European Opinion Research Group
E.E.I.G.

EUROBAROMETER “SPECIAL BUREAUX” (2002)

EB 56.3 – National Report - Ireland

Survey carried out for the European
Commission’s Representation in
IRELAND

“This document does not reflect the views of the European Commission. Any interpretations or opinions expressed in this report are those of the authors alone”

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INTRODUCTION

Introduction

1. Eurobarometer surveys

This Special Eurobarometer survey is one of a series of in-depth studies carried out on an occasional basis for the services of the Commission or other European Union institutions. Eurobarometer 56.3 (Special Bureaux) was conducted in all fifteen of the EU Member States.
Standard Eurobarometer surveys are conducted several times a year with reports published twice yearly.

2. Purpose of this report

This report seeks to analyse from a national point of view this public opinion poll that focused on a wide range of EU-related topics. The purpose of the report is to provide a clear picture of the Irish respondents' beliefs, expectations, fears and misunderstandings in regard to these topics.

The main results of interest for the reader will be highlighted and compared and contrasted with the relevant figures for the EU 15 as a whole and those of other Member States.

Readers are reminded that respondents' interpretations as to the precise meanings of questions asked in a survey may vary from country to country and from one context to another. The location of a question in the questionnaire and the nature of the preceding questions may also have a bearing on the answer that is obtained.

Even within a given question, where multiple choices exist, the order in which these choices are provided may have a bearing on the option chosen. For this reason, inconsistencies may arise when similar questions are compared over time and in differing contexts.

Where appropriate, comparisons are made between the results of this survey and those contained in the report by Professor Richard Sinnott entitled 'Attitudes and behaviour of the Irish electorate in the Referendum on the Treaty of Nice' on the results of a survey of public opinion conducted in autumn 2001 for the European Commission's Representation in Ireland.

Further comparisons are made with some of the results of the Eurobarometer 55.0 survey carried out in Spring 2001, where appropriate.

The report also attempts, where possible, to identify possible directions for the Commission's future communications strategy.

3. Methodology of the report

The fieldwork for this report was carried out between 27 January and 25 February 2002 at the request of the Press and Communications Directorate-General of the European Commission (Opinion Polls).

The research itself was conducted by the European Opinion Research Group, a consortium of market and public opinion research agencies made up of INRA (Europe) and GfK Worldwide.

The survey covers the population of the EU aged 15 and over. In total, 15,926 interviews were conducted, 1007 of which were in Ireland. A detailed analysis of the Irish cohort is provided in Annex I.

In each country, a number of sampling points were chosen which would reflect the population size and density. This random sampling technique gives an accurate representation of metropolitan, urban and rural areas. Starting addresses were selected at random and further addresses were selected as every *nth* address by standard random route procedures.

All interviews were face-to-face in respondents' homes.

The questionnaire may be found in Annex II.

4. Structure of this report

The report comprises three sections:
Section I: Getting information on the EU
Section II: Enlargement
Section III: The EU from a socio-political perspective.

SECTION I
GETTING INFORMATION ON THE EUROPEAN UNION

I. Getting information on the EU

The first part of the questionnaire looked at the population's media habits, the sort of information about the EU in which they are interested, (if any), how they actually get information on the EU, and how they would like to get this information.

In addition, it looks at what people consider are the positive and negative aspects of the EU today and those areas for which they would be interested in receiving more information.

I. 1. Irish Media habits

In order to build up a picture of how people get their information about the EU, respondents were asked about their use of various forms of the media, and in particular TV viewing and newspaper reading habits.

I.1.1. Television viewing in Ireland

When Irish respondents were asked about their **television viewing**, some differences with the EU 15 figures average were apparent.

Table I.1. Irish television viewing habits compared with UK and EU 15

Type of programme	Ireland	UK	EU 15
News/current affairs	61.6	52.8	75.3
Soaps and series	63.5	62.1	35.6
Music programmes	22.9	25.0	26.1
Sport	41.1	34.2	37.6
Films/movies	50.6	58.7	69.5
Documentaries	37.7	52.0	44.1
Children's programmes	4.3	16.4	7.9
Talk shows	25.0	26.5	26.6
Home shopping programmes	1.4	3.7	2.6
Other (game shows, cookery)	18.1	22.6	24.2
Other (spontaneous)	0.5	0.2	1.3
Don't know	0.3	0.0	0.3

Source: Question 2 (f)

Main results:

- 63% of Irish people cited soaps and series as the programmes they watch most frequently – a considerably higher figure than for other Europeans (the EU 15 average was 35.6%) and slightly higher than the UK with 62.1%.
- Women (85.8%) as opposed to men (40%) were the main viewers of soaps and series; these programmes were also popular among those still studying (68.2%), 66.9% of 'other white collar' workers, 66.8% of 15-24 years olds and 70% of 25-39 years olds.
- The frequency of viewing news and current affairs programmes, on the other hand, was relatively low when compared with other EU countries (EU 15 average was 75.3%). 61.6% of the Irish respondents stated that they frequently watched such programmes, and only one country, the UK, registered a lower viewing rate (52.8%).
- Only 22.9% of Irish respondents still studying watched news and current affairs programmes frequently in comparison with 78.3% of the self-employed, 81% of managers and 88.5% of the retired.

However, it should be noted that in the Eurobarometer (No. 56) survey[1] conducted in October/November 2001, 91% of Irish people said they watched news programmes on television either on a daily basis or several times per week. The different formulation of the question in the Eurobarometer No 56 survey explains this divergent result.

I.1.2. Television channels viewed in Ireland by occupational status and gender

When we look at television viewing channel by channel, the following are the main results:

- RTE 1 is viewed regularly by the vast majority of people, except for students (50.1%) and the unemployed (65.9%);
- Students show a preference for TV3 followed by Network 2;
- TV3 is more often watched by managers, other white collar workers, house-persons and the unemployed than Network 2;

[1] It should be noted, however, that the question asked in the Eurobarometer 56.0 survey was more direct: do you watch the news on television…. every day, several times a week,…. etc.

- Network 2 is more often viewed by the self-employed, manual workers, the retired and students;
- Other white collar workers tend to cite BBC 1 more often than Network 2;
- TG4 is cited in fifth place by the retired and the self-employed.
- Approximately a quarter of self-employed, managers, manual workers and almost one-third of students watch satellite channels;
- TG4 is watched by more than one in four men and almost one in four women;
- RTE1 was the most viewed station by both male and female respondents; however, the second most regularly viewed station for men was Network 2, whereas it was TV3 for women;
- Significantly more men than women watched Sky 1 and any satellite channel;
- BBC1 is watched by 40%, if not more, of each occupational group and more or less equally by men and women.

Table I.2. Television channels viewed in Ireland by occupational status and gender

	Self-employed	Managers	Other white collar workers	Manual workers	House-person	Un-employed	Retired	Students	Male	Female
RTE1	80.3	77.6	72.3	67.8	77.7	65.9	88.2	50.1	72.2	73.4
Network 2	68.1	55.1	56.1	51.0	48.7	55.1	61.3	59.8	58.3	53.2
TV3	63.4	55.2	63.3	50.3	64.9	63.3	50.9	63.6	56.8	61.0
TG4	35.3	36.0	21.5	18.1	25.1	30.4	27.9	24.4	26.5	25.4
BBC1	46.0	51.7	57.6	46.9	39.8	46.7	39.2	47.3	46.1	45.2
BBC2	33.0	37.5	44.2	35.0	28.3	41.7	28.3	32.8	35.6	31.5
UTV	34.7	42.0	45.8	41.0	43.0	50.3	23.7	36.7	37.1	40.9
Channel 4	32.9	36.4	36.9	39.3	25.7	45.6	14.9	36.9	35.6	28.8
SKY 1	18.9	33.2	27.4	24.5	16.1	25.6	9.0	39.1	27.4	18.5
Any SAT	24.7	26.8	17.8	24.4	13.8	15.4	7.7	31.9	25.4	15.1
Local	3.5	1.5	1.2	0.8	2.0	0.0	1.7	2.4	2.6	1.0
Other (spontaneous)	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.6	1.9	0.0	0.0	2.5	0.4	1.4
None (spontaneous)	0.0	2.0	0.0	1.7	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.9
Don't know	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.4

Source: Q. 2 (a), D 10

I.1.3. Irish newspaper reading habits

Table I.3 below looks at Irish newspaper readership by gender and the age at which full-time education ceased.

→Gender:
The readership pattern for some newspapers appears to differ considerably between men and women, whereas for other newspapers the results are similar. The main results are the following:

- Fewer women read newspapers than men – 22.8% of women read none, whereas the comparable figure for men is 16.2%;
- Slightly more women than men read evening newspapers;
- Considerably more men than women read the tabloids (Sun, Mirror, Star).

→Age at which fulltime education ceased:
The results present no great surprises.
Patterns of readership vary significantly depending on age group. The main results are as follows:

- More than one in three who ceased fulltime education by age 15 do not read a daily newspaper;
- Of those still studying, more than 30% don't read a daily newspaper;
- For the three main national dailies, readership increases as time spent in full-time education increases;
- With the exception of the Star, readership of tabloids decreases as time spent in full-time education increases.

Table I.3: Irish newspaper readership by gender and age

	Male	Female	Up to 15 years	16-19 years	20+ years	Still studying
Irish Independent	26.5	23.5	13.4	28.5	36.3	18.4
Irish Times	13.3	13.9	7.0	10.4	36.6	12.4
Irish Examiner	13.4	12.9	8.6	16.0	10.4	13.0
Irish Sun	12.0	4.5	9.2	8.5	4.1	8.8
The Star	20.8	13.5	16.3	20.2	7.0	17.1
Irish Mirror	11.7	6.9	12.2	10.8	3.5	4.0
Daily Express	0.7	1.0	0.5	1.4	0.0	0.0
Guardian	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.4	0.7	0.0
Evening Herald	16.0	16.5	21.1	16.4	12.1	11.0
Evening Echo	2.6	3.8	0.5	5.1	1.4	2.6
Local daily	1.6	3.0	1.0	3.1	0.0	4.1
Other (spontaneous)	1.0	1.3	1.4	1.0	0.4	1.9
None (spontaneous)	16.2	22.8	33.5	13.2	10.6	30.5
Don't know	0.0	1.2	1.1	0.4	0.0	1.4

Source: Q 2 (b), D10

I.2. Sources of information on the EU

The purpose of this section of the questionnaire was to look at issues including:

- the nature of respondents' EU information requirements, if they have a requirement,
- the sources of respondents' information on the EU,
- whether respondents were satisfied with the information they found about the EU,
- What channels respondents would like to use to find information on the EU.

I.2.1. Information from newspapers

I.2.1.1. What information readers would like to find in their newspaper(s)

Those respondents who said they regularly read a newspaper were given 10 choices as to the types of information about the EU that they ***would like*** to find in their newspapers (seven areas, as well as 'other information', 'none of these' and 'don't know' options). Because multiple answers were possible, the percentages for these options, when added together, exceeds 100%.

Main results:

- 28.7% of Irish respondents wanted more information on the **aims and objectives of the Union**,
- 22.2% on the **Euro**,
- 20.9% on **enlargement**,
- 18.9% on **how to find out more about the EU**,
- 15.4% on **other European policies** and 12.5% on the **history of the EU**.

Taken on their own, these figures may be of interest, but what is more revealing is the fact that, in all cases, the Irish figures are considerably below the EU 15 average, and, surprisingly, in some cases, below the corresponding figures for the UK.

Perhaps of greater concern is that Ireland had the highest response (18.2%) in the EU 15 to '**none of these'**, outscoring a number of countries that might have been expected to be less interested in the EU.

With a '**don't know rate**' of 11.0%, the Irish were slightly below the EU 15 figure when responding to this question. This compares with results of 13.7% for Austria, 27.8% for the UK, and 31.1% for Portugal.

I.2.1.2. What information readers currently get from their newspapers

Regular readers were also asked what sort of EU-related information they got from their newspapers.

The main results were as follows:

- 46.3% on the **Euro,**
- 20.9% on the **EU institutions,**
- 17.7% on **enlargement,**
- 16.9% on the **aims and objectives of the EU,**
- 13.6% on **none of these**,
- 12.3% on **other EU policies,**
- 2.3% on the **history of the EU,**
- 14.8% **'don't knows'**.

I.2.2. Information from television

The same list of EU-related topics as mentioned above was presented to respondents who said they watched TV on a regular basis.

1.2.2.1. Information about the EU that viewers would like to see on television

When respondents were asked what kind of information about the EU they ***would like*** to see on television, 21.3% of Irish respondents recorded a '**none of these**' response. Only in Belgium (22.8%) and in the UK (22.4%) were the levels of the 'none of these' response higher.

A further 15.9% of the Irish sample gave a '**don't know**' response. There were higher figures for **'don't knows'** in Austria (19.2%), Portugal (17.1%), Luxembourg (17%) and the UK (16.8%).

Although multiple responses were possible, as was the case for the same question asked for newspapers, the Irish did not come across as being very interested in any of the topics mentioned.

In fact, the topic with the highest score in the case of Ireland – **the aims and objectives of the EU** – was at 24.4%. In comparison with all the other EU Member States, the Irish figure was by far the lowest, with Portugal the only other country with a score of under 30%.

Interestingly, with respect to the **Euro**, the Irish also had by far the lowest score (14.7%) perhaps due to the fact that Ireland's euro changeover was one of the smoothest in all of Europe. France and Finland with 17.6% and 17.7% respectively were the only other Member States with scores of under 20%. The EU 15 average was 27.8%.

1.2.2.2. Information about the EU that viewers currently get from television

Respondents were then asked what kind of information on the EU they ***actually get*** when they watched TV.

Irish respondents at 20.5% registered the second highest '**don't know**' score in the EU, the UK having a slightly higher score at 20.7% and Portugal a slightly lower score at 20.1%.
In the **'none of these'** category, Ireland also registered a score (21.3%) well above the EU 15 average (14.9%), only exceeded by the UK at 31.4%.

Like the responses to the same question posed in the case of newspapers, 32.8% of Irish respondents felt that the Euro was the EU-related topic most generally covered on TV, followed by the EU institutions (12.5%), enlargement (12.4%) and aims and objectives of the EU (11%).

In view of the fact that the introduction of the euro was still fresh in people's minds at the time of the survey, the fact that it scores highest is not surprising.

I.2.3. Channels of information about the EU currently used by respondents

Respondents were given 15 options to choose from, as well as three further options 'other' (spontaneous), 'never look for such information' and 'don't know'.

The most significant point about this section of the survey was that **34.5%** of Irish respondents chose the '**never look for such information, not interested'** option. This echoes the findings in Prof. Sinnott's report and a recent Eurobarometer poll[2].

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[2] Analysis and Report by Professor Richard Sinnott: 'Attitudes and behaviour of the Irish electorate in the Referendum on the Treaty of Nice'. Eurobarometer 55.0, Spring 2001.

Looking more closely at the Irish data available for those who '**never look for such information**', the following results are worth noting:

- there is a gender split: 27.8% of men and 40.9% of women.
- 44.3% of those still studying fall in this category.
- 41.6% of the 15-24 age group falls in this category.
- The percentages drop as years spent in fulltime education rise.

Figures for the UK (38.1%), Spain (35.5%) and Portugal (35.2%) show that more than one in three respondents in these countries also display a similar lack of interest in finding out about the EU. The EU 15 average was 24.6%, with Luxembourg (5%) providing the only result below 10%.

For Irish respondents overall, TV (45%), followed by newspapers (30.4%) and radio (22.1%) are considered the *three main sources of information* about the EU.

Other sources used are:

- discussions with relatives, friends and colleagues (9.1%),
- the Internet (8.5%),
- books, brochures, information leaflets (7.7%),
- other newspapers and magazines (7.5%),
- and EU information offices, Euro-info Centres, Euro-info Points, Euro-libraries (4.4%).

In Ireland, CD-ROMs (0.2%), trade unions or professional associations (0.4%), other organisations (e.g. consumer organisations, etc.) (0.4%), MEPS or TDs (Members of the national parliament, the Dail) (1.0%), meetings (1.1%), and national or regional government information offices (1.2%) are not seen as important sources of information on the EU.

Ireland's figure of 8.5% for use of the **Internet** as a source of EU information was low compared with other EU Member States, with the exception of Portugal (6.1%), Greece (7.6%) and Spain (7.8%). The EU 15 average was 11.8%.

I.2.4. Preferred ways of getting information about the EU

Only those answering that they were interested in information about the EU were asked this question.

With the exception of Finland, which scored 16.6%, Ireland registered the highest '**don't know**' score (14.6%). The EU 15 average was 5.2%.

The table that follows shows Irish men's preferences contrasted with women's, as well as the overall Irish and EU 15 figures.

Table I.4: preferred ways of getting information about the EU, EU 15, Ireland and Irish male/female breakdown (in %)

Preferred source of information	EU 15	Ireland	Men	Women
Television	63.5	40.5	41.9	38.9
Radio	24.3	23.3	23.0	23.7
Daily newspapers	35.8	22.9	27.0	18.2
Short leaflet just giving overview	17.2	22.4	20.9	24.1
Don't know	5.2	14.6	13.7	15.7
More detailed brochure	19.3	14.6	13.8	15.4
Internet	14.5	12.1	12.5	11.7
Book giving a complete description	9.8	9.2	9.3	9.1
From other newspapers, magazines	10.8	5.0	6.3	3.5
A video tape	6.7	4.8	5.0	4.7
A computer terminal allowing consultation to databases	3.1	2.0	1.5	2.6
A CD-ROM	4.4	1.7	2.0	1.4
Don't want information about the EU (spontaneous)	1.1	0.5	0.1	0.9
None of these ways	1.1	0.5	0.4	0.6

Source: Question 6

- **because multiple answers were possible, total of percentages exceeds 100%**

I.2.5. Sources of EU information perceived as most useful

In this question, respondents were asked about those sources of EU information that they find the most useful.

