European Commission

Standard Eurobarometer 82
Autumn 2014

PUBLIC OPINION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

REPORT

Fieldwork: November 2014

This survey has been requested and co-ordinated by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Communication.

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

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Standard Eurobarometer 82
Autumn 2014

Public opinion in the European Union

Survey conducted by TNS opinion & social at the request of the European Commission,
Directorate-General Communication

Survey coordinated by the European Commission,
Directorate-General Communication
(DG COMM "Strategy, Corporate Communication Actions and Eurobarometer" Unit)

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INTRODUCTION

This Standard Eurobarometer survey 82 (EB82) was carried out between 8 and 17 November 2014 in 35 countries and territories[1]: the 28 Member States of the European Union, the six candidate countries (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Iceland, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania[2]), and the Turkish Cypriot Community in the part of the country not controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus.

The autumn 2014 survey was carried out a few weeks after the appointment of the new European Commission by the European Council on 23 October 2014. Before their appointment, the new Commissioners attended hearings before the Members of the European Parliament and answered their questions. The new Commission, headed by Jean-Claude Juncker, took office on 1 November 2014.

The new Commission's priorities were announced by the President-elect during his speech to the European Parliament on 15 July 2014 and in his political guidelines[3]. The ten policy areas included the President-elect's Agenda for Jobs, Growth, Fairness and Democratic Change are as follows: 1. A new boost for jobs, growth and investment; 2. A connected digital single market; 3. A resilient energy union with a forward-looking climate change policy; 4. A deeper and fairer internal market with a strengthened industrial base; 5. A deeper and fairer economic and monetary union; 6. A reasonable and balanced free trade agreement with the U.S.; 7. An area of justice and fundamental rights based on mutual trust; 8. Towards a new policy on migration; 9. A stronger global actor; and 10. A Union of democratic change.

The previous Standard Eurobarometer survey of spring 2014 (EB81) was carried out a few days after the 2014 European elections[4]. Its findings had revealed a revival of optimism (albeit still fairly modest) with regard to economic indicators, a slight increase in most indicators measuring support for the European Union and a sharp rise in the proportion of Europeans who felt that their voice counted in the EU, probably as a consequence of the European elections.

[1] Please consult the technical specifications for details of the exact dates of the interviews in each country.
[2] This is the first Standard Eurobarometer survey carried out in Albania, which was granted EU candidate country status on 27 June 2014.
[3] *A new start for Europe: My Agenda for Jobs, Growth, Fairness and Democratic Change. Political guidelines for the next European Commission.* For the text see: http://ec.europa.eu/priorities/docs/pg_en.pdf
[4] The Standard Eurobarometer survey of spring 2014 (EB81) had been carried out between 31 May and 14 June 2014, just after the European elections which were held between 22 and 25 May 2014.

The fieldwork for this new autumn 2014 survey was carried out just after the European Commission published its autumn 2014 economic forecasts[5] showing GDP growth for 2014 of 1.3% in the EU and 0.8% in the euro area. These forecasts were slightly lower than those presented in spring. The unemployment rate remained high in the 28 Member States of the European Union (EU28), but the trend was positive[6]: unemployment stood at 10% in November 2014, slightly down on October 2014 (-0.1 percentage points), but 0.7 percentage points down on November 2013 when it was 10.7%. Within the euro area, the unemployment rate was stable at 11.5% of the active population, unchanged since October 2014, but significantly down on November 2013 (11.9%, -0.4 percentage points).

Although still very high, the unemployment rate for young people under had fallen since November 2013, both in EU28 (21.9%, -1.3 percentage points versus 23.2% in November 2013) and the euro area (23.7%, -0.2 percentage points versus 23.9% in November 2013).

Since the Standard Eurobarometer survey of spring 2014, national elections have been held in Slovenia, Sweden, Latvia, Bulgaria and Romania. In the United Kingdom, a referendum on Scottish independence was held on 18 September 2014: 55% voters rejected independence for Scotland.

The full report of the Standard Eurobarometer 82 survey consists of four volumes. The first volume presents the state of public opinion in the European Union. Three further volumes present the opinions of Europeans on other themes: the Europe 2020 strategy; European citizenship; and media use in the European Union. The present volume covers the state of public opinion in the European Union.

This volume, devoted to the main public opinion trends in the European Union, is divided into three parts. The first part focuses on the personal, economic and political aspects of life in the European Union as perceived by its citizens. In it we examine: the financial and personal situation of citizens; their views on the national and European economic situation; their main concerns; and their expectations for the future. This part also explores interest in politics, views on the direction in which things are going nationally and in the European Union, and the extent to which citizens trust the institutions.

The second part of the report presents the main indicators for the image of the European Union and its institutions and their respective trust ratings. First, we examine to what extent Europeans feel attached to the European Union. Then, we consider familiarity with and trust in the European institutions and the EU, before examining their knowledge of the EU. We then consider their views on the way democracy works and the extent to which their personal and national interests are taken into account by the European Union.

[5] http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/publications/european_economy/2014/pdf/ee7_en.pdf
[6] http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/2995521/6454667/3-07012015-AP-EN.pdf/73bb4b17-eb3d-4fcb-99f8-1ea6da1a180b

Lastly, this part of the report looks at the attitudes of Europeans to various political and economic issues: respondents were asked whether a series of political and economic concepts had positive or negative connotations for them. We then measured their views on globalisation, immigration and data protection.

The third part of the report begins by analysing how far Europeans support various European policies, before examining their views on the European Union's future.

A fourth part turns to economic issues in the EU: we begin by examining the way in which Europeans perceive the impact of the crisis on jobs, before analysing the perceived effectiveness of a number of measures to tackle the crisis and reform the economic and financial system. We also examine the role of the public and private sectors in revitalising the economy, as well as the priorities for a European energy union.

As most of these questions were asked during the previous Standard Eurobarometer surveys it is possible to analyse trends in public opinion.

The methodology used is that of the Standard Eurobarometer surveys of the Directorate-General Communication ("Strategy, Corporate Communication Actions and Eurobarometer" Unit)[7]. A technical note on the interviewing methods of the institutes of the TNS opinion & social network is attached to this report. This note also specifies the confidence intervals[8] which are used to assess the accuracy of the results of a survey, according to the size of the sample interviewed in relation to the total size of the population studied.

The abbreviations used in this report correspond to:

ABBREVIATIONS			
BE	Belgium	LV	Latvia
CZ	Czech Republic	LU	Luxembourg
BG	Bulgaria	HU	Hungary
DK	Denmark	MT	Malta
DE	Germany	NL	The Netherlands
EE	Estonia	AT	Austria
EL	Greece	PL	Poland
ES	Spain	PT	Portugal
FR	France	RO	Romania
HR	Croatia	SI	Slovenia
IE	Ireland	SK	Slovakia
IT	Italy	FI	Finland
CY	Republic of Cyprus*	SE	Sweden
LT	Lithuania	UK	United Kingdom
CY (tcc)	Turkish Cypriot Community		
TR	Turkey	ME	Montenegro
MK	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*	RS	Serbia
IS	Iceland	AL	Albania
EU28	European Union – weighted average for the 28 Member States		
Euro area	BE, FR, IT, LU, DE, AT, ES, PT, IE, NL, FI, EL, EE, SI, CY, MT, SK, LV	Non-euro area	BG, CZ, DK, HR, LT, HU, PL, RO, SE, UK

* Cyprus as a whole is one of the 28 European Union Member States. However, the "acquis communautaire" has been suspended in the part of the country which is not controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus. For practical reasons, only the interviews carried out in the part of the country controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus are included in the "CY" category and in the EU28 average. The interviews carried out in the part of the country that is not controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus are included in the "CY(tcc)" [tcc: *Turkish Cypriot Community*] category.

** Provisional abbreviation which in no way prejudges the definitive name of this country, which will be agreed once the current negotiations at the United Nations have been completed.

*** Lithuania was not yet part of the euro area at the time the survey was conducted

* * * * *

We wish to thank all the people interviewed throughout Europe who took the time to take part in this survey.

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

[7] http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/index_en.htm
[8] The results tables are annexed. It should be noted that the total of the percentages indicated in the tables in this report may exceed 100% when the respondents was able to choose several answers to the same question.

I. LIFE IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

This Standard Eurobarometer 82 of autumn 2014 reveals a number of shifts in European public opinion:

- Although a majority of Europeans are still satisfied with their personal situation, they are now more likely to be concerned about the financial situation of their household;
- Concerns about immigration continue to rise, both nationally and at European level;
- Respondents are slightly more negative about the economic situation in Europe;
- They are also slightly more pessimistic about the economic situation and jobs;
- At the same time Europeans are now more likely to trust their institutions.

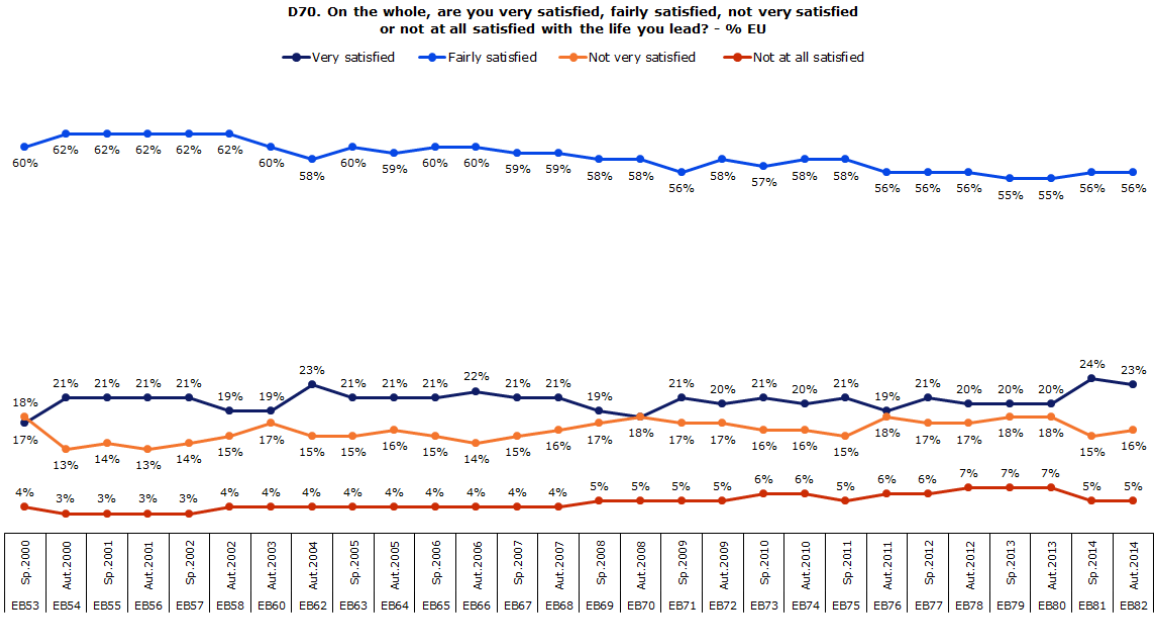
1. PERSONAL ASPECTS

1.1. The current personal situation of Europeans

- Europeans are satisfied with the life they lead and a majority expect their situation to stabilise or improve over the next twelve months -

A large majority of Europeans are satisfied with the life they lead, in proportions in line with those recorded in the Standard Eurobarometer survey of spring 2014 (EB81)[9]: 79%, a fall of one percentage point, compared with 21% who are dissatisfied (+1). Europeans who are "very satisfied" (23%, -1) outnumber those who are "not at all satisfied" (5%, unchanged).

It should be recalled that levels of personal satisfaction among Europeans increased considerably between autumn 2013 and spring 2014 (+5).



A majority of respondents in 26 Member States (against 25 in spring 2014) are satisfied with the life they lead, most notably in northern Europe: in Denmark (97%), the Netherlands (96%), Sweden (96%) and Finland (94%).

The two Member States where only a minority of respondents are satisfied are Bulgaria (46% for total "satisfied", +2 percentage points, versus 53% for total "dissatisfied", -3) and Greece (41%, -2, versus 59%, +2). Whereas opinions were evenly balanced in Portugal in spring 2014, they are predominantly positive in the autumn 2014 survey (54%, +4, versus 46%, -4).

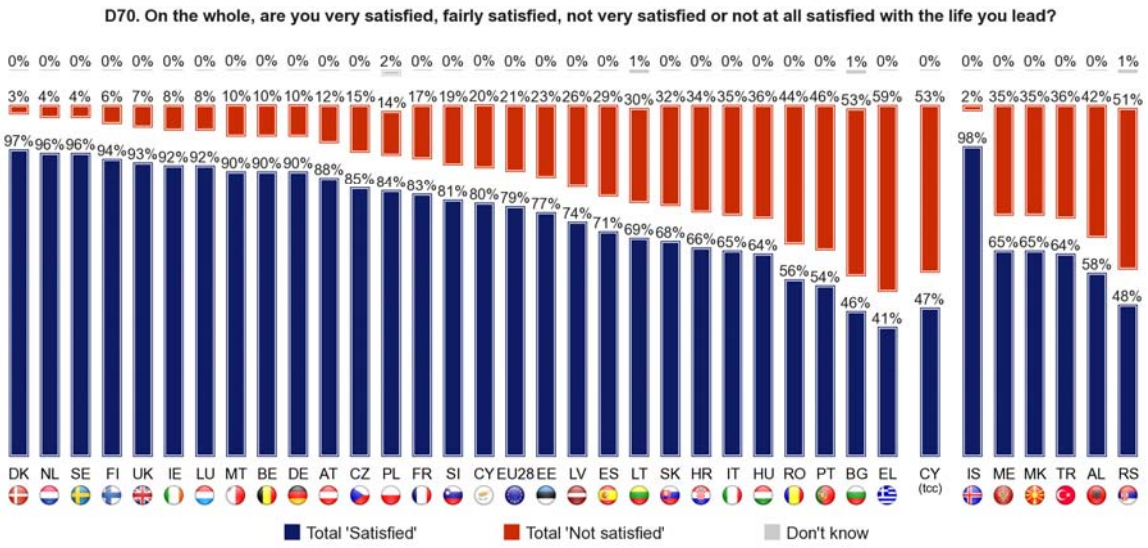
Satisfaction has gained ground in nine Member States, in particular in the Czech Republic (85%, +6 percentage points), but has declined in 19 countries, most notably in Austria (88%, -4), Luxembourg (92%, -4) and Slovakia (68%, -4).

[9] D70. On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied, not at all satisfied with the life you lead?

The gap between the highest and lowest levels of satisfaction (97% in Denmark versus 41% in Greece) is 56 percentage points, about the same as in spring 2014 (when 55 percentage points stood between Denmark and Sweden (both 98%) and Greece (43%)), but it is lower than in autumn 2013, when 62 percentage points separated Denmark and Sweden (both 97%) from Bulgaria (35%).

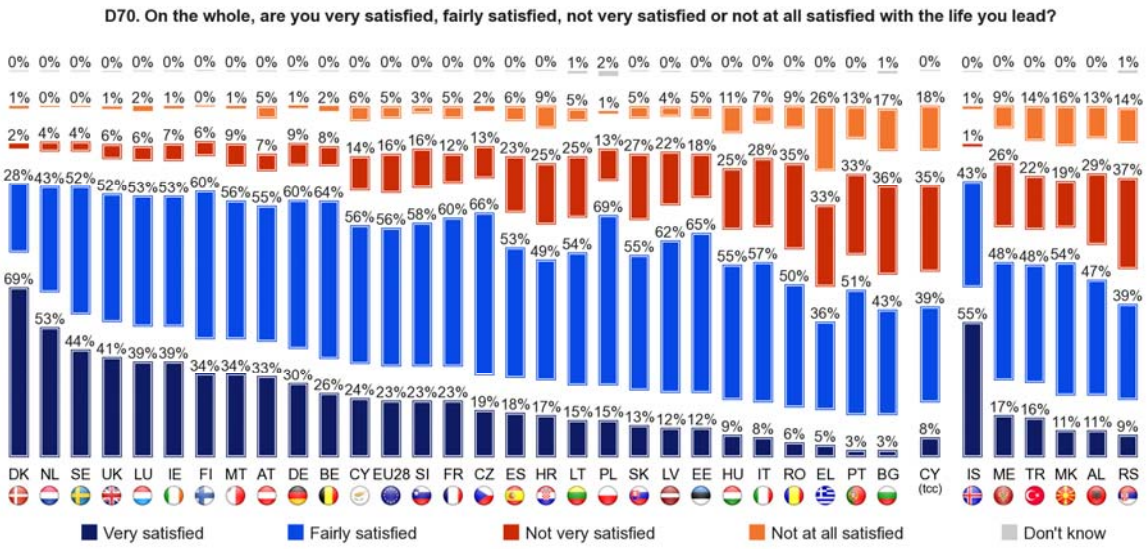
In the candidate countries:

- Satisfaction outweighs dissatisfaction in almost all candidate countries, except in Serbia where opinions have deteriorated slightly since spring 2014 (48%, -3, versus 51%, +2);
- It is below the European average in Albania, where the question was asked for the first time (58% versus 42%);
- It is stable and exceptionally high in Iceland (98% versus 2%).



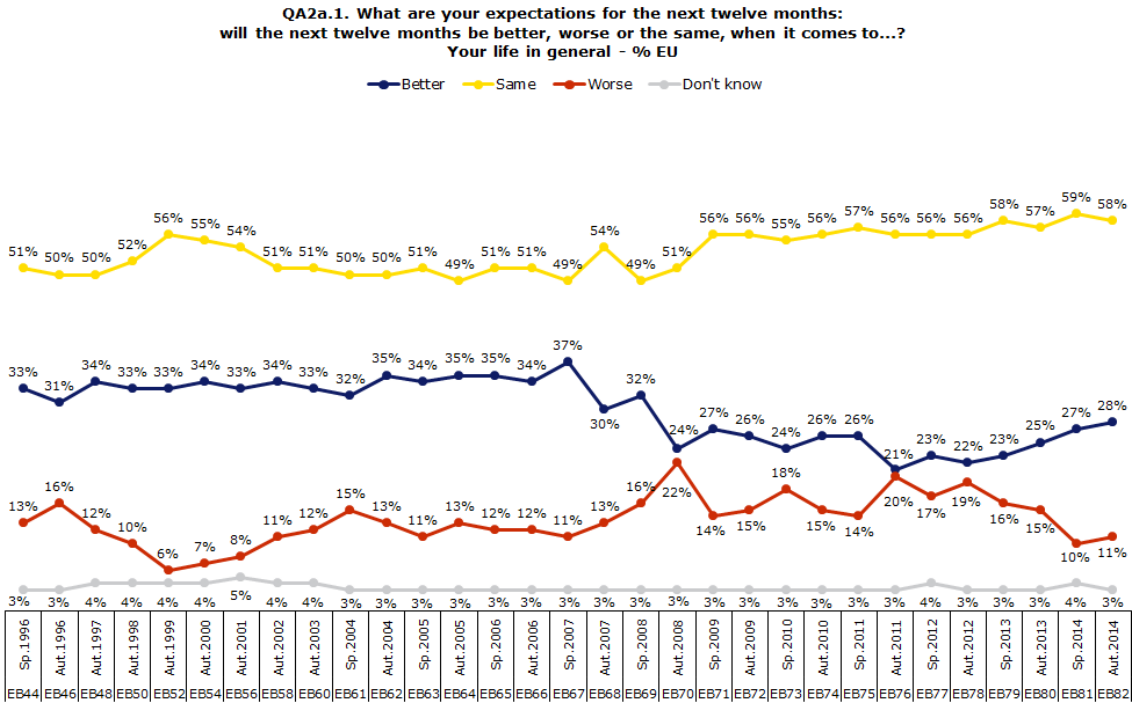
Total Satisfied = Very satisfied + Fairly satisfied

Total Dissatisfied = Not very satisfied + Not at all satisfied



Detailed results

Looking ahead over the next twelve months, a majority of Europeans expect their personal situation to "stay the same" (58%, -1 percentage point since spring 2014)[10]. However, optimism continues to gain ground slowly: 28% of Europeans believe that the next twelve months will be better, one percentage point higher than in spring 2014 and six percentage points higher than in autumn 2012. Pessimism has also gained one percentage point, but pessimists are still very much in the minority (11% think that the next twelve months will be "worse").

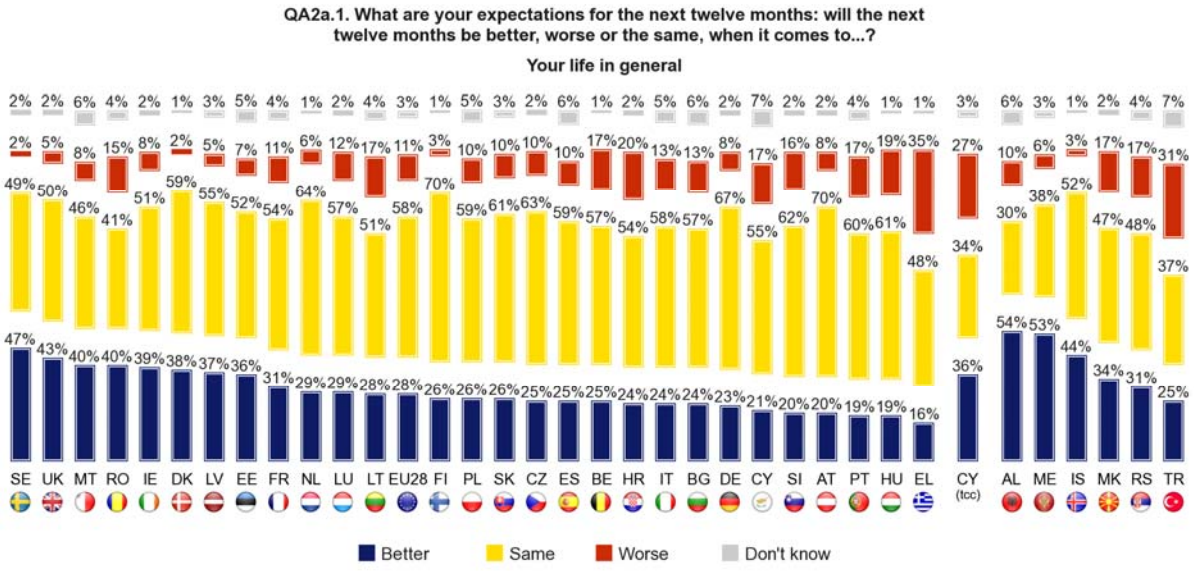


Respondents are the most upbeat in Sweden (47% think that the next twelve months will be "better"), the United Kingdom (43%), Malta (40%) and Romania (40%).

Pessimism is particularly widespread in Greece (35% think that the next twelve months will be "worse"), although respondents are most likely to say that things will "stay the same" (48%). Pessimism is also above average in Croatia (20%) and Hungary (19%).

Optimism about the future has increased in 13 Member States, most perceptibly in Romania (40%, +8 percentage points), while pessimism has increased in 14 countries, above all in Belgium (17%, +10) and Malta (8%, +5).

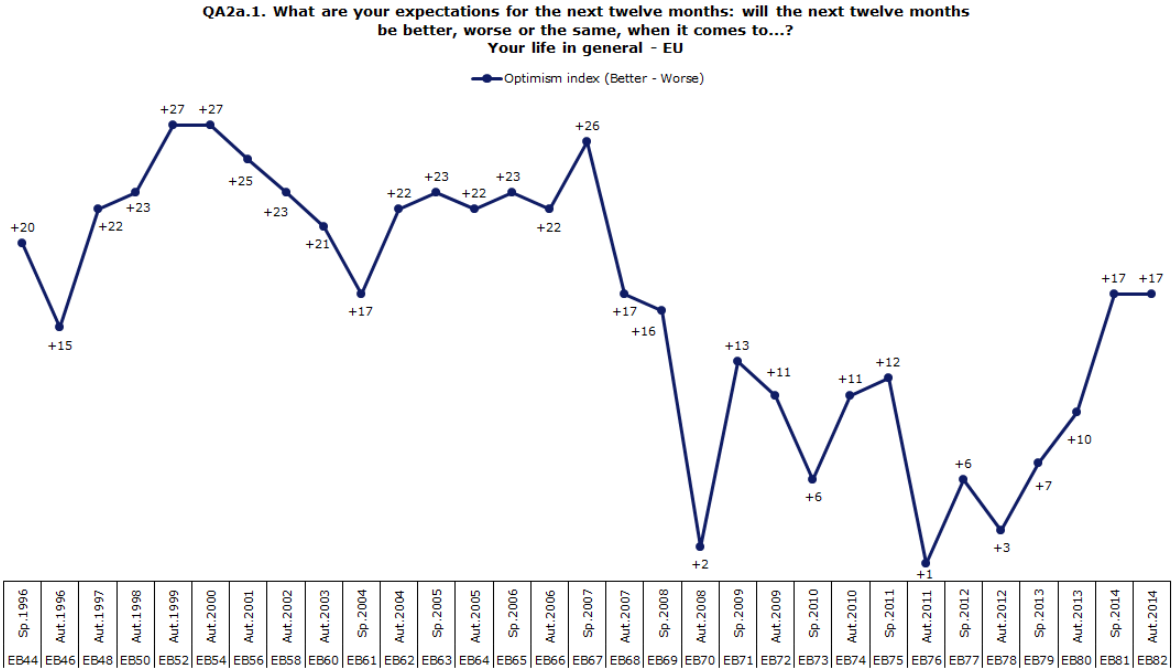
[10] QA2a.1. What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, less good or the same, when it comes to...? Your life in general



In the candidate countries:

- Respondents in Albania, where the question was asked for the first time, are particularly optimistic about the future (54%). Respondents are also upbeat about the future in Montenegro (53%, +1 percentage point) and Iceland, despite a dip (44%, -5);
- Respondents in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (34% versus 28% on average) and Serbia (31%) are also more optimistic than the EU average;
- In Turkey, respondents are more likely than average to be pessimistic about the next twelve months (31% versus 11% on average), with a significant increase since spring 2014 (+8 percentage points).

The optimism index[11] for the next twelve months is +17 percentage points, unchanged since spring 2014, when it was seven percentage points higher than in autumn 2013.



The index is now positive in almost all Member States, with the exception of Greece (-19), where it has actually fallen by six percentage points since spring 2014. Sweden (+45), the United Kingdom (+38) and Denmark (+36) have the most positive indices.

It has improved significantly in Romania (+10 percentage points to +25), but has deteriorated in Belgium (-13 to +8). In general, the national evolutions are far less significant than in the previous survey of spring 2014.

[11] Difference between the proportions of “better” and “worse” answers

QA2a.1. What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?
Your life in general

	Better - Worse EB81 Sp.2014	Better - Worse EB82 Aut.2014	Diff Aut.2014-Sp.2014
EU28	+17	+17	=
RO	+15	+25	+10
CZ	+9	+15	+6
PL	+10	+16	+6
PT	-4	+2	+6
LV	+27	+32	+5
SK	+12	+16	+4
EE	+26	+29	+3
AT	+9	+12	+3
UK	+35	+38	+3
BG	+9	+11	+2
DK	+34	+36	+2
FR	+18	+20	+2
DE	+14	+15	+1
IT	+10	+11	+1
LU	+17	+17	=
NL	+23	+23	=
FI	+23	+23	=
SE	+45	+45	=
ES	+16	+15	-1
IE	+33	+31	-2
HR	+8	+4	-4
CY	+9	+4	-5
MT	+37	+32	-5
SI	+9	+4	-5
EL	-13	-19	-6
LT	+17	+11	-6
HU	+8	0	-8
BE	+21	+8	-13
CY (tcc)	+16	+9	-7
AL	NA*	+44	NA*
ME	+43	+47	+4
MK	+18	+17	-1
IS	+47	+41	-6
RS	+27	+14	-13
TR	+7	-6	-13

** NA = Not asked: this question was not asked in this country in the previous survey*

A socio-demographic analysis reveals that:

- The **youngest** Europeans are slightly more satisfied with the life they lead (87% of 15-24 year-olds) than Europeans in the 55+ age group (77%). In particular, they are more optimistic about the future (51% think that the next twelve months will be better, compared with 13% of those in the 55+ age group);

- Europeans who **studied up to the age of 20 and beyond** are also more satisfied (87%) and confident about the coming year (33%) than those who left school at the age of 15 or earlier (66% and 15%);

- **Students** are the most likely to say that they are satisfied with the life they lead (90%) and are the most optimistic about the coming year (47%), together with managers (94% satisfied/34% optimistic), ahead of white-collar workers (85%/32%), self-employed people (81%/34%) and manual workers (80%/31%). Unemployed people are less likely to be satisfied (60%), but are markedly optimistic about the next twelve months (41%);

- Europeans who almost never have difficulties **paying their bills** are also far more satisfied (89%) than Europeans who struggle to pay their bills most of the time (46%). Equal proportions are optimistic for the future (28% in both categories), but Europeans with financial difficulties are much more likely to be pessimistic (22% think that the next twelve months will be worse, compared with 7% of those with no difficulties);

- **Subjective social status** creates fewer differences in perception: 91% of people who see themselves as upper class are satisfied with the life they lead, compared with 92% of those in the upper middle class, 85% in the middle class, 78% in the lower middle class and 71% in the working class. Projections for the next twelve months differ little from one class to another.

	D70 On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the life you lead?		QA2a.1 What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...? Your life in general		
	Total 'Satisfied'	Total 'Not satisfied'	Better	Same	Worse
EU28	79%	21%	28%	58%	11%
Gender					
Man	81%	19%	31%	56%	10%
Woman	78%	22%	26%	59%	11%
Age					
15-24	87%	12%	51%	39%	6%
25-39	82%	18%	42%	47%	8%
40-54	77%	23%	25%	60%	12%
55 +	77%	23%	13%	70%	14%
Education (End of)					
15-	66%	34%	15%	66%	15%
16-19	78%	22%	27%	58%	12%
20+	87%	13%	33%	56%	8%
Still studying	90%	10%	47%	45%	5%
Socio-professional category					
Self-employed	81%	19%	34%	52%	10%
Managers	94%	6%	34%	58%	7%
Other white collars	85%	15%	32%	57%	9%
Manual workers	80%	20%	31%	56%	10%
House persons	70%	30%	22%	59%	14%
Unemployed	60%	39%	41%	39%	12%
Retired	76%	24%	11%	72%	14%
Students	90%	10%	47%	45%	5%
Difficulties paying bills					
Most of the time	46%	54%	28%	44%	22%
From time to time	69%	31%	30%	52%	14%
Almost never/ Never	89%	11%	28%	63%	7%
Consider belonging to					
The working class	71%	29%	26%	57%	13%
The lower middle class	78%	22%	32%	53%	12%
The middle class	85%	15%	28%	60%	9%
The upper middle class	92%	8%	33%	59%	6%
The upper class	91%	9%	28%	59%	6%

The following table shows the results by socio-demographic criteria in the European Union as a whole (EU28 average), in the six largest EU countries and in countries benefiting or having benefited from European Union assistance to overcome the financial and economic crisis.

D70. On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the life you lead?
Answer: Total 'Satisfied'

	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
TOTAL	79%	90%	71%	83%	65%	84%	93%	41%	54%	92%	80%
Gender											
Male	81%	89%	74%	85%	67%	84%	93%	42%	56%	93%	78%
Female	78%	90%	68%	81%	64%	83%	93%	41%	52%	91%	81%
Age											
15-24	87%	92%	82%	92%	67%	91%	94%	74%	85%	90%	89%
25-39	82%	88%	75%	89%	67%	89%	92%	50%	64%	95%	84%
40-54	77%	88%	62%	80%	68%	83%	92%	36%	51%	91%	77%
55 +	77%	90%	70%	78%	63%	76%	93%	28%	39%	92%	72%
Education (End of)											
15-	66%	87%	64%	72%	52%	69%	85%	27%	40%	89%	57%
16-19	78%	86%	70%	80%	66%	78%	93%	36%	63%	92%	74%
20+	87%	94%	79%	87%	75%	90%	93%	52%	69%	94%	90%
Still studying	90%	95%	84%	93%	75%	93%	100%	77%	89%	93%	93%
Socio-professional category											
Self-employed	81%	88%	76%	75%	73%	90%	92%	49%	70%	99%	87%
Managers	94%	98%	91%	99%	86%	96%	96%	67%	64%	98%	100%
Other white collars	85%	93%	79%	86%	77%	89%	95%	53%	82%	98%	87%
Manual workers	80%	89%	75%	84%	65%	84%	92%	38%	58%	92%	86%
House persons	70%	94%	67%	77%	53%	84%	90%	26%	29%	88%	66%
Unemployed	60%	61%	53%	70%	30%	66%	87%	32%	34%	84%	63%
Retired	76%	90%	71%	77%	64%	75%	91%	29%	35%	90%	70%
Students	90%	95%	84%	93%	75%	93%	100%	77%	89%	93%	93%

1.2. Perceptions of personal job and financial situations

- Perceptions of personal job and financial situations as good have stabilised -

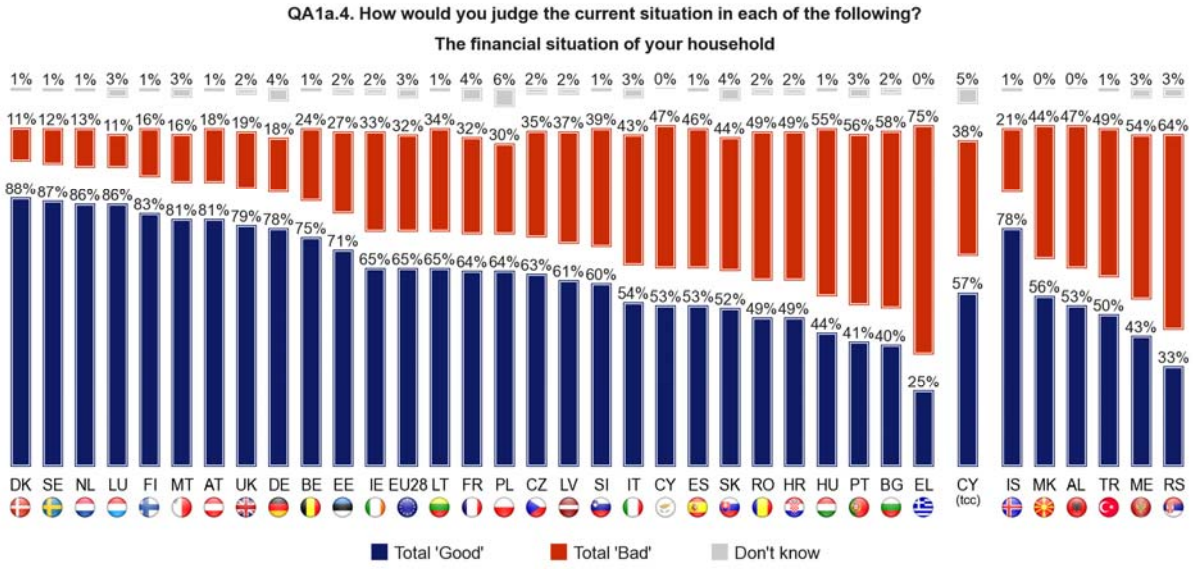
1.2.1. The household's financial situation

Almost two-thirds of Europeans consider that the financial situation of their household is good (65% for total "good", versus 32% for total "bad"), one percentage point lower than in the Standard Eurobarometer survey of spring 2014 (EB81)[12]. This opinion had gained three percentage points between autumn 2013 and spring 2014.

A majority of respondents in 22 Member States (as in spring 2014) consider that their household's financial situation is good, while opinions are evenly divided in Croatia (49% versus 49%) and Romania (49%/49%). More than eight out of ten respondents in seven Member States say that their household's financial situation is good: in Denmark (88%), Sweden (87%), Luxembourg (86%), the Netherlands (86%), Finland (83%), Malta (81%) and Austria (81%).

Majorities hold the opposite opinion (that the household financial situation is bad) in four Member States: Greece (25% "good" versus 75% "bad"), Bulgaria (40% versus 58%), Portugal (41% versus 56%) and Hungary (44% versus 55%).

Greece has recorded the most significant change for this indicator, with a fall of eight percentage points in the "good" total since spring 2014 (from 33% to 25%).



[12] QA1a.4. How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? The financial situation of your household.

In the candidate countries, a majority of respondents in most countries say that the financial situation of their household is good. The exceptions are Montenegro (43% "good" versus 54% "bad") and Serbia (33% versus 64%). Respondents are predominantly positive in Albania, where the survey was conducted for the first time (53% versus 47%).

Looking ahead over the next twelve months, six out of ten Europeans think that their household's financial situation will "stay the same" (61%, -1 percentage point since spring 2014)[13]. However, optimists (22%, who think that the next twelve months will be "better", +1) continue to outnumber pessimists (14% "worse", unchanged).

The optimism index is positive in 20 Member States (compared with 22 in spring 2014), in particular in Sweden (+28), Estonia (+25), the United Kingdom (+25), Denmark (+24), Latvia (+23), Romania (+21) and Malta (+20). It is negative in eight Member States, compared with four in spring 2014: Greece (-33), Cyprus (-6), Hungary (-5), Croatia (-4), Italy (-4), Portugal (-4), Slovenia (-3) and Belgium (-2).

Since spring 2014, the optimism index has improved in 14 Member States (compared with 22 in spring 2014), most emphatically in Romania (+8 percentage points to +21) and the Czech Republic (+8, to +4). In contrast it has deteriorated most in Belgium (-13 percentage points, to -2), Greece (-9, to -33) Italy (-9, to -4) and Lithuania (-8, to +3).

In the candidate countries:

- The optimism index is high in Albania (+29), Montenegro (+39), Iceland (+24) and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (+10);
- It has deteriorated sharply in Serbia, though it is still positive (14, to +7), and in Turkey, where it is now negative (-12, to -8).

A socio-demographic analysis reveals very pronounced differences depending on respondents' difficulties in paying bills: Europeans who struggle to pay their bills most of the time are far less likely to describe the financial situation of their household as "good" (16% compared with 47% of Europeans who have difficulties "from time to time" and 82% of those who almost never have difficulties paying their bills). But above all they are very pessimistic, since 30% of them believe that the next twelve months will be "worse" (compared with 19% of those who occasionally have difficulties and 9% of those who almost never do so).

[13] QA2a.3. What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, less good or the same, when it comes to...? The financial situation of your household

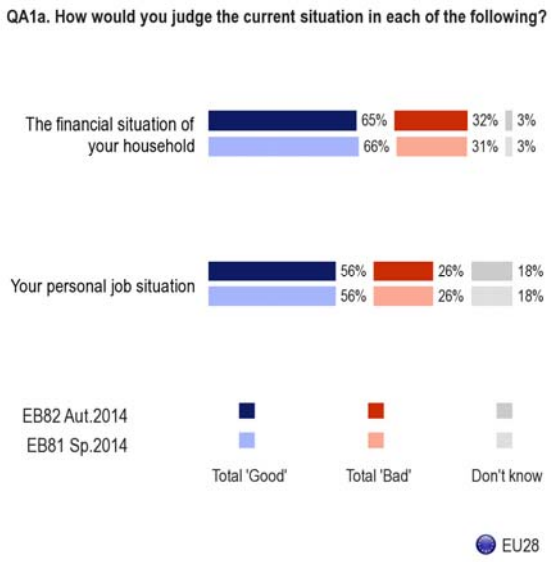
QA2a.3. What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?
The financial situation of your household

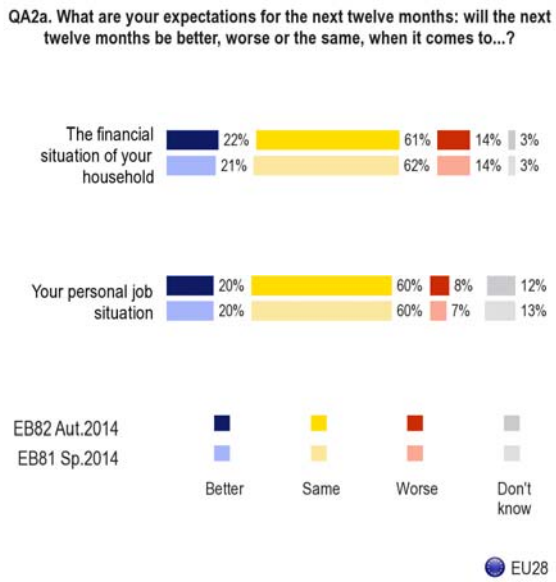
	Better - Worse EB81 Sp.2014	Better - Worse EB82 Aut.2014	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014
EU28	+7	+8	**+1**
CZ	-4	+4	**+8**
RO	+13	+21	**+8**
UK	+18	+25	**+7**
PL	0	+6	**+6**
EE	+20	+25	**+5**
PT	-9	-4	**+5**
SK	+2	+6	**+4**
LV	+20	+23	**+3**
DK	+22	+24	**+2**
SE	+26	+28	**+2**
DE	+8	+9	**+1**
IE	+14	+15	**+1**
ES	+10	+11	**+1**
AT	+3	+4	**+1**
BG	+5	+4	**-1**
HR	-3	-4	**-1**
FR	+7	+5	**-2**
LU	+9	+7	**-2**
FI	+14	+11	**-3**
NL	+11	+7	**-4**
SI	+1	-3	**-4**
HU	0	-5	**-5**
CY	+1	-6	**-7**
MT	+27	+20	**-7**
LT	+11	+3	**-8**
EL	-24	-33	**-9**
IT	+5	-4	**-9**
BE	+11	-2	**-13**
CY (tcc)	+9	+11	**+2**
AL	NA	+29	**NA***
MK	+11	+10	**-1**
IS	+27	+24	**-3**
ME	+42	+39	**-3**
TR	+4	-8	**-12**
RS	+21	+7	**-14**

** NA = Not asked: this question was not asked in this country during the previous survey*

1.2.2. The personal job situation

Just over half of Europeans consider that their personal job situation is good (56% for total "good", versus 26% for total "bad")[14], unchanged since spring 2014.





As in spring 2014, this opinion is shared by a majority of respondents in 23 of the 28 Member States, and is particularly widespread in the countries where a high proportion of respondents also feel that their household's financial situation is good: Denmark (81%), Austria (80%) and Sweden (78%).

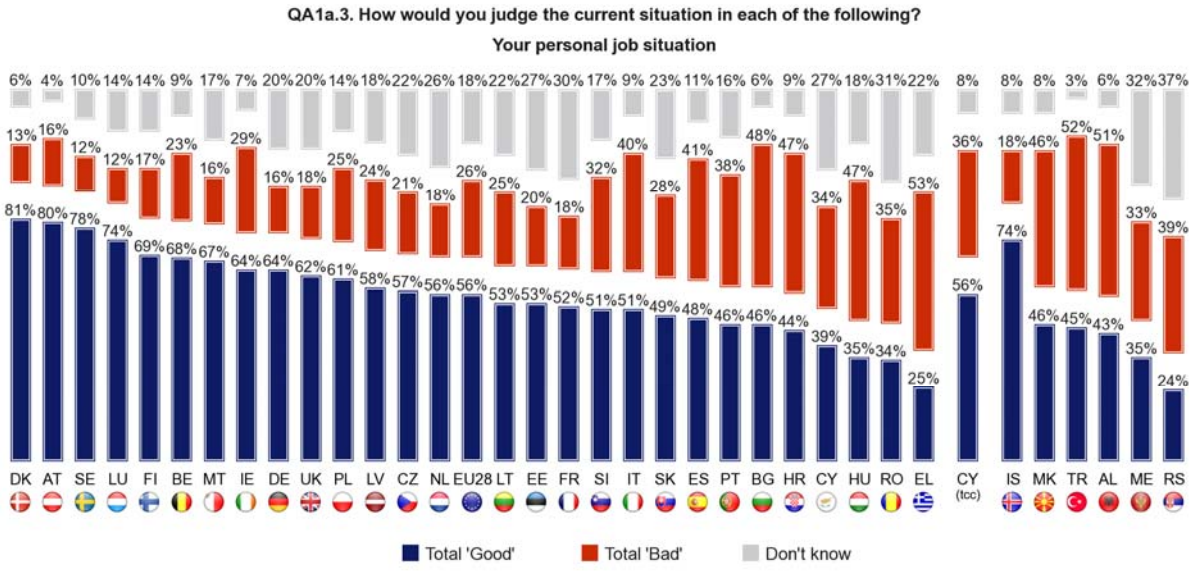
The opposite opinion - that the personal job situation is "bad" - is shared by a majority of respondents in five Member States: Greece (25% "good", versus 53% "bad", with a "DK" rate of 22%), Hungary (35% versus 47%), Croatia (44% versus 47%), Bulgaria (46% versus 48%) and Romania (34% versus 35%, with a "DK" rate of 31%).

Since spring 2014, satisfaction with the personal job situation has increased the most strikingly in Italy (51%, +6 percentage points) and Poland (61%, +6), while it has decreased the most sharply in Slovenia (51%, -6).

In the candidate countries:

- A large majority of respondents are positive about their personal job situation in Iceland (74%, -7 percentage points);
- Opinions are divided in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (46% "good", versus 46% "bad") and in Montenegro (35% versus 33%, while 32% expressed no opinion), where a majority of respondents are nevertheless positive;
- Opinions are predominantly negative in Turkey (45% "good", versus 52% "bad"), Albania (43% versus 51%) and Serbia (24% versus 39%).

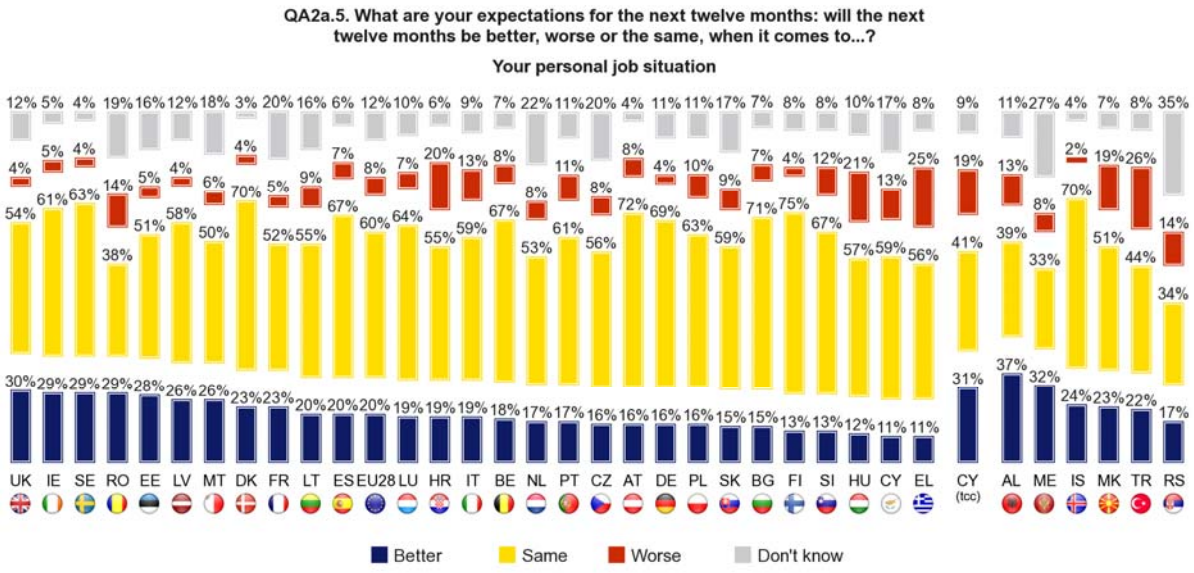
[14] QA1a.3. How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? Your personal job situation.



Looking ahead over the next twelve months, **a majority of Europeans expect their personal job situation to stay the same** (60%). This result is unchanged since spring 2014[15]. Optimism continues to outweigh pessimism (20% think that the next twelve months will be "better", unchanged, versus 8% who think that they will be "worse", +1 percentage point).

As in spring 2014, the optimism index is positive in 24 Member States, led by the United Kingdom (+26), Sweden (+25), Ireland (+24) and Estonia (+23). The four Member States in which the personal job optimism index is negative are Greece (-14), Hungary (-9), Cyprus (-2) and Croatia (-1).

Since spring 2014, the optimism index has deteriorated the most in Hungary (-9, to -9), while it has improved the most in Portugal (+8, to +6) and Romania (+7, to +15).



[15] QA2a.5. What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will they be better, worse or the same when it comes to...? Your personal job situation

A socio-demographic analysis reveals that:

- Europeans belonging to generation “X” (born between 1965 and 1980) are the most likely to consider that their personal job situation is good (66%), ahead of members of generation “Y” (born after 1980, 57%) and baby boomers (born between 1946 and 1964, 52%);
- The youngest respondents, those belonging to generation “Y”, are the most optimistic about the future (38% think that the next twelve months will be better, versus 24% in generation “X” and only 10% of baby boomers);
- In terms of socio-professional categories, unemployed people (41% think that the next twelve months will be better) and students (32%) are the most optimistic, compared with 25% of managers, 24% of white-collar workers and 22% of manual workers.

1.3. The concerns of Europeans

- Europeans are now more concerned about the financial situation of their household -

The issue of prices[16] remains the greatest personal concern to Europeans, despite a slight dip since spring 2014 (30%, -2 percentage points)[17]. The proportion of respondents mentioning this issue had fallen sharply in spring 2014 (-8 versus autumn 2013), and overall this item has lost 15 percentage points since the Standard Eurobarometer survey of spring 2012 (from 45% to 30%).

In this autumn 2014 survey, however, concerns about the **household financial situation** (19%, +3 percentage points) have increased, and this issue is now ranked in second place, jointly with unemployment, which has lost ground slightly since spring 2014 (19%, -2).

Next, respondents mentioned **taxation** (17%, unchanged), ahead of health and social security (16%, +1 percentage point) and **pensions** (15%, unchanged).

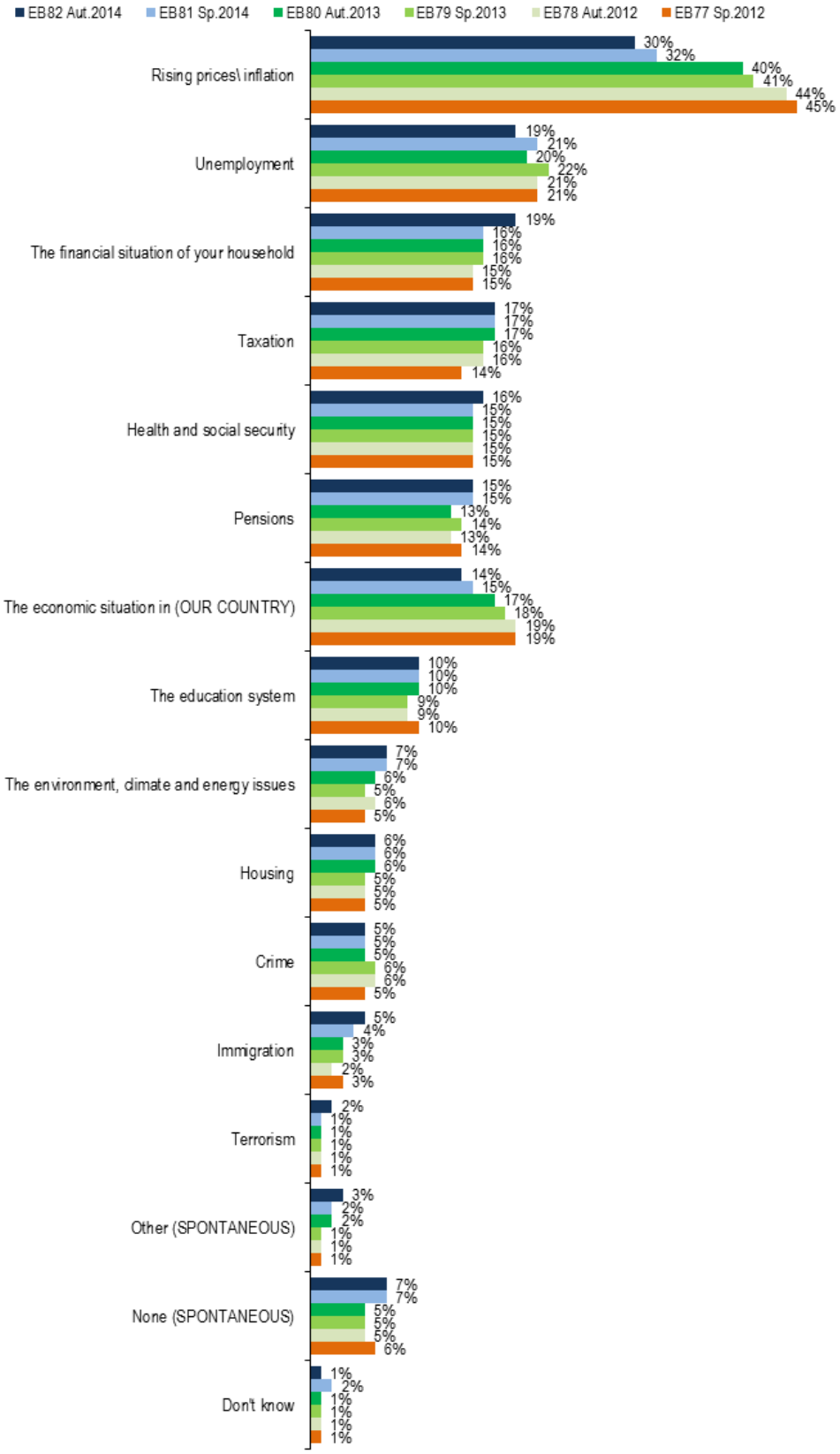
The national economic situation is ranked seventh among the personal concerns of Europeans (14%, -1 percentage point), ahead of the **education system** (10%, =).

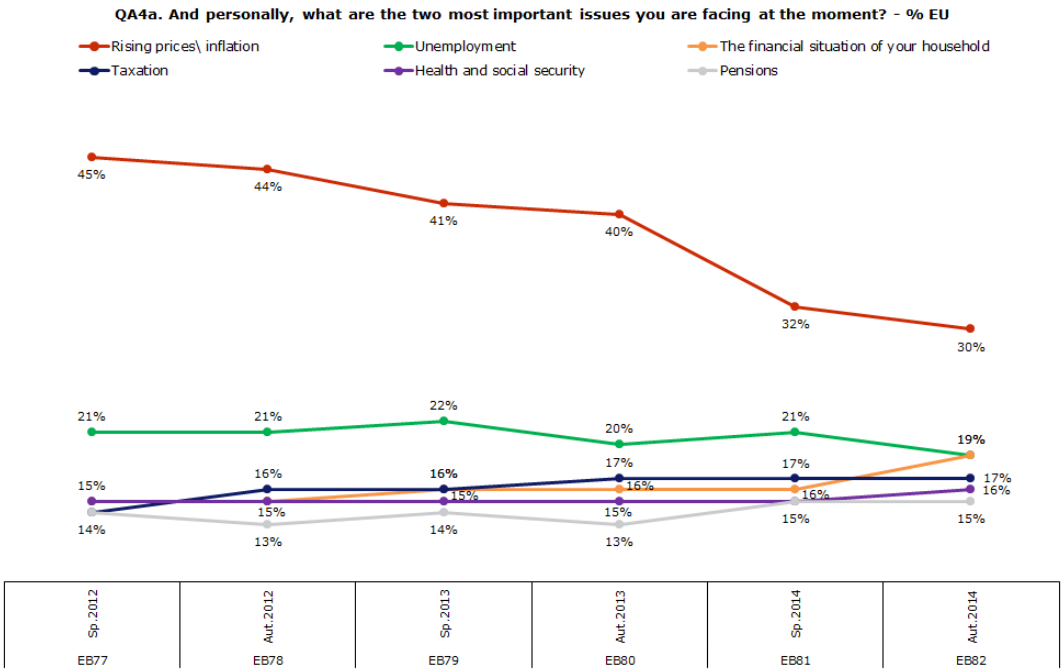
Fewer than 10% of respondents mentioned **environmental, climate and energy issues** (7%, =) or **housing** (6%, =). **Immigration** is now ranked equally (5%, +1) with **crime** (5%, =), ahead of **terrorism** (2%, +1).

As in spring 2014, 7% of respondents answered **none** *spontaneously* (7%, unchanged).

[16] The report refers to "the issue of prices". However, the wording used for the fieldwork was "rising prices/inflation".
[17] QA4a. And personally, what are the two most important issues you are facing at the moment?

QA4a. And personally, what are the two most important issues you are facing at the moment? - % EU

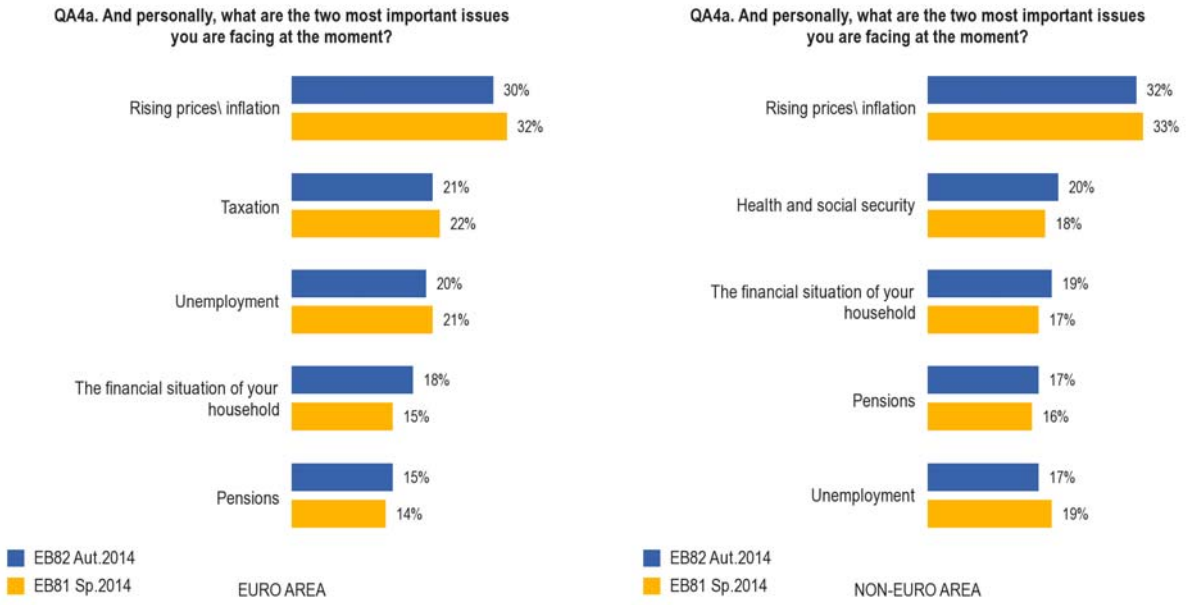




Six most frequently mentioned items

The order in which Europeans rank these issues differs in euro area and non-euro area countries:

- **The issue of prices** tops the list in both groups of countries (30% in the euro area, -2 percentage points, and 32% outside the euro area, -1);
- However, in the euro area countries, respondents rank **taxation** (21%, -1) and **unemployment** (20%, -1) in second and third place;
- In the non-euro area countries, **health and social security** (20%, +2) and the **household's financial situation** (19%, +2) are ranked in second and third place;
- Respondents in non-euro area countries are far less likely (9%, unchanged) than those in the euro area (21%, -1) to mention taxation; however, **health and social security** is seen as less of a concern in the euro area (14%, unchanged) than outside it (20%, +2).



Five most frequently mentioned items in the euro area and outside the euro area

The issue of prices heads concerns in 18 Member States (compared with 19 in spring 2014).

This issue is mentioned very frequently in Lithuania (54%, -2 percentage points), Austria (46%, +11), Portugal (42%, -5) and the Czech Republic (42%, -3). However it has lost ground in a majority of countries (18), led by Estonia (34%, -11), Romania (38%, -7), Latvia (36%, -7), Croatia (29%, -7) and Finland (17%, -7). In contrast, personal concerns about prices have increased significantly in Austria (46%, +11) and Malta (33%, +7).

Unemployment is now the leading concern in only one country, Spain (41%, +1 percentage point). The issue is now of less concern in a majority of Member States (21), most notably in Italy (25%, -9).

The household's financial situation is now the primary concern in four Member States, generally because of a significant increase in mentions: in Cyprus (47%, +7 percentage points), Greece (43%, +17), Bulgaria (35%, +13) and Slovenia (22%, +4). While not the leading concern, this issue has also gained considerable ground in Estonia (25%, +7).

Taxation is seen as the most pressing concern in Italy (39%, despite a fall of one percentage point). This issue has also gained ground in Cyprus (13%, +7).

Health and social security is the main personal concern in Finland (43%), the Netherlands (40%), Sweden (38%) and Denmark (17%), without any significant evolutions since spring 2014.

Pensions are mentioned often in Romania (24%, +5 percentage points) and Estonia (22%, +2). This issue has gained the most ground in Portugal (20%, +7) and Croatia (17%, +7).

The national economic situation is frequently mentioned as a personal concern in Finland where this issue has gained significant ground since spring 2014 (28%, +7 percentage points). However, concerns about this issue have decreased sharply in Greece (18%, -10), Cyprus (26%, -9) and the Netherlands (15%, -7).

The education system obtained above average scores in the Netherlands (24%, +2 percentage points) and Sweden, despite a decrease since spring 2014 (21%, -6).

Respondents in Sweden are particularly likely to mention **environmental, climate and energy issues** (27%, -4 percentage points), which are ranked in second place among personal concerns, behind health and social security.

Housing continues to be mentioned in Luxembourg (16%, unchanged), as does crime (13%, +3 percentage points).

Immigration continues to figure prominently among concerns in Malta, despite a slight decrease (17%, -3 percentage points).

Terrorism is seen as a less pressing personal concern in all Member States, but is mentioned slightly more than average in Italy (4%, +1 percentage point) and the United Kingdom (4%, +3).

In the candidate countries:

- **Unemployment** tops the list of personal concerns in Albania (41%), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (40%) and Turkey (32%); respondents in Turkey stand out for high levels of concern about terrorism (23%);
- Respondents in Montenegro and Servia are primarily worried about the **financial situation of their household,** which has gained ground since spring 2014 (34%, +9 percentage points, and 38%, +6, respectively);
- Respondents in Iceland are chiefly worried about **health and social security**, with an increase since spring 2014 (35%, +7 percentage points).

QA4a. And personally, what are the two most important issues you are facing at the moment?

	Rising prices\ inflation	Unem-ployment	The financial situation of your household	Taxation	Health and social security	Pensions	The economic situation in (OUR COUN-TRY)	The education system	The environ-ment, climate and energy issues	Housing	Crime	Immi-gration	Terrorism
EU28	30%	19%	19%	17%	16%	15%	14%	10%	7%	6%	5%	5%	2%
BE	**36%**	15%	18%	16%	10%	17%	16%	7%	11%	7%	9%	6%	2%
BG	29%	19%	**35%**	5%	20%	19%	23%	7%	4%	2%	6%	2%	0%
CZ	**42%**	11%	21%	10%	17%	17%	8%	7%	5%	11%	7%	3%	1%
DK	10%	14%	14%	9%	**17%**	9%	9%	13%	13%	7%	5%	9%	3%
DE	**28%**	10%	14%	11%	16%	16%	7%	13%	10%	5%	6%	6%	2%
EE	**34%**	12%	25%	14%	29%	22%	11%	11%	3%	5%	3%	1%	0%
IE	**32%**	25%	23%	21%	18%	7%	18%	10%	4%	9%	6%	4%	0%
EL	19%	27%	**43%**	34%	17%	18%	18%	7%	1%	1%	3%	1%	0%
ES	24%	**41%**	18%	15%	10%	14%	26%	12%	2%	5%	2%	1%	0%
FR	**40%**	17%	21%	26%	9%	14%	11%	8%	8%	6%	9%	3%	0%
HR	**29%**	27%	28%	7%	16%	17%	22%	6%	4%	7%	5%	1%	2%
IT	28%	25%	16%	**39%**	8%	11%	17%	6%	4%	3%	7%	8%	4%
CY	16%	32%	**47%**	13%	11%	5%	26%	7%	1%	3%	2%	2%	0%
LV	**36%**	15%	16%	13%	28%	18%	15%	9%	3%	11%	1%	3%	0%
LT	**54%**	13%	14%	33%	16%	14%	10%	6%	2%	9%	2%	2%	0%
LU	**32%**	14%	10%	12%	8%	11%	7%	19%	7%	16%	13%	6%	0%
HU	**33%**	22%	25%	11%	21%	19%	22%	7%	3%	9%	8%	1%	0%
MT	**33%**	6%	16%	9%	11%	16%	7%	13%	16%	3%	5%	17%	2%
NL	13%	12%	20%	13%	**40%**	19%	15%	24%	11%	6%	3%	2%	2%
AT	**46%**	9%	16%	17%	12%	14%	11%	14%	10%	6%	7%	7%	2%
PL	**30%**	22%	18%	8%	21%	20%	10%	6%	3%	6%	4%	2%	1%
PT	**42%**	27%	19%	23%	14%	20%	16%	5%	2%	3%	2%	2%	1%
RO	**38%**	17%	23%	14%	19%	24%	17%	10%	4%	5%	5%	1%	1%
SI	16%	21%	**22%**	12%	12%	17%	21%	8%	4%	6%	2%	1%	0%
SK	**36%**	17%	22%	6%	21%	18%	18%	7%	5%	10%	4%	1%	0%
FI	17%	19%	22%	11%	**43%**	13%	28%	8%	13%	10%	3%	2%	1%
SE	4%	15%	21%	8%	**38%**	16%	13%	21%	27%	10%	5%	10%	1%
UK	**35%**	13%	16%	8%	17%	13%	10%	12%	7%	10%	5%	9%	4%
CY (tcc)	67%	34%	9%	14%	9%	1%	29%	4%	2%	6%	16%	1%	0%
AL	34%	**41%**	29%	8%	14%	6%	17%	14%	8%	3%	13%	3%	2%
MK	27%	**40%**	25%	3%	10%	8%	23%	6%	6%	4%	4%	5%	1%
IS	24%	9%	27%	10%	**35%**	11%	23%	19%	9%	16%	1%	1%	1%
ME	29%	33%	**34%**	2%	13%	16%	21%	11%	7%	9%	2%	0%	0%
RS	29%	26%	**38%**	4%	17%	16%	20%	10%	3%	7%	3%	1%	1%
TR	23%	**32%**	13%	3%	3%	7%	10%	10%	3%	2%	6%	9%	23%

Highest percentage per country *Lowest percentage per country*

Highest percentage per item | Lowest percentage per item

Maximum two answers

QA4a. And personally, what are the two most important issues you are facing at the moment?

	Rising prices\ inflation	Unem-ployment	The financial situation of your household	Taxation	Health and social security	Pensions	The economic situation in (OUR COUN-TRY)	The education system	The environ-ment, climate and energy issues	Housing	Crime	Immi-gration	Terrorism
EU28	30%	19%	19%	17%	16%	15%	14%	10%	7%	6%	5%	5%	2%
BE	36%	15%	18%	16%	10%	17%	16%	7%	11%	7%	9%	6%	2%
BG	29%	19%	35%	5%	20%	19%	23%	7%	4%	2%	6%	2%	0%
CZ	42%	11%	21%	10%	17%	17%	8%	7%	5%	11%	7%	3%	1%
DK	10%	14%	14%	9%	17%	9%	9%	13%	13%	7%	5%	9%	3%
DE	28%	10%	14%	11%	16%	16%	7%	13%	10%	5%	6%	6%	2%
EE	34%	12%	25%	14%	29%	22%	11%	11%	3%	5%	3%	1%	0%
IE	32%	25%	23%	21%	18%	7%	18%	10%	4%	9%	6%	4%	0%
EL	19%	27%	43%	34%	17%	18%	18%	7%	1%	1%	3%	1%	0%
ES	24%	41%	18%	15%	10%	14%	26%	12%	2%	5%	2%	1%	0%
FR	40%	17%	21%	26%	9%	14%	11%	8%	8%	6%	9%	3%	0%
HR	29%	27%	28%	7%	16%	17%	22%	6%	4%	7%	5%	1%	2%
IT	28%	25%	16%	39%	8%	11%	17%	6%	4%	3%	7%	8%	4%
CY	16%	32%	47%	13%	11%	5%	26%	7%	1%	3%	2%	2%	0%
LV	36%	15%	16%	13%	28%	18%	15%	9%	3%	11%	1%	3%	0%
LT	54%	13%	14%	33%	16%	14%	10%	6%	2%	9%	2%	2%	0%
LU	32%	14%	10%	12%	8%	11%	7%	19%	7%	16%	13%	6%	0%
HU	33%	22%	25%	11%	21%	19%	22%	7%	3%	9%	8%	1%	0%
MT	33%	6%	16%	9%	11%	16%	7%	13%	16%	3%	5%	17%	2%
NL	13%	12%	20%	13%	40%	19%	15%	24%	11%	6%	3%	2%	2%
AT	46%	9%	16%	17%	12%	14%	11%	14%	10%	6%	7%	7%	2%
PL	30%	22%	18%	8%	21%	20%	10%	6%	3%	6%	4%	2%	1%
PT	42%	27%	19%	23%	14%	20%	16%	5%	2%	3%	2%	2%	1%
RO	38%	17%	23%	14%	19%	24%	17%	10%	4%	5%	5%	1%	1%
SI	16%	21%	22%	12%	12%	17%	21%	8%	4%	6%	2%	1%	0%
SK	36%	17%	22%	6%	21%	18%	18%	7%	5%	10%	4%	1%	0%
FI	17%	19%	22%	11%	43%	13%	28%	8%	13%	10%	3%	2%	1%
SE	4%	15%	21%	8%	38%	16%	13%	21%	27%	10%	5%	10%	1%
UK	35%	13%	16%	8%	17%	13%	10%	12%	7%	10%	5%	9%	4%
CY (tcc)	67%	34%	9%	14%	9%	1%	29%	4%	2%	6%	16%	1%	0%
AL	34%	41%	29%	8%	14%	6%	17%	14%	8%	3%	13%	3%	2%
MK	27%	40%	25%	3%	10%	8%	23%	6%	6%	4%	4%	5%	1%
IS	24%	9%	27%	10%	35%	11%	23%	19%	9%	16%	1%	1%	1%
ME	29%	33%	34%	2%	13%	16%	21%	11%	7%	9%	2%	0%	0%
RS	29%	26%	38%	4%	17%	16%	20%	10%	3%	7%	3%	1%	1%
TR	23%	32%	13%	3%	3%	7%	10%	10%	3%	2%	6%	9%	23%

1st MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM
2nd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM
3rd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM

Maximum two answers

A socio-demographic analysis reveals that:

- Members of generation "Y" (born after 1980) are more concerned than average about **unemployment** (26% versus 19% on average), the **education system** (19%, versus 10% on average) and **housing** (11% versus 6%). Baby boomers (born between 1946 and 1964) are more likely than average to be concerned about **pensions** (23%, versus 15% on average). However, the respondents who are most concerned about **pensions** are those born before 1946 (39%). This generation also frequently mentioned **health and social security** (25%, versus 16% on average);

- Managers are more likely than average to be worried about the **education system** (20% versus 10%) and **environmental, climate and energy issues** (12% versus 7%); self-employed people mention **taxation** (33% versus 17%); white-collar workers cite the **issue of prices** (35% versus 30%) and **taxation** (24% versus 17%), manual workers mention the **issue of prices** (38% versus 30%) and **the financial situation of their household** (22% versus 19%);

- Europeans who identify themselves as upper class are more concerned than average by their **country's economic situation** (21%, versus 14% on average); those who identify themselves as upper middle class have a marked tendency to worry about **taxation** (25% versus 17%), the **education system** (17% versus 10%) and **environmental, climate and energy issues** (14% versus 7%); the concerns of Europeans who see themselves as middle class tend to be in line with the EU average, while Europeans who consider that they are working class are more likely to mention **unemployment** (25%, versus 19% on average) and their **household's financial situation** (26% versus 19%).

The following tables show the results by socio-demographic criteria in the European Union as a whole (EU28 average), in the six largest EU countries and in countries benefiting or having benefited from European Union assistance to overcome the financial and economic crisis.

QA4a. And personally, what are the two most important issues you are facing at the moment?
Answer: 'Rising prices\ inflation'

	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
TOTAL	30%	28%	24%	40%	28%	30%	35%	19%	42%	32%	16%
Gender											
Male	29%	27%	25%	36%	27%	27%	33%	18%	39%	28%	14%
Female	32%	29%	22%	43%	29%	33%	36%	21%	45%	36%	17%
Age											
15-24	25%	22%	12%	37%	15%	27%	31%	18%	32%	27%	11%
25-39	33%	27%	24%	48%	29%	36%	38%	24%	43%	37%	19%
40-54	33%	31%	26%	45%	31%	29%	38%	23%	48%	31%	13%
55 +	29%	28%	26%	32%	30%	28%	31%	14%	41%	32%	17%
Education (End of)											
15-	32%	30%	30%	37%	35%	35%	31%	13%	46%	36%	18%
16-19	34%	30%	23%	44%	28%	32%	39%	20%	41%	34%	16%
20+	28%	27%	23%	39%	27%	29%	31%	25%	37%	33%	16%
Still studying	21%	15%	11%	35%	14%	25%	26%	18%	34%	19%	10%
Socio-professional category											
Self-employed	30%	32%	32%	49%	31%	20%	33%	21%	49%	26%	15%
Managers	30%	24%	22%	43%	29%	32%	42%	27%	38%	27%	24%
Other white collars	35%	32%	30%	49%	30%	36%	37%	26%	47%	42%	21%
Manual workers	38%	37%	31%	51%	31%	29%	40%	27%	52%	41%	19%
House persons	31%	29%	21%	40%	25%	45%	40%	26%	52%	35%	23%
Unemployed	21%	24%	14%	26%	19%	23%	25%	11%	30%	28%	3%
Retired	29%	27%	30%	33%	33%	32%	29%	13%	40%	32%	19%
Students	21%	15%	11%	35%	14%	25%	26%	18%	34%	19%	10%

QA4a. And personally, what are the two most important issues you are facing at the moment?
Answer: 'Unemployment'

	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
TOTAL	19%	10%	41%	17%	25%	22%	13%	27%	27%	25%	32%
Gender											
Male	19%	10%	39%	18%	24%	22%	12%	26%	30%	25%	31%
Female	19%	9%	43%	16%	25%	22%	14%	27%	25%	25%	33%
Age											
15-24	27%	9%	47%	32%	34%	35%	28%	30%	30%	41%	33%
25-39	24%	14%	50%	21%	37%	22%	15%	36%	35%	24%	38%
40-54	21%	12%	44%	18%	26%	23%	12%	36%	39%	30%	32%
55 +	11%	6%	30%	8%	14%	16%	6%	13%	14%	13%	26%
Education (End of)											
15-	20%	10%	39%	7%	21%	13%	18%	21%	24%	27%	27%
16-19	21%	14%	46%	21%	28%	26%	14%	35%	33%	23%	41%
20+	16%	5%	40%	17%	23%	19%	9%	23%	31%	20%	29%
Still studying	18%	2%	41%	15%	26%	23%	19%	25%	28%	42%	23%
Socio-professional category											
Self-employed	14%	6%	19%	6%	21%	19%	6%	21%	16%	16%	29%
Managers	9%	3%	38%	8%	19%	11%	5%	12%	23%	13%	18%
Other white collars	11%	3%	13%	7%	17%	20%	5%	22%	16%	13%	14%
Manual workers	17%	9%	29%	16%	29%	23%	10%	18%	20%	21%	25%
House persons	27%	17%	36%	21%	26%	48%	28%	21%	16%	27%	32%
Unemployed	71%	65%	86%	78%	77%	63%	55%	80%	85%	71%	83%
Retired	8%	3%	26%	6%	11%	12%	4%	10%	7%	11%	15%
Students	18%	2%	41%	15%	26%	23%	19%	25%	28%	42%	23%

QA4a. And personally, what are the two most important issues you are facing at the moment?
Answer: 'The financial situation of your household'

	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
TOTAL	19%	14%	18%	21%	16%	18%	16%	43%	19%	23%	47%
Gender											
Male	18%	15%	15%	19%	14%	18%	15%	41%	19%	19%	48%
Female	20%	14%	21%	23%	17%	18%	17%	46%	20%	27%	46%
Age											
15-24	17%	13%	14%	20%	25%	12%	12%	28%	18%	13%	29%
25-39	22%	22%	20%	26%	12%	21%	19%	52%	14%	25%	56%
40-54	23%	18%	23%	26%	17%	20%	25%	47%	26%	31%	54%
55 +	14%	8%	13%	16%	15%	18%	8%	40%	19%	20%	43%
Education (End of)											
15-	19%	11%	18%	26%	20%	25%	7%	45%	22%	27%	48%
16-19	21%	17%	21%	22%	15%	20%	22%	50%	19%	26%	56%
20+	17%	12%	15%	21%	12%	18%	13%	40%	10%	20%	46%
Still studying	16%	16%	15%	15%	23%	7%	7%	19%	18%	16%	23%
Socio-professional category											
Self-employed	17%	12%	18%	30%	9%	24%	15%	41%	15%	12%	45%
Managers	15%	11%	4%	13%	11%	14%	23%	39%	8%	17%	56%
Other white collars	21%	16%	17%	33%	11%	22%	21%	40%	7%	19%	45%
Manual workers	22%	19%	19%	26%	15%	20%	19%	49%	25%	25%	47%
House persons	26%	15%	27%	39%	28%	11%	14%	51%	23%	33%	50%
Unemployed	29%	34%	26%	23%	32%	26%	21%	61%	31%	34%	71%
Retired	13%	8%	8%	15%	11%	18%	7%	39%	17%	23%	38%
Students	16%	16%	15%	15%	23%	7%	7%	19%	18%	16%	23%

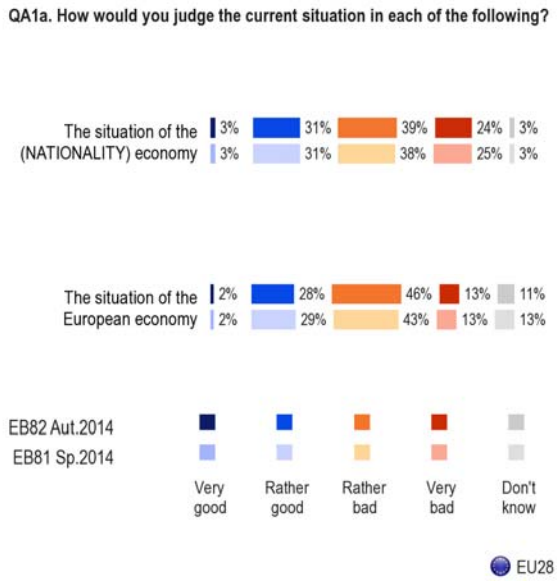
2. ECONOMIC ASPECTS

2.1. Assessments of the current economic situation

2.1.1. The national and European situations

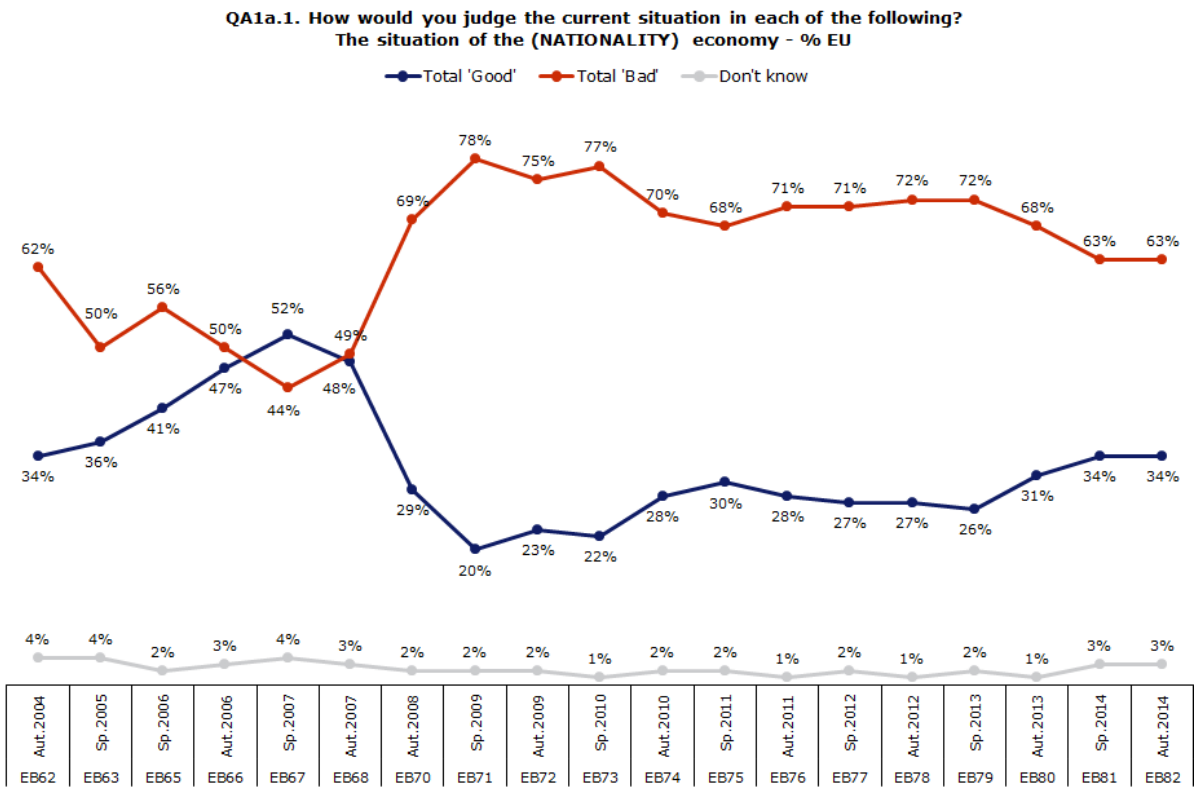
- A majority are still negative about the economic situation and negative perceptions of the European economy have increased -

A majority of Europeans continue to describe the national economic situation as bad[18] in proportions virtually unchanged since spring 2014 **:** 34% describe it as "good", while 63% say it is "bad" (including 24% who replied "very bad"). Positive judgements had previously recorded a three-point rise in the spring 2014 survey, reaching the highest level of satisfaction since the Standard Eurobarometer survey of autumn 2007 (EB68).



Opinions of the European economy[19] had also improved between autumn 2013 and spring 2014 (31%, +3 percentage points). There was a very slight decline in the autumn 2014 survey (30%, -1 since spring 2014), while the proportion of negative opinions has risen (59%, +3 percentage points). However, this result is still better than in autumn 2013 (28% "good" versus 65% "bad"). The proportion of Europeans who think that the situation is "very bad" is unchanged (13%).

[18] QA1a.1. How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? The situation of the (NATIONALITY) economy
[19] QA1a.2. How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? The situation of the European economy



The existing difference between views in the **euro area and non-euro area countries** has widened in this survey:

- Respondents in non-euro area countries (41% "good", versus 54% "bad") are more likely than those outside the euro area (30% versus 68%) to say that the **national economic situation** is "good"; this proportion has even increased by three percentage points outside the euro area, compared with a decrease of two percentage points inside it;

This also applies to the **situation of the European economy**: 39% of non-euro area respondents think that it is "good" (+1 percentage point), versus 25% (-2).

QA1a. How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?

	The situation of the (NATIONALITY) economy		The situation of the European economy	
	Total 'Good'	Total 'Bad'	Total 'Good'	Total 'Bad'
EU28	34%	63%	30%	59%
EURO AREA	30%	68%	25%	66%
NON-EURO AREA	41%	54%	39%	45%

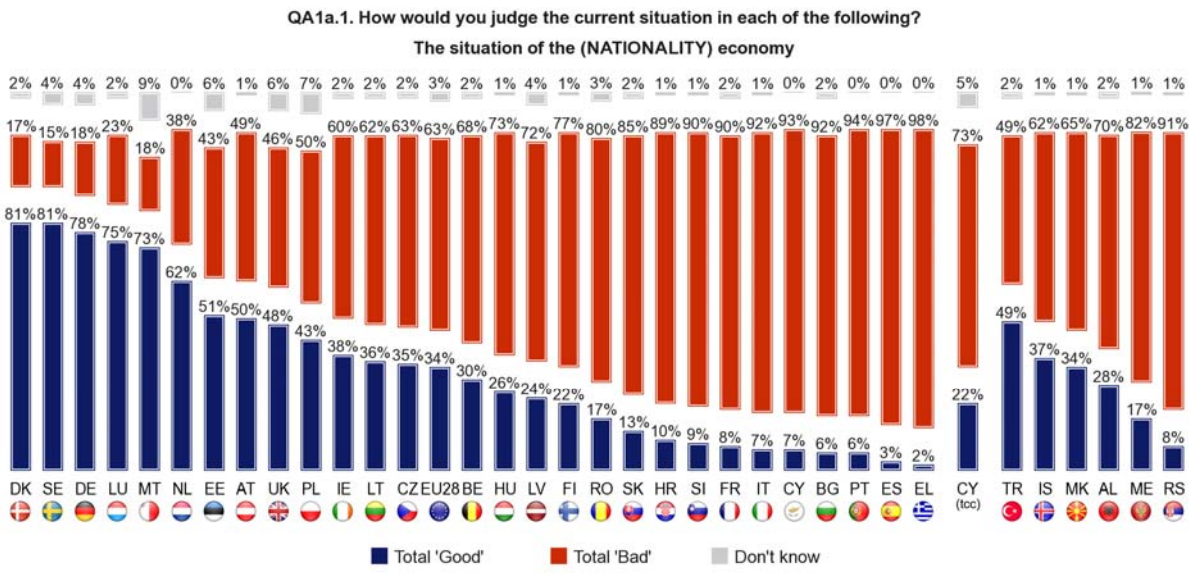
Perceptions of the **national economic situation** continue to vary considerably between Member States, from as low as 2% in Greece to as high as 81% in Denmark and Sweden.

Respondents are predominantly positive in nine Member States (compared with eight in spring 2014): Denmark (81% versus 17%), Sweden (81% versus 15%), Germany (78% versus 18%), Luxembourg (75% versus 23%), Malta (73% versus 18%), the Netherlands (62% versus 38%), Estonia (51% versus 43%), Austria (50% versus 49%) and the United Kingdom (48% versus 46%).

An absolute majority of respondents in Greece (70%), Spain (60%), Cyprus (60%), Croatia (56%), Slovenia (53%) and Bulgaria (52%) consider that the situation of their national economy is "very" bad.

In terms of evolutions since spring 2014, opinions have deteriorated in Belgium (30%, -14 percentage points) and Finland (22%, -14), and to a lesser extent in Luxembourg (75%, -6) and Austria (50%, -6). In contrast, perceptions of the national economy have improved considerably in Ireland (38%, +14), the Czech Republic (35%, +9) and Poland (43%, +7).

In the candidate countries, negative opinions are in the majority everywhere except Turkey where opinions are evenly divided (49% "bad", unchanged, versus 49% "good", +1 percentage point). They are particularly severe in Serbia (91% "bad", -1) and Montenegro (82%, +5), and are significantly more widespread in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (65%, +11) and Iceland (62%, +10). Finally, respondents in Albania also see their country's economic situation in negative terms: 70% think that it is bad, versus 28%.



QA1a.1. How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?
The situation of the (NATIONALITY) economy

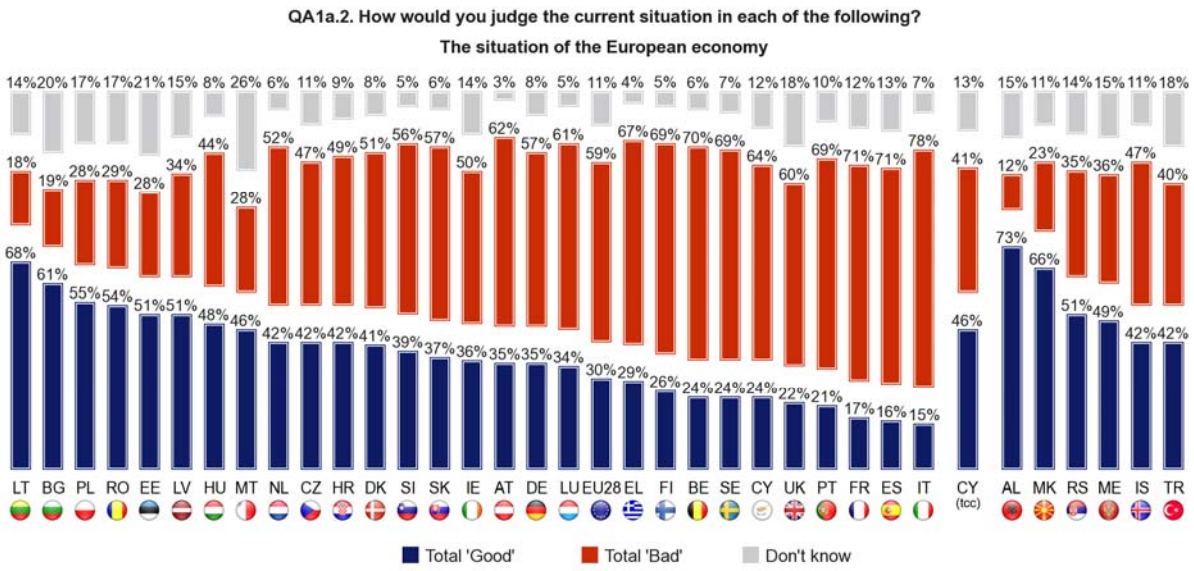
	Total 'Good'	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014	Total 'Bad'	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014	Don't know	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014
EU28	34%	=	63%	=	3%	=
EURO AREA	30%	-2	68%	+2	2%	=
NON-EURO AREA	41%	+3	54%	-3	5%	=
RO	17%	+3	80%	-5	3%	+2
IE	38%	+14	60%	-15	2%	+1
CZ	35%	+9	63%	-10	2%	+1
HR	10%	+5	89%	-6	1%	+1
LV	24%	+3	72%	-4	4%	+1
EE	51%	+2	43%	-3	6%	+1
SI	9%	+2	90%	-3	1%	+1
SE	81%	=	15%	-1	4%	+1
DE	78%	-5	18%	+4	4%	+1
FI	22%	-14	77%	+13	1%	+1
IT	7%	+2	92%	-2	1%	=
PT	6%	+2	94%	-2	0%	=
UK	48%	+1	46%	-1	6%	=
BG	6%	+1	92%	-1	2%	=
HU	26%	=	73%	=	1%	=
CY	7%	=	93%	=	0%	=
DK	81%	-1	17%	+1	2%	=
LT	36%	-1	62%	+1	2%	=
ES	3%	-1	97%	+1	0%	=
EL	2%	-2	98%	+2	0%	=
MT	73%	-3	18%	+3	9%	=
BE	30%	-14	68%	+14	2%	=
PL	43%	+7	50%	-6	7%	-1
NL	62%	+2	38%	-1	0%	-1
SK	13%	=	85%	+1	2%	-1
FR	8%	=	90%	+1	2%	-1
AT	50%	-6	49%	+7	1%	-1
LU	75%	-6	23%	+8	2%	-2
CY (tcc)	22%	-12	73%	+14	5%	-2
AL	28%	NA*	70%	NA*	2%	NA*
TR	49%	+1	49%	=	2%	-1
RS	8%	+1	91%	-1	1%	=
ME	17%	-3	82%	+5	1%	-2
IS	37%	-9	62%	+10	1%	-1
MK	34%	-10	65%	+11	1%	-1

** NA = Not asked: this question was not asked in this country during the previous survey*

Respondents are predominantly positive about the **situation of the European economy** in eight Member States: Lithuania (68% "good", versus 18% "bad"), Bulgaria (61% versus 19%), Poland (55% versus 28%), Romania (54% versus 29%), Estonia (51% versus 28%), Malta (46% versus 28%), Latvia (51% versus 34%) and Hungary (48% versus 44%). Estonia and Malta are the only two countries in which a majority of the population are positive about both the national and the European economic situation.

Respondents in Italy (78% answered "bad"), Spain (71%) and France (71%) are the most critical of the economic situation in the European Union.

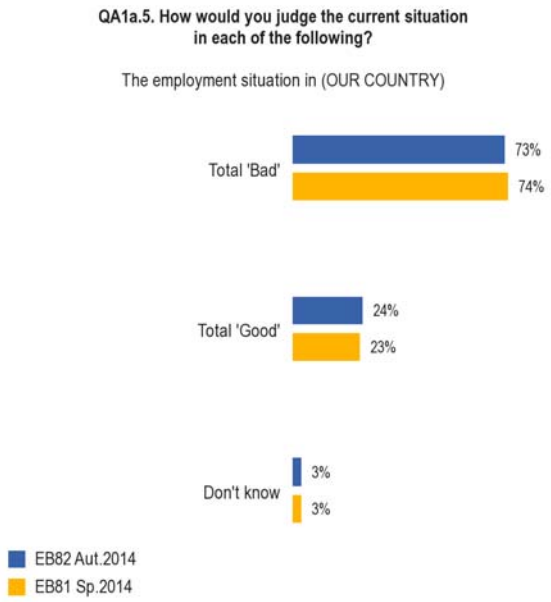
A majority of respondents in **all the candidate countries** except for Iceland (42% versus 47%) are positive about the economic situation in the EU.



