

# The EU's relations with its neighbours

A survey of attitudes in the European Union

Fieldwork: May-June 2007

Publication: September 2007

## Summary

This survey was requested by Directorate General External Relations and coordinated by Directorate General Communication

This document does not represent the point of view of the European Commission.  
The interpretations and opinions contained in it are solely those of the authors.

## Table of contents

<b>PRESENTATION</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>1. GENERAL AWARENESS OF NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES OF THE EU</b> .....	<b>3</b>
1.1 Perception of neighbouring countries of the EU .....	3
1.2. General attitudes towards neighbouring countries of the EU .....	4
<b>2. THE EU'S RELATIONS WITH ITS NEIGHBOURS</b> .....	<b>5</b>
2.1. Familiarity with the European Neighbourhood Policy .....	5
2.2. Objectives of the European Neighbourhood Policy .....	6
2.3. Perception of advantages and disadvantages for the EU .....	8
2.3.1 Political issues .....	8
2.3.2 Social issues .....	11
2.3.3 Economic issues .....	11
<b>CONCLUSION</b> .....	<b>13</b>

**ANNEXES**  
**Technical note**  
**Questionnaire**

## PRESENTATION

The European Union and its Member States share a common history and many common interests with their neighbours. After the 2004 enlargement, relations with neighbouring countries have become the EU's main external priority. The European Neighbourhood Policy was therefore developed with the objective of increasing mutual prosperity, stability and security of the EU and its neighbouring countries.

Cooperation with neighbouring countries is based on a mutual commitment to common values (democracy and human rights, rule of law, good governance, market economy principles and sustainable development) and it creates privileged relations with these countries, especially in political and economic terms.

In 2006, the European Commission launched its first poll on EU citizens' awareness of countries neighbouring the EU and their attitudes towards EU relations with these countries<sup>1</sup>.

Since then, Bulgaria and Romania have joined the European Union, the new budgetary period (2007-2013) which allocates more resources for this special policy has begun<sup>2</sup>, and the European Commission launched a new regional cooperation initiative in the Black Sea area<sup>3</sup>.

By launching the current survey, the European Commission wishes to track the evolution of European public opinion on this specific subject. References to the previous study are included wherever relevant.

Almost 27,000 interviews were conducted face-to-face in people's homes, in their national languages, between May 25 and June 30, 2007, in all 27 Member States of the European Union. In the annex, a technical note details the interview techniques used by the institutes of the TNS Opinion & Social network, as well as statistical levels of confidence.

---

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.ec.europa.eu/public\\_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs\\_259\\_en.pdf](http://www.ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs_259_en.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> For the budgetary period 2007-2013, approximately €12 billion in EC funding will be available to support these partners' reforms, an increase of 32% in real terms compared to the previous budgetary period. [http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/funding\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/funding_en.htm)

<sup>3</sup> Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament: "Black Sea Synergy – a new regional cooperation initiative"; 11.04.2007 <http://www.europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/486&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>  
[http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/pdf/com07\\_160\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/pdf/com07_160_en.pdf)

## 1. GENERAL AWARENESS OF NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES OF THE EU

### 1.1 Perception of neighbouring countries of the EU

**- Most respondents consider countries which share a land border with the EU to be neighbours of the EU-**

Questionnaire source: QC2<sup>4</sup>

The map below shows the 16 countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP). Most of these countries share either maritime or land borders with the European Union. Others, such as countries in the southern Caucasus border a present candidate country, namely Turkey. Respondents were asked about **their perception** of whether these countries can be considered neighbours of the EU.



<sup>4</sup> QC2a For each of the following countries, please tell me if you consider it to be a neighbour of the European Union. 1. Armenia 2. Egypt 3. Israel 4. Jordan 5. Moldova 6. Morocco 7. Palestinian Territories (the Gaza strip and the West Bank) 8. Tunisia 9. Ukraine

QC2b And what about these countries, please tell me if you consider it to be a neighbour of the European Union. 1. Algeria 2. Belarus 3. Georgia 4. Kazakhstan 5. Lebanon 6. Libya 7. Russia 8. Syria

**A majority of EU citizens regard the Ukraine (57%), Russia (55%) and Belarus (49%) – all of which share a land border with the EU - to be neighbours.**

These results are virtually identical to those recorded in 2006. However, Moldova seems to be an exception, as 5 percentage points more respondents now consider the country to be a neighbour of the EU (37% compared to 32% in 2006). This increase is probably due to the accession of Romania to the EU in the beginning of 2007 which made Moldova an immediate neighbour of the Union.

At national level, **geographical proximity, especially sharing common borders, appears to have the greatest impact** on respondents' perception. In addition, historical relations and emotional or personal links (such as travelling to countries or meeting immigrants) may also influence opinions.

In the Mediterranean, shared maritime borders seem to influence country results the most. Compared to the EU average, a higher share of respondents in Greece and Spain, Portugal and Malta but Cyprus in particular, perceive countries in the south-eastern Mediterranean to be neighbours.

Compared to survey results from 2006, the perception of Mediterranean countries as neighbours has risen notably in Greece, Spain and Portugal. Furthermore, in 2007 (as in 2006) a significant proportion of French respondents perceive Maghreb countries to be neighbours.

## 1.2. General attitudes towards neighbouring countries of the EU

**- Two thirds of respondents estimate the EU's relations with its neighbours to be good, yet the majority show little interest in neighbouring countries -**

*Questionnaire source: QC7<sup>5</sup>*

The present survey reveals that the slight majority of respondents say they are not interested in what is happening in countries neighbouring the Union (54%). On the other hand, a significant share of respondents (44%) say they are interested in events in countries neighbouring the EU.

At the European Union level, a reverse trend can be observed compared to 2006 where a slight majority said they were interested in events in neighbouring countries (51% vs. 48% not interested).

*Questionnaire source: SD1<sup>6</sup>*

Two thirds of EU citizens consider the EU's relations with neighbouring countries to be good (67%). 12% assess these relations negatively and 18% did not express an opinion on this question.

European perceptions in this respect have remained stable during the past year.

Moreover, it is encouraging that 82% of respondents who claim to be interested in what is happening in neighbouring countries of the EU (and are presumably therefore better informed) perceive the EU's relationship with these countries to be good. This proportion drops to 56% among those with little or no interest in such issues.

<sup>5</sup> QC7 How interested are you in what is happening in countries neighbouring the EU? Are you...?

<sup>6</sup> SD1 In general, would you say that the European Union has very good, fairly good, fairly bad or very bad relations with neighbouring countries?

