



Directorate General for Communication  
Direction C - Relations with citizens  
PUBLIC OPINION MONITORING UNIT

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## EUROPEAN ELECTIONS 2009

### Standard Eurobarometer (EB 70<sup>1</sup>) - Autumn 2008 First results: European average and major national trends

Population: EU 15+

Coverage: EU 27 (26 618 European citizens)

Date of fieldwork: end October - beginning November 2008

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<sup>1</sup> *"Trend" questions: already posed to respondents in previous EB surveys; compared to EB Standard 68 (fieldwork September and October 2007) or EB Standard 69 (fieldwork March and April 2008).  
New questions: asked for the first time, marked with an asterix (\*).*

## I. EUROPEAN ELECTIONS 2009

### A. Campaign themes

**QD6** For you, among the following themes, which are the ones that the electoral campaign for the next European elections should concentrate on? Firstly? Which others?

CAMPAIGN THEMES	EB 69	EB 70
Economic growth	45%	51%
Unemployment	47%	49%
Inflation and purchasing power	41%	47%
Crime	37%	33%
The future of pensions	32%	33%
Immigration	32%	29%
The fight against climate change	33%	29%
Terrorism	35%	28%
The single currency, the Euro	17%	17%
Agriculture	17%	17%
The role of EU in the international scene	15%	17%
The powers and competences of the European institutions	12%	13%
European values and identity	12%	13%
The preservation of the European social model	12%	13%
Other	1%	1%
Don't know	5%	6%

❖ National variations for the three major campaign themes:

➤ **Economic growth:**

- Citizens are most concerned about economic growth in Greece (79%), Cyprus (76%) and Hungary (71%).
- Citizens are least concerned about economic growth in Denmark (38%), Malta (41%) and UK (40%).

➤ **Unemployment:**

- Citizens are most concerned about unemployment in Greece (87%), Ireland (73%) and Hungary (70%).
- Citizens are least concerned about unemployment in Denmark (26%), Netherlands (28%) and UK (35%).

➤ **Inflation and purchasing power:**

- Citizens are most concerned about inflation and purchasing power in Austria and France (70%) and Germany (62%).
- Citizens are least concerned about inflation and purchasing power in Poland (23%), UK (24%) and Denmark (25%).

❖ Demographic variations:

- Men are much more concerned by economic growth and would like to see it as a priority campaign theme.
- Youngest citizens (15-24 years) are significantly less concerned about economic growth (46% quote is as important theme) but this changes already in the next age group (25-39 years) who is most concerned of all (56%).

## B. Awareness of the date of election and interest

**QD3** *In your opinion, when will the next European elections be held, here in (OUR COUNTRY)?*

	<i>EB68</i>	<i>EB69</i>	<b>EB70</b>
2009	9%	16%	<b>26%</b>
Other	14%	9%	<b>7%</b>
Don't know	75%	75%	<b>67%</b>

**QD3** *Of the respondents who answered with the correct year 2009*

	<i>EB69</i>	<b>EB70</b>
<i>June 2009</i>	4%	<b>8%</b>
<i>Others 2009</i>	9%	<b>18%</b>
2009	16%	<b>26%</b>
<i>Others</i>	9%	<b>7%</b>
<i>Don't know</i>	75%	<b>67%</b>

### ❖ National variations:

- The date of the next European elections is best known in Luxembourg (36% give the correct year and month), Malta (33%) and Belgium (27%).
- Least informed on this subject are the respondents in Finland (only 2% correct answers), UK (3%) and Cyprus (3%).

**QD4** *The next European elections will be held in June 2009. How interested or disinterested would you say you are in these elections?*

	<i>EB69</i>	<b>EB70</b>
Interested	46%	<b>44%</b>
Disinterested	51%	<b>54%</b>

*Interested: sum of answers "very interested" and "somewhat interested"*

*Disinterested: sum of answers "somewhat disinterested" and "very disinterested"*

### ❖ National variations:

- Respondents in Ireland and Netherlands (60%) and Malta (57%) declare to be most interested in the next European elections (either very or somehow interested).
- On the other hand only 19% of citizens in Latvia are interested in them, followed by UK and Slovakia where share of such respondents is 34%.

