

# EUROBAROMETER 68

PUBLIC OPINION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

## AUTUMN 2007

NATIONAL REPORT  
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY  
SLOVAKIA

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## 1. State of Opinion

The Eurobarometer No 68 survey confirms that a lower degree of satisfaction with the life they lead persists among citizens in Slovakia than in Europe on average. While in the EU27 80% of citizens are very satisfied or fairly satisfied, in Slovakia only 69% of citizens are very satisfied or fairly satisfied with the life they lead. Moreover, in autumn 2007, the first time since Slovakia joined the European Union, the number of satisfied citizens decreased and the number of dissatisfied citizens rose. Although it is not a dramatic shift, it is clear that the period of the rise in the number of Slovak citizens satisfied with the life they lead from the level of 59% in autumn 2004 to the level of 72% in spring 2006 (and also in spring 2007), has been supplanted by a period of stagnation or even decline in satisfaction.

Slovak citizens, so to speak traditionally, tend to assess the situation in their own country in various areas more negatively than is an average assessment within the EU. In autumn 2007, this difference was most markedly in the assessment of the social welfare situation in their country which was assessed as very bad or fairly bad by 49% of EU27 citizens and 74% of Slovak citizens. The employment situation in their country was considered to be very bad or fairly bad by 61% of EU27 citizens and by 73% of Slovak citizens. However, from the point of view of trends, in Slovakia, we can observe a long-term positive development. While, in spring 2005, the employment situation in Slovakia was assessed as very bad or fairly bad by 94% of citizens, in autumn 2007, the figure had fallen to 73% of citizens. The opinion of Slovak citizens on their country's economic situation evolved in a similar manner. In spring 2005, the Slovak economic situation was assessed as very bad or fairly bad by 76% of citizens, in spring 2007, only 42% of citizens made the same assessment. This positive trend turned in the autumn 2007, when a majority of respondents (51%) again assessed the Slovak economic situation as very bad or fairly bad.

Expectations of Slovak citizens for the next twelve months concerning their life in general do not differ significantly from the European average. Improvement of their life is expected by 28% of Slovaks (that is 2 points below the EU27 average), worsening of their life is expected by 18% of Slovaks (that is 5 points above the EU27 average). More interesting is the overview of the trend in the recent years. Since autumn 2005, in Slovakia, a shift from pessimistic expectations towards optimistic or at least neutral expectations could be observed. In autumn 2005, only 29% of Slovak citizens expected an improvement of their life in general, whereas in spring 2007 it was 36% of citizens. However, in the autumn 2007, again, only 28% of Slovak citizens had optimistic expectations concerning their life in general. Slovak citizens are, in comparison to the European average, a little bit more optimistic as regards their expectations relating to the economic situation in their country. An improvement in the next twelve months is expected by 29% of Slovak citizens - 5 points above the EU27 average, while a worsening is expected by 28% of citizens - 2 points above the European average. Also, in the case of this indicator there is a similar (even bolder) trend as in the case of the expectations concerning the life in general. In spring 2005 only 17% of Slovak citizens expected improvement of the economic situation in their country, in the spring 2007 already 40% of Slovak citizens had such expectations. However, in autumn 2007, a sharp decrease of 11 points in optimistic expectations occurred.

Such a trend is surprising, given the macroeconomic indicators of the Slovak economy (the growth of the GDP and the fall in the unemployment rate), which had been widely presented in the Slovak media in summer and autumn 2007, as well as the enduring interest of foreign investors to invest in Slovakia and the prospect for the utilisation of the EU funds gave a cause for rise of optimistic expectations. One of the explanations for this phenomenon could be fears of an overheating of the economy and also fears of negative impacts of some political decisions of the government, which could grow in that part of the population that in the period from autumn 2005 till spring 2007 had a positive perception of the development of the Slovak economy and transferred this positive perception also into the expectations for the next twelve months.

Also, as far as expectations relating to the employment situation in their country are concerned, Slovak citizens are more optimistic than the European average. An improvement in the employment opportunities in their country in the next twelve months is expected by 32% of Slovak citizens - 6 points above the EU27 average. The trend of expectations concerning the employment situation in Slovakia is to a great extent tracing the trend of expectations concerning the development of the economic situation in Slovakia. Improvement in the personal job situation in the next twelve months is expected by only 18% of Slovak citizens, which is 4 points below the European average. As far as the expectations related to the financial situation of the households are concerned, Slovaks are slightly pessimistic in comparison to the EU average. Only 21% of Slovak citizens expect an improvement in the financial situation of their households in the next twelve months, which is 4 points less than European average.

