



DG Communication is continuously monitoring public opinion by conducting regular Eurobarometer surveys in all 28 EU Member States. **This newsletter aims at providing general public with the most recent Eurobarometer data on key topics of this week's plenary agenda.**

Although this service cannot be fully exhaustive, as not all items on the plenary agenda have been the subject of a recent Eurobarometer survey, we can offer fresh survey data on the following items of the plenary session:

- **The state of the debate on the Future of Europe**
- **'Future of Europe': Debate with the Prime Minister of Italy, Giuseppe Conte**
- **Implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union in the EU**
- **EU-Singapore Partnership Agreement**
- **Programme for single market, competitiveness of enterprises and European statistics**

Parliament's Eurobarometer surveys cover a wide range of issues. They focus primarily on the European citizens' knowledge of the European Parliament and their perceptions of the EU and its main policy challenges. Expectations in view of the European elections, of the European Parliament and the European integration in general also form part of the face-to-face interviews conducted with more than 27.000 respondents. Together with the Eurobarometer surveys conducted by the European Commission, **the data available allows for a detailed and up-to-date insight into citizens' opinions, expectations and perceptions.**

For more information on the topics covered in this edition, please contact:

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The state of the debate on the future of Europe

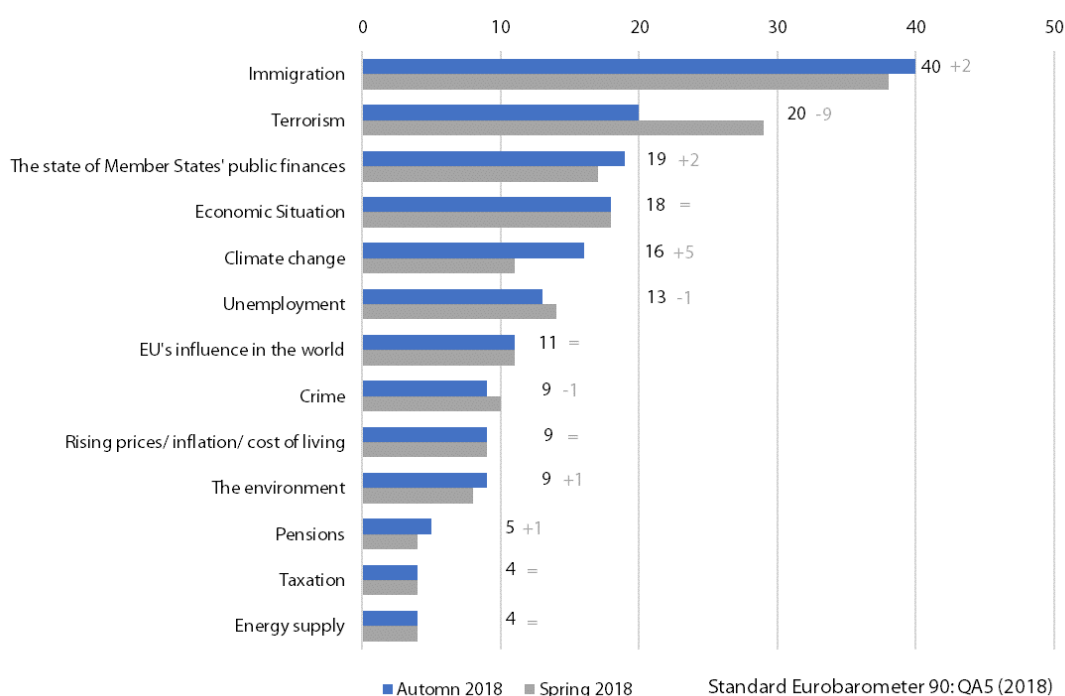
Next Wednesday, Plenary will vote [a report which aims to summarise the issues for debate on the future of Europe](#), and to provide guidance and clarification on the various directions that European integration can take in the run-up to the elections in 2019. This report seeks to establish a European political agenda based on the many messages heard time and again at the moment, and on the various reports, statements and proposals brought forward by the European institutions and by the leaders of the Member States in recent months.

According to the European Commission's [Standard Eurobarometer, published end of December 2018](#), for the third consecutive time immigration remains the citizens' main concern, with 40% of mentions on EU average (+2 percentage points since spring 2018). Terrorism remains in second position with 20% of mentions after a third consecutive decrease (-9 since spring 2018, -18 since autumn 2017 and -24 since spring 2017).

The state of Member States' public finances is in third position (19%, +2), reappearing in the top three concerns for the first time since autumn 2014 (EB82). The economic situation is in fourth place (18%, unchanged), falling out of the top three for the first time since autumn 2010.

In fifth position, at 16%, climate change registers the largest increase (+5 percentage points), reaching a new high. Unemployment is in sixth position, at 13% (-1), the lowest level for this indicator since 2010. The EU's influence in the world follows with 11% of mentions (unchanged). Other items are cited by less than 10% of respondents, and are relatively stable.

What do you think are the two most important issues facing the EU at the moment? (% - EU) -Two answers maximum-

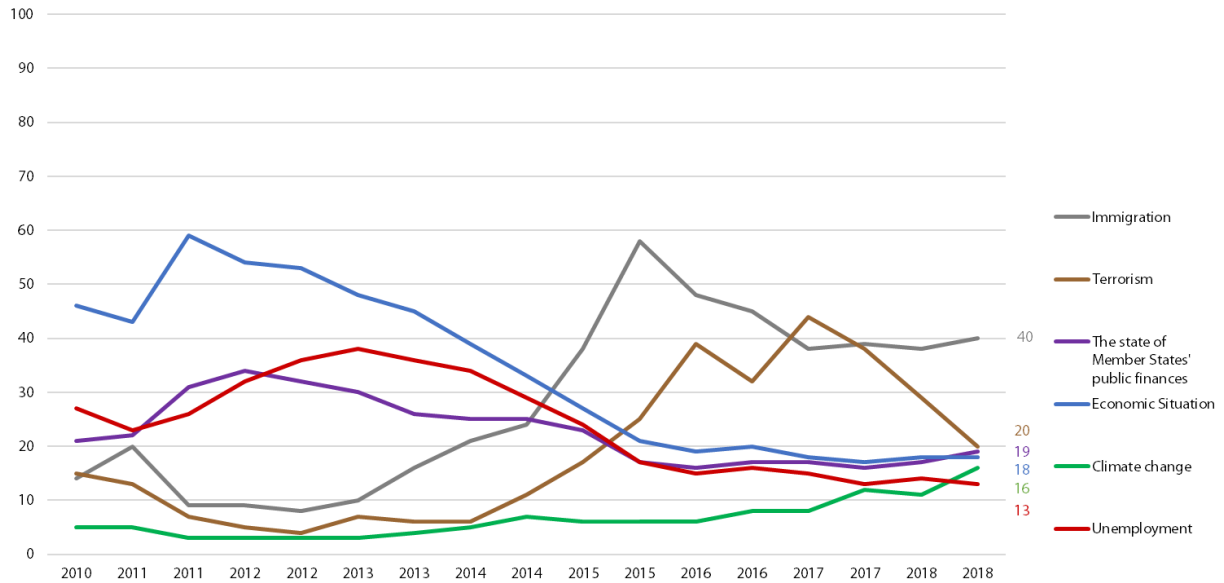


For more detailed information: [Standard Eurobarometer \(November 2018\)](#)

