

EURO-BAROMETER No.1

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First results

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Document prepared by Pierre Dieumegard for [Europe-Democracy-Esperanto](#)

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If there is no translation, citizens are excluded from the debate.

This 'Eurobarometre' document [was available only in French and English](#), in pdf s-files obtained by scanning the printed document. From the initial file, we created an odt file, prepared by Libre Office software, for automatic translation into other languages. The results are now [available in all official languages](#).

It is desirable for the EU administration to take over the translation of important documents. "Important documents" are not only laws and regulations, but also the important information needed to make informed decisions together.

In order to discuss our common future together and allow reliable translations, the Esperanto international language would be very useful because of its simplicity, regularity and accuracy.

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EURO - BAROMETER No. 1

With a view to better monitoring the short-term development of European public opinion and in particular of the interests of the public in the field of Community activities, the Commission has decided to carry out periodic surveys in the nine Community countries from this year onwards.

The first of these surveys, the provisional results of which are published below, was carried out between the beginning of April and May. The second is scheduled for October.

Just as a barometer makes it possible to measure atmospheric pressure and thus to predict the weather in the short term, this EURO – BAROMETER is an instrument for observing and, in a way, predicting public attitudes towards major topical issues directly or indirectly concerning the development of the European Community and the unification of Europe.

More than 8900 people aged 15 and over were interviewed at home in accordance with national representative samples drawn up according to the quota method at the rate of around 1000 people per country, except in Luxembourg where the number was 300.

The survey was carried out by eight approved institutes, and the overall coordination and analysis was carried out by the Institut français d'Opinion publique¹(French Institute of Public Opinion).

1 These institutes are as follows:

Belgium and Luxembourg : INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATES,

Danmark : GALLUP MARKEDANALYSE, (x)

Deutschland : EMNID-INSTITUT, (x)

France : FRENCH PUBLIC OPINION INSTITUTE (FIFG), (X)

Great Britain : THE GALLUP POLL, (X)

Ireland : IRISH MARKETING SURVEYS,

Italia : ISTITUTO PER LE RICERCHE STATISTICHE E L'ANALISI DELL'OPINIONE PUBBLICA(DOXA), (X)

Nederland : HET NEDERLANDS INSTITUUT VOOR DE PUBLIEKE OPINIE (NIPO), (X)

The institutes whose name is followed by the sign (X) are members or correspondents of the EUROPEAN OMNIBUS, of which this survey was the first to be carried out.

NEWS PROBLEM 1: INFLATION

A first question - in the form of an open-ended question - asked respondents what they thought was "the most important problem among those facing the government of their country".

In almost all countries the first spontaneous answer indicates the problem of wages and prices: purchasing power, taxes, family budget and standard of living.

Next, with a much higher average rank:

- the economic crisis, employment, unemployment and the energy crisis,
- domestic policy,
- the unease of society.

There are a few differences depending on the country:

1° In some countries, a significant part of advertising has not expressed itself on this subject: two out of ten people in Belgium and Italy, almost three out of ten in Germany and four out of ten in Denmark. The abstention rate is only 5% or 6% in France and Ireland.

Problem No. 1 is considered as such by more than 50% of respondents in France and Great Britain, but only 21% or 22% in Denmark and the Netherlands, and 13% in Luxembourg.²

3° In some countries, the "crisis" appears to be a particular event: employment and unemployment aspects in Denmark and Italy; problem of monetisation and speculation in Luxembourg.³

4° In Belgium and Ireland, domestic policy problems are of much greater concern to public opinion than in other countries.

5° In some countries, other problems are frequently raised: peace, the problem of immigrant workers, etc. This residual category of concerns is certainly the expression of public concern in Ireland about the state of relations between the Republic of Ireland and the Province of Ulster.

For more details, see Table 1 in the Annex.

2 The results for Luxembourg should always be interpreted with caution, due to the small number of respondents. In the other countries, for around 1000 respondents, the margin of error is around 3% in the average frequency area.

3 The result for Luxembourg is surprising, but it will be seen later that it is confirmed by the answers to other questions. In addition to being aware of the country's role as an international financial centre, we may find here, as in previous surveys, the image of a country whose then Prime Minister attached his name to the European Community's plan for economic and financial union. In a survey, apart from possible errors, nothing is fortuitous.

Two other questions confirm the importance of the economic concerns of the European public, while at the same time making it possible to identify other immediate or medium-term interests among the problems which the nine Member States of the European Community are seeking to resolve jointly.⁴

A. - In the immediate future, price increases are once again at the top of the average, followed - by a long way - by energy problems, the European currency, regional disparities and nature protection.

If we combine the answers giving the importance of first and second place, as expressed by each person concerned, nature protection comes in third place, followed by consumer protection. This is a significant indication of the existence of minority and underlying concerns.

There are still some interesting differences depending on the country:

1° Almost 20% of Danes do not speak.

2° The problem of the European currency is indicated as particularly important in Luxembourg and France.

3° The problems of agriculture and regional disparities are of particular interest in Italy.

4° Nature protection is more popular in Denmark and the Netherlands than in other countries.

5° Only in France more than 10% of those questioned identify political Europe as one of the most important problems in the first place.

