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Commission

## Standard Eurobarometer



# EUROBAROMETER 72

## Public Opinion in the European Union

### REPORT

Fieldwork: October - November 2009

This survey was requested and coordinated by the Directorate-General for Communication ("Research and Speechwriting" Unit).

[http://ec.europa.eu/public\\_opinion/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/index_en.htm)

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**Standard Eurobarometer 72  
Autumn 2009**

**Public opinion in the European Union  
Volume 1**

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request of the Directorate-General Communication

Coordinated by the Directorate-General  
Communication

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## INTRODUCTION

This wave of the Eurobarometer was carried out between 23 October and 18 November 2009 in 31 countries and territories<sup>1</sup>: the 27 Member States of the European Union, the three candidate countries (Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey) and the Turkish Cypriot Community in the part of the country which is not controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus.

### ***2008-2009: the most serious financial and economic crisis since 1929.***

The years 2008 and 2009 will probably go down in economic history as the worst recession since the 1930s. The crisis is global in both its causes and its consequences: its international spread was very rapid and the shockwave resulting from the downturn in international trade and the reduction in capital flows has not spared any region in the world. In July 2008 the IMF forecast that the world economy would grow by 3.9%, but one year later it was predicting a decline of 1.4%<sup>2</sup>.

This economic crisis has led to unprecedented efforts by the public authorities. States have learned the lessons of the 1930s crisis, which was intensified by inadequate public policies. To avoid a repeat of the Great Depression, central banks reacted with huge injections of liquidity, followed by very rapid cuts in interest rates. Governments have injected public funds into financial institutions threatened with insolvency; they have also put in place vast recovery plans to support economic activity<sup>3</sup>.

Thanks to these efforts, a certain degree of hope and optimism re-emerged during the second half of 2009: the most recent business surveys suggest that economic activity could recover from the end of 2009 (in the European Union, the French and German economies reported GDP growth of 0.3% during the second half of the year while the Polish economy was expected to grow by 0.5%<sup>4</sup>). Combined with a recovery of the emerging economies, this trend is likely to contribute to a revival in world trade.

However, the efforts made to avoid a collapse of the financial system and to support the recovery have resulted in budget deficits which are considerably in excess of the threshold of 3% of GDP laid down in the Treaty of Maastricht. Many Member States are currently running deficits two or three times the maximum level authorised by the European Commission. Such a situation would have been unthinkable little more than a year ago.

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<sup>1</sup> Please consult the technical specifications for the exact dates of the fieldwork in each country.

<sup>2</sup> International Monetary Fund: <http://www.imf.org/external/index.htm>

<sup>3</sup> The most extensive at national level being the German recovery plan (32 billion euro over two years), the Spanish recovery plan (27 billion euros) and the French plan of 26 billion euro.

<sup>4</sup> Eurostat/press releases/Euroindicateurs - 7 October 2009:

[http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY\\_PUBLIC/2-07102009-AP/EN/2-07102009-AP-EN.PDF](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_PUBLIC/2-07102009-AP/EN/2-07102009-AP-EN.PDF)

While there is a consensus that the Member States of the European Union must put their public finances on a healthier footing, numerous States are reluctant to cut spending just yet, for fear of undermining the burgeoning recovery.

Although the macro-economic indicators are improving and suggest that economies are starting to emerge from the crisis, unemployment continues to rise: according to the figures published by Eurostat<sup>5</sup> unemployment stands at 9.2% in the European Union and 9.7% in the euro area.

### ***European public opinion put to the test by the crisis...***

The Eurobarometer has been able to measure the impact and reaction of European public opinion to this crisis. We have witnessed a move away from the state of well-being and relative optimism which was widespread in spring 2007 to the more downbeat, gloomy attitudes noted in 2008, confirmed by some Special Eurobarometers conducted in the first half of 2009<sup>6</sup>.

The previous wave of the Standard Eurobarometer (spring 2009) revealed that European citizens were extremely concerned about unemployment and their personal economic situation. However, the data also revealed certain signs of a modest recovery in confidence not only in personal futures but also in the institutions of the European Union. This upturn in confidence seemed to be based mainly on the belief that the Union had the necessary means to combat the crisis and help citizens to cope with the consequences of globalisation.

Six months after the spring 2009 Eurobarometer wave, and one year after the start of the crisis, EB72 seems to confirm certain signs of a turnaround in European opinion. **Europeans are now more likely than in spring 2009 to believe that the crisis has peaked.** Concerns about the economic situation have also eased slightly and **short-term expectations regarding the economic situation are showing signs of improvement.** Nevertheless, **unemployment remains the main concern of Europeans** for their country and the vast majority of citizens expect the national employment situation to deteriorate: there has been no improvement in this indicator. These various aspects will be analysed in detail in this report.

Finally, after the European elections held in June 2009, the second half of 2009 also saw other important elections in several European Union Member States<sup>7</sup>. These national contexts can provide an interesting perspective when reading this report.

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<sup>5</sup> Eurostat/press releases/Euroindicateurs-30 October 2009:

[http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY\\_PUBLIC/3-30102009-AP/EN/3-30102009-AP-EN.PDF](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_PUBLIC/3-30102009-AP/EN/3-30102009-AP-EN.PDF)

<sup>6</sup> See in particular, Special Eurobarometer 308, *the Europeans in 2009*

[http://ec.europa.eu/public\\_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs\\_308\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs_308_en.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> Parliamentary elections were held in Bulgaria (July 2009), Austria (September 2009), Germany (September 2009), Portugal (September 2009), Greece (October 2009), Ireland (October 2009) and Romania (November 2009).

The complete Eurobarometer Standard report consists of two volumes. This volume (Volume 1) analyses the results for historical Eurobarometer Standard indicators. Volume 2 addresses the state of European public opinion on a range of other topics: the economic and financial crisis, globalisation, values, and the priorities of the European Union.

The present volume, Volume 1, is organised in three main parts. In the first part, we examine the personal, social, economic and political aspects of life in the European Union as perceived by its citizens. We look at their financial and personal situations, and their main concerns and expectations for the future; we shall also examine social aspects which influence the everyday life of citizens.

This first part of the report also explores the views of citizens about the direction in which things are going in their country and in the European Union, while analysing the extent of their trust in national institutions.

The second part of the report presents the trend indicators measuring the perceptions and opinions of citizens about the European Union and its institutions, including support for membership of the European Union and the related benefits. It also looks at views of the way in which democracy works in the European Union and the extent to which citizens are aware of how the European Union works. Finally, this second part considers how citizens perceived the current and forthcoming rotating Presidencies of the Council of the European Union (Sweden and Spain).

The third part of the report focuses on the European Union's powers and what citizens consider to be the most appropriate level of decision-making. It examines the measures which should be given priority in order to strengthen the European Union in the future and assesses how far Europeans support the Union's policies. Finally, we analyse opinions on the future of the European Union.

The results are discussed essentially at three levels:

- on the basis of the average results in the 27 Member States;
- nationally, that is to say to what extent they vary from one country to another;
- at the socio-demographic level, that is to say in terms of differences reflecting respondents' socio-demographic characteristics and other opinion indicators, such as the way in which citizens perceive the European Union's image, their trust in the European Union, their knowledge of the European Union and their positioning on the left or right of the political spectrum.

The general analysis and the socio-demographic analyses are based on the results for the average of the 27 Member States. This average is weighted so that it reflects the actual population of each of the Member States. The averages for previous years represent the results obtained in all the Member States of the European Union, as it was composed at the time the survey was conducted.

This Eurobarometer was commissioned by the European Commission's Directorate-General Communication and was carried out by TNS Opinion & Social. The methodology used is that of the Standard Eurobarometer surveys of the Directorate-General Communication ("Research and Political Analysis" Unit).

A technical note concerning the interviews carried out by the institutes of the TNS Opinion & Social network is annexed to this report. It specifies the method used for the interviews and the confidence intervals

It should be remembered that there are four types of report for the standard Eurobarometer.

**1) First results:** this report provides a summary of the most striking results with regard to the trend indicators, thereby providing a rapid overview of European public opinion on key issues.

**2) Report:** the detailed analysis of the results of all the questions.

**3) National reports:** their analysis focuses mainly on a comparison between national results and the European Union average. These reports are published by the national representations of the European Commission and are drawn up in the national language(s). Summaries of these national reports published in English can also be found on the Eurobarometer's Internet site.

**4) National sheets:** the graphic representation of the results for each country or territory covered by the survey, illustrating comparisons between the national results and the European Union average.

*The Eurobarometer's Internet site can be consulted at the following address:*

*[http://ec.europa.eu/public\\_opinion/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/index_en.htm)*

*We wish to thank the people interviewed throughout the continent who gave their time to take part in this survey. Without their active participation, this survey would not have been possible.*

In this report, the countries are referred to by their official abbreviations, as shown below:

ABREVIATIONS	
EU27	European Union – 27 Member States
DK	Don't Know
BE	Belgium
BG	Bulgaria
CZ	Czech Republic
DK	Denmark
D-E	<i>East Germany</i>
DE	Germany*
D-W	<i>West Germany</i>
EE	Estonia
EL	Greece
ES	Spain
FR	France
IE	Ireland
IT	Italy
CY	Republic of Cyprus**
CY (tcc)	Zone not controlled by government of the Republic of Cyprus
LT	Lithuania
LV	Latvia
LU	Luxembourg
HU	Hungary
MT	Malta
NL	The Netherlands
AT	Austria
PL	Poland
PT	Portugal
RO	Romania
SI	Slovenia
SK	Slovakia
FI	Finland
SE	Sweden
UK	United Kingdom
HR	Croatia
TR	Turkey
MK	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia***

\* The data presented in the report relate exclusively to Germany as a whole. The data relative to "East" and "West" Germany are however available in the data tables.

\*\* Cyprus as a whole is one of the 27 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 EU27 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.

The specific results for CY(tcc), HR, TR and MK are shown in the Annex to this report containing the data tables.

## I. LIFE IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

This part of the report establishes the context in which public perceptions of the European Union should be interpreted. We shall analyse the answers to the questions dealing with the following subjects:

- 1) Personal aspects:** the extent to which Europeans are satisfied with the life they lead, their job situation and their financial situation, their future expectations regarding life in general, as well as their financial and job situations, and finally their main personal concerns.
- 2) Social aspects:** how citizens perceive the cost of living, energy prices and the quality of life in each Member State compared with the European average; the national environmental situation, how it compares with the EU27 average and future expectations in this regard.
- 3) Economic aspects:** an assessment of the economic situation at national, European and world levels and of the national economic situation in comparison with the European average; satisfaction with the national employment situation, and in comparison with the EU27 average; expectations regarding the economic outlook at national, European and world levels, including for employment, and, finally, the main national concerns.
- 4) Political aspects:** the perception of the direction in which things are going at national level, as well as in the European Union and in the United States; trust in national institutions (political, judicial and military) and in the media.
- 5) The life of future generations:** the perception of the life of future generations and the life that they could have if they were to emigrate to another country.

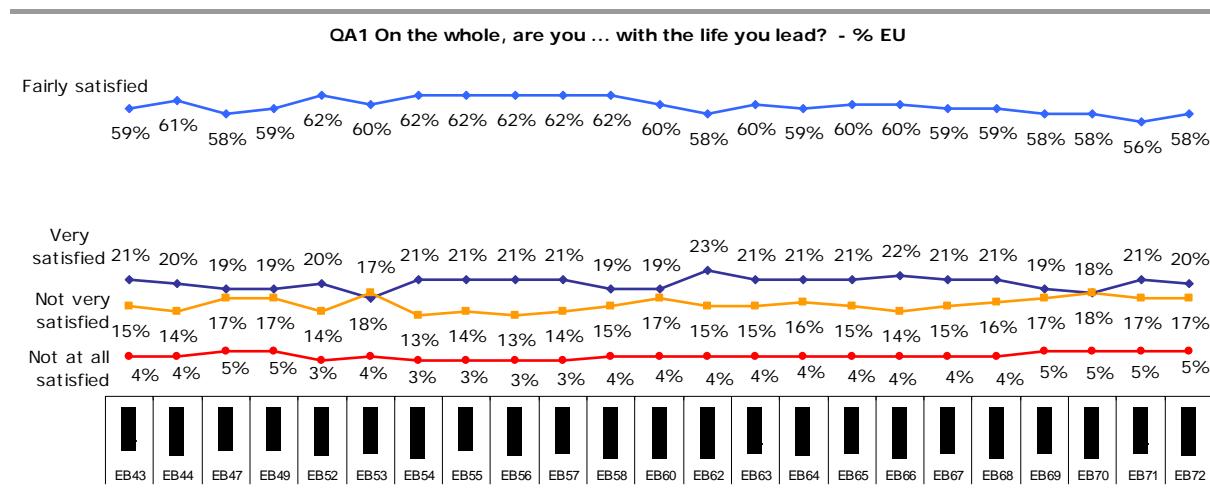
## 1. PERSONAL ASPECTS

### 1.1 The current personal situation of Europeans

**- The vast majority of Europeans are satisfied with the life they lead -**

The vast majority of European Union citizens are satisfied with the life they lead (78% - 1 point higher than in spring 2009)<sup>8</sup>. However, just over a fifth of respondents (22%) state that they are dissatisfied, which is an identical percentage to that recorded six months earlier.

A fifth of the people polled (20%) are "very satisfied" with the life they lead, i.e. one point less than in spring 2009; 58% say that they are "fairly satisfied" (+2 points); 17% reply that they are "not very satisfied" (an identical figure to that recorded six months earlier) and finally 5% of citizens say that they are "not at all satisfied", a percentage similar to that recorded last spring.



Levels of satisfaction vary significantly from one country to another. Almost all respondents in the Nordic countries (98% in Denmark, 96% in Sweden and 95% in Finland) say that they are satisfied with the life they lead, as are 96% of respondents in Luxembourg, 95% in the Netherlands and nine out of ten in the United Kingdom (91%) and Belgium (89%).

On the other hand, only a small majority of the people polled in Lithuania (55%) and Portugal (53%), fewer than half of respondents in Romania (47%) and Hungary (42%) and only 38% in Bulgaria share their opinion. In the last three countries, a majority of respondents are dissatisfied with the life they lead.

<sup>8</sup> QA1 On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the life you lead?

Changes in these levels of satisfaction vary, sometimes considerably, from one country to another. Thus, the proportion of satisfied respondents has increased very markedly in Greece (+14 points) and, to a lesser extent, in five other Member States (+3 points in Latvia and Slovakia, +2 points in Austria, Portugal and the United Kingdom). This percentage has fallen significantly in Malta (-10 points) and to a slightly lesser extent in seven other countries (-4 points in Cyprus, -3 points in Ireland and -2 points in Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Lithuania and Hungary). Finally, seven countries record no change since spring 2009.

**QA1 On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the life you lead?**

	% Total satisfied	EB70 Aut.2008	EB71 Sp.2009	EB72 Aut.2009	Diff. Aut.2009- Sp.2009
EU27	76%	77%	78%	+1	
EL	53%	44%	58%	+14	
LV	62%	54%	57%	+3	
SK	72%	69%	72%	+3	
AT	79%	83%	85%	+2	
PT	46%	51%	53%	+2	
UK	87%	89%	91%	+2	
DE	85%	84%	85%	+1	
IT	63%	70%	71%	+1	
CZ	83%	82%	82%	=	
DK	96%	98%	98%	=	
EE	74%	73%	73%	=	
LU	90%	96%	96%	=	
RO	47%	47%	47%	=	
SI	85%	86%	86%	=	
SE	97%	96%	96%	=	
ES	84%	75%	74%	-1	
NL	98%	96%	95%	-1	
PL	76%	76%	75%	-1	
FI	95%	96%	95%	-1	
BE	87%	91%	89%	-2	
BG	38%	40%	38%	-2	
FR	80%	84%	82%	-2	
LT	58%	57%	55%	-2	
HU	46%	44%	42%	-2	
IE	88%	88%	85%	-3	
CY	85%	85%	81%	-4	
MT	84%	82%	72%	-10	
CY (tcc)	51%	53%	50%	-3	
HR	68%	63%	63%	=	
MK	63%	67%	66%	-1	
TR	63%	61%	59%	-2	

The majority of respondents in the candidate countries are satisfied with their lives: 66% in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, 63% in Croatia and 59% in Turkey.

Satisfaction varies by the socio-demographic characteristics of the people polled. Thus, the youngest Europeans are more likely to be satisfied with the life they lead (85% of those aged 15 to 24 compared with 76% of those aged 55 or over). Satisfaction increases with the number of people in the household; this is probably the result of age, as the oldest respondents are the most likely to live alone.

Moreover, the longer the respondents studied the more likely they are to be satisfied with the life they lead: 86% of the people polled who studied until the age of 20 or beyond are satisfied with their lives compared with 69% of those who left school before the age of 16.

More than nine out of ten managers (91%) are satisfied with their lives compared with 77% of manual workers, 82% of employees and only half (55%) of unemployed people. Therefore, living standards seem, logically, to be a discriminating factor as regards life satisfaction. Purchasing power also influences the answers, since a very large majority of the people who say that they never have problems paying their bills are satisfied with the life they lead (88%) compared with a minority (44%) of those who struggle to pay their bills and two-thirds of respondents (66%) who admit that they have such financial problems "from time to time".

**QA1 On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the life you lead?**

	Total satisfied	Total not satisfied	DK
EU27	78%	22%	-
<b>Age</b>			
15-24	85%	15%	-
25-39	78%	22%	-
40-54	76%	24%	-
55 +	76%	24%	-
<b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	69%	30%	1%
16-19	75%	25%	-
20+	86%	14%	-
Still studying	90%	10%	-
<b>Respondent occupation scale</b>			
Self-employed	81%	18%	1%
Managers	91%	9%	-
Other white collars	82%	17%	1%
Manual workers	77%	23%	-
House persons	73%	26%	1%
Unemployed	55%	45%	-
Retired	75%	24%	1%
Students	90%	10%	-
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>			
Most of the time	44%	56%	-
From time to time	66%	33%	1%
Almost never	88%	12%	-

## 1.2 How Europeans perceive their job and financial situations

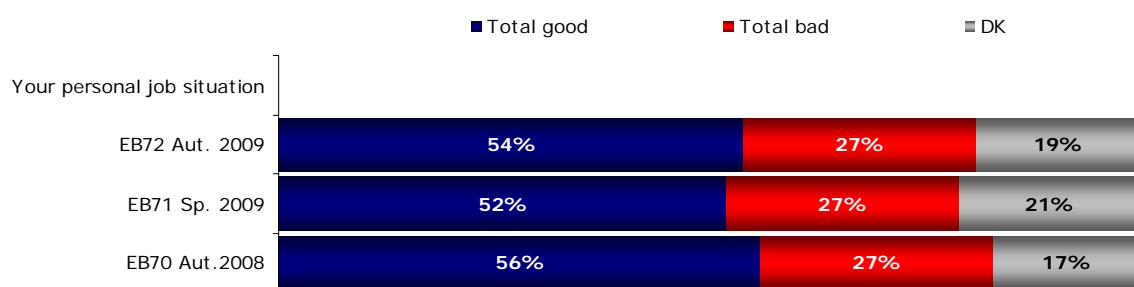
### 1.2.1. Personal job situation

**- Levels of satisfaction among Europeans with their job and financial situations are unchanged -**

More than half of Europeans (54%) are satisfied with their job situation, i. e. 2 points more than six months earlier and slightly below the percentage recorded in autumn 2008 (-2 points); just over a quarter (27%) of respondents describe their situation as "bad", i.e. a proportion identical to that recorded last spring and in autumn 2008<sup>9</sup>.

12% of respondents say that their job situation is "very good", 42% consider that it is "rather good", 18% "rather bad" and finally 9% "very bad". These results are unchanged since spring 2009, except for the proportion of respondents who describe their job situation as "rather good": +2 percentage points.

QA2a4. How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? - % EU



Once again, three-quarters of respondents in the Nordic countries are satisfied: 76% in Denmark (including 45% who described their job situation as "very good"), 75% in Sweden (40% "very good" answers) and 73% in Finland (42% "very good" answers). Almost seven out of ten respondents (69%) in Austria, two-thirds in the Benelux countries (66% in Belgium and Luxembourg and 65% in the Netherlands) and 64% in Germany share their opinion.

Negative views are in the majority in six Member States: 58% of interviewees in Hungary, 53% in Bulgaria, 45% in Portugal and 42% in Lithuania describe their job situation as "bad". The majority of respondents in Greece (38%) and Romania (35%) agree.

<sup>9</sup> QA2a.4 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? Your personal job situation

Satisfaction levels have declined by 7 points in Slovenia, 6 points in Belgium and 5 points in France, Hungary and Ireland since the previous survey in spring 2009. On the other hand, they are up by 9 points in Greece, 8 points in Germany and 7 points in the United Kingdom. In total, respondents are more satisfied in ten Member States and less satisfied in fourteen Member States, while the situation is unchanged in three countries.

**QA2\_4 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?  
- Your personal job situation**

	% Very good + Rather good	EB 70 Aut.2008	EB71 Sp.2009	EB72 Aut.2009	Diff. Aut.2009 - Sp.2009
 EU27	56%	52%	54%	+2	
 EL	37%	28%	37%	+9	
 DE	64%	56%	64%	+8	
 UK	57%	54%	61%	+7	
 SK	56%	50%	53%	+3	
 PL	56%	52%	54%	+2	
 DK	78%	75%	76%	+1	
 IT	48%	52%	53%	+1	
 NL	72%	64%	65%	+1	
 PT	36%	40%	41%	+1	
 SE	73%	74%	75%	+1	
 EE	52%	43%	43%	=	
 AT	69%	69%	69%	=	
 RO	40%	32%	32%	=	
 CZ	67%	57%	56%	-1	
 LV	58%	46%	45%	-1	
 ES	60%	49%	47%	-2	
 LT	47%	37%	35%	-2	
 FI	72%	75%	73%	-2	
 BG	41%	37%	34%	-3	
 LU	70%	69%	66%	-3	
 CY	50%	53%	49%	-4	
 MT	68%	58%	54%	-4	
 IE	55%	46%	41%	-5	
 FR	53%	54%	49%	-5	
 HU	25%	25%	20%	-5	
 BE	67%	72%	66%	-6	
 SI	63%	63%	56%	-7	
CY (tcc)	60%	54%	49%	-5	
 MK	41%	39%	40%	+1	
 TR	37%	37%	34%	-3	
 HR	43%	43%	35%	-8	

Unlike Europeans as a whole, a majority of inhabitants of the candidate countries are dissatisfied with their personal job situation. More than half of respondents in Turkey (55%) and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (51%, including 31% "very bad" answers) and 48% in Croatia expressed this opinion (21% "very bad" answers).

A socio-demographic analysis reveals some differences: men (57%) are more satisfied than women (51%), the youngest respondents (50% of those aged 15 to 24) are more satisfied than the oldest respondents (44% of those aged 55 or over), managers (88%) are more satisfied than employees (76%) and manual workers (70%), and finally those who studied the longest (69% of those who studied until the age of 20 or beyond) are more satisfied than those who left school the earliest (40% of respondents who left school before the age of 16).

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**QA2a.4 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?  
Your personal job situation**

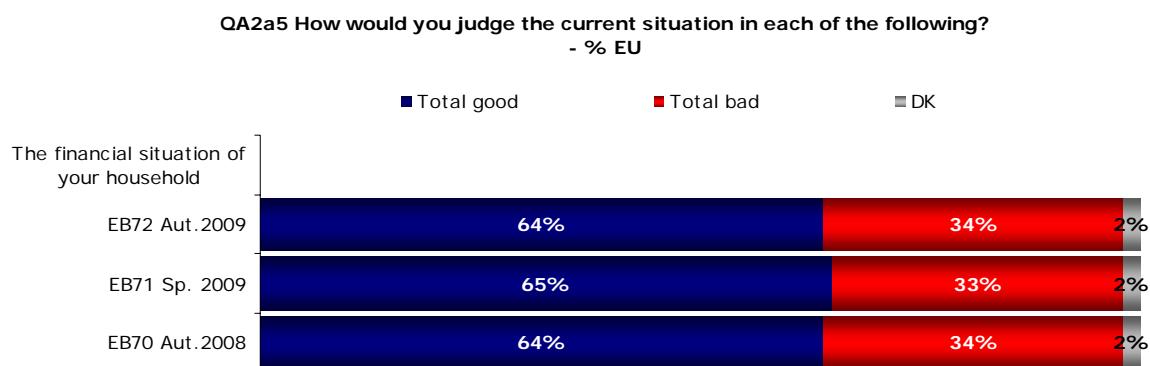
	Total good	Total bad	DK
EU27	54%	27%	19%
<b>Sex</b>			
Male	57%	28%	15%
Female	51%	27%	22%
<b>Age</b>			
15-24	50%	27%	23%
25-39	62%	33%	5%
40-54	62%	33%	5%
55 +	44%	19%	37%
<b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	40%	31%	29%
16-19	54%	31%	15%
20+	69%	20%	11%
Still studying	45%	21%	34%
<b>Respondent occupation scale</b>			
Self-employed	68%	29%	3%
Managers	88%	11%	1%
Other white collars	76%	22%	2%
Manual workers	70%	28%	2%
House persons	37%	30%	33%
Unemployed	13%	81%	6%
Retired	37%	18%	45%
Students	45%	21%	34%

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### 1.2.2. Household financial situation

Two-thirds of Europeans (64%) describe their household financial situation as "good"; however a third consider that it is "bad" (34%)<sup>10</sup>. These figures are in line with those recorded in spring 2009 (-1 and +1 respectively) and stand exactly at the levels noted in autumn 2008.

While 8% of respondents describe the financial situation of their household as "very good" (equivalent to the level of spring 2009), 56% describe it as "rather good" (-1 point), 26% as "rather bad" (unchanged since the previous survey) and finally 8% describe it as "very bad" (+1 point).



Here too, positive responses are in the majority in 21 of the 27 Member States. These majorities are high in the Nordic countries (88% of respondents in Sweden and Finland, and 84% in Denmark), in the Benelux countries (91% in Luxembourg, 88% in the Netherlands and 78% in Belgium), and in the United Kingdom (77%).

On the other hand, almost eight out of ten respondents (77%) in Hungary, 70% in Bulgaria, 59% in Portugal and 53% in Romania describe their financial situation negatively. The majority of citizens in Latvia (53%) and Lithuania (51%) share their opinion.

In comparison with spring 2009, satisfaction levels have fallen significantly in Ireland, Spain and Malta (all -8 points) and, to a lesser extent, in Slovenia and Denmark (both -5 points). On the other hand, the proportion of positive answers has risen in Slovakia (+5 points), Cyprus (+3 points), and Greece, Luxembourg and the United Kingdom (all +2 points). In total, satisfaction levels have increased in seven Member States, fallen in 16 others and are unchanged in four countries.

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<sup>10</sup> QA2a.5 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? The financial situation of your household

**QA2\_5 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?**  
**- The financial situation of your household**

% Very good + Rather good	EB 70 Aut.2008	EB71 Sp.2009	EB72 Aut.2009	Diff. Aut.2009 - Sp.2009
EU27	64%	65%	64%	-1
SK	61%	53%	58%	+5
CY	64%	66%	69%	+3
EL	46%	48%	50%	+2
LU	79%	89%	91%	+2
UK	72%	75%	77%	+2
AT	71%	71%	72%	+1
RO	44%	43%	44%	+1
DE	74%	73%	73%	=
LV	58%	46%	46%	=
NL	92%	88%	88%	=
SE	91%	88%	88%	=
BE	79%	79%	78%	-1
PL	60%	57%	56%	-1
FI	89%	89%	88%	-1
CZ	68%	64%	62%	-2
FR	67%	69%	67%	-2
IT	52%	61%	59%	-2
PT	30%	41%	38%	-3
BG	34%	32%	28%	-4
EE	73%	72%	68%	-4
LT	56%	52%	48%	-4
HU	25%	26%	22%	-4
DK	86%	89%	84%	-5
SI	62%	70%	65%	-5
IE	62%	61%	53%	-8
ES	58%	62%	54%	-8
MT	60%	63%	55%	-8
CY (tcc)	68%	54%	54%	=
MK	49%	50%	52%	+2
TR	44%	44%	38%	-6
HR	48%	49%	40%	-9

The majority of inhabitants of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, like Europeans as a whole, are satisfied with the financial situation of their household (52%).

However, only a minority of respondents in Croatia and Turkey share this view (40% and 38% respectively). In addition, satisfaction levels have fallen by 9 points in Croatia and by 6 points in Turkey since the survey conducted six months earlier.

86% of managers are satisfied with their financial situation compared with almost three-quarters of employees (72%), less than two-thirds of manual workers (63%) and a minority of unemployed people (31%). Very logically, people who very often have difficulties paying their bills are less likely to be satisfied with their household financial situation (17% compared with 43% of those who sometimes have such financial problems and a large majority – 82% - of those who never have such difficulties).

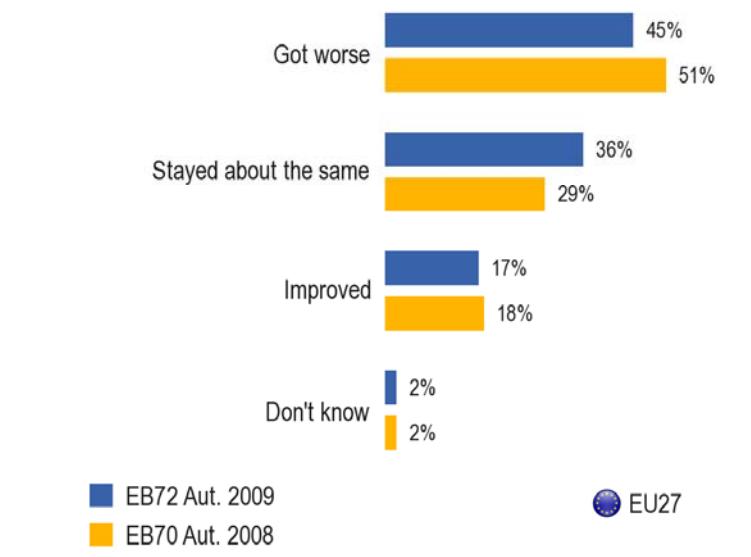
**QA2a.5 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?  
The financial situation of your household**

	Total good	Total bad	DK
EU27	64%	34%	2%
<b>Respondent occupation scale</b>			
Self-employed	68%	31%	1%
Managers	86%	13%	1%
Other white collars	72%	27%	1%
Manual workers	63%	35%	2%
House persons	54%	44%	2%
Unemployed	31%	67%	2%
Retired	64%	34%	2%
Students	69%	25%	6%
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>			
Most of the time	17%	82%	1%
From time to time	43%	55%	2%
Almost never/ never	82%	16%	2%

### 1.2.3. Purchasing power

**- Europeans are concerned about declining purchasing power, but the situation has improved considerably -**

QD4. Thinking about your purchasing power, that is to say the things that your household can afford in your daily life, if you compare your present situation with five years ago, would you say it has improved, stayed about the same, or got worse?



Europeans continue to believe that their purchasing power has deteriorated over the last five years. However the number of respondents expressing this opinion has declined since autumn 2008<sup>11</sup>. 45% of Europeans consider that their purchasing power has deteriorated over the last five years, while 36% think that it has stayed about the same and only 17% say that it has improved.

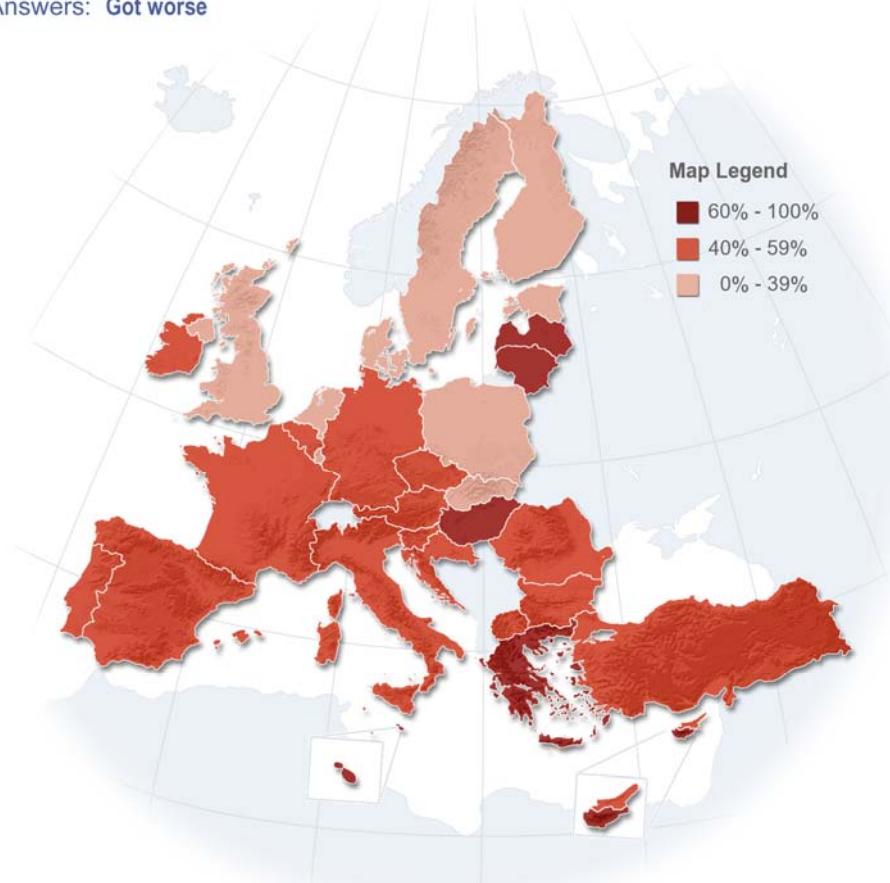
The proportion of Europeans who feel that their purchasing power has deteriorated has fallen sharply (-6 points) since autumn 2008 (EB70). In parallel, the proportion who consider that the situation has not really changed over the last five years has increased (+7 percentage points). There is therefore still a very real feeling that purchasing power has declined, but this feeling is less marked than before the financial and economic crisis which started in September 2008.

<sup>11</sup> QD4 Thinking about your purchasing power, that is to say the things that your household can afford in your daily life, if you compare your present situation with five years ago, would you say it has improved, stayed about the same, or got worse?

 EL	71%
 HU	70%
 MT	65%
 CY	65%
 LV	62%
 LT	60%
 BG	57%
 SI	56%
 PT	52%
 IT	52%
 BE	51%
 FR	50%
 RO	48%
 IE	45%
 DE	45%
 EU27	45%
 CZ	42%
 AT	40%
 ES	40%
 UK	38%
 SK	37%
 EE	36%
 PL	35%
 FI	30%
 LU	30%
 NL	27%
 SE	23%
 DK	21%
* CY (tcc) 44%	
 HR	56%
 TR	44%
 MK	41%

Question: QD4. Thinking about your purchasing power, that is to say the things that your household can afford in your daily life, if you compare your present situation with five years ago, would you say it has improved, stayed about the same, or got worse?

Answers: Got worse



In 12 European Union countries, an absolute majority of respondents consider that their purchasing power has declined over the last five years: Greece (71%), Hungary (70%), Malta (65%), Cyprus (65%), Latvia (62%), Lithuania (60%), Bulgaria (57%), Slovenia (56%), Portugal (52%), Italy (52%), Belgium (51%) and France (50%).

On the other hand, purchasing power seems to be under far less pressure in Denmark (where only 21% of respondents said that their purchasing power had deteriorated), Sweden (23%), the Netherlands (27%) and Finland (30%).

The changes since autumn 2008 vary considerably from one country to another, perhaps reflecting the different intensity with which the crisis is perceived. Thus, the feeling that purchasing power has declined has increased sharply in Lithuania (+19 points), Romania (+18) and Latvia (+17). On the other hand, it has fallen very markedly in Luxembourg (-30), Germany (-20), Austria (-18) and France (-15).

It seems as if the richest countries, already widely concerned by the purchasing power issue before the start of the economic and financial crisis in September 2008, now feel that the situation has improved, while the poorer Member States, which have been badly affected by the crisis, are feeling the full impact of the economic crisis in everyday life.

Logically, the most vulnerable categories seem to be the most affected by a decline in purchasing power: 74% of the people who say that they have financial difficulties, 63% of unemployed people, 61% of those at the bottom of the social hierarchy and 56% of those with little education say that they have noticed a deterioration in their purchasing power over the last five years. This opinion is also shared by the retired (52%).

**QD4 Thinking about your purchasing power, that is to say the things that your household can afford in your daily life, if you compare your present situation with five years ago, would you say it has improved, stayed about the same, or got worse?**

	Improved	Stayed about the same	Got worse	DK
EU27	17%	36%	45%	2%
<b>Sex</b>				
Male	20%	35%	43%	2%
Female	15%	37%	46%	2%
<b>Age</b>				
15-24	25%	35%	35%	5%
25-39	25%	33%	41%	1%
40-54	17%	36%	46%	1%
55 +	9%	40%	50%	1%
<b>Education (End of)</b>				
15-	8%	35%	56%	1%
16-19	14%	36%	48%	2%
20+	29%	36%	34%	1%
Still studying	25%	39%	31%	5%
<b>Respondent occupation scale</b>				
Self-employed	19%	38%	42%	1%
Managers	38%	32%	29%	1%
Other white collars	23%	36%	39%	2%
Manual workers	19%	36%	44%	1%
House persons	9%	39%	50%	2%
Unemployed	11%	24%	63%	2%
Retired	8%	39%	52%	1%
Students	25%	39%	31%	5%
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>				
Most of the time	6%	18%	74%	2%
From time to time	10%	33%	56%	1%
Almost never/ never	23%	41%	35%	1%
<b>Self-positioning on the social staircase</b>				
Low (1-4)	10%	27%	61%	2%
Medium (5-6)	18%	38%	43%	1%
High (7-10)	26%	41%	32%	1%

The socio-demographic profile of respondents also plays a role. While gender is relatively insignificant (women are more likely than men to feel that the situation has worsened), age has more impact: the feeling that purchasing power has deteriorated over the last five years increases progressively with the respondent's age, from 35% among those aged between 15 and 24 to as high as 50% among those aged 55 or over.

### 1.3 Expectations for the near future

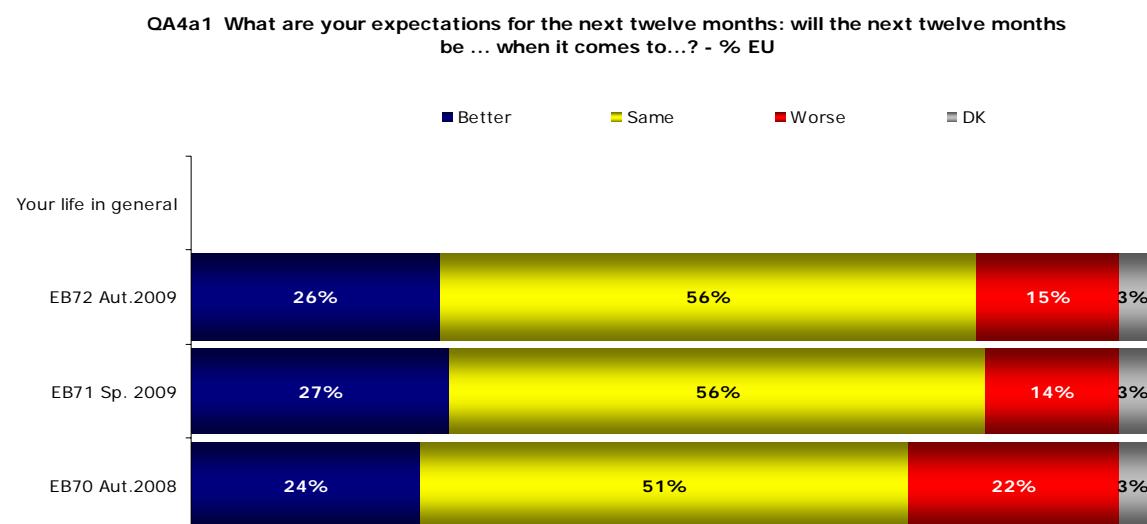
*- The majority of Europeans do not expect any real changes over the next 12 months in their personal life or job situation or in their financial situation -*

#### 1.3.1. Personal life

Although a majority of Europeans are satisfied with the life they lead, they are far more cautious when assessing their short-term personal prospects: a quarter (26%) expect things to be better in 12 months' time, while 56% expect that things will be more or less the same and 15% think that life will be more difficult<sup>12</sup>.

Short-term optimism regarding life in general has declined slightly since spring 2009 (-1 point). The proportion of Europeans who consider that life will be more or less the same in one year's time is the same as it was **six months earlier, while pessimism has risen by 1 point.**

Since autumn 2008 (EB70), when more than a fifth of Europeans were pessimistic, the number of pessimists has fallen by 7 points. This reduction in pessimism has led to a corresponding 2 point rise in the number of optimists, but above all to an increase in the numbers expecting their personal life to stay the same over the next twelve months (+5 points).



<sup>12</sup> QA4a.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

The results vary significantly between the Member States. Almost half of respondents in Sweden (48%), a third in the United Kingdom (37%), France (34%) and Estonia (33%), 32% in Denmark and 31% in Spain expect their personal life to improve over the coming year.

On the other hand, in 10 Member States, negative forecasts outweigh positive expectations. Almost four out of ten interviewees in Lithuania and Hungary (39% and 38% respectively), 29% in Romania and 28% in Latvia expect life to become more difficult over the next 12 months.

To obtain the most accurate possible picture of changes in Europeans' expectations, we have created an index which shows the difference between the "best" optimistic answers and the "worst" pessimistic answers. The result may be positive (that is to say optimism outweighs pessimism) or negative; the higher the result, the greater the short-term optimism. This index provides an additional dimension in measuring expectations which can be analysed at European Union level and for each country. It is also an excellent tool for measuring national changes since the previous survey in spring 2009: thus we will study the index difference between the last two surveys (autumn 2009 – spring 2009). A positive difference in the index means that the situation has evolved towards greater optimism.

When this analysis is applied to Europeans' expectations of their personal lives, the index difference is positive in 12 Member States and negative in 15 others. It is +15 points in Greece and +11 points in Estonia. Expectations regarding life in general have therefore improved considerably in these two countries. On the other hand, the difference is -18 points in Malta, -13 points in Lithuania, -12 points in Romania, -11 points in Cyprus and Ireland and -10 points in Italy.

**QA4.1 What are your expectations for the next 12 months:  
will the next 12 months be better, worse or the same, when  
it comes to...?  
-Your life in general**

	EB71 Sp.2009 Better- Worse	EB72 Aut.2009 Better- Worse	DIFF. Aut.2009- Sp.2009
EU27	+13	+11	-2
EL	-6	+9	+15
EE	+6	+17	+11
LV	-16	-11	+5
SE	+37	+42	+5
DE	+1	+5	+4
FR	+19	+23	+4
LU	+16	+20	+4
AT	+1	+4	+3
NL	+17	+19	+2
FI	+23	+25	+2
DK	+29	+30	+1
PT	-9	-8	+1
UK	+31	+29	-2
CZ	+1	-2	-3
ES	+21	+18	-3
HU	-21	-24	-3
SK	-3	-6	-3
BE	+15	+11	-4
SI	+10	+6	-4
BG	-2	-8	-6
PL	+10	+4	-6
IT	+14	+4	-10
IE	+6	-5	-11
CY	+14	+3	-11
RO	+5	-7	-12
LT	-9	-22	-13
MT	+15	-3	-18
CY (tcc)	+11	-3	-14
MK	+18	+12	-6
HR	-5	-12	-7
TR	=	-7	-7

More than three out of ten respondents in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (31%) are optimistic about their personal future during the coming year compared with only 18% in Croatia and a quarter in Turkey (24%). 31% of respondents in Turkey and 30% in Croatia expect things to get worse, compared with only 19% in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. In the three candidate countries, as in the European Union, the majority of people polled do not expect things to change.

An analysis of the answers to this question reveals significant variations reflecting the respondent's socio-demographic characteristics. The youngest respondents and those who studied the longest are once again the most confident: 44% of those aged between 15 and 24 expect life in general to get better over the next 12 months compared with 13% of those aged 55 or over who, fairly logically, are less likely to expect their situation to improve in the near future.

Similarly, a third of respondents who studied until the age of 20 or beyond (33%) are confident about the future, while less than a sixth of those who left school before the age of 16 (15%) share this optimism. Finally, it will be seen that almost four out of ten unemployed people (38%) expect their life to improve over the next 12 months, as do approximately a third of managers (35%), but only 28% of employees and 27% of manual workers.

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**QA4a.1 What are your expectations for the next 12 months: will the next 12 months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?**  
**Your life in general**

	Better	Worse	Same	DK
EU27	26%	15%	56%	3%
<b>Age</b>				
15-24	44%	10%	43%	3%
25-39	36%	14%	47%	3%
40-54	23%	16%	58%	3%
55 +	13%	17%	67%	3%
<b>Education (End of)</b>				
15-	15%	21%	61%	3%
16-19	24%	16%	57%	3%
20+	33%	11%	53%	3%
Still studying	43%	8%	46%	3%
<b>Respondent occupation scale</b>				
Self-employed	28%	16%	53%	3%
Managers	35%	10%	53%	2%
Other white collars	28%	13%	55%	4%
Manual workers	27%	15%	55%	3%
House persons	21%	16%	59%	4%
Unemployed	38%	21%	37%	4%
Retired	11%	18%	68%	3%
Students	43%	8%	46%	3%

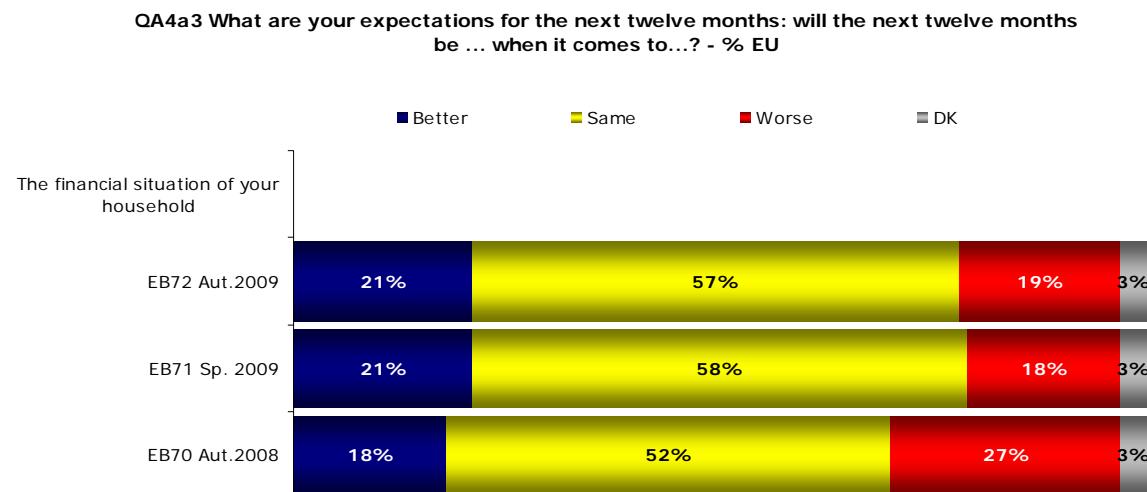
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### 1.3.2. Household financial situation

A fifth of Europeans expect the financial situation of their household to get better over the coming year (21%), while more than half (57%) expect things to stay the same and 19% think that their finances will deteriorate over the next 12 months<sup>13</sup>.

These results are stable. Confidence is identical to that recorded six months earlier, with the proportion of respondents who do not expect any changes falling by 1 point and the number expecting their financial situation to deteriorate over the coming year rising by 1 point.

Compared with autumn 2008, the proportion of pessimists, who represented more than a fifth of Europeans at that time, has fallen sharply, by 8 points. This fall is reflected in an increase of 3 points in the number of positive answers, and in a more significant rise in the number of people who expect their personal situation to remain the same during the coming year (+5 points).



Once again, there are significant differences dependent upon the respondent's country of residence. In 12 of the 27 Member States, the proportion of optimists is higher than that of respondents who expect their household financial situation to deteriorate. Interviewees in Sweden are the most confident: 32% believe that their financial situation will improve over the coming year, while 30% of respondents in the United Kingdom, 29% in Estonia and 27% in Spain share this opinion.

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<sup>13</sup> QA4a.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

On the other hand, half of respondents in Hungary expect their financial situation to deteriorate (49%, i.e. the majority of interviewees). This opinion is also held by 40% of respondents in Lithuania, 35% in Ireland, 33% in both Cyprus and Latvia, 31% in Romania and 30% in Bulgaria.

In terms of changes, the index difference between the last two surveys is positive in 10 Member States and negative in 17 others. Once again, there have been sharp increases in Greece (+21 points) and Estonia (+14 points). On the other hand, there have been significant falls in Malta (-19 points), Ireland (-12 points), Cyprus (-11 points) and Romania (-10 points).

Expectations have deteriorated sharply in the Cypriot Turkish Community: the index has lost 17 points since spring 2009.

**QA4.3 What are your expectations for the next 12 months: will the next 12 months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?**

-The financial situation of your household

		EB71 Sp.2009 Better- Worse	EB72 Aut.2009 Better- Worse	DIFF. Aut.2009- Sp.2009
 EU27		+3	+2	-1
 EL		-19	+2	+21
 EE		-1	+13	+14
 PT		-18	-11	+7
 LU		+9	+14	+5
 DE		-6	-2	+4
 SK		-12	-8	+4
 FI		+11	+15	+4
 LV		-21	-18	+3
 AT		=	+2	+2
 DK		+19	+20	+1
 SE		+21	+20	-1
 UK		+19	+18	-1
 FR		+13	+11	-2
 BG		-12	-16	-4
 NL		+8	+4	-4
 SI		+3	-1	-4
 PL		=	-5	-5
 CZ		-5	-11	-6
 ES		+15	+9	-6
 IT		+1	-5	-6
 HU		-31	-37	-6
 BE		+10	+2	-8
 LT		-18	-26	-8
 RO		-2	-12	-10
 CY		-8	-19	-11
 IE		-13	-25	-12
 MT		+3	-16	-19
CY (tcc)		+3	-14	-17
 MK		+4	+6	+2
 TR		-10	-15	-5
 HR		-10	-21	-11

More than a quarter of respondents in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (27%) believe that the financial situation of their household will be better in 12 months' time, whereas in Turkey and Croatia more than a third are pessimistic (34% and 35% respectively expect things to be worse).

Once again, the younger the respondents the more they are likely to be confident (33% of the 15-24 age group expect things to get better compared with 9% of those aged 55 or over). Similarly, the longer the respondents studied the more they tend to be optimistic (26% of respondents who studied until the age of 20 or beyond compared with 12% of those who left school before the age of 16); the level of education is closely correlated with respondents' occupations and, consequently, their financial situation, which helps to explain the greater confidence of respondents who studied the longest.

Interestingly, a significant proportion of unemployed people are confident: 31% of them expect their household financial situation to improve, compared with 27% of managers, 24% of employees and 23% of manual workers. This confidence in the future is particularly striking among unemployed people in the Scandinavian countries, in Sweden (65% of unemployed people expect their household financial situation to be better in 12 months time) and Denmark (57%), but is also evident in Luxembourg (51%), the Netherlands and the United Kingdom (46% in both cases).

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**QA4a.3 What are your expectations for the next 12 months: will the next 12 months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?**  
**The financial situation of your household**

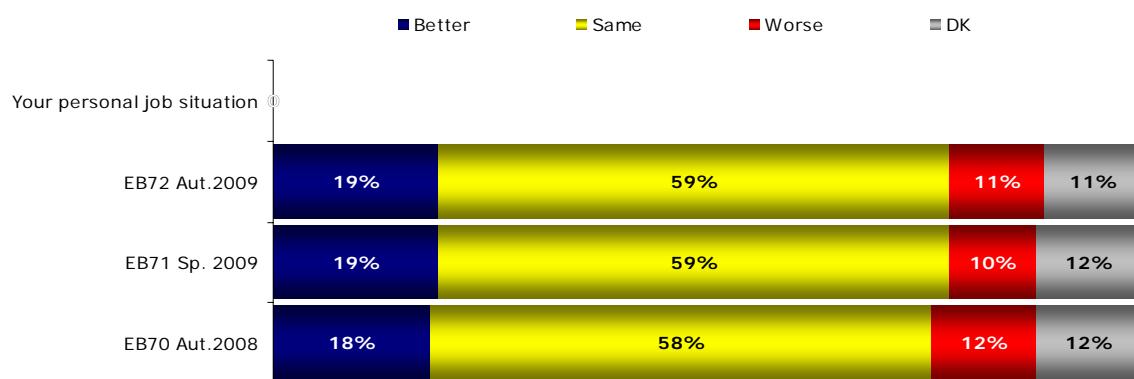
	Better	Worse	Same	DK
EU27	21%	19%	57%	3%
<b>Age</b>				
15-24	33%	13%	49%	5%
25-39	31%	19%	47%	3%
40-54	20%	20%	57%	3%
55 +	9%	21%	68%	2%
<b>Education (End of)</b>				
15-	12%	24%	61%	3%
16-19	20%	21%	56%	3%
20+	26%	14%	58%	2%
Still studying	30%	11%	53%	6%
<b>Respondent occupation scale</b>				
Self-employed	27%	18%	52%	3%
Managers	27%	12%	59%	2%
Other white collars	24%	17%	56%	3%
Manual workers	23%	20%	54%	3%
House persons	17%	22%	59%	2%
Unemployed	31%	27%	37%	5%
Retired	7%	22%	69%	2%
Students	30%	11%	53%	6%

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### 1.3.3. Personal job situation

As respondents' household finances and personal job situation are very closely linked, the answers given by Europeans when asked about their personal job situation tally with their previous responses<sup>14</sup>. Six out of ten Europeans do not expect their personal job situation to change over the next 12 months (59%), while a fifth expect it to improve (19%) and a small proportion (11%) expect it to deteriorate.

**QA4a5 What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be... when it comes to...? - % EU**



The proportion of respondents who believe that their personal job situation will improve, and the proportion expecting it to remain the same, have remained unchanged since last spring, while the percentage of respondents who fear that it will deteriorate has increased by 1 point.

Looking further back in time, in comparison with autumn 2008, the proportion of pessimistic opinions has fallen by one point, while conversely the proportion expecting their personal job situation to improve over the next 12 months has increased by one point. The proportion of respondents who expect their personal job situation to remain the same has risen by one point.

The most confident respondents are found in France (26%), Spain and the United Kingdom (25% in both cases) and Sweden (24%). Lithuania stands out for the proportion of interviewees who are pessimistic: at 40%, this stands 29 points above the European Union average. In Hungary, almost four out of ten respondents (37%) expect their personal job situation to deteriorate further over the next 12 months.

<sup>14</sup> QA4a.5 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 personal job situation

An analysis of changes reveals that optimism regarding the short-term outlook on the job front has risen significantly in Greece (+14 points), where parliamentary elections were held in October 2009. It has also increased, though to a lesser extent, in Slovakia and Portugal (+5 points), Germany, France and Latvia (all +4 points).

However, the index difference between this Eurobarometer and the previous one, carried out in spring 2009, is negative in Italy and Hungary (both -11 points), Romania (-8), Lithuania and Belgium (both -7 points) and Malta (-6).

Once again, the situation in the Cypriot Turkish Community has deteriorated significantly: the index has fallen by 21 points since spring 2009. Optimism dominated in spring 2009 (index of +8), but it is now very much a minority view (-13).

**QA4.5 What are your expectations for the next 12 months: will the next 12 months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?**  
**-Your personal job situation**

	EB71 Sp.2009 Better- Worse	EB72 Aut.2009 Better- Worse	DIFF. Aut.2009- Sp.2009
 EU27	+9	+8	-1
 EL	-8	+6	+14
 PT	-10	-5	+5
 SK	-8	-3	+5
 DE	+4	+8	+4
 FR	+16	+20	+4
 LV	-10	-6	+4
 EE	+8	+11	+3
 LU	+11	+14	+3
 AT	+4	+7	+3
 FI	+12	+14	+2
 NL	+11	+12	+1
 SE	+19	+20	+1
 DK	+17	+17	=
 CY	+2	+1	-1
 SI	+5	+4	-1
 BG	-3	-5	-2
 IE	-2	-6	-4
 PL	+10	+6	-4
 UK	+23	+19	-4
 CZ	+2	-3	-5
 ES	+18	+13	-5
 MT	+8	+2	-6
 BE	+13	+6	-7
 LT	-23	-30	-7
 RO	+3	-5	-8
 IT	+7	-4	-11
 HU	-18	-29	-11
CY (tcc)	+8	-13	-21
 MK	+2	+5	+3
 HR	-5	-10	-5
 TR	-5	-13	-8

The majority of respondents in the candidate countries expect no changes over the next 12 months: 52% in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, 50% in Croatia and 44% in Turkey.

The youngest and best educated respondents are again the most likely to be confident about their future job situation. More than a third of respondents aged between 15 and 24 (35%) are optimistic compared with only 6% of those aged 55 or over. Similarly, almost a quarter of respondents who studied until the age of 20 or beyond (23%) think that their personal job situation will get better over the next 12 months, compared with 9% of those who left school at the age of 15 or earlier. Finally, while a quarter of managers (24%), 20% of employees and 22% of manual workers are optimistic, a relative majority of unemployed people (38%) share this view. As in the case of expectations regarding an improvement in the household financial situation, unemployed respondents in the Scandinavian countries are again the most confident about the short-term personal job outlook: this particularly applies in Denmark and Sweden (both 71%), in France (65%), and also, to a lesser extent, in the United Kingdom (49%) and Spain (48%).

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**QA4a.5 What are your expectations for the next 12 months: will the next 12 months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?**  
**Your personal job situation**

	Better	Worse	Same	DK
EU27	19%	11%	59%	11%
<b>Age</b>				
15-24	35%	9%	44%	12%
25-39	29%	13%	53%	5%
40-54	17%	14%	63%	6%
55 +	6%	9%	65%	20%
<b>Education (End of)</b>				
15-	9%	13%	62%	16%
16-19	19%	13%	58%	10%
20+	23%	8%	61%	8%
Still studying	30%	6%	48%	16%
<b>Respondent occupation scale</b>				
Self-employed	24%	14%	58%	4%
Managers	24%	8%	66%	2%
Other white collars	20%	12%	63%	5%
Manual workers	22%	13%	61%	4%
House persons	11%	13%	60%	16%
Unemployed	38%	22%	31%	9%
Retired	4%	8%	64%	24%
Students	30%	6%	48%	16%

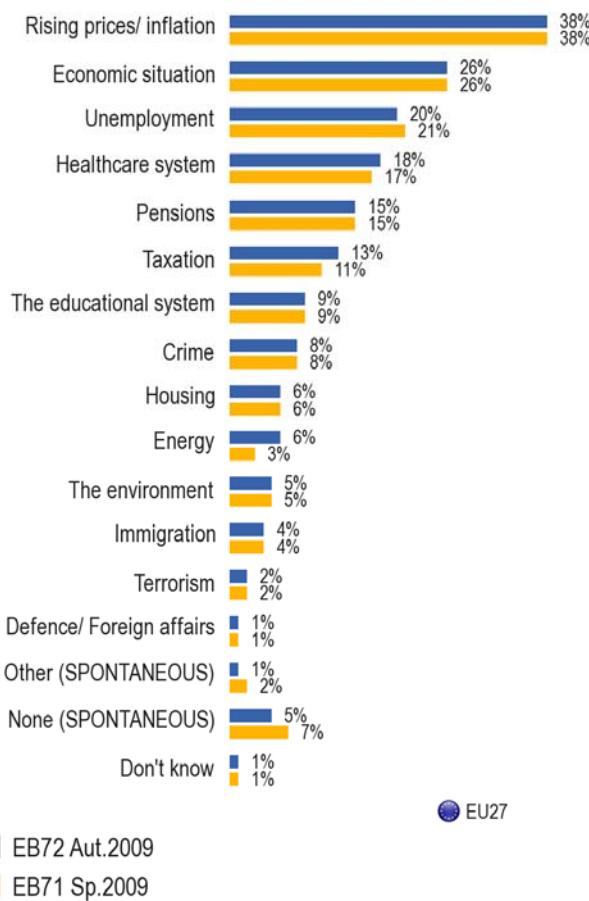
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## 1.4 The concerns of Europeans

*- Inflation, the economic situation and unemployment remain the three main personal concerns of Europeans -*

Rising prices are the main problem which Europeans say faces them in their personal life<sup>15</sup>. More than a third (38%) highlighted inflation from among the fourteen issues on which they were polled. This score is identical to that recorded last spring. The economic situation, mentioned by 26% of respondents, came in second place, followed by unemployment (20%), the healthcare system (18%), pensions (15%), taxation (13%), the education system (9%), crime (8%), housing and energy (both 6%). The remaining issues obtained scores of less than 6%: the environment (5%), immigration (4%), terrorism (2%) and defence/foreign affairs (1%).

QA6a. And personally, what are the two most important issues you are facing at the moment?



<sup>15</sup> QA6a And personally, what are the two most important issues you are facing at the moment? (MAX. 2 ANSWERS)

By listing rising prices, the economic situation and unemployment as their three main concerns, Europeans reveal the importance that they attach to economic issues. The economic crisis is undoubtedly influencing changes in the way Europeans perceive the most important issues facing them. Rising prices, the economic situation and unemployment are still, as in spring 2009, at the forefront of public concerns.

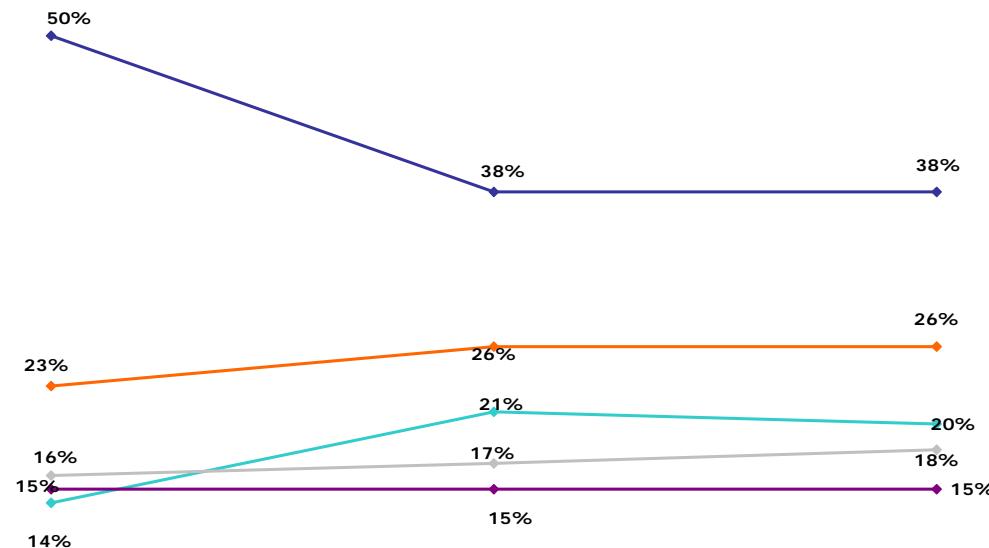
Although the results are very much in line with those recorded in spring 2009, it is worth examining the changes over a longer period, i.e. since the autumn 2008 Eurobarometer (EB70), which was the first time this question on personal concerns was asked, at the beginning of the economic crisis.

Although inflation remains the main concern (38%), it has lost considerable ground between autumn 2008 and autumn 2009 (-12 points), whereas the number of Europeans who are personally concerned about the economic situation and unemployment has increased slightly over the same period (+3 points and +6 points respectively). Though European economies are showing signs of recovery, concerns about the economic situation (26 %) and unemployment (20%) are still as widespread as in spring 2009.

Only energy has seen a real increase (+3 points) since spring 2009, possibly as a result of the greater prominence of environmental issues and the increasing focus on energy problems. Concerns regarding taxation and healthcare are also up, by 2 points and 1 point respectively.

QA6a And personally, what are the two most important issues you are facing at the moment?  
(MAX. 2 ANSWERS) - % EU

—◆— Rising prices/ inflation —◆— Economic situation —◆— Unemployment —◆— Healthcare system —◆— Pensions



Aut.2008  
EB 70

Sp.2009  
EB71

Aut.2009  
EB72

Rising prices were cited first in 18 of the 27 Member States, including Hungary (61%), Malta (60%), Cyprus (51%), Austria and Romania (50% each) and Bulgaria (48%). On the other hand, fewer than one in five in Scandinavia (11% of respondents in Sweden and 17% in Denmark) mentioned inflation, while respondents in those two countries mentioned the healthcare system as a major problem affecting them personally (35% and 20% respectively).

The economic situation was the second most frequently mentioned issue by Europeans (26%). In five Member States it obtained the highest score: Greece (47%), Latvia (46%), Ireland (44%), Spain (42%), Estonia (34%) and Denmark (23%). 40% of respondents in Cyprus and 37% in Romania mentioned the economic situation as one of the main issues facing them in their personal life.

After these two issues, the most frequently mentioned items were unemployment (20%), cited by a third of interviewees in Latvia, Spain and Ireland (33%, 32% and 32% respectively), the healthcare system (18%), mentioned by more than a third of respondents in the Netherlands and Sweden (33%) and 32% in Finland (this was the most frequently mentioned item in these three countries), pensions (15%), chosen by a quarter of interviewees in Slovenia (24%) and taxation (13%), which was mentioned by 23% of respondents in Lithuania, 22% in Italy and 20% in Belgium and Estonia.

The other issues tested obtained scores of less than 10% across Europe. However 21% of respondents in the Netherlands and 17% in Luxembourg and Sweden are concerned about the education system, compared with an EU average of 9%.

Respondents in the United Kingdom (16%) and Ireland (15%) cited criminality as one of the main issues facing them personally, compared with an EU27 average of 8%. 14% of respondents in Luxembourg and 12% in the Czech Republic and Sweden are concerned about housing problems, compared with a European average of 6%. In Malta, 29% of citizens are concerned about energy issues, compared with an EU27 average of 6%.

A quarter of respondents in Sweden (24%) mentioned environmental issues compared with 5% of European citizens as a whole. Finally, although only 4% of European citizens mentioned immigration, 12% of respondents in Malta cited this item as one of the main issues facing them personally.

The economic situation was placed first in Turkey (45%). It was also mentioned by 44% of respondents in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and by a third in Croatia (35%). Respondents in the latter country placed rising prices in first place (52%); 19% of interviewees in Turkey and 29% in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia also cited this issue. The most frequently cited concern in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia was unemployment (48%), which was also mentioned by 43% in Turkey and almost a quarter of respondents in Croatia (23%).

## QA6 And personally, what are the two most important issues you are facing at the moment? (MAX. 2 ANSWERS)

		Rising prices/ inflation	Economic situation	Unemployment	Healthcare system	Pensions	Taxation	The educational system
	EU27	38%	26%	20%	18%	15%	13%	9%
	BE	<b>43%</b>	22%	15%	7%	14%	20%	6%
	BG	<b>48%</b>	34%	28%	22%	20%	6%	8%
	CZ	<b>43%</b>	28%	<b>12%</b>	16%	19%	8%	6%
	DK	17%	<b>23%</b>	15%	20%	11%	7%	14%
	DE	<b>36%</b>	23%	14%	28%	17%	12%	12%
	EE	24%	<b>34%</b>	28%	28%	12%	20%	10%
	IE	28%	<b>44%</b>	32%	26%	9%	15%	10%
	EL	43%	<b>47%</b>	19%	12%	10%	12%	12%
	ES	27%	<b>42%</b>	32%	<b>6%</b>	11%	12%	8%
	FR	<b>44%</b>	16%	19%	15%	18%	15%	10%
	IT	<b>44%</b>	32%	19%	8%	<b>7%</b>	22%	8%
	CY	<b>51%</b>	40%	14%	11%	8%	<b>5%</b>	9%
	LV	22%	<b>46%</b>	<b>33%</b>	23%	14%	17%	13%
	LT	<b>46%</b>	29%	29%	19%	13%	<b>23%</b>	7%
	LU	<b>28%</b>	16%	20%	13%	<b>7%</b>	8%	17%
	HU	<b>61%</b>	30%	29%	14%	22%	9%	7%
	MT	<b>60%</b>	19%	14%	10%	9%	8%	<b>5%</b>
	NL	20%	31%	<b>12%</b>	<b>35%</b>	16%	6%	<b>21%</b>
	AT	<b>50%</b>	21%	18%	16%	18%	10%	9%
	PL	<b>45%</b>	<b>12%</b>	24%	29%	20%	8%	7%
	PT	<b>42%</b>	32%	24%	18%	15%	11%	6%
	RO	<b>50%</b>	37%	15%	23%	19%	10%	7%
	SI	<b>40%</b>	15%	15%	18%	<b>24%</b>	16%	10%
	SK	<b>38%</b>	30%	15%	19%	14%	7%	11%
	FI	25%	20%	19%	<b>32%</b>	17%	14%	8%
	SE	<b>11%</b>	24%	22%	<b>35%</b>	21%	8%	17%
	UK	<b>29%</b>	19%	19%	16%	16%	11%	9%
CY (tcc)		24%	51%	37%	14%	3%	7%	11%
	MK	29%	44%	<b>48%</b>	9%	9%	7%	<b>6%</b>
	HR	<b>52%</b>	35%	23%	13%	21%	10%	<b>7%</b>
	TR	19%	<b>45%</b>	43%	12%	9%	5%	<b>7%</b>

\* In bold, the highest results per country; in italics the lowest results per country; the grey rectangle shows the highest results per value; the rectangle with black borders shows the lowest results per value.

## QA6 And personally, what are the two most important issues you are facing at the moment? (MAX. 2 ANSWERS)

	Crime	Housing	Energy	The environment	Immigration	Terrorism	Defence/ Foreign affairs
EU27	8%	6%	6%	5%	4%	2%	1%
BE	11%	6%	13%	7%	7%	1%	1%
BG	10%	3%	3%	2%	0%	1%	0%
CZ	3%	12%	6%	4%	3%	0%	0%
DK	15%	7%	4%	11%	7%	4%	1%
DE	4%	2%	11%	4%	2%	1%	1%
EE	7%	4%	3%	4%	0%	0%	0%
IE	15%	3%	2%	2%	1%	0%	0%
EL	13%	1%	0%	6%	5%	2%	1%
ES	6%	11%	1%	5%	5%	4%	2%
FR	7%	10%	7%	10%	1%	0%	0%
IT	9%	3%	2%	5%	6%	4%	2%
CY	12%	8%	2%	1%	7%	0%	1%
LV	5%	6%	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%
LT	6%	5%	4%	1%	1%	0%	0%
LU	10%	14%	5%	7%	4%	4%	2%
HU	4%	5%	6%	2%	1%	0%	1%
MT	2%	2%	29%	11%	12%	0%	0%
NL	11%	6%	7%	9%	2%	1%	1%
AT	11%	7%	4%	4%	6%	2%	2%
PL	3%	5%	3%	2%	1%	1%	0%
PT	13%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
RO	9%	5%	1%	4%	1%	2%	1%
SI	3%	8%	2%	5%	0%	0%	1%
SK	4%	11%	11%	6%	0%	1%	1%
FI	7%	9%	6%	10%	3%	1%	1%
SE	9%	12%	5%	24%	5%	1%	1%
UK	16%	10%	11%	3%	9%	2%	2%
CY (tcc)	11%	4%	2%	4%	2%	2%	19%
MK	9%	5%	4%	5%	2%	1%	2%
HR	6%	7%	2%	2%	0%	0%	0%
TR	3%	2%	2%	3%	2%	19%	2%

\* In bold, the highest results per country; in italics the lowest results per country; the grey rectangle shows the highest results per value; the rectangle with black borders shows the lowest results per value.

There are some variations depending on the socio-demographic characteristics of respondents. Thus, almost three out of ten young people mentioned unemployment as one of the two main issues facing them personally (28% of those in the 15 to 24 age group compared with 10% of those aged 55 or over) while more than a third of the oldest respondents mentioned pensions (35% of the people aged 55 or over compared with 2% of those in the 15-24 age group) and more than a quarter (27%) cited the healthcare system (compared with 9% of the youngest respondents).

On the other hand, respondents in the 25-39 and 40-54 age groups are more likely than either the youngest or oldest respondents to mention rising prices and the economic situation as the issues with which they are the most concerned personally. The respondent's level of education also creates some differences. Thus, the respondents who left school before the age of 16 are more likely (40%) than those who studied beyond the age of 19 (34%) to mention rising prices. On the other hand, the latter are more concerned about the education system (11%) than those who ended their studies the earliest (3%).

Logically, 73% of unemployed people are particularly concerned about unemployment, which they mentioned the most frequently, far ahead of the economic situation (31%) and rising prices (30%). Unemployment was mentioned by 20% of manual workers, by 15% of employees and by 9% of managers. The fact that respondents have difficulties paying their bills is a particularly discriminating criterion for this question: respondents who regularly encounter such problems at the end of the month are more likely to mention the economic situation (36%), rising prices (42%), but above all unemployment (42%) than those respondents who 'almost never' have problems paying their bills (21%, 34% and 14% respectively). On the other hand, the education system (11%) and the healthcare system (21%) are more pressing issues for the latter than for those who left school before the age of 16 (6% and 13% respectively).

Finally, the political leanings of respondents create few differences, although those on the left of the political spectrum are slightly more likely to be worried about the education system (12%) than those on the right (8%).

## QA6a And personally, what are the two most important issues you are facing at the moment? (MAX. 2 ANSWERS)

	Rising prices/ inflation	Economic situation	Unemployment	Healthcare system	Pensions
EU27	38%	26%	20%	18%	15%
<b>Sex</b>					
Male	36%	29%	20%	16%	14%
Female	39%	24%	20%	21%	17%
<b>Age</b>					
15-24	34%	23%	28%	9%	2%
25-39	40%	32%	26%	14%	3%
40-54	40%	31%	22%	17%	8%
55 +	36%	20%	10%	27%	35%
<b>Education (End of)</b>					
15-	40%	25%	18%	21%	29%
16-19	41%	28%	21%	19%	14%
20+	34%	26%	17%	20%	11%
Still studying	28%	24%	23%	9%	2%
<b>Respondent occupation scale</b>					
Self-employed	37%	37%	13%	13%	6%
Managers	34%	24%	9%	20%	9%
Other white collars	40%	32%	15%	16%	8%
Manual workers	45%	30%	20%	16%	8%
House persons	45%	29%	22%	19%	11%
Unemployed	30%	31%	73%	10%	3%
Retired	37%	17%	8%	29%	40%
Students	28%	24%	23%	9%	2%
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>					
Most of the time	42%	36%	42%	13%	14%
From time to time	44%	34%	25%	14%	12%
Almost never/ never	34%	21%	14%	21%	17%
<b>Left-Right scale</b>					
(1-4) Left	36%	27%	20%	18%	15%
(5-6) Centre	37%	26%	20%	19%	16%
(7-10) Right	37%	26%	17%	18%	15%

## 2. SOCIAL ASPECTS

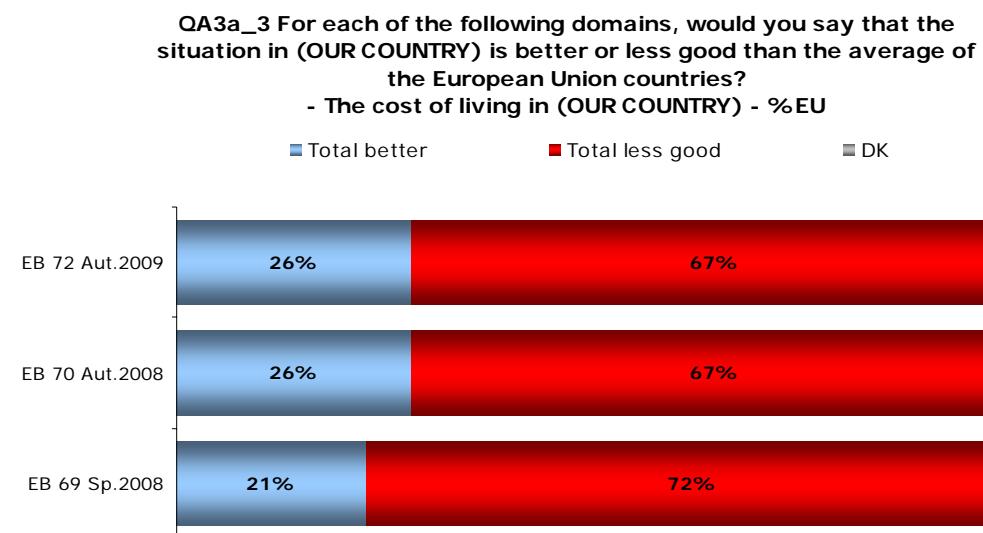
### 2.1 Europeans' opinions on the situation in their country

When asked to compare the situation in their country with the average for the European Union in various areas, a majority of Europeans consider that they are worse off in comparison with the European Union average as they perceive it. They are however divided when it comes to comparing the quality of life and the environment in their country with the EU27 average.