Long-term trends

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

Standard Eurobarometer 90: QA5



For more detailed information: [Standard Eurobarometer \(November 2018\)](#)

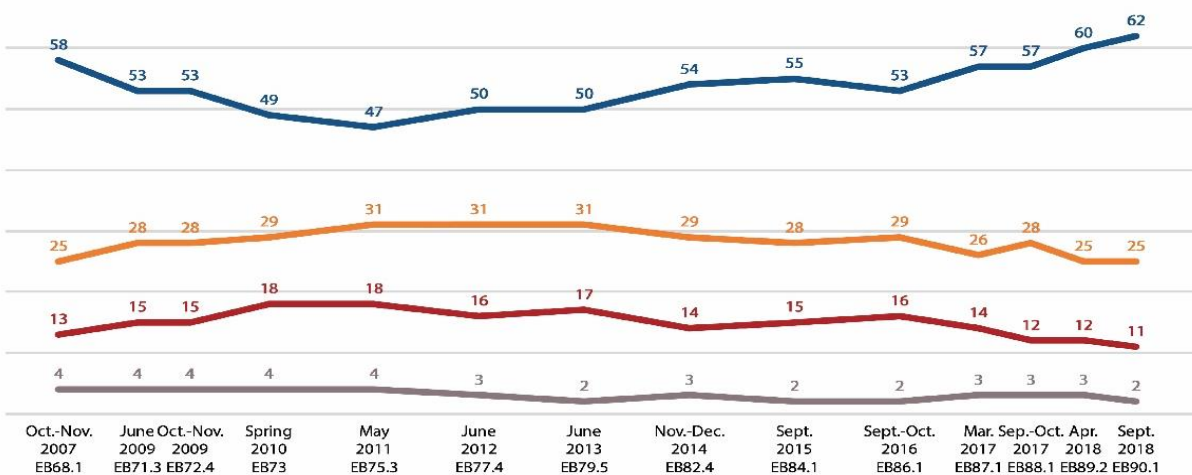
Moreover, according to the [latest European Parliament Eurobarometer survey: Taking up the challenge](#), published in October 2018, the share of respondents believing that their country's membership in the EU is a good thing reaches its highest value since 1992 (62%, +2 since April 2018).

On a national basis, EU membership is increasingly perceived as positive in 18 EU countries, reaching or exceeding the 75% threshold in Luxembourg (87%), Ireland (85%) Germany (81%), Netherlands (78%), Sweden (77%) and Denmark (75%). Support for EU membership decreases in seven countries, mainly in Romania by 10 points to 49%, with a negative view increasing by 7 points to 21%.

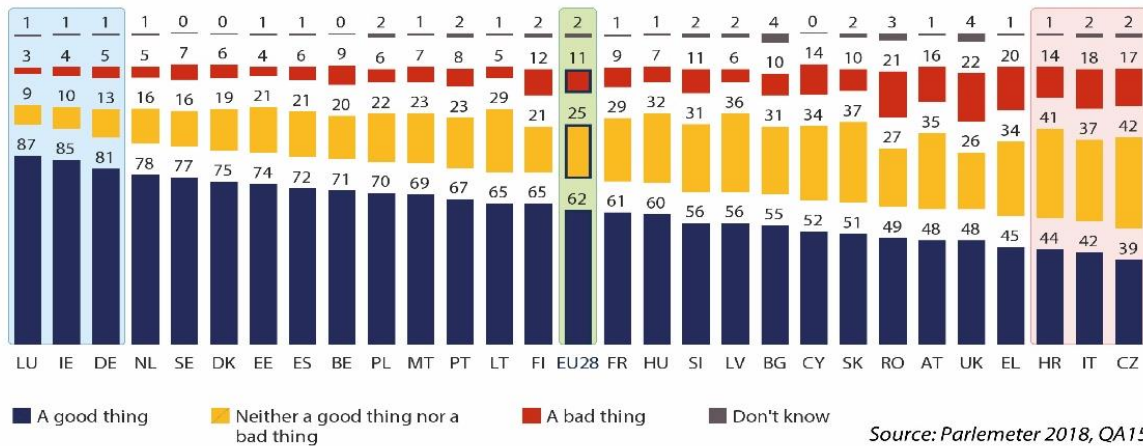
Q Generally speaking, do you think that (OUR COUNTRY)'s membership of the EU is...? (% - EU)