Slovak citizens, in comparison with the average EU27 citizen, have a more positive view on development within the European Union and are less critical about the course of their own country. 49% of Slovak citizens think that the things in the European Union are going in the right direction while in the EU27 only 40% of citizens share this view. In the case of the course of their own country, 30% of Slovaks think that things are going in the wrong direction, while in the EU27, 41% of citizens hold this opinion.

According to the Slovak citizens, the most important issues facing Slovakia at the moment are rising prices\ inflation, the healthcare system, unemployment and the economic situation. Within the EU27, citizens consider unemployment, rising prices\ inflation, crime and healthcare system to be the most important issues facing their country at the moment. Thus Slovaks coincide with the EU average in three out of four most important issues their countries are facing, although in different order and with a different emphasis on individual issues. The greatest difference in the opinion of Slovak and EU27 citizens is in the view on immigration that is considered to be one of two most important issues their country is facing by 15% of EU27 citizens while in Slovakia it is only cited by 2% of citizens. Immigration is, at the same time, one of a few issues (together with terrorism and crime), to which citizens of EU27 are more sensitive than Slovak citizens. There are also clear differences in the views of EU27 and Slovak citizens on the economic situation, healthcare system and rising prices\ inflation.

From the trends viewpoint, the most interesting is the case of unemployment. Starting from the spring 2005 survey, unemployment was regularly cited by Slovak citizens as the most important issue facing their country. In spring 2005, unemployment was identified as one of two most important issues by 59% of Slovak respondents, in autumn 2005 by 49% of respondents, in spring 2006 by 61% of respondents, in autumn 2006 by 44% of respondents, in spring 2007 by only 36% of Slovak respondents and, in autumn 2007, unemployment, for the first time for the period observed, was no longer ranked in first place but in joint second place together with the healthcare system that was also identified by 30% of Slovak respondents as one of the most important issues facing the country. A similar decreasing tendency is in the case of perception of the economic situation as one of the most important issues facing Slovakia. These trends, to a great extent, correspond with the trends of opinion of Slovak citizens on the employment situation in their country, on Slovakia's economic situation, as well as with the trend pertaining to expectations for the next twelve months as far as the national economy and employment situation in Slovakia are concerned.

A special case is the perception of the rising prices\ inflation, which, in spring 2005, was perceived as one of the two most important issues facing Slovakia by only 17% of Slovak citizens. In autumn 2005, the perception increased sharply up to the level of 31% and, in spring 2006, it decreased to 20% and, in autumn 2006 and spring 2007, it stayed at approximately the same level (21% and 19%). In autumn 2007, the number of Slovak citizens, who perceive rising prices \ inflation as one of the two most important issues facing their country has increased to 33% and this issue has become the No 1 issue in Slovakia.

## 2. Trust

Slovak citizens trust the European Union more than EU27 average. 58% of Slovaks trust the Union - 10 points above the European average. Likewise, Slovaks trust the individual EU institutions more than the EU27 average. 70% of Slovak citizens trust the European Parliament most - 15 points above the European average. The second most trustworthy institution of the EU is the European Commission. 62% of Slovaks trust the EC - 12 points more than the EU27 average. The third most trustworthy institution of the EU is the Council of the European Union. 59% of Slovaks trust the EU Council - 15 points above the European average. A majority of Slovaks also trust the European Central Bank and the European Court of Justice. The European Ombudsman is the only EU institution which does not have the confidence of the majority of the Slovak citizens. Only 45% of them expressed their trust in this European institution.

