



Special Eurobarometer



European
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Radioactive waste

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INTRODUCTION

The European Union's **energy policy** is of primary importance in the Community strategy for sustainable development, supply and security.

At the end of 2000, the European Commission published a **Green Paper** on the security of supply which emphasised the need for a common strategy and the extension of the scope of Community powers in relation to energy, to give the European Union more control over its destiny in this area¹. It sketches out a long-term energy strategy, and also undertakes an analysis of the medium-term contribution of nuclear energy. It is expected that, in the absence of any action, the contribution of nuclear energy will decline in the future. In examining the future contribution of nuclear energy, the debate should consider questions such as climate change, the security of the gas supply and sustainable development. Furthermore, research on the safe management of nuclear waste should be actively pursued.

In 2004, a **proposal for a directive** stressed the importance of establishing a high level of nuclear safety in the management of spent nuclear fuel and radioactive waste in the Member States in order to protect public health and the environment².

In view of this, **the purpose of this study** is to analyse the opinion of European Union citizens on the subject of nuclear energy, and radioactive waste in particular.

This survey was carried out by TNS Opinion & Social interviewing 24 708 citizens in the 25 Member States of the European Union between 9 February and 20 March 2005. The methodology used is that of Eurobarometer surveys as carried out by the Directorate-General for Press and Communication (Unit for Opinion Polls, Press Reviews, Europe Direct). A technical note on the way in which interviews were conducted by the Institutes within the TNS Opinion & Social network can be found annexed to this report. This note indicates the interview methods and the confidence intervals.

It should be noted that two studies have previously been carried out on this subject in the Europe of 15, in late 1998 and late 2001³. However, the questionnaires used for these surveys have been adapted to reflect cyclical needs, with the aim of identifying the main trends.

¹ Green paper, " Towards a European Strategy for the Security of Energy Supply" [Com(2000) 769]

² Proposal of directive (Euratom) of Council on the management of spent nuclear fuel and radioactive waste [COM(2004) 526 final]

³ EB 50.0 – EB Special 122 carried out in October-November 1998
EB 56.2 – EB Special 165 carried out in October-November 2001
http://europa.eu.int/comm/public_opinion/archives/eb_special_en.htm

This reports tackles the following themes in turn:

- ◆ The perception of citizens of the European Union on the subjects of radioactive waste and nuclear energy
- ◆ The risks involved in radioactive waste
- ◆ The management of radioactive waste
- ◆ The final disposal of highly radioactive waste
- ◆ The European dimension of the management of radioactive waste

For each of these points, we shall analyse the results in terms of the European average and the changes by comparison with the preceding surveys when this is possible. We then consider the current position by country and make some brief comments on the socio-demographic variables of citizens of the European Union⁴.

⁴ All the tables can be found in the annexes. New rounding methods having been adopted during this survey, the figures shown may differ by a point with the sum of individual cells. It should also be noted that total percentages given in the tables to this report may exceed 100% where respondents were able to give several responses to a single question.

ANALYSIS

1. The perception of radioactive waste and nuclear energy

The first part of this report will focus on what citizens of the European Union know about radioactive waste and their opinion of nuclear energy:

- ◆ How well informed do they think they are about radioactive waste?
- ◆ What do they actually know about waste of this type?
- ◆ What is their opinion of nuclear energy?

1.1. The level of information about radioactive waste

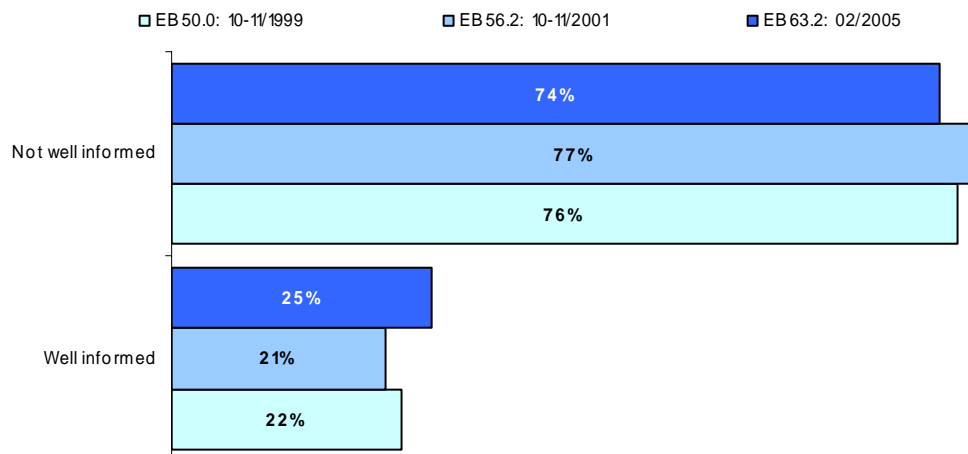
Questionnaire source: Q1

Let us first look at the changes in the perception of citizens of the Union regarding their level of knowledge about radioactive waste. This question has already been posed in 1998 and in 2001.

**- A low level of information,
but rising slightly -**

At the beginning of 2005, three-quarters of citizens of the European Union felt that they were 'not well informed' about radioactive waste (74%). In parallel, a quarter of respondents stated that they were well informed on this subject (25%). This represents a slight rise in the number of well informed citizens by comparison with four years ago (+4 points).

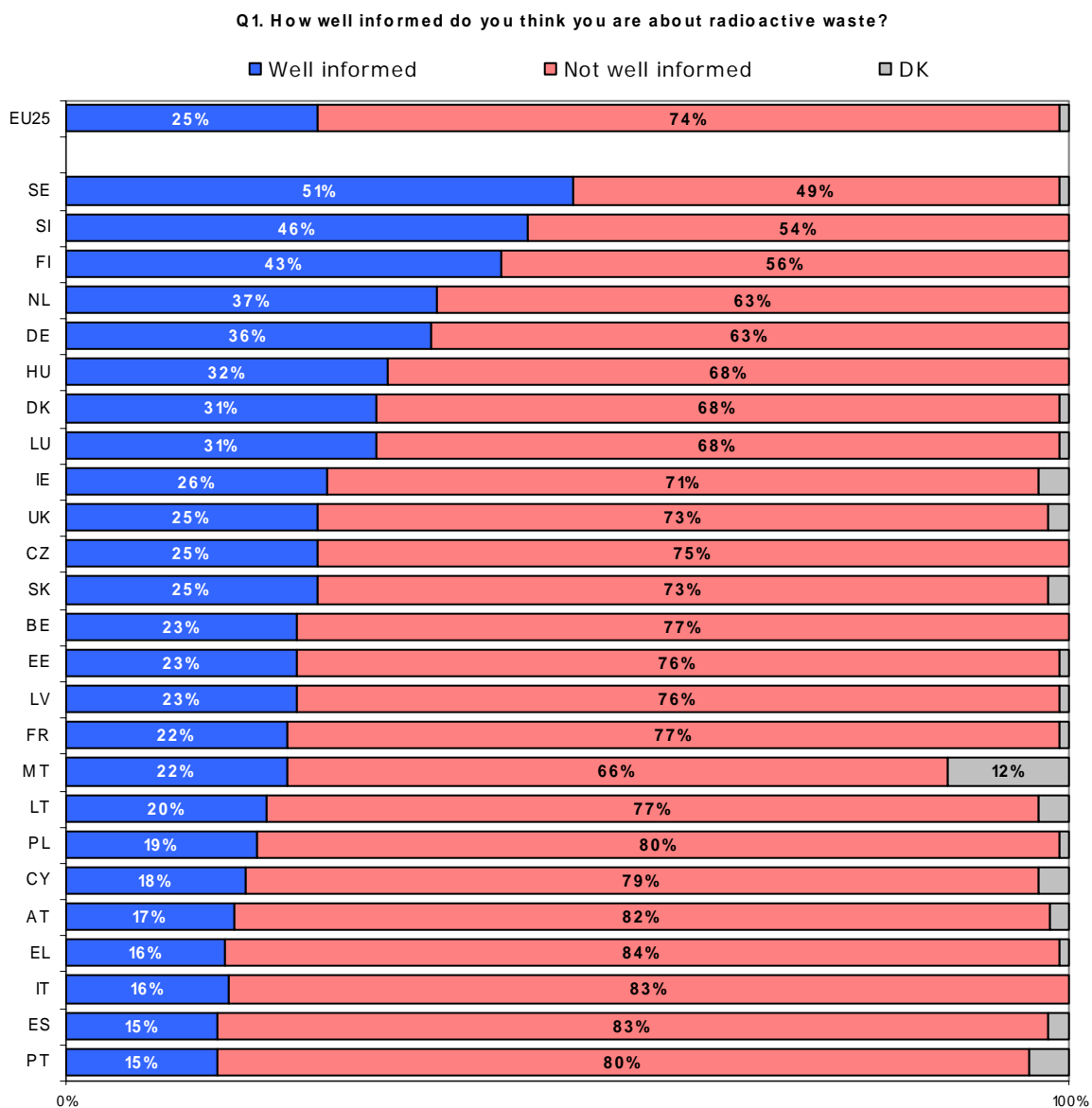
Q1. How well informed do you think you are about radioactive waste? % EU



Within the European Union, citizens in **Sweden** seem best informed about radioactive waste: one respondent in two in this country felt well-informed (51%). However, everywhere else, the level of information is decidedly lower and only a minority of the people interviewed felt well-informed.

In **Slovenia** and **Finland**, however, more than four respondents in ten felt well-informed about this subject (46% and 43% respectively).



























Fewer than one citizen in five felt well-informed about radioactive waste in **Poland** (19%), **Cyprus** (18%), **Austria** (17%), **Greece** (16%), **Italy** (16%), **Spain** (15%) and **Portugal** (15%). The southern countries in the Union thus seem to suffer particularly from a lack of information in this area.

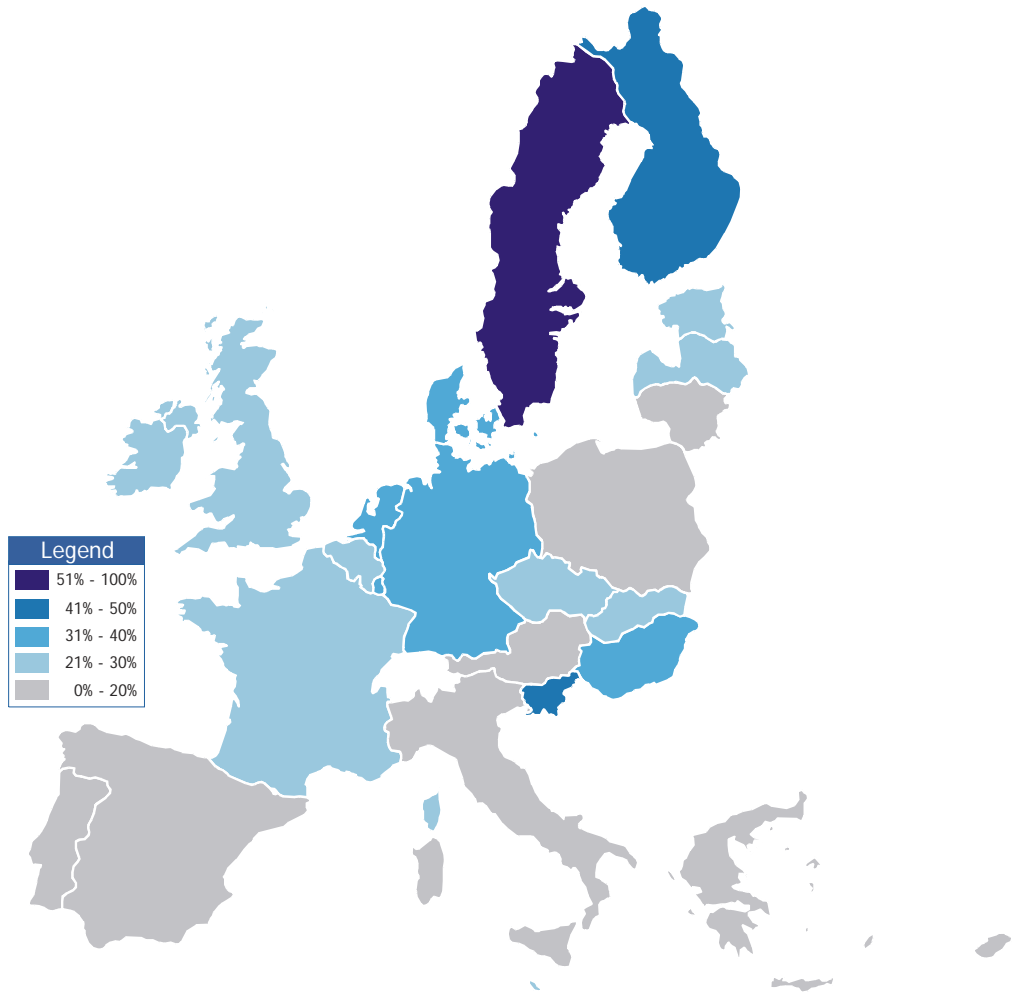


The map below gives a graphic representation of the overall level of information in the Member States.

Q1 How well informed do you think you are about radioactive waste?

Answers: *Well informed*

Member States Results		
	Sweden	51%
	Slovenia	46%
	Finland	43%
	The Netherlands	37%
	Germany	36%
	Hungary	32%
	Denmark	31%
	Luxembourg	31%
	Ireland	26%
	EU25	25%
	United Kingdom	25%
	Czech Republic	25%
	Slovakia	25%
	Belgium	23%
	Estonia	23%
	Latvia	23%
	France	22%
	Malta	22%
	Lithuania	20%
	Poland	19%
	Cyprus	18%
	Austria	17%
	Greece	16%
	Italy	16%
	Spain	15%
	Portugal	15%



Socio-demographic analysis of the level of information of citizens of the European Union concerning radioactive waste provides some important information. It appears that the profile of citizens of the Union stating that they are well-informed on this subject is that of:

- ◆ A man,
- ◆ A person over 40 years old,
- ◆ A respondent having studied until at least the age of 20,
- ◆ A citizen politically speaking rather to the left or right than in the centre,
- ◆ An executive or business manager,
- ◆ A person living in a large town.

An additional comparison of this question with the level of support for nuclear energy in general indicates that citizens favourable to this type of energy tend to feel better informed than its opponents (35% vs. 20%).

Q1.	Well informed	Not well informed
EU25	25%	74%
Sex		
Male	29%	70%
Female	21%	78%
Age		
15-24	19%	80%
25-39	22%	77%
40-54	27%	72%
55 +	28%	70%
Education (End of)		
15	18%	81%
16-19	25%	74%
20+	34%	65%
Still Studying	23%	76%
Left-Right scale		
(1-4) Left	29%	70%
(5-6) Centre	25%	75%
(7-10) Right	28%	71%
Respondent occupation scale		
Self-employed	27%	72%
Managers	36%	63%
Other white collars	24%	75%
Manual workers	20%	79%
House persons	16%	82%
Unemployed	22%	76%
Retired	28%	70%
Students	23%	76%
Subjective urbanisation		
Rural village	23%	75%
Small/ mid size town	24%	76%
Large town	29%	70%
Support for nuclear energy		
In favour	35%	65%
Opposed	20%	79%

1.2. Actual knowledge about radioactive waste

Questionnaire source: Q5

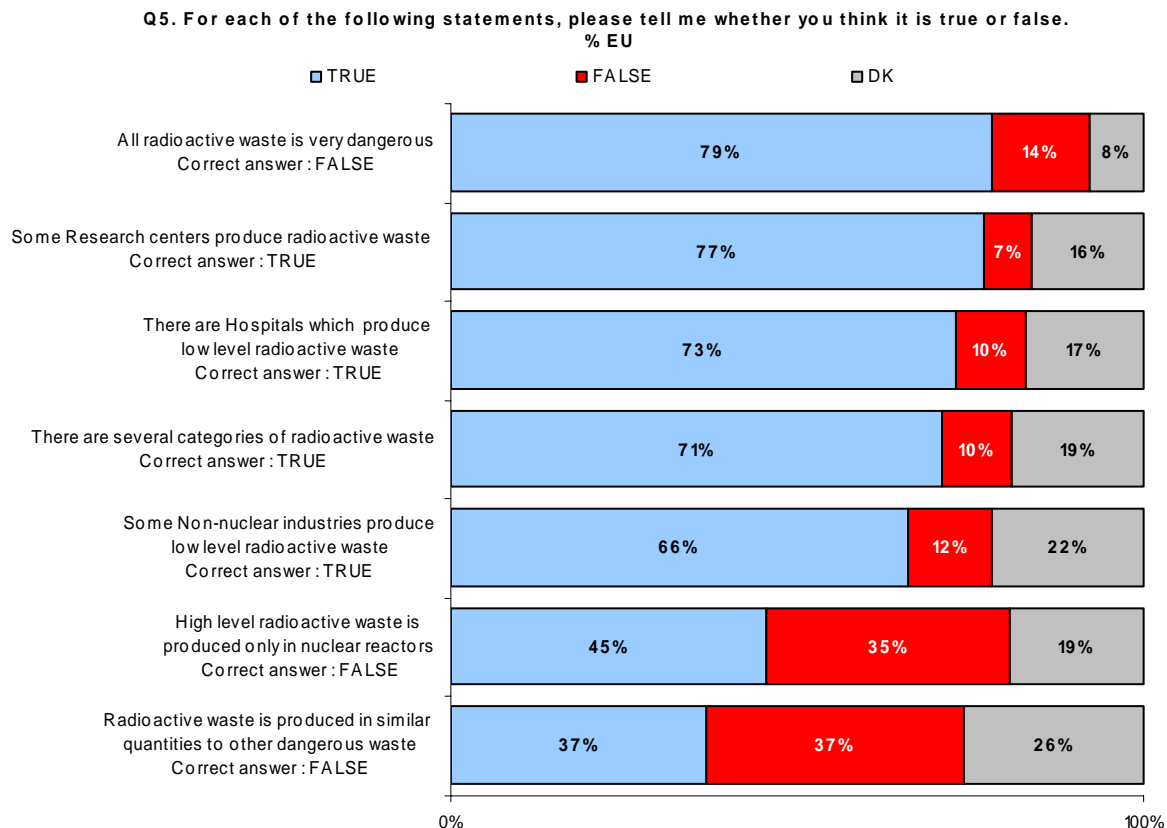
During the course of the survey, the interviewees were given seven statements which they had to state as being true or false. Analysis of responses to this quiz enables us to see the actual level of knowledge about radioactive waste.

- Eight respondents out of ten considered that all radioactive waste is very dangerous -

Among the seven statements tested on interviewees, we observed a very low level of knowledge about how dangerous radioactive waste is. 79% of citizens of the European Union think that all radioactive waste is very dangerous, although this statement is false. Only 14% gave the right answer.

Next, more than seven out of ten citizens correctly identified the fact that certain research centres produce radioactive waste (77%) and hospitals produce low-level radioactive waste (73%). Also 71% of respondents recognised that there are several categories of radioactive waste. Furthermore, two-thirds of interviewees think, rightly, that some non-nuclear industries also produce low-level radioactive waste (66%).

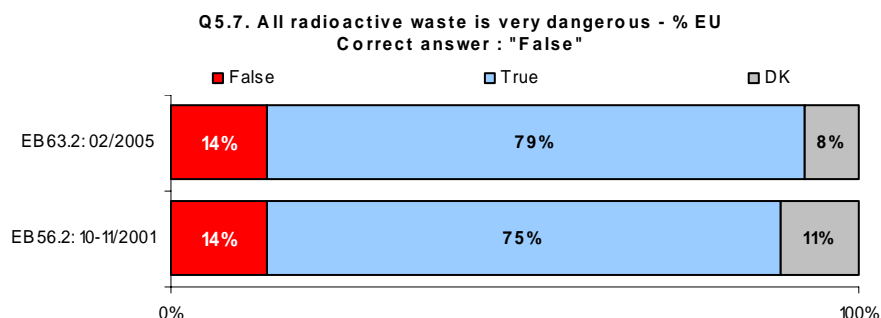
In contrast, only a minority of respondents know that highly radioactive waste is not solely produced by nuclear reactors (35%). Finally, 37% of citizens of the European Union believe that radioactive waste is produced in a similar quantity to other dangerous waste, while 37% think the opposite. It should be noted that 26% were unable to answer this question.



1.2.1. The extent of danger from radioactive waste

The greatest lack of knowledge among citizens of the European Union relates to how dangerous radioactive waste is: nearly eight out of ten interviewees gave the wrong answer, stating that all radioactive waste is very dangerous (79%). Only 14% of respondents seemed to know that there are varying degrees of danger, and 8% gave no answer.

By comparison with four years ago, we observe a growth in the percentage of citizens giving the wrong answer to this question (+4 points).



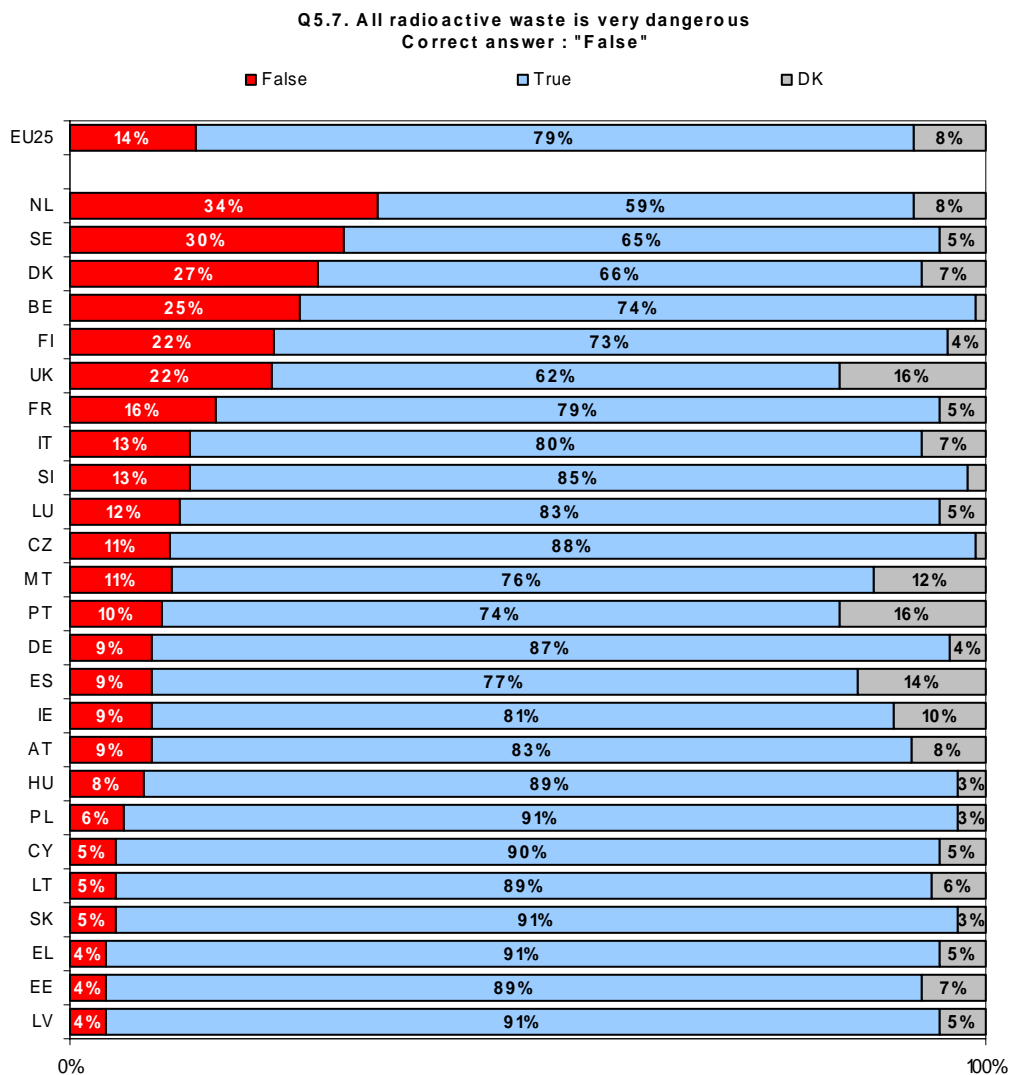
From a socio-demographic point of view, more men, young people, citizens with higher educational levels and people living in large towns tend to provide the right answer, stating that it is false to regard all radioactive waste as very dangerous. Furthermore, citizens who feel they are well-informed on this subject and those in favour of nuclear energy also tend to take this view.

Q5.7.	False	True	DK
EU25	14%	79%	8%
Sex			
Male	17%	77%	6%
Female	11%	80%	9%
Age			
15-24	18%	75%	8%
25-39	17%	76%	7%
40-54	14%	80%	6%
55 +	9%	81%	10%
Education (End of)			
15	8%	80%	12%
16-19	13%	81%	7%
20+	19%	75%	5%
Still Studying	19%	75%	5%
Subjective urbanisation			
Rural village	12%	79%	8%
Small/ mid size town	14%	79%	7%
Large town	16%	76%	8%
Level of information			
Well informed	20%	76%	4%
Not well informed	12%	80%	8%
Support for nuclear energy			
In favour	20%	75%	5%
Opposed	10%	83%	7%

In the 25 Member States, a vast majority of respondents consider all radioactive waste as very dangerous.

The Netherlands is the country recording the highest rate of correct answers: a third of respondents claim that it is false to consider all radioactive waste as very dangerous (34%). They are followed by the **Swedes** (30%) and the **Danish** (27%).

In contrast, there is a very high level of ignorance of the existence of different degrees of danger from radioactive waste in **Latvia, Greece, Slovakia** and **Poland**. In these countries, 91% of respondents wrongly believe all radioactive waste to be very dangerous.

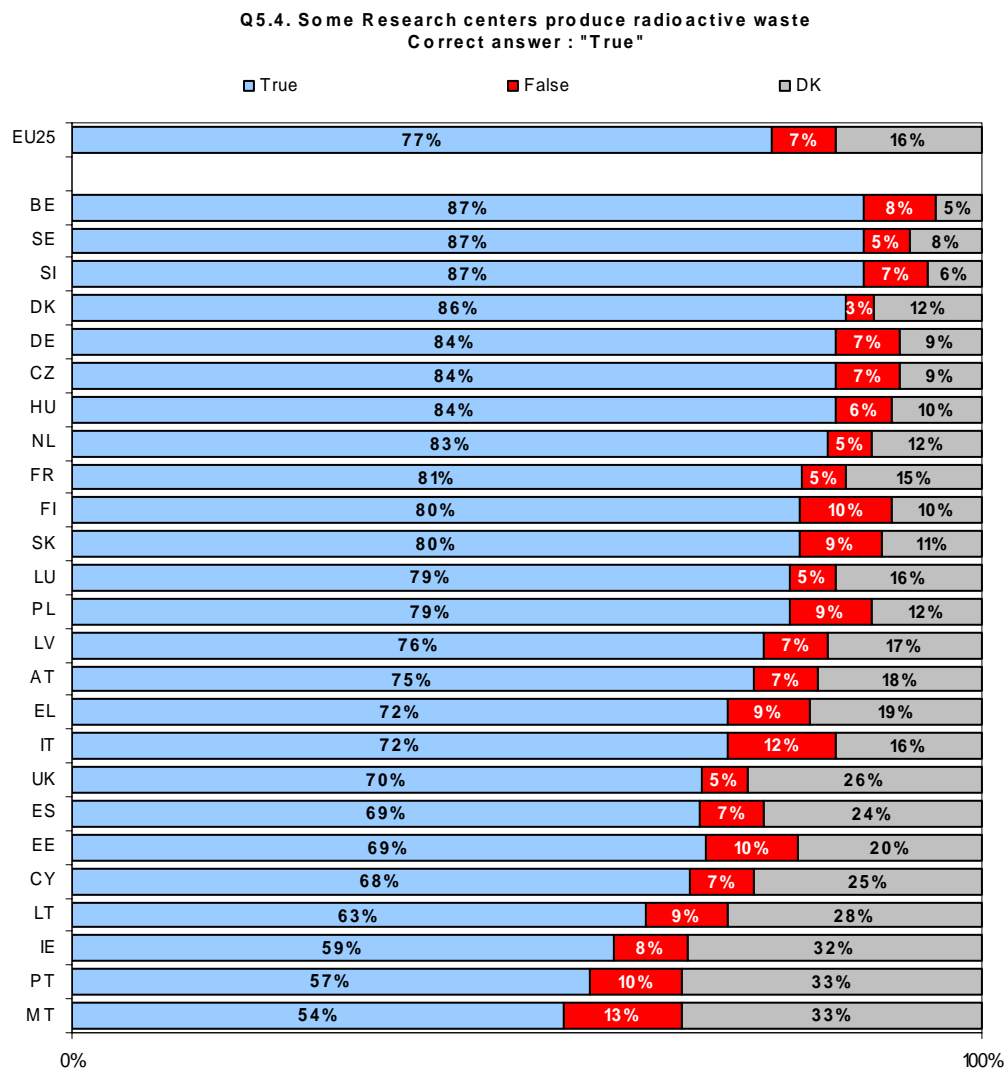


1.2.2. The production of radioactive waste by research centres

Across the European Union, more than three-quarters of citizens rightly consider that some research centres produce radioactive waste (77%).

