



Standard Eurobarometer



European  
Commission

# EUROBAROMETER 75

## SPRING 2011

### Europeans, the European Union and the crisis

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This survey has been requested and co-ordinated by Directorate-General for Communication.

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# **Standard Eurobarometer 75 Spring 2011**

## **Europeans, the European Union and the crisis**

Study conducted by TNS Opinion & Social  
at the request of the European Commission -  
Directorate-General Communication

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## INTRODUCTION

The economic forecasts for 2011-2012<sup>1</sup>, published on 13 May 2011, confirmed a gradual economic recovery in the European Union countries, despite an acceleration in inflation due to an increase in the cost of raw materials. They also highlighted the significant difference in outlook from one Member State to another.

This is the context within which the spring 2011 Standard Eurobarometer (EB75) was conducted between 6 and 26 May 2011.

The full report of the Eurobarometer is made up of several volumes. The first volume analyses the results of the historical indicators of the Standard Eurobarometer. Three other volumes cover the state of European public opinion on the financial and economic crisis; the Europe 2020 strategy; the European Union budget. The current volume examines the financial and economic crisis.

The general analysis, as well as the socio-demographic analyses, is based on the average of the 27 Member States. This average is weighted to reflect the actual population of each Member State. The averages for previous years represent the results obtained in all the Member States which made up the Union at the time when the survey was conducted.

\* \* \*

The methodology used is that of the Eurobarometer surveys of the Directorate-General Communication ('Research and Speechwriting' Unit). A technical note concerning the interviews carried out by the institutes of the TNS Opinion & Social network is appended to this report. It specifies the interview methodology as well as the confidence intervals.<sup>2</sup>

*The Eurobarometer website can be found at the following address:*

*[http://ec.europa.eu/public\\_opinion/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/index_en.htm)*

*We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those interviewed across Europe for taking the time to take part in this survey.*

*Without their active participation this survey would not have been possible.*

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<sup>1</sup><http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/11/565&format=HTML&aged=0&language=FR&qUILanguage=en>

<sup>2</sup> The results tables are in the appendix. Please note that the percentage totals in the tables can be more than 100% where the interviewee could choose more than one response to a question.

In this report the countries are referred to by their official abbreviation. The abbreviations used in this report and their corresponding meanings are as follows:

#### ABBREVIATIONS

EU27	European Union – 27 Member States
EU15	“EU15 countries”*
NMS12	“NMS12 countries”**
DK/NA	Don’t know/No answer
BE	Belgium
BG	Bulgaria
CZ	Czech Republic
DK	Denmark
DE	Germany
EE	Estonia
EL	Greece
ES	Spain
FR	France
IE	Ireland
IT	Italy
CY	Republic of Cyprus***
CY (tcc)	Zone not controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus
LT	Lithuania
LV	Latvia
LU	Luxembourg
HU	Hungary
MT	Malta
NL	The Netherlands
AT	Austria
PL	Poland
PT	Portugal
RO	Romania
SI	Slovenia
SK	Slovakia
FI	Finland
SE	Sweden
UK	United Kingdom
HR	Croatia
TR	Turkey
MK	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia****
IS	Iceland
ME	Montenegro

\* EU15 refers to the 15 countries forming the European Union before the enlargements of 2004 and 2007: Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

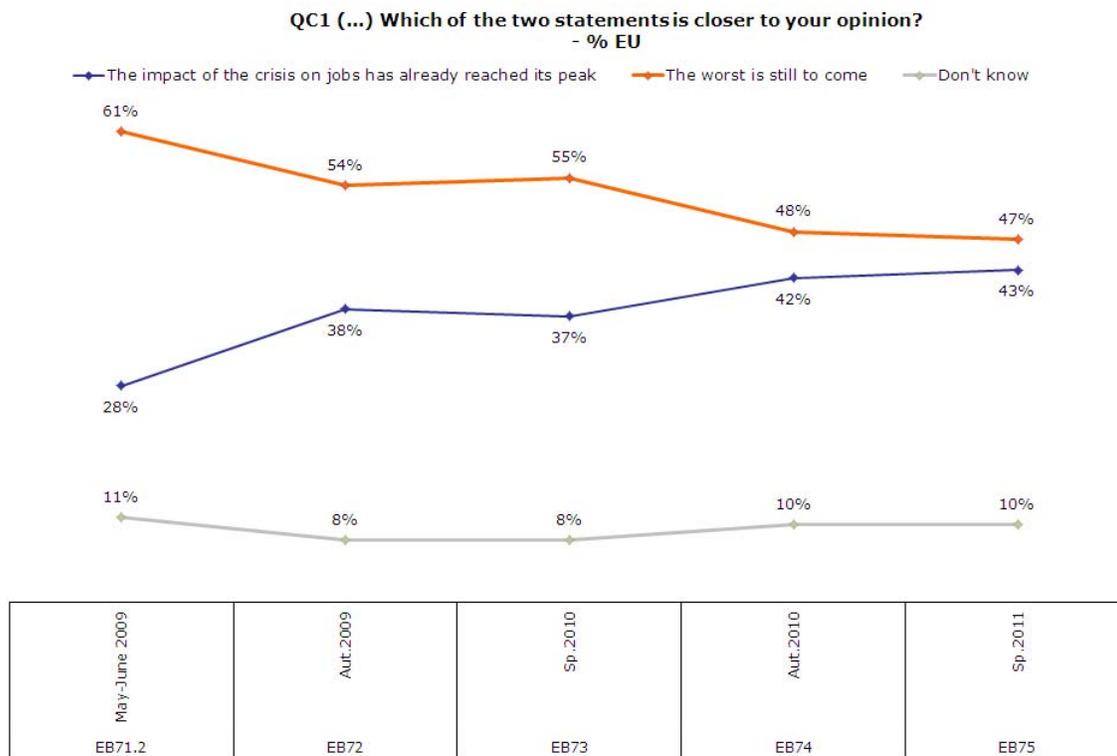
\*\* The NMS12 are the 12 ‘new Member States’ which joined the European Union during the 2004 and 2007 enlargements. These are Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, the Republic of Cyprus, Lithuania, Latvia, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovenia and Slovakia.

\*\*\* Cyprus as a whole is one of the 27 European Union Member States. However, the “acquis communautaire” has been suspended in the part of the country which is not controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus. For practical reasons, only the interviews carried out in the part of the country controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus are included in the “CY” category and in the EU27 average. The interviews carried out in the part of the country that is not controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus are included under “CY (tcc)” [tcc: *Turkish Cypriot Community - Communauté chypriote turque*].

\*\*\*\* Provisional abbreviation which in no way prejudices the definitive name of this country, which will be agreed once the current negotiations at the United Nations have been completed.

## 1. HAS THE CRISIS REACHED ITS PEAK?

After the fairly strong revival in optimism between the spring Standard Eurobarometer (EB73) and the autumn 2010 survey (EB74), in spring 2011 a relative majority of Europeans think that the consequences of the economic crisis for employment have not yet been fully felt and that 'the worst is still to come' (47%, -1 point since autumn 2010)<sup>3</sup>. Conversely 43% of Europeans (+1 point) think that 'the impact of the crisis on employment has already reached its peak'. **Therefore, the results from spring 2011 have remained stable since autumn 2010.** However, it should be noted that **there has been a clear strengthening of this result since 2009** (+15 points since May-June 2009<sup>4</sup>).