— A good thing — A bad thing — Neither a good thing nor a bad thing — Don't know

Source: Parlemeter 2018, QA15



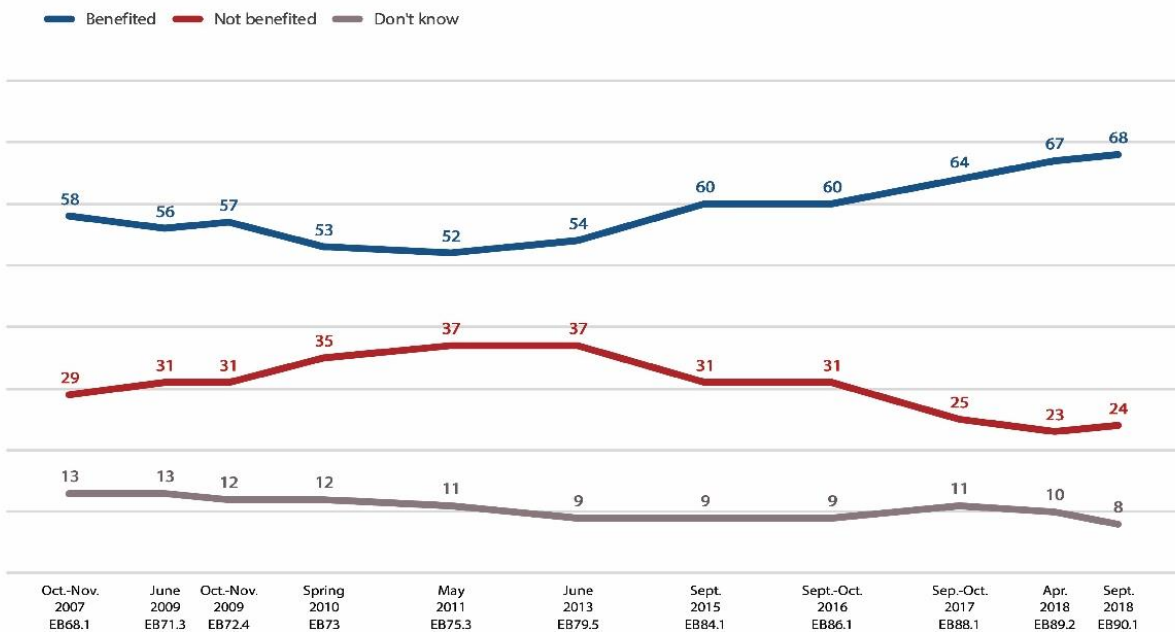
Q Generally speaking, do you think that (OUR COUNTRY)'s membership of the EU is...? (%)



For more detailed information: [Parlemeter 2018: Taking up the challenge \(September 2018\)](#)

Moreover, 68% (+1pp since April 2018) of EU respondents believe that their country has on balance benefited from being a member of the EU, bringing this indicator to its highest level overall level since 1983.

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

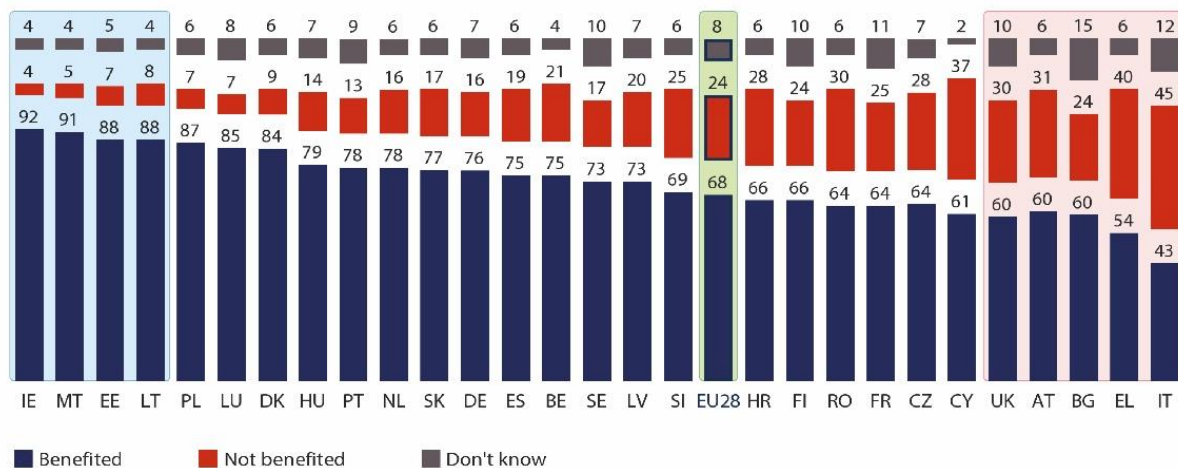


Source: Parlemeter 2018, QA16

For more detailed information: [Parlemeter 2018: Taking up the challenge \(September 2018\)](#)

In all 27 other EU countries, a majority considers that their country has benefited from its EU membership, ranking from a maximum of 92% in Ireland to 54% in Greece - still well above an absolute majority.

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



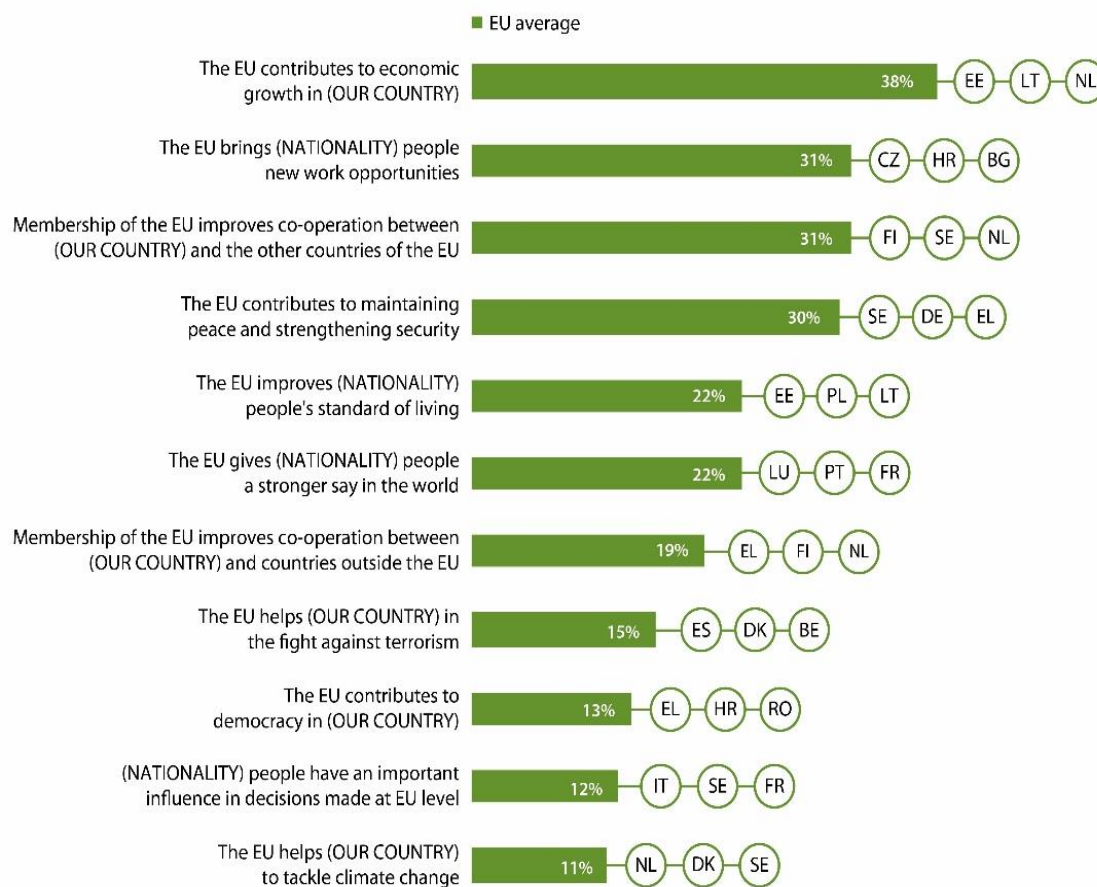
Source: Eurobarometer 2018 QA16

For more detailed information: [Parlemeter 2018: Taking up the challenge \(September 2018\)](#)