In **Belgium, Sweden and Slovenia**, the rate of correct answers reached 87%. The rate is also very high in **Denmark** (86%), **Germany**, the **Czech Republic** and **Hungary** (84%).

In contrast, citizens in **Ireland, Portugal and Malta** seem less aware of the production of radioactive waste in some research centres. Although a majority of citizens are aware of the production of radioactive waste by certain research centres, it was observed that a third of respondents in these countries were unable to answer this question.



The fact that some research centres produce radioactive waste seems to be better known among men, respondents of average age (25-54 years), citizens working as managers, self employed or white collar workers and people living in large towns.

There was also a higher non-response rate to this question among respondents aged 55 and over, respondents whose education had ended earlier, persons at home and the retired.

Finally, citizens who consider themselves generally well-informed about radioactive waste and those in favour of nuclear energy are more likely to know that some research centres produce radioactive waste.

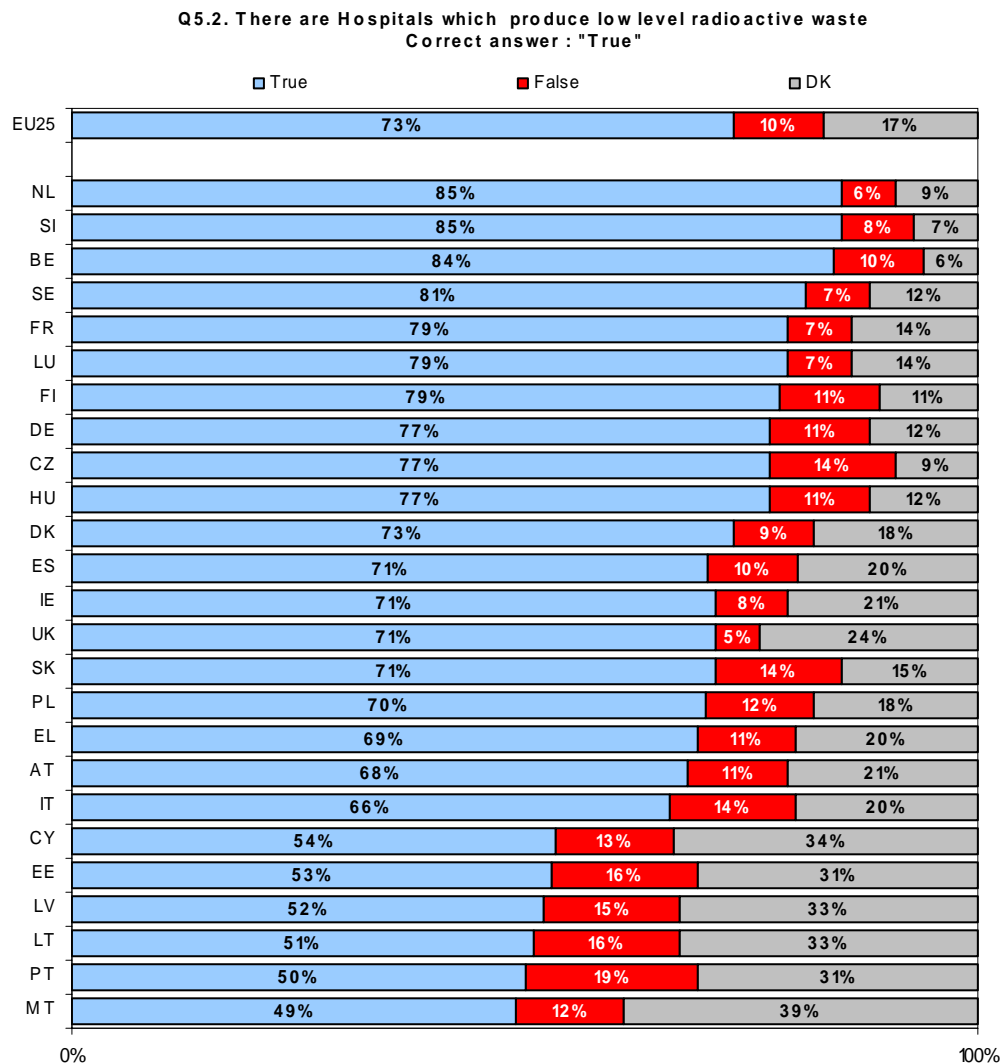
Q5.4.	True	False	DK
EU25	77%	7%	16%
Sex			
Male	80%	7%	12%
Female	73%	7%	19%
Age			
15-24	75%	11%	14%
25-39	80%	7%	13%
40-54	82%	6%	12%
55 +	71%	7%	22%
Education (End of)			
15	66%	9%	25%
16-19	79%	7%	15%
20+	85%	5%	10%
Still Studying	78%	11%	11%
Respondent occupation scale			
Self-employed	82%	7%	11%
Managers	86%	5%	9%
Other white collars	82%	8%	11%
Manual workers	78%	7%	15%
House persons	67%	8%	25%
Unemployed	77%	6%	17%
Retired	71%	7%	22%
Students	78%	11%	11%
Subjective urbanisation			
Rural village	76%	7%	18%
Small/ mid size town	76%	8%	16%
Large town	79%	7%	14%
Level of information			
Well informed	86%	6%	9%
Not well informed	74%	8%	18%
Support for nuclear energy			
In favour	82%	7%	11%
Opposed	77%	8%	15%

1.2.3. The production of radioactive waste in hospitals

73% of citizens of the European Union state that hospitals can produce low-level radioactive waste, 10% say that they do not, and 17% are unable to answer.

More than eight out of ten respondents gave the right answer - true - in **the Netherlands** (85%), **Slovenia** (85%), **Belgium** (84%) and **Sweden** (81%).

In some countries, although a small majority of citizens know that some hospitals produce low-level radioactive waste, the number of respondents either giving the wrong answer or no answer at all is very high. This is the case in **Cyprus**, **Estonia**, **Lithuania** and **Latvia**. In **Portugal**, 50% of citizens recognise that hospitals can produce low-level radioactive waste and 50% either give the wrong answer or fail to reply. Finally, in **Malta**, fewer than one respondent in two gives the right answer (49%) while 39% express no opinion.



Men, people aged between 40 and 54 years, respondents who have studied up to at least the age of 20 and professionals or business managers are more likely to be aware of the production of low-level radioactive waste in certain hospitals.

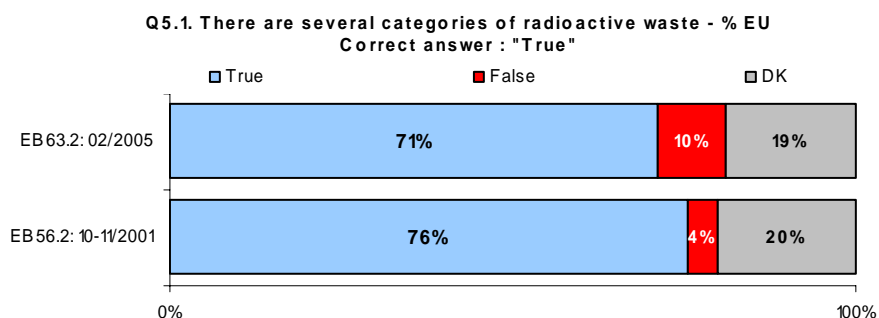
However, there is a higher rate of 'don't knows' among citizens aged 55 and over, respondents with a low level of education and women or men staying at home.

As was stated for the preceding statements, citizens stating that they are well-informed about radioactive waste and, to a lesser degree, those in favour of nuclear energy are more likely to know that hospitals can produce low-level radioactive waste.

Q5.2.	True	False	DK
EU25	73%	10%	17%
Sex			
Male	77%	10%	14%
Female	69%	11%	20%
Age			
15-24	67%	15%	18%
25-39	75%	9%	15%
40-54	78%	9%	12%
55 +	69%	9%	22%
Education (End of)			
15	63%	12%	25%
16-19	74%	10%	16%
20+	82%	7%	10%
Still Studying	71%	13%	15%
Respondent occupation scale			
Self-employed	76%	10%	13%
Managers	83%	7%	10%
Other white collars	77%	11%	12%
Manual workers	74%	11%	16%
House persons	64%	10%	26%
Unemployed	71%	11%	17%
Retired	69%	9%	21%
Students	71%	13%	15%
Level of information			
Well informed	83%	9%	9%
Not well informed	70%	11%	19%
Support for nuclear energy			
In favour	79%	9%	12%
Opposed	72%	12%	17%

1.2.4. The existence of different types of radioactive waste

In early 2005, 71% of interviewees in the European Union believed that there were several categories of radioactive waste. This percentage of right answers was slightly down on that recorded at the end of 2001 (-5 points). The number of respondents believing that, on the contrary, there are not several categories of radioactive waste rose by 6 points, while those failing to answer fell by one point.



From a socio-demographic point of view, the existence of different types of radioactive waste appears to be more generally recognised by men, respondents aged less than 55 years, citizens with a high educational level, students, town-dwellers, respondents who feel well-informed about radioactive waste and those stating that they are in favour of nuclear energy.

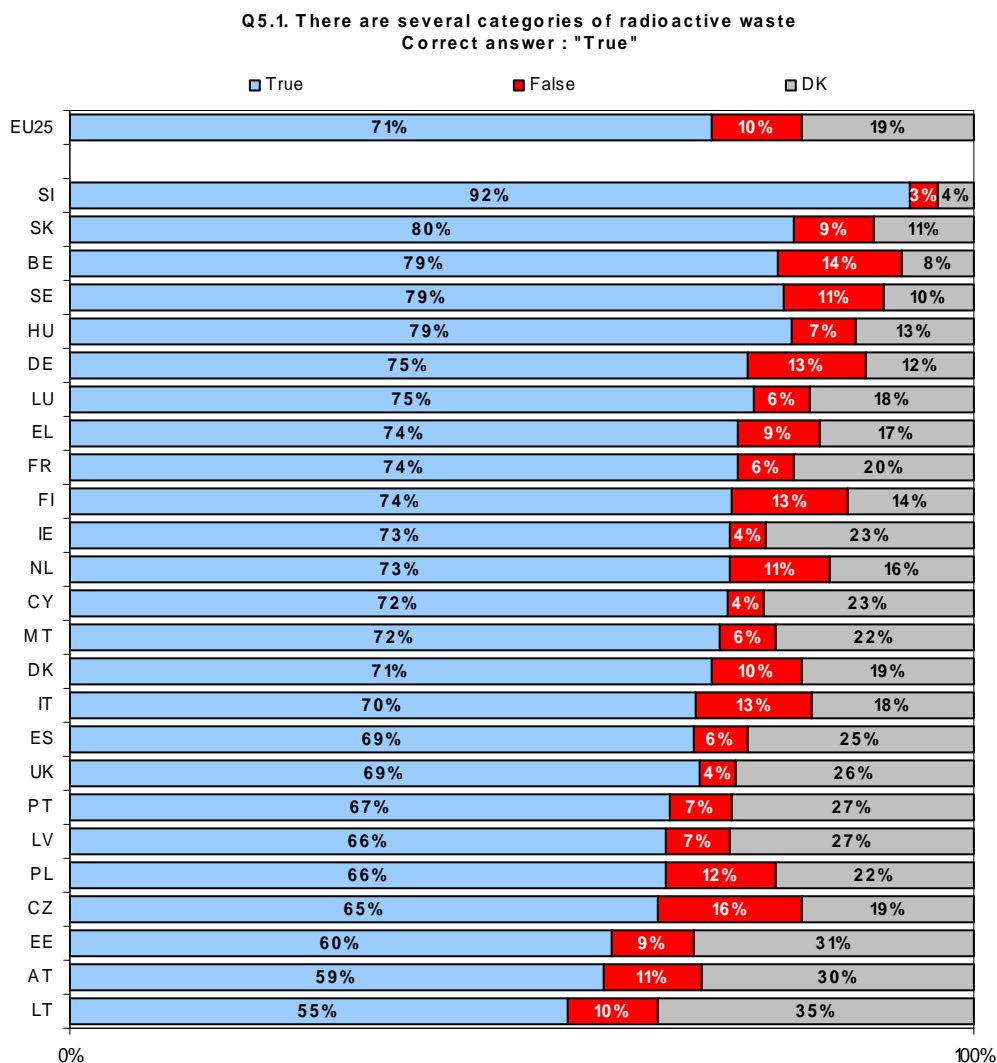
Q5.1.	True	False	DK
EU25	71%	10%	19%
Sex			
Male	75%	10%	15%
Female	68%	9%	23%
Age			
15-24	75%	10%	15%
25-39	75%	9%	16%
40-54	74%	10%	17%
55 +	64%	10%	25%
Education (End of)			
15	62%	11%	27%
16-19	72%	10%	18%
20+	78%	8%	14%
Still Studying	77%	9%	14%
Subjective urbanisation			
Rural village	69%	10%	21%
Small/ mid size town	72%	10%	18%
Large town	73%	9%	18%
Level of information			
Well informed	81%	9%	10%
Not well informed	69%	10%	22%
Support for nuclear energy			
In favour	78%	9%	14%
Opposed	70%	11%	19%

In **Slovenia**, more than nine out of ten citizens are aware that there are various categories of radioactive waste (92%).

The next best-informed citizens regarding the existence of different types of radioactive waste are to be found in **Slovakia** (80%), **Belgium** (79%), **Sweden** (79%) and **Hungary** (79%).

However, there are higher levels of non-response for this factor in **Lithuania** (35%), as well as in **Estonia** (31%) and **Austria** (30%).

Finally, the highest recorded level (16%) of citizens mistakenly claiming that there are not several types of radioactive waste was found in the **Czech Republic**.



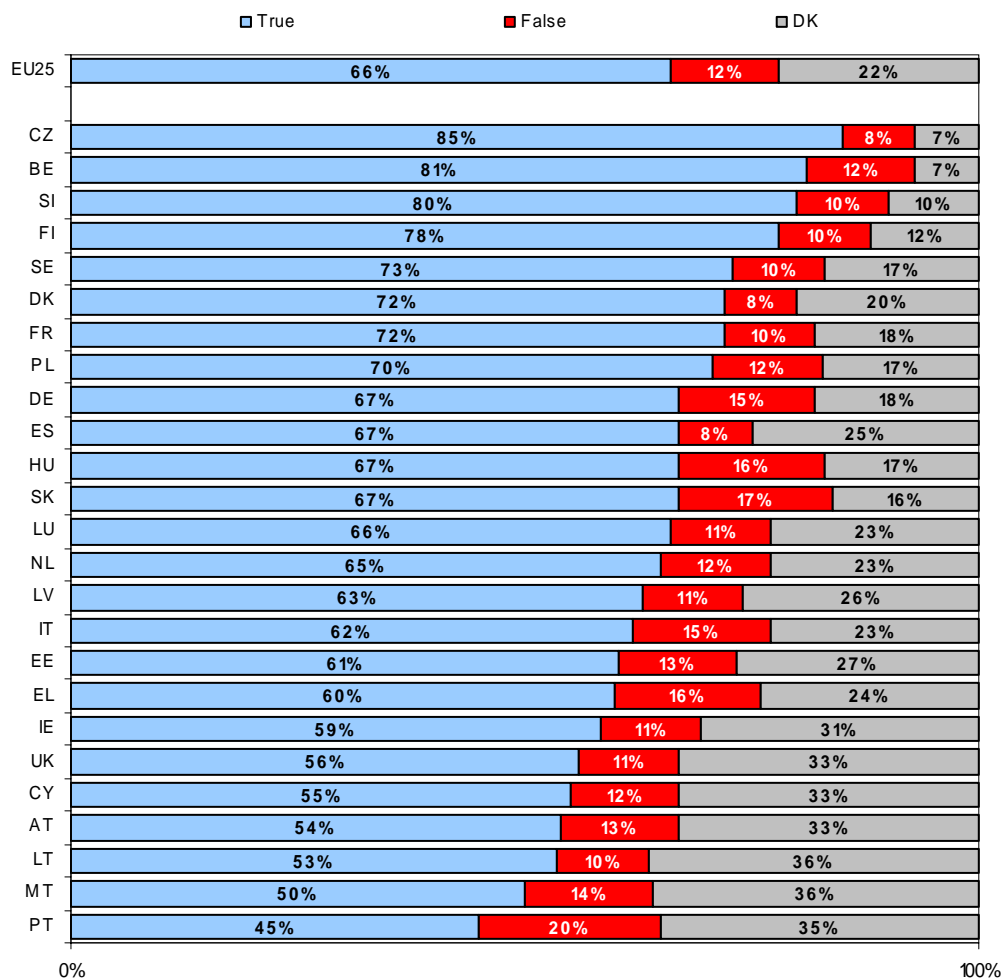
1.2.5. The production of radioactive waste by non-nuclear industries

Two-thirds of the people interviewed in the European Union responded correctly to the statement that some non-nuclear industries produce low-level radioactive waste (66%). 12% stated the opposite, and 22% were unable to give an opinion on this question.

A very high percentage of citizens correctly answering that some non-nuclear industries produce low-level radioactive waste was recorded in the **Czech Republic** (85%), **Belgium** (81%), **Slovenia** (80%) and **Finland** (78%).

In **Portugal**, 20% of respondents do not believe that non-nuclear industries can engender low-level radioactive waste and a further 35% are unable to express a view. A high percentage of 'don't knows' was also recorded for this question in **Lithuania** (36%), **Malta** (36%), the **United Kingdom** (33%), **Cyprus** (33%) and **Austria** (33%).

Q5.3. Some Non-nuclear industries produce low level radioactive waste
Correct answer : "True"



The socio-demographic characteristics of citizens of the European Union influence the distribution of responses to this question.

Men, respondents aged between 25 and 54, people with a higher educational level, managers and the self employed are more likely to be aware that some non-nuclear industries can produce low-level radioactive waste.

Furthermore, a high percentage of citizens unable to respond is found among respondents aged 55 and over, those with lower educational levels, people who stay at home and the retired.

Q5.3.	True	False	DK
EU25	66%	12%	22%
Sex			
Male	70%	12%	18%
Female	62%	13%	26%
Age			
15-24	64%	18%	18%
25-39	69%	12%	19%
40-54	71%	11%	18%
55 +	59%	11%	30%
Education (End of)			
15	53%	13%	33%
16-19	68%	12%	20%
20+	76%	9%	15%
Still Studying	68%	17%	15%
Respondent occupation scale			
Self-employed	73%	11%	16%
Managers	78%	9%	14%
Other white collars	69%	12%	18%
Manual workers	67%	13%	20%
House persons	58%	12%	31%
Unemployed	64%	18%	18%
Retired	59%	11%	30%
Students	68%	17%	15%
Level of information			
Well informed	74%	12%	14%
Not well informed	63%	13%	24%
Support for nuclear energy			
In favour	72%	12%	16%
Opposed	65%	13%	22%

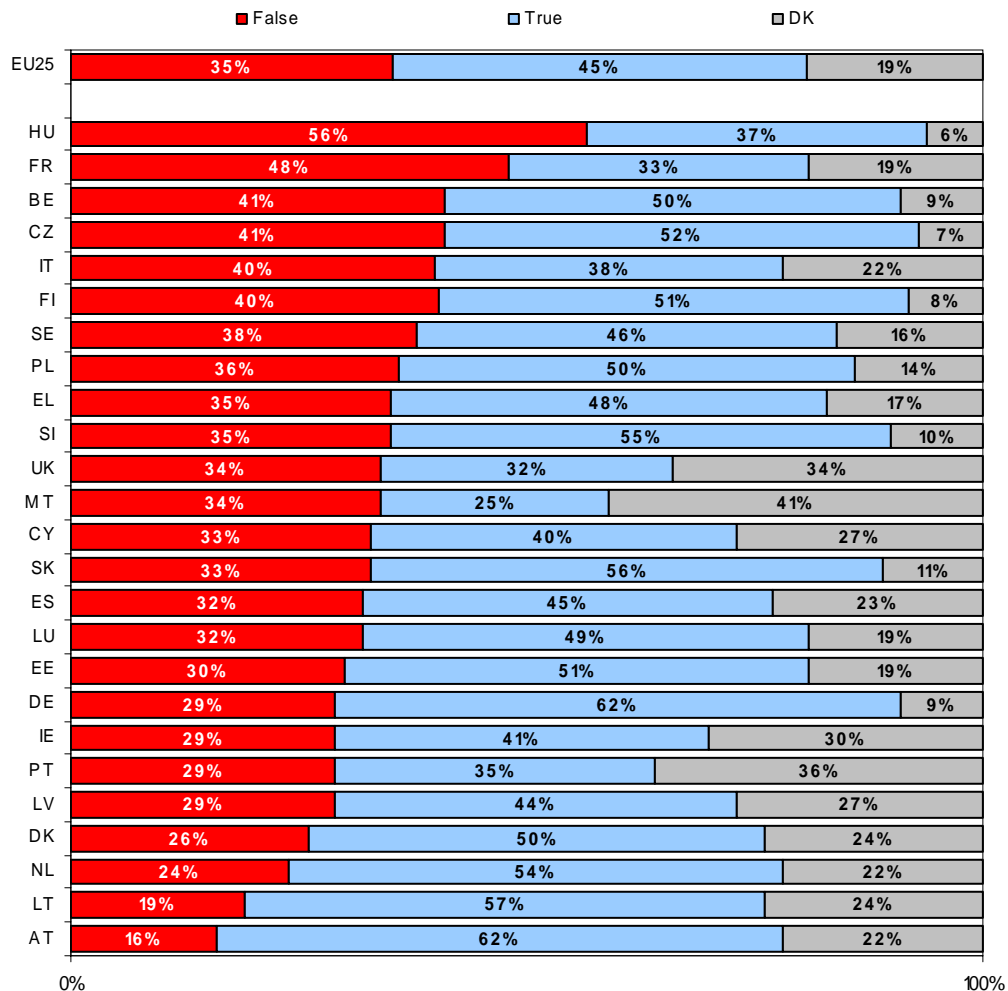
1.2.6. The production of radioactive waste by nuclear reactors

A majority of respondents are mistaken as regards the production of high-level radioactive waste. 45% think that this type of waste is only produced by nuclear reactors. The correct answer was only given by 35% of respondents. Furthermore, 19% were unable to express an opinion.

Hungary is the only country where more than half the citizens correctly believe that high-level radioactive waste is not solely produced by nuclear reactors (56%).

Fewer than one interviewee in five in **Lithuania** (19%) and **Austria** (16%) gave the correct answer.

Q5.5. High level radioactive waste is produced only in nuclear reactors
Correct answer : "False"



An analysis of this aspect by interviewees' socio-demographic variables provides the following information:

- ◆ Men are less likely to be unable to answer this question than women, although they more often give the wrong response.
- ◆ Young people aged between 15 and 24 years, and students seem most aware of the fact that high-level radioactive waste is not only produced by nuclear reactors.
- ◆ The more likely respondents are to live in an urban environment, the more they tend to know the right answer.
- ◆ In contrast to what had been noted previously, the level of knowledge of radioactive waste in general claimed by respondents had no influence on the percentage of correct answers. On the contrary, more citizens who think they are well-informed gave the wrong answer, whereas those who believe themselves to be ill-informed registered a higher rate of 'don't knows'.
- ◆ The level of support for nuclear energy in general does not seem to influence the distribution of responses in any significant fashion for this aspect.

Q5.5.	False	True	DK
EU25	35%	45%	19%
Sex			
Male	37%	48%	15%
Female	34%	42%	23%
Age			
15-24	44%	39%	17%
25-39	41%	42%	18%
40-54	37%	47%	16%
55 +	26%	50%	24%
Education (End of)			
15	27%	46%	27%
16-19	37%	46%	17%
20+	38%	47%	15%
Still Studying	47%	39%	14%
Subjective urbanisation			
Rural village	33%	47%	20%
Small/ mid size town	36%	44%	19%
Large town	37%	44%	18%
Level of information			
Well informed	36%	52%	12%
Not well informed	36%	44%	21%
Support for nuclear energy			
In favour	37%	48%	15%
Opposed	36%	46%	18%

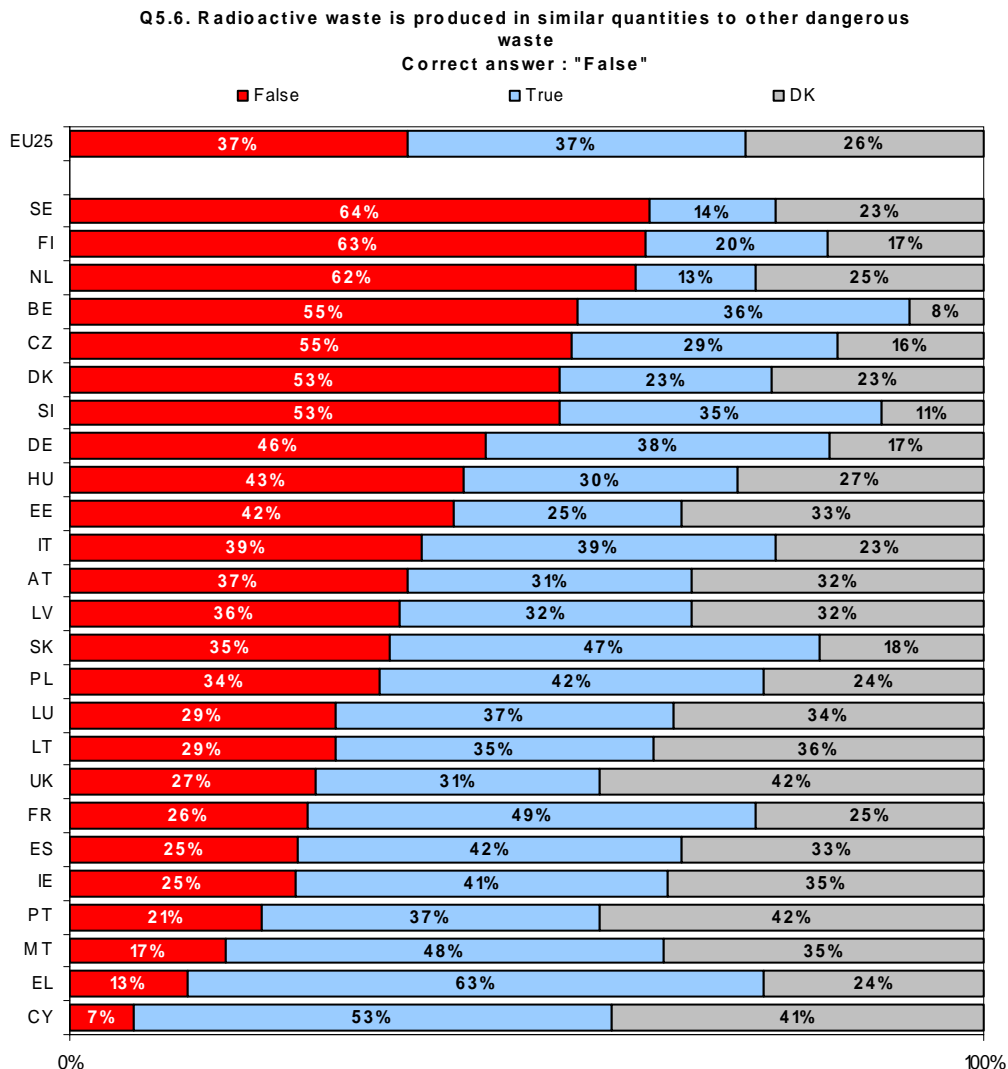
1.2.7. The quantity of radioactive waste

Across the European Union, as many respondents gave the right answer (false) as the wrong answer (true) in response to the statement that radioactive waste is produced in similar quantities to other dangerous waste, i.e. 37%. However, 26% of interviewees were unable to give an opinion on this subject.

More than six out of ten citizens know that radioactive waste is not produced in similar quantities to other dangerous waste in **Sweden** (64%), **Finland** (63%) and **the Netherlands** (62%).

In contrast, more than six interviewees in ten (63%) answered this question incorrectly in **Greece**, and only 13% gave the right answer.

Finally, the lowest level of right answers was recorded in **Cyprus** (7%), where 53% of interviewees gave the wrong answer and 41% gave none.



