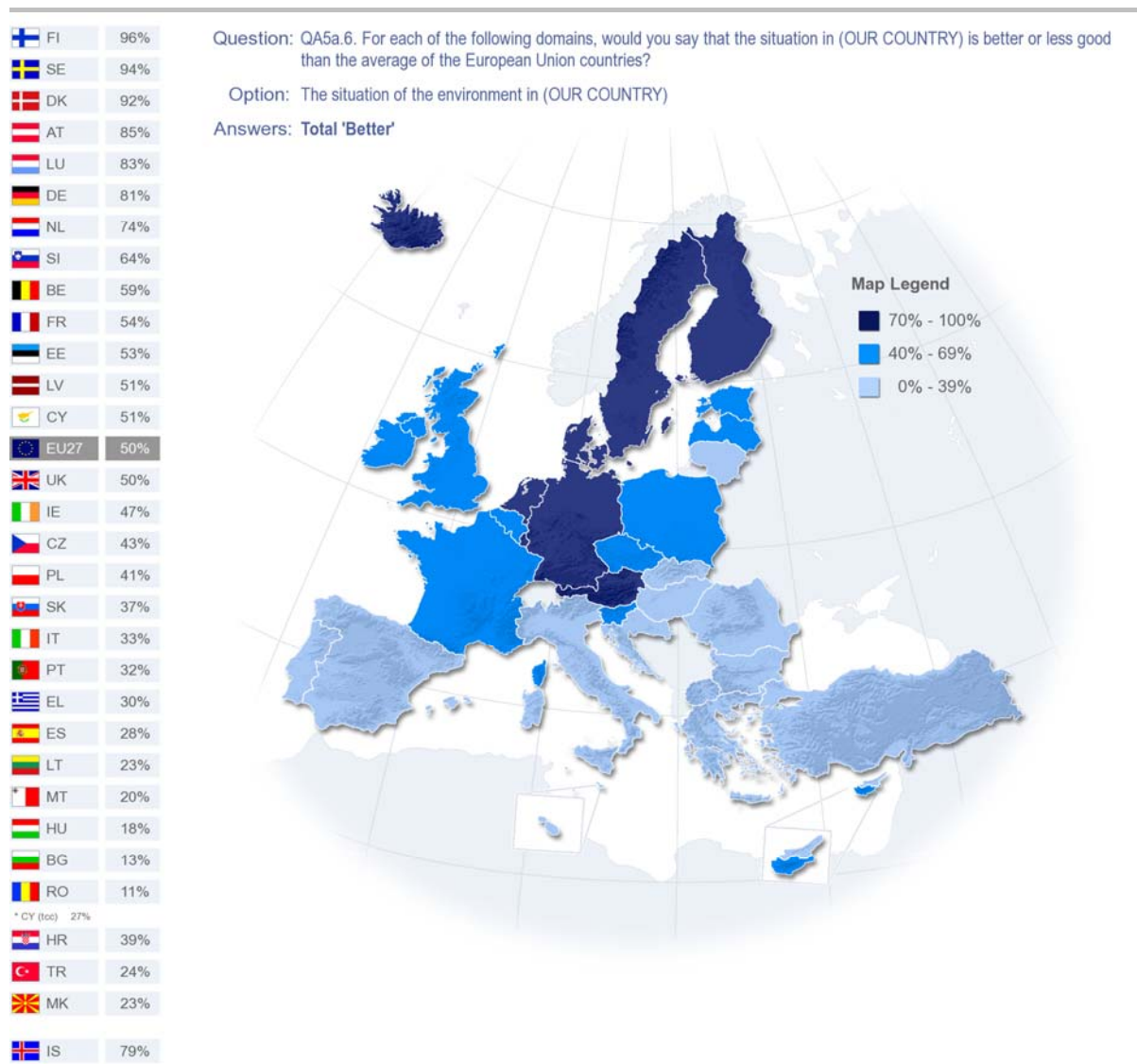
2.2.2 The situation of the environment at national level compared with the European average

The slight improvement in perceptions of the environment at national level has been accompanied, fairly logically, by a slight increase in the number of respondents who feel that this situation is “better” in their country than on average in the European Union¹⁸. Thus, 50% of Europeans consider that the situation of the environment in their country is “better”, a 2 point rise since autumn 2009, while 40% take the opposite view (a fall of 2 points).



There are few differences between the EU15 and NMS12 countries as regards evaluations of the national situation of the environment (46% and 40% respectively consider that it is “good”). However, from the point of view of comparisons with the European average, there is a significant difference: 55% of EU15 respondents consider that the situation in their country is “better” compared with 31% in the NMS12 countries.

¹⁸ QA5a.6 For each of the following domains, would you say that the situation in (OUR COUNTRY) is better or less good than the average of the European Union countries? The situation of the environment in (OUR COUNTRY)



Logically, the most positive Europeans are those who are the most satisfied with the situation of the environment in their country, i.e. respondents in the Nordic countries: 96% of respondents in Finland consider that the situation of the environment is “better” in their country than on average in the EU, as do 94% of respondents in Sweden and 92% in Denmark. This view is also shared by 85% of respondents in Austria, 83% in Luxembourg and 81% in Germany.

Respondents in Romania, where 80% consider that the environmental situation in their country is “worse” than the EU average, Hungary (79%), Bulgaria (75%), Lithuania (68%), Greece (68%), Malta (67%) and Italy (61%) are the most critical.

The assessment of the situation of the environment in the EU Member States thus exposes significant differences between northern and western European Union countries, where respondents are more satisfied, and southern and eastern European countries, where citizens are more critical.

2.2.3 Future expectations regarding the environment

The results of the autumn 2009 survey (EB72), conducted a few weeks before the United Nations Climate Summit in Copenhagen, showed Europeans to be more optimistic about environmental developments in their country.

































Several months later, after many observers had described the Summit's results as "disappointing", expectations have not really changed: more than a quarter of Europeans consider that the situation of the environment will improve in their country over the next twelve months (23%, -1), while a majority expect the situation to remain the same (52%, +1) and 20% expect things to get worse (+1)¹⁹.

The most optimistic respondents, as was the case six months earlier, are those in Sweden, where 39% think that the situation of the environment in their country will improve over the next twelve months, Denmark (30%), the United Kingdom (29%), France (28%), Belgium (27%) and the Netherlands (26%). They have now been joined by respondents in Hungary (33%), Malta (31%) and Estonia (34%).

However, despite the apparent stability of the European averages, the situation has evolved very differently from one Member State to another. The following index, which measures the difference between optimistic and pessimistic expectations regarding the situation of the environment at national level, highlights these changes.

¹⁹ QA6a.8 What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...? The situation of the environment in (OUR COUNTRY).

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

		EB72 Aut. 2009 Better-Worse	EB73 Sp. 2010 Better-Worse	DIFF. Sp.2010 - Aut. 2009
	EU27	+5	+3	-2
	HU	-22	+4	+26
	LT	-8	+5	+13
	BG	-3	+9	+12
	LV	+6	+16	+10
	EE	+19	+28	+9
	IE	-6	+3	+9
	SI	-2	+5	+7
	MT	+8	+13	+5
	BE	+4	+7	+3
	IT	-12	-9	+3
	SK	-9	-6	+3
	UK	+10	+13	+3
	ES	+4	+6	+2
	SE	+32	+34	+2
	PL	+6	+7	+1
	FI	+7	+8	+1
	DE	+4	+1	-3
	CZ	+4	=	-4
	CY	-8	-13	-5
	AT	+8	+3	-5
	DK	+32	+22	-10
	PT	-6	-17	-11
	NL	+21	+9	-12
	RO	-5	-18	-13
	LU	+13	-1	-14
	FR	+23	+7	-16
	EL	-7	-25	-18
	CY(tcc)	-24	-5	+19
	HR	-4	+5	+9
	TR	-14	-6	+8
	MK	+6	+9	+3
	IS*	-	+22	-

* Not asked in Iceland in EB72.

Optimism has increased in several countries in which the current environmental situation is regarded as gloomy: in Hungary, where the index is 26 points higher, and in Lithuania (+13) and Bulgaria (+12). There is undoubtedly a growing feeling in these countries that there is still a lot to be done but that environment is gradually becoming an issue of national concern.

Conversely, optimism has declined sharply in the States where the environment is already seen as a priority, namely Denmark, where the index has fallen by 10 points, the Netherlands (-12), Luxembourg (-14) and France (-16). These results may reflect some disappointment with the results of the Copenhagen Summit and environmental policies in general, so strong are expectations in this area.

Expectations have also become more pessimistic in other countries such as Greece, where the index here has fallen by 18 points, Romania (-13) and Portugal (-11), against a backdrop of a sharp deterioration in the country's economic situation, thereby pushing environmental concerns into the background.

In the candidate countries, as in the Member States, a majority of respondents consider that things will not change over the coming year as regards the environment. However, respondents have become more optimistic in Croatia, where the index is 9 points higher, Turkey (+8) and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (+3).

Finally, Iceland is one of the most optimistic countries regarding future developments in this area. 30% of respondents in Iceland expect things to get better over the coming year.

3. ECONOMIC ASPECTS

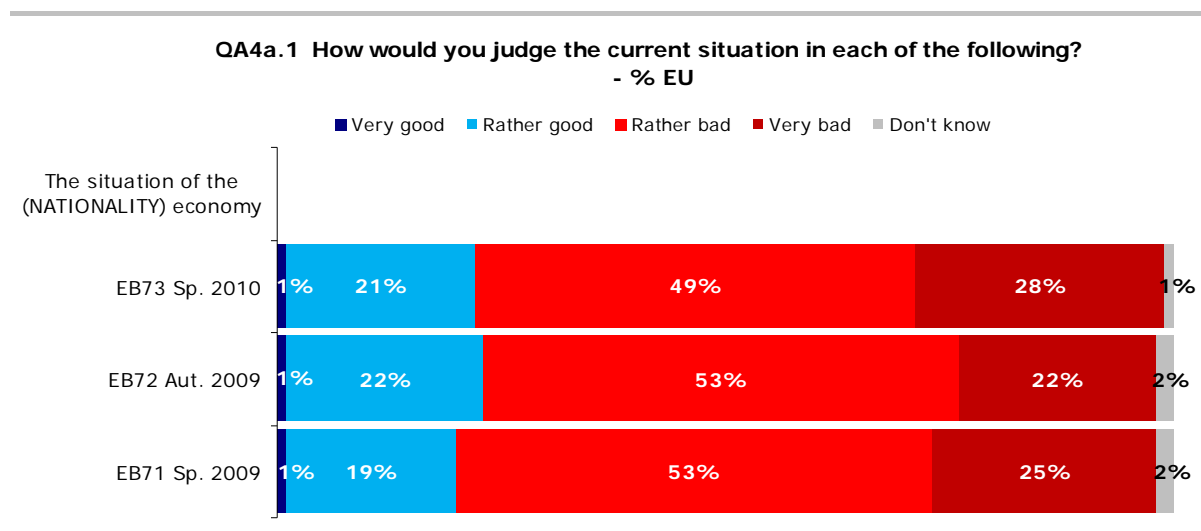
3.1 Assessments of the current economic situation

- After some improvement, perceptions of the economic situation at national and European levels have again deteriorated -

3.1.1 The national situation

After a slight upturn in confidence in the second half of 2009, Europeans are now more pessimistic about their country's economic situation²⁰: 77% consider that it is "bad", representing an increase of 2 points since autumn 2009. Conversely 22% of respondents described it as "good" (-1). These results are not far short of the record levels of dissatisfaction recorded in spring 2009 (78%) after Europeans had become fully aware of the scale of the global economic and financial crisis and its effects on their country's economy, in particular in terms of unemployment.

But the most revealing indicator of the decline in confidence of Europeans is the sharp increase in the number of respondents who consider that their country's economic situation is "very bad": this has increased by 6 points in six months, and at 28% it now stands even higher than the level recorded in spring 2009 (25%).



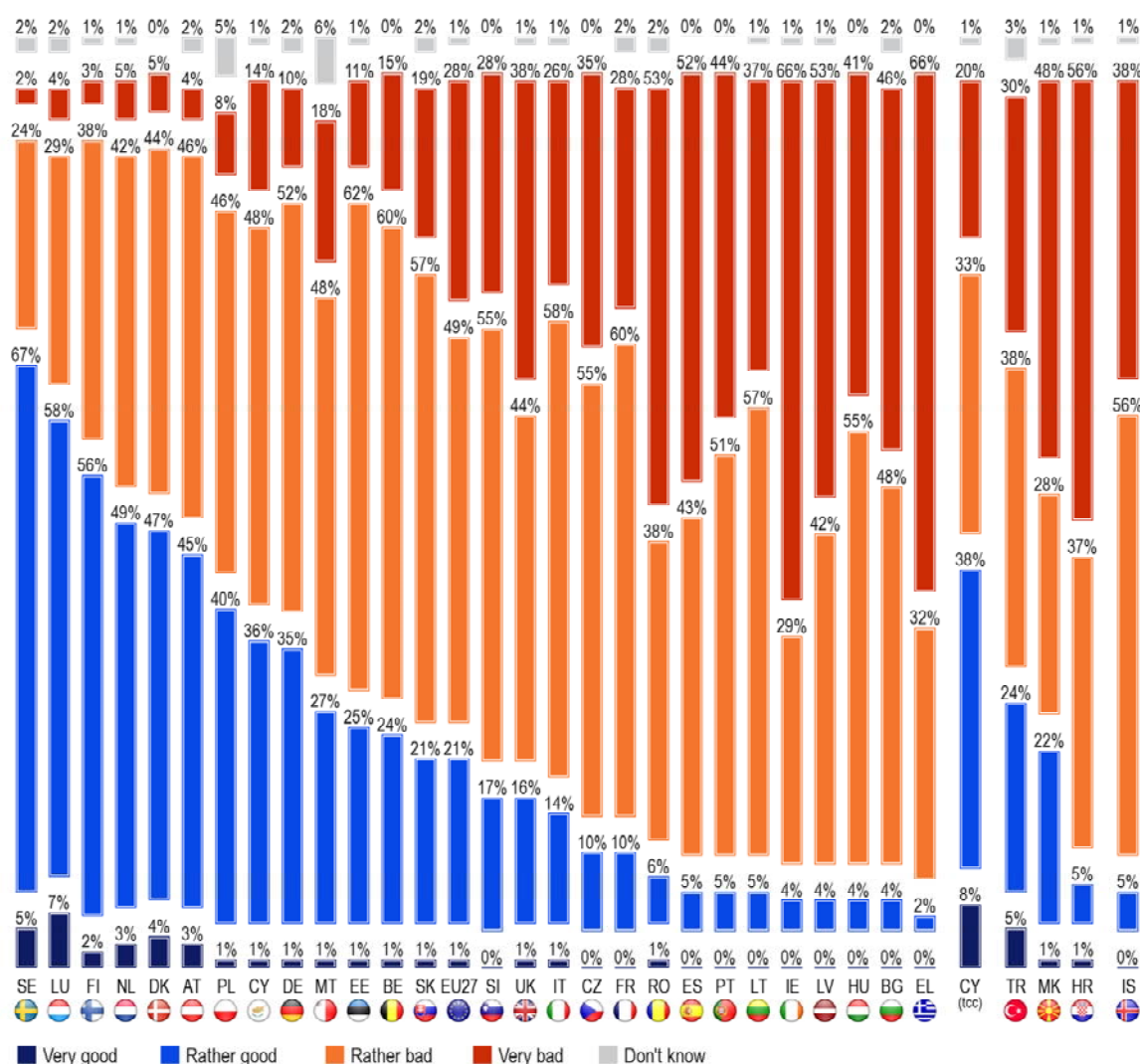
²⁰ QA4a.1 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? The situation of the (NATIONALITY) economy

A majority of respondents are still positive about the economy in the same five Member States as in autumn 2009. Sweden is the European country in which respondents are the most upbeat about the situation of their economy: 72% consider that it is “good”. A majority of respondents are also positive in Luxembourg (65%), Finland (58%), the Netherlands (52%) and Denmark (51%).

In contrast, respondents in many countries are very critical of their country’s economic situation. Negative opinions are as high as or exceed 90% in ten of the twenty-seven Member States, including Hungary (96%), Latvia and Ireland (95% each), Bulgaria and Lithuania (94% in both cases).

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

The situation of the (NATIONALITY) economy



































For CY (tcc): The economic situation in the Turkish Cypriot Community

Three countries where the impact of the economic crisis has been particularly severe in recent months stand out because of the spectacular deterioration in perceptions of the economic situation. In Greece, almost all respondents believe that the economic situation is “bad” (98%, +6), but as many as 66% described the situation as “very bad”, an increase of 27 points between autumn 2009 and spring 2010. The trend is similar in Portugal (95%, +5, including 44% “very bad”, +15) and Spain (95%, +6 including 52%, +20). Other Member States are also now witnessing deterioration in views of their economic situation, including France (88% of negative opinions, +7) and the United Kingdom (82%, +10).

However, positive opinions have increased sharply in Sweden: +19 points since EB72 (autumn 2009) and +36 points in the year. It is worth noting that the strong increase in positive opinions already recorded in EB72 corresponded to a kind of “adjustment” after the decline recorded in EB71 (spring 2009). But the figure has risen again, reaching a level of satisfaction far higher than that of EB70, in autumn 2008 when it stood at 54%. Positive opinions have also gained ground in Finland (+7).

Respondents are also more positive in Austria, where 48% think that the economic situation is “good” (+5), and in Poland (41%, +7), Germany (36%, +5), Malta (28%, +6) and, to a lesser extent, Estonia (26%, +4) and Slovakia (22%, +4).

QA4.1 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?
-The situation of the (NATIONALITY) economy

		Total 'Good'		Total 'Bad'	
		EB73 Sp.2010	Diff. EB73 - EB72	EB73 Sp.2010	Diff. EB73 - EB72
	EU27	22%	-1	77%	+2
	SE	72%	+19	26%	-19
	PL	41%	+7	54%	-8
	FI	58%	+7	41%	-8
	MT	28%	+6	66%	-9
	DE	36%	+5	62%	-5
	AT	48%	+5	50%	-6
	EE	26%	+4	73%	-4
	SK	22%	+4	76%	-5
	LV	4%	+1	95%	-2
	HU	4%	+1	96%	-1
	IE	4%	=	95%	=
	LT	5%	=	94%	=
	NL	52%	-2	47%	+2
	RO	7%	-2	91%	+3
	BG	4%	-3	94%	+4
	SI	17%	-3	83%	+3
	BE	25%	-4	75%	+5
	IT	15%	-4	84%	+4
	PT	5%	-4	95%	+5
	ES	5%	-5	95%	+6
	FR	10%	-5	88%	+7
	CZ	10%	-6	90%	+6
	EL	2%	-6	98%	+6
	DK	51%	-7	49%	+9
	CY	37%	-8	62%	+8
	UK	17%	-9	82%	+10
	LU	65%	-12	33%	+12
	CY (tcc)	46%	+15	53%	-14
	TR	29%	+2	68%	-3
	HR	6%	=	93%	+1
	MK	23%	-1	76%	+1
	IS*	5%	-	94%	-

For CY (tcc): The economic situation in the Turkish Cypriot community



* Not asked in Iceland in EB72.

In the candidate countries, as in the majority of Member States, negative opinions are predominant: 93% in Croatia, 76% in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and 68% in Turkey.

As a result of the crisis suffered by Iceland, 94% of respondents there described the country's economic situation as bad (including 38% who consider that it is "very bad")

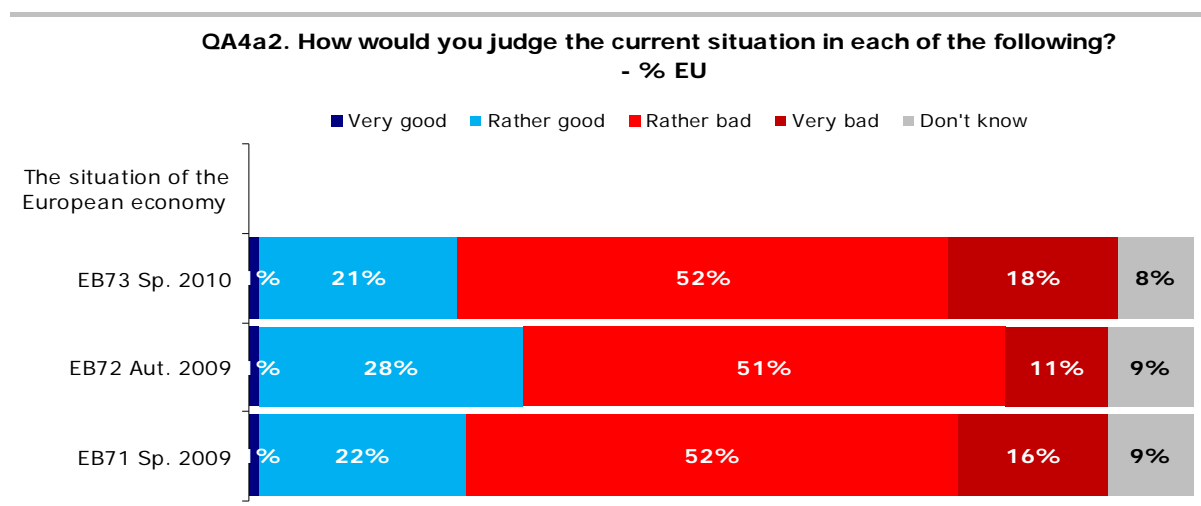
A socio-demographic analysis reveals differences between categories. The most educated respondents are the most positive about their country's economic situation: 29% of those who studied up to the age of 20 or beyond consider that it is "good", compared with 14% of those who left school before the age of 16. Managers are also more upbeat (30%) than employees and manual workers (21%), but above all in comparison with unemployed people (12%).

**QA4a.1 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?
The situation of the (NATIONALITY) economy**

	Total 'Good'	Total 'Bad'	DK
EU27	22%	77%	1%
Education (End of)			
 15-	14%	84%	2%
16-19	20%	79%	1%
20+	29%	70%	1%
Still studying	29%	67%	4%
Respondent occupation scale			
 Self-employed	21%	78%	1%
Managers	30%	69%	1%
Other white collars	21%	78%	1%
Manual workers	21%	78%	1%
House persons	14%	84%	2%
Unemployed	12%	87%	1%
Retired	22%	76%	2%
Students	29%	67%	4%

3.1.2 The European situation

Alongside the deterioration in perceptions of their country's economy, Europeans are also far more pessimistic about the European economic situation, after the improvement recorded between spring and autumn 2009: 70% think that it is "bad", representing an increase of 8 points in 6 months²¹. 18% even described the European economic situation as "very bad", +7 points since autumn 2009. Positive opinions have fallen to 22% (-7 points).



Whereas five Member States were still positive about the European economic situation in autumn 2009, now there are only two and that by a narrow majority: Poland, where 49% think that the European economy is "good", while 34% describe it as "bad", and Bulgaria (42/41). Respondents in Lithuania (44/45) and Latvia (42/48) are fairly evenly divided.

It should be remembered that Bulgaria and Latvia are among the countries which are the most dissatisfied with their national economic situation.

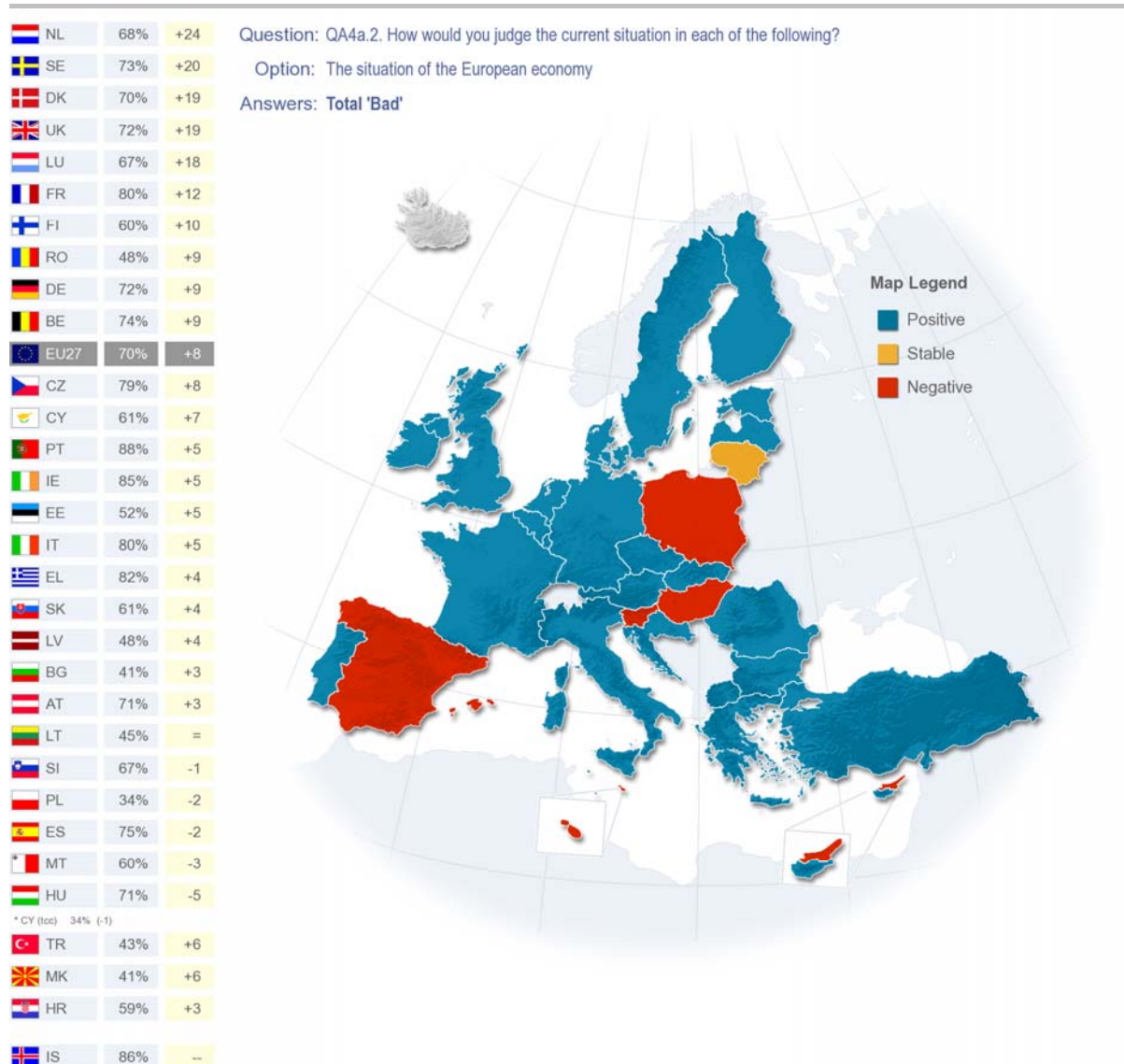
Conversely, in five Member States at least 80% of respondents are negative about the European Union's economic situation: France and Italy (80% in both cases), Greece (82%), Ireland (85%) and Portugal (88%).

Beyond these record levels of dissatisfaction, it is worth examining changes since EB72 (autumn 2009), some of which have been spectacular.

The Nordic countries, whose citizens consider that the economic situation remains good and better than the European Union average, are among those where the impression that the European Union's economic situation is bad has gained the most ground: 73% of respondents in Sweden consider that it is "bad" (an increase of 20 points in six months), as do 70% in Denmark (+19) and 60% in Finland (+10). The trend is the same in the Netherlands (68%, +24).

²¹ QA4a.2 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? The European economic situation

The countries where perceptions of the national economic situation have deteriorated sharply are also far more critical of the European economy: 80% of respondents in France consider that the European economic situation is “bad”, an increase of 12 points, and almost a quarter (23%, +11) went so far as to describe it as “very bad”. Almost three-quarters of respondents in the United Kingdom share this opinion (72%, +19), including 31% who consider it to be “very bad”, +19). These results illustrate the existence of a correlation between a deterioration of the national economy and deterioration in the European economy, which will have an impact on changing perceptions of the European Union, as we shall see later in this report.



Diff. EB73 spring 2010 – EB72 autumn 2009

Perceptions have also become more negative in the candidate countries, since an increasing majority of respondents in Croatia (59%, +3) and Turkey (43%, +6) consider that the European economic situation is bad. However, positive opinions still predominate in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, where 48% believe that the European economic situation is “good”, -7, versus 41%, +6.

In Iceland, opinions of the European economic situation are predominantly positive (86%)

Several criteria influence perceptions of the European economic situation across the board. As for a majority of questions, young people are more positive than older respondents: 30% of those aged 15 to 24 consider that the European economic situation is “good” compared with only 18% of those aged 55 or over. The most financially disadvantaged respondents are more negative: 23% of those who almost never struggle to pay their bills consider that the European economy is in good shape, but only 17% of those who have financial difficulties “most of the time” agree. The respondent’s interest in politics also comes into play: 24% of those who are very interested in politics are positive compared with only 17% of those who are not at all interested²². Not surprisingly, however, the most discriminating factor is the respondent’s perception of the European Union. More than a third of respondents, who trust the EU consider that its economic situation is good, compared with 14% of those who do not trust it.

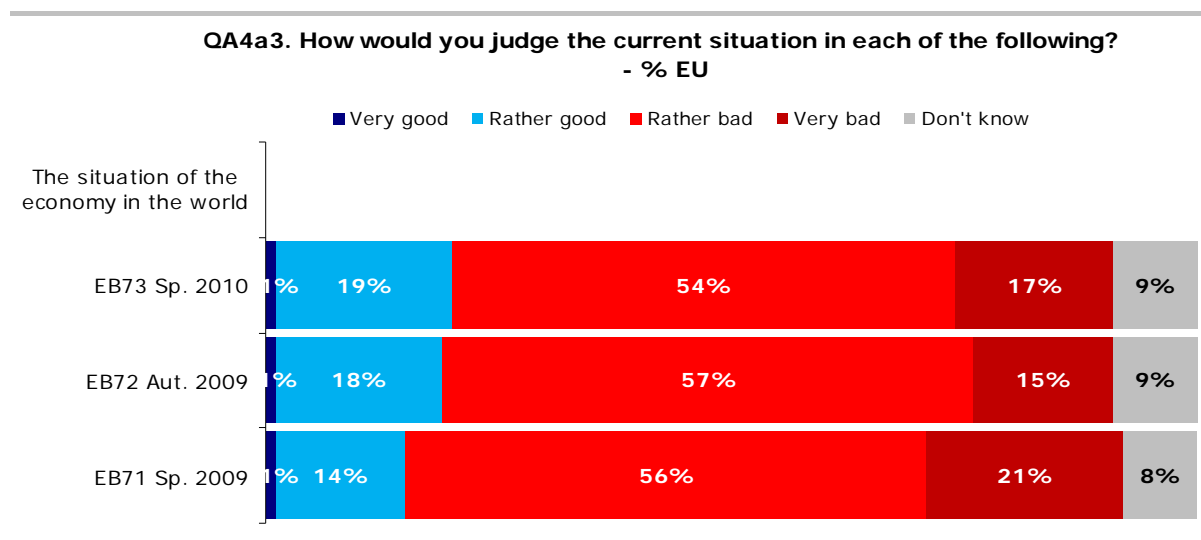
Finally, perceptions of the national economy and the European economy are closely correlated: 57% of respondents who consider that their country’s economic situation is good are also positive about the European economy, compared with 12% of those who think that their country’s economy is “bad” (80% of whom think that the European economy is “bad”).

QA4a.2 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? The situation of the European economy			
	Total 'Good'	Total 'Bad'	DK
EU27	22%	70%	8%
Age			
15-24	30%	59%	11%
25-39	24%	70%	6%
40-54	21%	72%	7%
55 +	18%	72%	10%
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	17%	72%	11%
From time to time	21%	71%	8%
Almost never	23%	70%	7%
Political interest index			
Strong	24%	73%	3%
Medium	24%	71%	5%
Low	20%	69%	11%
Not at all	17%	66%	17%
Situation of national economy			
Good	57%	36%	7%
Bad	12%	80%	8%
Trust in EU			
Tend to trust	32%	62%	6%
Tend not to trust	14%	79%	7%

²² See construction of the new index measuring interest in politics in Chapter 3.4.1

3.1.3 The global situation

Evolutions in this indicator are less pronounced than in the case of the national and European economic indicators. 71% of Europeans continue to describe the economic situation in the world as “bad”²³, one point less than in autumn 2009 and 6 points less than one year ago. Nevertheless, the proportion of very negative answers has increased: 17% consider that the situation of the global economy is “very bad”, +2 points since autumn 2009. We also note that 20% of Europeans are positive, one point more than in autumn 2009 and 5 points more than in spring 2009.



A majority of all respondents, in EU Member States and the candidate countries alike, are negative about the situation of the global economy.

Respondents in the Baltic States are less critical than average: 41% of respondents in Lithuania consider that the global economic situation is “good”, as do 37% of respondents in Latvia and 36% in Estonia. This opinion is also shared by 39% of respondents in Poland and 38% in Bulgaria.

However, negative opinions reach at least 80% in eight Member States (Portugal, 86%, Italy, 84%, Cyprus (83%), Belgium, Spain and France, 80%). In Ireland (86%) and Greece (88%), more than a third of respondents go so far as to describe the global economic situation as “very bad”.

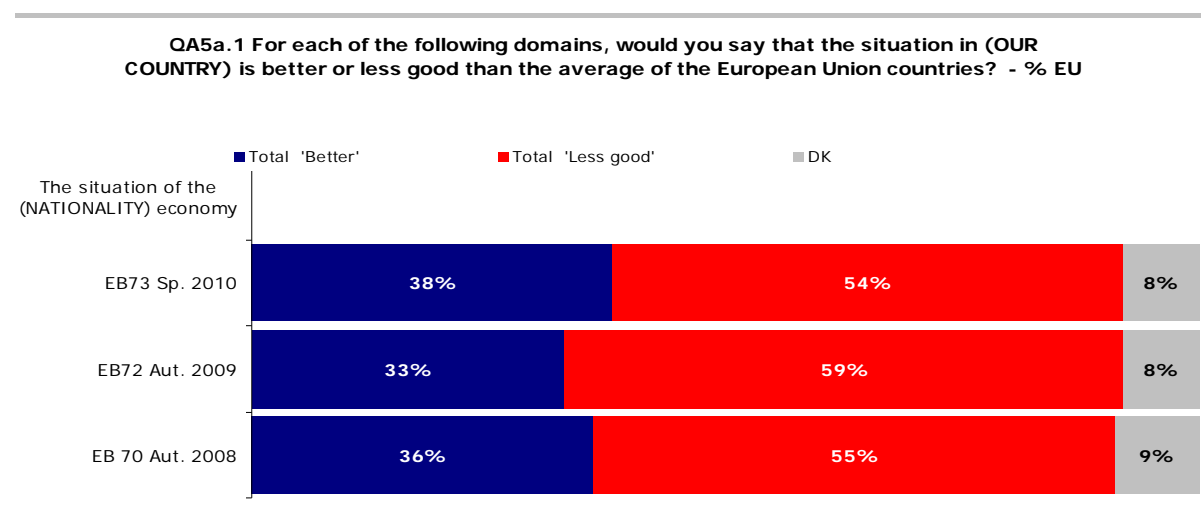
A majority of respondents are also negative in the three candidate countries, although they are more evenly divided in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (42/45).

Respondents in Iceland are very pessimistic about the situation of the global economy, which 78% described as bad.

²³ QA4a.3 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? The situation of the economy in the world

3.1.4 The national economic situation compared with the European average

Against a background in which perceptions of the economic situation at both national and European levels have deteriorated, a growing number of Europeans seem to consider that the situation is even worse in neighbouring countries. Although a majority of 54% still believe that their country's economic situation is "worse" than the EU average, this percentage has fallen by 5 points since autumn 2009. 38% of Europeans, + 5 points, now consider that their country's economy is in "better" shape than the EU average²⁴.



An analysis of the results by country reveals some fairly significant differences: respondents in the Nordic countries continue to be among the most convinced that their economy is more dynamic than the European average: 91% in Denmark and Sweden, 84% in Finland. It is also the case in Luxembourg (84%).

Respondents in southern and eastern European countries, who are very negative about the state of their national economies, consider that it is "worse" than the EU average: 9 or more respondents out of 10 are convinced of this in Bulgaria, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Romania, Portugal and Greece.

In Romania and Greece, more than two-thirds of respondents go so far as to say that their country's economic situation is "definitely" worse (70%, +14 points in Romania and 68%, +25 points in Greece). A third of respondents in Spain now agree (33%, +5).

²⁴ QA5a.1 For each of the following domains, would you say that the situation in (OUR COUNTRY) is better or less good than the average of the European Union countries? The situation of the (NATIONALITY) economy

However, the impression of being “better off” has gained ground in several countries, including Sweden (+12 points) and Finland (+11), where respondents are very positive about their economy, but also in other countries where respondents are nevertheless increasingly negative about the national economy, namely the United Kingdom (+15) and Germany (+12).

A clear majority of respondents in the candidate countries consider that their country's economy is worse than the European average: 63% in Turkey, 88% in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and 90% in Croatia.

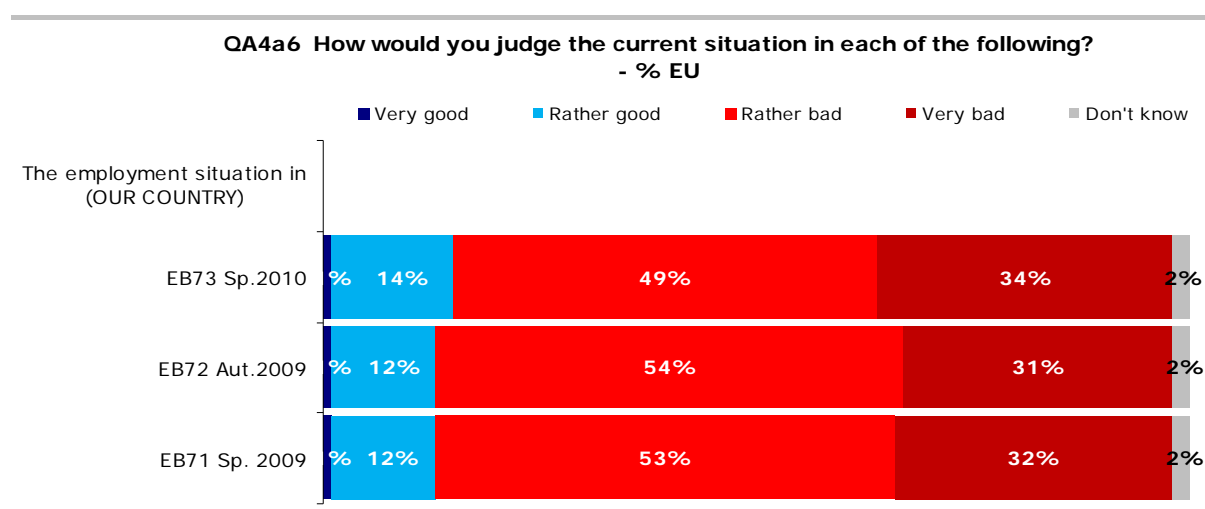
A majority of respondents in Iceland also share this opinion (70%).

A socio-demographic analysis of the results reveals certain differences: managers are more likely to consider that their country's economic situation is “better” than the EU average (51%, compared with 40% of employees and manual workers and 28% of unemployed people). So are respondents who almost never have difficulties paying their bills (46%), compared with 21% of those who have financial difficulties “most of the time”. Finally, 29% of the Europeans who consider that their country's economic situation is “bad” still think that it is “better” than the European average.

3.1.5 The employment situation at national level

- Respondents are very gloomy about employment in their country, but the feeling that the situation is worse in other countries has gained ground -

Respondents continue to be very pessimistic about the employment situation in their country: 83% say that it is “bad”. However this figure has fallen slightly (-2 points), with a similar increase in positive opinions, which now stand at 15% (+2)²⁵. The most “emphatic” opinions, describing the employment situation as “very bad”, have increased by 3 points to 34%, a record level since autumn 2008 (EB70).

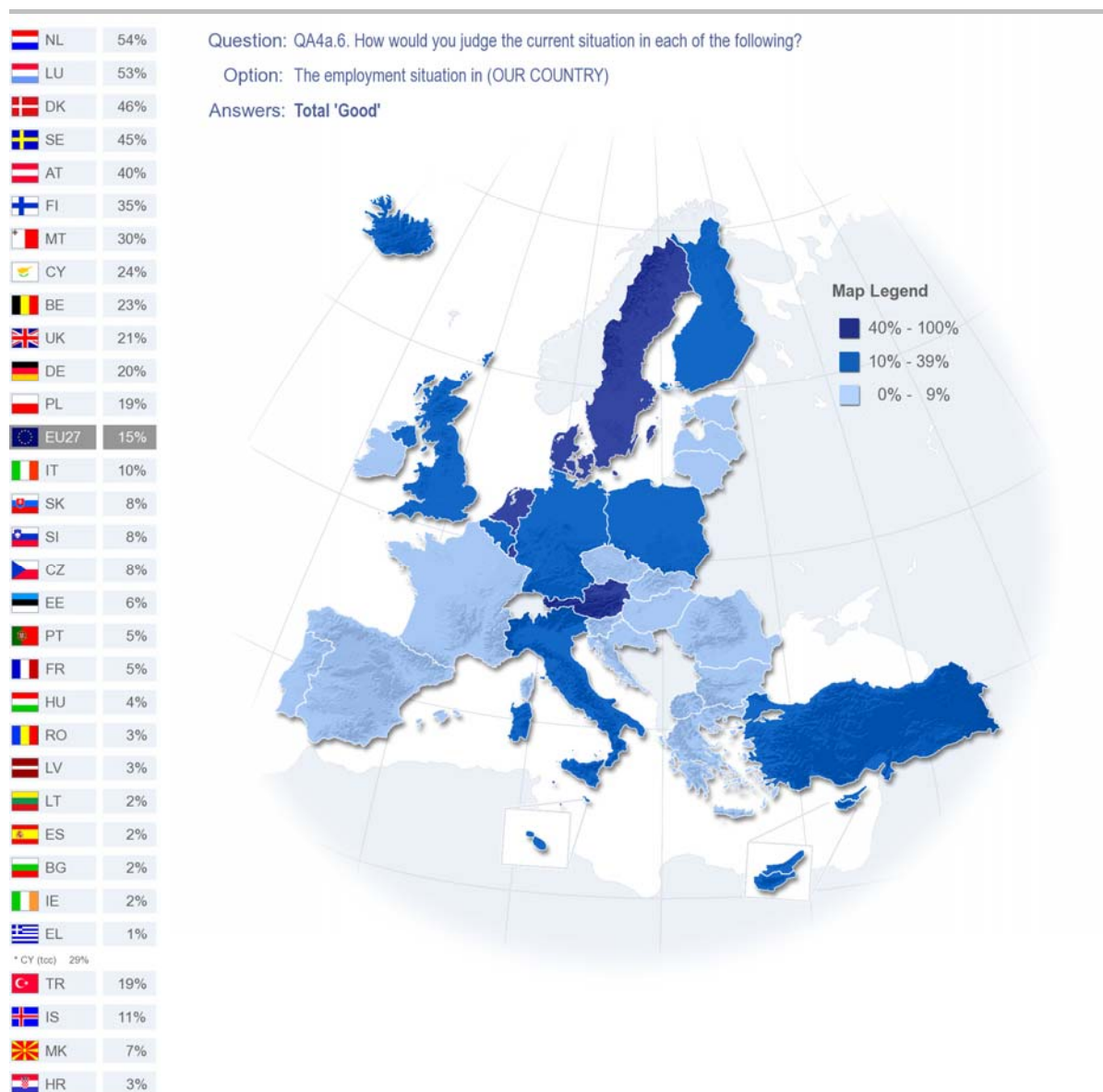


As in EB72 (autumn 2009), the national employment situation is seen as “good” by a majority of respondents in only two Member States, the Netherlands (54%) and Luxembourg (53%). Positive opinions are also fairly widespread in Denmark (46%) and Sweden (45%), but they are in the minority.

Conversely, more than 95% of respondents in ten Member States are negative about the employment situation. The Member States concerned are again mainly in southern and eastern Europe. It is particularly striking that the proportion of respondents who consider that the situation in their country is “very bad” is as high as 67% in Spain (an increase of 16 points in 6 months), 66% in Romania (+16), 61% in Greece (+24), 52% in Portugal (+9) and 56% in Bulgaria (+11).

²⁵ QA4a.6 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? The employment situation in (OUR COUNTRY)

Nevertheless, positive opinions have gained ground in the Nordic countries (+19 in Sweden, +10 in Finland and +6 in Denmark), as well as in countries which are more negative about employment in their country, namely Malta (30%, +11), the United Kingdom (21%, +7) and Germany (20%, +8).





For CY (tcc): The employment situation in the Turkish Cypriot Community

A large majority of respondents in the candidate countries are negative about the employment situation: 96% in Croatia (unchanged), 91% in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (unchanged) and 76% in Turkey, despite a fall (-8).

Respondents in Iceland are also very critical (89%).

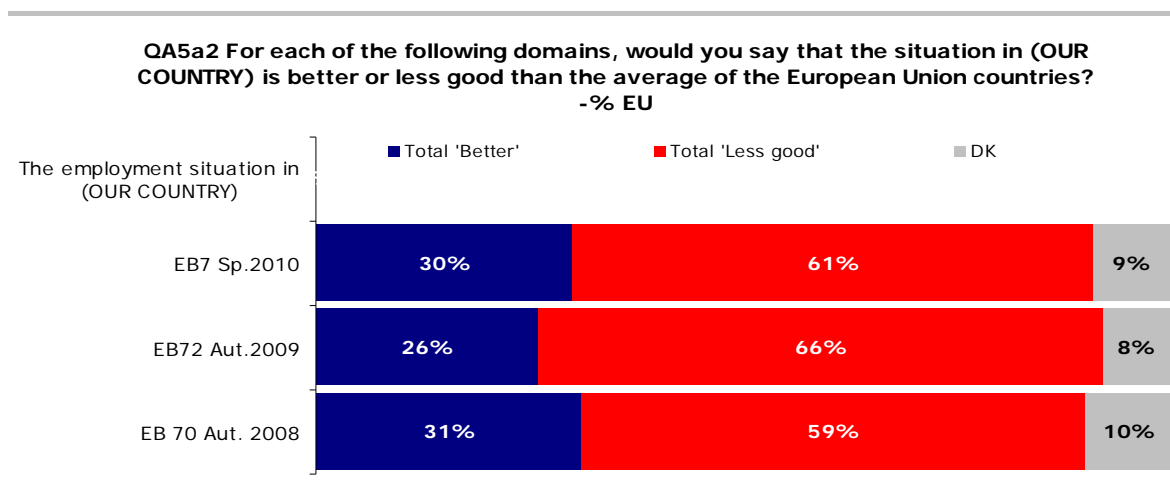
However, perceptions differ with the respondent's socio-demographic profile.

Managers are more positive (26%) than employees (16%) and manual workers (15%) about the employment situation in their country. Unemployed people are quite logically the most critical: 93% say that the employment situation in their country is "bad", including 5% of "very bad" answers. The more educated respondents also tend to be more positive: 21% of those who studied up to the age of 20 or beyond consider that the employment situation is "good", compared with 9% of those who left school before the age of 16. Europeans who are very interested in politics are also more positive (18%) than those who are not at all interested in the subject (9%). Despite these small differences, all categories of respondents agree that the employment situation in their country is fairly gloomy.

QA4a.6 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? The employment situation in (OUR COUNTRY)			
	Total 'Good'	Total 'Bad'	DK
EU27	15%	83%	2%
Education (End of)			
 15-	9%	89%	2%
16-19	13%	85%	2%
20+	21%	78%	1%
Still studying	20%	77%	3%
Respondent occupation scale			
 Self-employed	18%	81%	1%
Managers	26%	73%	1%
Other white collars	16%	83%	1%
Manual workers	15%	84%	1%
House persons	10%	88%	2%
Unemployed	6%	93%	1%
Retired	12%	85%	3%
Students	20%	77%	3%
Political interest index			
Strong	18%	80%	2%
Medium	17%	82%	1%
Low	14%	84%	2%
Not at all	9%	87%	4%

3.1.6 The national employment situation compared with the European average

An increasing number of Europeans consider that the employment situation in their country is “better” than the EU average: 30%, an increase of 4 points since autumn 2009²⁶. The majority of Europeans are still negative (61%), but this figure has fallen (-5 points). This improving trend is therefore in line with that recorded when Europeans were asked to compare the situation of the economy in their country with the EU average. The recent difficulties encountered by some EU countries – Greece for example – may have boosted the feeling that the situation might be worse in other European countries.



Once again, there are considerable differences between the Member States when it comes to comparisons between the national economy and the EU average. Despite the fact that a majority of European countries are negative about the national employment situation, a majority of respondents in nine of the twenty-seven Member States consider that their country is better placed than the European average.

Logically, the respondents who are the most convinced are those who are positive or fairly positive about the employment situation in their country, namely those in the Nordic countries (86% in Denmark, 77% in Sweden and 64% in Finland), and in Luxembourg (82%), the Netherlands (82%) and Austria (76%).

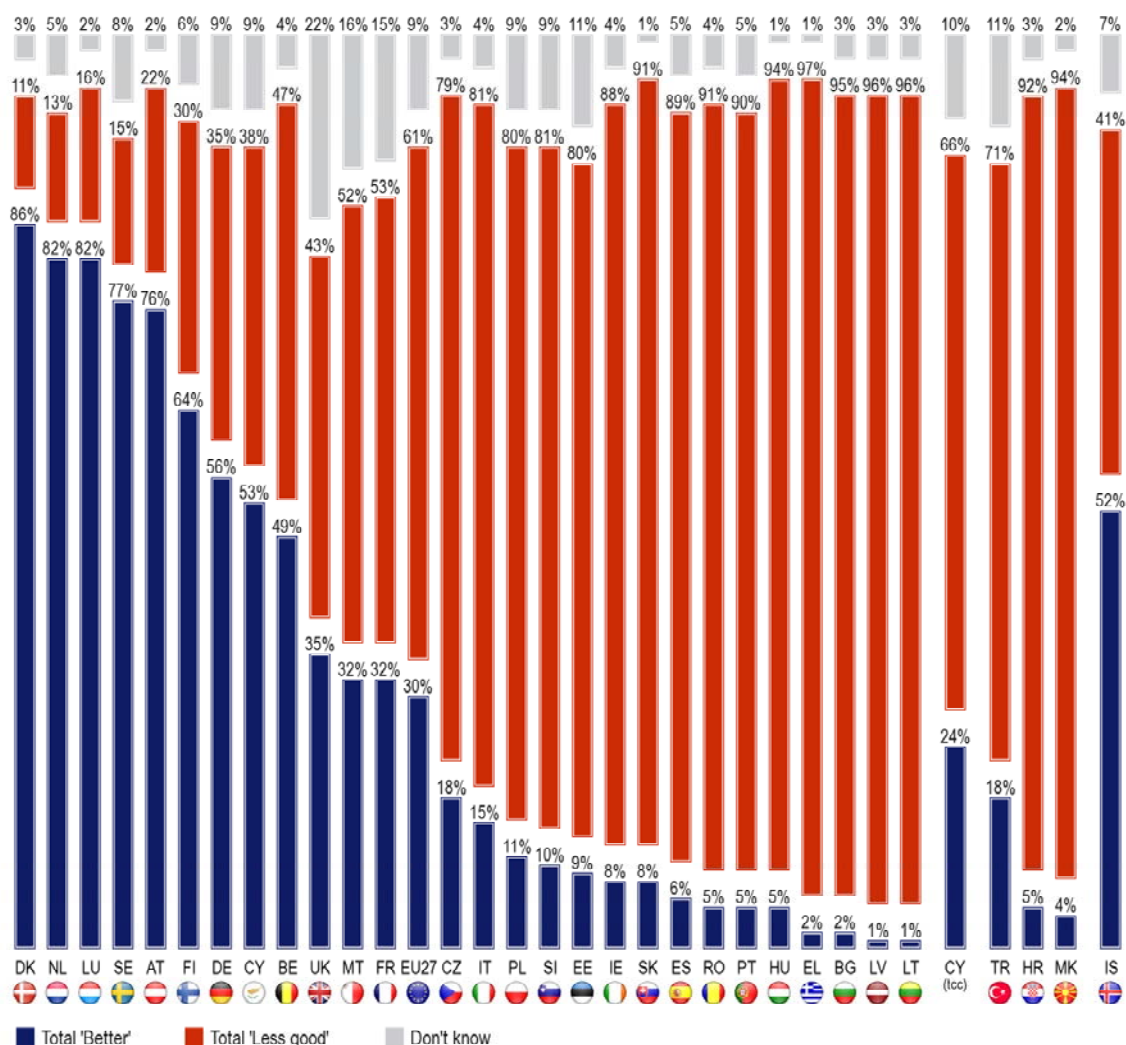
The impression that their country's employment situation is worse than in the rest of Europe is shared by more than nine out of ten respondents in Greece (97%), Latvia (96%), Lithuania (96%), Bulgaria (95%), Hungary (94%), Romania and Slovakia (91% in both countries).

In the countries where opinions on the employment situation have improved the most, comparisons with the European average reflect this improvement: the proportion of respondents who consider that the national employment situation is “better” than the EU average has increased by 11 points in Finland and by 10 points in Sweden, but also by 12 points in Germany (to 56%) and by 10 points in the United Kingdom (to 35%).

²⁶ QA5a.2 For each of the following domains, would you say that the situation in (OUR COUNTRY) is better or less good than the average of the European Union countries? The employment situation in (OUR COUNTRY)

QA5a.2. For each of the following domains, would you say that the situation in (OUR COUNTRY) is better or less good than the average of the European Union countries?

The employment situation in (OUR COUNTRY)



For CY (tcc): The employment situation in our community

In the candidate countries, a clear majority of respondents consider that the employment situation is "worse" than the EU average: 94% in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, 92% in Croatia and 71% in Turkey.

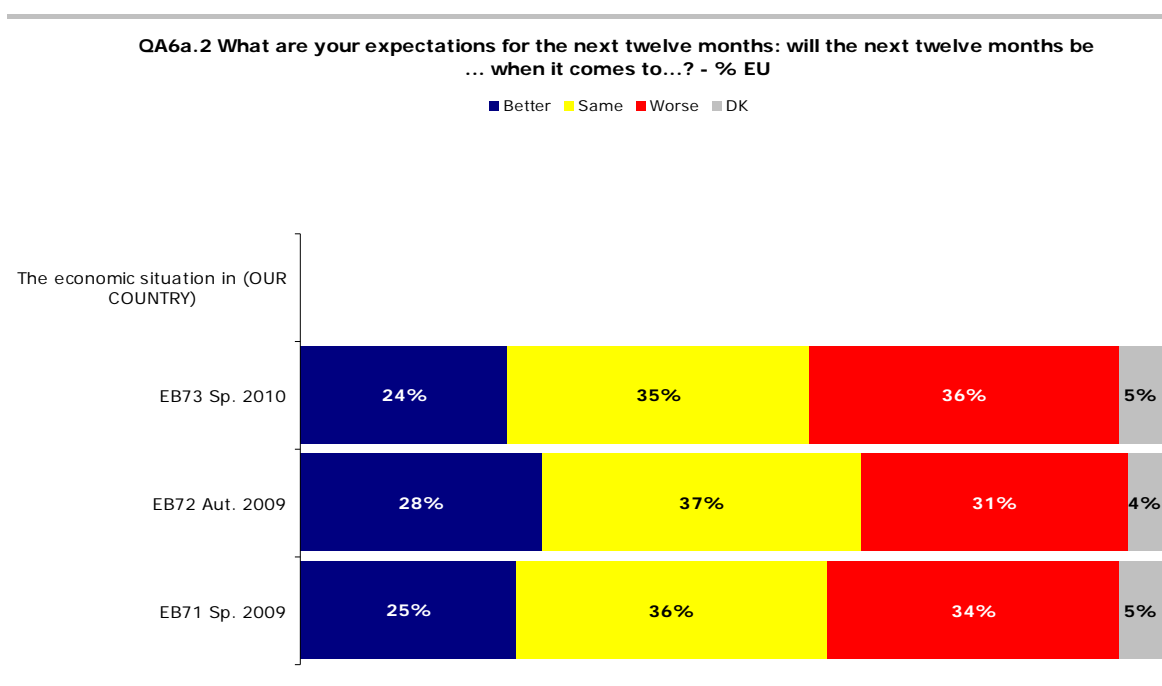
In Iceland, although views on employment are very negative, a majority consider that the national situation is better than the European average (52/41).

3.2 Future expectations

- Respondents are more pessimistic about the outlook for the national, European and world economies. Opinions on the employment outlook are more or less unchanged -

3.2.1 The situation of the national economy over the next twelve months

Having eased in spring 2009, pessimism about the future of the national economy has increased again and returned to the spring 2009 level: 36% of Europeans believe that the next twelve months will be “worse”, an increase of 5 points, but still considerably below the EB70 level (51% in autumn 2008). 35% of respondents expect things to remain the same (-2), while a quarter remain optimistic (24%, -4)²⁷.



Optimism outweighs pessimism in only seven Member States, including those countries where a majority of respondents are positive about the economic situation, such as Sweden, where 52% think that the next twelve months will be better, Denmark (42%) and Finland (30%). But this optimism also extends to Estonia (43%), the United Kingdom (35%), Hungary (32%) and Malta (27%).

However, a clear majority of respondents are pessimistic in three Member States which have been particularly badly affected by the crisis in recent months: 70% in Greece, 61% in Romania and 55% in Portugal.

²⁷ QA6a.2 What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...? The economic situation in (OUR COUNTRY)

These three countries are part of the group of EU Member States in which pessimism has gained the most ground in six months. The table on the next page provides a detailed breakdown of index changes (measuring differences between optimistic and pessimistic opinions) by country.

































This index has lost more than 20 points in Romania (-21) and Portugal (-26), and more than 40 points in Greece (-48). But these are not the only European countries where concerns about the economic outlook have increased significantly. This is also the case, inter alia, in Luxembourg (-26), France (-23), and the United Kingdom (-16).

Conversely, there has been a significant upturn in optimism in eastern European countries: in the Baltic countries (+35 in Latvia, +30 in Lithuania and +17 in Estonia), but also Hungary (+46), Bulgaria (+15) and Malta (+14). Optimism has also increased in Ireland (+24).

Expectations therefore vary considerably between certain southern European countries and certain eastern European countries: although they are all negative about their economic situation, southern countries, except for Malta, are also pessimistic about the future, whereas there is growing optimism in the Baltic countries and Hungary.

**QA6a.2 What are your expectations for the next 12 months:
will the next 12 months be better, worse or the same, when it
comes to...?**

-The economic situation in (OUR COUNTRY)

	EB72 Aut.2009 Better- worse	EB73 Sp.2010 Better- worse	DIFF. Sp.2010- Aut.2009
 EU27	-3	-12	-9
 HU	-39	+7	+46
 LV	-36	-1	+35
 LT	-41	-11	+30
 IE	-38	-14	+24
 EE	+8	+25	+17
 BG	-15	=	+15
 MT	-11	+3	+14
 SK	-21	-15	+6
 CY	-42	-38	+4
 PL	-4	-1	+3
 CZ	-25	-27	-2
 DK	+30	+27	-3
 FI	+11	+7	-4
 BE	-8	-15	-7
 IT	-8	-15	-7
 SI	-13	-20	-7
 ES	-6	-14	-8
 AT	+8	=	-8
 SE	+50	+40	-10
 DE	-3	-15	-12
 NL	+13	-1	-14
 UK	+22	+6	-16
 RO	-29	-50	-21
 FR	+4	-19	-23
 LU	-1	-27	-26
 PT	-14	-40	-26
 EL	-14	-62	-48
CY (tcc)	-31	-17	+14
 HR	-46	-30	+16
 TR	-21	-12	+9
 MK	-3	-13	-10
 IS*	-	+13	-

For CY (tcc): The economic situation in the Turkish Cypriot
Community

* Not asked in Iceland in EB72.

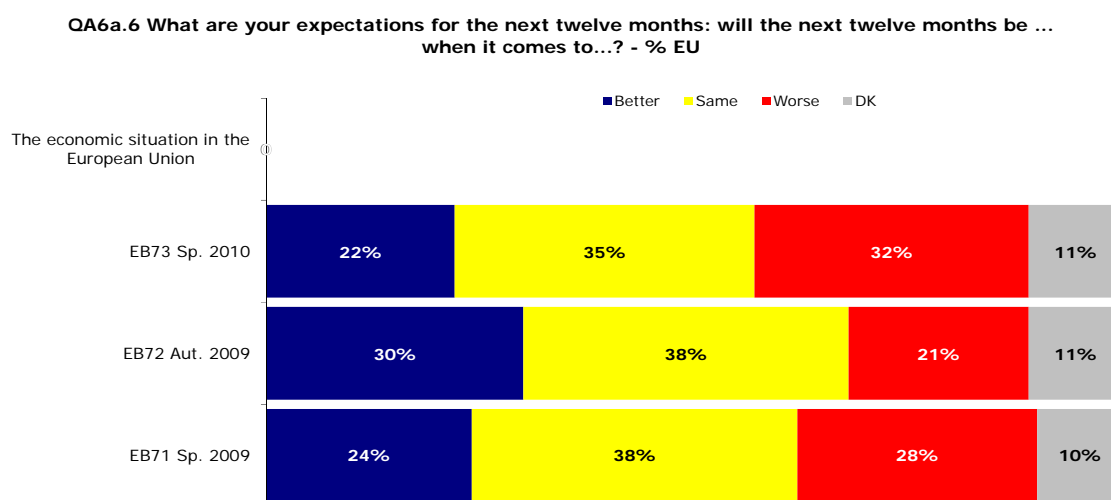
Though pessimism has dipped in the candidate countries, pessimists still outnumber optimists in Croatia, where 45% expect the next twelve months to be worse, (-12) and in Turkey (34%, -8). In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, a majority of respondents are also pessimistic and their pessimism has increased (37%, +6).

In Iceland, there seems to be a feeling that the country will emerge from the current economic crisis: 36% of respondents think that the coming year will be better, compared with 23% who expect the situation to deteriorate.

Views on the national economic outlook for the coming months vary somewhat according to the respondent's age: in general the youngest respondents are more optimistic than the oldest respondents (30% of those aged 15 to 24 think that their country's economy will get better, compared with 20% of those aged 55 or over); but it should be noted that optimism about the future is more widespread among the youngest respondents, irrespective of the subject discussed. There are no significant differences between managers, employees and manual workers. We note above all that 40% of those who think that their country's economic situation is bad expect it to deteriorate over the coming year, whereas 21% remain optimistic.

3.2.2 The situation of the European economy over the next twelve months

Europeans are more pessimistic than in autumn 2009 (EB72) about the European economic outlook over the next twelve months: 32% think that the year will be worse, representing an increase of 11 points. Although this is still far short of the levels reached at the beginning of the crisis (41% in autumn 2008, EB70), pessimism has nevertheless gained ground since a year ago (28% in spring 2009, EB71). However, a narrow majority of respondents continue to believe that the situation will not change (35%, -3) and less than a quarter of Europeans are now optimistic (22%, -8)²⁸.



The predominant feeling in a majority of countries is that the European economic situation will remain the same. However optimists outnumber pessimists in nine Member States, led by the Baltic countries (42% in Estonia, 38% in Lithuania and 34% in Latvia), Bulgaria (40%), Spain (36%), Hungary (33%) and Denmark (33%).

Respondents in Luxembourg, where 55% think that the European economy will be worse over the next twelve months, the Netherlands (54%), Greece (47%) and Germany (46%) are the most pessimistic.

































These countries are also among the Member States in which expectations have deteriorated the most in six months, as can be seen from the table below showing evolutions in the index. They include the countries in which respondents are the most critical of the current situation of the European economy, but also those that are the most pessimistic about the outlook for their own economy. These States are the Netherlands, where the index has fallen by 43 points, Sweden (-38), Greece (-38), Luxembourg (-35), the United Kingdom (-31), Germany (-28), Finland (-27), France (-25) and Portugal (-20).

²⁸ QA6a.6 What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...? The economic situation in the European Union

Conversely, optimism has gained ground in Hungary, where the index is up by 22 points, and Bulgaria (+9).

**QA6a.6 What are your expectations for the next 12 months:
will the next 12 months be better, worse or the same, when it
comes to...?**

-The economic situation in the European Union

	EB72 Aut.2009 Better- worse	EB73 Sp.2010 Better- worse	DIFF. Sp.2010- Aut.2009
 EU27	+9	-10	-19
 HU	-10	+12	+22
 BG	+23	+32	+9
 IE	-7	-2	+5
 LT	+24	+24	=
 ES	+20	+19	-1
 MT	+13	+9	-4
 SK	0	-5	-5
 EE	+36	+30	-6
 CZ	-4	-12	-8
 LV	+32	+24	-8
 IT	0	-9	-9
 PL	+14	+5	-9
 SI	+4	-6	-10
 DK	+15	+4	-11
 AT	+1	-11	-12
 RO	+13	-2	-15
 BE	-3	-20	-17
 PT	-4	-24	-20
 CY	-6	-27	-21
 FR	+9	-16	-25
 FI	+9	-18	-27
 DE	-5	-33	-28
 UK	+22	-9	-31
 LU	-8	-43	-35
 EL	+4	-34	-38
 SE	+32	-6	-38
 NL	+7	-36	-43
CY (tcc)	+2	+2	=
 HR	0	+2	+2
 MK	+28	+22	-6
 TR	+7	0	-7
 IS*	-	-12	-

* Not asked in Iceland in EB72.

In the candidate countries, a majority of respondents in Croatia (42%) and Turkey (33%) expect the European economic situation to remain the same. However, respondents in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia are predominantly optimistic (37%).

In Iceland, a majority of respondents are pessimistic about the outlook (38%).

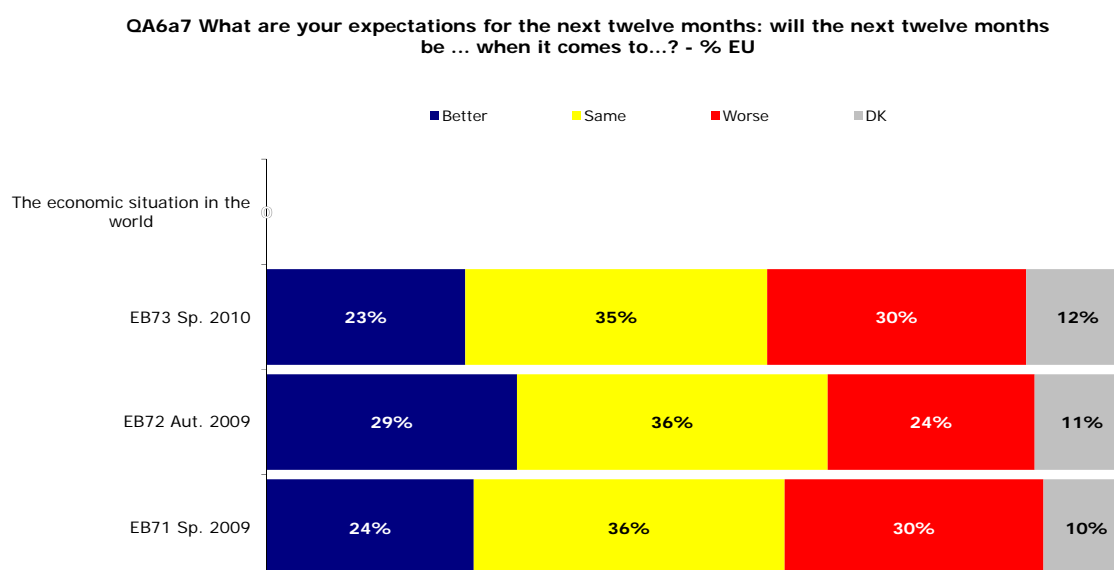
A socio-demographic analysis shows that, as for the indicators as a whole, the oldest respondents are the most pessimistic: 35% of those aged 55 or over expect the coming year to be worse for the European economy, compared with 23% of those in the 15-24 age group. It is particularly striking that Europeans who are very interested in politics²⁹ are the most pessimistic about the European economic outlook: 43% expect it to deteriorate, compared with 24% of those who are not interested in politics. Furthermore, expectations for national economies and the economic situation in the EU are closely correlated, since 60% of those who think that their country's economy will get worse are also pessimistic about the European economy (compared with 13% of those who expect their country's economy to improve).

