EUROBAROMETER 55.2

EUROPEANS AND THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY

REPORT
(Type A)

BY

THE EUROPEAN OPINION RESEARCH GROUP EEIG

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FOR

The Directorate-General for Agriculture

HANDLED AND ORGANISED BY

The Directorate-General for Press and Communications
Public Opinion Sector

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This opinion poll, handled and organised by the Directorate-General for Press and Communications, Public Opinion Sector, was conducted at the request of the Directorate-General for Agriculture.

It was carried out in all the Member States of the European Union between 10 May and 15 June 2001 and generally coordinated by the EORG in Brussels.

The questionnaire, the names of the research institutes and the technical specifications appear in the Annex.

The European Commission does not take any responsibility for the contents of this report.

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Introduction

The opinion poll analysed in this report was conducted in the fifteen Member States between 10 May and 15 June 2001 as part of Eurobarometer\(^1\) 55.2, at the request of the Directorate-General for Agriculture. This poll was handled and organised by the Directorate-General for Press and Communications, Public Opinion Sector.

This report tackles Europeans’ experience and perception of the Common Agricultural Policy. It is subdivided into several chapters covering:

- The advantages and guarantees provided by the Common Agricultural Policy
- The role of the Common Agricultural Policy
- The ability of the Common Agricultural Policy to accept its role
- The development of the Common Agricultural Policy

These questions were put to a representative sample of the national population aged fifteen and over in each Member State. In all, 16,029 people were polled, that is, on average around 1000 people per Member State, except in Germany (2000: 1000 in the new Länder and 1000 in the old Länder), the United Kingdom (1300: 1000 in Great Britain and 300 in Northern Ireland) and Luxembourg (600). We should state that the figures relating to the European Union as a whole in this report are a weighted average of the national figures. The weighting used for each Member State is the proportion of the national population aged 15 and over within the Community population aged 15 and over\(^2\).

\(^1\) The Eurobarometer opinion polls, or more precisely the “standard Eurobarometer opinion polls” have been conducted since 1973 (EB No. 0) on behalf of the European Commission’s former D.G. X, the Directorate-General for Press and Communications today. They have included Greece since the autumn of 1980, Portugal and Spain since the autumn of 1985, East Germany since the autumn of 1990 and Austria, Finland and Sweden since the spring of 1995.

\(^2\) Cf. technical specifications in the Annex.
The technical specifications in the Annex detail all the questions relating to methodology, such as local dates, sample selection, population covered, weighting, reliability limits, etc. We would clarify certain terms used in these technical specifications: the marginal weighting is the weighting based on a variable such as age or sex, whereas the mixed weighting is based on the combination of two variables such as, for example, age and sex. The NUTS regions are "a classification of the regions of the European Union according to a three-level hierarchical structure". The Eurobarometer is weighted on the basis of NUTS 2 regions.

It should also be noted that the total of the percentages in the graphs illustrating the report and in the tables forming the annexes might exceed 100% when the respondent has the opportunity of giving several answers to the same question.

This total may not reach exactly 100% either, but a number very close to this (for example, 99% or 101%) because figures are rounded off.

The following abbreviations are used to designate the Member States:

| B  | Belgium        |
| DK | Denmark        |
| WD | Old Länder     |
| D  | Germany        |
| OD | New Länder     |
| GR | Greece         |
| E  | Spain          |
| F  | France         |
| IRL| Ireland        |
| I  | Italy          |
| L  | Luxembourg     |
| NL | Netherlands    |
| A  | Austria        |
| P  | Portugal       |
| FIN| Finland        |
| S  | Sweden         |
| UK | United Kingdom |

One comment is called concerning the separation between Germany's old and new Länder, which was justified when East Germany was put on the list of States covered by the Eurobarometer in the autumn of 1990. This distinction has been kept despite reunification, because it frequently shows clear-cut differences in opinion between these two territories.
The abbreviation used to designate the European Union as a whole is “EU15”, and the abbreviation “DK” (“NSP” on the original French tables) means “Don’t Know”.