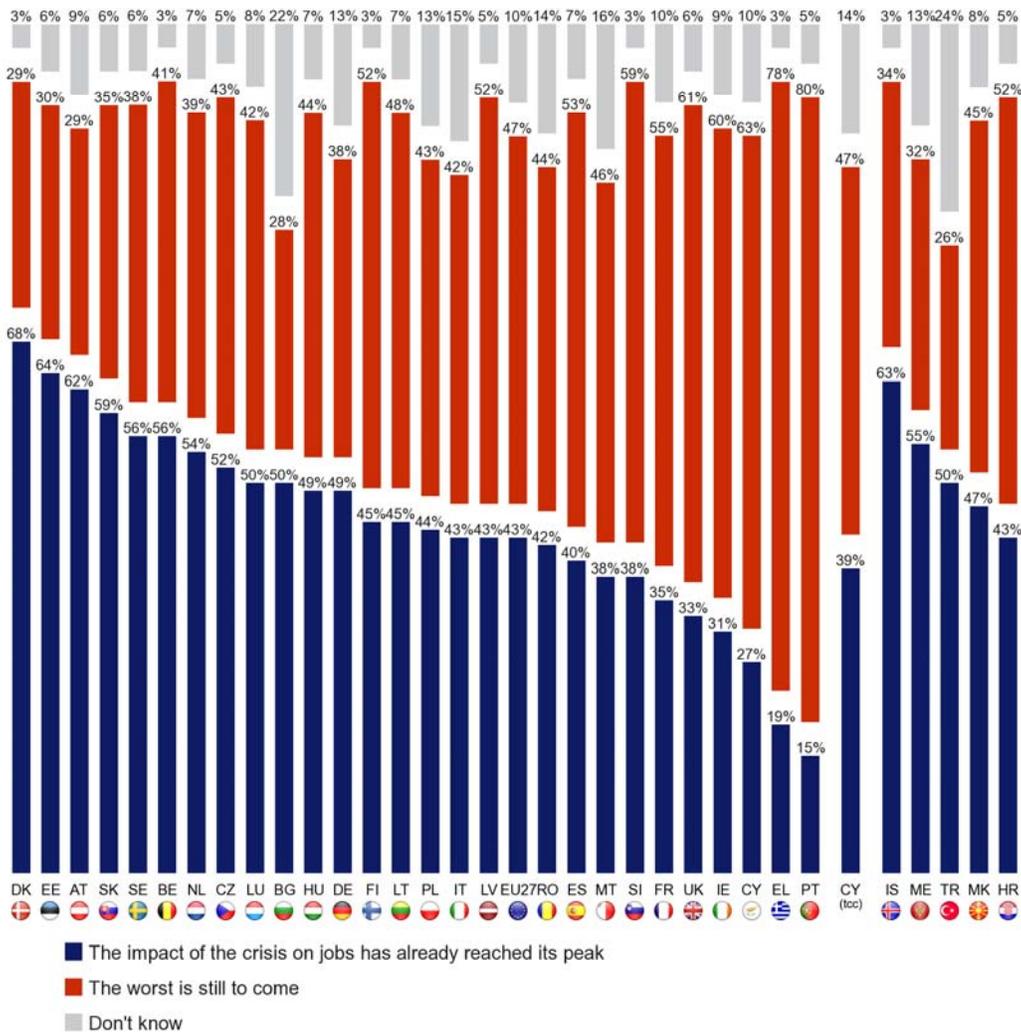


**The results vary considerably from one European Union country to another.** The impression that the crisis is already 'behind us' is dominant in 12 Member States. The reverse is true in 13 others, where the worst is still seen as 'yet to come'. Finally, opinion is evenly divided in Italy and Poland. At the time of the autumn 2010 survey the feeling that the crisis was 'behind us' was the majority opinion in 13 Member States, whereas the worst was seen as 'yet to come' in 13 countries, with respondents in Luxembourg evenly divided.

<sup>3</sup> QC1 Some analysts say that the impact of the economic crisis on the job market has already reached its peak and things will recover little by little. Others, on the contrary, say that the worst is still to come. Which of the two statements is closer to your opinion?

<sup>4</sup> Special Eurobarometer n°316, May-June 2009, [http://ec.europa.eu/public\\_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs\\_316\\_fr.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs_316_fr.pdf)

QC1. Some analysts say that the impact of the economic crisis on the job market has already reached its peak and things will recover little by little. Others, on the contrary, say that the worst is still to come. Which of the two statements is closer to your opinion?



Portugal (15%), Greece (19%) and Ireland (31%), which are suffering most from the crisis, are among the countries least likely to say that the impact of the crisis on employment has already reached its peak. Furthermore, in three of the six largest Member States the proportion of 'optimists' is below the European average (43%): the United Kingdom (33%), France (35%) and Spain (40%). Opinions are very similar, whether interviewees are within or outside the euro zone (see the table on the following page). However, the EU15 countries are more pessimistic (49%) than the NMS12 (42%).

**Some countries are more optimistic than in autumn 2010**, in particular Romania (42%, +13 points), Denmark (68%, +12 points) and Ireland (31%, +10 points). Conversely, there is greater pessimism now than in autumn 2010 in Finland (52%, +8 points), Hungary (44%, +8 points) and Portugal (80%, +7 points), but also in Germany (38%, +5 points), which had seen a significant improvement in the last survey.

QC1 Some analysts say that the impact of the economic crisis on the job market has already reached its peak and things will recover little by little. Others, on the contrary, say that the worst is still to come. Which of the two statements is closer to your opinion?

		The impact of the crisis on jobs has already reached its peak	Diff. Sp.2011 - Aut.2010	The worst is still to come	Diff. Sp.2011 - Aut.2010	Don't know	Diff. Sp.2011 - Aut.2010
 EU27		43%	<b>+1</b>	47%	<b>-1</b>	10%	=
Euro zone		43%	=	47%	=	10%	=
Non-Euro zone		42%	<b>+3</b>	48%	<b>-2</b>	10%	<b>-1</b>
 DK		68%	<b>+12</b>	29%	<b>-10</b>	3%	<b>-2</b>
 EE		64%	<b>+6</b>	30%	<b>-7</b>	6%	<b>+1</b>
 AT		62%	<b>+4</b>	29%	<b>-3</b>	9%	<b>-1</b>
 SK		59%	<b>+4</b>	35%	<b>-3</b>	6%	<b>-1</b>
 BE		56%	<b>+5</b>	41%	<b>-5</b>	3%	=
 SE		56%	<b>-2</b>	38%	<b>+1</b>	6%	<b>+1</b>
 NL		54%	<b>-3</b>	39%	<b>+5</b>	7%	<b>-2</b>
 CZ		52%	=	43%	<b>+2</b>	5%	<b>-2</b>
 BG		50%	<b>-5</b>	28%	<b>+6</b>	22%	<b>-1</b>
 LU		50%	<b>+3</b>	42%	<b>-5</b>	8%	<b>+2</b>
 DE		49%	<b>-6</b>	38%	<b>+5</b>	13%	<b>+1</b>
 HU		49%	<b>-5</b>	44%	<b>+8</b>	7%	<b>-3</b>
 LT		45%	=	48%	=	7%	=
 FI		45%	<b>-7</b>	52%	<b>+8</b>	3%	<b>-1</b>
 PL		44%	<b>+1</b>	43%	<b>-1</b>	13%	=
 IT		43%	=	42%	<b>-2</b>	15%	<b>+2</b>
 LV		43%	<b>-1</b>	52%	=	5%	<b>+1</b>
 RO		42%	<b>+13</b>	44%	<b>-4</b>	14%	<b>-9</b>
 ES		40%	<b>+5</b>	53%	<b>-5</b>	7%	=
 MT		38%	<b>-9</b>	46%	<b>+6</b>	16%	<b>+3</b>
 SI		38%	<b>+5</b>	59%	<b>-4</b>	3%	<b>-1</b>
 FR		35%	<b>+2</b>	55%	<b>-2</b>	10%	=
 UK		33%	<b>+5</b>	61%	<b>-5</b>	6%	=
 IE		31%	<b>+10</b>	60%	<b>-12</b>	9%	<b>+2</b>
 CY		27%	=	63%	<b>-3</b>	10%	<b>+3</b>
 EL		19%	<b>-3</b>	78%	<b>+3</b>	3%	=
 PT		15%	<b>-5</b>	80%	<b>+7</b>	5%	<b>-2</b>

A socio-demographic analysis suggests that belonging to a less advantaged socio-economic class influences responses: 55% of the respondents who left education at age 15 or earlier are pessimistic, compared to 43% of those who stayed longer in education. Similarly, 65% of the interviewees who say that they have difficulty paying their bills most of the time think that the worst is yet to come, compared to 43% of those who almost never have difficulties.

