



Directorate General for Communication  
Direction C - Relations avec les citoyens  
Public Opinion Monitoring Unit

Brussels, 12th May 2010

## Parlemètre February 2010

### European Parliament Eurobarometer (EB Parlemètre 73.1)

#### Analytical Synthesis

**Coverage:** UE 27, 26 671 people interviewed.

**Population:** Europeans aged 15 years and over.

**Methodology:** Face-to-face (CAPI)

**Fieldwork:** 29 January - 17 February 2010

**TNS-Opinion**

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## Introduction

The previous "*Parlemètre*" wholly devoted to the European Parliament was dated October-November 2008 (EB/EP 70). The most recent Eurobarometers/European Parliament have focused more specifically on the European elections held in June 2009.

The fieldwork for this *Parlemètre* was carried out by TNS Opinion between the 29th January and the 17th February 2010. Thus, this was before the significant monetary unrest which has shaken the European Union during the course of the last two months. The goal of this survey is, above all, to operate as a first post-electoral report of European citizens' perception of the European Parliament, and the image that the institution represents to them. In view of the 2014 elections, this survey acts equally to determine which of the policies defended by the European Parliament are perceived as priorities in the eyes of Europeans, and the values which the institution must defend in priority.

## The General Context

As for every survey, it is essential to take into account the context in which it has been conducted, with certain news events having the potential to impact on the responses given:

- First of all, the **European elections**, held from the 4th to 7th June 2009, focused attention on the European Parliament, even if the participation rate did not increase.
- The **international context** has been dominated by the enduring financial, economic and social crisis, as well as the "Copenhagen Conference" on climate change, held in December 2009. On several occasions, the Parliament has organised debates and expressed its opinion concerning these issues of major importance.

This being said, it is necessary to bear in mind that, due to the European elections and the renewal of the Commission, no important legislation has marked the recent activities of the European Parliament.

- When the **Lisbon Treaty** entered into force in December 2009, the wide coverage in the media focussed on the strengthening of the European Parliament's powers.
- Finally, from the 11th January to 3rd February 2010, **the hearings of the Commissioners held by the European Parliament** mobilised the media and were followed particularly closely in certain countries (for example in Bulgaria).

## Main Trends

### ⇒ A significant increase in media recall

The survey reveals a **significant trend reversal**. In fact, media recall amongst Europeans was at 42% at the end of 2007. Today a **large majority of Europeans** (62%) declare recently having read in the newspapers, seen on the internet, or heard on the radio or television something about the European Parliament.

The elections "effect" has certainly contributed to this improvement in media recall, but equally, the hearings of designate European Commissioners have played a role in certain countries.

As for all questions, **the variations that can be observed between Member States are considerable**. In this case, responses varied between 87% in Slovenia to 44% in the UK.

### ⇒ **A limited knowledge of the European Parliament's activities**

In little more than a year, Europeans' **subjective level of information** (30%, +7 percentage points) has clearly increased, but this increase is less than that of media recall. More than two thirds (68%) of Europeans continue to feel badly informed about the activities of the European Parliament.

Luxembourg is the only Member State to record a 50% proportion of citizens who believe themselves well informed about the activities of the EP. At the other extreme, only 24% feel this way in Cyprus.

Here, we observe that **there is no direct link between media recall and knowledge of activities**. Thus a recall of media coverage of the European Parliament does not necessarily signify a better understanding of the institution's activities. The general context touched upon in the introduction can contribute to the explanation of this result. In fact, the electoral campaigns were dominated most often by national issues and the new Parliament has not yet passed any important legislation, notably due to the renewal of the Commission.

### ⇒ **Contrasting images of the European Parliament**

The image that Europeans have of the European Parliament is contrasting and once again large differences can be observed between Member States. It is important to note that **European public opinion concerning the institution is clearer cut than before**. In fact, the number of respondents without an opinion has steadily decreased, and at times significantly decreased. This has resulted in a certain polarisation of opinions:

#### ▪ **In two aspects, the image of the European Parliament is positive:**

- The Parliament is perceived as "*democratic*" by 64% of Europeans against 24% who believe the contrary
- It is considered as "*efficient*" by 42% against 37%.

#### ▪ **In two other aspects, this image is rather negative:**

- The Parliament is perceived as "*dynamic*" by 40% of respondents against 43% who believe the contrary.
- It is considered that it is "*listening to European citizens*" by 38% against 49%.

### ⇒ **A more important role for the Parliament**

As for the image, opinions about the role of the EP tend to be equally clear cut: 55% (+7) of Europeans want to see it play a more important role, 19% (+3) a less important role, 17% (-5) the same role and 9% (-5) don't know.

Again, variations between Member States are significant: they range from 34% to 82%

Taking into account the different news events that have placed the European Parliament at the forefront of the political landscape, and in view of the polarisation of opinions about its role and image, it is likely that citizens' expectations of the institution are higher than previously.

⇒ **The battle against the crisis is at the core of the policy priorities to be led by the European Parliament**

From the 12 policies, **tackling poverty and social exclusion** is considered as the first priority across the numerous countries which make up the EU, with a European average of 44%. This is followed by improving **consumer and public health protection** (35%) and the fight against **climate change** (34%).

Once again, the **differences between Member States** prove to be very significant: from 36% to 56% for the 1st priority, from 21% to 62% for the 2nd priority, and from 10% to 72% for the 3rd priority.

These variations between Member States relate to practically all the policies. Thus it is necessary to read the European averages with precaution. The policies which are considered as priorities in each Member State depend very heavily on the concerns of their citizens.

Thus, if we consider the coordination of economic, budget and tax policy (8th priority at the EU level with 24%), we can see that of the 16 Member States that make-up the Euro-zone (see table on page 40), 10 of them are above the EU average and 6 are below. At the same time, between the 11 other countries, it is certain that the Member States that have been hit hardest by the crisis which have given this policy highest priority.

⇒ **The fight for values: priority for protecting human rights**

From the 8 values proposed, the protection of **human rights** is by far the value that Europeans want to see defended in priority by the Parliament (at 62%). **Equality between men and women** and **freedom of speech** come in second position, both with 36%; followed by **solidarity between Member States of the EU** (30%).

It is essential to note that for equality between men and women, and freedom of expression, the differences between Member States are significant. They range from 16% to 51% for the former, and from 18% to 58% for the latter.

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**EB 73** Fieldwork : 29 January - 17 February 2010  
Coverage: 26 671 people interviewed face-to-face.  
Population : Europeans aged 15 years and over.  
TNS Opinion

**EB 71** Fieldwork : 16 January - 22 February 2009  
Coverage: 26 718 people interviewed face-to-face.  
Population : Europeans aged 15 years and over.  
TNS Opinion

**EB 70** Fieldwork : 6 October - 6 November 2008  
Coverage: 26 618 people interviewed face-to-face.  
Population : Europeans aged 15 years and over.  
TNS Opinion

**EB 68** Fieldwork : 22 September - 3 November 2007  
Coverage: 26 768 people interviewed face-to-face.  
Population: Europeans aged 15 years and over.  
TNS Opinion

*N.B. 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 percentage, that is to say if the whole population had been interviewed, varies within the following confidence limits:*

<b>Percentages observed</b>	10% or 90%	20% or 80%	30% or 70%	40% or 60%	50%
<b>Margin of error</b>	+/- 1,9 points	+/- 2,5 points	+/- 2,7 points	+/- 3,0 points	+/- 3,1 points

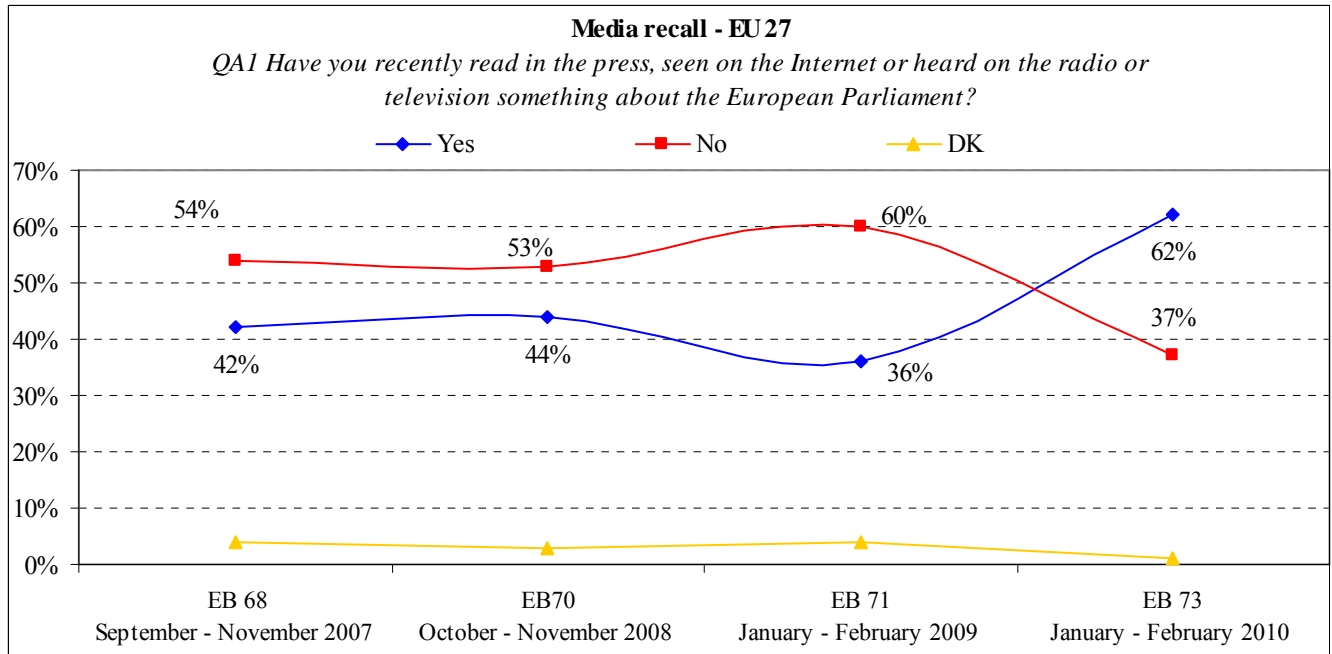
## I - PERCEPTIONS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

### A. Media recall and level of subjective information about the European Parliament

#### 1) Media recall

*QA1 Have you recently read in the press, seen on the Internet or heard on the radio or television something about the European Parliament?*

⇒ **The average European trend :**



In the space of the year and seven months that has passed since the European elections, a large majority of Europeans declare having recently read in the newspapers, seen on the internet, or heard on the radio or television something about the European Parliament.

This development is positive across Member States, with an increase of 26 percentage points at the EU 27 level.

⇒ **EU 27 Socio-demographic analysis:**

The categories of the population which are most likely to have been exposed to media coverage of the European Parliament are as follows:

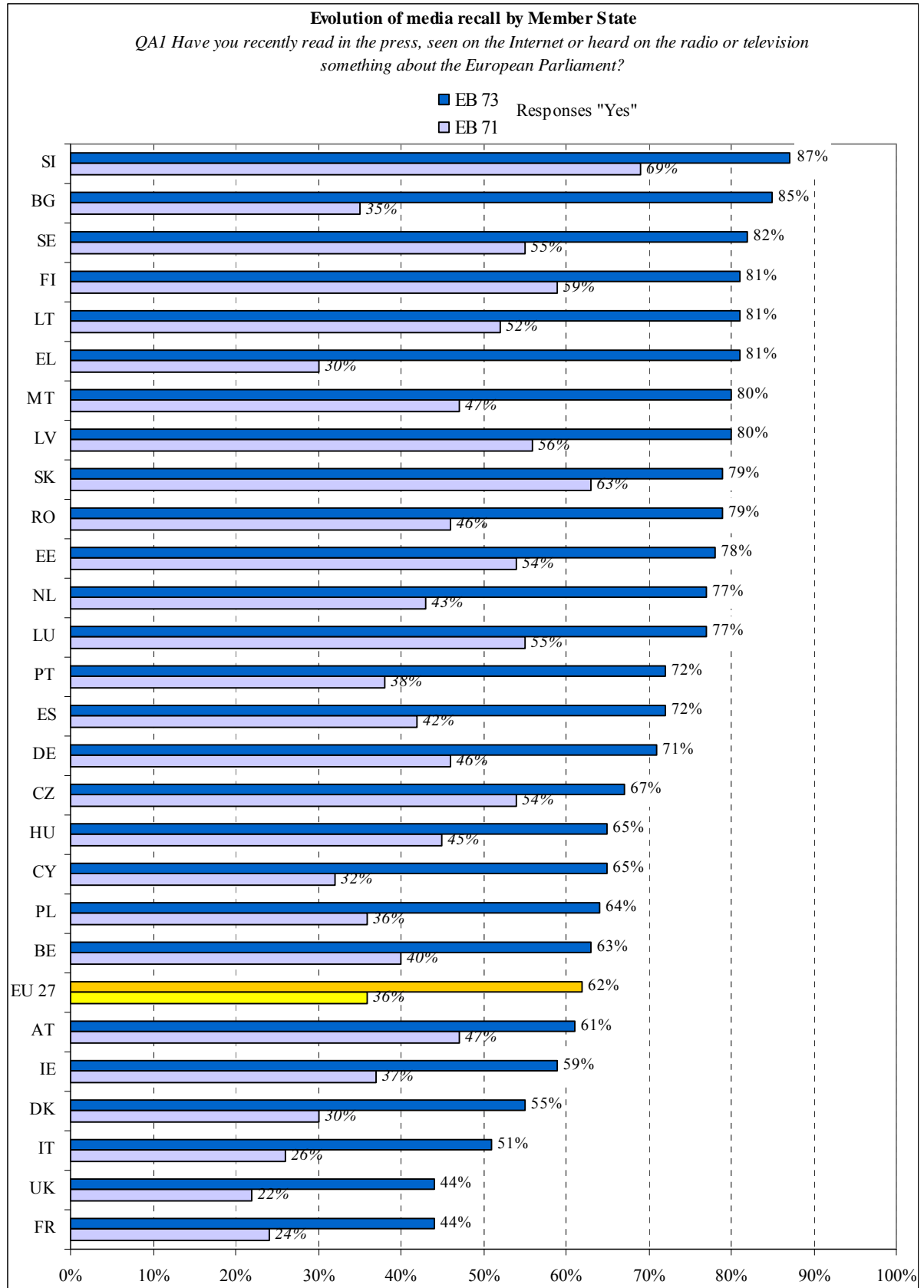
- As with the last survey carried out in January-February 2009, men (67%) are better informed than women (58%, -9).
- Age also seems to play a significant role since the older the respondents are, the more likely they are to respond in the affirmative (65% of those aged 55 or over compared with only 53% of respondents in the 15-24 age group).
- It is above all respondents in social-professional categories, who might be considered the most “advantaged”, who believe themselves to be best informed.

Media Recall		Yes	No
EU27		62%	37%
Sex	Men	67%	32%
	Women	58%	40%
Age	15-24	53%	46%
	25-39	62%	36%
	40-54	63%	36%
	55 +	65%	33%
Education (end of)	15-	55%	43%
	16-19	61%	37%
	20+	72%	27%
	Still studying	58%	41%
Respondent occupation scale	Self-employed	73%	27%
	Managers	73%	26%
	Other white collars	62%	37%
	Manual workers	58%	41%
	House persons	53%	45%
	Unemployed	57%	41%
	Retired	64%	34%
Students	58%	41%	
Use of the Internet	Everyday	65%	34%
	Often/ Sometimes	62%	36%
	Never	57%	41%
Difficulties paying bills	Most of the time	52%	46%
	From time to time	61%	38%
	Almost never	65%	34%
Self-positioning on the social staircase	Low (1-4)	58%	40%
	Medium (5-6)	63%	36%
	High (7-10)	67%	32%
Information on EP's activities	Informed	85%	15%
	Not informed	53%	45%
Knowledge on the EP	Average or bad	56%	42%
	Good	72%	27%
Preference for the EP's role	More important	68%	31%
	Less important	62%	37%
	The same (SP.)	58%	40%

*Source : Eurobarometer / European Parliament 73*

⇒ **Differences between Member States**

- Media recall of the EP is the highest in Slovenia (87%) and Bulgaria (85%).
- As in the case of the last Parlemètre (EB 70), it is lowest in France (44%), the UK (44%) and in Italy (51%).



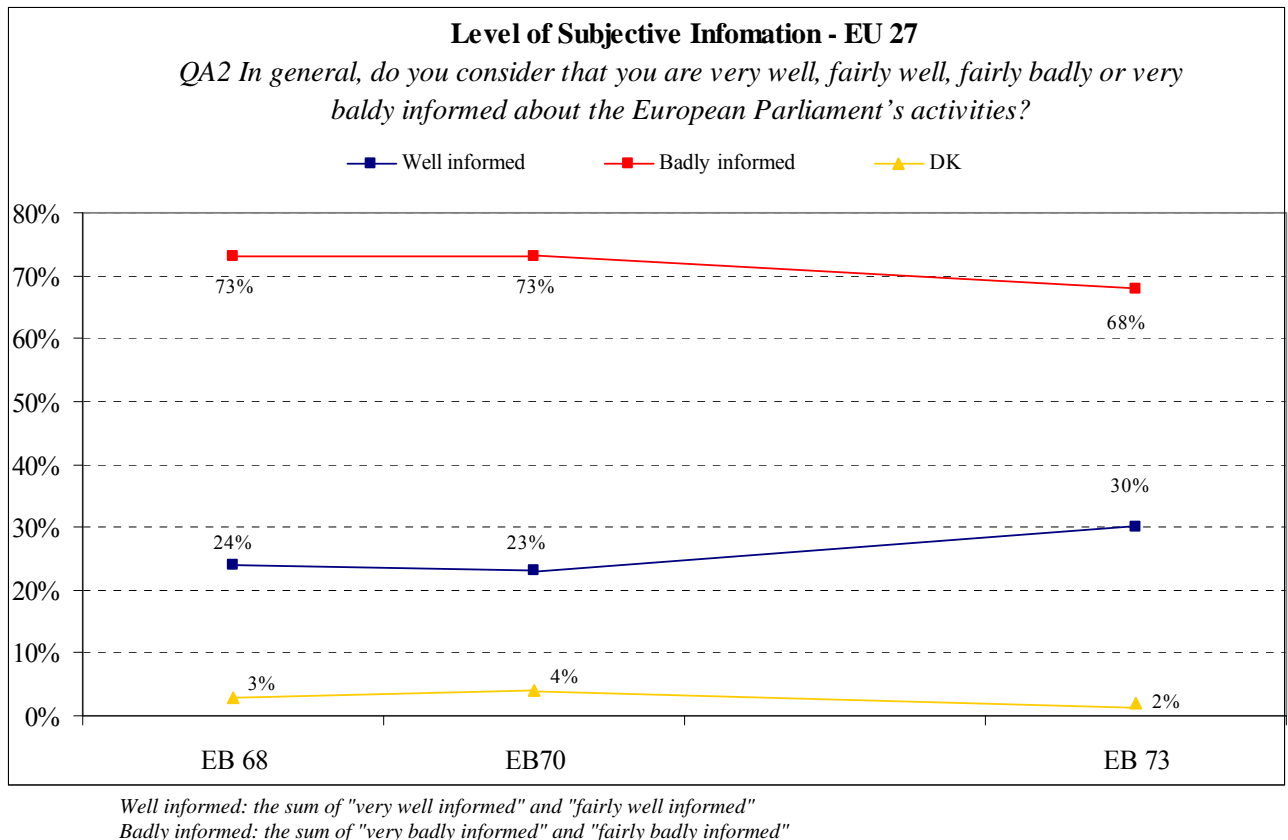
Source : Eurobarometer / European Parliament 73

## 2) Level of subjective information

QA2 *In general, do you consider that you are very well, fairly well, fairly badly or very badly informed about the European Parliament's activities? (Responses on a scale of 1 to 4)*

More than two thirds of Europeans consider themselves badly informed about the activities of the European Parliament.