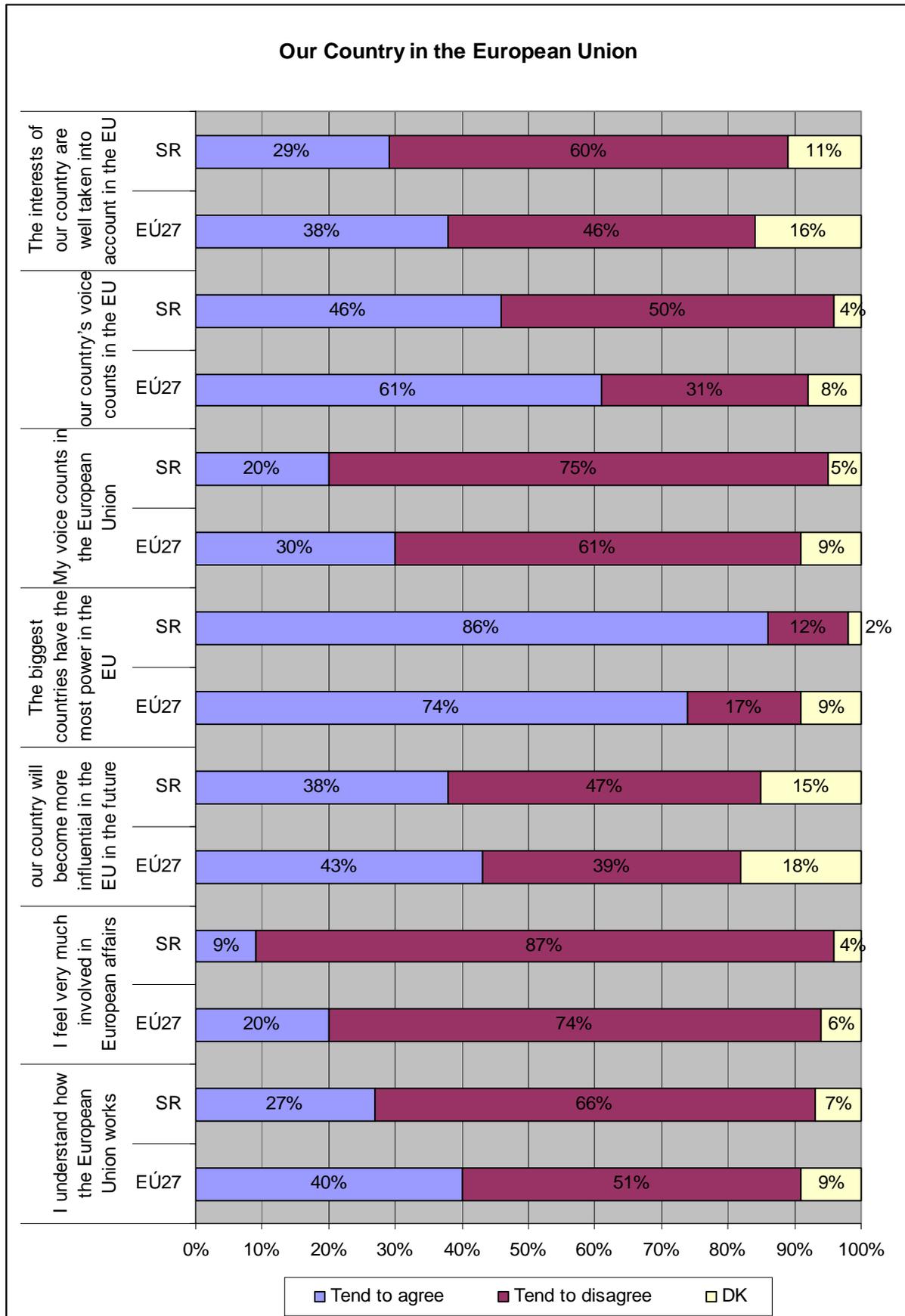
The trust of Slovaks in various national institutions ranges widely. The most trustworthy institution in Slovakia is radio, in which 79% of Slovaks trust - 13 points more than the EU27 average. The second most trustworthy institution is television, which has the trust of 71% Slovak citizens – a figure which is also 13 points above the EU27 average. The third most trustworthy institution is the press. The press is trusted by 53% of Slovaks - 6 points above the European average. There are minimal differences between the opinions of Slovak and EU27 citizens as far as trust in the national parliament and national government are concerned. 37% of Slovaks trust their national parliament - only 2 points above the EU27 average. 40% of Slovak citizens trust their national government - 6 points above the EU27 average. On the other hand, there is a substantial difference in the trust in justice \ the national legal system and another large difference is in the levels of trust of Slovak and EU27 citizens towards the police. The justice \ the national legal system is trusted by 47% of EU27 citizens but only by 27% of Slovak citizens. The police are trusted by 64% of EU27 citizens but only by 34% of Slovaks.

## 3. View on European Union

Slovak opinion regarding their country's EU membership does not differ significantly from the EU27 average. EU membership is considered to be a good thing by 58% of Slovak and EU27 citizens. Only 6% of Slovak citizens - 7 points below the European average - think EU membership is a bad thing. Also, in this case, we can observe similar trends to those in the case of the assessment of the Slovak economy, employment situation in Slovakia, as well as the expectations for the next twelve months. Since autumn 2005, the number of citizens, who consider EU membership to be a good thing has been continually rising in Slovakia. In autumn 2005, 50% of Slovaks had this view on EU membership, in spring 2006 it was 55%, in autumn 2006, it increased to 61% and, in spring 2007, the number of citizens who believed that EU membership is a good thing reached 64%. In autumn 2007, however, we can observe a fall – of 6 points - in the proportion of Slovaks satisfied with EU membership.

The vast majority of Slovak citizens are also convinced that Slovakia has benefited from its EU membership. 70% of Slovaks - 12 points above the European average - believe this. Again, a similar scenario to that described above can be observed concerning the trends. In this case, the number of Slovak citizens who believe that their country has benefited from EU membership had grown since the country joined the Union. In spring 2004, just a few days before Slovakia joined the EU, 57% of the citizens thought that Slovakia would benefit from EU membership. In autumn 2004, already 62% of Slovaks thought that their country had benefited from membership and, until spring 2007, the proportion of citizens holding this belief had risen to 76%. However, in autumn 2007, the percentage of Slovaks with this opinion decreased by 6 points.

