

Women and European Parliamentary Elections

(Flash Eurobarometer N° 266)

Methodological note

- Requested and coordinated by **Directorate General Communication of the Commission and of the European Parliament**
- Conducted by The Gallup Organisation, Hungary
- The survey's fieldwork was carried out between 9 and 13 **February 2009**
- In order to allow a greater emphasis on women's views, the following sampling approach was adopted in each of the EU27 Member States: (1) a random sample of 1,000 women aged 18 years and over, and (2) a random sample of 500 citizens, both men and women, aged 18 years and over
- In total, over **35,000 women** and over **5,500 men aged 18 years and over** were interviewed in the different Member States
- Although interviews were predominantly carried out by telephone via fixed-lines, interviews were also conducted via mobile telephones and by face-to-face interviews as appropriate
- To correct for sampling disparities, a post-stratification weighting of the results was implemented, based on important socio-demographic variables

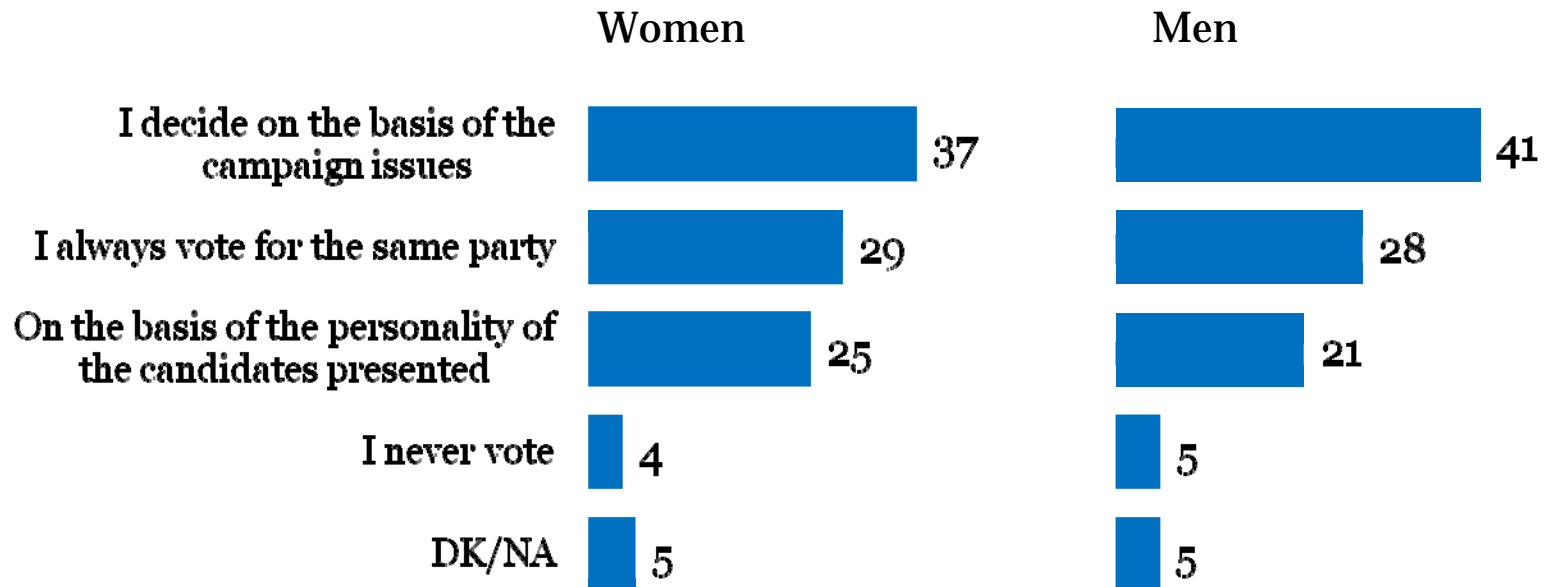


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European Parliamentary elections