## 2. THE EU'S RELATIONS WITH ITS NEIGHBOURS

This section explores the opinions of Europeans on various aspects of the European Union's policy towards its neighbours.

### 2.1. Familiarity with the European Neighbourhood Policy

*Questionnaire source: QC3<sup>7</sup>*

One in five respondents claims to have heard of the European Neighbourhood Policy (20%). Given the specific nature of this policy area, and the low general level of popular awareness of most national or EU policies, this can be regarded as a significant share of the European population even if a significant majority (80%) is unaware of the policy.

At the European Union level, a slight (2 percentage points) increase in awareness of the European Neighbourhood Policy can be observed compared to 2006.

At national level, around a third of Luxembourgers (36%), Finns (36%), Latvians (33%), Maltese (33%) and Germans (32%) claim to have heard of the European Neighbourhood Policy.

Compared to results from last years' survey, awareness of this policy has increased considerably in some countries; for instance in Belgium (+8 points), Denmark, Italy and Cyprus (+7 points in each). The highest increase has been recorded in Finland (+9 percentage points), while the highest decrease has been registered in Latvia (-18 percentage points) although, Latvia has still remained among the top scorers on this question.

The relatively higher awareness in Finland and Latvia is perhaps due to these countries' more intensive relations with neighbouring Russia (despite the fact that the EU does not cooperate with Russia within the framework of the ENP but through a separate Strategic Partnership). The considerable increase in familiarity with the Neighbourhood Policy in Finland could be also explained by the fact that the country held the EU presidency during the second half of 2006.

---

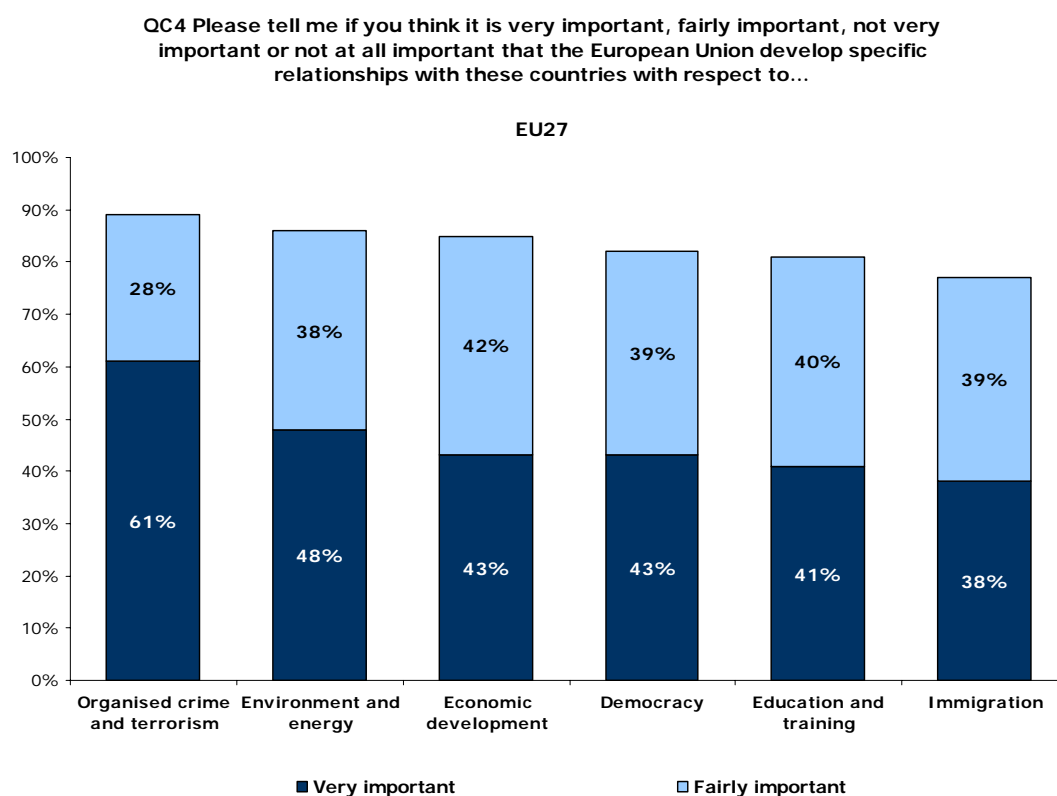
<sup>7</sup> QC3 Have you ever heard of the European Union's policy towards its neighbours called the European Neighbourhood policy?

## 2.2. Objectives of the European Neighbourhood Policy

This chapter looks at concrete fields of cooperation between the European Union and its neighbours which are intended to contribute to stability, security and prosperity. With these areas in mind, it examines how much importance EU citizens attach to different aspects of the EU's relations with its neighbours.

### - Strong support for cooperation between the EU and its neighbours –

Questionnaire source: QC4<sup>8</sup>



An overwhelming majority of EU citizens think that it is very or fairly important to develop specific relationships with neighbouring countries with respect to all issues mentioned in the survey.

The high level of support for each theme addressed has remained stable over the past year. Even the ranking of priorities for fields of cooperation has remained unchanged. This suggests that European public opinion is consistent when it comes to the need for cooperation on specific issues with the countries neighbouring the EU.

<sup>8</sup> QC4 For each of the following areas, please tell me if you think it is very important, fairly important, not very important or not at all important that the European Union develop specific relationships with these countries (see map on page 3) with respect to...

1. Immigration; 2. Environment and energy; 3. Democracy; 4. Organised crime and terrorism; 5. Economic development; 6. Education and training

As in 2006, EU respondents attach the greatest significance to developing specific relations between the EU and its neighbouring countries to tackle organised crime and terrorism (89%). A large majority of respondents think it is 'very important' to cooperate with neighbouring countries on this issue (61%). This is the only subject for which such a significant share gives the answer 'very important'. Evidently, security issues remain high on the European political agenda and receive much media attention.

Respondents rank the importance of specific cooperation on environment and energy issues (86%) and economic development (85%) in second and third place.

Other areas of cooperation are considered to be almost equally important: around eight in ten interviewees highlight the importance of working with neighbouring countries on democracy (82%), education and training (81%) and immigration (77%).

The relatively low proportion of 'don't know' responses suggests that respondents have firm views on the relevance of these issues.

A country analysis reveals that the vast majority of respondents in all Member States regard the development of specific relations in all areas mentioned in the survey to be important.

In socio-demographic terms, people who continued their full-time education to the age of 20 or beyond, managers, self-employed, other white collar employees and students are more convinced than Europeans on average about the importance of cooperation between the European Union and its neighbours on various issues.