Finally, we note that Europeans who consider that the European Union's image is good are more confident about the short-term outlook for the European economy (31%) than those who have a negative image (12%).

²⁹ See construction of a new index measuring interest in politics in Chapter 3.4.1

3.2.3 The global economic situation over the next twelve months

Respondents have also become more pessimistic about the outlook for the world economy: 30% of Europeans think that the next twelve months will be “worse”, an increase of 6 points since autumn 2009. A narrow majority of respondents continue to think that the situation will stay the same (35%, -1). In total, optimists represent just under a quarter of respondents (23%, -6)³⁰. These results are in line with those recorded in spring 2009 (EB71).



The trends for this question are very close to those recorded for the question on the outlook for the European economy. Thus, a majority of respondents in 15 of the 27 Member States think that the situation will remain the same.

Respondents in Estonia, where 44% think that the next twelve months will be better, Lithuania (40%), Bulgaria (39%), Latvia (38%), Denmark (37%), Hungary (33%) and Spain (32%) are the most optimistic.

































However, an analysis of evolutions in the index (difference between optimistic and pessimistic opinions) again reveals that there have been significant changes in many countries, in particular in those which are increasingly concerned about their national economy and which are the most likely to expect the European economy to worsen: Greece and Portugal, but also Luxembourg, Belgium, Germany, Sweden, France and the Netherlands.

³⁰ QA6a.7 What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...? The economic situation in the world

In contrast, Hungary and Bulgaria again stand out by virtue of being far more optimistic than six months earlier (with indices of +19 and +8 points respectively). This is also the case in Ireland (+9 points).

**QA6a.7 What are your expectations for the next 12 months:
will the next 12 months be better, worse or the same, when it
comes to...?**

-The economic situation in the world

	EB72 Aut.2009 Better- worse	EB73 Sp.2010 Better- worse	DIFF. Sp.2010- Aut.2009
 EU27	+5	-7	-12
 HU	-6	+13	+19
 IE	-2	+7	+9
 BG	+25	+33	+8
 DK	+16	+17	+1
 EE	+34	+35	+1
 SK	-5	-7	-2
 CZ	-4	-7	-3
 LT	+33	+30	-3
 MT	+9	+5	-4
 CY	-30	-35	-5
 LV	+36	+31	-5
 ES	+16	+10	-6
 SI	+3	-3	-6
 IT	-5	-13	-8
 PL	+11	+1	-10
 AT	+2	-9	-11
 FI	+10	-3	-13
 UK	+16	+2	-14
 RO	+10	-6	-16
 BE	-8	-25	-17
 DE	-4	-21	-17
 NL	+1	-16	-17
 PT	-6	-24	-18
 SE	+28	+9	-19
 FR	+5	-17	-22
 LU	-15	-40	-25
 EL	-9	-42	-33
CY (tcc)	-13	-4	+9
 HR	-4	+3	+7
 TR	-3	-5	-2
 MK	+23	+16	-7
 IS*	-	=	-

* Not asked in Iceland in EB72.

In the candidate countries, a narrow majority of respondents also expect the European economy to stabilise. However, although optimists outnumber pessimists in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (33%) and Croatia (26%), that is not the case in Turkey (20%).

In Iceland, a third of respondents think that the global economy will not change significantly in the coming year (34%). The rest are divided between optimism and pessimism: 28% think that the next twelve months will be better, while 28% think that they will be worse.

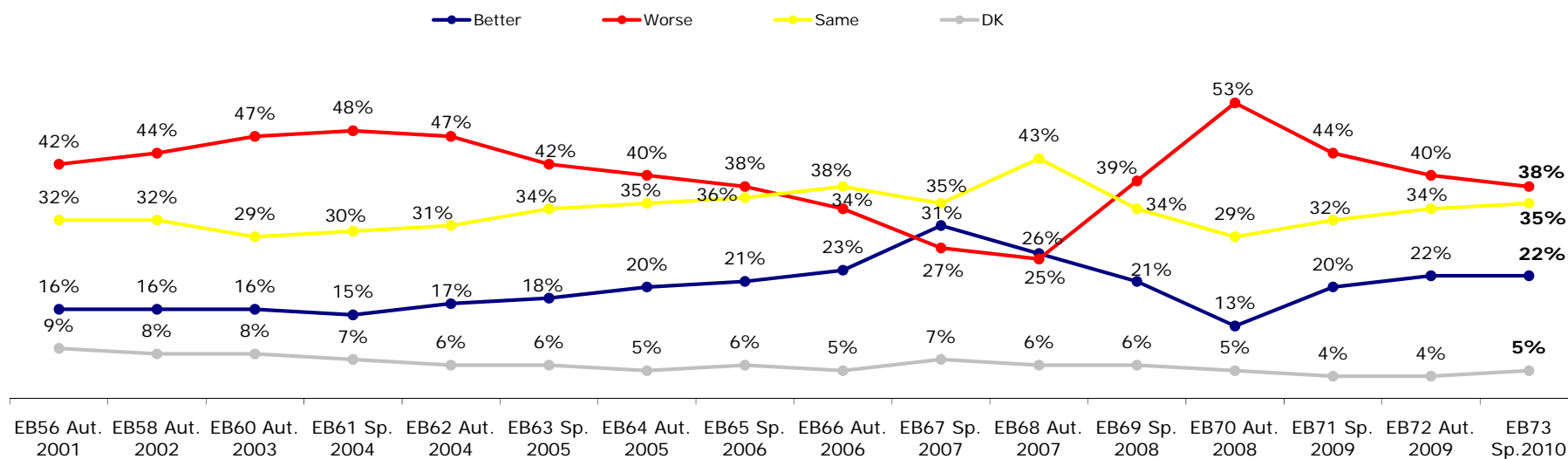
3.2.4 The employment situation over the next twelve months

Although citizens are increasingly concerned about the national, European and global economic outlook, their expectations regarding the employment situation are slightly more stable. However, a majority of respondents are still pessimistic: 38% think that the national employment situation will be “worse” in the next twelve months. But this proportion has fallen by 2 points since autumn 2009, continuing the downward trend which began after the critical period of autumn 2008 when more than half of Europeans expressed concern.

35% of respondents (+1) now consider that the situation will not change over the coming year, while the proportion of optimists is unchanged at 22%³¹.

³¹ QA6a.4 What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...? The employment situation in (OUR COUNTRY)

QA6.4 What are your expectations for the next 12 months: will the next 12 months be... when it comes to...?
The employment situation in (OUR COUNTRY) -%EU



The impression that the employment situation will not change over the next twelve months predominates in ten of the twenty-seven Member States.

































However, in Sweden, 60% of respondents think that the employment situation will be “better” during the coming year, a view shared by 47% of respondents in Denmark, 34% in Finland and 32% in the Netherlands, and by 43% in Estonia and 31% in Hungary. The most optimistic respondents are those who are also more positive than the average regarding the outlook for their country’s economy over the next twelve months.

In addition, an analysis of evolutions in the index measuring the difference between optimism and pessimism in each country reveals significant changes over six months. For example, optimism has increased markedly in several Member States since autumn 2009, in particular in the Baltic countries (the index has increased by 39 points in Latvia, +33 in Estonia and +27 in Lithuania), Hungary (+49), Bulgaria (+23), Denmark (+28), Sweden (+26) and Ireland (+23).

Conversely, forecasts have deteriorated sharply in the countries which are also more pessimistic about the national economic situation in general. These States are led by Greece (the index has fallen by 47 points and a clear majority of respondents, 74%, expect the employment situation to worsen), Portugal (the index has fallen by 18 points and 57% of respondents are pessimistic) and Romania (-12, 62%). There has also been a deterioration in employment forecasts in Luxembourg (-16 points) and France (-11).

**QA6a.4 What are your expectations for the next 12 months:
will the next 12 months be better, worse or the same, when it
comes to...?**

-The employment situation in (OUR COUNTRY)

		EB72 Aut.2009 Better- worse	EB73 Sp.2010 Better- worse	DIFF. Sp.2010- Aut.2009
	EU27	-18	-16	+2
	HU	-46	+3	+49
	LV	-38	+1	+39
	EE	-7	+26	+33
	DK	+5	+33	+28
	LT	-52	-25	+27
	SE	+25	+51	+26
	BG	-34	-11	+23
	IE	-47	-24	+23
	NL	-17	+2	+19
	SK	-34	-16	+18
	FI	-9	+9	+18
	MT	-13	+4	+17
	DE	-31	-17	+14
	PL	-15	-5	+10
	CZ	-34	-27	+7
	AT	-10	-3	+7
	CY	-49	-46	+3
	ES	-12	-12	=
	SI	-23	-27	-4
	BE	-19	-24	-5
	UK	+4	-2	-6
	IT	-17	-24	-7
	FR	-11	-22	-11
	RO	-40	-52	-12
	LU	-17	-33	-16
	PT	-25	-43	-18
	EL	-20	-67	-47
	CY (tcc)	-27	-15	+12
	HR	-57	-37	+20
	TR	-29	-17	+12
	MK	-15	-25	-10
	IS*	-	+19	-

For CY (tcc): The employment situation in
the Turkish Cypriot Community

* Not asked in Iceland in EB72.

A majority of respondents in the candidate countries are pessimistic about the short-term employment outlook: 52% of respondents in Croatia, 37% in Turkey and 44% in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia think that the next twelve months will be "worse".

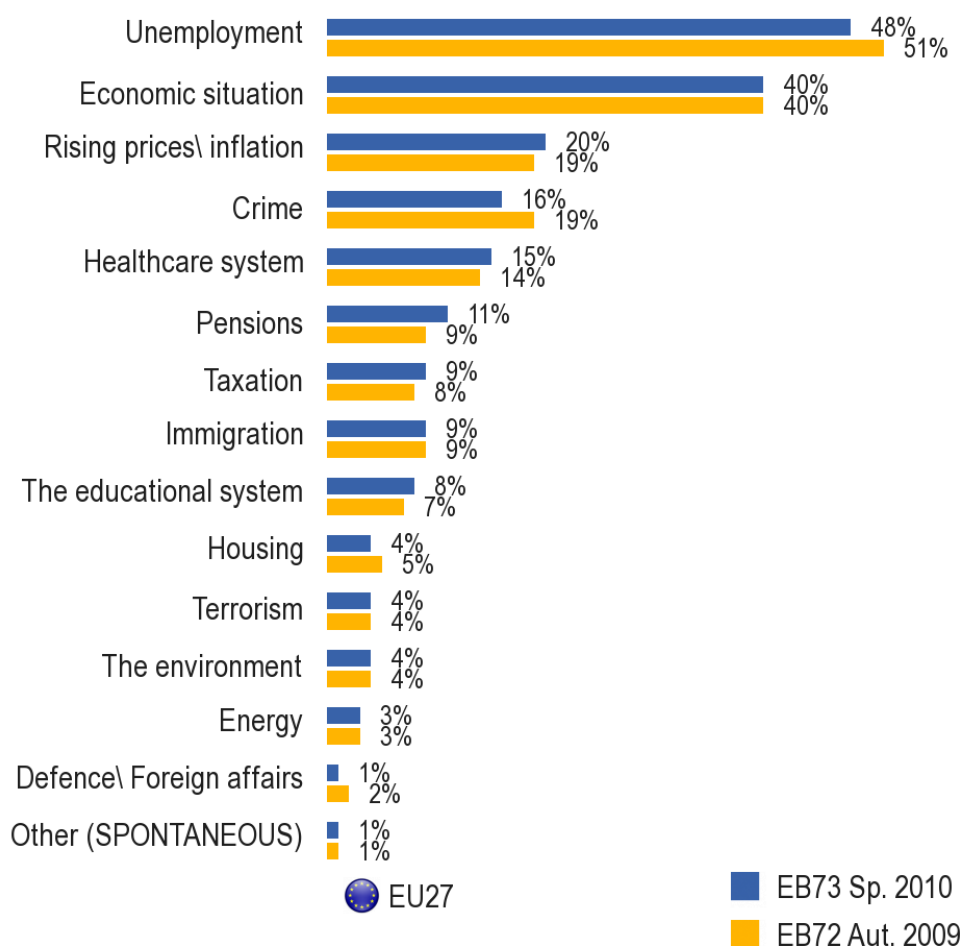
In contrast respondents in Iceland are more likely to be optimistic: 41% of respondents think that the next twelve months will be better, while 22% think that they will be worse.

The answers to this question reveal the same sociological trends as those noted previously, with differences according to the age, level of education and occupational status of the respondents.

3.3 The main national concerns

- Unemployment remains the main national concern of Europeans -

QA7a. What do you think are the two most important issues facing (OUR COUNTRY) at the moment?



When asked to choose from a list of subjects the most important issues currently facing their country^{32,33}, Europeans continue to place unemployment at the top with a score of 48%, followed by the economic situation (40%). We note that while respondents mentioned the economic situation as frequently as in autumn 2009, they were slightly less likely to mention unemployment on this occasion (-3 points).

Rising prices are now in third position (20%, +1), having overtaken crime which was mentioned less frequently than 6 months earlier (16%, -3).

³² The personal concerns of Europeans are dealt with in chapter 1.4.

³³ QA7a What do you think are the two most important issues facing (OUR COUNTRY) at the moment?

The proportion of respondents who mentioned social issues has also increased slightly: the healthcare system was mentioned by 15% of Europeans (+1), just ahead of pensions (11%, +2).

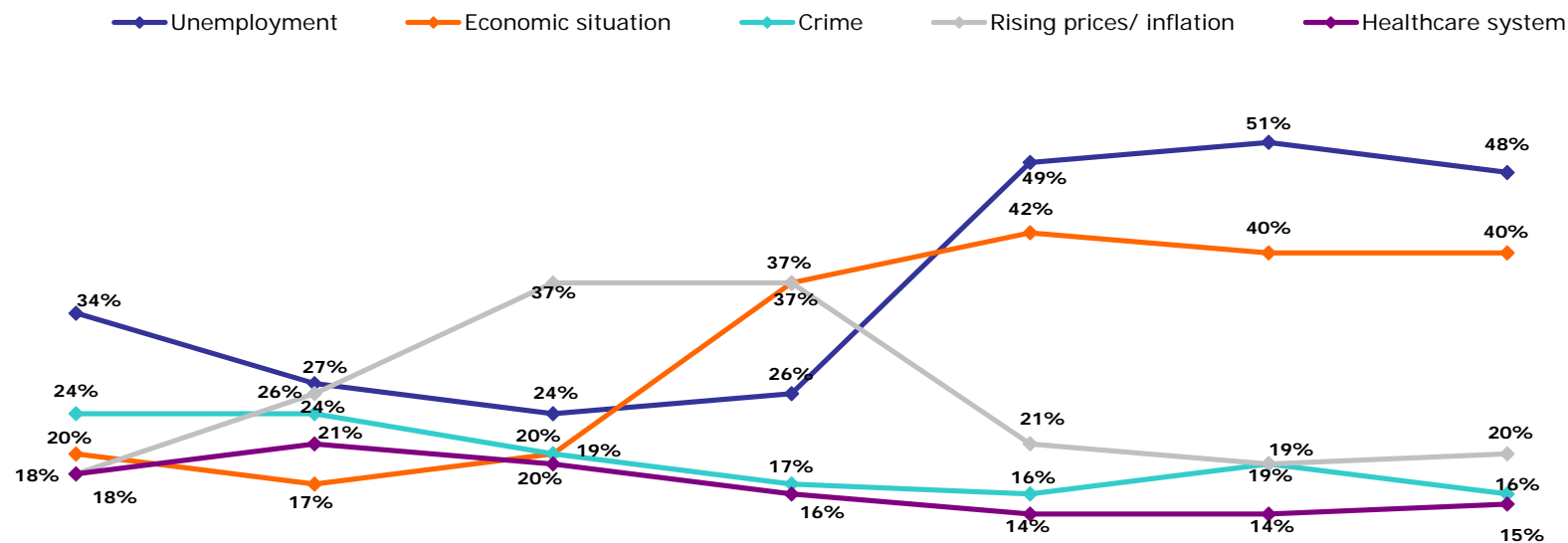
Immigration (9%, =), taxation (9%, +1) and the education system (8%, +1) were mentioned by almost one in ten Europeans. Slightly lower scores were recorded for housing (4%, -1) and terrorism (4%, =). The environment was mentioned by only 4% of respondents (=) and energy by 3% (=). Finally, only 1% (-1) see defence and foreign affairs as a problem for their country.

In principle, therefore, the concerns which Europeans have for their country have changed little since autumn 2009, but it is interesting to examine these evolutions over a longer period. The decline in the number of respondents mentioning unemployment may perhaps mark the beginning of a longer term trend towards renewed optimism. As yet this trend is very hesitant, but it can be analysed alongside the slight decrease in pessimistic forecasts for the employment outlook over the coming year. Nevertheless, unemployment has been the main concern of Europeans since EB71 in spring 2009, conducted a few months after the outbreak of the financial and economic crisis. The increased in pessimism regarding the global, European and national economies, discussed earlier in this report, explains why the economic situation continues to be frequently cited as a national concern. Rising prices, which topped the list between 2007 and 2008, also remain a significant cause for concern, but less so today than the first two items cited.

The graph on the following page shows evolutions in the five most frequently mentioned items since EB67, conducted in spring 2007.

The economic situation and unemployment obtained almost identical scores in the EU15 and NMS12 countries. However, there are some differences regarding rising prices, which were mentioned more frequently in the NMS12 (25%, versus 19% in EU15), the healthcare system (25% versus 13%) and, to a lesser extent, pensions (15% versus 10%). Conversely, EU15 countries were more likely to mention crime (17% versus 13% in NMS12) and immigration (11% versus 2%).

QA7a What do you think are the two most important issues facing (OUR COUNTRY) at the moment? (MAX. 2 ANSWERS) - % EU



Sp. 2007	Aut. 2007	Sp. 2008	Aut. 2008	Sp. 2009	Aut. 2009	Sp. 2010
EB67	EB68	EB69	EB 70	EB71	EB72	EB73

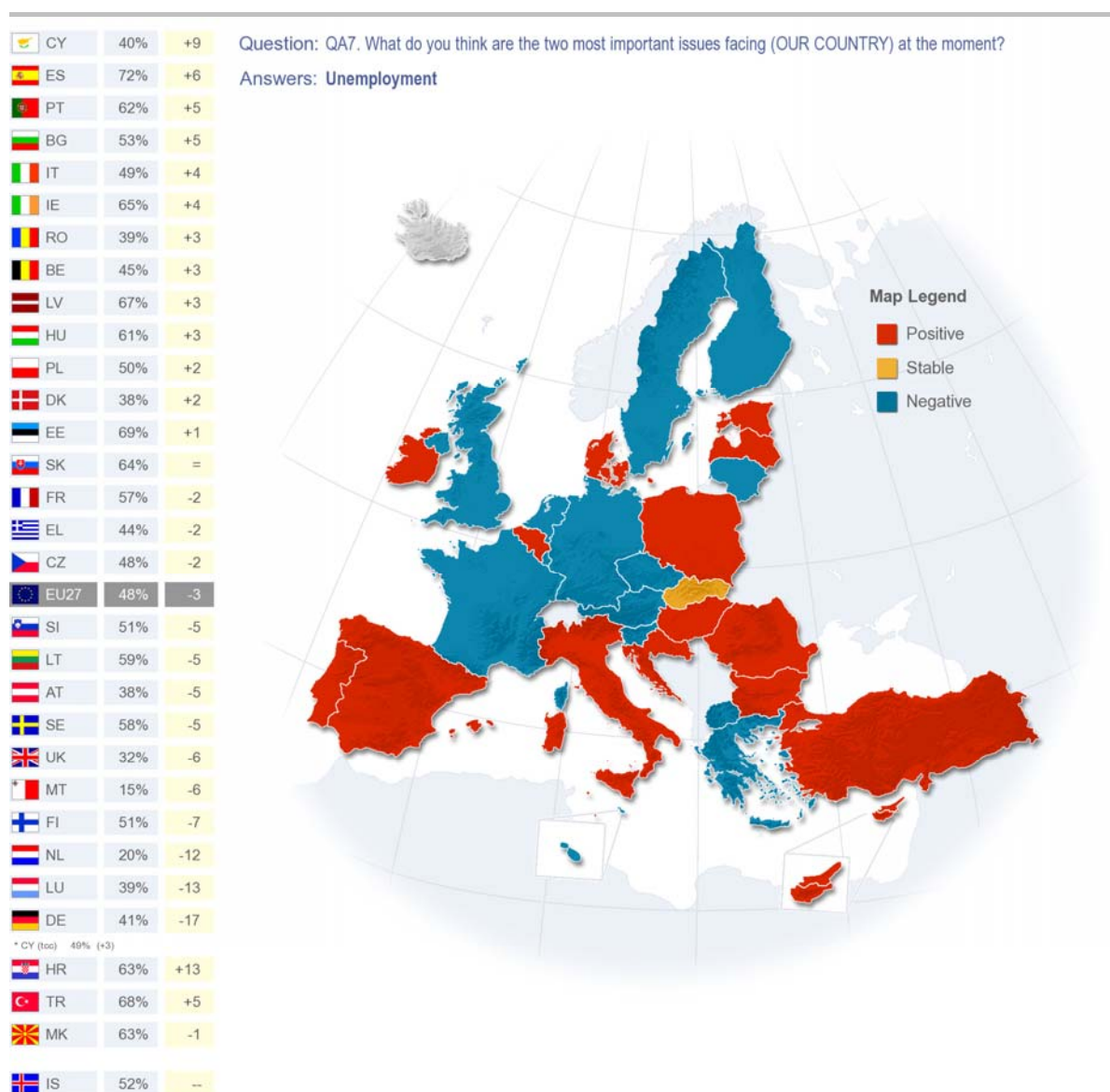
QA7 What do you think are the two most important issues facing (OUR COUNTRY) at the moment? (MAX. 2 ANSWERS)

	Unemployment	Economic situation	Rising prices\inflation	Crime	Healthcare system	Pensions	Taxation	Immigration	The educational system	Terrorism	Housing	The environment	Energy	Defence\ Foreign affairs
EU27	48%	40%	20%	16%	15%	11%	9%	9%	8%	4%	4%	4%	3%	1%
EU15	48%	41%	19%	17%	13%	10%	9%	11%	9%	4%	4%	4%	3%	1%
NMS12	50%	39%	25%	13%	25%	15%	7%	2%	4%	1%	4%	2%	3%	2%
BE	45%	35%	20%	19%	3%	20%	12%	16%	3%	3%	5%	4%	5%	1%
BG	53%	52%	22%	25%	19%	10%	3%	1%	3%	1%	0%	2%	2%	0%
CZ	48%	51%	20%	10%	16%	20%	6%	3%	3%	2%	4%	2%	3%	0%
DK	38%	53%	3%	19%	31%	4%	4%	10%	16%	3%	1%	9%	2%	3%
DE	41%	41%	27%	10%	23%	9%	11%	5%	18%	2%	0%	2%	5%	2%
EE	69%	48%	21%	13%	11%	7%	8%	1%	7%	0%	1%	1%	4%	1%
IE	65%	44%	11%	27%	24%	3%	6%	4%	5%	0%	3%	2%	1%	0%
EL	44%	72%	25%	19%	5%	7%	11%	3%	4%	2%	0%	1%	0%	0%
ES	72%	51%	10%	13%	2%	6%	7%	8%	4%	11%	6%	2%	1%	0%
FR	57%	31%	17%	20%	10%	25%	5%	6%	8%	2%	9%	6%	2%	0%
IT	49%	41%	26%	16%	6%	5%	14%	12%	5%	5%	2%	4%	2%	2%
CY	40%	48%	24%	33%	5%	2%	4%	12%	3%	1%	2%	2%	1%	1%
LV	67%	49%	9%	12%	16%	8%	18%	5%	6%	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%
LT	59%	41%	28%	14%	9%	9%	19%	6%	2%	0%	1%	0%	6%	-
LU	39%	34%	28%	12%	4%	12%	13%	5%	8%	1%	18%	3%	3%	2%
HU	61%	45%	29%	17%	14%	10%	4%	1%	3%	1%	3%	1%	4%	1%
MT	15%	28%	34%	6%	12%	4%	6%	24%	3%	0%	3%	12%	42%	-
NL	20%	54%	9%	24%	28%	9%	5%	10%	14%	5%	3%	7%	2%	3%
AT	38%	39%	35%	18%	8%	8%	10%	14%	9%	3%	1%	5%	2%	2%
PL	50%	24%	27%	7%	40%	15%	5%	1%	3%	1%	5%	2%	4%	3%
PT	62%	42%	31%	10%	9%	8%	17%	1%	2%	2%	2%	0%	0%	1%
RO	39%	47%	26%	16%	19%	17%	10%	1%	7%	1%	4%	2%	0%	1%
SI	51%	49%	20%	13%	10%	18%	7%	1%	4%	0%	4%	2%	1%	6%
SK	64%	39%	22%	17%	17%	13%	5%	1%	3%	1%	4%	3%	1%	2%
FI	51%	25%	12%	12%	31%	14%	8%	16%	3%	0%	2%	8%	8%	1%
SE	58%	26%	3%	14%	29%	6%	6%	9%	16%	1%	3%	19%	7%	1%
UK	32%	38%	13%	28%	11%	6%	9%	28%	7%	6%	6%	4%	3%	2%
CY(tcc)	49%	38%	18%	19%	10%	4%	8%	3%	10%	3%	1%	4%	1%	-
HR	63%	42%	17%	48%	4%	7%	5%	0%	3%	1%	2%	0%	1%	0%
TR	68%	31%	12%	9%	3%	3%	4%	3%	5%	49%	0%	0%	1%	1%
MK	63%	46%	14%	28%	13%	3%	6%	3%	2%	3%	1%	1%	2%	3%
IS	52%	66%	14%	9%	19%	5%	7%	2%	7%	0%	8%	4%	3%	1%
Highest percentage per country					Lowest percentage per country									
Highest percentage per item					Lowest percentage per item									

Unemployment remains the principal national concern in 18 of the 27 Member States. Respondents in Spain (72%), Estonia (69%), Latvia (67%) and Ireland (65%) are the most apprehensive about this issue.

Two countries are an exception to the rule in Europe and placed unemployment in only 4th and 5th position respectively: the Netherlands (20%) and Malta (15%).

The proportion of respondents mentioning unemployment has fallen on average by 3 points in the European Union as a whole. It has declined particularly sharply in Germany (41%, -17 points), Luxembourg (39%, -13) and the Netherlands (20%, -12), countries in which perceptions of the employment situation have improved since autumn 2009. However, concerns over unemployment have increased in several countries, in particular in Cyprus (40%, +9), Spain (72%, +6), Portugal (62%, +5) and Bulgaria (53%, +5), despite the fact that respondents in Bulgaria are more optimistic about the employment outlook for their country over the coming year.



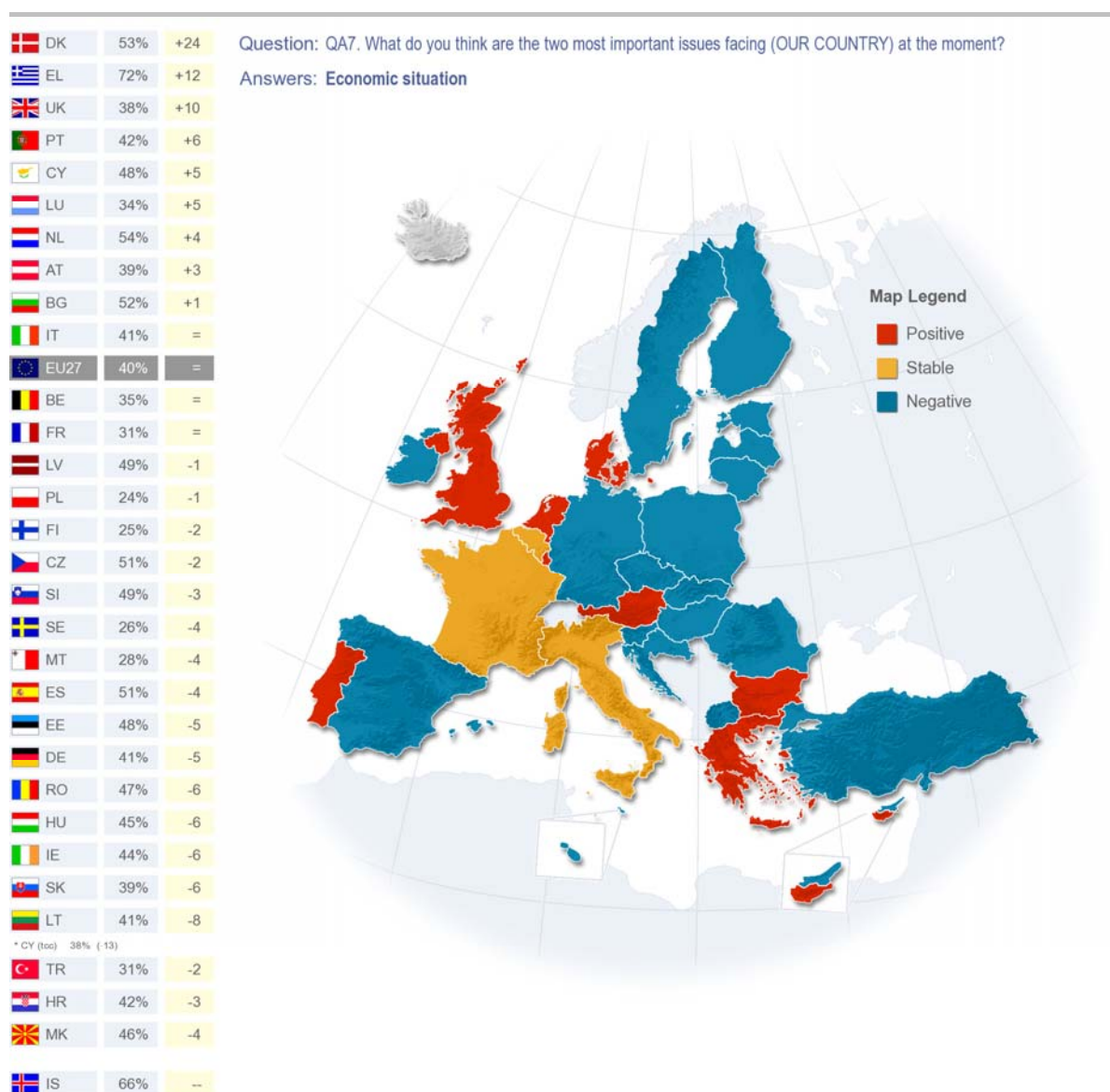
Difference EB73 Spring 2010 – EB72 Autumn 2009

The economic situation is at the forefront of national concerns in nine of the twenty-seven Member States. This is a cause of anxiety in the countries that consider that their economy is less dynamic than the European average, but also in the Member States which consider that for the time being they are “better off” but are worried about the future.

Thus, the economic situation is seen as a major concern in Greece (72%), but also in the Netherlands (54%) and Denmark (53%).

The proportion of respondents mentioning this issue has increased significantly in these countries (+24 points in Denmark, +12 in Greece), as well as in the United Kingdom (38%, +10) and Portugal (42%, +6).

While still mentioned frequently, and at levels above the European average, worries about the economic situation have eased significantly in Lithuania (41%, -8), Ireland (44%, -6) Hungary (45%, -6) and Romania (47%, -6). Respondents in Sweden (26%), Finland (25%) and Poland (24%) are the least preoccupied by this issue.



Difference EB73 Spring 2010 – EB72 Autumn 2009

Probably because of the decrease in concerns about crime, **rising prices** now stand alone in third place among the national concerns mentioned by Europeans. However, despite the apparent stability of views (+1 point on average in the EU27), there have been significant shifts of opinion in some countries.

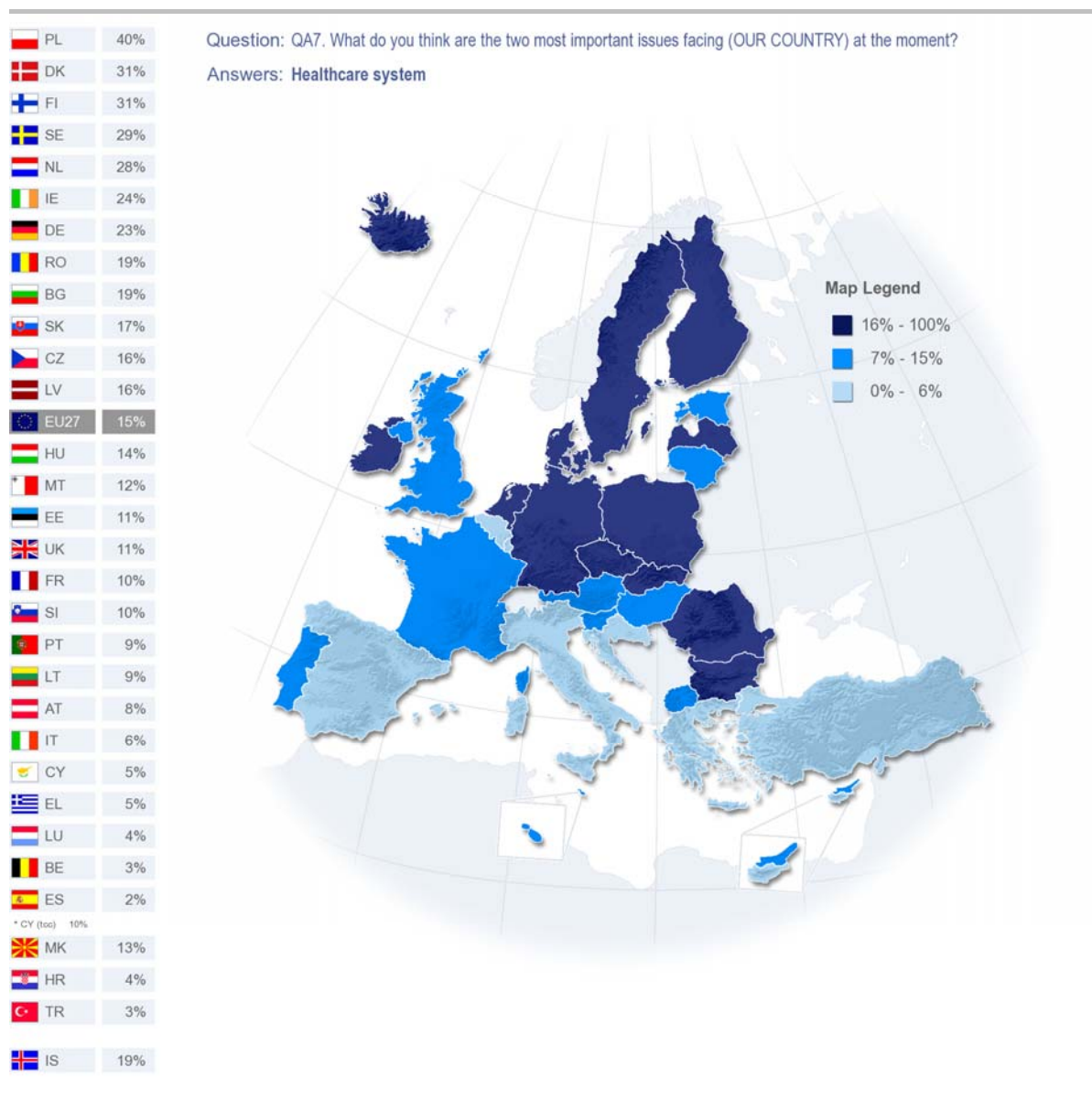
Respondents in Austria (35%), Malta (34%), Portugal (31%), Hungary (29%), Luxembourg and Lithuania (28% in both cases) are the most concerned about rising prices. Concerns have increased in some of these countries (+7 points in Austria, +9 in Lithuania). But worries about inflation have also increased significantly in Germany (+11, to 27%) and Estonia (+11, to 21%).

Inflation is least mentioned in Sweden and Denmark (3% each), the Netherlands and Latvia (9% each), and Spain (10%). While remaining high, levels of concern about inflation have fallen fairly sharply in Romania (26%, -13).

There are strong concerns about **crime** in Cyprus (33%), the United Kingdom (28%), Ireland (27%), Bulgaria (25%) and the Netherlands (24%). However, it was mentioned by fewer than 10% of respondents in Poland (7%) and Malta (6%).

The proportion of respondents mentioning this subject has fallen considerably in Denmark (-20 points), Bulgaria, the United Kingdom and Portugal (-8 in all three countries).

The healthcare system, now ranked in fifth place among national concerns just behind crime, was mentioned particularly frequently in Poland (40%). It is also seen as an important issue in northern European countries: 31% in Finland and Denmark, 29% in Sweden and 28% in the Netherlands; the result in Denmark is up by +7 points. Concerns about this issue have also grown in Bulgaria (19%, +5) and Romania (19%, +6). Respondents in Belgium (3%) and Spain (2%) seem to be the least worried about the healthcare system.



Anxieties about pensions have increased, in particular in the countries which said that they were the most concerned about this subject: France (25%, +11), against the background of a proposed new pension reform, but also the Czech Republic (20%, +6), Slovenia (18%, +8) and Romania (17%, +8). Respondents in Belgium are also more concerned than the European average about this subject (20%, +2).

The countries the most concerned about **taxation** are often those which are the most worried about rising prices: 19% (+3) in Lithuania, 17% (+7) in Portugal, 13% (+9) in Luxembourg. Respondents in Latvia are also more likely to see taxation as a problem for their country (18%, +7).

Immigration remains a subject mentioned above all by respondents in the United Kingdom (28%, -1), as well as in Malta, despite a sharp decrease over 6 months (24%, -10). Concerns on this issue have also increased in Finland (16%, +5).

The education system is a serious cause of concern in Germany (18%, +4), Denmark (16%, +2), Sweden (16%, =) and the Netherlands (14%, +3). Spain continues to stand out for its strong concerns about **terrorism** (11%, -1, whereas in 23 of the 27 Member States, mentions do not exceed 3%). **Housing** was mentioned particularly frequently by respondents in Luxembourg (18%, -3) and France (9%, -1).

The environment was mentioned the most often in Sweden (19%, -1), Malta (12%, +4), Denmark, despite a sharp fall (9%, -7), and Finland (8%, +1). Most of these countries are also more concerned than the average about **energy issues**. But this is of most concern in Malta, where energy is now seen as the country's main problem (42%, +18)³⁴.

In the candidate countries, economic issues are also at the forefront of national concerns. We note simply that in Croatia concerns about unemployment have increased significantly (63%, +13) and that the proportion of respondents mentioning crime has fallen sharply (48%, -11), while in Turkey respondents remain very concerned about terrorism (49%, +2) and the number of respondents concerned about the healthcare system in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has increased (13%, +8).

Economic issues are also predominant in Iceland, with very high scores for the economic situation (66%) and unemployment (52%), but below the European average in the case of rising prices (14%). Respondents in Iceland are also more likely to mention the healthcare system (19%), ranking it in 3rd place in their list of concerns.



A socio-demographic analysis reveals differences in the answers by respondent profile. Those aged 55 or over are more likely than average to identify crime (21%, versus 16% on average), the healthcare system (18%, versus 15% on average) and pensions (15%, versus 11% on average) as the main problems facing their country. Those aged 15-24 are more likely to mention unemployment (53%, versus 48% on average) and the education system (12% versus 8% on average).

Unemployment was quite logically mentioned very frequently by unemployed people (68%, versus 51% of manual workers, 46% of employees and 44% of managers). Respondents who struggle to pay their bills "most of the time" are also more concerned than average about rising prices (27%, versus 20% on average) and unemployment (55%).

Respondents on the left of the political spectrum are more likely than those on right to mention unemployment (50%, versus 44% of those on the right) and the education system (11% versus 7%). On the other hand, more respondents on the right of the political spectrum cited crime (18%, versus 14% of those on the left) and immigration (12% versus 7%).

³⁴ Undoubtedly because of the context of rising energy prices

QA7a What do you think are the two most important issues facing (OUR COUNTRY) at the moment? (MAX. 2 ANSWERS)

	Unemployment	Economic situation	Rising prices\inflation	Crime	Healthcare system	Pensions	Taxation	Immigration	The educational system	Terrorism	Housing	The environment	Energy	Defence\ Foreign affairs
EU27	48%	40%	20%	16%	15%	11%	9%	9%	8%	4%	4%	4%	3%	1%
Age														
 15-24	53%	38%	18%	15%	10%	10%	9%	9%	12%	3%	6%	5%	3%	1%
25-39	50%	44%	22%	13%	14%	8%	10%	8%	9%	3%	5%	4%	3%	1%
40-54	48%	45%	21%	14%	16%	9%	10%	9%	7%	3%	4%	3%	3%	2%
55 +	44%	36%	19%	21%	18%	15%	7%	10%	6%	4%	3%	3%	3%	1%
Respondent occupation scale														
 Self-employed	43%	50%	22%	11%	16%	6%	13%	8%	6%	4%	3%	4%	4%	2%
Managers	44%	47%	17%	10%	19%	9%	9%	9%	14%	2%	4%	5%	3%	2%
Other white collars	46%	47%	21%	13%	16%	9%	10%	9%	7%	3%	4%	3%	3%	1%
Manual workers	51%	38%	23%	17%	14%	10%	10%	9%	6%	3%	5%	3%	3%	1%
House persons	50%	40%	25%	19%	12%	9%	9%	8%	6%	3%	5%	3%	2%	2%
Unemployed	68%	40%	20%	16%	9%	6%	7%	8%	4%	5%	5%	3%	2%	1%
Retired	42%	34%	19%	22%	19%	17%	7%	10%	6%	4%	3%	3%	3%	2%
Students	49%	42%	15%	13%	12%	11%	8%	9%	16%	3%	4%	6%	4%	1%
Left-Right scale														
(1-4) Left	50%	42%	18%	14%	16%	12%	8%	7%	11%	3%	5%	5%	3%	2%
(5-6) Centre	48%	41%	20%	17%	16%	11%	9%	9%	8%	4%	3%	3%	3%	1%
(7-10) Right	44%	39%	19%	18%	17%	11%	10%	12%	7%	4%	4%	3%	3%	2%
Difficulties paying bills														
Most of the time	55%	40%	27%	15%	10%	11%	9%	7%	4%	4%	6%	1%	1%	1%
From time to time	51%	41%	25%	16%	12%	10%	10%	8%	5%	3%	4%	3%	2%	1%
Almost never	45%	40%	17%	17%	18%	11%	8%	10%	10%	4%	4%	4%	3%	2%

Comparison between national concerns and personal concerns

A comparison between national concerns and personal concerns highlights:

- the predominance of economic issues, both at national and personal levels;
- among these, there are particularly strong *personal* concerns about purchasing power: rising prices are the main personal concern and taxes were also mentioned far more frequently as a *personal* concern than as a *national* concern;
- respondents are personally very worried about healthcare and pension systems, with crime and immigration seen as secondary concerns. Healthcare systems and pensions, as well as rising prices, have a direct impact on the day-to-day lives and, to an even greater extent, the financial situation of European citizens.

COMPARISON NATIONAL/ PERSONAL PROBLEMS

	National problems	Personal Problems
Unemployment	48%	21%
Economic situation	40%	25%
Rising prices\ inflation	20%	38%
Crime	16%	8%
Healthcare system	15%	18%
Pensions	11%	16%
Taxation	9%	14%
Immigration	9%	3%
The educational system	8%	10%
Terrorism	4%	1%
Housing	4%	6%
The environment	4%	5%
Energy	3%	6%
Defence\ Foreign affairs	1%	1%

4. POLITICAL ASPECTS

4.1 Interest in politics

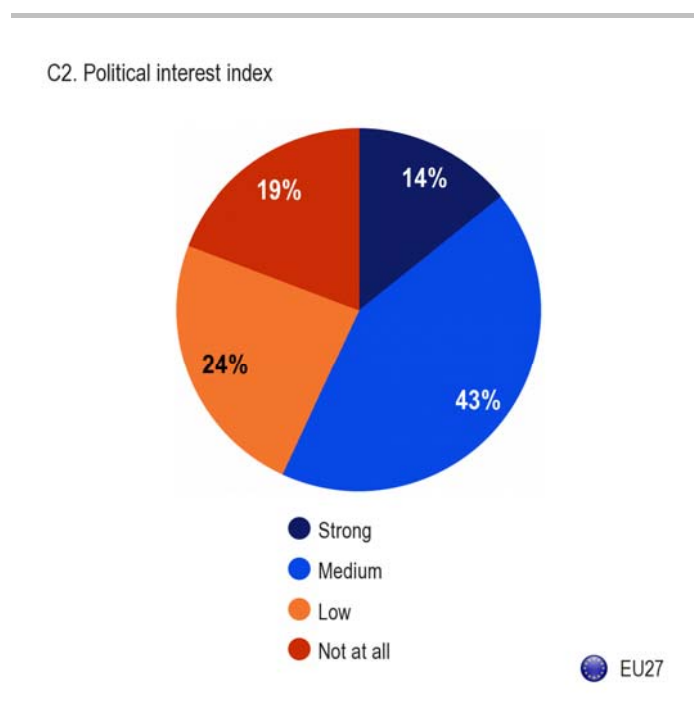
For the first time, an index measuring the interest of respondents in politics has been created. In this part of the report, we shall analyse this index in detail; it will also be used in the rest of the report to examine the results of this Eurobarometer wave from an additional perspective. Respondents were asked the following question *“When you get together with friends or relatives, would you say you discuss frequently, occasionally or never...?”* with regard to three political dimensions:

- local political matters
- national political matters
- European political matters

An index was then constructed on the basis of the answers concerning each of these three dimensions and is used to classify respondents into four groups³⁵:

- those who are **very interested** in politics
- those who are **fairly interested**
- those who have a **not really interested**
- those who are **not at all interested** in politics

The chart below provides a breakdown of our sample according to this index:



³⁵ A score was attributed to each answer: “Never” = 0; “Occasionally” = 1; “Often” = 2. An index was then constructed by adding together the scores for the three dimensions (local, national and European). Each group corresponds to a different index level: “not at all interested in politics” = 0; “not really” = 1 to 2; “fairly” = 3 to 4; “very” = 5 to 6.

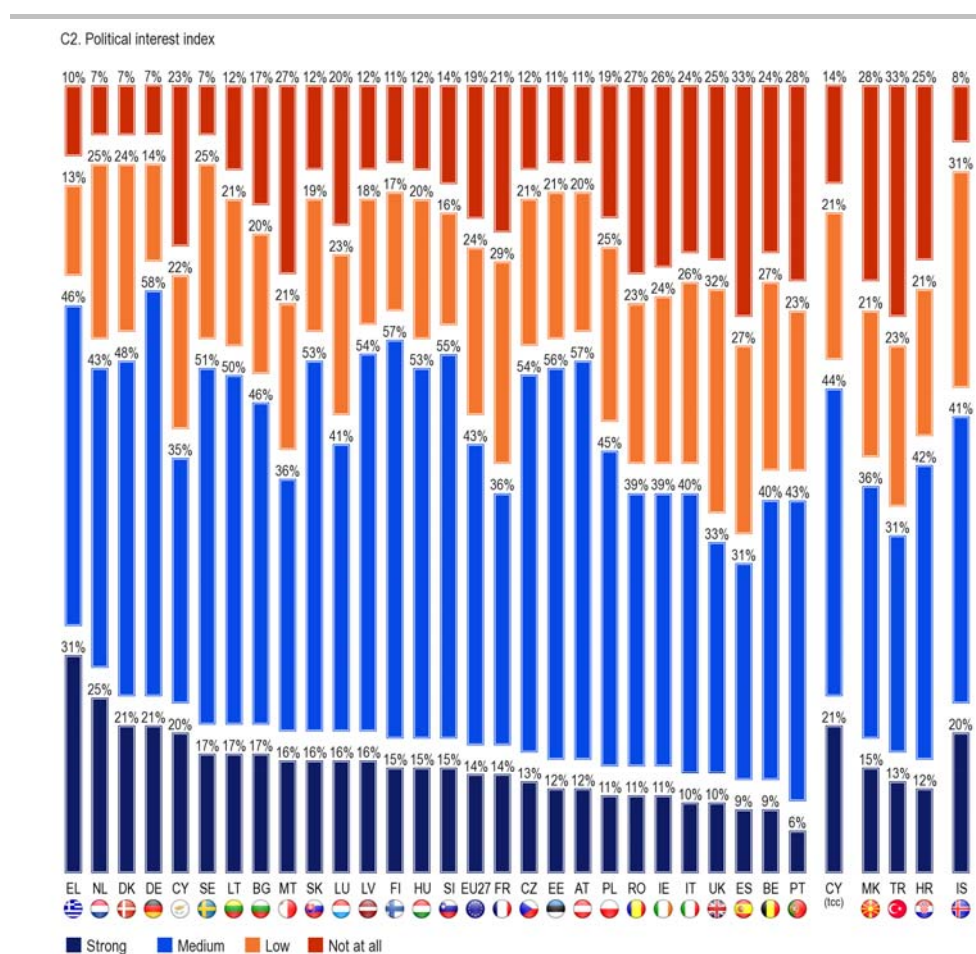
For the European Union as a whole, the majority group is “fairly” interested in politics (43%). Those who said that they pay particular attention to politics (“very” interested) represent 14% of respondents. Almost a quarter of Europeans are “not really” interested in politics (24%) and 19% are “not at all interested”. All in all, more than half of respondents are either very or fairly interested in politics.

An analysis by country reveals fairly negligible differences between the various Member States: respondents in Greece (31%), the Netherlands (25%), Denmark (21%), Germany (21%) and Cyprus (20%) are the most likely to be very interested in politics.

However, this level oscillate at around 10% in many European countries and in some countries more than a quarter of respondents are not interested in politics: in Spain, where 33% of respondents are not at all interested in politics, Portugal (28%), Romania (27%), Ireland (26%) and the United Kingdom (25%).

In the candidate countries, the proportion of respondents who are not at all interested in politics is slightly higher than the EU average: 25% in Croatia, 28% in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and 33% in Turkey.






In Iceland, respondents are more interested in politics than the average in the Member States (20% are very interested in politics, 41% fairly interested, 31% not really interested and only 8% not at all interested).



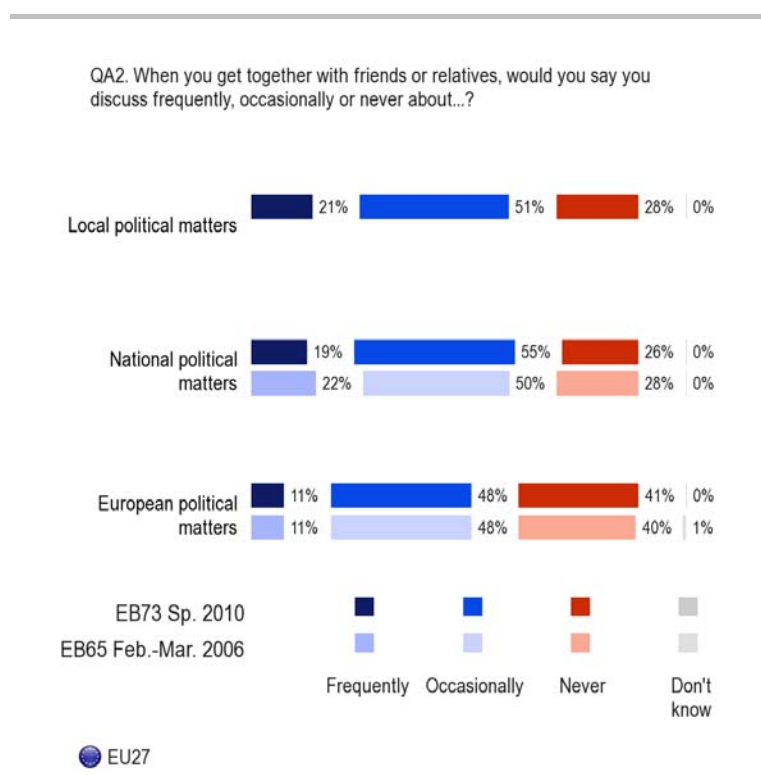
Socio-demographic profile of the different groups:

These groups have socio-demographic profiles with specific characteristics across the board, in particular the groups at the two extremes of the scale: those who are very interested in politics and those who are not at all interested in the subject:

- The group of Europeans who are **“very interested”** is more masculine than the sample as a whole (57% of men versus 43% of women) and the respondents in question also tend to be older (44% of those aged 55 or over versus only 8% of the 15-24 age group). Further, almost a third of the people who are particularly interested in politics are pensioners (31%); the proportions of managers (15%) and manual workers (16%) are more or less identical. Members of this group also tend to have studied longer (38% have studied up to the age of 20 or beyond compared with only 15% of those who stopped before the age of 16). 70% of them “almost never” struggle to pay their bills. Fairly logically, a large proportion (67%) say that they understand how the European Union works. A majority of these respondents also consider that the European Union’s image is positive (49%, compared with 23% for whom it is negative); they also tend to be fairly optimistic about the future of the EU (62%, versus 36% of pessimists). Finally, more than a third of the respondents who are very interested in politics are on the left of the political spectrum (35%), compared with a quarter of those on the right (25%) and 29% in the centre.
- The Europeans who are **not at all** interested in politics include a majority of women (60%, versus 40% of men) and people who completed their studies before the age of 20 (70%). The age profile tends to be well balanced: a narrow majority are aged over 40 (55%, versus 45% of those aged under 40). This group is more likely to include manual workers (22%), unemployed people (12%) and house persons (11%), compared with only 4% of managers. Further, almost half of these respondents struggle to pay their bills most of the time (46%). Almost two-thirds said that they do not understand how the European Union works (65%). Finally, those who consider that the EU has a positive image slightly outnumber (30%) those for whom its image is negative (22%), but a majority (43%) tend to see the EU’s image as neutral. In addition, optimism about the EU’s future slightly outweighs pessimism (47%/41%). Finally, fairly logically, more than a third of the respondents who are not at all interested in politics do not have any political leanings (35%), but 31% of them position themselves in the centre of the political spectrum, while 18% are on the left and 16% are on the right.

C2 Political interest index				
	Strong	Medium	Low	Not at all
EU27	14%	43%	24%	19%
Sex				
 Male	16%	46%	22%	16%
 Female	12%	41%	25%	22%
Age				
 15-24	7%	36%	29%	28%
25-39	11%	45%	26%	18%
40-54	15%	48%	22%	15%
55 +	18%	42%	21%	19%
Education (End of)				
 15-	9%	36%	26%	29%
16-19	13%	45%	25%	17%
20+	21%	49%	20%	10%
Still studying	9%	39%	28%	24%
Respondent occupation scale				
 Self-employed	21%	47%	21%	11%
Managers	21%	52%	20%	7%
Other white collars	12%	50%	22%	16%
Manual workers	10%	43%	27%	20%
House persons	10%	35%	26%	29%
Unemployed	9%	39%	26%	26%
Retired	17%	41%	22%	20%
Students	9%	39%	28%	24%
Left-Right scale				
(1-4) Left	18%	45%	24%	13%
(5-6) Centre	12%	45%	25%	18%
(7-10) Right	17%	47%	22%	14%
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	11%	33%	26%	30%
From time to time	11%	43%	25%	21%
Almost never	16%	45%	23%	16%
Opinion leadership index				
++	71%	29%	-	-
+	7%	51%	27%	15%
-	5%	50%	28%	17%
--	-	32%	28%	40%
Image of EU				
Positive	16%	47%	23%	14%
Neutral	10%	42%	26%	22%
Negative	16%	40%	23%	21%
Future of the EU				
Optimistic	15%	45%	24%	16%
Pessimistic	14%	42%	23%	21%
Understand how the EU works				
Tend to agree	20%	50%	19%	11%
Tend to disagree	8%	37%	28%	27%

4.1.1 Interest in local politics



21% of Europeans said that they discuss local political matters frequently with their friends or relatives. A majority discuss local politics “occasionally” (51%), while almost three out of ten Europeans “never” discuss this subject (28%)³⁶.

Respondents in Greece (36%), Germany (31%), Denmark (28%), Bulgaria (26%) and Cyprus (26%) are slightly more likely to be interested in local politics. On the other hand, more than a third of respondents in Spain (41%), the United Kingdom (37%), Malta (35%), France (34%), Portugal and Luxembourg (34%) said that they never discuss local political matters with their friends or relatives.






In the candidate countries, almost a quarter of respondents in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia are very interested in local politics (23%), compared with 21% in Turkey and 18% in Croatia.

Respondents in Iceland have an above-average interest in local politics (26%), but it is members of the Turkish Cypriot Community who are most interested in local political matters (40%).

³⁶ QA2.3 When you get together with friends or relatives, would you say you discuss frequently, occasionally or never about...? (Local political matters)

A socio-demographic analysis reveals certain differences, depending in particular on the age of the interviewees. Young people are the least likely to discuss local politics frequently (11%, versus 18% of those aged 25 to 39, 24% of those aged 40 to 54 and 25% of those aged 55 or over). The most educated respondents (26% of those who studied up to the age of 20 or beyond) and the higher occupational categories (28% of self-employed people and 25% of managers) also discuss local political matters more frequently than those who left school before the age of 16 (18%), house persons (16%), unemployed people (17%) and manual workers (18%). Financial difficulties are also a discriminator: 38% of those who struggle to pay their bills almost all the time never discuss local politics, compared with 25% of those who almost never have such financial difficulties.

QA2.3 When you get together with friends or relatives, would you say you discuss frequently, occasionally or never about...?
Local political matters

	Frequently	Occasionally	Never	DK
EU27	21%	51%	28%	0%
Sex				
 Male	23%	51%	26%	0%
 Female	18%	52%	30%	0%
Age				
 15-24	11%	48%	41%	0%
25-39	18%	53%	29%	0%
40-54	24%	53%	23%	0%
55 +	25%	50%	25%	0%
Education (End of)				
 15-	18%	47%	35%	0%
16-19	21%	53%	26%	0%
20+	26%	54%	20%	0%
Still studying	13%	49%	37%	1%
Respondent occupation scale				
 Self-employed	28%	53%	19%	0%
Managers	25%	57%	18%	0%
Other white collars	19%	56%	25%	0%
Manual workers	18%	51%	30%	1%
House persons	16%	50%	34%	0%
Unemployed	17%	46%	37%	0%
Retired	25%	50%	25%	0%
Students	13%	49%	37%	1%
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	18%	44%	38%	0%
From time to time	18%	53%	29%	0%
Almost never	23%	52%	25%	0%

4.1.2 Interest in national politics

Europeans are slightly less likely to discuss national politics than local politics with their friends or relatives (19%). A majority discuss national politics “occasionally” (55%) and quarter of Europeans answered “never” (26%)³⁷. By way of comparison, in Eurobarometer 65.1, carried out in February-March 2006 in the 25 then Member States³⁸, the proportion of respondents who said that they “frequently” discussed national political matters was slightly higher (22%, versus 50% “occasionally” and 28% “never”).

Respondents in the Netherlands (39% answered “frequently”), Greece (35%), Denmark (29%), Germany (27%) and Lithuania (26%) are the most interested in national political matters, while respondents in Spain (43% answered “never”), Portugal (37%), Belgium (33%), Italy (33%), Luxembourg (33%) and Malta (33%) are the least interested.

There have been some significant evolutions since EB65.1 in 2006: the proportion of respondents who discuss national political matters “frequently” or “occasionally” with their friends or relatives has increased by 11 points in Portugal and by 10 points in Latvia. The corresponding percentages have also increased by 7 points in Lithuania and by 5 points in the United Kingdom. On the other hand, interest in national politics has declined in Slovakia (-5 points).

In the candidate countries, national politics are discussed frequently by 19% of respondents in Turkey, by 16% in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and by 14% in Croatia.

In Iceland, 38% of respondents frequently discuss national politics: only the Netherlands has a higher score, with 39% of interviewees saying that they often discuss national political matters.

In eight Member States respondents who frequently discuss national politics outnumber those who frequently discuss local politics: Denmark, France, Slovenia, Malta, Lithuania, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands.






Iceland can also be added to this list.

The answers to this question reveal the socio-demographic divisions which traditionally apply to interest in politics. The oldest respondents (23% of those aged 55 or over) and those who studied the longest (29% of those who studied up to the age of 20 or beyond) are more likely to discuss national politics frequently. It is also a subject which arouses more interest among managers (30% answered “frequently”) than among employees (16%) and manual workers (15%). Though the differences are small, those on the left of the political spectrum (26%) are more likely than those on the right (23%) or in the centre (17%) to discuss national politics frequently.

³⁷ QA2.1 When you get together with friends or relatives, would you say you discuss frequently, occasionally or never about...? (National political matters)

³⁸ Special Eurobarometer n° 251: *The Future of Europe*

**QA2.1 When you get together with friends or relatives, would you say you discuss frequently, occasionally or never about...?
National political matters**

	Frequently	Occasionally	Never	DK
EU27	19%	55%	26%	0%
Sex				
 Male	23%	55%	22%	0%
 Female	16%	53%	31%	0%
Age				
 15-24	12%	51%	36%	1%
25-39	16%	59%	25%	0%
40-54	21%	57%	22%	0%
55 +	23%	50%	27%	0%
Education (End of)				
 15-	14%	47%	39%	0%
16-19	18%	58%	24%	0%
20+	29%	56%	15%	0%
Still studying	14%	54%	32%	0%
Respondent occupation scale				
 Self-employed	28%	54%	18%	0%
Managers	30%	60%	10%	0%
Other white collars	16%	63%	21%	0%
Manual workers	15%	57%	28%	0%
House persons	13%	49%	38%	0%
Unemployed	16%	51%	33%	0%
Retired	22%	50%	28%	0%
Students	14%	54%	32%	0%
Self-positioning on the social staircase				
Low(1-4)	16%	50%	34%	0%
Medium(5-6)	19%	56%	25%	0%
High(7-10)	25%	55%	20%	0%

4.1.3 Interest in European politics

European political matters are also a subject which Europeans tend to discuss occasionally (48%). 11% of Europeans frequently discuss this subject, but more than four out of ten Europeans “never” discuss European political matters with their friends or relatives (41%)³⁹. European political topics suffer a little from the comparison with local or national politics.

It should be noted that the scores were almost identical in Eurobarometer 65.1, carried out in 2006, when respondents in the then 25 Member States were asked about their interest in European issues.

We note that respondents in the EU15 countries are slightly more likely than those in the NMS12 countries to discuss European politics “frequently” (11% versus 9%), but the proportion of those who answered “never” is also higher, with an even more clear-cut difference (42% versus 37%). All in all, 53% of NMS12 respondents discuss European politics “occasionally” with their friends or relatives, compared with 47% in the EU15 countries.

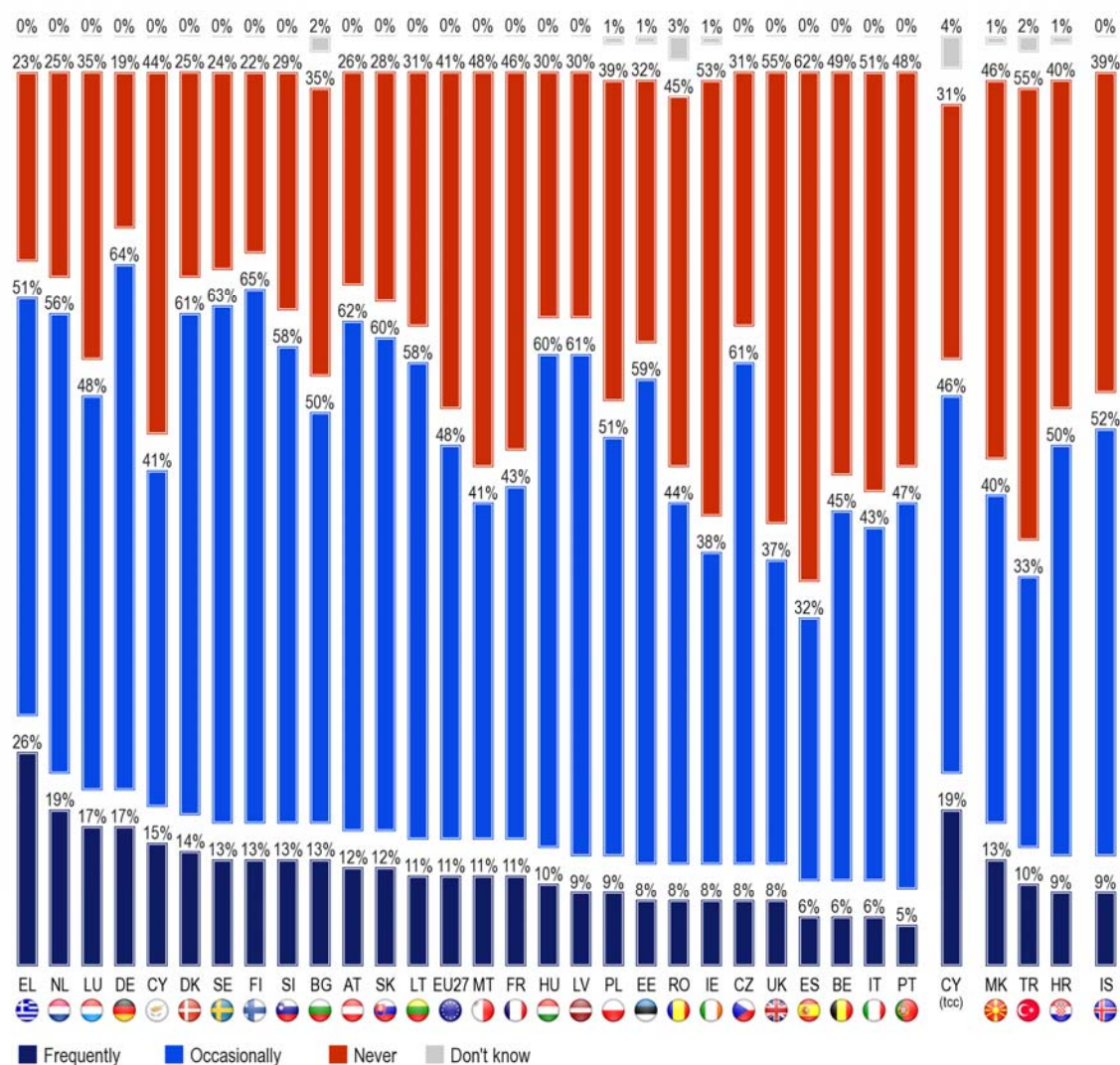
³⁹ QA2.2 When you get together with friends or relatives, would you say you discuss frequently, occasionally or never about...? (European political matters)

Respondents in Greece (26%), the Netherlands (19%), Luxembourg (17%) and Germany (17%) are the most likely to discuss European politics frequently.