Behaviour at elections in general

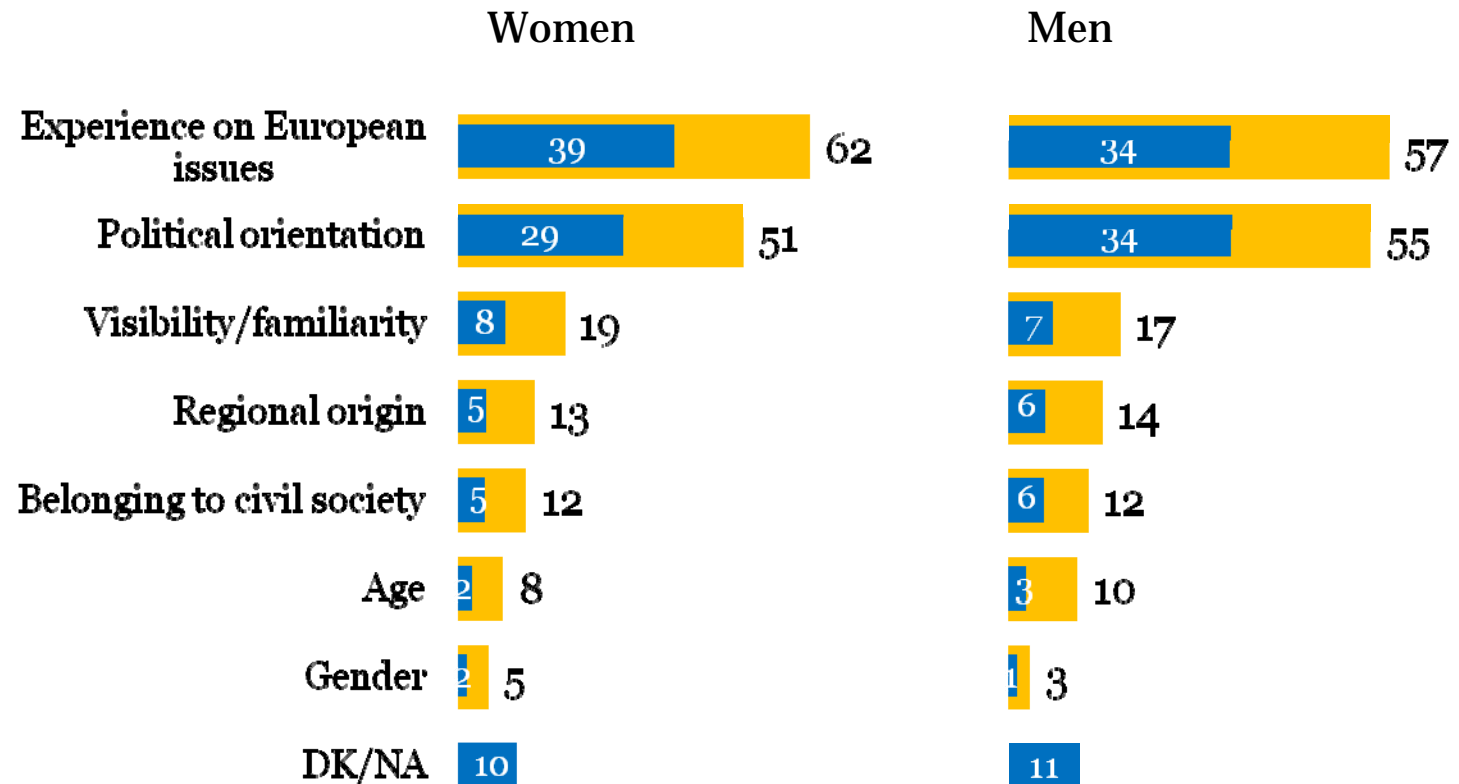
Q3. In general when you participate in elections, how do you decide whom to vote for?



%, Base: all respondents, EU27

The European Parliamentary elections

Q5. When you vote for the European elections, which of the following aspects relating to the candidates is the most important? And then?