⇒ **The European average trend :**



As with media recall, the level of subjective information has increased (+7), but to a much lesser degree: more than two thirds of Europeans (68%, 5 points less than the survey carried out in autumn 2008) continue to feel badly informed about the activities of the European Parliament.



⇒ **EU 27 Socio-demographic analysis:**

The socio-demographic variables of the survey allow for a pinpointing of the population categories which consider themselves ill-informed, and towards whom special attention could be paid.

72% of women consider that they are ill-informed about the European Parliament's activities (compared with 64% of men). Age also plays a role since the younger the respondents are the more likely they are to feel ill-informed (71% of those aged 15-24 compared with 67% of those aged 55 or over).

In line with the answers noted for the previous question on media coverage (QA1), the most vulnerable categories of the population are also those who consider themselves to be the worst informed about the European Parliament:

Finally, other factors also seem to influence the responses:

- 71% of respondents living in a rural village consider that they are ill-informed about the European Parliament's activities (compared with 65% of those living in a large town).
- As do 72% of those who never use the Internet, compared with 66% of those who use it daily.

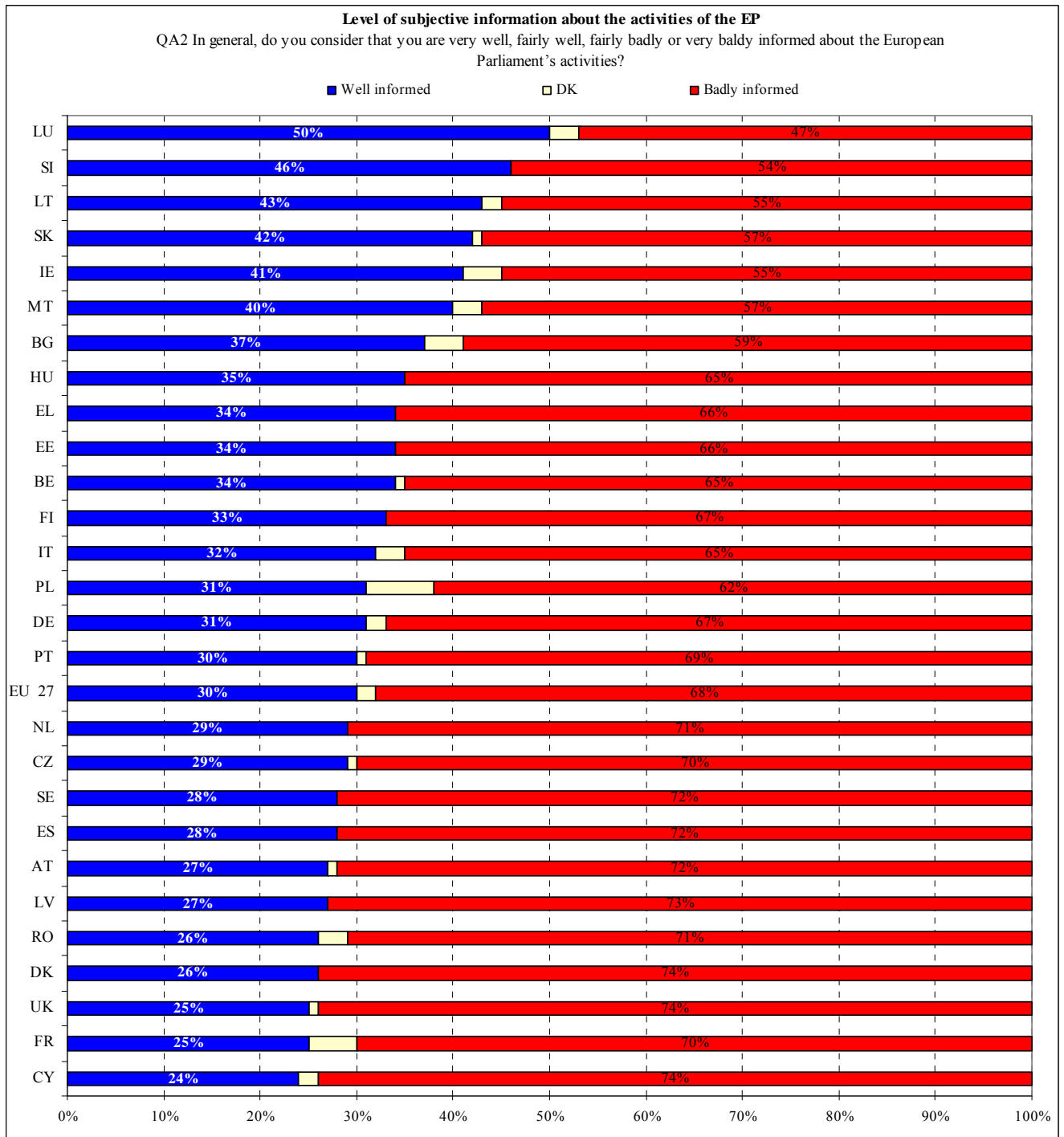
Information about the activities of the EP		Well informed	Badly informed
EU27		30%	68%
Sex	Men	34%	64%
	Women	25%	72%
Age	15-24	27%	71%
	25-39	30%	68%
	40-54	30%	68%
	55 +	30%	67%
Education (end of)	15-	21%	76%
	16-19	29%	68%
	20+	37%	61%
	Still studying	29%	69%
Subjective urbanisation	Rural village	27%	71%
	Small/mid size town	30%	68%
	Large town	33%	65%
Respondent occupation scale	Self-employed	39%	60%
	Managers	38%	61%
	Other white collars	30%	68%
	Manual workers	28%	70%
	House persons	20%	78%
	Unemployed	22%	75%
	Retired	30%	67%
Students	29%	69%	
Use of the Internet	Everyday	33%	66%
	Often/ Sometimes	30%	67%
	Never	25%	72%
Knowledge on the EP	Average or bad	25%	72%
	Good	38%	61%
Preference for the EP's role	More important	35%	64%
	Less important	27%	72%
	The same (SP.)	25%	72%

Source : Eurobaromere / European Parliament 73

⇒ **Differences between Member States :**

QA2 *In general, do you consider that you are very well, fairly well, fairly badly or very badly informed about the European Parliament's activities? (Responses on a scale of 1 to 4)*

- As with the last Parlemètre (EB 70), the respondents who consider themselves the best informed about the EP are to be found in Luxembourg (50%) and in Slovenia (46%).
- Citizens in Cyprus (74%), the UK (74%) and in Denmark (74%) feel the least informed about the EP.



Source : Eurobarometer / European Parliament 73

⇒ **Developments in Member States :**

QA2 *In general, do you consider that you are very well, fairly well, fairly badly or very badly informed about the European Parliament's activities? (Responses on a scale of 1 to 4)*

	Well informed			Badly informed		
	EB/EP 71 <i>January - February 2009</i>	EB/EP 73 <i>January - February 2010</i>	Difference EB 73 - EB71	EB/EP 71 <i>January - February 2009</i>	EB/EP 73 <i>January - February 2010</i>	Difference EB 73 - EB71
LT	25%	43%	+18	68%	55%	-13
BG	22%	37%	+15	72%	59%	-13
SI	34%	46%	+12	65%	54%	-11
HU	23%	35%	+12	76%	65%	-11
EE	22%	34%	+12	76%	66%	-10
EL	22%	34%	+12	78%	66%	-12
FI	22%	33%	+11	78%	67%	-11
PT	20%	30%	+10	78%	69%	-9
SK	33%	42%	+9	65%	57%	-8
ES	19%	28%	+9	79%	72%	-7
LU	42%	50%	+8	56%	47%	-9
IT	24%	32%	+8	70%	65%	-5
CZ	21%	29%	+8	75%	70%	-5
NL	21%	29%	+8	79%	71%	-8
PL	24%	31%	+7	69%	62%	-7
<b>EU 27</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>+7</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>-5</b>
SE	22%	28%	+6	77%	72%	-5
RO	20%	26%	+6	73%	71%	-2
UK	19%	25%	+6	77%	74%	-3
BE	29%	34%	+5	70%	65%	-5
FR	20%	25%	+5	78%	70%	-8
MT	36%	40%	+4	59%	57%	-2
LV	23%	27%	+4	74%	73%	-1
DE	29%	31%	+2	67%	67%	=
IE	40%	41%	+1	54%	55%	+1
CY	24%	24%	0	74%	74%	=
DK	28%	26%	-2	71%	74%	+3
AT	31%	27%	-4	68%	72%	+4

*Well informed: the sum of "very well informed" and "fairly well informed"  
Badly informed: the sum of "very badly informed" and "fairly badly informed"*

**B. Objective Knowledge of the European Parliament**

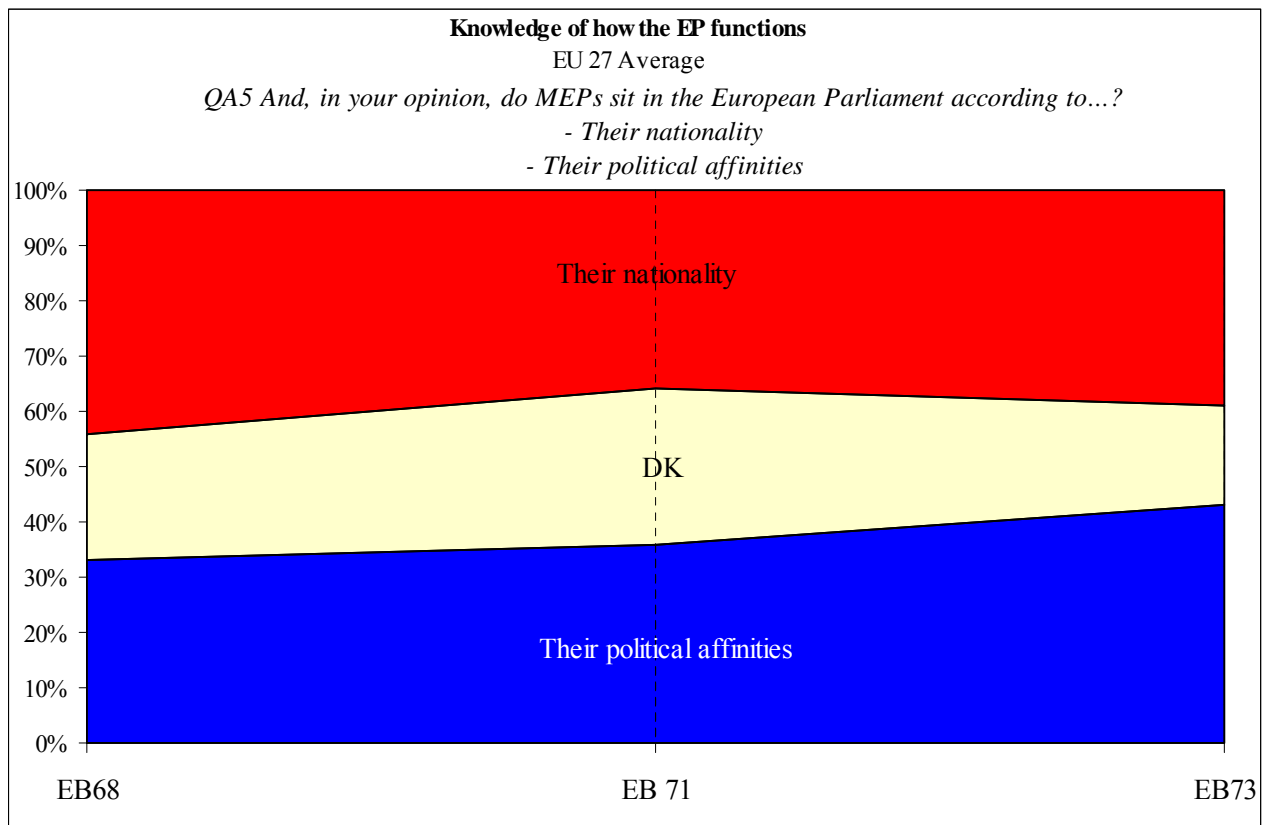
**1) Knowledge of how the European Parliament functions**

QA5 *And, in your opinion, do MEPs sit in the European Parliament according to...*

- *Their political affinities*
- *Their nationality?*

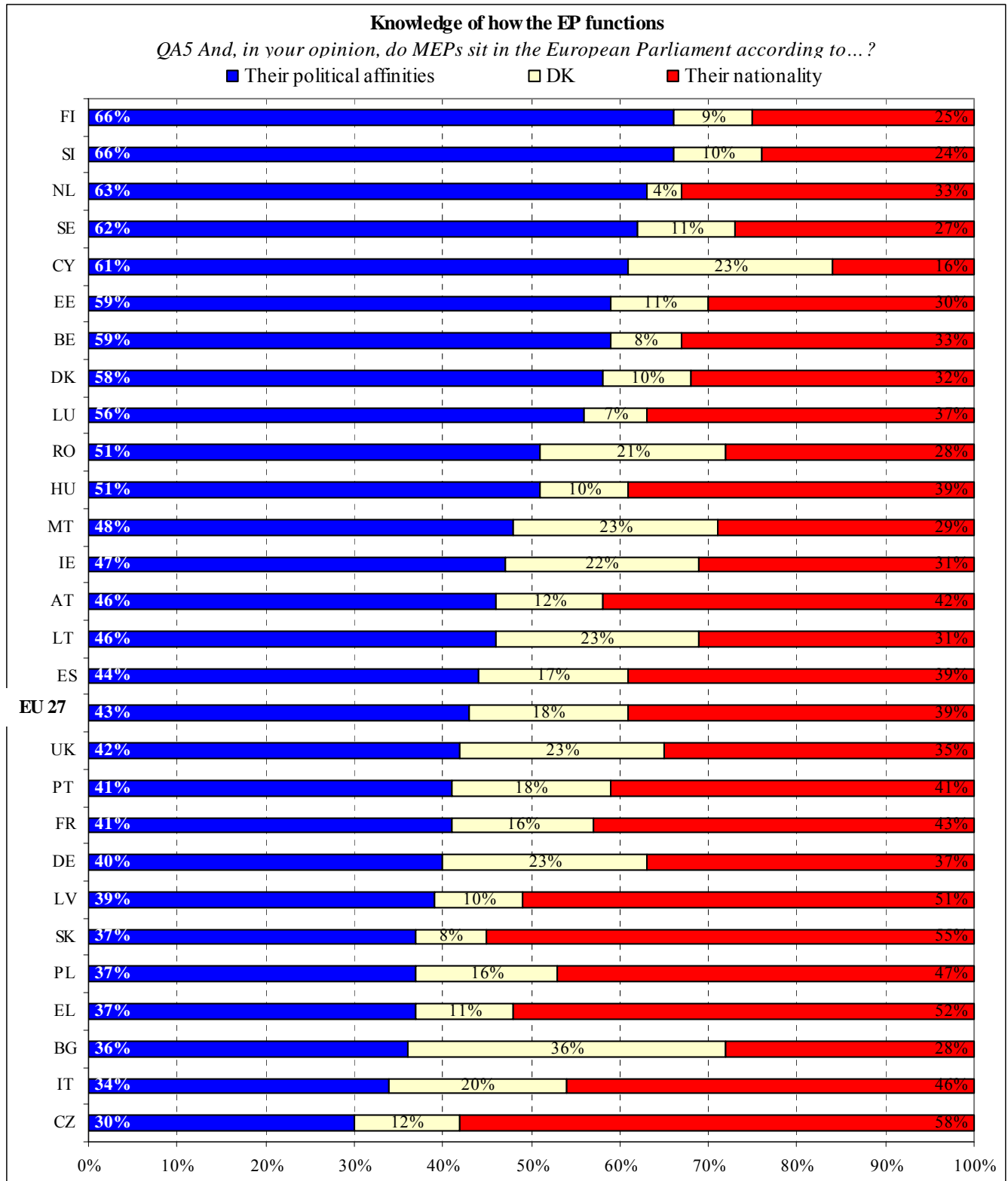
⇒ **The average European trend :**

At the European level, the majority now give the correct response.



