



EUROBAROMETER

EUROBAROMETER 73

PUBLIC OPINION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

FIRST RESULTS

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Standard Eurobarometer 73

Public opinion in the European Union

**Conducted by TNS Opinion & Social at the
request of Directorate General Communication**

**Survey co-ordinated by Directorate General
Communication**

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	4
1. EUROPEANS' EVALUATION OF THE ECONOMIC SITUATION AND MAIN CONCERNS	7
1.1 Assessment of the current economic situation	7
1.2 Main concerns at national and personal levels	9
2. THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS CITIZENS	11
2.1 Support and benefits of membership	11
2.2 Trust in the European Union, national government and national Parliament	15
2.3 What the European Union means to people	17
3. THE EUROPEANS AND THE CRISIS	21
3.1 The economic crisis: has it already reached its peak, or is the worst still to come?	21
3.2 Europeans' attitudes towards reform	24
3.3 Public deficits	26
4. PERCEPTION OF THE ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION IN CONFRONTING THE CRISIS	29
4.1 In comparison with other international players	29
4.2 The need for stronger coordination	31
5. A STRATEGY FOR THE FUTURE – "EUROPE 2020"	36
6. EUROPEAN UNION CITIZENSHIP	37
CONCLUSION	40
TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS	42

Introduction

This wave of the Standard Eurobarometer was carried out from 5 to 28 May 2010¹; it was fielded in 32 countries or territories: the 27 European Union Member States, the three candidate countries (Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey), Iceland, and the Turkish Cypriot Community in the part of the country that is not controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus.

Since the beginning of the financial and economic crisis in September 2008, the Eurobarometer has registered significant shifts in European public opinion, with this crisis being the main driver of Europeans' perceptions and opinions.

In May 2010, when this survey was conducted, the package of stabilisation measures was not yet fully operational. This only happened in June. Greece was hit by severe budgetary problems during the first months of the year and there was a risk of contagion spreading to other EU Member States. By June, the EU institutions and the Euro area countries put in place a comprehensive package of measures to provide financial stability. The IMF also participated in this plan.

In May, the unemployment rate in the euro area reached its highest level since the creation of the European single currency: 10% compared to 9.6% in the EU as whole².

This is the background against which the standard Eurobarometer has been conducted.

¹ For precise details of the fieldwork dates in each country, please refer to the technical specifications.

² http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_PUBLIC/3-02072010-AP/EN/3-02072010-AP-EN.PDF

This report focuses on results from the EU27 Member States and is divided into six parts. In the first part we look at the assessment of the current economic situation and an analysis of Europeans' main concerns. In the second part the projection of this general mood is analysed in terms of indicators that measure perceptions and opinions about the European Union. The third part focuses on the crisis and how it is perceived by European public opinion. Part four analyses the role of the EU in tackling the financial and economic crisis. Part five focuses on the future, describing public support for the "Europe 2020" strategy in terms of the perceived importance of the different initiatives. The report ends with an examination of the notion of European citizenship.

The methodology used is that of the Standard Eurobarometer surveys of the Directorate-General for Communication ("Research and Speechwriting" Unit). A technical note concerning the interviews, carried out by the institutes within the TNS Opinion & Social network, is annexed to this report. This note describes the interview method used, as well as the confidence intervals³.

The reader should be aware that three types of deliverables will be available for this Standard Eurobarometer.

1) First Results: This gives a first overview of trend indicators on European public opinion on key issues.

2) Country fact sheets: Graphic illustration of a selection of results for each country or territory covered by the survey, presenting the comparison between national results and the EU average.

3) Full Report: An in-depth analysis of all the questions asked in a Standard Eurobarometer wave, which will come at a later stage.

The Eurobarometer web site can be consulted at the following address:

http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/index_en.htm

We would like to take the opportunity to thank all the respondents across Europe who have given their time to take part in this survey.

Without their active participation, this study would not have been possible.

³ The results tables are included in the annex. It should be noted that the total of the percentages in the tables of this report may exceed 100% when the respondent can give several answers to the same question.

In this report, the countries are represented by their official abbreviations. The abbreviations used in this report correspond to:

ABBREVIATIONS

EU27	European Union – 27 Member States
DK/NA	Don't know / No answer
BE	Belgium
BG	Bulgaria
CZ	Czech Republic
DK	Denmark
DE	Germany
EE	Estonia
EL	Greece
ES	Spain
FR	France
IE	Ireland
IT	Italy
CY	Republic of Cyprus*
CY (tcc)	Area not controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus
LT	Lithuania
LV	Latvia
LU	Luxembourg
HU	Hungary
MT	Malta
NL	The Netherlands
AT	Austria
PL	Poland
PT	Portugal
RO	Romania
SI	Slovenia
SK	Slovakia
FI	Finland
SE	Sweden
UK	The United Kingdom
HR	Croatia
TR	Turkey
MK	The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**
IS	Iceland

* Cyprus as a whole is one of the 27 European Union Member States. However, the "*acquis communautaire*" is suspended in the part of the country that is not controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus. For practical reasons, only the interviews conducted in the part of the country controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus are recorded in the category "CY" and included in the EU27 average. The interviews conducted in the part of the country not controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus are recorded in the category "CY(tcc)" [tcc: *Turkish Cypriot Community*].

** Provisional code which does not prejudice in any way the definitive nomenclature for this country, which will be agreed following the conclusion of negotiations currently taking place at the United Nations.

Results for CY(tcc), HR, TR, MK and IS are available in the Annex to this report providing the data tables.

1. EUROPEANS' EVALUATION OF THE ECONOMIC SITUATION AND MAIN CONCERNS

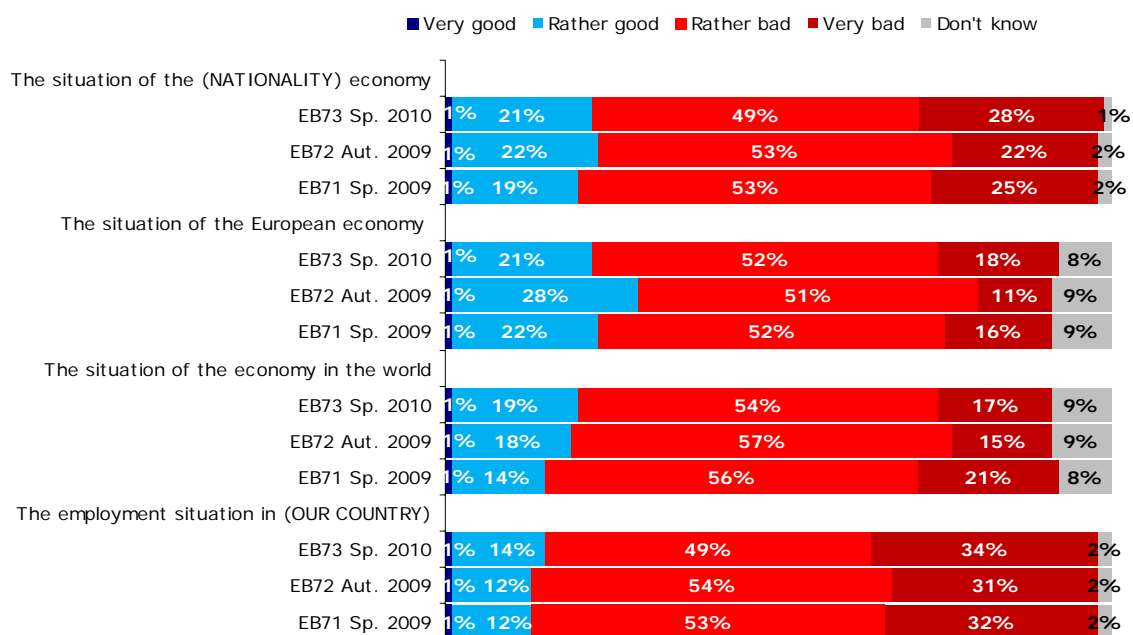
1.1 Assessment of the current economic situation

Europeans are regularly asked to assess the current situation of the economy in their country, in the European Union and in the world and to judge the employment situation in their country⁴.

- After a temporary resurgence in autumn 2009, confidence in the economic situation has declined -

Despite economic recovery – the recession officially ended in the third quarter of 2009⁵ – the economic feel-bad factor⁶ still dominates and public confidence is now lower than in autumn 2009.

QA4. How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?
- % EU



⁴ QA4 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? 1. The situation of the (NATIONALITY) economy. 2. The situation of the European economy. 3. The situation of the economy in the world. 6. The employment situation in (OUR COUNTRY) – 1) Very good 2) Rather good 3) Rather bad 4) Very bad

⁵ European Economic Forecast Spring 2010:
http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/publications/european_economy/2010/pdf/ee-2010-2_en.pdf

⁶ The 'factor' refers to how good or bad consumers feel about the economy, which in turn affects their consumption. In this report, economic feel good/bad factor has an extended meaning and refers to its broad impact on opinions on questions beyond economic issues.

The Eurobarometer results show a more critical assessment, particularly when it comes to national economies (28% say their national economy is very bad, up from 22% in autumn 2009) and the European economy (18%; up from 11%). However, Europeans remain most critical in their assessment of their own country's employment situation, which 34% say is 'very bad' (+3 points).

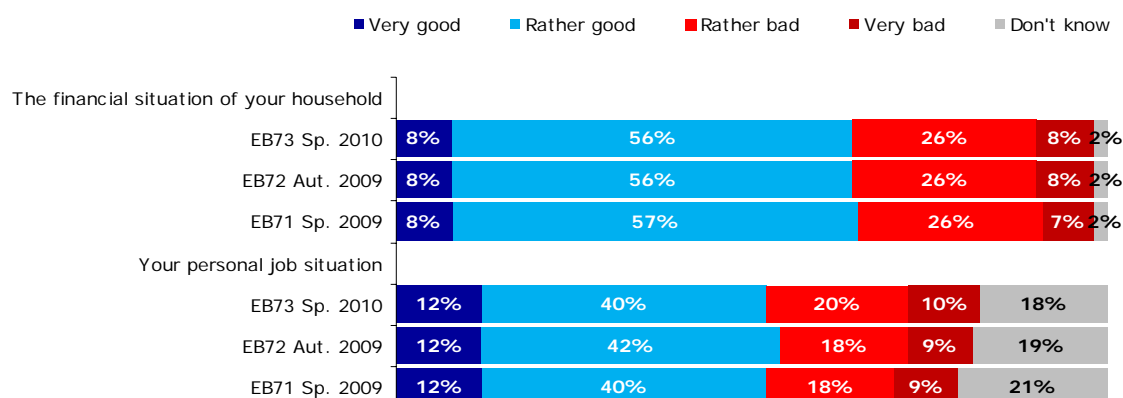
In spring 2010, concern about Greece's debt and public deficits in several European Union economies led to a decline in public optimism about economic recovery. Five days into fieldwork, on 10 May 2010, European Union leaders agreed on a comprehensive package of measures to preserve financial stability in Europe including a rescue package for Greece, the establishment of a European stabilisation mechanism and a strong commitment to accelerated fiscal consolidation⁷.

Consumer confidence declined markedly that month in both the EU and the euro area (both down by 3 points)⁸.

- People's personal economic situation less affected -

Despite the lack of confidence in the economic situation, the majority of Europeans remain positive about their **personal economic situation**⁹. Over six out of ten respondents are positive about their household financial situation (64%, unchanged since autumn 2009) and over half say that their current job situation is good (52%; -2).

QA4. How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? - % EU



⁷ Council of the European Union:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/genaff/114338.pdf

⁸ DG ECFIN Key Indicators:

http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/db_indicators/surveys/documents/2010/bcs_2010_05_en.pdf

⁹ QA4 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? 4. Your personal job situation 5. The financial situation of your household – 1) Very good 2) Rather good 3) Rather bad 4) Very bad

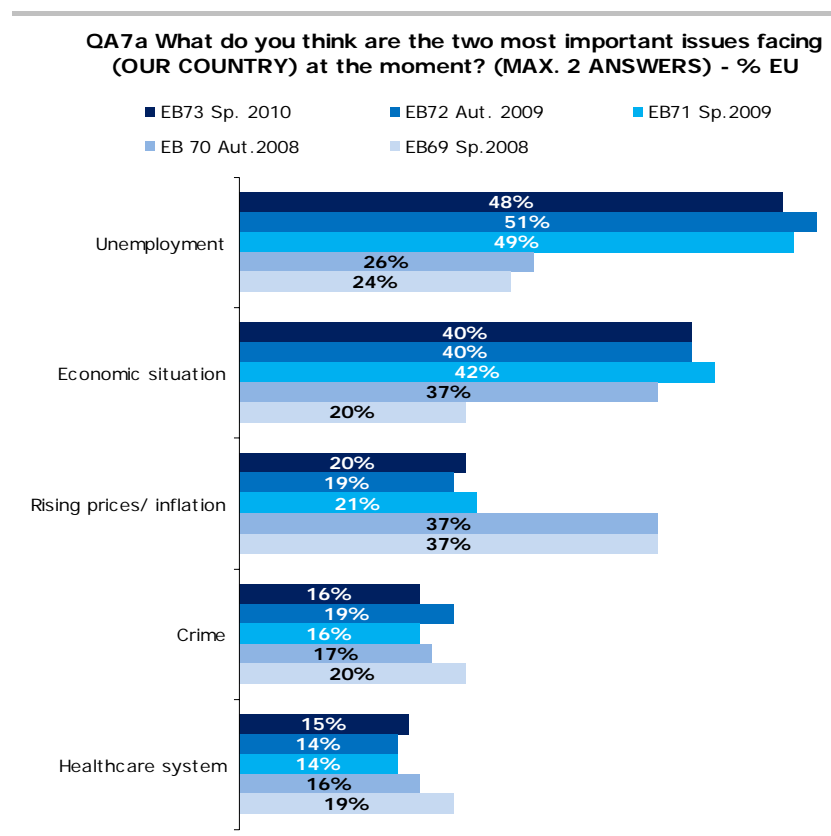
1.2 Main concerns at national and personal levels

- Concerns remain quite stable, with a slight decline for unemployment -

Although unemployment continues to be seen by Europeans as the most important issue that their country faces, levels of concern are now slightly lower than in autumn 2009 (down from 51% to 48%)¹⁰. Concern about the economic situation is at the same level as in autumn 2009 (40%).