Finally, age is also an important factor. The younger the respondents, the more likely they are to be optimistic about emerging from the crisis: 48% of those aged between 15 and 24 say that the impact of the crisis on employment has already reached its peak, compared to 39% of those aged over 55.

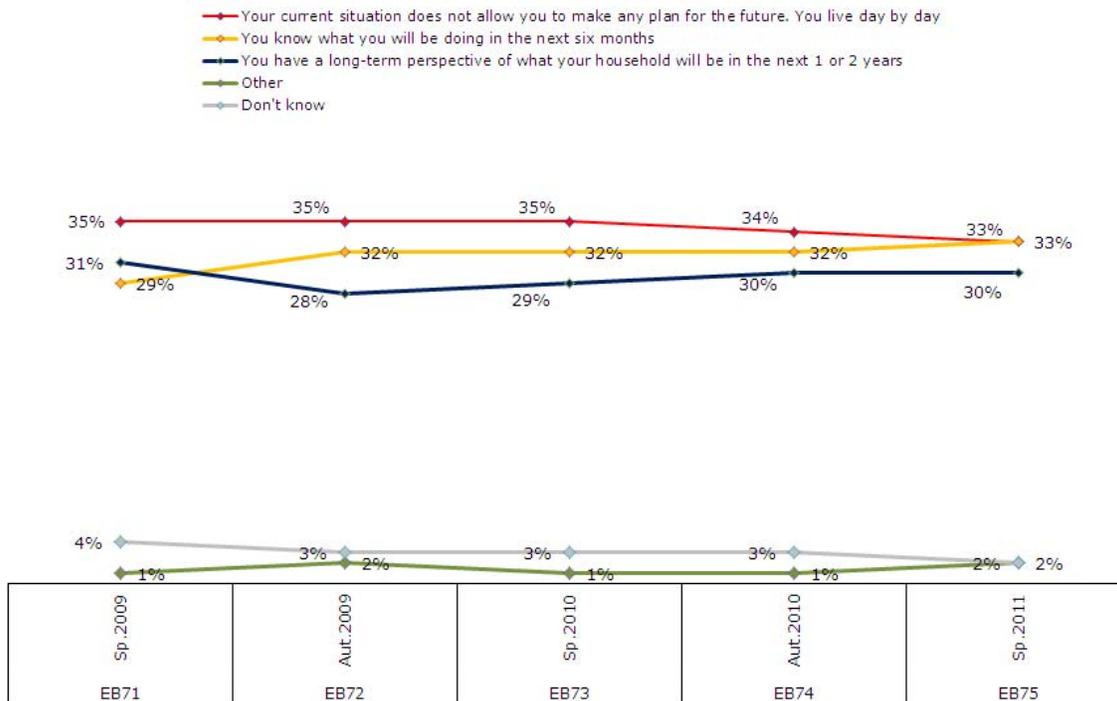
**QC1** Some analysts say that the impact of the economic crisis on the job market has already reached its peak and things will recover little by little. Others, on the contrary, say that the worst is still to come. Which of the two statements is closer to your opinion?

	The impact of the crisis on jobs has already reached its peak	The worst is still to come	DK
EU27	43%	47%	10%
 <b>Age</b>			
15-24	48%	42%	10%
25-39	44%	47%	9%
40-54	43%	48%	9%
55 +	39%	50%	11%
 <b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	33%	55%	12%
16-19	42%	49%	9%
20+	48%	43%	9%
Still studying	50%	40%	10%
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>			
Most of the time	27%	65%	8%
From time to time	38%	52%	10%
Almost never	48%	43%	9%

## 2. THE IMPACT OF THE CRISIS ON HOUSEHOLDS

The results of this Eurobarometer survey have remained stable since previous surveys, and specifically since the autumn 2010 survey (EB74). A third of respondents (33%, -1 point) continue to think that their situation does not enable them to make any plans for the future<sup>5</sup>. Nevertheless, 33% (+1 point) do know what they will be doing in the next six months (up from 32% since autumn 2009). 30% of Europeans have a long-term perspective on what their household will be in the next year or two, as in autumn 2010.

### QC2 Which of the following statements best reflects your household situation?



Nevertheless, the European average masks very marked differences between the Member States, corresponding with the date at which they joined the EU. Respondents in NMS12 countries are more likely to be unable to predict their future (42% compared to 31% in the EU15) and are thus much less likely to have a long-term perspective of their household (15% and 34% respectively).

<sup>5</sup> QC2 Which of the following statements best reflects your household situation? Your current situation does not allow you to make any plans for the future. You live from day to day; You know what you will be doing in the next six months; You have a long-term perspective on what your household will be in the next 1 to 2 years; Other; DK.

**In seven of the twenty-seven Member States an absolute majority think that their current situation does not enable them to plan for the future**, forcing them to live day to day. This is the case in Malta (65%), Greece and Latvia (56% each), Cyprus (55%), Lithuania (52%), Bulgaria (51%) and Romania (50%). A relative majority of respondents in seven further countries are also of this opinion: Portugal (49%), Hungary (47%), Estonia and Ireland (45% each), Spain (44%), France (37%) and the United Kingdom (35%). **The Member States which recorded the most significant increases in the number of respondents who say that they live from day to day** are Cyprus (55%, +10 points) and Malta (65%, +9 points).

**Respondents are most likely to know what they will be doing in the next six months** in Austria (46%), the Czech Republic (44%) and Poland (43%); the most significant positive evolution was recorded in Hungary (37%, +7 points).

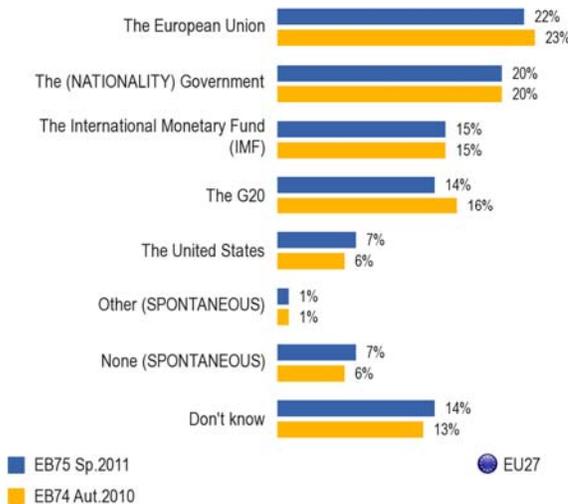
**The interviewees who are more likely to have a long-term perspective on their households (over the next year or two)**, continue to be mainly found, as in the last three Eurobarometer surveys, **in the Northern European countries**: Germany (53%), Finland (52%), Denmark (49%), the Netherlands (48%), Sweden (46%), Luxembourg (46%) and Belgium (39%). A majority of respondents in these Member States, with the exception of Finland, are optimistic about emerging from the crisis. There are positive evolutions in 18 Member States for this question. The largest increases were recorded in Finland (52%, +7 points), Spain (31%, +7 points), Sweden (46%, +5 points) and Bulgaria (13%, +5 points).

A socio-demographic analysis shows that belonging to a 'less advantaged' socio-economic class has a significant impact on the results: 45% of respondents who left school at 15 or earlier stated that their current situation did not enable them to plan for the future, compared to 23% of those who stayed longer in education. And 55% of those positioning themselves at the bottom of the social scale thought that they could not plan for the future, compared to 18% who positioned themselves at the top of the scale.

Family situation also seems to have an impact on the assessment of the household. Respondents who live alone are more likely to say that they cannot plan for the future than those who live as a couple (39% of those who live alone, compared to 29% of those who live as a couple).

### 3. THE MOST EFFECTIVE PLAYERS IN COMBATING THE CRISIS

QC3a. In your opinion, which of the following is best able to take effective actions against the effects of the financial and economic crisis?



(point), ahead of the national government (20%, no change).

In seven Member States **the 'European Union' response has seen a positive evolution** (with an increase of one to three points depending on the country). These are Finland (23%, +3 points), Luxembourg (34%, +2 points), Austria (23%, +2 points), Spain (25%, +2 points), Hungary (25%, +2 points), Sweden (17%, +1 point) and the United Kingdom (10%, +1 point).

