



Directorate-General for Communication  
 Directorate for Relations with the Citizens  
 Public Opinion Monitoring Unit

Brussels, 13 November 2012

## **2009 EUROPEAN ELECTIONS DESK RESEARCH**

### *Abstention and voting behaviour in the 2009 European elections*

#### **MAIN FINDINGS**

*This synthesis is based on desk research carried out on abstention and voting behaviour in June 2009. This is the first step in DG Communication's social marketing strategy in the run-up to the 2014 European elections.*

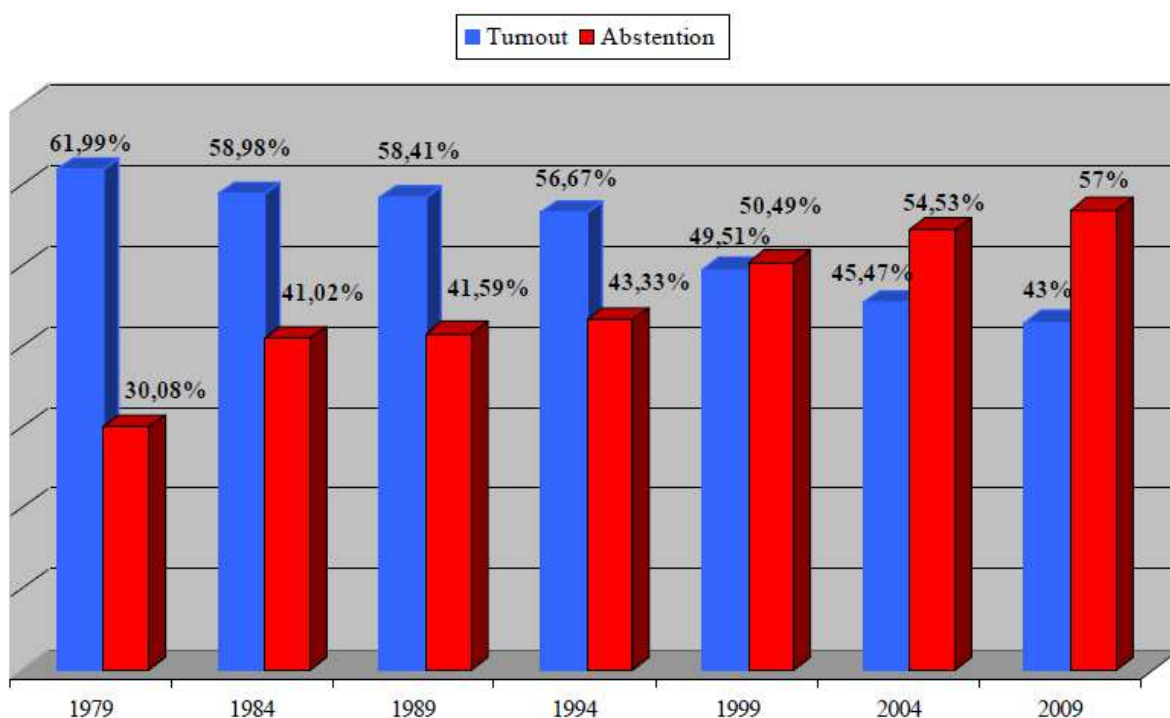
*The data are from a Eurobarometer survey conducted by TNS Opinion after the elections in 2009. The fieldwork took place between 12 June and 6 July 2009, with 26 830 European citizens of voting age participating (aged 18 or over, and aged 16 or over in Austria).*

<b>I. TURNOUT IN THE EUROPEAN ELECTIONS .....</b>	<b>2</b>
1. 1979-2009: Turnout trends in the European elections.....	2
2. 2004-2009: Turnout trends by groups of Member States.....	2
3. 1979-2009: Turnout in European elections by Member State.....	3
4. Differences in turnout between the 2009 European elections and national parliamentary elections.....	4
<b>II. SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF VOTERS AND NON-VOTERS .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>III. VOTERS AND NON-VOTERS IN THE 2009 EUROPEAN ELECTIONS: VOTING BEHAVIOUR CUTS ACROSS SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHICS .....</b>	<b>7</b>
1. Behaviour of those who voted (43%).....	7
2. Behaviour of non-voters (57%).....	8
<b>IV. FOCUS ON 2009 VOTERS .....</b>	<b>9</b>
1. Voter categories.....	9
2. Reasons for voting.....	9
3. Reasons for voting: by age and occupation.....	10
<b>V. FOCUS ON NON-VOTERS IN 2009 .....</b>	<b>11</b>
1. Non-voter categories .....	11
2. Reasons for not voting.....	11
3. Reasons for not voting: by age and occupation.....	12
Table 1: Detailed profiles of the four categories of non-voters ('abstainers') .....	13
Table 2: Reasons for not voting by category of non-voter ('abstainer') .....	14
<b>VI. ANNEXES.....</b>	<b>15</b>

