

EUROBAROMETER 72

PUBLIC OPINION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

AUTUMN 2009

NATIONAL REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CYPRUS

(AREAS UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
CYPRUS)

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EUROBAROMETER 72.4 – CYPRUS

(Areas under the control of the government of the Republic of Cyprus)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Eurobarometer 72.4 is the eleventh study of the Eurobarometer series to be conducted in Cyprus since its accession to the European Union. Cyprus entered the European Union with the Cyprus problem unsolved and with the Acquis Communautaire applied only in the areas under the control of the government of the Republic of Cyprus.

The study was conducted between 26 October and 15 November 2009, with the negotiations for a solution of the Cyprus problem continuing and with the completion of 50 meetings between President Christofias and Turkish Cypriot leader Talat, and during the final phase of the ratification of the Lisbon Treaty.

The main events dominating the local media during this period concerned the meetings within the framework of negotiations for the solution of the Cyprus problem between President Christofias and Turkish Cypriot leader Talat, the criticism of President Christofias in relation to his handling of the Cyprus problem and the internal row at Democratic Party DIKO in relation to the participation of the party to the government coalition, the global economic crisis, the effects of that crisis on various sectors of the Cypriot economy, particularly the tourism industry, and the continuing economic uncertainty despite the partial recovery of the European and international economies, the Commission progress report on Turkey and the debate, both in Cyprus and at EU level, on the possible sanctions to be imposed on Turkey during the December European Council, the derogations achieved from the EU Acquis Communautaire by the Czech Republic in order to consent to the ratification of the Lisbon Treaty and their significance in relation to a possible solution of the Cyprus problem. As important was the exposure received by the outbreak of novel flu in Cyprus, the delivery of vaccines against the disease by the Medical Services and the first phase of the vaccinations, as well as the rate of spread of the disease globally.

At a second level, media coverage was dominated by the concern of citizens over rising prices, the Commission economic forecast on the EU economy, the possibility of Cyprus falling under EU monitoring for excessive budget deficit and the debate in relation to the handling of the economy by the government, the negotiations within the EU over the appointment of the first permanent European Council President and of the High Representative on Foreign and Security Policy, climate change and the risk of a failure of the Copenhagen climate change summit in December, illegal immigration and its consequences for Cyprus and the revelation of a case of exploitation of EU citizen workers, as well as the rise in crime and delinquency in Cyprus.

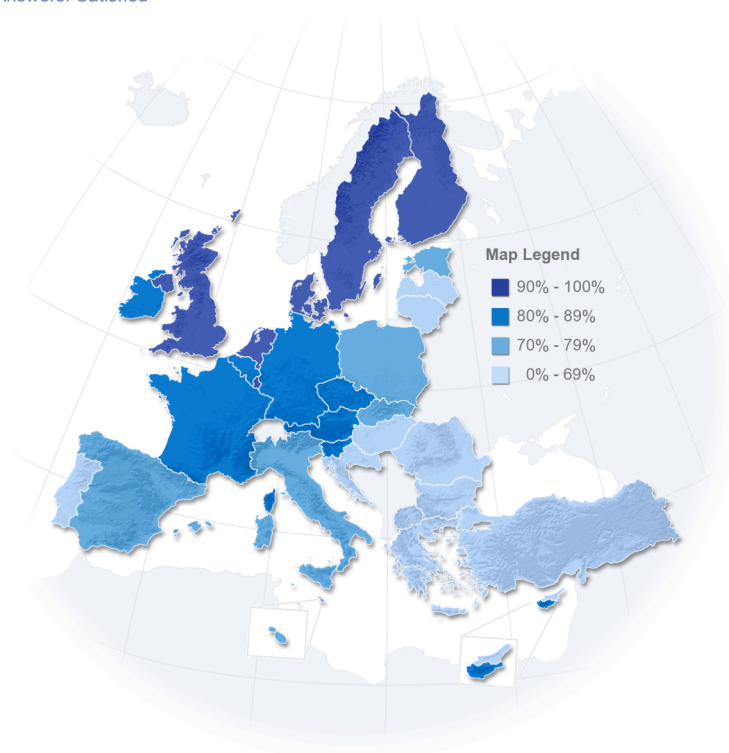
In the same period, the media made reference to the celebrations for the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall and the initial rejection by President Christofias of an invitation by the German Chancellor to attend the relevant celebrations, the opening of the new Larnaca International Airport, the continuing problem of Cypriot farmers in servicing their debt, the possibility of the EU facing a new energy crisis on account of a new row between Russia and the Ukraine over the payment of the latter's debt, the negotiations and the tension between the international community and Iran regarding the latter's nuclear programme, and the post-election period in Greece.

The majority of citizens residing in the areas under the control of the Republic of Cyprus are satisfied with their lives (31% very satisfied and 50% fairly satisfied). The level of satisfaction of citizens records a small drop (-4 points) in relation to the results recorded in the spring 2009 Eurobarometer.

 DK	98%
 LU	96%
 SE	96%
 NL	95%
 FI	95%
 UK	91%
 BE	89%
 SI	86%
 IE	85%
 DE	85%
 AT	85%
 FR	82%
 CZ	82%
 CY	81%
 EU27	78%
 PL	75%
 ES	74%
 EE	73%
 MT	72%
 SK	72%
 IT	71%
 EL	58%
 LV	57%
 LT	55%
 PT	53%
 RO	47%
 HU	42%
 BG	38%
<small>* CY (too)</small>	50%
 MK	66%
 HR	63%
 TR	59%

Question: QA1. On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the life you lead?