Table I.5 : most useful sources of EU information, Ireland, UK and EU 15

Most useful sources of EU information	**Ireland %**	**EU 15 %**	**UK %**
Television	50.5	69.7	46.1
Daily newspapers	36.0	43.4	29.8
Never look for such information, not interested (SPONTANEOUS**)**	**24.5**	**13.4**	**32.1**
Radio	19.9	29.9	15.7
Discussions with relatives, friends, colleagues	11.3	16.8	10.9
Books, brochures, information leaflets	10.7	16.0	6.6
The Internet	8.7	17.6	11.0
Other newspapers, magazines	7.4	16.2	7.1
Don't know	3.2	2.1	3.8
Meetings	2.9	5.7	2.1
EU information on notice boards in libraries, town halls, railway stations, post offices	1.7	5.3	1.2
National or regional government information offices	1.0	5.2	1.3
A member of European Parliament or a member of the Dail	0.9	2.6	1.5
EU information offices, Euro-info Centres, Euro-info Points, Euro-libraries, etc	0.7	5.5	0.8
CD-Rom	0.4	3.6	0.8
Trade Unions or professional associations	0.2	3.6	1.8
Other organisations (consumer organisations, etc.)	0.2	3.7	1.8
Other (SPONTANEOUS)	0.1	0.8	1.2

*** because multiple answers were possible, total of percentages exceeds 100%**

Ireland's statistics, in all cases except one (i.e. the category of those who are not interested in EU information), are significantly below the EU 15 average.

Figures for the only country to record a higher percentage of respondents not interested in EU information, the UK (32.1%), are provided for the purposes of comparison.

For those sources of information considered the most useful (TV, daily newspapers and radio), the Irish figures, generally speaking, fall between the EU-15 average and the UK result.

I.2.6. Awareness of existence of information services of the EU and, if so, frequency of information requests

Only 13.7% of Irish respondents were aware of the existence of EU information services as opposed to the EU 15 average of 16.4%.

78.9% of Irish respondents were not aware of the existence of information services of the EU in comparison with the EU 15 average of 79.9%. 7.3% replied 'don't know'.

This small group who were aware of the existence of information services of the EU were then asked whether they had ever requested information from an EU information service (Euro-info Points, Euro-libraries) in Ireland by going there in person, in writing, by telephone or via the Internet.

Of these, 27% said 'yes' and 67% 'no', with 6% 'don't know'. The corresponding EU 15 figures were 13.6%, 58.7% and 27.7%.

Table I.6 below looks at the frequency with which the respondents who said 'yes' (i.e. 27% of the 13.7% who said they were aware of the EU's information services) have requested information from an information service of the EU **in Ireland** in comparison with respondents in other EU Member States.

The figures show that the number of Irish respondents who have requested information once or twice is above the EU 15 average, as is the number requesting information 6-9 times.

Table I.6 Frequency of requests for information from EU information services in Ireland

	Once	Twice	3-5 times	6-9 times	10 times +	Don't know
B	30.5	26.9	21.0	6.6	10.2	4.8
DK	32.6	15.7	25.8	6.7	17.6	1.6
D	37.7	33.7	20.6	2.7	4.7	0.8
GR	43.5	3.9	21.6	4.2	26.8	0.0
E	9.3	26.5	45.2	0.0	9.9	9.0
F	18.4	17.7	38.5	4.6	20.7	0.0
IRL	**41.0**	**26.1**	**15.7**	**3.8**	**10.4**	**3.0**
I	36.7	6.9	50.0	0.0	6.4	0.0
L	26.7	18.1	24.9	9.4	18.7	2.2
NL	20.3	15.9	33.3	7.5	18.6	4.4
A	31.3	34.1	21.5	1.7	8.0	3.4
P	41.0	9.8	13.5	0.0	29.2	6.5
FIN	40.1	24.7	23.1	0.0	9.3	2.6
S	42.9	15.0	22.1	6.6	13.4	0.0
UK	26.1	22.0	26.7	0.0	25.1	0.0
EU-15	31.0	22.1	29.0	3.3	12.8	1.9

Source: Question 13

I.2.7. Satisfaction levels

Respondents were asked to rank their levels of satisfaction with the information that they received on a scale of 1 to 5 (1 being 'not at all satisfied' and 5 being 'very satisfied'). Although 6.9% of Irish respondents stated that they were not at all satisfied – the highest figure for the EU 15 – shared with Portugal, **41.4%** of the Irish pronounced themselves **'very satisfied'** and in some 47.3% of cases, as '**fairly satisfied'**.

The average ranking of satisfaction levels for the EU 15 was 3.10 on the scale of 1 to 5, whereas Ireland's average was 3.25, the same level as in Denmark, and only bettered by the UK, the country that came out with the highest average ranking across the EU 15 of 3.5.

1.3. Irish attitudes to the EU

1.3.1. Positive aspects of the EU

Respondents were provided with 20 options and asked which of these they considered to be the two most positive aspects of the EU.

When asked for their first mentions, 20.2% registered as '**don't knows'**. Of those giving a response, only 1.7% were of the opinion that there were 'no positive aspects'. This is by far the lowest figure for all of the EU 15 (EU 15 figure was 9.0); the UK topped the poll with a figure of 19.3% and the second lowest in the range was Luxembourg with 3.3%.

24.9% of Irish respondents felt that the first most positive aspect was '**one single currency, the euro, no exchange needed, easier payments'**. This is slightly lower than the EU 15 figure of 31.7%. If the UK (7.8%) and Sweden (10.4%) and Denmark (11.4%), none of which participates in the euro, were taken out of the calculation, this EU 15 figure would have been considerably higher.

The second cited most positive aspect of the EU today was **'more European funds allocated to our country**' at 13%. The EU 15 figure was 1.0% and the second highest figure (after Ireland's) was that for Portugal at 6.5%.

Close behind this, was the 11.2% figure citing '**economic growth/stronger economy, free market, easier to trade, development**'. The EU 15 figure was 7.3%. Ireland's score was similar to that of Greece (11.9%), Austria (11.9%) and the Netherlands (11.1%).

Interestingly, only 1.5% of Irish saw '**more security and stability in Europe, peace**' as most positive, compared with 3.5% for EU-15 and 10.8% for Sweden.

Table I.7: the two most positive aspects of the EU today (total mentions)

	B	DK	D	GR	ES	F	IRL	I	LUX	NL	A	P	FIN	SW	UK	EU15
Single currency, no exchange needed, easier payments	64.5	19.6	41.3	40.9	52.2	55.9	35.6	61.3	77.7	50.8	45.0	33.6	41.2	23.1	11.8	43.6
Free movement of people for traveling	21.3	8.1	23.5	15.0	28.8	27.9	17.0	23.4	16.5	24.1	27.6	6.4	28.4	26.1	5.9	21.2
Free movement of people for working/studying	1.5	2.3	2.1	0.7	2.2	4.2	4.1	0.5	0.4	1.8	2.3	4.3	6.9	10.9	1.4	2.4
A stronger united Europe	13.3	21.0	10.0	7.7	19.9	11.4	5.7	13.7	11.2	6.2	7.1	3.5	9.1	10.5	10.2	11.6
Legal, tax and social harmonization	4.5	7.1	2.5	6.7	2.7	2.4	1.9	7.3	0.7	5.0	1.0	0.9	3.8	2.7	3.3	3.7
More say for EU at international level	1.7	2.1	2.6	0.7	1.5	6.9	1.3	6.3	0.5	3.8	0.9	0.2	0.6	1.5	1.3	3.3
More cooperation, better communication between countries	5.9	21.4	10.8	4.9	2.3	3.9	4.5	5.5	1.5	18.3	11.23	2.2	5.2	16.9	4.7	7.0
Life is cheaper, better prices	1.3	0.9	1.0	0.6	0.1	0.9	2.7	0.8	0.0	1.3	1.5	1.0	2.4	1.7	1.3	1.0
More EU funds allocated to our country	0.2	1.1	0.3	7.1	4.4	0.3	21.6	0.3	0.0	0.2	1.9	10.7	2.4	2.7	0.6	1.6
More security and stability	5.0	13.0	8.5	12.8	3.9	6.0	2.3	4.7	4.2	3.9	6.1	1.7	6.2	16.5	5.6	6.3
Common fight against terrorism, crime, drugs, etc.	1.1	3.2	4.3	0.8	2.4	0.6	0.4	1.6	0.6	1.1	0.6	0.0	0.9	2.3	0.5	1.9
Economic growth, stronger economy	10.4	14.8	13.5	20.8	16.5	11.2	19.2	20.0	3.4	18.9	22.9	13.7	12.1	15.4	12.9	15.0
More possibilities for employment, easier to find work	1.2	0.4	2.2	2.5	5.0	0.7	4.1	4.1	1.4	1.2	2.2	0.9	3.0	2.0	2.1	2.5
Diversity/inter-cultural exchange	1.3	2.7	2.0	1.3	2.0	3.6	2.2	5.2	1.2	0.4	1.2	1.2	2.5	1.9	1.4	2.5
Better protection of environment	1.2	4.9	0.8	0.1	0.3	0.8	1.5	0.4	0.0	0.4	0.3	0.0	1.7	3.4	0.3	0.7
Enlargement to include new countries	1.7	4.6	1.9	0.2	0.3	1.1	2.0	1.6	4.1	0.5	0.4	0.0	1.3	0.9	1.3	1.3
I'm not interested (spontaneous)	0.5	1.1	0.5	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.8	0.1	0.0	0.7	0.2	0.1	1.0	0.5	2.0	0.6
Other (spontaneous)	3.8	3.5	7.1	2.0	1.2	1.8	8.1	5.9	26.4	2.0	4.6	1.7	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.3
No positive aspects	10.5	7.1	8.0	28.0	5.2	9.9	1.9	6.1	11.8	12.0	13.7	8.7	13.1	13.6	28.0	11.7
Don't know	36.7	46.0	42.0	32.2	38.0	40.4	43.1	25.3	31.3	36.1	39.1	70.7	41.9	34.4	65.3	42.1

Source: Q3 (a)

1.3.2. Negative aspects of the EU.

In this case, respondents were presented with no less than 36 options and had to pick out what they considered to be the two most negative aspects. Table I.8 below provides the reader with an indication of some of the aggregated findings.

Of the first mentions, 28.4% of the Irish were '**don't knows**' as against the EU 15 average of 20.7%. Only the UK (33.8%) and Portugal (45.9%) had higher percentages in this category.

8.6% of Irish saw '**loss of independent decision-making for our country**' as being the most negative aspect, as against the EU figure of 3.7%. Other countries displaying similar results to Ireland were Sweden (9.8%), Finland (9.5%) and Denmark (7.2%). Interestingly, the figure for the UK was 7.8% - high in comparison with other larger EU Member States – and the figure for Luxembourg of 0.5% - by far the smallest of the EU Member States.

In terms of citing the *first* of the two most negative aspects, the second highest score in the case of Ireland was '**more foreigners, more illegal immigrants, more asylum seekers, black market workers**' at 7.3%, a result that it shares with Spain and France. The EU 15 figure was 5.4%, with Sweden and Finland registering scores of 1.7% and 1.2% respectively.

In comparison with other EU Member States, the Irish at 1.2% were relatively unconcerned about the loss of their **national currency** upon the arrival of the euro, as compared to figures of 11.7% for Finland, 11.5% for France, 8.9% for Germany and an overall EU 15 average of 7.2%.

Interestingly, '**loss of national identity**' was cited by 6.7% of Irish respondents, lower than in the case of Greece (9.9%), France (7.8%), Italy (7.8%) and the Netherlands (6.8%), but substantially higher than the Nordic countries, Belgium, Germany, Luxembourg, Austria and Portugal, each of which registered a score of under 3%. The EU 15 figure was 4.5%.

Concerns regarding '**slower decision-making, too much bureaucracy, and remote decision-making'** were aired strongly by each of the Nordic countries (Denmark 20.5%, Sweden 20.6% and Finland 13.8%), whereas the figures for Ireland and the UK were 3.8% and 6.5% respectively, and the EU 15 result was 4.5%.

The picture changes for Ireland when respondents were asked for their *second mention* and is further reflected when the *total mentions* are aggregated for each of the Member States (see Table I.8).

Irish concerns regarding **more foreigners and illegal immigrants** (12.6%) and **loss of independent decision-making** (12.4%) come in close succession in second and third place.

However, when the Irish mentions are aggregated (i.e. *total mentions*), the most negative aspect of the EU today, as they perceive it, is **lower health standards**. This is cited by 20.7% of the Irish, with the UK in second place with 2% and Portugal in third place with 1%. The EU 15 average was 0.8%.

This result may reflect the fact that health standards are high on the agenda of the Irish electorate, allied with their concerns about food safety and the possible negative effects of Sellafield nuclear reprocessing plant. It also underlines, however, that the Irish respondents do not have a true understanding of the role that the EU plays in the health field (which is confined to health information and promotion).

Table I.8: the two most negative aspects of the EU today

	B	DK	D	GR	ES	F	IRL	I	LUX	NL	A	P	FIN	SW	UK	**EU 15**
End of national currency	7.6	7.8	10.7	4.5	5.7	13.7	1.5	1.3	2.7	4.5	5.7	6.7	16.9	5.0	18.0	9.3
Loss of independent decision-making	4.0	10.7	3.3	5.3	0.7	6.4	12.4	3.8	0.6	7.9	13.2	2.2	13.2	14.2	12.4	9.3
Lack of citizens' involvement	2.4	2.0	1.1	0.3	0.2	1.8	1.1	0.6	0.7	1.1	0.0	0.2	0.6	3.3	1.6	1.1
Slower/remote decision-making	6.2	27.2	7.9	0.2	2.1	4.5	5.2	3.7	3.5	7.5	10.1	0.7	21.1	31.7	10.7	7.1
Lack of transparency of institutions	4.2	5.3	2.6	0.1	2.7	2.2	2.5	4.5	1.1	0.4	3.2	0.2	0.7	3.5	1.8	2.6
EU rules and regs. not in our country's interest	1.4	10.6	1.1	2.7	7.8	1.8	4.1	4.4	0.1	5.3	1.7	1.2	16.9	16.7	10.6	4.9
Domination of bigger countries	2.7	3.5	0.4	5.6	4.3	1.6	3.5	4.1	0.5	6.4	4.6	3.9	5.9	7.1	1.5	2.7
Loss of national identity	2.8	4.5	1.6	13.5	3.4	10.7	10.0	12.2	2.6	11.0	1.8	2.5	2.6	4.3	8.6	6.9
Rising prices, inflation	10.8	0.3	18.9	3.2	10.6	6.7	7.9	5.4	7.2	9.5	12.9	1.7	9.0	1.9	3.0	9.0
Higher taxes	2.9	0.4	1.1	1.0	2.6	1.0	1.4	1.3	0.0	0.6	2.8	0.3	0.6	12.4	0.2	1.4
More unemployment	5.9	0.1	14.2	10.2	4.7	8.5	2.9	3.2	4.1	0.3	4.5	4.5	1.0	0.9	0.6	6.3
More foreigners, illegal immigrants, black market workers	12.8	8.1	11.9	9.0	11.0	12.2	12.6	7.0	9.1	8.0	9.5	4.8	2.5	3.7	3.9	9.0
Increasing crime, drug trafficking	5.5	1.9	11.9	2.9	4.0	9.2	3.6	5.1	18.1	6.7	8.1	4.9	15.6	12.7	0.5	6.8
Lower health standards	0.3	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.5	20.7	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	1.0	0.9	0.3	2.0	0.8
No negative aspects	11.9	3.6	3.0	42.4	13.5	7.8	6.7	17.8	20.7	20.5	5.0	10.5	6.5	1.6	20.0	12.2
Don't know	49.2	54.9	45.9	42.2	66.6	54.3	48.9	53.8	51.0	43.8	45.8	81.3	39.7	31.8	52.5	52.2

Spurce: Q3 (b)

I.3.3. Levels of interest in specific EU-related topics

For a range of EU-related topics, respondents were asked whether they were interested or not in them, and whether they would like further information about them. Table I.9 illustrates the fact that in the vast majority of cases, Irish respondents' levels of interest were below the EU 15 average, and significantly that even among those who demonstrate an interest, a large number do not wish to receive further information.

Table I.9 Levels of interest in certain EU-related topics Ireland & EU 15, and interest in further information on these - Ireland

Topic	Level of interest IRELAND	Level of interest EU 15	More info wanted - IRELAND
Rights as EU citizen	78.6%	78.6%	58.4%
Origins & history of EU	35.9%	39.5%	23.1%
EU aims and objectives	61.2%	69.7%	43.8%
EU's powers and responsibilities	56.9%	56.7%	39.8%
How EU institutions work	50.5%	50.7%	35.5%
Sharing of responsibilities between national govts & EU institutions	51.9%	49.4%	35.4%
Common security & defence policy	54.3%	60.4%	38.4%
Common foreign affairs policy	48.5%	49.6%	31.7%
Internal market (economy, taxation, etc.)	47.4%	58.2%	32.7%
Trade policy towards rest of world	47.4%	48.0%	31.9%
Immigration policy	59.3%	63.4%	43.8%
Role of national parliament (Dail) in EU	59.9%	54.2%	42.6%
EU loans and subsidies	43.7%	45.7%	32.9%
EU aid for developing countries	45.7%	49.0%	30.2%
Humanitarian aid	55.9%	61.0%	37.6%
Enlargement to include new countries	50.2%	50.6%	37.1%
EU role in environmental protection	62.9%	67.4%	47.3%
EU role in fighting crime	74.6%	74.0%	55.1%
Consequences of introduction of euro	62.2%	70.6%	44.1%
Food safety in the EU	64.9%	71.2%	47.2%
Health policy in the EU	67.7%	67.9%	49.0%
EU role in fighting unemployment	66.4%	72.1%	48.2%
Policy towards asylum seekers	61.3%	53.8%	45.2%
Education (student exchange progs)	49.3%	49.7%	37.7%

Source: Question 20

SECTION II
ENLARGEMENT

II. Enlargement

II.1. Knowledge of the candidate countries

Irish respondents were, for the most part, above the EU 15 average in terms of their knowledge of the *existence* of the thirteen candidate countries (N.B. the fact that these countries were candidates for EU membership was not actually mentioned in the context of the question).

