PLENARY INSIGHTS

Public opinion at a glance

June 2026

Each plenary session, DG Communication's Eurobarometer and Surveys Unit (EBSU) provides Members with relevant public opinion data on key agenda topics.

- **Migrants without the right to stay in the EU:** More than two in three EU citizens (69%) are in favour of a common European policy on migration. In 23 EU countries, at least half of the respondents are in favour of such a policy. The highest levels of support are recorded in Spain (82%), Italy (79%) and Germany (77%). By contrast, less than half of respondents support a common European policy on migration in four Member States: Estonia and Czechia (both 40%), Hungary (42%) and Latvia (49%). (Standard Eurobarometer Spring 2026)
- **European Council meeting of 18-19 June 2026:** In the current context, the conflict in the Middle East (25%), the overall international situation (23%) and Russia's invasion of Ukraine (20%) are the issues that Europeans regard as the most urgent for the EU. (Standard Eurobarometer Spring 2026) Furthermore, 78% of EU citizens believe that an increasing number of projects will need to be funded by the EU as a whole, rather than by Member States individually. (EP Spring 2025 Eurobarometer) As regards China, many people around the world expect China's global influence to grow over the next decade, according to a survey published by the European Council on Foreign Relations.
- **EU-US trade deal:** 77% of respondents support the EU's common trade policy. 83% of citizens agree with the statement that the EU should strengthen its economic independence and diversify its trade relations with countries all over the world. (Standard Eurobarometer Spring 2026)
- **Address by Jakov Milatović, President of Montenegro:** 63% of Montenegrins have a positive image of the EU, and 75% believe that their country would benefit from EU membership. (Standard Eurobarometer – Spring 2026) 51% of EU citizens are in favour of Montenegro joining the EU, the second-highest level of support for any candidate country, just behind Ukraine (52%). (Eurobarometer survey on attitudes towards EU Enlargement)

For more information on the topics covered in this edition, the methodology of our surveys or on additional services offered to Members by **DGCOMM's Eurobarometer and Surveys Unit,** please contact: dgcomm-ebsu@europarl.europa.eu

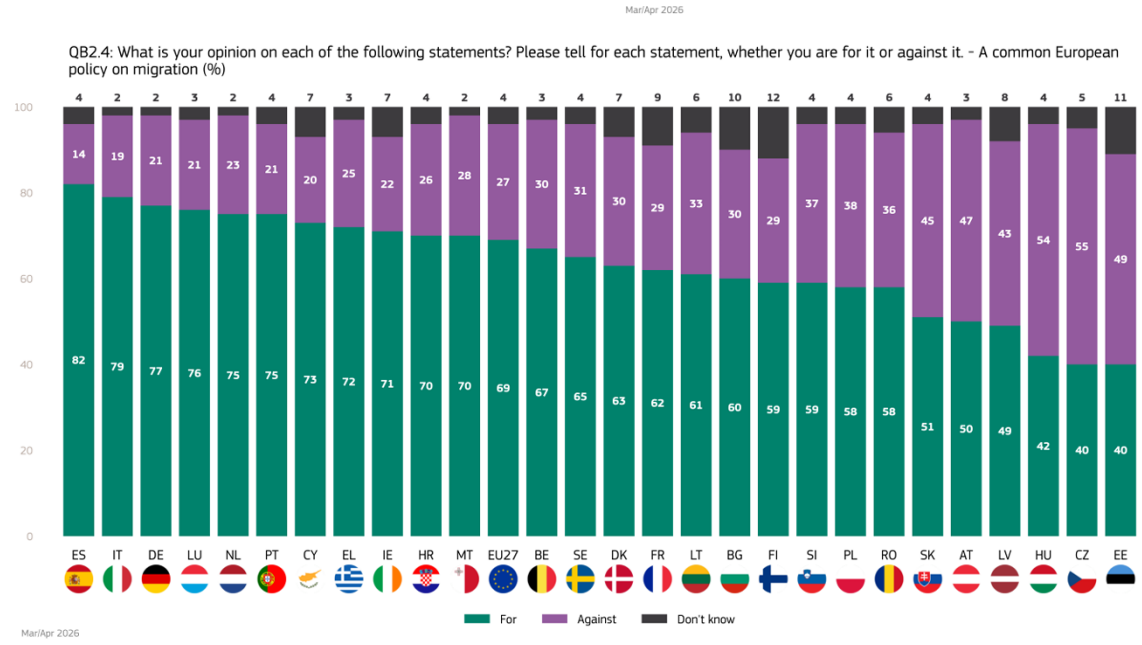
@EP_Trends

Migrants without the right to stay in the EU

On Wednesday 17 June, MEPs will vote on the EU returns policy reform, based on the provisional political agreement reached by Parliament and Council negotiators. The agreed reform would introduce new obligations for third-country nationals to cooperate with return authorities, allow detention for up to 24 months – and potentially longer under certain conditions, strengthen the mutual recognition of return decisions across the EU, and allow the possibility of using "return hubs" in third countries outside the EU.

More than two in three EU citizens are in favour of a common European policy on migration (69%, +1pp compared with autumn 2025). Just over one quarter of respondents are opposed to this idea (27%, unchanged), while 4 % answer that they 'don't know'(-1pp). (Standard Eurobarometer Spring 2026)