B. - In the medium term, that is to say within four or five years, the relative importance of the various problems dealt with by the European Community is somewhat different.⁵

4 These problems were presented on a list submitted to each interviewee, with the following wording: "The nine Member States of the European Community (Common Market) are working together to solve a number of problems. Here is the list.(Show map). Could you tell me which of these problems you think is the most important at the moment? And second lieu? "

A. To create a single European currency which would replace all the currencies of the member countries, including (national currency),

B. Reducing disparities between regions of member countries by assisting less developed regions.

C. Jointly combating price rises.

D. Coordinating social policies on the employment and vocational training of workers.

E. Achieving a common energy supply policy.

F. Modernising European agriculture by encouraging the most productive jobs while reclassifying farmers with fewer opportunities.

G. Achieving a common policy to support scientific research

H. Achieving a common policy to protect nature and combat pollution.

I. Achieving a common aid policy for underdeveloped countries

J. Protect consumers from commercial fraud and advertising abuse.

K. Making Europe speak with one voice in discussions with the Americans and the Rus.

L. Achieving genuine equivalency between years of education and diplomas so that young people can study in any Community country.

None of these problems.

Price inflation remains at the top of the spontaneous responses given in the first place, and this in all countries, but with high percentages only when it came to assessing the current importance. The energy problem is becoming increasingly important. Nature protection now ranks third on average, with the Netherlands and Denmark still the most sensitive countries to this problem.

Even assuming that there may have been a "contamination" between the two questions, i.e. that respondents tended to project their current concerns towards 1978-1980, there is no doubt that two problems emerged in European public opinion in 1974 which are perceived as becoming significant: energy supply and nature protection.

9 - AVERAGE CLASSIFICATION RANGES OF THE MOST IMMEDIATE AND FUTURE IMPORTANT PROBLEMS IN THE COUNTRIES OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY (1)

	Significant problems in the immediate future	Significant problems within 4 or 5 years
Fighting together against rising prices	1,00	1,00
Achieving a common energy supply policy	4,11	2,78
Achieving a common policy on nature protection and pollution control	4,33	3,67
Protecting consumers from commercial fraud and advertising abuse	5,44	7,33
Getting Europe to speak with one voice in talks with Americans and Russians	5,56	5,22

(1) First and second answers combined on a list of 12 items.

(See Annex Tables 2 and 2a, 3 and 3a)

5 "Once again considering the same problems, which one do you think is likely to continue to be or become the most important in the next four or five years? And second lieu?"

THE ACTION OF THE COMMUNITY IS JUDGED UNSUFFICIENT

When asked about the same set of problems whose relative importance he had just assessed, the vast majority of the public in the nine countries felt that what the European Community was actually doing was insufficient. It is as severe with regard to the problems that are about to become significant as it is with regard to those that are currently significant.

On the other hand, there is not necessarily a correlation between the importance attributed to a particular problem and the judgment expressed on the action of the Community. For example, it has been seen that aid to underdeveloped countries comes only at the end of the list, which does not prevent the mass of the public from believing that the Community should do more. No doubt there is some compensation for "bad conscience" in this attitude.

11 - JUDGMENT ON THE ACTION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY WITH REGARD TO THE TWO MOST IMPORTANT PROBLEMS CURRENTLY (BY COUNTRY)

	B	Da	From	F	GB	Irl	It	L	N	Community (1)
Believes that the action of the Community is										
- sufficient	7	6	10	4	8	9	19	8	10	10
- insufficient	81	69	74	85	72	84	66	84	70	74
Don't answer	12	25	16	11	20	7	15	8	20	16
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

(1) Weighted according to the size of the population aged 15 and over in each of the Community countries.

11a - JUDGMENT ON THE ACTION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY WITH REGARD TO THE TWO MOST IMPORTANT PROBLEMS CURRENTLY (BY PROBLEM)

	Considers that the Community's action is:		Don't answer	Total
	sufficient	insufficient		
Rising prices	7	78	15	100
Energy	11	73	16	100
Nature protection	8	77	15	100
Consumer protection	7	77	16	100
Political Europe	10	79	11	100
European currency	11	75	14	100
Differences between regions	12	74	14	100
Employment, vocational training	10	77	13	100
Agriculture	17	70	13	100
Equivalence of diplomas	8	77	15	100
Aid to underdeveloped countries	9	80	11	100
Scientific research	14	73	13	100
None of these problems	3	11	86	100
TOGETHER (1)	9	76	15	100

(1) Unweighted total of national samples.

12 - JUDGMENT ON THE ACTION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY WITH REGARD TO THE TWO PROBLEMS THAT WILL BECOME THE MOST IMPORTANT (BY COUNTRY)

	B	Da	From	F	GB	Irl	It	Lux	N	Community (1)
Believes that the action of the Community is										
-sufficient	9	9	9	7	9	10	21	9	13	11
-insufficient	79	54	67	81	72	82	63	81	67	70
Don't answer	12	37	24	12	19	8	16	10	20	19
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

(1) Weighted according to the size of the population aged 15 and over in each of the Community countries.

12a - JUDGMENT ON THE ACTION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY WITH REGARD TO THE TWO PROBLEMS WHICH WILL BECOME THE MOST IMPORTANT (BY PROBLEM)

	Considers that the Community's action is:		Don't answer	Total
	sufficient	insufficient		
Rising prices	7	76	17	100
Energy	13	69	18	100
Nature protection	10	74	16	100
Political Europe	11	73	16	100
European currency	12	70	18	100
Differences between regions	13	70	17	100
Consumer protection	7	75	18	100
Agriculture (2)	14	60	16	100
Employment, vocational training	11	73	16	100
Equivalence of diplomas	10	71	19	100
Aid to underdeveloped countries	12	72	16	100
Scientific research	15	68	17	100
None of these problems	2	16	82	100
TOGETHER (1)	10	72	18	100

(1) Unweighted total of national samples.