%, Base: all respondents, EU27

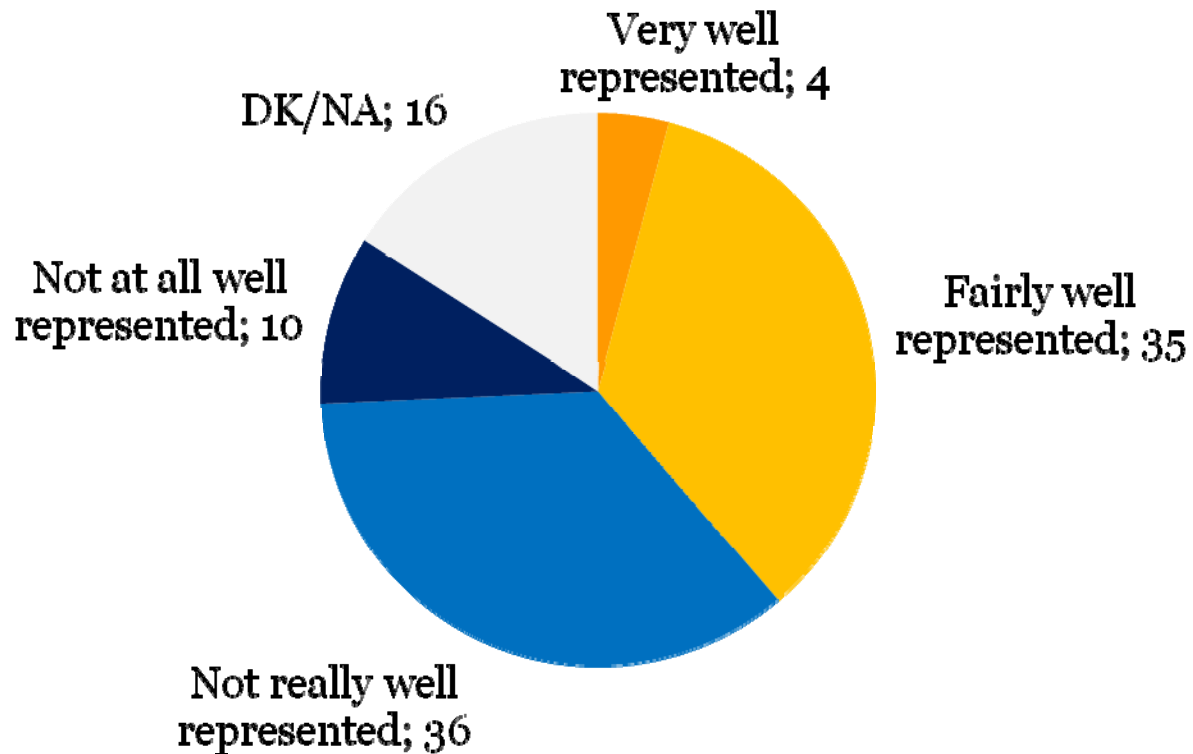


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Towards equal gender representation in the European Parliament

Views as to whether the EU represents women's interests

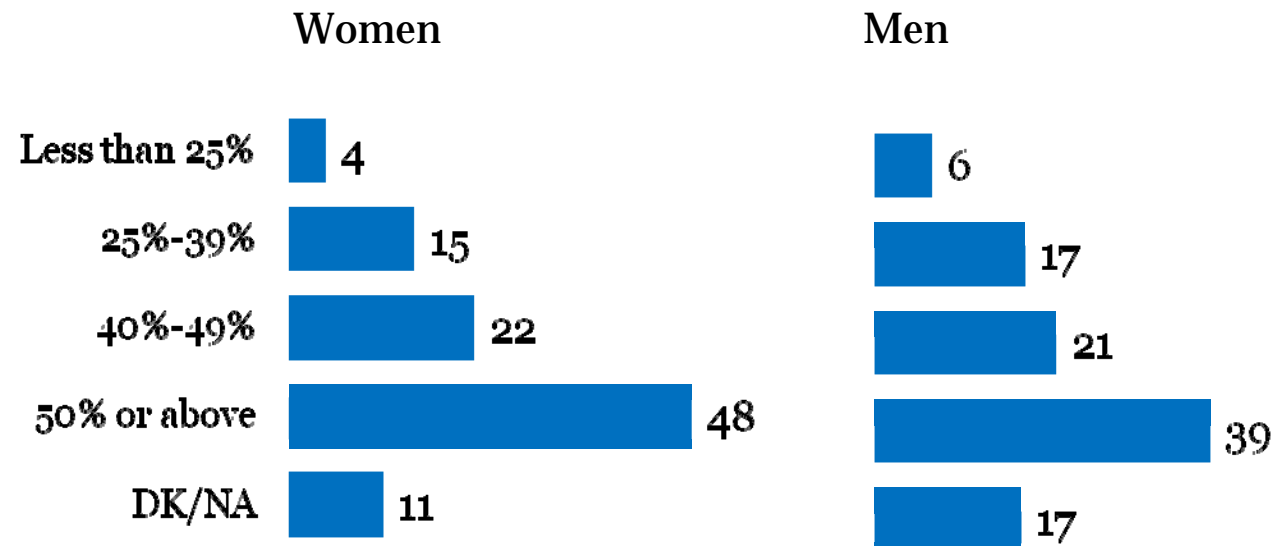
Q14. Do you feel that as a woman, your interests are well represented by the European Union?