Among those who believe that EU membership has been beneficial, the most often expressed reason is that 'the EU contributes to economic growth in their country' with a support of 38% (+2 pp compared to September 2017). At least one respondent in two in the Netherlands (57%, +1), Estonia and Lithuania (both at 51%, respectively +2 and +9 percentage points since 2017) named this argument first.

The two following arguments equally record 31% on average, namely 'membership of the EU improves co-operation between our country and the other countries of the EU' and 'the EU brings (NATIONALITY) people new work opportunities', followed with 30% of replies on average by 'the EU contributes to maintaining peace and strengthening security'.

Q Which of the following are the main reasons for thinking that (OUR COUNTRY) has benefited from being a member of the EU? (Max. 3 answers)



Source: Parlemeter 2018, QA17

For more detailed information: [Parlemeter 2018: Taking up the challenge \(September 2018\)](#)

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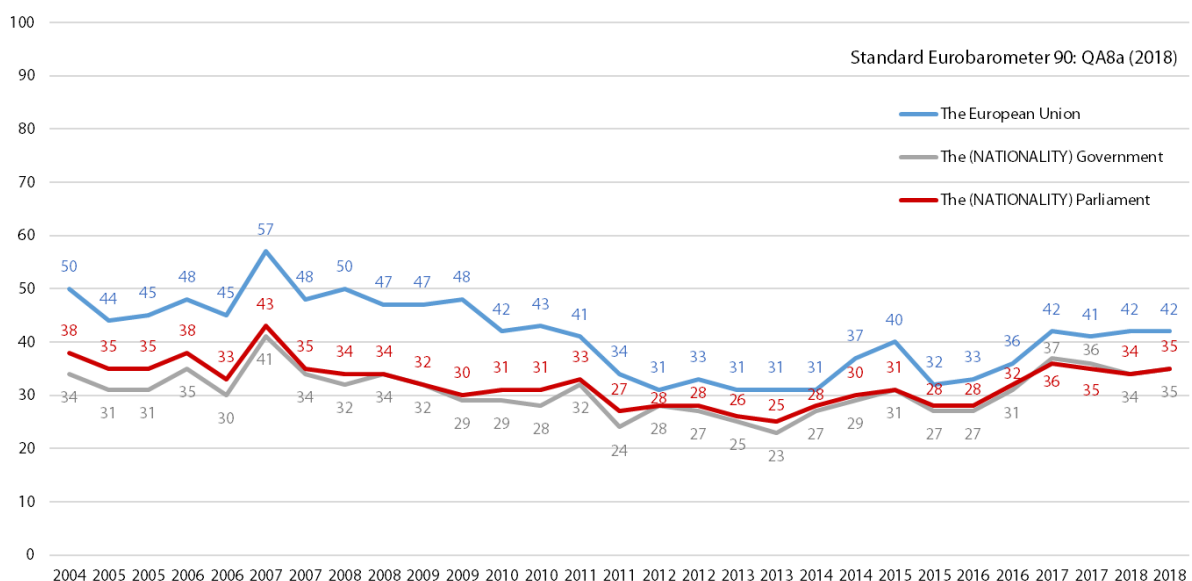
Debate with the Prime Minister of Italy, Giuseppe Conte, on the Future of Europe

This debate on the future of Europe has been a regular feature of this parliamentary term – increasingly so as the term draws to a close. Over this period, the European Parliament invited Member State presidents and prime ministers to come and express their views on the future of Europe throughout 2018. Hence, [the Prime minister of Italy, Giuseppe Conte, will be the seventeenth European Union leader to debate the Future of Europe](#) with MEPs on Tuesday afternoon.

According to the last [Standard Eurobarometer, published in December 2018](#), more than four in ten Europeans trust the European Union (42%, unchanged since spring 2018, the highest level since autumn 2010); in comparison, more than a third trust their national government (35%, +1 percentage point) and their national parliament (35%, +1).

Distrust in the national parliament (58% “tend not to trust”, -2 percentage points since spring 2018) and in the national government (59%, -2) has decreased. Though still the majority, less than half of Europeans “tend not to trust” the European Union (48%, unchanged since spring 2018), and one in ten respondents answer that they “don’t know” (10%).