From a socio-demographic point of view, more men rightly consider that radioactive waste is not produced in similar quantities to other dangerous waste. This is also the case for people having studied until the age of at least 20, students, managers, white-collar workers, people living in large towns, people regarding themselves as well-informed about radioactive waste in general and supporters of nuclear energy.

There was also a higher percentage of 'don't know' responses among women, respondents aged 55 and over, respondents with a low level of education, people staying at home and the retired.

Q5.6.	False	True	DK
EU25	37%	37%	26%
Sex			
Male	41%	36%	22%
Female	32%	38%	30%
Age			
15-24	42%	39%	20%
25-39	38%	37%	25%
40-54	40%	36%	24%
55 +	30%	39%	31%
Education (End of)			
15	26%	42%	33%
16-19	36%	38%	26%
20+	46%	32%	22%
Still Studying	45%	37%	17%
Respondent occupation scale			
Self-employed	41%	36%	23%
Managers	45%	31%	24%
Other white collars	44%	34%	22%
Manual workers	35%	39%	25%
House persons	27%	39%	34%
Unemployed	36%	41%	23%
Retired	30%	39%	31%
Students	45%	37%	17%
Subjective urbanisation			
Rural village	35%	38%	27%
Small/ mid size town	37%	39%	25%
Large town	38%	35%	26%
Level of information			
Well informed	46%	37%	18%
Not well informed	34%	38%	28%
Support for nuclear energy			
In favour	43%	35%	21%
Opposed	35%	40%	25%

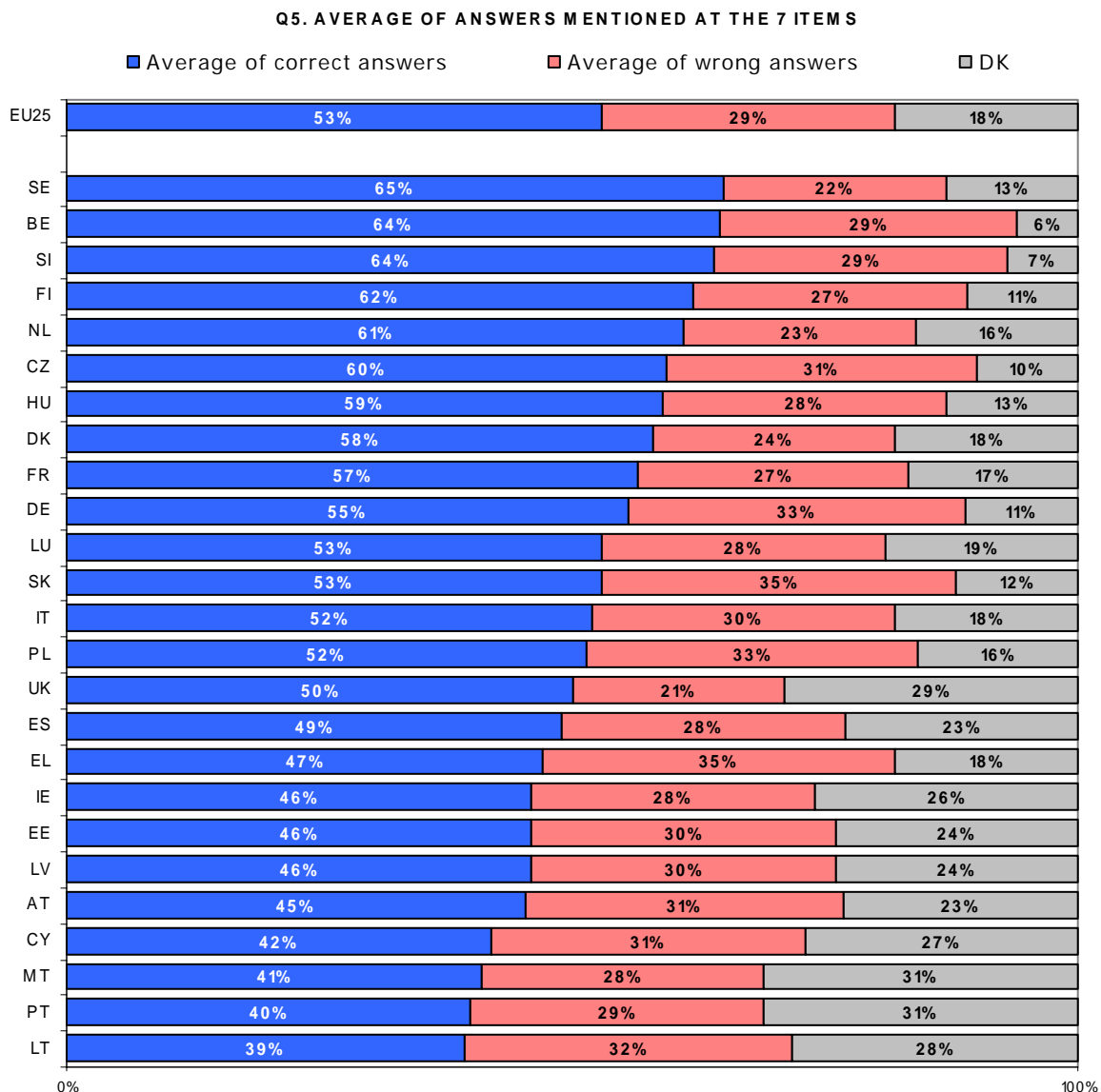
1.2.8. Average actual knowledge

By way of conclusion to this section detailing the actual knowledge of European Union citizens regarding radioactive waste, a supplementary analysis of the average of the answers given for the seven statements in this quiz provides some additional information.

Across the European Union, the average of right answers reached 53%, the average of wrong answers 29% and the average percentage of 'don't knows' is 18%.

Citizens achieving the highest average of right answers are found in **Sweden** (65%), **Belgium** (64%), **Slovenia** (64%), **Finland** (62%), **the Netherlands** (61%) and the **Czech Republic** (60%).

Conversely, respondents seemed on average to be less familiar with this subject in **Cyprus** (42% right answers), **Malta** (41%), **Portugal** (40%) and **Lithuania** (39%).



Analysed by socio-demographic variables:

- ◆ On average, men are more likely to give the right answers, while a higher proportion of women gave no response;
- ◆ Citizens aged 55 and over record a lower average of right answers, but a higher average of 'don't knows';
- ◆ The higher the level of their education, the more citizens' average of right answers rises;
- ◆ The occupational category of managers seem the best informed on the subject of radioactive waste; while the average non-response rate is highest among persons staying at home full-time retired;
- ◆ Respondents living in an urban environment are generally more likely to give the right answer;
- ◆ Citizens who regard themselves as well-informed about radioactive waste demonstrated, on average, better actual knowledge of this subject. However, the rates of wrong responses appeared similar for citizens who say they are well-informed and those who believe themselves to be not well informed. The latter registered a higher average percentage of non-responses;
- ◆ Finally, citizens in favour of nuclear energy record a higher average of correct responses by comparison with opponents of this type of energy.

Q5.	Average of correct answers	Average of wrong answers	DK
EU25	53%	29%	18%
Sex			
Male	57%	29%	15%
Female	50%	29%	21%
Age			
15-24	55%	29%	16%
25-39	56%	27%	16%
40-54	57%	28%	15%
55 +	47%	30%	23%
Education (End of)			
15	44%	30%	26%
16-19	54%	29%	17%
20+	61%	26%	13%
Still Studying	58%	29%	13%
Respondent occupation scale			
Self-employed	57%	29%	14%
Managers	62%	25%	13%
Other white collars	58%	28%	14%
Manual workers	54%	29%	17%
House persons	45%	28%	27%
Unemployed	53%	30%	17%
Retired	47%	30%	23%
Students	58%	29%	13%
Subjective urbanisation			
Rural village	52%	29%	19%
Small/ mid size town	53%	29%	18%
Large town	55%	28%	17%
Level of information			
Well informed	61%	29%	11%
Not well informed	51%	29%	20%
Support for nuclear energy			
In favour	59%	28%	13%
Opposed	52%	30%	17%

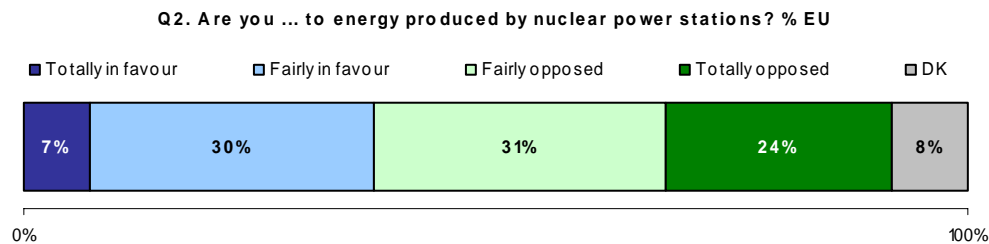
1.3. The level of support for nuclear energy

The next three points in this report focus more particularly on the perception of nuclear energy by citizens of the European Union. We shall first see to what extent they support this type of energy, before analysing whether the problem of radioactive waste represents an argument for its opponents. Finally, we shall examine various opinions on the use of nuclear energy.

Questionnaire source: Q2

- A minority of interviewees in favour of nuclear energy -

Across the European Union, 37% of interviewees say that they are in favour of energy produced by nuclear power stations, while 55% are against it and 8% express no opinion.



A detailed analysis of the percentage of supporters of this type of energy shows that only 7% of respondents are totally in favour, with 30% being 'fairly in favour'.

Among opponents, 31% of the people interviewed say they are 'fairly opposed' to energy produced by nuclear power stations while 24% state that they are 'totally opposed'. There is thus stronger opposition from the citizens of the Union who here demonstrate a certain animosity towards nuclear energy.

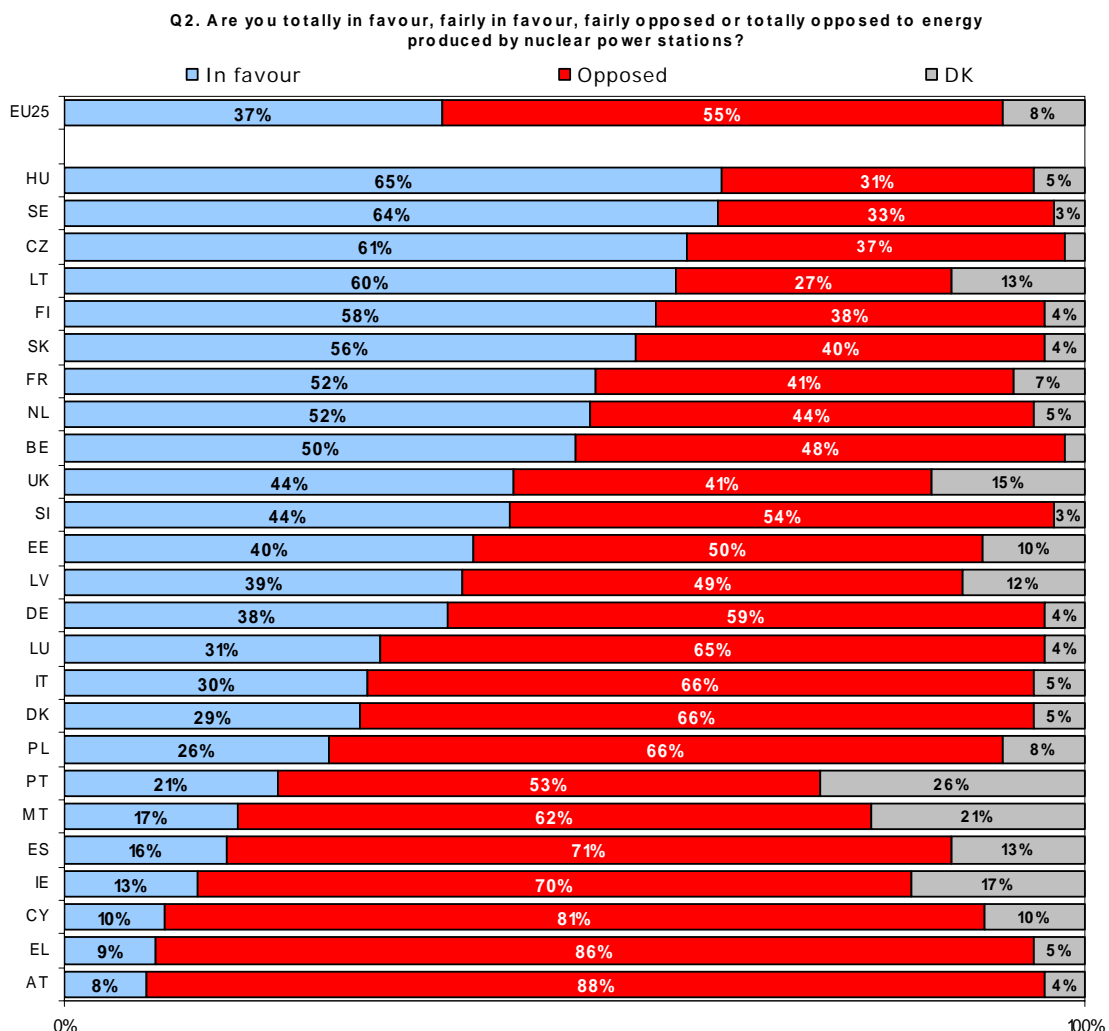
Considerable differences of opinion emerged in different Member States regarding the energy produced by nuclear power stations.

More than six out of ten citizens support this type of energy in **Hungary** (65%), **Sweden** (64%), the **Czech Republic** (61%) and **Lithuania** (60%). It should be noted that these countries follow a different nuclear policy. While Sweden proposes to abandon the nuclear route over the next forty years, the Czech Republic is undertaking the construction of two new reactors.

Furthermore, a majority of respondents also said they were in favour of nuclear energy in **Finland** (58%), **Slovakia** (56%), **France** (52%), **the Netherlands** (52%) and **Belgium** (50%).

However, opponents of nuclear energy represent a very large majority of the population, primarily in **Austria** where 88% of interviewees state that they are opposed to this type of energy, but also in **Greece** (86%), **Cyprus** (81%), **Spain** (71%), **Ireland** (70%), **Poland** (66%), **Denmark** (66%), **Italy** (66%) and **Luxembourg** (65%). It should be noted that Austria has adopted a law prohibiting the operation of nuclear power stations for the production of electricity, thus renouncing the use of nuclear energy. This country has also set itself the task of creating a nuclear energy free zone in central Europe. It is against this background that Austria is in favour of closing down the Russian-designed Czech power station at Temelin, situated only 60 km from its border, and where the opening of two new reactors is planned for 2015.



























Finally, in **Portugal** around a quarter of interviewees were unable to give their opinion on this question (26% of 'don't know' responses).

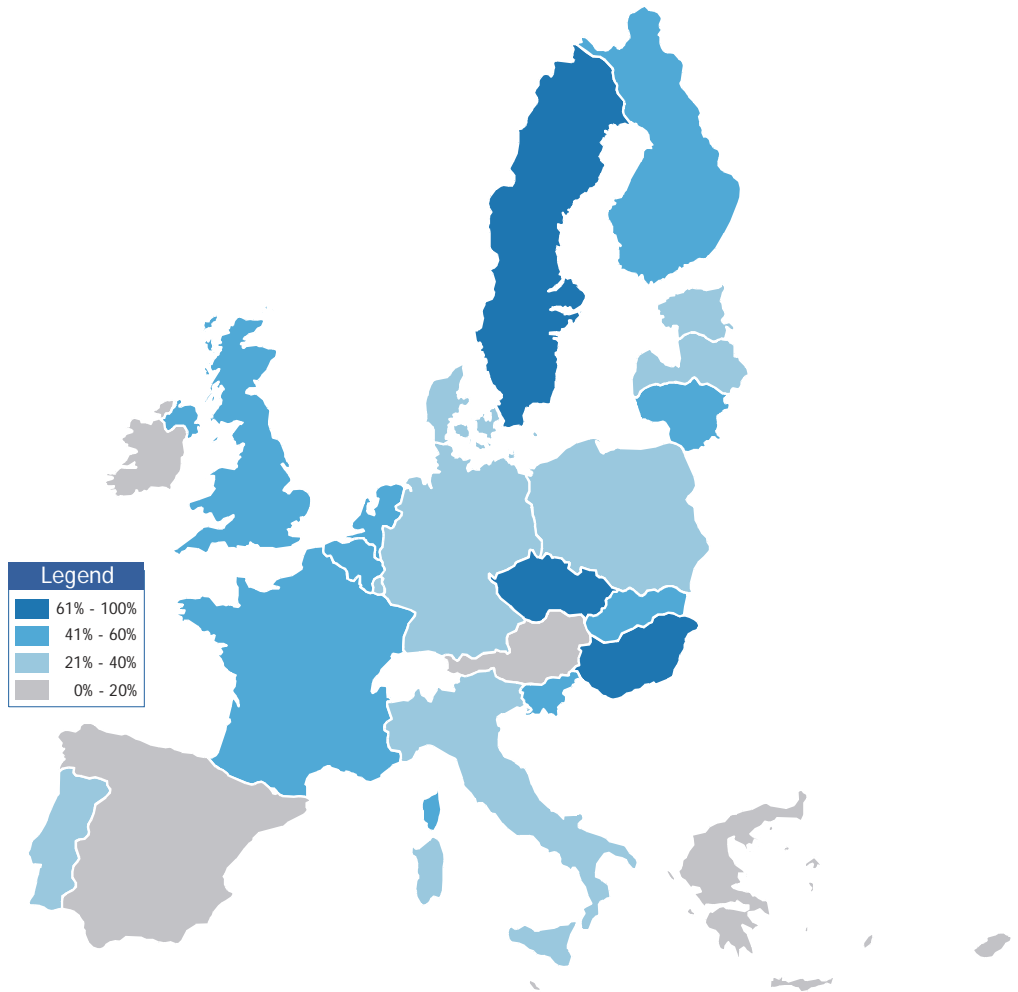


The map below illustrates the percentage of supporters of energy produced by nuclear power stations in the Member States.

Q2 Are you totally in favour, fairly in favour, fairly opposed or totally opposed to energy produced by nuclear power stations?

Answers: In favour

Member States Results		
	Hungary	65%
	Sweden	64%
	Czech Republic	61%
	Lithuania	60%
	Finland	58%
	Slovakia	56%
	France	52%
	The Netherlands	52%
	Belgium	50%
	United Kingdom	44%
	Slovenia	44%
	Estonia	40%
	Latvia	39%
	Germany	38%
	EU25	37%
	Luxembourg	31%
	Italy	30%
	Denmark	29%
	Poland	26%
	Portugal	21%
	Malta	17%
	Spain	16%
	Ireland	13%
	Cyprus	10%
	Greece	9%
	Austria	8%



The socio-demographic characteristics of respondents play a certain role in their opinion regarding nuclear energy:

- ◆ Although 46% of men expressed a favourable opinion towards this type of energy, this was true of only 29% of women (a differential of 17 points);
- ◆ More citizens who have had a shorter education tend to oppose nuclear energy;
- ◆ Citizens positioning themselves politically speaking on the right seem more likely to support nuclear energy, while supporters of the left tend to oppose it;
- ◆ More professionals or business managers support this type of energy, in contrast to people staying at home full-time;
- ◆ Citizens who are well-informed about radioactive waste appear more likely to support nuclear energy;
- ◆ Finally, respondents' age and place of residence do not play a determining role in their responses.

Q2.	In favour	Opposed	DK
EU25	37%	55%	8%
Sex			
Male	46%	49%	5%
Female	29%	60%	11%
Education (End of)			
15	28%	60%	12%
16-19	40%	53%	8%
20+	43%	53%	4%
Still Studying	37%	56%	7%
Left-Right scale			
(1-4) Left	34%	61%	5%
(5-6) Centre	40%	53%	7%
(7-10) Right	49%	46%	5%
Respondent occupation scale			
Self-employed	38%	57%	5%
Managers	49%	48%	3%
Other white collars	39%	56%	5%
Manual workers	37%	55%	8%
House persons	24%	62%	14%
Unemployed	33%	58%	9%
Retired	37%	53%	10%
Students	37%	56%	7%
Level of information			
Well informed	52%	44%	3%
Not well informed	32%	59%	9%

1.4. Perception of the problem of radioactive waste

Questionnaire source: Q3

Opponents of nuclear energy were then asked to what extent they would be in favour of it **if** the problem of radioactive waste were resolved.

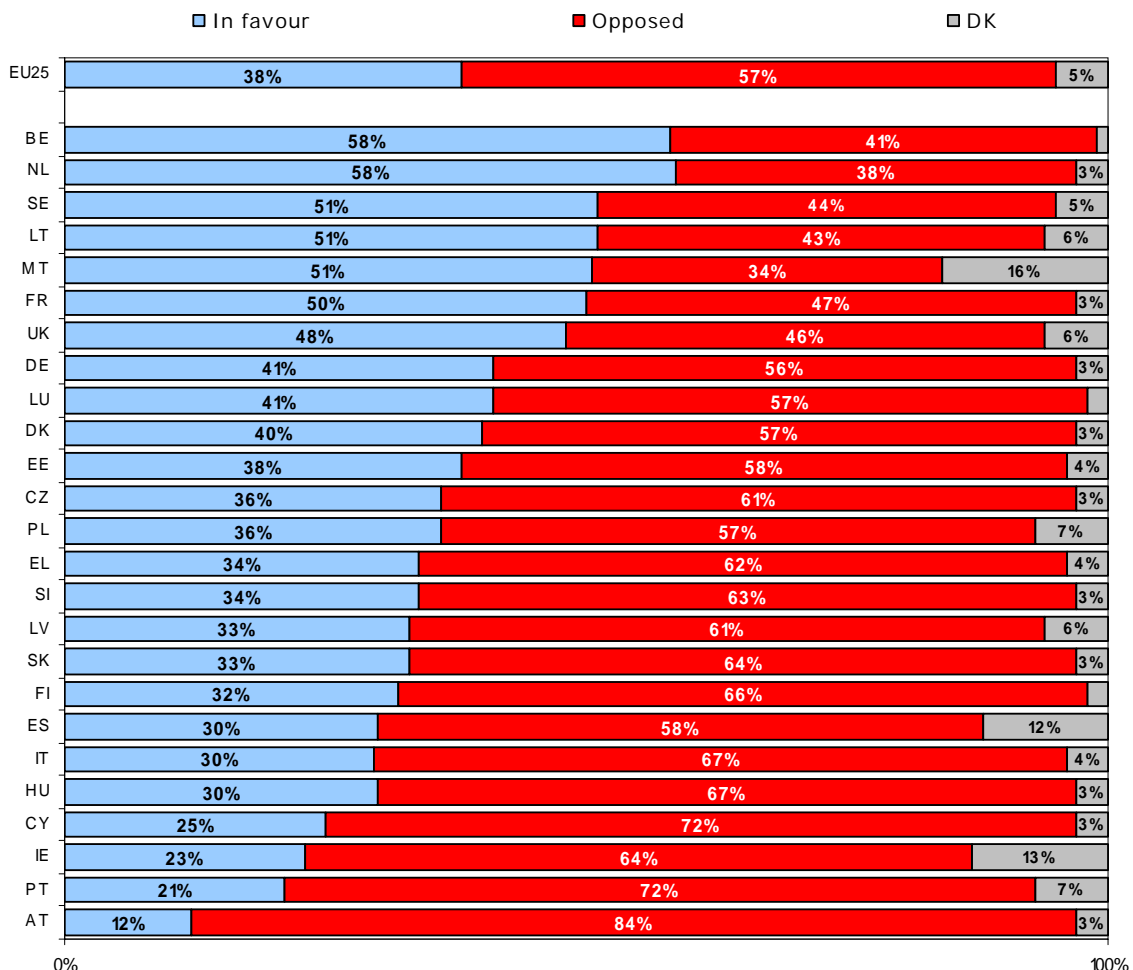
- A majority of opponents of nuclear energy would not change their opinion if the issue of nuclear waste were resolved -

Fewer than four in ten of those opposed to energy produced by nuclear power stations would change their minds if the question of radioactive waste were to be resolved (38%). In parallel, 57% of citizens opposed to this type of energy would continue to hold this view even if the issue of waste were resolved.

Nevertheless, the survey found a majority of opponents prepared to change their minds about this type of energy if a solution were found for radioactive waste in **Belgium** (58%), **the Netherlands** (58%), **Sweden** (51%), **Lithuania** (51%), **Malta** (51%), **France** (50%) and the **United Kingdom** (48%).

Conversely, the resolution of the waste issue did not seem to have any influence on opponents of energy nuclear, most strikingly in **Austria** where 84% of opponents remain opposed, but also in **Portugal** (72%) and **Cyprus** (72%).

Q3. IF "OPPOSED TO THE ENERGY PRODUCED BY NUCLEAR POWER STATIONS":
And if the issue of radioactive waste was solved, would you then be ...to energy produced by nuclear power stations?



From a socio-demographic point of view:

- ◆ Men and women opposed to nuclear energy would react in a similar fashion if the problems of radioactive waste were resolved;
- ◆ More young people opposed to this type energy would adopt a favourable attitude to it if the waste issue were resolved.
- ◆ Opponents with a lower educational level would remain opposed even if the obstacle of waste were removed;
- ◆ Slightly more residents of large cities would adopt a more positive attitude to this type of energy if the issue of radioactive waste were resolved;
- ◆ More opponents who are well-informed about the waste issue in general responded similarly;
- ◆ Finally, the political leanings of opponents of energy produced by nuclear power stations do not appear to influence the distribution of responses.

Q3.	In favour	Opposed	DK
EU25	38%	57%	5%
Sex			
Male	37%	58%	5%
Female	38%	56%	6%
Age			
15-24	46%	49%	5%
25-39	39%	57%	4%
40-54	36%	59%	5%
55 +	34%	60%	7%
Education (End of)			
15	30%	63%	7%
16-19	40%	55%	5%
20+	40%	56%	4%
Still Studying	47%	49%	4%
Left-Right scale			
(1-4) Left	38%	58%	4%
(5-6) Centre	40%	55%	5%
(7-10) Right	39%	58%	3%
Subjective urbanisation			
Rural village	37%	57%	6%
Small/ mid size town	37%	59%	5%
Large town	40%	55%	6%
Level of information			
Well informed	43%	54%	3%
Not well informed	36%	58%	6%

1.5. Opinions of nuclear energy

Questionnaire source: Q4

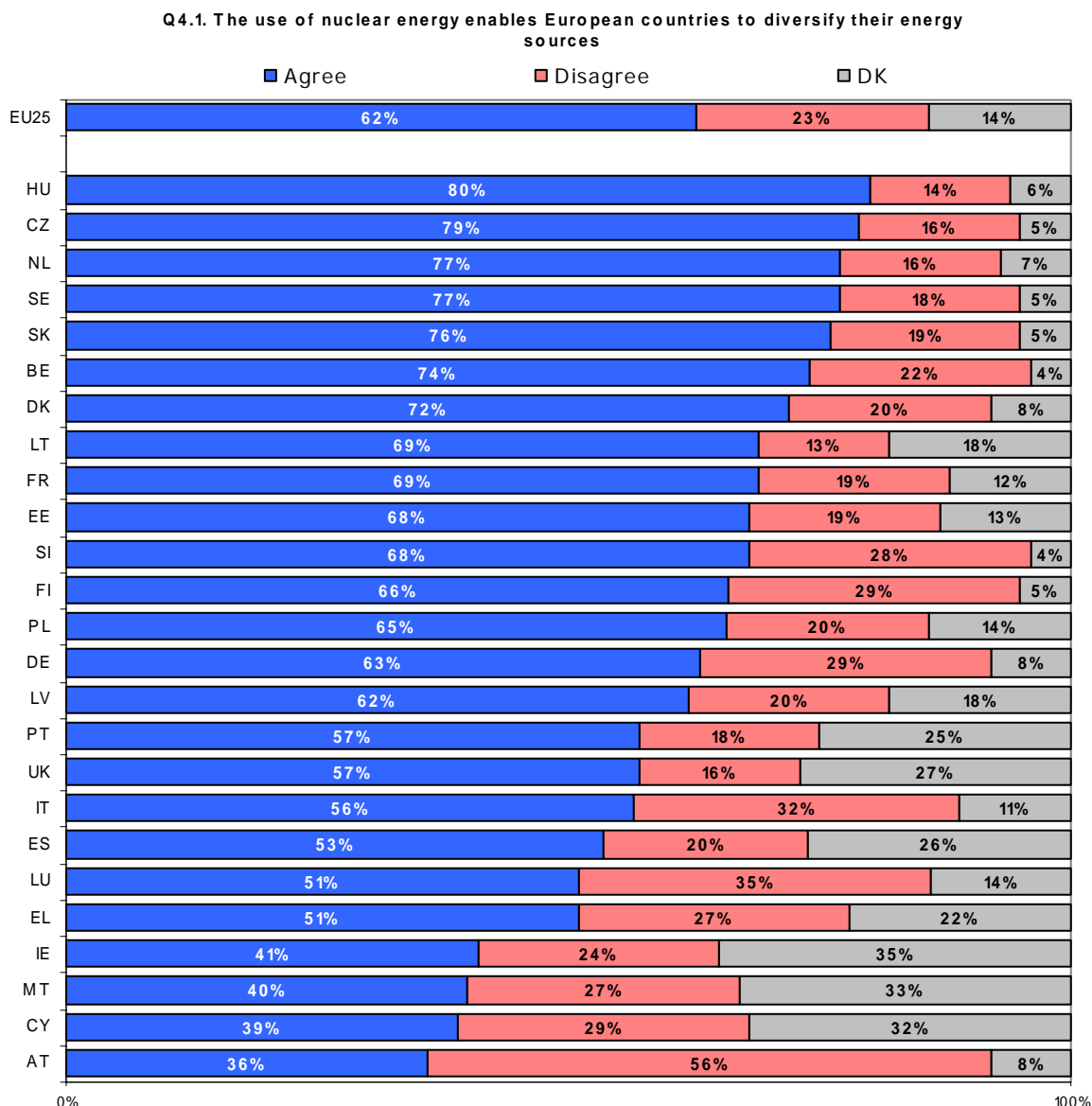
Let us now turn to the opinion of European Union citizens regarding three statements about nuclear energy.