(2) (* There is an error somewhere, because the total of the "Agriculture" line is only 90 instead of 100 *)

The fact that Community action is now considered insufficient may have two explanations, between which it is difficult to pronounce at the present stage of the analysis. It may be that this critical response is stereotyped and that the public thus systematically expresses the feeling that "religious people can never do enough". It may also be that the public, or at least its most conscious fraction, is really dissatisfied with the decisions of the leaders in the pursuit of the unification of Europe.⁶

It should be noted that this critical - or impatient - majority is particularly numerous in France (85% to 92%, depending on whether it concerns current or future problems), while in Italy, on the contrary, 20% to 25% of the population considers that Community action is sufficient.

(See Annex Tables 4 and 5).

⁶ In a survey carried out in July 1971 in the six countries of the Community at the time, two-thirds of those questioned considered that "in the countries of the Common Market, the general public is already ready to go further in unification than governments".

SOLID ACTION OR INDEPENDENT ACTION

In the Community as a whole, more than seven in ten people believe that important problems are more likely to be solved by action in solidarity with the Member States than by action independent of each other. The proportion is even eight out of ten in all six founding countries.

SOLID ACTION WITHIN THE COMMUNITY OR INDEPENDENT ACTION BY MEMBER COUNTRIES

	The "Six"	Ireland	Danmark	Gr.Brit.	Community
Joint and several action	78	80	59	57	73
Independent action	10	16	19	30	14
No answer	12	4	22	13	13
Total	100	100	100	100	100

In Germany, France, Italy, Luxembourg and Ireland, 80% of respondents are in favour of joint and several action; the proportion is slightly lower in Belgium (73%) and the Netherlands (70%); it falls to just under 60% in Denmark and Great Britain.

(See Annex Table No 6) .

ATTITUDES WITH REGARD TO THE COMMON MARKET

The answers to the two questions measuring the public's orientation towards the Common Market show, as expected, the distance between the public in Denmark and Great Britain and the public in other countries, including Ireland.

A slight increase compared with the previous survey (September 1973), apparently due to a decrease in non-responses, almost seven out of ten people among the "Six" consider that membership of the Common Market is a good thing for their country.

This favourable proportion is only 48% in Ireland, 35% in Denmark and 33% in Great Britain; in the first two of these countries, there was a decrease in favourable attitudes compared with September 1973.

THE COMMON MARKET: GOOD THING OR BAD THING

	The "Six"		Ireland		Danmark		Gr. Brit.		Community	
	September 1973	May 1974	September 1973	May 1974	September 1973	May 1974	September 1973	May 1974	September 1973	May 1974
Good thing	63	67	56	48	42	35	31	33	56	59
Wrong thing	4	6	15	25	30	31	34	39	11	14
Neither good nor bad	19	18	21	19	19	24	22	19	20	18
No answer	14	9	8	8	9	10	13	9	13	9
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

(See Annex Tables 7 and 7a).

The abandonment of the Common Market would be met with great regret by 56% of respondents in the six founding countries, compared with 38% in Ireland, 27% in Denmark and 24% in Great Britain.

Compared with previous surveys carried out on the initiative of the Commission of the European Communities in July 1971 and September 1973, attachment to the common market has increased markedly among the "Six": the percentage of "great regrets" in the event of abandonment rose from 40% in 1971 to 47% in 1973 and 56% in 1974.

In the three new Member States, this percentage remained virtually unchanged between September 1973 and April-May 1974; It should be noted, however, that in Ireland a significant proportion of the indifferent have turned into opponents of the common market.

ATTITUDE IN THE EVENT OF ABANDONMENT OF THE COMMON MARKET

	The "Six"			Ireland		Danmark		Gr. Brit.		Community	
	July 1971	September 1973	May 1974	September 1973	May 1974	September 1973	May 1974	September 1973	May 1974	September 1973	May 1974
Great regrets	40	47	56	37	38	30	27	20	24	41	48
Indifference	40	37	26	40	27	29	27	33	28	36	27
Lively relief	5	2	4	17	28	29	31	37	40	10	13
No answer	15	14	14	6	7	12	15	10	8	13	12
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

(See Annex Tables 8 and 8a)

Lack of information

In the Community as a whole, only slightly less than a third of respondents consider themselves sufficiently informed about the problems facing the European Community: 40% in Germany and 22% in Great Britain. Compared with the September 1973 survey, there was a slight increase in several countries, notably Italy and Ireland.

JUDGMENT ON THE DEGREE OF INFORMATION

	The "Six"		Ireland		Danmark		Great Britain		Community	
	July 1971	May 1974	July 1971	May 1974	July 1971	May 1974	July 1971	May 1974	July 1971	May 1974
Sufficiently well informed	29	35	24	35	37	32	17	22	25	32
Not sufficiently well informed	58	50	71	56	55	44	76	70	63	54
No answer	13	15	5	9	8	24	7	8	12	14
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

(See Annex Tables 9 and 9a).

What is the main difficulty for interviewees to find out more about European problems at a slow pace?

The answer that is spontaneously given most often, in almost all countries, is lack of time or interest. In Great Britain and Germany, 13% or 14% of respondents cite the fact that "newspapers, radio and television do not talk enough about it". In France, 16% blame the lack of objectivity of the media.

