

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3447/07
by Georgios Karatzaferis (IND/DEM)
to the Commission

Subject: Unacceptable edition of Eurobarometer

Eurobarometer 64, published by the Commission in June 2007 contains inaccuracies, provocative references and strange methods of presenting data designed to disguise the hostility of the European public to Turkish accession to the EU. The maps in this edition show Cyprus with an 'internal border' (!), while elsewhere it is shown in 'amputated' form (!) with only its free part appearing on the map (pages 59, 104, 108, 110, 135, etc.). Reference is also made to 'opinion polls' in the occupied sector, as if it were a separate part of an ostensibly 'federal state', something which Turkey has supported for years. The presentation of data concerning the acceptance of Turkish accession to the EU is also unacceptable and misleading since the dozens of tables appearing in annexes at the end of the survey have to be consulted and scrutinised to find out that 55% of citizens in the 'Europe of 25' totally reject Turkish accession, even if that were scheduled for beyond 2017. The assessment which appears on page 135 is also unscientific. According to that view, Greeks are in favour of the new enlargement and allegedly 'the recent developments with regard to the joining of Turkey have clearly positively influenced public opinion in Greece on this topic', a judgement which is not based on any scientific data but is merely wishful thinking of the part of the editor of the text. Moreover, the annex makes it perfectly clear that 79% of Greeks say 'NO' to Turkey.

Is an EU institution such as the Commission allowed to present such a substandard and provocative official document which manipulates the results of statistical surveys in such an undemocratic manner? Does the competent Commissioner assume full responsibility for the provocative errors and unscientific, distorted interpretations of the will of the people of Greece in relation to Turkey? Who is responsible for the provocative map of Cyprus? Is the (totally ignorant and uninformed) editor unaware that Cyprus is a single state, that there is no 'internal border', that it does not consist of 'federated regions' and that the occupied sector remains outside the control of the Republic of Cyprus because of its fascist occupation by Turkey for 33 years? Will the Commission finally impose sanctions on all those involved in editing and approving this deplorable edition of Eurobarometer which brings shame on the Commission and almost makes it appear to be acting as the 'press office' for Turkish propaganda?