EU 27	EB68	EB 71	<b>EB73</b>
Their political affinities	33%	36%	<b>43%</b>
Their nationality	44%	36%	<b>39%</b>
DK	23%	28%	<b>18%</b>

⇒ **Differences between Member States :**



Source : Eurobarometer / European Parliament 73

⇒ **EP Objective Knowledge Trends between EB 70 and EB 73**

Do MEPs sit in the European Parliament according to...	Their political affinities			Their nationality			NSP		
	EB 71 <i>January - February 2009</i>	EB 73 <i>January - February 2010</i>	Diff. EB 73 - EB71	EB 71 <i>January - February 2009</i>	EB 73 <i>January - February 2010</i>	Diff. EB 73 - EB71	EB 71 <i>January - February 2009</i>	EB 73 <i>January - February 2010</i>	Diff. EB 73 - EB71
FI	50%	66%	+16	32%	25%	-7	18%	9%	-9
BG	21%	36%	+15	30%	28%	-2	49%	36%	-13
LT	32%	46%	+14	33%	31%	-2	35%	23%	-12
SE	48%	62%	+14	34%	27%	-7	18%	11%	-7
HU	39%	51%	+12	46%	39%	-7	15%	10%	-5
ES	33%	44%	+11	40%	39%	-1	27%	17%	-10
NL	52%	63%	+11	39%	33%	-6	9%	4%	-5
PT	30%	41%	+11	36%	41%	+5	34%	18%	-16
RO	40%	51%	+11	23%	28%	+5	37%	21%	-16
IT	24%	34%	+10	42%	46%	+4	34%	20%	-14
DK	48%	58%	+10	36%	32%	-4	16%	10%	-6
IE	38%	47%	+9	29%	31%	+2	33%	22%	-11
SK	28%	37%	+9	49%	55%	+6	23%	8%	-15
UK	33%	42%	+9	30%	35%	+5	37%	23%	-14
LU	48%	56%	+8	40%	37%	-3	12%	7%	-5
SI	58%	66%	+8	24%	24%	=	18%	10%	-8
AT	38%	46%	+8	45%	42%	-3	17%	12%	-5
CZ	22%	30%	+8	59%	58%	-1	19%	12%	-7
EE	51%	59%	+8	31%	30%	-1	18%	11%	-7
<b>EU 27</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>+7</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>+3</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>-10</b>
LV	32%	39%	+7	43%	51%	+8	25%	10%	-15
MT	42%	48%	+6	21%	29%	+8	37%	23%	-14
PL	31%	37%	+6	39%	47%	+8	30%	16%	-14
BE	55%	59%	+4	33%	33%	=	12%	8%	-4
DE	37%	40%	+3	31%	37%	+6	32%	23%	-9
CY	61%	61%	=	16%	16%	=	23%	23%	=
FR	43%	41%	-2	37%	43%	+6	20%	16%	-4
EL	40%	37%	-3	54%	52%	-2	6%	11%	+5

## 2) Knowledge of European Parliament's nomination method

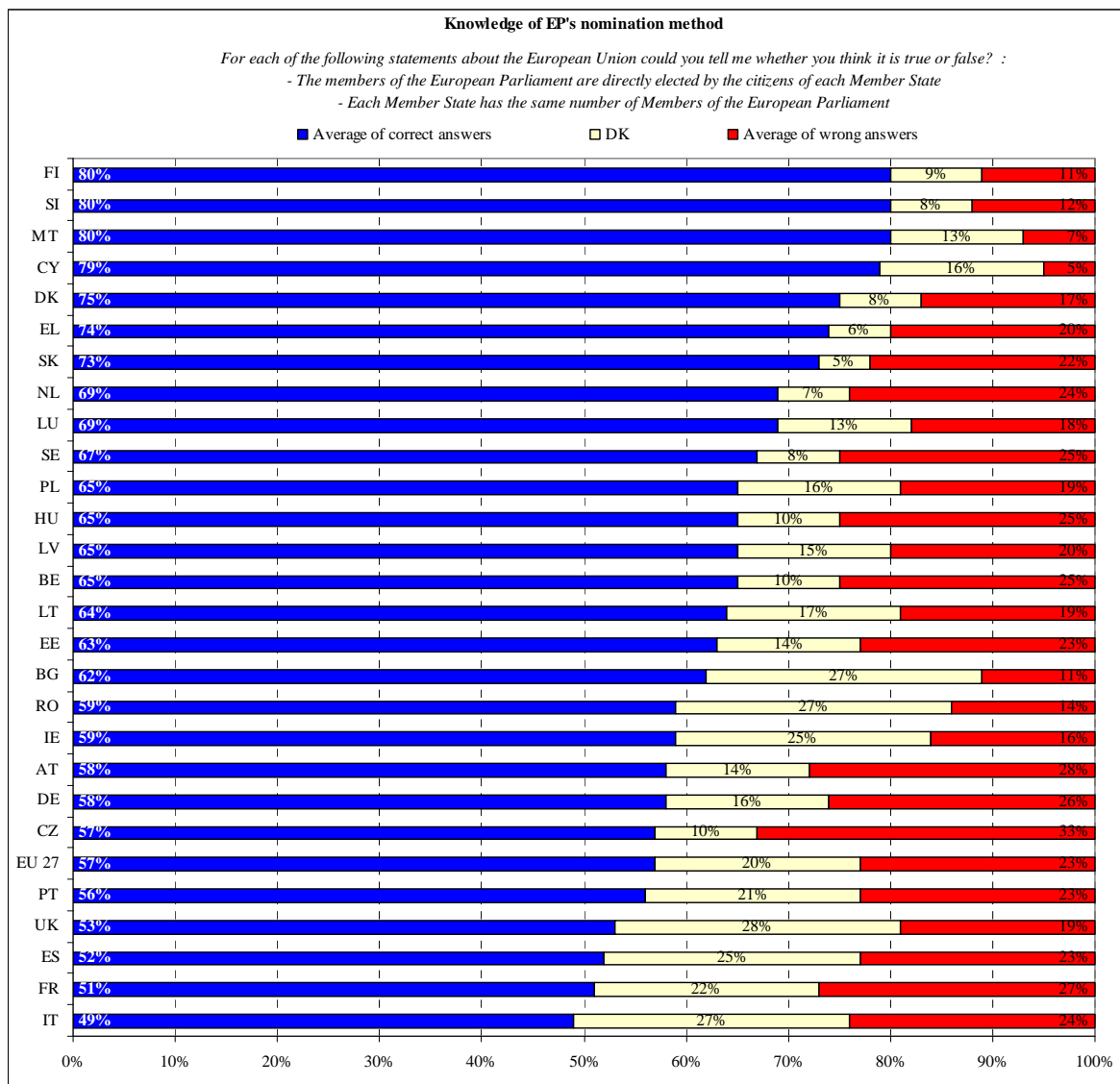
QA4 For each of the following statements about the European Union could you tell me whether you think it is true or false:

- The members of the European Parliament are directly elected by the citizens of each Member State
- Each Member State has the same number of Members of the European Parliament

⇒ **The average and the European trend :**

EU 27		EB71.1	EB73.1
<i>The members of the European Parliament are directly elected by the citizens of each Member State</i>	True	53%	<b>59%</b>
	False	23%	<b>25%</b>
	DK	24%	<b>16%</b>
<i>Each Member State has the same number of Members of the European Parliament</i>	True	20%	<b>20%</b>
	False	48%	<b>56%</b>
	DK	32%	<b>24%</b>

⇒ **Differences between Member States :**



Source : Eurobarometer / European Parliament 73

## II - THE IMAGE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND EXPECTATIONS VIS-A-VIS THE INSTITUTION

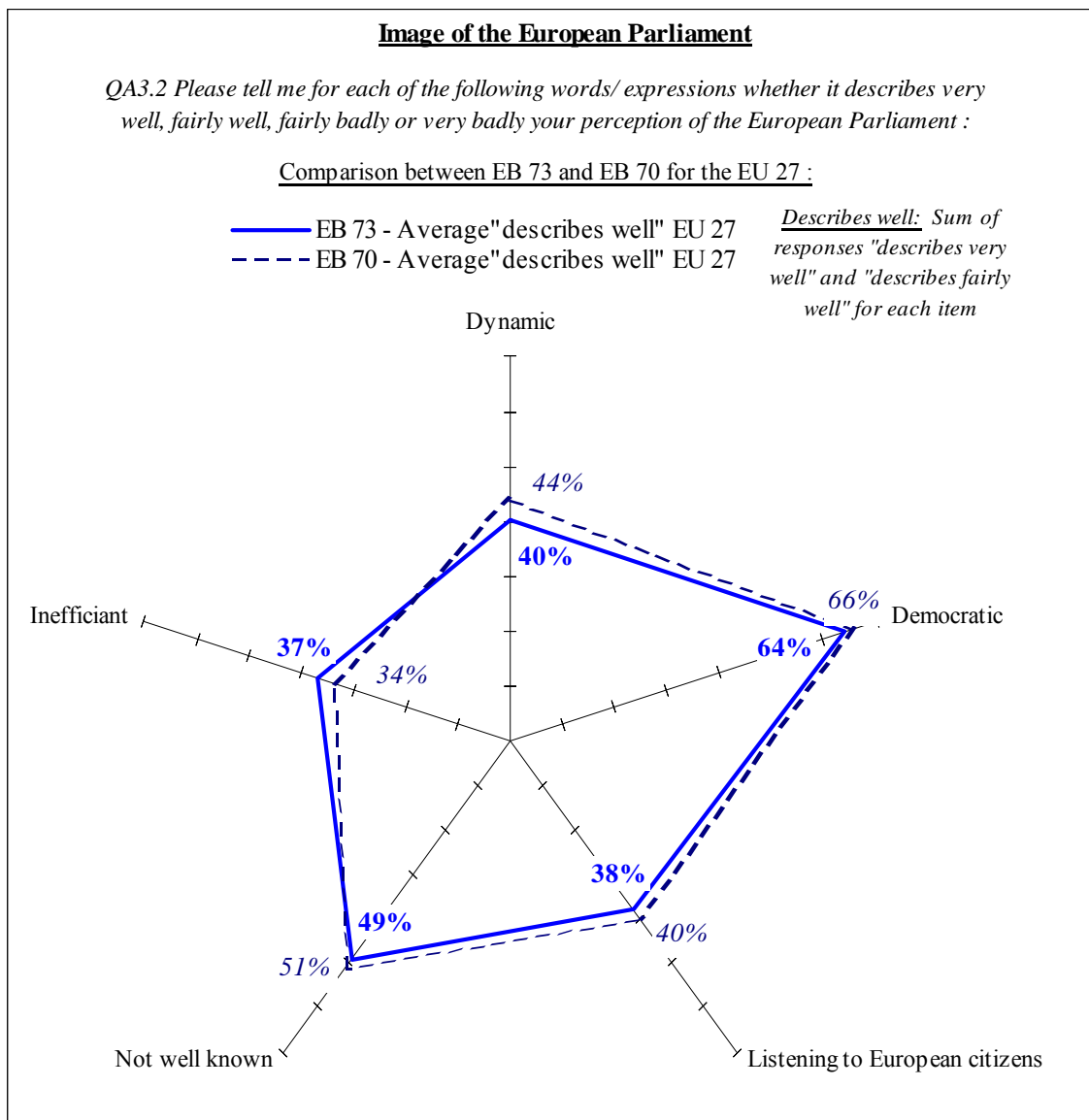
### A. The image of the European Parliament

The image of the institution was measured using a detailed indicator, created from a list of five words / phrases, which were then given to respondents. The respondents were asked whether the words / phrases *describe well* or *describe badly* the image of the EP.

**QA3** For each of the following statements about the European Union could you tell me whether you think it is true or false:

- 1) *Dynamic*
- 2) *Democratic*
- 3) *Listening to European citizens*
- 4) *Not well known*
- 5) *Inefficient*

⇒ **The European average :**





The image which citizens have about the European Parliament is contrasting: it is, in fact, often divided within each image characteristic. It should be noted that the positive image characteristics are losing ground compared to the previous poll conducted in January- February 2009.

- Approximately two-thirds of Europeans (64%) consider that the word “*democratic*” is a good description of the European Parliament. As noted previously, objective knowledge of the European Parliament has increased significantly: 59% (+6 points since the last Parlemètre) of respondents know that MEPs are directly elected by citizens. These results are in line with the number of Europeans who consider that the word “*democratic*” is an apt description of the institution.
- 49% (-2) of those questioned declared that the term "not well known" describes the European Parliament well, compared to 44% who believe the opposite. Rather than simply expressing that knowledge of the institution is limited, respondents who consider the European Parliament "not well known" may be expressing that they have high expectations for the institution.

⇒ **European trends :**

EU 27		EB68	EB70	<b>EB73</b>
Dynamic	Describes well	45%	44%	<b>40%</b>
	Describes badly	35%	36%	<b>43%</b>
	DK	20%	20%	<b>17%</b>
Democratic	Describes well	69%	66%	<b>64%</b>
	Describes badly	16%	19%	<b>24%</b>
	DK	15%	15%	<b>12%</b>
Listening to European citizens	Describes well	42%	40%	<b>38%</b>
	Describes badly	41%	43%	<b>49%</b>
	DK	17%	17%	<b>13%</b>
Not well known	Describes well	55%	51%	<b>49%</b>
	Describes badly	33%	37%	<b>44%</b>
	DK	12%	12%	<b>7%</b>
Inefficient	Describes well	32%	34%	<b>37%</b>
	Describes badly	43%	43%	<b>42%</b>
	DK	25%	23%	<b>21%</b>

*Describes well: the sum of responses "describes very well" and "describes fairly well"*

*Describes badly: the sum of responses "describes fairly badly" and "describes very badly"*

## 1) Dynamic

### ⇒ EU 27 Socio-demographic analysis:

It is immediately apparent that Europeans are evenly divided on this question: 40% of them consider that the European Parliament can be described as “dynamic”, while 43% think the opposite.

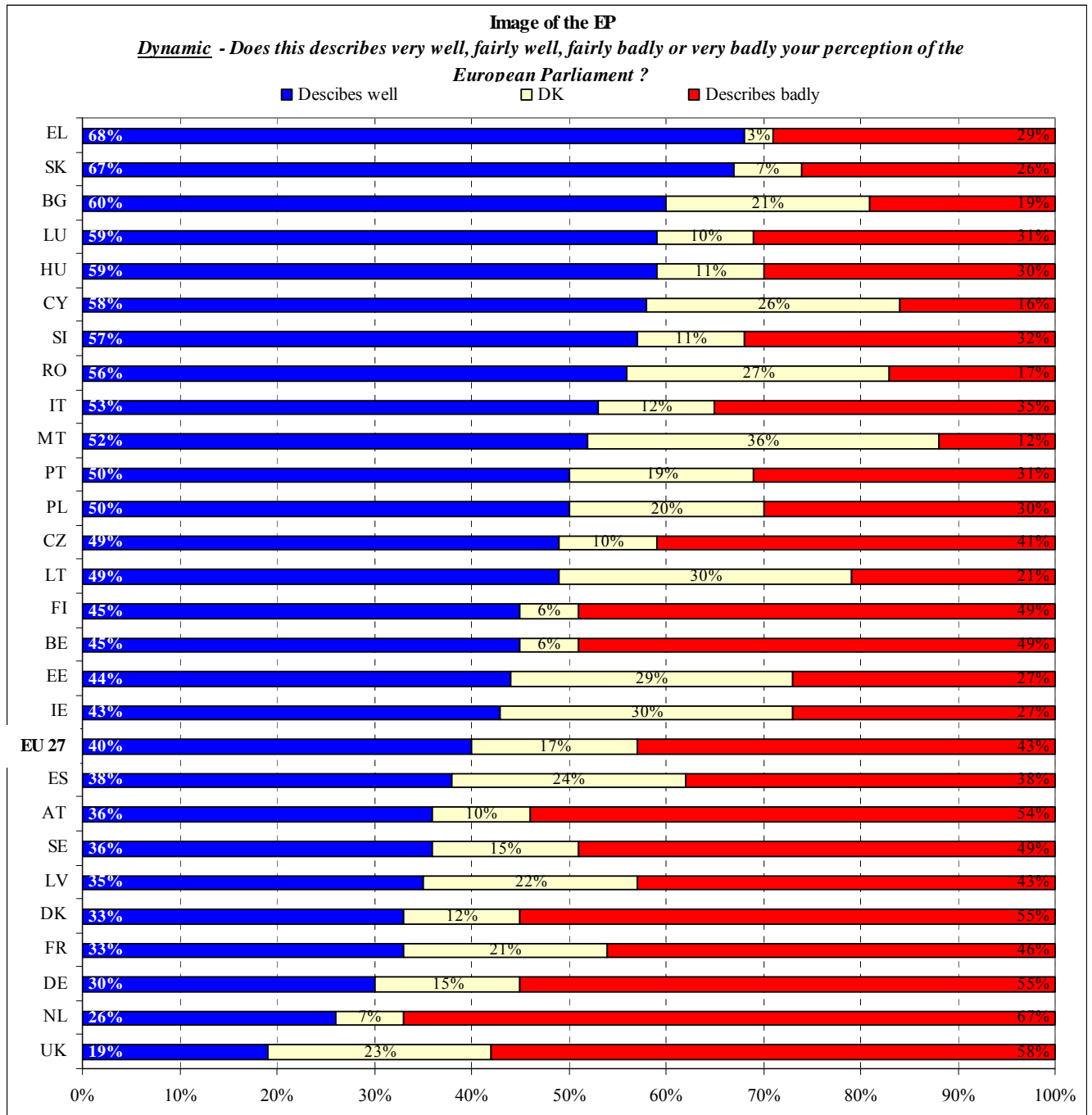
A socio-demographic analysis reveals the categories of the population which are the most critical of the European Parliament’s dynamism:

- Men are more likely than women to consider that the word “dynamic” is a poor description of their perception of the European Parliament (45% of men versus 40% of women). 41% and 39% respectively consider that this word describes the institution ‘well’. Women (21%) are more likely than men (14%) to express no opinion.
- 48% of the people aged between 40 and 54 consider that the word “dynamic” does not apply to the European Parliament, while 37% think the opposite.
- The majority of the most advantaged respondents in socio-professional terms consider that the word “dynamic” describes the European Parliament badly: this is the case of those who studied the longest (50%), managers (56%), people who almost never have problems paying their bills (45%) and those who use the Internet daily (47%).
- Finally, it is interesting to note that the respondents who feel that they are well-informed about the European Parliament’s activities are far more likely to believe that the word “dynamic” is an apt description of the European Parliament: this is so for 61% of them, compared with only 30% of those who consider that they are ill-informed.

Dynamic		Describes well	Describes badly	DK
EU27		40%	43%	17%
Sex	Men	41%	45%	14%
	Women	39%	40%	21%
Age	15-24	44%	35%	21%
	25-39	42%	43%	15%
	40-54	37%	48%	15%
	55 +	37%	43%	20%
Education (end of)	15-	33%	41%	26%
	16-19	41%	42%	17%
	20+	40%	50%	10%
	Still studying	45%	37%	18%
Respondent occupation scale	Self-employed	42%	46%	12%
	Managers	35%	56%	9%
	Other white collars	44%	43%	13%
	Manual workers	40%	42%	18%
	House persons	36%	40%	24%
	Unemployed	36%	42%	22%
	Retired	37%	42%	21%
Information on EP's activities	Informed	61%	34%	5%
	Not informed	30%	48%	22%
Knowledge on the EP	Average or bad	44%	47%	9%
	Good	37%	41%	22%
Preference for the EP's role	More important	47%	40%	13%
	Less important	25%	66%	9%
	The same (SP.)	43%	37%	20%

⇒ **Differences between Member States :**

- The largest number of respondents who consider that "dynamic" is a good description of the EP are found in Greece (68%) and Slovakia (67%).
- The largest number of respondents who consider that "dynamic" is a bad description of the EP are found in the Netherlands (67%) and in the United Kingdom (58%).