#### 2.1.1 *The national cost of living compared with the European average*

When asked about the cost of living, which is the main personal concern of Europeans, a large majority (67%) reply that the situation in their country is worse than the EU average. Approximately one in four respondents takes the opposite view (26%).<sup>16</sup>

The figures are identical with those recorded a year earlier, in autumn 2008 (EB70). The proportion of citizens who consider that the cost of living is better in their country than the European Union average is however higher (+5 points) than in spring 2008 (EB 69), despite the economic crisis of recent months.



<sup>16</sup> QA3a.3 For each of the following domains, would you say that the situation in (OUR COUNTRY) is better or less good than the average of the European Union countries? The cost of living in (OUR COUNTRY)

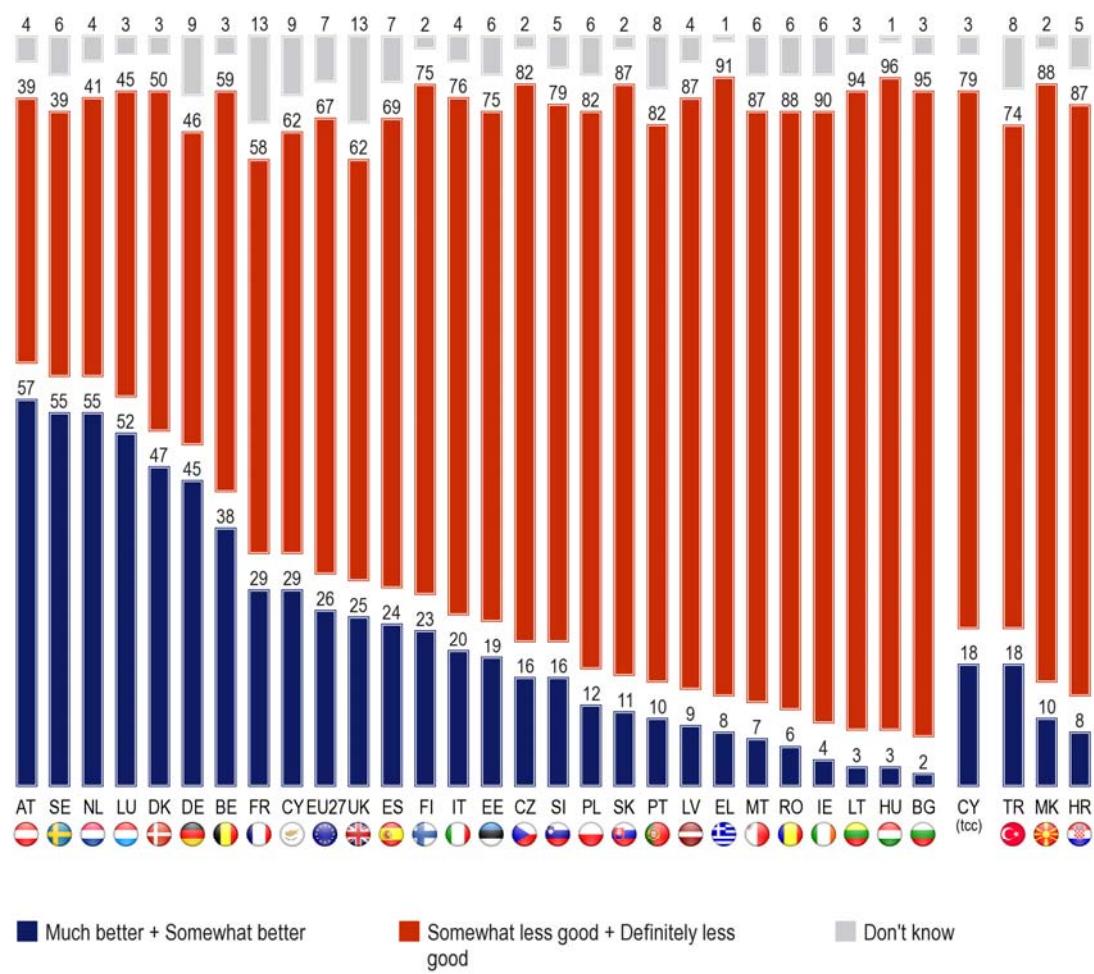
A majority of respondents in Austria (57%), Sweden and the Netherlands (both 55%) and Luxembourg (52%) consider that the cost of living in their country is better than the European Union average.

Respondents in Denmark and Germany are divided: 47% and 45% of interviewees respectively consider that the cost of living is lower in their country than the EU average, while almost identical proportions (50% in Denmark and 46% in Germany) disagree.

Almost all respondents in Hungary (96%), Bulgaria (95%) and Lithuania (94%), Greece (91%), Ireland (90%), Romania (88%), and Malta, Latvia and Slovakia (all 87%) are convinced that the cost of living in their country is higher than the European Union average.

QA3 .3. For each of the following domains, would you say that the situation in (OUR COUNTRY) is better or less good than the average of the European Union countries?

The cost of living in (OUR COUNTRY)



For CY(tcc); The cost of living in our Community

Changes at national level vary from one Member State to another: the proportion of respondents who think that the cost of living is more advantageous in their country than in the EU27 on average is up by 9 points in Sweden, 8 points in Austria and 6 points in Estonia. On the other hand, the corresponding percentage has fallen by 7 points in Belgium and Spain and by 6 points in Slovakia.

The vast majority in the candidate countries believe that the cost of living is higher in their country than on average in the European Union: 88% of respondents in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, 87% in Croatia and three-quarters of respondents in Turkey (74%) express this opinion.

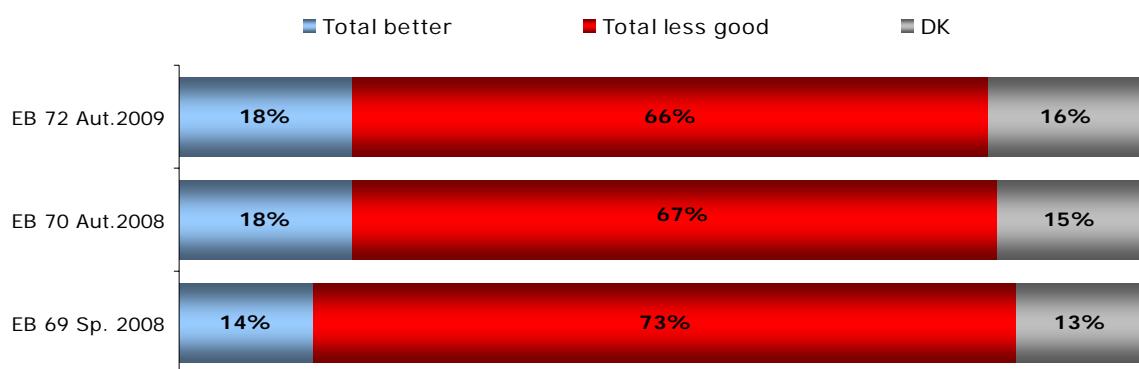
### ***2.1.2 The national energy price situation compared with the European average***

Two-thirds of Europeans (66%) consider that the situation regarding energy prices is worse in their country than it is on average in the European Union (-1 point in comparison with autumn 2008). Only 18% take the opposite view.<sup>17</sup>

Once again, we observe that the proportion of respondents who think that the energy price situation is worse in their country than the European Union average has fallen (-7 points) since spring 2008 (EB 69) but is in line with the score recorded in autumn of the same year.

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**QA3a\_4 For each of the following domains, would you say that the situation in (OUR COUNTRY) is better or less good than the average of the European Union countries?**  
**- Energy prices in (OUR COUNTRY) -%EU**




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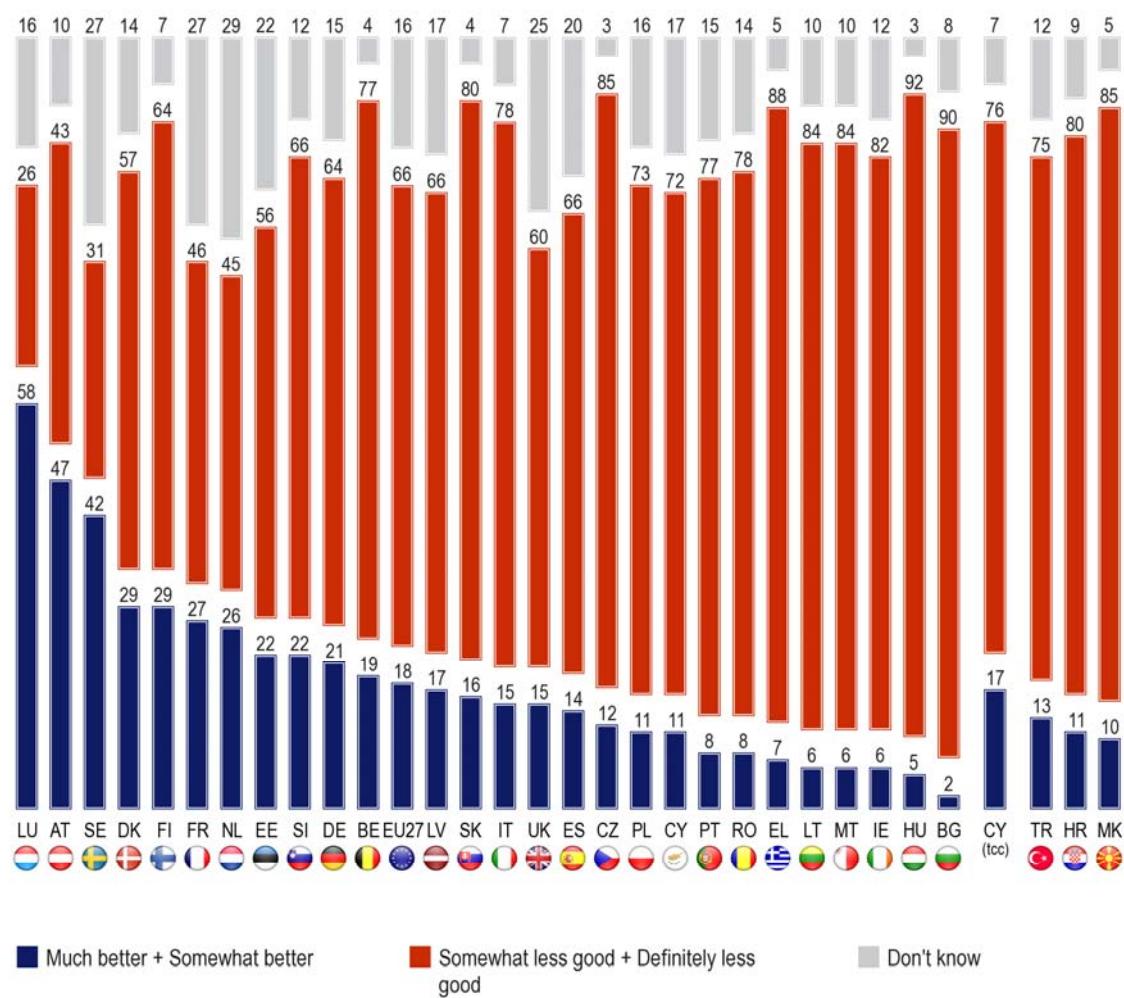
<sup>17</sup> QA3a.4 For each of the following domains, would you say that the situation in (OUR COUNTRY) is better or less good than the average of the European Union countries? Energy prices in (OUR COUNTRY).

There are very significant differences from one country to another on this question: Luxembourg, where citizens have access to cheaper fuel than their neighbours, is the only country where a majority of interviewees consider that the energy price situation is better in their country than on average in EU27 (58%). Almost half of respondents in Austria (47%) and 42% in Sweden have a similar opinion.

On the other hand, a very large majority of respondents in Hungary (92%), Bulgaria (90%) and Greece (88%) take the opposite view.

QA3 .4. For each of the following domains, would you say that the situation in (OUR COUNTRY) is better or less good than the average of the European Union countries?

Energy prices in (OUR COUNTRY)



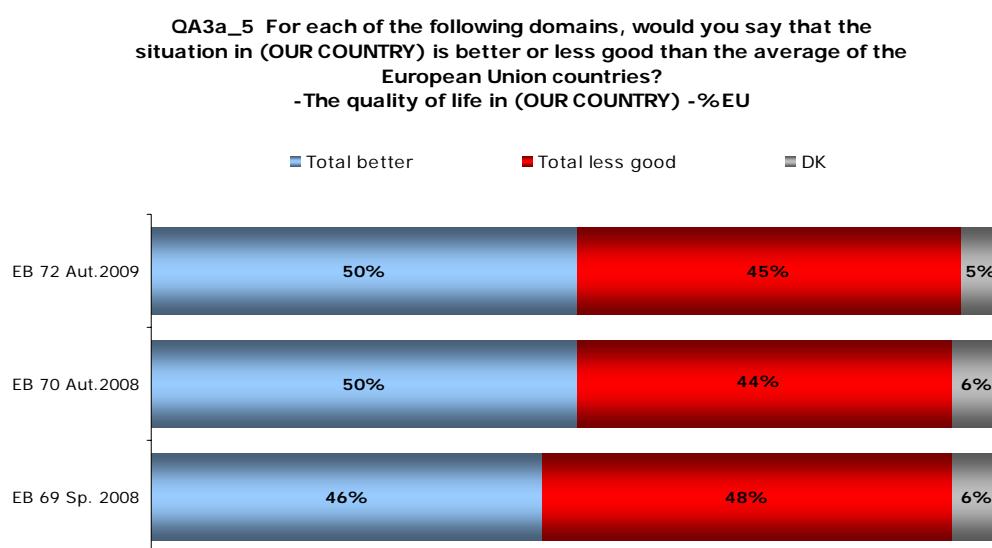
National changes vary, sometimes considerably, from one country to another: the proportion of respondents who consider that the energy price situation is better in their country than on average in the European Union has increased by 8 points in Finland, 7 points in Sweden, 5 points in Luxembourg, 3 points in the United Kingdom and 2 points in Cyprus.

However, this percentage has fallen by 13 points in Spain and Slovenia, 10 points in Belgium, 7 points in the Czech Republic, 6 points in Bulgaria and 5 points in Ireland.

Like EU respondents, the vast majority of interviewees in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (85%), Croatia (80%) and Turkey (75%) think that energy prices are higher in their country than on average in the Union.

### ***2.1.3 The national situation as regards the quality of life compared with the European average***

Finally, Europeans are very divided in their assessment of the quality of life in their country compared with the EU27 average. In contrast to the questions on economic indicators, this issue splits respondents down the middle: the majority (50%) believe that the quality of life is better in their country than on average in the European Union, while 45% take the opposite view.<sup>18</sup> The proportion of people who consider that the quality of life in their country is better than the EU27 average has not changed since autumn 2008 (EB70), the point at which the number considering that the national quality of life was above the EU average increased in comparison with the previous survey and outstripped the proportion taking the opposite view.



<sup>18</sup> QA3a.5 For each of the following domains, would you say that the situation in (OUR COUNTRY) is better or less good than the average of the European Union countries? The quality of life in (OUR COUNTRY)

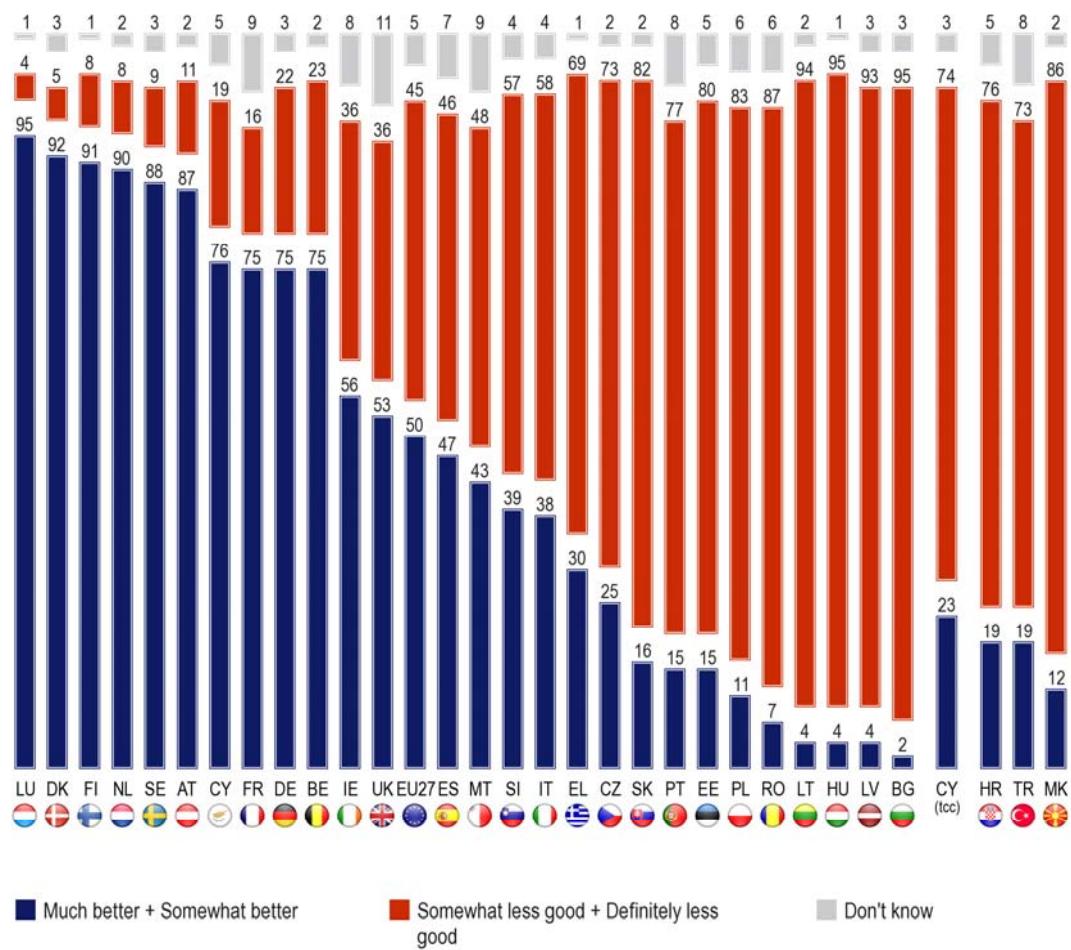
There are very significant differences in the answers to this question depending on the date of accession to the European Union. A very large majority of the respondents in the countries which joined the European Union after 2004 feel that the quality of life in their country is not as good as the European Union average (85% compared with only 11% who think that it is better). The opposite is true in the pre-2004 Member States: a clear majority of respondents believe that their quality of life is better than in the rest of the Union (60% compared with 35% "less good"). This division is reflected in the country by country analysis of the answers: respondents in almost half of the Member States (13 out of 27) believe that their quality of life is better than the Europe average.

Respondents in Luxembourg (95%) and the Nordic countries (92% in Denmark, 91% in Finland and 88% in Sweden) are the most satisfied, followed by three-quarters of those in Cyprus (76%), France and Germany (both 75%).

On the other hand, almost all respondents in Hungary and Bulgaria (both 95%), Lithuania (94%) and Latvia (93%) are convinced that the quality of life is worse in their country than on average in the twenty-seven Member States. Almost nine out of ten respondents in Romania (87%), 83% in Poland, 82% in Slovakia and 80% in Estonia share this opinion.

QA3 .5. For each of the following domains, would you say that the situation in (OUR COUNTRY) is better or less good than the average of the European Union countries?

The quality of life in (OUR COUNTRY)



■ Much better + Somewhat better

■ Somewhat less good + Definitely less good

■ Don't know

For CY(tcc); The quality of life in our Community

In some Member States, the proportion of respondents who consider that the quality of life in their country is better than on average in the European Union has increased considerably: +13 points in Luxembourg, +7 points in Sweden and +5 points in Denmark and Germany. On the other hand, this figure has decreased by 12 points in Slovenia, 10 points in Spain, 9 points in Greece and 7 points in Lithuania and Ireland.

It will be seen that almost three-quarters of the members of the Cypriot Turkish Community (74%) say that the quality of life in their country is worse than on average in the twenty-seven Member States, compared with a quarter of respondents who take the opposite view (23%).

The answers of respondents in the candidate countries differ significantly from the European Union average on this question. 86% of respondents in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, 76% in Croatia and 73% in Turkey consider that the quality of life in their country is not as good as it is on average in the twenty-seven Member States. Moreover, 61% of respondents in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, i.e. the majority of respondents, go so far as to say that it is "definitely less good", compared with 37% in Croatia and 30% in Turkey.

There are few variations by age and gender on these three themes. On the other hand interesting divisions appear when we turn to the education and occupation of respondents. Thus, 32% of managers consider that the cost of living is lower nationally than the European average, compared with 21% of unemployed people and a quarter of manual workers and employees (both 26%). Similarly, 57% of respondents who studied until the age of 20 or beyond are convinced that the quality of life is better in their country than in the Union, compared with 46% of those who left school before the age of 16. The standard of living is a determining factor for these questions, as is confirmed by the social variables. Thus, 20% of the people who say that they never have difficulties paying their bills think that energy is cheaper in their country than the European average, compared with 11% of those who have difficulties paying their bills 'from time to time'. Similarly, just under a quarter (23%) of respondents who place themselves at the top of the social hierarchy share this opinion compared with fewer than a fifth (14%) of those who place themselves at the bottom of the social ladder.

**QA3a.3,4,5.** For each of the following domains, would you say that the situation in (OUR COUNTRY) is better or less good than the average of the European Union countries?

	The cost of living in (OUR COUNTRY)			Energy prices in (OUR COUNTRY)			The quality of life in (OUR COUNTRY)		
	Total better	Total less good	DK	Total better	Total less good	DK	Total better	Total less good	DK
EU27	26%	67%	7%	18%	66%	16%	50%	45%	5%
<b>Education (End of)</b>									
 15-16-19	23%	68%	9%	15%	68%	17%	46%	45%	9%
20+	25%	68%	7%	17%	69%	14%	47%	48%	5%
Still studying	30%	64%	6%	21%	62%	17%	57%	39%	4%
<b>Respondent occupation scale</b>									
 Self-employed	25%	69%	6%	18%	71%	11%	46%	50%	4%
Managers	32%	63%	5%	22%	61%	17%	61%	36%	3%
Other white collars	26%	70%	4%	19%	70%	11%	47%	49%	4%
Manual workers	26%	68%	6%	18%	67%	15%	51%	44%	5%
House persons	26%	66%	8%	16%	66%	18%	48%	44%	8%
Unemployed	21%	71%	8%	14%	70%	16%	42%	52%	6%
Retired	26%	64%	10%	17%	65%	18%	49%	43%	8%
Students	28%	62%	10%	19%	57%	24%	56%	39%	5%
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>									
Most of the time	14%	79%	7%	11%	75%	14%	33%	61%	6%
From time to time	20%	74%	6%	15%	72%	13%	40%	55%	5%
Almost never/ never	31%	61%	8%	20%	62%	18%	59%	36%	5%
<b>Self-positioning on the social staircase</b>									
Low (1-4)	19%	72%	9%	14%	69%	17%	41%	52%	7%
Medium (5-6)	27%	66%	7%	17%	67%	16%	52%	43%	5%
High (7-10)	34%	61%	5%	23%	63%	14%	58%	38%	4%
<b>Trust in EU</b>									
Tend to trust	30%	64%	6%	21%	65%	14%	53%	43%	4%
Tend not to trust	24%	69%	7%	15%	70%	15%	48%	46%	6%
<b>Image of EU</b>									
Positive	32%	62%	6%	22%	64%	14%	55%	41%	4%
Neutral	23%	68%	9%	16%	66%	18%	49%	45%	6%
Negative	18%	74%	8%	10%	75%	15%	42%	51%	7%

## 2.2 The situation of the environment

### 2.2.1 The situation of the environment at national level

**- Europeans are divided about the situation of the environment in their country but are more confident about the future -**

This Eurobarometer was carried out just a few weeks before the Copenhagen summit on climate change<sup>19</sup>. Consequently, when Europeans were interviewed, no-one knew whether the world's leaders would succeed in finding common ground. This survey was in any event carried out against a backdrop of rising environmental concerns.

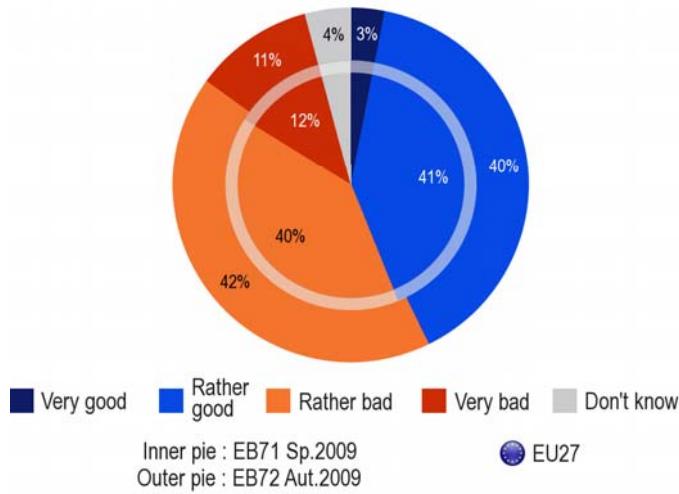
A small majority of Europeans are negative about the situation of the environment in their country (53%), i.e. one point higher than in spring 2009. More than four out of ten respondents (43%, -1 point), however, are satisfied.<sup>20</sup>

Nevertheless, the vast majority of respondents are moderate in their answers: 40% consider that the situation of the environment is "rather good" and 42% "rather bad". Only 11% described it as "very bad" and 3% as "very good".

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QA2a.7. How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?

The situation of the environment in (OUR COUNTRY)



<sup>19</sup> 7-18 December 2009: <http://unfccc.int>

<sup>20</sup> QA2a.7 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? The situation of the environment in (OUR COUNTRY)

Respondents in the Nordic countries are very satisfied with the situation of the environment in their country: this view was expressed by 86% of respondents in Finland, 73% in Sweden and 65% in Denmark. Almost eight in ten respondents in Luxembourg (78%), three-quarters in Austria (76%), two-thirds in Slovenia and Germany (65% and 64% respectively), 63% in the Netherlands and 62% in the Czech Republic share this opinion.

On the other hand, only 13% of respondents in Bulgaria, 19% in Romania, 21% in Spain, 24% in Hungary, 26% in Greece and Italy, 29% in Malta and 30% in Portugal are similarly satisfied.

An analysis of changes reveals some significant developments since spring 2009: the proportion of respondents who are satisfied with the situation of the environment in their country has increased markedly in Greece (+10 points), Luxembourg (+8), Slovakia (+7), Sweden (+6) and Slovenia (+5). On the other hand, it has fallen by 7 points in Spain and by 5 points in Hungary, Lithuania and the United Kingdom.

Although the views of respondents in Croatia on this question are close to those of EU citizens, the majority of respondents in Turkey (72%) and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (67%) are not satisfied with the situation of the environment in their country.

The answers to this question are closely linked to the level of education, occupation and assessments of the national economic situation. The most educated respondents and those in the higher socio-professional categories are the most likely to see the situation positively. Moreover, almost seven out of ten Europeans (68%) who are satisfied with the economic situation in their country are also positive about the situation of the environment nationally, compared with only 35% of citizens who are dissatisfied in this regard.

**QA2a.7 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?  
The situation of the environment in (OUR COUNTRY)**

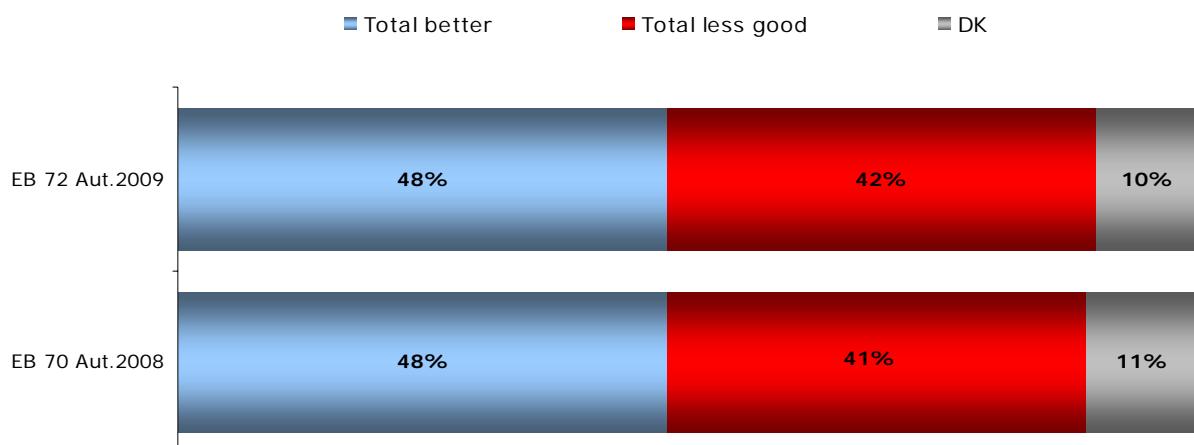
	Total good	Total bad	DK
EU27	43%	53%	4%
<b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	38%	56%	6%
16-19	43%	53%	4%
20+	48%	50%	2%
Still studying	44%	53%	3%
<b>Respondent occupation scale</b>			
Self-employed	42%	55%	3%
Managers	49%	49%	2%
Other white collars	43%	55%	2%
Manual workers	43%	53%	4%
House persons	35%	60%	5%
Unemployed	40%	55%	5%
Retired	44%	51%	5%
Students	44%	53%	3%
<b>Situation national economy</b>			
Good	68%	30%	2%
Bad	35%	61%	4%

### **2.2.2 The national situation of the environment compared with the European average**

The majority of Europeans consider that the situation of the environment is better in their country than on average in the European Union (48%).<sup>21</sup> This result is identical to that recorded in autumn 2008 (EB70). However a slightly smaller proportion consider that the national situation is worse than the EU27 average (42%, +1 point).

**QA3a\_6 For each of the following domains, would you say that the situation in (OUR COUNTRY) is better or less good than the average of the European Union countries?**

**-The situation of the environment in (OUR COUNTRY) -%EU**



Respondents in the Nordic countries are firmly convinced that they live in a country where the environmental situation is better than in the European Union as a whole: this opinion is held by 96% of respondents in Finland, 96% in Sweden and 92% in Denmark. Almost nine out of ten interviewees in Luxembourg and Austria (88% and 87% respectively) and Germany (79%) agree. On this question there is a North-South divide within the European Union: only 8% of respondents in Bulgaria, 13% in Romania, 16% in Malta, 25% in Spain, 27% in Portugal, 29% in Greece and 32% in Italy believe that the situation of the environment is better in their country than on average in the twenty-seven Member States, compared with 48% of Europeans as a whole.

There have been significant, but contrasting changes in two Member States: in Luxembourg, the percentage of respondents who consider that the situation of the environment is better nationally than the EU average has increased by 13 points, while in Spain it has fallen by the same proportion.

<sup>21</sup> QA3a.6 For each of the following domains, would you say that the situation in (OUR COUNTRY) is better or less good than the average of the European Union countries? The situation of the environment in (OUR COUNTRY)

Three-quarters of respondents in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (76%), seven out of ten in Turkey (70%) and more than half in Croatia (53%) consider that the situation of the environment is better in the European Union than in their country.

Finally, a strong majority of members of the Cypriot Turkish Community (77%) share this opinion.

### ***2.2.3 Future expectations regarding the environment***

Europeans were interviewed for this Eurobarometer a few weeks before the United Nations summit on climate change in Copenhagen in December 2009. It is conceivable that the forthcoming international conference, together with the fundamentally strong support for all environmental issues, may have influenced public expectations.

Just over a quarter of Europeans expect the situation of the environment to improve in their country over the next 12 months (24%), while almost a fifth take the opposite view (19%) and approximately half (51%) expect the situation to remain the same.<sup>22</sup> In comparison with autumn 2008, there has been an increase (+3 points) in optimistic opinions and a sharp decline in pessimistic opinions (-8 points).

Thus, there has been a shift in public opinion: in autumn 2008, the proportion of respondents who felt optimistic about the environment was 21%, while 27% took the opposite view. One year later the situation has been reversed: 24% of Europeans are confident, while 19% take the opposite view.

Respondents in Scandinavia are the most confident: 38% of interviewees in Denmark and Sweden expect the situation to improve. A similar proportion in France and a third of respondents in the Netherlands (34%) agree. On the other hand, 36% of respondents in Hungary and three out of ten in Italy and Greece (30% and 29% respectively) take the opposite view and expect the situation of the environment to deteriorate in their country over the next 12 months.

Once again, changes in the index, i.e. the difference between positive and negative expectations, reveal that things have evolved positively at European level. The difference between the Eurobarometer 72 and Eurobarometer 70 (autumn 2008) indices is +11 points at EU27 level. This difference is positive in 24 Member States and negative in only three countries (meaning a negative trend in the latter since the previous wave).

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<sup>22</sup> QA4a.8 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 situation of the environment in (OUR COUNTRY)

The index is up by 33 points in Greece, 24 points in Luxembourg, 23 points in the Netherlands, 20 points in Denmark and Portugal, 19 points in the United Kingdom, 18 points in France and Austria, 15 points in Finland, 14 points in Spain, 12 points in Estonia and Sweden, 11 points in Belgium and 10 points in Germany.

On the other hand, in Malta, the difference is -15 points. A negative change, though less dramatic, was also recorded in Latvia (-2) and Hungary (-1).

**QA4.8 What are your expectations for the next 12 months: will the next 12 months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?**  
**- The situation of the environment in (OUR COUNTRY)**

**INDEX BETTER-WORSE**  
(percentage points)

	<b>EB70 Aut.2008</b> <b>Better- Worse</b>	<b>EB72 Aut.2009</b> <b>Better- Worse</b>	<b>DIFF.Aut. 2009- Aut.2008</b>
EU27	<b>-6</b>	<b>+5</b>	<b>+11</b>
EL	<b>-40</b>	<b>-7</b>	<b>+33</b>
LU	<b>-11</b>	<b>+13</b>	<b>+24</b>
NL	<b>-2</b>	<b>+21</b>	<b>+23</b>
DK	<b>+12</b>	<b>+32</b>	<b>+20</b>
PT	<b>-26</b>	<b>-6</b>	<b>+20</b>
UK	<b>-9</b>	<b>+10</b>	<b>+19</b>
FR	<b>+5</b>	<b>+23</b>	<b>+18</b>
AT	<b>-10</b>	<b>+8</b>	<b>+18</b>
FI	<b>-8</b>	<b>+7</b>	<b>+15</b>
ES	<b>-10</b>	<b>+4</b>	<b>+14</b>
EE	<b>+7</b>	<b>+19</b>	<b>+12</b>
SE	<b>+20</b>	<b>+32</b>	<b>+12</b>
BE	<b>-7</b>	<b>+4</b>	<b>+11</b>
DE	<b>-6</b>	<b>+4</b>	<b>+10</b>
IE	<b>-15</b>	<b>-6</b>	<b>+9</b>
BG	<b>-10</b>	<b>-3</b>	<b>+7</b>
CY	<b>-14</b>	<b>-8</b>	<b>+6</b>
LT	<b>-14</b>	<b>-8</b>	<b>+6</b>
SI	<b>-8</b>	<b>-2</b>	<b>+6</b>
SK	<b>-14</b>	<b>-9</b>	<b>+5</b>
IT	<b>-16</b>	<b>-12</b>	<b>+4</b>
CZ	<b>+2</b>	<b>+4</b>	<b>+2</b>
PL	<b>+5</b>	<b>+6</b>	<b>+1</b>
RO	<b>-6</b>	<b>-5</b>	<b>+1</b>
HU	<b>-21</b>	<b>-22</b>	<b>-1</b>
LV	<b>+8</b>	<b>+6</b>	<b>-2</b>
MT	<b>+23</b>	<b>+8</b>	<b>-15</b>
CY (tcc)	<b>-15</b>	<b>-24</b>	<b>-9</b>
TR	<b>-33</b>	<b>-14</b>	<b>+19</b>
HR	<b>-8</b>	<b>-4</b>	<b>+4</b>
MK	<b>+16</b>	<b>+6</b>	<b>-10</b>

For CY (tcc); The situation of the environment in our Community

The answers in the candidate countries are similar to those in European countries. The majority of respondents do not expect the situation to change in the coming year. Respondents in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia are the most optimistic: 29% of them expect the situation of the environment to improve in their country; a fifth of respondents in Turkey and Croatia (20% and 19% respectively) share this opinion.

More than three out of ten respondents aged between 15 and 24 (32%) consider that the situation of the environment in their country will improve over the next 12 months, compared with a fifth of those aged 55 or over (20%). Moreover, more than a quarter of those who studied until the age of 20 or beyond (27%) share this opinion, compared with fewer than a fifth (19%) of those who left school before the age of 16.

### 3. ECONOMIC ASPECTS

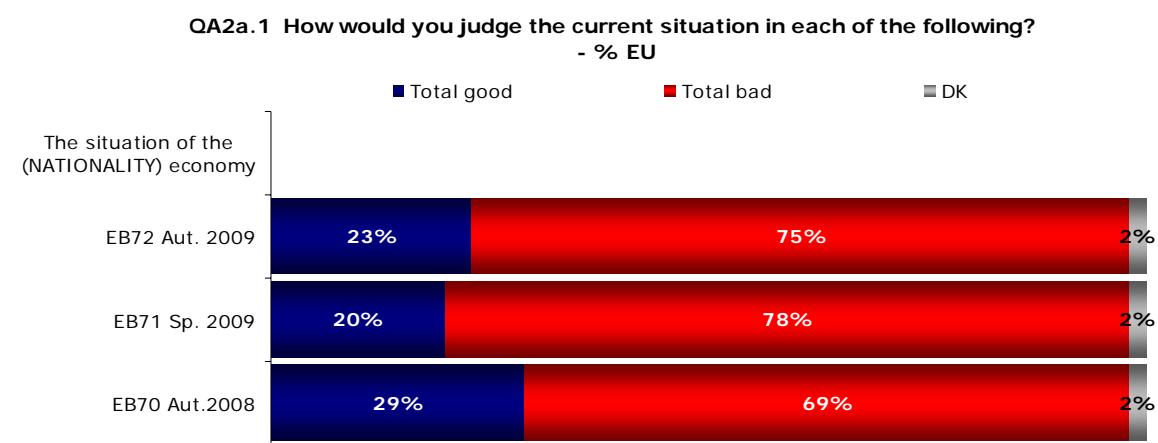
#### 3.1 Assessment of the current economic situation

*- There is still widespread dissatisfaction among EU27 citizens regarding the economic situation, but they are slightly more confident than in spring -*

##### 3.1.1 The national situation

Three-quarters of the citizens of the European Union (75%) are dissatisfied with the situation of their country's economy, compared with just under a quarter (23%) who are upbeat<sup>23</sup>. Once again, positive opinions have increased slightly since spring 2009: +3 points for satisfied respondents and -3 points for those taking the opposite view.

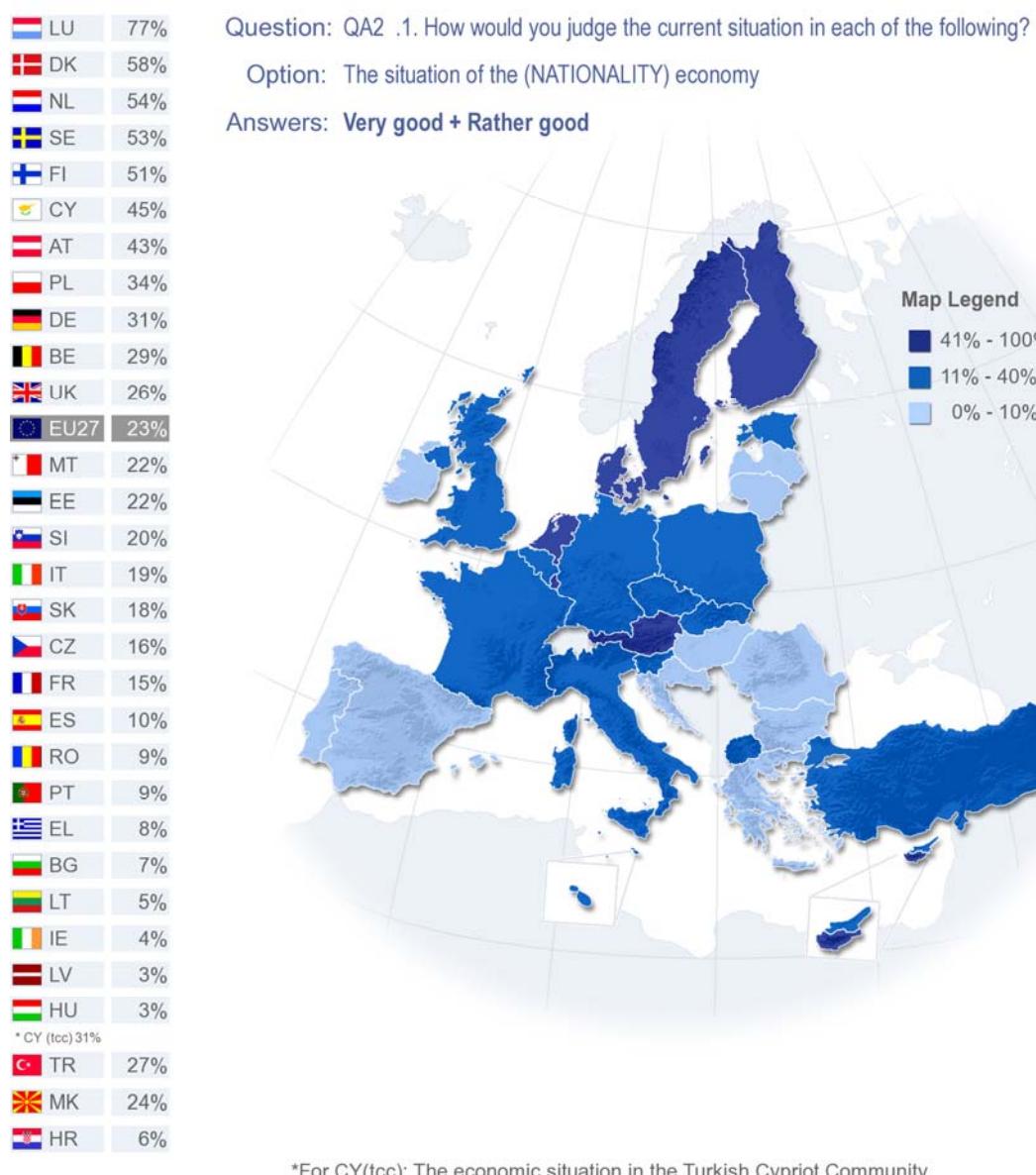
Only 1% of respondents describe the economic situation in their country as "very good" (a figure equal to that recorded in spring 2009), while 22% say that it is "rather good" (+3 points); however a majority – 53% – consider that it is "rather bad" (an identical percentage to that recorded six months earlier) and almost a fifth (22%) think that it is "very bad" (-3 points).



Perceptions of the national economic situation vary considerably from one country to another. A majority of respondents are confident in five Member States: Luxembourg (77%), Denmark (58%), the Netherlands (54%), Sweden (53%) and Finland (51%). More than four out of ten respondents in Cyprus and Austria share their confidence (45% and 43% respectively).

<sup>23</sup> A2a.1 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? The situation of the (NATIONALITY) economy

In contrast almost all respondents in Hungary and Latvia (both 97%), Ireland (95%), Lithuania (94%) and Greece (92%) are dissatisfied with the situation of their national economy. A very large majority of citizens in Portugal and Bulgaria (both 90%), Spain (89%) and Romania (88%) share this opinion.



There have been significant changes since spring 2009 (EB71). For example, levels of satisfaction have increased strongly in Sweden (+17 points), the United Kingdom and Germany (both +8 points), and Belgium, Luxembourg and Austria (all +7 points).

On the other hand, there has been a sharp fall in levels of satisfaction in Cyprus (-13 points), Denmark (-11 points), Malta (-10 points) and Slovenia (-7 points).

Nevertheless, if we take into account the results of the two previous Eurobarometers, we can see that in some countries such as Sweden and Germany, satisfaction levels fell sharply between autumn 2008 and spring 2009. The marked increase can therefore be explained in part by a form of "catching up", a kind of return to the trend norm.

**QA2.1 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?**  
**- The situation of the (NATIONALITY) economy**

% Very good + Rather good	EB70 Aut.2008	EB71 Sp.2009	EB72 Aut.2009	Diff. Aut.2009 - Sp.2009
EU27	29%	20%	23%	+3
SE	54%	36%	53%	+17
DE	49%	23%	31%	+8
UK	18%	18%	26%	+8
BE	28%	22%	29%	+7
LU	60%	70%	77%	+7
AT	60%	36%	43%	+7
FR	12%	11%	15%	+4
FI	78%	47%	51%	+4
NL	67%	51%	54%	+3
EE	28%	20%	22%	+2
IT	15%	18%	19%	+1
LV	7%	2%	3%	+1
PL	39%	33%	34%	+1
PT	8%	10%	9%	-1
RO	22%	10%	9%	-1
SK	54%	19%	18%	-1
IE	14%	6%	4%	-2
EL	10%	10%	8%	-2
HU	5%	5%	3%	-2
BG	14%	10%	7%	-3
CZ	39%	19%	16%	-3
ES	19%	13%	10%	-3
LT	15%	8%	5%	-3
SI	52%	27%	20%	-7
MT	39%	32%	22%	-10
DK	70%	69%	58%	-11
CY	53%	58%	45%	-13
CY (tcc)	44%	40%	31%	-9
TR	21%	27%	27%	=
MK	30%	25%	24%	-1
HR	11%	10%	6%	-4

For CY(tcc); The economic situation in the Turkish Cypriot Community

Approximately three-quarters of respondents in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (75%) and Turkey (71%) are also negative about the situation of their national economies. In Croatia, this opinion is almost unanimous (92%). Satisfaction levels have declined in these countries (except in Turkey, where the result is unchanged): -4 points in Croatia and -1 point in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Finally, only three out of ten members of the Cypriot Turkish Community are satisfied with the economic situation in their country, representing a decline of 9 points since spring 2009.

A socio-demographic analysis reveals some differences, in particular reflecting the respondent's occupation. One out of three managers (31%) is satisfied with the national economic situation compared with a quarter of employees, 22% of manual workers and fewer than one fifth of unemployed people (17%). Despite these differences, and the increase in positive opinions, all socio-demographic categories are very negative on this subject.

**QA2a.1 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?**  
**The situation of the (NATIONALITY) economy**

	Total good	Total bad	DK
EU27	23%	75%	2%
<b>Sex</b>			
Male	25%	74%	1%
Female	21%	76%	3%
<b>Age</b>			
15-24	30%	66%	4%
25-39	24%	74%	2%
40-54	21%	78%	1%
55 +	21%	77%	2%
<b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	16%	83%	1%
16-19	21%	77%	2%
20+	29%	69%	2%
Still studying	31%	64%	5%
<b>Respondent occupation scale</b>			
Self-employed	24%	75%	1%
Managers	31%	68%	1%
Other white collars	25%	74%	1%
Manual workers	22%	77%	1%
House persons	18%	79%	3%
Unemployed	17%	81%	2%
Retired	21%	77%	2%
Students	31%	64%	5%
<b>Left-Right scale</b>			
(1-4) Left	23%	76%	1%
(5-6) Centre	24%	74%	2%
(7-10) Right	28%	71%	1%
<b>Trust in EU</b>			
Tend to trust	28%	70%	2%
Tend not to trust	18%	81%	1%
<b>Image of EU</b>			
Positive	29%	69%	2%
Neutral	20%	78%	2%
Negative	12%	87%	1%

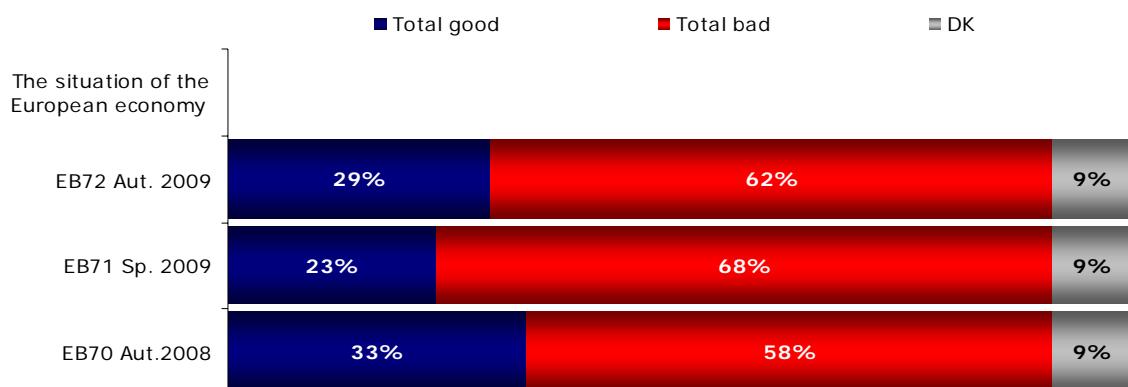
### **3.1.2 The European situation**

When asked for their views on the current situation of the European economy, more than six out of ten respondents (62%) are negative, while a minority think the situation "rather good" (28%), or "very good" (1%)<sup>24</sup>. However, confidence in the European economy has increased by six points since spring 2009. 1% of respondents consider that the European economy is in "very good" shape (a score equivalent to that recorded in spring 2009), while 28% described it as "rather good" (+6 points); half the interviewees say that it is "rather bad" (51%, -1 point) and finally 11% believe it to be "very bad" (-5 points).

Satisfaction with the national and European economic situations has increased, but confidence in the latter has grown more significantly.

**QA2a2. How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?**

- % EU

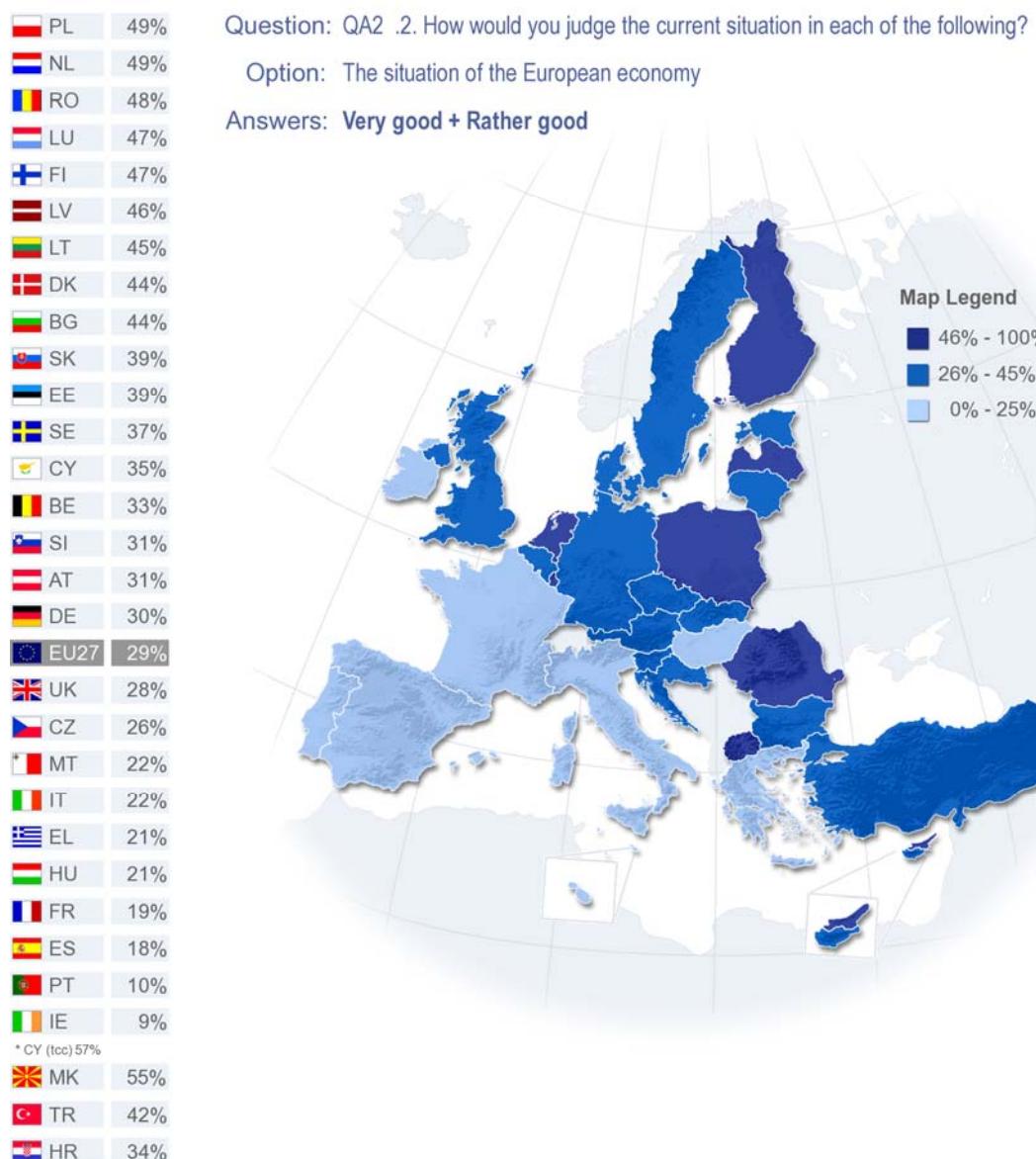


Satisfaction is predominant in five Member States: 49% of respondents are satisfied in the Netherlands and Poland, 48% in Romania, 46% in Latvia and 44% in Bulgaria. Except for the Netherlands, the Member States where respondents are satisfied with the European economy are not those where residents are happy with their own country's economy. Quite the reverse: in some Member States, such as Latvia, Bulgaria and Romania, satisfaction with the economic situation in the EU is all the higher because of their dissatisfaction with the national economy.

Satisfaction levels are also high, though short of representing the majority, in Luxembourg and Finland (both 47%), Lithuania (45%) and Denmark (44%).

On the other hand, barely one in ten respondents in Ireland and Portugal (9% and 10% respectively) are satisfied with the situation of the European economy; a third of respondents in Ireland (32%) go so far as to say that it is "very bad".

<sup>24</sup> A2a.2 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? The situation of the European economy



Levels of satisfaction have increased markedly in Luxembourg (+13 points), Romania and Latvia (both +12 points), the United Kingdom (+11 points), Sweden (+9 points) and the Netherlands (+8 points). Satisfaction has declined perceptibly in Cyprus (-8 points).

In the candidate countries, the majority of respondents in Turkey (42%) and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (55%) are positive about the situation of the European economy. Only a third of respondents in Croatia (34%) share this opinion; the majority (56%) are dissatisfied.

Although the divisions are fairly insignificant between the various categories with regard to perceptions of the national economic situation, on this question they are far more perceptible: the youngest respondents are the most satisfied (40% compared with a quarter – 25% – of those aged 55 or over), as are men (32% compared with 27% of women), people who studied until the age of 20 or beyond (35% compared with 20% of those who left school before the age of 16) and those on the right of the political spectrum (35% compared with 28% of those on the left). Logically, the people who have the most trust in the European Union are twice as likely (40%) to be satisfied than respondents who tend not to trust it (20%). Similarly, almost four out of ten respondents for whom the European Union conjures up a positive image (39%) share this satisfaction, compared with only 14% of those for whom its image is negative). These variations relative to trust in the European Union and the latter's image, although less pronounced, also exist for perceptions of the national economy.

**QA2a.2 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?**  
**The situation of the European economy**

	Total good	Total bad	DK
EU27	29%	62%	9%
<b>Sex</b>			
Male	32%	61%	7%
Female	27%	62%	11%
<b>Age</b>			
15-24	40%	49%	11%
25-39	32%	61%	7%
40-54	28%	65%	7%
55 +	25%	64%	11%
<b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	20%	69%	11%
16-19	28%	63%	9%
20+	35%	58%	7%
Still studying	42%	47%	11%
<b>Left-Right scale</b>			
(1-4) Left	28%	65%	7%
(5-6) Centre	30%	62%	8%
(7-10) Right	35%	58%	7%
<b>Trust in EU</b>			
Tend to trust	40%	55%	5%
Tend not to trust	20%	71%	9%
<b>Image of EU</b>			
Positive	39%	55%	6%
Neutral	25%	64%	11%
Negative	14%	77%	9%

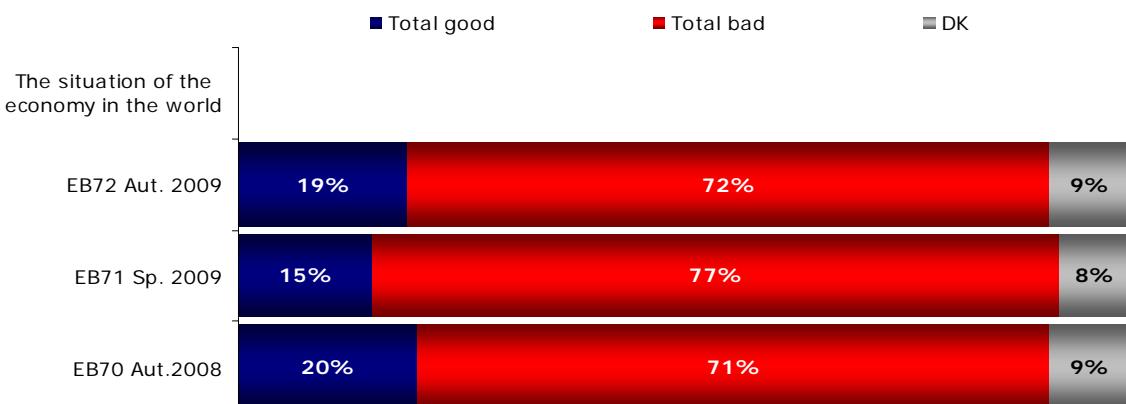
### 3.1.3 The world situation

Europeans are dissatisfied with the current situation of the world economy: almost three-quarters (72%) believe that it is "bad" (-5 points since the previous spring), and only a fifth (19%) take a positive view, which nevertheless represents an increase of 4 points<sup>25</sup>.

An extremely marginal fringe of Europeans describe the world economic situation as "very good" (1%, equivalent to the score recorded in spring 2009), while 18% consider it to be "rather good" (+4 points), 57% "rather bad" (+1 point) and 15% "very bad" (-6 points). Not only has the satisfaction level increased but the percentage of "very bad" answers has fallen sharply.

**QA2a3. How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?**

- % EU



More than four out of ten respondents in Latvia and Lithuania (42% and 41% respectively) are satisfied with the state of the world economy, as are 39% of respondents in Poland, 36% in Bulgaria, 31% in Romania and 30% in Estonia. Only 7% of respondents in Ireland, 8% in Portugal and Greece and 9% in France share this impression.

Once again we observe that the countries that are the most critical of their national economy are among those that are the most positive about the world economy.

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is the only country where a majority of respondents are satisfied (47%); respondents in Turkey and Croatia do not share their point of view (46% and 61% of negative opinions respectively).

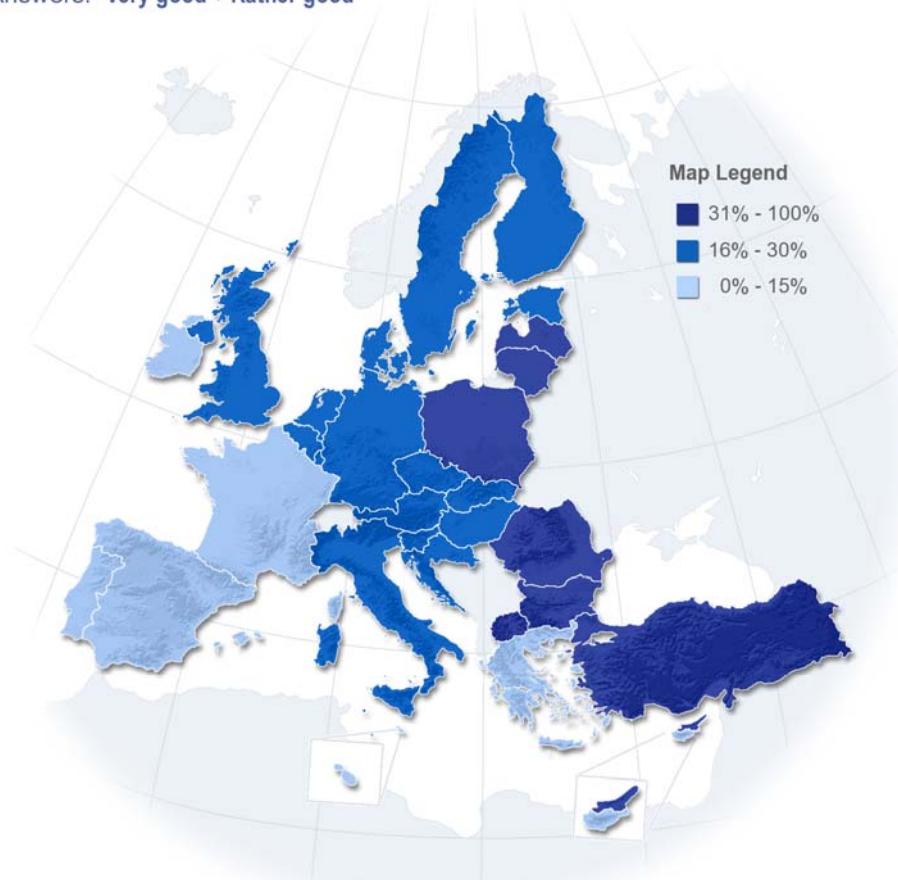
<sup>25</sup> A2a.3 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? The situation of the economy in the world

	LV	42%
	LT	41%
	PL	39%
	BG	36%
	RO	31%
	EE	30%
	FI	24%
	SK	24%
	LU	23%
	SI	23%
	CZ	22%
	AT	22%
	DK	22%
	NL	21%
	BE	20%
	HU	19%
	UK	19%
	EU27	19%
	DE	18%
	IT	17%
	SE	16%
	ES	13%
	CY	12%
	MT	11%
	FR	9%
	EL	8%
	PT	8%
	IE	7%
* CY (tcc) 36%		
	MK	47%
	TR	33%
	HR	29%

Question: QA2 .3. How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?

Option: The situation of the economy in the world

Answers: Very good + Rather good



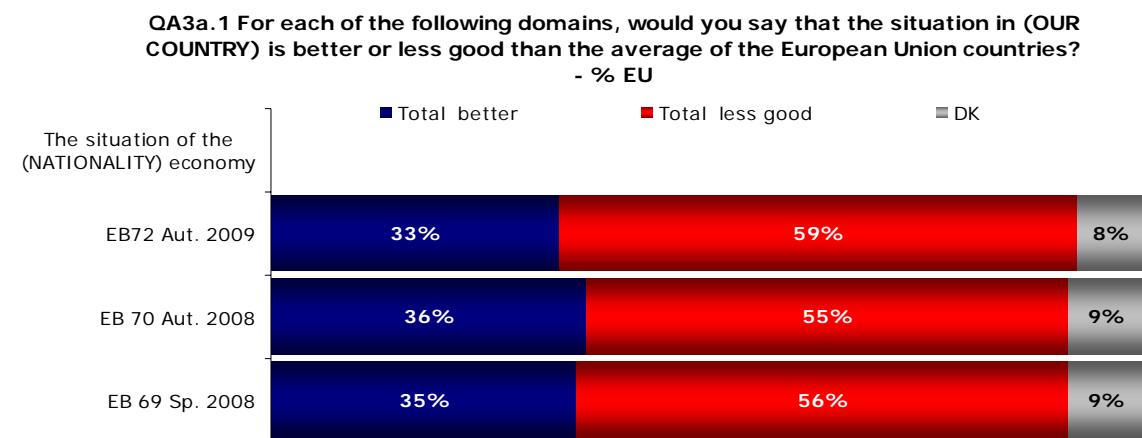
A large majority of Europeans are thus dissatisfied with the economic situation, first of all nationally (75% dissatisfied respondents and 23% satisfied respondents), then globally (72% and 19%) and finally, but to a lesser extent, at the European level (62% and 29%).

### 3.1.4 The national economic situation compared with the European average

When asked to compare the state of their country's economy with that of the European Union average, the majority of respondents are negative: 59% of them think that their country's economy is less robust than that of the European Union, while 33% believe that it is in better health.

The proportion of respondents expressing a negative opinion has increased by 4 points since autumn 2008, while the number believing that their country's economy is more dynamic than the European average has fallen by 3 percentage points.

It should be borne in mind, however, that the previous wave was carried out in autumn 2008, i.e. at the very beginning of the economic crisis.



National disparities are particularly evident on this question. Almost all respondents in Luxembourg (94%), 88% in Denmark, eight out of ten in Austria and the Netherlands (80% in both cases), 79% in Sweden and 73% in Finland consider that their country's economy is in a better state than the EU average. More than six out of ten respondents in Germany and Cyprus (62% and 61% respectively) agree.

On the other hand, the vast majority of respondents in Latvia (98%), Hungary (96%), Bulgaria and Lithuania (95% each) and Greece (94%) take the opposite view. 88% of respondents in Romania and Slovakia, 85% in Cyprus, the Czech Republic and Spain, 84% in Portugal, 83% in Estonia and 82% in Ireland also believe that the situation of their country's economy is worse than the EU average.

The proportion of respondents who consider that the condition of their national economy is better than the EU average has increased by 8 points in Austria and by 6 points in Luxembourg. However, it has fallen by 24 points in Ireland, 19 points in Slovenia, 18 points in Slovakia and 17 points in Spain.

The vast majority of respondents in the candidate countries consider that their country's economy is less robust than the European Union average: 92% of respondents in Croatia, 87% in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and seven out of ten interviewees in Turkey (70%) expressed this opinion.

A socio-demographic analysis highlights certain differences: respondents who studied until the age of 20 or beyond (43%) and managers (44%) are more likely to consider that their country's economy is in better shape than the European economy than respondents who left school before the age of 16 (27%), employees (34%), manual workers (33%) and unemployed people (24%).

**QA3a.1 For each of the following domains, would you say that the situation in (OUR COUNTRY) is better or less good than the average of the European Union countries?**  
**The situation of the (NATIONALITY) economy**

	Total better	Total less good	DK
EU27	33%	59%	8%
<b>Sex</b>			
Male	35%	59%	6%
Female	31%	60%	9%
<b>Age</b>			
15-24	35%	55%	10%
25-39	32%	62%	6%
40-54	33%	60%	7%
55 +	33%	58%	9%
<b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	27%	63%	10%
16-19	31%	61%	8%
20+	43%	52%	5%
Still studying	36%	56%	8%
<b>Respondent occupation scale</b>			
Self-employed	33%	62%	5%
Managers	44%	49%	7%
Other white collars	34%	61%	5%
Manual workers	33%	60%	7%
House persons	28%	63%	9%
Unemployed	24%	68%	8%
Retired	33%	57%	10%
Students	36%	56%	8%
<b>Left-Right scale</b>			
(1-4) Left	37%	56%	7%
(5-6) Centre	35%	58%	7%
(7-10) Right	37%	58%	5%
<b>Trust in EU</b>			
Tend to trust	37%	58%	5%
Tend not to trust	31%	61%	8%
<b>Image of EU</b>			
Positive	38%	56%	6%
Neutral	31%	60%	9%
Negative	24%	67%	9%

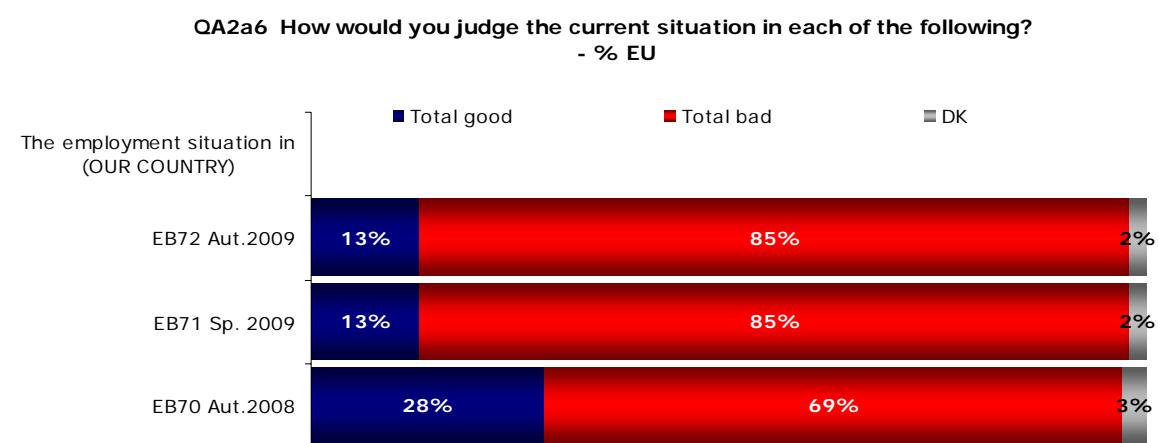
### 3.1.5 The employment situation at national level

**- A large majority of Europeans are dissatisfied with the employment situation in their country -**

Having examined the way in which Europeans perceive the economic situation in their country, in the European Union and globally, it is interesting to analyse how they judge the employment situation, which is closely linked to the previous questions, but which affects them more directly.

A very large majority of Europeans (85%) are dissatisfied with the employment situation in their country<sup>26</sup>. Only 13% take the opposite view. These figures are identical to those recorded in spring 2009.

We note that although Europeans are more confident about the economic situation than they were six months earlier, they remain far more cautious as regards employment. Europeans seem to have taken on board the idea of a burgeoning economic recovery, but do not yet seem to be convinced of any improvement on the employment front. The data recorded by the Eurobarometer reveal the existence of a real gap between perceptions of the economic position and of the employment situation.



Again, perceptions of this indicator vary considerably from one State to another. A majority of respondents are positive about the national employment situation in only two Member States: the Netherlands (52%) and Luxembourg (51%).

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<sup>26</sup> A2a.6 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? The employment situation in (OUR COUNTRY)

Four out of ten respondents in Denmark, more than a third in Austria (36%), 31% in Cyprus and approximately a quarter in Sweden and Finland (26% and 25% respectively) are also positive in this regard.

On the other hand, almost all respondents in the Baltic States (98% in Latvia, 95% in Lithuania and 92% in Estonia), 97% in Ireland, 96% in Hungary, 95% in Portugal, 94% in Greece and Spain, 92% in France and Slovakia as well as more than nine out of ten respondents in Bulgaria and Slovenia (91% each) are negative about the employment situation in their country. Many of the respondents in these Member States also expressed the same dissatisfaction with their country's economy.

 NL 52% Question: QA2 .6. How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?

 LU 51%

Option: The employment situation in (OUR COUNTRY)

 DK 40%

 AT 36%

 CY 31%

 SE 26%

 FI 25%

 BE 22%

 MT 19%

 PL 17%

 UK 14%

 IT 14%

 EU27 13%

 DE 12%

 CZ 11%

 SI 8%

 SK 7%

 EE 6%

 FR 6%

 RO 6%

 EL 5%

 ES 5%

 BG 4%

 PT 4%

 HU 3%

 LV 2%

 LT 2%

 IE 2%

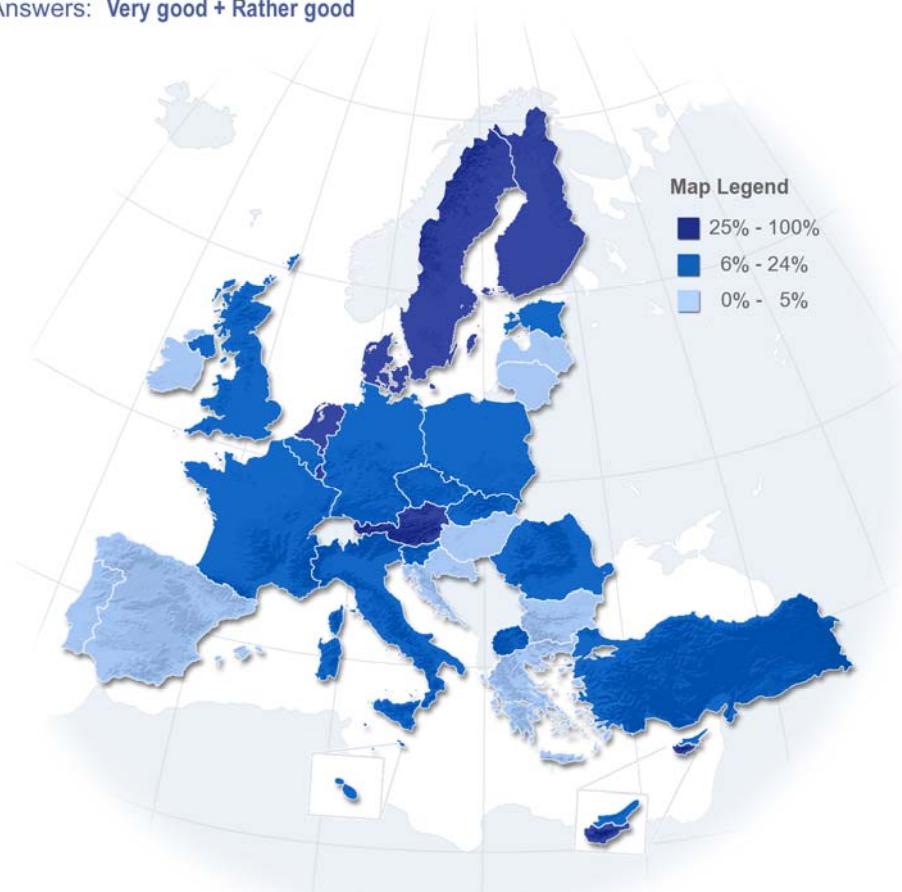
\* CY (tcc) 20%

 TR 14%

 MK 8%

 HR 3%

For CY(tcc); The employment situation in the Turkish Cypriot Community



Confidence has fallen sharply in Denmark (-11 points) and, to a lesser extent, in Cyprus and Malta (both -6 points). On the other hand, it has risen by 6 points in Austria and Luxembourg.