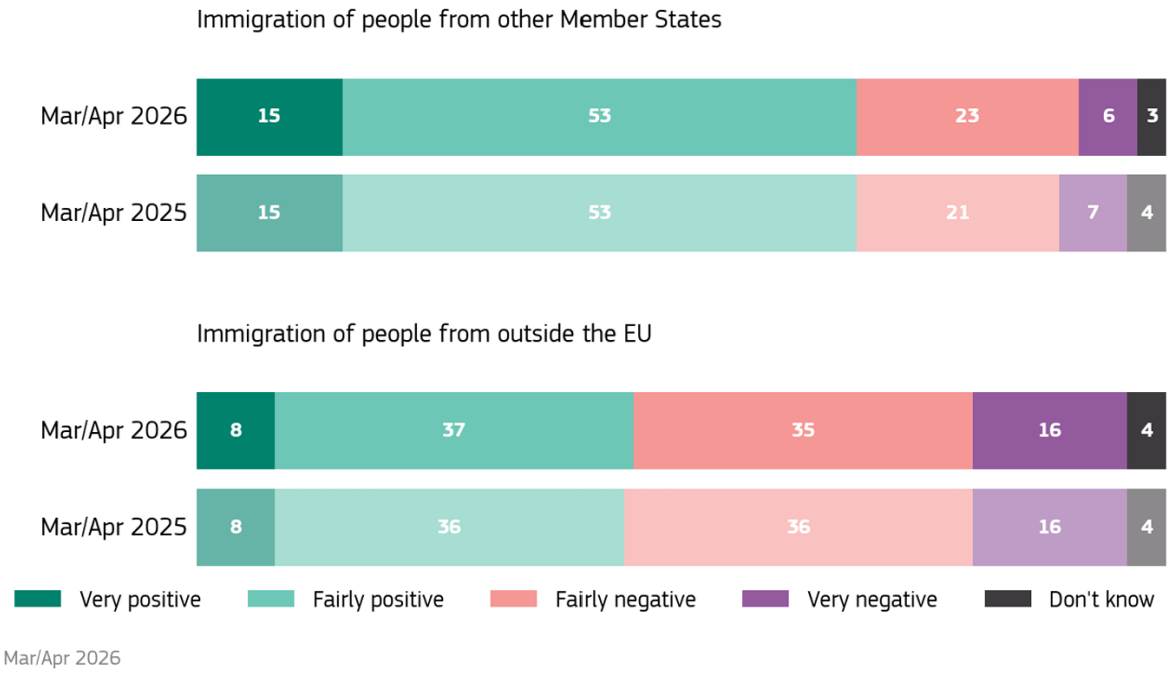
Support for a common European policy on migration is widespread, but not universal, across the Member States. In 23 EU countries, at least half of the respondents are in favour of such a policy. The highest levels of support are recorded in Spain (82%), Italy (79%) and Germany (77%). By contrast, less than half of respondents support a common European policy on migration in four Member States: Estonia and Czechia (both 40%), Hungary (42%) and Latvia (49%).



For more detailed information: Standard Eurobarometer – Spring 2026 (May 2026)

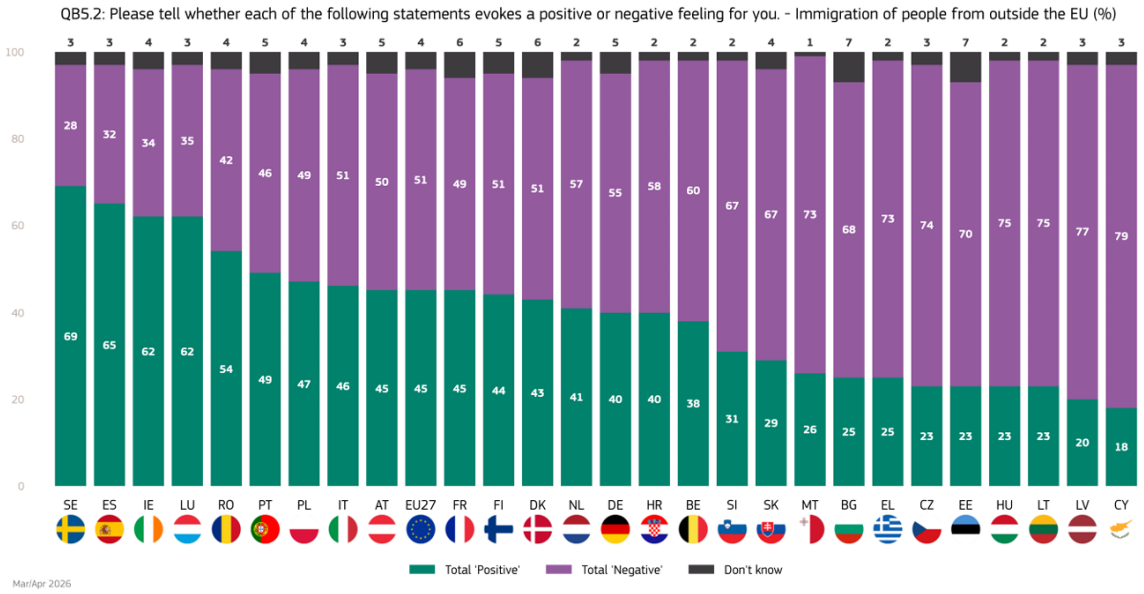
Over two thirds of respondents (68%, unchanged since spring 2025) have a positive feeling about the immigration of people from other Member States, while this immigration evokes a negative feeling for less than three in ten respondents (29%, +1 pp). Finally, 3% (-1 pp) say they don't know. On the other hand, more than four in ten respondents (45%, +1 pp), view the immigration of people from outside the EU positively, representing the minority view, while a majority (51%, -1 pp) has a negative feeling about this type of immigration. In addition, 4% (=) say that they don't know.

QB5: Please tell whether each of the following statements evokes a positive or negative feeling for you. (EU27) (%)



For more detailed information: Standard Eurobarometer – Spring 2026 (May 2026)

A majority of respondents view the immigration of people from outside the EU positively in six Member States. The most frequent positive views come from respondents in Sweden (69%), Spain (65%) and Ireland and Luxembourg (both 62%). By contrast, a majority of respondents have a negative view in 21 Member States. The most frequent negative views are recorded in Cyprus (79%), Latvia (77%) and Lithuania and Hungary (both 75%).



For more detailed information: Standard Eurobarometer – Spring 2026 (May 2026)

A majority of respondents agree that their country should help refugees (73%, unchanged compared with autumn 2025). This includes 23% who 'totally agree' (–1 pp) and 50% who 'tend to agree' (+1 pp).

By contrast, 24% disagree with this statement (unchanged), including 17% who 'tend to disagree' and 7% who 'totally disagree'. 3% of respondents say they 'don't know' (unchanged).

A majority of respondents also consider that immigrants contribute positively to their country (58%, +1 pp). This view is shared by 15% who 'totally agree' (unchanged) and 43% who 'tend to agree' (+1 pp).

At the same time, 37% disagree with this statement (–2 pp), including 27% who 'tend to disagree' (+2 pp) and 10% who 'totally disagree' (–4 pp). 5% answer that they 'don't know' (+1 pp).