At the height of the economic 'feel-good factor' in spring 2007 (EB67), concerns about crime and healthcare were voiced nearly as often as concerns about the economic situation and unemployment. As the mood shifted to the 'feel-bad' factor, so did the focus of concerns and by autumn 2008 (EB70) the economic situation and rising prices and inflation were the two most frequently mentioned issues.

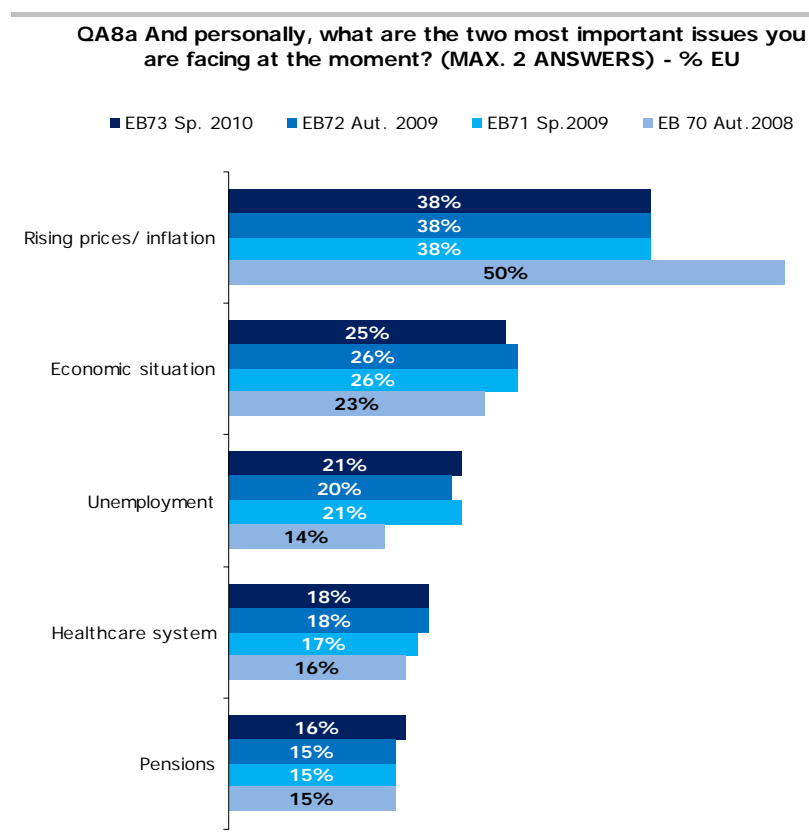
Six months later (EB71), at the height of the recession, concerns about unemployment had increased dramatically and Europeans mainly had economic issues on their minds while crime, the healthcare system and even inflation were considered less important for their country.



¹⁰ QA7a What do you think are the two most important issues facing (OUR COUNTRY) at the moment? (MAX. 2 ANSWERS) Crime; Economic situation; Rising prices\ inflation; Taxation; Unemployment; Terrorism; Defence\ Foreign affairs; Housing; Immigration; Healthcare system; The educational system; Pensions; The environment; Energy

- Impact of crisis still evident in the personal concerns voiced by Europeans -

As noted earlier, the economic crisis has less of an impact on people's perception of their own personal economic situation. They tend to worry less about how the economic crisis impacts them directly than they do about the consequences it has for their country as a whole¹¹. This does not mean that the crisis has had no impact on personal concerns. The spring 2010 results mirror those of autumn 2009: concerns about the economic situation (25%; -1) and unemployment (21%; +1) have not changed significantly. However, the main personal concern continues to be inflation, unchanged since spring 2009, with 38% of citations (50% in autumn 2008)¹².



There are significant differences between countries: **inflation** is a major concern in several Member States, and is cited by more than half of respondents in Hungary (57%), Malta (54%), Austria (52%) and Lithuania (51%). Nordic countries, in contrast, are quite distinctive in this respect, with 20% or less of respondents mentioning inflation.

The economic situation is the most important personal concern in Greece (54%), Ireland (41%) and Spain (41%). This dimension is also the first answer given by respondents in Latvia (39%), Estonia (33%, same as for inflation), and Denmark (24%) among others.

¹¹ QA8a And, personally, what are the two most important issues you are facing at the moment? (MAX.2 ANSWERS) Crime; Economic situation; Rising prices\ inflation; Taxation; Unemployment; Terrorism; Defence\ Foreign affairs; Housing; Immigration; Healthcare system; The educational system; Pensions; The environment; Energy

¹² This question was asked for the first time in Autumn 2008 Standard EB survey (EB 70)

2. THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS CITIZENS

2.1 Support and benefits of membership

- Support for and perceived benefits of EU membership decrease -

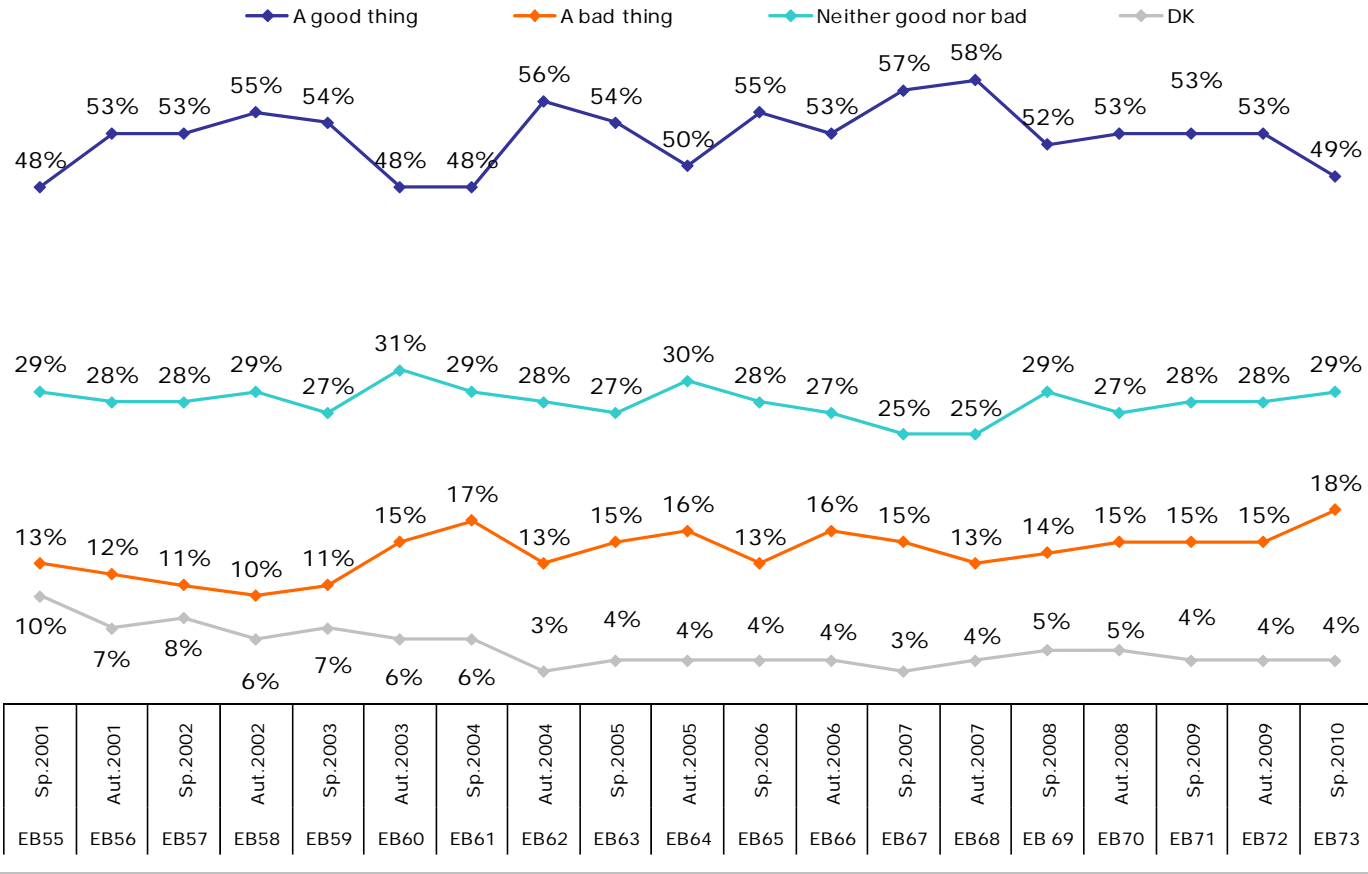
Questions about the stability of the euro, following the debt crisis in Greece and fears of a potential risk of contagion to other countries, seem to have affected Europeans' support for their country's membership of the EU and its perceived benefits. The latest results show that support for EU membership has fallen to 49% (-4 points since autumn 2009), which is close to the lowest levels recorded in the last decade. The proportion of Europeans who consider their country's membership a bad thing now stands at 18% up from 15% in autumn 2009¹³.

A similar development has occurred in terms of the perceived benefits of EU membership: 53% of Europeans think that their country has on balance profited from membership (-4) whilst 35% feel their country has not benefited (+4)¹⁴.

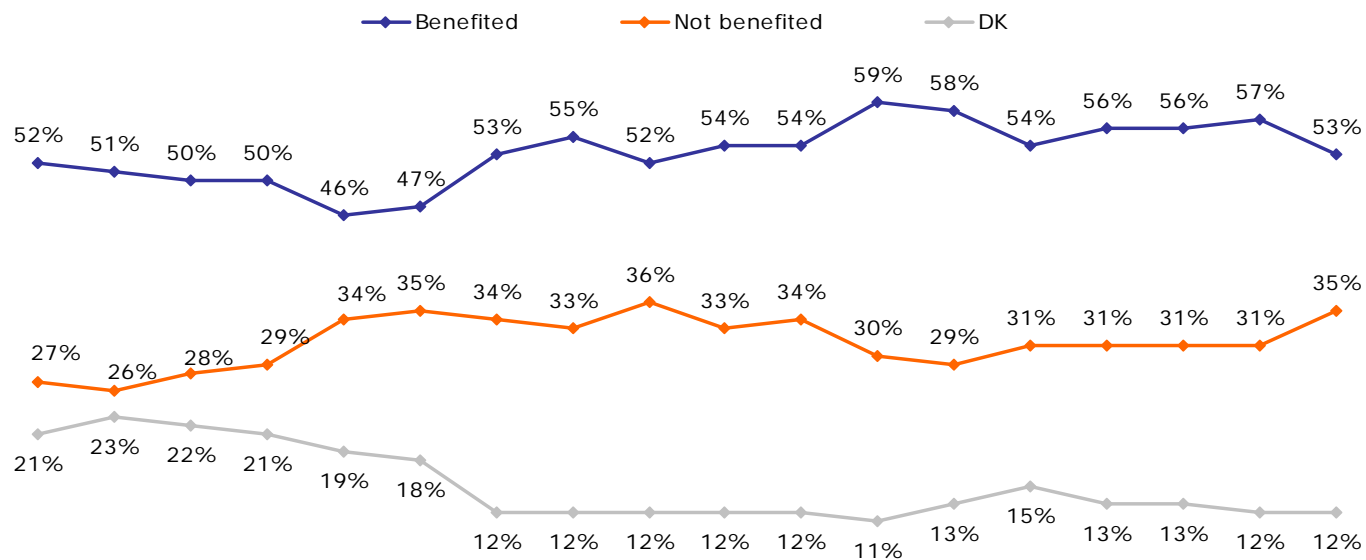
¹³ QA9a Generally speaking, do you think that (OUR COUNTRY)'s membership of the European Union is...? 1) A good thing 2) A bad thing 3) Neither good nor bad

¹⁴ QA10a Taking everything into account, would you say that (OUR COUNTRY) has on balance benefited or not from being a member of the European Union?

QA9a Generally speaking, do you think that (OUR COUNTRY)'s membership of the European Union is...? - % EU





















QA10a Taking everything into account, would you say that (OUR COUNTRY) has on balance benefited or not from being a member of the European Union? - %EU



Aut. 2001	Sp. 2002	Aut. 2002	Sp. 2003	Aut. 2003	Sp. 2004	Aut. 2004	Sp. 2005	Aut. 2005	Sp. 2006	Aut. 2006	Sp. 2007	Aut. 2007	Sp. 2008	Aut. 2008	Sp. 2009	Aut. 2009	Sp. 2010
EB56	EB57	EB58	EB59	EB60	EB61	EB62	EB63	EB64	EB65	EB66	EB67	EB68	EB69	EB70	EB71	EB72	EB73

The only countries where public opinion is now more positive on these two indicators are Hungary and Latvia, and to a somewhat lesser extent Malta and Poland.