However, it must be taken into account that between one quarter (France) and two thirds (Denemark, Netherlands) of the respondents do not answer this question, which shows that the main reason for the lack of information is the lack of public interest in seeking information on the problems of the European Community.

(See Annex Table No. 10).

An in-depth analysis of all results will be published at a later date.

TABLES ANNEXES / ATTACHED TABLES

**Table 1: THE MOST IMPORTANT PROBLEM BY THOSE TO BE MADE BY NATIONAL GOVERNMENT
(spontaneous response given in the first place)**

	Belgium	Danmark	Deutschland	France	Gr. Britain	Ireland	Italia	Luxembourg	Nederland	Community (middle rank) (1)
No answer	19	37	27	5	10	6	23	15	13	-
1. Wages and prices	31	22	42	51	57	38	31	13	21	1,22
2. Economic crisis, employment, unemployment, energy crisis	9	26	11	10	6	4	22	6	16	3,11
3. Domestic policy	28		10	12	4	19	7	6	11	4,11
4. Peace, immigrant workers, etc.	2	10		3	12	26	1	8	1	5
5. The unease of society	4	2	1	5	1	2	8	6	11	5
6. Monetary problems	2	2	3	2	1		5	39	14	5,55
7. Social unrest and strikes	5	1		6	5	1	1	6	1	6
8. Relations with other developed countries			6	5	4	4	1	1	1	5,78
9. Relations with Third World countries			0	1	0		1	0	11	8,22
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
BASE	1017	1168	1060	1308	1031	1000	1030	308	1000	8922

(1)An average percentage for the nine countries would make little sense. That is why we preferred to give the average rank of each item, i.e. the average of the rankings of items in the nine countries.

Table 2: THE MOST IMPORTANT PROBLEM BY THOSE STRENGTHENING TO RESOLVE THE NINE MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY (First answer chosen from a list) (1),

	Belgium	Danmark	Deutschland	France	Gr. Britain	Ireland	Italia	Luxembourg	Nederland	Community (middle rank)
No answer	12	18	11	2	6		6	5	16	-
1. Rising prices	47	42	46	40	55	56	35	37	34	1
2. Energy	6	9	5	5	6	4	5	6	10	4,33
3. European currency	8	3	9	13	2	2	11	14	4	4,78
4. Differences between regions	4	4	5	5	4	5	12	6	6	5,22
5. Nature protection	5	11	3	5	4	3	2	5	11	5,22
6. Political Europe	3	4	6	11	4	2	7	9	3	5,33
7. Agriculture	2	2	3	3	6	6	12	5	2	6,44
8. Employment, vocational training	3	2	3	7	2	5	4	6	4	6,44
9. Equivalence of diplomas	4	1	1	1	4	8	2	4	2	8,33
10. Consumer protection	3	2	2	3	4	5	2	1	2	8,44
11. Aid to underdeveloped countries	2		1	3	2	4	2	2	3	10,22
12. Scientific research		1	2	2	1			1	1	11,44
None of these problems	1	1	3					1	2	-
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	-
Base	1017	1168	1060	1308	1031	1000	1030	308	1000	8922

(1) The answers are classified here according to their average ranking for all the countries of the Community.

Table 2a: THE MOST IMPORTANT PROBLEM BY THOSE STRENGTHENING TO RESOLVE THE NINE MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY (first and second answers chosen from a list) (1),

	Belgium	Danmark	Deutschland	France	Gr. Britain	Ireland	Italia	Luxembourg	Netherlands	Community (middle rank)
No answer	11	18	11	2	6	-	6	5	16	-
1. Rising prices	61	56	58	56	68	71	50	53	45	1
2. Energy	18	24	17	14	14	10	16	13	21	4,11
3. Nature protection	17	26	14	15	15	10	10	16	28	4,33
4. Consumer protection	14	12	10	11	15	16	10	8	9	5,44
5. Political Europe	9	9	18	22	10	4	13	20	8	5,56
6. European currency	15	5	16	22	6	4	16	21	6	6,11
7. Differences between regions	7	8	10	10	9	13	22	11	11	6,33
8. Employment, vocational training	7	4	7	14	7	15	8	9	8	7,67
9. Equivalence of diplomas	10	4	4	6	12	24	6	12	7	7,89
10. Agriculture	5	5	7	7	14	17	28	6	6	8
11. Aid to underdeveloped countries	6	2	3	8	6	10	3	8	7	10,11
12. Scientific research	2	2	8	7	4	2	2	4	2	11,22
None of these problems	2	2	5	1	1	1	1	4	5	-
Total (2)	184	177	188	195	187	197	193	190	179	-

(1) The answers are ranked here according to their average ranking for all Community countries.

(2) The total percentages are less than 200 because not all respondents gave two answers.