## 2.3. Perception of advantages and disadvantages for the EU

### 2.3.1 Political issues

**- A vast majority of respondents are convinced that EU assistance to neighbouring countries can serve to extend peace and democracy beyond the EU's borders-**

The Member States of the European Union share common values and principles such as democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law as laid down in the Treaty of the European Union.<sup>9</sup> This chapter explores whether EU citizens think that neighbouring countries share those same values and whether the Union can or should extend or promote these values through its policies.

#### The values of the European Union

*Questionnaire source: QC5a.1<sup>10</sup>*

Sharing common values with neighbouring countries could simplify international and intercultural dialogue and pave the way towards agreements. It is not, however, a sufficient precondition for effective cooperation and working together efficiently.

The majority of EU27 citizens think that neighbouring countries of the EU do not share the same values as the European Union (57%). In contrast, three in ten respondents are of the opposite view (30%).

Attitudes towards whether or not neighbouring countries share the same values as the EU have remained fairly stable during the past year. A slight drop is observed among those who do not believe in shared values but this can be explained by an increase in the proportion of those replying 'don't know' to this question.

*Questionnaire source: QC5a.3<sup>11</sup>*

Democracy is one of the fundamental principles of the European Union. Roughly three quarters of the EU population believe that the EU can provide assistance, where necessary, to promote this principle in the neighbouring countries (73%). Only 16% do not agree and 11% have no opinion on the issue.

Results for this question have not changed much since 2006 except for a slight drop of 4 percentage points among those agreeing that the EU can help to promote democracy. Again, this drop can be explained by a 4 percentage points increase in the 'don't know' rate.

<sup>9</sup> Article 6 (1) Treaty of the European Union:

The Union is founded on the principles of liberty, democracy, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the rule of law, principles which are common to the Member States.

<sup>10</sup> QC5a Please tell me if you agree or disagree with each of the following statements concerning European Union neighbouring countries shown on this map. (see page 3)

1. Those countries share most of our values

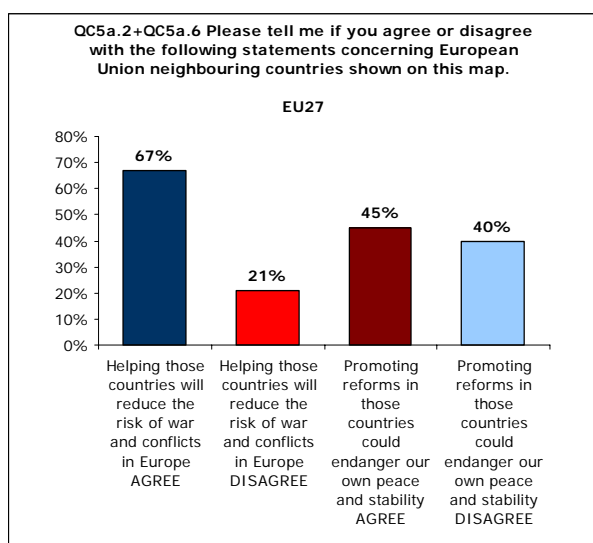
<sup>11</sup> QC5a Please tell me if you agree or disagree with each of the following statements concerning European Union neighbouring countries shown on this map. (see page 3)

3. The EU can help, where necessary, to promote democracy in those countries

## Extending peace and stability by means of the European Neighbourhood Policy

The European integration process endorses peace and stability across the entire territory of the European Union. However, EU citizens have a quite ambivalent view when it comes to EU efforts aimed at promoting peace and stability beyond its borders. On the one hand, they consider that EU assistance given to neighbouring countries reduces the risk of war and conflicts in Europe; on the other hand, they are concerned about their own security which they think could be endangered by promoting reforms in neighbouring countries. European public opinion is particularly divided on financing the EU's efforts in order to resolve conflicts in its neighbourhood.

Questionnaire source: QC5a.2 and QC5a.6<sup>12</sup>



67% of the EU27 population believe EU assistance to neighbouring countries will reduce the risk of war and conflicts in Europe; 21% do not agree and 12% could not form an opinion on this matter.

However, opinion is divided when it comes to the possible consequences of EU involvement in the internal affairs of neighbouring countries. 45% think that EU-sponsored reforms in surrounding countries could pose a danger to their own peace and stability, whereas 40% do not consider that promoting reforms in these countries could endanger the EU's security. Some 15% did not comment.

It should also be noted, that the wording 'could endanger' in the question implied a potential rather than a definite threat.

Compared to 2006, a change can be observed concerning people's assessment of risks to their own security. The share of respondents who believe that the encouragement of reforms by the EU in neighbouring countries could constitute a danger to the own peace and stability has remained the same (45%) while the proportion of those holding the opposite view has dropped by 5 percentage points from 45% to 40%. Nevertheless, this evolution is probably due to the increase of 'don't know' responses (+5 points) and does not refer to a major change of public opinion on this divisive issue.

At national level, the majority in all Member States expect that European Union aid to neighbouring countries will reduce the risk of wars and conflicts in Europe.

<sup>12</sup> QC5a Please tell me if you agree or disagree with each of the following statements concerning European Union neighbouring countries shown on this map. (see page 3)

2. Helping those countries will reduce the risk of war and conflicts in Europe

6. Promoting reforms in those countries could endanger our own peace and stability

*Questionnaire source: QC6*<sup>13</sup>

While the previous two questions examined respondents' views on security issues at an abstract level, this question reveals their views about dealing with *real* conflicts in neighbouring countries. The wording of the question suggested some possible negative consequences e.g. refugees and economic problems that the EU Member States could encounter in the event of internal conflicts in a neighbouring country.

European public opinion is divided when it comes to providing financial assistance to help neighbouring countries deal with internal conflicts. 38% consider that the EU should not spend money on resolving conflicts in neighbouring countries. Conversely, 33% would encourage the EU to give financial aid in order to deal with such conflicts. Almost a fifth of Europeans surveyed replied spontaneously that 'it depends' (19%). Furthermore, 10% have no opinion on this subject.

Looking at national results in more detail, Cyprus is notable with 71% support for EU financial support for conflict resolution in neighbouring countries, perhaps because of their sensitization to the conflict in their immediate neighbourhood in Lebanon. The contrary view is held in France (56%), Belgium (54%) and the UK (53%) where the majority of the population oppose financial aid for dealing with conflicts in neighbouring countries of the EU.