Answers: Satisfied



Fewer than half the citizens residing in the areas under the control of the Republic of Cyprus (45%; spring 2009, majority was at 58%) judge that the situation of Cyprus's economy is good, while 54% find it bad.

- However, the percentage of those who judge that the situation of the Cyprus economy is good is the sixth highest in the EU27, while the EU and Eurozone average is at 23%.
- **On the situation of the EU economy**, the prevailing opinion is negative too, with just 35% judging it to be good and 54% bad, while for the situation of the global economy 72% judge it to be bad and only 12% to be good.

69% of Cypriots, slightly higher than the EU average (64%), considers the financial situation of their household good.

- In the EU27, one in three Europeans (34%) does not find the financial situation of their household to be good.

Approximately half of Cypriots (49%) find their personal job situation to be good.

- Cypriots are less positive than EU citizens collectively, where 54% considers their personal job situation to be good and 27% to be bad.
- As to the employment situation in Cyprus, just 31% of Cypriots find it to be good.

The majority of citizens (61%) find that the situation of the Cyprus economy is better than the EU average.

- This is the eighth highest percentage recorded in the EU27 and far higher than the EU average (33%).

56% (autumn 2008, 58%) finds the employment situation in Cyprus to be better than the EU average (EU27 26%). 34% responded that it is less good, while 10% did not answer.

Contrary to their opinion on the situation of the Cyprus economy and employment situation in relation to the EU average, 62% (autumn 2008, 56%) finds that the cost of living in Cyprus is higher than the European average.

- The same perception dominates in relation to energy prices. The vast majority of Cypriots (72%, EU27 66%) finds energy prices higher than the European average.
- The vast majority (76%) believes that the quality of life in Cyprus is better than the average of European states. Just 19% supports the contrary, while the positive percentage recorded in Cyprus is the seventh highest in the EU27.

Both Cypriots and EU27 citizens collectively are unsure of the future for their household.

- Just 25% (spring 2009, 27%) of respondents have a long-term perspective of what their household will be like during the next one to two years, and 29% (spring 2009, 28%) knows what they will be doing in the next six months.
- Both of these percentages are lower than the European averages (28% and 32% respectively).

A high percentage of Cypriots (65%) finds that their purchasing power has got worse in the past five years. This is the third highest percentage in the EU27 (45%).

- 22% of Cypriots responded that their purchasing power stayed about the same (EU27 36%) while just 12% find that it has improved (EU27 17%).

On a personal level, Cypriot citizens have the same concerns as European citizens.

- 51% of Cypriots considers rising prices as their most important personal problem, and 40% considers the economic situation as the most important problem.
- In the EU27, 38% considers rising prices their most important personal problem, followed by the economic situation for 26% and unemployment for 20%.

The majority of citizens residing in the areas under the control of the Republic of Cyprus do not expect changes to their personal situation in the next twelve months. Specifically, 55% expect that their life in general will remain the same, 22% (spring 2009, 28%) that it will improve and 19% (spring 2009 14%) that it will be worse.

	Better %	Worse %	Same %	DK %
Your life in general	22	19	55	4
The economic situation in Cyprus	11	53	32	4
The financial situation of your household	14	33	52	1
The employment situation in Cyprus	8	57	30	5
Your personal job situation	11	10	59	20

66% of the respondents (a rise of 3 percentage points) disagree that economic development must be a priority for Cyprus, even if it affects the environment (EU27 47%).

- A significant percentage of 83%, which is the third highest percentage recorded following Denmark (87%) and Sweden (84%), support the idea that the protection of the environment should be a priority for Cyprus, even if it affects economic development (EU27 70%).
- 69% (a rise of 8 percentage points) of Cypriot citizens consider free competition to be the best guarantee for economic prosperity. This is the tenth highest percentage recorder in the EU27 (66%) with just 19% (spring 2009 29%) opposed to the argument. The highest positive percentage is recorded amongst the age group of 40-54 year olds (73%), and with percentages in other age groups varying between 64% and 71%.

The vast majority of Cypriots (61%, the eleventh highest percentage in the EU27) finds that it would be a good thing if less emphasis were given to money and material possessions in the future.

- Also, 81% (a rise of 5 percentage points), the highest recorded percentage in the EU27, along with Denmark, Slovenia and Slovakia, consider that it would be good in the future for more emphasis to be given to the development of technology.

Cypriot and European citizens collectively set the same priorities as to the issues which should be emphasized by society in order to face major global challenges.

- 66% of Cypriots, the highest percentage in the EU27 (45%) set as their top priority social equality and solidarity. Also, 63% of Cypriots, the second highest percentage following the 66% recorded in Sweden (EU average 37%) sets the protection of the environment as their priority.

Just one in five Cypriots (19%) believes that the life of those that are children today will be easier than the life of those from their own generation.

- This is the ninth highest recorded percentage in the EU27, along with the United Kingdom.
- However, to the argument that children who live in Cyprus would have a better life if they emigrated to another country, the majority of Cypriots (69%) disagreed.

The two main concerns for Cypriots today are the economic situation (43%) and crime (36%). Unemployment and rising prices are the main concern for 31% and 26% of the respondents respectively.