2.1.2. The employment situation

- A majority of Europeans are critical of the national employment situation -

A very large majority of Europeans remain negative about the **employment situation in their country,** although there has been a slight improvement: 73% describe the situation as "bad", one percentage point less than in spring 2014 (compared with 24% who say it is "good", +1 since spring 2014)[20]. The improvement is more noticeable when compared with the Standard Eurobarometer survey of spring 2013 (EB79), when 80% described the employment situation as "bad" and 19% said it was "good". The proportion describing the national employment situation as "very bad" now stands at 36% (-1).



Respondents are predominantly positive about the national employment situation in four Member States, the same four as in spring 2014: Germany (63% versus 32%), Malta (61% versus 28%), Denmark (59% versus 37%) and Luxembourg (49% versus 48%).

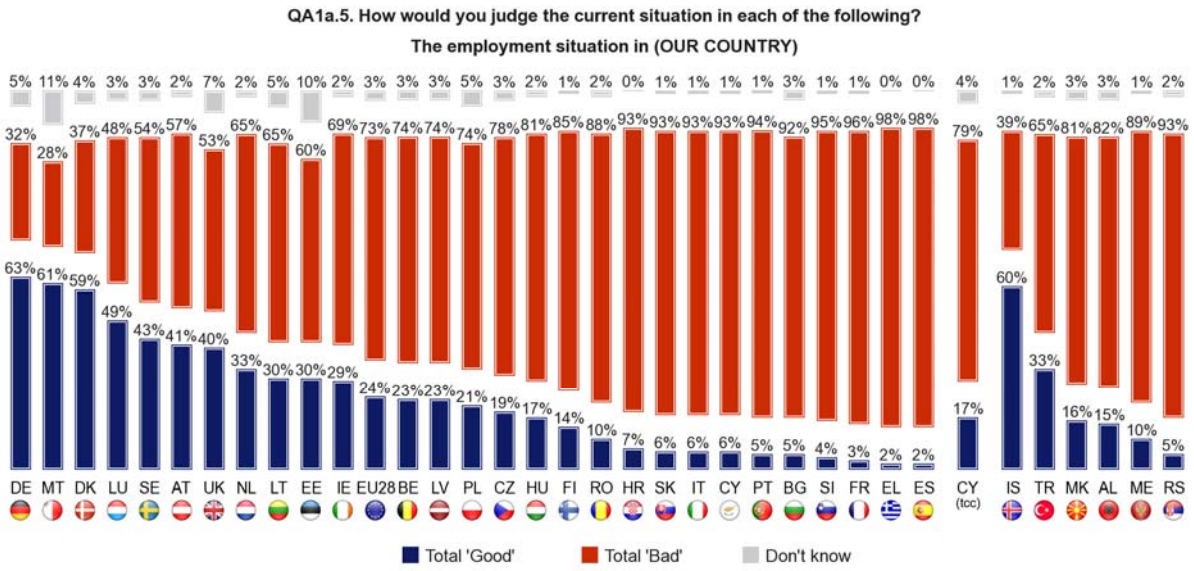
A majority of respondents are negative in the other 24 countries, with the highest rates in Greece (98% say the employment situation is "bad", including 81% who replied "very bad"), Spain (98% "bad"/78% "very bad") and France (96% "bad"/49% "very bad").

Positive opinions have declined noticeably since spring 2014 in Finland (14%, -11 percentage points), but have gained significant ground in Ireland (29%, +14), Malta (61%, +8) and the Netherlands (33%, +8).

[20] QA1a5. How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? The employment situation in (OUR COUNTRY)

In the candidate countries:

- Iceland is the only country where positive opinions of the employment situation outweigh negative opinions (60% versus 39%);
- In Turkey, opinions of the national economic situation, while predominantly negative, are nevertheless better than the EU average (33% versus 65%);
- Negative opinions exceed 80% in the other candidate countries: Serbia (93%), Montenegro (89%), Albania (82%) and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (81%).



A socio-demographic analysis reveals that:

- The age of respondents has little influence on their perception of the employment situation in their country: 75% of those in the 55+ age group think that it is "bad", compared with 71% or 72% in all the other age groups;
- Europeans who studied up to the age of 20 and beyond are more positive (28% describe the situation as "good") than those who left school at the age of 15 or earlier (18%);
- There are more striking differences between socio-professional categories: the national employment situation is more likely to be perceived as good by managers (40%) than by white-collar workers (28%), students (27%), self-employed people (25%), manual workers (24%) and unemployed people (10%).

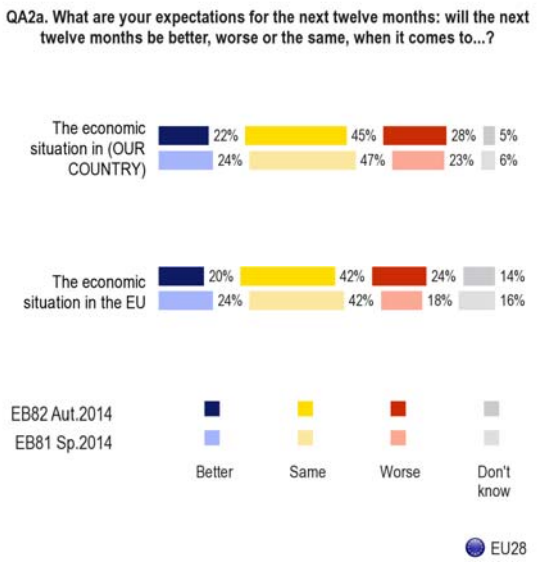
2.2. Expectations for the next twelve months

– Europeans are slightly more pessimistic about the outlook for both the economy and jobs –

2.2.1. The national and European situations

The forecasts of Europeans for the next twelve months for the economic outlook in both their own country and the European Union improved considerably between autumn 2013 and spring 2014. However, they have deteriorated again in the autumn 2014 survey.

A majority of Europeans expect **their country's economic situation**[21] to "stay the same" over the next twelve months (45%, -2 percentage points since spring 2014). Just over a quarter of Europeans now think that the next twelve months will be "worse" (28%), a five-point rise since spring 2014. **Only a minority of respondents are now optimistic** (22% think that the next twelve months will be "better", -2); the reverse was true in spring 2014, for the first time since the Standard Eurobarometer survey of spring 2007 (EB67).



The same trend applies to **the economic situation in the EU**[22]: 42% of Europeans expect the situation to "stay the same" (unchanged since spring 2014), while **pessimism has gained ground** (24%, +6 percentage points) and now outweighs optimism (20%, -4).

Forecasts for the national economic situation are predominantly optimistic in nine Member States (compared with 12 in spring 2014), most notably in Ireland (45%), Malta (39%), the Netherlands (38%) and the United Kingdom (38%).

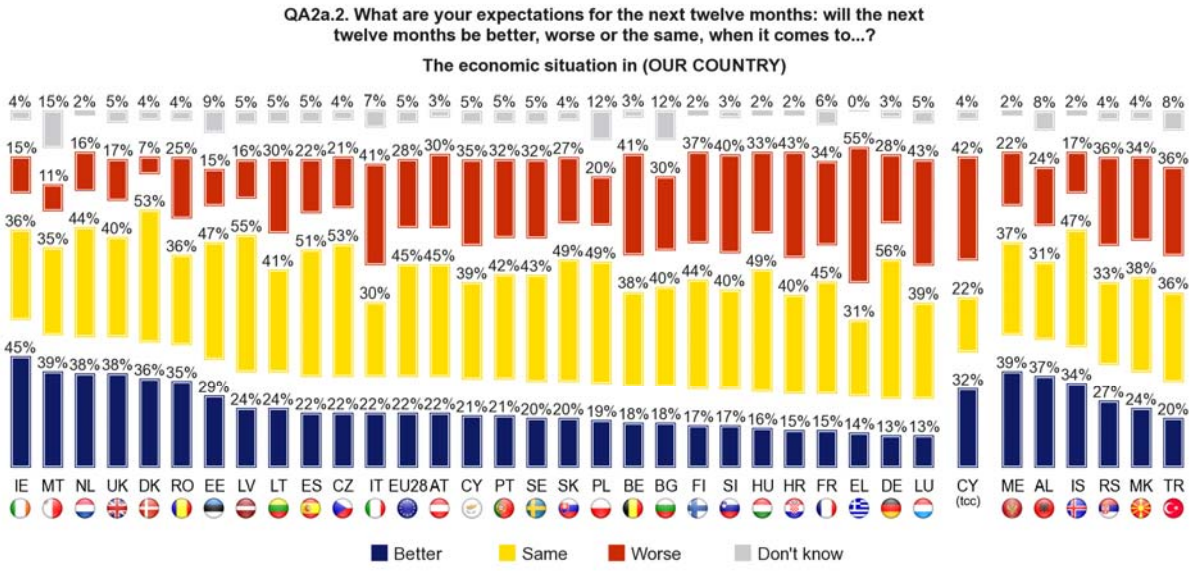
Optimism has gained ground in nine Member States, most notably in Romania (35%, +12 percentage points).

Pessimism is particularly widespread in Greece (55%), Croatia (43%) and Luxembourg (43%).

Pessimism has increased in 19 Member States, led by Belgium (41% think that the next twelve months will be "worse", +23 percentage points), Sweden (32%, +18), Finland (37%, +17), Luxembourg (43%, +16), Germany (28%, +14) and Lithuania (30%, +12).

[21] QA2a2. What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to ...? The economic situation in (OUR COUNTRY)
[22] QA2a6. What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to ...? The economic situation in the EU

In the candidate countries, optimism outweighs pessimism in Montenegro (39%, -2 percentage points, versus 22%, +1), Albania (37% versus 24%) and Iceland (34%, despite a significant 9-point decrease, versus 17%, +10). The reverse is true in Turkey (20%, -5, versus 36%, +6), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (24%, -3, versus 34%, +5) and Serbia (27%, -6, versus 36%, +7).



QA2a.2. What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?
The economic situation in (OUR COUNTRY)

	Better	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014	Same	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014	Worse	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014	Don't know	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014
EU28	22%	-2	45%	-2	28%	+5	5%	-1
EURO AREA	19%	-3	45%	-4	31%	+7	5%	=
NON-EURO AREA	29%	=	43%	=	22%	+2	6%	-2
RO	35%	+12	36%	-9	25%	-1	4%	-2
BG	18%	+4	40%	-7	30%	+6	12%	-3
CZ	22%	+4	53%	+1	21%	-6	4%	+1
PT	21%	+4	42%	+2	32%	-5	5%	-1
EE	29%	+3	47%	-2	15%	-1	9%	=
AT	22%	+3	45%	-2	30%	=	3%	-1
IE	45%	+2	36%	-2	15%	-1	4%	+1
DE	13%	+1	56%	-13	28%	+14	3%	-2
LV	24%	+1	55%	-2	16%	+2	5%	-1
HR	15%	=	40%	+2	43%	+1	2%	-3
SK	20%	=	49%	+3	27%	-4	4%	+1
PL	19%	-1	49%	+6	20%	-5	12%	=
IT	22%	-2	30%	-5	41%	+8	7%	-1
UK	38%	-2	40%	+1	17%	+4	5%	-3
EL	14%	-3	31%	-2	55%	+6	0%	-1
FR	15%	-3	45%	-4	34%	+7	6%	=
LT	24%	-4	41%	-8	30%	+12	5%	=
CY	21%	-5	39%	+3	35%	-1	5%	+3
SI	17%	-5	40%	+3	40%	+2	3%	=
HU	16%	-7	49%	+1	33%	+7	2%	-1
MT	39%	-7	35%	+4	11%	+5	15%	-2
SE	20%	-7	43%	-10	32%	+18	5%	-1
ES	22%	-8	51%	+5	22%	+2	5%	+1
BE	18%	-9	38%	-11	41%	+23	3%	-3
LU	13%	-9	39%	-6	43%	+16	5%	-1
FI	17%	-10	44%	-5	37%	+17	2%	-2
NL	38%	-14	44%	+8	16%	+6	2%	=
DK	36%	-17	53%	+11	7%	+3	4%	+3
CY (tcc)	32%	+14	22%	-15	42%	+4	4%	-3
AL	37%	NA*	31%	NA*	24%	NA*	8%	NA*
ME	39%	-2	37%	+4	22%	+1	2%	-3
MK	24%	-3	38%	-1	34%	+5	4%	-1
TR	20%	-5	36%	=	36%	+6	8%	-1
RS	27%	-6	33%	=	36%	+7	4%	-1
IS	34%	-9	47%	-2	17%	+10	2%	+1

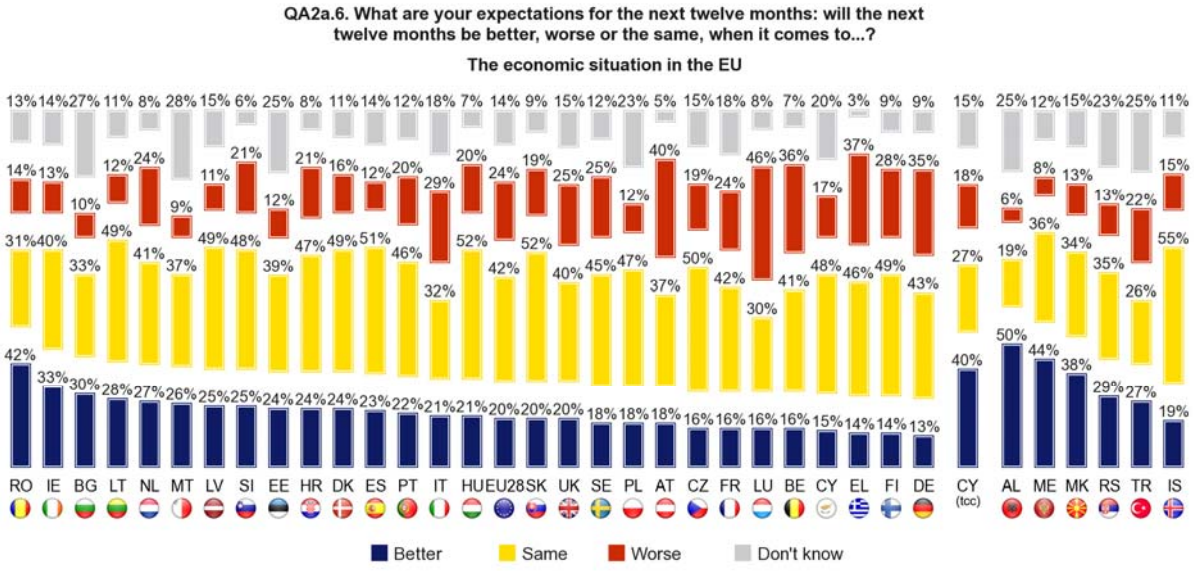
** NA = Not asked: this question was not asked in this country during the previous survey*

Optimistic views of **the economic situation in the European Union** predominate in 16 Member States (compared with 19 in spring 2014), most notably in Romania (42%). These views are also considerably more widespread than the EU average in Ireland (33%, versus 20% in the EU as a whole).

Respondents in Luxembourg (46%), Austria (40%), Greece (37%), Belgium (36%) and Germany (35%) are the most pessimistic about the outlook for the economic situation in the European Union over the next twelve months.

Pessimism has increased in 22 Member States, led by Belgium (36%, +13 percentage points), Germany (35%, +10), Italy (29%, +10), Croatia (21%, +10), Luxembourg (46%, +9) and Finland (28%, +9).

Optimism about the economic situation in the EU outweighs pessimism in all the **candidate countries,** in particular in Albania (50% versus 6%), but also in Montenegro (44%, stable, versus 8%, -1 percentage point). Optimism has declined the most sharply in Serbia (29%, -8, after a 13-point rise between autumn 2013 and spring 2014).



A socio-demographic analysis reveals that:

- Members of generation "Y" (born after 1980) are more likely to be optimistic about the future of the economy in their country (27%) and in the European Union (25%) than older respondents (24% and 21% for generation "X" (born between 1965 and 1980) and 19% and 17% for baby boomers (born between 1946 and 1964);

- Europeans who studied up to the age of 20 and beyond are also more upbeat (25% and 23%) than those who left school at the age of 15 or earlier (16% and 13%);

- Lastly, respondents who almost never have difficulties paying their bills are more likely to think that the next twelve months will be "better" (24% for the national economic situation, 21% for the economic situation in the European Union) than those who most often struggle to pay their bills (18% and 16%).

QA2a. What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?

	The economic situation in (OUR COUNTRY)				The economic situation in the EU			
	Better	Same	Worse	Don't know	Better	Same	Worse	Don't know
EU28	22%	45%	28%	5%	20%	42%	24%	14%
Gender								
Man	23%	44%	29%	4%	21%	42%	25%	12%
Woman	21%	45%	28%	6%	18%	43%	23%	16%
Age								
15-24	27%	42%	23%	8%	25%	41%	17%	17%
25-39	27%	44%	25%	4%	24%	44%	20%	12%
40-54	21%	45%	30%	4%	19%	43%	26%	12%
55 +	18%	45%	31%	6%	15%	41%	28%	16%
Generation								
Before 1928	11%	61%	22%	6%	6%	45%	23%	26%
1928 - 1945	18%	46%	30%	6%	14%	41%	26%	19%
Total 'Before 1946'	17%	47%	30%	6%	14%	41%	26%	19%
1946 - 1964 "BB"	19%	44%	32%	5%	17%	42%	28%	13%
1965 - 1980 "X"	24%	44%	28%	4%	21%	43%	24%	12%
After 1980 "Y"	27%	44%	23%	6%	25%	43%	18%	14%
Education (End of)								
15-	16%	44%	34%	6%	13%	42%	27%	18%
16-19	22%	44%	29%	5%	19%	42%	25%	14%
20+	25%	45%	26%	4%	23%	44%	23%	10%
Still studying	26%	44%	23%	7%	27%	40%	17%	16%
Socio-professional category								
Self-employed	24%	40%	32%	4%	23%	41%	26%	10%
Managers	28%	44%	25%	3%	24%	43%	25%	8%
Other white collars	26%	46%	25%	3%	23%	43%	23%	11%
Manual workers	22%	45%	28%	5%	19%	44%	23%	14%
House persons	21%	41%	32%	6%	18%	38%	26%	18%
Unemployed	22%	44%	28%	6%	19%	46%	22%	13%
Retired	18%	45%	31%	6%	15%	41%	27%	17%
Students	26%	44%	23%	7%	27%	40%	17%	16%
Difficulties paying bills								
Most of the time	18%	39%	38%	5%	16%	41%	27%	16%
From time to time	21%	42%	32%	5%	20%	41%	25%	14%
Almost never/ Never	24%	46%	25%	5%	21%	43%	23%	13%
Consider belonging to								
The working class	21%	44%	29%	6%	17%	43%	23%	17%
The lower middle class	27%	42%	27%	4%	21%	40%	26%	13%
The middle class	21%	46%	29%	4%	20%	44%	24%	12%
The upper middle class	28%	41%	28%	3%	27%	41%	25%	7%
The upper class	24%	55%	17%	4%	21%	47%	23%	9%

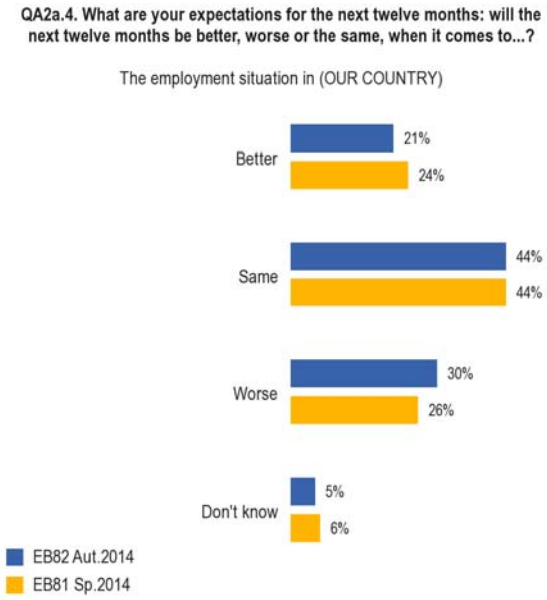
The following table shows the results by socio-demographic criteria in the European Union as a whole (EU28 average), in the six largest EU countries and in countries benefiting or having benefited from European Union assistance to overcome the financial and economic crisis.

QA2a.2. What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?
The economic situation in (OUR COUNTRY)
Answer: 'Better'

	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
TOTAL	22%	13%	22%	15%	22%	19%	38%	14%	21%	45%	21%
Gender											
Male	23%	11%	21%	14%	23%	18%	42%	16%	22%	51%	19%
Female	21%	14%	24%	17%	21%	21%	34%	12%	20%	39%	23%
Age											
15-24	27%	23%	21%	17%	26%	21%	39%	21%	38%	52%	22%
25-39	27%	20%	24%	19%	25%	25%	46%	14%	28%	49%	19%
40-54	21%	9%	23%	17%	21%	17%	35%	12%	18%	48%	18%
55 +	18%	8%	21%	12%	20%	16%	35%	13%	13%	35%	24%
Education (End of)											
15-	16%	7%	20%	7%	17%	5%	32%	13%	9%	33%	17%
16-19	22%	13%	21%	17%	21%	19%	40%	10%	31%	42%	22%
20+	25%	13%	31%	18%	30%	24%	38%	18%	32%	51%	22%
Still studying	26%	20%	22%	14%	21%	19%	44%	20%	40%	53%	20%
Socio-professional category											
Self-employed	24%	9%	31%	18%	21%	26%	47%	14%	21%	59%	23%
Managers	28%	18%	34%	15%	35%	23%	46%	10%	27%	53%	16%
Other white collars	26%	10%	31%	16%	31%	25%	37%	20%	46%	47%	27%
Manual workers	22%	11%	23%	18%	16%	17%	37%	15%	18%	46%	15%
House persons	21%	14%	16%	19%	18%	24%	36%	7%	4%	31%	25%
Unemployed	22%	21%	20%	23%	23%	17%	35%	11%	11%	42%	17%
Retired	18%	8%	21%	11%	20%	16%	33%	15%	12%	38%	24%
Students	26%	20%	22%	14%	21%	19%	44%	20%	40%	53%	20%

2.2.2. The employment situation

A majority of Europeans think that the **employment situation in their country** will "stay the same" over the next twelve months (44%). This result is unchanged since spring 2014[23].



Pessimism has gained ground (30% think that the next twelve months will be "worse", +4 percentage points) and only 21% of Europeans now think that they will be "better" (-3).

The most optimistic countries are Ireland (47% think that the next twelve months will be "better"), Malta (39%), Denmark (37%), the United Kingdom (35%) and the Netherlands (34%). Optimism outweighs pessimism in 10 Member States (as in spring 2014), but has lost ground in 18 countries.

Pessimism is particularly widespread in Greece (57%), Italy (45%), Croatia (44%), Finland (44%) and Luxembourg (44%).

Pessimism has gained the most ground in Finland (44%, +18 percentage points), Belgium (41%, +17) and Germany (30%, +13).

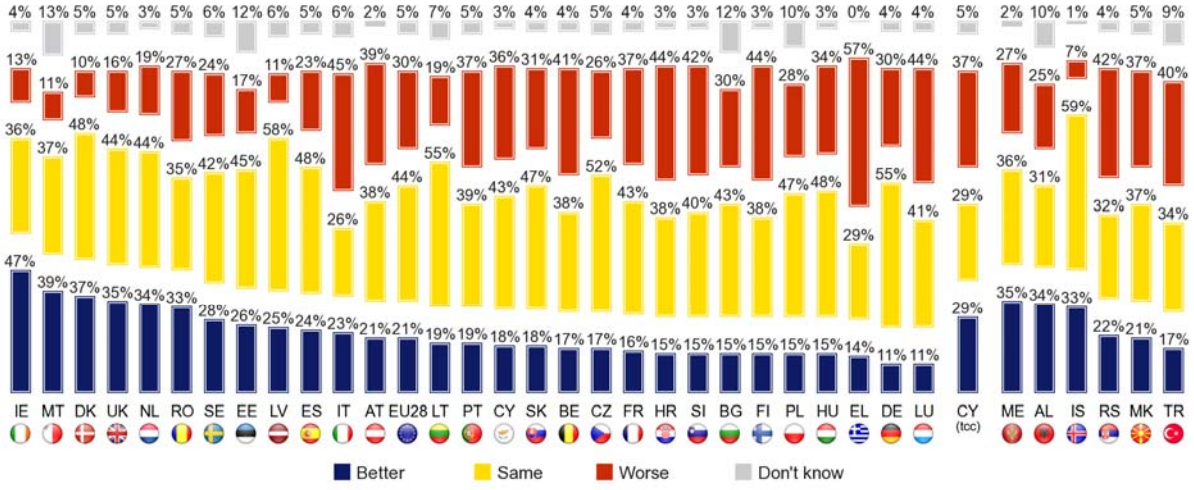
In the candidate countries:

- Optimism outweighs pessimism in Montenegro (35%, -3 percentage points, versus 27%, +2), Albania (34% versus 25%) and Iceland (33%, -13, versus 7%, +4);
- The opposite is true in Turkey (17%, -7 percentage points, versus 40%, +11), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (21%, -7, versus 37%, +9) and Serbia (22%, -6, versus 42%, +11);
- The optimism index has deteriorated considerably in the candidate countries since spring 2014.

[23] QA2a4. What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...? The employment situation in (OUR COUNTRY)

QA2a.4. What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?

The employment situation in (OUR COUNTRY)



2.3. The main concerns at national level

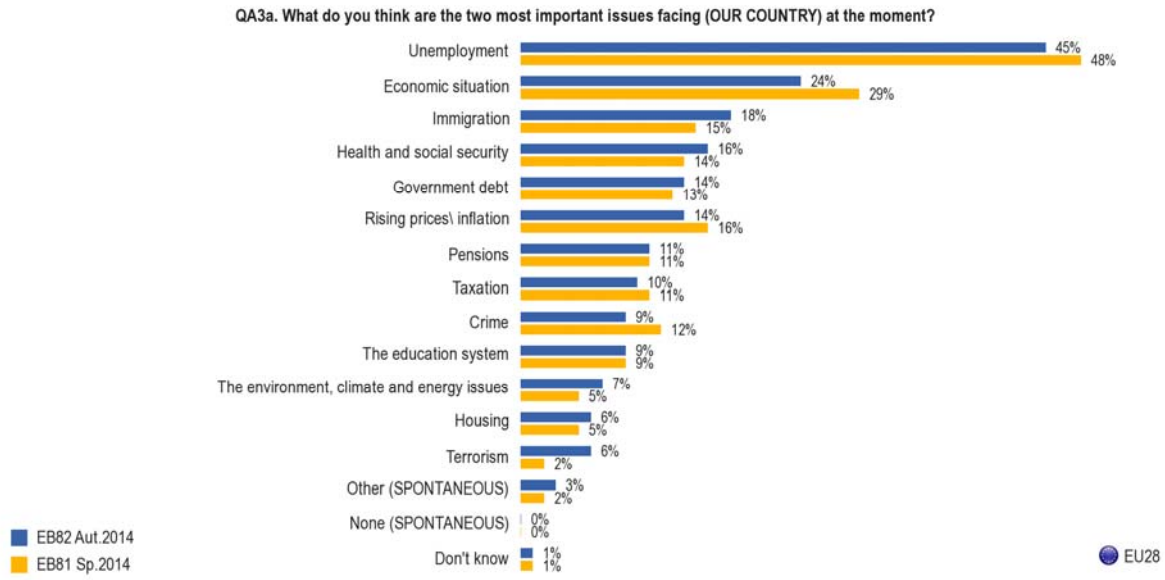
- Economic issue have lost ground a little, while concerns about immigration have increased -

The order in which Europeans rank their main national concerns has changed slightly since the Standard Eurobarometer survey of spring 2014. The evolutions confirm the trends measured in recent surveys: Europeans are increasingly less preoccupied with economic issues, while social issues such as immigration, health and social security continue to gain ground[24].

Unemployment remains the greatest national concern, despite a further decrease in mentions (45%, -3 percentage points since spring 2014, and -4 since autumn 2013).

The national economic situation is still ranked in second place, but with a lower score (24%, -5 percentage points, and -9 since autumn 2013).

The upward trend in concerns about **immigration** recorded in previous Eurobarometer surveys has continued in the autumn 2014 survey (18%, +3 percentage points since spring 2014, +6 since autumn 2013 and +11 since autumn 2011). Europeans now rank immigration as the third most important issue facing their country.



Maximum two answers

[24] QA3a. What do you think are the two most important issues facing (OUR COUNTRY) at the moment?

Next, respondents mentioned **health and social security,** which has also gained ground (16%, +2 percentage points since spring 2014, and +4 since autumn 2013), ahead of **government debt** (14%, +1 since spring 2014).

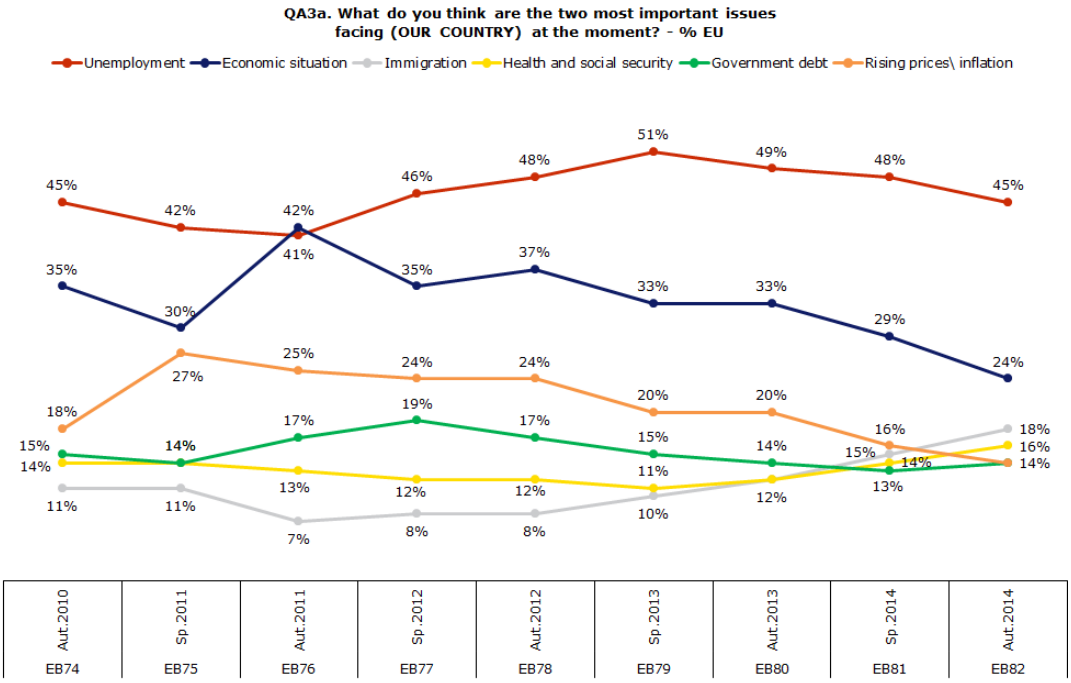
The issue of prices continues to lose ground among national concerns and has slipped from third to sixth place (14%, -2 percentage points, -6 since autumn 2013, and -13 since spring 2011).

This is followed, with virtually unchanged scores, by **pensions** (11%, unchanged) and **taxation** (10%, -1 percentage point).

Crime is mentioned less often than in spring 2014 (9%, -3 percentage points) and is now ranked equally with the **education system** (9%, unchanged).

Lagging behind, despite a slight increase, comes **environmental, climate and energy issues** (7%, +2 percentage points), ahead of **housing** (6%, +1).

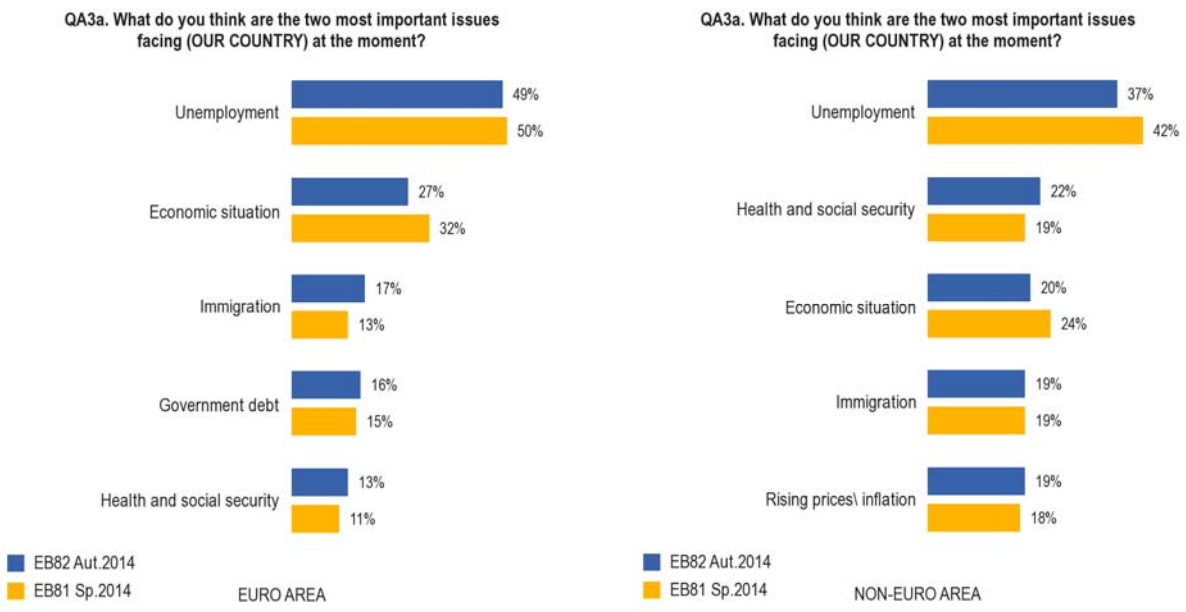
Terrorism now shares last place with housing, but this is the item that has gained the most ground in this survey (6%, +4 percentage points).



Six most frequently mentioned items

The order in which the main national concerns are mentioned differs in the euro area and non-euro area countries:

- **Unemployment** is seen as the most pressing national concern in both groups of countries, but continues to be mentioned far more frequently in the euro area countries (49%, -1 percentage point) than in the non-euro area, where it has declined more sharply (37%, -5);
- **The economic situation** remains the second most important issue for respondents in the euro area, despite a sharp decrease (27%, -5 percentage points), and **immigration** is now ranked in third place, after an increase since spring 2014 (17%, +4);
- In the non-euro area countries, health and social security is the second most important concern, after gaining ground since spring 2014 (22%, +3 percentage points). It has now overtaken the national economic situation (20%, -4).



Five most frequently mentioned items in the euro area and in the non-euro area

A national analysis reveals that, despite a decline, **unemployment** remains the primary concern in 21 Member States (against 23 in spring 2014).

Two-thirds or more respondents in Cyprus (79%), Spain (78%), Croatia (66%) and Portugal (66%) mentioned **unemployment**.

However, this issue has lost ground in 21 Member States, in particular in the Netherlands (31%, -15 percentage points), Sweden (37%, -14) and Luxembourg (39%, -10).

In Luxembourg, **unemployment** is ranked in joint first position with **housing** (39%).

The national economic situation is the second national concern in 14 Member States, with the highest scores in Cyprus (68%), Slovenia (47%) and Greece (46%).

This issue has lost ground in 21 Member States, most notably in Spain (36%, -13 percentage points), Croatia (33%, -10), the Netherlands (28%, -10) and Lithuania (20%, -9).

The economic situation stands in joint first place with unemployment and **prices** in Romania (30%).

Immigration is now seen as the most important issue facing the country in three Member States: **Malta** (57%, -7 percentage points) and the **United Kingdom** (38%, -3), as in spring 2014, but these countries have now been joined by **Germany**, where this subject has gained significant ground (37%, +15).

Worries about immigration have also increased strongly since spring 2014 in two other Member States, namely **Denmark** (34%, +14 percentage points) and **Sweden** (24%, +10). In total, **concern about immigration has increased in 15 countries.**

Health and social security is seen as the most pressing concern in the Netherlands, with a sharp increase since spring 2014 (56%, +13 percentage points).

The issue of prices tops the list of concerns in Lithuania (41%, +4 percentage points). However, this issue has declined significantly in Estonia (25%, -15) and Latvia (19%, -8).

Other national particularities include:

- The **education system** is of particular concern in Sweden, where it is ranked in second place, after unemployment (34%);
- **Government debt** figures prominently among concerns in Croatia (30%);
- Respondents in Belgium are more likely than average to mention **pensions** (24%), while people in Italy are inclined to mention **taxation** (24%);
- **Environmental, climate and energy issues** are most likely to be identified as important problems in Denmark (28%) and Sweden (27%);
- Respondents in the Czech Republic (20%) and Croatia (19%) are more likely than average to mention **crime**.

In the candidate countries:

- **Unemployment** tops the list of national concerns in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (61%, -4 percentage points), Serbia (59%, -3), Montenegro (56%, -8) and Albania (52%), where the survey was conducted for the first time;
- The main concern in Iceland is **health and social security,** following a very steep increase since spring 2014 (73%, +28 percentage points);
- Respondents in Turkey are chiefly concerned about **terrorism** (45%, +4 percentage points).

QA3a. What do you think are the two most important issues facing (OUR COUNTRY) at the moment?

	Unem-ployment	Econo-mic situation	Immi-gration	Health and social security	Govern-ment debt	Rising prices\ inflation	Pensions	Taxation	Crime	The education system	The environ-ment, climate and energy issues	Housing	Terrorism
EU28	45%	24%	18%	16%	14%	14%	11%	10%	9%	9%	7%	6%	6%
BE	42%	25%	16%	9%	20%	14%	24%	11%	9%	5%	9%	5%	2%
BG	49%	44%	10%	24%	5%	19%	12%	3%	13%	6%	3%	1%	1%
CZ	40%	20%	8%	14%	27%	24%	17%	6%	20%	6%	3%	5%	1%
DK	35%	18%	34%	23%	6%	3%	3%	6%	11%	17%	28%	2%	6%
DE	16%	11%	37%	11%	17%	12%	15%	5%	14%	17%	16%	7%	11%
EE	30%	28%	5%	29%	1%	25%	19%	16%	6%	11%	6%	3%	3%
IE	48%	24%	8%	19%	17%	14%	4%	19%	13%	7%	3%	13%	1%
EL	60%	46%	6%	13%	22%	8%	6%	22%	5%	6%	1%	0%	1%
ES	78%	36%	3%	13%	11%	5%	4%	5%	6%	8%	1%	5%	1%
FR	63%	26%	11%	7%	18%	13%	9%	13%	8%	6%	8%	7%	5%
HR	66%	33%	2%	9%	30%	12%	6%	4%	19%	4%	1%	4%	0%
IT	60%	37%	18%	4%	14%	10%	9%	24%	7%	3%	3%	2%	3%
CY	79%	68%	8%	4%	10%	6%	2%	7%	2%	2%	1%	0%	1%
LV	35%	31%	9%	31%	4%	19%	19%	20%	4%	10%	1%	4%	1%
LT	37%	20%	10%	13%	13%	41%	14%	22%	8%	6%	3%	4%	0%
LU	39%	14%	11%	5%	10%	17%	7%	11%	7%	22%	6%	39%	2%
HU	50%	30%	3%	21%	13%	20%	13%	10%	12%	5%	3%	7%	1%
MT	12%	11%	57%	15%	15%	14%	9%	6%	10%	8%	22%	1%	1%
NL	31%	28%	8%	56%	6%	4%	11%	10%	8%	9%	7%	2%	12%
AT	33%	19%	20%	12%	17%	21%	12%	10%	13%	17%	10%	7%	5%
PL	54%	17%	7%	25%	11%	19%	19%	7%	6%	5%	4%	5%	2%
PT	66%	31%	2%	13%	20%	22%	11%	14%	4%	5%	2%	1%	0%
RO	30%	30%	4%	24%	5%	30%	19%	9%	11%	14%	2%	5%	1%
SI	57%	47%	1%	11%	25%	5%	7%	8%	11%	1%	4%	1%	0%
SK	57%	31%	1%	23%	11%	21%	13%	7%	8%	7%	4%	6%	1%
FI	49%	36%	3%	35%	28%	8%	7%	8%	4%	4%	8%	3%	1%
SE	37%	17%	24%	30%	1%	2%	5%	3%	5%	34%	27%	7%	1%
UK	22%	13%	38%	22%	12%	17%	6%	5%	9%	8%	6%	16%	16%
CY (tcc)	33%	47%	4%	6%	-	52%	1%	11%	21%	5%	0%	7%	1%
AL	52%	35%	3%	8%	8%	28%	9%	8%	22%	11%	5%	3%	3%
MK	61%	36%	11%	9%	9%	20%	6%	5%	11%	4%	3%	2%	2%
IS	5%	32%	2%	73%	21%	10%	5%	5%	2%	19%	8%	15%	0%
ME	56%	43%	0%	5%	24%	14%	10%	4%	26%	6%	2%	3%	2%
RS	59%	41%	2%	10%	13%	16%	9%	5%	20%	7%	1%	3%	1%
TR	40%	17%	14%	1%	2%	11%	6%	2%	9%	8%	1%	1%	45%

Highest percentage per country | *Lowest percentage per country*

Highest percentage per item | Lowest percentage per item

Maximum two answers

QA3a. What do you think are the two most important issues facing (OUR COUNTRY) at the moment?

	Unem-ployment	Economic situation	Immigra-tion	Health and social security	Govern-ment debt	Rising prices\ inflation	Pensions	Taxation	Crime	The education system	The environ-ment, climate and energy issues	Housing	Terrorism
EU28	45%	24%	18%	16%	14%	14%	11%	10%	9%	9%	7%	6%	6%
BE	42%	25%	16%	9%	20%	14%	24%	11%	9%	5%	9%	5%	2%
BG	49%	44%	10%	24%	5%	19%	12%	3%	13%	6%	3%	1%	1%
CZ	40%	20%	8%	14%	27%	24%	17%	6%	20%	6%	3%	5%	1%
DK	35%	18%	34%	23%	6%	3%	3%	6%	11%	17%	28%	2%	6%
DE	16%	11%	37%	11%	17%	12%	15%	5%	14%	17%	16%	7%	11%
EE	30%	28%	5%	29%	1%	25%	19%	16%	6%	11%	6%	3%	3%
IE	48%	24%	8%	19%	17%	14%	4%	19%	13%	7%	3%	13%	1%
EL	60%	46%	6%	13%	22%	8%	6%	22%	5%	6%	1%	0%	1%
ES	78%	36%	3%	13%	11%	5%	4%	5%	6%	8%	1%	5%	1%
FR	63%	26%	11%	7%	18%	13%	9%	13%	8%	6%	8%	7%	5%
HR	66%	33%	2%	9%	30%	12%	6%	4%	19%	4%	1%	4%	0%
IT	60%	37%	18%	4%	14%	10%	9%	24%	7%	3%	3%	2%	3%
CY	79%	68%	8%	4%	10%	6%	2%	7%	2%	2%	1%	0%	1%
LV	35%	31%	9%	31%	4%	19%	19%	20%	4%	10%	1%	4%	1%
LT	37%	20%	10%	13%	13%	41%	14%	22%	8%	6%	3%	4%	0%
LU	39%	14%	11%	5%	10%	17%	7%	11%	7%	22%	6%	39%	2%
HU	50%	30%	3%	21%	13%	20%	13%	10%	12%	5%	3%	7%	1%
MT	12%	11%	57%	15%	15%	14%	9%	6%	10%	8%	22%	1%	1%
NL	31%	28%	8%	56%	6%	4%	11%	10%	8%	9%	7%	2%	12%
AT	33%	19%	20%	12%	17%	21%	12%	10%	13%	17%	10%	7%	5%
PL	54%	17%	7%	25%	11%	19%	19%	7%	6%	5%	4%	5%	2%
PT	66%	31%	2%	13%	20%	22%	11%	14%	4%	5%	2%	1%	0%
RO	30%	30%	4%	24%	5%	30%	19%	9%	11%	14%	2%	5%	1%
SI	57%	47%	1%	11%	25%	5%	7%	8%	11%	1%	4%	1%	0%
SK	57%	31%	1%	23%	11%	21%	13%	7%	8%	7%	4%	6%	1%
FI	49%	36%	3%	35%	28%	8%	7%	8%	4%	4%	8%	3%	1%
SE	37%	17%	24%	30%	1%	2%	5%	3%	5%	34%	27%	7%	1%
UK	22%	13%	38%	22%	12%	17%	6%	5%	9%	8%	6%	16%	16%
CY (tcc)	33%	47%	4%	6%	-	52%	1%	11%	21%	5%	0%	7%	1%
AL	52%	35%	3%	8%	8%	28%	9%	8%	22%	11%	5%	3%	3%
MK	61%	36%	11%	9%	9%	20%	6%	5%	11%	4%	3%	2%	2%
IS	5%	32%	2%	73%	21%	10%	5%	5%	2%	19%	8%	15%	0%
ME	56%	43%	0%	5%	24%	14%	10%	4%	26%	6%	2%	3%	2%
RS	59%	41%	2%	10%	13%	16%	9%	5%	20%	7%	1%	3%	1%
TR	40%	17%	14%	1%	2%	11%	6%	2%	9%	8%	1%	1%	45%

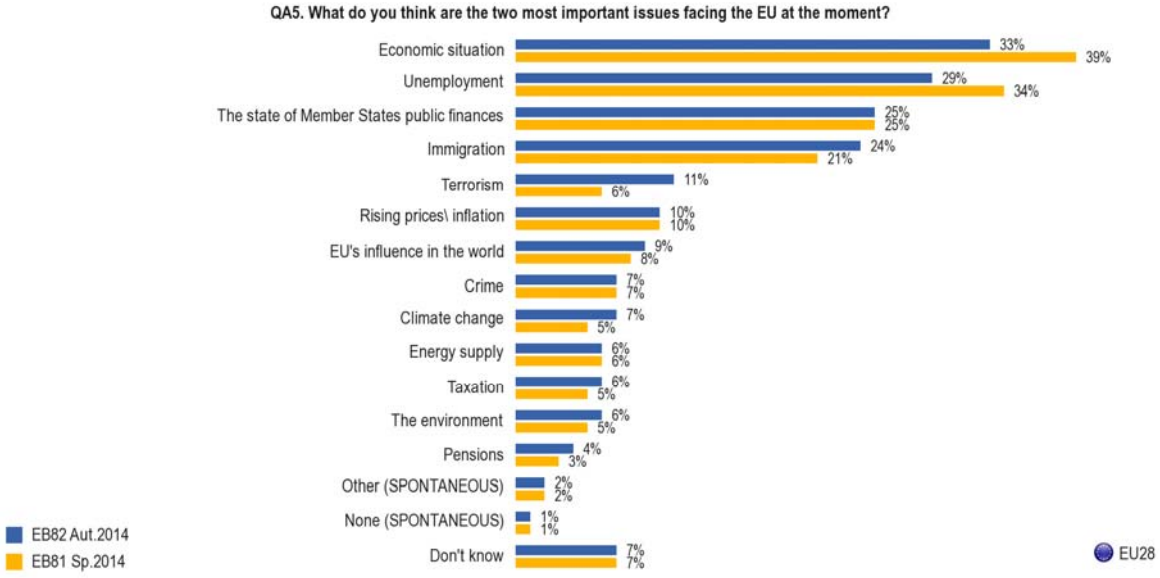
1st MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM
2nd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM
3rd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM

Maximum two answers

2.4. The main concerns at European level

- Increased concerns about immigration confirmed at European level -

As at the national level, there is a decline in worries about economic matters at the European level, although these issues remain the most important concerns[25]. This trend was observed in the Standard Eurobarometer survey of spring 2014.



Maximum two answers

Europeans continue to believe that the most important issue facing the European Union is the **economic situation** (33%), but the proportion of respondents mentioning this issue has fallen by six percentage points since spring 2014 and by 26 percentage points in total since autumn 2011.

Unemployment remains in second place, but concerns about this issue have also declined significantly (29%, -5 percentage points since spring 2014).

The state of the public finances of the Member States continues to figure prominently among the issues facing the European Union (25%, unchanged).

In addition to the decline in economic concerns, this autumn 2014 survey confirms the growing attention paid by Europeans to **immigration,** which was mentioned by almost a quarter of respondents (24%, +3 percentage points versus spring 2014 and +15 versus autumn 2011).

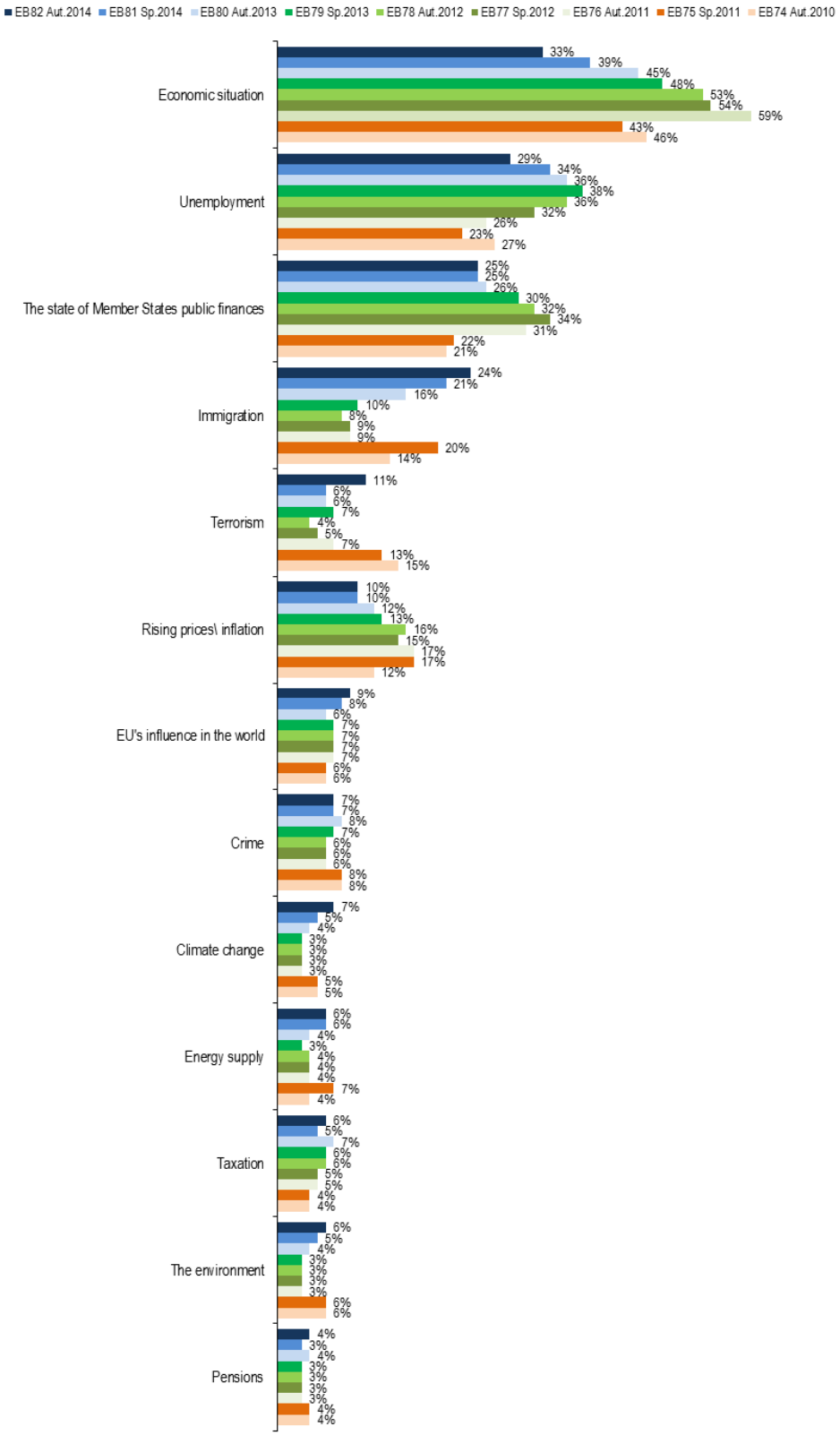
Terrorism is also much more frequently identified as one of the problems facing the European Union than in spring 2014 (11%, +5 percentage points).

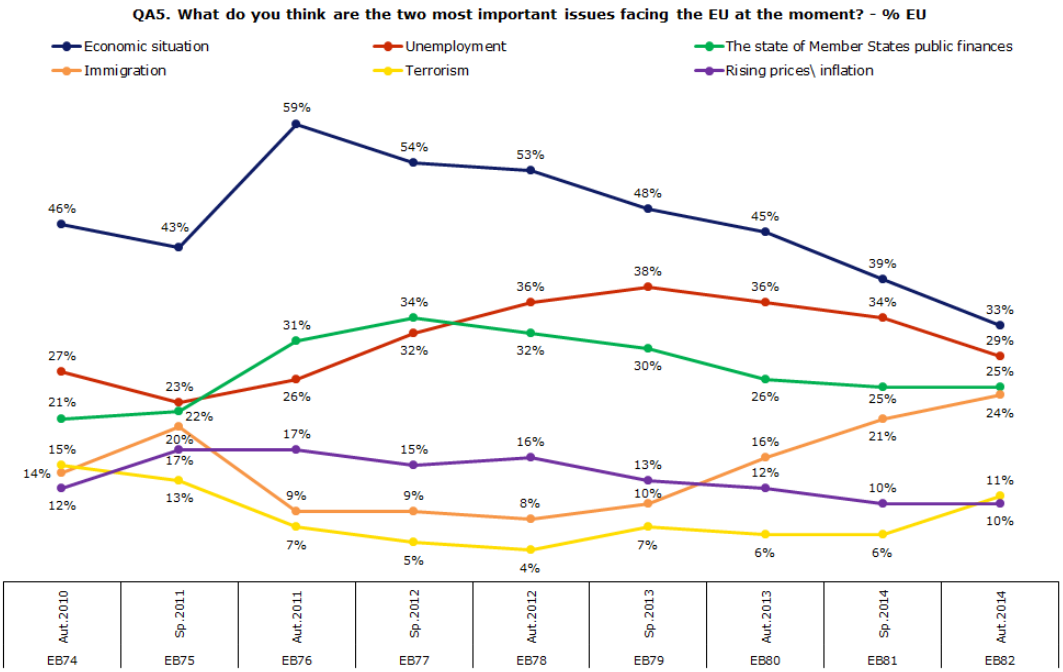
Next, with virtually unchanged results, respondents mentioned **the issue of prices** (10%, unchanged), **the EU's influence in the world** (9%, +1) and **crime** (7%, =).

[25] QA5. What do you think are the two most important issues facing the EU at the moment?

Climate change is now slightly more likely to be seen as an important issue facing the EU (7%, +2 percentage points), ahead of **energy supplies** (6%, unchanged), **taxation** (6%, +1), **the environment** (6%, +1) and **pensions** (4%, +1).

QA5. What do you think are the two most important issues facing the EU at the moment? - % EU

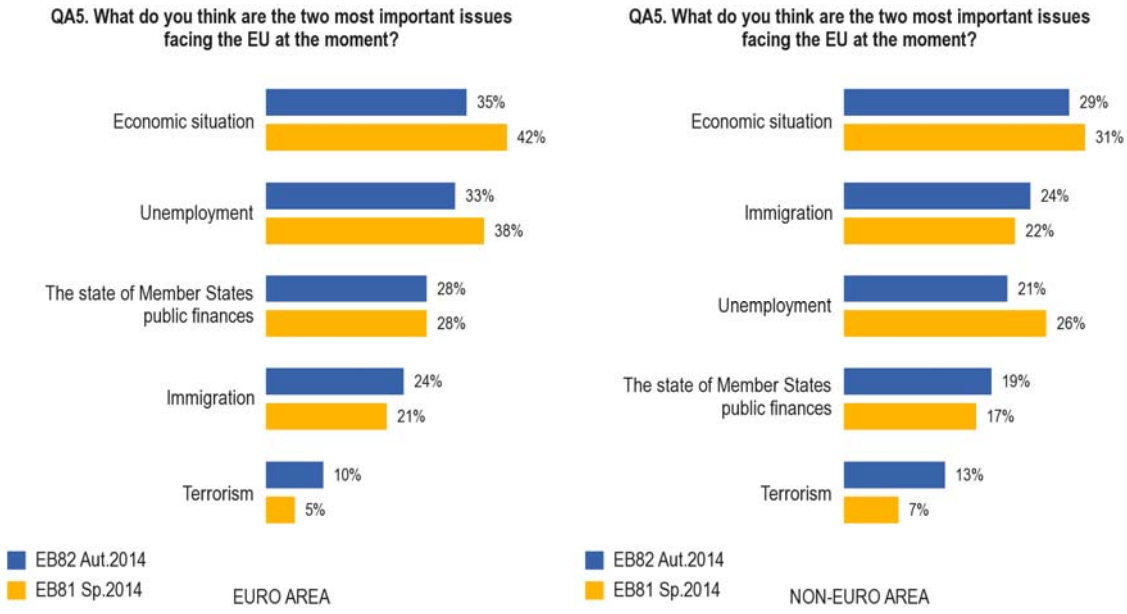




Six most frequently mentioned items

The economic situation is seen as the main problem facing the European Union by **respondents both within and outside the euro area.**

Immigration is seen as the second most important issue facing the EU by non-euro area respondents (24%, +2 percentage points). Although it is mentioned by the same proportion of respondents (24%, +3), **this issue is ranked in the euro area countries behind unemployment** (33%, -5, versus 21%, -5, in the non-euro area countries) and the **state of Member States' public finances** (28%, stable, versus 19%, +2, in the non-euro area countries).



The economic situation tops the list of key issues facing the European Union in 13 Member States, led by Greece (47%), Spain (45%), Cyprus (45%), the Netherlands (42%) and Italy (41%).

However, the proportion of respondents mentioning this issue has fallen since spring 2014 in 25 Member States, most notably in France (35%, -11 percentage points), Ireland (34%, -11), Denmark (32%, -10), Portugal (32%, -10) and Croatia (28%, -10).

In Denmark, respondents rank **the economic situation** and **immigration** (32%) in joint first place among the most important issues facing the EU.

Unemployment is seen as the most pressing issue facing the EU in five Member States, with markedly above average scores in Cyprus (49%), Luxembourg (44%) and Italy (42%).

Like the economic situation, unemployment has lost ground in 25 Member States, in particular in the Netherlands (21%, -15 percentage points), Portugal (35%, -12), Denmark (30%, -12) and Italy (42%, -11).

In Portugal, unemployment tops the list, jointly with the state of public finances.

The state of Member States' public finances is seen as the most important issue facing the EU in four other Member States: Finland (47%), Austria (34%), Slovakia (33%) and the Czech Republic (27%). Though not seen as the main problem, this issue also figures prominently in the Netherlands (40%), Germany (36%) and Portugal (35%).

Concerns about this issue have increased significantly since spring 2014 in Finland (47%, +11 percentage points), the Netherlands (40%, +9) and Cyprus (27%, +8).

Immigration tops the list of key issues facing the EU in four other Member States as well as Denmark: **Malta**, despite a decrease (46%, -9 percentage points), **Germany**, with a sharp increase (37%, +9), **Bulgaria** (35%, +7) and the **United Kingdom** (33%, +4). The identification of immigration as an issue for the European Union has also increased sharply in **Denmark** (32%, +11) and **Sweden** (28%, +10).

Other national particularities include:

- Respondents in Bulgaria are particularly likely to see **terrorism** as an issue facing the EU (18%, +10 percentage points). But this subject has also gained ground significantly in Malta (17%, +13), Austria (15%, +13), the Netherlands (17%, +12) and Germany (14%, +10);
- **The issue of prices** in the EU is seen as a particular concern in Romania (17%, versus 10% on average);

- Respondents in the Netherlands are the most likely to mention the **EU's influence in the world** (16%, versus 9% on average), while respondents in Austria (14%, versus 7% on average) and Romania (14%) are the most likely to mention **crime**;

- **Climate change** is above all seen as a problem in Sweden (28%, +3 percentage points), but the proportion of respondents mentioning this issue has also increased sharply in Denmark (25%, +10);

- The issue of **energy supplies** is most frequently mentioned in Estonia (19%), where concerns have risen sharply since spring 2014 (+8 percentage points).

QA5. What do you think are the two most important issues facing the EU at the moment?

	Econo-mic situation	Unem-ployment	The state of Member States public finances	Immi-gration	Terrorism	Rising prices\ inflation	EU's influence in the world	Crime	Climate change	Energy supply	Taxation	The environ-ment	Pensions
EU28	33%	29%	25%	24%	11%	10%	9%	7%	7%	6%	6%	6%	4%
BE	32%	31%	23%	21%	9%	9%	8%	8%	10%	10%	6%	8%	10%
BG	27%	13%	11%	35%	18%	7%	10%	10%	5%	10%	2%	4%	2%
CZ	25%	21%	27%	26%	17%	10%	9%	13%	5%	7%	4%	6%	7%
DK	32%	30%	16%	32%	10%	2%	10%	8%	25%	5%	1%	14%	0%
DE	24%	26%	36%	37%	14%	7%	8%	8%	8%	7%	3%	6%	3%
EE	28%	12%	26%	24%	13%	7%	15%	4%	2%	19%	4%	4%	3%
IE	34%	39%	21%	12%	7%	14%	7%	8%	9%	7%	11%	5%	2%
EL	47%	38%	32%	18%	6%	8%	14%	7%	2%	5%	6%	2%	2%
ES	45%	40%	24%	11%	3%	8%	7%	3%	4%	4%	6%	2%	3%
FR	35%	32%	22%	20%	13%	13%	11%	5%	9%	5%	4%	9%	3%
HR	28%	27%	27%	11%	9%	11%	11%	12%	10%	9%	5%	3%	4%
IT	41%	42%	19%	29%	5%	9%	5%	9%	3%	4%	13%	4%	4%
CY	45%	49%	27%	12%	9%	6%	8%	8%	1%	0%	7%	3%	1%
LV	27%	16%	26%	24%	11%	11%	14%	6%	3%	13%	8%	4%	4%
LT	23%	17%	22%	20%	12%	13%	11%	11%	7%	12%	10%	2%	3%
LU	28%	44%	25%	23%	13%	11%	7%	8%	7%	7%	4%	5%	4%
HU	32%	28%	29%	18%	7%	11%	10%	11%	6%	10%	7%	5%	7%
MT	23%	20%	17%	46%	17%	5%	5%	9%	10%	9%	3%	7%	3%
NL	42%	21%	40%	21%	17%	5%	16%	4%	5%	6%	4%	5%	2%
AT	28%	25%	34%	22%	15%	15%	9%	14%	9%	5%	4%	8%	3%
PL	23%	25%	18%	15%	14%	12%	9%	6%	7%	13%	5%	7%	7%
PT	32%	35%	35%	6%	4%	12%	7%	5%	3%	2%	7%	2%	7%
RO	29%	17%	17%	15%	10%	17%	5%	14%	4%	7%	7%	4%	7%
SI	37%	32%	27%	15%	5%	4%	7%	11%	9%	7%	5%	5%	2%
SK	30%	29%	33%	11%	11%	13%	11%	11%	6%	13%	4%	6%	4%
FI	33%	28%	47%	13%	6%	9%	11%	7%	14%	11%	5%	8%	2%
SE	32%	28%	24%	28%	7%	1%	10%	5%	28%	7%	1%	22%	1%
UK	32%	17%	16%	33%	15%	11%	10%	4%	4%	5%	5%	3%	2%

Highest percentage per country — Highest percentage per item

Lowest percentage per country — Lowest percentage per item

Maximum two answers

QA5. What do you think are the two most important issues facing the EU at the moment?

	Economic situation	Unem-ployment	The state of Member States public finances	Immi-gration	Terrorism	Rising prices\ inflation	EU's influence in the world	Crime	Climate change	Energy supply	Taxation	The environ-ment	Pensions
EU28	33%	29%	25%	24%	11%	10%	9%	7%	7%	6%	6%	6%	4%
BE	32%	31%	23%	21%	9%	9%	8%	8%	10%	10%	6%	8%	10%
BG	27%	13%	11%	35%	18%	7%	10%	10%	5%	10%	2%	4%	2%
CZ	25%	21%	27%	26%	17%	10%	9%	13%	5%	7%	4%	6%	7%
DK	32%	30%	16%	32%	10%	2%	10%	8%	25%	5%	1%	14%	0%
DE	24%	26%	36%	37%	14%	7%	8%	8%	8%	7%	3%	6%	3%
EE	28%	12%	26%	24%	13%	7%	15%	4%	2%	19%	4%	4%	3%
IE	34%	39%	21%	12%	7%	14%	7%	8%	9%	7%	11%	5%	2%
EL	47%	38%	32%	18%	6%	8%	14%	7%	2%	5%	6%	2%	2%
ES	45%	40%	24%	11%	3%	8%	7%	3%	4%	4%	6%	2%	3%
FR	35%	32%	22%	20%	13%	13%	11%	5%	9%	5%	4%	9%	3%
HR	28%	27%	27%	11%	9%	11%	11%	12%	10%	9%	5%	3%	4%
IT	41%	42%	19%	29%	5%	9%	5%	9%	3%	4%	13%	4%	4%
CY	45%	49%	27%	12%	9%	6%	8%	8%	1%	0%	7%	3%	1%
LV	27%	16%	26%	24%	11%	11%	14%	6%	3%	13%	8%	4%	4%
LT	23%	17%	22%	20%	12%	13%	11%	11%	7%	12%	10%	2%	3%
LU	28%	44%	25%	23%	13%	11%	7%	8%	7%	7%	4%	5%	4%
HU	32%	28%	29%	18%	7%	11%	10%	11%	6%	10%	7%	5%	7%
MT	23%	20%	17%	46%	17%	5%	5%	9%	10%	9%	3%	7%	3%
NL	42%	21%	40%	21%	17%	5%	16%	4%	5%	6%	4%	5%	2%
AT	28%	25%	34%	22%	15%	15%	9%	14%	9%	5%	4%	8%	3%
PL	23%	25%	18%	15%	14%	12%	9%	6%	7%	13%	5%	7%	7%
PT	32%	35%	35%	6%	4%	12%	7%	5%	3%	2%	7%	2%	7%
RO	29%	17%	17%	15%	10%	17%	5%	14%	4%	7%	7%	4%	7%
SI	37%	32%	27%	15%	5%	4%	7%	11%	9%	7%	5%	5%	2%
SK	30%	29%	33%	11%	11%	13%	11%	11%	6%	13%	4%	6%	4%
FI	33%	28%	47%	13%	6%	9%	11%	7%	14%	11%	5%	8%	2%
SE	32%	28%	24%	28%	7%	1%	10%	5%	28%	7%	1%	22%	1%
UK	32%	17%	16%	33%	15%	11%	10%	4%	4%	5%	5%	3%	2%

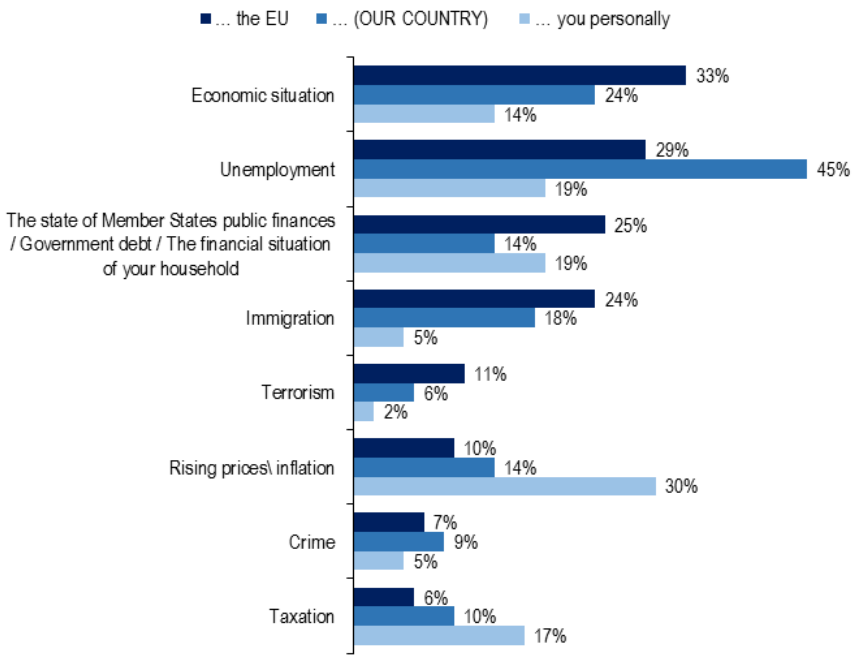
1st MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM
2nd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM
3rd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM

Maximum two answers

A comparison between the main concerns of Europeans at personal, national and European levels reveals that:

- Concerns about **unemployment** have decreased at the personal level (19%, -2 percentage points), nationally (45%, -3) and at European level (29%, -5), but it remains among the top two issues identified, regardless of the level considered;
- **The economic situation,** both nationally (24%, -5 percentage points) and in the EU (33%, -6), is seen as less worrying than in spring 2014, but Europeans are now more concerned about their own financial situation (19%, +3). **The issue of prices** remains by far the first problem for Europeans personally (30%, -2);
- Concerns about **immigration** continue to increase at both national (18%, +3 percentage points) and EU (24%, +3) levels. However, this issue remains a very minor personal concern (5%, +1);
- The trend is similar in the case of **terrorism**, which is more likely to be mentioned at national (6%, +4 percentage points) and European (11%, +5) levels; it is seldom mentioned as a personal concern (2%, +1);
- **Environmental concerns** are slowly gaining ground at national and EU levels;
- Lastly, the trend towards a general decline in concern about economic questions in favour of an increasing focus on societal and environmental issues is confirmed. This trend had already been identified in previous surveys.

What are the two most important issues facing ... at the moment? - % EU



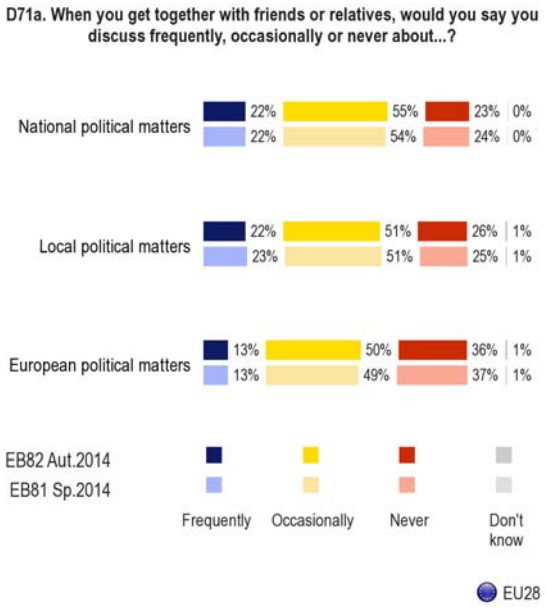
Comparables items quoted by more of 5% of respondents at EU level

3. POLITICAL ASPECTS

3.1. Interest in politics

- The interest of Europeans in politics is unchanged -

The index measuring the interest of European citizens in politics[26] has remained unchanged since the Standard Eurobarometer survey of spring 2014, as it has done overall since it was created in spring 2010: 16% of Europeans have a "strong" interest in politics (unchanged since spring 2014), while 44% (=) have a "moderate" interest. The proportions of respondents who are only "slightly" (22%) or "not at all" (18%) interested in politics are also unchanged.

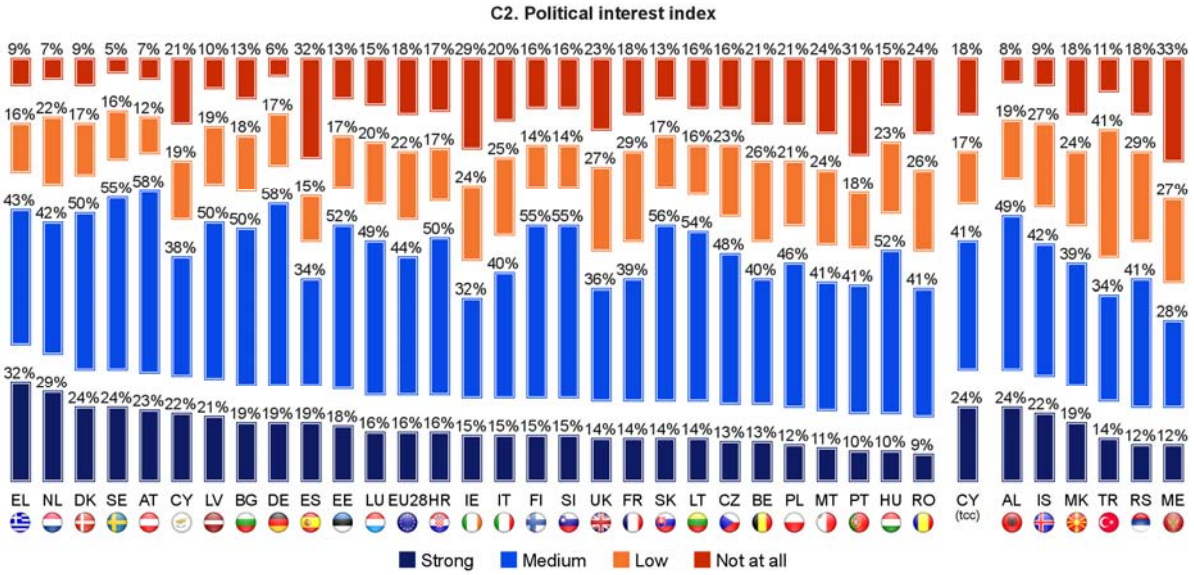


Europeans are above all interested in national political matters: more than three-quarters of them frequently (22%, unchanged) or occasionally (55%, +1 percentage point) discuss these issues. After national political issues they are most likely to discuss local politics, with just under three-quarters of respondents saying that they frequently (22%, -1) or occasionally (51%, unchanged) discuss local political matters. Just under two-thirds of Europeans discuss European political matters with friends or relatives, either frequently (13%, unchanged), or occasionally (50%, +1).

A national analysis of the political interest index shows that respondents in Greece are again the most likely to be interested in politics: 32% have a "strong" political interest index, compared with an average of 16%, but this proportion has fallen sharply since spring 2014 (-5 percentage points). Greece is followed by the Netherlands (29%, +3), Denmark (24%, +2) and Sweden (24%, unchanged).

[26] The question is as follows: When you get together with friends or relatives, would you say that you discuss frequently, occasionally or never about…? National political matters/European political maters/Local political matters. A score is then attributed to each answer: "Never" = 0; "Occasionally" = 1; "Often"= 2. An index is then constructed by adding together the scores for the three dimensions (local, national and European). Each group corresponds to a different index level: "not at all interested in politics" = 0; "slightly" = 1 to 2; "moderately" = 3 to 4; "strongly" = 5 to 6.

Respondents are the least likely to have a "strong" political interest index in Romania, (9%, -1 percentage point), followed by Hungary (10%, -1) and Portugal (10%, -1).



A socio-demographic analysis reveals that:

- Men (20% have a "strong" political interest index) are more likely than women (13%) to be interested in politics;
- Baby boomers are the generation most likely to be interested in politics (20% have a "strong" index, compared with 17% of the generation born before 1946 and 17% for generation "X" (born between 1965 and 1980)). The youngest respondents, generation "Y" (born after 1980), are the least interested in politics (11%);
- Interest also seems to be closely correlated with the respondent's level of education: 23% among Europeans who studied up to the age of 20 and beyond are interested in politics, compared with 11% of those who left school at the age of 15 or earlier;
- Self-employed people (25%) and managers (23%) have a stronger interest in politics than white-collar workers (17%) and manual workers (13%).

3.2. Trust in institutions

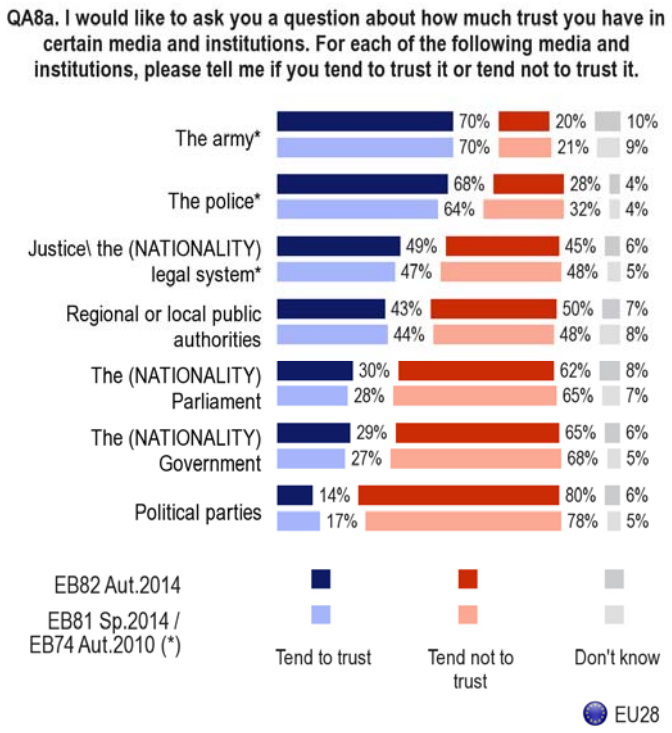
3.2.1. National institutions

- Trust in national institutions has increased slightly -

The national government and parliament

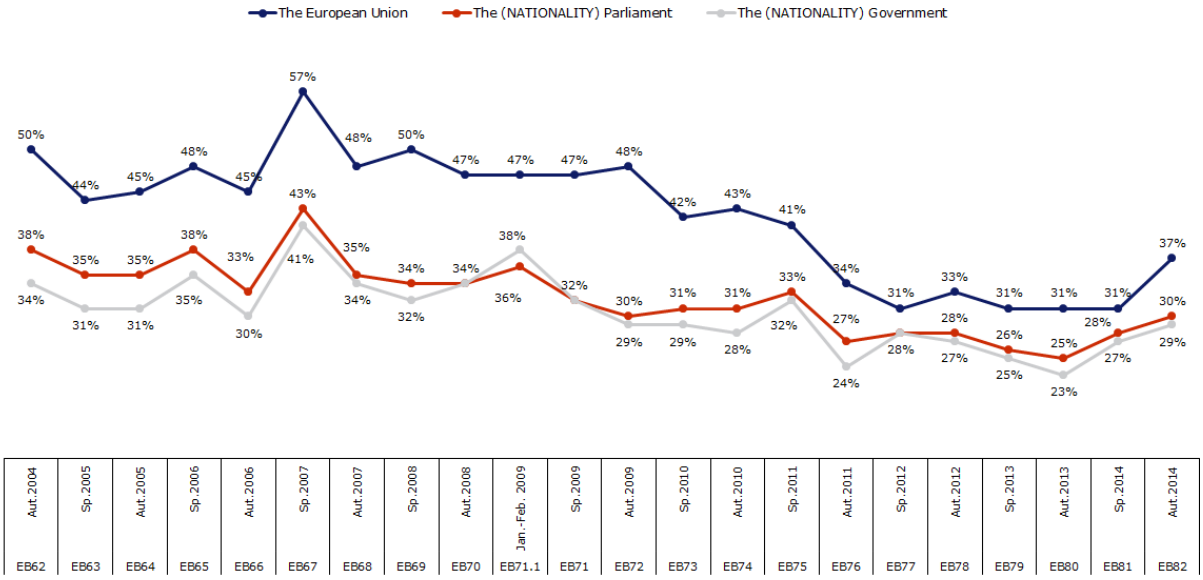
Although still only a minority of Europeans trust their national political institutions, trust has gained some ground[27]:

- 29% of respondents trust their **national government,** two percentage points up on spring 2014, and +6 since autumn 2013 (versus 65% 'distrust' -3 and -7);
- Europeans are now equally slightly more likely to trust their **national parliament:** 30% (+2 percentage points and +5 since autumn 2013, compared with 62%, -3 and -7).

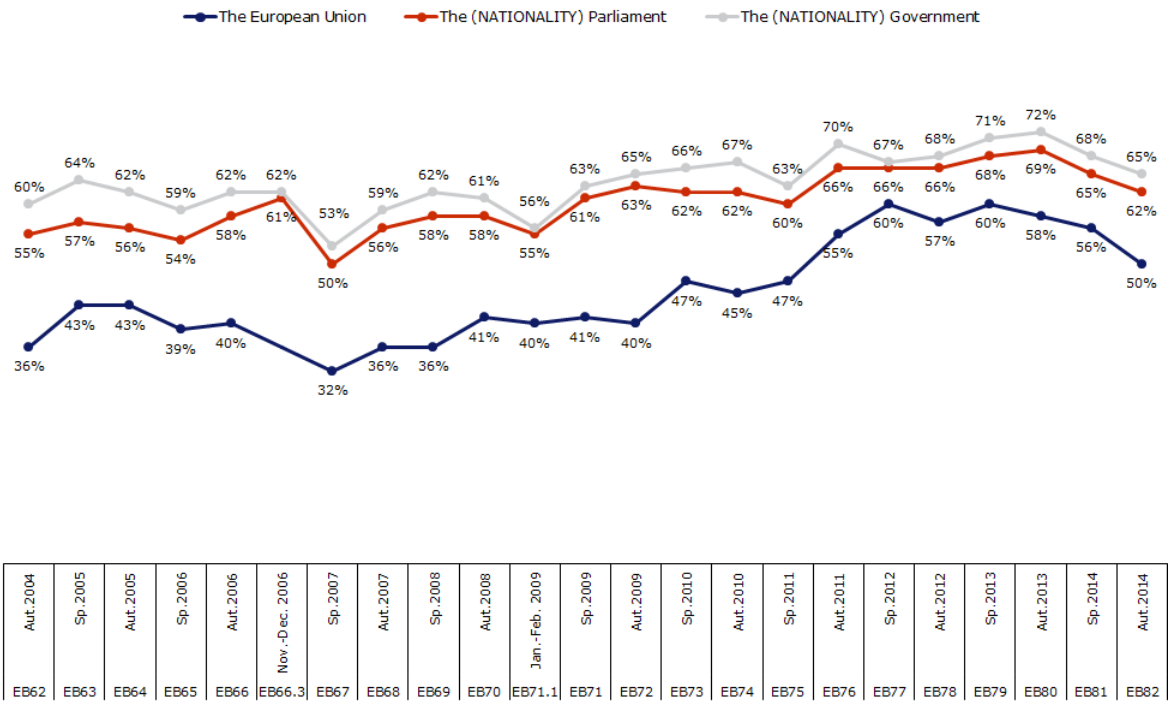


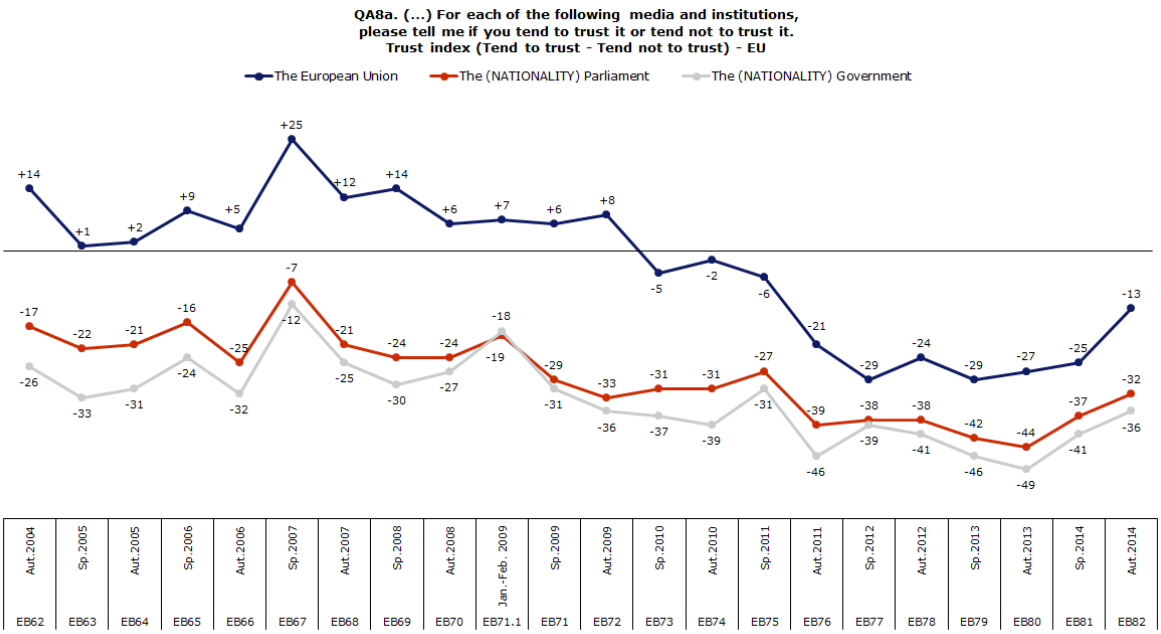
[27] QA8a. I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain media and institutions. For each of the following media and institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.

QA8a. (...) For each of the following media and institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.
- Tend to trust - % EU



QA8a. (...) For each of the following media and institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.
- Tend not to trust - % EU





A majority of respondents trust their **government** and **parliament** in seven Member States: Malta (56% for the government and 51% for the parliament), Sweden (54%; 67%), the Netherlands (52%; 55%), Luxembourg (51%; 47%), Denmark (50%; 61%), Austria (50%; 53%) and Germany (48%; 49%).

In this autumn 2014 survey, respondents in Austria stand out by the sharp increase in the trust they place in their government (+17 percentage points) and parliament (+18).

In contrast, trust in national political institutions has deteriorated sharply in Belgium (33%, -10 percentage points for the government, and 36%, -8, for the parliament).

Respondents are particularly critical of these institutions in Greece (89% distrust their government; 85% distrust their parliament), Spain (87%; 84%) and Slovenia (80%; 84%).

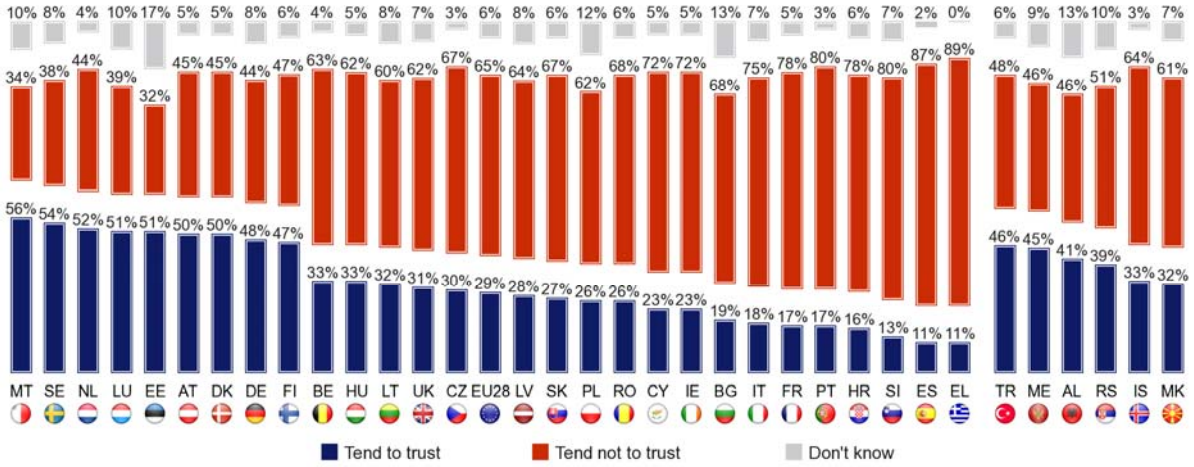
In the candidate countries:

- Trust in the national institutions has gained significant ground in Montenegro, though it is still the minority position (45%, +11 percentage points for the government, and 41%, +11 for the parliament);
- In all the other candidate countries a majority of respondents distrust their government, and this majority is tending to grow in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (61%, +8 percentage points), Serbia (51%, +6), Iceland (64%, +5) and Turkey (48%, +4);
- A majority of respondents also distrust their parliament, except in Turkey (50% trust it, -4 percentage points, versus 43%, +2);

- In Albania, where this Standard Eurobarometer survey was conducted for the first time, a majority of respondents distrust both their national government (46% "tend not to trust it", versus 41%) and their national parliament (51% versus 35%).

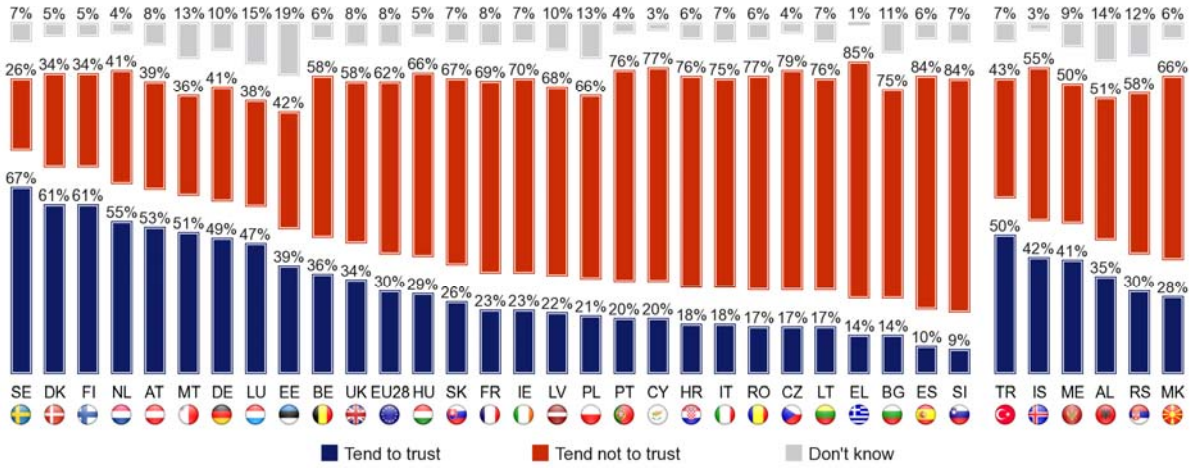
QA8a.11. I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain media and institutions. For each of the following media and institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.

The (NATIONALITY) Government



QA8a.12. I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain media and institutions. For each of the following media and institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.

The (NATIONALITY) Parliament



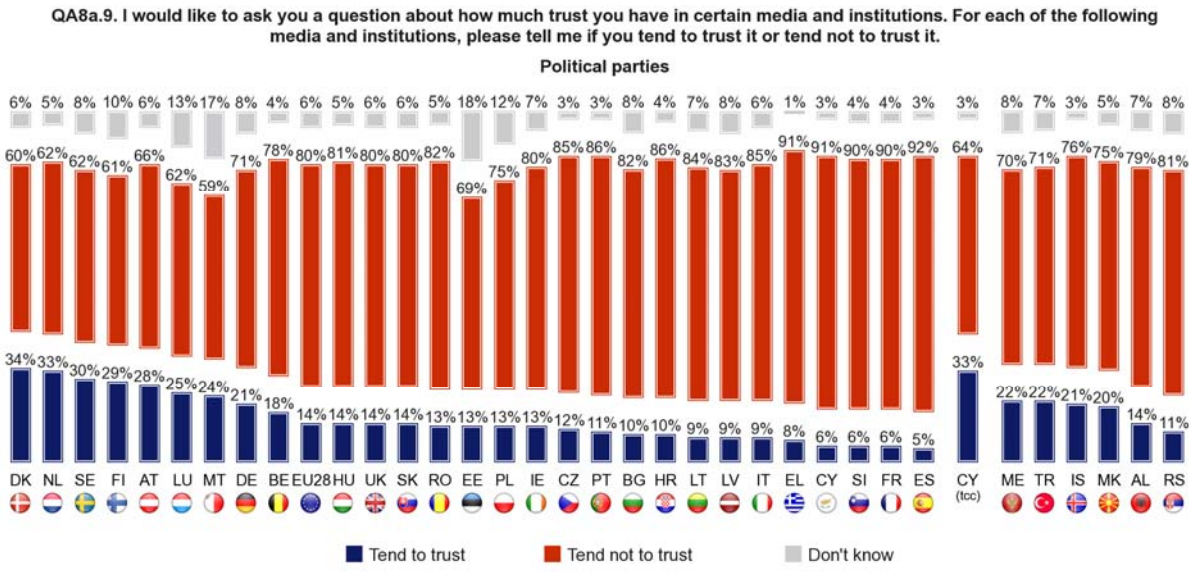
Political parties

A majority of respondents in all Member States continue to distrust **political parties.** This distrust has even increased slightly on average in the EU (80% tend not to trust political parties, +2 percentage points since the Standard Eurobarometer survey of spring 2014, compared with 14% who tend to trust them, -3).

