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European Parliament

IMPRESSUM

The report has been drafted for the European Parliament by Verian Belgium.

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Document prepared by Pierre Dieumegard for Europe-Democracy-Esperanto

The purpose of this "provisional" document is to enable more people in the European Union to become aware of documents produced by the European Union (and financed by their taxes).

If there are no translations, citizens are excluded from the debate.

This document “Eurobarometer” only existed in English, in a pdf-file . From the initial file, we created a odt-file, prepared by Libre Office software, for machine translation to other languages. The results are now available in all official languages.

It is desirable that the EU administration takes over the translation of important documents. “Important documents” are not only laws and regulations, but also the important information needed to make informed decisions together.

In order to discuss our common future together, and to enable reliable translations, the international language Esperanto would be very useful because of its simplicity, regularity and accuracy.

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10 key take-away

United EU, stronger future

Citizens want the European Union to act with unity and ambition. 89% of respondents say that EU Member States should be more united to face current global challenges and 86% want the EU to have a stronger voice at the international level.

An EU that protects

66% of Europeans would like the EU to play a greater role in protecting them against global crises and security risks. They see defence and security (40%), competitiveness, economy and industry (32%), and energy independence, resources and infrastructures (29%) as key areas to strengthen the EU's position in the world.

EU membership: highly valued

A strong and growing majority of citizens think that their country's EU membership is a good thing (62%), a two-point increase since the question was last asked in February/March 2024.

Worries over security

A majority of Europeans say they are 'highly worried' about a range of issues, such as active conflicts and wars near the European Union (72%), terrorism (67%), natural disasters made worse by climate change (66%), and cyber-attacks from non-EU countries (66%).

Worries over the digital space

Citizens express very high concern regarding disinformation (69%), hate speech (68%), misleading content created by AI (68%), the protection of personal data online (68%), and threats to freedom of speech (67%), among others.

Economy & security: top issues

Europeans want the European Parliament to prioritise tackling inflation, rising prices and the cost of living (41%), followed by the economy and job creation (35%), and the EU's defence and security (34%). The share of respondents calling for a focus on economy and job creation has increased by �ve points since May 2025.

Peace & democracy: top values

Europeans believe the EP should prioritise peace (52%) and democracy (35%), as well as freedom of speech and thought (23%), and the protection of human rights in the EU and worldwide (22%).

EU & EP image affected by the global context

The public's perception of the EU and the EP has slightly weakened since May 2025, but remains strong when looking at the past two decades. 49% (-3 pp) of respondents have a positive image of the EU, and 38% (-3 pp) have a positive image of the EP.

Glass half empty?

A majority of respondents say that they are pessimistic about the future of the world (52%), while 39% are pessimistic about the future of the EU and 41% are pessimistic about the future of their country. Still, over three-quarters of Europeans (76%) are optimistic about their own future and that of their family.

Glass half full for the young

Optimism about the future prevails at all levels among those aged 15 to 30. Indeed, a majority of young Europeans are optimistic about the future of the world (50%), the EU (65%), their country (60%) and their own and their families' future (80%). They also express strong support for a united and ambitious European Union.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