1. The advantages and guarantees provided by the Common Agricultural Policy

The citizens of Europe were asked to choose from ten suggestions those, which, in their opinion, are among the advantages and guarantees that the European Union’s agricultural policy provides. The first five suggestions are the only ones that were chosen by more than one in four European Citizens. These are shown on the grid below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Suggestion</th>
<th>% EU15</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>que les aliments achetés peuvent être mangés sans danger</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>que les aliments achetés sont de bonne qualité</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>que les aliments achetés sont sains</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>que les aliments achetés sont à un prix raisonnable</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>qu’il y a suffisamment d’information sur l’origine géographique des aliments</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Key to the above table:

The Common Agricultural Policy guarantees...

That the food bought can be safely eaten
That the food bought is of good quality
That the food bought is healthy
That the food bought is reasonably priced
That there is enough information about the geographical source of food

The suggestion “The European Union’s agricultural policy guarantees that the food you buy can be safely eaten” comes first with 36% for all fifteen Member States of the EU. In this order it comes before the answer “It guarantees that the food you buy is of good quality” (34%), “It guarantees that the food you buy is healthy” (31%), “It guarantees that the food you buy is reasonably priced” (26%) and, finally, “It guarantees that you have enough information about the geographical source of food” (also 26%).
The answer most frequently cited ("The European Union’s agricultural policy guarantees that the food you buy can be safely eaten") comes to 54% in the Netherlands, 50% in Ireland and 46% in Italy, but only 23% in Sweden and 24% in Portugal.

The second suggestion ("It guarantees that the food you buy is of good quality") won over 46% of the Dutch, 42% of the Irish and 39% of the Spanish. Once again, this suggestion had its lowest results in Sweden (24%) and Portugal (29%) as well as in France (also 29%).

The suggestion “It guarantees that the food you buy is healthy” received the highest votes in Italy and Ireland (41% each).

“It guarantees that you have enough information about the geographical source of food” is a suggestion particularly acknowledged in the Netherlands (31%) as well as in Spain and Denmark (30% each).

Finally, the Netherlands and Finland (40% each) followed fairly far behind by Belgium and Denmark (34% each) give some credit to the suggestion “It guarantees that the food you buy is reasonably priced”.

We note that there is not generally more than one point difference between men and women for each of the five suggestions chosen overwhelmingly. At the outside, it can be stated that the suggestions “It encourages farmers rather than consumers” and “It encourages farmers as much as consumers” are chosen by more men than women (four and two points difference respectively).

The most frequently chosen suggestion ("The European Union’s agricultural policy guarantees that the food you buy can be safely eaten") is chosen on a regularly diminishing basis when the age of the people polled increases (from 41% for the youngest (15 to 24 years) to 34% for the eldest (55 years and over). The same phenomenon is recorded but toned down for the suggestion “It guarantees that you have enough information about the geographical source of food” (from 27.4% to 24.1%).

A constant is noted for the variables of education. The three suggestions most frequently cited ("The European Union’s agricultural policy guarantees that the food you buy can be safely eaten", “It guarantees that the food you buy is of good quality” and “It guarantees that the food you buy is healthy”) all obtain slightly lower rates among more educated people (those who stopped studying full-time at 20 and over) than among people from the two other categories of this variable (people who left school at 15 or under and those who stopped their full-time education between 16 and 19 years old).

Finally, students give their highest marks to the top three suggestions ("The European Union's agricultural policy guarantees that the food you buy can be safely eaten" (42%), “It guarantees that the food you buy is of good quality” (36%) and “It guarantees that the food you buy is healthy”), (33%),
ahead of people at home (39%, 35% and 33%). Senior managers are the very last for “The European Union’s agricultural policy guarantees that the food you buy can be safely eaten” (32%) and “It guarantees that the food you buy is healthy” (26%), whereas it is the self-employed (32%) who are least inclined to treat the fact that the Common Agricultural Policy “guarantees that the food you buy is of good quality” at all seriously.