**QA2.6 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?**  
**-The employment situation in (OUR COUNTRY)**

	% Very good + Rather good	EB70 Aut.2008	EB71 Sp.2009	EB72 Aut.2009	Diff. Aut.2009- Sp.2009
EU27	28%	13%	13%	=	
LU	44%	45%	51%	+6	
AT	61%	30%	36%	+6	
BE	39%	17%	22%	+5	
NL	88%	50%	52%	+2	
ES	10%	4%	5%	+1	
FR	10%	5%	6%	+1	
IT	13%	13%	14%	+1	
SE	48%	25%	26%	+1	
UK	30%	13%	14%	+1	
DE	41%	12%	12%	=	
LV	16%	2%	2%	=	
HU	5%	3%	3%	=	
EL	8%	6%	5%	-1	
LT	21%	3%	2%	-1	
PT	4%	5%	4%	-1	
RO	18%	7%	6%	-1	
FI	72%	26%	25%	-1	
BG	25%	6%	4%	-2	
EE	29%	8%	6%	-2	
IE	17%	4%	2%	-2	
SK	33%	9%	7%	-2	
SI	35%	11%	8%	-3	
CZ	43%	15%	11%	-4	
PL	37%	21%	17%	-4	
CY	52%	37%	31%	-6	
MT	45%	25%	19%	-6	
DK	91%	51%	40%	-11	
CY (tcc)	34%	27%	20%	-7	
TR	11%	14%	14%	=	
MK	9%	8%	8%	=	
HR	11%	7%	3%	-4	

There is widespread dissatisfaction in the candidate countries: the vast majority of respondents in Croatia (96%) and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (91%), and a substantial majority in Turkey (84%), describe their national employment situation as "bad".

A socio-demographic analysis reveals some differences reflecting the respondent's occupation: a fifth of managers (20%) are satisfied with the employment situation in their country compared with 16% of employees, 13% of manual workers and 8% of unemployed people. In addition, almost a quarter of the respondents who place themselves at the top of the social hierarchy (23%) are satisfied compared with only 7% of those who place themselves towards the bottom..

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**QA2a.6 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?  
The employment situation in (OUR COUNTRY)**

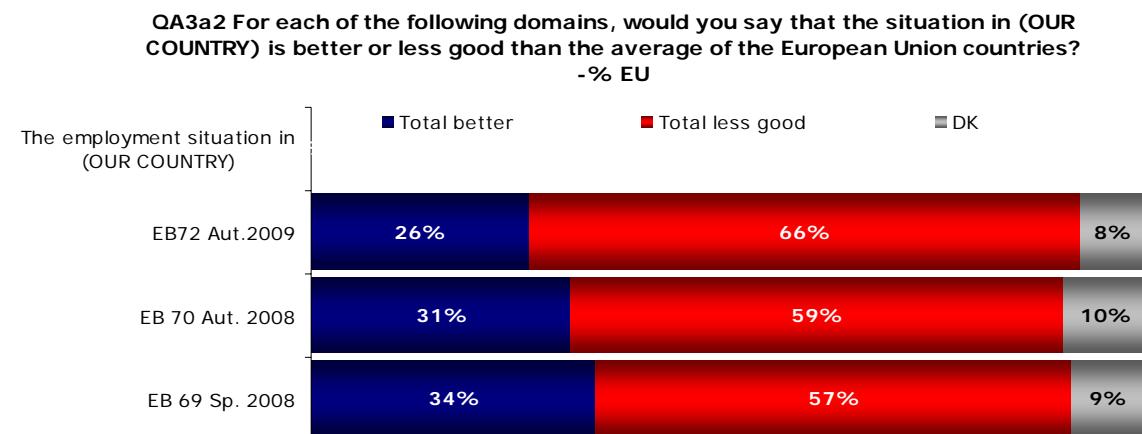
	Total good	Total bad	DK
EU27	13%	85%	2%
<b>Respondent occupation scale</b>			
Self-employed	14%	84%	2%
Managers	20%	80%	-
Other white collars	16%	83%	1%
Manual workers	13%	86%	1%
House persons	11%	88%	1%
Unemployed	8%	91%	1%
Retired	11%	86%	3%
Students	16%	80%	4%
<b>Self-positioning on the social staircase</b>			
Low (1-4)	7%	91%	2%
Medium (5-6)	12%	87%	1%
High (7-10)	23%	76%	1%

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### 3.1.6 The national employment situation compared with the European average

Quite logically, in the light of the results of the previous question, the comparison of the national employment situation with the European average confirms the pessimistic trend. Two-thirds of Europeans (66%) consider that the situation in their country is worse than the EU average; this figure is 7 points higher than one year earlier. A quarter (26%) think that it is better (-5 points)<sup>27</sup>.

This result reflects the consequences of the crisis. Whereas in spring 2008 (EB69), a third of Europeans (34%) considered that the national employment situation was better than the European Union average, only a quarter (26%) now take that view.

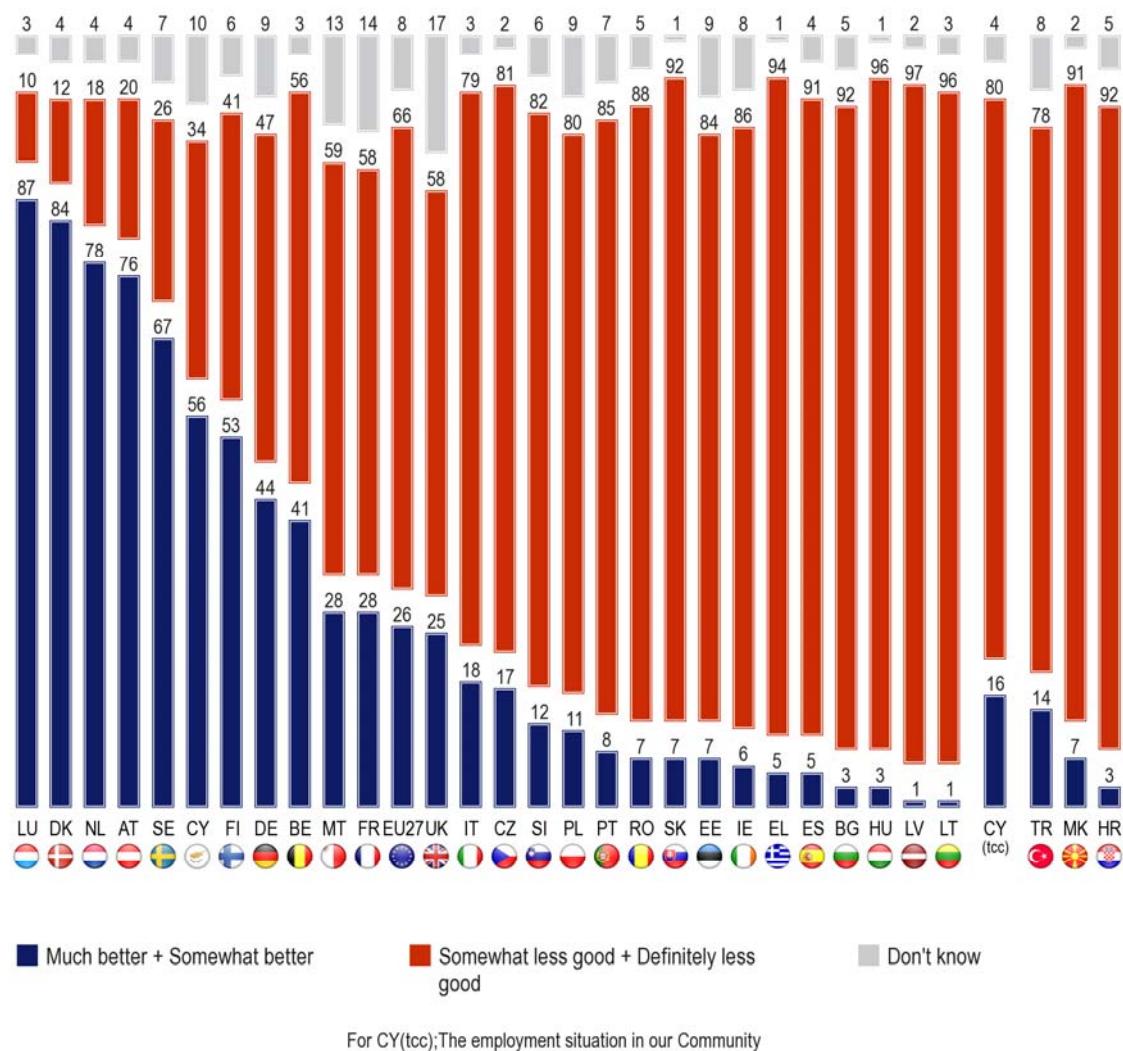


A large majority of respondents in Luxembourg (87%), Denmark (84%), the Netherlands (78%), Austria (76%) and Sweden (67%) consider that the employment situation in their country is better than the European Union average, while almost all respondents in Latvia (97%), Hungary and Lithuania (both 96%), Greece (94%), Bulgaria and Slovakia (92% each), and Spain (91%) take the opposite view.

<sup>27</sup> QA3a.2 For each of the following domains, would you say that the situation in (OUR COUNTRY) is better or less good than the average of the European Union countries? The employment situation in (OUR COUNTRY)

QA3 .2. For each of the following domains, would you say that the situation in (OUR COUNTRY) is better or less good than the average of the European Union countries?

The employment situation in (OUR COUNTRY)



The number of respondents who consider that the employment situation in their country is better than the European average has increased since autumn 2008 in only two Member States: Luxembourg (+7 points) and France (+4 points). On the other hand, support for this position has fallen considerably in several countries: -22 points in Ireland, -20 points in the Czech Republic, -19 points in Slovenia, -18 points in Finland, -16 points in Belgium, -14 points in Spain, -13 points in Slovakia and -12 points in the United Kingdom.

A large majority of respondents in the candidate countries consider that the employment situation is worse in their country than on average in the European Union: 92% of respondents in Croatia and 91% in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia take this view, as do more than three-quarters of interviewees in Turkey (78%).

Almost four out of ten managers (39%) state that the employment situation is better in their country than the EU average, compared with 27% of employees, 26% of manual workers and 16% of unemployed people. Moreover, opinions on the national economic situation have a critical bearing on this question: more than half of the respondents who say that they are satisfied with their country's economic situation (53%) also believe that the national employment situation is better than the EU average compared with only 17% of those who say that they are dissatisfied with the state of their country's economy.

### 3.2 Expectations for the future

**- Europeans now have more confidence in the outlook for the economy and employment at national, European and world levels -**

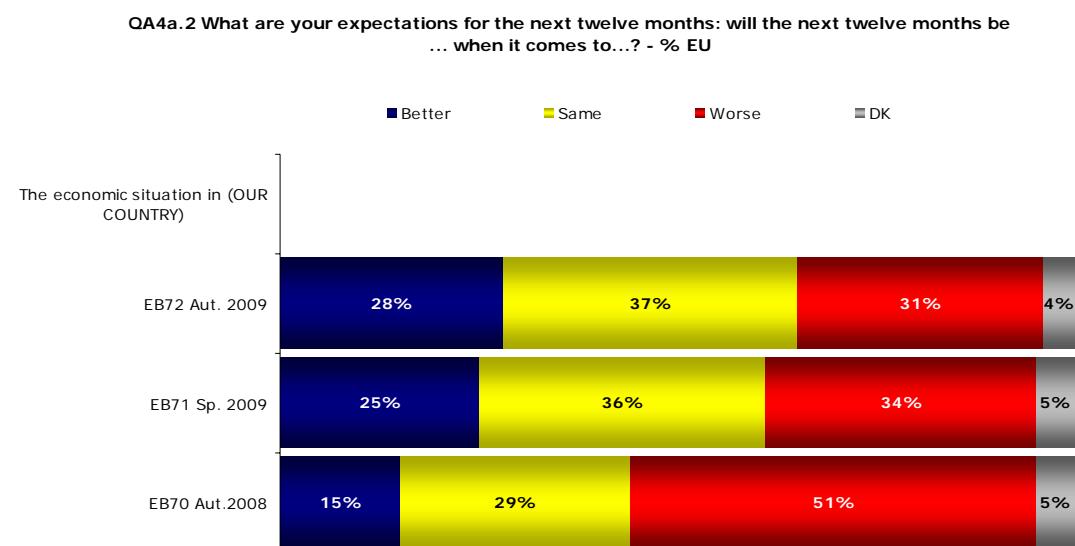
Although a majority of European Union citizens are dissatisfied with the national economic and employment situation, they are nevertheless more confident than they were six months ago about the prospects for short-term improvement.

#### 3.2.1 The national economic situation over the next 12 months

Europeans are divided about the economic outlook for their country. A relative majority (37%) expect things to remain the same over the next 12 months, while 28% expect things to improve and 31% expect the situation to get worse<sup>28</sup>.

The percentage of respondents who are optimistic on this subject has increased since spring 2009 (+3 points), while the proportion expecting things to stay the same has increased by 1 point. The number of pessimists has fallen by 3 points.

However it is when the results are compared with those recorded in autumn 2008 (EB70) that the increase in positive opinions (+13 points) and the decline in negative views (-20 percentage points) appear most spectacular.



<sup>28</sup> QA4a.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)

In eight of the twenty-seven Member States the proportion of respondents who expect the national economic situation to improve over the next 12 months exceeds the percentage who expect the situation to get worse. However, a majority of respondents are pessimistic in more than two-thirds of the Member States (nineteen out of twenty-seven).

By far the most confident respondents when it comes to the outlook for their country's economy are found in Sweden (61% expect an improvement), Denmark (45%) and the United Kingdom and the Netherlands (both 42%).

The most pessimistic respondents are found in Lithuania (55%), Ireland (54%), Cyprus and Hungary (53% each). 48% of respondents in Latvia, 45% in Romania and 43% in the Czech Republic also consider that their national economy will be worse in one year's time.

To obtain the most accurate possible picture of changes in the expectations of Europeans, it is worth referring again to the index which reflects the difference between the "best" positive answers and "worst" negative answers. The difference between the indices for Eurobarometer 72 and Eurobarometer 71 (spring 2009) gives us a complete picture of national changes: in 18 Member States, this difference is positive, which means that expectations for the national economic outlook have improved in these countries. This applies in the Netherlands (+41), Estonia (+28), Greece (+23), Austria (+21), Sweden (+19), and to a lesser extent Portugal (+15), Denmark and Luxembourg (both +14), Slovakia and the United Kingdom (both +13) and Finland (+10). The difference between the EB72 and EB71 indices is negative in 8 Member States, including Malta (-18), Cyprus (-13) and Lithuania (-12). Finally, the index is unchanged in Italy.

**QA4.2 What are your expectations for the next 12 months:  
will the next 12 months be better, worse or the same, when  
it comes to...?**

**-The economic situation in (OUR COUNTRY)**

		EB71 Sp.2009 Better- worse	EB72 Aut.2009 Better- worse	DIFF. Aut.2009- Sp.2009
	EU27	-9	-3	+6
	NL	-28	+13	+41
	EE	-20	+8	+28
	EL	-37	-14	+23
	AT	-13	+8	+21
	SE	+31	+50	+19
	PT	-29	-14	+15
	DK	+16	+30	+14
	LU	-15	-1	+14
	SK	-34	-21	+13
	UK	+9	+22	+13
	FI	+1	+11	+10
	DE	-11	-3	+8
	FR	-4	+4	+8
	PL	-12	-4	+8
	BG	-22	-15	+7
	LV	-42	-36	+6
	BE	-13	-8	+5
	HU	-40	-39	+1
	IT	-8	-8	0
	CZ	-24	-25	-1
	SI	-11	-13	-2
	ES	-1	-6	-5
	RO	-22	-29	-7
	IE	-30	-38	-8
	LT	-29	-41	-12
	CY	-29	-42	-13
	MT	+7	-11	-18
	CY (tcc)	-14	-31	-17
	MK	-8	-3	+5
	TR	-14	-21	-7
	HR	-37	-46	-9

For CY(tcc); The economic situation in the Turkish  
Cypriot Community

Expectations have deteriorated in Croatia (-9 points) and Turkey (-7), but are considerably higher in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (+5).

Finally, there was a fairly sharp deterioration in expectations of the economic situation in the Turkish Cypriot Community between spring and autumn 2009: the index declined by 17 points between the two surveys.

Young people represent the only age group where a majority of respondents are confident about the short-term outlook for their country's economy: 36% of those aged 15 to 24 are optimistic, compared with only 23% of those aged 55 or over. Managers are the only socio-professional category in which a majority of respondents are optimistic: 40% expect the national economic situation to improve over the coming year; 31% of employees and 27% of manual workers share this opinion. More than a third of respondents who place themselves at the top of the social hierarchy (36%) expect the national economic situation to improve over the next 12 months compared with only a fifth (20%) of those who place themselves towards the bottom.

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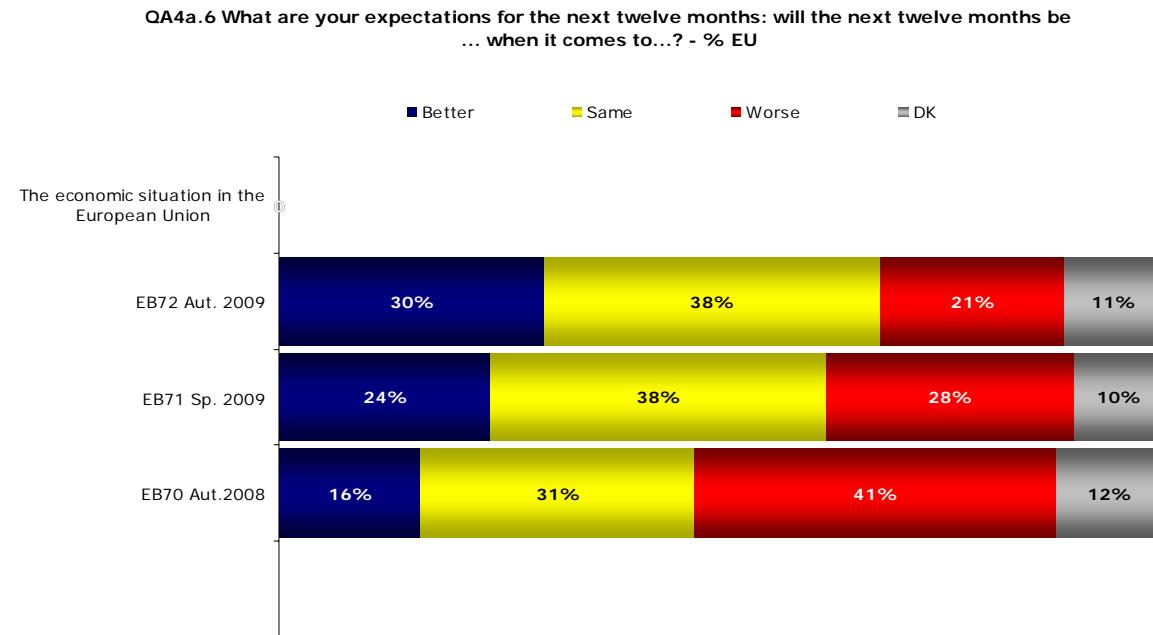
**QA4a.2 What are your expectations for the next 12 months: will the next 12 months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?**  
**The economic situation in (OUR COUNTRY)**

	Better	Worse	Same	DK
EU27	28%	31%	37%	4%
<b>Sex</b>				
Male	30%	30%	36%	4%
Female	27%	31%	38%	4%
<b>Age</b>				
15-24	36%	23%	35%	6%
25-39	33%	29%	35%	3%
40-54	27%	33%	37%	3%
55 +	23%	32%	40%	5%
<b>Respondent occupation scale</b>				
Self-employed	30%	31%	35%	4%
Managers	40%	27%	31%	2%
Other white collars	31%	30%	37%	2%
Manual workers	27%	31%	38%	4%
House persons	22%	33%	40%	5%
Unemployed	26%	34%	34%	6%
Retired	22%	32%	41%	5%
Students	39%	22%	33%	6%
<b>Self-positioning on the social staircase</b>				
Low (1-4)	20%	37%	37%	6%
Medium (5-6)	29%	29%	38%	4%
High (7-10)	36%	27%	35%	2%
<b>Trust in EU</b>				
Tend to trust	34%	26%	37%	3%
Tend not to trust	23%	37%	36%	4%

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### 3.2.2 The situation of the European economy over the next 12 months

While a majority of Europeans feel that their country's economic and social situation is not as good overall as that of the other Member States, they are divided as regards the short-term outlook: almost a third (30%) think that the European Union's economic situation will improve over the next 12 months, while a fifth (21%) think that it will deteriorate and almost four out of ten (38%) expect things to remain the same<sup>29</sup>.



Since spring 2009, the percentage of respondents who are optimistic has increased by 6 points and the proportion of pessimists has decreased significantly (-7 points). The number of respondents who consider that things will remain the same during the next 12 months is unchanged. The ratio of pessimists to optimists has therefore been reversed since spring 2009, and optimists now outweigh those who expect the situation to deteriorate over the next 12 months. The improvement in the situation is even more clear-cut when we compare the results with those recorded in autumn 2008 (EB70). The proportion of optimistic respondents has increased by 14 points (from 16% to 30%), while the proportion of pessimists has fallen sharply (from 41% to 21%, -20 points). Finally, the number of respondents who believe that things will remain the same over the next 12 months has increased by 7 points (from 31% to 38%).

<sup>29</sup> QA4a.6 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 European Union

Respondents in Sweden and Estonia are the most confident: 46% and 45% respectively expect an improvement. More than four out of ten respondents in Lithuania and Latvia (both 42%) and 40% in Spain share their opinion. In total, optimists exceed pessimists in 17 of the 27 Member States.

On the other hand, almost four out of ten people in Luxembourg (39%) expect the European economic situation to deteriorate over the next 12 months, as do a third of respondents in Hungary and Belgium (35% and 34% respectively), 32% in Ireland and 31% in Austria.

The index difference reveals that expectations regarding the economic situation in the European Union have improved in all Member States except in Malta, where there has been no change.

There has been a particularly sharp improvement in the Netherlands (+46 points), Greece (+28), Luxembourg (+25), Finland and Sweden (both +22), Estonia, Austria and the United Kingdom (all +21).

**QA4.6 What are your expectations for the next 12 months: will the next 12 months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?**

-The economic situation in the European Union

	EB71 Sp.2009 Better- worse	EB72 Aut.2009 Better- worse	DIFF. Aut.2009- Sp.2009
EU27	-4	+9	+13
NL	-39	+7	+46
EL	-24	+4	+28
LU	-33	-8	+25
FI	-13	+9	+22
SE	+10	+32	+22
EE	+15	+36	+21
AT	-20	+1	+21
UK	+1	+22	+21
LV	+13	+32	+19
DK	-2	+15	+17
SK	-17	=	+17
BG	+7	+23	+16
FR	-7	+9	+16
PT	-19	-4	+15
CY	-19	-6	+13
LT	+11	+24	+13
BE	-13	-3	+10
DE	-15	-5	+10
CZ	-13	-4	+9
IE	-16	-7	+9
PL	+7	+14	+7
RO	+6	+13	+7
SI	-2	+4	+6
ES	+15	+20	+5
IT	-5	=	+5
HU	-14	-10	+4
MT	+13	+13	=
CY (tcc)	+6	+2	-4
HR	-12	=	+12
MK	+18	+28	+10
TR	-1	+7	+8

Optimism about the future varies in accordance with the respondent's socio-demographic and ideological profile: thus, men (34%), the youngest respondents (38% of those aged 15-24) and managers (40%) are far more confident than women (26%), the oldest respondents (24% of those aged 55 or over) and manual workers and employees (28% and 32% respectively).

Young people once again confirm their greater optimism, irrespective of the aspect in question; this optimism decreases gradually with age for all aspects examined. Similarly, respondents who studied until the age of 20 or beyond (36%) and those who are on the right of the political spectrum (34%) are more likely to be optimistic than those who left school before the age of 16 (22%) and respondents with left-wing sympathies (29%).

Other variables regarding knowledge of and attitudes to the European Union also play a role in shaping the answers to this question. Objective knowledge of the European Union<sup>30</sup> is a key factor: 35% of the respondents who have a good objective knowledge of the European Union are optimistic compared with 20% of citizens whose knowledge of the European Union is poor. The image that the European Union conjures up for respondents is also a determinant. The more positive this image, the more the respondent is likely to be confident about the future (38% compared with 19% of those for whom the European Union's image is negative).

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<sup>30</sup> Objective knowledge of the European Union is calculated on the basis of a "quiz" question: respondents are asked to decide whether 4 statements are true or false. The interviewees who give no right answers to the 4 statements are classified in the "poor objective knowledge of the EU" category. The "average objective knowledge of the EU" category includes those who gave one or two right answers. Finally, respondents with three or four right answers are classified in the "good objective knowledge of the EU" category.

**QA4a.6 What are your expectations for the next 12 months: will the next 12 months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?**

The economic situation in the European Union

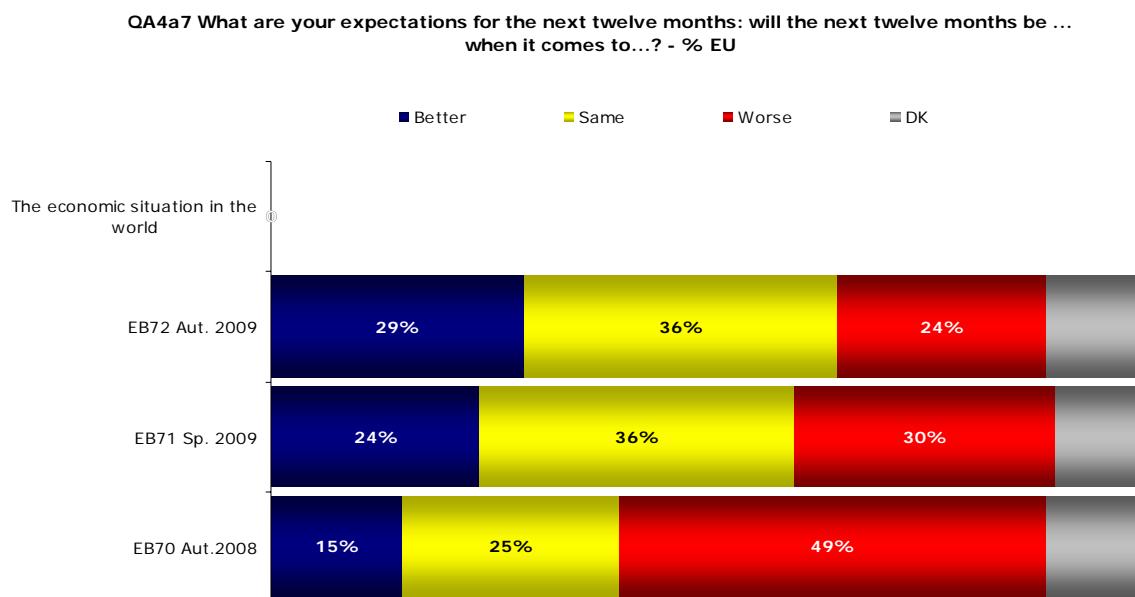
	Better	Worse	Same	DK
EU27	30%	21%	38%	11%
<b>Sex</b>				
Male	34%	21%	37%	8%
Female	26%	22%	38%	14%
<b>Age</b>				
15-24	38%	15%	35%	12%
25-39	34%	20%	38%	8%
40-54	28%	23%	38%	11%
55 +	24%	24%	39%	13%
<b>Education (End of)</b>				
15-	22%	24%	39%	15%
16-19	28%	22%	39%	11%
20+	36%	21%	36%	7%
Still studying	41%	14%	34%	11%
<b>Respondent occupation scale</b>				
Self-employed	33%	22%	37%	8%
Managers	40%	20%	33%	7%
Other white collars	32%	23%	39%	6%
Manual workers	28%	21%	40%	11%
House persons	24%	23%	40%	13%
Unemployed	28%	24%	35%	13%
Retired	23%	23%	40%	14%
Students	41%	14%	34%	11%
<b>Left-Right scale</b>				
(1-4) Left	29%	25%	37%	9%
(5-6) Centre	31%	21%	38%	10%
(7-10) Right	34%	22%	36%	8%
<b>Self-positioning on the social staircase</b>				
Low (1-4)	24%	24%	38%	14%
Medium (5-6)	30%	21%	39%	10%
High (7-10)	36%	20%	37%	7%
<b>Image of EU</b>				
Positive	38%	17%	36%	9%
Neutral	23%	22%	42%	13%
Negative	19%	34%	37%	10%
<b>Objective knowledge of the EU</b>				
Bad	20%	21%	37%	22%
Average	30%	21%	39%	10%
Good	35%	23%	36%	6%

### 3.2.3 The world economic situation over the next 12 months

Three out of ten Europeans expect the world economic situation to improve over the next 12 months (29%), while a quarter take the opposite view (24%) and more than a third (36%) expect the position to remain the same<sup>31</sup>. Confidence is higher than in spring 2009, when just under a quarter of Europeans (24%) were optimistic about the outlook for the world economy compared with almost three out of ten respondents now (+5 points).

On the other hand, the proportion of pessimists has fallen by 6 points (from 30% to 24%). Once again, the improvement in expectations is even more significant in comparison with autumn 2008 (EB70): the proportion of optimists has increased by 14 points (from 15% to 29%), while that of pessimists has fallen by half (from 49% to 24%, -25 points) and the proportion of respondents who expect things to remain the same has risen by 11 points (from 25% to 36%).

As noted previously in relation to the European economy, the ratio of pessimists to optimists regarding the outlook for the world economy has been reversed since the Eurobarometer of last spring.



<sup>31</sup> QA4a.7 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 world

Respondents in the Baltic States are among the most optimistic: 47% of respondents in Latvia, 44% in Lithuania and 43% in Estonia expect the world economic situation to improve over the next 12 months, as do respondents in Sweden (46%). On the other hand, more than four out of ten respondents in Luxembourg and Cyprus (44% and 41% respectively), 39% in Belgium and a third in Hungary and Greece (both 34%) and the Netherlands (33%) expect the world economic situation to get worse during the coming year.

In terms of changes since the previous wave, public opinion has moved positively in all the Member States except for Cyprus where the situation remains unchanged. This improvement in expectations of the world economic situation is particularly significant in the Netherlands (+36 points), Bulgaria, Greece, Lithuania and Austria (all +22), Estonia and Luxembourg (both +21 each), and Finland and Sweden (+20).

**QA4.7 What are your expectations for the next 12 months: will the next 12 months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?**  
**-The economic situation in the world**

	EB71 Sp.2009 Better-worse	EB72 Aut.2009 Better-worse	DIFF. Aut.2009-Sp.2009
EU27	-6	+5	+11
NL	-35	+1	+36
BG	+3	+25	+22
EL	-31	-9	+22
LT	+11	+33	+22
AT	-20	+2	+22
EE	+13	+34	+21
LU	-36	-15	+21
FI	-10	+10	+20
SE	+8	+28	+20
DK	-2	+16	+18
SK	-23	-5	+18
LV	+19	+36	+17
UK	=	+16	+16
FR	-9	+5	+14
PT	-19	-6	+13
DE	-13	-4	+9
ES	+7	+16	+9
BE	-16	-8	+8
CZ	-12	-4	+8
IE	-10	-2	+8
PL	+4	+11	+7
RO	+3	+10	+7
SI	-3	+3	+6
HU	-11	-6	+5
IT	-8	-5	+3
MT	+8	+9	+1
CY	-30	-30	=
CY (tcc)	-4	-13	-9
MK	+13	+23	+10
HR	-14	-4	+10
TR	-4	-3	+1

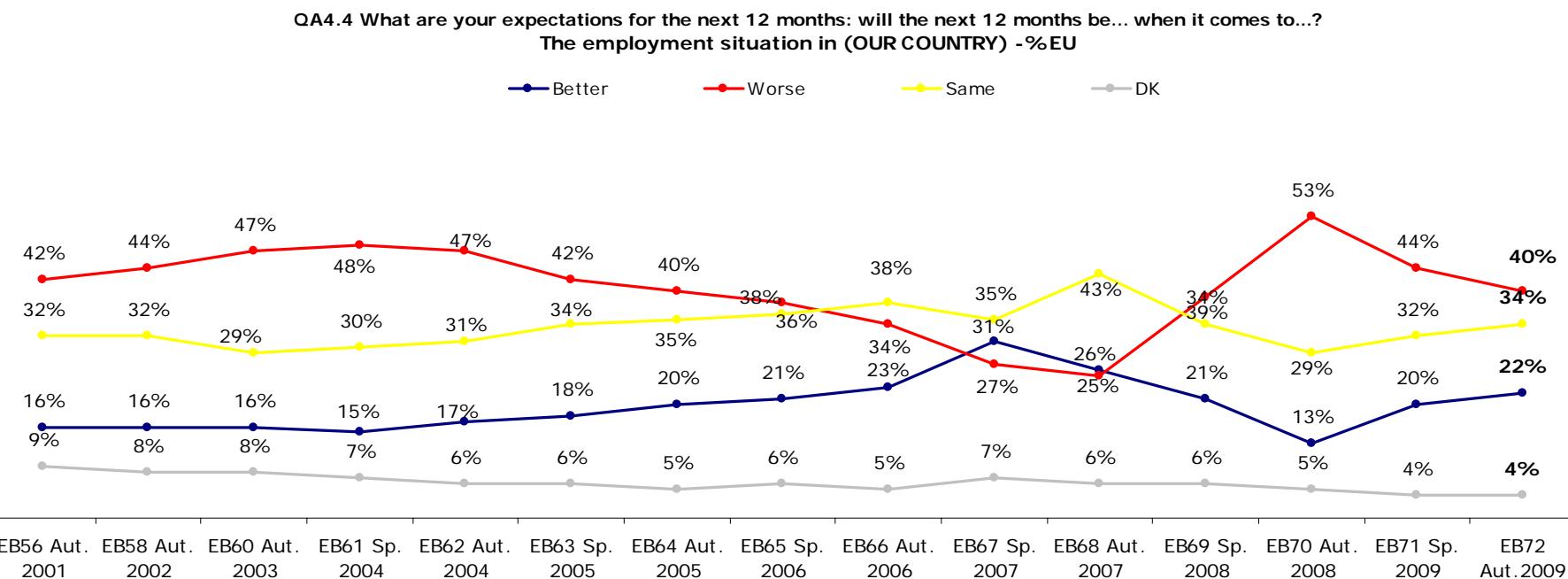
The majority of respondents in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (38%) are optimistic about the outlook for the world economy while the majority in Croatia and Turkey expect no changes (36% and 31% respectively).

The results of the socio-demographic analysis are identical to those noted previously regarding the outlook for the European economy: men, the youngest respondents and the most educated are among the most optimistic.

### ***3.2.4 The employment situation over the next 12 months***

Europeans' expectations regarding the outlook for their national employment situation are logically correlated with those concerning the outlook for the national economy. More than a fifth of Europeans expect an improvement (22%), while a third expect things to remain the same (34%) and a higher percentage (40%) fear that the situation will deteriorate. Here again, optimism has increased slightly (+2 points) since spring 2009, as has the proportion of respondents who expect the situation to remain the same (+2) while pessimism has fallen (-4 points).

Although a majority of respondents have been pessimistic since the spring 2008 Eurobarometer, pessimism has been declining since the peak of autumn 2008, and the increasing convergence of the optimism and pessimism curves suggests that these curves will cross in the future.



Respondents in Scandinavia and the United Kingdom are the only ones who are emphatically optimistic: almost half of respondents in Sweden (47%), 36% in Denmark and 33% in the United Kingdom expect the employment situation in their country to improve. The results by Member States coincide to a large extent with those recorded for the question on the national economic outlook. Thus, respondents in Estonia and Finland (both 30%), Luxembourg and the Netherlands (both 29%) are the most confident, while respondents in Lithuania (63%), Ireland (60%), Hungary (58%) and Cyprus (57%) are the most likely to expect the employment situation in their country to deteriorate.

Compared with the last wave, respondents are more optimistic about the outlook for national employment in 16 Member States, in particular in the Netherlands (+39 points for the index), Greece (+24), Estonia (+23), Sweden (+22) and Denmark (+20). On the other hand, the index difference is negative, indicating lower expectations, in 11 Member States. It stands at -14 in Lithuania, and -13 in Romania and Malta.

**QA4.4 What are your expectations for the next 12 months: will the next 12 months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?**  
**-The employment situation in (OUR COUNTRY)**

		EB71 Sp.2009 Better-Worse	EB72 Aut.2009 Better-Worse	DIFF. Aut.2009-Sp.2009
EU27		-24	-18	+6
NL		-56	-17	+39
EL		-44	-20	+24
EE		-30	-7	+23
SE		+3	+25	+22
DK		-15	+5	+20
UK		-13	+4	+17
LU		-31	-17	+14
AT		-24	-10	+14
PT		-37	-25	+12
SK		-46	-34	+12
FI		-21	-9	+12
BE		-30	-19	+11
FR		-20	-11	+9
DE		-38	-31	+7
LV		-42	-38	+4
PL		-19	-15	+4
BG		-33	-34	-1
CZ		-32	-34	-2
HU		-44	-46	-2
IT		-13	-17	-4
IE		-42	-47	-5
ES		-7	-12	-5
CY		-44	-49	-5
SI		-16	-23	-7
MT		=	-13	-13
RO		-27	-40	-13
LT		-38	-52	-14
CY (tcc)		-18	-27	-9
MK		-20	-15	+5
TR		-23	-29	-6
HR		-37	-57	-20

For CY(tcc); The employment situation in the Turkish Cypriot Community

Respondents in Croatia are particularly pessimistic about the employment outlook in their country: their expectations have actually deteriorated since spring 2009 (the index has fallen by 20 percentage points to -57). Expectations have also deteriorated in Turkey, but to a lesser extent (-6). However, there has been an upturn in optimism in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (+5).

As previously noted regarding expectations for the other aspects tested, the youngest respondents and those who stayed the longest in full-time education are the most confident. 30% of respondents in the 15 to 24 age group expect their national employment situation to improve, compared with 17% of those aged 55 or over. Furthermore, 26% of Europeans who studied until the age of 20 or beyond are optimistic compared with less than a fifth of those who left school before the age of 16 (18%).

Finally, a quarter of unemployed people (24%) are confident, i.e. a percentage similar to that of employees (24%) and manual workers (23%); managers are slightly more likely to be optimistic (28%).

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**QA4a.4 What are your expectations for the next 12 months: will the next 12 months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?**

-The employment situation in (OUR COUNTRY)

	Better	Worse	Same	DK
EU27	22%	40%	34%	4%
<b>Age</b>				
15-24	30%	30%	35%	5%
25-39	26%	38%	33%	3%
40-54	21%	43%	33%	3%
55 +	17%	44%	34%	5%
<b>Education (End of)</b>				
15-16	18%	43%	34%	5%
16-19	21%	42%	33%	4%
20+	26%	38%	33%	3%
Still studying	31%	28%	35%	6%
<b>Respondent occupation scale</b>				
Self-employed	23%	42%	32%	3%
Managers	28%	38%	32%	2%
Other white collars	24%	38%	35%	3%
Manual workers	23%	40%	33%	4%
House persons	18%	43%	34%	5%
Unemployed	24%	41%	30%	5%
Retired	17%	43%	35%	5%
Students	31%	28%	35%	6%

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### 3.3 The main national concerns

#### **- Unemployment is still by far the main national concern of Europeans -**

Having examined the most important issues facing Europeans in their personal life, we shall now examine their concerns at national level.

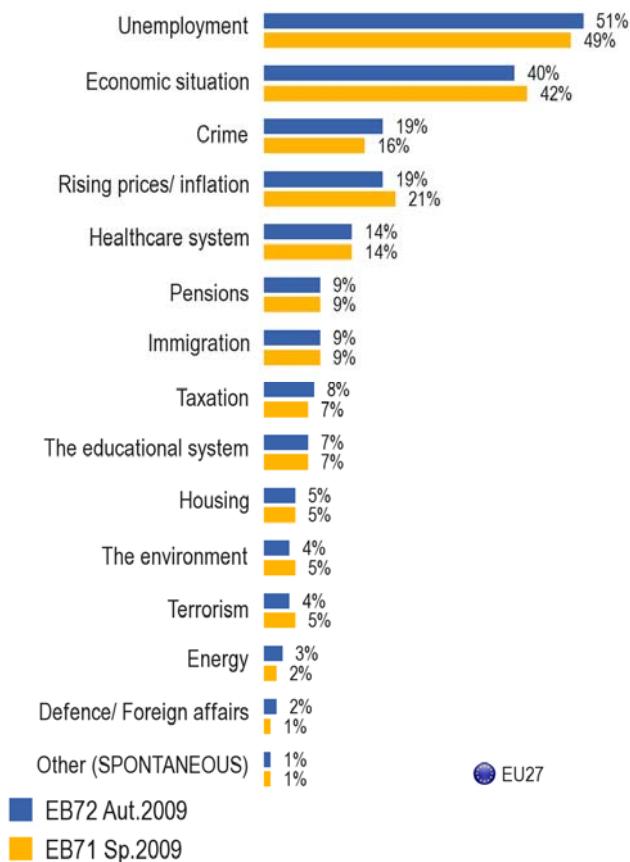
When asked for their views on fourteen issues<sup>32</sup>, half of Europeans (51%) mentioned unemployment as one of the two most important issues facing their country. The economic situation was the second most frequently mentioned issue, being cited by four out of ten Europeans (40%). Crime was ranked joint third with rising prices/inflation (19% in both cases). The next highest scores were obtained by the healthcare system (14%) and pensions, with the same score as immigration (9% each). EU citizens next mentioned taxation (8%), the education system (7%), housing (5%), the environment and terrorism (both 4%), energy (3%) and finally defence/foreign affairs (2%).

In comparison with the results recorded in spring 2009, crime has increased in importance (+3 points) as have unemployment (+2 points), taxation, energy and defence/foreign affairs (+1 point each). On the other hand, the economic situation and rising prices have lost ground (-2 points), as have terrorism and the environment (-1 percentage point). The scores for the other issues are unchanged.

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<sup>32</sup> QA5a What do you think are the two most important issues facing (OUR COUNTRY) at the moment?

QA5a. What do you think are the two most important issues facing (OUR COUNTRY) at the moment?

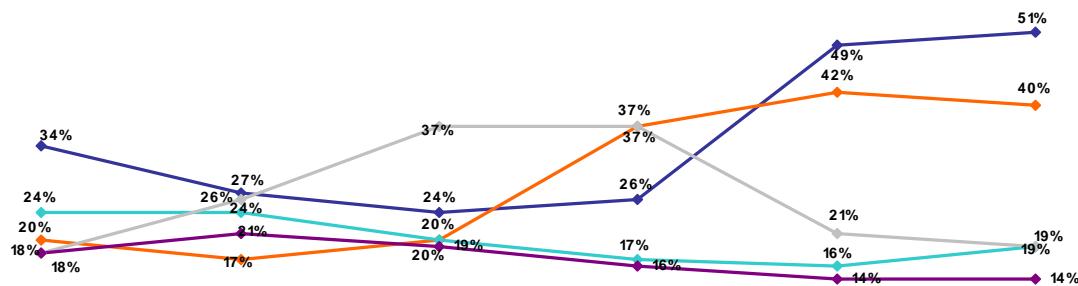


It is particularly interesting to analyse changes over a longer period. When economic confidence was at its highest (Eurobarometer 67, spring 2007), crime (24%) and the healthcare system (18%) obtained almost equal scores with the economic situation (20%) and relatively close to the level reached by unemployment (34%) among the main subjects of concern. At the same time, economic prosperity fuelled growing concerns about inflation and rising prices (from 16% in autumn 2006, EB66, to 37% in autumn 2008, EB70). When confidence in the economic situation declined to the extent that only a minority of respondents were confident in autumn 2008 (Eurobarometer 70), the order of concerns was reversed, with the economic situation (37%) and rising prices/inflation (37%) becoming the two most frequently mentioned issues, soon overtaken by unemployment (26% in autumn 2008, EB70, but 49% in spring 2009, EB71 and 51% in the EB72, autumn 2009 survey).

The table on the next page shows changes in national concerns since spring 2007 for the five most frequently mentioned issues.

**QA5 What do you think are the two most important issues facing (OUR COUNTRY) at the moment? (MAX. 2 ANSWERS) - % EU**

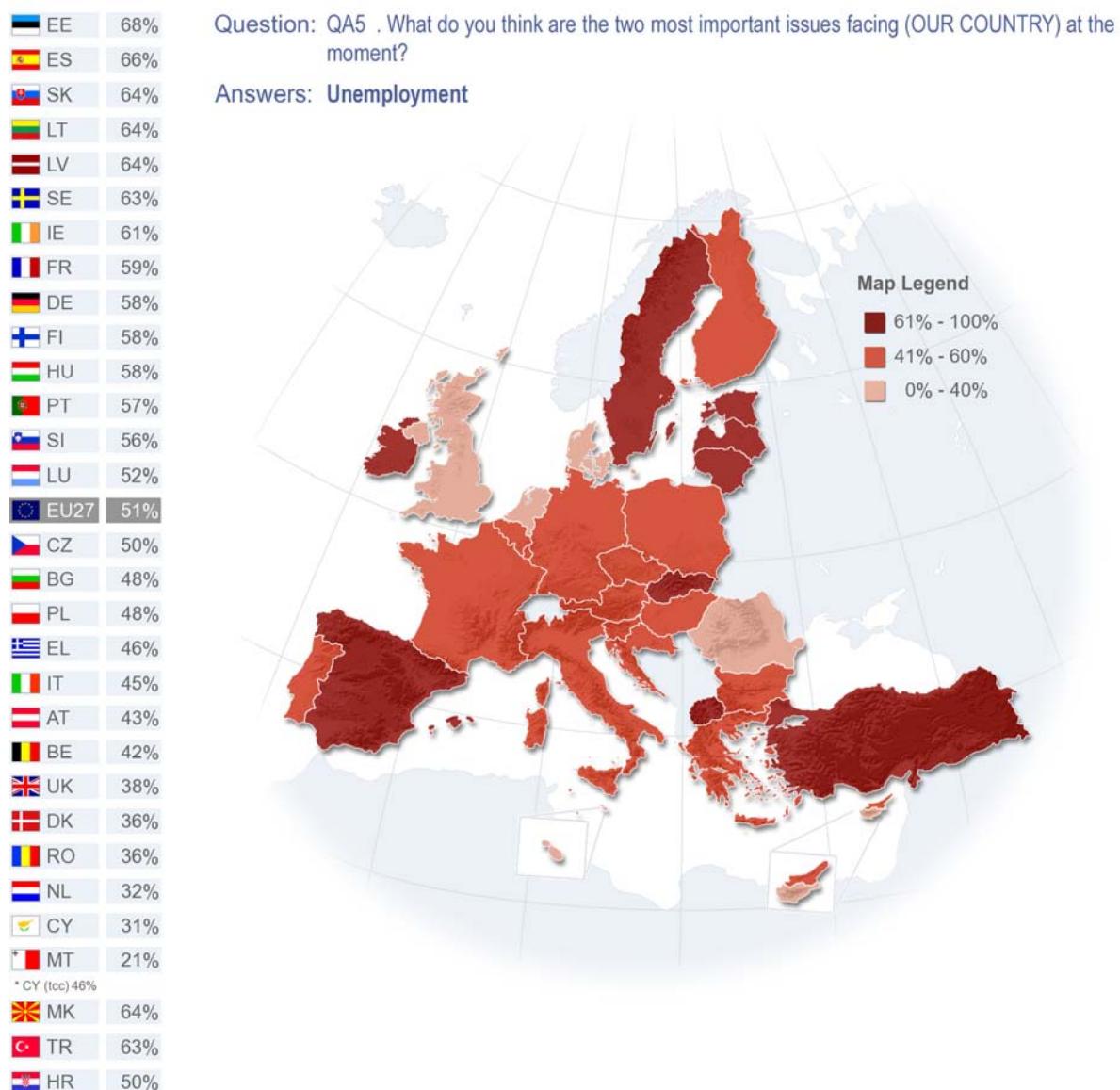
—♦— Unemployment —◆— Economic situation —◆— Crime —◆— Rising prices/ inflation —◆— Healthcare system



Sp.2007 EB67	Aut.2007 EB68	Sp.2008 EB69	Aut.2008 EB 70	Sp.2009 EB71	Aut.2009 EB72
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Eurobarometer 72 shows that concerns about unemployment, the economic situation and rising prices are relatively stable. Despite the slight improvement in confidence among Europeans regarding the economic situation in the coming months, EU citizens currently struggle to see any signs of an upturn in the labour markets. It is also evident that the crisis has now relegated concerns about rising prices far behind anxieties concerning unemployment and the economic situation.

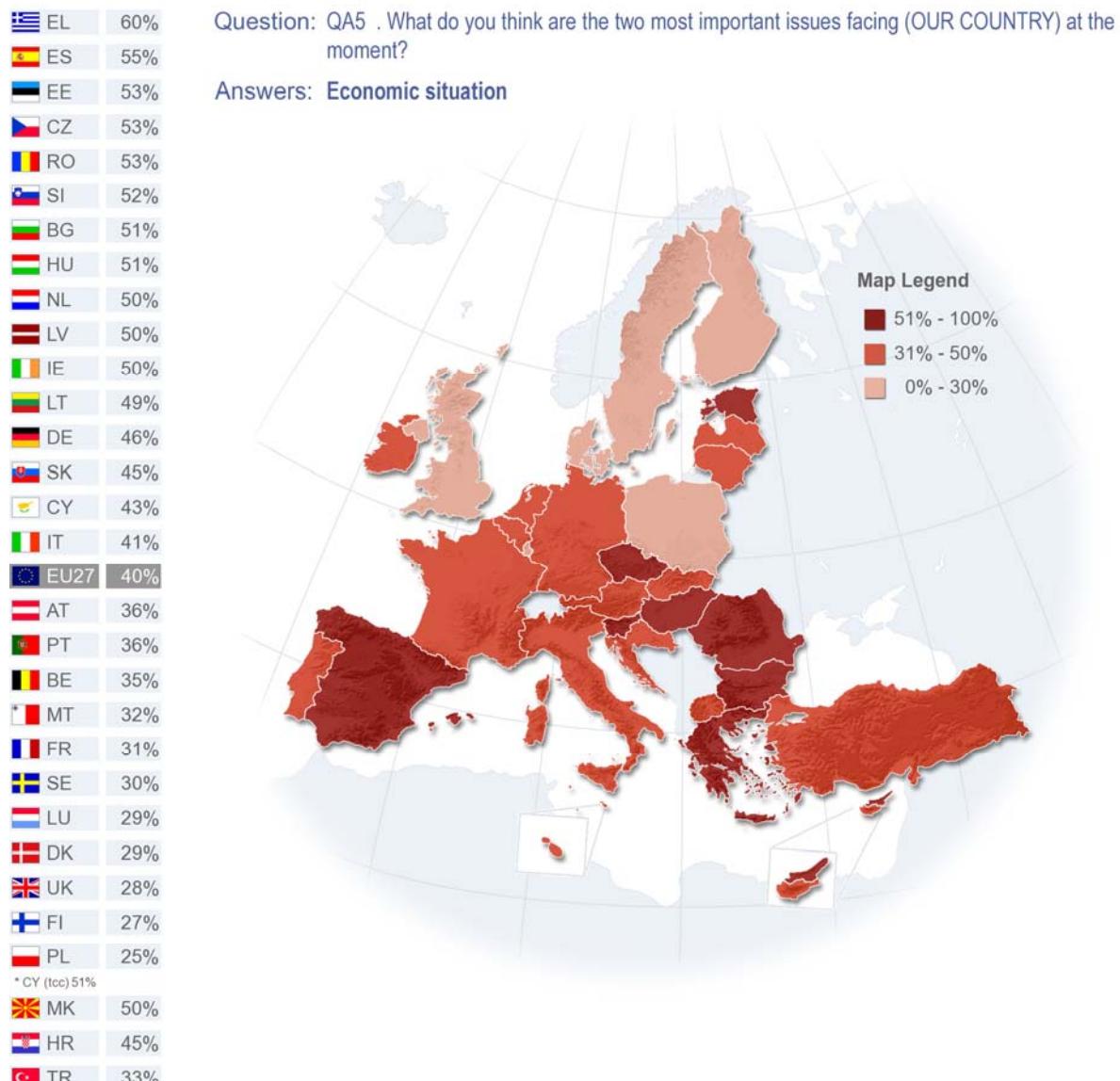
Unemployment headed the list in 19 Member States. More than two-thirds of respondents in Estonia (68%), 66% in Spain, 64% in Slovakia, Latvia and Lithuania, 63% in Sweden and 61% in Ireland put it in first place. However, only a fifth of respondents in Malta (21%), 31% in Cyprus, 32% in the Netherlands, 36% in Denmark and Romania and 38% in the United Kingdom did so.



The percentage of respondents who consider that unemployment is an important issue nationally has risen since spring 2009 in 16 of the 27 Member States. It is up by 11 points in Lithuania, 10 points in Bulgaria and 6 points in Slovenia. On the other hand, it has fallen by 8 points in the Netherlands, 7 points in Belgium and 5 points in Denmark.

The economic situation was placed first in six Member States: Greece (60%), Romania and the Czech Republic (both 53%), Bulgaria (51%), the Netherlands (50%) and Cyprus (43%).

This issue was also mentioned – though not in first place – by 55% of interviewees in Spain, 53% in Estonia and 52% in Slovenia, but by only a quarter of respondents in Poland (25%), 27% in Finland, 28% in the United Kingdom and 29% in Denmark and Luxembourg.



\*For CY(tcc); What do you think are the two most important issues facing our Community at the moment?

The score for "the economic situation" has risen by 13 points in Cyprus, 10 points in Spain and 8 points in the Czech Republic and Greece. However, it has fallen by 13 points in Sweden, 9 points in the Netherlands, Belgium and Latvia and 7 points in five Member States: Austria, Denmark, Slovenia, Finland and Slovakia.

**Crime** is the main subject of concern in Denmark (39%). More than a third of respondents in the United Kingdom and Cyprus (36%) and 33% in Bulgaria also consider it to be one of the two most important issues facing their country.

There are significant differences from one Member State to another. **Rising prices** was the most frequently mentioned issue in Malta (41%) and 39% of respondents in Romania also cited this issue, as did 31% of citizens in Italy and 30% in Hungary.

**Immigration** scored 9% at EU27 level, but was mentioned by 34% of respondents in Malta, 29% in the United Kingdom and 18% in Belgium.

35% of respondents in Finland and 34% in Poland mentioned **the healthcare system** compared with a European Union average of 14%; above average scores for this issue were also recorded in the Netherlands and Sweden (26%), Denmark and Ireland (24%), Estonia (22%) and Germany (21%).

**Pensions** were mentioned by 9% of Europeans. This issue was cited by 19% of respondents in the Netherlands, 18% in Belgium, 15% in Poland and 14% in the Czech Republic and France.

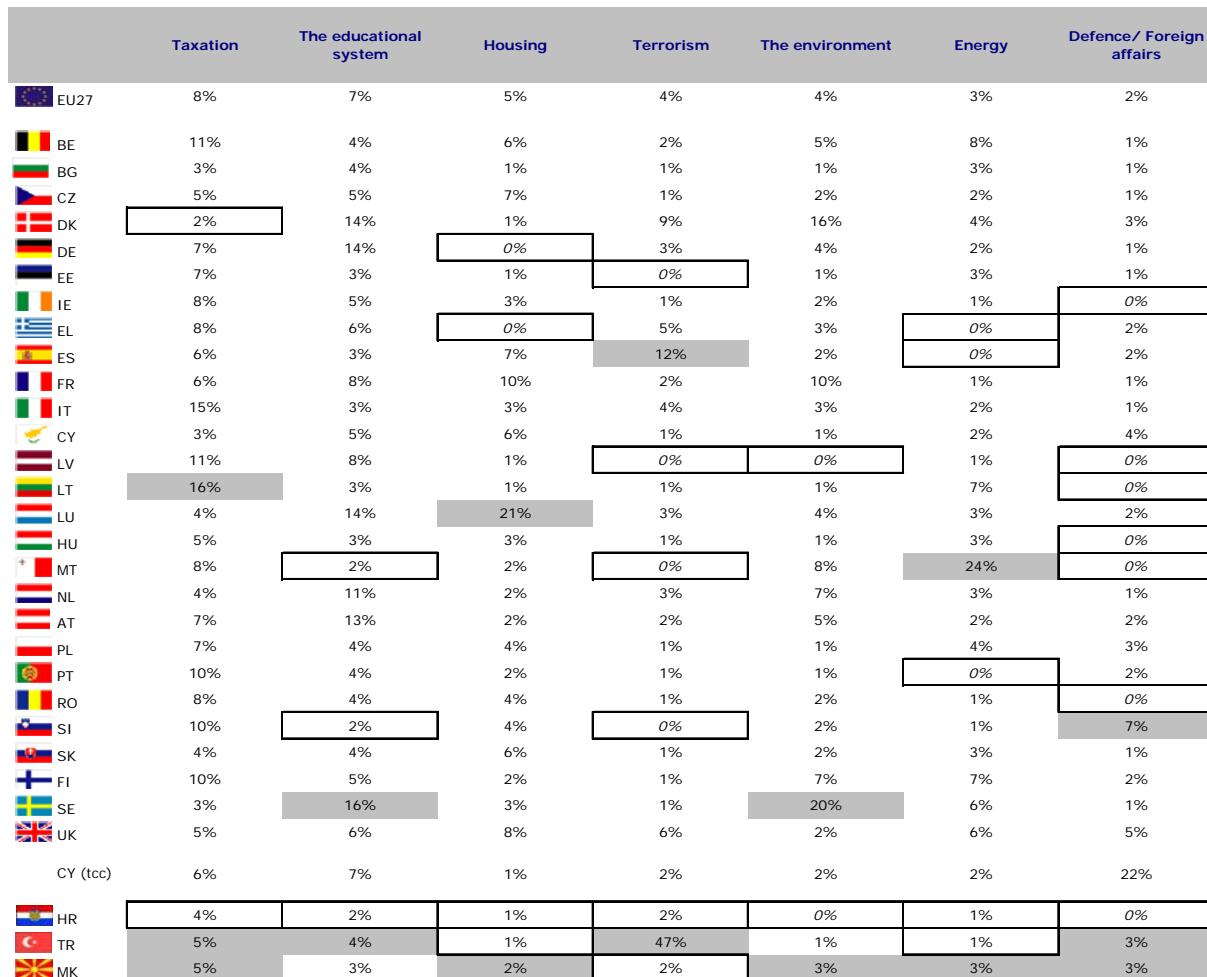
The other issues on which respondents were polled obtained scores below 9% at European level. However, 16% of respondents in Sweden and 14% in Denmark, Germany and Luxembourg are not satisfied with their **education system** compared with 7% of Europeans; 21% of respondents in Luxembourg and 10% in France mentioned **housing** as one of the two most important issues facing their country compared with a European Union average of 5%; 20% of respondents in Sweden, 16% in Denmark and 10% in France are worried about **environmental issues** compared with 4% in Europe as a whole. 4% of Europeans mentioned **terrorism** but this issue causes more concern in Spain (12%) and Denmark (9%). Finally, a quarter of respondents in Malta (24%) cited **energy issues** compared with a European Union average of 3%.

## QA5 What do you think are the two most important issues facing (OUR COUNTRY)/our Community at the moment? (MAX. 2 ANSWERS)

	Unemployment	Economic situation	Crime	Rising prices/ inflation	Healthcare system	Immigration	Pensions
EU27	51%	40%	19%	19%	14%	9%	9%
BE	<b>42%</b>	35%	15%	24%	3%	18%	18%
BG	48%	<b>51%</b>	33%	25%	14%	1%	9%
CZ	50%	<b>53%</b>	17%	22%	13%	4%	14%
DK	36%	29%	<b>39%</b>	4%	24%	15%	2%
DE	<b>58%</b>	46%	13%	16%	21%	4%	7%
EE	<b>68%</b>	53%	19%	10%	22%	<b>0%</b>	6%
IE	<b>61%</b>	50%	23%	14%	24%	2%	3%
EL	46%	<b>60%</b>	22%	23%	7%	8%	4%
ES	<b>66%</b>	55%	11%	10%	2%	6%	2%
FR	<b>59%</b>	31%	16%	22%	11%	6%	14%
IT	<b>45%</b>	41%	18%	31%	6%	10%	4%
CY	31%	<b>43%</b>	36%	26%	6%	14%	4%
LV	<b>64%</b>	50%	17%	6%	20%	4%	8%
LT	<b>64%</b>	49%	19%	19%	7%	3%	7%
LU	<b>52%</b>	29%	12%	24%	6%	8%	8%
HU	<b>58%</b>	51%	12%	30%	16%	1%	9%
MT	21%	32%	5%	<b>41%</b>	10%	<b>34%</b>	4%
NL	32%	<b>50%</b>	21%	7%	26%	8%	<b>19%</b>
AT	<b>43%</b>	36%	18%	28%	11%	17%	9%
PL	<b>48%</b>	25%	10%	27%	34%	2%	15%
PT	<b>57%</b>	36%	18%	29%	11%	1%	11%
RO	36%	<b>53%</b>	23%	39%	13%	1%	9%
SI	<b>56%</b>	52%	16%	19%	12%	1%	10%
SK	<b>64%</b>	45%	20%	18%	13%	2%	10%
FI	<b>58%</b>	27%	10%	9%	<b>35%</b>	11%	12%
SE	<b>63%</b>	30%	14%	2%	26%	9%	6%
UK	<b>38%</b>	28%	36%	8%	10%	29%	6%
CY (tcc)	46%	51%	21%	16%	11%	4%	2%
HR	50%	45%	<b>59%</b>	17%	5%	0%	8%
TR	<b>63%</b>	33%	6%	11%	6%	3%	5%
MK	<b>64%</b>	50%	27%	13%	5%	3%	4%

\* In bold, the highest results per country; in italics the lowest results per country; the grey rectangle shows the highest results per value; the rectangle with black borders shows the lowest results per value.

QA5 What do you think are the two most important issues facing (OUR COUNTRY)/our Community at the moment? (MAX. 2 ANSWERS)



\* In bold, the highest results per country; in italics the lowest results per country; the grey rectangle shows the highest results per value; the rectangle with black borders shows the lowest results per value.

In the candidate countries, as in the European Union, **unemployment** was the most frequently mentioned issue by respondents in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey (64% and 63% respectively). 50% of respondents in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, 45% in Croatia and 33% in Turkey cited the **economic situation**.

Almost six out of ten respondents in Croatia (59%) mentioned **crime** as the main issue facing their country, compared with a quarter of respondents in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (27%) and 6% in Turkey. Finally, **rising prices** are a cause of concern for 16% of respondents in Croatia, 15% in Turkey and 11% in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Finally, we should also note the significant concern over **terrorism** expressed by respondents in Turkey (47%, in second position).

There are some variations in accordance with certain socio-demographic criteria. Thus, quite logically, unemployment is a cause of concern for 67% of unemployed people, whereas it was mentioned by 54% of manual workers, 50% of employees and 48% of managers. More than a quarter of those who have difficulties paying their bills (27%), and a quarter of respondents (25%) who state that they have such problems 'from time to time' mentioned rising prices compared with 16% of those who say that they never have such financial problems. A quarter of those who left school before the age of 16 mentioned crime (24%) compared with fewer than one fifth of respondents who studied until the age of 20 or beyond (16%).

Europeans on the right of the political spectrum are slightly more likely to mention immigration as one of the two most important issues facing their country: 12% compared with 8% of those with left-wing sympathies. Further, 20% of respondents on the right cited crime, compared with 14% of those to the left. However, those on the left were more likely to mention unemployment (53% compared with 47% of those on the right of the political spectrum).

**QA5a What do you think are the two most important issues facing (OUR COUNTRY) at the moment?  
(MAX. 2 ANSWERS)**

	Unemployment	Economic situation	Crime	Rising prices/ inflation	Healthcare system	Immigration
EU27	51%	40%	19%	19%	14%	9%
<b>Sex</b>						
Male	51%	42%	18%	18%	13%	10%
Female	51%	39%	19%	21%	16%	8%
<b>Age</b>						
15-24	53%	39%	18%	19%	10%	8%
25-39	53%	43%	15%	20%	13%	8%
40-54	52%	44%	17%	20%	15%	9%
55 +	47%	37%	23%	19%	16%	10%
<b>Education (End of)</b>						
15-16	50%	36%	24%	23%	13%	10%
16-19	52%	41%	18%	21%	14%	9%
20+	49%	43%	16%	15%	16%	8%
Still studying	51%	40%	16%	15%	11%	8%
<b>Respondent occupation scale</b>						
Self-employed	44%	47%	14%	23%	14%	8%
Managers	48%	45%	13%	14%	17%	8%
Other white collars	50%	44%	17%	21%	13%	7%
Manual workers	54%	41%	18%	21%	13%	10%
House persons	50%	41%	20%	26%	14%	7%
Unemployed	67%	38%	18%	19%	9%	9%
Retired	46%	35%	23%	19%	18%	10%
Students	51%	40%	16%	15%	11%	8%
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>						
Most of the time	55%	39%	17%	27%	11%	8%
From time to time	52%	42%	17%	25%	12%	8%
Almost never/ never	50%	40%	19%	16%	16%	10%
<b>Left-Right scale</b>						
(1-4) Left	53%	41%	14%	18%	14%	8%
(5-6) Centre	52%	41%	20%	18%	14%	9%
(7-10) Right	47%	40%	20%	18%	15%	12%

## Comparison between national and personal concerns

A comparison of national and personal concerns confirms the predominance of economic factors in respondents' answers. Unemployment, the economic situation and rising prices mirror the personal concerns of EU citizens at national level, though in a slightly different order, inflation and unemployment being reversed.

**COMPARISON NATIONAL/ PERSONAL PROBLEMS**

	National problems	Personal problems
<b>Unemployment</b>	51%	20%
<b>Economic situation</b>	40%	26%
<b>Crime</b>	19%	8%
<b>Rising prices/ inflation</b>	19%	38%
<b>Healthcare system</b>	14%	18%
<b>Immigration</b>	9%	4%
<b>Pensions</b>	9%	15%
<b>Taxation</b>	8%	13%
<b>The educational system</b>	7%	9%
<b>Housing</b>	5%	6%
<b>Terrorism</b>	4%	2%
<b>The environment</b>	4%	5%
<b>Energy</b>	3%	6%
<b>Defence/ Foreign affairs</b>	2%	1%

Unemployment was more frequently mentioned as a national concern (51%) than as a personal concern (20%). The economic situation ranks second among both personal and national concerns but is seen as more of a problem to be resolved at national level than as a personal concern (40% versus 26%). Similarly, crime is seen more as a national problem (19%) than a personal issue (8%).

On the other hand, rising prices were mentioned more frequently as a personal issue than as a national concern (38% versus 19%); the same is true as regards the healthcare system (18% versus 14%), pensions (15% versus 9%) and taxation (13% versus 8%). The last subjects directly affect the everyday lives and, in particular, the financial situation of European citizens.

## 4. POLITICAL ASPECTS

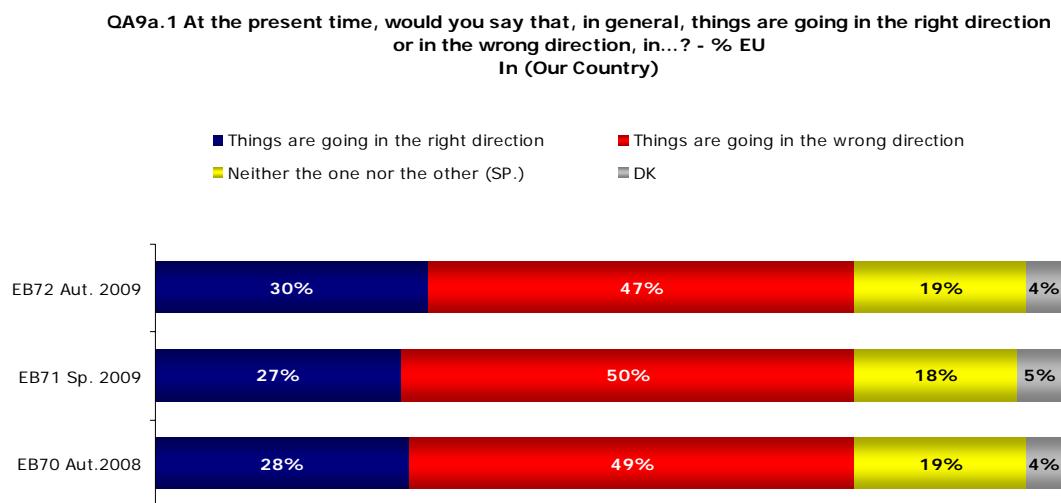
### 4.1 The direction in which things are going

*- Europeans are positive about the direction taken by the European Union, but are more critical about the direction taken nationally -*

#### 4.1.1 The direction taken at national level

Europeans are divided when it comes to assessing the direction taken at national level<sup>33</sup>. The majority (47%) consider that, in their country, things are going in the wrong direction. Just under a third are satisfied (30%) and almost a fifth (19%) believe that things are going in neither the right nor the wrong direction.

Negative opinions have fallen by 3 points since the previous survey in spring 2009 (EB71), while the proportion of interviewees who are satisfied has increased by a like proportion (+3 points).



There are significant differences between the Member States on this question. In a third (nine out of twenty-seven), positive opinions outweigh negative opinions. Respondents in the Nordic countries (53% in Sweden, 46% in Finland and 42% in Denmark) say that things are going in the right direction in their country. Almost six out of ten respondents in Luxembourg (57%), 42% in Austria and Estonia and 40% in Germany share this opinion.

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<sup>33</sup> QA9a.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)

Three-quarters of respondents in Latvia (79%), Lithuania (77%) and Hungary (75%) have a radically different view of the direction taken by their country, as do more than six out of ten citizens in Romania and France (63% and 62% respectively), 59% of respondents in Spain and 56% in the United Kingdom and Ireland.

Changes also vary considerably from one Member State to another. In comparison with spring 2009, the number of positive opinions has increased significantly in Greece (+24 points), the United Kingdom (+13 points), Estonia (+12 points) and Bulgaria (+10 points). However, the number has fallen in Cyprus (-10 points) and Malta (-9 points). There has also been a sharp rise in negative opinions in Romania, where 63% of respondents consider that things are going in the wrong direction, +16 points<sup>34</sup>.

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<sup>34</sup>Note that national elections were held in Greece (October 2009) and Bulgaria (July 2009). It must also be borne in mind that the fieldwork for the EB72 survey was carried out just a few weeks before the presidential elections in Romania which were held in November 2009.

**QA9.1 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)/Our Community**

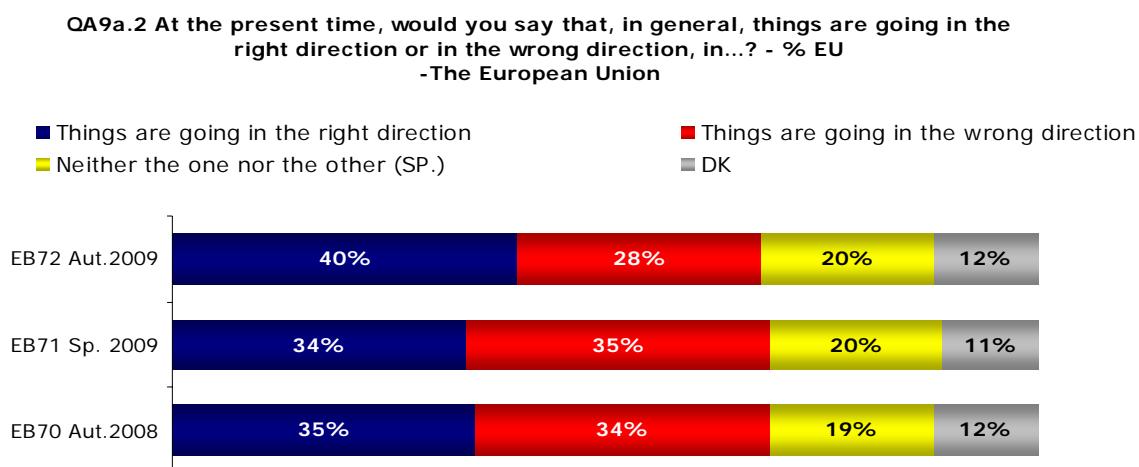
	Things are going in the right direction	Diff.Aut.2009-Sp.2009	Things are going in the wrong direction	Diff.Aut.2009-Sp.2009
 EU27	30%	+3	47%	-3
 LU	57%	+3	18%	-2
 SE	53%	+8	35%	-5
 FI	46%	+2	39%	-6
 DK	42%	-2	42%	-3
 EE	42%	+12	30%	-14
 AT	42%	+2	33%	-1
 DE	40%	+5	31%	-6
 EL	37%	+24	40%	-33
 BG	36%	+10	32%	-16
 PL	36%	-3	42%	+4
 NL	35%	+6	30%	-6
 UK	34%	+13	56%	-7
 PT	33%	+6	31%	-7
 SI	31%	+2	39%	=
 BE	30%	+1	40%	-9
 CZ	30%	+2	45%	-2
 SK	29%	+2	39%	+6
 CY	26%	-10	44%	+11
 FR	25%	=	62%	+1
 MT	25%	-9	43%	+4
 IT	22%	=	45%	-5
 ES	19%	-5	59%	+6
 IE	18%	-1	56%	-3
 RO	16%	-5	63%	+16
 HU	11%	+4	75%	=
 LT	10%	-3	77%	+4
 LV	7%	-2	79%	+1
CY (tcc)	17%	+1	59%	+1
 MK	35%	-4	34%	-9
 TR	28%	-3	57%	-1
 HR	12%	+2	71%	-6

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is the only candidate country where a majority of respondents (35%) are satisfied with the direction taken by their country; however an almost identical proportion takes the opposite view (34%). In Croatia, more than seven out of ten respondents (71%) and more than half of interviewees in Turkey (57%) consider that things are going in the wrong direction.

A socio-demographic analysis of the answers reveals that the youngest respondents (36% of those in the 15-24 age group) are more likely than the oldest (28% of people aged between 40 and 54 and 29% of those aged 55 or over) to have confidence in the direction taken by their country. Similarly, more than a third of Europeans who studied until the age of 20 or beyond (35%) are satisfied with the direction taken in their country, compared with a quarter of those who left school before the age of 16 (24%). Four out of ten respondents who place themselves at the top of the social hierarchy (40%) share this opinion compared with just over a fifth of those who place themselves at the bottom of the social ladder (22%). Finally, we note that Europeans on the right of the political spectrum (36%) are more likely than those on the left (28%) to believe that things are going in the right direction in their country.