- Concern for crime records a small drop (-5 points) as does concern for rising prices (-8 points) compared to the spring 2009 Eurobarometer, while the concern for the economic situation records a significant rise of 13 percentage points.
- The percentage of concern for crime remains the second highest in the EU (average at 19%), that for rising prices the eighth highest, while the concern for the economic situation the fifteenth highest and for unemployment the second lowest - above that recorded in Malta (21%).
- The percentage of Cypriots that answered spontaneously 'Other problem' (18%) is by far the highest in the EU27. Taking into account that the Cyprus problem is not an option for citizens residing in the areas under the control of the Republic of Cyprus, it is possible that the spontaneous answer is related to that. However, this percentage records a drop of 7 points from the levels recorded in the autumn of 2008 and a rise of just 3 points from those in the spring of 2009.

Just one in four Cypriot citizens (26%) says that things in general are moving in the right direction in Cyprus.

- In the EU27, 47% say that things in their country are moving in the wrong direction, and 30% in the right direction.

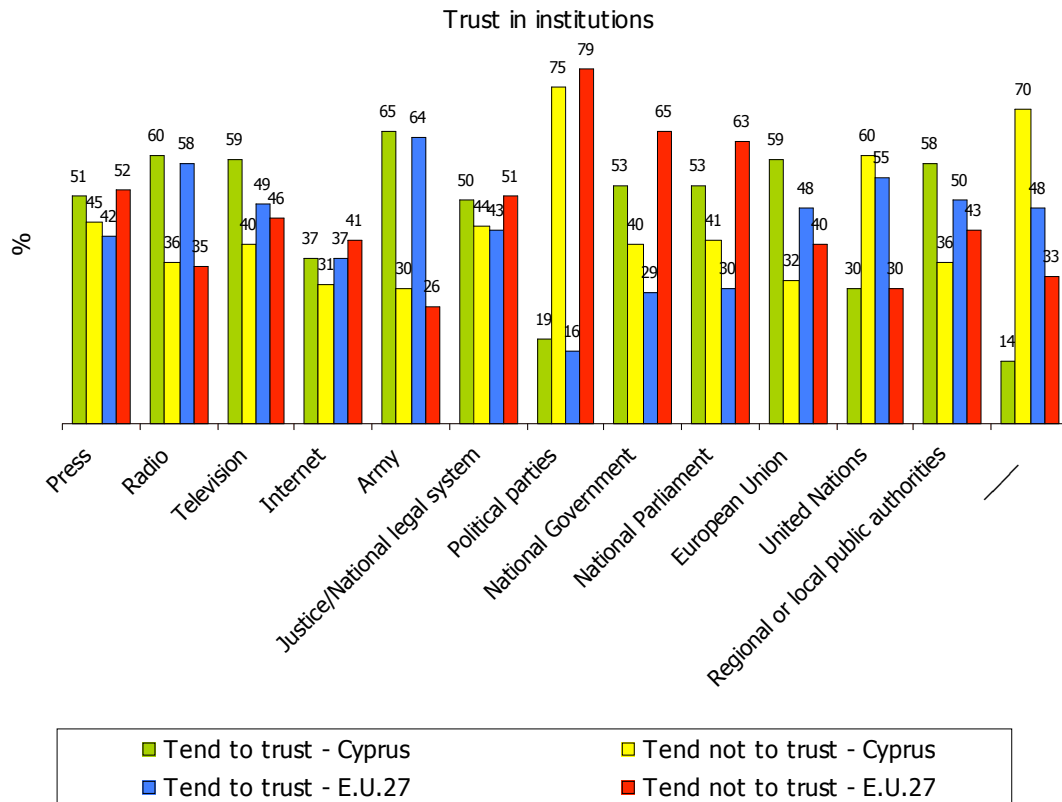
34% of citizens (spring 2009 36%; autumn 2008 32%) say that things in the EU are moving in the right direction. This percentage is lower than the corresponding EU27 average (40%).

In relation to the future of the EU, the majority of Cypriots (65%), as well as EU citizens collectively (66%), are optimistic.

- Of those who responded positively in Cyprus, 15% said they were very optimistic, the second highest percentage recorded in the EU following Luxembourg, and 50% fairly optimistic, while the corresponding EU27 averages were 8% and 58%.

A small drop in the levels of trust of Cypriot citizens in their national Government and the House of Representatives is recorded in relation to the spring 2009 Eurobarometer.

- Citizens' trust in the national Government records a drop to 53% (however, it is the fifth highest figure in the EU).
- Trust in Cyprus's House of Representatives is steady at 53%, again the fifth highest percentage in the EU.
- The levels of citizens' trust in the national Government, House of Representatives (parliament) and the European Union are far higher than the respective EU27 averages.



Citizens continue to exhibit a high level of trust towards the European Union with the majority (59%) saying that they trust it. It is important to note that the level of trust towards the European Union is higher than the EU27 average (48%).

The level of Cypriots' trust in the U.N. records a drop (-5 points) compared to spring of 2009. 30% say that they trust the U.N., 60% that they do not (spring 2009 57%) and 10% did not respond (spring 2009 8%). In the EU27, Cyprus ranks last in the level of trust in the U.N.

The vast majority of Cypriots (70%) say that they do not trust NATO.

- This is the second highest recorded percentage in the EU following Greece (74%) but the highest amongst EU Member States that are not NATO members.