## **I. TURNOUT IN THE EUROPEAN ELECTIONS**

### **1. 1979-2009: Turnout trends in the European elections**

- **Turnout** in the European elections **decreased by almost 19 percentage points** over 30 years, from 61.99% in 1979 to 43% in 2009.
- **Abstention** increased by almost 27 percentage points, from 30.08% in 1979 to 57% in 2009.



### **2. 2004-2009: Turnout trends by groups of Member States**

- **Turnout trends** in the 27 Member States can be divided into four groups:

<i>Significant increase in turnout in 8 Member States</i>		<i>Stable turnout in 8 Member States</i>		<i>Decrease in turnout of fewer than 4 points in 7 Member States</i>		<i>Decrease in turnout of between -6 and -27 points in 4 Member States</i>	
Estonia	+17.07	Finland	+0.87	UK	-3.82	Lithuania	-27.40
Latvia	+12.36	Germany	+0.30	Malta	-3.60	Cyprus	-13.10
Denmark	+11.65	Ireland	+0.06	Netherlands	-2.51	Greece	-10.61
Bulgaria	+9.77	Luxembourg	-0.59	Hungary	-2.19	Italy	-6.67
Sweden	+7.68	Belgium	-0.42	France	-2.13		
Poland	+3.66	Spain	-0.27	Portugal	-1.82		
Austria	+3.54	Czech Rep.	-0.10	Romania	-1.80		
Slovakia	+2.67	Slovenia	-0.02				

### 3. 1979-2009: Turnout in European elections by Member State

Member States	1979	1984	1989	1994	1999	2004	2009	<i>Difference 2009-2004</i>
Belgium	91.36%	92.09%	90.73%	90.66%	91.05%	90.81%	90.39%	-0.42
Denmark	47.82%	52.38%	46.17%	52.92%	50.46%	47.89%	59.54%	+11.65
Germany	65.73%	56.76%	62.28%	60.02%	45.19%	43.00%	43.30%	+0.3
Ireland	63.61%	47.56%	68.28%	43.98%	50.21%	58.58%	58.64%	+0.06
France	60.71%	56.72%	48.80%	52.71%	46.76%	42.76%	40.63%	-2.13
Italy	85.65%	82.47%	81.07%	73.60%	69.76%	71.72%	65.05%	-6.67
Luxembourg	88.91%	88.79%	87.39%	88.55%	87.27%	91.35%	90.75%	-0.6
Netherlands	58.12%	50.88%	47.48%	35.69%	30.02%	39.26%	36.75%	-2.51
United Kingdom	32.35%	32.57%	36.37%	36.43%	24.00%	38.52%	34.70%	-3.82
Greece		80.59%	80.03%	73.18%	70.25%	63.22%	52.61%	-10.61
Spain			54.71%	59.14%	63.05%	45.14%	44.90%	-0.24
Portugal			51.10%	35.54%	39.93%	38.60%	36.78%	-1.82
Sweden					38.84%	37.85%	45.53%	+7.68
Austria					49.40%	42.43%	45.97%	+3.54
Finland					30.14%	39.43%	40.30%	+0.87
Czech Republic						28.30%	28.20%	-0.1
Estonia						26.83%	43.90%	+17.07
Cyprus						72.50%	59.40%	-13.1
Lithuania						48.38%	20.98%	-27.4
Latvia						41.34%	53.70%	+12.36
Hungary						38.50%	36.31%	-2.19
Malta						82.39%	78.79%	-3.6
Poland						20.87%	24.53%	+3.66
Slovenia						28.35%	28.33%	-0.02
Slovakia						16.97%	19.64%	+2.67
Bulgaria							38.99%	-
Romania							27.67%	-
<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>61.99%</b>	<b>58.98%</b>	<b>58.41%</b>	<b>56.67%</b>	<b>49.51%</b>	<b>45.47%</b>	<b>43.00%</b>	<b>-2.47</b>

- Excluding the three countries where voting is compulsory, turnout is highest in **Malta** (78.8%), **Italy** (65%) and **Denmark** (59.5%).
- **Slovakia** (80.4%), **Lithuania** (79%) and **Poland** (75.5%) have the highest proportions of non-voters.