In contrast, the negative evolution is most marked in Slovenia (23%, -7 points).

**Conversely the G20 seems to be of less interest** (14%, -2 points), allowing the International Monetary Fund to move into third place (15%, no change<sup>7</sup>).

**Respondents within the euro zone are more likely to mention the European Union** than those outside (23% and 20% respectively). The same applies to the International Monetary Fund (17% compared to 11%). Conversely they are much less likely than those outside the euro zone to mention their national governments (18% compared to 24%).

<sup>6</sup> QC3 In your opinion, which of the following is best able to take effective actions against the effects of the financial and economic crisis? Government (NATIONALITY); European Union; United States; G20; The International Monetary Fund (IMF); Other (SPONTANEOUS); None (SPONTANEOUS); DK.

<sup>7</sup> The affair involving the Director General of the IMF after 14 May 2011 (in other words in the middle of the fieldwork) does not seem to have had a significant impact on the responses.

**The European Union** is mentioned first in Greece, Poland and Luxembourg (34% each) and Bulgaria (33%). The European Union is also at the top in 13 other Member States: Belgium (29%), Italy (28%), Estonia (28%), Slovakia (28%), Romania (27%), Ireland (26%), Lithuania (26%), Spain (25%), Hungary (25%), Portugal (25%), Cyprus (24%), Austria (23%) and Slovenia (23%).

**The national government** is considered the most effective player in Malta (39%), Sweden and the United Kingdom (35% each).

**The IMF** is mentioned in particular in Finland (33%), as well as in the Netherlands and Germany (21% each). On the other hand, as in autumn 2010, it received the fewest mentions in Greece (4%, -3 points).

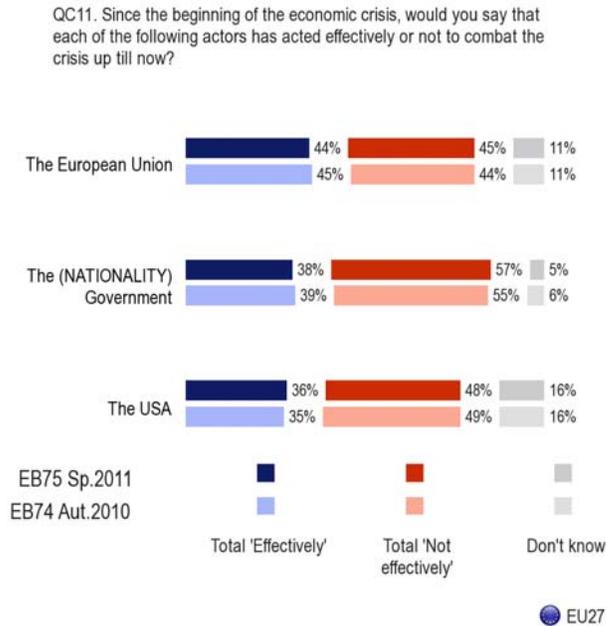
**The G20** is more likely to be mentioned in the Czech Republic (42%, +5 points) and the Netherlands (32%, -3 points).

**The United States** are mentioned a little more in Denmark (15%) and the Czech Republic, Spain and Portugal (12% each).

In Croatia, a candidate country, **the IMF** is seen as the most effective player (24%). In Turkey and Iceland, two other candidate countries, **the national government** is preferred (29% and 25% respectively). In Turkey 22% mention **the United States**, which is the highest percentage in any of the countries covered by this survey.

### *The effectiveness of the actions of the main players*

We have seen how respondents identify the players theoretically best placed to act against the negative effects of the crisis; nevertheless, **judging the effectiveness of their actions can reveal interesting discrepancies.**



Thus, Europeans say that the **European Union** has reacted the most effectively to the crisis: 44% (-1 point) consider the Union's actions to be effective<sup>8</sup>. But they are also slightly more likely (45%, +1 point) to think the opposite. A majority of respondents say that **the national government** has been ineffective (57%, +2 points), whereas 38% (-1 point) are positive about its actions. The **United States** are seen as having reacted ineffectively by 48% of respondents (-1 point compared to autumn 2010), whereas more than a third (36%, +1 point) are positive about its performance.

An analysis of EU15/NMS12 Member States reveals some striking differences. The first finding concerns **the European Union, where there is a significant 15-point difference between the NMS12 countries and the EU15 in terms of respondents who say that it has acted effectively** (56% and 41% respectively).

Conversely, the **national government** is more likely to be considered as effective in the EU15 countries (42%) than in the NMS12 countries (26%).

The **United States** are more likely to be considered effective in the NMS12 countries (48%, compared to 34% in EU15).

**Once again there are significant differences from one Member State to another.**

Respondents are the most positive about **the European Union** in Romania (68%), Bulgaria (62%) and Belgium (60%); conversely in Greece people are more critical of the Union's actions since the start of the crisis: 75% think that it has not acted effectively. Slovakia registers the most significant negative evolution for 'total effectively' (54%, -10 points).

<sup>8</sup> QC11 Since the beginning of the economic crisis, would you say that each of the following actors has acted effectively or not to combat the crisis up till now?

QC11 Since the beginning of the economic crisis, would you say that each of the following actors has acted effectively or not to combat the crisis up till now?

		The European Union		The (NATIONALITY) Government		The USA	
		Total 'Effectively'	Total 'Not effectively'	Total 'Effectively'	Total 'Not effectively'	Total 'Effectively'	Total 'Not effectively'
	EU27	44%	45%	38%	57%	36%	48%
	EU15	41%	48%	42%	53%	34%	52%
	NMS12	56%	32%	26%	68%	48%	32%
	Euro zone	43%	48%	40%	56%	34%	53%
	Non-Euro zone	47%	39%	35%	58%	41%	40%

**The national government** is primarily considered in a positive light in Sweden (77%), Luxembourg (71%), the Netherlands (67%), Germany (66%) and Austria (65%). Although respondents in Greece are very critical of the Union, they do not support their national government either: only 9% (-7 points) say that its actions have been effective, while 90% see them negatively. Respondents in Slovenia were the most critical of the government (only 6%, -6 points, thought it effective, while 92% thought the opposite, +6 points).

Among the candidate countries, the national government is again only supported by 6% of respondents in Croatia.

The **United States** are primarily seen as effective in Lithuania (55%), Romania (53%) and Hungary (52%).

**The socio-demographic analysis of the results establishes that the most advantaged social classes are more likely to consider that the actions of the European Union or their government have been effective** in combating the crisis. The reverse is true of the most vulnerable respondents, who are more likely to criticise these two institutions. In fact, 51% of managers and 48% of self-employed workers consider the **European Union's** actions to be effective compared to 38% of unemployed people and 39% of house persons. Likewise 51% of managers think that their **government** has reacted effectively to combat the crisis compared to only 25% of the unemployed and 32% of house persons.

Support for the **United States** seems to correlate less with the occupation of the interviewee: a comparable proportion of managers and the unemployed think that the United States has been effective in combating the crisis (36% and 37% respectively).

## 4. THE EURO'S ROLE IN THE CRISIS

More than half the interviewees (51%, +3 points since autumn 2010) think that the euro has not cushioned the effects of the economic crisis overall, whereas 37% (-2 points) think the opposite<sup>9</sup>.

**Respondents in the euro zone are much more likely to agree that the euro has had a cushioning effect** (42%, -1 point) than those outside it (30%, +1 point). This is the majority opinion in five euro zone countries: Slovakia, Austria, Italy, Finland and Ireland.

The clearest positive evolutions are in Romania (38%, +7 points) and the United Kingdom (24%, +5 points). Conversely positive evaluations are down since the last survey in 19 countries, most sharply in Luxembourg (43%, -9 points), Hungary (40%, -8 points), Greece (38%, -8 points) and Cyprus (33%, -8 points).

QC4 Could you tell me whether you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree with the following statement: Overall the euro has cushioned the effects of the economic crisis.