Just 19% (spring 2009 27%; autumn 2008 29%) of Cypriots trust national political parties, and 75% do not. The highest level of trust in national political parties is recorded in Denmark (50%), the only country in which the majority does so.

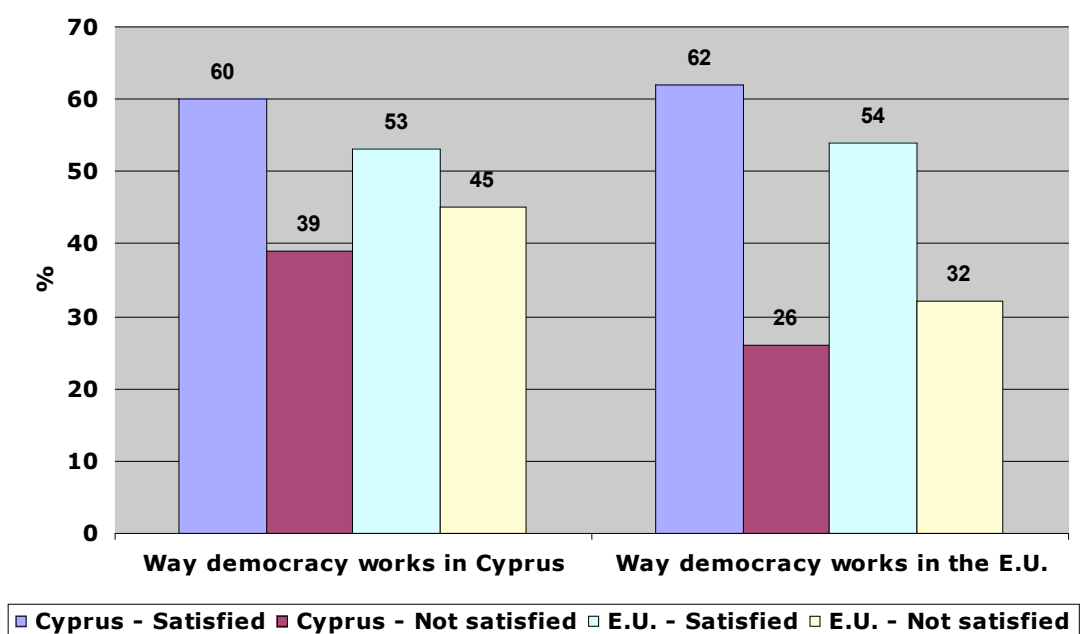
The majority of citizens residing in the areas under the control of the Republic of Cyprus (50%; spring 2009 46%) trust the national legal system.

58% of Cypriots trust regional or local public authorities, with the corresponding average in the EU27 at 50%.

The absolute majority of Cypriots trusts the press (51%; EU27 42%), radio (60%; EU27 58%) and television (59%; EU27 49%), while more Cypriots trust the internet (37%; EU27 37%) than those who do not (31%; EU27 41%).

The majority of Cypriots (60%) are satisfied with the way democracy works in Cyprus. This is the ninth highest percentage recorded in the EU27 (53%).

In relation to the way democracy works in the EU, 62% of Cypriots are satisfied - the third highest recorded percentage in the EU following Denmark (67%) and Luxembourg (75%). The lowest percentage is recorded in the United Kingdom (40%).



For all the EU institutions for which they were asked, except for the European Central Bank, the level of knowledge of Cypriot citizens is higher than the EU27 average.

- The absolute majority of citizens residing in the areas under the control of the Republic of Cyprus have heard of the European Parliament (90%; rise of 1 point from spring 2009), the European Commission (89%; rise of 5 points from spring 2009), the Council of the European Union (88%; rise of 6 points from autumn 2008), and of the European Central Bank (72%; drop of 10 points from spring 2009).

62% of Cypriots (+4 points) say that they understand how the European Union works.

- This is the second highest percentage recorded in the EU27 (44%) following Luxembourg (63%).
- A higher level of understanding is observed amongst those that claim to be of a higher social status and to belong to the centre politically (75%), and amongst those with a higher education level (85%).

In response to a question if they have recently read in the newspapers or heard on the radio or television or seen on Internet anything about Sweden's presidency in the second half of 2009, Cypriots, as well as European citizens collectively, do not appear to be sufficiently informed. However, their level of knowledge is higher than it was prior to the assumption of the EU Presidency by Sweden.

However, responding to a question if they have recently read in the newspapers or heard on the radio or television or seen on the Internet anything about Spain's presidency in the first half of 2010 Cypriots, as well as European citizens, appear less informed than in the case for Sweden. Just 26% responded that they know of the [upcoming] Presidency of the EU by Spain.

The majority of citizens residing in the areas under the control of the Republic of Cyprus continue to trust the main institutions of the EU with variations from previous Eurobarometers ranging between +1 point and +5 points.

- Their trust towards the European Parliament expresses 57% of citizens (a rise of 4 points since spring 2009), towards the European Commission 56% (a rise of 5 points), towards the Council of the European Union 55% (a rise of 1 point since autumn 2008), and towards the European Central Bank 54% (a rise of 1 point).

51% of Cypriot citizens say that they have a positive view of the European Union.

- The positive view of the European Union is more intense amongst citizens residing in the areas under the control of the Republic of Cyprus than the EU average (48%).
- It is also worth mentioning that Cyprus is ranked twelfth amongst member states in the levels of positive view of the European Union.