#### **4. Differences in turnout between the 2009 European elections and national parliamentary elections**

The following table shows the differences in turnout between European elections and national parliamentary elections.

For each Member State the turnout for the European elections of June 2009 was compared with the turnout in the most recent parliamentary elections.

The following points stood out:

- National parliamentary elections have been held in 23 Member States since 2009. In 20 Member States, turnout in the national elections was greater than in the European elections, with variations ranging from 6.80 percentage points (Latvia, September 2011) to 39.47 (Slovakia, March 2012).
- In four Member States, no national elections have been held since 2009. Consequently, the results of the national parliamentary elections preceding the 2009 European elections were used for the calculation. This too shows that turnout in the national elections was higher than it was in European elections, with variations reaching 32.84 percentage points (Austria, September 2008).

*Differences in turnout between the 2009 European elections and the most recent national parliamentary elections*

Country	National elections		European elections June 2009	National elections								Difference in turnout
	2008			2009		2010		2011		2012		
	Date	Turnout		Turnout	Date	Turnout	Date	Turnout	Date	Turnout	Date	
BE			90.39%			Jun-10	89.28%					+1.11
BG			38.99%	Jul-09	60.20%							-21.21
CZ			28.22%			May-10	62.60%					-34.38
DK			59.54%					Sep-11	87.70%			-28.16
DE			43.27%	Sep-09	70.80%							-27.53
EE			43.90%					Mar-11	63.50%			-19.60
IE			58.64%					Feb-11	69.19%			-10.55
EL			52.61%							Jun-12	62.47%	-9.86
ES			44.87%					Nov-11	71.69%			-26.82
FR*			40.63%							Jun-12	55.4%	-14.77
IT	Apr-08	80.51%	65.05%									-15.46
CY			59.40%					May-11	78.70%			-19.30
LT*			20.98%							Oct-12	35.91%	-14.93
LV			53.70%					Sep-11	60.50%			-6.80
LU			90.76%	Jun-09	89.15%							+1.61
HU*			36.31%			Apr-10	64.17%					-7.86
MT	Mar-08	93.30%	78.79%									-14.51
NL			36.75%							Sep-12	74.6%	-37.85
AT	Sep-08	78.81%	45.97%									-32.84
PL			24.53%					Oct-11	48.90%			-24.37
PT			36.77%					Jun-11	58.07%			-21.30
RO	Nov-08	39.20%	27.67%									-11.53
SI			28.37%					Dec-11	65.60%			-37.23
SK			19.64%							Mar-12	59.11%	-39.47
FI			38.60%					Apr-11	70.50%			-31.90
SE			45.53%			Sep-10	84.63%					-39.10
UK			34.70%			May-10	65.10%					-30.40

\* In FR, LT and HU: turnout of second round.

## II. SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF VOTERS AND NON-VOTERS

*Source: Postelectoral EB/EP 73.1. EU27 – Fieldwork: 12 June-6 July 2009 (TNS Opinion)*

Turnout in 2009 European elections		
	VOTED	DID NOT VOTE
<b>SEX</b>		
Male	43.9%	56.1%
Female	42.1%	57.9%
<b>AGE</b>		
18-24 years old	29.1%	70.9%
25-39 years old	35.7%	64.3%
40-54 years old	43.7%	56.3%
55 years old or over	50.0%	50.0%
<b>EDUCATION (END OF)</b>		
15 years old or younger	42.6%	57.4%
between 16 and 19 years old	39.9%	60.1%
20 years old or over	51.9%	48.1%
still studying	33.9%	66.1%
<b>OCCUPATION</b>		
Self-employed	51.2%	48.8%
Manager	53.5%	46.5%
Other white-collar worker	44.4%	55.6%
Manual worker	35.9%	64.1%
Homemaker	41.7%	58.3%
Unemployed	28.0%	72.0%
Retired	49.0%	51.0%
Student	33.9%	66.1%
<b>PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>		
Rural village	44.1%	55.9%
Small/medium-sized town	43.0%	57.0%
Large town/City	41.4%	58.6%
<b>SELF-POSITIONING ON THE SOCIAL LADDER</b>		
Low (1-4)	33.2%	66.8%
Medium (5-6)	44.3%	55.7%
High (7-10)	53.5%	46.5%
<b>USE OF THE INTERNET</b>		
Every day	44.7%	55.3%
Often/Sometimes	44.0%	56.0%
Never	42.9%	57.1%
<b>SENSE OF ATTACHMENT TO EUROPE</b>		
Yes	49%	51%
No	33.5%	66.5%
<b>SENSE OF ATTACHMENT TO ONE'S COUNTRY</b>		
Yes	44.1%	55.9%
No	33.6%	66.4%
<b>SENSE OF BEING A CITIZEN OF THE EU</b>		
Yes	49.1%	50.9%
No	33.0%	67.0%

