



Crisis and food security

Report

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EUROBAROMETER 75.2

CRISIS AND FOOD SECURITY

Carried out by TNS Opinion & Social at the request of the European Parliament

Survey coordinated by the Directorate-General for Communication

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INTRODUCTION

Although economic indicators for the second half of 2010 showed a slight decline in growth for the EU, forecasts for 2011 are quite encouraging. Estimates point to GDP growth of 1.8%, an increase that is mainly due to a recovery in the global economy and greater confidence within companies¹. That being said, the economic situation at EU level is not reflected in the same way within each Member State. Although Germany and France have demonstrated positive results, the situation in Greece, Ireland, Portugal and Spain in particular remains of concern. Demonstrations and strikes reflect the concerns of a significant proportion of these countries' populations. Furthermore, the "Arab Spring", close to the borders of the European Union, also raises a number of questions within the European Union, including immigration in particular.

It was against this background that the Eurobarometer 75.2 wave was conducted between 13 April and 2 May 2011. The survey analysed here primarily seeks to highlight the evolution of European public opinion regarding the economic crisis. This is the third survey specifically devoted to this subject to be conducted by the European Parliament's Directorate General for Communication ("Public Opinion Monitoring" unit). The first took place in January-February 2009, several months after the start of the crisis, and the second a year and a half later, in August-September 2010. We will therefore have the opportunity to compare the results of this Eurobarometer with those from the two previous surveys. Afterwards, we will consider the concerns and expectations that Europeans have in terms of food security.

To do this, approximately 27,000 Europeans aged 15 and over were interviewed in person by the TNS Opinion & Social network's interviewers (the questionnaire was administered by an interviewer at the respondent's home). The methodology used was that of the European Parliament's Directorate General for Communication ("Public Opinion Monitoring" unit). A technical note regarding the interviews conducted by the TNS Opinion & Social network's institutes is appended to this report. This note specifies the method used for the interviews as well as the confidence intervals.

The survey covers the 27 Member States and is part of the Eurobarometer 75.2 wave.

In this report, we will first analyse the various policies which Europeans believe should be given priority by the European Parliament.

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¹ See the European Commission's press release on this subject: http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/11/243&format=HTML&aged=0&language=FR&quiLanguage=en

We will then discover whether Europeans think that they have entered a period of renewed economic growth, or if they feel that the crisis will last.

We will then examine the **role that Europeans attribute to the euro**: has it helped to mitigate the negative effects of the crisis or not?

We will then focus on **the best way to deal with the crisis**, in order to get out of it quickly. First, by analysing Member States' attitudes toward the crisis: would Europeans feel better protected if their respective countries acted in a coordinated way within the Union; in order to emerge more quickly from the crisis should the Member States give priority to reducing public spending or investment in measures to boost the economy? Secondly, Europeans will be asked about the principle and the methods to be used regarding the introduction of a tax on financial transactions.

Lastly, **the issue of food security** will be addressed in order to uncover the best ways to fight against rising food prices, while simultaneously preserving the agricultural sector.

<u>Note</u>

In this report, countries are referred to using their official abbreviations.

	ABBREVIATIONS					
EU 27	5 U. 37 M. J. 61 J.					
EU27	European Union - 27 Member States					
DK	Don't know					
BE	Belgium					
CZ	Czech Republic					
BG	Bulgaria					
DK	Denmark					
DE	Germany					
EE	Estonia					
EL	Greece					
ES	Spain					
FR	France					
ΙE	Ireland					
IT	Italy					
CY	Cyprus					
LT	Lithuania					
LV	Latvia					
LU	Luxembourg					
HU	Hungary					
MT	Malta					
NL	Netherlands					
AT	Austria					
PL	Poland					
PT	Portugal					
RO	Romania					
SI	Slovakia					
SK	Slovakia					
FI	Finland					
SE	Sweden					
UK	United Kingdom					

The Eurobarometer website can be consulted at the following address: http://www.europarl.europa.eu/parliament/public/staticDisplay.do?&id=40

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the respondents across the European Union who gave their time to take part in this survey.

Without their active participation, this study would not have been possible.

SUMMARY

Almost three years after the start of the biggest economic and social crisis that the western world has seen since the 1930s, and in a context of slight economic recovery, this survey reflects Europeans' current state of mind.

Here are the main lessons of the survey:

- These results initially demonstrate that a majority of Europeans, who have been hit hard by the crisis that started in the autumn of 2008, still continue to assert that **the struggle against poverty and social exclusion should be a priority** at the EU level (51%).
- Moreover, a certain amount of pessimism has returned to a significant portion of Europe's population. Indeed, over a third of Europeans (36%) believe that the economic crisis will remain for many more years. This result is up 10 points in comparison to the Eurobarometer survey from August-September 2010.
- A majority of Europeans (57%) believe that the euro has not mitigated the negative effects of the crisis, a figure which has increased by seven points since August-September 2010.
- Nevertheless, a majority (56%, +4 points) would feel better protected from the crisis if their country adopted and implemented measures in a coordinated way with the other Member States, while over a third of respondents (36%, +3 points) would prefer individual action by their country.

As with the results of other questions in this Eurobarometer, we have observed a certain polarisation of opinions. Indeed, the number of people who have no opinion is in sharp decline, falling to 8% (-7 points).

- With this in mind, Europeans are still divided in terms of which measures should be preferred. A relative majority (40%, +2 points), consider that Member States should initially invest in measures that will boost the economy, while 34% (-1 point) think that Member States should opt to reduce public spending and 22% would apply both methods at the same time.
- Over six out of ten people (61%) say that they support the introduction of a tax on financial transactions.

- Of these, 85% would support such a measure if it was applied worldwide. Nevertheless, 81% would also support such a tax even if it was, at first, only applied throughout the European Union (in the event that an international agreement was not reached).
- The two main reasons justifying a tax on financial transactions are, first, that it would help combat excessive speculation and thus contribute to the prevention of future crises (41%) and, second, that it would require financial players to contribute to the cost of the financial crisis (35%).
- Conversely, opponents of the introduction of such a tax "at the European level, first", back their opinion, in part, because they believe it is not feasible (26%), because they think that such a tax on financial transactions can only be introduced on a worldwide level.
- In terms of the food issue, a great majority of Europeans show overwhelming support for proposed measures that will help the agricultural sector while maintaining food security throughout the world.
 - Over nine in ten Europeans agree that food should be accessible to consumers at reasonable prices while simultaneously ensuring a fair standard of living for farmers (95%), and they support the idea that the European Union must ensure the food security of its citizens by preserving farming activity in the EU (92%).
 - Nearly as many agree that the EU should participate in the fight against food shortages, which are the cause of riots and strikes in several developing countries, and that the EU should contribute to the establishment of a global food bank that would guarantee food supplies for people and combat speculation in food prices (86% for both statements).
 - However, Europeans remain sharply divided over the most effective measure for combating rising food prices. "Helping agriculture in developing countries" appeared as the first measure that was cited (34%), followed by the development, on a global scale, of mechanisms to foster coordination and prevent excessive speculation (32%).

1. The policies which should be given priority by the EP [QA1]

- A majority of Europeans still believe that the struggle against poverty and social exclusion should be the priority -

In a particularly eventful economic and social context, it seemed appropriate to ask Europeans once again about their expectations in terms of the European Parliament's policy priorities. Initially, respondents were asked to choose the policy they considered to be the number one priority from a selection of 12 policies (QA1a) (first).

Then they were asked to select a maximum of three policies from those listed which they also felt were important (QA1b) ('and then').

QA1a (first): <u>tackling poverty and social exclusion is clearly in</u> <u>the lead</u>

When we only analyse the first policy cited by Europeans, the struggle against poverty and social exclusion stands out very clearly: it is cited by almost a quarter of respondents (24%).

The second most popular policy, chosen by 10% of respondents, is **the** coordination of economic, fiscal and taxation policies.

The third (9%) consists in **improving consumer and public health protection.**

These three policies were then followed by the nine other proposals, which were each cited by less than 9% of respondents:

- A security and defence policy enabling the EU to respond to international crises (8%);
- Combating climate change (7%);
- Combating terrorism while respecting individual freedoms (7%);
- An immigration policy implemented in consultation with countries of origin (7%);
- A common energy policy intended to ensure the EU's energy independence (6%):
- An agricultural policy that is environmentally friendly and contributes to the global food balance (6%);
- A foreign policy that enables the EU to speak with one voice on the international stage (5%);
- A research and development (R&D) policy that ensures competitiveness and innovation (3%);
- And the assertion of a European social model (3%).

If we now take the total responses (question QA1T), that is to say the sum of the responses that were given, this produces a slightly different hierarchy from the 'first response' results (QA1a). It should be noted that the results of QA1T allow us to present the total responses, both those that the Europeans want to see promoted "first" and the rest.

 QA1T (first and 'then'): the struggle against poverty and social exclusion is cited by half of Europeans, ahead of the protection of consumers and public health

The statement which most readily unites respondents (51%) is still "the struggle against poverty and social exclusion", although it is slightly down from the Eurobarometer 74.1 (-1 point), but still significantly higher than at the time of the Eurobarometer 73.1 at the beginning of 2010 (+7 points).

The second most mentioned statement is once again "**improving consumer and public health protection**", which accounts for nearly one-third of responses (32%), although it is also down from the last two Eurobarometer surveys: -1 point compared with that of August-September 2010 and -3 points compared with the January-February 2010 survey.

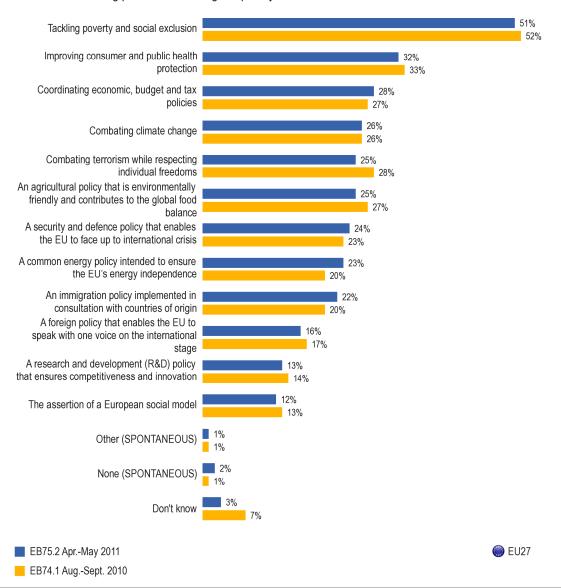
The hierarchy of policies now ranked in third and fourth place has changed significantly since the previous survey. Thus, the policy now placed third, "the coordination of economic, budget and tax policies" currently receives 28% of responses. Eight months ago, it only ranked in fifth place, with 27% of responses.

Similarly, the fourth policy cited, "combating climate change", was only mentioned in sixth position in the Eurobarometer EB74.1, with 26% of responses in both surveys.

Theyse were followed by a series of five proposals, cited by a quarter, or slightly less, of respondents. The first of these, "an agricultural policy that is environmentally friendly and contributes to the global food balance", and the second, "combating terrorism while respecting individual freedoms" (both 25%), have registered declines of two and three points respectively since August-September 2010. Following this, "a security and defence policy that enables the EU to face up to international crises" was mentioned by 24% of respondents (+1 point from August-September 2010), "a common energy policy intended to ensure the EU's energy independence" by 23% (+3 points) and "an immigration policy implemented in consultation with countries of origin" by 22% of respondents (+2 points).

In contrast, the following three policies generated less consensus, as they were mentioned by less than one in five respondents. They are "a foreign policy that enables the EU to speak with one voice on the international stage" (16%, -1 point), "a research and development (R&D) policy that ensures competitiveness and innovation" (13%, -1 point) and "the assertion of a European social model" (12% - 1 point).

QA1T. The European Parliament promotes the development of certain policies at an EU level. In your opinion, which of the following policies should be given priority? And then?



Variations between Member States

In terms of these policies, analysing the results by country highlights the top choices of respondents in the various Member States.

An analysis of the responses reveals that variations between the two surveys can sometimes be significant in some countries. They are a direct result of changing economic, social and energy conditions, as well as the international environment.

Here, we have chosen to analyse the results of QA1T, which gives the cumulative responses.

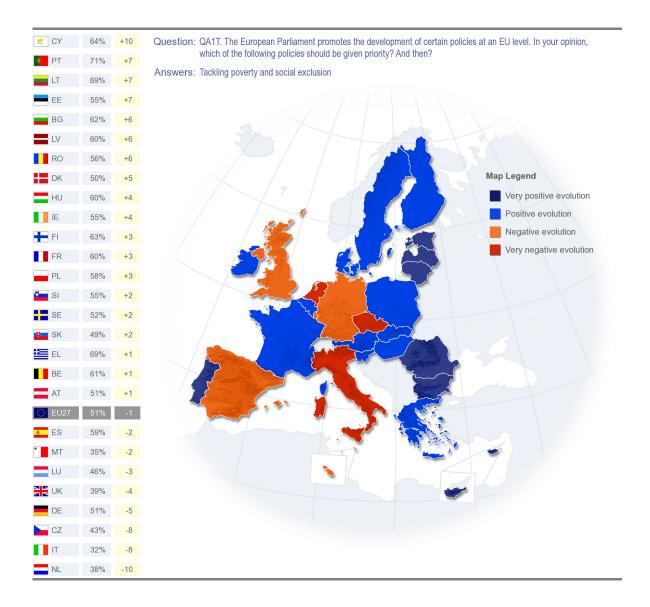
- A first observation: we found that "**tackling poverty and social exclusion**" was mentioned more in post-2004/2007 countries (56%) than it was in pre-2004 countries (49%), for 51% in the European Union as a whole.