### **Perceptions of cooperation with the EU's neighbours**

*Questionnaire source: QC5a.7*<sup>14</sup>

One in two EU citizens believes that neighbouring countries are willing to cooperate with the EU in order to introduce internal reforms (49%). Almost a third of respondents disagree that structural reforms are the main objective of neighbouring countries when working with the Union (30%), while one in five respondents had no opinion on this question (21%).

European public opinion on this topic has remained rather stable over the past year which would suggest that there is a consistent level of support for EU cooperation efforts with neighbouring countries in order to encourage internal reforms.

*Questionnaire source: QC5a.5*<sup>15</sup>

In the event of a neighbouring country being unwilling to make progress on reforms, a clear majority of respondents consider that the EU should reduce its relations with the country in question (63%). However, one in four of those surveyed are of the opposite opinion (25%).

In all EU Member States, a relative majority of the population agrees with reducing relations with neighbouring countries that show no willingness to progress.

<sup>13</sup> QC6 Some of our neighbours suffer from internal conflicts, which can also cause wider refugee or economic problems. According to you, should the European Union provide financial help to help dealing with the internal conflicts of its neighbours?

<sup>14</sup> QC5a Please tell me if you agree or disagree with each of the following statements concerning European Union neighbouring countries shown on this map. (see page 3)

7. The majority of those countries are willing to co-operate with the EU to reform themselves

<sup>15</sup> QC5a Please tell me if you agree or disagree with each of the following statements concerning European Union neighbouring countries shown on this map. (see page 3)

5. The EU should reduce its relations with the neighbouring countries that show no willingness to progress

### 2.3.2 Social issues

**- Most of those surveyed consider that close working relationships with EU neighbours will reduce illegal immigration into the EU -**

Questionnaire source: QC5a.4<sup>16</sup>

The majority (62%) of EU citizens believe that close cooperation with neighbouring countries will reduce illegal immigration into the EU. Meanwhile a quarter do not expect such a result (26%). No notable changes can be observed compared to the 2006 study.

### 2.3.3 Economic issues

**- Most respondents believe in mutual economic benefits but they are concerned that the policy may incur high costs –**

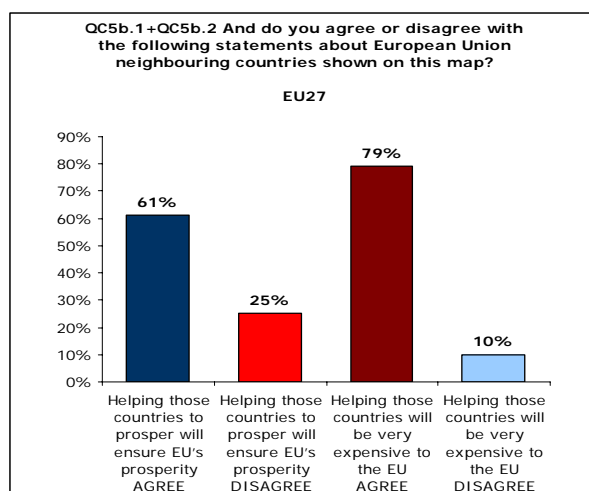
This chapter examines whether respondents perceive the opportunities created by the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) as a win-win situation for both the European Union and for neighbouring countries.

For the 2007-2013 budget period, the EU budget foresees almost €12 billion Euro for fostering development and supporting reforms in the countries neighbouring the EU to the east and south.<sup>17</sup> This is an increase of 32% on the previous budget period and shows the importance that EU Member States attach to this.

Questionnaire source: QC5b.1 and QC5b.2<sup>18</sup>

Across the European Union, a clear majority of respondents believe that the European Neighbourhood Policy can produce mutual benefits for the EU and its neighbours (61%). On the other hand, one in four interviewees does not see any link between EU prosperity and increasing prosperity in neighbouring countries aided by EU assistance (25%).

Despite the acknowledgment of mutual economic advantages implied in European Neighbourhood Policy cooperation, the vast majority of EU citizens consider such cooperation to be expensive (79%).



<sup>16</sup> QC5a Please tell me if you agree or disagree with each of the following statements concerning European Union neighbouring countries shown on this map. (see page 3)

4. Working closely with those countries will reduce illegal immigration into the EU

<sup>17</sup> Funds allocated to individual country programmes depend on their needs and absorption capacity as well as their implementation of agreed reforms.

[http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/funding\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/funding_en.htm)

<sup>18</sup> QC5b And do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about European Union neighbouring countries shown on this map? (see page 3)

1. Helping those countries to prosper will ensure EU's prosperity

2. Helping those countries will be very expensive to the EU

Respondents' attitudes towards the Neighbourhood Policy have not changed over the past year when it comes to recognising the mutual advantages of the policy. They also remain concerned about potentially high costs which they believe could be involved.

A country analysis reveals that Germany is the only country where a relative majority (45% vs. 43%) doubts that the EU will derive benefits from helping neighbouring countries towards prosperity.

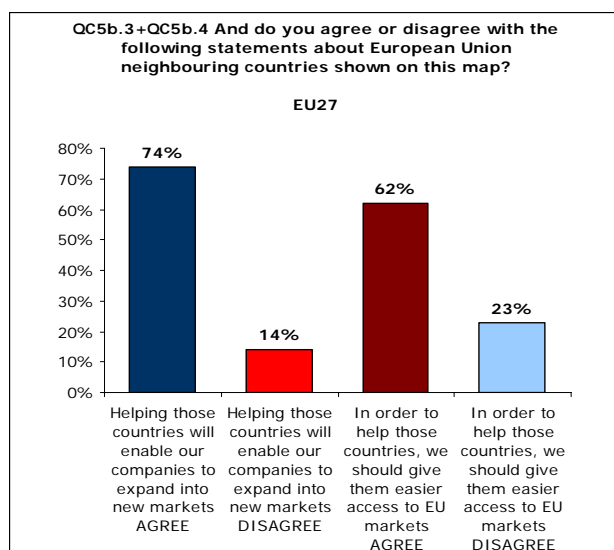
In all 27 Member States, a clear majority of respondents worry about the perceived high costs incurred by EU assistance to neighbouring countries.

Respondents in all socio-demographic categories tend to consider the costs of EU assistance to neighbouring countries to be high.

The consistency of country and socio-demographic results in this respect suggests that neither personal economic situation nor that of the country where respondents live affect this perception significantly.

*Questionnaire source: QC5b.3 and QC5b.4<sup>19</sup>*

Expanding markets is in the interest of both the European Union and its neighbouring countries.