## C. Voting probability

**QD5** *Can you tell me on a scale of 1 to 10 how likely it is that you would vote in the next European elections in June 2009? Please place yourself at a point on this scale where '1' indicates that you would "definitely not vote", '10' indicates that you would "definitely vote" and the remaining numbers indicates something in between these two positions.*

	<i>EB69</i>	<b>EB70</b>
1. Definitely would not vote	14%	15%
2.	3%	4%
3.	4%	5%
4.	3%	4%
5.	10%	10%
6.	6%	6%
7.	8%	7%
8.	10%	9%
9.	7%	6%
10. Would definitely vote	30%	28%
Don't know	5%	6%
Average	6,6	6,3

**QD5 Extremes on the scale of probability of voting\***

	<i>EB 69</i>	<b>EB70</b>
Would definitely not vote (1)	14%	15%
Will probably vote (9-10)	37%	34%

\*Previous research indicates that only people who evaluate their voting probability with levels 10 and 9 on the 10-level scale are indeed likely to actually show up at the voting polls.

❖ National variations:

- Calculating voting probability as described (answers 1-8 counted as low probability and 9-10 as high probability) it is highest in Belgium where voting is compulsory (61%), Netherlands (58%) and Denmark (57%).
- According to the same criteria voting probability is lowest in Portugal (76% are not likely to vote), UK and Austria (75%).

**II. IDENTITY AND CITIZENSHIP, EU TODAY AND TOMORROW, VALUES, POLICIES, PRIORITIES, THE MEANING OF THE BUILDING OF EUROPE, SUPPORT, MEMBERSHIP PERCEPTION AND EVALUATION**

**A. Citizenship and identity**

**\*QD20 Which of the following elements would strengthen the most your feeling about being a European citizen?**

	<b>EB70</b>
A European social welfare system harmonised between the Member States (health, pensions, etc.)	39%
A community action service to fight European and international natural disasters	24%
A President of the EU directly elected by Member State citizens	20%
Being able to vote in all elections organised in the Member State where you live	19%
A European ID card in addition to national ID cards	18%
A European civic education course for children from primary school age	18%
European embassies in non EU countries	8%
None of the above (SPONTANEOUS)	8%
A European Olympic team	5%
I do not want to be a European citizen (SPONTANEOUS)	5%
Other (SPONTANEOUS)	1%
Don't know	10%

- ❖ National variations for the three most important elements of citizenship:
  - **A European social welfare system harmonised between the Member States (health, pensions, etc.):**
    - This is most often chosen in Hungary (65%), Slovakia (61%) and Greece (60%).
    - It is chosen as such least often in UK (21%), Finland (22%) and Malta (24%).
  - **A community action service to fight European and international natural disasters:**
    - This is most often chosen in Sweden (41%), Netherlands and Denmark (37%).
    - It is chosen as such least often in Greece and Latvia (10%), Lithuania (12%).
  - **A President of the EU directly elected by Member State citizens**
    - This is most often chosen in France and Luxembourg (29%), Germany (27%).
    - It is chosen as such least often in UK (8%), Latvia (10%), and Lithuania (11%).
- ❖ Demographic variations:
  - Youngest citizens (15-24 years old) give a special importance to European ID card in addition to a national one (the importance of this element decreases with age) and the possibility to vote in elections, organised where they live.

**\*QD21 The European identity can be composed of several elements. In your opinion, which of the following are the most important elements that go to make up the European identity?**

	<b>EB70</b>
The single currency, the Euro	40%
Democratic values	37%
History	24%
The successes of the European economy (European navigation satellite, European airplane manufacturers, high-speed international trains, etc.)	23%
Culture	22%
Geography	17%
The European flag	15%
The European Union's motto: "Unity in diversity"	12%
The European anthem	7%
None (SPONTANEOUS)	5%
Others (SPONTANEOUS)	1%
Don't know	8%

- ❖ National variations for three most important identity elements:
  - **The single currency, the Euro:**
    - Most people define their identity with this element in Belgium (66%), Finland (65%), and Slovakia (63%).
    - It is least expressed in UK (17%), Poland (26%), and Denmark (27%).
  - **Democratic values:**
    - Most people define their identity with this element in Sweden (61%), Denmark (60%), and Germany (53%).
    - It is least expressed in Latvia (22%), UK (23%) and Estonia (26%).
  - **History:**
    - Most people define their identity with this element in Denmark (49%), Greece (44%), and Ireland (38%)
    - It is least expressed in Italy (17%); Lithuania (18%), Czech Republic (18%).