QA9a Generally speaking, do you think that (OUR COUNTRY)'s membership of the European Union is...? -% "A good thing"				QA10a Taking everything into account, would you say that (OUR COUNTRY) has on balance benefited or not from being a member of the European Union? -% "Benefited"			
	EB72 Aut.2009	EB73 Sp.2010	Diff. Sp.2010- Aut.2009		EB72 Aut.2009	EB73 Sp.2010	Diff. Sp.2010- Aut.2009
 EU27	53%	49%	-4	 EU27	57%	53%	-4
 HU	34%	38%	+4	 HU	38%	44%	+6
 LV	23%	26%	+3	 LV	37%	41%	+4
 MT	45%	47%	+2	 PL	74%	77%	+3
.
.
 DE	60%	50%	-10	 CY	50%	42%	-8
 EE	62%	52%	-10	 DE	57%	48%	-9
 SI	50%	39%	-11	 EL	71%	61%	-10
 CY	46%	33%	-13	 PT	64%	54%	-10
 EL	61%	44%	-17	 RO	66%	56%	-10

While EU-wide measures were taken to stabilise the financial system including a €750 billion financial mechanism and specific measures to help stabilise Greece's financial position, the survey – which was conducted at a time when such measures were not yet fully operational – records the largest decline in support for EU membership among respondents in Greece (-17 points). The proportion of Greek respondents who feel that their country has benefited from EU membership has also fallen sharply (-10). Significant declines on both measures can also be observed in Cyprus (-13; -8), and Germany (-10; -9).

The survey was also fielded for the first time in Iceland. On 24 February 2010 the European Commission delivered its opinion on Iceland's application to join the European Union¹⁵. The last two years have been challenging for Iceland. During the course of the global financial crisis, its banking system collapsed in October 2008 with a severe economic impact and social consequences. The crisis led to significant economic contraction, caused considerable hardship for the population and triggered a series of political developments.

The survey shows that public support for EU membership is low in Iceland: only 19% of respondents in Iceland believe it would be a good thing and 29% believe their country would benefit from EU membership. Respondents in Iceland are, for the moment, quite reluctant to accede to the European Union.

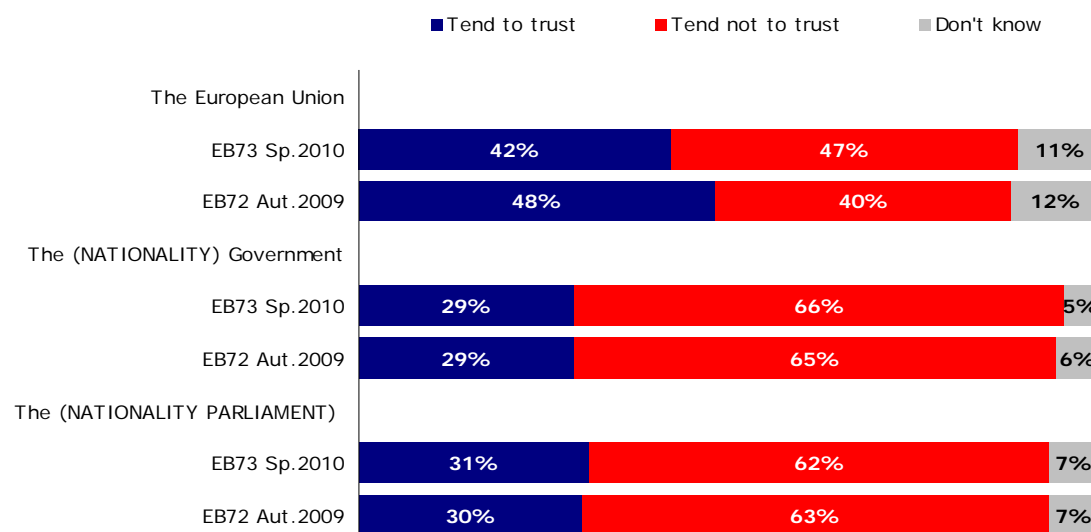
¹⁵ Commission Opinion on Iceland's application for membership of the European Union: http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/press_corner/key_documents/opinion-iceland_2010_en.htm

2.2 Trust in the European Union, national government and national Parliament

- Trust in the EU has declined, but remains higher than trust in national institutions -

Having examined support for and the benefits of EU membership, we move on to look at trust in the European Union and in national governments and parliaments¹⁶. Possibly as a consequence of the debt crisis in Greece and the subsequent questions about the euro's stability, trust in the EU has been affected. Whilst trust in national institutions remains stable, trust in the EU has fallen from 48% in autumn 2009 to 42% in spring 2010. There are now more Europeans who tend not to trust the EU (47%, +7 points). Yet far more people continue to trust the EU than their own parliament (31%; +1) or their own government (29%; unchanged).

QA14.2+3+4 For each of the following institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.
- % EU

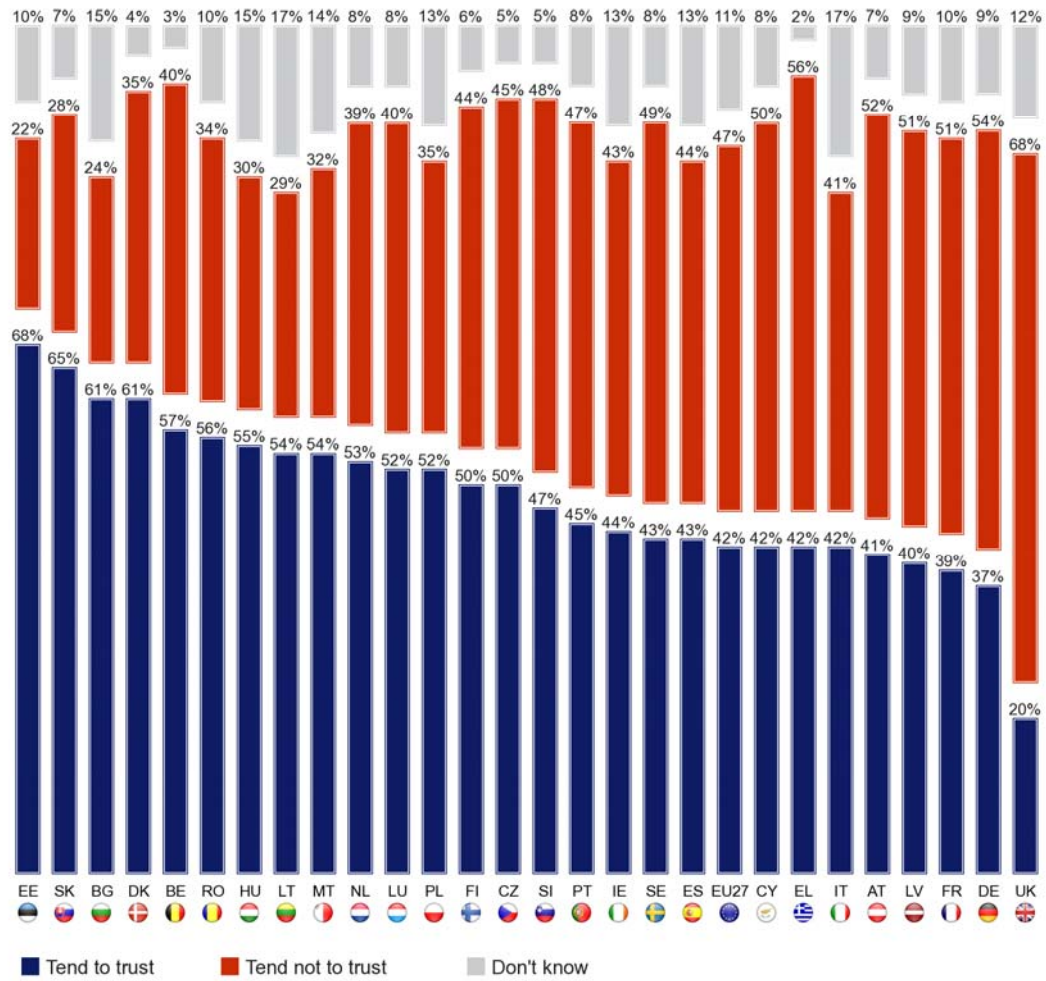


Trust in the EU is most pronounced in Estonia (68%), Slovakia (65%), Bulgaria and Denmark (both 61%) while there are eight countries where a majority of respondents tend not to trust the EU: the UK (68% vs. 20% trust), far below the EU average, followed by Greece (56% vs. 42%), Germany (54% vs. 37%), Austria (52% vs. 41%), France (51% vs. 39%), Latvia (51% vs. 40%), Cyprus (50% vs. 42%), and Sweden (49% vs. 43%).

¹⁶ QA14 For each of the following European bodies, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it. 2. The (NATIONALITY) Government 3. The (NATIONALITY) PARLIAMENT 4. The European Union

QA14.4. I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain institutions. For each of the following institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.

The European Union

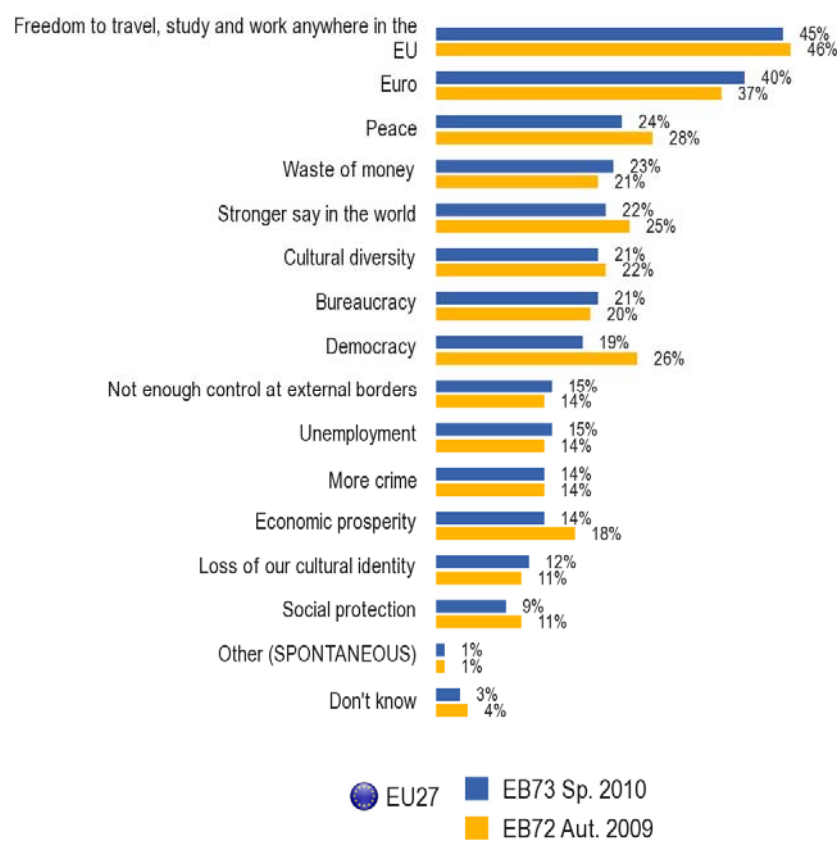


2.3 What the European Union means to people

- Current climate influences how Europeans perceive the EU -

The economic and financial crisis also appears to have an effect on what the EU means to Europeans personally¹⁷: generally speaking, the positive elements are cited less often than six months ago. Economic prosperity (14%; -4) and a stronger say in the world (22%; -3) are now mentioned less, whereas mentions of the euro have increased (40%; +3). While the freedom of movement continues to best reflect the meaning of Europe (45%; -1) there have been several other developments since autumn 2009 that are related to the current climate: identification with peace (24%; -4) and democracy (19%; -7) are down while the feeling that the EU is a waste of money (23%; +2) is voiced slightly more often.

QA16. What does the European Union mean to you personally?



A comparison of euro area and non-euro area countries shows important differences: euro area countries mention the euro (49%) more frequently than the freedom of movement (43%), which provides further evidence of the extent to which the debt crisis may have impacted public sentiment. In comparison, non-euro area countries mention the euro half as often (23%), far behind the freedom of movement (47%).

¹⁷ QA16 What does the European Union mean to you personally? Peace; Economic prosperity; Democracy; Social protection; Freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the EU; Cultural diversity; Stronger say in the world; Euro; Unemployment; Bureaucracy; Waste of money; Loss of our cultural identity; More crime; Not enough control at external borders

QA16 What does the European Union mean to you personally?

	Freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the EU	Euro	Peace	Waste of money	Stronger say in the world	Cultural diversity	Bureaucracy	Democracy	Unemployment	Not enough control at external borders	Economic prosperity	More crime	Loss of our cultural identity	Social protection
EU27	45%	40%	24%	23%	22%	21%	21%	19%	15%	15%	14%	14%	12%	9%
Euro area	43%	49%	26%	26%	24%	23%	20%	19%	17%	15%	13%	15%	11%	10%
Non-euro area	47%	23%	21%	19%	19%	18%	21%	19%	13%	14%	15%	11%	12%	9%
BE	45%	62%	32%	29%	26%	25%	17%	23%	18%	20%	21%	23%	9%	13%
BG	59%	22%	22%	9%	15%	24%	8%	32%	12%	6%	26%	7%	8%	23%
CZ	54%	31%	23%	30%	24%	16%	28%	17%	20%	23%	14%	25%	15%	7%
DK	61%	26%	44%	14%	27%	25%	32%	27%	8%	40%	18%	33%	11%	9%
DE	52%	53%	41%	45%	22%	27%	39%	25%	20%	20%	12%	26%	12%	9%
EE	71%	30%	22%	14%	16%	24%	20%	14%	10%	8%	11%	8%	11%	11%
IE	52%	49%	17%	11%	23%	18%	13%	16%	13%	7%	27%	8%	15%	12%
EL	41%	52%	31%	19%	29%	17%	10%	16%	27%	15%	13%	15%	20%	18%
ES	32%	48%	9%	12%	16%	16%	11%	14%	12%	9%	16%	5%	4%	8%
FR	47%	44%	30%	30%	25%	32%	16%	14%	18%	16%	7%	6%	14%	6%
IT	33%	42%	15%	10%	28%	16%	5%	20%	12%	11%	13%	11%	9%	14%
CY	62%	46%	36%	20%	21%	29%	11%	30%	46%	23%	12%	45%	24%	24%
LV	61%	13%	16%	17%	10%	13%	18%	10%	21%	5%	8%	8%	6%	8%
LT	66%	14%	14%	14%	11%	17%	12%	16%	8%	4%	19%	7%	9%	9%
LU	59%	46%	41%	20%	32%	28%	14%	22%	9%	19%	18%	16%	8%	12%
HU	48%	25%	20%	11%	19%	20%	14%	25%	25%	12%	14%	16%	4%	8%
MT	48%	31%	20%	14%	31%	15%	8%	20%	12%	7%	22%	3%	10%	16%
NL	53%	57%	30%	16%	35%	20%	27%	14%	5%	16%	22%	13%	12%	7%
AT	46%	62%	29%	52%	23%	22%	40%	22%	37%	37%	15%	50%	21%	17%
PL	57%	24%	20%	8%	24%	15%	19%	18%	8%	5%	15%	5%	6%	7%
PT	31%	42%	9%	13%	18%	21%	6%	14%	28%	11%	10%	18%	11%	9%
RO	53%	36%	25%	12%	13%	15%	8%	33%	17%	8%	26%	11%	8%	17%
SI	53%	56%	25%	28%	19%	21%	23%	14%	22%	11%	15%	25%	15%	12%
SK	57%	66%	15%	17%	25%	18%	14%	20%	17%	9%	21%	22%	11%	10%
FI	64%	57%	23%	30%	14%	25%	37%	10%	7%	15%	12%	19%	7%	7%
SE	68%	21%	42%	36%	37%	28%	43%	25%	7%	21%	12%	18%	9%	5%
UK	30%	15%	16%	28%	15%	18%	26%	10%	12%	20%	11%	9%	20%	6%
Highest percentage per country										Lowest percentage per country				
Highest percentage per item										Lowest percentage per item				

It should also be noted that the two first items at EU level – **freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the EU; the euro** - are the first elements people associate with the European Union throughout all the countries surveyed:

Freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the EU comes in first position in 17 countries, and particularly in Eastern and Central European and Nordic countries.

The euro is the first answer given in the 10 other EU Member States, which are all members of the euro area.




Answers in Iceland, where the question was asked for the first time, differ somewhat from responses in the EU: though the two first items are similar, bureaucracy comes in third place (37%, vs. 21% at EU level). Other negative items are also more cited in Iceland: loss of cultural identity (23% vs. 12%), more crime (20%, vs. 14%) or not enough control at external borders (20% vs. 15%). On the other hand, peace (17% vs. 24%), a stronger say in the world (14% vs. 22%) or democracy (10% vs. 19%) are less cited.

From a sociological point of view, it is, first of all, interesting to note that the people for whom the euro symbolises the European Union are spread very homogeneously throughout the European population as a whole, with no significant differences between social groups.

However, the younger, wealthier and “better-off” socio-economically respondents are, the more they tend to value the freedom to travel, study and work. For example, this freedom was mentioned by 61% of students, 54% of those aged between 15 and 24 and 58% of senior managers compared with 35% of house persons, 36% of pensioners and 39% of the unemployed.

Lastly, as regards negative connotations, it should be noted that the vision of a bureaucratic Europe and that of a Europe which wastes money do not reflect the same social determinants. The idea of a Europe which wastes money is far more deeply rooted among people who studied the least (29%) than among people who stayed the longest in full-time education (20%), among people who place themselves at the bottom of the social hierarchy (29%) than among those at the top of the social scale (19%) and among manual workers (26%) than among senior managers (19%). The situation as regards the vision of bureaucracy is the opposite: it is, for example, more prevalent among the most educated respondents (26%) than among the least educated respondents (17%) and among managers (29%) than among manual workers (20%).

QA16 What does the European Union mean to you personally?

	Freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the EU	Euro	Peace	Waste of money	Stronger say in the world	Cultural diversity	Bureaucracy
EU27	45%	40%	24%	23%	22%	21%	21%
Age							
 15-24	54%	40%	21%	14%	23%	25%	13%
25-39	49%	43%	21%	19%	23%	24%	19%
40-54	45%	41%	24%	26%	23%	21%	23%
55 +	37%	37%	28%	28%	21%	17%	23%
Education (End of)							
 15-	29%	39%	22%	29%	15%	12%	17%
16-19	43%	39%	23%	26%	22%	19%	21%
20+	56%	42%	29%	20%	29%	31%	26%
Still studying	61%	42%	26%	12%	26%	29%	13%
Respondent occupation scale							
 Self-employed	47%	42%	21%	21%	27%	21%	22%
Managers	58%	43%	30%	19%	27%	32%	29%
Other white collars	48%	44%	22%	21%	25%	22%	21%
Manual workers	44%	40%	21%	26%	20%	20%	20%
House persons	35%	43%	17%	21%	18%	16%	14%
Unemployed	39%	37%	18%	24%	17%	17%	20%
Retired	36%	36%	30%	29%	20%	17%	22%
Students	61%	42%	26%	12%	26%	29%	13%
Self-positioning on the social staircase							
Low (1-4)	38%	38%	20%	29%	16%	18%	19%
Medium (5-6)	46%	40%	25%	23%	22%	21%	21%
High (7-10)	50%	42%	27%	19%	30%	24%	21%

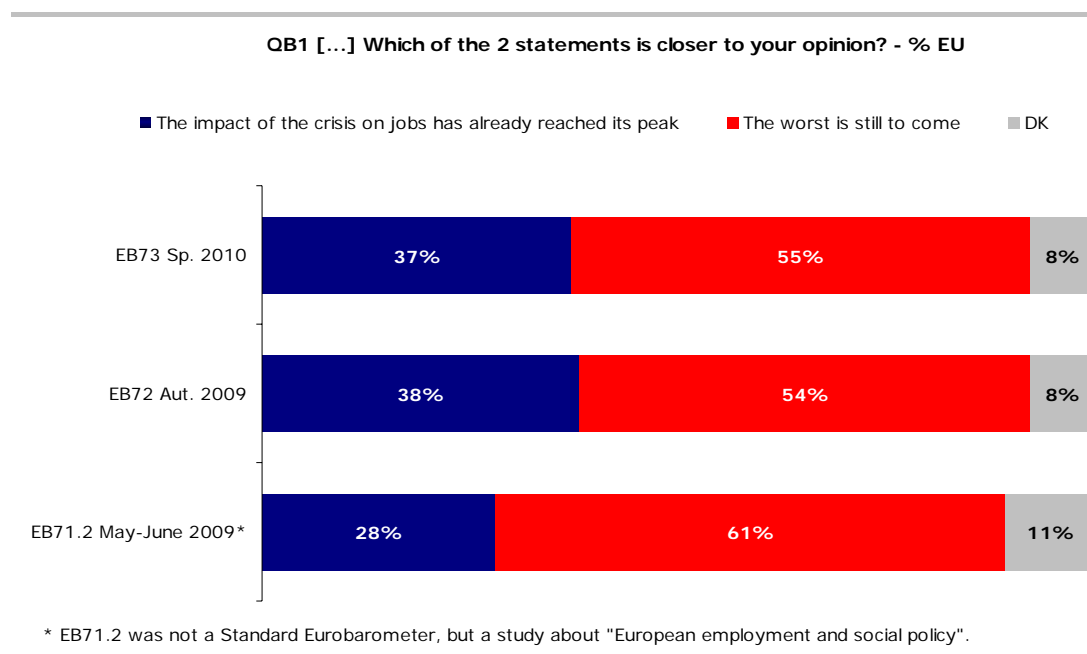
3. THE EUROPEANS AND THE CRISIS

3.1 The economic crisis: has it already reached its peak, or is the worst still to come?

- Majority of Europeans continue to expect that the worst is still to come -

Over the course of the past few years, the Eurobarometer has monitored the impact of the economic crisis closely. As the crisis evolved, negative evaluations of the economic situation intensified. Just as the recession seemed to diminish during the third quarter of 2009, it was hit by the spring 2010 debt crisis. This latest survey measures the public's state of mind just after this heated spring¹⁸.

One might be inclined to think that the collision between economic recovery on the one hand and the debt crisis on the other explains why, overall, public opinion has not changed since autumn 2009. The feeling that the worst is still to come continues to dominate public opinion (55%; +1) while just over a third of Europeans (37%; -1) believe that the impact of the crisis on jobs has already reached its peak.



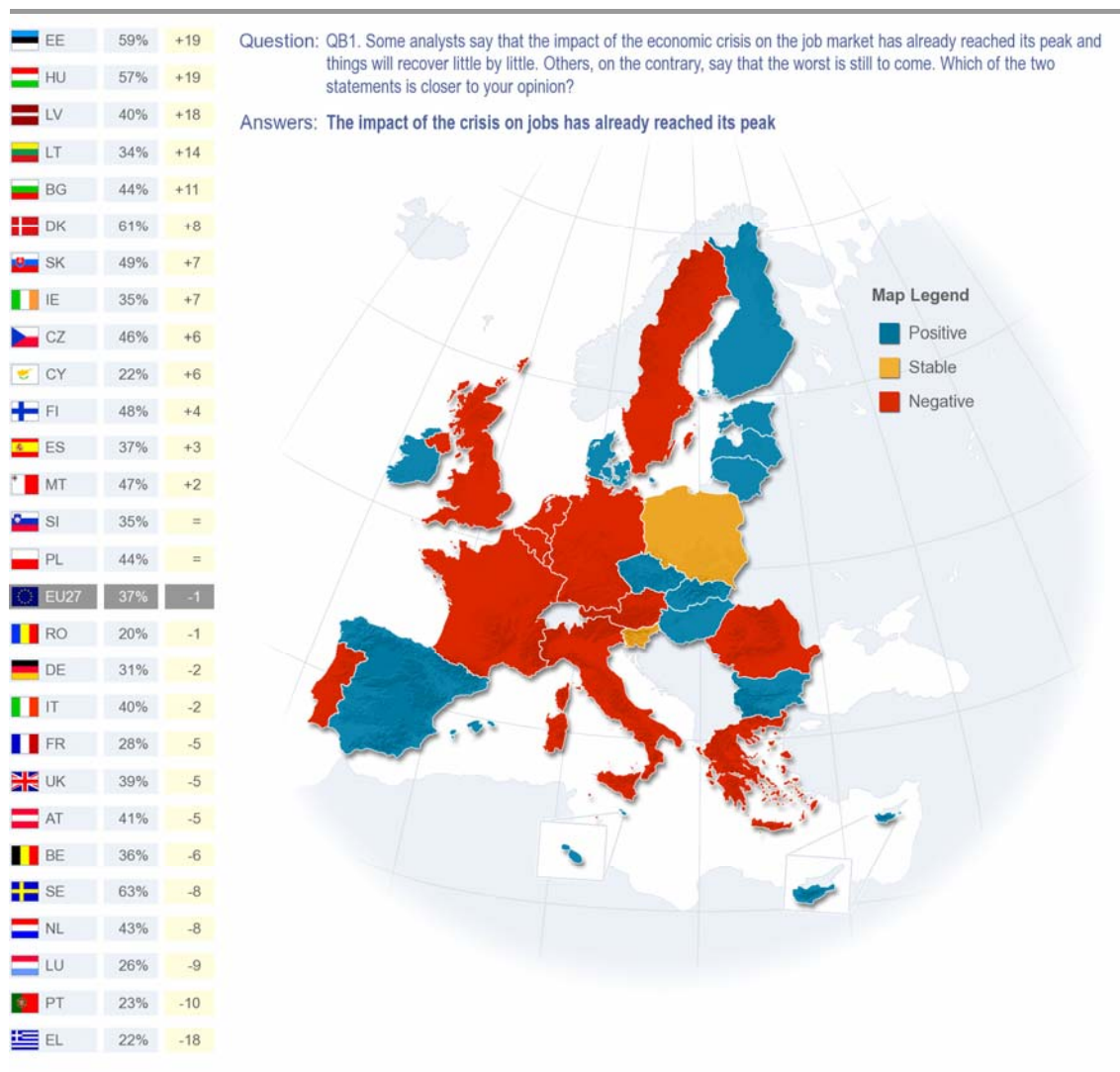
The real explanation, however, is that wide national differences on balance create an overall stable picture, with pluses and minuses cancelling out each other. These wide national differences in public opinion accurately reflect the current situation in the European Union Member States as regards the electoral cycle and economic performance: while for some the road to recovery has clearly commenced, others still have a long way to go¹⁹.