As many as 90% or more of respondents in five Member States distrust political parties: in Spain (92%, unchanged), Greece (91%, =), Cyprus (91%, +7), France (90%, +1) and Slovenia (90%, -3).

Distrust in political parties is least widespread in Malta (59%, +12 percentage points), Denmark (60%, +5) and Finland (61%, +10). Nevertheless, it is shared by a very large majority of respondents in these countries, and has even increased significantly since spring 2014, as it has in Belgium (78%, +12).

A large majority of respondents in the **candidate countries** also distrust political parties, with scores ranging from 70% to 81%.



Regional and local public authorities

Again, only a minority of Europeans trust **regional and local public authorities,** even if opinions are more divided here: 43% "tend to trust" them (-1 percentage point), versus 50% (+2).

As in spring 2014, positive opinions hold sway in 13 Member States, most notably in Denmark (69%), Sweden (67%), Austria (65%), Germany (64%), Luxembourg (64%) and Finland (63%).

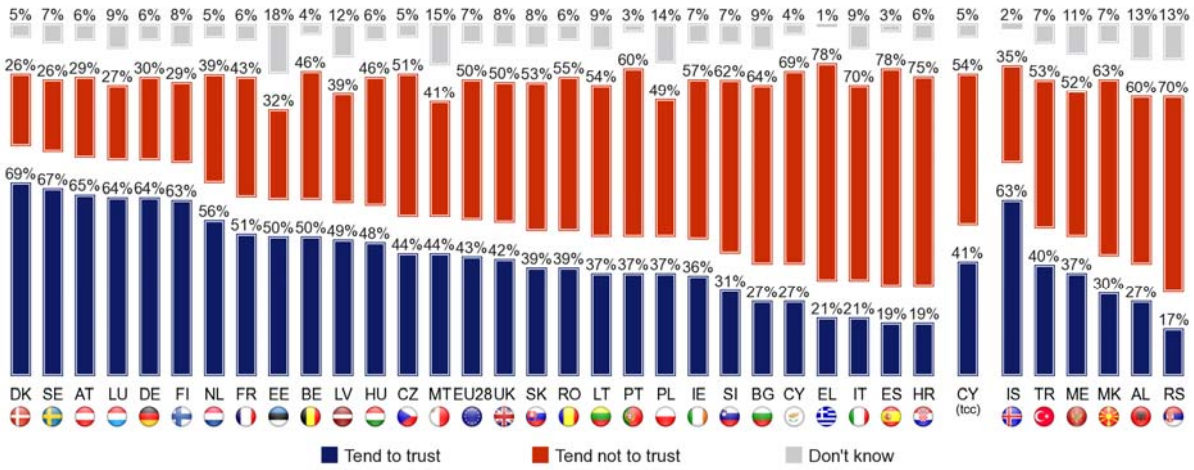
However, distrust is predominant in Greece (78%), Spain (78%), Croatia (75%) and Italy (70%).

Since spring 2014, trust in regional and local public authorities has fallen sharply in Cyprus (27%, -21 percentage points), and to a lesser extent in Greece (21%, -10). In contrast it has increased in Austria (65%, +7).

In the candidate countries, a large majority of respondents in Iceland still trust regional and local public authorities, despite a sharp decline (63%, -12 percentage points, versus 35%, +14). However, respondents are predominantly negative in the other candidate countries, especially in Serbia (17%, -3, versus 70% who "tend not to trust" them, +1).

QA8a.10. I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain media and institutions. For each of the following media and institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.

Regional or local public authorities



The army; police; justice

The extent to which Europeans trust several other institutions was measured in this autumn 2014 survey, with an older point of comparison, namely the results of the Standard Eurobarometer survey of autumn 2010 (EB74).

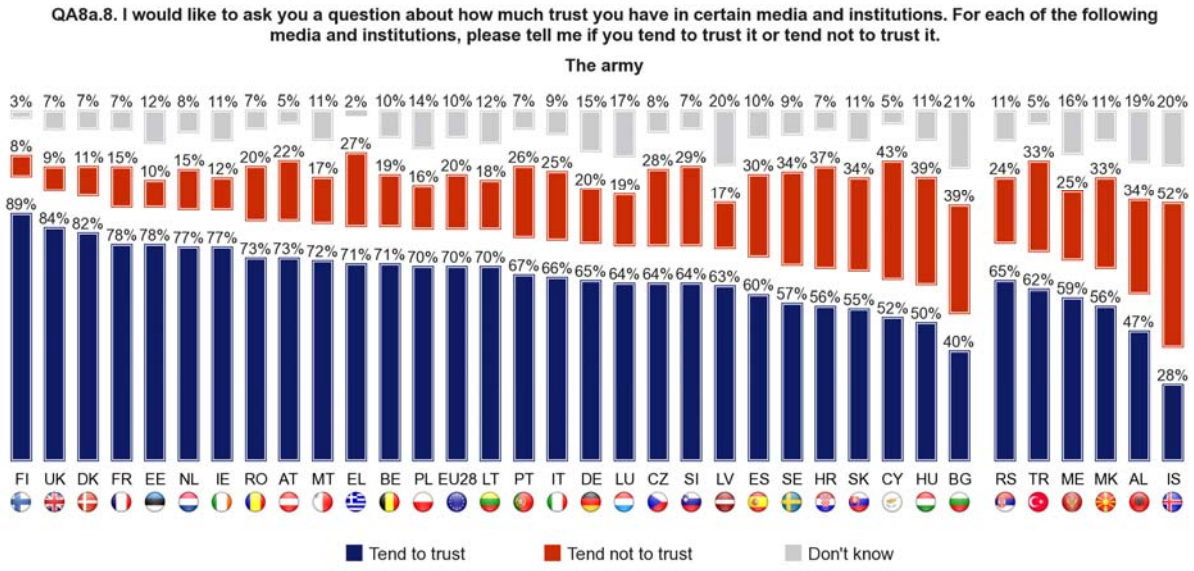
The results show either stable or increased levels of trust in national institutions:

- A very clear majority of Europeans continue to trust their country's **army** (70%, unchanged, versus 20%, -1 percentage point);
- A majority of Europeans also trust the **police.** This trust has increased since autumn 2010 (68%, +4 percentage points, versus 28%, -4);
- A majority of Europeans now trust **justice** in their country, whereas respondents predominantly distrusted the justice system in the autumn 2010 survey (49%, +2 percentage points, versus 45%, -3).

A majority of respondents trust the **army** in all 28 Member States, but levels of trust vary from 89% in Finland to 40% in Bulgaria (versus 39%). Trust is also particularly high in the United Kingdom (84%) and Denmark (82%).

Trust in the army is less prevalent and has fallen sharply since autumn 2010 in Slovakia (55%, -17 percentage points) and Cyprus (52%, -15). However, it has increased considerably in Romania (73%, +14) and Lithuania (70%, +13).

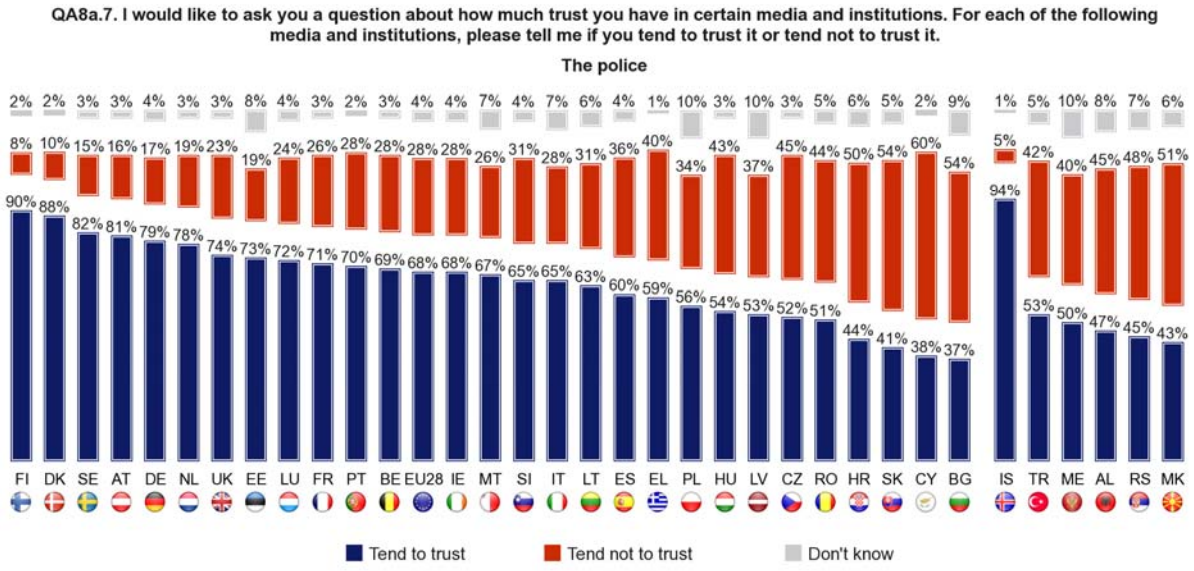
A majority of respondents trust the army in the **candidate countries**, except in Iceland (28% versus 52%).



A majority of respondents trust the **police** in 24 Member States, most notably in Finland (90%), Denmark (88%), Sweden (82%) and Austria (81%). However, only a minority of respondents trust the police in Bulgaria (37% versus 54% who “tend not to trust” them), Cyprus (38% versus 60%), Slovakia (41% versus 54%) and Croatia (44% versus 50%).

Trust in the police has increased sharply in Lithuania (63%, +19 percentage points), Slovenia (65%, +17), Romania (51%, +14) and Portugal (70%, +12).

A majority of respondents trust the police in four candidate countries: trust is exceptionally high in Iceland (94% versus 5%), and stands at around 50% in Turkey (53% versus 42%), Montenegro (50% versus 40%) and Albania (47% versus 45%). Respondents are predominantly critical of the police in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (43% versus 51% who “tend not to trust” them) and Serbia (45% versus 48%). Except for Iceland where it is exceptionally high, trust in the police is below the European average (68%) in the remaining candidate countries.

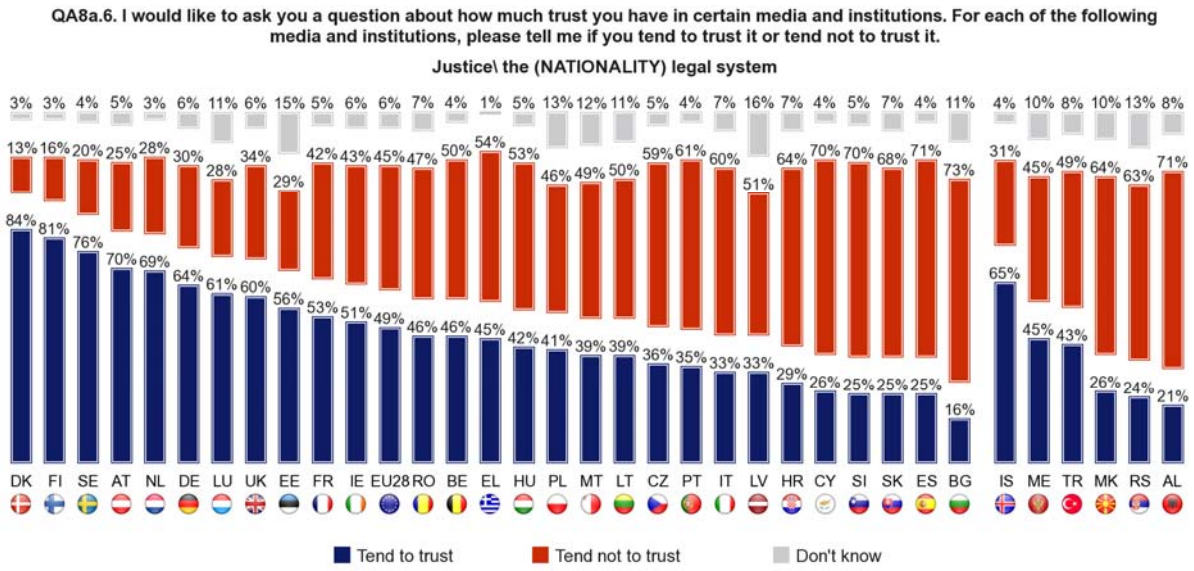


There are considerable variations between Member States as regards **justice**: a majority of respondents trust it in 11 Member States (as in autumn 2010), and more than three-quarters of respondents do so in Denmark (84%), Finland (81%) and Sweden (76%).

However, at least seven out of ten people distrust the justice system in Bulgaria (73%), Spain (71%), Cyprus (70%) and Slovenia (70%).

Trust has declined sharply since autumn 2010 in Cyprus (26%, -27), Spain (25%, -19) and Hungary (42%, -11). In contrast, it has increased significantly in Romania (46%, +23) and Lithuania (39%, +17).

Iceland is the only candidate country in which a majority of respondents trust the justice system (65% versus 31%). Opinions in Montenegro are evenly divided (45% versus 45%). A majority of respondents express distrust in Turkey (43% versus 49% "tend not to trust"), but this proportion is even higher in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (26% versus 64%), Serbia (24% versus 63%) and Albania (21% versus 71%).



QA8a. I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain media and institutions. For each of the following media and institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.
Answer: 'Tend to trust'

	The army	Diff. Aut.2014-Aut.2010	The police	Diff. Aut.2014-Aut.2010	Justice\ the (NATIONA-LITY) legal system	Diff. Aut.2014-Aut.2010	Regional or local public authorities	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014	The (NATIO-NALITY) Parliament	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014	The (NATIONA-LITY) Govern-ment	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014	Political parties	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014
EU28	70%	=	68%	+4	49%	+2	43%	-1	30%	+2	29%	+2	14%	-3
BE	71%	+4	69%	+4	46%	+10	50%	-7	36%	-8	33%	-10	18%	-11
BG	40%	-6	37%	-4	16%	=	27%	-1	14%	=	19%	+1	10%	-8
CZ	64%	+6	52%	+7	36%	+2	44%	=	17%	+2	30%	+4	12%	-2
DK	82%	+6	88%	-1	84%	=	69%	-4	61%	=	50%	+4	34%	-7
DE	65%	-5	79%	+2	64%	+4	64%	-2	49%	-2	48%	=	21%	-9
EE	78%	-2	73%	=	56%	+1	50%	-5	39%	-3	51%	-1	13%	-9
IE	77%	+6	68%	+3	51%	+9	36%	-5	23%	+1	23%	+1	13%	-3
EL	71%	+4	59%	+7	45%	+4	21%	-10	14%	-2	11%	-5	8%	-1
ES	60%	-7	60%	-8	25%	-19	19%	=	10%	+2	11%	+1	5%	-2
FR	78%	+7	71%	+9	53%	+8	51%	-5	23%	-1	17%	=	6%	-2
HR	56%	+1	44%	+2	29%	+9	19%	=	18%	+4	16%	+5	10%	+3
IT	66%	+1	65%	+7	33%	-9	21%	+3	18%	+4	18%	+1	9%	+3
CY	52%	-15	38%	-12	26%	-27	27%	-21	20%	+3	23%	-3	6%	-6
LV	63%	-2	53%	+8	33%	-3	49%	-1	22%	+1	28%	+1	9%	=
LT	70%	+13	63%	+19	39%	+17	37%	-1	17%	+2	32%	=	9%	-5
LU	64%	+3	72%	-4	61%	+1	64%	-3	47%	+4	51%	+1	25%	-7
HU	50%	-7	54%	-6	42%	-11	48%	+4	29%	-4	33%	-4	14%	-7
MT	72%	-6	67%	-1	39%	-3	44%	-5	51%	+2	56%	+4	24%	-12
NL	77%	+6	78%	+5	69%	+4	56%	-5	55%	+1	52%	+2	33%	-8
AT	73%	+1	81%	+3	70%	-1	65%	+7	53%	+18	50%	+17	28%	+5
PL	70%	-3	56%	+1	41%	+3	37%	+3	21%	+1	26%	+4	13%	+1
PT	67%	+6	70%	+12	35%	+7	37%	=	20%	+6	17%	+3	11%	+2
RO	73%	+14	51%	+14	46%	+23	39%	=	17%	+1	26%	+2	13%	-3
SI	64%	+9	65%	+17	25%	+3	31%	-4	9%	+3	13%	+5	6%	+1
SK	55%	-17	41%	-6	25%	-7	39%	-1	26%	+7	27%	+7	14%	+2
FI	89%	-2	90%	-1	81%	+4	63%	-5	61%	-5	47%	-9	29%	-12
SE	57%	-6	82%	=	76%	+3	67%	+2	67%	=	54%	=	30%	-9
UK	84%	-1	74%	+3	60%	+10	42%	-6	34%	+8	31%	+6	14%	-1
CY (tcc)							41%	+2					33%	+4
AL	47%	NA*	47%	NA*	21%	NA*	27%	NA*	35%	NA*	41%	NA*	14%	NA*
MK	56%	-1	43%	+4	26%	+6	30%	-7	28%	-8	32%	-7	20%	-8
IS	28%	+2	94%	+2	65%	+4	63%	-12	42%	-10	33%	-5	21%	-6
ME	59%	NA*	50%	NA*	45%	NA*	37%	+11	41%	+11	45%	+11	22%	+7
RS	65%	NA*	45%	NA*	24%	NA*	17%	-3	30%	-6	39%	-8	11%	-4
TR	62%	-8	53%	-7	43%	-10	40%	-2	50%	-4	46%	-6	22%	-4

** NA = Not asked: this question was not asked in these countries during the previous survey*

A socio-demographic analysis reveals that:

- There are only slight differences between the answers of men and women on the question of trust, regardless of the institution considered;
- In terms of generations, the oldest Europeans, born before 1946, are slightly more likely than the youngest respondents to trust political institutions, but the differences are minor (between 4 and 5 percentage points). The differences are slightly more pronounced for the police (75% of the generation born between 1946 trust them, compared with 65% of generation "Y", born after 1980). However, members of generation "Y" are more likely than the older respondents to trust the justice system (52%, compared with 47% of baby boomers and 46% of the generation born before 1946);
- Europeans who studied the longest are generally more likely to trust the institutions. This is the case for justice (56% of Europeans who studied up to the age of 20 and beyond trust the justice system, compared with 40% of those who left school at the age of 15 or earlier), regional and local public authorities (47%; 37%), the government (33%; 23%) and the parliament (36%; 23%). However these differences are weaker in the case of the police (71%; 68%) and the army (72%; 68%);
- Managers are more likely than other socio-professional categories to trust all the institutions surveyed, especially justice: 65% of managers trust the justice system, compared with 53% of white-collar workers, and only 46% of self-employed people, 45% of manual workers and 40% of unemployed people;
- Europeans who almost never have difficulties paying their bills also systematically express more trust in these institutions than those who struggle to pay their bills most of the time: this is so for justice (55% of people who almost never have difficulties paying their bills trust the justice system, compared with 31% of those who have such difficulties most of the time), the police (73%; 50%) and regional and local public authorities (48%; 26%).

QA8a. I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain media and institutions. For each of the following media and institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.
Answer: 'Tend to trust'

	The army	The police	Justice\ the (NATIONALITY) legal system	Regional or local public authorities	The (NATIONALITY PARLIAMENT)	The (NATIONALITY) Government	Political parties
EU28	70%	68%	49%	43%	30%	29%	14%
Gender							
Man	70%	66%	49%	43%	30%	29%	14%
Woman	69%	69%	48%	43%	29%	29%	13%
Age							
15-24	71%	63%	53%	46%	30%	31%	16%
25-39	69%	66%	49%	41%	28%	27%	14%
40-54	69%	67%	49%	41%	30%	28%	12%
55 +	71%	71%	46%	44%	31%	30%	14%
Generation							
Before 1928	67%	80%	55%	54%	35%	40%	18%
1928 - 1945	72%	75%	46%	48%	32%	32%	16%
Total 'Before 1946'	72%	75%	46%	49%	32%	33%	16%
1946 - 1964 "BB"	69%	67%	47%	41%	30%	29%	13%
1965 - 1980 "X"	69%	67%	49%	40%	29%	27%	13%
After 1980 "Y"	70%	65%	52%	44%	28%	29%	15%
Education (End of)							
15-	68%	68%	40%	37%	23%	23%	11%
16-19	69%	65%	46%	42%	28%	27%	13%
20+	72%	71%	56%	47%	36%	33%	16%
Still studying	68%	66%	54%	46%	36%	34%	18%
Socio-professional category							
Self-employed	67%	67%	46%	38%	30%	28%	13%
Managers	76%	75%	65%	49%	41%	37%	18%
Other white collars	70%	69%	53%	44%	30%	32%	14%
Manual workers	70%	65%	45%	41%	25%	25%	12%
House persons	65%	63%	42%	33%	23%	24%	12%
Unemployed	65%	58%	40%	35%	19%	18%	9%
Retired	71%	71%	46%	46%	31%	31%	14%
Students	68%	66%	54%	46%	36%	34%	18%
Difficulties paying bills							
Most of the time	60%	50%	31%	26%	15%	15%	7%
From time to time	67%	62%	42%	36%	23%	22%	11%
Almost never/ Never	73%	73%	55%	48%	35%	35%	16%

The following tables show the results by socio-demographic criteria in the European Union as a whole (EU28 average), in the six largest EU countries and in countries benefiting or having benefited from European Union assistance to overcome the financial and economic crisis.

QA8a.8. (...) For each of the following media and institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.
The army
Answer: 'Tend to trust'

	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
TOTAL	70%	65%	60%	78%	66%	70%	84%	71%	67%	77%	52%
Gender											
Male	70%	66%	61%	79%	66%	71%	84%	74%	71%	78%	50%
Female	69%	64%	60%	76%	66%	69%	85%	69%	63%	76%	54%
Age											
15-24	71%	63%	61%	81%	56%	72%	82%	71%	77%	73%	45%
25-39	69%	65%	53%	78%	65%	68%	82%	66%	69%	75%	43%
40-54	69%	66%	58%	79%	63%	71%	86%	67%	61%	77%	52%
55 +	71%	65%	68%	75%	73%	70%	87%	78%	67%	80%	66%
Education (End of)											
15-	68%	61%	64%	71%	69%	60%	87%	76%	67%	82%	65%
16-19	69%	68%	58%	78%	66%	68%	86%	68%	64%	75%	54%
20+	72%	66%	58%	81%	70%	73%	82%	70%	69%	77%	51%
Still studying	68%	58%	62%	78%	50%	78%	78%	69%	79%	72%	40%
Socio-professional category											
Self-employed	67%	58%	58%	74%	71%	66%	73%	71%	66%	74%	47%
Managers	76%	68%	69%	84%	76%	71%	86%	72%	70%	76%	56%
Other white collars	70%	69%	53%	81%	63%	75%	86%	64%	68%	76%	50%
Manual workers	70%	69%	59%	81%	63%	67%	84%	67%	69%	74%	52%
House persons	65%	59%	66%	59%	57%	60%	83%	71%	48%	79%	64%
Unemployed	65%	63%	53%	73%	62%	62%	86%	69%	58%	72%	45%
Retired	71%	65%	67%	76%	75%	71%	88%	79%	68%	84%	69%
Students	68%	58%	62%	78%	50%	78%	78%	69%	79%	72%	40%

QA8a.7. (...) For each of the following media and institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.
The police
Answer: 'Tend to trust'

	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
TOTAL	68%	79%	60%	71%	65%	56%	74%	59%	70%	68%	38%
Gender											
Male	66%	78%	60%	71%	64%	52%	73%	60%	68%	66%	35%
Female	69%	80%	61%	70%	66%	60%	75%	58%	71%	71%	40%
Age											
15-24	63%	75%	49%	59%	51%	56%	69%	59%	74%	67%	37%
25-39	66%	74%	54%	73%	61%	57%	79%	54%	72%	67%	33%
40-54	67%	78%	58%	71%	65%	52%	73%	51%	63%	69%	30%
55 +	71%	83%	71%	73%	73%	58%	73%	68%	72%	69%	49%
Education (End of)											
15-	68%	81%	68%	70%	67%	52%	68%	66%	68%	60%	43%
16-19	65%	78%	57%	67%	67%	53%	72%	56%	67%	68%	38%
20+	71%	80%	60%	75%	64%	58%	79%	53%	72%	72%	38%
Still studying	66%	76%	52%	62%	47%	68%	78%	59%	83%	66%	37%
Socio-professional category											
Self-employed	67%	72%	63%	74%	69%	56%	73%	58%	66%	73%	38%
Managers	75%	80%	68%	79%	71%	58%	82%	65%	75%	70%	41%
Other white collars	69%	85%	70%	72%	63%	65%	72%	54%	75%	74%	37%
Manual workers	65%	79%	60%	65%	64%	47%	69%	49%	67%	64%	30%
House persons	63%	74%	58%	65%	53%	58%	76%	63%	77%	71%	53%
Unemployed	58%	68%	49%	66%	61%	39%	74%	49%	57%	60%	29%
Retired	71%	83%	73%	75%	76%	59%	71%	68%	72%	71%	49%
Students	66%	76%	52%	62%	47%	68%	78%	59%	83%	66%	37%

QA8a.6. (...) For each of the following media and institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.
Justice\ the (NATIONALITY) legal system
Answer: 'Tend to trust'

	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
TOTAL	49%	64%	25%	53%	33%	41%	60%	45%	35%	51%	26%
Gender											
Male	49%	65%	26%	54%	32%	36%	60%	45%	34%	54%	27%
Female	48%	62%	25%	51%	34%	45%	60%	45%	37%	47%	25%
Age											
15-24	53%	69%	20%	60%	35%	46%	53%	62%	38%	56%	28%
25-39	49%	64%	27%	53%	36%	45%	57%	39%	39%	50%	21%
40-54	49%	68%	23%	54%	30%	38%	65%	37%	36%	52%	22%
55 +	46%	59%	28%	48%	33%	37%	61%	49%	32%	48%	32%
Education (End of)											
15-	40%	58%	26%	38%	30%	43%	50%	45%	34%	34%	27%
16-19	46%	61%	27%	51%	33%	39%	54%	41%	37%	49%	26%
20+	56%	70%	25%	59%	42%	39%	71%	44%	37%	59%	27%
Still studying	54%	74%	21%	54%	27%	52%	67%	59%	40%	55%	22%
Socio-professional category											
Self-employed	46%	57%	20%	57%	31%	43%	73%	43%	33%	39%	23%
Managers	65%	73%	41%	74%	47%	44%	72%	46%	36%	66%	20%
Other white collars	53%	71%	21%	54%	42%	51%	59%	48%	45%	59%	33%
Manual workers	45%	66%	28%	49%	29%	34%	47%	43%	37%	44%	21%
House persons	42%	74%	26%	30%	22%	50%	61%	40%	52%	45%	33%
Unemployed	40%	47%	20%	51%	37%	26%	56%	34%	30%	47%	19%
Retired	46%	56%	29%	47%	35%	38%	60%	49%	31%	49%	34%
Students	54%	74%	21%	54%	27%	52%	67%	59%	40%	55%	22%

QA8a.10. (...) For each of the following media and institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.
Regional or local public authorities
Answer: 'Tend to trust'

	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
TOTAL	43%	64%	19%	51%	21%	37%	42%	21%	37%	36%	27%
Gender											
Male	43%	65%	18%	50%	20%	35%	44%	22%	40%	38%	30%
Female	43%	64%	20%	53%	21%	38%	40%	20%	35%	34%	24%
Age											
15-24	46%	56%	21%	63%	17%	37%	54%	30%	34%	37%	31%
25-39	41%	59%	17%	47%	22%	34%	47%	18%	41%	32%	24%
40-54	41%	62%	15%	50%	21%	40%	36%	14%	37%	38%	23%
55 +	44%	71%	22%	51%	21%	37%	38%	24%	37%	37%	31%
Education (End of)											
15-	37%	70%	21%	48%	16%	26%	36%	24%	36%	41%	28%
16-19	42%	61%	15%	48%	22%	36%	42%	17%	38%	34%	25%
20+	47%	68%	18%	55%	26%	38%	44%	19%	47%	38%	25%
Still studying	46%	56%	25%	55%	11%	48%	51%	29%	38%	30%	36%
Socio-professional category											
Self-employed	38%	59%	18%	47%	21%	37%	39%	19%	39%	43%	28%
Managers	49%	61%	20%	55%	34%	39%	42%	31%	46%	38%	31%
Other white collars	44%	71%	22%	45%	25%	38%	40%	15%	45%	37%	26%
Manual workers	41%	60%	15%	51%	20%	35%	41%	16%	37%	30%	24%
House persons	33%	64%	20%	28%	14%	31%	39%	19%	28%	32%	20%
Unemployed	35%	52%	14%	58%	16%	26%	50%	16%	31%	42%	17%
Retired	46%	72%	23%	52%	22%	37%	40%	25%	37%	40%	34%
Students	46%	56%	25%	55%	11%	48%	51%	29%	38%	30%	36%

QA8a.12. (...) For each of the following media and institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.
The (NATIONALITY) Parliament
Answer: 'Tend to trust'

	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
TOTAL	30%	49%	10%	23%	18%	21%	34%	14%	20%	23%	20%
Gender											
Male	30%	50%	11%	25%	17%	19%	36%	15%	22%	25%	21%
Female	29%	49%	9%	21%	19%	23%	32%	14%	19%	21%	19%
Age											
15-24	30%	51%	4%	26%	13%	22%	33%	12%	22%	26%	20%
25-39	28%	45%	12%	17%	21%	20%	34%	14%	22%	21%	18%
40-54	30%	49%	9%	26%	19%	22%	32%	10%	20%	23%	13%
55 +	31%	51%	12%	23%	18%	20%	36%	18%	19%	23%	27%
Education (End of)											
15-	23%	48%	10%	17%	14%	16%	26%	14%	19%	10%	24%
16-19	28%	46%	10%	17%	20%	20%	31%	13%	21%	24%	19%
20+	36%	54%	12%	29%	21%	20%	37%	15%	26%	27%	18%
Still studying	36%	54%	8%	30%	13%	31%	56%	12%	25%	24%	21%
Socio-professional category											
Self-employed	30%	50%	6%	35%	19%	25%	37%	13%	26%	34%	16%
Managers	41%	50%	21%	32%	42%	26%	37%	29%	29%	30%	16%
Other white collars	30%	49%	11%	22%	27%	19%	28%	15%	23%	22%	13%
Manual workers	25%	45%	11%	16%	13%	19%	30%	13%	22%	21%	16%
House persons	23%	51%	14%	18%	7%	18%	34%	16%	8%	17%	12%
Unemployed	19%	36%	6%	21%	9%	4%	27%	6%	12%	16%	22%
Retired	31%	54%	12%	22%	20%	21%	34%	18%	19%	25%	31%
Students	36%	54%	8%	30%	13%	31%	56%	12%	25%	24%	21%

QA8a.11. (...) For each of the following media and institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.
The (NATIONALITY) Government
Answer: 'Tend to trust'

	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
TOTAL	29%	48%	11%	17%	18%	26%	31%	11%	17%	23%	23%
Gender											
Male	29%	47%	12%	16%	18%	26%	32%	13%	18%	25%	25%
Female	29%	49%	10%	17%	18%	27%	31%	8%	16%	19%	22%
Age											
15-24	31%	50%	7%	24%	12%	24%	39%	12%	18%	24%	20%
25-39	27%	41%	11%	11%	23%	24%	33%	8%	19%	22%	19%
40-54	28%	48%	6%	17%	18%	26%	26%	6%	16%	23%	22%
55 +	30%	51%	16%	18%	18%	29%	30%	15%	15%	22%	30%
Education (End of)											
15-	23%	48%	13%	13%	13%	22%	25%	12%	13%	13%	26%
16-19	27%	44%	7%	14%	19%	24%	29%	7%	19%	23%	23%
20+	33%	53%	13%	19%	26%	27%	32%	12%	25%	27%	26%
Still studying	34%	51%	10%	24%	12%	37%	51%	12%	20%	18%	18%
Socio-professional category											
Self-employed	28%	47%	3%	20%	21%	29%	31%	9%	20%	28%	16%
Managers	37%	48%	20%	19%	41%	32%	31%	22%	27%	30%	17%
Other white collars	32%	48%	19%	15%	30%	24%	30%	9%	23%	21%	21%
Manual workers	25%	41%	10%	14%	11%	24%	29%	8%	15%	20%	22%
House persons	24%	53%	15%	17%	10%	22%	34%	6%	18%	19%	16%
Unemployed	18%	35%	4%	14%	9%	7%	33%	4%	11%	19%	26%
Retired	31%	54%	15%	17%	18%	28%	28%	16%	15%	26%	35%
Students	34%	51%	10%	24%	12%	37%	51%	12%	20%	18%	18%

QA8a.9. (...) For each of the following media and institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.
Political parties
Answer: 'Tend to trust'

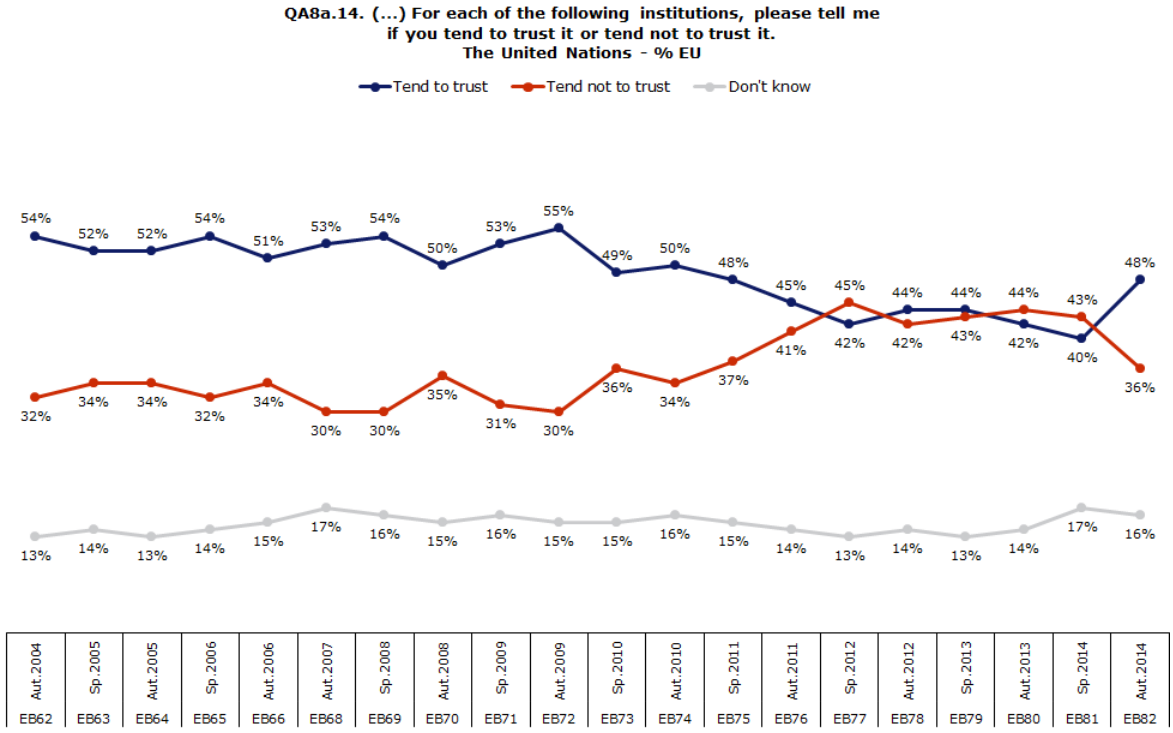
	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
TOTAL	14%	21%	5%	6%	9%	13%	14%	8%	11%	13%	6%
Gender											
Male	14%	21%	5%	7%	9%	12%	15%	10%	9%	13%	7%
Female	13%	20%	6%	4%	10%	14%	13%	6%	12%	12%	5%
Age											
15-24	16%	23%	3%	10%	8%	14%	21%	10%	10%	15%	9%
25-39	14%	19%	5%	2%	14%	16%	17%	5%	15%	12%	1%
40-54	12%	16%	4%	5%	10%	13%	11%	5%	9%	11%	2%
55 +	14%	25%	7%	6%	8%	12%	12%	11%	9%	14%	12%
Education (End of)											
15-	11%	26%	5%	7%	5%	7%	9%	7%	7%	11%	10%
16-19	13%	18%	5%	3%	10%	15%	13%	7%	16%	13%	5%
20+	16%	21%	6%	5%	14%	12%	14%	9%	14%	13%	3%
Still studying	18%	25%	4%	13%	4%	19%	32%	8%	12%	11%	12%
Socio-professional category											
Self-employed	13%	10%	2%	10%	10%	16%	17%	8%	7%	18%	6%
Managers	18%	24%	13%	4%	23%	15%	12%	15%	7%	13%	0%
Other white collars	14%	13%	4%	5%	15%	15%	17%	5%	26%	12%	1%
Manual workers	12%	17%	6%	3%	5%	14%	13%	5%	12%	11%	4%
House persons	12%	23%	7%	9%	5%	11%	13%	7%	4%	13%	7%
Unemployed	9%	19%	2%	4%	9%	2%	15%	6%	5%	12%	1%
Retired	14%	26%	6%	6%	9%	12%	10%	11%	9%	13%	16%
Students	18%	25%	4%	13%	4%	19%	32%	8%	12%	11%	12%

3.2.2. The United Nations

- A majority of Europeans now trust the United Nations again -

Trust in the United Nations has increased significantly and a majority of Europeans now trust this institution compared with a minority in spring 2014: 48% of Europeans trust it (+8 percentage points), versus 36% who "tend not to trust" it (-7).

Trust in the United Nations has therefore returned to the level measured in the Standard Eurobarometer survey of spring 2011 (EB75), though this is still lower than in previous surveys (trust in the UN was equal to or above 50% between autumn 2004 (EB62) and autumn 2009 (EB72)).



A majority of respondents trust the United Nations in 22 Member States (against 17 in spring 2014), with the highest scores in Finland, (73%), Denmark (72%) and Sweden (72%).

Respondents in Greece (72% "tend not to trust" it) and Cyprus (67%) are particularly likely to distrust the United Nations. A majority of respondents also distrust this organisation in Croatia (50% versus 39%), Slovenia (48% versus 36%), Spain (47% versus 39%) and Italy (43% versus 38%).

Trust in the United Nations has increased in 23 Member States, most notably in Spain (39%, +16 percentage points), Luxembourg (53%, +14), Austria (60%, +13) and the United Kingdom (56%, +13).

In the candidate countries:

- A majority of respondents trust the United Nations in Iceland (82% versus 12%), Albania (60% versus 16%) and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (54% versus 33%);
- Respondents tend to distrust the UN in Montenegro (38% versus 40%) and Serbia (32% versus 44%), but above all in Turkey (12% versus 71%).

QA8a.14. I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain media and institutions. For each of the following media and institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.
Answer: 'Tend to trust'

	The United Nations	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014
EU28	48%	+8
BE	49%	-1
BG	42%	+2
CZ	50%	+7
DK	72%	-2
DE	43%	+5
EE	48%	-1
IE	48%	+1
EL	24%	+2
ES	39%	+16
FR	51%	+7
HR	39%	+3
IT	38%	+10
CY	26%	-3
LV	47%	+4
LT	53%	=
LU	53%	+14
HU	48%	+6
MT	61%	+11
NL	63%	+3
AT	60%	+13
PL	52%	+10
PT	52%	+10
RO	55%	+5
SI	36%	+5
SK	47%	+10
FI	73%	+4
SE	72%	+2
UK	56%	+13
CY (tcc)	61%	+13
AL	60%	NA*
MK	54%	+6
IS	82%	-1
ME	38%	=
RS	32%	=
TR	12%	-8

** NA = Not asked: this question was not asked in this country in the previous survey*

3.3. The direction in which things are going

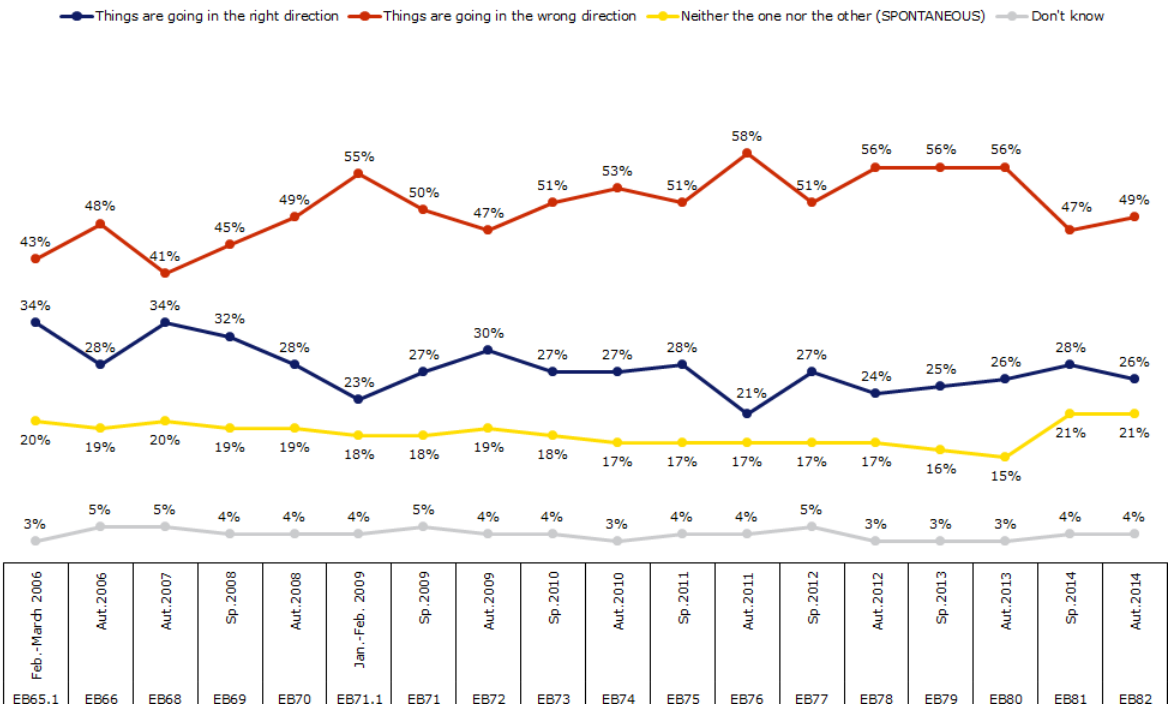
- Europeans mostly feel that things are going in the wrong direction, nationally and in the European Union -

Only a minority of Europeans have the impression that **things are going in the right direction in their country,** and the proportion doing so has actually fallen by two percentage points since the Standard Eurobarometer survey of spring 2014 (EB81): 26% (-2), compared with 49% who think that things are going in the wrong direction (+2)[28].

However opinions had slowly but surely improved between the autumn 2012 (EB78) and spring 2014 (EB81) surveys.

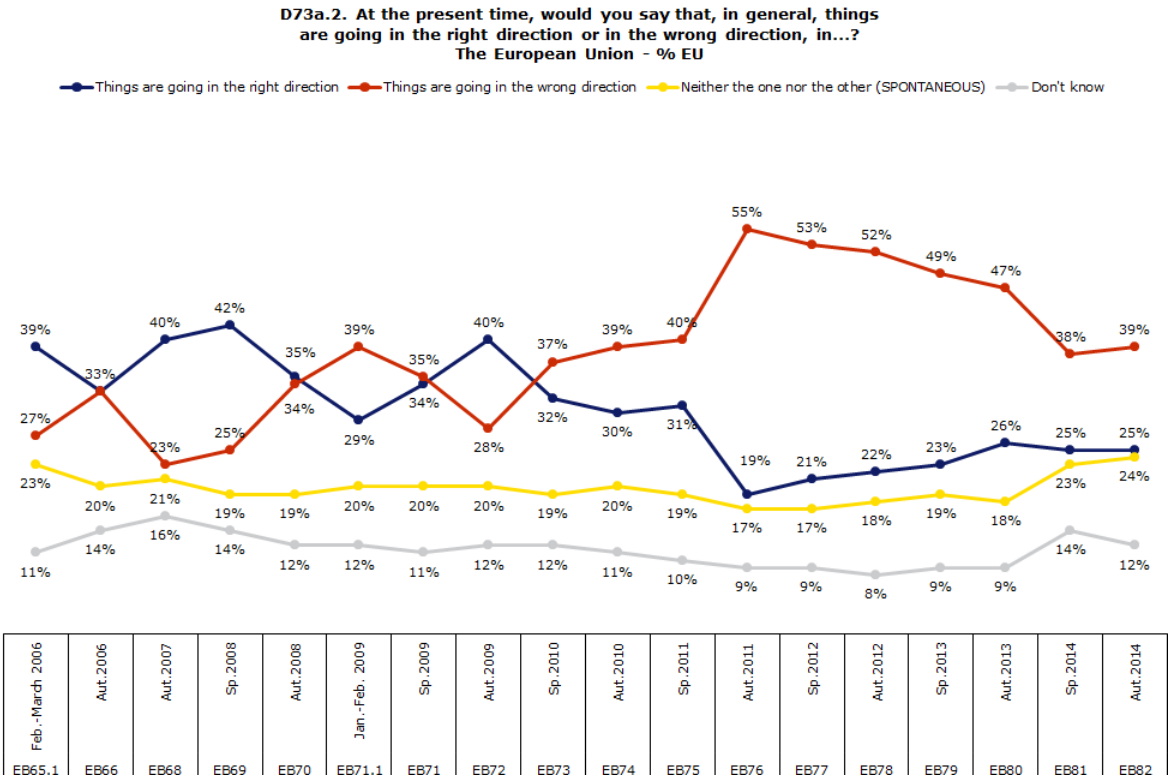
A stable proportion of Europeans answered *spontaneously* "neither the one nor the other" (21%).

D73a.1. At the present time, would you say that, in general, things are going in the right direction or in the wrong direction, in...? (OUR COUNTRY) - % EU



[28] D73a1. At the present time, would you say that, in general, things are going in the right direction or in the wrong direction...? In (OUR COUNTRY)

A quarter of Europeans believe that **things are going in the right direction in the European Union**: 25%, unchanged since spring 2014[29]. Conversely, almost four out of ten Europeans think that things are going "in the wrong direction" (39%, +1 percentage point) and 24% answered *spontaneously* "neither the one nor the other" (+1). Lastly, 12% did not express an opinion (-2).



Euro area respondents are more critical about the direction in which things are going in the European Union (44% think that things are going "in the wrong direction", +1 percentage point, compared with 22% for "in the right direction", -1) than non-euro area respondents (28%, -2, versus 32%, +3).

The gap has also opened up when respondents are asked about the direction in which things are going nationally: 55% of euro area respondents think that things are going in the wrong direction, an increase of five percentage points since spring 2014, compared with only 37% in the non-euro area (-5).

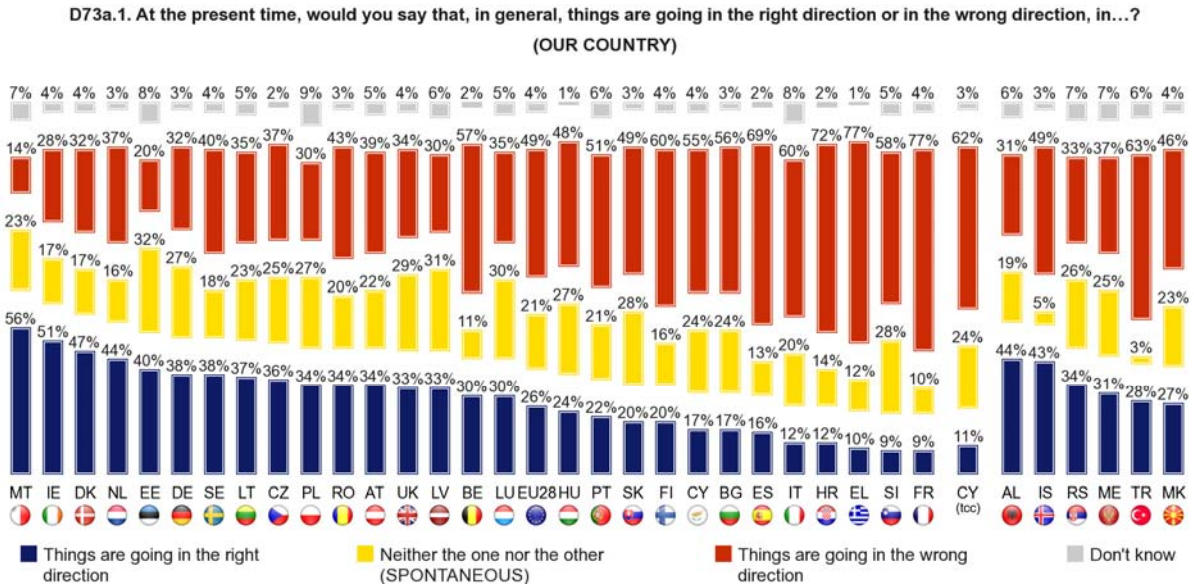
In nine Member States, respondents are more likely to say that **things are going in the right direction nationally**: Malta (56% versus 14% for 'the wrong direction'), Ireland (51% versus 28%), Denmark (47% versus 32%), the Netherlands (44% versus 37%), Estonia (40% versus 20%), Germany (38% versus 32%), Lithuania (37% versus 35%), Poland (34% versus 30%) and Latvia (33% versus 30%).

Respondents in Greece (77%), France (77%) and Croatia (72%) are the most likely to feel that things are going in **the wrong direction** in their country.

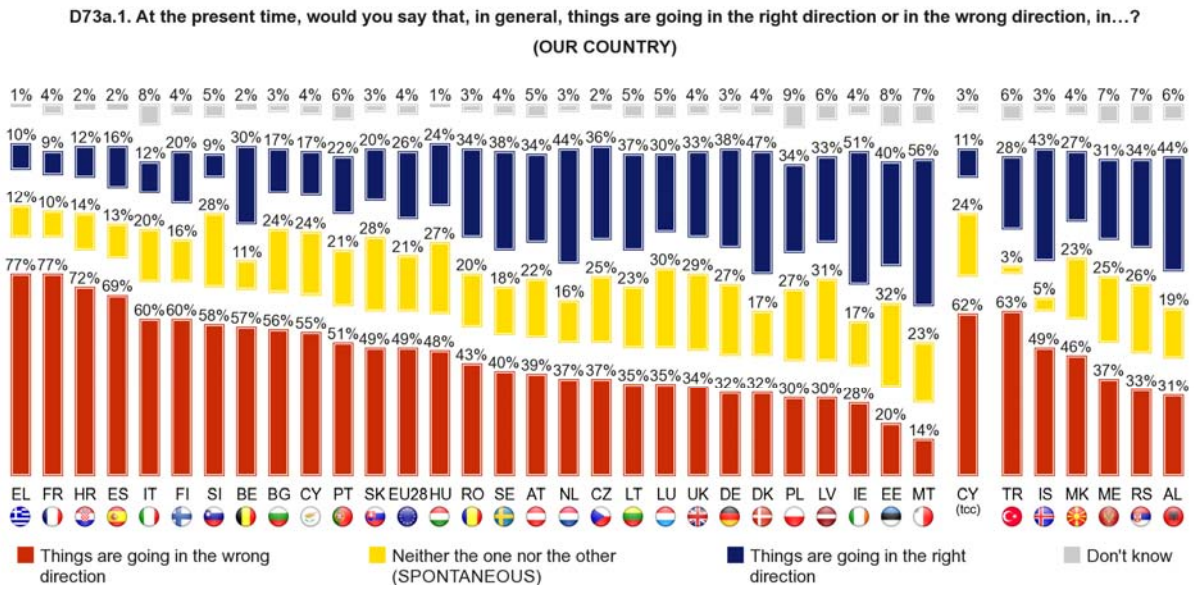
[29] D73a2. At the present time, would you say that, in general, things are going in the right direction or in the wrong direction...? In the European Union

In terms of evolutions since spring 2014, the impression that things are going in "the wrong direction" at national level has gained ground in 14 Member States, most notably in Finland (60%, +23 percentage points), Belgium (57%, +16), the Netherlands (37%, +10), Luxembourg (35%, +10) and Denmark (32%, +10).

In contrast, positive opinions have gained the most ground in Romania (34%, +14 percentage points).



Breakdown of "Things are going in the right direction" answers

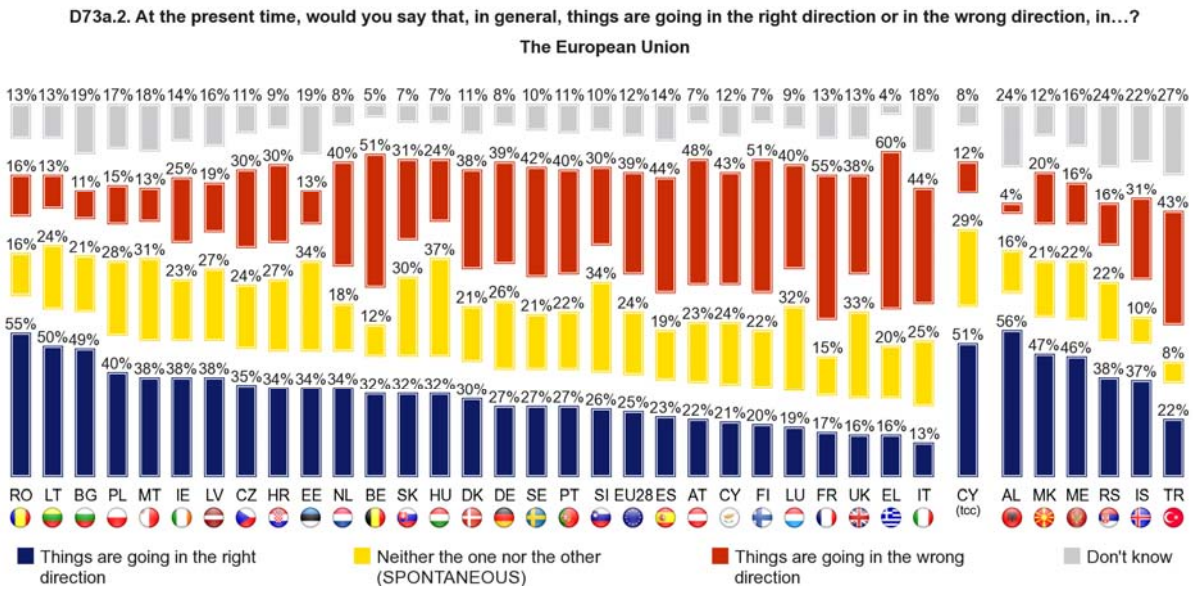


Breakdown of "Things are going in the wrong direction" answers

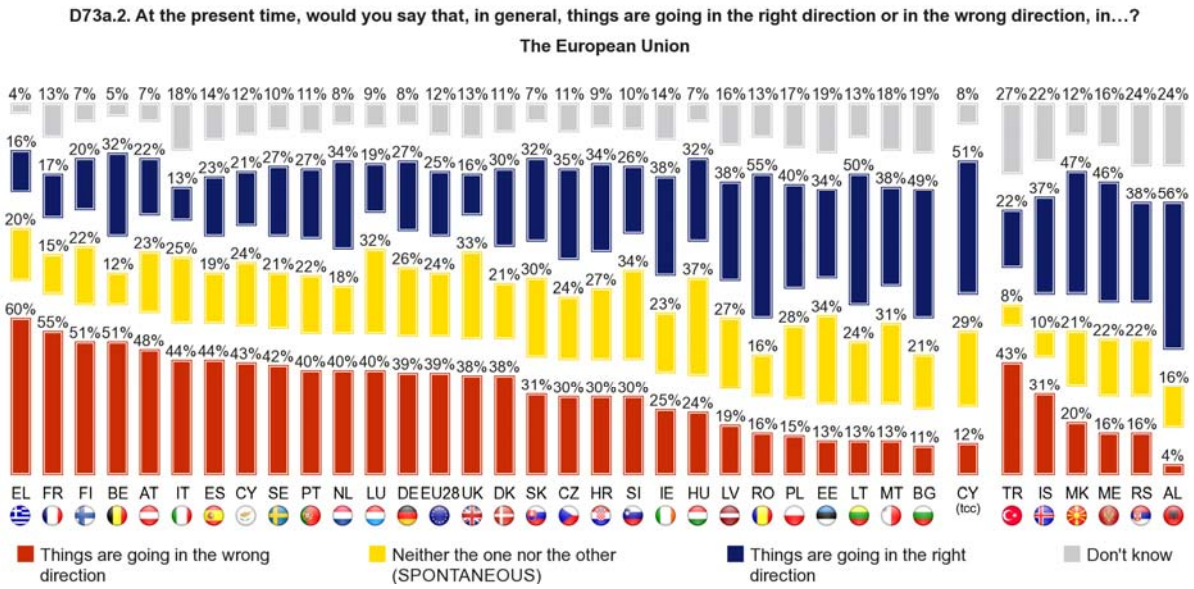
The impression that things are going in the right direction in the European Union outweighs the opposite opinion in 12 Member States (against 13 in spring 2014), most markedly in Romania (55%), Lithuania (50%) and Bulgaria (49%).

The impression that things are going in the wrong direction in the EU is particularly widespread in Greece (60%), France (55%), Belgium (51%) and Finland (51%).

The impression that things are going in the right direction in the European Union has gained ground in 15 Member States, most notably in Romania (55%, +9 percentage points) and Poland (40%, +8). However, it has lost ground significantly in Finland (20%, -13) and Denmark (30%, -9).



Breakdown of "Things are going in the right direction" answers



Breakdown of "Things are going in the wrong direction" answers

D73a. At the present time, would you say that, in general, things are going in the right direction or in the wrong direction, in…?

	(OUR COUNTRY)								The European Union							
	Things are going in the right direction	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014	Things are going in the wrong direction	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014	Neither the one nor the other (SPONTA-NEOUS)	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014	Don't know	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014	Things are going in the right direction	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014	Things are going in the wrong direction	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014	Neither the one nor the other (SPONTA-NEOUS)	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014	Don't know	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014
EU28	26%	-2	49%	+2	21%	=	4%	=	25%	=	39%	+1	24%	+1	12%	-2
BE	30%	-7	57%	+16	11%	-10	2%	+1	32%	+1	51%	+7	12%	-10	5%	+2
BG	17%	+3	56%	-2	24%	+1	3%	-2	49%	+6	11%	-3	21%	=	19%	-3
CZ	36%	+8	37%	-8	25%	=	2%	=	35%	+6	30%	-6	24%	-2	11%	+2
DK	47%	-17	32%	+10	17%	+5	4%	+2	30%	-9	38%	=	21%	+5	11%	+4
DE	38%	-4	32%	+5	27%	=	3%	-1	27%	+1	39%	+1	26%	-2	8%	=
EE	40%	-2	20%	-1	32%	+4	8%	-1	34%	-1	13%	-4	34%	+8	19%	-3
IE	51%	+3	28%	-3	17%	=	4%	=	38%	+1	25%	=	23%	+4	14%	-5
EL	10%	-5	77%	+7	12%	-1	1%	-1	16%	-2	60%	=	20%	+2	4%	=
ES	16%	-3	69%	+4	13%	-1	2%	=	23%	-2	44%	=	19%	=	14%	+2
FR	9%	-2	77%	+4	10%	-1	4%	-1	17%	+1	55%	=	15%	+3	13%	-4
HR	12%	+5	72%	-7	14%	+1	2%	+1	34%	+1	30%	+5	27%	-2	9%	-4
IT	12%	-3	60%	+3	20%	=	8%	=	13%	-2	44%	+4	25%	+1	18%	-3
CY	17%	-8	55%	+8	24%	+2	4%	-2	21%	-2	43%	+1	24%	+2	12%	-1
LV	33%	+4	30%	-9	31%	+6	6%	-1	38%	+1	19%	-2	27%	+3	16%	-2
LT	37%	=	35%	=	23%	+1	5%	-1	50%	+1	13%	=	24%	+1	13%	-2
LU	30%	-8	35%	+10	30%	=	5%	-2	19%	+2	40%	-3	32%	+3	9%	-2
HU	24%	-3	48%	+6	27%	-2	1%	-1	32%	=	24%	-1	37%	+2	7%	-1
MT	56%	-7	14%	+5	23%	=	7%	+2	38%	-1	13%	+1	31%	+5	18%	-5
NL	44%	-13	37%	+10	16%	+4	3%	-1	34%	-7	40%	+9	18%	+3	8%	-5
AT	34%	+4	39%	-5	22%	=	5%	+1	22%	-1	48%	+1	23%	=	7%	=
PL	34%	+8	30%	-11	27%	+2	9%	+1	40%	+8	15%	-5	28%	-2	17%	-1
PT	22%	+1	51%	-7	21%	+6	6%	=	27%	+6	40%	-9	22%	+5	11%	-2
RO	34%	+14	43%	-18	20%	+5	3%	-1	55%	+9	16%	-7	16%	+1	13%	-3
SI	9%	+1	58%	-6	28%	+5	5%	=	26%	-5	30%	+1	34%	+3	10%	+1
SK	20%	+4	49%	-8	28%	+3	3%	+1	32%	+6	31%	-9	30%	+3	7%	=
FI	20%	-18	60%	+23	16%	-5	4%	=	20%	-13	51%	+13	22%	=	7%	=
SE	38%	-1	40%	-1	18%	+1	4%	+1	27%	+3	42%	-7	21%	+2	10%	+2
UK	33%	-6	34%	+1	29%	+2	4%	+3	16%	-3	38%	+2	33%	+2	13%	-1
CY (tcc)*	11%	-5	62%	+12	24%	-5	3%	-2	51%	+7	12%	-2	29%	=	8%	-5
AL	44%	NA*	31%	NA*	19%	NA*	6%	NA*	56%	NA*	4%	NA*	16%	NA*	24%	NA*
MK	27%	-11	46%	+8	23%	+5	4%	-2	47%	=	20%	-2	21%	+2	12%	=
IS	43%	-11	49%	+14	5%	-1	3%	-2	37%	=	31%	-5	10%	+4	22%	+1
ME	31%	-3	37%	+10	25%	-5	7%	-2	46%	-3	16%	+2	22%	+5	16%	-4
RS	34%	-9	33%	+8	26%	=	7%	+1	38%	-4	16%	+3	22%	=	24%	+1
TR	28%	-12	63%	+18	3%	-4	6%	-2	22%	-11	43%	+13	8%	-1	27%	-1

** NA = Not asked: this question was not asked in this country during the previous survey*

*** In CY (tcc), (OUR COUNTRY) has been replaced by "our community"*

In the candidate countries:

- **The impression that things are going in the right direction in the European Union** outweighs negative opinions in Albania (56% versus 4% for 'the wrong direction'), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (47% versus 20%), Montenegro (46% versus 16%), Serbia (38% versus 16%) and Iceland (37% versus 31%). Turkey is the only exception (22% for 'in the right direction', versus 43%), and here negative opinions have actually gained ground sharply since spring 2014 (+13 percentage points);

- The impression that things are going in the right direction **nationally** outweighs negative opinions in Albania (44% versus 31%) and Serbia (34% versus 33%);

- In the other candidate countries, respondents are more likely to think that things are going in the wrong direction in their country, often with significant increases since spring 2014: in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (27%, -11 percentage points, versus 46%, +8), Iceland (43%, -11, versus 49%, +14), Montenegro (31%, -3, versus 37%, +10) and Turkey (28%, -12, versus 63%, +18).

A socio-demographic analysis reveals that:

- Europeans who studied up to the age of 20 and beyond are more positive about the direction in which things are going in their country (30% say 'in the right direction') and in the European Union (28%) than Europeans who left school at the age of 15 or earlier (20% and 18%);

- Managers are more positive than average (34% say things are going in the right direction in their country, 30% in the European Union), while unemployed people are the most critical (16% and 22%);

- Above all, a majority of Europeans who identify themselves as upper class are say that things are going in the right direction in their country (46%, compared with 38% for 'in the wrong direction') and in the European Union (39% versus 34%), whereas respondents identifying in all the other social classes are predominantly critical. The impression that things are going in the wrong direction is particularly widespread among Europeans who see themselves as working class (21% versus 54% for their country and 21% versus 41% for the European Union).

D73a. At the present time, would you say that, in general, things are going in the right direction or in the wrong direction, in…?

	(OUR COUNTRY)				The European Union			
	Things are going in the right direction	Things are going in the wrong direction	Neither the one nor the other (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't know	Things are going in the right direction	Things are going in the wrong direction	Neither the one nor the other (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't know
EU28	26%	49%	21%	4%	25%	39%	24%	12%
Gender								
Man	28%	48%	20%	4%	27%	39%	24%	10%
Woman	24%	49%	22%	5%	24%	38%	23%	15%
Age								
15-24	28%	45%	22%	5%	32%	31%	23%	14%
25-39	27%	49%	21%	3%	28%	38%	24%	10%
40-54	25%	51%	20%	4%	24%	41%	25%	10%
55 +	25%	49%	21%	5%	22%	41%	23%	14%
Education (End of)								
15-	20%	57%	18%	5%	18%	44%	21%	17%
16-19	25%	49%	22%	4%	25%	39%	24%	12%
20+	30%	45%	21%	4%	28%	38%	24%	10%
Still studying	32%	42%	22%	4%	35%	31%	22%	12%
Socio-professional category								
Self-employed	28%	48%	20%	4%	25%	38%	26%	11%
Managers	34%	39%	23%	4%	30%	37%	26%	7%
Other white collars	29%	47%	21%	3%	29%	36%	24%	11%
Manual workers	24%	51%	20%	5%	24%	39%	24%	13%
House persons	21%	55%	20%	4%	23%	41%	22%	14%
Unemployed	16%	62%	19%	3%	22%	43%	23%	12%
Retired	25%	48%	22%	5%	22%	41%	23%	14%
Students	32%	42%	22%	4%	35%	31%	22%	12%
Consider belonging to								
The working class	21%	54%	21%	4%	21%	41%	24%	14%
The lower middle class	26%	49%	22%	3%	22%	41%	25%	12%
The middle class	28%	47%	20%	5%	28%	37%	24%	11%
The upper middle class	36%	42%	20%	2%	35%	36%	21%	8%
The upper class	46%	38%	12%	4%	39%	34%	23%	4%

The following tables show the results by socio-demographic criteria in the European Union as a whole (EU28 average), in the six largest EU countries and in countries benefiting or having benefited from European Union assistance to overcome the financial and economic crisis.

D73a.1. At the present time, would you say that, in general, things are going in the right direction or in the wrong direction, in...? (OUR COUNTRY)
Answer: 'Things are going in the right direction'

	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
TOTAL	26%	38%	16%	9%	12%	34%	33%	10%	22%	51%	17%
Gender											
Male	28%	39%	17%	11%	13%	38%	37%	12%	27%	56%	21%
Female	24%	38%	14%	8%	11%	31%	30%	8%	17%	46%	13%
Age											
15-24	28%	44%	16%	10%	8%	38%	30%	12%	32%	52%	11%
25-39	27%	36%	19%	8%	15%	39%	37%	10%	24%	49%	9%
40-54	25%	37%	14%	9%	13%	33%	32%	7%	23%	55%	24%
55 +	25%	39%	15%	10%	10%	30%	33%	12%	17%	49%	23%
Education (End of)											
15-	20%	42%	16%	5%	8%	16%	26%	9%	15%	39%	14%
16-19	25%	34%	13%	9%	12%	29%	35%	9%	28%	47%	19%
20+	30%	42%	19%	9%	17%	41%	34%	14%	29%	61%	22%
Still studying	32%	42%	22%	15%	10%	49%	33%	11%	32%	55%	10%
Socio-professional category											
Self-employed	28%	34%	23%	6%	15%	47%	42%	13%	20%	63%	19%
Managers	34%	41%	22%	9%	30%	45%	38%	20%	30%	67%	14%
Other white collars	29%	36%	15%	8%	17%	39%	34%	7%	36%	58%	18%
Manual workers	24%	36%	18%	6%	9%	28%	34%	6%	19%	45%	17%
House persons	21%	38%	9%	11%	9%	22%	35%	8%	8%	40%	6%
Unemployed	16%	27%	11%	9%	3%	20%	24%	8%	16%	38%	23%
Retired	25%	42%	16%	11%	9%	30%	31%	12%	18%	51%	21%
Students	32%	42%	22%	15%	10%	49%	33%	11%	32%	55%	10%

D73a.1. At the present time, would you say that, in general, things are going in the right direction or in the wrong direction, in...? (OUR COUNTRY)
Answer: 'Things are going in the wrong direction'

	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
TOTAL	49%	32%	69%	77%	60%	30%	34%	77%	51%	28%	55%
Gender											
Male	48%	33%	69%	75%	59%	29%	34%	74%	48%	26%	57%
Female	49%	30%	70%	77%	61%	32%	34%	80%	54%	31%	54%
Age											
15-24	45%	24%	71%	76%	69%	23%	23%	67%	31%	27%	58%
25-39	49%	37%	65%	75%	59%	29%	33%	72%	50%	29%	60%
40-54	51%	34%	73%	78%	59%	29%	37%	83%	54%	28%	54%
55 +	49%	30%	69%	76%	58%	35%	37%	80%	57%	28%	51%
Education (End of)											
15-	57%	28%	70%	82%	67%	46%	46%	83%	58%	41%	62%
16-19	49%	36%	71%	79%	59%	30%	35%	79%	51%	32%	58%
20+	45%	30%	68%	74%	50%	31%	30%	74%	44%	21%	47%
Still studying	42%	25%	62%	68%	62%	15%	22%	65%	25%	20%	57%
Socio-professional category											
Self-employed	48%	41%	60%	77%	57%	25%	39%	76%	52%	28%	45%
Managers	39%	31%	61%	64%	44%	27%	32%	70%	48%	19%	41%
Other white collars	47%	34%	69%	84%	55%	28%	35%	75%	46%	22%	52%
Manual workers	51%	34%	71%	82%	64%	31%	36%	78%	52%	32%	58%
House persons	55%	33%	75%	76%	67%	41%	31%	80%	68%	37%	74%
Unemployed	62%	47%	75%	82%	76%	32%	34%	83%	58%	39%	61%
Retired	48%	26%	66%	76%	57%	37%	36%	79%	57%	28%	52%
Students	42%	25%	62%	68%	62%	15%	22%	65%	25%	20%	57%

D73a.2. At the present time, would you say that, in general, things are going in the right direction or in the wrong direction, in...?
The European Union
Answer: 'Things are going in the right direction'

	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
TOTAL	25%	27%	23%	17%	13%	40%	16%	16%	27%	38%	21%
Gender											
Male	27%	28%	24%	17%	14%	40%	19%	17%	33%	40%	25%
Female	24%	26%	23%	15%	11%	39%	13%	16%	22%	36%	17%
Age											
15-24	32%	36%	26%	26%	12%	45%	25%	25%	36%	43%	24%
25-39	28%	25%	29%	16%	19%	45%	21%	19%	32%	36%	12%
40-54	24%	26%	21%	15%	16%	36%	16%	11%	26%	42%	22%
55 +	22%	26%	19%	14%	7%	35%	9%	16%	21%	34%	27%
Education (End of)											
15-	18%	27%	20%	10%	8%	23%	8%	12%	20%	27%	18%
16-19	25%	26%	25%	14%	13%	36%	15%	15%	35%	38%	19%
20+	28%	28%	24%	17%	19%	43%	20%	20%	36%	40%	23%
Still studying	35%	34%	32%	34%	13%	57%	19%	25%	31%	48%	28%
Socio-professional category											
Self-employed	25%	19%	26%	18%	15%	34%	25%	18%	25%	36%	18%
Managers	30%	29%	30%	21%	23%	51%	18%	23%	31%	45%	17%
Other white collars	29%	30%	32%	16%	21%	43%	18%	13%	42%	46%	18%
Manual workers	24%	24%	23%	11%	16%	31%	19%	13%	26%	36%	15%
House persons	23%	26%	15%	18%	7%	39%	23%	17%	4%	31%	24%
Unemployed	22%	28%	21%	12%	4%	32%	16%	15%	26%	29%	24%
Retired	22%	27%	21%	14%	8%	37%	8%	16%	22%	36%	21%
Students	35%	34%	32%	34%	13%	57%	19%	25%	31%	48%	28%

D73a.2. At the present time, would you say that, in general, things are going in the right direction or in the wrong direction, in...?
The European Union
Answer: 'Things are going in the wrong direction'

	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
TOTAL	39%	39%	44%	55%	44%	15%	38%	60%	40%	25%	43%
Gender											
Male	39%	39%	43%	57%	44%	17%	41%	60%	39%	26%	45%
Female	38%	38%	44%	54%	45%	14%	35%	60%	41%	24%	41%
Age											
15-24	31%	29%	39%	43%	47%	14%	17%	41%	25%	19%	34%
25-39	38%	43%	42%	58%	43%	12%	31%	56%	39%	27%	51%
40-54	41%	39%	45%	60%	42%	19%	40%	63%	43%	26%	48%
55 +	41%	39%	45%	55%	45%	17%	51%	67%	44%	25%	35%
Education (End of)											
15-	44%	37%	47%	60%	46%	20%	50%	68%	45%	34%	38%
16-19	39%	39%	44%	58%	44%	16%	41%	59%	40%	25%	48%
20+	38%	43%	43%	55%	39%	16%	33%	58%	33%	24%	43%
Still studying	31%	28%	34%	43%	49%	9%	21%	46%	23%	15%	29%
Socio-professional category											
Self-employed	38%	47%	38%	59%	41%	19%	32%	60%	41%	37%	41%
Managers	37%	43%	38%	45%	44%	15%	40%	48%	42%	27%	42%
Other white collars	36%	35%	35%	62%	41%	18%	27%	56%	31%	15%	49%
Manual workers	39%	38%	44%	62%	38%	14%	40%	53%	42%	29%	47%
House persons	41%	45%	47%	61%	50%	7%	23%	61%	49%	26%	48%
Unemployed	43%	41%	49%	63%	52%	22%	29%	63%	45%	32%	48%
Retired	41%	38%	43%	53%	45%	17%	51%	68%	42%	22%	37%
Students	31%	28%	34%	43%	49%	9%	21%	46%	23%	15%	29%

II. THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS CITIZENS

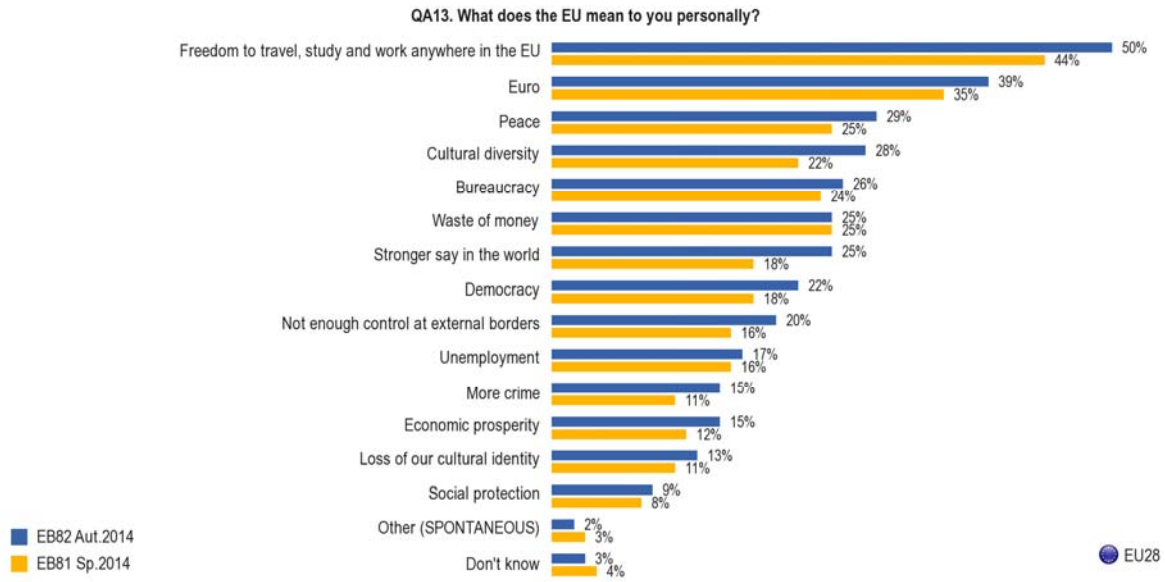
1. ATTACHMENT TO THE EUROPEAN UNION

1.1. What does the European Union stand for?

– Positive representations of the EU have gained ground –

The three most frequently mentioned representations associated with the European Union are the same as in the Standard Eurobarometer survey of spring 2014: "the freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the EU" (50%, +6 percentage points) tops the list, ahead of "the euro" (39%, +4) and "peace" (29%, +4). However, "cultural diversity" is now ranked in fourth place (28%, +6), ahead of the highest ranked negative representation, namely "bureaucracy" (26%, +2) in fifth place, followed by "waste of money" (25%, unchanged), "a stronger say in the world" (25%, +7), "democracy" (22%, +4) and "not enough control at external borders" (20%, +4). All the other items obtained scores of less than 20%: "unemployment" (17%, +1), "more crime" (15%, +4), "economic prosperity" (15%, +3), "the loss of our cultural identity" (13%, +2) and "social protection" (9%, +1).

The positive representations of the European Union have gained significant ground and the proportions of respondents mentioning "a greater say in the world", "the freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the EU", "cultural diversity", "peace" and "democracy" have increased considerably (from +7 to +4 percentage points) since the Standard Eurobarometer survey of spring 2014 (EB81). However, this movement has not been accompanied by a corresponding decrease in negative representations: some have even gained ground, such as "not enough control at external borders" and "more crime" which have both gained four percentage points in this survey[30].



Multiple answers possible

[30] QA13. What does the EU mean to you personally?

The freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the European Union is the main representation associated with the EU in both the euro area countries (51%, +7 percentage points versus spring 2014) and the non-euro area countries (48%, +3). The **euro** (49%, +5) and **peace** (31%, +3) are ranked in second and third place in the euro area countries, while **peace** (25%, +5) is ranked in second place outside the euro area, ahead of three representations which are ranked equally: "**a greater say in the world"** (24%, +8), "**cultural diversity"** (24%, +5) and "**bureaucracy"** (24%, +2). The euro (21%, +5) is ranked only in joint fifth place, with democracy (21%, +3), despite a significant increase in mentions.

The freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the European Union tops the list of representations associated with the EU in 25 Member States (against 23 in spring 2014). It is now ranked in first place in France (57%, +14 percentage points), Greece (48%, +11) and Spain (44%, +8). In these countries, this representation was ranked behind the euro in spring 2014. In this latest survey it was mentioned by an absolute majority of respondents in 16 Member States led by Sweden (77%, +10), the Baltic States (75% in Estonia, +11; 69% in Lithuania, +3; 67% in Latvia, +8), Luxembourg (67%, +14) and Finland (67%, +7). In addition to Luxembourg (+14), France (+14), Estonia (+11), Greece (+11) and Sweden (+10), the proportion of respondents mentioning this item has increased significantly in Slovakia (58%, +11) and Denmark (61%, +10). However, it has fallen in Croatia (41%, -7).

In Austria, the freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the EU is ranked in joint first place with the euro (47%).

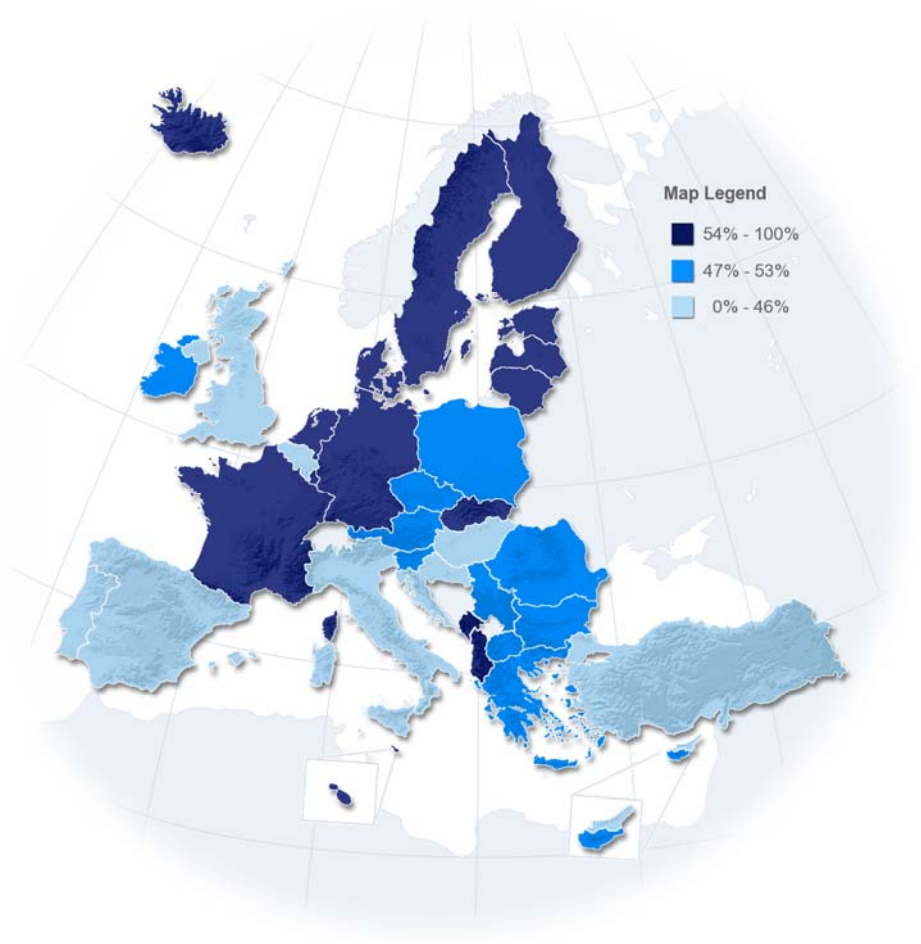
Question: QA13. What does the EU mean to you personally?

Answers: Freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the EU

SE	77%
EE	75%
LT	69%
LV	67%
LU	67%
FI	67%
NL	64%
DK	61%
DE	58%
SK	58%
FR	57%
MT	57%
RO	53%
BG	52%
IE	51%
CY	51%
EU28	50%
PL	49%
EL	48%
SI	48%
CZ	48%
AT	47%
PT	46%
ES	44%
BE	43%
UK	41%
HR	41%
HU	39%
IT	36%

CY (tcc) 31%

IS	61%
AL	59%
ME	55%
MK	53%
RS	47%
TR	16%



The euro tops the list of representations associated with the EU in Belgium (52%, +4 percentage points) and Italy (47%, +4). Mentions associating the EU with its monetary symbol have increased sharply in Sweden (34%, +13), Slovakia (55%, +12), Estonia (49%, +11), Latvia (36%, +11) and Finland (61%, +10).

Respondents in Sweden (50%, +6 percentage points), Luxembourg (50%, +4), Denmark (48%, +9) and Germany (46%, +3) are far more likely than the European average (EU28, 29%) to mention **peace**.

Respondents in Sweden (47%, +7 percentage points), Luxembourg (45%, +15) and France (42%, +12) are the most likely to associate the EU with **cultural diversity**. The proportion of respondents mentioning this item has also increased markedly in Finland (38%, +13), Estonia (33%, +12), Slovakia (26%, +11), Latvia (29%, +11) and the Netherlands (33%, +10).

Respondents in Sweden (47%, +12 percentage points), the Netherlands (43%, +14) and Malta (42%, +8) are the most likely to associate the European Union with a "**greater say in the world"**. The proportion of respondents mentioning this has also risen sharply in Poland (29%, +10), Slovakia (27%, +10) and Estonia (23%, +10).

As regards the negative representations associated with the European Union, **bureaucracy** was mentioned the most frequently in Sweden (59%, +9 percentage points), Finland (51%, +13), Germany (44%, +5), the Netherlands (43%, +9) and Denmark (40%, +3). The proportion of respondents mentioning this item has increased in 20 Member States.

With no significant change, the proportion of respondents associating the EU with **unemployment** remains considerably above the European average (EU28, 17%) in Cyprus (45%, -2 percentage points) and Greece (34%, unchanged). This item has gained the most ground in France (23%, +6), but is in decline in Sweden (12%, -6).

Lastly, in Germany respondents are now more likely to associate the EU with a **lack of border controls** (29%, +8 percentage points) and **more crime** (33%, +9). As a result, Germany now ranks just behind Austria (33%, +5, for "not enough control at external borders"; 36%, +5, for "more crime") as the country where these two representations resonate most with public opinion.

In the candidate countries, **the freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the European Union** is the main representation associated with the EU in Iceland (61%, unchanged), Albania (59%), Montenegro (55%, +3 percentage points), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (53%, +9) and Serbia (47%, -6). This representation is far less frequently mentioned in Turkey, where unemployment tops the list (20%, +9). In all the candidate countries the proportion of respondents mentioning economic prosperity is above the EU average (EU28, 15%), most notably in Albania (46%).

QA13. What does the EU mean to you personally?

	Freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the EU	Euro	Peace	Cultural diversity	Bureau-cracy	Waste of money	Stronger say in the world	Demo-cracy	Not enough control at external borders	Unem-ployment	More crime	Economic prosperity	Loss of our cultural identity	Social protection	Other (SPONTA-NEOUS)	Don't know
EU28	50%	39%	29%	28%	26%	25%	25%	22%	20%	17%	15%	15%	13%	9%	2%	3%
BE	43%	52%	33%	21%	20%	29%	25%	21%	21%	18%	19%	12%	8%	9%	1%	1%
BG	52%	13%	23%	26%	12%	10%	15%	23%	7%	9%	7%	18%	10%	15%	3%	4%
CZ	48%	23%	29%	21%	37%	34%	27%	26%	21%	19%	26%	16%	14%	8%	1%	2%
DK	61%	24%	48%	35%	40%	16%	37%	37%	29%	12%	20%	20%	16%	15%	7%	1%
DE	58%	53%	46%	37%	44%	40%	23%	32%	29%	20%	33%	18%	11%	8%	1%	2%
EE	75%	49%	26%	33%	28%	18%	23%	19%	11%	10%	7%	14%	13%	11%	3%	4%
IE	51%	40%	21%	20%	27%	15%	22%	19%	12%	13%	7%	21%	17%	12%	1%	3%
EL	48%	47%	30%	25%	10%	19%	27%	15%	18%	34%	13%	8%	21%	13%	7%	1%
ES	44%	40%	16%	23%	20%	19%	19%	17%	10%	14%	4%	16%	6%	8%	3%	5%
FR	57%	50%	39%	42%	21%	34%	31%	21%	28%	23%	9%	11%	15%	9%	1%	2%
HR	41%	16%	21%	23%	13%	12%	21%	19%	10%	11%	14%	23%	14%	14%	2%	2%
IT	36%	47%	18%	17%	17%	21%	22%	15%	17%	17%	13%	7%	12%	7%	2%	3%
CY	51%	40%	26%	30%	15%	21%	18%	17%	20%	45%	25%	8%	28%	14%	2%	2%
LV	67%	36%	22%	29%	20%	17%	15%	15%	8%	14%	6%	15%	14%	11%	2%	4%
LT	69%	26%	29%	30%	13%	16%	19%	23%	6%	6%	6%	22%	10%	16%	0%	2%
LU	67%	60%	50%	45%	27%	25%	33%	37%	24%	23%	24%	17%	10%	18%	3%	1%
HU	39%	16%	21%	25%	15%	11%	17%	17%	12%	18%	14%	15%	6%	13%	3%	5%
MT	57%	33%	32%	28%	17%	13%	42%	32%	16%	10%	7%	24%	13%	17%	3%	1%
NL	64%	63%	40%	33%	43%	24%	43%	25%	20%	14%	18%	31%	19%	11%	3%	0%
AT	47%	47%	37%	28%	35%	37%	29%	25%	33%	29%	36%	17%	23%	17%	3%	1%
PL	49%	24%	27%	19%	19%	12%	29%	20%	6%	10%	4%	16%	8%	7%	2%	5%
PT	46%	35%	11%	25%	6%	15%	19%	11%	18%	24%	15%	14%	12%	7%	3%	5%
RO	53%	25%	23%	17%	12%	12%	13%	29%	9%	9%	12%	22%	10%	14%	1%	5%
SI	48%	38%	32%	21%	30%	26%	17%	17%	10%	24%	24%	14%	12%	9%	5%	3%
SK	58%	55%	24%	26%	32%	32%	27%	18%	20%	20%	24%	18%	14%	5%	1%	1%
FI	67%	61%	37%	38%	51%	31%	22%	21%	14%	11%	18%	15%	9%	12%	2%	1%
SE	77%	34%	50%	47%	59%	36%	47%	35%	15%	12%	18%	13%	10%	11%	3%	1%
UK	41%	17%	18%	26%	26%	23%	21%	15%	25%	12%	11%	14%	18%	8%	3%	9%
CY (tcc)	31%	11%	41%	19%	5%	3%	26%	38%	2%	8%	2%	51%	7%	43%	0%	4%
AL	59%	25%	28%	16%	6%	6%	34%	26%	5%	3%	2%	46%	6%	29%	1%	1%
MK	53%	16%	26%	10%	4%	6%	23%	24%	6%	5%	6%	30%	8%	19%	2%	3%
IS	61%	50%	25%	37%	30%	20%	22%	21%	20%	13%	14%	22%	21%	15%	0%	5%
ME	55%	18%	34%	20%	8%	13%	22%	25%	13%	10%	11%	27%	13%	24%	2%	3%
RS	47%	24%	21%	19%	14%	14%	23%	21%	7%	9%	11%	30%	18%	19%	4%	4%
TR	16%	11%	9%	17%	6%	5%	10%	12%	3%	20%	4%	18%	15%	15%	5%	18%

1st MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM
2nd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM
3rd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM

Multiple answers possible

A socio-demographic analysis reveals that the middle and upper classes of the European population are more likely to associate the EU with an area of freedom (55% of those who identify themselves as middle class and 62% of those in the upper middle class) than those in the lower and more vulnerable categories (41% of those who see themselves as working class and those who struggle to pay their bills most of the time). Mentions of this representation also decrease steadily with age: 57% among 15-24 year-olds, 54% among 25-39 year-olds, 51% among 40-54 year-olds and 44% among those aged 55 or over.

Respondents who studied up to the age of 20 and beyond are more likely to mention the euro (44%) than those who left school at the age of 15 or earlier (35%). The differences by subjective social status are wider: this item was mentioned by 55% of people describing themselves as middle class, compared with 32% of those who say they are working class.

In general, **young people and the more advantaged social categories are more likely to mention the positive representations**, while the negative representations are more likely to strike a chord with older people, those who completed their studies the earliest, unemployed people, house persons and those who regularly have difficulties paying their bills.

QA13 What does the EU mean to you personally?

	Freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the EU	Euro	Peace	Cultural diversity	Bureaucracy	Waste of money	Stronger say in the world	Democracy	Not enough control at external borders	Unemployment	More crime	Economic prosperity	Loss of our cultural identity	Social protection
EU28	50%	39%	29%	28%	26%	25%	25%	22%	20%	17%	15%	15%	13%	9%
Gender														
Man	50%	40%	31%	28%	29%	27%	25%	23%	20%	16%	15%	17%	13%	9%
Woman	50%	39%	27%	28%	23%	24%	24%	20%	20%	17%	16%	13%	12%	9%
Age														
15-24	57%	42%	28%	32%	14%	16%	26%	24%	12%	14%	8%	15%	8%	13%
25-39	54%	42%	24%	30%	23%	21%	25%	21%	17%	16%	13%	17%	12%	9%
40-54	51%	40%	28%	30%	31%	27%	26%	22%	20%	17%	16%	16%	13%	8%
55 +	44%	36%	34%	24%	29%	30%	23%	21%	24%	18%	19%	13%	15%	8%
Education (End of)														
15-	35%	35%	25%	16%	22%	31%	16%	15%	23%	23%	21%	9%	14%	7%
16-19	47%	37%	29%	25%	28%	29%	22%	21%	23%	19%	19%	14%	14%	9%
20+	60%	44%	33%	39%	30%	21%	32%	25%	17%	12%	11%	20%	11%	9%
Still studying	62%	45%	31%	35%	16%	14%	27%	29%	9%	11%	6%	16%	9%	15%
Socio-professional category														
Self-employed	52%	45%	28%	30%	28%	23%	31%	25%	18%	13%	13%	17%	13%	7%
Managers	63%	45%	35%	42%	35%	22%	32%	26%	20%	10%	11%	22%	11%	9%
Other white collars	52%	43%	29%	32%	28%	23%	28%	23%	20%	15%	16%	16%	13%	9%
Manual workers	50%	38%	26%	26%	24%	26%	24%	20%	21%	19%	17%	14%	14%	10%
House persons	43%	41%	21%	20%	18%	23%	19%	18%	17%	19%	18%	10%	11%	8%
Unemployed	45%	36%	19%	24%	22%	27%	19%	16%	17%	24%	14%	12%	11%	8%
Retired	43%	34%	35%	23%	29%	31%	21%	20%	24%	18%	19%	13%	15%	8%
Students	62%	45%	31%	35%	16%	14%	27%	29%	9%	11%	6%	16%	9%	15%
Difficulties paying bills														
Most of the time	41%	36%	21%	21%	17%	31%	18%	15%	20%	26%	16%	9%	16%	7%
From time to time	46%	40%	25%	25%	23%	25%	21%	18%	19%	19%	15%	11%	13%	9%
Almost never/ Never	54%	40%	33%	31%	29%	25%	27%	24%	20%	14%	15%	18%	12%	9%
Consider belonging to														
The working class	41%	32%	24%	21%	23%	27%	18%	16%	21%	21%	16%	11%	14%	8%
The lower middle class	48%	35%	27%	27%	29%	28%	24%	20%	23%	17%	15%	14%	14%	9%
The middle class	55%	45%	33%	32%	27%	24%	28%	25%	18%	14%	15%	17%	11%	10%
The upper middle class	62%	55%	39%	39%	28%	21%	38%	30%	17%	9%	11%	26%	11%	8%
The upper class	51%	33%	37%	38%	19%	16%	36%	25%	16%	12%	18%	17%	10%	9%

The following tables show the results by socio-demographic criteria in the European Union as a whole (EU28 average), in the six largest EU countries and in countries benefiting or having benefited from European Union assistance to overcome the financial and economic crisis.