1.5.1. The diversification of energy sources

Across the European Union, more than six out of ten respondents agree with the statement that the use of nuclear energy enables European countries to diversify their energy sources (62%).

In **Hungary**, the level of agreement with this principle reached 80%. Furthermore, more than three-quarters of citizens also expressed agreement with this statement in the **Czech Republic** (79%), **the Netherlands** (77%), **Sweden** (77%) and **Slovakia** (76%).

Conversely, more than half of all respondents in **Austria** did not agree that nuclear energy brought the possibility of diversifying energy sources (56%).



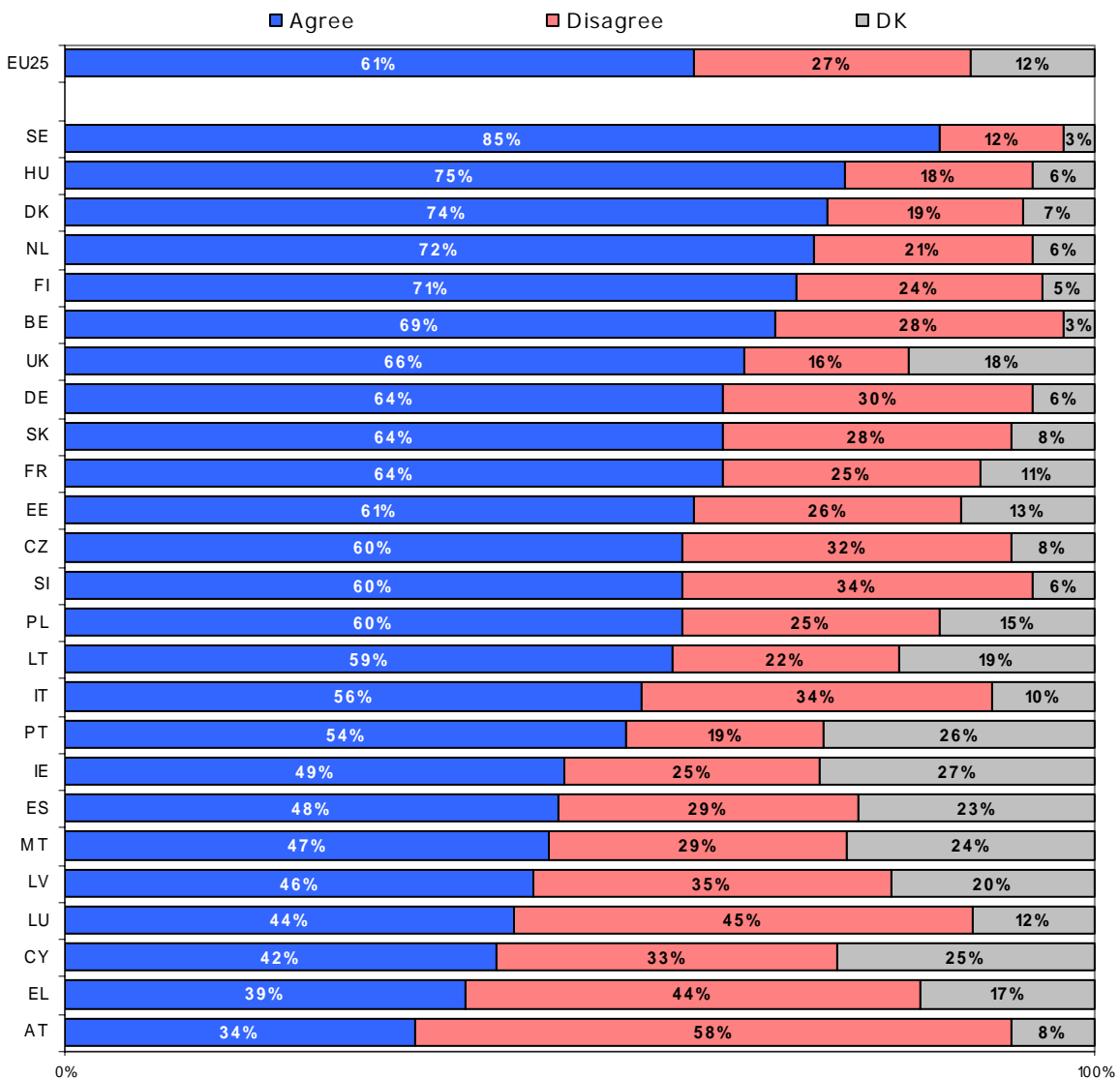
1.5.2. Dependence on oil

61% of citizens of the European Union believe that we could reduce our dependence on oil if we were to use more nuclear energy, and 27% disagree.

In **Sweden**, 85% of the population agree with this statement. Elsewhere, 75% of respondents agreed with the statement in **Hungary**, 74% in **Denmark**, 72% in **the Netherlands** and 71% in **Finland**.

As was observed in the case of the diversification of energy sources through the use of nuclear energy, a majority of people interviewed in **Austria** did not agree that the increased use of nuclear energy would enable us to reduce dependency on oil (58%). A majority took the same view in **Luxembourg** (45%) and **Greece** (44%).

Q4.2. We could reduce our dependence on oil if we use more nuclear energy



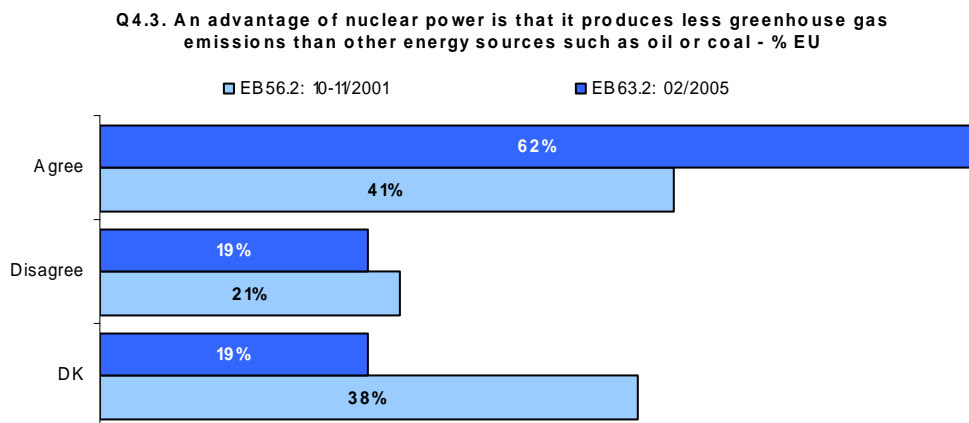
1.5.3. The emission of greenhouse gases

The third statement submitted to respondents was as follows: 'An advantage of nuclear power is that it produces less greenhouse gas emissions than other energy sources such as oil or coal' This question had been asked towards the end of 2001, but the example of oil or coal was not included in the wording.

In early 2005, 62% of citizens of the European Union agreed with the statement that nuclear power is advantageous in terms of producing less greenhouse gas emissions. This represents a 21 point rise on the rate of agreement measured in late 2001. Furthermore, the percentage of respondents who did not agree with this principle registered a slight fall (-2 points).

The considerable rise in the agreement rate thus mainly represents the fall in the percentage of interviewees who were unable to give an answer about this aspect four years ago, and who were now expressing an opinion (non-response rate down by 19 points).

It may be presumed that this increased willingness to take up a position is in part due to the precision provided in 2005 by the wording of the question, which then gave two examples of energy producing significant greenhouse gas emissions, i.e. oil and coal. On the other hand, the media coverage of the Kyoto Agreement, the international agreement aimed at reducing countries' greenhouse gas emissions, and its implementation since the start of 2005, may also have played a part.

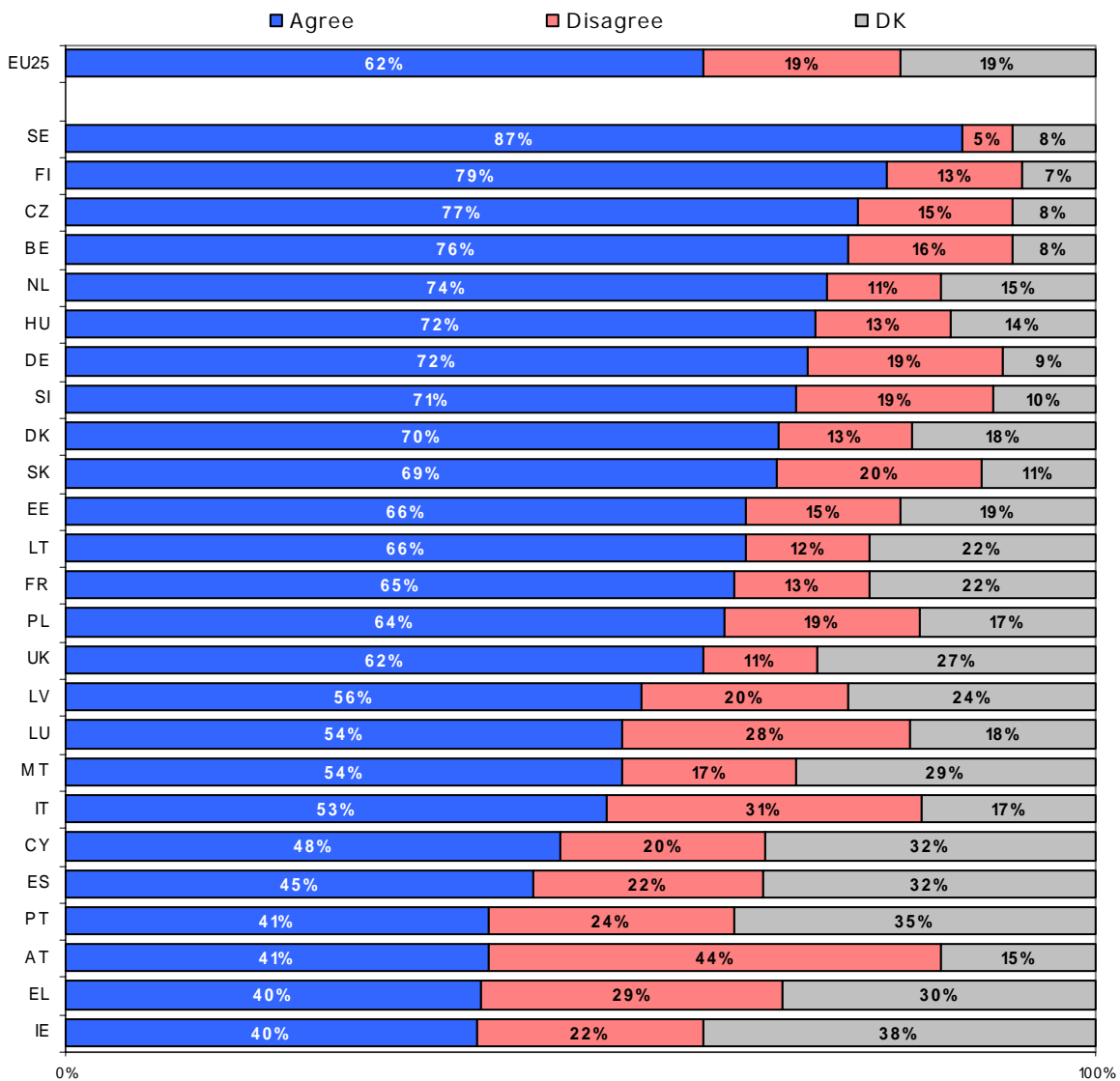


In 2005, the advantage of nuclear energy by comparison with others types of energy discharging more greenhouses gases seemed to be most recognised in **Sweden**. Almost nine out of ten respondents in that country are aware of this advantage (87%). Furthermore, more than three-quarters of respondents answered in the same way in **Finland** (79%), the **Czech Republic** (77%) and **Belgium** (76%).

Turning to those less convinced of this advantage of nuclear energy, **Austrians** once again expressed their reluctance, with a majority of respondents in this country (44%) disagreeing with this statement.

Finally, more than a third of people interviewed were unable to give an opinion on this question in **Ireland** (38%), **Portugal** (35%), **Cyprus** (32%) and **Spain** (32%).

Q4.3. An advantage of nuclear power is that it produces less greenhouse gas emissions than other energy sources such as oil or coal



The socio-demographic analysis of levels of agreement with these three statements (1.5.1, 1.5.2, 1.5.3) reveals the following:

- ◆ More men seemed to agree with the three propositions studied here;
- ◆ Although the possibility of diversifying energy sources through the use of nuclear energy appears to be recognised less by respondents aged 55 and over, the reduced greenhouse gas emissions from this type of energy seems less widely acknowledged by young people aged between 15 and 24 years;
- ◆ The higher the educational level of the interviewees, the more they agreed with the three statements;
- ◆ Generally speaking, citizens positioning themselves on the right politically also agreed with the statements; while supporters of the left showed themselves to be more reluctant to agree with the three principles set out in this question;
- ◆ A higher level of agreement was obtained among managers and conversely, a lower percentage among people staying at home;
- ◆ The level of agreement among people living in large towns was slightly higher than among rural dwellers.
- ◆ Citizens regarding themselves as well-informed about radioactive waste in general are more likely to agree that nuclear energy has these three advantages – the diversification of energy sources, less dependence on oil and lesser greenhouse gas emissions;
- ◆ Finally, the greatest divergence of opinion about these three statements appears, logically enough, between those supporting nuclear energy and its opponents. While supporters of this type of energy broadly express their approval of these three principles (at rates varying between 82% and 87%), opponents take a more cautious position. It should be noted, however, that a significant proportion of opponents also agreed with these three statements (varying between 49% and 52%).

The table on the following page shows the percentages of agreement obtained for each of the three statements by socio-demographic category.

Q4. % Agree	The use of nuclear energy enables European countries to diversify their energy sources	We could reduce our dependence on oil if we use more nuclear energy	An advantage of nuclear power is that it produces less greenhouse gas emissions than other energy sources such as oil or coal
	EU25	62%	61%
Sex			
Male	68%	66%	69%
Female	57%	56%	56%
Age			
15-24	63%	60%	59%
25-39	65%	62%	63%
40-54	64%	62%	64%
55 +	59%	60%	61%
Education (End of)			
15	52%	52%	51%
16-19	65%	62%	64%
20+	69%	68%	71%
Still Studying	65%	63%	65%
Left-Right scale			
(1-4) Left	62%	59%	63%
(5-6) Centre	65%	64%	65%
(7-10) Right	71%	70%	69%
Respondent occupation scale			
Self-employed	66%	61%	65%
Managers	71%	71%	73%
Other white collars	67%	63%	64%
Manual workers	61%	61%	61%
House persons	50%	49%	48%
Unemployed	61%	59%	57%
Retired	61%	61%	62%
Students	65%	63%	65%
Subjective urbanisation			
Rural village	61%	61%	62%
Small/ mid size town	63%	61%	62%
Large town	64%	62%	64%
Level of information			
Well informed	74%	70%	77%
Not well informed	59%	59%	58%
Support for nuclear energy			
In favour	87%	82%	83%
Opposed	50%	49%	52%

2. The perception of the risk of radioactive waste

In this section, we shall first see how citizens of the European Union perceive the risks associated with the transport and storage of radioactive waste. We shall then analyse their fears regarding the possible construction of a disposal site in their neighbourhood, before considering what role they would wish to play in decision-making regarding the construction of such a site.

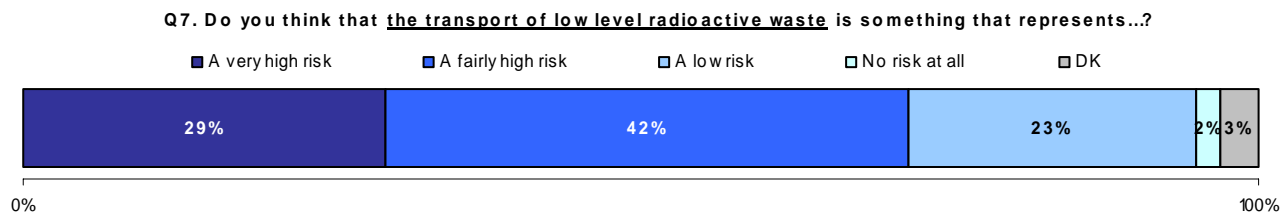
2.1. Transport

Questionnaire source: Q7

- Seven out of ten people believe the transport of low-level radioactive waste presents a risk -

A vast majority of the people interviewed believe that transporting low-level radioactive waste carries risks (71%). Among these, 42% state that transporting this type of waste represents a high risk and 29% even state that it represents a very high risk.

Furthermore, while nearly a quarter of respondents see a low risk in this type of transport (23%), only 2% of respondents believe that the transport of low-level radioactive waste represents no risk at all.



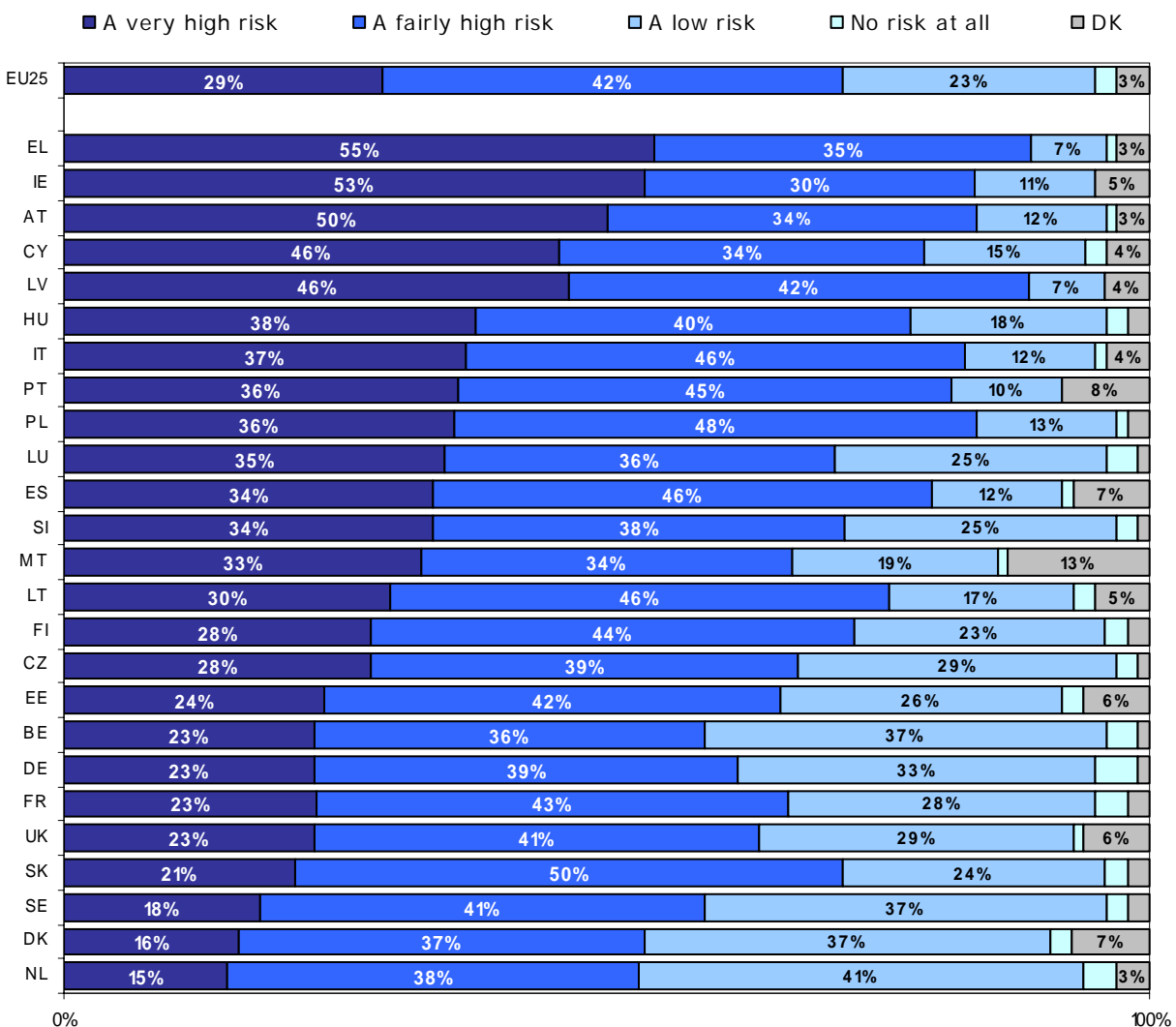
Although a vast majority of citizens of the European Union acknowledge a major risk in the transport of low-level radioactive waste, nevertheless some divergences of opinion between the Member States are observed.

The citizens who seem to fear this type of transport most live in **Greece, Ireland and Austria**. In these three countries, (more than) one out of two respondents stated that the transport of this type of waste represents a very high risk.

The opinion of the risk involved when transporting low-level radioactive waste appears to be more qualified in other countries. This is the case in **Belgium** where a proportion of 23% of respondents perceive a very high risk, 36% a high risk and 37% a low risk, **Sweden** (18%, 41%, 37%), **Denmark** (16%, 37%, 37%) and **the Netherlands** (15%, 38%, 41%).

Finally, the response 'presents no risk at all' was given by a very low percentage of respondents across all 25 Member States.

Q7. Do you think that the transport of low level radioactive waste is something that represents...?



The perception of risk in the transport of low-level radioactive waste varies in accordance with the socio-demographic characteristics of the people interviewed:

- ◆ Women seem more afraid of the transport of low-level radioactive waste than men;
- ◆ All age categories respond in a fairly similar way regarding their perception of these risks, although more older people regard the transport of this type of waste as very risky;
- ◆ Respondents who had studied until a maximum age of 15 seem more likely to perceive a very high risk whereas those who studied until at least the age of 20 years are more likely to see a low risk;
- ◆ More citizens positioning themselves on the left politically speaking expressed a more pronounced fear in relation to this type of transport, as did people staying at home full-time;
- ◆ Citizens considering themselves to be well-informed about radioactive waste are more likely to consider the risk of such transport to be low;
- ◆ Finally, supporters of nuclear energy feared the transport of low-level radioactive waste less than its opponents.

Q7.	A very high risk	A fairly high risk	A low risk	No risk at all	DK
EU25	29%	42%	23%	2%	3%
Sex					
Male	26%	40%	29%	3%	2%
Female	32%	44%	18%	1%	5%
Age					
15-24	26%	46%	22%	2%	4%
25-39	29%	43%	24%	2%	2%
40-54	29%	42%	25%	2%	2%
55 +	31%	39%	22%	2%	5%
Education (End of)					
15	36%	39%	17%	2%	6%
16-19	29%	43%	23%	2%	3%
20+	23%	42%	31%	2%	2%
Still Studying	25%	48%	22%	2%	3%
Left-Right scale					
(1-4) Left	30%	41%	24%	1%	3%
(5-6) Centre	27%	43%	25%	2%	2%
(7-10) Right	25%	41%	29%	3%	2%
Respondent occupation scale					
Self-employed	26%	42%	28%	2%	2%
Managers	21%	39%	35%	3%	2%
Other white collars	29%	42%	25%	2%	3%
Manual workers	30%	42%	23%	2%	3%
House persons	36%	42%	14%	1%	6%
Unemployed	29%	46%	20%	2%	4%
Retired	31%	40%	21%	2%	5%
Students	25%	48%	22%	2%	3%
Level of information					
Well informed	23%	40%	32%	3%	2%
Not well informed	31%	43%	21%	2%	4%
Support for nuclear energy					
In favour	17%	40%	37%	4%	2%
Opposed	38%	44%	15%	1%	2%

2.2. Storage

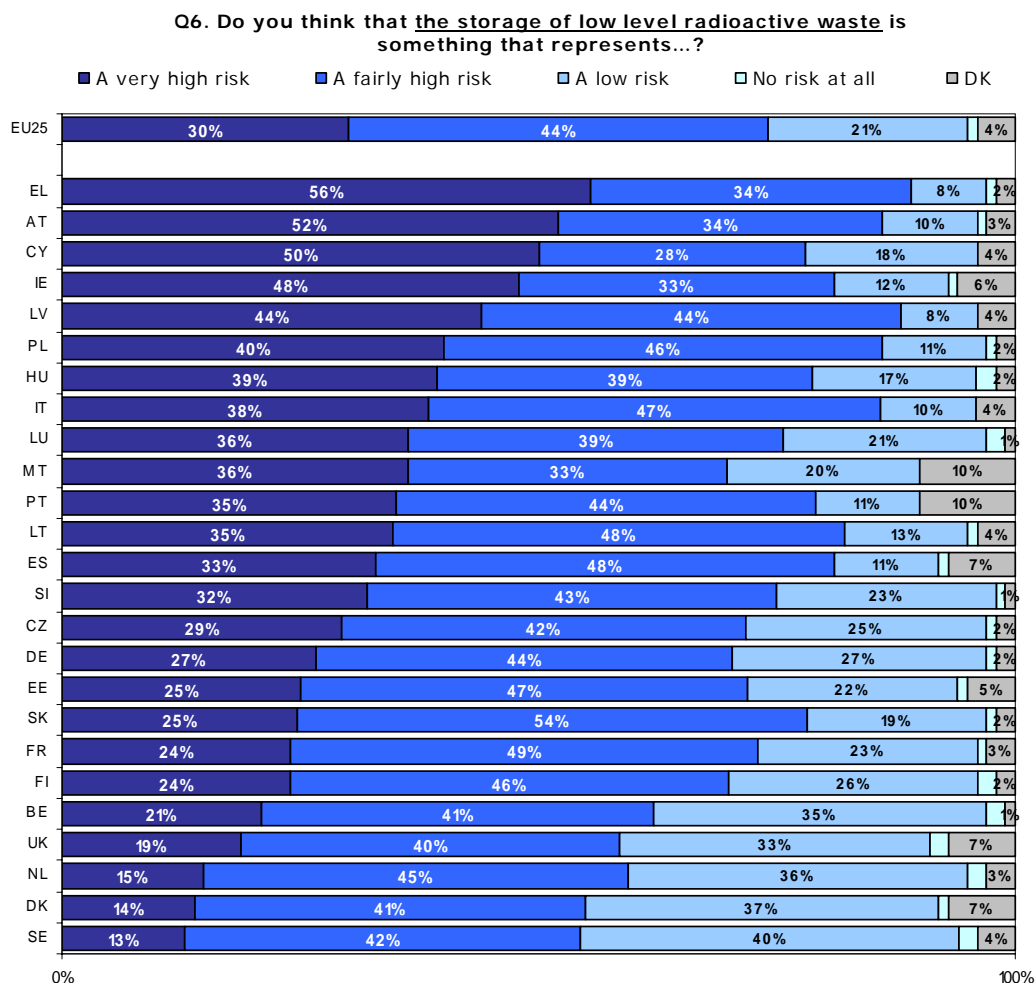
Questionnaire source: Q6

- Three-quarters of citizens of the Union consider that the storage of low-level radioactive waste presents a risk -

Citizens of the European Union perceive the risks associated with the storage of low-level radioactive waste in a similar way to those associated with its transport. Thus, a majority of respondents believe that this storage represents a high risk (44%, the result being 42% for transport) and 30% a very high risk (29% for transport). One citizen in five perceives a low risk in the storage of this type of waste (21%, 23% for transport).

