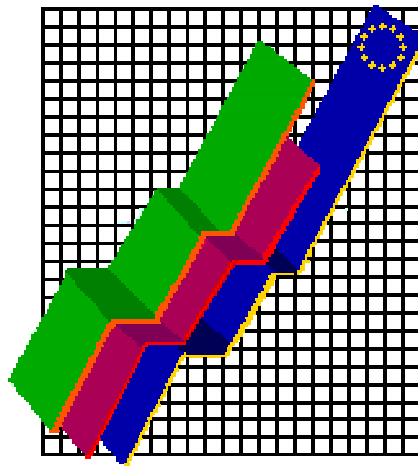


## PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY 2002

### FIRST RESULTS - Northern Cyprus



#### **A survey in Northern Cyprus found very high support for the island's European Union membership**

- Support for the European Union membership is very high in the Northern part of Cyprus, although quite a few among the Turkish Cypriots are not yet aware of Cyprus's bid to become a member of the European Union (only 79% have heard about it), according to a poll commissioned by the EU Delegation to Cyprus.
- Nine in ten adults and teenagers (88%) think that membership in the European Union would be 'a good thing', and only 19% have the opposite opinion. 89% claim that Turkish Cypriots would benefit from EU membership, 91% of the respondents would expect personal benefits from the Cypriot accession to the EU.

- Turkish Cypriots - unlike citizens of other Candidate Countries - think that their politicians are the least likely to benefit from the country's European accession (although 58% agree with this statement as well). The groups attributed with the highest gains from Cyprus becoming a member of the European Union are the young people (90% of respondents agree), those who speak foreign languages (90%), and employed people (86%).
- The enthusiasm is not evenly distributed in the Turkish Cypriot society; however the majority in each social strata agrees that belonging to the European Union would be a good thing for them . Compared to the national average of 88%, the support among practising Moslems is 'only' 60%, and 69% of those aged 55 years or older think that membership would be a good thing. The most educated group has the lowest level of support for European Union membership; 72% those who remained at school until 20 years of age or longer believe that Cypriot membership would be a good thing.
- According to the survey, Turkish Cypriots would overwhelmingly support Cyprus' accession to the European Union, if a referendum would be held on this issue. Seven in ten (69%) of voting age population claim they would definitely attend the vote, and as high as 88% of the same population would vote for EU membership.
- The Turkish Cypriot public seems to be relatively well informed about the issues related to the European Union and its enlargement. According to their self-evaluation, 19% claim to know a great deal about the European Union, and only 8 percent say they don't know anything about the EU. In spite of difficulties to have access to information on EU and enlargement, the familiarity with basic facts about the EU is similar to that of other citizens of Candidate Countries: 7 in 10 citizens know that the EU has 15 member states (69%), and 66% would recognise the blue flag of the Union.
- This very high level of support for EU membership is based on a strong prevalence of European identity in the Turkish Cypriot population; 77% of Turkish Cypriots citizens feel to some extent European, whereas 62% of current European Union claimed to have a European part in their identity<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> source: Standard Eurobarometer 57, Spring 2002

Level of national pride in the Northern part of Cyprus is somewhat higher than in the European Union (85%); 91% are proud to be “Turkish Cypriots”. European pride, however, is much stronger in Northern Cyprus with 74% of Turkish Cypriots being somewhat or very proud to be Europeans, than among the citizens of the European Union (62%).

*KADEM Institute from Northern Cyprus was commissioned by the Cyprus Delegate of the European Commission to carry out a survey among Turkish Cypriots about their attitudes related to the European Union. KADEM used the same questionnaire and similar methods that were used by conducting the 2002.2 wave of Candidate Countries Eurobarometer. The survey was carried out face-to-face in people's homes. KADEM asked 500 Turkish Cypriot de jure citizens, the margin of error attributed to this sample size is not higher than  $\pm 4,6\%$ . The survey was conducted between the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 30<sup>th</sup> of September, 2002.*

## **TABLES**

### **Have you ever heard of Cyprus' bid to become a member of the European Union?**

	%
1 Yes	79.0
2 No	19.3
9 DK - no opinion (spontaneous)	1.7
Total	100.0

### **Generally speaking, do you think that Turkish Cypriot membership of the European Union would be...?**

	%
1 a good thing	88.4
2 a bad thing	3.5
3 neither good nor bad	7.9
9 DK - no opinion (spontaneous)	.3
Total	100.0

**Generally speaking, do you think that Turkish Cypriot membership of the European Union would be...?** (by demographic groups; 'neither good, nor bad', 'don't know, no opinion', 'no answer' not shown)

	% 'a good thing'	% 'a bad thing'
<b>Northern part of Cyprus</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>3</b>
House persons	100	-
other white collars	98	-
Unemployed	96	2
still studying	93	4
AGE: 15-24 years	93	4
EDUCATION: 16-19 years	93	3
AGE: 40-54 years	92	2
AGE: 25-39 years	92	1
Male	90	4
RELIGIOUS ATT.: rarely	90	3
EDUCATION: up to 15 years	89	3
Managers	89	3
Female	87	3
self-employed	86	7
manual workers	74	1
EDUCATION: 20+ years	72	6
Retired	71	8
AGE: 55+ years	69	10
RELIGIOUS ATT.: frequently	60	14