As was the case in the Eurobarometer 55.0 survey, conducted in 2001, the lowest levels of knowledge related to the Baltic States, Slovakia and Slovenia, but in no case did the figure drop below an awareness level of 80%.

However, results relating to travel to these countries reveal a somewhat different pattern. Travel to the candidate countries has been, for the most part, for holidays rather than for other reasons. Although 74.5% of Irish respondents had not visited any of the countries, 10.8% had visited Cyprus, 7.6% Malta and 12.1% Turkey.

- Candidate countries as future holiday destinations

This state of affairs is further underlined later in the survey when respondents were asked which of the countries they would be interested in going to spend a holiday. Again, Cyprus (37.7%) Malta (25.7%) and Turkey (26.5%) came at the top of the list. Poland and the Czech Republic came in further down the list with scores of 10.0% and Hungary at 8.2%.

- Visits to candidate countries over the next two years

In terms of future travel plans, 75.8% of Irish respondents do not plan on visiting any of them over the next two years.
However, 9.8% plan to go to Cyprus, 8.1% to Turkey, 5.3% to Malta, 3.4% to Hungary and 3.2% to Poland (respondents could give multiple answers).

- Family, business or sports ties with candidate countries

94.8% of Irish respondents replied that they had no family, business or sports contacts in any of the candidate countries. Of the remaining respondents, 1.3% had links with Poland, 1.3% with Turkey and 1.0% with Cyprus.

II.2. Information about the candidate countries

When asked which of these countries they would like to hear more about, 44% said 'none' and 13% 'don't know' – above the EU 15 averages of 40.7% and 6.4% respectively.

Of those countries that people would like more information about, Cyprus rated at 22.2%, Turkey 17.4%, Malta 14.7%, 13.7% Poland and 12.1% Hungary. That much of the interest in the candidate countries is holiday-related is borne out when respondents are asked what sort of information they would like to have for each country.

- Working or living in the candidate countries

  When Irish people were asked whether they would be interested in living or working in the candidate countries, more than two-thirds said 'no' and a further 22% said 'don't know'.

  When we look at where the remaining respondents would be interested in living and working, and bearing in mind that they could give multiple answers, 3.1% said in Cyprus, followed by 1.8% in Malta, 1.7% in Poland and Hungary and 1.1% in Turkey.

- Studying in the candidate countries

  75% of respondents responded 'none of these' and over 20% 'don't know'. The highest score for a country was the Czech Republic with 1.3 respondents saying they would be interested in studying there. Again, the respondents could have given more than one country in their response.

- Business contacts in the candidate countries

  71.2% of Irish respondents (EU 15 average 72.6%) did not feel they were interested in having business contacts in the candidate countries and a further 23.9% (EU 15 average 15.7%) were 'don't knows'. 1.5% of Irish respondents mentioned Poland, 1.4% Turkey, 1.3% Cyprus and 1% each for the Czech Republic and Hungary. When we look at these small percentages, it is not surprising to find out that those who did express interest were the self-employed, managers and other white-collar workers.

II.3. Which of the countries on the list did Irish respondents think were candidate countries?

4.3% of Irish respondents responded that none of the listed countries were candidates to join the EU. This figure is slightly lower than the EU 15 average. However, 40.7% registered as 'don't knows', in comparison with the EU 15 average of 32.7%. Only in the UK (43%), Spain (48.6%) and Portugal (56.5%) were there higher 'don't know' percentages.

Table II.1. Irish respondents' perceptions as to which countries are candidates for EU membership

Country	
Bulgaria	15.0%
Cyprus	28.4%
Czech Republic	23.0%
Estonia	15.5%
Hungary	26.0%
Latvia	14.8%
Lithuania	13.4%
Malta	22.9%
Poland	32.1%
Romania	19.7%
Slovakia	14.9%
Slovenia	14.5%
Turkey	31.1%
None of these	4.3%
Don't know	40.7%

Source: Question 34

II.4. How well informed do respondents feel about enlargement?

Respondents were asked whether they felt:

- Very well informed
- Well informed
- Not very well informed
- Not at all well informed

Don't know

Looking at the more positive side, 1.7% of the Irish sample considered that they fall into the first category (very well informed). This contrasts with the EU 15 figure of 1.1%.

However, the EU 15 average masks the fact that 6.6% in Finland, 5.2% in Luxembourg, 4.8% in Austria and 4.2% in Denmark fell into this category, and, at the other end of the scale, in Spain, Portugal, the Netherlands and Italy there are figures of half a percentage point or less.

In the '**well informed**' category, the 11.9% of the Irish sample exactly coincided with the EU 15 average. Here again, there were considerable disparities across the EU, ranging from 5.8% in the UK and 8% in Spain to 23.6% in Denmark and 50% in Finland.

38.5% of the respondents surveyed in Ireland felt that they were '**not very well informed**' in contrast to the EU 15 average of 46.9%.

44.6% of Irish respondents confessed to being '**not at all well informed**'. With the exception of the UK (49.2%) and Portugal (51.2%), the Irish had the highest percentage in this category. The EU 15 average was 36.1%, whereas Finland registered a score of 6.5% and Denmark 9.3%.

When we add the '**not very well informed'** and **'not at all well informed'** categories together, we get a figure of 83.1%. This is slightly higher than the '**not being informed**' figure for Ireland in the 2001 Eurobarometer 55.0 survey which was 82.8%.

The question as to whether respondents had recently read, seen or been told about the enlargement was met with a **negative** response of 50.1%. This is somewhat better than the EU 15 average of 56.1%. Figures of 62.7%, 64.1% and 76.4% were recorded for Italy, Portugal and the UK respectively.

Where Irish respondents were aware of enlargement, the source of their information was television (30.7%), daily newspapers (19.6%) and radio (12.4%). Respondents could give multiple answers.

It is also interesting to note that 'official' channels of information are relatively little used (notice boards, EU information offices and government information offices).

II.5. Preferred sources of information about enlargement

Where respondents were aware of enlargement and were then asked how they prefer to get information about enlargement, television came out top with 66%, radio at 33.8%, and daily newspapers at 32%.

5.6% of respondents stated that they 'never look for such information or that they are not interested' and 2.8% were 'don't knows'.

Table II.2. Preferred sources of information on enlargement

Sources of information	
Meetings	3.7%
Discussions with relatives, friends, colleagues	11.0%
Daily newspapers	32.0%
Other newspapers, magazines	13.0%
Television	66.0%
Radio	33.8%
Internet	10.3%
Books, brochures, info leaflets	13.9%
CD-ROM	0.8%
EU info on notice boards in libraries, town halls, stations, post offices	1.2%
EU info offices, Euro-Info Centres, Euro-Info Points, etc.	0.9%
National or regional govt info offices	1.8%
Trade unions/professional associations	0.4%
Other organisations (e.g. consumers)	0.7%
Member of European Parliament or Dail	2.6%
Other	0.0%
Never look for such info/not interested	5.6%
Don't know	2.8%

Source: Question 36(b)

II.6. Involvement in the political debate on enlargement

Respondents were asked to rank as to how they felt they were participating in the political debate on enlargement.

They were asked to place themselves in one of the four following categories:

- A great deal (4.0)
- Somewhat (3.0)
- Not very much (2.0)
- Not at all (1.0)

Don't know

Only in four countries in the EU 15, did less than half of the population place itself on the 'not at all' category. Those countries were Denmark (46%), Italy (45.2%), Luxembourg (47%) and Austria (44.8%).

68.1% of Irish respondents felt they fall within this '**not at all**' category. The EU 15 average for the 'not at all' category was 59%.

Table II.3 provides a breakdown of the figures for the EU 15.

Table II.3 Involvement in political debate on enlargement

Country	A great deal %	Somewhat %	Not very much %	Not at all %	Don't know %	Average (range 1-4)
Belgium	0.9	6.1	32.3	58.5	2.2	1.48
Denmark	1.2	12.0	40.7	46.0	0.1	1.68
Germany	1.4	15.5	30.0	50.9	2.2	1.67
Greece	0.6	3.8	15.9	78.2	1.6	1.26
Spain	0.2	4.1	19.9	69.5	6.4	1.31
France	2.7	12.1	26.9	57.0	1.2	1.60
Ireland	**0.6**	**8.5**	**19.3**	**68.1**	**3.5**	**1.39**
Italy	1.8	12.5	38.1	45.2	2.5	1.70
Luxembourg	3.1	10.1	37.9	47.0	1.9	1.69
Netherlands	2.7	11.8	22.1	61.7	1.7	1.55
Austria	3.3	20.1	27.8	44.8	4.0	1.81
Portugal	0.4	5.7	14.3	74.0	5.5	1.29
Finland	0.8	12.7	31.7	54.4	0.5	1.60
Sweden	1.2	7.4	36.5	54.3	0.7	1.55
UK	0.5	3.7	15.8	77.1	2.9	1.26
EU 15	1.4	10.2	26.7	59.0	2.7	1.53

Source: Question 37

In the Eurobarometer 55 survey, 93% of Irish respondents felt a varying sense of non-involvement in the political debate on enlargement compared with the EU average of 84.2%. The corresponding figures in 2002 for Ireland and the EU 15 are 87.4% and 85.7%.

II.7. The immediate future of the European Union – preferred option

Respondents were asked to pick one of three options concerning the immediate future of the Union

1. The EU should be enlarged to include all countries wishing to join
2. The EU should be enlarged to include only some of the countries wishing to join
3. The EU should not be enlarged to include any additional countries

None of these

Don't know

Table II.4. Respondents' preferred options regarding immediate future of EU

Country	Enlarged to include all	Enlarged to include some	No enlargement	None of these	Don't know
Belgium	19.3	42.1	22.6	6.2	9.8
Denmark	17.2	64.9	12.9	0.9	4.0
Germany	12.9	47.3	18.0	7.4	14.4
Greece	21.2	62.9	4.7	1.6	9.6
Spain	29.3	42.6	5.5	3.2	19.3
France	13.4	44.9	23.6	7.3	10.8
Ireland	**24.6**	**39.6**	**7.3**	**4.7**	**23.8**
Italy	31.1	41.7	7.4	4.9	15.0
Luxembourg	20.1	58.3	13.0	5.1	3.6
Netherlands	17.7	59.8	8.8	3.7	9.9
Austria	19.9	44.0	17.8	10.0	8.4
Portugal	27.5	37.5	8.1	4.2	22.7
Finland	23.2	50.6	13.5	2.7	10.0
Sweden	34.5	42.3	11.3	3.8	8.1
UK	24.5	35.4	13.4	5.4	21.3
EU 15	21.3	44.4	13.9	5.6	14.8

Source: Question 38

With a reading of 24.6% in Table II.4, Irish respondents came out as being more favourable than their counterparts in several other EU countries with respect to enlargement including <u>all</u> candidate countries. The EU 15 figure for the same option came to 21.3%.

When we look at the figures of respondents choosing the second option (i.e. to include some), we see that Ireland, with 39.6%, is somewhat lower than the EU 15 average, with only Portugal (37.5%) and the UK (35.4%) with lower figures. In the case of those respondents choosing the third option, the figure for Ireland, at 4.7%, is lower than the EU 15 average (5.6%).

However, the 'don't know' category is where Ireland comes out highest across the EU 15. Ireland, recording a 'don't know' percentage of 23.8%, with Portugal and the UK with 22.7% and 21.3%, are out on their own. The EU 15 average was 14.8%.

Also worth noting are the high figures against enlargement in Belgium and France.

II.8. Opinions on enlargement

Overall, more than three-quarters of Irish respondents felt that their everyday lives would either be better or about the same as they are today, although there were 17.7% 'don't knows'. They were then surveyed on their expectations for several specific sectors.

When enlargement takes place, Irish respondents were more positive than most their counterparts in other EU countries about the effects of enlargement on **<u>agriculture</u>** in their countries with 23.9% feeling that the situation would be better.

Similar figures were recorded for Greece (25.5%), Spain (24.8%), Italy 26.6% and the Netherlands (22.8%).

At the other end of the scale, only 6.2% of Finns, 8.3% of Austrians, 9.3% of French and 9.5% of Swedes felt that the situation for agriculture would improve.

Italian respondents (17.9%) and Irish respondents (22.4%) recorded the lowest figures for the situation for agriculture being worse in their respective countries following enlargement. These contrast with the EU 15 average of 34.7% and much higher figures for Germany, Austria and the Nordic countries (Finland 59%, Denmark 42.8%, Germany 45.5%, Austria 46.5% and Sweden 45.2%). These countries are geographically closer to the candidate countries.

Once again, Irish respondents headed the 'don't know' league with 25.2%, with only the UK (22.1%) and Italy (20.0%) coming close.

Regarding the situation in Ireland for **industry**, 30.8% felt that the situation would be better and 28% the same. The EU 15 average figures were 33.8% and 29.3%. Again, Ireland scored a high percentage of 'don't knows' – 23.8% - but had a correspondingly low figure for respondents feeling that the situation would get worse (17.4%).

The situation for **trade** in Ireland following enlargement would be better according to 43% of respondents and the same according to 22.1%. Ireland had the highest number of 'don't knows' across the EU, once again.

Table II.5 Summary of Irish respondent's views regarding the effects of enlargement on various sectors. Corresponding EU 15 averages in brackets.

	Better	Worse	Same	Don't know
Agriculture	23.9 (16.6)	22.4 (34.7)	28.5 (33.1)	25.2 (15.6)
Industry	30.8 (33.8)	17.4 (21.6)	28.0 (29.3)	23.8 (15.3)
Financial sector	31.6 (34.7)	8.5 (14.0)	31.2 (32.2)	28.8 (19.0)
Trade	43.0 (49.1)	11.3 (13.7)	22.1 (23.1)	23.6 (14.2)
Tourism	49.4 (58.7)	6.6 (6.6)	24.0 (23.4)	20.1 (11.4)
Transport	27.4 (32.9)	8.3 (13.9)	33.2 (33.4)	31.0 (19.7)
Other	4.3 (6.4)	1.9 (5.7)	10.5 (15.3)	83.4 (72.6)

Source: Question 40

When asked their personal opinion as to whether the enlargement process should be sped up, slowed down or stay as it is, 31.6% of Irish respondents recorded a 'don't know' result compared to the EU 15 average of 20.7%.

43.6% felt that it should stay as it is and 15.5% that it should be sped up. Like the Italians (6.7%), the Greeks (9.7%) and the Spaniards (9.1%), the Irish, with a figure of 9.3%, were much less keen to slow down the process than countries like Germany (23.4%), Austria (30.9%) and Finland (22.3%).

II.9. Benefits of enlargement

On whether they agreed that benefits derived from enlargement would outweigh disadvantages, respondents' opinions across Europe were both uncertain and mixed.

One in three Europeans were 'don't knows' and this figure was highest in Ireland at 42% and lowest in Luxembourg at 16.3%.

Greeks (58%), Danes (54.3%) and Spaniards (50.6%) had the highest percentages of respondents agreeing with the statement. Ireland (43.6%) falls towards the bottom of a group of six countries in which over 40% of respondents agreed with it. The EU 15 average was 39.8% and a further six Member States had results below the average, with France with the lowest score of 27.9%.

In France (38.1%) and Finland (39.7%), in fact, more respondents tended to disagree with the statement than agree with it. In Ireland, 14.5% disagreed with it – the lowest figure in the EU with the exception of Spain (14.4%).

Table II.6. Respondents' views as to whether the benefits derived from enlargement will outweigh the disadvantages

Country	**Tend to agree**	**Tend to disagree**	**Don't know**
Belgium	35.3	31.6	33.1
Denmark	54.3	26.0	19.7
Germany	38.6	29.8	31.5
Greece	58.0	20.5	21.5
Spain	50.6	14.4	34.9
France	27.9	38.1	33.9
Ireland	**43.6**	**14.5**	**42.0**
Italy	44.4	16.6	38.9
Luxembourg	46.8	36.9	16.3
Netherlands	41.0	26.9	32.1
Austria	39.5	33.2	27.3
Portugal	46.6	17.7	35.7
Finland	33.0	39.7	27.3
Sweden	45.6	32.0	22.4
UK	34.8	30.0	35.3
EU 15	39.8	26.8	33.4

Source: Question 43.8

When respondents were asked whether they tended to agree or disagree with the statement '**if our government is in favour of it, it means that enlargement is a good thing**', an interesting picture emerges.

Once again, Ireland topped the '**don't knows**' league with a score of 32.5%, as against the EU 15 average of 26.6%.

In eight EU countries, more respondents disagreed than agreed with the statement - with the Nordic countries recording the highest percentages with Denmark (58.4%), Finland (56.2%) and Sweden (53.7%).

Table II.7. Respondents' views as to whether if the national government is in favour of it, it means that enlargement is a good thing

Country	Tend to agree	Tend to disagree	Don't know
Belgium	41.4	29.1	29.5
Denmark	31.0	58.4	10.6
Germany	29.2	39.3	31.5
Greece	52.1	32.1	15.8
Spain	49.7	23.1	27.2
France	33.3	43.7	23.0
Ireland	**36.0**	**31.5**	**32.5**
Italy	38.0	31.1	31.0
Luxembourg	67.0	22.1	10.9
Netherlands	33.8	44.8	21.4
Austria	26.3	52.6	21.1
Portugal	43.6	28.2	28.2
Finland	29.7	56.2	14.1
Sweden	32.2	53.7	14.1
UK	26.7	47.7	25.6
EU 15	34.8	38.7	26.6

Source: Question 43.9

II.10 Enlargement will make the EU work better

When respondents were asked their views on this statement, responses differed widely from country to country. The EU 15 average for those agreeing with the statement was 42% but this hides the fact that the figures ranged from 29.5% in Austria to 70.9% in Greece.

In six countries (Belgium, Denmark, Luxembourg, Austria, Finland and Sweden) those disagreeing outnumbered those agreeing.