#### **4.1.2 The direction taken by the European Union**

Although a majority of European Union citizens are dissatisfied with the direction taken in their country, they are more likely to consider that things are going in the right direction in the European Union: 40%, i.e. 6 points higher than the figure recorded six months earlier<sup>35</sup>. Just over a quarter of interviewees (28%) take the opposite view (-7 points) and a fifth (20%) say that things are going in neither the right nor wrong direction (unchanged).



<sup>35</sup> QA9a.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

A majority of respondents in France and Austria (44% and 41% respectively) believe that things are going in the wrong direction in the European Union.

On the other hand, two-thirds of respondents in Bulgaria (65%), 57% in Estonia, 52% in Poland and Romania and half of those in Sweden (50%) are confident of the direction taken by the European Union.

In Italy, Malta and the United Kingdom, the proportion of respondents who believe that things are going in the right direction and those who take the opposite view is almost identical.

Confidence in the direction followed by the European Union has increased strongly in Lithuania, Luxembourg and Greece (all +16 points), the United Kingdom (+14 points), Spain (+11 points) and Ireland (+10 points). However it has fallen sharply in Malta (-11 points).

In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, a large majority are convinced that things are on the right track in the European Union (58%), but respondents in the other two candidate countries are divided on this question: 33% of respondents in Croatia and 36% in Turkey are positive, but an almost equal number take the opposite view (30% and 29% respectively). It should be noted that in Turkey almost a third of respondents (30%) did not answer the question.

**QA9.2 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**

	Things are going in the right direction	Diff.Aut.2009-Sp.2009	Things are going in the wrong direction	Diff.Aut.2009-Sp.2009
EU27	40%	+6	28%	-7
BG	65%	+9	5%	-6
EE	57%	+6	11%	-4
PL	52%	=	17%	=
RO	52%	+5	16%	+3
SE	50%	+10	28%	-6
LT	48%	+16	20%	-15
CZ	47%	+2	28%	-1
LU	46%	+14	24%	-10
SK	46%	+7	18%	+3
FI	46%	+4	36%	-7
NL	45%	+6	19%	-7
EL	44%	+16	31%	-18
SI	44%	+3	21%	-1
ES	43%	+11	30%	-8
DK	41%	+1	34%	-8
DE	41%	+4	23%	-7
PT	39%	+2	16%	-6
BE	38%	-1	31%	-7
IE	38%	+10	22%	-12
LV	37%	+2	25%	-5
HU	36%	+8	27%	-8
AT	35%	+5	41%	-1
CY	34%	-2	25%	=
UK	34%	+14	37%	-11
FR	31%	+5	44%	-7
IT	31%	+2	29%	-7
MT	29%	-11	26%	+4
CY (tcc)	36%	+6	32%	=
MK	58%	+5	14%	-8
TR	36%	-2	29%	-8
HR	33%	+8	30%	-18

A socio-demographic analysis reveals some significant differences in accordance with the categories of respondents: half of Europeans aged between 15 and 24 (50%) and just under half of those who studied until the age of 20 or beyond (46%) think that things are going in the right direction in the European Union, compared with 36% of the oldest respondents (55 or over) and three out of ten respondents who left school before the age of 16 (31%). Finally, those on the right of the political spectrum (46%) are more confident than those on the left (40%).

Objective knowledge of the European Union is another determining factor on this question: there is a 16 point difference between those with a good objective knowledge of the European Union<sup>36</sup> who consider that things are on the right track and those who gave the same answer but have a limited knowledge of the European Union (45% versus 29%). Europeans who believe that their country's membership of the European Union is a good thing are also more likely to believe that things are going in the right direction (58% compared with 13% of those who take the opposite view). There are also significant differences depending on whether respondents have difficulties paying their bills at the end of the month: a majority of those who almost never have this type of problem think that things are going in the right direction (44% compared with 26% who take the opposite view), while the reverse is true of those who frequently have this type of financial difficulties (28% think that things are going in the right direction, compared with 37%). However, the most determining criterion for this question logically remains the respondent's image of the European Union. The more positive this image, the more the respondent is likely to consider that things are going in the right direction. The attitude of European citizens is consistent: those who are the most in favour of the European Union are by far the most positive in their assessment of the direction taken by the European Union.

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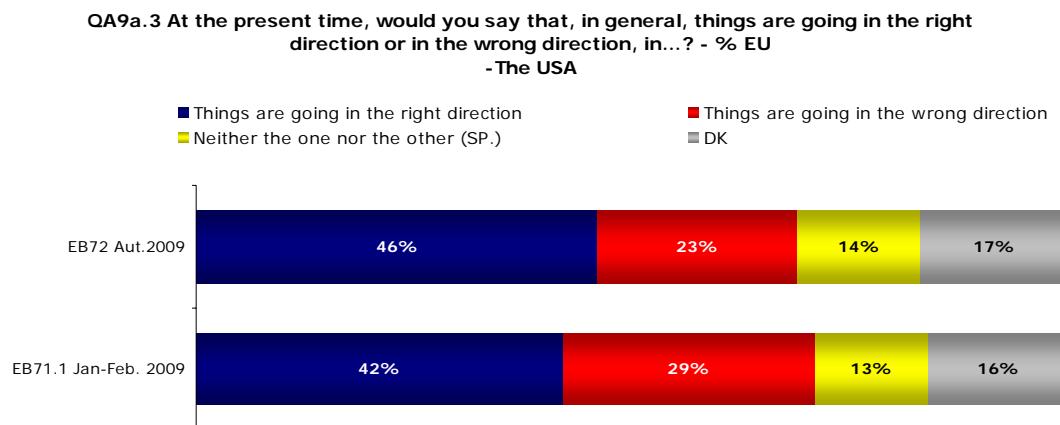
<sup>36</sup> "Good objective knowledge of the EU", see reference in section 3.2.2

**QA9a.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**

	Things are going in the right direction	Things are going in the wrong direction	Neither the one nor the other (SPONTANEOUS)	DK
EU27	40%	28%	20%	12%
<b>Age</b>				
15-24	50%	21%	18%	11%
25-39	42%	29%	19%	10%
40-54	38%	31%	20%	11%
55 +	36%	29%	20%	15%
<b>Education (End of)</b>				
15-	31%	33%	20%	16%
16-19	39%	29%	20%	12%
20+	46%	26%	19%	9%
Still studying	55%	19%	17%	9%
<b>Left-Right scale</b>				
(1-4) Left	40%	31%	19%	10%
(5-6) Centre	42%	28%	19%	11%
(7-10) Right	46%	27%	19%	8%
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>				
Most of the time	28%	37%	20%	15%
From time to time	36%	32%	21%	11%
Almost never/ never	44%	26%	19%	11%
<b>Membership EU</b>				
A good thing	58%	16%	18%	8%
A bad thing	13%	62%	14%	11%
Neither good nor bad	24%	35%	27%	14%
<b>Image of EU</b>				
Positive	60%	16%	17%	7%
Neutral	28%	31%	25%	16%
Negative	11%	64%	15%	10%
<b>Objective knowledge of the EU</b>				
Bad	29%	27%	21%	23%
Average	41%	28%	20%	11%
Good	45%	30%	17%	8%

#### 4.1.3 The direction taken by the United States

A majority of Europeans (46%) consider that things are going in the right direction in the United States, up 4 points since January-February 2009<sup>37</sup>. Almost a quarter of interviewees (23%) take the opposite view (-3 points) and 14% say that things are going in neither the right nor the wrong direction (+1 point)<sup>38</sup>.



Positive opinions are in the majority in twenty-four of the twenty-seven Member States. They are high in the Scandinavian countries, reaching 68% in Sweden and 63% in Denmark. The three Member States where a majority of respondents have a negative opinion are Greece, Slovakia and Cyprus where 38%, 34% and 34% of interviewees respectively think that things are going in the wrong direction in the United States. Respondents in the United Kingdom (47%) and Germany (50%) are slightly more likely than Europeans as a whole (46%) to consider that things are going in the right direction in the United States. Respondents in France are slightly less likely to share this view (44%, compared with 46% of Europeans as whole).

The majority of respondents in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Croatia are confident about the direction taken by the United States (49% and 42% respectively). Respondents in Turkey, however, are divided on this question: 31% consider that the United States is on the right track while an almost equal proportion take the opposite view (30%). However, more than a third (34%) could not answer this question.

<sup>37</sup> This question was asked for the first time in Special Eurobarometer 308: The Europeans in 2009.

<sup>38</sup> QA9a.3 At the present time, would you say that, in general, things are going in the right direction or in the wrong direction...? In the USA

## 4.2 Trust in national institutions

**- Trust in national institutions has fallen sharply -**

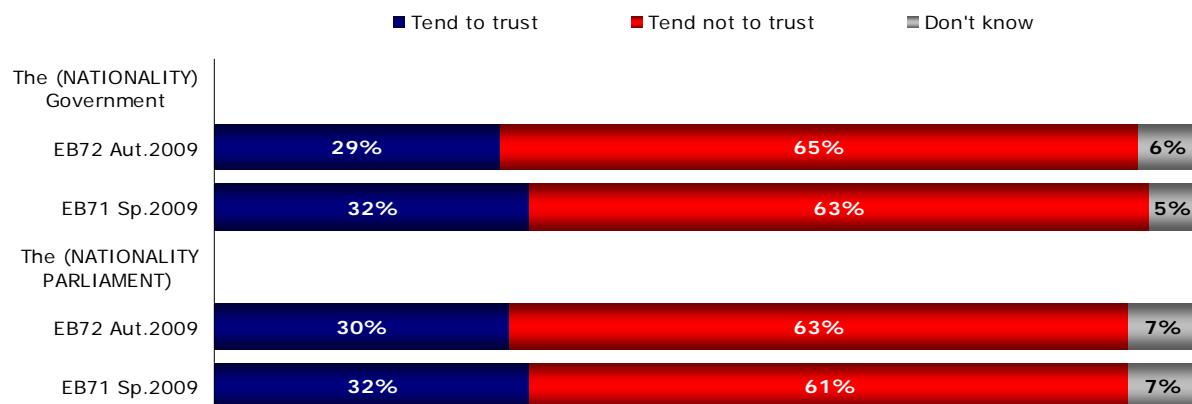
### 4.2.1 Trust in national political institutions

#### The government and national parliament

Fewer than a third of Europeans trust their national political institutions: 29% trust their government and 30% trust their parliament, while 65% and 63% take the opposite view. Only a small minority of Europeans trust their national political institutions; moreover levels of trust have fallen since spring 2009 (-3 points and -2 points respectively)<sup>39</sup>.

**QA10.8+9 For each of the following institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.**

**- % EU**



A majority of respondents trust their political institutions in five of the twenty-seven Member States: Denmark (57% for the government and 74% for the parliament), Luxembourg, where parliamentary elections were held in spring 2009 (68% and 59%), Sweden (55% and 63%), Austria (54% and 55%) and Cyprus (53% and 53%). In the Netherlands, 52% of respondents trust the parliament and 49% trust the government but equal proportions take the opposite view. Although more than half of respondents in Finland (53%) trust the parliament, only a minority trust the government (48%).

A tiny minority of respondents in Latvia and Lithuania trust their national political institutions (below 10%). In Ireland, Hungary, Poland, Romania and the United Kingdom, the proportion does not reach 20%. Almost three-quarters of respondents in France do not trust the government (73%) and two-thirds do not trust the parliament (64%).

<sup>39</sup> QA10. I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain institutions. For each of the following institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it. 8 The (NATIONALITY) Government, 9 The (NATIONALITY PARLIAMENT), 12 The regional or local public authorities.

The number of positive opinions has grown very significantly in two Member States which recently held elections: Bulgaria (+27 points for the government and +17 for the parliament) and Greece (+19 points for the government and +14 for the parliament). Levels of trust have also increased in Estonia, by +9 points and +7 points respectively. On the other hand, trust has fallen sharply in Luxembourg (-9 points for the government and -8 points for the parliament), France (-7 points and -5 points) and Malta (-5 points and -6 points).

In the candidate countries, the answers in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia are close to the EU27 replies: 31% trust the government and 25% trust the parliament. Respondents in Turkey are very divided on these questions while only a small minority of respondents in Croatia trust their political institutions (only 12% say they trust the government, the same percentage as trust the parliament).

**QA10. For each of the following institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.**

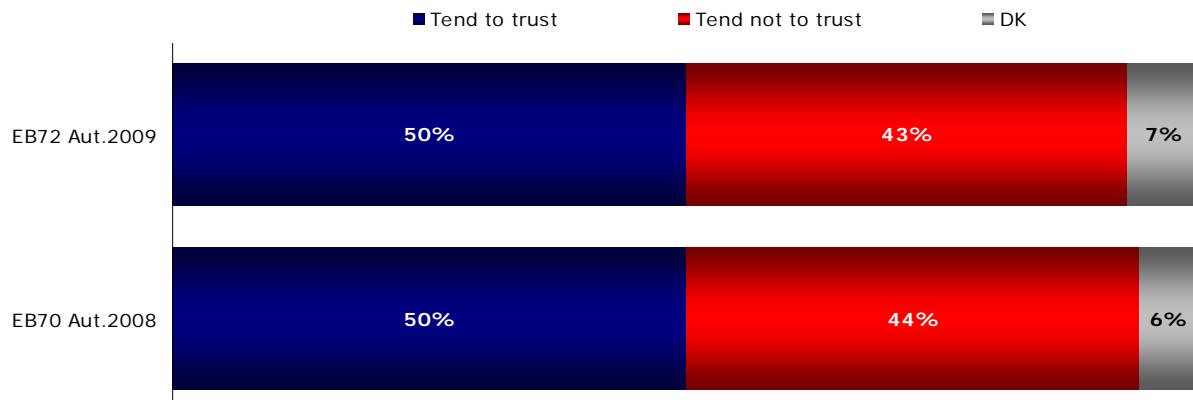
% Tend to trust	The (NATIONALITY) Government		The (NATIONALITY PARLIAMENT)	
	EB72 Aut.2009	Diff. Aut.2009-Sp.2009	EB72 Aut.2009	Diff. Aut.2009-Sp.2009
EU27	29%	-3	30%	-2
LU	68%	-9	59%	-8
DK	57%	-4	74%	-1
SE	55%	-2	63%	-1
AT	54%	-4	55%	-3
CY	53%	-3	53%	=
NL	49%	-7	52%	-4
FI	48%	-6	53%	-7
EE	47%	+9	38%	+7
EL	44%	+19	47%	+14
BG	44%	+27	27%	+17
DE	40%	-5	45%	-1
CZ	37%	+9	15%	-5
BE	36%	+1	38%	-3
MT	36%	-5	41%	-6
SK	36%	-2	35%	-3
PT	32%	+4	41%	+5
ES	29%	-5	29%	-3
SI	29%	-2	19%	-8
IT	26%	+1	27%	=
FR	22%	-7	28%	-5
UK	19%	-2	19%	+2
RO	17%	-5	17%	+1
PL	16%	-5	11%	-7
IE	15%	-5	19%	-4
LT	15%	-4	7%	-3
HU	14%	=	15%	=
LV	9%	-1	6%	=
TR	51%	-6	51%	-7
MK	31%	-5	25%	-2
HR	12%	-1	12%	-4

### ***Regional and local public authorities***

Having considered the national authorities (government and parliament), it is interesting to look at perceptions of regional and local public authorities. Half of Europeans (50%) trust their regional and local public authorities. However, a significant number take the opposite view. These figures are almost identical to those recorded in autumn 2008.

**QA10.12 For each of the following institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.**

**Regional or local public authorities - % EU**



A majority of respondents trust these authorities in 16 Member States. Trust stands as high as 74% in Denmark, 69% in Austria, 68% in Finland, 64% in Sweden and Luxembourg, 63% in Germany and 59% in Belgium, Estonia and Portugal. On the other hand, it is low in Lithuania (31%), Italy and Bulgaria (34%), Ireland (35%) and Spain (39%).

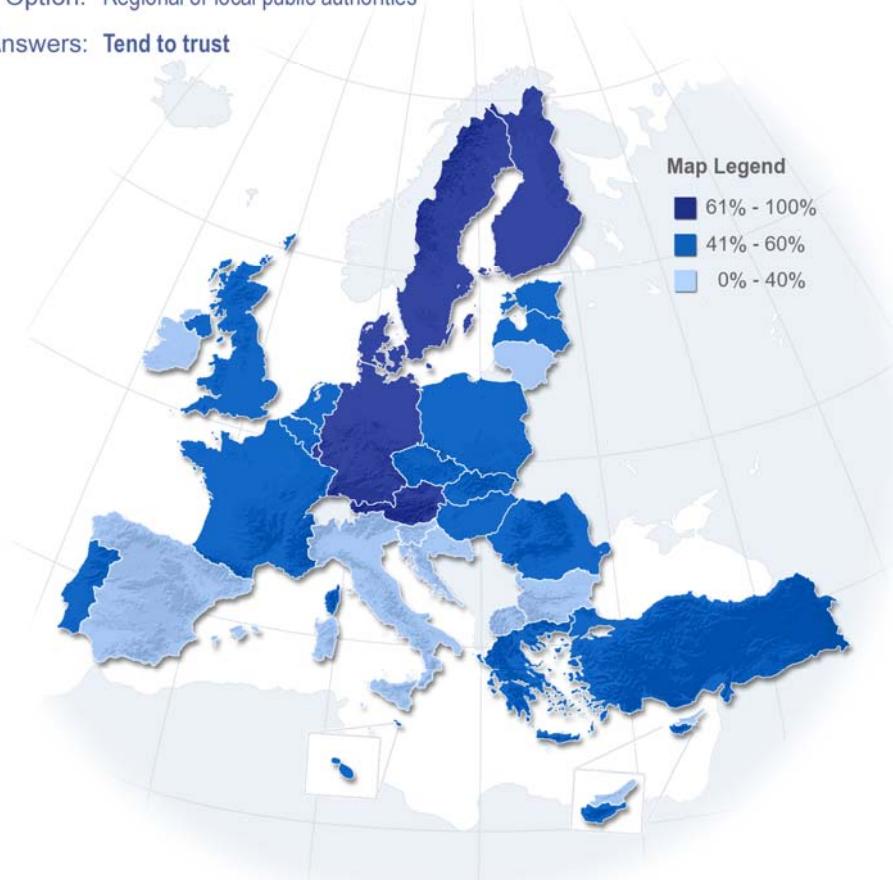
A majority of respondents in the candidate countries distrust their regional and local public authorities. More than seven out of ten respondents in Turkey (71%), more than half of respondents in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (52%) and 47% of respondents in Croatia do not trust these institutions.

	DK	74%
	AT	69%
	FI	68%
	SE	64%
	LU	64%
	DE	63%
	BE	59%
	EE	59%
	PT	59%
	CY	58%
	NL	57%
	FR	57%
	CZ	54%
	HU	53%
	EU27	50%
	SK	47%
	EL	47%
	UK	46%
	PL	45%
	MT	45%
	LV	41%
	RO	41%
	SI	40%
	ES	39%
	IE	35%
	IT	34%
	BG	34%
	LT	31%
* CY (tcc) 31%		
	TR	42%
	MK	36%
	HR	23%

Question: QA10.12. I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain institutions. For each of the following institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.

Option: Regional or local public authorities

Answers: Tend to trust



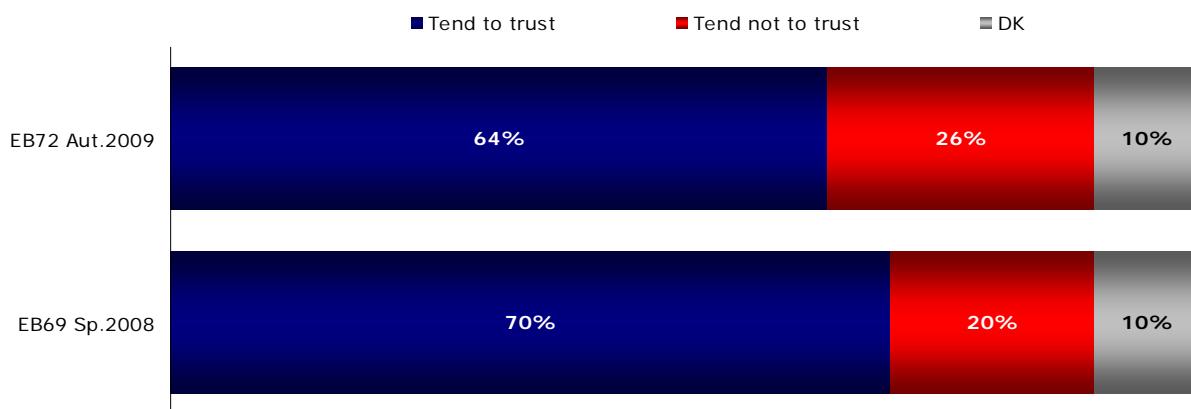
After the political authorities, we shall now look at two other national institutions: the army and the justice system.

#### 4.2.2 Trust in the army

The last time that Europeans' trust in their country's army was measured was in spring 2008. Since then, many events have taken place, in particular the intensification of the war in Afghanistan, the involvement of some European States in that war, and the conflict between Russia and Georgia during the summer of 2008.

In autumn 2009, two-thirds of Europeans (64%) said that they trusted their country's army<sup>40</sup>, 6 points lower than in spring 2008.

**QA10.5 For each of the following institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.  
The army - % EU**



Respondents in Finland are the most satisfied with their army (90%). More than three-quarters of citizens in Estonia and the United Kingdom (77% and 76% respectively) are also satisfied with their army.

However, respondents in Lithuania (45%) and Latvia (44%) are far less trusting of their armed forces than their neighbours in Estonia. The lowest trust levels were recorded in Hungary (37%) and Bulgaria (40%).

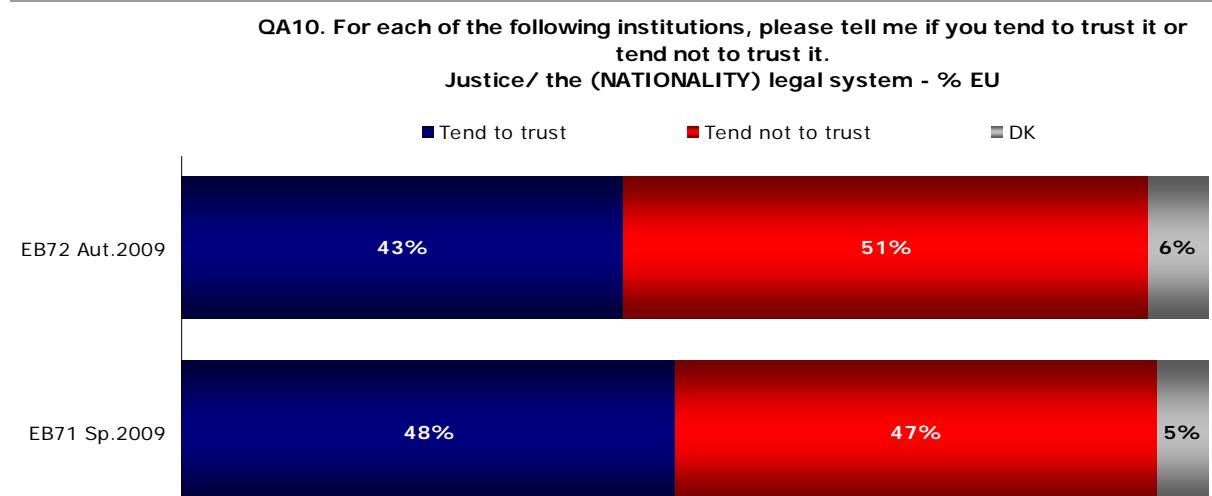
In the candidate countries, levels of trust vary: 77% of respondents in Turkey, 59% in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and 46% in Croatia trust their army.

A socio-demographic analysis of the respondents reveals that while more than two-thirds of respondents on the right of the political spectrum (68%) trust their country's army, the proportion is lower among those with left-wing sympathies, though it still represents a clear majority (60%).

<sup>40</sup> QA10. I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain institutions. For each of the following institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it. 5 The army

#### 4.2.3 Trust in the justice system

Only a minority of European Union citizens trust their justice system (43%)<sup>41</sup>; this percentage represents a 5-point fall since spring 2009.



Eight out of ten respondents in Denmark are satisfied with their justice system, as are three-quarters of respondents in Finland (74%) and two-thirds in Austria (67%).

On the other hand, less than a fifth of respondents in Lithuania (15%) trust their justice system. Similarly, fewer than one in five respondents in Bulgaria and Slovenia (17% and 19% respectively), 26% in Latvia, 28% in Romania and 29% in Slovakia and the Czech Republic are satisfied with the system of justice in their country.

An analysis of changes shows that trust has fallen fairly sharply in Sweden and the Netherlands (both -13 points), the Czech Republic, France and Slovenia (-11 points), Lithuania (-9 points) and Malta (-8 points). On the other hand, trust in the justice system has risen by 8 points in Greece.

Turkey is the only candidate country where respondents trust their justice system (65%); this score is far higher than the 20% recorded in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and 15% in Croatia.

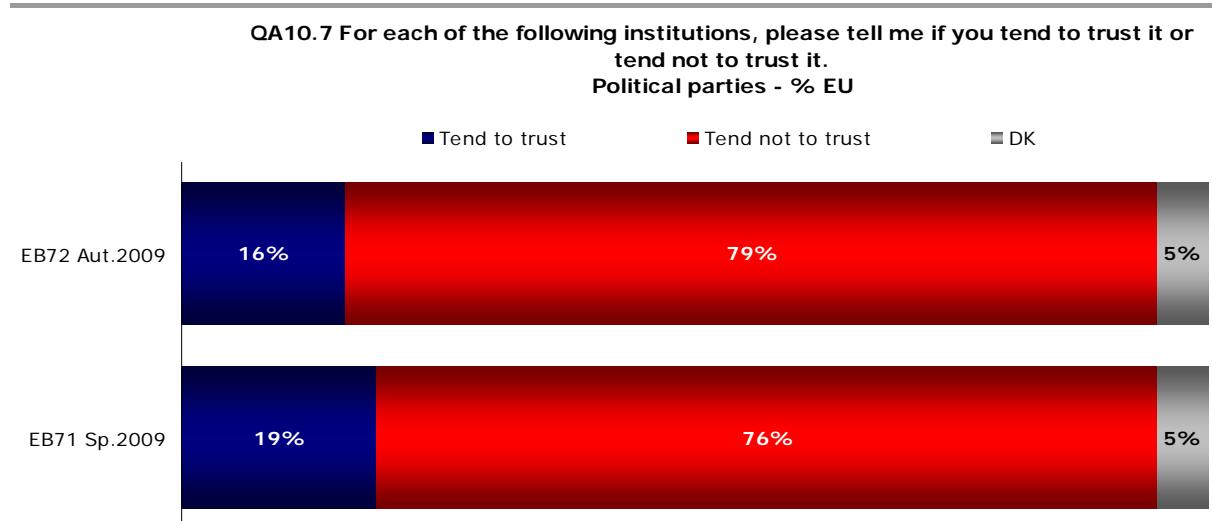
The least educated respondents are the least likely to trust their country's justice system: 52% of those who studied until the age of 20 or beyond trust it compared with 37% of those who left school before the age of 16.

<sup>41</sup> QA10. I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain institutions. For each of the following institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it. 6. Justice/the (NATIONALITY) legal system

Similarly, managers (56%) and students (40%) are the only categories in which a majority of respondents trust their country's justice system (compared with 41% of manual workers and 46% of employees).

#### **4.2.4 Trust in political parties**

There is widespread public distrust of political parties in the European Union (79%, +3 points since the previous spring)<sup>42</sup>.



Denmark is the only state in which a majority of respondents trust political parties (50%). Levels of trust are nevertheless high in Luxembourg (41%), the Netherlands (37%), Austria (36%) and Sweden (32%).

Trust is almost non-existent in Latvia (2%) and Lithuania (5%) and very low in Poland (7%) and four other Member States: Slovenia, France, Hungary and the United Kingdom (9% in all four cases).

Finally, almost all respondents in Croatia distrust political parties (92%); levels of distrust are also high in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (80%) and a large majority of respondents in Turkey (72%) share this distrust.

The following table shows the national results for all the national institutions tested in the survey.

<sup>42</sup> QA10.7 I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain institutions. For each of the following institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it. Political parties

QA10.5,6,7,8,9,12. I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain institutions. For each of the following institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.

% Tend to trust	The (NATIONALITY) Government	The (NATIONALITY) PARLIAMENT	Regional or local public authorities	The army	Justice/ the (NATIONALITY) legal system	Political parties
EU27	29%	30%	50%	64%	43%	16%
BE	36%	38%	59%	60%	35%	21%
BG	44%	27%	34%	40%	17%	12%
CZ	37%	15%	54%	64%	29%	12%
DK	57%	74%	74%	62%	80%	50%
DE	40%	45%	63%	69%	58%	20%
EE	47%	38%	59%	77%	52%	17%
IE	15%	19%	35%	68%	45%	13%
EL	44%	47%	47%	69%	52%	19%
ES	29%	29%	39%	64%	40%	18%
FR	22%	28%	57%	60%	39%	9%
IT	26%	27%	34%	58%	37%	17%
CY	53%	53%	58%	65%	50%	19%
LV	9%	6%	41%	44%	26%	2%
LT	15%	7%	31%	45%	15%	5%
LU	68%	59%	64%	53%	61%	41%
HU	14%	15%	53%	37%	41%	9%
MT	36%	41%	45%	66%	40%	22%
NL	49%	52%	57%	70%	51%	37%
AT	54%	55%	69%	65%	67%	36%
PL	16%	11%	45%	64%	31%	7%
PT	32%	41%	59%	69%	31%	21%
RO	17%	17%	41%	67%	28%	11%
SI	29%	19%	40%	45%	19%	9%
SK	36%	35%	47%	67%	29%	18%
FI	48%	53%	68%	90%	74%	25%
SE	55%	63%	64%	51%	60%	32%
UK	19%	19%	46%	76%	48%	9%
CY (tcc)	-	-	31%	81%	-	18%
HR	12%	12%	23%	46%	15%	4%
TR	51%	51%	42%	77%	65%	23%
MK	31%	25%	36%	59%	20%	14%

There are fairly marked differences by respondents' socio-demographic characteristics, as can be seen from the table on the next page.

QA10.5,6,7,8,9,12. I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain institutions. For each of the following institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.

% Tend to trust	The (NATIONALITY) Government	The (NATIONALITY) Parliament	Regional or local public authorities	The army	Justice/ the (NATIONALITY) legal system	Political parties
EU27	29%	30%	50%	64%	43%	16%
<b>Education (End of)</b>						
15- 16-19	26%	26%	46%	66%	37%	13%
20+	28%	28%	48%	65%	40%	15%
Still studying	33%	37%	53%	64%	52%	18%
<b>Respondent occupation scale</b>						
Self-employed	30%	29%	46%	63%	42%	15%
Managers	31%	38%	55%	67%	56%	16%
Other white collars	31%	31%	48%	64%	46%	18%
Manual workers	28%	29%	49%	64%	41%	16%
House persons	27%	27%	44%	65%	45%	16%
Unemployed	20%	21%	40%	58%	33%	10%
Retired	32%	31%	53%	67%	40%	16%
Students	33%	37%	53%	66%	50%	21%
<b>Left-Right scale</b>						
(1-4) Left	29%	34%	52%	60%	46%	18%
(5-6) Centre	31%	31%	52%	68%	45%	16%
(7-10) Right	35%	33%	52%	68%	43%	19%
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>						
Most of the time	18%	19%	35%	56%	31%	11%
From time to time	26%	26%	44%	60%	36%	14%
Almost never/ never	32%	34%	55%	68%	48%	17%
<b>Trust in EU</b>						
Tend to trust	48%	50%	65%	76%	57%	28%
Tend not to trust	10%	10%	34%	53%	29%	4%
<b>Image of EU</b>						
Positive	41%	43%	59%	72%	53%	23%
Neutral	22%	23%	45%	60%	38%	12%
Negative	10%	11%	31%	53%	27%	4%

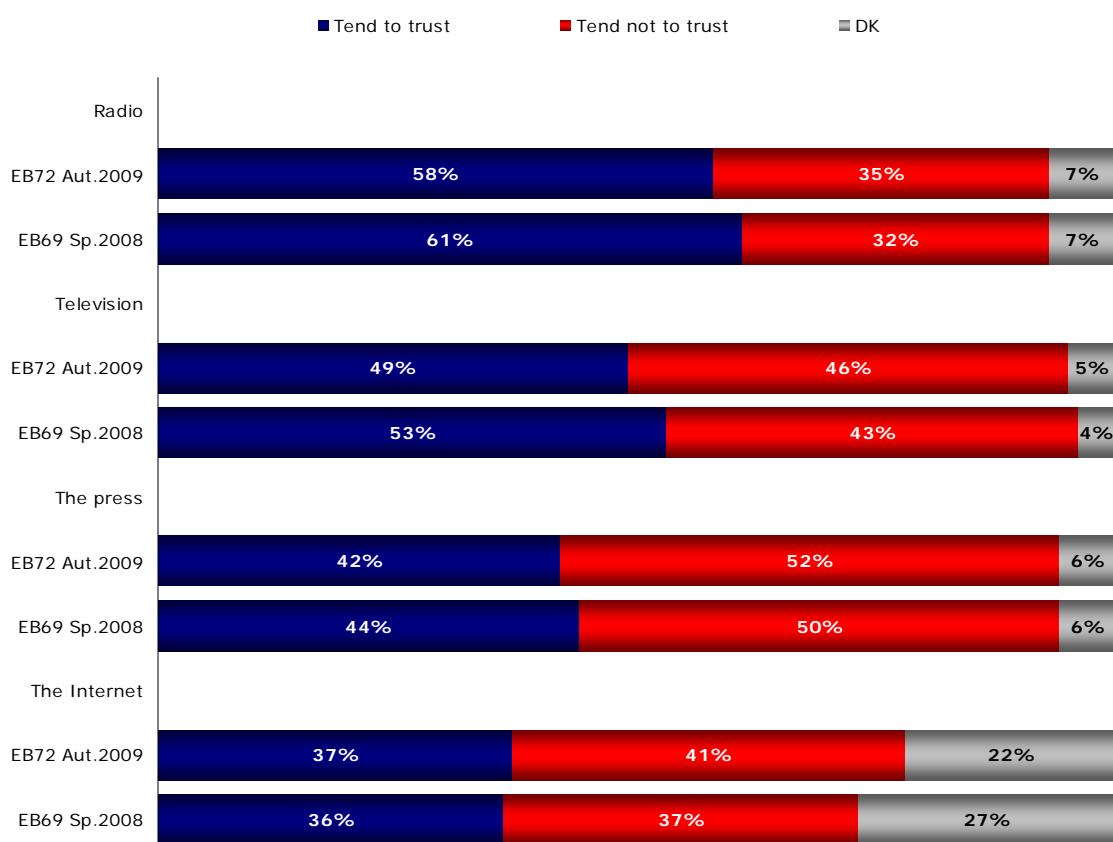
#### 4.2.5 Trust in the media

##### - Trust in the media has also declined -

While anxiety due to the difficult economic circumstances seems to have damaged the trust placed in a number of national institutions, we may wonder whether the media have also been affected by this depressed climate. A majority of Europeans trust television (49%) and even more so radio (58%). On the other hand, only a minority of respondents trust the written press (42%) and the Internet (37%)<sup>43</sup>. It should be noted that a significant percentage of respondents (22%) did not answer this last question, in all likelihood because they do not use the Internet – the proportion of 'DK' answers was as high as 41% among the oldest respondents.

Levels of trust in all media have fallen since spring 2008 (-4 points for television, -3 points for radio, -2 points for the press), except for the Internet (+1 point).

**QA10.1-4 For each of the following institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.**  
- % EU



<sup>43</sup> QA10. I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain institutions. For each of the following institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it. 1 The press, 2 Radio, 3 Television, 4 The Internet.

Respondents in Finland (79%), Sweden (76%), Slovakia (75%), Denmark (73%), the Netherlands (72%), the Czech Republic and Ireland (both 71%) and Luxembourg (70%) support **the radio**, compared with only 48% of respondents in Malta, 45% in Italy and a minority of citizens in Hungary (40%). In the latter country, distrust is in the majority.

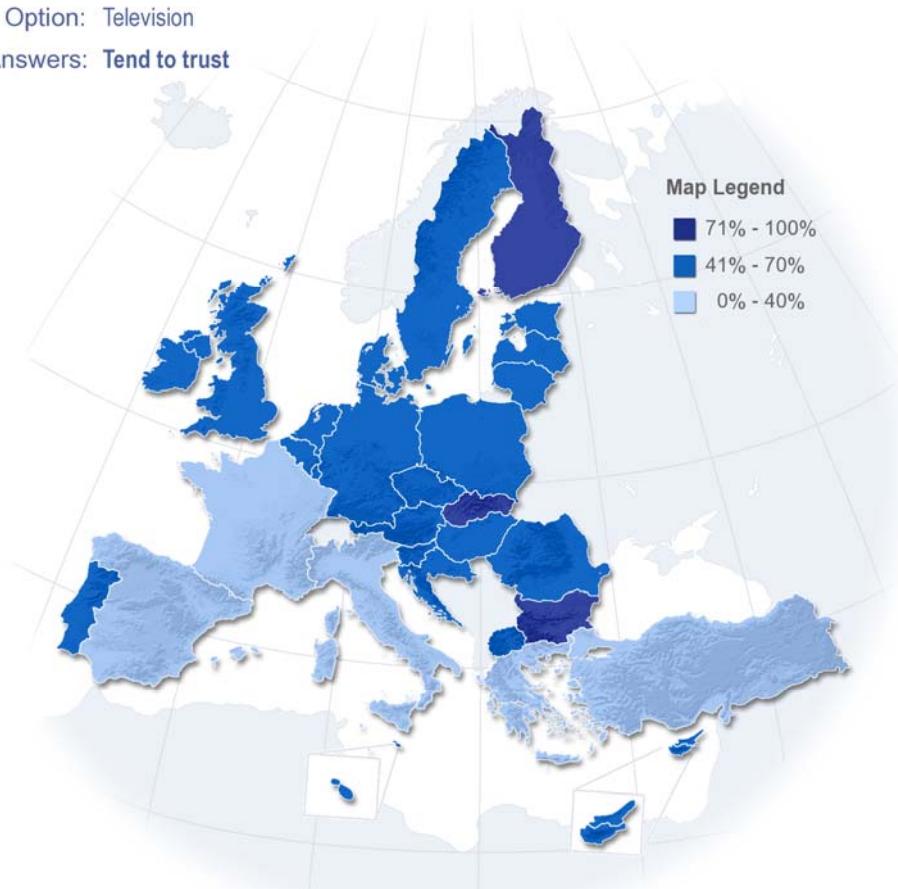
Respondents in Slovakia (74%), Finland and Bulgaria (71% each), Estonia (70%), Portugal (69%), the Czech Republic and Ireland (both 68%), Denmark and Austria (67% in both cases) are the most likely to trust **television** while only 29% of respondents in Greece, 35% in Italy and France, 40% in Spain and 42% in Hungary share this opinion. Citizens in the United Kingdom are divided on this question: 48% distrust television, while an identical proportion trust it.

	SK	74%
	FI	71%
	BG	71%
	EE	70%
	PT	69%
	CZ	68%
	IE	68%
	DK	67%
	AT	67%
	NL	65%
	SE	64%
	BE	63%
	LU	63%
	RO	61%
	CY	59%
	LV	59%
	DE	58%
	LT	53%
	SI	51%
	EU27	49%
	PL	49%
	UK	48%
	MT	47%
	HU	42%
	ES	40%
	FR	35%
	IT	35%
	EL	29%
* CY (tcc) 56%		
	MK	55%
	HR	42%
	TR	31%

Question: QA10.3. I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain institutions. For each of the following institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.

Option: Television

Answers: Tend to trust



A majority of respondents in 11 Member States trust **the press**, including more than six out of ten respondents in Luxembourg (65%), 59% in Portugal, 58% in the Czech Republic, 57% in the Netherlands and 56% in Austria. On the other hand, only 18% of respondents in the United Kingdom and 26% in Hungary share this opinion.

Finally, 60% of respondents in Slovakia, 59% in the Czech Republic and 51% in the Netherlands and Denmark trust the **Internet** while only 29% of citizens in the United Kingdom share their trust.

A socio-demographic analysis of the results reveals an obvious generation gap as regards the **Internet**. Almost half of the youngest Europeans (52% of those aged 15 to 24) and those who studied until the age of 20 or beyond (46%) say that they trust this medium, compared with 39% of respondents aged between 40 and 54 and 22% of those aged 55 or over respectively, and only 18% of those who left school before the age of 16. 40% of men trust the Internet, compared with only 34% of women.

Symmetrically, but to a less pronounced extent, Europeans who studied until the age of 20 or beyond are more likely than others to trust **radio** (64% compared with 52% of those who left school before the age of 16) and **the press** (47% compared with 35%). However, there is no such divide as regards **television** (48% compared with 47% of those who left school before the age of 16, and 52% of those who completed their studies between the ages of 16 and 19). Similarly, managers and those on the left of the political spectrum are more likely than manual workers and those on the right of the political spectrum to trust **radio** and **the press**. Conversely, the last two categories place more trust in **television** than those with left-wing sympathies and managers.

The following table shows the national results for all the media.

**QA10.1,2,3,4. I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain institutions. For each of the following institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.**

	%Tend to trust	Radio	Television	The press	The Internet
 EU27	58%	49%	42%	37%	
 BE	66%	63%	53%	42%	
 BG	58%	71%	44%	43%	
 CZ	71%	68%	58%	59%	
 DK	73%	67%	50%	51%	
 DE	64%	58%	48%	33%	
 EE	68%	70%	43%	42%	
 IE	71%	68%	45%	43%	
 EL	53%	29%	39%	35%	
 ES	51%	40%	44%	36%	
 FR	57%	35%	45%	30%	
 IT	45%	35%	37%	39%	
 CY	60%	59%	51%	37%	
 LV	58%	59%	40%	40%	
 LT	55%	53%	43%	37%	
 LU	70%	63%	65%	41%	
 HU	40%	42%	26%	38%	
 MT	48%	47%	37%	42%	
 NL	72%	65%	57%	51%	
 AT	68%	67%	56%	40%	
 PL	61%	49%	42%	39%	
 PT	69%	69%	59%	46%	
 RO	60%	61%	47%	42%	
 SI	53%	51%	39%	44%	
 SK	75%	74%	55%	60%	
 FI	79%	71%	55%	43%	
 SE	76%	64%	39%	35%	
 UK	55%	48%	18%	29%	
CY (tcc)	55%	56%	50%	47%	
 HR	47%	42%	30%	35%	
 TR	33%	31%	25%	29%	
 MK	44%	55%	42%	45%	

Trust in the media also varies in accordance with the respondent's socio-demographic profile.

**QA10.1,2,3,4. I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain institutions. For each of the following institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.**

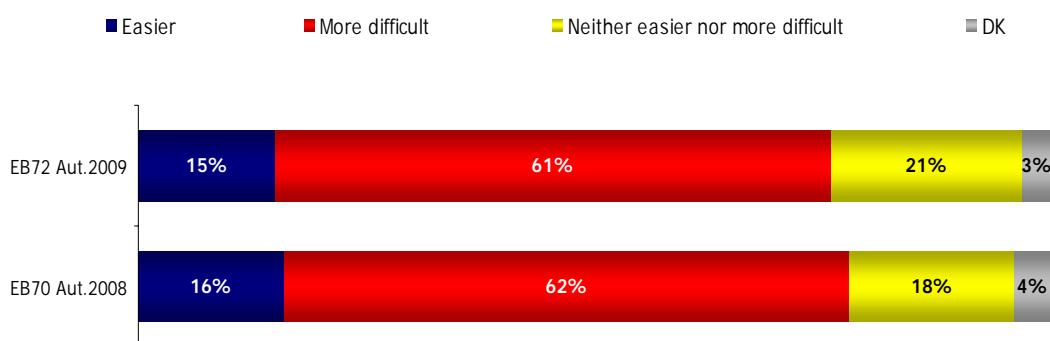
	%Tend to trust	Radio	Television	The press	The Internet
EU27	58%	49%	42%	37%	
<b>Sex</b>					
Male	58%	48%	42%	40%	
Female	59%	51%	41%	34%	
<b>Age</b>					
15-24	62%	54%	43%	52%	
25-39	58%	48%	43%	47%	
40-54	58%	48%	41%	39%	
55 +	58%	51%	40%	22%	
<b>Education (End of)</b>					
15-	52%	47%	35%	18%	
16-19	58%	52%	41%	38%	
20+	64%	48%	47%	46%	
Still studying	65%	53%	48%	53%	
<b>Respondent occupation scale</b>					
Self-employed	57%	45%	40%	43%	
Managers	66%	48%	48%	49%	
Other white collars	61%	50%	47%	47%	
Manual workers	58%	51%	40%	41%	
House persons	56%	48%	40%	27%	
Unemployed	48%	44%	33%	38%	
Retired	58%	52%	40%	20%	
Students	65%	53%	48%	53%	
<b>Left-Right scale</b>					
(1-4) Left	62%	47%	46%	38%	
(5-6) Centre	60%	51%	42%	37%	
(7-10) Right	59%	52%	42%	39%	
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>					
Most of the time	49%	44%	34%	31%	
From time to time	54%	48%	40%	37%	
Almost never/ never	62%	51%	44%	38%	
<b>Trust in EU</b>					
Tend to trust	72%	61%	56%	49%	
Tend not to trust	43%	37%	26%	26%	
<b>Image of EU</b>					
Positive	68%	56%	52%	46%	
Neutral	54%	48%	36%	31%	
Negative	42%	36%	24%	25%	

## 5. THE FUTURE OF EUROPEANS

**- More than six out of ten Europeans are convinced that their children will have a more difficult life than them -**

More than six out of ten Europeans are convinced that the life of today's children will be more difficult than for their own generation (61%), while just over a fifth (21%) think that it will be neither easier nor more difficult; finally, 15% consider that it will be easier. The proportion of both optimists and pessimists has fallen slightly (-1 point) since autumn 2008, while the proportion of those who expect things to remain the same has increased by 3 points.

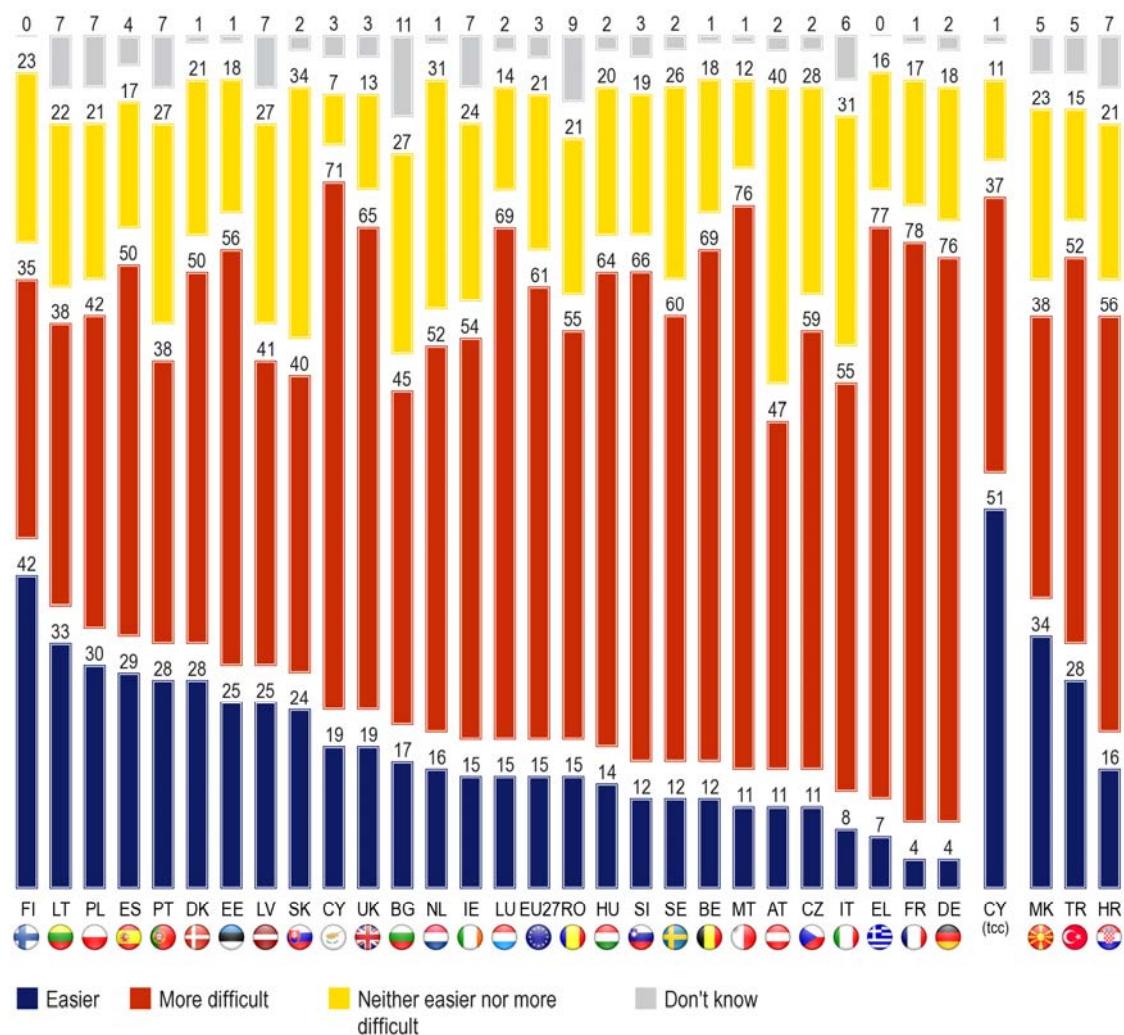
QD5 Generally speaking, do you think that the life of those who are children today will be easier, more difficult or neither easier nor more difficult than the life of those from your own generation? - % EU



Respondents in Finland (42%), Lithuania (33%), Poland (30%), Spain (29%), Denmark and Portugal (both 28%) are the most optimistic. Respondents in France (78%), Greece (77%), Germany and Malta (76% in both cases) and Cyprus (71%) are the most likely to believe that the life of today's children will be more difficult than that of their own generation.

The answers given by respondents in the candidate countries are close to those of Europeans as a whole. The majority consider that their children's lives will be more difficult than that of their generation; this response was given by 56% of respondents in Croatia, 52% in Turkey and 38% in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

QD5. Generally speaking, do you think that the life of those who are children today will be easier, more difficult or neither easier nor more difficult than the life of those from your own generation?



Women and those on the left of the political spectrum (both 63%) are more likely than men and those on the right (both 58%) to predict that the life of today's children will be more difficult than that of their own generation. There are also significant differences by age: the youngest respondents are less pessimistic than the oldest (51% of those aged between 15 and 24 compared with 65% of those aged 55 or over). Respondents living in a household with four or more members (therefore potentially with children) are slightly less likely (58%) than people living alone (62%) to believe that the life of future generations will be more difficult than it is today.

Europeans who never have difficulties paying their bills and those who are satisfied with their country's economic situation are also slightly less negative about the prospects of future generations: 60% and 53% respectively believe that the life of today's children will be more difficult, compared with 67% of respondents who say that they have financial problems most of the time and 63% of those who are dissatisfied with the situation of the economy in their country.

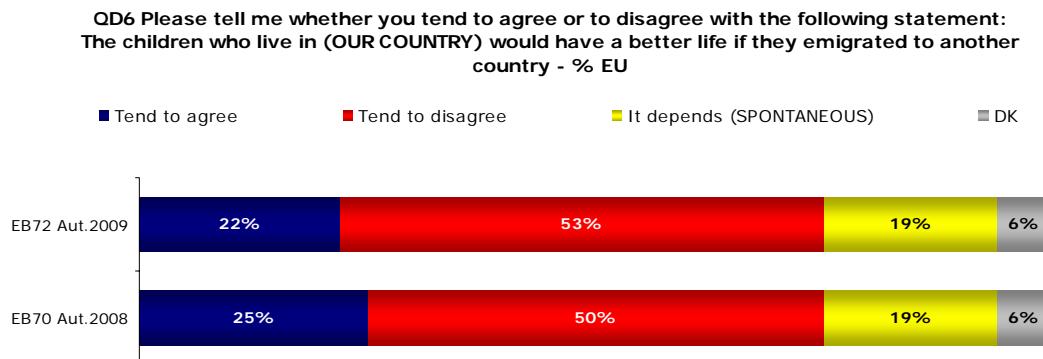
**Q5 Generally speaking, do you think that the life of those who are children today will be easier, more difficult or neither easier nor more difficult than the life of those from your own generation?**

	Easier	More difficult	Neither easier nor more difficult	DK
EU27	15%	61%	21%	3%
<b>Sex</b>				
Male	16%	58%	22%	4%
Female	13%	63%	20%	4%
<b>Age</b>				
15-24	19%	51%	25%	5%
25-39	16%	57%	24%	3%
40-54	13%	64%	20%	3%
55 +	14%	65%	18%	3%
<b>Household composition</b>				
1	15%	62%	19%	4%
2	14%	63%	20%	3%
3	15%	59%	22%	4%
4+	15%	58%	23%	4%
<b>Left-Right scale</b>				
(1-4) Left	15%	63%	20%	2%
(5-6) Centre	14%	63%	21%	2%
(7-10) Right	16%	58%	22%	4%
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>				
Most of the time	11%	67%	18%	4%
From time to time	14%	61%	21%	4%
Almost never/ never	16%	60%	21%	3%
<b>Situation of national economy</b>				
Good	19%	53%	25%	3%
Bad	13%	63%	20%	4%

**- Half of Europeans believe that children in their country would not have a better life if they were to emigrate to another country -**

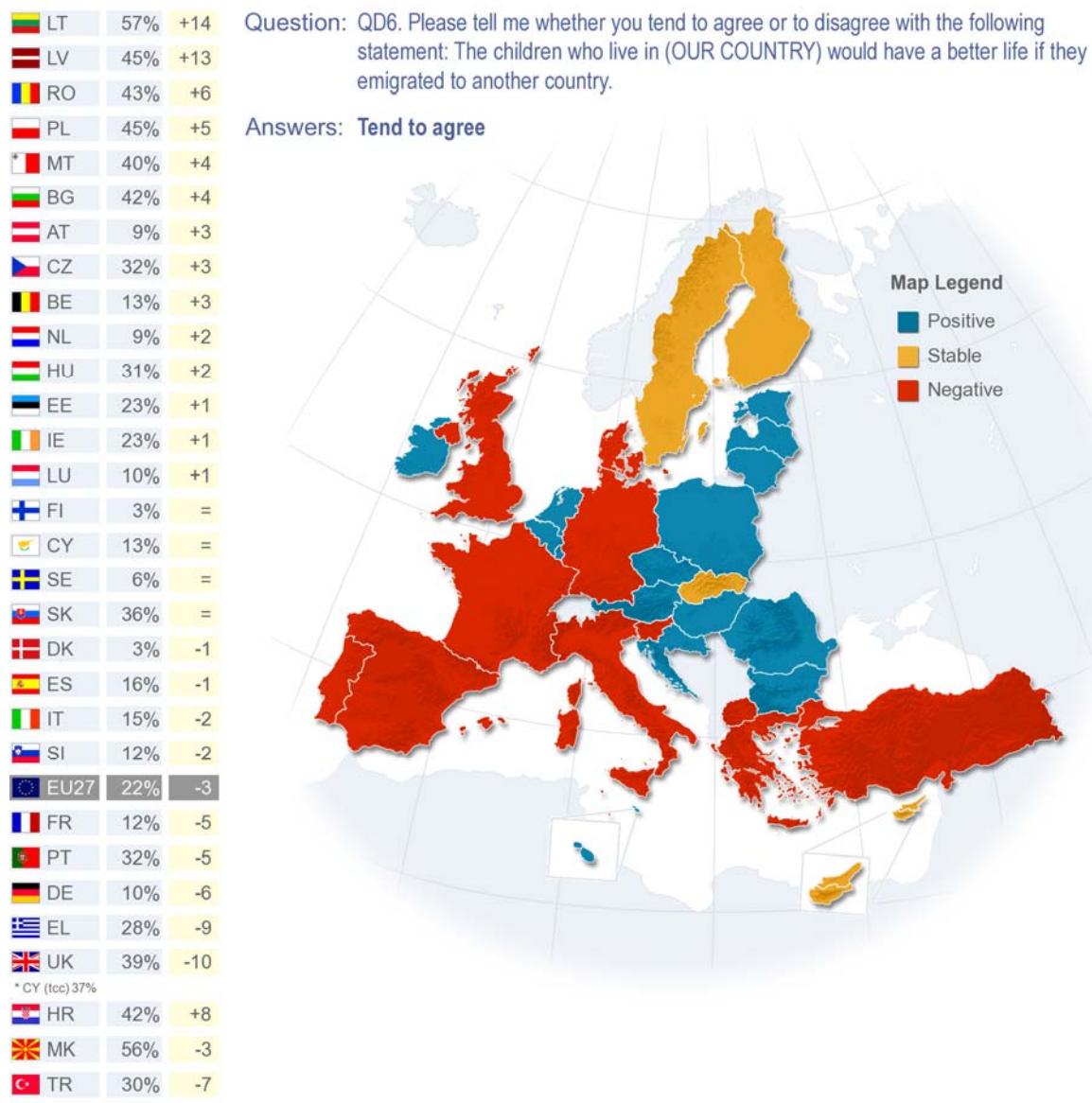
Half of Europeans disagree with the statement "Children who live in (OUR COUNTRY) would have a better life if they emigrated to another country" (53%). Almost a quarter of European citizens (22%) take the opposite view and 19% consider that it depends on the circumstances.

Nevertheless, the percentage of respondents who disagree with this statement has risen by 3 points since autumn 2008 (from 50% to 53%), while the proportion taking the opposite view has fallen by 3 points (from 25% to 22%).



Respondents in the Nordic countries are the most likely to disagree with the idea that children living in their country would have a better life if they emigrated to another country: 92% of respondents in Denmark, 88% in Finland and 82% in Sweden took this view, as did a majority in the Benelux countries (82% in the Netherlands, 76% in Luxembourg and 70% in Belgium).

In contrast, a majority of respondents in six Member States agree with the statement: Lithuania (57%), Latvia and Poland (both 45%), Romania (43%), Bulgaria (42%) and Malta (40%).



The number of respondents who "tend to agree" with the idea that children in their country would have a better life if they were to emigrate to another country has risen sharply in Lithuania (+14 points) and Latvia (+13 points), two Member States which have been particularly badly hit by the economic crisis. It has also increased significantly in Romania (+6 points) and Poland (+5 points).

However, the percentage expressing this opinion has fallen by 10 points in the United Kingdom, 9 points in Greece and 6 points in Germany. It should be remembered that the latter two countries held parliamentary elections during autumn 2009 (Germany in September and Greece in October).

On the other hand, respondents in the candidate countries are far more likely than those in the Union to take the view that children living in their country would have a better life if they emigrated to another country: this view was supported by a majority in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Croatia (56% and 42% respectively), and by three out of ten respondents in Turkey (30% compared with 49% who disagreed).

A socio-demographic analysis reveals that people living in large towns are slightly more likely than those living in medium-sized towns to consider that children would have a better life if they were to emigrate (26% compared with 20% of inhabitants of medium-sized towns). This feeling is also slightly more common in households with three or more people (25% in households composed of three people and 23% in those composed of four or more people, compared with 19% of people living alone).

Europeans who have difficulties paying their bills most of the time (31%) and those who consider that things are going in the wrong direction in their country (26%) are also slightly more likely to believe that children living in their country would have a better life if they emigrated than those who have no financial difficulties (20%) or who consider that things are going in the right direction in their country (19%).

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**QD6a Please tell me whether you tend to agree or to disagree with the following statement: The children who live in (OUR COUNTRY) would have a better life if they emigrated to another country.**

	Tend to agree	Tend to disagree	It depends (SPONTANEOUS)	DK
EU27	22%	53%	19%	6%
<b>Subjective urbanisation</b>				
Rural village	22%	54%	19%	5%
Small/ mid size town	20%	56%	19%	5%
Large town	26%	48%	20%	6%
<b>Household composition</b>				
1	19%	55%	19%	7%
2	22%	54%	19%	5%
3	25%	49%	21%	5%
4+	23%	53%	19%	5%
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>				
Most of the time	31%	43%	19%	7%
From time to time	25%	47%	21%	7%
Almost never/ never	20%	57%	18%	5%
<b>Things in country are going in...</b>				
Right direction	19%	62%	16%	3%
Wrong direction	26%	49%	19%	6%
Neither	17%	49%	28%	6%

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## *II THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS CITIZENS*

### **1. ATTACHMENT TO THE EUROPEAN UNION**

#### **1.1 What does the European Union represent?**

*- Europe is above all synonymous with an area of freedom -*

The general perception that Europeans have of the European Union has not changed since the autumn 2008 (EB70) and spring 2009 (EB71) waves. European citizens see the European Union primarily as an area of freedom embodied in its monetary symbol, the euro<sup>44</sup>. Thus, when asked what the EU represents for them personally, 46% of Europeans mentioned the freedom to travel, study and work anywhere within the European Union. The score for this answer has risen by 4 points since the spring 2009 wave. 37% of Europeans (+4 points) next mentioned the euro as the symbol of what the European Union best represents for them.

The third highest score was obtained by peace, which was mentioned by 28% of respondents (+3 points), followed by democracy (26%, +4 points), a stronger say in the world (25%, +2 points) and cultural diversity (22%, +3 points). The other positive associations, prosperity (18%, +2 points) and social protection (11%, +1 point) were mentioned less frequently, but nevertheless obtained slightly higher scores than previously.

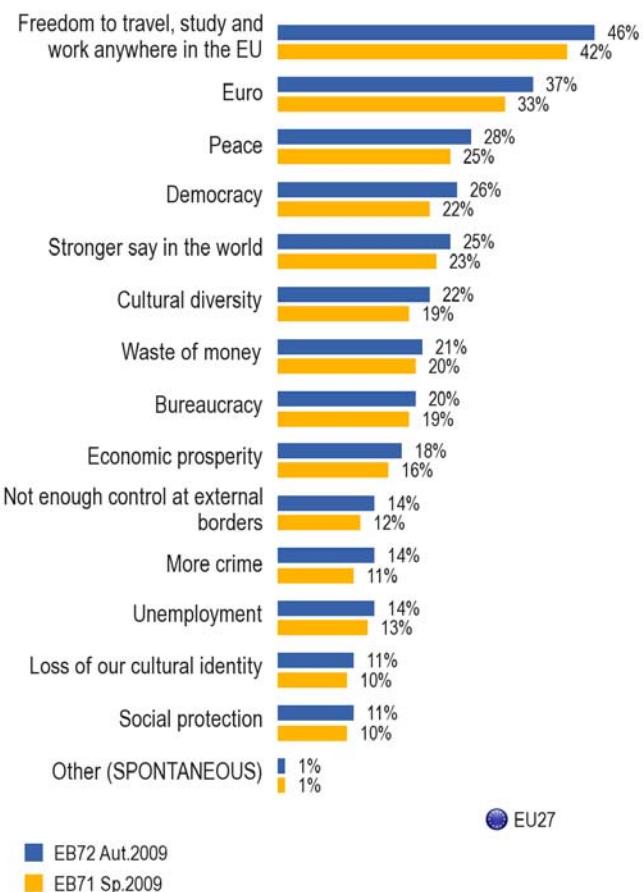
Negative associations with the European Union remain in the minority, and none were mentioned by more than a fifth of Europeans. The two most frequently mentioned negative items were the waste of money (21%, +1 point) and bureaucracy (20%, +1 point), followed by crime (14%, +3 points, a sharp increase which mirrors the increase in criminality as a national concern<sup>45</sup>), inadequate external border controls (14%, +2 points), unemployment (14%, +1 point) and the loss of cultural identity (11%, +1 point).

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<sup>44</sup> QA12. What does the European Union mean to you personally?

<sup>45</sup> See part I, Life in the European Union, chapter 3.3, the main national concerns.

## QA12. What does the European Union mean to you personally?



These associations differ significantly between countries, in ways which reflect national histories and cultures.

Thus, **the freedom to travel, study and work** is particularly important in the eyes of citizens in Central and Eastern European countries: 72% in Estonia, 62% in Latvia, 58% in Bulgaria, 58% in Slovakia, 57% in Lithuania, 55% in the Czech Republic, 54% in Poland, 53% in Slovenia. In general, this answer obtained the highest score in twenty Member States.

Logically, citizens in euro zone countries are more likely than others to mention the **euro** as a symbol of the European Union: 65% in Austria, 61% in Slovakia – the latest country to have adopted the single currency -, 59% in Belgium, 56% in Slovenia, 50% in Germany and 49% in Greece for example. The euro was the most frequently cited item in six Member States: Austria, Slovenia, Slovakia, Belgium, Greece and Spain.

The special attachment to Europe as an area of **peace** in Sweden (51%) and Germany (47%) is noteworthy.

The Nordic countries, Austria and, more unusually, Germany, recorded a preponderance of negative associations, with high scores for **bureaucracy** and the **waste of money**.

Bureaucracy, for example, was mentioned as a symbol of the European Union by 44% of respondents in Austria, 43% in Finland, 40% in Denmark, 39% in Sweden and 37% in Germany.

Finally, this question confirms the particular nature of British public opinion on European issues, since the three most frequently mentioned items in the United Kingdom included two negative associations. Although the freedom to travel obtained the highest score, being cited by 30% of respondents, it was directly followed by the waste of money (28%) and bureaucracy (26%).

The candidate countries have a somewhat different image from that of the Member States. Thus, the EU is seen first of all as an area of prosperity in Turkey, where this item obtained the highest score (33%), ahead of the freedom to travel and work (28%), and democracy and social protection (both 20%). The image of the European Union is very positive in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, where 56% of respondents mentioned the freedom to travel and work, followed by economic prosperity (43%) and peace (35%). On the other hand, the Union's image is more fragile in Croatia. Although the freedom to travel and work was by far the most frequently mentioned item (41%), it was followed by a negative item, the fear of the loss of cultural identity, which was cited by 23% of respondents.

## QA12 What does the European Union mean to you personally? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

	Freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the EU	Euro	Peace	Democracy	Stronger say in the world	Cultural diversity	Waste of money	Bureaucracy	Economic prosperity	Unemployment	More crime	Not enough control at external borders	Social protection	Loss of our cultural identity
EU27	46%	37%	28%	26%	25%	22%	21%	20%	18%	14%	14%	14%	11%	11%
BE	43%	<b>59%</b>	31%	25%	28%	22%	27%	17%	20%	18%	22%	20%	11%	10%
BG	<b>58%</b>	22%	26%	<b>40%</b>	23%	26%	6%	5%	35%	5%	7%	5%	26%	7%
CZ	<b>55%</b>	32%	25%	22%	28%	18%	23%	22%	19%	16%	22%	19%	9%	12%
DK	<b>60%</b>	39%	41%	35%	31%	26%	21%	40%	28%	14%	30%	38%	12%	14%
DE	<b>54%</b>	50%	47%	32%	28%	26%	34%	37%	14%	19%	26%	18%	9%	9%
EE	<b>72%</b>	26%	24%	14%	19%	24%	13%	22%	13%	13%	8%	10%	11%	10%
IE	<b>49%</b>	48%	19%	19%	27%	15%	9%	11%	29%	14%	12%	10%	11%	17%
EL	48%	<b>49%</b>	38%	28%	35%	21%	16%	8%	19%	20%	15%	17%	23%	14%
ES	37%	<b>38%</b>	12%	36%	21%	24%	7%	10%	27%	6%	1%	4%	13%	3%
FR	<b>45%</b>	43%	39%	21%	29%	34%	32%	16%	10%	17%	8%	19%	7%	12%
IT	<b>37%</b>	37%	16%	27%	28%	20%	10%	7%	16%	12%	10%	14%	12%	11%
CY	<b>68%</b>	44%	32%	36%	29%	<b>37%</b>	15%	10%	16%	34%	45%	24%	33%	25%
LV	<b>62%</b>	15%	17%	12%	11%	15%	18%	19%	11%	18%	9%	7%	13%	8%
LT	<b>57%</b>	14%	16%	18%	13%	18%	12%	9%	21%	7%	5%	3%	11%	9%
LU	<b>55%</b>	46%	45%	32%	28%	28%	11%	10%	20%	10%	14%	17%	16%	6%
HU	<b>46%</b>	28%	21%	23%	21%	17%	14%	12%	15%	26%	19%	12%	10%	6%
MT	<b>50%</b>	39%	22%	24%	33%	18%	11%	10%	22%	11%	6%	11%	13%	13%
NL	<b>54%</b>	47%	35%	21%	36%	20%	19%	24%	31%	7%	16%	16%	9%	11%
AT	55%	<b>65%</b>	32%	27%	31%	29%	<b>43%</b>	<b>44%</b>	18%	<b>35%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>41%</b>	18%	23%
PL	<b>54%</b>	27%	21%	21%	26%	14%	9%	18%	16%	9%	4%	3%	7%	6%
PT	<b>34%</b>	31%	17%	21%	21%	17%	11%	5%	18%	22%	17%	13%	8%	8%
RO	<b>50%</b>	34%	33%	39%	13%	17%	8%	6%	<b>35%</b>	10%	7%	8%	22%	7%
SI	53%	<b>56%</b>	32%	20%	25%	22%	27%	26%	17%	22%	29%	16%	9%	14%
SK	58%	<b>61%</b>	19%	24%	32%	19%	12%	10%	25%	13%	19%	10%	11%	9%
FI	<b>63%</b>	56%	28%	15%	21%	20%	30%	43%	16%	7%	20%	13%	9%	10%
SE	<b>68%</b>	26%	<b>51%</b>	33%	<b>39%</b>	27%	33%	39%	20%	9%	19%	20%	9%	10%
UK	30%	16%	18%	13%	18%	18%	28%	26%	12%	11%	11%	19%	8%	21%
CY (tcc)	29%	10%	26%	24%	25%	19%	5%	7%	46%	10%	7%	4%	36%	14%
MK	<b>56%</b>	9%	35%	21%	19%	8%	4%	4%	<b>43%</b>	7%	5%	3%	14%	5%
HR	<b>41%</b>	21%	19%	19%	15%	12%	9%	7%	21%	8%	<b>15%</b>	9%	9%	23%
TR	28%	7%	18%	20%	10%	13%	4%	3%	<b>33%</b>	13%	5%	3%	20%	13%

\* In bold, the highest results per country; in italics the lowest results per country; the grey rectangle shows the highest results per value; the rectangle with black borders shows the lowest results per value.

A sociological analysis reveals that the impression of Europe as an area of freedom is particularly widespread among the youngest respondents and those who are the most economically and socially integrated. For example, it was mentioned by 60% of students compared with only 39% of retired people and 42% of the unemployed. It was highlighted by 55% of respondents who studied until the age of 20 or beyond, compared with only 35% of those who left school at 15 or earlier. On the other hand, there is almost no social difference as regards the perception of the euro as a European symbol. The single currency was mentioned by 37% of those who place themselves at the bottom of the social hierarchy compared with 39% of those who position themselves at the top.

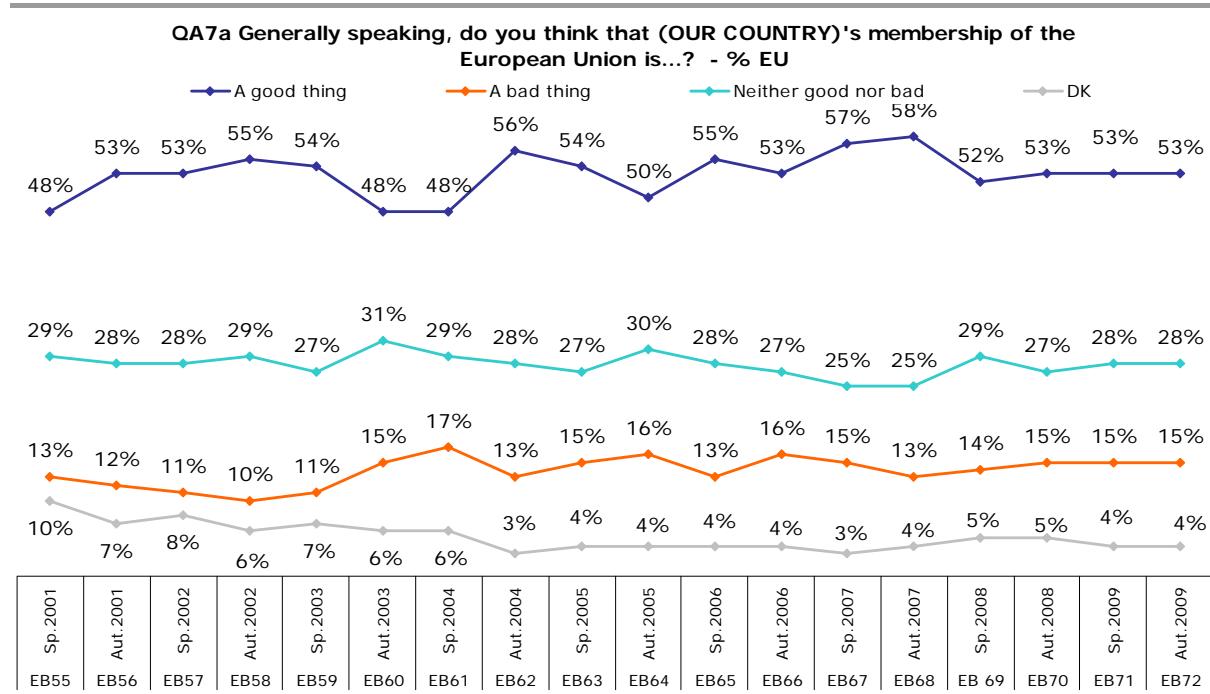
The respondent's level of education is also an important variable in determining the other associations with the European Union. Thus, the most educated respondents are far more likely than those who left school at an early age to believe that the European Union represents a stronger say in the world (32% versus 19%) and is a symbol of cultural diversity (33% versus 15%). On the other hand, negative associations are more widespread among those who left school at the age of 15 or earlier: they are more likely to mention unemployment (18% compared with 9% of those who studied until the age of 20 or beyond), and the waste of money (27% versus 18%).