### III. VOTERS AND NON-VOTERS IN THE 2009 EUROPEAN ELECTIONS: VOTING BEHAVIOUR CUTS ACROSS SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHICS

#### 1. Behaviour of those who voted (43%): 71% had taken the decision to vote a long time beforehand.

##### ➤ *When did they decide to vote?*

- **50%** of voters said they ***always*** vote for the same political party or the same candidate. 21% had made their decision several ***months*** before the elections.
- A minority of voters decided in the ***weeks*** (**13%**) and the ***days*** (**9%**) prior to the elections, or on ***election day*** itself (**6%**).
- It is reasonable to assume that the **28% of voters** who decided in the weeks or days prior to the elections are likely to be the group that is **most responsive to election campaigns**, with media coverage increasing in the days running up to the election.

VOTED	You have <u>always</u> voted like this	You decided a few <u>months</u> ago	You decided a few <u>weeks</u> ago	You decided a few <u>days</u> before the elections	You decided on <u>the day of the elections</u>	Don't know
<b>AGE</b>						
<b>18-24</b>	30%	<b>28%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>8%</b>	-
<b>25-39</b>	41%	26%	14%	9%	<b>8%</b>	2%
<b>40-54</b>	47%	22%	13%	9%	<b>8%</b>	1%
<b>55+</b>	<b>58%</b>	17%	12%	8%	4%	1%
<b>OCCUPATION</b>						
<b>Self-employed</b>	<b>52%</b>	24%	13%	5%	4%	2%
<b>Manager</b>	<b>41%</b>	23%	15%	12%	8%	1%
<b>Other white-collar worker</b>	<b>47%</b>	24%	11%	10%	7%	1%
<b>Manual worker</b>	<b>43%</b>	23%	14%	10%	9%	1%
<b>Homemaker</b>	<b>57%</b>	17%	14%	6%	4%	2%
<b>Unemployed</b>	<b>41%</b>	25%	12%	10%	12%	-
<b>Retired</b>	<b>60%</b>	16%	11%	8%	4%	1%
<b>Student</b>	<b>28%</b>	26%	20%	18%	7%	1%

*Source: Postelectoral EB/EP 73.1. EU27 – – Fieldwork: 12 June – 6 July 2009 (TNS Opinion)*

## 2. Behaviour of non-voters (57%): 32% decided not to vote at the last moment.

### ➤ *When did they decide not to vote?*

- 22% of non-voters said they ***never*** vote.
- 32% of non-voters said they had decided not to vote either several ***days*** before the election (16%) or on ***election day*** itself (16%).
- It would be reasonable to assume that, for this latter group, everything is still to be decided in the week prior to the elections, meaning that they **could potentially be persuaded to vote**.

DID NOT VOTE	You <u>never</u> vote	You decided a few <u>months</u> ago	You decided a few <u>weeks</u> ago	You decided a few <u>days</u> before the elections	You decided on <u>the day of the elections</u>	Don't know
<b>AGE</b>						
18-24	33%	11%	8%	17%	14%	17%
25-39	28%	14%	12%	14%	18%	14%
40-54	18%	20%	18%	16%	18%	10%
55+	16%	23%	18%	18%	13%	12%
<b>OCCUPATION</b>						
Self-employed	18%	19%	14%	18%	20%	11%
Manager	9%	15%	15%	18%	28%	15%
Other white-collar worker	19%	18%	13%	17%	20%	13%
Manual worker	24%	18%	15%	15%	15%	13%
Homemaker	25%	16%	16%	14%	16%	13%
Unemployed	38%	17%	12%	12%	11%	10%
Retired	15%	23%	18%	18%	13%	13%
Student	26%	9%	8%	21%	16%	20%

*Source: Postelectoral EB/EP 73.1. EU27 – Fieldwork: 12 June – 6 July 2009 (TNS Opinion)*