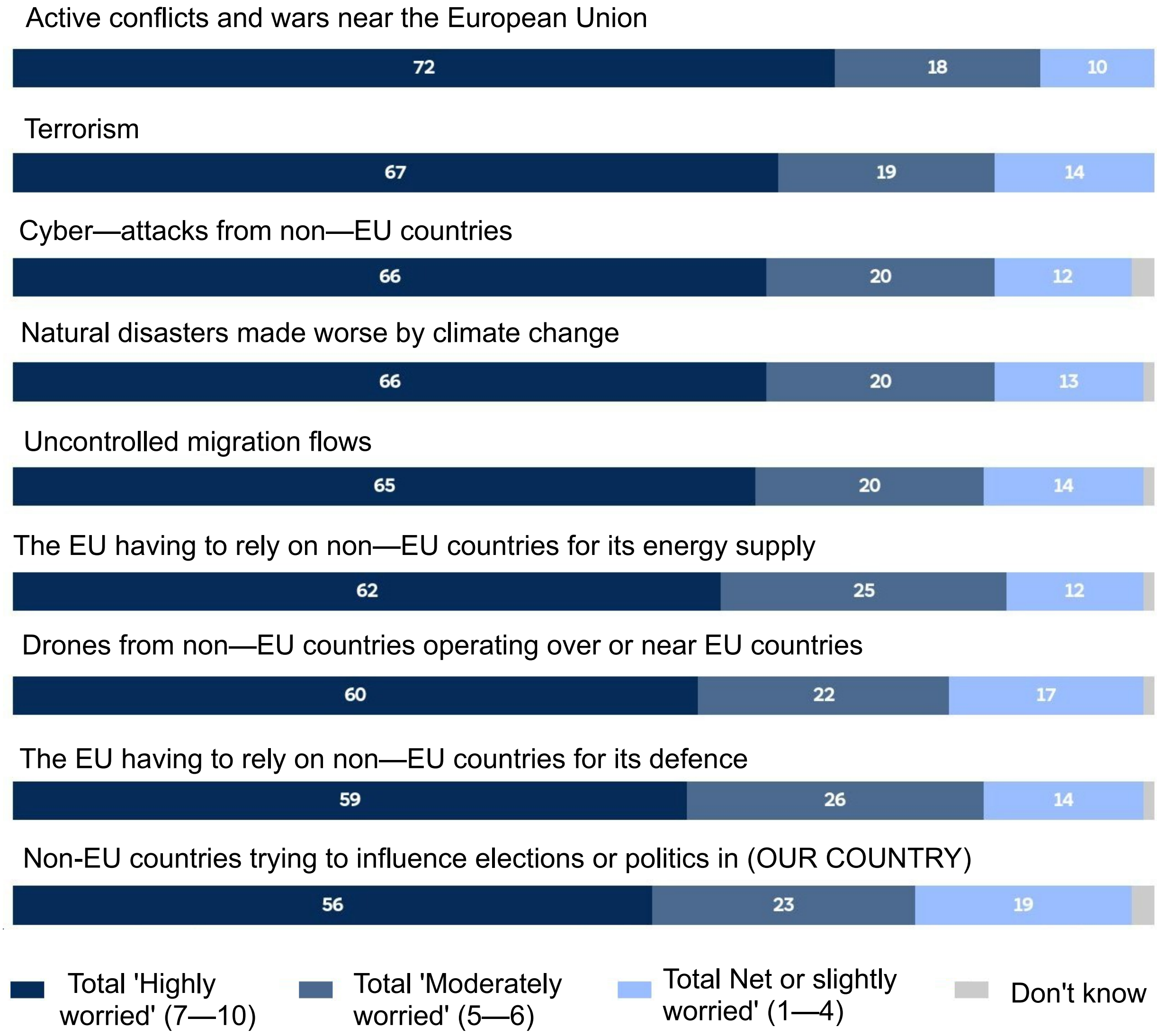
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In a rapidly changing and challenging global landscape, citizens want the European Union to act with unity and ambition. Defence, security and the economy are key priorities for strengthening the EU both domestically and internationally. Europeans are particularly concerned about security issues, such as ongoing conflicts and wars, as well as societal and digital issues, including disinformation, online data protection and misleading content created by artificial intelligence. In this context, European citizens would like to see the EU play a more significant role in protecting them. EU membership continues to be considered valuable by a large majority of Europeans and the positive image of the EU remains high, albeit decreasing slightly over the course of the past few months. The results of the Autumn 2025 Eurobarometer survey, conducted among 26,453 EU citizens in November 2025 in all Member States, point to a call for action for a stronger EU in the current international context. Especially young people have high expectations regarding the role of the EU and continue to be amongst the most fervent supporters of the European project.

Deep concerns about security, societal and digital-related issues

Majorities of Europeans say they are 'highly worried' about a range of security and safety-related issues, starting with active conflicts and wars near the European Union (72%). It is followed by terrorism (67%), natural disasters made worse by climate change (66%), cyber-attacks from non-EU countries (66%) and uncontrolled migration flows (65%). Overall, at least three-quarters of citizens express strong or moderate concern about each of the nine security and safety-related issues tested in the survey.