2. The role of the Common Agricultural Policy

The aims in the field of the Common Agricultural Policy were then polled and European citizens asked to give their opinion (with a “yes” or a “no”) on thirteen suggestions of aims repeated in the graph below.

Key to the above table:

The EU has to intervene through an agricultural policy in order to:

Ensure that agricultural products are healthy and safe
Promote respect for the environment
Help farmers to adapt their production to consumer expectations
Favour and improve life in the countryside
Make European agriculture more competitive on world markets
Provide farmers with stable, adequate incomes
Encourage diversification of agricultural products and activities
Favour organic production methods
Protect the specific characteristics of European agricultural products
Reduce development gaps between regions
Protect the taste of European agricultural products
Defend farmers’ interests during their negotiations with intermediaries
We should state from the outset that the “yes” answers beat the “nos” and the “DKs” for each of the thirteen suggestions among the nationals of all the EU countries and also from all the categories of the different sociodemographic variables. The highest rates of “DK” responses were in Ireland and the United Kingdom, usually joined by Belgium (seven times) and Italy (three times).

The “yes” is slightly higher among men for ten out of the thirteen suggestions. The three exceptions are:

- The European Union has to intervene through an agricultural policy in order to provide farmers with stable, adequate incomes (78.1% as against 76.6%),
- The European Union has to intervene through an agricultural policy in order to favour and improve life in the countryside (80.3% as against 79.9%),
- The European Union has to intervene through an agricultural policy to protect small and medium-sized farms (82.8% as against 81.5%).

The age variables are detailed below only for the following proposals:

- The European Union has to intervene through an agricultural policy in order to favour and improve life in the countryside,
- The European Union has to intervene through an agricultural policy in order to reduce development gaps between regions,
- The European Union has to intervene through an agricultural policy in order to encourage the diversification of agricultural products and activities,
- The European Union has to intervene through an agricultural policy in order to favour organic production methods.

For the nine other cases, in fact, the differences are three points at most between the four categories of this variable for the large majority of answers, the “yes” answer.

The socioprofessional breakdowns show us that the self-employed are systematically among those most inclined to answer “yes”. They are sometimes outstripped by blue-collar workers and just once by people at home (“The European Union has to intervene through an agricultural policy in order to provide farmers with stable, adequate incomes”).

One analysis per suggestion is repeated below in the order reflecting citizens’ concerns.

The European Union has to intervene through an agricultural policy to ensure that agricultural products are healthy and safe

Ninety per cent of European citizens think that the EU has to intervene through an agricultural policy to ensure that agricultural products are healthy and safe. Only 4% state the opposite view and 7% “DK”. Denmark (95%) comes first with “yes” ahead of Greece, Spain and the new Länder (94% each).
The positive answer increases with the educational level of the people polled (from 88% for the less educated to 93% for the more educated). The self-employed and senior managers (93%) are most inclined to answer “yes” and people at home (87%), despite an impressive percentage, are at the bottom of this scale.

*The European Union has to intervene through an agricultural policy in order to promote respect for the environment*

Nine out of ten Europeans (89%) answered “yes” to this suggestion, with peaks of 95% in Denmark and 94% in Spain, Finland and Sweden, as against only 4% of “nos” (but 8% in Belgium and 7% in Austria). The “DK” was only 7%.

Again, the scale of approval increases with the educational level of the people polled (from 87% for the less educated to 91% for the more educated). The self-employed (92%) are most inclined to answer “yes”, in contrast to people at home (85%).

*The European Union has to intervene through an agricultural policy in order to protect small and medium-sized farms*

This suggestion gains the approval of 82% of European citizens, whereas it was only rejected by 8% (10% of “DKs”). Three countries come first with the majority answer: Spain (94%), Greece (92%) and Portugal (89%), whereas the “nos” recruit their supporters in Denmark (25%) and the Netherlands (12%).

The more educated (80%) have less of a tendency to approve this suggestion than the two other categories of this variable (83% each). The self-employed (84%) are most inclined to approve this intervention, and senior managers are less inclined to do so (80%).