However, a majority of respondents in several countries said that they “never” discussed European political matters: in Spain (62%), the United Kingdom (55%), Ireland (53%) and Italy (51%). This attitude is also widespread in Belgium (49%), Malta (48%), Portugal (48%), France (46%), Romania (45%) and Cyprus (44%).

QA2.2. When you get together with friends or relatives, would you say you discuss frequently, occasionally or never about...?

European political matters






Interest in European political matters has increased significantly in Greece (+12 points for respondents answering “frequently” or “occasionally”, in comparison with EB65.1 of February-March 2006), Portugal (+11), Finland (+11) and Lithuania (+10). However, it has declined by several points in Luxembourg (-7), the United Kingdom (-6) and Belgium (-5). It should be noticed that the proportion of respondents who say they frequently discuss European politics is consistently lower than the proportion who frequently discuss local or national politics. Austria is an exception: 12% of respondents said that they frequently discussed European political matters, the same proportion as those who frequently discuss national politics.

In the candidate countries, a majority of respondents in Croatia (59%) and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (53%) discuss European politics “frequently or occasionally”. They are in a minority in Turkey (43%).

Respondents in Iceland (61%) and the Turkish Cypriot Community (65%) are also very interested in European political matters.

The socio-demographic divisions are the same as those noted for local and national politics. The oldest respondents (14% of those aged 55 or over) and the most educated respondents (17% of those who studied until the age of 20 or over) are the most likely to discuss European political matters. Managers and self-employed people (15% frequently discuss the subject) are also more likely than employees (9%), manual workers (8%) and students (8%) to be interested in European politics. Finally, 13% of Europeans for whom the European Union’s image is negative discuss European politics frequently with their friends or relatives (the same as the proportion of respondents for whom the EU’s image is positive), but 43% “never” discuss European politics (compared with 34% of those for whom the EU has a positive image).

**QA2.2 When you get together with friends or relatives, would you say you discuss frequently, occasionally or never about...?
European political matters**

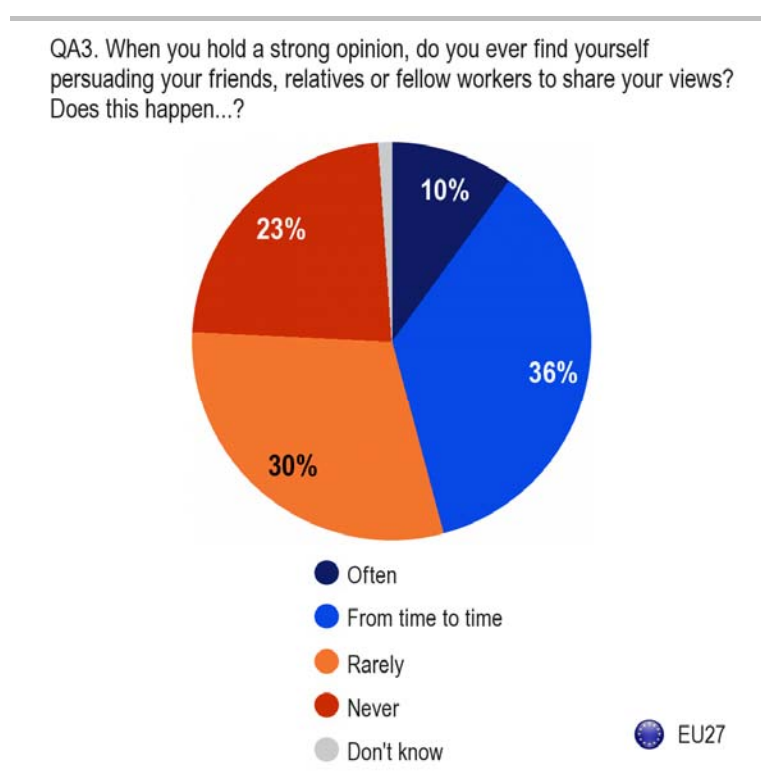
	Frequently	Occasionally	Never	DK
EU27	11%	48%	41%	0%
Age				
 15-24	7%	41%	51%	1%
25-39	8%	51%	41%	0%
40-54	11%	53%	35%	1%
55 +	14%	46%	40%	0%
Education (End of)				
 15-	7%	38%	55%	0%
16-19	10%	50%	40%	0%
20+	17%	56%	27%	0%
Still studying	8%	46%	46%	0%
Respondent occupation scale				
 Self-employed	15%	54%	31%	0%
Managers	15%	63%	22%	0%
Other white collars	9%	54%	37%	0%
Manual workers	8%	48%	44%	0%
House persons	8%	36%	55%	1%
Unemployed	7%	43%	50%	0%
Retired	13%	46%	41%	0%
Students	8%	46%	46%	0%
Image of EU				
Positive	13%	53%	34%	0%
Neutral	7%	47%	46%	0%
Negative	13%	44%	43%	0%
Opinion leadership index				
++	50%	46%	4%	0%
+	6%	56%	38%	0%
-	5%	54%	41%	0%
--	1%	32%	66%	1%

4.2 Construction of an "opinion leadership" index

Using this new index measuring the interest of respondents in politics – based on interest in local, national and European political matters –, we then constructed an opinion leadership index. For this purpose, the political interest index was cross-tabulated with the answers to a question on the ability of respondents to persuade those around them to share a strongly held opinion⁴⁰.

4.2.1 The ability to persuade others to share a strongly held opinion

More than half of Europeans "never" (23%) or only "rarely" (30%) persuade their friends, colleagues or relatives to share a strongly held opinion. On the other hand, 36% do so "from time to time" – the most frequent answer –, while 10% do so "often".



There are fairly clear differences between countries on this question concerning the ability to persuade others to share strongly held opinions: respondents in Cyprus and Malta (22% in both cases), in two candidate countries, Turkey (24%) and Croatia (22%), and Iceland (22%) are slightly more likely than Europeans on average (10%) to say that they "often" persuade those around them to share their views.

However, respondents in Slovenia (35%), Spain and the Czech Republic (33% in both countries) are more likely to say that they "never" persuade the people around them to adopt a strongly held opinion, compared with 23% of Europeans as a whole.

⁴⁰ QA3 When you hold a strong opinion, do you ever find yourself persuading your friends, relatives or fellow workers to share your views? Does this happen...? Often, from time to time, rarely or never.

4.2.2 The construction of the leadership index

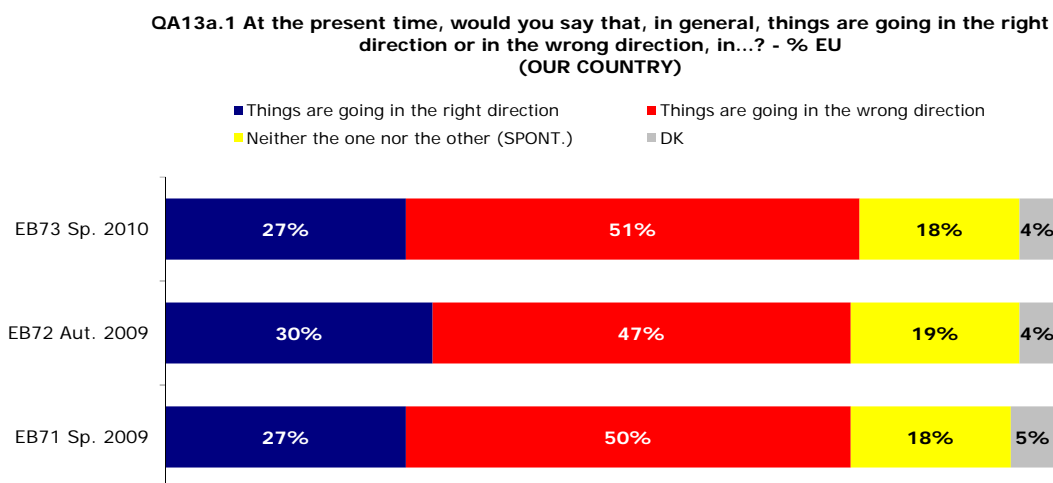
The combination of these two dimensions - the respondent's interest in politics and the ability to convince others - has enabled us to construct an opinion leadership index, divided into 4 groups (1. ++; 2. +; 3. -; 4. --). Respondents who often or occasionally try to persuade others and regularly discuss politics are considered as category 1 opinion leaders (++). On the other hand, respondents who rarely or never try to persuade others to share their opinion and never discuss politics are deemed not to be opinion leaders and are classified in category 4 (--).

4.3 The direction in which things are going

- Europeans are now more critical of the direction in which things are going not only in their country, but also in the European Union -

4.3.1 The direction in which things are going nationally

More than half of Europeans now consider that things are going in the wrong direction in their country: 51%, 4 points more than in EB72, carried out in autumn 2009. This indicator has therefore deteriorated again, after improving (-3 points) between EB72 and EB71. Just over a quarter of respondents believe that things are going in the right direction (27%, a decrease of 3 points) and 18% answered “neither the one nor the other”⁴¹.



Positive outweigh negative opinions in 7 of the 27 Member States (compared with 9 in EB72 of autumn 2009).

































Respondents in Sweden, where 61% think that things are going in the right direction in their country, Estonia (47%), Luxembourg (45%), Poland (44%) and Finland (43%) are the most satisfied.

However, respondents in Romania, where 79% think that things are going in the wrong direction, Spain (72%), France (67%), Belgium (64%), Latvia and Lithuania (63% each), the Czech Republic (59%) and Greece (59%) are the most critical of the direction in which things are going in their country.

⁴¹ QA13a.1 At the present time, would you say that, in general, things are going in the right direction or in the wrong direction in ...? (OUR COUNTRY)

In some countries opinions have become far more negative since autumn 2009. That is the case in Belgium, where the proportion of respondents who consider that things are going in the right direction has fallen by 15 points, Germany (-15), Portugal (-15), Greece (-14), Luxembourg (-12) and Slovenia (-10). Conversely, the number of satisfied respondents has increased in Hungary - which elected a new parliament and government in April 2010 – and the Baltic States: 31% of respondents in Hungary think that things are going in the right direction in their country (+20 points), 47% in Estonia (+5), 15% in Latvia (+8) and 16% in Lithuania (+6).

**QA13.1 At the present time, would you say that, in general, things are going in the right direction or in the wrong direction, in...?
(OUR COUNTRY) ***

		Things are going in the right direction	Diff. Sp. 2010 - Aut. 2009	Things are going in the wrong direction	Diff. Sp. 2010 - Aut. 2009
	EU27	27%	-3	51%	+4
	SE	61%	+8	27%	-8
	EE	47%	+5	26%	-4
	LU	45%	-12	39%	+21
	PL	44%	+8	32%	-10
	FI	43%	-3	37%	-2
	DK	40%	-2	48%	+6
	AT	40%	-2	32%	-1
	UK	39%	+5	44%	-12
	SK	38%	+9	44%	+5
	BG	37%	+1	31%	-1
	NL	31%	-4	32%	+2
	HU	31%	+20	38%	-37
	MT	29%	+4	37%	-6
	DE	25%	-15	51%	+20
	EL	23%	-14	59%	+19
	CZ	23%	-7	59%	+14
	IE	21%	+3	49%	-7
	SI	21%	-10	52%	+13
	IT	20%	-2	46%	+1
	FR	19%	-6	67%	+5
	PT	18%	-15	53%	+22
	CY	17%	-9	52%	+8
	LT	16%	+6	63%	-14
	BE	15%	-15	64%	+24
	LV	15%	+8	63%	-16
	ES	13%	-6	72%	+13
	RO	9%	-7	79%	+16
	CY (tcc)	18%	+1	50%	-9
	TR	28%	=	61%	+4
	MK	26%	-9	50%	+16
	HR	15%	+3	67%	-4
	IS**	60%	-	27%	-

* For CY (tcc): Our Community

** Not asked in Iceland in EB72.




In the candidate countries, the impression that things are going in the right direction has increased slightly in Croatia (15%, +3). However, support for this opinion is unchanged in Turkey (28%) and has decreased in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (26%, -9).

In Iceland, this feeling is held by a clear majority of respondents (60%).

From a socio-demographic point of view, young people are more satisfied than older respondents (33% of those aged 15 to 24 believe that things are going in the right direction in their country, compared with 26% of those aged 55 or over). Differences reflecting the respondent's level of education are far more noticeable: the most educated respondents are far more satisfied (31% of those who studied up to the age of 20 or beyond) than those who left school before the age of 16 (19%). So are managers (34%) and employees (31%) in comparison with manual workers (24%) and unemployed people (18%). Europeans who place themselves at the top of the social scale are also more likely to consider that things are going in the right direction in their country (36%, compared with 16% of those at the bottom).

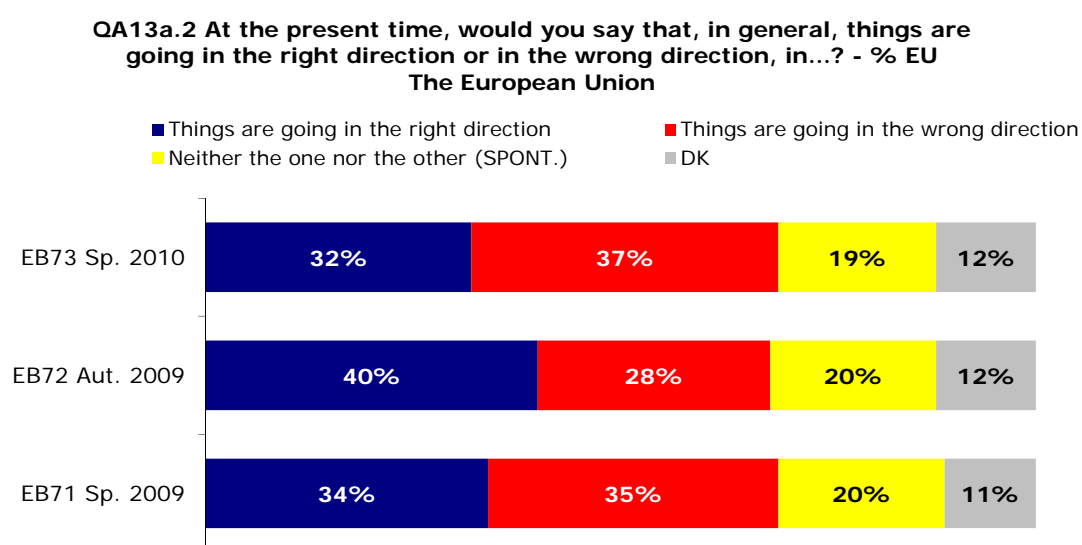
Those on the right of the political spectrum tend to be far more satisfied than those closer to the left with the direction in which things are going in their country (35%, versus 23% and 28% in the centre). The opinion leadership index also provides an insight into differences as regards the answers of Europeans according to their interest in politics and their influence over the people around them. The respondents with the highest opinion leadership index (++ , 30%) are more likely than Europeans who are not considered to be opinion leaders (and who belong to the category -- , 23%) to think that things are going in the right direction in their country.

**QA13a.1 At the present time, would you say that, in general, things are going in the right direction or in the wrong direction, in...?
(OUR COUNTRY)**

	Things are going in the right direction	Things are going in the wrong direction	Neither the one nor the other (SPONTANEOUS)	DK
EU27	27%	51%	18%	4%
Age				
 15-24	33%	47%	15%	5%
25-39	26%	53%	17%	4%
40-54	24%	53%	20%	3%
55 +	26%	51%	19%	4%
Education (End of)				
 15-	19%	57%	19%	5%
16-19	25%	53%	18%	4%
20+	31%	47%	18%	4%
Still studying	35%	44%	16%	5%
Respondent occupation scale				
 Self-employed	27%	51%	19%	3%
Managers	34%	45%	18%	3%
Other white collars	31%	46%	20%	3%
Manual workers	24%	54%	18%	4%
House persons	16%	60%	19%	5%
Unemployed	18%	63%	15%	4%
Retired	26%	51%	19%	4%
Students	35%	44%	16%	5%
Left-Right scale				
(1-4) Left	23%	56%	18%	3%
(5-6) Centre	28%	50%	18%	4%
(7-10) Right	35%	45%	17%	3%
Self-positioning on the social staircase				
Low(1-4)	16%	63%	17%	4%
Medium(5-6)	27%	51%	18%	4%
High(7-10)	36%	42%	19%	3%
Opinion leadership index				
++	30%	52%	16%	2%
+	28%	51%	18%	3%
-	25%	51%	20%	4%
--	23%	53%	18%	6%

4.3.2 The direction taken by the European Union

Although Europeans are still slightly more satisfied with the direction taken by the Europeans Union than with that adopted by their country, this indicator has nevertheless fallen significantly: 32% of Europeans consider that things are going in the right direction in the European Union, 8 points less than in EB72 (autumn 2009). This decrease mirrors the rise in negative opinions: a growing number of Europeans think that things are going in the wrong direction (37%, +9). The proportion of respondents answering “neither the one nor the other” is more or less unchanged (19%, -1)⁴². This represents a reversal of the majority opinion compared with EB72 (autumn 2009): criticism now outweighs positive opinions.



In eleven countries, a majority of respondents consider that things are going in the right direction in the European Union: Bulgaria (58%), Slovakia (54%), Poland (52%), Estonia (52%), Lithuania (46%), Romania (41%), Latvia (41%), the Czech Republic (40%), Hungary (39%), Slovenia (34%) and Malta (31%).

































In contrast, respondents in France, where 55% think that things are going in the wrong direction in the European Union, Luxembourg (51%), Finland (49%), Austria (45%), Belgium (45%), Germany (44%) and the Netherlands (44%) are the most critical. Criticism is also fairly widespread in Denmark (43%), Greece (43%) and the United Kingdom (42%).

⁴² QA13a.2 At the present time, would you say that, in general, things are going in the right direction or in the wrong direction, in...? The European Union

Positive opinions have declined by more than 10 points since EB72 (autumn 2009) in the Netherlands (-18), Luxembourg (-14), Germany (-13), Cyprus (-12), Portugal (-12), Finland (-12), Sweden (-11) and Romania (-11). What is more, negative opinions have increased by more than 20 points in the first three of these countries (+25 in the Netherlands, +27 in Luxembourg and +21 in Germany).

The proportion of respondents who consider that things are going in the right direction in the European Union has increased in Slovakia (+8), Latvia (+4), Hungary (+3) and Malta (+2). This view also remains widespread in Poland (52%).

QA13.2 At the present time, would you say that, in general, things are going in the right direction or in the wrong direction, in...?
The European Union

		Things are going in the right direction	Diff. Sp. 2010 - Aut. 2009	Things are going in the wrong direction	Diff. Sp. 2010 - Aut. 2009
	EU27	32%	-8	37%	+9
	BG	58%	-7	7%	+2
	SK	54%	+8	27%	+9
	EE	52%	-5	12%	+1
	PL	52%	=	18%	+1
	LT	46%	-2	22%	+2
	LV	41%	+4	23%	-2
	RO	41%	-11	17%	+1
	CZ	40%	-7	37%	+9
	DK	39%	-2	43%	+9
	SE	39%	-11	41%	+13
	HU	39%	+3	20%	-7
	EL	34%	-10	43%	+12
	ES	34%	-9	36%	+6
	FI	34%	-12	49%	+13
	SI	34%	-10	33%	+12
	LU	32%	-14	51%	+27
	BE	31%	-7	45%	+14
	MT	31%	+2	25%	-1
	IE	30%	-8	32%	+10
	AT	29%	-6	45%	+4
	DE	28%	-13	44%	+21
	UK	28%	-6	42%	+5
	NL	27%	-18	44%	+25
	PT	27%	-12	29%	+13
	IT	26%	-5	34%	+5
	FR	23%	-8	55%	+11
	CY	22%	-12	36%	+11
	CY (tcc)	36%	=	27%	-5
	MK	49%	-9	21%	+7
	HR	33%	=	32%	+2
	TR	30%	-6	38%	+9
	IS	26%	-	37%	-

* Not asked in Iceland in EB72.

In the candidate countries, a majority of respondents in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia think that things are going in the right direction in the European Union (49%); this proportion has nevertheless fallen by 9 points. The number of respondents who agree that things are going in the right direction has also fallen in Turkey (30%, -6) and positive opinions are now outweighed by criticisms (38%, +9). The 'DK' rate also remains high (28%, -2). Results are more stable in Croatia (33% positive opinions). In Iceland, a majority of respondents are negative (37%, versus 26% of positive opinions), but the high 'DK' rate (30%) is particularly noteworthy.

A socio-demographic analysis reveals significant differences in accordance with the category of respondents.

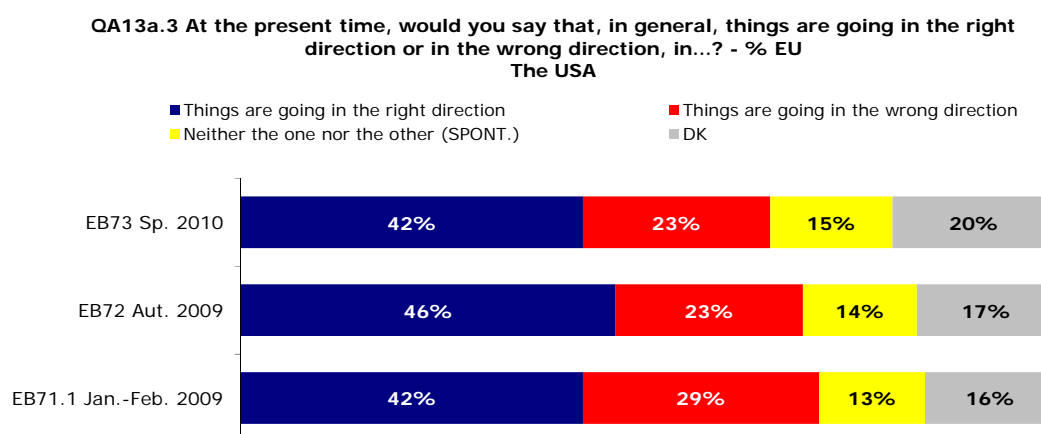
Young people are more likely to think that things are going in the right direction in the European Union (40% of those aged 15 to 24 versus 28% of those aged 55 or over), as are the most educated respondents (37% of those who studied up to the age of 20 or beyond compared with 24% of those who left school before the age of 16). The respondents who place themselves at the top of the social scale are also more positive about the direction followed by the European Union (39%, versus 25% of those at the bottom).

It is also apparent that respondents on the right of the political spectrum are more satisfied (38%) than those on the left (31%) with the way things are going in the European Union. The opinion leadership index also reveals that Europeans classified as opinion leaders (in group ++) are more positive about the direction followed by the European Union (37%) than those in group -- (28%).

The respondent's views on the European Union are a determinant for this question. Thus, while a majority of Europeans who consider that they understand how the EU works think that things are going in the right direction (43%), this opinion is shared by less than a quarter of those who do not understand how the EU works (23%). Similarly, while 50% of Europeans who consider that their country's membership of the EU is a good thing are positive about the direction followed by the EU, this view is shared by only 10% of those who are negative about their membership.

4.3.3 The direction taken by the United States

A high proportion of Europeans still consider that things are going in the right direction in the United States (42%), but this proportion has fallen by 4 points since EB72 (autumn 2009). However, the proportion of negative answers remains unchanged (23%) and neutral opinions are also more or less unchanged (15%, +1). Therefore, the decline in positive answers primarily corresponds to the increase in 'DK' answers (20%, +3)⁴³. After gaining ground in EB72 (autumn 2009), positive opinions have therefore fallen back to the EB71.1 level⁴⁴.



Positive opinions outweigh negative opinions in 25 of the 27 Member States.

They are as high as 65% in Denmark and Sweden. Respondents in Finland (52%), Lithuania (51%), the United Kingdom (48%), Luxembourg (47%) and Belgium (47%) are also more likely than average to think that things are going in the right direction in the United States.

A minority of respondents are positive in Greece and Cyprus, where 35% and 38% of respondents respectively consider that things are going in the wrong direction.

In the candidate countries, 42% of respondents in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and 38% in Croatia believe that things are going in the right direction in the United States. Respondents in Turkey are less enthusiastic (25%), but Turkey has a high 'DK' rate (32%).

In Iceland, positive opinions are predominant (55%).

⁴³ QA13a.3 At the present time, would you say that, in general, things are going in the right direction or in the wrong direction, in...? In the USA

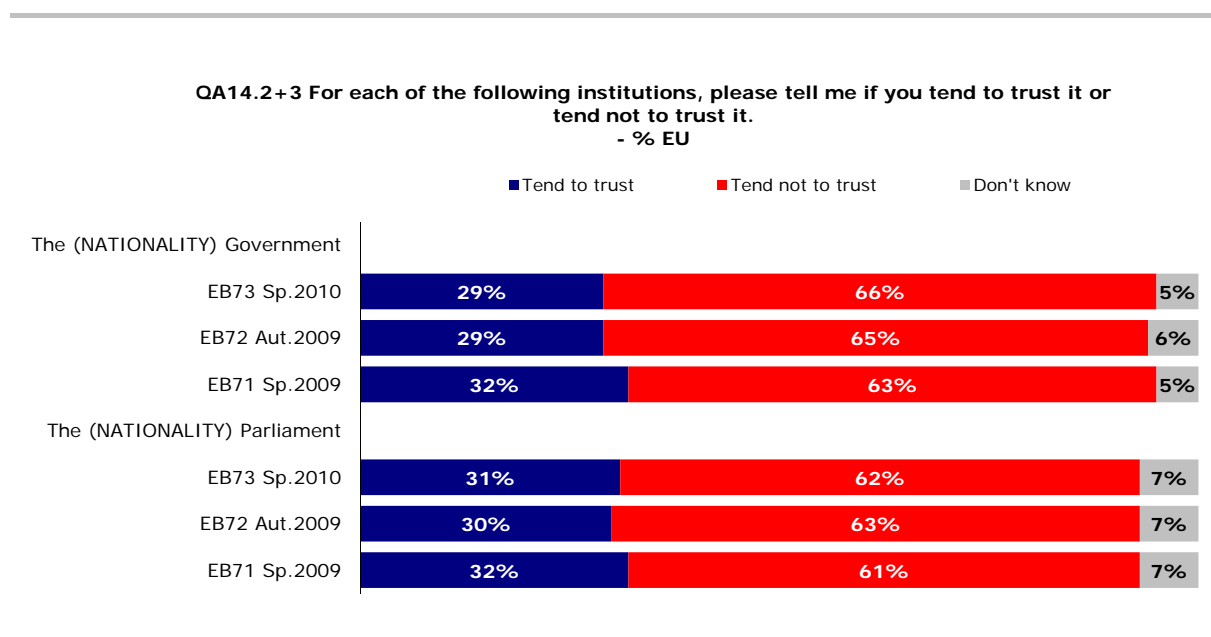
⁴⁴ This question was asked for the first time in the Special Eurobarometer 308 part: Europeans in 2009 of EB71.1 (fieldwork January-February 2009)

4.4 Trust in national institutions

**- A majority of respondents still tend not to trust governments, parliaments and political parties.
Trust in regional and local institutions is only just positive -**

National governments and parliaments

Less than a third of Europeans continue to trust their national institutions, a result which has remained stable since EB72 (autumn 2009): 29% trust their government (unchanged, versus 66%, +1) and 31% their parliament (+1, versus 62%, -1)⁴⁵.



A majority of respondents trust their national institutions in five of the twenty-seven Member States: Luxembourg (66% for the government and 52% for the parliament), Sweden (57% and 66%), Austria (54% and 52%), Denmark (50% and 72%) and Finland (49% and 55%).

In Estonia, a majority of respondents trust their government (53%), but not their parliament (39%). The situation is the opposite in the Netherlands (47% and 54%).

Trust in national institutions is particularly low in Latvia (13% and 6%), Lithuania (13% and 7%) and Romania (12% and 10%). It also remains at a level between 20% and 30% in Ireland (21% and 22%), Spain (20% and 21%), Portugal (20% and 28%) and Belgium (22% and 28%). In the Czech Republic, although 32% of respondents trust the government, only 12% trust the parliament.

⁴⁵ QA14. I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain institutions. For each of the following institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it. 2 The (NATIONALITY) government), 3 The (NATIONALITY PARLIAMENT), 6 Regional or local public authorities, 1 Political parties.

An analysis of evolutions highlights the shifts in opinion in some Member States. Positive opinions have increased very markedly in Hungary⁴⁶: +26 points for both the government and the parliament. Trust has also increased, to a lesser extent, in Poland (+12 and +13) and the United Kingdom (+7 and +5). In France, although trust in the government is more or less unchanged (+3), trust in the parliament has increased more significantly (+8). In Ireland and Estonia, trust in the government has increased by 6 points.

































However, respondents in some Member States are far more critical of their national institutions than in autumn 2009. This is the case in Greece (-19 and -24), Belgium (-14 and -10), Cyprus (-10 and -13) and Portugal (-12 and -13).

In the candidate countries, almost half of respondents in Turkey trust their national institutions, but positive opinions have decreased (43%, -8 and 46%, -5). Positive opinions remain below 15% in Croatia and stand at around 25% in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

⁴⁶ Which elected a new parliament and government in April 2010

QA14 I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain institutions. For each of the following institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.

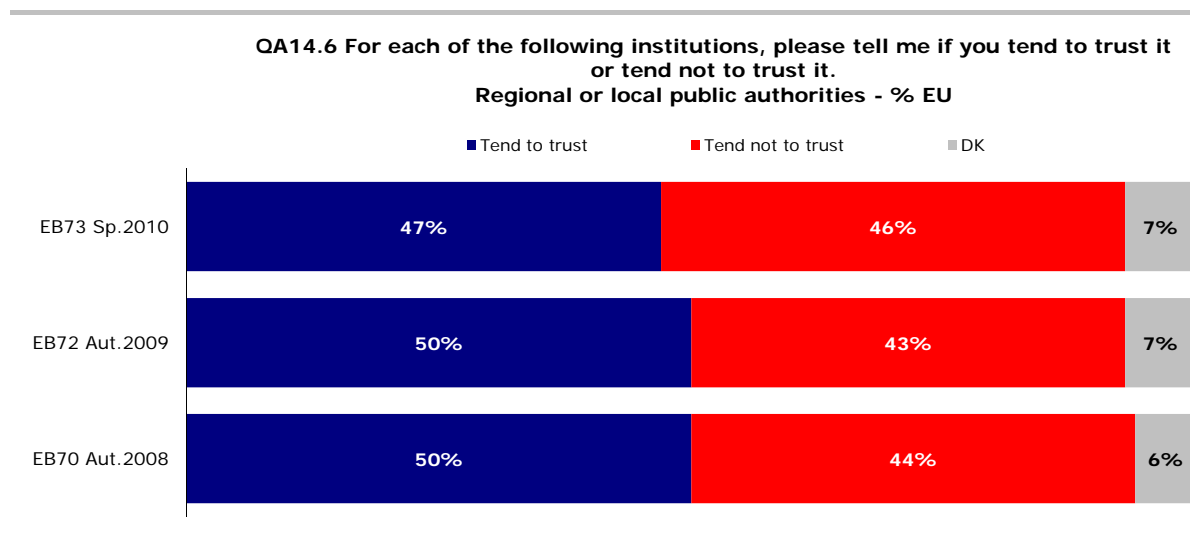
Answer: Tend to trust

		The (NATIONALITY) Government		The (NATIONALITY) Parliament	
		EB73	Diff. Sp. 2010 - Aut. 2009	EB73	Diff. Sp. 2010 - Aut. 2009
	EU27	29%	=	31%	+1
	LU	66%	-2	52%	-7
	SE	57%	+2	66%	+3
	AT	54%	=	52%	-3
	EE	53%	+6	39%	+1
	DK	50%	-7	72%	-2
	FI	49%	+1	55%	+2
	NL	47%	-2	54%	+2
	BG	43%	-1	25%	-2
	CY	43%	-10	40%	-13
	HU	40%	+26	41%	+26
	SK	38%	+2	38%	+3
	MT	33%	-3	33%	-8
	CZ	32%	-5	12%	-3
	DE	32%	-8	39%	-6
	PL	28%	+12	24%	+13
	SI	27%	-2	23%	+4
	UK	26%	+7	24%	+5
	EL	25%	-19	23%	-24
	FR	25%	+3	36%	+8
	IT	25%	-1	26%	-1
	BE	22%	-14	28%	-10
	IE	21%	+6	22%	+3
	ES	20%	-9	21%	-8
	PT	20%	-12	28%	-13
	LT	13%	-2	7%	=
	LV	13%	+4	6%	=
	RO	12%	-5	10%	-7
	TR	43%	-8	46%	-5
	MK	25%	-6	21%	-4
	HR	13%	+1	12%	=
	IS*	34%	-	34%	-

* Not asked in Iceland in EB72.

Regional and local public authorities

Almost half of Europeans trust the regional and local public authorities in their country (47%). However, this indicator, which had remained stable between EB70 (autumn 2008) and EB72 (autumn 2009), has fallen by 3 points. Distrust has increased to 46% (+3), thus remaining the minority opinion (but only just).

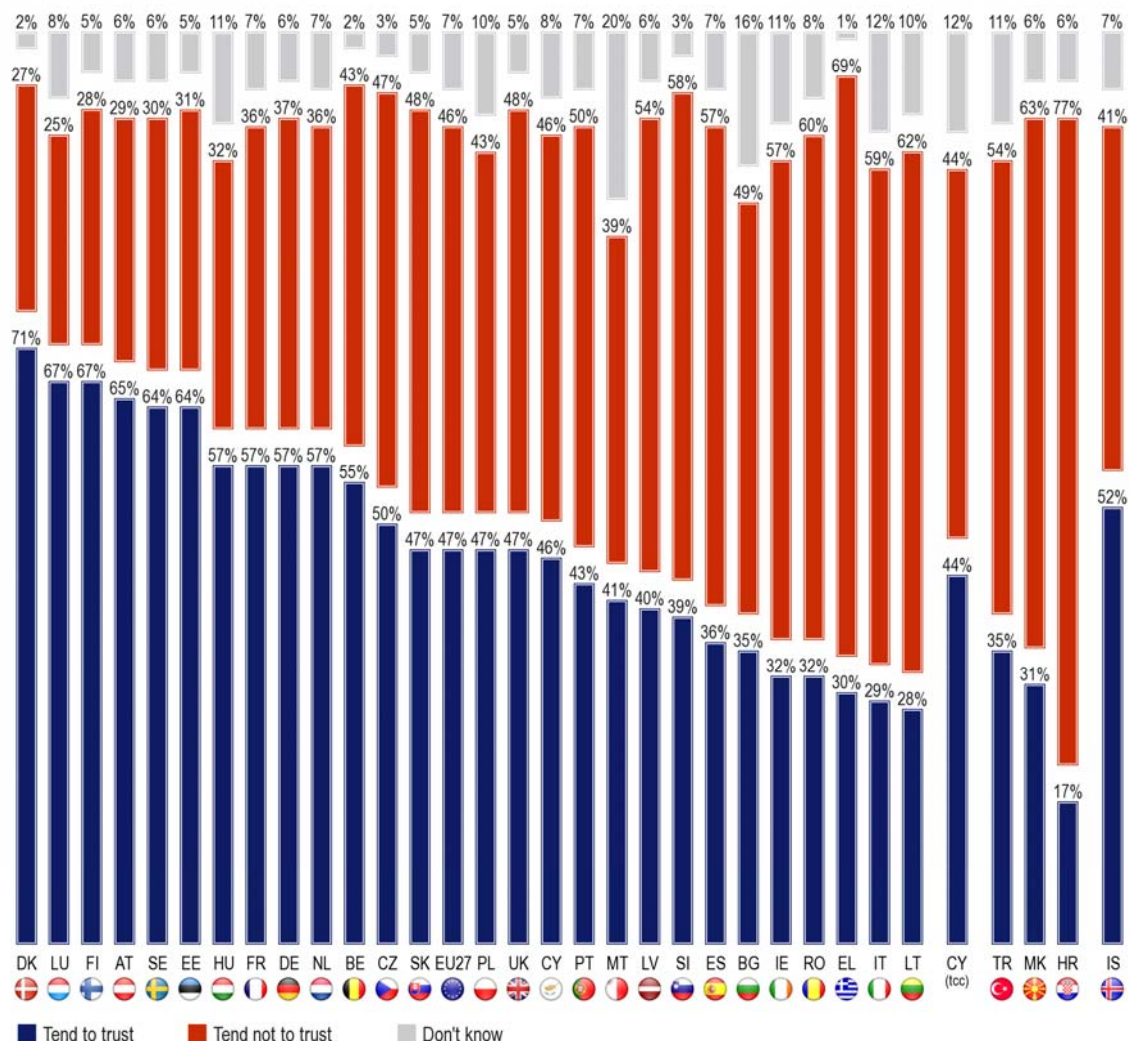


A majority of respondents trust the regional and local authorities in 14 of the 27 Member States. Trust is as high as 71% of respondents in Denmark, 67% in Luxembourg and Finland, 65% in Austria, as well as 64% in Sweden and Estonia. Levels of trust are also 10 points above the European average (57%) in Germany, France, Hungary and the Netherlands.

However, distrust is as high as 60% or more in Romania (60%), Lithuania (62%) and Greece (69%). Other countries are not far below this level: Italy (59%), Slovenia (58%), Spain (57%) and Ireland (57%).

QA14.6. I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain institutions. For each of the following institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.

Regional or local public authorities

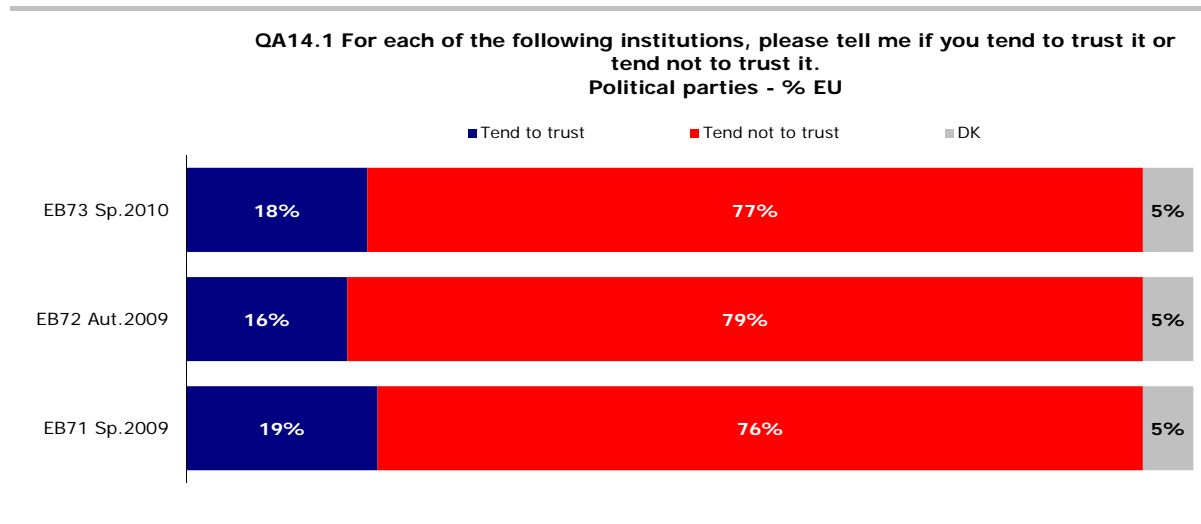


In Greece, the loss of trust affects all institutional levels: after the national institutions, trust in local institutions has also fallen significantly (-17 points). This is also the case in Portugal (-16) and Cyprus (-12).

In the candidate countries, a majority of respondents distrust their local institutions (77% in Croatia, 63% in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and 54% in Turkey). In Iceland, trust is in the majority (52%).

Political parties

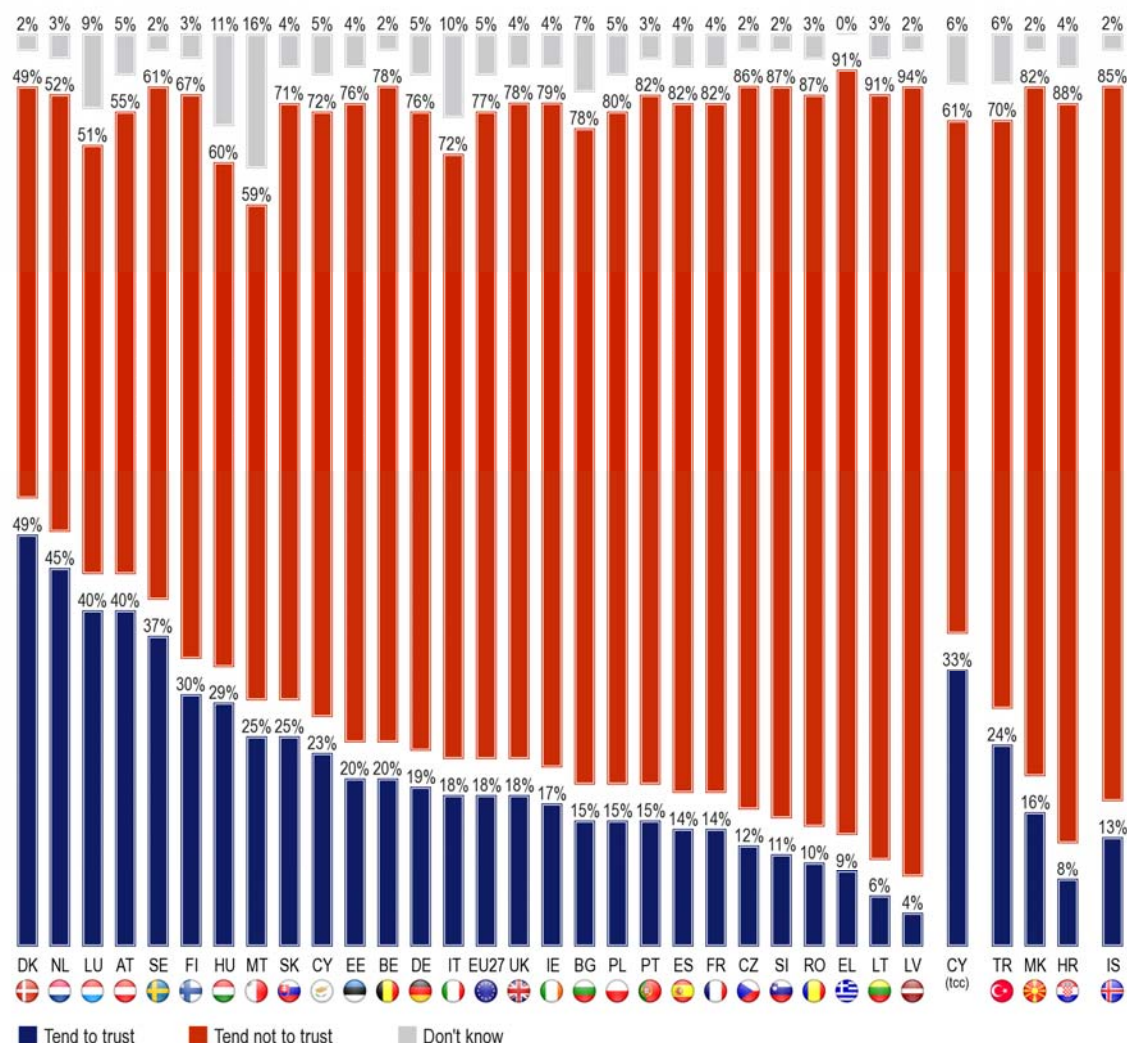
Europeans continue to have little confidence in political parties, despite a slight improvement since EB72 (autumn 2009): 18%, +2. More than three-quarters of Europeans still distrust them (77%, -2).



A majority of respondents in all European countries, except for Denmark where opinions are evenly divided (49/49), distrust political parties. Levels of trust are also high in the Netherlands (45%), Luxembourg (40%) and Austria (40%), though this is not the majority opinion.

QA14.1. I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain institutions. For each of the following institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.

Political parties



Negative opinions exceed 80% in France (82%), Spain (82%), Portugal (82%), the Czech Republic (86%), Romania (87%) and Slovenia (87%), and stand above 90% in Greece (91%), Lithuania (91%) and Latvia (94%).



As for the previous indicators, trust has fallen sharply in Greece (-10) and Portugal (-6), but has increased particularly strongly in Hungary (+20), as well as in Poland (+8). For this indicator trust has also improved in the United Kingdom (+9) and the Netherlands (+8).

In the candidate countries, there is very widespread distrust: 88% in Croatia, 82% in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and 70% in Turkey.

Distrust is also predominant in Iceland (85%).

Although trust in national institutions varies only slightly with the gender and age of respondents, other criteria are determining. If we take the example of **government**, the most educated respondents appear more trusting than those who left school at an early age (34% of those who studied up to the age of 20 or beyond compared with 24% of those who left school before the age of 16). Managers (35%) are more likely than manual workers (24%) and unemployed people (20%) to trust the government, as are those who almost never struggle to pay their bills: 33% trust the government compared with only 16% of those who have financial difficulties most of the time. Interest in politics also seems to influence opinions: 31% of the respondents who are very interested in politics compared with 21% of those who are not at all interested in politics. It is also apparent that respondents on the right of the political spectrum are more likely (38%) than those in the centre (30%) or on the left (25%) to trust the government. These differences apply to all the institutions about which the respondents were asked (in addition to the government: parliament, regional and local public authorities and political parties).

QA14.1-2-3 I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain institutions. For each of the following institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it. - % Tend to trust

	The (NATIONALITY PARLIAMENT)	The (NATIONALITY) Government	Political parties
EU27	31%	29%	18%
Education (End of)			
 15-	25%	24%	17%
16- 19	27%	26%	16%
20+	40%	34%	22%
Still studying	36%	32%	20%
Respondent occupation scale			
 Self- employed	30%	30%	21%
Managers	43%	35%	22%
Other white collars	31%	29%	20%
Manual workers	25%	24%	15%
House persons	26%	24%	17%
Unemployed	22%	20%	14%
Retired	33%	31%	20%
Students	36%	32%	20%
Left-Right scale			
(1-4) Left	33%	25%	20%
(5-6) Centre	31%	30%	18%
(7-10) Right	37%	38%	25%
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	15%	16%	10%
From time to time	24%	23%	14%
Almost never	36%	33%	22%

II THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS CITIZENS

1. ATTACHMENT TO THE EUROPEAN UNION

1.1 What does the European Union mean to its citizens?

- The European Union continues to embody freedom but positive perceptions of its image have declined since autumn 2009 -

Fundamentally, perceptions of the European Union remain unchanged since the waves of autumn 2008 (EB70), spring (EB71) and autumn (EB 72) 2009. The European Union remains above all an area of freedom, symbolised by the euro⁴⁷. Thus, when asked to say what the EU means to them personally, Europeans first mentioned the freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the EU (45%, -1 point since the autumn 2009 wave) and secondly the euro (40%, + 3 points). The increase in the number of respondents mentioning the euro has undoubtedly been influenced by the widespread media coverage given to the European single currency during the financial and economic crisis.

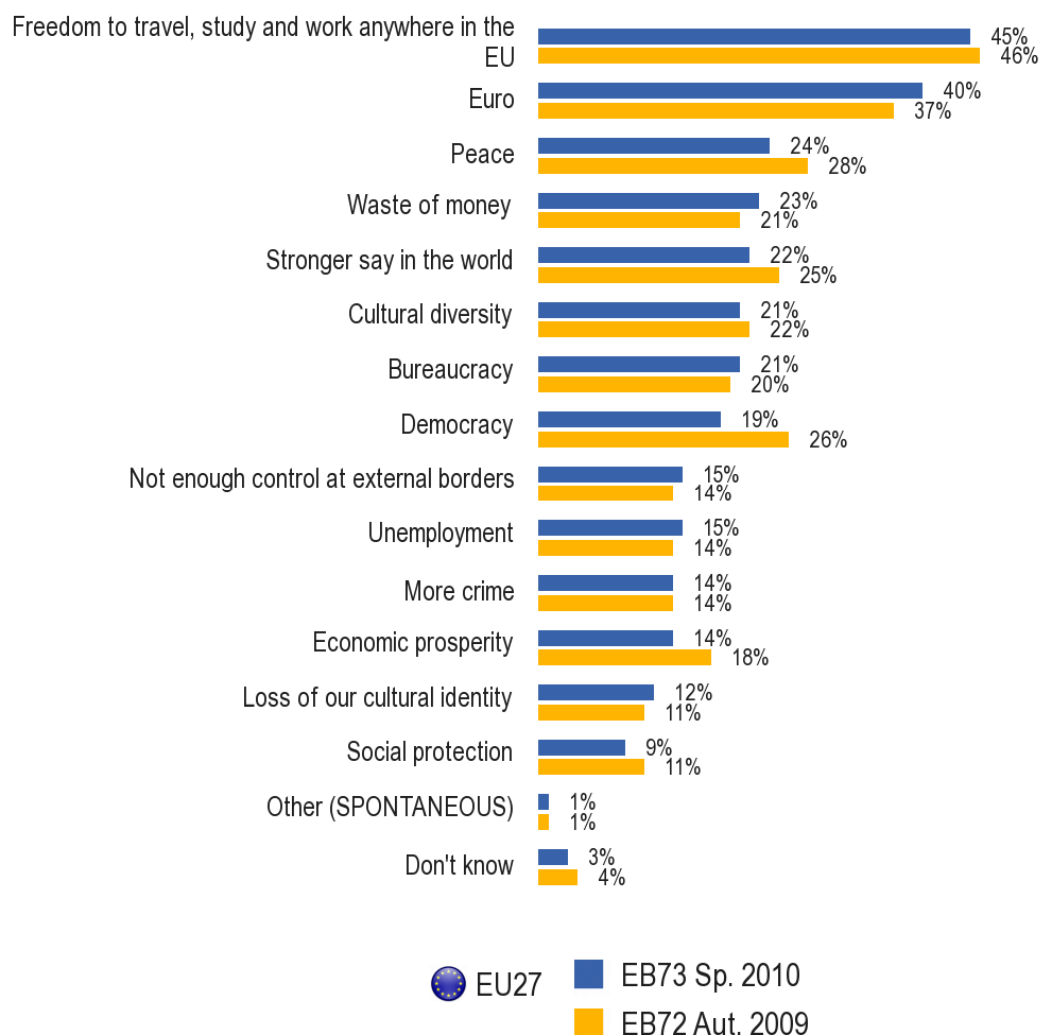
Furthermore, the crisis seems to have had a perceptible impact on the image of the European Union, resulting in a decrease in positive representations. Accordingly, the number of respondents for whom the European Union embodies democracy (19%) has fallen by 7 points since the autumn 2009 wave, while the peace score (24%) has fallen by 4 points and the economic prosperity score (14%) has also fallen by 4 points. The idea that the European Union means a stronger say in the world has fallen by 3 points (22%) and the perception that it is an area of social protection (9%) has declined by 2 points.

Nevertheless, this decrease in positive perceptions has not been accompanied by an equal rise in negative representations. With a score of 23%, waste of money tops the list of negative perceptions, up by 2 points since autumn 2009, followed by bureaucracy (21%, +1 point), unemployment (15%, +1), not enough external controls (15%, +1), rising crime rates (14%, unchanged) and the loss of cultural identity (12%, +1).

All in all, as a result of these changes, waste of money is now ranked fourth among these impressions of the European Union, compared with seventh in autumn 2009.

⁴⁷ QA16. What does the European Union mean to you personally?

QA16. What does the European Union mean to you personally?



Respondents in 17 Member States placed the freedom to travel, study and work at the top of their list. This principle is particularly appreciated by respondents in central and eastern European countries (71% in Estonia, 66% in Lithuania, 61% in Latvia, 59% in Bulgaria, 57% in Poland and Slovakia for example), the Nordic countries (68% in Sweden, 64% in Finland and 61% in Denmark) and Cyprus (62%).

The euro tops the list in 10 other EU Member States, all euro zone members, with the highest scores being recorded in Slovakia (66%), which is the latest country to adopt the single currency, on 1 January 2009, Austria (62%), Belgium (62%), the Netherlands (57%) and Slovenia (56%). The euro was also the most frequently mentioned EU symbol in the euro zone countries, with a score of 49% (compared with only 23% for the non-euro zone countries).

As in the autumn 2009 (EB72) wave, respondents in Austria and Germany are particularly receptive to the idea that the European Union symbolises a **waste of money**. This negative impression has increased significantly in six months. In Austria it was chosen by 52% of respondents (+9 points) and is now ranked in second place, behind the euro and just ahead of crime (50%), an issue on which Austria also stands out considerably from the European average, which stands at 14%. In Germany, the number of respondents mentioning the waste of money has increased by 11 points to 45%, and it is now ranked in third place, behind the euro and freedom to travel, in the list of images associated with the European Union.

In the candidate countries, **the freedom to travel, study and work** tops the list in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (59%) and Croatia (42%). It was ranked in second place in Turkey (22%), behind economic prosperity (37%).

For respondents in Iceland, the European Union primarily represents the **freedom to travel, study and work** (in first place with 49%), just ahead of the **euro** (46%). With a score of 37%, **bureaucracy** is widely seen as a symbol of the EU in Iceland (ranked third), in a trend comparable to that of the other neighbouring Nordic countries, since this perception of the EU was also mentioned far more frequently in Sweden (43%), Finland (37%) and Denmark (32%) than on average in the European Union.

QA16 What does the European Union mean to you personally?




	Freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the EU	Euro	Peace	Waste of money	Stronger say in the world	Cultural diversity	Bureaucracy	Democracy	Unemployment	Not enough control at external borders	Economic prosperity	More crime	Loss of our cultural identity	Social protection
EU27	45%	40%	24%	23%	22%	21%	21%	19%	15%	15%	14%	14%	12%	9%
Euro area	43%	49%	26%	26%	24%	23%	20%	19%	17%	15%	13%	15%	11%	10%
Non-euro area	47%	23%	21%	19%	19%	18%	21%	19%	13%	14%	15%	11%	12%	9%
BE	45%	62%	32%	29%	26%	25%	17%	23%	18%	20%	21%	23%	9%	13%
BG	59%	22%	22%	9%	15%	24%	8%	32%	12%	6%	26%	7%	8%	23%
CZ	54%	31%	23%	30%	24%	16%	28%	17%	20%	23%	14%	25%	15%	7%
DK	61%	26%	44%	14%	27%	25%	32%	27%	8%	40%	18%	33%	11%	9%
DE	52%	53%	41%	45%	22%	27%	39%	25%	20%	20%	12%	26%	12%	9%
EE	71%	30%	22%	14%	16%	24%	20%	14%	10%	8%	11%	8%	11%	11%
IE	52%	49%	17%	11%	23%	18%	13%	16%	13%	7%	27%	8%	15%	12%
EL	41%	52%	31%	19%	29%	17%	10%	16%	27%	15%	13%	15%	20%	18%
ES	32%	48%	9%	12%	16%	16%	11%	14%	12%	9%	16%	5%	4%	8%
FR	47%	44%	30%	30%	25%	32%	16%	14%	18%	16%	7%	6%	14%	6%
IT	33%	42%	15%	10%	28%	16%	5%	20%	12%	11%	13%	11%	9%	14%
CY	62%	46%	36%	20%	21%	29%	11%	30%	46%	23%	12%	45%	24%	24%
LV	61%	13%	16%	17%	10%	13%	18%	10%	21%	5%	8%	8%	6%	8%
LT	66%	14%	14%	14%	11%	17%	12%	16%	8%	4%	19%	7%	9%	9%
LU	59%	46%	41%	20%	32%	28%	14%	22%	9%	19%	18%	16%	8%	12%
HU	48%	25%	20%	11%	19%	20%	14%	25%	25%	12%	14%	16%	4%	8%
MT	48%	31%	20%	14%	31%	15%	8%	20%	12%	7%	22%	3%	10%	16%
NL	53%	57%	30%	16%	35%	20%	27%	14%	5%	16%	22%	13%	12%	7%
AT	46%	62%	29%	52%	23%	22%	40%	22%	37%	37%	15%	50%	21%	17%
PL	57%	24%	20%	8%	24%	15%	19%	18%	8%	5%	15%	5%	6%	7%
PT	31%	42%	9%	13%	18%	21%	6%	14%	28%	11%	10%	18%	11%	9%
RO	53%	36%	25%	12%	13%	15%	8%	33%	17%	8%	26%	11%	8%	17%
SI	53%	56%	25%	28%	19%	21%	23%	14%	22%	17%	15%	25%	15%	12%
SK	57%	66%	15%	17%	25%	18%	14%	20%	17%	9%	21%	22%	11%	10%
FI	64%	57%	23%	30%	14%	25%	37%	10%	7%	15%	12%	19%	7%	7%
SE	68%	21%	42%	36%	37%	28%	43%	25%	7%	21%	12%	18%	9%	5%
UK	30%	15%	16%	28%	15%	18%	26%	10%	12%	20%	11%	9%	20%	6%
Highest percentage per country										Lowest percentage per country				
Highest percentage per item										Lowest percentage per item				

From a sociological point of view, it is interesting first of all to note that the people for whom the **euro** symbolises the European Union are very evenly divided across the European population as a whole, without any significant differences between social groups.

Young, well-off and the most socially advantaged respondents are particularly attached to the freedom to travel, study and work: it was mentioned, for example, by 61% of students, 54% of those aged 15 to 24 and 58% of executives compared with 35% of house persons, 36% of unemployed people and 39% of unemployed people.

Finally, and perhaps surprisingly, negative representations of Europe as **bureaucratic** and **wasting money** are not influenced by these social variables. The perception that Europe wastes money is far more prevalent among people who studied the least (29%) than among the most educated (20%), among people who place themselves at the bottom of the social scale (29%) than among those at the top (19%), and among manual workers (26%) than among executives (19%). The opposite is true as regards perceptions of bureaucracy: these are, for example, more widespread among the most educated respondents (26%) than among the least educated (17%) and among executives (29%) than among manual workers (20%).

QA16 What does the European Union mean to you personally?
(ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM\ BOTTOM TO TOP - MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

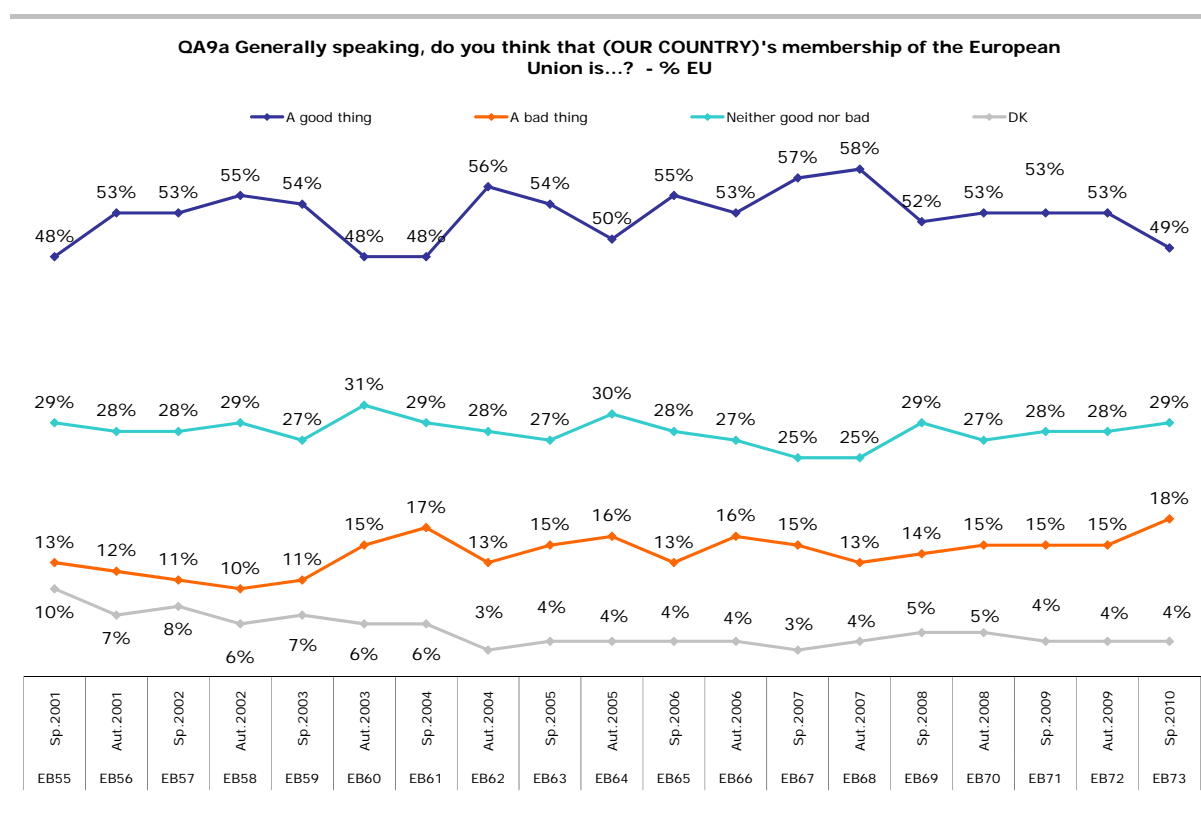
	Freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the EU	Euro	Peace	Waste of money	Stronger say in the world	Cultural diversity	Bureaucracy
EU27	45%	40%	24%	23%	22%	21%	21%
Age							
 15-24	54%	40%	21%	14%	23%	25%	13%
25-39	49%	43%	21%	19%	23%	24%	19%
40-54	45%	41%	24%	26%	23%	21%	23%
55 +	37%	37%	28%	28%	21%	17%	23%
Education (End of)							
 15-	29%	39%	22%	29%	15%	12%	17%
16-19	43%	39%	23%	26%	22%	19%	21%
20+	56%	42%	29%	20%	29%	31%	26%
Still studying	61%	42%	26%	12%	26%	29%	13%
Respondent occupation scale							
 Self-employed	47%	42%	21%	21%	27%	21%	22%
Managers	58%	43%	30%	19%	27%	32%	29%
Other white collars	48%	44%	22%	21%	25%	22%	21%
Manual workers	44%	40%	21%	26%	20%	20%	20%
House persons	35%	43%	17%	21%	18%	16%	14%
Unemployed	39%	37%	18%	24%	17%	17%	20%
Retired	36%	36%	30%	29%	20%	17%	22%
Students	61%	42%	26%	12%	26%	29%	13%
Self-positioning on the social staircase							
Low (1-4)	38%	38%	20%	29%	16%	18%	19%
Medium (5-6)	46%	40%	25%	23%	22%	21%	21%
High (7-10)	50%	42%	27%	19%	30%	24%	21%

1.2 Membership of the European Union

- Respondents are less enthusiastic about their country's membership of the European Union than in previous Eurobarometer surveys -

49% of Europeans consider that their country's membership of the European Union is a good thing, while 18% say that it is a bad thing, 29% think that it is "neither good nor bad" and 4% expressed no opinion⁴⁸.

The percentage of Europeans who are positive about their country's membership of the European Union has fallen by 4 points since autumn 2009 and is now at its lowest level since spring 2004. Conversely, the proportion of Europeans who are negative about their country's membership of the EU has increased by 3 points. The number of "neither good nor bad" answers has increased by one point, while the 'DK' rate is unchanged.



Respondents in Luxembourg (70%), the Netherlands (69%), Ireland (66%), Denmark (66%) and Belgium (64%) are the most convinced that membership of the EU is a good thing. In general, the feeling that EU membership is a good thing is predominant in 20 EU countries, compared with 23 countries in the previous wave. In this survey, Slovenia (43%), Austria (40%) and Cyprus (37%) Latvia (52%), the Czech Republic (51%) and Hungary (45%) form a group of countries holding the neutral view that membership is neither good nor bad.

⁴⁸ QA9: Generally speaking, do you think that (OUR COUNTRY)'s membership of the European Union is...? A good thing, a bad thing or neither good nor bad.

































The United Kingdom, the only country where negative opinions (33%, +3 points) now outweigh positive (29%, -1 point) and neutral views (31%, -3 points), has now left this group.

The downward trend in support for membership of the European Union is particularly pronounced in some ten countries, in particular in Greece (-17 points since the autumn 2009 wave) and Cyprus (-13), undoubtedly as a result of the serious economic and political crisis in Greece. But it is also perceptible in Slovenia (-11), Germany (-10), Estonia (-10), Slovakia (-9), Portugal (-9), Romania (-9) and the Czech Republic (-9). Only six EU countries are unaffected by this trend: support for membership is unchanged in Belgium and has increased slightly in Denmark (+1 point), Poland (+1), Malta (+2), Latvia (+3) and Hungary (+4).

In the candidate countries, a very large majority of respondents in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (60%) still support membership of the European Union, although this score has fallen by 6 points since the autumn 2009 wave. Support for membership has increased by 2 points to 47% in Turkey. Despite a 2 point increase, support in Croatia remains very limited (26%).

Finally, only 19% of respondents in Iceland think that it would be a good thing for their country to join the European Union, while 45% consider that it would be a bad thing and 32% that it would be neither good nor bad.

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

	% A good thing	EB72 Aut. 2009	EB73 Sp. 2010	Diff. Sp.2010- Aut. 2009
 EU27		53%	49%	-4
 HU		34%	38%	+4
 LV		23%	26%	+3
 MT		45%	47%	+2
 DK		65%	66%	+1
 PL		61%	62%	+1
 BE		64%	64%	=
 IT		49%	48%	-1
 UK		30%	29%	-1
 LT		51%	48%	-3
 SE		57%	54%	-3
 LU		74%	70%	-4
 ES		64%	59%	-5
 FR		49%	44%	-5
 NL		74%	69%	-5
 IE		72%	66%	-6
 AT		42%	36%	-6
 FI		51%	45%	-6
 BG		54%	47%	-7
 CZ		40%	31%	-9
 PT		52%	43%	-9
 RO		64%	55%	-9
 SK		68%	59%	-9
 DE		60%	50%	-10
 EE		62%	52%	-10
 SI		50%	39%	-11
 CY		46%	33%	-13
 EL		61%	44%	-17
CY (tcc)		56%	61%	+5
 HR		24%	26%	+2
 TR		45%	47%	+2
 MK		66%	60%	-6
 IS*		-	19%	-





For CY(tcc): Generally speaking, do you think that for the Turkish Cypriot Community the full application of European Union legislation would be...?

* Not asked in Iceland in EB72.

A socio-demographic analysis reveals the same divisions as those described in previous surveys and which reproduce the structural divisions within public opinion regarding European integration.

The higher the respondents are on the social scale the more likely they are to support EU membership. Support for membership is thus far more widespread among the most educated than among the least educated respondents (62% versus 35%), among executives than among manual workers (64% versus 43%) and among those who place themselves at the top of the social scale than among those at the bottom (61% versus 37%). This also applies to men (52%) and the youngest respondents (58% among those aged 15 to 24) as opposed to women (45%) and the oldest respondents (45% among those aged 55 or over). However, the political leanings of the respondents seems to have almost no influence on their support since the scores are almost the same for those on the right of the political spectrum (53%) and those on the left (51%). We also note that there are significant differences correlating with the opinion leadership index, with support for membership increasing gradually with this index: (--), 39%; (-), 46%; (+), 52%; (++), 59%⁴⁹.

