



EUROBAROMETER 67

PUBLIC OPINION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

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NATIONAL REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CYPRUS

TURKISH CYPRIOT COMMUNITY

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Standard Eurobarometer 67 for the Turkish Cypriot Community (TCC).

This study (Standard Eurobarometer, Eurobarometer 67) was carried out between 10 April - 15 May 2007 in 30 countries and/or regions. This included the 27 member states of the EU, as well as the two candidate states (Turkey and Croatia) and the Turkish Cypriot Community (TCC).

Turkish Cypriots are satisfied with their lives

70% of Turkish Cypriots who have participated in this study stated that they are satisfied with their lives. The average degree of life satisfaction in the EU 27 countries is higher (80%). This is an important finding since, in the past, Turkish Cypriots had a higher level of satisfaction with their lives than the EU average.

There is a decrease in the Turkish Cypriots' level of satisfaction with life compared to the EB 66 study (75%).

There is also a decrease in Turkish Cypriots' feeling of optimism regarding the future.

In addition to the decrease in Turkish Cypriots' level of satisfaction with life, there has also been a decrease in their level of optimism about the future. While Turkish Cypriots are more optimistic about life in general, about half of those surveyed (46% and 44% respectively) said they do not expect their personal employment levels and their household's financial situation to change in the next 12 months.

TCs are most pessimistic about employment and the economic situation in the Turkish Cypriot Community. 1 in every 5 Turkish Cypriots surveyed said they expected the economic situation to worsen in the next 12 months. Danes (99%) and Dutch (93%) are the most optimistic states with respect to the economic situation of their country in the next 12 months, while Croats (13%) and Turks (39%) are the least optimistic.

Compared with the past, Turkish Cypriots believe their lives have improved.

60% of TCs surveyed said, compared with 5 years ago, their lives today have improved. This percentage is lower in the EU 27: 38%.

Two-thirds of TCs surveyed are satisfied with the economic situation in the Turkish Cypriot Community.

66% of TCs surveyed for this study said the economic situation of the TCC at present is good. On the other hand, only 52% of EU 27 citizens surveyed said the economic situation of their country is good.

Additionally, 75% of TCs said their own financial situation is good.

Trust in media

Turkish Cypriots trust the following media institutions: radio (62%), TV (60%) and newspapers (54%). Trust in the internet is lower: 47%.

TCs listed unemployment, the Cyprus Problem and the economic situation as the most important issues facing the Turkish Cypriot Community.

The Cyprus Problem was listed as the most important (62%) issue facing the TCC in the EB 66 study. However, there has been an important decrease in the percentage of TCs who listed the Cyprus Problem as an important issue in EB 67 (33%), thus making it the second most important issue facing the TCC after unemployment (36%). The economic situation (31%) was listed by TCs as the third most important issue.

Turkish Cypriots define the European Union as modern (75%) and democratic (68%).

The European Union has a positive image (54%) among Turkish Cypriots. The EU's image is less positive (52%) in the EU 27 and more positive among the 12 new member states (59%).

The EU means economic welfare (38%), peace (34%), social security (34%) and democracy (32%) respectively for Turkish Cypriots. Thus, although Turkish Cypriots have shown signs of mistrust towards the EU, they are confident that once the acquis is fully implemented, there will be economic and political stability in the Turkish Cypriot Community.

The level of knowledge of TCs on the EU (47%) is below the EU 27 average.

TCS are more aware of the European Parliament than other EU institutions.

The EU institution of which Turkish Cypriots are most aware is the European Parliament (77%). The European Commission (70%) and EU Council of Ministers (69%) are next on the list.

There is a positive relationship between awareness and trust levels towards EU institutions. The European Parliament, the institution Turkish Cypriots are the most aware of, is also the EU institution TCs have the most trust in.

TCs have stated that the European Parliament plays a more important role in the EU than other European institutions.

65% of TCs think the EP plays an important role in the EU while only 59% think the EU Council of Ministers plays an important role.

57% of Turkish Cypriots believe decisions in the EU are taken in coordination with national governments.

On the other hand, one in every 3 Turkish Cypriots believes otherwise.

TCs believe the EU should work with national governments in the following topics: fight against terrorism, scientific and technological research and support for economically problematic areas.

On the other hand, TCs believe decisions about transportation, agriculture and fisheries and pensions should be left to national governments.

Turkish Cypriots also stated that the EU should play a larger role in issues such as immigration and health and social welfare.

Turkish Cypriots do not support the idea of a multi-speed Europe.

TCs stated that they feel closer to the idea of member states waiting for others before embarking on new EU policies.

According to Turkish Cypriots, the most positive outcome of European integration is freedom of movement (48%) and peace (46%).

The reason other options were not strongly supported by Turkish Cypriots is that these options do not apply to them as the *acquis* is not fully implemented in the TCC.

TCs are optimistic about the future of the EU.

60% of Turkish Cypriots surveyed said they are optimistic about the future of the EU. This percentage is higher in the EU 27 countries: 69%.

About half of Turkish Cypriots (49%) surveyed said religion is the issue that created a community feeling in the EU.

Other issues listed by TCs as the 'glue' that holds together the EU were: economy (29%) and culture (21%).

On the other hand, EU 27 citizens listed the following issues as important issues that create a feeling of community in the EU: economy (27%), culture (27%), history (21%), values (20%) and sports (20%). Looking at the EU 27 average, religion does not appear to play a major role (13%) in creating a sense of community in the EU.

Turkish Cypriots' level of trust in the EU continues to decrease.

TCs' level of trust in the EU was 45% in EB 66. This percentage fell to 36% in EB 67. 49% of TCs said they do not trust the EU.

EB 67 is the first standard Eurobarometer study where TCs have shown mistrust towards all of the EU institutions. For example, there has been an 8 percentage point increase in the percentage of TCs who do not trust the EP in EB 67. This increase places Turkish Cypriots, along with the UK, Turkey and Croatia, at the top of the list of states or regions that do not trust the European Parliament.

On the other hand, a majority of TCs interviewed (60%) think the full implementation of the *acquis* in the TCC would be a good thing.

57% of EU 27 citizens interviewed think EU membership is a good thing. TCs are therefore more optimistic about the benefits of EU membership than the average EU 27 citizen.

Turkish Cypriots also think the full implementation of the *acquis* in the Turkish Cypriot Community would be advantageous.

Turkish Cypriots do not think their interests are taken into account in the EU.

A majority of TCs interviewed think their interests and voice (69% and 67% respectively) are not taken into account in the EU. On the other hand, 61% believe

the full implementation of the acquis will bring economic and political stability to the TCC. About half of TCs (52%) also said they would feel safer if the TCC was a member of the EU.

51% of TCs think the Turkish Cypriot Community will be more influential in the EU in the future.

TCs support the further enlargement of the EU.

While, in the EU 27, support for further enlargement of the EU is only 49%, 68% of TCs said they support enlargement.

Only 44% of TCs said they support the EU Constitution, and this percentage is higher in the EU 27 countries: 66%.

TCs believe that the EU should urgently work on global warming.

87% of TCs see global warming as an issue that needs to be urgently tackled by the EU.

Turkish Cypriots are not very positive about globalization.

TCs are not optimistic about the effects of globalization on the Turkish Cypriot Community.

47% of TCs said the EU protects them from the negative effects of globalization, while 58% said the EU allows them to enjoy the positive effects of globalization.