QA13. What does the EU mean to you personally?
Answer: 'Freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the EU'

	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
TOTAL	50%	58%	44%	57%	36%	49%	41%	48%	46%	51%	51%
Gender											
Male	50%	58%	45%	53%	36%	51%	43%	49%	49%	55%	48%
Female	50%	57%	42%	61%	36%	48%	39%	46%	43%	47%	53%
Age											
15-24	57%	56%	54%	68%	38%	61%	43%	60%	61%	61%	49%
25-39	54%	61%	44%	62%	46%	48%	46%	48%	52%	53%	55%
40-54	51%	61%	46%	57%	34%	52%	45%	45%	47%	51%	47%
55 +	44%	54%	38%	50%	31%	43%	33%	45%	36%	44%	50%
Education (End of)											
15-	35%	45%	40%	33%	26%	30%	22%	39%	41%	41%	44%
16-19	47%	57%	43%	51%	41%	44%	36%	44%	50%	45%	53%
20+	60%	69%	46%	66%	42%	56%	53%	57%	51%	60%	54%
Still studying	62%	58%	58%	80%	38%	68%	55%	59%	65%	63%	50%
Socio-professional category											
Self-employed	52%	66%	37%	53%	33%	53%	61%	50%	54%	47%	46%
Managers	63%	68%	49%	69%	52%	55%	57%	49%	49%	57%	66%
Other white collars	52%	63%	47%	60%	40%	47%	35%	52%	50%	56%	58%
Manual workers	50%	59%	47%	56%	39%	48%	38%	44%	45%	58%	48%
House persons	43%	53%	35%	51%	34%	42%	45%	39%	22%	36%	61%
Unemployed	45%	51%	44%	48%	34%	47%	30%	45%	50%	40%	38%
Retired	43%	51%	38%	49%	31%	44%	29%	46%	35%	47%	54%
Students	62%	58%	58%	80%	38%	68%	55%	59%	65%	63%	50%

QA13. What does the EU mean to you personally?
Answer: 'Euro'

	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
TOTAL	39%	53%	40%	50%	47%	24%	17%	47%	35%	40%	40%
Gender											
Male	40%	53%	40%	51%	48%	25%	18%	45%	32%	37%	36%
Female	39%	54%	41%	49%	46%	24%	15%	48%	37%	43%	43%
Age											
15-24	42%	50%	46%	57%	49%	35%	15%	43%	36%	44%	45%
25-39	42%	57%	43%	56%	48%	27%	23%	48%	35%	41%	46%
40-54	40%	51%	37%	51%	47%	22%	19%	45%	35%	38%	32%
55 +	36%	54%	39%	42%	45%	18%	11%	48%	34%	39%	36%
Education (End of)											
15-	35%	43%	36%	37%	44%	20%	10%	47%	35%	34%	35%
16-19	37%	55%	39%	45%	47%	22%	16%	49%	33%	36%	36%
20+	44%	59%	44%	57%	50%	25%	21%	46%	32%	47%	46%
Still studying	45%	53%	50%	59%	40%	34%	17%	39%	40%	42%	46%
Socio-professional category											
Self-employed	45%	58%	39%	62%	54%	23%	30%	44%	40%	46%	43%
Managers	45%	58%	55%	59%	46%	22%	26%	48%	25%	40%	44%
Other white collars	43%	56%	58%	52%	45%	27%	20%	44%	35%	37%	43%
Manual workers	38%	52%	40%	51%	51%	23%	14%	51%	35%	40%	40%
House persons	41%	61%	44%	54%	40%	31%	19%	49%	42%	39%	33%
Unemployed	36%	45%	32%	52%	50%	28%	11%	47%	31%	36%	35%
Retired	34%	51%	35%	39%	45%	19%	10%	49%	35%	42%	35%
Students	45%	53%	50%	59%	40%	34%	17%	39%	40%	42%	46%

1.2. Support for EU membership and the perceived benefits of membership (candidate countries)

A majority of respondents in all candidate countries, with one exception, believe that membership of the European Union would be "a good thing[31]. Turkey is the only exception: negative opinions now outweigh positive opinions, after a sharp decrease in support for EU membership.

Since spring 2014, support for EU membership has strengthened slightly in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Iceland, but has decreased slightly in Montenegro and Serbia.

QA6. Generally speaking, do you think that (OUR COUNTRY)'s membership of the EU would be...?

	A good thing		A bad thing		Neither good nor bad		Don't know	
	EB82 Aut.2014	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014	EB82 Aut.2014	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014	EB82 Aut.2014	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014	EB82 Aut.2014	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014
CY (tcc)**	57%	**-2**	7%	**-1**	31%	**+4**	5%	**-1**
AL	76%	**NA***	4%	**NA***	19%	**NA***	1%	**NA***
MK	53%	**+2**	16%	**-2**	29%	**-1**	2%	**+1**
IS	37%	**+1**	26%	**-3**	33%	**+6**	4%	**-4**
ME	49%	**-2**	20%	**+3**	30%	**-1**	1%	=
RS	39%	**-1**	21%	**+2**	36%	**-2**	4%	**+1**
TR	28%	**-10**	39%	**+6**	25%	**-2**	8%	**+6**

** NA = Not asked: this question was not asked in this country during the previous survey*
*** In the Turkish Cypriot Community, the question was: "Generally speaking, do you think that for the Turkish Cypriot Community the full application of European Union legislation would be ...?"*

Only a minority of respondents in Turkey now believe that EU membership would benefit their country, compared with a majority in spring 2014[32]. There have been no significant evolutions **in the other candidate countries, where respondents remain predominantly positive about the benefits of future EU membership**. A very large majority of respondents agreed in Albania, where this question was asked for the first time.

[31] QA6. Generally speaking, do you think that (OUR COUNTRY)'s membership of the EU would be ...?
[32] QA7. Taking everything into consideration, would you say that (OUR COUNTRY) would benefit or not from being a member of the EU?

QA7. Taking everything into account, would you say that (OUR COUNTRY) would benefit or not from being a member of the EU?

	Would benefit		Would not benefit		Don't know	
	EB82 Aut.2014	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014	EB82 Aut.2014	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014	EB82 Aut.2014	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014
CY (tcc)**	67%	**-4**	11%	**-1**	22%	**+5**
AL	89%	**NA***	7%	**NA***	4%	**NA***
MK	66%	=	28%	**-1**	6%	**+1**
IS	47%	**+1**	43%	**+1**	10%	**-2**
ME	64%	**-1**	28%	**-2**	8%	**+3**
RS	56%	**-1**	34%	**+2**	10%	**-1**
TR	36%	**-14**	54%	**+9**	10%	**+5**

** NA = Not asked: this question was not asked in this country during the previous survey*
*** In the Turkish Cypriot Community, the question was: "Generally speaking, do you think that for the Turkish Cypriot Community the full application of European Union legislation would be …?"*

In detail:

A large majority of respondents in Albania are in favour of EU membership: more than three-quarters of respondents (76%) say that their country's membership of the EU would be a "good thing" and almost nine out of ten (89%) believe that their country would benefit from joining the EU.

Support for membership has increased in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: 53% of respondents (+2 percentage points since spring 2014) believe that membership of the EU would be 'a good thing', while 16% (-2) disagree and 29% (-1) say that it would be 'neither good nor bad'. Two-thirds of respondents (66%, unchanged) consider that their country would benefit from EU membership.

Despite a slight dip in support, a very large majority of respondents in Montenegro remain in favour of EU membership: 49% (-2 percentage points) are positive about their country joining the EU, while 20% (+3) oppose the idea and 30% (-1) are undecided. Almost two-thirds of respondents (64%, -1) consider that their country would benefit from EU membership.

Although support for EU membership has decreased slightly in Serbia, respondents still broadly approve: 39% (-1 percentage point) are in favour of EU membership, while 21% (+2) oppose membership and a large proportion of respondents remain undecided (36%, -2). Pro-European opinions are more emphatic when respondents are asked about the benefits of membership, an absolute majority of those polled in Serbia (56%, -1) saying that their country would benefit from joining the EU, while 34% (+2) disagree.

The balance of opinion had swung in favour of EU membership in Iceland in spring 2014 and a majority of respondents continue to support membership in this survey, even increasingly slightly: 37% of the people polled in Iceland (+1 percentage point) are in favour of joining the EU, whereas 26% (-3) are opposed and 33% (+6) are undecided. Since the Standard Eurobarometer survey of spring 2013 (EB79), opposition to EU membership has fallen by 16 percentage points in Iceland. Moreover, 47% (+1) of respondents consider that their country would benefit from EU membership, while 43% (+1) take the opposite view.

Support for EU membership has fallen sharply in Turkey, where the opinion ratio is now negative: 28% (-10 percentage points) of respondents believe that it would be a "good thing" for Turkey to join the EU, while 39% (+6) take the opposite view and 25% (-2) say it would be "neither good nor bad". The opinion ratio is also now negative with regard to the perceived benefits: 36% (-14) of respondents think that EU membership would benefit Turkey, while 54% (+9) disagree.

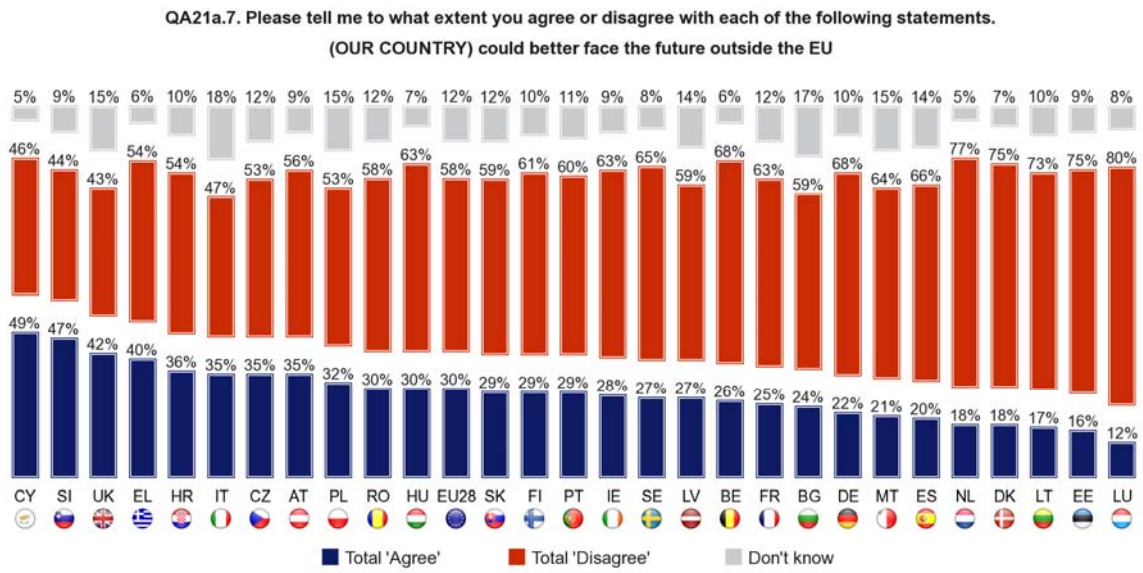
1.3. Would it be easier to face the future outside the EU?

– Almost six out of ten Europeans consider that it would be better to face the future from inside the European Union –

A majority of Europeans remain convinced of the necessity of the European Union to cope with future challenges, since 58% (+2 percentage points since spring 2014) disagree that their country "could better face the future outside the EU", while 30% (-1) agree with this statement and 12% (-1) expressed no opinion[33]. This opinion is more widespread in the euro area (62% +2) than in the non-euro area countries (52%, +3).

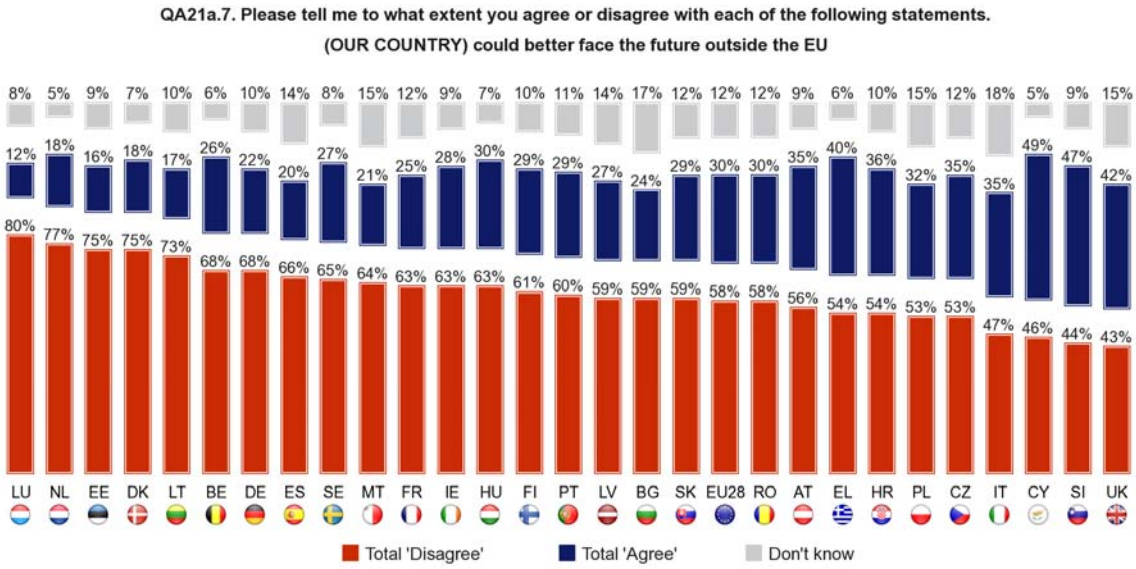
In total, **a majority of respondents in 26 Member States think that the European Union is necessary,** most notably in Luxembourg (80% for total "disagree", +9 percentage points), the Netherlands (77%, +1), Estonia (75%, +5), Denmark (75%, +2) and Lithuania (73%, +4). As well as in Luxembourg (+9), the United Kingdom (+7) and Italy (+7), this view has gained the most ground in Sweden (65%, +8), Spain (66%, +6) and Bulgaria (59%, +6). In contrast, it has declined the most sharply in Austria (56%, -5).

A majority of respondents in two Member States believe that their country could face the future better outside the EU: Cyprus (49%, -2 percentage points, versus 46%, +5) and Slovenia (47%, -4, versus 44%, +1). Since spring 2014, the opinion ratio has shifted and only a minority of respondents now share this view in the United Kingdom (42% versus 43%, compared with 45% versus 36% in spring 2014) and Italy (35% versus 47%, compared with 42% versus 40%).



Breakdown of "Total agree" answers

[33] QA21a.7. Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. (OUR COUNTRY) could better face the future outside the EU.



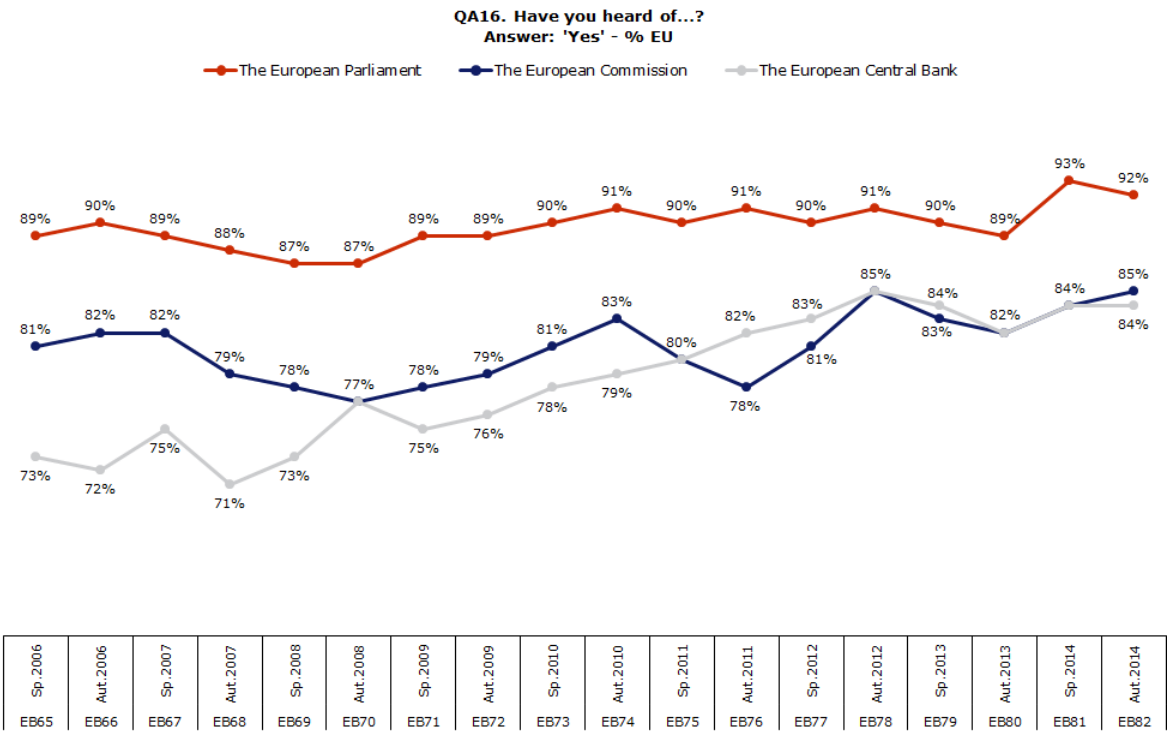
Breakdown of "Total disagree" answers

2. THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS

2.1. Awareness of and trust in the European institutions

Awareness of the European institutions

92% of Europeans have heard of the European Parliament, one percentage point less than the high recorded in the Standard Eurobarometer survey of spring 2014, carried out just after the European elections[34]. **The proportion of respondents who have heard of the European Commission has increased by one percentage point (85%)** and is now equal to its highest ever level recorded in autumn 2012. **Recognition of the European Central Bank remains stable (84%)**[35].

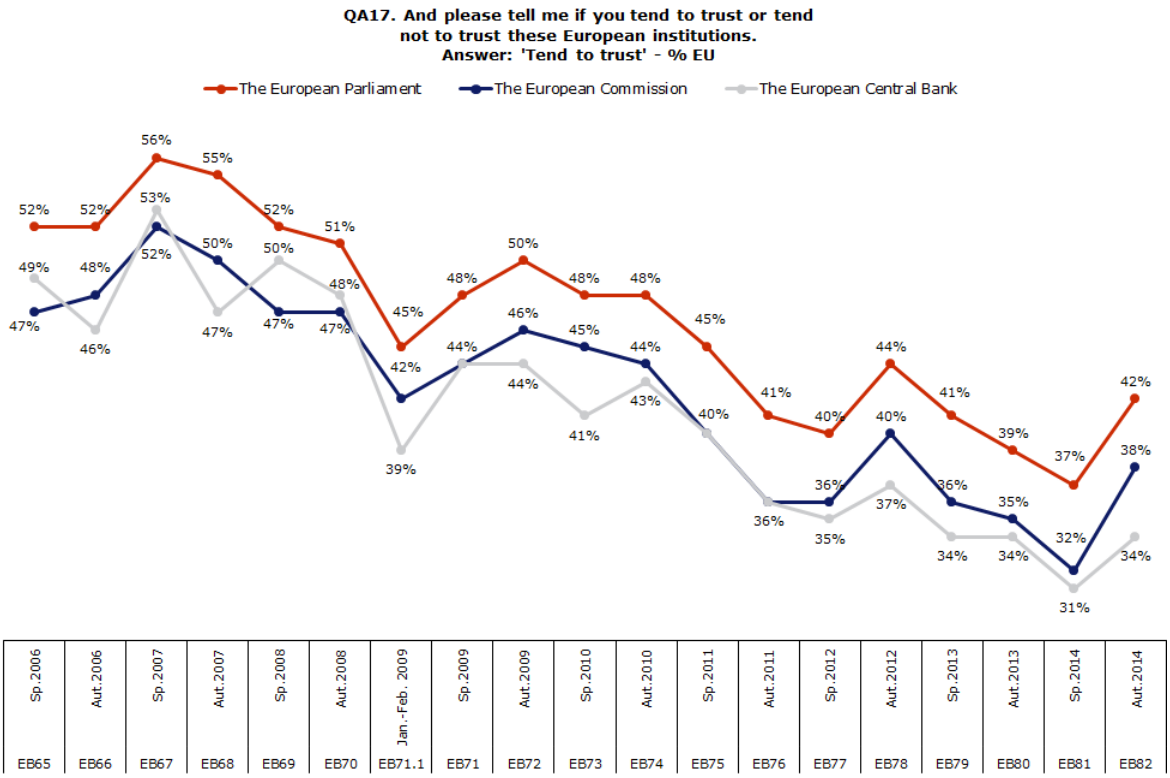


[34] The Standard Eurobarometer survey of spring 2014 was carried out between 31 May and 14 June 2014, just after the European elections held between 22 and 25 May 2014.
[35] QA16.1-2-3. Have you heard of ...? The European Parliament; The European Commission; The European Central Bank.

Trust in the European institutions

- Trust in the European institutions has increased sharply -

Although a majority of respondents still distrust all the European institutions tested in this survey, trust has nevertheless risen sharply for the first time since the Standard Eurobarometer survey of autumn 2012 (EB78). Trust in the European Commission has gained six percentage points (38%), and has risen by five percentage points for the European Parliament (42%) and by three percentage points for the European Central Bank (34%)[36].



The trust index[37] for the European institutions has improved in a large majority of Member States: in 24 countries for the European Parliament and the European Central Bank, and in 23 countries for the European Commission.

Across the board, the trust index for these three institutions has made particular progress in Austria, Slovakia, Portugal, Poland and Spain.

[36] QA17.1-2-3. And please tell me if you tend to trust these European institutions: The European Parliament; The European Commission; The European Central Bank.
[37] Difference between the "tend to trust" and "tend not to trust" percentages.

QA17. And please tell me if you tend to trust or tend not to trust these European institutions.

	The European Parliament						The European Commission						The European Central Bank					
	Tend to trust	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014	Tend not to trust	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014	Don't know	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014	Tend to trust	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014	Tend not to trust	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014	Don't know	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014	Tend to trust	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014	Tend not to trust	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014	Don't know	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014
EU28	42%	+5	43%	-5	15%	=	38%	+6	42%	-4	20%	-2	34%	+3	46%	-2	20%	-1
BE	50%	-2	44%	+5	6%	-3	47%	-2	43%	+5	10%	-3	41%	-5	46%	+6	13%	-1
BG	52%	+1	29%	-4	19%	+3	46%	+1	30%	-1	24%	=	44%	+3	30%	-2	26%	-1
CZ	41%	+7	47%	-9	12%	+2	37%	+5	43%	-10	20%	+5	39%	+4	41%	-6	20%	+2
DK	59%	+1	31%	-1	10%	=	56%	+2	30%	-1	14%	-1	58%	-1	24%	+2	18%	-1
DE	43%	+1	42%	=	15%	-1	36%	+1	44%	+1	20%	-2	35%	-3	53%	+4	12%	-1
EE	49%	=	20%	-6	31%	+6	47%	=	19%	-5	34%	+5	46%	-1	20%	-4	34%	+5
IE	43%	+4	41%	-3	16%	-1	39%	+4	42%	-1	19%	-3	32%	+3	52%	-1	16%	-2
EL	32%	-1	65%	+1	3%	=	23%	-1	72%	+2	5%	-1	21%	+2	75%	-1	4%	-1
ES	28%	+10	59%	-13	13%	+3	26%	+9	58%	-14	16%	+5	20%	+6	68%	-9	12%	+3
FR	38%	+3	44%	-3	18%	=	34%	+2	45%	-2	21%	=	30%	+2	48%	-1	22%	-1
HR	45%	+4	41%	-4	14%	=	41%	+2	42%	-1	17%	-1	36%	+4	45%	-1	19%	-3
IT	39%	+6	44%	-4	17%	-2	33%	+5	44%	-1	23%	-4	28%	+6	50%	-2	22%	-4
CY	32%	-1	56%	=	12%	+1	25%	-4	60%	+5	15%	-1	24%	+1	64%	-2	12%	+1
LV	48%	+8	35%	-7	17%	-1	45%	+7	34%	-6	21%	-1	43%	+6	32%	-5	25%	-1
LT	61%	+3	23%	-1	16%	-2	58%	+3	22%	+1	20%	-4	54%	+5	24%	=	22%	-5
LU	58%	+5	29%	-5	13%	=	57%	+10	28%	-10	15%	=	49%	+5	31%	-5	20%	=
HU	52%	+2	36%	-4	12%	+2	51%	+4	35%	-5	14%	+1	37%	+1	42%	-5	21%	+4
MT	58%	+2	21%	-1	21%	-1	55%	+1	21%	=	24%	-1	56%	+7	15%	-4	29%	-3
NL	53%	+4	39%	-2	8%	-2	54%	+7	32%	=	14%	-7	57%	+3	29%	-1	14%	-2
AT	52%	+10	40%	-8	8%	-2	51%	+15	39%	-11	10%	-4	50%	+8	41%	-6	9%	-2
PL	52%	+10	24%	-11	24%	+1	48%	+8	24%	-9	28%	+1	39%	+7	25%	-9	36%	+2
PT	44%	+10	47%	-12	9%	+2	43%	+11	46%	-14	11%	+3	37%	+8	51%	-10	12%	+2
RO	60%	+5	28%	-9	12%	+4	59%	+8	25%	-12	16%	+4	53%	+8	28%	-10	19%	+2
SI	41%	+6	49%	-7	10%	+1	40%	+6	48%	-7	12%	+1	36%	+8	51%	-10	13%	+2
SK	50%	+13	41%	-14	9%	+1	47%	+9	40%	-11	13%	+2	50%	+11	37%	-11	13%	=
FI	59%	+1	27%	-3	14%	+2	55%	-1	29%	-1	16%	+2	62%	+2	25%	-2	13%	=
SE	56%	+3	31%	-4	13%	+1	51%	+4	26%	-5	23%	+1	54%	+10	30%	-8	16%	-2
UK	27%	+6	55%	-2	18%	-4	25%	+8	47%	-1	28%	-7	24%	+6	44%	+1	32%	-7

** NA = Not asked: these questions were not asked in this country during the previous survey*

The European Parliament

42% of Europeans (+5 percentage points since spring 2014) trust the European Parliament, while 43% (-5) distrust it and 15% (unchanged) expressed no opinion. The index of trust in the European Parliament has therefore gained ten percentage points and now stands at -1, compared with -11 in spring 2014.

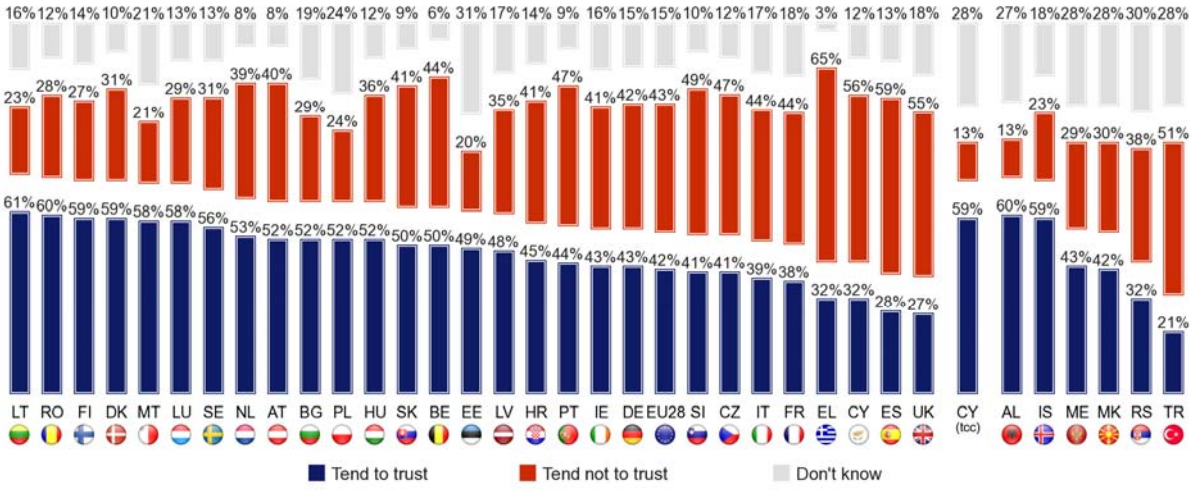
A majority of respondents trust the European Parliament in 19 Member States (against 13 in spring 2014), with scores of at least 50% in 14 of them. Respondents in Lithuania (61%, +3 percentage points), Romania (60%, +5), Finland (59%, +1) and Denmark (59%, +1) are the most likely to trust this institution. Trust has increased in 24 Member States, most notably in Slovakia (50%, +13), Austria (52%, +10), Poland (52%, +10), Spain (28%, +10) and Portugal (44%, +10).

Compared with spring 2014, a majority of respondents now trust the EP in five countries where opinion ratio has been reversed and is now positive: Austria (52% versus 40%, compared with 42% versus 48% in spring 2014), Slovakia (50% versus 41%, compared with 37% versus 55%), Latvia (48% versus 35%, compared with 40% versus 42%), Croatia (45% versus 41%, compared with 41% versus 45%) and Ireland (43% versus 41%, compared with 39% versus 44%).

The opinion ratio is once again narrowly positive in Germany (43% versus 42%) whereas opinions were evenly divided in spring 2014 (42% versus 42%).

A majority of respondents distrust the European Parliament in nine EU countries (against 14 in spring 2014): Greece (65% "tend not to trust it", +1 percentage point), Spain (59%, -13), Cyprus (56%, unchanged), the United Kingdom (55%, -2), Slovenia (49%, -7, versus 41%, +6), the Czech Republic (47%, -9, versus 41%, +7), Portugal (47%, -12, versus 44%, +10), Italy (44%, -4, versus 39%, +6) and France (44%, -3, versus 38%, +3).

QA17.1. And please tell me if you tend to trust or tend not to trust these European institutions.
The European Parliament



The European Commission

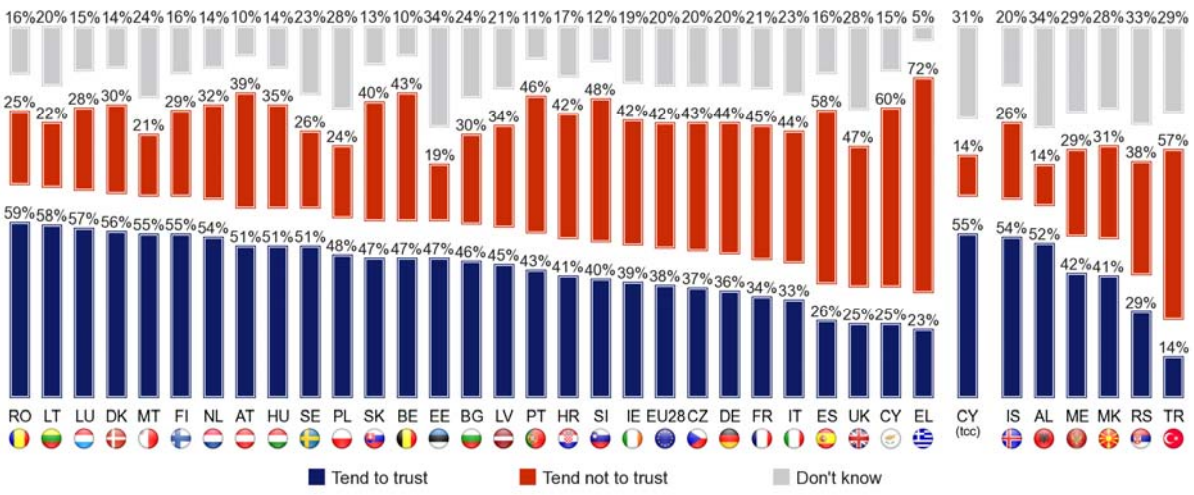
Trust in the European Commission has increased significantly: 38% (+6 percentage points since spring 2014) of Europeans now trust it, while 42% (-4) tend not to trust it and 20% (-2) expressed no opinion. The trust index has improved by ten percentage points and now stands at -4, compared with -14 in spring 2014.

A majority of respondents trust the European Commission in 16 Member States (against 13 in spring 2014), with an absolute majority in ten countries. Trust is most widespread in Romania (59%, +8 percentage points), Lithuania (58%, +3) and Luxembourg (57%, +10). It has gained ground in 23 Member States, most notably in Austria (51%, +15) and Portugal (43%, +11).

The opinion ratio is positive again in three countries: Austria (51% versus 39%, compared with 36% versus 50% in spring 2014), Slovakia (47% versus 40%, compared with 38% versus 51%) and Latvia (45% versus 34%, compared with 38% versus 40%).

However, a majority of respondents distrust the European Commission in 12 Member States (the nine countries where respondents predominantly distrust the European Parliament, plus Germany, Ireland and Croatia), compared with 15 in spring 2014. While still the predominant opinion, distrust has decreased significantly in Spain (58%, -14), Portugal (46%, -14, versus 43%, +11) and the Czech Republic (43%, -10, versus 37%, +5).

QA17.2. And please tell me if you tend to trust or tend not to trust these European institutions.
The European Commission



The European Central Bank

34% of respondents (+3 percentage points since spring 2014) trust the European Central Bank, while 46% distrust it (-2) and 20% (-1) expressed no opinion. The trust index has therefore improved by five percentage points to -12, compared with -17 in spring 2014.

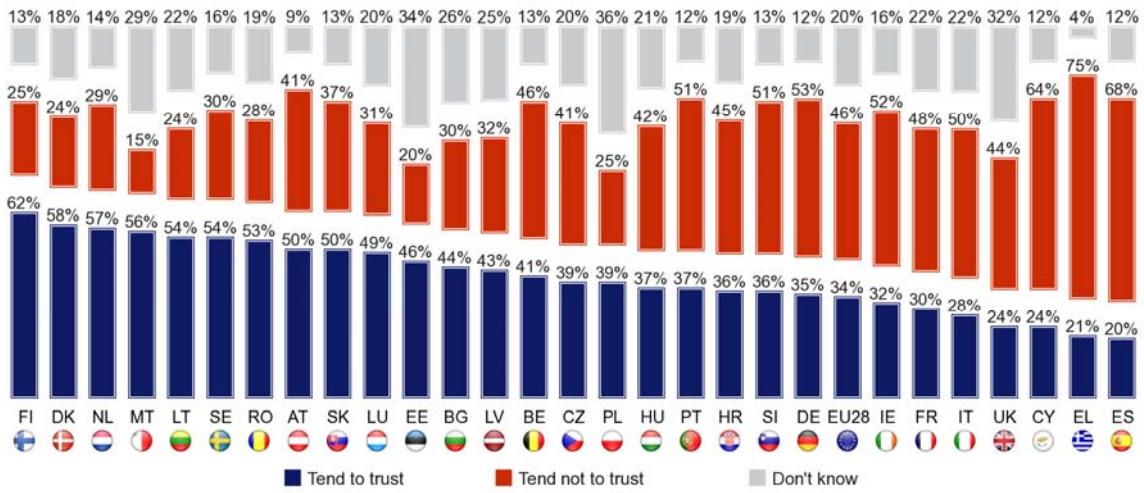
Despite a slight improvement, the trust-distrust ratio is still largely negative in the euro area countries (33% versus 51%, compared with 30% versus 53% in spring 2014). However, it is now positive again in the non-euro area countries, after a significant improvement (37% versus 35%, compared with 31% versus 39%).

A majority of respondents trust this institution in 14 Member States (against 11 in spring 2014), with levels of trust of at least 50% in nine countries. Trust is most widespread in Finland (62%, +2 percentage points), Denmark (58%, -1) and the Netherlands (57%, +3). It has gained ground in Sweden (54%, +10), Romania (53%, +8) and Malta (56%, +7).

The trust-distrust ratio has been reversed and is now positive again in Slovakia (50% versus 37%, compared with 39% versus 48% in spring 2014), Austria (50% versus 41%, compared with 42% versus 47%) and Poland (39% versus 25%, compared with 32% versus 34%). It has also become slightly positive in Latvia (43% versus 32%) whereas opinions were evenly divided (37% versus 37%) in spring 2014. In contrast, the opinion ratio is now slightly negative in Belgium (41% versus 46%, compared with 46% versus 40%).

As a result of these evolutions, a majority of respondents now distrust the European Central Bank in 14 Member States (against 16 in spring 2014). Within this group of countries, distrust has declined significantly in Portugal (51%, -10 percentage points), Slovenia (51%, -10) and Spain (68%, -9).

QA17.3. And please tell me if you tend to trust or tend not to trust these European institutions.
The European Central Bank



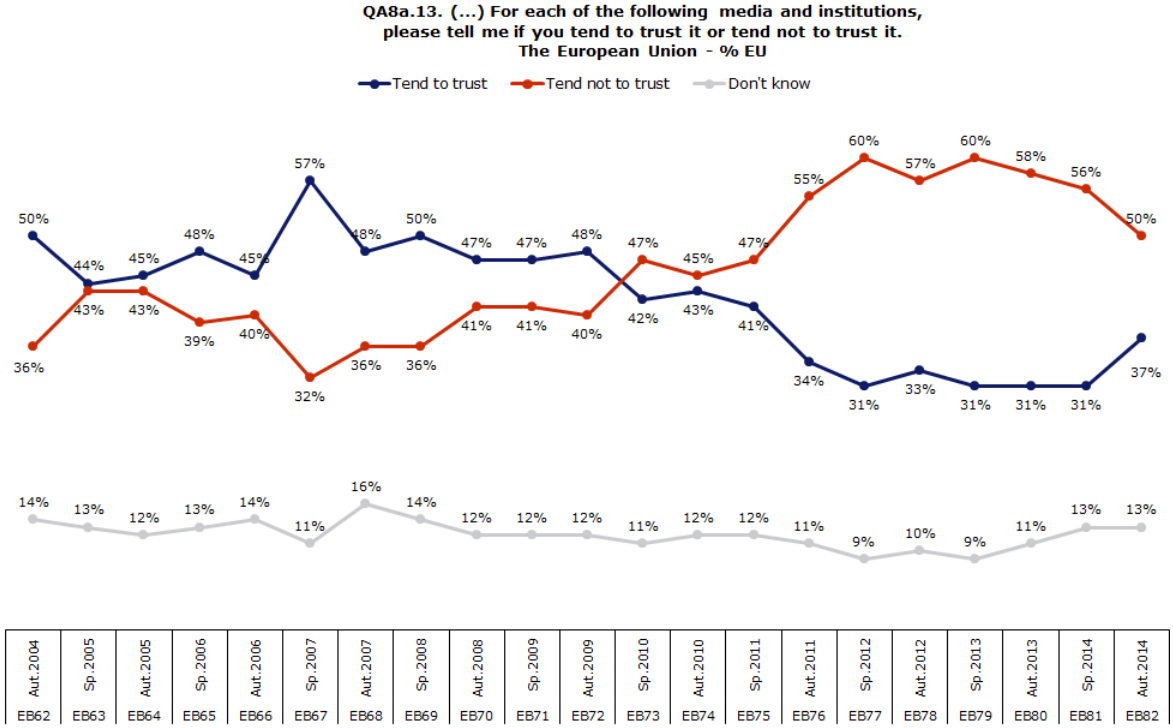
2.2. Trust in the European Union

- A sharp rise in trust in the European Union -

37% of respondents trust the European Union, an increase of six percentage points since spring 2014. This is the largest rise recorded for this indicator since the Standard Eurobarometer survey of spring 2007 (EB67). Simultaneously, distrust has seen a third consecutive fall, most markedly in this survey: it now stands at 50%, six percentage points lower than in spring 2014 and ten percentage points below the historical highs recorded in spring 2012 and spring 2013[38].

As a result, the EU's trust index, although still negative, has improved very sharply, and now stands at -13, compared with -25 in spring 2014, -27 in autumn 2013 and -29 in spring 2013.

After a period between spring 2007 and spring 2014 during which trust in the European Union deteriorated almost continuously (trust fell from 57% to 31% during that period), the distinct improvement noted in this survey could mean that the trend has now been reversed. This remains to be confirmed.



[38] QA8a.13. For each of the following media and institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it. The European Union.

A majority of respondents trust the European Union in 14 Member States (against seven in spring 2014), including the countries where this was already the case in spring 2014: Romania (60%, +2 percentage points), Lithuania (59%, +1), Malta (55%, +3), Finland (54%, +6), Estonia (52%, +2), Bulgaria (51% -1) and Poland (49%, +8, versus 29%, -11).

The EU trust-distrust ratio is also now positive in seven further Member States: Luxembourg (53% versus 38%, compared with 35% versus 52% in spring 2014), Denmark (51% versus 40%, compared with 45% versus 48%), Slovakia (49% versus 42%, compared with 35% versus 57%), Sweden (48% versus 40%, compared with 37% versus 49%), Hungary (48% versus 43%, compared with 44% versus 50%), Latvia (46% versus 36%, compared with 42% versus 44%) and the Netherlands (46% versus 45%, compared with 41% versus 48%).

In the other 14 Member States, distrust remains predominant, with an absolute majority in nine countries: Greece (76%, +1 percentage point), Cyprus (68%, +1), Spain (61%, -18), United Kingdom (61%, unchanged), Italy (54%, -1), Germany (53%, -5), France (52%, -4), Croatia (51%, +1) and Portugal (51%, -15). Within this group, in addition to the strong declines in distrust noted in Spain and Portugal, distrust has also fallen sharply in the Czech Republic (48%, -13) and Austria (49%, -12).

In the candidate countries, trust in the EU has increased significantly in Iceland and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, but has fallen sharply in Turkey. In Albania, where this indicator was measured for the first time, an absolute majority of respondents trust the EU. Specifically, the European Union's trust index has become positive for the first time in Iceland (+10, versus -1 in spring 2014) and has widened in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (+20, versus +7 in spring 2014). In contrast, the already very negative index has deteriorated even further in Turkey (-48, versus -32 in spring 2014). With only minor evolutions, the trust index remains positive in Montenegro (+12 versus +14) and negative in Serbia (-10 versus -6). Lastly, trust in the European Union is very high in Albania (59% versus 18%, with a "DK" rate of 23%).

QA8a.13. I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain media and institutions. For each of the following media and institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.
The European Union

	Tend to trust	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014	Tend not to trust	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014	Don't know	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014
EU28	37%	+6	50%	-6	13%	=
LU	53%	+18	38%	-14	9%	-4
ES	30%	+14	61%	-18	9%	+4
SK	49%	+14	42%	-15	9%	+1
CZ	43%	+11	48%	-13	9%	+2
AT	42%	+11	49%	-12	9%	+1
PT	39%	+11	51%	-15	10%	+4
SE	48%	+11	40%	-9	12%	-2
UK	26%	+10	61%	=	13%	-10
PL	49%	+8	29%	-11	22%	+3
DK	51%	+6	40%	-8	9%	+2
FI	54%	+6	34%	-8	12%	+2
IE	37%	+5	47%	-7	16%	+2
IT	29%	+5	54%	-1	17%	-4
NL	46%	+5	45%	-3	9%	-2
DE	34%	+4	53%	-5	13%	+1
LV	46%	+4	36%	-8	18%	+4
HU	48%	+4	43%	-7	9%	+3
MT	55%	+3	29%	+1	16%	-4
SI	40%	+3	49%	-8	11%	+5
EE	52%	+2	18%	-9	30%	+7
FR	36%	+2	52%	-4	12%	+2
HR	39%	+2	51%	+1	10%	-3
RO	60%	+2	31%	-3	9%	+1
LT	59%	+1	25%	-4	16%	+3
CY	25%	=	68%	+1	7%	-1
BG	51%	-1	34%	+3	15%	-2
EL	23%	-1	76%	+1	1%	=
BE	43%	-2	49%	+1	8%	+1
CY (tcc)	66%	+6	18%	-8	16%	+2
AL	59%	NA*	18%	NA*	23%	NA*
MK	55%	+6	35%	-7	10%	+1
IS	49%	+6	39%	-5	12%	-1
ME	47%	-1	35%	+1	18%	=
RS	35%	-4	45%	=	20%	+4
TR	18%	-7	66%	+9	16%	-2

** NA = Not asked: this question was not asked in this country during the previous survey*

A socio-demographic analysis reveals significant differences between categories. In the Standard Eurobarometer survey of spring 2012 (EB77), with the sole exception of students, a majority of respondents in all categories of the European population, including those traditionally the most "Europhile", distrusted the EU. **That is no longer the case in this survey. A majority of young people** (48% versus 37% among 15-24 year-olds) **and the most advantaged categories** (45% versus 44% among managers, 56% versus 35% among those who identify as upper middle class) now trust the EU again. The trust index is now evenly balanced among respondents who studied the longest (44% versus 44% among those who studied up to the age of 20 and beyond) whereas it had been negative in this category since spring 2012.

However, **distrust in the European Union continues to predominate** among people aged 55 or over (54%), respondents who left school at the age of 15 or earlier (61%), unemployed people (59%), those who have difficulties paying their bills most of the time (64%), and respondents who see themselves as working class (57%) or lower middle class (55%).

QA8a.13 I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain media and institutions. For each of the following media and institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.

The European Union

	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Don't know
EU28	37%	50%	13%
Gender			
Man	38%	51%	11%
Woman	36%	49%	15%
Age			
15-24	48%	37%	15%
25-39	40%	49%	11%
40-54	35%	53%	12%
55 +	32%	54%	14%
Education (End of)			
15-	25%	61%	14%
16-19	34%	54%	12%
20+	44%	44%	12%
Still studying	51%	35%	14%
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	40%	48%	12%
Managers	45%	44%	11%
Other white collars	41%	47%	12%
Manual workers	35%	53%	12%
House persons	30%	55%	15%
Unemployed	31%	59%	10%
Retired	32%	54%	14%
Students	51%	35%	14%
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	25%	64%	11%
From time to time	34%	53%	13%
Almost never/ Never	41%	47%	12%
Consider belonging to			
The working class	30%	57%	13%
The lower middle class	33%	55%	12%
The middle class	41%	46%	13%
The upper middle class	56%	35%	9%
The upper class	56%	41%	3%

The following tables show the results by socio-demographic criteria in the European Union as a whole (EU28 average), in the six largest EU countries and in countries benefiting or having benefited from European Union assistance to overcome the financial and economic crisis.

QA8a.13. I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain media and institutions. For each of the following media and institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.
The European Union
Answer: 'Tend to trust'

	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
TOTAL	37%	34%	30%	36%	29%	49%	26%	23%	39%	37%	25%
Gender											
Male	38%	34%	30%	36%	31%	48%	27%	24%	41%	40%	26%
Female	36%	34%	29%	36%	28%	50%	26%	22%	38%	35%	24%
Age											
15-24	48%	44%	39%	55%	22%	54%	48%	33%	53%	47%	32%
25-39	40%	33%	32%	39%	38%	54%	30%	22%	43%	34%	16%
40-54	35%	35%	24%	35%	31%	48%	23%	18%	40%	41%	24%
55 +	32%	30%	30%	28%	26%	44%	16%	22%	32%	32%	28%
Education (End of)											
15-	25%	28%	27%	22%	20%	31%	12%	18%	34%	26%	27%
16-19	34%	30%	28%	28%	33%	47%	20%	19%	44%	36%	20%
20+	44%	42%	34%	44%	38%	54%	35%	26%	47%	42%	27%
Still studying	51%	43%	42%	54%	25%	56%	63%	32%	56%	43%	32%
Socio-professional category											
Self-employed	40%	32%	27%	44%	38%	47%	34%	25%	48%	35%	15%
Managers	45%	43%	45%	50%	50%	54%	24%	32%	45%	40%	27%
Other white collars	41%	31%	41%	35%	43%	57%	27%	19%	56%	44%	29%
Manual workers	35%	30%	29%	30%	26%	44%	29%	20%	38%	36%	21%
House persons	30%	35%	24%	23%	16%	57%	26%	21%	12%	33%	26%
Unemployed	31%	35%	21%	43%	17%	42%	25%	18%	32%	28%	18%
Retired	32%	30%	32%	27%	26%	46%	15%	22%	31%	37%	27%
Students	51%	43%	42%	54%	25%	56%	63%	32%	56%	43%	32%

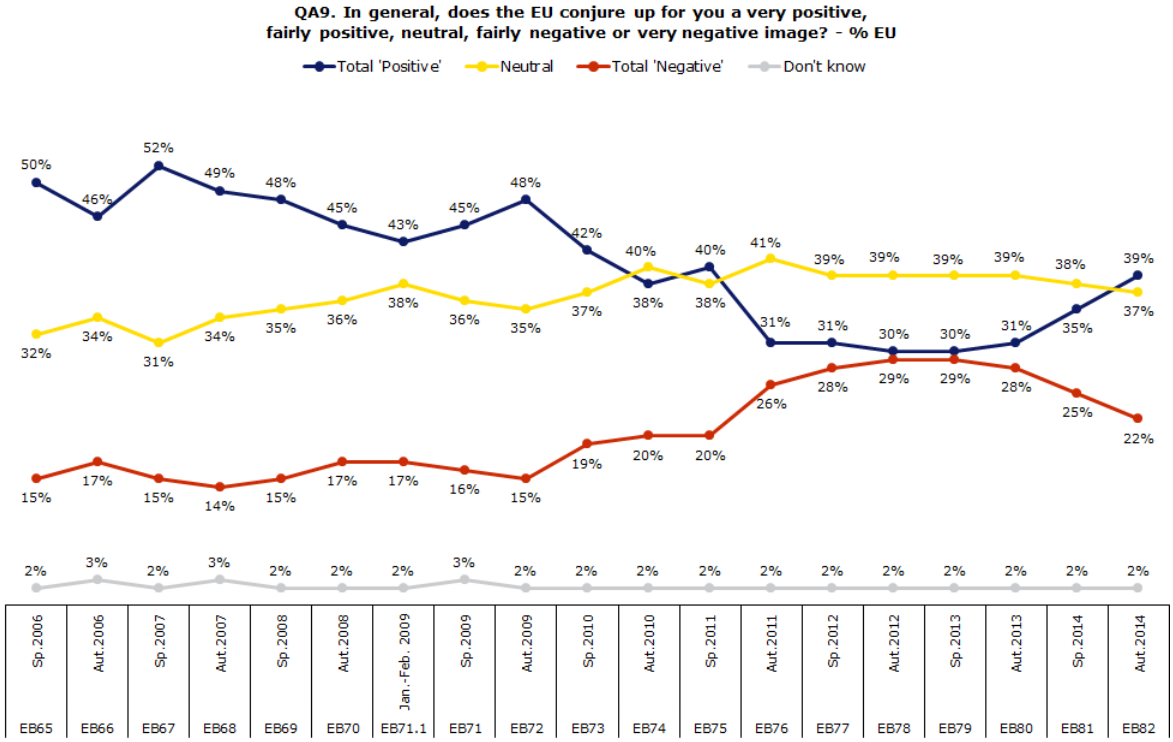
QA8a.13. I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain media and institutions. For each of the following media and institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.
The European Union
Answer: 'Tend not to trust'

	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
TOTAL	50%	53%	61%	52%	54%	29%	61%	76%	51%	47%	68%
Gender											
Male	51%	54%	63%	56%	51%	31%	64%	76%	50%	47%	70%
Female	49%	53%	60%	48%	56%	26%	57%	76%	51%	46%	67%
Age											
15-24	37%	36%	49%	38%	51%	21%	39%	61%	37%	44%	59%
25-39	49%	56%	62%	47%	50%	26%	55%	76%	49%	49%	79%
40-54	53%	54%	67%	56%	51%	33%	64%	81%	53%	47%	74%
55 +	54%	57%	59%	57%	58%	31%	72%	78%	54%	46%	60%
Education (End of)											
15-	61%	58%	63%	64%	62%	28%	76%	80%	55%	49%	60%
16-19	54%	57%	64%	59%	51%	33%	67%	80%	47%	48%	74%
20+	44%	48%	59%	43%	49%	28%	51%	73%	45%	45%	70%
Still studying	35%	38%	48%	39%	50%	13%	24%	65%	36%	45%	59%
Socio-professional category											
Self-employed	48%	59%	65%	42%	47%	27%	54%	74%	43%	39%	81%
Managers	44%	49%	48%	42%	36%	27%	61%	68%	52%	49%	65%
Other white collars	47%	56%	51%	54%	40%	29%	57%	78%	38%	38%	69%
Manual workers	53%	54%	65%	56%	58%	35%	61%	80%	52%	55%	74%
House persons	55%	47%	64%	59%	69%	21%	54%	76%	67%	39%	65%
Unemployed	59%	59%	73%	51%	66%	34%	61%	81%	57%	55%	80%
Retired	54%	57%	53%	57%	57%	30%	74%	78%	55%	44%	58%
Students	35%	38%	48%	39%	50%	13%	24%	65%	36%	45%	59%

2.3. The European Union's image

- A majority of Europeans have a positive image of the EU -

The recovery in the European Union's image, which began in the Standard Eurobarometer survey of autumn 2013 (EB80), has continued in this survey: 39% of Europeans (+4 percentage points since spring 2014) consider that the EU's image is positive, while 37% (-1) see it as neutral and 22% (-3) see it as negative[39]. **More people therefore see the EU's image in a positive than a negative light for the first time since spring 2011.** However, despite this strong recovery, the proportion of respondents for whom the EU conjures up a positive image is still far from the absolute majority recorded before the start of the financial and economic crisis in spring 2006 (50%) and spring 2007 (52%).



[39] QA9. In general, does the EU conjure up for you a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image?

Positive perceptions of the EU's image have gained seven percentage points in the non-euro area countries (44%) and three percentage points in the euro area countries (36%). Respondents are predominantly positive in the non-euro area countries, but continue to be more likely to take a neutral stance in the euro area.

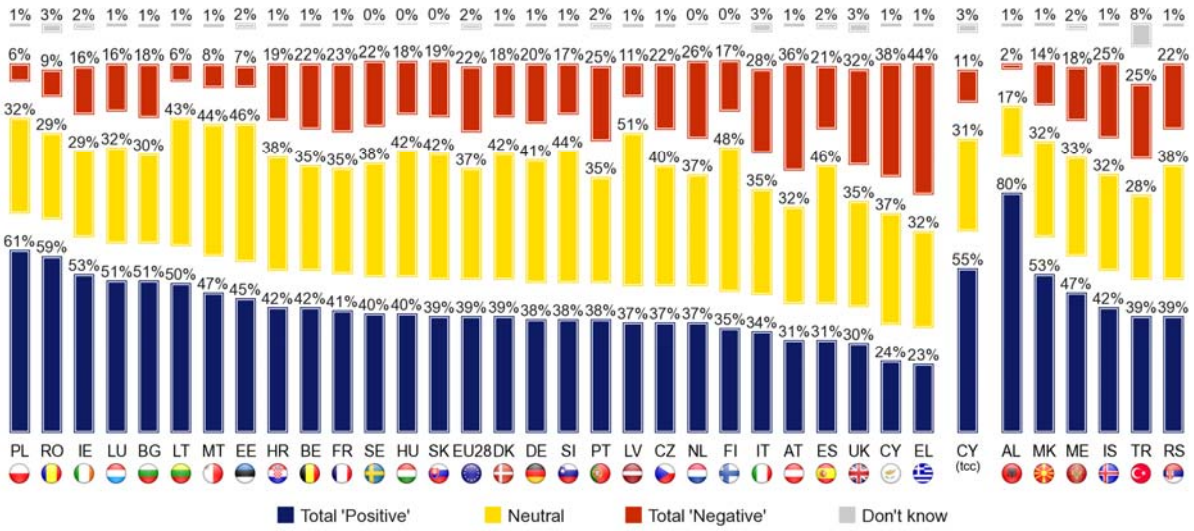
QA9. In general, does the EU conjure up for you a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image?

	Total 'Positive'	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014	Neutral	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014	Total 'Negative'	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014	Don't know	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014
EU28	39%	**+4**	37%	**-1**	22%	**-3**	2%	=
EURO AREA	36%	**+3**	38%	**-1**	24%	**-2**	2%	=
NON-EURO AREA	44%	**+7**	35%	**-1**	19%	**-5**	2%	**-1**

The EU's image has improved in 23 Member States: Bulgaria, Cyprus, Austria, Slovenia and Sweden are the exceptions to this general trend. It has gained most ground in Ireland (53%, +12 percentage points), Poland (61%, +9), Luxembourg (51%, +9), Slovakia (39%, +9), Portugal (38%, +8), the Czech Republic (37%, +8), Hungary (40%, +7) and the United Kingdom (30%, +7).

As a result of these evolutions, **more people now see the EU's image in a positive than negative light in 24 EU countries** (against 22 in spring 2014 and 17 in autumn 2013). The opinion ratio is now positive in Spain (31% for "positive image" versus 21% for "negative image", compared with 25% versus 29% in spring 2014) and Portugal (38% versus 25%, compared with 30% versus 31%). In this group of 24 countries, **positive perceptions outweigh neutral perceptions in 12 Member States** (Belgium, Bulgaria, Ireland, France, Croatia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania and Sweden). Respondents are most likely to see the EU's image in a positive light in Poland (61%, +9 percentage points) and Romania (59%, +4).

QA9. In general, does the EU conjure up for you a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image?



Negative perceptions continue to outweigh positive perceptions in four EU countries: Greece (44%, unchanged, versus 23%, +1 percentage point), Cyprus (38%, =, versus 24%, -2), Austria (36%, +2, versus 31%, =) and the United Kingdom (32%, -4, versus 30%, +7).

QA9. In general, does the EU conjure up for you a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image?

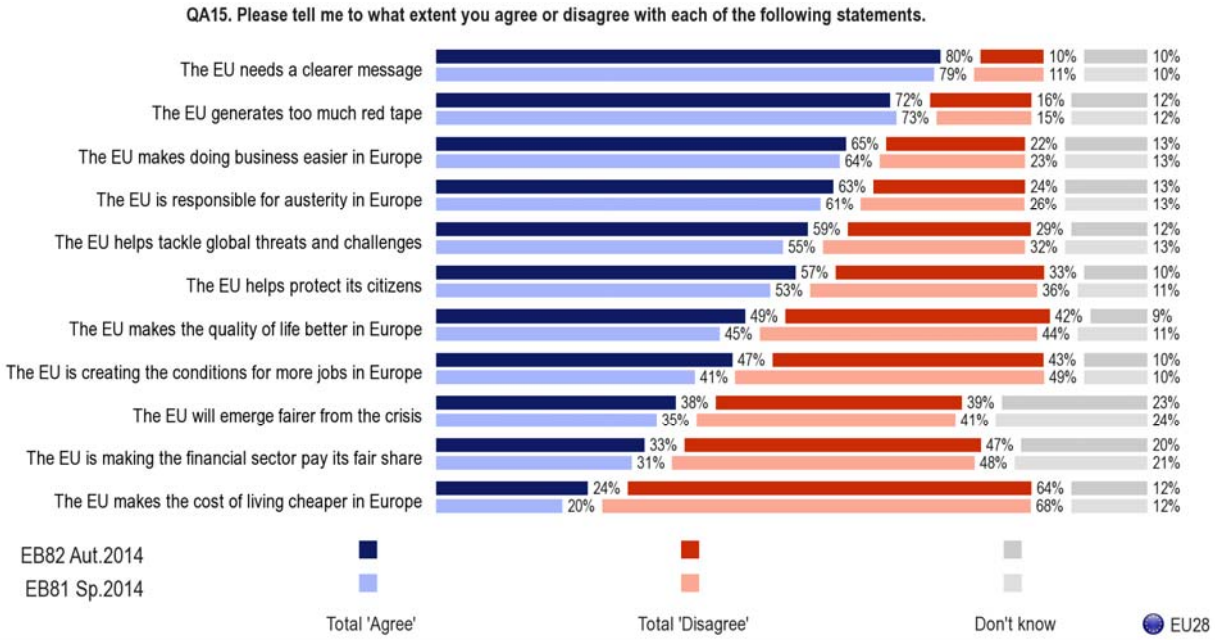
	Total 'Positive'	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014	Neutral	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014	Total 'Negative'	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014	Don't know	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014
EU28	39%	+4	37%	-1	22%	-3	2%	=
BE	42%	+2	35%	-1	22%	-1	1%	=
BG	51%	-3	30%	=	18%	+5	1%	-2
CZ	37%	+8	40%	-3	22%	-6	1%	+1
DK	39%	+4	42%	+4	18%	-8	1%	=
DE	38%	+2	41%	-2	20%	=	1%	=
EE	45%	+1	46%	+1	7%	-3	2%	+1
IE	53%	+12	29%	-9	16%	-1	2%	-2
EL	23%	+1	32%	-2	44%	=	1%	+1
ES	31%	+6	46%	+3	21%	-8	2%	-1
FR	41%	+3	35%	+1	23%	-4	1%	=
HR	42%	+1	38%	-1	19%	-1	1%	+1
IT	34%	+4	35%	-3	28%	-1	3%	=
CY	24%	-2	37%	+2	38%	=	1%	=
LV	37%	+3	51%	-2	11%	-1	1%	=
LT	50%	+2	43%	+1	6%	-2	1%	-1
LU	51%	+9	32%	-1	16%	-9	1%	+1
HU	40%	+7	42%	-3	18%	-3	0%	-1
MT	47%	+4	44%	-1	8%	-1	1%	-2
NL	37%	+2	37%	-3	26%	+1	0%	=
AT	31%	=	32%	-2	36%	+2	1%	=
PL	61%	+9	32%	-3	6%	-4	1%	-2
PT	38%	+8	35%	-2	25%	-6	2%	=
RO	59%	+4	29%	-6	9%	=	3%	+2
SI	38%	-2	44%	+6	17%	-3	1%	-1
SK	39%	+9	42%	-1	19%	-7	0%	-1
FI	35%	+1	48%	+4	17%	-4	0%	-1
SE	40%	-2	38%	+9	22%	-7	0%	=
UK	30%	+7	35%	-1	32%	-4	3%	-2
CY (tcc)	55%	+4	31%	-4	11%	+1	3%	-1
AL	80%	NA*	17%	NA*	2%	NA*	1%	NA*
MK	53%	+2	32%	=	14%	-1	1%	-1
IS	42%	+3	32%	+3	25%	-5	1%	-1
ME	47%	=	33%	-6	18%	+5	2%	+1
RS	39%	-2	38%	+1	22%	+2	1%	-1
TR	39%	-4	28%	-3	25%	+2	8%	+5

** NA = Not asked: this question was not asked in this country during the previous survey*

The representations associated with the European Union and its policies

The positive representations associated with the European Union have gained ground since spring 2014. The idea that the "**EU is creating the conditions for more jobs in Europe"** has gained six percentage points and is now supported by a majority of respondents for the first time since this representation was first analysed in the Standard Eurobarometer surveys. Representations of the European Union as **playing an important role in resolving international crises**, as an **institution that protects citizens**, and as an **institution that makes the quality of life better in Europe,** already shared by a majority of respondents in spring 2014, have all gained four percentage points. Although only a minority of Europeans agree with that the EU "**makes the cost of living cheaper in Europe"** and "**will emerge fairer from the crisis",** the proportion of respondents who do agree with these statements as also increased, by four and three percentage points respectively.

As regards the negative representations, the EU continues to be seen as **needing a clearer message** by eight out of ten Europeans, as **bureaucratic** by more than seven out of ten Europeans and as being **responsible for austerity** in Europe by almost two-thirds of respondents, without any significant evolutions[40].



[40] QA15. Please tell me for each of the following words whether it describes very well, fairly well, fairly badly or very badly the idea that you might have of the EU.

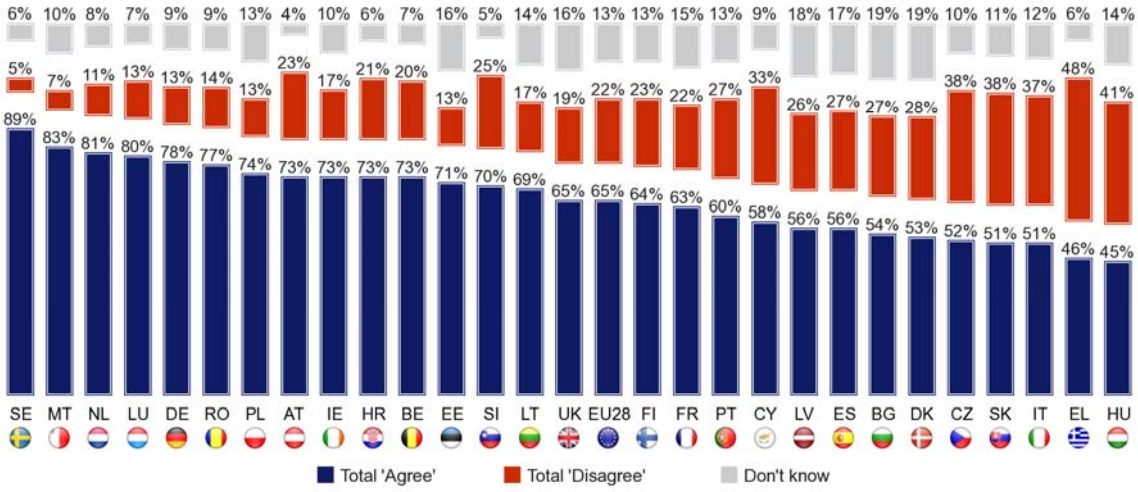
Positive representations

"The EU makes doing business easier in Europe"

With no major changes, **almost two-thirds of Europeans (65%, +1 percentage point since spring 2014) continue to agree that "the EU makes doing business easier in Europe"**, while 22% (-1) take the opposite view and 13% (unchanged) expressed no opinion.

The EU is seen as business-friendly by an absolute majority of respondents in 26 Member States, most notably in Sweden (89% for total "agree", unchanged since spring 2014), Malta (83%, =), the Netherlands (81%, +1 percentage point) and Luxembourg (80%, =). The view that the EU is business-friendly is now once again shared by a majority of respondents in Hungary (45% versus 41%), whereas the opposite was true in spring 2014 (42% versus 45%). Although the opinion ratio remains close, only a minority of respondents now see the EU as facilitating business in Greece (46% versus 48%, compared with 48% versus 46%). This representation of the EU as business-friendly has gained ground in 15 Member States, led by Portugal (60%, +9), Romania (77%, +7), Poland (74%, +6) and the United Kingdom (65%, +6). In contrast, it has lost the most ground in Denmark (53%, -6).

QA15.3. Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.
The EU makes doing business easier in Europe



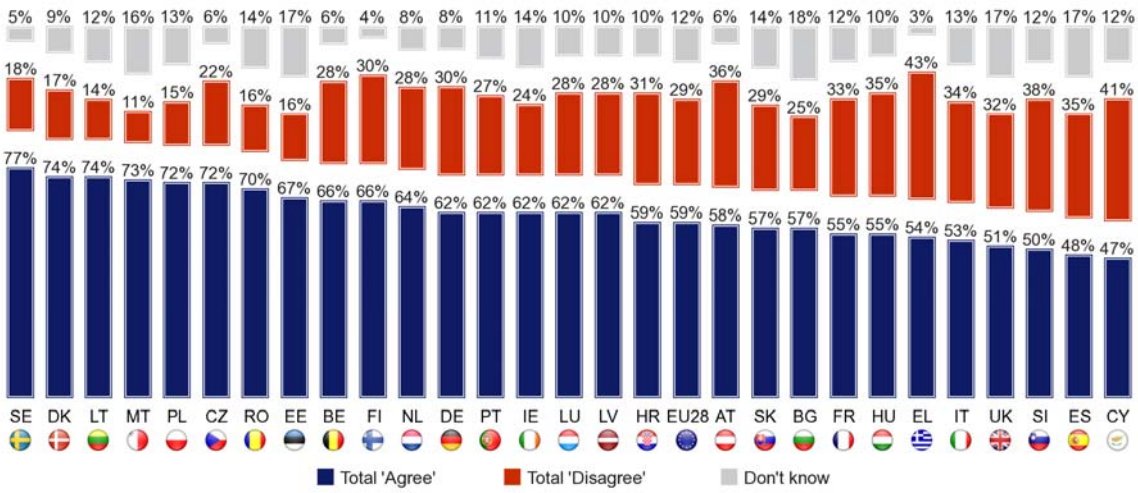
"The EU helps tackle global threats and challenges"

The EU's international image has improved and almost six out of ten Europeans (59%, +4 percentage points) consider that the EU "helps tackle global threats and challenges", while 29% (-3) disagree and 12% (-1) expressed no opinion.

The opinion ratio is positive once more in Spain (48% versus 35%, compared with 40% versus 43% in spring 2014). **This positive view of the international influence of the EU is now acknowledged in all Member States,** with an absolute majority in 26 countries. Respondents in Sweden (77% for total "agree", +4 percentage points), Denmark (74%, unchanged), Lithuania (74%, +2) and Malta (73%, +3) are the most likely to acknowledge the EU's international role.

As well as in Spain, positive opinions of the EU's international influence have gained significant ground in Portugal (62%, +11 percentage points), Finland (66%, +9), Poland (72%, +8), the Czech Republic (72%, +8), Romania (70%, +7), Bulgaria (57%, +7) and Italy (53%, +7). Cyprus is the only country where they have declined significantly (47%, -7).

QA15.9. Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.
The EU helps tackle global threats and challenges

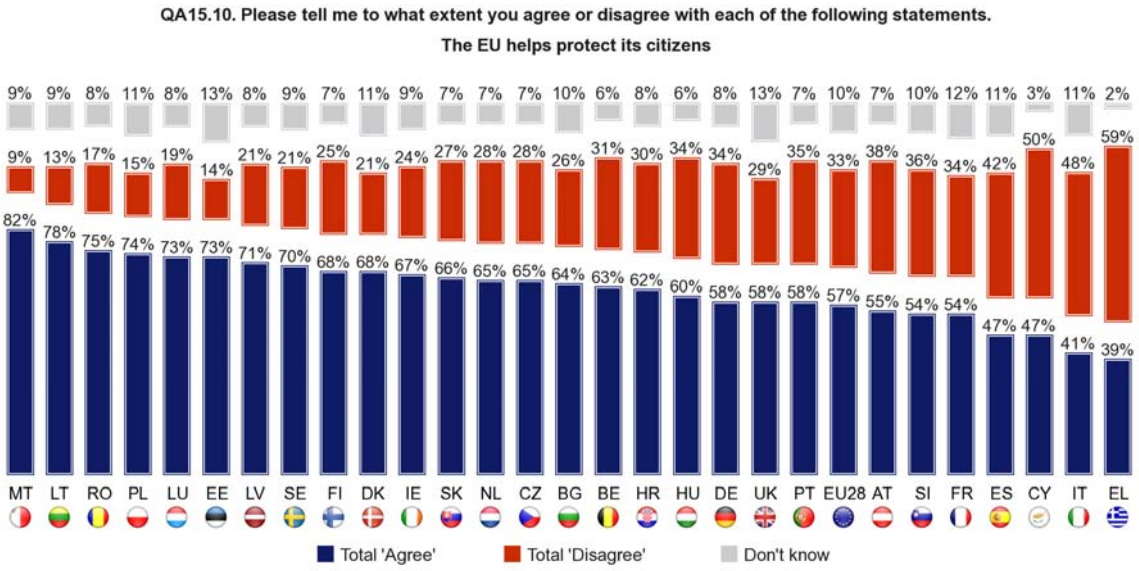


"The EU helps protect its citizens"

The image of a protective European Union has gained ground: 57% of Europeans (+4 percentage points) now consider that "the EU helps protect its citizens", while 33% (-3) disagree and 10% (-1) gave no answer.

A majority of respondents in a total of 25 countries (against 24 in spring 2014) agree that the EU is protective, with the highest scores in Malta (82%, +5 percentage points), Lithuania (78%, unchanged) and Romania (75%, +6). As a result of sharp rises of +17 and +11 percentage points respectively, a majority of respondents in Portugal (58% for total "agree" versus 35%, compared with 41% versus 53% in spring 2014) and Spain (47% versus 42%, compared with 36% versus 53%) now see the EU as protective. This is still the predominant opinion in the 23 Member States where it was held by a majority of respondents in spring 2014. In addition to the striking increases noted in Portugal and Spain, support for the idea that the EU protects its citizens has gained ground in particular in the Czech Republic (65%, +10), Slovakia (66%, +9), Finland (68%, +8), Latvia (71%, +8) and the United Kingdom (58%, +8). Slovenia is the only country where this view has significantly declined (54%, -5).

In contrast only a minority of respondents now agree that the EU protects citizens in Cyprus (47% versus 50%, compared with 51% versus 45% in spring 2014), while this continue to be the case in Greece (39%, -2 percentage points, versus 59%, +2) and Italy (41%, +6, versus 48%, -3).



"The EU makes the quality of life better in Europe"

The opinion ratio for the EU's ability to make the quality of life better in Europe has widened from 45% versus 44% in spring 2014 to 49% versus 42% in this survey.

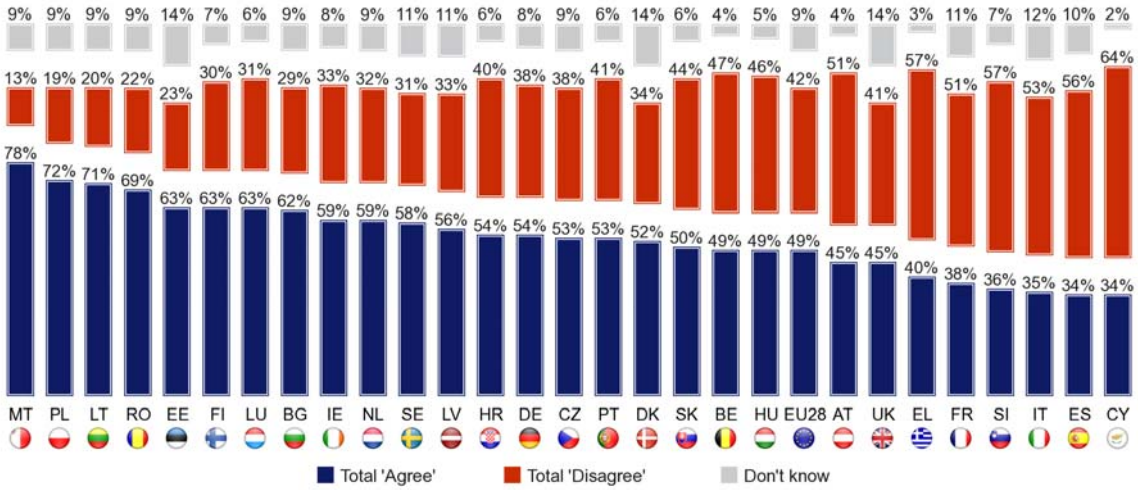
Positive opinions of the EU's measures to improve the quality of life have gained a little ground in the euro area countries, although they are still in a minority (44%, +2 percentage points, versus 47%, -2). They have increased more sharply in the non-euro area countries, where they are generally predominant (57%, +6, versus 32%, -3).

In this survey, the opinion ratio is now positive in five countries: the Czech Republic (53% "agree" versus 38%, compared with 47% versus 48% in spring 2014), Portugal (53% versus 41%, compared with 40% versus 53%), Slovakia (50% versus 44%, compared with 45% versus 51%), Hungary (49% versus 46%, compared with 45% versus 50%) and the United Kingdom (45% versus 41%, compared with 35% versus 43%). Positive opinions have gained the most ground in Portugal (+13 percentage points) and the United Kingdom (+10).

As a result of these evolutions, a majority of respondents in 21 Member States now consider that the EU benefits the quality of life. The highest score was recorded in Malta (78%, +2 percentage points) and support has increased most in Poland (72%, +6). However, the opinion ratio has narrowed considerably in Belgium (49% versus 47%, compared with 52% versus 43% in spring 2014).

Conversely, a majority of respondents in seven countries consider that the EU does not make the quality of life better in Europe: Cyprus (64% for total "disagree", +3 percentage points), Greece (57%, -2), Slovenia (57%, -5), Spain (56%, -2), Italy (53%, -3), France (51%, unchanged) and Austria (51%, =).

QA15.8. Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.
The EU makes the quality of life better in Europe



"The EU is creating the conditions for more jobs in Europe"

As a result of a six-point rise in positive opinions, the opinion ratio on the EU's measures to boost employment is now positive (from 41% versus 49% in spring 2014 to 47% versus 43% in this survey). The differential between positive and negative opinions on the EU's actions to create more jobs is now +4 compared with -8 in spring 2014, -12 in autumn 2013 and -19 in spring 2013.

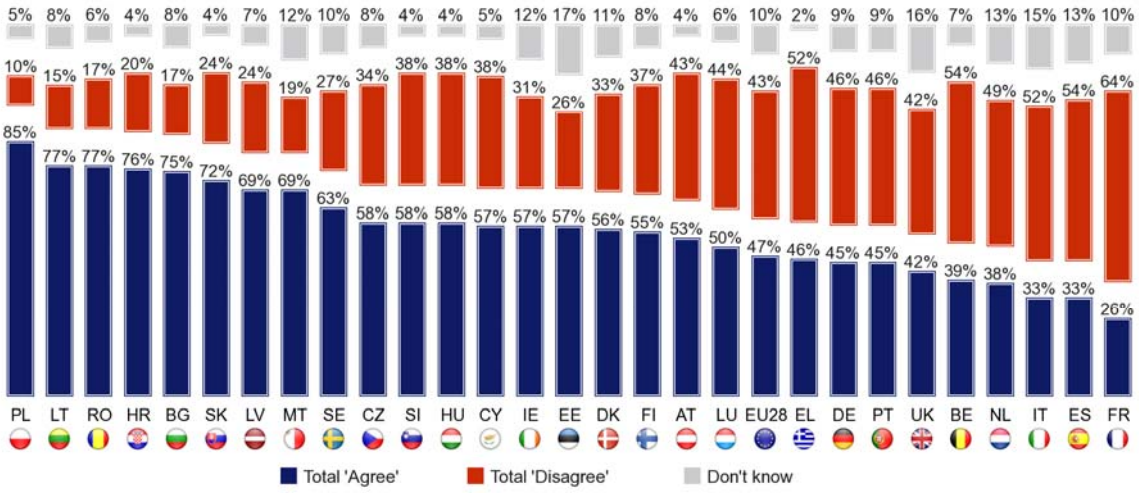
The existing majority of positive opinions about the EU's actions has increased sharply in the non-euro area countries (62% for total "agree", +8 percentage points). Positive opinions have also increased, albeit to a lesser extent (+4), in the euro area countries, where they are still outweighed by negative opinions (38% versus 51%).

As a result of seven and nine-point rises in positive opinions respectively, the opinion ratio is now positive in Austria (53% "agree" versus 43%, compared with 46% versus 49% in spring 2014), and is now evenly balanced in the United Kingdom (42% versus 42%, compared with 33% versus 47%).

In total a majority of respondents in 19 EU countries are positive about the EU's actions to boost employment, with the highest scores in Poland (85%, +11 percentage points), Lithuania (77%, +5) and Romania (77%, +9). In addition to the sharp rise noted in the United Kingdom, support for the EU's actions has gained significant ground in Slovakia (72%, +14), Poland (85%, +11), the Czech Republic (58%, +10), Romania (77%, +9), Croatia (76%, +8), Hungary (58%, +8) and Portugal (45%, +8).

A majority of respondents in eight countries continue to be critical of the EU's role in creating jobs: in France (64% "disagree", -3 percentage points), Spain (54%, -7), Belgium (54%, +2), Italy (52%, -5), Greece (52%, -2), the Netherlands (49%, stable, versus 38%, -3), Germany (46%, -6, versus 45%, +5) and Portugal (46%, -10, versus 45%, +8).

QA15.1. Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.
The EU is creating the conditions for more jobs in Europe



Negative representations associated with the EU

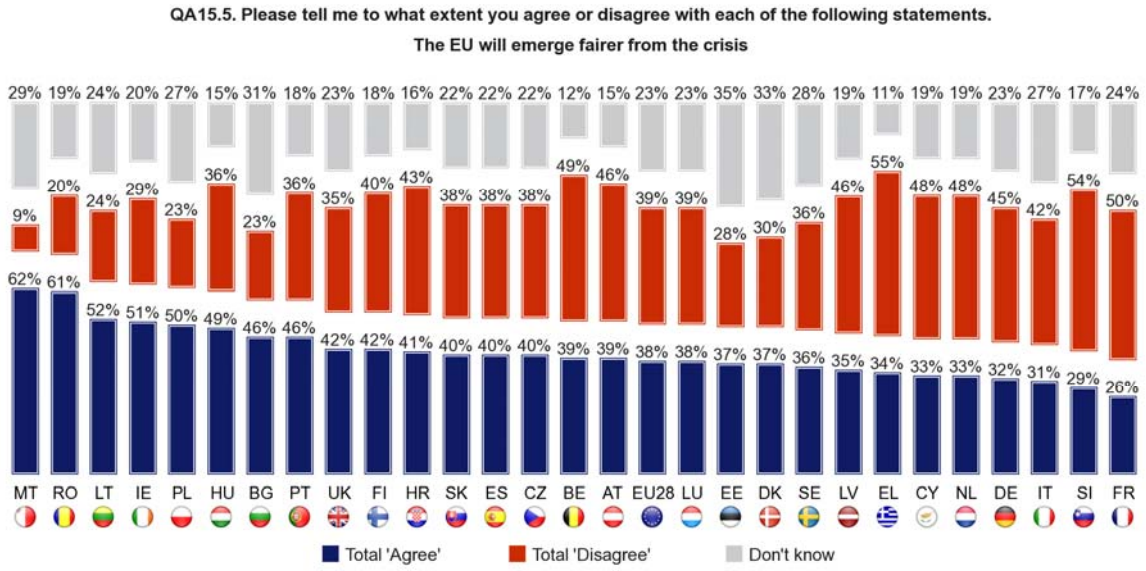
"The EU will emerge fairer from the crisis"

A narrow majority of Europeans continue to fear that the inequalities within the EU will not have diminished after the crisis, but this opinion is less widespread than in spring 2014: 39% of Europeans (-2 percentage points since spring 2014) think that the European Union will not emerge fairer from the crisis, while 38% (+3) are more optimistic. The "DK" rate (23%, -1) for this indicator remains high.

Expectations that the EU will be fairer after the crisis have gained ground in the non-euro area countries (47% "agree" versus 30%, compared with 41% versus 32% in spring 2014); in the euro area countries optimists remain in a minority, with a stable opinion ratio (33% versus 44%, compared with 33% versus 45%).

A majority of respondents agree that the EU will not emerge fairer from the crisis in 12 Member States (France, Slovenia, Italy, Germany, the Netherlands, Cyprus, Greece, Latvia, Luxembourg, Austria, Belgium and Croatia), compared with 16 in spring 2014. In this survey, positive expectations for the end of the crisis are now predominant in Portugal (46% think that the EU will emerge fairer from the crisis versus 36% who disagree, compared with 40% versus 43%), Slovakia (40% versus 38%, compared with 32% versus 46% in spring 2014), the Czech Republic (40% versus 38%, compared with 38% versus 42%) and Spain (40% versus 38%, compared with 33% versus 43%).

A majority of respondents in 16 Member States are now optimistic that the EU will be fairer, most notably in Malta (62%, -1 percentage point). This view has strengthened in particular in Romania (61%, +9), Bulgaria (46%, +8) and Slovakia (40%, +8).



"The EU is making the financial sector pay its fair share"

A majority of Europeans continue to believe that the EU is not making the financial sector pay its fair share: 47% of respondents (-1 percentage point) disagree that "the EU is making the financial sector pay its fair share", while 33% (+2) agree and 20% (-1) gave no answer. There are very pronounced differences between countries on this question.

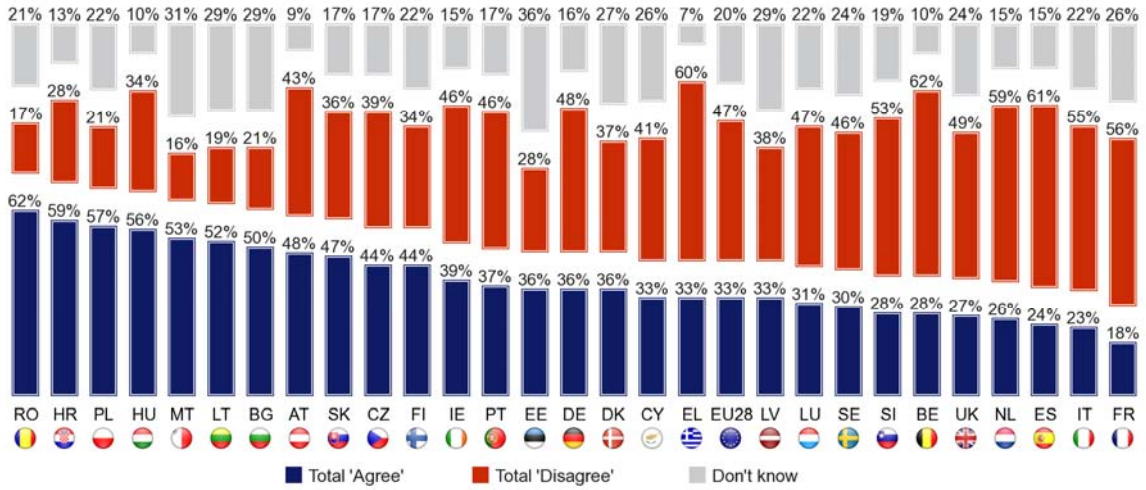
The idea that the EU is not making the financial sector pay its fair share remains generally predominant in the euro area countries, without any significant evolutions (53% "disagree", -1 percentage point), while a majority of respondents hold the opposite opinion in the non-euro area countries, where it has gained considerable ground (43% "agree" versus 35%, compared with 38% versus 36% in spring 2014).

The view that the financial sector is not contributing enough is shared by a majority of respondents in 16 Member States (as in spring 2014), with the highest scores in Belgium (62% "disagree", +4 percentage points), Spain (61%, -1), Greece (60%, +1) and the Netherlands (59%, unchanged).

The opinion ratio is now positive in Austria (48% "agree" versus 43%, compared with 35% versus 52% in spring 2014) and the Czech Republic (44% versus 39%, compared with 40% versus 42%), but is negative in Cyprus (33% versus 41%, compared with 40% versus 39%) and Denmark (36% versus 37%, compared with 41% versus 36%).

A majority of respondents agree that that the EU is making the financial sector pay its fair share in 12 EU countries, most notably in Romania (62%, +4 percentage points), Croatia (59%, +5) and Poland (57%, +8). As well as in Austria (+13), this opinion has gained significant ground in Bulgaria (50%, +9) and Poland (57%, +8).

QA15.6. Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.
The EU is making the financial sector pay its fair share



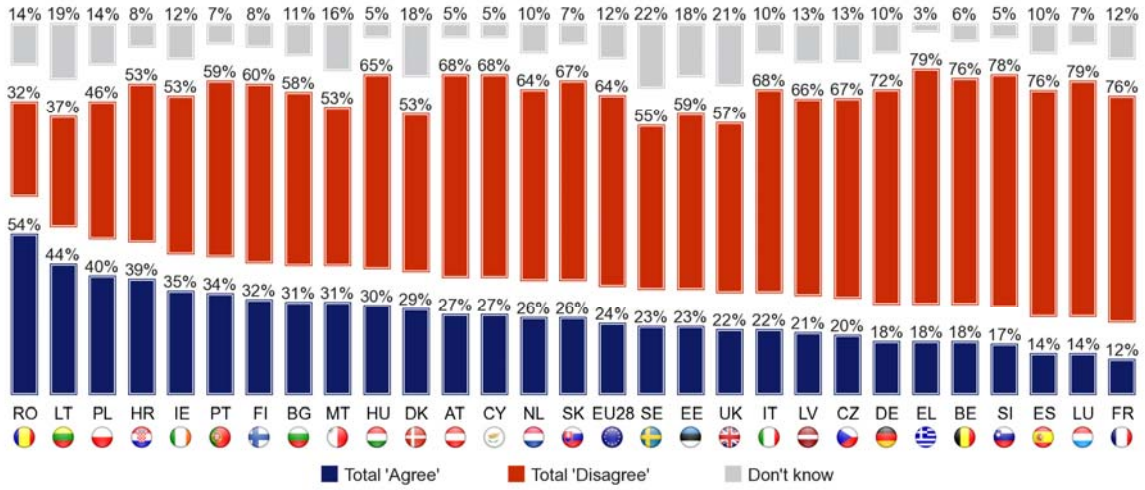
"The EU makes the cost of living cheaper in Europe"

64% of Europeans (-4 percentage points) consider that the EU has failed to "make the cost of living cheaper in Europe", while 24% (+4) take the opposite view and 12% (unchanged) expressed no opinion.

As in the spring 2014 survey, Romania (54%, +4 percentage points, versus 32%, -5) and Lithuania (44%, +4, versus 37%, -1) are the only two countries where a majority of respondents are positive about the EU's efforts to reduce the cost of living. **A majority of respondents in the remaining 26 countries** disagree that the "EU makes the cost of living cheaper in Europe". Respondents in Luxembourg (79% "disagree", +3), Greece (79%, +1) and Slovenia (78%, -5) are the most critical.

Support for the EU's actions has increased significantly in Portugal (34% "agree", +10 percentage points), Poland (40%, +7), Croatia (39%, +7), Finland (32%, +7), Austria (27%, +7) and the United Kingdom (22%, +7).

QA15.7. Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.
The EU makes the cost of living cheaper in Europe



"The EU is responsible for austerity in Europe"

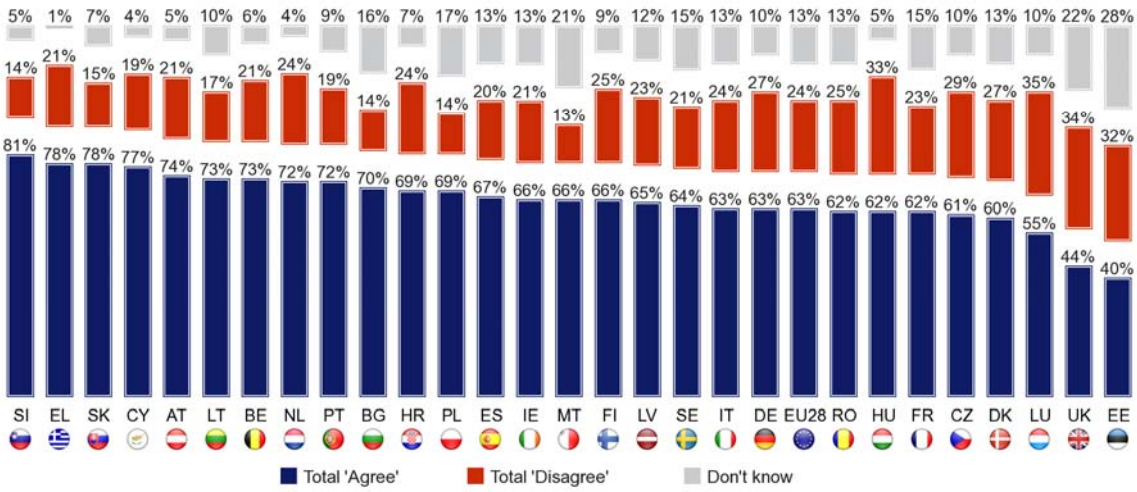
Almost two-thirds of Europeans (63%, +2 percentage points) agree that "the EU is responsible for austerity in Europe", while 24% (-2) do not share this opinion and 13% (unchanged) could not answer.

This perception, which is generally predominant within both groups of countries, is unchanged in the euro area countries (65%, unchanged) but has gained ground slightly in the non-euro area countries (58%, +2).

A majority of respondents agree with this statement in all Member States, led by Slovenia (81%, +5 percentage points), Greece (78%, -1) and Slovakia (78%, +9).

Compared with spring 2014, this opinion has gained significant ground in Austria (74%, +11 percentage points), Slovakia (78%, +9), Lithuania (73%, +9), Malta (66%, +8), Latvia (65%, +8) and the Czech Republic (61%, +8).