A reciprocal opening of markets is supported by most of those surveyed: 74% see an opportunity for gaining new markets for national and EU-based companies through providing EU aid to neighbouring countries. 62% also recognise that making EU markets more accessible to these countries will aid their development.

No dramatic changes in attitudes can be observed compared to last year.

A country by country analysis shows a relatively homogenous picture for both questions about market access. In every Member

State, the majority of respondents agree that markets should be expanded in both directions but there are varying levels of opposition to the idea of offering neighbouring countries easier access to EU markets.

An examination of socio-demographic variables reveals that more respondents with higher educational levels, managers, other white collar employees and students are most likely to agree with the expansion of markets in both directions.

<sup>19</sup> QC5b And do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about European Union neighbouring countries shown on this map? (see page 3)

3. Helping those countries will enable our companies to expand into new markets

4. In order to help those countries, we should give them easier access to EU markets

## CONCLUSION

Generally speaking, the **outcome of this survey is quite similar to the one carried out in 2006**. This allows us to draw the following conclusions: Overall, the fact that many issues enjoy consistently broad public support serves as a positive sign for policy actors to continue further efforts in the same direction.

**EU citizens' awareness of neighbouring countries** has remained at about the same level as in 2006. **Geographical proximity, especially sharing common borders, appears to have the greatest impact** on respondents' perception. As was the case last year, EU citizens primarily perceive countries which share a land border with the EU as neighbours, namely the Ukraine, Russia and Belarus. Since Romania joined the EU in 2007, Moldova became an immediate neighbour of the European Union so more respondents seem to be aware of the country as a neighbour than in 2006.

**A slight majority of EU citizens continues to have little or no interest in events in countries neighbouring the European Union (54%)**. Yet, a considerable share of respondents say they are interested in what is happening in the EU's neighbourhood (44%). In any event, despite there being only a moderate level of interest in developments in the neighbouring countries, two thirds of respondents (67%) consider the EU's relations with neighbouring countries to be good.

The most relevant finding of the study is that EU citizens regard all issues covered by the survey (**fighting organised crime and terrorism, environment and energy, economic development, democracy, education and training and immigration**) as **important** areas for cooperation between the EU and its neighbours. Furthermore, the high level of support for each theme, as well as citizens' ranking of priorities, has remained stable over the past year. This suggests that **European public opinion strongly supports cooperation in those fields with the EU's neighbours**.

**Overall, respondents continue to favourably assess the potential results of the EU's cooperation with its neighbours and expect it to bring mutual benefits**. However, a clear majority still thinks that these countries do not share the same values as the EU.

**In political terms**, most respondents believe that EU assistance to neighbouring countries *can* serve to extend peace and democracy beyond the borders of the Union. On the other hand, 45% also fear for their own security, which they think could be endangered by promoting reforms in neighbouring countries.

With regard to **immigration**, 62% of respondents expect that close cooperation with neighbouring countries will reduce illegal immigration into the EU.

EU citizens also believe that **economic cooperation** with neighbouring countries will increase mutual prosperity and will open new markets for both parties. On the other hand, a significant share of respondents still considers the policy to be costly.

Finally, this study confirms the observations made in the 2006 survey, that the EU should link its relations with partner countries to their willingness to make progress with reforms.

The main conclusions of the poll can be summarised as follows:

- One in five EU citizens have heard of the European Neighbourhood Policy.
- There is consistent and broad public support, across the European Union, for the substance of the policy, i.e. cooperating with neighbours on specific policy areas / issues.
- Despite the unambiguous acknowledgement of mutual benefits in political, economic and social terms, EU citizens continue to be concerned about the potentially high costs of EU assistance to these countries.
- EU citizens in general, do not make a spontaneous link between the idea that promoting stability and economic development in the neighbourhood of the EU will also contribute to prosperity and security in the Union itself.
- There is support for the idea of a well-functioning cooperation framework with neighbouring countries, essential in order to cooperate on tackling common global threats and challenges such as security (terrorism and organised crime), environmental protection and energy supplies.

# **ANNEXES**

# **Technical specifications**

## **SPECIAL EUROBAROMETER N° 285**

### **“European Neighbourhood policy 2007”**

### **TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS**

Between the 25<sup>th</sup> of May and the 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2007, TNS Opinion & Social, a consortium created between Taylor Nelson Sofres and EOS Gallup Europe, carried out wave 67.3 of the EUROBAROMETER, on request of the EUROPEAN COMMISSION, Directorate General Communication, “Public Opinion and Media Monitoring”.

The SPECIAL EUROBAROMETER N°285 is part of wave 67.3 and covers the population of the respective nationalities of the European Union Member States, resident in each of the Member States and aged 15 years and over. The basic sample design applied in all states is a multi-stage, random (probability) one. In each country, a number of sampling points was drawn with probability proportional to population size (for a total coverage of the country) and to population density.

In order to do so, the sampling points were drawn systematically from each of the “administrative regional units”, after stratification by individual unit and type of area. They thus represent the whole territory of the countries surveyed according to the EUROSTAT NUTS II (or equivalent) and according to the distribution of the resident population of the respective nationalities in terms of metropolitan, urban and rural areas. In each of the selected sampling points, a starting address was drawn, at random. Further addresses (every Nth address) were selected by standard “random route” procedures, from the initial address. In each household, the respondent was drawn, at random (following the “closest birthday rule”). All interviews were conducted face-to-face in people’s homes and in the appropriate national language. As far as the data capture is concerned, CAPI (*Computer Assisted Personal Interview*) was used in those countries where this technique was available.