¹⁸ QB1 Some analysts say that the impact of the economic crisis on the job market has already reached its peak and things will recover little by little. Others, on the contrary, say that the worst is still to come. Which of the two statements is closer to your opinion?

¹⁹ European Economic Forecast Spring 2010:

http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/publications/european_economy/2010/pdf/ee-2010-2_en.pdf

The survey shows a substantial rise in the view that 'the impact of the crisis on jobs has reached its peak' in Estonia, Hungary (both +19) and Latvia (+18). Conversely, this sentiment has declined most sharply in Greece (-18) and Portugal (-10).



Having seen that a relative majority of Europeans (55%) are somewhat pessimistic about the impact of the economic crisis on the job market, a socio-demographic analysis of the results reveals certain disparities between the different respondent categories.



Thus, pessimism among Europeans seems to increase with age: 57% of those aged 55 or over declared that the worst is still to come versus 48% of those aged between 15 and 24.

The fact of belonging to a "better-off" socio-economic category also plays a role, since 51% and 50% of managers and employees respectively consider that the worst is still to come (versus 64% of the unemployed and 62% of house persons).

Similarly, 47% of Europeans who place themselves at the top of the social hierarchy are pessimistic, compared with 66% of those who place themselves at the bottom of the social scale. The same is true as regards respondents who almost never have difficulties paying their bills (51%) in contrast to 68% of those struggling to pay their bills who tend to fear the worst.

It is also noteworthy that the answers to this question also vary according to respondents' political leanings: people on the left of the political spectrum are far more pessimistic (60%) than those on the right (50%).

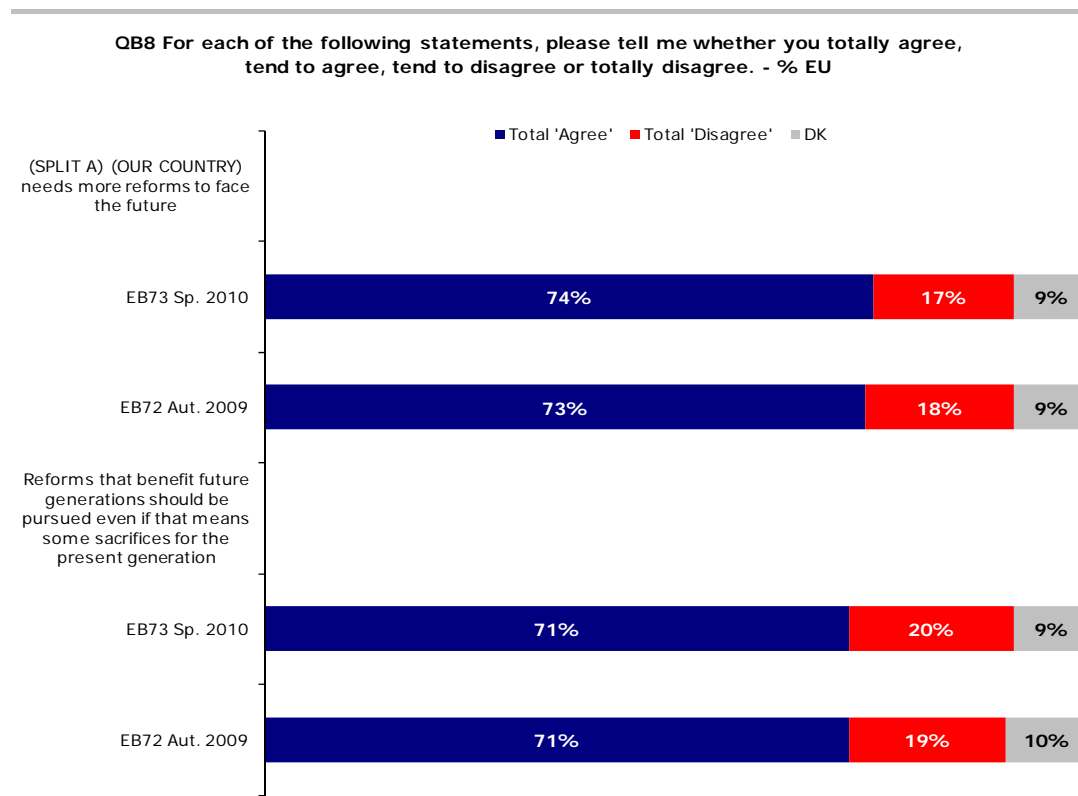
QB1 Some analysts say that the impact of the economic crisis on the job market has already reached its peak and things will recover little by little. Others, on the contrary, say that the worst is still to come. Which of the two statements is closer to your opinion?

	The impact of the crisis on jobs has already reached its peak	The worst is still to come	DK
EU27	37%	55%	8%
Age			
 15-24	43%	48%	9%
25-39	39%	53%	8%
40-54	35%	58%	7%
55 +	33%	57%	10%
Respondent occupation scale			
 Self-employed	38%	55%	7%
Managers	43%	51%	6%
Other white collars	41%	50%	9%
Manual workers	37%	56%	7%
House persons	29%	62%	9%
Unemployed	28%	64%	8%
Retired	33%	57%	10%
Students	46%	43%	11%
Left-Right scale			
(1-4) Left	33%	60%	7%
(5-6) Centre	39%	53%	8%
(7-10) Right	44%	50%	6%
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	24%	68%	8%
From time to time	32%	59%	9%
Almost never	41%	51%	8%
Self-positioning on the social staircase			
Low (1-4)	25%	66%	9%
Medium (5-6)	38%	54%	8%
High (7-10)	46%	47%	7%

3.2 Europeans' attitudes towards reform

- Reforms and sacrifices are needed to face the future -

Not only do Europeans think that the impact of the crisis will continue to be felt, they are convinced that their country needs more reforms to face the future (74%)²⁰ and that these reforms should be pursued even if that means some sacrifices for the present generation (71%)²¹. These results have remained stable since autumn 2009.



The national analysis reveals significant differences: respondents in Spain (91%), Finland (87%), Belgium (83%), Bulgaria and the UK (both 82%) express a **very strong demand for more reforms**, and although less pronounced in France (56%), Slovakia and Lithuania (both 62%) or Denmark (64%), the demand for reforms is strong.

Moreover, although the figures are stable across the EU as a whole, marked evolutions can be seen in some countries: respondents in Greece are now less keen to have more reforms (70%, -18 points), while this view has increased support in Luxembourg (71%, +8), Hungary (73%, +8) and Malta (80%, +8).

²⁰ It should be noted that this item was asked of one half of the sample (split ballot technique).

²¹ QB8 For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree. 3. Reforms that benefit future generations should be pursued even if that means some sacrifices for the present generation 4. (OUR COUNTRY) needs more reforms to face the future

































National differences are greatest when it comes the perceived need **to pursue the reforms even if it means sacrifice** for the present generation: inter-generational solidarity is strongest in Nordic countries, Finland (88%), Denmark and Sweden (both 87%), and more limited in Latvia and Lithuania (45% both). The wish for reforms that benefit future generations remains high in Greece, although with some decline (68%, -10), and is more widespread in Ireland (72%, +9) and Malta (70%, +8).

3.3 Public deficits

- Reducing public deficit and debt: a necessity or a concern? -

When questioned more specifically, the survey shows that a vast majority of Europeans (74%) agreed that "measures to reduce the public deficit and debt in their country cannot be delayed"²².

QB8.8 For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree.
Measures to reduce the public deficit and debt in (OUR COUNTRY) cannot be delayed

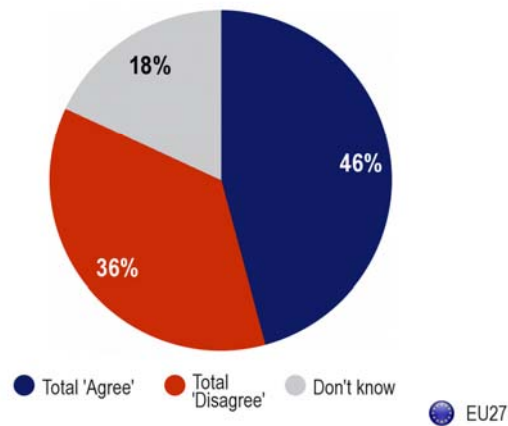
		Total 'Agree'	Total 'Disagree'	Don't know
	EU27	74%	15%	11%
	SE	85%	10%	5%
	HU	84%	12%	4%
	DE	83%	12%	5%
	BE	82%	14%	4%
	CY	82%	6%	12%
	CZ	80%	13%	7%
	EL	80%	15%	5%
	SI	80%	13%	7%
	MT	79%	8%	13%
	FI	79%	12%	9%
	UK	79%	11%	10%
	AT	78%	18%	4%
	SK	78%	12%	10%
	NL	77%	17%	6%
	DK	76%	16%	8%
	IE	76%	12%	12%
	IT	76%	15%	9%
	LU	71%	20%	9%
	ES	69%	14%	17%
	LV	69%	20%	11%
	PL	66%	15%	19%
	FR	65%	21%	14%
	EE	62%	21%	17%
	LT	62%	19%	19%
	BG	59%	10%	31%
	PT	59%	22%	19%
	RO	56%	19%	25%
	HR	77%	15%	8%
	TR	55%	17%	28%
	MK	55%	22%	23%
	IS	76%	17%	7%

²² QB8.8 For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree. Measures to reduce the public deficit and debt in (OUR COUNTRY) cannot be delayed. This question was asked to half of the sample, selected randomly.

Meanwhile, only a relative majority (46%) of the European public agrees with the statement that "in an international financial and economic crisis it is necessary to increase public deficits to create jobs"²³.










QB9.2. For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree.

In a international financial and economic crisis, it is necessary to increase public deficits to create jobs



²³ QB9.2 For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree. In a international financial and economic crisis, it is necessary to increase public deficits to create jobs

Approval for increases in the public deficit to create jobs is certainly not equally widespread in all countries. In particular the survey shows that in the countries where reforms have recently taken place (Greece and Germany) or where these are on the public agenda (the Netherlands), the public mood is more against increasing the public deficit in this way.

QB9.2 (...) In a international financial and economic crisis, it is necessary to increase public deficits to create jobs			
	Total 'Agree'	Total 'Disagree'	Countries with the highest positive and negative differences Total 'Agree' - Total 'Disagree'
 EU27	46%	36%	+10
Euro area	41%	42%	-1
Non-euro area	55%	27%	+28
 SK	66%	21%	+45
 SE	66%	25%	+41
 IE	58%	18%	+40
 FI	65%	25%	+40
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮
 LV	35%	48%	-13
 NL	37%	51%	-14
 DE	37%	52%	-15
 EL	37%	53%	-16

All these results reflect the fact that Europeans seem unsure about how best to stimulate economic recovery. This is very likely a consequence of the general concern with unemployment, mentioned previously²⁴.

²⁴ Part 1.2: Main concerns at national level (page 9).

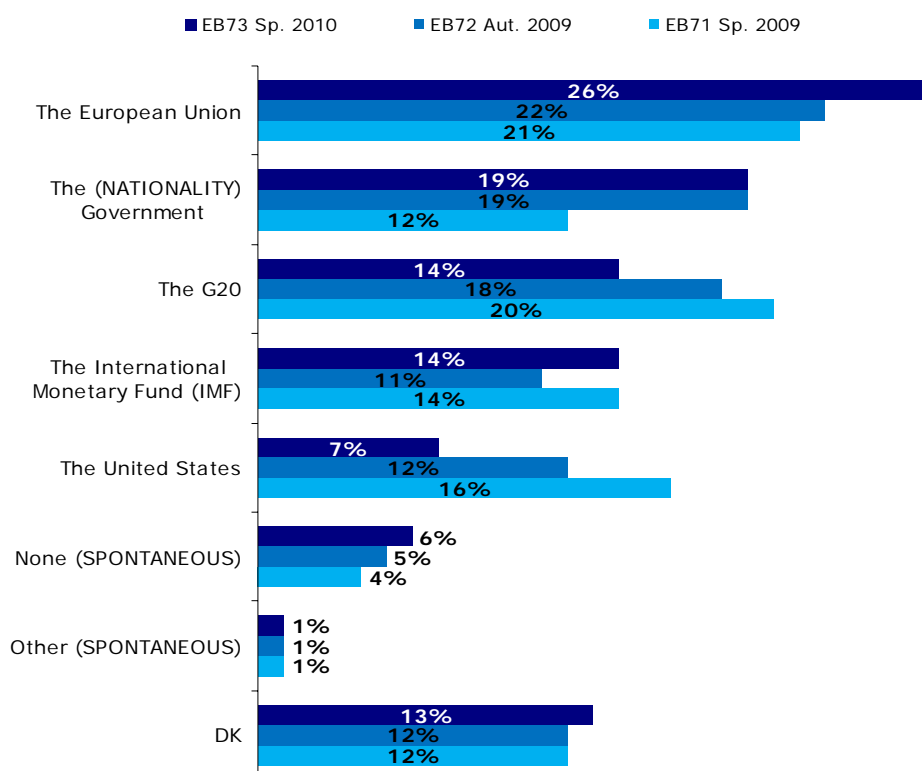
4. PERCEPTION OF THE ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION IN CONFRONTING THE CRISIS

4.1 In comparison with other international players

- Increased support for the EU and the IMF -

Despite the decline in trust noted above, the European Union is now seen even more widely than in autumn 2009 as best able to take effective actions against the effects of the financial and economic crisis. The latest results show an increased public belief that the European Union is the preferred actor (26%; +4)²⁵. There is also more reliance on the International Monetary Fund (IMF) (14%; +3), an indication perhaps that the measures taken by both actors in response to the Greek debt crisis have public support.