QA12 What does the European Union mean to you personally? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)							
	Freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the EU	Euro	Peace	Democracy	Stronger say in the world	Cultural diversity	Waste of money
EU27	46%	37%	28%	26%	25%	22%	21%
<b>Age</b>							
15-24	54%	40%	27%	26%	26%	24%	13%
25-39	49%	39%	23%	27%	25%	24%	17%
40-54	45%	37%	28%	26%	26%	24%	23%
55 +	41%	35%	32%	24%	25%	19%	25%
<b>Education (End of)</b>							
15-	35%	37%	27%	23%	19%	15%	27%
16-19	44%	36%	27%	24%	25%	20%	22%
20+	55%	39%	31%	30%	32%	33%	18%
Still studying	60%	43%	31%	29%	28%	28%	10%
<b>Respondent occupation scale</b>							
Self-employed	46%	38%	27%	29%	31%	24%	19%
Managers	60%	42%	35%	33%	32%	36%	19%
Other white collars	48%	39%	25%	28%	26%	22%	20%
Manual workers	44%	38%	25%	25%	23%	21%	22%
House persons	39%	40%	22%	25%	23%	19%	18%
Unemployed	42%	32%	21%	19%	21%	19%	20%
Retired	39%	34%	33%	23%	24%	18%	26%
Students	60%	43%	31%	29%	28%	28%	10%
<b>Self-positioning on the social staircase</b>							
Low (1-4)	40%	37%	27%	22%	21%	19%	25%
Medium (5-6)	47%	38%	28%	27%	26%	23%	20%
High (7-10)	50%	39%	30%	28%	29%	25%	18%
	Bureaucracy	Economic prosperity	Unemployment	More crime	Not enough control at external borders	Social protection	Loss of our cultural identity
EU27	20%	18%	14%	14%	14%	11%	11%
<b>Age</b>							
15-24	10%	19%	12%	9%	9%	13%	7%
25-39	18%	19%	15%	12%	13%	11%	10%
40-54	23%	18%	15%	14%	15%	10%	12%
55 +	22%	16%	13%	17%	17%	10%	11%
<b>Education (End of)</b>							
15-	18%	14%	18%	17%	17%	12%	11%
16-19	20%	17%	16%	15%	15%	10%	12%
20+	25%	22%	9%	10%	13%	11%	9%
Still studying	12%	22%	8%	6%	7%	14%	7%
<b>Respondent occupation scale</b>							
Self-employed	21%	21%	10%	10%	12%	11%	9%
Managers	29%	24%	9%	11%	13%	11%	11%
Other white collars	20%	19%	14%	14%	15%	10%	11%
Manual workers	19%	17%	16%	15%	15%	11%	12%
House persons	12%	16%	17%	13%	14%	11%	8%
Unemployed	17%	15%	22%	14%	13%	10%	10%
Retired	23%	14%	13%	17%	18%	10%	12%
Students	12%	22%	8%	6%	7%	14%	7%
<b>Self-positioning on the social staircase</b>							
Low (1-4)	18%	14%	19%	15%	15%	11%	11%
Medium (5-6)	20%	17%	13%	14%	15%	10%	10%
High (7-10)	21%	23%	9%	12%	14%	13%	11%

## 1.2 Support for European membership

### *- Support for membership of the European Union is unchanged since previous Eurobarometer waves -*

53% of Europeans consider that their country's membership of the European Union is a good thing, while 15% believe that it is a bad thing, 28% consider that it is "neither good nor bad" and 4% expressed no opinion<sup>46</sup>. These results are strictly in line with those recorded during the spring 2009 wave. Since autumn 2008 (EB70), the difference between those who consider that European membership is a good thing and those who think that it is a bad thing has remained practically the same, despite the financial and economic crisis which has shaken the European Union during this period.



As in the previous waves, respondents in the Netherlands (74%) and Luxembourg (74%) are the most convinced of the benefits of European membership, ahead of interviewees in Ireland (72%) and Slovakia (68%). In general, the feeling that membership of the European Union is a good thing carries the day in 23 European Union countries. Respondents in four countries take the more guarded view that membership is neither good nor bad: Latvia (51%), the Czech Republic (46%), Hungary (42%) and the United Kingdom (34%). Latvia is the only Member State where the proportion of respondents who consider that their country's membership is a bad thing exceeds the number of those who take the opposite view (24%, compared with 23% who think that membership is a good thing). Respondents in the United Kingdom are split down the middle on this question (30% versus 30%).

<sup>46</sup> QA7a: Generally speaking, do you think that (OUR COUNTRY)'s membership of the European Union is a good thing, a bad thing, neither good nor bad?

There have been some interesting changes for this indicator: for example, support for European membership has increased significantly in Greece, from 45% in spring 2009 to 61% today (+16 points). Following the referendum on the Lisbon Treaty held on 2 October 2009<sup>47</sup>, the percentage of respondents in Ireland who consider that their country's membership of the EU is a good thing is also up by 3 percentage points compared with spring 2009. On the other hand, support for European membership has fallen sharply in Malta, from 57% to 45% and, to a lesser extent, in Spain, from 71% to 64%, and Lithuania, from 57% to 51%.

In the candidate countries, accession to the EU has widespread support in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, where 66% of respondents believe that their country's membership of the EU would be a good thing. Opinions are slightly more divided in Turkey, but support for EU membership is dominant (45%). On the other hand, respondents in Croatia remain very doubtful of the benefits that their country would gain from joining the EU: only 24% consider that EU membership would be a good thing for Croatia, whereas 37% say that it would be a bad thing and 35% that it would be neither good nor bad. There have been no significant changes in the three candidate countries since spring 2009.

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<sup>47</sup> Victory of the "Yes" vote, with 67.1%, after the failure of the first referendum in June 2008.

**QA7 Generally speaking, do you think that (OUR COUNTRY)'s membership of the European Union is / would be ...?**

% A good thing	EB71 Sp.2009	EB72 Aut.2009	Diff.Aut.2009- Sp.2009
EU27	53%	53%	=
LU	79%	74%	-5
NL	72%	74%	+2
IE	69%	72%	+3
SK	66%	68%	+2
DK	65%	65%	=
BE	66%	64%	-2
ES	71%	64%	-7
RO	66%	64%	-2
EE	59%	62%	+3
EL	45%	61%	+16
PL	60%	61%	+1
DE	61%	60%	-1
SE	54%	57%	+3
BG	51%	54%	+3
PT	50%	52%	+2
LT	57%	51%	-6
FI	52%	51%	-1
SI	48%	50%	+2
FR	50%	49%	-1
IT	48%	49%	+1
CY	47%	46%	-1
MT	57%	45%	-12
AT	41%	42%	+1
CZ	42%	40%	-2
HU	32%	34%	+2
UK	28%	30%	+2
LV	25%	23%	-2
CY (tcc)	45%	56%	+11
MK	64%	66%	+2
TR	48%	45%	-3
HR	24%	24%	=

For CY(tcc); Generally speaking, do you think that for the Turkish Cypriot Community the full application of European Union legislation would be...?

A socio-demographic analysis reveals the same differences as those described in previous surveys, reproducing the structural divisions within public opinion regarding the building of Europe and European integration.

Thus, support for European membership is stronger among men than among women (57% versus 49%) and among young people as opposed to the oldest respondents (62% of those aged 15 to 24 compared with 49% of those aged 55 or over). It is also far more widespread among the most educated respondents than among those who left school the earliest (67% versus 40%), among managers as opposed to manual workers (69% versus 50%) and among the respondents who place themselves at the top of the social hierarchy than among those who place themselves at the bottom (64% versus 42%). Finally, support is far more widespread among those who have no financial difficulties (59%) than among those who acknowledge that they often have difficulties paying their monthly bills (35%).

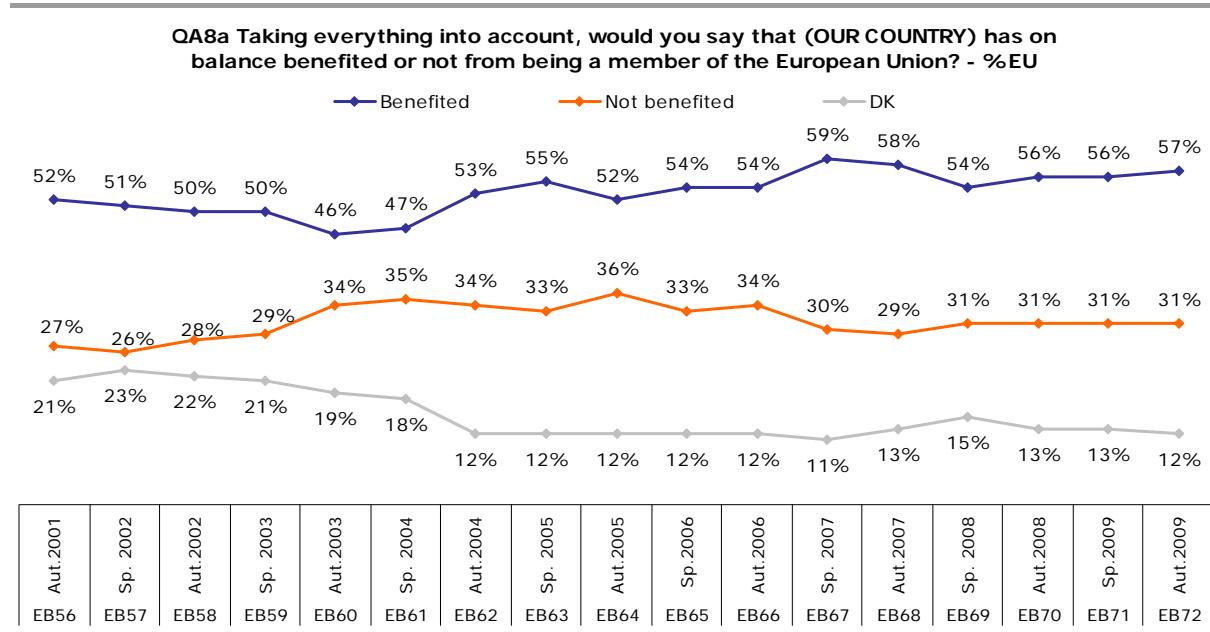
**Q47a Generally speaking, do you think that (OUR COUNTRY)'s membership of the European Union is...?**

	A good thing	A bad thing	Neither good nor bad	DK
EU27	53%	15%	28%	4%
<b>Sex</b>				
Male	57%	15%	25%	3%
Female	49%	14%	32%	5%
<b>Age</b>				
15-24	62%	8%	26%	4%
25-39	55%	14%	28%	3%
40-54	52%	17%	28%	3%
55 +	49%	17%	29%	5%
<b>Education (End of)</b>				
15-	40%	21%	33%	6%
16-19	49%	16%	31%	4%
20+	67%	10%	22%	1%
Still studying	70%	5%	22%	3%
<b>Respondent occupation scale</b>				
Self-employed	60%	13%	24%	3%
Managers	69%	10%	20%	1%
Other white collars	55%	13%	30%	2%
Manual workers	50%	17%	30%	3%
House persons	45%	14%	35%	6%
Unemployed	44%	18%	32%	6%
Retired	47%	18%	30%	5%
Students	70%	5%	22%	3%
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>				
Most of the time	35%	21%	38%	6%
From time to time	48%	16%	32%	4%
Almost never/ never	59%	13%	25%	3%
<b>Self-positioning on the social staircase</b>				
Low (1-4)	42%	19%	34%	5%
Medium (5-6)	54%	14%	29%	3%
High (7-10)	64%	12%	22%	2%

### 1.3 The perceived benefits of European membership

**- Support for the perceived benefits of European membership remains unchanged -**

In line with support for European membership, the situation regarding the perceived benefits of membership is, logically, also unchanged. Thus 57% of Europeans consider that their country has benefited from EU membership, while 31% take the opposite view and 12% express no opinion<sup>48</sup>. These levels are similar to those measured in all the surveys since autumn 2008. It should thus be noted that although the economic perceptions of Europeans have been considerably affected by the financial and economic crisis, they do not seem to hold the European Union in any way to blame; on the contrary support for the perceived benefits of membership remains remarkably stable.

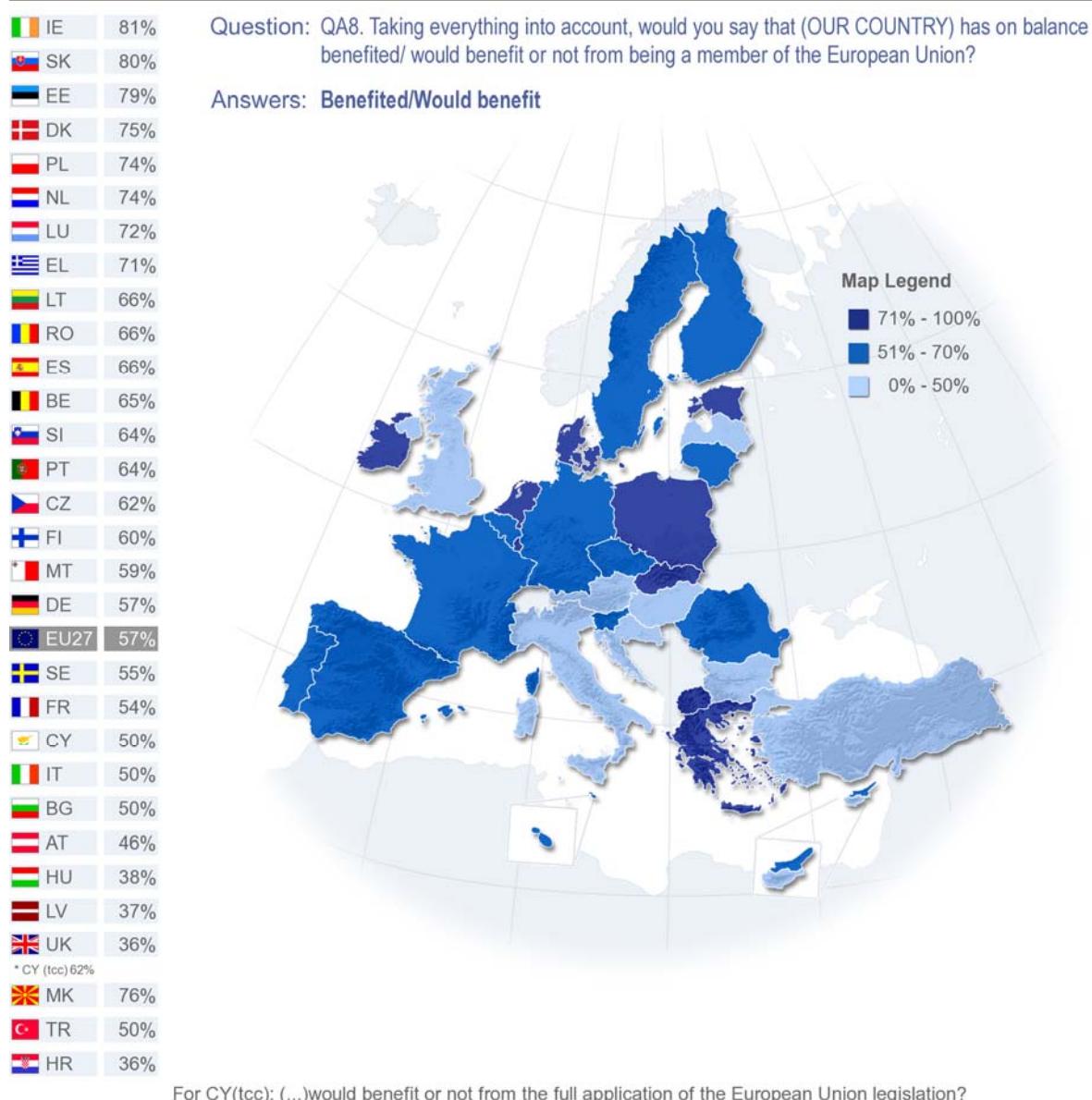


Respondents in Ireland (81%, +2 points), Slovakia (80%, unchanged), Estonia (79%, unchanged), Denmark (75%, -2 points), the Netherlands (74%, unchanged) and Poland (74%, +1 point) are the most positive about the benefits of European membership. However, a majority of respondents in three European Union countries believe that their country has not benefited from EU membership: Latvia (55%) and Hungary (52%) – two of the countries hardest hit by the crisis – and the United Kingdom (49%). Opinions are divided in Austria (46% positive versus 44%) and Cyprus (50% versus 44%).

<sup>48</sup> QA8a: Taking everything into account, would you say that (OUR COUNTRY) has on balance benefited or not from being a member of the European Union?

Some significant shifts in opinion deserve attention: support for the idea that membership has been beneficial has risen by 8 points in Sweden<sup>49</sup>, from 47% to 55%, and by 7 points in Greece, from 64% to 71%. On the other hand, support has fallen by 8 points in Malta, from 67% to 59%.

In the candidate countries, 76% of respondents in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia consider that their country would benefit from European membership, as do 50% of respondents in Turkey (versus 34%, with 16% 'DK' answers) but only 36% in Croatia. The expectation of benefits from any future membership has fallen sharply in Turkey since the previous wave, declining from 57% to 50%.



<sup>49</sup> Note that Sweden held the Presidency of the Council of the European Union during the second half of 2009.

Social determinants are identical to those described for the previous question. Men, young people, the most educated respondents, managers and people at the top of the social hierarchy are far more likely than women, the retired, manual workers, unemployed people and people at the bottom of the social ladder to perceive the benefits of their country's membership of the European Union.

## 2. DEMOCRACY IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

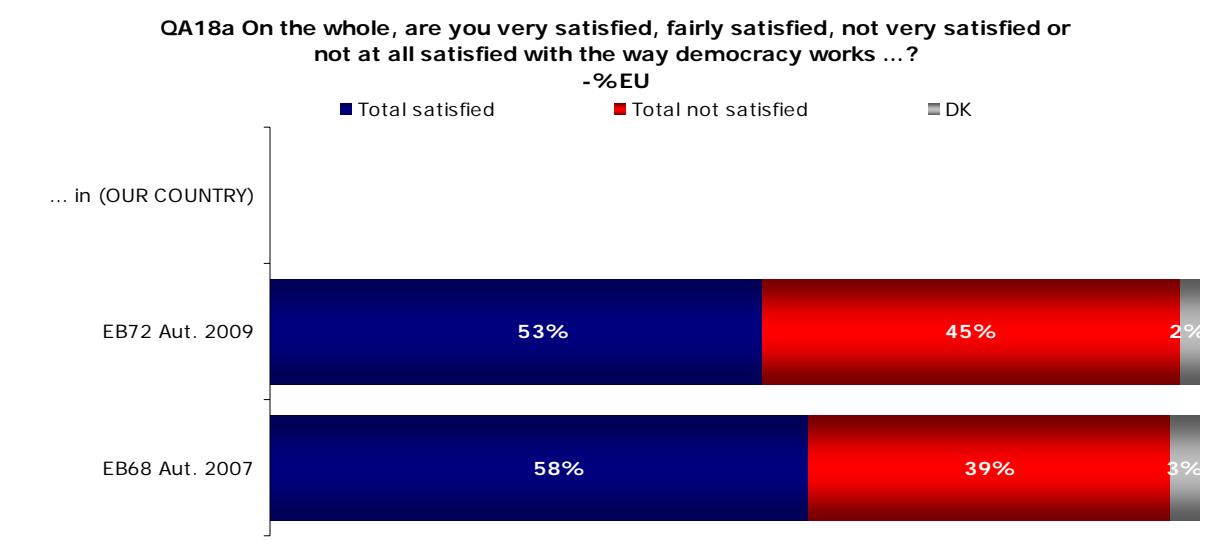
### 2.1 How citizens perceive the way national democracies and European democracy work

*- Rising dissatisfaction with the way in which national democracies work contrasts with increasing satisfaction recorded with the European Union -*

This Eurobarometer wave revisited the questions asked in autumn 2007 (EB68) on the way democracy works in each Member State and in the European Union. In comparison with autumn 2007, dissatisfaction with the way national democracies work has increased (particularly in Central and Eastern European countries, but also in Ireland, France, Greece and Spain), while views on the way democracy works in the European Union remain stable.

#### The way democracy works at national level

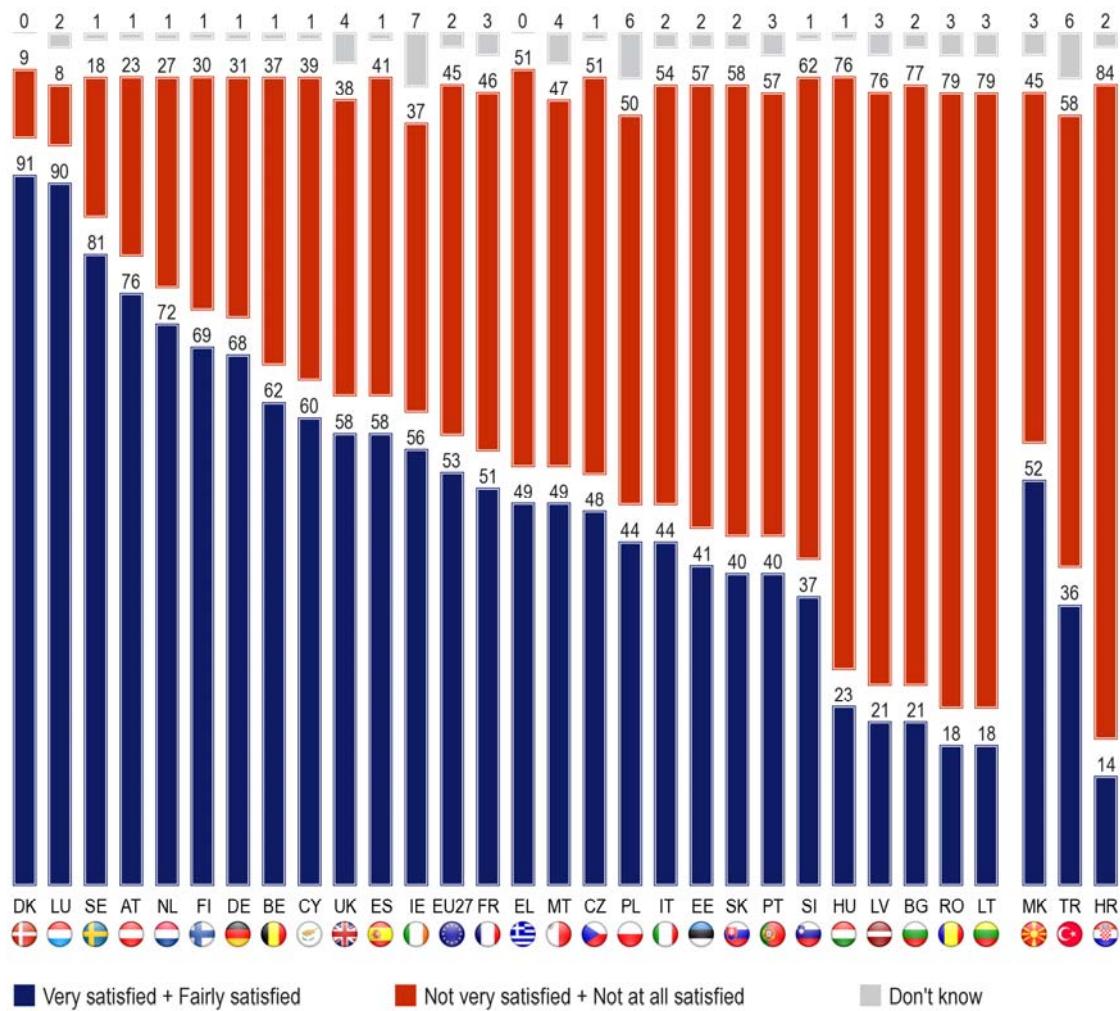
53% of Europeans say that they are currently satisfied with the way democracy works in their country, while 45% are dissatisfied and only 2% expressed no opinion<sup>50</sup>. Satisfaction has fallen by 5 points since the autumn 2007 Eurobarometer wave. At the same time, dissatisfaction has increased by 6 points. The difference between positive and negative opinions has become far narrower in the space of two years, from 58/39 (a difference of +19 points) to 53/45 (a difference of +8 points).



<sup>50</sup> QA18a 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)?

There are very considerable differences from one country to another on this subject, with a majority of respondents in thirteen Member States dissatisfied. Dissatisfaction is particularly widespread in Lithuania (79%), Romania (79%), Bulgaria (77%), Latvia (76%) and Hungary (76%). In contrast satisfaction with national democracy is much greater in the Nordic countries - Denmark (91%), Sweden (81%) and Finland (69%) -, and in Luxembourg (90%), Austria (76%), the Netherlands (72%) and Germany (68%).

QA18. 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)?



There have been some significant changes in opinion since the previous survey in autumn 2007, with a major trend towards increasing dissatisfaction with the way democracy works at national level in the countries where levels of dissatisfaction were already very high. Thus, in the Baltic States and in Eastern Europe levels of dissatisfaction have increased by 23 points in Latvia, 18 points in Romania, 14 points in Estonia, 12 points in Slovenia and 10 points in Bulgaria.

However, these are not the only countries to have recorded an increase in negative views on the way democracy works at national level; there has also been a very marked rise in Spain (+21 points), Ireland (+15 points), France and Greece (both +14 points).

In the candidate countries, levels of dissatisfaction are high and have increased in Croatia (84%, +19 points) and Turkey (58%, +20 points). However, the situation remains unchanged in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (satisfied: 52%; dissatisfied: 45%).

The social divisions on this question are extremely significant, with the most modest and vulnerable categories being particularly critical of the way democracy works in their country. Some 40% of unemployed people are satisfied with the way democracy works at national level compared with 62% of managers. Around 60% of respondents with no financial difficulties are satisfied with the way democracy works compared with only 32% of those who have difficulties paying their bills. Satisfaction levels reach as high as 64% among those self-positioned at the top of the social hierarchy, and stand at only 39% among those who place themselves at the bottom. With massive differences of almost 30 points between social categories, this Eurobarometer highlights the increasing disenchantment of the most modest and vulnerable social categories with democratic systems in Europe.

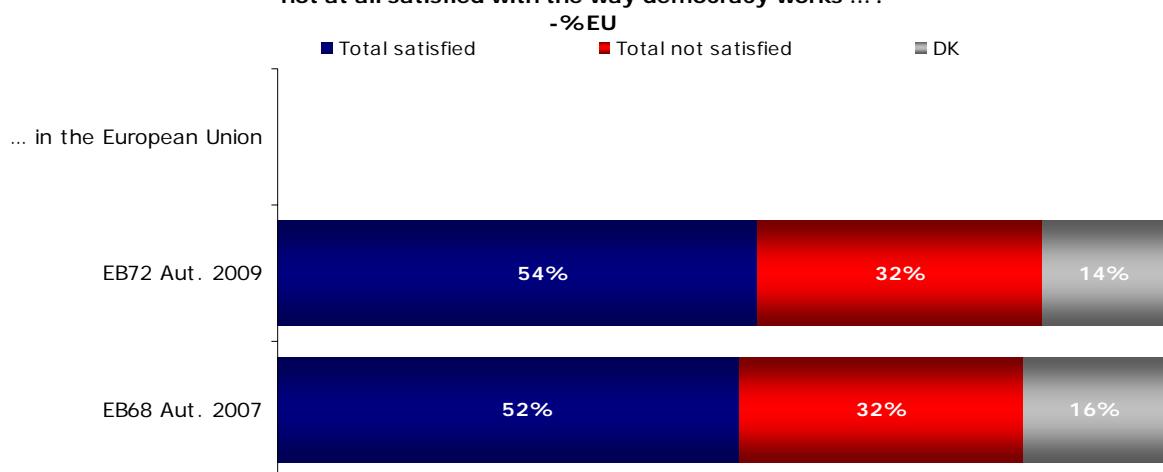
**QA18a On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the way democracy works in (OUR COUNTRY)?**

	Total satisfied	Total not satisfied	DK
EU27	53%	45%	2%
<b>Respondent occupation scale</b>			
Self-employed	56%	42%	2%
Managers	62%	37%	1%
Other white collars	58%	41%	1%
Manual workers	53%	45%	2%
House persons	51%	46%	3%
Unemployed	40%	57%	3%
Retired	50%	47%	3%
Students	60%	37%	3%
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>			
Most of the time	32%	66%	2%
From time to time	46%	52%	2%
Almost never/ never	60%	38%	2%
<b>Self-positioning on the social staircase</b>			
Low (1-4)	39%	58%	3%
Medium (5-6)	56%	42%	2%
High (7-10)	64%	35%	1%

## The way democracy works in the European Union

It is interesting to note that the European Union remains unaffected by this increase in "democratic disenchantment". 54% of Europeans are satisfied with the way democracy works in the European Union, while 32% take the opposite view and 14% expressed no opinion<sup>51</sup>. In part because of the higher number of 'DK' answers, the difference between positive and negative opinions is far less narrow than for the way democracy works at national level. Nor has it followed the same declining trend. Instead satisfaction with democracy in the EU has increased by two points since autumn 2007. The proportion of dissatisfied respondents is unchanged.

**QA18b On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the way democracy works ...?**

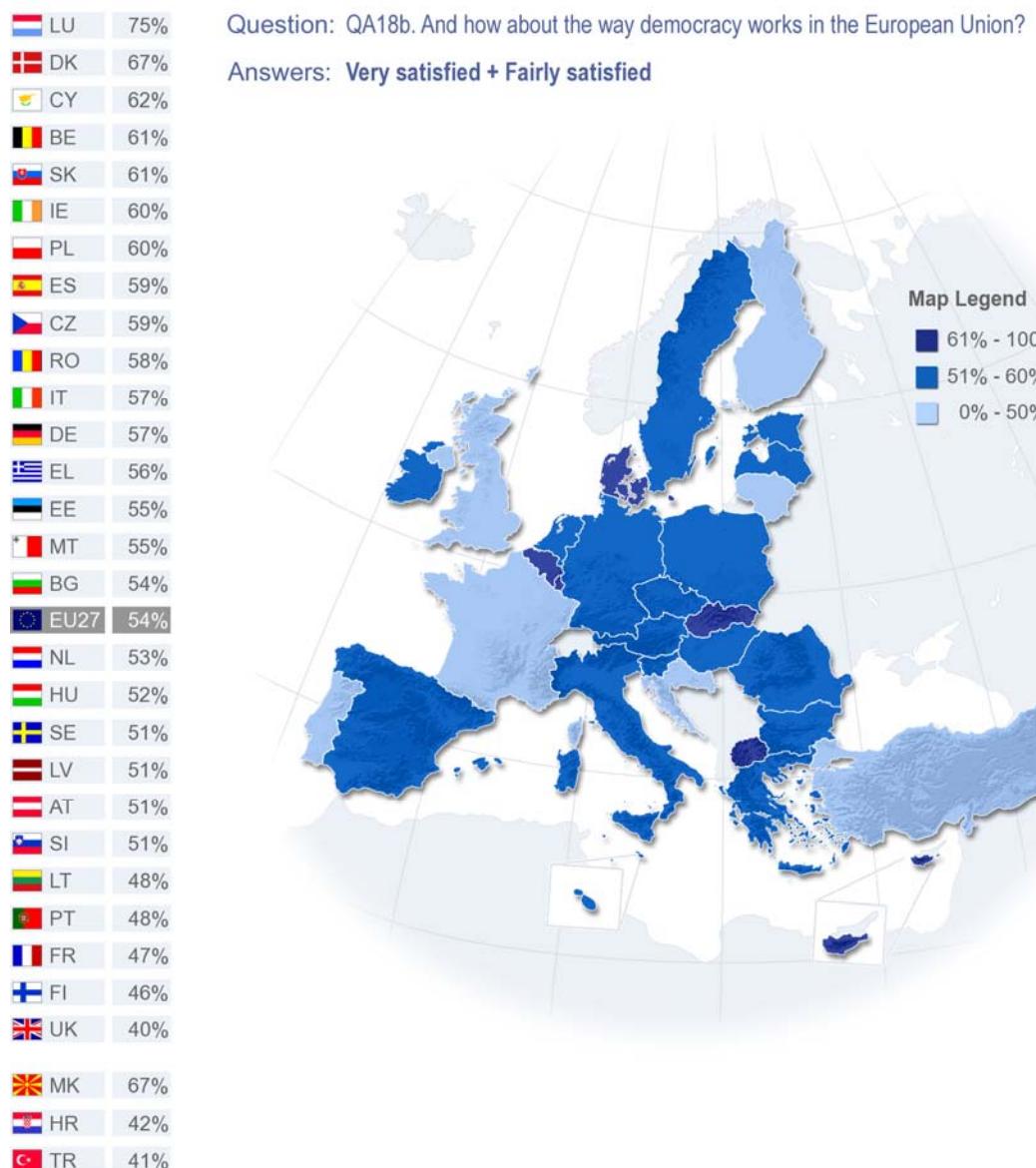


A majority of respondents in every country except Finland (46% versus 49%) are satisfied with the way democracy works in the European Union, for the first time since the survey carried out in December 2004 (EB62.2), a few months after the European elections<sup>52</sup>. At that time, a majority of respondents in all European Union countries (at that time the EU consisted of 25 Member States), as well as in Romania and Bulgaria, were satisfied with the way democracy worked in the European Union.

In the Autumn 2009 survey, levels of satisfaction were the highest in Luxembourg (75%), Denmark (67%), Cyprus (62%), Slovakia (61%), Belgium (61%), Poland (60%) and Ireland (60%). The satisfaction/dissatisfaction ratio is narrower in France (47% versus 38%) and the United Kingdom (40% versus 36%).

<sup>51</sup> QA18b And how about the way democracy works in the European Union?

<sup>52</sup> The 2004 European elections took place on 10-13 June 2004.



In comparison with autumn 2007, levels of satisfaction have increased sharply in Luxembourg (+20 points), Bulgaria (+13 points), Slovakia (+13 points), Cyprus (+13 points) and the Netherlands (+9 points). On the other hand, they have fallen in Slovenia (-9 points), Spain (-7 points) and Poland (-7 points). These changes are therefore not at all comparable with those recorded for national democracies - a sign that criticism of the way democracy works is indeed primarily aimed at national states and governments.

As in the case of national democracies, satisfaction with European democracy increases in line with the respondent's position in the social hierarchy. Thus 42% of respondents who place themselves at the bottom of the social ladder are satisfied, compared with 56% of those who position themselves in the middle and 62% of those self-positioned at the top. Living standards thus create significant differences: 38% of those who have financial difficulties are satisfied with the way democracy works in the European Union compared with 58% of those who have no such problems. 45% of unemployed people are satisfied compared with 59% of managers.

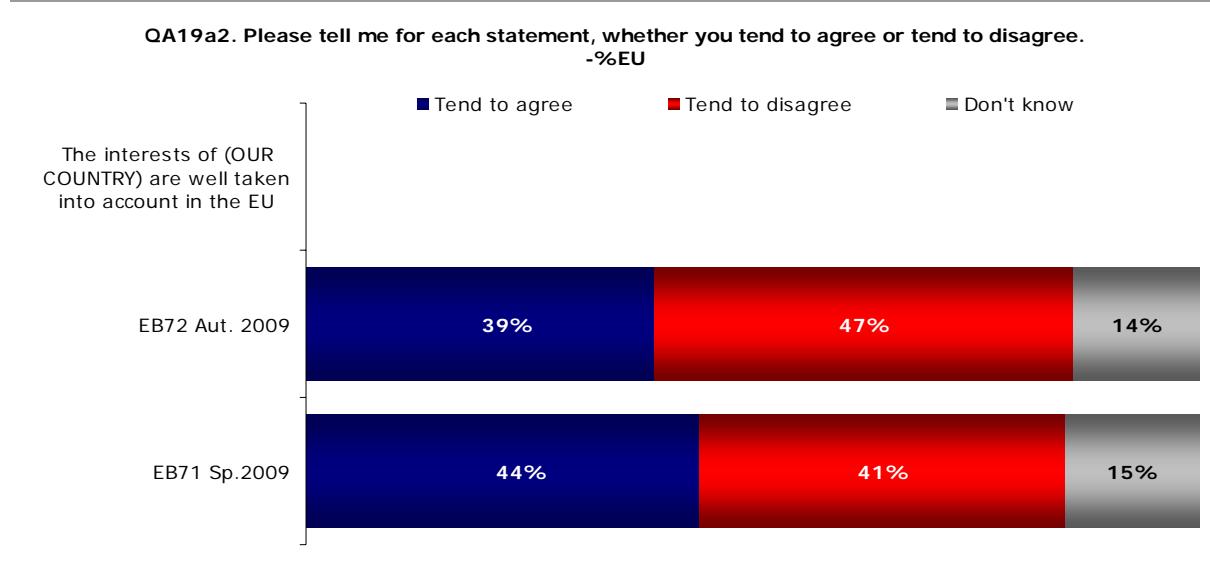
Age is also an important discriminant: 62% of those in the 15-24 age group are satisfied with the way democracy works in the European Union compared with 49% of respondents aged 55 or over.

All in all, therefore, over the same period – between autumn 2007 and autumn 2009 –, there has been a striking deterioration in judgements of the workings of national democracies, while positive opinions regarding the way democracy works in the European Union have increased slightly.

## 2.2 Are national interests properly taken into account by the EU?

**- Europeans increasingly feel that the interests of their country are not properly taken into account by the European Union -**

The idea that national interests are not properly taken into account by the EU is gaining ground among Europeans<sup>53</sup>, since 47% now believe that to be the case, up 6 points since the spring 2009 wave. However, 39% consider that national interests are taken into account well by the European Union, down by 5 points. Finally, 14% (-1 point) expressed no opinion. Thus the situation has been reversed since the previous survey, and, unlike last spring, a majority of respondents now believe that national interests are not properly taken into account by the EU.



Respondents in Latvia (77%), Finland (66%), Greece (65%), Cyprus (63%), Slovenia (61%) and the Czech Republic (59%) are the most critical of the way in which the EU takes their country's interests into account.

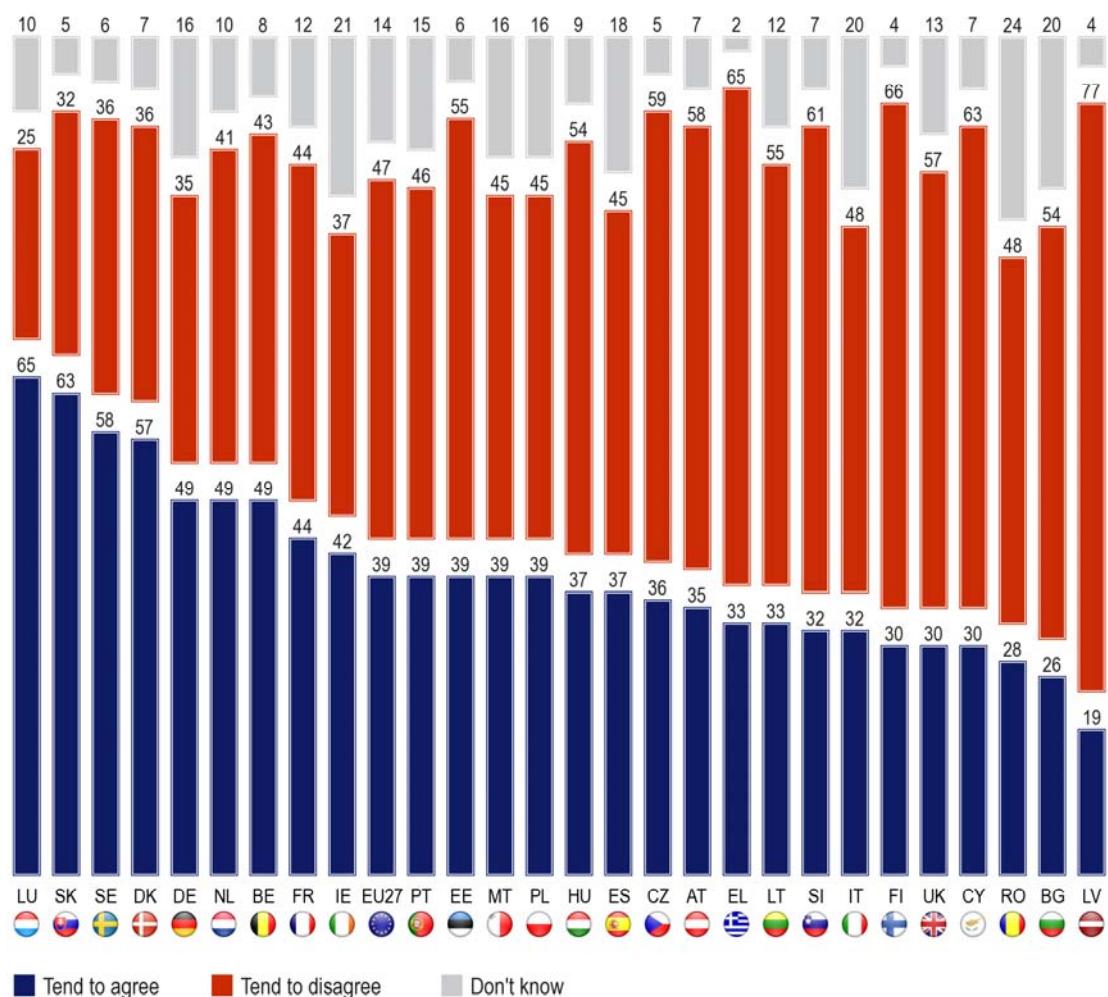
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<sup>53</sup> Q19a2 Please tell me for each statement whether you tend to agree or tend to disagree: the interests of (OUR COUNTRY) are well taken into account in the EU?

On the other hand, the public in Luxembourg (65%), Slovakia (63%), Sweden (58%), Denmark (57%), the Netherlands (49%), Belgium (49%) and Germany (49%) tend to think that their country's interests are taken into account well by the European Union.

QA19a.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



Compared with spring 2009, the feeling that national interests are properly taken into account by the European Union has fallen by 16 points in Spain (from 53% to 37%) and by 10 points in Italy (42% to 32%) and Malta (49% to 39%).

Although the "country" factor is the determining element for this question, there are some differences by socio-demographic profile and attitudes. In particular, the view that national interests are properly taken into account by the European Union increases proportionally with the respondent's level of education and position in the social hierarchy.

Thus, 48% of respondents who studied until the age of 20 or beyond feel that the EU takes their country's interests properly into account, compared with 38% of those who ended their education between the ages of 16 and 19 and 29% of those who left school at the age of 15 or earlier. A similar trend is evident by social hierarchy: 50% of the people polled who place themselves at the top of the social hierarchy consider that their country's interests are properly taken into account, compared with 30% of those who position themselves at the bottom.

The differences are even more marked when the respondent's general attitude to the European Union is taken into consideration: there is a difference of 45 points between respondents for whom the EU's image is positive (57% consider that their country's interests are taken into account well in the European Union) and those for whom the EU's image is negative (12%). Similarly, 57% of the people who tend to trust the European Union consider that their national interests are taken into account compared with 23% of those who tend not to trust it, a difference of 34 points.

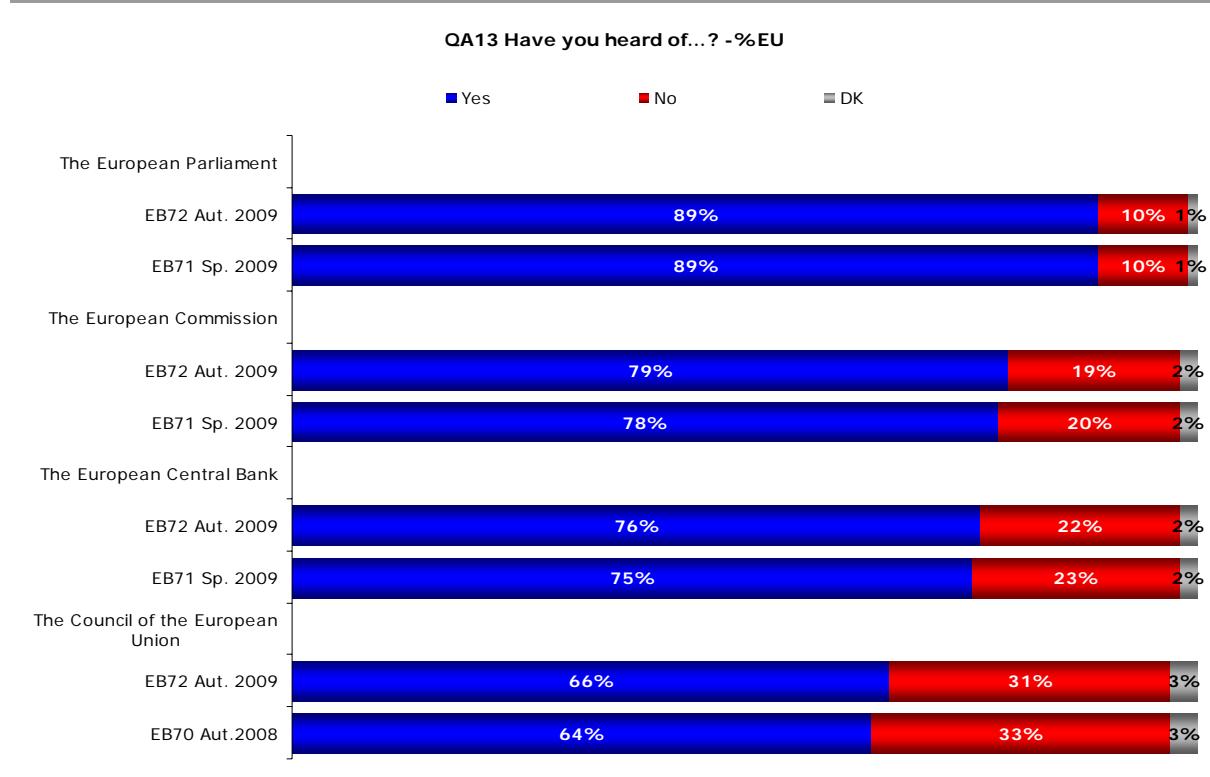
### 3. THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS

Politically and institutionally, the European Union was constantly in the news in 2009: the European elections, the adoption of the Lisbon Treaty by the Irish, the European Central Bank's intervention in response to the crisis and, most recently, the renewal of the European Commission and the appointment of Herman Van Rompuy as permanent President of the European Council. The 2009 European elections are still the biggest transnational elections ever organised, despite being marked by the continuing decline in voter turnout, although the trend was bucked by the European Union's most recent Member States. It is therefore interesting to measure the impact of these events on public awareness of and trust in the European institutions. The main finding of this wave is the slight increase in public confidence in the Parliament and the Commission, reversing the downward trend noted since autumn 2007.

#### 3.1 Familiarity with the European institutions

##### *- The European Parliament remains the best known institution -*

Familiarity with the European institutions remains high, and all of them are known to at least two-thirds of Europeans<sup>54</sup>.



<sup>54</sup> QA13 1+2+3+4: Have you heard of ...? 1. The European Parliament? 2. The European Commission? 3. The European Central Bank? 4. The Council of the European Union?

**The European Parliament**

With a score of 89%, the European Parliament remains the best known institution. This percentage is unchanged since spring 2009. Some 79% of Europeans are familiar with the European Commission (+1 point since spring) and 76% are familiar with the European Central Bank (+1 point). The Council of the EU is slightly less well known than the other institutions, with a score of 66%, two points higher than in the Eurobarometer 70.1 wave.

Familiarity with the European Parliament equals or exceeds 90% in twenty European Union countries, with the highest scores recorded in the Scandinavian countries (97% in Sweden, Finland and Denmark), Ireland (97%), Slovenia (96%), Bulgaria (94%), Malta (94%) and Belgium (94%). The lowest scores for the European Parliament were recorded in Italy (83%) and the United Kingdom (82%).

Familiarity with the European Parliament is also below the European average in the Cypriot Turkish Community (78%).

In the candidate countries, familiarity with the European Parliament is high in Croatia (87%) and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (76%), but lower in Turkey (62%), without any significant changes since last spring.

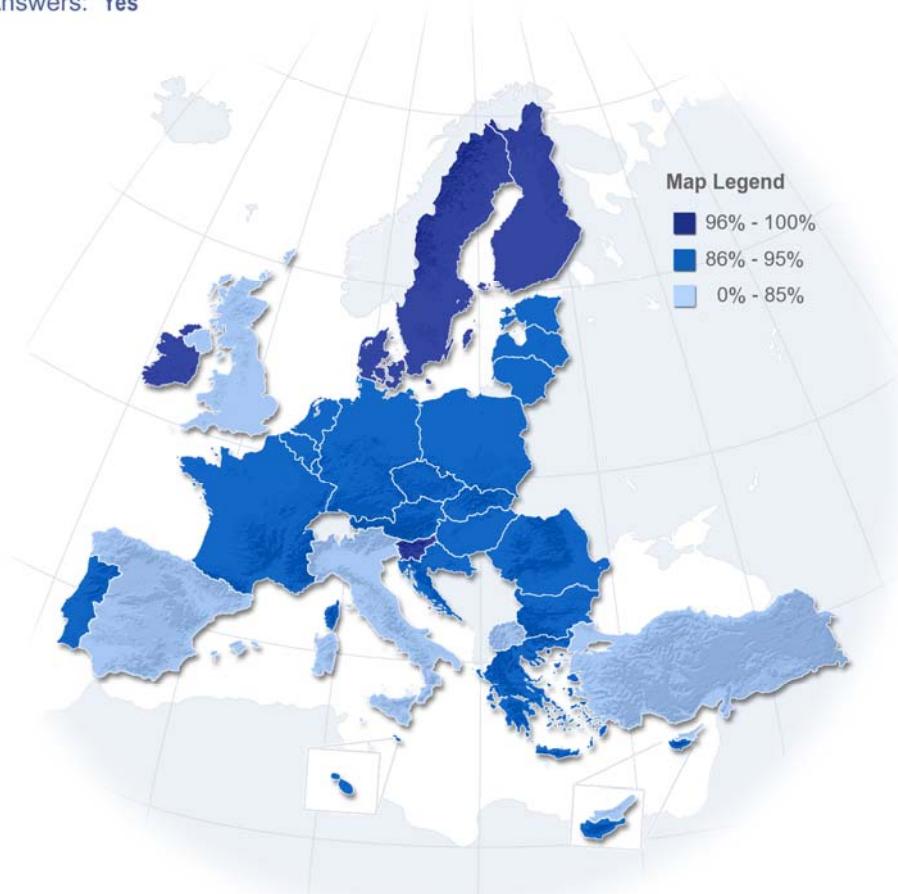
In general, familiarity with the European Parliament is strong and well-established, and there have been no particular changes over the last six months.

 SE	97%
 IE	97%
 DK	97%
 FI	97%
 SI	96%
 BG	94%
 MT	94%
 BE	94%
 CZ	93%
 SK	93%
 LU	93%
 NL	93%
 RO	92%
 AT	92%
 HU	92%
 EL	91%
 PT	91%
 DE	90%
 EE	90%
 CY	90%
 LT	89%
 PL	89%
 FR	89%
 EU27	89%
 LV	88%
 ES	85%
 IT	83%
 UK	82%
* CY (tcc) 78%	
 HR	87%
 MK	76%
 TR	62%

Question: QA13.1. Have you heard of...?

Option: The European Parliament

Answers: Yes



**The European Commission**

Familiarity with the European Commission exceeds 80% in 22 European Union countries, and is at its highest in Finland (97%), Luxembourg (92%), Slovenia (91%), Belgium (90%), Cyprus (89%), Greece (89%) and Ireland (89%). Familiarity stands below the European average and records its lowest scores in four countries: Spain (78%), Germany (77%), Italy (73%) and the United Kingdom (70%).

Familiarity with the European Commission is high in Croatia (84%), close to the European average in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (73%), but stands in need of consolidation in Turkey (56%).

Three changes since the spring 2009 wave (EB71) should be highlighted: familiarity with the European Commission has increased by 8 points in the Czech Republic (from 75% to 83%), 5 points in Cyprus (from 84% to 89%) and 4 points in Greece (from 85% to 89%).

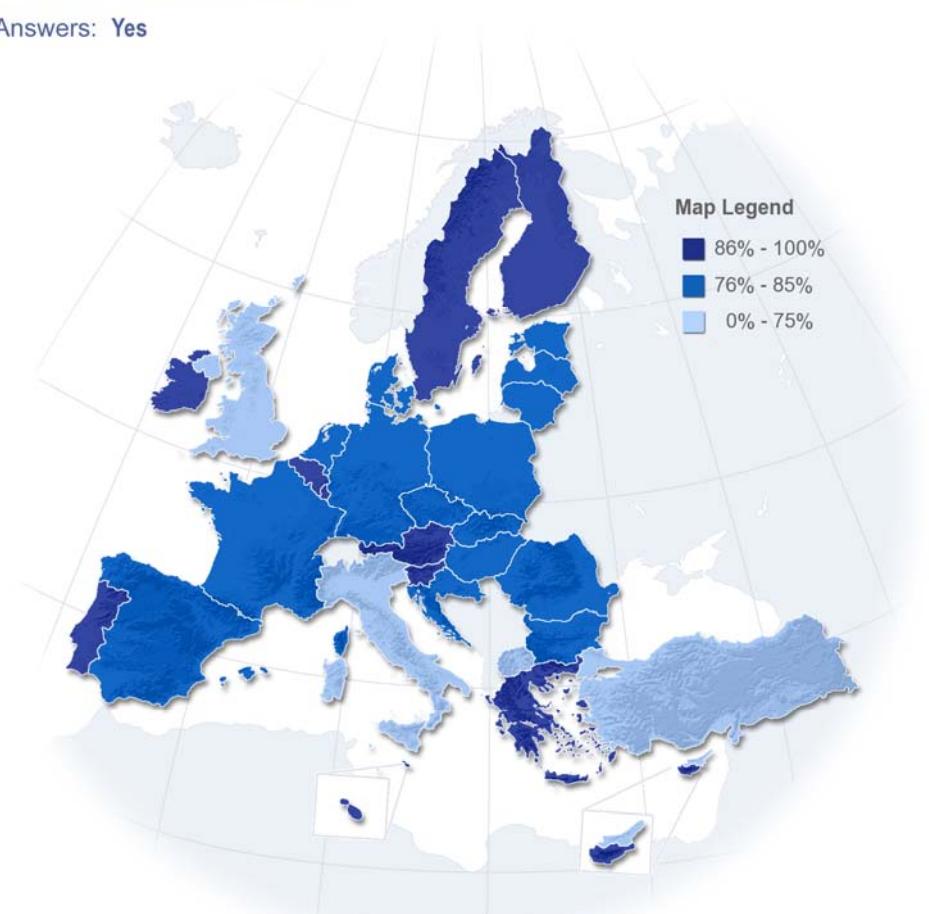
In the candidate countries, familiarity has increased by 3 points in Croatia and 2 points in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, but has declined by 1 point in Turkey.

	FI	97%
	LU	92%
	SI	91%
	BE	90%
	CY	89%
	EL	89%
	IE	89%
	PT	88%
	AT	87%
	SE	87%
	MT	86%
	EE	85%
	DK	85%
	PL	84%
	BG	83%
	CZ	83%
	NL	83%
	LV	82%
	SK	82%
	FR	82%
	HU	81%
	RO	81%
	LT	80%
	EU27	79%
	ES	78%
	DE	77%
	IT	73%
	UK	70%
<small>* CY (tcc) 70%</small>		
	HR	84%
	MK	73%
	TR	56%

Answers: Yes

Question: QA13.2. Have you heard of...?

Option: The European Commission



Familiarity with the **European Central Bank** is at its lowest in the United Kingdom (55%), and at its highest in Ireland (92%).

It stands at 57% in Turkey (-1 point since spring 2009).

Finally, familiarity with the **Council of the European Union** varies considerably from one country to another. Thus, a majority of respondents in the United Kingdom (53%) say they have never heard of it. Familiarity with this institution is also below the European average in Denmark (56%) and Sweden (55%), and is highest in Cyprus (88%), Slovenia (88%), Finland (83%) and Greece (82%).

In general, a majority of respondents in all sections of the European population have heard of the European institutions. However, the well-off, oldest and best integrated sections of the population (who are also the most interested in political and European news) are far more familiar with them than the least well-off sections of society and the young generations.

Familiarity with the European Central Bank provides a good illustration of these differences. Thus, while 67% of those aged 15 to 24 have heard of the European Central Bank, the figure is as high as 81% among those aged 40 to 54. Similarly, 88% of the most educated respondents have heard of the ECB compared with 67% of the least educated, as have 91% of managers compared with 65% of unemployed people. Some 84% of respondents who place themselves at the top of the social ladder are familiar with it compared 68% of those who position themselves at the bottom.

## QA13 Have you heard of...? -EU27

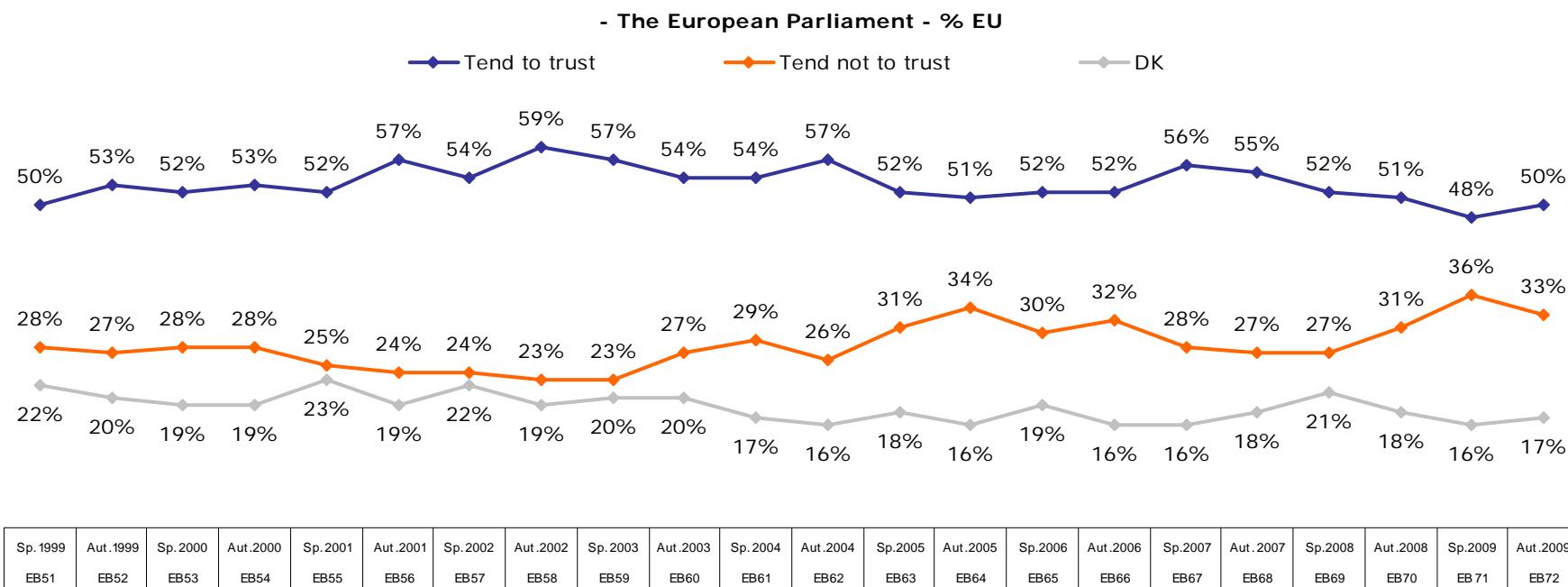
%Yes	The European Parliament	The European Commission	The European Central Bank	The Council of the European Union
EU27	89%	79%	76%	66%
<b>Age</b>				
15-24	83%	72%	67%	63%
25-39	90%	82%	77%	69%
40-54	91%	83%	81%	68%
55 +	88%	78%	74%	63%
<b>Education (End of)</b>				
15-	82%	67%	67%	54%
16-19	88%	80%	75%	65%
20+	96%	92%	88%	78%
Still studying	88%	77%	73%	69%
<b>Respondent occupation scale</b>				
Self-employed	91%	86%	83%	75%
Managers	97%	94%	91%	78%
Other white collars	90%	85%	82%	72%
Manual workers	88%	79%	75%	63%
House persons	82%	69%	66%	56%
Unemployed	83%	72%	65%	59%
Retired	88%	76%	73%	62%
Students	88%	77%	73%	69%
<b>Self-positioning on the social staircase</b>				
Low (1-4)	85%	74%	68%	58%
Medium (5-6)	89%	79%	76%	66%
High (7-10)	93%	87%	84%	75%

### 3.2 Trust in the European institutions

#### *- The European Parliament is still the European institution which inspires the most trust -*

European public opinion has witnessed a slight revival in trust in the European Parliament and the European Commission, putting an end to the downward trend recorded in 2007-2008. However the same does not apply to the European Central Bank and the Council of the European Union for which trust levels are unchanged since they were last measured. Generally speaking, trust in the European institutions has grown significantly in the Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Portugal, Luxembourg and Greece. However, it has declined sharply in Malta. Finally, the United Kingdom, France and Latvia are by far the three countries where distrust of the institutions is greatest. These differences will be examined in detail for each institution below.

**QA14.1 For each of the following European bodies, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.**

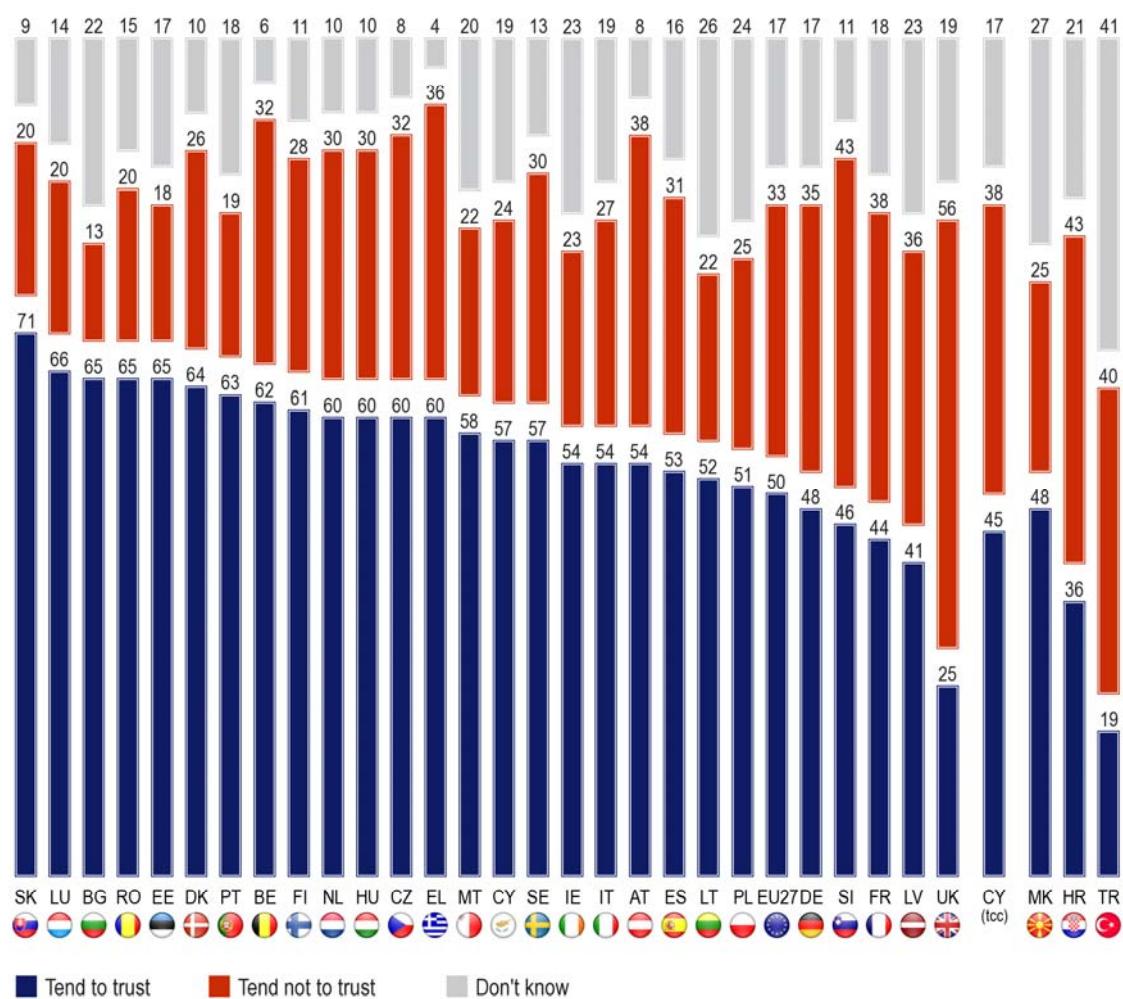


## The European Parliament

50% of Europeans say that they tend to trust the European Parliament, while 33% are distrustful and 17% expressed no opinion<sup>55</sup>. Trust is up by 2 points since the survey carried out last spring, which represented the historically lowest score ever recorded for trust in the European Parliament, while distrust has declined by 3 points. The downward trend in trust in the European Parliament noted between autumn 2007 and spring 2009 therefore seems to have been halted.

QA14.1. For each of the following European bodies, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.

The European Parliament



Except for the United Kingdom, which stands out very sharply (25% 'tend to trust' while 56% 'tend not to trust'), trust outweighs distrust in all European Union countries.

It is greatest in Slovakia (71%) – which paradoxically had the lowest turnout rate at the European parliamentary elections in June 2009, at 19.6% -, Luxembourg (66%), Bulgaria, Romania and Estonia (all 65%), Denmark (64%) and Portugal (63%).

<sup>55</sup> QA14.1 For each of the following European bodies, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?  
The European Parliament

In all these countries, trust has grown since the previous survey. Opinions are far more divided in France (44% versus 38%), Latvia (41% versus 36%) and Slovenia (46% versus 43%).

Trust the European Parliament has increased significantly in the Czech Republic (60%, +11 points) but has fallen in Malta (58%, -6 points).

Distrust in the European Parliament is the greatest among socially vulnerable respondents (40% of the least educated, 41% among unemployed people, 42% among people with financial difficulties) and, logically, among people who are anti-European (67% among those who do not trust the EU, 56% among those who are against the euro).

**QA14.1 For each of the following European bodies, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.**

**The European Parliament**

	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	DK
EU27	50%	33%	17%
<b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	39%	40%	21%
16-19	48%	35%	17%
20+	59%	29%	12%
Still studying	65%	21%	14%
<b>Respondent occupation scale</b>			
Self-employed	56%	28%	16%
Managers	58%	31%	11%
Other white collars	55%	34%	11%
Manual workers	47%	36%	17%
House persons	44%	34%	22%
Unemployed	40%	41%	19%
Retired	46%	35%	19%
Students	65%	21%	14%
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>			
Most of the time	36%	42%	22%
From time to time	47%	35%	18%
Almost never/ never	53%	32%	15%
<b>Trust in EU</b>			
Tend to trust	80%	10%	10%
Tend not to trust	20%	67%	13%
<b>Euro</b>			
In favour	66%	22%	12%
Against	26%	56%	18%

**The European Commission**

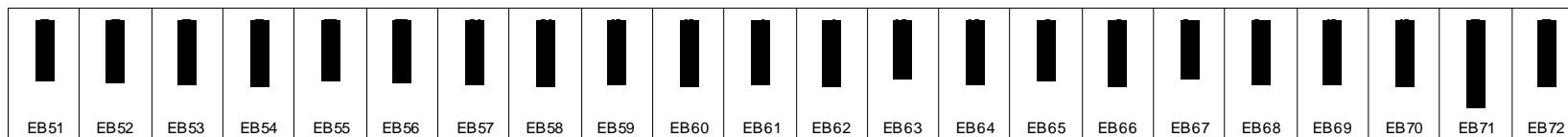
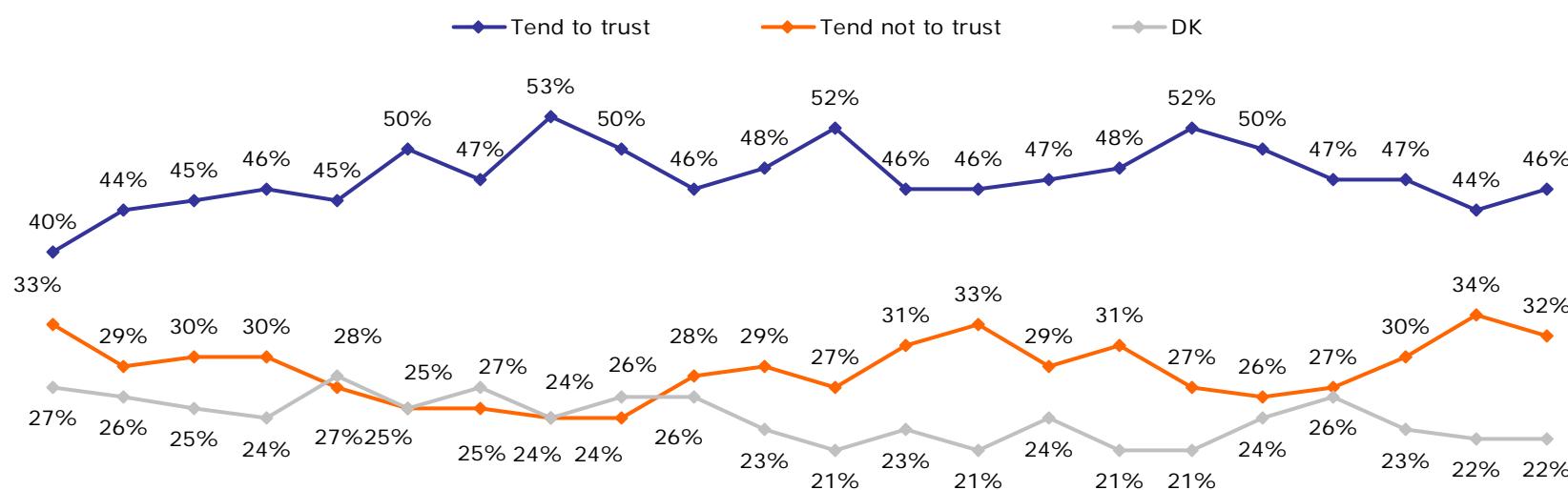
46% of Europeans say that they tend to trust the European Commission, while 32% tend not to trust it and 22% expressed no opinion<sup>56</sup>. Confidence is thus up by 2 points on spring 2009, while distrust has correspondingly fallen by 2 points since the same date. As for the European Parliament, the 2007-2008 downward trend in trust in the European Commission seems therefore to have been reversed.

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<sup>56</sup> QA14.2 For each of the following European bodies, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?  
The European Commission

**QA14.2 For each of the following European bodies, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.**

**- The European Commission - % EU**

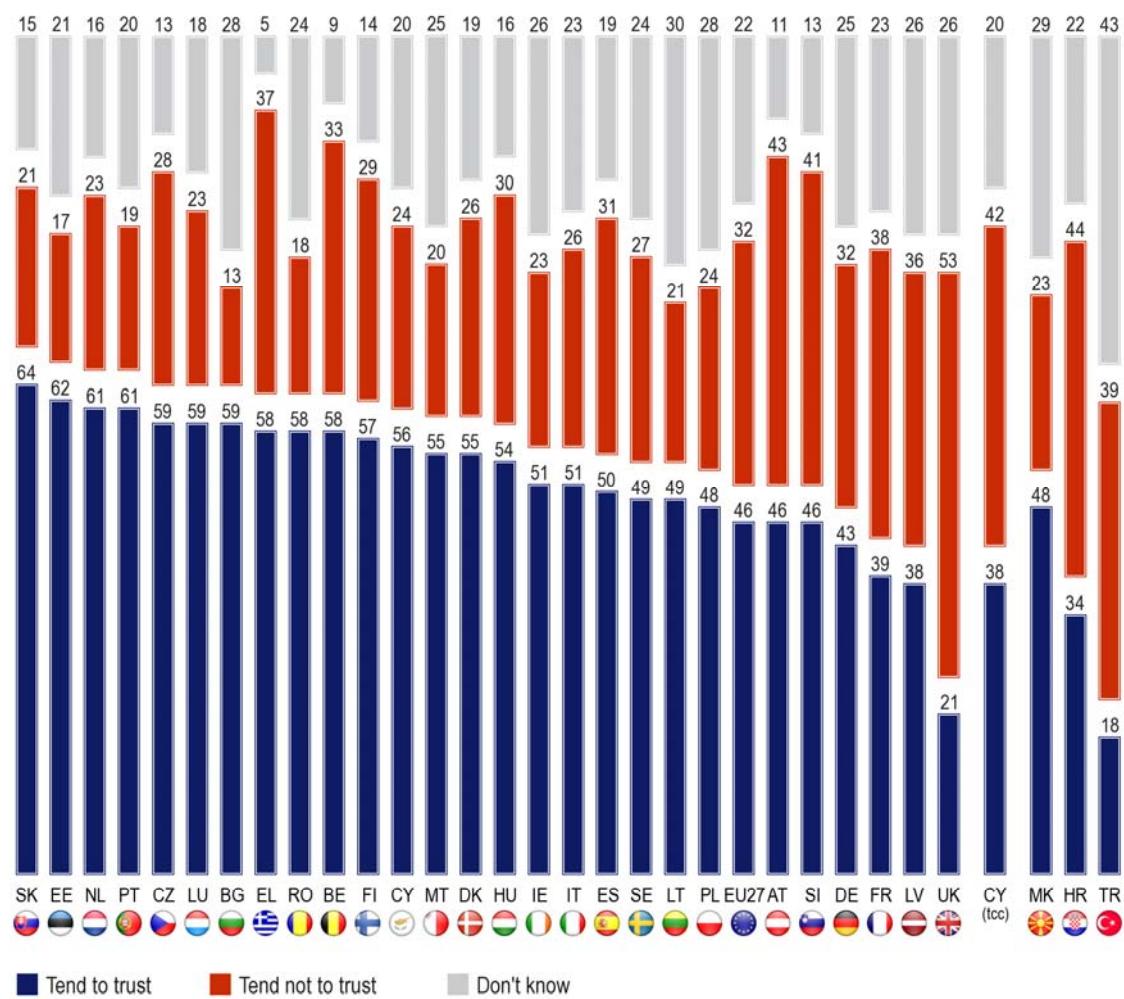


As in the case of the European Parliament, the United Kingdom is the only country where a majority of respondents tend not to trust the European Commission (53%). Opinions are very divided in France (39% trust it but 38% do not), Latvia (38% versus 36%) and Austria (46% versus 43%). However, a large majority tend to trust the Commission in Slovakia (64%), Estonia (62%), Portugal and the Netherlands (both 61%), Luxembourg, Bulgaria and the Czech Republic (all 59%).

Opinions are divided in the Turkish Cypriot Community (38% tend to trust the Commission while 42% do not).

QA14.2. For each of the following European bodies, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.

#### The European Commission



■ Tend to trust   ■ Tend not to trust   ■ Don't know

In comparison with spring 2009, trust in the European Commission has increased significantly in the Czech Republic (+13 points), Bulgaria (+7 points), Greece (+7 points), Luxembourg and Spain (both +6 points). Trust in the Commission has fallen significantly in only two countries, Malta and Belgium (both -4 points).

**QA14.2 For each of the following European bodies, please tell me  
if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.**  
**- The European Commission**

	% Tend to trust	EB71 Sp.2009	EB72 Aut.2009	Diff. Aut.2009- Sp.2009
 EU27	44%	46%	+2	
 CZ	46%	59%	+13	
 BG	52%	59%	+7	
 EL	51%	58%	+7	
 ES	44%	50%	+6	
 LU	53%	59%	+6	
 CY	51%	56%	+5	
 PT	56%	61%	+5	
 RO	53%	58%	+5	
 HU	50%	54%	+4	
 LV	35%	38%	+3	
 AT	43%	46%	+3	
 SK	61%	64%	+3	
 EE	60%	62%	+2	
 NL	59%	61%	+2	
 DE	42%	43%	+1	
 IT	50%	51%	+1	
 FI	56%	57%	+1	
 IE	51%	51%	=	
 LT	49%	49%	=	
 DK	56%	55%	-1	
 PL	49%	48%	-1	
 SI	47%	46%	-1	
 UK	22%	21%	-1	
 FR	41%	39%	-2	
 SE	51%	49%	-2	
 BE	62%	58%	-4	
 MT	59%	55%	-4	
CY (tcc)	30%	38%	+8	
 MK	43%	48%	+5	
 HR	34%	34%	=	
 TR	20%	18%	-2	

The social determinants influencing trust in the European Commission are identical to those which shape trust in the European Parliament. It is thus trusted by 33% of respondents with financial difficulties, 35% of the least educated respondents, and 41% of retired people, compared with 49% of better-off people, 55% of the most educated respondents and 56% of students.