*Describes well: the sum of responses "describes very well" and "describes fairly well"*  
*Describes badly: the sum of responses "describes fairly badly" and "describes very badly"*  
*Source : Eurobarometer / European Parliament 73*

⇒ **EP Image Trends between EB 70 and EB 73**

Dynamic	Describes well			Describes badly			DK		
	EB 70 October - November 2008	EB 73 January - February 2010	Diff. EB 73 - EB70	EB 70 October - November 2008	EB 73 January - February 2010	Diff. EB 73 - EB70	EB 70 October - November 2008	EB 73 January - February 2010	Diff. EB 73 - EB70
LU	46%	59%	+13	40%	31%	-9	14%	10%	-4
EL	64%	68%	+4	36%	29%	-7	0%	3%	+3
HU	55%	59%	+4	28%	30%	+2	17%	11%	-6
EE	41%	44%	+3	25%	27%	+2	34%	29%	-5
LT	47%	49%	+2	17%	21%	+4	36%	30%	-6
IT	51%	53%	+2	30%	35%	+5	19%	12%	-7
NL	25%	26%	+1	65%	67%	+2	10%	7%	-3
FI	44%	45%	+1	49%	49%	=	7%	6%	-1
SE	36%	36%	=	42%	49%	+7	22%	15%	-7
FR	34%	33%	-1	46%	46%	=	20%	21%	+1
BG	61%	60%	-1	14%	19%	+5	25%	21%	-4
SK	69%	67%	-2	20%	26%	+6	11%	7%	-4
UK	22%	20%	-2	52%	58%	+6	26%	22%	-4
SI	59%	57%	-2	24%	32%	+8	17%	11%	-6
PL	52%	50%	-2	23%	30%	+7	25%	20%	-5
LV	37%	35%	-2	31%	43%	+12	32%	22%	-10
BE	48%	45%	-3	43%	49%	+6	9%	6%	-3
MT	55%	52%	-3	10%	12%	+2	35%	36%	+1
IE	46%	43%	-3	26%	27%	+1	28%	30%	+2
<b>EU 27</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>-4</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>+7</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>-3</b>
PT	55%	50%	-5	19%	31%	+12	26%	19%	-7
CZ	54%	49%	-5	31%	41%	+10	15%	10%	-5
RO	62%	56%	-6	13%	17%	+4	25%	27%	+2
CY	64%	58%	-6	10%	16%	+6	26%	26%	=
DK	40%	33%	-7	50%	55%	+5	10%	12%	+2
AT	45%	36%	-9	46%	54%	+8	9%	10%	+1
DE	43%	30%	-13	45%	55%	+10	12%	15%	+3
ES	54%	38%	-16	15%	38%	+23	31%	24%	-7

*Describes well: the sum of responses "describes very well" and "describes fairly well"*

*Describes badly: the sum of responses "describes fairly badly" and "describes very badly"*

## 2) Democratic

### ⇒ EU 27 Socio-demographic analysis:

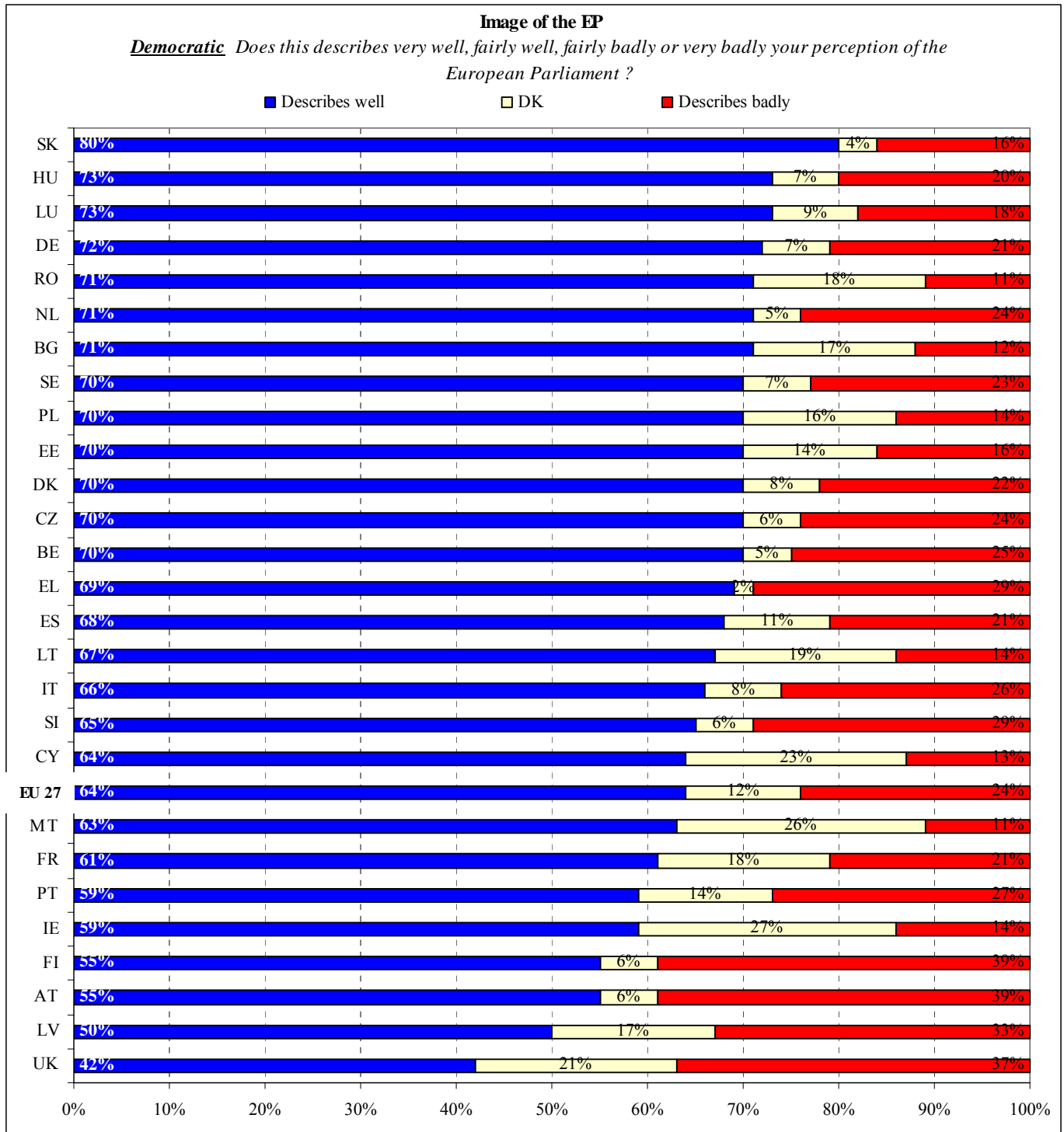
Respondents in the most socially advantaged categories seem to be the best informed, and are consequently the most likely to say that the European Parliament can be described as “*democratic*”: managers (75%), the most educated respondents (72%), those who have no difficulties paying their bills (66%) and those who use the Internet every day (69%). If we recall, this is the same profile of respondents as those who consider themselves well informed about the activities of the European Parliament.

These results underline the importance of strengthening the European Parliament's communication messages towards populations which are most socially vulnerable, or which have the least access to information.

Democratic		Describes well	Describes badly	DK
EU27		64%	24%	12%
Sex	Men	66%	25%	9%
	Women	63%	22%	15%
Age	15-24	67%	18%	15%
	25-39	68%	22%	10%
	40-54	64%	26%	10%
	55 +	61%	25%	14%
Education (end of)	15-	54%	28%	18%
	16-19	64%	24%	12%
	20+	72%	21%	7%
	Still studying	72%	17%	11%
Respondent occupation scale	Self-employed	67%	25%	8%
	Managers	75%	21%	4%
	Other white collars	69%	22%	9%
	Manual workers	63%	24%	13%
	House persons	61%	24%	15%
	Unemployed	56%	28%	16%
	Retired	60%	25%	15%
Students	72%	17%	11%	
Use of the Internet	Everyday	69%	23%	8%
	Often/ Sometimes	64%	24%	12%
	Never	55%	28%	17%
Information on EP's activities	Informed	78%	19%	3%
	Not informed	59%	26%	15%
Knowledge on the EP	Average or bad	60%	24%	16%
	Good	74%	21%	5%
Preference for the EP's role	More important	73%	19%	8%
	Less important	48%	45%	7%
	The same (SP.)	68%	20%	12%

⇒ **Differences between Member States**

- The largest number of respondents who consider that "democratic" is a good description of the EP are found in Slovakia (80%), and in Luxemburg and Hungary (both 73%). As in the last Parlemètre (EB 70), respondents are least likely to describe it as "democratic" in the United Kingdom (42%) and in Latvia (50%).
- The largest number of respondents who consider that "democratic" is a bad description of the EP are found in Austria and Finland (both 39%).



*Describes well: the sum of responses "describes very well" and "describes fairly well"*  
*Describes badly: the sum of responses "describes fairly badly" and "describes very badly"*  
 Source : Eurobarometer / European Parliament 73

⇒ **EP Image Trends between EB 70 and EB 73**

Democratic	Describes well			Describes badly			DK		
	EB 70 October - November 2008	EB 73 January - February 2010	Diff. EB 73 - EB70	EB 70 October - November 2008	EB 73 January - February 2010	Diff. EB 73 - EB70	EB 70 October - November 2008	EB 73 January - February 2010	Diff. EB 73 - EB70
LU	64%	73%	+9	21%	18%	-3	15%	9%	-6
EE	62%	70%	+8	13%	16%	+3	25%	14%	-11
HU	67%	73%	+6	19%	20%	+1	14%	7%	-7
IT	62%	66%	+4	22%	26%	+4	16%	8%	-8
LT	63%	67%	+4	9%	14%	+5	28%	19%	-9
BG	70%	71%	+1	10%	12%	+2	20%	17%	-3
EL	69%	69%	=	31%	29%	-2	0%	2%	+2
FR	62%	61%	-1	21%	21%	=	17%	18%	+1
LV	51%	50%	-1	21%	33%	+12	28%	17%	-11
SK	81%	80%	-1	10%	16%	+6	9%	4%	-5
ES	70%	68%	-2	9%	21%	+12	21%	11%	-10
FI	57%	55%	-2	36%	39%	+3	7%	6%	-1
<b>EU27</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>-2</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>+5</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>-3</b>
DK	72%	70%	-2	20%	22%	+2	8%	8%	=
IE	61%	59%	-2	14%	14%	=	25%	27%	+2
RO	73%	71%	-2	9%	11%	+2	18%	18%	=
SE	72%	70%	-2	21%	23%	+2	7%	7%	=
BE	73%	70%	-3	21%	25%	+4	6%	5%	-1
CZ	73%	70%	-3	17%	24%	+7	10%	6%	-4
DE	75%	72%	-3	19%	21%	+2	6%	7%	+1
NL	74%	71%	-3	20%	24%	+4	6%	5%	-1
PT	62%	59%	-3	14%	27%	+13	24%	14%	-10
UK	45%	42%	-3	31%	37%	+6	24%	21%	-3
AT	59%	55%	-4	33%	39%	+6	8%	6%	-2
CY	68%	64%	-4	9%	13%	+4	23%	23%	=
PL	74%	70%	-4	7%	14%	+7	19%	16%	-3
SI	72%	65%	-7	17%	29%	+12	11%	6%	-5
MT	72%	63%	-9	7%	11%	+4	21%	26%	+5

*Describes well: the sum of responses "describes very well" and "describes fairly well"*

*Describes badly: the sum of responses "describes fairly badly" and "describes very badly"*

### 3) Listening to European citizens:

#### ⇒ EU 27 Socio-demographic analysis:

The profile of the respondents who believe that the European Parliament does “listen to citizens” is as follows:

There are very few gender differences: the same proportions of men and women consider that the expression “listening to citizens” describes the European Parliament well.

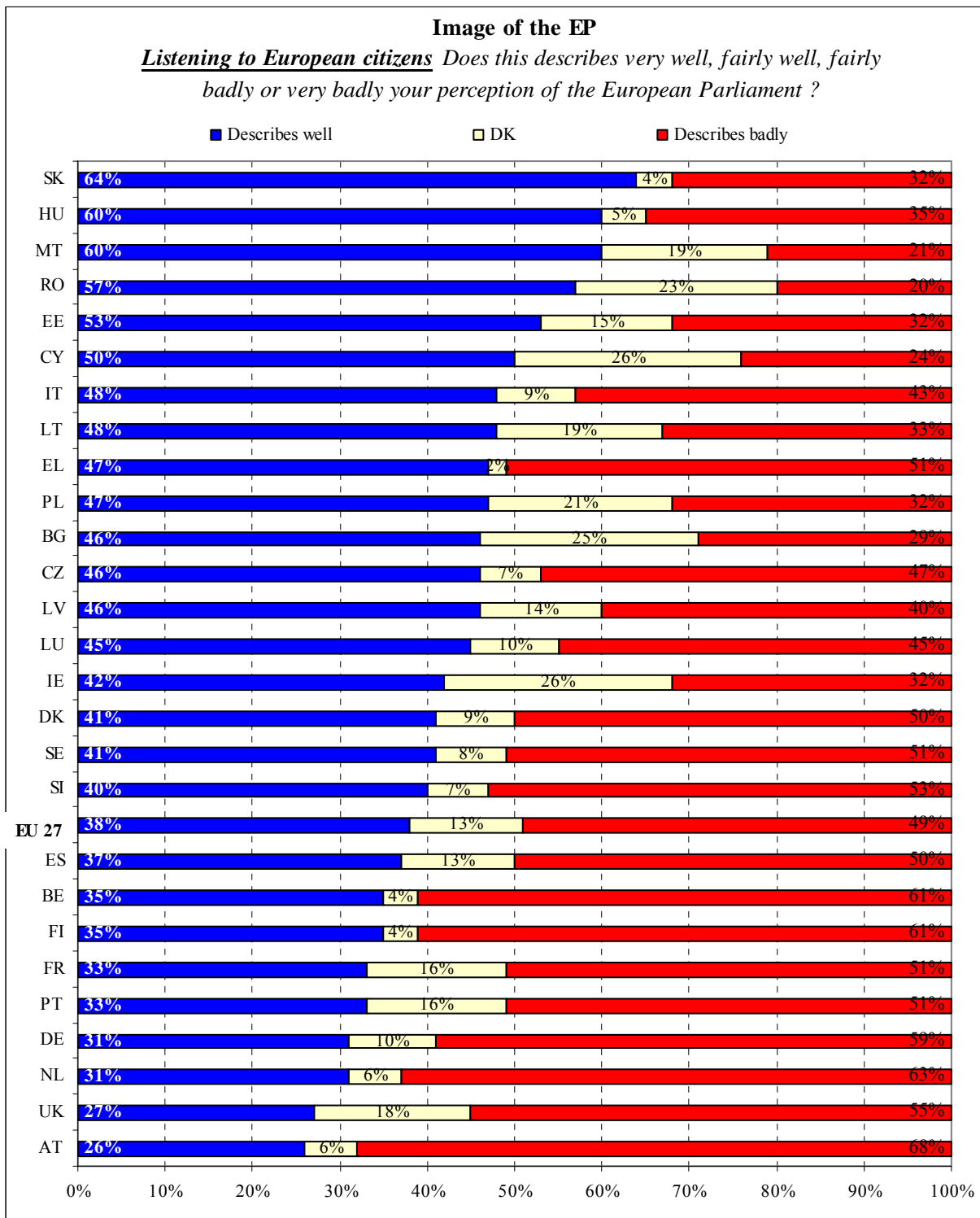
- These are mostly young respondents, because the older the respondents are the more sceptical they seem to be: 43% of those aged 15-24 said that the European Parliament listens to citizens, compared with 35% of those aged 55 or over.
- They also tend to be the most educated respondents (41% of those who studied until age 20 or beyond, compared with 32% of those who left school at age 15 or earlier). It also applies to students (46%), employees (43%) and managers (41%).
- Moreover, they tend to be on the right of the political spectrum (43% of those on the right versus 39% of those on the left or in the centre).
- Finally, they are also likely to be the people who feel fairly well-informed about the European Parliament’s activities (56%, 24 points more than those who consider that they are ill-informed).

Listening to European citizens		Describes well	Describes badly	DK
EU27		38%	49%	13%
Sex	Men	39%	50%	11%
	Women	39%	46%	15%
Age	15-24	43%	42%	15%
	25-39	41%	48%	11%
	40-54	38%	51%	11%
	55 +	35%	50%	15%
Education (end of)	15-	32%	51%	17%
	16-19	39%	48%	13%
	20+	41%	51%	8%
	Still studying	46%	41%	13%
Respondent occupation scale	Self-employed	39%	51%	10%
	Managers	41%	53%	6%
	Other white collars	43%	46%	11%
	Manual workers	38%	48%	14%
	House persons	36%	47%	17%
	Unemployed	33%	50%	17%
	Retired	35%	50%	15%
Self-positioning on the Left-Right scale	Students	46%	41%	13%
	(1-4) Left	39%	52%	9%
	(5-6) Centre	39%	50%	11%
Use of the Internet	(7-10) Right	43%	48%	9%
	Everyday	40%	50%	10%
	Often/ Sometimes	38%	49%	13%
Information on EP's activities	Never	33%	50%	17%
	Informed	56%	40%	4%
Knowledge on the EP	Not informed	32%	52%	16%
	Average or bad	36%	48%	16%
Preference for the EP's role	Good	43%	50%	7%
	More important	47%	44%	9%
	Less important	24%	70%	6%
	The same (SP.)	40%	45%	15%



⇒ **Differences between Member States:**

- As in the last Parlemètre (EB 70), the largest number of respondents who consider that "listening to European citizens" is a good description of the EP, are found in Slovakia (64%), and Malta (60%). They are least likely to consider it as such in Austria (26%) and in the United Kingdom (27%)
- The largest number of respondents who consider that "listening to European citizens" is a bad description of the EP, are found in Austria (68%) and in the Netherlands (63%).



Describes well: the sum of responses "describes very well" and "describes fairly well"  
 Describes badly: the sum of responses "describes fairly badly" and "describes very badly"  
 Source : Eurobarometer / European Parliament 73

⇒ **EP Image Trends between EB 70 and EB 73**

Listening to European citizens	Describes well			Describes badly			DK		
	EB 70 October - November 2008	EB 73 January - February 2010	Diff. EB 73 - EB70	EB 70 October - November 2008	EB 73 January - February 2010	Diff. EB 73 - EB70	EB 70 October - November 2008	EB 73 January - February 2010	Diff. EB 73 - EB70
LU	38%	45%	+7	48%	45%	-3	14%	10%	-4
EL	40%	47%	+7	60%	51%	-9	0%	2%	+2
HU	53%	60%	+7	34%	35%	+1	13%	5%	-8
LV	40%	46%	+6	32%	40%	+8	28%	14%	-14
EE	48%	53%	+5	27%	32%	+5	25%	15%	-10
IT	44%	48%	+4	39%	43%	+4	17%	9%	-8
FI	31%	35%	+4	64%	61%	-3	5%	4%	-1
CZ	44%	46%	+2	43%	47%	+4	13%	7%	-6
FR	31%	33%	+2	53%	51%	-2	16%	16%	=
IE	40%	42%	+2	34%	32%	-2	26%	26%	=
RO	57%	57%	=	19%	20%	+1	24%	23%	-1
SK	65%	64%	-1	24%	32%	+8	11%	4%	-7
<b>EU 27</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>-2</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>+6</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>-4</b>
LT	50%	48%	-2	18%	33%	+15	32%	19%	-13
PL	49%	47%	-2	24%	32%	+8	27%	21%	-6
AT	29%	26%	-3	62%	68%	+6	9%	6%	-3
DE	34%	31%	-3	58%	59%	+1	8%	10%	2
MT	63%	60%	-3	18%	21%	+3	19%	19%	=
NL	34%	31%	-3	58%	63%	+5	8%	6%	-2
BG	50%	46%	-4	20%	29%	+9	30%	25%	-5
UK	32%	27%	-5	46%	55%	+9	22%	18%	-4
DK	47%	41%	-6	44%	50%	+6	9%	9%	=
PT	39%	33%	-6	35%	51%	+16	26%	16%	-10
SE	47%	41%	-6	43%	51%	+8	10%	8%	-2
CY	56%	50%	-6	17%	24%	+7	27%	26%	-1
BE	43%	35%	-8	51%	61%	+10	6%	4%	-2
ES	47%	37%	-10	26%	50%	+24	27%	13%	-14
SI	53%	40%	-13	34%	53%	+19	13%	7%	-6

*Describes well: the sum of responses "describes very well" and "describes fairly well"*

*Describes badly: the sum of responses "describes fairly badly" and "describes very badly"*

#### 4) Not well known :

##### ⇒ EU 27 Socio-demographic analysis:

49% of people questioned consider that the European Parliament is “not well known”. Certain among them may be expressing this qualification due to their substantial expectations vis-à-vis the importance of the European Parliament. Some respondents seem to regret that the European Parliament is not well known.

