



EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

# How has the crisis affected attitudes towards the euro?

Most Europeans are in favour of a “European economic and monetary union with one single currency, the euro”. Public opinion on this issue has always remained above 50% in favour, though the level has fluctuated between 51% and 67% since the autumn of 2000.

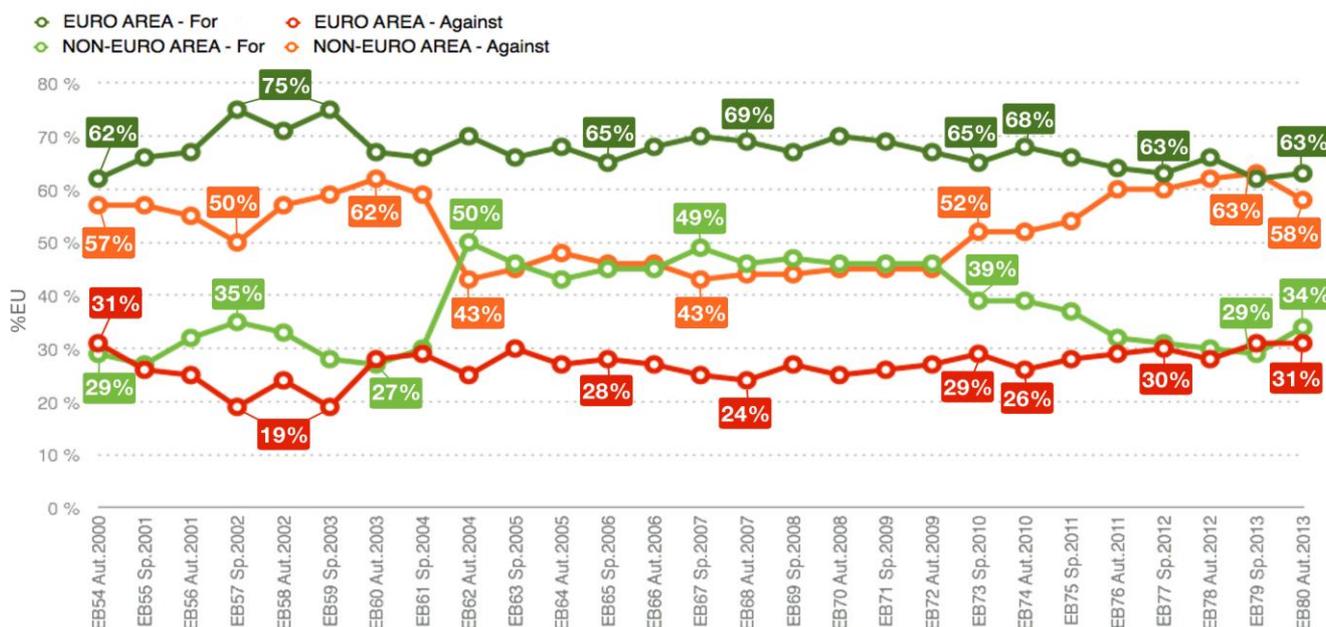
Within the euro area, a strong majority of people have always supported a European economic and monetary union, varying between 62% and 75% since 2000. Positive opinion reached its peak of 75% in the spring of 2002, a few months after the single currency entered into circulation, and again in the spring of 2003. From the autumn of 2009, support started to decrease, most likely as a consequence of the sovereign debt crisis in the euro area.

Please tell me whether you are for it or against it: A European economic and monetary union with one single currency, the euro.

Outside the euro area, three phases can be identified. Between the autumn of 2000 and the spring of 2004, a large majority of respondents were against the euro. Between the autumn of 2004 and the autumn of 2009, people were divided, with a maximum of 7 points between those in favour and those against. Finally, since the spring of 2010, a majority again oppose the euro.

In the autumn of 2013, 63% of the population in the euro area supported the single currency, as opposed to only 34% outside the euro area. The first time this question was asked, in the autumn of 2000, support was similar to what it is now in the 11 countries then constituting the euro area (62% in favour, 31% against), but was lower in the four countries then outside the area (29% vs. 57%). Attitudes towards the euro are highly correlated with attitudes towards the EU overall: the more people support it, the more likely they are to trust the EU, have a positive image of the EU, and feel European.

## Attitudes to the euro remain positive, but have decreased since the beginning of the crisis along with general attitudes towards the EU.





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# Are Europeans in favour of a common foreign policy for the EU?

For a large majority of Europeans, the EU should speak with one voice abroad. In the autumn of 2013, 63% of EU citizens were in favour of “a common foreign policy of the 28 Member States of the EU”.

