EUROBAROMETER 2001 – SPECIAL EDITION
Survey carried out for the European Commission's Representations in the Member States

National Highlights

"This document does not reflect the views of the European Commission. Any interpretations or opinions expressed in this report are those of the authors alone."
The national report of the Eurobarometer presents an analysis of public opinion towards the Euro, the Enlargement and the Future of Europe.

The key findings concern:

THE EURO

Information concerning the Euro
- Six out of ten Belgians feel well up to very well informed concerning the single European currency. The European average is four out of ten citizens. The most important information sources mentioned are television (70 %); banks, saving banks & insurance companies (50 %); and newspapers & magazines (50 %).
- The national government seems to be the most efficient source of information about the Euro according to 33% of the Belgians. In comparison with the other European countries, only in Germany (28 %) and Austria is there a lower response.

Value of the Euro
- The exact value of the Euro against the Belgian franc is known by 45 % of the Belgian respondents. The European average is 20 % and only the Luxembourgers have a better score (53 %).

Introduction of the Euro coins and notes
- The exact introduction date of the Euro coins and notes is known by eight out of ten Belgians, and is comparable with the European average.
- If only the year is asked, then 84 % gives the correct answer and this is again very close to the European average (86 %).

Acceptance as a means of payment
- The majority of Belgians (90 %) are convinced that the Euro will be accepted as a means of payment in the eurozone, and this is better than the European average (80 %).
- At the same time, six out of ten respondents (Belgians as well as the European average) believe that the Euro will be accepted in the other European countries (the non-eurozone). This impression is incorrect.

Confidence in the Euro
- The confidence in the Euro is higher in Belgium than the European average. Nine out of ten Belgian citizens believe that the introduction of the Euro will make life easier for people who travel across borders, that it will make it easier to shop around Europe as prices will be comparable, and it will eliminate charges for changing from one currency into the other. Seven out of ten respondents claim that it will be a further step towards European integration and that it will create a link between Europeans. Less than three out of ten respondents have the impression that the introduction will create more jobs, that Belgium will lose control over its economic and social policy, or that it will bring the mortgage rate down.

Adaption after the introduction of the Euro
- The changeover will present half of the citizens with some temporary difficulties, on the general as well as on the personal level. On the general level, there is the expectation that only 2 % will have no difficulty, while on the personal level this is 19 %. This implies that seven out of ten respondents only expect short-term or no difficulties at all in relation with the changeover to the Euro.
Knowledge concerning the candidate-member states

- The respondents of Brussels have the best knowledge of the candidate member states, and the ones of Wallonie the least. Turkey is the best known candidate, together with Poland. It has to be emphasised that almost 40% of all respondents (except in Brussels: 20%) do not know any candidate, and that Norway and Switzerland are mentioned by one out of four Belgians as being accepted as a candidate, while this is not the case.

Preference concerning the candidate-member states

- The most preferred (by three out of ten, and in Brussels even four out of ten) countries are non candidate-member states (Switzerland and Norway). Poland and Turkey follow in the preference-list, but almost 40% (except in Brussels: 20%) does not have an idea of their preference. Turkey is also in the top three list of countries which are not preferred as member state, (European average: top two)

Information concerning Enlargement

- Three out of four Belgians (in all regions) feel "not very well" up to "not at all well" informed concerning Enlargement. This is comparable with the European average (78%). The interest in participating in the political debate is also very low in all Belgian regions.

Immediate future of the European Union

- Four out of ten Belgians (in all regions and on average in Europe) believe that the European Union should be enlarged to include only some of the countries wishing to join, and two out of ten think that all countries wishing to join should be included. A majority of Europeans (60%) are in favour of - at least - partial enlargement.

Benefit for Member States from Enlargement

- One out of ten Belgians thinks that Germany, Belgium and France will benefit from Enlargement. The same proportion thinks that none of the Member States will gain anything from it. Two out of ten believe that it will be a collective gain, and four out of ten have no idea. For Belgium, 70% claims that the Brussels region will gain most out of Enlargement, as it is the political centre and the centre of decision-making.

Speed of the Enlargement process

- Half of the Belgian citizens believe that the speed of the process should stay as it is at the moment. Two out of ten respondents believe that the process should speed up, and the same proportion thinks that it should slow down. The European average shows similar results.

What if expected of new Member States

- The most important issues (on all levels mentioned by 80% of the respondents) are respect for human rights and democratic principles, followed by an active commitment to fighting against crime, and the acceptance of all European rules (European average lower: 67%) as very important in deciding whether a particular country is ready to join the European Union. The accession of a new country should not be too costly for existing Member States according to 62% Belgian respondents (EU average: 52%) and 54% considers it as very important that the economic development has to be close to the EU level.

Fears about the building of Europe

- There is no current fear for the loss of national culture and identity. Nor are fears expressed for damage to the use of existing languages, the possibility of a European crisis or the existence of Belgium (three out of ten citizens). The biggest fear concerns the transfer of jobs to other countries which have lower production costs (67%, European average: 59%). Concerning the future, the Belgians are less positive and there is always an extra 10% who regard the future less positively.
INTEREST IN COMMUNICATING WITH THE INSTITUTIONS

- Four out of ten Belgians think it would be worthwhile to communicate with the European Institutions, so they can understand what is at stake in their future, because this would allow politicians to take people’s views into account and it would help people to understand better what Europe is doing and how it works. (five to seven out of ten respondents).
- The topics should be the combat against unemployment, health, food safety and citizens’ rights (all: 50 %). The consequences of the introduction of the Euro and Enlargement are mentioned by 37 % of the citizens.
- The ones who are not interested see it as a waste of time (35 %) feel not informed enough to take part in these discussions (29 %) and claim that European matters are too complex (27%).

PERSONAL INTEREST IN COMMUNICATING WITH THE INSTITUTIONS

- On the personal level, however, 73 % are not interested in taking part in the discussions, and besides the Finnish citizens, the Belgians are the most negative towards communication with the Institutions. They have the feeling that they do not know enough about the European Union (36 %), their view would not be taken into account (33 %), and they are not interested in politics (32 %). Less than 20 % are interested to talk with any politician (national or European) and in this respect the Belgians have the lowest score in comparison with other EU citizens.

HOW AND WHERE THE DISCUSSIONS SHOULD TAKE PLACE

- Six out of ten Belgians (similar to the European average) would like the discussions to take place near to where they live, and the same amount would like to have this in the town hall. Thirty-seven percent are motivated by the idea that their opinion will be taken into account, and 32 % does not need any motivation to participate.
- The preferred way to take part in the discussions is a meeting with people they know and with less than 20 persons present. Three out of ten Belgians (in all regions) and Europeans prefer a public opinion poll to take part in the discussions and one out of ten by mail or e-mail.

USE OF THE INTERNET

- Seven out of ten Belgians do not use the internet. One out of ten would like to find information on the European Union (two out of ten in the Brussels region) and discussion forums or chat rooms which enable people to give their opinion on different topics (two out of ten in the Brussels region).

PREFERRED WAY OF RECEIVING INFORMATION

- Half of all European Union citizens prefer to receive information needed to participate in public discussions from television (in Ireland and the United Kingdom: 40 %), three out of ten from daily newspapers and two out of ten in a more detailed brochure. Only 4 % wants to receive it from online access points.

INTEREST IN OPINION OF CO-CITIZENS AND CITIZENS OF CANDIDATE-MEMBER STATES

- One out of ten Belgians (in all regions) is very interested in knowing what other EU citizens and those of candidate states think about the future of Europe. Three out of ten are fairly interested. The same proportion is not very interested or not interested at all. The ones who are interested in knowing the opinion of their co-citizens want to be informed on television (67 %), from daily newspapers (48 %) or the radio (31 %).

INTEREST IN EUROPEAN TREATIES

- Sixty percent of the respondents (in all regions, in comparison with a European average of 80 %) consider the knowledge of the content of the Treaties as useful and 40 % (50 % in the Brussels Region) are personally interested in the content. Eighty percent thinks that the Treaties are not well known, 70 % considers them as not easy to understand nor easy to find. Sixty percent (70 % in the Brussels Region) thinks the Treaties are long and 50 % believes the Treaties are translated in the national languages (60 % in the Walloon and Brussels Region).
DENMARK HIGHLIGHTS / EB55

*Euro*: “…we wait and see what happens to you others…”

Loss of sovereignty and autonomy concerns the Danes most with regard to the introduction of the EURO. The opponents of the EURO in Denmark have often set this on the agenda. Against the background of an economically favourable situation the will for changes is not popular. At the same time Danes think of the EURO as a currency for the whole of Europe as a great convenience because of practical reasons.

Only 13% of the respondents state that they have not received any information about the EURO, while 35% state that they do not feel well informed. This indicates that a majority of the population receives information about the EURO but one third of them do not find this information sufficient or they do not want to go into depth with it. While the main part of information is mediated through the media – TV, radio and print media – more than a half, or 56% think that national governmental institutions are the most efficient source of information. Only 16% state that this is the case with EU institutions and only 11% state this for local or regional governments in Denmark.

The awareness of the introduction of the EURO in other countries is associated with their position in the European Union. Countries, which have co-operated in Europe over a long time period are supposed to be a part of the Eurozone, where 86% of the respondents expect the EURO to be generally accepted as payment and only 10% expect the opposite. More surprising is that 66% of the respondents expect the general usage of the EURO even in the three countries which stay outside the Eurozone. This means that a greater part of the Danish population expects a de facto introduction of the EURO and the reason for this is probably, that 68% of them think that it would be practical to have the same currency in several countries all over Europe. A lack of confidence to the EURO modifies this picture, as 53% of the respondents do not agree on the statement ‘The EURO has proven to be an efficient currency’. On the overall economical dimension of the EU, 56% of the respondents furthermore agree on the statement ‘One cannot rely on that EU can attend to Danish economical interests’.

In general, two attitudes to the EURO can be identified. One is to stay outside the Eurozone and instead continue with agreements on co-operation like the co-operation with the EMU countries. The other is to consider the introduction of the EURO at a later date. 56% of the respondents agree on this. ‘We wait and see what happens to you others’.

2. Enlargement: ”Enlargement yes – but not at any cost!”

While 35% of the respondents state that they do not feel well informed about the EURO, more than one half of them state this about the enlargement of the European Union. This shows a deficit of disseminating information about a complex issue. Furthermore, one third do not even have a concrete wish to get more information. Interest should be raised first and then meet a better and greater supply of information.
Issues related to the enlargement do not get the same attention in media than, for instance, issues of national interest. 58% of the respondents state that they would not be interested in participating in the political debate on enlargement. From the viewpoint of the respondents this is because they do not know enough about EU (31%), that they are not interested in politics in general (16%), that they are too busy (14%), that their opinion would not play a role anyway (13%) or it would be waste of time (9%). The importance of the media gets visible when asking where information came from with regard to the Nice meeting. Most respondents have heard or seen something about this meeting in TV, newspapers and radio. Conversations in the family or with colleagues and friends and the Internet (WWW) was stated to a less extent as a source of information.

We can conclude that the media is the main source of information but this is not regarded as being sufficient enough to be a basis for participation in debates on the enlargement. Here, ‘news’ must be distinguished from ‘information’ – and it is information, which is lacking.

Looking at the interest for future member states the respondents are especially interested in getting information about the Baltic countries - Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania - as well as Poland and Hungary and here mostly about the culture of these countries. Asking for the opinion about which country should not be included in the European Union, Turkey is mentioned most often. Surprisingly, Norway is perceived as a member candidate: 20% of the respondents are convinced of this.

In general, most respondents consider the European Union as not being open to all countries. Of these, 64% state that only few countries should be accepted in the near future, while 17% state that the European Union should not be enlarged at all. Enlargement would mean a significant immigration from Eastern and Central European countries for one half of all respondents. 88% of them see this development as being negative due to more social problems, worse conditions on the labour and housing markets, an increase of criminality and a loss of national identity. At the same time 71% of these respondents state that their personal situation will be the same after the enlargement as it is today.

Which criteria for acceptance of new member states are most important? The most important criteria for the respondents are human rights and democratic principles, action against organized criminality and the protection of the environment. This must be seen in connection with the opinion of the speed of enlargement. If these criteria are perceived as problematical in candidate states, the enlargement process should slow down. Enlargement should not happen at any cost.

3. Europe’s future: “It's hard to foretell, especially about the future”.

The attitude amongst Danes is that the pace in the European development is fast and there is an outspoken fear of losing influence in such a development. To a large extent, this must be seen from the perspective of an information problem. The analysis shows, that a large proportion of the respondents experience an information problem (69%). They do not have sufficient information to participate in the debate on Europe’s future.
Not surprisingly, there is a clear tendency for the Danes to fear the continued development and building of the EU, which is motivated by a fear of loosing power to influence the decisions that involve Denmark. On three questions, as to whether there will be a loss of influence for the smaller member states, that decisions will be forced upon the smaller member states by the larger or that decisions will be slower due to a large bureaucracy in EU, two thirds of the respondents express these fears in connection to the building of Europe’s future. It is especially the fear of losing influence in today’s Europe, which is feared by the Danes in connection to the building of Europe’s future.

Answering the question, “would you consider it interesting, if citizens such as you could communicate with political institutions, i.e. express you views on Europe’s future”, about 56% agree, while 38% do not agree on being interested in such an exchange of opinions. There is some interest in a debate on Europe’s future, but a large share of the respondents express some extent of apathy concerning Europe’s future. This indicates, that it is not an easy task to create a vivid engagement amongst the Danes in the debate on Europe’s future.