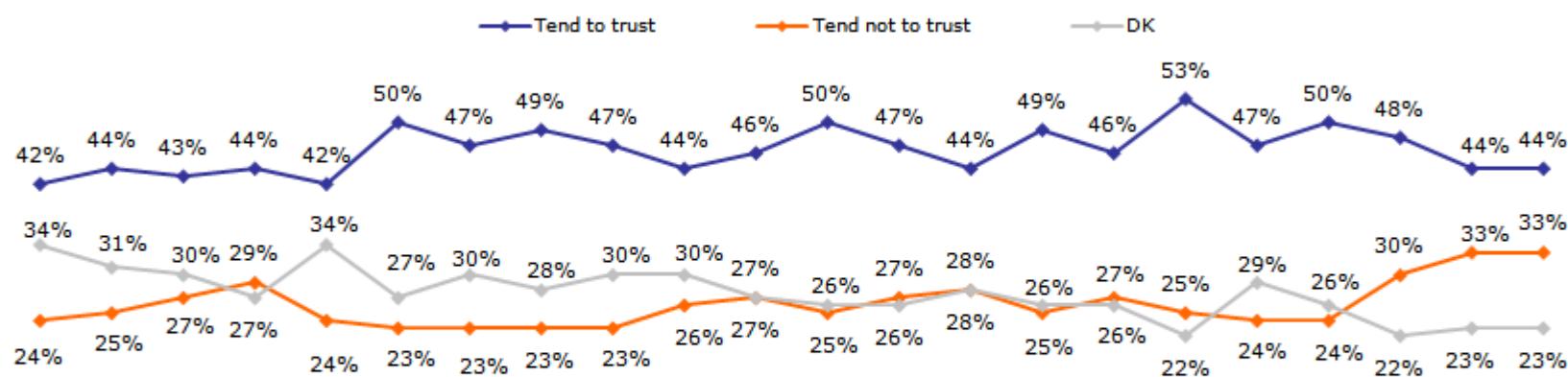
### **The European Central Bank**

44% of Europeans now tend to trust the European Central Bank, while 33% do not trust it and 23% expressed no opinion<sup>57</sup>. This trust/distrust ratio is exactly the same as that recorded last spring. The European Central Bank has thus failed to follow the trend set by the Parliament and Commission, which have seen a slight revival in trust. Nevertheless, the steady decline in trust which began in spring 2008 (EB69) has now been halted.

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<sup>57</sup> QA14.4 For each of the following European bodies, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?  
The European Central Bank

**QA14.4 For each of the following European bodies, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.**  
**- The European Central Bank - % EU**

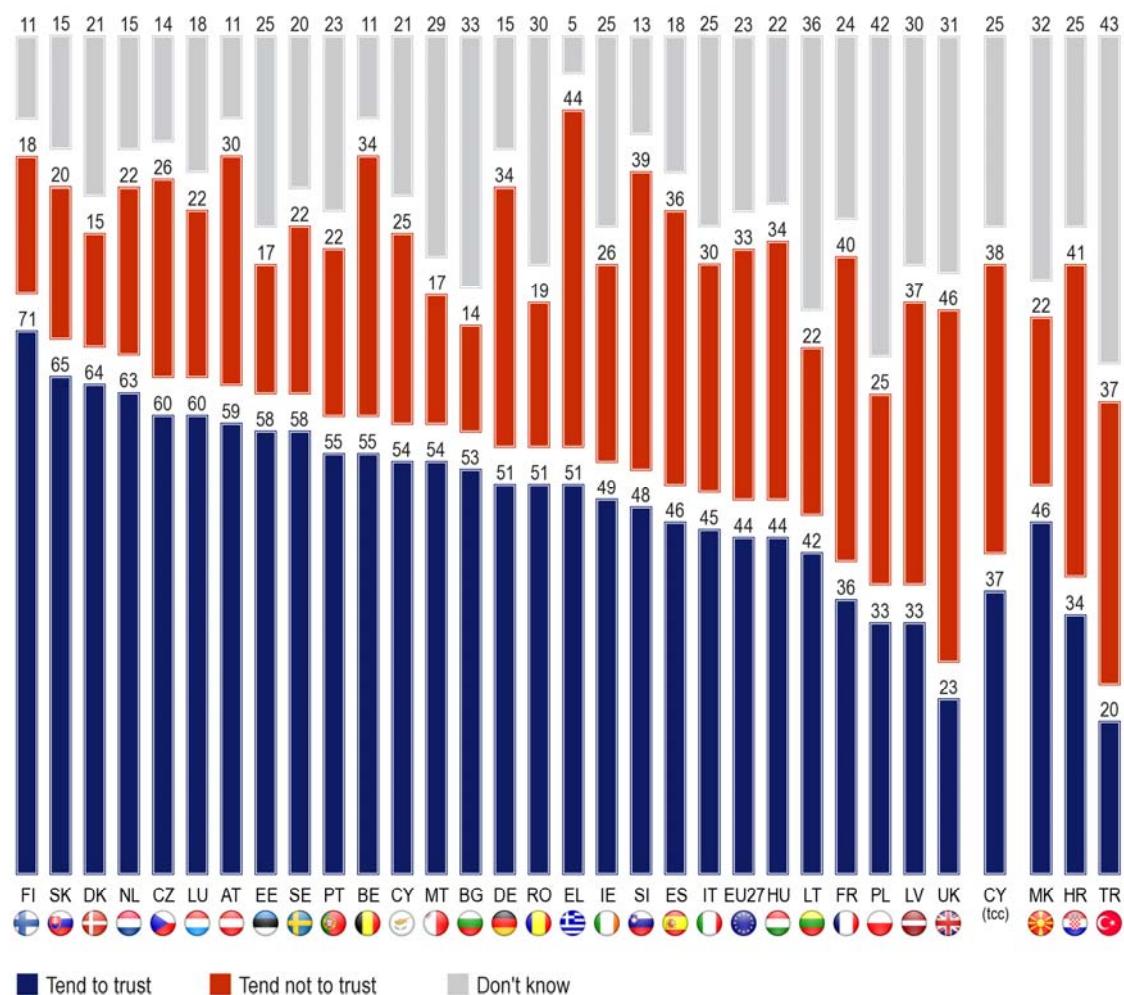


Sp. 1999	Aut. 1999	Sp. 2000	Aut. 2000	Sp. 2001	Aut. 2001	Sp. 2002	Aut. 2002	Sp. 2003	Aut. 2003	Sp. 2004	Aut. 2004	Sp. 2005	Aut. 2005	Sp. 2006	Aut. 2006	Sp. 2007	Aut. 2007	Sp. 2008	Aut. 2008	Sp. 2009	Aut. 2009
EBS1	EBS2	EBS3	EBS4	EBS5	EBS6	EBS7	EBS8	EBS9	EBS0	EBS1	EBS2	EBS3	EBS4	EBS5	EBS6	EBS7	EBS8	EBS9	EBS0	EBS1	EBS2

Distrust carries the day in three European Union countries: the United Kingdom (46%), France (40%) and Latvia (37%). Trust is most widespread in Finland (71%), Slovakia (65%), Denmark (64%) and the Czech Republic (60%). The factors shaping opinion by country are generally similar to those influencing trust in the European Parliament and the Commission. The only exception is Poland, where levels of trust in the Commission and Parliament were in line with the European averages, while trust in the ECB is far lower (33%) as a result of the high proportion of 'DK' answers (42%).

QA14.4. For each of the following European bodies, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.

The European Central Bank

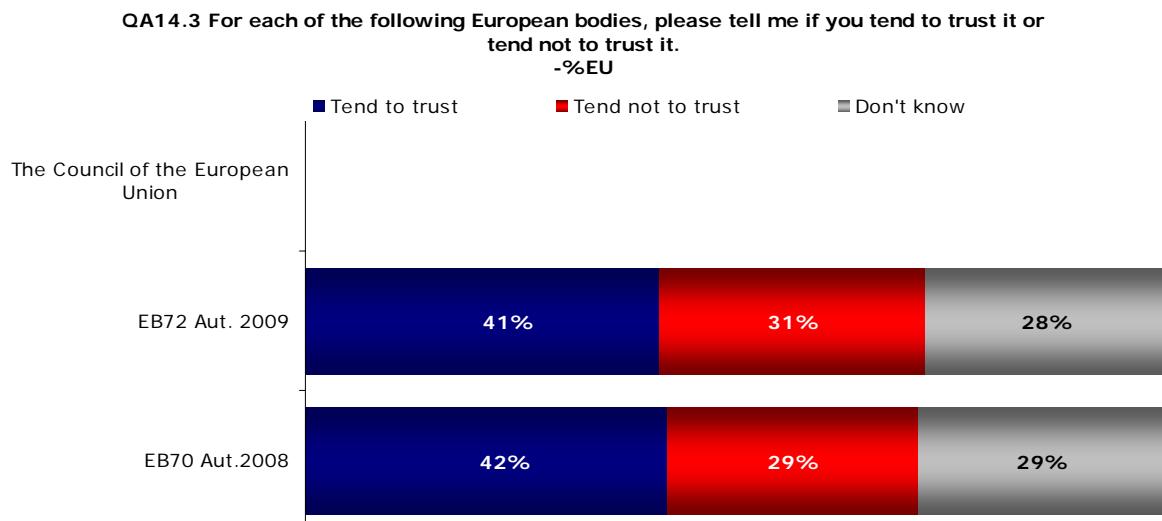


Compared with spring 2009, trust in the European Central Bank has increased significantly in Greece (+9 points), the Czech Republic (+8 points) and Slovakia (+7 points). Trust has declined once again in Malta (-8 points).

As for the other institutions, trust in the European Central Bank differs by around 10 to 15 percentage points between respondents who place themselves at the top of the social hierarchy and those who place themselves at the bottom.

### The Council of the European Union

This Eurobarometer wave also measured trust in the Council of the European Union. Some 41% of Europeans trust the Council and 31% do not, while 28% expressed no opinion<sup>58</sup>. Trust has fallen by one point since autumn 2008, which was the last time this item was measured, while distrust has increased by two points. The percentage of 'DK' answers has fallen by one point but remains fairly high (28%).

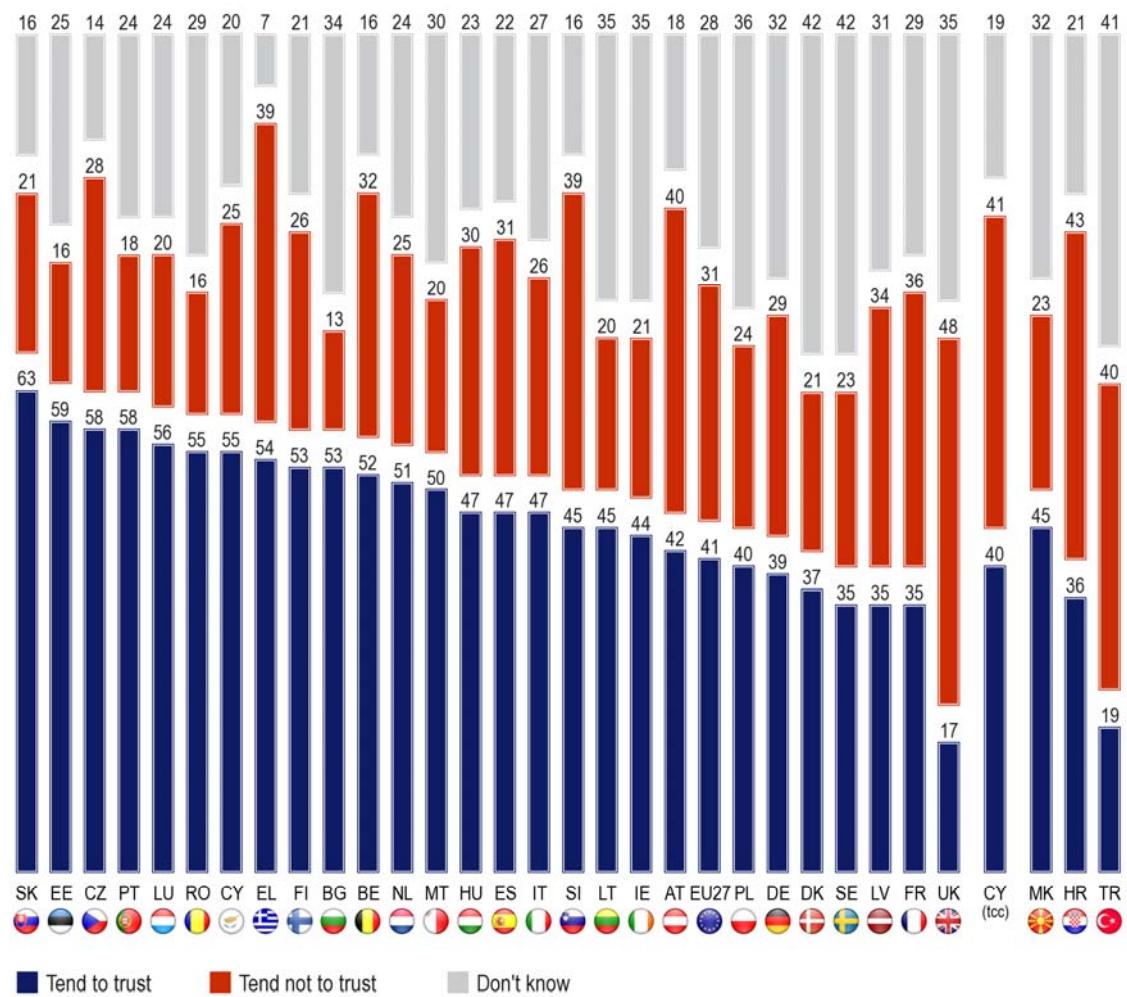


The same national and social disparities exist as regards trust in the Council of the European Union as those noted for the other European institutions. Respondents in the United Kingdom are the most distrustful (48%), while opinions are very divided in France (35% versus 36%) and Latvia (35% versus 34%). Trust is in the majority in Slovakia (63%), Estonia (59%), the Czech Republic (58%), Portugal (58%) and Luxembourg (56%). However Denmark and Sweden stand out on this question by their very high proportion of 'DK' answers (42% in both countries).

<sup>58</sup> QA14.3 For each of the following European bodies, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it? The Council of the European Union

QA14.3. For each of the following European bodies, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.

The Council of the European Union



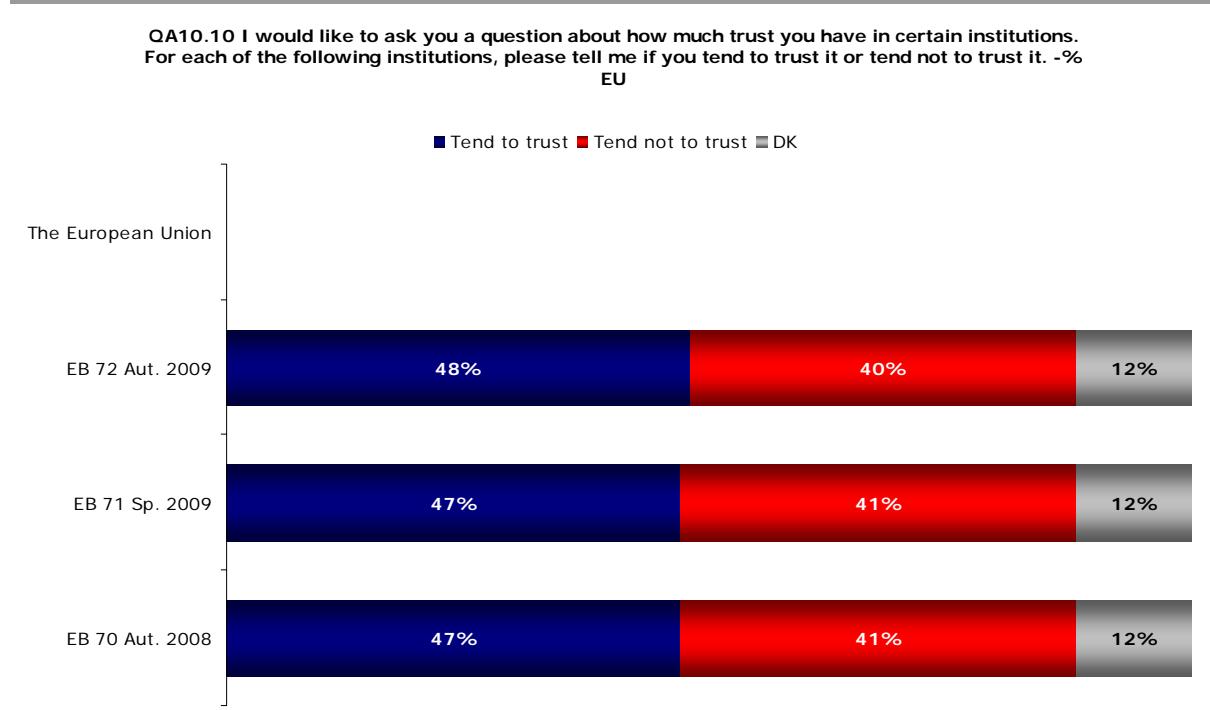
Changes in opinions since autumn 2008 are fairly mixed: trust in the Council of the European Union has increased by 7 points in Portugal, Bulgaria and Luxembourg. At the same time it has fallen by 15 points in Slovenia, 10 points in Denmark, 6 points in Malta and 5 points in France, Belgium and the Netherlands.

Differences in trust by socio-demographic profile are in line with those noted for the other European institutions. The difference in trust between the best integrated social categories and the most vulnerable groups is around ten percentage points.

### 3.3. Trust in the European Union

This wave of the Eurobarometer measured trust in the European Union, as well as in two major international organisations, the UN and NATO (see paragraph 3.4 for a detailed analysis of trust in these two institutions). Trust in the European Union is by and large unchanged in comparison with the previous surveys conducted in 2008 and 2009.

**- Fewer than half of Europeans trust the European Union -**



48% of Europeans say that they tend to trust the EU, whereas 40% tend not to trust it and 12% expressed no opinion<sup>59</sup>. Compared with both spring 2009 and autumn 2008, trust has increased by one point while distrust has correspondingly fallen by one point. Public opinion of the European Union thus tends to be stable.

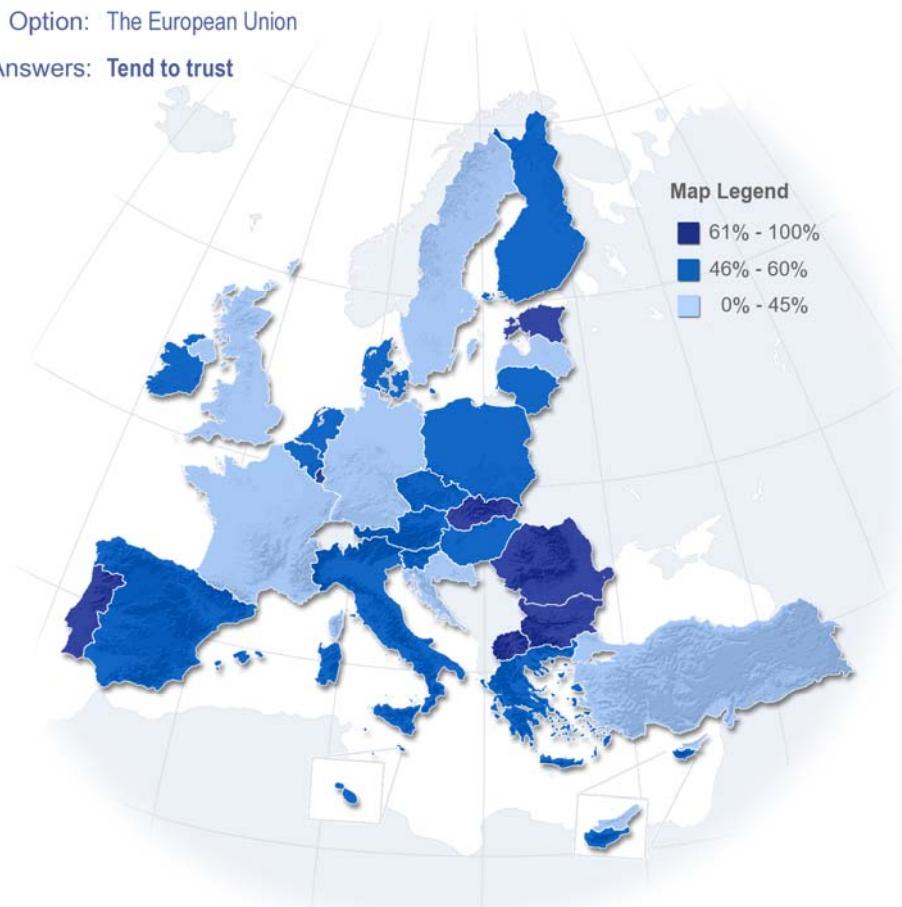
<sup>59</sup> QA10.10: I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain institutions. For each of the following institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it: the European Union?

	SK	71%
	EE	69%
	BG	69%
	RO	67%
	LU	62%
	PT	62%
	EL	60%
	NL	60%
	DK	60%
	CY	59%
	CZ	59%
	BE	57%
	ES	56%
	FI	55%
	MT	54%
	LT	54%
	HU	53%
	IT	52%
	PL	52%
	SI	50%
	EU27	48%
	IE	47%
	AT	47%
	SE	45%
	DE	44%
	LV	44%
	FR	42%
	UK	23%
* CY (tcc) 43%		
	MK	62%
	HR	34%
	TR	33%

Question: QA10.10. I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain institutions. For each of the following institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.

Option: The European Union

Answers: Tend to trust



Trust in the European Union stands below 50% in seven European Union countries. As in the previous surveys, it is lowest in the United Kingdom (23%), France (42%) and Latvia (44%), and greatest in Slovakia (71%), Estonia (69%), Bulgaria (69%) and Romania (67%). These four countries recorded the highest scores in the previous wave for this question.

Trust in the European Union has increased significantly since the last survey in Portugal (+7 points), Luxembourg (+7 points), Slovakia (+6 points), Bulgaria (+6 points), Greece (+5 points) and Spain (+5 points). Trust has also increased by 4 points in Hungary (53%) and Italy (52%) thereby making it the majority opinion in this wave. On the other hand, trust has fallen in Belgium (-2 points) and Germany (-2 points), and has declined fairly sharply in Lithuania (-5 points) and Malta (-8 points). The trend is stable in the United Kingdom (+1) and France (-1).

These changes thus show fairly clearly that trust has increased in the countries where it was already at its highest, while the trend is stable in the countries the least trusting of the EU.

In the candidate countries, only a minority of respondents trust the European Union in Croatia (34%) and Turkey (33%). However, trust in the EU is above the European average in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (62%). It has gained some ground in Croatia (+3) but has increased far more significantly in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (+8). On the other hand trust has declined sharply in Turkey (-5 points).

Social determinants have a considerable influence on the trust that respondents have in the European Union. Thus, trust increases linearly with the respondent's social position and decreases linearly with age. It is far more marked in higher categories in European society than among the lowest levels. Thus:

- 50% of men trust the European Union compared with 46% of women;
- 58% of those aged 15 to 24 trust the European Union compared with 45% of those aged 55 or over;
- 65% of students and 56% of those who studied until the age of 20 or over trust the European Union compared with 38% of those who left school before the age of 16;
- 53% of managers trust the European Union compared with 45% of manual workers and 41% of unemployed people;
- 51% of those who say that they do not have any financial difficulties trust the European Union compared with 36% of those who say they do;
- finally, 57% of those who place themselves at the top of the social hierarchy trust the European Union, compared with 39% of those who position themselves at the bottom.

**QA10.10 I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain institutions. For each of the following institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.**

**The European Union**

	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	DK
EU27	48%	40%	12%
<b>Sex</b>			
Male	50%	39%	11%
Female	46%	40%	14%
<b>Age</b>			
15-24	58%	29%	13%
25-39	50%	39%	11%
40-54	45%	44%	11%
55 +	45%	41%	14%
<b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	38%	48%	14%
16-19	46%	42%	12%
20+	56%	34%	10%
Still studying	65%	23%	12%
<b>Respondent occupation scale</b>			
Self-employed	55%	35%	10%
Managers	53%	38%	9%
Other white collars	51%	39%	10%
Manual workers	45%	43%	12%
House persons	43%	42%	15%
Unemployed	41%	47%	12%
Retired	44%	41%	15%
Students	65%	23%	12%
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>			
Most of the time	36%	49%	15%
From time to time	47%	41%	12%
Almost never/ never	51%	38%	11%
<b>Self-positioning on the social staircase</b>			
Low (1-4)	39%	46%	15%
Medium (5-6)	49%	39%	12%
High (7-10)	57%	34%	9%

### 3.4. Trust in the UN and NATO

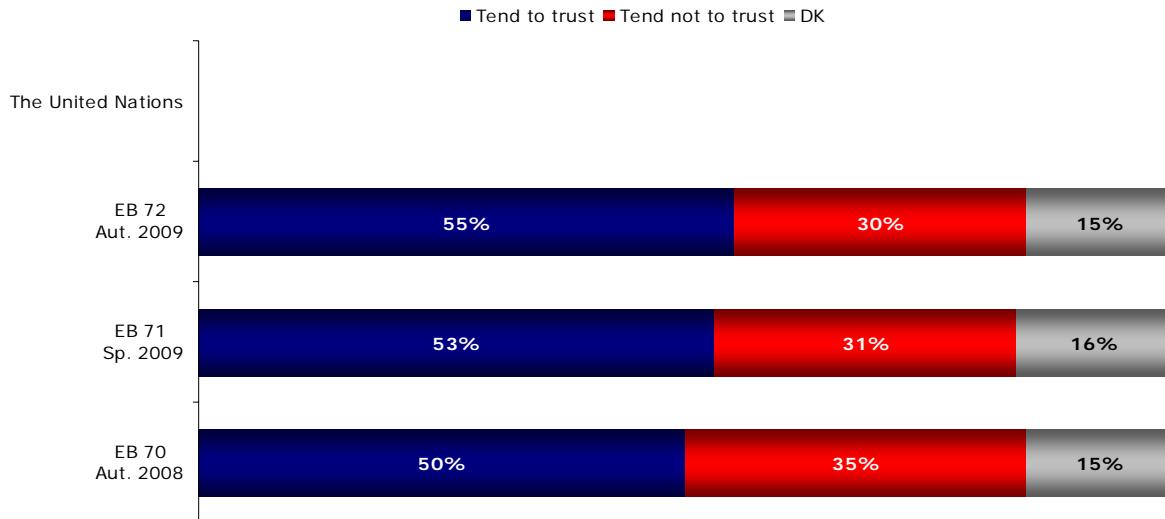
#### The UN

**- Trust in the UN continues to increase and is now shared by 55% of Europeans -**

Trust in the UN is now slightly higher than trust in the European Union. Moreover, since autumn 2008, the trust that Europeans have in the UN has increased by 5 points while trust in the EU has increased by only one point over the same period.

QA10.11 I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain institutions.  
For each of the following institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.

- % EU



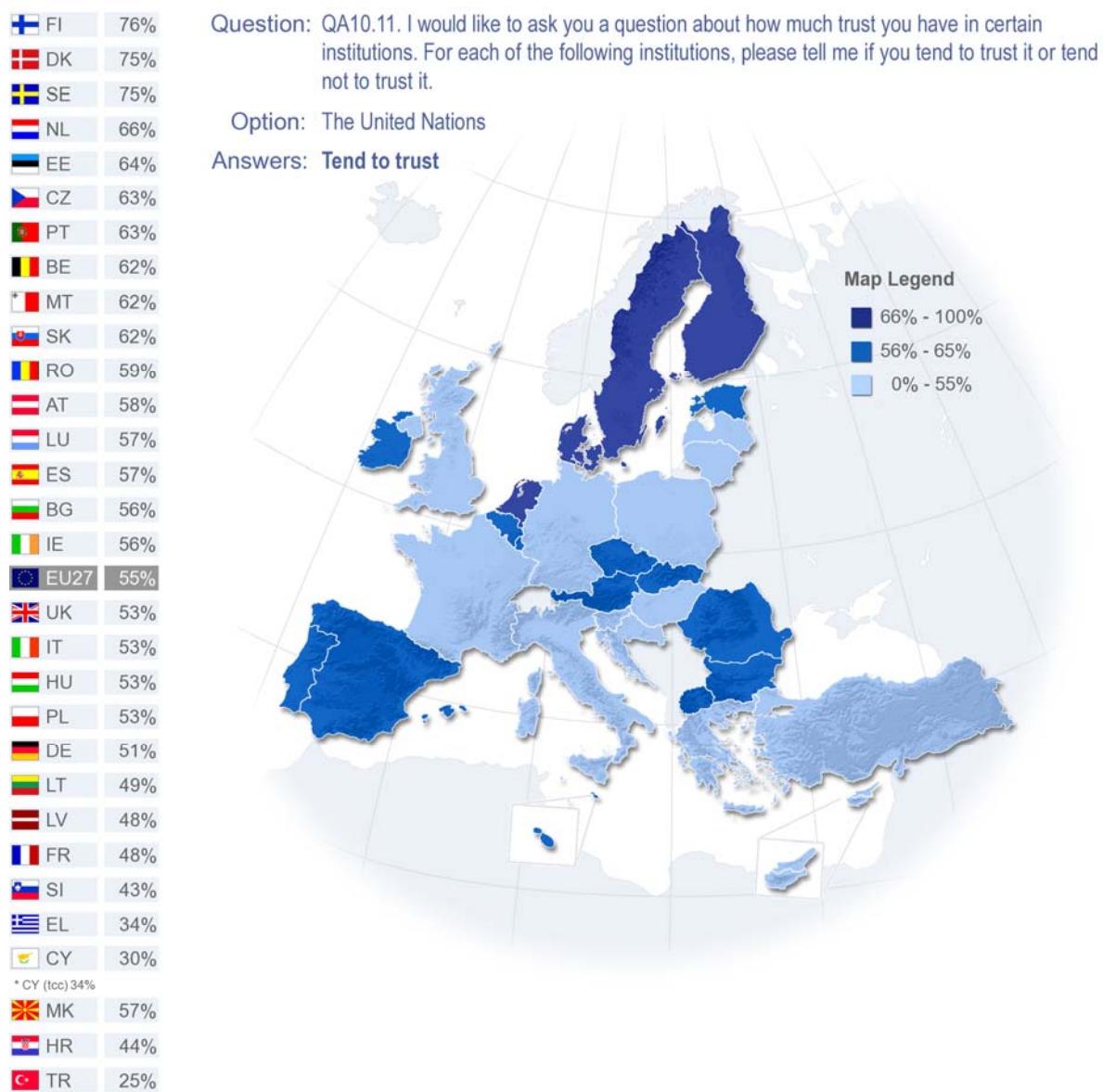
55% of Europeans say that they tend to trust the UN, while 30% tend not to trust it and 15% had no opinion<sup>60</sup>. Trust in the United Nations is tending to rise and has increased by 2 points since spring 2009 and 5 points since autumn 2008.

The general context of a call for world-wide regulation and the UN's involvement in issues about which Europeans feel strongly, such as the fight against global warming, may perhaps explain these changes.

Trust in the UN exceeds 50% in 21 European Union countries. It is highest in the three Nordic countries - Finland (76%), Sweden (75%) and Denmark (75%) -, traditionally very attached to world peace and the role of the United Nations in achieving that goal.

<sup>60</sup> QA10.11: I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain institutions. For each of the following institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it: the United Nations?

Distrust in the UN is in the majority in only three European Union countries: Cyprus (60% 'distrust' versus 30% 'trust'), Greece (63% versus 34%) and Slovenia (49% versus 43%).



In the candidate countries, a majority of citizens trust the UN in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (57% versus 31%), but the opposite is true in Turkey where only a small minority trust it (25% versus 54%). Opinions are divided in Croatia (44% trust it versus 42% who do not).

Evolutions in opinion by country follow a similar trend to that analysed with regard to trust in the European Union. The countries where trust in the UN has risen the most are also those where trust in the EU increased the most. Thus, trust in the UN has increased in Portugal (+7), Slovakia (+6), Romania (+5) and Spain (+5). Few countries record a significant decline in trust, except Cyprus (-5 points) and, among the candidate countries, Turkey (-7 points).

Trust in the UN is shaped by exactly the same social factors as trust in the European Union. The more the respondents are well-off, educated and socially integrated the more likely they are to trust it.

- 61% of those who studied until the age of 20 or beyond trust the UN compared with 46% of the least educated;
- 62% of managers trust the UN compared 53% of manual workers and 45% of unemployed people;
- 59% of people who do not have financial difficulties trust the UN compared with 41% of those who do;
- 64% of the people who place themselves at the top of the social hierarchy trust the UN compared with 44% of those who position themselves at the bottom.

Trust in the UN is also closely correlated to trust in the European Union: 81% of those who trust the European Union also trust the UN compared with only 30% of those who do not trust the European Union.

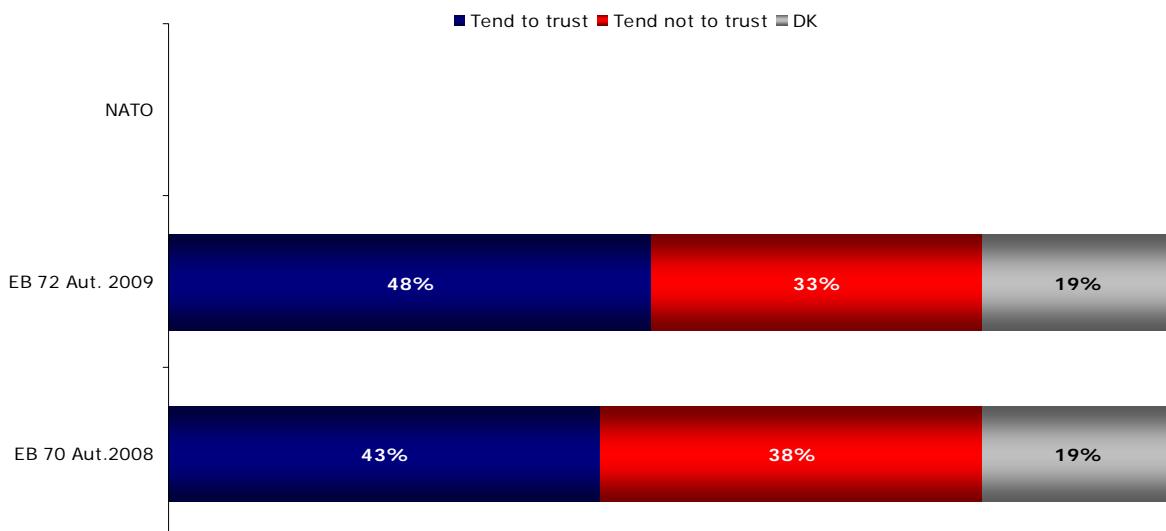
## NATO

Although trust in NATO has also increased, it is nevertheless at a lower level than trust in the UN. 48% of Europeans trust NATO, 5 points higher than when this subject was last measured in autumn 2008, whereas 33% distrust it, down by 5 points, and a significant proportion of respondents (19%) expressed no opinion<sup>61</sup>.

The level of trust in NATO is lower than trust in the UN and at the same level as the trust placed in the European Union.

**QA10.13 I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain institutions.  
For each of the following institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.**

-% EU



Trust in NATO exceeds 50% in eight European Union countries, with the four highest scores being recorded in Denmark (73%), the Netherlands (69%), Estonia (64%) and Belgium (60%).

Distrust is the majority view in four European Union countries: Cyprus (14% 'trust', 70% do not), Greece (23% versus 74%), Slovenia (38% versus 55%) and Finland (38% versus 48%). Opinions are very divided in Spain (43% versus 39%), France (39% versus 37%) and Sweden (39% versus 40%).

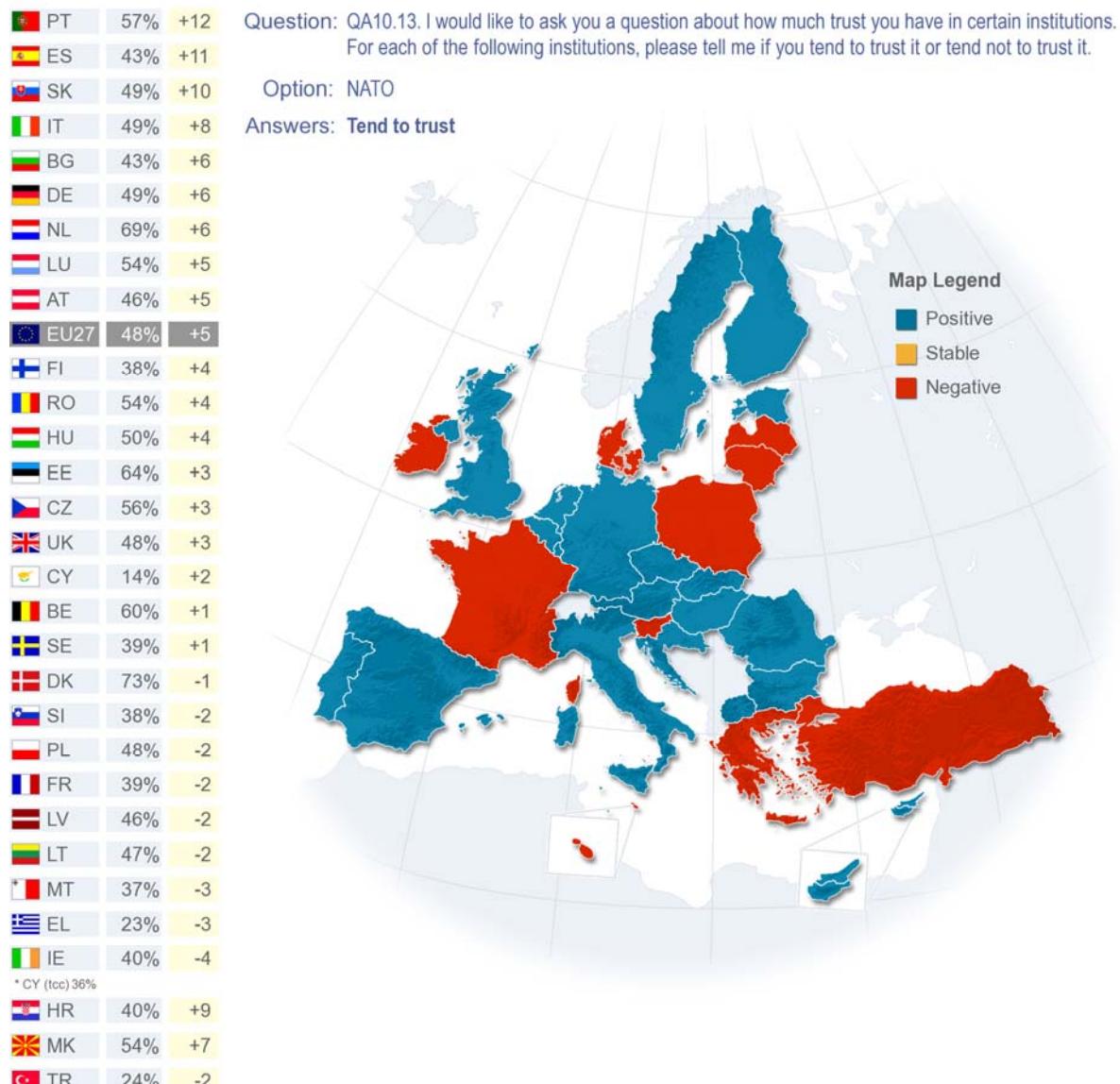
Although in general opinion trends are often similar in the three Nordic countries, there are significant differences regarding trust in NATO, since Denmark is the country where trust in NATO is the highest, while Sweden and Finland stand out for levels of distrust considerably higher than the European average.

<sup>61</sup> QA10.13: I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain institutions. For each of the following institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it: NATO?

In the candidate countries, a majority of respondents trust NATO in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (54% versus 33%), while only a small minority trust it in Turkey (24% versus 51%). Opinions are more divided in Croatia (40% trust it versus 45% who distrust it).

Trust in NATO has grown in 18 of the 27 European Union countries, most strikingly in Portugal (+12 points), Spain (+11 points), Slovakia (+10 points) and Italy (+8 points). These changes are important since, except in Portugal, where trust in NATO was already the majority view, they involve a reversal of the situation. Trust is now in the majority in these three countries, whereas in 2008 distrust was predominant. Thus, between 2008 and 2009, the trust-distrust ratio has changed from 32%:44% to 43%:39% in Spain, from 39%:44% to 49%:40% in Slovakia and from 41%:43% in Italy to 49%:32%. A decline in trust in NATO has been recorded in Ireland (-4 points), Greece (-3 points) and Malta (-3 points).

In the candidate countries, there is a clear trend towards increased trust in Croatia (+9 points) and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (+7 points) and towards decline in Turkey (-2 points).



A socio-demographic analysis shows that age is a relatively unimportant factor as regards trust in NATO. On the other hand, positions in the social hierarchy are a far more important determinant. Trust is in the majority among respondents at the top of the social hierarchy but in the minority among those at the lower end, as can be seen from the following examples:

- 53% of respondents who studied until the age of 20 or beyond trust NATO compared with 41% of those who left school before the age of 16;
- 56% of managers and 51% of employees trust NATO compared with 46% of manual workers and 40% of unemployed people;
- 52% of people who do not have financial difficulties trust NATO versus 35% of those who do;
- 56% of people who place themselves at the top of the social hierarchy trust NATO versus 38% of those who place themselves at the bottom.

Finally, as was the case for the UN, trust in NATO is also correlated with trust in the European Union: 68% of those who trust the European Union trust NATO, compared with only 29% of those who do not trust the European Union.

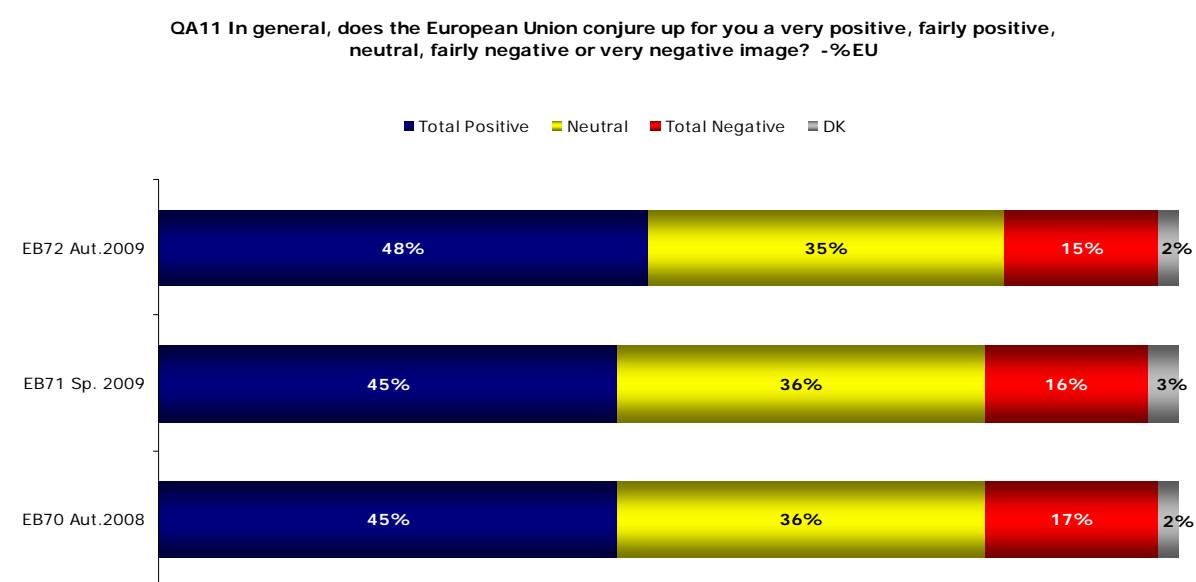
### 3.5. The European Union's image

**- Identical proportions of Europeans trust the Union and have a positive image of it -**

48% of Europeans now consider that the European Union's image is positive. Only 15% say that its image is negative, while for 35% its image is neutral and 2% expressed no opinion<sup>62</sup>.

In detail, the EU's image is "very" positive for 7% of respondents and "fairly" positive for 41%. It is "very" negative for 3% of respondents and "fairly" negative for 12%.

While trust in the European Union has increased by only one point since the last Eurobarometer wave in spring 2009, opinions of the European Union's image have evolved more favourably. Thus, positive mentions have risen by 3 points in six months, while over the same period negative, neutral and 'DK' answers have each declined by one point.



The Union's image is positive for an absolute majority of respondents in thirteen Member States, led by Luxembourg (66%), Romania (63%), Bulgaria (63%), Italy (58%), Ireland (58%) and Greece (56%).

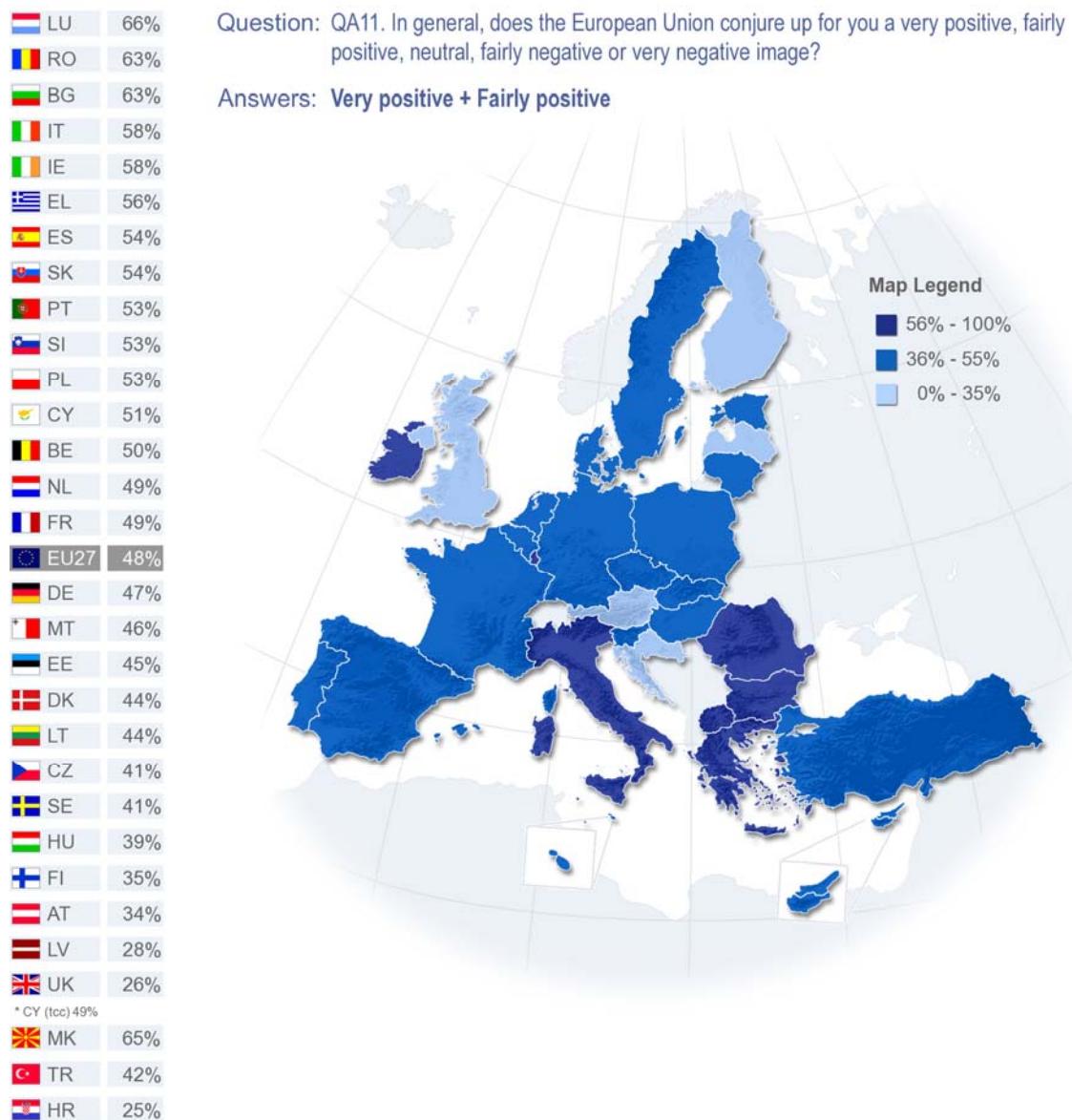
Negative answers outweigh positive answers in only one country, the United Kingdom (32% 'negative', 26% 'positive' and 38% 'neutral' answers).

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<sup>62</sup> QA11: In general, does the European Union conjure up for you a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image?

Neutral outweigh positive answers in six Member States: Estonia (48% neutral, 45% positive), Latvia (55% versus 28%), Lithuania (45% versus 44%), Hungary (41% versus 39%), Austria (38% versus 34%) and Finland (45% versus 35%).

In the candidate countries, the European Union's image is the most positive in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (65%). Positive opinions are also in the majority in Turkey (42% positive, 28% negative and 23% neutral answers). In Croatia, however, only 25% of respondents have a positive image of the European Union, while 40% have a neutral image and 32% a negative.



Positive impressions of the European Union's image are up in 22 of the 27 Member States. The most significant increases were recorded in Greece (+11 points), Luxembourg (+10 points), Hungary (+6 points) and France (+5 points). As a result of these gains a solid majority of respondents in Greece now have a positive image of the Union.

Malta is the only country to record a significant decline in the number of respondents for whom the European Union's image is positive (-5 points).

In the candidate countries, the European Union's image has improved in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (+6 points), but has deteriorated in Croatia (-3 percentage points) and Turkey (-4 points).

This question of image sums up perfectly the social divisions which shape opinions of the European Union. The European Union has a positive image for Europeans in the middle and higher social categories. However, its image is much weaker among more modest and working class respondents.

Positive visions of the European Union's image decrease linearly with age: 55% of those in the 15 to 24 age group, 49% of those aged 25 to 39, 47% of those aged 40 to 54 and 44% of those aged 55 or over.

They also decrease linearly with the respondent's level of education: 58% of the respondents who studied until the age of 20 or beyond have a positive image of the Union, compared with 44% of those who finished their studies between the ages of 16 and 19 and 38% of those who left school before the age of 16.

Furthermore, positive impressions decrease gradually in line with the respondent's place in the social hierarchy: 58% of those who place themselves at the top of the social hierarchy have a positive image of the Union, compared with 48% of those who place themselves in the middle and 39% of those who place themselves at the bottom. An analysis by occupational category provides another illustration of these social differences: the Union has a positive image for 63% of students, 58% of managers and 51% of employees, but of only 44% of manual workers, 43% of retired people and 37% of the unemployed.

**QA11 In general, does the European Union conjure up for you a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image?**

	Total positive	Total negative	DK
EU27	48%	15%	2%
<b>Sex</b>			
Male	51%	16%	1%
Female	45%	15%	2%
<b>Age</b>			
15-24	55%	8%	2%
25-39	49%	14%	2%
40-54	47%	17%	1%
55 +	44%	18%	3%
<b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	38%	21%	3%
16-19	44%	16%	2%
20+	58%	11%	1%
Still studying	63%	6%	2%
<b>Respondent occupation scale</b>			
Self-employed	56%	12%	1%
Managers	58%	14%	-
Other white collars	52%	13%	1%
Manual workers	44%	16%	2%
House persons	43%	15%	3%
Unemployed	37%	18%	3%
Retired	43%	19%	3%
Students	63%	6%	2%
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>			
Most of the time	33%	22%	4%
From time to time	46%	16%	2%
Almost never/ never	51%	14%	1%
<b>Self-positioning on the social staircase</b>			
Low (1-4)	39%	19%	3%
Medium (5-6)	48%	15%	2%
High (7-10)	58%	11%	1%

## 4 EUROPEANS AND THE EUROPEAN UNION TODAY

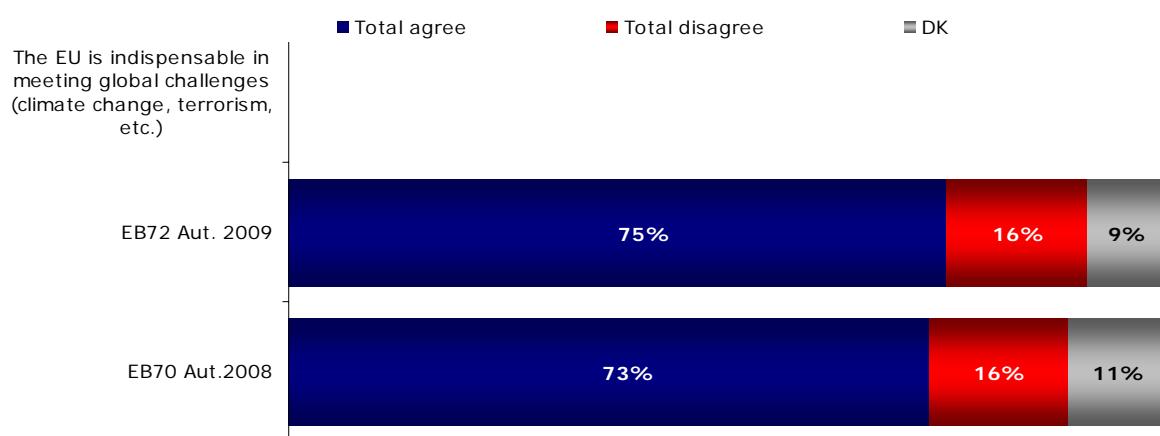
### 4.1 The European Union: a framework for tackling global challenges

*- The EU's image: a community which brings citizens together, an indispensable framework but an institution which has grown too fast and which currently seems short of ideas -*

Europeans see the European Union as a community of shared destinies and a vital framework for tackling global challenges.

Thus, three-quarters of Europeans consider that the European Union is essential for meeting global challenges (such as climate change and terrorism), with almost a third (31%) "totally" in agreement. Only 16% disagreed while 9% expressed no opinion<sup>63</sup>. The percentage of Europeans who disagree has increased by 2 points since autumn 2008.

QA20.4 Can you tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding the building of Europe?  
-%EU

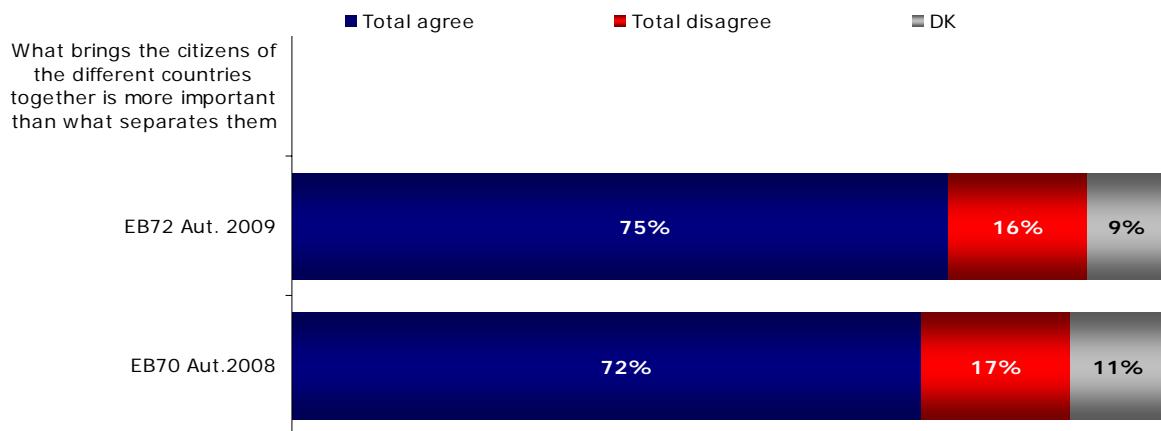


This idea is supported by a large majority of respondents in all European Union countries, except for Ireland, where respondents have far more reservations than average (47% versus 22%). It is also shared by all social categories in the European population.

<sup>63</sup> QA20: Can you tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding the building of Europe?

Three-quarters of European also agree that what brings the inhabitants of the different European Union countries together is more important than what separates them. This proportion has increased by 3 points since autumn 2008. Only 16% of respondents disagree with this idea and there were 9% of 'DK' answers.

QA20.2 Can you tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statements  
regarding the building of Europe?  
-%EU

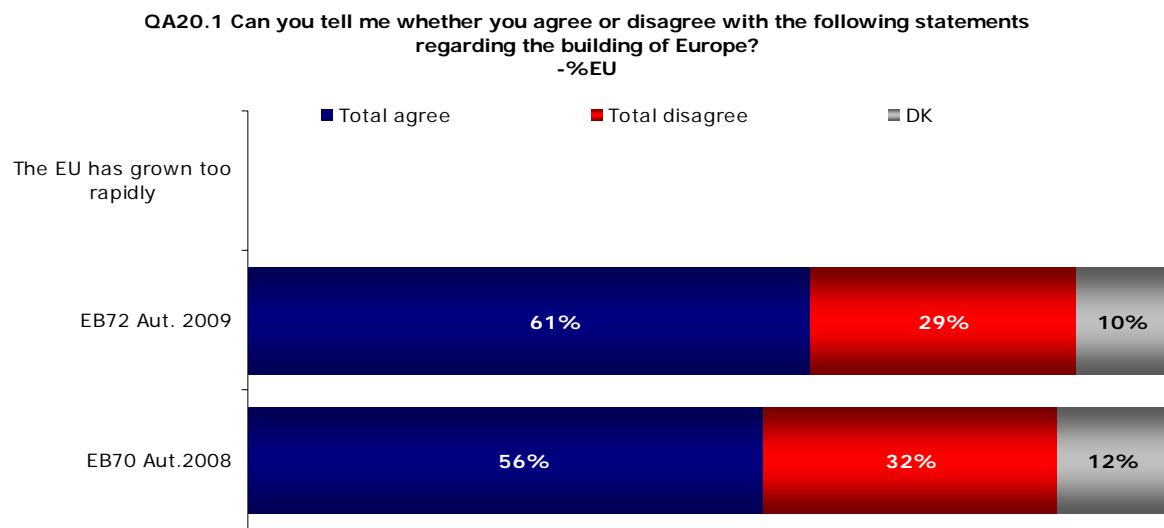


The idea of a European community bringing citizens together has very widespread support in all European Union countries and in all social categories.

#### 4.2 A question mark over where the European Union is going

Although Europeans thus share two absolutely essential beliefs on which the very existence of the European Union depends, the fact nevertheless remains that more negative perceptions are gaining ground, doubtless a sign that Europeans are taking stock of what the Union has become and where it is going.

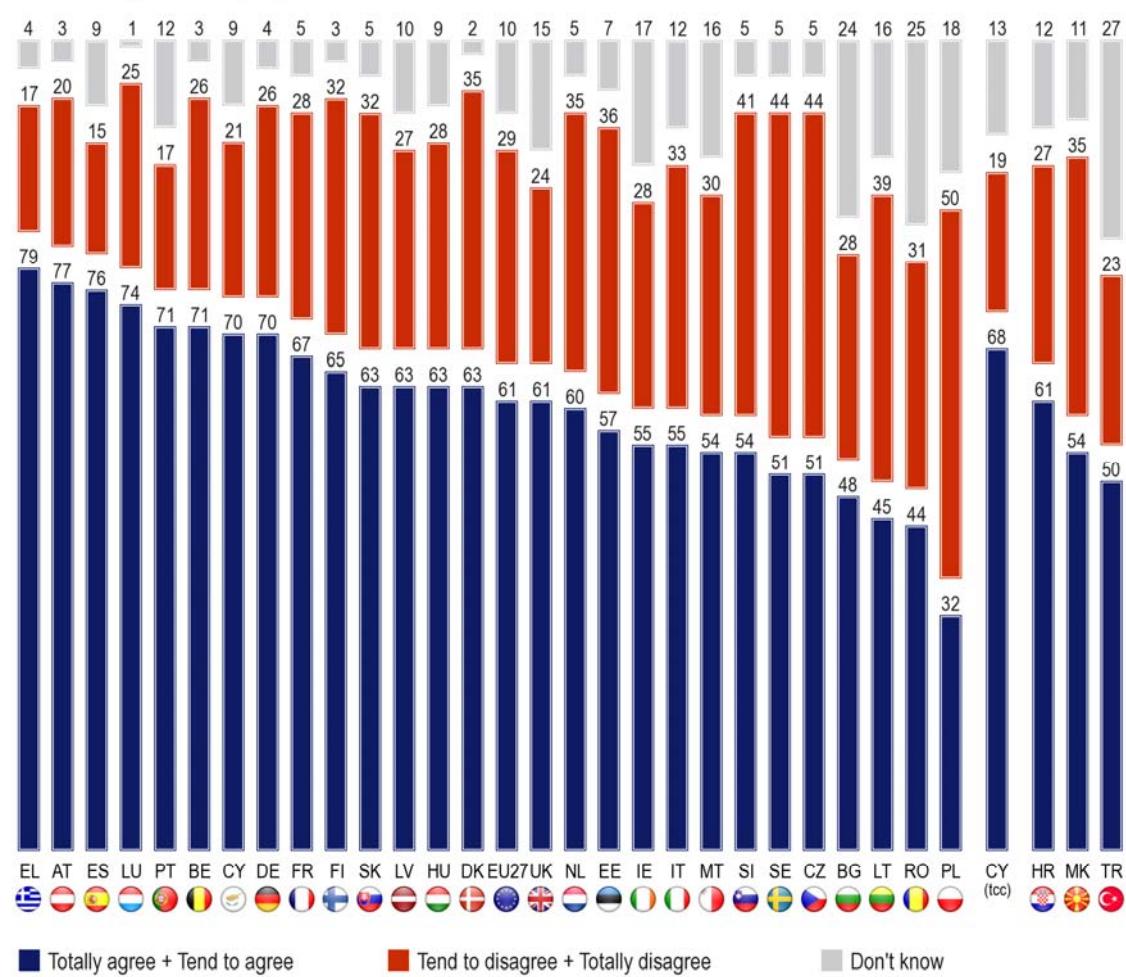
First of all, the proportion of those who think that the European Union has grown too rapidly has increased by 5 points since autumn 2008. 61% of Europeans now agree, while 29% (-3 points) disagree and 10% (-2 points) expressed no opinion.



Poland is the only country where a majority of respondents rejected this idea (50% disagreed while 32% agreed). More generally, opinions in the founder states are far more open to the idea that Europe has grown too rapidly than in the countries which most recently joined the European Union. Thus, there is widespread agreement with this view in Luxembourg (74%), Belgium (71%), Germany (70%) and France (67%).

QA20.1. Can you tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding the building of Europe?

The EU has grown too rapidly



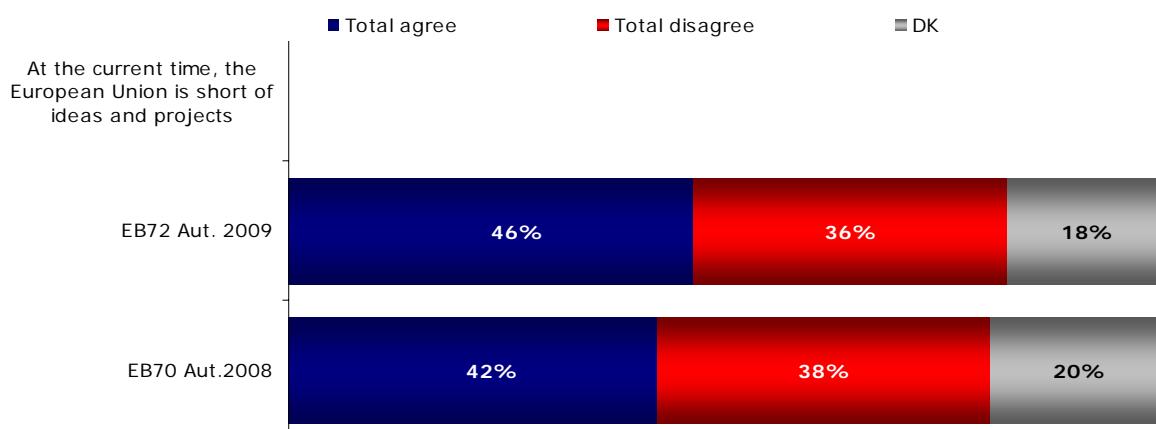
Social characteristics do not influence this question: for example, the idea is held equally by those who place themselves at the top of the social hierarchy and by those who place themselves at the bottom (60%). On the other hand, there is a fairly clear age effect: those in the 15 to 24 age group (51%) are far less open than those aged 55 or over (64%) to the idea that Europe has grown too rapidly. It is also noteworthy that although a majority of those who have a positive image of the European Union share this idea, support is less marked than among those whose vision of the European Union is negative: 71% of those who do not trust the European Union think that it has grown too rapidly compared with 56% of those who trust it.

**QA20.1 Can you tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding the building of Europe?**  
**The EU has grown too rapidly**

	Total agree	Total disagree	DK
EU27	61%	29%	10%
<b>Age</b>			
15-24	51%	37%	12%
25-39	60%	32%	8%
40-54	64%	28%	8%
55 +	64%	24%	12%
<b>Self-positioning on the social staircase</b>			
Low (1-4)	60%	26%	14%
Medium (5-6)	63%	28%	9%
High (7-10)	60%	34%	6%
<b>Trust in EU</b>			
Tend to trust	56%	37%	7%
Tend not to trust	71%	20%	9%
<b>Benefit EU membership</b>			
Benefited	56%	37%	7%
Not benefited	73%	19%	8%
<b>Image of EU</b>			
Positive	54%	39%	7%
Neutral	65%	22%	13%
Negative	77%	15%	8%

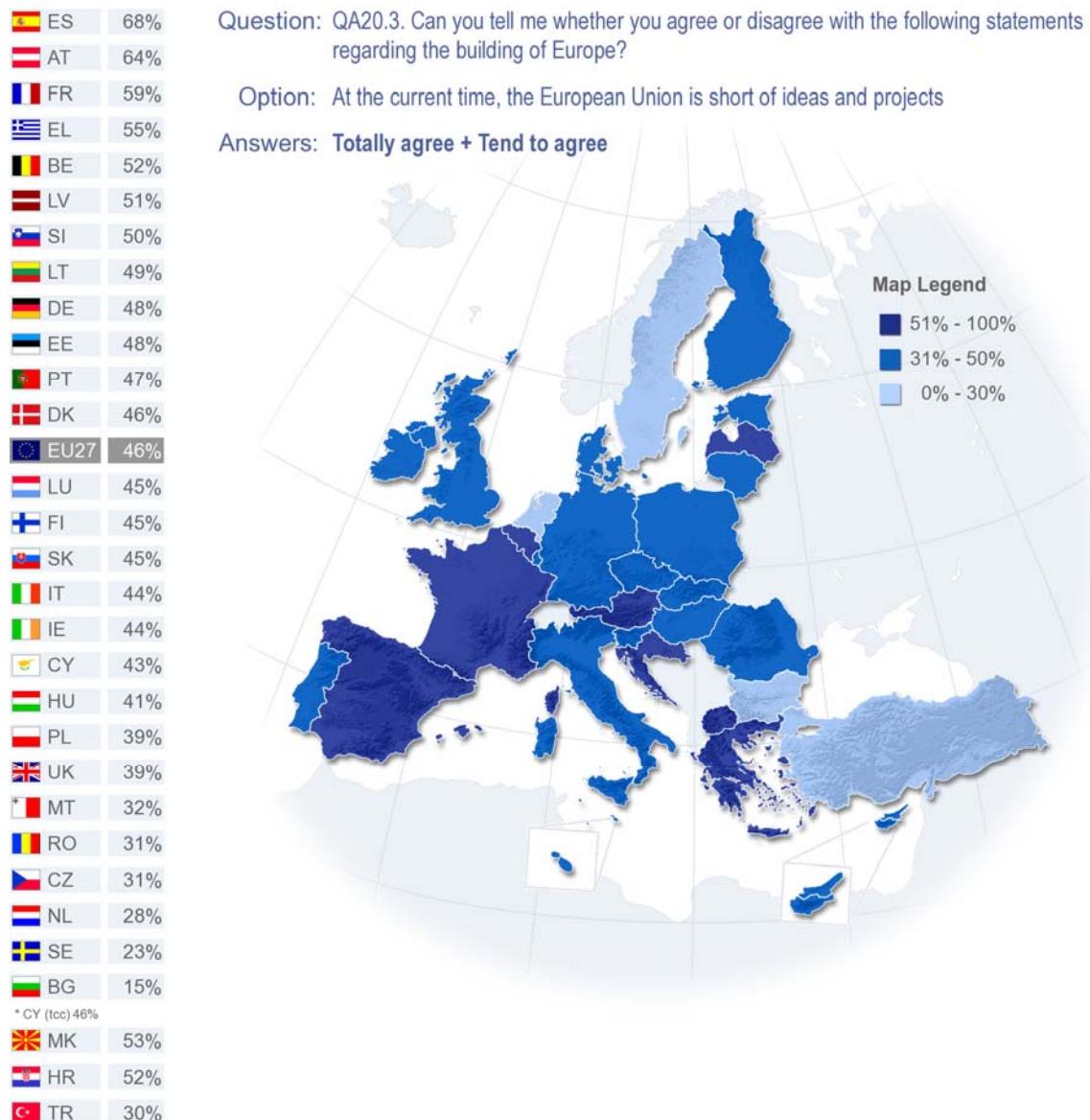
The proportion of Europeans who consider that the European Union is short of projects and ideas has also increased by 4 points since autumn 2008. 46% of respondents now hold this opinion, while 36% (-2 points) disagree and 18% (-2 points) expressed no opinion.

**QA20.3 Can you tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding the building of Europe?**  
**-%EU**



The feeling that Europe is short of ideas and projects is particularly widespread in Spain (68%), Austria (64%), France (59%), Greece (55%) and Belgium (52%). On the other hand, the majority of respondents in Sweden (61%), the Czech Republic (58%), Bulgaria (51%) and the Netherlands (50%) do not perceive the Union in this way.

In the candidate countries, 53% of respondents in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and 52% in Croatia think that the European Union lacks ideas and projects. In Turkey, there is widespread uncertainty with a 41% D/K rate.



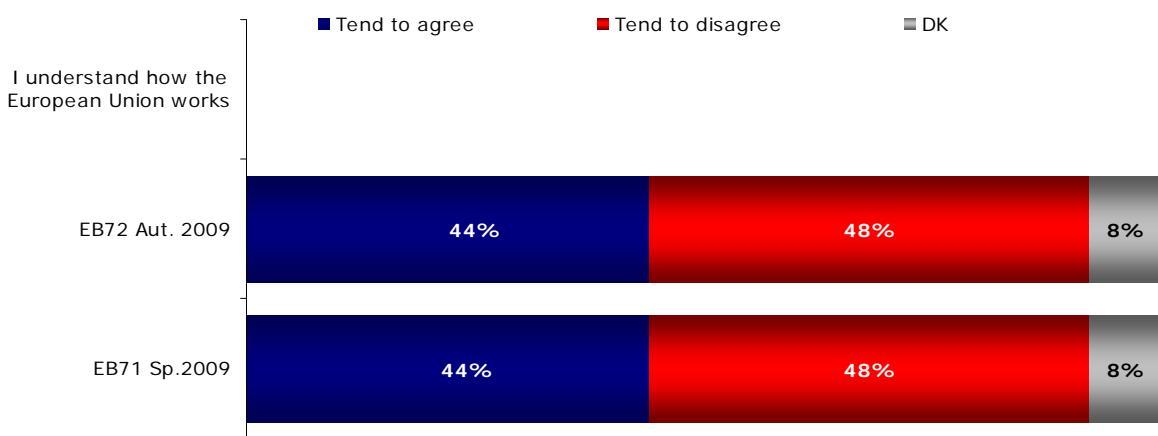
Age does not really influence opinions as to whether the EU is short of ideas and projects. Respondents aged over 54 are almost as likely as the youngest respondents (15 to 24) to think that the European Union is short of ideas and projects (45% for the oldest group, 44% for the youngest). This opinion is slightly more widespread among respondents aged 25 to 39 (49%) and those aged 40 to 54 (47%). On the other hand, there are more perceptible variations depending on the respondent's occupation: whereas a majority of manual workers consider that the European Union is short of ideas and projects (50%, while 33% disagree), only a minority of managers agree with this view (43% versus 46%). Finally, this opinion is particularly widespread among those whose views on or attitudes to the European Union are critical. For example, 56% of those who do not trust the European Union consider that it is short of projects and ideas, compared with 41% of those who trust it.

## 5. THE WAY IN WHICH THE EUROPEAN UNION WORKS

### 5.1 Knowledge of the way in which the EU works

The way in which the European Union works remains impenetrable for a large proportion of Europeans. Thus, 48% of Europeans say that they do not understand how the European Union works, while 44% say they understand it and 8% expressed no opinion<sup>64</sup>. These scores are identical with those recorded at the time of the last Eurobarometer wave.