This opinion has remained the view of more than six in ten Europeans every time this question has been asked since the autumn of 1992 – although at that time, the question was differently worded: “the Member States of the European community should have one common foreign policy towards countries outside the European community”.

Support for a common foreign policy reached its peak in the spring of 2007 (72%) and its lowest point in the spring of 2012 (61%).

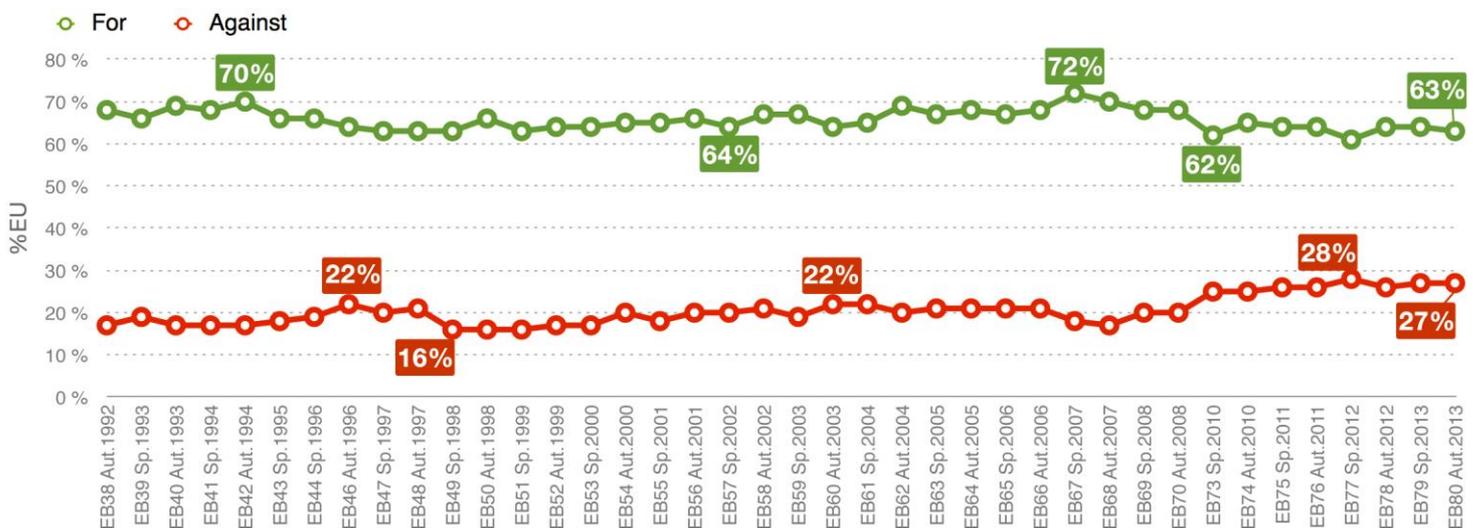
In the autumn of 2013, majorities of people in the Nordic countries and the UK were against a common foreign policy: in the UK and Sweden, opposition has been the majority view since the spring of 2010; for Denmark and Finland, this has been the case since the spring of 2012.

However, a majority were in favour in all other EU Member States, with support at its strongest in Slovakia (76%), Croatia (76%), Bulgaria (75%) and Germany (75%).

Majorities of the population are in favour of a common foreign policy across all socio-demographic groups, suggesting perhaps that Europeans see it as a necessary step in order for the EU to be a leading diplomatic power in the future.

## Yes, and this opinion is shared across most EU Member States and all socio-demographic categories.

Please tell me whether you are for it or against it: A common foreign policy of the 28 Member States of the EU.



Eurobarometer has been surveying the views of Europeans since 1973 and gives a unique insight into how opinions and attitudes have changed over time. Surveys are carried out in all Member States of the European Union.



EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

# Is there a place for a European defence and security policy?

In the autumn of 2013, almost three-quarters of Europeans said they were in favour of a common defence and security policy among EU Member States (73%). This has been the majority view in the EU since the autumn of 1992: support was at its highest in the autumn of 1994 (79%) and at its lowest in the spring of 1996 (60%).

Support for a common European defence and security policy has always been stronger than for a common foreign policy, or for a European monetary union with a single currency, whenever opinions on these policies have been tested together. In all Member States, an absolute majority of people are in favour of a common defence and security policy, with the strongest support in Latvia (87% in the autumn of 2013), Slovakia (85%), Belgium (84%), Estonia (84%) and Luxembourg (84%).