The Member States in which the most respondents mentioned this policy were Portugal (71%), Greece and Lithuania (both 69%), Cyprus (64%), Finland (63%), Bulgaria (62%) and Belgium (61%).

However, this appears to be less fundamental in Italy (32%), Malta (35%), the Netherlands (38%), the UK (39%) and the Czech Republic (43%).

Respondents whose opinion of this policy has evolved most favourably since August-September 2010 (who are more likely to mention this policy) are mostly found in Cyprus (+10 points), Estonia, Portugal and Lithuania (all 7 points) and Bulgaria, Romania and Latvia (all 6 points).

Conversely, fewer respondents mention this policy today than in August-September 2010 in particular in the Netherlands (-10 points) and Italy and the Czech Republic (both -8 points).



- "Improving consumer and public health protection" (EU27 32%) is also mentioned slightly more in post-2004/2007 countries (37%) than in pre-2004 countries (31%).

It is cited particularly often in Cyprus (62%) and Bulgaria and Ireland (both 48%), and much less in Sweden (15%), Luxembourg (23%), the UK (25%) and Portugal (27%).

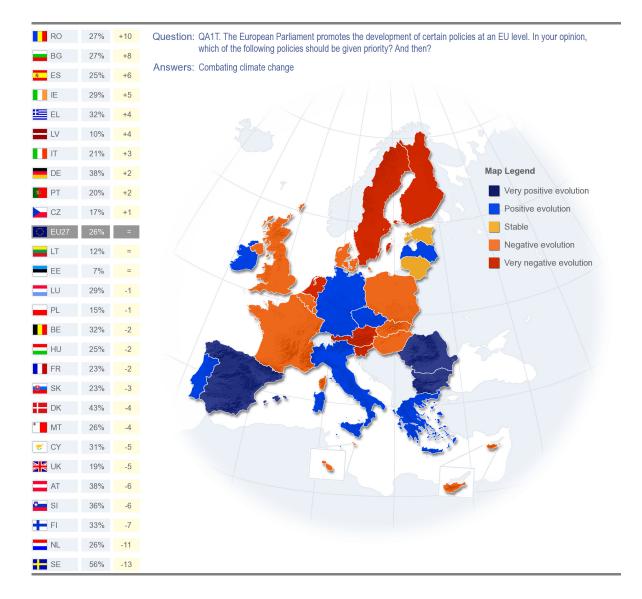
- The policy considered to be the third priority, "coordinating economic, budget and tax policies" (EU27 28%) was cited more by respondents from countries within the euro zone (29%) than outside it (24%).

This is a primary concern for respondents in Lithuania (51%), Latvia (48%), Hungary (46%), but of very little concern to respondents in Denmark (8%), Luxembourg (14%) and Sweden and Malta (both 15%).

"Combating climate change" (EU27 26%), remains a particularly strong concern in northern European countries, though often to a lesser extent than in August-September 2010, particularly in Sweden (56%, -13 points), Denmark (43%, -4 points), Austria (38%, -6 points) and Slovenia (36%, -6 points). 38% of respondents in Germany also feel this way, two points higher than in August-September 2010.

However, this opinion is expressed much less in the Baltic States: Estonia (7%), Latvia (10%) and Lithuania (12%).

The commitment to combating climate change is more widespread in pre-2004 countries (27%) than it is in post-2004/2007 countries (20%); the same is true of countries within the euro zone (27% compared with 22% outside the euro zone).



- "An agricultural policy that is environmentally friendly and contributes to the global food balance" (EU27 25%) is especially regarded as being essential by Europeans surveyed in Latvia (48%), Romania (45%), Bulgaria (41%) and Slovakia and Slovenia (both 40%), and is seen as far less important in Malta (17%), Portugal and Spain (both 18%) and the United Kingdom (19%).
- "Combating terrorism while respecting individual freedoms", which also received 25% of responses at the EU level, is mainly a concern in Denmark (39%), Cyprus (35%), Bulgaria (34%) and the United Kingdom (32%). This is much less important in Latvia (10%), Estonia (11%) and Slovenia (13%).

This item attracted lower response rates in 20 of the 27 Member States in this survey than in August-September 2010.

- The sixth statement mentioned, "a security and defence policy that enables the EU to face up to international crises" (EU27 24%), is mainly cited in Romania (38%), Italy and Cyprus (both 35%) and the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary (all 31%), in contrast to the rates observed in Lithuania (14%), Slovenia (15%) and in Belgium and Latvia (both 17%).
- "A common energy policy intended to ensure the EU's energy independence" (EU27 23%) is cited more in Germany (42%; +15 points), Austria (38%) and Hungary (35%) and far less in Portugal (12%), Spain, Romania, the United Kingdom and France (all 14%) and Cyprus (15%).
- The eighth statement, "an immigration policy implemented in consultation with countries of origin" (EU27 22%) is of much greater concern in pre-2004 countries (26%) than it is in post 2004/2007 countries (9%). To a lesser extent, it is also more frequently cited in countries within the euro zone (25%) than outside it (18%).

Respondents are most likely to mention this policy in Italy² (36%; +13 points), Austria (36%; +1 point), Cyprus (33%; +12 points), Malta (32%, +15 points) as well as Belgium and the United Kingdom (both 30%). Conversely, respondents in Romania (6%) and in Bulgaria, Poland and Latvia (all 7%) do not view this policy as being essential.

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² Recent events on the Italian island of Lampedusa (the arrival of many immigrants, many of whom are from Tunisia and Libya) may help explain this outcome.

- "A foreign policy that enables the EU to speak with one voice on the international stage" (EU27 16%) is particularly favoured by respondents in Cyprus (27%), Luxembourg (24%) and Italy, Malta and the Netherlands (all 22%), compared with just 8% of respondents in Slovenia and Latvia, and 9% in Portugal and Lithuania.
- "A research and development (R&D) policy that ensures competitiveness and innovation" (EU27 13%) is a slightly higher priority for respondents in Slovenia (24%) and Denmark and Italy (both 20%), contrasting with opinion in the United Kingdom (7%), Cyprus (8%) and Malta (9%).
- Lastly, "**the assertion of a European social model**" (EU27 12%) is mentioned to a greater extent in Slovenia (26%) and Austria (22%), while it seems of very little importance to respondents in the United Kingdom (2%), Malta (4%), Ireland (5%) and Sweden (6%).

QA1T The European Parliament promotes the development of certain policies at an EU level. In your opinion, which of the following policies should be given priority? And then?

		Tackling poverty and social exclusion	Improving consumer and public health protection	Coordinating economic, budget and tax policies	Combating climate change	An agricultural policy that is environmentally friendly and contributes to the global food balance	Combating terrorism while respecting individual freedoms	A security and defence policy that enables the EU to face up to international crisis	A common energy policy intended to ensure the EU's energy independence	An immigration policy implemented in consultation with countries of origin	A foreign policy that enables the EU to speak with one voice on the international stage	A research and development (R&D) policy that ensures competitiveness and innovation	The assertion of a European social model
	EU27	51%	32%	28%	26%	25%	25%	24%	23%	22%	16%	13%	12%
	BE	61%	37%	24%	32%	23%	24%	17%	22%	30%	15%	14%	19%
$\stackrel{\sim}{=}$	BG	62%	48%	24%	27%	41%	34%	26%	29%	7%	20%	10%	19%
ŏ	CZ	43%	34%	30%	17%	35%	27%	31%	22%	19%	18%	15%	13%
•	DK	50%	29%	8%	43%	30%	39%	26%	27%	28%	21%	20%	12%
	DE	51%	34%	36%	38%	20%	27%	22%	42%	26%	21%	13%	18%
	EE	55%	38%	38%	7%	35%	11%	23%	18%	11%	13%	13%	12%
0	IE	55%	48%	38%	29%	23%	22%	21%	25%	13%	19%	16%	5%
	EL	69%	43%	31%	32%	28%	24%	23%	16%	20%	13%	18%	16%
(2)	ES	59%	29%	33%	25%	18%	24%	18%	14%	21%	11%	18%	12%
0	FR	60%	34%	22%	23%	34%	28%	26%	14%	21%	19%	11%	15%
0	IT	32%	31%	24%	21%	20%	24%	35%	27%	36%	22%	20%	1296
(CY	64%	62%	23%	31%	23%	35%	35%	15%	33%	27%	8%	11%
	LV	60%	35%	48%	10%	48%	10%	17%	18%	7%	8%	16%	10%
	LT	69%	39%	51%	12%	23%	15%	14%	26%	12%	9%	15%	9%
	LU	46%	23%	14%	29%	27%	24%	29%	22%	15%	24%	10%	14%
	HU	60%	29%	46%	25%	38%	18%	31%	35%	10%	12%	15%	17%
	MT	35%	39%	15%	26%	17%	22%	27%	22%	32%	22%	9%	4%
	NL	38%	29%	31%	26%	26%	29%	19%	22%	25%	22%	12%	12%
	AT	51%	32%	30%	38%	29%	19%	24%	38%	36%	17%	19%	22%
$\overline{}$	PL	58%	40%	22%	15%	27%	17%	21%	23%	7%	11%	11%	8%
	PT	71%	27%	29%	20%	18%	22%	18%	12%	9%	9%	11%	19%
	R0	56%	34%	23%	27%	45%	21%	38%	14%	6%	21%	10%	10%
	SI	55%	37%	37%	36%	40%	13%	15%	24%	10%	8%	24%	26%
	SK	49%	39%	33%	23%	40%	29%	31%	24%	11%	18%	14%	18%
lue	FI	63%	34%	35%	33%	35%	18%	22%	19%	11%	16%	11%	11%
	SE	52%	15%	15%	56%	31%	27%	28%	22%	21%	19%	16%	6%
	UK	39%	25%	22%	19%	19%	32%	18%	14%	30%	10%	7%	2%

Highest percentage per country

Highest percentage by item

Lowest percentage by item

Lowest percentage by item

Socio-demographic analysis

Here, we will focus on interviewees' aggregated responses (QA1T).

If we focus on the three policies that are most mentioned by Europeans and analyse the results according to socio-demographic categories, we can highlight a few interesting results.

- "Tackling poverty and social exclusion" (UE27 51%):

- This is a topic that is of greater concern to women than to men (cited by 54% and 47%, respectively).
- o In contrast, all **age categories** cite this item in a roughly equivalent manner, with the youngest respondents leaning a bit more in this direction (53% of 15-24 year-olds, compared with 49% of those aged 55 and over).
- Quite logically, the most socially vulnerable categories appear to be the most affected by the subject. This is the case for 61% of the unemployed and for 54% of house persons, compared with just 44% of managers. Similarly, 59% of respondents who position themselves at the bottom of the social scale (compared with 42% of those who position themselves at the top) believe that this policy should be a priority.
- It is also apparent that respondents who position themselves more to the left of the political spectrum are more emphatic about this:
 56%, compared with 42% of those who position themselves to the right.
- Lastly, we should note that this policy was cited by 57% of those who believe that the crisis is going to last for many years (compared with 44% of those who claim that the return to growth has already taken place).

- "Improving consumer and public health protection" (UE27 32%):

- This is yet another policy of slightly more interest to women than men, with 35% and 30% of mentions respectively.
- In contrast, there are no real differences by age category for these responses. This item was cited by 31% of 15-24 year-olds and 32% of those aged 55 and older.

- o As in the case of "tackling poverty and social exclusion", **the most vulnerable social categories** are once again relatively more likely to choose this policy. This is true for 36% of the unemployed (compared with 26% of managers) and 35% of respondents who position themselves at the bottom of the social scale (compared with 29% of those who position themselves at the top).
- Lastly, 33% of respondents who think that the crisis is likely to last for a long time cite this policy (compared with 28% of those who say that the return to growth has already taken place).
- "Coordinating economic, budget and tax policies" (EU27 28%):
 - o There is a significant seven-point difference separating **men** from women. This time, the former were more likely to lean in this direction (31%, compared with 24% of women).
 - The age of respondents also seems to be a decisive factor, with young manual workers being the largest group to mention this policy (31% of 25-39 year-olds, compared with 24% of people aged 55 and over).
 - In contrast to the first two policies mentioned above, the more affluent social classes are the most likely here to be in favour of this policy.

This is the case for 30% of the **most highly educated** respondents (compared with 22% of those who left school at age 15 or younger), and also for 34% of managers (compared with 23% of house persons and 24% of retired people).

 Lastly, 34% of respondents who believe that the return to growth has already taken place mention this policy (compared with 26% of those who think that the crisis is going to last for many years). QA1T The European Parliament promotes the development of certain policies at an EU level. In your opinion, which of the following policies should be given priority? And then?