TABLE 3: THE EUROPEAN PROBLEM WHICH WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE TO BE OR BECOME THE MOST IMPORTANT IN THE NEXT FOUR OR FIVE YEARS (FIRST ANSWER CHOOSE ON A LIST) (1)

	Belgium	Danmark	Deutschland	France	Gr. Britain	Ireland	Italia	Luxembourg	Nederland	Community (middle rank)
No answer	15	26	15	8	11	1	9	8	22	-
1. Rising prices	34	30	34	25	40	45	19	32	21	1
2. Energy	12	9	7	14	11	7	14	8	16	2,67
3. Nature protection	8	13	7	7	6	6	8	4	14	4,56
4. Political Europe	5	5	6	10	7	3	7	9	5	4,89
5. European currency	8	3	13	12	2	3	11	17	2	5,33
6. Differences between regions	3	4	4	4	5	7	10	6	4	5,56
7. Agriculture	3	2	3	4	6	8	11	3	3	6,11
8. Employment, vocational training	3	2	3	5	3	7	3	4	4	6,78
9. Consumer protection	3	2	1	3	1	3	2	2	2	9,67
10. Equivalence of diplomas	2	1	1	3	5	5	2	2	2	9,89
11. Aid to underdeveloped countries	2	1	1	2	2	4	1	3	3	9,89
12. Scientific research	1	1	3	3	1	1	2	1	1	11
None of these problems	1	1	2				1	1	1	-
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	-
BASE	1017	1168	1060	1308	1031	1000	1030	308	1000	8922

(1) The answers are ranked here according to their average ranking for all Community countries.

Table 3a: THE EUROPEAN PROBLEM WHICH WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE TO BE OR BECOME THE MOST IMPORTANT IN THE NEXT FOUR OR FIVE YEARS (First and second answers selected from a list) (1)

	Belgium	Danmark	Deutschland	Franc e	Gr. Britain	Ireland	Italia	Luxembourg	Nederland	Community (middle rank)
No answer	15	25	15	8	11	1	9	8	22	-
1. Rising prices	45	40	44	36	52	58	30	44	30	1,00
2. Energy	24	23	19	27	19	16	26	17	25	2,78
3. Nature protection	21	27	19	17	14	16	17	16	28	3,67
4. Political Europe	9	9	17	21	14	6	13	22	10	5,22
5. European currency	13	5	21	18	6	7	15	27	5	6,56
6. Differences between regions	7	8	9	9	10	14	19	9	9	6,56
7. Consumer protection	13	9	5	9	8	13	9	8	8	7,33
8. Agriculture	8	6	9	8	13	16	25	5	6	7,44
9. Employment, vocational training	8	5	7	14	7	16	8	10	8	7,56
10. Equivalence of diplomas	6	4	3	6	14	17	5	7	5	9,11
11. Aid to underdeveloped countries	6	3	3	6	7	11	5	10	7	9,78
12. Scientific research	3	3	8	8	5	3	6	3	3	10,89
None of these problems	2	2	4	1	2	1	2	3	3	-
TOTAL (2)	180	169	183	188	182	195	189	189	169	-

(1) The answers are ranked here according to their average ranking for all Community countries.

(2) The total percentages are less than 200 because not all respondents gave two answers.

Table 4A: JUDGMENT ON THE ACTION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY WITH REGARD TO THE TWO CURRENT ISSUES CONSIDERED TO BE THE MOST IMPORTANT

	Belgium				Danmark				Deutschland			
	S.R.	Sufficient	Insufficient	Total	S.R.	Sufficient	Insufficient	Total	S.R.	Sufficient	Insufficient	Total
Rising prices	12	6	82	100	23	5	72	100	13	7	80	100
Energy	11	13	76	100	28	9	63	100	18	7	75	100
Nature protection	8	3	89	100	24	5	71	100	18	17	73	100
Consumer protection	9	6	85	100	27	2	71	100	13	9	78	100
Political Europe	12	8	80	100	20	13	67	100	10	6	84	100
European currency	16	10	74	100	22	3	75	100	16	11	73	100
Differences between regions	15	4	81	100	25	6	69	100	12	24	64	100
Employment, vocational training	16	11	73	100	35	0	65	100	18	17	65	100
Agriculture	4	7	89	100	17	14	69	100	14	15	71	100
Equivalence of diplomas	16	3	81	100	22	4	74	100	14	7	79	100
Aid to underdeveloped countries	17	10	73	100	32	0	68	100	17	23	60	100
Scientific research	0	0	100	100	14	11	75	100	17	20	63	100
None of these problems	72	0	28	100	71	11	18	100	95	0	5	100
Total	12	7	81	100	25	6	69	100	16	10	74	100
Base (1)	219	120	1413	1752	460	117	1275	1852	301	196	1385	1882

(1) The basis for the calculation is higher than the number of respondents, because each person was asked to identify problem 1 and problem 2 in turn.

Table 4B: JUDGMENT ON THE ACTION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY WITH REGARD TO THE TWO CURRENT ISSUES CONSIDERED TO BE THE MOST IMPORTANT

	France				Great Britain				Ireland			
	S.R.	Sufficient	Insufficient	Total	S.R.	Sufficient	Insufficient	Total	S.R.	Sufficient	Insufficient	Total
Rising prices	12	3	85	100	17	8	75	100	4	5	91	100
Energy	9	9	82	100	19	12	69	100	8	11	81	100
Nature protection	9	4	87	100	21	6	73	100	6	7	87	100
Consumer protection	12	4	84	100	22	9	69	100	7	5	88	100
Political Europe	9	6	85	100	18	6	76	100	14	19	67	100
European currency	11	4	86	100	10	19	71	100	13	20	67	100
Differences between regions	14	4	82	100	17	9	74	100	13	11	76	100
Employment, vocational training	8	2	90	100	23	13	64	100	10	11	79	100
Agriculture	15	7	78	100	20	11	69	100	6	15	79	100
Equivalence of diplomas	9	4	87	100	23	7	70	100	11	12	77	100
Aid to underdeveloped countries	3	2	95	100	24	5	71	100	3	13	84	100
Scientific research	6	13	81	100	26	7	67	100	4	23	73	100
None of these problems	60	10	30	100	67	0	33	100	86	0	14	100
Total	11	4	85	100	20	8	72	100	7	9	84	100
Base (1)	270	115	2134	2519	365	160	1340	1865	144	182	1635	1961

(1) The basis for the calculation is higher than the number of respondents, because each person was asked to identify problem 1 and problem 2 in turn.