	Total 'Agree'	Diff. Sp.2011 - Aut.2010		Total 'Disagree'	Diff. Sp.2011 - Aut.2010
 EU27	37%	-2	 EU27	51%	+3
Euro zone	42%	-1	Euro zone	50%	+2
Non-Euro zone	30%	+1	Non-Euro zone	51%	+1
 RO	38%	+7	 BG	42%	+10
 UK	24%	+5	 HU	51%	+10
 LV	32%	+4	 EL	60%	+8
 EE	40%	+3	 LU	50%	+8
 FR	32%	+3	 PT	50%	+8
 AT	56%	+3	 FI	42%	+8
⋮	⋮	⋮	 CY	61%	+7
 SI	34%	-6	 SI	63%	+7
 PT	42%	-7	 SE	60%	+7
 EL	38%	-8	⋮	⋮	⋮
 CY	33%	-8	 FR	62%	-2
 HU	40%	-8	 LV	51%	-3
 LU	43%	-9	 UK	58%	-4

<sup>9</sup> QC4 Could you tell me whether you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree with the following statement: Overall the euro has cushioned the effects of the economic crisis.

## 5. THE MOST EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO BE TAKEN BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

As we observed in the autumn 2010 Standard Eurobarometer, **63% of Europeans (no change) think that the European Union has sufficient power and tools to face up to international economic competition**<sup>10</sup>. A quarter of respondents (+1 point) think the opposite.

**This is still the majority opinion in all twenty-seven Member States. 12 States have seen a positive evolution:** Spain (70%, +4 points), Romania (65%, +4 points), Denmark (58%, +4 points), the Czech Republic (66%, +3 points), Luxembourg (63%, +3 points), France (54%, +3 points), the United Kingdom (50%, +3 points), Cyprus (84%, +2 points), Austria (71%, +2 points), Sweden (51%, +2 points), Germany (68%, +2 points) and Finland (58%, +1 point).

### 5.1 Improving the performance of the European economy

In order to establish Europeans' opinions on how to improve the performance of the European economy, a series of eleven initiatives was put to them, from which they could choose a maximum of three<sup>11</sup>. As in the previous survey (EB74 autumn 2010), **the results underline public concern for education and training, entrepreneurship and restoring order to public finances**, with a virtually identical ranking of the results.

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<sup>10</sup> QC10.3 Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding the role of the EU in the economy? : The EU has sufficient power and tools to defend the economic interests of Europe in the global economy

<sup>11</sup> QC5 Which three initiatives could most improve the performance of the European economy?: Increase the number of working hours; Improve education and professional training; Invest in research and innovation; Make it easier for companies to access credit; Make it easier to set up a business ; Use energy more efficiently; Invest in transport (motorways, railways, etc.); Invest in environmentally friendly products and services; Increase the retirement age ; Reduce public deficits and debt ; Strengthen regulation of financial markets; Other (SPONTANEOUS); DK

## QC5 Which three initiatives could most improve the performance of the European economy?

	EU27	Euro zone	Non-Euro zone
Improve education and professional training	48%	50%	44%
Make it easier to set up a business	34%	35%	32%
Reduce public deficits and debt	34%	35%	32%
Invest in research and innovation	29%	33%	21%
Use energy more efficiently	25%	24%	26%
Strengthen regulation of financial markets	21%	22%	19%
Make it easier for companies to access credit	20%	22%	17%
Invest in environmentally friendly products and services	15%	15%	13%
Invest in transport (motorways, railways, etc.)	11%	8%	17%
Increase the number of working hours	6%	7%	6%
Increase the retirement age	5%	4%	5%

The most frequently mentioned initiative is still **'improve education and professional training'**: almost half the respondents (48%, +1 point compared to autumn 2010) mention this as a priority. **'Make it easier to set up a business'** and **'Reduce public deficits and debt'** are chosen by more than a third (34% each). **'Invest in research and innovation'** comes in third place with 29%.

There are some differences between respondents in and outside the euro zone. Thus three initiatives are mentioned significantly more often inside the euro zone:

- **Invest in research and innovation**: 33% in the euro zone compared to 21% outside it
- **Improve education and professional training**: 50% compared to 44%
- **Make it easier for companies to access credit**: 22% compared to 17%

Conversely, **investing in transport** (motorways, railways, etc) is mentioned more outside the euro zone (17%, compared to 8% within the euro zone).

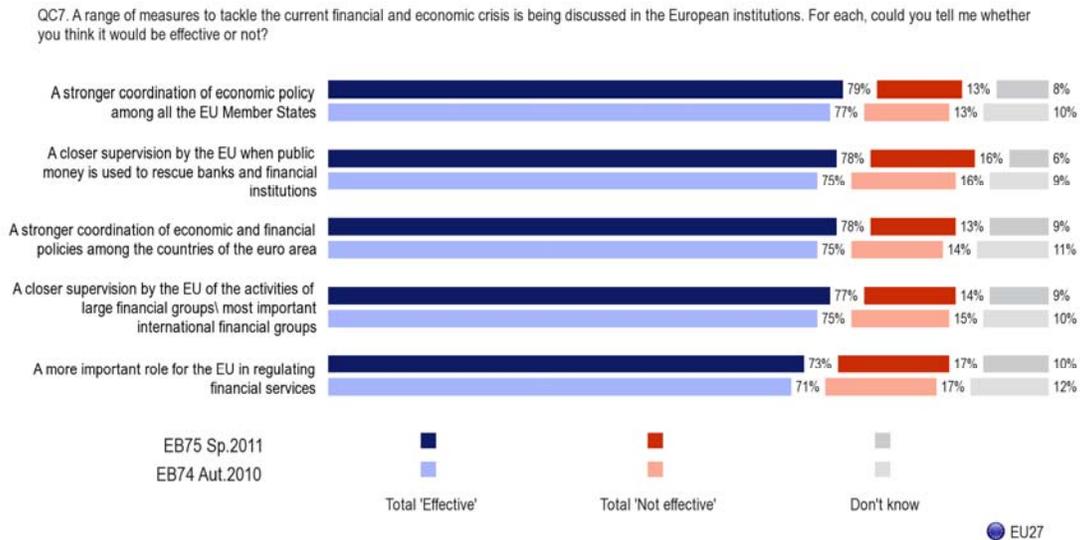
There are some variations between socio-demographic categories: improving education and professional training logically interests the youngest interviewees (58% of the 15-24 age group, compared to 45% of the 55+ band). This theme draws support from both managers (50%) and manual workers (49%).

Making it easier to set up a business is an initiative supported by the least educated (37% compared to 31% of the most educated group) and in particular by the unemployed (43%, compared to 29% of managers).

Reducing the public deficits and debt is most likely to be mentioned by the most educated (37% compared to 30% of those who left school before 16), managers (39% compared to 31% of the unemployed) and those who are very interested in politics (39% compared to 25% of those who are not at all interested).

## 5.2 Measures to combat the crisis

A very large majority of Europeans (more than seven out of ten) think that the measures which tend to strengthen the coordination of economic policy within the EU and those which increase the supervision of financial services are effective in combating the crisis. This opinion has strengthened since autumn 2010<sup>12</sup>.



As in autumn 2010, the most frequently mentioned measure is '**stronger coordination of economic policy among all the EU Member States**' (79%, +2 points). Support for this measure is 83% (+1 point) within the euro zone compared to 70% (+3 points) outside it.

**Europeans within the euro zone are more likely** (with a significant difference of 12 to 15 points) than those outside it **to think that the each of the five measures suggested to combat the crisis would be effective.**

<sup>12</sup> QC7 A range of measures to tackle the current financial and economic crisis is being discussed in the European institutions. For each, could you tell me whether you think it would be effective or not.

QC7 A range of measures to tackle the current financial and economic crisis is being discussed in the European institutions. For each, could you tell me whether you think it would be effective or not?