%, Base: all women, EU27

Desired proportion of elected women in the European Parliament

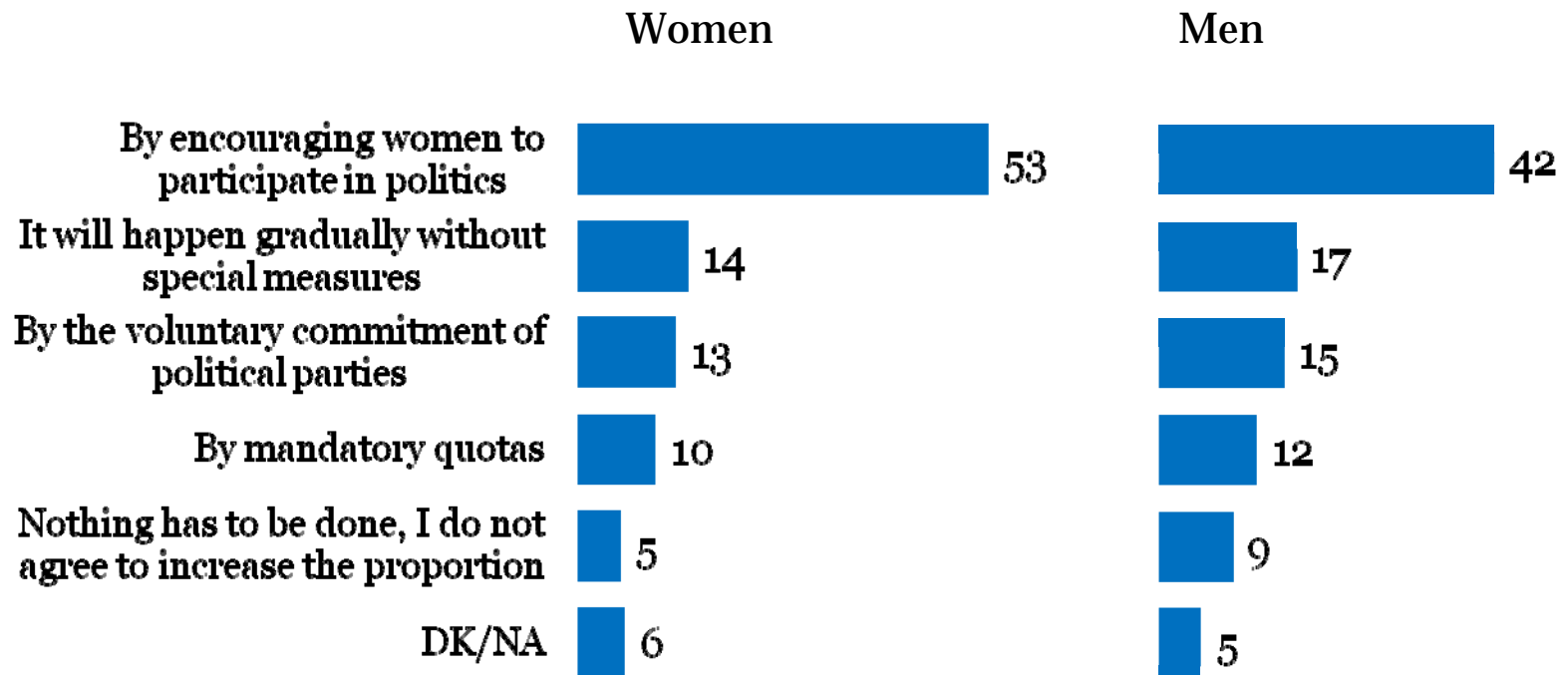
Q12. In your opinion, what proportion of elected members to the European Parliament should be women?



