



Eurobarometer: Europeans show strong support for the EU energy policy and for EU's response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine and more optimism regarding economy

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The latest [Standard Eurobarometer survey](#) conducted in June 2023 and published today shows that EU citizens continue to back overwhelmingly the energy transition and to expect massive investment in renewables.

They continue to widely approve measures taken by the EU to support Ukraine and the Ukrainian people. They also support stronger EU defence cooperation and increased defence spending.

While inflation remains a major concern, perceptions of the economic situation and economic expectations are improving. A majority of Europeans believe that NextGenerationEU, the EU's €800 billion recovery plan, can be effective to respond to the current economic challenges. Support for the euro stays high.

Wide support for the energy transition

More than eight in ten EU citizens think that the EU should **invest massively in renewable energies**, such as wind and solar power (85%) and that increasing **energy efficiency** of buildings, transport, and goods will make us less dependent on energy producers outside the EU (82%). In addition, 80% believe that EU Member States should **jointly buy energy** from other countries to get a better price.

Furthermore, 81% of respondents agree that reducing imports of oil and gas and investing in renewable energy is **important for our overall security** and 82% say that the EU should **reduce its dependency on Russian sources of energy** as soon as possible.

Strong backing for the EU's response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine

Approval for actions taken in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine remains very high.

88% of EU citizens are in favour of **providing humanitarian support** to the people affected by the war and 86% are in favour of **welcoming into the EU people fleeing the war**. 75% approve of **financial support to Ukraine** and 72% back **economic sanctions** on Russian government, companies and individuals.

In addition, 66% agree with banning state-owned media, such as Sputnik and Russia Today, from broadcasting in the EU and 64% support financing the **purchase and supply of military equipment** to Ukraine. 64% also agree with the EU granting **candidate status** as a potential member of the EU to Ukraine.

All in all, 56% of respondents are **satisfied with the EU's response** to the Russian invasion of Ukraine and 54% are satisfied with the response by their national government.

In favour of a stronger European defence

In this context, 77% of Europeans are in favour of **a common defence and security policy**. 80% think that **cooperation** in defence matters at EU level should be increased, 77% believe that Member States' **purchase of military equipment** should be better coordinated, 69% would like the EU to reinforce its **capacity to produce military equipment** and 66% say that **more money should be spent on defence** in the EU.

A stronger Europe in the World

77% agree that the EU should **build partnerships with countries outside the EU** to invest in sustainable infrastructure and connect people and countries around the world. In addition, 69% believe that the EU has sufficient power and tools to defend the economic interests of Europe in the global economy.