In relation to the most important factor in determining the overall power and influence of a country or group of countries in the world, the majority of Cypriots agree with the majority of EU member state citizens.

- 57% find economic power to be the most important factor (EU27 56%), followed by military strength (25%, the highest percentage in the EU27 and with the average at 10%) and political influence (12%; EU27 24%).
- As the second most important factor Cypriots set military strength (39%, again the highest recorded percentage in the EU27 and with the average at 20%), followed by economic power (31%; EU27 26%) and political influence (24%; EU27 41%).

Responding as to which of the above factors best characterizes the European Union, Cypriots set as the most important characteristic economic power (53%; EU27 47%), followed by political influence (29%; EU27 31%) and cultural influence (11%; EU27 8%).

- As the second most important characteristic of the EU Cypriots set political influence (45%, the sixth highest recorded percentage with the EU average at 41%), followed by cultural influence (24%; EU27 14%), and economic power (23%; EU27 29%).

In relation to the values that best represent the European Union, Cypriots set as the most important human rights (55%, the highest amongst Member States).

- In the EU27, respondents cited democracy as the value that best represents the EU (39%), followed by human rights (37%) and peace (36%).

As to the values that are important to them personally, both Cypriots and European citizens in general gave answers that in general correspond to the values they said represent the EU.

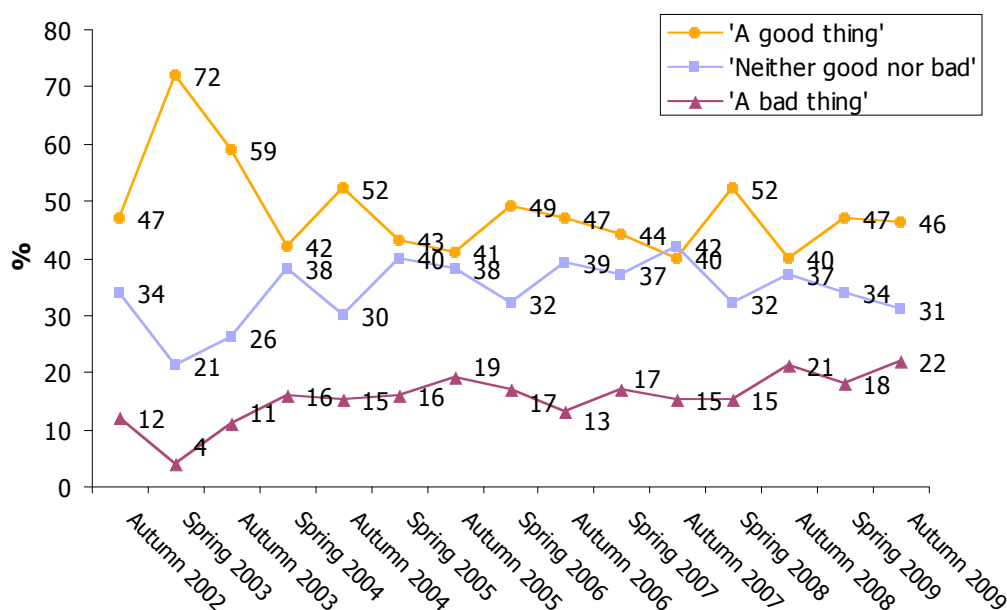
For the majority of the respondents (68%), the EU means freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the EU.

- Other options that followed were more crime for 45%, and the Euro for 44%.
- For EU27 citizens collectively, the EU means freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the EU (46%), followed by the Euro (37%).

The majority of citizens residing in the areas controlled by the Republic of Cyprus continue to view Cyprus's EU membership as a good thing (46%), recording a marginal drop of 1 percentage point since the spring 2009 Eurobarometer. 31% (-3 points) find it to be neither good nor bad, while 22% (+4 points) considers it to be something bad.

- Cyprus is ranked seventh from the bottom amongst the 27 Member States in terms of positive views regarding the country's EU membership. (Cyprus 46% ; EU27 53%).

Opinion on Cyprus's membership of the E.U.



However, just 30% of Cypriots believes that the interests of Cyprus are well taken into account in the EU. This is the fourth lowest percentage recorded in the EU27, along with Finland and the United Kingdom.

A drop of 4 points compared with spring 2009, but an increase of 7 points from autumn 2008, is recorded in the percentage that believes that Cyprus has, on balance, benefited from being a member of the EU.

- 50% of citizens believe Cyprus has benefited from being a member of the EU. This is significantly lower than the EU27 average (57%).
- Cyprus, along with Italy, records the fifth lowest percentage in the EU27.
- This percentage is higher than that of the people that believe that Cyprus has not benefited (44%).

63% of respondents are in favour of a European Monetary Union with one single currency, the euro.

52% (a drop of 3 points from spring 2009) of Cypriot citizens are in favour of further enlargement of the EU, with 35% opposed. Cyprus is ranked thirteenth (down from ninth place in spring 2009) as to the level of support for further enlargement of the EU.

48% of Cypriots support the speed of building Europe to be faster in one group of countries than in the other countries.

70% of Cypriots believe that the EU has grown too rapidly, with only 21% supporting the contrary. In the EU27 collectively, 61% agree with this proposition and 29% disagree.

The vast majority of citizens (69%) agree that what brings the citizens of the different countries together is more important than what separates them. However, Cyprus, along with Austria and Romania, record the second lowest relevant percentages in the EU27 (75%).