%, Base: all respondents, EU27

The most effective way of increasing the proportion of female MEPs

Q13. If we should increase the proportion of female MEPs what would be the most effective way?



%, Base: all respondents, EU27

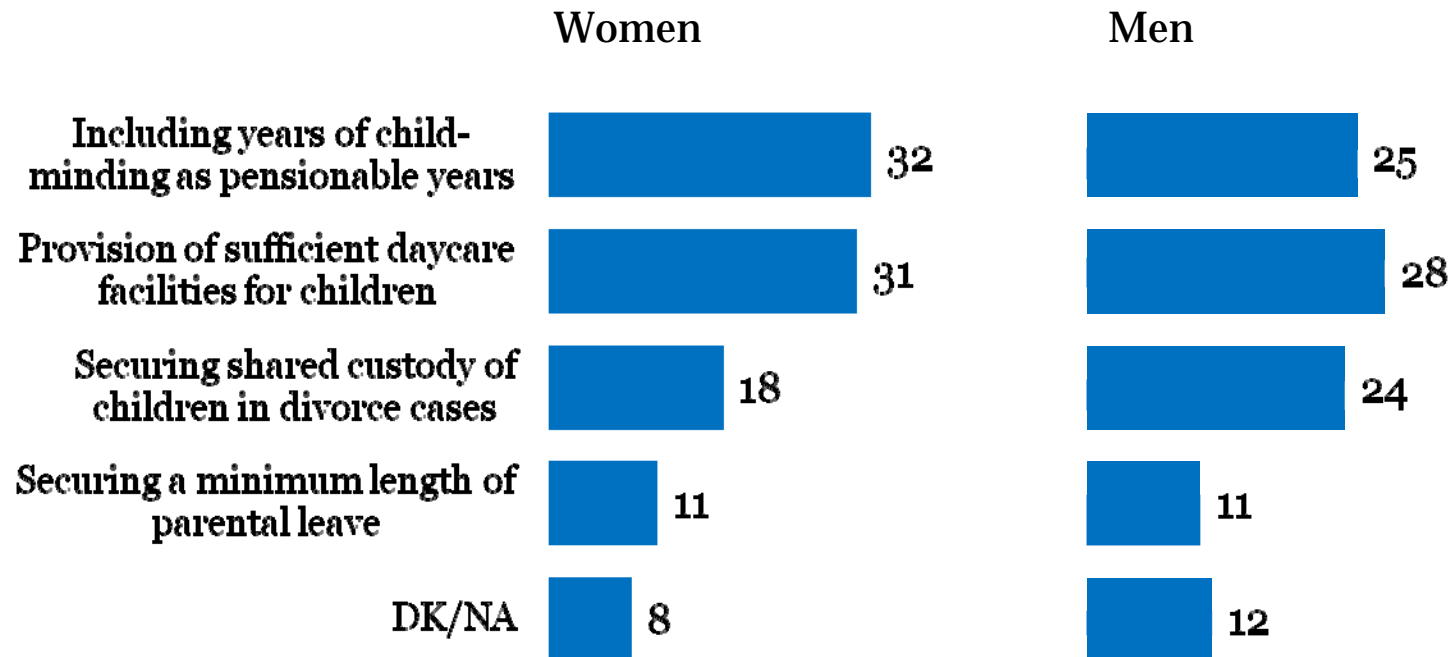


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The European Parliament's priorities