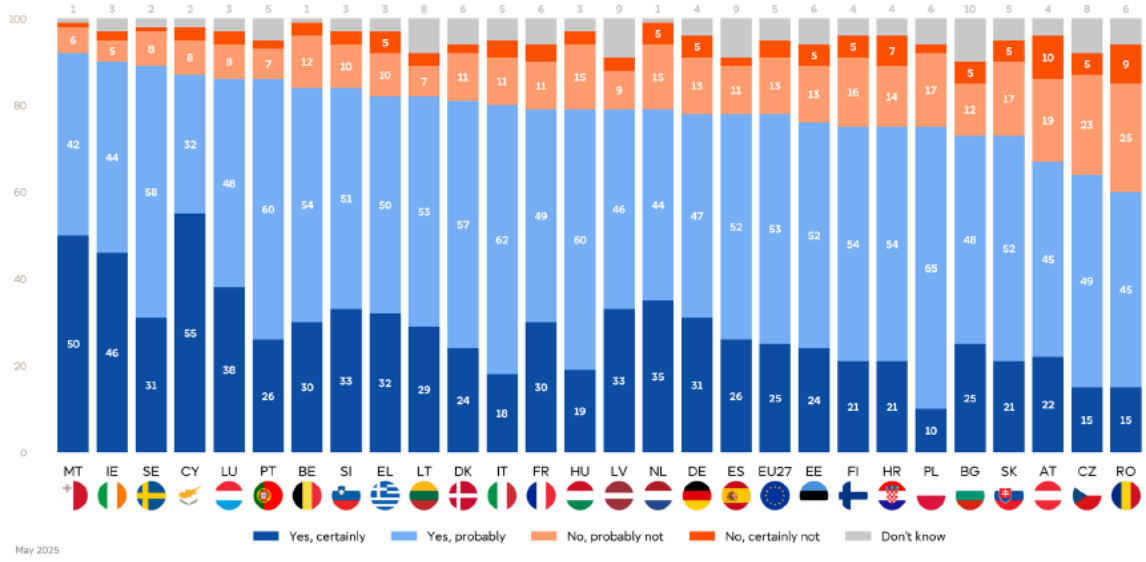
European Council meeting of 18-19 June

On Wednesday 17 June, MEPs will discuss the 18-19 June EU summit and the future of EU-China economic relations with Commission and Council Presidency representatives.

MEPs are expected to focus on the EU's continued support for Ukraine and developments in the Middle East, while also discussing the next multiannual financial framework (MFF) and the global economic challenges facing the Union. The second part of the debate will focus on the future of EU-China economic relations.

Europeans strongly support the idea of common funding for common tasks: according to the EP Spring 2025 Eurobarometer, close to eight in ten Europeans (78%) believe that an increasing number of projects will need to be funded by the EU as a whole, rather than by Member States individually.

QA11. **Thinking again about the future, do you think that an increasing number of projects will need to be funded together, by the EU as a whole, rather than by Member States alone? (EU27) (%)**

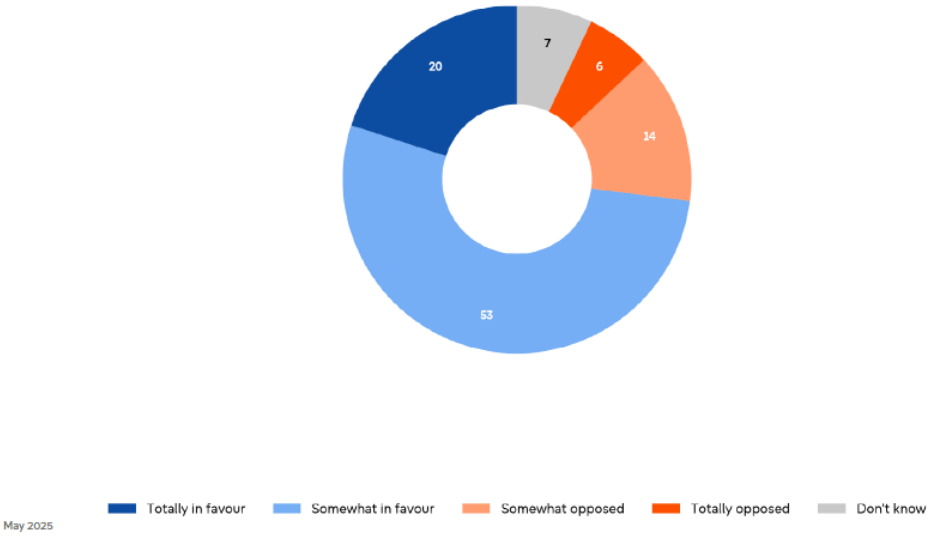


For more detailed information: EP Spring 2025 Eurobarometer *(September 2025)*

The highest levels of agreement with common funding are found in Malta (92%), Ireland (90%) and Sweden (89%), while the lowest levels of agreement are found in Romania (34%), Austria (29%) and the Czechia (28%).

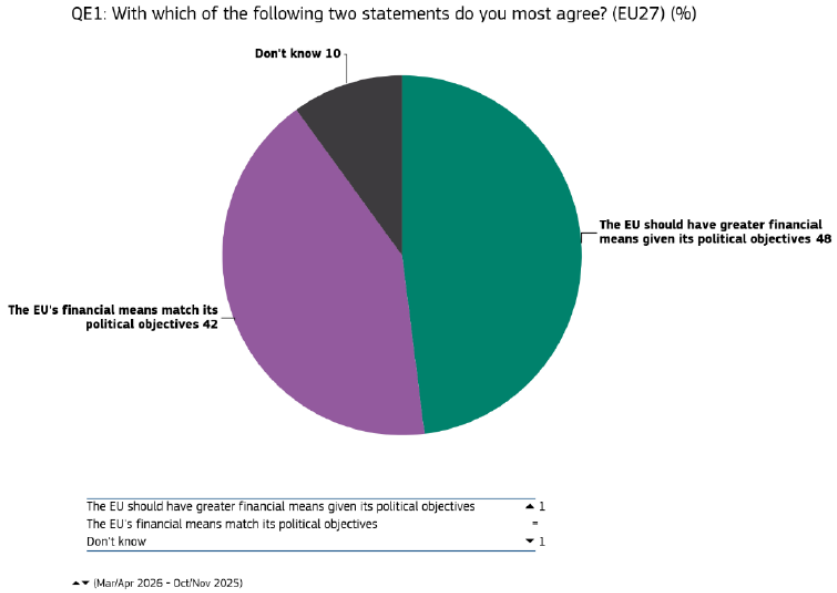
Respondents were also asked about their views on introducing new types of EU-specific revenue sources, so that the EU budget becomes less dependent on Member States' contributions. 73% of Europeans favour this approach, while 20% oppose it.