	A stronger coordination of economic policy among all the EU Member States		A closer supervision by the EU when public money is used to rescue banks and financial institutions		A stronger coordination of economic and financial policies among the countries of the euro area		A closer supervision by the EU of the activities of large financial groups' most important international financial groups		A more important role for the EU in regulating financial services	
	Total 'Effective'	Diff. Sp.2011 Aut.2010	Total 'Effective'	Diff. Sp.2011 Aut.2010	Total 'Effective'	Diff. Sp.2011 Aut.2010	Total 'Effective'	Diff. Sp.2011 Aut.2010	Total 'Effective'	Diff. Sp.2011 Aut.2010
 EU27	79%	+2	78%	+3	78%	+3	77%	+2	73%	+2
Euro zone	83%	+1	82%	+2	82%	+1	82%	+2	79%	+2
Non-Euro zone	70%	+3	70%	+5	69%	+4	69%	+3	64%	+3
 BE	90%	+3	87%	+4	89%	+2	88%	+4	87%	+3
 BG	85%	+3	84%	+3	82%	-1	82%	+3	78%	=
 CZ	75%	+4	77%	+3	75%	+4	78%	+3	71%	+3
 DK	79%	-1	67%	+5	76%	+2	71%	+2	51%	-3
 DE	82%	+2	85%	+1	83%	+4	85%	+1	75%	+2
 EE	65%	-5	56%	-5	68%	-1	63%	-5	60%	-5
 IE	79%	=	83%	-1	78%	-2	84%	+3	80%	=
 EL	84%	+3	82%	+4	81%	+3	79%	+1	78%	+3
 ES	87%	+3	86%	+5	86%	+2	87%	+5	85%	+4
 FR	80%	-1	76%	+1	80%	-1	74%	-3	73%	-4
 IT	84%	+2	82%	+1	84%	+3	84%	+4	84%	+4
 CY	91%	+2	92%	+7	91%	+3	87%	+4	84%	+5
 LV	68%	-5	72%	-4	68%	-2	70%	-1	62%	-6
 LT	66%	=	68%	+1	61%	-2	64%	+1	65%	-1
 LU	84%	-1	74%	-5	84%	-2	79%	+1	78%	=
 HU	69%	+4	72%	+2	68%	+2	72%	+4	67%	-1
 MT	78%	+4	81%	+8	78%	+5	72%	+6	71%	+3
 NL	83%	-2	74%	+2	83%	+2	75%	-1	75%	+2
 AT	77%	+3	75%	+8	77%	+6	75%	+7	72%	+6
 PL	75%	=	72%	+6	70%	+1	70%	=	66%	=
 PT	77%	+5	84%	+10	77%	+5	84%	+11	77%	+6
 RO	80%	+3	78%	+3	79%	+5	79%	+3	76%	+5
 SI	82%	=	82%	-1	83%	=	81%	+1	81%	+1
 SK	87%	-2	88%	-1	86%	=	87%	-2	83%	-1
 FI	74%	-4	76%	-4	80%	-1	75%	-2	69%	-4
 SE	66%	-1	68%	-1	69%	=	65%	+1	58%	-2
 UK	64%	+7	65%	+8	61%	+8	63%	+8	58%	+7

## 6. REFORMING THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL SYSTEM?

### 6.1 The reforms necessary for combating the crisis and reducing public debt

#### *Working together*

**More than nine out of ten Europeans (91%, +2 points since the autumn 2010 Eurobarometer) favour greater cooperation between the 27 Member States in order to combat the crisis<sup>13</sup>.** Only 6% (-1 point) think the opposite. This opinion is more widely shared within the euro zone (92%) than outside it (88%).

Agreement with this statement has increased the most in the United Kingdom (85%, +6 points), where respondents are nevertheless the least likely to agree (along with those in Austria, also 85%).

QC6a. For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree.  
Answer: 'Total Agree' -%EU

	EB74 Aut.2010	EB75 Sp.2011	Diff. Sp.2011 - Aut.2010
EU Member States should work together more in tackling the financial and economic crisis	89%	91%	+2
(OUR COUNTRY) needs reforms to face the future	87%	86%	-1
We need to reform to benefit future generations even if that means making some sacrifices now	77%	80%	+3
(SPLIT A) Measures to reduce the public deficit and debt in (OUR COUNTRY) cannot be delayed	78%	77%	-1
You are ready to reduce your living standards now in order to guarantee living standards for future generations	50%	50%	=
The economic crisis means we should increase public deficits to create jobs	42%	45%	+3
(SPLIT B) Measures to reduce the public deficit and debt in (OUR COUNTRY) are not a priority for now	36%	41%	+5

<sup>13</sup> QC6 For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree.

### ***Reforms to face the future***

**Undertaking reforms which will benefit future generations, regardless of the sacrifices which will have to be made today, is an idea which has gained more and more support** since it was first suggested to Europeans in autumn 2009. The 80% support which it received in spring 2011 represented an increase of 3 points. Only 16% (-1 point) did not support it. This opinion is more likely to be held in the EU15 countries (80%) than in the NMS12 countries (74%), particularly in the Nordic countries: Finland (94%), Denmark (93%) and Sweden (92%), but also in Cyprus (94%). Iceland stands out among the candidate countries with 95% support for this statement.

Since autumn 2010 opinion has evolved most positively regarding this question in Malta (73%, +13 points) and Latvia (48%, +9 points). Despite this increase, Latvia remains the only Member State in which a majority still disagree with this statement (49%).

If the idea of reforms benefiting future generations is broadly accepted, the same is not automatically true of **reducing current living standards to guarantee the living standards of future generations**. Half of Europeans support this statement (50%, no change) but equally 45% (+1 point) disagree.

As in the last Eurobarometer survey in autumn 2010, EU15 respondents (53%) are more likely than those in the NMS12 countries (41%) to envisage a reduction in their current standard of living.

Respondents in Luxembourg (70%) are most supportive of this type of intergenerational solidarity. In Iceland, a candidate country, 74% of those interviewed expressed this opinion.

The most advantaged categories of the population are more likely to support this idea: in particular managers (62%, compared to 44% of the unemployed) and the most educated (58%, compared to 45% of the least educated).

**A very large majority of respondents (86%, -1 point) thought that their country needed reforms to face the future.** In fact 99% of those interviewed in Cyprus agreed with this. Only 10% of respondents across the whole of the Union disagreed. Public support for reforms has increased most in Luxembourg (77%, +8 points). In contrast, approval has declined the most since autumn 2010 in Hungary (80%, -8 points), Slovakia (75%, -6 points) and the Czech Republic (74%, -6 points).

### ***Reforms and the public deficit***

The scale and persistence of the economic crisis over an almost three-year period may have affected European public opinion of reforms. **Opinion was measured by dividing the sample into two halves, which were presented with differently worded statements:**

- **One positive (SPLIT A** – ‘The measures to be taken to reduce the public deficit and debt of (OUR COUNTRY) **cannot be delayed**’).
- **And the other negative (SPLIT B** – ‘The measures to be taken to reduce the public deficit and debt of (OUR COUNTRY) **are not a priority for the moment**’).

As in autumn 2010, **more than three out of four Europeans (77%, -1 point) agree with that measures to reduce the public deficit and debt of their country cannot be delayed.** 14% (+1 point) do not agree. Respondents in the euro zone are more likely (79%, compared to 73% outside) to think that the measures to reduce the public deficit and debt of their country cannot be delayed.

**When the wording is reversed** a little more than four out of ten respondents (41%, +5 points) think that the measures to reduce the public deficit and debt of their country are not a priority. Support for this statement has increased most in Ireland (+14 points), and has declined most in Hungary (-9 points).

**In contrast a relative majority of Europeans (49%, -4 points) do not agree with this statement, in effect saying that these measures are a priority for their country.** 51% of respondents in the euro zone (compared to 46% outside) ‘do not agree’ with the statement (and thus think that these measures are a priority).

To an extent this confirms the results of SPLIT A. However, the strength of opinion varies considerably with the wording of the message.

While the majority of Europeans interviewed for this survey support a reduction in the public deficit, **four out of ten** (45%, +3 points since autumn 2010) **nevertheless say that, because of the crisis, public deficits should be increased to create jobs, while slightly fewer people (42%, no change) think the opposite.** It is noticeable that the 'don't knows' remain high (13%, -3 points).

There is a significant 13-point difference between respondents in the euro zone, 40% of whom are in favour of increasing public deficits to create jobs, and outside the euro zone, where there is an absolute majority of 53%.