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

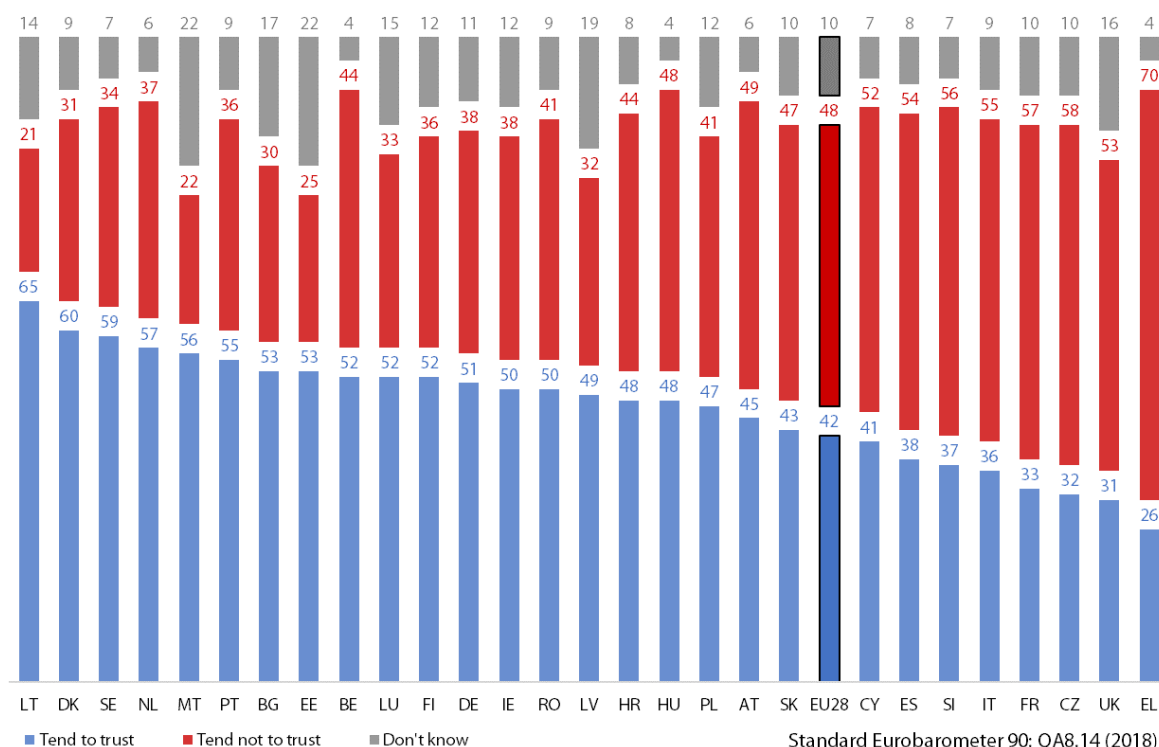


For more detailed information: [Standard Eurobarometer \(November 2018\)](#)

Trust in the EU is predominant in 17 EU Member States (up from 15 in spring 2018), with the highest proportions in Lithuania (65%), Denmark (60%) and Sweden (59%). More than half of respondents also say they “tend to trust” the EU in the Netherlands (57%), Malta (56%), Portugal (55%), Estonia and Bulgaria (both 53%), Luxembourg, Finland and Belgium (all 52%) and Germany (51%).

At the other end of the scale, lowest proportions are seen in Greece (26%), the United Kingdom (31%) and Czechia (32%). Overall, a majority tend “not to trust” the EU in ten countries. Finally, respondents in Hungary are evenly divided (48% “tend to trust” vs. 48%).

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



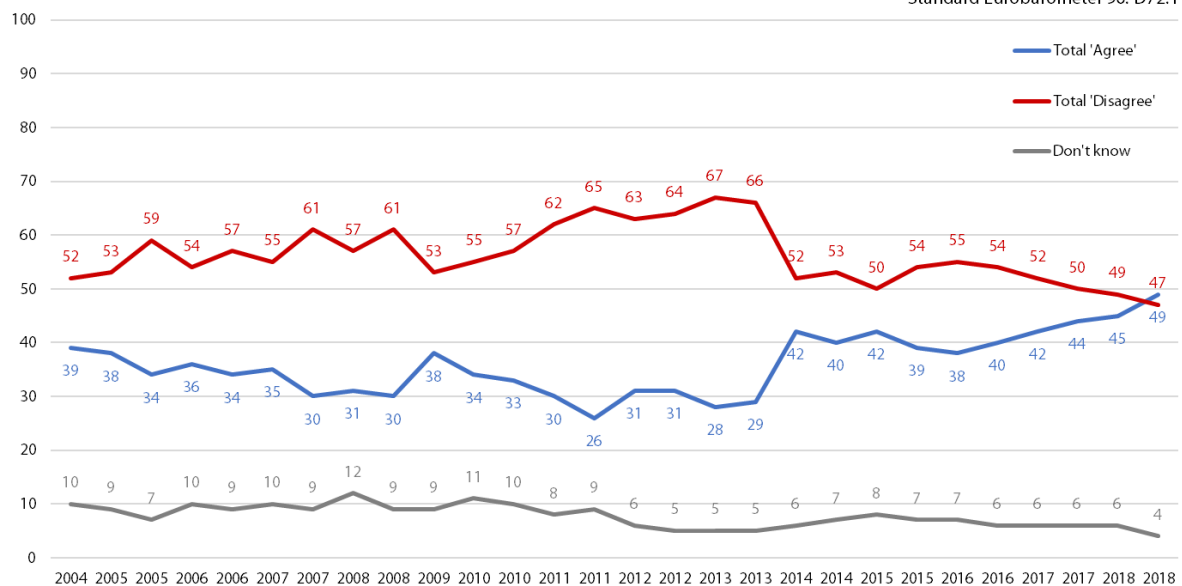
For more detailed information: [Standard Eurobarometer \(November 2018\)](#)

Moreover, close to half of EU citizens agree that their "voice counts in the EU" (49%, +4 percentage points since spring 2018). Conversely, 47% of EU citizens disagree (-2 since spring 2018, and -20 since spring 2013), and 4% (-2) answer that they "don't know".

Thus, although by a slim margin only, the last Standard Eurobarometer, published last month, confirms the inversion of the curves [already shown in other Eurobarometer surveys conducted by the Public Opinion Monitoring Unit \(DG COMM\) over the past year.](#)

Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.
My voice counts in the EU (% - EU)