Table 4C: JUDGMENT ON THE ACTION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY WITH REGARD TO THE TWO CURRENT ISSUES CONSIDERED TO BE THE MOST IMPORTANT

	Italia				Luxembourg				Nederland			
	S.R.	Sufficient	Insufficient	Total	S.R.	Sufficient	Insufficient	Total	S.R.	Sufficient	Insufficient	Total
Rising prices	22	17	61	100	4	5	91	100	19	9	72	100
Energy	17	13	70	100	2	23	75	100	15	11	74	100
Nature protection	15	18	67	100	6	8	86	100	17	9	74	100
Consumer protection	21	14	65	100	11	8	81	100	26	7	67	100
Political Europe	4	22	74	100	5	8	87	100	10	13	77	100
European currency	12	26	62	100	12	8	80	100	16	12	72	100
Differences between regions	11	19	70	100	3	6	91	100	18	14	68	100
Employment, vocational training	12	17	71	100	0	18	82	100	7	10	83	100
Agriculture	13	25	62	100	11	33	56	100	14	20	66	100
Equivalence of diplomas	8	23	69	100	5	3	92	100	28	5	67	100
Aid to underdeveloped countries	8	19	73	100	4	4	92	100	14	10	76	100
Scientific research	12	16	72	100	17	8	75	100	12	17	71	100
None of these problems	100	0	0	100	92	0	8	100	96	4	0	100
Total	15	19	66	100	8	8	84	100	20	10	70	100
Base (1)	297	371	1263	1931	44	49	476	569	319	167	1150	1636

(1) The basis for the calculation is higher than the number of respondents, because each person was asked to identify problem 1 and problem 2 in turn.

Table 5A: JUDGMENT ON THE ACTION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY WITH REGARD TO THE TWO PROBLEMS THAT WILL BECOME THE MOST IMPORTANT IN THE FOUR OR FIVE YEARS

	Belgium				Danmark				Deutschland			
	S.R.	Sufficie nt	Insufficie nt	Total	S.R.	Sufficie nt	Insufficie nt	Total	S.R.	Sufficie nt	Insufficie nt	Total
Rising prices	15	5	80	100	36	8	56	100	23	5	72	100
Energy	12	9	79	100	39	9	52	100	18	10	72	100
Nature protection	6	7	87	100	32	7	61	100	20	14	66	100
Political Europe	11	15	74	100	32	13	55	100	24	5	71	100
European currency	12	12	76	100	28	12	60	100	29	7	64	100
Differences between regions	19	7	74	100	35	13	52	100	23	9	68	100
Consumer protection	10	6	84	100	46	4	50	100	24	9	67	100
Agriculture	9	15	76	100	39	12	49	100	18	12	70	100
Employment, vocational training	13	10	77	100	30	15	55	100	26	8	66	100
Equivalence of diplomas	13	11	76	100	33	9	58	100	19	17	64	100
Aid to underdeveloped countries	14	12	74	100	42	16	42	100	27	18	55	100
Scientific research	13	6	81	100	49	2	49	100	19	24	57	100
None of these problems	55	6	39	100	78	0	22	100	89	2	9	100
Total	12	9	79	100	37	9	54	100	24	9	67	100
Base (1)	208	145	1324	1677	615	148	909	1672	133	161	1191	1785

(1) The basis for the calculation is higher than the number of respondents, because each person was asked to identify problem 1 and problem 2 in turn.

Table 5B: JUDGMENT ON THE ACTION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY WITH REGARD TO THE TWO PROBLEMS THAT WILL BECOME THE MOST IMPORTANT IN THE FOUR OR FIVE YEARS

	France				Great Britain				Ireland			
	S.R.	Suffici ent	Insuffici ent	Total	S.R.	Suffici ent	Insuffici ent	Total	S. R.	Suffici ent	Insuffici ent	Total
Rising prices	13	4	83	100	14	8	78	100	3	6	91	100
Energy	12	10	78	100	20	14	66	100	12	18	70	100
Nature protection	8	6	86	100	18	3	79	100	9	7	84	100
Political Europe	13	7	80	100	19	9	72	100	5	7	88	100
European currency	16	6	78	100	20	13	67	100	5	24	71	100
Differences between regions	9	11	80	100	23	8	69	100	7	11	82	100
Consumer protection	15	3	82	100	17	6	77	100	6	6	88	100
Agriculture	13	7	80	100	17	6	77	100	11	12	77	100
Employment, vocational training	14	6	80	100	19	7	74	100	10	13	77	100
Equivalence of diplomas	12	10	78	100	31	11	58	100	12	12	76	100
Aid to underdeveloped countries	6	3	91	100	23	11	66	100	10	11	79	100
Scientific research	8	16	76	100	19	14	67	100	6	9	85	100
None of these problems	77	0	23	100	56	0	44	100	86	0	14	100
Total	12	7	81	100	19	9	72	100	8	10	82	100
Base (1)	291	163	1899	2353	337	154	1274	1765	47	192	1600	1939

(1) The basis for the calculation is higher than the number of respondents, because each person was asked to identify problem 1 and problem 2 in turn.