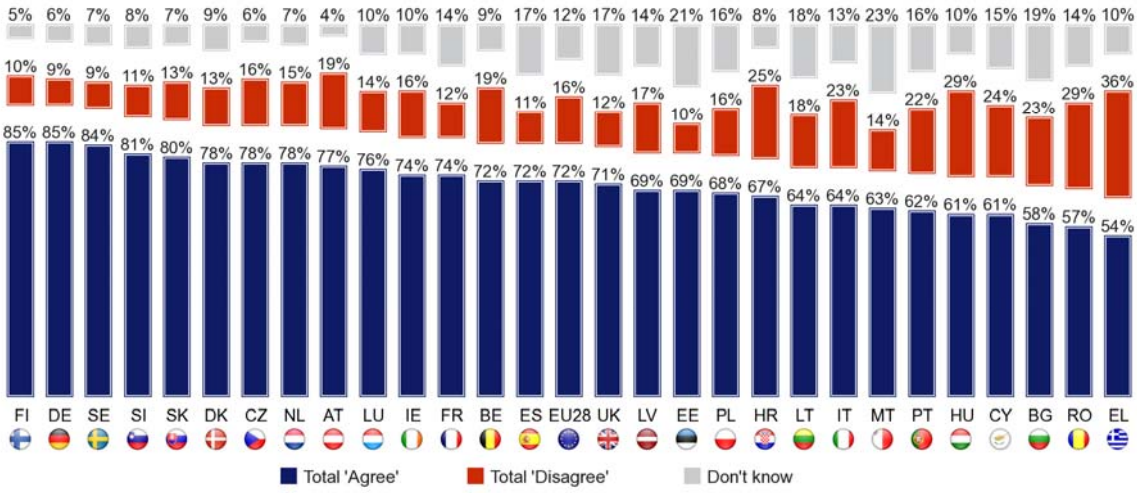
QA15.2. Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.
The EU is responsible for austerity in Europe



"The EU generates too much red tape in Europe"

With no major evolutions, the European Union continues to be seen as too bureaucratic by more than seven out of ten Europeans (72%, -1 percentage point), versus 16% (+1), while 12% (unchanged) expressed no opinion. A majority of respondents in all 28 Member States agree with this statement, in proportions ranging from 85% in Germany (=) and Finland (+4) to 54% in Greece (-4). This opinion has gained ground in the Czech Republic (78%, +6) and Bulgaria (58%, +6), but weakened in Portugal (62%, -8).

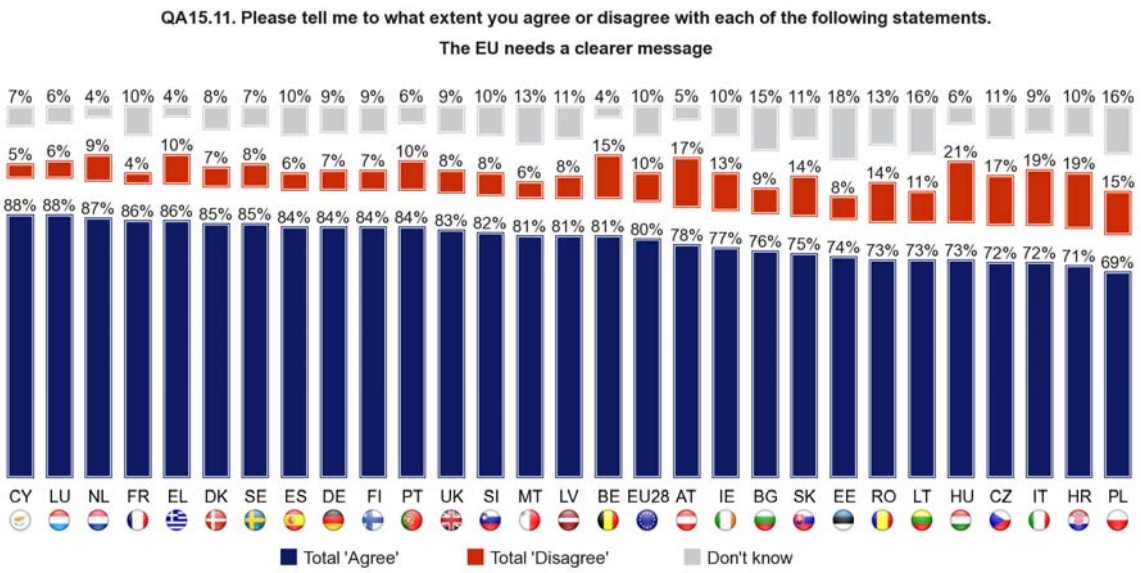
QA15.4. Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.
The EU generates too much red tape



"The EU needs a clearer message"

Eight out of ten Europeans (80%, +1 percentage point) agree that "the EU needs a clearer message", while 10% (-1) see no need for a clearer message and a further 10% (unchanged) expressed no opinion.

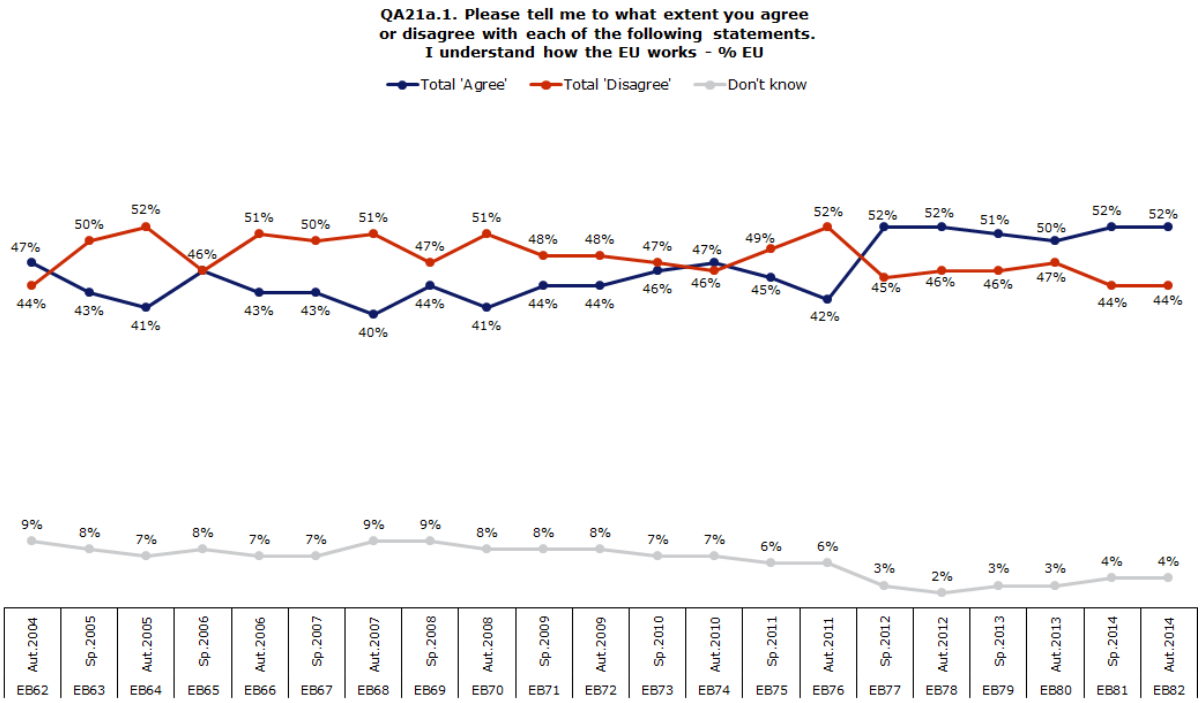
At least two-thirds of respondents in all 28 Member States want a clearer message from the EU, with scores ranging from 88% in Cyprus (+3 percentage points) and Luxembourg (+2) to 69% in Poland (+8). In addition to the sharp rise in this last country, support for this view has increased in particular in Hungary (73%, +11) and Bulgaria (76%, +7).



3. KNOWLEDGE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

3.1. Knowledge of how the EU works

A majority of Europeans say that they know how the EU works: 52%, unchanged since spring 2014, while 44% do not understand how it works and 4% expressed no opinion.



A majority of respondents feel that they understand how the EU works in 22 Member States (against 24 in spring 2014), with the highest scores in Sweden (72%, -1 percentage point), Luxembourg (68%, +1) and Poland (68%, -3).

A majority of respondents now disagree with the statement "I understand how the EU works" in Portugal (50% "disagree" versus 48%, compared with 47% versus 52% in spring 2014) and Malta (48% versus 44%, compared with 47% versus 49%). A majority of respondents in Italy (56%, -2 percentage points), Spain (53%, -2), France (51%, -5) and the Czech Republic (49%, -3, versus 46%, +1) continue to disagree with this statement. The proportion of respondents who feel that they understand how the EU works has increased the most significantly in Romania (62%, +7 percentage points).

Understanding how the EU works continues to depend on the respondent's level of education (31% of those who left school at the age of 15 or earlier, 50% of those who completed their studies between the ages of 16 and 19, and 65% of those who studied up to the age of 20 and beyond) and social status (42% of respondents who say they are working class, 58% of people identifying as middle class and 70% of those who say they are upper middle class).

QA21a.1 Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

I understand how the EU works

	Total 'Agree'	Total 'Disagree'	Don't know
EU28	52%	44%	4%
Gender			
Man	60%	37%	3%
Woman	45%	50%	5%
Age			
15-24	55%	40%	5%
25-39	57%	39%	4%
40-54	55%	42%	3%
55 +	45%	51%	4%
Education (End of)			
15-	31%	64%	5%
16-19	50%	46%	4%
20+	65%	32%	3%
Still studying	59%	37%	4%
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	61%	36%	3%
Managers	70%	28%	2%
Other white collars	57%	39%	4%
Manual workers	51%	45%	4%
House persons	33%	61%	6%
Unemployed	44%	52%	4%
Retired	45%	50%	5%
Students	59%	37%	4%
Consider belonging to			
The working class	42%	54%	4%
The lower middle class	49%	48%	3%
The middle class	58%	38%	4%
The upper middle class	70%	27%	3%
The upper class	79%	21%	0%

The following table shows the results by socio-demographic criteria in the European Union as a whole (EU28 average), in the six largest EU countries and in countries benefiting or having benefited from European Union assistance to overcome the financial and economic crisis.

QA21a.1. Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.
I understand how the EU works
Answer: Total 'Agree'

	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
TOTAL	52%	53%	42%	45%	38%	68%	50%	60%	48%	60%	61%
Gender											
Male	60%	60%	49%	53%	44%	77%	60%	68%	56%	68%	71%
Female	45%	45%	37%	38%	32%	60%	41%	54%	41%	53%	52%
Age											
15-24	55%	53%	46%	55%	36%	71%	55%	61%	60%	56%	60%
25-39	57%	57%	49%	48%	48%	75%	55%	69%	55%	63%	61%
40-54	55%	55%	47%	50%	42%	72%	50%	73%	48%	65%	69%
55 +	45%	47%	34%	37%	30%	59%	44%	47%	40%	55%	57%
Education (End of)											
15-	31%	40%	26%	23%	16%	32%	34%	40%	37%	43%	39%
16-19	50%	49%	42%	43%	41%	65%	47%	67%	60%	55%	61%
20+	65%	68%	68%	52%	57%	77%	60%	74%	68%	73%	72%
Still studying	59%	55%	55%	61%	44%	76%	62%	61%	64%	63%	63%
Socio-professional category											
Self-employed	61%	54%	56%	64%	52%	81%	53%	77%	54%	68%	64%
Managers	70%	68%	86%	63%	73%	83%	62%	81%	73%	76%	81%
Other white collars	57%	54%	56%	36%	49%	72%	47%	76%	71%	73%	71%
Manual workers	51%	51%	50%	39%	34%	69%	53%	57%	44%	57%	68%
House persons	33%	40%	17%	28%	21%	64%	37%	42%	4%	47%	46%
Unemployed	44%	46%	38%	52%	26%	59%	37%	61%	40%	50%	44%
Retired	45%	49%	33%	37%	27%	56%	46%	49%	38%	55%	60%
Students	59%	55%	55%	61%	44%	76%	62%	61%	64%	63%	63%

3.2. Objective knowledge of the European Union

In order to measure their objective knowledge of the European Union, respondents were asked to say whether each of three statements was true or false. These statements were "the EU currently consists of 28 Member States"; "the members of the European Parliament are directly elected by the citizens of each Member State"; and "Switzerland is a member of the EU".

After the sharp improvement noted in the spring 2014 survey, a consequence of the recently held European elections and the information provided on that occasion, **the level of objective knowledge of the EU has declined slightly this time:** 36% of Europeans (-3 percentage points) gave three right answers. In five Member States, Slovenia (60%, -2), Luxembourg (58%, -3), Croatia (56%, -4), Slovakia (51%, -2) and Portugal (50%, +1), an absolute majority of respondents gave three right answers. The proportion of respondents giving three right answers has fallen sharply in France (32%, -12) and Denmark (44%, -10).

In detail, after a very striking improvement in spring 2014 at the time of the European elections, knowledge of the way in which MEPs are elected has fallen sharply. Knowledge of the number of Member States has increased slightly, by two percentage points, while awareness of the fact that Switzerland is not a member of the EU is stable[41].

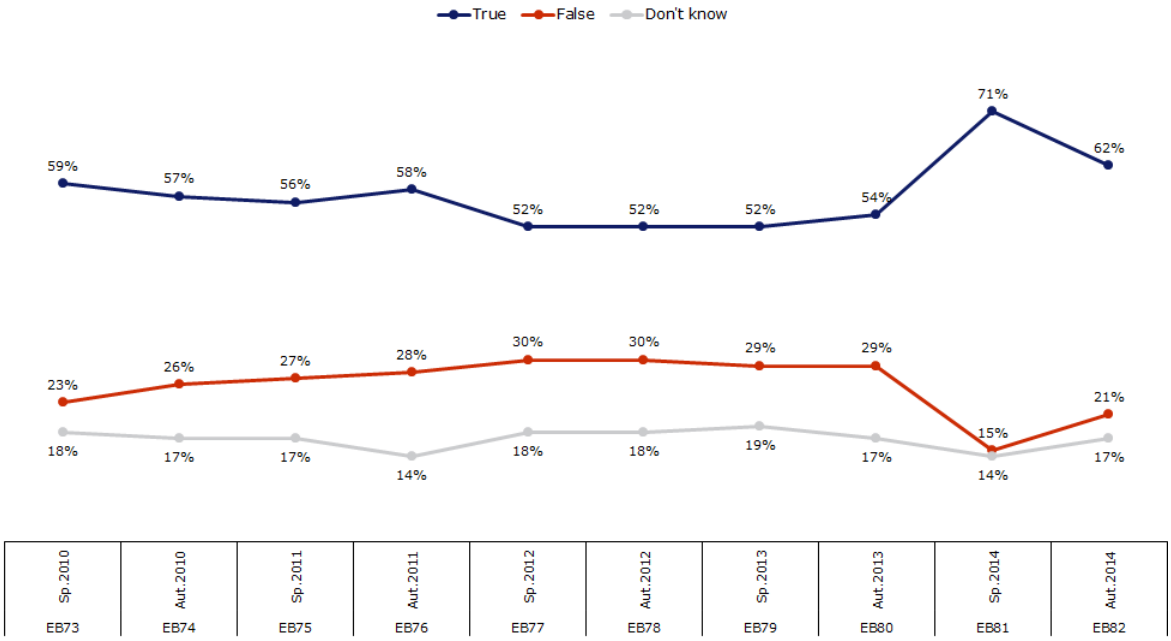
<u>"The members of the European Parliament are directly elected by the citizens of each Member State"</u>

62% of Europeans (-9 percentage points) know that MEPs are directly elected by the citizens of each Member State. Although slightly below the historical peak measured in spring 2014, this is still among the highest levels recorded in recent years.

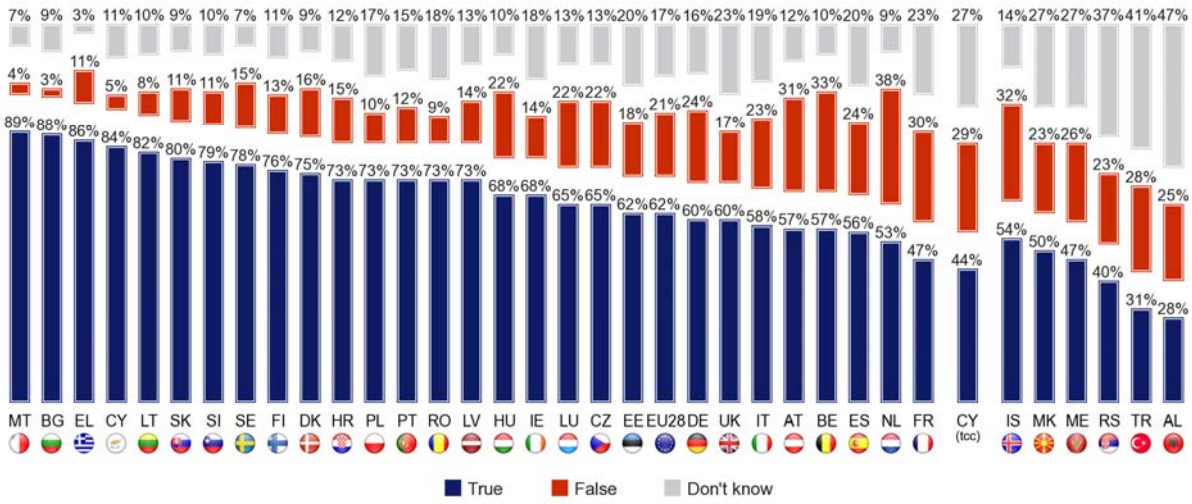
A majority of respondents in all 28 Member States know how MEPs are elected, with an absolute majority in 27 of them and scores ranging from 89% in Malta (-7 percentage points) to 53% in the Netherlands (-19). The proportion of right answers has fallen below 50% in France, though it is still in the majority, after a sharp decline (47%, -15, after a rise of 18 percentage points between autumn 2013 and spring 2014). As well as in the Netherlands and France, the proportion of right answers has declined sharply in Estonia (62%, -16), Denmark (75%, -15), Spain (56%, -14), the Czech Republic (65%, -13), Croatia (73%, -12), Slovenia (79%, -11), Hungary (68%, -11), Luxembourg (65%, -11), Belgium (57%, -11) and Latvia (73%, -10). In total, awareness of how MEPs are elected has declined in 27 Member States. Bulgaria is the only exception (88%, +1).

[41] QA18.1-2-3. For each of the following statements about the EU, would you please tell me whether you think it is true or false.

QA18.2. For each of the following statements about the EU could you please tell me whether you think it is true or false. The members of the European Parliament are directly elected by the citizens of each Member State - % EU

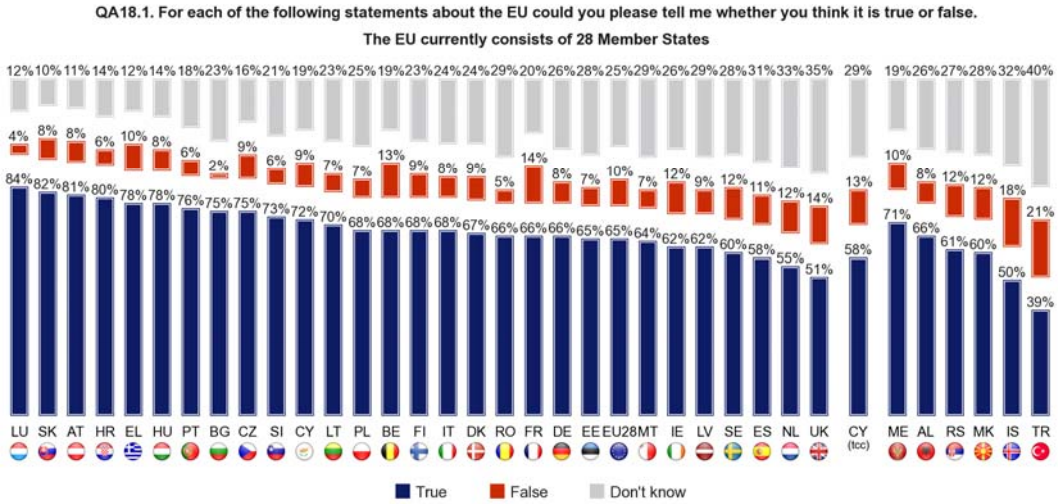


QA18.2. For each of the following statements about the EU could you please tell me whether you think it is true or false. The members of the European Parliament are directly elected by the citizens of each Member State



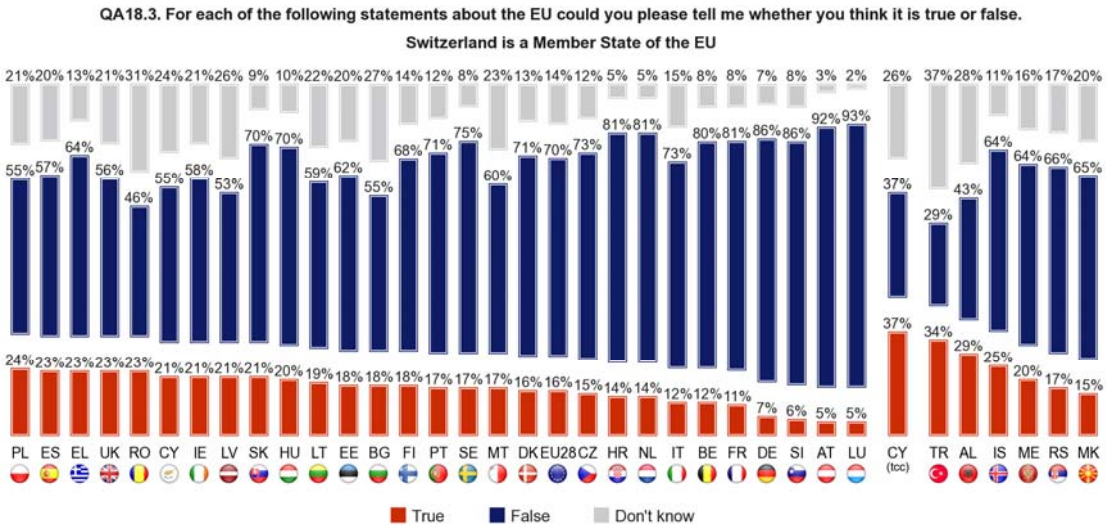
"The EU currently consists of 28 Member States"

Almost two-thirds of Europeans (65%, +2 percentage points) know that the EU currently consists of 28 Member States, while 25% (-2) said they did not know and 10% (unchanged) gave the wrong answer. An absolute majority of respondents gave the right answer in all Member States (against 27 in spring 2014). The highest scores were recorded in Luxembourg (84%, +4) and Slovakia (82%, unchanged), while the lowest score was recorded in the United Kingdom (51%), a country which has nevertheless recorded its steepest improvement (+9), as a result of which a majority of respondents now know the right answer. In total the proportion of right answers has increased in 15 Member States.



"Switzerland is a member of the EU"

70% of Europeans (unchanged since spring 2014) know that Switzerland is not a member of the European Union, while 16% (+2 percentage points) gave the wrong answer and 14% (-2) said they did not know. An absolute majority of respondents gave the right answer in 27 Member States (against 26 in spring 2014), in proportions ranging from 93% in Luxembourg (+2) to 53% in Latvia (+4). Romania is now the only country where less than half of the people polled know that Switzerland is not a member of the EU (46%, -2), but right answers still form the majority. The proportion of right answers has increased the most strikingly in Hungary (70%, +5) and the United Kingdom (56%, +5).



In the **candidate countries**:

- An absolute majority of respondents know the **number of EU Member States**, except in Turkey where only 39% gave the right answer (+4 percentage points);
- Respondents are less familiar with the **method of electing MEPs**: an absolute majority gave the right answer in Iceland (54%, -6 percentage points) and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (50%, -6). Levels of knowledge are particularly low in Albania, where the question was asked for the first time (28%), and in Turkey (31%, -1);
- In Turkey (29%, +6 percentage points), only a minority of respondents know that **Switzerland is not a member of the European Union**. In Albania, a simple majority of respondents gave the right answer (43%), compared with around two-thirds of people polled in the other candidate countries.

QA18. For each of the following statements about the EU could you please tell me whether you think it is true or false.
Correct answers

	The EU currently consists of 28 Member States		The members of the European Parliament are directly elected by the citizens of each Member State		Switzerland is a Member State of the EU	
	True	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014	True	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014	False	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014
EU28	65%	+2	62%	-9	70%	=
BE	68%	+4	57%	-11	80%	+2
BG	75%	+4	88%	+1	55%	+2
CZ	75%	+2	65%	-13	73%	+4
DK	67%	-5	75%	-15	71%	-5
DE	66%	=	60%	-4	86%	-2
EE	65%	-2	62%	-16	62%	+2
IE	62%	-2	68%	-8	58%	-3
EL	78%	+5	86%	-8	64%	-2
ES	58%	+1	56%	-14	57%	=
FR	66%	-3	47%	-15	81%	=
HR	80%	+2	73%	-12	81%	+2
IT	68%	+3	58%	-7	73%	+1
CY	72%	+2	84%	-8	55%	+3
LV	62%	-5	73%	-10	53%	+4
LT	70%	-1	82%	-7	59%	=
LU	84%	+4	65%	-11	93%	+2
HU	78%	+4	68%	-11	70%	+5
MT	64%	-2	89%	-7	60%	-1
NL	55%	-1	53%	-19	81%	+2
AT	81%	+2	57%	-9	92%	-2
PL	68%	=	73%	-8	55%	-4
PT	76%	+3	73%	-6	71%	+3
RO	66%	+1	73%	-9	46%	-2
SI	73%	-1	79%	-11	86%	+3
SK	82%	=	80%	-7	70%	=
FI	68%	+4	76%	-4	68%	+1
SE	60%	-3	78%	-9	75%	=
UK	51%	+9	60%	-3	56%	+5
CY (tcc)	58%	-5	44%	-6	37%	-4
AL	66%	NA*	28%	NA*	43%	NA*
MK	60%	+8	50%	-6	65%	=
IS	50%	+1	54%	-6	64%	-4
ME	71%	+4	47%	+1	64%	-7
RS	61%	+4	40%	=	66%	-5
TR	39%	+4	31%	-1	29%	+6

** NA = Not asked: this question was not asked in this country during the previous survey*

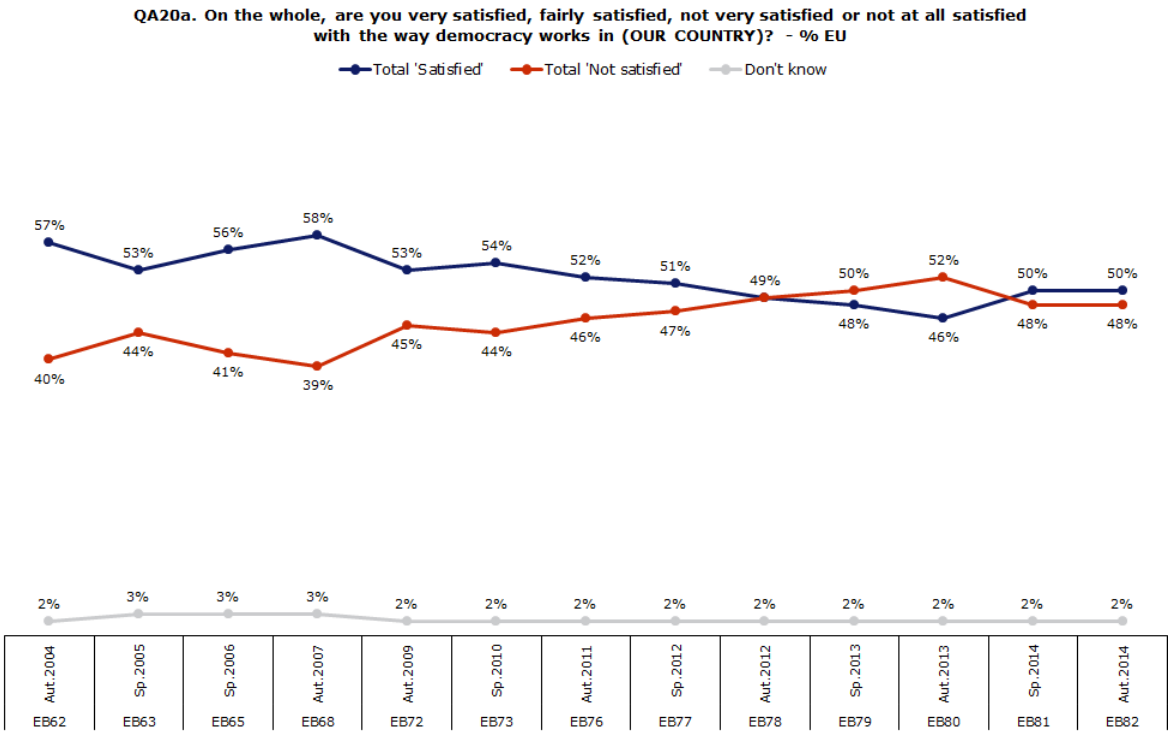
4. DEMOCRACY IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

4.1. The way in which democracy works

The way in which democracy works at national level

- The opinion ratio for satisfaction with how democracy works at national level is stable -

After two surveys in which it was negative, the opinion ratio on how democracy works at national level became positive again in spring 2014. It remains stable in this survey, since **half of Europeans (50%, unchanged) are satisfied with the way in which democracy works in their country,** while 48% are dissatisfied and 2% expressed no opinion[42].



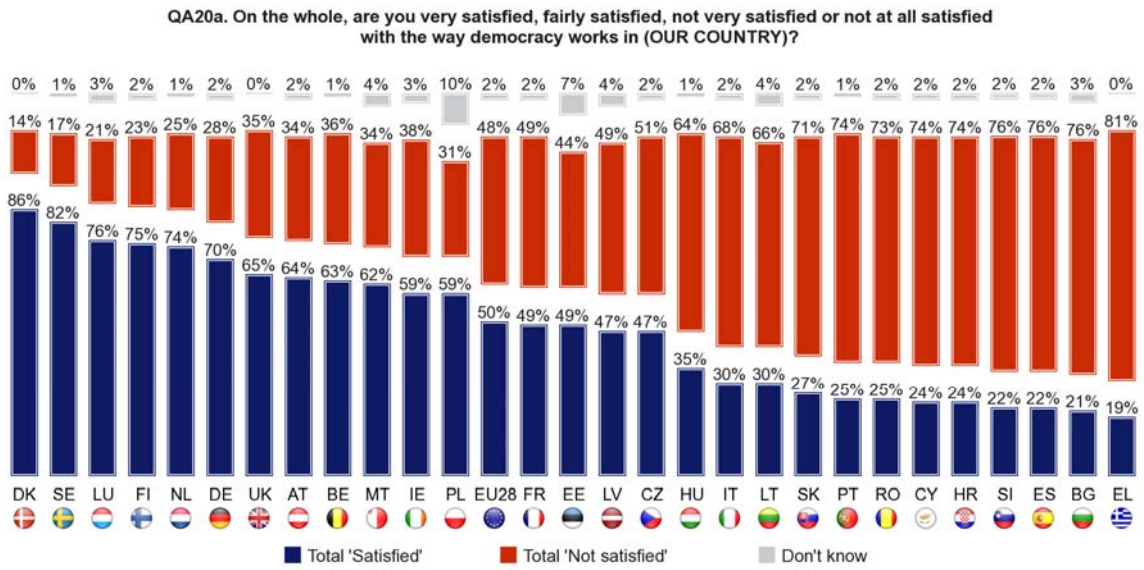
A majority of non-euro area respondents remain satisfied with how democracy works in their country, and this majority has actually increased (54%, +4 percentage points, versus 43%, -3). The opinion ratio is stable in the euro area countries, where it remains slightly negative (48%, -1, versus 50%, unchanged).

[42] QA20a. On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the way democracy works in (OUR COUNTRY)?

A majority of respondents are satisfied with the way their national democracy works in 13 Member States led by the Nordic countries (86% in Denmark, -2 percentage points; 82% in Sweden, -2; 75% in Finland, -5), the Benelux countries (76% in Luxembourg, -6; 74% in the Netherlands, -6; 63% in Belgium, -3), Germany (70%, -2), the United Kingdom (65%, +4) and Austria (64%, unchanged). Satisfaction has increased in Poland (59%, +7), but has decreased in particular in Malta (62%, -10) and Estonia (49%, -8, versus 44%, +4).

A majority of respondents in 14 EU countries remain dissatisfied, most notably in Greece (81%, +1 percentage point), Bulgaria (76%, -1), Spain (76%, +7) and Slovenia (76%, -2). The most significant shifts in levels of dissatisfaction were recorded in two countries where dissatisfied respondents are in a minority: in Malta 34%, +10) and Poland (31%, -10).

Opinions are evenly balanced in France (49% versus 49%) whereas the opinion ratio was positive in spring 2014 (52% versus 46%).



A socio-demographic analysis reveals that social divisions significantly influence satisfaction with how national democracies work: 65% of managers, 60% of those who identify themselves as upper middle class, 58% of those who almost never have difficulties paying their bills and 57% of those who studied up to the age of 20 and beyond are satisfied with the way democracy works in their country, whereas 69% of those who regularly struggle to pay their bills, 57% of those who left school at the age of 15 or earlier and 56% of those who identify themselves as working class are dissatisfied.

QA20a On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the way democracy works in (OUR COUNTRY)?

	Total 'Satisfied'	Total 'Not satisfied'	Don't know
EU28	50%	48%	2%
EURO AREA	48%	50%	2%
NON-EURO AREA	54%	43%	3%
Gender			
Man	50%	48%	2%
Woman	49%	48%	3%
Age			
15-24	51%	46%	3%
25-39	49%	49%	2%
40-54	50%	49%	1%
55 +	50%	47%	3%
Education (End of)			
15-	40%	57%	3%
16-19	49%	49%	2%
20+	57%	41%	2%
Still studying	54%	43%	3%
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	49%	50%	1%
Managers	65%	34%	1%
Other white collars	55%	44%	1%
Manual workers	48%	50%	2%
House persons	40%	57%	3%
Unemployed	37%	60%	3%
Retired	49%	48%	3%
Students	54%	43%	3%
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	28%	69%	3%
From time to time	42%	56%	2%
Almost never/ Never	58%	40%	2%
Consider belonging to			
The working class	41%	56%	3%
The lower middle class	50%	48%	2%
The middle class	54%	44%	2%
The upper middle class	60%	38%	2%
The upper class	63%	36%	1%

The following table shows the results by socio-demographic criteria in the European Union as a whole (EU28 average), in the six largest EU countries and in countries benefiting or having benefited from European Union assistance to overcome the financial and economic crisis.

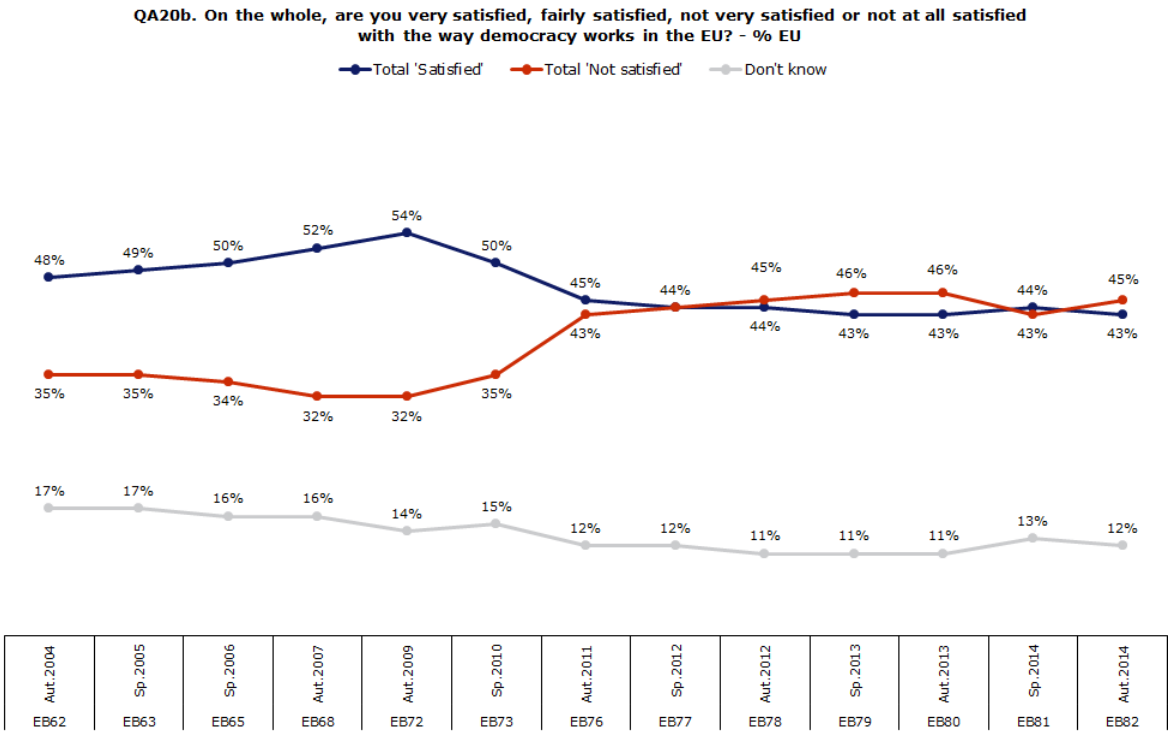
QA20a. On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the way democracy works in (OUR COUNTRY)?
Answer: Total 'Satisfied'

	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
TOTAL	50%	70%	22%	49%	30%	59%	65%	19%	25%	59%	24%
Gender											
Male	50%	71%	22%	51%	30%	59%	65%	19%	28%	61%	26%
Female	49%	71%	23%	47%	29%	59%	65%	19%	23%	56%	23%
Age											
15-24	51%	68%	18%	44%	34%	65%	62%	21%	30%	59%	17%
25-39	49%	67%	22%	52%	32%	63%	68%	18%	32%	57%	20%
40-54	50%	72%	24%	48%	27%	59%	65%	19%	21%	63%	25%
55 +	50%	73%	22%	49%	29%	51%	65%	18%	21%	57%	32%
Education (End of)											
15-	40%	73%	24%	41%	25%	39%	59%	19%	18%	46%	21%
16-19	49%	67%	22%	47%	31%	52%	63%	17%	33%	57%	27%
20+	57%	76%	21%	53%	35%	66%	69%	20%	33%	67%	28%
Still studying	54%	72%	22%	46%	32%	74%	72%	17%	32%	61%	14%
Socio-professional category											
Self-employed	49%	76%	26%	53%	31%	64%	65%	24%	25%	71%	15%
Managers	65%	77%	28%	56%	45%	76%	73%	31%	37%	66%	23%
Other white collars	55%	70%	32%	51%	36%	69%	68%	22%	41%	68%	31%
Manual workers	48%	65%	23%	45%	29%	52%	64%	14%	22%	50%	33%
House persons	40%	75%	22%	33%	20%	54%	71%	18%	14%	57%	28%
Unemployed	37%	58%	17%	50%	19%	40%	53%	13%	16%	50%	16%
Retired	49%	73%	22%	49%	30%	50%	64%	17%	21%	60%	27%
Students	54%	72%	22%	46%	32%	74%	72%	17%	32%	61%	14%

The way democracy works in the European Union

- The opinion ratio for satisfaction with how democracy works in the EU is now negative -

Although the indicators measuring the European Union's image and trust in the EU have both improved in this survey, there has been no such improvement in satisfaction with how democracy works in the EU. As a result of a two-point increase in negative opinions (45% "dissatisfied"), combined with a one-point fall in positive opinions (43%), the opinion ratio is now negative at -2, compared with +1 in spring 2014[43]. **Opinions have been fairly evenly divided since the Standard Eurobarometer survey of autumn 2011 (EB76), with the opinion ratio varying between -3 and +2 over this period.** Before that, it had remained generally positive between autumn 2004 (EB62) and spring 2010 (EB73), ranging between +13 and +22.



The opinion ratio continues to be negative and has deteriorated slightly in the euro area countries (39% versus 49%, compared with 41% versus 48% in spring 2014). In contrast, it remains positive in the non-euro area countries, despite a decrease in the satisfaction index (52% versus 37%, compared with 50% versus 33%).

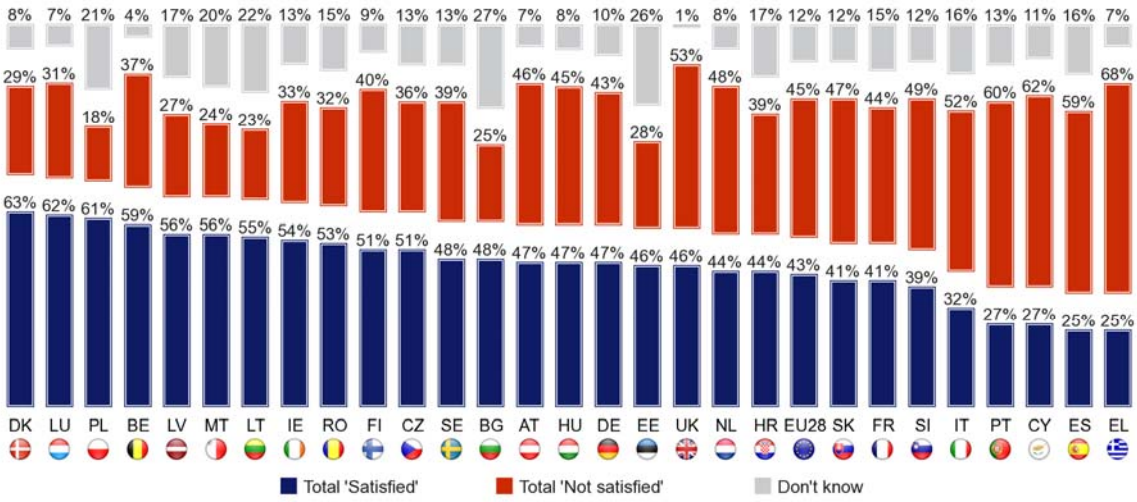
[43] QA20b. And the way democracy works in the EU?

A majority of respondents are now dissatisfied in the Netherlands (48%, +5 percentage points, versus 44%, -7) and Slovenia (49%, +6, versus 39%, -12). In contrast, although it remains very close, the opinion ratio is now positive in Germany (47% versus 43%, compared with 44% versus 46%) and Austria (47% versus 46%, compared with 46% versus 47%).

A majority of respondents are satisfied with the way democracy works in the EU in a total of 18 Member States (as in spring 2014), led by Denmark (63%, -3 percentage points), Luxembourg (62%, +3), Poland (61%, unchanged) and Belgium (59%, -3). However, within these 18 countries, satisfaction has fallen sharply in Estonia (46%, -12), Croatia (44%, -11), Malta (56%, -7) and Romania (53%, -7).

Respondents are predominantly dissatisfied in ten countries, most notably in Greece (68%, -2 percentage points), Cyprus (62%, +3) and Portugal (60%, -4).

QA20b. On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the way democracy works in the EU?



A socio-demographic analysis reveals similar trends to those found in the case of national democracy. A majority of respondents in the most disadvantaged categories of the European population continue to be dissatisfied with the way democracy works in the EU: 57% of those who struggle to pay their bills most of the time, 52% of unemployed people, 50% of those who identify themselves as working class and 47% (versus 44%) of those who see themselves as lower middle class.

Conversely, the most advantaged categories of Europeans are satisfied: 52% of those who see themselves as upper middle class, 53% of managers, 48% (versus 42%) of those who almost never have difficulties paying their bills.

Age also plays an important role in shaping satisfaction with democracy at European level: a majority of respondents aged 15-24 (51% "satisfied" versus 37%) and 25-39 (47% versus 44%) are satisfied, whereas 40-54 year-olds (43% versus 48% "dissatisfied") and those aged 55 or over (39% versus 46%) are predominantly dissatisfied.

QA20b On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the way democracy works in the EU?

	Total 'Satisfied'	Total 'Not satisfied'	Don't know
EU28	43%	45%	12%
EURO AREA	39%	49%	12%
NON-EURO AREA	52%	37%	11%
Gender			
Man	45%	46%	9%
Woman	42%	43%	15%
Age			
15-24	51%	37%	12%
25-39	47%	44%	9%
40-54	43%	48%	9%
55 +	39%	46%	15%
Education (End of)			
15-	31%	51%	18%
16-19	42%	46%	12%
20+	50%	41%	9%
Still studying	54%	36%	10%
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	47%	45%	8%
Managers	53%	41%	6%
Other white collars	49%	42%	9%
Manual workers	43%	45%	12%
House persons	34%	47%	19%
Unemployed	35%	52%	13%
Retired	38%	46%	16%
Students	54%	36%	10%
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	27%	57%	16%
From time to time	39%	48%	13%
Almost never/ Never	48%	42%	10%
Consider belonging to			
The working class	36%	50%	14%
The lower middle class	44%	47%	9%
The middle class	47%	41%	12%
The upper middle class	52%	42%	6%
The upper class	53%	45%	2%

The following table shows the results by socio-demographic criteria in the European Union as a whole (EU28 average), in the six largest EU countries and in countries benefiting or having benefited from European Union assistance into overcome the financial and economic crisis.

QA20b. On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the way democracy works in the EU?
Answer: Total 'Satisfied'

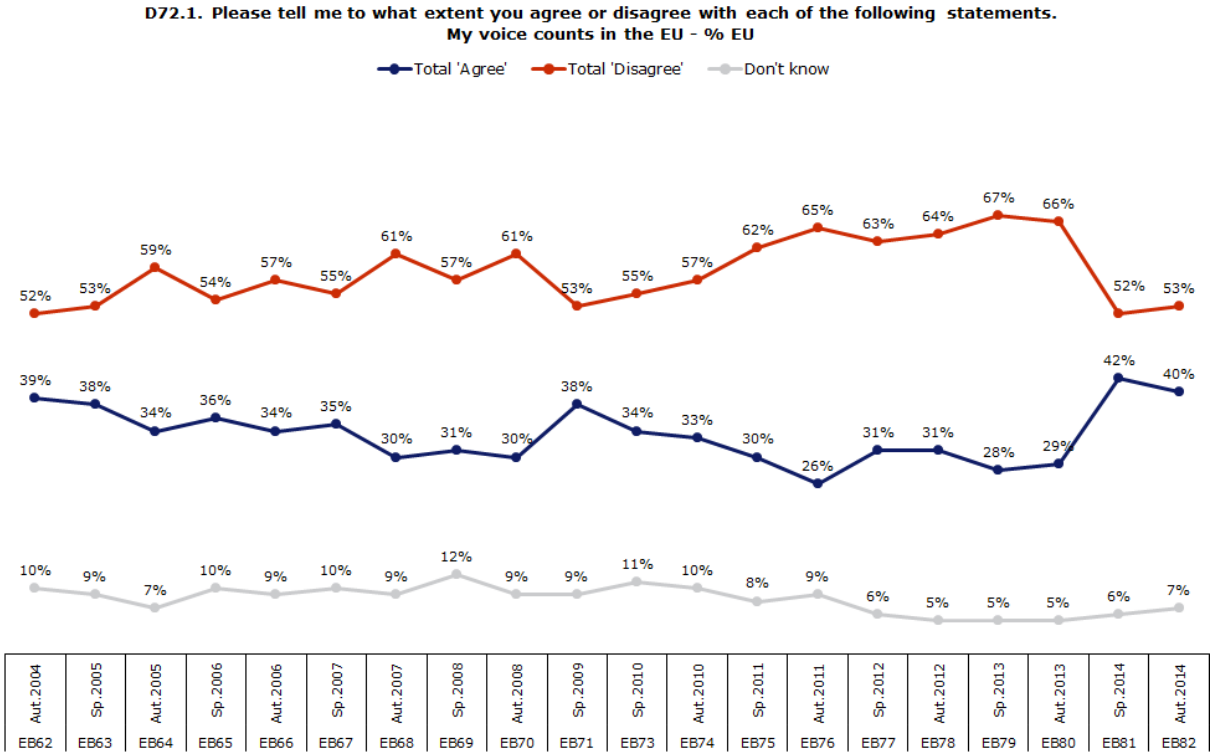
	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
TOTAL	43%	47%	25%	41%	32%	61%	46%	25%	27%	54%	27%
Gender											
Male	45%	48%	27%	45%	32%	63%	45%	24%	29%	55%	31%
Female	42%	47%	23%	38%	31%	60%	46%	26%	26%	53%	23%
Age											
15-24	51%	54%	30%	46%	36%	68%	60%	32%	39%	57%	32%
25-39	47%	41%	26%	42%	37%	68%	57%	27%	35%	56%	20%
40-54	43%	47%	26%	42%	33%	64%	44%	22%	25%	56%	27%
55 +	39%	47%	22%	38%	26%	52%	33%	23%	21%	50%	31%
Education (End of)											
15-	31%	43%	23%	28%	21%	38%	34%	17%	21%	41%	18%
16-19	42%	45%	25%	39%	34%	58%	40%	22%	33%	51%	26%
20+	50%	50%	25%	46%	42%	69%	57%	32%	42%	65%	29%
Still studying	54%	58%	38%	50%	36%	70%	64%	32%	43%	58%	36%
Socio-professional category											
Self-employed	47%	56%	28%	46%	40%	65%	48%	29%	34%	57%	25%
Managers	53%	48%	36%	49%	45%	78%	51%	37%	38%	65%	21%
Other white collars	49%	46%	41%	42%	41%	69%	51%	26%	46%	70%	34%
Manual workers	43%	42%	28%	37%	34%	60%	48%	17%	27%	48%	26%
House persons	34%	45%	17%	29%	20%	68%	49%	20%	7%	49%	26%
Unemployed	35%	49%	17%	38%	21%	42%	45%	22%	18%	40%	18%
Retired	38%	45%	21%	40%	24%	54%	32%	23%	20%	53%	27%
Students	54%	58%	38%	50%	36%	70%	64%	32%	43%	58%	36%

4.2. Taking account of personal interests?

- The feeling that "my voice counts in the EU" remains at one the highest levels recorded -

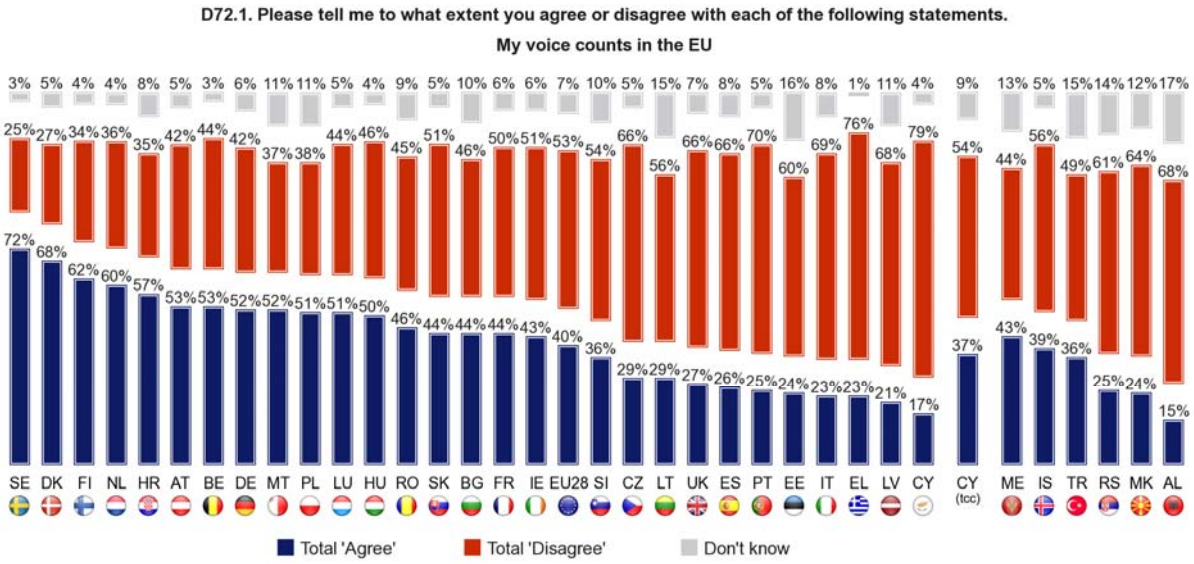
The feeling that "my voice counts in the EU"

Having gained significant ground (+13 percentage points) and reaching an historical high of 42% in the Standard Eurobarometer survey of spring 2014 following the European elections that May[44], **the proportion of respondents who believe that their voice counts in the EU has fallen only slightly (40%, -2 percentage points)** and accordingly remains at a fairly high level: this is the second highest score since 2004 after the 42% recorded in spring 2014. However, the proportion of Europeans who believe that their voice does not count in the EU has increased by one percentage point to 53%[45].



[44] The Standard Eurobarometer survey of spring 2014 was carried out between 31 May and 14 June 2014, just after the European elections which were held between 22 and 25 May 2014.
[45] D72.1. Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. My voice counts in the EU.

Only a minority of respondents in France (44%, -10 percentage points, versus 50%, +8) and Bulgaria (44%, +2, versus 46%, +5) now think that their voice counts in the EU. In contrast, a majority of respondents are now positive in Poland, following a 7-point increase (51% versus 38%, compared with 44% versus 45% in spring 2014), and, following an 11-point rise in both countries, in Hungary (50% versus 46%, compared with 39% versus 58%) and Romania (46% versus 45%, compared with 35% versus 57%). Fewer respondents believe their voce counts in the EU in 15 countries, most notably in Portugal (25%, -12) and France (44%, -10), but more do so in 12 countries, in particular in Hungary (50%, +11), Romania (46%, +11) and Ireland (43%, +10).

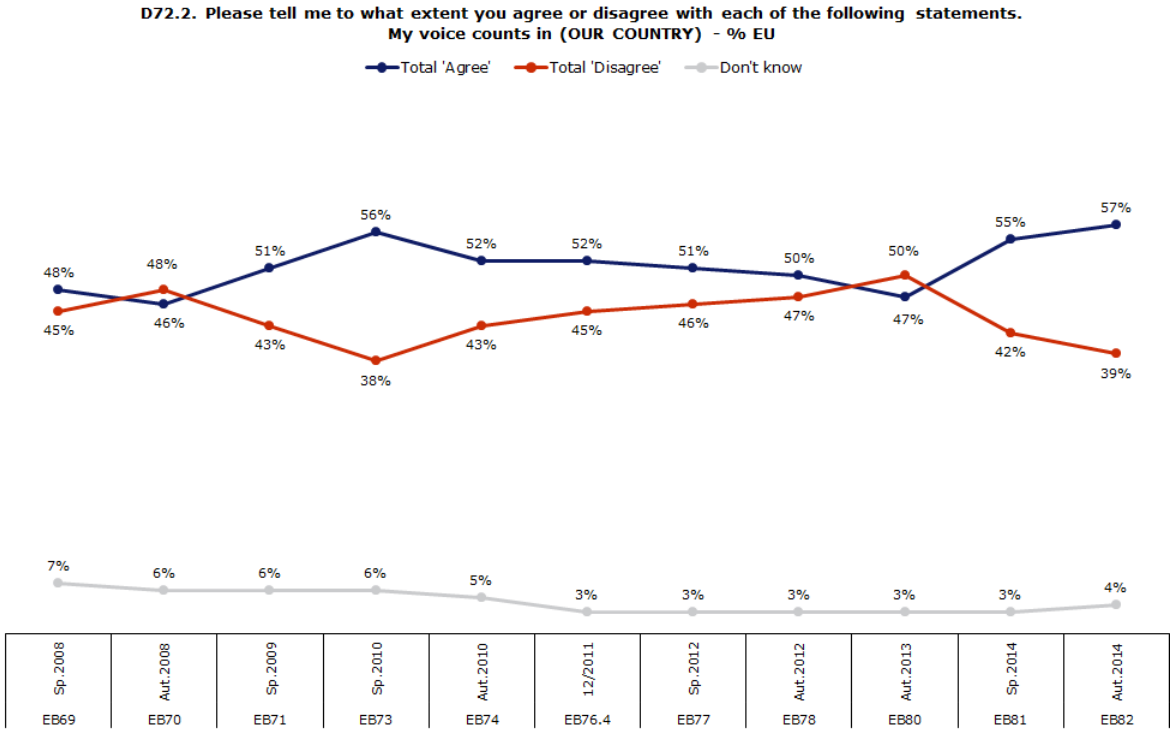


Hungary, Romania and Poland have joined the group of ten countries (Sweden, Denmark, the Netherlands, Croatia, Finland, Germany, Belgium, Malta, Luxembourg and Austria) where a majority of respondents continue to believe, as in spring 2014, that their voice counts in the EU. **In total, therefore, a majority of respondents share this opinion in 13 Member States** (against 12 in spring 2014). Despite a small decline, Sweden (72%, -6 percentage points) and Denmark (68%, -7) remain the two countries where this opinion is the most widely held.

A majority of respondents in 15 Member States therefore believe that their voice does not count in the EU, most notably in Cyprus (79%, +4 percentage points) and Greece (76%, +2). Within this group of 15 countries, this belief has declined sharply in Ireland (51%, -9), the Czech Republic (66%, -8), Estonia (60%, -8) and Slovakia (51%, -8), but has gained significant ground in Portugal (70%, +10) and France (50%, +8).

The feeling that "my voice counts in my country"

The feeling among Europeans that their voice counts in their country has gained ground in this survey and is shared by an absolute majority of respondents (57%, +2 percentage points since spring 2014, versus 39%, -3). Europeans are therefore far more likely to believe that their voice is heard at national than at EU level[46].



In this survey a majority of respondents believe that their voice counts in their country in Ireland (55% versus 40%, compared with 48% versus 49% in spring 2014), Hungary (54% versus 43%, compared with 41% versus 58%), the Czech Republic (49% versus 48%, compared with 39% versus 58%) and Slovenia (49% versus 43%, compared with 48% versus 48%). The opinion ratio is evenly balanced in Romania (47% versus 47%) whereas it was negative in spring 2014 (33% versus 63%).

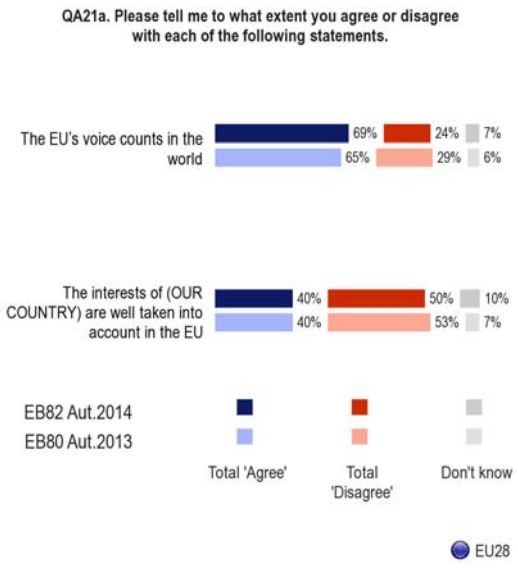
In total, a majority of respondents in 18 Member States now feel that their voice counts in their country (versus 14 in spring 2014), with the highest scores in the Nordic countries: Sweden (94%, -1 percentage point), Denmark (92%, -2) and Finland (84%, +4). In the countries where this was already the majority opinion in spring 2014, the view that "my voice counts in my country" has gained significant ground in Slovakia (64%, +13) and Poland (64%, +9).

This is the minority view in nine EU countries: Cyprus, Lithuania, Italy, Greece, Spain, Latvia, Portugal, Estonia and Bulgaria.

[46] D72.2. Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. My voice counts in (OUR COUNTRY).

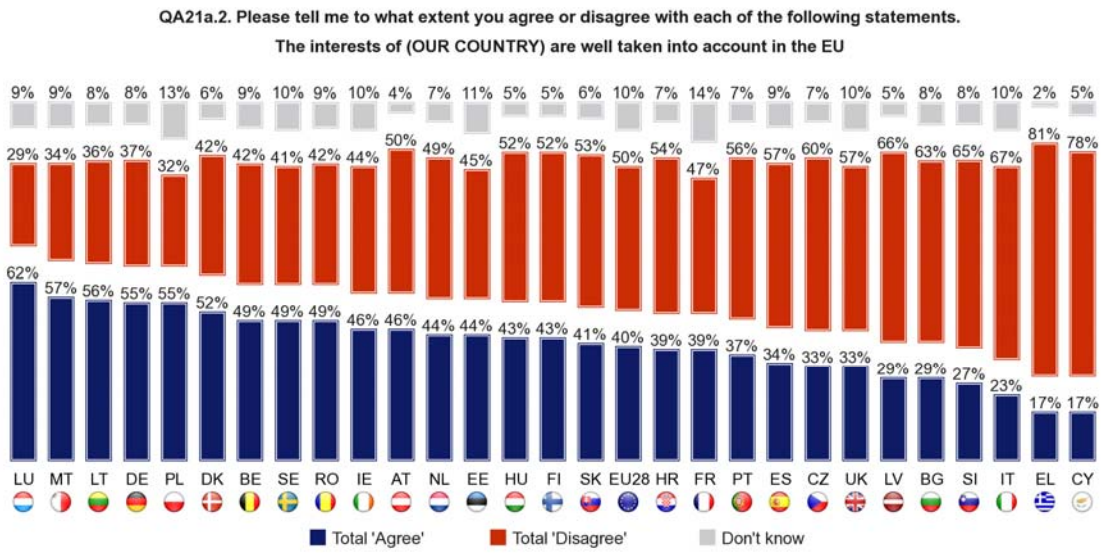
The extent to which national interests are taken into account by the EU

50% of Europeans (-3 percentage points in comparison with the Standard Eurobarometer survey of autumn 2013, EB80) think that their country's interests are not properly taken into account in the EU, while 40% (unchanged) take the opposite view and 10% (+3) expressed no opinion[47].



In comparison with the Standard Eurobarometer survey of autumn 2013, when this question was last asked, the opinion ratio is now positive in Malta (57% versus 34%, compared with 42% versus 47%) and Romania (49% versus 42%, compared with 37% versus 55%). **As result of these evolutions, a majority of respondents in ten Member States now believe that their country's interests are properly taken into account by the EU,** with majorities still taking this view in Luxembourg (62%, -5 percentage points), Lithuania (56%, +8), Germany (55%, -6), Poland (55%, +4), Denmark (52%, -3), Belgium (49% versus 42%, compared with 61% versus 36%), Sweden (49% versus 41%, compared with 51% versus 45%) and Ireland (46% versus 44%, compared with 48% versus 44%). The view that national interests are properly taken into account has lost ground in 12 countries, especially in Belgium (49%, -12).

Therefore, a majority of respondents in 18 EU countries believe that national interests are not adequately taken into account by the EU, with the highest scores in Greece (81%, -2 percentage points), Cyprus (78%, -7), Italy (67%, -4) and Latvia (66%, -2). However, this opinion has lost ground in all these countries since autumn 2013, most notably in Portugal (56%, -9).



[47] QA21a.2. Please tell me for each statement, whether you tend to agree or tend to disagree. The interests of (OUR COUNTRY) are well taken into account in the EU.

The EU's voice counts in the world

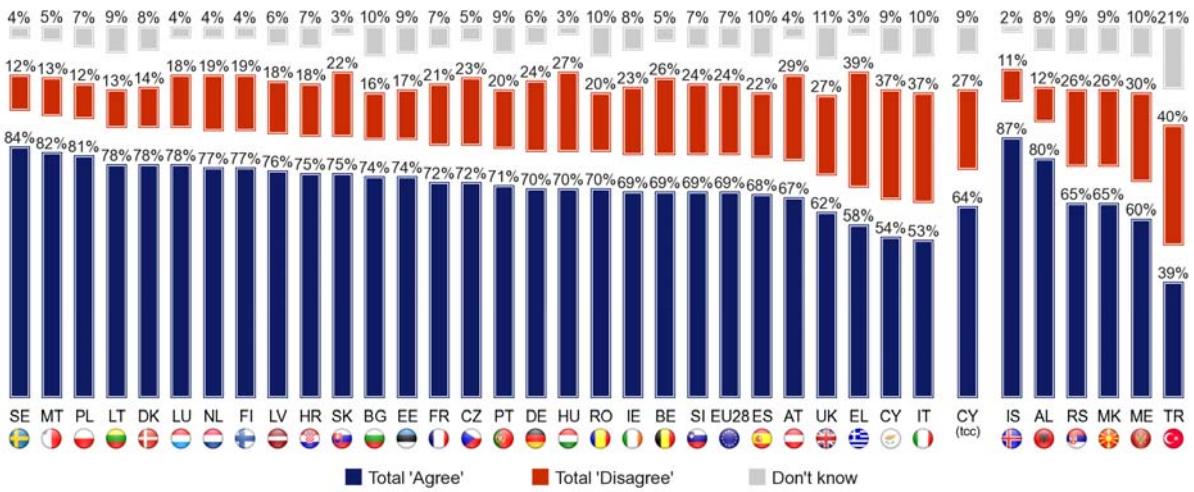
Lastly, and as was the case in all the previous Standard Eurobarometer surveys, **a large majority of Europeans continue to see the European Union as having a strong voice in the world.** This opinion has gained even further ground since autumn 2013. Almost seven out of ten Europeans (69%, +4 percentage points since autumn 2013) consider that "the EU's voice counts in the world", while 24% (-5) disagree and 7% (+1) expressed no opinion[48].

Following an 11-point rise in agreement, the opinion ratio is now positive again in Italy (53% versus 37%, compared with 42% versus 51% in autumn 2013). **As a result of this change, an absolute majority of respondents now believe that the EU's voice counts in the world in all Member States** led by Sweden (84%, unchanged), Malta (82%, +6), Poland (81%, +9), Lithuania (78%, +7), Denmark (78%, -7) and Luxembourg (78%, =).

The belief that the EU's voice counts in the world has gained significant ground in Portugal (71%, +14 percentage points) and in Italy, as indicated above (53%, +11), as well as in Romania (70%, +9), Poland (81%, +9) and Lithuania (78%, +7). However, it decreased sharply in Cyprus (54%, -13), Estonia (74%, -8) and Denmark (78%, -7).

In the candidate countries: except in Turkey, where negative opinions are dominant after a sharp deterioration (39% versus 40% "disagree", compared with 60% versus 33% in autumn 2013), an absolute majority of respondents in all candidate countries agree that the EU's voice counts in the world, with the highest scores in Iceland (87%, -1 percentage point) and Albania (80%).

QA21a.3. Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.
The EU's voice counts in the world



[48] QA21a.3. Please tell me for each statement, whether you tend to agree or tend to disagree. The EU's voice counts in the world.

5. POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ISSUES

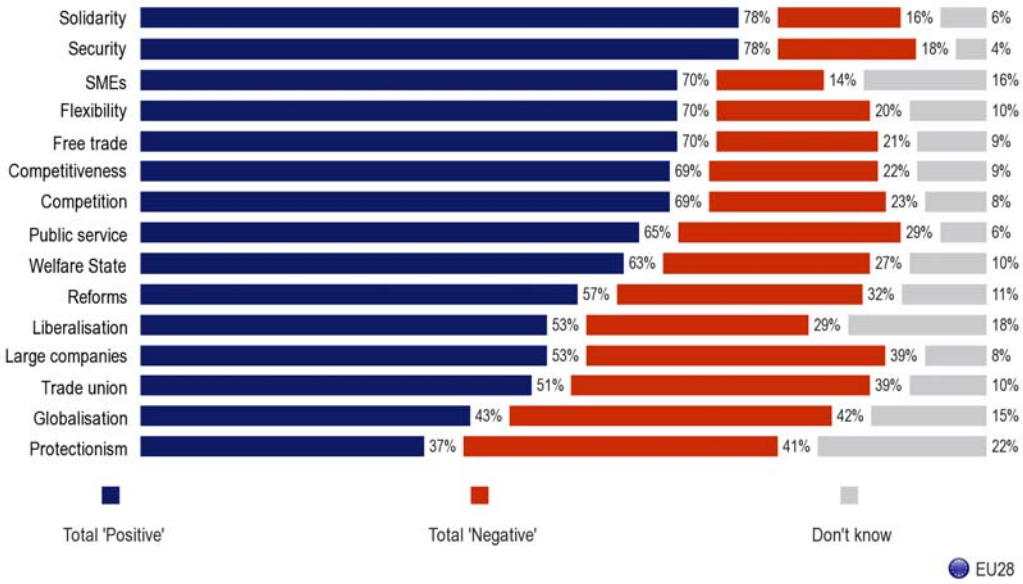
5.1. Positive and negative connotations of words and concepts

In order to identify the values held by Europeans, we asked them to indicate whether a series of fifteen political and economic concepts had a "positive" or "negative" connotation. A similar exercise was carried out in the Standard Eurobarometer surveys of autumn 2009 (EB72) and spring 2007 (EB67), which can therefore be used as the basis for comparison over time. There are several key findings[49]:

- In comparison with autumn 2009, there is a downward trend in positive answers for all the terms tested;
- **"Solidarity"** (78%, -6 percentage points since autumn 2009) and "**security"** (78%, -5) continue to top the list of terms with a positive connotation for Europeans;
- There is still a broad consensus regarding market economy principles (around seven out of ten Europeans have positive connotations for the terms "**flexibility"**, "**free trade"**, "**competitiveness"** and "**competition"**), but approval of these values has decreased since autumn 2009. The proportion of Europeans who see these terms as positive has fallen by eight percentage points for "**competitiveness"** and "**competition"**, and by seven percentage points for "**flexibility"** and "**free trade"**. Positive perceptions of the words "**globalisation"** (43%, -9 percentage points) and "**liberalisation"** (53%, -7) have also decreased. These decreases have not been accompanied by an increase in protectionist tendencies (37% "positive" answers for "**protectionism"**, -1 since autumn 2009), or by an increase in the appeal of the "**Welfare State"** (63%, -8);
- Among market players, "**SMEs"** (70% positive answers) have a better image than "**large companies"** (53%). As these two terms were introduced for the first time in this survey, it is not possible to compare their evolution over time;
- The term "**public service",** included for the first time**,** is seen as positive by 65% of respondents;
- The terms "**reforms"** (57%, -13 percentage points since autumn 2009) and "**trade union"** (51%, -12) have lost the most ground since autumn 2009;
- The word "**protectionism"** is the only term has negative connotations for a majority of respondents.

[49] QA10. Could you please tell me for each of the following, whether it brings to mind something very positive, fairly positive, fairly negative or very negative?

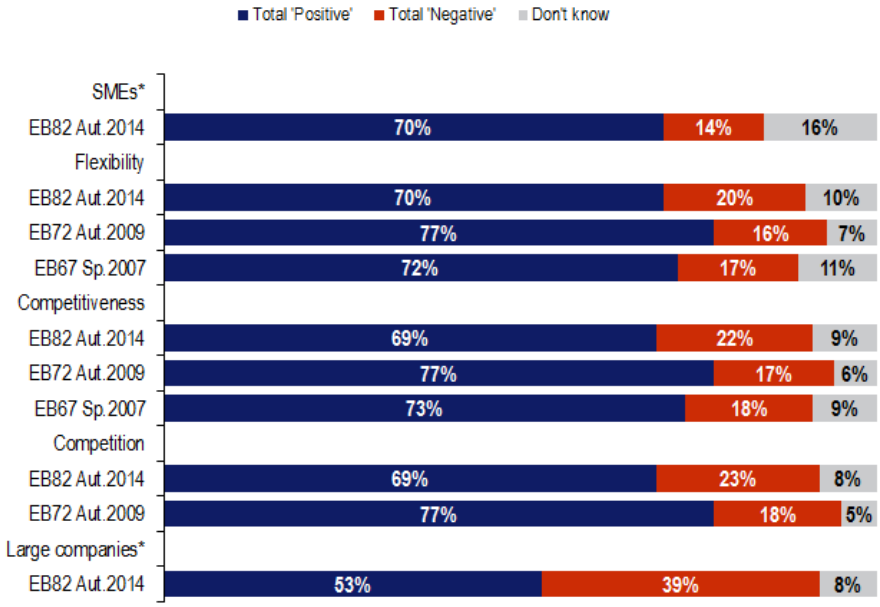
QA10. Could you please tell me for each of the following, whether the term brings to mind something very positive, fairly positive, fairly negative or very negative.



Market economy principles and players

There is still a broad consensus regarding market economy principles: "**flexibility", "competitiveness" and "competition" bring to mind something positive for an absolute majority of respondents in all EU Member States.** Even if there are notable differences of degree between those at the top and bottom of the social scale, a majority of respondents in all categories of the European population see these terms in a positive light. However, positive perceptions of all three concepts have lost considerable ground since autumn 2009 in all Member States, except in Malta, Portugal and Denmark (and Romania in the case of flexibility).

QA10. Could you please tell me for each of the following, whether the term brings to mind something very positive, fairly positive, fairly negative or very negative. - % EU



** New items*

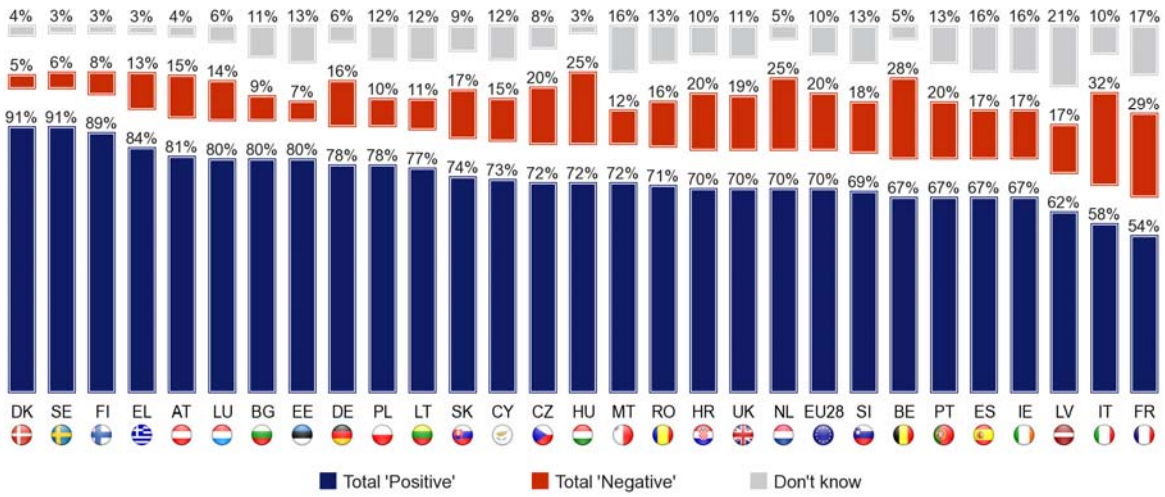
In detail:

Seven out of ten Europeans (70%, -7 percentage points versus autumn 2009) have a positive perception of the word "**flexibility"**, while for 20% (+4) it has a negative connotation and 10% (+3) expressed no opinion. An absolute majority of Europeans are positive about this term in all 28 Member States, in proportions ranging from 91% in Sweden (-4) and Denmark (+1) to 54% in France (-3).

However, positive perceptions of this term have slipped in 24 Member States, most notably in Cyprus (73%, -16 percentage points), Hungary (72%, -14), the Czech Republic (72%, -13), the Netherlands (70%, -13), Slovenia (69%, -13), Belgium (67%, -13), Latvia (62%, -11), Estonia (80%, -10), the United Kingdom (70%, -10) and Spain (67%, -10). They have gained ground only in Portugal (67%, +4), Denmark (91%, +1), Malta (72%, +1) and Romania (71%, +1).

QA10.13. Could you please tell me for each of the following, whether the term brings to mind something very positive, fairly positive, fairly negative or very negative.

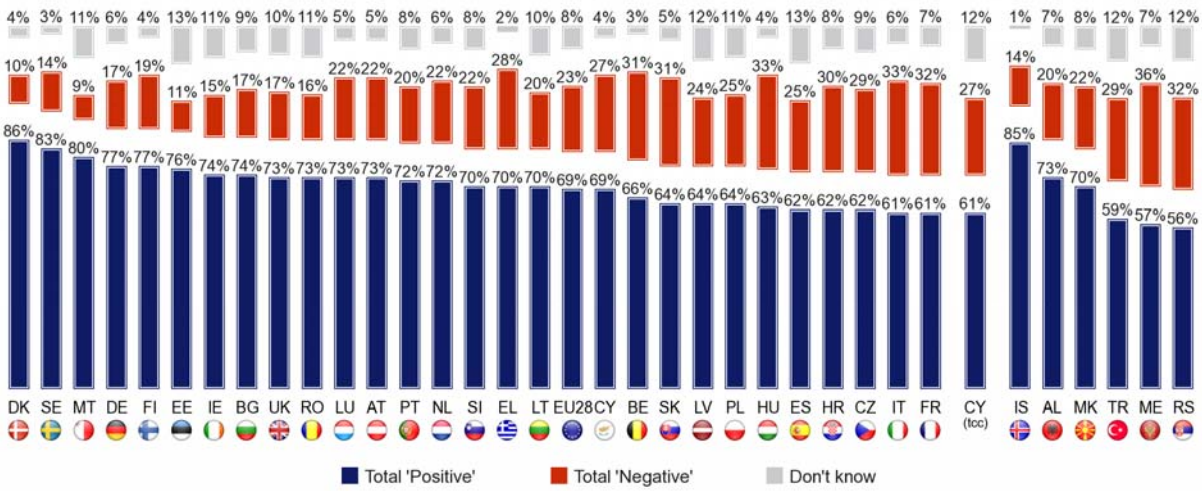
Flexibility



More than two-thirds of Europeans (69%, -8 percentage points versus autumn 2009) are positive about the word "**competition**", while 23% (+5) see it in a negative light and 8% (+3) expressed no opinion. Here again, this word has a positive connotation for an absolute majority of respondents in all Member States, led by Denmark (86%, +4). The lowest score was recorded jointly in Italy (61%, -7) and France (61%, -8). Positive connotations of the word have slipped in 25 Member States, most notably in Spain (62%, -17), the Czech Republic (62%, -14), Austria (73%, -12), the Netherlands (72%, -12), Germany (77%, -11) and Greece (70%, -10). Malta (80%, +7), Denmark (86%, +4) and Portugal (72%, +1) are the only countries in which they have gained ground.

QA10.9. Could you please tell me for each of the following, whether the term brings to mind something very positive, fairly positive, fairly negative or very negative.

Competition

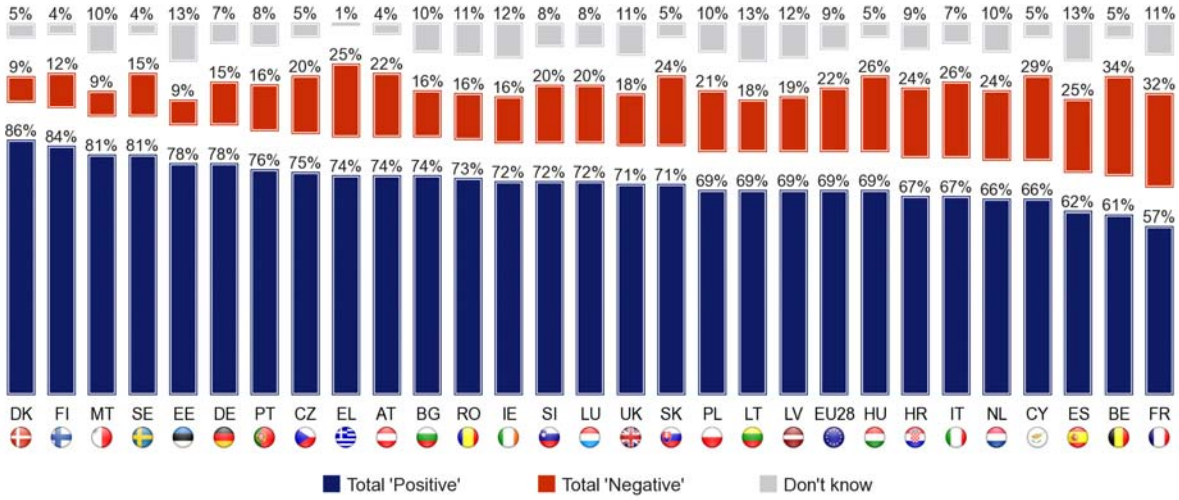


A socio-demographic analysis reveals variations between categories: the word "**competition"** is more likely to be perceived positively by managers (77% for total "positive" versus 19%) and those who almost never have difficulties paying their bills (73% versus 20%), than by unemployed people (62% versus 29%) and those who struggle to pay their bills most of the time (54% versus 35%).

For 69% of Europeans the word "**competitiveness"** has a positive connotation. This represents an 8-point decline since autumn 2009. For 22% (+5 percentage points) it has a negative connotation and 9% (+3) expressed no opinion. Positive connotations scored between 86% in Denmark (+1) and 57% in France (-12). The image of this term has deteriorated in 25 Member States: the three exceptions are Malta (81%, +10), Portugal (76%, +3) and Denmark (86%, +1). This deterioration is the most striking in Belgium (61%, -14), Estonia (78%, -12), the Czech Republic (75%, -12), Austria (74%, -12), Spain (62%, -12), France (57%, -12), Germany (78%, -11), Slovakia (71%, -10) and the Netherlands (66%, -10).

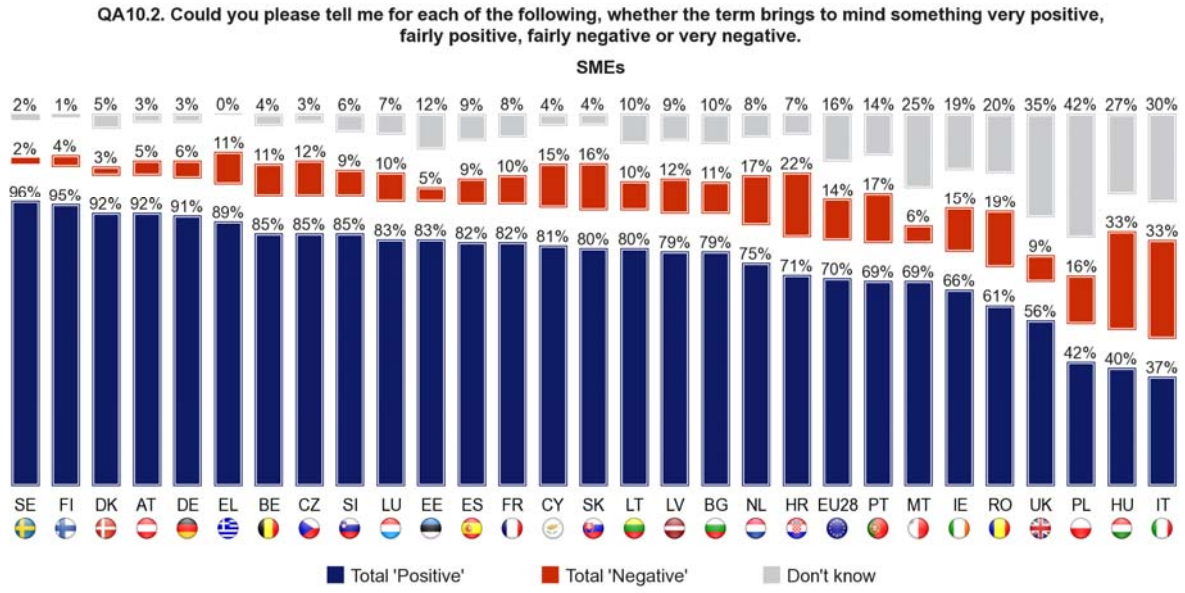
QA10.4. Could you please tell me for each of the following, whether the term brings to mind something very positive, fairly positive, fairly negative or very negative.

Competitiveness

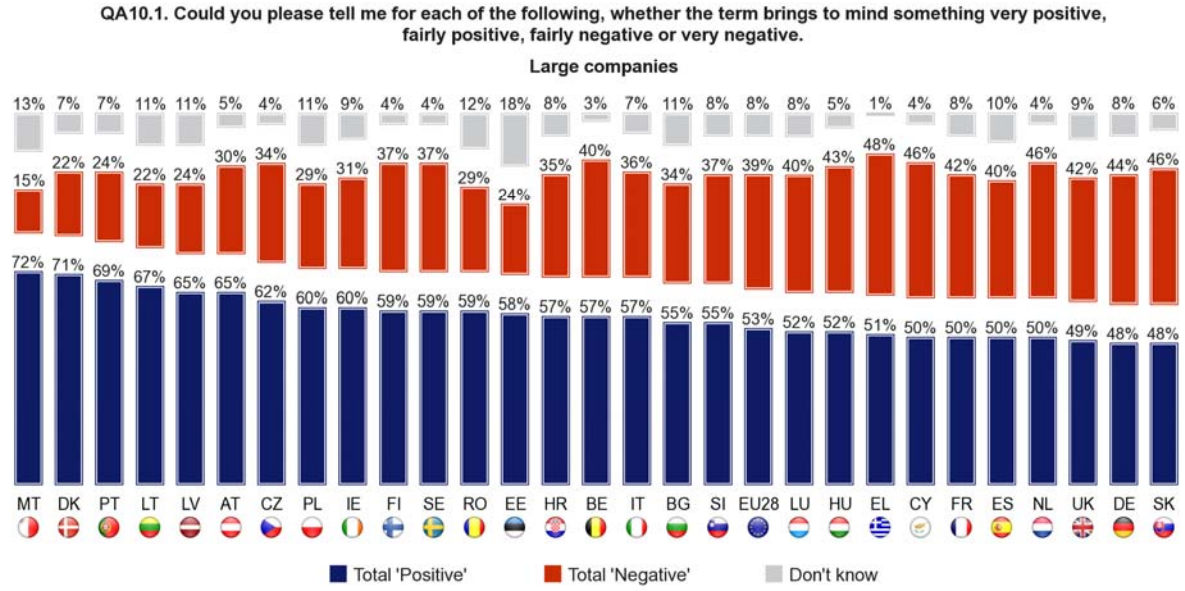


Among market economy players, "**SMEs"** (Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises) has a positive connotation for 70% of Europeans (versus 14%, and a "DK" rate of 16%). An absolute majority of respondents are positive about the term SME in 25 EU countries, most notably in the Nordic countries (96% in Sweden, 95% in Finland and 92% in Denmark), Austria (92%) and Germany (91%).

Three countries stand out as significant exceptions to the general groundswell of positive perceptions of the term SME, and also have a very high proportion of "DK" answers: Poland (42% of positive answers versus 16% of negative answers and a "DK" rate of 42%), Hungary (40%/33%/27%) and Italy (37%/33%/30%).



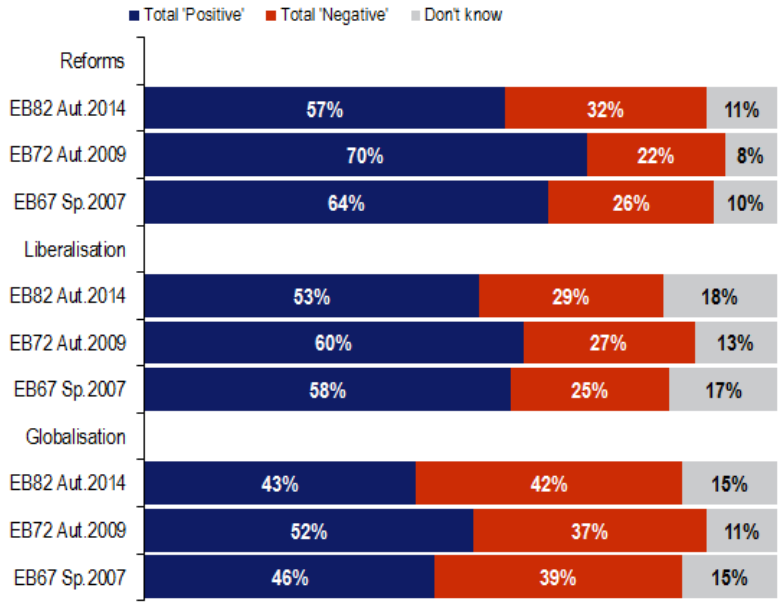
Generally speaking, European public opinions sees "**large companies"** in a less favourable light than SMEs. Large companies evoke a positive image for 53% of respondents (versus 39% of negative opinions and a "DK" rate of 8%). A majority of respondents in all EU countries are positive about the term "**large companies"**. The positive/negative opinion ratio is narrowest in Slovakia (48% versus 46%), Greece (51% versus 48%), Germany (48% versus 44%), Cyprus (50% versus 46%) and the Netherlands (50% versus 46%). Respondents in Malta (72%) and Denmark (71%) are the most likely to be positive about large companies.



Liberalisation, globalisation and reforms

For 53% of Europeans (-7 percentage points since autumn 2009), the word "**liberalisation"** brings to mind something positive, versus 29% (+2) with a "DK" rate of 18% (+5).

QA10. Could you please tell me for each of the following, whether the term brings to mind something very positive, fairly positive, fairly negative or very negative. - % EU

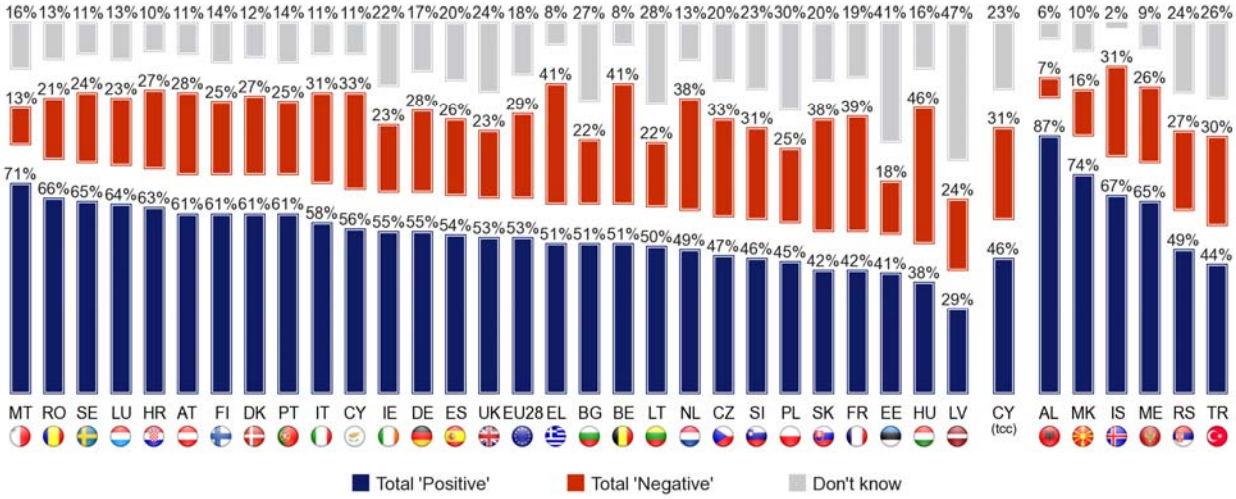


The word **liberalisation** now has a predominantly negative connotation in Hungary (46% "negative" versus 38%), whereas it evoked positive impressions for a majority of respondents in autumn 2009 (50% "positive" versus 39%). Hungary is the only EU country where this word is perceived negatively by a majority of respondents. **The word has a positive connotation for an absolute majority of the people polled in 19 Member States,** with the highest scores in Malta (71%, +9 percentage points) and Romania (66%, -1). This majority is relative in eight other countries, with a fairly wide opinion ratio in the Netherlands (49% "positive" versus 38%, compared with 62% versus 27% in autumn 2009), the Czech Republic (47% versus 33%, compared with 61% versus 28%), Slovenia (46% versus 31%, compared with 59% versus 27%), Poland (45% versus 25%, compared with 48% versus 29%) and Estonia (41% versus 18%, compared with 60% versus 19%), and a narrower opinion ratio in France (42% versus 39%, compared with 44% versus 44%), Slovakia (42% versus 38%, compared with 63% versus 26%) and Latvia (29% versus 24%, compared with 39% versus 25%).

Positive perceptions of the word **liberalisation** have slipped in 23 Member States, most notably in Slovakia (42%, -21 percentage points), Estonia (41%, -19), Greece (51%, -19), Germany (55%, -15), the Czech Republic (47%, -14), Slovenia (46%, -13) and the Netherlands (49%, -13). Positive perceptions are stable in Luxembourg (64%) and the United Kingdom (53%), but have gained ground slightly in Ireland (55%, +1) and Croatia (63%, +1), and more emphatically in Malta (71%, +9).

QA10.8. Could you please tell me for each of the following, whether the term brings to mind something very positive, fairly positive, fairly negative or very negative.