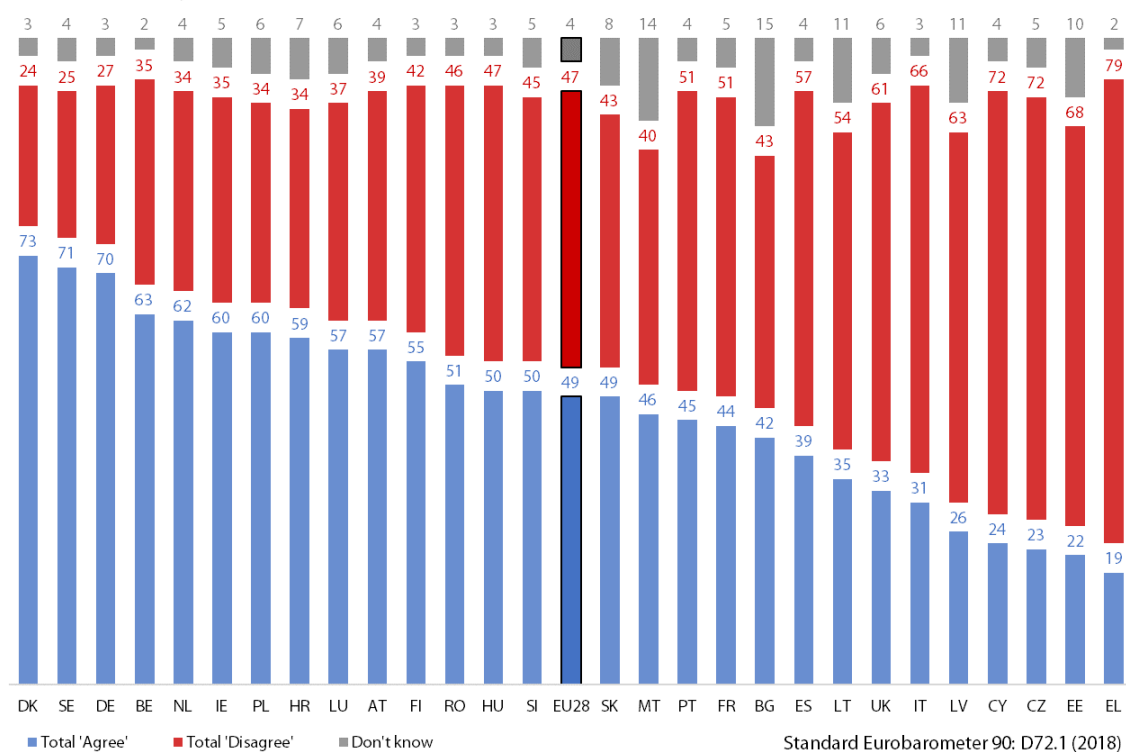
Standard Eurobarometer 90: D72.1



For more detailed information: [Standard Eurobarometer \(November 2018\)](#)

In 16 EU Member States, a majority of respondents agree that their voice counts in the European Union (up from 14 in spring 2018), with the highest scores in Denmark (73%), Sweden (71%) and Germany (70%). Conversely, a majority disagree with this statement in 12 EU countries, in particular in Greece (79%) and Czechia and Cyprus (both 72%).

Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. My voice counts in the EU (% - EU)



Standard Eurobarometer 90: D72.1 (2018)

For more detailed information: [Standard Eurobarometer \(November 2018\)](#)

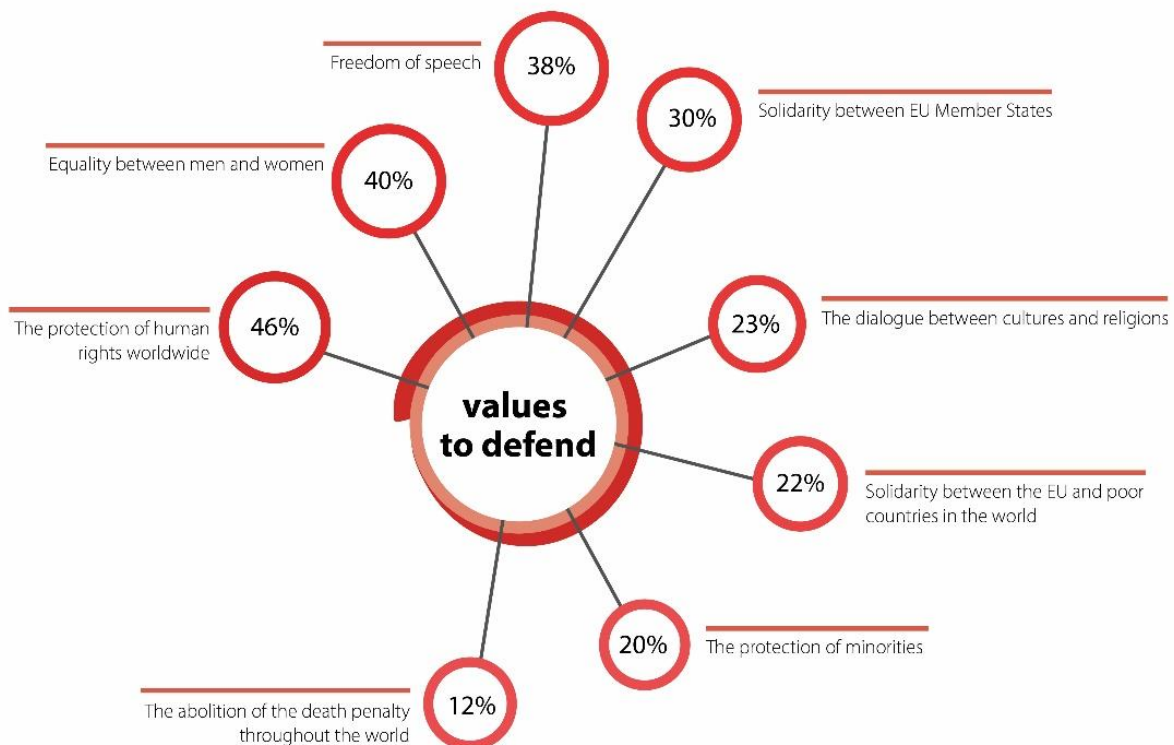
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Implementation of the Charter of fundamental Rights of the European Union in the EU institutional framework

The adoption of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union has represented a crossroad in the European integration's process. The European Union took on a formal responsibility before its citizens: turning from an economic community into a Union based on rule of law and human rights. The Lisbon Treaty has constitutionalised such choice, by conferring the Charter same legal value as the Treaties. Within this framework, Plenary will debate on Monday the [implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union in the European Union institutional framework](#).

According to the [Parlemeter 2018](#), published in October last year, when it comes to the values to be defended by the European Parliament as matter of priority, 46% choose protection of human rights worldwide, followed equality between men and women (40%), freedom of speech (38%) and solidarity between member States (30%).

Q In your opinion, which of the following values should the European Parliament defend as a matter of priority?



Source: *Parlemeter 2018, QA14*.

For more detailed information: [Parlemeter 2018: Taking up the challenge \(September 2018\)](#)