43% of Cypriots said that, at the current time, the EU is short of ideas and projects. 35% answered to the contrary, while a significant 22% did not respond. The corresponding EU27 averages were 46% in support of the statement, 36% against it, while 18% did not respond.

Cyprus (83%) records the third highest percentage in the EU of those believing that the EU is indispensable in meeting global challenges.

The majority of Cypriots (51%; spring 2009 54%), but also of EU citizens collectively (45%), believe that the national level of public authorities has the most impact on their living conditions.

The majority of Cypriots (43%; spring 2009 45%) believes that regional or local public authorities are sufficiently taken into account when deciding policies in the European Union.

- This is the highest percentage recorded amongst EU Member States, with the EU27 average at 19%. 38% of Cypriots responded negatively to the question (EU27 66%), while almost one in five (19%) did not respond.

For all the fields for which they were asked, a higher percentage of Cypriots than the European average supported the view that decisions should be taken jointly within the EU.

- Only in the area of taxation did more Cypriots support the view that decisions must be taken by the Cypriot Government.

Responding to a question as to the priorities of EU institutions in the coming years in order to strengthen the EU in the future, Cypriots set immigration issues (35%), solidarity with poorer regions (33%) and social and health issues (32%) as their top priorities.

- Economic affairs (33%), social and health issues (26%), immigration issues and the fight against crime (24%) were the priorities set by EU citizens collectively.

Responding to a similar question regarding the top priorities of the EU, Cyprus records the highest percentage in the EU27 in those that support the advancing of rights of citizens (48%, E.U.27 28%), as well as to setting the economic recovery as a priority (86%, E.U.27 69%), and the third highest percentage of support in setting the fight against climate change as a priority (62%, E.U.27 44%).

- However, Cyprus is ranked last in terms of the percentage of citizens that supports the boosting of growth in a sustainable way as a priority (21%; EU27 45%).

The majority of Cypriots (61%; EU27 35%) considers the EU should set about improving the quality of education as a priority for ensuring economic recovery.

- This is the highest percentage recorded in the EU.
- As the second most important aspect, Cypriots set the development of further economic policy coordination at the European level (52%; E.U.27 31%).

In order to fight climate change, 67% of Cypriots believe that the EU should set as its priority the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions from transport and electricity (EU27 36%).

As the EU priority so as to boost growth in a sustainable way, 68% of Cypriots cite the support of environmentally-friendly production of goods and services (EU27 30%), the highest percentage recorded in the EU27 countries.

The majority of Cypriots call for the reinforcement of the protection of EU borders and the development of its capacity to prevent and to react to natural disasters to be set as priorities in order for the EU to advance on rights of citizens (53% each), while the same aspects are set as the fourth and fifth priority for EU citizens collectively (25% and 26% respectively).

The majority of both Cypriots and European citizens believe that the EU, to help create stability in the world, must emphasize the promotion and protection of human rights (75%; EU27 40%) and its participation in conflict resolution, peace-keeping and peace building (61%; EU27 36%).

Cypriot and European citizens collectively agree as to which global threats and challenges the European Union should focus its attention in its relations with the rest of the world.

60% of Cypriots believe that the United Nations should have an increased role in peace-keeping (EU27 35%), 45% in issues related to human rights and democracy (EU27 25%), and 33% in humanitarian aid (EU27 19%). In the EU collectively, 28% (Cyprus 27%) believe that the U.N. should have an increased role in dealing with poverty.

Increased cooperation between the European Union and the United Nations may bring the maximum benefits in dealing with global threats and challenges. Cypriot and European respondents collectively hold the same opinion as to the threats and challenges on which the European Union should focus its attention in its relations with the rest of the world.

Cyprus records the highest percentage in the EU of those to which protectionism (79%; EU27 38%) and solidarity (96%; EU27 84%) brings to mind something positive.

- Cyprus also records the second highest percentage of those who find the term public administration positive (76%; EU27 53%), and the fourth highest in those for which the terms trade union (77%; EU27 63%) and security (95%; EU27 83%) brings to mind something positive.

	Positive % (E.U.27 %)	Negative % (E.U.27 %)	DK % (E.U.27 %)
Company	88 (78)	9 (15)	2 (7)
Welfare State	87 (71)	8 (22)	5 (7)
Competitiveness	72 (77)	22 (17)	6 (6)
Free trade	71 (77)	25 (17)	4 (6)
Protectionism	79 (38)	15 (45)	6 (17)
Globalisation	44 (52)	43 (37)	13 (11)
Liberalisation	58 (60)	32 (27)	10 (13)
Trade union	77 (63)	14 (30)	9 (7)
Reforms	86 (70)	6 (22)	8 (8)
Public administration	76 (53)	18 (41)	6 (6)
Flexibility	89 (77)	5 (16)	6 (7)
Competition	77 (77)	18 (18)	5 (5)
Security	95 (83)	4 (14)	1 (3)
Solidarity	96 (84)	2 (12)	2 (4)

79% of Cypriots believe that globalization enables people to be more open to external cultures, and 77% believe that it means more foreign investment in Cyprus.

- These are the highest recorded percentages in the EU, with the corresponding EU27 averages at 66% and 59% respectively.
- However, 74% of Cypriot citizens (EU27 64%) believe that globalization is profitable only for large companies, not citizens, the third highest percentage recorded in the EU, along with that of Slovenia.
- Also, 68% believe that globalization increases social inequalities (EU27 60%), and 66%, the highest percentage amongst Member States, that it represents a threat to Cypriot culture (EU27 41%).