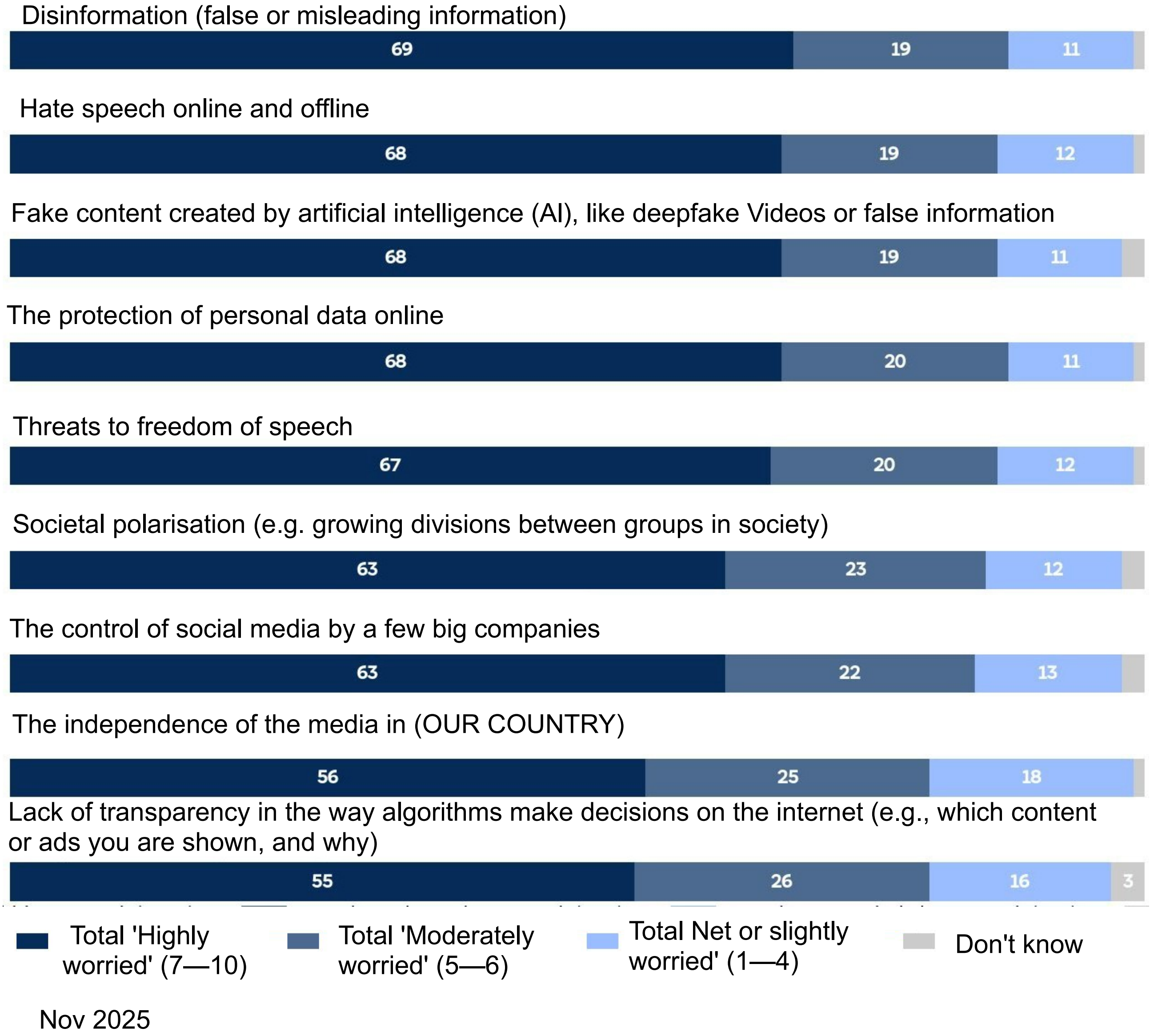
QA11 How worried or not are you about each of the following security or safety-related issues? Please use a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 means that you are not at all worried, and 10 that you are extremely worried. (EU27) (%)



Nov 2025

When it comes to the areas of communication, society and the digital sphere, citizens express high concern for disinformation (false or misleading information) (69%), hate speech online and offline (68%), fake content created by artificial intelligence (AI), like deepfake videos or false information (68%), the protection of personal data online (68%), and threats to freedom of speech (67%). Here, over eight in ten respondents across the EU are highly or moderately worried about the nine listed issues.