QA16. **At the moment, the EU's long-term budget mainly relies on the financial contributions of all EU Member States. Would you be in favour or opposed to the European Union having new types of revenue sources (e.g. based on greenhouse gas emissions, or company profits), so that the EU budget becomes less dependent on Member States' contributions, and thereby could reduce these contributions? (EU27) (%)**



For more detailed information: EP Spring 2025 Eurobarometer *(September 2025)*

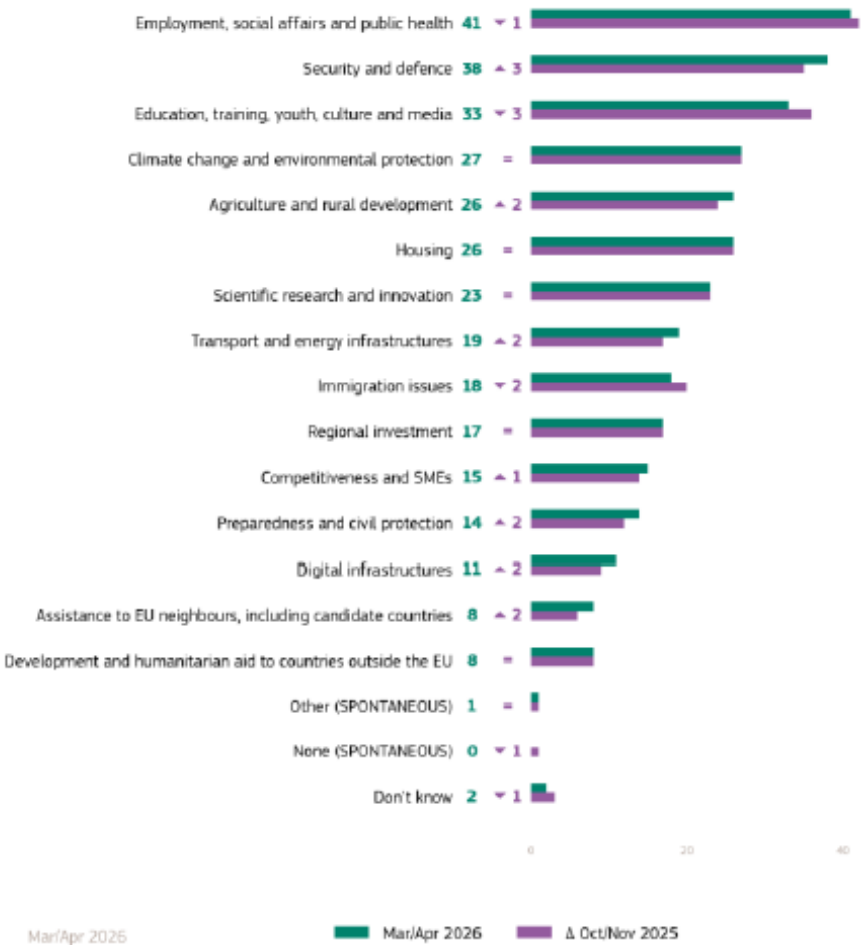
The recent Spring 2026 Standard Eurobarometer finds that currently, 48% of citizens (+1 pp since Oct/Nov 2025) rather agree with the statement that the EU should have greater financial means given its political objectives than with the view that the EU's financial means match its political objectives (42%, =). The former statement receives the most support in Cyprus (71%), Malta (69%) and Croatia (65%), while the latter statement receives the most support in Sweden (64%) and Slovenia (63%).



For more detailed information: *Standard Eurobarometer – Spring 2026* *(May 2026)*

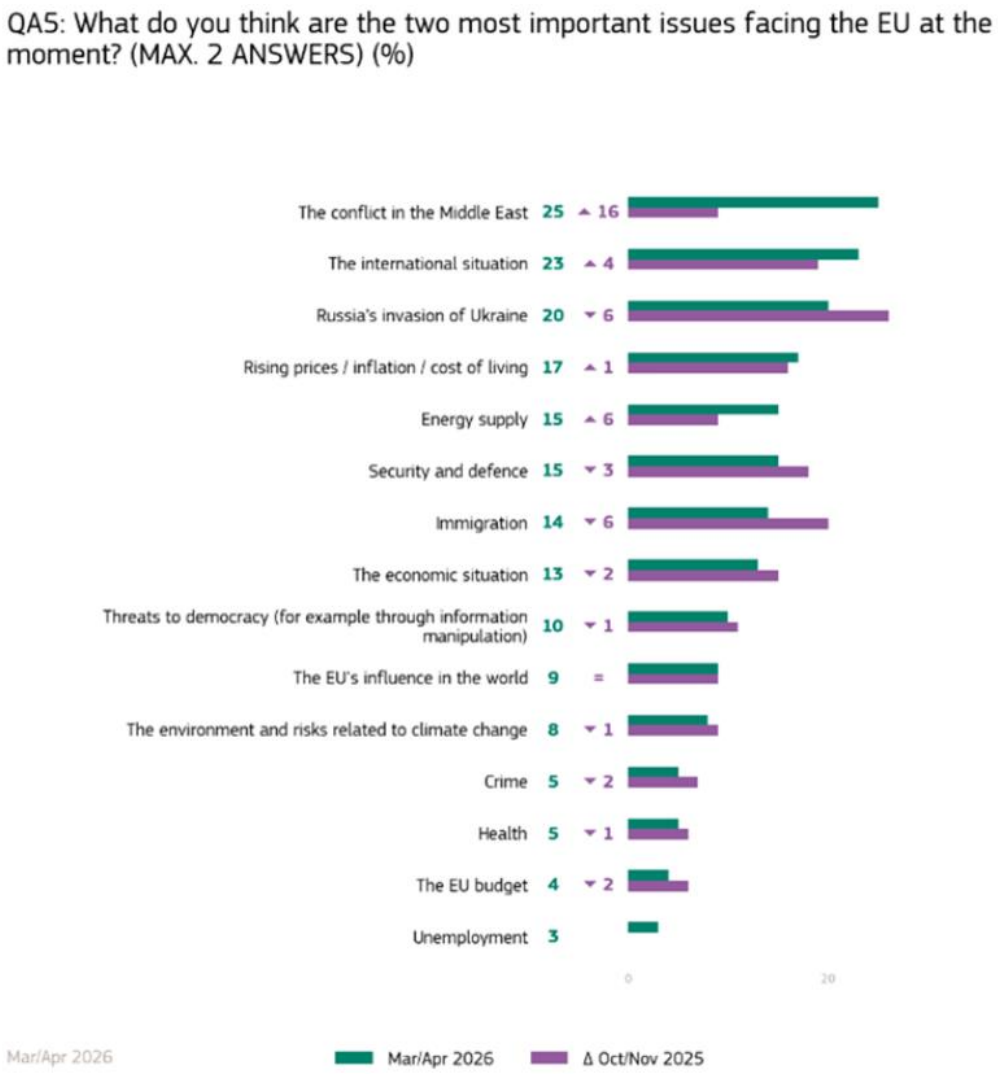
When asked how the EU's budget should be allocated, the results of the survey show that employment, social affairs and public health the top priorities (41%, –1 pp). Security and defence have increased in importance since autumn 2025, rising to 38% (+3 pp), followed by the area of education, training, youth, culture and media (33%).