## B. The European Union and the "meaning" of the building of the European Union nowadays

\* **QD16** *Can you tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding the building of Europe?*

	TOTALLY AGREE	TEND TO AGREE	TEND TO DISAGREE	TOTALLY DISAGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE
The EU has grown too rapidly	20%	36%	27%	5%	56%	32%
What brings the citizens of the different countries together is more important than what separates them	22%	50%	14%	3%	72%	17%
At the current time, the EU is short of ideas and projects	11%	31%	31%	7%	42%	38%
The EU is indispensable in meeting global challenges (climate change, terrorism, etc.)	27%	46%	12%	4%	73%	16%

❖ National variations:

➤ **The EU has grown too rapidly**

- Countries with highest shares of respondents who agree are Luxembourg (83%), Cyprus (73%) and Greece (72%).
- Lowest shares of respondents, who agree, are found in Poland (32%), Italy (37%), and Lithuania (43%).

➤ **What brings the citizens of the different countries together is more important than what separates them**

- Countries with highest shares of respondents who agree are Slovakia (90%), Finland (87%) and Germany (84%).
- Lowest shares of respondents, who agree, are found in Italy (54%), Portugal (62%), and Spain (66%).

➤ **At the current time, the EU is short of ideas and projects**

- Countries with highest shares of respondents who agree are France (61%), Greece (58%) and Austria (54%).
- Lowest shares of respondents, who agree, are found in Bulgaria (15%), Sweden (21%) and Netherlands (23%).

➤ **The EU is indispensable in meeting global challenges (climate change, terrorism, etc.)**

- Countries with highest shares of respondents who agree are Cyprus and Germany (87%) and Belgium (86%).
- Lowest shares of respondents, who agree, are found in Ireland (47%), Finland (49%), and Greece (55%).

\***QD17** *In your opinion, based on all the information in your possession, which of these two opinions corresponds the most closely to your own views?*

	EB70
The building of Europe must be pursued	54%
The building of Europe has gone too far, we need to back-track	19%
We should neither go any further in the building of Europe nor back-track (SPONTANEOUS)	16%
Don't know	11%

❖ National variations:

- **The building of Europe must be pursued:**
  - Compared to average, most people agree with this statement in Slovakia (80%), Slovenia (70%), and Poland (75%)
  - Least people agree in Ireland (34%). Austria (35%) and UK (37%).
- **The building of Europe has gone too far, we need to back-track:**
  - Compared to average, most people agree with this statement UK (34%), Austria (30%) France (26%)
  - Least people agree in Bulgaria (4%), Slovakia (5%), Poland and Czech Republic (7%).
- **We should neither go any further in the building of Europe nor back-track:**
  - Compared to average, most people agree with this statement in Luxembourg (31%), Ireland (29%) and Germany (28%).
  - Least people agree in Poland and Bulgaria (7%) and Slovakia (9%).

❖ Demographic variations:

- Men are significantly more convinced the building of Europe should continue.
- Comparing these results by age demonstrates the falling support for further integration with increasing age.

### C. Rejection of the Treaty of Lisbon

*\*QD14 These last months, European media have given a lot of coverage to the European Union, and more particularly to Ireland. On what occasion? Can you tell me what it was about?*

	<b>EB70</b>
Have not read, seen or heard anything on this subject	28%
The rejection of the Treaty of Lisbon by the Irish	16%
Read, saw, heard something, but cannot remember what	13%
The referendum in Ireland (without specifying)	8%
The need to hold a new referendum in Ireland	4%
A halt in the building of Europe	3%
Other	4%
Don't know	28%

❖ National variations:

- If we don't consider Ireland, where the awareness on this topic is logically highest, and if we add all at least partially correct answers together (apart from answers "read, saw, heard something but cannot remember what", "not heard anything", "don't know" and "other" which even in Ireland still make 27% of total), the countries with highest awareness on this issue are Austria (67%), Luxembourg (64%) and Denmark (51%).
- Least informed about the rejection of the Treaty of Lisbon are respondents in Greece where 70% have not read, seen or heard anything about this subject. Most "don't know" answers were given in UK (49%) and Malta (47%).