Ireland's percentage of 'don't knows' was 37.4%, the highest in the EU, whereas Luxembourg's percentage, the lowest, was 13.6%. The EU 15 average was 31.2%.

Generally speaking, where the 'don't know' group is small, opinions are strong.

Table II.8. Respondents' views as to whether enlargement will make the European Union work better

Country	**Tend to agree**	**Tend to disagree**	**Don't know**
Belgium	32.4	35.3	32.4
Denmark	29.3	51.5	19.1
Germany	36.0	30.3	33.7
Greece	70.9	13.6	15.5
Spain	55.0	13.6	31.4
France	36.0	34.8	29.2
Ireland	**49.5**	**13.1**	**37.4**
Italy	51.6	12.7	35.8
Luxembourg	42.9	43.5	13.6
Netherlands	38.0	33.8	28.1
Austria	29.5	44.5	26.0
Portugal	52.0	15.3	32.7
Finland	36.7	45.2	18.1
Sweden	30.2	45.3	24.4
UK	38.3	30.2	31.6
EU 15	42.0	26.8	31.2

Source: Question 43.12

II.11. European Union enlargement and everyday life

Respondents were asked what they thought of the statement that their country would make itself better heard in the world as a consequence of enlargement. This question brought about one of the largest variations in opinion EU-wide.

Two-thirds of Greeks and more than half of the Irish, Spanish and Portuguese respondents tended to agree with the statement, whereas less than a quarter of Danes tended to agree.

Almost two-thirds of Danish respondents and more than half of Dutch, Austrian, Finnish and Swedish respondents tended to disagree. 21.4% of Irish respondents disagreed compared with the EU 15 average of 35.3%.

Table II.9. Respondents' views as to whether their country would make itself heard better in the world as a consequence of enlargement

Country	**Tend to agree**	**Tend to disagree**	**Don't know**
Belgium	40.9	37.3	21.8
Denmark	24.7	65.3	10.0
Germany	36.3	37.2	26.2
Greece	66.8	20.5	12.7
Spain	53.3	23.2	23.5
France	42.6	37.9	19.5
Ireland	**54.3**	**21.4**	**24.3**
Italy	46.4	26.7	26.9
Luxembourg	46.7	45.5	7.8
Netherlands	29.1	53.2	17.7
Austria	30.1	51.9	18.1
Portugal	55.8	19.7	24.5
Finland	40.0	50.5	9.6
Sweden	35.7	50.5	13.8
UK	39.4	39.7	20.9
EU 15	42.3	35.3	22.4

Source: Question 44.3

Also in the context of the consequences of EU enlargement for the economy and everyday life, respondents were asked whether they agreed with the statement that '**the EU will be closer to its citizens'**.

The pattern of views across the EU 15 was, once again, very mixed, with around half the respondents in three countries agreeing with the statement (Greece (52.6%), Spain (51.3%) and Portugal (49.6%)). More respondents in Ireland (42.0%) and Italy (38.4%) agreed with the statement than disagreed with it, and the EU 15 average was 32.3%.

Disagreement with the statement was strong in Denmark (67.8%), as was the case for over half the respondents in Belgium (50.4%), Luxembourg 50.6%, the Netherlands (54.4%), Austria (57%), Finland 555.2%) and Sweden (61%). Although the figures for the countries in question were below 50%, there were more respondents in Germany (48%), France (49.1%) and the UK (42.5%) who disagreed with the statement than agreed with it.

'Don't knows' in Ireland amounted to 32.3%, slightly lower than Italy's 34.3% and Portugal's 33.0%, but well above the EU 15 average of 26.8%.

Table II.10 Respondents' views as to whether the EU will be closer to its citizens as a consequence of enlargement

Country	Tend to agree	Tend to disagree	Don't know
Belgium	22.8	50.4	26.8
Denmark	19.2	67.8	13.0
Germany	25.9	47.5	26.7
Greece	52.6	29.1	18.3
Spain	51.3	21.9	26.8
France	28.3	49.1	22.7
Ireland	**42.0**	**25.7**	**32.3**
Italy	38.4	27.3	34.3
Luxembourg	39.5	50.6	9.9
Netherlands	22.4	54.4	23.1
Austria	21.8	57.0	21.2
Portugal	49.6	17.4	33.0
Finland	30.8	55.2	14.0
Sweden	21.8	61.0	17.2
UK	27.6	42.5	29.8
EU 15	32.3	40.8	26.8

Source: Question 44.8

II.12. Enlargement and mobility of people

Respondents were then asked whether they expected enlargement to lead to a significant number of people moving from new member states to their respective countries.

43.7% of Irish respondents expected that there would be a significant number, in contrast to figures of 65.8% in Greece, 53.1% in Germany and 51.0% in Spain. At the other end of the scale, in Finland (29.3%) and Denmark (23.2%), numbers agreeing with this scenario were relatively low. The EU 15 average was 48.1%.

Respondents who felt that there would be a significant increase in people from the new member states moving to their country were then asked whether they viewed this positively or negatively.

Table II.11. Respondents' views as to whether they see the movement of significant numbers of people from new member states to their countries as being positive or negative

Country	**Positive**	**Negative**	**Don't know**
Belgium	7.3	76.0	16.7
Denmark	19.7	69.4	10.9
Germany	14.5	75.8	9.7
Greece	8.9	87.0	4.1
Spain	28.5	53.5	17.9
France	16.2	73.6	10.1
Ireland	**31.2**	**49.2**	**19.6**
Italy	29.0	55.5	15.5
Luxembourg	27.4	63.8	8.7
Netherlands	7.0	85.1	7.9
Austria	7.2	80.0	12.8
Portugal	27.9	60.2	11.9
Finland	25.9	66.5	7.6
Sweden	24.2	64.1	11.6
UK	16.5	75.3	8.3
EU 15	18.8	69.8	11.5

Source: Question 45(b)

Although Ireland registers the highest percentage of 'don't knows' in response to this question – *almost one in five surveyed* - Ireland also shows the highest percentage of 'positives' and the lowest percentage of 'negatives'.

Readers should note, however, that the number of people surveyed on this question in Ireland was relatively low compared to many other Member States (43.7%, as opposed to the EU 15 average figure of 48.1% believed that enlargement would lead to a significant number of people moving from the new member states to their country).

Respondents who answered positively were then asked a series of questions as to why they had answered in that way. They were able to give multiple answers and were given a choice of ten statements.

Table II.12. Why is the movement of a significant number of people from new member states to our country a positive thing?

	IRL	EU 15
We can share our prosperity with them	33.1	26.0
There have to be equal opportunities for us all	41.1	43.0
There will be more young people, more births	17.1	24.4
There will be more skilled, motivated workers	29.0	29.4
It will create jobs, employment	31.3	24.9
It will be good for our economy	33.9	40.4
It will be good for our country's tourism development	31.2	31.4
They will come to do what our own nationals don't want to do, take the jobs we don't want	28.1	26.6
Our country will benefit from it from a cultural point of view	30.6	37.0
Other reasons	0.0	3.3
Don't know	1.8	3.6

Source: Question 45 (c)

Irish respondents' answers diverged from the EU 15 average in four main respects:

- they were happier about sharing their prosperity with people from new member states than many of their EU 15 counterparts;
- more of them felt that the influx of people from new member states will create employment.

However,

- fewer of them felt that it will be good for the economy than the EU average;
- fewer of them felt that Ireland would benefit from a cultural point of view.

Respondents who had replied that the arrival of a significant number of people to Ireland from the new member states (i.e. 49.2% of the 43.7% who had said that enlargement would result in a significant number of people moving from the new member states to Ireland) were asked why they had given a negative answer.

A summary of the results may be seen in Table II.13 below.

Across the board, Irish respondents did not express the same degree of negativity as their EU colleagues with regard to the consequences of significant numbers of people moving to Ireland from the new member states.
In all cases but one, the Irish results were lower, often considerably so, than the EU 15 figure. The Irish figure (32.3%) exceeded the EU average (31.8%) in the case of fears of a housing shortage.

Nevertheless, on their own, some of the results should be noted:

- 45.9% thought that there were already too many immigrants in the country. This contrasts with figures of 70.4% in the case of Belgium and 68.8% in the UK;
- 44% felt that unemployment would increase;
- 45.3% feared more social problems, homelessness and a lower standard of living;
- 40.3% felt that some would abuse the social welfare system;
- 30.5% expected racism and intolerance to increase.

Other results of interest to emerge in relation to other EU Member States included:

- Fear that crime would increase was particularly evident in the Nordic countries, the Benelux and Germany. The figures for Spain and Ireland were substantially lower;
- In France, Germany, the UK, Luxembourg and Greece, more than 70% felt that unemployment would increase;
- 68% in the UK feared a housing shortage;
- German (68%) and UK (72.5%) respondents had the greatest fears of abuse of the social security system;
- More than one-third of the French thought that we should first strengthen Europe.

Table II.13. Why is the movement of a significant number of people from new member states to our country a negative thing?

	B	DK	D	GR	ES	F	**IRL**	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	SW	UK	EU 15
Economic prospects will get worse	17.7	22.5	40.3	16.7	18.4	18.6	**11.8**	18.6	20.5	33.7	35.5	9.9	20.4	34.2	25.5	26.6
It is too expensive	36.4	47.6	46.5	22.1	23.5	40.4	**36.7**	41.0	15.8	27.5	36.8	11.2	41.7	47.9	51.6	40.3
Black economy will get bigger	45.5	33.1	69.5	15.8	30.3	42.7	**20.5**	46.4	53.1	27.7	59.1	12.4	46.7	49.8	31.7	45.3
More social problems/more homeless people/our standard of living will go down	51.2	55.6	54.6	24.6	53.5	63.7	**45.3**	37.7	60.9	56.8	53.0	35.1	53.2	53.0	61.2	53.1
Crime will increase	67.7	74.9	72.5	56.9	34.3	53.6	**33.7**	57.5	80.9	75.6	66.7	47.5	75.2	72.7	56.3	60.2
Unemployment will increase	67.1	55.5	84.6	82.0	56.7	76.9	**44.0**	51.3	73.4	60.1	62.0	63.5	60.9	63.6	70.3	71.1
Already too many people in our country	31.9	13.7	25.8	18.1	18.8	28.3	**14.4**	30.8	33.5	55.5	22.9	32.6	7.7	9.1	53.2	31.2
Already too many immigrants in our country	70.4	53.3	59.0	50.0	38.8	60.1	**45.9**	50.4	45.4	57.3	54.1	50.3	26.4	47.4	68.8	57.0
Foreigners will accept lower salaries	30.2	28.7	62.6	28.9	48.0	41.8	**24.7**	25.0	53.5	25.5	57.3	22.4	39.8	28.8	43.6	44.0
Some will abuse the social welfare system	48.9	61.1	68.0	7.0	22.2	53.5	**40.3**	23.1	50.0	54.1	54.3	18.7	54.5	52.4	72.5	51.0
There will be a housing shortage	25.4	37.7	23.8	16.5	15.3	30.4	**32.3**	19.7	47.7	42.5	31.0	24.2	22.5	32.5	68.0	31.8
Racism and intolerance will increase	50.3	53.4	47.7	21.1	40.5	48.6	**30.5**	28.0	54.5	51.4	40.2	20.0	51.7	58.8	63.7	45.9
Loss of our cultural identity	19.4	35.7	25.7	29.5	10.7	30.5	**19.4**	17.9	36.7	34.1	28.7	5.8	13.5	31.1	43.3	27.2
We should help them manage their own country so they stay there	30.6	45.2	44.2	13.1	18.2	38.6	**23.1**	24.7	31.6	42.3	26.8	8.4	40.6	49.0	45.8	35.8
We should first strengthen Europe	23.2	10.8	18.0	4.1	7.2	33.8	**5.2**	9.1	21.5	18.4	20.1	3.3	7.2	20.2	19.1	18.0
Other reasons	1.8	0.4	0.7	1.2	0.7	0.9	**1.6**	1.1	1.9	2.5	1.3	1.1	1.3	4.3	2.5	1.3
Don't know	0.2	3.2	1.1	0.2	0.4	0.3	**0.0**	0.0	2.0	0.5	0.9	0.4	0.6	1.1	0.3	0.5

Source: Question 45

SECTION III
The EU from a socio-political perspective

III. The EU from a socio-political perspective

This third section looks at a wide range of data from across Ireland and the EU 15 and seeks to assess Irish people's understanding of the EU, how it works, what they consider should be its priorities, as well as their perceptions of influence within the EU.

III.1. Understanding how the EU works

Across the EU, respondents' views showed clearly that there was a serious lack in people's understanding or belief that they understand how the EU works. Only in Luxembourg did more than half the respondents consider that they understood its workings. Barely one-quarter of Irish respondents agreed that they knew how it works, the third lowest score in the entire EU 15 with only the UK and Spain recording lower scores than Ireland.

When we add the number of respondents who felt they did not understand how the EU works to the number of 'don't knows', the picture is bleak, and, in the case of Ireland, represents almost three-quarters of the respondents.

Table III.1. Respondent's perceptions of their understanding of how the EU works:

	Understand	**Don't understand**	**Don't know**
Belgium	28.3	60.5	11.2
Denmark	45.6	49.7	4.7
Germany	32.9	47.5	19.6
Greece	47.3	46.2	6.5
Spain	24.7	60.9	14.4
France	34.8	57.8	7.3
Ireland	**26.8**	**61.5**	**11.7**
Italy	29.6	55.6	14.8
Luxembourg	53.4	42.7	3.9
Netherlands	31.9	58.4	9.7
Austria	43.1	44.8	12.1
Portugal	33.6	55.7	10.7
Finland	36.6	53.8	9.6
Sweden	34.4	58.8	6.8
UK	17.9	74.5	7.6
EU 15	30.3	57.3	12.4

Source: Question 57.2

III.2. Feelings regarding priorities for EU action

Respondents were surveyed for their views on actions the EU could undertake and were asked whether these were a priority. Some of the fields covered and the priority accorded to them by Irish respondents in contrast with the EU 15 average are contained in Table III.2.

- It is clear from Table III.2 below that many Irish respondents (although fewer than across the EU 15 in general) consider there is an urgent need for the EU to get closer to its citizens. Danish (83.2%), Greek (82.2%), Swedish (81.8%), Luxemburgish (80%) and French (75.3%) respondents had scores considerably higher than Ireland's.
- Many more than the EU 15 average recognise the importance of reforming the institutions and the way they work, even though the 'don't knows' came to more than 20%. Danish (73.2%), Greek (70.2%) and the Swedish (64.3%) respondents all saw this as a priority for the EU.
- On the assertion of the EU's political and diplomatic importance around the world, a number of small Member States such as Greece (79.7%), Luxembourg (68.1%), the Netherlands (62.6%) and Portugal (62%), saw this as a priority.
- High percentages of Irish respondents see the EU's role in fighting organised crime and illegal immigration as a priority.

Table III.2 Respondents' views on whether EU action in certain fields should be given priority (in %)

Topic	Yes		No		Don't know	
	IRL	EU 15	IRL	EU 15	IRL	EU 15
Getting closer to EU citizens by giving them more info	65.9	69.9	17.2	20.9	16.9	9.2
Reforming the EU institutions & the way they work	61.5	47.8	17.8	36.0	20.8	16.2
Fighting organised crime and drug trafficking	90.4	87.3	2.4	7.5	7.2	5.2
Asserting the political and diplomatic importance of the EU around the world	60.2	50.3	19.9	36.6	19.9	13.1
The fight against illegal immigration	83.6	80.4	5.6	13.1	10.7	6.5

Source: Question 51

III.3. Is EU membership an advantage or a disadvantage?

When respondents were asked to rank whether they felt that EU membership was a major advantage, a slight advantage, a slight disadvantage, a disadvantage or neither an advantage nor a disadvantage when it comes to defending the interests of Ireland, the Irish were among the most positive in regard to their country's EU membership with a score of 42.3%. Only the Greeks (48.6%) and the Luxemburgers (43.7%) had higher scores. (see Question 52).

Half of the population surveyed in Dublin saw EU membership as a major advantage whereas only one-third did so in the rest of Leinster. The equivalent figures for Munster and Connacht/Ulster were 46.2% and 35.1%.

The numbers seeing membership as 'a major advantage' rose as their income levels rose - 53% in the highest income bracket. A further 33.9% in this highest income bracket saw membership as 'a slight advantage'.

Only 5.7% of the Irish saw it as 'neither as an advantage nor a disadvantage', the lowest score in this category across the EU 15.

Ireland's 'don't knows' amounted to 11.1% - the EU 15 average. There were more 'don't knows' in Spain, Italy, Portugal, Finland and the UK than in Ireland. Within Ireland, almost twice as many (14.8%) of women than men (7.4%) registered 'don't know' scores.

III.4. Perceptions of influence in the EU

III.4.1. Does Ireland's voice count in the EU?

A respondent's perception as to whether his country's voice counts in the EU varied very widely across the EU. More than 60% of Irish respondents felt that it did, even if almost 18% did not know.
Three-quarters of respondents or more in Denmark, Sweden and Luxembourg – all small countries – agreed with the statement, whereas the Greek, Austrian and UK respondents recorded the three lowest figures. The German and French figures present no surprises.

Table III.3 Our country's voice counts in the European Union

	Agree	Disagree	Don't know
Belgium	59.6	25.5	14.9
Denmark	81.0	15.6	3.4
Germany	74.8	12.0	13.1
Greece	44.4	45.1	10.5
Spain	61.3	25.9	12.8
France	77.6	14.2	8.2
Ireland	**61.3**	**20.9**	**17.8**
Italy	50.2	35.2	14.5
Luxembourg	74.6	21.8	3.5
Netherlands	71.2	20.3	8.5
Austria	46.4	40.9	12.7
Portugal	54.6	31.6	13.8
Finland	59.1	34.2	6.7
Sweden	81.4	12.3	6.3
UK	47.5	38.3	14.2
EU 15	63.1	24.8	12.1

Source: Question 57.3

III.4.2. Decisions taken in Brussels do not affect me

With over 60% of Irish respondents disagreeing with this statement, Ireland's result was 6% above the EU 15 average. The Nordic countries and Greece's figures exceeded that of Ireland.