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



Only 29% of Slovaks agree with the statement that the interests of their country are well taken into account in the EU. Within the EU27, 38% of citizens hold such an opinion. A majority, 60%, of Slovak citizens does not agree with this statement (in the EU27, 46% of citizens do not agree with this statement). At the same time, only 46% of Slovaks think that their country's voice counts in the EU (in the EU27, 61% of citizens share this opinion) and only 20% of Slovak citizens believe that their voice counts in the European Union (30% in the EU27). 86% of Slovak citizens think that the biggest countries have the most power in the EU (74% in the EU27). Last but not least, only 27% of Slovaks think that they understand how the European Union works (in the EU27, 40% of citizens) and only 9% of Slovak citizens feel very much involved in European affairs (20% in the EU27). Based on these data, the picture of Slovaks is not one of active, elated and satisfied Europeans (as indicated by their answers to questions on satisfaction with their country's EU membership, image of the EU and the benefits of being an EU member), but rather as passive, resigned or dissatisfied Eurocitizens.

Slovak citizens believe that the influence of the European Union on the Slovak economy is predominantly positive. This view is shared by 51% of citizens - 12 points above the EU27 average. Slovaks also believe that the EU plays a positive role in their country in fighting unemployment. 48% of Slovaks - 23 points above the European average - believe this. Slovak citizens are positive regarding the role of the European Union in the area of fighting terrorism (64%, 7 points above the EU27 average), in the area of defence and foreign affairs (59%, 11 points above the EU27 average) and in the area of fighting crime (50%, 9 points above the EU27 average).

46% of Slovak citizens and 43% of EU27 citizens think that the European Union plays neither a positive nor a negative role in taxation. However, it should be noted that, while 18% of Slovaks and 16% of EU27 citizens believe that the EU plays positive role on taxation, 29% of Slovaks and 27% of EU27 citizens believe that the EU plays a negative role in the area of taxation).

Slovak citizens think that the influence of the European Union on rising prices / inflation is largely negative. This opinion was expressed by 49% of respondents - 13 points more than the EU27 average. Rising prices / inflation are the only area covered by this survey in which the negative assessment of the role of the European Union prevailed over a positive or neutral assessment.

Slovak citizens are most willing to give up national sovereignty in the area of fighting terrorism, defence and foreign affairs, fighting crime and immigration. These are the areas in which they would prefer that the Slovak government makes decisions jointly within the European Union. 91% of Slovak citizens (81% in the EU27) think that decisions concerning fighting terrorism should be made by the national Government jointly within the European Union. 83% of Slovaks (67% of the EU27 citizens) have this preference concerning defence and foreign affairs. Fighting crime should be an area of joint decision-making, according to 74% of Slovaks and 61% of EU27 citizens. Solving immigration issues should also be the subject of joint decision-making at EU level, according to 69% of Slovak citizens (63% in the EU27). Joint decision-making at EU level is also favoured in the areas of fighting unemployment, competition, energy and consumer protection. Slovaks are also happy to cede to the European Union the joint responsibility for decision-making relating to support for regions facing economic difficulties. 73% of citizens (9 points above the European average) agree that, in this area, the decisions should be made jointly at EU level. 71% of Slovak citizens support EU-level decision-making in the area of the environment (73% in the EU27).

As far as broader economic topics are concerned, the opinions of the Slovak citizens are not pro-European or pro-integration. The majority (56%) of Slovaks want decisions concerning the economy are made by the national Government, while, in the EU27, 48% of citizens share this preference. It should be pointed out that economic integration and the establishment of a common European market with the free movement of goods, services, labour and capital had been a corner-stone of European integration for decades. Slovaks have expressed a similar view also in regard to the Common Agricultural Policy, which is one of the fundamental European policies right from the beginning of the integration process. A majority (54%) of Slovak citizens want decisions relating to agriculture and fishery to be made exclusively by the Slovak government. Even more Slovak citizens (71%) want decisions on taxes to be made exclusively by the national government. Slovaks also want national-level decision-making in the areas of pensions (73%), health and social welfare (66%) and the educational system (60%).

In general, it could be said that Slovaks are in favour of joint decision-making within the European Union in areas where they think their national government (or other national institutions) do not have great chance of being successful (foreign policy, defence, fighting terrorism, immigration), where the national government fails (fighting crime), in areas in which Slovakia lags behind the more developed EU countries (protecting the environment, scientific and technological research), in areas in which Slovakia has an opportunity to get support from EU funds (support for regions facing economic difficulties, fighting unemployment). However, Slovaks favour decision-making exclusively at national level in those areas in which the Slovak Republic has a comparative advantage (taxation, economy), in which Slovakia is losing out in some way because of common European policies (agriculture and fisheries), or in areas which Slovak citizens deem to be above the European standard (the educational system).