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

	A good thing	A bad thing	Neither good nor bad	DK
EU27	49%	18%	29%	4%
Sex				
 Male	52%	18%	27%	3%
Female	45%	19%	31%	5%
Age				
 15-24	58%	11%	26%	5%
25-39	50%	16%	31%	3%
40-54	47%	20%	30%	3%
55 +	45%	22%	29%	4%
Education (End of)				
 15-	35%	26%	33%	6%
16-19	44%	20%	32%	4%
20+	62%	13%	23%	2%
Still studying	66%	9%	23%	2%
Respondent occupation scale				
 Self-employed	53%	18%	26%	3%
Managers	64%	11%	23%	2%
Other white collars	51%	15%	31%	3%
Manual workers	43%	20%	34%	3%
House persons	41%	22%	29%	8%
Unemployed	42%	19%	33%	6%
Retired	43%	23%	30%	4%
Students	66%	9%	23%	2%
Left-Right scale				
(1-4) Left	51%	18%	28%	3%
(5-6) Centre	47%	18%	32%	3%
(7-10) Right	53%	20%	25%	2%
Self-positioning on the social staircase				
Low (1-4)	37%	24%	34%	5%
Medium (5-6)	48%	18%	30%	4%
High (7-10)	61%	14%	23%	2%
Opinion leadership index				
++	59%	18%	21%	2%
+	52%	17%	28%	3%
-	46%	18%	32%	4%
--	39%	21%	33%	7%

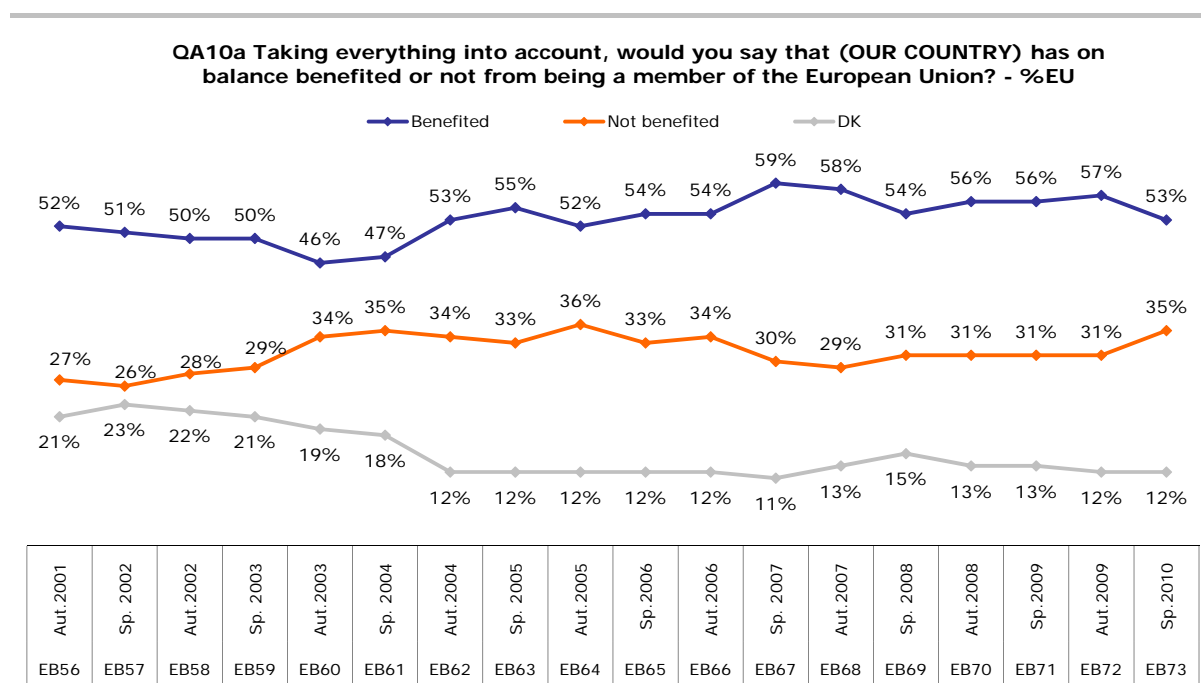
⁴⁹ See the definition of the opinion leadership index in part I, Life in the European Union, chapter 4, political aspects.

1.3 The perceived benefits of European membership

- The downward trend also applies to the perceived benefits of European membership -

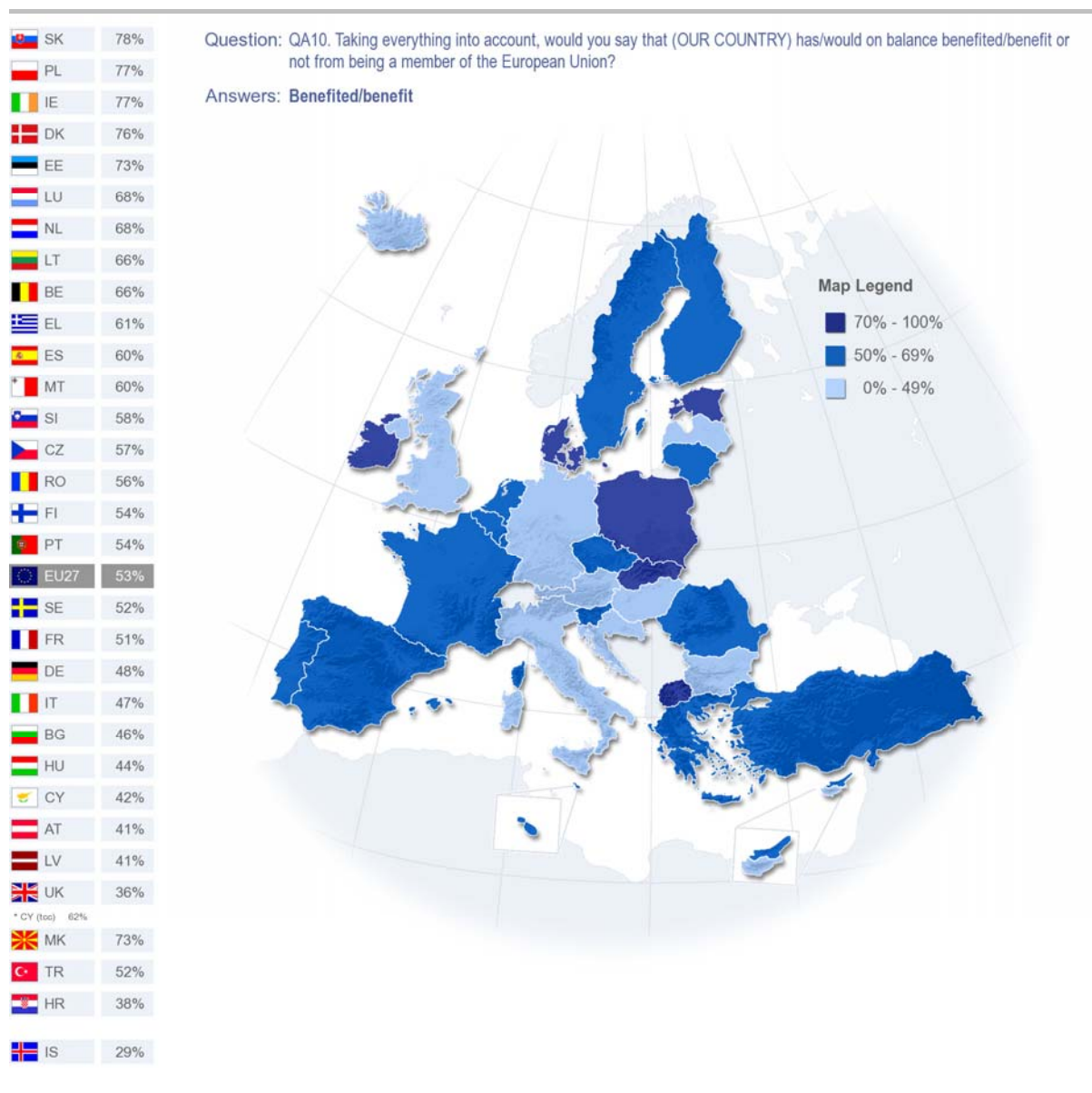
In line with the results for the previous question, perceptions of the benefits of European membership have also deteriorated in this wave.

Thus, 53% of Europeans now consider that their country has benefited from its membership of the EU, 4 points less than in the autumn 2009 wave. 35% of respondents (+4 points) instead believe that their country has not benefited from its membership of the EU. 12% (unchanged) expressed no opinion⁵⁰.



A majority of respondents in 22 Member States consider that their country has benefited from its membership of the EU, the highest scores being recorded in Slovakia (78%), Ireland (77%), Poland (77%), Denmark (76%) and Estonia (73%). This is the minority view in five EU countries, but opinions in these countries have evolved in contrasting ways. In Hungary, the impression that EU membership has been of benefit has increased by 6 points and, as a result, opinions are far more finely balanced (44% versus 46%). Opinions are also more evenly balanced in Latvia (41% versus 50%), with an increase of 4 points in positive opinions. However, this belief has declined by 8 points in Cyprus (42% versus 52%) and by 5 points in Austria (41% versus 48%), resulting in a shift in the balance between positive and negative opinions in these two countries. Finally, in the United Kingdom, opinions are more or less unchanged and a majority of respondents (50%, +1 point) still believe that their country has not benefited from its membership of the European Union.

⁵⁰ QA10a Taking everything into account, would you say that (OUR COUNTRY) has on balance benefited or not from being a member of the European Union?







Some other significant changes are worth emphasising: although a majority of respondents are still positive about membership, positive perceptions have fallen significantly in Greece (61%, -10 points), Romania (56%, -10) and Portugal (54%, -10). Finally, the case of Germany is particularly noteworthy. The perception that EU membership has been of benefit has declined by 9 points, while the impression that membership has not been beneficial has increased by 11 points. As a result, while the ratio was 57%-32% in autumn 2009, it stands at 48%-43% in spring 2010.

In the candidate countries, 73% (-3 points) of respondents in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and 52% (+2 points) in Turkey consider that their country would benefit from European membership. In Croatia, this is still the minority opinion, even if the number of respondents who believe that European membership would be beneficial has increased slightly (38%, +2 points).

Finally, 29% of respondents in Iceland consider that their country would benefit from joining the EU, while 58% take the opposite view.

On this question, the social determinants are identical to those described for the previous question. The youngest, most educated and most financially comfortable respondents and those who place themselves at the top of the social scale are the most likely to perceive the benefits of European membership.

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

	Benefited	Not benefited	DK
EU27	53%	35%	12%
Sex			
 Male	57%	33%	10%
Female	49%	36%	15%
Age			
 15-24	63%	24%	13%
25-39	57%	32%	11%
40-54	53%	36%	11%
55 +	46%	40%	14%
Education (End of)			
 15-	38%	45%	17%
16-19	50%	38%	12%
20+	67%	25%	8%
Still studying	70%	18%	12%
Respondent occupation scale			
 Self-employed	60%	31%	9%
Managers	68%	26%	6%
Other white collars	57%	32%	11%
Manual workers	50%	39%	11%
House persons	43%	38%	19%
Unemployed	47%	38%	15%
Retired	45%	41%	14%
Students	70%	18%	12%
Self-positioning on the social staircase			
Low (1-4)	41%	43%	16%
Medium (5-6)	54%	34%	12%
High (7-10)	65%	28%	7%
Political interest index			
Strong	61%	34%	5%
Medium	58%	33%	9%
Low	51%	35%	14%
Not at all	40%	38%	22%
Opinion leadership index			
++	62%	32%	6%
+	57%	33%	10%
-	52%	35%	13%
--	44%	38%	18%

1.4 The reasons explaining the perceived benefit of European membership

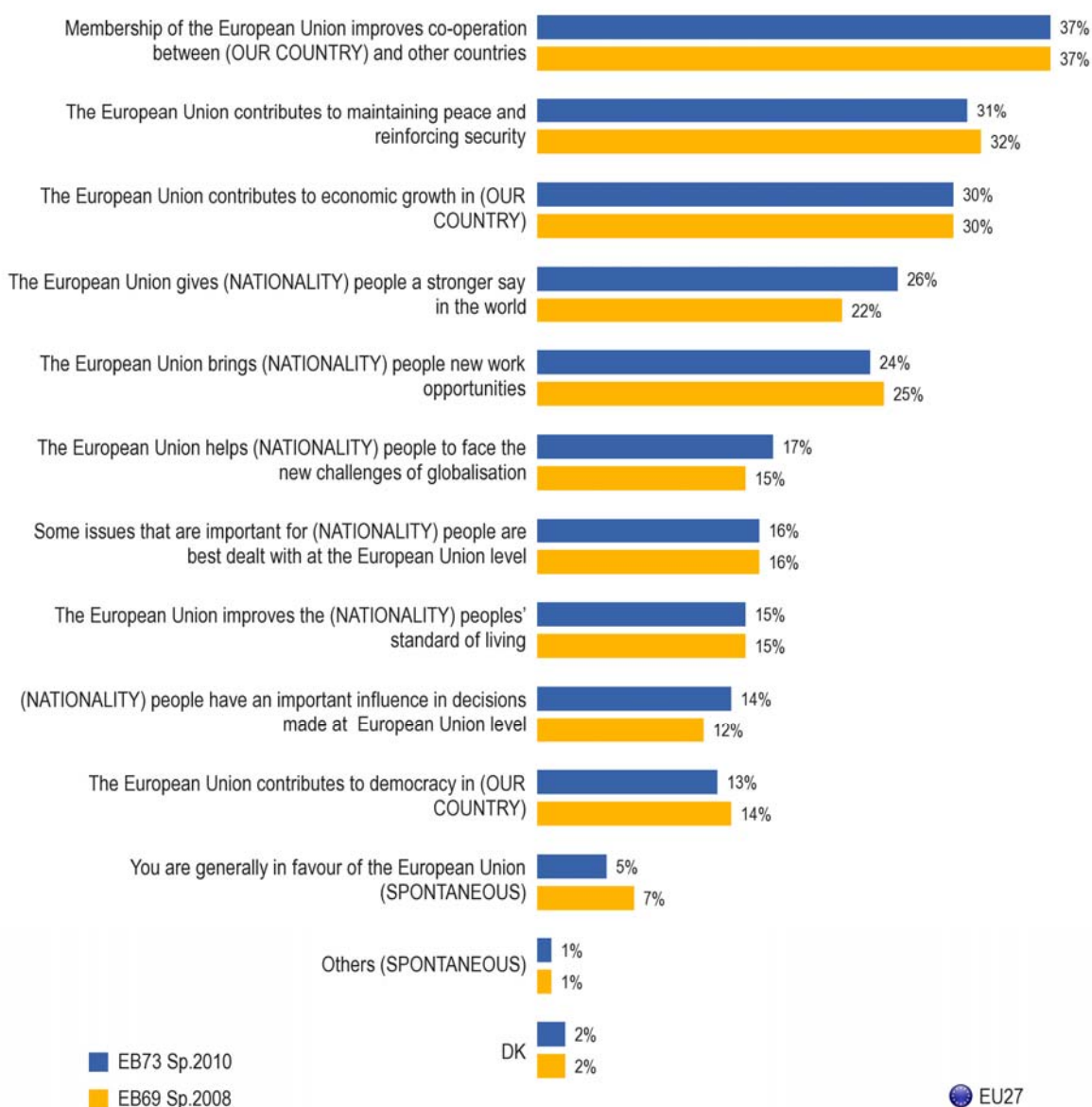
In order to gain a better understanding of why Europeans consider that their country has or has not benefited from its EU membership, two sets of respondents, those who believed that membership was beneficial and those who said that it was not, were asked to choose from a list of arguments explaining their opinion. They could choose a maximum of three arguments from the list to justify their opinion. We shall begin by examining the reasons given to explain why respondents felt that their country had benefited/could benefit from membership of the European Union.

Improved cooperation with other countries was the most frequently mentioned reason for having a positive perception of European membership⁵¹. Thus, with a score of 37%, improved cooperation tops the list of reasons advanced for having a positive perception of EU membership, followed by the EU's contribution to maintaining peace and strengthening security (31%) and, in third place, its contribution to economic growth in the respondent's country (30%). A quarter of the people interviewed also mentioned the fact that the European Union gives their country a stronger say in the world (26%) and that it brings new work opportunities (24%). The other arguments, namely that the European Union helps people to face the challenges of globalisation (17%), that some issues are better dealt with at EU rather than national level (16%), that the European Union improves the standard of living in each country (15%) and that it contributes to democracy in each country (13%) were mentioned far less frequently.

The order of these arguments has changed little since the last time they were measured in spring 2008 (EB69). The only significant change is the 4 point increase for the argument that the EU gives the Member States a stronger say in the world.

⁵¹ QA11a Which of the following are the main reasons for thinking that (OUR COUNTRY) has benefited\ would benefit from being a member of the European Union?

QA11. Which of the following are the main reasons for thinking that (OUR COUNTRY) has benefited from being a member of the European Union?



The question (QA11) was put to those who consider that their country has benefited from its membership of the EU (53% of the sample)




Cooperation was mentioned the most frequently in Sweden (69%), Denmark (65%) and the Netherlands (63%). Peace and security seems to carry the most weight in Cyprus (63%), Sweden (48%), the Netherlands (47%) and Germany. Finally, the argument that EU membership contributes to national economic growth was mentioned the most frequently in Hungary (52%), Estonia (48%) and Ireland (48%).

In the candidate countries, the European Union's contribution to economic growth was the most frequently mentioned argument, with 46% in Croatia, 47% in Turkey and 50% in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. We also note that in Turkey and, to a lesser extent, in Croatia, the importance attached to the democratic argument is considerably higher than the EU average; 42% of respondents in Turkey and 31% in Croatia say that membership of the European Union would benefit democracy in their country. This argument is placed in second position in Turkey and in third position in Croatia. Respondents in Croatia are also very responsive to the argument that EU membership would bring new work opportunities (41%).

Finally, respondents in Iceland are primarily swayed by the argument that EU membership would improve living standards (51%), ahead of the belief that it would improve cooperation between countries (46%) or that it would boost economic growth (40%).

The longer the respondents studied the more likely they are to be positive about their country's European membership. Thus, 42% and 35% respectively of the respondents who studied up to the age of 20 or beyond consider that EU membership improves cooperation between countries and contributes to their country's economic growth, compared with 29% and 26% of those who left school before the age of 16.

QA11a Which of the following are the main reasons for thinking that (OUR COUNTRY) has benefited\ would benefit from being a member of the European Union?

	Membership of the EU improves\ would improve the co-operation between (OUR COUNTRY) and other countries	The EU contributes\ would contribute to maintain peace and reinforce security	The EU contributes\ would contribute to economic growth in (OUR COUNTRY)	The EU gives\ would give (NATIONALITY) people a stronger say in the world	The EU brings\ would bring (NATIONALITY) people new work opportunities	The EU helps\ would help (NATIONALITY) people to face the new challenges of globalisation	Some issues that are important for (NATIONALITY) people are\ would be best dealt with at the EU level	The EU improves\ would improve (NATIONALITY) peoples' standard of living	(NATIONALITY) people have\ would have an important influence in decisions made at EU level	The EU contributes\ would contribute to democracy in (OUR COUNTRY)	You are generally in favour of the EU (SPONT.)	Other (SPONT.)	DK
EU27	37%	31%	30%	26%	24%	17%	16%	15%	14%	13%	5%	1%	2%
Age													
 15-24	41%	28%	25%	27%	26%	17%	16%	17%	12%	12%	4%	1%	2%
25-39	40%	28%	30%	25%	26%	18%	15%	17%	14%	11%	5%	1%	1%
40-54	37%	32%	32%	26%	23%	17%	17%	14%	14%	13%	4%	1%	2%
55 +	33%	35%	30%	26%	22%	15%	15%	15%	14%	13%	6%	1%	4%
Education (End of)													
 15-	29%	29%	26%	28%	19%	11%	14%	16%	16%	13%	6%	1%	5%
16-19	36%	32%	29%	26%	24%	15%	15%	15%	14%	13%	5%	1%	2%
20 +	42%	33%	35%	25%	25%	21%	17%	15%	13%	12%	4%	1%	1%
Still studying	44%	28%	23%	28%	28%	19%	16%	17%	12%	11%	5%	1%	2%
Respondent occupation scale													
 Self- employed	40%	29%	30%	30%	25%	16%	16%	12%	12%	13%	7%	1%	2%
Managers	42%	32%	37%	24%	23%	23%	17%	15%	14%	12%	4%	1%	1%
Other white collars	40%	31%	30%	27%	25%	17%	16%	15%	13%	12%	7%	1%	2%
Manual workers	36%	32%	29%	25%	24%	15%	16%	17%	17%	13%	3%	1%	2%
House persons	33%	28%	27%	27%	21%	15%	16%	17%	10%	15%	4%	1%	3%
Unemployed	35%	29%	30%	24%	22%	14%	15%	15%	11%	11%	3%	1%	3%
Retired	32%	35%	30%	26%	24%	14%	14%	15%	14%	13%	5%	2%	4%
Students	44%	28%	23%	28%	28%	19%	16%	17%	12%	11%	5%	1%	2%
Left-Right scale													
(1-4) Left	42%	34%	30%	27%	21%	20%	17%	14%	13%	12%	4%	1%	1%
(5-6) Centre	36%	31%	31%	27%	25%	17%	15%	16%	16%	13%	4%	1%	2%
(7-10) Right	37%	31%	31%	28%	25%	16%	16%	17%	14%	12%	5%	1%	2%
Difficulties paying bills													
Most of the time	28%	30%	28%	19%	23%	14%	20%	16%	8%	14%	5%	2%	5%
From time to time	33%	31%	27%	28%	24%	14%	17%	15%	11%	14%	6%	1%	2%
Almost never	40%	32%	31%	27%	24%	18%	14%	15%	15%	12%	4%	1%	2%
Political interest index													
Strong	39%	35%	33%	26%	23%	22%	19%	16%	13%	13%	5%	1%	1%
Medium	41%	32%	31%	27%	24%	17%	15%	14%	14%	13%	4%	1%	2%
Low	34%	29%	28%	25%	26%	15%	14%	16%	14%	12%	5%	1%	3%
Not at all	28%	26%	23%	23%	23%	11%	14%	18%	12%	13%	6%	2%	5%
Opinion leadership index													
++	41%	35%	33%	26%	23%	22%	18%	15%	14%	13%	6%	1%	1%
+	39%	31%	30%	27%	24%	17%	16%	16%	13%	13%	5%	1%	2%
-	36%	30%	29%	26%	26%	17%	16%	14%	14%	12%	4%	1%	2%
--	32%	30%	25%	25%	23%	11%	13%	15%	13%	12%	3%	1%	5%

1.5 The reasons why Europeans feel that their country has not/would not benefit from European membership

Negative perceptions of membership of the European Union are based chiefly on reasons relating to influence and socio-economic factors⁵². Thus, the main reason given by respondents for being sceptical about the benefits of EU membership, with a score of 33%, is the fact that their country does not have enough influence over the European Union's decisions. The perceived threats to standards of living and jobs are ranked in joint second place (29% each). The argument that European membership has a negative effect on economic growth is ranked in fourth place, with a score of 27%. Three of the first four arguments therefore concern social and economic issues. Next, almost a quarter of respondents (24%) consider that important issues would be best dealt with at national level. The sixth most frequently mentioned argument was that EU membership makes their country more vulnerable to the negative effects of globalisation (17%), while all the other arguments obtained scores of less than 12%.

The order in which the arguments are ranked is also in line with that recorded in 2008. The main changes noted are as follows: the lack of influence in decisions made at EU level has lost 3 points (but is still the most frequently mentioned argument), and the belief that important issues are/would be better dealt with at national level has declined by 2 points.

A lack of influence in decisions made at EU level was mentioned particularly frequently by respondents in the Nordic countries (63% in Sweden, 61% in Denmark and 50% in Finland) and in certain of the most recent EU Member States: the Czech Republic (46%), Hungary (45%) and Bulgaria (42%).

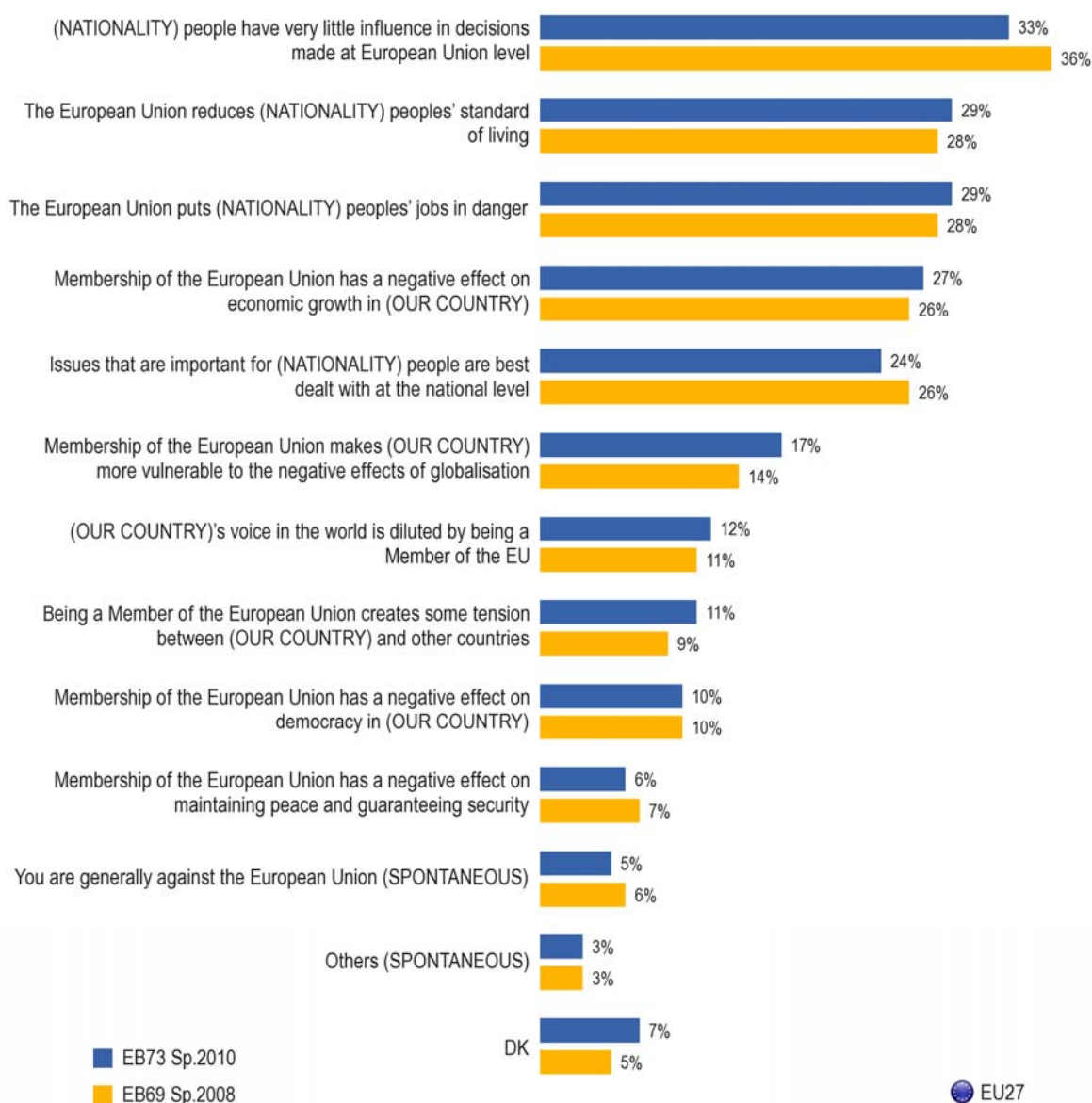
Respondents in Slovenia (58%) and France (47%) are particularly likely to believe that European membership has an adverse impact on living standards.

Finally, respondents in Cyprus (74%), Ireland (43%) and France (42%) were the most likely to mention the negative impact of European membership on employment nationally.

In Croatia (51%) and in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (35%), the most frequently mentioned argument was the potential threat of European membership to local living standards. Answers in Turkey are more fragmented and the prioritisation of arguments is less clear-cut: the most frequently mentioned argument was the fear that European membership might have a negative impact on Turkish economic growth (27%), just ahead of being anti-EU as a matter of principle (25%). In Iceland, the predominant argument is the question of a lack of influence: 63% of respondents in Iceland believe that if their country joined the European Union, they would have little influence in decisions made at EU level.

⁵² QA12a Which of the following are the main reasons for thinking that (OUR COUNTRY) did not/would not benefit from being a member of the European Union?

QA12. Which of the following are the main reasons for thinking that (OUR COUNTRY) has not benefited from being a member of the European Union?



The question (QA12) was put to those who consider that their country has not benefited from its membership of the European Union (35% of the sample)

A socio-demographic analysis of the results does not reveal any major differences.

QA12a Which of the following are the main reasons for thinking that (OUR COUNTRY) did not\ would not benefit from being a member of the European Union?

	(NATIONALITY) people have\ would have very little influence in decisions made at EU level	The EU decreases\ would (NATIONALITY) peoples' standard of living	The EU puts\ would put (NATIONALITY) peoples' jobs in danger	Membership of the EU has\ would have a negative effect on economic growth in (OUR COUNTRY)	Issues that are important for (NATIONALITY) people are\ would be best dealt at the national level	Membership of the EU makes\ would make (OUR COUNTRY) more vulnerable to the negative effects of globalisation	(OUR COUNTRY)'s voice in the world is\ would be diluted by being a Member of the EU	Being a Member of the EU creates\ would create some tensions between (OUR COUNTRY) and other countries	Membership of the EU has\ would have a negative effect on democracy in (OUR COUNTRY)	Membership of the EU has\ would have a negative effect on maintaining peace and guaranteeing security	Your are generally against the EU (SPONT.)	Other (SPONT.)	DK
EU27	33%	29%	29%	27%	24%	17%	12%	11%	10%	6%	5%	3%	7%
Age													
15-24	32%	25%	27%	31%	22%	17%	12%	13%	10%	8%	3%	3%	6%
25-39	31%	29%	30%	26%	25%	19%	12%	9%	12%	5%	4%	1%	6%
40-54	38%	31%	29%	30%	25%	18%	13%	11%	9%	7%	4%	3%	4%
55 +	32%	29%	29%	24%	25%	14%	12%	11%	10%	6%	6%	4%	8%
Education (End of)													
15-	29%	31%	30%	24%	22%	13%	12%	11%	9%	7%	8%	3%	8%
16-19	35%	31%	31%	27%	24%	18%	13%	12%	10%	6%	4%	2%	5%
20+	37%	26%	26%	31%	30%	20%	13%	9%	12%	5%	4%	3%	5%
Still studying	34%	21%	26%	34%	26%	19%	13%	11%	15%	8%	3%	3%	5%
Respondent occupation scale													
Self- employed	36%	24%	22%	31%	26%	23%	12%	14%	10%	5%	7%	3%	5%
Managers	42%	25%	27%	28%	30%	21%	15%	11%	12%	7%	3%	2%	3%
Other white collars	34%	27%	27%	30%	29%	22%	12%	11%	14%	8%	4%	1%	4%
Manual workers	32%	32%	32%	29%	24%	17%	12%	10%	9%	6%	4%	3%	6%
House persons	29%	35%	29%	24%	21%	12%	10%	12%	7%	8%	6%	1%	9%
Unemployed	33%	26%	37%	24%	20%	12%	12%	8%	10%	4%	4%	3%	8%
Retired	32%	31%	28%	24%	23%	15%	13%	11%	10%	6%	6%	4%	8%
Students	34%	21%	26%	34%	26%	19%	13%	11%	15%	8%	3%	3%	5%
Self-positioning on the social staircase													
Low (1-4)	29%	35%	32%	28%	21%	17%	11%	10%	9%	6%	4%	3%	6%
Medium (5-6)	34%	29%	29%	27%	25%	16%	13%	11%	10%	7%	6%	3%	6%
High (7-10)	39%	24%	27%	25%	30%	19%	13%	11%	11%	4%	4%	2%	7%
Political interest index													
Strong	38%	30%	29%	32%	27%	22%	14%	12%	13%	6%	4%	2%	2%
Medium	36%	31%	30%	27%	27%	20%	13%	11%	11%	7%	5%	3%	4%
Low	30%	29%	31%	29%	25%	15%	13%	12%	10%	6%	5%	2%	6%
Not at all	29%	27%	26%	22%	16%	9%	8%	9%	8%	6%	6%	4%	14%
Opinion leadership index													
++	39%	28%	30%	31%	28%	25%	14%	11%	14%	4%	3%	2%	2%
+	33%	30%	31%	29%	26%	16%	13%	12%	11%	7%	4%	3%	5%
-	32%	29%	27%	26%	26%	18%	12%	10%	10%	8%	6%	2%	7%
--	32%	29%	29%	23%	18%	13%	11%	10%	8%	4%	7%	3%	10%

2. DEMOCRACY IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

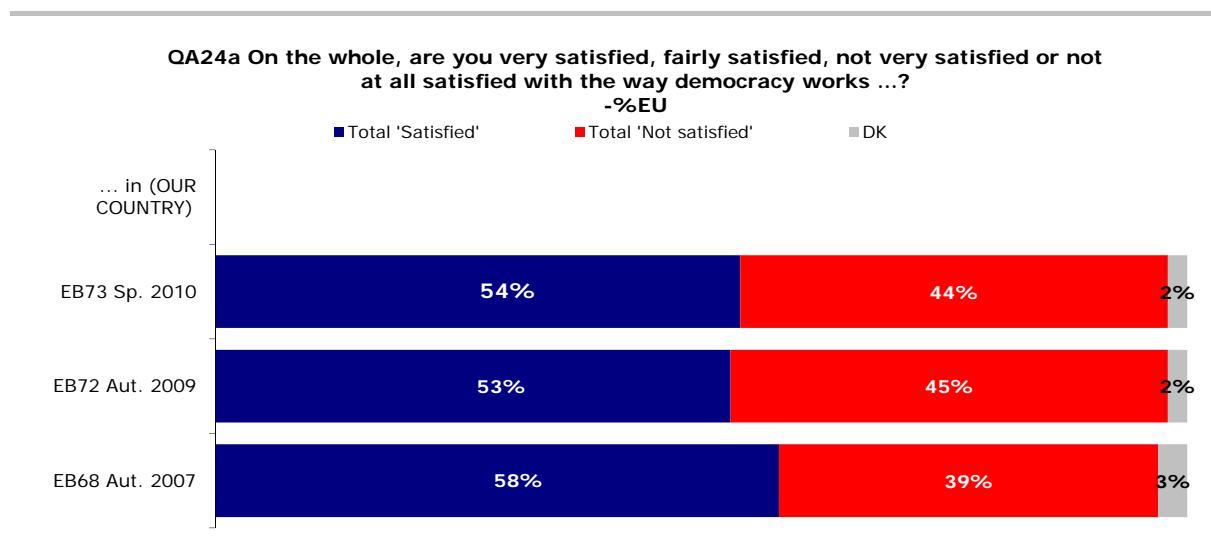
2.1 Perceptions of the way national democracies and European democracy work

- *Views on the way national democracies work are more or less unchanged but perceptions of democracy at EU level have deteriorated slightly -*

The autumn 2009 Eurobarometer survey (EB72) recorded deterioration in the way Europeans perceive the way national democracies work in comparison with the previous surveys carried out in 2007. This wave instead reveals a stable situation, since opinions on the way democracy works in each Member States are overall similar to those measured in autumn 2009. On the other hand, perceptions of how democracy works within the European Union have deteriorated slightly.

The way democracy works at national level

54% of Europeans are now satisfied with the way democracy works in their country, while 44% are dissatisfied and only 2% expressed no opinion⁵³. Satisfaction with the way national democracy works is one point higher than in the autumn 2009 Eurobarometer survey, while dissatisfaction has decreased by one point. These results are therefore very close to those measured in autumn 2009, but still fall short of the level of satisfaction recorded in autumn 2007.

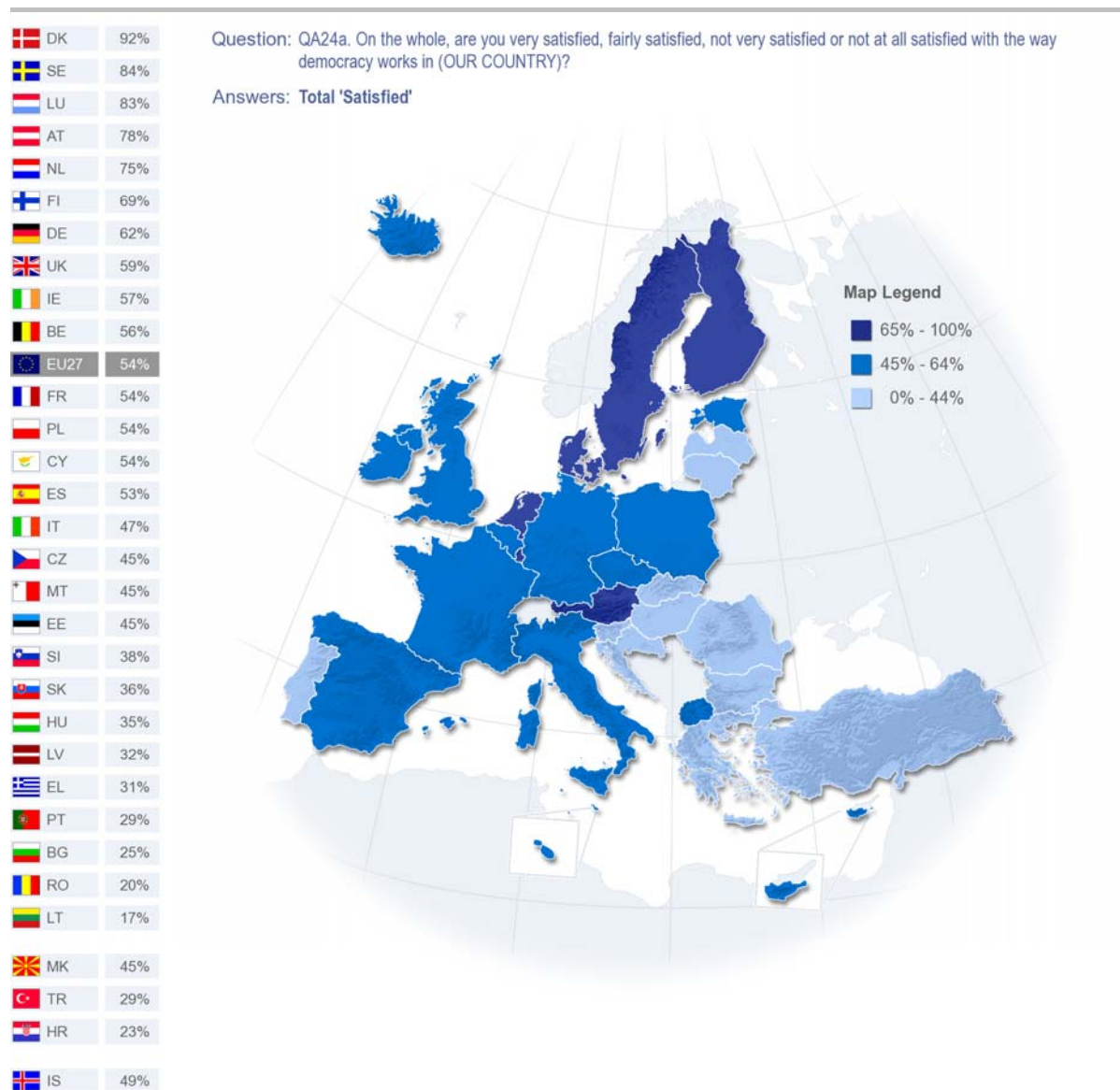


Generally speaking, Europe is split into two camps on this question: a clear majority of respondents in the EU15 countries are satisfied with their national democracy (57/41), while opinions are clearly negative in the NMS12 group of countries (39/57).

⁵³ QA24a On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the way democracy works in (OUR COUNTRY)?

A detailed analysis reveals that a majority of respondents are satisfied in 14 Member States. Denmark (92%), Sweden (84%), Luxembourg (83%), Austria (78%) and the Netherlands (75%) have the highest levels of satisfaction.

A majority of respondents in 13 EU Member States are dissatisfied with the way democracy works in their country. Respondents in Lithuania (79%), Romania (78%), Bulgaria (73%), Greece (69%) and Portugal (69%) are the most dissatisfied. Finally, opinions are evenly divided in Malta (45% satisfied versus 46%).



Evolutions by country since the autumn 2009 survey are very mixed. Dissatisfaction has increased very markedly in the countries the most affected by the public debt crisis: thus it has risen by 18 points in Greece and by 12 points in Portugal. Conversely, though it remains the minority opinion, satisfaction has increased perceptibly in Hungary (+12 points) and Latvia (+11 points).

It is interesting to note that Hungary and Latvia are the two countries in which the impression that the crisis has peaked has increased the most since autumn 2009, whereas Greece and Portugal are the two Member States in which this opinion has lost the most ground⁵⁴. We may therefore wonder to what extent perceptions of the economic situation influence views on the way democracy works in a country. Finally, there has been a reversal of the majority opinion in Poland, as a result of a 10 point increase in levels of satisfaction. Whereas a majority of respondents in Poland were dissatisfied in autumn 2009 (50% dissatisfied versus 44%), a majority of respondents are now satisfied (54% satisfied versus 39%).


In the candidate countries, there is still strong dissatisfaction in Croatia, although it has declined (75%, -9 points). Dissatisfaction continues to grow in Turkey (66%, +8 points). These levels of dissatisfaction undoubtedly partly explain why many respondents in these two countries consider that EU membership would be beneficial for democracy in their country. In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, a majority of respondents are now dissatisfied (54%, +9 points), which was not the case in autumn 2009.

Finally, in Iceland, respondents are split down the middle in their assessment of the way democracy works in their country (49% versus 49%).

Social divisions are very influential in shaping the answers of respondents on this question. The lower the respondents place themselves in the social scale the more likely they are to be critical of the way democracy works. Sixty percent of people at the bottom of the social scale consider that democracy works badly in their country, compared with only 36% of those at the top. 64% of those who struggle to pay their bills are dissatisfied with their democracy compared with “only” 38% of those who do not have financial problems. This social divide is also illustrated by the fact that 54% of unemployed people are dissatisfied with democracy in their country compared with 34% of managers. The respondent’s political leanings have a slight influence on assessments of democracy at national level: 53% of those on the left of the political spectrum are satisfied with the way democracy works in their country, compared with 57% of those in the centre and 59% of those on the right. Dissatisfaction with the democratic system is therefore far more social than political and is based chiefly on the increased vulnerability of personal situations.

⁵⁴ See Volume II, Opinions on other themes, part 2, Europeans, the European Union and the crisis, chapter 1, has the crisis peaked?

QA24 On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the way democracy works in (OUR COUNTRY)?

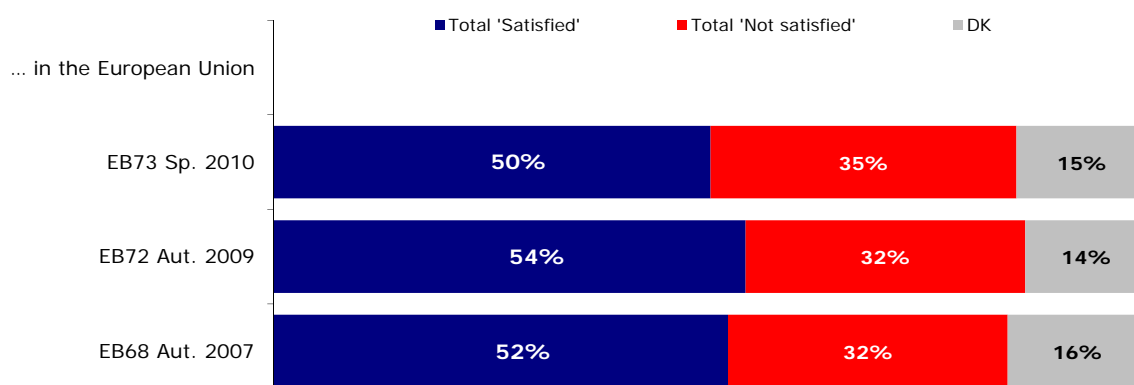
	Total 'Satisfied'	Total 'Not satisfied'	DK
EU27	54%	44%	2%
Respondent occupation scale			
 Self-employed	53%	46%	1%
Managers	65%	34%	1%
Other white collars	56%	42%	2%
Manual workers	50%	48%	2%
House persons	48%	49%	3%
Unemployed	44%	54%	2%
Retired	52%	45%	3%
Students	62%	36%	2%
Left-Right scale			
(1-4) Left	53%	46%	1%
(5-6) Centre	57%	41%	2%
(7-10) Right	59%	40%	1%
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	33%	64%	3%
From time to time	45%	52%	3%
Almost never	60%	38%	2%
Self-positioning on the social staircase			
Low (1-4)	37%	60%	3%
Medium (5-6)	56%	42%	2%
High (7-10)	63%	36%	1%

The way democracy works in the European Union

50% of Europeans are now satisfied with the way democracy works in the European Union, while 35% are dissatisfied and 15% expressed no opinion⁵⁵. Since autumn 2009, favourable opinions have decreased by 4 points, while dissatisfaction has increased by 3 points. The 'DK' rate has increased by 1 point.

This 50/35 ratio is also less positive than in autumn 2007 (52/32).

QA24b On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the way democracy works ...?
- %EU

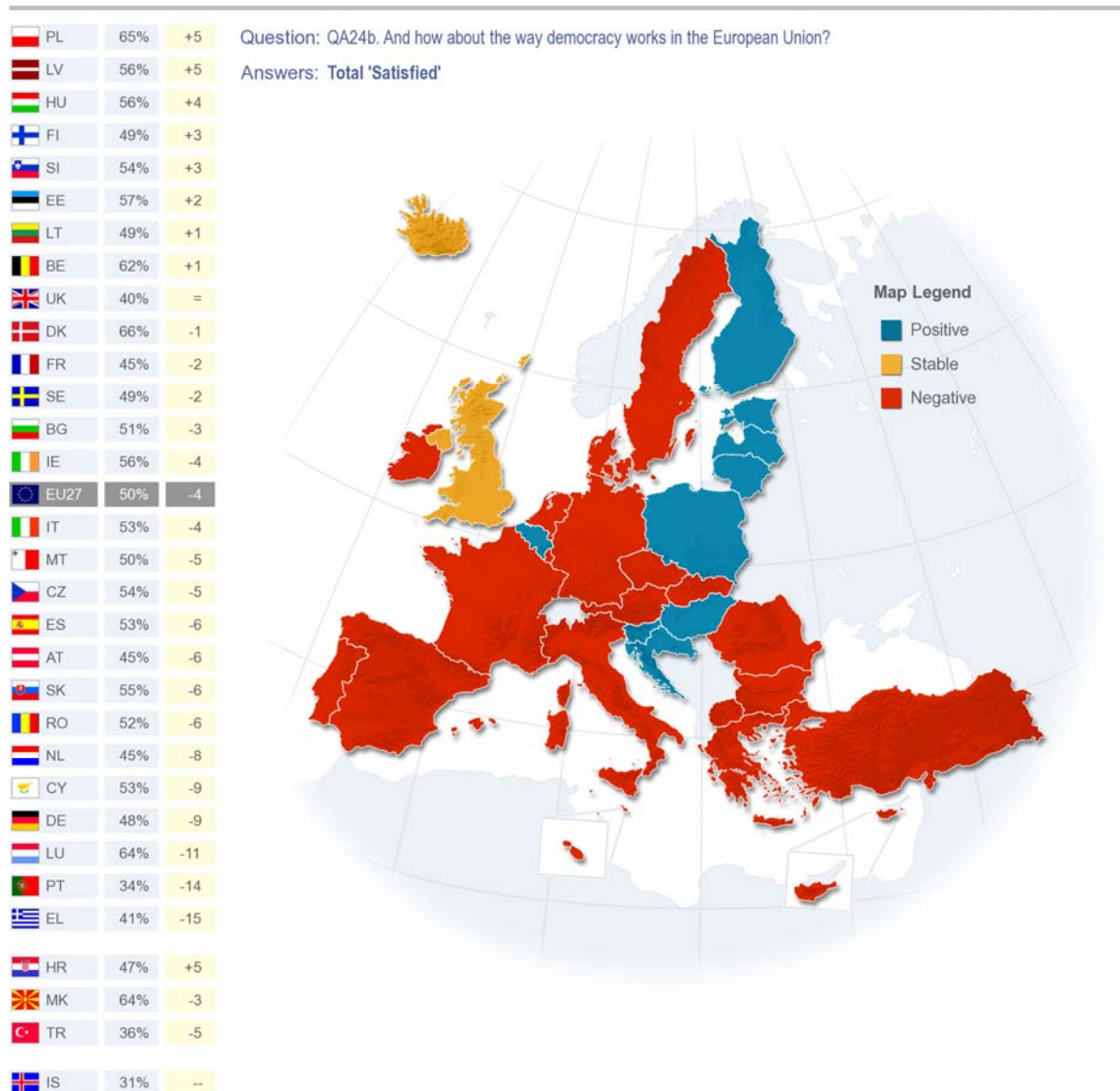


⁵⁵ QA24b And how about the way democracy works in the European Union?

The public debt crisis has, in all likelihood, profoundly affected opinions in certain countries, whether they are either directly impacted by the crisis or have been at the centre of the debate on the aid to be provided to countries in difficulties. Thus, satisfaction with the way democracy works in the European Union has plummeted by 15 points in Greece and by 14 points in Portugal. In these two countries, a majority of respondents are now dissatisfied: 53% in Greece and 51% in Portugal. It has also fallen by 9 points in Cyprus, but is still the majority opinion (53%).

The rate of satisfaction has also fallen significantly in Luxembourg (-11 points), Germany (-9), the Netherlands (-8) and Austria (-6). As a result, although a majority of respondents are still satisfied in Luxembourg (64%), the ratio is now far tighter in Germany (48% versus 44%) and the Netherlands (45% versus 44%). It has even been reversed in Austria (45% versus 49%).



Overall, and for the first time for this indicator, we now have a situation where dissatisfaction is predominant in three EU Member States (Greece, Portugal and Austria).



Difference EB73 Spring 2010 – EB72 Autumn 2009

Satisfaction with the way democracy works in the European Union increases as respondents rise in the social scale. Opinions of European democracy are influenced by the division between respondents who are financially comfortable and well integrated, and the more socially disadvantaged respondents. By way of example, 57% of the most educated respondents and 59% of those at the top of the social scale are satisfied with the way democracy works in the European Union compared with 40% of the least educated respondents and 37% of those who place themselves at the bottom. Age is also a determinant: the youngest respondents are far more satisfied (59% among those aged 15 to 24) than the oldest group (44% among those aged 55 or over). Finally, those on the right of the political spectrum (57%) are far more satisfied than those on the left (47%).

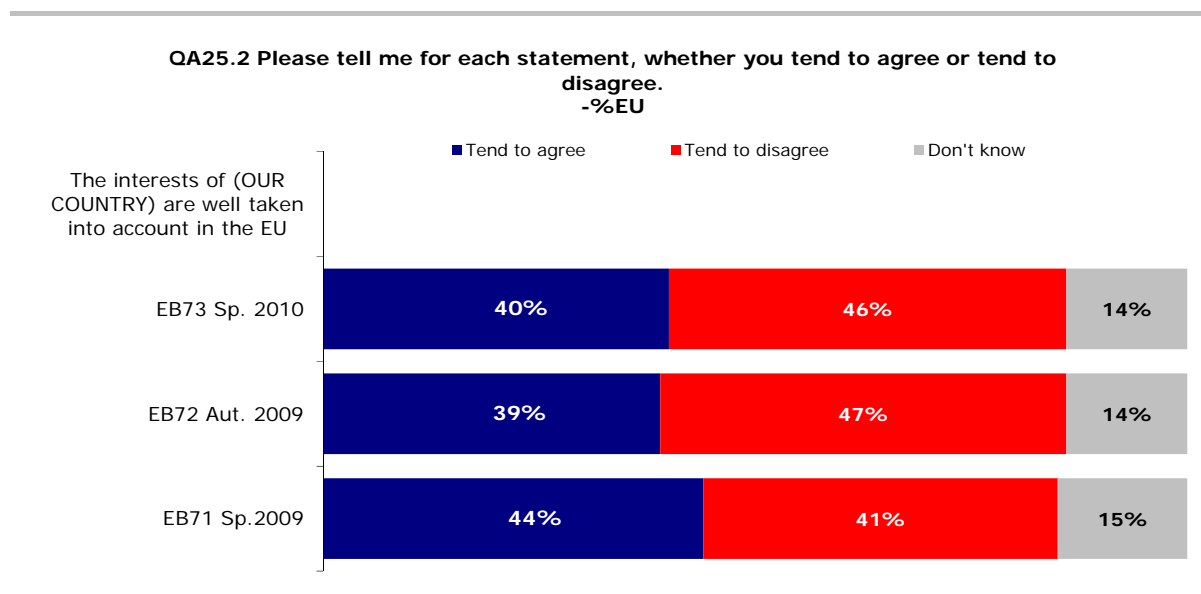
QA24b And how about the way democracy works in the European Union?

	Total 'Satisfied'	Total 'Not satisfied'	DK
EU27	50%	35%	15%
Age			
 15-24	59%	27%	14%
25-39	53%	35%	12%
40-54	49%	37%	14%
55 +	44%	39%	17%
Education (End of)			
 15-	40%	39%	21%
16-19	48%	38%	14%
20+	57%	33%	10%
Still studying	64%	25%	11%
Left-Right scale			
(1-4) Left	47%	39%	14%
(5-6) Centre	52%	35%	13%
(7-10) Right	57%	34%	9%
Self-positioning on the social staircase			
Low (1-4)	37%	42%	21%
Medium (5-6)	52%	34%	14%
High (7-10)	59%	33%	8%

2.2 Are national interests adequately taken into account by the EU?

- A majority of Europeans still consider that their country's interests are not adequately taken into account by the EU -

The scores recorded for this indicator have remained more or less unchanged since autumn 2009⁵⁶. Thus, 46% of Europeans (-1 point) consider that the European Union does not pay enough attention to their country's interests, while 40% (+1 point) take the opposite view and 14% (unchanged) expressed no opinion. Therefore, a majority of respondents continue to believe that national interests are not adequately taken into account by the EU.



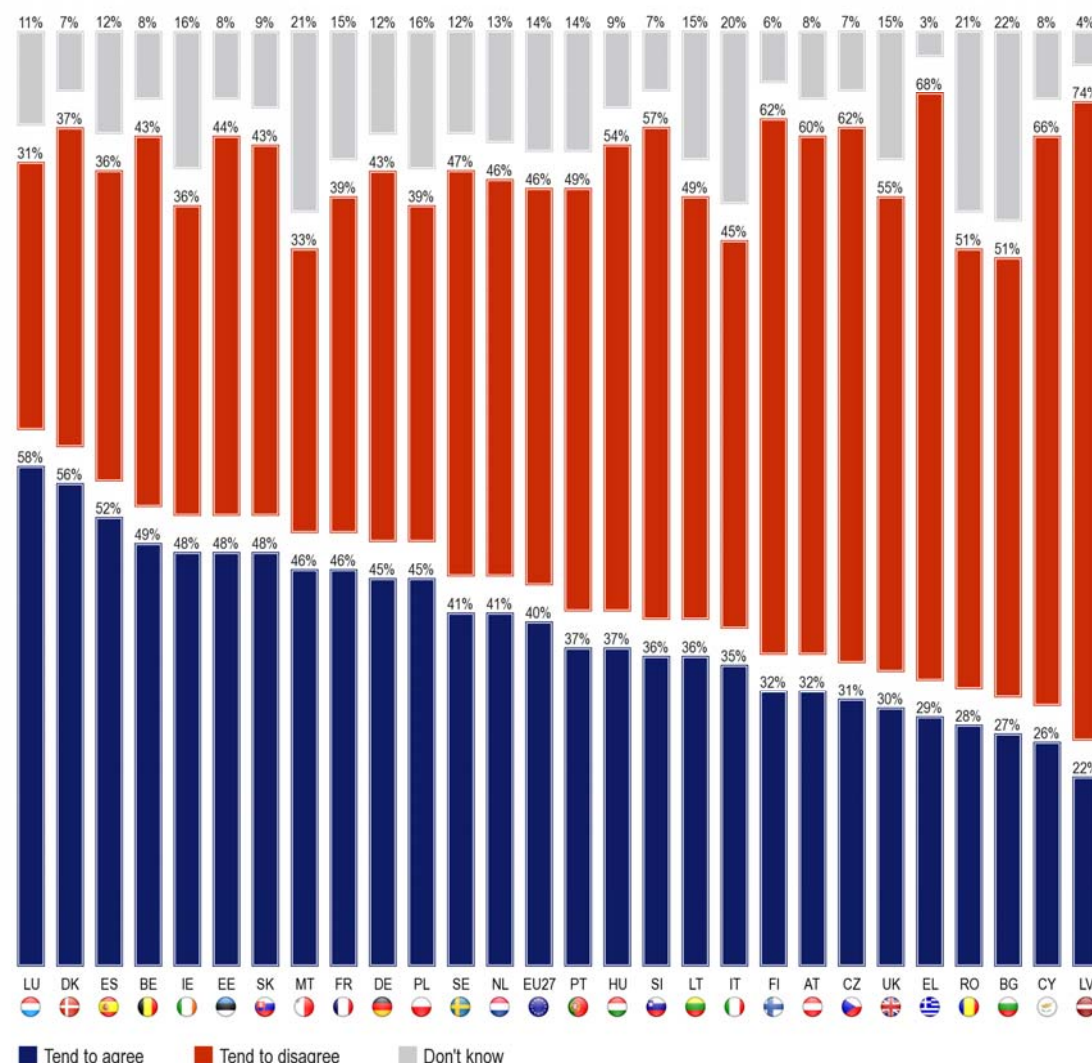
The results for this indicator reveal a remarkable difference between the euro zone countries and the rest: the ratio between the impression that national interests are adequately taken into account by the European Union and the opposite view is 43-44 in the euro zone countries and 35-50 in the non-euro zone countries.

The idea that national interests are poorly taken into account by the European Union is predominant in 16 EU countries, in particular in Latvia (74%), Greece (68%), Cyprus (66%), the Czech Republic (62%), Finland (62%) and Austria (60%). The belief that national interests are adequately taken into account is predominant in 11 Member States, in particular in Luxembourg (58%) and Denmark (56%). However opinions are evenly divided in Germany (45% versus 43%).

⁵⁶ QA25a2: Please tell me for each statement, whether you tend to agree or tend to disagree: the interests of (OUR COUNTRY) are well taken into account in the European Union?

QA25.2. Please tell me for each statement, whether you tend to agree or tend to disagree.

The interests of (OUR COUNTRY) are well taken into account in the EU



The feeling that national interests are adequately taken into account by the EU has fallen by 4 points in Greece and Germany. However, it has increased significantly in Spain (+15 points).

Although the national factor is the key determinant for this question, it is interesting to note that opinions are also significantly shaped by the social category of the respondents and by their knowledge of the European Union. The most socially advantaged and most educated categories are thus far more likely than the most disadvantaged categories to consider that their country's interests are adequately taken into account by the European Union. That is the case of 51% of the respondents who studied the longest, 54% of executives and 49% of those who place themselves at the top of the social scale compared with 32% of the least educated respondents, 37% of unemployed people and 31% of those at the bottom.

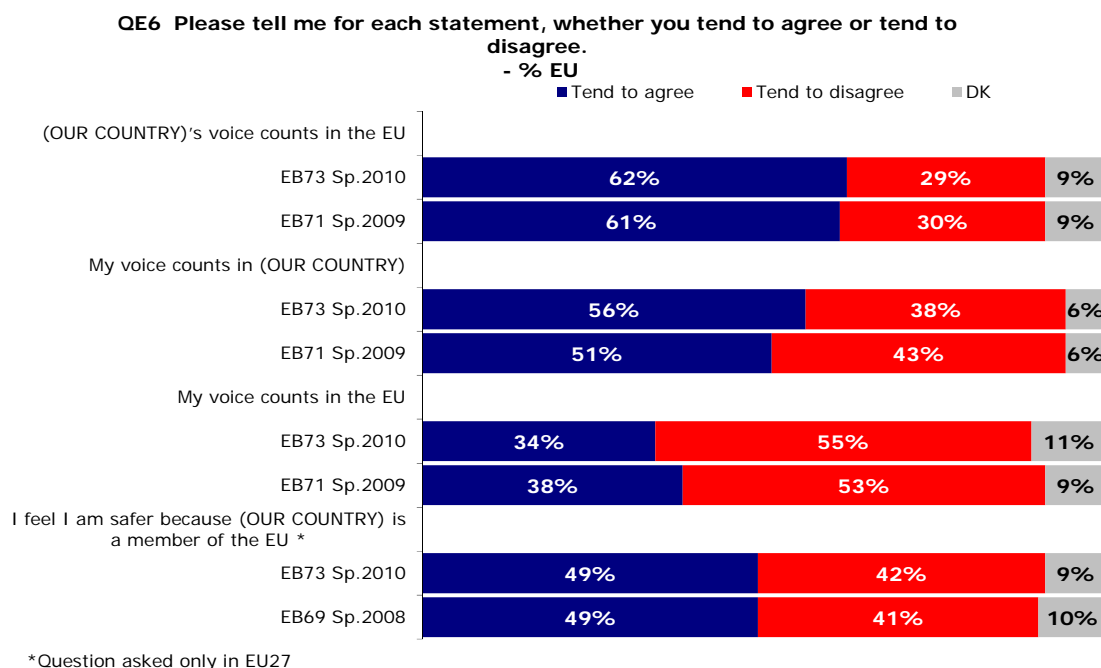
The second factor that shapes opinions is the respondent's knowledge of the European Union and interest in politics. The more the respondents are familiar with the European Union and the more they are interested in politics, the more likely they are to consider that their country's interests are adequately taken into account. For example this applies to 50% of those who have a good objective knowledge of the European Union⁵⁷ compared with only 17% of those whose knowledge is poor, and 48% of those who are very interested in politics compared with 29% of those who are not interested in the subject.

- Europeans share the feeling that their country's voice counts in the EU but not their own voice -

Although a majority of respondents consider that their country's voice counts in the European Union, and that their own voice as a citizen counts in their country, Europeans do not believe, on the other hand, that their voice counts in the EU. Compared with the last survey in spring 2009, the individual feeling among respondents that their voice counts in their country has increased by 5 points whereas the idea that their voice counts in the EU has fallen by 4 points. European citizens therefore believe that they can influence their country's decisions but not those of the EU. This undoubtedly reflects the impression that the European Union and its decisions are too remote from its citizens. Finally, and in proportions identical to those recorded in spring 2008, a majority of Europeans agree that they feel safer because their country is a member of the EU⁵⁸.

⁵⁷ Objective knowledge of the European Union is calculated on the basis of a "quiz" question: the respondents were asked to state whether 4 statements are true or false. The interviewees who did not give any right answers to the 4 statements are classified in the "poor objective knowledge of the EU" category. The "average objective knowledge of the EU" category consists of those who gave one or two right answers. Finally, the respondents who gave the right answer to three or all four statements are classified in the "good objective knowledge of the EU" category.

⁵⁸ QE6a.1 Please tell me for each statement, whether you tend to agree or tend to disagree?



“My country’s voice counts in the EU”

62% of Europeans consider that their country’s voice counts in the EU, while only 29% take the opposite view and 9% expressed no opinion. Overall, this result is similar to that recorded in EB71 in spring 2009.

However there are marked national differences on this question. Thus, in six Member States, the predominant feeling among respondents is that their country’s voice does not count in the EU. This is the case in Greece (65%), Latvia (60%), the Czech Republic (55%), Romania (53%), Austria (51%) and Cyprus (49%). It will be noted that these countries are among those where the feeling that national interests are not adequately taken into account by the EU predominates. For this indicator also, the difference between euro zone countries and non-euro zone countries is noteworthy: the ratio between those who think that their country’s voice counts in the EU and those who disagree is 67-25 in the euro zone and 53-37 in the non-euro zone countries.

As for the question on the way in which national interests are taken into account by the EU, socially advantaged respondents, those interested in politics and those who have a good knowledge of the European Union are far more likely to consider that their country’s voice counts in the European Union than people whose personal situation is difficult, who are not really interested in politics and whose knowledge of the EU is poor.

“My voice counts in my country”/“My voice counts in the EU”.

56% of Europeans have the impression that their voice counts in their country, while 38% take the opposite view and 6% expressed no opinion. This belief has grown significantly, by 5 points, since the spring 2009 wave (EB71), while the opposite view has declined by 5 points.

The positive/negative answers ratio has been completely reversed as regards the European Union. 55% of Europeans consider that their voice does not count in the EU, while 34% disagree and 11% expressed no opinion. What is more, the trend is also the opposite of that noted for national influence: the proportion of Europeans who consider that their voice does not count in the European Union has increased by 2 points since the spring 2009 wave, while the number of those who believe that their voice counts has decreased by 4 points and the ‘DK’ rate is up by 2 points. Therefore, in comparison with spring 2009, the difference between respondents’ perceptions of their influence as citizens in their country and their influence at EU level has increased significantly.

There are only six countries in the European Union where the majority opinion is not predominant, and where – sometimes by a narrow margin – respondents who believe their voice counts in Europe are in a majority. These countries are Denmark (57% versus 40%), Sweden (50% versus 45%), the Netherlands (49% versus 44%), Hungary (49% versus 46%), Malta (48% versus 38%) and Poland (45% versus 42%).


































Finally, and as for the other indicators, the impression among respondents that their voice counts in the European Union is influenced in particular by social factors. The lower the respondents place themselves in the social scale the more likely they are to feel that their voice does not count in the European Union. Accordingly, 60% of unemployed people, 60% of the least educated respondents, 69% of those who struggle to pay their bills and 64% of those who place themselves at the bottom of the social scale say that their voice does not count in the EU. Europeans feel that the EU’s decisions are too remote; within the EU, the least advantaged and most vulnerable categories feel this even more keenly.

“I feel I am safer because my country is a member of the EU”.

49% of Europeans consider that they are safer because their country is a member of the EU, while 42% do not share this view and 9% expressed no opinion. This positive/negative answers ratio is identical to that of spring 2008, in EB69.

This feeling of safety is predominant in 21 of the 27 EU Member States. Only France, where 64% of respondents say that they do not feel safer because their country is a member of the EU, the United Kingdom (55%), Sweden (54%), Austria (49%) and the Netherlands (48%) do not take the majority view. Opinions are evenly divided in Belgium (47% versus 47%).

QE6 Please tell me for each statement, whether you tend to agree or tend to disagree.