QE3ab: And on which of the following would you like EU budget to be spent? Firstly? Any others? (MAX. 4 ANSWERS) (%)



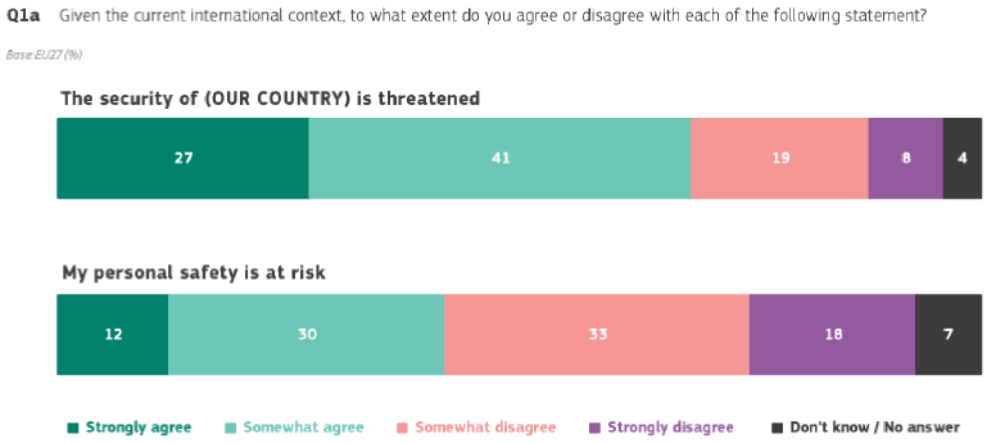
For more detailed information: Standard Eurobarometer – Spring 2026 (May 2026)

Regarding the agenda topic of international crises, the developments in recent months have had a significant impact on the issues that citizens in Europe perceive as urgent. When asked about the most important issues the EU is facing at the moment, the conflict in the Middle East rose steeply to the first position from 9% in Oct/Nov 2025 to now 25%, an increase of 16 points in six months. The international situation also increased by four points to reach 23%, whereas the importance of Russia's invasion of Ukraine dropped by six points down to 20%. Other areas that have become more important are rising prices (17%, +1 pp) and energy supply (15%, +6pp). Defence, on the other hand, lost three points and now stands at 15%.



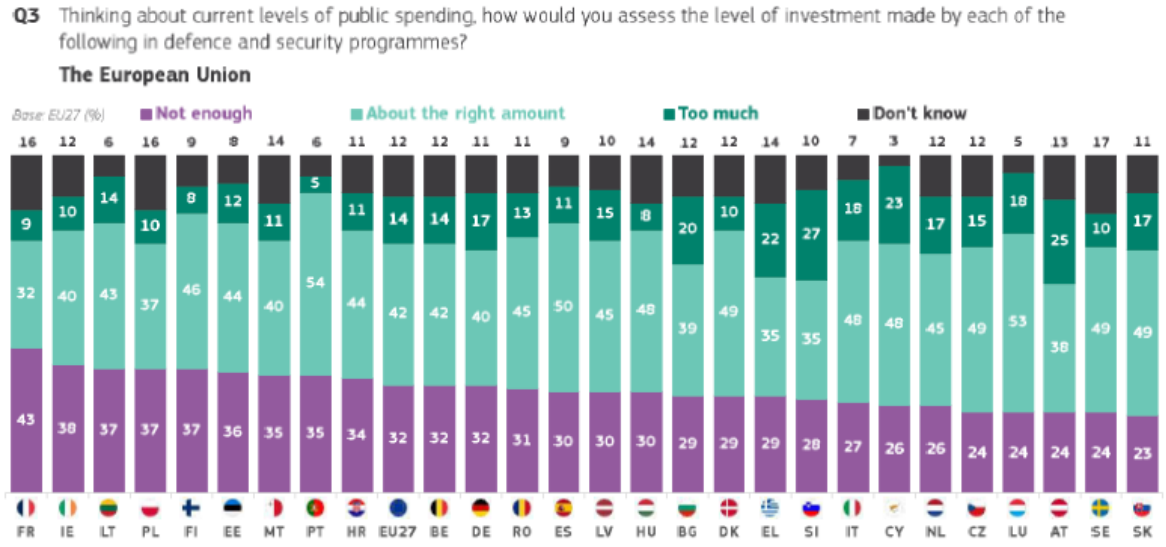
For more detailed information: Standard Eurobarometer – Spring 2026 (May 2026)

However, this decrease does not mean that Europeans feel safer now. Rather, the issue is being overshadowed by the recent developments in the Middle East and their impact on the economy. The Eurobarometer survey on the European Union in defence and space takes an in-depth look at the attitudes towards defence. It reveals that over two-thirds of Europeans (68%) agree with the statement that the security of their country is threatened. However, a majority of respondents (51%) disagrees with the statement that their personal safety is at risk.