#### **4. Media and the EU**

Public opinion on the European Union, or on its policies and institutions, to a great extent, depends on the information that is available to them. In Slovakia, only 20% of citizens think that people in their country are well informed about European political affairs. It can be assumed that, for the general public, the media are the major source of information about European political affairs. Therefore, the low percentage of respondents who think that people in Slovakia are well informed indicates that Slovaks are not satisfied with the amount of information on the European Union in the national media. However, as the further results of the Eurobarometer survey show, the opposite is the case.

Slovak citizens are, in comparison to the European average, extremely satisfied with the adequacy of the volume of information that the Slovak media provide about the European Union. 63% of Slovaks (24 points above the EU27 average) say that the television talks about the right amount about the European Union. 62% of Slovak citizens (17 points above the EU27 average) say that the press writes about the right amount about the EU. And 59% of Slovaks (24 points above the EU27 average) say that the radio talks about the right amount about the EU. Thus, as far as the appreciation of the adequacy of the volume of information on the EU in the national television and radio is concerned, Slovaks are the most satisfied nation in the European Union. In comparison to the EU27 average, Slovaks are very satisfied also with the objective information about the European Union provided by the national media. Slovak citizens are most satisfied with the objective information provided by radio. 72% of Slovak citizens think that Slovak radio informs them objectively about the EU. 67% of Slovaks share this view in regard to the television and press. Out of those citizens, who think that Slovak media do not inform objectively about the EU, a clear majority considers that the media present the European Union too positively. In the matter of the assessment of the objectivity of the information about the European Union in the national media, Slovaks are the second most satisfied nation in the EU after Belgium.

Concerning the trends, we can observe interesting development in the case of all types of media. For instance, while, in spring 2005, 58% Slovaks thought that radio informed them objectively about the EU, in autumn 2005, this rose to 60%, in spring 2006 to 64% and, in autumn 2007, it reaches 72%. A very similar trend is seen in regard to the assessment of the objectivity of information in the press. In spring 2005, the information about the EU in the national press was considered to be objective by 53% of Slovak citizens, in autumn 2005, it rose to 57%, in spring 2006, to 59% and, in autumn 2007, 67% of Slovaks hold this view. Much the same trend was also observed in the case of the assessment of the objectivity of information on the EU in the television. In spring 2005, 52% of Slovak citizens regarded the information on the EU in television to be objective, in autumn 2005, it was 55%, in spring 2006, it was 59% and in autumn 2007, 67% of Slovaks shared this opinion. Slovak citizens not only appreciate the volume of information about the EU in the national media and its objectivity but, as mentioned in Chapter 2, Slovaks trust the radio, television and the press more than any other national institutions.

## **5. Future of European Integration**

Citizens of the Slovak Republic perceive the future of the European Union predominantly optimistically. This perception had been expressed by 62% of Slovak respondents, which is 5 points below the EU27 average. In comparison to the previous survey undertaken in spring 2007, the proportion of people who have an optimistic view on the future of the EU has decreased by 5 points and the number of those who have pessimistic view regarding the Union has risen by 4 points.

A majority, 63%, of Slovak citizens agree with the existence of the European Monetary Union with one single currency, the euro. Taking into consideration the formulation of the question, the answers of the Slovak respondents cannot be interpreted in such a way, that this percentage of Slovaks agree also with the introduction of the euro in Slovakia or that they agree with the adoption of the euro from the 1 January 2009 as had been planned and as is still officially declared. Therefore, these results cannot be considered to be a negation of the other public opinion surveys that had been done in Slovakia recently, and which have indicated the opposition of Slovak citizens to the introduction of the euro in Slovakia.

A vast majority of Slovak citizens support the existence of the common foreign policy among the Member States of the EU towards other countries. 81% of Slovaks agree with the existence of such a policy - 11 points more than the EU27 average. The high support for the common foreign policy among the Member States of the EU is a long-term phenomenon in Slovakia. Since 2006, we can observe continuous growth in the support for the common foreign policy from 74% in autumn 2006 to 78%, in spring 2007, and, in autumn 2007, support for this policy in Slovakia has reached 81%. There are a few reasons for high level of support for the existence of the common foreign policy among the Member States of the EU, towards other countries. First of all, Slovakia, unlike the big member states, is not an important player on the international field that has ambitions to pursue its own view on international affairs. Also for sizeable proportion of Slovak citizens, foreign policy is not a priority area. Slovaks apparently are also not afraid that because of the common foreign policy they would lose the advantages that come from having an independent foreign policy.