**QA19a1. Please tell me for each statement, whether you tend to agree or tend to disagree.**  
-%EU

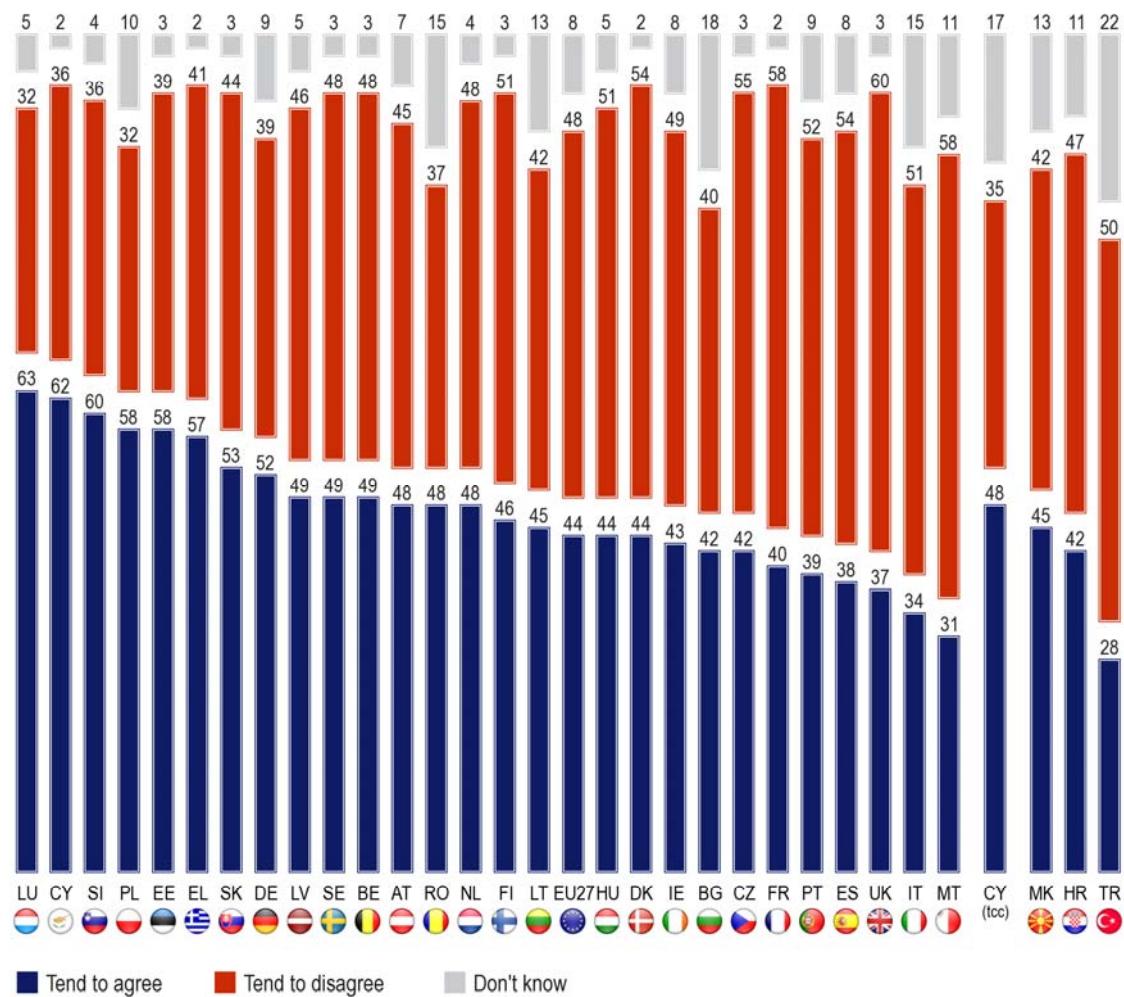


Respondents in Luxembourg (63%), Cyprus (62%), Slovenia (60%), Poland (58%), Estonia (58%), Greece (57%), Slovakia (53%) and Germany (52%) are the most likely to understand how the European Union works. On the other hand, those in the United Kingdom (60%), France (58%), Malta (58%), the Czech Republic (55%), Spain (54%), Denmark (54%), Portugal (52%), Finland (51%) and Italy (51%) are the most likely to say that they do not understand how it works.

<sup>64</sup> QA19.1: Please tell me for the following statement, whether you tend to agree or tend to disagree: I understand how the EU works

QA19. Please tell me for each statement, whether you tend to agree or tend to disagree.

I understand how the European Union works



Understanding of how the European Union works is very strongly influenced by the social variables. It is far stronger among men than women (51% versus 38%), among people who studied until the age of 20 or beyond than among the least educated (59% versus 28%), among managers than among unemployed people (61% versus 35%) and among people who have no financial difficulties than among those who do (50% versus 30%). It also depends strongly on the respondent's opinion of the European Union: 57% of those who trust the European Union say that they understand how it works compared with only 34% of those who do not trust the European Union.

**QA19a.1 Please tell me for each statement, whether you tend to agree or tend to disagree.**

**I understand how the European Union works**

	Tend to agree	Tend to disagree	NSP
EU27	44%	48%	8%
<b>Sex</b>			
Male	51%	42%	7%
Female	38%	54%	8%
<b>Age</b>			
15-24	48%	45%	7%
25-39	46%	46%	8%
40-54	46%	47%	7%
55 +	40%	52%	8%
<b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	28%	64%	8%
16-19	43%	49%	8%
20+	59%	36%	5%
Still studying	55%	38%	7%
<b>Respondent occupation scale</b>			
Self-employed	54%	37%	9%
Managers	61%	34%	5%
Other white collars	50%	43%	7%
Manual workers	40%	52%	8%
House persons	32%	60%	8%
Unemployed	35%	56%	9%
Retired	39%	53%	8%
Students	55%	38%	7%
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>			
Most of the time	30%	62%	8%
From time to time	38%	53%	9%
Almost never/ never	50%	44%	6%
<b>Trust in EU</b>			
Tend to trust	57%	37%	6%
Tend not to trust	34%	59%	7%
<b>Image of EU</b>			
Positive	59%	34%	7%
Neutral	32%	59%	9%
Negative	30%	64%	6%

## 5.2 Objective knowledge of the EU

Having noted that the majority of respondents still do not understand how the European Union works, we then examined their objective knowledge of the Union. Four statements concerning the European Union were put to the interviewees, who were asked to say whether they were true or false. The statements were the following<sup>65</sup>:

- The European Union currently consists of 25 Member States (new item).
- The Irish voted "yes" to the second referendum on the Lisbon Treaty (new item).
- The euro area currently consists of 12 Member States.
- Switzerland is a member of the European Union (only to half the sample, Split A)/Iceland is member of the European Union (new item, only to half the sample, Split B)

The results of this quiz are fairly uneven and reveal a mixed picture of knowledge of the facts about the European Union in 2009: 27% of Europeans gave only one right answer, 30% gave two right answers, 20% gave three right answers and 6% gave the right answer to all four questions<sup>66</sup>.

The proportion of respondents giving a right answer to the question asked varies from 30% for the statement that "the European Union consists of 25 Member States" to 64% for "Switzerland is a member of the European Union". **The average percentage of right answers given to the various questions asked to measure knowledge of the European Union is 42%**<sup>67</sup>. The average of wrong answers is 29%, while that of 'DK' answers is 29%.<sup>68</sup> By adding the wrong and 'DK' answers together, we note that the majority of European respondents have a poor knowledge of the European Union, though with significant differences by country. The average percentage of right answers has fallen by 11 points since autumn 2008, but as some of the statements were different at that time, this comparison is merely indicative.

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<sup>65</sup> QA17 For each of the following statements about the European Union could you please tell me whether you think it is true or false.

<sup>66</sup> These questions were not the same for all respondents since one of the questions was "split".

<sup>67</sup> The European Union currently consists of 25 Member States: 30% right answers; The Irish voted "yes" to the second referendum on the Lisbon Treaty: 52% right answers; The euro area currently consists of twelve Member States: 32% right answers; Switzerland is a member of the European Union (only to half of the sample, Split A): 64% right answers. Iceland is a member of the European Union (only to half of the sample, Split B): 46% right answers. Average percentage of right answers: 42%.

<sup>68</sup> The average of right/wrong answers and the rate of 'DK' answers are calculated on the basis of these four questions.

**QA17. For each of the following statements about the European Union, could you please tell me whether you think it is true or false?**

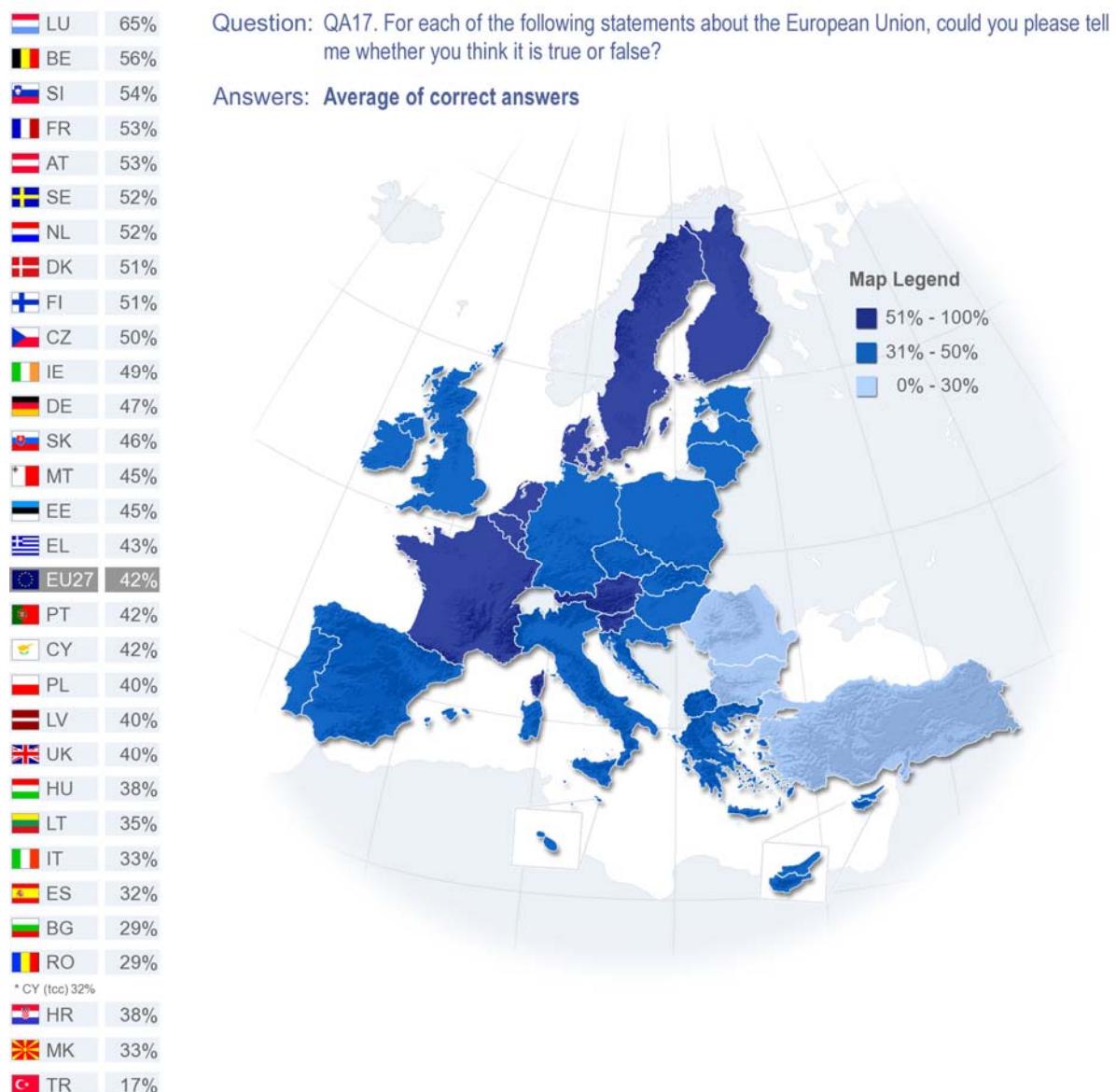
-%EU

■ Correct answers



With on average 50% or more right answers, respondents in Luxembourg (65%), Belgium (56%), Slovenia (54%), France (53%), Austria (53%), the Netherlands (52%), Sweden (52%), Denmark (51%), Finland (51%) and the Czech Republic (50%) are among those with the best objective knowledge of the European Union.

On the other hand, with on average more than 50% of wrong or 'DK' answers, respondents in Bulgaria (71%), Romania (71%), Spain (68%), Italy (67%), Lithuania (65%), Hungary (62%), Poland (60%), the United Kingdom (60%) and Latvia (60%) are the least familiar with the facts of the European Union.



The fact that Switzerland is not a member of the European Union obtained the highest number of right answers among Europeans (64%), with a relatively low number of 'DK' answers (18%). Although a majority of respondents gave the right answer, the levels of 'DK' answers were high in Bulgaria (40%), Romania (37%) and Spain (31%).

On the other hand, the levels of 'DK' answers are far higher for the other four items (ranging from 26% to 35%), a first sign of the shortcomings of Europeans when it comes to knowledge of the facts and issues of the European Union.

52% are aware that the **Irish voted “yes” to the second referendum on the Lisbon Treaty**, while only 13% wrongly answered that they had voted “no”, but more than a third of respondents did not answer (35% 'DK'). Logically, the highest proportion of right answers was recorded in Ireland (94%).

Respondents in the Czech Republic (73%), Luxembourg (73%) and Denmark (70%), Austria (70%) and Sweden (70%) are also well informed on this subject. On the other hand the levels of 'DK' answers were very high in Romania (64%), Italy (55%), Cyprus (54%), Bulgaria (54%) and Spain (53%).

46% of respondents rightly said that **Iceland is not a member of the European Union**, but 24% gave the wrong answer and 30% did not answer. For reasons of geographic proximity, respondents in the three Nordic countries of the European Union (77% in Denmark, 72% in Finland and 67% in Sweden), as well as in Luxembourg (74%) are the most likely to be aware that Iceland is not a member of the European Union. Including these countries, an absolute majority of respondents gave the right answer to this question in twelve Member States.

Finally, only a minority of respondents gave the right answer regarding the **number of Member States belonging to the euro area**<sup>69</sup> (32% know that *it does not* consist of 12 Member States) and regarding membership of the European Union (30% know that the statement that the European Union currently consists of 25 Member States is false).

The highest proportions of right answer regarding the **number of countries in the euro area** were recorded in Luxembourg (49%) – which, it should be borne in mind, is an important financial centre -, Portugal (44%), Belgium (43%), Slovakia (41%), Slovenia (40%), Greece (39%) and France (39%). On the other hand, the highest levels of wrong answers were recorded in Sweden (58%), Denmark (58%) and Greece (50%). Finally, there were massive levels of 'DK' answers in Bulgaria (59%), Romania (49%), Lithuania (44%), Malta (44%) and Cyprus (42%).

Respondents in Luxembourg (60% replied that the statement is false), Cyprus (51%), Belgium (46%), France (44%), Estonia (41%), Malta (41%), Slovenia (41%) and Sweden (40%) are the least likely to give the wrong answer regarding **the number of Member States in the European Union**. On the other hand, respondents in Greece (56% wrongly believe that the European Union consists of 25 Member States), Austria (55%), Slovakia (53%), Poland (53%) and Hungary (53%) are the most likely to give the wrong answer.

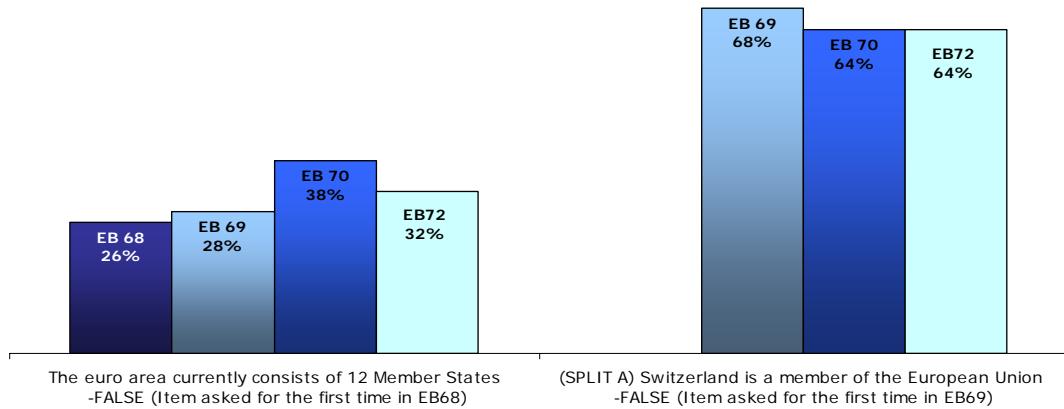
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<sup>69</sup> 16 countries at the time the survey was conducted.

An analysis of changes for the items proposed at the time of the previous wave shows that the proportion of respondents aware that the euro area does not consist of 12 Member States has fallen since autumn 2008 (32%, -6 points), while the proportion of respondents who know that Switzerland is not part of the European Union is unchanged (64%).

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QA17.3\_4 For each of the following statements about the European Union, could you please tell me whether you think it is true or false?  
Correct answers - %EU



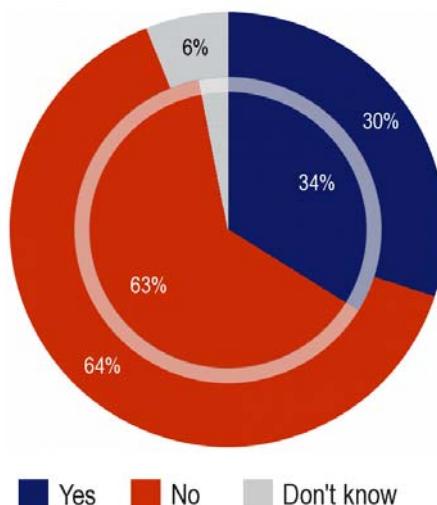
Finally, a socio-demographic analysis reveals that men (47% versus 38% for women) and the respondents who studied until the age of 20 or beyond (51% versus 36% of those who left school before the age of 16), are on average the most likely to be well informed.

### 5.3 The Presidency of the Council of the European Union

*- Less than a third of Europeans are aware that Sweden holds the Presidency of the Council of the European Union -*

Almost two-thirds of Europeans (64%) say that they have not heard anything about the Swedish Presidency of the European Union during the second half of 2009, while 30% have heard something and 6% did not know<sup>70</sup>. This result is close to that recorded at the time of the last Eurobarometer for the Czech Presidency (63% had heard nothing about it at that time while 34% had; see the pie chart below). However, these levels fall far short of those recorded for the French Presidency in autumn 2008: at the time, 50% of Europeans were aware that France held the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

QA21. In the European Union, each Member State, in turn, becomes the President of the Council of the European Union for six months. Right now, it's the turn of Sweden. Have you recently read in the newspapers or heard on the radio or television or seen on Internet anything about Sweden's presidency?

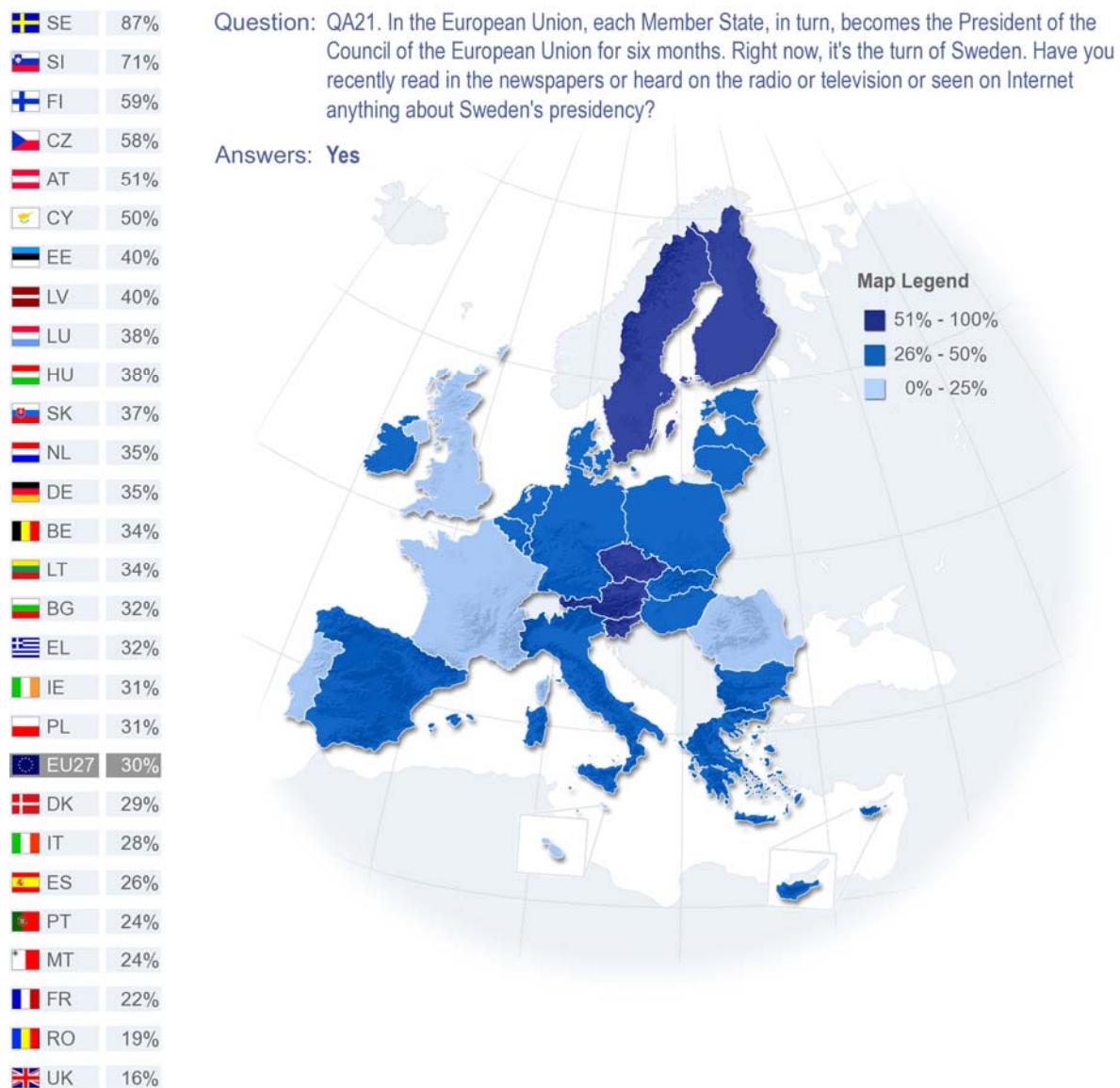


Inner pie : EB71 Sp.2009  
Outer pie : EB72 Aut.2009



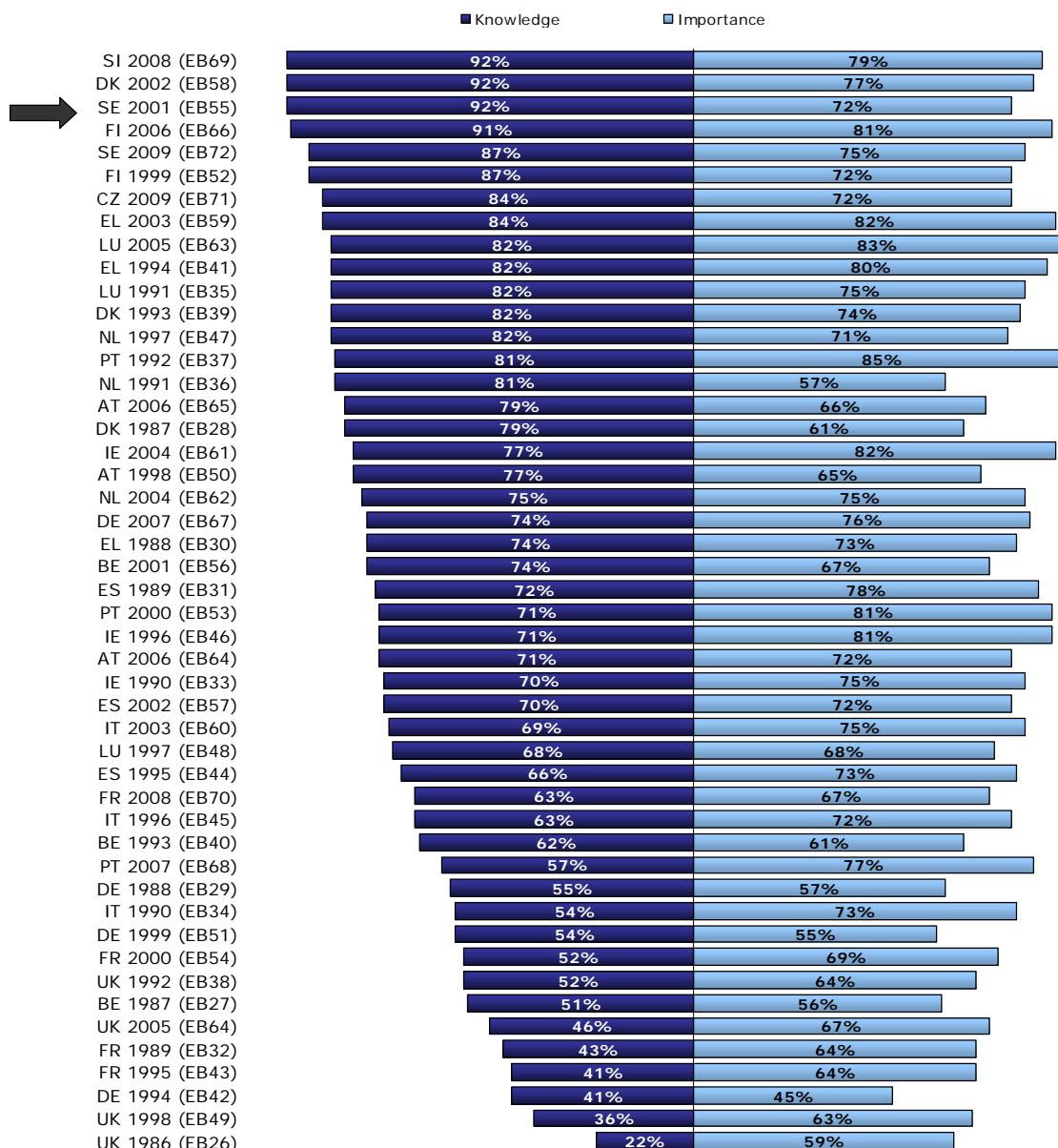
<sup>70</sup> QA21 In the European Union, each Member State, in turn, becomes the President of the Council of the European Union for six months. Right now, it's the turn of Sweden. Have you recently read in the newspapers or heard on the radio or television or seen on Internet anything about Sweden's presidency?

Apart from Sweden, there are only five European Union countries where a majority of respondents have heard of the Swedish Presidency. Familiarity is high in the countries which held the Presidency before Sweden - the Czech Republic (58%) and Slovenia (71%). A majority of respondents have also heard of the Swedish presidency in Austria (51%) and Cyprus (50%). Finally, in the Nordic countries the Presidency is well-known in the neighbouring country, Finland (59%), but much less so in Denmark (29%).



In Sweden, awareness of the country's Presidency of the Council of The European Union is very high, at 87%. This is the 5th highest score for awareness of the Presidency in the countries which have held it since 1986, jointly with the Finnish Presidency of 1999 and ahead of the Czech Presidency of 2009.

**QA21 + QA22 Knowledge and importance of the Presidency of the Council of the European Union**

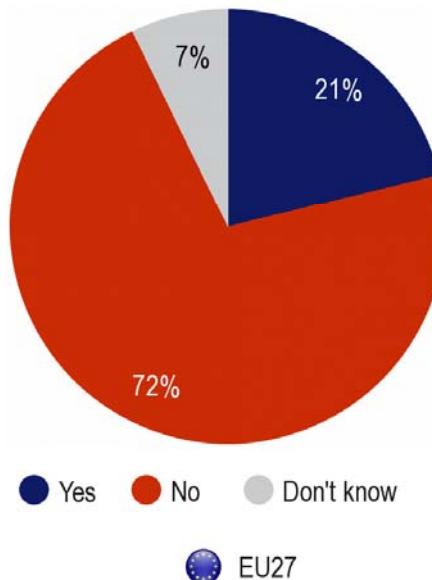


There is a consensus on the importance of this Presidency in Sweden since 75% of respondents there say it is important<sup>71</sup>, and almost a third (32%) go so far as to say it is "very" important. A socio-demographic analysis shows that all sections of the Swedish population agree on the importance of this Presidency. The score in Sweden falls short of the record set by Portugal when it held the Presidency in 1992 (85%), but is nevertheless towards the top of the table of results recorded since 1986.

<sup>71</sup> QA22 Whether you have heard about it or not, do you think it is important or not that Sweden is President of the Council of the European Union at this time? Would you say it is very important, important, not very important, not at all important?

As a large majority of Europeans have not heard of the Swedish Presidency, they are logically even less aware of the Spanish Presidency, which will follow Sweden's Presidency<sup>72</sup>. Only 21% of respondents are aware that Spain will take over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union from 1 January 2010<sup>73</sup>, while 72% are unaware of the fact and 7% had no opinion. This score of 21% is identical to that recorded for the upcoming Swedish Presidency at the time of the last Eurobarometer.

QA23. From January the 1st 2010 it will be the turn of Spain. Have you recently read in the newspapers or heard on the radio or television or seen on the Internet anything about Spain's presidency?

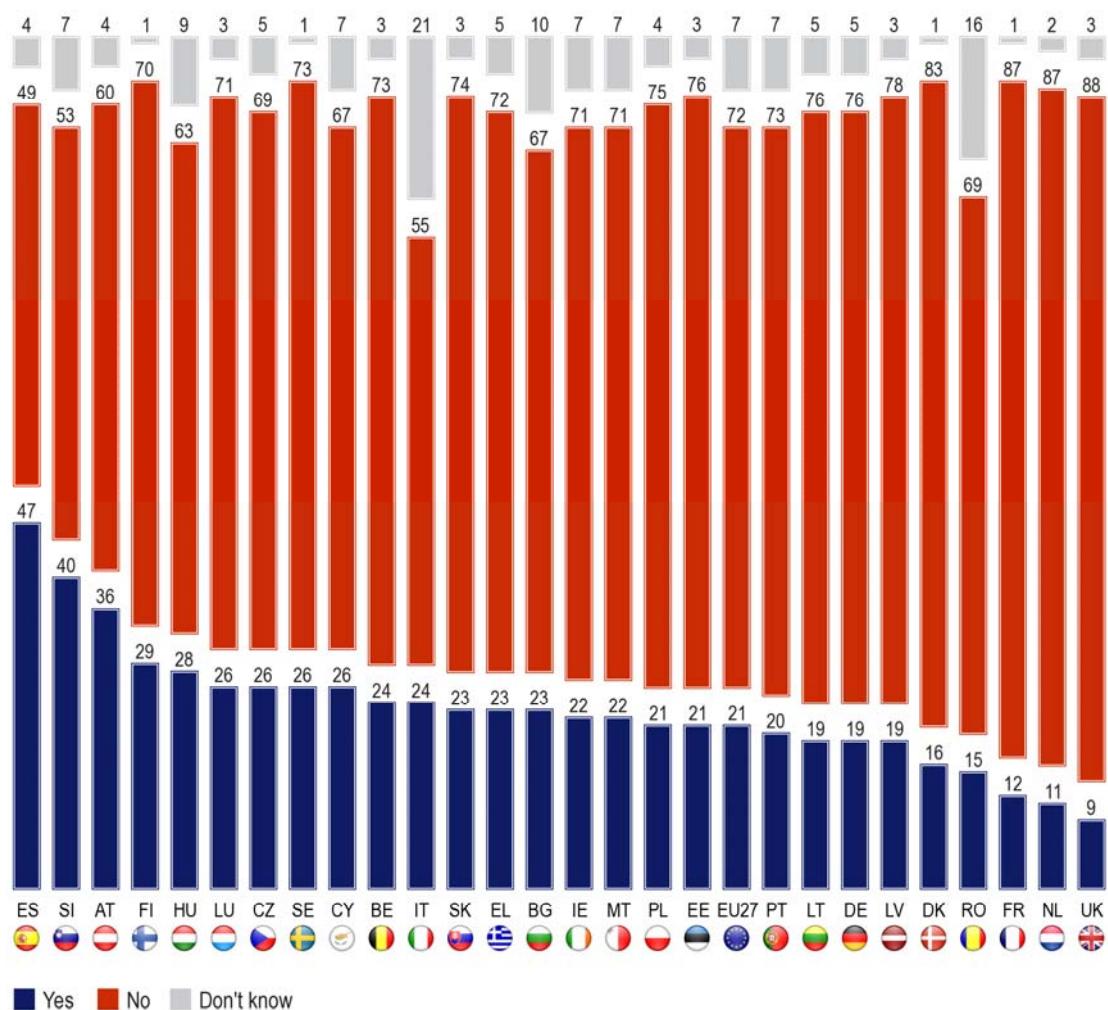


<sup>72</sup> It should be remembered that the fieldwork was carried out in the various countries from 23 October to 18 November 2009.

<sup>73</sup> QA23 From January the 1<sup>st</sup> 2010 it will be the turn of Spain. Have you recently read in the newspapers or heard on the radio or television or seen on the Internet anything about Spain's presidency?

In all European Union countries, a very large majority say that they are not aware of the upcoming Spanish Presidency. Nevertheless, respondents in Slovenia (40%) and Austria (36%) are the most likely to have heard of it.

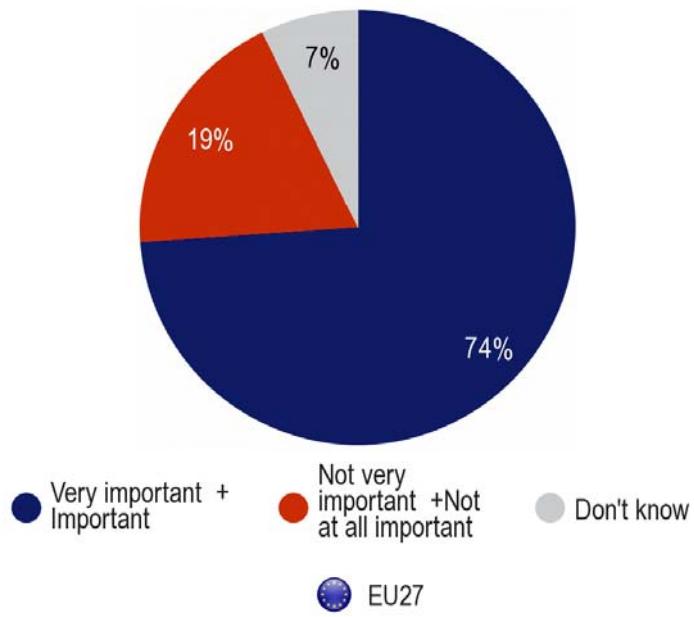
QA23. From January the 1st 2010 it will be the turn of Spain. Have you recently read in the newspapers or heard on the radio or television or seen on the Internet anything about Spain's presidency?



Only a minority in Spain are aware of their country's upcoming Presidency, although, logically, more respondents in Spain than elsewhere have heard about it. 47% of respondents in Spain say that they have heard about it, while 49% have not, and 4% have no opinion. In comparison, only 19% of respondents in Germany, 12% in France and 9% in the United Kingdom have heard of the future Spanish Presidency.

In detail, 24% of the respondents polled in Spain consider that their country's forthcoming Presidency is "very" important and 50% that it is "important"<sup>74</sup>. On the other hand, 16% consider that it is "not very important" and 3% that it is "not at all important". Although they were not yet all informed, respondents in Spain took an interest in the Presidency. 74% believed that it was important that Spain was to take over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union at the beginning of next year.

QA24. Whether you have heard about it or not, do you think it is important or not that Spain will be President of the Council of the European Union from the 1st of January 2010? Would you say it is...?



Although a majority of respondents in all sections of the Spanish population share this view, it is supported most emphatically by respondents in the most favoured social categories and the youngest generations. Thus 77% of respondents in Spain aged between 15 and 39 consider that this Presidency is important compared with 71% of those aged 55 or over. Moreover, 81% of citizens in Spain who studied until the age of 20 or over believe that the Presidency is important compared with 67% of the least educated respondents, as do 82% of respondents in Spain who position themselves at the top of the social hierarchy compared with 65% of those who place themselves at the bottom.

<sup>74</sup> QA24 Whether you have heard about it or not, do you think it is important or not that Spain will be President of the Council of the European Union from the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2010? Would you say it is very important, important, not very important, not at all important?

### III. THE EUROPEAN UNION TODAY AND TOMORROW

The Lisbon Treaty finally entered into force on 1 December 2009<sup>75</sup>. It introduces major institutional changes, which are intended to simplify the decision-making process and give the European Union greater weight in international affairs. This new treaty is the culmination of a long process intended to revise the European Union's internal procedures, which was indispensable following the successive increases to 25 and 27 Member States in 2004 and 2007 respectively.

## 1. THE EUROPEAN UNION'S POWERS

### 1.1 Assessments of the best decision-making level (European, national, regional or local)

The Eurobarometer has examined the way in which Europeans perceive the European Union's influence in their everyday life, in particular in comparison with other decision-making levels (national, regional or local)<sup>76</sup>.

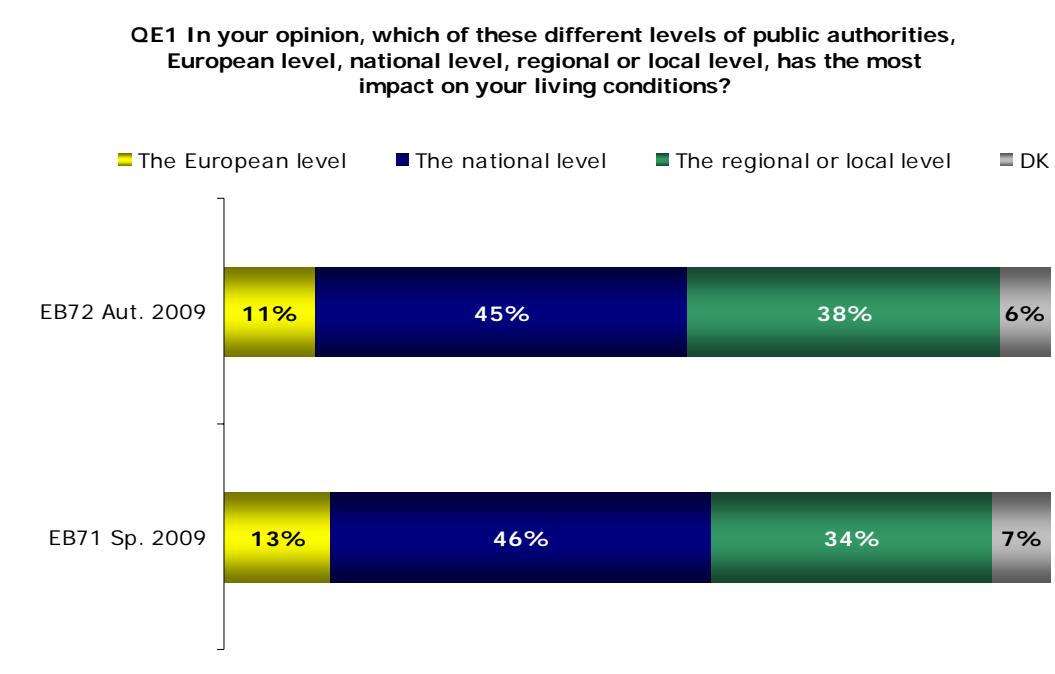
45% of Europeans consider that the national public authorities have the most influence on their living conditions. Almost four out of ten Europeans (38%) mentioned the regional or local level, while only one in ten (11%) considers that the European Union's decisions have the most influence on their living conditions.

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<sup>75</sup> For an overview of the treaty: [http://europa.eu/lisbon\\_treaty/glance/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/lisbon_treaty/glance/index_en.htm)

<sup>76</sup> QE1 In your opinion, which of these different levels of public authorities, European level, national level, regional or local level, has the most impact on your living conditions?

These results are by and large unchanged since last spring, although there has been a slight fall for the European (-2) and national (-1) levels, while the regional or local level has gained some ground (+4).

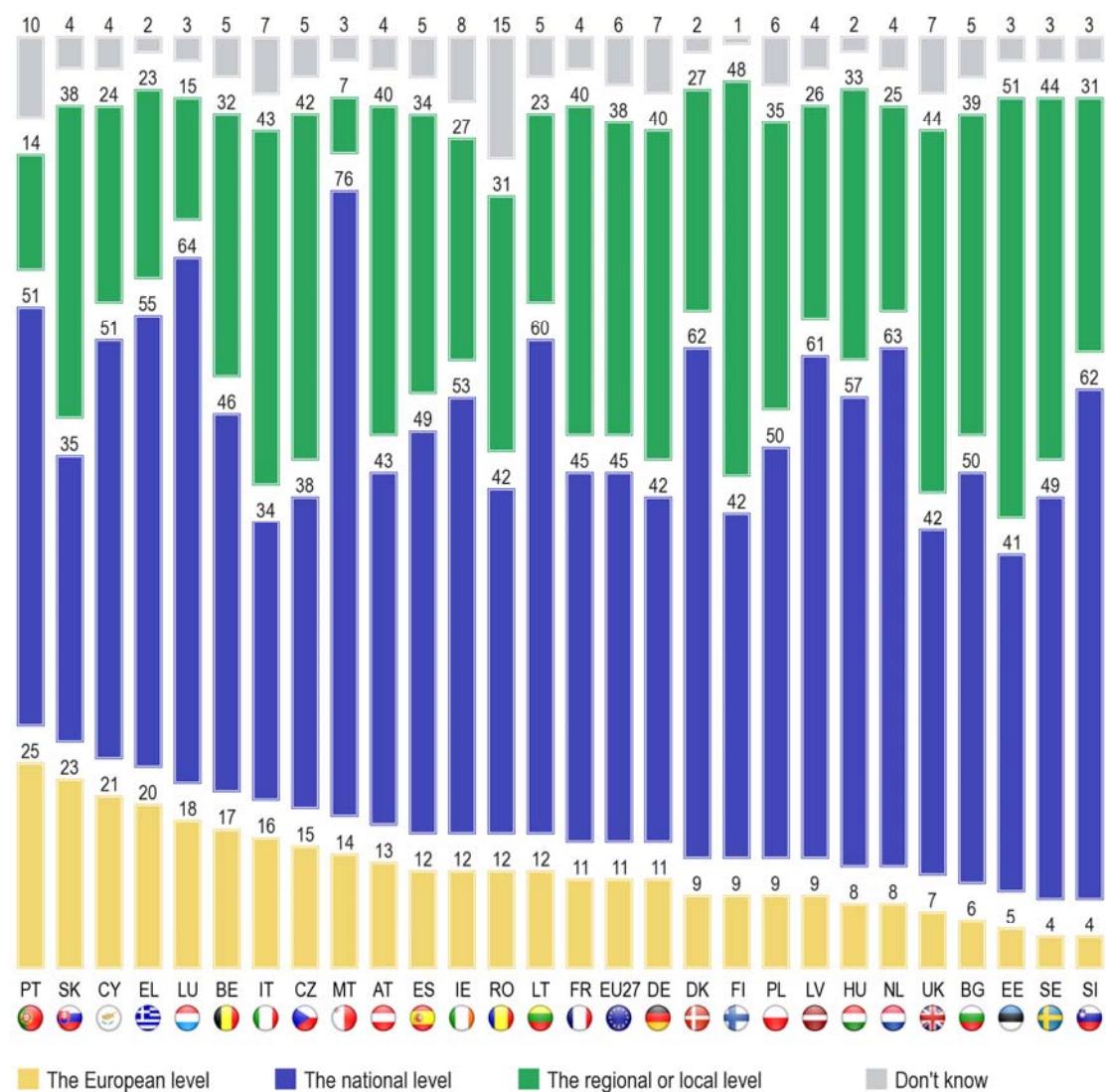


An analysis of the results by country highlights some slight divergences from the overall picture and provides some interesting additional information. The impact of the European level was most strongly felt in Portugal (25%), Slovakia (23%), Cyprus (21%) and Greece (20%), and also, to a lesser extent, in Luxembourg (18%) and Belgium (17%).

The view that daily life is mainly influenced by decisions taken at the national level is particularly widespread in Malta (76%) (76%). This answer was also given by more than six out of ten respondents in Luxembourg (64%), the Netherlands (63%), Slovenia (62%) and Denmark (62%), and in two Baltic States, Latvia (61%) and Lithuania (60%). The national level was mentioned comparatively less frequently in Italy (34%), the Czech Republic (38%) and Slovakia (35%).

Finally, regional or local authorities were mentioned as having the greatest influence on individual living conditions by citizens in Estonia (51%), Finland (49%), the United Kingdom (44%), Italy (43%), the Czech Republic (42%) and Slovakia (38%). This was the most frequent answer in these countries. High scores were also recorded in Sweden (44%) and Germany (40%); however, it though it was not the most frequently cited answer in these two countries.

QE1. In your opinion, which of these different levels of public authorities, European level, national level, regional or local level, has the most impact on your living conditions?



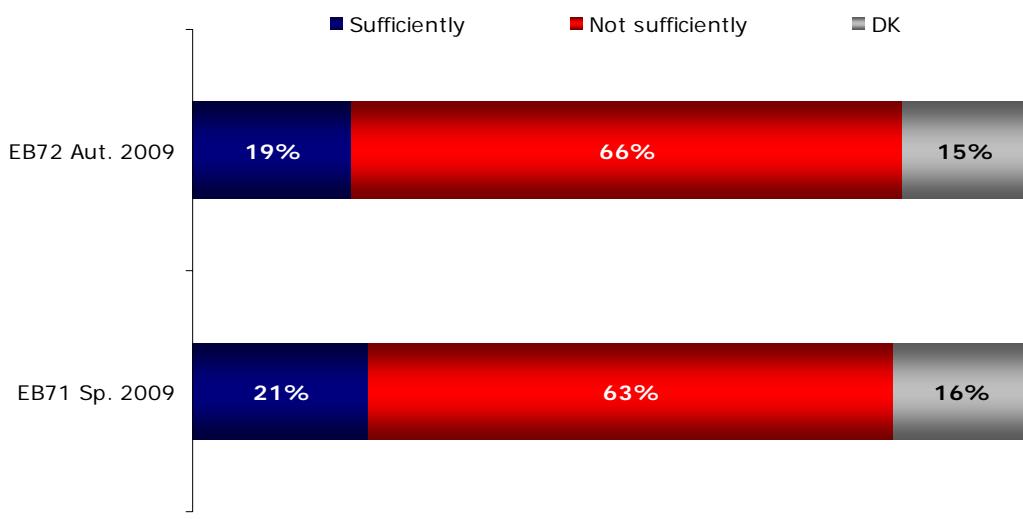
Results at national level have remained stable overall since last spring and there are only a few changes worth noting. For example, the scores for the European level in Portugal and Cyprus have increased by 5 and 7 points respectively. The most significant changes were recorded for the local or regional level in France (+15 points), Estonia (+12 points) and Germany (+9). Moreover, in France and Estonia, the increase in the score for the regional or local level has been achieved to the detriment of the national score which has fallen by 10 points in both cases in comparison with eight months earlier.

As noted above, regional and local authorities are, after the national public authorities, the decision-making levels which Europeans consider have the most influence on their living conditions. Moreover, the strength of this perception has increased in recent months. The Eurobarometer therefore asked Europeans if they felt that these local/regional authorities were taken into account in policy decisions in the European Union<sup>77</sup>.

Two out of three respondents consider that the local authorities are not sufficiently taken into account when policies are decided in the European Union (66%). However, just under a fifth of the (19%) believe that they are sufficiently taken into account. From a comparative point of view, the former opinion has gained ground, which is consistent with the changes noted above regarding the way in which citizens perceive the influence of local or regional authorities in their everyday life.

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**QE2 In your opinion, are regional or local public authorities sufficiently or not sufficiently taken into account when deciding policies in the European Union?**



A national analysis of the results reveals that a majority of respondents in 26 of the 27 Member States consider that local and regional authorities are insufficiently taken into account when policies are decided in the European Union. This view is shared by almost eight out of ten respondents in France (79%), Latvia (78%) and Slovenia (78%), and by approximately seven out of ten respondents in Greece (74%), Lithuania (70%), Finland and Spain (69% and 68%).

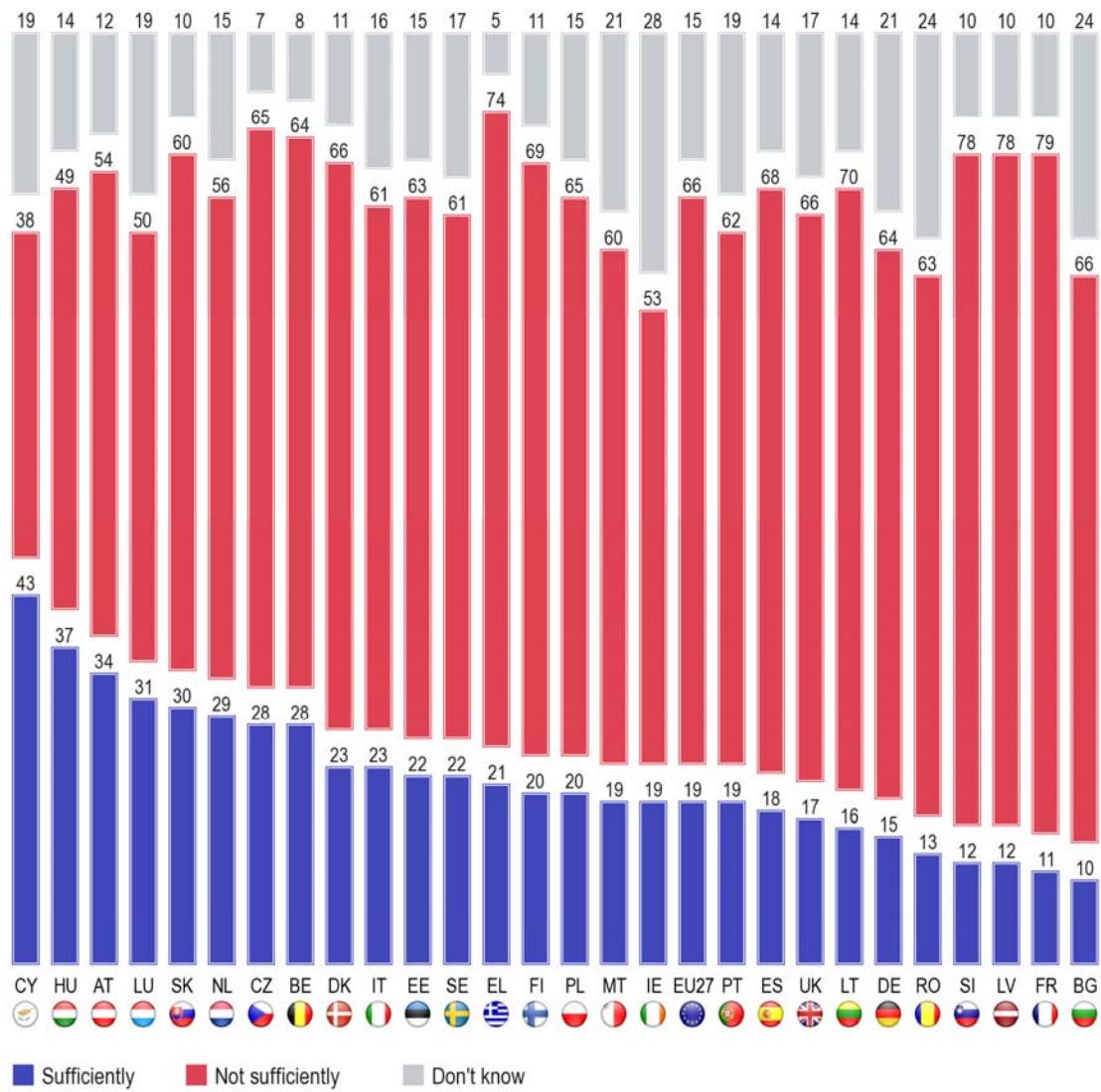
On the other hand, opinions are more positive in Cyprus, where more than 40% of respondents consider that local and regional authorities are sufficiently heard when political decisions are being taken within the European Union (43%).

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<sup>77</sup> QE2 In your opinion, are regional or local public authorities sufficiently or not sufficiently taken into account when deciding policies in the European Union?

This opinion is held by more than a third of respondents in Hungary (37%) and Austria (34%) and by three out of ten in Luxembourg (31%), Slovakia (30%), the Netherlands (29%), Belgium (28%) and the Czech Republic (28%).

QE2. In your opinion, are regional or local public authorities sufficiently or not sufficiently taken into account when deciding policies in the European Union?



With a few exceptions, this view has gained ground in most European Union countries, especially in Portugal (+12), Italy (+9), Lithuania (+8) and Poland (+6). However, it has lost considerable ground in Luxembourg (-15), Austria (-12) and Greece (-8).

An analysis of the results by attitudes towards the European Union reveals that the belief that local and regional authorities are insufficiently taken into account when European Union policies are decided is widespread, though to a lesser extent than in the other categories, among respondents whose overall opinion of the European Union is positive, whether in terms of the European Union's image, trust or the benefits of membership.

**QE2 In your opinion, are regional or local public authorities sufficiently or not sufficiently taken into account when deciding policies in the European Union?**

	Sufficiently	Not sufficiently	DK
EU27	19%	66%	15%
<b>Trust in EU</b>			
Tend to trust	27%	59%	14%
Tend not to trust	11%	76%	13%
<b>Membership EU</b>			
A good thing	24%	62%	14%
A bad thing	10%	78%	12%
Neither good nor bad	14%	69%	17%
<b>Image of EU</b>			
Positive	26%	60%	14%
Neutral	14%	68%	18%
Negative	8%	81%	11%

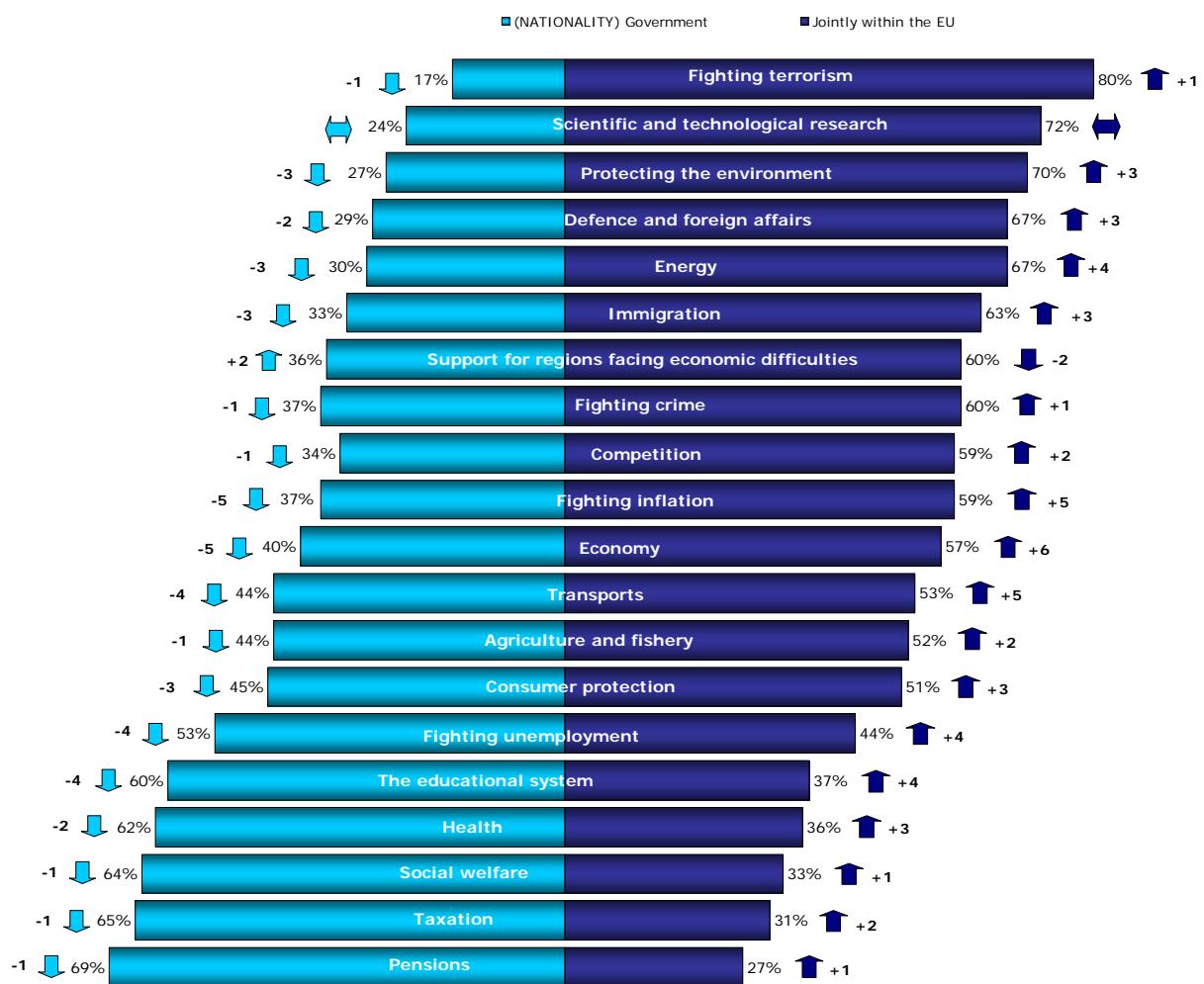
## 1.2 The best decision-making level in a number of policy areas: jointly within the EU or at national government level?

When asked to indicate the most effective decision-making level in twenty policy areas, Europeans are divided. However, in eighteen of the policy areas tested there has been a rise, differing from one policy area to another, in support for decision-making at the European level to the detriment of the national level<sup>78</sup>. These increases are greater in economic areas or in those with an impact on the purchasing power of citizens.

A majority of respondents believe that decisions should be taken jointly within the European Union in the following twelve areas: fighting terrorism (80%, +1 point), scientific and technological research (72%, unchanged), protecting the environment (70%, +3), defence and foreign affairs (67%, +3), energy (67%, +4), support for regions facing economic difficulties (60%, -2), immigration (63%, +3), fighting crime (60%, +1), competition (59%, +2), fighting inflation (59%, +5), the economy (57%, +6) and, finally, agriculture and fishery (52%, +2).

<sup>78</sup> QF3-QF4 For each of the following areas, do you think that decisions should be made by the (NATIONALITY) Government, or made jointly within the European Union? 1. Fighting crime; 2. Taxation; 3. Fighting unemployment; 4. Fighting terrorism; 5. Defence and foreign affairs; 6. Immigration; 7. The educational system; 8. Pensions; 9. Protecting the environment; 1. Health; 2. Social welfare; 3. Agriculture and fishery; 4. Consumer protection; 5. Scientific and technological research; 6. Support for regions facing economic difficulties; 7. Energy; 8. Competition; 9. Transports ; 10. Economy; 11. Fighting inflation

QF3-4 For each of the following areas, do you think that decisions should be made by the (NATIONALITY) Government, or made jointly within the European Union?



Two policy areas, consumer protection and transport, on which European opinion was previously more or less split down the middle, are now more associated with decision-making at European Union level (in the case of consumer protection 51% of respondents mentioned the European Union, +3 points since the autumn 2008 wave; in the case of transport, 53% of respondents opted for the European Union, +5 percentage points compared with a year earlier).

However, in the six other policy areas a majority consider that decisions should be taken by national governments, despite the fact that the national scores have fallen for all six areas: pensions (69%, -1), taxation (65%, -1), social welfare (64%, -1), health (62%, -2), the education system (60%, -4) and the fight against unemployment (53%, -4).

The increased scores recorded for the European level in this wave therefore seem to confirm the trend previously noted in autumn 2008 (EB70) in comparison with spring 2008 (EB69) when, **in eleven of the twenty policy areas tested, Europeans were already more likely to consider that decisions should be taken jointly at European level.** At the time of the previous wave, the increases in support were already more marked as regards the economy and fighting inflation. It should be remembered that alongside unemployment and crime these two issues are the main national areas of concern for Europeans. It would seem that, in particularly difficult times, citizens appreciate the added value of action at European Union level.

Respondents in the United Kingdom, Austria and Finland and, to a lesser extent, in Ireland, Sweden, Malta, Romania and Bulgaria are comparatively the most in favour of national governments keeping their decision-making powers in most areas.

In contrast, respondents in Cyprus and, to a slightly lesser extent, in Portugal, Slovakia, Latvia, Lithuania, and even in Luxembourg, Germany, Italy and Belgium consider that it would be beneficial, in most policy areas, for decisions to be taken jointly within the European Union.

Our analysis of the national results will focus initially on the areas in which Europeans are in favour of Europeanisation, and then on those where they would prefer decisions to be taken at national level.

**The areas in which respondents want more decisions to be taken jointly at European Union level**

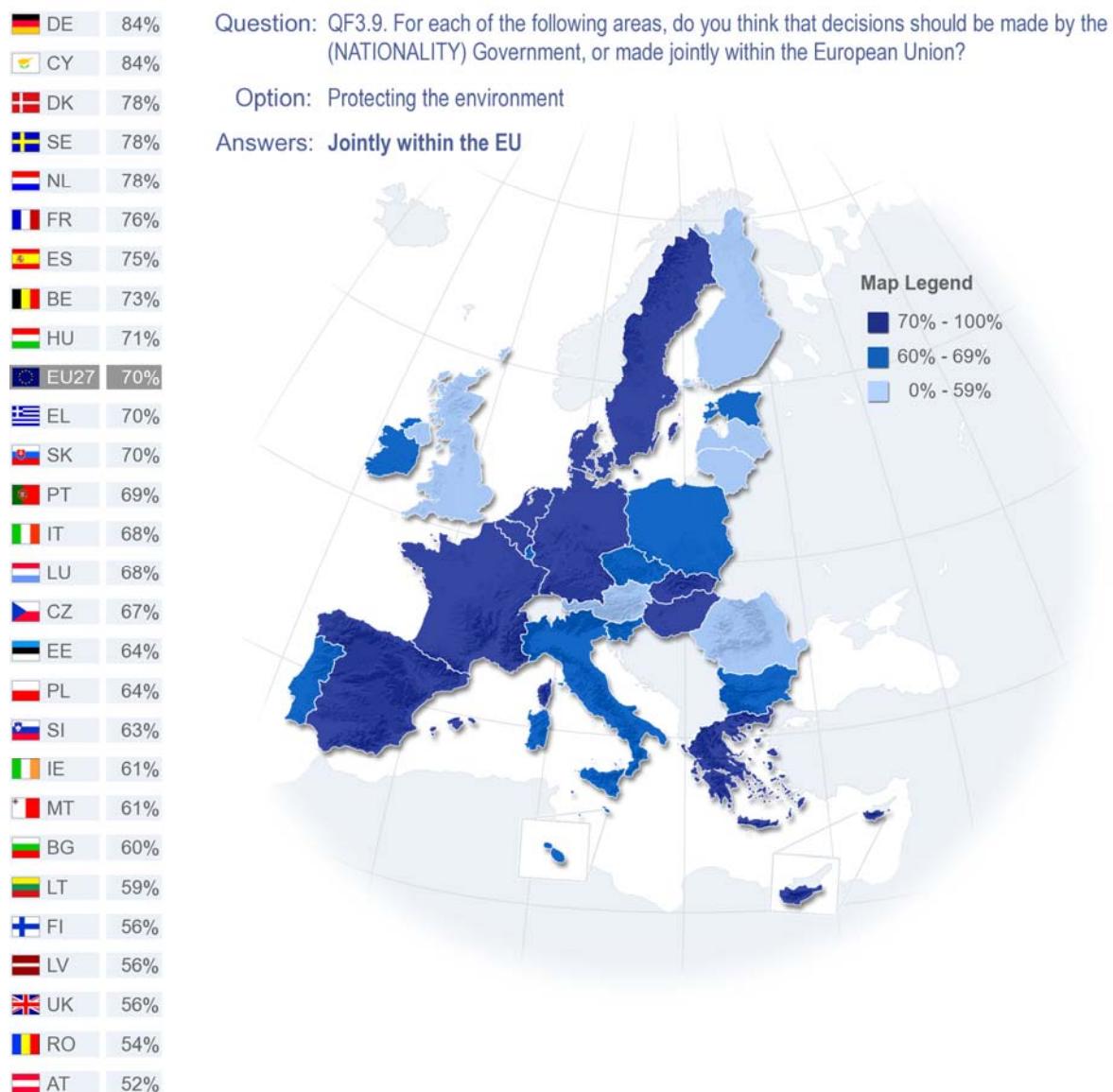
A majority of respondents in every Member State want decisions regarding **fighting terrorism, scientific and technological research, protecting the environment and energy** to be taken at European Union level.

Almost all respondents in Denmark (91%), Malta (91%), Bulgaria (91%), Luxembourg (91%), Hungary, Cyprus, Slovakia and Latvia (all 89%) and in the Czech Republic (88%) favour taking decisions regarding **fighting terrorism** jointly within the European Union.

The scores for the European level are comparatively lower in Spain (73%) and the United Kingdom (63%), two countries which have historically experience of terrorism on their territory and which have been hard hit by international terrorism in recent years.

More than nine out of ten respondents in Cyprus (94%), 85% in Malta and more than 80% in Luxembourg (84%), Slovakia (82%) and Lithuania (81%) consider that the European Union is the most appropriate decision-making level for **scientific and technological research**. Furthermore, six out of ten respondents in the United Kingdom (59%), Finland (63%) and Romania (64%) share their opinion.

More than eight out of ten respondents in Cyprus and Germany (both 84%) consider that decisions on **protecting the environment** should be taken jointly at EU level, an opinion supported by just over half of interviewees in the United Kingdom, Romania and Austria (56%, 54% and 52% respectively). It is interesting to note that while respondents in Scandinavia tend to favour decision-making at national level in most of the areas tested, they are among the most likely to want decisions regarding environmental protection to be taken jointly within the European Union.



Nine out of ten respondents in Cyprus (90%) favour decision-making at European level in the matter of **energy**. This opinion is shared by just under eight out of ten interviewees in Germany (77%), Lithuania (77%) and Belgium and Latvia (both 76%). However, it is supported by only a small majority of respondents in Austria and the United Kingdom (50% and 49% respectively).

Finland, very emphatically, and to a lesser extent the United Kingdom are the only two countries where a majority of respondents consider that **defence and foreign affairs** are better managed at national level (80% and 50% respectively). The result in Finland, which is very different from that of the other European countries, may conceivably be influenced by the country's traditional neutrality in the area of foreign policy. In this policy area, support for European level decision-making has grown in Sweden (which held the Presidency of the European Union in the second half of 2009), where it has risen from 46% to 50%.

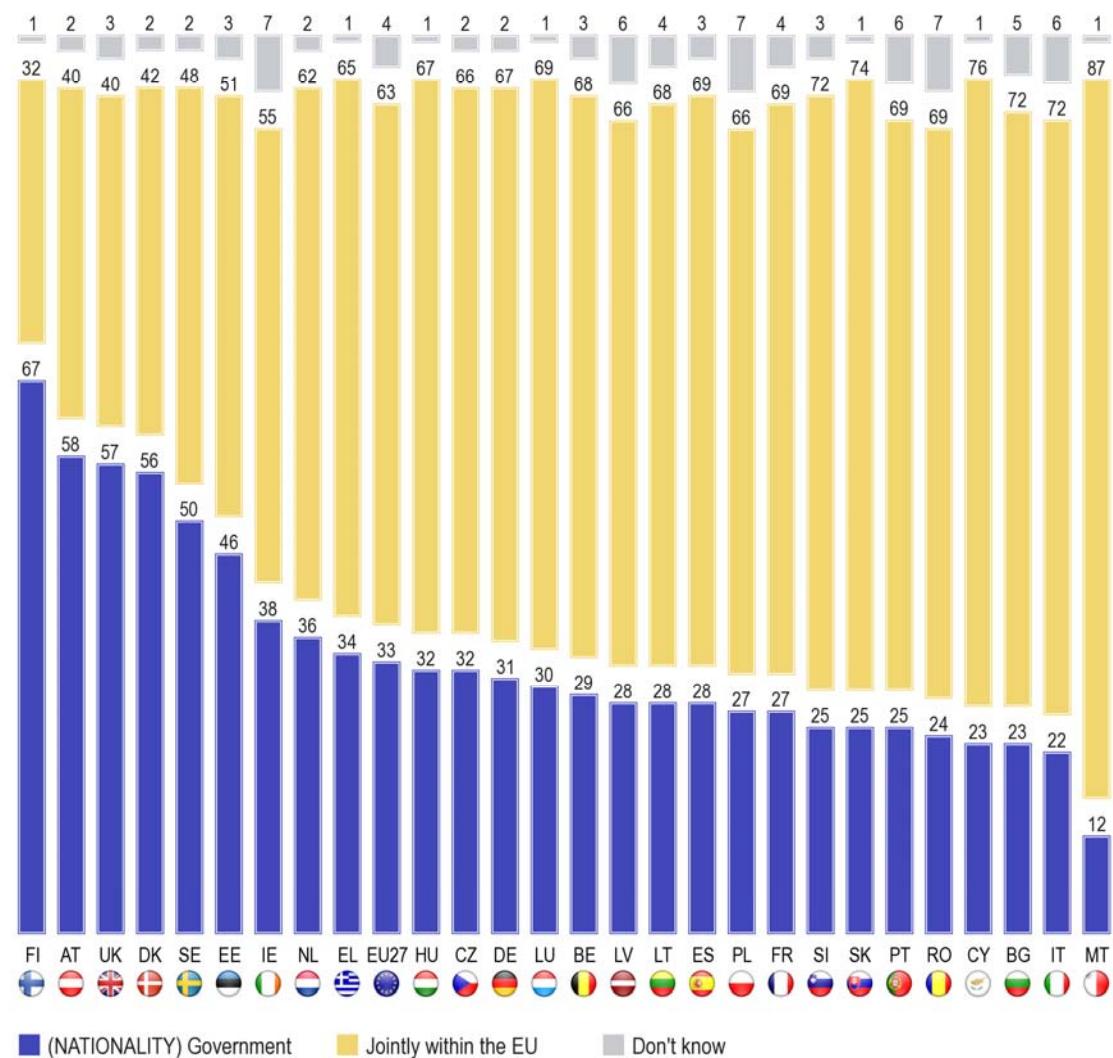
Respondents in 25 of the 27 Member States would prefer joint decision-making regarding **support for regions facing economic difficulties**. More than eight out of ten respondents are in favour of this in Cyprus (86%), the Netherlands (85%) and Malta (83%), falling to 48% in France and the United Kingdom.

In twenty-five Member States, respondents want to see the **fight against crime** tackled at European level. The United Kingdom (66%) and Ireland (50%) are the only Member States where a majority of respondents believe that the national level would be more appropriate.

Respondents in twenty-two Member States favour action at European level to tackle **immigration**, in particular Malta, which once more stands out in this regard (87% compared with 32% of respondents in Finland). However, there has been strong rise in support for European decision-making in this area, as can be seen in both these two countries, up by 11 points in Malta and by 15 points in Finland since last autumn.

QF3.6. For each of the following areas, do you think that decisions should be made by the (NATIONALITY) Government, or made jointly within the European Union?

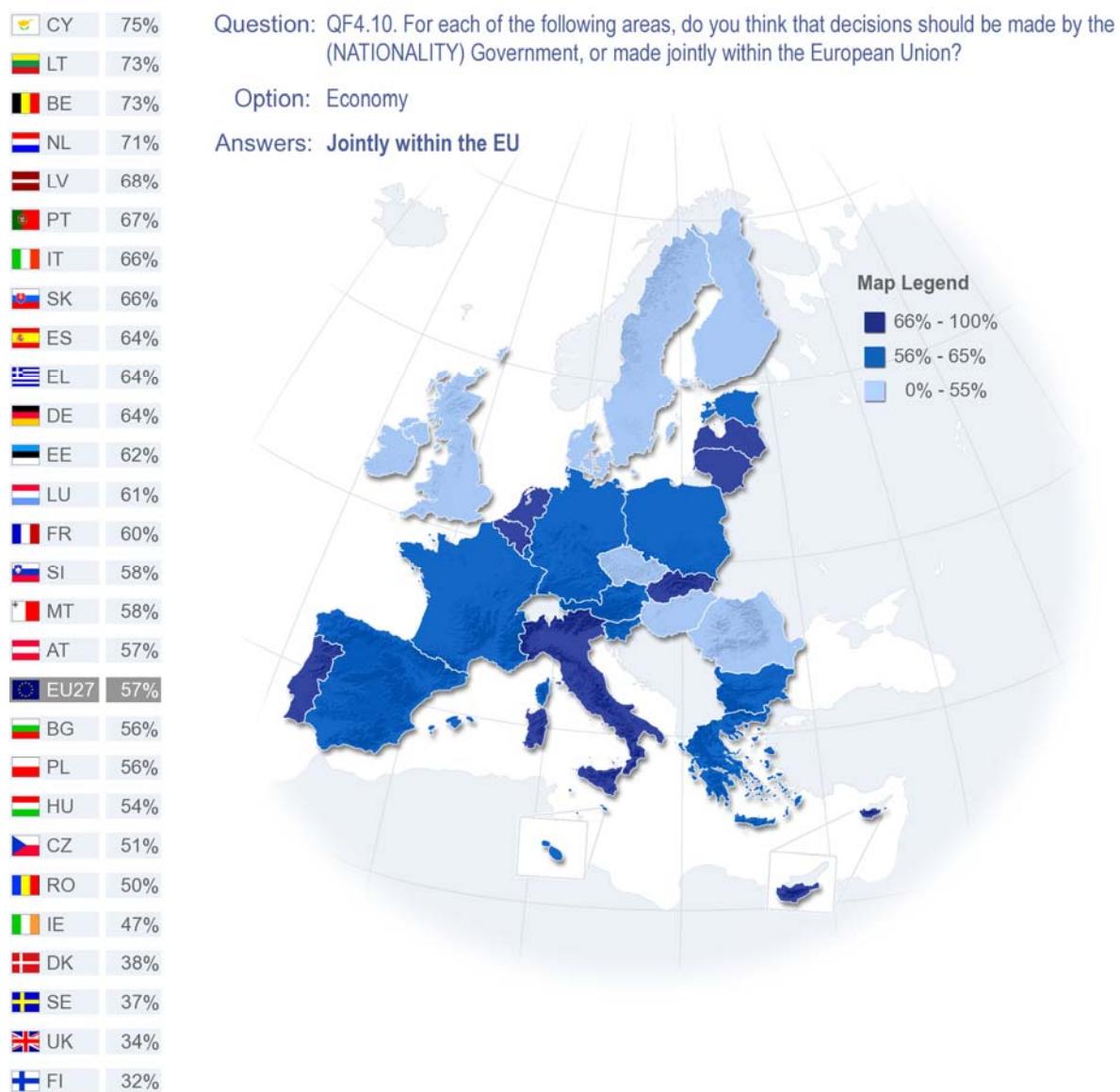
#### Immigration



As mentioned earlier, there has been a particularly sharp increase in approval for decision-making at the EU level in policy areas more directly linked to the economy. It is therefore particularly interesting to analyse the national results and changes as regards the **economy** and **inflation**.