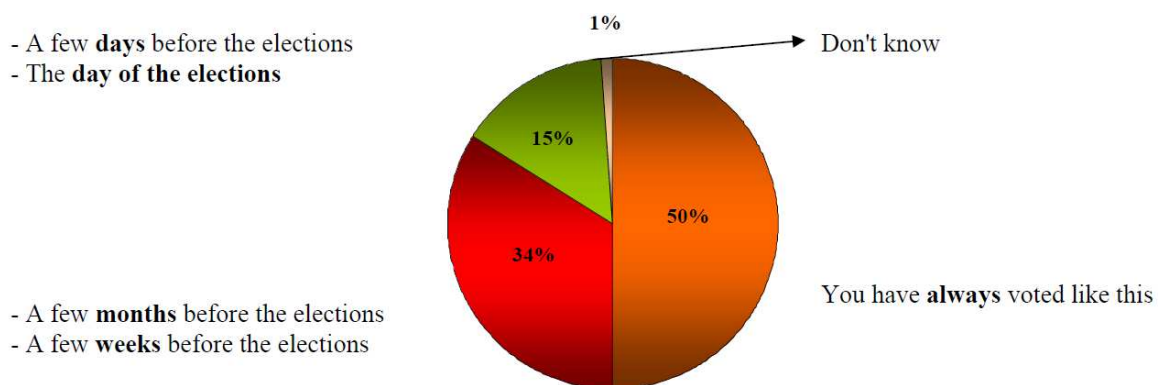


## IV. FOCUS ON 2009 VOTERS

### 1. Voter categories

- Among the 43% of voters in the 2009 European elections, 50% said they always vote in the same way.

*Q: When did you decide to vote?*



### 2. Reasons for voting

*Q: What are the main reasons why you decided to vote in the European elections?  
(max. 3 answers)*

EU27 (43% of voters)		Categories of reasons
Because voting is compulsory	2%	<i><b>compulsory vote</b></i>
This is your duty as citizen	47%	<i><b>civic vote</b></i>
You always vote	40%	
To support the political party you feel close to	24%	<i><b>support vote</b></i>
To support your government	9%	
To express your disagreement	11%	<i><b>protest vote</b></i>
To impose sanctions to your government	5%	
To impose sanctions to the EU	2%	
You can make things change in voting on the European elections	19%	<i><b>European vote</b></i>
You are in favour of the EU	16%	
You feel European / citizen of the EU	13%	
The EU plays an important role in your everyday life	6%	
You are very interested in European affairs	5%	
The information you received during the campaign convinced you to go to vote	5%	<i><b>Effect of campaigns</b></i>
Other (spontaneous)	1%	
Don't know	1%	

Source: Postelectoral EB/EP 73.1. EU27 – – Fieldwork: 12 June – 6 July 2009 (TNS)

### 3. Reasons for voting: by age and occupation

*Source: Postelectoral EB/EP 73.1. EU27 – Fieldwork: 12 June – 6 July 2009 (TNS Opinion)*