An even larger majority of Slovak citizens supports the existence of a common defence and security policy among EU Member States. 89% of Slovaks agree with the existence of such a policy - 13 points more than the EU27 average. The strong support for the common defence and security policy among EU Member States is also a long-term phenomenon in Slovakia. There are also a few explanations for the high level of support for this policy. First of all, the high support for European common defence and security policy is the low support for Slovak membership in the NATO. As it was seen in the past in Eurobarometer surveys, Slovaks prefer the European Union to be the institution that provides security guarantees to their members instead of the North Atlantic Alliance. The fact that the Slovak Republic is a small country and its citizens are aware that their security can be assured only on the basis of collective security is also a significant reason for the high level of support of Slovak citizens for the existence of the common defence and security policy among EU Member States.

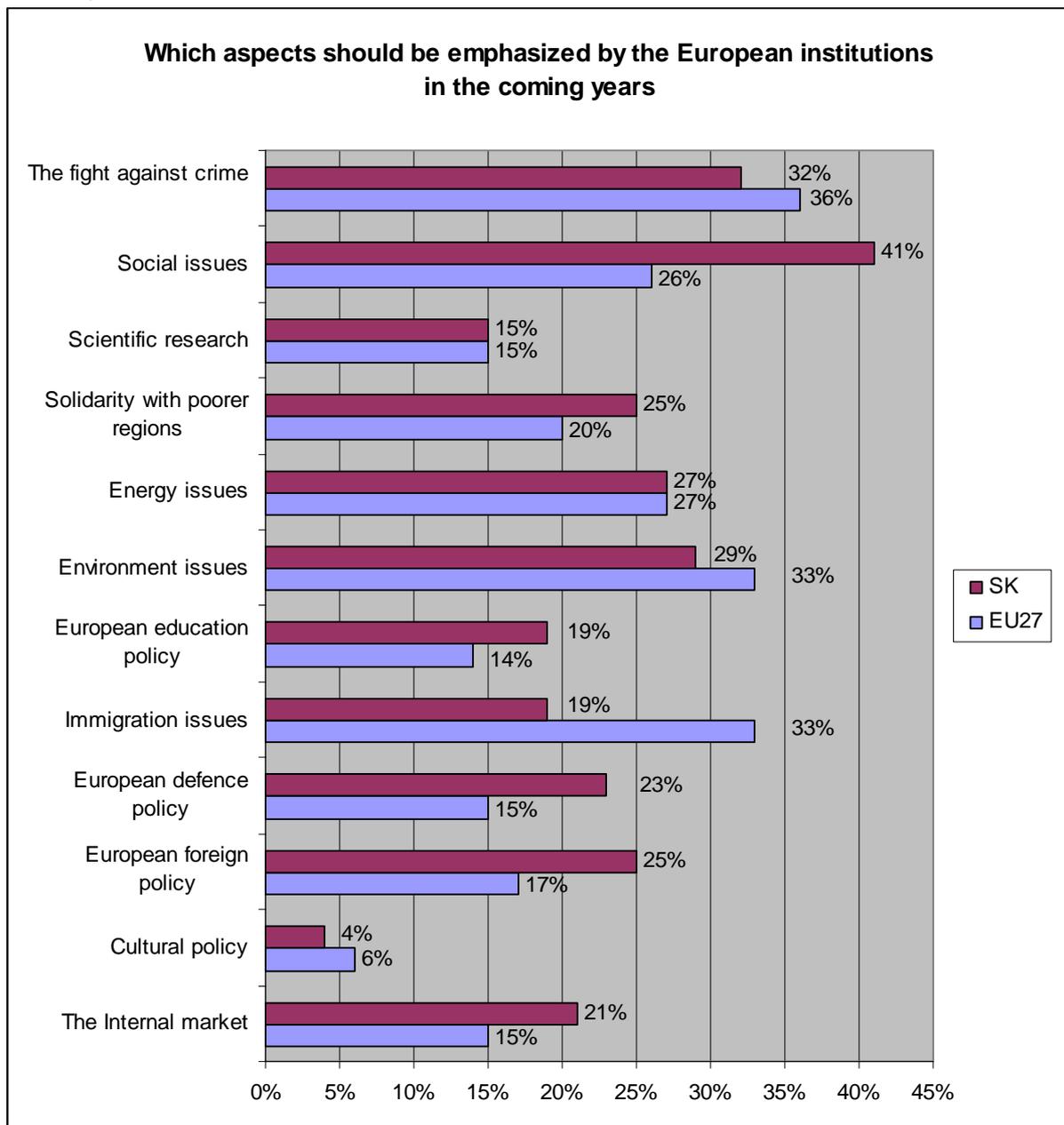
Slovak citizens want the European institutions to focus in the coming years primarily on social issues. This area had been cited as one of the three priorities by 41% of Slovak respondents - 15 points more than the EU27 average. Other priorities should be the fight against crime (32% respondents in Slovakia, 36% in the EU27), environmental issues (29% respondents in Slovakia, 33% in the EU27) and energy issues (27% respondents both in Slovakia and EU27). Slovaks also included among their priorities solidarity with poorer regions, European foreign policy and European defence policy. Within the EU27 countries, the respondents expect that the European institutions should focus particularly on the fight against crime, environmental issues and immigration issues. Besides the social issues, the greatest divergence between Slovak public opinion and that of the EU27 average is in relation to the issue of immigration. The EU27 average is 33% - 14 points more than in Slovakia – of people who think that the EU should focus particularly on these issues.