QB3a In your opinion, which of the following is best able to take effective actions against the effects of the financial and economic crisis? - % EU (SPLIT A)



The belief that the EU is best able to take effective action against the effects of the financial and economic crisis is most widely voiced in Belgium (36%) and Poland (35%). At 33%, Greece has the fourth highest proportion of respondents expressing this view – along with Spain, Italy, Luxembourg and Malta –, even if, as noted earlier, many Greek respondents (56%) do not trust the EU.

²⁵ QB3a In your opinion, which of the following is best able to take effective actions against the effects of the financial and economic crisis? (ROTATE) The (NATIONALITY) Government; The European Union; The United States; The G20; The International Monetary Fund (IMF) – Respondents were allowed to give only one answer. This question was asked to half of the sample (Split A), selected randomly.

The EU is seen as best able to take effective actions by respondents in all countries except the Czech Republic (G20: 36%), Latvia (G20: 22%), Hungary (G20: 28%), the Netherlands (G20: 34%), Romania (the national government: 42%), Finland (IMF: 30%), the UK (the national government: 35%) and Sweden (the national government: 28%).

QB3a In your opinion, which of the following is best able to take effective actions against the effects of the financial and economic crisis? (SPLIT A)

	The European Union	The (NATIONALITY) Government	The G20	The International Monetary Fund (IMF)	The United States
EU27	26%	19%	14%	14%	7%
BE	36%	10%	17%	19%	9%
BG	30%	23%	15%	8%	4%
CZ	13%	7%	36%	15%	14%
DK	19%	14%	16%	17%	19%
DE	27%	12%	20%	16%	5%
EE	28%	14%	18%	12%	6%
IE	29%	24%	6%	13%	9%
EL	33%	27%	7%	9%	4%
ES	33%	16%	9%	14%	11%
FR	22%	19%	14%	16%	6%
IT	33%	17%	7%	11%	9%
CY	34%	19%	12%	17%	4%
LV	19%	19%	22%	10%	9%
LT	29%	16%	12%	10%	10%
LU	33%	14%	19%	14%	5%
HU	24%	15%	28%	14%	8%
MT	33%	33%	7%	9%	5%
NL	22%	10%	34%	20%	4%
AT	23%	20%	9%	19%	6%
PL	35%	13%	9%	13%	7%
PT	28%	11%	8%	6%	12%
RO	24%	42%	9%	6%	5%
SI	32%	11%	11%	15%	8%
SK	32%	10%	22%	17%	5%
FI	22%	13%	17%	30%	10%
SE	21%	28%	18%	14%	4%
UK	9%	35%	13%	13%	8%

Highest percentage per country

Lowest percentage per country

Highest percentage per item

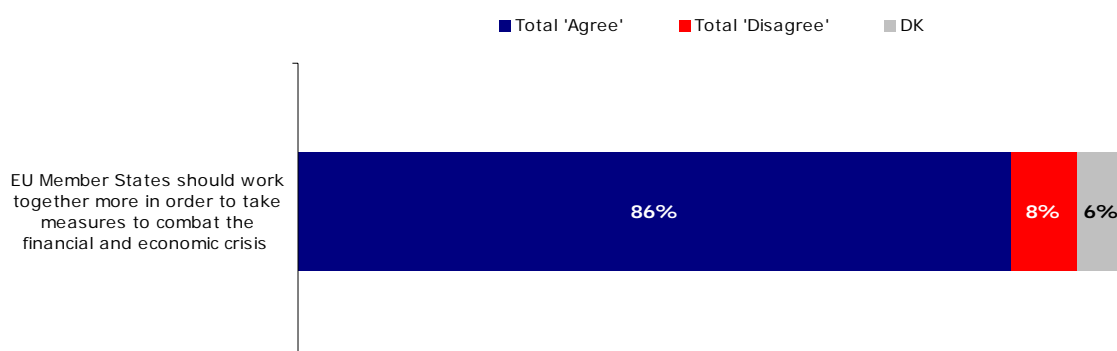
Lowest percentage per item

4.2 The need for stronger coordination

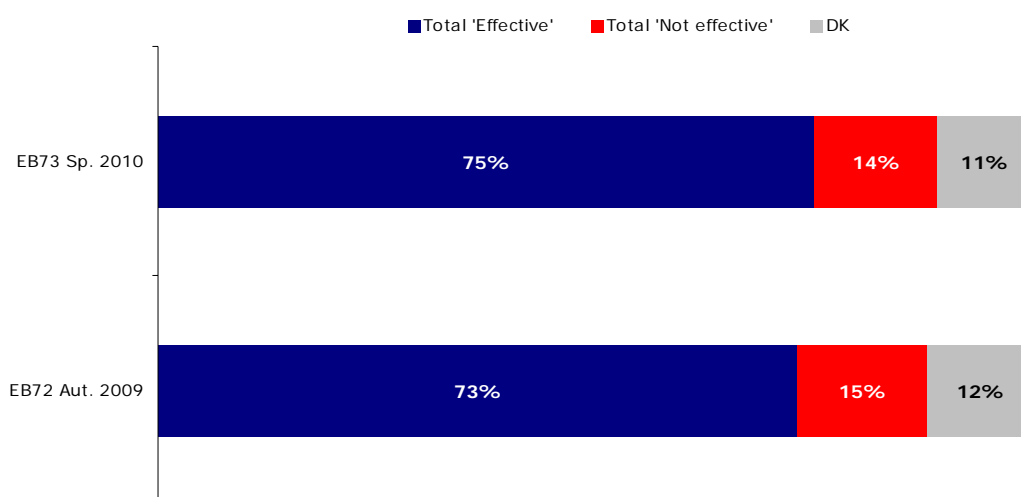
- Strong desire for more coordination... -

The European public has expressed a clear desire for more coordination among Member States to meet the economic and financial crisis: 86% of respondents agree that EU Member States should work together more in order to take measures to combat the financial and economic crisis²⁶ and 75% believe that stronger coordination of economic and financial policies among all EU Member States would be effective²⁷.

QB8.6 For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree. - % EU



QB10.3 Certain measures aimed at combating the current financial and economic crisis are currently being discussed within the European institutions. For each of these measures, could you tell me whether you think it would be effective or not to combat the current crisis? A stronger coordination of economic and financial policies among all the EU Member States - % EU

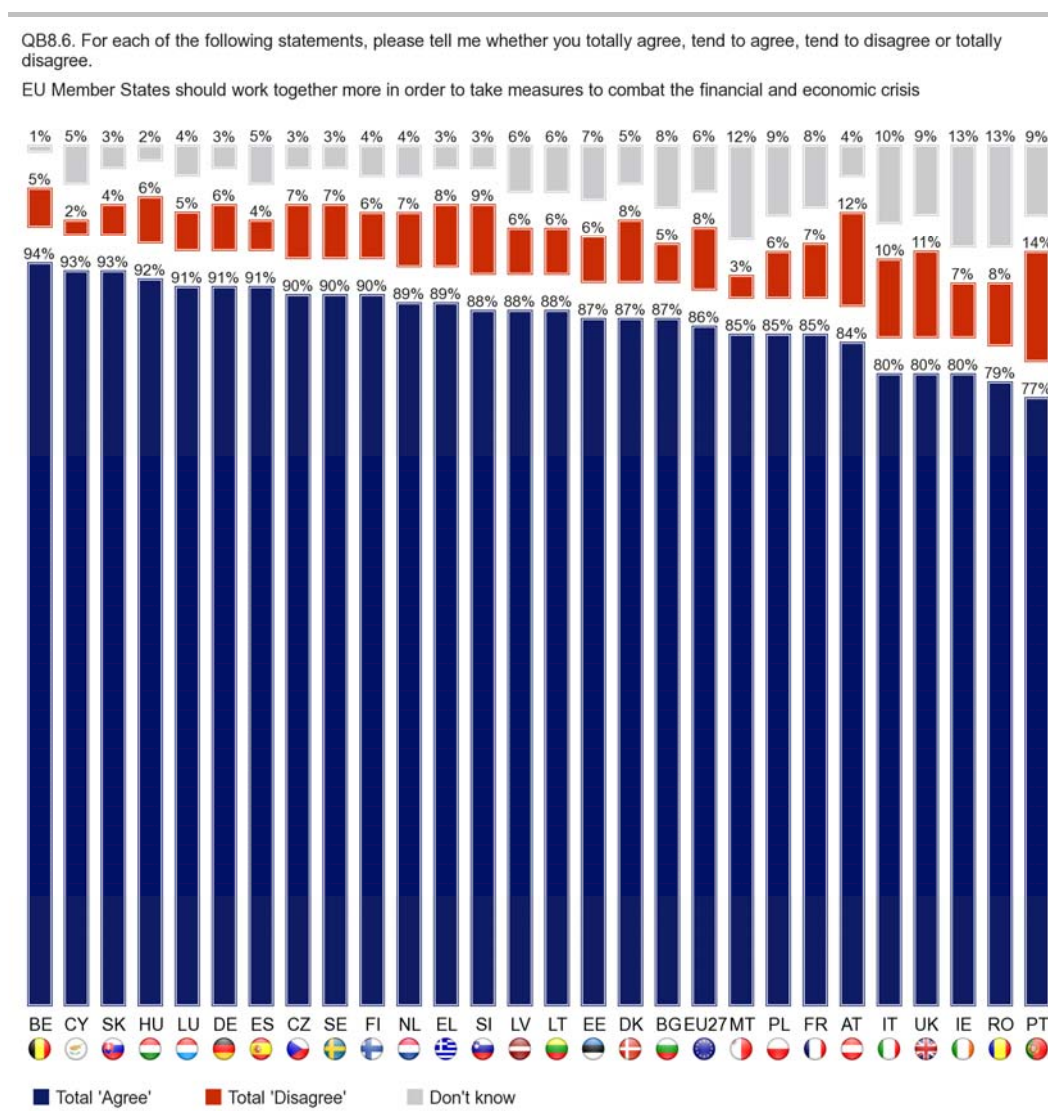


²⁶ QB8.6 For each of the following statements please tell me whether you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree. EU Member States should work together more in order to take measures to combat the financial and economic crisis

²⁷ QB10.3 Certain measures aimed at combating the current financial and economic crisis are currently being discussed within the European institutions. For each of these measures, could you tell me whether you think it would be effective or not to combat the current crisis? A stronger coordination of economic and financial policies among all the EU Member States – 1) Very effective 2) Fairly effective 3) Not very effective 4) Not at all effective

In Belgium, Slovakia, Cyprus, Greece and Germany, there is a clear demand for more coordination between countries to combat the crisis: respondents in these countries are most likely to agree with the statement that 'EU Member States should work more together in order to take measures to combat the financial and economic crisis', and are generally convinced of the effectiveness of 'stronger coordination of economic and financial policies among all EU Member States'.





























Indeed, the idea that **EU Member States should work together more in order to take measures to combat the financial and economic crisis** is cited by more than 9 in 10 respondents in Belgium (94%), Cyprus and Slovakia (both 93%), Hungary (92%), Luxembourg (91%), Germany and Spain (all 91%). Eighty-five percent of respondents in France and 80% in both Italy and the United Kingdom support this idea.



Symmetrically, highest proportions of respondents considering that **stronger coordination of economic and financial policies among all the EU Member States** would be effective are found in Slovakia (89%), Belgium and Cyprus (both 87%), Germany (85%), the Netherlands and Greece (both 84%).

The results are relatively stable at EU level compared to the last time this question was asked (autumn 2009). A notable exception is found in Finland where the respondents support for this measure to combat the financial and economic crisis has increased from 65% to 78% (+13 points).