		Improving consumer	Coordinating		
	Tackling poverty and social exclusion	and public health protection	economic, budget and tax policies		
EU27	51%	32%	28%		
Mark Gender					
Male	47%	30%	31%		
Female	54%	35%	24%		
Age					
15-24	53%	31%	28%		
25-39	51%	33%	31%		
40-54	52%	32%	29%		
55 +	49%	32%	24%		
Education (End of)					
15-	53%	33%	22%		
16-19	52%	35%	29%		
20+	48%	29%	30%		
Still studying	50%	31%	28%		
Respondent occupation	on scale				
Self- employed	47%	30%	33%		
Managers	44%	26%	34%		
Other white collars	48%	33%	27%		
Manual workers	53%	35%	29%		
House persons	54%	34%	23%		
Unemployed	61%	36%	28%		
Retired	51%	32%	24%		
Students	50%	31%	28%		
Left-Right scale					
(1-4) Left	56%	34%	26%		
(5-6) Centre	51%	31%	30%		
(7-10) Right	42%	31%	31%		
Self-positioning on the	social scale				
Low (1-4)	59%	35%	26%		
Medium (5-6)	52%	33%	27%		
High (7-10)	42%	29%	31%		
Return to growth					
Already	44%	28%	34%		
In the coming months	42%	29%	26%		
In the coming years	51%	35%	28%		
Crisis is going to last	57%	33%	26%		

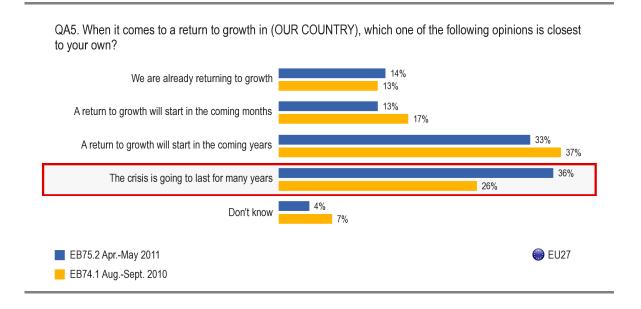
2. Europeans and the return to growth [QA5]

- A majority of Europeans believe that the crisis is going to last for many years; public opinion has deteriorated sharply since August-September 2010 -

The economic forecasts for the European Union that were published in May 2011 are rather optimistic³. However, **Europeans are proving to be more pessimistic than they were during the last Eurobarometer survey (EB74.1)** conducted in August-September 2010. At that time, a majority (37%) stated that the return to growth would take place in the coming years.

A majority of respondents (36%, +10 points) now consider that the crisis is going to last for many years. 33% (-4 points), however, believe that the return to growth will take place in the coming years.

The most optimistic respondents account for just over a quarter of those surveyed: 14% (+1 point) feel that we have already begun a return to growth and 13% (-4 points) believe that the return to growth will occur in the coming months.



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³ See the spring economic forecasts published by the European Commission which confirmed the gradual recovery of the European economy. Please keep in mind that these forecasts were published on 13 May 2011, a few weeks after this survey was conducted: http://ec.europa.eu/news/economy/110513 en.htm

Variations between Member States

The first observation: it is interesting to note that **the most pessimistic view** (which is also the dominant opinion throughout the EU) has strengthened in 26 of the 27 countries since the Eurobarometer survey conducted in August-September 2010. Only one country, Romania, maintains a stable figure (38%).

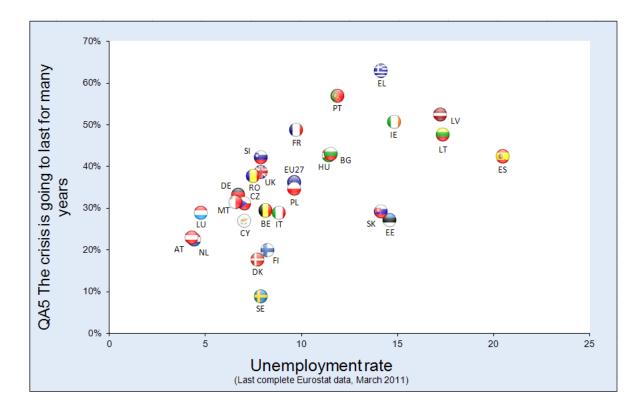
Secondly, this deterioration of public opinion is particularly pronounced in the countries worst hit by unemployment. Such countries include Latvia (a 20-point rise in people who think that the crisis will continue for many more years and an unemployment rate of 17.2%⁴), Spain (+18 points and a 20.7% unemployment rate), and Greece, which had already registered a high score on this subject in the last survey (+16 points and a 14.1% unemployment rate).

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⁴ http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=STAT/11/62&type=PDF

QA5 When it comes to a return to growth in (OUR COUNTRY), which one of the following opinions is closest to your own?

	We are already returning to growth	Diff. EB75.2 - EB74.1	A return to growth will start in the coming months	Diff. EB75.2 - EB74.1	A return to growth will start in the coming years	Diff. EB75.2 - EB74.1	The crisis is going to last for many years	Diff. EB75.2 - EB74.1	Don't know	Diff. EB75.2 EB74.1
EU27	14%	+1	13%	-4	33%	-4	36%	+10	4%	-3
RE-2004	16%	+1	13%	-5	31%	-5	37%	+12	3%	-3
POST- 2004/07	10%	+2	13%	-2	36%	-2	36%	+6	5%	-4
LV	4%	-1	4%	-3	36%	-16	53%	+20	3%	=
ES	2%	-1	8%	-7	45%	-7	44%	+18	1%	-3
PT	3%	+1	12%	-3	24%	-8	57%	+17	4%	-7
UK	8%	-6	15%	-2	35%	-3	38%	+17	4%	-6
CY	4%	-7	16%	-6	41%	-2	29%	+17	10%	-2
EL	1%	=	5%	-3	30%	-9	63%	+16	1%	-4
FI	34%	-4	12%	-13	33%	+4	20%	+14	1%	-1
FR	10%	+3	11%	-6	28%	-7	48%	+13	3%	-3
BG	1%	-1	12%	-1	38%	-6	43%	+13	6%	-5
IE	3%	=	6%	-8	37%	-1	50%	+12	4%	-3
LU	29%	=	13%	-2	25%	-7	29%	+11	4%	-2
SK	15%	-2	15%	-8	39%	-1	29%	+11	2%	=
HU	5%	-3	14%	+1	37%	-4	42%	+10	2%	-4
PL	8%	-3	15%	-2	34%	+1	35%	+10	8%	-6
DE	35%	+4	11%	-5	19%	-6	31%	+10	4%	-3
MT	19%	+1	14%	-4	29%	+6	29%	+10	9%	-13
SI	3%	-3	9%	-4	43%	+3	42%	+6	3%	-2
BE	21%	+5	20%	-5	29%	-5	29%	+6	1%	-1
NL	29%	+7	13%	-9	34%	-3	22%	+6	2%	-1
IT	9%	+4	22%	=	37%	-5	29%	+5	3%	-4
AT	29%	+1	24%	-2	20%	-2	23%	+5	4%	-2
SE	58%	+5	9%	-7	22%	-1	9%	+5	2%	-2
EE	23%	+2	9%	-6	38%	+2	28%	+4	2%	-2
LT	8%	+2	5%	=	35%	-4	48%	+3	4%	-1
DK	15%	+5	9%	-3	57%	-4	18%	+2	1%	=
CZ	13%	+3	16%	-4	38%	+1	32%	+1	1%	-1
RO	3%	+2	11%	-2	41%	+2	38%	=	7%	-2



Nevertheless, among those countries where public opinion is the most pessimistic, the United Kingdom recorded an unemployment rate of just 7.7% in January. The strong concerns about the future that were expressed in this new survey wave (+17 points) can probably be explained in part by the impact of the austerity messages coming from the British government in recent months.

Furthermore, **the most optimistic view** (which states that we have already entered a phase marked by a return to growth) is **more widespread within the euro zone** (16%, compared with 10% outside the euro zone). This view is also more frequently expressed by respondents in pre-2004 countries (16%) than by those in post-2004/2007 countries (7%). Conversely, more respondents from post-2004/2007 countries (37%, compared with 31% in pre-2004 countries) believe that the return to growth will take place in the coming years. An analysis of these results by country reveals a number of differences:

The most optimistic Europeans, who believe that we have already entered the phase marked by a return to growth (EU27 14%) mainly live in the north of the EU: in Sweden (58%), which stands out sharply from other Member States, Germany (35%), Finland (34%) and Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Austria (29% in all three cases). Conversely, the lowest rates were recorded as follows: 1% of respondents in Greece and Bulgaria, 2% in Spain, 3% in Ireland, Portugal, Romania and Slovenia and 4% in Cyprus. These are often countries that have been hit hard by the crisis.

- The (also fairly confident) belief that **the return to growth will take place in the coming months** (EU27 13%) is widespread in Austria (24%), Italy (22%) and Belgium (20%), but far less so in Latvia (4%), Greece and Lithuania (both 5%) and Ireland (6%).
- On the other hand, the more pessimistic view which considers that **the return to growth will take place in the coming years** (EU27 33%) is shared by many respondents in Denmark (57%), Spain (45%), Slovenia (43%) and Cyprus and Romania (both 41%), compared with 19% of respondents in Germany and 20% in Austria.
- As for the most pessimistic Europeans, who believe that **the crisis is going to last for many years** (EU27 36%), they mainly live in Greece (63%), Portugal (57%), Latvia (53%) and Ireland (50%); far fewer of these pessimists are found in Sweden (9%) or Denmark (18%).

Socio-demographic analysis

Men are slightly more likely than women to be optimistic: 16% and 12% respectively consider that we have already entered a phase marked by the return to growth.

They are both equally likely (33%) to believe that the return to growth will occur in the coming years.

Women demonstrate less confidence in the future: 38% (compared with 34% of men) say that the crisis is going to last for many years.

- As is often the case in surveys, **young respondents are more optimistic** than their elders: only 29% of them (compared with 40% of those aged 55 and over) believe that the crisis is going to last for many years.
- A marked pessimism is especially noticeable among less advantaged social categories. Thus, in the case of the view that the crisis is going to last for many years, 20 points separate managers (27%) from the unemployed (47%).

A respondent's educational level also generates some differences in this area: 46% of people who left school before the age of 16 believe that the crisis is going to last for many years, compared with 29% of those who have pursued lengthy studies.

- It is also worth noting that this **pessimistic view** is more prevalent among people who believe that the **euro has not mitigated the negative effects of the crisis** (44%, compared with 25% of those who believe that the euro has had a mitigating effect).

 Lastly, 40% of those respondents who would feel better protected if their country were to implement individual measures demonstrate a great deal of pessimism (compared with 33% of those who would prefer coordinated action along with the other Member States). QA5 When it comes to a return to growth in (OUR COUNTRY), which one of the following opinions is closest to your own?

	We are already returning to growth	A return to growth will start in the coming months	A return to growth will start in the coming years	The crisis is going to last for many years	Don't know
EU27	14%	13%	33%	36%	4%
4 Gender					
Male	16%	14%	33%	34%	3%
Female	12%	13%	33%	38%	4%
Age					
15-24	14%	16%	37%	29%	4%
25-39	15%	14%	32%	36%	3%
40-54	15%	13%	33%	37%	2%
55 +	12%	12%	31%	40%	5%
Education (End of)					
15-	7%	11%	30%	46%	6%
16-19	13%	13%	32%	39%	3%
20+	21%	14%	33%	29%	3%
Still studying	16%	17%	37%	25%	5%
Respondent occupation so	cale				
Self- employed	15%	13%	38%	32%	2%
Managers	25%	16%	30%	27%	2%
Other white collars	17%	16%	32%	32%	3%
Manual workers	12%	12%	33%	40%	3%
House persons	10%	9%	32%	43%	6%
Unemployed	7%	11%	32%	47%	3%
Retired	12%	12%	30%	41%	5%
Students	16%	17%	37%	25%	5%
Euro during the crisis					
Mitigated negative effects	21%	20%	32%	25%	2%
Not mitigated negative effects	11%	9%	33%	44%	3%
Measures for better prote	ction			'	
Individually	12%	13%	32%	40%	3%
Coordinate with other MS	16%	14%	34%	33%	3%

3. Europeans and the role of the euro [QA2]

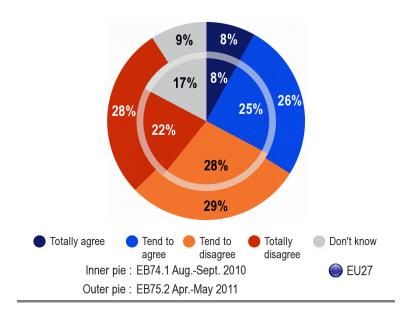
- A majority of Europeans do not believe that the euro has mitigated the negative effects of the crisis -

While the European Union's economic recovery continues, we can see that the euro's image has evolved among the Member States. A majority of Europeans (57%) state that the euro has generally not alleviated the negative effects of the crisis. This is seven points more than in August-September 2010.

It should be noted that the opposite opinion has also increased slightly (34%, +1 point), while the non-response rate has dropped by eight points (from 17% to 9%).

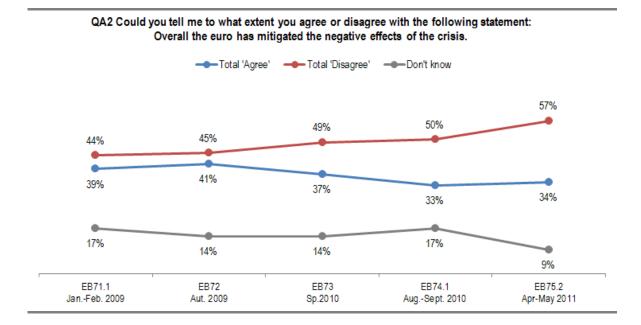
Public opinion is therefore polarised and the gap is widening between positive and negative opinions regarding the euro: this gap has jumped from 17 points in August-September 2010 to 23 points in April-May 2011.