How the European Parliament could improve gender equality in family life

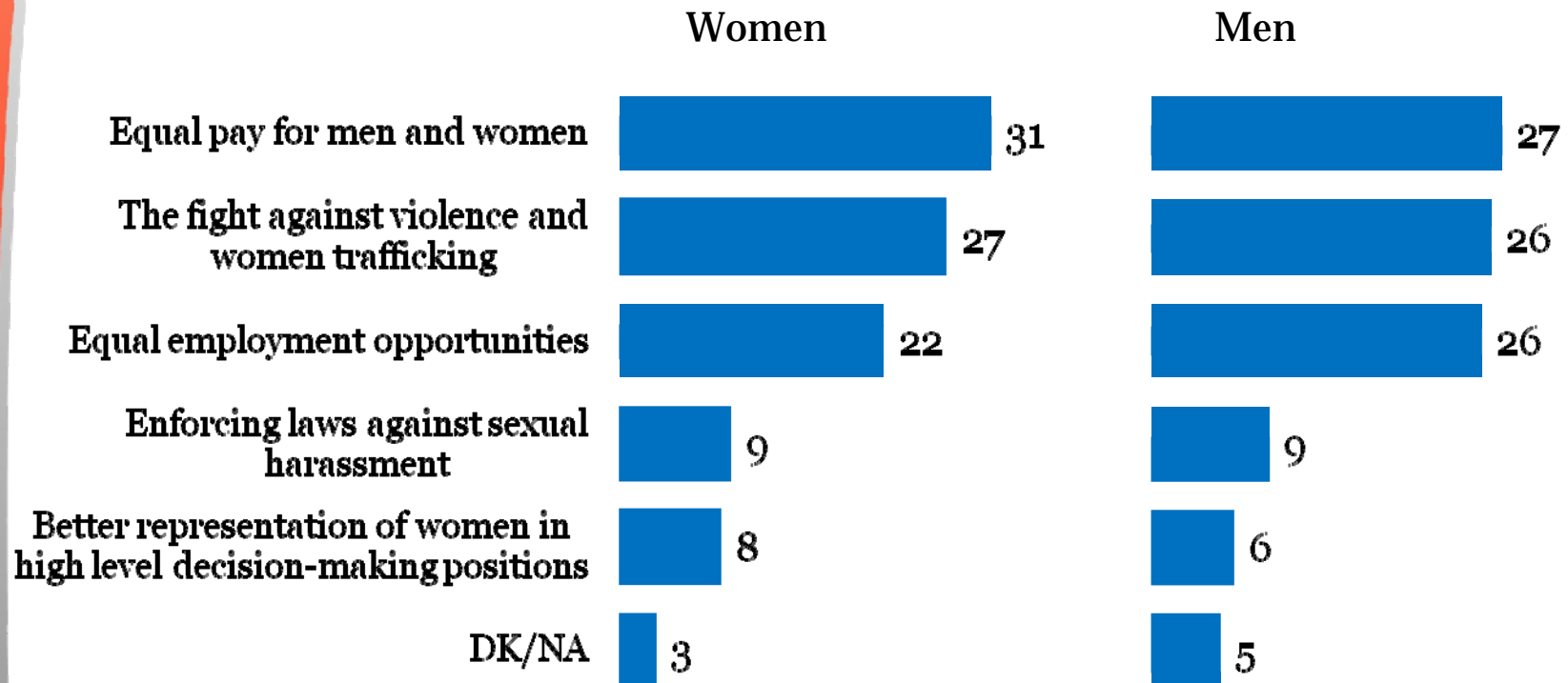
Q6. In the domain of gender equality in family life, which of the following areas should be prioritised by the next European Parliament?



%, Base: all respondents, EU27

How the European Parliament could improve gender equality in society in general

Q7. In the domain of gender equality in society, in general, which of the following areas should be prioritised by the next European Parliament?



%, Base: all respondents, EU27

Summary of main findings (1)

European Parliamentary elections

- When voting in general, European women put campaign issues first and tend to pay more attention than men to candidates' personalities
- In European Parliamentary elections, women attribute more importance than men to a candidates' experience on European issues

Summary of main findings (2)

Towards equal gender representation in the European Parliament

- Just under half of European women think they are not well represented by the EU
- Half of European women want equal representation of the genders in the European Parliament
- Women are less likely than men to support direct measures that could boost their representation in the European Parliament

Summary of main findings (3)

The European Parliament's priorities

- To improve gender equality in the family, women would like the European Parliament to allow time spent child-minding to be counted as pensionable years and to increase the recognition of the importance of childcare facilities
- In order to improve gender equality in society in general, women wish the next European Parliament to give the highest priority to policies that promote equal pay