<b>ABBREVIATIONS</b>	<b>COUNTRIES</b>	<b>INSTITUTES</b>	<b>N° INTERVIEWS</b>	<b>FIELDWORK DATES</b>		<b>POPULATION 15+</b>
BE	Belgium	TNS Dimarso	1.040	25/05/2007	21/06/2007	8.650.994
BG	Bulgaria	TNS BBSS	1.000	01/06/2007	14/06/2007	6.671.699
CZ	Czech Rep.	TNS Aisa	1.024	26/05/2007	21/06/2007	8.571.710
DK	Denmark	TNS Gallup DK	1.007	02/06/2007	30/06/2007	4.411.580
DE	Germany	TNS Infratest	1.510	25/05/2007	21/06/2007	64.361.608
EE	Estonia	TNS Emor	1.004	03/06/2007	26/06/2007	887.094
EL	Greece	TNS ICAP	1.000	26/05/2007	20/06/2007	8.693.566
ES	Spain	TNS Demoscopia	1.007	29/05/2007	26/06/2007	37.024.972
FR	France	TNS Sofres	1.039	29/05/2007	26/06/2007	44.010.619
IE	Ireland	TNS MRBI	1.003	30/05/2007	30/06/2007	3.089.775
IT	Italy	TNS Abacus	1.017	30/05/2007	27/06/2007	48.892.559
CY	Rep. of Cyprus	Synovate	503	27/05/2007	21/06/2007	596.752
LV	Latvia	TNS Latvia	1.010	01/06/2007	27/06/2007	1.418.596
LT	Lithuania	TNS Gallup Lithuania	1.017	25/05/2007	20/06/2007	2.803.661
LU	Luxembourg	TNS ILReS	510	28/05/2007	25/06/2007	374.097
HU	Hungary	TNS Hungary	1.000	31/05/2007	24/06/2007	8.503.379
MT	Malta	MISCO	500	25/05/2007	22/06/2007	321.114
NL	The Netherlands	TNS NIPO	1.001	25/05/2007	25/06/2007	13.030.000
AT	Austria	Österreichisches Gallup-Institut	1.009	25/05/2007	25/06/2007	6.848.736
PL	Poland	TNS OBOP	1.000	28/05/2007	25/06/2007	31.967.880
PT	Portugal	TNS EUROTESTE	1.002	02/06/2007	27/06/2007	8.080.915
RO	Romania	TNS CSOP	1.004	25/05/2007	20/06/2007	18.173.179
SI	Slovenia	RM PLUS	1.037	27/05/2007	25/06/2007	1.720.137
SK	Slovakia	TNS AISA SK	1.075	27/05/2007	13/06/2007	4.316.438
FI	Finland	TNS Gallup Oy	1.026	29/05/2007	20/06/2007	4.348.676
SE	Sweden	TNS GALLUP	1.001	31/05/2007	25/06/2007	7.486.976
UK	United Kingdom	TNS UK	1.313	25/05/2007	18/06/2007	47.685.578
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>26.659</b>	<b>25/05/2007</b>	<b>30/06/2007</b>	<b>392.942.290</b>

For each country a comparison between the sample and the universe was carried out. The Universe description was derived from Eurostat population data or from national statistics offices. For all countries surveyed, a national weighting procedure, using marginal and intercellular weighting, was carried out based on this Universe description. In all countries, gender, age, region and size of locality were introduced in the iteration procedure. For international weighting (i.e. EU averages), TNS Opinion & Social applies the official population figures as provided by EUROSTAT or national statistic offices. The total population figures for input in this post-weighting procedure are listed above.

Readers are reminded that survey results are estimations, the accuracy of which, everything being equal, rests upon the sample size and upon the observed percentage. With samples of about 1,000 interviews, the real percentages vary within the following confidence limits:

<b>Observed percentages</b>	10% or 90%	20% or 80%	30% or 70%	40% or 60%	50%
<b>Confidence limits</b>	± 1.9 points	± 2.5 points	± 2.7 points	± 3.0 points	± 3.1 points

# **Questionnaire**

--

--

QC1 Can you name 5 countries that are set to join the European Union in a near future? (M)

QC1 Pouvez-vous citer 5 pays qui sont censés adhérer à l'Union européenne dans un proche avenir ? (M)

(DO NOT READ OUT – CODE THE SPONTANEOUS ANSWERS BELOW)

(NE PAS LIRE – CODER LES REPONSES SPONTANEEES CI-DESSOUS)

Albania	1,
Algeria	2,
Armenia	3,
Azerbaijan	4,
Belarus	5,
Bosnia and Herzegovina	6,
Bulgaria	7,
Croatia	8,
Cyprus	9,
Czech republic	10,
Egypt	11,
Estonia	12,
Georgia	13,
Hungary	14,
Iceland	15,
Israel	16,
Jordan	17,
Kosovo	18,
Latvia	19,
Lebanon	20,
Libya	21,
Lithuania	22,
Macedonia\ Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	23,
Malta	24,
Moldova	25,
Morocco	26,
Norway	27,
Montenegro (M)	28,
Palestinian territories (the Gaza strip and the West Bank)\ The Palestinian authority	29,
Poland	30,
Romania	31,
Serbia (M)	32,
Slovakia	33,
Slovenia	34,
Switzerland	35,
Syria	36,
Tunisia	37,
Turkey	38,

Albanie	1,
Algérie	2,
Arménie	3,
Azerbaïdjan	4,
Biélorussie	5,
Bosnie-Herzégovine	6,
Bulgarie	7,
Croatie	8,
Chypre	9,
République tchèque	10,
Egypte	11,
Estonie	12,
Géorgie	13,
Hongrie	14,
Islande	15,
Israël	16,
Jordanie	17,
Kosovo	18,
Lettonie	19,
Liban	20,
Libye	21,
Lituanie	22,
Macédoine\ Ancienne république yougoslave de Macédoine	23,
Malte	24,
Moldavie	25,
Maroc	26,
Norvège	27,
Monténégro (M)	28,
Territoires palestiniens (Bande de Gaza et la Cisjordanie)\ L'Autorité palestinienne	29,
Pologne	30,
Roumanie	31,
Serbie (M)	32,
Slovaquie	33,
Slovénie	34,
Suisse	35,
Syrie	36,
Tunisie	37,
Turquie	38,

Ukraine	39,
Western Balkans\ Balkans	40,
Others (SPECIFY)	41,
DK	42,

EB65.3 QA2 TREND MODIFIED

ASK QC1o IF "OTHERS" IN QC1

QC1o Which other(s)?

(WRITE DOWN - CODE AT THE OFFICE)

NEW

Ukraine	39,
Les Balkans occidentaux\ Balkans	40,
Autres (SPECIFIER)	41,
NSP	42,

EB65.3 QA2 TREND MODIFIED

POSER QC1o SI "AUTRES" EN QC1

QC1o Quel(s) autre(s) ?

(NOTER EN CLAIR - CODER AU BUREAU)

NEW

--

QC2a For each of the following countries, please tell me if you consider it to be a neighbour of the European Union.

(SHOW CARD – ONE ANSWER PER LINE)

(READ OUT - ROTATE) (N)	You consider it to be an EU neighbour	You do not consider it to be an EU neighbour	DK
-------------------------	---------------------------------------	--	----

1	Armenia	1	2	3
2	Egypt	1	2	3
3	Israel	1	2	3
4	Jordan	1	2	3
5	Moldova	1	2	3
6	Morocco	1	2	3
7	Palestinian territories (the Gaza strip and the West Bank)	1	2	3
8	Tunisia	1	2	3
9	Ukraine	1	2	3

EB65.3 QA4a TREND SLIGHTLY MODIFIED

--

QC2a Pour chacun des pays suivants, dites-moi si vous le considérez comme un voisin de l'Union européenne.