*The European Union has to intervene through an agricultural policy in order to help farmers to adapt their production to consumer expectations*

This suggestion gains 81% of the “yes” answer, with peaks of 92% in Greece, 90% in Spain and 86% in Finland and Portugal, 8% of “nos” with peaks in the Netherlands (16%), Belgium and Denmark (14%). Let it be noted that the “DK” is 11% on average.

People at home (78%) are the least inclined of all the other socioprofessional categories (from 80% to 84%) to answer “yes”.

*The European Union has to intervene through an agricultural policy in order to favour and improve life in the countryside*

This suggestion is approved of by 80% of European citizens and rejected by 10%, while 10% abstain.
Again, the highest approval rates are obtained in Spain (95%), Greece and Portugal (92% each), whereas Denmark (32% of “nos”), together with the Netherlands (20%), just ahead of Belgium and France (17% each), are distinct by the breadth of the negative response.

The proportion of “yes” answers decreases with the educational level of the people polled (from 83% for the less educated to 77% for the more educated) but it increases with age (from 76% for the 15-24-year olds to 82% for the 55-year olds and over). Students (75%) answer “yes” less readily than the other socioprofessional categories.

*The European Union has to intervene through an agricultural policy in order to make European agriculture more competitive on world markets*

The answers obtained for this second suggestion follow the same pattern as the previous suggestion (78% “yes”, 10% “no” and 12% “DK”).

The same three countries, together with Italy, come first with “yes”: Greece (90%), Spain (88%), Italy (84%) and Portugal (83%). For the “no” answer, Sweden (23%) is joined here by the Netherlands and Finland (18% each).

Few differences are noted here for the variables of education. The self-employed and blue-collar workers (81%) are most likely to approve this suggestion, in contrast to the retired and people at home (76%).

*The European Union has to intervene through an agricultural policy in order to provide farmers with stable, adequate incomes*

Seventy-seven per cent of European citizens state that the European Union has to intervene through an agricultural policy in order to provide farmers with stable, adequate incomes. Only 12% state the opposite, and 11% “DK”.

Spain (93%), Greece (91%) and Portugal (90%) are the countries where the approval rating is overwhelming, whereas the nos obtain the highest scores among nationals from the two Scandinavian countries (Denmark (37%) and Sweden (31%)).

The approval rate decreases as the level of education of citizens rises (from 80% for the less educated to 74% for the more educated). People at home (81%) are the ones who answer “yes” most readily, in contrast to the unemployed (73%).
The European Union has to intervene through an agricultural policy in order to encourage diversification of agricultural products and activities

Three quarters of European citizens state that the European Union has to intervene through an agricultural policy in order to encourage diversification of agricultural products and activities (76%). Only 9% state the opposite, and 15% “DK”.

Greece (92%), Spain and Portugal (86% each) are countries where “yes” is highest, whereas “no” has most supporters in Denmark (18%), Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom (12% each).

The most educated (79%) are more inclined than the other categories in this variable to approve the idea of the European Union intervening through a common agricultural policy in order to encourage diversification of agricultural products and activities (75% and 74%). Both ends of the age brackets approve of this suggestion to a lesser extent than the two intermediate age brackets. The self-employed and blue-collar workers (81%) are most inclined to approve of this suggestion, in contrast to the unemployed (72%).

The European Union has to intervene through an agricultural policy in order to favour organic production methods

A percentage of answers virtually identical to that noted in the previous suggestion is observed for this suggestion (75% “yes”, 12% “no” and 14% “DK”). Here it is the citizens of the new Länder (88% to a German national average of 84%) who come first with “yes”, ahead of Greece (86%), the Netherlands, Austria and Finland (all three 82%). The “nos” are noted for their scope among the Portuguese and Swedish (18% each), as well as among the Danish, French and British (16% for all three).

The “yes” answer increases with the level of education of the people polled (from 72% for the less educated to 77% for the more educated). The self-employed and senior managers (79%) have a greater tendency to answer in the affirmative than the unemployed and people at home (70%).