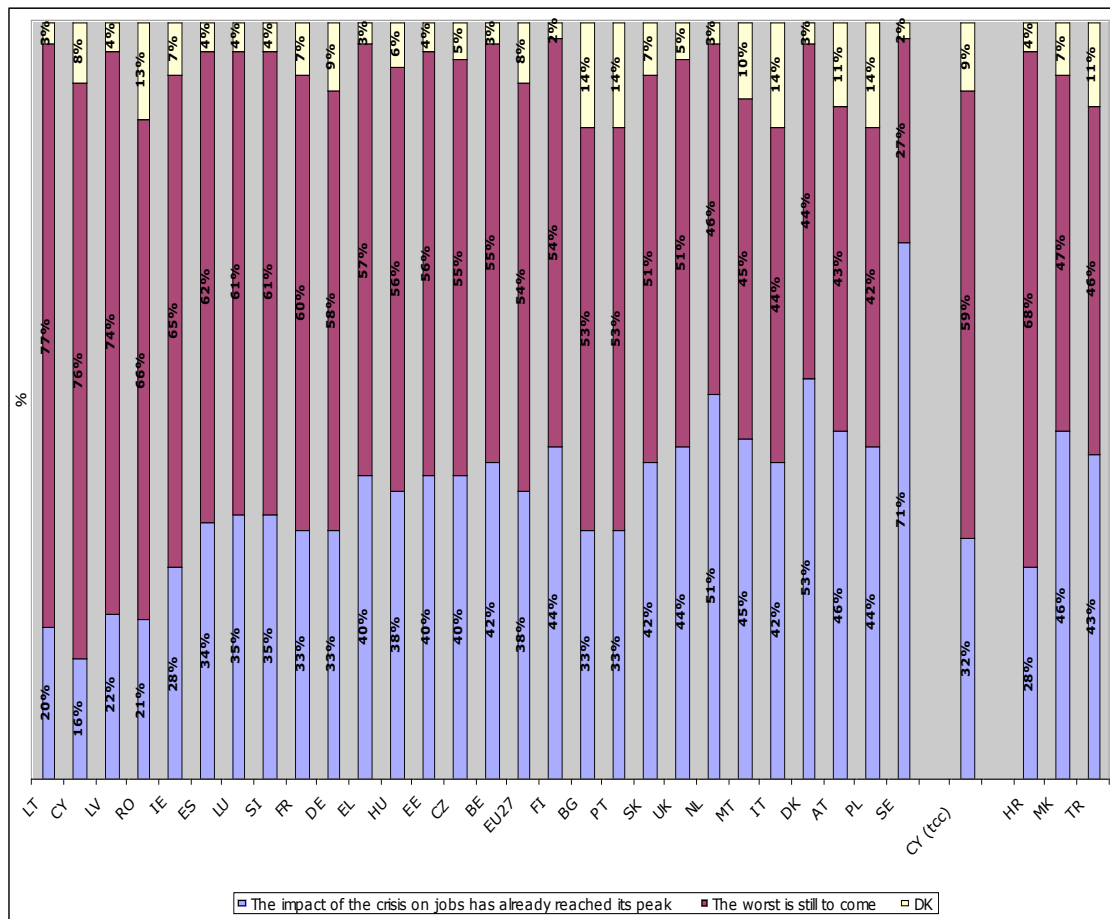
Despite the fact that 68% of Cypriots (EU27 61%) believe that the EU has sufficient power and tools to defend its economic interests in the global economy, just 55% believe that it helps to protect European citizens from the negative effects of globalization (EU27 46%).

55% of Cypriot citizens believe that globalization represents a threat to employment and companies in Cyprus.

- Cyprus ranks third from the bottom as to positive opinion on globalization.
- In the EU27, 43% believe that globalization is something positive and 42% that it is something negative.

53% of Cypriots hold the opinion that innovative products or services often simplify everyday life (EU27 34%). Also, 45% support the view that innovation is essential for improving economic growth (EU27 45%) and that innovative products or services are most of the time gadgets (EU27 15%), while 41% support the idea that the advantages of innovative products or services are often exaggerated (EU27 23%).

The vast majority of Cypriots (76%) believes that the worst is still to come in terms of the impact of the economic crisis on the job market. This is the second highest percentage recorded amongst the EU27 with the average at 54%.