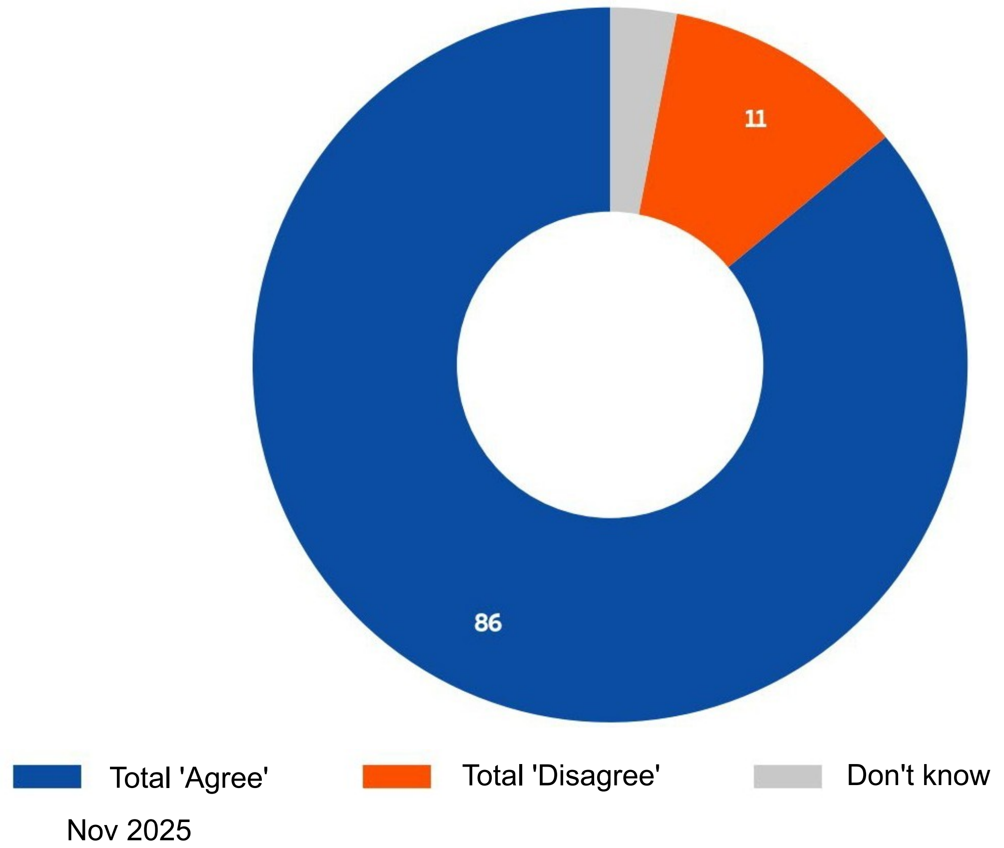
QA12 And how worried or not are you about each of the following communication and society-related issues? Please use a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 means that you are not at all worried, and 10 that you are extremely worried. (EU27) (%)



Europeans want a united, strong and protective Europe

In the context of these external and internal concerns, most citizens want the EU to play an active part in keeping them safe and to defend the founding values of the European project. 66% of Europeans would like the role of the EU to protect them against global crises and security risks to become more important, and 86% say that the European Union should have a stronger voice at the international level.

QA7.3 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? The European Union should have a stronger voice at the international level (EU27) (%)