QA2. Could you tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statement: Overall the euro has mitigated the negative effects of the crisis.



This negative opinion towards the euro has grown steadily since the first survey in January-February 2009, when 44% of Europeans believed that the euro had not mitigated the negative effects of the crisis.

Variations between Member States



It is interesting to note that, as had already been observed in January-February 2009 and in August-September 2010, Europeans within the euro zone are more likely to agree that the euro has a mitigating effect than are citizens who live outside the euro zone (38% and 28%, respectively).

However, a majority of euro zone citizens consider that the single currency has not reduced the negative effects of the crisis overall (56%, +5 points compared with the figure obtained in August-September 2010). 57% of those living outside the euro zone share this view.

- In 22 of the 27 Member States, a majority of respondents **disagree** that the euro has reduced the negative effects of the crisis overall. This represents three more countries than in August-September 2010.

An absolute majority of respondents feel this way (EU27 57%) in Slovenia (71%), the Czech Republic (70%), Cyprus (69%), Spain (68%), France (67%) and Estonia (64%).

The countries where public opinion has shifted the most towards this view ("total disagree") since August-September 2010 are the following: Bulgaria (60%, +23 points), Spain (+21 points), Romania (+18 points), Cyprus (+17 points), Lithuania (+16 points) and Greece (+15 points).

- Conversely, the respondents who think that the euro has mitigated the negative effects of the crisis are found in the following five countries: Slovakia (55%), Italy and Austria (both 53%), Finland (50%) and Ireland (47%). One can't help but notice that opinion on this subject is very different in Ireland and in Greece, although both countries are suffering from the crisis in a particularly acute manner, and they have both benefited from the bailout orchestrated by the euro zone with the IMF's assistance.

It is also worth noting that the view that the euro has reduced the negative effects of the crisis overall is declining in almost all Member States.

QA2 Could you tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statement:

Overall the euro has mitigated the negative effects of the crisis.

		Total 'Agree'	Diff. EB75.2 - EB74.1	Total 'Disagree'	Diff. EB75.2 - EB74.1	Don't know	Diff. EB75.2 - EB74.1
	UE27	34%	+1	57%	+7	9%	-8
	BG	21%	+1	60%	+23	19%	-24
	ES	27%	-14	68%	+21	5%	-7
	R0	35%	+1	47%	+18	18%	-19
\bigcirc	CY	26%	-10	69%	+17	5%	-7
	LT	22%	-3	59%	+16	19%	-13
(EL	36%	-11	61%	+15	3%	-4
	PT	33%	-6	62%	+12	5%	-6
	EE	32%	+6	64%	+11	4%	-17
\bigcirc	PL	27%	+5	57%	+9	16%	-14
	HU	35%	+2	58%	+9	7%	-11
	LV	24%	-1	61%	+9	15%	-8
	LU	45%	+1	50%	+7	5%	-8
4	UK	26%	+10	57%	+5	17%	-15
	DK	35%	+1	53%	+5	12%	-6
	CZ	26%	=	70%	+5	4%	-5
O	FR	27%	=	67%	+5	6%	-5
(SI	26%	=	71%	+5	3%	-5
+	FI	50%	=	41%	+5	9%	-5
O	IE	47%	+9	35%	+4	18%	-13
	BE	44%	-1	54%	+4	2%	-3
(SK	55%	-2	40%	+4	5%	-2
	MT	42%	+9	50%	+2	8%	-11
	SE	31%	+11	57%	+1	12%	-12
	IT	53%	+4	43%	+1	4%	-5
	DE	36%	+5	58%	=	6%	-5
	AT	53%	+7	41%	-1	6%	-6
	NL	44%	+9	48%	-5	8%	-4

Socio-demographic analysis

The first important observation is that, in almost all the categories that were tested, the majority of respondents say they do not agree that the euro has reduced the overall negative effects of the crisis. The only exceptions are found among respondents who believe that the return to growth has already taken place or will occur in the coming months, where majority agree that the euro has had a mitigating effect (50% and 52%, respectively).

- More **men** than women (38% compared with 31%) **support the single currency** by saying that it has mitigated the negative effects of the crisis. Slightly more women than men disagree with this statement (58% compared with 55% of men). This stronger support for the euro by men is something that we see in many surveys.
- The least advantaged social categories are the most sceptical about the mitigating effect of the euro. This is the case for 63% of the unemployed and 60% of manual workers, compared with 54% of managers and white-collar employees. Similarly, this opinion is shared by 62% of respondents who position themselves at the bottom of the social scale (compared with 51% of those who position themselves at the top).
- It should be noted that 67% of **people who would feel better protected against the crisis if their country adopted and implemented measures individually** believe that the euro has not mitigated the negative effects of the crisis (compared with 51% of those who would prefer coordinated action with other EU countries).

QA2 Could you tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statement: Overall the euro has mitigated the negative effects of the crisis.

	Total 'Agree'	Total 'Disagree'	Don't know	
EU27	34%	57%	9%	
Male	38%	55%	7%	
Female	31%	58%	11%	
Respondent occupation s	cale			
Self- employed	38%	56%	6%	
Managers	40%	54%	6%	
Other white collars	40%	54%	6%	
Manual workers	33%	60%	7%	
House persons	28%	59%	13%	
Unemployed	28%	63%	9%	
Retired	32%	57%	11%	
Students	39%	48%	13%	
Measures for better prot	ection			
Individually	26%	67%	7%	
Coordinate with other MS	41%	51%	8%	
Self-positioning on the so	cial scale			
Low (1-4)	28%	62%	10%	
Medium (5-6)	34%	57%	9%	
High (7-10)	42%	51%	7%	

4. The Member States' ways of dealing with the crisis

4.1 How do Europeans think the Member States should behave? [QA3]

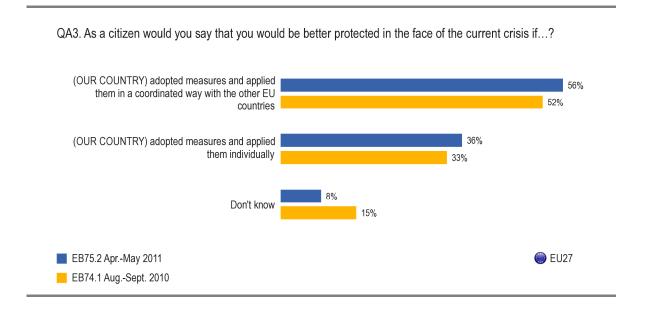
Let us now see what it would take for Europeans to feel better protected against the crisis. Would they prefer their country to adopt and apply measures individually, or in a coordinated way with the other EU Member States?

- A majority of Europeans feel they would be better protected if their country adopted and applied measures in a coordinated way with the other Member States -

Interestingly, the desire for coordinated action with other Member States has increased by four points (56%) when compared with the last survey conducted in August-September 2010 (EB74.1), even though it had declined by nine points between January-February 2009 (EB71.1) and August-September 2010.

It should nevertheless be noted that **the opposite opinion** (a preference for individual action) is **also** increasing **(36%, +3 points)**.

This simultaneous increase in support for both coordinated and individual action is due to the **sharp decline in the rate of "don't know" answers (8%, -7 points)**, demonstrating a more decisive stance by the interviewees and more clearcut opinions.



Variations between Member States

Respondents within the euro zone are far more likely than those outside it to say they would feel better protected if their country adopted and implemented measures in coordination with the other countries of the Union (63% and 45% respectively).

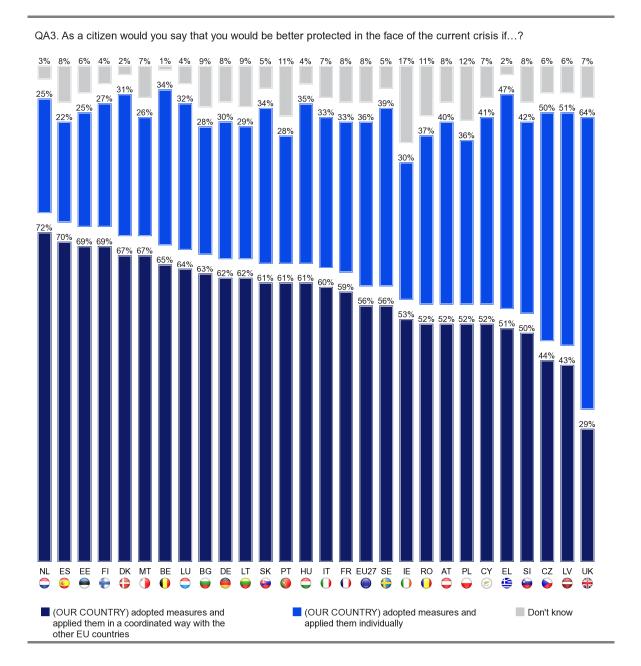
Respondents outside the euro zone are far more divided: as we have seen, 45% of them would like to see coordinated action, but slightly more, 47%, would prefer individual action.

These results have changed in the last eight months, since, in the last survey, respondents both in and outside the euro zone favoured coordinated action between Member States.

- In 24 of 27 countries, a majority favour **coordinated action** (EU27 56%), most markedly in the Netherlands (72%), Spain (70%), Finland and Estonia (both 69%) and Denmark and Malta (both 67%).
- Although in August-September 2010, the United Kingdom was the only one to record a majority in favour of **individual action**, this is now the case in **three countries**: the United Kingdom (64%), Latvia (51%) and the Czech Republic (50%), while the European average stands at 36%.
- Lastly, we should note that the "don't know" response rate (EU 8%) has fallen most strikingly in Malta (7%, -20 points), Romania (11%, -12 points), Bulgaria (9%, -12 points) and the United Kingdom (7%, -12 points). A sign that opinions are hardening.

In terms of evolutions, we note that the countries where opinion has shifted most markedly towards coordinated action are Luxembourg (+13 points), Bulgaria, Denmark and the Netherlands (all +12 points), Malta (+11 points) and Sweden (+10 points).

Those countries where opinion has evolved the most in the direction of individual action are the Czech Republic (+14 points), Cyprus and the United Kingdom (both +13 points) and Slovenia (+11 points).



Socio-demographic analysis

A majority in all categories of Europeans consider that action coordinated with the other Member States would provide better protection against the crisis. However, there are a number of differences in terms of the strength of this opinion:

- The view that **coordinated action with the other Member States would ensure better protection** for respondents is more common among **men** (59%, compared with 54% of women).
- This opinion is also held by the **youngest** respondents (63%, compared with 53% of people aged 55 and over).
- The age at which respondents completed their studies also seems to be a very discriminating variable since 65% of the **most educated respondents** agree with this view, compared with 49% of respondents who left school before the age of 16.
- The same goes for social categories: the more privileged the category, the more likely respondents are to favour coordinated action. 64% of managers express this view, compared with 52% of the unemployed.
- Lastly, more respondents supporting coordinated action are found among those who think that the euro has mitigated the negative effects of the crisis (68%, compared with 50% of those who believe the opposite); similarly, more of them are found among the most optimistic interviewees, who believe that the return to growth has already taken place (64%, compared with 51% of those who say the crisis is going to last for many years).

QA3 As a citizen would you say that you would be better protected in the face of the current crisis if...?

	(OUR COUNTRY) adopted measures and applied them in a coordinated way with the other EU countries	(OUR COUNTRY) adopted measures and applied them individually	Don't know
EU27	56%	36%	8%
Male	59%	35%	6%
Female	54%	37%	9%
Age			
15-24	63%	29%	8%
25-39	57%	37%	6%
40-54	56%	38%	6%
55 +	53%	37%	10%
Education (End of)			
15-	49%	38%	13%
16-19	53%	40%	7%
20+	65%	31%	4%
Still studying	65%	29%	6%
Respondent occupation	scale		
Self- employed	56%	38%	6%
Managers	64%	31%	5%
Other white collars	56%	39%	5%
Manual workers	55%	39%	6%
House persons	53%	35%	12%
Unemployed	52%	38%	10%
Retired	53%	37%	10%
Students	65%	29%	6%
Euro during the crisis			
Mitigated negative effects	68%	28%	4%
Not mitigated negative effects	50%	43%	7%
Return to growth			
Already	64%	32%	4%
In the coming months	60%	35%	5%
In the coming years	59%	35%	6%
Crisis is going to last	51%	40%	9%

4.2 The priority: reduce public spending or boost the economy? [QA4]

- Europeans remain divided on the best measures to boost the economy

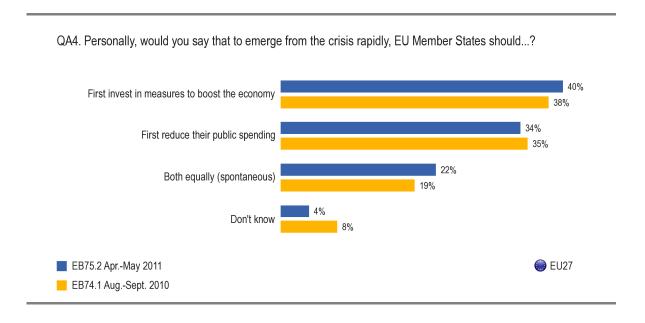
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Two solutions were suggested to the interviewees, who were asked to choose the one they felt was most likely to bring about a quick end to the crisis: 1) Member States should first reduce their public spending, or 2) Member States should first invest in measures to boost the economy.