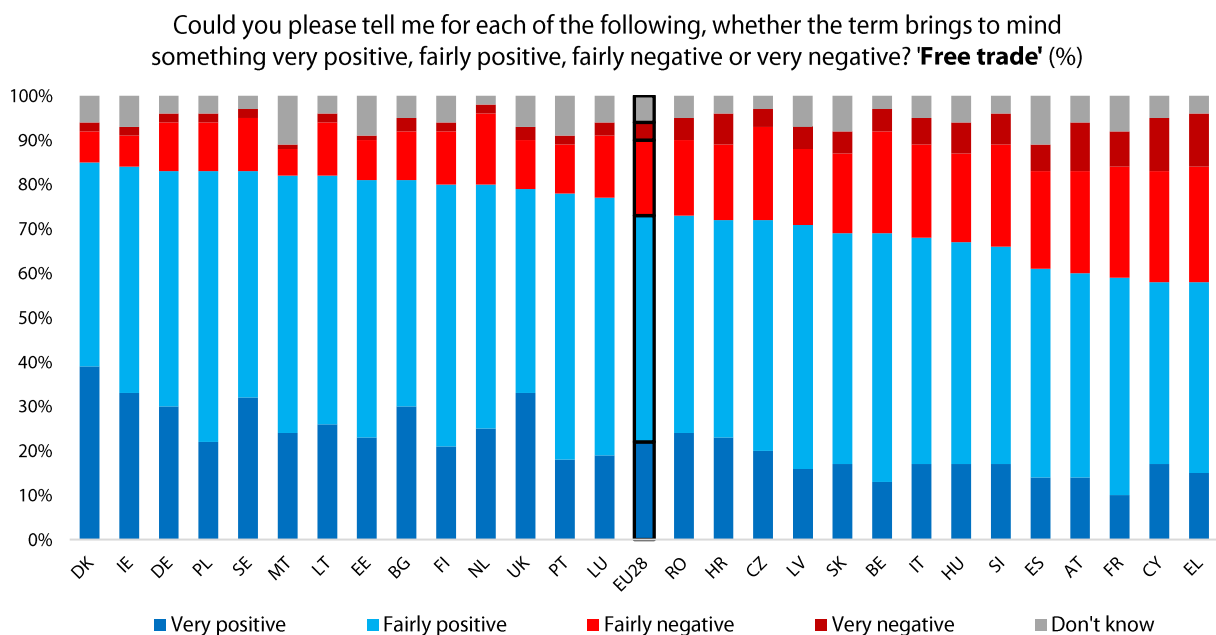
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EU-Singapore Partnership Agreement

The European Union has in place, or is negotiating, trade agreements with countries and regions around the world in order to remove barriers to trade and promote high standards of labour and environment protection. Singapore and the European Union share fundamental values as well as a strong commitment to sustainable development and the multilateral trading system. For this reason, Plenary will discuss, next Tuesday, the implementation of [the EU-Singapore Partnership Agreement](#) (Vote on Wednesday).

A Special Eurobarometer survey on [opinions about free trade and solidarity](#) from April 2017 found that nearly three quarters of respondents (73%) consider free trade as positive and just over one in five respondents (21%) consider free trade as negative.

This majority of respondents in favour of free trade can be found in all EU countries, ranging from more than eight in ten respondents in Denmark (85%), Ireland (84%) and Sweden, Germany and Poland (all 83%) to 59% in France and 58% in Greece and Cyprus.

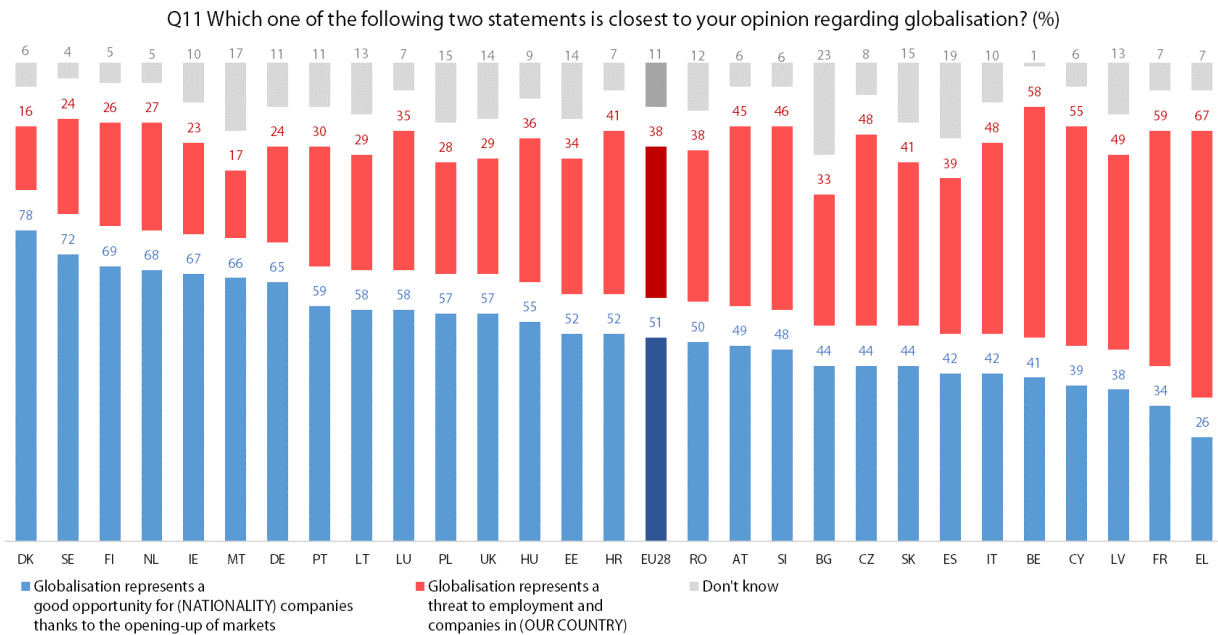


Special Eurobarometer 461 (2017): QA5.1

For more detailed information: [Special Eurobarometer on Designing Europe's future- opinions about free trade and solidarity \(April 2017\)](#)

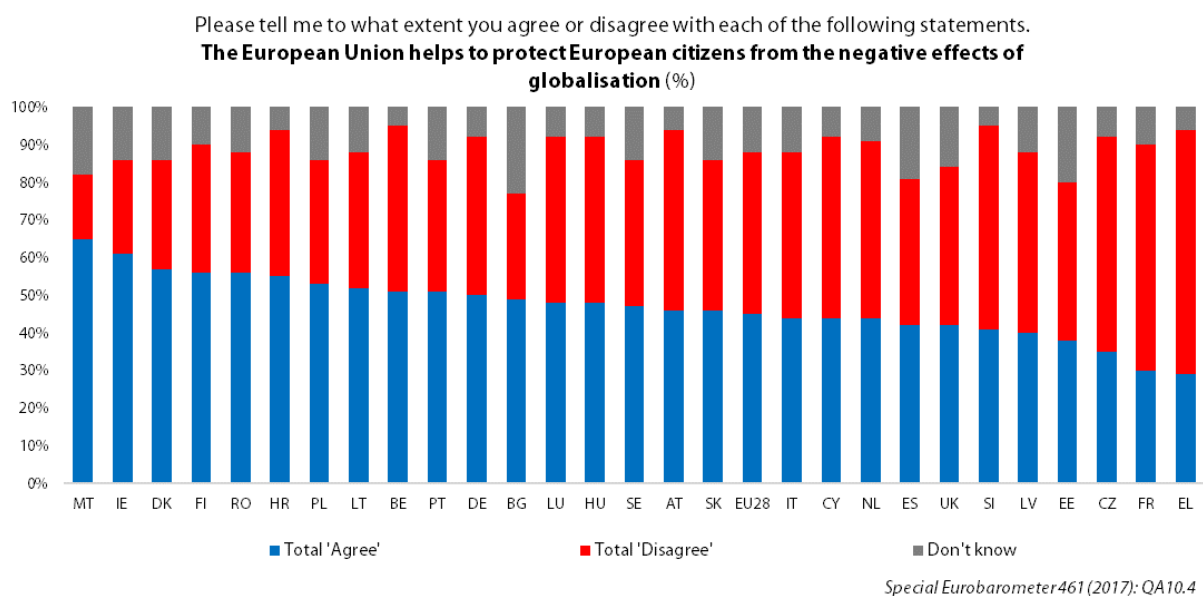
Furthermore, in 21 countries, a majority of respondents think that globalisation represents a good opportunity for their national companies thanks to the opening-up of markets. Respondents in Denmark (78%) Sweden (72%) and Finland (69%) are the most likely to think this way, while those in Greece (26%), France (34%) and Latvia (38%) are the least likely to do so.