The European Union has to intervene through an agricultural policy in order to protect the specific characteristics of European agricultural products

Three quarters of European citizens state that the EU has to intervene through an agricultural policy in order to protect the specific characteristics of European agricultural products. Only 9% want the opposite and 16% state “DK”.

Greece (91%), Spain (85%), Italy and Portugal (83% each) are countries where “yes” is highest, whereas “no” obtains its best scores among nationals from Denmark (28%), the United Kingdom and the Netherlands (16% each).
The self-employed (81%) are the ones who answer “yes” most readily to this suggestion, in contrast to the unemployed (71%).

*The European Union has to intervene through an agricultural policy in order to protect the taste of European agricultural products*

This suggestion united 74% of European citizens with high rates of 91% in Greece, 87% in Spain and 85% in France and Portugal, as against 11% “no”, an answer that comes to 27% in Denmark and 20% in Sweden. The “DK” here is 15%.

The “yes” answer tends to decrease moderately with the level of education of the people polled (from 76% for the less educated to 73% for the more educated). Once again, the self-employed (80%) are most likely to share the majority opinion, whereas the senior managers are least likely to do so (67%).

*The European Union has to intervene through an agricultural policy in order to reduce development gaps between regions*

This suggestion obtains 74% “yes”, with peaks of 92% in Greece, 89% in Spain and 86% in Portugal, as against 12% “nos”, a response that comes to 24% in Denmark and 17% in France and in Luxembourg. The “DK” is 15% here.

The youngest (15-24-year olds) (71%) tend to answer “yes” less readily than the other age categories (from 74 to 75%). The self-employed (78%) display a higher proportion of “yes” answers than all the other socioprofessional categories.

*The European Union has to intervene through an agricultural policy in order to defend farmers’ interests during their negotiations with intermediaries and distributors*

Seven out of ten European citizens think that the EU has to intervene through an agricultural policy in order to defend farmers’ interests during their negotiations with intermediaries and distributors. Only 13% state the opposite and 16% “DK”.

Spain (89%), Greece (87%) and Portugal (86%) are once again the countries where this suggestion receives overwhelming support, whereas the “nos” obtain the highest scores among nationals from Denmark (41%) and Sweden (26%).

The self-employed (76%) and blue-collar workers (74%) tend to approve of this suggestion with greater conviction than the unemployed (67%).
3. The ability of the Common Agricultural Policy to accept its role

Europeans were then asked to assess, by stating “rather well” or “rather badly”, the ability of the European Union’s agricultural policy to fulfil its role in the 13 areas put forward in the previous question.

Key to the above table:
The EU’s agricultural policy currently fulfils its role rather well or rather badly in:

- Promoting respect for the environment
- Promoting organic production methods
- Ensuring that agricultural products are healthy and safe
- Making European agriculture more competitive on world markets
- Encouraging diversification of agricultural products and activities
- Protecting the specific characteristics of European agricultural products
- Helping farmers to adapt their production to consumer expectations
- Promoting and improving life in the countryside
- Reducing development gaps between regions
- Protecting the taste of European agricultural products
- Providing farmers with stable, adequate incomes
- Defending farmers’ interests during their negotiations with intermediaries
- Protecting small and medium-sized farms

We should state at the outset that the new Länder almost always come first with the answer “rather well” for the thirteen suggestions of this question. They are only outstripped by Greece for “Do you think that the European Union’s agricultural policy currently fulfils its role rather well or rather badly in protecting the taste of European agricultural products?” and by the Netherlands for “Do you think that the European
Union’s agricultural policy currently fulfils its role rather well or rather badly in ensuring that agricultural products are healthy and safe?“.

For the thirteen suggestions of this question, the United Kingdom and Ireland are among the countries where the “DK” rate is highest. Eleven out of thirteen times they are joined by Italy.

For each of the thirteen suggestions, the answer “rather well” tends to be chosen more often by men than by women.

It is noted that older people (aged 55 and over) displays a “rather well” rate below that obtained among other age brackets. This difference is to the benefit of the “DK” category, followed by the “rather badly” answer.