As in the Eurobarometer 74.1 in August-September 2010, the answers to this question are rather divided. A relative majority of Europeans (40%, +2 points) believe that the Member States should first invest in measures to boost the economy.

Slightly fewer respondents (34%, -1 point) believe that the Member States should **opt to reduce public spending**.

The proportion of respondents who *spontaneously* state that both methods should be applied together is just over one in five (22%, +3 points).



Variations between Member States

Although European opinion on this issue is divided, differing responses are obtained in the EU's 27 countries.

First of all, there is a significant 15-point difference between the countries in the euro zone and those outside on the question of investing in measures to boost the economy: 50% of respondents outside the euro zone support this option, compared with 35% within the euro zone.

Similarly, 48% of respondents in post-2004/2007 countries favour this option, compared with 38% of those in pre-2004 countries.

Combining measures to boost the economy with a reduction in public spending is also preferred by more respondents in the euro zone (28%, compared with 12% outside the euro zone) and by interviewees in pre-2004 countries (24%, compared with 15% in post-2004/2007 countries).

- **Measures to boost the economy** (EU27 40%) receive most support in Denmark (63%), Lithuania (62%), Romania (54%), Latvia (52%) and Sweden (50%), in contrast to Germany (22%) and Portugal (24%). It is the preferred option in 20 Member States.
- **Reducing public spending** (EU 34%) is considered the best option in France (47%) and Portugal (41%), compared with just 19% of respondents in Ireland and 23% in both Bulgaria and Denmark. In all, this is the preferred option in six Member States.
- In the following countries, public opinion is sharply divided between supporters of measures to boost the economy and those who favour a reduction in public spending: the Czech Republic (44% for both options), Slovenia (33% and 32% respectively), Slovakia (43% and 44%) and Finland (40% and 41%).
- Interviewees who *spontaneously* say that **the two types of measures should be applied in conjunction** (EU27 22%) are mainly found in the Netherlands (46%), Germany (42%), Ireland (36%) and Cyprus (34%). The fact that this response was spontaneous reinforces its importance here.

QA4 Personally, would you say that to emerge from the crisis rapidly, EU Member States should...?

		First invest in measures to boost the economy	First reduce their public spending	Both equally (SPONTANEO US)	Don't know
	EU27	40%	34%	22%	4%
	DK	63%	23%	12%	2%
	LT	62%	26%	6%	6%
	RO	54%	25%	14%	7%
	LV	52%	38%	8%	2%
	SE	50%	34%	13%	3%
	UK	49%	38%	9%	4%
\bigcirc	PL	49%	35%	11%	5%
	BG	49%	23%	25%	3%
	MT	46%	31%	16%	7%
	CZ	44%	44%	10%	2%
	SK	43%	44%	10%	3%
	EL	43%	30%	26%	1%
\mathbf{O}	IT	43%	29%	26%	2%
	BE	43%	32%	24%	1%
	EE	42%	37%	18%	3%
	ES	41%	27%	26%	6%
	FI	40%	41%	16%	3%
\mathbf{O}	FR	39%	47%	9%	5%
	HU	39%	33%	27%	1%
0	ΙE	39%	19%	36%	6%
	LU	37%	31%	27%	5%
(CY	35%	29%	34%	2%
	SI	33%	32%	33%	2%
	AT	28%	37%	33%	2%
	NL	28%	24%	46%	2%
	PT	24%	41%	32%	3%
	DE	22%	31%	42%	5%

Socio-demographic analysis

How strongly respondents believe that Member States should above **all invest in measures to boost the economy** varies greatly between socio-demographic categories.

- Measures to boost the economy are chosen by slightly more **men** (42%) than women (39%). However, they are equally likely (22% in both cases) to *spontaneously* opt for an effort that combines the two types of measures.
- Age also influences responses, since **the younger respondents are**, the more they will tend to support measures that boost the economy (43% of 15-39 year-olds, compared with 36% of those aged 55 and over).
- The level of education also plays a role in the responses, as **the most educated respondents** are more likely to opt for measures that will boost the economy (43%, compared with 36% of those who left school before the age of 16).
- A respondent's **occupational category** seems to condition responses, as white-collar employees (45%), managers (42%) and the unemployed (44%) are more likely to support measures to boost the economy than house persons (34%) and the retired (36%).
- Lastly, 44% of the respondents who would feel better protected if their country adopted and implemented measures in coordination with other Member States are in favour of measures to boost the economy (compared with 37% of those who would prefer individual measures).

QA4 Personally, would you say that to emerge from the crisis rapidly, EU Member States should...?

	First invest in measures to boost the economy	First reduce their public spending	Both equally (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't know
EU27	40%	34%	22%	4%
Male	42%	33%	22%	3%
Female	39%	34%	22%	5%
Age				
15-24	43%	33%	19%	5%
25-39	43%	33%	21%	3%
40-54	42%	33%	22%	3%
55 +	36%	35%	24%	5%
Education (End of)				
15-	36%	35%	22%	7%
16-19	40%	34%	23%	3%
20+	43%	33%	22%	2%
Still studying	46%	31%	19%	4%
Respondent occupation s	scale			
Self- employed	42%	33%	23%	2%
Managers	42%	32%	24%	2%
Other white collars	45%	32%	21%	2%
Manual workers	41%	34%	23%	2%
House persons	34%	33%	26%	7%
Unemployed	44%	32%	19%	5%
Retired	36%	36%	22%	6%
Students	46%	31%	19%	4%
Measures for better prot	ection			
Individually	37%	42%	18%	3%
Coordinate with other MS	44%	29%	24%	3%

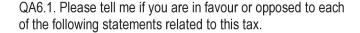
5. Europeans and a tax on financial transactions

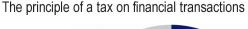
5.1 The principle of introducing a tax on financial transactions is rather widely accepted by Europeans [QA6.1]

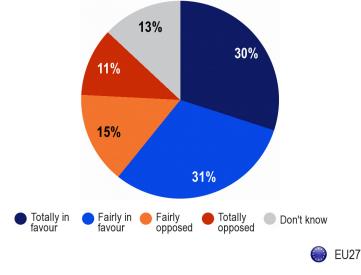
Several solutions can be considered in order to emerge from the crisis. Among these solutions, three proposals were presented to respondents. They were asked to state whether they were in favour or against them.

- A majority of Europeans say that they are in favour of a tax on financial transactions -

The first proposal (QA6.1), the principle of a tax on financial transactions, wins the approval of more than six out of ten respondents (61%). Explanations of the principle of the tax and how it would be applied were given to the respondents. Indeed, almost a third are totally in favour of this proposal (30%). Conversely, more than a quarter (26%) of respondents are opposed to the idea. 13% did not answer the question.







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⁵ The full text of the question was as follows: "The European Parliament has recently endorsed the introduction of a tax on financial transactions at a global level, or at least in the EU at first. This tax would be very low: 0,05% on each financial transaction. It would not apply to the general public, but only to transactions between financial players (banks, hedge funds, etc.). Please tell me if you are in favour or opposed to each of the following statements:"

Variations between Member States

A first observation: **support for a tax on financial transactions (EU 61%) seems much more widespread among respondents in pre-2004 countries** (64%) than among in the post-2004/2007 countries (48%).

Similarly, respondents in the euro zone are more likely to favour this option (63%, versus 54% outside the euro zone).

- The EU countries where respondents are most likely to be in favour of a tax on financial transactions are Austria (80%), Germany (71%), and France and Slovakia (both 69%).
- Conversely, the Member States where respondents are most strongly opposed to this tax are Malta (44%), Slovenia (39%), Poland (36%) and the Netherlands (35%).
- The respondents who have the hardest time expressing themselves on this issue, and who give no answer, are found in Bulgaria (43%), Romania (30%) and Malta and Ireland (both 26%).

QA6.1 Please tell me if you are in favour or opposed to each of the following statements related to this tax. The principle of a tax on financial transactions

		Total 'In favour'	Total 'Opposed'	Don't know
	EU27	61%	26%	13%
	EUR0 ZONE	63%	25%	12%
	NON EURO	54%	30%	16%
	PRE-2004	64%	25%	11%
	POST- 2004/07	48%	32%	20%
	AT	80%	17%	3%
	DE	71%	20%	9%
\mathbf{O}	FR	69%	22%	9%
	SK	69%	24%	7%
	BE	67%	30%	3%
	SE	67%	27%	6%
	HU	66%	28%	6%
	PT	66%	17%	17%
	LU	65%	26%	9%
	UK	65%	25%	10%
	DK	63%	31%	6%
\bigoplus	FI	63%	28%	9%
	EL	61%	33%	6%
\mathbf{O}	IT	61%	22%	17%
	CZ	60%	33%	7%
	NL	58%	35%	7%
	LV	56%	34%	10%
\mathbf{O}	IE	55%	19%	26%
(CY	54%	34%	12%
&	ES	50%	32%	18%
	LT	49%	29%	22%
	EE	47%	33%	20%
\bigcirc	PL	45%	36%	19%
(SI	44%	39%	17%
	RO	38%	32%	30%
	BG	34%	23%	43%
	MT	30%	44%	26%

Socio-demographic analysis

There is a majority in support of the principle of such a tax in every sociodemographic category. Nevertheless, the most vulnerable classes of respondents are the least in favour of it.

- Men are more likely to support a tax on financial transactions than women (63% and 58%, respectively).
 Women are more likely not to answer the question (16%, compared with 10% of men).
- The idea of a tax on financial transactions is slightly more popular among **intermediate age groups** (63% of 40-54 year-olds and 61% of 25-39 year-olds, compared with 59% of 15-24 year-olds and 58% of those aged 55 and over).
- The most advantaged categories socially are also most in favour of this type of tax: 70% of managers (compared with 53% of house persons and 54% of the unemployed) and 66% of the most educated respondents (compared with 53% of those who left school before the age of 16). Although the principle of such a tax only applies to transactions and not individuals⁶, the results of this survey suggest that the less privileged categories are afraid that they will become the collateral victims of such a measure: even though they were informed that this tax would not be levied upon citizens, it is likely that these categories fear that the financial players will in some way or another shift the burden of this tax onto them.
- Lastly, this opinion is held by 69% of the **people who think that the euro has mitigated the negative effects of the crisis** (compared with 57% of those who do not believe it has had a mitigating effect).
- It should be noted that left-leaning respondents are also more likely to be in favour of the principle of a tax on financial transactions (68%, compared with 59% of right-leaning respondents).

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⁶ In introducing the question that respondents were asked, we pointed out that this tax would be very low and it would apply only to transactions between financial players (banks, hedge funds, etc.) and not the general public.

QA6.1 Please tell me if you are in favour or opposed to each of the following statements related to this tax.

The principle of a tax on financial transactions

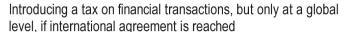
	Total 'In favour'	Total 'Opposed'	Don't know
EU27	61%	26%	13%
Male	63%	27%	10%
Female	58%	26%	16%
Age			
15-24	59%	27%	14%
25-39	61%	28%	11%
40-54	63%	26%	11%
55 +	58%	25%	17%
Respondent occupation s	cale		
Self- employed	62%	28%	10%
Managers	70%	24%	6%
Other white collars	64%	27%	9%
Manual workers	60%	28%	12%
House persons	53%	25%	22%
Unemployed	54%	32%	14%
Retired	59%	24%	17%
Students	59%	28%	13%
Left-Right scale			
(1-4) Left	68%	22%	10%
(5-6) Centre	63%	27%	10%
(7-10) Right	59%	32%	9%
Euro during the crisis			
Mitigated negative effects	69%	22%	9%
Not mitigated negative effects	57%	30%	13%

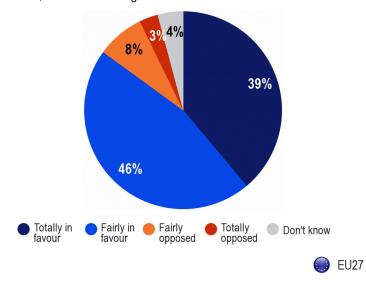
5.2 A tax on financial transactions: supportors in principle are generally in favour of its introduction, whether at a global or European level [QA6.2 and QA6.3].

We then dug a little deeper into the results obtained from the previous question. Those who responded positively ("in favour") to the first question (QA6.1) were asked to say whether they would consider the tax only at a global level, if international agreement could be reached, and whether they would support the introduction of this tax in the EU at first, if international agreement is not reached.

An overwhelming majority would support the introduction of a financial tax at a global level only (85%). Only 11% of respondents are opposed to it and 4% are undecided.

QA6.2. Please tell me if you are in favour or opposed to each of the following statements related to this tax.



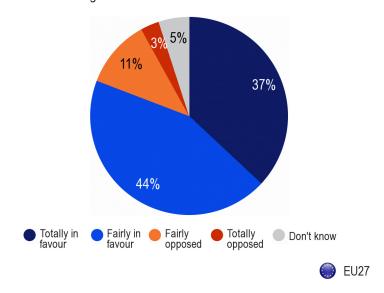


Base: Question asked of supporters in principle of a FTT (61% of the sample)

However, support also very high (81%) for the introduction of this tax initially at the EU level, if international agreement is not reached. This result confirms support for the principle of such a tax. In this scenario, only 14% of respondents did not support the principle of such a tax. And 5% of them did not reply.