QB10.3 Certain measures aimed at combating the current financial and economic crisis are currently being discussed within the European institutions. For each of these measures, could you tell me whether you think it would be effective or not to combat the current crisis?
A stronger coordination of economic and financial policies among all the EU Member States

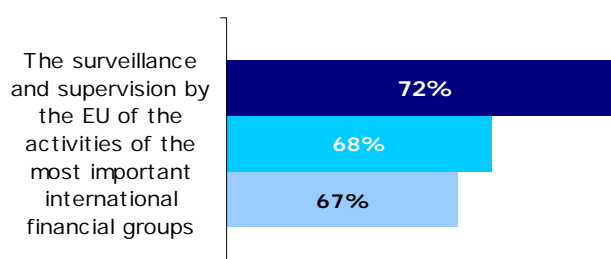
	Total 'Effective'	Diff. EB73 Sp. 2010 - EB72 Aut. 2009	Total 'Not effective'	Diff. EB73 Sp. 2010 - EB72 Aut. 2009	Don't know	Diff. EB73 Sp. 2010 - EB72 Aut. 2009
 EU27	75%	+2	14%	-1	11%	-1
 SK	89%	+6	5%	-5	6%	-1
 BE	87%	+7	10%	-5	3%	-2
 CY	87%	+1	6%	+1	7%	-2
 DE	85%	+7	11%	-4	4%	-3
 EL	84%	-2	13%	+2	3%	=
 NL	84%	+5	11%	-4	5%	-1
 ES	83%	+2	8%	-1	9%	-1
 LU	81%	+6	13%	-1	6%	-5
 SI	81%	=	13%	+1	6%	-1
 DK	79%	+1	16%	=	5%	-1
 FR	78%	+2	9%	-2	13%	=
 FI	78%	+13	15%	-9	7%	-4
 IE	77%	+13	9%	=	14%	-13
 BG	76%	+1	7%	+1	17%	-2
 CZ	74%	-3	17%	+1	9%	+2
 MT	74%	-2	5%	+3	21%	-1
 AT	74%	+6	21%	-4	5%	-2
 IT	73%	-1	14%	-3	13%	+4
 PL	70%	+1	14%	+3	16%	-4
 RO	70%	+4	12%	+1	18%	-5
 SE	70%	=	23%	+1	7%	-1
 LT	67%	+1	16%	=	17%	-1
 LV	67%	+3	22%	+1	11%	-4
 HU	67%	-2	27%	+4	6%	-2
 EE	64%	+2	19%	=	17%	-2
 PT	62%	-2	27%	+8	11%	-6
 UK	60%	+1	22%	=	18%	-1

- ...and for more surveillance and supervision by the EU -

Another measure which respondents consider would be particularly effective in combating the financial and economic crisis is **“the surveillance and supervision by the EU of the activities of the most important international financial groups”**, which was mentioned by 72% of respondents, i.e. four points higher than in autumn 2009 and five points higher than in spring 2009²⁸.

QB10.2 Certain measures aimed at combating the current financial and economic crisis are currently being discussed within the European institutions. For each of these measures, could you tell me whether you think it would be effective or not to combat the current crisis?
- Answer: Total 'Effective' - % EU

■ EB71.1 Jan.-Feb. 2009 ■ EB72 Aut. 2009 ■ EB73 Sp. 2010

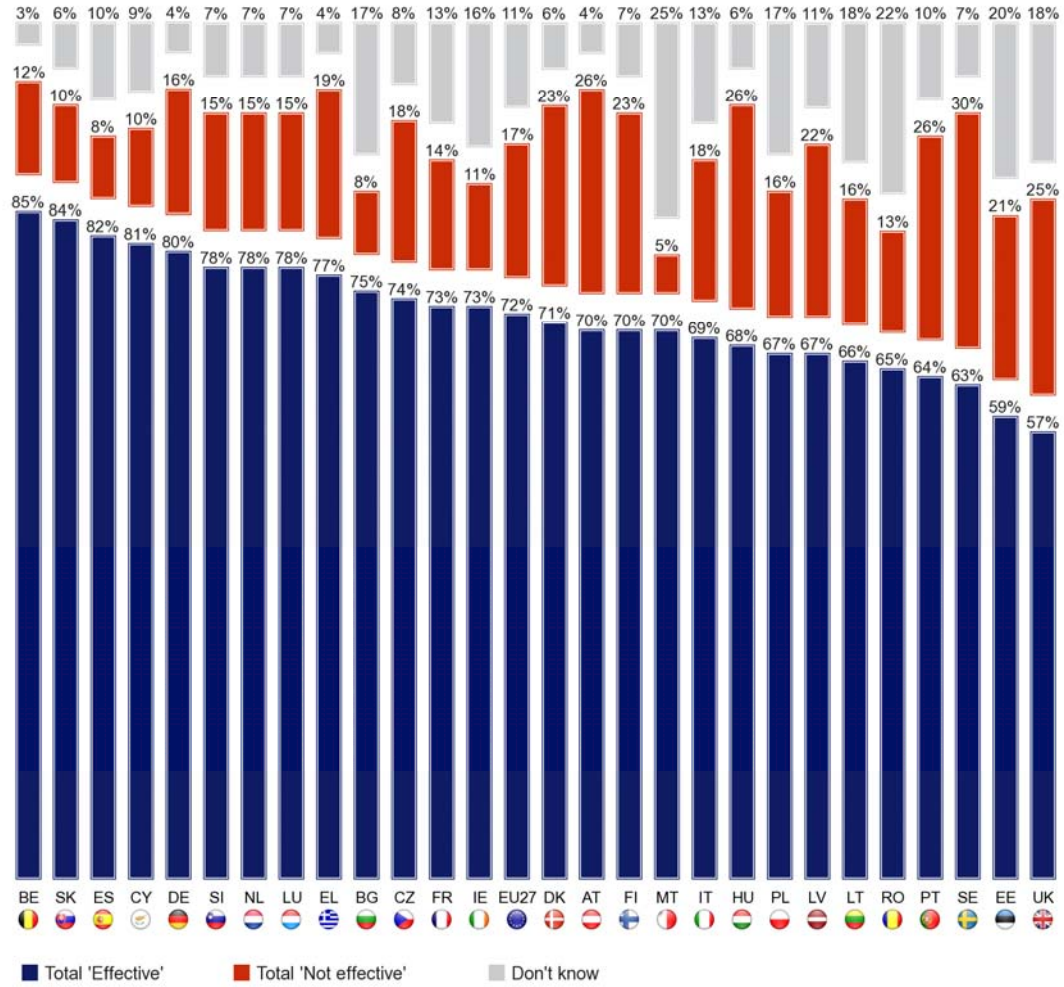


Respondents in Belgium (85%), Slovakia (84%), Spain (82%), Cyprus (81%) and Germany (80%) are the most likely to support the idea that **“the surveillance and supervision by the EU of the activities of the most important international financial groups”** would be an effective way of combating the crisis.

²⁸ QB10.2 Certain measures aimed at combating the current financial and economic crisis are currently being discussed within the European institutions. For each of these measures, could you tell me whether you think it would be effective or not to combat the current crisis? The surveillance and supervision by the EU of the activities of the most important international financial groups

QB10.2. Certain measures aimed at combating the current financial and economic crisis are currently being discussed within the European institutions. For each of these measures, could you tell me whether you think it would be effective or not to combat the current crisis?

The surveillance and supervision by the EU of the activities of the most important international financial groups



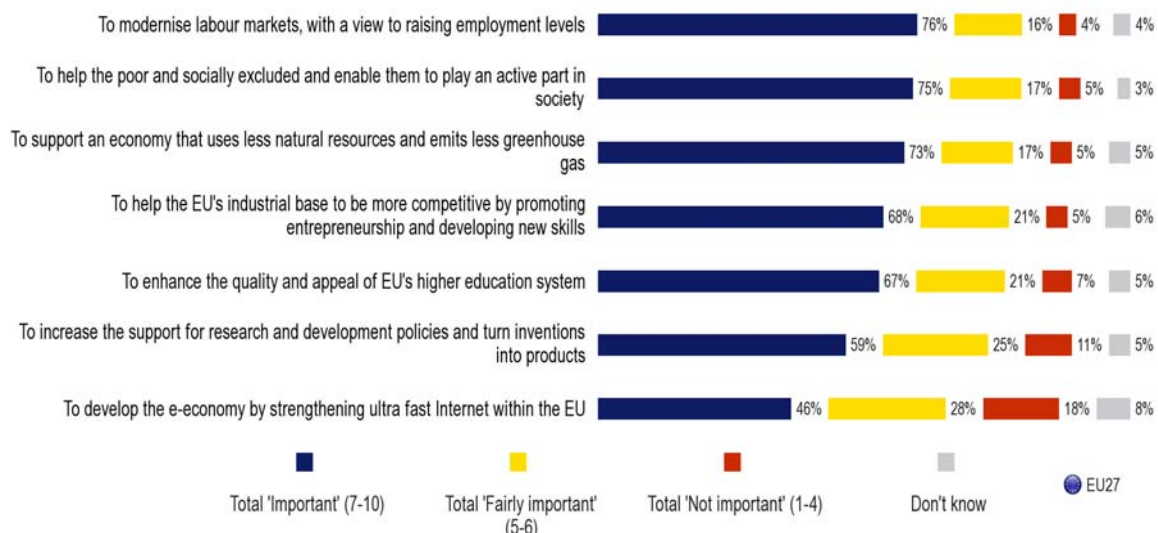
5. A STRATEGY FOR THE FUTURE – "EUROPE 2020"

- Broad public support for the measures needed to prepare the EU for the future -

Europe faces major structural challenges – globalisation, climate change and an ageing population. The economic downturn has made these issues even more pressing. On 3 March 2010, the European Commission launched the "Europe 2020" Strategy to prepare the EU economy for the next decade's challenges – aiming to stimulate growth and create more and better jobs, while making the economy greener and more innovative²⁹.

The survey measures to what extent Europeans rate the "Europe 2020" initiatives as important³⁰ and shows that modernising labour markets with a view to raising employment levels (76% important) tops the list. This highlights the perceived importance of employment. However, nearly as many Europeans (75%) believe that helping the poor and socially excluded and enabling them to play an active part in society is an important initiative. A greener economy also ranks high on the list of priorities (73%). There appears to be least interest among the European public in the initiative aimed at developing the e-economy by strengthening ultra-fast Internet within the EU (46%).

QC1. For each of the following initiatives, please tell me how important or not you think they are in order for the European Union to exit the present financial and economic crisis and prepare for the next decade. Please use a scale from 1 to 10, where '1' means that you think this initiative is "not at all important" and '10' means that it is "very important".



²⁹ <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/10/225>

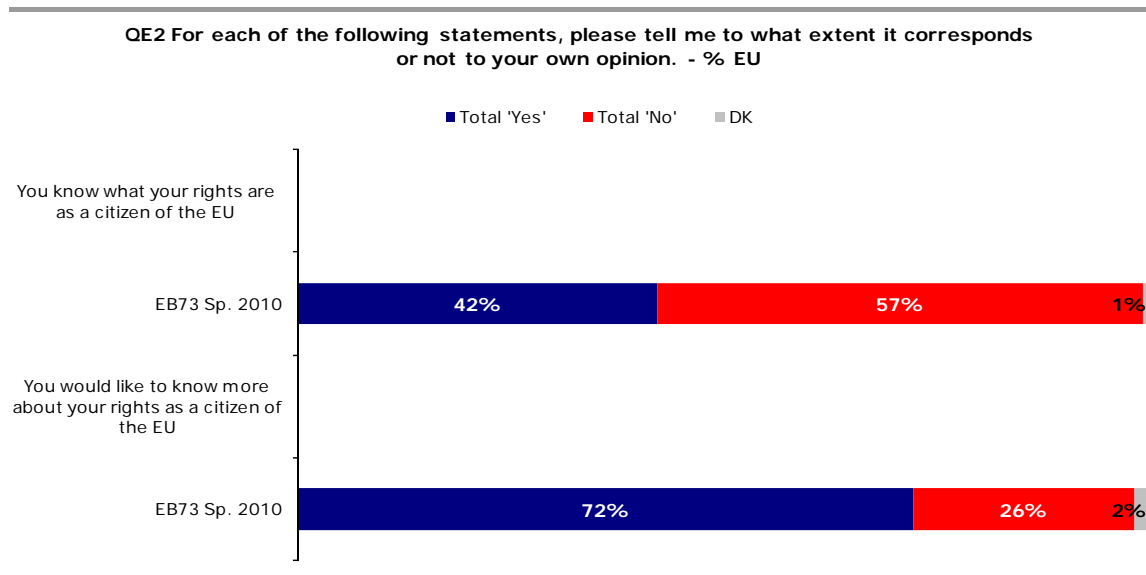
³⁰ QC1 For each of the following initiatives, please tell me how important or not you think they are in order for the European Union to exit the present financial and economic crisis and prepare for the next decade. Please use a scale from 1 to 10, where '1' means that you think this initiative is "not at all important" and '10' means that it is "very important". 1. To increase the support for research and development policies and turn inventions into products 2. To enhance the quality and appeal of EU's higher education system 3. To develop the e-economy by strengthening ultra fast Internet within the EU 4. To support an economy that uses less natural resources and emits less greenhouse gas 5. To help the EU's industrial base to be more competitive by promoting entrepreneurship and developing new skills 6. To modernise labour markets, with a view to raising employment levels 7. To help the poor and socially excluded and enable them to play an active part in society