Table 5C: JUDGMENT ON THE ACTION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY WITH REGARD TO THE TWO PROBLEMS THAT WILL BECOME THE MOST IMPORTANT IN THE FOUR OR FIVE YEARS

	Italia				Luxembourg				Nederland			
	S.R.	Sufficie nt	Insufficie nt	Total	S.R.	Sufficie nt	Insufficie nt	Total	S.R.	Sufficie nt	Insufficie nt	Total
Rising prices	21	18	61	100	7	7	86	100	19			100
Energy	16	18	66	100	19	7	74	100	19	16	65	100
Nature protection	14	25	61	100	10	8	82	100	16	15	69	100
Political Europe	5	26	69	100	9	15	76	100	20	12	68	100
European currency	16	24	60	100	7	9	84	100		21	64	100
Differences between regions	12	22	66	100	19	7	74	100	22	18	60	100
Consumer protection	10	20	70	100	8	0	92	100	27	7	66	100
Agriculture	14	25	61	100	12	6	82	100	22	17	61	100
Employment, vocational training	16	22	62	100	13	13	74	100	16	14	70	100
Equivalence of diplomas	7	13	80	100	5	0	95	100	27	4	69	100
Aid to underdeveloped countries	16	21	63	100	10	3	87	100	13	17	70	100
Scientific research	15	18	67	100	0	20	80	100	27	13	60	100
None of these problems	100	0	0	100	88	0	12	100	93	7	0	100
Total	16	21	63	100	10	9	81	100	20	13	67	100
Base (1)	88	389	1169	1846	55	49	451	555	300	191	983	1474

(1) The basis for the calculation is higher than the number of respondents, because each person was asked to identify problem 1 and problem 2 in turn.

Table 6 INDEPENDENT ACTION BY EACH COUNTRY OR EUROPEAN SOLIDARY ACTION TO RESOLVE IMPORTANT JUDGED PROBLEMS

	Belgium	Danmark	Deutschland	France	Gr. Britain	Ireland	Italia	Luxembourg	Nederland	Community
Independent action	7	19	9	12	30	16	8	10	6	14
Joint and several action	73	59	80	79	57	80	78	82	70	73
No answer	20	22	11	9	13	4	14	8	24	13
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Base	1017	1168	1060	1308	1031	1000	1030	308	1000	(1)

(1) Weighted results according to the population aged 15 and over in each country

TABLE 7: JUDGMENT ON THE PARTNERSHIP OF ITS COUNTRY IN THE COMMON MARKET

	Belgium	Danmark	Deutschland	France	Gr. Britain	Ireland	Italia	Luxembourg	Nederland	Community
Good thing	68	35	59	68	33	48	77	79	66	59
Wrong thing	3	31	8	5	39	25	5	4	4	14
Something neither good nor bad	15	24	26	20	19	19	9	12	14	18
No answer	14	10	7	7	9	8	9	5	16	9
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Base	1017	1168	1060	1308	1031	1000	1030	308	1000	(1)

(1) See note under Table 6.

TABLE 7a: JUDGMENT ON THE PARTNERSHIP OF ITS COUNTRY IN THE COMMON MARKET (September 1973)

	Belgium	Danmark	Deutschland	France	Gr. Britain	Ireland	Italia	Luxembourg	Nederland	Community
Good thing	57	42	63	61	31	56	69	67	63	56
Wrong thing	5	30	4	5	34	15	2	3	4	11
Something neither good nor bad	19	19	22	22	22	21	15	22	20	20
No answer	19	9	11	12	13	8	14	8	13	13
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Base	1266	1199	1957	2227	1933	1199	1909	330		(1)

(1) See note under Table 6.

Table 8: ANTICIPATED ATTITUDE IN THE EVENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE COMMON MARKET

Would test:	Belgium	Danmark	Deutschland	France	Gr. Britain	Ireland	Italia	Luxembourg	Nederland	Community
- great regrets	48	27	53	56	24	38	60	73	54	48
- indifference	30	27	28	30	28	27	22	17	20	27
- a sharp relief	2	31	5	3	40	28	4	3	4	13
No answer	20	15	14	11	8	7	14	7	22	12
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Base	1017	1168	1060	1308	1031	1000	1030	308	1000	(1)

(1) See note under Table 6.

Table 8a: ANTICIPATED ATTITUDE IN THE EVENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE COMMON MARKET (September 1973) (1)

Would test:	Belgium	Danmark	Deutschland	France	Gr. Britain	Ireland	Italia	Luxembourg	Nederland	Community
- great regrets	39	30	57	42	20	37	41	51	46	41
- indifference	44	29	24	43	33	40	44	35	37	36
- a sharp relief	3	29	4	2	37	17	1	3	4	10
No answer	14	12	15	13	10	6	14	11	13	13
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Base	1266	1199	1957	2227	1933	1199	1909	330	1464	(2)

(1) The question was worded a little differently: "If you were told tomorrow that the Common Market is abandoned ...". In 1974, the wording was: "If you were told tomorrow that (your country) is leaving the Common Market..."

(2) See note under Table 6.