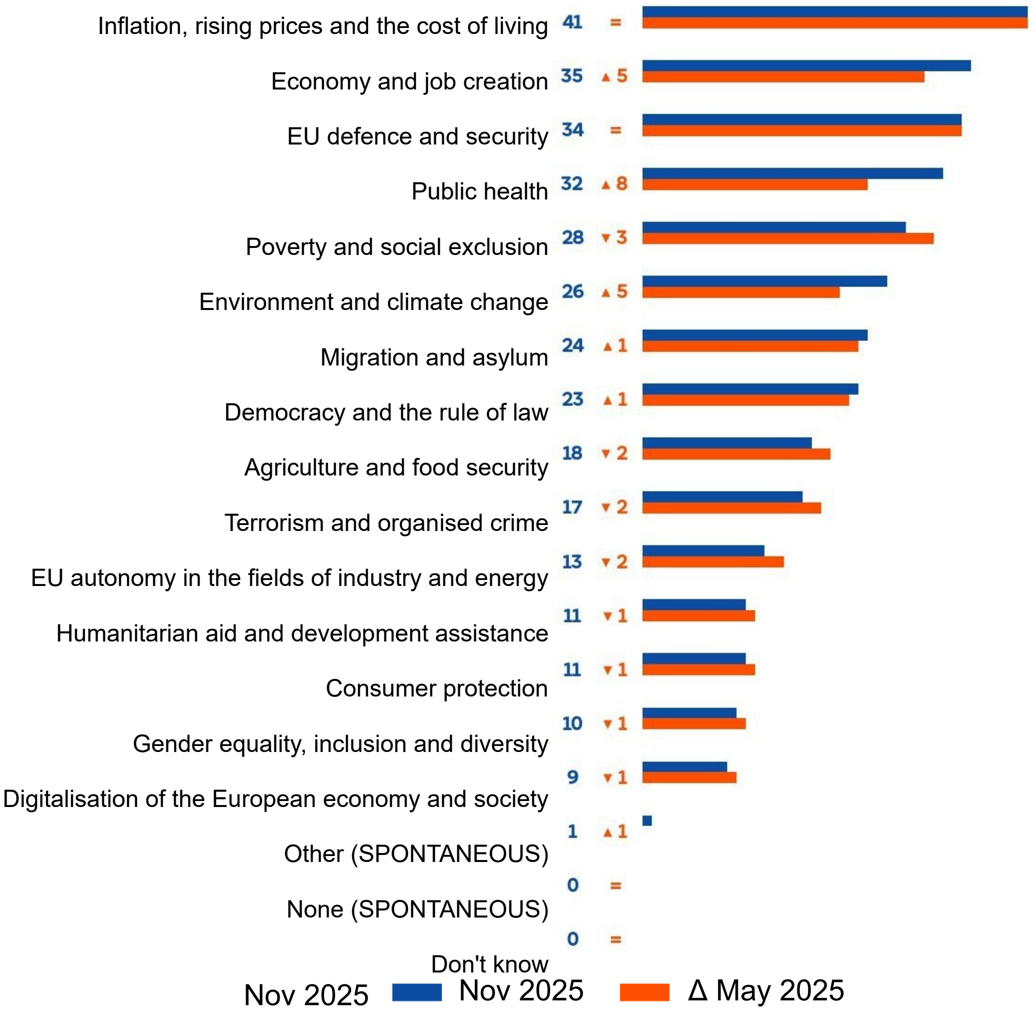


Furthermore, 89% say that EU Member States should be more united to face current global challenges, while 73% agree with the fact that the European Union needs more means to face current global challenges.

The economy and defence are becoming increasingly important

Previous Eurobarometer surveys already showed that external security/defence and the state of the economy were the two most vital topics for citizens, a finding again confirmed by this survey's results. Respondents say that, to strengthen its position in the world, the EU should primarily focus on defence and security (40%), competitiveness, economy and industry (32%), and energy independence, resources and infrastructures (29%). These are also the main tasks that people want the European Parliament to focus on: inflation, rising prices and the cost of living (41%), economy and job creation (35%) and EU defence and security (34%). While most topics see a stable evolution compared to May 2025, three changes stand out: the share for public health has increased by eight percentage points and the ones for economy and job creation and environment and climate change have both risen by five points. The economic priority can be closely linked to European's expectations about the evolution of their standard of living: a significant share of 28% expect it to decrease, 54% expect it to stay the same, and only 16% expect it to increase.

QA4ab Which of the following topics would you like to see addressed in priority by the European Parliament? Firstly? And then? (MAX. 4 ANSWERS) (EU27) (%)