Who do the respondents in general feel confidence to in supplying useful information to the debate? The largest confidence can be found in decision makers that have been directly elected, such as Danish members of the European parliament (31%) and members of the Danish parliament (29%). They have also confidence in Danish ministers participating in the debate (31%). It is remarkable, that a group of persons who can be expected to have a large expertise on Europe’s future – members of the European Commission – have a comparably low confidence factor amongst the Danes (16%). This can be expected to reflect the uncertainty about the functions of the European Commission. Over half of the respondents comply with the statement “go to a meeting with somebody I know” in relation to participating in the debate on Europe’s future. The analysis also indicates, that meetings on Europe’s future should not exceed 100 participants and preferably have less than 20 persons participating. There is accordingly a demand for relatively small and secure forums to discuss Europe’s future amongst the Danes.

There is a general interest amongst the respondents in knowing more about the opinion on Europe’s future in other EU countries (some interest: 42%, very interested: 28%). This is in line with the positive attitude to the engagement by politicians in other EU countries in the media debate in Denmark on Europe’s future. The Danes are accordingly positive as regards exchanging opinions on “Europe’s Future” across borders. It is television (80%), daily newspapers (58%) and radio (40%) that are most popular as channels for the debate on the future of Europe amongst citizens of Denmark and of other EU countries. The Danes are accordingly willing to participate in a debate on Europe’s future with citizens of other EU countries, though preferably in Danish.
ENGLISH VERSION
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HIGHLIGHTS Germany -

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1. Fears and hopes of integration

- Concerning the fears associated with the integration process, more than every second German mentions a growth of organised crime and drug trafficking (59%), the fear that richer countries will have to pay for the other (57%), transfer of jobs to other countries with lower production costs (56%), and a rise of unemployment in the region (52%). However, fears have different priorities in East- and West Germany: The fear of a rise of unemployment is significantly higher in the East (69% compared to 47% in the West), as is fear of organised crime and drugs (64% to 58%) and transfer of jobs (63% to 54%). The higher emphasis on work-related issues reflects the still comparatively worse economic conditions in East Germany.

- Associated with fears is the probability that they may become true: Two out of three Germans expect that the richer countries will have to pay for the other countries (67%), more than every second one expects a transfer of jobs (60%), a growth of organised crime and drug-trafficking (58%), and rising unemployment (50%). Again, people in East Germany show in most items both a higher level of concern as well of expectation that this happens.

1.1. Current speed of integration

- In Germany, the current speed of the integration process is perceived as faster than in the EU average (Germany: 4.01 average, EU: 3.85). Again, significant differences appear between East- and West-Germany, as East-Germans see the speed still higher than their countrymen (East: 4.11, West: 3.98). Compared to the East, speed is perceived higher only in Greece, Denmark, Spain and Ireland. Compared to the West, it is perceived like in Austria, with Finland being still faster.

2. The Euro

2.1. Knowledge and Information about the Euro

2.2. On the euro, four out of ten Germans feel themselves very well or well informed (42%), which is about the same as the EU-average (41%). Yet, people in East-Germany show a higher feeling of being informed (46%) than in West-Germans (41%).
• Considering the actual knowledge, more than four out of five (82%) know that Germany participates in the euro-zone, still more than 2/3 know that France, Italy, Spain, The Netherlands and Belgium participate. Every second respondent (51%) could name correctly 9 and more participating countries, and 14% could name all twelve countries correctly.

• Again, four out of five respondents know that in January 2002 a new currency will be introduced, three out of four (73%) could name - within a range of ± 10% - the exchange of the euro, and one out of four (Germany 24%, West-Germany: 22%, East-Germany: 33%) knows that 2-3 months after January 1st, 2002 it won't be possible to pay in DM (the other believe it is January 1st, 2002 (18%) or up to six months (25%)).

• Germans are fairly well aware of the general lines of the euro and its introduction, but not in details. Overall, East-Germans appear to be better informed than their West-German countrymen if it comes to issues concerning the currency.

2.3. Benefits and risks of the Euro

• The benefits associated with the euro are seen rather soberly: the euro makes life easier for travellers (88% agree totally or somewhat), makes prices comparable over Europe (85%), and eliminates the costs for change (84%). More than 2/3 believe it is a further step towards integration (73%), cuts costs for businesses (73%), creates a link between Europeans (71%) and makes Europe stronger in the world (67%).

• Risks associated with the euro are seen only by a relative minority: 44% agree it would drive prices up, 44% agree it will have more disadvantages than advantages, 43% agree it would increase the difference between rich and poor. That Germany would lose its national identity is seen only by 39%, that it loses its power over its economic or social policy is feared by 34%, respectively 31%.

3. Enlargement

3.1. Knowledge and Information about Enlargement

• The perceived level of information concerning the enlargement of Europe in Germany is with 22% feeling themselves very well or at least well informed slightly higher than the EU average (18%). Still, there is an overwhelming majority of 71% who feel themselves either not very well (45%) or not at all well (26%) informed.

• Taking into account the actual level of knowledge, more than one out of five respondents (22%) professes not to know, when asked, which countries are accepted as candidates for enlargement. 27% can name between one and three countries, 23% can name between 4 and 6 countries, and 11% of the respondents can name between 10 and 12 countries correctly.

• Asked, whether they have heard, read or seen anything of the Nice-summit in December 2000, one out of four says no (25%).

• The self-perceived lack of information seems also to be the main inhibit to participate in the political debate on enlargement: 80% say the don't feel very much or not at all participating.
3.2. Preferences for countries

- Germans show distinctive preferences in the question whether all or only some countries should join, and which countries should join: Only one out of eight respondents (12%) supports the idea that all nations wishing to join should be included, but every second (51%) insists that only some countries should be included. Refusal to include additional countries is voiced by 17%.

- Which countries should in the views of the people be first to join the EU? Here, East- and West-Germans show a different ranking and different emphasis on the various countries: While West-Germans place Hungary (32%), Norway (28%), Poland (27%), Switzerland (22%), the Czech Republic (19%), Turkey (13%), and Liechtenstein (10%) on top, East-Germans place Hungary (41%), Czech Republic (40%), Poland (33%), Norway (20%), and Switzerland (16%) in the top ranks. In East-Germany, 9% rank Bulgaria and 8% Slovakia, while these countries are support among West-Germans only by 5% and 4%, respectively.

3.3. Benefits and risks of enlargement

- Seen from a German perspective, Germany is named as the one country to benefit the most from enlargement (14%), followed by Portugal (5%). All other countries are named by even smaller portions of the public. A sizeable number of respondents is of the opinion that all countries would benefit (13%), almost the same number is sceptical and thinks that no one will benefit (15%). However, attention must be drawn to the fact that every third respondent has not made up his mind and refused to answer (34%).

- Of those who named Germany as the largest benefactor from enlargement, 1/3 said it was because Germany was a powerful, influential country, 1/5 because of its strong currency, 17% because it is in a good geographical position next to the applicant countries, and 16% said because enlargement would generate trade and exports.

- Germans don't expect any large personal benefits from enlargement: 61% expect that their personal life will be about the same, improvements are expected only by a minority of 8%. Yet, almost one out of five respondents (19%) expects personal disadvantages.

- Of those who expect a worsening of their personal life, 69% fear more unemployment, 68% fear more immigrants, 61% say the costs would be too high, 58% fear the value of the euro would fall, respectively organised crime would grow, and 53% expect more drug trafficking.

- The German public supports the argument for enlargement that is based on the aspect of reducing conflicts in Europe: more than 6 out of 10 respondents agree that enlargement secures peace (68%), helps to eliminate armed conflict (62%), or unites the continent (62%). However, an economic line of argument is supported only by a minority: 44% say it favours economic growth, 24% agree it would increase the people's quality of life in Germany, and 20% that it would create more jobs in Germany.
3.4. **Specific fear: Immigration**
- Every second German (52%) believes that enlargement would lead to significant immigration into Germany, of those, more than 3 out of 4 respondents (77%) see this as something negative. The main reasons are of economic kind: 33% fear that unemployment will increase (West: 31%, East: 42%), and 21% fear that wages will decrease and a black economy develops (West: 18%, East: 29%). These fears are much stronger in East-Germany than in the West. Whereas in West-Germany 22% say that there are already too many people in the country, respectively too many immigrants, only 10% of the East-Germans say so. Here, fear of crime and illegal drug trafficking (17%) and fear of a decrease of standard of living (11%) are more important.

3.5. **Speed of enlargement**
- Although people voice many reservations about enlargement, a relative majority wants the speed of enlargement to stay the same as it is now (46%), and 15% want its speed to increase. A slowdown is preferred by every fifth respondent (21%). However, 18% were not able to give an answer to this question.

3.6. **Criteria for enlargement**
- Germans are almost unanimous when it comes to which criteria must be met by the new members: more than 81% see democratic values and respect of human rights as "very important", 75% expect that the new countries must be actively committed to fighting organised crime and drug trafficking. Accepting all European rules is demanded by 70% of the respondents, to protect the environment and being able to pay its share of the EU-budget each 67%. That the country's entrance should not be costly for existing countries demand 58% of the respondents, and that their economic level should be close to our ranges on the last place of this list (51%).

4. **The Future of Europe**

4.1. **Interest, Willingness, and Conditions**
- The citizens show a low interest in communicating with political bodies over the future of Europe: Only 29% would be interested, a majority of 53% is not interested, and 19% don't know about this.
- The reasons for this lack of interest are people's perceptions that politicians don't take their views into account anyway (34%), it would be a waste of time (32%), lack of information (30%) and that this would be nothing more than a PR-event (24%). That EU-matters are too complex find 21%, and 11% say that people are not interested in EU-matters.
- Given this general lack of interest in the debate over the future of Europe combined with the fear, their opinions do not count anyway, it comes as no surprise that only one out of five (19%) would be personally interested to participate in such a discussion, while 64% refuse and 16% don't know.
4.2. Stimulation of Competence

- Thus, only 13% say they feel they know enough about the EU to take part in a public discussion, and 71% say they don't know enough.
- On the other hand, the results show that if people had the impression that their opinions would be taken into account, they could be motivated to participate in these public discussions - this is what 37% of all respondents claim. Access to necessary information would motivate 30%, as well as understanding the language (29%). However, 22% say that nothing could be done to motivate them.

4.3. Issues

- The main issue that should be discussed is the fight against unemployment (56%, with 53% in West-Germany and 67% in East-Germany). Issues, that directly relate to the people's lifes range on top of the topics, like environment (45%), consequences of introducing the euro (45%), food safety (43%), citizen's rights (42%), health (42%), and consequences of enlargement (41%). Educational issues on the political system range lower: the way EU-institutions work (36%), basic values shared by all Europeans (35%), Common security and defense policy (34%), the way competencies are shared between EU and national governments (32%), the EU's role in the world (30%) or the Bundestag's role in the EU (26%) range lower in interest.

4.4. Setting, Means and Organizers

- The setting for those discussions should be close to where the people live (72%) or in town halls (29%), the size of these discussions should not exceed 100 people.
- The preferred means to participate in such a discussion would be for 24% of the respondents by opinion-poll, followed with 11% by letter/mail or column in a newspaper, and 10% by participating in a discussion in a TV-studio.
- People would be more attracted if the discussion were to be organised by official public bodies, like local public bodies (27%), European institutions (22%), national governments (20%) or regional public bodies (17%). Political parties as organisers are also credible for 23% of the respondents. Non-governmental organisations, universities or professional organisations however range low on this list.

4.5. Interest in others' opinions

- Germans are mildly interested in other EU-member state peoples' opinions: 47% say they are very or fairly interested, while 47% say they are not very or not at all interested. Almost the same shares are shown when asked for applicant countries opinions: 48% show some interest, whereas 47% show no or only minor interest.
- For those who are interested, TV (72%) is the preferred means of information, 57% mention the daily newspaper, radio is mentioned by 30%. Personal meetings with other people from the EU is mentioned only by 17% of the respective respondents.

4.6. Basic treaties

- Whereas the fact that 80% of the Germans think it's useful to know the German "Grundgesetz" is not very surprising, still 61% say the same of the EU-treaties. However, 42% show some personal interest in these treaties. 60% of the respondents believe that these treaties have been translated, 59% think they are long, but only 10% say they are easy to find, 8% think they are easy to understand, and 8% say they are well-known.
The opinion poll produced a series of useful, quantitative and qualitative results, based on which observations and estimations were made, while valuable analytical conclusions were drawn, related to awareness, knowledge, the inclination and the positions of residents-citizens of the member-states, regarding the main topics of this survey.

The section concerning Greek public opinion, presents particular interest, especially when taking into consideration the enlargement of Europe towards the East, the introduction and circulation of Euro, as well as, the accession of Cyprus in the European Union.

In respect to the European map, the structural developments and the geographical Enlargement of the European Union, it is clearly observed that Greek citizens seem to lack information on European matters, procedures and affairs. However, at the same time they appear to be very positive on issues that concern the promotion and reinforcement of the European Integration.

Some confusion, and in certain cases a great level of unfamiliarity, on issues dealing with the basic European setting and generally the current European developments is mostly noticed in population groups with either low level of education, or which do not -directly or indirectly-form part of the productive workforce.

The analysis of the main topics of the poll leads to specific conclusions, not only on the level of awareness, but also on the tendencies and preferences of the population as a whole, as well as on population clusters with distinct characteristics, such as gender, age, education background, income, etc.