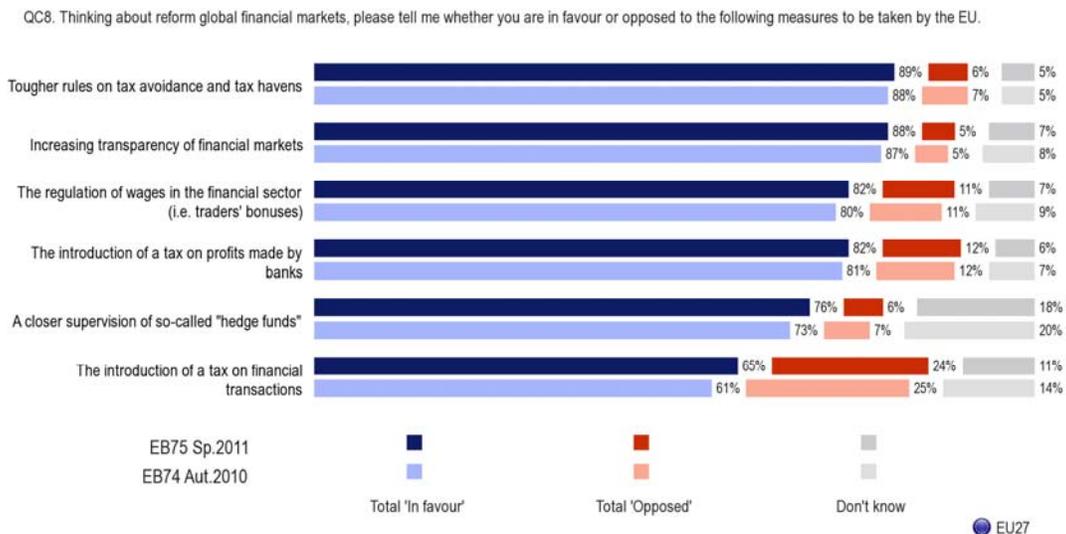
QC6a.7 For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree. The economic crisis means we should increase public deficits to create jobs

Answer: 'Total Agree'				
		EB74 Aut.2010	EB75 Sp.2011	Diff. Sp.2011 - Aut.2010
	EU27	42%	45%	<b>+3</b>
	Euro zone	38%	40%	<b>+2</b>
	Non-Euro zone	49%	53%	<b>+4</b>
	LV	43%	57%	<b>+14</b>
	LU	42%	52%	<b>+10</b>
	SE	41%	51%	<b>+10</b>
	SI	47%	55%	<b>+8</b>
	DK	58%	51%	<b>-7</b>
	LT	66%	56%	<b>-10</b>

## 6.2 What measures should be taken to reform the economic and financial system?

People were asked to give their opinion on six measures which the European Union might take to reform the global financial markets<sup>14</sup>.

As in the last Eurobarometer survey of autumn 2010, **the very large majority of respondents support these measures**. These results have all increased (by between one and four points depending on the measure), even if sometimes there are significant differences between countries. **There are also sometimes very significant differences in opinion inside and outside the euro zone..** Respondents in the euro zone are more likely to support all six proposals (a difference of between five and nineteen points depending on the proposal).



<sup>14</sup> QC8 Thinking about reform global financial markets, please tell me whether you are in favour or opposed to the following measures to be taken by the EU.

QC8 Thinking about reform global financial markets, please tell me whether you are in favour or opposed to the following measures to be taken by the EU

	Tougher rules on tax avoidance and tax havens		Increasing transparency of financial markets		The regulation of wages in the financial sector (i.e. traders' bonuses)		The introduction of a tax on profits made by banks		A closer supervision of so-called "hedge funds"		The introduction of a tax on financial transactions	
	Total 'In favour'	Diff. Sp.2011 - Aut.2010	Total 'In favour'	Diff. Sp.2011 - Aut.2010	Total 'In favour'	Diff. Sp.2011 - Aut.2010	Total 'In favour'	Diff. Sp.2011 - Aut.2010	Total 'In favour'	Diff. Sp.2011 - Aut.2010	Total 'In favour'	Diff. Sp.2011 - Aut.2010
EU27	89%	+1	88%	+1	82%	+2	82%	+1	76%	+3	65%	+4
Euro zone	92%	+2	91%	+1	86%	+3	84%	+2	81%	+3	72%	+5
Non-Euro zone	86%	+2	84%	+2	76%	+2	79%	+2	65%	+3	53%	+4
BE	90%	=	92%	=	86%	+2	85%	+5	82%	+3	68%	+2
BG	82%	-5	90%	+4	78%	+1	86%	+2	46%	-1	55%	-6
CZ	93%	+1	87%	+1	80%	-1	88%	+2	83%	+6	66%	+8
DK	93%	+3	90%	+2	63%	+1	81%	+4	74%	+9	62%	+6
DE	93%	+1	93%	=	85%	-1	89%	+3	89%	+3	79%	+5
EE	81%	+2	86%	+1	71%	-1	77%	+2	81%	+4	51%	+8
IE	89%	-1	90%	+3	91%	+5	91%	-1	88%	+7	55%	-1
EL	95%	+2	95%	+3	87%	+7	97%	+4	96%	+6	79%	+9
ES	92%	+3	93%	+4	91%	+6	75%	+3	71%	+5	64%	+6
FR	88%	-2	87%	=	84%	+2	84%	-2	75%	+4	73%	+2
IT	90%	+2	89%	+1	82%	+1	81%	-1	83%	+1	75%	+3
CY	94%	+3	95%	+3	78%	+10	89%	+4	95%	+4	62%	+4
LV	74%	+5	89%	+1	76%	-3	73%	-2	67%	+5	58%	+3
LT	75%	-1	88%	+3	77%	+4	79%	-1	64%	+2	64%	+2
LU	75%	+2	86%	-1	80%	+1	73%	=	80%	+2	60%	+5
HU	92%	=	92%	=	83%	-4	85%	+3	89%	-1	63%	=
MT	74%	=	82%	+9	50%	+3	47%	-4	52%	+5	24%	-6
NL	94%	+1	92%	=	84%	+4	77%	+4	76%	+4	39%	+3
AT	92%	+2	90%	+2	89%	+2	84%	+7	86%	+1	83%	+8
PL	80%	+3	84%	+1	70%	-3	72%	+1	50%	+5	48%	+3
PT	87%	+2	88%	+3	86%	+4	85%	+2	85%	+3	82%	+8
RO	88%	+4	80%	+10	70%	+6	78%	+2	65%	+4	63%	+4
SI	90%	+2	94%	+3	91%	+5	84%	-2	77%	-1	61%	+2
SK	96%	+1	92%	+1	90%	+4	89%	+2	82%	-1	77%	+10
FI	90%	-2	90%	+1	75%	-5	80%	-1	76%	+4	54%	=
SE	90%	-4	81%	+1	78%	+3	79%	+2	71%	+1	51%	+6
UK	86%	+2	82%	=	79%	+3	79%	=	69%	+2	48%	+5
CY (tcc)	82%	-	62%	-	66%	-	60%	-	72%	-	56%	-
HR	88%	-	85%	-	83%	-	88%	-	70%	-	73%	-
TR	62%	-	63%	-	56%	-	59%	-	44%	-	59%	-
MK	84%	-	76%	-	71%	-	70%	-	49%	-	56%	-
IS	91%	-	94%	-	89%	-	84%	-	91%	-	57%	-
ME	83%	-	79%	-	80%	-	85%	-	73%	-	73%	-

Respondents in Greece are the most likely to support these measures in three out of six cases, in contrast to interviewees in Malta who are markedly less in favour of these proposals.

As in the case of the questions asked on the priority of public deficit and debt reduction measures, the 'split ballot' method was used to establish whether respondents believed that **the European Union should take a stronger role in developing new rules for the global financial markets (SPLIT A)** or whether **instead the European Union should be less involved in the development of these rules (SPLIT B)**<sup>15</sup>.

As in the last Eurobarometer study in autumn 2010 (EB74), **a very large majority (SPLIT A: 83%, +1 point) stated that they would like to see the European Union playing a stronger role.** Only 9% disagreed.

**There is a significant 11-point difference between respondents inside and outside the euro zone:** 87% of the former think that the Union should take a stronger role (compared to 76% of the latter).