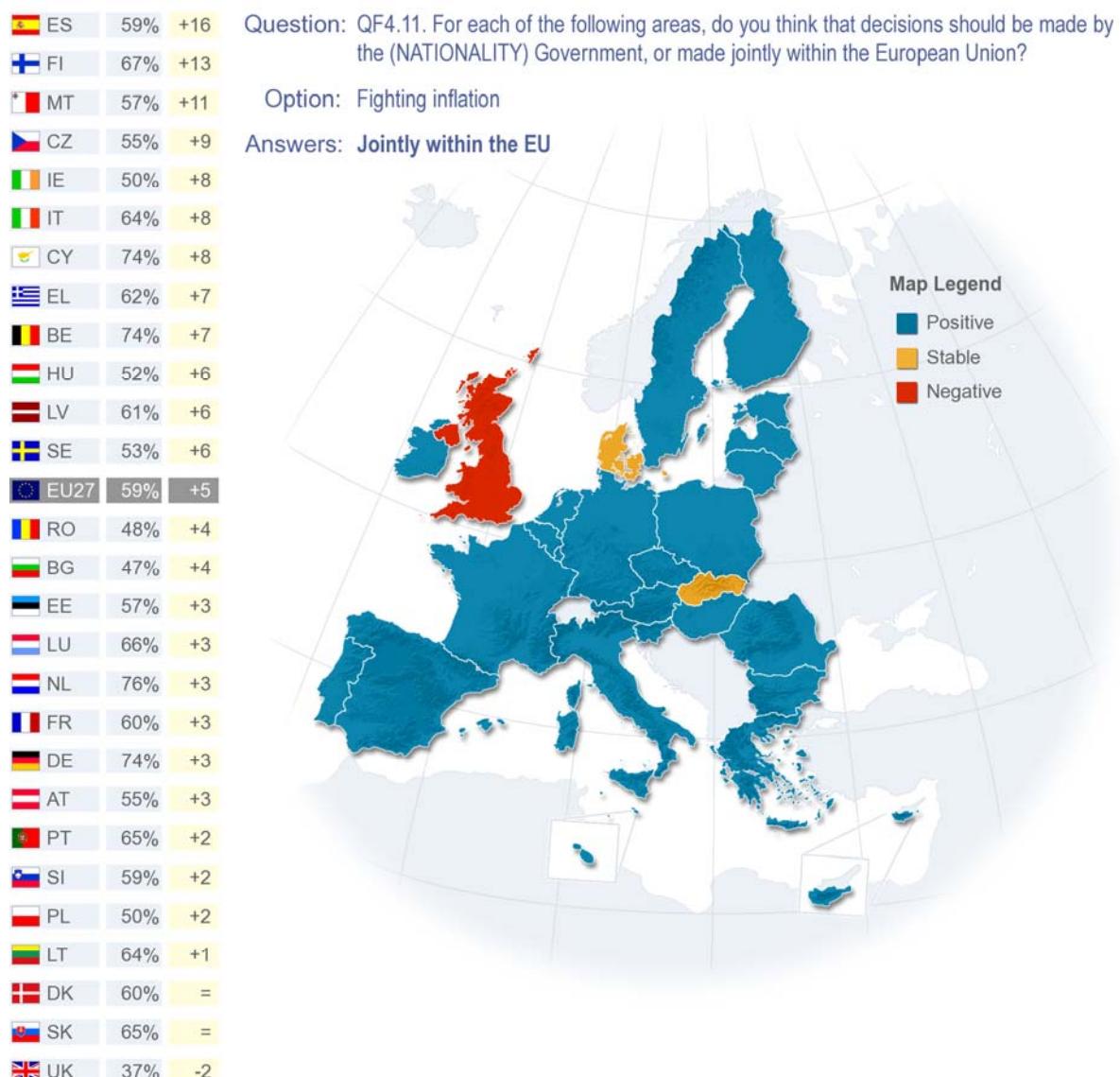
In autumn 2008 (EB70), nine countries were in favour of action at national level for matters relating to the **economy**; only four countries continue to hold this opinion, Finland (67%), the United Kingdom (61%), Sweden (59%) and Denmark (59%). Respondents in Ireland are split down the middle on this issue.

The idea of dealing with economic issues at the European level has gained ground in twenty-five Member States, very significantly in some of the countries worst affected by the crisis, such as Spain (+19 points to 64% compared with 45% one year earlier), Greece (+16 points, 64% versus 48%), Ireland (+11 points, 47% versus 36%) and Malta (+11 points, from 47% to 58%).



In twenty-five Member States an absolute majority of respondents also want political action against **inflation** at European level; the United Kingdom is the only country where a majority of respondents want action at national government level (58% compared with 37% who favour the European level), while interviewees in Bulgaria are sharply divided on the subject (47% compared with 48% who would prefer the national level).

In any event, support for decision-making at European level has gained ground once again in most countries (24 out of 27); the gains are very spectacular in Spain (+16 points), Finland (+13 points) and Malta (+11 points).



Diff. EB70.1-EB72

Finally, just under a quarter of respondents in Finland (23%) and almost four out of ten in the United Kingdom (38%) consider that the European Union is the most appropriate decision-making level for **agriculture and fishery**. This contrasts with the proportion of respondents in Cyprus (78%) who share this opinion.

### The areas in which respondents want more decisions to be taken by their national government

As regards the areas where Europeans generally want their national government to retain decision-making powers, a majority of respondents in twenty-six Member States are in favour of their national government taking decisions about **taxation**. The only exception is Portugal where 50% of citizens believe that decisions in this area should be taken jointly within the European Union.

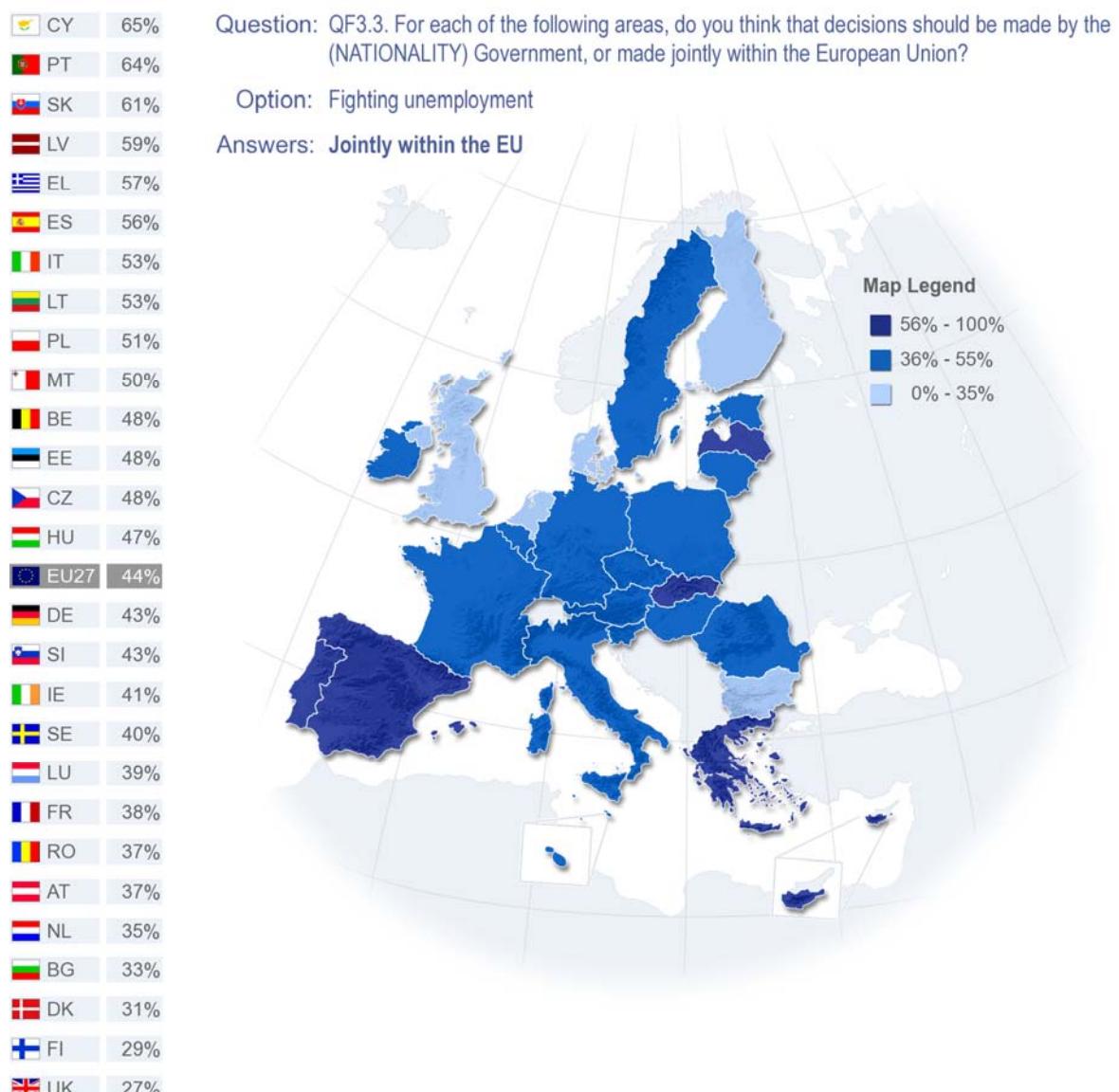
Respondents in the Northern European Union countries are the most likely to opt for national powers in this area: 89% in Finland, 88% in Denmark and 83% in Sweden.

Respondents in 20 out of 27 countries would prefer **health** decisions to be taken by their national government. The most striking exception is Cyprus, where 77% of respondents believe the European Union to be the most appropriate decision-making level. Compared with one year earlier, this opinion is now also shared by a small majority in Latvia, Lithuania and Greece (all 51%).

The same trend is perceptible as regards **social welfare** with respondents in 23 of the 27 Member States preferring decision-making at national level and four countries going against the trend with a majority of respondents opting for the European Union: Cyprus (64%) and, to a lesser extent, Portugal (50% versus 44%), Lithuania (50% versus 48%) and Greece (51% compared with 49% who would prefer their national government). Only respondents in Cyprus (57%), Portugal (53%), Spain (50%) and Latvia (49%) would generally prefer decisions about **education** to be taken at the European level.

In these three areas, on the other hand, respondents in Northern Europe, in particular in Finland, are the most likely to prefer the national level.

Finally, in ten countries respondents now consider that decisions regarding **fighting unemployment** would be most appropriately taken at the European Union level: Cyprus (65%), Portugal (64%), Slovakia (61%), Latvia (59%), Greece (57%), Spain (56%), Lithuania (53%), Italy (53%) and Poland (51%). Respondents in Malta are more divided on this subject (50%, while 49% would prefer the national level). The European Union has gained ground in 22 of the 27 Member States. As in the cases of the economy and inflation, there have been particularly significant changes in the countries the worst hit by the crisis and where labour markets have been very badly affected: thus the European Union has gained 17 points in Spain, 14 points in Cyprus and 11 points in Latvia.

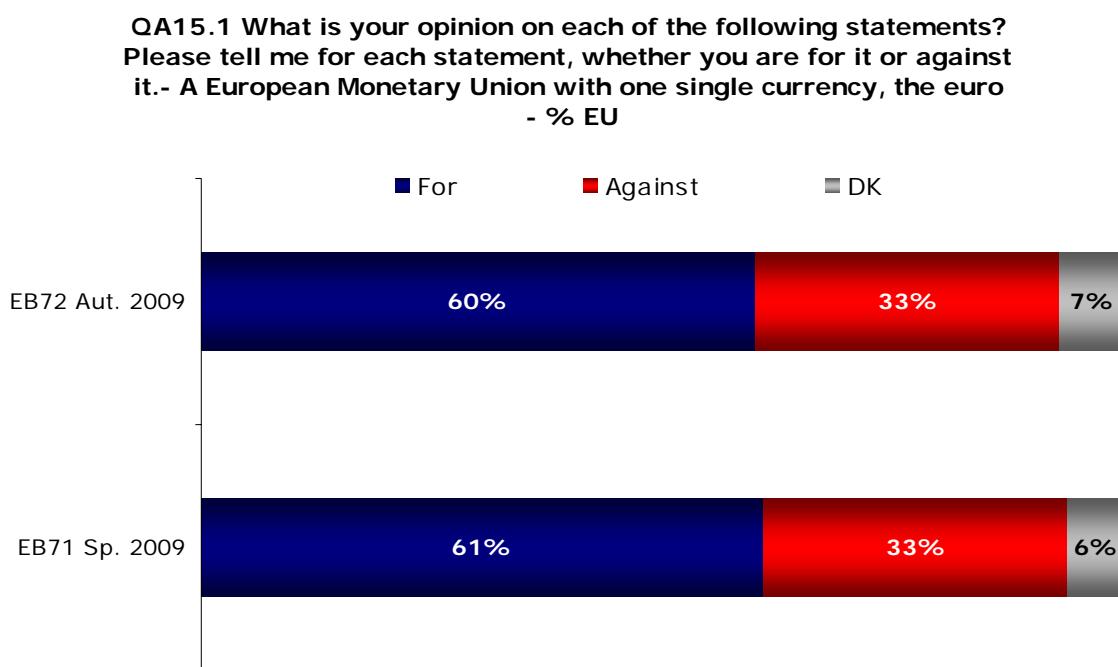


While there are fairly significant differences by country, the socio-demographic differences are more limited. Only the age and level of education of respondents give rise to more marked differences: the youngest respondents and those who studied the longest are in general more likely than the European average to believe that the European Union is the best decision-making level. Naturally, the variables based on attitudes to the European Union also give rise to significant differences of opinion on this question.

## 2. SUPPORT FOR THE EUROPEAN UNION'S POLICIES

### 2.1 Support for the single currency, the euro

A vast majority of Europeans (60%) support the single currency compared with a third (33%) who are "against" it<sup>79</sup>. The approval rating is practically unchanged since spring 2009 (EB71) (-1 point, from 61%), and reflects the resilience of the euro's image despite the economic turmoil which Member States have experienced since September 2008.



Support is fairly strong among respondents living in the euro area: 67% are in favour of European monetary union (-2 points since the spring 2009 Eurobarometer wave), while 27% are against it. However, respondents in the countries which have not yet adopted the single currency are far more divided on this question: 46% are in favour of European monetary union (in line with the score recorded in spring 2009), while 45% are opposed to it.

An analysis by country reveals that a majority of respondents support the single currency in all European Union Member States, except for the United Kingdom.

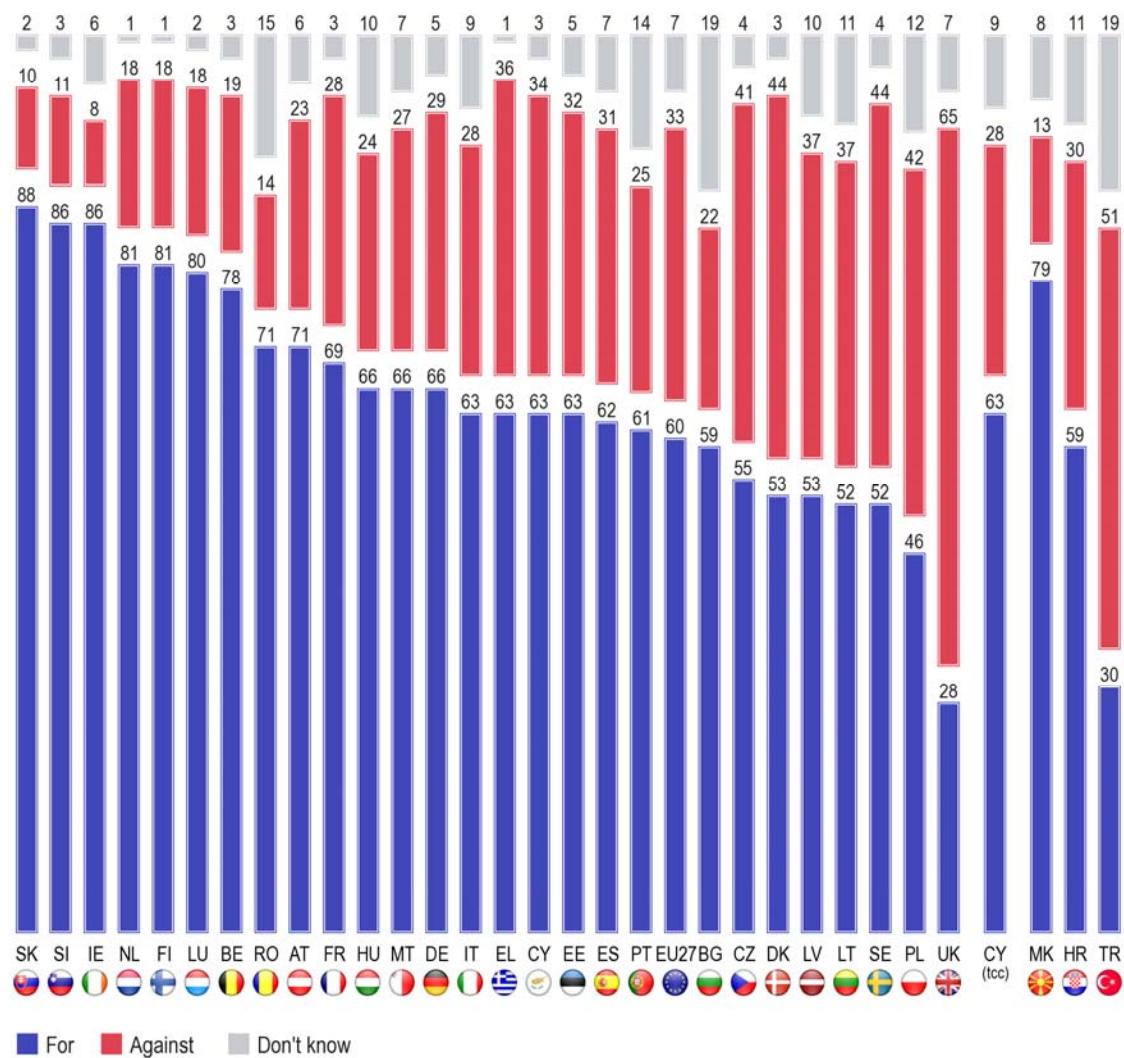
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<sup>79</sup> QA15.1 What is your opinion on each of the following statements? Please tell me for each statement, whether you are for it or against it - A European Monetary Union with one single currency, the euro

Nevertheless, there are some differences in the strength of this support: while the single currency is supported by almost nine out of ten respondents in Slovakia (88%) and Slovenia (86%), which recently joined the euro area, and in Ireland (86%), support is close to the European average in Portugal (61%) and Bulgaria (59%); just over half of respondents in the Czech Republic (55%), Denmark and Latvia (both 53%), Lithuania and Sweden (both 52%) are in favour of the euro, as are 46% in Poland. The United Kingdom is the only country where there is firm opposition to the single currency, with only 28% of respondents "for" and 65% "against".

QA15.1. 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 Monetary Union with one single currency, the euro



In the candidate countries levels of support for the single currency are particularly high in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (79%). The euro is also supported by almost six out of ten citizens in Croatia (59%). However a majority of respondents in Turkey are against the single currency (51% versus 30% in favour).

The socio-demographic differences are those traditionally encountered as regards attitudes to the European Union:

- the gender and, to an even greater extent, the age of respondents shape opinions of the single currency: support is stronger among men (63% compared with 56% of women) and declines gradually with the age of interviewees (there is a 9-point difference between the youngest and oldest respondents, with levels of support of 65% and 56% respectively);
- education is also a determinant, with a 22-point difference between those who left school at the age of 15 or earlier (48% support the euro) and those who studied the longest (70%);
- in terms of occupation, there is a sharp contrast between unemployed people (50% approve of the euro) and students (71%) and managers (72%);
- finally, those who potentially suffer most in the current economic situation, and who have most difficulties paying their bills, are clearly divided in their views (47% are in favour of the euro, while 44% are against it) compared with the group of respondents who almost never have such financial problems (64% in favour of the euro).

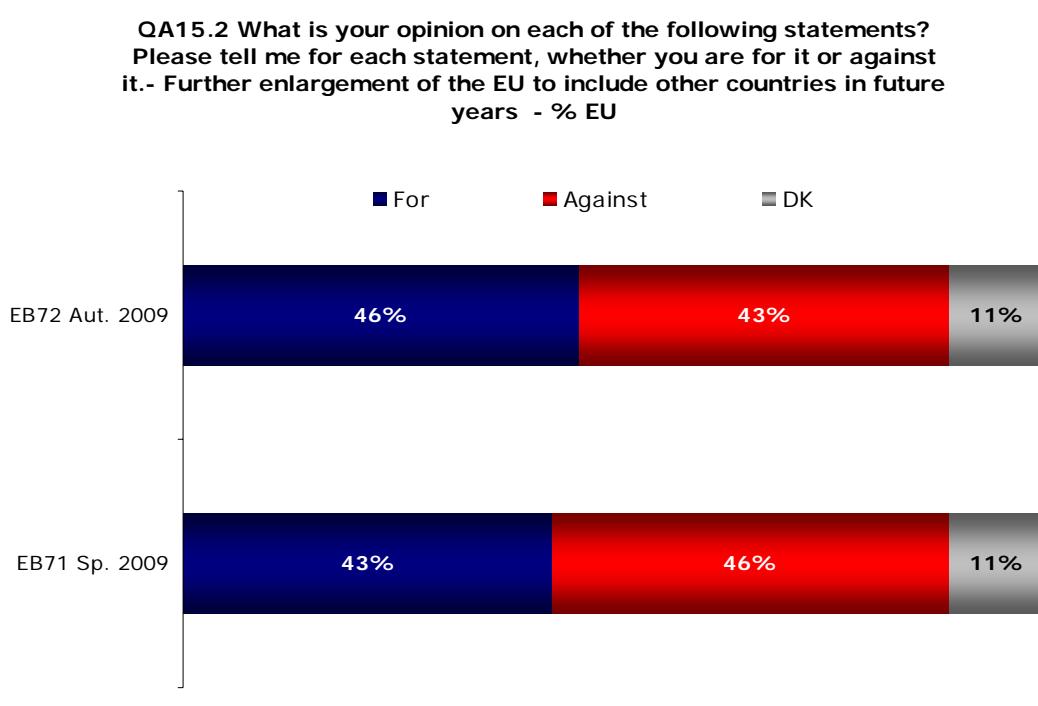
**QA15.1 What is your opinion on each of the following statements?**  
**Please tell me for each statement, whether you are for it or against it.**

**A European Monetary Union with one single currency, the euro**

	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>DK</b>
EU27	60%	33%	7%
<b>Sex</b>			
Male	63%	31%	6%
Female	56%	36%	8%
<b>Age</b>			
15-24	65%	29%	6%
25-39	61%	33%	6%
40-54	60%	34%	6%
55 +	56%	35%	9%
<b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	48%	43%	9%
16-19	58%	35%	7%
20+	70%	25%	5%
Still studying	71%	23%	6%
<b>Respondent occupation scale</b>			
Self-employed	68%	26%	6%
Managers	72%	25%	3%
Other white collars	63%	31%	6%
Manual workers	57%	37%	6%
House persons	52%	39%	9%
Unemployed	50%	43%	7%
Retired	55%	35%	10%
Students	71%	23%	6%
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>			
Most of the time	47%	44%	9%
From time to time	55%	37%	8%
Almost never	64%	30%	6%

## 2.2 Support for further enlargement of the EU in the years to come

The Eurobarometer's results show a slight change since the last wave (spring 2009, EB71) in respondents' attitudes to further enlargement of the EU to include other countries in the future: a slightly larger proportion of Europeans are now in favour of further enlargement (46% compared with 43% who are against the idea).<sup>80</sup> Positive opinions thus record a rise of 3 points to the detriment of negative opinions. A majority of respondents are now in favour of further enlargement in the future.



An initial geographical analysis shows a clear difference between the Member States which joined during the last two enlargements<sup>81</sup> (64% of respondents are in favour) and the 15 "pre-2004" Members, where 41% support further enlargement, while 49% are against.

An analysis at national level confirms this first geographical impression of attitudes, with Poland (70%), Slovakia (70%), Slovenia (68%) and the Czech Republic (63%) recording the highest scores in favour. Spain, with a result identical to that obtained in the Czech Republic, is the "pre-2004" Member State most in favour of the future enlargement of the European Union.

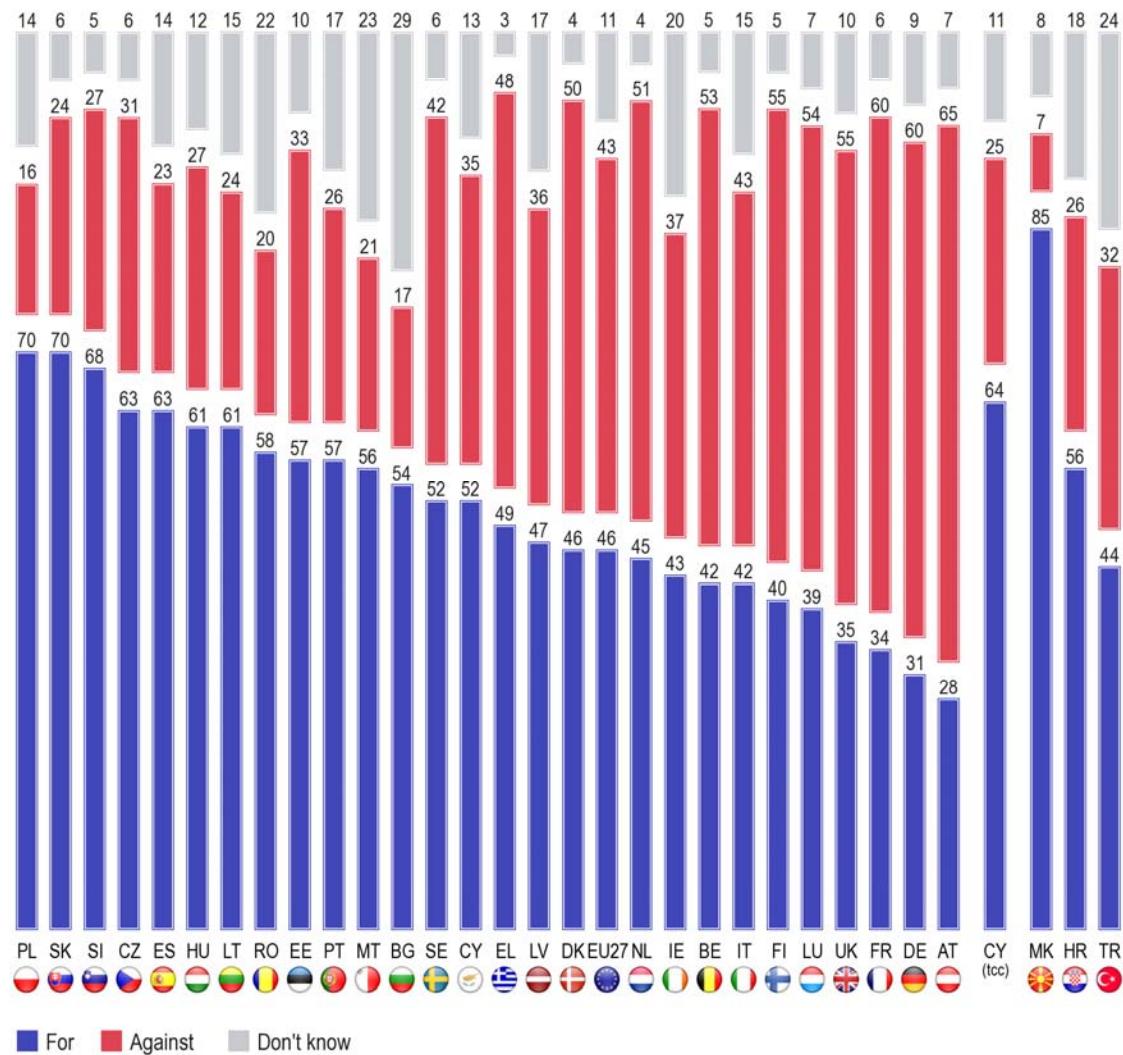
In contrast, a clear majority of respondents in Austria (65%), France (60%), Germany (60%), Finland (55%), the United Kingdom (55%), Luxembourg (54%), Belgium (53%), the Netherlands (51%) and Denmark (50%) oppose further enlargement.

<sup>80</sup> QA15.2 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

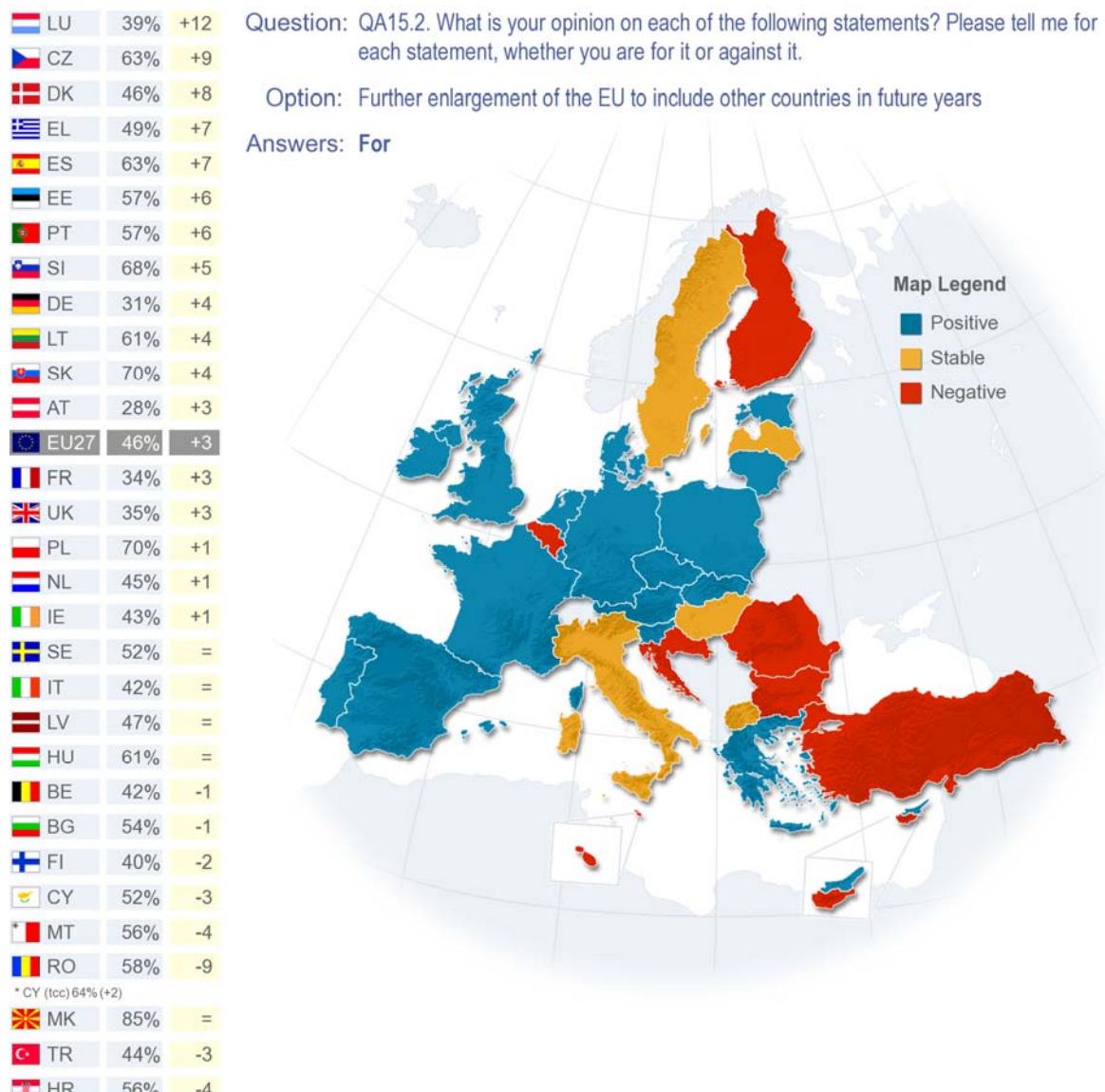
<sup>81</sup> The increase from 15 to 25 Member States in 2004, and from 25 to 27 in 2007.

QA15.2. 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



A rapid overview of changes at national level shows that in nineteen European Union countries the number of respondents who are positive about this strategic issue has risen since last spring (EB71). There has been a particularly significant increase in support in Luxembourg (+12 points), the Czech Republic (+9), Denmark (+8), and Greece and Spain (both +7 points).



Diff. EB71-EB72

From a socio-demographic point of view, the age and gender of respondents are the main variables which influence opinions on this subject: thus, while 57% of the youngest Europeans are in favour of the future enlargement of the European Union, support falls to 45% among interviewees aged between 40 and 54 and to 38% among the oldest respondents. Education also influences opinions, with support increasing proportionally with the age at which the respondents ended their studies. A very large majority of the respondents who trust the European Union are in favour of future enlargement (61% "for", 31% "against"), while the opposite is true for those who tend not to trust the European Union (29% "for", 61% "against").

**QA15.2 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**

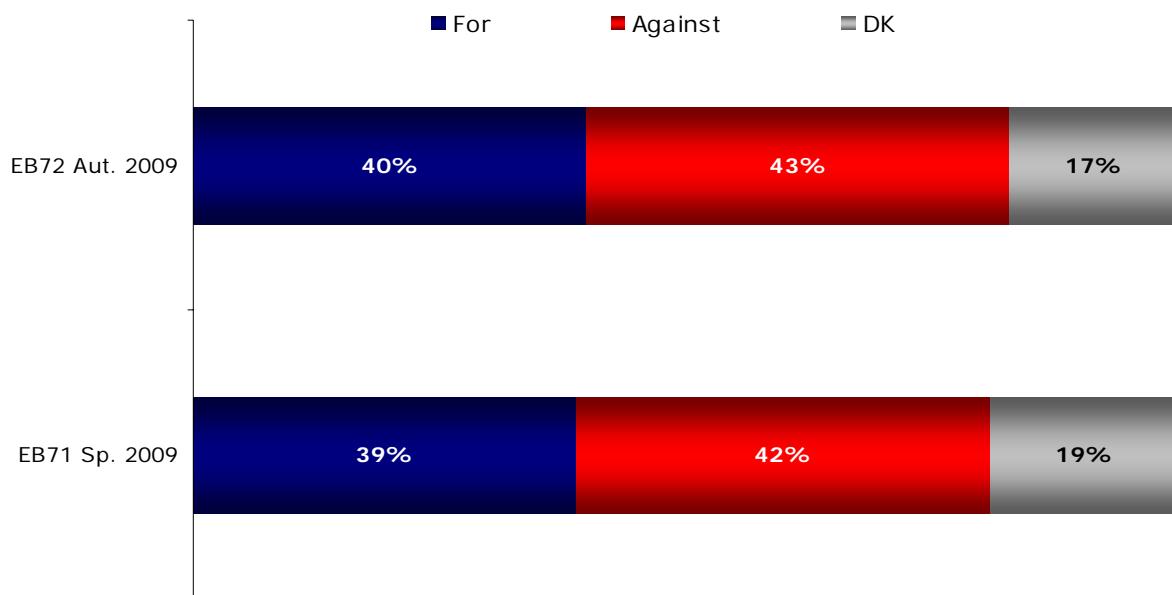
	For	Against	DK
EU27	46%	43%	11%
<b>Sex</b>			
Male	47%	44%	9%
Female	45%	43%	12%
<b>Age</b>			
15-24	57%	34%	9%
25-39	51%	40%	9%
40-54	45%	45%	10%
55 +	38%	49%	13%
<b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	35%	50%	15%
16-19	44%	45%	11%
20+	51%	41%	8%
Still studying	63%	29%	8%
<b>Respondent occupation scale</b>			
Self-employed	50%	41%	9%
Managers	48%	45%	7%
Other white collars	45%	44%	11%
Manual workers	46%	44%	10%
House persons	42%	44%	14%
Unemployed	47%	43%	10%
Retired	37%	49%	14%
Students	63%	29%	8%
<b>Trust in EU</b>			
Tend to trust	61%	31%	8%
Tend not to trust	29%	61%	10%

### 2.3. The speed of building Europe

As in the past, Europeans are divided over the possibility of establishing a more rapid speed of building Europe in one group of countries than in the other: 40% (+1 point since spring 2009) are in favour of a "two-speed" Europe, while a slightly higher proportion of respondents (43%, +1 point) are against.<sup>82</sup> It is interesting to note that an analysis of answers based on the length of time for which countries have been a member of the EU produces a similar split: 40% of respondents in the 15 "pre-2004" Member States are "for" while 43% are "against". Interviewees in the countries which have joined the European Union since 2004 are split down the middle: 40% "for" and versus 40% "against".

**QA15.3 What is your opinion on each of the following statements? Please tell me for each statement, whether you are for it or against it.**

**- The speed of building Europe being faster in one group of countries than in the other countries - % EU**

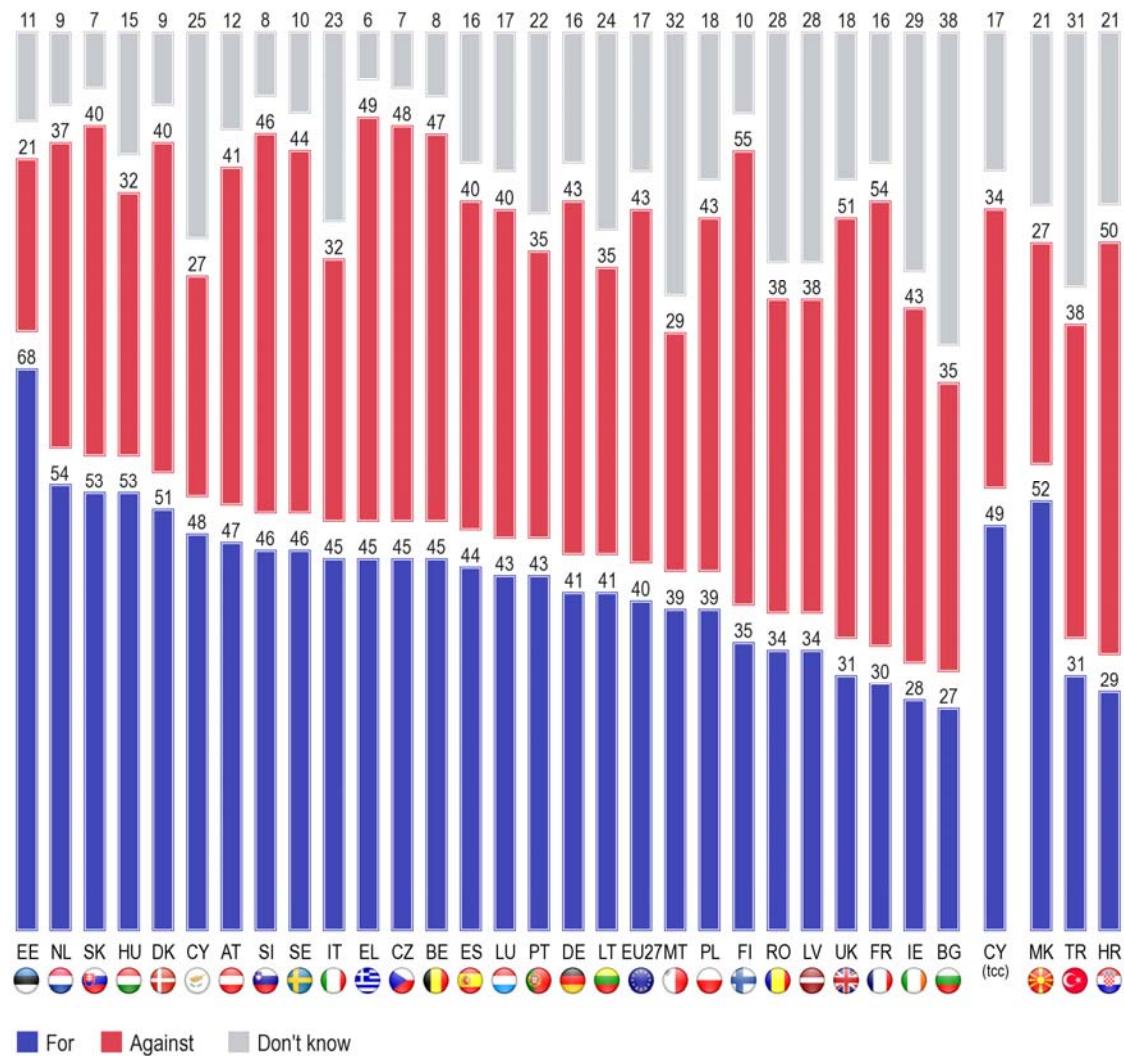


A national analysis confirms that there is no link between the length of time for which a country has been a member of the EU and opinions on a two-speed Europe: thus, a large majority of respondents in Estonia (68%) and just over half in the Netherlands (54%), Hungary (53%), Slovakia (53%) and Denmark (51%) are in favour of this idea. In contrast, a majority are opposed in Finland (55%), France (54%) and the United Kingdom (51%).

<sup>82</sup>QA15.3 What is your opinion on each of the following statements? Please tell me for each statement, whether you are for it or against it- The speed of building Europe being faster in one group of countries than in the other countries

QA15.3. What is your opinion on each of the following statements? Please tell me for each statement, whether you are for it or against it.

The speed of building Europe being faster in one group of countries than in the other countries

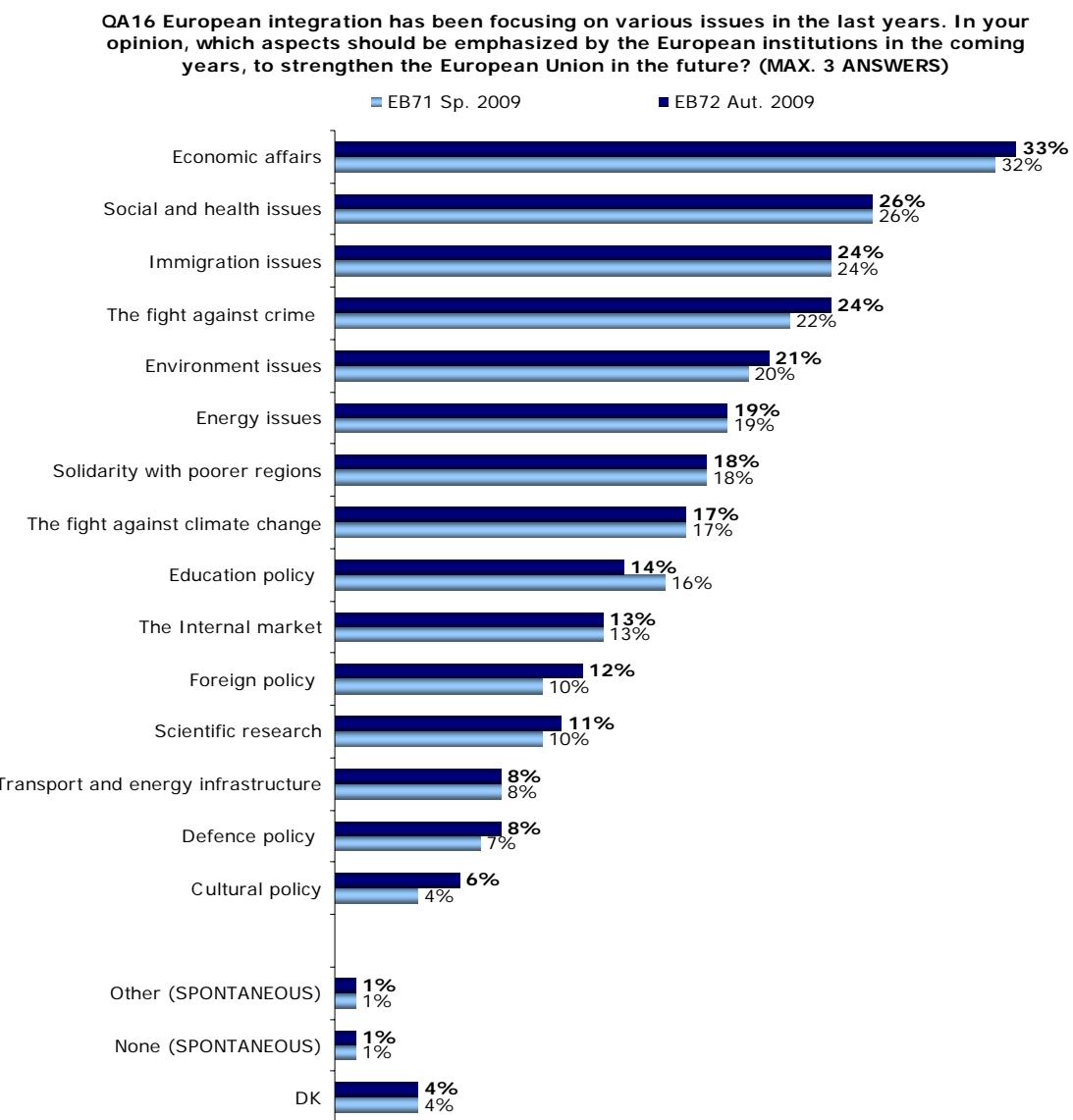


In the candidate countries, the idea of a two-speed Europe is supported by a majority of respondents in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (52%), while half of interviewees in Croatia are against the idea (50%). In Turkey, respondents are far more divided (31% agree, compared with 38% who oppose the proposal) and a very significant number of respondents (31%) preferred to express no opinion.

A socio-demographic analysis of opinions on the speed of building Europe reveals the same trends as those noted for the euro and enlargement: men, the youngest respondents and those who studied the longest are comparatively more positive about the idea of a two-speed Europe.

### 3. PRIORITIES FOR STRENGTHENING EUROPE IN THE FUTURE

Interviewees were then asked for their views on the policies on which the European institutions should focus in the coming years to strengthen the European Union.<sup>83</sup>



The priorities envisaged by Europeans with a view to strengthening the European Union in the future have not changed significantly those recorded in spring 2009.

<sup>83</sup> QA16 European integration has been focusing on various issues in the last years. In your opinion, which aspects should be emphasized by the European institutions in the coming years, to strengthen the European Union in the future?

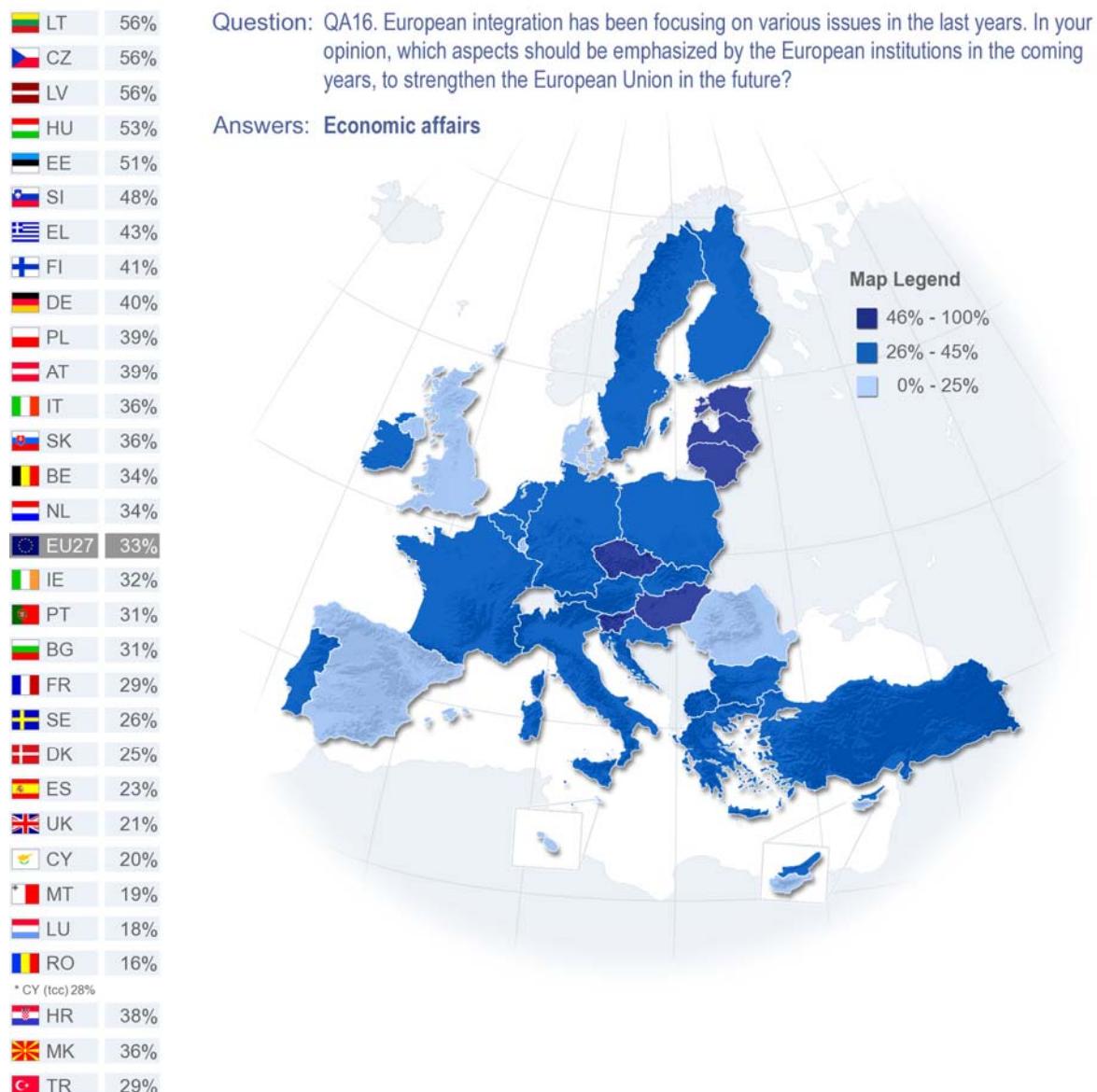
At a time when the end of the crisis is not yet felt in the real economy, the public want the European Union to emphasise economic issues (33%, +1 point), just as they did eight months earlier. The next highest scores were obtained by social and health issues (26%), the fight against crime (24%, +2 points since the last wave), immigration issues (24%) and environmental issues (21%, +1 point).

Respondents then listed, with scores of just below 20%, energy issues (19%), solidarity with the poorest regions (18%) and the fight against climate change (17%). The least frequently mentioned items were education policy (14%, -2 points), the internal market (13%), foreign policy (12%, +2) and scientific research (11%, +1 point). These were followed by a number of items which obtained scores below 10%: defence policy (8%, +1), transport and energy infrastructures (8%, -1 point) and cultural policy (6%, +2 points).

The priorities which citizens want to see emphasised in order to strengthen the European Union vary from one country to another: more than half of respondents in the Czech Republic, Latvia and Lithuania (all 56%), Hungary (53%) and Estonia (51%) mentioned **economic affairs** as their top priority, which contrasts with the scores obtained in Romania (16%), Luxembourg (18%) and Malta (19%).

**Aspects which should be emphasized in the coming years to strengthen the European Union  
Top 3 per country**

<b>BE</b> 	<b>BG</b> 	<b>CZ</b> 
Economic affairs	34% Social and health issues	34% Economic affairs
Immigration issues	32% Economic affairs	31% Social and health issues
The fight against crime	30% Energy issues	29% The fight against crime
	The fight against crime	
<b>DK</b> 	<b>DE</b> 	<b>EE</b> 
The fight against crime	38% Economic affairs	40% Economic affairs
Environment issues	36% Social and health issues	Social and health issues
The fight against climate change	33% The fight against crime	29% Energy issues
	The fight against climate change	
	Energy issues	27%
<b>IE</b> 	<b>EL</b> 	<b>ES</b> 
Social and health issues	33% Economic affairs	43% Immigration issues
Economic affairs	32% Environment issues	30% Economic affairs
Education policy	25% Immigration issues	27% Solidarity with poorer regions
<b>FR</b> 	<b>IT</b> 	<b>CY</b> 
Social and health issues	34% Economic affairs	36% Immigration issues
Economic affairs	29% Immigration issues	27% Solidarity with poorer regions
Environment issues	27% The fight against crime	25% Social and health issues
<b>LV</b> 	<b>LT</b> 	<b>LU</b> 
Economic affairs	56% Economic affairs	56% Immigration issues
Social and health issues	41% Energy issues	37% Education policy
The Internal market	24% Social and health issues	30% Solidarity with poorer regions
		Environment issues
		23%
<b>HU</b> 	<b>MT</b> 	<b>NL</b> 
Economic affairs	53% Immigration issues	53% The fight against crime
Energy issues	35% Energy issues	42% Economic affairs
Social and health issues	32% Environment issues	30% Social and health issues
<b>AT</b> 	<b>PL</b> 	<b>PT</b> 
The fight against crime	41% Economic affairs	39% The fight against crime
Economic affairs	39% Social and health issues	28% Economic affairs
Social and health issues	30% Solidarity with poorer regions	23% Social and health issues
		Solidarity with poorer regions
		26%
<b>RO</b> 	<b>SI</b> 	<b>SK</b> 
Social and health issues	33% Economic affairs	48% Economic affairs
Solidarity with poorer regions	29% Social and health issues	32% Social and health issues
The Internal market	23% Environment issues	26% Energy issues
	The fight against climate change	
<b>FI</b> 	<b>SE</b> 	<b>UK</b> 
Economic affairs	41% Environment issues	52% Immigration issues
Social and health issues	33% The fight against climate change	31% The fight against crime
Environment issues	31% The fight against crime	29% Energy issues
		23%
<b>CY (tcc)</b>		
	Foreign policy	30%
	The fight against crime	29%
	Social and health issues	28%
	Economic affairs	
<b>HR</b> 	<b>TR</b> 	<b>MK</b> 
The fight against crime	41% Economic affairs	29% Economic affairs
Economic affairs	38% Education policy	22% Solidarity with poorer regions
Solidarity with poorer regions	30% Solidarity with poorer regions	20% The fight against crime
		The Internal market
		22%



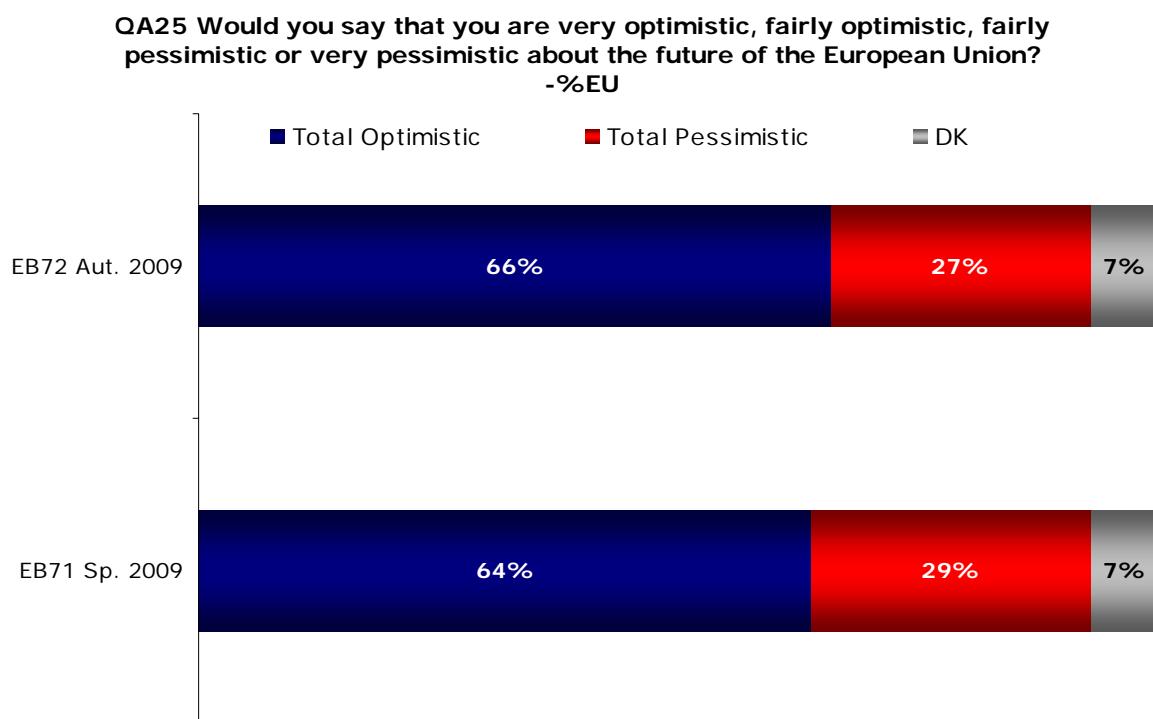
Interviewees in Latvia, the Czech Republic and Estonia were the most likely to want greater emphasis on **social** and **health issues** (41%, 37% and 37% respectively), while respondents in Austria (41%), the Netherlands (40%) and Denmark (38%) want to prioritise **fighting crime**.

In order to strengthen the European Union, more than half of respondents in Malta (53%) and four out of ten in the United Kingdom (43%) want to give priority to **immigration**, while **environment issues** are the top priority in Sweden (with a score of 52%) and to a lesser extent Denmark (36%). In contrast the environment was cited much less frequently in Lithuania and Latvia, with scores below 10% (both 7%).

From a socio-demographic point of view, the differences are fairly insignificant from one segment to another. Some differences can however be highlighted: Europeans aged 55 or over (28%) and those who left school at the age of 15 or earlier (30%) are more likely to want to prioritise fighting crime than the youngest respondents (20% of those aged 15 to 24) and those who studied until the age of 20 or beyond (19%). Correspondingly, environment issues were mentioned more frequently by the under 55s (23% of those aged 15 to 24, 22% of those aged 25 to 39 and 23% of those aged between 40 and 45), and by respondents who studied beyond the age of 19 (26%), than by the oldest respondents (18%) and those who left school before the age of 16 (15%).

## 4. THE FUTURE OF EUROPE

In order to obtain a picture of their long-term expectations, respondents were asked whether they were pessimistic or optimistic about the future of the European Union.<sup>84</sup> The results show that a very large majority (66%) is now optimistic about the future of the European Union, including only 8% who are "very optimistic", compared with 58% who are more moderate ("optimistic"). However, just over one in four Europeans are more pessimistic about the future of the European Union (27%). Although these results have remained generally stable since spring 2009 (EB71), there has been a slight increase in positive opinions (+2), while the proportion of pessimistic respondents has fallen by 2 points.

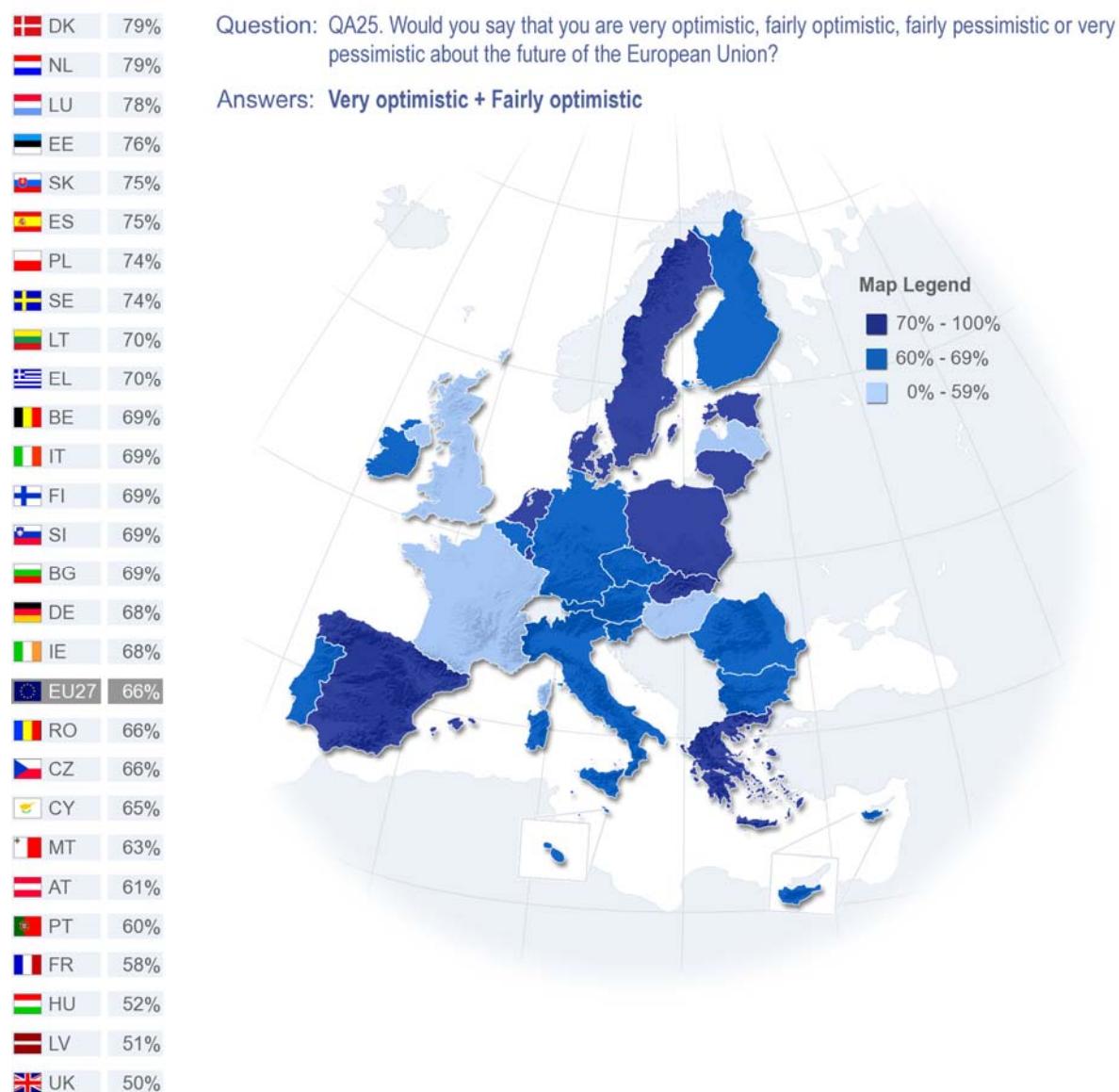


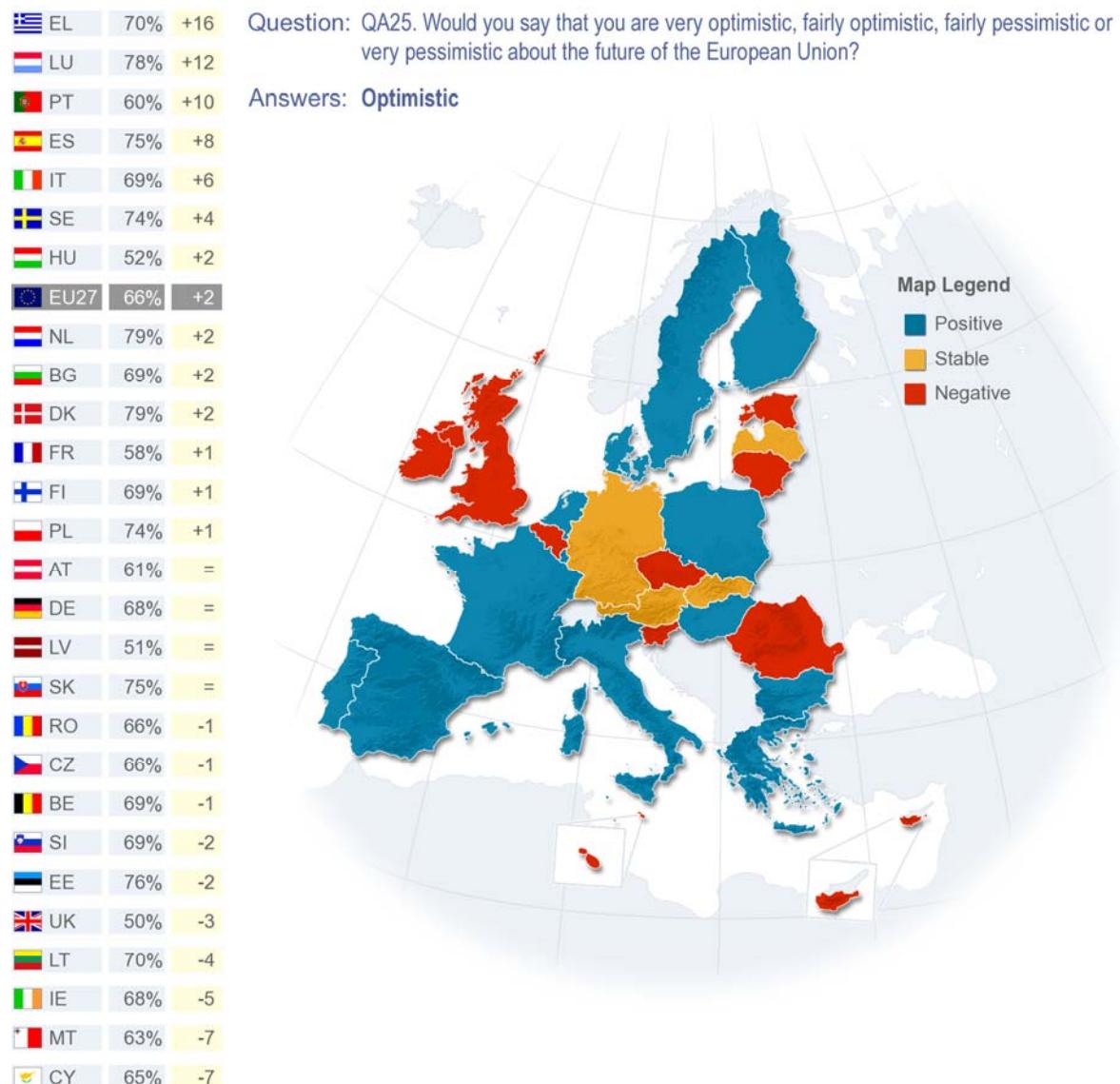
The results vary considerably from one country to another. Thus, almost eight out of ten respondents are optimistic about the future of the European Union in Denmark (79%), the Netherlands (79%), Luxembourg (78%), Estonia (76%), Spain (75%) and Slovakia (75%).

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<sup>84</sup> QA25 Would you say that you are very optimistic, fairly optimistic, fairly pessimistic or very pessimistic about the future of the European Union?

At the other end of the scale, respondents in Latvia (45%), Hungary (42%) and the United Kingdom (40%) are far more pessimistic about the future of the European Union, as are more than a third in France (36%) and three out of ten in Portugal (30%). Compared with last year, the number of respondents who are optimistic about the future of the European Union has increased significantly in Greece, from 54% to 70% (+16 points). Optimism is also up significantly in Luxembourg (+12), Portugal (+10) and Spain (+8).





Diff. EB71-EB72

A socio-demographic analysis confirms some of the differences noted previously in this chapter: gender gives rise to some differences, as men are slightly more optimistic than women (69% versus 63%). As is often the case regarding questions about the future, age is also a discriminant: optimism is more pronounced among the youngest respondents (71%) than among the oldest respondents (62%). The level of education also creates some even more distinct differences: 75% of respondents who studied until the age of 20 or beyond are optimistic about the future of the European Union, compared with 54% of those who left school at 15 or earlier. These differences are also perceptible as regards the respondent's occupation, correlated with the level of education. Thus, managers (75%), self-employed people (75%), employees (72%) and students (79%) are distinctly more optimistic about the future of the European Union than manual workers (62%), unemployed people (57%) and people looking after the home (61%).

**QA25 Would you say that you are very optimistic, fairly optimistic, fairly pessimistic or very pessimistic about the future of the European Union?**

	Total Optimistic	Total Pessimistic	DK
EU27	66%	27%	7%
<b>Sex</b>			
 Male	69%	25%	6%
 Female	63%	28%	9%
<b>Age</b>			
 15-24	71%	21%	8%
 25-39	69%	25%	6%
 40-54	66%	27%	7%
 55 +	62%	30%	8%
<b>Education (End of)</b>			
 15-	54%	36%	10%
 16-19	64%	28%	8%
 20+	75%	20%	5%
 Still studying	79%	16%	5%
<b>Respondent occupation scale</b>			
 Self-employed	75%	19%	6%
 Managers	75%	20%	5%
 Other white collars	72%	23%	5%
 Manual workers	62%	30%	8%
 House persons	61%	31%	8%
 Unemployed	57%	35%	8%
 Retired	61%	30%	9%
 Students	79%	16%	5%

## CONCLUSION

This Eurobarometer wave was carried out between 23 October and 18 November 2009, that is to say more than a year after the beginning of the financial and economic crisis. After the previous Standard Eurobarometer wave (EB71, spring 2009), characterised by historically low scores for assessments of the economic situation and short-term expectations, an analysis of this wave seems to indicate that European public opinion has evolved positively: at a time when the first signs of an economic recovery have been announced after the long months of difficulty, the Eurobarometer highlights a sharp improvement in the climate, even though the crisis has left some scars:

- A majority of Europeans are satisfied with the life they lead, as well as with their job and financial situation. All these figures are in line with those recorded in spring 2009.
- Rising prices, the economic situation and unemployment are, as was the case six months earlier, the three main personal concerns of European Union citizens. Respondents still see unemployment as the chief issue facing their country, whereas concerns about the economic situation have eased somewhat.
- The majority of Europeans are negative about their country's social situation when they compare it with the European average. These results confirm the main personal concerns of Europeans, who are worried about rising prices and the economic situation.
- However, the majority of Europeans consider that when it comes to the quality of life and the environment, the situation is better in their country than the European average.
- Similarly, there has been a considerable increase in optimism regarding the environment. It must be emphasised, however, that the survey was carried out just before the UN Copenhagen Climate Change Conference.
- Assessments of the national, European and world economic situations have also improved, in particular as regards the economic situation of the European Union. The fact remains, however, that a large majority of respondents remain negative about the economic situation in all three cases.
- The economic "no confidence" factor seems to be fading: for the first time since autumn 2007, short-term expectations for the economic situation are improving. However, the majority of respondents still believe that the employment situation in their country is likely to get worse: the announced economic recovery has not yet had a positive impact on perceptions of employment.

- This upturn in confidence in European public opinion is also reflected at political level: the feeling that things are going in the right direction – at national and European levels and in the United States – has gained ground since spring 2009, but also since autumn 2008. This is particularly striking in respect of the European Union.
- For their part, national institutions seem to be marking time: trust in national political institutions, justice, the army and the media has fallen. Only regional and local authorities and the Internet have avoided this decline.
- Although short-term expectations have improved, the vast majority of Europeans are still concerned about the outlook for future generations. A large majority continue to think that the life of today's children will be more difficult than their own. Nevertheless, only a little over one in five Europeans think that children in their country would have a better life if they were to emigrate; this score is slightly lower than that recorded in autumn 2008.
- Most of the dimensions associated with the EU – positive and negative alike – have gained ground. The European Union is still seen above all as an area of freedom, which is embodied in its monetary symbol, the euro.
- The feeling that membership of the European Union is a good thing continues to be shared by just over half Europeans. A slightly higher proportion (almost six out of ten respondents) consider that their country has benefited from its membership of the European Union. These two scores are in line with those recorded in spring 2009.
- The workings of the European Union are perceived as democratic. In autumn 2009, the satisfaction rate with the way democracy works in the European Union has increased considerably and is now higher than the rate recorded for national democracies. Europeans are less likely to be dissatisfied with the way democracy works in the European Union than in their own country. The proportions of 'DK' answers are nevertheless still far higher for the European Union than at national level, which shows that the European Union is still seen as somewhat remote.
- Nevertheless, the idea that national interests are not properly taken into account by the EU has gained ground. A majority of respondents now hold this opinion, which was not the case in spring 2009.
- Trust in the European Parliament and the European Commission has increased slightly. With around half of Europeans trusting these two institutions, they enjoy greater trust than national political institutions.

- Trust in the European Union, in line with its image, has increased very slightly. Enjoying the trust of a little less than half of respondents, the European Union stands just below the UN and at the same level as NATO; trust in the latter has increased significantly since autumn 2008.
- In detail, the EU is seen as crucial to tackling global challenges but also as an institution which has grown too rapidly and which now seems to be somewhat short of ideas and projects.
- Almost half of Europeans do not understand how the European Union works. The objective knowledge questions confirm that the public remains rather ill-informed in detail about the Union and its institutions.
- Although Europeans still believe that decisions at national level have the most influence on their living conditions, there is growing support for the Europeanisation of policies, not only in global aspects but also in social policy areas. Nevertheless, while they would prefer the former to be dealt with jointly within the European Union, they continue to believe that the latter should be dealt with at national level.
- Approval of the euro remains unchanged. It is supported by six out of ten Europeans, while support for future enlargement has gained ground and is now the majority view, although it is held by fewer than half of respondents.
- To strengthen the European Union in the future, the European institutions should focus above all on economic affairs, followed by social and health issues. Almost one in four Europeans then mentioned immigration and the fight against crime, and just over one in five cited environmental issues. The scores for the various dimensions tested have remained stable since spring 2009.
- In line with the progress noted in this Eurobarometer wave as regards short-term expectations for the future, and the indicators of support for the European Union and its institutions, optimism regarding the future of the Union has not wavered. It has even increased slightly and is now shared by two out of three Europeans.

## TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Between the 23rd of October and the 18th of November 2009, TNS Opinion & Social, a consortium created between TNS plc and TNS opinion, carried out wave 72.4 of the EUROBAROMETER, on request of the EUROPEAN COMMISSION, Directorate-General for Communication, "Research and Political Analysis".

The EUROBAROMETER 72.4 is the "STANDARD EUROBAROMETER 72" 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 72 has also been conducted in the three candidate countries (Croatia, Turkey and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) and in the Turkish Cypriot Community. In these countries, the survey covers the national population of citizens and the population of citizens of all the European Union Member States that are residents in these countries and have a sufficient command of the national languages to answer the questionnaire. The basic sample design applied in all states is a multi-stage, random (probability) one. In each country, a number of sampling points was drawn with probability proportional to population size (for a total coverage of the country) and to population density.

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

ABBR.	COUNTRIES	INSTITUTES	N° INTERVIEWS	FIELDWORK DATES	POPULATION 15+
BE	Belgium	TNS Dimarso	1.006	30/10/2009	17/11/2009
BG	Bulgaria	TNS BBSS	1.008	29/10/2009	09/11/2009
CZ	Czech Rep.	TNS Aisa	1.056	30/10/2009	13/11/2009
DK	Denmark	TNS Gallup DK	1.006	24/10/2009	17/11/2009
DE	Germany	TNS Infratest	1.514	30/10/2009	15/11/2009
EE	Estonia	Emor	1.002	23/10/2009	16/11/2009
IE	Ireland	TNS MRBI	1.011	30/10/2009	15/11/2009
EL	Greece	TNS ICAP	1.000	28/10/2009	15/11/2009
ES	Spain	TNS Demoscopia	1.020	30/10/2009	17/11/2009
FR	France	TNS Sofres	1.005	28/10/2009	16/11/2009
IT	Italy	TNS Infratest	1.036	30/10/2009	14/11/2009
CY	Rep. of Cyprus	Synovate	506	26/10/2009	15/11/2009
LV	Latvia	TNS Latvia	1.006	30/10/2009	16/11/2009
LT	Lithuania	TNS Gallup Lithuania	1.023	27/10/2009	11/11/2009
LU	Luxembourg	TNS ILReS	502	27/10/2009	15/11/2009
HU	Hungary	TNS Hungary	1.023	29/10/2009	15/11/2009
MT	Malta	MISCO	500	28/10/2009	14/11/2009
NL	Netherlands	TNS NIPO	1.004	29/10/2009	18/11/2009
AT	Austria	Österreichisches Gallup-Institut	1.030	27/10/2009	13/11/2009
PL	Poland	TNS OBOP	1.000	30/10/2009	15/11/2009
PT	Portugal	TNS EUROTESTE	1.025	29/10/2009	15/11/2009
RO	Romania	TNS CSOP	1.021	30/10/2009	11/11/2009
SI	Slovenia	RM PLUS	1.015	24/10/2009	15/11/2009
SK	Slovakia	TNS AISA SK	1.040	30/10/2009	15/11/2009
FI	Finland	TNS Gallup Oy	1.018	29/10/2009	18/11/2009
SE	Sweden	TNS GALLUP	1.032	26/10/2009	15/11/2009
UK	United Kingdom	TNS UK	1.322	30/10/2009	17/11/2009
<b>TOTAL EU27</b>			<b>26.731</b>	<b>23/10/2009</b>	<b>18/11/2009</b>
CY(tcc)	Turkish Cypriot Community	Kadem	500	02/11/2009	14/11/2009
HR	Croatia	Puls	1.000	27/10/2009	12/11/2009
TR	Turkey	TNS PIAR	1.002	27/10/2009	15/11/2009
MK	Former Yugoslav Rep. of Macedonia	TNS Brima	1.005	27/10/2009	02/11/2009
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>30.238</b>	<b>23/10/2009</b>	<b>18/11/2009</b>
					<b>464.856.681</b>

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

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

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