6. EUROPEAN UNION CITIZENSHIP

- More information is needed about the rights of EU citizens -

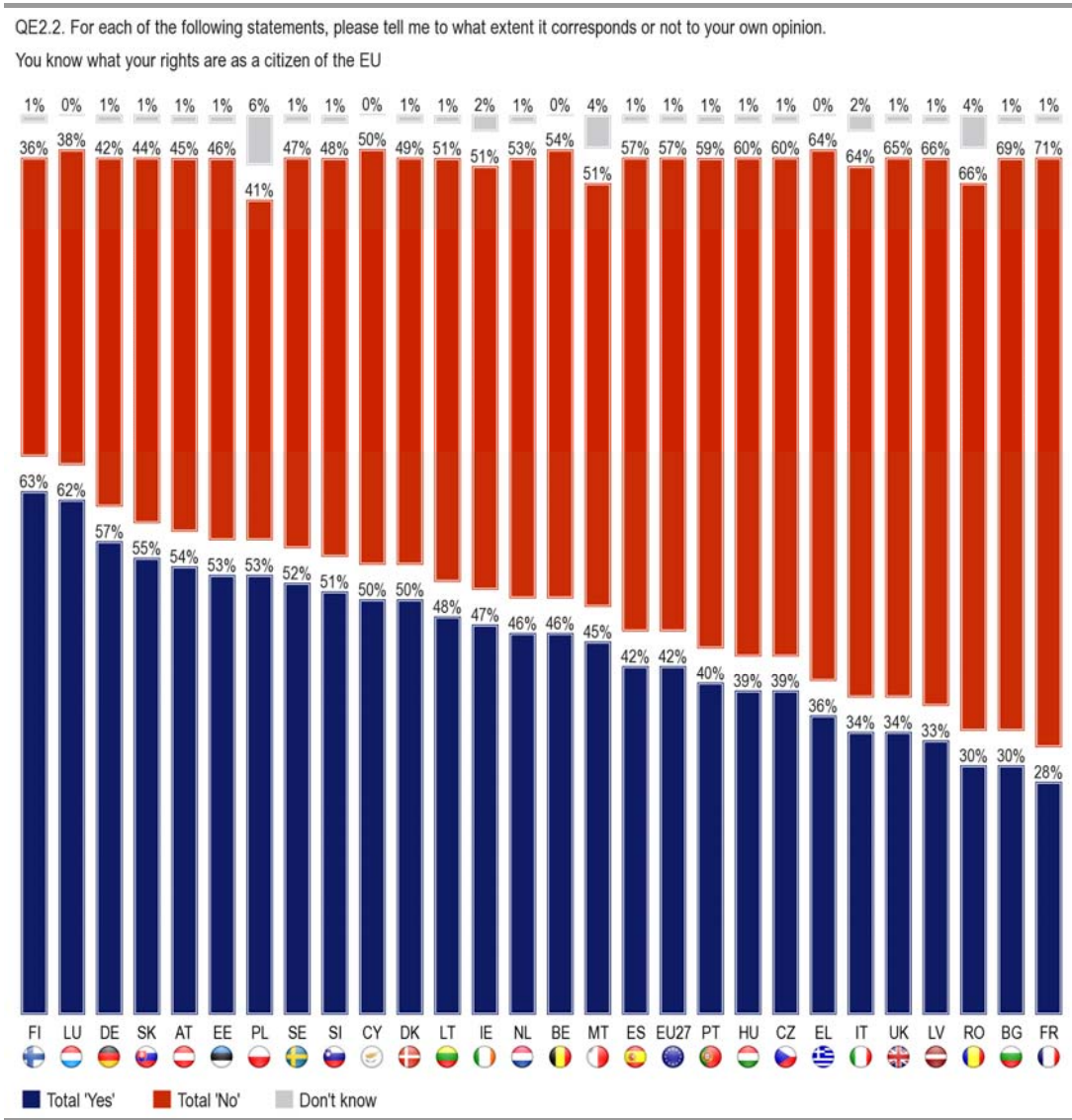
Earlier, we analysed what the European Union means to Europeans; but do they actually know what their rights are as EU citizens?³¹

The survey shows that more information is needed in this regard: only 42% of Europeans know their rights and 72% would like to know more.



³¹ QE2 For each of the following statements, please tell me to what extent it corresponds or not to your own opinion. 2. You know what your rights are as a citizen of the EU 3. You would like to know more about your rights as a citizen of the EU – 1) Yes, definitely 2) Yes, to some extent 3) No, not really 4) No, definitely not

The national results show that fewer than half of Europeans in 17 of the 27 Member States know what their rights are. In particular, there appears to be a need to improve knowledge in France (28% vs. 71% who don't know what their rights are), Bulgaria (30% vs. 69%) and Romania (30% vs. 66%).



The desire to know more about their rights as citizens is shared by a majority of respondents in all EU Member States. However, the strength of this feeling differs somewhat, with the highest scores recorded in Cyprus ('total yes', 95%, of which 83% 'yes, definitely'), Slovakia (89%), and Malta (86%). In contrast, respondents in Austria (64%) and in the UK (53%) are the least enthusiastic.

A socio-demographic analysis of the results reveals certain disparities between the categories of respondents. Thus, the more educated and wealthier respondents are, the more they tend to know what their rights are as citizens of the European Union.



The knowledge of their rights as citizens of the European Union is far more deeply rooted among people who spent the longest in full-time education (54%) than among people who studied the least (26%).

The fact of belonging to a "better-off" socio-economic category also plays a role, since 60% and 51% of managers and self-employed people respectively consider that they know their rights as EU citizens (versus 31% of house persons and 33% of the unemployed).

Lastly, 54% of Europeans who place themselves at the top of the social scale claimed that they know their rights as EU citizens, compared with 27% of those who place themselves at the bottom. The same is true as regards respondents who almost never have difficulties paying their bills (47%) compared with 72% of those who struggle to pay their bills most of the time who stated that they do not know their rights as EU citizens.

QE2.2 For each of the following statements, please tell me to what extent it corresponds or not to your own opinion.

You know what your rights are as a citizen of the EU

	Total 'Yes'	Total 'No'	DK
EU27	42%	57%	1%
Education (End of)			
 15-	26%	72%	2%
16-19	42%	57%	1%
20+	54%	45%	1%
Still studying	52%	47%	1%
Respondent occupation scale			
 Self-employed	51%	48%	1%
Managers	60%	39%	1%
Other white collars	44%	55%	1%
Manual workers	41%	58%	1%
House persons	31%	68%	1%
Unemployed	33%	66%	1%
Retired	34%	64%	2%
Students	52%	47%	1%
Self-positioning on the social staircase			
Low (1-4)	27%	71%	2%
Medium (5-6)	43%	56%	1%
High (7-10)	54%	45%	1%
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	26%	72%	2%
From time to time	36%	62%	2%
Almost never	47%	52%	1%

Conclusion

In spring 2010, Greece was facing severe budgetary problems and there was a risk of contagion spreading to other Member States. Earlier Eurobarometer surveys highlighted the extent to which the financial and economic crisis has impacted European public opinion in all areas of life. As this survey was conducted at a time when the package of stabilisation measures was not yet in place the consequences of the "debt crisis" appear to have had an even greater impact on public opinion:

- ◆ **Compared to autumn 2009 public confidence in the economic situation is now lower, as are short-term expectations.** This is particularly so when it comes to the national economies and the European economy. Europeans remain most critical about their country's employment situation.
- ◆ **Europeans are more positive about their own personal situation, despite the impact of the economic crisis on public opinion.** Over six out of ten Europeans are positive about the financial situation of their household and over half give a positive assessment of their current job situation.
- ◆ **In fact, unemployment is considered the most important national problem,** although levels of concern are now slightly lower than in autumn 2009.
- ◆ Even if Europe is officially no longer in recession, the **prevailing impression is that the economic crisis is still ongoing,** although wide variations exist at national level which might reflect the different stages of economic recovery in the EU Member States.
- ◆ Europeans generally agree that **reforms are needed to end the economic and financial crisis** and that these reforms should be pursued even if that means some sacrifices for the present generation. A substantial majority agree that measures to reduce deficit and debt cannot wait. However, there are limits to the sacrifices, as a small majority do indicate a preference for supporting economic activities through public expenditure / deficit. Europeans are unsure about how to best stimulate economic reform.
- ◆ Europeans have a strong desire for **more coordination among Member States** to tackle the economic and financial crisis.

- ◆ The **measures taken by both the European Union and the IMF in response to stabilise the financial system and to respond to the debt crisis in Greece have not gone unnoticed**: there is increased confidence that the EU is best able to take effective actions against the effects of the financial and economic crisis whilst the IMF has also improved its rating.
- ◆ There is **broad public support for the measures presented as part of the "Europe 2020" Strategy** to prepare the EU economy for the next decade's challenges, measures aiming to stimulate growth and create more and better jobs, while making the economy greener and more innovative.
- ◆ **Europeans do not feel sufficiently well-informed about their rights as EU citizens**: less than half know their rights and close to three quarters would like to know more.

Although Europeans support the current and future measures needed to protect them from further economic turmoil, the main developments in European public opinion since autumn 2009 on the European Union are as follows:

- ◆ The **debt crisis has affected Europeans' support for their country's membership to the EU and its perceived benefits**. The latest results show that support for EU membership is near the level reached in 2001 following the downturn after the burst of the "Internet bubble".
- ◆ **Trust in the European Union has also been affected**. However, more people continue to trust the EU than trust their national parliament or government.
- ◆ **The meaning of Europe is slightly different in the current climate**. While freedom of movement and the Euro continue to best reflect the spirit of Europe, people now less often identify Europe with economic prosperity, democracy, or peace.

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Technical specifications

Between the 5th and the 28th of May 2010, TNS Opinion & Social, a consortium created between TNS plc and TNS opinion, carried out the wave 73.4 of the EUROBAROMETER, on request of the EUROPEAN COMMISSION, Directorate-General for Communication, "Research and Speechwriting".

The EUROBAROMETER 73.4 is a "STANDARD EUROBAROMETER" and covers the population of the respective nationalities of the European Union Member States, resident in each of the Member States and aged 15 years and over. The STANDARD EUROBAROMETER 73 has also been conducted in Iceland, in the three candidate countries (Croatia, Turkey and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) and in the Turkish Cypriot Community. In these countries, the survey covers the national population of citizens and the population of citizens of all the European Union Member States that are residents in these countries and have a sufficient command of the national languages to answer the questionnaire. The basic sample design applied in all states is a multi-stage, random (probability) one. In each country, a number of sampling points was drawn with probability proportional to population size (for a total coverage of the country) and to population density.

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

ABBR.	COUNTRIES	INSTITUTES	N° INTERVIEWS	FIELDWORK DATES		POPULATION 15+
BE	Belgium	TNS Dimarso	1.013	06/05/2010	27/05/2010	8.866.411
BG	Bulgaria	TNS BBSS	1.000	05/05/2010	17/05/2010	6.584.957
CZ	Czech Rep.	TNS Aisa	1.021	07/05/2010	22/05/2010	8.987.535
DK	Denmark	TNS Gallup DK	1.007	07/05/2010	25/05/2010	4.533.420
DE	Germany	TNS Infratest	1.515	06/05/2010	26/05/2010	64.545.601
EE	Estonia	Emor	1.000	07/05/2010	24/05/2010	916.000
IE	Ireland	MRBI	1.014	07/05/2010	23/05/2010	3.375.399
EL	Greece	TNS ICAP	1.000	07/05/2010	23/05/2010	8.693.566
ES	Spain	TNS Demoscopia	1.006	08/05/2010	25/05/2010	39.035.867
FR	France	TNS Sofres	1.020	07/05/2010	27/05/2010	47.620.942
IT	Italy	TNS Infratest	1.028	07/05/2010	21/05/2010	51.252.247
CY	Rep. of Cyprus	Synovate	507	07/05/2010	23/05/2010	651.400
LV	Latvia	TNS Latvia	1.003	07/05/2010	24/05/2010	1.448.719
LT	Lithuania	TNS Gallup Lithuania	1.019	07/05/2010	21/05/2010	2.849.359
LU	Luxembourg	TNS ILReS	505	07/05/2010	25/05/2010	404.907
HU	Hungary	TNS Hungary	1.021	07/05/2010	23/05/2010	8.320.614
MT	Malta	MISCO	500	07/05/2010	23/05/2010	335.476
NL	Netherlands	TNS NIPO	1.013	07/05/2010	28/05/2010	13.288.200
		Österreichisches Gallup-Institut	1.000	05/05/2010	24/05/2010	6.973.277
AT	Austria	Gallup-Institut	1.000	05/05/2010	24/05/2010	6.973.277
PL	Poland	TNS OBOP	1.000	08/05/2010	25/05/2010	32.306.436
PT	Portugal	TNS EUROTESTE	1.025	07/05/2010	24/05/2010	8.080.915
RO	Romania	TNS CSOP	1.020	07/05/2010	19/05/2010	18.246.731
SI	Slovenia	RM PLUS	1.010	07/05/2010	23/05/2010	1.748.308
SK	Slovakia	TNS AISA SK	1.027	08/05/2010	23/05/2010	4.549.954
FI	Finland	TNS Gallup Oy	1.001	07/05/2010	25/05/2010	4.412.321
SE	Sweden	TNS GALLUP	1.050	06/05/2010	25/05/2010	7.723.931
UK	United Kingdom	TNS UK	1.316	07/05/2010	23/05/2010	51.081.866
TOTAL EU27			26.641	05/05/2010	28/05/2010	406.834.359
IS	Iceland	Capacent	526	07/05/2010	24/05/2010	252.277
	Turkish Cypriot					
CY(tcc)	Community	Kadem	500	07/05/2010	23/05/2010	143.226
HR	Croatia	Puls	1.000	07/05/2010	25/05/2010	3.749.400
TR	Turkey	TNS PIAR	1.000	07/05/2010	25/05/2010	52.728.513
	Former Yugoslav					
MK	Rep. of Macedonia	TNS Brima	1.048	07/05/2010	13/05/2010	1.678.404
TOTAL			30.715	05/05/2010	28/05/2010	465.386.179

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

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

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