Clear differences in the opinions of Slovak and EU27 citizens are also seen in the areas of European foreign policy and European defence policy, which for Slovaks have higher priority than for Europeans on average.

In comparison to the survey undertaken in spring 2007, a significant shift in preferences concerning the areas which should be prioritised by the European institutions in the next years can be observed. This shift is most striking in the case of social issues, which, in spring 2007, were identified as priority by only 27% of respondents but, in autumn 2007, the figure reached 41% of Slovak respondents. Increases also occurred in the prioritisation of European defence policy, the fight against crime and scientific research. On the other hand, a decrease occurred in the preferences for the European foreign policy, the internal market and cultural policy.

A majority of Slovak citizens, unlike the majority of the EU27 citizens, supports further enlargement of the EU to include other countries in future years. In Slovakia, further enlargement of the EU is supported by 59% of citizens while the EU27 average is only 46%. Support for the further enlargement of the EU is long-term in Slovakia although pretty shaky.

Question: European integration has been focusing on various issues in the last years. In your opinion, which aspects should be emphasized by the European institutions in the coming years, to strengthen the European Union in the future?



## **“STANDARD” EUROBAROMETER 68 TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS**

Between the 22nd of September and the 3rd of November 2007, TNS Opinion & Social, a consortium created between Taylor Nelson Sofres and EOS Gallup Europe, carried out wave 68.1 of the EUROBAROMETER, on request of the EUROPEAN COMMISSION, Directorate-General for Communication, “Research and Political Analysis”.

The “STANDARD” EUROBAROMETER 68 is part of wave 68.1 and covers the population of the respective nationalities of the European Union Member States, resident in each of the Member States and aged 15 years and over. The “STANDARD” EUROBAROMETER 68 has also been conducted in the three candidate countries (Croatia, Turkey and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) and in the Turkish Cypriot Community. In these countries, the survey covers the national population of citizens and the population of citizens of all the European Union Member States that are residents in these countries and have a sufficient command of the national languages to answer the questionnaire. The basic sample design applied in all states is a multistage, random (probability) one. In each country, a number of sampling points was drawn with probability proportional to population size (for a total coverage of the country) and to population density.

In order to do so, the sampling points were drawn systematically from each of the "administrative regional units", after stratification by individual unit and type of area. They thus represent the whole territory of the countries surveyed according to the EUROSTAT NUTS II (or equivalent) and according to the distribution of the resident population of the respective nationalities in terms of metropolitan, urban and rural areas. In each of the selected sampling points, a starting address was drawn, at random. Further addresses (every Nth address) were selected by standard "random route" procedures, from the initial address. In each household, the respondent was drawn, at random (following the "closest birthday rule"). All interviews were conducted face-to-face in people's homes and in the appropriate national language. As far as the data capture is concerned, CAPI (*Computer Assisted Personal Interview*) was used in those countries where this technique was available.