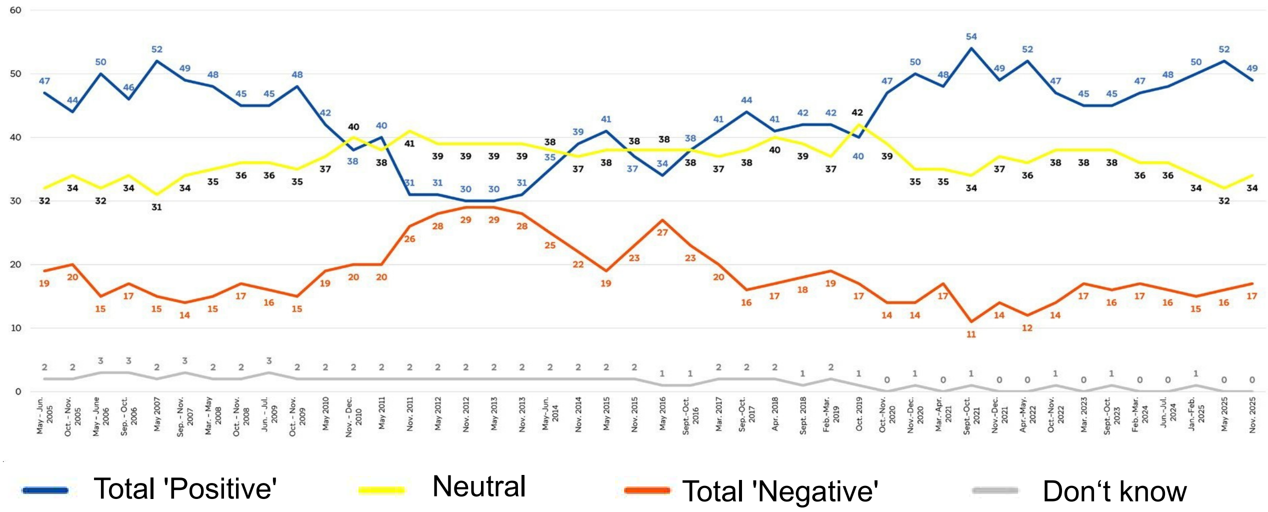


The most important values that the EP should defend are peace (52%) and democracy (35%), followed by freedom of speech and thought (23%) and the protection of human rights in the EU and worldwide (22%).

Positive image of the EU and EP is decreasing slightly, but EU membership is still valued highly

The (geo-)political context and the continuing polycrisis situation also affect Europeans' views on their country's EU membership as well as their own image of the European Union and the European Parliament. It is precisely the context of external and internal issues worrying citizens that makes the majority of them view their country's EU membership as a good thing: 62% say so, which is a two-point increase since the question was last asked in February/March 2024. While remaining at a high level when looking at the past 20 years, the positive image of the EU has slightly decreased compared to May 2025: 49% (-3 pp) of Europeans say they have a positive image of the EU, 34% (+2 pp) a neutral and 17% (+1 pp) a negative image.

D78 In general, does the EU conjure up for you a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image? (% - EU)



Similarly, the positive image of the EP has decreased by three points (now at 38%), as has the call for it to play a more important role (now at 59%, -3 pp).

Young Europeans have a positive outlook on the future

The geopolitical turbulences Europeans find themselves caught in have a strong impact on their outlook, with a majority (52%) saying they are pessimistic about the future of the world, 39% that they are pessimistic about the future of the EU and 41% that they are pessimistic about the future of their country. On a more positive note, over three-quarters of Europeans (76%) are optimistic about their own future and that of their family.

Optimism, however, exceeds pessimism at all levels among citizens aged 15 to 30. Indeed, majorities of young Europeans are optimistic about the future of the world (50%), the EU (65%), their country (60%) and their own and their family's future (80%). In addition, young citizens are more likely than older citizens to see the European Union and Parliament in a positive light: 58% have a positive image of the EU (against 49%-43% among older age cohorts) and 68% want a stronger role for the EP (against 58%-54%). Younger Europeans are also very strongly supporting more unity among Member States in the current context (90%), more means for the European Union (78%) and a stronger EU voice at the international level (87%). Building on findings of past Eurobarometer surveys, this survey highlights again the positive attitudes of young people towards the EU and their optimistic outlook on the future.

METHODOLOGY

METHODOLOGY

The methodology used in this European Parliament Autumn 2025 Eurobarometer, included in wave 104.2, is that of Eurobarometer surveys as carried out for the European Parliament's Directorate General for Communication (Eurobarometer and Surveys Unit). The survey was carried out by Verian between 6 November and 30 November 2025 in all 27 EU Member States. 26453 interviews were conducted in total. EU results were weighted according to the size of the population in each country.

Eurobarometer surveys are administered face-to-face in people's homes or on their doorstep, in the national language. In all countries, CAPI (Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing) was used.