More than one in two respondents stated that the storage of low-level radioactive waste represents a very high risk in **Greece** (56%), **Austria** (52%) and **Cyprus** (50%).

On the other hand, this risk is perceived as being much lower, in **Sweden** primarily where 40% of citizens think that the storage of this type of waste carries a low risk. More than a third of respondents also gave this answer in **Denmark** (37%), **the Netherlands** (36%), **Belgium** (35%) and the **United Kingdom** (33%).



Analysis of this question by socio-demographic variables reveals the same observations as those described above for the risks of the transport of low-level radioactive waste.

2.3. Fears regarding the construction of a disposal site

Questionnaire source: Q13

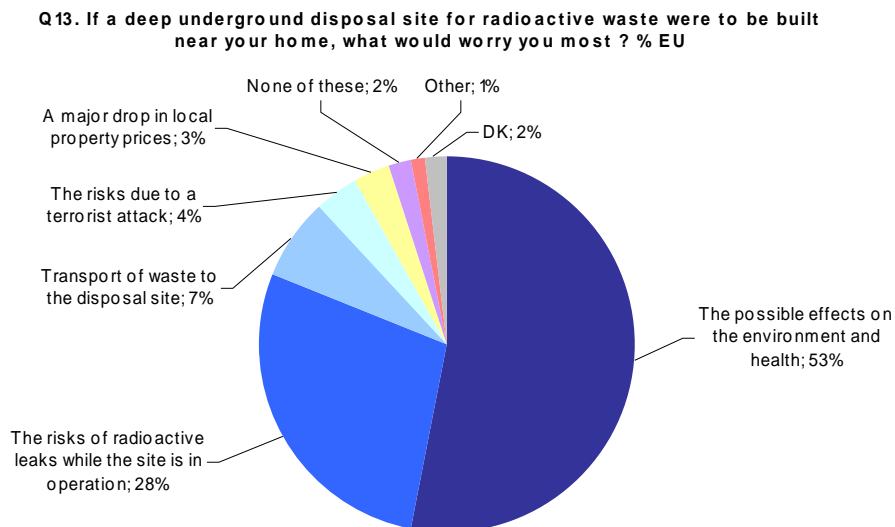
In order to measure European citizens' fears regarding the disposal of radioactive waste with more precision, they were asked what aspect, in the event of the construction of an underground disposal site for radioactive waste near their home, worried them most.

- The effects of radioactive waste on the environment and health represent the main concern for Europeans -

Across the European Union, the main fear expressed regarding the hypothetical construction of an underground disposal site for radioactive waste near their home is the possible impact on the environment and health, a concern mentioned by 53% of citizens of the European Union.

Next, 28% of respondents feared the risks of radioactive leaks when the site is in operation.

The other responses came a long way behind. 7% of interviewees are worried about the transport of waste to the disposal site, 4% feared a possible terrorist attack and finally 3% were worried about a major drop in local property prices.



The same type of question had already been asked in late 2001, but since the possible responses were considerably modified between the two surveys, a comparative analysis of the results is difficult. However, it can be noted that in 2001, the principle concerns were the same as in 2005, namely the possible impact on health and the environment in hundreds or thousands of years (38%) and the risk of radioactive leaks when the site is in operation (39%). The risks in transporting waste to the disposal site concerned 11% of people interviewed at the time.

- ◆ The majority of respondents in all Member States mentioned the possible impact on the environment and health as their main worry, with the exception of Slovakia where a narrow majority of respondents were more concerned about the risk of leaks when the site is in operation.
- ◆ The risks to health and environment posed by such a site close to them most worried citizens in Cyprus (70%), Lithuania (69%), Malta (68%), Greece (66%), Finland (61%) and Slovenia (61%).
- ◆ As has been mentioned, a majority of Slovaks were anxious about the risk of leaks (44%). In France more than a third of respondents answered similarly (36%).
- ◆ The citizens most worried about the transport of waste to this underground disposal site are predominantly in Sweden (24%) and to a lesser extent in Finland (15%).
- ◆ The risk of a terrorist attack is of slightly less concern for the Danes (7%), Swedes (7%) and Germans (6%).
- ◆ Finally, respondents in Sweden (8%), the Netherlands (7%) and Finland (7%) are slightly more concerned than their neighbours about a major drop in property prices in their area.

Q13.	The possible effects on the environment and health	The risks of radioactive leaks while the site is in operation	Transport of waste to the disposal site	The risks due to a terrorist attack	A major drop in local property prices	None of these (SPONTANEOUS)	Other (SPONTANEOUS)	DK
EU25	53%	28%	7%	4%	3%	2%	1%	2%
BE	55%	31%	7%	2%	3%	1%	0%	1%
DK	43%	30%	11%	7%	4%	1%	0%	4%
DE	58%	22%	8%	6%	3%	3%	0%	0%
EL	66%	27%	2%	1%	1%	3%	1%	0%
ES	49%	30%	8%	2%	0%	2%	1%	7%
FR	49%	36%	6%	3%	3%	2%	1%	1%
IE	42%	31%	9%	5%	3%	2%	5%	4%
IT	53%	25%	7%	5%	3%	2%	1%	3%
LU	52%	31%	6%	3%	2%	2%	1%	3%
NL	45%	29%	10%	5%	7%	2%	0%	1%
AT	54%	25%	8%	4%	2%	5%	1%	2%
PT	56%	24%	7%	1%	1%	3%	0%	9%
FI	61%	12%	15%	4%	7%	2%	0%	1%
SE	41%	18%	24%	7%	8%	2%	1%	0%
UK	48%	27%	8%	4%	6%	2%	1%	2%
CY	70%	25%	2%	1%	0%	1%	1%	0%
CZ	52%	30%	6%	5%	4%	2%	0%	1%
EE	60%	25%	6%	2%	1%	1%	1%	3%
HU	56%	26%	8%	4%	3%	2%	0%	1%
LV	60%	28%	5%	1%	1%	2%	1%	2%
LT	69%	18%	3%	2%	1%	3%	1%	3%
MT	68%	17%	6%	1%	5%	2%	0%	2%
PL	58%	30%	5%	3%	1%	2%	-	1%
SK	41%	44%	6%	4%	2%	1%	0%	2%
SI	61%	31%	3%	2%	1%	1%	0%	0%

When analysed in terms of interviewees' socio-demographic characteristics:

- ◆ More women seemed concerned by the possible impact on the environment and health of the construction of such a site (differential of 9 points by comparison with men). Slightly more men worry about the risk from leaks and the transport of waste to the disposal site.
- ◆ Respondents aged 55 and over seem to fear the possible impact of underground disposal on the environment and health less, in contrast to students who are the most concerned by this question.
- ◆ A slightly higher percentage of citizens positioning themselves in the centre politically speaking are also concerned about the environmental and health consequences.
- ◆ Interviewees living in a small or averaged sized town are also more worried about this impact, whereas those living in large towns are slightly more concerned about the risk of leaks.
- ◆ Respondents who considered themselves to be not well informed about radioactive waste are more likely to fear the effects of an underground disposal on the environment and health (+9 points by comparison with well-informed respondents). Furthermore, a higher proportion of people who regard themselves as well-informed are concerned about the transport of waste to the site (+6 points by comparison with ill-informed respondents) and to a lesser degree a terrorist attack (+3 points).
- ◆ Finally, opponents of nuclear energy seem more worried about the impact on the environment and health of such a site than its supporters (+11 points). Furthermore, the supporters of nuclear energy seem more fearful than its opponents regarding the transport of waste to a disposal site (+4 points).

The table on the following page presents the responses given by socio-demographic variables of citizens of the European Union.

Main fears of citizens regarding the construction of a disposal site for radioactive waste near their home by socio-demographic variables

Q13.	The possible effects on the environment and health	The risks of radioactive leaks while the site is in operation	Transport of waste to the disposal site	The risks due to a terrorist attack	A major drop in local property prices	None of these (SPONTANEOUS)	Other (SPONTANEOUS)	DK
EU25	53%	28%	7%	4%	3%	2%	1%	2%
Sex								
Male	48%	29%	9%	4%	4%	3%	1%	2%
Female	57%	26%	6%	3%	2%	2%	1%	3%
Age								
15-24	55%	29%	7%	3%	2%	2%	0%	2%
25-39	55%	28%	7%	4%	3%	1%	1%	1%
40-54	55%	26%	8%	3%	3%	2%	1%	1%
55 +	48%	28%	8%	5%	4%	3%	1%	4%
Education (End of)								
15	49%	27%	8%	4%	2%	3%	1%	5%
16-19	53%	28%	7%	4%	3%	2%	1%	1%
20+	53%	27%	9%	4%	4%	1%	1%	1%
Still Studying	58%	29%	6%	3%	2%	1%	0%	1%
Left-Right scale								
(1-4) Left	53%	28%	8%	4%	3%	2%	1%	2%
(5-6) Centre	55%	27%	7%	4%	3%	2%	0%	1%
(7-10) Right	48%	28%	9%	5%	5%	3%	1%	1%
Subjective urbanisation								
Rural village	52%	27%	8%	4%	3%	2%	1%	2%
Small/ mid size town	54%	27%	7%	4%	3%	2%	1%	2%
Large town	52%	29%	7%	4%	3%	2%	1%	2%
Level of information								
Well informed	46%	28%	12%	6%	4%	2%	1%	1%
Not well informed	55%	28%	6%	3%	3%	2%	1%	2%
Support for nuclear energy								
In favour	47%	29%	10%	5%	5%	2%	0%	1%
Opposed	58%	27%	6%	3%	2%	2%	1%	2%

2.4. Involvement of citizens in the construction of such a site

Questionnaire source: Q14

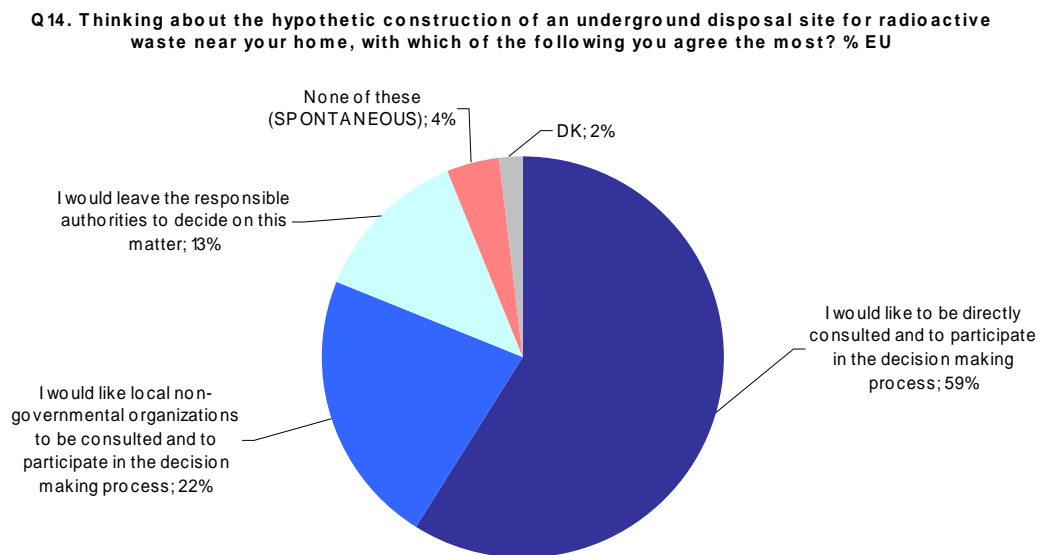
Now let us consider the attitudes taken by European Union citizens in terms of their involvement in the hypothetical construction of an underground disposal site for radioactive waste near their home.

- Six out of ten respondents would want to give their opinion -

Across the European Union, a majority of citizens would want to be consulted and to play a part in taking the decision in the hypothetical construction of an underground disposal site for radioactive waste near their home (59%). This result reveals the willingness of citizens to take part in the decision-making process in this domain.

Furthermore, 22% of respondents would wish local non-governmental organisations to take part in the consultation and decision-making process in this area.

Finally, 13% of people interviewed would leave it to the responsible authorities to decide on this matter.



Indirectly, a certain lack of trust can be perceived here on the part of European Union citizens towards the authorities responsible in this matter. A total of 81% of them would prefer either to take part themselves in the negotiations or for local NGOs to do so. They therefore advocate the more active participation of society alongside the responsible authorities in the consultation and decision-making process as regards the disposal of radioactive waste.

The **Spanish** are the mostly likely to call for an opportunity to participate in the consultation and decision-making process as regards the disposal of radioactive waste near their homes (74%). Two-thirds of **Germans** and **Poles** gave the same response (respectively 66% and 65%) along with 63% of **Greeks**, 62% of **Austrians** and 61% of **Cypriots**. Conversely, only 39% of **Lithuanians** would wish to give their opinions in this domain.

Almost three out of ten citizens would prefer local NGOs to take part in the debate in **the Netherlands** (29%), **Sweden** (29%), the **United Kingdom** (29%), **Finland** (28%) and the **Czech Republic** (28%).

A third of respondents in **Latvia** trust the responsible authorities in this matter and state that they prefer to leave them to take the decisions (32%). This is also the case for a quarter of respondents in **Estonia** (26%), the **Czech Republic** (25%), **Lithuania** (25%) and **Slovakia** (25%).

Finally, we note that 9% of citizens in **Portugal** do not know what attitude they would adopt if such a site were constructed near their homes.

Q14.	I would like to be directly consulted and to participate in the decision making process	I would like local non-governmental organizations to be consulted and to participate in the decision making process	I would leave the responsible authorities to decide on this matter	None of these (SPONTANEOUS)	DK
EU25	59%	22%	13%	4%	2%
BE	56%	25%	14%	4%	0%
DK	54%	24%	18%	1%	3%
DE	66%	19%	10%	4%	1%
EL	63%	21%	8%	7%	1%
ES	74%	10%	9%	3%	5%
FR	53%	26%	17%	3%	1%
IE	57%	22%	9%	5%	7%
IT	52%	27%	12%	6%	4%
LU	59%	20%	12%	6%	2%
NL	57%	29%	10%	1%	2%
AT	62%	16%	8%	10%	4%
PT	54%	16%	15%	6%	9%
FI	51%	28%	19%	1%	1%
SE	53%	29%	16%	2%	1%
UK	55%	29%	12%	1%	3%
CY	61%	21%	9%	7%	2%
CZ	42%	28%	25%	3%	2%
EE	43%	21%	26%	5%	5%
HU	55%	23%	16%	5%	1%
LV	44%	14%	32%	6%	4%
LT	39%	21%	25%	7%	7%
MT	58%	19%	13%	9%	2%
PL	65%	14%	17%	2%	3%
SK	46%	21%	25%	7%	2%
SI	54%	23%	16%	6%	1%

As regards the involvement of citizens in relation to their socio-demographic characteristics, gender, place of residence and the level of information about radioactive waste do not significantly influence the distribution of responses here.

- ◆ More respondents aged between 25 and 54 would wish either to take part in the debate themselves or to see local NGOs doing so; whereas the oldest group (55 and over) and the youngest (15-24 years) would rely slightly more on the responsible authorities.
- ◆ While people with the highest educational level would prefer to take part in the negotiations or for local NGOs to do so, citizens with a low educational level would be more willing to leave the decision to the responsible authorities.
- ◆ A slightly higher percentage of respondents positioning themselves in the centre politically speaking would wish to take part in the debate, while left supporters are more likely to trust the local NGO and those on the right the responsible authorities.
- ◆ More opponents of nuclear energy wish to participate actively in the consultation and decision-making process while those supporting this type of energy would prefer to turn to local NGOs or to the responsible authorities.

Q14.	I would like to be directly consulted and to participate in the decision making process	I would like local non-governmental organizations to be consulted and to participate in the decision making process	I would leave the responsible authorities to decide on this matter	None of these (SPONTANEOUS)	DK
EU25	59%	22%	13%	4%	2%
Age					
15-24	58%	21%	15%	3%	2%
25-39	62%	23%	11%	3%	1%
40-54	62%	23%	11%	3%	1%
55 +	53%	21%	16%	5%	4%
Education (End of)					
15	56%	19%	15%	5%	5%
16-19	59%	22%	13%	4%	2%
20+	60%	26%	11%	2%	1%
Still Studying	61%	22%	14%	2%	1%
Left-Right scale					
(1-4) Left	59%	25%	10%	4%	2%
(5-6) Centre	61%	22%	13%	3%	1%
(7-10) Right	55%	23%	16%	3%	2%
Support for nuclear energy					
In favour	56%	26%	15%	2%	1%
Opposed	62%	21%	11%	4%	2%

3. The management of radioactive waste

This part of the report considers the actual management of radioactive waste. We shall first analyse the opinion of citizens of the European Union regarding uncontaminated recycled materials coming from the nuclear industries. As in other industrial activities, the nuclear industry may wish to recycle uncontaminated materials (construction materials, scrap metals, etc.), rather than disposing of them as waste.

We will measure the actual knowledge of our interviewees on the subject of how their country manages this type of waste, using a true/false quiz consisting of five statements. Finally, we shall what sources of information are most trusted by citizens of the European Union in this domain.

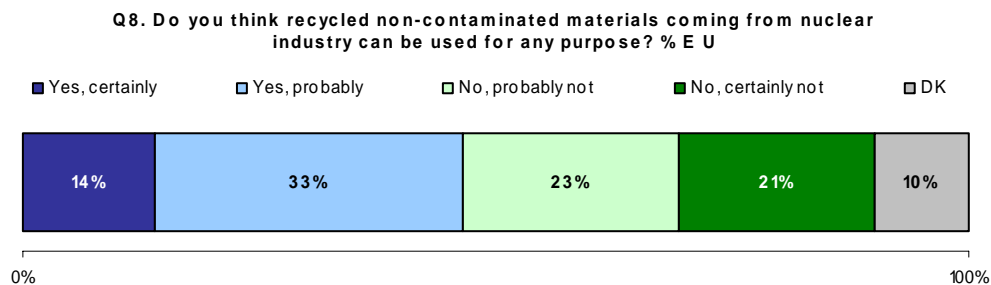
3.1. The general opinion of recycling uncontaminated materials

Questionnaire source: Q8

Let us first of all consider to what extent the interviewees believe that uncontaminated recycled material coming from the nuclear industry could be used for any purpose.

- Opinions are divided on the use of recycled materials coming from the nuclear industry -

Citizens of the European Union express varied opinions on this subject. However, a slight majority of citizens consider that this type of material can be used for any purpose (47%). In parallel, 43% of respondents think the opposite and 10% are unable to answer.



A more detailed analysis of responses to this question shows us that, among citizens supporting recycling, 14% answer 'yes, certainly' and 33% 'yes, probably'.

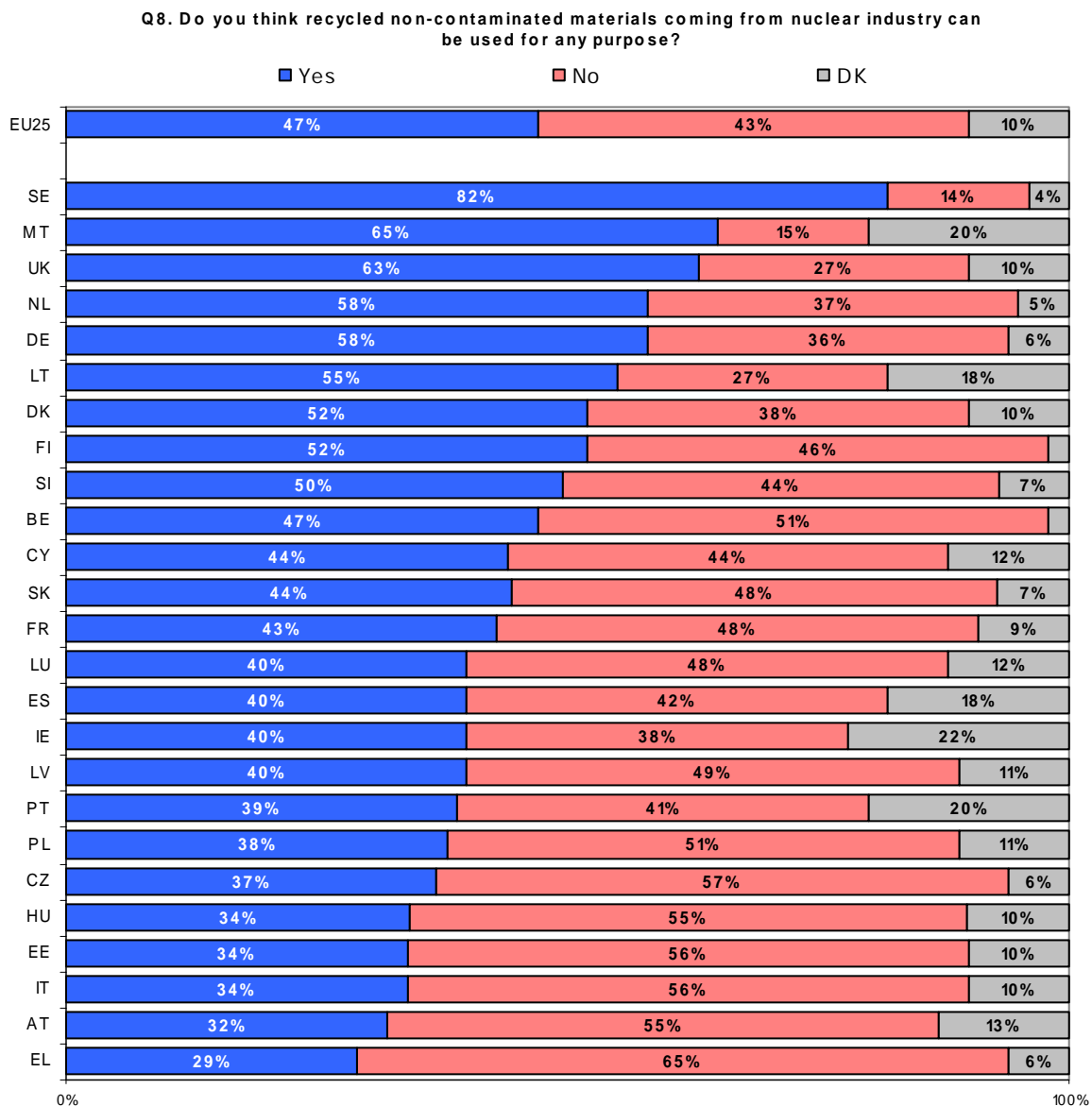
Furthermore, an equivalent percentage of opponents express their objection in a more or less certain fashion (23% of 'no, probably not' responses and 21% 'no, certainly not' responses).

Opposition is thus expressed more strongly than approval.

In **Sweden**, more than eight out of ten respondents are in favour of the use of uncontaminated recycled materials coming from the nuclear industry (82%). They are followed by citizens in **Malta** (65%), the **United Kingdom** (63%), the **Netherlands** (58%) and **Germany** (58%).

The strongest opposition to the use of this type of materials is recorded in **Greece** where almost two-thirds of the population think that these materials cannot be used for any purpose (65%). Strong objections are also expressed in the **Czech Republic** (57%), **Estonia** (56%), **Italy** (56%), **Hungary** (55%) and **Austria** (55%).



























Finally, 22% of people interviewed were unable to give an opinion on this question in **Ireland**. This figure was 20% in **Malta** and **Portugal**.

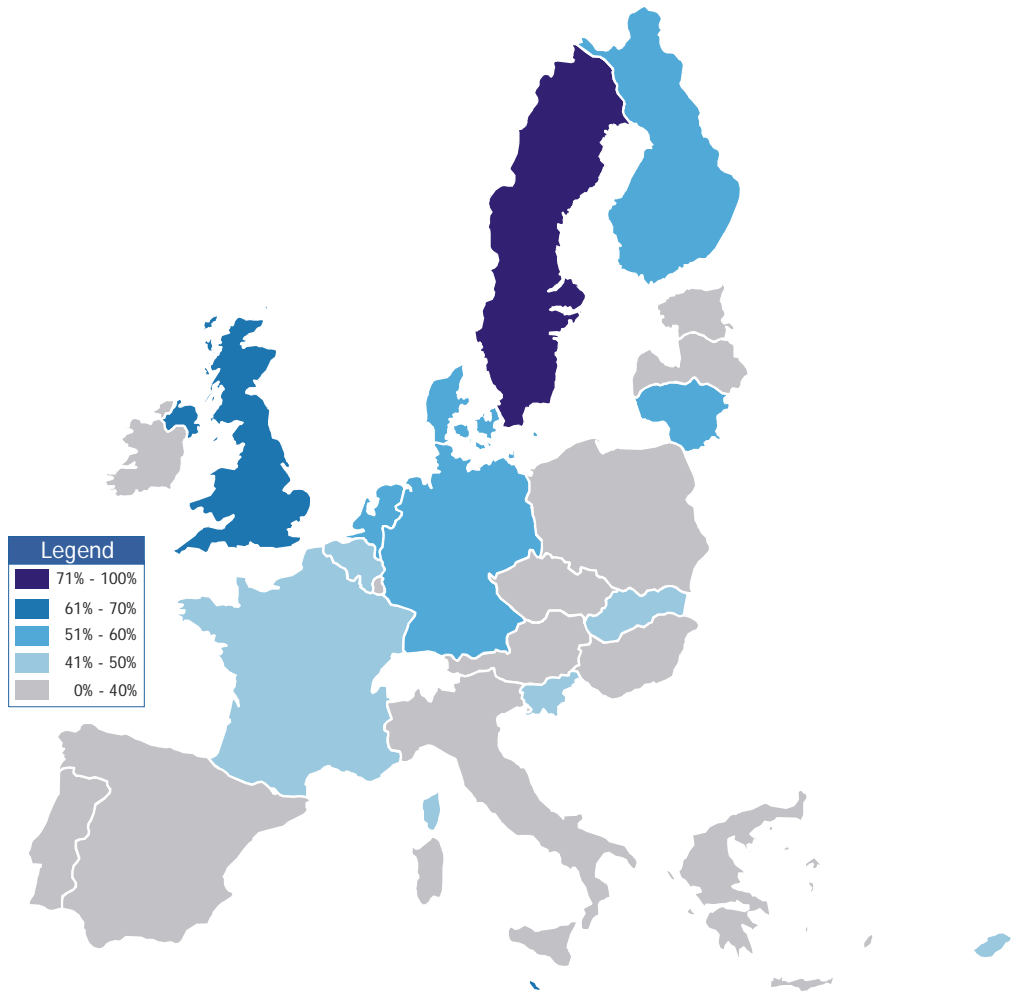


The map below shows a graphic representation of supporters of the use of recycled uncontaminated materials coming from nuclear industry for any purpose.

Q8 Do you think recycled non-contaminated materials coming from nuclear industry can be used for any purpose?

Answers: Yes

Member States Results	
 Sweden	82%
 Malta	65%
 United Kingdom	63%
 Germany	58%
 The Netherlands	58%
 Lithuania	55%
 Denmark	52%
 Finland	52%
 Slovenia	50%
 EU25	47%
 Belgium	47%
 Cyprus	44%
 Slovakia	44%
 France	43%
 Spain	40%
 Ireland	40%
 Luxembourg	40%
 Latvia	40%
 Portugal	39%
 Poland	38%
 Czech Republic	37%
 Italy	34%
 Estonia	34%
 Hungary	34%
 Austria	32%
 Greece	29%



When analysed in terms of interviewees' socio-demographic characteristics:

- ◆ More men approved of the use of uncontaminated recycled materials coming from the nuclear industry for any purpose, while women are more likely to express no opinion on this subject.
- ◆ Citizens aged less than 40 years also seem in favour of the recycling of this type of materials.
- ◆ The longer respondents have remained in education, the more likely they are to support the use of uncontaminated recycled materials.
- ◆ Professionals or business managers are more likely to support this recycling, while people who stay at home are more likely not have a view on this subject.
- ◆ More citizens among those who consider themselves well-informed about nuclear waste in general are in favour of the use of uncontaminated recycled materials coming from the nuclear industry.
- ◆ Finally, supporters of nuclear energy tend, logically enough, to adopt the same attitude to this principle.

Q8.	Yes	No	DK
EU25	47%	43%	10%
Sex			
Male	52%	41%	7%
Female	43%	45%	12%
Age			
15-24	50%	43%	7%
25-39	51%	42%	8%
40-54	46%	45%	9%
55 +	43%	43%	14%
Education (End of)			
15	39%	46%	15%
16-19	48%	44%	8%
20+	54%	39%	7%
Still Studying	51%	43%	6%
Respondent occupation scale			
Self-employed	50%	42%	8%
Managers	60%	34%	6%
Other white collars	47%	45%	7%
Manual workers	48%	45%	8%
House persons	38%	44%	17%
Unemployed	46%	45%	9%
Retired	42%	45%	13%
Students	51%	43%	6%
Level of information			
Well informed	59%	35%	5%
Not well informed	43%	46%	11%
Support for nuclear energy			
In favour	61%	34%	6%
Opposed	40%	51%	9%

3.2. Use of recycled material

Questionnaire source: Q9

Let us see precisely for which use(s) citizens would accept recycled material from the decommissioning of nuclear power stations, if the responsible authorities authorised its use.