QA6.3. Please tell me if you are in favour or opposed to each of the following statements related to this tax.

Introducing a tax on financial transactions in the EU at first, if international agreement is not reached



Base: Question asked of supporters in principle of a FTT (61% of the sample)

As well as supporting this tax in principle, Europeans also support the implementation of a tax on financial transactions: at a global level, if international agreement is reached, and if this is not the case, in the European Union only, at least initially.

Variations between Member States

- A tax only at a global level (QA6.2):

An overwhelming majority of respondents are in favour of this proposal (EU27 85%). In some Member States, support is even higher, with over nine out of ten people expressing agreement. These countries are Bulgaria (93%), Romania (92%), and Cyprus and Malta (both 91%). Although the proposal is backed by a very large majority, support is somewhat less pronounced in Germany (79%) and Portugal (79%).

QA6.2 Please tell me if you are in favour or opposed to each of the following statements related to this tax. Introducing a tax on financial transactions, but only at a global level, if international agreement is reached

	EU27 BG	85%		
	BG		11%	4%
		93%	3%	4%
	RO	92%	5%	3%
(CY	91%	3%	6%
	MT	91%	3%	6%
	CZ	90%	7%	3%
	LV	90%	5%	5%
	LT	90%	6%	4%
	DK	89%	9%	2%
	HU	89%	8%	3%
()	SI	89%	7%	4%
	SK	89%	8%	3%
	BE	88%	11%	1%
	EL	88%	9%	3%
0	FR	88%	8%	4%
0	IT	88%	10%	2%
1	UK	88%	8%	4%
	EE	87%	7%	6%
0	IE	87%	4%	9%
	AT	87%	10%	3%
+	FI	87%	9%	4%
	LU	86%	11%	3%
	NL	85%	13%	2%
$\overline{}$	PL	85%	6%	9%
	SE	85%	11%	4%
E	ES	84%	11%	5%
	DE	79%	17%	4%
	PT	79%	14%	7%

Base: Question asked of supporters in principle of a FTT (61% of the sample)

- The proposed introduction of a tax at the European Union level initially, if international agreement is not reached (QA6.3):

The countries in which respondents are most likely to support such a tax are Greece (89%), Cyprus (87%), France, Romania and Hungary (all 86%) and Spain and Italy (both 85%).

The countries where respondents are the least willing to support such a tax are the Netherlands (67%), Luxembourg (73%) and Poland (74%).

Socio-demographic analysis

With such massive levels of support, there are logically no significant differences between the responses of the various socio-demographic groups. It is as if a general consensus had naturally emerged, supporting the introduction of such a tax on financial transactions, either globally only or at the European level, initially.

We should nevertheless note a significant difference in the strength of support for the introduction of a tax on financial transactions at the European level initially (QA6.3), depending on whether respondents are "totally in favour" or "fairly in favour" of the principle of a tax in itself (QA6.1): 87% and 75%, respectively.

5.3 The reasons for supporting a tax on financial transactions [QA7].

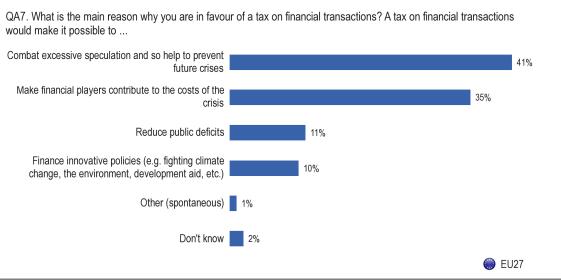
- A majority of Europeans believe that a tax on financial transactions would help combat excessive speculation -

We have just seen that a majority of Europeans would approve the implementation of a tax on financial transactions (61%). Let us now investigate the main reason for this support. To do this, respondents supporting the tax (QA6.1) were asked to choose the main reason (from four suggestions) that motivated their choice.

- The main reason given (41% of responses) is that it "would combat excessive speculation and so help to prevent future crises".
- More than a third of respondents (35%) also say that such a tax "would make financial players contribute to the costs of the crisis".

In both cases, a majority of respondents are primarily targeting those whom they consider to be "responsible" for the crisis, namely the financial players.

- 11% of them also state that it would "help reduce public deficits".
- Lastly, 10% of them think that it would "finance innovative policies (e.g. fighting climate change, the environment, development aid, etc.)".



Base: Question asked of supporters in principle of a FTT (61% of the sample)

Variations between Member States

The first reason given by respondents (EU27 41%) who support the introduction of a tax on financial transactions, "combating excessive speculation and so help to prevent future crises", is cited by more respondents in the euro zone (44%) than outside it (35%). This is the first response given in 21 Member States (in the Netherlands, this reason is tied with "making financial players contribute to the costs of the crisis").

The Member States where respondents seem especially responsive to this reason are Germany (49%), and Bulgaria and Italy (both 48%); and further to the north in the EU: Denmark and Finland (both 47%) and Sweden (46%). This view, however, is less widespread in the United Kingdom (26%), Ireland (27%) and Malta (28%).

- The second reason (EU27 35%), "making financial players contribute to the costs of the crisis" is primarily cited in Ireland (57%), and in Spain and the UK (both 45%). It is the first reason given in six Member States. Conversely, this is not so much the case in Sweden (22%) and the Czech Republic (24%).
- The third reason (EU27 11%), "**reducing public deficits**", gets particular approval from respondents in the Czech Republic and Malta (24%) and Lithuania (20%), but very little from those in Bulgaria (2%), Finland (4%) and Spain (5%).
- Lastly, "financing innovative policies (e.g. fighting climate change, the environment, development aid, etc.)" (EU 10%) is cited slightly more in Sweden (23%) and in Austria and Luxembourg (both 15%), than it is in Ireland (4%) or in Hungary, Bulgaria and Finland (6% in these three countries).

QA7 What is the main reason why you are in favour of a tax on financial transactions? A tax on financial transactions would make it possible to ...

		Combat excessive speculation and so help to prevent future crises	Make financial players contribute to the costs of the crisis	Reduce public deficits	Finance innovative policies (e.g. fighting climate change, the environment, development aid, etc.)	Other (SPONTANE OUS)	Don't know
	EU27	41%	35%	11%	10%	1%	2%
	DE	49%	35%	6%	8%	0%	2%
	BG	48%	42%	2%	6%	0%	2%
O	IT	48%	30%	10%	11%	0%	1%
	DK	47%	27%	12%	12%	0%	2%
•	FI	47%	40%	4%	6%	1%	2%
	SE	46%	22%	7%	23%	1%	1%
0	FR	45%	29%	13%	11%	0%	2%
$\overline{}$	PL	45%	25%	14%	10%	0%	6%
(CY	44%	39%	9%	7%	0%	1%
—	AT	44%	32%	9%	15%	0%	0%
(SI	44%	26%	16%	10%	2%	2%
	LU	43%	25%	13%	15%	1%	3%
	LV	42%	33%	14%	7%	1%	3%
	LT	40%	29%	20%	7%	1%	3%
	BE	39%	34%	13%	13%	1%	0%
	EE	39%	29%	16%	12%	1%	3%
	EL	39%	37%	15%	7%	1%	1%
	CZ	38%	24%	24%	13%	0%	1%
	ES	38%	45%	5%	8%	1%	3%
	SK	38%	37%	11%	13%	0%	1%
	RO	37%	38%	10%	12%	1%	2%
	NL	35%	35%	13%	14%	2%	1%
	HU	33%	42%	18%	6%	1%	0%
	PT	31%	29%	19%	14%	0%	7%
	MT	28%	35%	24%	10%	2%	1%
\mathbf{O}	IE	27%	57%	11%	4%	0%	1%
₩	UK	26%	45%	14%	11%	0%	4%

Base: Question asked of supporters in principle of a FTT (61% of the sample)

Socio-demographic analysis

- **Respondents between 40-54 years of age and the oldest respondents** are more likely than others to cite excessive speculation (43% and 42% respectively, compared with 36% for young people aged 15-24) as a reason for approval.

In contrast, **younger Europeans** are more likely to justify their support for a tax on financial transactions if it would make it possible to finance innovative policies (17%, compared with 8% of those aged 55 and over).

The socially most advantaged categories seem more inclined to cite as a reason (the majority opinion in the EU, EU27 41%) the struggle against excessive speculation: this is true for 48% of managers (compared with 36% of manual workers) and 41% of respondents who have difficulties paying their bills almost never or only from time to time (compared with 36% of those who do experience such difficulties most of the time).

This view is also shared more by **people who consider that the return to growth has already taken place** (48%, compared with 37% of those who believe that the crisis is going to last for many years).

QA7 What is the main reason why you are in favour of a tax on financial transactions? A tax on financial transactions would make it possible to ...

	Combat excessive speculation and so help to prevent future crises	Make financial players contribute to the costs of the crisis	Reduce public deficits	Finance innovative policies (e.g. fighting climate change, the environment, development aid, etc.)
EU27	41%	35%	11%	10%
Gender				
Male	42%	35%	11%	9%
Female	40%	35%	12%	11%
Age				
15-24	36%	31%	12%	17%
25-39	39%	36%	13%	10%
40-54	43%	37%	9%	9%
55 +	42%	35%	11%	8%
Respondent occupation	n scale			
Self- employed	45%	33%	8%	12%
Managers	48%	34%	7%	9%
Other white collars	42%	36%	11%	9%
Manual workers	36%	39%	13%	10%
House persons	40%	34%	10%	12%
Unemployed	39%	36%	13%	9%
Retired	42%	34%	12%	8%
Students	38%	29%	12%	19%
■ Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	36%	37%	13%	9%
From time to time	41%	35%	12%	10%
Almost never	41%	35%	11%	11%
Return to growth				
Already	48%	32%	9%	10%
In the coming months	45%	31%	10%	12%
In the coming years	40%	35%	11%	11%
Crisis is going to last	37%	38%	13%	8%

Base: Question asked of supporters in principle of a FTT (61% of the sample)

5.4 The reasons for opposing a tax on financial transactions in the European Union initially [QA8]

- Europeans who oppose an EU-only tax on financial transactions cite several reasons for their choice -

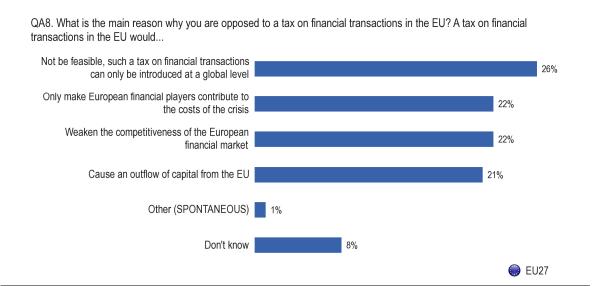
Among respondents to question QA6.1 who favoured a tax on financial transactions, some said that they were opposed to the introduction of this tax in the EU at first, if international agreement was not reached (QA6.3). This group were subsequently questioned so as to discover their reasons for opposing the tax in these circumstances. To this end, the respondents were given four statements, from which they were asked to choose the one that seemed to be the most important reason.

The responses to this question are very diverse: for example, 26% of respondents believe that it would "not be feasible" and that "such a tax on financial transactions can only be introduced at a global level".

The two following reasons are each credited with 22% of the responses:

- The fact that it would "weaken the competitiveness of the financial market".
- The fact that it would "only make European financial players contribute to the costs of the crisis".

Finally, the last reason, which unites 21% of respondents, is that it would "cause an outflow of capital from the EU".



Base: Opponents of an FTT at the EU level (14%)

Variations between Member States

Due to the very low base for this question, which was put to 8% of the total sample, it is not possible to give numerical results. We will therefore simply describe the overall trends.

- The idea that such a tax can only be introduced "at a global level" is primarily cited in Greece, Portugal and Hungary. The respondents least likely to give this answer are found in Latvia and Bulgaria.
- The risk of weakening the competitiveness of the European financial market is mainly mentioned in the north of the European Union: Denmark, Finland, the Netherlands, Slovakia and Austria. The respondents who are least likely to make this choice are found in Romania and Estonia.
- The idea that it would "only make European financial players contribute to the costs of the crisis" is mainly a valid reason for respondents in Cyprus, Estonia and Greece.
 However, very few respondents in Ireland and Poland share this opinion.
- The risk of "an outflow of capital from the EU" is mainly mentioned in Belgium, Italy and Poland, and seldom cited in Romania and Greece.

Socio-demographic analysis

The socio-demographic analysis must be conducted with caution due to the low bases.

The youngest respondents were more likely to complain that a tax on financial transactions at the EU level would only make European financial players contribute to the costs of the crisis (28% of 15-24 year-olds, compared with 19% of 40-54 year-olds). They are also more likely (25%, compared with 19% of those aged 55 and over) to believe that it would weaken the competitiveness of the European financial market.

However, they are the least likely (19%, compared with 27% of those aged 25 and over) to believe that such a tax on financial transactions can only be introduced at a global level.

- Belonging to a more vulnerable social category is a discriminating variable in this respect: both the level of education and the occupational category condition the response. Interviewees who left school before the age of 16 are more likely to state that such a tax would only make European financial players contribute to the costs of the crisis (29%, compared with 17% of the most educated).