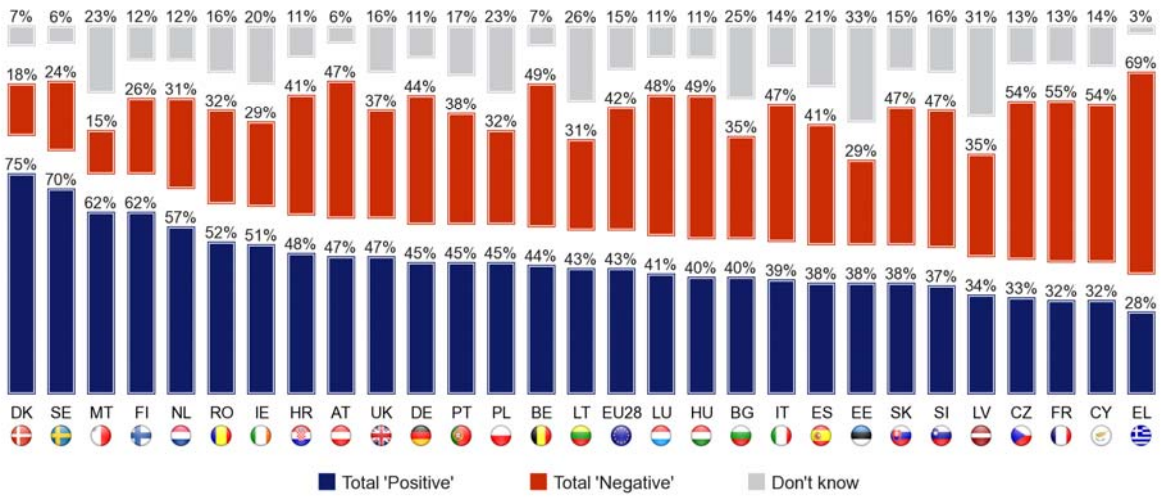
Liberalisation



Opinions of the word "**globalisation"** are more divided: it brings to mind something positive for 43% (-9 percentage points) of Europeans, whereas 42% (+5) perceive it negatively and 15% (+4) gave no answer. Following a 9-point decline in positive perceptions, the opinion ratio for this term has narrowed significantly since autumn 2009 (52% versus 37%).

QA10.7. Could you please tell me for each of the following, whether the term brings to mind something very positive, fairly positive, fairly negative or very negative.

Globalisation



Except in Croatia (48%, +10 percentage points), Malta (62%, +8) and Finland (62%, unchanged), positive perceptions of the word "globalisation" have lost ground in all European Union countries. In comparison with autumn 2009, the opinion ratio has become negative in seven countries: Belgium (44% versus 49%, compared with 55% versus 39% in autumn 2009), the Czech Republic (33% versus 54%, compared with 52% versus 42%), Spain (38% versus 41%, compared with 54% versus 30%), Cyprus (32% versus 54%, compared with 44% versus 43%), Italy (39% versus 47%, compared with 50% versus 40%), Luxembourg (41% versus 48%, compared with 61% versus 34%) and Slovakia (38% versus 47%, compared with 62% versus 30%). In addition, the word still has a negative connotation for a majority of respondents in Greece (69%, +11), France (55%, +4), Hungary (49%, -3, versus 40%, -1), Slovenia (47%, -2, versus 37%, -7) and Latvia (35%, -11, versus 34%, -4). Therefore, globalisation is perceived negatively in a total of 12 EU countries.

Whereas the opinion ratio was positive in autumn 2009 in Austria (49% versus 45%), it is now evenly balanced (47% versus 47%).

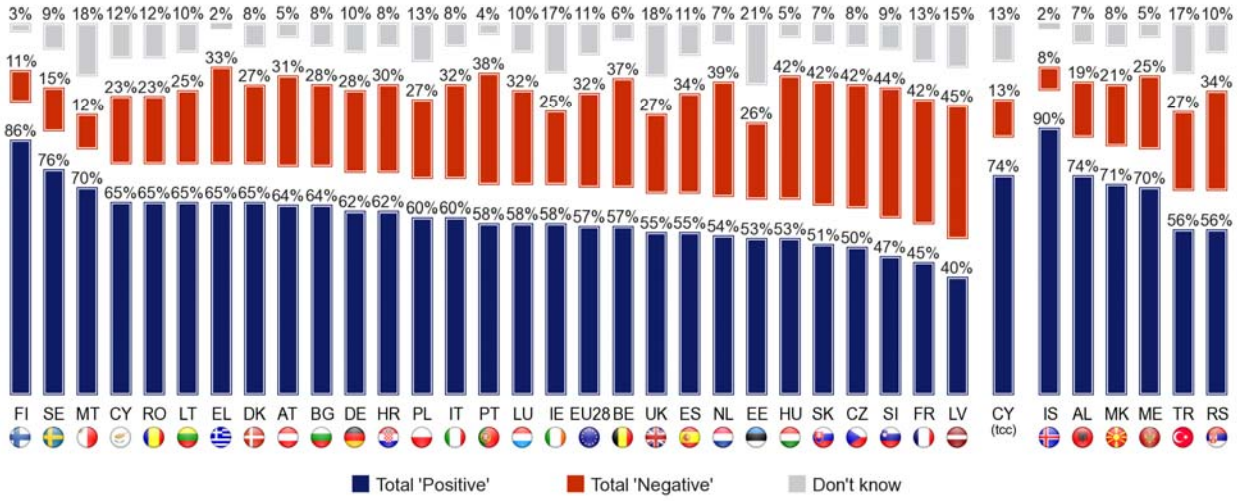
Finally, the negative opinion ratio recorded in autumn 2009 in Croatia (38% versus 47%) has become positive in this survey (48% versus 41%).

Therefore, the word globalisation is perceived positively in 15 Member States, most notably in Denmark (75%, -7 percentage points) and Sweden (70%, -10). In this group of countries, the positive connotations of the term have lost significant ground in Estonia (38%, -25), the Netherlands (57%, -15) and Germany (45%, -13).

Positive perceptions of the term **"reforms"** have lost 13 percentage points since the autumn 2009 survey: 57% of Europeans perceive it positively, while 32% (+10 percentage points) see it in a negative light and 11% (+3) expressed no opinion. Positive perceptions of the term have lost ground far more rapidly in the euro area countries (56%, -17) than outside the euro area (60%, -4).

QA10.11. Could you please tell me for each of the following, whether the term brings to mind something very positive, fairly positive, fairly negative or very negative.

Reforms



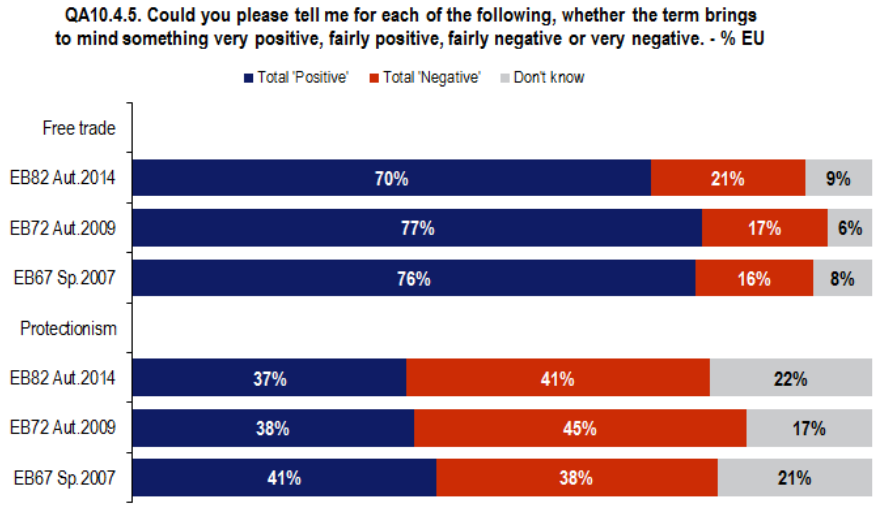
The opinion ratio has become negative in Latvia (40% versus 45%, compared with 48% versus 46% in autumn 2009). As a result, Latvia is the only country where this word has a negative connotation for a majority of respondents. **Therefore, the term "reforms" brings to mind something positive for a majority of respondents in 27 Member States,** with the highest scores in Finland (86%, -8 percentage points), Sweden (76%, -3) and Malta (70%, +3). Nevertheless, positive perceptions have declined in almost all of them (the only exceptions being Croatia, Malta and Lithuania), most notably in Spain (55%, -32), France (45%, -22), Cyprus (65%, -21), Luxembourg (58%, -19), Greece (65%, -18), the Netherlands (54%, -18), Denmark (65%, -17) and Estonia (53%, -16).

A socio-demographic analysis reveals that the term "reforms" is more likely to resonate with managers (67% for total "positive", versus 26%) than with unemployed people (52% versus 37%).

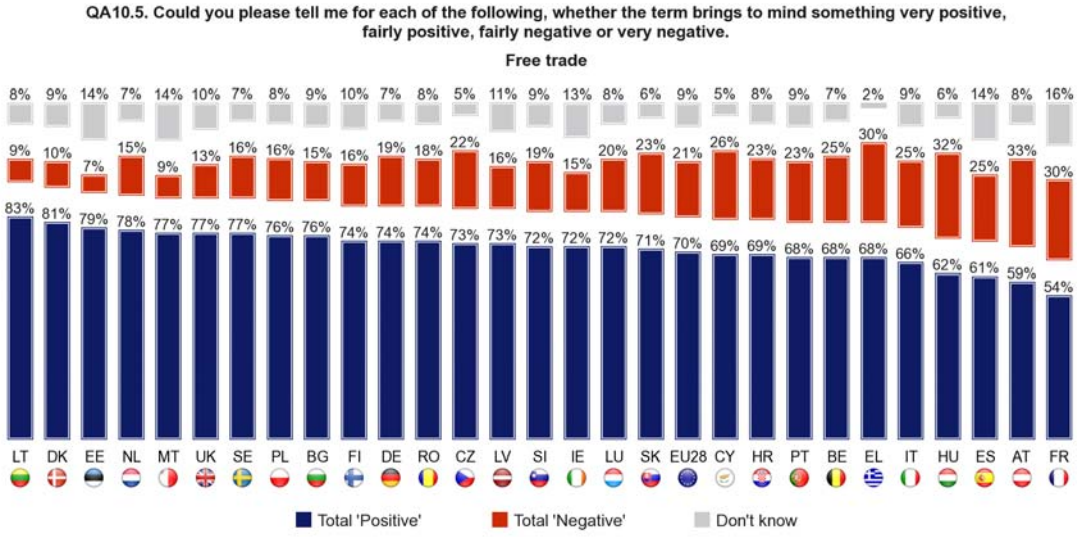
Free trade and protectionism

In proportions similar to those recorded for the other basic market economy concepts, the term "**free trade"** is perceived positively by 70% of Europeans. Positive connotations of this term have nevertheless declined (-7 percentage points since autumn 2009).

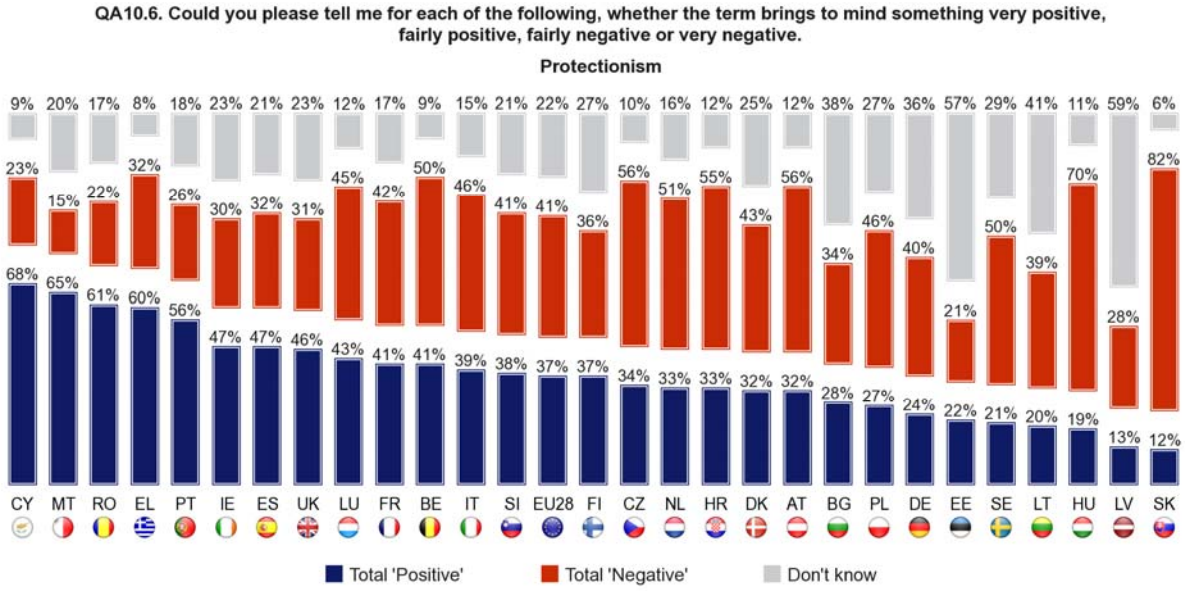
However, this decline in the popularity of the free trade concept has not translated into an increase in enthusiasm for "**protectionism"**: 37% of Europeans (-1 percentage point) view this term positively, while 41% (-4) see in in a negative light and 22% (+5) expressed no opinion. "**Protectionism" is the only concept or word tested to be perceived negatively by a majority of respondents.**



Like the other market economy concepts, the term "**free trade"** brings to mind something positive for a majority of respondents in all European Union countries, with the highest scores in Lithuania (83%, unchanged) and Denmark (81%, -5 percentage points) and the lowest score in France (54%, -16). Positive perceptions of the term have declined in 25 countries, are stable in Lithuania and have gained ground in Malta (77%, +10) and Portugal (68%, +5). They have declined the most strikingly in Austria (59%, -17), France (54%, -16), Germany (74%, -13), Slovakia (71%, -12), Croatia (69%, -11), Estonia (79%, -10) and the Czech Republic (73%, -10).



The word "**protectionism"** triggers reactions which differ significantly between countries. As in the autumn 2009 survey, it is perceived positively by a majority of respondents in Cyprus (68%, -11 percentage points), Malta (65%, +12), Romania (61%, -4), Greece (60%, -13), Portugal (56%, +4), Spain (47%, -1, versus 32%, -8), Ireland (47%, -2, versus 30%, +3) and the United Kingdom (46%, +3, versus 31%, -8). In Estonia, positive opinions have declined significantly (22%, -15) but still outweigh negative opinions (21%, -5), against the background of a very high "DK" rate (57%, +20). A very narrow majority now see "protectionism" in a positive light in Finland (37% versus 36%), which was not the case in autumn 2009 (32% versus 47%). In total, therefore, **the word is perceived positively by a majority of respondents in ten Member States**. Strikingly, however, the term "free trade" is also perceived positively in the same ten Member States, with scores higher than those recorded for "protectionism" in each case.

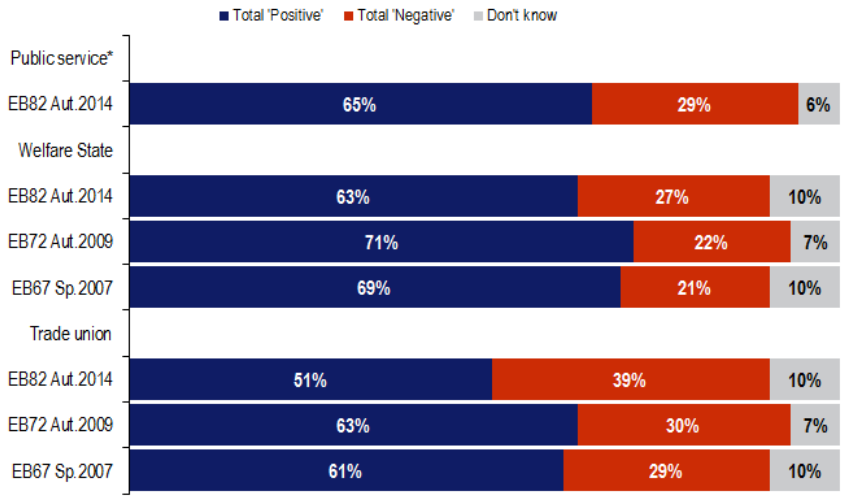


Judgments of this term are now negative in Luxembourg (43% versus 45%, compared with 51% versus 41% in autumn 2009), Bulgaria (28% versus 34%, compared with 34% versus 29%, with a "DK" rate of 38%, +1 percentage point) and Slovenia (38% versus 41%, compared with 42% versus 42%). Therefore, respondents are predominantly negative in 18 Member States, led by Slovakia (82%, +13 percentage points) and Hungary (70%, -8). In this group of countries, positive connotations of the word "protectionism" have gained ground in France, where the opinion ratio has narrowed significantly (41% versus 42%, compared with 37% versus 51% in autumn 2009).

Welfare state, public service and trade union

The terms **"public service"**, "**Welfare State"** and "**trade union"** continue to bring to mind something positive for an absolute majority of Europeans. However positive perceptions of the term "trade union" have declined, as have those of the term "Welfare State", albeit to a lesser extent.

QA10. Could you please tell me for each of the following, whether the term brings to mind something very positive, fairly positive, fairly negative or very negative. - % EU



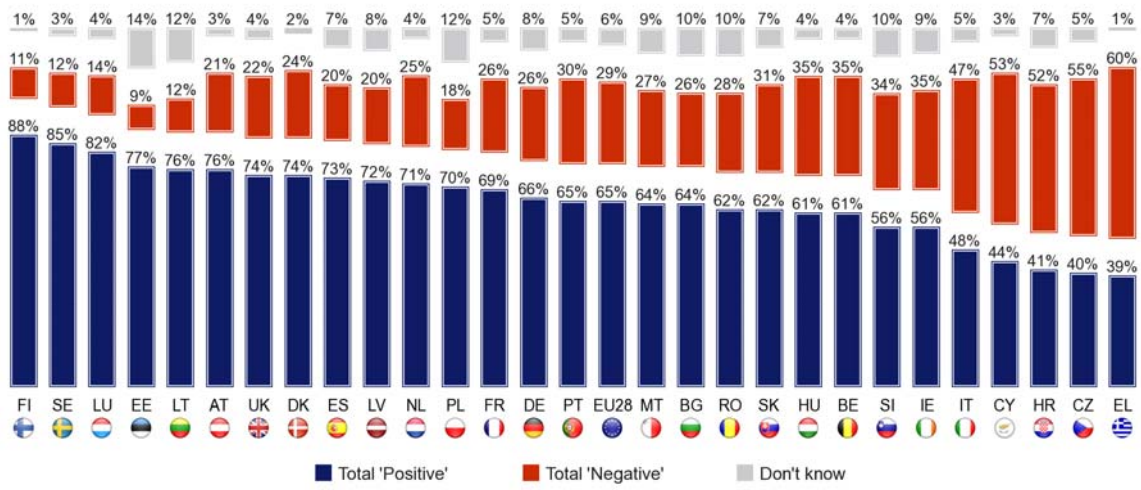
** New item*

For almost two-thirds of Europeans (65%) the term "**public service"** has a positive connotation, while 29% perceive it in a negative light and 6% expressed no opinion. The term is viewed positively by a majority of respondents in 24 Member States, with an absolute majority in 23 countries, most notably in Finland (88%), Sweden (85%) and Luxembourg (82%). There is a relative majority in Italy, where opinions are almost evenly divided (48% versus 47%).

This term has negative connotations for a majority of respondents in four Member States: Greece (39% versus 60% "negative"), the Czech Republic (40% versus 55%), Croatia (41% versus 52%) and Cyprus (44% versus 53%).

QA10.12. Could you please tell me for each of the following, whether the term brings to mind something very positive, fairly positive, fairly negative or very negative.

Public service



The term "**Welfare State"** evokes positive connotations for 63% of Europeans, representing an 8-point decline since autumn 2009, while 27% see it in a negative light (+5 percentage points) and 10% (+3) expressed no opinion.

As in the autumn 2009 survey, France is the only country where the negative connotations of the term (37%, unchanged) outweigh positive connotations (31%, -4 percentage points). It also has the highest "DK" rate (32%, +4) of any EU country.

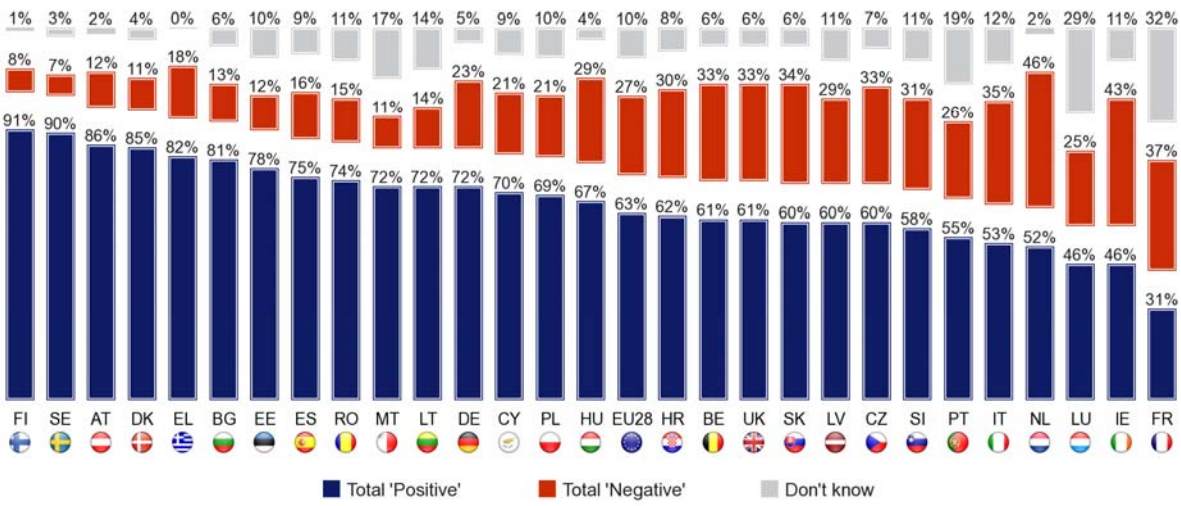
The term brings to mind something positive for a relative majority of respondents in Ireland (46%, unchanged, versus 43%, +1 percentage point) and Luxembourg (46%, -16, versus 25%, +7).

An absolute majority of respondents view the term "Welfare State" positively in the remaining 25 EU countries led by the Nordic countries (91% in Finland, -3 percentage points; 90% in Sweden, +3; 85% in Denmark, -3) and Austria (86%, +8).

The proportion of respondents for whom the term "**Welfare State"** has a positive connotation has decreased in 23 European Union countries, most notably in the Netherlands (52%, -23 percentage points), Cyprus (70%, -17), Luxembourg (46%, -16), Italy (53%, -15), Latvia (60%, -14), Slovenia (58%, -13), Estonia (78%, -12), Spain (75%, -12),Germany (72%, -11), Hungary (67%, -11) and Slovakia (60%, -11). This proportion is stable in the United Kingdom (61%) and Ireland (46%), but has increased in Austria (86%, +8), Sweden (90%, +3) and Malta (72%, +1).

QA10.3. Could you please tell me for each of the following, whether the term brings to mind something very positive, fairly positive, fairly negative or very negative.

Welfare State



Europeans are now less positive about the term "**trade union".** However, more than half of respondents (51%, -12 percentage points versus autumn 2009) continue to see this term in a positive light, while 39% (+9) take a negative view and 10% (+3) expressed no opinion.

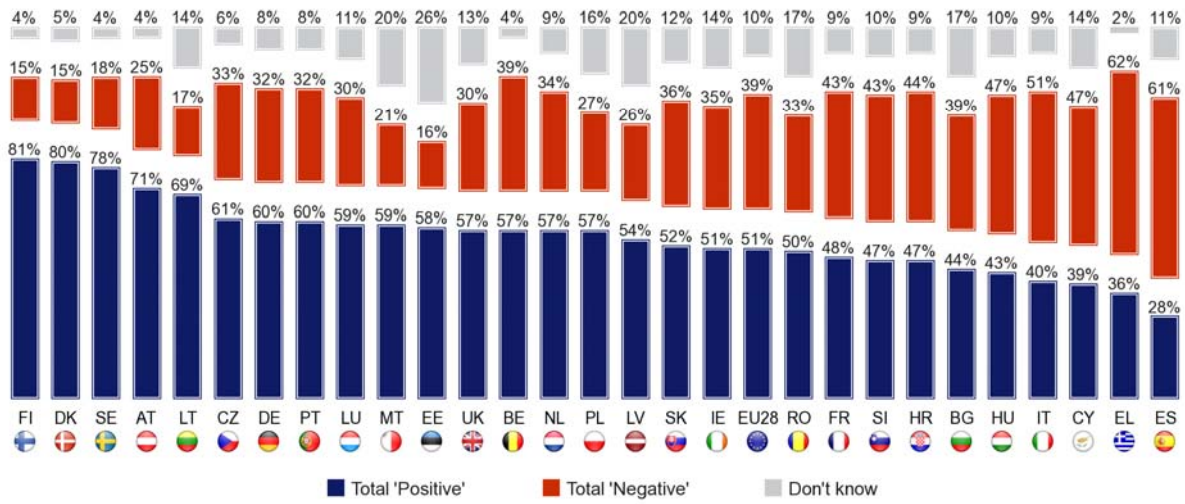
Whereas a majority of respondents were positive about this term in all EU countries in autumn 2009, the opinion ratio has become negative in five countries: Greece (36% say the term conjures up a negative image versus 62%, compared with 66% versus 33% in autumn 2009), Spain (28% versus 61%, compared with 66% versus 27%), Italy (40% versus 51%, compared with 53% versus 39%), Cyprus (39% versus 47%, compared with 77% versus 14%) and Hungary (43% versus 47%, compared with 58% versus 39%). Positive connotations of this term have therefore declined very dramatically in Spain (-38), Cyprus (-38) and Greece (-30).

A majority of respondents in 23 EU countries respond positively to the term "trade union", most notably in Finland (81%, -4 percentage points) and Denmark (80%, -5), and they also do so by narrow margins in Slovenia (47% versus 43%, compared with 49% versus 48% in autumn 2009) and Croatia (47% versus 44%, compared with 62% versus 29%). Among countries in this group, positive perceptions have declined very sharply in Luxembourg (59%, -17), France (48%, -17, versus 43%, +15), Estonia (58%, -16), Croatia (47%, -15, versus 44%, +15) and Belgium (57%, -13).

In total, **positive connotations of the term "trade union" have slipped since autumn 2009 in 26 European Union countries**, the exceptions being Sweden (78%, +4) and the United Kingdom (57%, +3).

QA10.10. Could you please tell me for each of the following, whether the term brings to mind something very positive, fairly positive, fairly negative or very negative.

Trade union

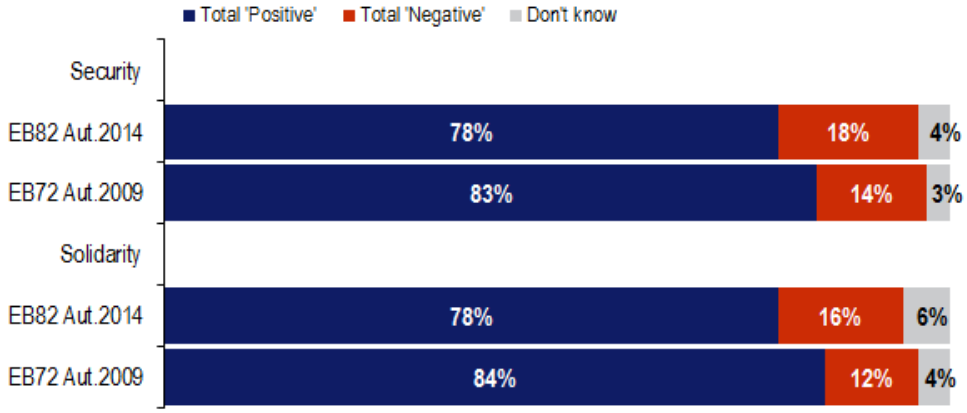


The term "trade union" has positive connotations for most socio-demographic categories, in particular for members of generation "Y", born after 1980 (59% total "positive", versus 29%), those who studied up to the age of 20 and beyond (57% versus 35%), managers (59% versus 34%), white-collar workers (55% versus 36%) and manual workers (53% versus 38%). However, opinions are divided among Europeans born before 1946 (45% versus 43%) and are even predominantly negative among those who left school at the age of 15 or earlier (47% for total "negative" versus 41%) and self-employed people (49% versus 44%).

Solidarity and security

Although positive connotations have lost ground, the values of "**solidarity"** and "**security"** continue to be widely endorsed by Europeans, indirectly revealing their strong desire for a more secure, inclusive society. More than three-quarters of Europeans agree that the words "**security"** (78%, -5 percentage points versus autumn 2009) and "**solidarity"** (78%, -6) have positive connotations.

QA10. Could you please tell me for each of the following, whether the term brings to mind something very positive, fairly positive, fairly negative or very negative. - % EU

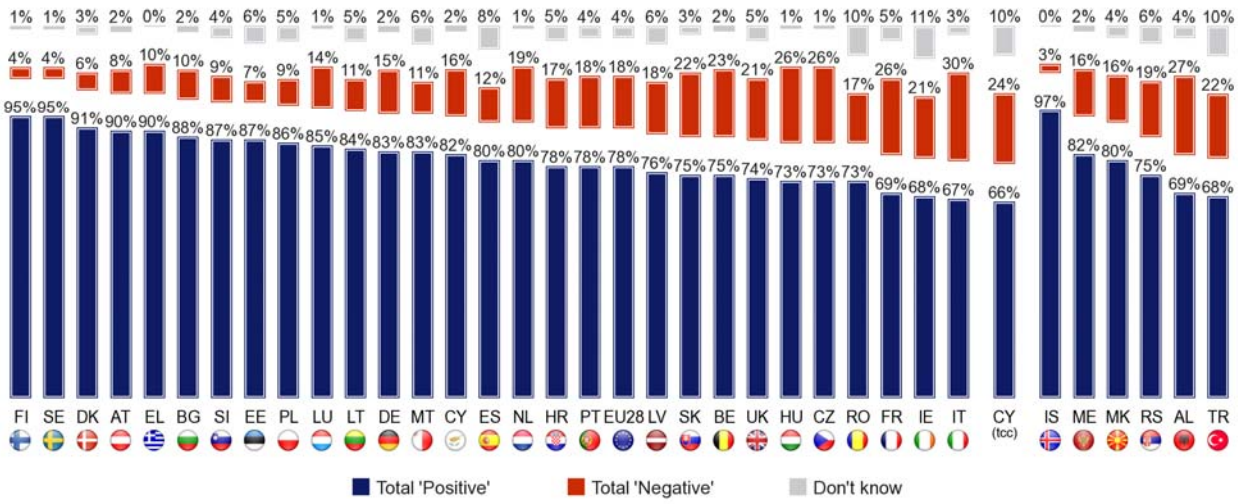


An absolute majority of respondents in all Member States feel positive about the word "**security",** in proportions ranging from 95% in Sweden (-1 percentage point) and Finland (-3) to 67% in Italy (-5).

With the exception of Lithuania (84%, unchanged), the Netherlands (80%, +2 percentage points) and Portugal (78%, +8), positive connotations of the term have lost ground in all European Union countries, most strikingly in Cyprus (82%, -13), Hungary (73%, -13), Spain (80%, -11) and the Czech Republic (73%, -10).

QA10.14. Could you please tell me for each of the following, whether the term brings to mind something very positive, fairly positive, fairly negative or very negative.

Security

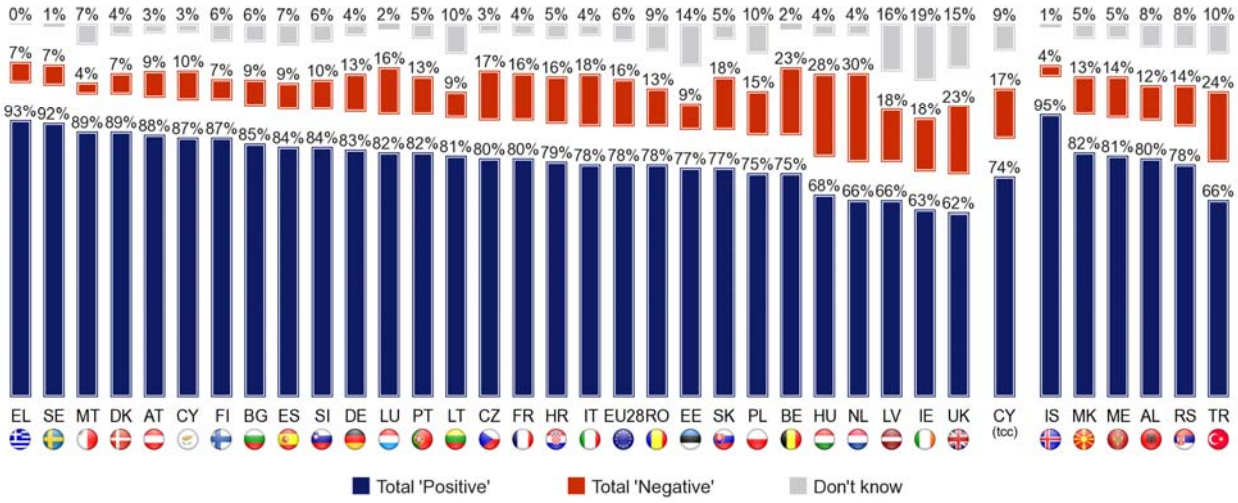


An absolute majority of respondents in all Member States also see the term "**solidarity"** in a positive light, in proportions ranging from 93% in Greece (-2 percentage points) to 62% in the United Kingdom (-2).

Positive perceptions of the term are stable in Malta (89%) and Lithuania (81%), and have gained ground in Portugal (82%, +5 perceptions). They have deteriorated in all other Member States, most notably in Hungary (68%, -17), Latvia (66%, -15), Estonia (77%, -14), the Netherlands (66%, -13) and Belgium (75%, -10).

QA10.15. Could you please tell me for each of the following, whether the term brings to mind something very positive, fairly positive, fairly negative or very negative.

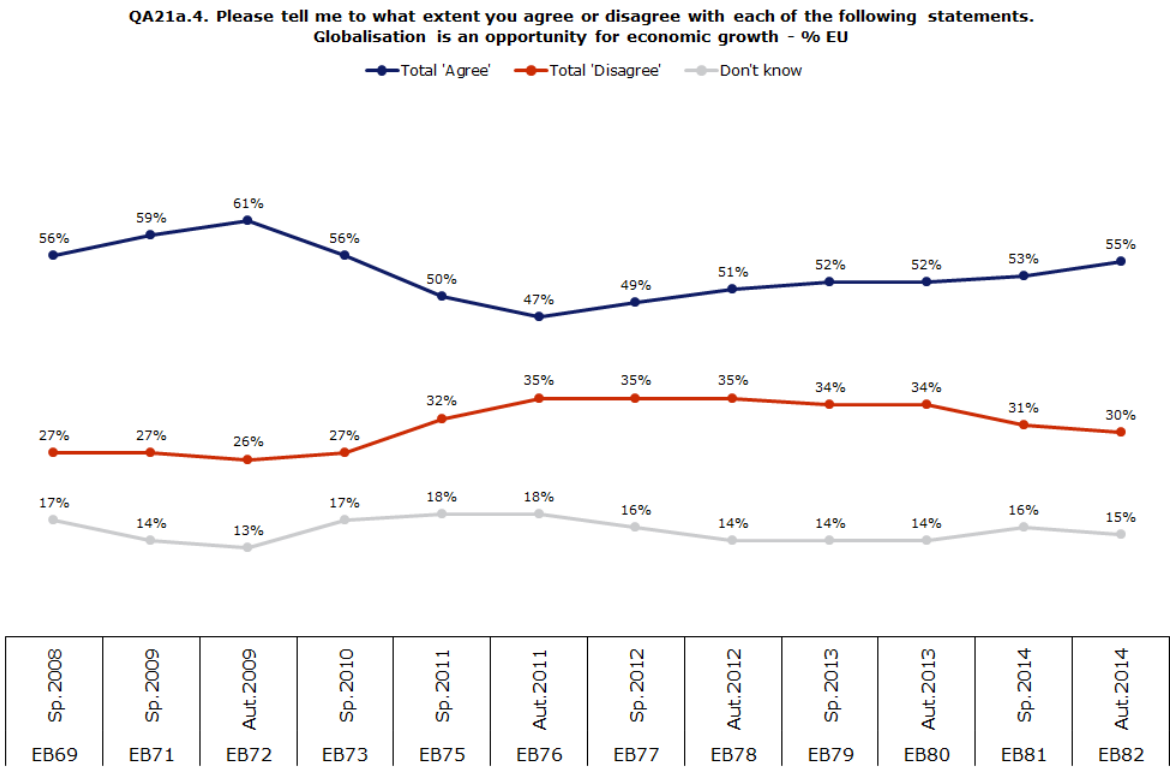
Solidarity



5.2. Europeans and globalisation

– The European Union is seen as an appropriate framework to face the challenges of globalisation, perceived as an economic opportunity –

Although, as we have seen, the word globalisation prompts mixed reactions, European public opinion is more positive when globalisation is presented in a beneficial economic light, since **55% of Europeans (+2 percentage points since spring 2014) agree that "globalisation is an opportunity for economic growth",** while 30% (-1) disagree and 15% (-1) expressed no opinion[50]. Agreement with this statement has gained ground or remained stable in all the Standard Eurobarometer surveys carried out since autumn 2011 (EB76), increasing from 47% to 55%.



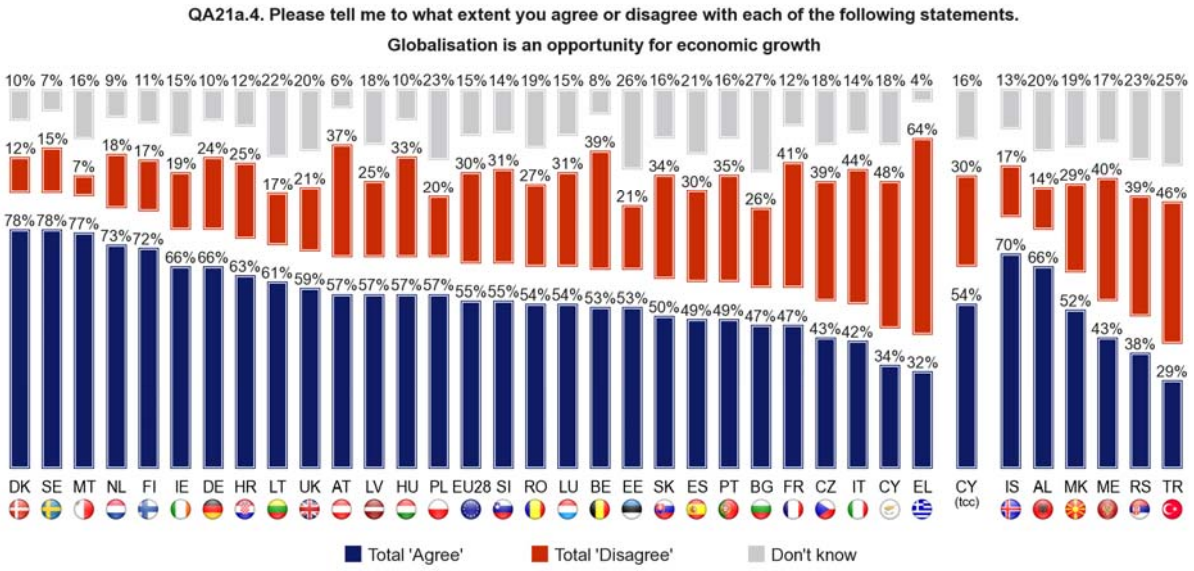
This positive representation of globalisation has gained support in the non-euro area countries (58%, +5 percentage points), while the opinion ratio is more or less unchanged in the euro area (53% versus 34%, compared with 52% versus 34% in spring 2014).

In this survey, the opinion ratio has become positive in the Czech Republic (43% versus 39%, compared with 39% versus 46% in spring 2014) and negative in Italy (42% versus 44%, compared with 42% versus 41%).

Respondents remain predominantly negative in Greece (64% "disagree" with the statement, +7 percentage points) and Cyprus (48%, unchanged, versus 34%, -4). These countries, plus Italy, are the only three countries in the EU where a majority of respondents do not see globalisation as a driver of economic growth.

[50] QA21a.4. Please tell me for each statement, whether you tend to agree or tend to disagree. Globalisation is an opportunity for economic growth.

An absolute majority of respondents are positive about globalisation in 20 Member States, led by Denmark (78%, +3 percentage points), Sweden (78%, +1), Malta (77%, +4) and the Netherlands (73%, unchanged); and a relative majority of respondents agree that globalisation is an opportunity for growth in five countries, Spain (49% versus 30%, compared with 41% versus 32% in spring 2014), Portugal (49% versus 35%, unchanged), Bulgaria (47% versus 26%, compared with 41% versus 28%), France (47% versus 41%, compared with 46% versus 42%) and the Czech Republic (43% versus 39%, compared with 39% versus 46%).



Since spring 2014, agreement has increased most in Spain (49%, +8 percentage points), Latvia (57%, +7), Finland (72%, +6), Romania (54%, +6) and Bulgaria (47%, +6), and has not declined significantly in any country.

QA21a.4. Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. Globalisation is an opportunity for economic growth

	Total 'Agree'	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014	Total 'Disagree'	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014	Don't know	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014
EU28	55%	+2	30%	-1	15%	-1
EURO AREA	53%	+1	34%	=	13%	-1
NON-EURO AREA	58%	+5	23%	-4	19%	-1
ES	49%	+8	30%	-2	21%	-6
LV	57%	+7	25%	-5	18%	-2
BG	47%	+6	26%	-2	27%	-4
RO	54%	+6	27%	-5	19%	-1
FI	72%	+6	17%	-7	11%	+1
HR	63%	+5	25%	-3	12%	-2
HU	57%	+5	33%	-6	10%	+1
PL	57%	+5	20%	-7	23%	+2
UK	59%	+5	21%	-1	20%	-4
CZ	43%	+4	39%	-7	18%	+3
IE	66%	+4	19%	-2	15%	-2
MT	77%	+4	7%	-4	16%	=
DK	78%	+3	12%	-4	10%	+1
BE	53%	+1	39%	-1	8%	=
FR	47%	+1	41%	-1	12%	=
SK	50%	+1	34%	-2	16%	+1
SE	78%	+1	15%	-2	7%	+1
IT	42%	=	44%	+3	14%	-3
NL	73%	=	18%	+1	9%	-1
AT	57%	=	37%	+1	6%	-1
PT	49%	=	35%	=	16%	=
LT	61%	-1	17%	-1	22%	+2
DE	66%	-2	24%	+1	10%	+1
EE	53%	-2	21%	-2	26%	+4
SI	55%	-3	31%	+1	14%	+2
CY	34%	-4	48%	=	18%	+4
LU	54%	-4	31%	+1	15%	+3
EL	32%	-5	64%	+7	4%	-2
CY (tcc)	54%	-11	30%	+9	16%	+2
AL	66%	NA*	14%	NA*	20%	NA*
IS	70%	+5	17%	-8	13%	+3
RS	38%	+3	39%	-1	23%	-2
MK	52%	=	29%	-1	19%	+1
TR	29%	=	46%	+8	25%	-8
ME	43%	-1	40%	+5	17%	-4

** NA = Not asked: this question was not asked in this country during the previous survey*

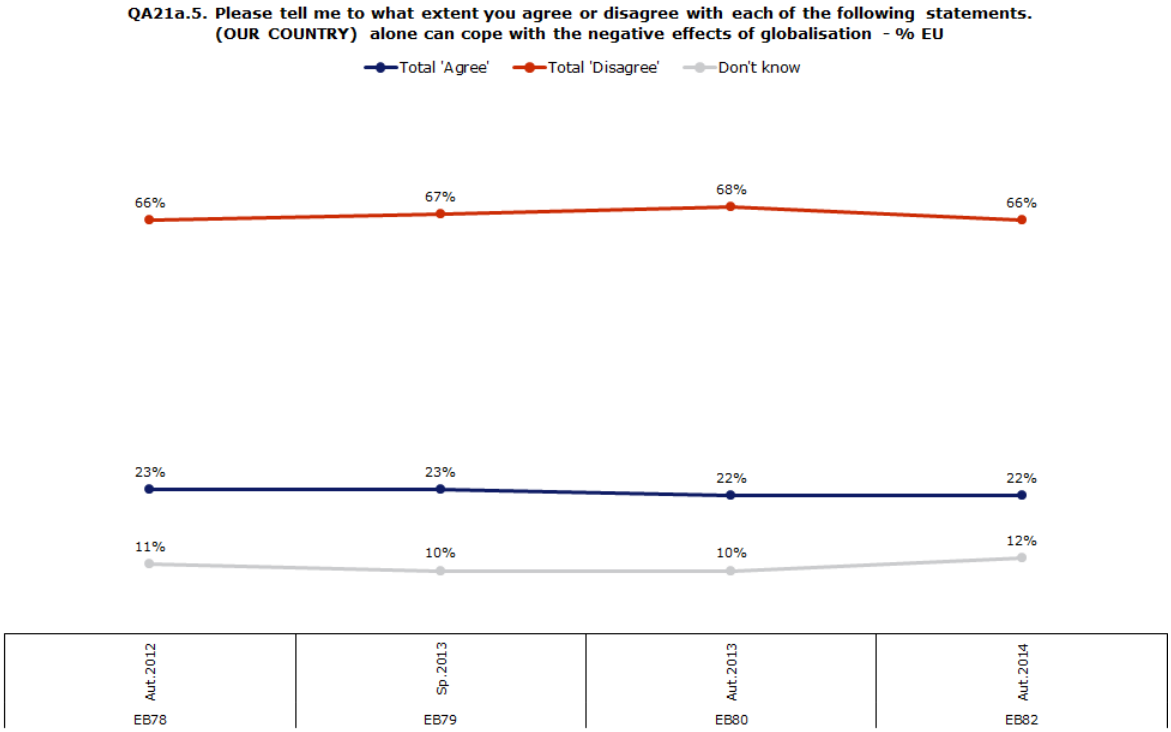
A socio-demographic analysis reveals that men (58%), members of generation "Y" born after 1980 (63%), those who studied up the age of 20 and beyond (61%), managers (67%) and those who consider that they belong to the upper middle class (69%) and the upper class (75%) are more likely than average to welcome the economic dimension of globalisation. In contrast, women (52%), Europeans born before 1946 (45%), those who left school at the age of 15 or earlier (40%), unemployed people (48%) house persons (44%) and respondents who identify themselves as working class (45%) are less likely than average to do so. These general trends by gender, generation, level of education, socio-professional category and social status cut across all questions relating to globalisation.

QA21a.4 Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

Globalisation is an opportunity for economic growth

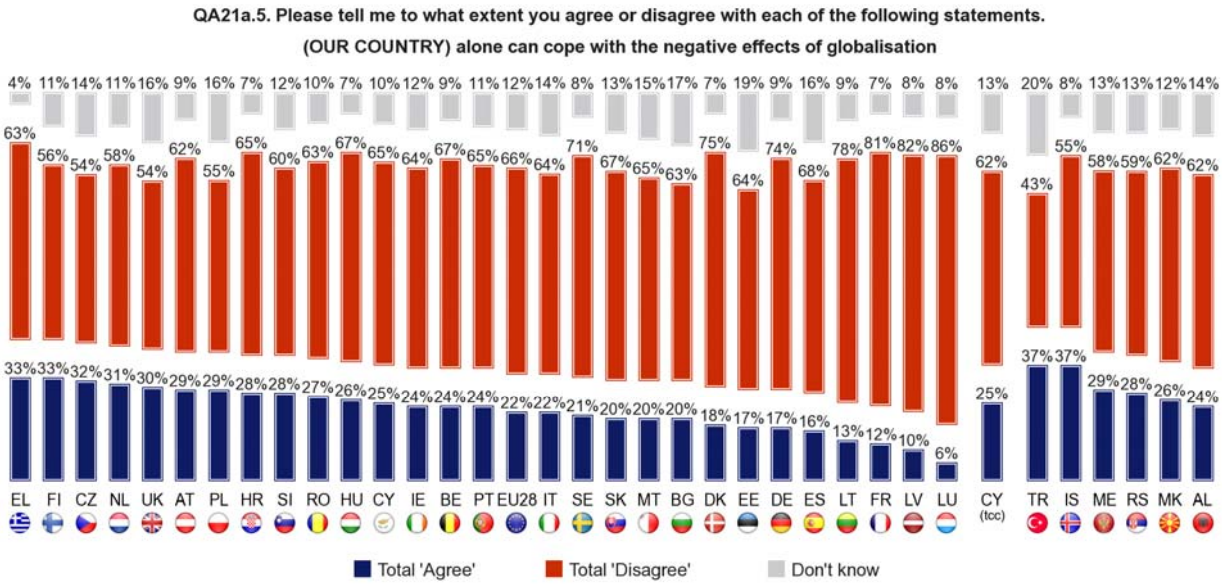
	Total 'Agree'	Total 'Disagree'	Don't know
EU28	55%	30%	15%
Gender			
Man	58%	31%	11%
Woman	52%	29%	19%
Age			
15-24	65%	21%	14%
25-39	60%	29%	11%
40-54	54%	33%	13%
55 +	48%	32%	20%
Generation			
Before 1928	36%	24%	40%
1928 - 1945	45%	32%	23%
Total 'Before 1946'	45%	31%	24%
1946 - 1964 "BB"	52%	33%	15%
1965 - 1980 "X"	56%	32%	12%
After 1980 "Y"	63%	24%	13%
Education (End of)			
15-	40%	34%	26%
16-19	54%	31%	15%
20+	61%	30%	9%
Still studying	68%	19%	13%
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	56%	35%	9%
Managers	67%	27%	6%
Other white collars	59%	31%	10%
Manual workers	56%	29%	15%
House persons	44%	32%	24%
Unemployed	48%	34%	18%
Retired	48%	32%	20%
Students	68%	19%	13%
Consider belonging to			
The working class	45%	33%	22%
The lower middle class	56%	31%	13%
The middle class	60%	29%	11%
The upper middle class	69%	25%	6%
The upper class	75%	21%	4%

To tackle the challenges and issues of globalisation, a large majority of Europeans remain convinced that union is preferable to isolation. Two-thirds of respondents (66%, -2 percentage points since autumn 2013) do not think that "their country alone can cope with the negative effects of globalisation". Just over one in five respondents disagreed (22%, unchanged) and 12% (+2) expressed no opinion[51]. The opinion ratio for this question has been stable since autumn 2012.



[51] QA21a.5. Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. (OUR COUNTRY) alone can cope with the negative effects of globalisation.

A majority of respondents disagree with this statement in all Member States, most notably in Luxembourg (86% "disagree", +1 percentage point compared with autumn 2013), Latvia (82%, unchanged) and France (81%, -4). Respondents in Greece (33% "disagree", -1), Finland (33%, -10), the Czech Republic (32%, -2), the Netherlands (31%, +1) and the United Kingdom (30%, +5) are the most likely to believe that their country could cope with the negative effects of globalisation on its own.



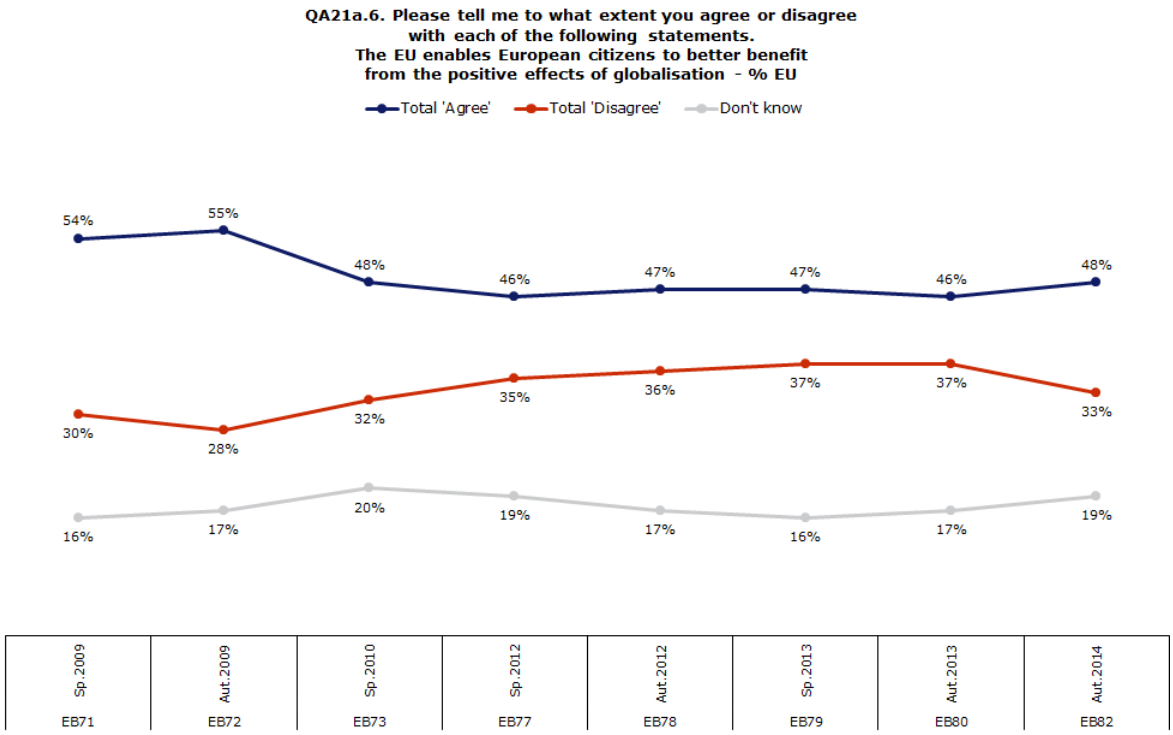
In the candidate countries:

- Globalisation is seen as an opportunity for economic growth by a majority of respondents in Iceland (70%, +5 percentage points since spring 2014, versus 17%, -8), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (52%, unchanged, versus 29%, -1) and Montenegro (43%, -1, versus 40%, +5). Two-thirds of the people interviewed in Albania, where the survey was carried out for the first time, agree that globalisation presents an economic opportunity (66%, versus 14%);

- The opposite view is predominant in Serbia (38%, +3, versus 39%, -1), where opinions are very divided, and in Turkey (29%, unchanged, versus 46%, +8);

- In all the candidate countries, **a majority of respondents disagree that their country could cope with the negative effects of globalisation on its own**, in proportions ranging from 62% in Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (+2 percentage points) to 43% in Turkey (-6, versus 37%, -5).

Lastly, **a majority of respondents continue to see the European Union as enabling citizens to profit more fully from the benefits of globalisation.** Almost half of Europeans (48%, +2 percentage points since autumn 2013) agree that "the EU enables European citizens to better benefit from the positive effects of globalisation", while 33% (-4) disagree and 19% (+2) expressed no opinion[52].



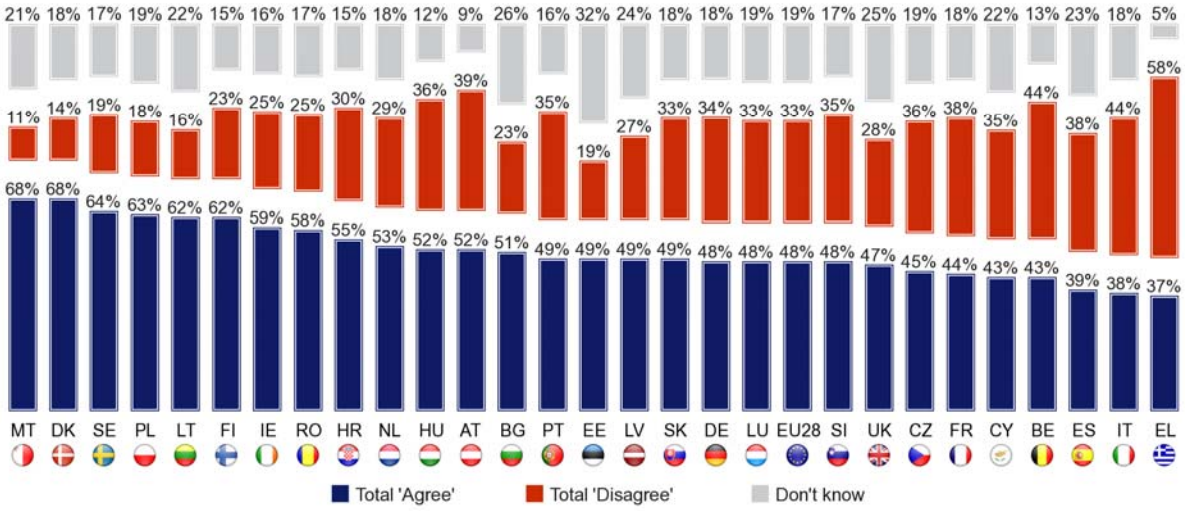
Since autumn 2013, the opinion ratio has become positive in Cyprus (43% versus 35%, compared with 33% versus 56%), Portugal (49% versus 35%, compared with 38% versus 39%) and the Czech Republic (45% versus 36%, compared with 42% versus 46%). Whereas views were evenly divided in autumn 2013 (38% versus 38%), the opinion ratio is now very slightly positive in Spain (39% versus 38%). The increase in agreement that the EU plays a positive role in globalisation is particularly marked in Portugal (+11 percentage points) and Cyprus (+10).

In contrast, following an 11-point fall in agreement, the opinion ratio is now negative in Belgium (43% "agree" versus 44%, compared with 54% versus 40%). In this survey, Belgium has joined Greece (58% "disagree", -12 percentage points) and Italy (44%, -12, versus 38%, +10), where majorities continue to reject the view that the EU enables citizens to benefit from globalisation, despite a significant decline.

[52] QA21a.6. Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. The EU enables European citizens to better benefit from the positive effects of globalisation.

A majority of respondents in 25 Member States are thus positive about the EU's role in enabling citizens to benefit from the positive effects of globalisation, with the highest scores in Malta (68%, +8 percentage points), Denmark (68%, -3), Sweden (64%, -6), Poland (63%, +5), Finland (62%, -9) and Lithuania (62%, +8). Within these 25 countries, agreement has risen sharply in Romania (58%, +15), Portugal (49%, +11), Cyprus (43%, +10), Lithuania (62%, +8), Malta (68%, +8) and Ireland (59%, +6), but has slipped in Luxembourg (48%, -9), Finland (62%, -9), Estonia (49%, -7), Sweden (64%, -6) and Germany (48%, -5).

QA21a.6. Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.
The EU enables European citizens to better benefit from the positive effects of globalisation



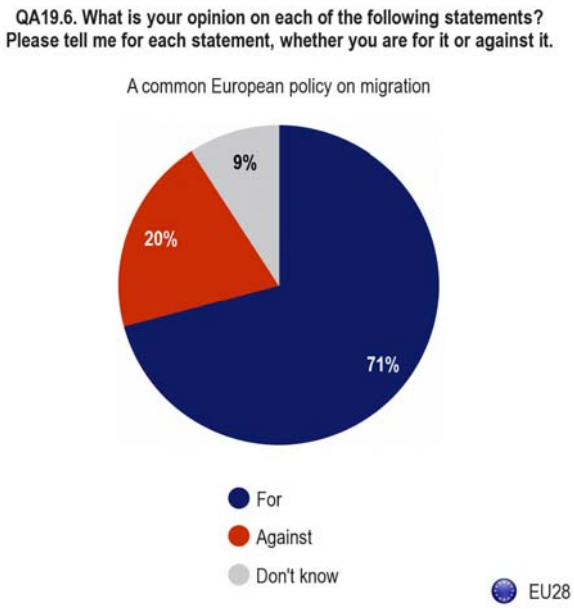
5.3. Europeans, immigration and freedom of movement in the EU

5.3.1. Immigration in the EU

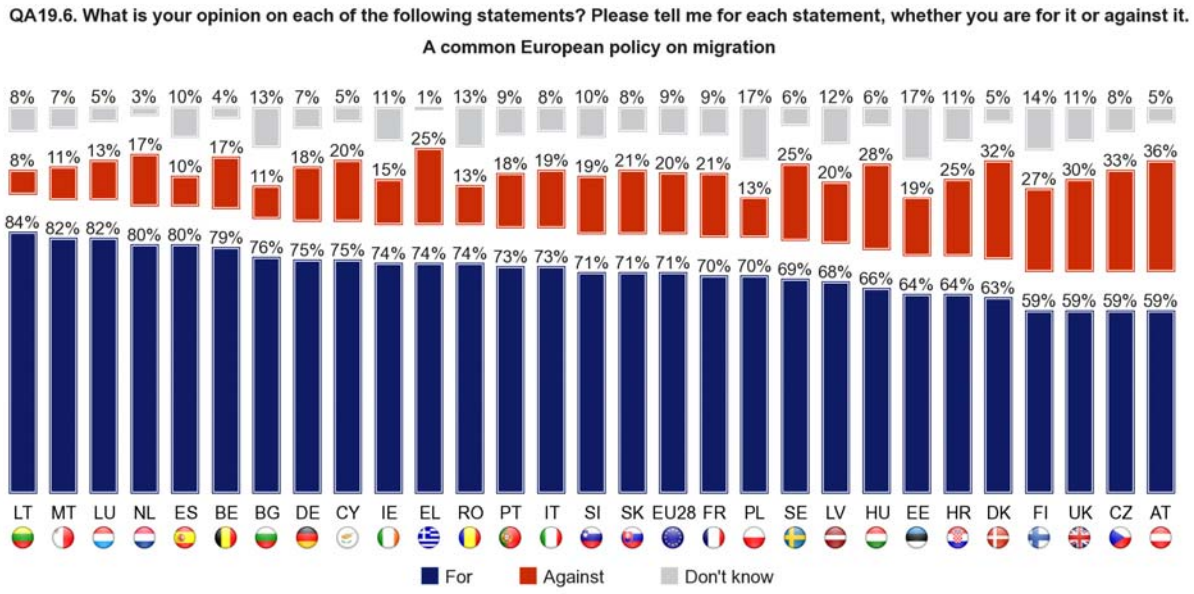
– Europeans are opposed to immigration from outside the EU, and support a common EU migration policy –

More than seven out of ten Europeans (71%) are in favour of a common European policy on migration, while 20% are opposed and 9% expressed no opinion[53].

An absolute majority of respondents in all Member States are in favour of a common European migration policy, with the highest levels of approval in Lithuania (84%), Malta (82%), Luxembourg (82%), the Netherlands (80%) and Spain (80%), while approval is lowest in Finland (59%), the United Kingdom (59%), the Czech Republic (59%) and Austria (59%).

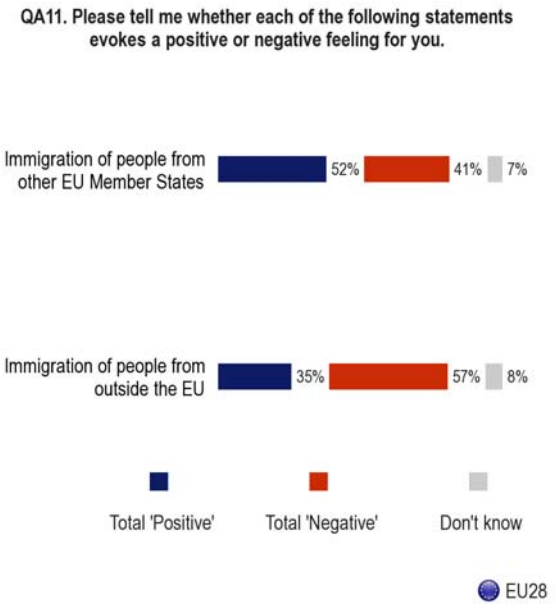


A socio-demographic analysis reveals that the **principle of a common European policy on migration** is supported by at least 60% of respondents in all categories of the European population (age, education, socio-professional category, social status, difficulty in paying bills).



[53] QA19.6. What is your opinion on each of the following statements? A common European policy on migration.

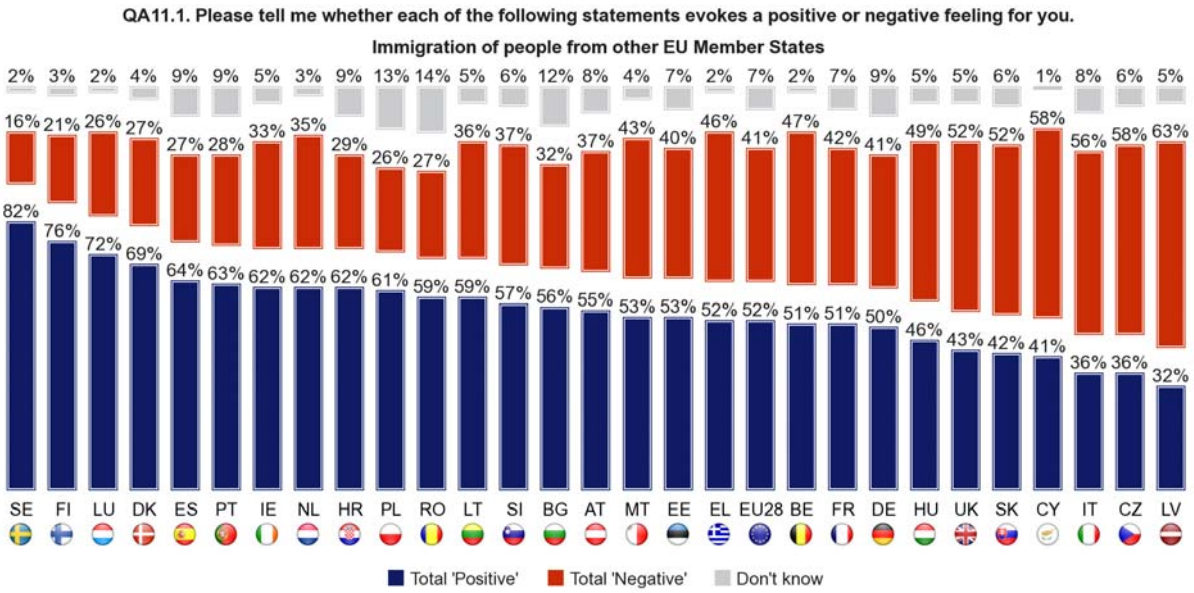
A majority of Europeans are in favour of intra-Community immigration, but the opinion ratio is fairly narrow: 52% of respondents have a "positive feeling" about the "immigration of people from other EU Member States", while 41% have a "negative feeling" and 7% did not express an opinion.



However, a majority of Europeans oppose extra-Community immigration: 57% of respondents have a "negative feeling" about the "immigration of people from outside the EU", while 35% have a "positive feeling" and 8% gave no reply[54].

Intra-Community immigration is seen in a positive light in 21 Member States, particularly in the Nordic countries (82% in Sweden, 76% in Finland and 69% in Denmark), Luxembourg (72%), Spain (64%) and Portugal (63%). The opinion ratio is narrower in Germany (50% versus 41%), France (51% versus 42%), Greece (52% versus 46%) and Belgium (51% versus 47%).

However, a majority of respondents see intra-Community immigration in a negative light in seven Member States: Latvia (63%), the Czech Republic (58%), Cyprus (58%), Italy (56%), Slovakia (52%), the United Kingdom (52%) and Hungary (49% versus 46%).



[54] QA11.1-2. Please tell me whether each of the following statements evokes a positive or negative feeling for you. Immigration of people from other EU Member States; Immigration of people from countries outside the EU.

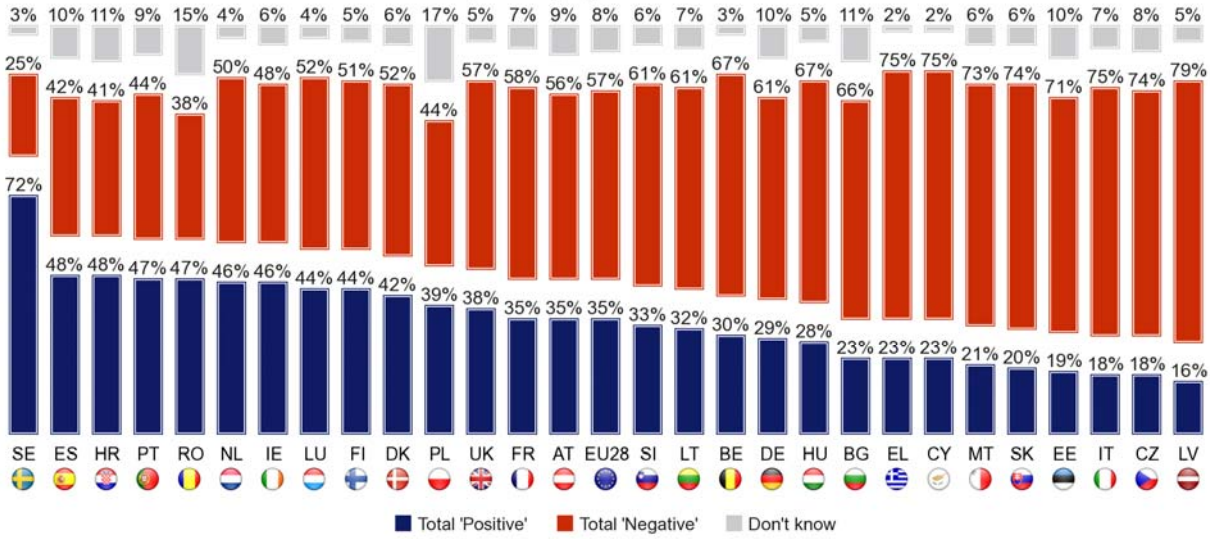
A socio-demographic analysis reveals some differences between categories: **intra-Community immigration is perceived positively by a majority of respondents in the most socially and economically advantaged categories**: 64% of those who studied up to the age of 20 and beyond, 56% of those who never or almost never have difficulties paying their bills and 71% of those who see themselves as upper class. In contrast, it is perceived negatively by a majority of people from more disadvantaged backgrounds: 53% of those who left school at the age of 15 or earlier, 51% of those who struggle to pay their bills most of the time and 47% (versus 45%) of those who see themselves as working class. Generation also plays an important role in shaping opinions: members of generation "Y", born after 1980 (59%), those belonging to generation "X", born between 1965 and 1980 (53%), and baby boomers, born between 1946 and 1964 (49% versus 44%) are predominantly positive about immigration from other EU Member States, whereas those born before 1946 (43% versus 48% "negative") are predominantly negative.

A majority of respondents in 23 Member States are negative about extra-Community immigration, with an absolute majority in 21 of them, most strikingly in Latvia (79% "negative"), Greece (75%), Cyprus (75%), Italy (75%), Slovakia (74%), the Czech Republic (74%) and Malta (73%), and a relative majority in Ireland (48% versus 46%) and Poland (44% versus 39%).

Positive feelings about extra-Community immigration are predominant in five Member States with an absolute majority in Sweden (72%), where respondents stand out sharply from the rest of Europeans, and a relative majority in Spain (48% versus 42%), Croatia (48% versus 41%), Portugal (47% versus 44%) and Romania (47% versus 38%).

QA11.2. Please tell me whether each of the following statements evokes a positive or negative feeling for you.

Immigration of people from outside the EU



A socio-demographic analysis shows that opinions on extra-Community immigration are more or less evenly divided among the most advantaged social classes. They are completely evenly balanced among those who identify themselves as upper middle class (47% versus 47%) and almost evenly balanced among people who studied the longest (45% "positive" versus 47% among those who studied up to the age of 20 and beyond) and managers (47% versus 45%). **A majority of respondents in the lower and middle classes are opposed to extra-Community immigration**, with the likelihood of opposition increasing as we descend the social scale:

- 55% of those who identify themselves as middle class oppose extra-Community immigration, as do 58% of those who see themselves as lower middle class and 60% of those who see themselves as working class;
- This opposition is shared by 67% of those who left school at the age of 15 or earlier and 63% of those who completed their education between the ages of 16 and 19;
- It is shared by a majority of respondents in all socio-professional categories, except for managers and students: 64% of retired people, 59% of manual workers, 58% of house persons, 57% of unemployed people and white-collar workers, and 56% of self-employed people.

Lastly, opposition to extra-Community immigration varies with age, although respondents are predominantly negative in all age groups: from 50% versus 41% among 15-24 year-olds to 63% versus 28% among those in the 55+ age group.

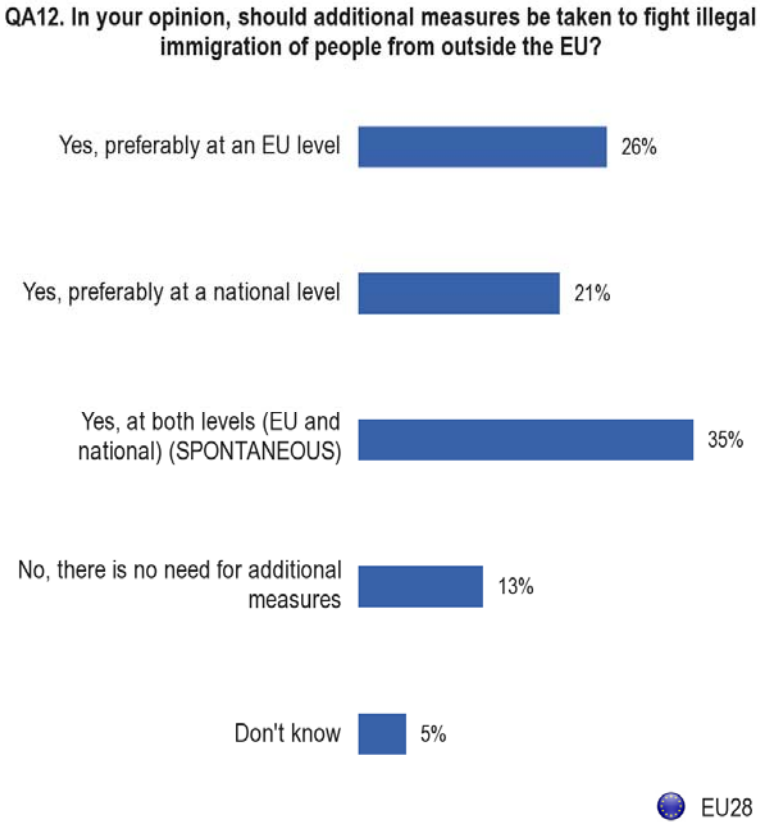
QA11. Please tell me whether each of the following statements evokes a positive or negative feeling for you.

	Immigration of people from other EU Member States			Immigration of people from outside the EU		
	Total 'Positive'	Total 'Negative'	Don't know	Total 'Positive'	Total 'Negative'	Don't know
EU28	52%	41%	7%	35%	57%	8%
Gender						
Man	54%	39%	7%	35%	57%	8%
Woman	51%	41%	8%	34%	57%	9%
Age						
15-24	58%	35%	7%	41%	50%	9%
25-39	57%	35%	8%	41%	51%	8%
40-54	52%	41%	7%	36%	56%	8%
55 +	46%	46%	8%	28%	63%	9%
Generation						
Before 1928	37%	55%	8%	24%	70%	6%
1928 - 1945	44%	47%	9%	25%	65%	10%
Total 'Before 1946'	43%	48%	9%	25%	65%	10%
1946 - 1964 "BB"	49%	44%	7%	31%	61%	8%
1965 - 1980 "X"	53%	39%	8%	37%	54%	9%
After 1980 "Y"	59%	34%	7%	42%	50%	8%
Education (End of)						
15-	38%	53%	9%	24%	67%	9%
16-19	46%	46%	8%	29%	63%	8%
20+	64%	29%	7%	45%	47%	8%
Still studying	65%	29%	6%	47%	45%	8%
Socio-professional category						
Self-employed	54%	39%	7%	36%	56%	8%
Managers	65%	29%	6%	47%	45%	8%
Other white collars	54%	39%	7%	35%	57%	8%
Manual workers	50%	42%	8%	33%	59%	8%
House persons	44%	46%	10%	32%	58%	10%
Unemployed	47%	45%	8%	35%	57%	8%
Retired	46%	46%	8%	27%	64%	9%
Students	65%	29%	6%	47%	45%	8%
Difficulties paying bills						
Most of the time	41%	51%	8%	29%	63%	8%
From time to time	48%	44%	8%	32%	60%	8%
Almost never/ Never	56%	37%	7%	38%	53%	9%
Consider belonging to						
The working class	45%	47%	8%	31%	60%	9%
The lower middle class	50%	44%	6%	35%	58%	7%
The middle class	57%	36%	7%	36%	55%	9%
The upper middle class	67%	29%	4%	47%	47%	6%
The upper class	71%	24%	5%	50%	48%	2%

– Europeans want to step up the fight against illegal immigration –

There is a broad consensus on the need to step up the fight against illegal immigration from outside the EU[55]: 82% of respondents think that additional measures need to be taken, while 13% disagree and 5% expressed no opinion. **At least two-thirds of Europeans share this opinion in all Member States,** with the highest scores in Greece (96%), Malta (96%), Cyprus (93%), Italy (91%) and the Czech Republic (90%).

The European Union is seen as playing a central role in the fight against illegal immigration: in response to this question, for which only one answer was possible, 35% of those polled declared *spontaneously* that new measures should be adopted at European and national levels, while 26% consider that they should be adopted preferably at European level and 21% think that they should be adopted preferably at national level.



The aggregated answers ('preferably at European level' and 'jointly at national and European levels') show that **an absolute majority of respondents (61%) want tighter action at EU level to combat illegal immigration (61%). This absolute majority exists in 26 Member States,** most notably in Malta (81%) and Luxembourg (81%). However, fewer than 50% of respondents in Croatia (41%) and the United Kingdom (46%) call for EU action.

[55] QA12. In your opinion, should additional measures be taken to fight illegal immigration of people from outside the EU?

A more detailed analysis shows that **support for primarily European action** is far higher than the European average (EU28, 26%) in Belgium (42%), Denmark (36%) and Spain (36%).

Support for joint action at national and European levels is higher than the EU average (EU28, 35%) in Estonia (59%), Luxembourg (54%), Malta (47%), Bulgaria (46%), Ireland (45%), the Netherlands (45%), Germany (45%), Cyprus (44%), Italy (44%) and Finland (44%).

Respondents in the United Kingdom (39%), Greece (36%) and Cyprus (34%) are far more likely than the European average (EU28, 21%) to want **primarily national action.**

Sweden and Croatia are the only two countries where more than a quarter of respondents consider that **there is no need for additional measures to fight illegal immigration of people from outside the EU** (28% in both countries).

QA12. In your opinion, should additional measures be taken to fight illegal immigration of people from outside the EU?

	Yes, preferably at an EU level	Yes, preferably at a national level	Yes, at both levels (EU and national) (SPONTA-NEOUS)	No, there is no need for additional measures	Don't know	Total 'Yes'	Total EU
EU28	26%	21%	35%	13%	5%	82%	61%
EL	25%	36%	35%	3%	1%	96%	60%
MT	34%	15%	47%	2%	2%	96%	81%
CY	15%	34%	44%	5%	2%	93%	59%
IT	23%	24%	44%	6%	3%	91%	67%
CZ	35%	31%	24%	6%	4%	90%	59%
BE	42%	21%	26%	9%	2%	89%	68%
LU	27%	6%	54%	11%	2%	87%	81%
SK	20%	31%	36%	10%	3%	87%	56%
FI	25%	18%	44%	11%	2%	87%	69%
BG	20%	20%	46%	6%	8%	86%	66%
DK	36%	16%	34%	12%	2%	86%	70%
EE	16%	11%	59%	9%	5%	86%	75%
HU	22%	26%	38%	10%	4%	86%	60%
IE	19%	21%	45%	12%	3%	85%	64%
ES	36%	16%	33%	10%	5%	85%	69%
NL	33%	7%	45%	14%	1%	85%	78%
UK	31%	39%	15%	11%	4%	85%	46%
PT	18%	24%	41%	11%	6%	83%	59%
DE	23%	13%	45%	15%	4%	81%	68%
LV	25%	14%	41%	16%	4%	80%	66%
FR	28%	17%	34%	17%	4%	79%	62%
AT	17%	21%	41%	19%	2%	79%	58%
LT	19%	20%	39%	17%	5%	78%	58%
SI	21%	20%	34%	19%	6%	75%	55%
RO	23%	20%	29%	20%	8%	72%	52%
SE	22%	9%	38%	28%	3%	69%	60%
PL	20%	16%	31%	22%	11%	67%	51%
HR	20%	25%	21%	28%	6%	66%	41%

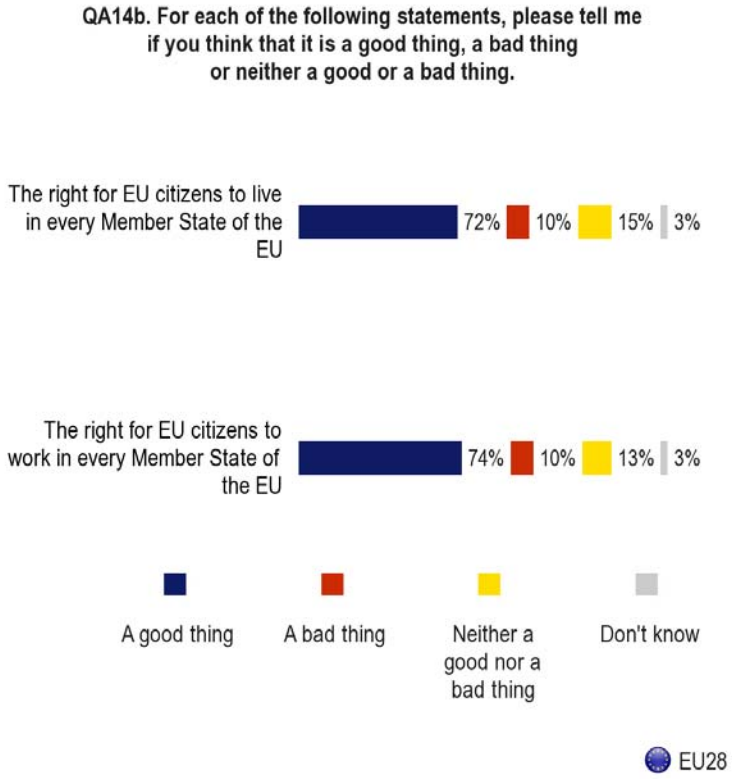
A socio-demographic analysis reveals that a majority of respondents in most categories answered spontaneously that such measures to combat illegal immigration of people from outside the EU should be adopted at both national and EU levels. However, there are variations between categories, in particular according to level of education: those who left school at the age of 15 or earlier are more likely to prefer action at national rather than European level (26% versus 25%), while the opposite is true in the case of those who studied up to the age of 20 and beyond (30% versus 16%).

5.3.2. The free movement of citizens within the EU

– Widespread support for the principles of free movement of citizens within the European Union –

Europeans strongly support the fundamental principles of the freedom of movement of citizens with the European Union:

- More than seven out of ten Europeans (72%) consider that "the right for EU citizens to live in every Member State of the EU" is a good thing, while 10% see it as a "bad thing", 15% think that it is "neither a good nor a bad thing" and 3% expressed no opinion;
- Almost three-quarters of Europeans (74%) support "the right for EU citizens to work in every Member State of the EU", while 10% disagree, 13% think that it is "neither a good nor a bad thing" and 3% gave no answer[56].

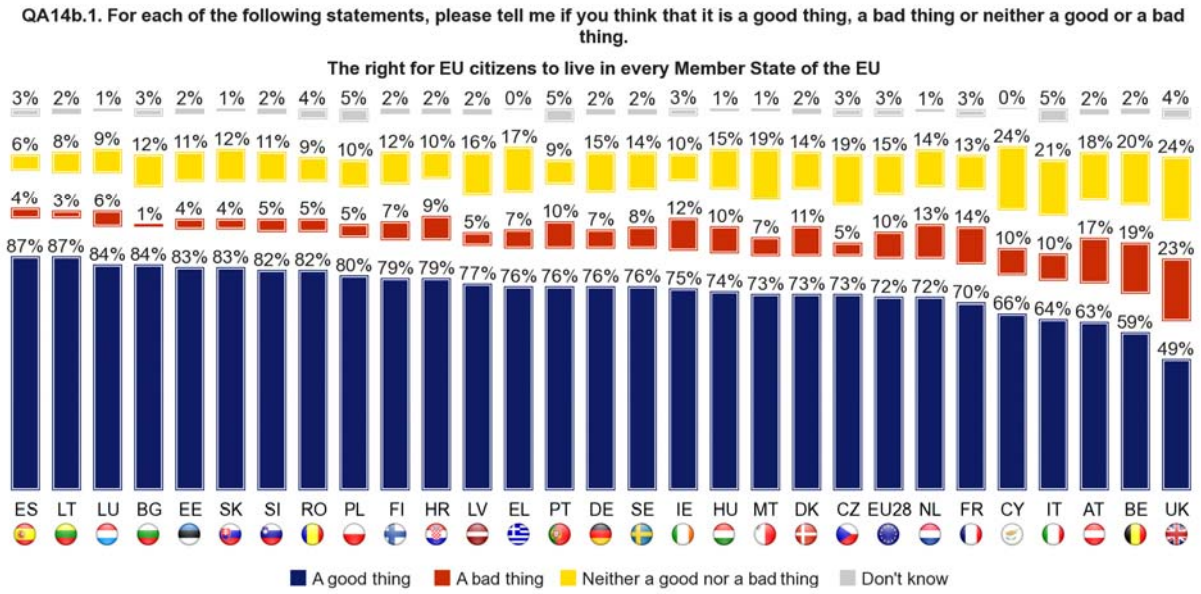


There is a broad consensus among Europeans on these two rights, which attract the support of an absolute majority of respondents in all Member States (with the sole exception of the United Kingdom in the case of the right to live anywhere in the EU, where the majority is only relative).

[56] QA14b.1-2. For each of the following statements, please tell me if you think that it is a good thing, a bad thing or neither a good nor a bad thing. The right for EU citizens to live in every Member State of the EU; The right for EU citizens to work in every Member State of the EU.

The right of European citizens to live anywhere in the EU is most widely supported in Spain (87%), Lithuania (87%), Luxembourg (84%), Bulgaria (84%), Estonia (83%) and Slovakia (83%), and receives least support in the United Kingdom (49% versus 23%) and Belgium (59% versus 19%).

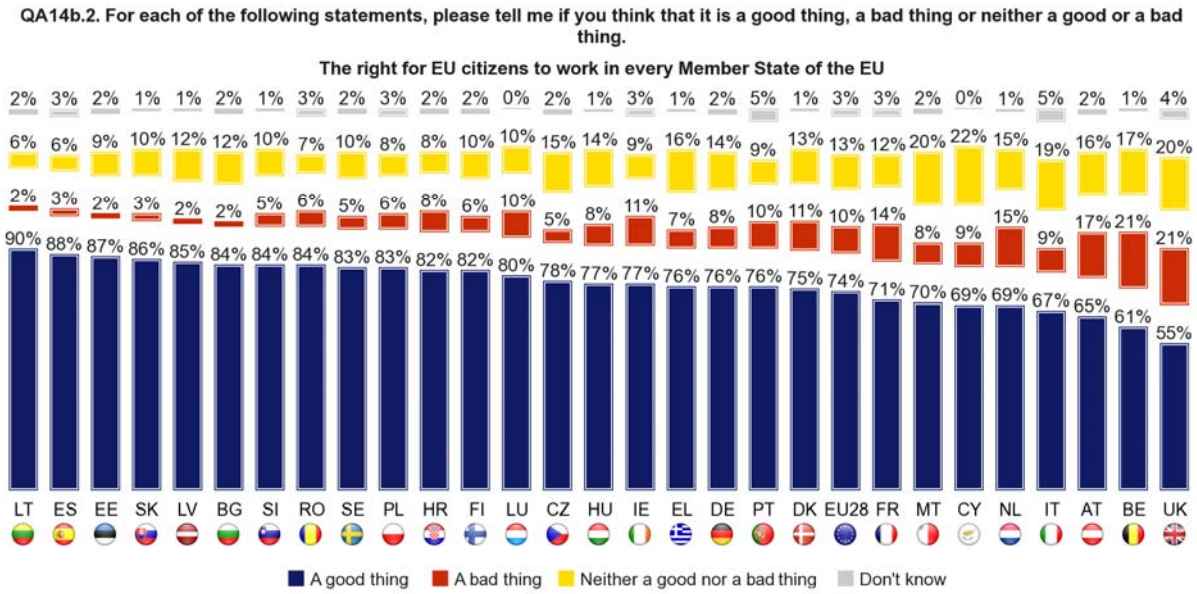
This right is supported by at least eight out of ten respondents in nine EU countries, by at least three-quarters in 17 countries and by at least seven out of ten in 23 countries.



This right receives at least 60% approval in all sections of the European population, regardless of age, gender, socio-professional category, difficulty in paying bills at the end of the month and social status. Support is more widespread in the higher social classes (80% of those who studied up to the age of 20 and beyond and of those who see themselves as upper middle class) than in the more disadvantaged categories (63% of those who left school at the age of 15 or earlier; 65% of those who identify as working class).

Respondents in Lithuania (90%), Spain (88%), Estonia (87%) and Slovakia (86%) are the most likely to support the **right of European citizens to work anywhere in the EU**. As was the case for the right to live anywhere in the EU, approval is lower in United Kingdom (55%) and Belgium (61%).

This right is supported by at least eight out of ten people in 13 EU countries, by at least three-quarters in 20 countries and by at least seven out of ten in 22 countries.

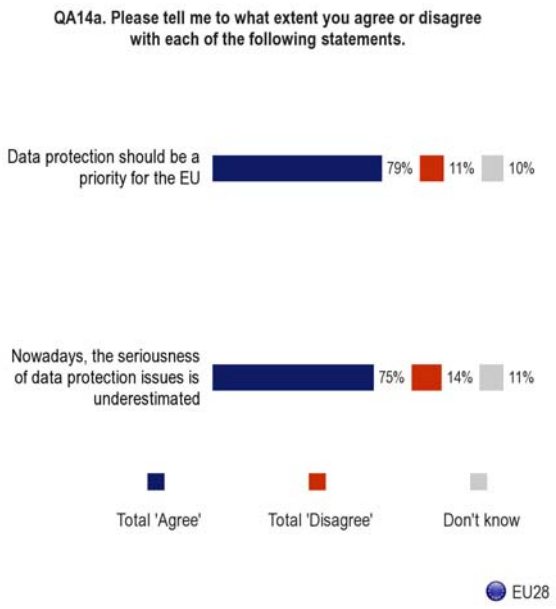


More than six out of ten respondents in all social categories of the European population support this right, with the same differences as those described previously for the right of citizens to live in every Member State of the EU.

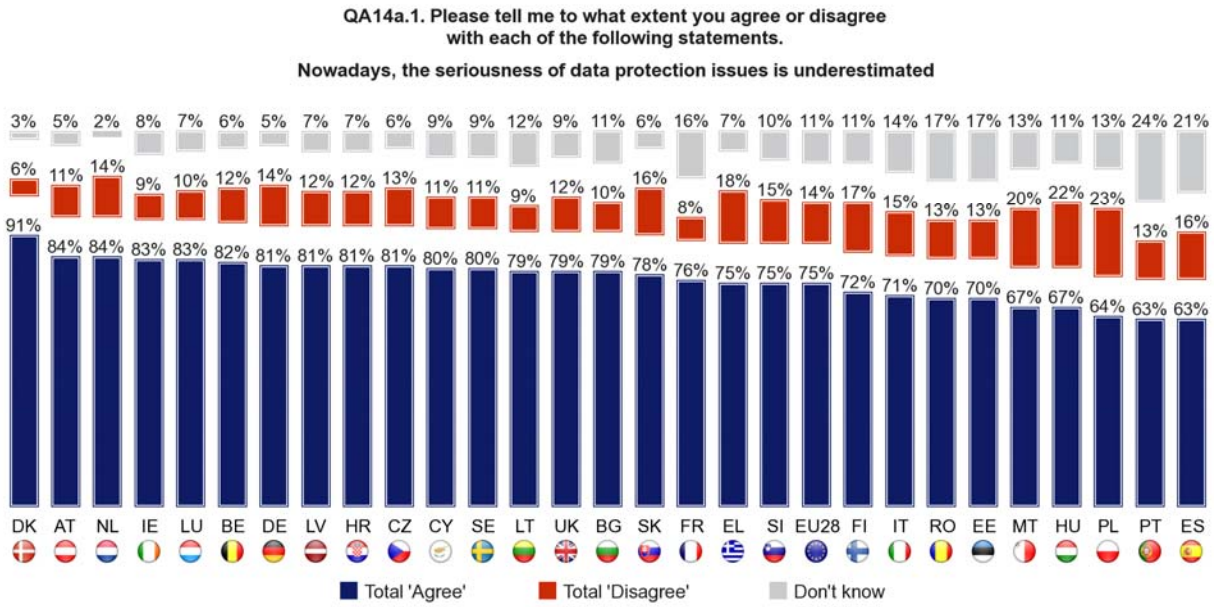
5.4. Europeans and data protection

– More than three-quarters of Europeans think that the EU should make data protection a priority –

Europeans seem to be very aware of the issue of data protection: **three-quarters of respondents (75%) agree that "nowadays, the seriousness of data protection issues is underestimated"**, while 14% disagree and 11% had no opinion. This feeling that the problem is underestimated leads to a call for action: **79% of Europeans think that "data protection should be a priority for the EU"**, while 11% disagree and 10% expressed no opinion[57].