**The Common European Currency - Euro**

Based on the poll's results, it is observed that a great percentage of the sampled population feels less or even not at all informed on Euro. As observed, 47,8% of the Greeks having participated in the poll do not have a clear and composed sense of knowledge-information on the common European currency, while 25,5% of them stated complete ignorance on the issue.

Based on the standard criteria of economic and social stratification, there are great differences in the awareness level of the Greek citizens, and which are further described as follows:

- The population groups which state to be better informed —still presenting unsatisfactory percentages— are those with a high education level, a high income, managerial personnel and other white collar staff.

- Only 5,1% of the population with the lowest income appear to be well informed, in contrast to the high-income cluster that reaches a percentage of 35,2%.

- Men are better informed than women, a point that possibly derives and finds justification from the actual structure of the Greek market place and on the more active participation of men when compared to women in it. This is also indicated by the figures, where 34% of women state that they are not informed, while only 16,7% of men feel the same.

- In addition, a percentage of 42,5% declaring house keeping as their main occupation, appear not to be at all informed on Euro.
Noticeable low levels of awareness are also apparent in those over 55 years old, which demonstrates the structural obstacles and difficulties in comprehending and further adapting to economic and social changes. A low percentage of 16% of this cluster seems to be well informed, while 36% of the same group tends to ignore the issue.

Indicative is also the high percentage (42%) of the sample with the lowest income, stating not having received any relevant information.

The sources of information with the highest penetration levels between the surveyed population having received some level of information are the Television with a percentage of 68,3% and the radio and newspapers with a percentage of 24,2% and 35% respectively. In contradiction the Internet as a means of information for EURO appears to have marginally low ratings (percentages) amongst the surveyed population.

It is worth noting that 38,6%, almost 4 in 10 Greek citizens having taken part in the survey appear unaware of the fact that their country (GREECE) belongs in the so-called euro-zone. This comes in contradiction with the high percentage 83,3% of the same sample, knowing the year in which the Euro will be introduced in their country. From this observation it is made evident that there is a relative ignorance amongst Greek citizens about the Euro and the involvement of Greece in the EMU proceedings, possibly resulting by low quality and unstructured information reaching the population.

Despite the variations between the population clusters and the observed low level of awareness concerning the Euro, the majority of Greek citizens takes up and is in favor of the introduction and circulation of the single currency. 49,3% of the surveyed believe that the changeover to the single currency will take place without any special difficulty for the general public, and 68,2% who believes that this change will not cause any difficulties for themselves. Still, a percentage of 40% of the lowest income sample seems worried with this transition believing that it will take place with difficulties.

The Enlargement

Generally, and as produced by the poll’s results, Greeks are not well informed on the issue of the European Union’s enlargement. It is only a low percentage of 16,1% of the survey participants that feel either well or very well informed concerning enlargement. This conclusion is further justified by the fact that they do not have knowledge on which are the countries that have been accepted as candidates for accession in the European Union. It is worth mentioning that low percentages, lower than 1%, from the Greek sample was aware that countries such as Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovenia, and Slovakia have been accepted as candidates for accession to the European Union. Even when posed the same question for Cyprus, which has close historical roots and relations with Greece, only 37,5% (the highest reached percentage in the relevant question) appears to have knowledge of candidacy.

Nevertheless, the Greek sample clearly demonstrated a positive attitude and in general an optimistic approach towards the forthcoming enlargement of the European Union, while setting as prerequisites same conditions as the ones presented by the European institutional framework for the smooth transition and successful accession of new candidate countries into the European Union. On the other hand, only 7,4% of the sample does not wish any further enlargement of the European Union. It is noted that regarding the process of new countries joining the European Union, 46,3% believe that it should be accelerated.

Still, the majority that supports the view that the European Union should be enlarged believes that only some of the candidate countries should join the European Union. Countries which a) respect human rights and the principles of democracy (94%), b) are actively committed to fighting organized crime and drug trafficking (89,7%), and c) will co-operate in the protection of the environment (86,6%).
The aforementioned issues are considered as the most important conditions for the accession of a new state in the EU. The economic issues seem to have an important but, however, secondary position in the list of readiness and EU accession criteria.

From the research it is made clear that Greek citizens do not express any fears for Greece losing its role as 61% of the surveyed population does not fear or foresee any danger for Greece not really existing as a result of the enlargement. However, some concerns, having to do with increase in drug trafficking, in unemployment and unfair competition on various products, are revealed. It is indicative that more than 70% of the Greek sample expresses its concern on the possible increase of unemployment and drug trafficking. Finally, it is worth noting that a percentage of 78.5% fears the reinforcement of the big member countries and the political control imposed to the EU by them, as a consequence of the enlargement and of the EU development.

Concerning the political debate about enlargement, a percentage of 70.8 believes that is not participating at all in it.

**The future of Europe**

As concluded by the research results, Greeks overwhelmingly encourage forms of dialogue between citizens and politicians as regards the future of Europe. A percentage of 77.3% of the people questioned appear to be interested in being given such possibility. Yet, it seems that it is rather a request for better and more complete information, than a request for personal participation in such forms of political dialogue. To this extent, a percentage of 45.7% percent of the people questioned are not interested in participating in open public discussions on the building-up of Europe. Their attitude is well based on their personal sense (53.1% of them) that they are not sufficiently informed on EU matters.

Figures show a relative concern and/or incertitude of Greek citizens as for their future in the light of EU-related developments. The reason for being concerned is completely explained when taking into account that they do not feel having a clear understanding of the main citizen’s role within the EU.

In broad terms, a percentage of 83.3% of the sample believes that it does not know as much as wished, in order to take part in public discussion. At the same time an important sample of Greeks strongly request better access to information sources that would provide them with sufficient background to stand up in a relevant discussion.

According to the survey, Greeks prefer to receive information through the mass media, especially with regard to news and developments of the EU. Television stands first (55.7%), while daily press (26.3%) and radio (22.2%) follow, in order of preference. Internet, as a mean of information, does not have any particular importance for Greeks, since the overwhelming majority (87.3%) declares not making use of it.

It is worth pinpointing that a relatively high percentage (33.2%) of the people questioned consider their participation and/or their answer to a public research opinion for Europe, to be the most suitable mean of communication and of participation in relative dialogue.

Another point of great importance for Greeks, refers to their interest in having comparative information for the EU, and to this extent they are interested in discovering what other member-states’ citizens think of Europe. Moreover, they prefer to receive such kind of information through their national media, e.g television, newspaper and radio. They also consider important to be aware of other EU-members politicians’ statements on issues of common European interest. A percentage of 88.7% wants to acquire such information.
The great majority of the Greek citizens (over 89% of the people questioned) judge useful to be aware of the content of the Greek Constitution, as well as, of the EU treaties. Although, a great number of the survey participants state that the EU treaties are not very well known (78,3%) and that they are hard to find (58,6%). A somewhat high percentage considers that those documents are not perceptible (42,9%) a fact rather based on the difficulty in comprehending the content, and not on the language they are disposed.

Athens, 22 June 2001
Olga Stavropoulou
Section 1: Most interesting Figures from the Spanish Survey

1.1 Information and attitudes on the Enlargement

In general the Spanish public does not feel well informed on the process of enlargement. As in the rest of the European member states, only 15% of the Spanish group did feel informed on the issue of enlargement. Further, 66% of the group stated that they would not be interested in participating in the debate on enlargement, around ten points more than the EU15 average (57%).

- When asking on the information that the public had on the Nice Summit, the general opinion, 50% of the group, was that they 'did not hear anything, and only 35% had some knowledge on the Summit through TV and 13% from the newspapers.

- In general, the Spanish group shows a low optimism for the process of enlargement, since 81% think their life 'will be the same' after the enlargement. In that respect, the Spanish region that thought life will improve (only those answering 'better') was Canarias, with 28% of the group stating that. Optimism on the enlargement process was more evident among the younger age groups (11% for those between 19-35 years of age) and the better educated but also among unemployed (10%) and students (12%).

- For the Spanish group, one of the most important criteria that candidate countries should meet was that ‘their economic development should be close to ours’, 74% thought this was very important, in contrast with the EU15 average for this answer which was only 49%.

- Disappearance of small or medium size farms (54%), unfair competition on agricultural products (54%) and decisions imposed by the big member countries (49%), are the most important fears of the Spanish group about the enlargement.

- Finally, migration after the enlargement process is not among the fears of the Spanish group with 40% of them thinking that this will be limited.
1.2 Knowledge and readiness for the introduction of the EURO in Spain

In general, the Spanish group does not feel very well informed on the introduction of the Euro. Only 34% stated feeling well informed on the Euro, very close to the EU15 average stating the same, around 36%. Moreover, most of the information received by the public was through the media, mainly from the TV (77%), with the radio and the newspapers coming second with 34%.

- However, the Spanish group considered that the most important source of information on the Euro was first the ‘Spanish government’ (39%) and secondly the local authorities (25%).
- Overall, Spanish group seems to be ready for the introduction of the Euro. Around 57% thinks that the introduction of the Euro in Spain will mean only temporary difficulties also at a personal level. Over 80% know that the Euro will be introduce in 2002 and over 60% believe that this will be possible exactly after the 1st of January 2002, in contrast with the EU15 average of 38% who stated that. Also, there was a higher degree of knowledge on the mechanisms of use of the Euro, where half of the Spanish group stated that it will no longer be possible to pay in pesetas after the first two or three months of the year 2002. This again contrasts with the EU15 average that knew about the exact time period for the acceptance of national currencies a 37% of the total group.
- Greatest agreement exists on the meanings that the use of the Euro has for the Spanish group where 52% of the total agreed that: it will be easier to travel, that the Euro is part of the European integration process and believes that its introduction in most member states will make a link between people.

1.3 Spanish opinions on the Future of Europe

50% of the Spanish group think that it is interesting to them to communicate with the political bodies.

- There is a strong preference in discussing issues of citizen's rights, the consequences of the introduction of the Euro but also issues of general public interest such as unemployment (55%), health (53%), food safety (52%) and environment (43%).
- Very little interest in participating in the debates about the future of Europe. Only one quarter of the group stated that they would be interested in participating in the debates.
- In general, motivation for taking part in the debate would come if the personal opinion were taken in account.
- Most popular way of participating in the debates about the Future of Europe among the Spanish group, were the Opinion Polls preferred by 21% of the group and TV programmes (11%).
- However, the larger part of the group an 86% of the total did not feel they know enough about the European Union in order to take part in a discussion.
- Generally, the Spanish public gathers information on the European construction process firstly through TV in a 55%, radio 30% and the newspapers 25%. Also, Spanish public will be very interested in knowing the opinion of candidate countries on the European Union (33%) but also hearing politicians from other member states to express their opinion on Spain (77%).
Section 2: Overall Conclusions on the Spanish Opinion Group

On the information about the three issues analysis we could say concerning the Spanish group:

- The Spanish opinion shows to have had little information for the enlargement but also for the debates on the future of Europe. By contrast information on the introduction of the Euro seems to have been more important, since the majority of the group has a correct knowledge of the mechanisms of use of the Euro.
- Information on any of these three issues has reached the public mainly through the media, being TV and radio the most popular ways.
- In general, the Spanish public has the average level of information on the above topics as the rest of the fifteen groups of the European member states.

In general, the Spanish attitudes on the three issues are positive:

- There is a tendency to consider enlargement as a good thing, and optimism for which will benefit most Europe.
- The attitude towards the introduction of the Euro shows that Spanish public will be ready and will welcome the new currency at all levels with no more than temporary difficulties.
- As to the future of Europe, Spanish opinion seems to concentrate on the fact that information is needed but in general they seem to favour the idea of a dialogue which promotes, explains and informs about the construction of the European Union.

Information and motivation to be part of the processes and dialogue engaging in the construction of the European Union, needs to be promoted in a greater extend and at a national level.

- Little emphasis was given to the role of local authorities, and agencies for the promotion of information strategies. Information and knowledge gathered by regions does not present important differences among the Spanish opinion group.
- Different sources of promotion and diffusion of information on any of the three topics analysed in the Survey have been used little in comparison with other European member states.
EUROBAROMETER 55.0 - France

Sample:
- 1003 persons over 15 have been interviewed. They live in France, and 98% of them have the French nationality.
- The average duration of each interview is 45.93 minutes.
- Dates of the poll : from 5 to 28 March 2001

Generalities:
The population polled is not very much mobile:
- 47.9% of the persons have never visited any of the countries mentioned in the study and 49.5% do not even think to visit them in the next 2 years.
- The most visited countries are Switzerland (37.7%), Morocco (18.9) and far behind Turkey (9.2).
- The countries to be visited are Morocco (19.1), Turkey (10.1), then Norway (8.8) and Switzerland (8.2).
- 66% of the people polled have no family or professional relationship with the above countries. (Morocco : 5.3, Switzerland : 5.1, Poland : 2.1)

THE EURO

1- LEVEL OF INFORMATION:

a) about euro in general

- **64.1% of the persons polled consider themselves well informed:**
  - 11.6% of the people answer « Very well » while the average is 5.5% in the other countries of the EU.
  - 52.5% of the people answer « rather well » while the average is 35.5% in the other countries of the EU, what puts France in the 2nd position after Netherlands.