Interestingly, Belgium (along with the former GDR) recorded the lowest figure, 49.3% and the highest percentage of 'don't knows'. The figures for 'don't knows' in all three Nordic countries were well below 10%, while Ireland's was 14.8% and the EU 15 average was 19.7%.

Table III.4: Decisions taken in Brussels don't affect me

	Agree	Disagree	Don't know
Belgium	27.6	49.3	23.0
Denmark	29.6	64.2	6.2
Germany	24.0	53.4	22.7
Greece	25.0	60.6	14.3
Spain	23.9	55.8	20.4
France	31.1	52.6	16.4
Ireland	**23.6**	**61.6**	**14.8**
Italy	20.1	55.6	24.3
Luxembourg	32.3	53.6	14.1
Netherlands	25.6	60.6	13.8
Austria	29.0	56.3	14.8
Portugal	23.3	53.9	22.8
Finland	26.7	64.7	8.6
Sweden	25.5	66.8	7.7
UK	23.1	56.8	20.1
EU 15	24.7	55.6	19.7

Source: Question 57.5

III.4.3. Most of the laws that affect me are made in Brussels these days

Like the previous question, more than 60% of respondents felt the scope of decisions taken in Brussels was very important. This is exceptionally high compared to the EU 15 average (38.1%), and Ireland's figure of 62.8% is only exceeded very slightly by Greece's 63%.

Several Member States' results exceeded 40%, but there were also several below 40% and Denmark and Italy's results were 28.9% and 28.5% respectively. Across the EU, there was an average 'don't know' score of almost 30%, although in Ireland the 'don't know' category was relatively low at 18.9%.

Table III.5: Most of the laws that affect me are made in Brussels these days

	Agree	Disagree	Don't know
Belgium	47.1	24.5	28.4
Denmark	28.9	57.2	13.9
Germany	33.0	36.2	30.8
Greece	63.0	19.7	17.3
Spain	40.8	26.8	32.5
France	42.9	28.1	29.0
Ireland	**62.8**	**18.4**	**18.9**
Italy	28.5	36.0	35.5
Luxembourg	38.4	38.2	23.4
Netherlands	34.3	37.8	27.9
Austria	38.3	40.3	21.4
Portugal	46.5	26.1	27.3
Finland	43.0	42.6	14.4
Sweden	33.6	48.2	18.2
UK	41.3	29.0	29.8
EU 15	38.1	32.4	29.5

Source: Question 57.7

III.4.4. Will our country become more influential in the EU in the future?

Slightly more than one-third of Irish respondents fell in the 'don't know' category with regard to this question – slightly above the EU 15 average of 31.1%. Opinions varied widely across the EU, with around 60% of respondents in Greece, Spain and Portugal considering that their respective countries' influence in the EU would grow in the future.

On the other hand, only 45.3% of Irish respondents felt this way, slightly above the EU 15 average of 45.2%. Of the larger EU Member States, only in Italy, with a figure of 52.6%, did more than half the population believe that their country's influence would grow.

A majority of respondents disagreed with the statement in Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands, Austria, Finland and Sweden – all small Member States, some of whom were part of the original Six, some of whom are recent arrivals. In

Luxembourg, the smallest Member State of all, those agreeing and disagreeing were almost in equal measure.

Table III.6. Our country will become more influential in the EU in the future

	Agree	Disagree	Don't know
Belgium	30.4	34.3	35.3
Denmark	30.1	51.3	18.6
Germany	38.5	26.9	34.6
Greece	63.5	15.4	21.2
Spain	62.1	9.7	28.2
France	41.7	23.9	34.4
Ireland	**45.3**	**20.1**	**34.6**
Italy	52.6	12.2	35.2
Luxembourg	42.6	43.5	13.9
Netherlands	29.6	40.5	29.9
Austria	30.3	46.2	23.5
Portugal	59.3	15.0	25.8
Finland	37.0	44.4	18.5
Sweden	35.6	42.3	22.2
UK	45.9	26.8	27.3
EU 15	45.2	23.7	31.1

Source: Question 57.11

III.4.5. Who has the most influence on decision-making in the EU?

Respondents were provided with a list of institutions and groupings and asked which one they felt had the most influence on decision-making within the EU. This question was asked three times in succession and then the total mentions were aggregated.

When the total mentions of the Irish respondents are aggregated, the European Parliament comes out on top with 66.4%, followed by the European Commission with 63.9% and national governments at 63.7%.

The figures for Irish respondents selecting these three institutions are slightly lower than the EU 15 average and are not in the same order. As in the case of

Ireland, the European Parliament came out highest in the EU 15 scores. However, across the EU 15, the national governments (68.5%) were seen to be slightly more influential than the Commission (67.3%).

- If we look at how Irish respondents broken down by gender scored on this question, we see that 23.9% of women were 'don't knows' as opposed to only 14% of men.
- Those living in a rural area or village were twice as likely to be 'don't knows' than those living in a small to middle-sized town or a large town.
- Percentages of 'don't knows' among housepersons and the retired were 28.8% and 23.1% respectively.
- More than a quarter of managers thought that pressure groups/lobbies were one of the three main influences in EU decision-making;
- Over a fifth of all managers, other white collar workers, manual workers, the unemployed and retired thought businesses were one of the three main influences on EU decision-making.

III.4.6. Perceptions of Member States' influence

- **Which three Member States have the most influence in the EU?**

Respondents could give up to three answers to this question. Irish respondents, like most of their counterparts elsewhere, named Germany, France and the UK in that order as the countries that they felt held the most influence. However, in Denmark, Belgium and Germany, France headed the list, followed by Germany and the UK.

Interestingly, 7.8% of Irish respondents named Ireland as one of the three countries wielding the most influence in the EU. 9.5% of Irish named Denmark as one of the three most influential.

Italy, on the other hand, in spite of the fact that it has the same potential 'hitting' power as the UK and France in the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament, scores a 12.2% EU 15 average.
Other than the Italians themselves, only the Finnish respondents gave Italy a score of more than 20%. Perhaps the issue of the location of the European Food Agency was still fresh in the minds of Finnish respondents.

- **Which Member States have the least influence in the EU?**

At the other end of the scale of influence, when respondents were asked to name the three countries with the least influence in the EU, the highest EU 15 figures were for Portugal (33.9), Greece (29.5%) and Ireland (23.5%). In Ireland, respondents named Portugal (24.3%), Greece (23.2%) and Austria 22.9%. Only 17.3% of Irish respondents placed Ireland on this list.

Across the EU, only 20.7% of respondents named Luxembourg, the smallest Member State, as one of the three countries with the least influence.

CONCLUSIONS

IV. CONCLUSIONS

What is most apparent upon examination of the data collected in the Irish Eurobarometer 56.3 survey is the lack of interest in and knowledge about the EU, its workings and its policies. This may raise more questions than it answers.

In a classic chicken and egg situation, it is difficult to ascertain whether the lack of knowledge or the lack of interest comes first.

What is vital, however, is to break this cycle – and the author believes that this will be a long-term project. On the basis of the data analyzed and the population segments identified, it would appear that motivating an interest in and an understanding of EU affairs will require the development of a long-term strategy.

Why are there low levels of interest in the EU in Ireland?
With the country's recent growth and resultant prosperity partly funded by the EU Irish citizens may feel that there is now less to fight for and, consequently, less of a need to take an interest in politics in the broadest sense.

In addition, a series of political/business/secular scandals has beset the country in recent years and this has prompted a degree of suspicion and cynicism in the country's institutions of all types.

Irish citizens may also sense a certain weariness of the ballot box to which they have been called a number of times in recent years, in some cases to vote on what significant numbers of the population consider to have been issues presented in an ambiguous fashion.

In terms of their interest in European Union affairs overall, the Irish are passive. They tend to wait for information to come to them rather than actively seeking it out.

Irish people are more reliant on the media for their information that more official channels (public notice boards, information facilities). However, where the relatively small number of interested people do make the effort to seek it out, their levels of satisfaction are high.

Certain identifiable segments of the population are less interested in EU affairs than others. Amongst these, women, people still studying and those in the 15-24 age group record high percentages (over 40%) when given the option 'never look for such information' in the question relating to sources of information on the EU.

As education levels rise, the numbers within this category fall.

The reader is consistently struck with the high level of the 'don't knows' in the case of the Irish sample. Irish respondents appear to answer 'don't know' more frequently to certain *types* of questions. For example, for some issues dealt with in Section III, such as whether respondents feel they are 'affected by decisions taken in Brussels' or 'most laws that affect me are made in Brussels', the levels of 'don't knows' are lower than for many other Member States polled.

The reasons behind the 'don't know' pattern in Ireland would be worthwhile exploring further but do not fall within the scope of this report.

ANNEX I
PROFILE OF THE IRISH COHORT

Profile of the Irish cohort

1. Nationality

97.2% of the respondents were Irish

- 14 (1.3%) were of UK nationality);
- 8 (0.8%) were French;
- 8 (0.8%) were Italian;
- 1 (0.1%) was German; and
- 1 (0.1%) was Spanish.

2. Civil status

45.3% of the Irish sample was married in contrast to the EU 15 average of 48.2%.

Not surprisingly, in Greece, Spain and Portugal, the number of married respondents was higher than the EU average, whereas it was lowest in Finland and Sweden.

None of the Irish respondents was divorced, in contrast to the EU average of 5.6% but 2.8% were separated in contrast to the EU average of 1.9%. Ireland, followed by Spain (28.5%) and Italy (27.5%), recorded the highest percentage of respondents who were unmarried, having never lived with a partner (31.2%).

	Ireland	**EU 15**
Married	45.3%	48.2%
Remarried	0.2%	1.5%
Unmarried, living with partner	6.2%	7.8%
Unmarried, never lived with partner	31.2%	19.4%
Unmarried, lived with partner in past	2.1%	5.1%
Divorced	0.0%	5.6%
Separated	2.8%	1.9%
Widowed	8.3%	8.9%
Other	2.0%	1.1%
Refusal to answer	2.0%	0.5%

Source: D7

3. Education

Age at which full-time education ceased

	Ireland	EU 15
Up to 15 years	23.0%	26.8%
16-19 years	50.5%	41.7%
20+ years	14.3%	21.4%
Still studying	12.1%	10.1%

Source: D8

50.5% of the Irish sample finished their fulltime education between 15 and 19 years old. This is a similar figure to Germany and the UK and well above the EU 15 average of 41.7%. This contrasts with Denmark's figure of 16% which was the lowest of all recorded in the EU.

The Irish survey recorded fewer respondents than the EU 15 average for those who had stopped their fulltime education at age 15 or before. The Irish figure of 23% was well below the EU average of 26.8%.

Portugal (61.6%), Spain (40%) and Greece (38.8%). Both the UK and Austria notched up 30.1%. On the other hand, none of the figures for the Nordic countries or the Benelux exceeded 20%.

Looking at respondents whose fulltime education finished when they were 20 or over, Ireland with 14.3% scored well below the EU average of 21.4%.

More of the Irish respondents surveyed than the EU 15 average were still studying. Ireland's figure of 12.1% was similar to that of Sweden, Italy, Spain, although lower than Denmark and Finland. The countries where the lowest figures were recorded were Germany (6.9%), the UK (8%) and Portugal (9.5%).

4. Gender of respondents

The male/female breakdown of the survey was 48.3%/51.7% across the EU 15, with the Irish sample having slightly more men than this average.

5. Breakdown by age

The Irish sample was significantly younger than elsewhere in the EU, with 21.5% being aged between 15 and 24, whereas the EU average for this age-group was 15.8%. On the other hand, there were fewer Irish respondents in the 25-39, 40-54 and 55+ age-groups.

The average Irish respondent was aged 43.14 years in contrast to the EU 15 average of 44.59. At the other end of the scale, in Sweden, the average respondent's age was 46.11.

21.5% aged 15 – 24
26.9% aged 25 – 39
21.8% aged 40 – 54
29.8% aged 55+

6. Socio-professional status

In terms of socio-professional profile, Ireland's sample differs in some crucial ways from the EU 15 norm, while, in other respects, it conforms very closely.

Main findings:

- The largest socio-professional segment of the Irish respondents was that of unskilled manual workers. It was double the EU average.
- The next largest grouping were skilled manual workers (16.3%), well below the EU 15 average of 21.4;
- Only Ireland (11.3%) and Greece (12.6%) had significant percentages of respondents working in the farming and fishing sectors. The EU 15 average for this sector was 2.3%.
- The professions were not highly represented in the Irish sample, with only 2% as compared with 3.1% across the EU 15;
- Unlike several EU countries, Ireland had few respondents who were shop-owners or crafts-persons. This may reflect the relatively high presence of chain stores and supermarkets in a country with a low population. The figures for Greece (22.8%), Italy (15.9 %), Portugal (10.9%) and, to a lesser degree, France and Belgium (with 8.6% and 8.7% respectively) would seem to bear this out.
- In comparison with the EU 15 figures, the Irish sample had fewer respondents working at all levels of management and more working as employed professionals.

Table 1. Socio-professional status of Irish and EU 15 respondents in %

	IRL	**EU 15**
Farmer/fisherman	11.3	2.3
Professionals	2.0	3.1
Shop-owner/craftsmen/other self-employed	4.7	7.3
Business proprietors/company owners	3.9	2.8
Employed professional (lawyer, architect, etc.)	2.9	1.6
General management	3.2	4.0
Middle management	8.7	13.2
Employed – mainly desk work	7.2	9.5
Employed – mainly travelling	3.7	4.8
Employed – not at desk – but in a service job	4.8	8.0
Supervisors	1.9	2.6
Skilled manual workers	16.3	21.4
Other (unskilled) manual workers	17.6	8.8
No answer	11.8	10.4

Source: Question C4

7. Place of residence (city, town, village)

In terms of their place of residence, more Irish respondents live in large towns than their counterparts across Europe. Correspondingly fewer live in rural areas or villages.

	Ireland	EU 15
Rural area or village	8.8%	28.9%
Small/medium sized town	42.2%	41.3%
Large town	44.9%	29.2%
Don't know	4.2%	0.7%

8. Political orientation

When asked to categorise their political views on a left-right scale of 1 –10 (1-4 = left, 5-6 = centre and 7-10 = right), Irish respondents with an average of 5.46 tended to be more right of centre than the EU 15 average, which is itself slightly right of centre, of 5.13.

It should, however, be noted that 23.4% of Irish respondents, more than double the EU 15 average of 10.8%, fell into the 'don't know' category.

Table 2. European political party preference Ireland

	Ireland	**EU 15**
PSE	5.0	20.2
PPE	10.0	14.5
ELDR	0.0	5.3
GUE/NGL	4.4	3.2
FE	0.0	2.2
RDE	21.1	2.0
V	2.2	2.0
ARE	0.0	0.8
IEDN	0.0	0.4
NI	0.0	2.2
Not represented	4.8	7.2
No answer	52.6	40.0

Source: Question C5

III.10. Participation in elections (D4)

In the course of the survey, respondents were also asked the way they would vote if there were a General Election tomorrow. In view of low turnouts at recent referenda and elections in Ireland, such information is useful. The following is a selection of the most interesting figures (D4, D15):

- 18% of men and 22.5% of women fell within the 'don't know' category;
- A further 26% of men and 28.9% of women gave no answer;
- 4.1% of men and 4.6% of women said they would not vote;
- There were more 'don't knows' in rural areas and villages (23.1%) than in small or middle-sized towns 20.5%; there were fewer 'don't knows' in large towns (18.7%);
- Those still studying (42.9%) represented the highest segment of 'don't knows', followed by other white collar workers (23.5%), managers (21.7%) and housepersons (19.5%);
- 35.4% of those in the 15-24 age-group recorded a 'don't know' score and a further 16.6% gave 'no answer';
- Looking at those whose occupation fell into the 'student' category, 13.8% said they would not vote, 25.6% were 'don't knows' and 7.9% gave no answer;
- Regionally speaking, 25.2% of 'don't knows' were in Munster, 20.2% in Dublin, 18.5% in the rest of Leinster and 15.3% in Connacht/Ulster;

- the highest 'no answers' were in Connacht/Ulster (38.9%), Munster (34.2%) and 20% in both Dublin and the rest of Leinster;
- 6.1% in Dublin said they would not vote, 5.3% in Connacht/Ulster, 3.3% in Munster and 2.8% in the rest of Leinster.