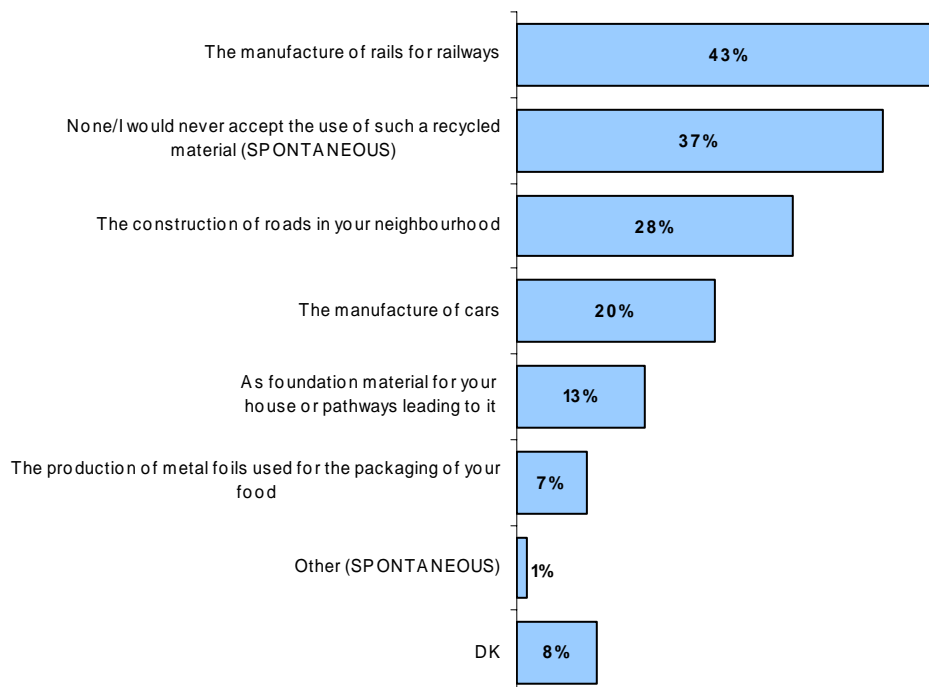
- Use of recycled materials mainly acceptable for the construction of roads -

The principle use of these materials would be the manufacture of rails for railways, the answer mentioned by 43% of citizens of the European Union. Next, 37% of respondents spontaneously stated that they would never accept the use of such materials. This high response rate indicates that there is rather strong opposition from the public on this subject.

However almost three in ten respondents would accept the use of these materials for the construction of roads in their neighbourhood (28%) and a quarter would accept it in the manufacture of cars (20%).

When it is a case of using these materials in an environment close to the interviewees, they were significantly less likely to accept their use, either as a foundation material for their house or pathways leading to it (13%) or, in particular, for the production of metal foils used for the packaging of their own food (7%).

Q9. If the responsible authorities would allow the use of recycled material from the decommissioning of nuclear power stations, for which of the following purposes would you accept its use? % EU



Considerable differences of opinion about this subject emerged between the Member States:

- ◆ Generally speaking citizens in **Sweden** and **the Netherlands** would be more willing than their neighbours to accept all the applications mentioned here for recycled materials coming from the nuclear industry;
- ◆ More respondents in the **Nordic countries** (Sweden, Finland, Denmark) and **the Netherlands** would welcome the manufacture of rails for railways with recycled material from decommissioned nuclear power stations;
- ◆ The **Swedes** and the **Dutch** expressed the same positive view regarding the construction of roads in their neighbourhood using such materials, and in the manufacture of cars, an application which was also more generally acceptable to the **British** and the **Danes**;
- ◆ Building the foundations or the driveway of one's own house using these recycled materials recycling would be more acceptable to citizens in **the Netherlands**, the **United Kingdom** and **Sweden**;
- ◆ The use of this type of materials for packaging food in aluminium foil seemed better perceived in **the Netherlands** and the **United Kingdom**;
- ◆ It should be noticed that a higher percentage of respondents (close to 20%) were unable to answer this question in **Portugal, Malta, Ireland, Lithuania** and **Spain**;
- ◆ Finally, those citizens who would never accept the use of such recycled material tend to live in **Greece** (60%), **Hungary** (60%), **Austria** (57%) and **Latvia** (51%).

Q9.	The manufacture of rails for railways	None/I would never accept the use of such a recycled material (SPONTANEOUS)	The construction of roads in your neighbourhood	The manufacture of cars	As foundation material for your house or pathways leading to it	The production of metal foils used for the packaging (SPONTANEOUS) of your food	Other (SPONTANEOUS)	DK
EU25	43%	37%	28%	20%	13%	7%	1%	8%
BE	49%	38%	42%	28%	20%	8%	2%	2%
DK	62%	24%	40%	31%	15%	7%	0%	7%
DE	45%	43%	23%	19%	9%	6%	1%	4%
EL	28%	60%	16%	9%	6%	3%	0%	4%
ES	38%	31%	32%	21%	17%	10%	1%	16%
FR	51%	29%	34%	25%	13%	7%	1%	7%
IE	28%	45%	22%	16%	6%	3%	1%	17%
IT	26%	44%	14%	8%	8%	6%	2%	9%
LU	36%	45%	31%	16%	10%	7%	0%	6%
NL	66%	16%	49%	33%	25%	15%	1%	6%
AT	22%	57%	7%	10%	4%	3%	3%	12%
PT	31%	35%	28%	15%	13%	4%	2%	18%
FI	67%	26%	32%	29%	12%	5%	1%	2%
SE	76%	16%	53%	38%	22%	12%	1%	3%
UK	53%	26%	41%	34%	23%	14%	0%	10%
CY	41%	35%	30%	21%	13%	4%	0%	5%
CZ	46%	37%	24%	10%	6%	2%	0%	9%
EE	37%	42%	23%	11%	7%	2%	1%	10%
HU	25%	60%	14%	7%	6%	2%	2%	5%
LV	28%	51%	18%	6%	4%	3%	0%	8%
LT	30%	35%	19%	13%	5%	3%	5%	17%
MT	29%	22%	31%	23%	10%	5%	0%	18%
PL	35%	43%	18%	10%	7%	4%	1%	5%
SK	41%	41%	25%	10%	4%	2%	2%	6%
SI	39%	46%	21%	13%	6%	3%	2%	5%

The socio-demographic characteristics of citizens of the European Union seem to play a certain role in their acceptance of recycled materials from decommissioned nuclear power stations:

- ◆ Men would accept the use of these materials for all the applications suggested here more readily than women whereas more women spontaneously state that they would never accept such uses.
- ◆ Respondents aged between 15 and 39 years would be more willing to accept these recycled materials than their elders.
- ◆ The higher the educational level of the interviewees, the more they came out in favour of the general use of these materials. Students also gave this answer, as did managers and residents in large towns.
- ◆ Finally, citizens who consider themselves generally well-informed about radioactive waste and those in favour of nuclear energy are also, unsurprisingly, more likely to accept these materials.

Q9.	The manufacture of rails for railways	None/I would never accept the use of such a recycled material (SPONTANEOUS)	The construction of roads in your neighbourhood	The manufacture of cars	As the foundation material for your house or pathways leading to it	The production of metal foils used for the packaging of your food	Other (SPONTANEOUS)	DK
EU25	43%	37%	28%	20%	13%	7%	1%	8%
Sex								
Male	45%	33%	32%	22%	16%	9%	1%	7%
Female	40%	40%	24%	17%	10%	6%	1%	9%
Age								
15-24	50%	26%	29%	26%	15%	9%	1%	7%
25-39	47%	34%	31%	22%	14%	8%	1%	6%
40-54	42%	40%	28%	19%	13%	7%	1%	7%
55 +	36%	41%	24%	15%	10%	6%	1%	11%
Education (End of)								
15	32%	43%	22%	15%	10%	6%	1%	12%
16-19	42%	38%	26%	19%	12%	6%	1%	7%
20+	52%	32%	35%	24%	16%	9%	1%	6%
Still Studying	54%	25%	31%	28%	15%	10%	1%	5%
Respondent occupation scale								
Self-employed	44%	36%	29%	19%	16%	9%	1%	6%
Managers	56%	29%	39%	27%	17%	9%	1%	5%
Other white collars	44%	35%	26%	18%	13%	7%	2%	7%
Manual workers	44%	36%	27%	21%	14%	7%	1%	7%
House persons	35%	41%	22%	16%	9%	5%	1%	12%
Unemployed	39%	38%	28%	22%	14%	7%	1%	7%
Retired	35%	43%	24%	14%	9%	6%	1%	10%
Students	54%	25%	31%	28%	15%	10%	1%	5%
Subjective urbanisation								
Rural village	43%	37%	29%	20%	12%	7%	1%	8%
Small/ mid size town	40%	38%	25%	18%	11%	6%	1%	8%
Large town	47%	33%	31%	22%	16%	10%	1%	8%
Level of information								
Well informed	50%	31%	36%	24%	17%	10%	1%	5%
Not well informed	41%	39%	25%	18%	12%	6%	1%	8%
Support for nuclear energy								
In favour	56%	24%	38%	28%	18%	10%	1%	6%
Opposed	36%	46%	21%	15%	10%	6%	1%	7%

To end this section on the recycling of uncontaminated material coming from the nuclear industry **we have cross tabulated the two questions analysed above** in order to discover the general opinion expressed by interviewees on this subject on the basis of the uses they would accept⁵.

While across the European Union, 43% of citizens would accept the use of this type of recycled material for the manufacture of rails for railways, this is true of the 70% of citizens who had no reservations ('yes, certainly' responses) about the use of these materials for any purpose. We also observe that 35% of citizens would be prepared to accept this use even if they had declared themselves to be rather opposed to the recycling of these materials ('no, probably not' responses) and 16% would accept it while being firmly opposed to these recycled materials.

Some citizens opposed to the use of uncontaminated recycled materials coming from the nuclear industry would even approve of their use for the construction of roads in their neighbourhood (16% of those saying 'no, probably not' and 7% of those saying 'no, certainly not').

Opponents of the use of this type of material are, however, very unlikely to accept these recycled materials for applications that concern them more directly, such as the construction of their house or the packaging of their food.

Finally, 11% of respondents firmly supporting the use of these materials for any purpose, and 16% of those 'probably' supporting it state that they would never accept the use of such a material when the detailed possibilities for use were put forward.

<i>Q9. Use allowed for ..</i>	%	Q8. Use of un-contaminated materials			
		Yes, certainly	Yes, probably	No, probably not	No, certainly not
	EU25				
The manufacture of rails for railways	43%	70%	61%	35%	16%
The construction of roads in your neighbourhood	28%	57%	40%	16%	7%
The manufacture of cars	20%	45%	29%	10%	3%
As foundation material for your house or pathways leading to it	13%	33%	18%	6%	2%
The production of metal foils used for the packaging of your food	7%	20%	10%	3%	2%
None/I would never accept the use of such a recycled material	37%	11%	16%	47%	75%
Other (SPONTANEOUS)	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
DK	8%	3%	6%	5%	4%

⁵ Q9. If the responsible authorities would allow the use of recycled material (construction materials, scrap metals, etc.) from the decommissioning of nuclear power stations, for which of the following purposes would you accept its use? & Q8. Do you think recycled uncontaminated materials coming from nuclear industry can be used for any purpose?

3.3. Actual knowledge regarding management

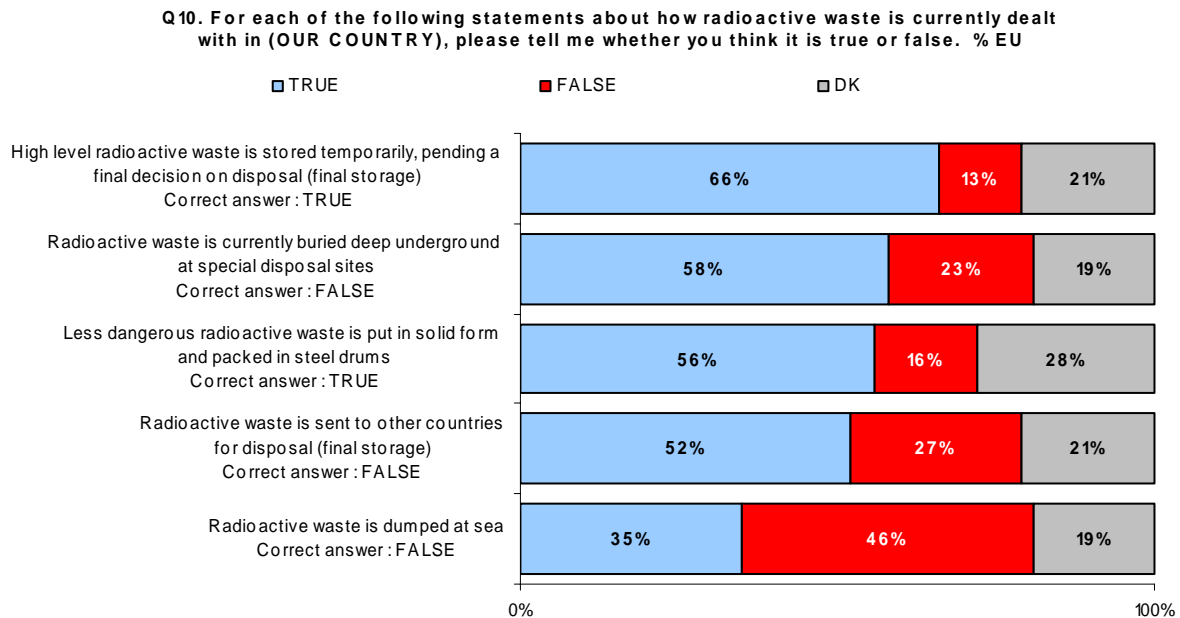
Questionnaire source: Q10

- Mixed knowledge of the management of radioactive waste -

Two-thirds of citizens of the European Union seem to know that high-level radioactive waste is stored temporarily (66% correct responses). Furthermore, the majority of interviewees know that less dangerous radioactive waste is put in solid form and packed in steel drums (56% correct responses).

However, a majority of the population gives the wrong answer in stating that on the one hand radioactive waste is either buried deep underground at special disposal sites (58% incorrect answers against 23% correct) and on the other hand is sent to other countries for disposal (final storage) (52% incorrect answers against 27% correct).

Finally, fewer than one respondent in two thinks, rightly, that radioactive waste is not dumped at sea (46% correct answers) but more than a third believe the opposite (35% incorrect answers).



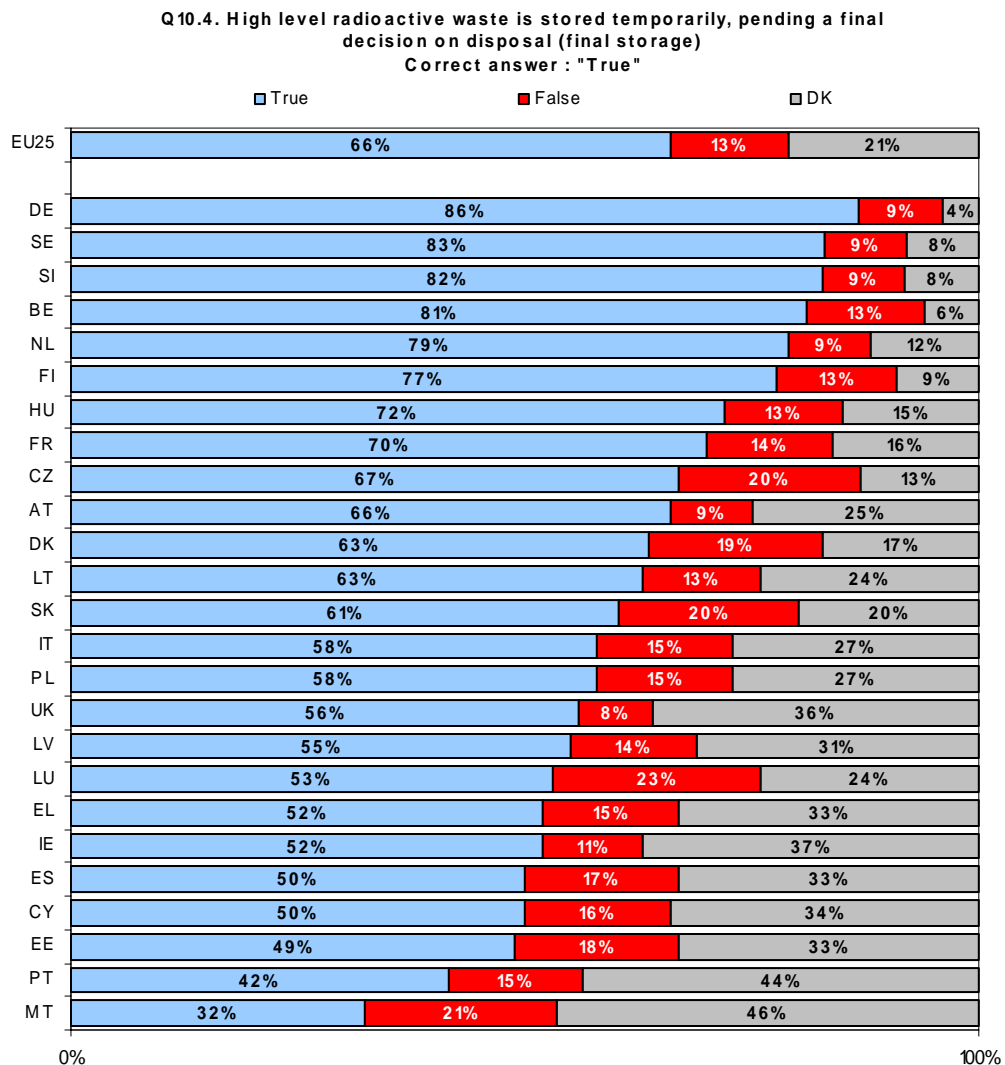
3.3.1. Temporary storage

Two-thirds of citizens of the European Union are aware of the temporary storage procedure for radioactive waste pending a final decision on disposal (66%).

In **Germany**, nearly nine out of ten gave the correct answer - true – to the statement that high-level radioactive waste is stored temporarily pending a final decision on disposal (86%). More than eight out of ten respondents also gave the right answer in **Sweden** (83%), **Slovenia** (82%) and **Belgium** (81%).

Temporary storage pending a final decision, however, seems less well-known, particularly in **Estonia**, **Portugal** and **Malta** where fewer than one interviewee in ten gave the right answer.

It should be noted that the highest percentage of wrong answers came in **Luxembourg** (23%) and **Malta** (21%). There were also high non-response rates in many countries, including **Malta** (46%) and **Portugal** (44%).



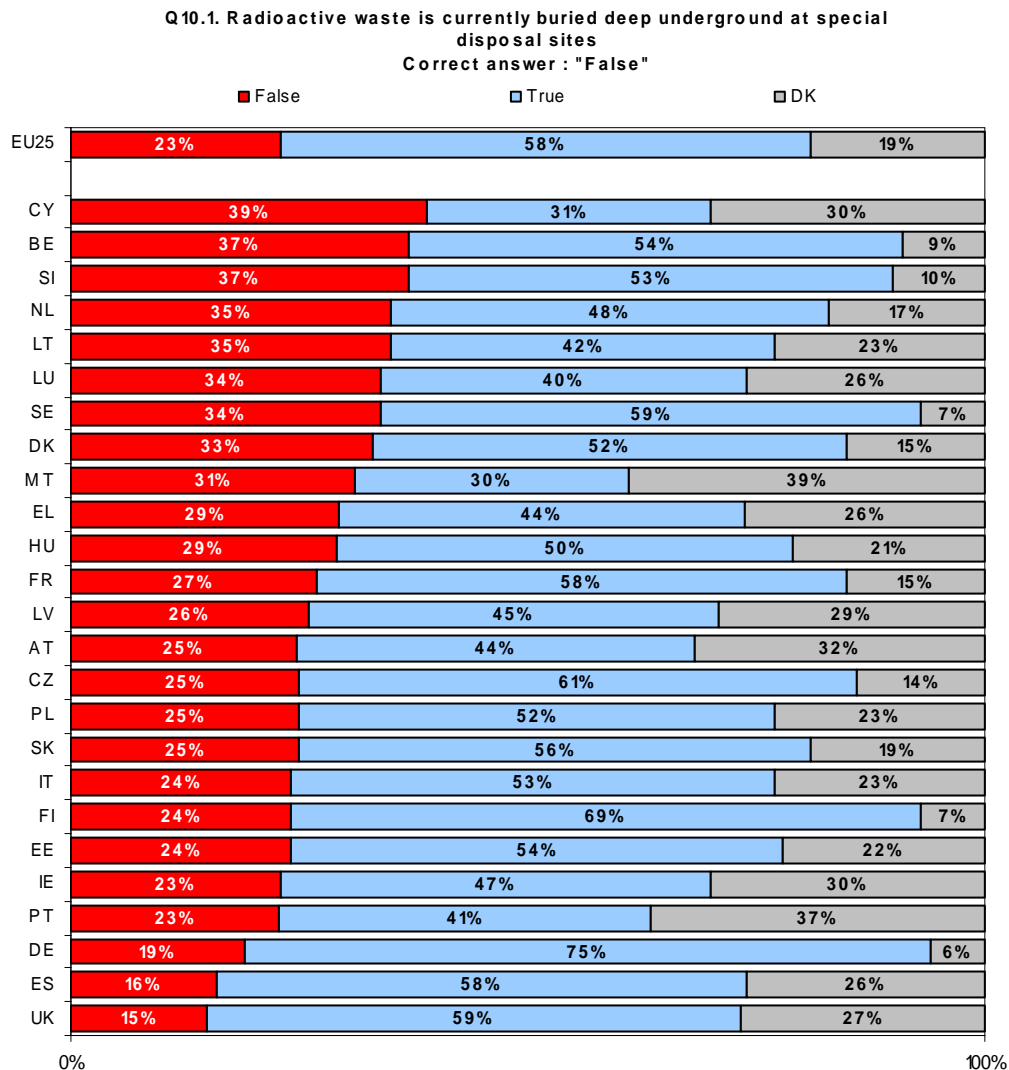
3.3.2. Underground disposal of radioactive waste

Almost six out of ten citizens of the European Union gave the wrong answer, stating that radioactive waste is currently buried deep underground at special disposal sites (58%). Only 23% of people interviewed gave the right answer, stating that the opposite, and 19% were unable to answer this question.

More than a third of respondents knew that radioactive waste was not buried deep underground at special disposal sites in **Cyprus** (39%), **Belgium** (37%), **Slovenia** (37%), **the Netherlands** (35%), **Lithuania** (35%), **Luxembourg** (34%) and **Sweden** (34%).

The highest level of incorrect answers was found in **Germany** where three-quarters of respondents answered the question wrongly (75%), and **Finland** where more than two-thirds of the population also gave the incorrect response.

Finally, more 'don't knows' were recorded in, firstly, **Malta** (39%), followed by **Portugal** (37%).

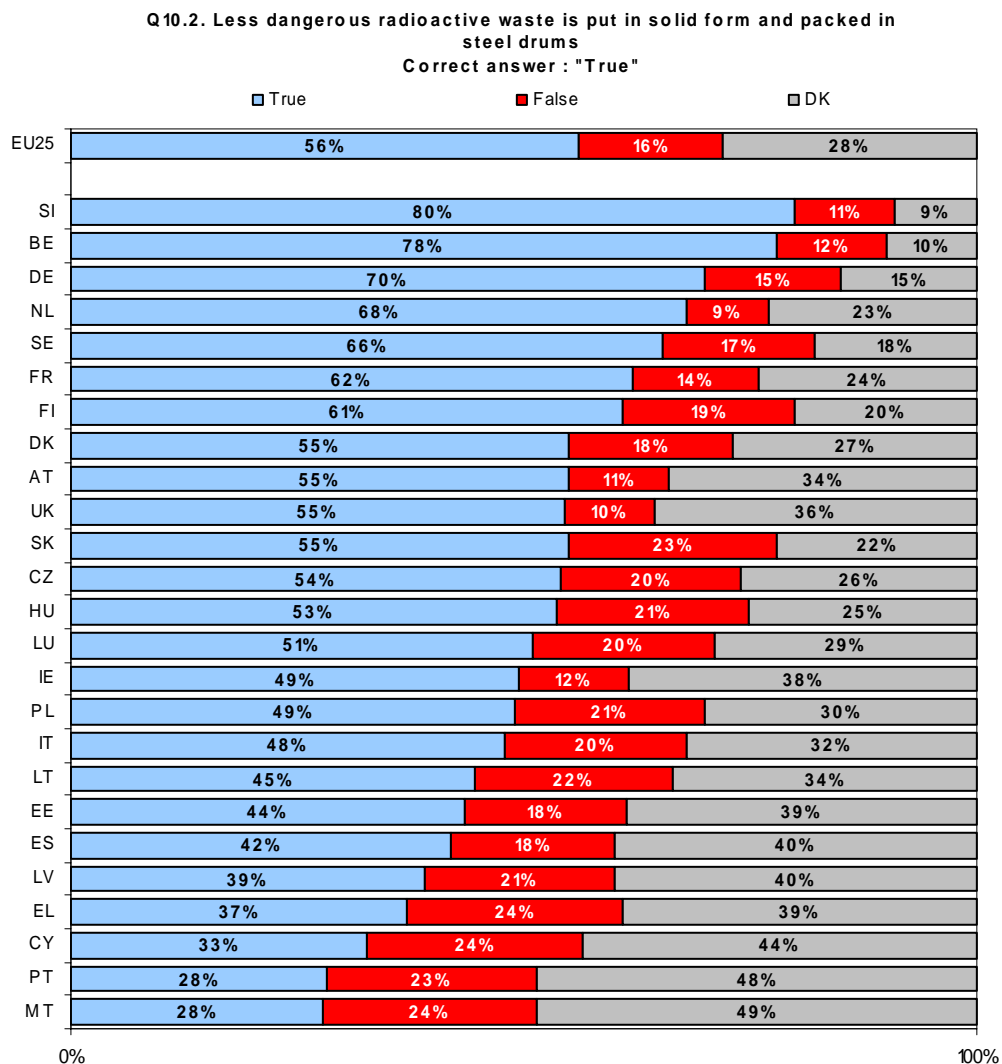


3.3.3. Storage in steel drums

The majority of citizens of the European Union are aware of the procedure which consists of putting less dangerous radioactive waste in solid form and packing it in steel drums (56%). However, 16% of respondents do not know this and 28% are unable to give an answer.

Eight out of ten interviewees gave the right answer to this statement in **Slovenia** (80%) and **Belgium** (78%).

Conversely, fewer than three in ten respondents in **Portugal** (28%) and **Malta** (28%) were aware of this procedure. This poor result indicates a lack of public knowledge. In these two countries, nearly one in two interviewees were unable to give an answer: 49% in Malta and 48% in Portugal.