### D. European Union today and tomorrow, values, policies and priorities

*\*QD12 The European Parliament defends the development of certain policies at European Union level. In your opinion, which of the following policies should be given priority?*

EU POLICIES	EB70
A security and defence policy that enables the EU to face up to international crisis	36%
Improving consumer and public health protection	33%
Combating effectively climate change	31%
A common energy policy intended to ensure the EU's energy independence	30%
A foreign policy that enables the EU to speak with one voice on the international stage	29%
Combating terrorism while respecting individual freedoms	29%
Coordinating economic, budget and tax policies	26%
An agricultural policy that is environmentally friendly and contributes to the global food balance	25%
An immigration policy implemented in consultation with countries of origin	19%
A research and development (R&D) policy that ensures competitiveness and innovation	14%
The assertion of a European social model	11%
Don't know	9%

❖ National variations for three highest priority policies:

- **A security and defence policy that enables the EU to face up to international crisis:**
  - This criterion is most important in Cyprus and Slovakia (54%) and Romania (51%).
  - This criterion is least important in Malta (19%), Slovenia and UK (23%).
- **Improving consumer and public health protection:**
  - This criterion is most important in Cyprus (68%), Greece (56%) and Slovenia (44%).
  - This criterion is least important in UK (29%), Sweden (23%) and Lithuania (26%).
- **Combating effectively climate change:**
  - This criterion is most important in Sweden (72%), Denmark (59%), and Finland (53%).
  - This criterion is least important in Estonia (12%), Latvia (13%) and Lithuania (16%).

❖ Demographic variations:

- Women are much more concerned about consumer and public health protection but significantly less about foreign policy that enables the EU to speak with one voice.
- Young people aged 15-24 find common energy and foreign policy a lesser priority than older groups of respondents.
- The importance of fighting against climate change decreases with age.

**QD13** *In your opinion, which of the following values should the European Parliament defend as a matter of priority? (max. 3 answers)*

VALUES	EB68	EB70
The protection of human rights in the world	58%	53%
Solidarity between EU Member States	36%	36%
Equality between men and women	41%	33%
Solidarity between the EU and poor countries in the world	32%	28%
The dialogue between cultures and religions	28%	26%
The protection of minorities	27%	22%
The abolition of the death penalty throughout the world	17%	16%
Don't know	4%	6%
None of these (SPONTANEOUS)	1%	3%

❖ National variations for three highest ranked values:

➤ **The protection of human rights in the world:**

- This value is important to a largest share of people in Cyprus (82%), Sweden (71%) and Finland (69%).
- It is chosen least often in Malta (39%), Italy (41%) and UK (43%)

➤ **Solidarity between EU Member States**

- This value is important to a largest share of people in Slovakia and Bulgaria (56%) and Greece (52%).
- It is chosen least often in UK (21%), Malta (26%) and Portugal (27%).

➤ **Equality between men and women**

- This value is important to a largest share of people in Sweden (57%), France (54%), Cyprus and Luxembourg (50%).
- It is chosen least often in Italy and Latvia (19%) and Hungary (23%).

❖ Demographic variations:

- Solidarity between EU member states seems to be less important for women than men (33% citations against 40%).
- The opposite is true for gender equality: 29% men find it an important value that European Parliament should defend but 37% women do so.

**\*QD18** *In your opinion, at the current time, what is the main objective of the building of Europe?*

**\*QD19** *And what should be the main objective of the building of Europe?*

MAIN OBJECTIVE	IS	SHOULD BE
To develop the economy and boost growth in the EU	23%	17%
To improve the standard of living of all EU citizens	18%	23%
Maintain peace and stability	16%	17%
To make the EU a major diplomatic player on the international stage	9%	6%
To fight global threats (terrorism, climate change)	8%	9%
To enable European citizens to benefit from the positive effects of globalisation (development of cultural exchanges, new export opportunities for European businesses)*	7%	9%
To promote democracy and human rights in the world	5%	7%
To promote the development of the poorest countries outside the EU	4%	5%
Other answers (SPONTANEOUS)	1%	1%
DK	9%	6%

*\*These objective was presented to the half of respondents in the phrasing: "To protect European citizens against the negative effects of globalisation (relocation of industries and jobs, competition from emerging countries for European businesses).", but as there was no significant difference between the two subgroups the results are added.*

❖ National variations for the three most important objectives as perceived now:

➤ **To develop the economy and boost growth in the EU:**

- This objective is perceived as currently being the first by a largest share of respondents in Sweden (39%), Cyprus and Netherlands (33%).
- It is described as such least often in Portugal (12%), UK (15%), Greece and Spain (18%).