- **35.6% of the people polled do not consider themselves informed enough:**
  - 24.3% of the people polled answer « Not very well » while the average in the other countries of the EU is 40.5%.
    - The higher percentage is among the manual workers (31.3%).
  - 11.3% of the people polled answer « Not at all » , while the average in other countries of the EU is 17.4%.
    - The most important percentage of answers is among the people older than 55 (16.7%), the pensioner (20.5%), and the inhabitants of the regions Centre Est and Nord Pas de Calais.

b) About the calendar on the introduction of euro

- **82.9% of the people polled know that euro is going to be in force in 2002** (while 12.7% think that euro will be introduced in 2001, specially the independent workers (23.8%) and inhabitants of the region Nord Pas de Calais (20.8%))

- **63% specify that it will be in January 2002**
  (19.8% answer between February and December 2002, with a rate of answers of 25.6% among managers, and rates of 23.5% in Ouest of France and 23.1% in East)
c) about the value of euro in francs:

- 17,1% of the persons polled know the exact value of euro (a higher percentage among managers (33,4%)

A total of 72,8% of the people polled know the approximate value (+/- 1 à 10%) of euro.

d) About the euro-zone

- The people polled know mainly 10 of the 12 countries member of the euro-zone, the participation of Ireland and Finland is little known.

  34,2% of the people polled think that Denmark is part of the euro-zone (the average in Europe is 29,2%)
  33,2% of the people polled think that Swede is part of the euro-zone (the average in Europe is 24,3%)
  24,8% of the people polled think that Great Britain is part of the euro-zone (the average in Europe is 18,5%)

- But only 17,7% of the people polled state « Not to know » (the average in Europe is 22,7%)

2 - THE EXPECTATIONS ABOUT INFORMATION:

a) The present sources of informations:

- We underline the little information provided by the professional organisations (trade unions - 2,7%, consumer organisations - 35%, and NGO - 1,1%), which are in best condition to deliver precise and well-adapted information for every type of user.

- People polled show a rather passive behaviour towards the information: they wait for the information to come (specially through the media), and do not have the will to get the information from the available sources.

b) The priority objectives:

- Concerning the introduction of euro in France, the group less well informed are the people over 55, specially the pensioners.
- The 2 less involved regions are: La région Est, curiosely more used than the other regions to manipulate different currencies, due to the fact of being a boarder region, And la région Ouest.

- Even though the managers and other high position professionals with higher income, are always the ones to provide more right answers, the rate is often less than 50%. Consequently, even well informed people still have big gaps on the subject.
c) About the way in which the introduction of euro will occur:

- In a general way, this change of currency will involve temporary incidents (36.7%), long term incidents (31.2%) and serious difficulties (29.2%). Only 2.1% of the persons polled think that this change will occur without difficulties. On an individual basis, 50.3% of the people polled think that they will be confronted to temporary difficulties. But 17.6% recognise that it will cause them great difficulties. Only 12.7% think that they will not experience any difficulty.

- 40.6% of the people polled will pay in euro only after the introduction of coins and notes on January 1st 2002. And 30.6% only after the withdrawal of the francs, which is the higher rate of all the countries of the euro-zone.

So, we have to underline the lack of anticipation and knowledge of the people interviewed.

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### ENLARGEMENT

#### 1 – LEVEL OF INFORMATION:

- To note a confusion between countries to which the adhesion was proposed (Switzerland, Norway) and candidate countries.

- 74.7% of the people polled declare not to be informed about the enlargement:
  - Not very well informed (level 2) : 42.2%
  - Not informed at all (level 1) : 32.5%

- Concerning the Nice summit, 45.2% of the people polled state not to have any information on the matter (heard, read or seen).
  This rate is higher than the average in the 15 countries of the Union (41.1%).

#### 2 – VIEW ON THE ENLARGEMENT:

##### a) the degree of involvement in the debate:

- 82.6% of the people state that they do not feel involved in the political debate on the enlargement
  - 50.8% answer « Not at all »

##### b) on the criteria about the enlargement:

- The criteria of adhesion to common values (human rights, fight against crime, protection of environment), and the respect to the rules of the European Union, are essential for the people interviewed, more than the level of economical development

#### 3 – THE WORRYINGS:

- 79.4% of the people polled think in a general way that, after the enlargement their personal life will be more or less the same as it is now
• Nevertheless, most people polled are afraid of the following effects (in a decreasing order):

- Disappearance of small and middle agricultural exploitation 76.2
- Job transfers to cheaper countries 75.2
- Unfair competition (cf. agricultural products) 71.3
- Heavier bureaucracy 70.8
- Massive importations 67.8
- Increase of traffic 64.4
- Decisions imposed by the biggest member states 63.9
- The richest countries will pay for the poorest 62.2
- The food security will be less guaranteed 59.9
- The smallest countries will loose power 53.2
- Problems due to the huge difference between the people 51.3
- Lost of social benefits 51
- Increase of unemployment in France 48.2
- Economical crisis in the EU 47.7
- Lost of our identity and national culture 36.9
- Decrease of French language 36.8
- France won’t really exist any more 27.5

• 51% of the people think that the enlargement will lead to an increase of immigration in France from Central and Eastern European countries.

**DIALOGUE ON EUROPE**

• 52.2% (as opposed to 44.2% in the 15 countries) think that dialogue between the citizens and the European institution is interesting because:

- it will allow people to understand better what can be the consequence for our future: 67.3 %
- it will allow politician to take into account the views of the citizens: 52.7 %
- it is the principle of democracy: 51 %
- People would be better informed to vote in the European polls: 41.1 %
- It would allow people to debate about the consequences of the European construction: 41 %
- It will allow people to understand better Europe: 40.5 %
- It will allow to receive information directly from the politicians: 19.9 %

• the matters which should be subject to public debates:

1. The fight against unemployment 62
2. The rights of citizens 60.9
3. Food security 56
4. Health 53.9
5. Environment 50.8
6. The consequences of enlargement 36.5
7. The function of the EU in the world 35.9
8. The consequences of the introduction of euro 35.5
9. Defence and common security 35.1
10. Functioning of the institutions of the EU 29.7
11. Main values shared by all Europeans 29.4
12. The function of the French Parliament in the EU 29.4
13. The distribution of competence between Member States and European institutions 25
14. None 3.2
But 61.9% of the people admit not to be interested in taking part at debates on these matters (as opposed to 62.4% in the 15 countries)

Do you think you know enough about the EU to take part in a public debate on the future of Europe?
No : 84% (Average of the 15 : 79%)
Yes : 10.4% (Average of the 15 : 10.7%)

How would you like to receive the information you need to take part in a debate?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On television</td>
<td>51.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In a detailed publication</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By daily newspapers</td>
<td>26.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>On the radio</td>
<td>17.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>In a small summary leaflet</td>
<td>17%</td>
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<tr>
<td>In a video cassette</td>
<td>16.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>In a complete book</td>
<td>15.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>By magazines</td>
<td>15.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>None of these ways</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>By Internet</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>In a CD-ROM</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>By public access to Internet</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>No answer</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
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This document is derived from the national report of Eurobarometer which analyses public opinion on the euro, European Union (EU) enlargement and the future of the EU.

THE EURO

Information on the euro

34.3% of respondents feel well informed on the Euro with 3.7% being very well informed. This compares with an EU average of 35.5% and 5.5%.

As elsewhere, financial institutions like banks are a good source of information on the currency, informing 39.2% of those who have received information, a figure above the EU average which is 33.3%. Other commercial outlets such as shops are also important, standing at 25.1%. However, it is the media which is most important of all, with television out in front, providing a source for 41.8% of respondents. In terms of public bodies, it is the national government which plays the major role. 41.1% believe they are the most efficient source of information about the euro, as against an EU figure of 37.1%.

Levels of Awareness

66.6% realised that Ireland had signed up while 29.0 at the EU level were aware of this fact. 40.5% knew about Greek membership, just ahead of the EU figure, while 60.5% knew about Germany being in the euro-zone. 6.1% thought the United Kingdom had joined, with 18.5% believing this on the EU level. The figures for Sweden and Denmark averaged out around 30% which was around 8% higher than the EU figure.
In keeping with the rest of the EU there was a very high level of awareness that 2002 would see the euro hit the streets. The figure of 83.9% was just below the EU average of 86.4%.

The Irish are at the bottom of the EU league table in terms of knowing the value of their national currency in relation to the euro. Only 1.6% of the Irish got the right answer against a 20.0% average throughout the EU.

Levels of Acceptance

76.8% believed that the euro would be accepted as a means of payment in all euro zone countries. The EU figure as a whole is 79.9%. 4.3% did not believe it would be acceptable. At the EU level this was 7.0%. There was a fairly strong belief that euros would be acceptable in those EU countries not as yet in the euro-zone. Although at 51.1%, this was below the EU figure for this question, of 57.4%.

Levels of Confidence

The Irish along with the Greeks have the highest level of total confidence in the euro leading to faster economic growth. When it comes to agreeing somewhat, the Italians, Portuguese, Finnish and Spanish are each more confident. But overall, when both figures are combined, the Irish on 60.4%, come out ahead of the mean EU figure of 49.8%. Again the Irish were along-side the Greeks and Italians for having the strongest belief in the euro’s job-creating potential. The Irish were, on a par with the Italians and Spanish, the nationlities agreeing somewhat, being ahead of the EU average of 24.4% by 4.2%. 
Easier or More Difficult

A high proportion of the Irish believed either totally or somewhat that the adjustment to the euro if judged on the basis of making things easier for those travelling across borders, would be adapted to easily. They were not exceptional in this. Again it was perceived that cross-border business, both by the Irish and in the EU in general, would be made easier by the euro.

Not Making Much Difference

The Irish in common with other EU Member States did not think that the euro would lead to turmoil in currency markets, nor that it would lead to a greater gulf between rich and poor. Nor indeed did the Irish think in terms of the euro having more disadvantages than advantages, with 41.0% in broad agreement that it would be positive, virtually the same as the EU average. Though the Irish were slightly ahead of the EU average in believing that the euro would entail diminished economic independence. A very high proportion of the Irish (35.1%) saw the euro leading to enhanced European integration.

Cost of Living

The Irish are also more concerned than most EU countries about the impact the euro will have on prices.

Temporary Difficulties

The Irish along with the Germans and the Dutch are most concerned about the changeover to the euro causing some temporary difficulties.
Familiarity Breeds Popularity

It was noticeable that knowledge of those candidate countries that are popular holiday destinations, such as Malta, Cyprus and Turkey is particularly high among the Irish, all being in the 90% + range. The lowest level of knowledge is about the Baltic states and the smaller countries of eastern and central Europe such as Slovakia and Slovenia, with awareness rates hovering in the 70% + range. Non-candidate countries like Switzerland achieve very high recognition and other ratings. Poland was also well known, and among all the candidate countries, it scored highly on acceptance and other levels.

The preference factor surrounding countries seems largely to be determined by familiarity. Countries established as popular tourist destinations all score 10% acceptance and above. Ironically, among the two most preferred countries are non-candidates, Norway and Switzerland, the latter achieving a 20.0% rating. Countries associated with recent conflict, such as the states of former Yugoslavia are the ones about which the Irish are most circumspect. Yet their reluctance level is only about half that of the EU average.

Wall of Ignorance on Enlargement

Regarding enlargement in general, there is an acknowledged wall of ignorance with an astonishing 82.8 % of respondents admitting to not being informed. This is just slightly ahead of the EU average which stands at 78.3%. The figure is even worse about how people feel about their participation in the political debate on enlargement, with an incredible 93% recording a varying sense of non-involvement. The EU average is 84.2%.
Benefits

In terms of perceived benefit from enlargement, Ireland like most other countries perceives that Germany will benefit most, with 10.4% of respondents believing this. The EU average is 15.2%. This reinforces the view that enlargement is a big country project, with large countries benefitting the most from enhanced trading and industrial opportunities.

THE FUTURE OF THE EU

The indices on the future of Europe show a general level of apathy. One of the highest levels of interest recorded was 30.6% in favour of communicating with political bodies, albeit lower than the EU average of 44.2%. Set against this is 52.0% who would not find this interesting.

Low Level of Interest

Irish level of interest in what should be covered in public discussions on the EU, in all subject areas, was lower than the EU average. Health came out on top, at 44.9%, against an EU average of 49.3%. Citizens rights came next, on 39.1%; the EU figure is 51.8%, with food safety the next most important topic, on 38.3% and 49.7% respectively.

The vast majority of respondents stated that they would not be prepared to devote time to discussing the future of the EU with either EU or national representatives. This negativity rating was slightly above that for the EU as a whole. Perhaps the most startling apathy indicator was the 34.4% who said that nothing would motivate them to take part in discussions on the EU, well above the EU average of 25.1%.
Unable to Discuss EU Matters

Equally startling was the 84% who did not feel that they knew enough to take part in public discussion on the EU’s future. The EU average for this is 79%.
Enlargement

Italians are definitely in favour of a progressive enlargement of the European Union. Enlargement is considered positively under two points of view; one is idealistic the other is utilitarian i.e. the Unification of Europe or the expansion of the common market. We Italians believe that the enlargement will not change our life as a whole (67%) even though it will foster economic growth within the EU. We will all benefit from it, Germany more than the other countries.

Even though it might be positive that a date is set beforehand for each country’s joining the European Union, it is necessary that the candidate country respects human rights and the principles of democracy (88%), commits itself to the fight against organised crime (82%) and protects the environment (77%).