In the remaining seven Member States, a majority of respondents say globalisation represents a threat to employment and companies in their country. At least two-thirds of respondents in Greece (67%) think this way, followed by 59% in France and 58% in Belgium. This opinion is also the majority view in Cyprus (55%), Latvia (49%), and the Czech Republic and Italy (both 48%).



For more detailed information: [Special Eurobarometer on Designing Europe's future- opinions about free trade and solidarity \(April 2017\)](#)

Finally, in 17 countries, a majority of respondents agree the European Union helps to protect European citizens from the negative effects of globalisation. More than six in ten respondents in Malta (65%) and Ireland (61%) agree with this idea, as do 57% in Denmark. At the other end of the scale, respondents in Greece (29%), France (30%) and the Czech Republic (35%) are the least likely to do so. The proportion of respondents who say they do not know is high in a number of countries, and particularly in Bulgaria (23%) and Estonia (20%).

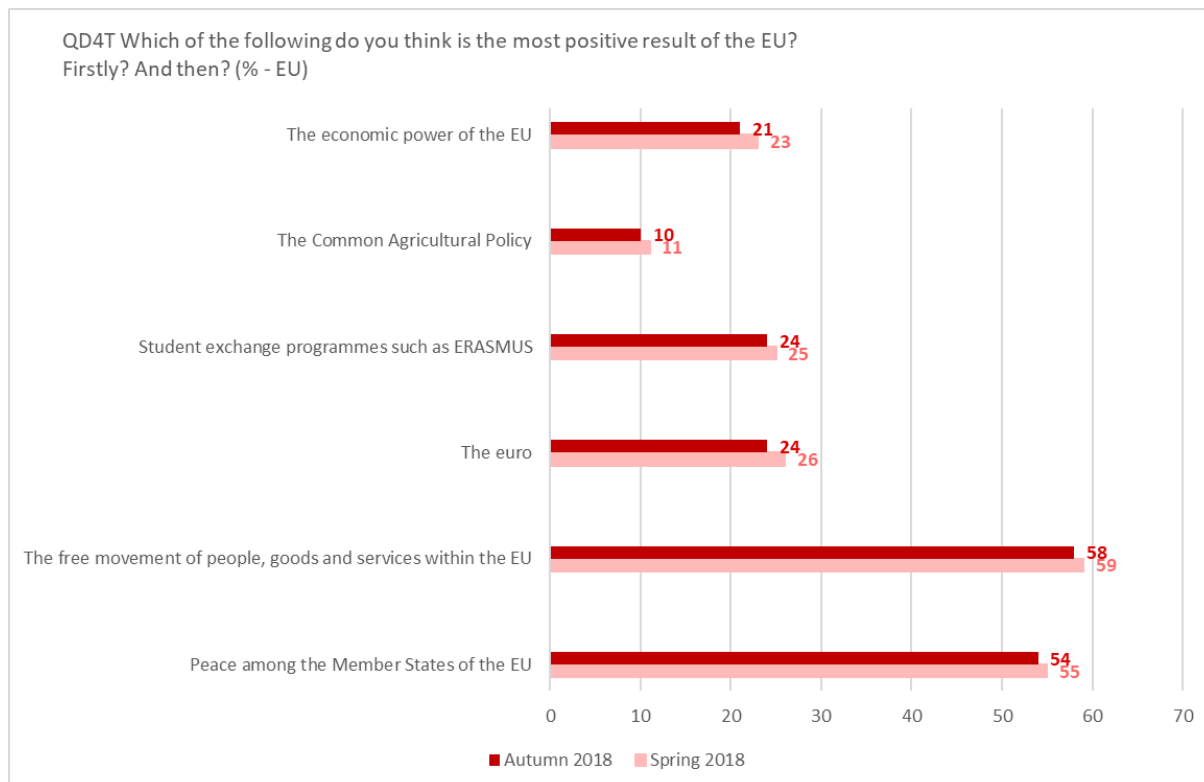


For more detailed information: [Special Eurobarometer on Designing Europe's future- opinions about free trade and solidarity \(April 2017\)](#)

The single market has been, and remains, the cornerstone at the heart of the European project. In its 25 years of existence, the single market has contributed to achieving a high level of integration among Member States, bringing tangible benefits to businesses, citizens and consumers. It is against this background that Members will vote next Tuesday [a programme for single market, competitiveness of enterprises and European statistics](#) for improvement of the governance and the efficiency of the single market.

Are these concerns shared by European Union citizens? The answer is clearly “yes” according to the European Commission’s [Standard Eurobarometer published end of December 2018](#). The two most positive results of the European Union according to Europeans remain the same as in previous surveys, still far ahead of the others: “The free movement of people, goods and services within the EU” (59% of total answers, +1 percentage point since spring 2018) and “peace among the Member States of the EU” (55%, +1).

Four items are mentioned by between a fifth and just over a quarter of respondents: “the euro” (26%, +2 percentage points since spring 2018) is in third position, followed by “student exchange programmes such as ERASMUS” (25%, +1). “The economic power of the EU” (23%, +2) ranks fifth, followed by “the political and diplomatic influence of the EU in the rest of the world” (21%, unchanged) in sixth place.



For more detailed information: [Standard Eurobarometer \(November 2018\)](#)