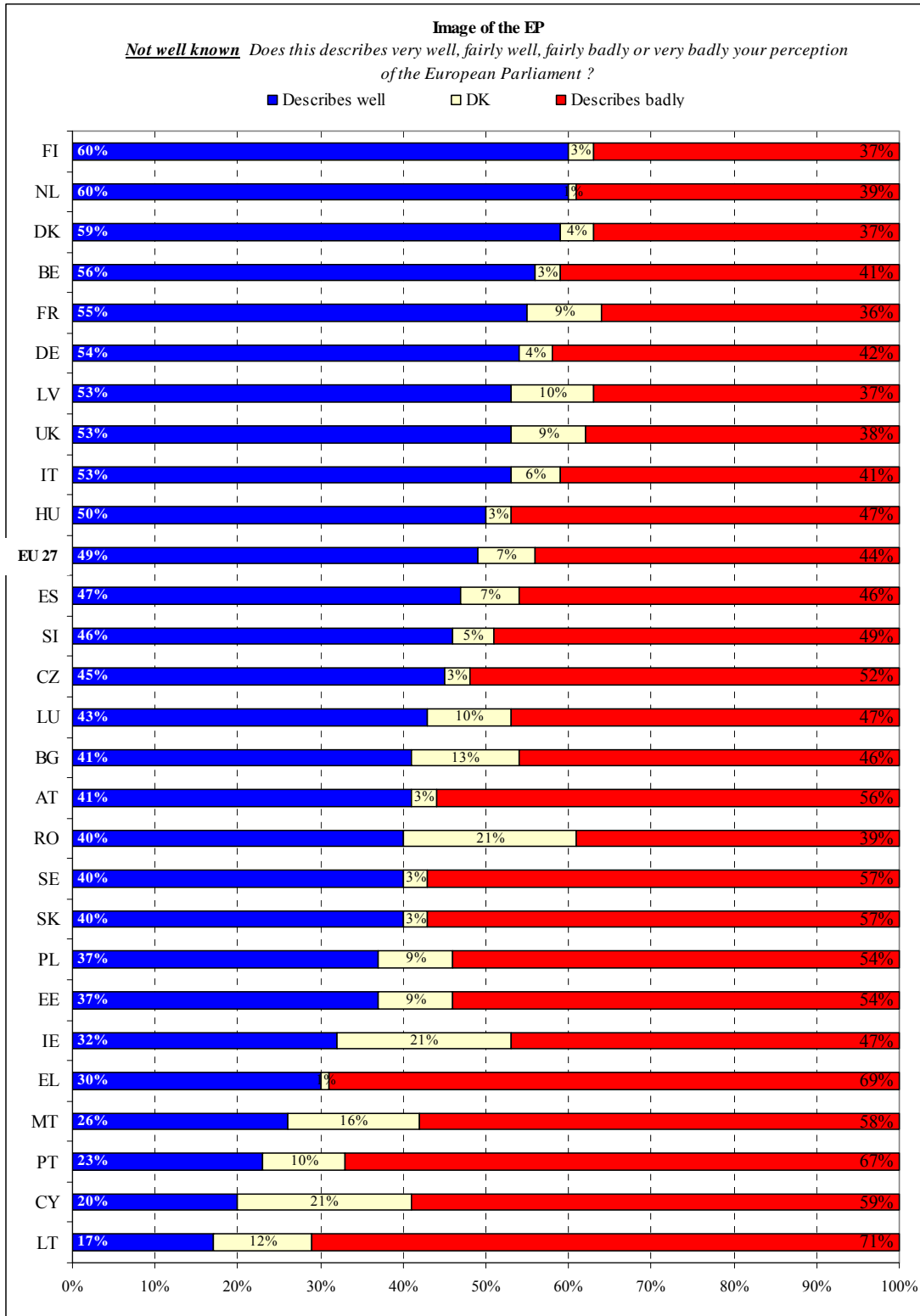
In addition, this can be explained by, among other reasons, the fact that a large majority of Europeans wish that the Parliament played a more important role than it does at the moment. Thus, 49% of respondents who wish the Parliament would play a more important role than at the moment consider that it is not well known.

- The respondents in the apparently least vulnerable professional categories are the most likely to consider that the European Parliament is “not well known”: for example, 52% of managers and employees, and those who studied the longest.
- Moreover, and for other reasons, this view is widely shared by respondents who feel ill-informed about the European Parliament’s activities (53%, 12 points higher than those who consider themselves to be well-informed).

Not well known		Describes well	Describes badly	DK
EU27		49%	44%	7%
Sex	Men	48%	46%	6%
	Women	49%	42%	9%
Age	15-24	47%	44%	9%
	25-39	51%	44%	5%
	40-54	49%	45%	6%
	55 +	48%	43%	9%
Education (end of)	15-	47%	42%	11%
	16-19	48%	45%	7%
	20+	52%	44%	4%
	Still studying	47%	47%	6%
Respondent occupation scale	Self-employed	50%	45%	5%
	Managers	52%	46%	2%
	Other white collars	52%	44%	4%
	Manual workers	49%	44%	7%
	House persons	47%	41%	12%
	Unemployed	47%	42%	11%
	Retired	47%	43%	10%
	Students	47%	47%	6%
Use of the Internet	Everyday	51%	45%	4%
	Often/ Sometimes	49%	44%	7%
	Never	47%	43%	10%
Information on EP's activities	Informed	41%	56%	3%
	Not informed	53%	39%	8%
Knowledge on the EP	Average or bad	49%	42%	9%
	Good	49%	48%	3%
Preference for the EP's role	More important	49%	46%	5%
	Less important	52%	45%	3%
	The same (SP.)	46%	46%	8%

⇒ **Differences between Member States**

- The largest number of respondents who consider that "not well known" is a bad description of the EP, are found in Lithuania (71%), Greece (69%) and Portugal (67%). Respondents are least likely to describe it as such in Latvia (37%) and in France (36%).
- The largest number of respondents who consider that "not well known" is a good description of the EP are found in the Netherlands (60%), Finland (60%) and Denmark (59%).



Describes well: the sum of responses "describes very well" and "describes fairly well"  
 Describes badly: the sum of responses "describes fairly badly" and "describes very badly"  
 Source : Eurobarometer / European Parliament 73

⇒ **EP Image Trends between EB 70 and EB 73**

Not well known	Describes badly			Describes well			DK		
	EB 70 October - November 2008	EB 73 January - February 2010	Diff. EB 73 - EB70	EB 70 October - November 2008	EB 73 January - February 2010	Diff. EB 73 - EB70	EB 70 October - November 2008	EB 73 January - February 2010	Diff. EB 73 - EB70
ES	29%	46%	+17	54%	47%	-7	17%	7%	-10
LT	54%	71%	+17	15%	17%	+2	31%	12%	-19
EL	54%	69%	+15	46%	30%	-16	0%	1%	+1
UK	25%	39%	+14	59%	52%	-7	16%	9%	-7
PT	56%	67%	+11	21%	23%	+2	23%	10%	-13
EE	44%	54%	+10	33%	37%	+4	23%	9%	-14
SE	47%	57%	+10	44%	40%	-4	9%	3%	-6
NL	31%	39%	+8	65%	60%	-5	4%	1%	-3
FI	29%	37%	+8	68%	60%	-8	3%	3%	=
HU	39%	47%	+8	54%	50%	-4	7%	3%	-4
PL	47%	54%	+7	38%	37%	-1	15%	9%	-6
<b>EU 27</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>+7</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>-2</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>-5</b>
FR	30%	36%	+6	60%	55%	-5	10%	9%	-1
BG	41%	46%	+5	37%	41%	+4	22%	13%	-9
CZ	47%	52%	+5	44%	45%	+1	9%	3%	-6
DE	37%	42%	+5	58%	54%	-4	5%	4%	-1
AT	52%	56%	+4	43%	41%	-2	5%	3%	-2
IT	37%	41%	+4	49%	53%	+4	14%	6%	-8
SK	53%	57%	+4	37%	40%	+3	10%	3%	-7
CY	55%	59%	+4	25%	20%	-5	20%	21%	+1
LV	36%	37%	+1	40%	53%	+13	24%	10%	-14
BE	40%	41%	+1	57%	56%	-1	3%	3%	=
IE	47%	47%	=	29%	32%	+3	24%	21%	-3
DK	37%	37%	=	57%	59%	+2	6%	4%	-2
SI	50%	49%	-1	38%	46%	+8	12%	5%	-7
RO	42%	39%	-3	35%	40%	+5	23%	21%	-2
MT	65%	58%	-7	14%	26%	+12	21%	16%	-5
LU	55%	47%	-8	25%	43%	+18	20%	10%	-10

*Describes well: the sum of responses "describes very well" and "describes fairly well"*  
*Describes badly: the sum of responses "describes fairly badly" and "describes very badly"*

## 5) Inefficient:

### ⇒ EU 27 Socio-demographic analysis:

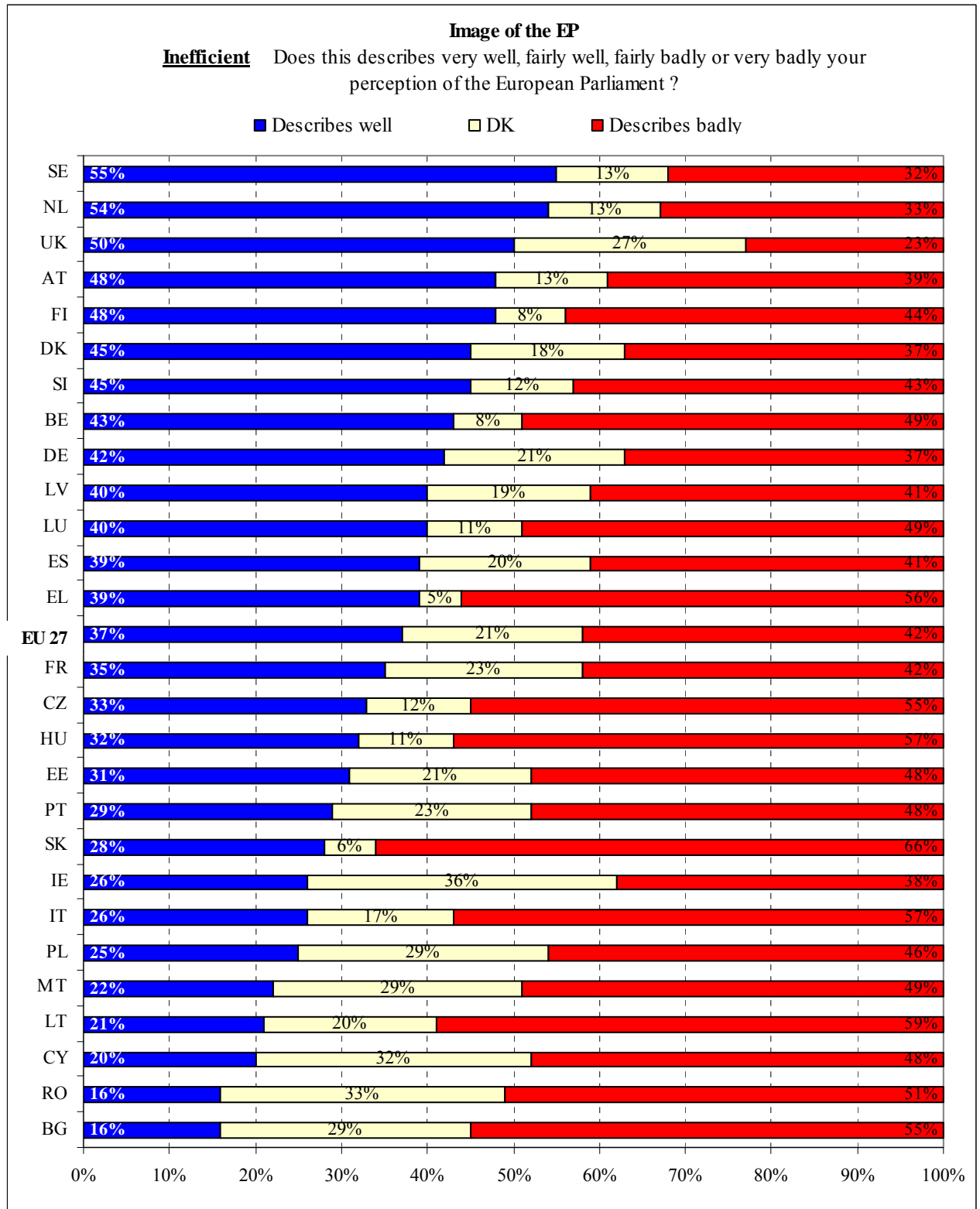
A relative majority of Europeans (42% against 37%) consider that the European Parliament is an efficient institution:

- Age is a discriminant: respondents in the 15-39 age group are the most likely (45%) to think that the term “inefficient” describes the EP badly, while those aged 40 or over (38%) are the most likely to consider that the term “inefficient” is a good description.
- 46% of respondents who have a good understanding of the European Parliament believe that the term "inefficient" badly describes the institution while 40% believe the contrary.
- Amongst the respondents who consider that the term "inefficient" badly describes the institution, 53% declare themselves well informed about the activities of the EP, against 39% of respondents who say that they are badly informed. It is worth noting that among the respondents who feel badly informed, one quarter do not give an opinion about the efficiency of the EP (25% don't know).

Inefficient		Describes well	Describes badly	DK
EU		37%	42%	21%
Sex	Men	39%	44%	17%
	Women	34%	41%	25%
Age	15-24	32%	45%	23%
	25-39	36%	45%	19%
	40-54	38%	44%	18%
	55 +	38%	39%	23%
Education (end of)	15-	35%	37%	28%
	16-19	37%	42%	21%
	20+	40%	46%	14%
	Still studying	29%	50%	21%
Respondent occupation scale	Self-employed	42%	44%	14%
	Managers	44%	43%	13%
	Other white collars	36%	48%	16%
	Manual workers	37%	41%	22%
	House persons	31%	41%	28%
	Unemployed	37%	39%	24%
	Retired	37%	39%	24%
Use of the Internet	Students	29%	50%	21%
	Everyday	39%	45%	16%
	Often/ Sometimes	38%	42%	20%
Self-positioning on the social staircase	Never	36%	38%	26%
	Low (1-4)	36%	39%	25%
	Medium (5-6)	36%	43%	21%
Information on EP's activities	High (7-10)	40%	46%	14%
	Informed	39%	53%	8%
Knowledge on the EP	Not informed	36%	39%	25%
	Average or bad	35%	40%	25%
Preference for the EP's role	Good	40%	46%	14%
	More important	36%	49%	15%
	Less important	55%	33%	12%
	The same (SP.)	29%	46%	25%

⇒ **Differences between Member States**

- The largest number of respondents who consider that the term "inefficient" is a bad description of the EP are found in Slovakia (66%), Lithuania (59%) and in Hungary (57%)
- The largest numbers of respondents who consider that the term "inefficient" is a good description of the EP are found in Sweden (55%), the Netherlands (54%) and in the United Kingdom (51%).



*Describes well: the sum of responses "describes very well" and "describes fairly well"*  
*Describes badly: the sum of responses "describes fairly badly" and "describes very badly"*  
 Source : Eurobarometer / European Parliament 73

⇒ **EP Image Trends between EB 70 and EB 73**

Inefficient	Describes badly			Describes well			DK		
	EB 70 October - November 2008	EB 73 January - February 2010	Diff. EB 73 - EB70	EB 70 October - November 2008	EB 73 January - February 2010	Diff. EB 73 - EB70	EB 70 October - November 2008	EB 73 January - February 2010	Diff. EB 73 - EB70
SK	58%	66%	+8	25%	28%	+3	17%	6%	-11
CY	40%	48%	+8	25%	20%	-5	35%	32%	-3
IT	52%	57%	+5	27%	26%	-1	21%	17%	-4
FI	40%	44%	+4	51%	48%	-3	9%	8%	-1
SE	30%	32%	+2	51%	55%	+4	19%	13%	-6
DE	35%	37%	+2	48%	42%	-6	17%	21%	+4
LV	39%	41%	+2	28%	40%	+12	33%	19%	-14
PT	46%	48%	+2	20%	29%	+9	34%	23%	-11
LT	58%	59%	+1	13%	21%	+8	29%	20%	-9
EE	47%	48%	+1	24%	31%	+7	29%	21%	-8
NL	32%	33%	+1	55%	54%	-1	13%	13%	=
EL	55%	56%	+1	45%	39%	-6	0%	5%	+5
ES	41%	41%	=	22%	39%	+17	37%	20%	-17
IE	38%	38%	=	32%	26%	-6	30%	36%	+6
UK	24%	23%	-1	48%	50%	+2	28%	27%	-1
HU	58%	57%	-1	24%	32%	+8	18%	11%	-7
BG	56%	55%	-1	8%	16%	+8	36%	29%	-7
CZ	56%	55%	-1	27%	33%	+6	17%	12%	-5
<b>EU 27</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>+3</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>-2</b>
AT	41%	39%	-2	42%	48%	+6	17%	13%	-4
RO	53%	51%	-2	15%	16%	+1	32%	33%	+1
DK	39%	37%	-2	48%	45%	-3	13%	18%	+5
BE	53%	49%	-4	37%	43%	+6	10%	8%	-2
FR	47%	42%	-5	32%	35%	+3	21%	23%	+2
LU	55%	49%	-6	27%	40%	+13	18%	11%	-7
MT	55%	49%	-6	15%	22%	+7	30%	29%	-1
PL	53%	46%	-7	18%	25%	+7	29%	29%	=
SI	58%	43%	-15	25%	45%	+20	17%	12%	-5

*Describes well: the sum of responses "describes very well" and "describes fairly well"*

*Describes badly: the sum of responses "describes fairly badly" and "describes very badly"*

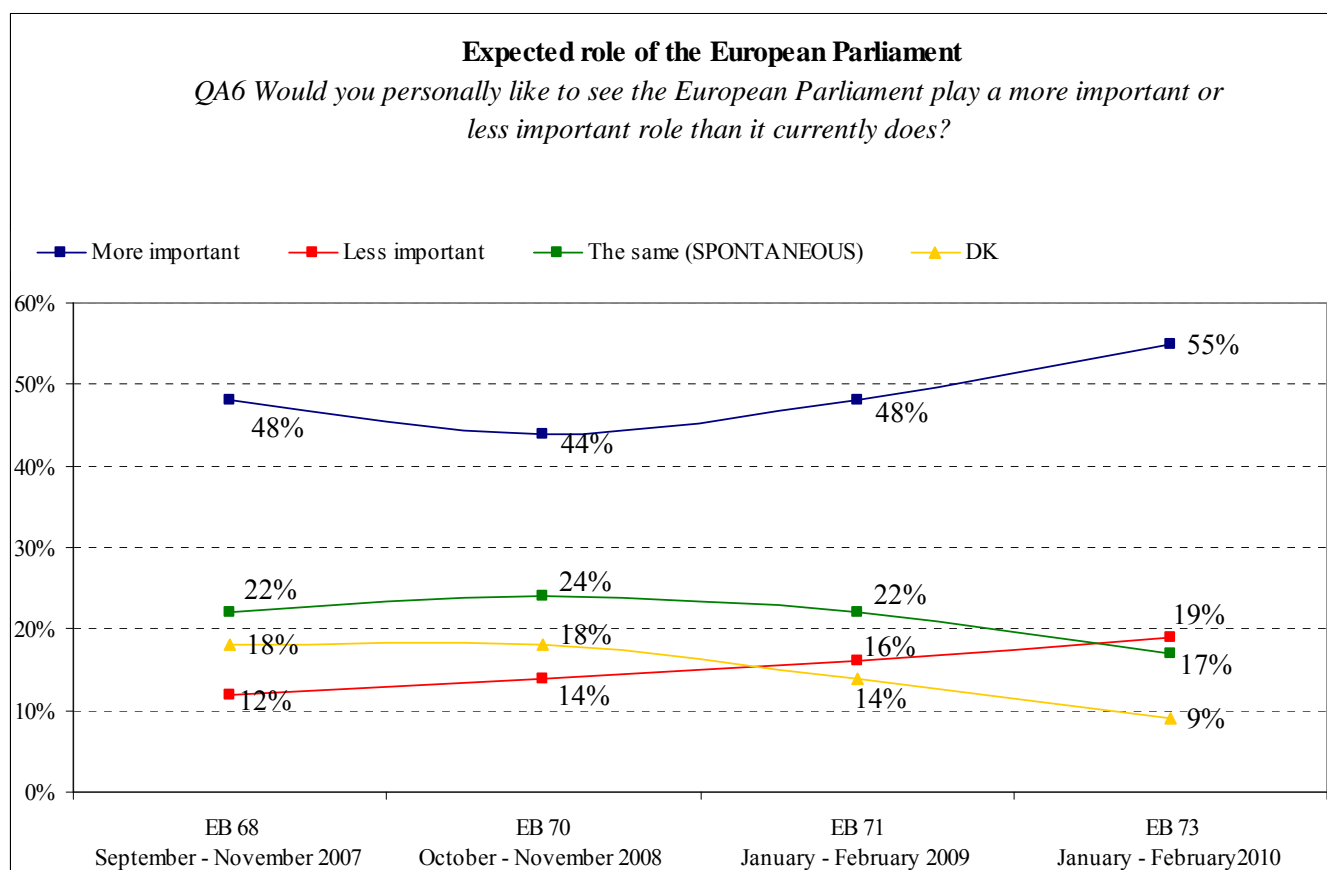


## B. The expected role of the European Parliament

⇒ **The European trend :**

**QA6** *Would you personally like to see the European Parliament play a more important or less important role than it currently does??*

More than one in two Europeans would like to see the role of the European Parliament strengthened.