As Europe will be larger, we believe that the biggest countries will impose their decisions and this is our fear since Italy can be considered either in this group or in the group of smaller countries. We will be faced with job transfers to other countries which have lower production costs and with an increase in drug trafficking and organised crime. Moreover, we fear that our language will be used less and less, even though this does not really threatens neither our national identity and culture nor our territorial integrity. We have controversial opinions and therefore we are uncertain in considering whether immigration will be limited or sizeable. In this second case, there will be positive cultural and economical aspects anyway, even though we can expect an increase in crime, unemployment and a worsening of the economical situation.

We have heard of all the countries mentioned in the survey (i.e. countries that are border to the European Union; most of them are candidate countries), especially Albania and Switzerland. Half of Italians have visited at least one of these countries, especially Switzerland, Yugoslavia and Croatia.

55% of people state that they are not informed about the countries that are mentioned in the survey and those who would like to have further information are interested in Malta, Turkey, Hungary and Cyprus. In that case, they would like to know more about cultural aspects and tourism in these countries.

A fair half of Italians state that they are not informed about the enlargement. According to those who consider themselves to be informed, the EU accepted Turkey, Czech Republic, Poland, Norway and Great Britain as candidate members. Countries that will be the first to join the EU are Norway, Turkey, Poland, Switzerland, Hungary and Czech Republic, even though we think that Turkey, together with Morocco and Albania, should not join the EU.
A great majority (more than 80%) state that they are not very much or not at all involved in the political debate about the enlargement. More than 46% of people have not heard of the European Summit held in Nice. Those who have heard of it, say that the main objectives of the summit were: first, to prepare for globalisation (43.5%) and then to prepare for enlargement (39.6%).

**Euro**

The majority of people consider themselves to be not very well informed (52%) or not informed at all (14.5%). Those who are well informed represent 28.4%. Information about the euro come from television (74%), followed by newspapers and magazines (48.2%). The national government is seen as the most efficient source of information.

Countries that are part of the euro-zone are known to a lesser extent: for the majority of people Italy, France, Germany, Spain and Belgium are part of it. Meanwhile, they are quite uncertain as far as the other countries are concerned even though it is quite clear that the United Kingdom is outside the euro-zone.

There is a high level of information as to when notes and coins will be introduced: according to more than 90% of people it will be in 2002 and, more precisely, according to about 75%, it will be in January 2002. On the other hand, there is a large uncertainty as to when it will be possible to pay in euro by credit card or by cheque: the majority of people does not know or give a wrong date. The same observation is made as far as the maximum deadline for using and giving back liras.

On the other hand, the value of the exchange rate is well known. 40% of people know it with precision and 46% know it with a margin of error of +10%.

The introduction of the euro will eliminate charges for changing from one currency to another, will make it easier to shop around Europe as all prices will be comparable. It could also have a positive effect on the European integration and on the common identity of the Europeans and could create a faster economic growth.

In the beginning, the euro will be undoubtedly used with some temporary difficulties and these can be great difficulties for the general public (more than 28%) and for the individual respondent (17%).
Dialogue on Europe

The majority of people (56.6%), think it could be interesting if they had the opportunity to communicate with political bodies in order to express their views on Europe, especially to understand what is at stake in their future, how Europe works and to be able to express their views democratically.

The main topics that should be covered in public discussions should be citizens’ rights, food safety, health, the fight against unemployment.

There is a greater proportion of people who are not interested in taking part in these discussions (48%), especially because they do not know the EU enough. On the other hand, 30% of people are interested in doing so because they want to express their view on the future of Europe.

The majority of Italians are not interested in directly discussing the future of Europe with a member of a European or Italian Institution. Only one out of four people would like to discuss it with a member of the Parliament or with a European Commissioner.

A great majority does not think to have enough knowledge of the EU (75%) and of Treaties (83%), although most respondents (65%) are interested in knowing about it, the opinions of politicians of other member states and of citizens of candidate countries.

A wider knowledge of the EU, how it works and its politics, would ensure a greater participation.

Television is definitely the most used medium, newspapers coming second.

Over 70% of people do not use the Internet.

Being involved within local authorities and being able to take part in discussions in one’s neighbourhood are equally important factors.
LUXEMBOURG HIGHLIGHTS ON THE EUROBAROMETER 55

General overview

On the Enlargement process there are more negative perceptions than affirmative ones in Luxembourg: 43.2% think it should stay as it is now and 30,5% believe it should slow down.

71,5% of the Luxembourgers believe that it would be better to establish a date in advance for the entry of new applicants in the EU, fulfilling the European’s rules (95%) and respecting the environment (91,4%). The main fears of the widening of Europe are drugs and organised crime (70%); furthermore 61% of the inhabitants are afraid that rich countries will have to pay for poor ones, and many are fearing the disappearance of small and medium farm activities (68%). These percentages are supposed to increase in the future.

The enlargement is supposed to produce a significant (55%) or more limited (31%) immigration of people in the Member States. Only 15% of the citizens of the Grand Duchy perceive this event in a positive way.

Generally Luxembourgers are well informed about the “Nice Summit” and its contents (67%) and 46,8% do trust their government’s decisions on enlargement issues.

With regards to the Future of Europe, half of the Luxembourgers would not be interested, if they had the opportunity, to communicate with political bodies. Citizens’ rights and fight against unemployment would be the main issues to be discussed. 73% of the Luxembourgers seem not to be enough prepared to be able to take part in a public discussion on the future of Europe. A national Minister and an European Commissar would be the favourite interlocutors.

The Luxembourgers are very familiar to the Euro: 58% have been informed, 90% know the introduction dates, sheets and coins. 50% are acquainted with the exact worth of one Euro in national currency. The government is the most efficient source of information for 48,6% of the citizens, followed by the EU's Institutions (16,2%).

92,5% the estimate the Euro will make traveller’s lives easier, become Europe stronger (80,5%) and will not create new employment (68%).

46,4% of the European citizens do not know that the Grand-Duchy belongs to the Eurozone.

Enlargement of Europe

Luxembourgers opinions on candidate States to the enlargement process

• The three candidate States considered to be already accepted to join the European Union according to the Luxembourgers are, Poland with 25,4%, Norway with 20,4% and Hungary with 18,6%.

• The three main voted States by the citizens to be the first to get into the European Union are Switzerland with 25,3%, Norway with 23,1% and Poland with 16,8%.

• The three main States that Luxembourgers reject to become members of the European Union are: Albania with 26%, Turkey with 24,2% and Bosnia Herzegovina 23,3%.
Criteria for the enlargement

- 54.2% of the nationals consider that the European Union should extend its borders only to countries, which are truly willing to enter, and 18.4% are against any further adhesions. The enlargement process should speed up according to the 14.6% of the interviewed, slow down (30.5%) and stay at it is (43.2%).

- 71.5% of the Luxembourgers believe that it would be better to establish a date in advance for the applicant States towards the enlargement process.

- The three leading aspects that newcomer States have to respect are the following: all the European Union’s rules (95%), an active fight against organised crime and drug trafficking (93.4%) and a strong commitment for environmental protection (91.4%).

Luxembourger citizens profiles on enlargement issues

- Only 27% of the citizens say “very well” / “good” when asked how they were informed on enlargement issues. 8.2% do not know.

- 81.3% of the citizens are not interested in being involved in the public debate on enlargement.

- 67% of the residents have heard about the Nice Summit by the traditional tools of communication (television 54.3%, radio 35.1%, and newspapers 33.2%) and 54.3% of the people are aware of the Nice Summit and its contents.

- 66.7% of the citizens are convinced that the enlargement will not change their daily lives.

- 63% of the residents believe that the enlargement process will unify our continent.

- The Luxembourgers are divided on the possible results of the enlargement 32.5% think the benefits will be higher will be than the disadvantages, 39.5% are partisans of the contrary and 28% are indecisive.

- 46.8% of the Luxembourgers tend to agree with the decisions of the national government regarding the enlargement process.

Fears linked with the European construction

- 70% of the interviewed fear a current increasing of drugs trafficking and of international organised crime with a growing fear of 5% in the future. 61.5% apprehend that rich countries pay for other states with an increase of apprehensions of 7.1% in the future.

- 58.7 % fear that the Luxembourgish language will be less and less used.

- 68% of the citizens fear the disappearance of small or medium size farms.

- 80% are afraid of immigration of people in the Member States: 26.6% think it will increase unemployment and make economical perspectives worse. 12% believe that immigrants are already enough in Luxembourg. 35% do now know.
The Future of Europe

- 48.4% of the Luxembourg would not be interested, if they had the opportunity, to communicate with political bodies in order to express their views on the future of Europe.

- More than the 50% affirm that the main issues to be covered by public discussions concerning the EU are: citizens’ rights and the fight against unemployment.

- Only the 50% of the inhabitants consider that the politicians of other Member States should more frequently express their views in the Luxembourger media’s when they are commenting on common European problems.

- 63.5% of the Luxembourgers (personal opinions of the sample) are not interested in participating in public discussions.

- 73% of the residents consider themselves not enough prepared to take part in a public discussion on the future of Europe, but 75% do not know on what kind of issues they would like to be informed.

- Only 58.3% of the citizens think that it is beneficial to know the contents of European Treaties and 64.5% believe it is beneficial to have an overview on their own constitution.

The Euro

Level of information on the Euro

- 58% of the citizens say they know about the Euro. On the other hand 34% do not feel very informed.

- 90% know the Euro’s introduction dates, sheets and coins.

- Only 4% of the citizens think not to have been informed on the Euro, compared to the European average (22.5%).

- One half of the Luxembourgers is acquainted with the exact worth of one Euro in national currency.

The way the information is spread

- 48.6% consider the Luxembourg Government to be the most efficient public institution as a source of information on the Euro, followed by the EU Institutions with 16.2% and the local administrations with 8.7%.

- A distinctive way of getting information on the Euro is represented in the Grand Duchy by the bank and insurance environment (55.9%), by family and friends conversations (28%) and letters, brochures send into the letter boxes (27.5).

- 70% of the inhabitants have not the intention to use the Euro for their banking operations before the 1st of January 2002.
The consequences of the Euro

- 92.5% do believe that Euro will facilitate the life of the people who travel and their purchasing in Europe.
- 80.5% are convinced that it will make Europe stronger.
- 68% suppose that it will not create new employment.
- 54% believe it will increase the differences between rich and poor.
- 51% fear that Luxembourg will lose its social and economical control.
Main Figures and Findings about **Enlargement**

**Level of Knowledge**
Less known candidate countries are Malta, Slovakia, Latvia, Cyprus, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Slovenia, Less than 13% of the Dutch sample know these countries are candidate

**Opinion about enlargement**
61% think that EU should be enlarged with just some countries that ask to join
Countries that should not join according to the Dutch sample:
29.4% against Albania, 20.2% against Turkey
16.2% think that EU should be enlarged with all countries wishing to join, especially elderly 20.5%

69.5% think that personal life will be about the same as today after enlargement
17.7% think that personal life will be worse, un-employed (29.4%), self-employed (27.9%) the older the less optimistic

60.7% think the current speed of the development is moderate.
54.5% think this should stay as it is after enlargement, highest percentage of Europe

Enlargement will lead to immigration from Eastern Europe
42% significant immigration, 43.1 limited immigration
This is considered as negative by 88.5%

83.7% feel not well informed about enlargement but only 27.2% never heard about the Nice summit, EU average 41.1%

79.5% feel not participating in the political debate
48.4% not at all. People with a shorter education are especially less informed.

**Expectations - fears**
50.2% disagree with the statement enlargement brings employment, especially self-employed (71.4%), people with higher level of income (59%)

58.4% does not expect enlargement to improve the quality of life in the Netherlands, especially self-employed (81.4%), people with higher level of income (79%)

63.6% are not afraid of economic crisis and 44.1% think it is not likely to happen
63.3% are not afraid of unemployment increasing / 22.3 % are afraid of unemployment increasing
63.9% are afraid that richer member countries pay for the others. 74.2 % think it is likely to happen
69.1% are afraid that decisions bare taken more slowly because of heavy bureaucracy, 69.2 % think it is likely to happen

**Findings**:

1- Knowledge
There is confusion about which countries will join and which will not join but have asked to join once (Norway, Switzerland).

2 - Generally speaking people are sceptical about enlargement in near future, especially about countries that are less democratic.
Higher income level, self-employed and higher education level disagree with poorer countries joining.
They have less positive expectations about enlargement.

Current speed of the development of Europe is moderate and this should stay as it is after enlargement. The Dutch agree with the current speed.
Important criteria for joining are based on common values (human rights, fight against organised crime, environment protection) that are stipulated in EU rules.

3 – The information need is greater where income is lower.

4 – Very few people feel they are participating in the political debate; the lower the education the lower the participation.