This is also the case for 25% of house persons and 23% of the unemployed (compared with 13% of managers).

However, the least educated are least likely (13%, compared with 26% of the most educated) to say that it would weaken the competitiveness of the European financial market. The same is true for 17% of house persons (compared with 36% of managers).

- Respondents who believe that the euro has mitigated the negative effects of the crisis are more likely to state that a tax in the EU would weaken the competitiveness of the European financial market (26% compared with 20% of those who do not believe in a mitigating effect). Also, 31% of them (compared with 23%) think that such a tax can only be implemented at a global level.

- Lastly, **the most optimistic respondents** (who say that the return to growth has already started) are more likely to think that such a tax can only be implemented at a global level (30%, compared with 22% of the most pessimistic respondents).
 - Conversely, respondents who believe that the crisis is going to last for many years were more likely (30%, compared with 20% of those who say that the return to growth has already started) to believe that such a tax would only make European financial players contribute to the costs of the crisis.
- Lastly, the political orientation of respondents also leads to some differences: respondents on the left are more likely than those on the right (26%, compared with 15%) to complain that such a tax at the EU level would only make European financial players contribute to the costs of the crisis.
 - Conversely, they are less likely (19%, compared with 25%) to think that it would weaken the competitiveness of the European financial market.

QA8 What is the main reason why you are opposed to a tax on financial transactions in the EU? A tax on financial transactions in the EU would...

	Not be feasible, such a tax on financial transactions can only be introduced at a global level	Only make European financial players contribute to the costs of the crisis	Weaken the competitiveness of the European financial market	Cause an outflow of capital from the EU	Other (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't know
EU27	26%	22%	22%	21%	1%	8%
Age						
15-24	19%	28%	25%	18%	2%	8%
25-39	27%	21%	21%	22%	1%	8%
40-54	27%	19%	24%	21%	1%	8%
55 +	27%	23%	19%	20%	2%	9%
Education (End of)						
15-	28%	29%	13%	19%	0%	11%
16-19	26%	22%	22%	21%	2%	7%
20+	26%	17%	26%	20%	2%	9%
Still studying	20%	28%	24%	18%	2%	8%
Respondent occupation	scale					
Self- employed	28%	20%	17%	22%	3%	10%
Managers	27%	13%	36%	17%	1%	6%
Other white collars	26%	21%	24%	22%	2%	5%
Manual workers	27%	24%	19%	21%	1%	8%
House persons	28%	25%	17%	13%	0%	17%
Unemployed	18%	23%	18%	32%	2%	7%
Retired	27%	24%	16%	23%	1%	9%
Students	20%	28%	24%	18%	2%	8%
Left-Right scale						
(1-4) Left	26%	26%	19%	22%	1%	6%
(5-6) Centre	26%	24%	25%	16%	2%	7%
(7-10) Right	29%	15%	25%	23%	1%	7%
Euro during the crisis						
Mitigated negative effects	31%	19%	26%	18%	1%	5%
Not mitigated negative effects	23%	24%	20%	22%	2%	9%
Return to growth						
Already	30%	20%	23%	19%	1%	7%
In the coming months	34%	12%	26%	22%	0%	6%
In the coming years	22%	21%	25%	20%	2%	10%
Crisis is going to last	22%	30%	18%	22%	2%	6%

Base: Opponents of an FTT at the EU level (14%)

6. Europeans and food security

6.1 Public opinion strongly supports the EU's action to promote food security [QA9.1, 9.2, 9.3 and 9.4]

The European Parliament is concerned about the high increase in global food prices, due in part to financial speculation in agricultural raw materials. In order to take the pulse of European opinion on this subject, respondents were asked to answer four questions.

- A vast majority of Europeans overwhelmingly support the proposed measures to support the agricultural sector while maintaining food security in the world -

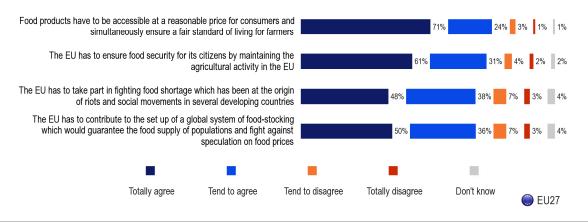
A vast majority of Europeans (95%) say that they agree with the following statement: "food products have to be accessible at a reasonable price for consumers and simultaneously ensure a fair standard of living for farmers". Only 4% of respondents "disagree" with this statement, while 1% did not answer.

Over nine out of ten respondents (92%) also consider that "**the EU** has to ensure food security for its citizens by maintaining agricultural activity in the EU". 6% of respondents have a different opinion and 2% did not respond.

Over four out of five respondents (86%) believe that "the EU has to take part in fighting food shortage which has been at the origin of riots and social movements in several developing countries". One in ten respondents disagree, and 4% did not respond.

86% of Europeans also support the statement that "the EU has to contribute to the set-up of a global system of food-stocking which would guarantee the food supply of populations and fight against speculation in food prices". As with the previous statement, 10% of respondents disagree with this and 4% did not answer.

QA9. The European Parliament is concerned about the high increase in global prices of food due notably to financial speculation on agricultural raw materials. On this subject, to what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?



Europeans have indeed expressed a strong desire to see the EU play a major role in the fight against food shortages: they believe that it represents an important mission for the European Union and its institutions.

Variations between Member States

Even though an overwhelming majority of those surveyed say that they agree that "food products have to be accessible at a reasonable price for consumers and simultaneously ensure a fair standard of living for farmers" (EU27 95%), a detailed analysis of the responses reveals some differences between countries in terms of the strength of opinions. Thus, respondents are most positive in Cyprus (93% "totally agree"), Slovenia (85%), Germany (83%), Bulgaria and Sweden (82% in both cases). Conversely, in Portugal (48% "totally agree"), Italy (53%) and Ireland (58%), the answers are somewhat more moderate, even though the total of those who agree still represents a very large majority: in fact, in all countries, at least 90% of respondents are in favour of this statement.

- The idea that the EU should "ensure food security for its citizens by maintaining agricultural activity in the EU" (EU27 92%) is approved by an overwhelming majority of respondents throughout the EU, with those least likely to agree with this statement being respondents in Denmark (79%). A detailed analysis of responses shows that the agreement is strongest in Cyprus (91% of "totally agree" responses), Slovenia (81%) and Bulgaria (80%). Respondents in Portugal (45% "totally agree"), Italy (47%), Denmark (48%) and Poland (49%) are slightly less emphatic.
- More than three-quarters of respondents in all EU countries believe that the Union's participation "in fighting food shortage which has been at the origin of riots and social movements in several developing countries" (EU27 86%) would be a good idea. Nevertheless, this view is held a little less strongly than is the case with the first two statements: again, respondents in Cyprus are more likely to "totally agree" that the Union should participate in the fight against food shortages (86%), followed by Sweden (67%), Slovenia (63%) and Greece (61%). However, less than four out of ten respondents express this desire in the Czech Republic (37%) or the United Kingdom and Italy (39% in both cases).

QA9.3 The European Parliament is concerned about the high increase in global prices of food due notably to financial speculation on agricultural raw materials. On this subject, to what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

The EU has to take part in fighting food shortage which has been at the origin of riots and social movements in several developing countries

		Totally agree	Tend to agree	Tend to disagree	Totally disagree	Don't know	Total 'Agree'	Total 'Disagree'
	EU27	48%	38%	7%	3%	4%	86%	10%
	BE	49%	37%	10%	3%	1%	86%	13%
	BG	54%	33%	5%	2%	6%	87%	7%
	CZ	37%	48%	11%	2%	2%	85%	13%
	DK	55%	32%	7%	3%	3%	87%	10%
	DE	51%	35%	9%	3%	2%	86%	12%
	EE	43%	40%	9%	5%	3%	83%	14%
\mathbf{O}	IE	52%	34%	4%	0%	10%	86%	4%
(EL	61%	33%	4%	1%	1%	94%	5%
E	ES	60%	31%	4%	2%	3%	91%	6%
\mathbf{O}	FR	51%	34%	7%	4%	4%	85%	11%
\mathbf{O}	IT	39%	47%	9%	2%	3%	86%	11%
(CY	86%	12%	1%	0%	1%	98%	1%
	LV	42%	40%	11%	3%	4%	82%	14%
	LT	46%	37%	7%	2%	8%	83%	9%
	LU	50%	36%	8%	3%	3%	86%	11%
	HU	50%	39%	8%	2%	1%	89%	10%
	MT	54%	37%	4%	1%	4%	91%	5%
	NL	41%	37%	16%	4%	2%	78%	20%
	AT	45%	39%	11%	2%	3%	84%	13%
\bigcirc	PL	41%	48%	4%	1%	6%	89%	5%
	PT	40%	50%	6%	0%	4%	90%	6%
	RO	60%	30%	5%	1%	4%	90%	6%
	SI	63%	28%	6%	2%	1%	91%	8%
	SK	45%	44%	8%	1%	2%	89%	9%
•	FI	46%	38%	10%	3%	3%	84%	13%
	SE	67%	24%	4%	3%	2%	91%	7%
	UK	39%	39%	10%	5%	7%	78%	15%

Lastly, efforts by the European Union "to set up a global system of food-stocking which would guarantee the food supply of populations and fight against speculation in food prices" (EU27 86%) would be especially supported in Slovenia (97%), Cyprus (96%) and Malta and Slovakia (both 94%).

Nevertheless, although the statement is backed by a very large majority of respondents, support is somewhat less pronounced than is the case with the first two statements: although 81% of respondents in Cyprus, 73% in Slovenia, 65% in Bulgaria and 61% in both Romania and Malta "totally agree" that the EU should contribute to the set-up of a global system of food-stocking, only 37% of respondents in the United Kingdom, 40% in Italy, 44% in Portugal and 45% in Poland share this view.

QA9.4 The European Parliament is concerned about the high increase in global prices of food due notably to financial speculation on agricultural raw materials. On this subject, to what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

The EU has to contribute to the set up of a global system of food-stocking which would guarantee the food supply of populations and fight against speculation on food prices

		Totally agree	Tend to agree	Tend to disagree	Totally disagree	Don't know	Total 'Agree'	Total 'Disagree'
	EU27	50%	36%	7%	3%	4%	86%	10%
	BE	58%	33%	7%	1%	1%	91%	8%
	BG	65%	25%	4%	2%	4%	90%	6%
	CZ	48%	41%	7%	3%	1%	89%	10%
	DK	51%	32%	10%	4%	3%	83%	14%
	DE	59%	29%	8%	2%	2%	88%	10%
	EE	54%	35%	6%	1%	4%	89%	7%
\mathbf{O}	ΙE	48%	38%	3%	1%	10%	86%	4%
	EL	57%	34%	5%	2%	2%	91%	7%
(E)	ES	59%	31%	4%	3%	3%	90%	7%
\mathbf{O}	FR	49%	36%	7%	3%	5%	85%	10%
\mathbf{O}	IT	40%	45%	9%	2%	4%	85%	11%
\bigcirc	CY	81%	15%	2%	0%	2%	96%	2%
	LV	46%	40%	8%	2%	4%	86%	10%
	LT	56%	32%	5%	1%	6%	88%	6%
	LU	53%	36%	5%	4%	2%	89%	9%
	HU	58%	35%	4%	1%	2%	93%	5%
	MT	61%	33%	1%	1%	4%	94%	2%
	NL	51%	33%	10%	4%	2%	84%	14%
	AT	53%	37%	6%	3%	1%	90%	9%
$\overline{\mathbf{Q}}$	PL	45%	43%	5%	2%	5%	88%	7%
	PT	44%	47%	5%	1%	3%	91%	6%
	R0	61%	31%	4%	1%	3%	92%	5%
	SI	73%	24%	2%	1%	0%	97%	3%
	SK	54%	40%	4%	0%	2%	94%	4%
(FI	49%	38%	7%	3%	3%	87%	10%
	SE	53%	30%	10%	4%	3%	83%	14%
4	UK	37%	41%	11%	5%	6%	78%	16%

Socio-demographic analysis

An analysis of the results of these four questions in the light of socio-demographic variables does not reveal any genuine differentiations in the responses. A very broad consensus emerges on the subject: all respondents give their support for measures that ensure food security for all, while preserving the agricultural sector.

6.2 To combat rising food prices, agricultural aid to developing countries appears to be the most effective measure [QA10]

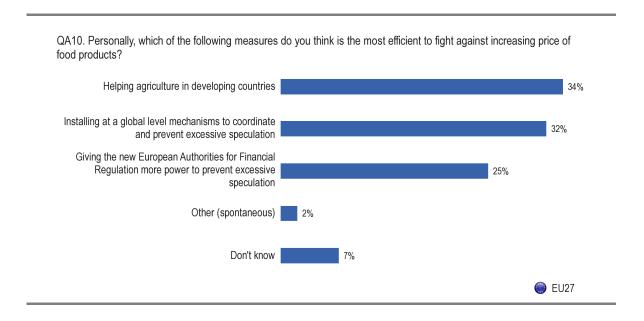
In a difficult economic environment, the issue of rising food prices is especially relevant. For this reason, we wanted to ask respondents what they believed was the best way to fight against this upward trend. To do this, we asked them to choose the measure they thought would be most effective from three statements.

- Europeans are very divided on the most effective measure to combat rising food prices -

Just over a third of Europeans (34%) believe that "helping agriculture in developing countries" would be the most effective measure to prevent a rise in the price of food products.