	(OUR COUNTRY)'s voice counts in the EU			My voice counts in (OUR COUNTRY)			My voice counts in the EU			I feel I am safer because (OUR COUNTRY) is a member of the EU**		
	Tend to agree	Tend to disagree	DK	Tend to agree	Tend to disagree	DK	Tend to agree	Tend to disagree	DK	Tend to agree	Tend to disagree	DK
 EU27	62%	29%	9%	56%	38%	6%	34%	55%	11%	49%	42%	9%
 BE	70%	26%	4%	59%	38%	3%	46%	49%	5%	47%	47%	6%
 BG	43%	37%	20%	40%	50%	10%	25%	56%	19%	55%	34%	11%
 CZ	40%	55%	5%	38%	60%	2%	18%	77%	5%	49%	45%	6%
 DK	86%	11%	3%	94%	5%	1%	57%	40%	3%	63%	33%	4%
 DE	81%	13%	6%	70%	26%	4%	41%	46%	13%	50%	40%	10%
 EE	64%	32%	4%	61%	37%	2%	29%	66%	5%	73%	24%	3%
 IE	56%	31%	13%	54%	37%	9%	37%	49%	14%	61%	31%	8%
 EL	33%	65%	2%	27%	71%	2%	25%	72%	3%	63%	34%	3%
 ES	61%	29%	10%	54%	40%	6%	36%	53%	11%	58%	32%	10%
 FR	79%	14%	7%	73%	24%	3%	37%	55%	8%	32%	64%	4%
 IT	50%	37%	13%	29%	57%	14%	29%	54%	17%	53%	31%	16%
 CY	43%	49%	8%	44%	49%	7%	30%	60%	10%	67%	28%	5%
 LV	33%	60%	7%	19%	76%	5%	12%	80%	8%	51%	43%	6%
 LT	42%	42%	16%	21%	70%	9%	24%	59%	17%	60%	29%	11%
 LU	78%	18%	4%	65%	32%	3%	46%	47%	7%	55%	40%	5%
 HU	59%	35%	6%	56%	41%	3%	49%	46%	5%	57%	37%	6%
 MT	61%	27%	12%	51%	38%	11%	48%	38%	14%	57%	32%	11%
 NL	77%	19%	4%	82%	16%	2%	49%	44%	7%	40%	48%	12%
 AT	42%	51%	7%	70%	27%	3%	31%	63%	6%	45%	49%	6%
 PL	67%	24%	9%	66%	27%	7%	45%	42%	13%	68%	24%	8%
 PT	53%	37%	10%	48%	45%	7%	36%	57%	7%	48%	44%	8%
 RO	30%	53%	17%	22%	66%	12%	17%	65%	18%	49%	40%	11%
 SI	65%	29%	6%	76%	22%	2%	43%	51%	6%	64%	32%	4%
 SK	62%	32%	6%	60%	35%	5%	42%	51%	7%	70%	25%	5%
 FI	72%	25%	3%	78%	19%	3%	42%	55%	3%	61%	36%	3%
 SE	84%	13%	3%	94%	5%	1%	50%	45%	5%	40%	54%	6%
 UK	47%	42%	11%	53%	43%	4%	21%	71%	8%	37%	55%	8%
 CY (tcc)*	29%	58%	13%	31%	54%	15%	27%	56%	17%	-	-	-
 HR	36%	52%	12%	31%	54%	15%	27%	56%	17%	-	-	-
 TR	26%	57%	17%	29%	59%	12%	30%	56%	14%	-	-	-
 MK	24%	68%	8%	54%	42%	4%	18%	74%	8%	-	-	-
 IS	50%	45%	5%	76%	23%	1%	33%	63%	4%	-	-	-

*For CY(tcc): (OUR COUNTRY) replaced by (OUR COMMUNITY)

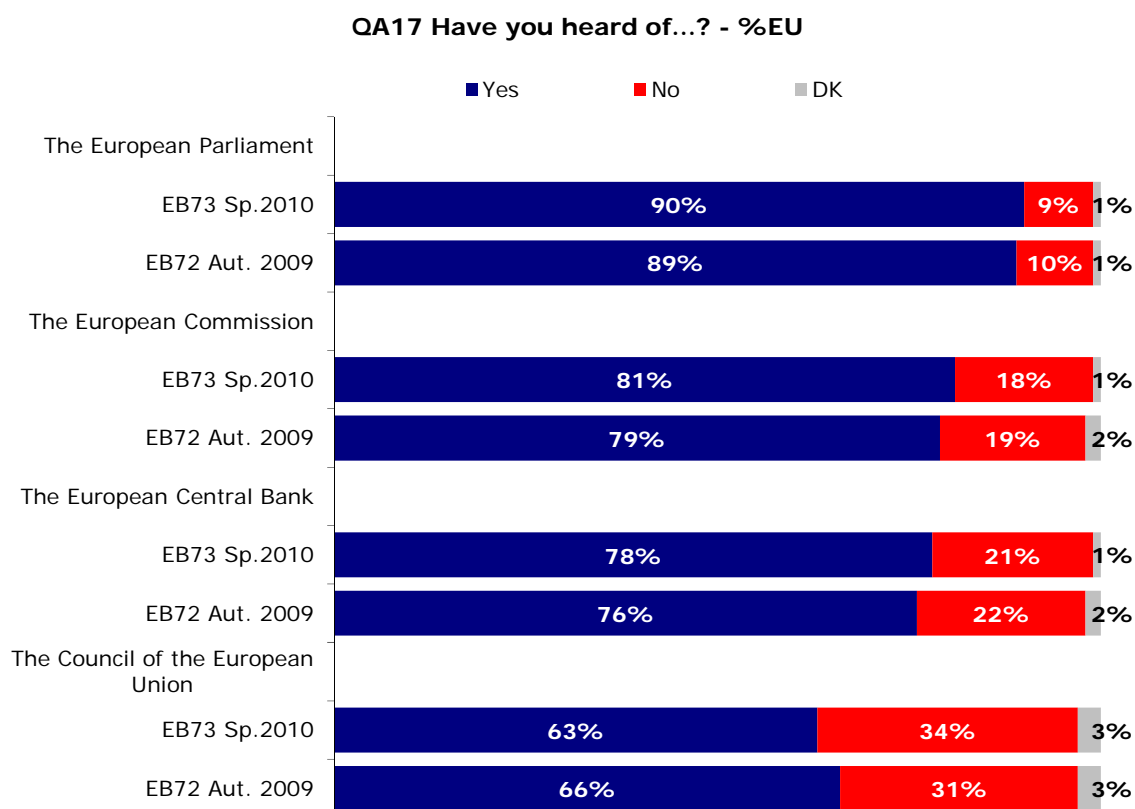
**Question only asked in EU27

3. THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS

3.1 Knowledge of the European institutions

The main European institutions are well-known and knowledge of them has even increased for the European Commission and the Central Bank, undoubtedly as a result of the high media coverage in recent months in relation to the management of the public debt crisis and the euro.

As in previous surveys, the European Parliament is still the best known institution. On the other hand, a majority of Europeans have still not heard of the European Ombudsman, the Committee of the Regions of the European Union and the European Economic and Social Committee⁵⁹.



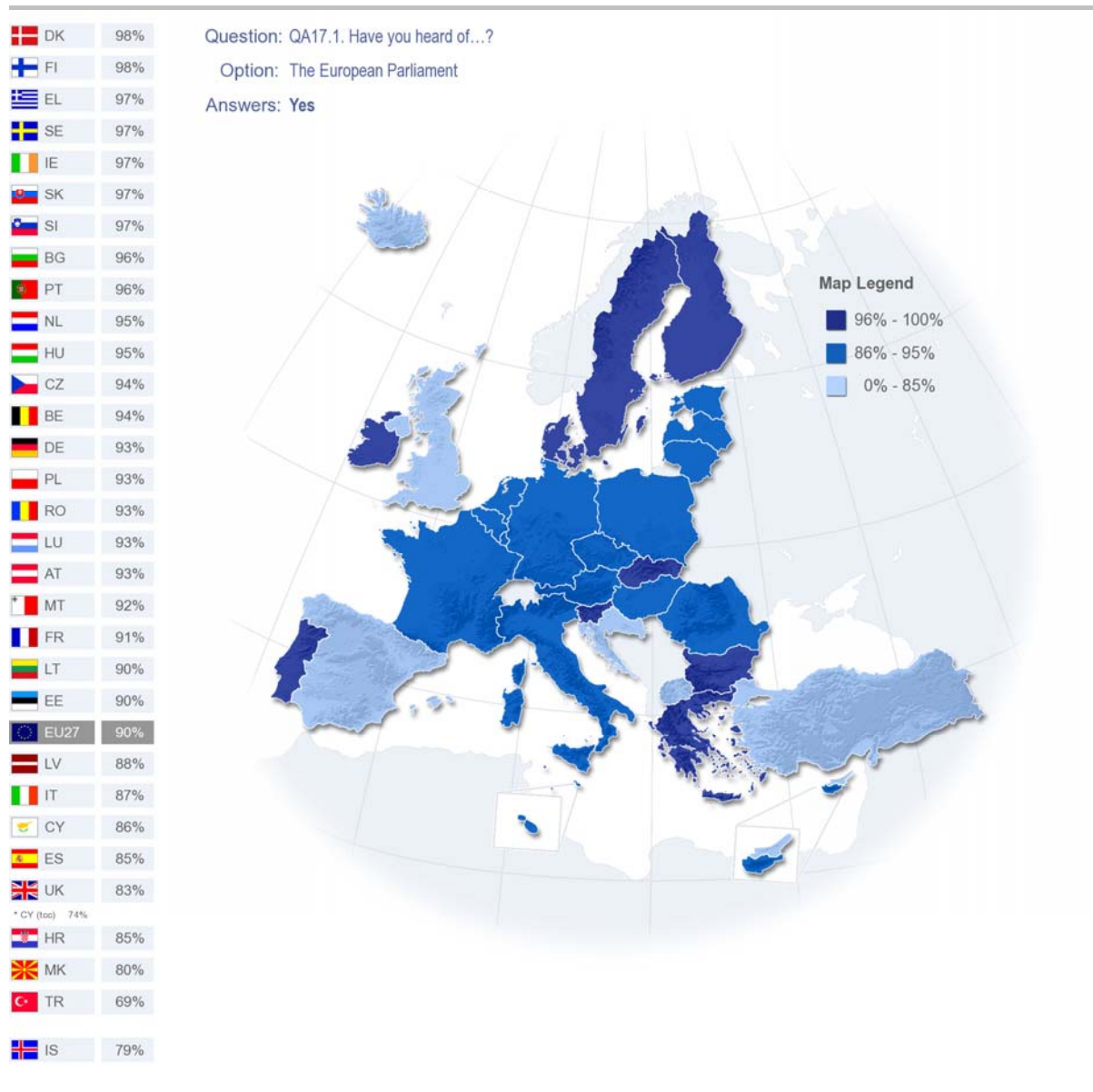
⁵⁹ QA17. Have you heard of ...?

The European Parliament

The proportion of respondents who have heard of the European Parliament stands at 90%, up one point since the last Eurobarometer wave (EB72, autumn 2009). This proportion is equal to or more than 90% in 22 EU countries, and fell furthest below the EU average in the United Kingdom (83%) and Spain (85%). In general, as the European Parliament is very well known and its reputation well established, there have not been any significant changes in the last six months.

In the candidate countries, knowledge of the European Parliament has increased substantially in Turkey (69%, + 7 points) and respondents in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (80%) and Croatia (85%) continue to be very familiar with this institution.

Finally, 79% of respondents in Iceland have heard of the European Parliament.



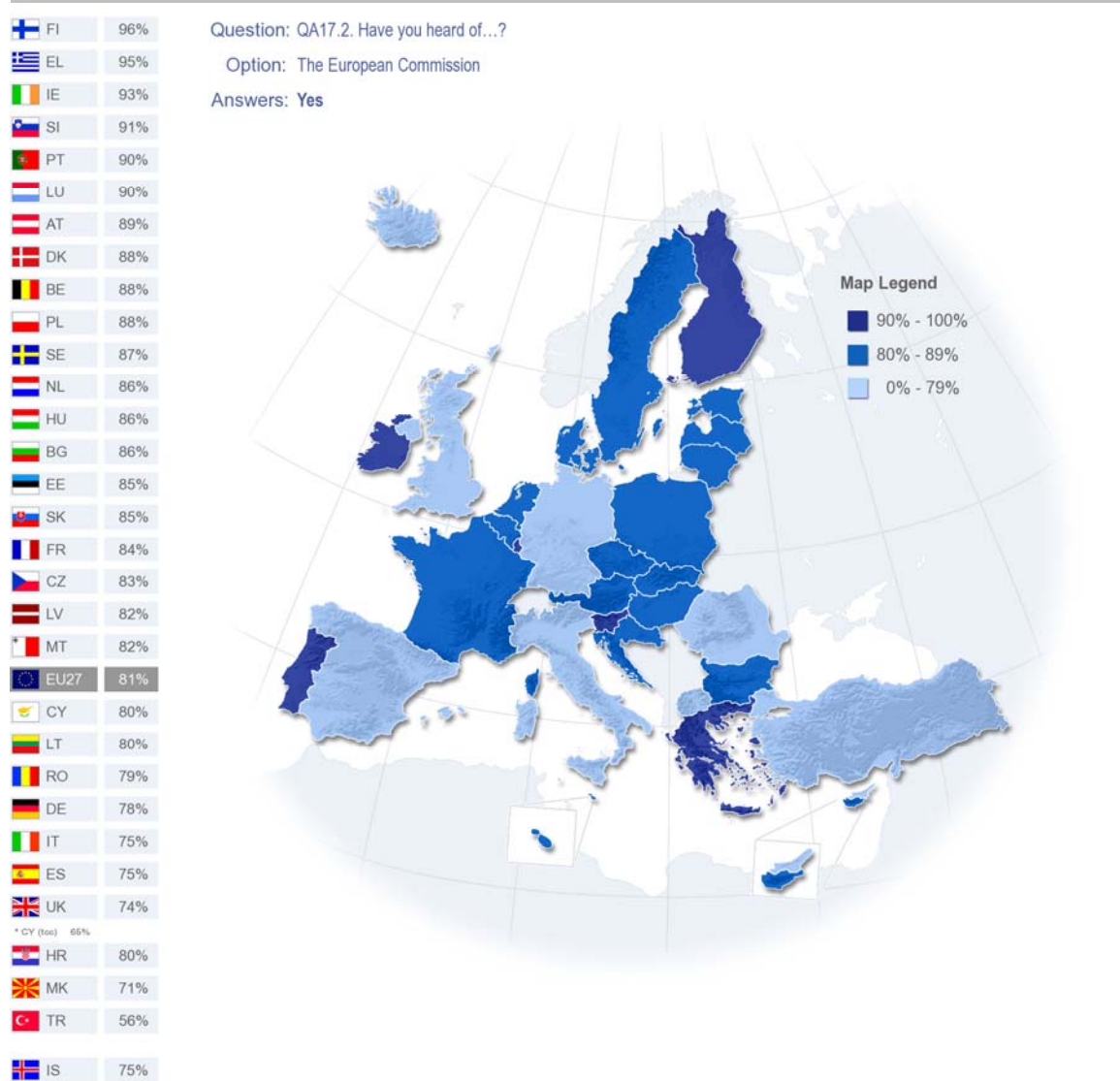
The European Commission

81% of respondents have heard of the European Commission, 2 points more than in the autumn 2009 Eurobarometer wave. The score is equal to or higher than 80% in 22 EU countries, the highest scores being recorded in Finland (96%) and Greece (95%). Knowledge of this institution is slightly below the European average in the United Kingdom (74%), Spain (75%), Italy (75%) and Germany (78%).

The largest increases in awareness were recorded in Greece (+6 points), Hungary (+5), Ireland (+4) and Poland (+4).

In the candidate countries, 80% of respondents in Croatia (-4 points) have heard of the European Commission, compared with 71% (-2 points) in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and 56% (unchanged) in Turkey.

In Iceland, 75% of respondents have heard of the European Commission.

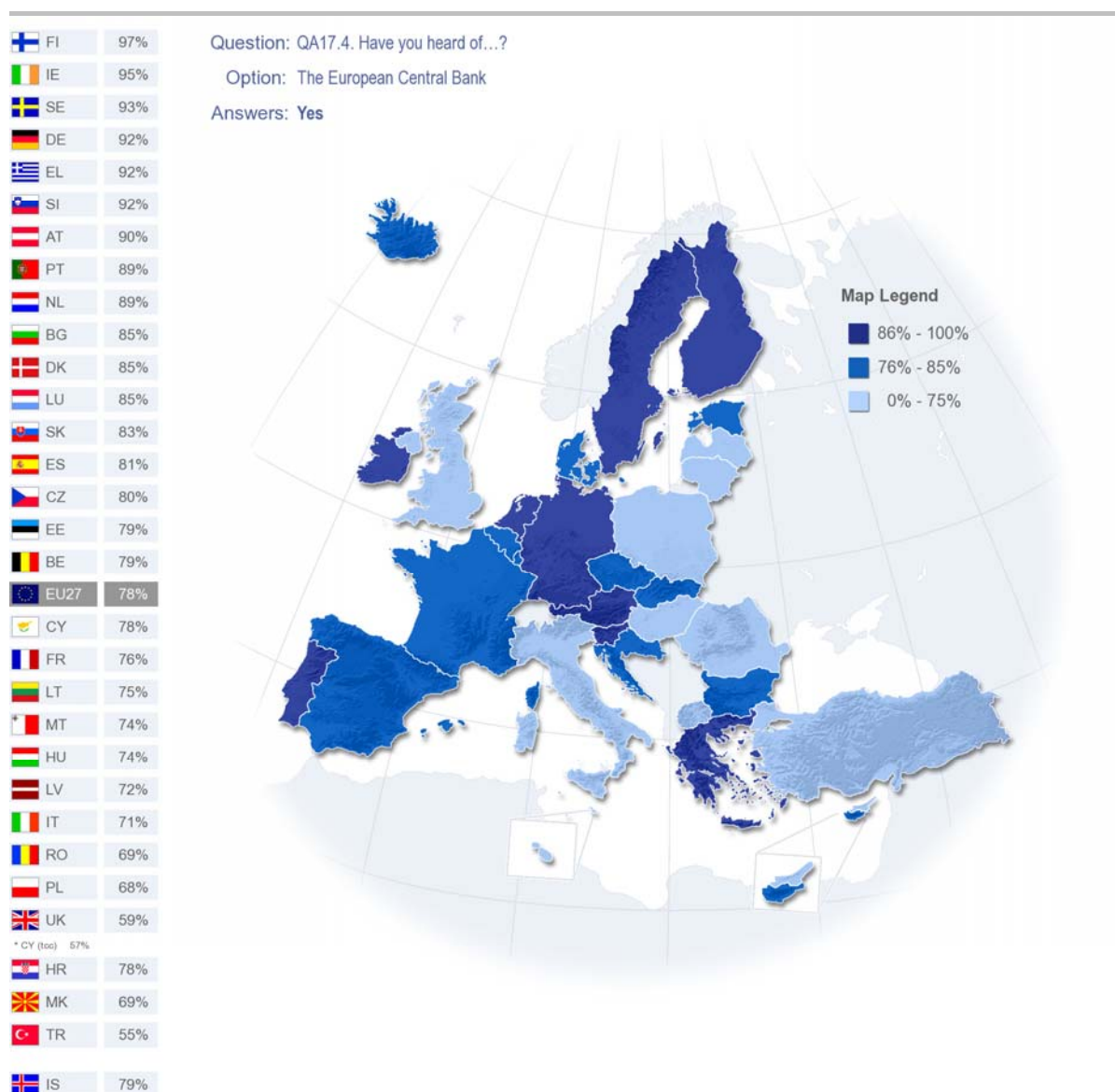


The European Central Bank

Like knowledge of the European Commission, awareness of the **European Central Bank** has also increased by two points since the autumn 2009 Eurobarometer wave. It now stands at 78%. The highest scores were recorded in Finland (97%), Ireland (95%), Sweden (93%), Slovenia (92%), Germany (92%) and Greece (92%), while respondents in the United Kingdom (59%) and Poland (68%) are the least likely to have heard of this institution. As a result of the media coverage of the public debt crisis, awareness of the Central Bank has increased by 7 points in Greece and by 5 points in Germany.

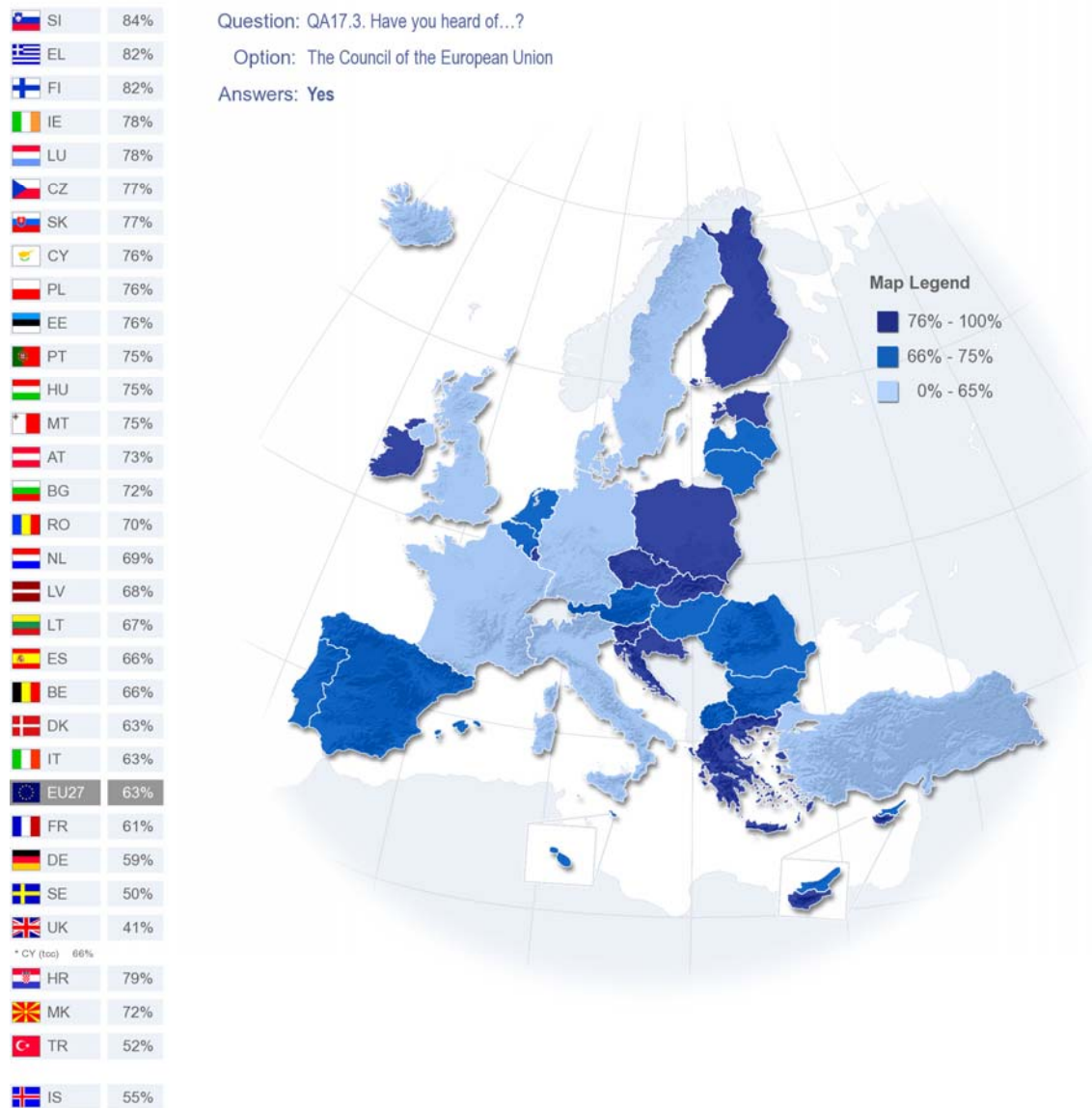
In the candidate countries, respondents in Turkey (55%, -2 points) are the least aware of the European Central Bank.

In Iceland, the proportion of respondents who have heard of the European Central Bank is close to the European average (79%, versus 78% for the EU as a whole).

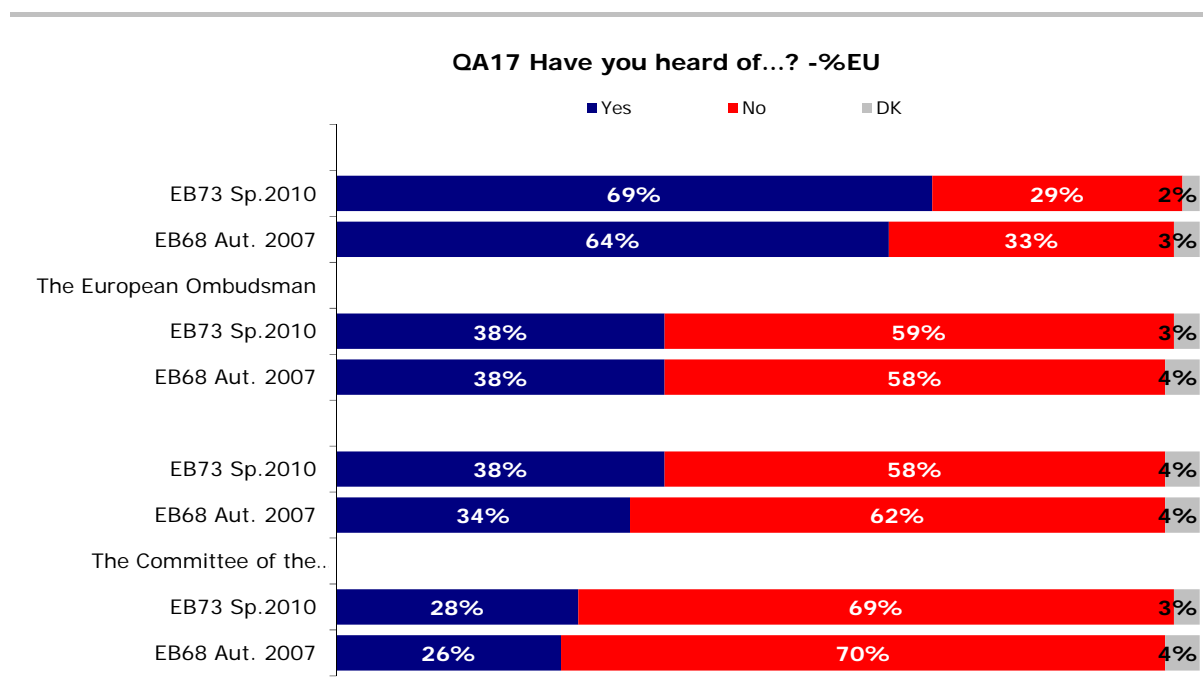


The Council of the European Union

Knowledge of the **Council of the European Union** has fallen by 3 points since the autumn 2009 wave and now stands at 63%. The lowest scores were recorded in the United Kingdom and Sweden where 58% and 48% of respondents respectively have not heard of this institution.



During this wave Europeans were also asked whether they had heard of four other European bodies, which were last measured in autumn 2007 (EB68): **the European Court of Justice, the European Ombudsman, the Committee of the Regions of the European Union and the European Economic and Social Committee**. Finally, for the first time, Europeans were asked about their knowledge of the **European Council**.



In the three years since it was last measured at the time of the autumn 2007 wave (EB68), awareness of the **European Court of Justice** has risen by 5 points to 69%. There are fairly sizeable national differences as regards knowledge of this institution. Respondents in Sweden (96%), Denmark (94%), Luxembourg (89%) and Finland (88%) are particularly aware of this institution. On the other hand, awareness in Bulgaria (52%), Lithuania (52%) and Italy (54%) is considerably below the European average. In the candidate countries, respondents in Croatia (66%) and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (65%) are more likely than those in Turkey (39%) to have heard of this institution.

Finally, a very large majority of the people polled in Iceland have heard of the European Court of Justice (82%).

Finally, three European institutions remain largely unknown to a great majority of Europeans. These are the European Ombudsman, the Committee of the Regions of the European Union and the European Economic and Social Committee.

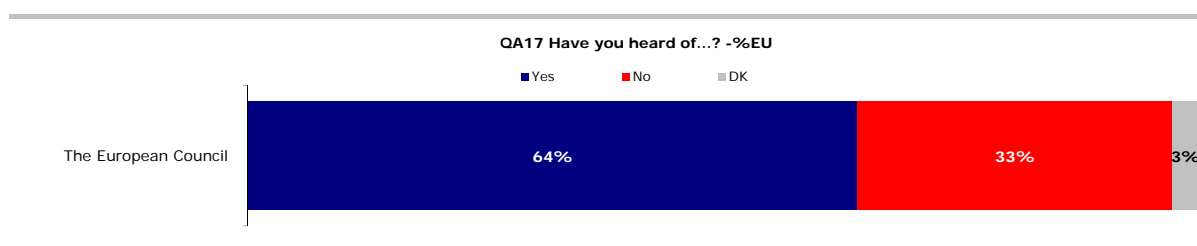
More than two-thirds of Europeans (69%, -1 point since the spring 2007 wave) have not heard of the **Committee of the Regions of the European Union**, compared with 28% (+2 points) who have. Respondents in Finland (50%), Slovenia (49%), Hungary (48%), Slovakia (48%) and Greece (47%) are the most likely to be aware of this institution.

38% of respondents have heard of the European Ombudsman, while 59% have not. This ratio has not changed since the autumn 2007 wave. Once again, there are very significant differences from one country to another: an absolute majority of respondents in eleven of the twenty-seven EU Member States have heard of the European Ombudsman.

These eleven States are Finland (82%), Slovenia (76%), Ireland (72%), Poland (67%), Greece (65%), Slovakia (65%), Malta (61%), Hungary (59%), Portugal (52%), Cyprus (50%) and the Czech Republic (50%).

Although only a minority of respondents have heard of the European Economic and Social Committee, as was the case in autumn 2007, this proportion has now increased to 38% (+ 4 points). It is higher than or equal to 50% in ten Member States, namely Greece (60%), Finland (59%), Cyprus (57%), Ireland (57%), Malta (53%), Estonia (52%), Hungary (51%), Luxembourg (51%), Lithuania (50%) and Slovakia (50%).

The European Council

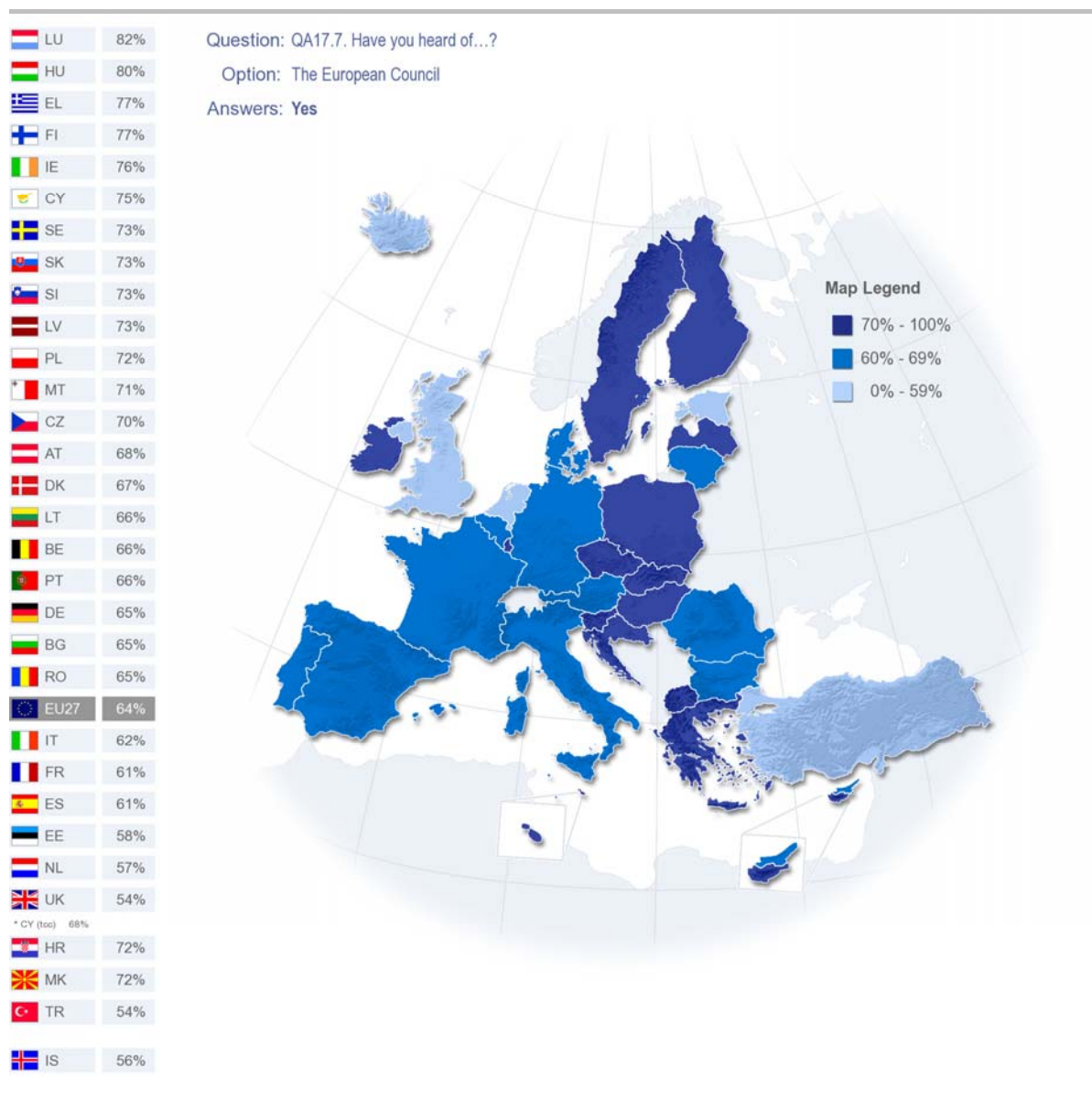


Knowledge of the European Council, which brings together the Heads of State and government of the Member States and the President of the European Commission, as opposed to the Council of the European Union, which consists of ministerial representatives from each Member State, was measured for this first time in this wave. 64% of respondents have heard of this body compared with 33% who have not (3% of respondents expressed no opinion). This ratio is almost identical to that measured for the Council of the European Union (63% versus 34%). The possibility of some confusion between these two institutions, with similar names, cannot be excluded.

An absolute majority of respondents in all the EU countries have heard of the European Council, with scores ranging from 54% in the United Kingdom to 82% in Luxembourg.




In the candidate countries, 72% of respondents in Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia have heard of the European Council, compared with 54% in Turkey.

Finally, 56% of respondents in Iceland have heard of the European Council.



A socio-demographic analysis of the answers regarding knowledge of the European institutions reveals several differences. In general, a majority of respondents in all social categories have heard of the major European institutions. However, respondents in the older age groups, those who are financially comfortable, well-integrated and interested in politics are far more likely to have heard of them. The results for the European Central Bank are a good illustration of these differences. Thus, 82% of those aged 40 to 54 have heard of the ECB, compared with 68% of those aged 15 to 24; 83% of those who do not have financial difficulties have heard of it compared with 66% of those who do; 93% of respondents who are very interested in politics have heard of it compared with only 57% of those who are not at all interested.. The Committee of the Regions of the European Union is slightly unusual in this regard, since it is the only European institution which is known to fewer than half (39%) of those who are very interested in politics.

QA17 Have you heard of...?
Answer: Yes

	The European Parliament	The European Commission	The European Central Bank	The Court of Justice of the European Union	The European Council	The Council of the European Union	The European Ombudsman	The European Economic and Social Committee	The Committee of the Regions of the European Union
EU27	90%	81%	78%	69%	64%	63%	38%	38%	28%
Age									
 15-24	86%	72%	68%	63%	63%	61%	33%	36%	28%
25-39	91%	83%	79%	70%	66%	65%	39%	40%	29%
40-54	93%	85%	82%	74%	66%	65%	41%	40%	29%
55 +	90%	80%	78%	68%	61%	62%	36%	37%	26%
Education (End of)									
 15-	85%	71%	69%	57%	50%	51%	28%	30%	20%
16-19	91%	81%	78%	69%	64%	63%	39%	38%	27%
20+	96%	92%	88%	83%	75%	74%	44%	46%	33%
Still studying	91%	79%	74%	71%	70%	69%	37%	41%	33%
Respondent occupation scale									
 Self-employed	94%	87%	83%	75%	70%	72%	47%	47%	34%
Managers	98%	94%	92%	86%	76%	73%	46%	46%	34%
Other white collars	93%	86%	83%	71%	68%	68%	42%	42%	30%
Manual workers	90%	81%	78%	69%	64%	62%	36%	37%	28%
House persons	83%	69%	67%	55%	52%	52%	30%	31%	23%
Unemployed	84%	72%	69%	61%	54%	56%	33%	32%	23%
Retired	90%	79%	77%	67%	60%	60%	35%	35%	23%
Students	91%	79%	74%	71%	70%	69%	37%	41%	33%
Difficulties paying bills									
Most of the time	83%	70%	66%	55%	52%	54%	32%	30%	22%
From time to time	89%	78%	73%	62%	60%	62%	37%	38%	28%
Almost never	93%	85%	83%	75%	68%	66%	39%	40%	29%
Political interest index									
Strong	98%	93%	93%	88%	80%	80%	50%	54%	39%
Medium	95%	87%	86%	78%	71%	71%	41%	44%	31%
Low	89%	77%	71%	62%	57%	55%	31%	29%	20%
Not at all	78%	63%	57%	46%	45%	46%	28%	25%	21%

3.2 Trust in the European institutions

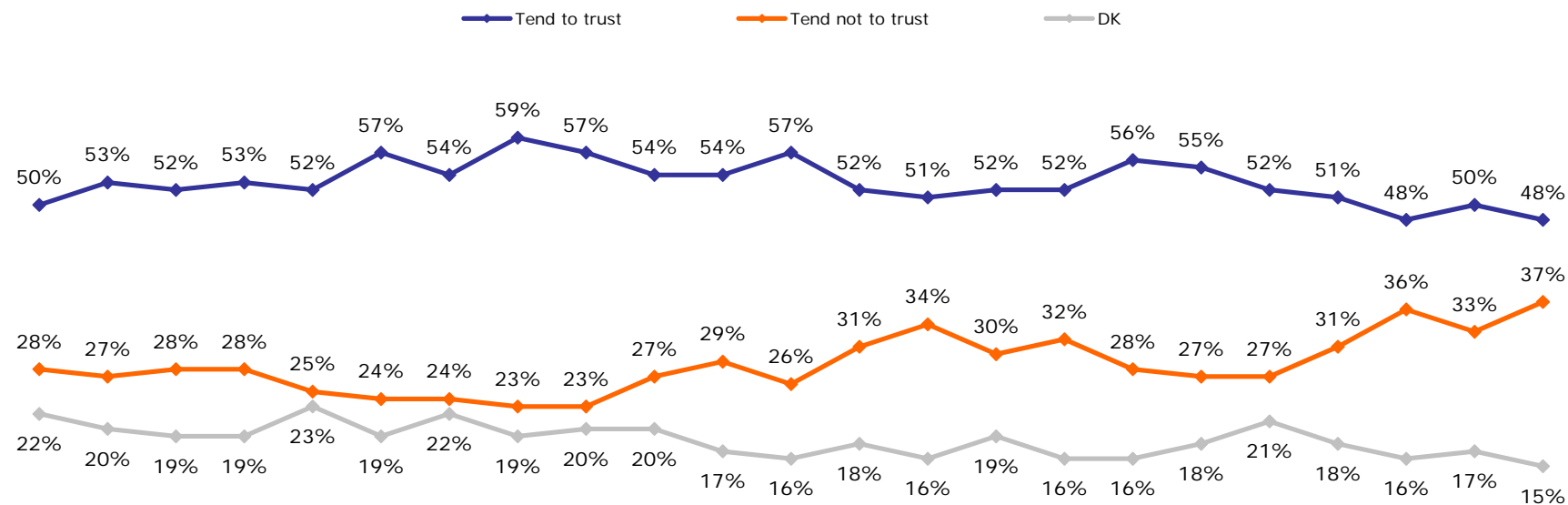
Trust in all the European institutions has increased in this survey. For example, it has increased by 3 points in the case of the Council of the European Union, by 4 points for both the European Parliament and the European Commission and by 6 points for the European Central Bank. Distrust has increased very significantly in the countries directly affected by the crisis (Greece, Cyprus and Portugal), as well as in Germany and Austria.

The European Parliament

48% of Europeans say that they tend to trust the European Parliament, while 37% tend not to trust it and 15% expressed no opinion⁶⁰. Trust has fallen by 2 points since the autumn 2009 survey, while distrust has increased by 4 points and the 'DK' rate has fallen by 2 points. This 48-37 ratio represents the lowest ever level of trust in the European Parliament.

⁶⁰ QA18.1 For each of the following European bodies, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it. The European Parliament.

QA18.1 For each of the following European bodies, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.
- The European Parliament - % EU

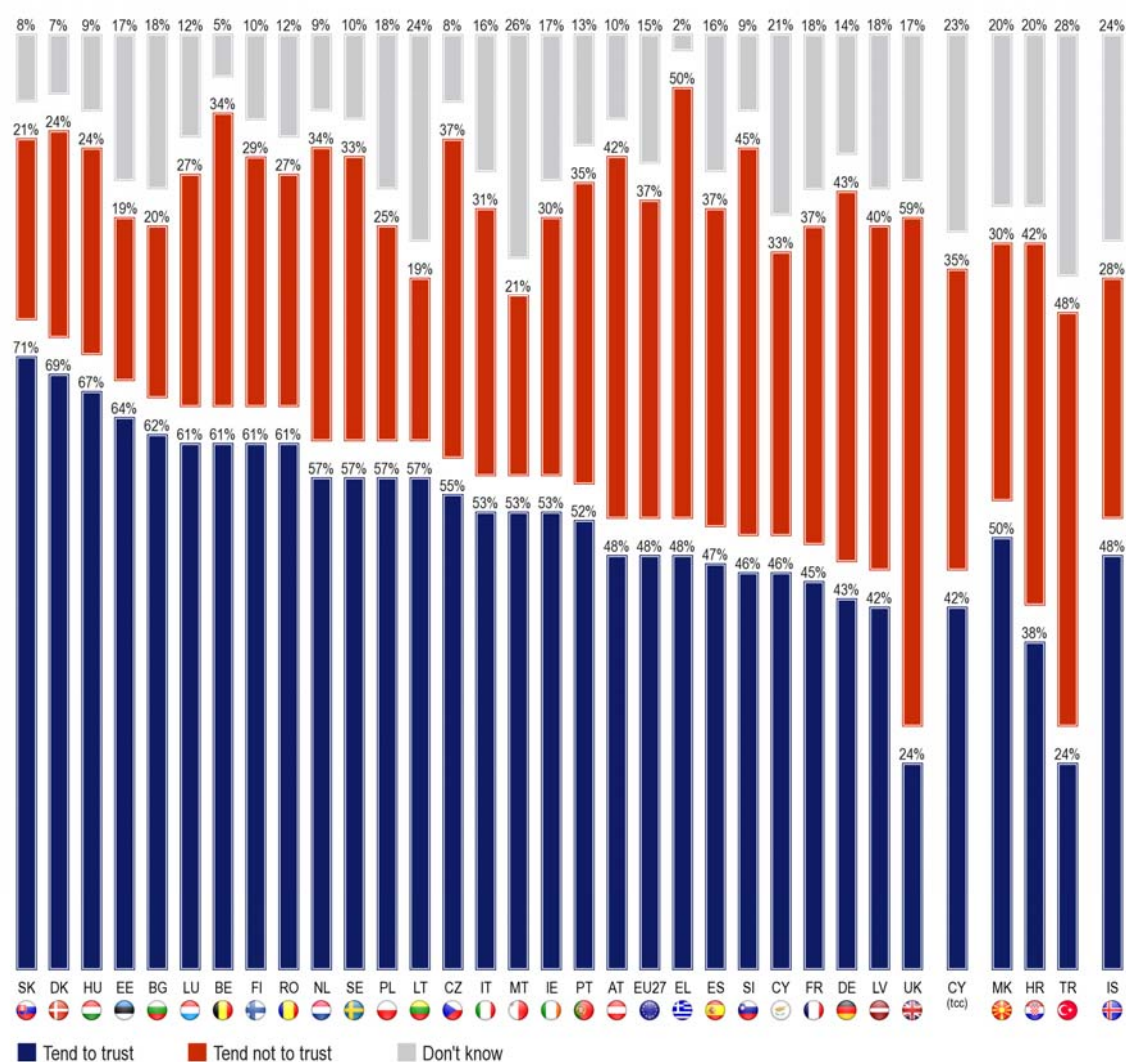


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EB51	EB52	EB53	EB54	EB55	EB56	EB57	EB58	EB59	EB60	EB61	EB62	EB63	EB64	EB65	EB66	EB67	EB68	EB69	EB70	EB71	EB72	EB73

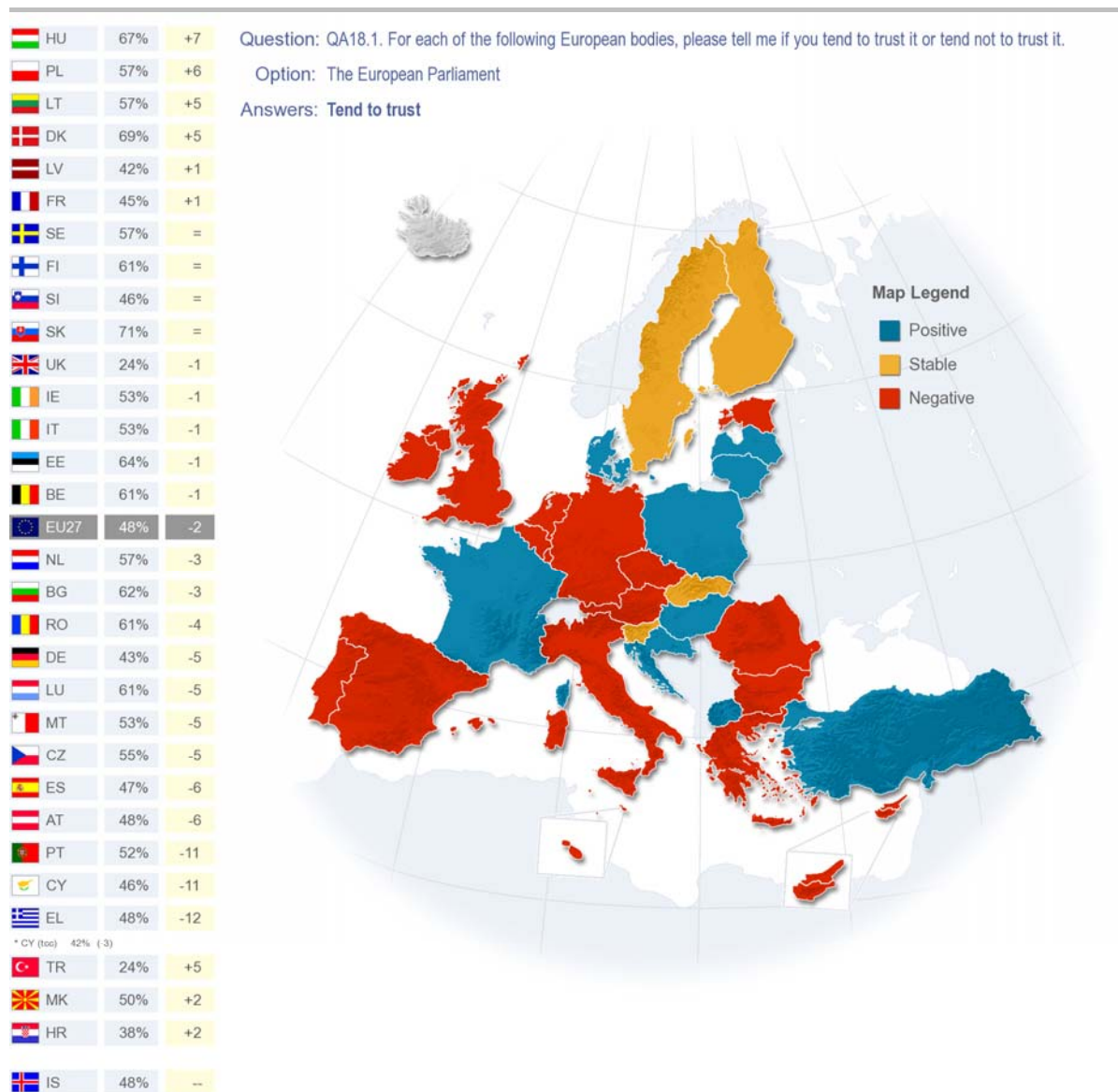
Distrust is the majority position in the United Kingdom (59%) and Greece (50%). The trust-distrust ratio shows that opinions are evenly divided in Slovenia (46% versus 45%), Latvia (42% versus 40%) and Germany (43% versus 43%). Respondents in Slovakia (71%), Denmark (69%), Hungary (67%) and Estonia (64%) are the most likely to trust the European Parliament.

QA18.1. For each of the following European bodies, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.

The European Parliament



Four EU countries diverge from the general trend. Trust has increased by 7 points in Hungary, by 6 points in Poland and by 5 points in Lithuania and Denmark. Distrust has increased the most significantly in the countries affected by the public debt crisis: thus, it has increased by 16 points in Portugal, 14 points in Greece, 9 points in Cyprus and 8 points in Germany.





Difference EB73 Spring 2010 – EB72 Autumn 2009

The more socially disadvantaged the respondents are the more likely they are to distrust the European Parliament: 45% of the least educated respondents, 45% of unemployed people and 50% of those who have financial difficulties do not trust the European Parliament. The trust-distrust ratio is 57-36 among those who are very interested in politics, but 34-43 among those who are not interested in politics. Finally, trust is of course influenced by perceptions of the European Union: 83% of those who trust the European Union and 64% of those who are in favour of the euro trust the European Parliament compared with 21% of those who do not trust the European Union and 27% of those who are against the euro.

QA18.1 For each of the following European bodies, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.

The European Parliament

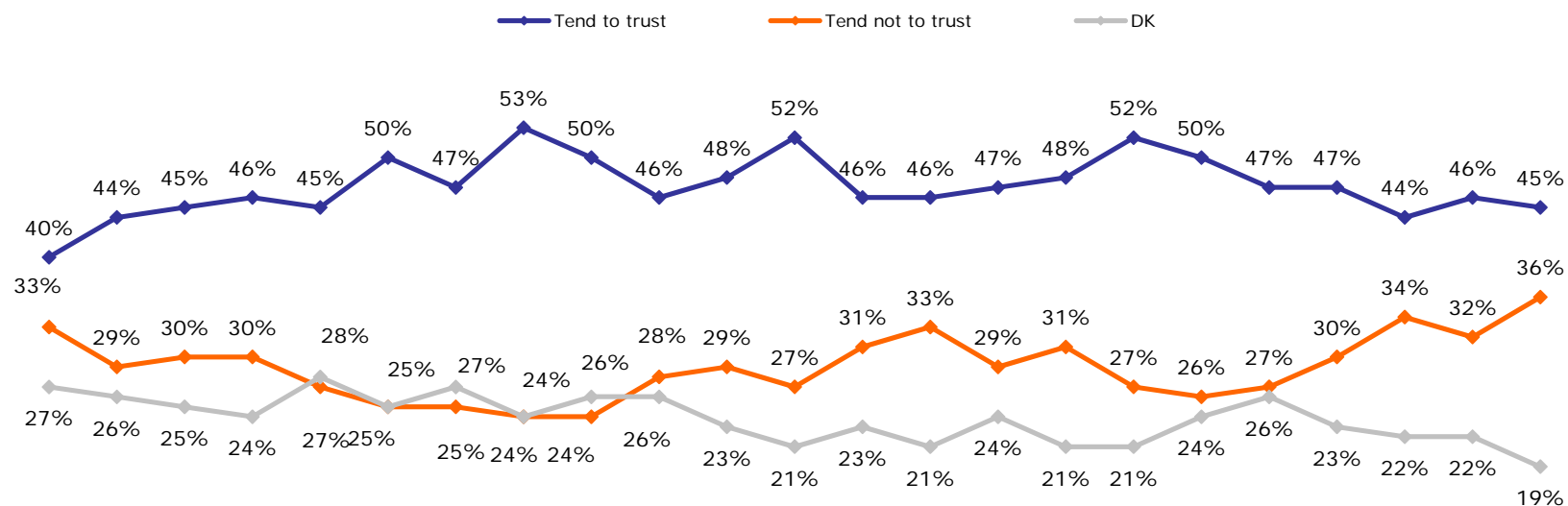
	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	DK
EU27	48%	37%	15%
Education (End of)			
 15-	37%	45%	18%
16-19	45%	41%	14%
20+	59%	30%	11%
Still studying	62%	25%	13%
Respondent occupation scale			
 Self-employed	50%	38%	12%
Managers	60%	29%	11%
Other white collars	53%	33%	14%
Manual workers	44%	41%	15%
House persons	41%	40%	19%
Unemployed	40%	45%	15%
Retired	45%	40%	15%
Students	62%	25%	13%
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	33%	50%	17%
From time to time	45%	40%	15%
Almost never	53%	34%	13%
Political interest index			
Strong	57%	36%	7%
Medium	53%	35%	12%
Low	44%	39%	17%
Not at all	34%	43%	23%
Trust in EU			
Tend to trust	83%	9%	8%
Tend not to trust	21%	66%	13%
Euro			
In favour	64%	24%	12%
Against	27%	58%	15%

The European Commission

45% of Europeans tend to trust the European Commission, while 36% tend not to trust it and 19% expressed no opinion⁶¹. Trust has fallen by one point and distrust has increased by 4 points since the last Eurobarometer wave in autumn 2009. The 'DK' rate has fallen by 3 points. The level of distrust is the highest ever measured by the Eurobarometer.

⁶¹ QA18.2 For each of the following European bodies, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.
The European Commission

QA18.2 For each of the following European bodies, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.
- The European Commission - % EU



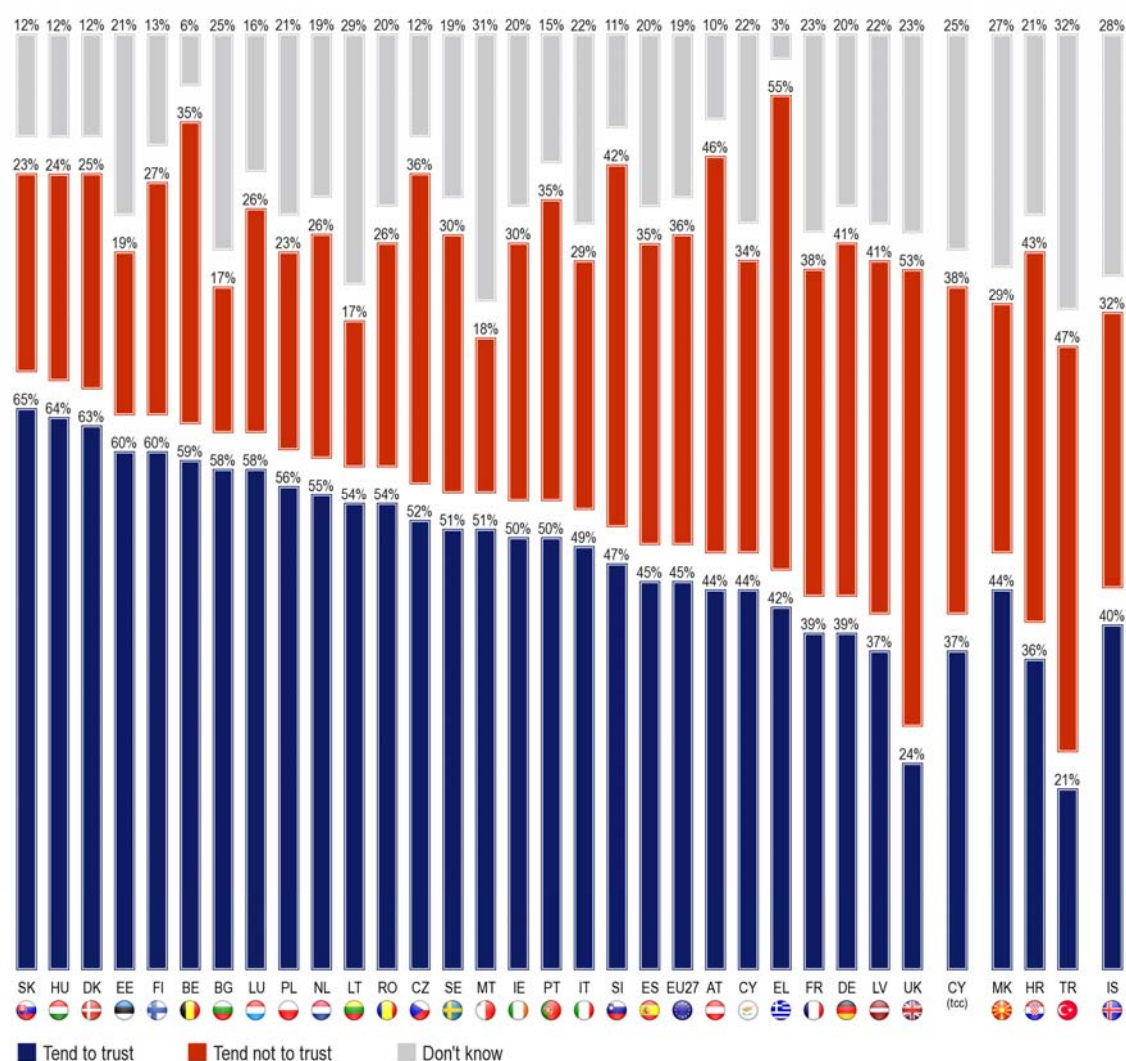
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EB51	EB52	EB53	EB54	EB55	EB56	EB57	EB58	EB59	EB60	EB61	EB62	EB63	EB64	EB65	EB66	EB67	EB68	EB69	EB70	EB71	EB72	EB73

An absolute majority of respondents in Greece (55%) and the United Kingdom (53%) tend not to trust the Commission. Distrust outweighs trust in Austria (46% versus 44%), Latvia (41% versus 37%) and Germany (41% versus 39%). Therefore, it is now the majority position in five EU countries compared with just one, the United Kingdom, in autumn 2009.

Respondents in Slovakia (65%), Hungary (64%), Denmark (63%) and Estonia (60%) and Finland (60%) are the most likely to trust the European Commission.

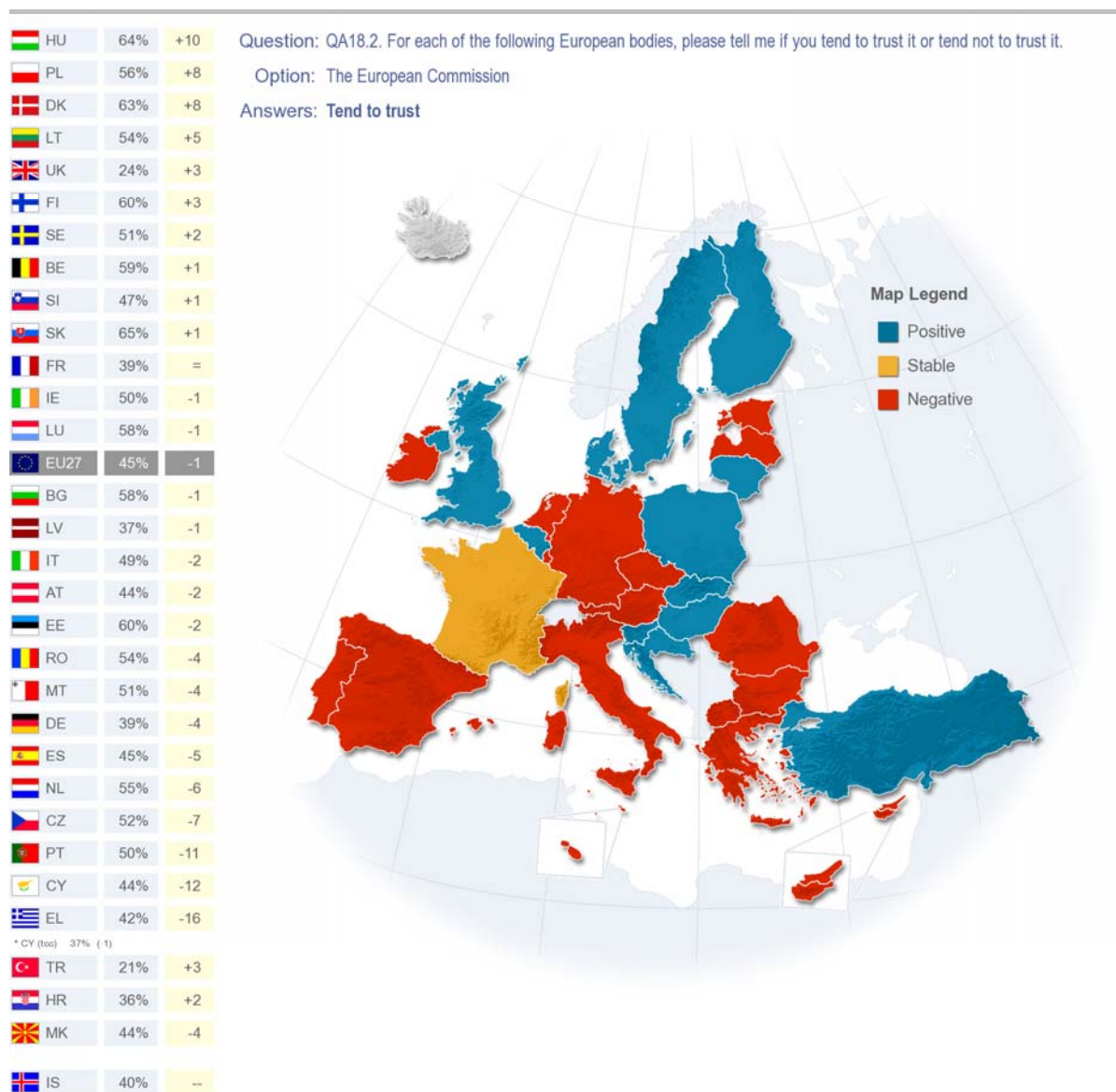
QA18.2. For each of the following European bodies, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.

The European Commission



The evolutions noted are similar to those analysed for the indicator measuring trust in the European Parliament trust. Once again, Hungary (+10 points), Poland (+8), Denmark (+8) and Lithuania (+5 points) diverge from the general trend since trust has increased significantly in these countries.

Distrust of the European Commission has surged in Greece (+18 points), Portugal (+16), Cyprus (+10) and Germany (+9).



Difference Spring EB73 Pr. 2010 – EB72 Autumn 2009

Trust in the European Commission is shaped by the same social criteria as those applying to the European Parliament. The differences are around 20 to 25 points between the most socially disadvantaged and modest categories and the most socially advantaged and financially comfortable categories. For example, 56% of the respondents who place themselves at the top of the social scale trust the European Commission compared with 33% of those at the bottom. This survey, like its predecessors, highlights the persistent and recurring distrust of the European institutions among the most vulnerable and modest social categories.

The European Central Bank

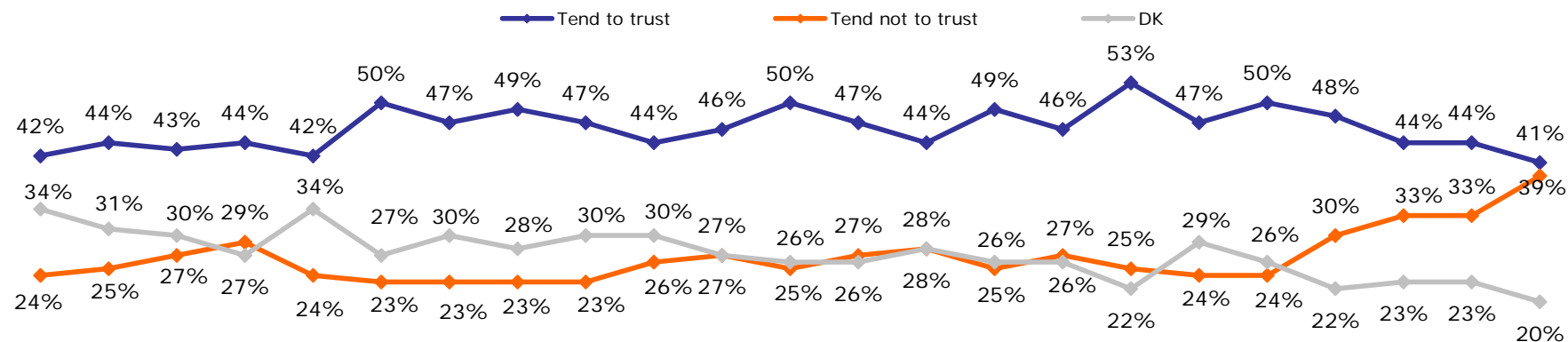
As in the case of the European Parliament and the European Commission, trust in the European Central Bank has been adversely affected by the financial crisis. More directly involved, the European Central Bank has logically suffered even more. Thus, trust has fallen by 3 points since autumn 2009, while distrust has increased by 6 points and the 'DK' rate has fallen by 3 points. 41% of Europeans now tend to trust the European Central Bank, while 39% tend not to trust it and 20% expressed no opinion⁶².

It is also noteworthy that the 20% 'DK' rate is the lowest ever recorded.

⁶² QA18.4 For each of the following European bodies, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.
The European Central Bank

QA18.4 For each of the following European bodies, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.