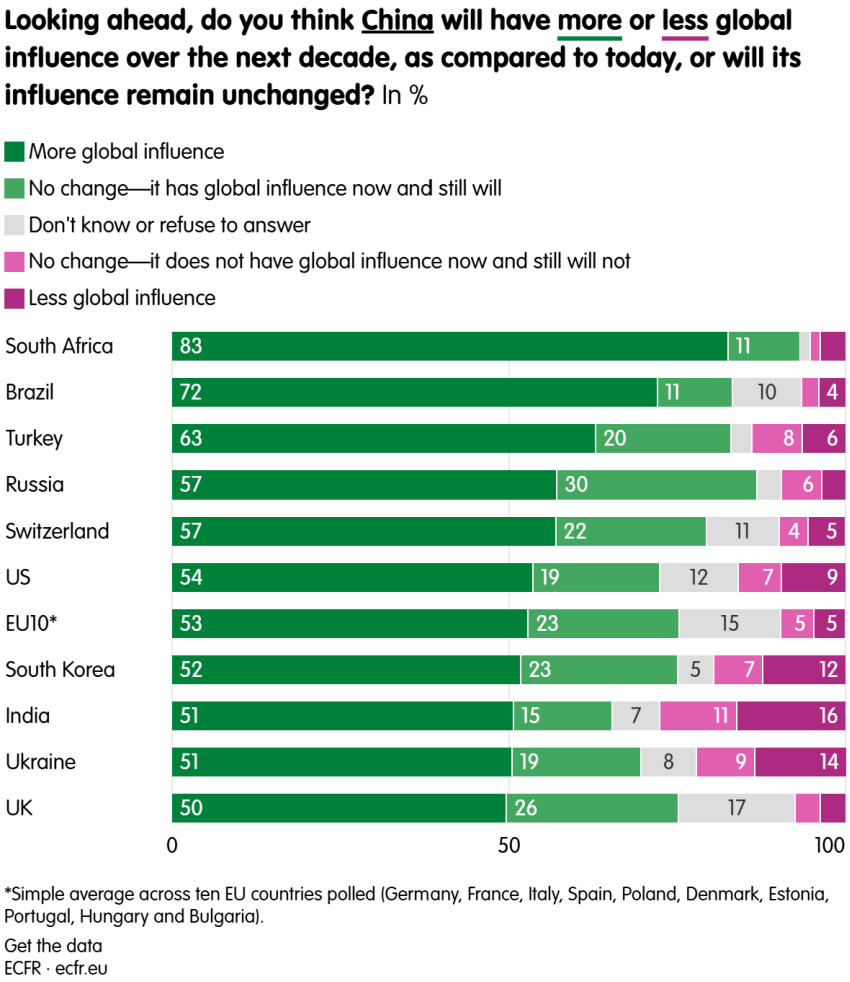
For more detailed information: Eurobarometer on the European Union in defence and space *(February 2026)*

In terms of budget expectations, 42% of people say that the EU spends about the right amount on defence and security programmes, while 32% say that it does not spend enough and 14% say that it spends too much. The highest proportion of respondents who say the EU does not invest enough are in France (43%), whereas the highest proportion of respondents who say the EU spends too much are in Slovenia (27%).



For more detailed information: *Eurobarometer on the European Union in defence and space* *(February 2026)*

External Insight: A survey published by the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR) finds that around the world, many people expect China's global influence to grow over the next decade. The poll was conducted in 21 countries, including 10 Member States.

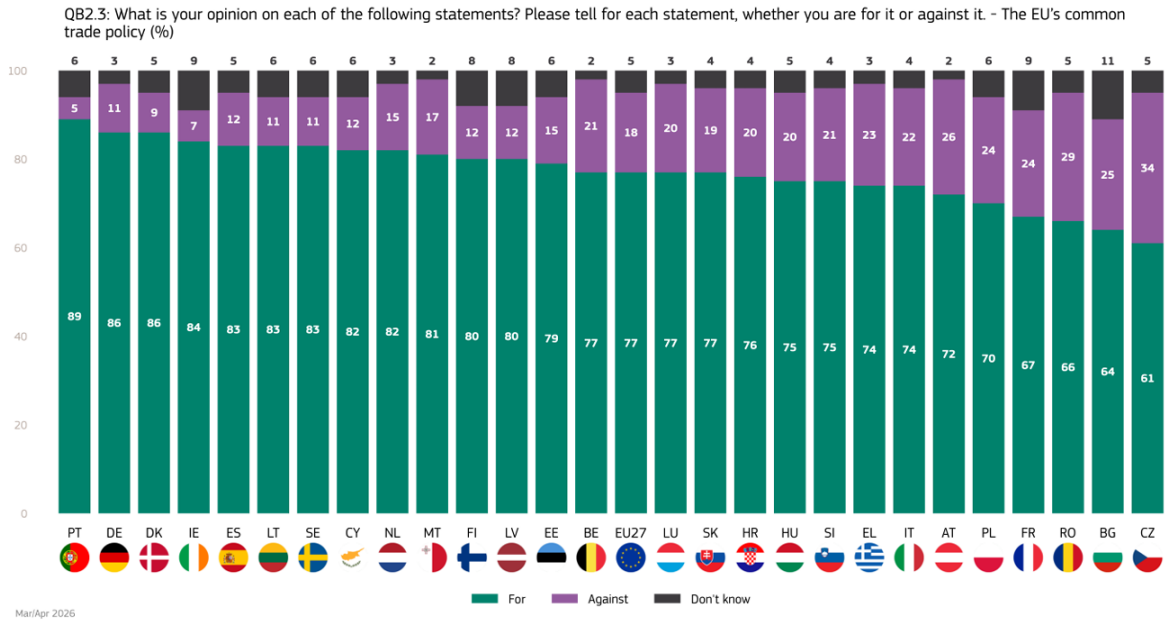


For more detailed information: European Council on Foreign Relations survey (January 2026)