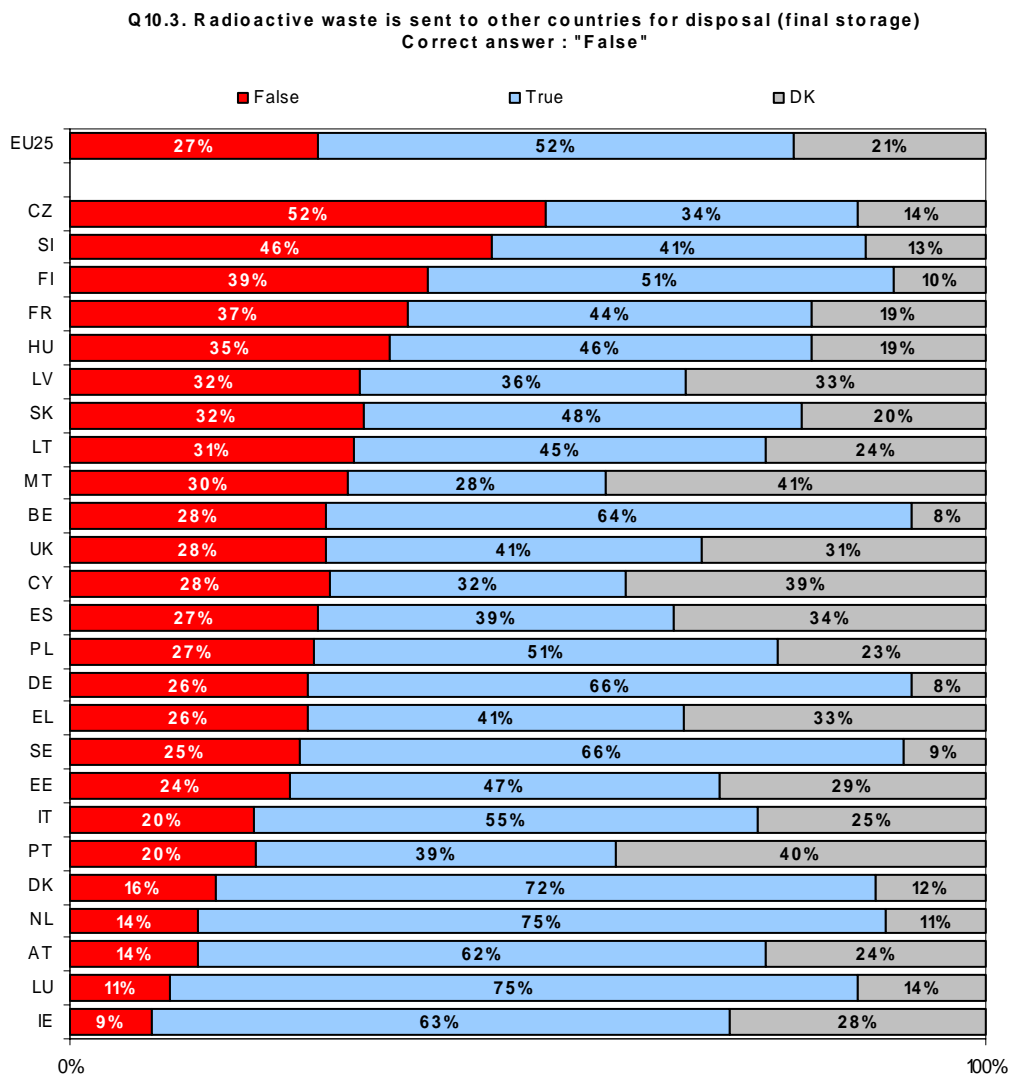


3.3.4. Despatch to other countries

The majority of the population of the European Union give the incorrect answer when they state that radioactive waste is sent to other countries for final disposal. 52% of people interviewed answer ‘true’ to this statement, which is in fact ‘false’, the answer given by 27% of respondents. Finally, 21% of interviewees are unable to give an opinion on this subject.

The **Czech Republic** is the only Member State in which a majority of citizens give the correct answer: 52% of Czechs seem to know that radioactive waste is not sent to other countries for final disposal.

Otherwise, three-quarters of respondents wrongly believe that this type of waste is sent abroad in **the Netherlands** (75%), **Luxembourg** (75%) and to a lesser extent **Denmark** (72%).

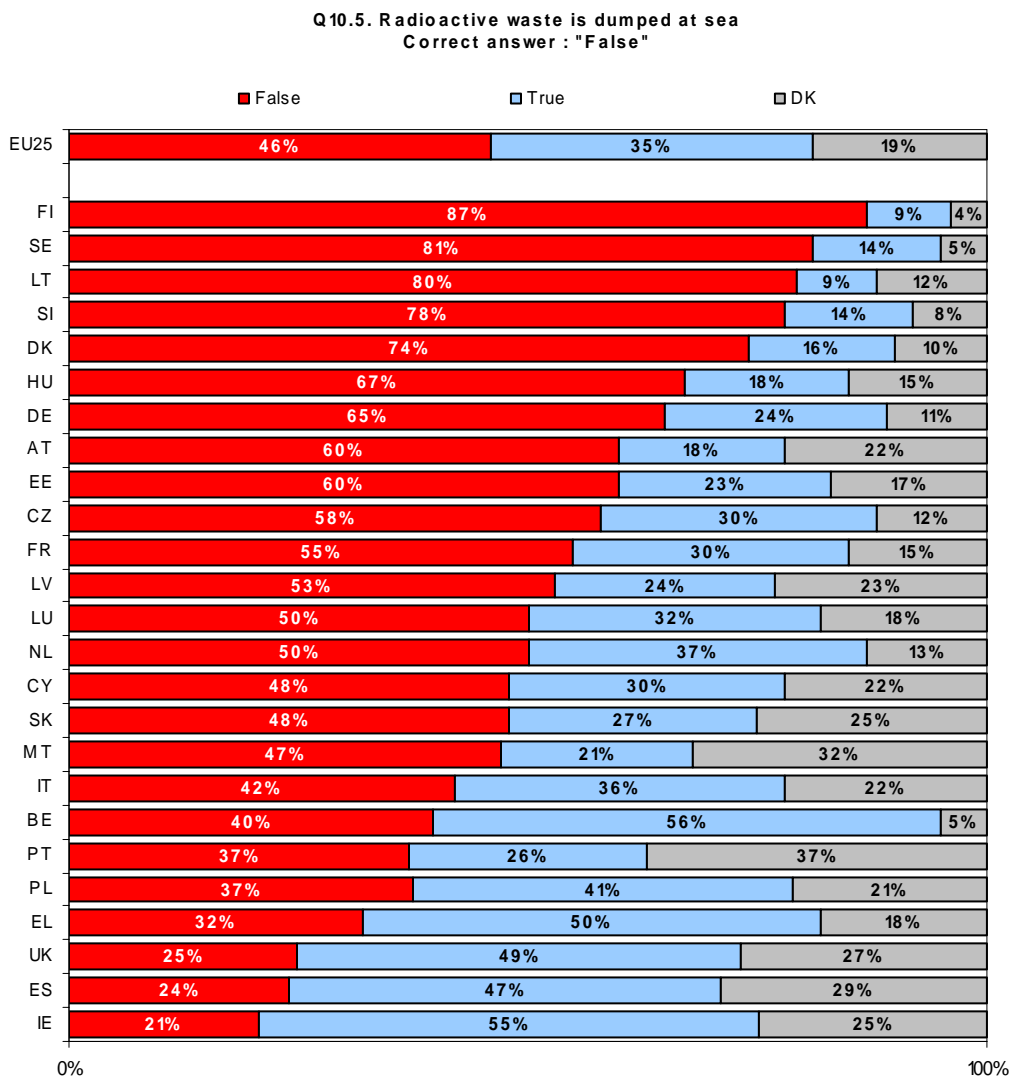


3.3.5. Dumping at sea

More than a third of citizens of the European Union answer incorrectly in stating that radioactive waste is dumped at sea (35%), while 46% know that this statement is false and 19% were unable to answer this question.

In **Finland**, a very high percentage of the population (87%) know that radioactive waste is not dumped at sea. This is also the case of 81% of respondents in **Sweden**, 80% in **Lithuania**, 78% in **Slovenia** and 74% in **Denmark**.

A high rate of incorrect answers to this question was recorded in **Belgium**, **Ireland**, and **Greece** where 56%, 55% and 50% of respondents respectively believe that radioactive waste is dumped at sea.

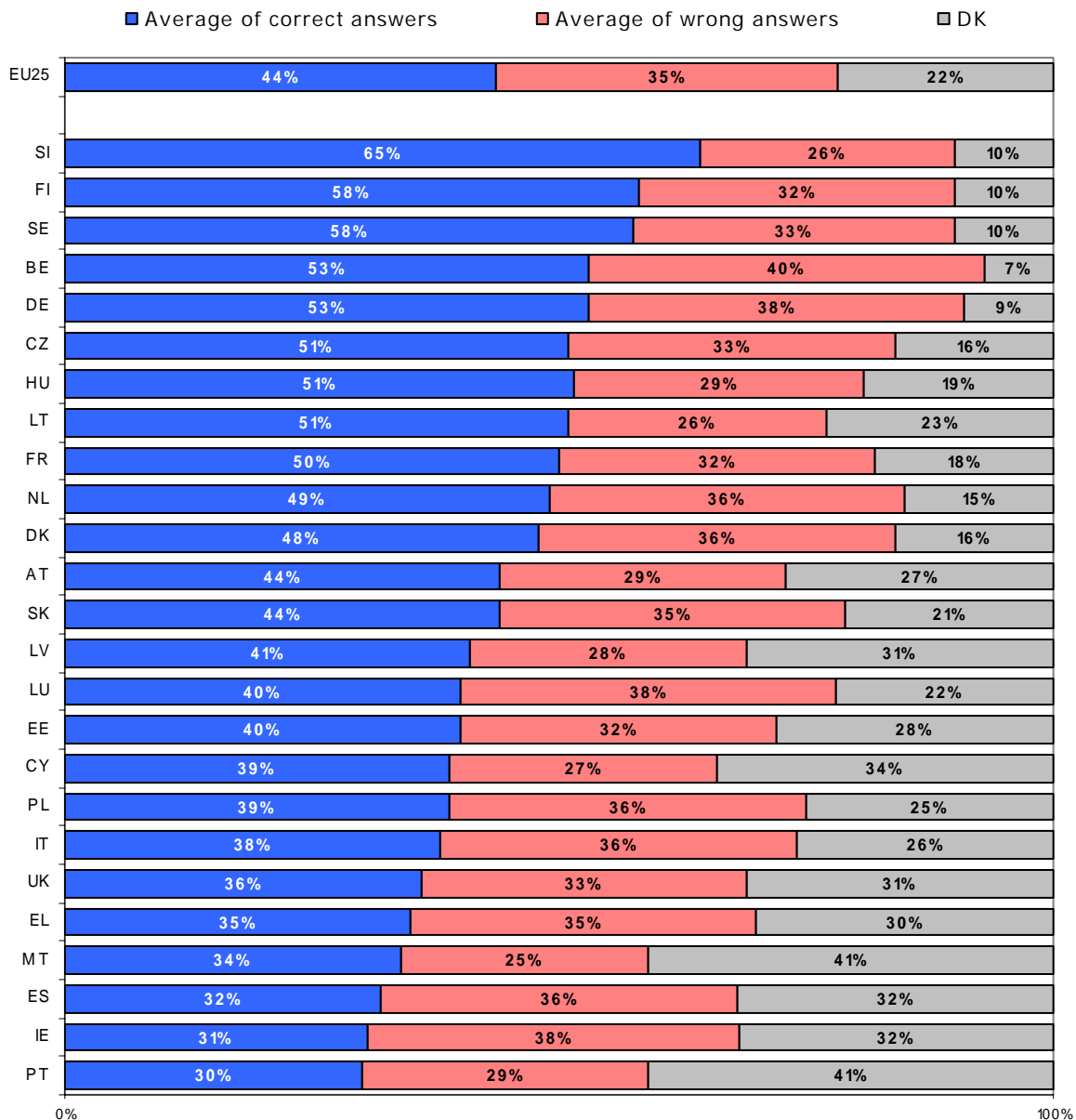


3.3.6. Average actual knowledge

An analysis of the average of the responses given to the five statements in this quiz on the management of radioactive waste indicates the following:

- ◆ The rate of correct responses across the European Union is 44%, the rate of incorrect responses 35% and the 'don't know' rate 22%. There is thus a certain degree of ignorance about this topic within the Union.
- ◆ The citizens who are, on average, best informed about the procedures for the management of radioactive waste are the **Slovenes** (65%), the **Finns** (58%), the **Swedes** (58%), the **Belgians** (53%) and the **Germans** (53%). It should be noted, however, that Belgium is the country that registered the highest average rate of wrong answers - 40% - but a very low non-response rate.
- ◆ Among those citizens knowing least about the management of radioactive waste, we find the **Portuguese** (30% correct responses on average), the **Irish** (31%) and the **Spanish** (32%).
- ◆ Finally, a higher average non-response rate is recorded in **Malta** (41%) and **Portugal** (41%).

Q10. AVERAGE OF ANSWERS MENTIONED AT THE 5 ITEMS



Let us now turn to the analysis of the average of the responses given in relation to the socio-demographic characteristics of citizens of the European Union.

- ◆ More men tend to give an answer, either correct or incorrect, while women recorded a higher rate of 'don't knows'.
- ◆ Age does not appear to be a significant factor in this domain. However, there is a higher non-response rate among respondents aged 55 and over.
- ◆ The further citizens have pursued their studies, the more they tend to give the correct answers, with the 'don't know' rate being very high among those who studied least (up to a maximum of age 15).
- ◆ If managers on average give the correct answer most often, more people who stay at home full-time were unable to give an opinion.
- ◆ More citizens among those who consider themselves well-informed about nuclear waste in general answer the questions about its management correctly, as do the supporters of nuclear energy.

Q10.	Average of correct answers	Average of wrong answers	DK
EU25	44%	35%	22%
Sex			
Male	46%	36%	18%
Female	41%	33%	25%
Age			
15-24	45%	35%	20%
25-39	44%	35%	21%
40-54	45%	36%	19%
55 +	42%	33%	25%
Education (End of)			
15	38%	33%	30%
16-19	45%	36%	20%
20+	48%	35%	17%
Still Studying	46%	36%	18%
Respondent occupation scale			
Self-employed	45%	36%	19%
Managers	49%	35%	16%
Other white collars	45%	36%	19%
Manual workers	44%	36%	21%
House persons	36%	32%	33%
Unemployed	44%	35%	21%
Retired	42%	33%	25%
Students	46%	36%	18%
Level of information			
Well informed	50%	37%	12%
Not well informed	42%	34%	24%
Support for nuclear energy			
In favour	49%	36%	16%
Opposed	43%	36%	22%

3.4. Sources of information

Questionnaire source: Q12

This part of the report considers the sources of information that citizens of the European Union most trust when it comes to information about how radioactive waste is managed in their countries. This question had already been posed during the survey carried out in late 2001.

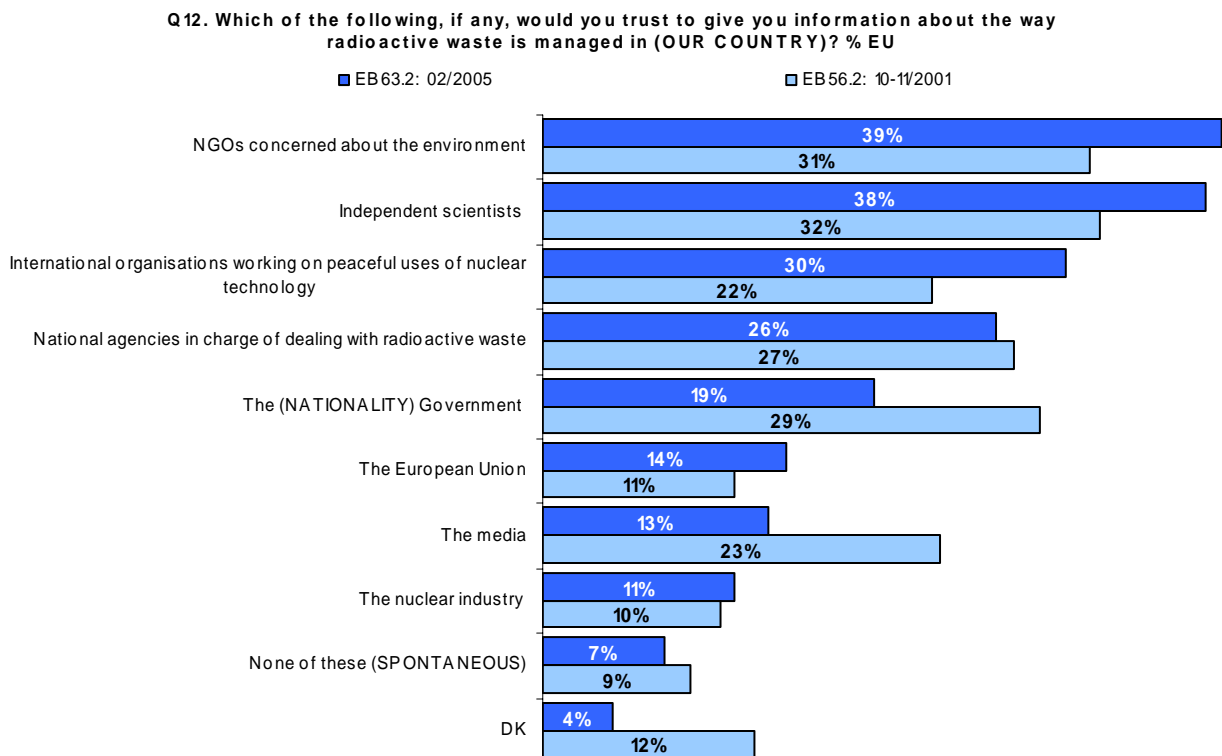
**- NGOs and independent scientists remain
the two preferred sources of information -**

Around one in four interviewees state that they trust either NGOs active in environmental protection (39%) or independent scientists (38%) to inform them about the management of radioactive waste in their country. These already represented the two main information sources in 2001, although to a lesser extent. NGOs working for environmental protection are up by 8 points, and independent scientists by 6 points.

International organisations working on peaceful uses of nuclear technology represent the third response given in 2005 (30%, +8 points). These organisations thus overtake national agencies in charge of dealing with radioactive waste and the national government by comparison with 2001, answers given in 2005 are respectively 26% (-1 point) and 19% (-10 points) of respondents.

14% of interviewees would trust the European Union to inform them about the way in which radioactive waste is managed in their country (+3 points), 13% the media (-10 points) and 11% the nuclear industry (+1 point).

In 2005, therefore, we can see a degree of loss of confidence in both national governments and the media as regards information about the management of radioactive waste, mainly to the benefit of non-governmental and international organisations.



The sources of information in which European Union citizens would have confidence for information about the management of radioactive waste in their country vary from one Member State to another:

- ◆ Generally speaking, citizens in Sweden and the Netherlands seem to draw on a wider range of sources of information in this domain. More of them cite several sources of information.
- ◆ More than one in two respondents in Slovenia (54%), Austria (53%) and Sweden (50%) would have more confidence in NGOs active in environmental protection for information in this domain.
- ◆ Six out of ten citizens in the Netherlands would prefer to turn to independent scientists (60%). They are followed by the Swedes (58%), the Danes (56%) and the Finns (55%).
- ◆ 50% of the Dutch and Swedes would also trust the information provided by international organisations working on peaceful uses of nuclear technology. This is also true of 44% of Czechs, 43% of Slovaks and 43% of Cypriots.
- ◆ Respondents in the Czech Republic (49%) and Sweden (46%) are more likely to trust their national agencies in charge of dealing with radioactive waste to provide them with information.
- ◆ A third of citizens in the Netherlands (34%), Portugal (34%) and Cyprus (32%) rely mostly on their national government.
- ◆ Around a quarter of interviewees state that they would most trust the European Union in this matter in Malta (27%), Cyprus (26%), Belgium (24%), the Netherlands (24%) and the Czech Republic (23%).
- ◆ The media would be more trusted in Greece (28%), Portugal (24%), Spain (22%) and Finland (20%).
- ◆ A higher level of trust is observed in the nuclear industry as a source of information about the management of radioactive waste in Sweden (26%) and Slovakia (22%).

The sources of information in which European Union citizens would have confidence for information about the management of radioactive waste in their country by Member State

Q12.	Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) concerned about the environment	Independent scientists	International organisations working on peaceful uses of nuclear technology	National agencies in charge of dealing with radioactive waste	The (NATIONALITY) Government	The European Union	The media	The nuclear industry
EU25	39%	38%	30%	26%	19%	14%	13%	11%
BE	43%	50%	38%	33%	21%	24%	14%	14%
DK	39%	56%	37%	37%	31%	15%	12%	9%
DE	32%	44%	33%	36%	13%	9%	13%	8%
EL	40%	43%	25%	23%	25%	18%	28%	5%
ES	31%	32%	15%	14%	30%	15%	22%	8%
FR	48%	43%	33%	23%	14%	14%	11%	15%
IE	36%	32%	25%	24%	27%	18%	19%	9%
IT	40%	21%	20%	24%	21%	11%	6%	8%
LU	44%	34%	26%	27%	29%	17%	11%	11%
NL	46%	60%	50%	38%	34%	24%	9%	10%
AT	53%	46%	27%	36%	20%	13%	19%	6%
PT	33%	26%	18%	23%	34%	17%	24%	10%
FI	33%	55%	37%	34%	22%	14%	20%	18%
SE	50%	58%	50%	46%	28%	10%	6%	26%
UK	38%	41%	29%	20%	16%	13%	10%	16%
CY	39%	39%	43%	29%	32%	26%	19%	15%
CZ	45%	41%	44%	49%	20%	23%	17%	17%
EE	35%	41%	40%	27%	13%	12%	13%	11%
HU	41%	41%	30%	25%	15%	17%	5%	4%
LV	26%	32%	28%	22%	15%	10%	19%	7%
LT	19%	30%	36%	16%	10%	18%	10%	18%
MT	39%	35%	28%	22%	24%	27%	16%	7%
PL	37%	29%	32%	13%	7%	13%	12%	9%
SK	49%	35%	43%	37%	19%	17%	19%	22%
SI	54%	35%	36%	37%	9%	12%	15%	14%

The sources of information most trusted by citizens of the European Union regarding the management of radioactive waste in their country varies with their socio-demographic profile.

- ◆ Men are slightly more likely than women to consult diverse information sources. More men mentioned independent scientists (+5 points), the European Union (+4), national agencies in charge of dealing with radioactive waste (+2), the national government (+2) and the nuclear industry (+2). However, more women state that they trust NGOs active in environment protection (+3).
- ◆ More young people aged between 15 and 24 years place their trust in sources such as the relevant national agencies (differential of +13 points by comparison with respondents aged 55 and over), the European Union (+10) and the nuclear industry (+9) for information about the management of radioactive waste.
- ◆ While citizens with a low educational level tend to trust their government and the media more, those with a higher level of education would prefer to turn to other sources.
- ◆ Respondents positioning themselves to the left politically are more likely to trust NGOs working in environmental protection. Right supporters seem, by comparison with supporters of the left, to prefer international organisations working on peaceful uses of nuclear technology, national agencies in charge of dealing with radioactive waste and the nuclear industry.
- ◆ People staying at home full-time seem to have less confidence in independent scientists, international organisations working on peaceful uses of nuclear technology, the European Union and the nuclear industry. It also emerges that students would trust national agencies in charge of dealing with radioactive waste and the nuclear industry to inform them about the management of radioactive waste in their country.
- ◆ More people living in large towns trust NGOs concerned about the environment. Furthermore, they were also more likely to mention all the information sources suggested here.
- ◆ The level of information about radioactive waste in general plays a certain role in the distribution of responses to this question. Of the eight sources of information listed here, well-informed citizens tend to trust a wider variety than not well informed citizens (six sources).
- ◆ Finally, supporters of nuclear energy also seem more willing to trust different sources of information about the management of radioactive waste in their country, mainly to the benefit of national agencies in charge of dealing with radioactive waste (+11 points by comparison with opponents), independent scientists (+9), international organisations working on peaceful uses of nuclear technology (+9) and the nuclear industry (+8).

Sources of information by socio-demographic variables

12.	Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) concerned about the environment	Independent scientists	International organisations working on peaceful uses of nuclear technology	National agencies in charge of dealing with radioactive waste	The (NATIONALITY) Government	The European Union	The media	The nuclear industry	None of these (SPONTANEOUS)	DK
EU25	39%	38%	30%	26%	19%	14%	13%	11%	7%	4%
Sex										
Male	37%	41%	30%	27%	20%	16%	13%	12%	7%	2%
Female	40%	36%	30%	25%	18%	12%	13%	10%	8%	5%
Age										
15-24	39%	34%	32%	34%	20%	20%	12%	17%	5%	2%
25-39	44%	39%	31%	27%	19%	15%	13%	12%	5%	2%
40-54	43%	43%	32%	26%	16%	12%	15%	10%	7%	2%
55 +	31%	36%	26%	21%	20%	10%	11%	8%	10%	6%
Education (End of)										
15	30%	30%	20%	17%	22%	10%	15%	8%	11%	8%
16-19	40%	38%	31%	26%	16%	13%	13%	12%	7%	2%
20+	46%	49%	37%	30%	18%	16%	11%	11%	5%	1%
Still Studying	43%	39%	35%	38%	20%	23%	12%	17%	4%	2%
Left-Right scale										
(1-4) Left	46%	43%	31%	27%	20%	15%	13%	9%	6%	2%
(5-6) Centre	39%	40%	32%	26%	18%	14%	14%	12%	7%	3%
(7-10) Right	36%	41%	34%	31%	20%	14%	12%	14%	5%	2%
Respondent occupation scale										
Self-employed	43%	43%	33%	24%	19%	16%	12%	10%	5%	2%
Managers	46%	52%	36%	34%	17%	16%	12%	12%	6%	2%
Other white collars	44%	42%	32%	30%	19%	14%	12%	12%	5%	2%
Manual workers	40%	36%	30%	26%	18%	12%	15%	12%	6%	2%
House persons	38%	29%	22%	22%	19%	10%	15%	8%	7%	8%
Unemployed	39%	34%	29%	21%	17%	14%	14%	11%	9%	3%
Retired	30%	36%	26%	20%	19%	10%	11%	9%	11%	5%
Students	43%	39%	35%	38%	20%	23%	12%	17%	4%	2%
Subjective urbanisation										
Rural village	37%	37%	28%	24%	18%	11%	13%	10%	9%	4%
Small/ mid size town	38%	36%	29%	27%	19%	14%	12%	10%	7%	4%
Large town	43%	45%	33%	27%	20%	16%	15%	13%	6%	3%
Level of information										
Well informed	39%	45%	34%	31%	20%	15%	13%	13%	6%	1%
Not well informed	39%	36%	29%	24%	18%	13%	13%	10%	8%	4%
Support for nuclear energy										
In favour	39%	45%	36%	33%	19%	16%	12%	16%	5%	1%
Opposed	41%	36%	27%	22%	18%	13%	13%	8%	8%	3%

4. Public opinion of underground disposal

Questionnaire source: Q11

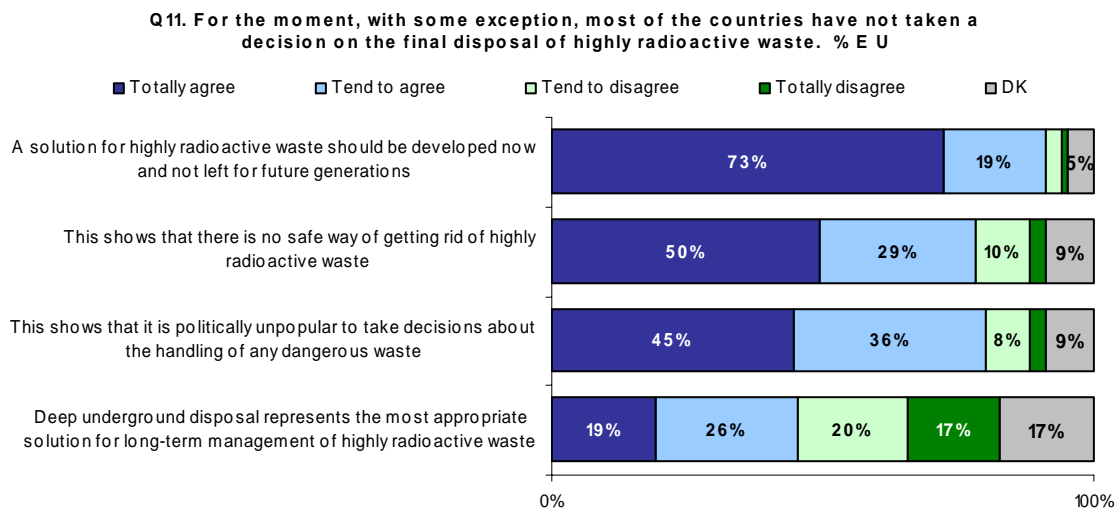
The question of the final disposal of high-level radioactive waste is currently under discussion in many countries. With some exceptions, most of the countries have not yet taken a decision on this subject. Let us consider the opinion of citizens of the European Union in terms of to what extent they agree or disagree with four statements on this subject.

- It is necessary to act now -

Almost all the interviewees agree with the statement "A solution for highly radioactive waste should be developed now and not left for future generations" (92% agree, of whom 73% 'totally agree').

However, eight out of ten citizens of the Union consider that the fact that no decision on the final disposal of highly radioactive waste has been taken shows that it is politically unpopular to take decisions about the handling of any dangerous waste (81%, of whom 45% 'totally agree'). Furthermore, the delay in deciding about this subject is taken as evidence that there is no safe way of getting rid of highly radioactive waste (79%, of whom 50% 'totally agree').