➤ **To improve the standard of living of all EU citizens :**

- This objective is perceived as currently being the first by a largest share of respondents in Bulgaria and Latvia (28%), Portugal (27%).
- It is described as such least often in Sweden (9%), Denmark (12%), and Netherlands (13%).

- **Maintain peace and stability**
  - This objective is perceived as currently being the first in Estonia (29%), Germany (25%), and Finland (23%).
  - It is described as such least often in Romania and Malta (7%), Ireland and Bulgaria (8%).
- ❖ National variations for the three most important desired objectives:
  - **To improve the standard of living of all EU citizens :**
    - The largest share of citizens wishes this to be the main objective in Bulgaria (43%), Slovakia (40%) and Slovenia (38%).
    - It is chosen as such least often in Denmark (15%), Germany and Sweden (17%).
  - **To develop the economy and boost growth in the EU:**
    - The largest share of citizens wishes this to be the main objective in Ireland (26%), Greece and Bulgaria (22%).
    - It is chosen as such least often in Malta (11%), Finland and UK (12%).
  - **Maintain peace and stability**
    - The largest share of citizens wishes this to be the main objective in Estonia (28%), Germany and Finland (26%).
    - It is chosen as such least often in Bulgaria (6%), Romania (8%), Ireland (9%).

## E. Membership perception and evaluation

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

MEMBERSHIP PERCEPTION	EB69	EB70
A good thing	52%	<b>53%</b>
A bad thing	14%	<b>15%</b>
Neither good nor bad	29%	<b>27%</b>
DK	5%	<b>5%</b>

*This question features in the general part of the EB Standard questionnaire.*

- ❖ National variations
  - Membership in European Union is most positively perceived in Netherlands (80%), Luxembourg (71%) and Ireland (67%).
  - The shares of respondents who qualify it as "a bad thing" is highest in UK (30%), Austria, Hungary and Latvia (21%).

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

MEMBERSHIP EVALUATION	EB69	EB70
Benefited	54%	<b>56%</b>
Not benefited	31%	<b>31%</b>
DK	15%	<b>13%</b>

*This question features in the general part of the EB Standard questionnaire.*

- ❖ **National variations**
  - Highest shares of respondents who think that their country benefited from being a member of European Union are found in Estonia (78%), Slovakia (77%), Denmark and Netherland (76%).
  - The highest shares of citizens who believe their country has not benefited from the membership are in Hungary (51%), UK and Cyprus (46%).
  - In Bulgaria, one of the "newcomer" countries, almost one third of the respondents (30%) could not decide weather their country has already benefited or not from being a member state.

## F. Support to harmonisation of several policies.

*\*QD22 Today, each European Union Member State is responsible for its own .... To what extent would you be in favour or opposed to the harmonisation of ... within the European Union?*

	STRONGLY IN FAVOUR	SOMEWHAT IN FAVOUR	SOMEWHAT OPPOSED	STRONGLY OPPOSED	DON'T KNOW	IN FAVOUR	OPPOSED
Social welfare system	19%	45%	19%	10%	7%	64%	29%
Educational system	20%	45%	19%	9%	7%	65%	28%
Taxation system	15%	39%	24%	11%	11%	54%	35%

### ❖ National variations:

#### ➤ **Social welfare system:**

- Most citizens are in favour of this in Slovakia (90%), Hungary (89%) and Greece (85%).
- Harmonisation in this field has least support in Finland (40%), UK (47%) and Netherlands (49%).

#### ➤ **Educational system:**

- Most citizens are in favour of this in Slovakia (82%), Slovenia (81%) and Greece (80%).
- Harmonisation in this field has least support in Finland (41%), UK (48%) and Ireland (49%).

#### ➤ **Taxation system:**

- Most citizens are in favour of this in Hungary (77%), Slovakia (74%) and Greece (73%).
- Harmonisation in this field has least support in Luxemburg (32%), UK (36%) and Finland (37%).

## **III. EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IMAGE; ROLE AND MEDIA RECALL, CONFIDENCE IN EUROPEAN AND NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, KNOWLEDGE ABOUT DECISION TAKING IN EP**

### A. Media recall and general level of knowledge

*QD1 Have you recently read in the press, seen on the Internet or heard on the radio or television something about the European Parliament?*

	EB68	EB70
Yes	42%	44%
No	54%	53%
Don't know	4%	3%

### ❖ National variations:

- The results show the highest media recall about European Parliament in Slovakia (72%), Slovenia (67%) and Luxembourg (66%).
- This media recall is lowest in UK (28%), Italy (34%) and France (38%).