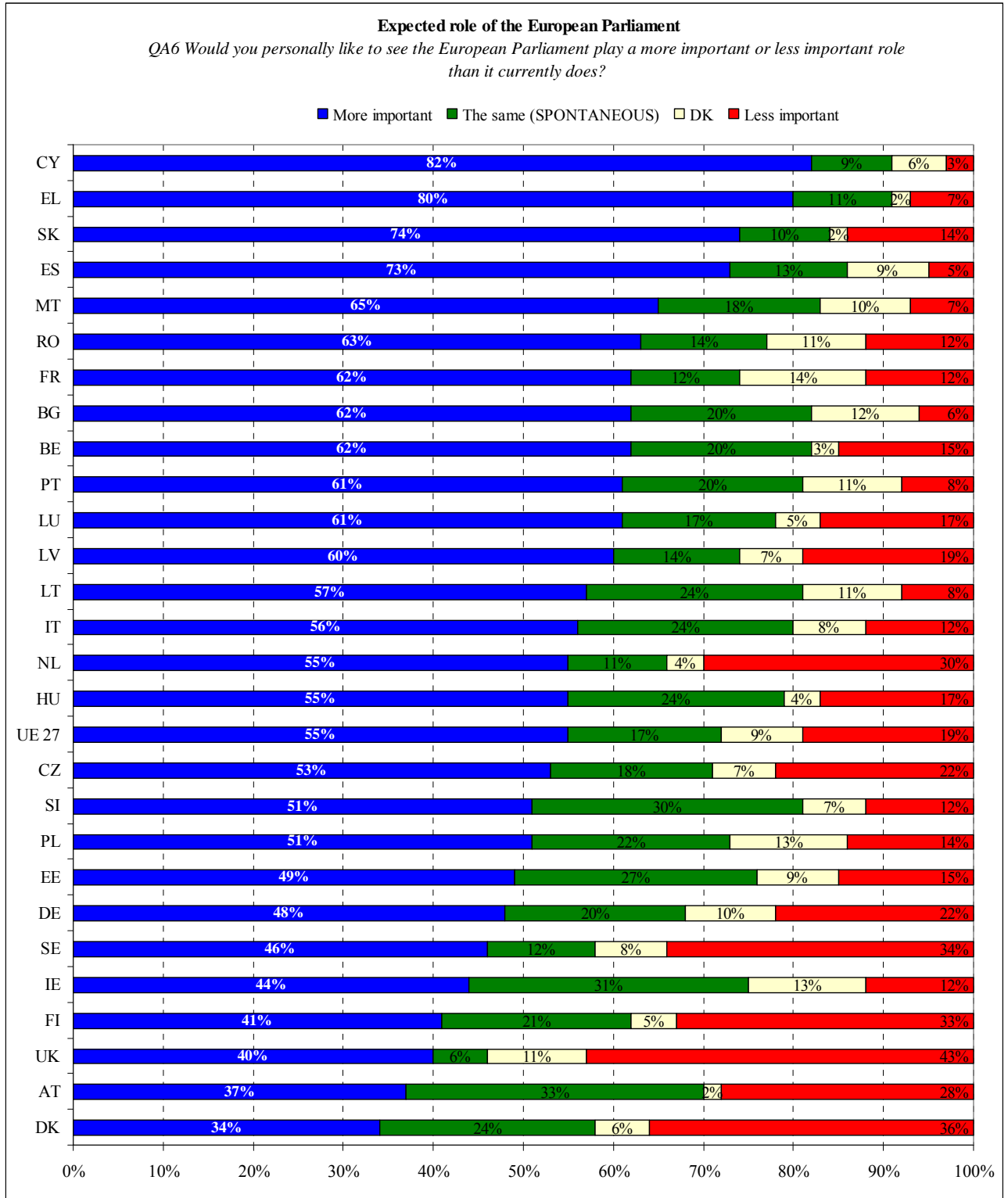
*Source : Eurobarometer / European Parliament 73*

Despite mixed results concerning the image of the European Parliament, responses to the question on the desired role of the Parliament appear to be encouraging: 55% of those questioned would like to see the Parliament play a more important role than it does now, compared to 19% who would like to see it play a less important role. Those who declared not wanting a change make up 17% of the respondents.

It must also be noted that the opinions on the expected role of the Parliament tend to assert themselves: clear-cut opinions on the role of the institution are increasing - "more important" (+11) and less important (+5) - while the DK (-9) and neutral opinions (-7 for "the same role") are in decline. The European Parliament is now an institution which does not (or no longer) evoke indifference, and on which people tend to have a more pronounced opinions.

⇒ **Differences between Member States**

- As in the last Parlamètre (EB70), the highest level of respondents who would give the EP a "more important" role are found in Cyprus (82%) and in Greece (80%)
- On the other hand, the highest level of respondents who would give the EP a "less important" role are found in the United Kingdom (43%) and in Denmark (36%).



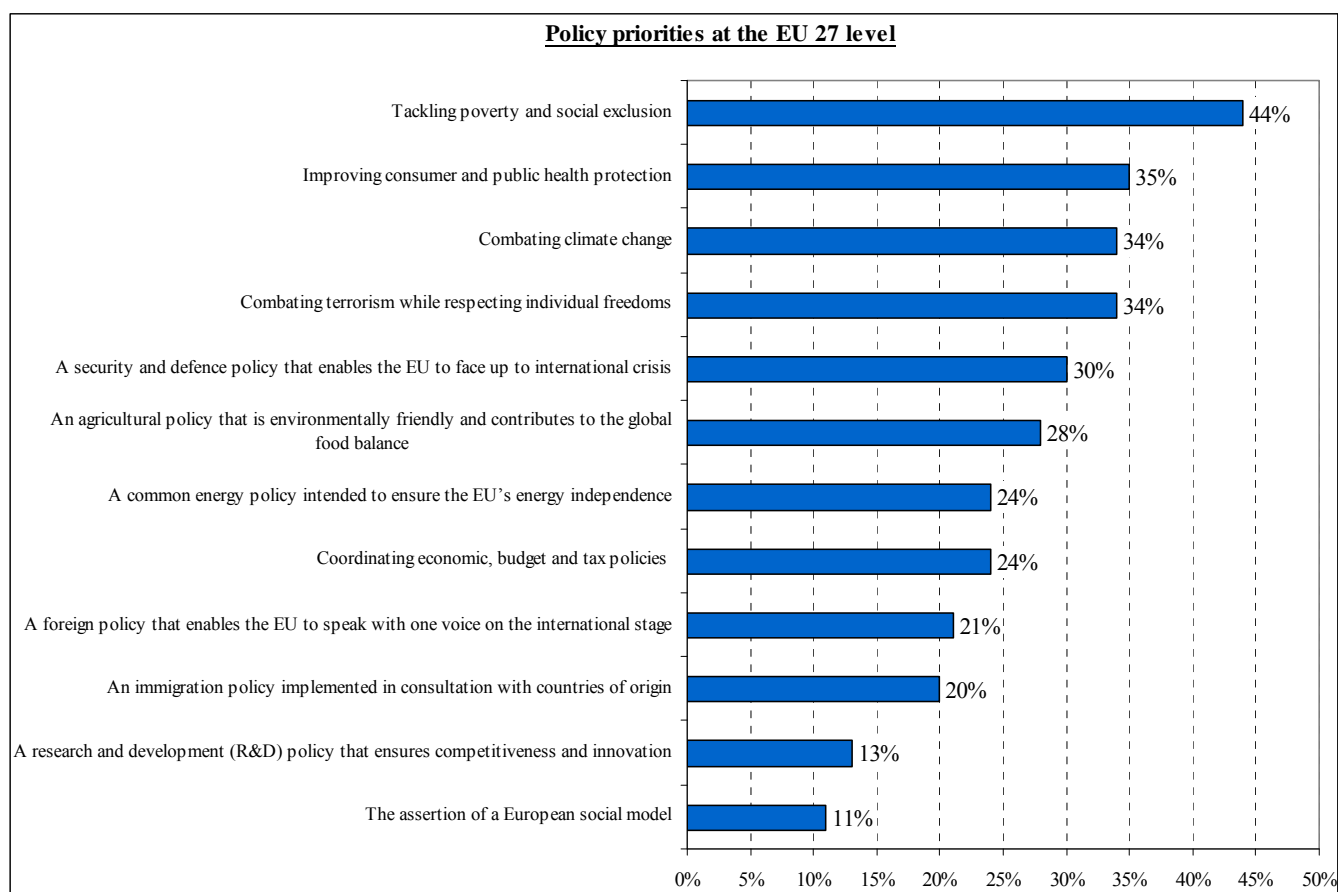
Source : Eurobarometer / European Parliament 73 (Split B)

### III - THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT TODAY AND TOMORROW: POLICIES AND VALUES

#### A. Policy priorities

⇒ **The European average**

QA7 *The European Parliament promotes the development of certain policies at European Union level. In your opinion, which of the following policies should be given priority [Respondents had the possibility of giving up to 4 answers]*



Maximum 4 responses

Source: Eurobarometer / European Parliament 73 (Split B)

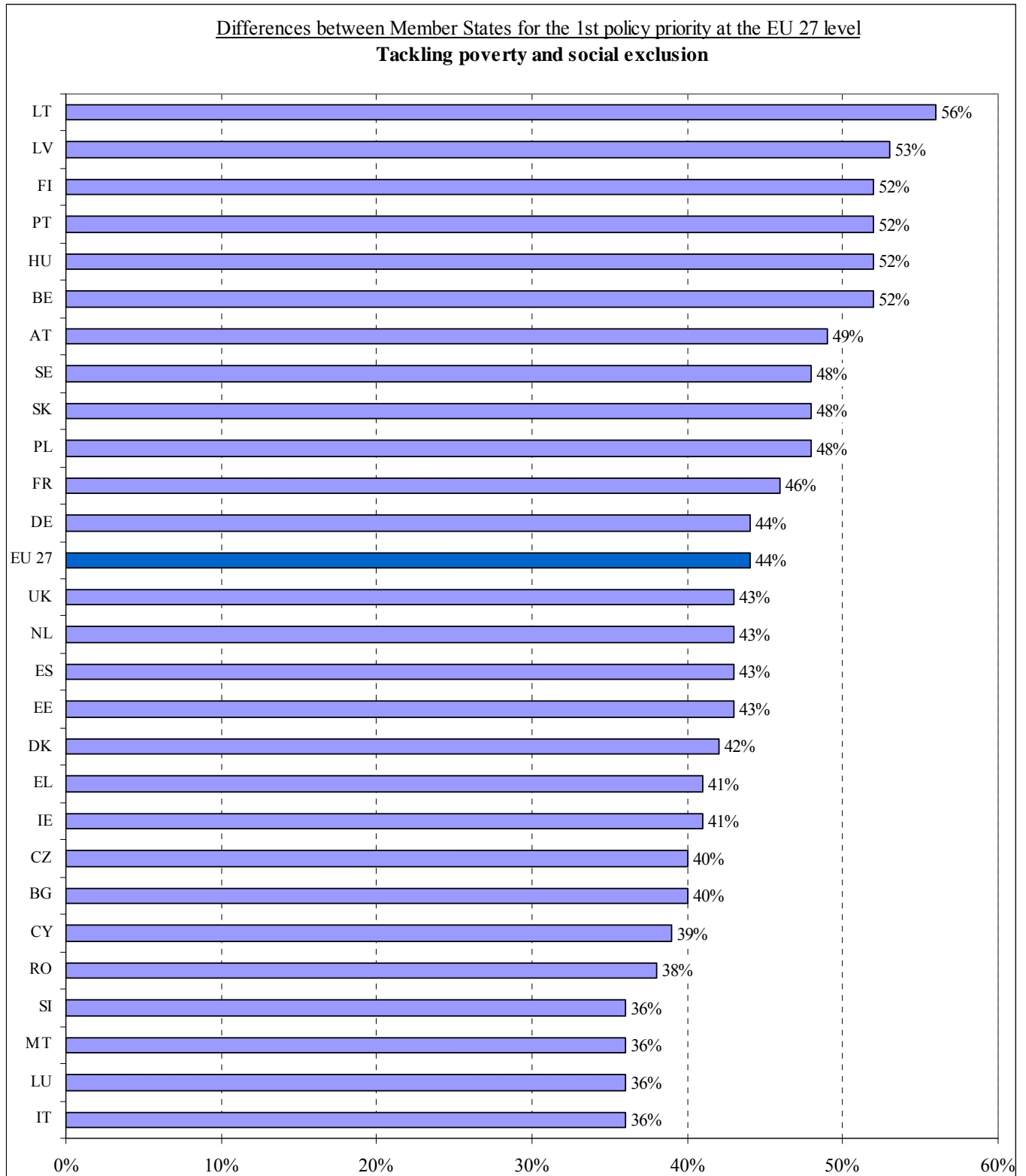
N.B : The sample of responses has been divided in two, randomly (*Split A and Split B*): The first part of the sample (*Split A*) answered QA7 using the same choice of items as in the previous Parlemètre (EB 70). The second half of the sample (*Split B*) responded to this same question with the possibility of choosing an additional item: "*Tackling poverty and social exclusion*".

In order to examine the differences between the Member States, our analysis focuses on *Split B*: thus we can observe that the new item, "*Tackling poverty and social exclusion*" comes in first place.

## Differences between Member States for the top 3 policy priorities

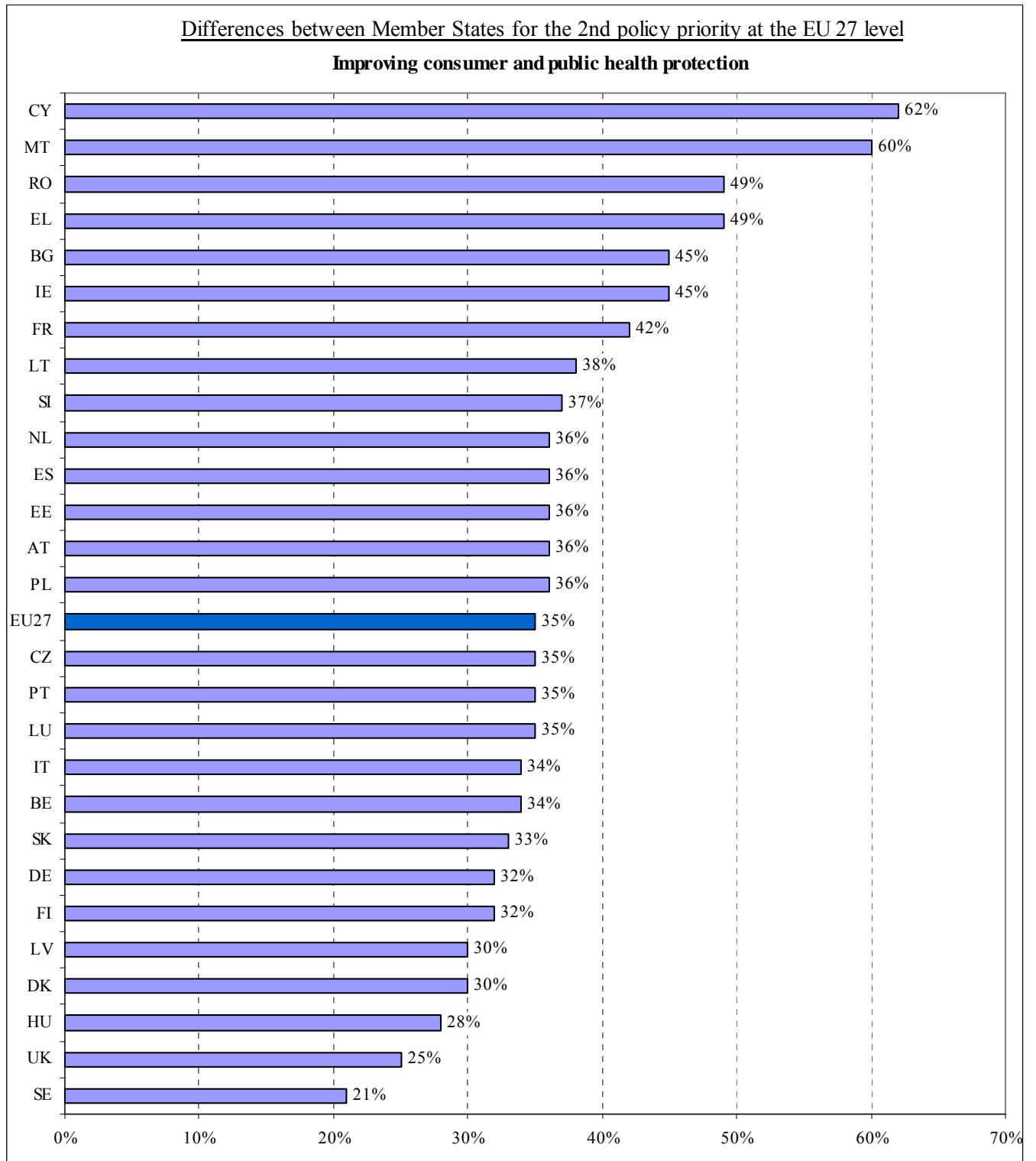
### 1) Tackling poverty and social exclusion [only SPLIT B]

- This policy is most important in Lithuania (56%) and Latvia (53%), as well as in Belgium, Hungary, Portugal and Finland (52%)
- It is least important in Italy, Luxemburg, Malta and Slovenia (36% each).



