

EUROBAROMETER 70

PUBLIC OPINION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

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NATIONAL REPORT
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

LUXEMBOURG

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Eurobarometer survey in Luxembourg

Increased pessimism regarding the economic situation of Luxembourg and the EU

Inflation remains the main national problem

Inflation is considered to be the main national problem by the respondents (49%), representing a rise of 6 points since the Eurobarometer survey in spring 2008. It is followed by the economic situation (30%), housing (27%), unemployment (20%, a fall of 4 points compared to spring 2008), followed by the educational system (19%), crime (11%) and immigration (8%).

The Eurobarometer 70.1 survey was carried out by the European Commission in autumn 2008 in 31 countries or territories: 27 Member States, three applicant countries (Croatia, Turkey and former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) and the territory of the Turkish Cypriot Community. It provides a picture of the lives of citizens and their perceptions in regard to a range of issues. The image of the European Union and trust in the European and national political institutions are also analyzed.

The sample of the Eurobarometer surveys comprises approximately 1.000 people per Member State. Luxembourg is an exception with a sample made up of 500 people for the EB 70.1 representative of its population (73% of people with Luxembourgish nationality and 27% of nationals of the other EU Member States). In its commentary, the special report, prepared on behalf of the Representation of the European Commission in Luxembourg, refers to the inhabitants of Luxembourg, an entity that covers not only citizens of Luxembourgish nationality.

Satisfaction with the lives they lead and expectations regarding the next year

90% of Luxembourg's respondents are satisfied with the life they lead. The majority of residents (53%) do not expect their personal situation to change in the coming twelve months but 23% of them expect an improvement in their personal situation. Concerning the expectations regarding the economic situation, there is an increase in pessimism in comparison with spring 2008. 54% of the respondents are pessimistic concerning the future of Luxembourg's economic situation (49% in spring 2008; 39% in spring 2007), 21% regarding the future financial situation of their households (16% in spring 2008, 8% in 2007) and 60% are worried about the economic situation in the European Union (47% in spring 2008, 36% in 2007).

Trust in institutions and the European Union

The trust the inhabitants of Luxembourg place in their national institutions remains high. The level of trust is 60% for the national Government and 56% for the national Parliament. At the same time, 47% of the respondents affirm that they tend to trust the EU (55% in spring 2008; 62% in spring 2007). The European institutions have a high degree of popularity that it is higher in Luxembourg than across the EU on average. The European Parliament and the European Central Bank enjoy the trust of a majority of the respondents (64% and 60%), followed by the European Commission (57%) and the Council of the European Union (49%).

The perception of the European Union

With a figure of 71% (73% in spring 2008; 82% in autumn 2007), a vast majority of Luxemburg's respondents consider that Luxemburg's membership of the European Union is a good thing; at the same time, 68% think that it has benefited. The European Union, which evokes a positive image for 46% (53% in spring 2008) of Luxemburg's respondents represents for a majority the freedom to travel, study and work everywhere within the European Union.

Future actions of the European Union

For the respondents in Luxemburg, future actions of the European Union should be intensified in the following fields: the single market (28%; EU: 18%), immigration (28%; EU: 29%), energy and environmental questions (27%; EU: 30% and 27% respectively), the European foreign policy (27%; EU: 16%), fight against crime (25%, EU: 29%), and social questions (21%, EU: 27%).