Table 9: JUDGMENT ON THE DEGREE OF INFORMATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPORTANT PROBLEMS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

They consider themselves to be:	Belgium	Danmark	Deutschland	France	Gr. Britain	Ireland	Italia	Luxembourg	Nederland	Community
- sufficiently well informed	31	32	40	32	22	35	31	54	38	32
- not sufficiently well informed	48	44	42	62	70	56	53	37	35	54
No answer	21	24	18	6	8	9	16	9	27	14
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Base	1017	1168	1060	1308	1031	1000	1030	308	1000	(1)

(1) See note under Table 6.

Table 9a: JUDGMENT ON THE DEGREE OF INFORMATION WITH REGARD TO IMPORTANT PROBLEMS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY (September 1973) (1)

They consider themselves to be:	Belgium	Danmark	Deutschland	France	Gr. Britain	Ireland	Italia	Luxembourg	Nederland	Community
- sufficiently well informed	32	37	31	33	17	24	17	45	29	25
- not sufficiently well informed	43	55	54	52	76	71	77	37	53	63
No answer	25	8	15	15	7	5	6	18	18	12
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Base	1266	1199	1957	2227	1933	1199	1909	330	1464	(2)

'(1) The word "important" did not appear in the question asked in 1973

'(2) See note under Table 6.

Table 10: MAIN DIFFICULTY MEETED TO INFORM ABOUT THE IMPORTANT PROBLEMS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY (spontaneous response given first)

	Belgium	Danmark	Deutschland	France	Gr. Britain	Ireland	Italia	Luxembourg	Nederland	Community
No answer	36	66	54	26	51	52	34	46	68	-
1. Lack of time or interest	24	10	15	28	3	1	28	24	7	2,33
2. Lack of objectivity of information	10	6	3	16	8	12	10	9	2	2,78
3. Newspapers, radio, television don't talk enough about it	6	4	14	8	13	7	8	5	4	2,78
4. It's too complicated for me	5	7	5	6	5	2	3	1	2	4,56
5. Newspapers, radio, television talk about it in an annoying or incomprehensible way	5	1	4	5	3	4	9	5	3	4,56
6. I don't know where to find the information	4	2	2	2	4	6	2	1	5	5,22
7. The information is contradictory	3	1	1	3	2	2	2	2	4	6,56
8. The information is too general	4	1	2	4	1	3	3	1	2	6,89
Other answers	3	2	-		10	11	1	6	3	-
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Base	1017	1168	1060	1308	1031	1000	1030	308	1000	(1)

Comments

(Pierre Dieumegard)

This Eurobarometer is the first in a long series, which has now been running for 50 years. All those who participated in this first edition died or retired. Comparing with current reports, for example the [2024 Eurobarometer 100](#), one can see significant differences.

Technical differences, and differences in the number of countries

In 2024, there are 27 Member States of the European Union, while in 1974 it was the "Europe of 9", with only 9 countries, and this for only one year, since the United Kingdom, Ireland and Denmark had joined the "Europe of six" only in 1973.

In 2024, computer systems are very developed, and one can easily make reports of several hundred pages, with many tables and graphs. In 1974, it was necessary to type reports, without the possibility of copying / pasting, without being able to make graphs. This first Eurobarometer report is therefore only about 40 pages long, without any graphs.

In 2024, the dissemination of information is done in the form of pdf files, rarely in printed form. In 1974, the reports were printed with an ink duplicator, after typing the report on a "stencil", with a typewriter. Typing errors were difficult to correct (pass a coat of varnish with a small brush, wait until it was dry, then put the stencil back in place to hit the correct letters or numbers). And the ink passed more or less well through the stencil, some letters were not very legible because they were too greasy, other letters were not very legible because they were too clear...

This report comes from copies in French and English, available at <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/1459>, scanned by EU services in the early 2000s. We have passed these documents through an automatic character recognition system (PDF-Xchange Editor software, Tesseract scanning engine). The report was formatted with Libre Office software. In the French version used as a basis, capital words had no accents, because typewriters did not allow accents to be placed on capital letters, unlike current office automation software. These accents have been added manually, to allow for better machine translation. Various (assumed) errors have been corrected manually.

The spirit of the Eurobarometer has also changed a little

The 1974 report available on the Eurobarometer website is officially available in two languages, French and English. In practice, the report in English still has almost half of its content in French, since all the tables in the appendix are only in French. The 2024 standard Eurobarometer reports are in English, French and German, with a clear advantage over English. The dominant language has changed, but the problem of the predominance of one language remains: how to pass on the information to people who do not understand that language?

The 1974 report states in its introduction that its aim is to gain a better understanding of the views of Europeans: *"Just as a barometer makes it possible to measure atmospheric pressure and thus to predict the weather in the short term, this EURO – BAROMETER is an instrument for observing and, in a way, predicting public attitudes towards major topical issues directly or indirectly concerning the development of the European Community and the unification of Europe."* This first Eurobarometer makes it clear that on some issues, Europeans disagree with the policy of EU leaders. For example, it is said that the action of the European Community is insufficient, with a personal interpretation of the type *"Doubtless there is some compensation for "bad conscience" in this attitude."*

By comparison, the 2024 reports, although much larger, have far fewer writers' views, and where they exist, they say that Europeans support official policy. The 2024 reports therefore contain more verbose and annoying text.

It can be said that in fifty years there has been a change. Initially, Eurobarometers were designed so that leaders could hear the views of ordinary citizens. Now they are made to show that citizens support the action of leaders. This is not a good development.