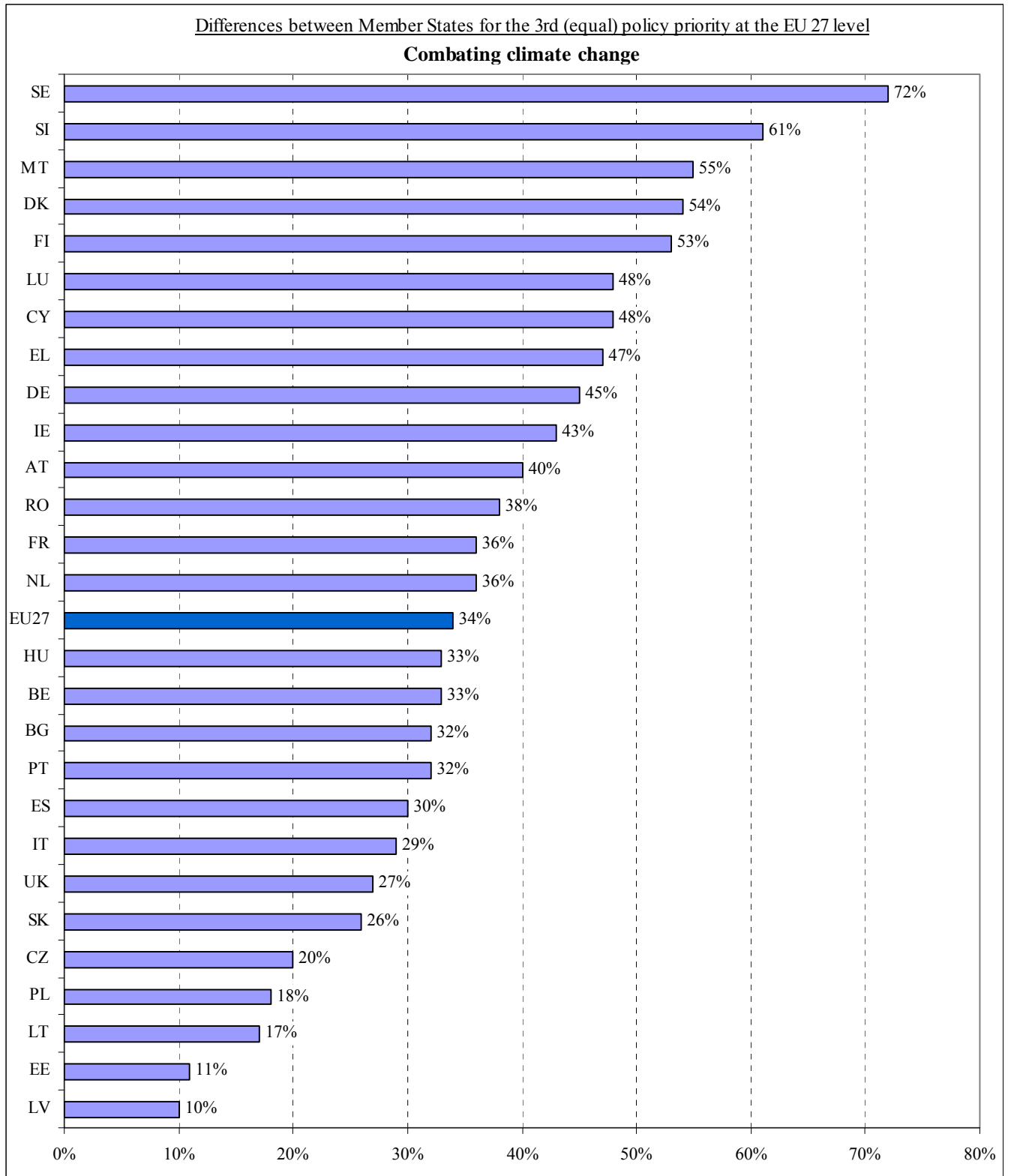
Source : Eurobarometer / European Parliament 73 (Split B)

2) Improving consumer and public health protection



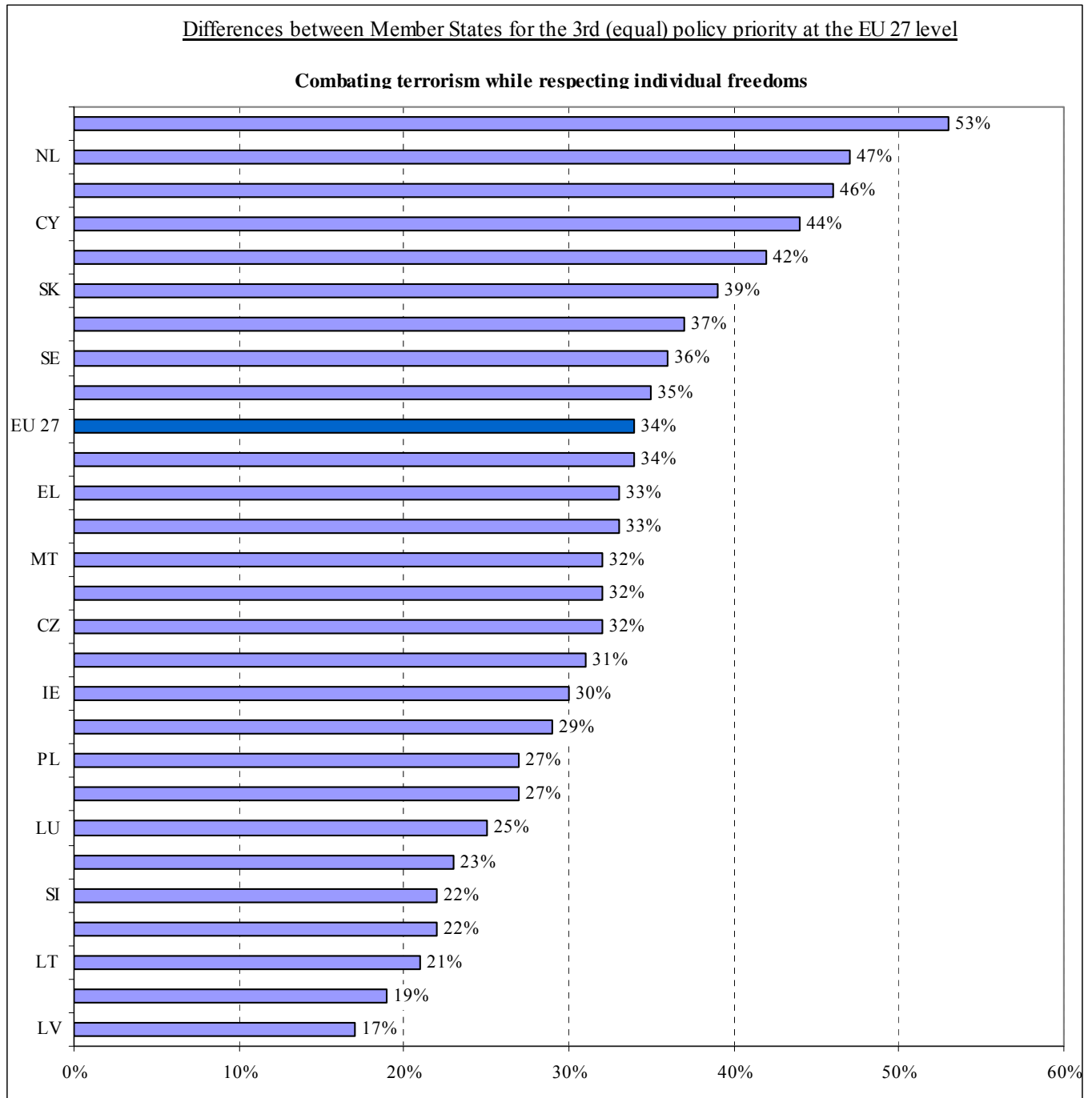
Source : Eurobarometer / European Parliament 73 (Split B)

### 3) Combating climate change



Source : Eurobarometer / European Parliament 73 (Split B)

4) Combating terrorism while respecting individual freedoms



Source : Eurobarometer / European Parliament 73 (Split B)

⇒ **Differences between Member States for all policies promoted by the European Parliament across the EU 27**

	Tackling poverty and social exclusion (1)	Improving consumer and public health protection (2)	Combating climate change (3)	Combating terrorism while respecting individual freedoms (3')	A security and defence policy that enables the EU to face up to international crisis (5)	An agricultural policy that is environmentally friendly and contributes to the global food balance (6)	A common energy policy intended to ensure the EU's energy independence (7)	Coordinating economic, budget and tax policies (7')	A security and defence policy that enables the EU to face up to international crisis (9)	An immigration policy implemented in consultation with countries of origin (10)	A research and development (R&D) policy that ensures competitiveness and innovation (11)	The assertion of a European social model (12)
EU27	44%	35%	34%	34%	30%	28%	24%	24%	21%	20%	13%	11%
BE	52%	34%	33%	34%	27%	24%	20%	25%	24%	29%	14%	14%
BG	40%	45%	32%	42%	28%	38%	33%	20%	26%	4%	8%	20%
CZ	40%	35%	20%	32%	36%	36%	28%	34%	23%	16%	10%	15%
DK	42%	30%	54%	53%	32%	36%	32%	8%	16%	25%	22%	14%
DE	44%	32%	45%	33%	27%	22%	34%	28%	26%	22%	18%	11%
EE	43%	36%	11%	19%	33%	48%	24%	39%	17%	11%	16%	15%
IE	41%	45%	43%	30%	26%	28%	24%	30%	25%	18%	14%	7%
EL	41%	49%	47%	33%	42%	26%	21%	29%	34%	7%	8%	9%
ES	43%	36%	30%	37%	20%	25%	10%	27%	13%	20%	14%	11%
FR	46%	42%	36%	35%	30%	45%	17%	26%	26%	21%	12%	13%
IT	36%	34%	29%	32%	35%	24%	22%	24%	25%	22%	18%	10%
CY	39%	62%	48%	44%	43%	36%	13%	19%	33%	13%	3%	3%
LV	53%	30%	10%	17%	24%	45%	15%	51%	14%	8%	12%	12%
LT	56%	38%	17%	21%	21%	20%	34%	49%	12%	8%	15%	10%
LU	36%	35%	48%	25%	43%	30%	25%	15%	36%	10%	10%	15%
HU	52%	28%	33%	29%	32%	35%	44%	42%	11%	9%	13%	15%
MT	36%	60%	55%	32%	32%	22%	25%	18%	17%	28%	7%	4%
NL	43%	36%	36%	47%	32%	33%	31%	26%	29%	32%	10%	11%
AT	49%	36%	40%	27%	26%	28%	32%	23%	17%	36%	17%	21%
PL	48%	36%	18%	27%	22%	21%	23%	21%	14%	8%	13%	13%
PT	52%	35%	32%	31%	25%	19%	16%	21%	15%	7%	10%	18%
RO	38%	49%	38%	23%	46%	37%	25%	17%	25%	6%	9%	7%
SI	36%	37%	61%	22%	18%	31%	26%	30%	14%	7%	17%	24%
SK	48%	33%	26%	39%	31%	35%	28%	31%	18%	9%	13%	18%
FI	52%	32%	53%	22%	34%	39%	31%	23%	23%	10%	13%	10%
SE	48%	21%	72%	36%	40%	37%	30%	13%	27%	17%	14%	5%
UK	44%	25%	27%	46%	29%	23%	23%	13%	15%	37%	7%	3%

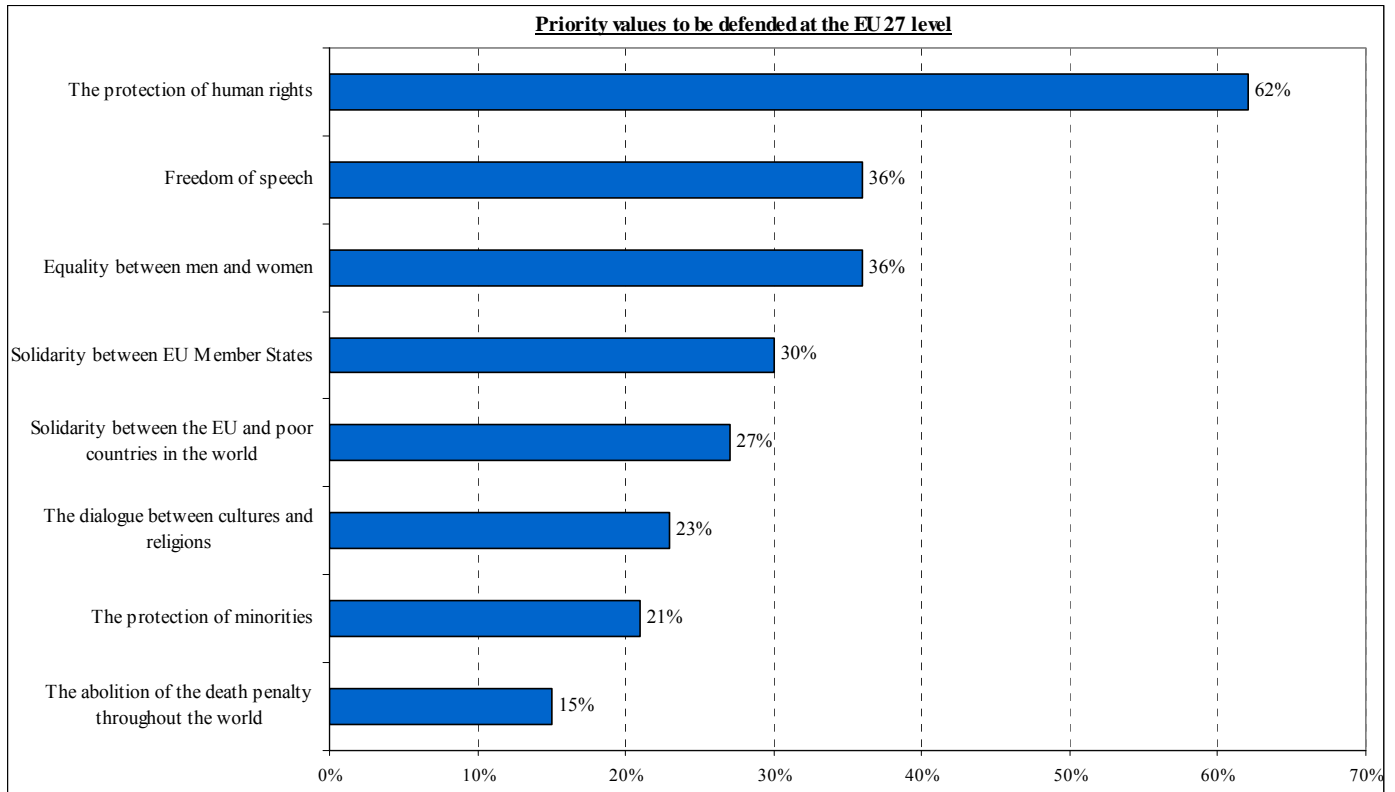
Source : Eurobarometer / European Parliament 73 (Split B)



## B. Values to defend

QA8 *In your opinion, which of the following values should the European Parliament defend as a matter of priority? [Respondents had the possibility of giving up to 3 answers]*

⇒ **The European average :**



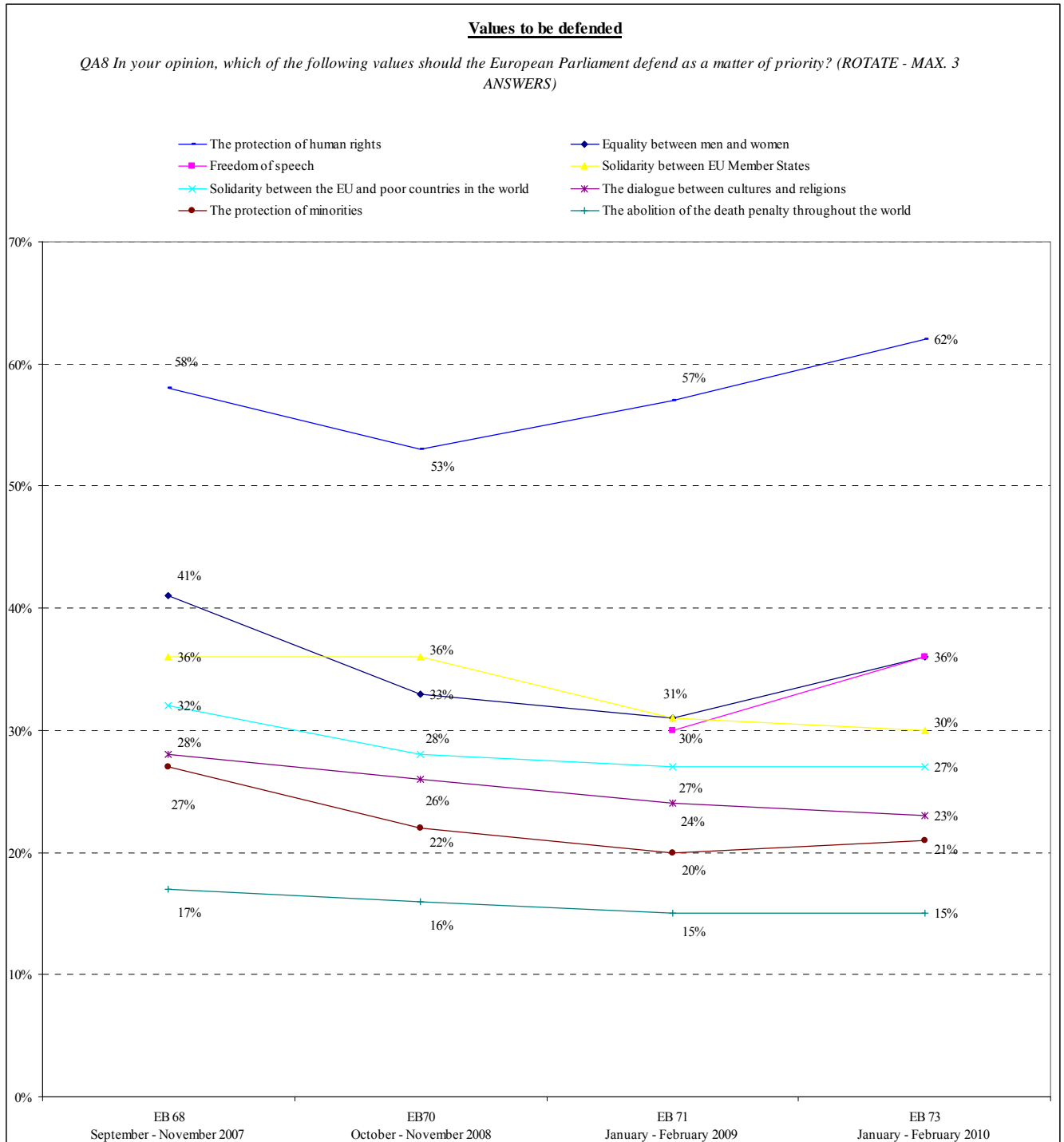
Maximum 3 answers

Source : Eurobarometer / European Parliament 73

It can be noted that there is a 26 percentage point difference between the most often cited response "The protection of human rights", (62%), and the two which follow: "Equality between men and women" and "Freedom of expression" (36% each).