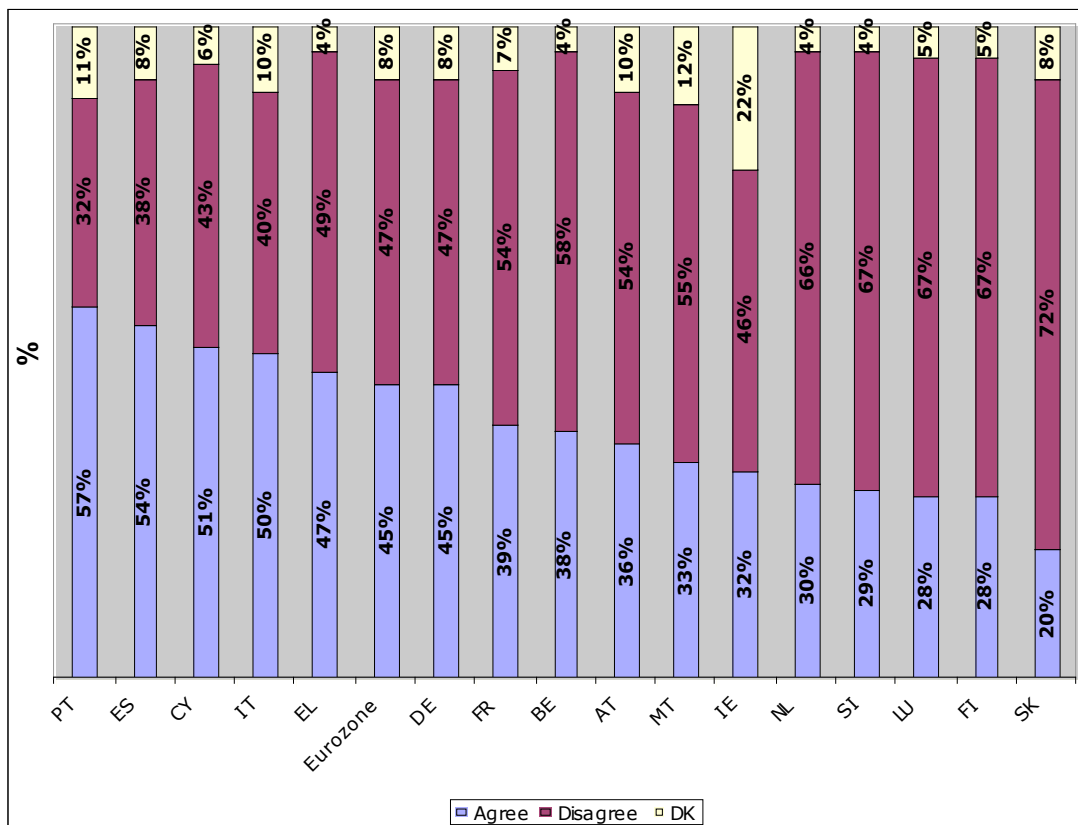


Cypriots are overall more positive regarding the performance of the European economy compared to some of the biggest world economies.

The majority of Cypriots considers that the EU is ahead in relation to the United States on all fields for which they were asked except for the fields of scientific research, innovation technology and entrepreneurship. The same pattern is observed in the opinion of European citizens collectively.

- It is important to observe that Cypriots are more positive than European citizens collectively in relation to the comparison of the EU and U.S.A., but there was also a high percentage of respondents did not answer.

The majority of Cypriot citizens (51%) believe that Cyprus would have been better protected in the face of the current financial and economic crisis if it had kept the Cyprus Pound. This is the third highest percentage recorded amongst Eurozone members.



However, the majority of Cypriots (51%) agrees that the Euro has mitigated the negative effects of the current financial and economic crisis (EU27 41%; Eurozone 46%).

In Cyprus, 83% of respondents, the third highest percentage in the EU27 following Finland (89%) and Sweden (87%), agree that reforms that benefit future generations should be pursued even if that means some sacrifices for the present generation.

The vast majority of citizens (Cyprus 86%; EU27 73%) agree that their country needs more reforms to face the future. The percentage of agreement recorded in Cyprus is the fourth highest in the EU27.

The body most able to take effective actions against the effects of the financial and economic crisis, according to Cypriot respondents is the European Union (32%; a drop of 1 percentage point from spring 2009). This is the fourth highest percentage recorded in the EU27, with the average at 22%.

- The second most able body, according to Cypriots, is the Cypriot Government (20%).

Cypriots and European citizens collectively agree as to which are the two measures which the EU must prioritize in order to help people overcome the effects of the financial and economic crisis.

- These are the support to SMEs\ small business (Cyprus 51%; EU27 37%) and investment in education\ training\ research (Cyprus 33%; EU27 28%).

The most important measure to both Cypriots (38%) as well as European citizens collectively (26%) in relation to reforming the financial system in the European Union is the establishment of a stronger European system of supervision of financial markets and financial institutions.

The majority of Cypriot citizens responded that they would set as their priority for the improvement of the performance of the European economy the improvement of education and professional training. The same is valid for the response of EU citizens collectively.

For all the measures with which they were presented, the majority of citizens in all EU member states expressed the belief that they will be effective in combating the current economic crisis.

- More specifically, the absolute majority of Cypriots (79%; EU27 67%) said that a more important role for the EU at an international level in regulating financial services will be effective in combating the economic crisis.
- Just 8% of Cypriots (EU27 19%) responded negatively, while 13% (EU27 14%) did not respond.
- The percentage of positive opinions recorded in Cyprus is the third highest in the EU.

Furthermore, 81% of Cypriots responded that the surveillance and supervision by the EU of the activities of the most important international financial groups will be effective, which is the second highest percentage recorded in the EU27.

Cyprus records the highest percentage in the EU, along with Greece, of respondents who consider a stronger coordination of economic and financial policies between all the EU Member States will be an effective measure in combating the crisis (86%; EU27 73%).

As to whether supervision by the EU whenever public money is used to rescue a financial institution will be effective, again, Cyprus and Greece record the highest percentage of positive opinions with 86%, while 5% of Cypriots responded negatively and 9% did not respond.

- The corresponding EU27 averages are 69% positive, 19% negative and 12% of 'don't knows'.