(MONTRER CARTE – UNE REPONSE PAR LIGNE)

(LIRE - ROTATION) (N)	Vous le considérez comme un voisin de l'UE	Vous ne le considérez pas comme un voisin de l'UE	NSP
-----------------------	--	---	-----

1	Arménie	1	2	3
2	Egypte	1	2	3
3	Israël	1	2	3
4	Jordanie	1	2	3
5	Moldavie	1	2	3
6	Maroc	1	2	3
7	Territoires palestiniens (Bande de Gaza et la Cisjordanie)	1	2	3
8	Tunisie	1	2	3
9	Ukraine	1	2	3

EB65.3 QA4a TREND SLIGHTLY MODIFIED

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

QC2b And what about these countries, please tell me if you consider it to be a neighbour of the European Union.

QC2b Et pour chacun des pays suivants, dites-moi si vous le considérez comme un voisin de l'Union européenne.

(SHOW CARD – ONE ANSWER PER LINE)

(MONTRER CARTE – UNE REPONSE PAR LIGNE)

(READ OUT - ROTATE) (N)	You consider it to be an EU neighbour	You do not consider it to be an EU neighbour	DK
-------------------------	---------------------------------------	--	----

(LIRE - ROTATION) (N)	Vous le considérez comme un voisin de l'UE	Vous ne le considérez pas comme un voisin de l'UE	NSP
-----------------------	--	---	-----

1	Algeria	1	2	3
2	Belarus	1	2	3
3	Georgia	1	2	3
4	Kazakhstan	1	2	3
5	Lebanon	1	2	3
6	Libya	1	2	3
7	Russia	1	2	3
8	Syria	1	2	3

1	Algérie	1	2	3
2	Biélorussie	1	2	3
3	Géorgie	1	2	3
4	Kazakhstan	1	2	3
5	Liban	1	2	3
6	Libye	1	2	3
7	Russie	1	2	3
8	Syrie	1	2	3

EB65.3 QA4b TREND SLIGHTLY MODIFIED

EB65.3 QA4b TREND SLIGHTLY MODIFIED

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

QC3 Have you ever heard of the European Union's policy towards its neighbours, called the European Neighbourhood policy?

QC3 Avez-vous déjà entendu parler de la politique de l'Union européenne envers ses voisins, appelée la Politique européenne de voisinage ?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Yes	1
No	2

Oui	1
Non	2

EB65.3 QA7

EB65.3 QA7

A few years ago a separate policy called the "European Neighbourhood Policy" was launched for countries which do not have an accession prospect. This policy aims at creating an area of shared values, stability and prosperity, enhanced cooperation and deeper economic integration with 16 different countries located to the South and to the East of the European Union. (M)

(SHOW MAP WITH ONLY NEIGHBOURS HIGHLIGHTED IN A COLOUR, NO DISTINCTION BETWEEN EU MS, EEA, CANDIDATE AND POTENTIAL CANDIDATES)

Il y a quelques années, une politique distincte appelée "Politique européenne de voisinage" a été créée pour les pays qui n'ont pas de perspective d'adhésion. Le but de cette politique est de créer un espace de valeurs communes, de stabilité et de prospérité, de coopération accrue et d'intégration économique renforcée avec 16 pays différents situés au Sud et à l'Est de l'Union européenne. (M)

(MONTRER CARTE AVEC LES PAYS VOISINS EN COULEUR, PAS DE DISTINCTIONS ENTRE LES ETATS MEMBRES DE L'UNION EUROPEENNE, LES PAYS DE L'ESPACE ECONOMIQUE EUROPEEN, LES PAYS CANDIDATS ET POTENTIELLEMENT CANDIDATS)

QC4 For each of the following areas, please tell me if you think it is very important, fairly important, not very important or not at all important that the European Union develops specific relationships with these countries with respect to...

(SHOW CARD WITH SCALE – ONE ANSWER PER LINE)

	(READ OUT) (N)	Very important	Fairly important	Not very important	Not at all important	DK
1	Immigration	1	2	3	4	5
2	Environment and energy (M)	1	2	3	4	5
3	Democracy	1	2	3	4	5
4	Organised crime and Terrorism (M)	1	2	3	4	5
5	Economic development	1	2	3	4	5
6	Education and training	1	2	3	4	5

EB65.3 QA8 TREND MODIFIED

QC4 Pourriez-vous me dire si vous pensez qu'il est très important, plutôt important, plutôt pas important ou pas du tout important que l'Union européenne développe des relations spéciales avec ces pays en matière de ...

(MONTRER CARTE AVEC ECHELLE – UNE REPONSE PAR LIGNE)

	(LIRE) (N)	Très important	Plutôt important	Plutôt pas important	Pas du tout important	NSP
1	Immigration	1	2	3	4	5
2	Environnement et énergie (M)	1	2	3	4	5
3	Démocratie	1	2	3	4	5
4	Crime organisé et terrorisme (M)	1	2	3	4	5
5	Développement économique	1	2	3	4	5
6	Education et formation	1	2	3	4	5

EB65.3 QA8 TREND MODIFIED

(SHOW MAP WITH ONLY NEIGHBOURS HIGHLIGHTED IN A COLOUR, NO DISTINCTION BETWEEN EU MS, EEA, CANDIDATE AND POTENTIAL CANDIDATES)

(MONTRER CARTE AVEC LES PAYS VOISINS EN COULEUR, PAS DE DISTINCTIONS ENTRE LES ETATS MEMBRES DE L'UNION EUROPEENNE, LES PAYS DE L'ESPACE ECONOMIQUE EUROPEEN, LES PAYS CANDIDATS ET POTENTIELLEMENT CANDIDATS)

QC5a Please tell me if you agree or disagree with each of the following statements concerning European Union neighbouring countries shown on this map.

QC5a Pourriez-vous me dire si vous êtes d'accord ou pas d'accord avec chacune des propositions suivantes concernant les pays voisins de l'Union européenne représentés sur cette carte.