EU-US trade deal

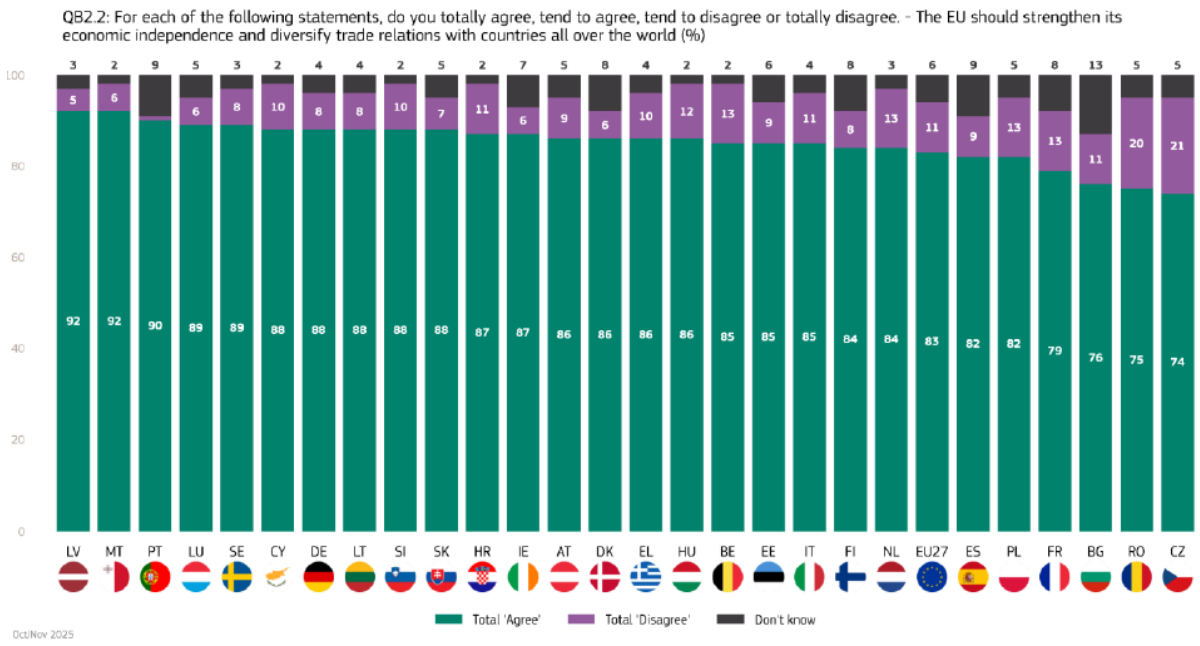
On Tuesday 16 June, MEPs are expected to give their final approval to two pieces of legislation implementing EU tariff commitments under the August 2025 EU-US joint statement.

In the Spring 2026 Standard Eurobarometer, 77% of respondents express support for the EU's common trade policy, less than one in five respondents are opposed (18%), while 5% say they 'don't know' (unchanged). Compared with autumn 2025, support has increased slightly (+2pp), while opposition has declined correspondingly (-2pp). In all Member States a majority of respondents are in favour of a common trade policy. Support is highest in Portugal (89 %), Germany and Denmark (both 86%) and Ireland (84%).



For more detailed information: Standard Eurobarometer – Spring 2026 (May 2026)

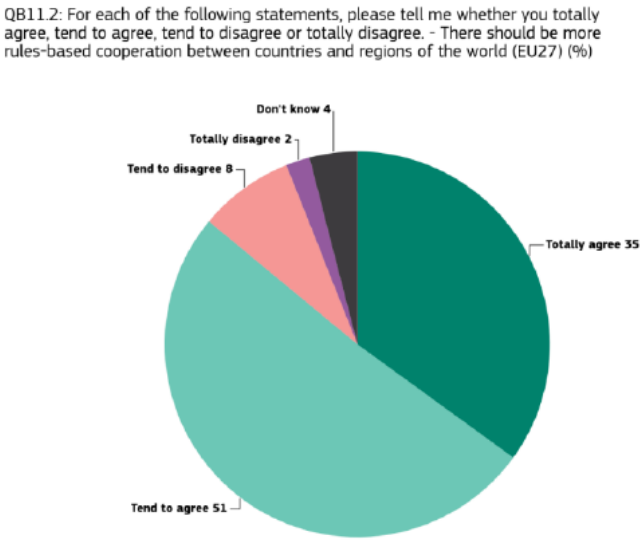
83% of respondents agree with the statement that the EU should strengthen its economic independence and diversify trade relations with countries all over the world.



For more detailed information: Standard Eurobarometer – Spring 2026 (May 2026)

This statement finds most approval in Latvia (92%), Malta (92%) and Portugal (90%). The countries in which disagreement is strongest are Czechia (21%) and Romania (20%).

More generally, citizen broadly agree that there should be more rules-based cooperation between countries and regions of the world – 51% tend to agree, and 35% totally agree, totalling 86%.



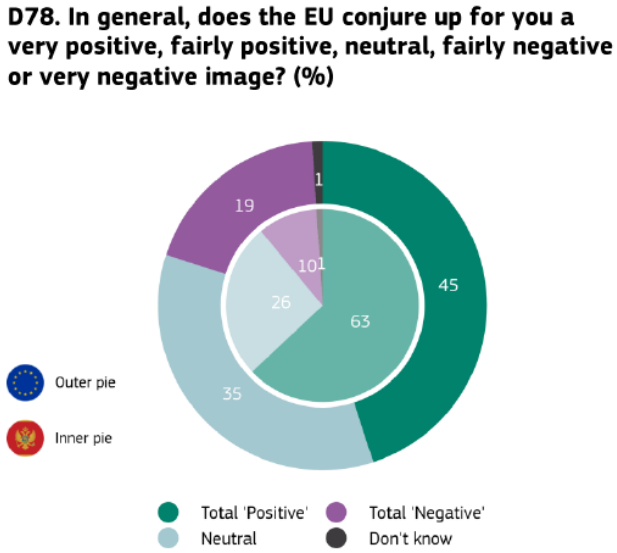
For more detailed information: Standard Eurobarometer – Spring 2026 (May 2026)

Furthermore, the same survey shows that 79% of respondents agree with the statement that the EU should build partnerships with countries outside the EU to invest in sustainable infrastructure and connect people and countries around the world. The Member States with the highest levels of agreement are Portugal (91%) and Ireland (90%).