**For each of the following groups, do you think they would get more advantages, as many advantages as disadvantages or more disadvantages from European Union membership?**

	% 'more advantages'	% 'as many advantages as disadvantages'	% 'more disadvantages'
Young people	90.2	4.2	2.1
Who speak foreign languages	89.6	4.6	1.4
Employed people	86.0	8.7	2.0
All nationality	85.6	5.9	3.7
Children	84.8	5.4	3.2
Managers in private sector	83.0	7.5	4.7
Office workers in private sector	82.4	6.4	5.3
The unemployed	82.3	8.3	4.0
Large businesses	81.9	9.2	1.9
Professionals	80.9	7.6	5.0
Factory workers	80.6	8.0	5.0
Teachers	80.4	8.9	4.4
Self-employed, craftsmen	78.3	7.8	7.9
Farmers	78.2	8.0	5.8
SMEs	78.0	8.8	4.9
Pensioners	77.8	9.6	7.4
Inhabitants of capital	76.0	9.3	2.8
Rural population	74.9	11.7	6.1
Civil servants	74.2	11.3	4.1
Some regions more than others	74.2	10.7	4.7
Middle-aged people	74.0	10.0	5.4
Elderly people	73.1	11.5	7.7
Minority people	66.5	13.5	10.4
Who don't speak languages	65.3	12.4	14.9
Politicians	57.8	17.9	12.0

**Taking everything into consideration, would you say that Turkish Cypriots could get advantages or not from being a member of the European Union?**

	%
1 yes, it could	88.9
2 no, it could not	7.3
9 DK - no opinion (spontaneous)	3.8
Total	100.0

**Do you think that becoming a member of the European Union would bring you personally advantages, or not?**

	%
1 Yes	90.8
2 No	6.6
9 DK - no opinion (spontaneous)	2.7
Total	100.0

**And, if there were to be a referendum tomorrow on the question of Turkish Cypriot's membership of the European Union, would you personally vote for or against it?**

	%
1 For	87.4
2 Against	6.8
3 Would not to go to vote (spontaneous)	1.7
9 DK - no opinion (spontaneous)	4.1
Total	100.0

**And, using this card, can you tell me how likely it is that you would vote in a referendum on the question of Turkish Cypriot membership of the European Union?**

**Please use this scale, which goes from 1 to 10, where 1 indicates that you will definitively not vote in the referendum, and 10 indicates that you will definitively vote in that referendum. You can use the numbers between 1 and 10. (Show card with scale)**

	%
0 DK - no opinion (spontaneous)	1.8
1 will definitively not vote	5.0
2	.9
4	2.3
5	3.0
6	2.3
7	4.3
8	5.9
9	6.1
10 will definitively vote	68.5
Total	100.0

**Using this scale, how much do you feel you know about the European Union, its policies, its institutions?**

(SHOW CARD WITH SCALE)

**"1" means "nothing at all", and "10" means "a great deal"**

	%
0 DK - no opinion (spontaneous)	1.6
1 knows nothing at all	8.3
2	8.6
3	11.8
4	9.6
5	19.9
6	7.9
7	7.6
8	3.6
9	2.2
10 knows a lot	18.9
Total	100.0

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

	% 'true'	% 'false'	% 'don't know - no opinion (spontaneous)'
The European Union is made of 15 Member States (T)	69	7	23
The European Community was created after World War One, in the late 1910's - early 20's (F)	18	38	43
The European flag is blue and with yellow stars (T)	66	9	25
There are 15 stars on the European flag (F)	66	7	27
The headquarters of the European Union are in Brussels, Strasbourg and Luxembourg (T)	54	12	35
The members of the European Parliament are directly elected by the citizens of the European Union (T)	43	19	38
There is a President of the European Union directly elected by all the citizens (F)	39	24	37
The European Union has its own anthem (T)	24	40	36
There are no borders between the countries of the European Union (T)	51	23	26

**Would you say you are very proud, fairly proud, not very proud or not at all proud to be a Turkish Cypriot?**

	%
1 very proud	60.2
2 fairly proud	30.7
3 not very proud	2.7
4 not at all proud	5.7
8 does not feel to be [NAT.] (spont.)	.6
9 DK - no opinion (spontaneous)	.1
Total	100.0

**And would you say you are very proud, fairly proud, not very proud or not at all proud to be European?**

	%
1 very proud	26.9
2 fairly proud	46.7
3 not very proud	7.7
4 not at all proud	9.7
8 does not feel to be European (spont.)	4.3
9 DK - no opinion (spontaneous)	4.2
No answer	.6
Total	100.0

**In the near future you see yourself as ...?**

	%
1 Turkish Cypriot only	21.7
2 Turkish Cypriot and European	63.2
3 European and Turkish Cypriot	6.7
4 European only	7.1
9 DK - no opinion (spontaneous)	1.1
No answer	.2
Total	100.0