ANNEX II

QUESTIONNAIRE

YOUR SURVEY NUMBER	4 5 1 L 1	1-5
COUNTRY CODE	0 8	6-7
OUR SURVEY NUMBER	5 6 3	8-10
INTERVIEW NUMBER		11-16

SPLIT BALLOT :

VERSION A :.(WHITE)............................ 17 1
VERSION B : (BLUE)............................. 2

Q.1. What is your nationality? Please tell me the country (or countries) that apply. **(MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)**

Belgium...18 1,
Denmark... 2,
Germany... 3,
Greece.. 4,
Spain... 5,
France.. 6,
Ireland... 7,
Italy... 8,
Luxembourg.. 9,
Netherlands... 10,
Portugal.. 11,
United Kingdom (Great Britain, Northern Ireland)... 12,
Austria... 13,
Sweden.. 14,
Finland... 15,
Other countries..................................... 16,CLOSE INTERVIEW
DK.. 17,CLOSE INTERVIEW

Q.2a) Which of the following television channel(s) do you watch regularly?
(SHOW CARD 'Q.2a' -READ OUT - MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

TV3..	35	1,
RTE1		2,
Network 2		3,
BBC1		4,
BBC2		5,
UTV (Ulster Television)		6,
TG4		7,
Channel 4		8,
SKY 1		9,
Any Satellite Channel		10,
Local television		11,
Other **(SPONTANEOUS)**		12,
None **(SPONTANEOUS)**		13,
DK		14,

Q.2b) And which of the following daily newspaper(s) do you read regularly?
(SHOW CARD 'Q.2b' - READ OUT - MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

Irish Examiner..................................	49	1,
Evening Echo		2,
Evening Herald		3,
Irish Independent		4,
The Star		5,
Irish Times		6,
Irish Mirror		7,
Daily Express		8,
Guardian		9,
The Irish Sun		10,
Local daily newspaper(s)		11,
Other **(SPONTANEOUS)**		12,
None **(SPONTANEOUS)**		13,
DK		14,

Q.2c) And which of the following newspaper(s) do you read regularly?
(SHOW CARD 'Q.2c' - READ OUT - MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

Sunday Independent...............................	63	1,
Sunday World		2,
Sunday Tribune		3,
Sunday Business Post		4,
Ireland on Sunday		5,
Sunday Mirror		6,
Sunday Express		7,
Mail on Sunday		8,
Independent on Sunday		9,
Sunday Times		10,
Local weekly newspaper(s)		11,
Other **(SPONTANEOUS)**		12,
None **(SPONTANEOUS)**		13,
DK		14,

Q.2d) And which of the following magazine(s) do you read regularly?
(SHOW CARD 'Q.2d' - READ OUT - MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

Magill	77	1,
Phoenix		2,
The Economist		3,
Business Week		4,
The Spectator		5,
Newsweek		6,
Time		7,
Business & Finance		8,
Big Issue		9,
In Dublin		10,
Local magazine(s)		11,
Other **(SPONTANEOUS)**		12,
None **(SPONTANEOUS)**		13,
DK		14,

Q.2e) Which of the following radio station(s) do you listen to regularly?
(SHOW CARD 'Q.2e' - READ OUT - MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

RTE1	91	1,
2FM		2,
FM104		3
98FM		4,
Radio Na Gaeltachta		5,
Atlantic 252		6,
Today FM		7,
Lyric FM		8,
Lite FM		9,
LM FM		10,
Local station		11,
Other **(SPONTANEOUS)**		12,
None **(SPONTANEOUS)**		13,
DK		14,

IF "WATCH TELEVISION ON A REGULAR BASIS", CODE 1 TO 12 at Q.2.a

Q.2f) What types of television programmes do you watch most frequently?
(SHOW CARD 'Q.2f' - READ OUT - MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

News/current affairs	105	1,
Soaps and series		2,
Music programmes		3,
Sport		4,
Films/movies		5,
Documentaries		6,
Children's programmes		7,
Talk shows		8,
Home shopping programmes		9,
Other types of entertainment (game shows, cooking programmes, reality TV shows, etc.)		10,
Other **(SPONTANEOUS)**		11,
DK		12,

ASK ALL

Q.3a) In your opinion, what are the two most positive aspects of the European Union today? **(INT.: PLEASE NOTE DOWN VERBATIM,–PROMPT TO HAVE A SECOND ASPECT)**

FIRST

____

____

____

117-118

SECOND

____

____

____

119-120

Q.3b) And what are the two most negative aspects of the European Union today? **(INT.: PLEASE NOTE DOWN VERBATIM, PROMPT TO HAVE A SECOND ASPECT)**

FIRST

____

____

____

121-122

SECOND

____

____

____

123-124

Q.4. **(IF "READ DAILY NEWSPAPERS ON A REGULAR BASIS", CODE 1 TO 12 AT Q.2.b)**

a) What kind of information would you like to find about the European
Union in the daily newspaper(s) you read? Information about…
(SHOW CARD 'Q.4' - MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

b) Which of the following topics are generally covered in the daily newspaper(s) you read?
(SHOW CARD 'Q.4' AGAIN - MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

(IF "WATCH TELEVISION ON A REGULAR BASIS", CODE 1 TO 12 AT Q.2.a)

c) What kind of information about the European Union would you like
to see on television? Information about...
(SHOW CARD 'Q.4' AGAIN - MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

d) And what kind of information about the European Union do you get when
you watch television? Information about...
(SHOW CARD 'Q.4' AGAIN - MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

READ OUT ▼	**4a)**	**4b)**	**4c)**	**4d)**
1. The history of the European Union	125 1	135 1	145 1	155 1
2. The aims and objectives of the European Union	2	2	2	2
3. European Union institutions such as the Council of Ministers of the European Union, the European Parliament, the European Commission,…	3	3	3	3
4. The euro	4	4	4	4
5. Enlargement of the European Union to include new countries	5	5	5	5
6. Other European Union policies	6	6	6	6
7. How to find out more about the European Union	7	7	7	7
Other information **(SPONTANEOUS)**	8	8	8	8
None of these **(SPONTANEOUS)**	9	9	9	9
DK	10	10	10	10

ASK ALL

Q.5. When you are looking for information about the European Union, its policies, its institutions, which of the following sources do you use? What others?
(SHOW CARD 'Q.5'- READ OUT - MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

Meetings..	165	1,
Discussions with relatives, friends, colleagues......		2,
Daily newspapers....................................		3,
Other newspapers, magazines.........................		4,
Television		5,
Radio...		6
The Internet		7,
Books, brochures, information leaflets		8,
CD-Rom		9,
European Union information on notice boards in libraries, town halls, railway stations, post offices		10,
European Union information offices, Euro-info Centres, Euro-info Points, Euro-libraries, etc		11,
National or regional government information offices		12,
Trade Unions or professional associations		13,
Other organisations (consumer organisations, etc.) .		14,
A member of the European Parliament or a member of The Dail		15,
Other **(SPONTANEOUS)**		16,
Never look for such information, not interested **(SPONTANEOUS)**		17, **GO TO Q.7**
DK..		18,

DO NOT ASK THOSE WHO ANSWERED "NEVER LOOK FOR SUCH INFORMATION, NOT INTERESTED" CODE 17 AT Q.5

Q.6. In general, how would you prefer to get information about the European Union ? **(SHOW CARD 'Q.6' - READ OUT - SEVERAL ANSWERS POSSIBLE)**

A short leaflet, that just gives an overview...................... 183 1,
A more detailed brochure... 2,
A book giving you a complete description.......................... 3,
A video tape... 4,
On the Internet.. 5,
A CD-rom... 6,
A computer terminal allowing you to consult databases............. 7,
From the television.. 8,
From the radio... 9,
From daily newspapers.. 10,
From other newspapers, magazines................................... 11,
I do not want information about the European Union **(SPONTANEOUS)**.. 12,
None of these ways **(SPONTANEOUS)**................................. 13,
DK... 14,

ASK ALL

Q.7. Which of the following sources of information about the European Union do you find useful? **(SHOW CARD 'Q.7'- READ OUT - MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)**

Meetings...197 1,
Discussions with relatives, friends, colleagues........2,
Daily newspapers.......................................3,•
Other newspapers, magazines............................4,
Television...5,*
Radio..6,
The Internet...7,
Books, brochures, information leaflets.................8,
CD-Rom...9,

European Union information on notice boards in libraries, town halls, railway stations, post offices 10,
European Union information offices, Euro-info Centres, Euro-info Points, Euro-libraries, etc 11,
National or regional government information offices 12,
Trade Unions or professional associations 13,
Other organisations (consumer organisations, etc.) 14,
A member of European Parliament or a member of The Dail 15,
Other **(SPONTANEOUS)** 16,
Never look for such information, not interested **(SPONTANEOUS)** 17,
DK 18,

Q.8. **(IF "TELEVISION", CODE 5* AT Q.7)**
a) Do you think that the news about the European Union presented on television is very informative, fairly informative, not very informative or not at all informative?

(IF "DAILY NEWSPAPERS", CODE 3• AT Q.7)
b) Do you think that the news about the European Union presented in the daily newspaper(s) you read is very informative, fairly informative, not very informative or not at all informative?

	VERY INFORMATIVE	FAIRLY INFORMATIVE	NOT VERY INFORMATIVE	NOT AT ALL INFORMATIVE	DK	IT DEPENDS ON THE PROGRAMME/ NEWSPAPER (SPONTANEOUS)
a) On television	215 1	2	3	4	5	6
b) In your daily newspapers	216 1	2	3	4	5	6

Q.9. **(IF "TELEVISON", CODE 5* AT Q.7)**
a) Do you think that information about the European Union presented on television is very objective, fairly objective, not very objective
or not at all objective?

(IF "DAILY NEWSPAPERS", CODE 3• AT Q.7)
b) And do you think that information about the European Union presented
in the daily newspaper(s) you read is very objective, fairly objective,
not very objective or not at all objective?

READ OUT	VERY OBJECTIVE	FAIRLY OBJECTIVE	NOT VERY OBJECTIVE	NOT AT ALL OBJECTIVE	DK	IT DEPENDS ON THE PROGRAMME/ NEWSPAPER (SPONTANEOUS)
a) On television	217 1	2	3*	4*	5	6
b) In your daily newspapers	218 1	2	3•	4•	5	6

Q.10. **(IF "INFORMATION NOT VERY OBJECTIVE OR NOT AT ALL OBJECTIVE ON TELEVISION"), CODE 3* OR 4* AT Q.9.a)**
a) Do you think that the information from television is very favourable, fairly favourable, neither favourable nor unfavourable, fairly unfavourable or very unfavourable towards the European Union?

(IF "INFORMATION NOT VERY OBJECTIVE OR NOT AT ALL OBJECTIVE IN YOUR DAILY NEWSPAPERS", CODE 3• OR 4• AT Q.9.b)
b) Do you think that the information from your daily newspapers is very favourable, fairly favourable, neither favourable nor unfavourable, fairly unfavourable or very unfavourable towards the European Union?

READ OUT	VERY FAVOURABLE	FAIRLY FAVOURABLE	NEITHER FAVOURABLE NOR UNFAVOURABLE	FAIRLY UNFAVOURABLE	VERY UNFAVOURABLE	DK
a) On television	219 1	2	3	4	5	6
b) In your daily newspapers	220 1	2	3	4	5	6

ASK ALL

Q.11. A lot of information about the European Union is directly available from the information services of the European Union. Prior to this survey, had you ever heard of these services?

Yes 221 1
CONTINUE
No 2
GO TO Q.16
DK 3

IF "YES", CODE 1 AT Q.11

Q.12. Have you ever requested any information from an information service
(Euro-info Points, Euro-libraries, etc.) of the European Union in Ireland, either by going there in person, in writing, via telephone or through the Internet?

Yes 222 1
CONTINUE
No 2
GO TO Q.15
DK 3

IF "YES", CODE 1 AT Q.12

Q.13 How many times have you requested information from an information service of the European Union in Ireland?
(SHOW CARD 'Q.13'- READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY)

Only once 223
....1
Twice ....
....2
Between 3 and 5 times ....
....3
Between 6 and 9 times ....
....4
10 times or more ....
....5
DK ....
....6

Q.14. How satisfied were you with the information you received?
(SHOW CARD 'Q.14'- READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY)

Very satisfied 224
....1
Fairly satisfied ....
....2
Not very satisfied ....
....3
Not at all satisfied ....
....4
Never received the information requested **(SPONTANEOUS)** ......
....5

DK ....
....6

IF "NO", CODE 2 AT Q.12

Q.15. Would you be willing to request information from an information service of the European Union in Ireland in the near future?

Yes 225
....1
No ....
....2
Not interested/No need to **(SPONTANEOUS)** ....
....3
DK ....
....4

ASK ALL

Q.16. Have you ever requested information directly from one of the European Union's institutions (European Commission, European Parliament, etc.)?

Yes .... 226 1 **CONTINUE**
No 2
Didn't know you could do this **(SPONTANEOUS)** .... 3 **GO TO Q.18**
DK .... 4 **GO TO Q.19**

IF "YES", CODE 1 AT Q.16

Q.17. How satisfied were you with the information you received? **(SHOW CARD 'Q.17'- READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY)**

Very satisfied 227 1
Fairly satisfied 2
Not very satisfied 3
Not at all satisfied 4
Never received the information requested **(SPONTANEOUS)** 5
DK 6

IF "NOT REQUESTED ANY INFORMATION", CODE 2 OR CODE 3 AT Q.16

Q.18. Would you be willing to request information from one of the European Union's institutions (European Commission, European Parliament, etc)?

Yes 228 1
No 2
DK 3

ASK ALL

Q.19. If you wanted to suggest something to the European Union, how would you prefer to do it? **(SHOW CARD 'Q.19'- READ OUT – ONE ANSWER ONLY)**

By phone/text message 229 1
By e-mail/the Internet 2
By letter/by fax 3
By going to meetings 4

Others **(SPONTANEOUS)** 5
DK 6

ASK a) & b) FOR EACH ITEM IN TURN

Q.20. a) For each of the following, please tell me if you are interested in it,
or not.
b) For which of the following areas would you like to receive more information?

▼ READ OUT	a) INTERESTED		NOT INTERESTED	DK	b) MORE INFORMATION		NO MORE INFORMATION
1. Your rights as a citizen of the European Union	230	1	2	3	231	1	2
2. The origins and history of the European Union	232	1	2	3	233	1	2
3. The aims and objectives of the European Union	234	1	2	3	235	1	2
4. The powers and responsibilities of the European Union	236	1	2	3	237	1	2
5. How the institutions of the European Union work	238	1	2	3	239	1	2
6. The way responsibilities are shared between the national governments and the European institutions	240	1	2	3	241	1	2
7. The Treaties of the European Union	242	1	2	3	243	1	2
8. The common security and defence policy	244	1	2	3	245	1	2
9. The common foreign affairs policy	246	1	2	3	247	1	2
10. Internal market (economy, taxation, etc.)	248	1	2	3	249	1	2
11. Trade policy towards the rest of the world	250	1	2	3	251	1	2
12. Immigration policy	252	1	2	3	253	1	2
13. The European Union's role in the world	254	1	2	3	255	1	2
14. The role of The Dail in the European Union	256	1	2	3	257	1	2

ASK a) & b) FOR EACH ITEM IN TURN

Q.20. a) For each of the following, please tell me if you are interested in it,
or not.

b) For which of the following areas would you like to receive more information?

READ OUT	a)				b)			
		INTERESTED	NOT INTERESTED	DK		MORE INFORMATION	NO MORE INFORMATION	D
15. Loans and subsidies from the European Union	258	1	2	3	259	1	2	3
16. European Union aid policy to developing countries	260	1	2	3	261	1	2	3
17. Humanitarian aid	262	1	2	3	263	1	2	3
18. Transport policy	264	1	2	3	265	1	2	3
19. Enlargement of the European Union to include new member countries	266	1	2	3	267	1	2	3
20. What the European Union can do to protect the environment	268	1	2	3	269	1	2	3
21. What the European Union can do to fight against crime	270	1	2	3	271	1	2	3
22. The consequences of the introduction of the euro	272	1	2	3	273	1	2	3
23. Food safety in the European Union	274	1	2	3	275	1	2	3
24. Health policy in the European Union	276	1	2	3	277	1	2	3
25. What the European Union can do to fight unemployment	278	1	2	3	279	1	2	3
26. Policy towards asylum seekers in the European Union	280	1	2	3	281	1	2	3
27. Common agricultural policy	282	1	2	3	283	1	2	3
28. Cultural policy	284	1	2	3	285	1	2	3
29. Research policy	286	1	2	3	287	1	2	3
30. Education (student exchange programme such as Erasmus, Socrates…)	288	1	2	3	289	1	2	3

Q.21.a) Do you use the Internet nowadays? **(IF YES)** Where do you use the Internet?
(SHOW CARD 'Q.21a'- READ OUT - MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

No, does not use the Internet 290 1,
.... **GO TO Q.22**
Yes, at home 2,
Yes, at work 3,
Yes, at school 4,
Yes, at university 5,
Yes, in a friend's house 6,
CONTINUE
Yes, in a public office or place like a library 7,
Yes, in Internet cafés/cybercafés 8,
Yes, elsewhere **(SPONTANEOUS)** 9,
DK 10,
.... **GO TO Q.22**

IF "USES THE INTERNET", CODE 2 TO 9 AT Q.21.a

Q.21.b) Which of the following items about Europe would you like to find on the Internet?
(SHOW CARD 'Q.21.b'- READ OUT – MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

Information about the European Union 300 1,
Opinions of European Union Commissioners 2,
Opinions of members of the European Parliament 3,
Discussion forums/chatrooms which enable you to give your opinion on various topics 4,
Other **(SPONTANEOUS)** 5,
None of these **(SPONTANEOUS)** 6,
DK 7,

Q.21.c) Have you ever been on Europa, the website of the European Union? **(IF YES)** Do you visit this site everyday, several times a week, once a week, 1 to 3 times a month or less often?
(SHOW CARD 'Q.21c'- READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY)

No, ... 307 1 **GO TO Q.21e**
Yes, every day, ... 2
Yes, several times a week, ... 3 **GO TO Q.21d**
Yes, once a week, ... 4
Yes, 1 to 3 times a month, ... 5
Yes, less often, ... 6
DK .... 7 **GO TO Q.21e**

IF "YES", CODE 2 TO 6 AT Q.21.c

Q.21.d) Why do you need the information you are looking for on this site?
(SHOW CARD 'Q.21d'- READ OUT - MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

For work 308
.... 1,
For studies ....
.... 2,
For personal interest ....
.... 3,

For other reasons **(SPONTANEOUS)**...............................
....4,
DK...
....5,

IF "USES THE INTERNET", CODE 2 TO 9 AT Q.21.a

Q.21.e) What type of information would you like to find on Europa, the website of the European Union? **(SHOW CARD 'Q.21e'- READ OUT MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)**

General information on European Union institutions 313
.... 1,
The history of the European Union ....
.... 2,
Treaties ....
.... 3,
Citizens' rights ....
.... 4,
General information on European Union activities ....
.... 5,
Key issues ....
.... 6,
Organisation charts and contact details ....
.... 7,
Official documents (European Union law, monthly bulletin, general annual reports, European Council conclusions, etc.) .
.... 8,
Journal of the European Communities ....
.... 9,
Latest press releases, communications and publications ......
.... 10
Upcoming events ....
.... 11
Results of latest public opinion surveys ....
.... 12
Statistics ....
.... 13
Other **(SPONTANEOUS)** ....
.... 14
DK ....
.... 15

ASK ALL

Q.22 If you could have a discussion on the Internet with European Union decision-makers, would you do it?