In Cyprus, Denmark, Malta, Netherlands, Finland and Sweden, some interviews were conducted via computer assisted video interview (CAVI). The interviewer administrates the questionnaire to the respondent remotely via video-conference, where both parts can see each other: the conditions of interviews are very similar to that of face-to-face.

Following the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), respondents were asked whether or not they would agree to be asked questions on issues that could be considered "sensitive".

The reader should be aware that in this report the evolution of one specific indicator is considered as stable overall when it varies by +/-2 percentage points or less. For more information, please refer to the table indicated on page 147 for the margin of error depending on the number of interviews.

Note: In this report, EU countries are referred to by their official abbreviation. The abbreviations used in this report correspond to:

Belgium	BE	Lithuania	LT
Bulgaria	BG	Luxembourg	LU
Czechia	CZ	Hungary	HU
Denmark	DK	Malta	MT
Germany	DE	The Netherlands	NL
Estonia	EE	Austria	AT
Ireland	IE	Poland	PL
Greece	EL	Portugal	PT
Spain	ES	Romania	RO
France	FR	Slovenia	SI
Croatia	HR	Slovakia	SK
Italy	IT	Finland	FI
Republic of Cyprus	CY *	Sweden	SE
Latvia	LV		
European Union – weighted average for the 27 Member States			EU27
BE, FR, IT, LU, DE, AT, ES, PT, IE, NL, FI, EL, EE, SI, CY, MT, SK, LV, LT, HR			Euro area
BG, CZ, DK, HU, PL, RO, SE			Non euro area

*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.

*Bulgaria was not a member of the Euro area at the time of fieldwork in November 2025.

CONTEXT

CONTEXT

The fieldwork for the European Parliament's Autumn 2025 Eurobarometer survey was carried out by Verian Belgium between 6 and 30 November in all 27 EU Member States. To correctly interpret the survey results, it is essential to take the political and societal context at the time of fieldwork into consideration. All national results for the questions asked in this survey – and hence also the European average results – must be seen in the light of the situation and public debate at the time of fieldwork.

Russia's war against Ukraine and other conflicts

At the time of the fieldwork for the Autumn 2025 Eurobarometer, the war in Ukraine continued to influence public attitudes across the European Union. On 23 October 2025, the Council of the European Union adopted the 19th package of sanctions against Russia[1]. The new measures target key sectors fuelling Russia's war economy – energy (including a phased-in ban on liquefied natural gas), finance, trade, and military-industrial supply chains – and broaden the list of sanctioned persons and entities. In parallel, during November 2025, discussions were ongoing on the possible use of immobilised Russian assets to support Ukraine's recovery and defence. Meanwhile, European leaders continued to pledge substantial support for Ukraine, combining military, economic, and diplomatic measures[2]. On 17 November 2025, a major long- term defence cooperation deal between France and Ukraine was announced[3].

At the same time, the announcement by President Donald J. Trump of a new U.S.-backed "peace plan" for Ukraine, reportedly including proposals for a negotiated settlement with Russia, triggered a wave of diplomatic reactions in Europe. European leaders underlined that any credible peace agreement would need to involve European and Ukrainian stakeholders in order to safeguard Ukraine's sovereignty and security[4]. Many European governments expressed concern that elements of the U.S. proposal, including potential reductions in Ukraine's armed forces and forced territorial concessions, would undermine long-term security guarantees and would not be acceptable unless substantially revised.

In this context, the autumn of 2025 also saw a renewed European emphasis on defence and security, reflecting concerns about strategic risks and hybrid threats, including alleged Russian hybrid attacks such as drone incursions, sabotage, cyber-attacks and disinformation campaigns[5]. To address these challenges, the EU has pursued stronger investment in its defence industry and collective capabilities. On 25 November 2025, the European Parliament approved, for the first time, a dedicated defence industry financing instrument: the European Defence Industry Programme (EDIP), endowed with a budget of €1.5 billion for 2025–2027[6]. Under EDIP, €300 million is earmarked for a "Ukraine Support Instrument," signalling an effort to integrate and support Ukraine's defence industrial base within the broader European technological and industrial

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1 https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2025/10/23/19th-package-of-sanctions-against-russia-eu-targets-russian-energy-third-country-banks-and-crypto-providers/