- The European Central Bank - % EU

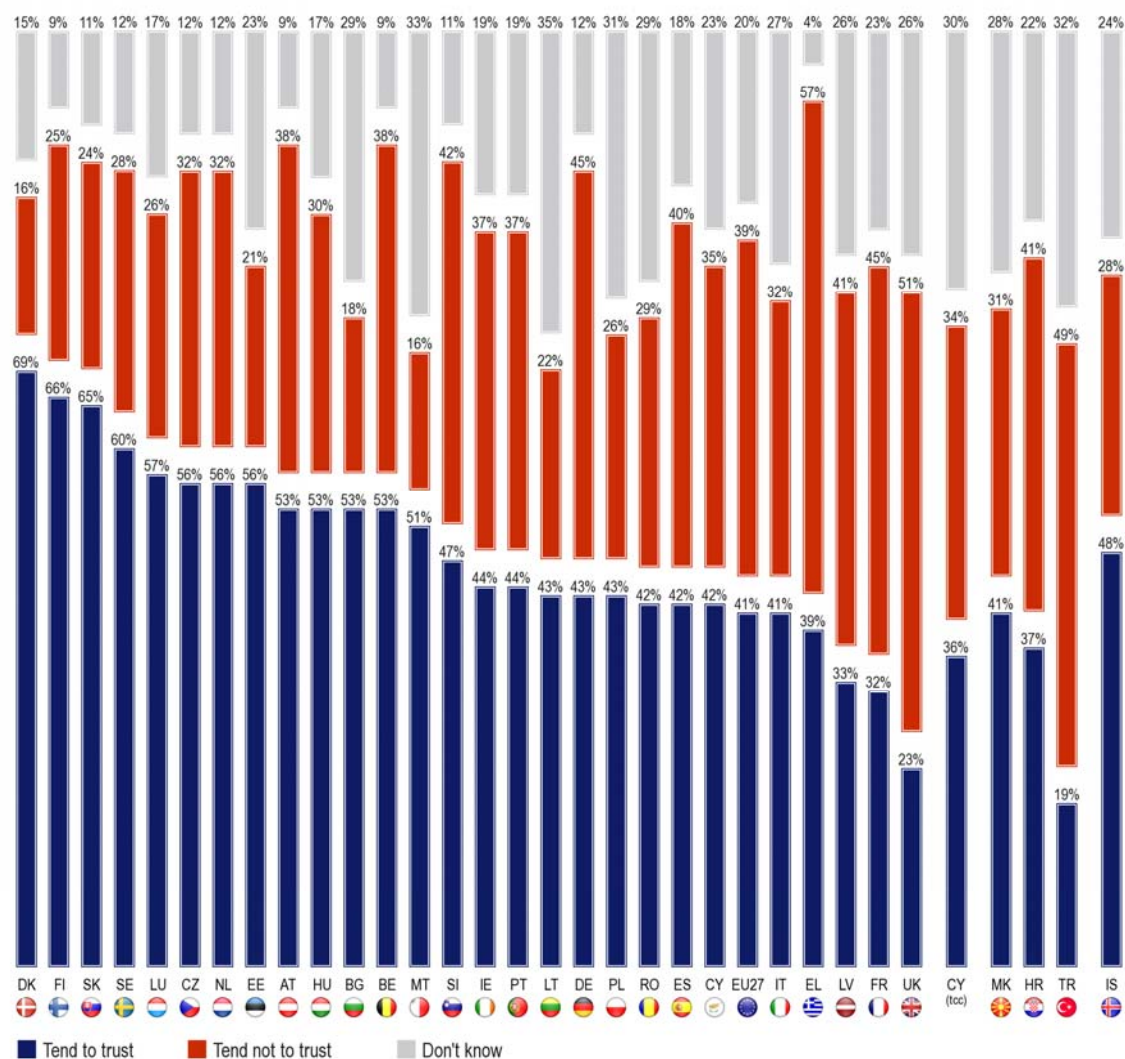


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EB51	EB52	EB53	EB54	EB55	EB56	EB57	EB58	EB59	EB60	EB61	EB62	EB63	EB64	EB65	EB66	EB67	EB68	EB69	EB70	EB71	EB72	EB73

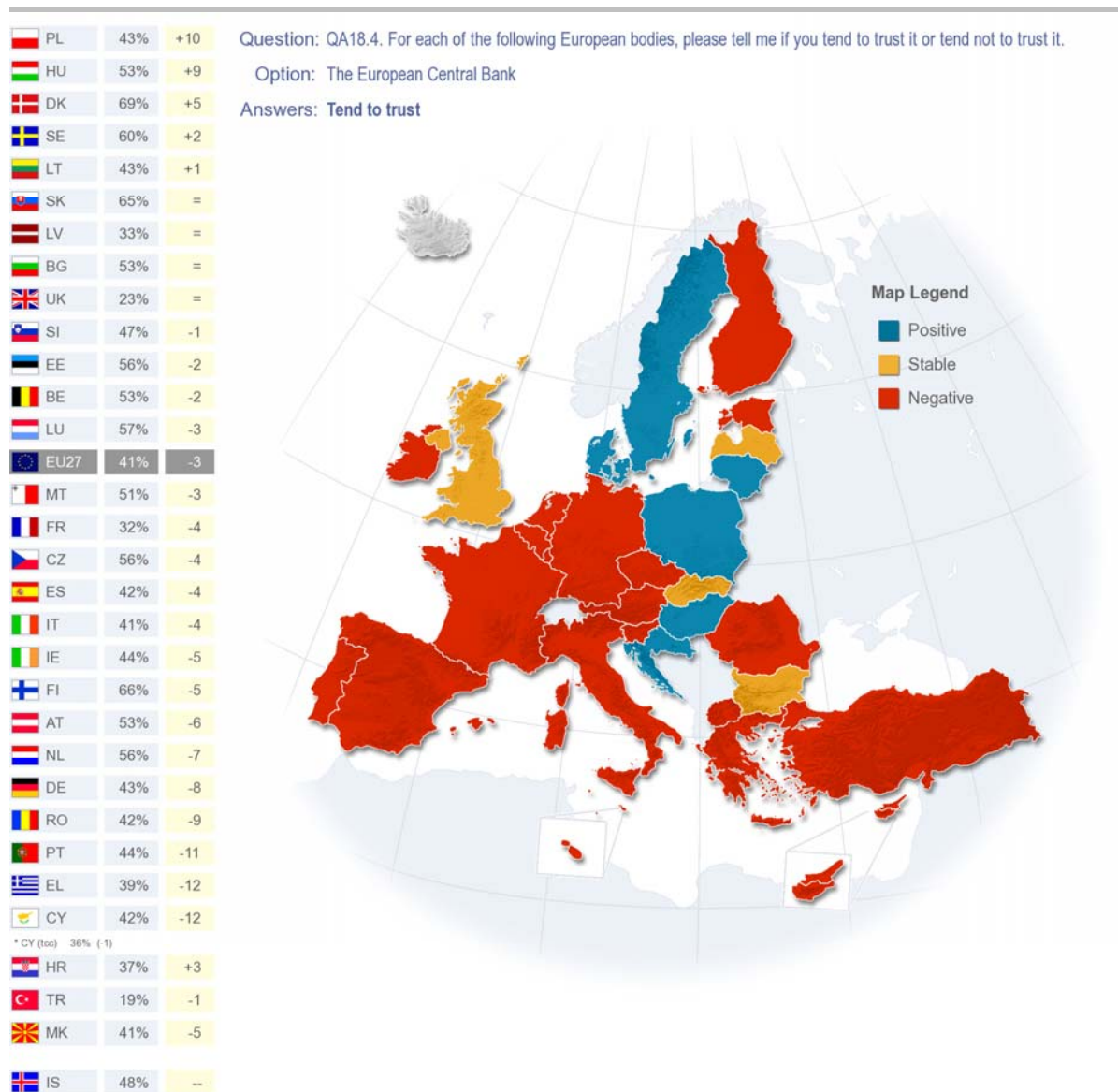
In autumn 2009, distrust outweighed trust in three countries. This is now the case in five countries: the United Kingdom (51%), France (45%) and Latvia (41%) have now been joined by Greece (57%) and Germany (45%). As in the previous wave, trust in the European Central Bank is the highest in Denmark (69%), Finland (66%) and Slovakia (65%).

QA18.4. For each of the following European bodies, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.

The European Central Bank



Distrust of the European Central Bank has increased by 15 points in Portugal, 13 points in Greece, 11 points in Germany, 10 points in Cyprus and 8 points in Austria. Once again Poland (trust up by +10 points), Hungary (+9) and Denmark (+5) diverge from the general EU trend.



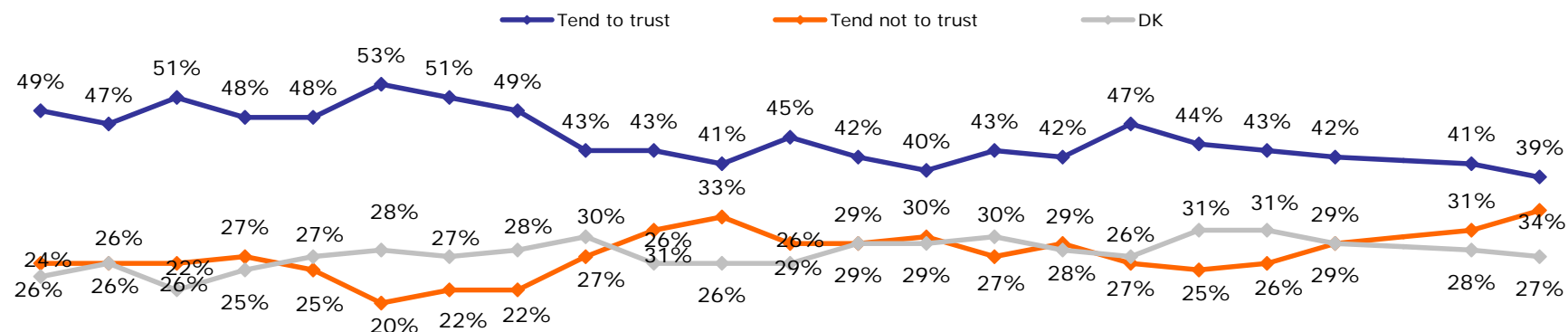
Difference EB73 Spring 2010 – EB72 Autumn 2009

The Council of the European Union

Trust in the Council of the European Union has also declined in line with the general downward trend. 39% of European say that they trust this institution, 2 points down on autumn 2009, while 34% tend not to trust it (+3 points) and 27% (-1 point) expressed no opinion. For this institution too, the trust-distrust ratio has narrowed considerably.

QA18.3 For each of the following European bodies, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.

- The Council of the European Union - % EU

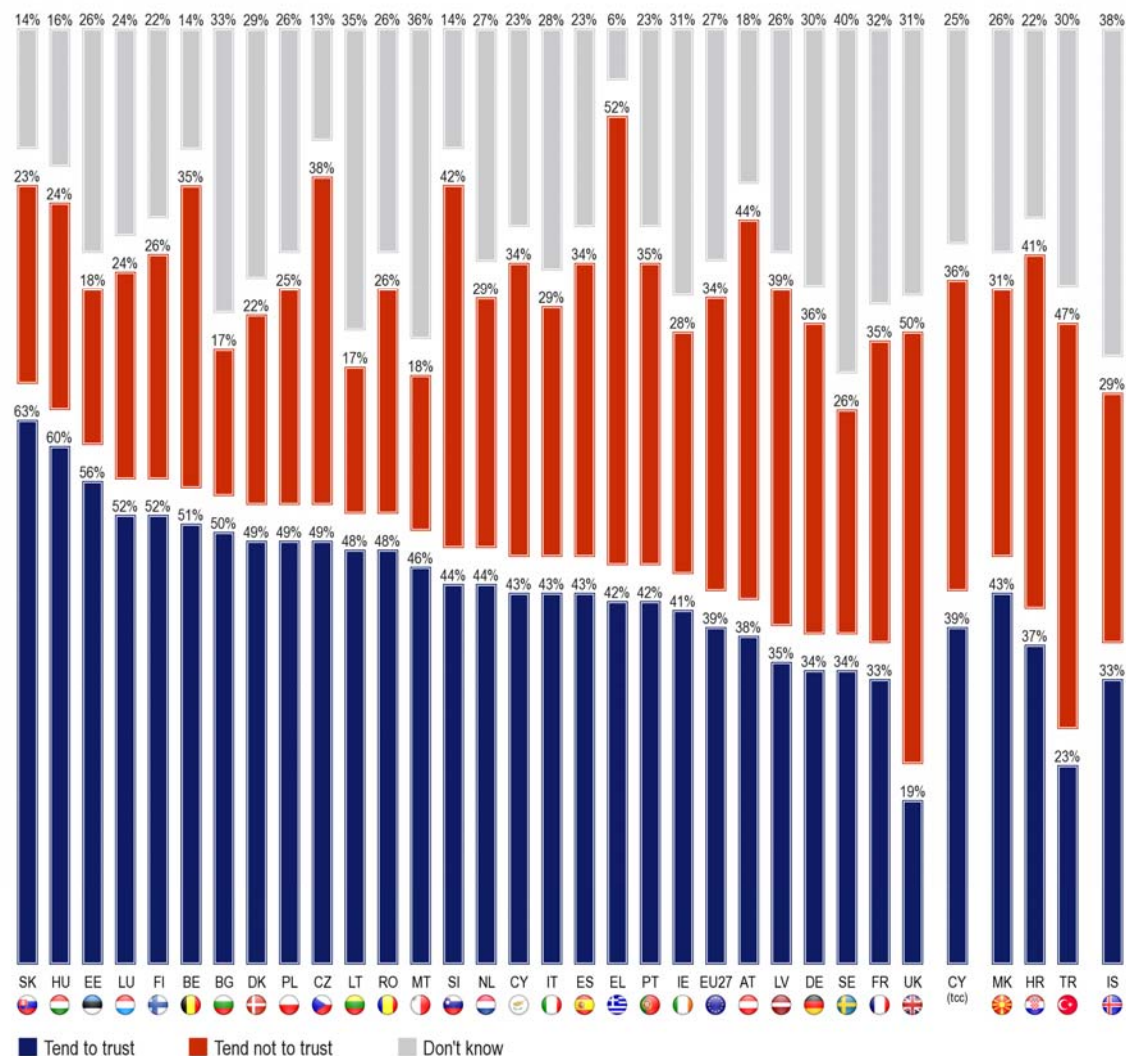


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EB51	EB52	EB53	EB54	EB55	EB56	EB57	EB58	EB59	EB60	EB61	EB62	EB63	EB64	EB65	EB66	EB67	EB68	EB69	EB70	-	EB 72	EB 73

Distrust outweighs trust in Greece (52%), the United Kingdom (50%), Austria (44%), Latvia (39%), Germany (36%) and France (35%). Trust is most widespread in Slovakia (63%) and Hungary (60%). Distrust has increased by 17 points in Portugal, 13 points in Greece and 7 points in Germany.

QA18.3. For each of the following European bodies, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.

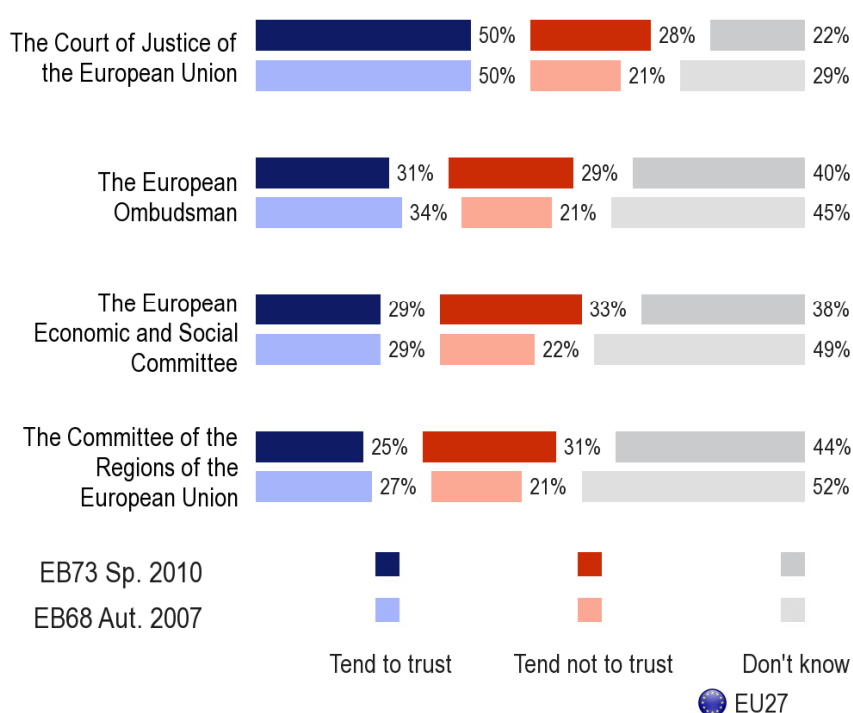
The Council of the European Union



The other institutions

This Eurobarometer survey also measured trust in other European institutions: the European Court of Justice, the European Ombudsman, the Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and, for the first time, the European Council. We shall first examine the four institutions for which evolutions since autumn 2007 (EB68) can be measured.

QA18. For each of the following European bodies, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.



50% of Europeans now trust the **European Court of Justice**, while 28% do not. In comparison with autumn 2007, trust is unchanged, while distrust has increased by 7 points, corresponding to an identical decrease in the 'DK' rate. Except for the United Kingdom (34% versus 41%) and Latvia where opinions are quite evenly divided (36% versus 33%) a fairly large majority of respondents in all EU countries trust this body. Trust remains the majority position in Greece, despite a decrease of 22 points (50%).

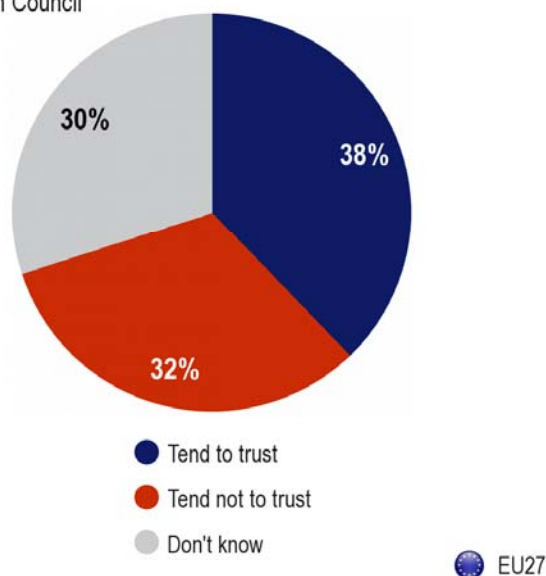
Europeans are not very familiar with **the Committee of the Regions of the European Union** (44%), **the Ombudsman** (40%) and **the Economic and Social Committee** (38%).

The first point of note, therefore, is that the question on trust generated a high rate of 'DK' answers for these bodies. Secondly, the trust-distrust ratio shows that opinions are greatly divided for these three institutions: it stands at 29-33 for the European Economic and Social Committee, 25-31 for the Committee of the Regions of the EU and 31-29 for the European Ombudsman.

Respondents in Hungary and Slovakia are the most likely to trust these three institutions. Thus, 51% of respondents in Slovakia and 49% in Hungary trust the European Economic and Social Committee, while 50% and 47% respectively trust the Committee of the Regions of the EU and 58% and 54% trust the Ombudsman. The high level of trust in Finland in the Ombudsman is also striking (66%).

QA18.7. For each of the following European bodies, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.

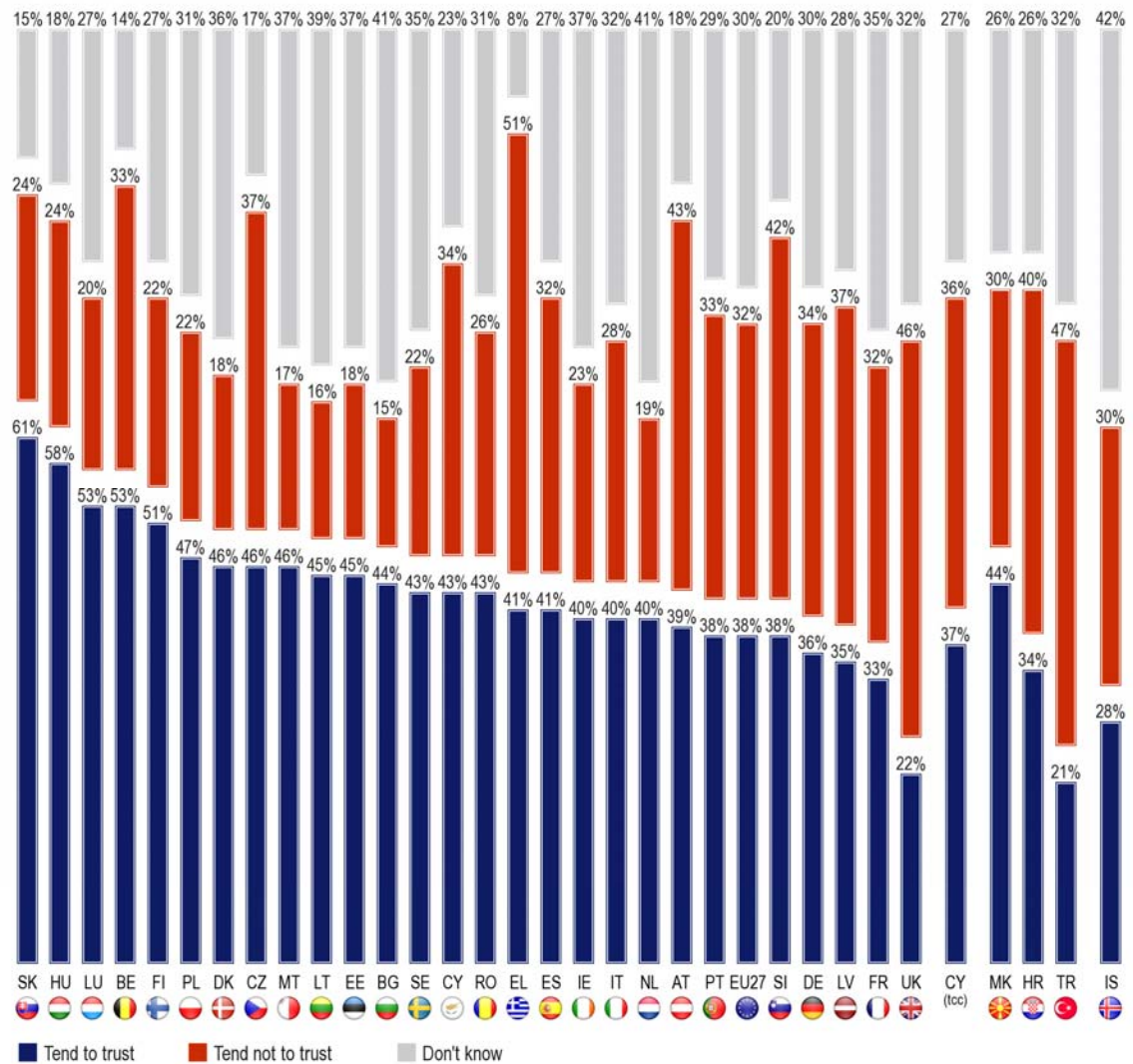
The European Council



As for awareness of the institution, this wave also measured trust in the European Council for the first time. The trust-distrust ratio is 38/32 with a high 'DK' rate (30%), confirming that, despite a reasonable level of awareness, the institution's role is still not well understood. In five EU Member States only a minority of respondents trust it: Greece (41% versus 51%), Slovenia (38% versus 42%), Latvia (35% versus 37%), Austria (39% versus 43%) and the United Kingdom (22% versus 46%). Trust outweighs distrust, but by a very narrow margin, in France (33% versus 32%) and Germany (36% versus 34%). Trust is the highest in Slovakia (61%), Hungary (58%), Luxembourg (53%) and Belgium (53%).

QA18.7. For each of the following European bodies, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.

The European Council

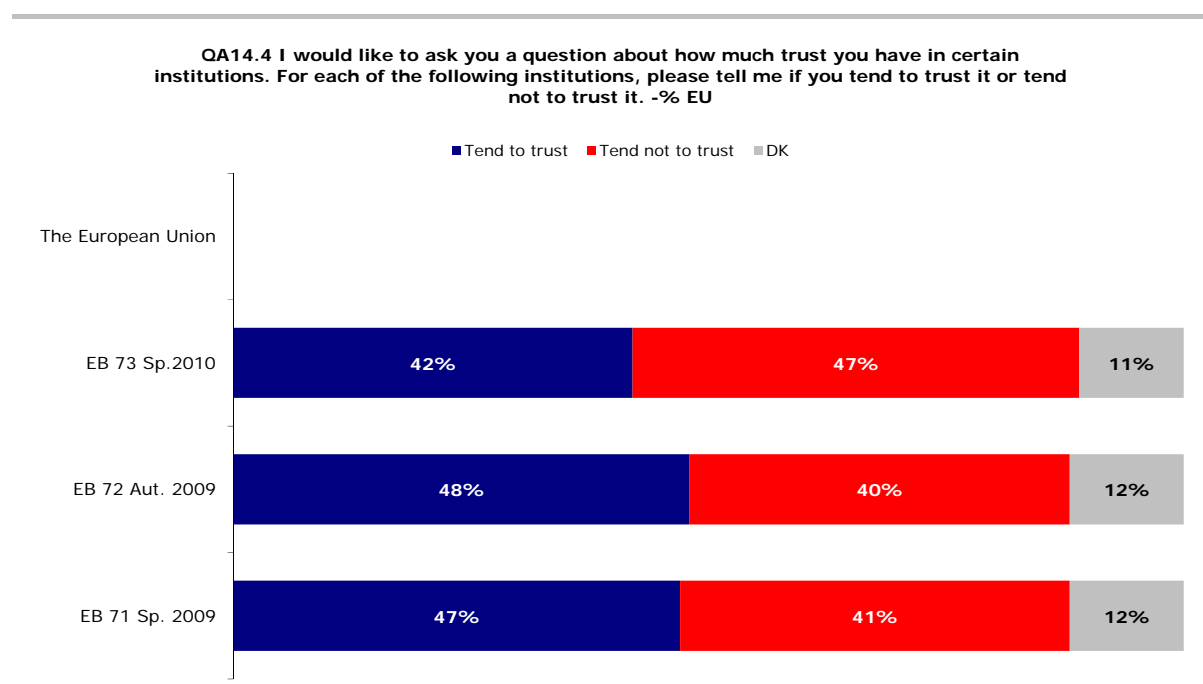


3.3. Trust in the European Union

The increased distrust of the main European institutions is a symptom of an increasing lack of trust in the EU itself: despite having previously withstood the depressed climate resulting from the financial and economic crisis, trust in the EU has now declined significantly.

Today, 42% of Europeans tend to trust the European Union, 6 points less than in the Eurobarometer autumn 2009 wave, while 47% do not trust it (+7) and 11% expressed no opinion (-1)⁶³.

Whereas the trust-distrust ratio had been more or less stable since autumn 2008 (EB70), it has now been reversed.

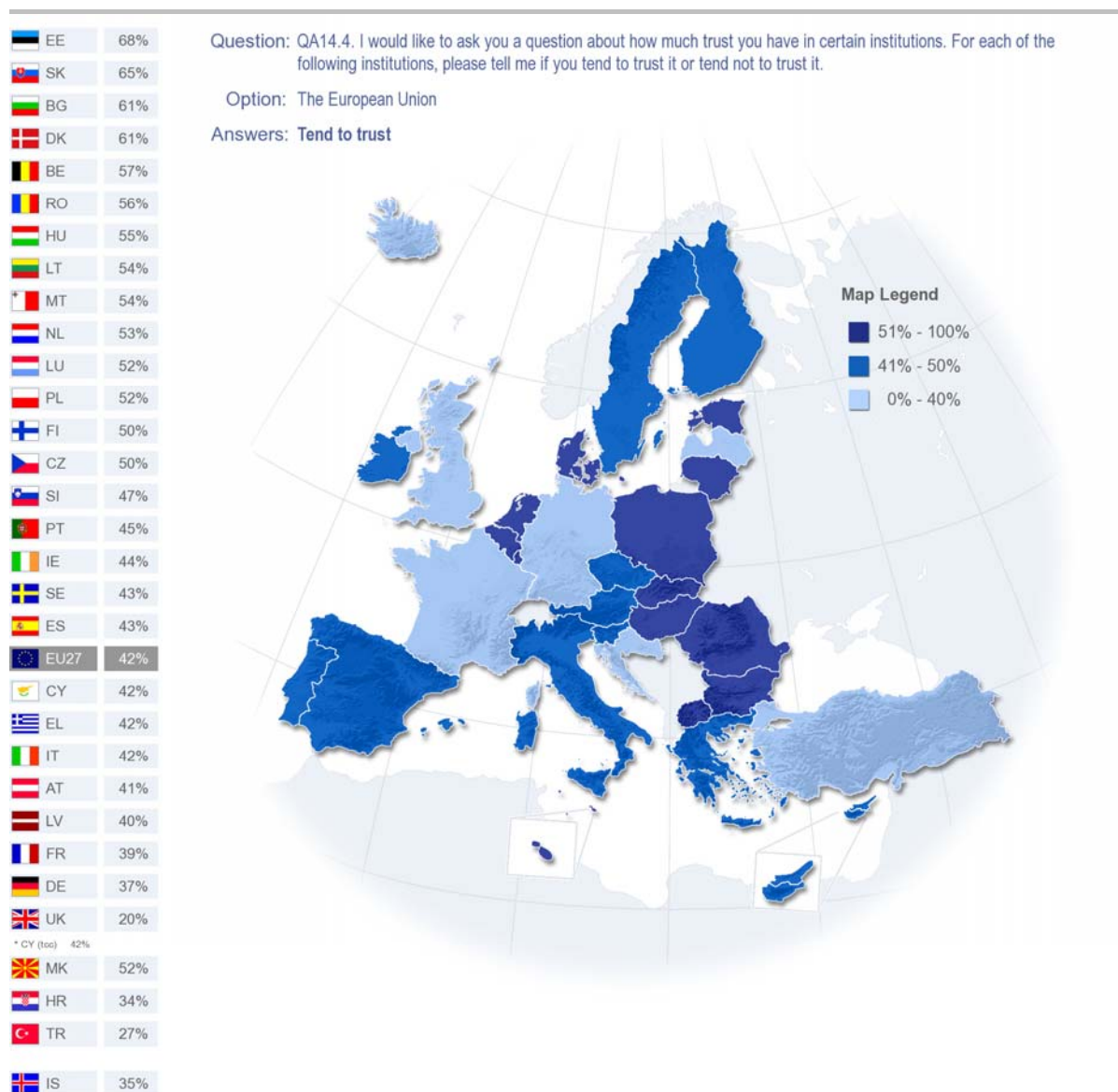


Distrust of the European Union is the majority stance in eight countries: the United Kingdom (68% versus 20%), Greece (56% versus 42%), Germany (54% versus 37%), France (51% versus 39%), Latvia (51% versus 40%), Cyprus (50% versus 42%), Austria (52% versus 41%) and Sweden (49% versus 43%). The trust-distrust ratio shows that opinions are evenly divided in Spain (43% versus 44%), Portugal (45% versus 47%) and Slovenia (47% versus 48%).

Trust is greatest in Estonia (68%), Slovakia (65%), Bulgaria and Denmark (61% in both cases).

⁶³ QA14.4 I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain institutions. For each of the following institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it. The European Union.

The divide between the NMS12 and EU15 countries is remarkable on this question of trust. Thus, trust is clearly predominant (54% versus 34%) in the NMS12 countries whereas distrust is by some way the majority position (51% versus 38%) in the EU15 group.



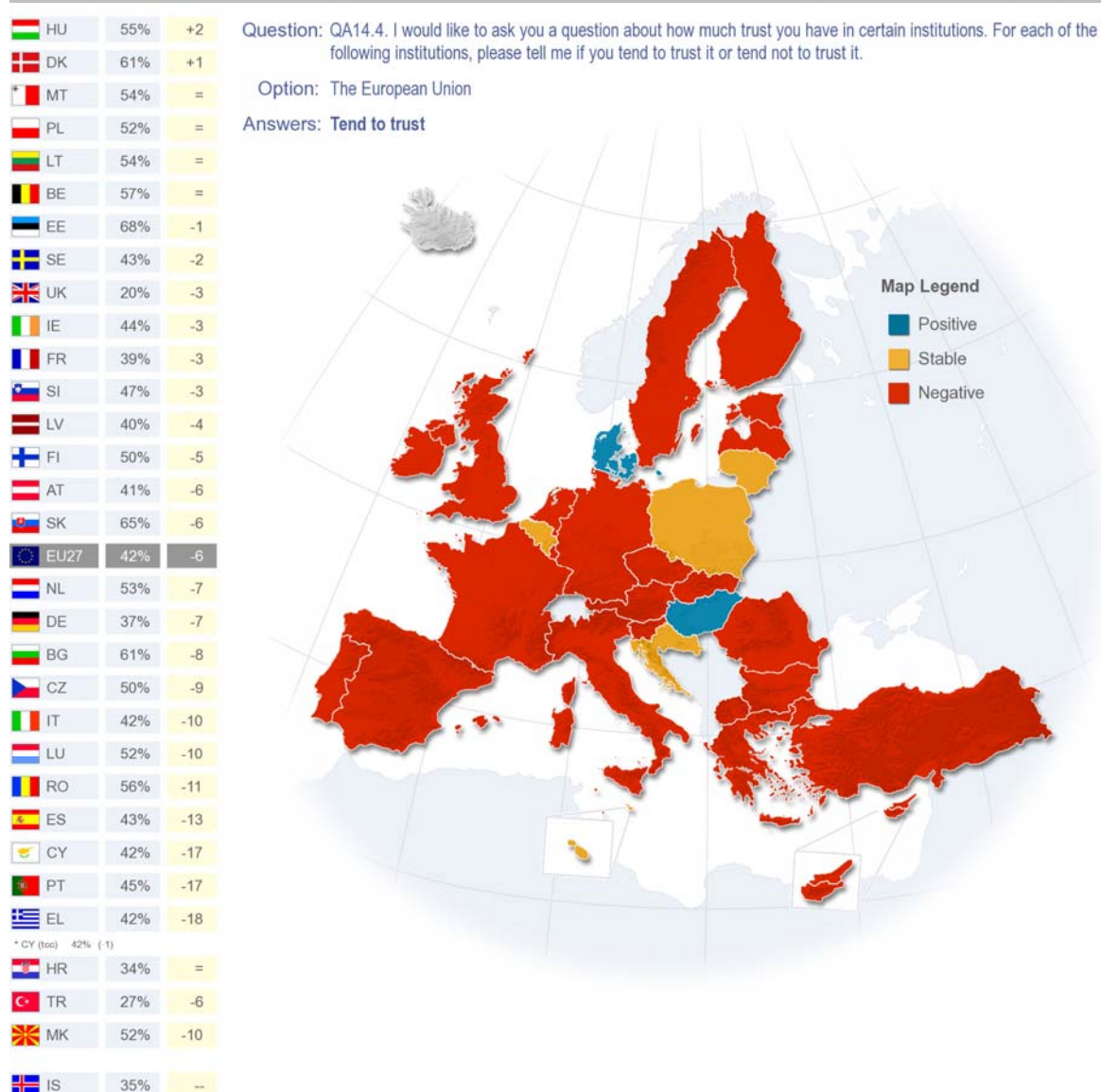
Belgium, Denmark, Lithuania and Malta, where the trust-distrust ratio is fully in line with that of autumn 2009, and Hungary, where trust has increased by 2 points, are the only five EU countries which are exempt from this strong downward trend.

However, we again see that distrust has gained ground in the countries affected by the financial and economic crisis and austerity plans, but also in Germany and Austria.

Thus, distrust of the European Union has increased, over six months, by 23 points in Portugal, 18 points in Greece and Cyprus, 11 points in Germany, 10 points in the Czech Republic, 9 points in Italy and Spain, 8 points in Latvia and 7 points in Austria. As a result of these changes, distrust is now the majority position in Germany and Austria, which was not the case in autumn 2009.

In the candidate countries, trust in the EU is unchanged in Croatia, but is still the minority opinion (34%, =). It has fallen and is fairly low in Turkey (27%, -6 points). In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia it has fallen significantly, but is still the majority opinion (52%, -10 points).

Finally, a majority of respondents in Iceland distrust the EU (52% versus 35%).



Difference EB73 Spring 2010 – EB72 Autumn 2009




There are significant social divisions on this question, with a strong gap between the most advantaged respondents and the least advantaged categories, as well as between the youngest and oldest groups. Whereas a majority of the most socially advantaged categories and the youngest respondents tend to trust the EU, a majority of the least socially advantaged and oldest respondents tend not to trust it.

Trust in the European Union is as high as or exceeds 50% among those aged 15 to 24 (50%), the most educated respondents (52%), managers (51%), students (57%), those who place themselves at the top of the social scale (52%), those who have a high opinion leadership index (++ , 50%), those who are in favour of the European single currency, the euro (57%) and those who have a good objective knowledge of the European Union (51%).

Conversely, distrust in the EU is higher than or equal to 50% among those aged 55 or over (50%), the least educated respondents (56%), those who completed their studies between the ages of 16 and 19 (51%), manual workers (53%), house persons (50%), unemployed people (52%) and pensioners (50%), those who struggle to pay their bills most of the time (59%), or from time to time (52%), and those who place themselves at the bottom of the social scale (55%). This also applies to Europeans with the lowest opinion leadership index (-- , 53%), opponents of the euro (68%), and people whose knowledge of the European Union is average (53%), or low (56%).

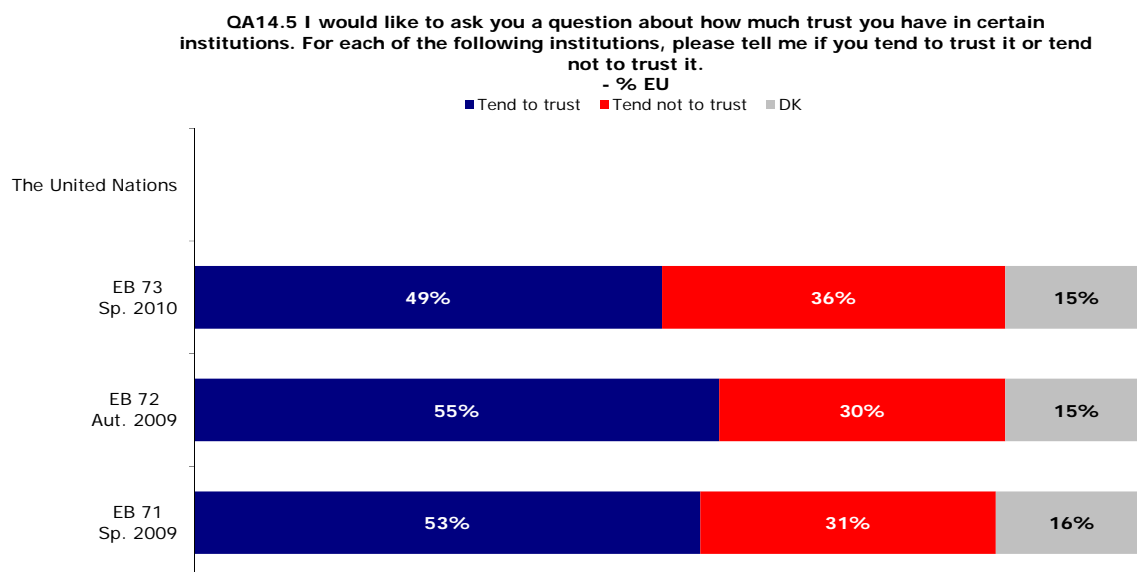
Although the political divide is less influential than the social divisions, it also influences answers to this question. A relative majority of those on the right of the political spectrum (49% versus 43%) trust the European Union while a relative majority of those on the left distrust it (48% answered "tend not to trust it", versus 43%). 50% of respondents in the centre of the political spectrum tend not to trust it.

**QA14.4 I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain institutions.
For each of the following institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.
The European Union**

	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Don't know
EU27	42%	47%	11%
Age			
 15-24	50%	39%	11%
25-39	43%	47%	10%
40-54	41%	48%	11%
55 +	38%	50%	12%
Education (End of)			
 15-	31%	56%	13%
16-19	39%	51%	10%
20+	52%	39%	9%
Still studying	57%	33%	10%
Respondent occupation scale			
 Self-employed	44%	47%	9%
Managers	51%	40%	9%
Other white collars	44%	45%	11%
Manual workers	37%	53%	10%
House persons	36%	50%	14%
Unemployed	37%	52%	11%
Retired	38%	50%	12%
Students	57%	33%	10%
Left-Right scale			
(1-4) Left	43%	48%	9%
(5-6) Center	41%	50%	9%
(7-10) Right	49%	43%	8%
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	29%	59%	12%
From time to time	37%	52%	11%
Almost never	46%	44%	10%
Self-positioning on the social scale			
Low (1-4)	33%	55%	12%
Medium (5-6)	42%	48%	10%
High (7-10)	52%	39%	9%
Opinion leadership index			
++	50%	43%	7%
+	45%	45%	10%
-	41%	48%	11%
--	33%	53%	14%
Euro			
For	57%	34%	9%
Against	22%	68%	10%
Objective knowledge of the EU			
Bad	20%	56%	24%
Medium	34%	53%	13%
Good	51%	42%	7%

3.4. Trust in the United Nations

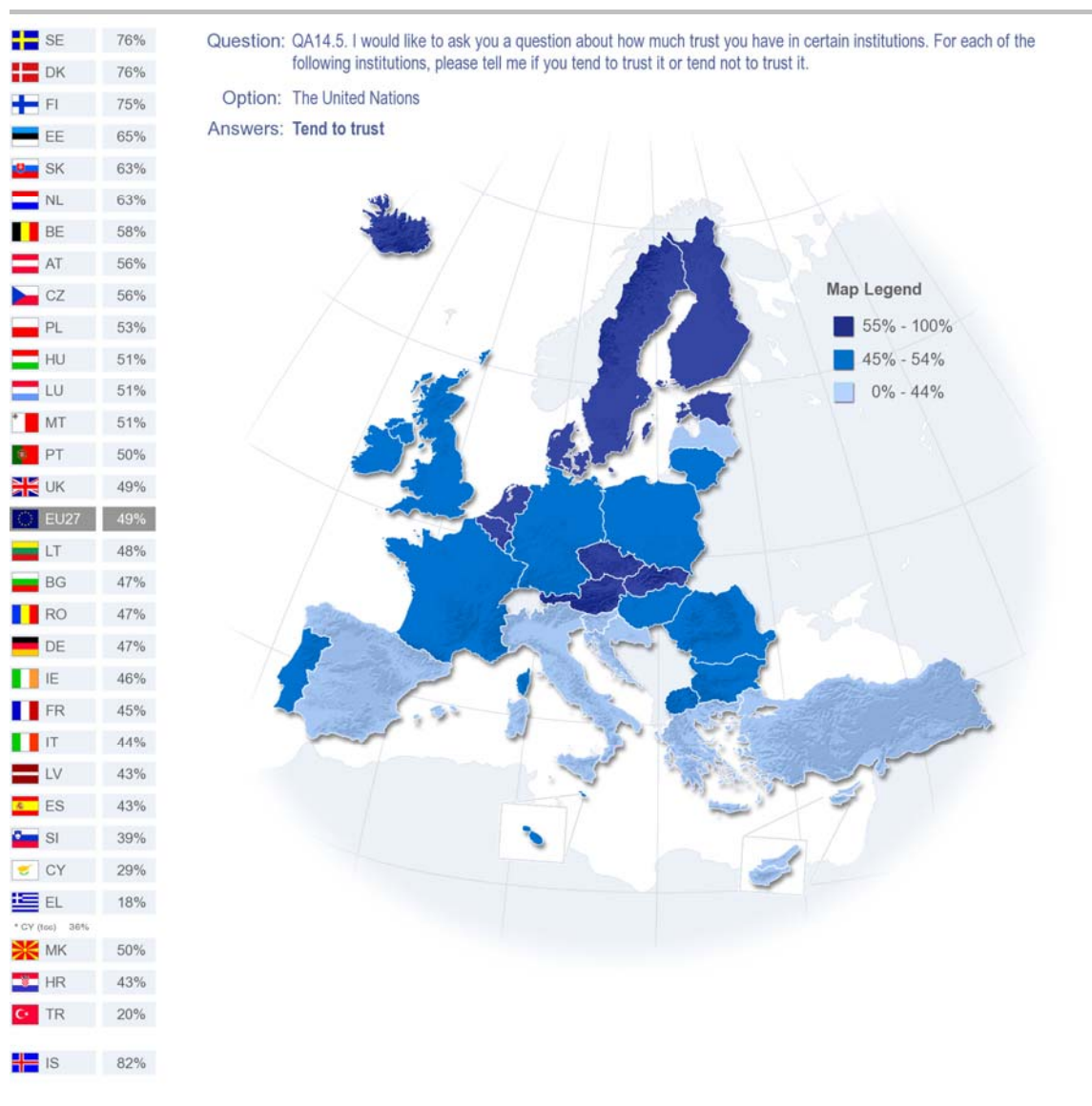
Although it remains the majority position, **trust in the United Nations Organisation has also decreased**. 49% of Europeans now trust the UN, 6 points less than in autumn 2009, while 36% (+6) do not trust it and 15% (unchanged) expressed no opinion. After a rise in trust in 2009, the trust-distrust ratio in this survey is very close to that measured in 2008⁶⁴.



Trust in the UN is the majority position in 24 EU countries. It exceeds 50% in 14 EU countries, compared with 21 countries last autumn. As in the previous wave, levels of trust are the highest in the three Nordic countries - Sweden (76%), Denmark (76%) and Finland (75%).

A majority of respondents distrust the UN in three European Union countries where this feeling was already widespread six months earlier: in Greece (77%), Cyprus (63%) and Slovenia (53%)

⁶⁴ QA14.5 I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain institutions. For each of the following institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it. The UN.



Trust in the UN has fallen the most sharply in Greece (-16 points), Spain (-14), Portugal (-13), Romania (-12), Malta (-11), Ireland (-10), Italy (-9) and Bulgaria (-9).

In the candidate countries, trust has declined but is still the majority position in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (50%, -7 points). It has fallen by 5 points in Turkey to a very low level (20%). In Croatia, there has been no significant change since the previous wave and opinions remain much divided on this question (43% versus 45%).

Finally, in line with the “Nordic model”, trust in the UN is extremely high in Iceland (82%).

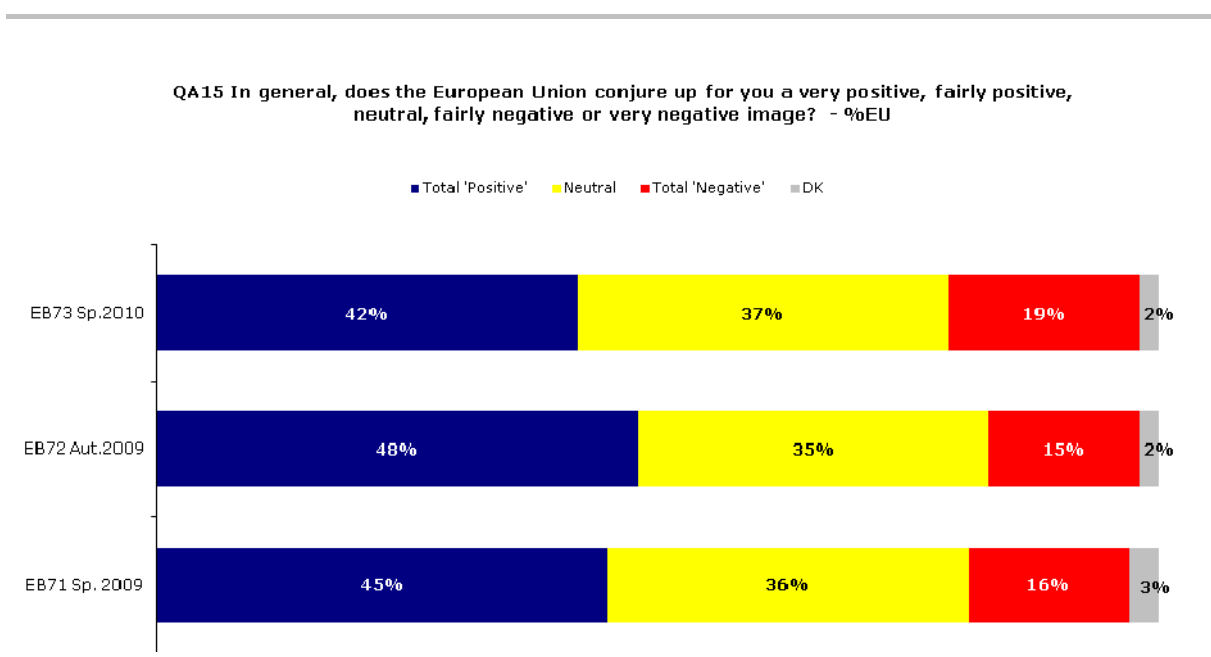
Trust in the UN is influenced by exactly the same social criteria as trust in the European Union. The younger, better-off, more qualified and better integrated respondents are the more likely they are to trust this institution.

3.5. The European Union's image

A majority of 42% of Europeans consider that the European Union's image is positive, 6 points less than in the autumn 2009 wave, while 19% (+4 points) say that its image is negative, 37% (+2 points) believe that its image is neutral and 2% (unchanged) expressed no opinion.

A more detailed analysis reveals that the EU's image is "very" positive for 6% of respondents (-1 point) and "fairly" positive for 36% (-5 points). It is "very" negative for 4% of respondents (+1 point) and "fairly" negative for 15% (+3 points)⁶⁵.

The downward trend of the European Union's image is therefore comparable in intensity to the erosion of trust described above.

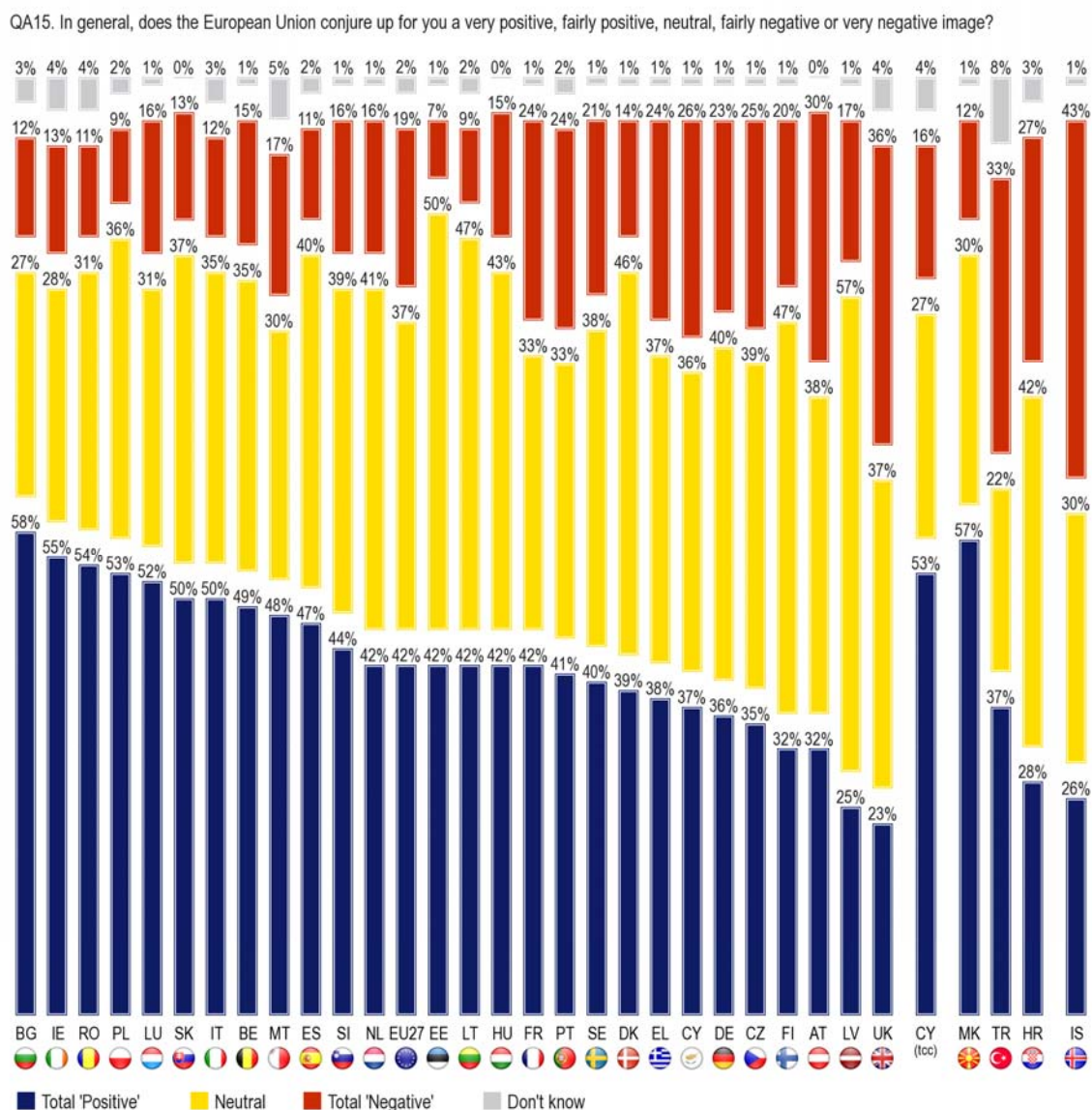


An absolute majority of respondents in 7 Member States consider that the EU's image is positive, compared with 13 Member States in autumn 2009. The Member States in question are Bulgaria (58%), Ireland (55%), Romania (54%), Poland (53%), Luxembourg (52%), Italy (50%) and Slovakia (50%). A relative majority of respondents in ten other countries say that the European Union's image is positive: Belgium (49%), Malta (48%), Spain (47%), Slovenia (44%), France and the Netherlands (42%), Portugal (41%), Sweden (40%), Greece (38%) and Cyprus (37%).

The United Kingdom is the only country where negative views outweigh positive perceptions (36% versus 23%).

⁶⁵ QA15 In general, does the European Union conjure up for you a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image?

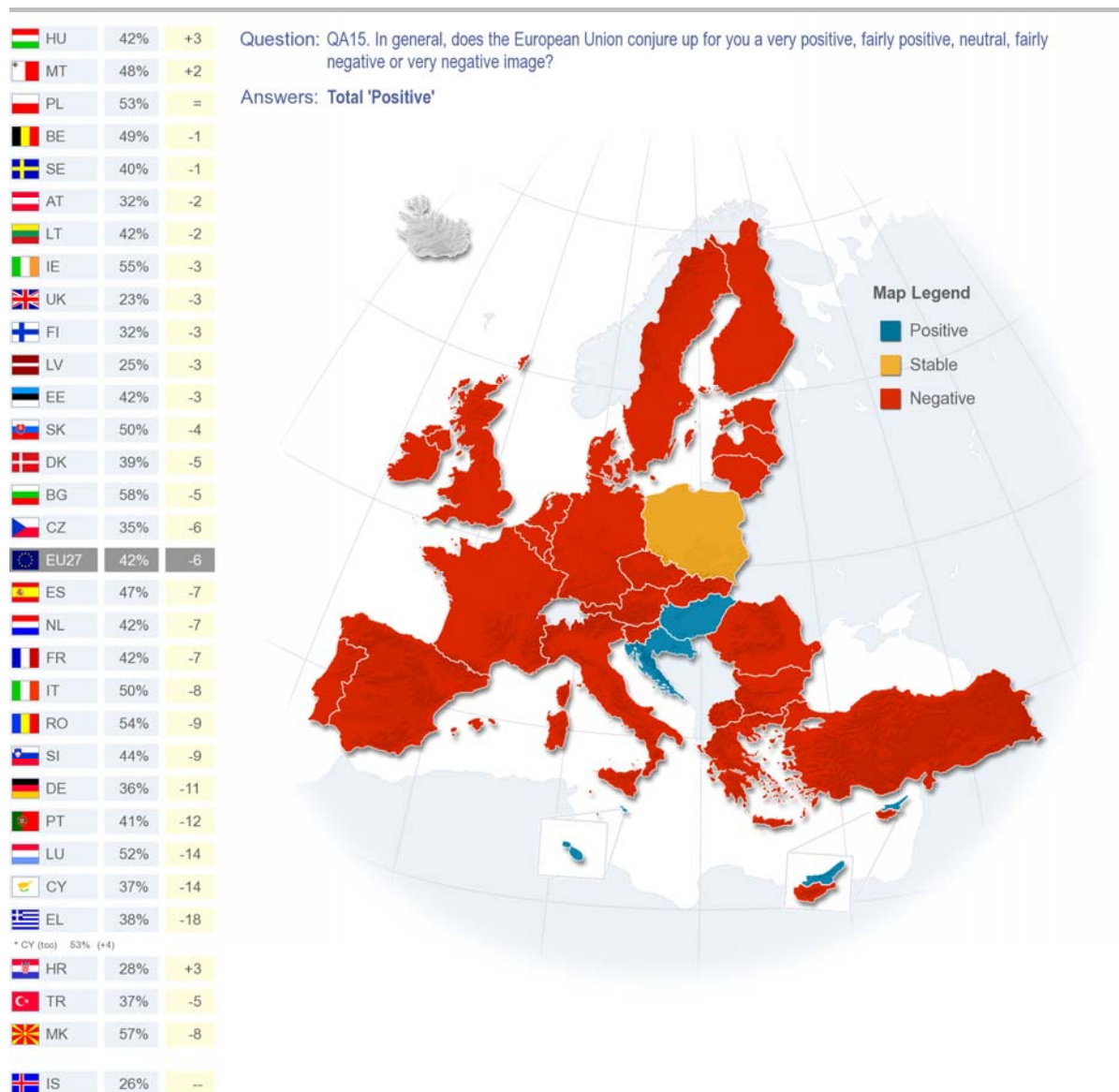
Respondents for whom the EU conjures up a “neutral” image outnumber those who consider that its image is positive in Latvia (57% versus 25%), Estonia (50% versus 42%), Finland (47% versus 32%), Lithuania (47% versus 42%), Denmark (46% versus 39%), Hungary (43% versus 42%), Germany (40% versus 36%), the Czech Republic (39% versus 35%) and Austria (38% versus 32%).



The EU's image has deteriorated most sharply in Greece (positive answers have decreased by 18 points since EB72 in autumn 2009), Cyprus (-14), Portugal (-12), Germany (-11) and Spain (-7). It has also deteriorated in Luxembourg (-14), Romania (-9) and Slovenia (-9).

In the candidate countries, the EU's image is seen as positive by 57% (-8 points) of respondents in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, compared with 37% (-5 points) in Turkey and 28% (+3 percentage points) in Croatia.

In Iceland, negative perceptions predominate (43%), ahead of neutral (30%) and positive views (26%).



Difference EB73 Spring 2010 – EB72 Autumn 2009

The European Union's image is obviously subject to the same structural social divisions which shape opinions regarding European integration and the way Europe works.

Thus, positive perceptions of the European Union decrease linearly with age: 48% of those aged 15 to 24, 43% of those aged 25 to 39, 41% of those aged 40 to 54 and 38% of those aged 55 or over consider that the EU's image is positive.

This positive image of the Union decreases, also linearly, with the level of education: 52% of the respondents who studied up to the age of 20 or beyond consider that the EU's image is positive, compared with 37% of those who completed their education between the ages of 16 and 19, and 31% of those who left school before the age of 16.



It also decreases gradually in line with the respondent's place towards the bottom of the social scale: 52% of those who place themselves at the top of the social scale consider that the EU's image is positive, compared with 42% of those in the middle and 31% of those at the bottom.

The EU's image has deteriorated even more sharply among the most disadvantaged categories of the population than among the rest. Thus, for example, the proportion of those who place themselves at the bottom of the social scale for whom the EU conjures up a positive image has fallen by 8 points since autumn 2009 (from 39% to 31%). At the same time, the proportion of respondents with a positive image of the EU has fallen by 6 points among those who place themselves at the top of the social scale (from 58% to 52%). These differences in perceptions of the EU according to social status seem therefore to be widening further as a result of the crisis.

Opinion leaders are also more likely than the others to consider that the EU's image is positive: 51% of those with a strong leadership index say that the EU's image is positive compared with 33% of those with a low index.

However, political leanings seem to have little influence on perceptions of the EU's image (44% of those on the left of the political spectrum consider that its image is positive, compared with 47% of those on the right).

QA15 In general, does the European Union conjure up for you a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image?

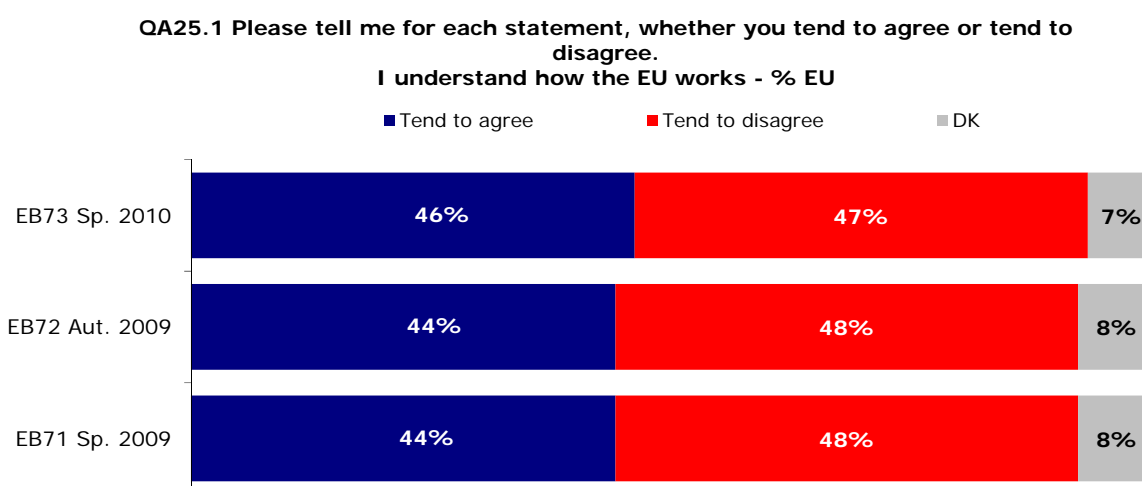
	Total 'Positive'	Neutral	Total 'Negative'	DK
EU27	42%	37%	19%	2%
Age				
 15-24	48%	37%	13%	2%
25-39	43%	39%	17%	1%
40-54	41%	37%	21%	1%
55 +	38%	35%	24%	3%
Education (End of)				
 15-	31%	38%	27%	4%
16-19	37%	39%	22%	2%
20+	52%	33%	14%	1%
Still studying	58%	33%	8%	1%
Left-Right scale				
(1-4) Left	44%	35%	20%	1%
(5-6) Centre	40%	39%	20%	1%
(7-10) Right	47%	33%	19%	1%
Self-positioning on the social staircase				
Low (1-4)	31%	40%	26%	3%
Medium (5-6)	42%	38%	18%	2%
High (7-10)	52%	32%	15%	1%
Opinion leadership index				
++	51%	28%	20%	1%
+	46%	36%	17%	1%
-	40%	39%	19%	2%
--	33%	40%	23%	4%

4. HOW THE EUROPEAN UNION WORKS

4.1 Knowledge of how the EU works

46% of Europeans today say that they tend to understand how the European Union works while 47% say that they tend not to do so. The proportion of respondents who understand how it works has increased by 2 points since autumn 2009, while the proportion of negative answers has decreased by one point, as has the 'DK' rate (7%)⁶⁶.

This slight increase can undoubtedly be explained by the widespread media coverage of European issues in EU countries at the beginning of 2010.

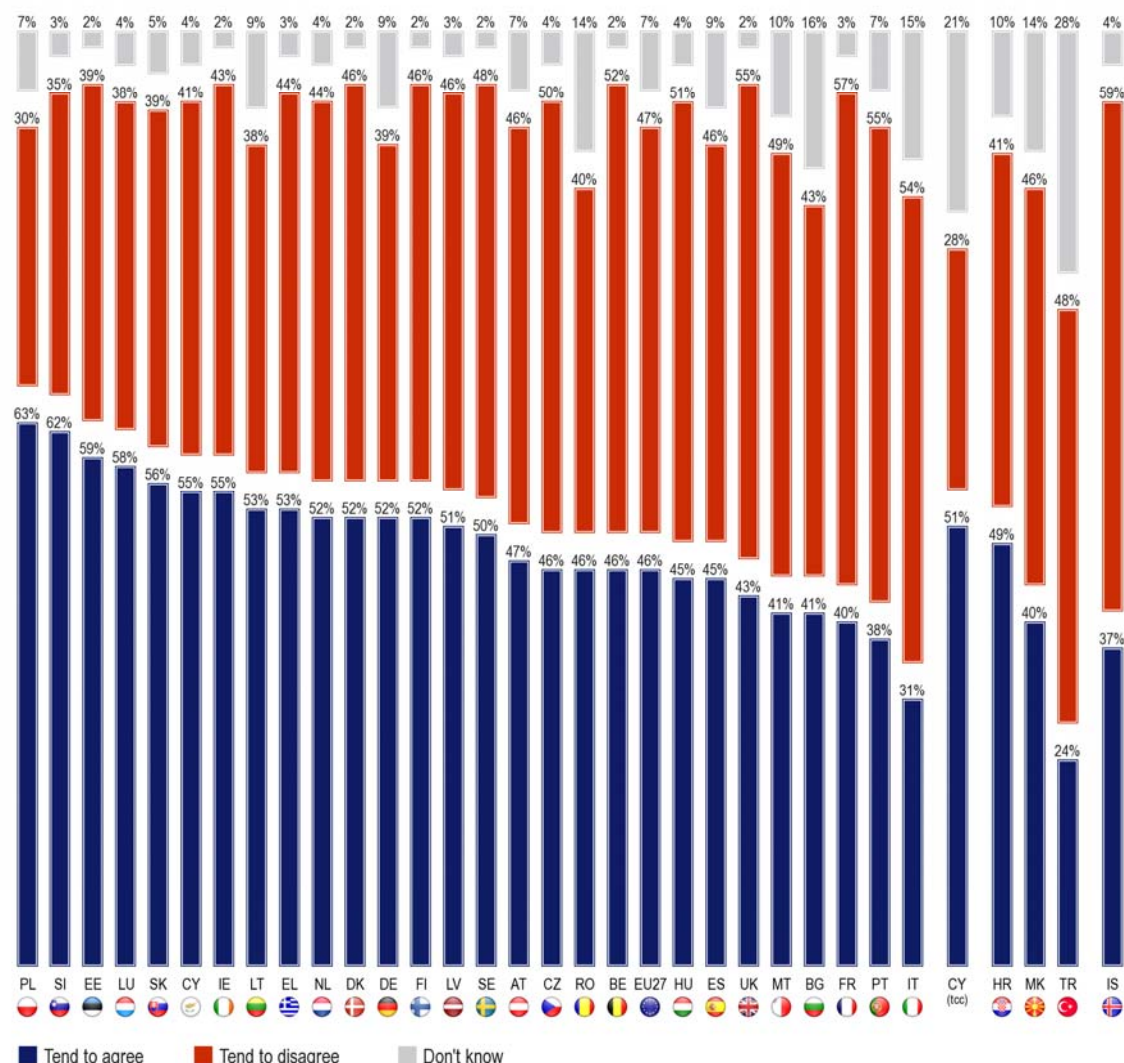


An absolute majority of respondents in seven countries do not understand how the EU works: in France (57%), the United Kingdom (55%), Portugal (55%), Italy (54%), Belgium (52%), Hungary (51%) and the Czech Republic (50%). Respondents in Poland (63%), Slovenia (62%) and Estonia (59%) are the most likely to feel that they understand how the European Union works.

⁶⁶ QA25.1 Please tell me for each statement, whether you tend to agree or tend to disagree? I understand how the EU works.

QA25.1. Please tell me for each statement, whether you tend to agree or tend to disagree.

I understand how the EU works



The proportion of respondents who understand how the EU works has increased significantly in Ireland (+12 points), Malta (+10), Denmark (+8) and Lithuania (+8). However, it has fallen in Cyprus (-7 points).

Knowledge of how the European Union works logically varies considerably with the respondent's interest in politics: 67% of those who are very interested in politics say that they understand how the EU works compared with only 26% of those who are not at all interested.

As the political interest index reveals striking divergences in terms of the gender, level of education and social status of respondents⁶⁷, it accurately reflects the difference in comprehension existing between the most advantaged and most disadvantaged respondents in the EU.

⁶⁷ See Part I, life in the European Union, chapter 4, political aspects.

