

## 2015 Parlemeter: Main findings on migration

### Challenges for the European Union

According to the 2015 Parlemeter, the two major challenges for the future of the EU are: **tackling unemployment (49%, -6 since June 2013)** and the issue of **immigration (47%, +33)**.

### Migration

*Support for a global approach to migration policy*

- The Standard Eurobarometer of the European Commission (Dec. 2015) shows that **68%** of Europeans say they are **in favour of “a common European policy on migration”**, but this opinion has lost ground since spring 2015 (-5 percentage points).
- The 2015 “Parlemeter” of the European Parliament divides this issue into four questions whose results highlight a **significant support at EU level**:
  - **Decision-making:** **66%** of respondents think that **‘more decisions’ should be taken at European level**, whereas 23% think that less decision-making should take place at EU level.
  - **Financial support:** Regarding the **priority financial support** recently granted as a matter of priority to Member States bearing the brunt of migration on their coasts and at their borders, **62% think that it is ‘a good thing’**. 15% think that it is *‘a bad thing’*, whereas 20% consider it *‘neither good nor bad’*.
  - **Legal migration procedure:** **79%** think that **the procedure should be ‘the same’ in all EU Member States**, whereas 15% reject that approach.
  - **Simplification:** **66%** of Europeans are **in favour of ‘simplifying legal migration procedures’**, which they believe would **‘make it possible to fight effectively against illegal migration’**. By contrast, 23% are *‘not in favour’* and 11% *‘do not know’*.

*Distribution of asylum-seekers among Member States*

- **78%** of Europeans think that **‘the numbers of asylum-seekers should be better distributed among all EU Member States’**, but there are **considerable differences from one country to another**, ranging from 97% in Germany and 94% in Sweden to 31% in Slovakia and 33% in the Czech Republic. In Greece and Italy, among which that have to shoulder the heaviest responsibility for initial reception of migrants, the figures are 91% and 84% respectively.
- Those who think that asylum-seekers should be better distributed agree at 75% **that this distribution ‘should be decided at EU level on the basis of binding quotas’**. Once again, with very marked variations between Member States: for example, out of the 97% of Germans who believe that asylum-seekers should be better distributed, 89% support binding quotas. Conversely, out of the 31% of Slovaks who approve a better distribution of asylum-seekers, 51% favour binding quotas.

*Legal migration and economic perceptions*

- **In the current context of migratory flows from outside the EU, does [your country] need legal migrants to work in certain sectors of the economy?’ 51% of Europeans agree with the proposal, and 42% do not.**

### Pace of European integration

**When it comes to the EU’s activities, some Member States are ready to enhance the development of a common European policy in certain important areas. Do you think they should ...?**

- **48%** of respondents (-1 since 2014) think it would be better to **‘wait for all the EU Member States to be ready to do it’**
- **41% (+2)** think that those wishing to move forward should **‘do so without waiting for the other Member States’**

European Parliament Eurobarometer (EB/EP 84.1 – Part I), published on October 15, 2015.

Coverage: EU28 (28 150 EU citizens aged 15 and over); Methodology: Face-to-face (CAPI);

Fieldwork: 19-29 Sep 2015, TNS Opinion.

Full results of 2015 Parlemeter: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/atyourservice/en/20150630PVL00108/2015-parlemeter>.