The same phenomenon is observed for the items mentioned below (a regular increase in the “rather well” rate as the level of education of the people polled increases). The suggestions here are: “Do you think that the European Union’s agricultural policy currently fulfils its role rather well or rather badly in...?”

- Making European agriculture more competitive on world markets
- Helping farmers to adapt their production to consumer expectations
- Reducing differences in development between regions
- Encouraging diversification of agricultural products and activities
- Promoting respect for the environment
- Protecting the specific characteristics of European agricultural products.

A second pattern emerges for the items below. The “rather well” rate first of all increases with the level of education (people who stopped studying between the ages of 16 and 19 have a higher “rather well” rate than that of people who stopped studying at the age of 15 or under), then bends afterwards (people who stopped studying at the age of 20 or over have a lower “rather well” rate than that of people who stopped studying between the age of 16 and 19). But whether or not the first or second pattern is involved, the changes are only very minimal.

The suggestions are as follows: “Do you think that the European Union’s agricultural policy currently fulfils its role rather well or rather badly in...?”

- Providing farmers with stable, adequate incomes
- Defending farmers’ interests during their negotiations with intermediaries and distributors
- Promoting and improving life in the countryside
- Promoting organic production methods
- Protecting the taste of European agricultural products
- Protecting small and medium-sized farms
- Ensuring that agricultural products are healthy and safe.
The analysis of the results follows for each of the suggestions. However, it can already be stated at the outset that senior managers and blue-collar workers display the highest “rather well” rates most of the time, in contrast to the unemployed, the retired and people at home.

**Promoting respect for the environment**

Four out of ten European citizens think that the European Union’s agricultural policy at present fulfils its role rather well in promoting respect for the environment (41%). Thirty-four per cent think that it fulfils its role in this regard “rather badly” at present, and 25% answer “DK”.

Germany (54%) comes first with the answer “rather well”, ahead of the Netherlands (52%). On the other hand, seven countries do not follow the pattern of the entire EU with Denmark (54% of “rather badly”), Sweden and France (46% each) in the lead.

Senior managers (43%), level with blue-collar workers (43%), are most likely to answer “rather well” in contrast to people at home and the unemployed (39%).

**Promoting organic production methods**

Around four out of ten Europeans think that the European Union’s agricultural policy fulfils its role “rather well” at present in promoting organic production methods (38%), whereas 32% think that it fulfils its role “rather badly”. Once again we note a very high rate of “DK” (31%).

Once again, Germany (57%) comes first with the “rather well” majority answer ahead of Greece (46%) and the Netherlands (45%). Nine countries, however, do not follow the pattern of the entire EU with Denmark still in the lead, joined here by Sweden (48% each with “rather badly”), Luxembourg (43%) and France (42%).

Again, it is the senior managers (40%) level with the blue-collar workers (40%) who are most inclined to answer “rather well” in contrast to people at home (35%).

**Ensuring that agricultural products are healthy and safe**

Thirty-seven per cent of Europeans think that the European Union’s agricultural policy fulfils its role “rather well” at present in ensuring that agricultural products are healthy and safe and another 37% think that it fulfils its role “rather badly” in this field, whereas 26% are unable to answer.

The Netherlands (57%) come first here with the answer “rather well”, ahead of Germany (54%) and Ireland (48%). On the other hand, the answer “rather badly” is given particularly in Denmark and Sweden (59% each), France (50%) and Luxembourg (45%).

Finally, blue-collar workers (40%), students and white-collar workers (38% each) are most inclined to answer “rather well” in contrast to the unemployed (35%).
Making European agriculture more competitive on world markets
The answer “rather well” (36%) is the majority answer to this suggestion, ahead of “rather badly” (33%) and “DK” (31%).

Again, it is the new Länder (55% to a German national average of 52%), ahead of the Netherlands (49%) and Greece (46%) that display the highest “rather well” rate. In eight countries, on the other hand, the answer “rather badly” exceeds the answer “rather well” with Finland (44%), France (43%) and Belgium (40%) in the lead.