5- In comparison with other countries, the Dutch are less afraid of deterioration of the economic situation in the EU but they are afraid of paying for the less wealthy countries. This seems to be a natural reaction considering the current economic situation in the Netherlands. Many people expect decisions to be taken more slowly because of heavy bureaucracy

II Main Figures and Findings about the Euro

66.7% feel well informed about the euro, this is highest percentage of the EU

87.2% know the euro will be introduced in January 2002

the Netherlands is in best position among European countries

31.8% know the exact value
29.3% know approximate value ( +/- 1 à 10%)
35.1% do not know

62.3% do not know that the euro will not be accepted as a means of payment in other countries of the EU
Only 31.7% think Finland is part of the euro zone
28 % think Denmark is part of the euro zone

68.5% think the changeover will take place with some temporary difficulties
Only 4.7% think personally to get great difficulties, especially un-employed (18.7%)

Fears about the consequences of the euro:
69.9 % think it will drive up prices consumer goods
14.8% think it will drive mortgage rates down
31.6% think it will create more jobs

Findings:

1 – People feel well informed about the euro, especially about the changover but do not know what will be the situation in after this period.
They very well know the value of the euro
They are less well informed about euro-zone : people do not know all the countries and think the euro will be accepted as a means of pay in whole EU

2- Most important information source is television and newspapers.
Information should be targeted at people with lower income and lower education

3- Expectations about euro are concerning economic relations and transactions that will be facilitated (travelling, shopping, business)
There are fears about employment, decrease of economic growth and increase rates.
III Main Figures and Findings about the Future of Europe

Level of interest and involvement of the citizens
47.4% find interesting a dialogue about the future with political bodies

Few people are personally interested to take part in the discussions
25.5% are interested
65.7% are not interested

The Dutch percentage is higher than European average: 62.4%

76.3% would have no time to spare to discuss the future of Europe with a European Commissioner (same percentage for Dutch politician)

Information needs of the citizens
47.5% do not use the internet, better than the European average 69.5%

80.9% feel not well informed enough to discuss the future of Europe
73.9% do not know what issues should be discussed in the debate

32.5% think it is not useful to know the contents of the European treaties
49.7% think it is not interesting to know the contents of the European treaties
34.5% do not know they are translated into Dutch

Findings:

1 – Generally speaking people are not ready to take part in the debate.
50% of the Dutch, especially youth is interested when citizens may express their opinion about the future of Europe because Dutch seem to find important that politicians take into account their views. This motivation is very high among the Dutch: 60.4% highest position in Europe.

To discuss the future is important because it is a democratic principle to freely express your views 56.6%

25% of the Dutch would really take part to the debate and only few people would have time to spare to discuss with a politician about the future of Europe.

The more the discussion is concrete the less people are interested!

2 – Dutch have this same attitude towards European and national politicians, for the main reason that people are not interested in politics (neither national, nor European)

3 – Information needs are important and confused
People do not know what they want to be informed of.

There is a passive attitude towards information, information comes from newspapers and television, people do not look for information, not even on internet

Only few people, 30% wish to find on internet more information about Europe, and more about the opinions of other Europeans (forum/chat)

4 – The future of Europe is a political issue it is not at all a subject of discussion in personal life of people. One is not much interested in the opinion of other Europeans about the future of Europe.

People with lower income and lower education are the less interested in the opinion of others and in European Treaties. The treaties are difficult to understand and to find.
ENGLISH VERSION
EUROBAROMETER 55.0 (SPRING 2001)
HIGHLIGHTS AUSTRIA

1. In the subjective assessments of the Austrian respondents, the self-attributed level of information about the common European currency, the Euro, is high: 5% of the respondents consider themselves as being very well informed, 49% think they are well informed. As main sources of information they indicate the mass media, on the one hand, banks, savings banks and insurance companies, on the other. 89% of respondents identify the date when notes and coins in Euro will be introduced correctly. Many are less sure, however, whether it will be still possible to pay in Schillings once the period for using both currencies will have ended. 22% identify the value of the Euro against the Schilling correctly; 55%, however, underestimate the value of the Euro and 17% attribute a somewhat excessive value to it; 6% don't know. 82% think that once they have been introduced, notes and coins in Euro will be accepted as a means of payment in all Euro zone countries; 61% believe that they will be accepted as a means of payment in all EU member states.

2. Austrians highlight the practical benefits of the Euro: 87% agree with the statement that the introduction of the common currency will make life easier for people who travel across borders; 86% concur with the notion that shopping around Europe will become easier as all prices will be comparable; 81% agree that charges for changes from one currency to another will be eliminated, and 72% expect that the common currency will cut down the costs of doing business among Euro countries. The Austrian respondents expressed somewhat less confidence in the idea that the introduction of the Euro will represent a further step towards European integration, nor are they confident that it might make Europe stronger in the world or create a link between Europeans. 48% agree that the introduction of the Euro will create faster economic growth and 44% believe that it will reduce turmoil in international currency markets. On the other hand, the notion that the new currency will create new jobs or drive down mortgage rates meets rather with scepticism.
3. As for anticipated negative effects, the results show that 49 % of Austrians are afraid that the introduction of the Euro will drive up prices of consumer goods, and 44 % believe that it will result in an increased gap between the rich and the poor. 41 % expect that the disadvantages will outweigh the advantages; 37 % believe in the opposite effect. Only a small proportion of the respondents, however, indicates concern that the introduction of the Euro implies a loss of national control over economic and social policy or a loss of national identity.

4. Most Austrian respondents expect that the changeover to paying with Euro coins and notes will lead to temporary difficulties. The respondents tend to predict those more for the general public than for themselves. Only one out of five foresees that they personally would face long-term or major difficulties. Compared to the average assessments in the Euro zone countries, the Austrian public anticipates fewer hitches in connection with the changeover.

5. The Austrian respondents perceive EU enlargement mostly in terms of the Central and Eastern European post-communist reform countries. Personal contacts and a wish for more information beyond the areas of tourism and culture pertain especially to the neighbouring countries (mainly Hungary but also Slovenia and the Czech Republic). Austrians hold quite differentiated views about the individual accession countries. Accordingly, only a minority prefers an enlargement strategy that includes all the countries wishing to join the European Union; 47 % advocate a selective approach. Asked which countries should be the first to join the EU, 44 % name Hungary, 19 % Slovenia, 14 % the Czech Republic, 10 % Poland. (The non-candidate countries) Switzerland and Norway are the first choice of 19 % and 13 %, respectively. The respondents expressed the strongest reservations with regard to Albania, Yugoslavia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Turkey, Bulgaria and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.
6. 3% of Austrians feel that they are very well informed about EU enlargement; 27% think that they are well informed. The Austrian perception of their own level of knowledge thus lies clearly above EU-average. At the same time, only 3% of the Austrian respondents feel that they are participating to any great extent in the political debate (18% somewhat, 32% not at all). In particular, the lower socio-economic strata, women, those not active in the labour force – with the exception of students – and manual workers feel excluded from the public debate.

7. Two-thirds do not believe that the enlargement process will affect their personal lives; at the same time, more respondents anticipate a potential worsening (19%) rather than an improvement (7%) of their personal situation. 34% expect a significant migration movement; but 50% believe that migration will remain within reason. Those who anticipate a significant migration increase evaluate it predominantly in negative terms (91%). 38% expect a considerable increase of day-time commuters (35% do not). The majority rates this anticipated effect negatively as well (81%). Again, workers and those with lower education are significantly more often sceptics and opponents of the enlargement process; in contrast, better educated respondents and young people, above average, tend towards positive assessments.

8. Positive attitudes towards enlargement relate to its importance in uniting our continent (50%); to secure peace in our part of the world (47%); and to its role in eliminating armed conflicts in Europe (44%). More often than not, however, the respondents doubt that enlargement will help to create more jobs in Austria (54% disagree with the notion that this might be the case). Similarly, 60% do not believe that enlargement will help to increase Austrians’ quality of life, nor do they think enlargement is a good thing because the Austrian government is in favour of it (58% disagree with that proposition). No clear trend becomes apparent in the views on enlargement as catalyst for economic growth: 41% agree that this will be a consequence but 38% disagree. Opinions also diverge on the question whether benefits or disadvantages will prevail: 35% believe that advantages will outweigh disadvantages; 36% hold the opposite view. 51% suspect that enlargement will create problems for the people in the EU and three-quarters (74%) think that the process should be delayed if there are many disadvantages.
9. The decisive criteria to admit accession countries to the EU that emerged above all were the countries' respect for human rights and for the principles of democracy (very important to 80 %), but also active commitment to fighting organised crime and drug trafficking (77 %) and to protecting the environment (74 %). 67 % consider it very important that every accession country is able to pay its share to the EU budget, 66 % that it accepts all EU rules, and 64 % feel that it is very important that its joining should not be costly for existing member countries. Whether an accession country's economic development is close to the Austrian level materialised as the least important criterion (57 %).

10. 34 % (scale values 1, 2, 3) believe that enlargement will slow down the development of the EU or trigger a standstill; 22 % predict a high-speed development (scale values 5, 6, 7); 24 % foresee medium-level speed. The current development is perceived as fast by 27 %, as medium-level by 30 %. 30 % see a sluggish pace or a complete standstill. Half of the Austrian respondents evaluate the speed of the accession process as appropriate (49 % think the current speed should be maintained), 29 % advocate a decelerated pace, 11 % indicate a preference for an increased speed.

11. Fears about the building of Europe relate particularly to the disappearance of small or medium-sized farms (56 %); to decisions imposed by the big member states (54 %); to increases in drug trafficking and international organised crime (53 %); to job transfer to other countries which have lower production costs (52 %); to the expectation that richer member countries have to pay for the others (50 %); and to lessening guarantees of food safety (50 %). Not quite as threatening to the Austrian sample appear a loss of social benefits (46 %); massive imports from other countries (43 %); decisions being taken more slowly because of heavy bureaucracy (42 %) or fair competition (41 %). That such developments will in fact take place is mostly taken for granted.
12. Few fear a loss of power for smaller member states, however likely it might be, or increased regional unemployment; nor are many anxious about problems caused by people in the EU being too different to get along with each other. The Austrian respondents were the least concerned about an economic crisis in the EU, a loss of their national identity and culture, that the national language might be used less and less or that Austria's mere existence could be threatened.

13. 35% are interested in a dialogue on Europe; 45% are not. Public discussions should cover particularly specific policy areas: the fight against unemployment (48%); the environment (47%); food safety (45%); health (43%); consequences of enlargement (39%). The Austrian respondents attribute only secondary importance to citizens’ rights, basic values shared by all Europeans, institutional issues, the consequences of the introduction of the Euro, or a common security and defence policy. The assumption that politicians would not take citizens’ view into account anyway (30% of those not interested in public debates hold that opinion) and the view that it would be a waste of time (27%) are among the main reasons for a lack of interest in a dialogue on Europe. 26% would be interested in taking part in a discussion on European issues, 59%, however, are not.

14. Interest in participation correlates with preferences for discussions with fellow Austrians and, albeit within limits, also Austrian politicians. Having one’s opinion taken into account (39%) and having access to information needed to take part in such a discussion (34%) emerge as major factors that would motivate attendance at public debates on Europe.

15. In comparison to the EU average a relatively high proportion of Austrian respondents feels that they have enough knowledge to participate in a public discussion on Europe (18%); however, 64% doubt that they know enough; and 19% do not know whether their level of knowledge would suffice. The Austrian respondents feature an above EU average interest in the opinions of people in other EU countries (23% are very interested, 32% fairly interested) as well as in what people from the accession countries (22% very interested, 36% fairly interested) think about the future of the EU.
The Euro, Enlargement and the future of Europe

Highlights
PORTUGAL

Manuel Villaverde Cabral (Editor)
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Highlights:

- 73% of the Portuguese do not feel well informed about the Euro. This feeling is generalised, but is felt to an even greater extent by those belonging to the lowest income group, those with least education, the older cohorts, women and those in rural areas.

- Portugal is the Euro-zone country where the information campaigns have reached the lowest percentage of the population. Although this percentage has been converging to the European average since 1998, 23% of respondents still declare they have not received any information about the Euro.

- The Portuguese score below the EU average concerning knowledge about the calendar of the introduction of the Euro, on almost all questions. 30% of the respondents did not identify Portugal as belonging to the Euro zone. More than 50% of the Portuguese could only name four members of the Euro-zone correctly.

- 75 per cent of the Portuguese believe that adaptation to the Euro will entail “some difficulties which will last considerable time” or “a lot of difficulties” for the general public, the highest percentage in the EU. Although relatively more optimistic regarding their own ability to adapt with 58 per cent declaring they will not have great difficulties, 42% foresee some problems, the largest proportion in the EU.

- There is a tendency in Portugal to agree with the positive economic effects of the Euro. Moreover, the Portuguese feel more optimistic today regarding these effects than in previous surveys. Yet, there are two areas where pessimism lingers: the Euro’s impact on inflation and unemployment. 41 per cent of the Portuguese predicts that introducing the Europe will raise product prices, while only 33 per cent believes it will help create jobs.

- The Portuguese feel relatively more optimistic concerning the political effects of introducing the single currency, both for the EU and Portugal. Also, most of the Portuguese disagree with the statement that the Euro will imply a loss of national identity or a decrease in control over social policy.

- The Portuguese are divided on the impact of the single currency on national control of economic policy: 38 per cent agree that introducing the Euro will lead to a loss of national sovereignty in that area, whereas 37 per cent disagree.

- The majority of the Portuguese consider that the practical effects of the Euro’s introduction will be positive, as do the majority of other Europeans.

- The Portuguese are divided on the issue of whether the Euro will have greater disadvantages than advantages. 38 per cent agree with that statement, whereas 37 per cent believe it will bring more advantages. The percentage of respondents who see greater disadvantages in introducing the single currency, has increased in Portugal since 1995. This belief prevails among certain social groups, namely women, those with least education and the older cohorts, as well as among who feel less informed and who anticipate greater difficulties in adapting to the Euro.
The overwhelming majority of the Portuguese feel “not very well” or “not at all” informed about enlargement. As occurs with the level of information about the Euro, it is those members of certain social groups, namely those with lower income, lower education, the older cohorts and women who state they possess least information about the process of enlargement.

The majority of Portuguese cannot name any adhesion candidates, holds no opinion on which country should join first, and which should not join the EU at all.