Finally, respondents were more divided on the question of underground disposal sites. While a relative majority agree that these sites represent the most appropriate solution for the long-term management of high-level radioactive waste (45%, of whom 19% 'totally agree'), 38% think the opposite, stating that they do not agree with this solution (of whom 17% 'totally disagree'). It should be noted that 17% of interviewees were unable to give an opinion on this subject.

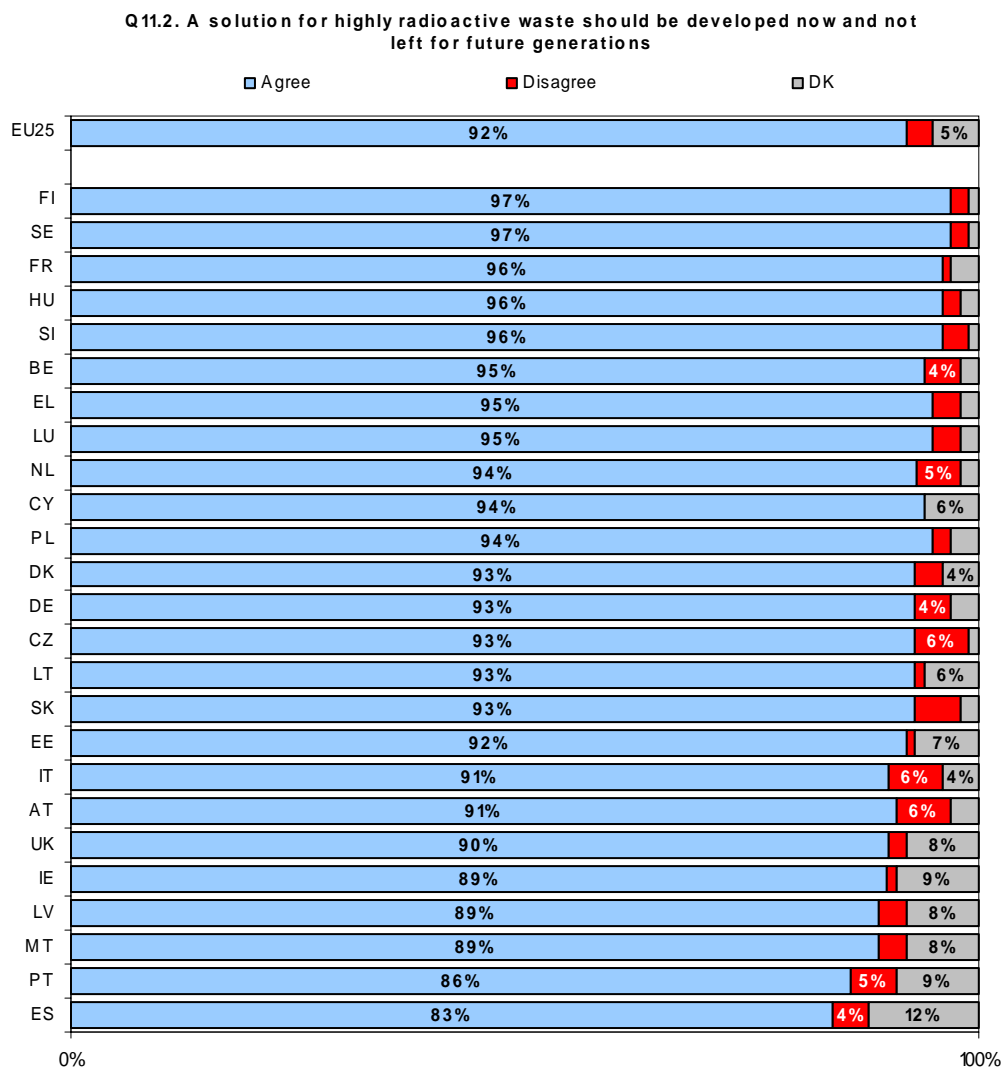


4.1. The need for an urgent solution

There is a very broad consensus across the European Union as regards the need to find a solution now for high-level radioactive waste and not to leave this issue for future generations.

The rate of agreement varies between 97% in **Finland** and **Sweden** and 83% in **Spain**. A slightly higher percentage of citizens who did not agreed with the need to find an immediate solution to this problem is found in the **Czech Republic, Italy** and **Austria**. Nevertheless, this percentage remains very low (6%).

In **Spain**, 12% of interviewees were unable to express a view on this subject.



4.2. What is the safe way to get rid of this waste?

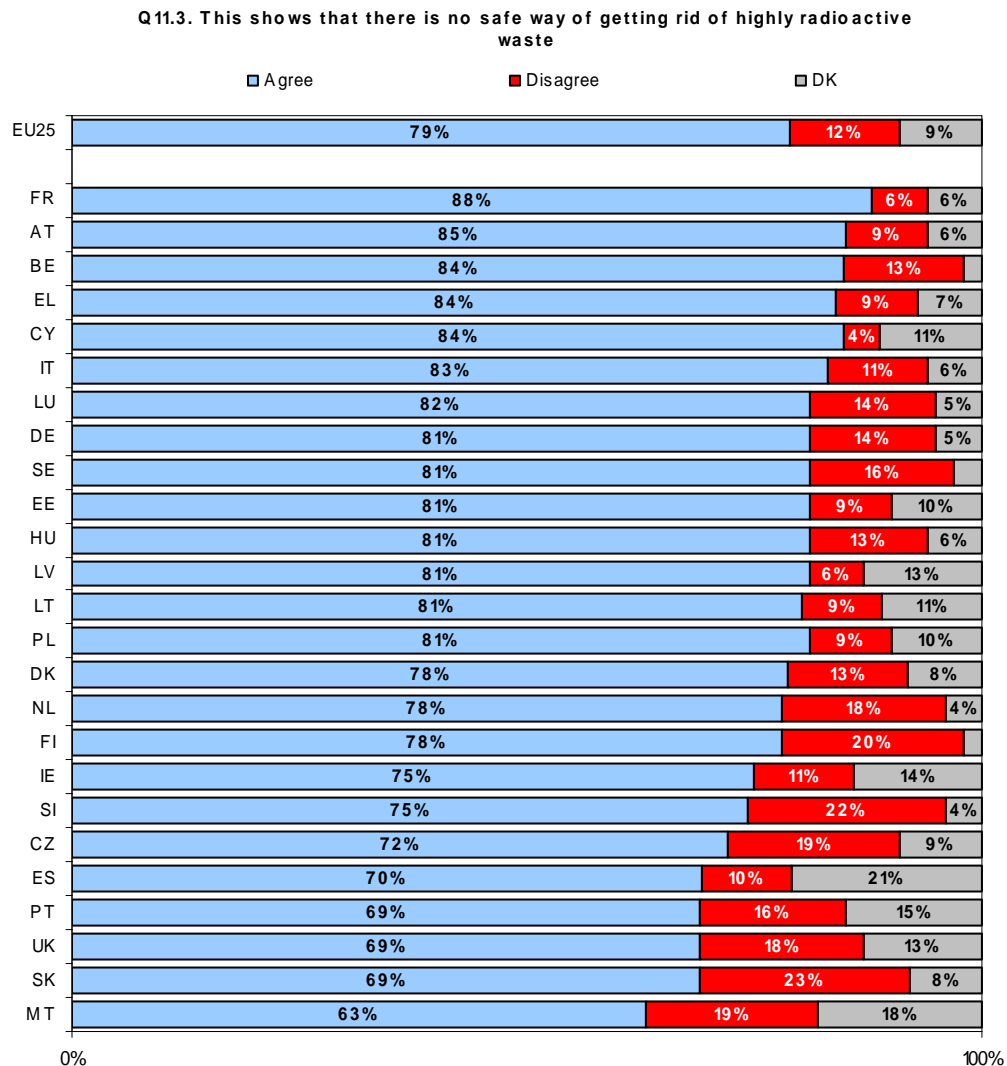
The fact that no decision has been taken on the final disposal of high-level radio active waste is perceived by nearly eight out of ten respondents as proof that there is no safe way of getting rid of highly radioactive waste (79%).

Once again, there is a consensus on this subject across the Member States. The percentage of citizens in agreement with this statement varies between 88% in **France** and 63% in **Malta**.

More respondents declared their agreement on this subject, primarily in **France** (88%), **Austria** (85%), **Belgium** (84%), **Greece** (84%) and **Cyprus** (84%).

Conversely, 23% in **Slovakia** and 22% in **Slovenia** consider that the lack of a current decision does not reflect the absence of a safe way to get rid of this type of waste.

As was noted for the preceding statement, the highest rate of non-responses was recorded in **Spain** (21%).



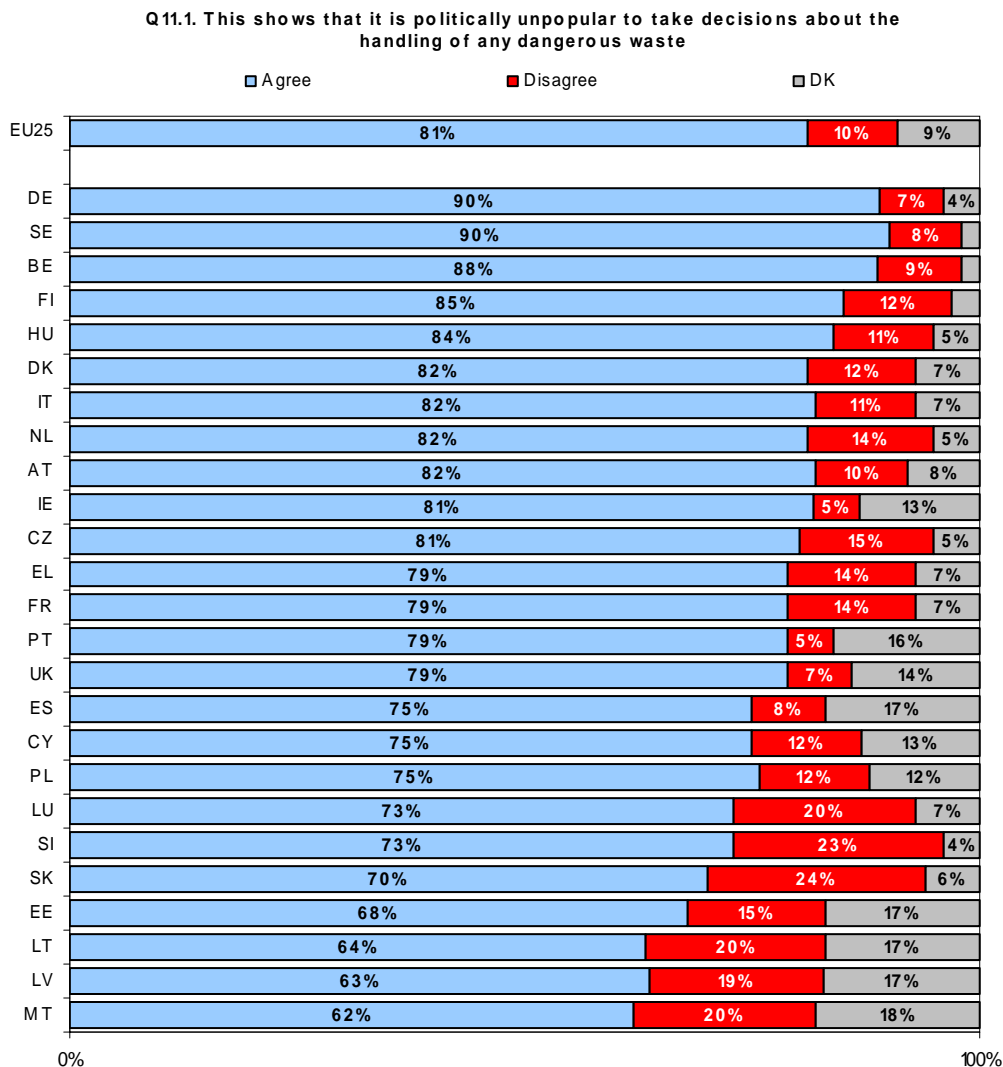
4.3. Political unpopularity

A little more than eight in ten citizens of the European Union think that the absence of a decision as regards the final disposal of high-level radioactive waste shows that it is politically unpopular to take decisions about the handling of any dangerous waste (81%).

Nine out of ten citizens give this response in **Germany** (90%) and **Sweden** (90%). This is also true of 88% of citizens in **Belgium**.

However, almost a quarter of respondents disagreed in **Slovakia** (24%) and **Slovenia** (23%).

More respondents are unable to express their views on this subject in **Malta** (18%), **Spain** (17%), **Estonia** (17%), **Lithuania** (17%) and **Latvia** (17%).



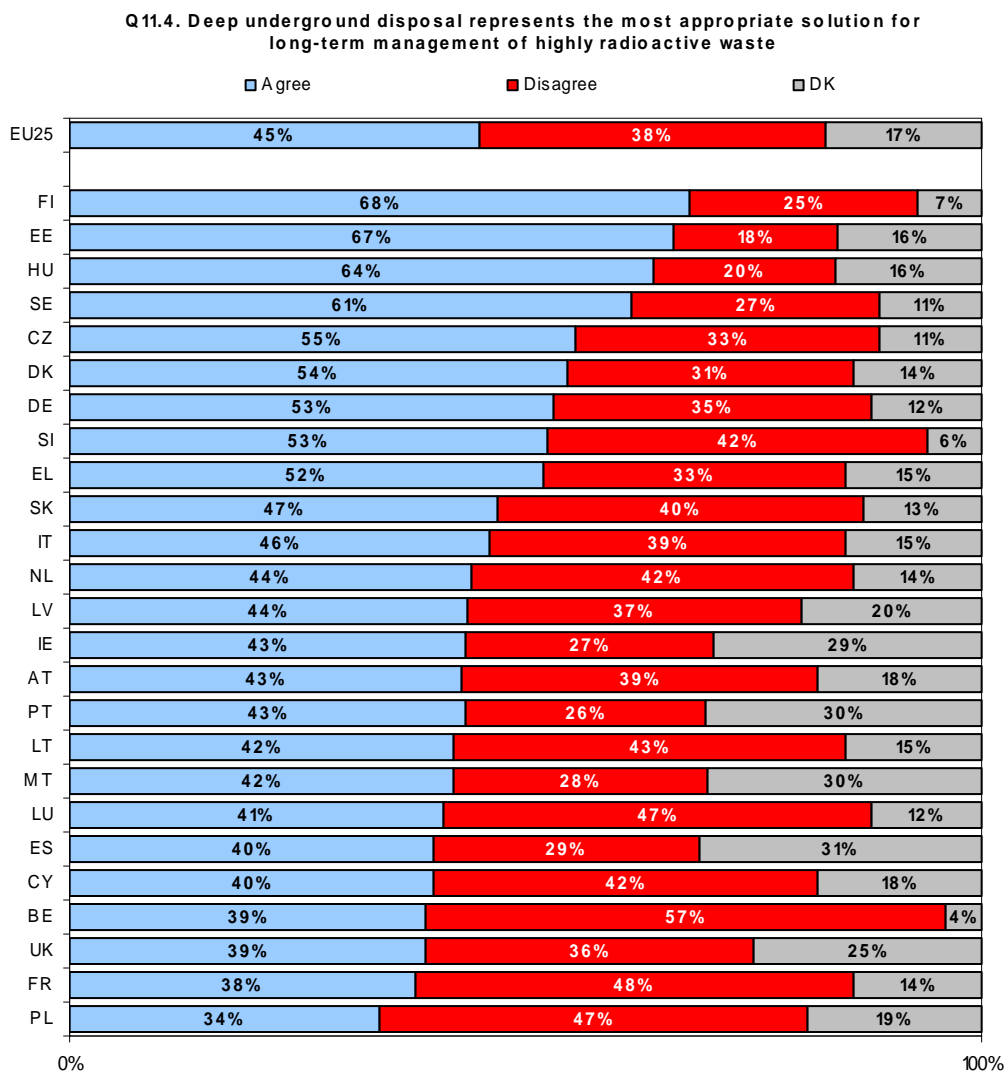
4.4. The underground disposal solution

The opinions of the European Union's citizens diverge when it comes to the disposal of high-level radioactive waste in deep underground sites. Although 45% of respondents see this as the most appropriate solution for the long-term management of these materials, 38% disagree and 17% find it difficult to express an opinion. It should be noted that, according to the experts, the landfill of radioactive waste in a geological stratum constitutes the most appropriate method for the long-term management of the most dangerous solid radioactive waste.

Around two-thirds of respondents consider that the deep burial of high-level radioactive waste represents the best solution in **Finland** (68%), **Estonia** (67%) and **Hungary** (64%).

However, a majority of people interviewed did not see the burial of high-level radioactive waste as the most appropriate solution, mainly in **Belgium** (57%), but also in **France** (48%), **Poland** (47%), **Luxembourg** (47%), **Lithuania** (43%), **Slovenia** (42%), **the Netherlands** (42%) and **Cyprus** (42%).

The highest non-response rates for this question were found in **Spain** (31%), **Portugal** (30%) and **Malta** (30%).



Now let us consider the role of respondents' socio-demographic characteristics regarding the lack of decision about the final disposal of high-level radioactive waste (4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4).

- ◆ More men tend to agree with the three proposals put forward here, and more particularly with the idea that deep underground disposal represents the most appropriate solution for long-term management of highly radioactive waste (+11 points by comparison with women).
- ◆ Young people (15-24 years) and citizens aged 55 and over tend to register a lower level of agreement with three of the four subjects tackled in this question, but the solution of deep landfill of waste is supported by a higher percentage of respondents aged 55 and over.
- ◆ More respondents positioning themselves on the right politically speaking see the underground disposal of high-level radioactive waste as the most appropriate solution (+8 points by comparison with left supporters).
- ◆ People living in large towns are more likely to agree with the need to find a solution now, the idea that it is politically unpopular to take decisions in this area, and the idea that the underground disposal of high-level radioactive waste is the best solution.
- ◆ More citizens among those who consider themselves well-informed about nuclear waste in general (+13 points by comparison with not well-informed citizens), and those supporting nuclear energy (+16 points by comparison with opponents) believe that deep underground disposal represents the best solution.

Q11.	A solution for highly radioactive waste should be developed now and not left for future generations	This shows that it is politically unpopular to take decisions about the handling of any dangerous waste	This shows that there is no safe way of getting rid of highly radioactive waste	Deep underground disposal represents the most appropriate solution for long-term management of highly radioactive waste
% Agree				
EU25	92%	81%	79%	45%
Sex				
Male	94%	83%	78%	51%
Female	90%	79%	79%	40%
Age				
15-24	91%	74%	75%	40%
25-39	94%	84%	80%	41%
40-54	94%	85%	81%	46%
55 +	89%	80%	77%	49%
Left-Right scale				
(1-4) Left	93%	85%	81%	45%
(5-6) Centre	93%	83%	79%	45%
(7-10) Right	94%	84%	79%	53%
Subjective urbanisation				
Rural village	92%	80%	79%	43%
Small/ mid size town	91%	81%	79%	46%
Large town	93%	83%	79%	47%
Level of information				
Well informed	95%	86%	79%	55%
Not well informed	92%	80%	79%	42%
Support for nuclear energy				
In favour	95%	86%	77%	56%
Opposed	92%	81%	83%	40%

5. The European dimension of the management of radioactive waste

Questionnaire source: Q15

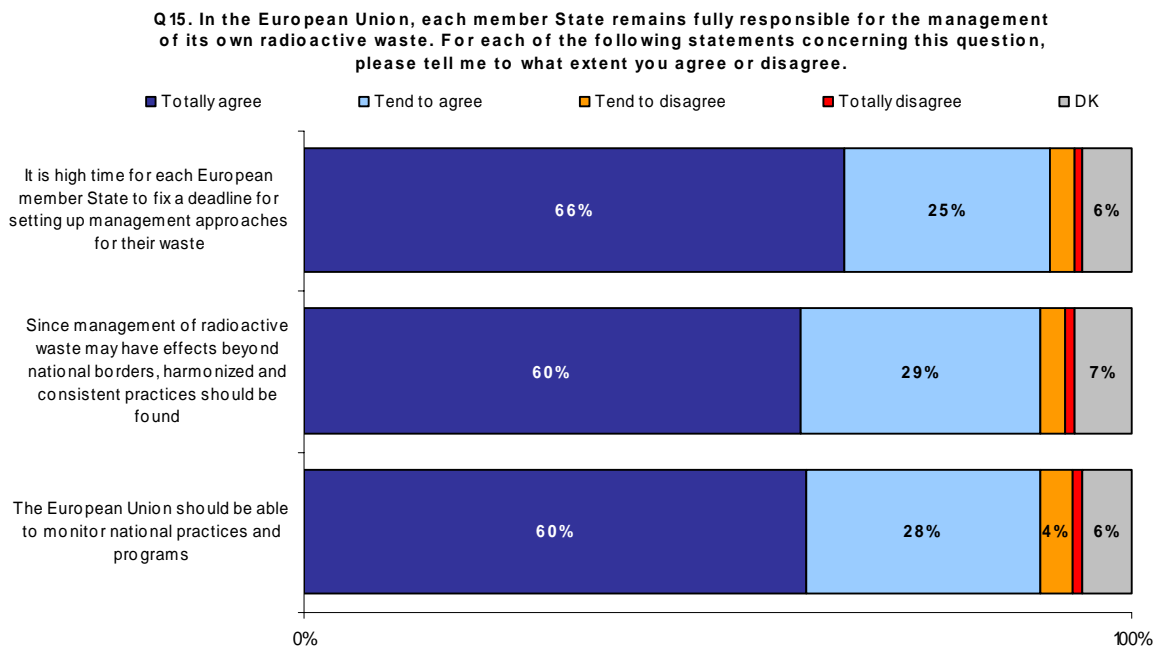
This last part of the report on European Union citizens' views of the management of radioactive waste considers the European aspect of the question against a background in which each Member State is entirely responsible for the management of its own radioactive waste. Three statements about this aspect were put to interviewees and they were asked to indicate whether or not they agreed with them.

- Citizens call for a common agenda and strategies supervised by the European Union -

A very broad consensus was observed throughout the European Union regarding:

- ◆ The need for each Member State to fix a deadline for setting up management approaches for their waste – 91% 'agree', of whom 66% 'totally agree';
- ◆ The need for harmonized and consistent practices because radioactive waste has an international impact – 89% 'agree', of whom 60% 'totally agree';
- ◆ The demand for the European Union to monitor national practices and programmes – 89% 'agree', of which 60% 'totally agree'.

Citizens' opinions regarding these three principles are in line with the intentions of the European Union in this domain. The recent proposed Directive on the management of radioactive waste provides for the adoption of national programmes for the disposal of radioactive waste and sets a timetable for resolving the problem of landfill. It also says that each Member State must submit regular reports to the European Commission regarding the management of this waste.



There is broad agreement with these statements in all Member States.

The percentage of citizens believing that it is high time that each Member State should fix a timetable for setting up management approaches for their waste varies between 97% in the Czech Republic and 77% in Portugal. This lower percentage is due to a high rate of non-responses (18%).

98% of Swedes consider that, since the management of radioactive waste may have effects beyond national borders, harmonized and consistent practices should be found. This was also the case for 79% of Spaniards (where the non-response rate reached 15%).

Finally, the percentage of respondents agreeing that the European Union should be able to monitor national practices and programmes varies between 97% in Belgium or the Czech Republic and 79% in Spain (where 15% of 'don't knows' were recorded).

Q15.	Since management of radioactive waste may have effects beyond national borders, harmonized and consistent practices should be found		
% Agree	It is high time for each European member State to fix a deadline for setting up management approaches for their waste	The European Union should be able to monitor national practices and programs	
EU25	91%	89%	89%
BE	96%	95%	97%
DK	92%	88%	88%
DE	92%	94%	93%
EL	92%	92%	92%
ES	81%	79%	79%
FR	95%	93%	94%
IE	88%	82%	89%
IT	90%	91%	88%
LU	95%	84%	92%
NL	95%	94%	95%
AT	88%	92%	82%
PT	77%	80%	80%
FI	94%	96%	92%
SE	95%	98%	94%
UK	87%	82%	82%
CY	95%	91%	96%
CZ	97%	96%	97%
EE	92%	89%	93%
HU	95%	91%	94%
LV	89%	88%	89%
LT	89%	90%	94%
MT	88%	80%	84%
PL	94%	89%	89%
SK	93%	93%	94%
SI	96%	95%	92%

CONCLUSION

The European Commission's energy policy anticipates that the contribution of nuclear energy will decline in the future and that research into the safe management of nuclear waste must be actively pursued. This study of the opinions of citizens of the European Union about radioactive waste, carried out early in 2005, demonstrates the following **main facts**:

- ◆ Only a quarter of citizens of the European Union feel that they are well informed about radioactive waste (25%). Although this proportion has risen slightly - by 4 points - by comparison with 2001, **the level of information regarding radioactive waste remains very low**, given that three quarters of respondents do not feel well-informed about this subject. Countries in the south seem to suffer particularly from a lack of information (Greece, Italy, Spain and Portugal), as do women and young people aged between 15 and 24 years.
- ◆ Furthermore, when questioned in more detail about their **actual knowledge about radioactive waste**, respondents seemed divided on this subject. The average of correct answers obtained for seven statements about nuclear waste was 53%, the average of incorrect answers 29% and the non-response rate was 18%. The level of actual knowledge about **radioactive waste management** was even lower, as for five statements on this subject the average of correct answers obtained is 44%, the average of incorrect answers 35% and the average non-response rate 22%.
- ◆ As regards **information about the management of radioactive waste, citizens of the European Union would trust independent or non-institutional sources of information**, mainly NGOs active in environmental protection (39%) or independent scientists (38%). Institutional sources or the authorities are mentioned next: the national agencies responsible for radioactive waste (26%), national governments (19%) or the European Union (14%).
- ◆ Across the European Union, 37% of interviewees say that they are in favour of **nuclear energy** while 55% are against it, 24% emphatically so. Opinions on this matter vary greatly from one Member State to another. Almost two thirds of Swedes and Hungarians support nuclear energy, while nearly nine out of ten oppose it in Greece and Austria. It is also important to note that 57% of opponents of energy nuclear would remain so even if the problems of radioactive waste were resolved.
- ◆ **For a vast majority of citizens of the European Union, radioactive waste represents a risk.** It is important to note that **citizens who consider themselves well-informed** about radioactive waste see fewer risks in general associated with this type of waste.

- ◆ First of all, eight out of ten respondents wrongly believe that **all radioactive waste is very dangerous** (79%). Next, 74% of respondents consider the disposal of low-level radioactive waste to be very risky and 71% perceive the same high level of risk for the transport of this type of waste. Overall, the Greeks, the Irish and Austrians are most likely to perceive a very great risk; the Swedes, Danes and the Dutch are more likely to take the opposite view.
- ◆ When we approach the question of the **use of uncontaminated recycled materials coming from the nuclear industry** for any purpose, views vary across the European Union. **47% are in favour** of this recycling and 43% are opposed to it. If the responsible authorities permit its use, citizens would be more ready to accept applications which do not affect them directly, such as **the manufacture of rails for railways** (43%). However, when these materials come close to them and their daily lives, citizens are increasingly reluctant to accept them. Only 7% would accept these materials for the manufacture of aluminium used for food packaging. It is important to note that **37% of people interviewed spontaneously stated that they would never accept the use of such material**. However, in contrast, **well-informed citizens** would be more ready in general to accept the use of recycled uncontaminated materials coming from the nuclear industry.
- ◆ In the hypothetical event that an underground disposal site for radioactive waste were to be built near their home, **the possible impact on the environment and on health was the principal fear** expressed by respondents (53%). Furthermore, if such a site had to be built, six out of ten respondents would wish to be consulted directly and to take part in the decision-making process; and one in four respondents would wish for local NGOs to take part in the debate. There is thus **an obvious wish on the part of European Union citizens to be involved in the consultation and decision-making process in this domain**.
- ◆ As regards the management of radioactive waste, citizens are almost unanimous as to **the need for there to be no further delay in setting up a national strategy** for high-level radioactive waste. They are also aware of the **political difficulty** of taking decisions on the treatment of dangerous waste, and think that the lack of a decision on this subject proves that there is no safe way of getting rid of this type of waste. While 45% of respondents consider that **deep underground disposal** represents the most appropriate solution for long-term management of highly radioactive waste, 38% disagree. The divergence of opinion in this respect shows that, although experts believe that these sites represent the best solution, this information does not yet seem to have reached the public.
- ◆ Finally, almost all citizens of the European Union recognise the importance of Member States establishing not only a timetable but also **harmonised strategies supervised by the European Union in order to set up management policies for their radioactive waste**. Respondents' opinions are thus in line with the **intentions of the European Union**, which is calling for the adoption of national programmes for the disposal of radioactive waste and for each Member State to submit regular reports to the European Commission regarding the management of this waste.