The Member States in which this opinion has gained most ground since autumn 2010 are Italy (87%, +6 points), Finland (90%, +5 points) and Malta (80%, +5 points). Conversely, this figure is markedly lower in Lithuania (73%, -7 points), Poland (75%, -6 points), Estonia (76%, -5 points), Sweden (78%, -5 points) and France (85%, -5 points).

However, **when the wording is reversed (SPLIT B), opinion is similar but not as strong.** A relative majority of 48% (-4 points compared to autumn 2010) state that they do not agree that the European Union should be less involved, while 38% (+5 points) think the opposite.

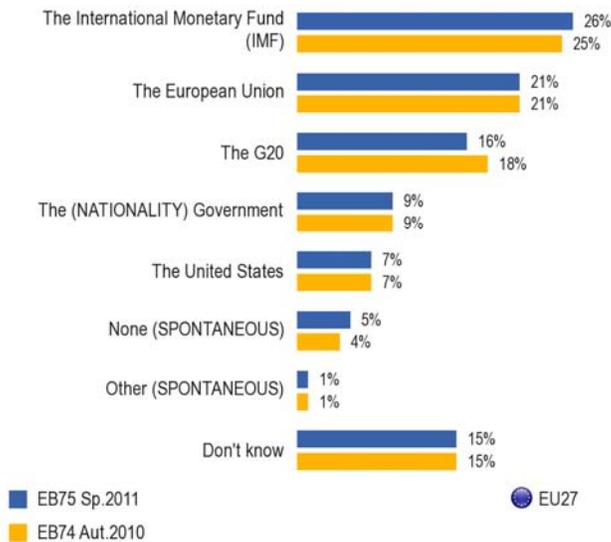
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<sup>15</sup> QC10.1-2 Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding the role of the EU in the economy? The EU should take a stronger role in developing new rules for the global financial markets; The EU should be less involved in developing new rules for the global financial markets.

### 6.3 Which player is best placed to reform the financial system?

When asked which player is best able to reform the global financial market, Europeans have most confidence in the three international institutions - the International Monetary Fund, the European Union and the G20<sup>16</sup>. As in the last Eurobarometer of autumn 2010 (EB74), the two national institutions (the national government and the United States) are mentioned less often. The ranking is exactly the same as in autumn 2010.

QC9a. In your opinion, which of the following is best placed to regulate and reform the global financial market?



If we compare these results with those from question QC3a regarding the player best able to tackle the consequences of the crisis, it is interesting to note that **the IMF**, which was only in third place (behind the European Union and the national government) **is seen here as the most able to regulate and reform the global financial market (26%, +1 point)**. Therefore, the IMF seems to be seen more as a technical regulator than a political player.

The European Union is seen as the second best placed (21%, no change), followed by the G20 (16%, -2 points).

**The International Monetary Fund** is more likely to be mentioned by respondents inside the euro zone (28%) than outside it (22%). It is most often mentioned in the north of the EU: Finland (50%), Denmark (39%), and Sweden and the Netherlands (38% each).

**The European Union** is particularly seen as a player for regulating and reforming the global financial market in one of the European countries the most affected by the crisis, Greece (33%) but also in Italy (32%).

**The G20** is primarily mentioned in the Netherlands (35%) and the Czech Republic (34%).

<sup>16</sup> QC9 In your opinion, which of the following is best placed to regulate and reform the global financial market?

## TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

TNS Opinion & Social, a consortium created between TNS plc and TNS opinion, carried out the wave 75.3 of the EUROBAROMETER, on request of the EUROPEAN COMMISSION, Directorate-General for Communication, "Research and Speechwriting". Interviews took place between 6 May and 26 May 2011.

The STANDARD EUROBAROMETER 75 is part of wave 75.3 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 STANDARD EUROBAROMETER 75 has also been conducted in the five candidate countries (Croatia, Turkey, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland and Montenegro) and in the Turkish Cypriot Community. In these countries, the survey covers the national population of citizens and the population of citizens of all the European Union Member States that are residents in these countries and have a sufficient command of the national languages to answer the questionnaire. 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 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 is concerned, CAPI (Computer Assisted Personal Interview) was used in those countries where this technique was available.

ABBREVIATIONS	COUNTRIES	INSTITUTES	N° INTERVIEWS	FIELDWORK DATES	POPULATION 15+	
BE	Belgium	TNS Dimarso	1.020	06/05/2011	24/05/2011	8.939.546
BG	Bulgaria	TNS BBSS	1.000	06/05/2011	16/05/2011	6.537.510
CZ	Czech Rep.	TNS Aisa	1.022	07/05/2011	20/05/2011	9.012.443
DK	Denmark	TNS Gallup DK	1.007	06/05/2011	23/05/2011	4.561.264
DE	Germany	TNS Infratest	1.535	06/05/2011	22/05/2011	64.409.146
EE	Estonia	Emor	1.000	06/05/2011	24/05/2011	945.733
IE	Ireland	Ipsos MRBI	1.015	09/05/2011	22/05/2011	3.522.000
EL	Greece	TNS ICAP	1.000	07/05/2011	21/05/2011	8.693.566
ES	Spain	TNS Demoscopia	1.010	09/05/2011	24/05/2011	39.035.867
FR	France	TNS Sofres	1.022	06/05/2011	24/05/2011	47.756.439
IT	Italy	TNS Infratest	1.039	06/05/2011	22/05/2011	51.862.391
CY	Rep. of Cyprus	Synovate	501	06/05/2011	21/05/2011	660.400
LV	Latvia	TNS Latvia	1.007	06/05/2011	23/05/2011	1.447.866
LT	Lithuania	TNS Gallup Lithuania	1.026	07/05/2011	22/05/2011	2.829.740
LU	Luxembourg	TNS ILReS	501	06/05/2011	19/05/2011	404.907
HU	Hungary	TNS Hungary	1.019	06/05/2011	22/05/2011	8.320.614
MT	Malta	MISCO	500	06/05/2011	21/05/2011	335.476
NL	Netherlands	TNS NIPO	1.016	06/05/2011	22/05/2011	13.371.980
AT	Austria	Österreichisches Gallup- Institut	1.018	06/05/2011	22/05/2011	7.009.827
PL	Poland	TNS OBOP	1.000	07/05/2011	23/05/2011	32.413.735
PT	Portugal	TNS EUROTESTE	1.048	07/05/2011	22/05/2011	8.080.915
RO	Romania	TNS CSOP	1.023	06/05/2011	20/05/2011	18.246.731
SI	Slovenia	RM PLUS	1.018	06/05/2011	22/05/2011	1.759.701
SK	Slovakia	TNS Slovakia	1.010	10/05/2011	25/05/2011	4.549.955
FI	Finland	TNS Gallup Oy	1.003	07/05/2011	26/05/2011	4.440.004
SE	Sweden	TNS GALLUP	1.044	06/05/2011	22/05/2011	7.791.240
UK	United Kingdom	TNS UK	1.309	06/05/2011	23/05/2011	51.848.010
<b>TOTAL EU27</b>			<b>26.713</b>	<b>06/05/2011</b>	<b>26/05/2011</b>	<b>408.787.006</b>
	Turkish Cypriot					
CY(tcc)	Community	Kadem	500	07/05/2011	19/05/2011	143.226
HR	Croatia	Puls	1.000	07/05/2011	25/05/2011	3.749.400
TR	Turkey	TNS PIAR	1.000	06/05/2011	22/05/2011	54.844.406
	Former Yugoslav					
MK	Rep. of Macedonia	TNS Brima	1.056	06/05/2011	12/05/2011	1.678.404
IS	Iceland	Capacent	500	06/05/2011	24/05/2011	252.277
ME	Montenegro	TNS Medium Gallup	1.000	07/05/2011	22/05/2011	492.265
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>31.769</b>	<b>06/05/2011</b>	<b>26/05/2011</b>	<b>469.946.984</b>

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 this 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 population figures as provided by EUROSTAT or national statistic offices. The total population figures for input in this post-weighting procedure are listed above.

Readers are reminded that survey results are estimations, 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:

Observed percentages	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