85 per cent of Portuguese feel they participate “little” or “not at all” in the political debate on enlargement. This feeling is shared by the EU15 where 84 per cent are of the same opinion.

84 per cent per cent of Portuguese considers that the EU should be enlarged in the near future. This is the highest percentage in the EU. 43 per cent agree that the EU should be enlarged to all those wishing to join, whereas 41 per cent would limit entry to a few countries. Only 10 per cent reject the idea of enlargement. 39 per cent of Portuguese would like to see the process of enlargement sped up, one of the largest percentages in the EU.

The large majority of Portuguese who believe candidate countries should fulfil both political and economic criteria in order to enter the EU contradict the benevolent attitude evidenced above regarding which countries should be allowed to join the Community. Over 90 per cent believe that candidate countries should respect democracy and human rights, combat crime and protect the environment. Over 70 per cent considers that it is necessary that candidates accept all EU rules, that they be net contributors to the EU budget and that they do not imply added expenses to existing members.

For the majority of the Portuguese enlargement will lead to positive economic benefits for Europe. However, the Portuguese are divided on the issue of whether it will have positive economic consequences for Portugal, and show some pessimism regarding the creation of jobs in Portugal.

65 per cent of Portuguese believe their personal life will not be affected by enlargement. 12 per cent of respondents trust their life will improve after the entry of new members to the EU.

42 per cent of the Portuguese, a proportion similar to the EU average, consider that enlargement will lead to significant immigration to Portugal. Among these, two thirds think this is a negative phenomenon, mainly because it may contribute to an increase in unemployment.

Only 29 per cent of the Portuguese believe enlargement will create problems to EU citizens, and 42 per cent admits it will bring more advantages than disadvantages. These averages are, respectively, above and below the EU average.

An overwhelming majority of the Portuguese are uninterested in spending time debating the future of Europe with public national or European officials. For most of the uninterested, the reason expressed is that it would be a “waste of time”. 81 per cent of the Portuguese state that they lack information to participate in such public discussions.
• The issues which the Portuguese would prefer to discuss presently and in the future, are mostly related to material issues of well-being and safety. The Portuguese are relatively less interested in discussing political aspects of the building of Europe. 50 per cent of Portuguese fear that the European construction might decrease the power of smaller member states, and lead to an imposition of decisions by the larger members, although this percentage is lower than the European average.

• The Portuguese therefore demonstrate a great lack of information in relation to three topics dealt with in this Eurobarometer. The lack of information is felt by the respondents, and became clear from the percentages of “don’t know” to questions about the Euro, enlargement and the future of Europe. Moreover, social groups who have least economic, social and educational resources show greater lack of information regarding the surveys’ topics.

• This lack of information leads to a great alienation regarding European issues. The Portuguese feel unable to express opinions, due to their lack of information on European themes and debates. Also, they demonstrate little interest in participating in public debates on the future of Europe, since they do not feel they possess enough information for that.

• Concerning the Euro, the lack of information leads mostly to uncertainty and pessimism. Although the Portuguese admit that the Euro will bring economic, political and practical benefits, the general opinion on the disadvantages which will accrue from the introduction of the Euro is more pessimistic than in other countries which belong to the same cultural and geographic area.

• The lack of information leads to contradictory opinions. Regarding EU enlargement, Portugal is among the countries which defend the speeding of the process of new members’ entry to the EU, and that all countries which wish to join do so. However, the Portuguese also consider that all countries who join the EU must have a similar economic development, be able to contribute to the EU budget, and not constitute additional costs for existing member states.
Highlights

Majority of Finns feel well informed about the euro

- 99 % of over 15-year old Finns have received information about the euro. There has been an increase of +2 % since autumn 2000. 65 % of people feel very well or well informed (increase +4 %), whereas 34 % feel they are not very well or not at all well informed.

Finns’ knowledge of the euro is well beyond satisfactory

- More than 3 in 5 Finns know that 1 euro is between 5,00-6,00 Finnish markka.
- 93 % of Finns know that notes and coins in euro will be introduced in 2002. Slightly less, 76 % of Finns know that they will be introduced in January of that year.
- 44 % know that it will no longer be possible to pay in Finnish markka from 1 March 2002.
- 84 % of Finns know that the euro is the single currency for the 12 euro-zone countries.
- 47 % know that the euro will not be accepted as a means of payment outside the euro-zone in the other EU countries.

Perceived effects of the euro slightly more positive than negative

- Less than 2 in 5 Finns think that the euro will have more disadvantages than advantages, whereas 1 in 2 Finns somewhat or totally disagrees with this statement. 10 % lack an opinion.
- Over 9 in 10 Finns think that the introduction of the euro will have some major positive effects on the every-day life: it will make life easier for people who travel across borders, it will eliminate charges for changing from one currency to another and it will make it easier to shop around Europe as all prices will be comparable.
- However, 64 % of Finns are afraid that the introduction of the euro will drive up prices of consumer goods.

Majority of Finns expect to face only minor temporary difficulties with the changeover

- 77 % of Finns expect to have personally either no difficulties or only some temporary difficulties when the euro is introduced in January 2002. However, there is less trust in the general public: 53 % of Finns believe that the general public will face either long-term difficulties or great difficulties with the changeover to the euro.
One in two Finns neither well informed nor participating in the political debate about the enlargement

- Slightly more than half of Finns feel either very well of well informed about the enlargement, whereas 46% do not feel well informed.
- 51% of Finns participate in the political debate about the enlargement at least occasionally, whereas 49% do not participate at all.
- Those Finns who do not feel well informed about the enlargement and are outside the political debate – especially older age groups, retired, unemployed and those stopping full-time education at younger age – tend to have in general more negative attitudes towards enlargement than the rest of the population.

No unreserved support for the enlargement

- 36% of Finns support the argument that benefits derived from the enlargement will outweigh disadvantages, whereas 46% think the opposite. 18% of Finns have not made up their mind yet and lack an opinion. 48% believe that the enlargement will create problems for the people in the European Union, whereas 34% do not support this argument. Again 18% lack an opinion.
- However, the majority of Finns see the enlargement in a wider political context: 58% of Finns think that the enlargement is important, because it unites Europe, and 51% believe that it will secure peace in Europe.

Most support for Estonia’s membership, least support for Turkey

- Estonia is the most favoured candidate country: 47% of Finns would like Estonia to join the EU among the first countries. 1 in 5 Finns would also like to see Hungary and Latvia among the first countries. However, even more, 25% of Finns, would like the non-candidate country Norway to join the EU among the first countries.
- The least favoured candidate country is Turkey. 27% of Finns oppose its membership to the European Union.

Majority of Finns in favour of a moderate or slowed-down enlargement process

- 54% of Finns think that the enlargement process should stay as it currently is, 27% is in favour of slowing down the process, and 10% would like to see it sped up.
- 53% of Finns think that the European Union should be enlarged to only some of the candidate countries. 21% is in favour of including all the countries wishing to join, and 17% think that the EU should not be enlarged to any additional countries.

No major change in every-day life expected after the enlargement

- 77% of Finns expect their personal life to be about the same after the enlargement, whereas 15% is afraid that their personal life will be worse, and 4% expect it to be better.
- 3 in 5 Finns do not believe that the enlargement will lead to significant migration to Finland, whereas 26% expect it to happen.
Fears about the future of Europe and the building of the European Union

- 76% of Finns are afraid of an increase in drug trafficking and international organised crime, 73% are afraid of decisions imposed by the big member countries, 68% are afraid of the disappearance of small or medium-sized farms, and 64% are afraid of food safety being less guaranteed.

Only one in five Finns interested in the Dialogue on Europe

- Only 20% of Finns would be interested in taking part personally in dialogue on the future of Europe, whereas 76% of Finns would not be at all interested in these public discussions. The majority would favour discussions at national level with national politicians (50%) or other Finns (47%) rather than discussions with European Union politicians such as Commissioners or MEPs (35%).

- Majority of Finns think that concrete topics with every-day implications should be covered in these public discussions on the European Union. 3 in 5 Finns is in favour of discussing Citizens’ rights and food safety. 54% think that environment matters should be covered, and 50% would like to see the consequences of enlargement being covered.

- There are many reasons for the lack of interest in public discussions: 3 in 4 Finns do not feel they have enough knowledge on the European Union to participate in these discussions. 3 in 10 Finns are generally not interested in politics. 1 in 5 does not believe that his views would be taken into account, and 1 in 10 Finns is not interested in the EU matters or thinks that public discussions would be a waste of time.

Access for additional information would motivate more Finns to participate

- More than 2 in 5 Finns say that they would be interested in participating public discussions, if they would have access to additional information. However, 85% of those expressing the need for additional information cannot specify the kind of information they would primarily need.

- 39% of Finns would be more motivated to participate, if they were certain that their opinion will be taken into account, and 23% would be more motivated, if these public discussions were to be part of a comprehensive process with follow-up discussions.

- 18% say that nothing would motivate them to participate in the public discussions.

Majority interested in knowing about public dialogue in other European countries

- 3 in 5 Finns would be interested in knowing what people in other EU countries and the candidate countries think about the future of Europe.
Swedish people do not feel very well informed about the enlargement of the EU, the ongoing debate about its future, nor about its common currency, the euro. This lack of EU knowledge is also the Swedes’ main justification for their very limited participation in the political debate about these issues. This according to results presented in the EU’s own statistical publication, Eurobarometer, assembled this spring by putting the same questions to a national sample of citizens in all EU countries1.

However, seven out ten Swedes think that enlargement is important ‘because it unites our continent’ (67%, versus 27% who do not think so) and almost half of them believe its disadvantages will be outweighed by its advantages (46%, vs. 37% who do not believe they will).

Nevertheless, eight out of ten Swedish respondents judge themselves either not very well informed (54%) or not at all well informed (27%) about the EU’s forthcoming enlargement. Still, when asked to rank their knowledge 1-5, a Swedish person judges him or herself as being slightly more knowledgeable about enlargement (1.93) than the average EU citizen (1.85). If the Swedish respondents are not always able to pick out the countries that have been accepted as EU candidates, they generally have a view of who should be allowed to join. Poland and the Baltic states lead the pack. The Swedes indicate they would most like to know more about the accession countries’ culture, tourism possibilities and state of the environment, in that order.

They moreover claim that EU enlargement is an important peace project (63%), and seem hopeful it will provide additional incentives for democratisation and economic development in Central and Eastern Europe. However, they also have fears about the perceived implications of enlargement. Eight out of ten fear an increase in organised crime and drug trafficking (79%) on enlargement of the bloc; that heavy bureaucracy will slow down political decision-making (80%); and that decisions eventually made will have been pushed through by the big member states (76%). Almost as many think that jobs will transfer to other countries with lower production costs (78%) and, conversely, judge negatively an increased migration into Sweden from Central and Eastern Europe (76%).

47 percent do not feel they are participating at all in the political debate about enlargement. Another two fifths do not feel they participate very much. A minority feel they take part somewhat (11%), whereas only one in a hundred Swedes claim to do so to a great extent. Furthermore, one third claim they have not seen, heard or read anything about December’s meeting of EU leaders in Nice, France; those who have, almost exclusively, say they received their information from the news media. As for the meeting’s agenda, almost one in two Swedish respondents single out preparations for EU enlargement as one of the its objectives (48%). Only 14 percent point to the adoption of a

1 See last page for details.

EB May 2001: Results for Sweden.
Contact: Anna Strom, e-mail: amkstrom@hotmail.com
European Charter of Fundamental Rights as another such goal. With the Swedes repeatedly indicating to the EB pollsters that democracy and citizens’ rights is an area close to their hearts, and one where they seem to hope the EU can have a positive impact on the accession countries, this may seem as a missed opportunity to some EU protagonists. Moreover, 53 percent of the Swedish respondents think it would be interesting if the citizens could communicate with politicians about the EU’s future. Foremost because it is a democratic principle to express one’s views (68%) and, secondly, because it would help people understanding better what the EU does and why (63%). However, 83 percent of the Swedish respondents indicate that they do not feel sufficiently well informed to take part in such discussions. In addition, 70 percent of them do not know what topics or questions they would like to know more about to enable their participation. 14 percent say they have enough knowledge to take a public discussion on the future political direction of the EU. While Swedes tend to prefer television (56%) and the press (46%) as information conveyers, they would rather be directly consulted in opinion polls (38%) and by email (26%). But two in five say they do not use the Internet (41%).

Two thirds of the Swedish respondents furthermore claim not to be interested in a discussing publicly the EU’s future. Their prime motivations for this are (again) a lack of knowledge about the EU (75%) or of political interest (35%). One in four are not interested because they believe that their point of view would not be accounted for anyway. A third of the Swedish respondents say that they are interested in taking part in such a public discussion, most of them in person. The topics the Swedes most wanted to cover are the environment (77%), citizens’ rights (68%), food safety (68%), and the fight against unemployment (63%). Seven out of ten also think it could be useful to know the contents of the EU treaties—and 55 percent are interested in possessing such knowledge. But these legal texts seem hard to understand, according to… 84 percent of the Swedes. Four fifths furthermore think that politicians in other countries ought to express more frequently their views on problems common to the whole of the EU in the Swedish media.