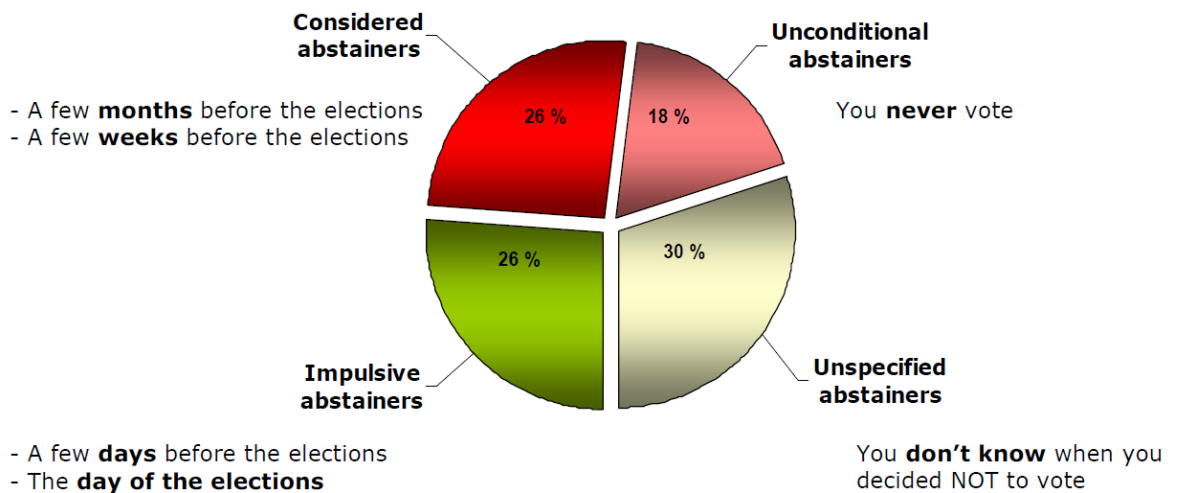
	EU27		AGE					OCCUPATION							
			18-24	25-39	40-54	55+		Self-employed	Manager	Other white-collar worker	Manual worker	Homemaker	Unemployed	Retired	Student
This is your duty as citizen	47%		46%	42%	48%	49%		40%	50%	48%	46%	45%	47%	50%	44%
You always vote	40%		28%	39%	39%	43%		37%	43%	37%	43%	40%	30%	43%	27%
To support the political party you feel close to	24%		23%	24%	24%	25%		22%	21%	25%	24%	23%	25%	26%	25%
You can make things change in voting on the European elections	19%		22%	20%	21%	17%		24%	23%	20%	20%	19%	18%	15%	23%
You are in favour of the EU	16%		16%	16%	18%	16%		18%	22%	16%	15%	15%	11%	15%	18%
You feel European / citizen of the EU	13%		18%	15%	13%	12%		9%	21%	13%	15%	10%	9%	11%	23%
To express your disagreement	11%		12%	12%	12%	9%		11%	10%	11%	14%	7%	12%	10%	12%
To support your government	9%		9%	9%	8%	9%		9%	8%	8%	9%	11%	7%	9%	10%
The EU plays an important role in your everyday life	6%		8%	8%	7%	5%		6%	11%	10%	5%	5%	5%	4%	8%
To impose sanctions to your government	5%		6%	5%	7%	5%		7%	4%	6%	6%	5%	9%	5%	5%
You are very interested in European affairs	5%		3%	8%	5%	5%		5%	7%	6%	6%	3%	4%	5%	7%
The information you received during the campaign convinced you to go to vote	5%		7%	5%	4%	4%		5%	2%	5%	5%	6%	5%	4%	8%
To impose sanctions to the EU	2%		2%	2%	3%	2%		3%	3%	2%	3%	1%	3%	2%	1%
Because voting is compulsory	2%		3%	2%	2%	2%		1%	1%	1%	3%	2%	4%	2%	3%
Other (spontaneous)	1%		2%	1%	1%	1%		1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	2%	1%	2%
Don't know	1%		0%	1%	1%	1%		1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%

## V. FOCUS ON NON-VOTERS IN 2009

### 1. Non-voter categories

- Among the 57% of non-voters ('abstainers') in the 2009 European elections, four categories were identified.

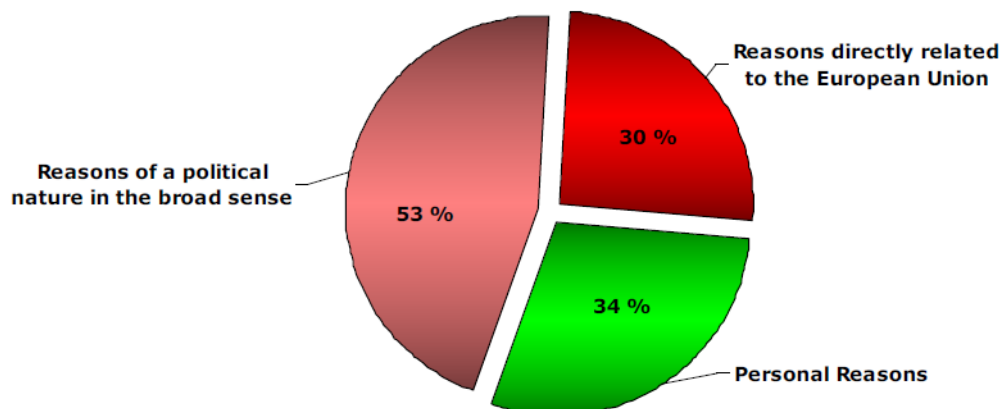
*Q: When did you decide not to vote?*



### 2. Reasons for not voting

- The reasons for not voting in 2009 were mainly linked to politics in general.

*Q: What are the main reasons why you did NOT vote in the recent European Parliament elections?*



### 3. Reasons for not voting: by age and occupation

*Source: Postelectoral EB/EP 73.1. EU27 – Fieldwork: 12 June–6 July 2009 (TNS Opinion)*