4.2 Objective knowledge of the EU

European citizens were asked to say whether four statements concerning the European Union were true or false. The statements were the following⁶⁸:

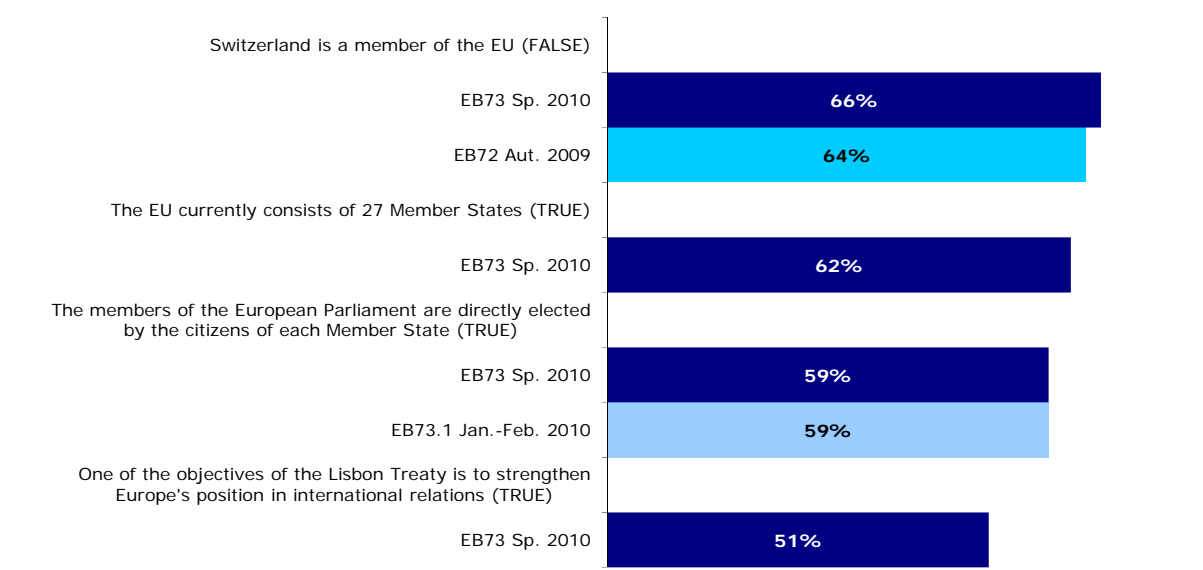
- The European Union currently consists of 27 Member States (changed, because the wording used in recent waves referred to 25 Member States).
- Members of the European Parliament are directly elected by citizens.
- One of the objectives of the Lisbon Treaty is to strengthen Europe's position in international relations (asked for the first time).
- Switzerland is a member of the European Union.

This fairly simple quiz shows that Europeans have a solid basic knowledge of the European Union since an absolute majority of respondents gave the right answer to every question.

However, the fact that 46% of Europeans gave at least one wrong answer out of four, and that 52% were unable to answer at least one question, shows that there is still room for improvement.

The proportion of respondents answering the questions correctly varies from 51% for the statement that "one of the objectives of the Lisbon Treaty is to strengthen Europe's position in international relations" to 66% for "Switzerland is a member of the EU". The averaged percentage of right answers given to the various questions asked to measure knowledge of the European Union is 60%. The averaged percentage of wrong answers is 16%, while the 'DK' average is 24%.

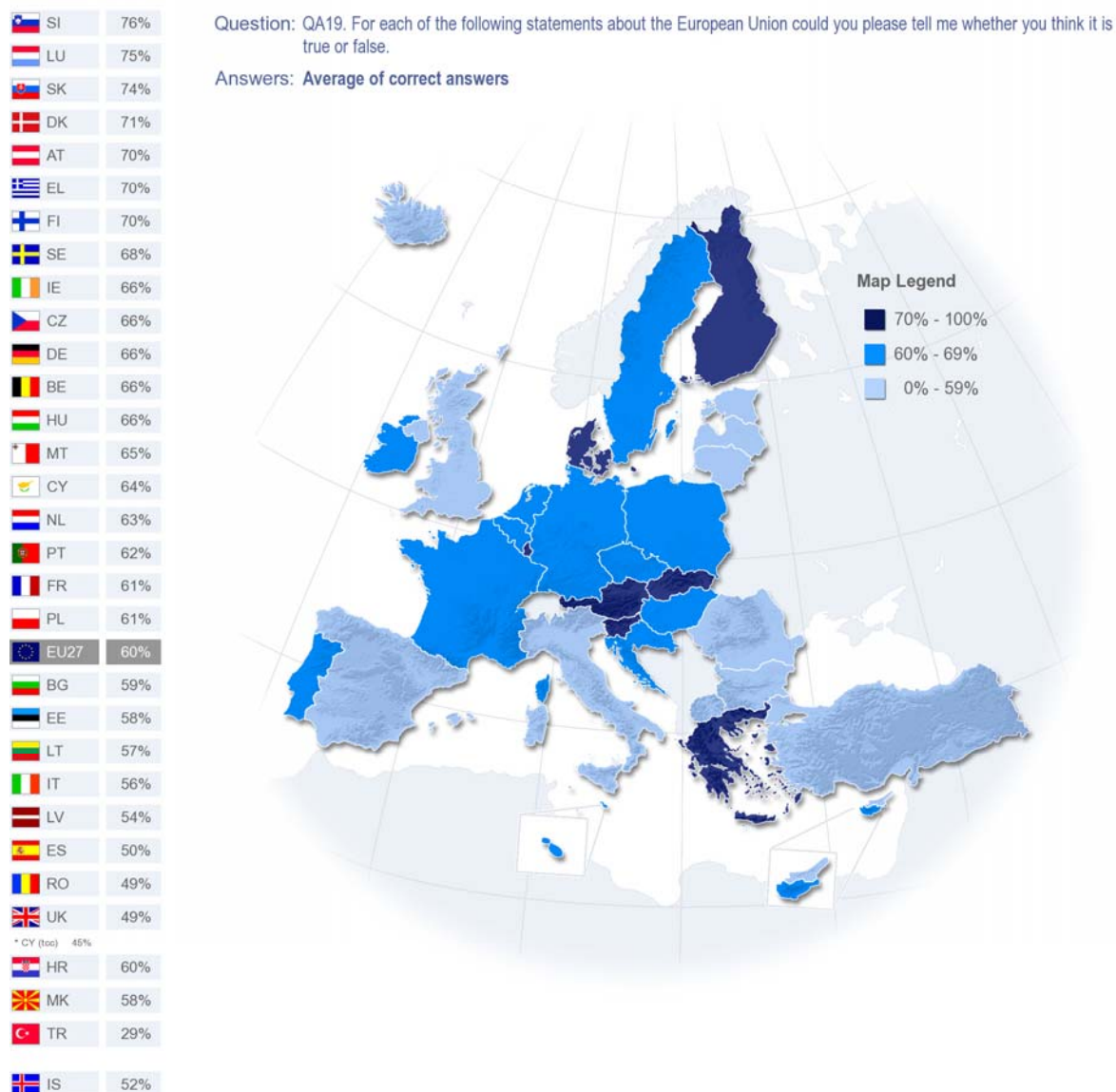
QA19 For each of the following statements about the European Union, could you please tell me whether you think it is true or false? Correct answers - % EU



⁶⁸ QA19 For each of the following statements about the European Union could you please tell me whether you think it is true or false.

With an average of 70% or more right answers (i.e. at least 10 points above the European average), respondents in Slovenia (76%), Luxembourg (75%), Slovakia (74%), Denmark (71%), Austria (70%), Finland (70%) and Greece (70%) are among those with the best objective knowledge of the European Union.

In contrast, the percentage of right answers is considerably below the European average in the United Kingdom (49%), Romania (49%), Spain (50%) and Latvia (54%).



The fact that Switzerland is not a member of the European Union obtained the highest number of right answers among Europeans (66%). This is 2 points higher than in autumn 2009. Although a majority of respondents gave the right answer in every country, the percentage of right answers was below 50% in four Member States (Romania (38% of right answers), Bulgaria (46%), Estonia (48%) and Spain (48%)) where the 'DK' rates are high.

62% of Europeans now know that the **European Union consists of 27 Member States**, while 14% gave the wrong answer and 24% did not answer. The proportions of right answers in the United Kingdom (47%), Romania (52%), Spain (57%), the Netherlands (57%) and Lithuania (57%) are below the European average on this question.

By way of comparison, in previous waves Europeans were quizzed on a similar, but false statement, namely “the European Union currently consists of 25 Member States”: a relative majority of Europeans fell into the trap and gave the wrong answer (44%), while 30% gave the right answer and 26% did not answer.

59% of Europeans rightly said that “**members of the European Parliament are directly elected by the citizens of each Member State**” (proportion unchanged since February 2010⁶⁹), while 23% said that it was false and 18% did not answer. The proportion of right answers exceeds 50% in all EU countries, except for France (45%). It is remarkable to note that respondents in the most recent Member States are more knowledgeable than those in the longest-standing States about the way in which MEPs are elected: the rate of right answers on this subject is 70% in the NMS12 countries compared with only 56% in the EU15 countries. This is fairly surprising bearing in mind that the turnout for the last European parliamentary elections in June 2009 was far lower in the former (29%) than in the latter (47%).

Finally, half of Europeans (51%) knew that one of the **objectives of the Lisbon Treaty is to strengthen Europe’s position in international relations**. The rate of ‘DK’ answers is high (39%) for this question and exceeds 50% in Romania (59%), Bulgaria (53%), Malta (52%), Cyprus (52%) and Spain (51%). Respondents in Slovakia (74%), Finland (72%) and Sweden (68%) are the most familiar with this objective of the Lisbon Treaty.

As in the case of knowledge of how the European Union works, respondents who are financially comfortable, educated and are interested in political matters tend to have a better objective knowledge of the European Union.

⁶⁹ Special Eurobarometer no 339 (Eurobarometer 73.1 wave): the European Parliament Eurobarometer, known as the Parlemètre, February 2010.

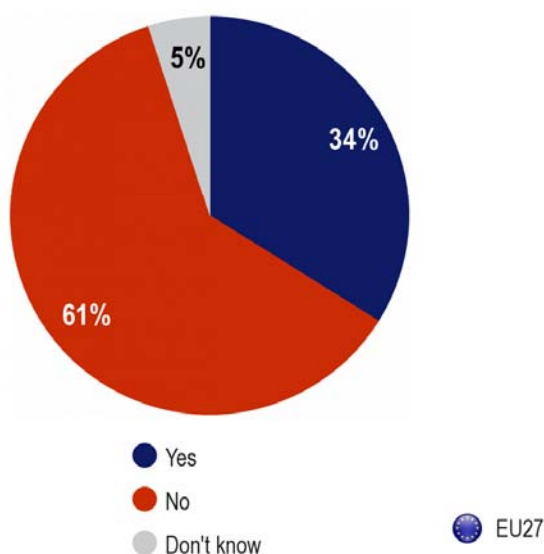
4.3 The Presidency of the Council of the European Union

- A large majority of Europeans are still unfamiliar with the Presidency of the Council of the European Union -

61% of Europeans said that they had not heard of the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union during the first half of 2010, while 34% had heard of it and 5% expressed no opinion⁷⁰. Awareness of the Spanish Presidency is therefore 4 points higher than that of the Swedish Presidency measured during the autumn 2009 Eurobarometer wave (EB72).

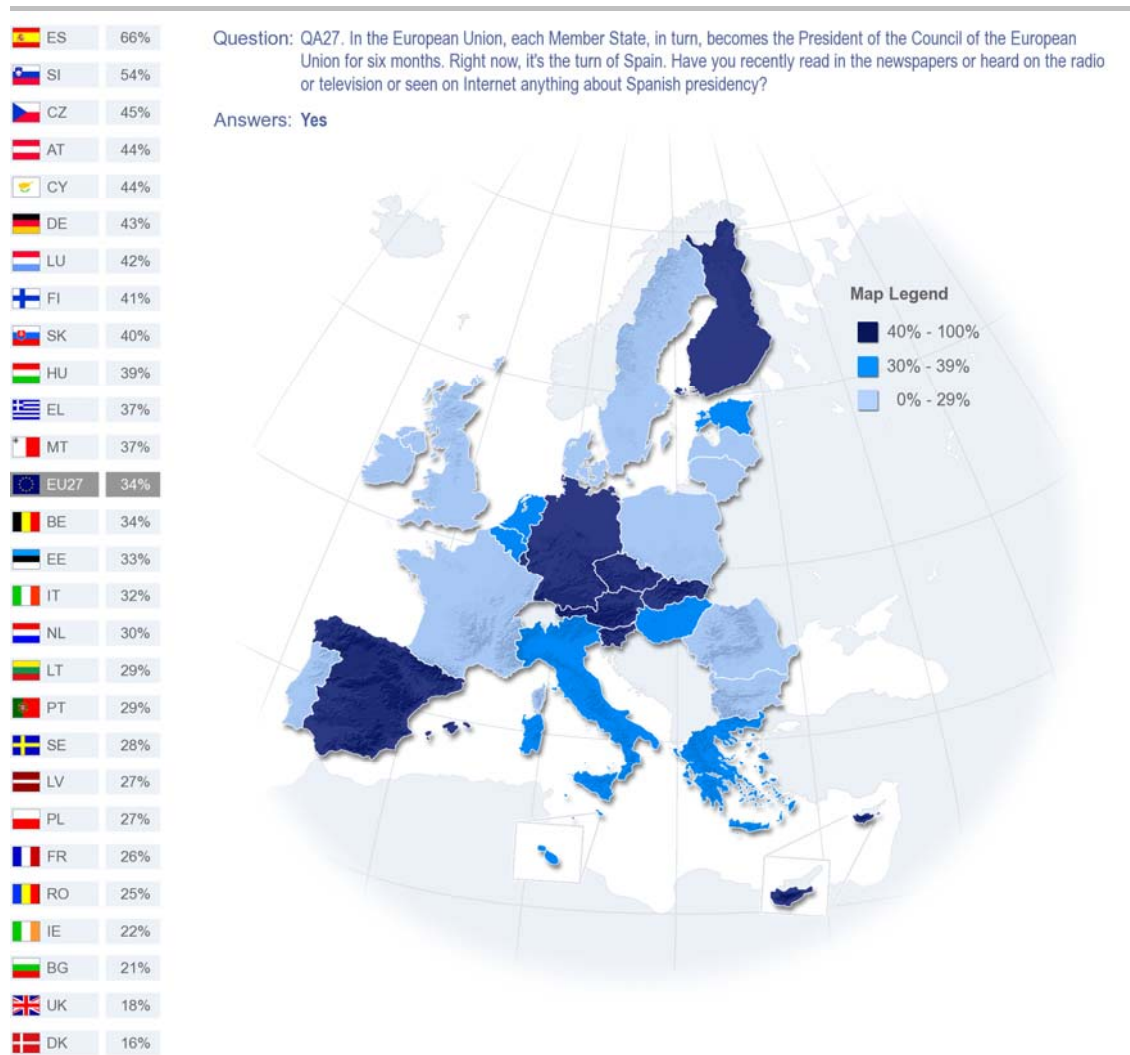
However, this level remains far below the “record” measured for the French Presidency of the European Union in the second half of 2008: at that time, 50% of Europeans knew that France held the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

QA27. In the European Union, each Member State, in turn, becomes the President of the Council of the European Union for six months. Right now, it's the turn of Spain. Have you recently read in the newspapers or heard on the radio or television or seen on Internet anything about Spanish presidency?



Other than Spain, Slovenia is the only other country where a majority of respondents (54%) have heard of the Spanish Presidency (54%). Few respondents have heard of it in Sweden (28%), which held the Presidency before Spain, and in Spain's neighbouring countries, namely France (26%) and Portugal (29%).

⁷⁰ QA27 n the European Union, each Member State, in turn, becomes the President of the Council of the European Union for six months. Right now, it's the turn of Spain. Have you recently read in the newspapers or heard on the radio or television or seen on Internet anything about the Spanish presidency?



- Two-thirds of respondents in Spain have heard about their country's Presidency of the Council of the European Union -

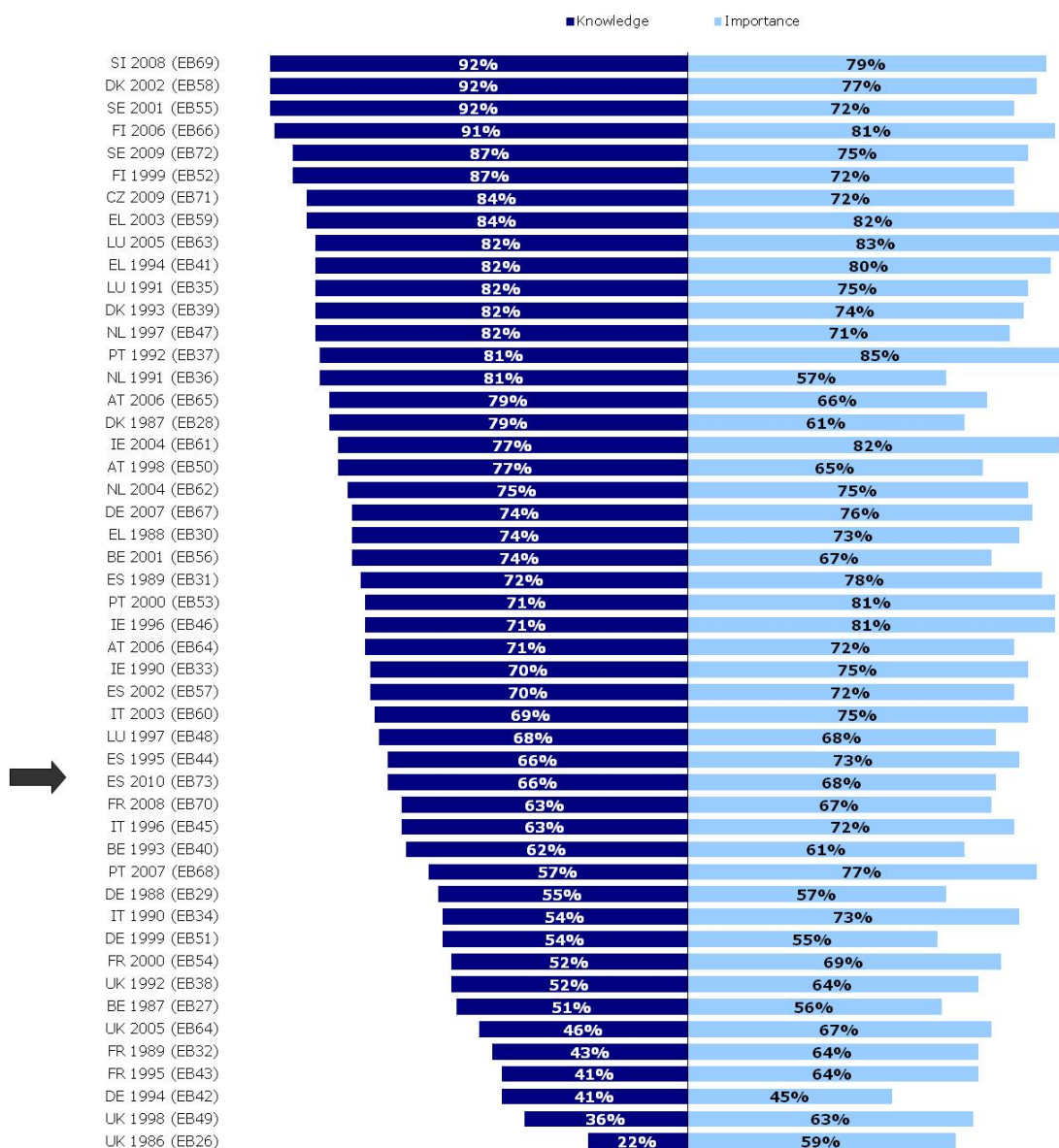
In Spain, 66% of respondents have heard of the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, exactly the same level as that measured at the time of the Spanish Presidency of 1995.

68% of respondents in Spain consider that this Presidency is important (including 25% "very important" answers, while 23% consider that it is not important and 9% expressed no opinion⁷¹).

⁷¹ QA28 Whether you have heard about it or not, do you think it is important or not that Spain is President of the Council of the European Union at this time? Question asked only in Spain.

A socio-demographic analysis reveals that there is a consensus across all sections of the Spanish population regarding the importance of this Presidency. In terms of the degree of importance attached to the Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the country which holds the Presidency, the score in Spain is more or less in line with the European average recorded since 1986, but far below the record 85% recorded for the Portuguese Presidency in 1992.

QA27/QA28 Knowledge and importance of the Presidency of the Council of the European Union



III. THE EUROPEAN UNION TODAY AND TOMORROW

The months preceding the spring 2010 Eurobarometer survey saw important changes in the European institutions: the Lisbon Treaty which aims to improve the efficiency of the decision-making process in a European Union of 27 Member States, to make it more democratic by giving greater weight to the European Parliament and national parliaments and to strengthen Europe's position in international relations came into force on 1 December 2009; furthermore, the new "Barroso II" Commission took office on 10 February 2010.

It was against this background of institutional change that Europeans were asked about their expectations regarding the European Union's competences in various areas, as well as about their support for the single currency, enlargement and a common foreign policy. Finally, this enabled us to obtain a glimpse of how Europeans envisage the Europe of the future.

1. THE EUROPEAN UNION'S COMPETENCES

1.1 Assessment of the most appropriate decision-making level in some key areas

- European citizens tend to prefer joint decision-making within the European Union -

The question regarding the most effective levels of competence for 20 policy areas was also asked in the autumn 2009 survey (EB72) and, as we noted at that time, Europeans tend to be in favour of decision-making at European level, at least in more than two-thirds of the areas tested⁷².

In addition, contrary to the situation noted at the time of the last Eurobarometer wave in autumn 2009, **support for national decision-making has increased**, to differing extents depending on the policy areas, to the detriment of European decision-making, in 14 of the 20 policy areas in question.

⁷² QA22 For each of the following areas, do you think that decisions should be made by the (NATIONALITY) Government, or made jointly within the European Union: Fighting crime; Taxation; Fighting unemployment; Fighting terrorism; Defence and foreign affairs; Immigration; The educational system; Pensions; Protecting the environment.

QA23 And for each of the following areas, do you think that decisions should be made by the (NATIONALITY) Government, or made jointly within the European Union? Health; Social welfare; Agriculture and fishery; Consumer protection; Scientific and technological research; Support for regions facing economic difficulties; Energy; Competition; Transport; Economy; Fighting inflation.

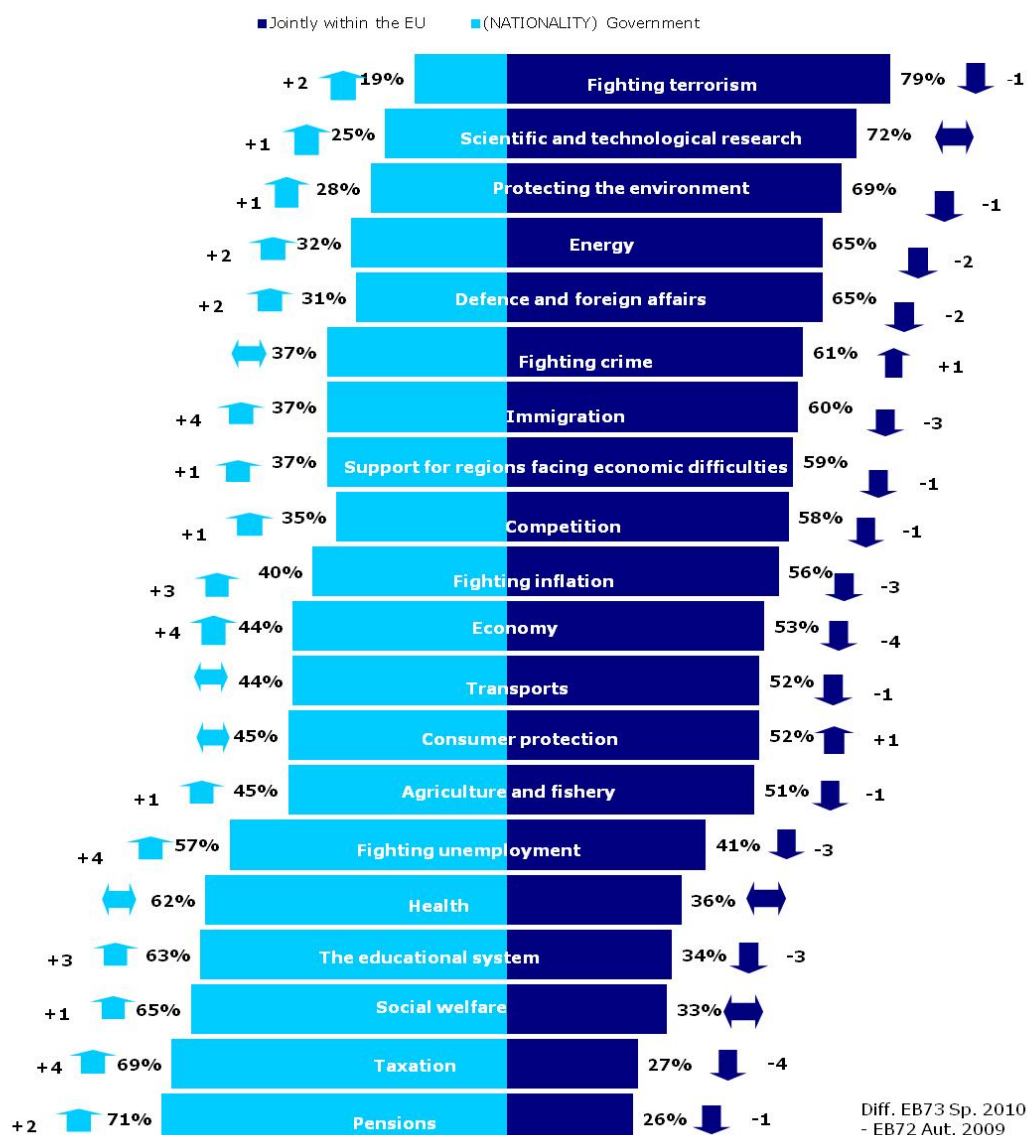
A detailed analysis reveals that a majority of respondents consider that decisions should be taken at national level in the following six areas: pensions (71%, +2 points), taxation (69%, +4), social welfare (65%, +1), the education system (63%, +3), healthcare (62%, unchanged) and fighting unemployment (57%, +4).

There have also been significant movements in favour of national decision-making in the economy (44%, +4 points) and immigration (37%, +4 points), although Europe is still the preferred decision-making level in both these areas.

A majority of respondents consider that decisions in 14 policy areas should be taken jointly within the European Union, though for 11 of these areas, the European level scores have fallen since the last Eurobarometer wave: fighting terrorism (79%, -1 point), scientific and technological research (72%, unchanged), protecting the environment (69%, -1), energy (65%, -2), defence and foreign affairs (65%, -2), fighting crime (61%, +1), immigration (60%, -3), support for regions facing economic difficulties (59%, -1), competition (58%, -1), fighting inflation (56%, -3), the economy (53%, -4), transport (52%, -1), consumer protection (52%, +1) and, finally agriculture and fishery (51%, -1).

The decline in support for joint decision-making at EU level is particularly marked in the areas more directly linked to the economy. The opposite trend was observed in autumn 2009, when evolutions were compared with the previous survey, EB70, conducted in autumn 2008. While the score for the economy increased by six points between EB70 and EB72, this time, between EB72 and EB73, it has fallen by four points. Fighting inflation had previously increased by five points, whereas it has now fallen by three points. Fighting unemployment had increased by four points, but it has declined by three points in spring 2010.

QA22/QA23 For each of the following areas, do you think that decisions should be made by the (NATIONALITY) Government, or made jointly within the European Union?



Some general trends emerge when the results are analysed country by country. Thus, in particular in Cyprus, but also in Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia and Estonia (all of which joined the EU in 2004), as well as in Belgium, respondents consider that it would be beneficial for most of these decisions to be taken jointly within the EU.

Conversely, respondents in the United Kingdom, Finland, Sweden and Denmark are comparatively more likely to want their government to retain decision-making powers in most of these areas.

Our analysis of the national results will focus initially on the areas where Europeans want to see more decisions taken jointly at EU level, then on those where Europeans would instead prefer decisions to be taken at national level.

Overall, Europeans seem fairly pragmatic in their preferences. **The areas where Europeans on average would prefer decisions to be taken jointly at EU level are those where an international approach makes common sense** (fighting terrorism, protecting the environment, energy, etc.), **or items where the pooling of resources would intuitively seem more effective** (scientific research or help for the regions for example). In a difficult economic context, we also see that the **majority of respondents seem indirectly to indicate that it would undoubtedly be more effective to coordinate economic policies in the EU, in areas such as competition and fighting inflation in particular.**

A comparison between the EU15 and NMS12 results reveals significant differences between these two groups of countries.

Thus, for most of the policy areas proposed (14 in total), respondents in the NMS12 countries are more likely to be in favour of joint decision-making in the EU, in particular for social welfare (45% in the NMS12 countries and 29% in the EU15 countries), pensions (36% and 23% respectively), healthcare (45% and 34%) and support for the regions facing economic difficulties (67% and 57%).


However respondents in the EU15 countries are more likely to favour European decision-making in five notable exceptions: agriculture and fishery (53% in the EU15 countries and 46% in the NMS12 countries), protecting the environment (71% and 64% respectively), fighting inflation (57% and 51%), competition (58% and 55%) and energy (65% and 63%).


The economy was the only item which obtained the same score in both groups of countries (53%).

The results also vary considerably between the euro zone and non-euro zone countries, with the former being far more likely to support joint decision-making in 18 of the 20 areas proposed, in particular as regards inflation (63% in the euro zone countries versus 43% outside the euro zone), the economy (59% and 42%) and defence and foreign affairs (70% and 55%).

Only two items, support for regions facing economic difficulties and social welfare, were mentioned – very slightly – more frequently outside the euro zone.

QA22/QA23 For each of the following areas, do you think that decisions should be made by the (NATIONALITY) Government, or made jointly within the European Union?
 Answer: Jointly within the EU

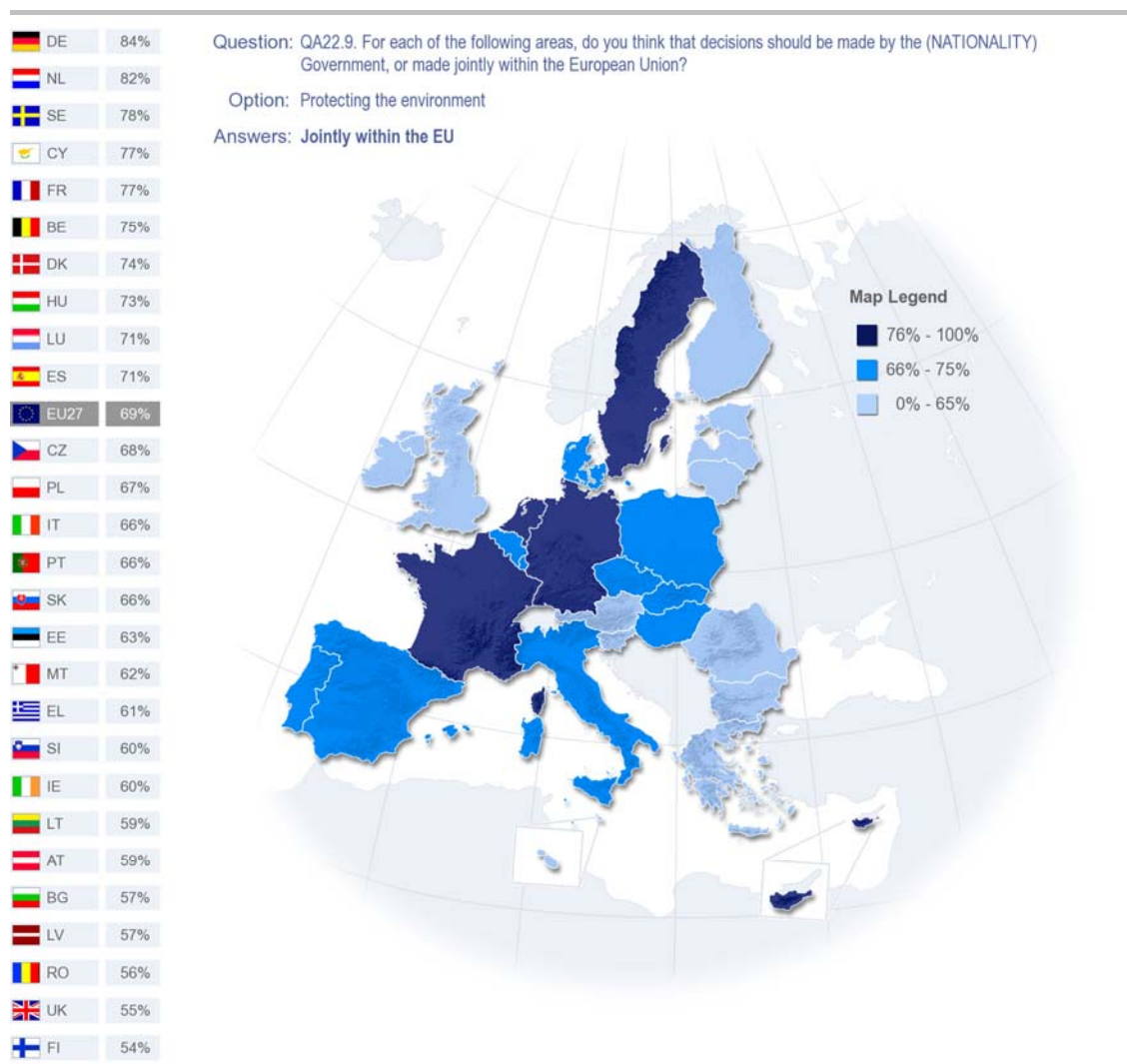
		Fighting terrorism	Scientific and technological research	Protecting the environment	Energy	Defence and foreign affairs	Fighting crime	Immigration	Support for regions facing economic difficulties	Competition	Fighting inflation
	EU27	79%	72%	69%	65%	65%	61%	60%	59%	58%	56%
	EU15	78%	72%	71%	65%	64%	59%	58%	57%	58%	57%
	NMS 12	84%	73%	64%	63%	69%	67%	65%	67%	55%	51%
	Euro area	80%	74%	74%	69%	70%	64%	64%	59%	62%	63%
	Non-euro area	77%	68%	62%	57%	55%	54%	54%	60%	50%	43%

		Economy	Transports	Consumer protection	Agriculture and fishery	Fighting unemployment	Health	The educational system	Social welfare	Taxation	Pensions
	EU27	53%	52%	52%	51%	41%	36%	34%	33%	27%	26%
	EU15	53%	51%	51%	53%	39%	34%	34%	29%	26%	23%
	NMS 12	53%	55%	55%	46%	47%	45%	36%	45%	32%	36%
	Euro area	59%	56%	55%	56%	43%	38%	38%	32%	30%	26%
	Non-euro area	42%	45%	47%	43%	37%	34%	27%	34%	23%	25%

Fighting terrorism appears to be the principal area where Europeans believe that decisions should be taken jointly in the European Union (79%, compared with only 19% who consider that decisions should be taken at national level). A large majority of respondents in each of the 27 Member States, in particular in Denmark (92%), Estonia, Latvia and Luxembourg (91% each), as well as in Lithuania and Slovakia (90% each), favour joint decision-making. However, support for this option is more tepid in the United Kingdom (63%) and Greece (68%).

More than eight out of ten respondents in Cyprus (88%), Luxembourg (87%), Estonia (84%), Lithuania and Slovakia (83% in both cases), Belgium, Latvia and Malta (82% each) and Denmark (81%) also consider that decisions concerning **scientific and technological research** should be taken jointly in the 27 Member States. Approximately six out of ten respondents also share this opinion in the United Kingdom and Romania (59% each), as well as in Finland (61%).

Eight out of ten respondents in Germany (84%) and the Netherlands (82%) would prefer decisions about **protecting the environment** to be taken at European level. This preference is shared by just over half of those in Finland (54%), the United Kingdom (55%) and Romania (56%).

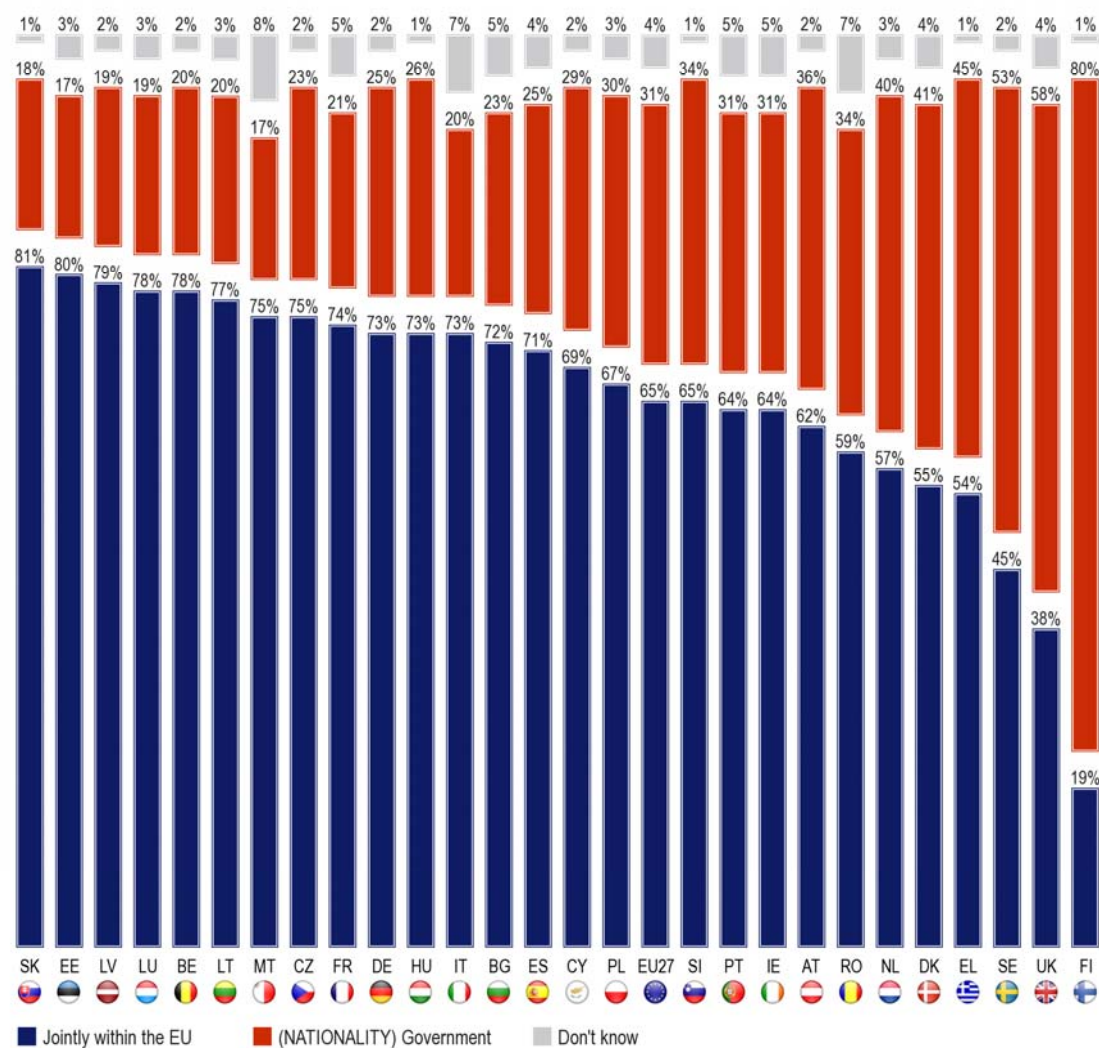


At least three-quarters of respondents in Cyprus (82%), Germany, Latvia and Lithuania (76% in all three cases), Luxembourg and Denmark (75% each), would prefer to take decisions regarding **energy** at the European level. However, this option is supported by only 47% of citizens in the United Kingdom, by a narrow majority in Finland (50%) and by 54% of respondents in Romania. In Austria, opinions are split down the middle (49/49).

Twenty-four of the twenty-seven Member States would prefer joint decision-making for **defence and foreign affairs**. This option was chosen by at least eight out of ten respondents in Slovakia (81%) and Estonia (80%), two countries which joined the EU in 2004. **But this proportion falls to 19% in Finland, 38% in the United Kingdom and 45% in Sweden.**

QA22.5. For each of the following areas, do you think that decisions should be made by the (NATIONALITY) Government, or made jointly within the European Union?

Defence and foreign affairs



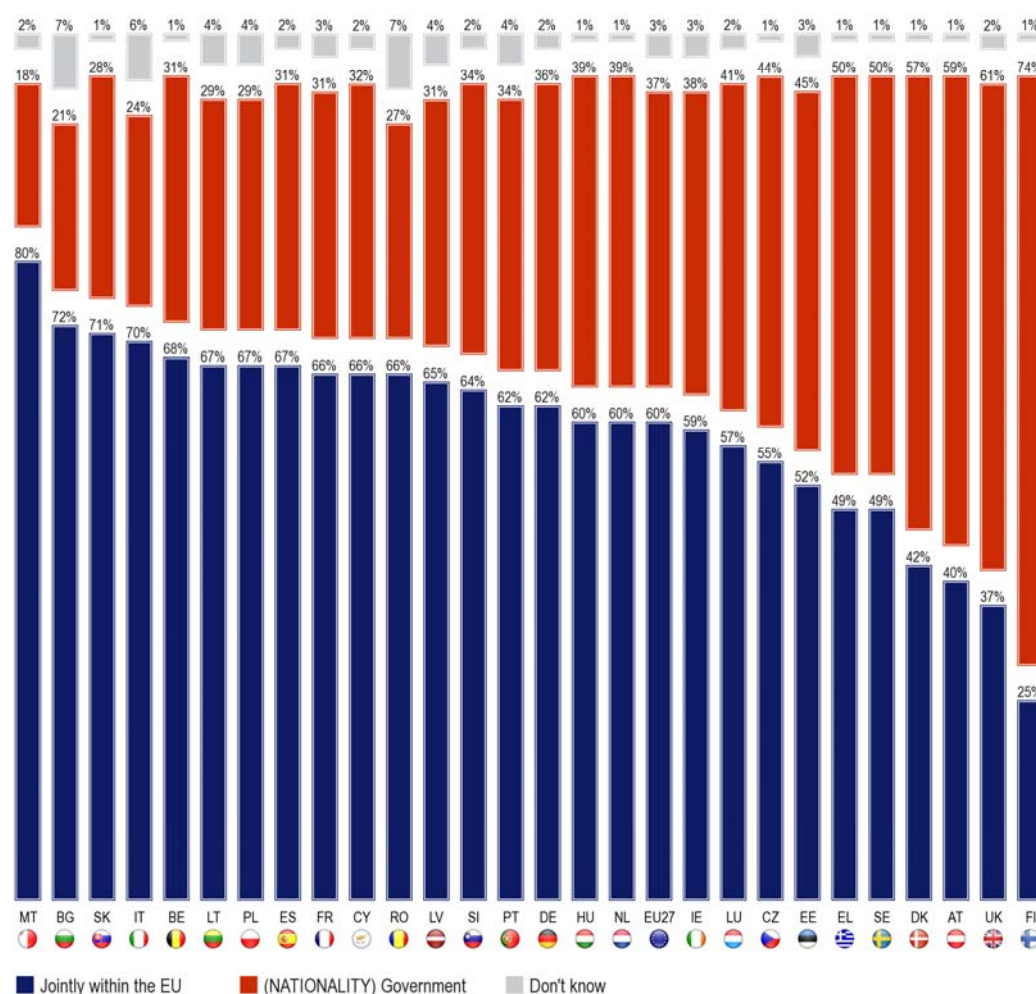
At least seven out of ten respondents in Germany (79%), Slovakia (78%), Latvia (77%), the Czech Republic and Estonia (73% each), Finland (72%) and Sweden (70%) believe that decisions on **fighting crime** should be taken at European level, while only 33% of interviewees in the United Kingdom, 46% in Ireland, 50% in France and 54% in Malta share this opinion.

Twenty-one Member States would prefer decisions concerning **immigration** to be taken at European level, just one country fewer than at the time of the last Eurobarometer survey in autumn 2009. Malta, given its geographical location, stands out again in this regard: 80% of respondents would prefer decisions on immigration to be taken jointly in the European Union, though this percentage is seven points lower than the score recorded in autumn 2009. The other Member States particularly in favour of decision-making at European level are Bulgaria (72%), Slovakia (71%) and Italy (70%).

Conversely, respondents in Finland (25%), the United Kingdom (37%) and Austria (40%) are the least likely to support this option.

QA22.6. For each of the following areas, do you think that decisions should be made by the (NATIONALITY) Government, or made jointly within the European Union?

Immigration



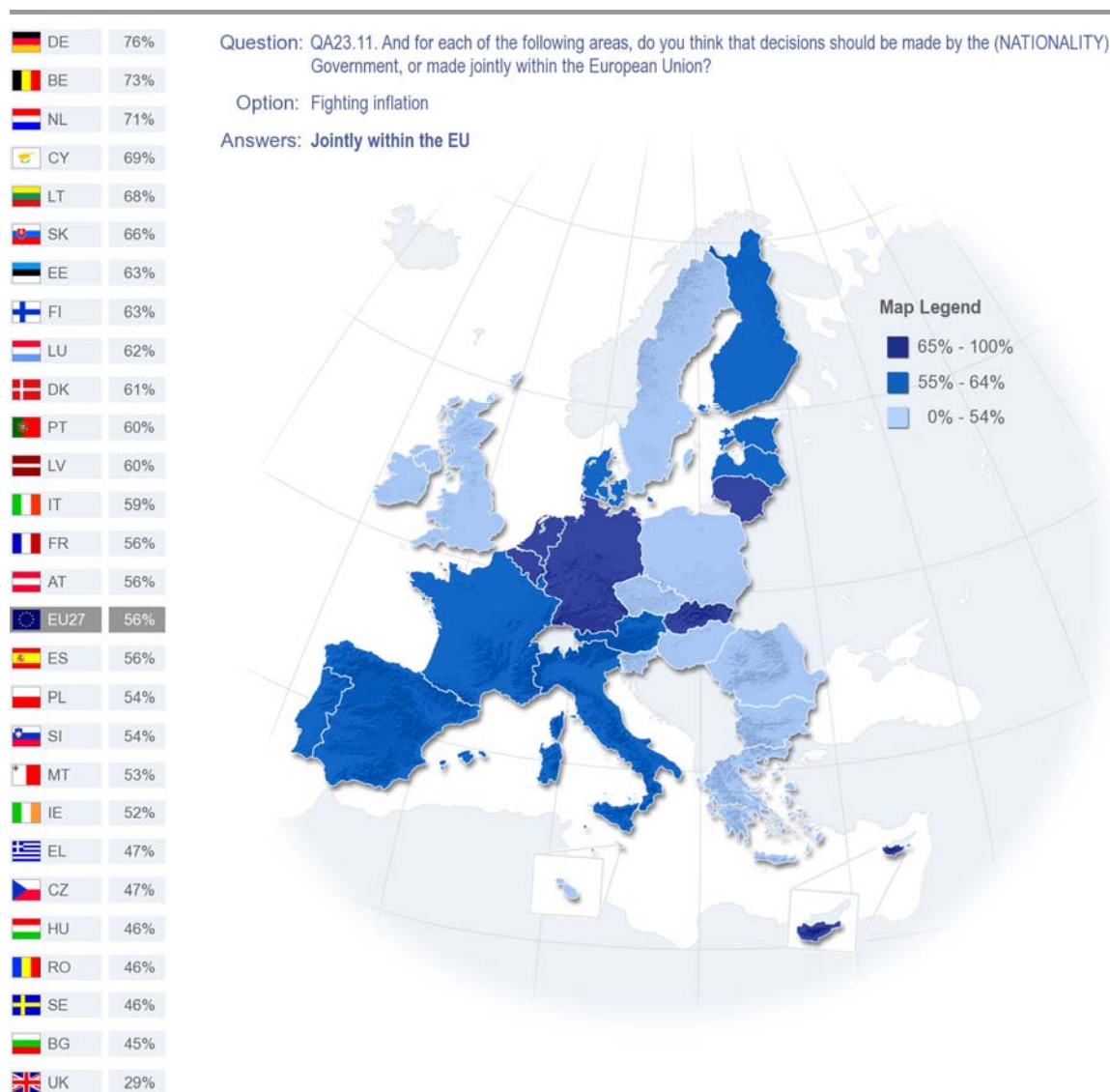
In line with the results recorded in autumn 2009, 25 of the 27 Member States would prefer decisions on **support for regions facing economic difficulties** to be taken at Community level. Respondents in Cyprus (82%), Malta (78%), the Netherlands and Lithuania (77% each), Ireland and Latvia (76% in both cases) and Estonia (73%) are the most likely to support this idea. The corresponding proportion falls to 46% in France and 48% in the United Kingdom.

Twenty-five of the twenty-seven Member States would prefer decisions on **competition** to be taken at European level. This is particularly true in Belgium (73%), Cyprus (71%) and the Netherlands (70%). Respondents in the United Kingdom (40%), the Czech Republic (44%), Romania (47%), Finland (50%), Austria (51%), Greece and Bulgaria (52% each) are the least likely to support this proposal.

Whereas the average proportion of Europeans in favour of joint decision-making in matters concerning the **economy** increased by 6 points to 57% between autumn 2008 (EB71) and autumn 2009 (EB72), it has now declined by four points (53%). Respondents in Belgium and Lithuania (71% in both cases), as well as in Cyprus (69%), are the most likely to support decision-making at European level. On the other hand, support for this decision-making level is the weakest in the northern EU countries: in Sweden (28%), Finland (29%) and Denmark (32%); but also in the United Kingdom (29%). The Czech Republic and Greece complete this group of six countries where a majority of respondents would prefer decisions concerning the economy to be taken at national level. In terms of evolutions, Estonia, Ireland and Bulgaria are now in favour of joint decision-making, recording an increase in support for this option since the last Eurobarometer survey. In all the other countries, this item has lost ground, sometimes very significantly: in particular in Greece (-16 points), but also in the Netherlands (-10) and Sweden (-9).

As noted above for the economy, whereas the proportion of Europeans wanting joint decision-making to **tackle inflation** increased strongly between Eurobarometer 70 in autumn 2008 and Eurobarometer 72 in autumn 2009 (59%, +5 points), it has instead declined in spring 2010 (56%, -3 points). Support has increased in only eight Member States since the last Eurobarometer survey.

Respondents in Germany (76%), Belgium (73%) and the Netherlands (71%) are the most likely to support European decision-making in this area, while this proportion falls to 29% in the United Kingdom, 45% in Bulgaria, and 46% in Sweden, Hungary and Romania.



Transport also records somewhat mixed results: a narrow majority (52%) of EU citizens would like decisions in this area to be taken jointly in the EU, while 44% would prefer the national level. Respondents in Cyprus (73%), Belgium and Sweden (71% each) are the most likely to favour joint decisions.

Conversely, support for this option is once again lowest in the United Kingdom (25%), followed by Finland (33%) and Greece (37%).

Europeans are also divided on **consumer protection**: a narrow majority of respondents (52%) are in favour of taking decisions at European level, while 45% would prefer national decision-making.

Respondents in Cyprus (74%), Germany (63%), Lithuania and Poland (62% in both cases), Belgium and Latvia (61% each) and Slovakia (60%) are the most likely to favour joint decision making in the EU as regards consumer protection. However, only 34% of respondents in the United Kingdom, 38% in Romania and 39% in Austria agree.

Finally, European opinion is also divided as regards **agriculture and fishery**: 51% of Europeans consider that decisions in this area should be taken at European level compared with 45% who support the national level.

Respondents in Belgium (71%), Cyprus (69%), Luxembourg (67%), Denmark (66%) and Germany (65%) are the most likely to support European decision-making, while respondents in Finland (19%), Bulgaria and Hungary (35% each) are the least convinced.

However, there are six areas in which European respondents on average would prefer decision to be taken at national level. Thus, almost three-quarters of European citizens (71%) consider that decisions on **pensions** should be taken within each Member State by the national government. This opinion is shared by more than nine out of ten respondents in the Nordic countries: in Denmark (94%), Finland (93%) and Sweden (92%). This score falls to approximately five out of ten respondents in Cyprus (48%), Latvia and Portugal (51% in both cases), as well as in Poland (54%).

Taxation is an area where almost seven out of ten Europeans would prefer decisions to be taken by national governments (69%). Support for national decision-making is particularly strong in Denmark (92%), Sweden (89%), Finland (88%), Luxembourg (85%) and the United Kingdom (84%).

However, only approximately half of respondents share this opinion in Lithuania (51%), Cyprus (55%) and Latvia (56%), three Member States which joined the EU in 2004.

In line with the results recorded in autumn 2009, twenty-three of the twenty-seven Member States still want decisions concerning **social welfare** to remain the responsibility of national governments. This opinion is particularly widespread in the northern EU countries: in Finland (87%), Denmark and Sweden (85% in both cases), but also in the Netherlands and France (79% each). Opinions in Latvia are evenly divided (49% in both cases).

Respondents in Cyprus (34%), Poland (47%), Lithuania and Portugal (48% each) are the least likely to prefer national decision-making in this area.

Almost two-thirds (63%) of Europeans want decisions on the **education system** to be taken at national level, while 34% would prefer the European level.

Whereas in autumn 2009 respondents in Cyprus, Portugal, Spain and Latvia were an exception in preferring joint decision-making in the EU, in spring 2010 only those in Cyprus (53%) and Latvia (51%) are still of this opinion.

Respondents in Finland (85%), the United Kingdom (82%), the Netherlands (78%), Denmark (77%) and Bulgaria (74%) are the most likely to prefer national decision-making in this area.

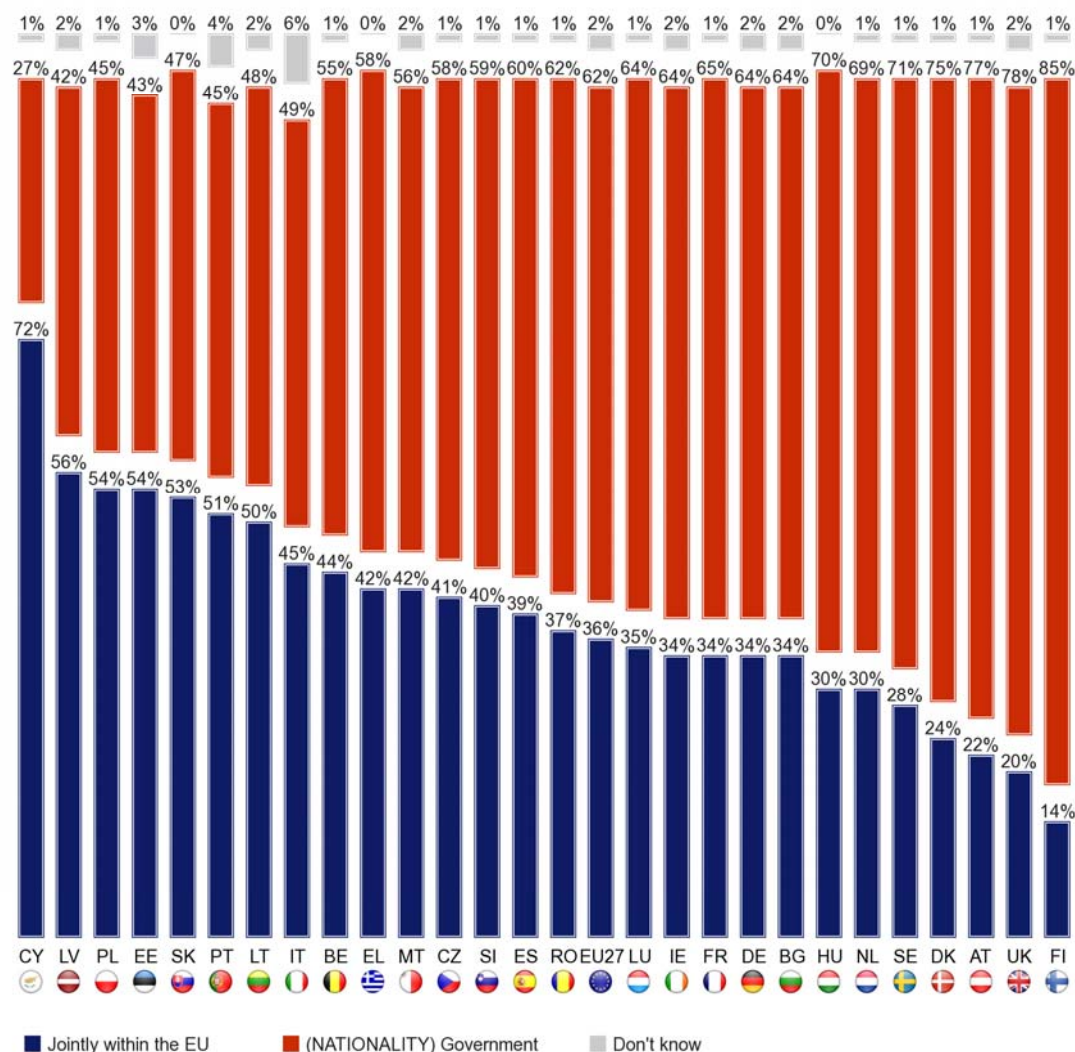
As in autumn 2009, 20 of the 27 countries would prefer decisions on **health** to be taken at national level, with a European average of 62%.

Respondents in Finland (85%), the United Kingdom (78%), Austria (77%), Denmark (75%), Sweden (71%) and Hungary (70%) are the most likely to support national decision-making.

Conversely, respondents in Cyprus are still the least likely to opt for national decisions (27%), followed by those in Latvia (42%), Estonia (43%), Poland and Portugal (45% each), and Slovakia (47%).

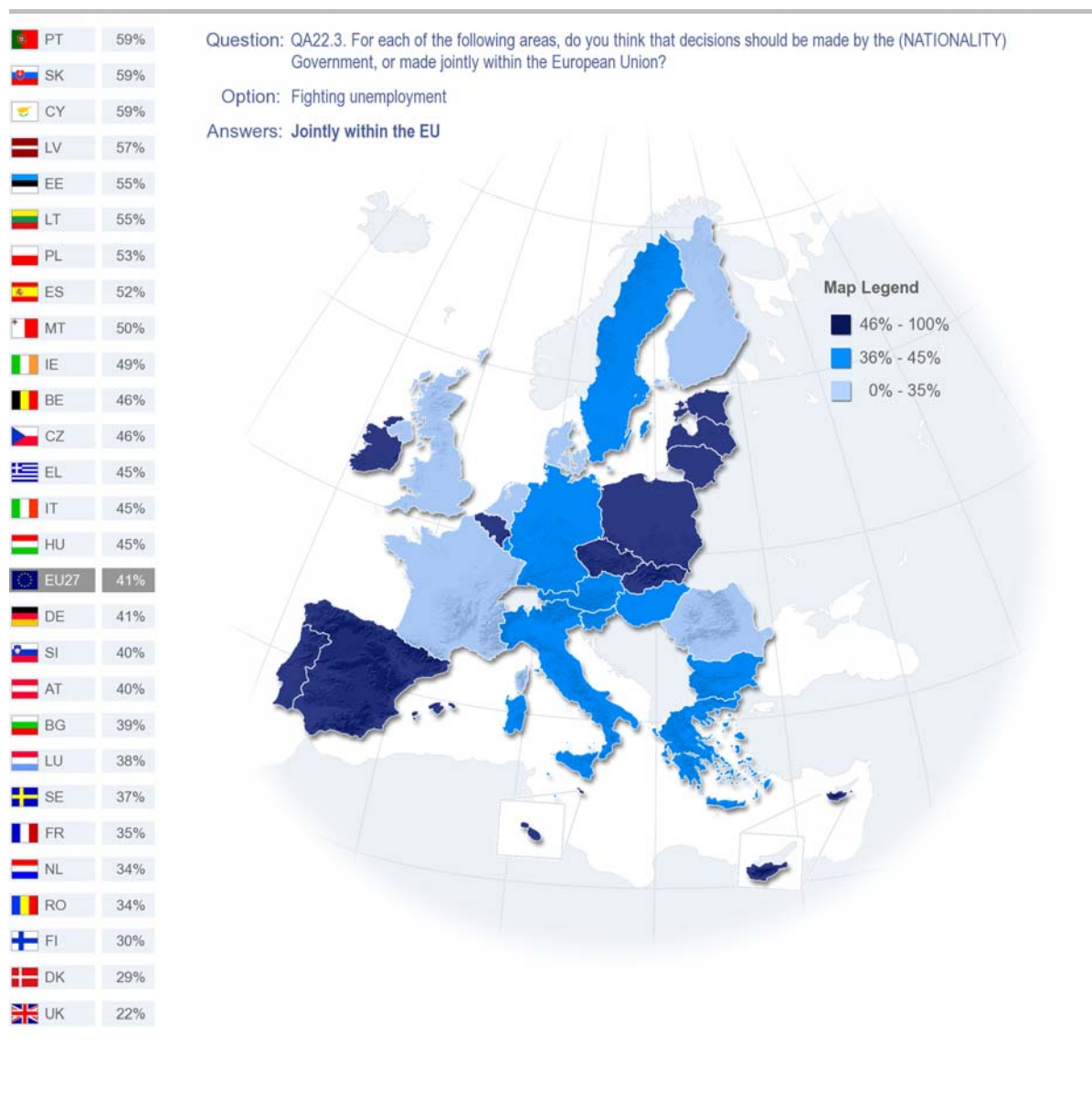
QA23.1. And for each of the following areas, do you think that decisions should be made by the (NATIONALITY) Government, or made jointly within the European Union?

Health



Finally, at the time of the last Eurobarometer in autumn 2009, ten countries considered that the EU was the most appropriate decision-making level for **fighting unemployment**. This is still the case today, although respondents are more divided on this question in Ireland (49%, versus 48% who would prefer national level). Respondents in the United Kingdom (76%), Denmark (70%), Finland (69%), the Netherlands (64%) and France (63%) are the most likely to opt for national government decisions in this area. Respondents in Portugal (38%), Cyprus (40%), Slovakia and Latvia (41% in both cases) are the least likely to share this view.

The most noteworthy change has occurred in Greece where the proportion of respondents in favour of national decision-making has increased by 12 points in six months and now stands at 54%.



- The countries with the highest unemployment rates prefer European decision-making in this area -

There is an interesting correlation between support for decision-making at European level and the unemployment rate in the Member States: the correlation coefficient⁷³ between the answers obtained for the item “jointly within the European Union” and the unemployment rates in each of the Member States, as published by Eurostat in June 2010⁷⁴, is equal to +0.58, which indicates a relatively strong positive correlation between the two variables.

⁷³ The Bravais-Pearson correlation coefficient between two variables makes it possible to examine the extent of the relationship between the two variables. If this coefficient is 0, the two variables are not correlated. The further the two variables are from 0 (close to -1 or 1) the more closely they are correlated.

⁷⁴ They are data for April 2010: http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_PUBLIC/3-01062010-AP/FR/3-01062010-AP-FR.PDF

In other words, this means that **the higher the unemployment rate in the country in which respondents live, the more likely they are to consider that joint decision-making within the EU might be a possible solution to their employment problems.**

A socio-demographic analysis of the results reveals the same trends as those noted at the time of the last Eurobarometer wave in autumn 2009: there are clearer differences between countries than between categories of respondents. Nevertheless some trends are perceptible: the age and level of education of respondents influence their preference for decision-making at national and European levels. The youngest and most educated respondents tend to prefer decisions at the European level, whereas those aged 55 or over and those who left school before the age of 16 (often older people) tend to opt for national decision-making.

“Positive” attitudes to Europe and support for the EU are logically linked to the answers of those respondents who favour joint decision-making: thus the more respondents are satisfied and confident about the European economic situation, and the more they believe that EU membership is a good thing, the more likely they are to prefer joint decision-making.

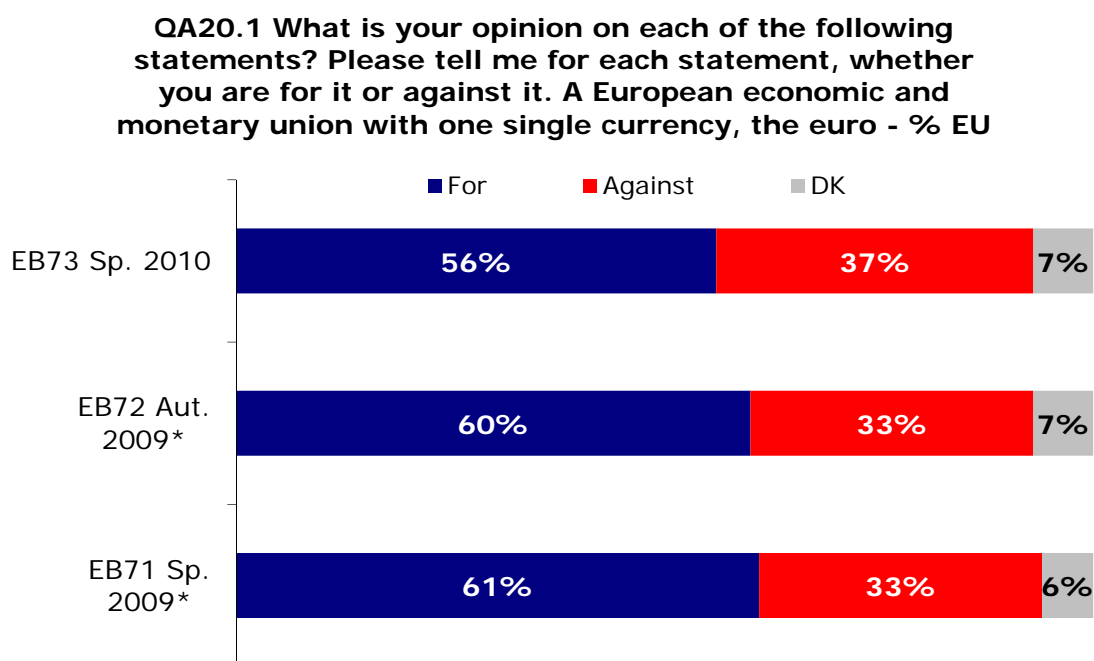
Conversely, respondents who do not support the euro and are pessimistic about the EU's future would prefer decisions in the areas tested to be taken at national level.

2. SUPPORT FOR EU POLICIES

2.1 Support for the single currency, the euro

- Continuing support for economic and monetary union, but at lower levels than before-

A majority of Europeans (56%) are in favour of a European economic and monetary union with a single currency, the euro⁷⁵, representing a four-point decline since autumn 2009, even if the question asked was worded slightly differently, since at that time it referred only to “monetary union”. It seems that the monetary direction taken by the financial and economic crisis and the difficulties encountered by some euro zone countries have slightly affected public support for the euro⁷⁶. Some 37% of respondents are now opposed to the euro (+4 points) while 7% expressed no opinion.



*For EB71 and EB72, the statement was slightly different: 'A European Monetary Union with one single currency, the euro'

There is a significant difference between the opinions of respondents living in the euro zone and those in non-euro zone countries. A strong majority of respondents in the euro zone are in favour of a European economic and monetary union, even if this score has declined (65%, -2 points), compared with only 29% (+2 points) who oppose it.

⁷⁵ QA20.1 What is your opinion on each of the following statements? Please tell me for each statement, whether you are for it or against it: a European economic and monetary union with one single currency, the euro.

⁷⁶ See also on this theme: Volume II, European public opinion on other themes, part 2, Europeans and the crisis.

However, Europeans living outside the euro zone clearly oppose it: 52% (+7 points) are against economic and monetary union compared with 39% (-7 points) who support it.

A geographical analysis of the results shows that currently **a majority of respondents in five of the twenty-seven Member States are against “economic and monetary union with a single currency, the euro”**. This is four more countries than in autumn 2009: at that time only the United Kingdom was opposed, but the UK has now been joined by Sweden, the Czech Republic, Denmark and Poland.