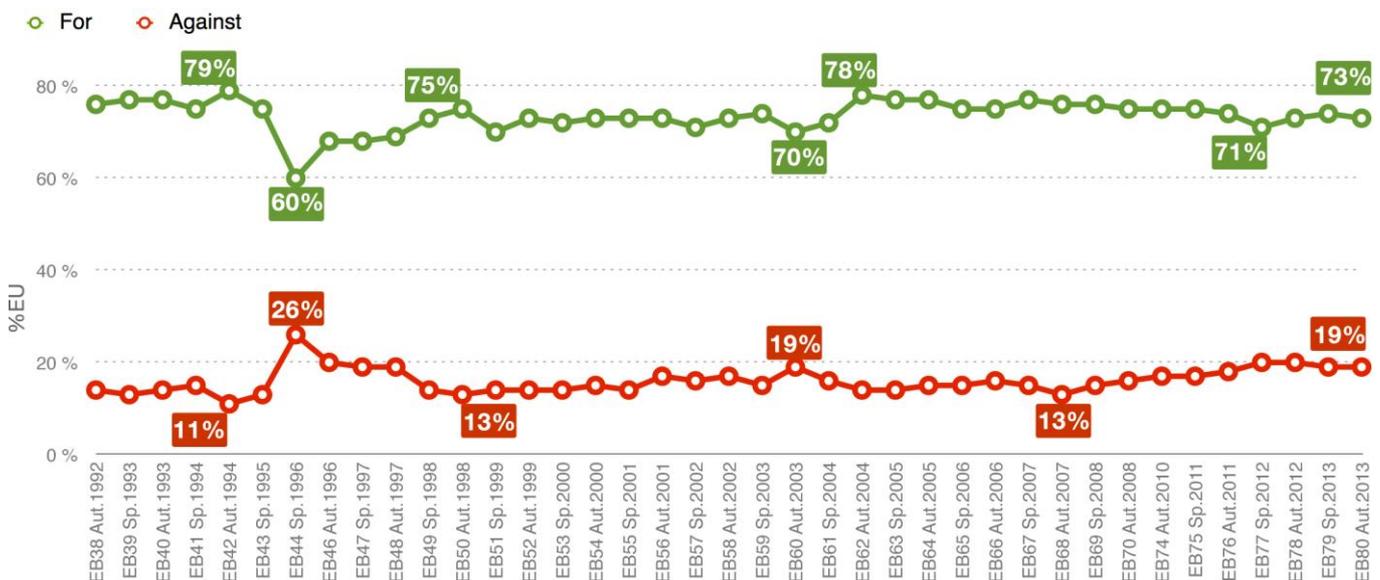
In contrast, support is just above 50% in Ireland (51%) and the UK (54%).

It is interesting to note how public opinion in the three main contributors to European defence spending differs on this topic: whereas support in the UK is way below the European average of 73%, in both France (77%) and Germany (82%) it is higher.

However, defence policy does not seem to be a priority for Europeans in the future. When asked, in the spring of 2012, what aspects should be emphasised by the European institutions in the coming years to strengthen the EU, defence policy (at 13%) came only sixteenth out of eighteen items in a list dominated by “economic and monetary policy” (43%), “health policy” (32%), “immigration policy” (28%) and “education policy” (28%).

## There is strong support for a common defence and security policy, but Europeans do not regard it as a priority.

Please tell me whether you are for it or against it: A common defence and security policy among EU Member States.





EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

# Do Europeans support further enlargement of the EU?

The European Union has changed dramatically since 2004: after three successive enlargements (in 2004, 2007 and 2013), the number of Member States has almost doubled (from 15 to 28), and the EU population has risen from 380 million to more than 500 million. Are Europeans ready for further enlargement?

In the autumn of 2013, over a third of Europeans (37%) supported further enlargement of the EU, while more than half (52%) were opposed. The level of support for further enlargement has fluctuated significantly since the autumn of 2000, from a high of 53% in the autumn of 2004 to a low of 36% in the autumn of 2011 and the spring of 2012.

The highest level of support was reached just after the 2004 enlargement, for which there seem to be a number of reasons.

Firstly, it is likely that some EU citizens who were initially concerned about this enlargement were relieved by its relatively successful outcome. Secondly, the “newcomers” were probably still enthusiastic about further enlargements, when interviewed only a few months after their own accession. There was also a peak in support for further enlargement in the spring of 2007, after the accession of Romania and Bulgaria on 1 January that year.

Opinion on further enlargement differs markedly across Member States, with a majority in favour in 13 countries and a majority against in the 15 other Member States. Support is strongest in Croatia (71% in the autumn of 2013), confirming the “halo effect” of countries who have entered the EU most recently, Lithuania (64%), Romania (64%) and Poland (61%), while it is weakest in Austria (17%), France (23%) and Germany (23%).

## Despite fluctuating support over the past decade, Europeans are generally resistant to further enlargement.

Please tell me whether you are for it or against it: Further enlargement of the EU to include other countries in future years.