*QD2 In general, do you consider that you are very well, fairly well, fairly badly or very badly informed about the European Parliament's activities? (Answers on a scale 1-4)*

	<i>EB68</i>	<b>EB70</b>
Well informed	24%	<b>23%</b>
Badly informed	73%	<b>73%</b>

*Well informed: sum of "very well informed" and "fairly well informed"*

*Badly informed: sum of "fairly badly informed" and "very badly informed"*

❖ National variations:

- The highest shares of respondents with perceived good level of information about European Parliament are in Luxembourg (42%), Ireland (40%) and Slovenia (34%).
- Citizens of Netherlands (79%), Spain (79%) and Portugal (78%) feel to be least informed about European Parliament.

**B. The image**

*QD7 Please tell me for each of the following words\ expressions whether it describes very well, fairly well, fairly badly or very badly your perception of the European Parliament.*

		<b>DESCRIBES WELL</b>	<b>DESCRIBES BADLY</b>	<b>DON'T KNOW</b>
Dynamic	<i>EB68</i>	45%	35%	10%
	<b>EB70</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>20%</b>
Democratic	<i>EB68</i>	69%	16%	33%
	<b>EB70</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>15%</b>
Listening to European citizens	<i>EB68</i>	42%	41%	17%
	<b>EB70</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>17%</b>
Not well known	<i>EB68</i>	55%	33%	12%
	<b>EB70</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>12%</b>
Inefficient	<i>EB68</i>	32%	43%	25%
	<b>EB70</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>23%</b>
Technocratic	<i>EB68</i>	38%	23%	39%
	<b>EB70</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>35%</b>

*Describes well: sum of answers "describes very well" and "describes fairly well"*

*Describes badly: sum of answers "describes fairly badly" and "describes very badly"*

❖ National variations:

➤ **Dynamic:**

- This is seen as a characteristic of European parliament by large shares of citizens in Slovakia (69%), Greece and Cyprus (64%).
- But much less people agree with this description in UK (22%), Netherlands (25%), and France (34%).

➤ **Democratic:**

- This is seen as a characteristic of European parliament by large shares of citizens in Slovakia (81%), Germany (75%), Netherlands and Poland (74%).
- But much less people agree with this description in UK (45%), Latvia (51%), and Finland (57%).

➤ **Listening to European citizens:**

- This is seen as a characteristic of European parliament by large shares of citizens in Slovakia (65%), Malta (63%), and Romania (57%).
- But much less people agree with this description in Austria (29%), Finland and France (31%).

➤ **Not well known:**

- This is seen as a characteristic of European parliament by large shares of citizens in Finland (68%), Netherlands (65%), and France (60%).

- But much less people agree with this description in Malta (14%), Lithuania (15%), and Portugal (21%).

➤ **Inefficient:**

- This is seen as a characteristic of European parliament by large shares of citizens in Netherlands (55%), Finland and Sweden (51%).
- But much less people agree with this description in Bulgaria (8%), Lithuania (13%), Malta and Romania (15%).

➤ **Technocratic:**

- This is seen as a characteristic of European parliament by large shares of citizens in Greece (67%), Belgium (62%), and France (57%).
- But much less people agree with this description in Bulgaria (13%), Malta (17%), Lithuania and Poland (20%).

**QD8** *In general, does the European Parliament conjure up for you a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image?*

	EB 68	EB 70
Positive	39%	<b>34%</b>
Neutral	41%	<b>43%</b>
Negative	15%	<b>17%</b>
Don't know	5%	<b>6%</b>

*Positive: sum of answers "very positive" + "fairly positive"*

*Negative: sum of answers "fairly negative" + "very negative"*

❖ National variations:

- The general perception of European parliament is most positive in Bulgaria and Romania (57%) and Lithuania (52%).
- The highest shares of respondents with negative perception are in UK (36%), Austria (29%), and Netherlands (22%).