Slightly fewer of them (32%) would instead opt for "the installation at a global level of mechanisms to coordinate and prevent excessive speculation".

Lastly, a quarter would choose to "give the new European Authorities for Financial Regulation more power to prevent excessive speculation".



Variations between Member States

The hierarchy of preferred solutions varies greatly from one Member State to another.

Countries outside the euro zone are far more convinced than countries in the euro zone (45% and 29%, respectively) that "helping agriculture in developing countries" would be an effective way of fighting the rise in food prices (EU27 34%).

This measure is perceived as being most effective in 15 Member States led by the UK (58%), Latvia (52%), Sweden (51%) and Denmark (49%). In contrast, only 16% of respondents in Slovakia, 17% in Austria and 18% in Cyprus mention it.

- "Installing at a global level mechanisms to coordinate and prevent excessive speculation" (EU27 32%) is a measure that is cited more often in the euro zone (35%, compared with 24% outside the euro zone). This is believed to be the most effective measure in 10 Member States, in particular in Cyprus (44%), Spain (41%) and Italy, Greece and Slovakia (all 39%). However, only 15% of respondents in Malta and 19% in both the United Kingdom and Ireland share this view.
- "Giving the new European Authorities for Financial Regulation more power to prevent excessive speculation" (EU27 25%) is considered the most effective measure by respondents in Austria (39%), Hungary (35%) and Lithuania (33%). This measure is also frequently cited in Slovakia (38%) and Italy (37%). Conversely, fewest respondents choose this response in the United Kingdom (13%), Denmark (14%) and Latvia (15%).

QA10 Personally, which of the following measures do you think is the most efficient to fight against increasing price of food products?

	Helping agriculture in developing countries		Installing at a global level mechanisms to coordinate and prevent excessive speculation	Giving the new European Authorities for Financial Regulation more power to prevent excessive speculation	Other (SPONTANE OUS)	Don't know
	EU27	34%	32%	25%	2%	7%
	UK	58%	19%	13%	1%	9%
	LV	52%	27%	15%	0%	6%
	SE	51%	26%	18%	1%	4%
	DK	49%	30%	14%	2%	5%
	RO	47%	22%	21%	2%	8%
	MT	45%	15%	25%	2%	13%
	NL	42%	30%	20%	4%	4%
	LU	39%	31%	23%	2%	5%
0	FR	38%	30%	25%	2%	5%
0	IE	37%	19%	29%	1%	14%
	BE	35%	34%	28%	2%	1%
	SI	35%	29%	27%	5%	4%
$\overline{}$	PL	35%	26%	30%	0%	9%
	PT	35%	25%	32%	0%	8%
+	FI	34%	37%	22%	1%	6%
	HU	34%	23%	35%	2%	6%
(EL	32%	39%	26%	1%	2%
	EE	32%	32%	23%	2%	11%
E	ES	27%	41%	19%	3%	10%
	BG	26%	36%	32%	0%	6%
	LT	26%	29%	33%	4%	8%
	DE	25%	36%	27%	4%	8%
	CZ	23%	38%	32%	1%	6%
0	IT	19%	39%	37%	1%	4%
(CY	18%	44%	32%	1%	5%
	AT	17%	35%	39%	3%	6%
	SK	16%	39%	38%	3%	4%

Highest percentage per country

Highest percentage by item

Lowest percentage by item

Socio-demographic analysis

The differences between categories are relatively limited for this issue. Nevertheless, the following has been observed:

- Women are slightly more likely than men (33% and 30% respectively) to opt for the installation at a global level of mechanisms to coordinate and prevent excessive speculation.
- The youngest respondents (15-24 year-olds) are more likely (41%, compared with 32% of 40-54 year-olds) to opt for helping agriculture in developing countries. Conversely, they are the least likely (27%, compared with 34% of 40-54 year-olds) to prefer the installation at a global level of mechanisms to coordinate and prevent excessive speculation; and the least likely (23%, compared with 26% of 25-54 year-olds) to choose to give the new European Authorities for Financial Regulation more power to prevent excessive speculation.
- Respondents who consider that the euro has helped to mitigate the negative effects of the crisis are more likely to believe that giving the new European Authorities for Financial Regulation more power to prevent excessive speculation is the most effective measure to fight against rising food prices (31%, compared with 23% of those who do not believe in such a mitigating effect). This is also the opinion of 36% of respondents who believe that the return to growth will start in the coming months (compared with 22% of those who say that the crisis is likely to last for a long time).
- Lastly, 40% of opponents of a tax on financial transactions would support assistance to agriculture in developing countries (compared with 32% of those who favour such a tax).
 - This measure would also be supported by 38% of the respondents who would feel better protected if their country adopted measures individually (compared with 32% of those who would prefer their country to measures in a coordinated way with the other Member States).

QA10 Personally, which of the following measures do you think is the most efficient to fight against increasing price of food products?

	Helping agriculture in developing countries	Installing at a global level mechanisms to coordinate and prevent excessive speculation	Giving the new European Authorities for Financial Regulation more power to prevent excessive speculation	Other (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't know
EU27	34%	32%	25%	2%	7%
Male	34%	33%	26%	2%	5%
Female	35%	30%	25%	2%	8%
Age					
15-24	41%	27%	23%	2%	7%
25-39	34%	33%	26%	2%	5%
40-54	32%	34%	26%	3%	5%
55 +	34%	30%	25%	2%	9%
Euro during the crisis					
Mitigated negative effects	31%	32%	31%	2%	4%
Not mitigated negative effects	35%	32%	23%	3%	7%
Principle of a FTT					
Total 'In favour'	32%	34%	28%	2%	4%
Total 'Opposed'	40%	28%	23%	3%	6%

CONCLUSION

This Eurobarometer survey, which was conducted between 13 April and 2 May 2011, took place while the economic recovery appeared to be gradually establishing itself throughout the world, not least in the European Union.

The first lesson of the survey is that a large proportion of Europeans remain somewhat sceptical about the prospects for a quick exit from the crisis, despite the rather encouraging economic indicators. In eight months, their pessimism has increased sharply (+10 points). A relative majority (36%) thus believe that the crisis is going to last for many years.

As we observed during the last Eurobarometer survey in August-September 2010, respondents would like the EU's top priority to be the fight against the primary effects of the crisis, in particular through efforts to combat both poverty and social exclusion (51%). They also expressed their support for a policy that improves consumer and public health protection (32%) and for the coordination of economic, budget and tax policies (28%).

A majority of respondents (57%) believe that the euro has not mitigated the negative effects of the crisis, a figure that has increased by seven points compared with August-September 2010, and which has been steadily rising since January-February 2009, the first time this question was asked, a few months after the outbreak of the crisis (EB71.1).

That said, more than half of them (56%, +4 points) would feel better protected against the crisis if their country were to adopt and apply measures in a coordinated way.

In this context, a majority of respondents would support the introduction of a tax on financial transactions even if it was only introduced in the European Union initially, if international agreement is not reached. In the minds of Europeans, this would help to fight against excessive speculation and so to prevent future crises, as well as make financial players contribute to the costs of the crisis. Conversely, Europeans who are opposed to such a tax at the EU level highlight the unrealistic nature of such a measure, arguing that such a tax on financial transactions can only be introduced at a global level.

Europeans also remain divided on what measures should be taken to bring about a rapid exit from the crisis. A relative majority of Europeans (40%, +2 points), think that Member States should first invest in measures to boost the economy, while 34% (-1 point) think that the Member States should opt for a reduction in public spending and 22% would apply the two methods at the same time.

Questioned about the fight against rising food product prices, Europeans are not of one mind regarding the effectiveness of the measures to be adopted. The first measure would consist in helping agriculture in developing countries (34%) and the second in installing, at a global level, mechanisms to coordinate and prevent excessive speculation (32%).

Be that as it may, a vast majority of respondents overwhelmingly support the measures proposed to help the agricultural sector while maintaining food security throughout the world. They believe that the EU also has to ensure food security for its citizens by maintaining agricultural activity in the EU.

More than eight out of ten people also believe that the EU must take part in fighting food shortages which have been at the origin of riots and social movements in several developing countries. And many also consider that the EU has to contribute to the set-up of a global system of food-stocking which would guarantee the food supply of populations and fight against speculation in food prices.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

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SPECIAL EUROBAROMETER Crisis and food security TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Between the 13th of April and the 02nd of May 2011, TNS Opinion & Social, a consortium created between TNS plc and TNS opinion, carried out wave 75.2 of the EUROBAROMETER at the request of the EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, Directorate-General for Communication, "Public Opinion Monitoring" unit.

The SPECIAL EUROBAROMETER "Crisis and food security" is part of wave 75.2 and covers the population of the respective nationalities of the European Union Member States, resident in each of the Member States and aged 15 years and over. The basic sample design applied in all states is a multi-stage, random (probability) one. In each country, a number of sampling points was drawn up with probability proportional to population size (for a total coverage of the country) and to population density.

In order to do so, the sampling points were drawn systematically from each of the "administrative regional units", after stratification by individual unit and type of area. They thus represent the whole territory of the countries surveyed according to the EUROSTAT-NUTS II (or equivalent) and according to the distribution of the resident population of the respective nationalities in terms of metropolitan, urban and rural areas. In each of the selected sampling points, a starting address was drawn, at random. Further addresses (every Nth address) were selected by standard "random route" procedures, from the initial address. In each household, the respondent was drawn, at random (following the "closest birthday" rule). All interviews were conducted face-to-face in people's homes and in the appropriate national language. As far as the data capture in concerned, CAPI (Computer Assisted Personal Interview) was used in those countries where this technique is available.





ABREVIATIONS	COUNTRIES	INSTITUTES	N° INTERVIEWS	FIELDWO	RK DATES	POPULATION 15+
BE	Belgium	TNS Dimarso	1.058	15/04/2011	03/05/2011	8.939.546
BG	Bulgaria	TNS BBSS	1.003	15/04/2011	26/04/2011	6.537.510
CZ	Czech Republic	TNS Aisa	1.000	16/04/2011	29/04/2011	9.012.443
DK	Denmark	TNS Gallup DK	1.027	15/04/2011	03/05/2011	4.561.264
DE	Germany	TNS Infratest	1.588	15/04/2011	01/05/2011	64.409.146
EE	Estonia	Emor	1.001	16/04/2011	01/05/2011	945.733
IE	Ireland	Ipsos MRBI	1.016	14/04/2011	28/04/2011	3.522.000
EL	Greece	TNS ICAP	1.000	14/04/2011	01/05/2011	8.693.566
ES	Spain	TNS Demoscopia	1.006	15/04/2011	03/05/2011	39.035.867
FR	France	TNS Sofres	1.033	15/04/2011	02/05/2011	47.756.439
IT	Italy	TNS Infratest	1.034	18/04/2011	02/05/2011	51.862.391
CY	Republic of Cyprus	Synovate	502	13/04/2011	02/05/2011	660.400
LV	Latvia	TNS Latvia	1.007	16/04/2011	01/05/2011	1.447.866
LT	Lithuania	TNS Gallup Lithuania	1.029	16/04/2011	01/05/2011	2.829.740
LU	Luxembourg	TNS ILReS	503	14/04/2011	30/04/2011	404.907
HU	Hungary	TNS Hungary	1.022	16/04/2011	01/05/2011	8.320.614
MT	Malta	MISCO	500	15/04/2011	29/04/2011	335.476
NL	The Netherlands	TNS NIPO	1.034	15/04/2011	02/05/2011	13.371.980
AT	Austria	Österreichisches Gallup-Institut	1.008	15/04/2011	01/05/2011	7.009.827
PL	Poland	TNS OBOP	1.000	14/04/2011	04/05/2011	32.413.735
PT	Portugal	TNS EUROTESTE	1.026	16/04/2011	03/05/2011	8.080.915
RO	Romania	TNS CSOP	1.052	15/04/2011	27/04/2011	18.246.731
SI	Slovenia	RM PLUS	1.017	15/04/2011	01/05/2011	1.759.701
SK	Slovakia	TNS Slovakia	1.047	14/04/2011	01/05/2011	4.549.955
FI	Finland	TNS Gallup Oy	990	13/04/2011	08/05/2011	4.440.004
SE	Sweden	TNS GALLUP	1.005	16/04/2011	01/05/2011	7.791.240
UK	The United Kingdom	TNS UK	1.317	16/04/2011	01/05/2011	51.848.010
TOTAL EU27			26.825	13/04/2011	08/05/2011	408.787.006





For each country, a comparison between the sample and the universe was carried out. The universe description was derived from EUROSTAT population data or from national statistics offices. For all countries surveyed, a national weighting procedure, using marginal and intercellular weighting, was carried out based on the universe description. In all countries, gender, age, region and size of locality were introduced in the iteration procedure. For international weighting (i.e. EU averages), TNS Opinion & Social applies the official figures as provided by EUROSTAT or national statistics offices. The total population figures for input in this post-weighting procedure are listed above.

Readers are reminded that survey results are <u>estimations</u>, the accuracy of which, everything being equal, rests upon the sample size and upon the observed percentage. With samples of about 1,000 interviews, the real percentages vary within the following confidence limits:

Percentages observed	10% or 90%	20% or 80%	30% or 70%	40% or 60%	50%
Confidence limits	± 1.9 points	± 2.5 points	± 2.7 points	± 3.0 points	± 3.1 points