Address by Jakov Milatović, President of Montenegro

On Tuesday 16 June, Jakov Milatović, the President of Montenegro, will address the European Parliament. On Wednesday 17 June, MEPs will also vote on a report assessing Montenegro's EU accession progress.

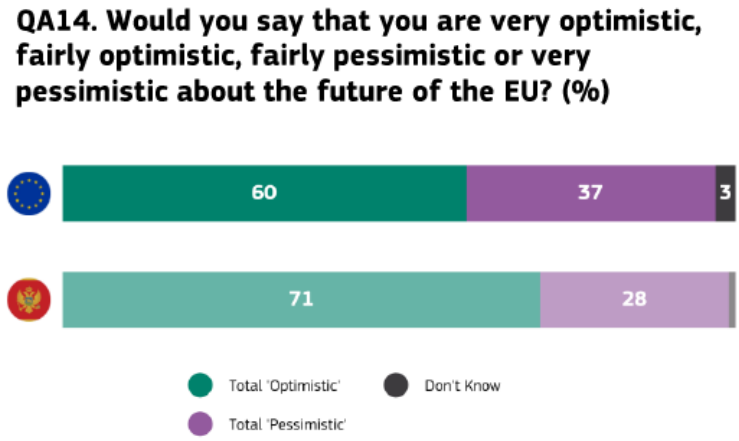
The Standard Eurobarometer – Spring 2026 survey was not only conducted in the 27 EU Member States, but also in several candidate countries. Overall, Montenegrin attitudes towards the EU are encouraging: 63% have a positive image of the EU, 26% a neutral one, and 10% a negative one. These figures significantly exceed the average for the 27 current EU Member States.



For more detailed information: Standard Eurobarometer – Spring 2026 *(May 2026)*

When asked whether EU membership would be a good thing for Montenegro, 66% say it would be good, 22% say it would be neither good nor bad, and 10% say it would be bad. Compared to other candidate countries, these figures show that Montenegrin citizens are the most in favour of EU membership, except for in Albania where 84% of people think it would be a good thing. In North Macedonia (62%), Georgia (51%), Bosnia and Herzegovina (48%), Türkiye (46%), Moldova (41%) and Serbia (35%), the opinion that EU membership would be a good thing is less widespread than in Montenegro.

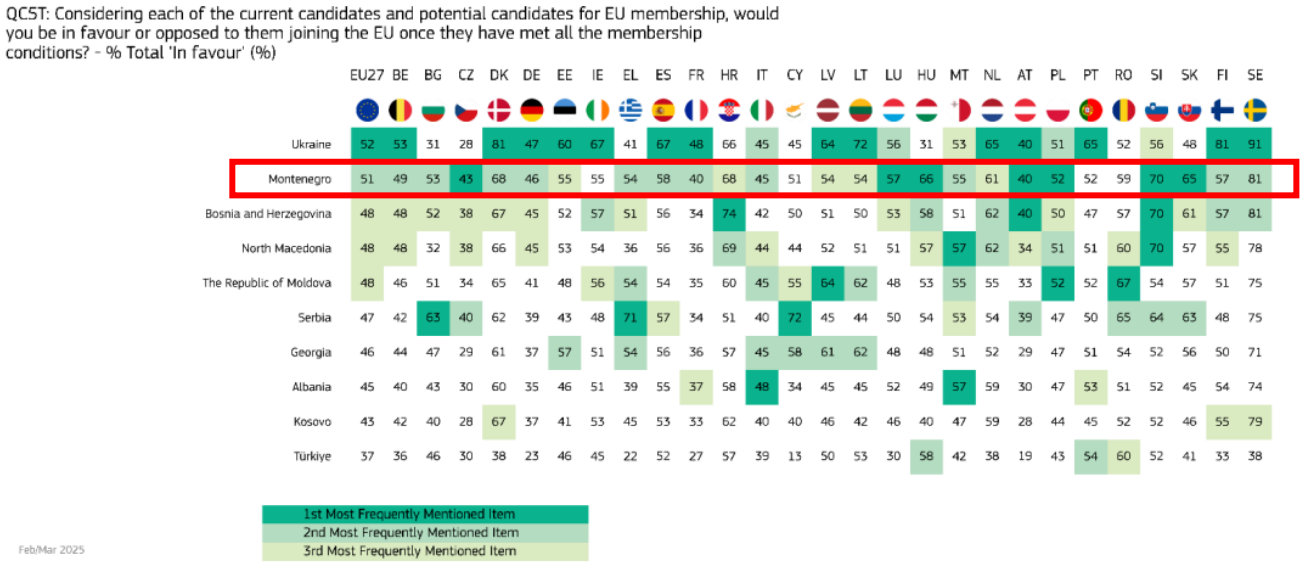
Furthermore, 75% of Montenegrins believe that their country would benefit from EU membership. Once again, only Albanians (90%) are more convinced of these benefits. Citizens of Georgia (68%), Bosnia and Herzegovina (63%), Türkiye (56%), Serbia (55%), North Macedonia (54%) and Moldova (54%) are less convinced. Regarding the future of the European Union, people in Montenegro are more optimistic than current EU citizens. 71% of Montenegrin respondents considered themselves optimistic, compared to 60% in current Member States.



For more detailed information: Standard Eurobarometer – Spring 2026 *(May 2026)*

The Eurobarometer survey on attitudes towards EU Enlargement examines the issue of Montenegro joining the EU from the perspective of the EU citizens. Provided the membership conditions are met, 51% of EU citizens would be in favour of Montenegro joining the EU. Meanwhile, 38% of EU citizens would it, and 11% have no opinion on the matter. Compared to the other candidate countries, Montenegro has the second-highest level of support, just behind Ukraine (52%).

Support for Montenegro's membership is strongest in Sweden (81%), a country whose population is generally the most open to the idea of EU enlargement. People in Slovenia (70%), Croatia (68%) and Denmark (68%) also express high levels of support for Montenegro becoming a Member State. Conversely, support for Montenegro joining the EU is low in in France (40%), Austria (40%) and Czechia (43%), compared to other Member States.



For more detailed information: Eurobarometer on attitudes towards EU Enlargement *(September 2025)*