	UE27		AGE					OCCUPATION							
			18-24	25-39	40-54	55+		Self-employed	Manager	Other white-collar worker	Manual worker	Home maker	Unemployed	Retired	Student
Lack of trust in / dissatisfaction with politics generally	28%		19%	26%	32%	31%		26%	25%	28%	31%	29%	30%	29%	16%
Not interested in politics as such	17%		20%	17%	15%	15%		13%	9%	16%	19%	17%	25%	15%	12%
Vote has no consequences / vote does not change anything	17%		12%	17%	17%	18%		12%	10%	14%	18%	16%	24%	18%	7%
On holiday / away from home	10%		11%	11%	10%	9%		13%	19%	11%	9%	12%	7%	9%	14%
Too busy / no time/ work	10%		16%	14%	11%	5%		17%	16%	14%	15%	6%	5%	3%	19%
Do not know much about the EU/EP or the EP elections	10%		9%	12%	8%	12%		7%	6%	8%	13%	13%	9%	12%	10%
Rarely or never vote	10%		14%	12%	9%	6%		8%	4%	11%	11%	10%	17%	5%	9%
Not interested in European matters	9%		7%	7%	10%	9%		4%	3%	6%	9%	10%	12%	11%	4%
Not really satisfied with the EP as an institution	8%		5%	7%	9%	10%		6%	12%	7%	9%	8%	7%	10%	4%
Sick / health problem at the time	7%		2%	4%	5%	14%		3%	3%	2%	3%	11%	4%	18%	2%
Lack of public debate / lack of electoral campaign	6%		5%	5%	6%	6%		6%	7%	5%	6%	5%	6%	6%	4%
Involved in a family / leisure activity	5%		5%	7%	5%	5%		8%	7%	7%	6%	7%	4%	3%	6%
Opposed to the EU	4%		2%	2%	6%	5%		3%	2%	4%	4%	4%	3%	5%	2%
Registration or voting card problems	3%		5%	4%	3%	2%		4%	7%	2%	3%	2%	6%	2%	4%
Did not know there were elections	2%		3%	2%	1%	1%		2%	1%	1%	2%	1%	2%	1%	2%
Other (spontaneous)	6%		9%	5%	6%	6%		5%	9%	8%	6%	3%	4%	7%	12%
Don't know	3%		5%	3%	2%	3%		4%	2%	2%	2%	3%	3%	4%	7%