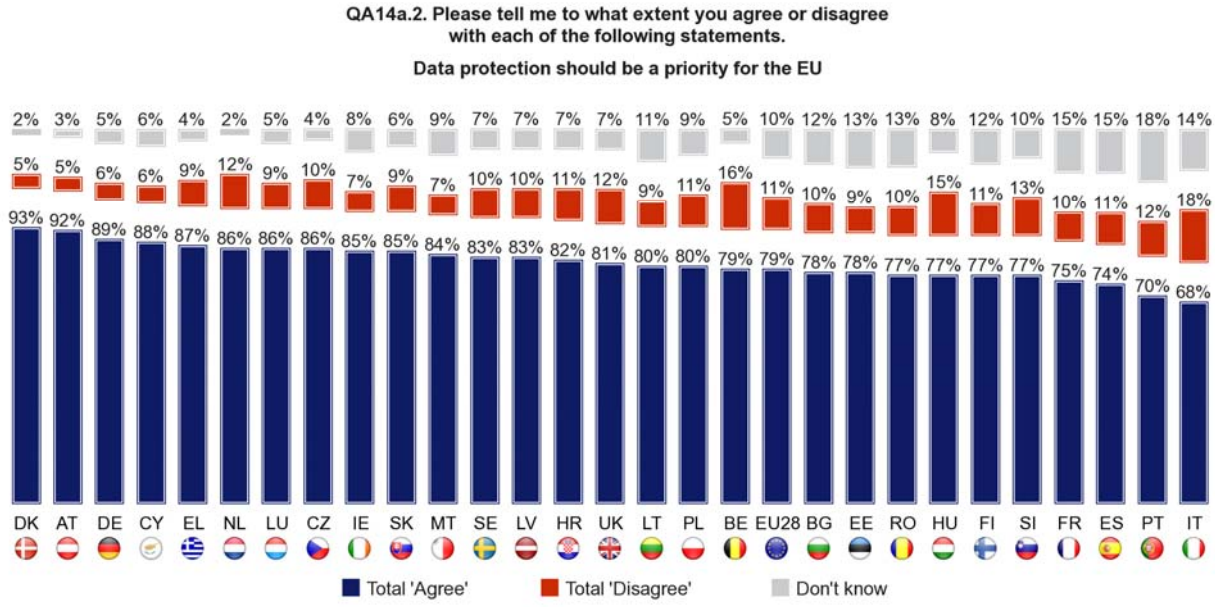


At least 63% of respondents in all Member States agree that the seriousness of data protection issues is underestimated, most notably in Denmark (91%), Austria (84%) and the Netherlands (84%). This view is also shared by a large majority of respondents in all socio-demographic categories, without any significant differences between them.



[57] QA14a.1-2. Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. Nowadays, the seriousness of data protection issues is underestimated; Data protection should be a priority for the EU.

There is a similar strong consensus that the EU should make data protection a priority: more than two-thirds of respondents in every Member State agree, most notably in Denmark (93%), Austria (92%), Germany (89%), Cyprus (88%) and Greece (87%).



At least 70% of respondents in all socio-demographic categories of the European population, regardless of the criterion applied (age, education, socio-professional category, social status, difficulty paying bills) support this statement.

III. THE EUROPEAN UNION TODAY AND TOMORROW

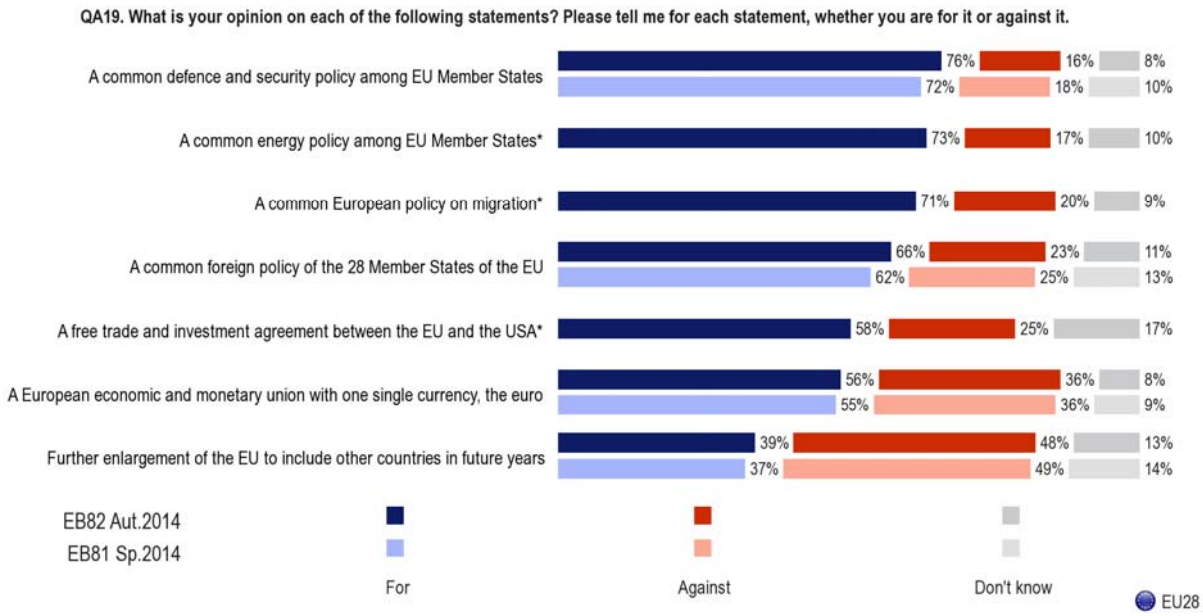
1. SUPPORT FOR EUROPEAN POLICIES

– Support for European policies has increased –

European public opinion generally continues to support a **common defence and security policy,** a **common foreign policy** and a **European economic and monetary union with a single currency, the euro**. Support for these policies has increased since spring 2014, by four percentage points for the common defence and security policy (76%, +4) and the common foreign policy (66%, +4), and by one percentage point for economic and monetary union (56%, +1).

A majority of Europeans are also in favour of a **common energy policy among EU Member States** (73%) and a **free trade and investment agreement between the EU and the USA** (58%). Support for these two policies was measured for the first time in the Standard Eurobarometer surveys.

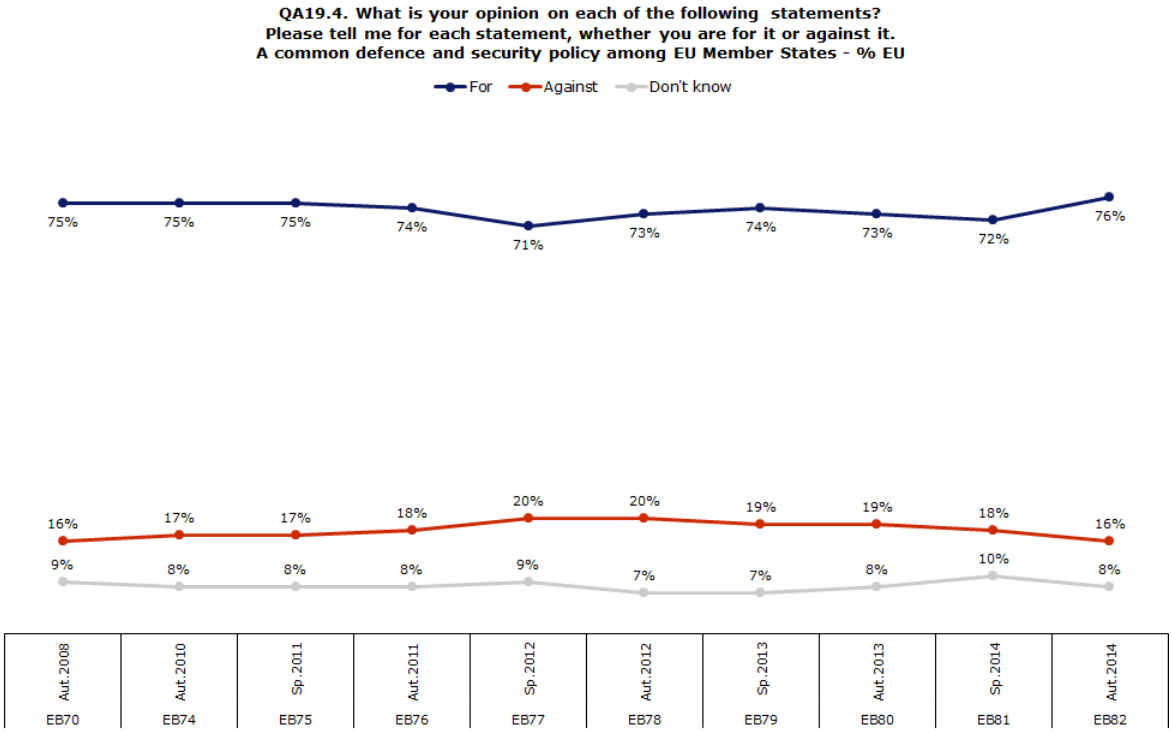
However, a majority of Europeans remain opposed to **further enlargement of the EU to include other countries in the coming years**, although support for this policy has increased slightly (39%, +2 percentage points, versus 48%, -1).



** New items*

A common defence and security policy among EU Member States

More than three-quarters of Europeans (76%, +4 percentage points since spring 2014) are in favour of a common defence and security policy among EU Member States, while 16% (-2) are against and 8% (-2) expressed no opinion[58]. Although this indicator has been very stable over time, it is noteworthy that this level of support is the highest measured since the Standard Eurobarometer survey of autumn 2008 (EB70).

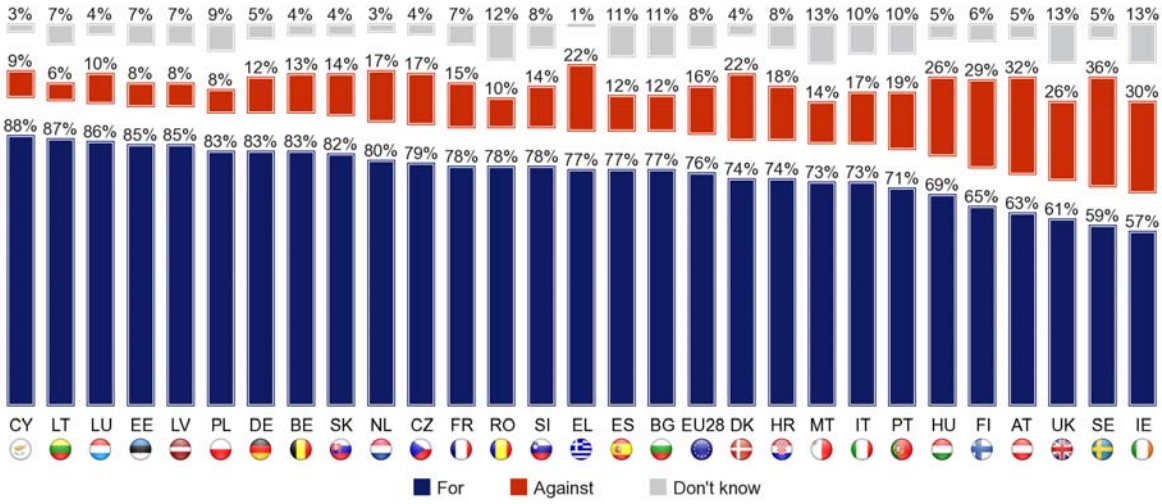


[58] QA19.4. What is your opinion on each of the following statements? Please tell me for each statement, whether you are for or against it. A common defence and security policy among EU Member States.

An absolute majority of respondents in all Member States are in favour of a common defence and security policy among EU Member States, with the highest scores in Cyprus (88%, +7 percentage points), Lithuania (87%, +1), Luxembourg (86%, +6), Estonia (85%, +1) and Latvia (85%, +4). The minority opposing a common defence and security policy is significantly above the EU average (EU28, 16% "against") in Sweden (36%, -1), Austria (32%, +3), Ireland (30%, +3) and Finland (29%, -6).

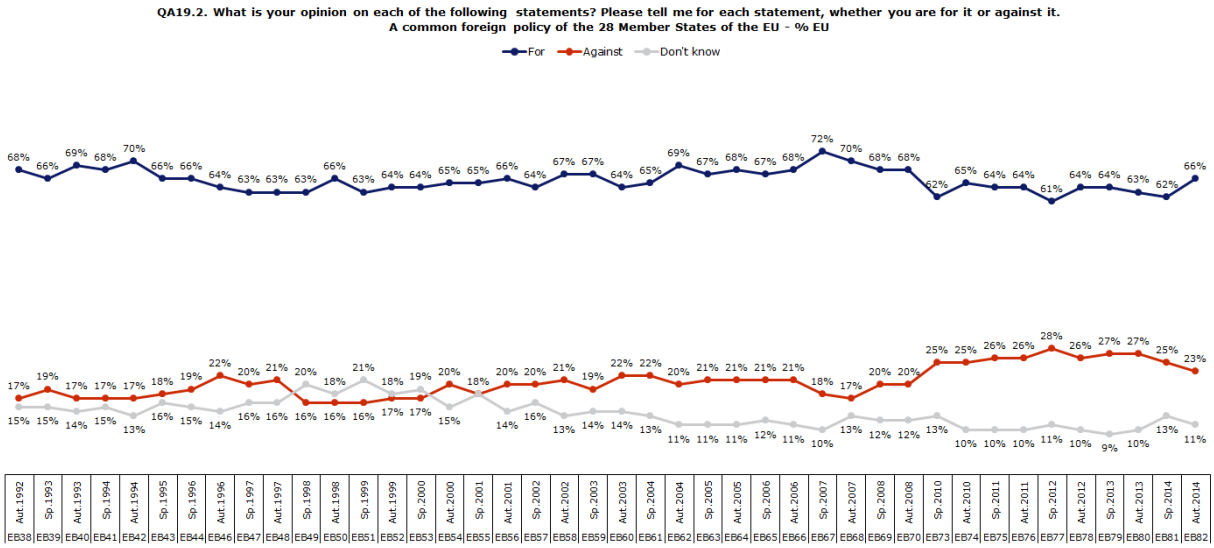
Support for this policy has gained the most ground in Denmark (74%, +10 percentage points), the United Kingdom (61%, +9), Cyprus (88%, +7), Poland (83%, +7), the Czech Republic (79%, +7), Bulgaria (77%, +7) and Finland (65%, +7). It has not slipped to a significant extent in any EU country.

QA19.4. What is your opinion on each of the following statements? Please tell me for each statement, whether you are for it or against it.
A common defence and security policy among EU Member States



A common foreign policy of the 28 Member States of the EU

Two-thirds of Europeans (66%, +4 percentage points since spring 2014) approve of the principle of a common foreign policy of the 28 Member States of the EU, while 23% (-2) are opposed and 11% (-2) expressed no opinion[59].

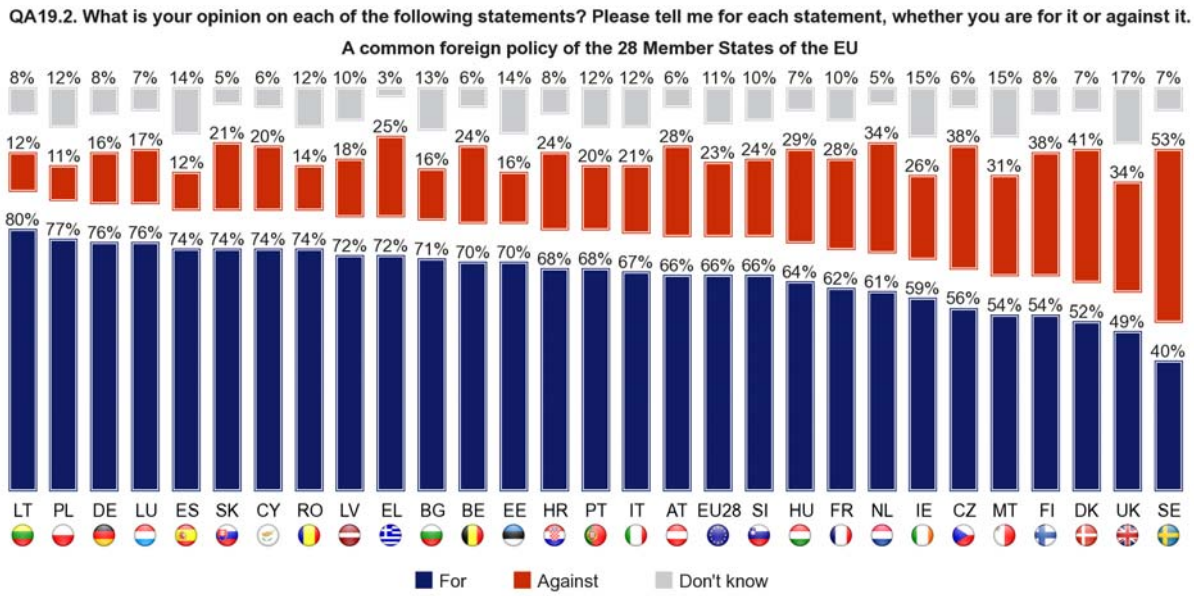


Respondents predominantly oppose this policy in only one country, Sweden (53%, -5 percentage points), compared with three countries in spring 2014. Following an increase in approval of 11 and 12 percentage points respectively, the opinion ratio is now positive in Denmark (52% versus 41%, compared with 41% versus 52%) and the United Kingdom (49% versus 34%, compared with 37% versus 40%).

An absolute majority of respondents in 26 Member States support the principle of a common European foreign policy, with the highest scores in Lithuania (80%, +4 percentage points), Poland (77%, +8), Germany (76%, +3) and Luxembourg (76%, +13). As well as in Luxembourg, the United Kingdom (49%, +12) and Denmark (52%, +11), support for this policy has increased significantly in Cyprus (74%, +9), Poland (77%, +8), the Czech Republic (56%, +8), Finland (54%, +7) and Slovakia (74%, +6).

[59] QA19.2. What is your opinion on each of the following statements? Please tell me for each statement, whether you are for or against it. A common foreign policy of the 28 Member States of the EU.

In total, support has gained ground in 24 Member States, while remaining stable in Greece (72%) and France (62%) and declining in Romania (74%, -1 percentage point) and Slovenia (66%, -4).

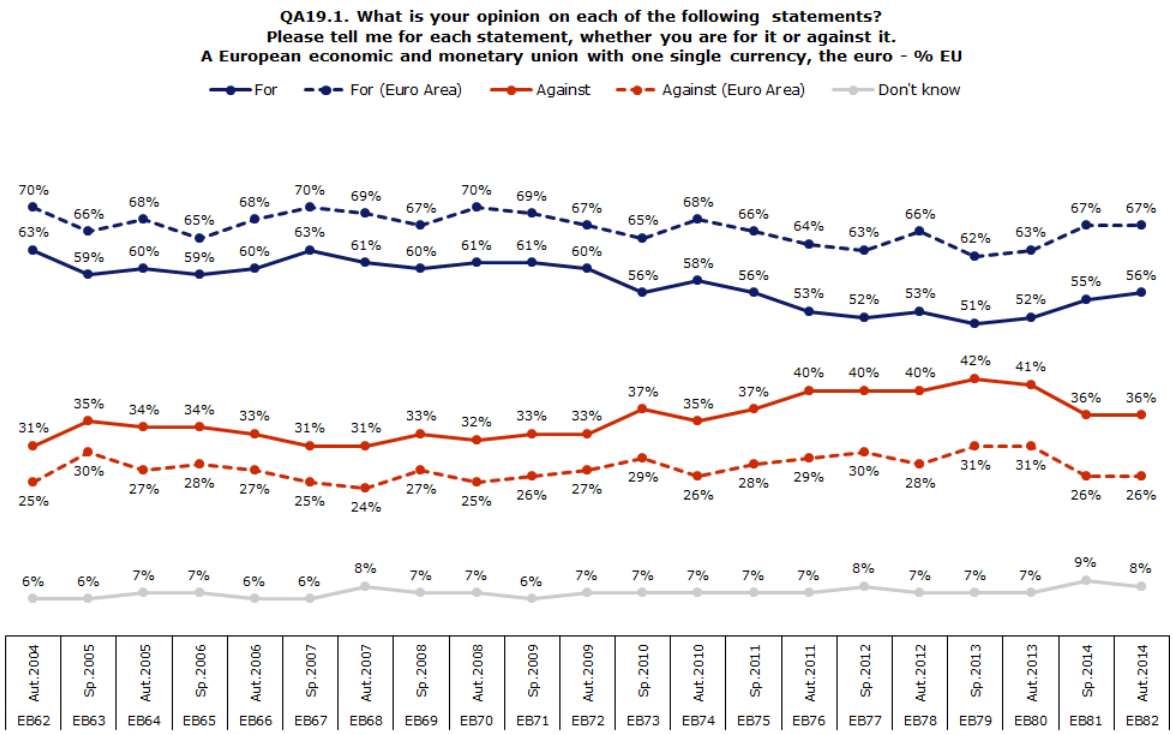


A European economic and monetary union with a single currency, the euro

A majority of Europeans (56%) support European economic and monetary union with a single currency, the euro. Support has gained one percentage point since spring 2014, while opposition to the single currency (36%) is stable and 8% (-1 percentage point) of respondents gave no response.

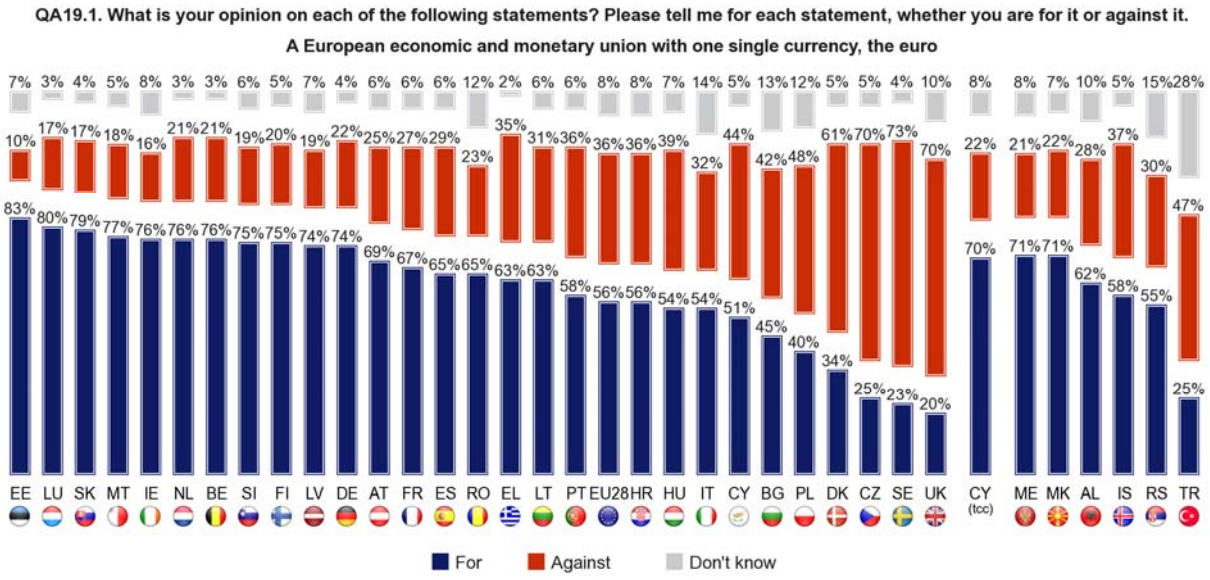
After a sharp improvement in the Standard Eurobarometer survey of spring 2014 (+8 index points), the opinion differential has accordingly stabilised in this survey at +20, compared with +19 in spring 2014. This is the highest score since the Standard Eurobarometer survey of autumn 2010 (+23) and 11 percentage points higher than the lowest level, recorded in spring 2013 (+9)[60].

[60] QA19.1. What is your opinion on each of the following statements? Please tell me for each statement, whether you are for or against it. A European economic and monetary union with one single currency, the euro.



More than two-thirds of euro area respondents (67%, unchanged since spring 2014) are in favour of economic and monetary union, while just over a quarter oppose it (26%, =). As in the spring 2014 survey, an absolute majority of respondents in the 18 countries that are euro area members support the euro, with the highest score in Estonia (83%, +3 percentage points) and the lowest in Cyprus (51%, -2, versus 44%, unchanged). Since the adoption of the single currency on 1 January 2014, support for the euro has continued to rise in Latvia (74%). It has gained six percentage points since spring 2014 and 21 percentage points since autumn 2013. It has also gained ground in Slovakia (79%, +5) and Spain (65%, +5), but has slipped in Greece (63%, -6). There have been no significant evolutions in the other euro area countries.

More than half of respondents in the non-euro area countries oppose economic and monetary union and the single currency (55%, -2 percentage points), while 35% (+3) are in favour. The opinion ratio for the euro has improved in all non-euro area countries.



In parallel with the adoption of the euro on 1 January 2015, support has increased very significantly in Lithuania (63% "for", +13 percentage points). In Latvia, which adopted the euro on 1 January 2014, support for economic and monetary union with a single currency, the euro, has also increased notably (74%, +6). Support has also gained ground in Romania (65%, +2), Hungary (54%, +1) and Croatia (56%, +3), and a majority of respondents now support the euro in Bulgaria (45% versus 42%), which was not the case in spring 2014 (41% versus 42%). Respondents remain predominantly opposed to the euro in Sweden (73% "against", -4), the United Kingdom (70%, -3), the Czech Republic (70%, -3), Denmark (61%, -5) and Poland (48% versus 40%, compared with 47% versus 37%), but opposition has decreased in four of these five countries.

QA19.1. What is your opinion on each of the following statements?
Please tell me for each statement, whether you are for it or against it.
A European economic and monetary union with one single currency, the euro

	For	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014	Against	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014	Don't know	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014
EU28	56%	+1	36%	=	8%	-1
EURO AREA	67%	=	26%	=	7%	=
NON-EURO AREA	35%	+3	55%	-2	10%	-1
LT	63%	+13	31%	-10	6%	-3
LV	74%	+6	19%	-6	7%	=
SK	79%	+5	17%	-4	4%	-1
ES	65%	+5	29%	-3	6%	-2
DK	34%	+5	61%	-5	5%	=
MT	77%	+4	18%	-3	5%	-1
BG	45%	+4	42%	=	13%	-4
SE	23%	+4	73%	-4	4%	=
UK	20%	+4	70%	-3	10%	-1
EE	83%	+3	10%	-4	7%	+1
HR	56%	+3	36%	-2	8%	-1
PL	40%	+3	48%	+1	12%	-4
LU	80%	+2	17%	=	3%	-2
IE	76%	+2	16%	-2	8%	=
AT	69%	+2	25%	-3	6%	+1
RO	65%	+2	23%	-3	12%	+1
HU	54%	+1	39%	-1	7%	=
CZ	25%	+1	70%	-3	5%	+2
NL	76%	=	21%	=	3%	=
IT	54%	=	32%	+3	14%	-3
FI	75%	-1	20%	=	5%	+1
DE	74%	-1	22%	=	4%	+1
FR	67%	-1	27%	+1	6%	=
PT	58%	-1	36%	+2	6%	-1
BE	76%	-2	21%	+1	3%	+1
CY	51%	-2	44%	=	5%	+2
SI	75%	-4	19%	+3	6%	+1
EL	63%	-6	35%	+6	2%	=
CY (tcc)	70%	+14	22%	-16	8%	+2
AL	62%	NA*	28%	NA*	10%	NA*
MK	71%	+1	22%	+1	7%	-2
IS	58%	-1	37%	+1	5%	=
TR	25%	-3	47%	+6	28%	-3
ME	71%	-5	21%	+8	8%	-3
RS	55%	-9	30%	+5	15%	+4

** NA= Not asked: this question was not asked in this country during the previous survey*

In the candidate countries, opposition to economic and monetary union with a single currency, the euro, remains predominant and has actually increased in this survey in Turkey (47% "against", +6 percentage points, versus 25%, -3). In contrast, an absolute majority of respondents in all the other candidate countries support EMU. Overall, support is stable in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (71% "for", +1) and Iceland (58%, -1), but has lost ground in Montenegro (71%, -5), and has fallen sharply in Serbia (55%, -9). Measured for the first time in this survey, support for the euro stands at 62% (versus 28%) in Albania.

A socio-demographic analysis reveals that all age categories continue to support the euro: 58% of 15-24 year-olds, 57% of 25-39 year-olds, 58% of 40-54 year-olds and 54% of those aged 55 or over.

The more insecure and disadvantaged categories are evenly divided in their opinions on the single currency (44% "for" versus 45% among those who struggle to pay their bills most of the time, 46% versus 45% among those who identify as working class).

A majority of respondents in the middle and higher classes of the European population support the euro, and this support generally increases in line with the respondent's social status: 51% of those who say that they belong in the lower middle class, 65% in the middle class and 71% in the upper middle class.

While 74% of respondents who trust the European Union and 73% of those with a positive image of the EU support the euro, this is also the case for 56% of those for whom the EU's image is neutral and 45% of those who "tend not to trust the EU" (45% versus 47%). However, a majority of Europeans with a negative image of the EU oppose economic and monetary union with a single currency, the euro (29% "for" versus 63%).

QA19.1 What is your opinion on each of the following statements? Please tell me for each statement, whether you are for it or against it.

A European economic and monetary union with one single currency, the euro

	For	Against	Don't know
EU28	56%	36%	8%
Gender			
Man	59%	35%	6%
Woman	54%	37%	9%
Age			
15-24	58%	34%	8%
25-39	57%	36%	7%
40-54	58%	35%	7%
55 +	54%	38%	8%
Education (End of)			
15-	50%	40%	10%
16-19	53%	40%	7%
20+	63%	31%	6%
Still studying	65%	28%	7%
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	59%	33%	8%
Managers	64%	31%	5%
Other white collars	59%	34%	7%
Manual workers	53%	38%	9%
House persons	52%	36%	12%
Un-employed	51%	43%	6%
Retired	54%	38%	8%
Students	65%	28%	7%
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	44%	45%	11%
From time to time	55%	36%	9%
Almost never/ Never	59%	35%	6%
Consider belonging to			
The working class	46%	45%	9%
The lower middle class	51%	42%	7%
The middle class	65%	28%	7%
The upper middle class	71%	24%	5%
The upper class	47%	46%	7%
Trust in EU			
Tend to trust	74%	22%	4%
Tend not to trust	45%	47%	8%
Image EU			
Positive	73%	21%	6%
Neutral	56%	35%	9%
Negative	29%	63%	8%

The following table shows the results by socio-demographic criteria in the European Union as a whole (EU28 average), in the six largest EU countries and in countries benefiting or having benefited from European Union assistance to overcome the financial and economic crisis.

QA19.1. What is your opinion on each of the following statements? Please tell me for each statement, whether you are for it or against it.
A European economic and monetary union with one single currency, the euro
Answer: 'For'

	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
TOTAL	56%	74%	65%	67%	54%	40%	20%	63%	58%	76%	51%
Gender											
Male	59%	76%	70%	68%	56%	47%	21%	64%	63%	81%	52%
Female	54%	71%	59%	66%	52%	34%	19%	62%	53%	72%	51%
Age											
15-24	58%	78%	68%	65%	48%	51%	25%	65%	74%	76%	52%
25-39	57%	73%	65%	64%	59%	48%	21%	68%	65%	76%	41%
40-54	58%	72%	64%	68%	61%	39%	22%	60%	57%	80%	58%
55 +	54%	73%	64%	69%	49%	30%	15%	61%	48%	75%	56%
Education (End of)											
15-	50%	66%	61%	57%	43%	12%	13%	51%	47%	72%	42%
16-19	53%	71%	62%	63%	58%	35%	14%	66%	67%	74%	53%
20+	63%	81%	75%	72%	65%	47%	30%	70%	72%	80%	55%
Still studying	65%	83%	74%	74%	50%	59%	25%	65%	79%	82%	55%
Socio-professional category											
Self-employed	59%	70%	73%	75%	58%	46%	23%	65%	65%	66%	50%
Managers	64%	85%	90%	79%	76%	52%	22%	77%	66%	84%	68%
Other white collars	59%	68%	76%	69%	64%	41%	26%	74%	76%	82%	57%
Manual workers	53%	67%	69%	55%	56%	41%	17%	60%	55%	75%	49%
House persons	52%	71%	59%	65%	45%	36%	13%	59%	30%	74%	44%
Unemployed	51%	73%	52%	54%	50%	41%	24%	53%	49%	67%	40%
Retired	54%	73%	61%	70%	47%	27%	16%	63%	49%	77%	54%
Students	65%	83%	74%	74%	50%	59%	25%	65%	79%	82%	55%

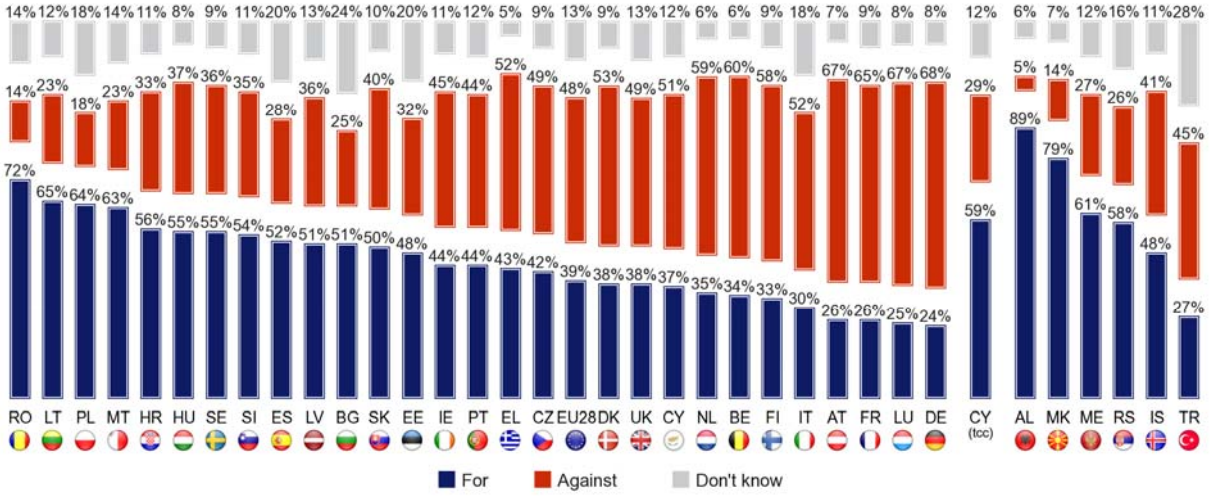
Further enlargement of the EU to include other countries in future years

European public opinion continues to be predominantly against further enlargement of the EU to include other countries in future years, despite a slight dip in opposition. Just under half of Europeans (48%, -1 percentage point) oppose further enlargement, while 39% (+2) are in favour and 13% (-1) expressed no opinion[61].

Support for further enlargement has gained ground in the non-euro area countries, and now commands an absolute majority of respondents (52%, +5 percentage points). In the euro area, without significant evolutions since spring 2014, a majority of euro area respondents continue to oppose further enlargement (55% versus 33%, compared with 56% versus 31%).

The national differences are similar to those analysed in the spring 2014 survey. The **enlargement of the EU to other countries in the future is supported by a majority of respondents in 13 Member States:** Romania (72%, +2 percentage points), Lithuania (65%, unchanged), Poland (64%, +9), Malta (63%, +2), Croatia (56%, -8), Hungary (55%, -3), Sweden (55%, +7), Slovenia (54%, -4), Spain (52%, +3), Latvia (51%, +2), Bulgaria (51%, -2), Slovakia (50%, +1, versus 40%, -1) and Estonia (48%, =, versus 32%, -5).

QA19.3. What is your opinion on each of the following statements? Please tell me for each statement, whether you are for it or against it.
Further enlargement of the EU to include other countries in future years



[61] QA19.3. What is your opinion on each of the following statements? Please tell me for each statement, whether you are for or against it. Further enlargement of the EU to include other countries in future years.

A majority of respondents in 14 Member States remain opposed to further enlargement, most strikingly in Germany (68%, -3 percentage points), Austria (67%, unchanged), Luxembourg (67%, +2), France (65%, -4) and Belgium (60%, -2). Opposition has gained significant ground in both Italy (52%, +8) and Croatia (33%, +8).

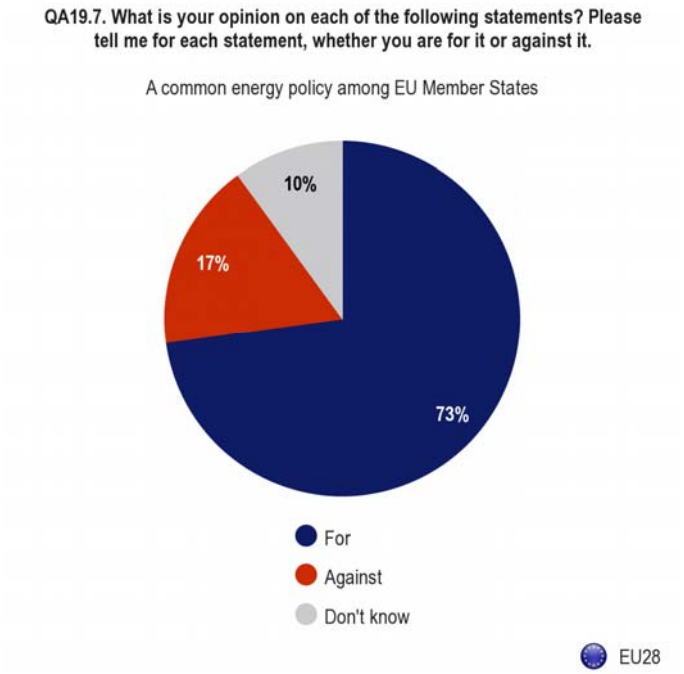
Opinions are evenly divided in Portugal (44% versus 44%), whereas the opinion ration was slightly negative in spring 2014 (42% versus 44%).

A majority of respondents in most **candidate countries** support further enlargement of the European Union to other countries in future years. Turkey is the only exception, and here opposition has actually increased: 27% of respondents are in favour (-6 percentage points) while 45% oppose further enlargement (+7). Support is the most emphatic in Albania (89%), but has lost eight percentage points in Montenegro (61%) and five in Serbia (58%).

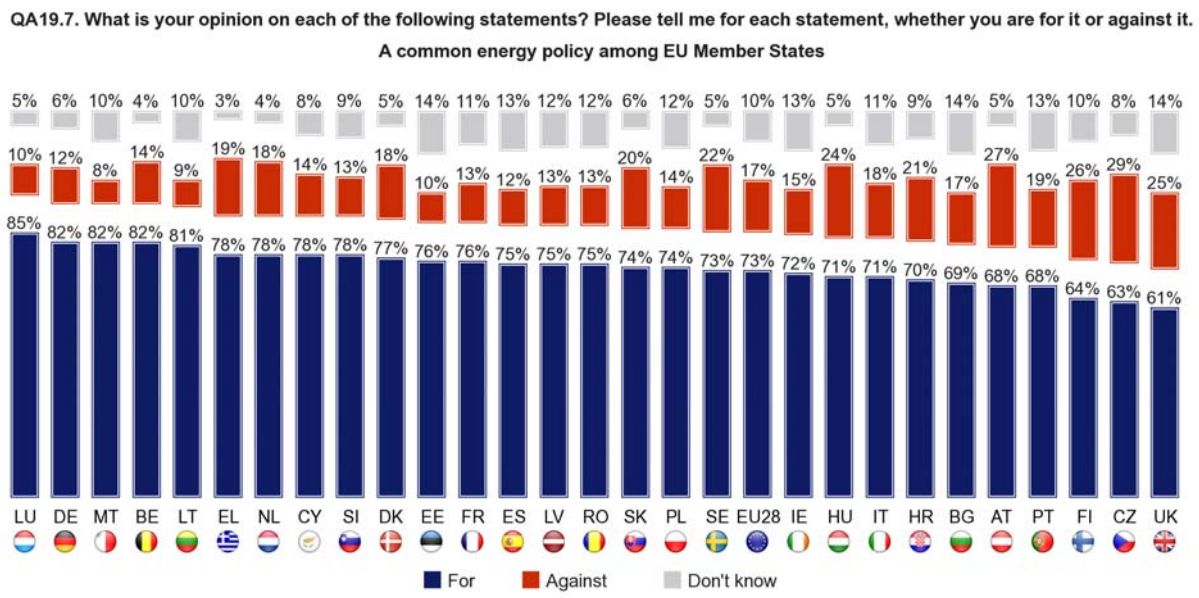
A socio-demographic analysis reveals significant variations in support for further enlargement of the EU to other countries in future years, in particular reflecting the respondent's generation and level of education. A majority of members of generation "Y", born after 1980, are in favour of further enlargement (48% versus 40%) compared with only a minority of all the other generations, in particular those born before 1946 (28% "for" versus 57%). Opinions are evenly divided among those who studied up to the age of 20 and beyond (44% versus 45%), while support is far weaker among those who left school at the age of 15 or earlier (30% versus 55%).

A common energy policy among EU Member States

73% of Europeans are in favour of the principle of a common European energy policy, while 17% are opposed and 10% expressed no opinion[62].



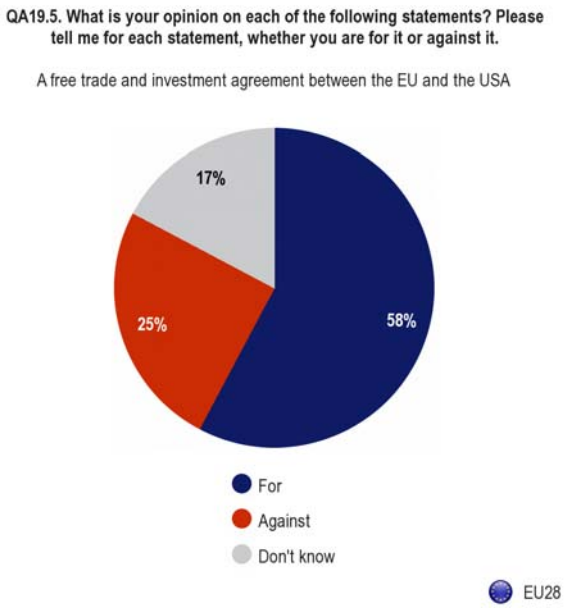
More than six out of ten respondents in all Member States support a common European energy policy, with the highest scores in Luxembourg (85%), Germany (82%), Malta (82%) and Belgium (82%). Support is weakest in the United Kingdom (61%), the Czech Republic (63%) and Finland (64%).



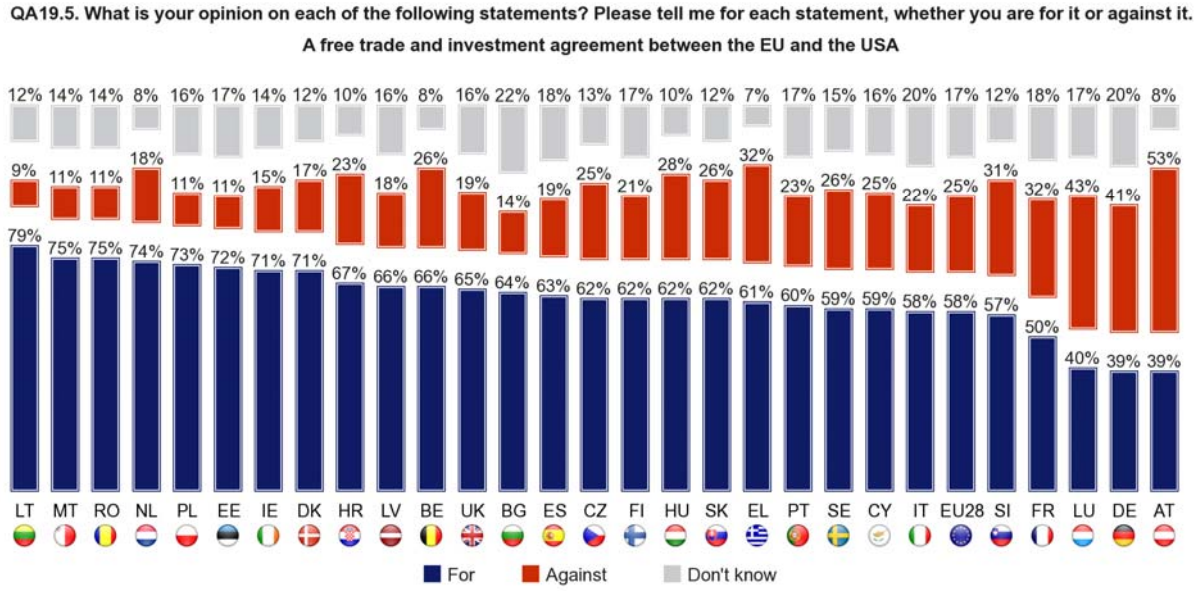
[62] QA19.7. What is your opinion on each of the following statements? Please tell me for each statement, whether you are for or against it. A common energy policy among EU Member States.

A free trade and investment agreement between the EU and the US

58% of Europeans are "for" a free trade and investment agreement between the European Union and the United States, while 25% say they are "against" and 17% gave no opinion[63].



A majority of respondents oppose a trade agreement between the EU and the US in three Member States: Austria (53% versus 39%), Luxembourg (43% versus 40%) and Germany (41% versus 39%). This proposal has **majority support in the other 25 Member States,** most notably in Lithuania (79%), Malta (75%) and Romania (75%), and least emphatically in France (50% versus 32%).



[63] QA19.5. What is your opinion on each of the following statements? Please tell me for each statement, whether you are for or against it. A free trade and investment agreement between the EU and the USA.

A socio-demographic analysis reveals that a majority of respondents in all categories support a trade agreement between the EU and the US. Support is more widespread among men (62% versus 55% of women), young people aged 15 to 24 (64% versus 54% of the 55+ age group), respondents who studied up to the age of 20 and beyond (61% versus 51% of those who left school at the age of 15 or earlier), students (63% versus 53% of house persons and retired people) and white-collar workers (62%). Attitudes to globalisation are more influential: 70% of those who see globalisation as an opportunity support a trade agreement, whereas those who disagree are more divided (46% "for" a free trade and investment agreement between the EU and the US, versus 40%).

QA19.5 What is your opinion on each of the following statements? Please tell me for each statement, whether you are for it or against it.

A free trade and investment agreement between the EU and the USA

	For	Against	Don't know
EU28	58%	25%	17%
Gender			
Man	62%	26%	12%
Woman	55%	24%	21%
Age			
15-24	64%	21%	15%
25-39	62%	24%	14%
40-54	59%	27%	14%
55 +	54%	26%	20%
Education (End of)			
15-	51%	25%	24%
16-19	59%	25%	16%
20+	61%	26%	13%
Still studying	63%	23%	14%
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	61%	27%	12%
Managers	61%	28%	11%
Other white collars	62%	23%	15%
Manual workers	60%	24%	16%
House persons	53%	23%	24%
Unemployed	58%	25%	17%
Retired	53%	26%	21%
Students	63%	23%	14%
Globalisation is an opportunity			
Agree	70%	20%	10%
Disagree	46%	40%	14%

The following tables show the results by socio-demographic criteria in the European Union as a whole (EU28 average), in the six largest EU countries and in countries benefiting or having benefited from European Union assistance to overcome the financial and economic crisis.

QA19.5. What is your opinion on each of the following statements? Please tell me for each statement, whether you are for it or against it.
A free trade and investment agreement between the EU and the USA
Answer: 'For'

	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
TOTAL	58%	39%	63%	50%	58%	73%	65%	61%	60%	71%	59%
Gender											
Male	62%	42%	68%	51%	60%	77%	70%	63%	66%	77%	63%
Female	55%	36%	59%	49%	56%	69%	60%	59%	54%	65%	55%
Age											
15-24	64%	40%	70%	62%	57%	79%	72%	61%	73%	72%	74%
25-39	62%	44%	67%	48%	60%	75%	69%	66%	66%	71%	51%
40-54	59%	37%	69%	49%	61%	76%	64%	59%	63%	71%	60%
55 +	54%	36%	54%	47%	54%	66%	60%	59%	49%	70%	57%
Education (End of)											
15-	51%	35%	60%	44%	51%	52%	57%	56%	57%	70%	50%
16-19	59%	40%	68%	50%	60%	71%	68%	58%	65%	66%	60%
20+	61%	39%	67%	50%	65%	77%	63%	68%	62%	77%	58%
Still studying	63%	39%	71%	62%	58%	79%	73%	62%	75%	75%	71%
Socio-professional category											
Self-employed	61%	32%	69%	42%	65%	76%	68%	65%	65%	67%	46%
Managers	61%	39%	67%	47%	80%	79%	70%	64%	57%	77%	48%
Other white collars	62%	36%	77%	50%	62%	76%	69%	66%	68%	79%	64%
Manual workers	60%	44%	68%	51%	55%	73%	67%	57%	63%	75%	54%
House persons	53%	42%	52%	37%	47%	75%	52%	60%	37%	62%	50%
Unemployed	58%	44%	63%	46%	58%	71%	60%	58%	58%	60%	59%
Retired	53%	35%	56%	51%	52%	65%	61%	58%	50%	68%	60%
Students	63%	39%	71%	62%	58%	79%	73%	62%	75%	75%	71%

QA19.5. What is your opinion on each of the following statements? Please tell me for each statement, whether you are for it or against it.
A free trade and investment agreement between the EU and the USA
Answer: 'Against'

	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
TOTAL	25%	41%	19%	32%	22%	11%	19%	32%	23%	15%	25%
Gender											
Male	26%	42%	19%	36%	24%	12%	20%	32%	22%	15%	26%
Female	24%	40%	18%	29%	20%	11%	17%	32%	24%	16%	24%
Age											
15-24	21%	36%	13%	27%	21%	8%	15%	27%	19%	16%	17%
25-39	24%	38%	21%	35%	23%	12%	14%	29%	21%	12%	30%
40-54	27%	45%	19%	37%	23%	9%	19%	35%	20%	18%	25%
55 +	26%	42%	18%	30%	21%	15%	24%	34%	28%	15%	24%
Education (End of)											
15-	25%	38%	17%	26%	23%	16%	23%	34%	23%	12%	24%
16-19	25%	41%	21%	32%	20%	12%	16%	36%	23%	19%	23%
20+	26%	46%	21%	35%	21%	11%	21%	27%	26%	12%	28%
Still studying	23%	38%	11%	30%	22%	12%	13%	28%	20%	11%	18%
Socio-professional category											
Self-employed	27%	59%	15%	41%	23%	9%	21%	32%	16%	23%	32%
Managers	28%	46%	22%	40%	12%	11%	20%	36%	31%	15%	32%
Other white collars	23%	36%	19%	34%	25%	11%	12%	27%	22%	11%	23%
Manual workers	24%	37%	20%	30%	22%	12%	18%	35%	22%	14%	29%
House persons	23%	33%	18%	42%	25%	10%	14%	30%	29%	16%	28%
Unemployed	25%	41%	22%	35%	22%	9%	17%	35%	24%	20%	26%
Retired	26%	42%	16%	28%	21%	14%	23%	34%	25%	15%	21%
Students	23%	38%	11%	30%	22%	12%	13%	28%	20%	11%	18%

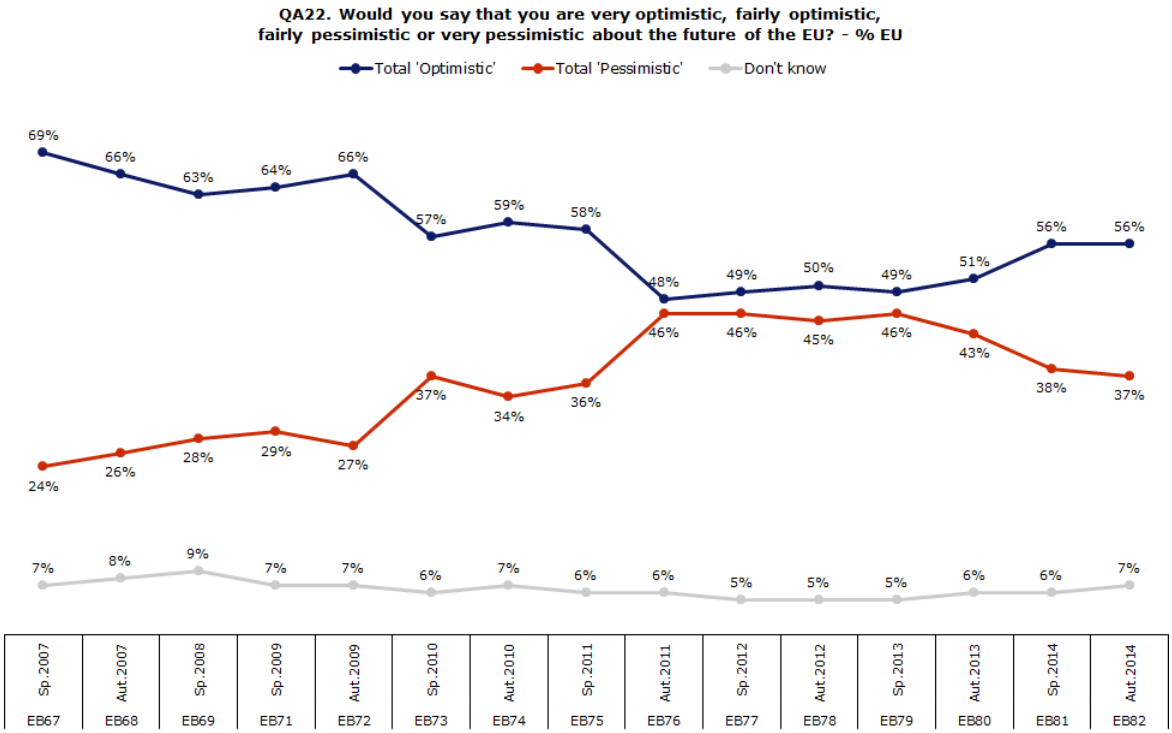
2. THE FUTURE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

– Optimism about the future of the EU is stable –

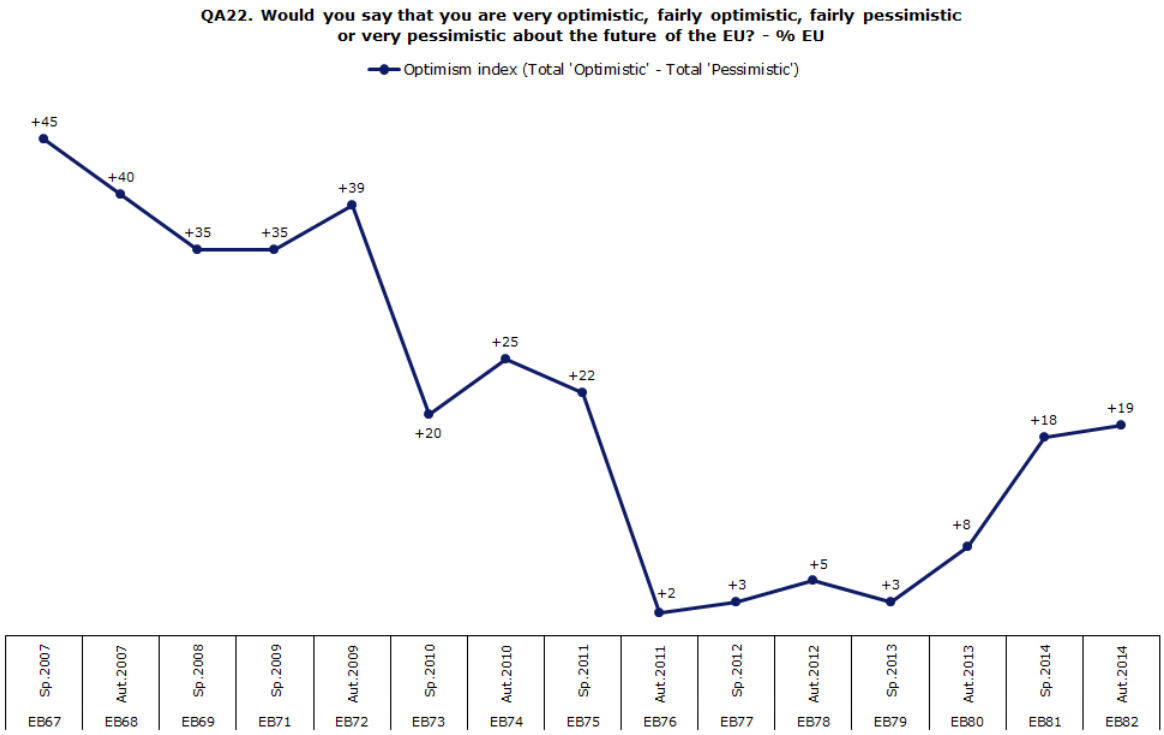
After the renewed optimism about the future of the European Union recorded in the previous survey in spring 2014, opinions have stabilised in this survey. **Optimism about the future of the EU is unchanged (56%),** while pessimism has slipped slightly (37%, -1 percentage point).

The gap between optimism and pessimism about the future of the EU has gained one percentage point since spring 2014 and now stands at +19, compared with +18 in spring 2014, +8 in autumn 2013 and +3 in spring 2013.

The opinion differential is now close to that of spring 2010 (+20) but is still below the levels recorded during the period 2007-2010: +40 in autumn 2007 and+39 in autumn 2009 for example[64].



[64] QA22. Would you say that you are very optimistic, fairly optimistic, fairly pessimistic, very pessimistic about the future of the EU?

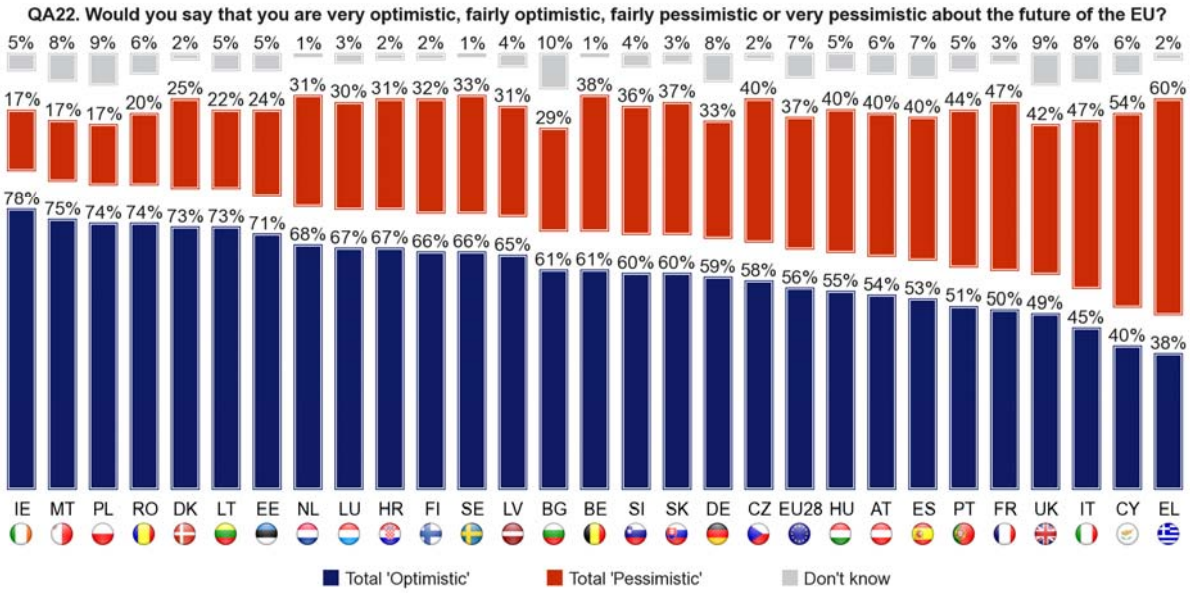


Optimism about the future of the EU is stable in the euro area countries (54%) and has gained ground in the non-euro area countries (62%, +4 percentage points).

The opinion ratio is now positive in this survey in the United Kingdom, where it was negative in the previous survey (49% versus 42%, compared with 44% versus 45% in spring 2014), and in Portugal, where opinions were evenly balanced (51% versus 44%, compared with 48% versus 48%). In contrast, the mood has become predominantly pessimistic again in Italy (47% “pessimistic” versus 45%, compared with 46% versus 48%) and Cyprus (54% versus 40%, compared with 47% versus 50%).

Italy and Cyprus have therefore joined Greece (60%, +4 percentage points), where respondents remain predominantly pessimistic.

Therefore, a majority of respondents are optimistic about the future of the EU in 25 Member States, most notably in Ireland (78%, +7 percentage points), Malta (75%, -2), Poland (74%, +6) and Romania (74%, -1). As well as in Ireland and Poland, optimism has increased significantly in Sweden (66%, +6). However, it has fallen in Belgium (61%, -4) and Slovenia (60%, -4), and to a lesser extent in Cyprus (40%, -10) and Greece (38%, -5).



A socio-demographic analysis reveals that all generations are predominantly optimistic about the future of the European Union: 49% (versus 41%) of the generation born before 1946, 54% of baby boomers (born between 1946 and 1964), 57% of generation "X" (born between 1965 and 1980) and 63% of generation "Y" (born after 1980).

Respondents in the middle and higher classes of the European population are also predominantly optimistic about the future of the EU (62% of those who see themselves as middle class, 71% of those who see themselves as upper middle class).

However, respondents who have financial difficulties (55% of those who struggle to pay their bills most of the time) and the least educated respondents (49% versus 42% among those who left school at the age of 15 or earlier) are predominantly pessimistic.

QA22 Would you say that you are very optimistic, fairly optimistic, fairly pessimistic or very pessimistic about the future of the EU?

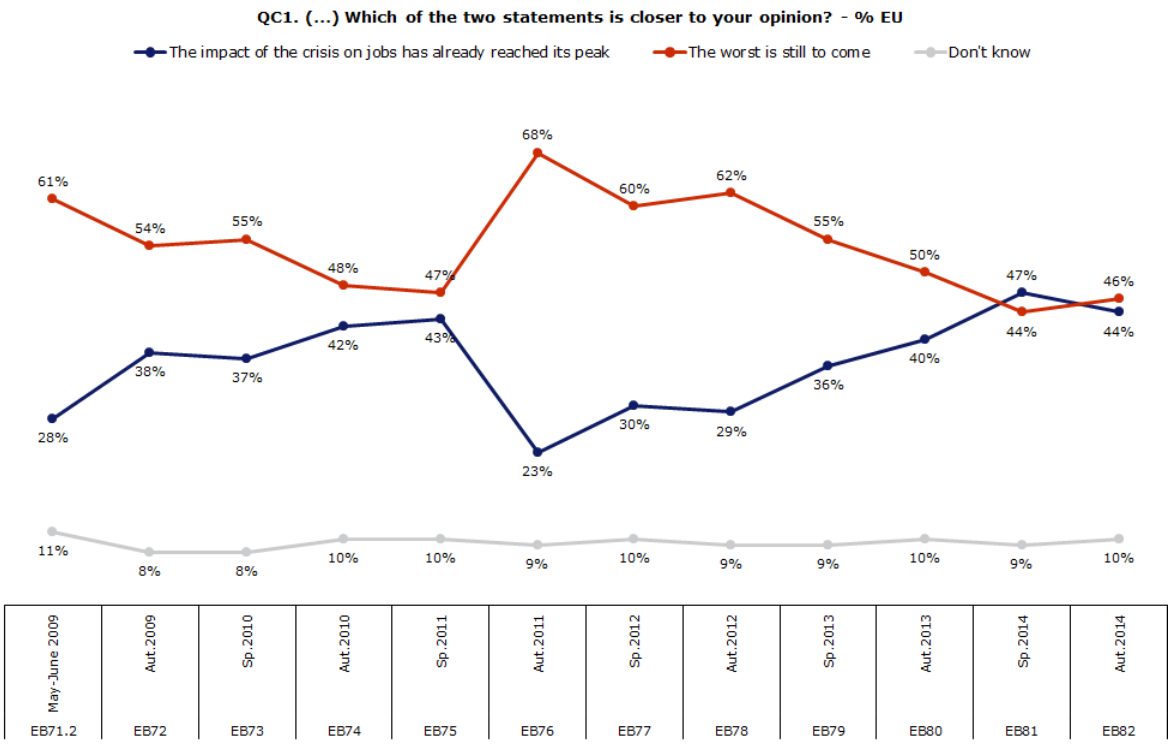
	Total 'Optimistic'	Total 'Pessimistic'	Don't know
EU28	56%	37%	7%
Gender			
Man	58%	37%	5%
Woman	55%	38%	7%
Age			
15-24	65%	29%	6%
25-39	59%	35%	6%
40-54	56%	38%	6%
55 +	51%	42%	7%
Generation			
Before 1928	43%	43%	14%
1928 - 1945	50%	41%	9%
Total 'Before 1946'	49%	41%	10%
1946 - 1964 "BB"	54%	40%	6%
1965 - 1980 "X"	57%	37%	6%
After 1980 "Y"	63%	32%	5%
Education (End of)			
15-	42%	49%	9%
16-19	55%	39%	6%
20+	65%	30%	5%
Still studying	67%	28%	5%
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	59%	36%	5%
Managers	68%	28%	4%
Other white collars	61%	34%	5%
Manual workers	55%	39%	6%
House persons	46%	44%	10%
Unemployed	48%	44%	8%
Retired	51%	41%	8%
Students	67%	28%	5%
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	38%	55%	7%
From time to time	51%	42%	7%
Almost never/ Never	62%	32%	6%
Consider belonging to			
The working class	49%	43%	8%
The lower middle class	54%	40%	6%
The middle class	62%	33%	5%
The upper middle class	71%	26%	3%
The upper class	68%	28%	4%

IV. ECONOMIC ISSUES IN THE EU

1. THE IMPACT OF THE ECONOMIC SITUATION ON THE JOB MARKET

- The ratio of optimists to pessimists has deteriorated slightly, but remains at its second highest level since May-June 2009 -

The proportion of Europeans who consider that "**the worst is still to come" in terms of the impact of the crisis on the job market**[65] **had decreased sharply** in the Standard Eurobarometer survey of spring 2014 (44%, -6 percentage points versus autumn 2013), and as result represented a minority of Europeans for the first time since this question was first asked (Special Eurobarometer survey of May-June 2009[66]). In this new autumn 2014 survey, pessimism has risen again slightly since spring 2014, regaining the majority (46%, +2 percentage points). Nevertheless, this increase must be put into perspective: this is the second lowest level of pessimism ever recorded apart from in spring 2014. In parallel, **only a minority of respondents now say that the "impact of the crisis on the job market has already reached its peak"** (44%, -3), but despite this slight fall optimism is still at its second highest level since May-June 2009, just behind spring 2014.



[65] QC1. 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?
[66] http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs_316_fr.pdf

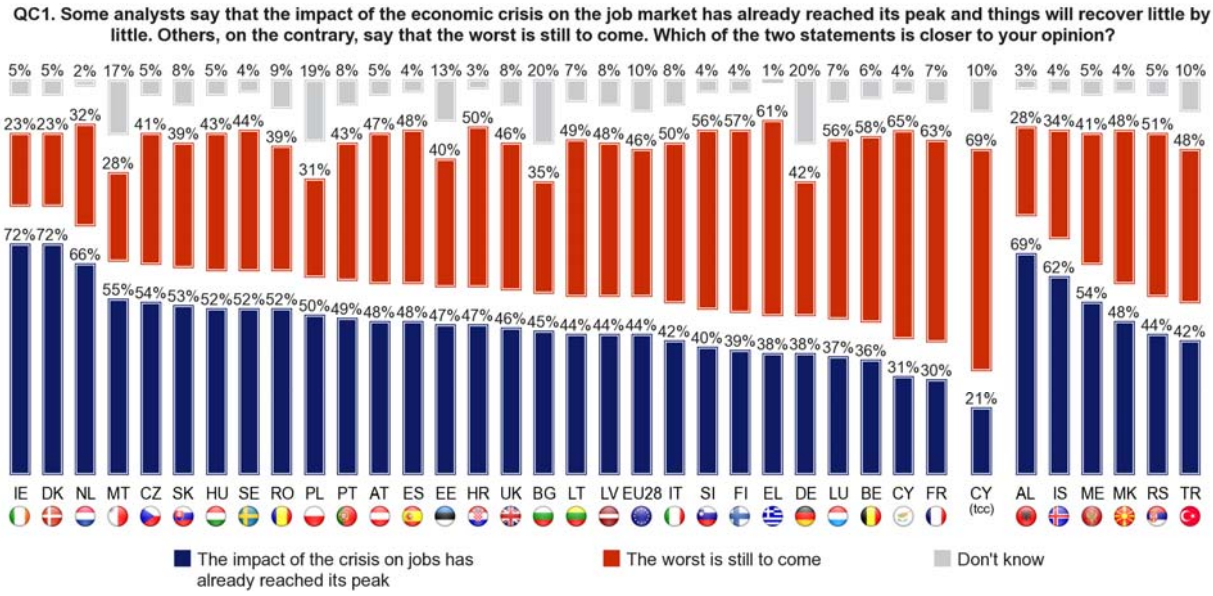
Respondents in the **euro area** and the **non-euro area have different opinions** on the impact of the crisis on jobs, and the gap between these two groups of countries has widened. In the euro area countries as at European level, pessimism has gained ground and a majority of respondents say that the worst is still to come (49%, +3 percentage points, versus 41%, -5, for optimism). In contrast, a majority (now absolute) of non-euro area respondents say that the "impact of the crisis on the job market has already reached its peak" (50%, +2, versus 40%, -1, for "the worst is still to come").

The opinion that "**the worst is still to come",** held by a majority of respondents at EU level, **predominates in 12 Member States** (versus 6 in spring 2014), most notably in Cyprus (65%, +6 percentage points), France (63%, +3) and Greece (61%, +4). Since spring 2014, **pessimism has gained ground in 19 Member States**, with gains of more than ten percentage points in Luxembourg (56%, +16), Finland (57%, +13) and Belgium (58%, +12). In contrast, it has lost ground in only eight Member States.

In contrast, a **majority of respondents in 14 Member States** (against 22 in spring 2014) consider that "**the impact of the crisis on the job market has already reached its peak"**. This optimism is shared by at least half of respondents in ten Member States: Ireland (72%, +11 percentage points), Denmark (72%, -6), the Netherlands (66%, -6), Malta (55%, -4), the Czech Republic (54%, +3), Slovakia (53%, +1), Romania (52%, +1), Sweden (52%, -6), Hungary (52%, -9) and Poland (50%, +7). Optimism has gained ground in seven Member States, most notably in Ireland (72%, +11), Portugal (49%, +8) and Poland (50%, +7). Portugal is the only country in which optimism has taken the lead since spring 2014.

In two Member States, opinions on the impact of the crisis on jobs are evenly divided between optimism and pessimism, whereas a majority of respondents were optimistic in spring 2014: Spain (48%, -3 percentage points for "the impact of the crisis on the job market has already reached its peak", versus 48%, +2, for "the worst is still to come") and the United Kingdom (46%, +1, versus 46%, +3).

Four countries record relatively high "DK" rates, reaching a fifth of respondents or just below in Germany (20%, +2 percentage points), Bulgaria (20%, +1), Poland (19%, unchanged) and Malta (17%, +1).



In the candidate countries, the situations are very varied. A majority of respondents agree that "the impact of the crisis on the job market has already reached its peak" in three countries: Albania (69%, the first time the question was asked in this country), Iceland (62%, -7 percentage points) and Montenegro (54%, +1). In contrast, respondents are predominantly pessimistic about the impact of the crisis on jobs in Serbia (51%, +3) and in Turkey (48, +2, versus 42%, -5), where pessimism has taken the lead. Lastly, optimism and pessimism are evenly balanced in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (both 48%), whereas optimism outweighed pessimism in spring 2014 (49% versus 46%). In terms of evolutions, "the worst is still to come" has gained ground in four countries: markedly so in Iceland (34%, +7), and more moderately in Serbia (51%, +3), Turkey (48%, +2) and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (48%, +2). Montenegro is therefore the only country where pessimism has decreased slightly (41%, -2).

QC1. 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	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014	The worst is still to come	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014	Don't know	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014
EU28	44%	-3	46%	+2	10%	+1
EURO AREA	41%	-5	49%	+3	10%	+2
NON-EURO AREA	50%	+2	40%	-1	10%	-1
IE	72%	+11	23%	-11	5%	=
PT	49%	+8	43%	-9	8%	+1
PL	50%	+7	31%	-7	19%	=
CZ	54%	+3	41%	-5	5%	+2
SK	53%	+1	39%	-6	8%	+5
RO	52%	+1	39%	-5	9%	+4
UK	46%	+1	46%	+3	8%	-4
AT	48%	=	47%	=	5%	=
BG	45%	=	35%	-1	20%	+1
EE	47%	-1	40%	-3	13%	+4
HR	47%	-2	50%	+3	3%	-1
ES	48%	-3	48%	+2	4%	+1
EL	38%	-3	61%	+4	1%	-1
MT	55%	-4	28%	+3	17%	+1
LV	44%	-4	48%	+4	8%	=
FR	30%	-4	63%	+3	7%	+1
IT	42%	-5	50%	+2	8%	+3
SI	40%	-5	56%	+6	4%	-1
DE	38%	-5	42%	+3	20%	+2
DK	72%	-6	23%	+5	5%	+1
NL	66%	-6	32%	+7	2%	-1
SE	52%	-6	44%	+6	4%	=
CY	31%	-7	65%	+6	4%	+1
LT	44%	-8	49%	+9	7%	-1
HU	52%	-9	43%	+7	5%	+2
FI	39%	-14	57%	+13	4%	+1
LU	37%	-15	56%	+16	7%	-1
BE	36%	-15	58%	+12	6%	+3
CY (tcc)	21%	-3	69%	+2	10%	+1
AL	69%	NA*	28%	NA*	3%	NA*
ME	54%	+1	41%	-2	5%	+1
MK	48%	-1	48%	+2	4%	-1
RS	44%	-1	51%	+3	5%	-2
TR	42%	-5	48%	+2	10%	+3
IS	62%	-7	34%	+7	4%	=

**NA = Not asked: This question was not asked in this country during the previous survey*

An analysis of evolutions - not since spring 2014 but since the Special Eurobarometer survey of May-June 2009, when this question was asked for the first time - shows that the **proportion of respondents who consider that "the impact of the crisis on the job market has already reached its peak" has risen steeply over this period**. Optimism has gained 16 percentage points at European level (from 28% to 44%), and has gained ground in all 28 Member States[67], in particular in Ireland (72%, +51 percentage points), Denmark (72%, +36), Croatia (47%, +34), the Netherlands (66%, +33), Romania (52%, +33), Latvia (44%, +31) and Slovakia (53%, +30). Optimism has increased by less than ten percentage points in only four Member States: France (30%, +5), Finland (39%, +7), Italy (42%, +7) and Sweden (52%, +7).

[67] However, Croatia was not a member of the EU in 2009.

QC1. 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	Diff. Aut.2014-May-June 2009	The worst is still to come	Diff. Aut.2014-May-June 2009	Don't know	Diff. Aut.2014-May-June 2009
EU28	44%	+16	46%	-15	10%	-1
BE	36%	+10	58%	-11	6%	+1
BG	45%	+29	35%	-15	20%	-14
CZ	54%	+25	41%	-23	5%	-2
DK	72%	+36	23%	-35	5%	-1
DE	38%	+17	42%	-27	20%	+10
EE	47%	+27	40%	-36	13%	+9
IE	72%	+51	23%	-43	5%	-8
EL	38%	+10	61%	-8	1%	-2
ES	48%	+13	48%	-9	4%	-4
FR	30%	+5	63%	-4	7%	-1
HR	47%	+34	50%	-23	3%	-11
IT	42%	+7	50%	+1	8%	-8
CY	31%	+12	65%	-8	4%	-4
LV	44%	+31	48%	-34	8%	+3
LT	44%	+26	49%	-25	7%	-1
LU	37%	+17	56%	-17	7%	=
HU	52%	+27	43%	-23	5%	-4
MT	55%	+25	28%	-27	17%	+2
NL	66%	+33	32%	-29	2%	-4
AT	48%	+16	47%	-4	5%	-12
PL	50%	+17	31%	-19	19%	+2
PT	49%	+26	43%	-13	8%	-13
RO	52%	+33	39%	-19	9%	-14
SI	40%	+14	56%	-12	4%	-2
SK	53%	+30	39%	-27	8%	-3
FI	39%	+7	57%	-8	4%	+1
SE	52%	+7	44%	-8	4%	+1
UK	46%	+15	46%	-17	8%	+2
CY (tcc)	21%	*NA	69%	*NA	10%	*NA
AL	69%	*NA	28%	*NA	3%	*NA
MK	48%	+23	48%	-16	4%	-7
IS	62%	*NA	34%	*NA	4%	*NA
ME	54%	*NA	41%	*NA	5%	*NA
RS	44%	*NA	51%	*NA	5%	*NA
TR	42%	+3	48%	+3	10%	-6

**NA = Not asked: This question was not asked in these countries/territories during the May-June 2009 survey*

A socio-demographic analysis reveals that:

- A majority of women are pessimistic (47% for "the worst is still to come" compared with 42% for "the impact of the crisis on the job market has already reached its peak"), while a narrow majority of men are optimistic (46% versus 45% pessimistic);

- An absolute majority of those aged 55 or over consider that "the worst is still to come" (50% versus 39%), while a majority of 15-39 year-olds are optimistic (48%). Europeans aged between 40 and 54 are evenly divided between optimism and pessimism (both 46%);

- There are also differences between generations: those born after 1980 – generation "Y" – and those born between 1965 and 1980 – generation "X" – are the only generations in which a majority of respondents consider that "the impact of the crisis on the job market has already reached its peak" (48% and 47% respectively);

- Differences by level of education are more pronounced. While a large majority of Europeans who left school at the age of 15 or earlier are pessimistic (54% for "the worst is still to come", versus 35%), the opposite is true for those who studied up to the age of 20 and beyond (51% are optimistic, versus 41%);

- Managers (55% think that "the impact of the crisis on the job market has already reached its peak") and white-collar workers (51%) are also predominantly optimistic, compared with only a minority of unemployed people (38% versus 54% for "the worst is still to come") and retired people (39% versus 50%);

- Lastly, pessimism is particularly widespread among respondents who do not see globalisation as an opportunity (60%, compared with 39% of those who do so).

QC1 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	Don't know
EU28	44%	46%	10%
Gender			
Man	46%	45%	9%
Woman	42%	47%	11%
Age			
15-24	48%	40%	12%
25-39	48%	44%	8%
40-54	46%	46%	8%
55 +	39%	50%	11%
Generation			
Before 1928	38%	48%	14%
1928 - 1945	39%	49%	12%
Total 'Before 1946'	39%	49%	12%
1946 - 1964 "BB"	41%	49%	10%
1965 - 1980 "X"	47%	45%	8%
After 1980 "Y"	48%	42%	10%
Education (End of)			
15-	35%	54%	11%
16-19	43%	48%	9%
20+	51%	41%	8%
Still studying	47%	39%	14%
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	48%	45%	7%
Managers	55%	36%	9%
Other white collars	51%	41%	8%
Manual workers	43%	48%	9%
House persons	41%	49%	10%
Unemployed	38%	54%	8%
Retired	39%	50%	11%
Students	47%	39%	14%
Globalisation is an opportunity			
Agree	53%	39%	8%
Disagree	33%	60%	7%

The following tables show the results by socio-demographic criteria in the European Union as a whole (EU28 average), in the six largest EU countries and in countries benefiting or having benefited from European Union assistance to overcome the financial and economic crisis.

QC1. 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?
Answer: 'The impact of the crisis on jobs has already reached its peak'

	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
TOTAL	44%	38%	48%	30%	42%	50%	46%	38%	49%	72%	31%
Gender											
Male	46%	38%	47%	30%	44%	53%	53%	39%	52%	75%	36%
Female	42%	38%	50%	30%	41%	48%	40%	36%	46%	69%	25%
Age											
15-24	48%	41%	49%	35%	44%	52%	44%	46%	63%	72%	25%
25-39	48%	37%	52%	30%	45%	57%	53%	40%	58%	74%	27%
40-54	46%	39%	51%	34%	47%	50%	46%	32%	47%	76%	31%
55 +	39%	36%	44%	26%	37%	45%	42%	37%	39%	66%	37%
Education (End of)											
15-	35%	34%	46%	15%	32%	25%	37%	34%	38%	57%	29%
16-19	43%	35%	47%	28%	46%	46%	47%	34%	61%	72%	26%
20+	51%	45%	53%	35%	51%	59%	53%	43%	64%	78%	38%
Still studying	47%	40%	53%	40%	40%	49%	32%	40%	68%	71%	26%
Socio-professional category											
Self-employed	48%	35%	54%	36%	44%	49%	60%	43%	51%	73%	32%
Managers	55%	44%	69%	38%	63%	63%	60%	43%	58%	84%	25%
Other white collars	51%	36%	62%	33%	54%	62%	46%	41%	78%	77%	34%
Manual workers	43%	35%	49%	24%	40%	52%	45%	30%	49%	72%	32%
House persons	41%	35%	43%	29%	33%	39%	52%	36%	27%	69%	25%
Unemployed	38%	30%	45%	28%	36%	43%	38%	34%	39%	58%	23%
Retired	39%	39%	42%	27%	37%	43%	40%	36%	35%	69%	42%
Students	47%	40%	53%	40%	40%	49%	32%	40%	68%	71%	26%

QC1. 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?
Answer: 'The worst is still to come'

	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
TOTAL	46%	42%	48%	63%	50%	31%	46%	61%	43%	23%	65%
Gender											
Male	45%	44%	49%	63%	49%	30%	41%	60%	41%	20%	61%
Female	47%	41%	46%	63%	51%	31%	50%	62%	45%	26%	70%
Age											
15-24	40%	32%	47%	57%	42%	26%	45%	50%	25%	25%	73%
25-39	44%	45%	44%	63%	50%	26%	40%	59%	36%	20%	69%
40-54	46%	42%	46%	64%	48%	29%	48%	66%	47%	20%	65%
55 +	50%	45%	52%	65%	54%	38%	47%	62%	51%	28%	58%
Education (End of)											
15-	54%	44%	50%	78%	57%	51%	55%	65%	54%	37%	66%
16-19	48%	46%	51%	65%	49%	37%	46%	65%	34%	23%	71%
20+	41%	39%	44%	58%	43%	25%	37%	55%	31%	17%	58%
Still studying	39%	30%	42%	54%	45%	23%	55%	53%	20%	26%	70%
Socio-professional category											
Self-employed	45%	51%	42%	56%	52%	31%	39%	56%	41%	18%	64%
Managers	36%	37%	31%	52%	33%	23%	36%	51%	37%	14%	75%
Other white collars	41%	46%	36%	65%	41%	17%	46%	58%	19%	20%	62%
Manual workers	48%	43%	47%	72%	52%	30%	48%	69%	43%	20%	64%
House persons	49%	44%	51%	69%	57%	40%	36%	62%	63%	27%	75%
Unemployed	54%	53%	51%	62%	57%	46%	53%	65%	56%	36%	73%
Retired	50%	43%	55%	64%	54%	38%	47%	64%	53%	24%	53%
Students	39%	30%	42%	54%	45%	23%	55%	53%	20%	26%	70%

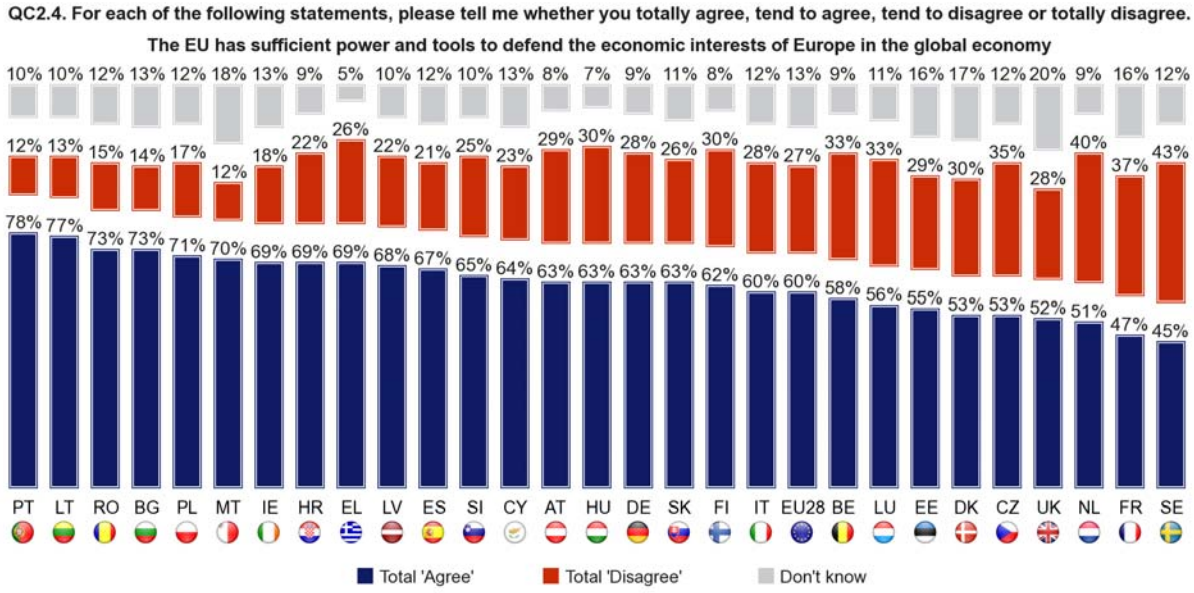
2. MEASURES TO BE TAKEN BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

2.1. The European Union still has an important role in the global economy

- Six out of ten Europeans consider that the EU has sufficient power and tools to defend its economic interests in the global economy -

For 60% of respondents (-1 percentage point since spring 2014), "the EU has sufficient power and tools to defend the economic interests of Europe in the global economy"[68]; 16% "totally agree", five percentage points down on spring 2014. In contrast, more than a quarter of Europeans take the opposite view (27% total "disagree", +2), while 13% could not answer the question (-1).

A national analysis shows that a majority of respondents in all Member States agree that the EU has enough power and tools to defend its economic interests. This view is shared by an absolute majority in 26 Member States, and by at least 70% in Portugal (78%, -2 percentage points), Lithuania (77%, +1), Romania (73%, +2), Bulgaria (73%, -2), Poland (71%, +3) and Malta (70%, -3). It is held by only a relative majority in two countries, Sweden (45%, -5, versus 43% of total "disagree", +4) and France (47%, -6, versus 37%, +4).



However, the opinion that "the EU has sufficient power and tools to defend the economic interests of Europe in the global economy" has lost ground since spring 2014 in 16 Member States, most notably in Slovenia (65%, -6 percentage points), France (47%, -6), Cyprus (64% -5), Italy (60%, -5) and Sweden (45%, -5).

In contrast it has gained ground in eleven countries, most notably in the United Kingdom (52%, +8), Austria (63%, +5) and Hungary (63%, +5). It is unchanged in Germany (63%).

[68] QC2.4. For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree with the following statement. The EU has sufficient power and tools to defend the economic interests of Europe in the global economy.

Bulgaria is the only Member State where more than four in ten respondents "totally agree" that the EU has the necessary resources to defend its economic interests (41%, -2 percentage points), a long way ahead of Malta (28%, unchanged), Romania (28%, -7) and Cyprus (28%, -13). This proportion has decreased in 22 Member States, and by more than ten percentage points in Cyprus (28%, -13), Spain (24%, -11) and Latvia (13%, -11).

QC2.4 For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree.
The EU has sufficient power and tools to defend the economic interests of Europe in the global economy

	Total 'Agree'	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014	Total 'Disagree'	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014	Don't know	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014
EU28	60%	-1	27%	+2	13%	-1
EURO AREA	60%	-3	29%	+4	11%	-1
NON-EURO AREA	60%	+3	25%	=	15%	-3
UK	52%	+8	28%	-1	20%	-7
HU	63%	+5	30%	-3	7%	-2
AT	63%	+5	29%	-3	8%	-2
PL	71%	+3	17%	=	12%	-3
RO	73%	+2	15%	-3	12%	+1
FI	62%	+2	30%	=	8%	-2
LT	77%	+1	13%	+1	10%	-2
IE	69%	+1	18%	+2	13%	-3
HR	69%	+1	22%	+4	9%	-5
LV	68%	+1	22%	+2	10%	-3
EE	55%	+1	29%	-1	16%	=
DE	63%	=	28%	=	9%	=
NL	51%	-1	40%	+5	9%	-4
PT	78%	-2	12%	+2	10%	=
BG	73%	-2	14%	+3	13%	-1
EL	69%	-2	26%	+1	5%	+1
CZ	53%	-2	35%	+1	12%	+1
DK	53%	-2	30%	=	17%	+2
MT	70%	-3	12%	-1	18%	+4
ES	67%	-3	21%	+4	12%	-1
SK	63%	-3	26%	+1	11%	+2
BE	58%	-3	33%	+1	9%	+2
LU	56%	-3	33%	+4	11%	-1
CY	64%	-5	23%	+2	13%	+3
IT	60%	-5	28%	+8	12%	-3
SE	45%	-5	43%	+4	12%	+1
SI	65%	-6	25%	+4	10%	+2
FR	47%	-6	37%	+4	16%	+2

A socio-demographic analysis reveals that the opinion that "the EU has sufficient power and tools to defend the economic interests of Europe in the global economy" is more widespread among 25-39 year-olds (65%, versus 57% among people aged 55 or over), managers and self-employed people (64% in both cases, versus 55% of house persons) and among respondents who identify themselves as middle and upper middle class (64% in both cases, compared with 57% of those who see themselves as working class). However, it is even more prevalent among respondents who believe that their voice counts in the EU (71%, versus 53% of those who do not), who see globalisation as an opportunity (71%, versus 49% of those who do not) and who think that the impact of the crisis on jobs has peaked (71%, versus 51% of those who think that "the worst is still to come").

Lastly, this opinion is shared by a majority of all categories of Europeans, except for respondents who have a negative image of the European Union (44% of total "disagree" versus 42% of total "agree", compared with 19% versus 74% among those who have a positive image of the EU), and people who do not think that their country needs reforms (47% versus 46%, compared with 26% versus 63% of those who believe that reforms are necessary).

The following table shows the results by socio-demographic criteria in the European Union as a whole (EU28 average), in the six largest EU countries and in countries benefiting or having benefited from European Union assistance to overcome the financial and economic crisis.

QC2.4. For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree.
The EU has sufficient power and tools to defend the economic interests of Europe in the global economy
Answer: Total 'Agree'

	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
TOTAL	60%	63%	67%	47%	60%	71%	52%	69%	78%	69%	64%
Gender											
Male	63%	65%	71%	52%	62%	73%	58%	68%	81%	73%	68%
Female	58%	61%	65%	42%	59%	69%	46%	70%	75%	66%	62%
Age											
15-24	60%	64%	63%	41%	54%	60%	58%	79%	83%	79%	63%
25-39	65%	67%	73%	51%	67%	74%	60%	75%	83%	67%	63%
40-54	61%	60%	68%	49%	64%	73%	52%	66%	82%	69%	64%
55 +	57%	62%	65%	45%	56%	71%	42%	64%	70%	67%	67%
Education (End of)											
15-	55%	60%	65%	39%	50%	61%	43%	58%	75%	69%	58%
16-19	62%	64%	73%	49%	67%	69%	49%	73%	86%	66%	71%
20+	61%	62%	70%	48%	67%	76%	57%	72%	79%	71%	61%
Still studying	62%	63%	68%	43%	50%	65%	64%	78%	88%	74%	65%
Socio-professional category											
Self-employed	64%	63%	80%	54%	66%	69%	49%	70%	81%	70%	70%
Managers	64%	66%	79%	51%	67%	74%	61%	81%	79%	71%	51%
Other white collars	63%	55%	71%	54%	70%	76%	56%	73%	90%	79%	65%
Manual workers	60%	62%	68%	43%	60%	71%	51%	75%	83%	70%	67%
House persons	55%	56%	63%	46%	52%	69%	29%	71%	50%	59%	57%
Unemployed	60%	65%	67%	46%	56%	61%	61%	60%	73%	64%	68%
Retired	57%	64%	63%	45%	58%	71%	43%	64%	69%	68%	63%
Students	62%	63%	68%	43%	50%	65%	64%	78%	88%	74%	65%

2.2. The most effective measures for revitalising the economy

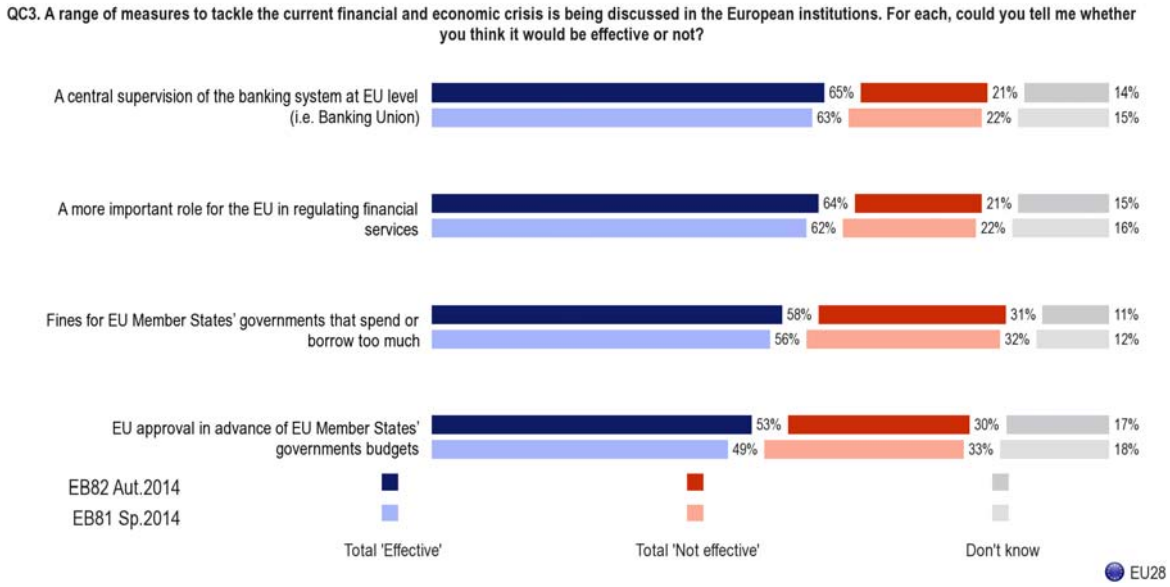
- Absolute majorities of Europeans, in increased proportions, say that the four measures proposed to tackle the crisis would be effective -

Four measures to tackle the financial and economic crisis are currently being discussed by the European institutions. When asked to assess these measures, an absolute majority of Europeans believe that they would be an effective way of tackling the crisis, with increased support for each measure since the Standard Eurobarometer survey of spring 2014[69]:

- "**Central supervision of the banking system at EU level (i.e. Banking Union)"** is seen as effective by almost two-thirds of respondents (65%, +2 percentage points);
- A similar proportion believe in the effectiveness of "**a more important role for the EU in regulating financial services"** (64%, +2) ;
- This was followed by "**fines for EU Member States' governments that spend or borrow too much"**, supported by just under six out of ten Europeans (58%, +2);
- Lastly, "**EU approval in advance of EU Member States' governments' budgets"**, is now seen as effective by an absolute majority of respondents, following the biggest increase since spring 2014 (53%, +4).