The issues surrounding the EU’s common currency, the euro, perhaps feel less pressing to the Swedes than to the citizens of the 11 countries preparing for its imminent introduction. The Swedish respondents judge their euro knowledge to be ‘2’ on a 1-5 ranking, or slightly below that of the average EU citizen (2.3) Almost a third of the former claim not to have received any information about the euro. The rest have mostly drawn theirs from the media, of which TV is again the main information provider (62%), followed by the (print) press (50%) and radio (35%). No other information source makes the 10-percent mark. If all Swedes cannot correctly list the member states that are about to form the euro zone, nine tenths of them know that the EU’s common currency is to be introduced next year, in January (75%). Then, say 45 percent of the Swedes, people will also be able to use the euro in countries outside of the euro zone. 43 percent do not think so.
Swedes are collectively less positive than their average EU counterparts about the future benefits of the euro. Again employing a hierarchy of 1-5, where ‘5’ signifies total agreement and ‘1’ total disagreement, they rank the probability of the euro introduction speeding up economic growth as 2.3 (EU average: 2.6) and job creation as 2 (EU av.: 2.3). They rank the probability of the common currency leading to a loss of national control over the own country’s economic policy as 2.8 (EU av.: 2.5). In spite of this more pessimistic euro outlook, Swedes place themselves slightly below the EU average when asked to judge whether the euro will have more advantages than disadvantages (S: 2.4, EU av.: 2.5).

LOGISTICS:

• GgK SVERIGE collected the Swedish results, on March 5 to April 16, 2001, by conducting face-to-face interviews in 981 Swedish households.

• The total number of interviews carried out in the 15 EU member states were 16,099.

• The exercise was coordinated by the European Opinion Research Group, a consortium of market and public opinion research agencies, made out of INRA Europe and GfK Worldwide for the 55.0 standard Eurobarometer, on request of the European Commission.

• Extract from the technical specifications of the standard Eurobarometer 55.0:

“The Standard EUROBAROMETER 55.0 covers the population of the respective nationalities of the European Union Member States, aged 15 years and over, resident in each of the Member States. The basic sample design applied in all Member States is a multi-stage, random (probability) one. In each EU country, a number of sampling points was drawn with probability proportional to population size (for a total coverage of the country) and to population size….”
HEADLINE RESULTS
EUROBAROMETER 55
for
GREAT BRITAIN

Dr Denis Balsom
Francis Balsom Associates Ltd
Aberystwyth
Wales, UK
Introduction

The Eurobarometer is a European-wide social survey designed to examine issues of relevance to the European Union. Eurobarometer 55 focused specifically on the issues of European enlargement, the Euro and the dialogue on the future of Europe. 1004 in-home interviews were conducted in Great Britain between March 5 and April 4 2001 by INRA UK Ltd.

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland joined the, then, European Common Market in 1973. The initial accession to Europe had been a contentious issue initiated by the Conservative administration, under Edward Heath, and largely opposed by the Labour Party. In 1975 however, under a Labour Government, Britain voted 67 : 33 in favour of continued membership at a national referendum.

The degree of British engagement in the European Union however, has remained a point of party political difference in British politics. The debate covers a variety of alternatives ranging from those seeing Britain’s involvement in Europe as essentially limited to the promotion of Free Trade, to those who would advocate closer political co-operation and further integration. At the recent national election in June, Europe was a key campaign issue dividing the principal political parties, particularly in respect of Britain’s possible adoption of the single European currency. Social survey evidence collected during the election campaign however, suggests that the electorate’s principal concern was the domestic policy agenda and that, generally, European matters were given a low priority. Notwithstanding this apparent indifference, European issues will feature prominently in the new Government’s programme, and British politics generally, for the next few years.

A preliminary review of the Eurobarometer results for Great Britain suggests a number of common themes encompassing the three principal issues addressed – European enlargement, the Euro and the dialogue on the future of Europe. British public opinion remains relatively uninformed on European matters, is divided about the future development and growth of the European Union and these attitudes are highly skewed by age.

European Enlargement

Q. How well informed do you feel about the enlargement, that is new countries joining the European Union?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>ALL</th>
<th>15-24</th>
<th>25-39</th>
<th>40-54</th>
<th>55+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very well informed</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>1.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Well informed</td>
<td>9.9</td>
<td>8.9</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>11.5</td>
<td>11.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Not very well informed</td>
<td>32.9</td>
<td>25.3</td>
<td>33.0</td>
<td>34.3</td>
<td>35.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Not at all well informed</td>
<td>53.3</td>
<td>64.8</td>
<td>55.9</td>
<td>49.2</td>
<td>48.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t Know</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>3.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Fewer than one-in-eight of respondents felt well informed on this issue and further information showed a marked reluctance to consider extending EU membership to many of the newer states of eastern Europe.
• The younger sections of the population were uniformly less well informed than the older categories. While it is usual to find lower levels of political knowledge and interest amongst those in late secondary and higher education, the extension of this band of detachment to those in their early and mid careers demonstrates the shortfall in knowledge of European issues. It also defines the extent of the task confronting those wishing to engage the public in a genuine dialogue on this important political matter.

Q. Which of these three options do you prefer for the immediate future of the European Union?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>ALL %</th>
<th>15-24%</th>
<th>25-39%</th>
<th>40-54%</th>
<th>55+%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The European Union should be enlarged to include all countries wishing to join</td>
<td>17.5</td>
<td>22.0</td>
<td>23.0</td>
<td>13.7</td>
<td>13.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The European Union should be enlarged to include only some of the countries wishing to join</td>
<td>29.5</td>
<td>26.6</td>
<td>30.5</td>
<td>28.4</td>
<td>30.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The European Union should not be enlarged to any additional countries</td>
<td>15.9</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>12.7</td>
<td>19.9</td>
<td>17.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None of these</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>6.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DK</td>
<td>31.6</td>
<td>38.7</td>
<td>29.9</td>
<td>31.7</td>
<td>29.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• Roughly a third of all respondents claimed not to have a view on this key question concerning the development of the European Union.

• Of those prepared to entertain further growth of the European Union, those favouring a totally open policy of enlargement were outnumbered by those seeking limitations across all age categories.

The Single European Currency

Q. How well informed do you feel about the single European currency, that is the Euro?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>ALL %</th>
<th>15-24%</th>
<th>25-39%</th>
<th>40-54%</th>
<th>55+%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very well informed</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Well informed</td>
<td>17.7</td>
<td>12.3</td>
<td>18.2</td>
<td>19.7</td>
<td>18.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not very well informed</td>
<td>39.3</td>
<td>41.9</td>
<td>38.7</td>
<td>39.4</td>
<td>38.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not at all well informed</td>
<td>38.2</td>
<td>41.2</td>
<td>39.0</td>
<td>36.9</td>
<td>37.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DK</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>3.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• Although the question of entry into European Monetary Union has been a prime issue in British politics for several years, the level of public knowledge and understanding is low. Less than one-in-five respondents felt well informed and amongst the younger age categories this level was even lower.
The British Government intends to hold a referendum on adoption of the Euro, should the various prior economic criteria be met. On this evidence, it would appear that the general level of comprehension of this key issue will need to be raised considerably to facilitate a satisfactory political debate and for a credible decision to be made.

Q. Do you tend to agree or disagree that ……

Giving up the £ pound would mean an end to national independence?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>ALL</th>
<th>15-24</th>
<th>25-39</th>
<th>40-54</th>
<th>55+</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tend to agree</td>
<td>63.3</td>
<td>56.8</td>
<td>58.3</td>
<td>62.6</td>
<td>71.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tend to disagree</td>
<td>24.3</td>
<td>24.6</td>
<td>29.5</td>
<td>23.3</td>
<td>20.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t Know</td>
<td>12.4</td>
<td>18.6</td>
<td>12.2</td>
<td>14.1</td>
<td>8.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You cannot trust the European Union to take account of the British economic interest

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th>15-24</th>
<th>25-39</th>
<th>40-54</th>
<th>55+</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Tend to agree</td>
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<td>49.4</td>
<td>58.2</td>
<td>63.3</td>
<td>63.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tend to disagree</td>
<td>20.1</td>
<td>20.1</td>
<td>20.7</td>
<td>20.4</td>
<td>19.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t Know</td>
<td>20.1</td>
<td>30.6</td>
<td>21.1</td>
<td>16.3</td>
<td>17.1</td>
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</table>

The Euro would help reduce unemployment in our country

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th>15-24</th>
<th>25-39</th>
<th>40-54</th>
<th>55+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tend to agree</td>
<td>14.4</td>
<td>17.9</td>
<td>11.7</td>
<td>13.8</td>
<td>15.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tend to disagree</td>
<td>57.2</td>
<td>41.7</td>
<td>60.6</td>
<td>61.9</td>
<td>58.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t Know</td>
<td>28.4</td>
<td>40.5</td>
<td>27.7</td>
<td>24.2</td>
<td>26.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Euro would mean higher taxes in our country

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th>15-24</th>
<th>25-39</th>
<th>40-54</th>
<th>55+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>29.6</td>
<td>39.9</td>
<td>42.9</td>
<td>53.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tend to disagree</td>
<td>20.3</td>
<td>22.0</td>
<td>23.4</td>
<td>22.9</td>
<td>14.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t Know</td>
<td>36.2</td>
<td>48.4</td>
<td>36.7</td>
<td>34.2</td>
<td>31.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Euro has proved itself an effective currency

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>ALL</th>
<th>15-24</th>
<th>25-39</th>
<th>40-54</th>
<th>55+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tend to agree</td>
<td>10.4</td>
<td>14.6</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>10.6</td>
<td>10.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tend to disagree</td>
<td>49.5</td>
<td>32.1</td>
<td>46.7</td>
<td>57.2</td>
<td>54.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t Know</td>
<td>40.1</td>
<td>53.3</td>
<td>45.7</td>
<td>32.2</td>
<td>34.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Although the survey clearly demonstrates that the British public is not well informed on this issue, a range of largely negative attitudes towards the Euro were also identified by the research. Specific statements on possible consequences of entry into the Euro zone produced a uniformly negative response. In the absence of an informed debate, this attitude profile appears to be based upon prejudice and the innate conservatism of British public opinion.

With the exception of the first statement on the potential loss of national independence, there would appear to be a high level of Don’t Know responses which might be considered to temper the overall negativity of the battery.
Unlike the previous questions examined however, there is little evidence of an age effect embedded in the attitude profile. This might suggest that opinions are being influenced by widespread popular sentiment which, although not tested here, may well correlate with consumption of the mass, tabloid, newsprint media.

### The Future of Europe

The survey examined the question of the future of Europe primarily through a battery of questions assessing whether or not respondents felt particular issues should form part of public discussions on the European Union. In this way, the issues that were accepted as having a valid European dimension should stand out from those perceived to be of primarily domestic importance.

**Q. Which of the following topics should be covered in public discussions on the European Union? (More than one answer permissible)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>ALL</th>
<th>15-24</th>
<th>25-39</th>
<th>40-54</th>
<th>55+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The way the institutions of the European Union work</td>
<td>32.3</td>
<td>32.2</td>
<td>27.6</td>
<td>36.6</td>
<td>33.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National governments and European Institutions</td>
<td>18.5</td>
<td>14.5</td>
<td>15.3</td>
<td>22.6</td>
<td>20.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citizen’s rights</td>
<td>51.5</td>
<td>50.4</td>
<td>48.9</td>
<td>54.4</td>
<td>52.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic values shared by Europeans</td>
<td>30.1</td>
<td>29.5</td>
<td>27.9</td>
<td>35.6</td>
<td>28.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The common security and defence policy</td>
<td>37.0</td>
<td>28.4</td>
<td>35.4</td>
<td>45.2</td>
<td>36.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The European Union’s role in the World</td>
<td>33.0</td>
<td>31.5</td>
<td>31.2</td>
<td>37.9</td>
<td>31.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The role of the British Parliament in the European Union</td>
<td>37.9</td>
<td>31.3</td>
<td>31.3</td>
<td>45.3</td>
<td>41.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The consequences of enlargement</td>
<td>33.1</td>
<td>30.7</td>
<td>30.8</td>
<td>36.2</td>
<td>33.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The consequences of the introduction of the Euro</td>
<td>38.7</td>
<td>32.9</td>
<td>40.0</td>
<td>42.9</td>
<td>37.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food safety</td>
<td>49.3</td>
<td>44.9</td>
<td>48.2</td>
<td>54.1</td>
<td>48.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>48.4</td>
<td>53.7</td>
<td>47.1</td>
<td>48.5</td>
<td>46.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The environment</td>
<td>47.6</td>
<td>47.7</td>
<td>52.2</td>
<td>46.6</td>
<td>44.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The fight against unemployment</td>
<td>42.7</td>
<td>43.3</td>
<td>42.9</td>
<td>45.2</td>
<td>40.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>2.7</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
<td>17.4</td>
<td>16.7</td>
<td>18.0</td>
<td>15.8</td>
<td>18.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- The pattern of responses shows no particular age bias.
- The issues that attract the highest scores, i.e. those perceived by the sample to be of the greatest salience to the European debate, are largely those of an individual, personal, character rather than of a more general political nature. Thus health, environment and food safety score higher than defence, the EU’s role in the world or the workings of EU institutions.
- It appears likely that this differentiation demonstrates the overall relevance of a particular topic to the subjective lifestyle and situation of a respondent, rather than any particular European dimension of the issue being widely perceived.
Conclusions

• The headline results of Eurobarometer 55 suggest that British opinion is relatively underdeveloped on a range of current European issues.

• The continued emphasis on European issues within party political debate in Britain should raise levels of knowledge and awareness, but attitudes may also become entrenched in partisan divisions.

• Further analysis will explore evidence of broader sociological and spatial variations within the survey results gathered by Eurobarometer 55 for Great Britain.

22 June 2001