Again, it is the senior managers (39%), level with the blue-collar workers (39%), who are most inclined to answer “rather well” in contrast to the retired (only 33%).

Encouraging diversification of agricultural products and activities
Over a third of European citizens think that the European Union’s agricultural policy fulfils its role rather well at present in encouraging diversification of agricultural products and activities (36%). Thirty-one per cent of them think that it fulfils its role rather badly in this regard and 33% answer “DK”.

Germany (52%) comes first with the answer “rather well” ahead of Greece (48%) and the Netherlands (43%). Six countries do not follow the pattern of the entire EU with Denmark and France (42% each of “rather badly”), Sweden (41%) and Portugal (40%) in the lead.

More of the blue-collar workers (39%), ahead of the senior managers (38%), answer “rather well” in contrast to the retired and people at home (34% each).

Protecting the specific characteristics of European agricultural products
Thirty-six per cent of Europeans think that the European union’s agricultural policy fulfils its role “rather well” at present in protecting the specific characteristics of European agricultural products, whereas 30% think the opposite (“DK” 33%).

Once again, Germany (50%) comes first with the answer “rather well”, ahead of the Netherlands (45%), Greece (44%) and Belgium (41%). Eight countries do not follow the pattern of the entire EU with France (42%) in the lead this time ahead of Denmark, Austria and Sweden (38% each of “rather badly”).

Students and blue-collar workers (39% each) are most inclined to answer “rather well” in contrast to the unemployed (33%)

Helping farmers to adapt their production to consumer expectations
One third of European nationals think that the European Union’s agricultural policy fulfils its role “rather well” at present in helping farmers to adapt their production to consumer expectations (34%). Thirty-seven per cent think that it fulfils its role “rather badly” in this regard, with 29% “DK”.
Germany (50%) comes first with the answer “rather well” ahead of Greece (46%) and Ireland (44%). On the other hand, the majority answer “rather badly” only exceeds the absolute majority in France (51%), ahead of Denmark (49%), Portugal (45%) and Finland (43%).

Promoting and improving life in the countryside
Only 32% of Europeans think that the European Union’s agricultural policy fulfils its role “rather well” at present in promoting and improving life in the countryside. Forty-one per cent think that it fulfils its role “rather badly” in this field and 27% answer “DK”.

Germany (48%) comes first with the answer “rather well”, ahead of Ireland (45%) and Greece (42%). These countries, together with the Netherlands, are the only ones not to follow the pattern of the entire EU since it is the answer “rather well” that beats the answer “rather badly”. On the other hand, the majority answer (“rather badly”) reaches very high levels in Denmark (63%), Finland (59%), France (54%) and Portugal (53%).

Again, it is the senior managers (34%), level with the blue-collar workers and the retired, who are most inclined to answer “rather well”, in contrast to the unemployed (28% only) and students (29%).

Reducing differences in development between regions
The answer “rather well” (31%) is once again outstripped by the answer “rather badly” (37%) and “DK” (32%).

The Netherlands (46%) and Germany display a high “rather well” rate. The answer “rather badly” comes to 55% in Finland, 51% in Denmark and France and to 46% in Portugal.

It is still the senior managers (34%) ahead of the blue-collar workers (33%) that are most inclined to answer “rather well”, in contrast to the unemployed (26% only) and people at home (27%).

Protecting the taste of European agricultural products
One third of European citizens think that the European Union’s agricultural policy fulfils its role “rather well” at present in protecting the taste of European agricultural products (31%), another third think the opposite (33%) and 35% are unable to answer.

Greece (43%) comes first here with the answer “rather well” ahead of Germany (41%) and the Netherlands (39%). On the other hand, the majority answer “rather badly” obtains its highest levels in France (47%), ahead of Denmark (43%) and Luxembourg (42%).