| <b>ABBREVIATIONS</b> | <b>COUNTRIES</b>                  | <b>INSTITUTES</b>                | <b>N° INTERVIEWS</b> | <b>FIELDWORKDATES</b>   | <b>POPULATION<br/>15+</b> |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| BE                   | Belgium                           | TNS Dimarso                      | 1.022                | 25/09/2007 - 21/10/2007 | 8.650.994                 |
| BG                   | Bulgaria                          | TNS BBSS                         | 977                  | 25/09/2007 - 10/10/2007 | 6.671.699                 |
| CZ                   | Czech Rep.                        | TNS Aisa                         | 1.106                | 24/09/2007 - 15/10/2007 | 8.571.710                 |
| DK                   | Denmark                           | TNS Gallup DK                    | 999                  | 30/09/2007 - 03/11/2007 | 4.411.580                 |
| DE                   | Germany                           | TNS Infratest                    | 1.509                | 24/09/2007 - 17/10/2007 | 64.361.608                |
| EE                   | Estonia                           | Emor                             | 1.012                | 27/09/2007 - 22/10/2007 | 887.094                   |
| EL                   | Greece                            | TNS ICAP                         | 1.000                | 24/09/2007 - 17/10/2007 | 8.693.566                 |
| ES                   | Spain                             | TNS Demoscopia                   | 1.000                | 25/09/2007 - 21/10/2007 | 37.024.972                |
| FR                   | France                            | TNS Sofres                       | 1.036                | 22/09/2007 - 20/10/2007 | 44.010.619                |
| IE                   | Ireland                           | TNS MRBI                         | 1.007                | 24/09/2007 - 21/10/2007 | 3.089.775                 |
| IT                   | Italy                             | TNS Abacus                       | 1.045                | 26/09/2007 - 17/10/2007 | 48.892.559                |
| CY                   | Rep. of Cyprus                    | Synovate                         | 500                  | 24/09/2007 - 22/10/2007 | 596.752                   |
| CY(tcc)              | Turkish Cypriot Comm.             | KADEM                            | 500                  | 25/09/2007 - 16/10/2007 | 157.101                   |
| LV                   | Latvia                            | TNS Latvia                       | 1.006                | 25/09/2007 - 22/10/2007 | 1.418.596                 |
| LT                   | Lithuania                         | TNS Gallup Lithuania             | 1.016                | 24/09/2007 - 15/10/2007 | 2.803.661                 |
| LU                   | Luxembourg                        | TNS ILReS                        | 502                  | 24/09/2007 - 22/10/2007 | 374.097                   |
| HU                   | Hungary                           | TNS Hungary                      | 1.000                | 27/09/2007 - 24/10/2007 | 8.503.379                 |
| MT                   | Malta                             | MISCO                            | 500                  | 24/09/2007 - 18/10/2007 | 321.114                   |
| NL                   | Netherlands                       | TNS NIPO                         | 1.005                | 24/09/2007 - 22/10/2007 | 13.030.000                |
| AT                   | Austria                           | Österreichisches Gallup-Institut | 1.015                | 24/09/2007 - 15/10/2007 | 6.848.736                 |
| PL                   | Poland                            | TNS OBOP                         | 1.000                | 26/09/2007 - 17/10/2007 | 31.967.880                |
| PT                   | Portugal                          | TNS EUROTESTE                    | 1.000                | 24/09/2007 - 21/10/2007 | 8.080.915                 |
| RO                   | Romania                           | TNS CSOP                         | 1.000                | 24/09/2007 - 18/10/2007 | 18.173.179                |
| SI                   | Slovenia                          | RM PLUS                          | 1.009                | 25/09/2007 - 21/10/2007 | 1.720.137                 |
| SK                   | Slovakia                          | TNS AISA SK                      | 1.126                | 26/09/2007 - 11/10/2007 | 4.316.438                 |
| FI                   | Finland                           | TNS Gallup Oy                    | 1.033                | 23/09/2007 - 21/10/2007 | 4.348.676                 |
| SE                   | Sweden                            | TNS GALLUP                       | 1.003                | 28/09/2007 - 21/10/2007 | 7.486.976                 |
| UK                   | United Kingdom                    | TNS UK                           | 1.340                | 24/09/2007 - 21/10/2007 | 47.685.578                |
| HR                   | Croatia                           | Puls                             | 1.000                | 25/09/2007 - 21/10/2007 | 3.722.800                 |
| TR                   | Turkey                            | TNS PIAR                         | 1.004                | 24/09/2007 - 21/10/2007 | 47.583.830                |
| FM                   | Former Yugoslav Rep. of Macedonia | TNS Brima                        | 1.009                | 22/09/2007 - 03/10/2007 | 1.596.267                 |
| TOTAL                |                                   |                                  | 30.281               | 22/09/2007 - 03/11/2007 | 446.002.288               |

For each country a comparison between the sample and the universe was carried out. The Universe description was derived from Eurostat population data or from national statistics offices. For all countries surveyed, a national weighting procedure, using marginal and intercellular weighting, was carried out based on this Universe description. In all countries, gender, age, region and size of locality were introduced in the iteration procedure. For international weighting (i.e. EU averages), TNS Opinion & Social applies the official population figures as provided by EUROSTAT or national statistic offices. The total population figures for input in this post-weighting procedure are listed above.

Readers are reminded that survey results are estimations, the accuracy of which, everything being equal, rests upon the sample size and upon the observed percentage. With samples of about 1,000 interviews, the real percentages vary within the following confidence limits:

|                             |              |              |              |              |              |
|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Observed percentages</b> | 10% or 90%   | 20% or 80%   | 30% or 70%   | 40% or 60%   | 50%          |
| <b>Confidence limits</b>    | ± 1.9 points | ± 2.5 points | ± 2.7 points | ± 3.0 points | ± 3.1 points |