### C. The role

**QA17.1** *And for each of the following European bodies, do you think it plays an important role or not in the life of the European Union?*

	European Parliament		European Commission		European Council		European Central Bank	
	EB69	EB70	EB69	EB70	EB69	EB70	EB69	EB70
Important	75%	<b>74%</b>	68%	<b>68%</b>	60%	<b>61%</b>	71%	<b>73%</b>
Not important	11%	<b>12%</b>	10%	<b>11%</b>	12%	<b>12%</b>	8%	<b>8%</b>
DK	14%	<b>14%</b>	22%	<b>21%</b>	28%	<b>27%</b>	21%	<b>19%</b>

*This question features in the general part of the EB Standard questionnaire.*

- The perception of the importance of the role of each of the main European Union institutions in general remains more or less the same. European Central Bank has gain two points in the share of respondents who perceive its role as important.

❖ National variations:

- Countries in which the share of citizens who see the role of European Parliament as important is the biggest are: Slovakia (91%), Greece (90%) and Luxembourg (89%).
- But compared to EU average the biggest shares of citizens who see its role in the life of European Union as not important are in UK (22%), Germany (17%) and Austria (15%).

**QD10** *Would you personally like to see the European Parliament play a more important or less important role than it currently does?*

	EB68	EB70
More important	48%	<b>44%</b>
Less important	12%	<b>14%</b>
The same (SPONTANEOUS)	22%	<b>24%</b>
Don't know	18%	<b>18%</b>

❖ National variations:

- The highest shares of answers "more important" are given in Cyprus (74%), Greece (66%), Malta and Netherlands (57%).
- On the other hand, the highest shares of answers "less important" are obtained in UK (28%), Austria and Denmark (23%).

#### **D. Confidence in European and national institutions.**

**QA18.1** *And, for each of them (European institutions), please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?*

	European Parliament		European Commission		European Council		European Central Bank	
	EB69	<b>EB70</b>	EB69	<b>EB70</b>	EB69	<b>EB70</b>	EB69	<b>EB70</b>
Tend to trust	52%	<b>51%</b>	47%	<b>47%</b>	43%	<b>42%</b>	50%	<b>48%</b>
Tend not to trust	27%	<b>31%</b>	27%	<b>30%</b>	26%	<b>29%</b>	24%	<b>30%</b>
DK	21%	<b>18%</b>	26%	<b>23%</b>	31%	<b>29%</b>	26%	<b>22%</b>

*This question features in the general part of the EB Standard questionnaire.*

- The trust in European Union institutions remains more or less the same but there is an increase in the share of respondents that do not trust each of the four main institutions.
- European Parliament still has the highest trust of citizens (51%), followed by the European Central Bank (48%).
- At the same time the largest increase in distrust was recorded for ECB (from 24% to 30%).
- The share of respondents who declare they tend not to trust European Parliament has increased from 27% to 31%.

❖ **National variations**

- The share of respondents who tend to trust European Parliament is highest in Slovakia (70%), Luxembourg and Malta (64%).
- On the opposite side, the share of citizens who tend not to trust European Parliament is highest in UK (51%), Greece (41%) and Austria (40%).

**QA12.5** *I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain institutions. For each of the following institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.*

	National Parliament		National Government	
	EB69	<b>EB70</b>	EB69	<b>EB70</b>
Tend to trust	34%	<b>34%</b>	32%	<b>34%</b>
Tend not to trust	58%	<b>58%</b>	62%	<b>61%</b>
DK	8%	<b>8%</b>	6%	<b>5%</b>

*This question features in the general part of the EB Standard questionnaire.*

❖ National variations:

- Trust in national parliament is highest in Denmark (75%), Finland (71%), Netherlands and Sweden (64%).
- The lowest share of respondents who trust their national parliament is in Bulgaria (8%) Latvia (9%) and Lithuania (11%)
- Similarly trust in national government is highest in Finland (68%), Netherlands (66%), Luxembourg and Denmark (60%).
- It is lowest in Bulgaria (only 15% tend to trust their national government), Latvia, Lithuania and Hungary (16%).

## E. Knowledge about the decision taking in EP

*QD11 Would you say that the European Parliament's decisions are adopted above all...?*

	<i>EB68</i>	<b>EB70</b>
According to the interests of the Member States from which the MEPs are coming	41%	<b>34%</b>
According to the political affinities of the MEPs	25%	<b>29%</b>
Both (SPONTANEOUS)	15%	<b>18%</b>
Don't know	19%	<b>19%</b>

### ❖ National variations:

- It is in Netherlands (50%), Czech Republic and Greece (48%) that the biggest share of respondents think that decision in European Parliament are taken on the basis of national interests.
- But in Belgium (44%), Denmark (43%) and France (40%) that much higher than average share respondents know that decisions are taken according to political affinities.