Yes 328
.... 1
No ....
.... 2
DK ....
.... 3

Q.23. How interested would you be in knowing what people in other European Union countries think about the future of Europe? **(SHOW CARD 'Q.23' - READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY)**

Very interested 329 1
CONTINUE
Fairly interested 2

Not very interested	3
....	
Not at all interested	4
GO TO Q.25	
I already know enough about what people in other European Union countries think about the future of Europe (**SPONTANEOUS**)	5
DK	6

(IF "VERY INTERESTED" OR "FAIRLY INTERESTED", CODE 1 OR 2 AT Q.23)

Q.24. How would you like to be informed about what people in other European Union countries think about the future of Europe?
(SHOW CARD 'Q.24' - READ OUT - MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

On the Internet, in your own language 330
....1,
On the Internet, in your first foreign language ....
....2,
On television ....
....3,
On the radio ....
....4,
From daily newspapers ....
....5,
From other newspapers.................. ....
....6,
From magazines ....
....7,
In meetings with people from other European Union countries ....
....8,
Others (**SPONTANEOUS**) ....
....9,
None of these ways (**SPONTANEOUS**) ....
....10
DK ....
....11

ASK ALL

Q.25. How interested would you be in knowing what people in countries which
have applied to join the European Union think about the future of Europe?
(SHOW CARD – 'Q.25' READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY)

Very interested
....34
1 1
Fairly interested 2
Not very interested 3
Not at all interested 4
I already know enough about what people in candidate countries think about the future of Europe (**SPONTANEOUS**) 5
DK 6

Q.26. Do you think that politicians from other European Union countries should express their views more often in the Irish media when they are commenting on problems common to all Europeans, or not?

Yes 342
....1
No ....
....2
DK ....
....3

Q.27. a) Are you interested or not in knowing the contents of the constitution?

b) And the contents of the Treaties of the European Union?

		Yes,	No	DK	There is no constitution in Ireland **(SPONTANEOUS)**
a) Irish constitution	343	1	2	3	4
b) The European Union Treaties	344	1	2	3	

LET'S TALK ABOUT ANOTHER TOPIC

Q.28. Which of the following countries, if any, have you ever heard of?
(DO NOT SHOW CARD - MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

Q.29. And which have you ever been to?
(SHOW CARD 'Q.29'- MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

Q.30. And which do you plan to go to in the next two years?
(SHOW CARD 'Q.30' -MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

Q.31. And with which have you family ties, business or sports contacts, etc.?
(SHOW CARD ' Q.31' - MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

READ OUT - ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM AND BOTTOM TO TOP	**HEARD OF Q.28**	**BEEN TO Q.29**	**PLAN TO GO TO Q.30**	**CONTACTS Q.31**
1. Bulgaria	345 1	359 1	373 1	387 1
2. Cyprus	2	2	2	2
3. Czech Republic	3	3	3	3
4. Estonia	4	4	4	4
5. Hungary	5	5	5	5
6. Latvia	6	6	6	6
7. Lithuania	7	7	7	7
8. Malta	8	8	8	8
9. Poland	9	9	9	9
10. Romania	10	10	10	10
11. Slovakia	11	12	13	14
12. Slovenia	12	12	12	12
13. Turkey	13	13	13	13
None of these **(SPONTANEOUS)**	14	14	14	14

Q.32.a) Which, if any, of these countries would you like to know more about?
(SHOW CARD 'Q.32a' - READ OUT - ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM - BOTTOM TO TOP - MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

(INT: FOR EACH COUNTRY MENTIONED IN Q.32a) ASK Q.32.b

Q.32.b) Which of these areas would you like to know more about?
SHOW CARD 'Q.32b' – MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

READ OUT	**a) Know more**	**Tourism**	**Economy**	**Culture**	**Food & Drink (Gastronomy)**	**b) History**	**Politics**	**Sport**	**Other**	**DK**
Bulgaria	401 1	416 1	431 1	446 1	461 1	476 1	491 1	506 1	521 1	536
Cyprus	2,	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Czech Republic	3,	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Estonia	4,	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Hungary	5,	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Latvia	6,	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Lithuania	7,	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
Malta	8,	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
Poland	9,	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9
Romania	10,	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Slovakia	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11
Slovenia	12,	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
Turkey	13,	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
None of these **(SPONTANEOUS)**	14,	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14

DK	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15

Q.33. a) Which of the following countries would you be interested in going to on holiday?
(SHOW CARD 'Q.33' - MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

b) And in which would you be interested in working or living?
(SHOW CARD 'Q.33' AGAIN - MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

c) And which would you be interested in going to study in?
(SHOW CARD 'Q.33' AGAIN - MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

d) And in which would you be interested in having business contacts?
(SHOW CARD 'Q.33' AGAIN - MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

READ OUT - ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM AND BOTTOM TO TOP ▼	**HOLIDAY a)**	**WORKING/LIVING b)**	**STUDY c)**	**BUSINESS d)**
Bulgaria	551 1,	566 1,	581 1,	596 1,
Cyprus	2,	2,	2,	2,
Czech Republic	3,	3,	3,	3,
Estonia	4,	4,	4,	4,
Hungary	5,	5,	5,	5,
Latvia	6,	6,	6,	6,
Lithuania	7,	7,	7,	7,
Malta	8,	8,	8,	8,
Poland	9,	9,	9,	9,
Romania	10,	10,	10,	10,
Slovakia	11,	11,	11,	11,
Slovenia	12,	12,	12,	12,
Turkey	13,	13,	13,	13,
None of these **(SPONTANEOUS)**	14,	14,	14,	14,
DK	15,	15,	15,	15,

Q.34. And, which of these countries do you think are candidates to join the European Union? **(SHOW CARD 'Q.34' - ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM AND BOTTOM
TO TOP - READ OUT - MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)**

Bulgaria 611
.... 1,
Cyprus ....
.... 2,
Czech Republic ....
.... 3,
Estonia ....
.... 4,
Hungary ....
.... 5,
Latvia ....
.... 6,
Lithuania ....
.... 7,
Malta ....
.... 8,

Poland 9,
Romania 10
Slovakia 11
Slovenia 12
Turkey 13
None of these **(SPONTANEOUS)** 14
DK 15

Q.35. How well informed do you feel about enlargement, that is new countries joining the European Union? Do you feel...?
(SHOW CARD 'Q.35'- READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY)

626

Very well informed 1
Well informed 2
Not very well informed 3
Not at all well informed 4
DK 5

Q.36.a) Have you recently read, seen or been told about enlargement? **(IF YES)** From which sources?
(SHOW CARD 'Q.36a'- READ OUT – MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

627

No, not read, seen nor been told anything 1,
Yes, meetings 2,
Yes, discussions with relatives, friends, colleagues 3,
Yes, daily newspapers 4,
Yes, other newspapers, magazines 5,
Yes, television 6,
Yes, radio 7,
Yes, the Internet 8,
Yes, books, brochures, information leaflets 9,
Yes, CD-Rom 10
Yes, European information on notice boards in libraries, town halls, railway stations, post offices.................. 11
Yes, European Union information offices, Euro-info Centres, Euro-info Points, Euro-libraries, etc 12
Yes, national or regional government information offices 13
Yes, trade unions or professional associations 14
Yes, other organisations (consumer organisations, etc.) 15
Yes, member of European Parliament or a member of The Dail .. 16
Yes, other **(SPONTANEOUS)** 17
DK 18

IF "YES, HAVE READ, SEEN OR BEEN TOLD ABOUT ENLARGEMENT", CODE 2 TO 17 AT Q.36.a - OTHERS GO TO Q.37

Q.36.b) How do you prefer to get information about enlargement? **(SHOW CARD 'Q.36b'- READ OUT - MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)**

Meetings 645
.... 1,
Discussions with relatives, friends, colleagues ....
.... 2,
Daily newspapers ....
.... 3,
Other newspapers, magazines ....
.... 4,
Television ....
.... 5,
Radio ....
.... 6,
The Internet ....
.... 7,
Books, brochures, information leaflets ....
.... 8,
CD-Rom ....
.... 9,
European Union information on notice boards in libraries, town halls, railway stations, post offices ....
.... 10
European Union information offices, Euro-info Centres, Euro-info Points, Euro-libraries, etc ....
.... 11
National or regional government information offices ....
.... 12
Trade unions or professional associations ....
.... 13
Other organisations (consumer organisations, etc.) ....
.... 14
A member of European Parliament or a member of The Dail .....
.... 15
Other **(SPONTANEOUS)** ....
.... 16
Never look for such information, not interested **(SPONTANEOUS)**
.... 17
DK ....
.... 18

ASK ALL

Q.37. How much do you feel you are participating in the political debate about enlargement? **(SHOW CARD 'Q.37' - READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY)**

A great deal 663 1
Somewhat 2
Not very much 3
Not at all 4
DK 5

Q.38. Which of these 3 options do you prefer for the immediate future of the European Union? **(SHOW CARD 'Q.38'- READ OUT – ONE ANSWER ONLY)**

The European Union should be enlarged to include all the countries wishing to join	664	1
The European Union should be enlarged to include only some of the countries wishing to join		2
The European Union should not be enlarged to include any additional countries		3
None of these **(SPONTANEOUS)**		4
DK		5

Q.39.a) Which one of the current member countries do you think will benefit
most from the enlargement of the European Union?
(SHOW CARD 'Q.39a' - READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY - ROTATE)

665-666

Belgium	01	CONTINUE
Denmark	02	
Germany	03	
Greece	04	
Spain	05	
France	06	
Ireland	07	
Italy	08	
Luxembourg	09	
Netherlands	10	
Austria	11	
Portugal	12	
Finland	13	
Sweden	14	
United Kingdom	15	
None of these **(SPONTANEOUS)**	16	GO TO Q.40.a
All of them **(SPONTANEOUS)**	17	
DK	18	

ASK IF 01-15 CODED AT Q.39.a

Q.39.b) Why do you think **(NAME COUNTRY FROM Q.39.a)** will benefit most from the enlargement of the European Union?
(SHOW CARD '39b'- READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY)

667

It is a powerful country in the European Union	1
It is in a good geographical position	2
Its economy will benefit from enlargement	3
Its tourism will develop	4
It will receive more European Union funds	5
New jobs will be created in this country	6
It will learn a lot from other cultures	7
Other reasons **(SPONTANEOUS)**	8
DK	9

ASK ALL

Q.40.a) After new countries have joined the European Union, do you think that,
generally speaking, your day to day life will be better, worse or about
the same as it is today?

Better 668 1*
GO TO Q.40.b
Worse .... 2•
GO TO Q.40.c
About the same 3
GO TO Q.40.d
DK 4

IF "BETTER", CODE 1* AT Q.40.a

Q.40.b) Is that because...? **(SHOW CARD 'Q.40b'- READ OUT – MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)**

There will be more countries to visit and to go on holiday to	669	1,
The risk of armed conflicts on our continent will be lower ..		2,
There will be better economic prospects in a bigger market ..		3,
There will be better employment prospects		4,
Cultural life will be richer and more varied		5,
It will be easier to fight against organised crime		6,
There will be less drug trafficking		7,
It will be easier to prevent immigration from outside of the European Union		8,
It will give the European Union a stronger voice in the world		9,
Easier to travel, no passports needed		10
Tourism will develop		11
There will be less taxes		12
My personal financial situation will improve		13
We will learn more about new countries, about our neighbours		14
The environment will be better protected		15
Other reasons **(SPONTANEOUS)**		16
DK		17

IF "WORSE", CODE 2• AT Q.40.a

Q.40.c) Is that because ...? **(SHOW CARD 'Q.40c'- READ OUT - MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)**

There will be a risk of unfair competition from new members .	686	1,
The costs of funding new members will be too high		2,
The value of the euro will fall		3,
There will be more unemployment		4,
There will be more organised crime		5,
There will be more drug trafficking		6,
There will be more people from new member states looking for work in Ireland		7,
There will be more illegal immigrants from outside the European Union		8,
There will be problems caused by people in the European Union being too different to get along with each other		9,
Our language will be used less and less		10,
There will be a loss of our national identity and culture ..		11,
There will be less European Union funds allocated to Ireland		12,
Prices will rise		13,
Taxes will rise		14,
Smaller countries will lose out		15,
The quality of food products will be poorer		16,
The environment will suffer		17,
My statutory entitlements (social welfare, holidays, maternity leave, etc.) will be reduced		18,
It will be harder to prevent immigration from outside the European Union		19,
Other reasons **(SPONTANEOUS)**		20,
DK		21,

ASK ALL

Q.40.d) After new countries have joined the European Union, do you think that, for each of the following sectors, the situation in Ireland will be...
(SHOW CARD 'Q.40d'- ONE ANSWER ONLY)

READ OUT ▼		**BETTER**	**WORSE**	**THE SAME**	**DK**
1. Agriculture	707	1	2	3	4
2. Industry/manufacturing	708	1	2	3	4
3. Financial sector, banks, insurance companies	709	1	2	3	4
4. Trade	710	1	2	3	4
5. Tourism	711	1	2	3	4
6. Transport	712	1	2	3	4
Other sectors **(SPONTANEOUS)**	713	1	2	3	4

PUNCHER NOTE: NO COL NO. 714

Q.41. Do you personally think that the process of new countries joining the European Union should be sped up, slowed down or stay as it is?

Sped up 715
.... 1
Slowed down ....
.... 2
Stay as it is ....
.... 3
DK ....
.... 4

Q.42. For each of the following, do you think it is very important, fairly important, not very important or not at all important in deciding whether a particular country is ready to join the European Union?
(SHOW CARD 'Q.42' WITH SCALE)

READ OUT ▼		**VERY IMPORTANT**	**FAIRLY IMPORTANT**	**NOT VERY IMPORTANT**	**NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT**	**DK**
1. The country has to respect human rights and the principles of democracy	716	1	2	3	4	5
2. Its economic development has to be close to our level	717	1	2	3	4	5
3. It has to accept all European Union rules	718	1	2	3	4	5
4. Its joining should not be costly for existing member countries	719	1	2	3	4	5
5. It has to be actively committed to fighting organised crime and drug trafficking	720	1	2	3	4	5
6. It has to be actively committed to protecting the environment	721	1	2	3	4	5

7. It has to be able to pay its share of the European Union budget	722	1	2	3	4	5

Q.43. Do you tend to agree or tend to disagree with each of the following statements?

READ OUT - ROTATE ▼	TEND TO AGREE		TEND TO DISAGREE	DK
1. Enlargement unites our continent	723	1	2	3
2. Enlargement secures peace in Europe	724	1	2	3
3. Enlargement will help eliminate armed conflicts in Europe	725	1	2	3
4. Enlargement will help to fight against terrorism	726	1	2	3
5. Enlargement will favour economic growth	727	1	2	3
6. Enlargement will help to create more jobs in Ireland	728	1	2	3
7. Enlargement will help to increase people's quality of life in Ireland	729	1	2	3
8. Benefits derived from enlargement will outweigh disadvantages	730	1	2	3
9. If our government is in favour of it, it means that enlargement is a good thing	731	1	2	3
10. Enlargement will make the European Union stronger politically	732	1	2	3
11. Enlargement will help new member countries to reach the European Union level of economic development	733	1	2	3
12. Enlargement will make the European Union work better	734	1	2	3

Q.44. European Union enlargement will have consequences for the economy and for everyday life. For each of the following statements, please tell me if you tend to agree or to disagree.

READ OUT ▼	TEND TO AGREE		TEND TO DISAGREE	DK
1. There will be a greater variety of products in the shops	735	1	2	3
2. Companies in Ireland will benefit from enlargement	736	1	2	3
3. Ireland will make itself better heard in the world	737	1	2	3
4. There will be stronger guarantees on the quality of food products	738	1	2	3
5. The environment in Ireland will be better protected	739	1	2	3
6. It will be easier for citizens of other European Union member states to settle in Ireland	740	1	2	3
7. The European Union will be stronger than the United States	741	1	2	3
8. The European Union will be closer to its citizens	742	1	2	3
9. Relations between Russia and the				

European Union will be better	743	1	2	3

Q.45.a) Do you think that European Union enlargement will lead to a significant number or a limited number of people moving from new member states to Ireland?

A significant number, ... 744 1 **GO TO Q.45b**
A limited number, ... 2 **GO TO 47a**
DK 3

IF "SIGNIFICANT NUMBER", CODE 1 AT Q.45.a

Q.45.b) Do you think this is rather positive or rather negative?