**Table 1: Detailed profiles of the four categories of non-voters ('abstainers')**

<b>IMPULSIVE ABSTAINERS</b> <b>26%</b>	<b>UNSPECIFIED ABSTAINERS</b> <b>30%</b>												
<p><b><u>Definition</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– They decided not to vote just a few days before the election or sometimes even on the day itself.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Socio-demographics</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <b>Mostly women</b></li> <li>– Very slightly <b>younger</b> (3 points more aged 18-39 than total proportion of non-voters)</li> <li>– More <b>educated</b></li> <li>– Mostly <b>working people</b>, slightly fewer unemployed and retired people, higher-level professions well represented, in particular <b>managers</b></li> <li>– Slightly more in <b>rural areas</b> (3 points more in rural areas than total proportion of non-voters)</li> <li>– Use the <b>internet most frequently</b>: two thirds use it, 44% almost daily</li> <li>– 68% voted in last national elections</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Reasons for not voting</u></b></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td><i>Broadly political reasons (53% of all non-voters)</i></td><td>38%</td></tr> <tr> <td><i>Personal reasons (34% of all non-voters)</i></td><td>53%</td></tr> <tr> <td><i>Reasons directly related to the EU (30% of all non-voters)</i></td><td>27%</td></tr> </table>	<i>Broadly political reasons (53% of all non-voters)</i>	38%	<i>Personal reasons (34% of all non-voters)</i>	53%	<i>Reasons directly related to the EU (30% of all non-voters)</i>	27%	<p><b><u>Definition</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– They did not answer the question concerning when the decision not to vote was taken.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Socio-demographics</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Slightly higher proportion of <b>men</b></li> <li>– Slightly <b>older</b> (6 points more aged 55+ than total proportion of non-voters)</li> <li>– <b>Lower percentage of those who left school between the ages of 16 and 19</b></li> <li>– Slightly higher proportion of <b>retired</b> people</li> <li>– <b>Fewer unemployed</b> people and <b>manual workers</b></li> <li>– Slightly more in <b>urban areas</b> (3 points more in small and medium-sized towns than total proportion of non-voters)</li> <li>– <b>Use of internet is comparable</b> to that among total proportion of non-voters</li> <li>– 73% voted in last national elections</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Reasons for not voting</u></b></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td><i>Broadly political reasons (53% of all non-voters)</i></td><td>25%</td></tr> <tr> <td><i>Personal reasons (34% of all non-voters)</i></td><td>50%</td></tr> <tr> <td><i>Reasons directly related to the EU (30% of all non-voters)</i></td><td>12%</td></tr> </table>	<i>Broadly political reasons (53% of all non-voters)</i>	25%	<i>Personal reasons (34% of all non-voters)</i>	50%	<i>Reasons directly related to the EU (30% of all non-voters)</i>	12%
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<p><b><u>Definition</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– They took the decision not to vote weeks or even months before the election.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Socio-demographics</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Slightly higher proportion of <b>men</b></li> <li>– The <b>oldest</b> (9 points more aged 40+ than total proportion of non-voters)</li> <li>– <b>Few differences in terms of education</b>, although slightly higher proportion of respondents whose education stopped before age 20</li> <li>– More <b>retired</b> people</li> <li>– Slightly more in <b>rural areas</b> (3 points more in rural areas than total proportion of non-voters)</li> <li>– Use the <b>internet the least often</b></li> <li>– 58% voted in last national elections</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Reasons for not voting</u></b></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td><i>Broadly political reasons (53% of all non-voters)</i></td><td>64%</td></tr> <tr> <td><i>Personal reasons (34% of all non-voters)</i></td><td>23%</td></tr> <tr> <td><i>Reasons directly related to the EU (30% of all non-voters)</i></td><td>41%</td></tr> </table>	<i>Broadly political reasons (53% of all non-voters)</i>	64%	<i>Personal reasons (34% of all non-voters)</i>	23%	<i>Reasons directly related to the EU (30% of all non-voters)</i>	41%	<p><b><u>Definition</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– They never vote.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Socio-demographics</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Mostly <b>men</b></li> <li>– The <b>youngest</b> (17 points more aged 18-39 than total proportion of non-voters)</li> <li>– <b>Less educated</b></li> <li>– More <b>manual workers</b>, and especially more <b>unemployed</b> people</li> <li>– The <b>most urban</b> (6 points more in small, medium-sized or large towns and cities than total proportion of non-voters)</li> <li>– <b>Just above-average internet use</b> (striking in such a young group)</li> <li>– 14% voted in last national elections</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Reasons for not voting</u></b></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td><i>Broadly political reasons (53% of all non-voters)</i></td><td>74%</td></tr> <tr> <td><i>Personal reasons (34% of all non-voters)</i></td><td>14%</td></tr> <tr> <td><i>Reasons directly related to the EU (30% of all non-voters)</i></td><td>29%</td></tr> </table>	<i>Broadly political reasons (53% of all non-voters)</i>	74%	<i>Personal reasons (34% of all non-voters)</i>	14%	<i>Reasons directly related to the EU (30% of all non-voters)</i>	29%
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**Table 2: Reasons for not voting by category of non-voter ('abstainer')**

	<b>TOTAL Abstainers EU27</b>	<b>Impulsive Abstainers</b>	<b>Considered Abstainers</b>	<b>Unconditional Abstainers</b>	<b>Unspecified Abstainers</b>
<i>Global reasons</i>	<b>100%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>Broadly political reasons*</b>	53%	38%	64%	74%	25%
<b>Reasons directly related to the European Union**</b>	30%	27%	41%	29%	12%
<b>Personal reasons***</b>	34%	53%	23%	14%	50%
<i>Detailed reasons</i>					
Lack of trust in / dissatisfaction with politics generally*	<b>28%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>12%</b>
Vote has no consequences / vote does not change anything*	<b>17%</b>	13%	<b>23%</b>	18%	6%
Not interested in politics as such*	<b>17%</b>	11%	<b>17%</b>	<b>29%</b>	9%
<b>Do not know much about the EU/EP or the EP elections**</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>6%</b>
Too busy / no time / work***	10%	<b>18%</b>	6%	5%	<b>12%</b>
On holiday / away from home***	10%	<b>15%</b>	8%	2%	<b>20%</b>
Rarely or never vote*	9%	3%	4%	<b>31%</b>	4%
<b>Not interested in European matters**</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>4%</b>
<b>Not really satisfied with the European Parliament as an institution**</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>1%</b>
Sick / health problem at the time***	7%	11%	6%	3%	7%
<b>Lack of public debate/lack of electoral campaign**</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>3%</b>
Involved in a family / leisure activity***	5%	11%	3%	1%	4%
<b>Opposed to the EU**</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>1%</b>
Registration or voting card problems***	3%	3%	1%	3%	10%
Did not know there were elections	2%	1%	1%	2%	6%
Other (spontaneous)	6%	6%	5%	4%	13%
Don't know	3%	1%	2%	3%	11%

## **VI. ANNEXES**

- 1) 27 factsheet – ‘Abstention’
- 2) 27 factsheet – ‘Voters’ profile’

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