(SHOW CARD WITH SCALE – ONE ANSWER PER LINE)

(MONTRER CARTE AVEC ECHELLE – UNE REPOSE PAR LIGNE)

	(READ OUT - ROTATE) (N)	Totally agree	Tend to agree	Tend to disagree	Totally disagree	DK
1	Those countries share most of our values	1	2	3	4	5
2	Helping those countries will reduce the risk of war and conflicts in Europe	1	2	3	4	5
3	The EU can help, where necessary, to promote democracy in those countries	1	2	3	4	5
4	Working closely with those countries will reduce illegal immigration into the EU	1	2	3	4	5
5	The EU should reduce its relations with the neighbouring countries that show no willingness to progress	1	2	3	4	5
6	Promoting reforms in those countries could endanger our own peace and stability	1	2	3	4	5
7	The majority of those countries are willing to cooperate with the EU to reform themselves	1	2	3	4	5

	(LIRE - ROTATION) (N)	Tout à fait d'accord	Plutôt d'accord	Plutôt pas d'accord	Pas du tout d'accord	NSP
1	Ces pays partagent la plupart de nos valeurs	1	2	3	4	5
2	Aider ces pays réduira le risque de guerre et de conflit en Europe	1	2	3	4	5
3	L'UE peut aider à promouvoir la démocratie dans ces pays lorsque cela est nécessaire	1	2	3	4	5
4	Une coopération étroite avec ces pays réduira l'immigration clandestine vers l'UE	1	2	3	4	5
5	L'UE devrait réduire ses relations avec les pays voisins qui ne montrent pas de volonté de progresser	1	2	3	4	5
6	Encourager des réformes dans ces pays pourrait mettre en péril notre propre paix et stabilité	1	2	3	4	5
7	La majorité de ces pays sont prêts à coopérer avec l'UE pour conduire des réformes chez eux	1	2	3	4	5

EB65.3 QA9a

EB65.3 QA9a

(SHOW MAP WITH ONLY NEIGHBOURS HIGHLIGHTED IN A COLOUR, NO DISTINCTION BETWEEN EU MS, EEA, CANDIDATE AND POTENTIAL CANDIDATES)

(MONTRER CARTE AVEC LES PAYS VOISINS EN COULEUR, PAS DE DISTINCTIONS ENTRE LES ETATS MEMBRES DE L'UNION EUROPEENNE, LES PAYS DE L'ESPACE ECONOMIQUE EUROPEEN, LES PAYS CANDIDATS ET POTENTIELLEMENT CANDIDATS)

QC5b And do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about European Union neighbouring countries shown on this map?

QC5b Et pourriez-vous me dire si vous êtes d'accord ou pas d'accord avec chacune des propositions suivantes sur les pays voisins de l'Union européenne représentés sur cette carte.

(SHOW CARD WITH SCALE – ONE ANSWER PER LINE)

(MONTRER CARTE AVEC ECHELLE – UNE REPOSE PAR LIGNE)

	(READ OUT) (N)	Totally agree	Tend to agree	Tend to disagree	Totally disagree	DK
--	----------------	---------------	---------------	------------------	------------------	----

	(LIRE) (N)	Tout à fait d'accord	Plutôt d'accord	Plutôt pas d'accord	Pas du tout d'accord	NSP
--	------------	----------------------	-----------------	---------------------	----------------------	-----

1	Helping those countries to prosper will ensure EU's prosperity	1	2	3	4	5
2	Helping those countries will be very expensive to the EU	1	2	3	4	5
3	Helping those countries will enable our companies into expand into new markets	1	2	3	4	5
4	In order to help those countries, we should give them easier access to EU markets	1	2	3	4	5

1	En aidant ces pays à prospérer, nous assurons la prospérité de l'UE	1	2	3	4	5
2	Aider ces pays coûtera très cher à l'UE	1	2	3	4	5
3	Aider ces pays permettra à nos entreprises d'accéder à de nouveaux marchés	1	2	3	4	5
4	Afin d'aider ces pays, nous devrions leur faciliter l'accès au marché de l'UE	1	2	3	4	5

EB65.3 QA9b

EB65.3 QA9b

QC6 Some of our neighbours suffer from internal conflicts, which can also cause wider refugee or economic problems. According to you, should the European Union provide financial help to help dealing with the internal conflicts of its neighbours?

QC6 Certains de nos voisins subissent des conflits internes qui peuvent également entraîner des problèmes plus larges de réfugiés ou des problèmes économiques. Selon vous, l'Union européenne devrait-elle donner une aide financière pour aider à régler les conflits internes de ses voisins?

Yes	1
No	2
It depends (SPONTANEOUS)	3
DK	4

Oui	1
Non	2
Cela dépend (SPONTANE)	3
DK	4

NEW

NEW

(SHOW MAP WITH ONLY NEIGHBOURS HIGHLIGHTED IN A COLOUR, NO DISTINCTION BETWEEN EU MS, EEA, CANDIDATE AND POTENTIAL CANDIDATES)

(MONTRER CARTE AVEC LES PAYS VOISINS EN COULEUR, PAS DE DISTINCTIONS ENTRE LES ETATS MEMBRES DE L'UNION EUROPEENNE, LES PAYS DE L'ESPACE ECONOMIQUE EUROPEEN, LES PAYS CANDIDATS ET POTENTIELLEMENT CANDIDATS)

QC7 How interested are you in what is happening in countries neighbouring the European Union? Are you...?

QC7 Dans quelle mesure êtes-vous intéressé(e) par ce qui se passe dans les pays voisins de l'Union européenne ? Etes-vous ... ?

(READ OUT – ONE ANSWER ONLY)

(LIRE – UNE SEULE REPONSE)

Very interested	1
Fairly interested	2
Not very interested	3
Not at all interested	4
DK	5

Très intéressé(e)	1
Plutôt intéressé(e)	2
Plutôt pas intéressé(e)	3
Pas du tout intéressé(e)	4
NSP	5

EB65.3 QA10

EB65.3 QA10

--

--

SD1	In general, would you say that the European Union has very good, fairly good, fairly bad or very bad relations with neighbouring countries?
-----	---

SD1	En général, diriez-vous que l'Union européenne a de très bonnes, plutôt bonnes, plutôt mauvaises ou très mauvaises relations avec ses pays voisins ?
-----	--

(ONE ANSWER ONLY)
-------------------

(UNE SEULE REPONSE)
---------------------

Very good	1
Fairly good	2
Fairly bad	3
Very bad	4
Does not have any relationship with neighbouring countries (SPONTANEOUS)	5
DK	6

Très bonnes	1
Plutôt bonnes	2
Plutôt mauvaises	3
Très mauvaises	4
N'a pas de relations avec ses pays voisins (SPONTANE)	5
NSP	6

EB65.3 SD1
------------

EB65.3 SD1
------------