Positive, ... 745 1 **GO TO Q.45.c**
Negative, ... 2 **GO TO Q.45.d**
DK .... 3 **GO TO Q.47.a**

IF "POSITIVE", CODE 1 AT Q.45.b

Q.45.c) Why? **(SHOW CARD 'Q.45c' - READ OUT - MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE**

We can share our prosperity with them 746 1,
There have to be equal opportunities for all................. 2,
There will be more young people, more births................. 3,
There will be more skilled, motivated workers................ 4,
It will create jobs, employment............................. 5,
It will be good for Ireland's economy 6,
It will be good for Ireland's tourism development........... 7,
They will come to do what the people from Ireland don't want to do, take the jobs we don't want 8,
Ireland will benefit from it from a cultural point of view.. 9,
Other reasons **(SPONTANEOUS)**................................ 10
DK.. 11

IF "NEGATIVE", CODE 2 AT Q.45.b

Q.45.d) Why? **(SHOW CARD 'Q.45d'- READ OUT - MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE**

Economic prospects will definitely be worse 757 1,
It is too expensive, we don't have the money to help them 2,

The black economy will get bigger, there will be more people doing nixers 3,
There will be more social problems/more homeless people/our standard of living will go down 4,
Crime will increase 5,
Unemployment will increase 6,
There are already too many people in Ireland 7,
There are already too many immigrants in Ireland 8,
Foreigners will accept lower salaries 9,
Some will abuse the social welfare system 10
There will be a shortage of housing 11
Racism and intolerance will increase 12
We will lose our cultural identity 13
We should help them manage their own country, so they stay there 14
We should first strengthen Europe 15
Other reasons **(SPONTANEOUS)** 16
DK 17

INTERVIEWER: THERE IS NO. Q.46

PUNCHER NOTE: NO COLS. 774-786

ASK ALL

LET'S TALK ABOUT ANOTHER TOPIC

Q.47. People may feel different degrees of attachment to their town or village, to their region, to their country or to the European Union. Please tell me how attached you feel...

a) to your city/town/village? **(SHOW CARD 'Q.47' WITH SCALE)**
b) to your region? **(SHOW CARD 'Q.47' AGAIN)**
c) to Ireland? **(SHOW CARD 'Q.47' AGAIN)**
d) to the European Union? **(SHOW CARD 'Q.47' AGAIN)**

READ OUT ▼	**VERY ATTACHED**	**FAIRLY ATTACHED**	**NOT VERY ATTACHED**	**NOT AT ALL ATTACHED**	**DK**
a) your city/town/village	787 1	2	3	4	5
b) your region	788 1	2	3	4	5
c) Ireland	789 1	2	3	4	5
d) the European Union	790 1	2	3	4	5

Q.48. Which of the following do you think should be responsible for communicating information about the European Union and its activities? You may give several answers.
(SHOW CARD 'Q.48' - READ OUT - MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

European Union institutions 791
....1,
The Irish government ....
....2,
Regional/local government/ authorities ....
....3,
Members of the European Parliament ....
....4,
The media ....
....5,
Trade unions ....
....6,
Other bodies ....
....7,
DK ....
....8,

Q.49. What is your opinion on each of the following statements? Please tell me for each statement, whether you are for it or against it.

READ OUT – ROTATE		FOR	AGAINST	DK
1. There has to be a European Monetary Union with one single currency, the euro	799	1	2	3
2. The member states of the European Union should have one common foreign policy towards countries outside the European Union	800	1	2	3
3. The European Union member states should have a common defence and security policy	801	1	2	3
4 The European Union should be enlarged to include new countries	802	1	2	3
5. The European Union should be responsible for matters that cannot be effectively handled by national, regional and local governments	803	1	2	3
6. The President of the European Commission and the European Commissioners should have the support of a majority in the European Parliament. Otherwise, they should resign	804	1	2	3
7. Children should be taught at school about the way European Union institutions work	805	1	2	3

Q.49. What is your opinion on each of the following statements? Please tell me for each statement, whether you are for it or against it.

READ OUT – ROTATE		FOR	AGAINST	DK
1. A European Monetary Union with one single currency, the euro	799	1	2	3
2. One common foreign policy among the member states of the European Union, towards other countries	800	1	2	3
3. A common defence and security policy among the European Union member states	801	1	2	3
4. The enlargement of the European Union to include	802	1	2	3
5. The European Union being responsible for matters that cannot be effectively handled by national, regional and local governments	803	1	2	3
6. The resignation of the President of the European Commission and the European Commissioners if they do not have the support of a majority of the European Parliament	804	1	2	3
7. Teaching school children about the way European institutions work	805	1	2	3

Q.50. For each of the following areas, do you think action taken by the European Union is, or would be very effective, fairly effective, not very effective or not at all effective? **(SHOW CARD - 'Q.50' WITH SCALE – ONE ANSWER ONLY)**

READ OUT		**VERY EFFECTIVE**	**FAIRLY EFFECTIVE**	**NOT VERY EFFECTIVE**	**NOT AT ALL EFFECTIVE**	**DK**
1. Welcoming new member countries	806	1	2	3	4	5
2. Getting closer to European citizens, for example by giving them more information about the European union, its policies and its institutions	807	1	2	3	4	5
3. Successfully implementing the single European currency, the euro	808	1	2	3	4	5
4. Fighting poverty and social exclusion	809	1	2	3	4	5
5. Protecting the environment	810	1	2	3	4	5
6. Guaranteeing the quality of food products	811	1	2	3	4	5
7. Protecting consumers and guaranteeing the quality of other products	812	1	2	3	4	5
8. Fighting unemployment	813	1	2	3	4	5
9. Reforming the institutions of the European Union and the way they work	814	1	2	3	4	5
10. Fighting organised crime and drug trafficking	815	1	2	3	4	5
11. Asserting the political and diplomatic importance of the European Union around the world	816	1	2	3	4	5
12. Maintaining peace and security in Europe	817	1	2	3	4	5
13. Guaranteeing the rights of the individual and respect for the principles of democracy in Europe	818	1	2	3	4	5
14. The fight against illegal immigration	819	1	2	3	4	5
15. Supporting economic growth	820	1	2	3	4	5

Q.51. I am going to read out a list of actions that the European Union could undertake.
For each one, please tell me, if in your opinion, it should be a priority, or not?

READ OUT		PRIORITY	NOT A PRIORITY	DK
1. Welcoming new member countries	821	1	2	3
2. Getting closer to European citizens, for example by giving them more information about the European union, its policies and its institutions	822	1	2	3
3. Successfully implementing the single European currency, the euro	823	1	2	3
4. Fighting poverty and social exclusion	824	1	2	3
5. Protecting the environment	825	1	2	3
6. Guaranteeing the quality of food products	826	1	2	3
7. Protecting consumers and guaranteeing the quality of other products	827	1	2	3
8. Fighting unemployment	828	1	2	3
9. Reforming the institutions of the European Union and the way they work	829	1	2	3
10. Fighting organised crime and drug trafficking	830	1	2	3
11. Asserting the political and diplomatic importance of the European Union around the world	831	1	2	3
12. Maintaining peace and security in Europe	832	1	2	3
13. Guaranteeing the rights of the individual and respect for the principles of democracy in Europe	833	1	2	3
14. The fight against illegal immigration	834	1	2	3
15. Supporting economic growth	835	1	2	3

Q.52. Do you think that Ireland's membership of the European Union is an advantage or a disadvantage when it comes to defending the interests of Ireland?
(IF AN ADVANTAGE) Is it a major advantage or a slight advantage?
(IF A DISADVANTAGE) Is it a major disadvantage or a slight disadvantage?

A major advantage 836
....1
A slight advantage ....
....2
A slight disadvantage ....
....3
A major disadvantage ....
....4
Neither an advantage nor a disadvantage **(SPONTANEOUS)** ....
....5
DK ....
....6

Q.53. Using this scale from 1 to 10, how favourable would you say you are towards the European Union?
If you are not at all favourable, you give a score of 1. If you are extremely favourable, you give a score of 10. The scores in between allow you to say how close to either side you are. **(SHOW CARD 'Q.53' WITH SCALE)**

1 (NOT AT ALL FAVOURABLE)	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10 (EXTREMELY FAVOURABLE)**	**11 DK**
837-838 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11

Q.54. a) Do you think decisions taken jointly in the European Union are generally good or bad for Ireland?
b) And for you personally?

	GOOD	**BAD**	**IT DEPENDS (SPONTANEOUS)**	**DK**
a) For Ireland	839 1	2	3	4
b) For you personally	840 1	2	3	4

Q.55. Do you feel the European Union today is going in the right or the wrong direction?

Right 841
....1
Wrong ....
....2
Neither right nor wrong **(SPONTANEOUS)** ....
....3
Sometimes in the right direction, sometimes in the wrong direction **(SPONTANEOUS)** ....
....4
DK ....
....5

Q.56. a) How much influence do you think Ireland has on decisions made within the European Union? **(SHOW CARD 'Q.56a' WITH SCALE)**
b) And how much influence do you think people like us have on decisions made within the European Union? **(SHOWCARD 'Q.56a' AGAIN)**

READ OUT	**A VERY MAJOR INFLUENCE**	**A MAJOR INFLUENCE**	**A LITTLE INFLUENCE**	**VERY LITTLE INFLUENCE**	**NO INFLUENCE AT ALL**	**DK**
a) Influence Ireland has on decisions made within the European Union	842 1	2	3	4	5	6
b) Influence people like us have on decisions made within the European Union	843	2	3	4	5	6

Q.57. Do you tend to agree or tend to disagree with the following statements?

READ OUT	**TEND TO AGREE**	**TEND TO DISAGREE**	**DK**
1. My voice counts in the European Union	844 1	2	3
2. I understand how the European Union works	845 1	2	3
3. Ireland's voice counts in the European Union	846 1	2	3
4. When ministers from Ireland attend European Union meetings, they represent my views	847 1	2	3
5. Decisions taken in Brussels do not affect me	848 1	2	3
6. European rules are made to suit big business, not people like us	849 1	2	3
7. Most of the laws which affect me are made in Brussels these days	850 1	2	3
8. The biggest countries have most power in the European Union	851 1	2	3
9. The original founding member states have most power in the European Union	852 1	2	3
10. Ireland is more influential in the European Union now than it was 10 years	853 1	2	3
11. Ireland will become more influential in the European Union in the future	854 1	2	3

Q.58. a) Which one of the following do you think has most influence on decision-making within the European Union? **(SHOW CARD 'Q.58' - ONE ANSWER ONLY)**
b) And the second? **(SHOW CARD 'Q.58' AGAIN - ONE ANSWER ONLY)**
c) And next? **(SHOW CARD 'Q.58' AGAIN - ONE ANSWER ONLY)**-

READ OUT ▼	**a)**		**b)**		**c)**	
1. Citizens	855	1	856	1	857	1
2. National governments		2		2		2
3. The European Commission		3		3		3
4. The European Parliament		4		4		4
5. Businesses		5		5		5
6. Trade unions		6		6		6
7. Pressure Groups/Lobbies		7		7		7
Other **(SPONTANEOUS)**		8		8		8
DK		9		9		9

Q.59. a) Which three member states do you think have **most** influence within the European Union? **(SHOW CARD 'Q.59a'- MAX. 3 ANSWERS POSSIBLE)**
b) And which three have the **least** influence?
(SHOW CARD 'Q.59a' AGAIN- MAX. 3 ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

READ OUT	**3 MOST INFLUENTIAL**		**3 LEAST INFLUENTIAL**	
1. Austria	858	1	875	1
2. Belgium		2		2
3. Denmark		3		3
4. Finland		4		4
5. France		5		5
6. Germany		6		6
7. Greece		7		7
8. Ireland		8		8
9. Italy		9		9
10. Luxembourg		10		10
11. Netherlands		11		11
12. Portugal		12		12
13. Spain		13		13
14. Sweden		14		14
15. United Kingdom		15		15
None **(SPONTANEOUS)**		16		16
DK		17		17

DEMOGRAPHICS

D.1. In political matters people talk of "the left" and "the right". How would you place your views on this scale?
(SHOW CARD 'D.1' - DO NOT PROMPT. IF CONTACT HESITATES, ASK TO TRY AGAIN)

	LEFT								RIGHT
892-893	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Refusal 894
.... 1
DK ....
.... 2

NO QUESTIONS D2 TO D3

D.4. If there were a "General Election" tomorrow **(ASK RESPONDENT UNDER 18 YEARS)** and you had a vote), which party WOULD YOU VOTE for?

Fianna Fail.. 895-896 1
Fine Gael.. 2
Labour 3
Workers Party 4
Green Party.. 5
Progressive Democratic Party (P.D.'s).................... 6
Sinn Fein.. 7
Independent 8
Other Party 15
Would vote blank/would spoil your vote 16
Would not vote 17
DK 18
No answer/Refusal 19

NO QUESTIONS D5 TO D6

D.7. Could you give me the letter which corresponds best to your own current situation? **(SHOW CARD 'D.7 - READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY)**

897-898

Married... 01
Remarried.. 02
Unmarried. Currently living with partner............................ 03
Unmarried. Having never lived with a partner......................... 04
Unmarried. Having previously lived with a partner, but now on my own.. 05
Divorced.. 06
Separated.. 07
Widowed.. 08
Other **(SPONTANEOUS)**.. 09

Refusal
(SPONTANEOUS).. 10

D.8. How old were you when you stopped full-time education ?
(IF STILL STUDYING : CODE 00 - GO TO D.10)

899-900

NO QUESTION D.9

D.10. **GENDER**

Male 901
.... 1
Female ....
.... 2

D.11 How old are you?

902-903

NO QUESTIONS D12 TO D14

D.15. a) What is your current occupation ?
b) **(IF NOT DOING ANY PAID WORK CURRENTLY - CODES 01 TO 04 IN D.15a)** Did you do any paid work in the past ?
What was your last occupation ?

	a) CURRENT OCCUPATION	**b) LAST OCCUPATION**
NOT WORKING	904-905	----------
Responsible for ordinary shopping and looking after the home, or without any current occupation, not working	01	----------
Student	02	----------
Unemployed or temporarily not working	03	----------
Retired or unable to work through illness	04	----------
SELF EMPLOYED		906-907
Farmer	05	01
Fisherman	06	02
Professional (lawyer, medical practitioner, accountant, architect, ...)	07	03
Owner of a shop, craftsmen, other self employed person	08	04
Business proprietors, owner (full or partner) of a company	09	05
EMPLOYED		
Employed professional (employed doctor, lawyer, accountant, architect)	10	06
General management, director or top management (managing directors, director general, other director)	11	07
Middle management, other management (department head, junior manager, teacher, technician)	12	08
Employed position, working mainly at a desk	13	09
Employed position, not at a desk but travelling (salesmen, driver, ...)	14	10
Employed position, not at a desk, but in a service job (hospital, restaurant, police, fireman, ...)	15	11
Supervisor	16	12
Skilled manual worker	17	13
Other (unskilled) manual worker, servant	18	14
NEVER DID ANY PAID WORK	------------	15

NO QUESTIONS D.16 TO D.18

D.19 Are you, in your household, the person who contributes most to the household income? **READ OUT**

Yes 908
....1
No ....
....2
Both equally ....
....3
DK ....
....4

NO QUESTION D20

IF CODE 2 AT D.19, ASK

D.21.a) What is the current occupation of the person who contributes most to the household income ?

D.21.b) **(IF NOT DOING ANY PAID WORK CURRENTLY - CODE 01 TO 04 AT D.21a)**
Did he/she do any paid work in the past ?
What was his/her last occupation ?

	CURRENT OCCUPATION	LAS OCCUPATIO
NOT WORKING Responsible for ordinary shopping and looking after the home, or without any current occupation, not working	909-910 01	----------- ----------- -----------
Student	02	-----------
Unemployed or temporarily not working	03	-----------
Retired or unable to work through illness	04	-----------
SELF EMPLOYED Farmer	05	911-912 01
Fisherman	06	02
Professional (lawyer, medical practitioner, accountant, architect, ...)	07	03
Owner of a shop, craftsmen, other self employed person	08	04
Business proprietors, owner (full or partner) of a company	09	05
EMPLOYED Employed professional (employed doctor, lawyer, accountant, architect)	10	06
General management, director or top management (managing directors, director general, other director)	11	07
Middle management, other management (department head, junior manager, teacher, technician)	12	08
Employed position, working mainly at a desk	13	09

Employed position, not at a desk but travelling (salesmen, driver, ...)	14	10
Employed position, not at a desk, but in a service job (hospital, restaurant, police, fireman, ...)	15	11
Supervisor	16	12
Skilled manual worker	17	13
Other (unskilled) manual worker, servant	18	14
NEVER DID ANY PAID WORK	----------	15

NO QUESTIONS D.22 TO D.24

D.25. Would you say you live in a ... ? **(READ OUT)**

Rural area or village 913
....1
Small or middle sized town ....
....2
Large town ....
....3
DK ....
....4

THERE ARE NO QUESTIONS D.26 – D.28

D.29. We also need some information about the income of this household to be able to analyse the survey results for different types of households. Here is a list of income groups. **(SHOW INCOME CARD 'D.29')** Please count the total wages and salaries PER MONTH of all members of this household; all pensions and social insurance benefits; child allowances and any other income like rents, etc. ... Of course, your answer as all other replies in this interview will be treated confidentially and referring back to you or your household will be impossible. Please give me the letter of the income group your household falls into **BEFORE** tax and other deductions.

914-915

B...
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Refusal..
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DK...
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17

THERE ARE NO QUESTIONS D30-D32

PUNCHER NOTE: NO COL. 916-917

ASK ALL

INTERVIEW PROTOCOL

P.1. - Date of interview	**DAY**	**MONTH**
	|__|__|918-919	|__|__|920-921

P.2. - Time of the beginning of the interview	HOUR	**MINUTES**
USE 24 HOUR CLOCK	|__|__|922-923	|__|__|924-925

P.3. - Number of minutes the interview lasted	**MINUTES**
	|__|__|__|926-928

P.4. - Number of persons present during the interview, including interviewer.

929
- Two (interviewer and respondent) 1
- Three 2
- Four 3
- Five or more 4

P.5. - Respondent cooperation

930
- Excellent 1
- Fair 2
- Average 3
- Bad 4

P.6. - Size of locality

931
- Less than 2,000 people 1
- 2,001 - 20,000 people 2
- 20,001 - 100,000 people 3
- 100,001 people and more 4

PUNCHER NOTE: NO COL. 932

P.7. - Region

Donegal	933	1
North West (Sligo, Leitrim)		2
North East (Cavan, Monaghan, Louth)		3
West (Mayo, Galway)		4
Midlands (Westmeath, Roscommon, Longford, Laois, Offaly)		5
East (Dublin, Meath, Kildare, Wicklow)		6
Mid West (Limerick, Clare, Tipperary North Riding)		7
South East (Waterford, Wexford, Carlow, Kilkenny, Tipperary South Riding)		8
South West (Kerry, Cork)		9

PUNCHER NOTE: NO COL. 934

PUNCHER NOTE: NO COL.

935-942

P.9. - SAMPLE POINT NUMBER

								943-950

P.10. - INTERVIEWER NUMBER

								951-958

P.11. - WEIGHTING FACTOR

								959-966

P.12 - Telephone available in household?

Yes 967
....1
No 2