The blue-collar workers (34%), ahead of the self-employed and white-collar workers (33% each), are most likely to answer “rather well” in contrast to senior managers and the retired (29% each).
Providing farmers with stable, adequate incomes
Less than a third of European nationals (29%) think that the European Union’s agricultural policy fulfils its role “rather well” at present in providing farmers with stable, adequate incomes. Forty-four per cent think that it fulfils its role “rather badly” in this field and 27% answer “DK”.

The new Länder (49% to a German national average of 46%) come first with the “rather well” answer ahead of Denmark (43%), Ireland (42%) and the Netherlands (39%). These countries are the only ones not to follow the pattern of the entire EU since it is the answer “rather well” in these countries that beats the answer “rather badly”. On the other hand, the latter exceeds the absolute majority in Finland (59%), France (55%), Spain (53%), Greece and Portugal (51% each).

It is the senior managers (34%) ahead of the blue-collar workers (32%) that are most inclined to answer “rather well”, in contrast to the unemployed (23% only).

Defending farmers’ interests during their negotiations with intermediaries and distributors
Four out of ten Europeans on average think that the European Union’s agricultural policy defends farmers’ interests “rather badly” during negotiations with intermediaries and distributors (39%), while 28% think the opposite.

Germany (40%), ahead of the Netherlands, Ireland and Greece (37% for each of the three) are most inclined to answer “rather well”. The answer “rather badly” comes to 51% in Finland and in France 43% and 47% in Spain and Portugal.

Blue-collar workers (30%) and the self-employed (29%) are most inclined to answer “rather well”, the unemployed (25%) and also senior managers classes and white-collar workers (26% each) are least inclined to give this answer.

Protecting small and medium-sized farms
Only 28% of Europeans think that the European Union’s agricultural policy fulfils its role “rather well” at present in protecting small and medium-sized farms, whereas 44% think that it fulfils its role “rather badly” in this field and 28% answer “DK”.

Germany (45%) displays the highest “rather well” rate ahead of Luxembourg (38%) and the Netherlands (36%). On the other hand, the majority answer “rather badly” exceeds the absolute majority in Finland (65%), Denmark (64%), France (58%) and Sweden (54%).

It is the blue-collar workers (31%) and people at home (30%) that are most inclined here to answer “rather well”, in contrast to the unemployed (24%) and the self-employed (25%).
4. The development of the Common Agricultural Policy

European citizens were asked to give their opinion on the following suggestion “The European Union is subsidising agricultural products less and less. However, it is granting more funds to the protection and development of the overall rural economy and to direct support to farmers. Do you think that this development is a very good thing, a fairly good thing, a fairly bad thing, a very bad thing or neither good nor bad thing?”

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<th>Country</th>
<th>Très mauvaise chose</th>
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<th>Ni bonne ni mauvaise chose</th>
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Key to the above table:
Indices moyens – average indices
Très mauvaise chose = Very bad thing
Assez mauvaise chose = Fairly bad thing
Ni bonne ni mauvaise chose = Neither good nor bad thing
Assez bonne chose = Fairly good thing
Très bonne chose = Very good thing

On a scale of five (5 = a very good thing, 4 = a fairly good thing, 3 = neither good nor bad thing, 2 = a fairly bad thing and 1 = a very bad thing, with a central point at 3), the European average, at 3.60 points, being between “a very good thing” and “neither a good nor a bad thing”), the highest average indices can be found in Ireland (3.89), Luxembourg (3.85), the United Kingdom (3.78) and Germany (3.70). On the other hand, the lowest average indices were collected in Denmark (3.09) particularly, but also in Sweden (3.21) and Greece (3.38).

The average index collected among men (3.57) is slightly lower than that collected among women (3.64). It is noted that the index continues to decline constantly with the age of the people polled (from 3.65 for the youngest to 3.57 for the eldest). For the variables of education, it is noted that the highest
index can be found among people who have stopped studying between the age of 16 and 19 (3.64). They actually show a higher average than people who stopped studying earlier (3.57) as well as later (3.59). Senior managers (3.69) and people at home (3.67) show the highest averages and the retired (3.54) and the self-employed (3.55) the lowest.