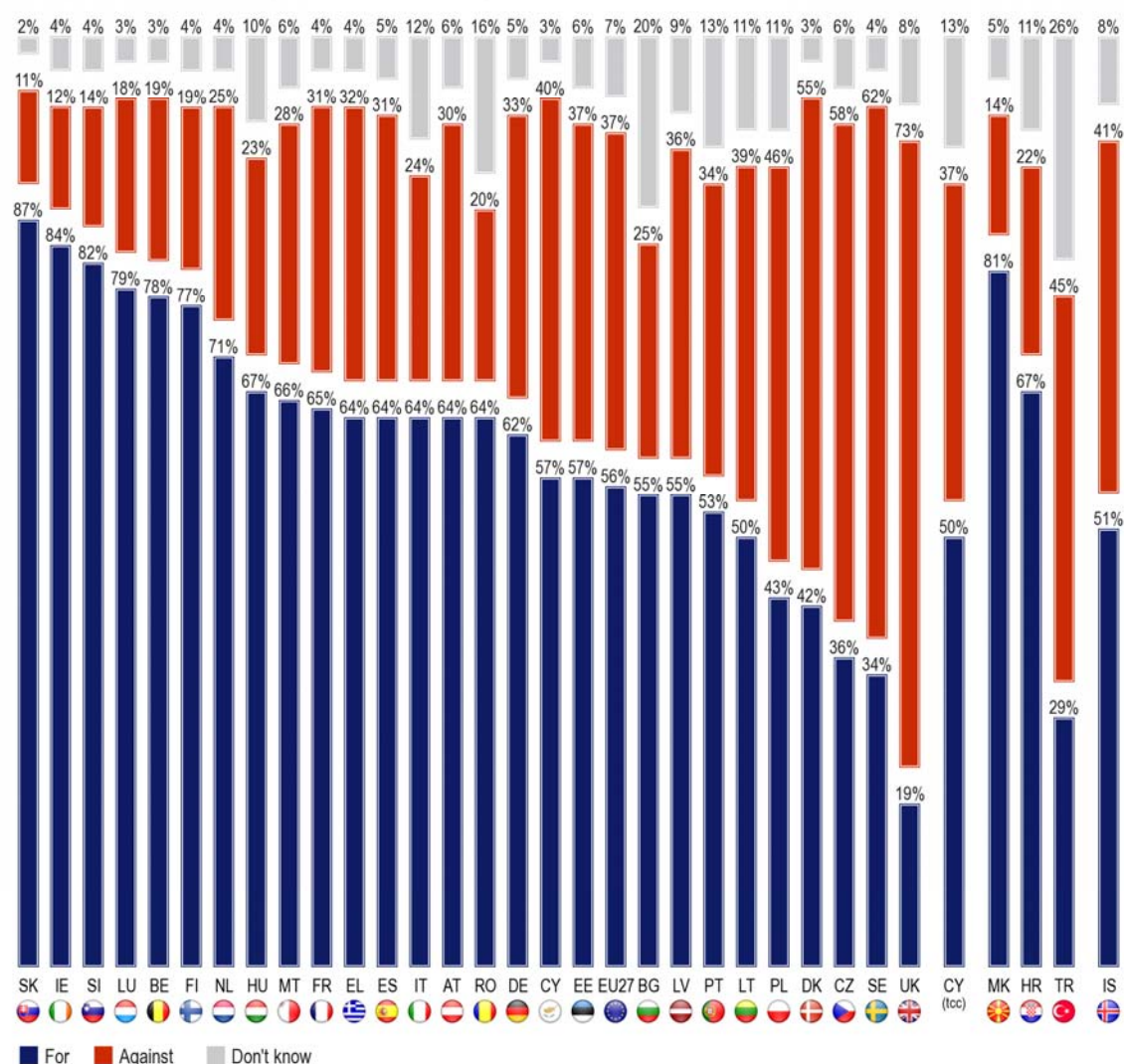
QA20.1 What is your opinion on each of the following statements? Please tell me for each statement, whether you are for it or against it						
A European economic and monetary union with one single currency, the euro						
	For			Against		
	EB72 Aut.2009	EB73 Sp.2010	Diff. Sp.2010 - Aut.2009	EB72 Aut.2009	EB73 Sp.2010	Diff. Sp.2010 - Aut.2009
EU27	60%	56%	-4	33%	37%	+4
BE	78%	78%	=	19%	19%	=
BG	59%	55%	-4	22%	25%	+3
CZ	55%	36%	-19	41%	58%	+17
DK	53%	42%	-11	44%	55%	+11
DE	66%	62%	-4	29%	33%	+4
EE	63%	57%	-6	32%	37%	+5
IE	86%	84%	-2	8%	12%	+4
EL	63%	64%	+1	36%	32%	-4
ES	62%	64%	+2	31%	31%	=
FR	69%	65%	-4	28%	31%	+3
IT	63%	64%	+1	28%	24%	-4
CY	63%	57%	-6	34%	40%	+6
LV	53%	55%	+2	37%	36%	-1
LT	52%	50%	-2	37%	39%	+2
LU	80%	79%	-1	18%	18%	=
HU	66%	67%	+1	24%	23%	-1
MT	66%	66%	=	27%	28%	+1
NL	81%	71%	-10	18%	25%	+7
AT	71%	64%	-7	23%	30%	+7
PL	46%	43%	-3	42%	46%	+4
PT	61%	53%	-8	25%	34%	+9
RO	71%	64%	-7	14%	20%	+6
SI	86%	82%	-4	11%	14%	+3
SK	88%	87%	-1	10%	11%	+1
FI	81%	77%	-4	18%	19%	+1
SE	52%	34%	-18	44%	62%	+18
UK	28%	19%	-9	65%	73%	+8
CY (tcc)	63%	50%	-13	28%	37%	+9
HR	59%	67%	+8	30%	22%	-8
TR	30%	29%	-1	51%	45%	-6
MK	79%	81%	+2	13%	14%	+1
IS*	-	51%	-	-	41%	-

* Not asked in Iceland in EB72.

There are therefore significant differences in the strength of this support: the most enthusiastic supporters of economic and monetary union represent almost eight out of ten respondents in Slovakia (87%) and Slovenia (82%) – two countries which recently joined the euro zone – and also in Ireland (84%). In contrast, support was expressed by only two out of ten respondents in the United Kingdom (19%) and by fewer than four out of ten respondents in Sweden (34%) and the Czech Republic (36%), all three being non-euro zone countries. In Estonia, which will adopt the euro in 2011, support (57%) is only just above the European average (56%).

QA20.1. What is your opinion on each of the following statements? Please tell me for each statement, whether you are for it or against it.

A European economic and monetary union with one single currency, the euro



In the candidate countries, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia stands out by its particularly high percentage of respondents in favour of a European economic and monetary union with the euro (81%). 67% of respondents in Croatia are also in favour of the euro. However, Turkey is among the countries recording opposition, with only 29% of saying they were “for” it.

In Iceland, a majority of respondents are positive about this question (51%).





The **socio-demographic** differences are very similar to those noted in general as regards attitudes to the European Union: men are more likely than women to be in favour of a European economic and monetary union (60% and 52% respectively).

Age also influences respondents' opinion of the single currency: 60% of the youngest respondents (aged 15 to 24) are "for" it, seven points more than for those aged 55 or over.

The level of education and living standards exercise a similar influence, with the most advantaged respondents being more "Europhile" in this regard: 66% of the most educated respondents support economic and monetary union, nineteen points more than those who completed their education at the age of 15 or earlier. This is also true of 65% of managers (compared with only 51% of unemployed people), 62% of respondents who place themselves at the top of the social scale (compared with 49% of those who put themselves "at the bottom"). Finally, the respondents who have a positive vision of the European Union are more likely to support a European economic and monetary union: the percentage stands at 76% of those who tend to trust the European Union, compared with only 40% of those who do not trust the EU.

QA20.1 What is your opinion on each of the following statements? Please tell me for each statement, whether you are for it or against it.

A European economic and monetary union with one single currency, the euro

	For	Against	Don't know
EU27	56%	37%	7%
Gender			
 Male	60%	34%	6%
Female	52%	39%	9%
Age			
 15-24	60%	33%	7%
25-39	58%	36%	6%
40-54	56%	38%	6%
55 +	53%	38%	9%
Education (End of)			
 15-	47%	43%	10%
16-19	53%	40%	7%
20+	66%	29%	5%
Still studying	66%	29%	5%
Respondent occupation scale			
 Self-employed	62%	32%	6%
Managers	65%	30%	5%
Other white collars	56%	37%	7%
Manual workers	54%	40%	6%
House persons	51%	40%	9%
Unemployed	51%	41%	8%
Retired	51%	39%	10%
Students	66%	29%	5%
Self-positioning on the social scale			
Low (1-4)	49%	41%	10%
Medium (5-6)	56%	37%	7%
High (7-10)	62%	32%	6%
Trust in EU			
Tend to trust	76%	19%	5%
Tend not to trust	40%	53%	7%

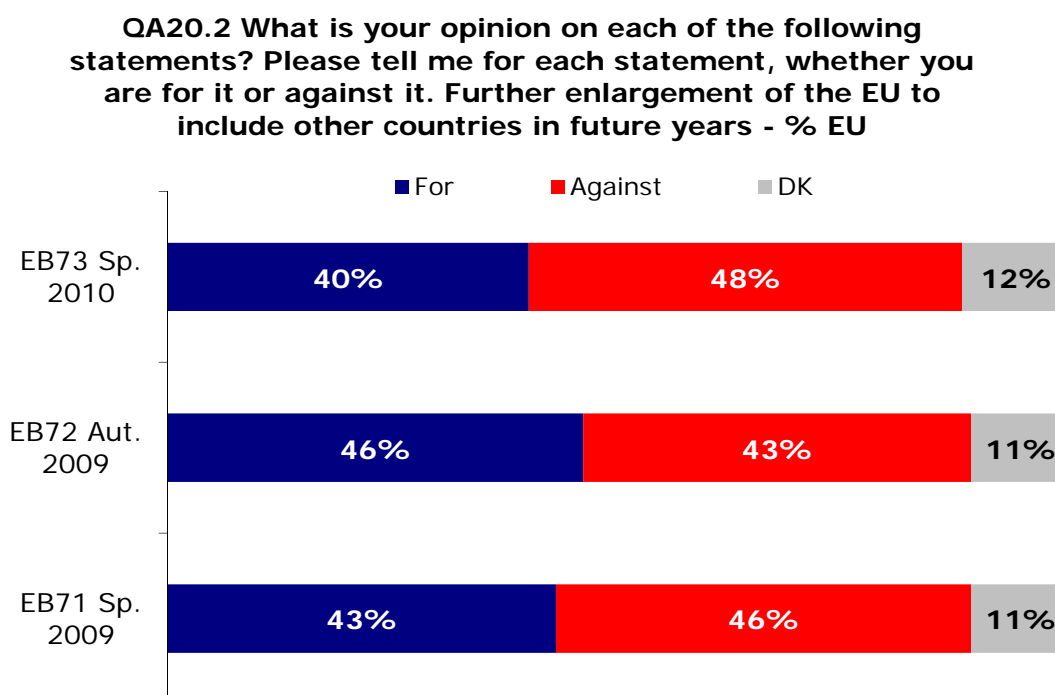
2.2 Support for enlargement of the EU to include other countries in future years

- Europeans are evenly divided on the question of enlargement to include other countries -

The Eurobarometer results show a change of trend, in comparison with the last two waves, in opinions regarding further enlargement of the EU to include other countries in future years⁷⁷.

Whereas in autumn 2009 the average proportion of respondents in favour of further enlargement had increased by three points to 46% since spring 2009, it has declined by six points and now represents four out of ten people (40%).

Therefore, further enlargement is now only supported by a minority, as in spring 2009. 12% of respondents expressed no opinion on this question.



As in autumn 2009, a geographical analysis reveals a significant difference between opinions in the NMS12 countries and the EU15 countries.

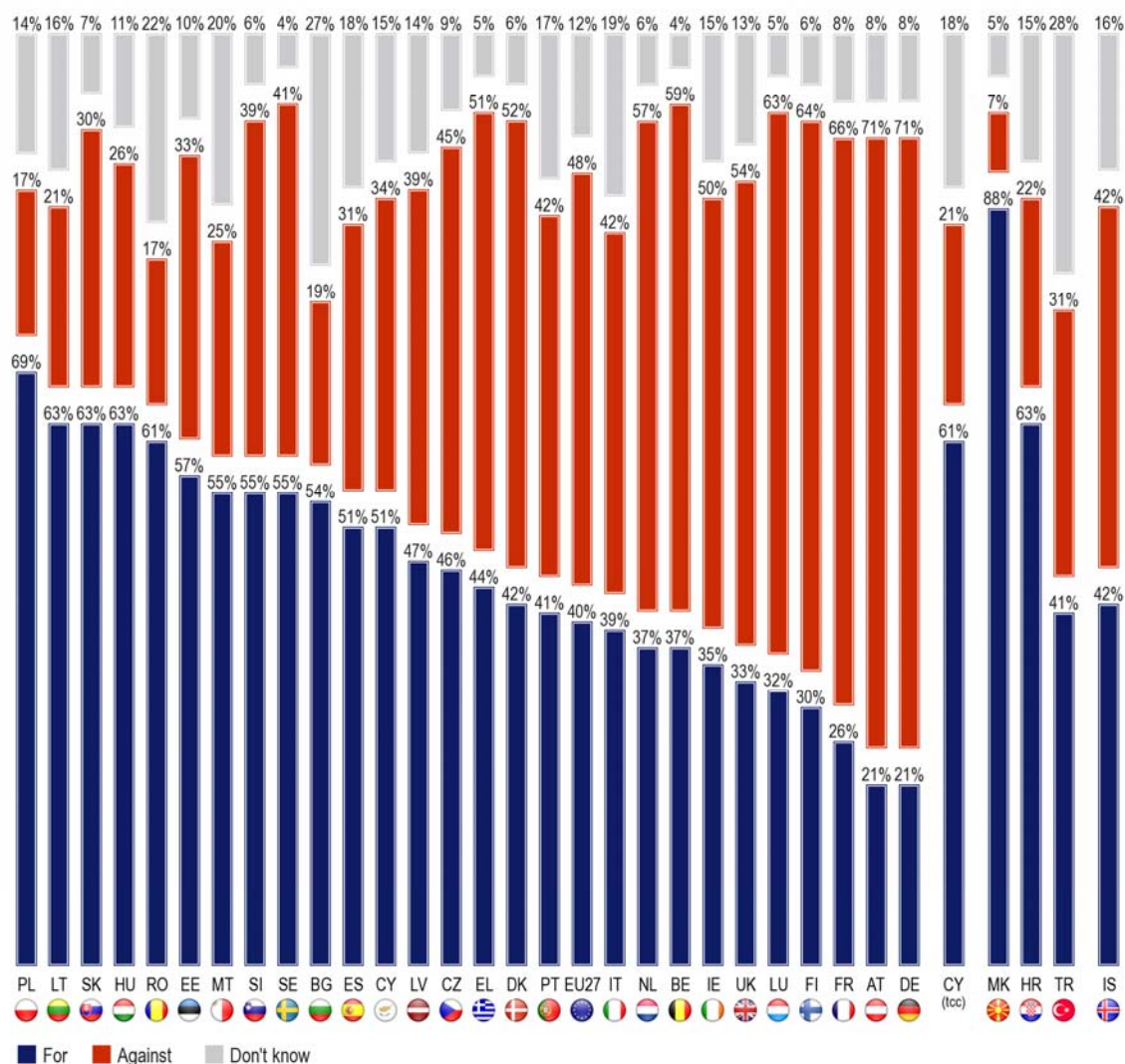
Thus, while 62% of the respondents in the countries which have joined the European Union since 2004 are in favour of enlargement, only a third of EU15 respondents (34%) support further enlargement in the coming years.

⁷⁷ QA20.2 What is your opinion on each of the following statements? Please tell me for each statement, whether you are for it or against it: Further enlargement of the EU to include other countries in future years.

Support for further enlargement is the most widespread in Poland (69%), Lithuania, Slovakia and Hungary (63% in all three cases), Romania (61%) and Estonia (57%). However, opponents of further enlargement are in a strong majority in Germany and Austria (71%), France (66%), Finland (64%) and Luxembourg (63%).

QA20.2. What is your opinion on each of the following statements? Please tell me for each statement, whether you are for it or against it.

Further enlargement of the EU to include other countries in future years



Evolutions recorded at national level show that four Member States are more in favour of EU enlargement than at the time of the last Eurobarometer survey in autumn 2009, namely Romania (61%, +3 points), Sweden (55%, +3), Lithuania and Hungary (63%, +2 in both cases).

However, support for enlargement has declined in twenty Member States, in particular in the Czech Republic (46%, -17 points), Portugal (41%, -16), Slovenia (55%, -13) and Spain (51%, -12); the decline is thus evident in both NMS12 and EU15 countries.

It is unchanged in Estonia (57%), Latvia (47%) and Bulgaria (54%).

In the candidate countries, the situation is mixed: a large majority of respondents in Croatia (63%, +7 points) and above all in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (88%, +3 points) are in favour of further enlargement in the future. In contrast, respondents in Turkey are far less enthusiastic: 41% are in favour of further enlargement of the EU (-3 points), while 31% are opposed and a substantial proportion of respondents expressed no opinion (28%).

Opinion in Iceland is evenly divided: 42% are in favour of the enlargement of the EU to include other countries in future years, while 42% are opposed and 16% expressed no opinion.

From a socio-demographic point of view, the answers show a degree of correlation with the gender and age of respondents: thus, men are more likely than women to support enlargement (42% and 38% respectively). Similarly, the younger they are the more likely respondents are to be positive about enlargement (53% of those aged 15 to 24 versus 31% of those aged 55 or over).

The level of education also seems to influence opinions, with support for enlargement increasing with the age at which respondents completed their studies: 29% of those who completed their education at the age of 15 or earlier are in favour of enlargement, compared with 44% of those who studied up to the age of 20 or beyond.

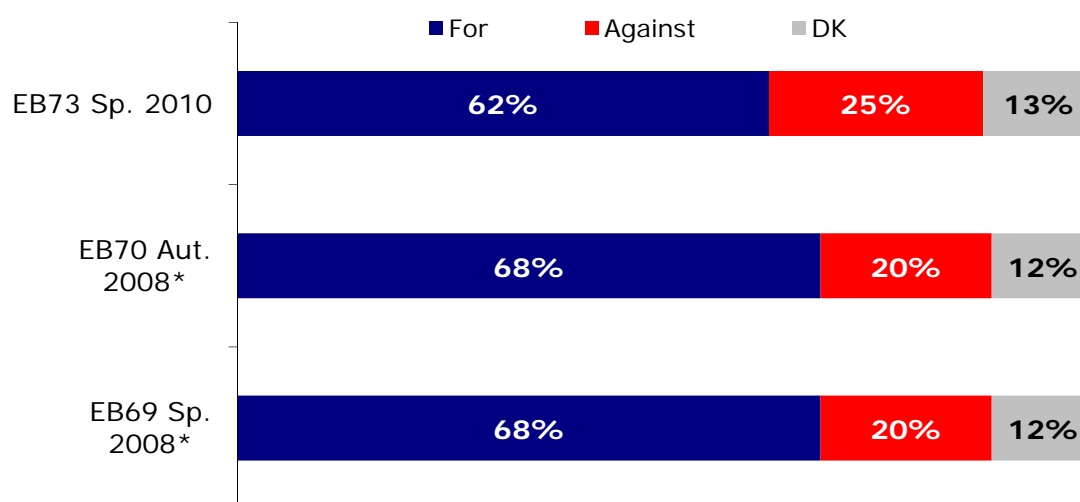
Finally, 56% of Europeans who tend to trust the European Union are in favour of enlargement, compared with only 27% of those who tend not to trust it.

2.3. A common foreign policy for the 27 EU Member States

- A majority of Europeans are in favour of a common foreign policy -

More than six out of ten Europeans (62%) are in favour of a common foreign policy for the 27 Member States. Although there is still a large majority in favour of this idea, this score is six points lower than in autumn 2008 and spring 2008. Exactly a quarter of respondents oppose this proposal (+5 points), while 13% expressed no opinion.⁷⁸

QA20.3 What is your opinion on each of the following statements? Please tell me for each statement, whether you are for it or against it. A common foreign policy of the 27 Member States of the EU - % EU

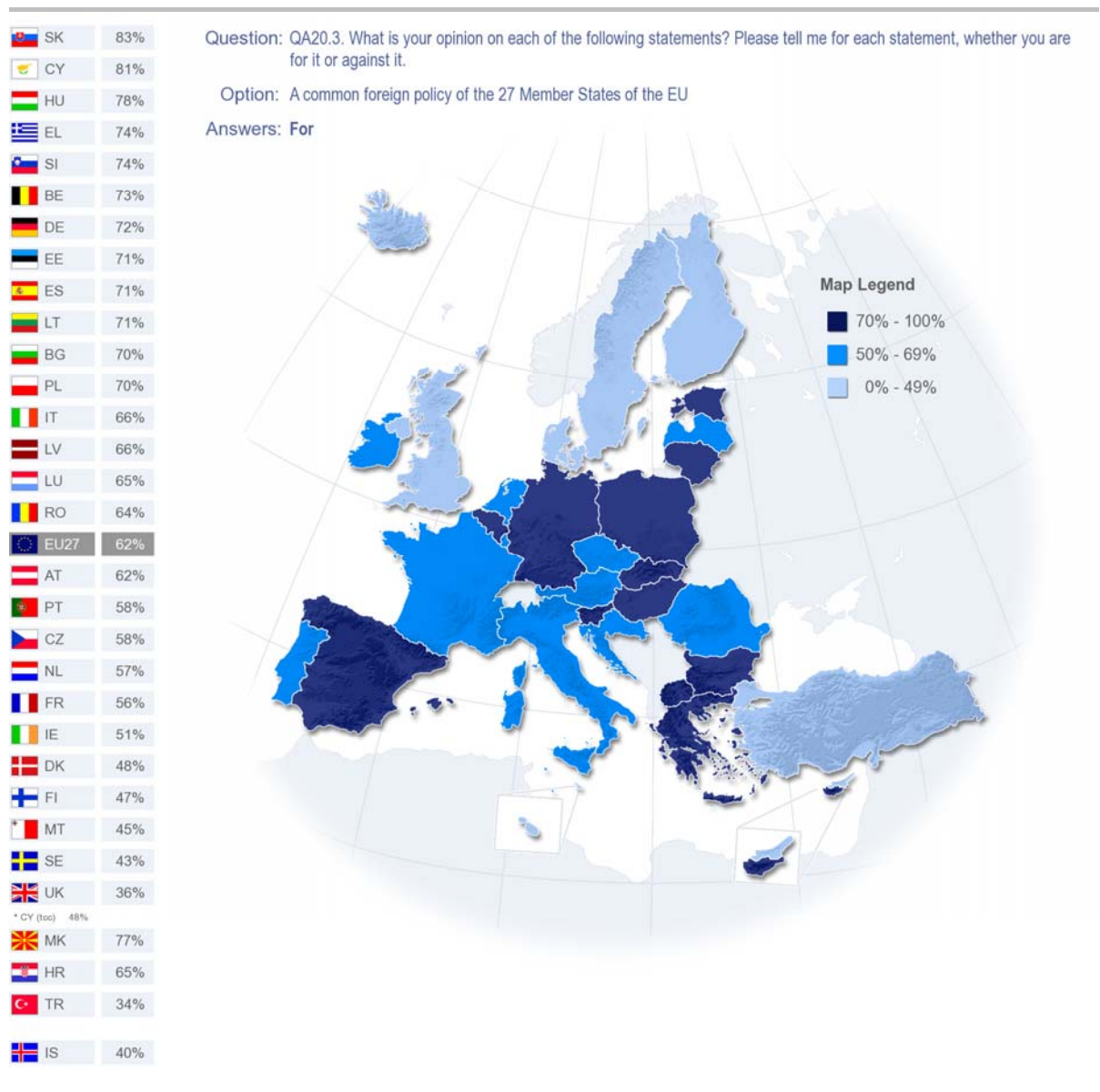


*For EB69 and EB70, the statement was slightly different: 'A common foreign policy among the Member States of the EU, towards other countries'

A geographical analysis of the results shows that more than eight out of ten respondents in Slovakia (83%) and Cyprus (81%) support a common foreign policy. Respondents in the Nordic countries, in Sweden (52%), Denmark and Finland (46% in both cases), as well as in the United Kingdom (44%) are the least likely to support a common foreign policy.

In the candidate countries, a very large majority of respondents in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Croatia are in favour of a common foreign policy (77% and 65% respectively), whereas in Turkey opinions are evenly divided: 35% are against it and 34% in favour, while almost a third of respondents expressed no opinion.

⁷⁸ QA20.3 What is your opinion on each of the following statements? Please tell me for each statement, whether you are for it or against it: A common foreign policy of the 27 Member States of the EU



A socio-demographic analysis of the results reveals a fairly clear difference in strength of opinion between men and women: the former (66%) are more likely than the latter (59%) to be in favour of a common foreign policy.

The most socially “advantaged” categories are also more likely to support a common foreign policy: 68% of the most educated respondents and 64% of those who do not have difficulties paying their bills. Support is also expressed by 67% of the respondents who are interested in European politics compared with 55% of those who are not interested, and by 76% of those who think that their country has benefited from its membership of the European Union compared with only 46% of those who think that their country has not benefited.

3. PRIORITIES FOR STRENGTHENING EUROPE IN THE FUTURE

- Economic and monetary policy is seen as the top priority -

Respondents were asked to choose the policies on which the European institutions should focus **in order to strengthen the European Union in the coming years**.⁷⁹

In a context of fragile recovery from the crisis, the theme of **economic and monetary policy** is undeniably seen by Europeans as the first priority. It was mentioned by more than a third (37%) of respondents.

Health policy and **the fight against crime** were ranked jointly in second place, with 32% of respondents considering that the European institutions should emphasise these two aspects.

Next, three other policy aspects seem to be important to Europeans and were mentioned by more than a quarter of respondents: **immigration policy** (28%), **energy policy** and **environmental issues** (26% in both cases).

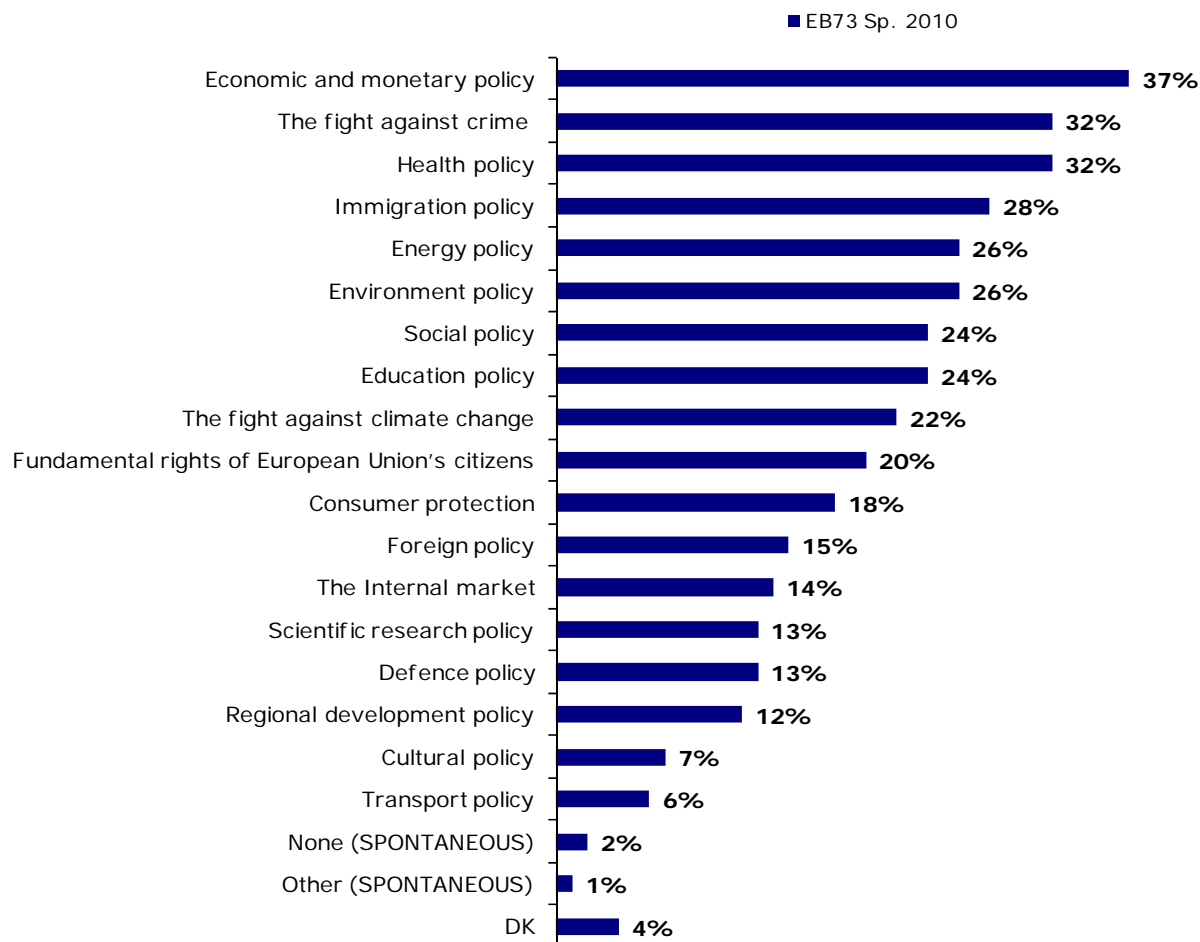
Various other issues follow close behind, and were mentioned by approximately one in five respondents: **social policy** and **education policy** were each cited by 24% of respondents, closely followed by the **fight against climate change** (22%), **the fundamental rights of the citizens of the European Union** (20%) and **consumer protection** (18%).

Then, a cluster of policies were mentioned by just over one in ten respondents: **foreign policy** (15%), **the internal market** (14%), **scientific research policy** and **defence policy** (13% each), and then **regional development policy** (12%).

Cultural policy and **transport policy** bring up the rear with scores of 7% and 6% respectively.

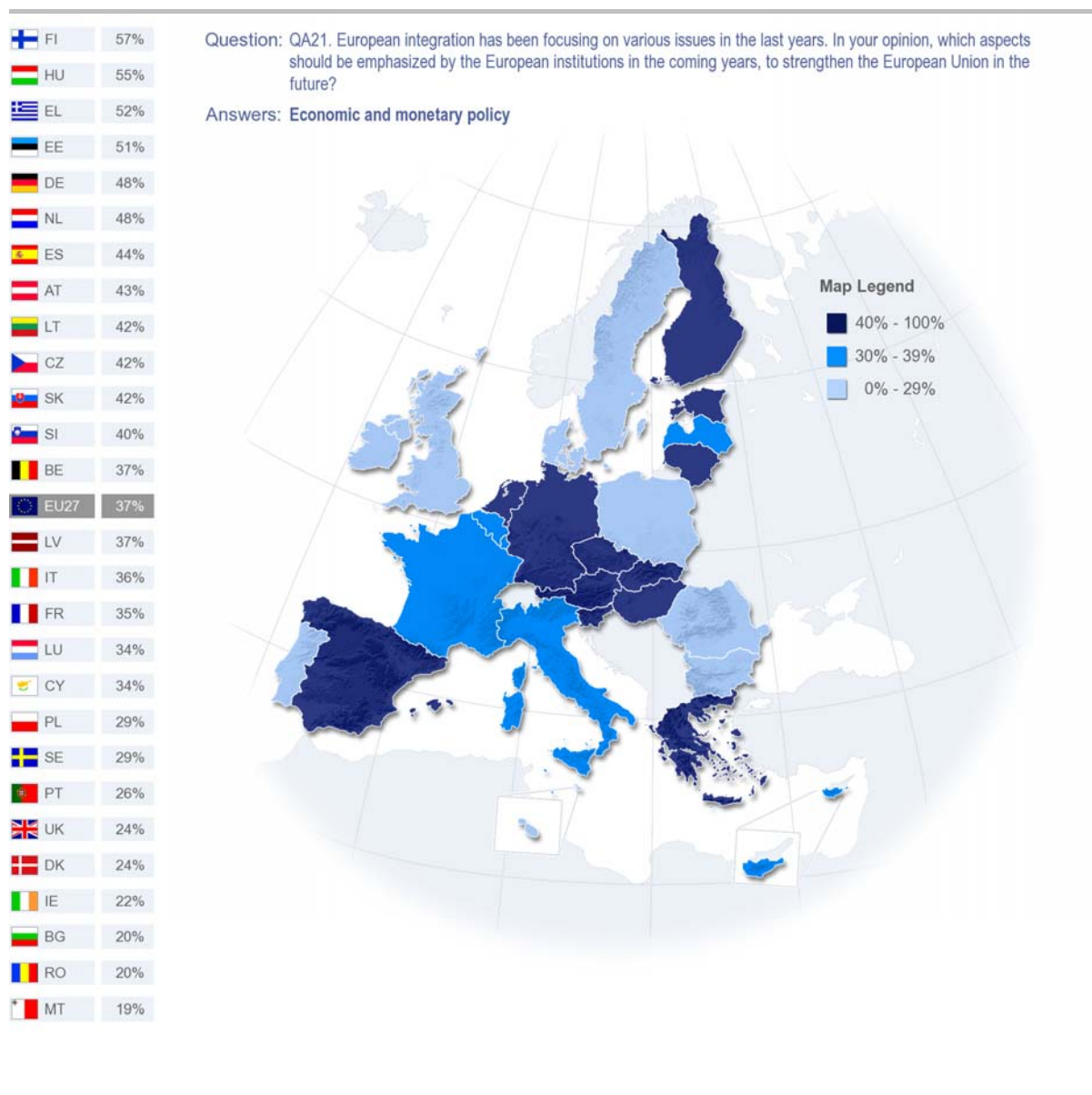
⁷⁹ QA21 European integration has been focusing on various issues in the last years. In your opinion, which aspects should be emphasized by the European institutions in the coming years, to strengthen the European Union in the future? (ROTATE – MAX. 5 ANSWERS): The internal market; Cultural policy; Foreign policy; Defence policy; Immigration policy; Education policy; Environment policy; Energy policy; Regional development policy; Scientific research policy; Health policy; Social policy; The fight against crime; The fight against climate change; Transport policy; Consumer protection; Fundamental rights of the European Union's citizens; Economic and monetary policy; Other (SPONTANEOUS); None (SPONTANEOUS).

**QA21 European integration has been focusing on various issues in the last years. In your opinion, which aspects should be emphasized by the European institutions in the coming years, to strengthen the European Union in the future?
(MAX. 5 ANSWERS) - % EU**



The issues which Europeans think should be emphasised as a matter of priority vary from one country to another.

Economic and monetary policy tops the priorities in 11 Member States. The highest scores were recorded in Finland (57%), Hungary (55%) and Greece (52%). This issue is also an important concern in Estonia (51%), Germany and the Netherlands (48% each) and Spain (44%). However, only two out of ten respondents mentioned this aspect in Malta (19%), Romania and Bulgaria (20% in both cases).



Health was the most frequently mentioned issue in five Member States: Ireland and Romania (46% each), Poland (44%), Slovakia (43%) and Latvia (39%).

The fight against crime is a matter of great concern for more than half of the respondents in Austria (53%) and Denmark (51%), the two countries where this item was most mentioned. It was also frequently cited in Cyprus (44%) and Belgium (41%).

Respondents in Malta (47%), as well as in the United Kingdom (where it was the most cited item, 44%) and Austria (43%) are the most likely to mention **immigration policy** as an issue which should be emphasised by the European institutions as a way of strengthening the European Union.

Environmental policy is a priority for respondents in Sweden (61%), who placed this item at the top of their list, but also in Denmark (50%) and Malta (40%).

Respondents in Malta want the European Union to focus above all on **energy policy**, perhaps because of the increase in energy prices in this country. This aspect was also mentioned frequently by respondents in Hungary (45%) and Lithuania (44%, in first place).

It is also noteworthy that respondents in Bulgaria (51%), Slovakia (48%) and the Czech Republic (44%) consider that **social policy**, mentioned by less than a quarter of respondents in the EU as a whole, should be the European Union's top priority.

In the candidate countries, only 15% of respondents in Turkey mentioned economic and monetary policy as a priority (compared with 37% of Europeans). The top priority in Turkey is education, which was mentioned by 23% of respondents. Croatia stands out because almost half of interviewees (49%) mentioned the fight against crime, ahead of social policy (35%) and the internal market (31%). Respondents in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia primarily mentioned the fight against crime (38%), ahead of social policy (29%) and economic and monetary policy (27%).

Finally, Iceland also stands out, with almost 56% of respondents mentioning economic and monetary policy as a fundamental issue on which the European institutions should concentrate; this is almost at the same level as in Finland, which recorded the highest score for this item, with 57%.

QA21 L'intégration européenne a mis l'accent sur différentes questions ces dernières années. A votre avis, sur quels aspects les institutions européennes devraient-elles mettre l'accent au cours des prochaines années pour renforcer l'Union européenne à l'avenir ? (MAX. 5 REPONSES)																		
	La politique économique et monétaire	La politique de la santé	La lutte contre l'insécurité	La politique de l'immigration	La politique de l'environnement	La politique de l'énergie	La politique de l'éducation	La politique sociale	La lutte contre le changement climatique	Les droits fondamentaux des citoyens de l'Union européenne	La protection des consommateurs	La politique étrangère	Le marché intérieur	La politique de défense	La politique de la recherche scientifique	La politique du développement régional	La politique culturelle	La politique des transports
UE27	37%	32%	32%	28%	26%	26%	24%	24%	22%	20%	18%	15%	14%	13%	13%	12%	7%	6%
BE	37%	30%	41%	39%	28%	36%	22%	29%	25%	22%	23%	13%	11%	10%	12%	8%	6%	8%
BG	20%	42%	45%	17%	17%	34%	18%	51%	17%	17%	22%	27%	26%	10%	9%	19%	7%	1%
CZ	42%	35%	34%	26%	22%	32%	20%	44%	14%	23%	17%	14%	18%	12%	14%	21%	4%	9%
DK	24%	33%	51%	26%	50%	29%	25%	15%	41%	24%	17%	18%	22%	21%	16%	8%	5%	9%
DE	48%	34%	35%	30%	31%	36%	34%	25%	35%	25%	23%	21%	10%	13%	13%	10%	5%	5%
EE	51%	33%	23%	12%	19%	29%	28%	31%	8%	17%	13%	17%	19%	20%	11%	12%	7%	13%
IE	22%	46%	40%	32%	22%	25%	36%	14%	16%	18%	22%	12%	28%	7%	13%	14%	13%	8%
EL	52%	32%	32%	24%	25%	21%	26%	32%	13%	20%	30%	19%	23%	14%	9%	12%	5%	3%
ES	44%	28%	29%	30%	19%	13%	28%	26%	20%	20%	14%	11%	9%	7%	11%	8%	8%	3%
FR	35%	32%	26%	24%	30%	22%	27%	31%	21%	21%	30%	15%	15%	16%	22%	6%	7%	8%
IT	36%	24%	30%	33%	22%	21%	13%	16%	12%	21%	23%	10%	18%	12%	17%	14%	13%	4%
CY	34%	41%	44%	37%	30%	17%	32%	26%	12%	36%	31%	32%	21%	20%	8%	5%	8%	1%
LV	37%	39%	22%	12%	13%	19%	30%	36%	8%	15%	13%	11%	29%	9%	10%	19%	5%	6%
LT	42%	34%	26%	15%	10%	44%	20%	33%	10%	17%	12%	15%	21%	11%	9%	10%	8%	3%
LU	34%	28%	21%	28%	26%	16%	33%	29%	20%	25%	18%	22%	24%	15%	11%	7%	7%	6%
HU	55%	41%	36%	14%	30%	45%	18%	11%	25%	15%	20%	12%	30%	12%	11%	19%	4%	4%
MT	19%	41%	15%	47%	40%	53%	33%	12%	27%	17%	26%	6%	13%	4%	10%	6%	7%	3%
NL	48%	35%	44%	33%	38%	24%	27%	22%	31%	31%	13%	20%	14%	12%	13%	8%	7%	10%
AT	43%	29%	53%	43%	25%	25%	20%	34%	30%	23%	19%	17%	10%	10%	14%	12%	7%	16%
PL	29%	44%	26%	10%	19%	32%	17%	22%	13%	15%	11%	15%	14%	14%	10%	24%	6%	6%
PT	26%	34%	29%	10%	15%	12%	22%	29%	10%	14%	14%	8%	14%	11%	10%	16%	9%	5%
RO	20%	46%	23%	13%	23%	16%	31%	30%	9%	19%	13%	16%	20%	19%	13%	27%	7%	5%
SI	40%	32%	25%	10%	27%	23%	22%	38%	25%	22%	15%	14%	31%	7%	16%	11%	6%	6%
SK	42%	43%	39%	11%	26%	30%	18%	48%	21%	26%	15%	15%	16%	10%	11%	24%	7%	11%
FI	57%	28%	37%	35%	34%	34%	12%	21%	33%	28%	8%	14%	17%	12%	5%	12%	4%	6%
SE	29%	22%	45%	36%	61%	34%	21%	14%	42%	32%	9%	17%	19%	11%	17%	9%	5%	13%
UK	24%	26%	31%	44%	25%	27%	24%	10%	23%	13%	9%	11%	7%	16%	9%	5%	5%	8%
CY (tcc)	28%	21%	21%	20%	22%	15%	39%	19%	9%	12%	11%	25%	28%	20%	9%	18%	21%	6%
HR	26%	27%	49%	9%	19%	27%	24%	35%	11%	24%	17%	16%	31%	8%	7%	17%	7%	1%
TR	15%	13%	16%	11%	10%	12%	23%	10%	6%	5%	9%	13%	16%	10%	7%	8%	9%	5%
MK	27%	26%	38%	9%	17%	15%	18%	29%	17%	21%	8%	24%	28%	14%	8%	19%	9%	4%
IS	56%	38%	46%	22%	35%	20%	28%	13%	31%	42%	20%	8%	11%	7%	9%	4%	9%	7%
Pourcentage le plus élevé par pays																		
Pourcentage le plus élevé par item																		
Pourcentage le plus bas par pays																		
Pourcentage le plus bas par item																		

A socio-demographic analysis reveals few significant differences. However the following elements are noteworthy:





Socially “advantaged” respondents are more likely to mention **economic and monetary policy**. This was cited by managers (43%) and respondents who studied up to the age of 20 or beyond (40%). It was also mentioned by 44% of the people who are very interested in politics and by 42% of those for whom the European Union conjures up a positive image.

The fight against crime is chiefly a concern for the oldest Europeans (35% of those aged 55 or over compared with 29% of the youngest respondents) and for those who left school before the age of 16 (37%, compared with 27% of those who studied up to the age of 20 or beyond), whereas **health policy** seems to be more of a priority for women (35%, versus 29% men), house persons (39%, versus 26% managers) and those who spontaneously place themselves at the bottom of the social scale (35%, compared with 30% of those who place themselves at the top).

Environment policy is above all a priority for the youngest respondents (29% of those aged 15 to 24 compared with 22% of those aged 55 or over) and for respondents who studied at least up to the age of 20 (34%, compared with only 18% of those who left school before the age of 16).

Finally, **energy issues** were mentioned above all by 31% of the most educated respondents and by 35% of managers, compared with 19% of the least educated respondents, 19% of house persons and 22% of unemployed people.

QA21 European integration has been focusing on various issues in the last years. In your opinion, which aspects should be emphasized by the European institutions in the coming years, to strengthen the European Union in the future?

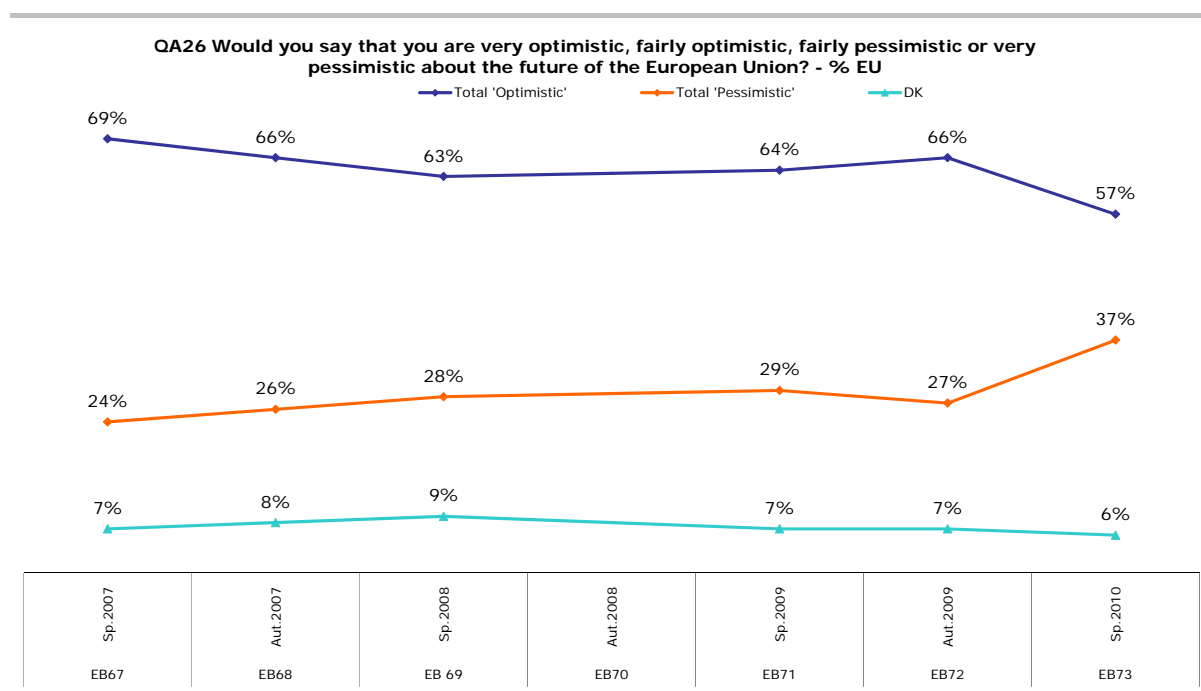
	Economic and monetary policy	Health policy	The fight against crime	Immigration policy	Environment policy	Energy policy
EU27	37%	32%	32%	28%	26%	26%
Gender						
 Male	39%	29%	31%	28%	26%	29%
Female	35%	35%	33%	28%	26%	24%
Age						
 15-24	32%	31%	29%	26%	29%	25%
25-39	40%	32%	30%	28%	27%	28%
40-54	40%	32%	32%	28%	28%	27%
55 +	34%	33%	35%	29%	22%	25%
Education (End of)						
 15-	34%	35%	37%	30%	18%	19%
16-19	37%	34%	34%	29%	25%	28%
20+	40%	30%	27%	27%	34%	31%
Still studying	34%	30%	25%	26%	32%	24%
Respondent occupation scale						
 Self-employed	45%	28%	29%	27%	27%	28%
Managers	43%	26%	25%	30%	36%	35%
Other white collars	38%	31%	29%	29%	30%	30%
Manual workers	36%	35%	34%	28%	26%	27%
House persons	35%	39%	33%	29%	20%	19%
Unemployed	38%	29%	33%	27%	22%	22%
Retired	32%	35%	37%	29%	22%	25%
Students	34%	30%	25%	26%	32%	24%
Self-positioning on the social scale						
Low (1-4)	34%	35%	33%	26%	22%	24%
Medium (5-6)	37%	33%	32%	28%	25%	26%
High (7-10)	38%	30%	32%	31%	32%	29%
Political interest index						
Strong	44%	30%	30%	29%	31%	29%
Medium	40%	33%	32%	29%	28%	30%
Low	34%	32%	33%	29%	23%	25%
Not at all	27%	32%	31%	25%	20%	18%
Image of EU						
Positive	42%	32%	28%	25%	29%	29%
Neutral	35%	34%	34%	28%	26%	25%
Negative	32%	31%	36%	35%	22%	25%

4. THE FUTURE OF EUROPE

- A majority of Europeans are optimistic about the future of the European Union, despite a distinct decline -

In order to ascertain how respondents view the European Union's longer-term future, they were asked whether they were optimistic or pessimistic about the future of the EU.⁸⁰

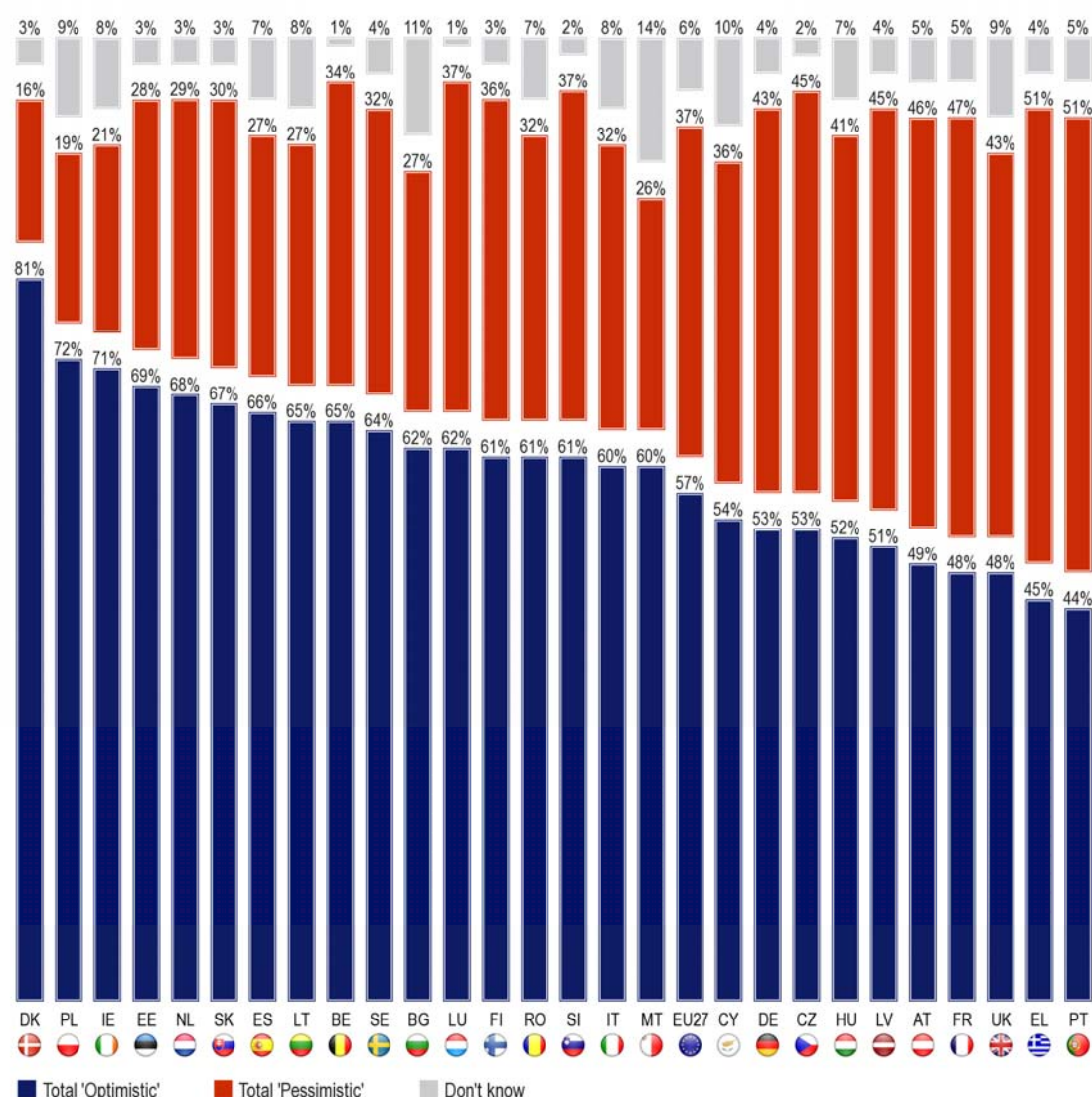
The results show that an absolute majority are relatively optimistic: 57% are optimistic, although only 6% are very optimistic. A third of respondents (37%) are more downbeat, including 8% who are very pessimistic. However this result must be put into perspective since the number of "optimists" has fallen by nine points since autumn 2009, while at the same time the number of "pessimists" has increased by ten points. As a result of this substantial decline, this indicator now stands at its lowest level since this question was first asked.



An analysis by country shows that the results vary considerably from one to the next. Thus, at least seven out of ten people polled are optimistic in Denmark (81%), Poland (72%) and Ireland (71%). However, fewer than half of the respondents in Portugal (44%), Greece (45%), the United Kingdom and France (48% in both cases) and Austria (49%) share this optimism.

⁸⁰ QA26 Would you say that you are very optimistic, fairly optimistic, fairly pessimistic or very pessimistic about the future of the European Union?

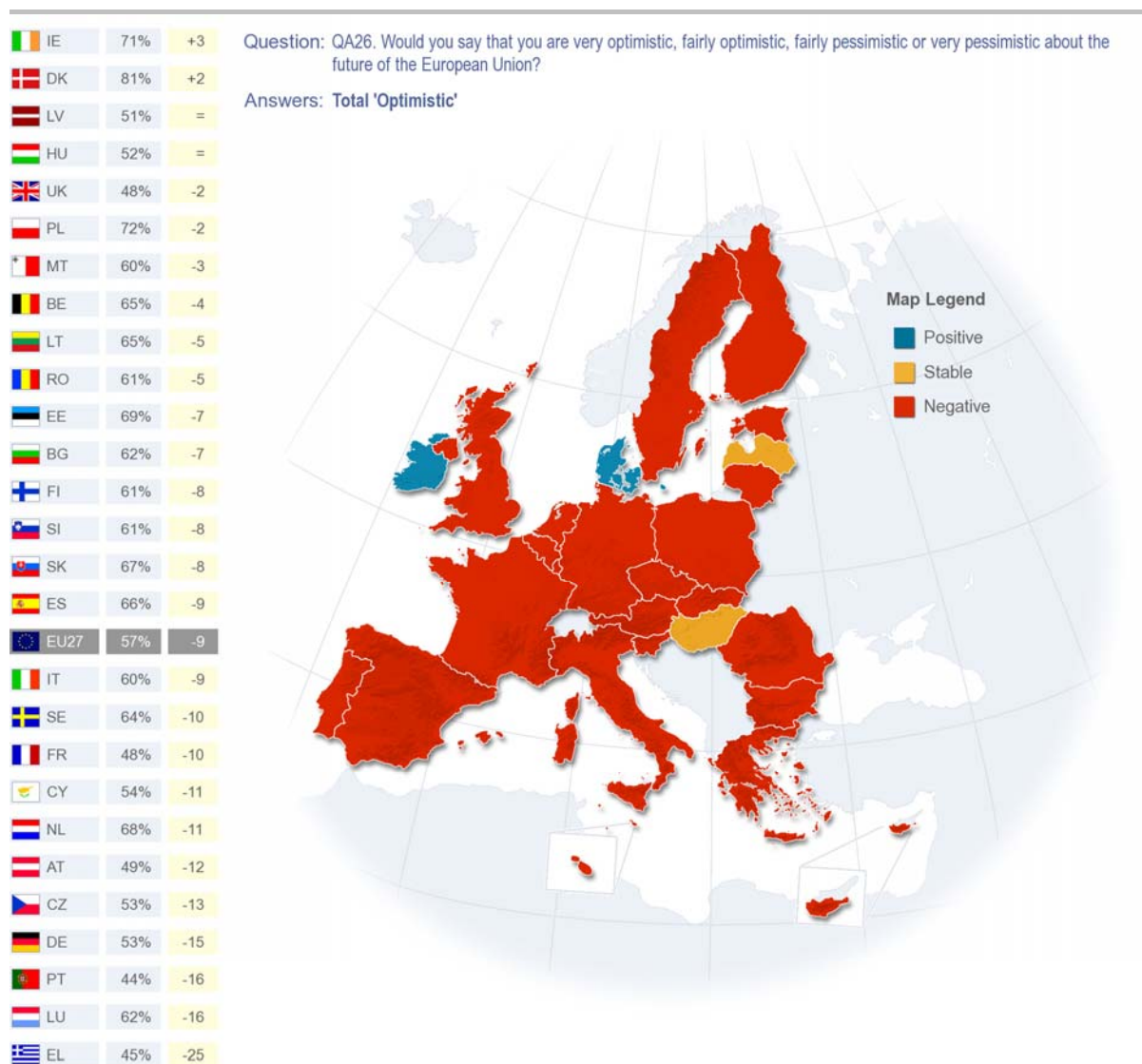
QA26. Would you say that you are very optimistic, fairly optimistic, fairly pessimistic or very pessimistic about the future of the European Union?



A comparison between these results and those of autumn 2009 demonstrate just how far the situation has deteriorated. The number of Europeans who are optimistic has increased only in Ireland (71%, +3 points) and Denmark (81%, +2). It is unchanged in Latvia (51%) and Hungary (52%).

In contrast, in 23 other Member States levels of optimism have fallen, sometimes spectacularly.

Thus, **the proportion of optimists in Greece fell by 25 points** between autumn 2009 and spring 2010, whereas it had increased by 16 points between spring 2009 and autumn 2009, thereby falling from first place in the list of positive evolutions to a position at the head of the list of negative evolutions.



Difference EB73 Spring 2010 – EB72 Autumn 2009

A socio-demographic analysis of the results to this question shows that men tend to be more optimistic than women (60% and 55% respectively). We also note that the youngest respondents are less downbeat about the future: 64% of those aged 15 to 24 are optimistic compared with 53% of those aged 55 or over.

In addition, the results again show that the socially “advantaged” respondents are more optimistic about the future: this includes 69% of interviewees who studied the longest (compared with 46% of those who left school before the age of 16) and 63% of those who do not struggle to pay their bills (versus 38% of those who do).

Finally, optimism is particularly strong among those for whom the EU conjures up a positive image (85%), whereas only 17% of those for whom its image is negative are optimistic.

In conclusion, while public trust in the European Union remains high, in a particularly difficult socio-economic context, the evolution of certain indicators reveals a change in the image of the Union.

First, **a majority of Europeans consider that, in many areas, decisions should be taken jointly in the EU** rather than at national level. However, support for national decision-making has gained ground in 14 of the 20 policy areas tested.

In addition, a majority of citizens (56%) are **in favour of economic and monetary union**, with a single currency, the euro; but support for this indicator has also declined.

Nevertheless, European opinion is much **divided about further enlargement to include other countries** in future years. However, a majority of respondents are still in favour (62%) of a common foreign policy.

In this context, and in order to strengthen the European Union, respondents consider that the **European institutions should primarily focus** in the coming years on **economic and monetary policy, fighting crime and health**, areas which do not necessarily fall within the remit of the institutions.

Finally, **a majority of Europeans remain optimistic about the future of the European Union (57%), but this indicator has declined significantly.**

CONCLUSION

This wave of the Eurobarometer was conducted between 5 May and 28 May 2010, at the height of public debt crisis in Greece and the debate on the support to be provided to that country. After the previous wave of the Standard Eurobarometer (EB72, autumn 2009), marked by the recovery of a number of indicators evaluating the economic situation, an analysis of this survey seems to point to renewed public anxieties about the current situation and the short-term outlook. The indicators measuring support for the European Union and its institutions, which had hitherto been spared, have this time been directly affected by this worsening economic climate. In detail, the spring 2010 Eurobarometer survey reveals the following elements:

- A majority of European are still satisfied with the life they lead, their personal job situation and their financial situation. All these figures are more or less in line with those recorded in autumn 2009.
- The personal concerns of EU citizens are also fairly stable and are still dominated by rising prices, the economic situation and unemployment. Unemployment remains the predominant national concern, ahead of the economic situation and rising prices.
- The majority of Europeans believe that energy prices and the cost of living in their country are worse than the European average. This result confirms the personal concerns of Europeans, who are mainly worried about rising prices. However, concerns about the cost of living show an upward trend.
- Things are different as regards the quality of life and the environment: the majority of Europeans consider that the situation in these areas is better in their country than in Europe on average. Here again, this impression has increased since autumn 2009.

- Assessments of the economic situation at national and world levels have remained relatively stable since autumn 2009. However, opinions about the economic situation in the European Union have deteriorated fairly sharply. In all three cases a large majority of respondents remain negative about the situation. Europeans are even more pessimistic about the employment situation in their country, despite a very slight improvement.
- The increased optimism noted in the previous survey (EB72, autumn 2009) regarding the short-term outlook for the economy at national, European and world levels has not lasted and expectations have again deteriorated fairly sharply. Pessimism is widespread about all three levels (national, European and world). The view that the national economic situation is destined to get worse is also still predominant, but opinions on this subject have remained stable since autumn 2009.
- For the first time in the Eurobarometer, an index measuring interest in politics was constructed: more than half of respondents are very or fairly interested in politics, while a fifth are not at all interested in the subject.
- The feeling that things are going in the right direction – at national and European levels and in the United States – has lost ground since autumn 2009. Support for this idea has fallen particularly sharply in respect of the European Union, but the previous survey had recorded a strong increase in this indicator. We are therefore fairly close to the level noted in EB71, conducted in spring 2009.
- Trust in national political institutions is low, but remains relatively stable. However, although a majority of respondents tend to trust regional political authorities, levels of trust have declined.
- The two main symbols of the European Union in the eyes of Europeans have not changed since autumn 2009: the European Union continues to be seen above all as an area of freedom, embodied by its monetary symbol, the euro. Furthermore, the euro was the most frequently mentioned symbol in the countries which have adopted the European single currency.
- Approximately half of Europeans continue to believe that membership of the European Union is a good thing and that their country has benefited from its membership, but these two indicators have deteriorated since autumn 2009: the period of turbulence faced by the European Union in recent months seems to have had an impact on public opinion in this regard.

- The main reason given by Europeans for considering that their country has benefited from its membership of the European Union is improved cooperation with other countries, ahead of the perceived benefits in terms of maintaining peace and economic growth. Conversely, negative perceptions of the European Union are based chiefly on reasons relating to influence and socio-economic factors, beginning with the feeling among respondents that their country would not have enough influence in decisions made at EU level.
- Approximately half of respondents consider that democracy works well both in their country and in the European Union. Although opinions on national democracies are more or less unchanged, perceptions of the way democracy works in the European Union have deteriorated slightly.
- There is still widespread support for the idea that national interests are not adequately taken into account by the European Union and this view is shared by just under half of respondents. However, Europeans have the impression that their country's voice counts in the European Union, but not their own voice. In comparison, more than half of respondents consider that their voice counts in their own country. This impression has increased fairly significantly.
- The vast majority of Europeans have heard of the European Parliament and the European Commission and continue to be more familiar with them than with the other European institutions. Almost two-thirds of Europeans have heard of the European Council, which was tested for the first time.
- Distrust in all the European institutions is increasing. There has been a sharp increase in negative perceptions of the European Central Bank: the proportion who do not trust this institution is now almost equal to the number of respondents who trust it. Despite this deterioration, trust in European political institutions remains much higher than trust in national political institutions.
- Trust in the European Union, and its image, have deteriorated significantly. Whereas the trust-distrust ratio had remained more or less stable since autumn 2008 (EB70), it has now been reversed for the first time. Trust in the UN has also plummeted, but nevertheless exceeds that placed in the European Union.
- The number of Europeans who understand how the European Union works has increased slightly and is now almost equal to the number of those who do not understand how it works.

- In most of the policy areas on which they were polled (14 out of 20), Europeans continue to favour joint decision-making at EU level, in particular as regards global issues. However, support for EU decision-making is stable or has lost ground in almost all the areas tested, and Europeans continue to prefer social issues to be dealt with at national level.
- A relative majority of Europeans are now against further enlargement of the EU. However, this was already the case in the spring 2009 Eurobarometer (EB71).
- European public opinion has been affected by the public debt crisis in certain euro zone countries: to strengthen the European Union in the future, Europeans want the European institutions to focus firstly on economic and monetary policy, ahead of fighting crime and health policy. Immigration, energy and environmental policies were also mentioned by more than one in four Europeans.
- Finally, optimism about the future of the Union has declined since autumn 2009, though an absolute majority of Europeans remain optimistic in this regard.

ANNEXES

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

STANDARD EUROBAROMETER 73 TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Between the 5th of May and the 28th of May 2010, TNS Opinion & Social, a consortium created between TNS plc and TNS opinion, carried out the wave 73.4 of the EUROBAROMETER, on request of the EUROPEAN COMMISSION, Directorate-General for Communication, "Research and Speechwriting".

The EUROBAROMETER 73.4 is a "STANDARD EUROBAROMETER" 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 STANDARD EUROBAROMETER 73 has also been conducted in Iceland, 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	1.013	06/05/2010	27/05/2010	8.866.411
BG	Bulgaria	TNS BBSS	1.000	05/05/2010	17/05/2010	6.584.957
CZ	Czech Rep.	TNS Aisa	1.021	07/05/2010	22/05/2010	8.987.535
DK	Denmark	TNS Gallup DK	1.007	07/05/2010	25/05/2010	4.533.420
DE	Germany	TNS Infratest	1.515	06/05/2010	26/05/2010	64.545.601
EE	Estonia	Emor	1.000	07/05/2010	24/05/2010	916.000
IE	Ireland	MRBI	1.014	07/05/2010	23/05/2010	3.375.399
EL	Greece	TNS ICAP	1.000	07/05/2010	23/05/2010	8.693.566
ES	Spain	TNS Demoscopia	1.006	08/05/2010	25/05/2010	39.035.867
FR	France	TNS Sofres	1.020	07/05/2010	27/05/2010	47.620.942
IT	Italy	TNS Infratest	1.028	07/05/2010	21/05/2010	51.252.247
CY	Rep. of Cyprus	Synovate	507	07/05/2010	23/05/2010	651.400
LV	Latvia	TNS Latvia	1.003	07/05/2010	24/05/2010	1.448.719
LT	Lithuania	TNS Gallup Lithuania	1.019	07/05/2010	21/05/2010	2.849.359
LU	Luxembourg	TNS ILReS	505	07/05/2010	25/05/2010	404.907
HU	Hungary	TNS Hungary	1.021	07/05/2010	23/05/2010	8.320.614
MT	Malta	MISCO	500	07/05/2010	23/05/2010	335.476
NL	Netherlands	TNS NIPO	1.013	07/05/2010	28/05/2010	13.288.200
AT	Austria	Österreichisches Gallup-Institut	1.000	05/05/2010	24/05/2010	6.973.277
PL	Poland	TNS OBOP	1.000	08/05/2010	25/05/2010	32.306.436
PT	Portugal	TNS EUROTESTE	1.025	07/05/2010	24/05/2010	8.080.915
RO	Romania	TNS CSOP	1.020	07/05/2010	19/05/2010	18.246.731
SI	Slovenia	RM PLUS	1.010	07/05/2010	23/05/2010	1.748.308
SK	Slovakia	TNS AISA SK	1.027	08/05/2010	23/05/2010	4.549.954
FI	Finland	TNS Gallup Oy	1.001	07/05/2010	25/05/2010	4.412.321
SE	Sweden	TNS GALLUP	1.050	06/05/2010	25/05/2010	7.723.931
UK	United Kingdom	TNS UK	1.316	07/05/2010	23/05/2010	51.081.866
TOTAL EU27			26.641	05/05/2010	28/05/2010	406.834.359
IS	Iceland	Capacent	526	07/05/2010	24/05/2010	252.277
CY(tcc)	Turkish Cypriot Community	Kadem	500	07/05/2010	23/05/2010	143.226
HR	Croatia	Puls	1.000	07/05/2010	25/05/2010	3.749.400
TR	Turkey	TNS PIAR	1.000	07/05/2010	25/05/2010	52.728.513
MK	Former Yugoslav Rep. of Macedonia	TNS Brima	1.048	07/05/2010	13/05/2010	1.678.404
TOTAL			30.715	05/05/2010	28/05/2010	465.386.179

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