⇒ **The European Trend**

In January and February of 2010, the values with an upward trend included "the protection of human rights", "equality between men and women" and the "freedom of expression". On the other hand, "solidarity between EU Member States" tended to be less cited from October-November 2008 on.

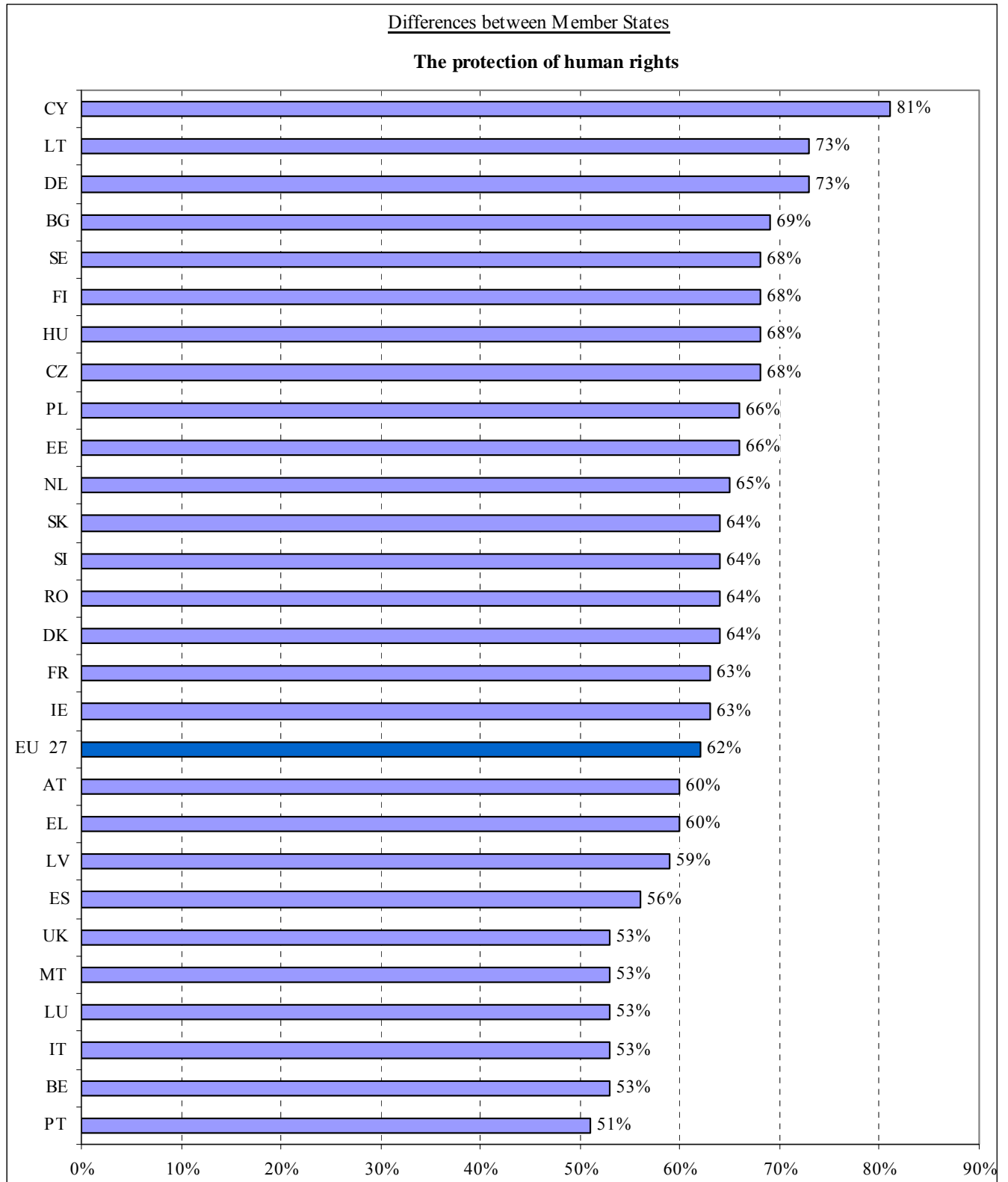


EU 27	EB68	EB70	EB71	EB 73
The protection of human rights (1)	58%	53%	57%	<b>62%</b>
Equality between men and women (2)	41%	33%	31%	<b>36%</b>
Freedom of speech (2)	-	-	30%	<b>36%</b>
Solidarity between EU Member States (4)	36%	36%	31%	<b>30%</b>
Solidarity between the EU and poor countries in the world (5)	32%	28%	27%	<b>27%</b>
The dialogue between cultures and religions (6)	28%	26%	24%	<b>23%</b>
The protection of minorities (7)	27%	22%	20%	<b>21%</b>
The abolition of the death penalty throughout the world (8)	17%	16%	15%	<b>15%</b>

⇒ **Differences between the Member States for the top 3 values to promote**

1) **The protection of human rights**

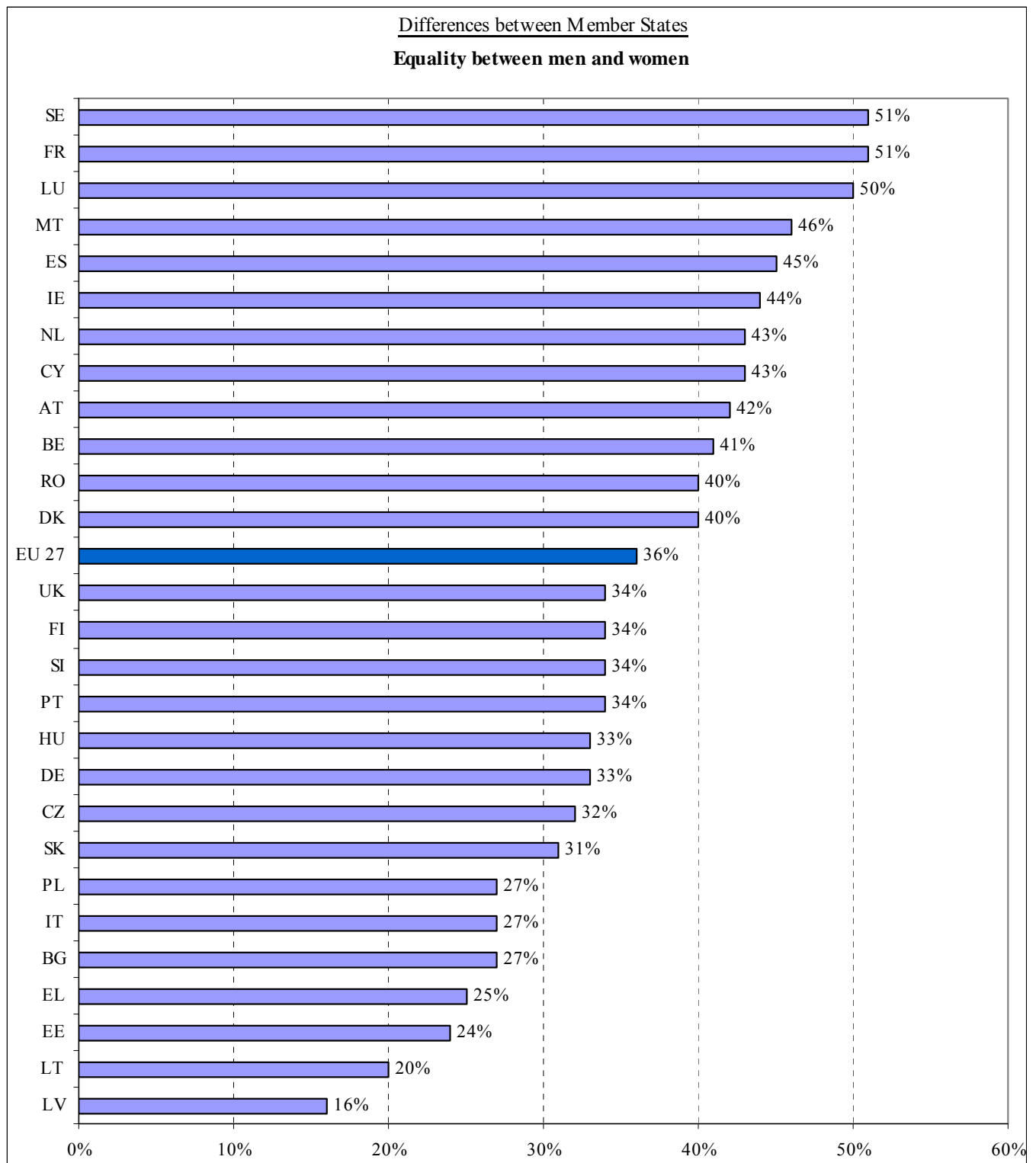
- This value is most important in Cyprus (81%) and in Germany and Latvia (both 73%).
- It is least often cited in Portugal (51%) and in the United Kingdom (53%)



Source : Eurobarometer / European Parliament 73

## 2) Equality between men and women

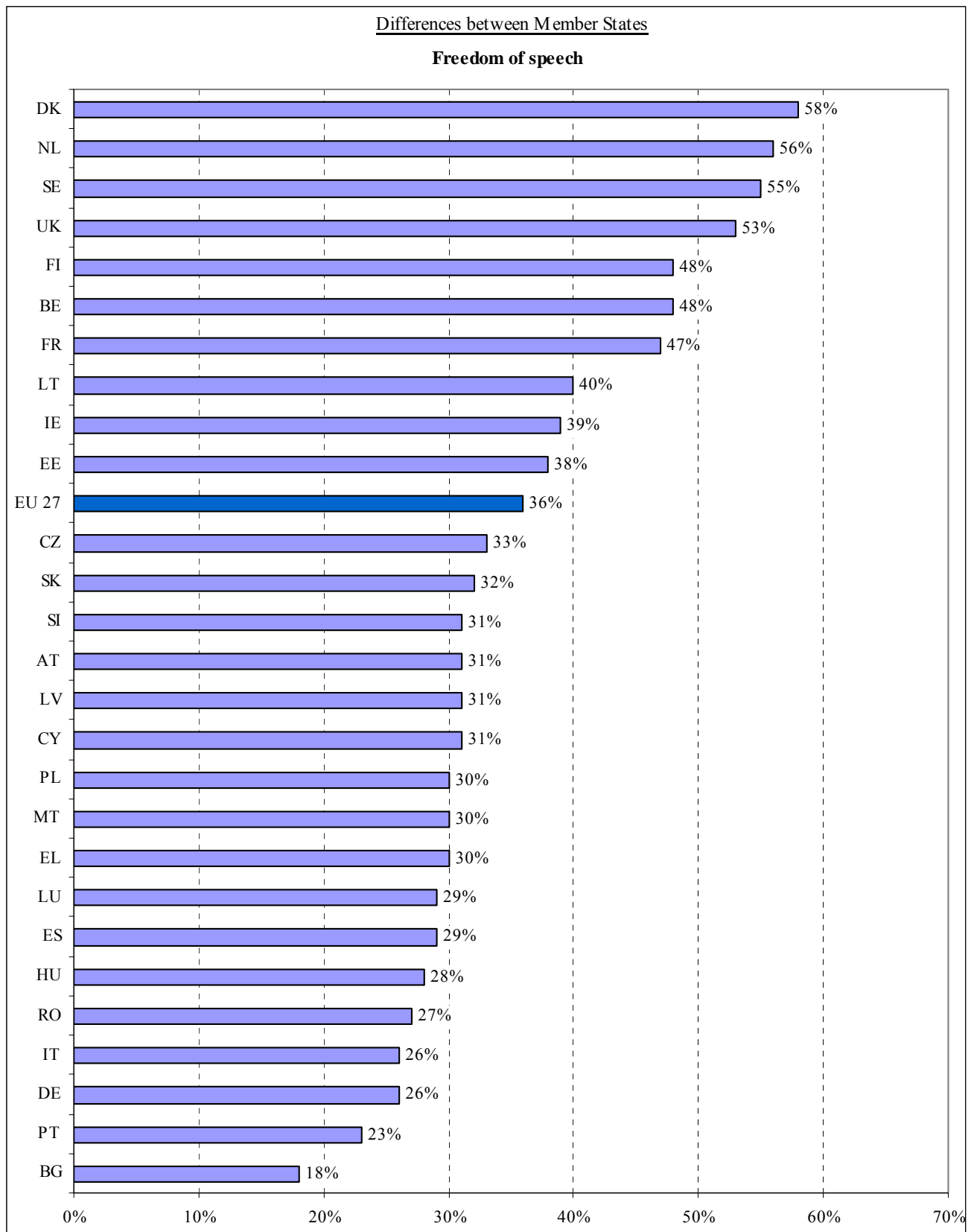
- This value is most important in France (51%) and in Sweden (51%).
- It is least often cited in Latvia (16%) and Lithuania (20%)



Source : Eurobarometer / European Parliament 73

### 3) Freedom of Speech

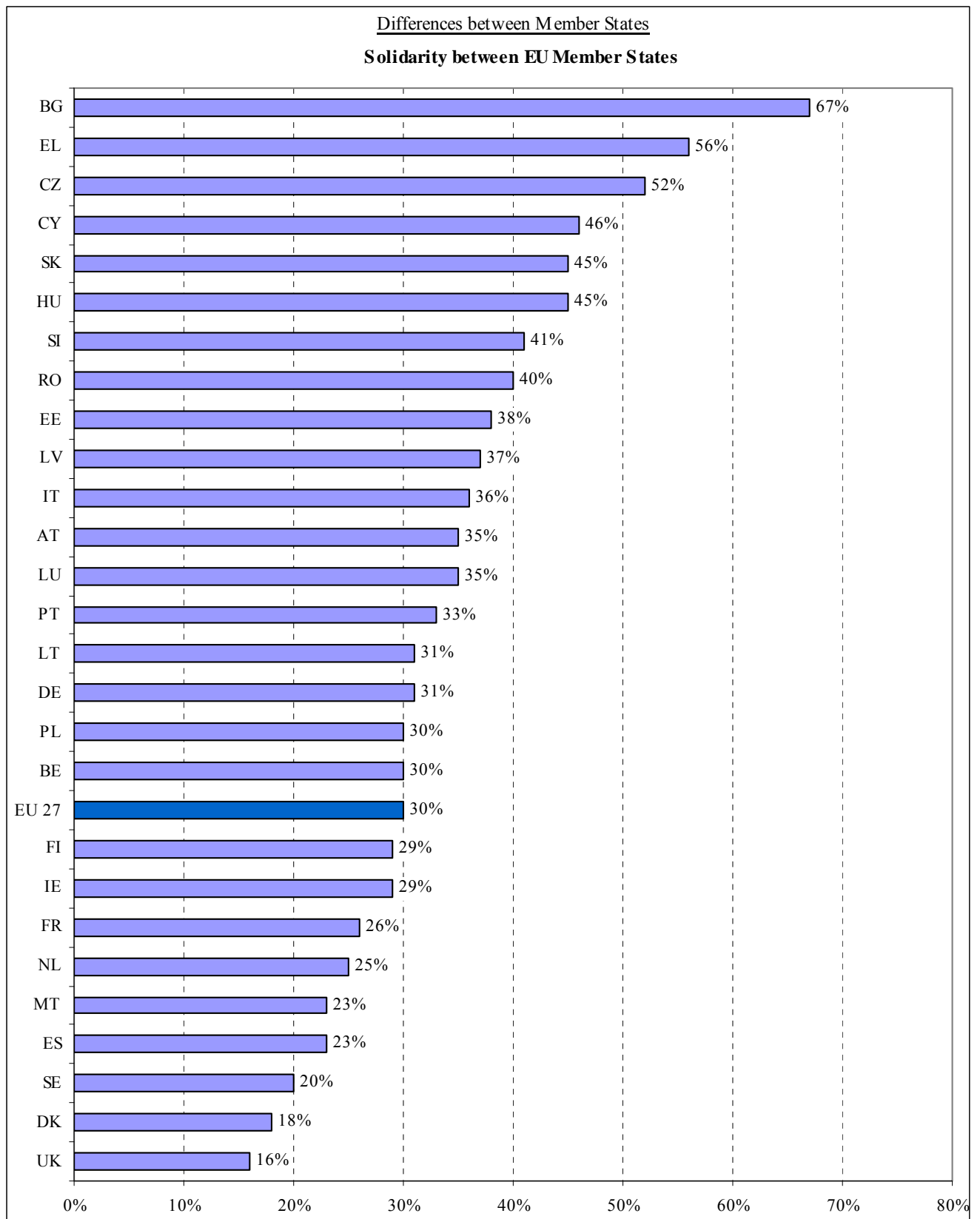
- This value is most important in Denmark (58%) and in the Netherlands (56%)
- It is least often cited in Bulgaria (18%) and in Portugal (23%).



Source : Eurobarometer / European Parliament 73

#### 4) Solidarity between EU Member States

- This value is most important in Bulgaria (67%) and in Greece (56%).
- It is least often cited in the United Kingdom (16%) and in Denmark (18%)



Source : Eurobarometer / European Parliament 73

⇒ **Differences between Member States for all the values that the European Parliament should defend as a matter of priority**

	The protection of human right (1)	Equality between men and women (2)	Freedom of speech (2')	Solidarity between EU Member States (4)	Solidarity between the EU and poor countries in the world (5)	The dialogue between cultures and religions (6)	The protection of minorities (7)	The abolition of the death penalty throughout the world (8)
EU27	62%	36%	36%	30%	27%	23%	21%	15%
BE	53%	41%	48%	30%	25%	22%	27%	13%
BG	69%	27%	18%	67%	33%	24%	13%	5%
CZ	68%	32%	33%	52%	26%	12%	11%	7%
DK	64%	40%	58%	18%	29%	38%	13%	26%
DE	73%	33%	26%	31%	27%	28%	24%	22%
EE	66%	24%	38%	38%	23%	20%	22%	7%
IE	63%	44%	39%	29%	18%	19%	33%	10%
EL	60%	25%	30%	56%	39%	18%	25%	12%
ES	56%	45%	29%	23%	29%	16%	18%	15%
FR	63%	51%	47%	26%	29%	22%	16%	15%
IT	53%	27%	26%	36%	31%	27%	30%	17%
CY	81%	43%	31%	46%	42%	19%	15%	8%
LV	59%	16%	31%	37%	28%	16%	11%	4%
LT	73%	20%	40%	31%	22%	14%	12%	4%
LU	53%	50%	29%	35%	34%	29%	26%	13%
HU	68%	33%	28%	45%	34%	22%	23%	6%
MT	53%	46%	30%	23%	36%	24%	35%	11%
NL	65%	43%	56%	25%	22%	26%	22%	18%
AT	60%	42%	31%	35%	30%	14%	22%	32%
PL	66%	27%	30%	30%	20%	16%	14%	9%
PT	51%	34%	23%	33%	32%	18%	28%	17%
RO	64%	40%	27%	40%	26%	23%	22%	10%
SI	64%	34%	31%	41%	27%	20%	18%	14%
SK	64%	31%	32%	45%	31%	19%	14%	11%
FI	68%	34%	48%	29%	27%	23%	25%	20%
SE	68%	51%	55%	20%	33%	26%	13%	17%
UK	53%	34%	53%	16%	21%	28%	17%	8%

Source : Eurobarometer / European Parliament 73

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