However, the increases recorded in this Standard Eurobarometer survey of autumn 2014 (EB82) have not offset the sharp decreases recorded in spring 2014. As a result, all these measures are considered effective by fewer respondents than at the time of the Standard Eurobarometer survey of autumn 2013 (EB80).

[69] QC3. A range of measures to tackle the current financial and economic crisis is being discussed in the European institutions. For each, could you tell me whether you think it would be effective or not? A central supervision of the banking system at EU level (i.e. Banking Union); A more important role for the EU in regulating financial services; Fines for EU Member States' governments that spend or borrow too much; Prior EU approval in advance of EU Member States' governments' budgets.



Euro area respondents are more convinced than **non-euro area respondents** of the effectiveness of all four measures, though the gap has narrowed since autumn 2013. Opinions continue to differ significantly for "central supervision of the banking system at EU level" (70%, unchanged in the euro area countries, compared with 56%, +5 percentage points since spring 2014 in the non-euro area countries) and for "a more important role for the EU in regulating financial services" (68%, +1, versus 58%, +4). The gap is narrower for "fines for EU Member States' governments that spend or borrow too much" (60%, +2, versus 56%, +4) and for "EU approval in advance of EU Member States' governments' budgets" (54%, +3, versus 50%, +4).

A national analysis of the results shows that "**central supervision of the banking system at EU level"** is perceived as effective by a majority of respondents in the 28 Member States, and by an absolute majority in 26 countries, with the highest scores in the Netherlands (85%, +2 percentage points), Belgium (78%, unchanged), Portugal (77%, +2), Germany (75%, =) and Spain (75%, =). Opinions are more evenly divided in the United Kingdom (43%, +8, versus 35% total "not effective", =) – a country where a majority of respondents say that "central supervision of the banking system" would be effective, which was not the case in spring 2014 –, and in Hungary (48%, -4, versus 39%, =). Support for the effectiveness of this measure has gained ground in 16 Member States, most notably in Bulgaria (70%, +8) and the United Kingdom (43%, +8), but also in Sweden (65%, +6). However, it has declined significantly in Slovenia (63%, -8).

A large majority of respondents in the 28 Member States also believe in the effectiveness of "**a more important role for the EU in regulating financial services"**. This measure is supported by an absolute majority in 26 countries, most notably in Portugal (79%, +6 percentage points), Belgium (75%, -1), Romania (74%, +1), Spain (73%, -1), Luxembourg (72%, +6) and Bulgaria (71%, +7), and by a relative majority in two other Member States, Denmark (44%, -2, versus 34% total "not effective", -4) and, as for the previous measure, the United Kingdom (48%, +5, versus 32%, -1). Support for the effectiveness of this measure has increased in 14 Member States, most notably in Austria (67%, +10) and Bulgaria (71%, +7); once again support has decreased in Slovenia (59%, -10).

The introduction of "fines for EU Member States' governments that spend or borrow too much" is seen as effective by a majority of respondents in all 28 Member States, and by an absolute majority in 27 countries, led by Portugal (78%, +6 percentage points), Malta (77%, +2), Spain (74%, +6) and Croatia (70%, +1). Once again, opinions in the United Kingdom are more divided (46%, +7, versus 39% total "not effective", -2). The perceived effectiveness of fines has gained ground in 19 Member States, in particular in Austria (63%, +11), but also in Denmark (54%, +8) and the United Kingdom, two countries where it has become the majority opinion since spring 2014. As was the case for the two previous measures, support for fines has fallen in Slovenia (60%, -8).

Lastly, a majority of respondents in 27 countries agree that "**EU approval in advance of EU Member States' governments' budgets"** would be effective. This measure is perceived as effective by an absolute majority of respondents in 20 Member States, most notably in Portugal (70%, +8 percentage points) – which therefore has the highest levels of support for three of the four measures analysed –, Malta (68%, +9), Croatia (68%, +3) and Belgium (67%, unchanged), and by a relative majority in seven countries: Estonia (44%, +1, versus 33% total "not effective", -3), Denmark (47%, +1, versus 40%, -3), Latvia (47%, +2, versus 34%, -3), Germany (48%, +2, versus 35%, -5), Sweden (49%, =, versus 42%, -2), Finland (49%, =, versus 40%, =) and France (49%, +4, versus 31%, -2). However the idea of prior EU approval is seen as effective by only a minority of respondents in the United Kingdom (37%, +7, versus 39%, -3) – which therefore has the lowest levels of support for three of the four measures –, despite a significant increase since spring 2014. This measure has gained ground in 20 Member States, in particular in Austria (54%, +12), where a majority now see it as effective. Austria is therefore the country where perceived effectiveness has gained the most ground for three of the four measures: "a more important role for the EU in regulating financial services"; the introduction of "fines for EU Member States' governments that spend or borrow too much"; and "EU approval in advance of EU Member States' government' budgets".

QC3. A range of measures to tackle the current financial and economic crisis is being discussed in the European institutions. For each, could you tell me whether you think it would be effective or not?
Answer: Total 'Effective'

	A central supervision of the banking system at EU level (i.e. Banking Union)	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014	A more important role for the EU in regulating financial services	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014	Fines for EU Member States' governments that spend or borrow too much	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014	EU approval in advance of EU Member States' governments budgets	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014
EU28	65%	+2	64%	+2	58%	+2	53%	+4
EURO AREA	70%	=	68%	+1	60%	+2	54%	+3
NON-EURO AREA	56%	+5	58%	+4	56%	+4	50%	+4
BE	78%	=	75%	-1	65%	=	67%	=
BG	70%	+8	71%	+7	59%	+6	58%	+6
CZ	67%	+2	63%	+3	64%	=	57%	+4
DK	70%	+2	44%	-2	54%	+8	47%	+1
DE	75%	=	68%	+3	51%	+3	48%	+2
EE	56%	-2	51%	-1	58%	+4	44%	+1
IE	73%	+2	70%	-1	66%	+4	58%	-2
EL	58%	-1	61%	-4	58%	=	54%	+1
ES	75%	=	73%	-1	74%	+6	59%	+5
FR	65%	-2	64%	-5	55%	-3	49%	+4
HR	65%	+1	70%	+3	70%	+1	68%	+3
IT	60%	+1	64%	+1	58%	-2	56%	+2
CY	69%	-1	66%	-2	69%	+4	54%	-4
LV	67%	+1	55%	-1	54%	-1	47%	+2
LT	67%	-1	65%	-1	67%	+2	57%	-1
LU	70%	+1	72%	+6	53%	-2	51%	+4
HU	48%	-4	56%	=	56%	+6	52%	+5
MT	69%	-3	69%	-1	77%	+2	68%	+9
NL	85%	+2	69%	+2	60%	+3	60%	+1
AT	69%	+1	67%	+10	63%	+11	54%	+12
PL	59%	+4	62%	+6	65%	+6	58%	+4
PT	77%	+2	79%	+6	78%	+6	70%	+8
RO	70%	=	74%	+1	65%	-2	60%	-5
SI	63%	-8	59%	-10	60%	-8	54%	-4
SK	71%	+3	69%	+6	63%	+1	59%	+5
FI	67%	+3	59%	-4	60%	+2	49%	=
SE	65%	+6	56%	+3	53%	+1	49%	=
UK	43%	+8	48%	+5	46%	+7	37%	+7

A socio-demographic analysis reveals that the three measures seen as the most effective at European level are perceived in the same way in all socio-demographic categories. That is not the case, however, for the perceived effectiveness of prior EU approval of the national budgets of the EU Member States, where there are greater variations:

- A majority of respondents in all categories agree on the effectiveness of "**central supervision of the banking system"**. However, this measure is more likely than average to be seen as effective by those who studied up to the age of 20 and beyond (69%, versus 62% of those who left school at the age of 15 or earlier), managers and students (69% in both cases, versus 58% of house persons) and those who identify as upper middle class (75%) and middle class (70%, versus 59% of working class respondents);

- The same differences exist for "**a more important role for the EU in regulating financial services":** managers, self-employed people and students (69% in all three cases, versus 60% of retired people) and those who identify as upper middle class (71%) and middle class (69%, versus 59% of working class respondents) are particularly convinced of its effectiveness. Europeans who consider that their voice counts in the EU (75%, versus 58% of those who disagree) are also more likely to believe in the effectiveness of this measure;

- "**Fines for EU Member States' governments that spend or borrow too much"** are seen as an effective measure by all socio-demographic categories, with fewer differences than for the other three measures. However, fines are seen as a particularly effective measure by those who identify as upper class (69%, versus 55% of lower middle class respondents);

- "**EU approval in advance of EU Member States' governments' budgets"** is not seen as an effective measure by a majority of the Europeans who have a negative image of the EU (45% total "not effective" versus 38% total "effective") or who think that the EU does not have the means to defend its economic interests (47% versus 41%). However, it is perceived as effective by all the other categories, and by a higher than average proportion of members of generation "Y", born after 1980 (57%, versus 45% of those born before 1946), white-collar workers and students (both 57%, versus 47% of house persons) and those who see themselves as upper middle class (58%, versus 49% of working class respondents). Lastly, respondents who think that their voice counts in the EU (63%, versus 47% of those who do not) are particularly likely to say that this measure is effective.

QC3 A range of measures to tackle the current financial and economic crisis is being discussed in the European institutions. For each, could you tell me whether you think it would be effective or not?

	A central supervision of the banking system at EU level (i.e. Banking Union)	A more important role for the EU in regulating financial services	Fines for EU Member States' governments that spend or borrow too much	EU approval in advance of EU Member States' governments budgets
EU28	65%	64%	58%	53%
Gender				
Man	68%	67%	58%	53%
Woman	62%	62%	58%	52%
Age				
15-24	65%	67%	60%	57%
25-39	66%	67%	61%	56%
40-54	66%	65%	57%	52%
55 +	63%	61%	56%	48%
Generation				
Before 1928	55%	44%	46%	35%
1928 - 1945	61%	58%	55%	46%
Total 'Before 1946'	61%	57%	55%	45%
1946 - 1964 "BB"	66%	64%	57%	51%
1965 - 1980 "X"	66%	66%	59%	53%
After 1980 "Y"	67%	67%	61%	57%
Education (End of)				
15-	62%	59%	60%	49%
16-19	64%	63%	59%	51%
20+	69%	68%	56%	54%
Still studying	69%	69%	57%	57%
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	67%	69%	58%	55%
Managers	69%	69%	55%	53%
Other white collars	68%	66%	61%	57%
Manual workers	65%	65%	60%	54%
House persons	58%	57%	57%	47%
Unemployed	63%	63%	60%	52%
Retired	63%	60%	57%	48%
Students	69%	69%	57%	57%
Consider belonging to				
The working class	59%	59%	58%	49%
The lower middle class	63%	63%	55%	50%
The middle class	70%	69%	60%	56%
The upper middle class	75%	71%	57%	58%
The upper class	66%	67%	69%	56%
My voice counts in the EU				
Agree	76%	75%	64%	63%
Disagree	60%	58%	55%	47%

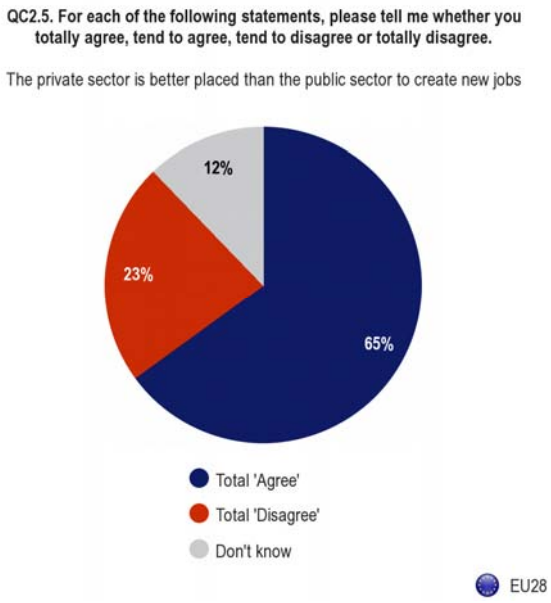
3. THE ROLES OF THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS IN REVITALISING THE ECONOMY

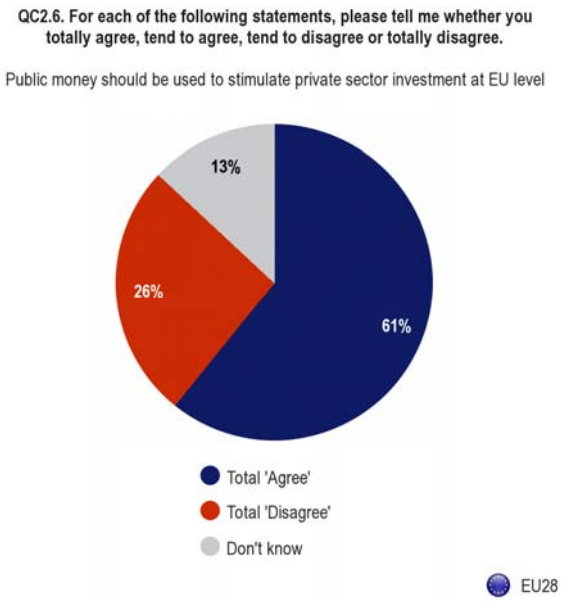
- More than six out of ten Europeans believe that public money should be used to stimulate private sector investment, as the private sector is better placed to create new jobs -

In this Standard Eurobarometer survey of autumn 2014 (EB82), two questions on the roles of the public and private sectors in revitalising the economy in terms of creating jobs and investment, were asked for the first time[70]. The results show that:

- **Almost two-thirds of Europeans consider that "the private sector is better placed than the public sector to create new jobs"** (65%, including 23% who "totally agree"). In contrast, almost a quarter of respondents disagree with this statement (23%) and more than one in ten could not answer (12%);

- Agreement is similar, through slightly lower, for the use of public funds: **more than six in ten Europeans think that "public money should be used to stimulate private sector investment at EU level"** (61%, including 21% who "totally agree"), while more than quarter of respondents disagree (26%) and 13% said "don't know".



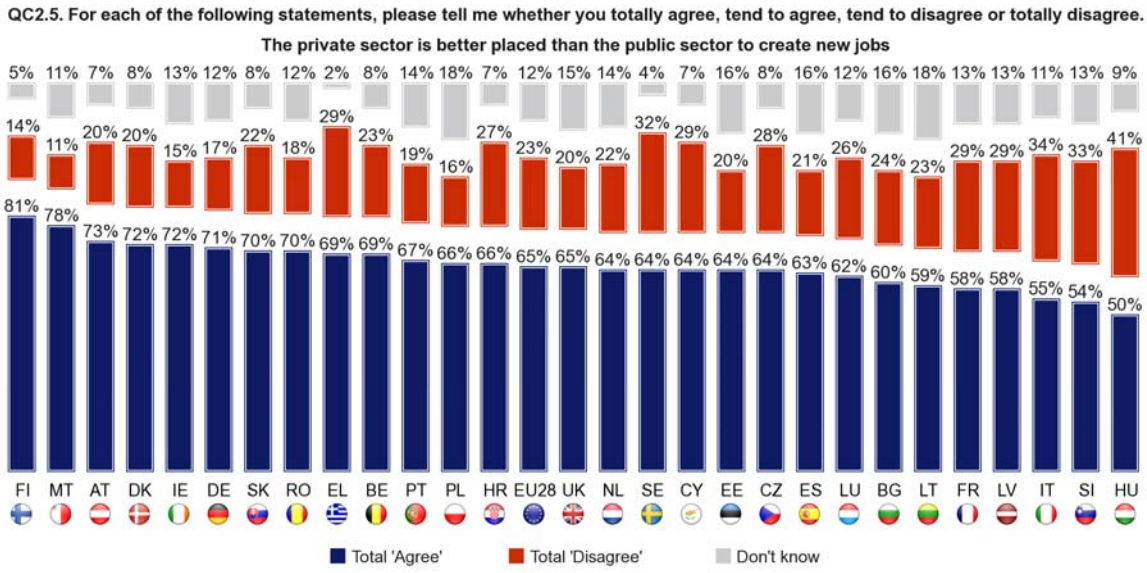


[70] QC2.5 and QC2.6. For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree: The private sector is better placed than the public sector to create new jobs; Public money should be used to stimulate private sector investment at EU level.

An identical proportion of respondents (64%) in both the **euro area** and **non-euro area countries** consider that the "the private sector is better placed than the public sector to create new jobs". However, there is a slight difference in degree between the two groups of countries regarding the use of public money to stimulate private sector investment: 62% of euro area respondents agree with this statement, compared with 57% of non-euro area respondents. This difference of five percentage points comes from the "totally agree » category (22% in the euro area, versus 17%).

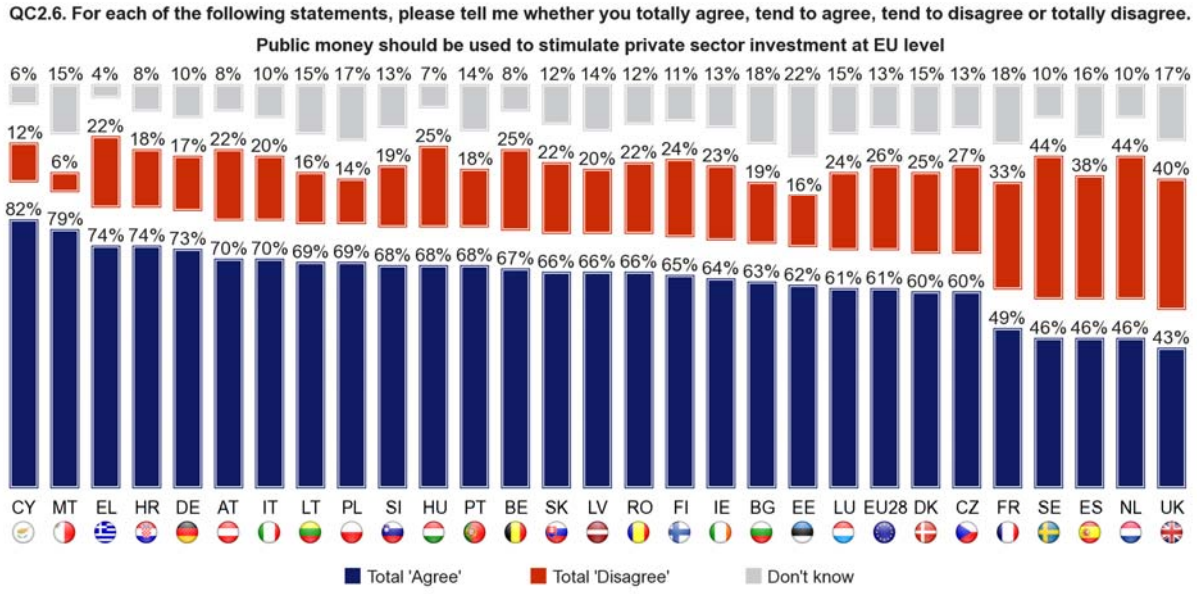
A national analysis shows that the statement "**the private sector is better placed than the public sector to create new jobs"** is supported by at least half of respondents in the 28 Member States, with scores in excess of 70% in six countries: Finland (81%), Malta (78%), Austria (73%), Denmark (72%), Ireland (72%) and Germany (71%). At the other end of the scale, fewer than six out of ten respondents agree with this statement in Hungary (50%), Slovenia (54%), Italy (55%), France (58%), Latvia (58%) and Lithuania (59%).

The "totally agree" percentage exceeds a third in Finland (38%), Malta (36%) and Denmark (34%) – three countries where the total "agree" rate is particularly high –, as well as in Cyprus (35%); it is the lowest in Latvia (14%) and Italy (16%).



In all 28 Member States, a majority of respondents agree that **"public money should be used to stimulate private sector investment at EU level"**. However, it is possible to make a distinction between two groups of countries. The first group consists of 23 countries in which at least six in ten respondents agree with this statement, most notably Cyprus (82%), Malta (79%), Greece (74%), Croatia (74%) and Germany (73%). The second group is composed of five countries where only relative majorities believe that public money should be used to stimulate private sector investment: the United Kingdom (43% versus 40% total "disagree"), the Netherlands (46% versus 44%), Sweden (46% versus 44%), Spain (46% versus 38%) and France (49% versus 33%).

The proportion of respondents who "totally agree" with this statement is particularly high in Cyprus (49%, almost an absolute majority). It also exceeds a third of those polled in Malta (39%) and Slovenia (34%); it is the lowest in the United Kingdom (9%).



A socio-demographic analysis reveals that:

- All categories agree that "**the private sector is better placed than the public sector to create new jobs"**. However, some categories do so in proportions above the European average, including self-employed people (71%, versus 60% of house persons) and those who identify as upper class (73%), and upper middle class (74%, versus 59% of working class respondents). The same holds true for Europeans who think that globalisation is an opportunity (72%, versus 59% of those who do not) and who think that the EU has the means to defend its economic interests (72%, versus 59% of those who take the opposite view);

- The statement that **"public money should be used to stimulate private sector investment at EU level"** is also supported by a majority of respondents in all socio-demographic categories. However, support is higher among self-employed people (73%, versus 54% of unemployed people), Europeans who identify as upper middle class (71%, versus 55% of working class respondents) and respondents who think that the European Union has the means to defend its economic interests (70%, versus 51% of those who disagree).

QC2. For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree.
Answer: 'Total Agree'

	The private sector is better placed than the public sector to create new jobs	Public money should be used to stimulate private sector investment at EU level
EU28	65%	61%
Gender		
Man	67%	62%
Woman	61%	58%
Age		
15-24	64%	55%
25-39	65%	61%
40-54	66%	62%
55 +	62%	61%
Education (End of)		
15-	59%	59%
16-19	64%	61%
20+	68%	61%
Still studying	64%	56%
Socio-professional category		
Self-employed	71%	73%
Managers	67%	61%
Other white collars	66%	64%
Manual workers	64%	59%
House persons	60%	57%
Unemployed	61%	54%
Retired	63%	60%
Students	64%	56%
Consider belonging to		
The working class	59%	55%
The lower middle class	66%	58%
The middle class	66%	65%
The upper middle class	74%	71%
The upper class	73%	63%
Globalisation is an opportunity		
Agree	72%	69%
Disagree	59%	56%
The EU can defend its economic interests		
Tend to agree	72%	70%
Tend to disagree	59%	51%

4. A REFORM OF THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL SYSTEM?

4.1. Reforms needed to revitalise the economy and reduce public debt

Reforms to face the future

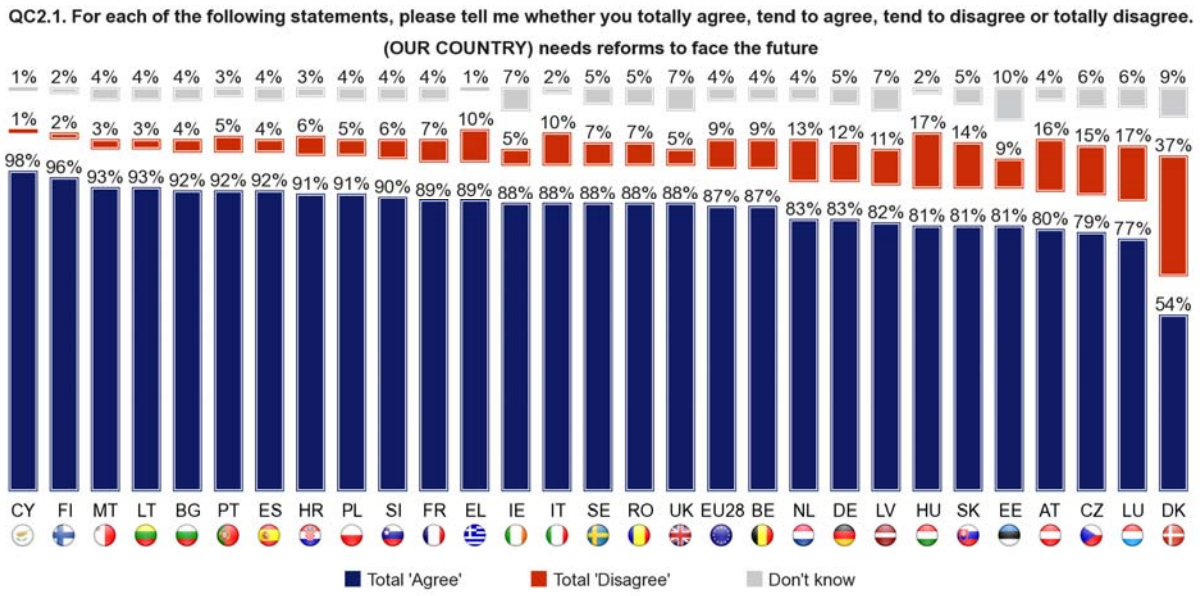
– Almost nine in ten Europeans believe that their country needs reforms to face the future –

Just fewer than nine out of ten Europeans believe that their country needs reforms to face the future (87%, -1 percentage point since spring 2014)[71], while only 9% (+1) disagree with this statement and 4% (unchanged) expressed no opinion. Specifically, a very large proportion of Europeans continue to "totally agree" that national reforms are necessary (45%), despite a 6-point fall since spring 2014.

An absolute majority of respondents in all 28 Member States agree with this statement, with scores in excess of 75% in 27 countries, led by Cyprus (98%, -1 percentage point), Finland (96%, +1), Lithuania (93%, +1) and Malta (93%, unchanged). In contrast, far fewer do so in Denmark (54%, +5), a long way behind Luxembourg (77%, +3) and the Czech Republic (79%, +3).

Support for this statement has decreased in 12 countries, most notably in Greece (89%, -6 percentage points) and Slovakia (81%, -5), but has increased in 11 Member States, most strikingly in Austria (80%, +6) and Denmark (54%, +5).

The proportion of "totally agree" answers exceeds two-thirds in three countries: Cyprus (78%, -6 percentage points), Bulgaria (69%, -3) and Finland (68%, +4). However, it has fallen in 23 Member States, and by at least ten percentage points in Slovakia (33%, -12), Spain (58%, -10) and the United Kingdom (33%, -10).



[71] QC2.1. For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree: (OUR COUNTRY) needs reforms to face the future.

The particular case of Denmark

In Denmark – by far the Member State with the lowest proportion of respondents who believe that their country needs reforms to face the future –, there are a number of disparities between socio-demographic categories. For example, men are more likely to say that Denmark needs reforms (61%, versus 46% of women), as are respondents aged 55 or over (57%, versus 50% of 15-24 year-olds and 50% of 40-54 year-olds), and self-employed people (64%, versus 45% of white-collar workers, evenly divided between total "agree" and total "disagree"). In contrast, respondents who struggle to pay their bills most of the time are the only category in which a majority disagree with this statement (77% total "disagree", versus 37% of those who almost never have difficulties).

QC2.1 For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree.

Denmark needs reforms to face the future

	Total 'Agree'	Total 'Disagree'	Don't know
EU28	87%	9%	4%
Denmark	54%	37%	9%
Gender			
Man	61%	33%	6%
Woman	46%	43%	11%
Age			
15-24	51%	42%	7%
25-39	54%	33%	11%
40-54	50%	43%	7%
55 +	57%	33%	10%
Education (End of)			
15-	49%	32%	19%
16-19	47%	43%	10%
20+	54%	37%	9%
Still studying	56%	39%	5%
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	64%	33%	3%
Managers	55%	38%	7%
Other white collars	45%	45%	10%
Manual workers	50%	39%	11%
House persons	57%	43%	0%
Unemployed	49%	41%	10%
Retired	56%	32%	12%
Students	56%	39%	5%
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	23%	77%	0%
From time to time	43%	38%	19%
Almost never/ Never	55%	37%	8%

Public deficits and debt

– Europeans appear divided as to whether measures to reduce the public deficit and debt in their country are a priority –

In order to assess the opinions of Europeans on the need to act rapidly to reduce the public deficit and debt in their country, the respondents were divided into two groups. Each group was asked a slightly differently worded question[72]:

- **A positive wording** (**SPLIT A** – "Measures to reduce the public deficit and debt in (OUR COUNTRY) **cannot be delayed"**);
- **A negative wording** (**SPLIT B** – "Measures to reduce the public deficit and debt in (OUR COUNTRY) **are not a priority for now"**).

Positive wording

Just over three-quarters of Europeans consider that "measures to reduce the public deficit and debt in (OUR COUNTRY) cannot be delayed" (76%, -2 percentage points), while only 16% (+2) take the opposite view and 8% (unchanged) could not answer. Nevertheless, the proportion of Europeans who "totally agree" with this opinion has fallen by seven percentage points since spring 2014, while remaining at a high level (37%).

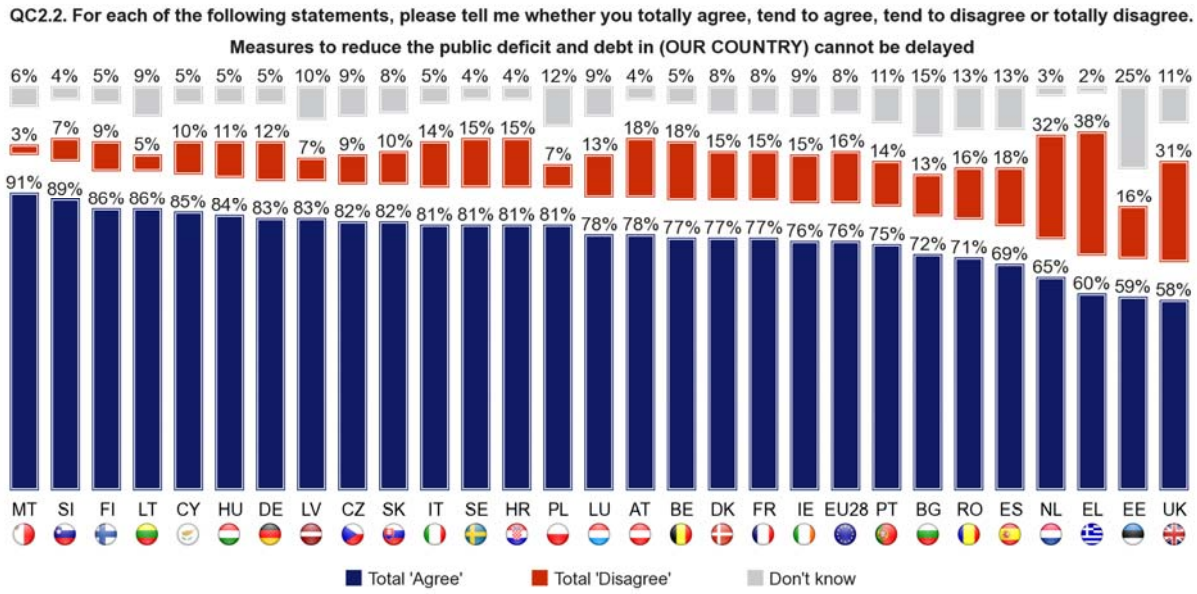
In comparison with spring 2014, following a sharp decline in agreement with this statement in the **non-euro area countries,** this statement now has more support **within the euro area** than in non-euro area countries (77%, -1 percentage point in euro-area countries, versus 72%, -7, in non-euro area countries).

An absolute majority of respondents in the 28 Member States agree with this statement, with the highest scores in Malta (91%, +4 percentage points), Slovenia (89%, -3), Finland (86%, +6) and Lithuania (86%, +1), compared with 60% or less in the United Kingdom (58%, -24), Estonia (59%, -8) and Greece (60%, -4).

The proportion of respondents in agreement with this wording has increased in 16 Member States, led by Latvia (83%, +9 percentage points), Hungary (84%, +8), Finland (86%, +6) and Luxembourg (78%, +6). However, it has decreased in 12 countries, most notably in the United Kingdom (58%, -24), and to a lesser extent in Estonia (59%, -8) and Portugal (75%, -6).

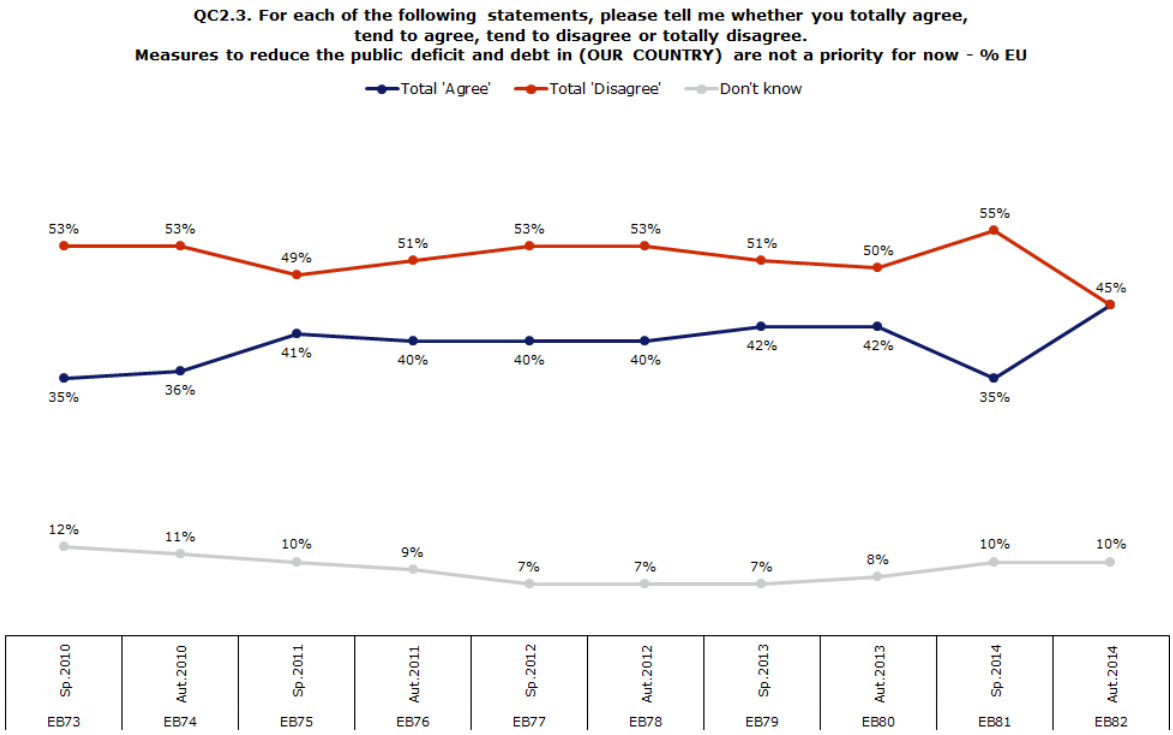
[72] QC2.2 and QC2.3. For the following statement, please tell me whether you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree. (SPLIT A) Measures to reduce the public deficit and debt in (OUR COUNTRY) cannot be delayed; (SPLIT B) Measures to reduce the public deficit and debt in (OUR COUNTRY) are not a priority for now.

An absolute majority of respondents in four Member States "totally agree" that measures to reduce the public deficit and debt cannot be delayed: in Slovenia (60%, -2 percentage points), Cyprus (59%, -9), Finland (55%, +9) and Malta (50%, +3). Although this proportion has increased strongly in Finland, it has fallen in 23 countries, and by at least ten percentage points in the United Kingdom (20%, -22), Germany (43%, -15) and Croatia (47%, -10).



Negative wording

Europeans are now evenly divided when the wording is negative: 45% (+10 percentage points) believe that "measures to reduce the public deficit and debt in (OUR COUNTRY) are not a priority for now" and 45% (-10) disagree, while 10% (unchanged) expressed no opinion. This is the first time since this question was first asked, in the Standard Eurobarometer survey of spring 2010, that opinions have been evenly divided: in all the previous surveys, around half of respondents disagreed with the statement and said that these measures could not be delayed. The evolutions since spring 2014, and the resulting new balance between the two opinions, put into perspective the result of the positive wording, where a clear majority of respondents said that reforms to reduce the public deficit and debt were urgently needed.



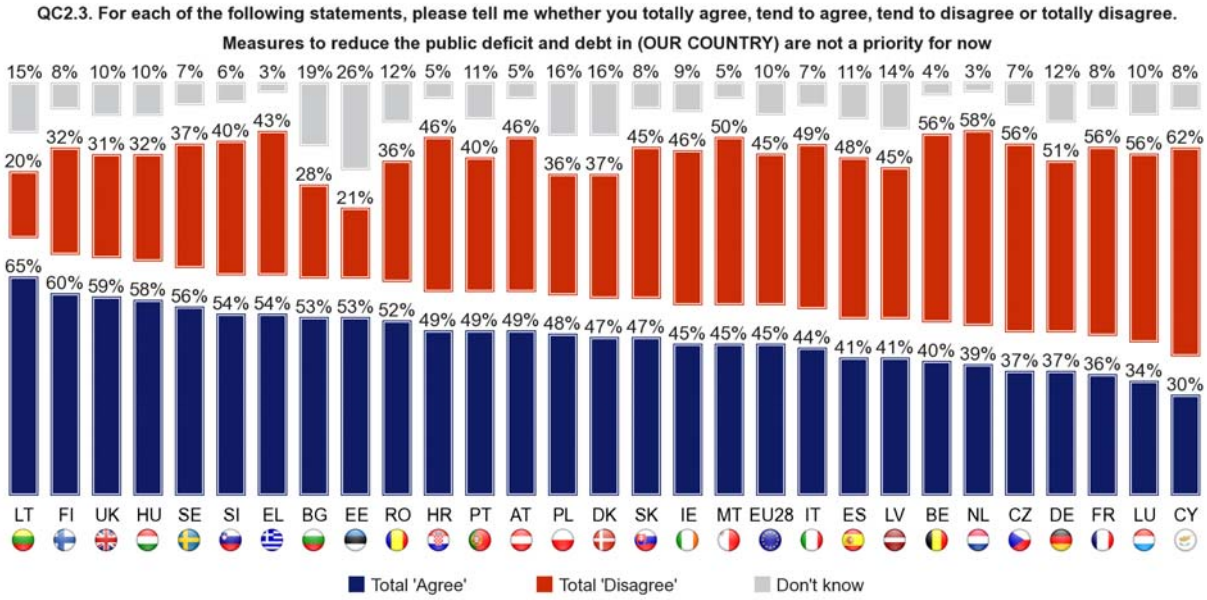
Euro area and non-euro area respondents have opposing views on these measures. In the euro area countries, a majority of respondents continue to disagree with the statement and, therefore, consider that such measures are a matter of priority (50% "disagree", -5 percentage points, versus 41%, +6). However, in the non-euro area countries, after a 20-point rise in agreement, a majority of respondents now believe that measures to reduce the public deficit and debt are not a priority (53% "agree", +20, versus 35%, -20).

QC2.3. 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) are not a priority for now

	Total 'Agree'	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014	Total 'Disagree'	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014	Don't know	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014
EU28	45%	**+10**	45%	**-10**	10%	=
EURO AREA	41%	**+6**	50%	**-5**	9%	**-1**
NON-EURO AREA	53%	**+20**	35%	**-20**	12%	=

In spring 2014, disagreement with this statement – and hence the belief that measures to reduce the debt and deficit are a priority – was the majority position in 26 Member States, compared with only 12 countries in the current Standard Eurobarometer survey of autumn 2014, although it does command an absolute majority in eight countries: Cyprus (62%, -9 percentage points), the Netherlands (58%, -6), Belgium (56%, +4), Luxembourg (56%, -2), the Czech Republic (56%, -2), France (56%, -9), Germany (51%, +2) and Malta (50%, -23). The disagreement rate has declined in 24 Member States since spring 2014, and by 20 percentage points or more in the United Kingdom (31%, -29), Lithuania (20%, -27), Bulgaria (28%, -25), Malta (50%, -23), Croatia (46%, -23), Finland (32%, -20) and Estonia (21%, -20).

In contrast, a majority of respondents in 16 Member States (compared with only two in spring 2014) now believe that deficit and debt reduction measures are not a priority, with scores in excess of 50% in ten countries: Lithuania (65%, +29 percentage points), Finland (60%, +21), the United Kingdom (59%, +32), Hungary (58%, +10), Sweden (56%, +19), Slovenia (54%, +17), Greece (54%, +12), Bulgaria (53%, +26), Estonia (53%, +10) and Romania (52%, +10). This opinion has gained ground in 25 Member States, and by at least ten percentage points in 18 countries, led by the United Kingdom (59%, +32), Lithuania (65%, +29), Malta (45%, +27), Bulgaria (53%, +26) and Croatia (49%, +25).



QC2. For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree.
Answer: Total 'Agree'

	(OUR COUNTRY) needs reforms to face the future	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014	(SPLIT A) Measures to reduce the public deficit and debt in (OUR COUNTRY) cannot be delayed	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014	(SPLIT B) Measures to reduce the public deficit and debt in (OUR COUNTRY) are not a priority for now	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014
EU28	87%	-1	76%	-2	45%	+10
BE	87%	=	77%	-3	40%	-3
BG	92%	-1	72%	+4	53%	+26
CZ	79%	+3	82%	+3	37%	+2
DK	54%	+5	77%	+2	47%	+13
DE	83%	-4	83%	-2	37%	-3
EE	81%	-3	59%	-8	53%	+10
IE	88%	-3	76%	+4	45%	+17
EL	89%	-6	60%	-4	54%	+12
ES	92%	-2	69%	+5	41%	+3
FR	89%	-2	77%	-4	36%	+13
HR	91%	+1	81%	-3	49%	+25
IT	88%	-4	81%	+1	44%	+8
CY	98%	-1	85%	-2	30%	+6
LV	82%	+2	83%	+9	41%	-1
LT	93%	+1	86%	+1	65%	+29
LU	77%	+3	78%	+6	34%	+5
HU	81%	+4	84%	+8	58%	+10
MT	93%	=	91%	+4	45%	+27
NL	83%	=	65%	+3	39%	+7
AT	80%	+6	78%	+5	49%	+16
PL	91%	+1	81%	+3	48%	+14
PT	92%	=	75%	-6	49%	+8
RO	88%	-4	71%	-1	52%	+10
SI	90%	-2	89%	-3	54%	+17
SK	81%	-5	82%	+1	47%	+11
FI	96%	+1	86%	+6	60%	+21
SE	88%	+1	81%	-1	56%	+19
UK	88%	=	58%	-24	59%	+32

A national analysis shows that in twelve Member States the answers of the two sub-groups (Split A for the positive wording and Split B for the negative wording) are consistent. In these countries, **majorities believe that measures to reduce the deficit and debit are urgently required, regardless of the wording used**. This is the case in the Netherlands, where 65% believe that "measures to reduce the public deficit and debt in (OUR COUNTRY) cannot be delayed", and 58% disagree with the statement that "measures to reduce the public deficit and debt in (OUR COUNTRY) are not a priority for now", and in France (77% and 56% respectively), Luxembourg (78% and 56%), Cyprus (85% and 62%), Belgium (77% and 56%), Spain (69% and 48%), the Czech Republic (82% and 56%), Germany (83% and 51%), Ireland (76% and 46%), Italy (81% and 49%), Latvia (83% and 45%) and Malta (91% and 50%). The proportions of respondents who consider that measures to reduce the public deficit and debt are urgent, regardless of the wording used, are the closest in the Netherlands: the gap between the two majorities is only seven percentage points (65% "agree" with the positive wording; 58% "disagree" with the negative wording); the gap exceeds 20 percentage points in the other 11 Member States.

A socio-demographic analysis reveals that:

- A large majority of respondents in all socio-demographic categories agree that **their country needs reforms to face the future**. However, agreement is above the average among those who studied up to the age of 20 and beyond (90%, versus 85% of those who let school at the age of 15 or earlier) and managers (91%, versus 83% of house persons). Respondents who see globalisation as an opportunity are also more likely to agree (91%, versus 85% of those who do not do so), as are those believe that the EU has the means to defend its economic interests (92%, versus 82% of those who take the opposite view);

- All socio-demographic categories also agree that **measures to reduce the public deficit and debt in their country cannot be delayed**. However, the approval rate is higher among respondents who describe themselves as upper class (81%) and middle class (80%), compared with 71% of working class respondents; among those who believe that their voice counts in the EU (81%, versus 73% of those who think the opposite); among respondents who see globalisation as an opportunity (81%, for 73% of those who do not); and among those who think that the EU can defend its economic interests (82%, versus 71% of those who disagree);

- The results are far more mixed for the negative wording. The opinion that **measures to reduce their country's public deficit and debt are a priority** (i.e. those who disagree with the statement) is predominant among 40-54 year-olds (49% of total "disagree" versus 44% of total "agree") but not among 15-24 year-olds (40% versus 45%); among baby boomers, born between 1946 and 1964 (48% versus 44%) but not among member of generation "Y", born after 1980 (41% versus 47%); among self-employed people (50% versus 46%) but not among white-collar workers (43% versus 50%); and among those who see themselves as upper class (50% versus 48%) but not among those who see themselves as working class (41% versus 46%). These measures are also more likely to be seen as urgent by Europeans who do not see globalisation as an opportunity for economic growth (51%, versus 44% who do see it as a chance for growth) and by those who believe that the EU does not have enough means to defend its economic interests (54%, versus 44% of think that it has the necessary means).

The following tables show the results by socio-demographic criteria in the European Union as a whole (EU28 average), in the six largest EU countries and in countries benefiting or having benefited from European Union assistance to overcome the financial and economic crisis.

QC2.1. For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree.
(OUR COUNTRY) needs reforms to face the future
Answer: Total 'Agree'

	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
TOTAL	87%	83%	92%	89%	88%	91%	88%	89%	92%	88%	98%
Gender											
Male	88%	85%	93%	89%	88%	93%	89%	90%	93%	88%	98%
Female	86%	82%	92%	88%	88%	88%	86%	87%	92%	87%	98%
Age											
15-24	85%	85%	96%	86%	80%	81%	88%	97%	88%	83%	96%
25-39	87%	82%	93%	90%	90%	92%	86%	90%	96%	86%	98%
40-54	89%	85%	94%	87%	92%	93%	90%	93%	95%	92%	99%
55 +	87%	81%	91%	90%	87%	92%	87%	83%	91%	89%	99%
Education (End of)											
15-	85%	75%	93%	87%	85%	79%	85%	86%	93%	88%	97%
16-19	87%	83%	92%	87%	92%	93%	86%	89%	97%	87%	99%
20+	90%	89%	96%	93%	92%	93%	92%	90%	90%	91%	97%
Still studying	85%	84%	98%	83%	80%	81%	86%	95%	91%	82%	98%
Socio-professional category											
Self-employed	89%	85%	95%	90%	92%	90%	89%	90%	90%	84%	95%
Managers	91%	90%	94%	94%	99%	94%	94%	88%	97%	92%	96%
Other white collars	88%	79%	96%	94%	93%	92%	85%	95%	95%	95%	97%
Manual workers	87%	83%	94%	84%	85%	91%	89%	96%	94%	85%	100%
House persons	83%	80%	87%	84%	82%	93%	74%	86%	100%	85%	100%
Unemployed	87%	82%	91%	88%	90%	88%	87%	89%	93%	87%	99%
Retired	87%	82%	91%	90%	88%	92%	87%	83%	89%	90%	98%
Students	85%	84%	98%	83%	80%	81%	86%	95%	91%	82%	98%

QC2.2. 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
Answer: Total 'Agree'

	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
TOTAL	76%	83%	69%	77%	81%	81%	58%	60%	75%	76%	85%
Gender											
Male	76%	82%	70%	78%	79%	84%	58%	59%	80%	74%	88%
Female	74%	83%	68%	75%	83%	78%	58%	62%	71%	77%	81%
Age											
15-24	73%	80%	80%	75%	75%	78%	52%	67%	84%	68%	78%
25-39	75%	80%	74%	83%	78%	75%	62%	57%	81%	78%	87%
40-54	77%	85%	73%	78%	84%	87%	58%	56%	72%	76%	89%
55 +	74%	83%	60%	73%	82%	83%	58%	63%	72%	78%	82%
Education (End of)											
15-	72%	84%	67%	65%	82%	59%	65%	58%	71%	73%	75%
16-19	76%	86%	72%	81%	81%	81%	56%	56%	80%	73%	86%
20+	76%	78%	73%	79%	85%	81%	56%	61%	78%	84%	91%
Still studying	74%	79%	80%	71%	69%	83%	59%	77%	87%	67%	74%
Socio-professional category											
Self-employed	77%	75%	78%	78%	82%	83%	60%	63%	74%	64%	79%
Managers	75%	84%	81%	72%	93%	75%	56%	73%	90%	87%	82%
Other white collars	75%	90%	73%	80%	74%	78%	49%	54%	78%	83%	92%
Manual workers	76%	81%	68%	85%	82%	82%	58%	44%	73%	77%	88%
House persons	71%	85%	61%	63%	78%	81%	49%	68%	67%	70%	59%
Unemployed	75%	83%	75%	79%	84%	77%	62%	46%	74%	61%	86%
Retired	75%	84%	62%	74%	85%	84%	61%	63%	69%	79%	90%
Students	74%	79%	80%	71%	69%	83%	59%	77%	87%	67%	74%

QC2.3. 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) are not a priority for now
Answer: Total 'Agree'

	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
TOTAL	45%	37%	41%	36%	44%	48%	59%	54%	49%	45%	30%
Gender											
Male	47%	38%	41%	44%	45%	47%	63%	50%	51%	45%	30%
Female	44%	36%	41%	29%	43%	49%	54%	58%	47%	45%	30%
Age											
15-24	45%	43%	39%	36%	50%	40%	53%	43%	47%	40%	32%
25-39	48%	37%	46%	42%	46%	52%	59%	61%	56%	47%	35%
40-54	44%	37%	36%	35%	42%	45%	59%	53%	46%	45%	33%
55 +	44%	36%	41%	32%	42%	51%	62%	54%	48%	47%	23%
Education (End of)											
15-	41%	33%	44%	30%	33%	43%	61%	57%	44%	50%	26%
16-19	45%	34%	39%	40%	45%	44%	61%	55%	59%	46%	34%
20+	47%	42%	44%	35%	52%	55%	56%	51%	58%	46%	24%
Still studying	46%	48%	38%	33%	57%	41%	55%	45%	42%	36%	33%
Socio-professional category											
Self-employed	46%	50%	51%	35%	34%	47%	77%	53%	40%	60%	28%
Managers	49%	35%	39%	39%	65%	55%	60%	50%	60%	37%	18%
Other white collars	50%	37%	39%	57%	45%	55%	67%	40%	80%	56%	36%
Manual workers	45%	33%	47%	40%	44%	44%	57%	50%	43%	45%	41%
House persons	42%	34%	40%	27%	45%	45%	32%	76%	36%	40%	17%
Unemployed	41%	26%	35%	27%	41%	44%	60%	61%	40%	48%	32%
Retired	44%	38%	42%	30%	42%	50%	60%	49%	48%	48%	20%
Students	46%	48%	38%	33%	57%	41%	55%	45%	42%	36%	33%

4.2. What measures should be taken to reform the economic and financial system?

- Majorities of Europeans are in favour of the four measures that the EU could take to reform global financial markets -

In order to reform global financial markets, the European Union is considering a range of measures. Respondents were asked to say whether they are in favour or against four of these[73]. A majority of respondents are in favour of each measure, but in proportions considerably lower than those recorded in autumn 2013. However, support for the two measures tested in the Standard Eurobarometer survey of spring 2014 has increased since that survey:

- **More than eight in ten Europeans are in favour of "tougher rules on tax avoidance and tax havens"** (86%), representing a three percentage point decline since the Standard Eurobarometer survey of autumn 2013 (EB80), while 7% (unchanged) are against and 7% (+3) said "don't know";

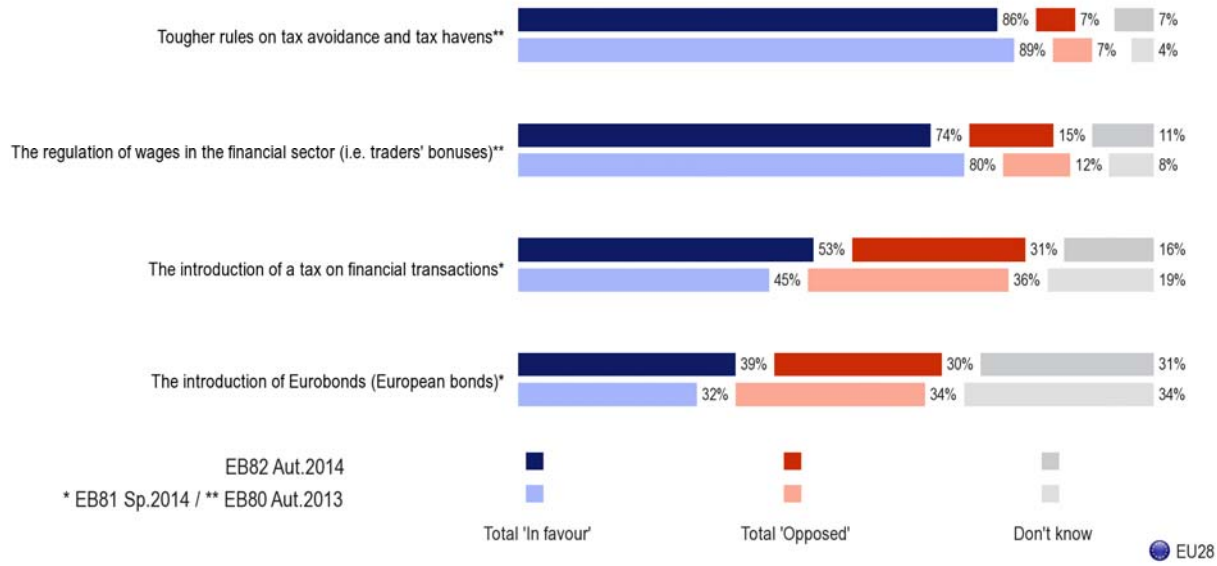
- **"The regulation of wages in the financial sector** (i.e. traders' bonuses)**" is supported by almost three-quarters of respondents** (74%), down by six percentage points on autumn 2013, while 15% (+3) oppose this measure and 11% (+3) did not know;

- The next two measures are also supported by majorities of Europeans, but in much smaller proportions than the first two. "**The introduction of a tax on financial transactions" is supported by an absolute majority of respondents** (53%, +8 percentage points since spring 2014, but -9 since autumn 2013), while just under a third oppose this measure (31%, -5 and +4) and 16% (-3 et +5) expressed no opinion;

- Lastly, **only a relative majority of respondents support "the introduction of Eurobonds (European bonds)"** (39%, +7 percentage points since spring 2014, and -5 versus autumn 2013), but 30% of Europeans are opposed to this measure (-4 and +1) while 31% (-3 and +4) said "don't know". For these last two items, tested in spring 2014, approval is still lower than in the autumn 2013 survey despite the increases recorded since the last survey.

[73] QC4. Thinking about reforming global financial markets, please tell me whether you are in favour or opposed to the following measures to be taken by the EU: Tougher rules on tax avoidance and tax havens; The regulation of wages in the financial sector (i.e. traders' bonuses); The introduction of a tax on financial transactions; The introduction of Eurobonds (European bonds).

QC4. Thinking about reforming global financial markets, please tell me whether you are in favour or opposed to the following measures to be taken by the EU.



Although all four proposed measures are supported by a majority of respondents in both **euro area** and **non-euro area countries**, respondents in the former are more likely to favour three of the four measures: the introduction of "tougher rules on tax avoidance and tax havens" (89%, versus 82% of non-euro area respondents), "the regulation of wages in the financial sector" (78% versus 68%) and most strikingly "the introduction of a tax on financial transactions" (60% versus 26% of total "opposed", compared with 42% versus 40%). In contrast, non-euro area respondents are slightly more likely to support "the introduction of Eurobonds" (40% versus 27% of total "opposed", compared with 38% versus 32% in the euro area countries).

A national analysis shows that "tougher rules on tax avoidance and tax havens" are supported by a very large majority of Europeans in all 28 Member States, with scores in excess of 75% in 25 countries, most notably Sweden (95%, unchanged since autumn 2013), the Netherlands (95%, =), Germany (92%, -2 percentage points), Finland (91%, -2) and Spain (91%, -4). However, support remains slightly below 75% in Estonia (70%, -13), Luxembourg (74%, -5) and Poland (74%, -3). In terms of evolutions since autumn 2013, support for this measure has decreased in 22 Member States, most notably in Romania (78%, -14), Estonia (70%, -13), Bulgaria (79%, -9) and Croatia (81%, -9); it has increased slightly only in Italy (84%, +3), Latvia (76%, +2) and Portugal (88%, +1).

Support for "**the regulation of wages in the financial sector"** also exceeds 50% in all 28 Member States, with scores of at least 75% in 14 countries. The highest scores were recorded in Slovenia (88%, -2 percentage points), Spain (85%, -6), Austria (84%, -3) and the Netherlands (81%, -2). However, fewer than six in ten respondents in Denmark (52%, -14), Estonia (57%, -12) and Malta (57%, -9) are in favour of this measure. Compared with autumn 2013, support for the regulation of financial sector wages has declined in 27 countries, and by at least ten percentage points in six of them: Hungary (66%, -16), Denmark (52%, -14), Cyprus (65%, -13), Estonia (57%, -12), Bulgaria (71%, -11) and Greece (69%, -10). It has seen a slight rise only in Lithuania (76%, +2).

QC4.34. Thinking about reforming global financial markets, please tell me whether you are in favour or opposed to the following measures to be taken by the EU.
Answer: Total 'In favour'

	The regulation of wages in the financial sector (i.e. traders' bonuses)	Diff. Aut.2014-Aut.2013	Tougher rules on tax avoidance and tax havens	Diff. Aut.2014-Aut.2013
EU28	74%	-6	86%	-3
EURO AREA	78%	-5	89%	-1
NON-EURO AREA	68%	-7	82%	-5
BE	78%	-8	90%	-2
BG	71%	-11	79%	-9
CZ	71%	-9	88%	-6
DK	52%	-14	89%	-6
DE	76%	-8	92%	-2
EE	57%	-12	70%	-13
IE	76%	-8	82%	-5
EL	69%	-10	90%	-4
ES	85%	-6	91%	-4
FR	80%	-3	86%	-2
HR	78%	-7	81%	-9
IT	70%	-3	84%	+3
CY	65%	-13	87%	-8
LV	64%	-7	76%	+2
LT	76%	+2	84%	=
LU	75%	-1	74%	-5
HU	66%	-16	82%	-7
MT	57%	-9	85%	-5
NL	81%	-2	95%	=
AT	84%	-3	85%	-7
PL	66%	-6	74%	-3
PT	80%	-5	88%	+1
RO	66%	-8	78%	-14
SI	88%	-2	89%	-3
SK	78%	-9	90%	-5
FI	78%	-7	91%	-2
SE	71%	-3	95%	=
UK	70%	-7	83%	-4

Opinions on the remaining two measures are more mixed. "**The introduction of a tax on financial transactions"** is supported by a majority of respondents in 20 Member States (versus 11 in spring 2014) and at least half are in favour of this measure in 15 countries, with the highest scores in Germany (73%, +1 percentage point since spring 2014), Austria (72%, +13), Belgium (68%, +19) and Portugal (65%, +8). In contrast, support for this measure is the weakest in Hungary (30%, +2, versus 64%, -2, total "opposed"), the Netherlands (30%, +4, versus 60%, +2), Malta (34%, +10, versus 43%, -7) and Estonia (34%, +6, versus 36%, -6). Compared with spring 2014[74], support for this measure has increased in 27 countries, and by at least ten percentage points in 15 of them, most notably in Belgium (68%, +19), Croatia (51%, +18), Spain (58%, +17), Romania (45%, +16) and Poland (43%, +15). Support is stable in Luxembourg (52%, unchanged).

Lastly, "**the introduction of Eurobonds"** is also supported by a majority of respondents in 20 Member States (against 17 in spring 2014), and by an absolute majority in six countries: Belgium (60%, +4 percentage points), Portugal (58%, +8), Greece (54%, +7), Croatia (52%, +13), Malta (50%, +3) and Hungary (50%, +7). However, fewer than a third of respondents support the proposal in Germany (18%, -1, versus 61%, unchanged, for total "opposed"), far behind Finland (29%, +3, versus 32%, -11), Cyprus (30%, -2, versus 36%, -7), Latvia (30%, +4, versus 37%, -11) and the United Kingdom (30%, +9, versus 30%, +1, the only country where opinions are evenly divided). In terms of evolutions, support for Eurobonds has increased in 24 Member States, with gains of at least ten percentage points in six of them: Poland (48%, +15), Croatia (52%, +13), Austria (38%, +12), the Czech Republic (43%, +11), Bulgaria (37%, +11) and Estonia (35%, +10). It has seen a slight fall only in Cyprus (30%, -2) and Germany (18%, -1).

[74] In analysing these evolutions, it must be borne in mind that the statements "Tougher rules on tax avoidance and tax havens" and "The regulation of wages in the financial sector (i.e. traders' bonuses)" are compared with the results of the Standard Eurobarometer survey of autumn 2013 (EB80), whereas "The Introduction of a tax on financial transactions" and "The introduction of Eurobonds (European bonds)" are compared with the Standard Eurobarometer survey of spring 2014 (EB81).

QC4.12. Thinking about reforming global financial markets, please tell me whether you are in favour or opposed to the following measures to be taken by the EU.
Answer: Total 'In favour'

	The introduction of a tax on financial transactions	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014	The introduction of Eurobonds (European bonds)	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014
EU28	53%	+8	39%	+7
EURO AREA	60%	+8	38%	+5
NON-EURO AREA	42%	+12	40%	+9
BE	68%	+19	60%	+4
BG	36%	+9	37%	+11
CZ	50%	+11	43%	+11
DK	48%	+5	42%	=
DE	73%	+1	18%	-1
EE	34%	+6	35%	+10
IE	37%	+9	43%	+9
EL	50%	+11	54%	+7
ES	58%	+17	44%	+8
FR	58%	+2	44%	+5
HR	51%	+18	52%	+13
IT	55%	+12	46%	+8
CY	41%	+14	30%	-2
LV	41%	+13	30%	+4
LT	57%	+9	39%	+6
LU	52%	=	44%	+5
HU	30%	+2	50%	+7
MT	34%	+10	50%	+3
NL	30%	+4	38%	+5
AT	72%	+13	38%	+12
PL	43%	+15	48%	+15
PT	65%	+8	58%	+8
RO	45%	+16	48%	+7
SI	56%	+12	38%	+5
SK	56%	+13	45%	+5
FI	51%	+7	29%	+3
SE	49%	+5	33%	=
UK	38%	+12	30%	+9

A socio-demographic analysis reveals that:

- There is a broad consensus across all socio-demographic categories in favour of the introduction of "**tougher rules on tax avoidance and tax havens"**. However, managers (91%, versus 81% of house persons and students) are more likely than average to support this measure, as are respondents who see globalisation as an opportunity, who trust the EU, who believe that the impact of the crisis on jobs has peaked and who believe that the EU has sufficient power and tools to defend its economic interests in the global economy (90% in all four cases);

- A majority of respondents in all categories are also in favour of "**the regulation of wages in the financial sector"**, with few differences between categories. Europeans who see themselves as upper class are the most likely to support it (79%, versus 73% of working class respondents), together with those who believe that globalisation is an opportunity (79%, versus 74% of those who disagree), who trust the EU (80%, versus 73% of those who do not trust it) and who consider that the EU has the means to defend its economic interests (80%, versus 73% of those who take the opposite view);

- A majority of respondents in almost all categories are in favour of "**the introduction of a tax on financial transactions"**, except those who do not believe that their country needs reforms (44% of total "favourable" versus 45% of total "opposed"). Support is the most widespread among Europeans who see themselves as middle class (58%, versus 51% of working class respondents and 47% of upper class respondents), who think that their voice counts in the EU (60%, versus 51% of those who do not), who trust the EU (59%, versus 53% of those who do not trust it) and who have a positive image of the EU (59%, versus 48% of those for whom its image is negative);

- "**The introduction of Eurobonds"** receives most support from men (43%, versus 35% of women), members of generations "X" and "Y", born after 1964 (41%, versus 29% of those born before 1946), respondents who studied up to the age of 20 and beyond (45%, versus 31% of those who left school at the age of 15 or earlier), managers (44%) and self-employed people (45%, versus 32% of house persons and 34% of retired people) and, lastly, those who identify themselves as upper class (50%) and middle class (47%), compared with 33% of working class respondents. The introduction of Eurobonds is also supported by high proportions of respondents who trust the European Union (50%, versus 34% of those who do not trust it) and among people for whom the EU conjures up a positive image (50%, versus 28% of those for whom its image is negative).

The following tables show the results by socio-demographic criteria in the European Union as a whole (EU28 average), in the six largest EU countries and in countries benefiting or having benefited from European Union assistance to overcome the financial and economic crisis.

QC4.4. Thinking about reforming global financial markets, please tell me whether you are in favour or opposed to the following measures to be taken by the EU.
Tougher rules on tax avoidance and tax havens
Answer: Total 'In favour'

	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
TOTAL	86%	92%	91%	86%	84%	74%	83%	90%	88%	82%	87%
Gender											
Male	88%	94%	94%	89%	82%	79%	86%	90%	89%	84%	91%
Female	85%	91%	89%	84%	85%	70%	81%	91%	87%	80%	84%
Age											
15-24	81%	87%	90%	68%	78%	69%	82%	90%	84%	71%	73%
25-39	86%	93%	92%	87%	84%	76%	77%	91%	90%	78%	88%
40-54	89%	93%	95%	90%	87%	78%	85%	92%	90%	86%	91%
55 +	86%	93%	89%	91%	82%	72%	86%	89%	87%	89%	91%
Education (End of)											
15-	84%	92%	92%	85%	77%	63%	81%	85%	88%	85%	91%
16-19	87%	93%	92%	86%	90%	73%	83%	91%	92%	80%	91%
20+	89%	94%	97%	92%	84%	78%	86%	94%	88%	86%	87%
Still studying	81%	88%	92%	67%	75%	66%	79%	90%	88%	74%	75%
Socio-professional category											
Self-employed	88%	88%	98%	86%	91%	78%	89%	88%	93%	83%	84%
Managers	91%	96%	98%	92%	90%	85%	88%	95%	87%	89%	84%
Other white collars	88%	95%	98%	90%	85%	78%	81%	94%	93%	83%	88%
Manual workers	87%	93%	95%	92%	83%	72%	78%	96%	87%	79%	88%
House persons	81%	85%	86%	77%	81%	67%	75%	89%	79%	80%	96%
Unemployed	85%	93%	91%	73%	85%	71%	85%	89%	87%	79%	88%
Retired	86%	93%	87%	90%	79%	72%	85%	88%	87%	88%	91%
Students	81%	88%	92%	67%	75%	66%	79%	90%	88%	74%	75%

QC4.3. Thinking about reforming global financial markets, please tell me whether you are in favour or opposed to the following measures to be taken by the EU.
The regulation of wages in the financial sector (i.e. traders' bonuses)
Answer: Total 'In favour'

	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
TOTAL	74%	76%	85%	80%	70%	66%	70%	69%	80%	76%	65%
Gender											
Male	76%	77%	88%	85%	73%	68%	69%	70%	82%	77%	66%
Female	73%	76%	82%	77%	67%	63%	70%	68%	78%	75%	64%
Age											
15-24	70%	71%	80%	78%	67%	66%	66%	62%	84%	65%	62%
25-39	76%	77%	87%	80%	75%	67%	74%	74%	80%	76%	63%
40-54	76%	77%	91%	81%	73%	65%	69%	72%	80%	80%	65%
55 +	73%	78%	79%	82%	66%	65%	69%	67%	79%	78%	69%
Education (End of)											
15-	72%	76%	86%	75%	60%	46%	69%	60%	79%	77%	67%
16-19	73%	75%	84%	82%	74%	66%	64%	70%	84%	74%	71%
20+	78%	83%	90%	83%	79%	68%	76%	79%	74%	82%	60%
Still studying	72%	68%	83%	76%	65%	68%	80%	60%	81%	66%	60%
Socio-professional category											
Self-employed	77%	71%	86%	82%	83%	65%	73%	75%	83%	72%	55%
Managers	78%	83%	88%	83%	79%	73%	76%	77%	76%	82%	66%
Other white collars	75%	75%	99%	76%	69%	71%	72%	71%	89%	74%	72%
Manual workers	75%	77%	91%	83%	66%	61%	66%	76%	79%	76%	65%
House persons	70%	65%	81%	82%	66%	55%	66%	71%	65%	73%	63%
Unemployed	75%	81%	84%	82%	75%	64%	60%	65%	75%	70%	62%
Retired	72%	78%	77%	80%	64%	64%	68%	65%	81%	83%	68%
Students	72%	68%	83%	76%	65%	68%	80%	60%	81%	66%	60%

QC4.1. Thinking about reforming global financial markets, please tell me whether you are in favour or opposed to the following measures to be taken by the EU.
The introduction of a tax on financial transactions
Answer: Total 'In favour'

	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
TOTAL	53%	73%	58%	58%	55%	43%	38%	50%	65%	37%	41%
Gender											
Male	57%	77%	64%	66%	59%	46%	40%	49%	68%	44%	43%
Female	50%	69%	52%	52%	51%	41%	36%	51%	62%	30%	40%
Age											
15-24	47%	61%	50%	41%	59%	39%	36%	47%	65%	29%	31%
25-39	53%	72%	62%	43%	62%	48%	39%	50%	66%	38%	42%
40-54	56%	74%	62%	69%	57%	42%	38%	49%	68%	36%	45%
55 +	55%	76%	54%	67%	49%	43%	37%	51%	61%	41%	42%
Education (End of)											
15-	54%	75%	55%	64%	45%	32%	40%	47%	62%	36%	37%
16-19	53%	72%	59%	57%	59%	43%	34%	51%	77%	36%	49%
20+	56%	76%	69%	60%	60%	50%	41%	53%	61%	42%	38%
Still studying	49%	63%	49%	45%	61%	41%	39%	50%	63%	29%	27%
Socio-professional category											
Self-employed	54%	68%	55%	67%	57%	55%	42%	54%	56%	42%	36%
Managers	57%	79%	68%	71%	59%	50%	32%	53%	66%	47%	38%
Other white collars	54%	66%	77%	48%	64%	48%	41%	45%	80%	34%	37%
Manual workers	52%	70%	63%	54%	54%	39%	35%	53%	66%	36%	56%
House persons	50%	74%	56%	43%	44%	39%	43%	53%	59%	28%	43%
Unemployed	53%	74%	58%	48%	60%	36%	39%	46%	66%	31%	50%
Retired	56%	78%	51%	67%	50%	43%	40%	49%	59%	46%	38%
Students	49%	63%	49%	45%	61%	41%	39%	50%	63%	29%	27%

QC4.2. Thinking about reforming global financial markets, please tell me whether you are in favour or opposed to the following measures to be taken by the EU.
The introduction of Eurobonds (European bonds)
Answer: Total 'In favour'

	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
TOTAL	39%	18%	44%	44%	46%	48%	30%	54%	58%	43%	30%
Gender											
Male	43%	21%	49%	53%	48%	52%	36%	59%	64%	52%	37%
Female	35%	15%	38%	36%	44%	44%	25%	49%	53%	35%	25%
Age											
15-24	40%	22%	42%	46%	42%	47%	34%	50%	69%	44%	29%
25-39	42%	21%	41%	46%	55%	51%	32%	55%	61%	43%	32%
40-54	41%	17%	52%	48%	52%	51%	31%	59%	57%	43%	31%
55 +	35%	16%	39%	41%	40%	43%	26%	51%	53%	44%	31%
Education (End of)											
15-	31%	17%	39%	32%	30%	29%	24%	43%	52%	36%	15%
16-19	37%	18%	45%	41%	53%	44%	27%	55%	66%	38%	30%
20+	45%	18%	50%	51%	61%	54%	39%	65%	64%	54%	37%
Still studying	42%	24%	47%	55%	44%	49%	28%	44%	71%	43%	31%
Socio-professional category											
Self-employed	45%	16%	50%	34%	58%	58%	42%	56%	64%	48%	34%
Managers	44%	21%	56%	57%	64%	61%	35%	73%	62%	60%	50%
Other white collars	43%	18%	55%	42%	51%	49%	37%	60%	74%	53%	24%
Manual workers	38%	17%	47%	43%	47%	45%	31%	59%	58%	37%	37%
House persons	32%	18%	33%	33%	41%	35%	13%	51%	31%	31%	6%
Unemployed	38%	18%	38%	45%	45%	43%	27%	52%	51%	33%	30%
Retired	34%	16%	42%	40%	38%	44%	26%	51%	52%	45%	30%
Students	42%	24%	47%	55%	44%	49%	28%	44%	71%	43%	31%

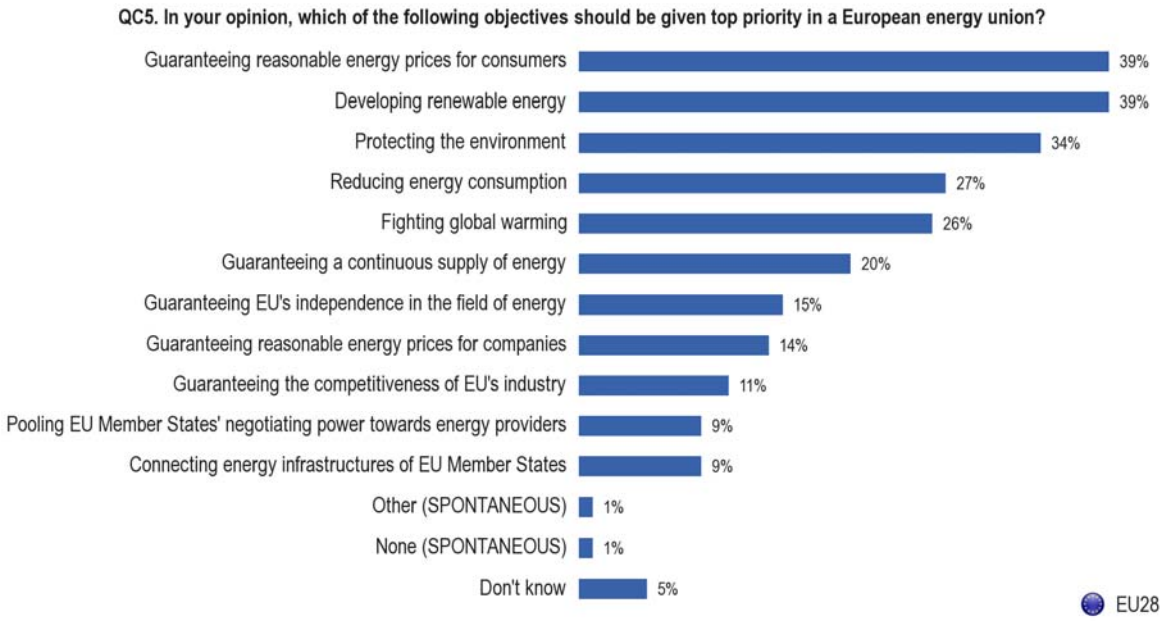
5. THE PRIORITIES FOR A EUROPEAN ENERGY UNION

- Europeans believe that guaranteeing reasonable energy prices and developing renewable energy should be the priorities of a European energy union -

When asked rank the objectives for a European energy union, respondents prioritise **economic and environmental considerations**[75]:

- "**Guaranteeing reasonable energy prices for consumers"** and "**developing renewable energy"** are ranked in joint first place among priority objectives, mentioned by almost four in ten respondents (both 39%);
- They are followed by "**protecting the environment"**, mentioned by around a third of Europeans (34%);
- More than quarter of respondents then mention two other environmental objectives, namely "**reducing energy consumption"** (27%) and "**fighting global warming"** (26%);
- "**Guaranteeing a continuous supply of energy"** is ranked in sixth place, mentioned by one in five Europeans (20%);
- Next come three objectives mentioned by more than one in ten respondents: one relating to the EU's sovereignty, "**guaranteeing EU's independence in the field of energy"** (15%), and two others related to its competitiveness in a global economy, "**guaranteeing reasonable energy prices for companies"** (14%) and "**guaranteeing the competitiveness of EU's industry"** (11%);
- Finally, in tenth and joint last position, Europeans mentioned two objectives related to greater cooperation between Member States: "**connecting energy infrastructures of EU Member States"** and "**pooling EU Member States' negotiating power towards energy providers"** (both 9%).

[75] QC5. In your opinion, which two of the following objectives should be given top priority in a European energy union?



Maximum 3 answers

A national analysis shows that "**guaranteeing reasonable energy prices for consumers" is seen as the top priority for a European energy union in 12 Member States**: Bulgaria (57%), Portugal (53%), Spain (50%), Greece (50%), Latvia (46%), Estonia (45%), the Czech Republic (44%), Germany (43%), Romania (38%), Italy (36%), Lithuania (36%) and Poland (35%). However, respondents in Sweden (17%) and Denmark (25%) seldom mention this item.

Developing renewable energy is seen as the main priority objective in 13 Member States: Sweden (67%), Denmark (55%), Luxembourg (55%), France (50%), Finland (50%), Cyprus (50%), Belgium (47%), Austria (46%), Slovenia (45%), the Netherlands (44%), Hungary (42%), the United Kingdom (40%) and Ireland (38%).

Ranked in third place at European level, **"protecting the environment" tops the list of priority objectives for a European energy union in three Member States**: Malta (48%), Croatia (36%) and Slovakia (35%). Though not in first place, this objective was nevertheless mentioned by more half of respondents in Sweden (53%, in second place).

The eight other proposed objectives did not head the priority objectives in any Member State. Nevertheless, they were mentioned by a large proportion of respondents in some countries, especially "**reducing energy consumption"**, mentioned by more than a third of those polled in Sweden (41%, versus 27% on average), the Netherlands (39%), Luxembourg (37%) and Malta (34%); and **"fighting global warming"** in Sweden (48%, versus 26% on average), Denmark (48%), France (37%), the Netherlands (35%) and Finland (34%).

Respondents in Sweden are thus the most likely to mention each of the four environmental objectives (equally with Denmark for global warming); in contrast, three of these four objectives obtained their lowest scores in Bulgaria: renewable energy (22%), protecting the environment (23%) and reducing energy consumption (12%). Respondents in Estonia are the least likely to mention fighting global warming (8%).

Guaranteeing a continuous supply of energy is among the three most frequently mentioned objectives in Finland (31%, versus 20% on average), Lithuania (30%), Estonia (29%), Hungary (28%) and Bulgaria (27%); this objective was also mentioned by three out of ten respondents in Germany (30%). **Energy independence** strikes a chord with at least a quarter of respondents in Estonia (28%), the Netherlands (26%) and Lithuania (25%); **guaranteeing reasonable energy prices for companies** is mentioned by more than 20% of those polled in Italy (24%) and the Czech Republic (22%).

Lastly, **guaranteeing the competitiveness of the EU's industry** is mentioned more than average in Finland (17%, versus 11% on average), the Czech Republic (16%) and Italy (15%); as is **connecting energy infrastructures of EU Member States** in the Netherlands (15%, versus 9% on average), Bulgaria (14%) and Estonia (14%); and **pooling EU Member States' negotiating power towards energy companies** in Italy (15%, versus 9% on average) and Slovakia (14%).

QC5. In your opinion, which of the following objectives should be given top priority in a European energy union?

	Guaran-teeing reasonable energy prices for consumers	Developing renewable energy	Protecting the environment	Reducing energy con-sumption	Fighting global warming	Guaran-teeing a continuous supply of energy	Guaran-teeing EU's indepen-dence in the field of energy	Guaran-teeing reasonable energy prices for companies	Guaran-teeing the competi-tiveness of EU's industry	Pooling EU Member States' negotiating power towards energy providers	Connecting energy infra-structures of EU Member States
EU28	39%	39%	34%	27%	26%	20%	15%	14%	11%	9%	9%
BE	46%	47%	33%	22%	33%	26%	17%	12%	10%	10%	9%
BG	57%	22%	23%	12%	16%	27%	17%	19%	11%	13%	14%
CZ	44%	29%	36%	30%	16%	21%	20%	22%	16%	11%	9%
DK	25%	55%	41%	32%	48%	19%	11%	10%	5%	6%	11%
DE	43%	39%	37%	30%	27%	30%	18%	7%	13%	7%	10%
EE	45%	38%	28%	17%	8%	29%	28%	15%	11%	7%	14%
IE	30%	38%	33%	25%	28%	19%	10%	16%	12%	7%	10%
EL	50%	47%	39%	18%	26%	26%	13%	18%	8%	10%	13%
ES	50%	38%	35%	23%	23%	14%	8%	12%	9%	7%	8%
FR	41%	50%	41%	29%	37%	10%	18%	12%	11%	11%	6%
HR	31%	34%	36%	24%	21%	17%	15%	13%	12%	13%	12%
IT	36%	32%	32%	26%	18%	17%	17%	24%	15%	15%	8%
CY	45%	50%	44%	22%	24%	18%	10%	12%	8%	3%	9%
LV	46%	28%	31%	24%	12%	26%	17%	19%	10%	6%	9%
LT	36%	29%	34%	25%	19%	30%	25%	13%	9%	8%	11%
LU	30%	55%	37%	37%	29%	11%	22%	12%	10%	9%	8%
HU	39%	42%	28%	24%	18%	28%	14%	12%	13%	8%	10%
MT	42%	30%	48%	34%	21%	26%	7%	19%	7%	5%	8%
NL	37%	44%	33%	39%	35%	23%	26%	11%	5%	9%	15%
AT	33%	46%	41%	28%	26%	27%	20%	10%	12%	9%	12%
PL	35%	31%	26%	25%	17%	23%	18%	15%	13%	13%	11%
PT	53%	38%	24%	21%	18%	20%	14%	19%	12%	8%	10%
RO	38%	26%	32%	22%	22%	16%	13%	13%	8%	10%	9%
SI	32%	45%	41%	27%	25%	16%	17%	9%	9%	3%	9%
SK	34%	29%	35%	27%	17%	28%	17%	15%	11%	14%	13%
FI	31%	50%	34%	28%	34%	31%	22%	14%	17%	3%	6%
SE	17%	67%	53%	41%	48%	15%	11%	7%	7%	7%	8%
UK	31%	40%	31%	25%	26%	19%	7%	13%	5%	4%	8%

1st MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM
2nd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM
3rd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM

Maximum 3 answers

A socio-demographic analysis reveals that:

- "**Guaranteeing reasonable energy prices for consumers"** is a priority objective for respondents who left school at the age of 15 or earlier (47%, compared with 34% of those who studied up to the age of 20 or beyond), who have difficulties paying their bills most of the time (44%, versus 38% of those who almost never have such difficulties) and who identify as working class (44%, compared with only 29% of the upper class). This also applies to respondents for whom the European Union conjures up a negative image (45%, versus 35% of those for whom it has a positive image);

- **Developing renewable energy** is more likely to be seen as a priority for a European energy union by respondents who studied up to the age of 20 and beyond (45%, versus 32% of those who left school at the age of 15 or earlier), managers (47%) and self-employed people (44%), compared with 35% of house persons and pensioners; and by respondents who say they are upper class (44%) and upper middle class (46%), compared with only 35% of working class respondents;

- "**Protecting the environment"** is ranked as the number one objective by only one socio-demographic category: students (43%, just ahead of renewable energy, 42%). The following categories also mention it more frequently than average: Europeans aged 15-24 (41% – in joint first place with renewable energy –, versus 33% of those aged 55 or over), members of generation "Y", born after 1980 (38%, versus 33% of those born before 1946, but also 33% of members of generation "X", born between 1965 and 1980); and respondents who identify as middle class (38%, versus 31% for the upper class and 32% for the working class).

STANDARD EUROBAROMETER 82

Public opinion in the European Union

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Between the 8th of the 17th of November 2014, TNS opinion & social, a consortium created between TNS political & social, TNS UK and TNS opinion, carried out the wave 82.3 of the EUROBAROMETER survey, on request of the EUROPEAN COMMISSION, Directorate-General for Communication, "Strategy, Corporate Communication Actions and Eurobarometer" unit.

The wave 82.3 is the STANDARD EUROBAROMETER 82 survey 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 82 survey has also been conducted in the six candidate countries (Turkey, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania) 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.

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 below.

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:

Statistical Margins due to the sampling process
(at the 95% level of confidence)

various sample sizes are in rows *various observed results are in columns*

	5%	10%	15%	20%	25%	30%	35%	40%	45%	50%	
	95%	90%	85%	80%	75%	70%	65%	60%	55%	50%	
N=50	6,0	8,3	9,9	11,1	12,0	12,7	13,2	13,6	13,8	13,9	N=50
N=500	1,9	2,6	3,1	3,5	3,8	4,0	4,2	4,3	4,4	4,4	N=500
N=1000	1,4	1,9	2,2	2,5	2,7	2,8	3,0	3,0	3,1	3,1	N=1000
N=1500	1,1	1,5	1,8	2,0	2,2	2,3	2,4	2,5	2,5	2,5	N=1500
N=2000	1,0	1,3	1,6	1,8	1,9	2,0	2,1	2,1	2,2	2,2	N=2000
N=3000	0,8	1,1	1,3	1,4	1,5	1,6	1,7	1,8	1,8	1,8	N=3000
N=4000	0,7	0,9	1,1	1,2	1,3	1,4	1,5	1,5	1,5	1,5	N=4000
N=5000	0,6	0,8	1,0	1,1	1,2	1,3	1,3	1,4	1,4	1,4	N=5000
N=6000	0,6	0,8	0,9	1,0	1,1	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,3	1,3	N=6000
N=7000	0,5	0,7	0,8	0,9	1,0	1,1	1,1	1,1	1,2	1,2	N=7000
N=7500	0,5	0,7	0,8	0,9	1,0	1,0	1,1	1,1	1,1	1,1	N=7500
N=8000	0,5	0,7	0,8	0,9	0,9	1,0	1,0	1,1	1,1	1,1	N=8000
N=9000	0,5	0,6	0,7	0,8	0,9	0,9	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,0	N=9000
N=10000	0,4	0,6	0,7	0,8	0,8	0,9	0,9	1,0	1,0	1,0	N=10000
N=11000	0,4	0,6	0,7	0,7	0,8	0,9	0,9	0,9	0,9	0,9	N=11000
N=12000	0,4	0,5	0,6	0,7	0,8	0,8	0,9	0,9	0,9	0,9	N=12000
N=13000	0,4	0,5	0,6	0,7	0,7	0,8	0,8	0,8	0,9	0,9	N=13000
N=14000	0,4	0,5	0,6	0,7	0,7	0,8	0,8	0,8	0,8	0,8	N=14000
N=15000	0,3	0,5	0,6	0,6	0,7	0,7	0,8	0,8	0,8	0,8	N=15000
	5%	10%	15%	20%	25%	30%	35%	40%	45%	50%	
	95%	90%	85%	80%	75%	70%	65%	60%	55%	50%	

ABBR.	COUNTRIES	INSTITUTES	N° INTERVIEWS	DATES FIELDWORK		POPULATION 15+	PROPORTION EU28
BE	Belgium	TNS Dimarso	1.001	8/11/14	17/11/14	9.263.570	2,18%
BG	Bulgaria	TNS BBSS	1.006	8/11/14	17/11/14	6.294.563	1,48%
CZ	Czech Rep.	TNS Aisa	1.055	8/11/14	17/11/14	8.955.829	2,11%
DK	Denmark	TNS Gallup DK	1.004	8/11/14	17/11/14	4.625.032	1,09%
DE	Germany	TNS Infratest	1.610	8/11/14	17/11/14	71.283.580	16,79%
EE	Estonia	TNS Emor	1.002	8/11/14	17/11/14	1.113.355	0,26%
IE	Ireland	Behaviour & Attitudes	1.002	8/11/14	17/11/14	3.586.829	0,84%
EL	Greece	TNS ICAP	1.009	8/11/14	17/11/14	8.791.499	2,07%
ES	Spain	TNS Spain	1.055	8/11/14	17/11/14	39.506.853	9,31%
FR	France	TNS Sofres	1.012	8/11/14	17/11/14	51.668.700	12,17%
HR	Croatia	HENDAL	1.027	8/11/14	17/11/14	3.625.601	0,85%
IT	Italy	TNS Italia	1.016	8/11/14	17/11/14	51.336.889	12,09%
CY	Rep. Of Cyprus	CYMAR	500	8/11/14	17/11/14	724.084	0,17%
LV	Latvia	TNS Latvia	1.003	8/11/14	17/11/14	1.731.509	0,41%
LT	Lithuania	TNS LT	1.002	8/11/14	17/11/14	2.535.329	0,60%
LU	Luxembourg	TNS ILReS	507	8/11/14	17/11/14	445.806	0,11%
HU	Hungary	TNS Hoffmann	1.061	8/11/14	17/11/14	8.477.933	2,00%
MT	Malta	MISCO	506	8/11/14	17/11/14	360.045	0,08%
NL	Netherlands	TNS NIPO	1.010	8/11/14	17/11/14	13.901.653	3,27%
AT	Austria	ipr Umfrageforschung	1.032	8/11/14	17/11/14	7.232.497	1,70%
PL	Poland	TNS Polska	1.033	8/11/14	17/11/14	32.736.685	7,71%
PT	Portugal	TNS Portugal	1.005	8/11/14	17/11/14	8.512.269	2,01%
RO	Romania	TNS CSOP	1.018	8/11/14	17/11/14	16.880.465	3,98%
SI	Slovenia	RM PLUS	1.046	8/11/14	17/11/14	1.760.726	0,41%
SK	Slovakia	TNS Slovakia	1.037	8/11/14	17/11/14	4.580.260	1,08%
FI	Finland	TNS Gallup Oy	1.002	8/11/14	17/11/14	4.511.446	1,06%
SE	Sweden	TNS Sifo	1.023	8/11/14	17/11/14	7.944.034	1,87%
UK	United Kingdom	TNS UK	1.317	8/11/14	17/11/14	52.104.731	12,27%
TOTAL EU28			27.901	8/11/14	17/11/14	424.491.772	100%*

* It should be noted that the total percentage shown in this table may exceed 100% due to rounding

CY(tcc)	Turkish Cypriot Community	KADEM	500	8/11/14	17/11/14	143.226
TR	Turkey	TNS Piar	1.087	8/11/14	17/11/14	54.844.406
MK	Former Yugoslav Rep. of Macedonia	TNS BRIMA	1.057	8/11/14	14/11/14	1.678.404
IS	Iceland	Capacent	500	8/11/14	17/11/14	252.277
ME	Montenegro	TNS Medium Gallup	536	10/11/14	16/11/14	492.265
RS	Serbia	TNS Medium Gallup	1.017	10/11/14	17/11/14	6.409.693
AL	Albania	TNS BBSS	1.064	8/11/14	17/11/14	2.221.572
TOTAL			32.598	8/11/14	17/11/14	490.533.615