2 https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2025/11/24/remarks-by-president-antonio-costa-following-the-informal-eu-leaders-meeting-of-24-november-2025-in-luanda/pdf

3 https://www.euronews.com/2025/11/17/ukraine-signs-deal-with-france-for-100-rafale-jets-and-air-defence-systems

4 https://www.euronews.com/my-europe/2025/11/22/european-pushback-trumps-peace-plan-call-it-a-draft-only

5 https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2025/07/18/hybrid-threats-russia-statement-by-the-high-representative-on-behalf-of-the-eu-condemning-russia-s-persistent-hybrid-campaigns-against-the-eu-its-member-states-and-partners/

6 https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20251120IPR31493/parliament-greenlights-first-ever-european-defence-industry-programme

defence framework. In addition, several EU Member States also advanced or expanded voluntary military service schemes, such as France[7] and Germany[8].

At the same time, the war in Gaza and its humanitarian and political repercussions had become a major focus of public and political debate in the EU. On 11 September 2025, the European Parliament expressed great alarm at the catastrophic humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip and called for the unimpeded and large-scale provision of humanitarian assistance. MEPs called for an immediate and permanent ceasefire, the immediate and unconditional release of all Israeli hostages held in Gaza, and for renewed commitment to a negotiated two- state solution. While reaffirming Israel's right to defend itself, Parliament stressed that this right cannot justify indiscriminate military action in Gaza[9]. On 17 November 2025, the United Nations Security Council endorsed the Gaza peace plan proposed by U.S. President Donald J. Trump[10].

Economic context

During the fieldwork period, the economic situation in the European Union remained a significant element of public debate. According to the most recent forecast by the European Commission (EC)[11], the EU economy was expected to maintain moderate growth in 2025, supported by a gradually stabilising global environment and somewhat improved labour market conditions. At the same time, inflation, though still above pre-crisis norms, was expected to continue its downward trajectory. Official statistics released by Eurostat confirm that inflation rates across many Member States have been declining from the peaks experienced during the 2022–2023 energy crisis[12], and unemployment rates remain relatively low and stable in aggregate, though with considerable variation among countries[13].

However, this cautiously optimistic economic outlook is tempered by several important headwinds. Persistent high interest rates continue to weigh on household consumption and business investment, impacting borrowing costs and dampening demand. Housing affordability and rising property prices also remained a matter of public concern in several Member States. In addition, with the approach of winter, concerns over energy prices remain acute: while energy costs have decreased since their peak, volatility in global energy markets and geopolitical risks (notably the ongoing war in Ukraine and instability in other regions) continue to affect consumer and business expectations about affordability and energy security.

EU institutions and legislative context at EU level

To promote democratic resilience, the European Commission announced plans to establish a new European Centre for Democratic Resilience. This initiative forms a core element of the Commission's envisaged "democracy shield", designed to strengthen the Union's capacity to counter foreign information manipulation and interference[14].

Budgetary negotiations were also a central part of the EU agenda during this time. On 15 November 2025, the Council and the European Parliament reached a political agreement on the EU budget for 2026, covering key expenditure priorities such as competitiveness, Europe's

7 https://www.lemonde.fr/en/france/article/2025/11/27/france-unveils-new-voluntary-military-service_6747883_7.html

8 https://www.euronews.com/2025/11/12/germany-inches-close-to-agreement-on-contentious-military-service-bill-but-questions-remai

9 https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20250905IPR30185/parliament-pushes-for-gaza-aid-the-hostages-release-and-justice

10 United Nations Security Council Resolution 2803 (2025)

11 https://economy-finance.ec.europa.eu/economic-forecast-and-surveys/economic-forecasts/autumn-2025-economic-forecast-shows-continued-growth-despite-challenging-environment_en

12 https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/en/web/products-euro-indicators/w/2-19112025-ap

13 https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/en/web/products-euro-indicators/w/3-02122025-bp

14 https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_2660

defence readiness and preparedness, support for humanitarian assistance and migratory pressures[15]. In parallel, discussions on the EU's next long-term budget continued, with institutions and Member States assessing long-term funding needs in light of evolving geopolitical, economic, and societal challenges. These negotiations form part of a broader debate on ensuring the EU's capacity to respond to crises while maintaining stable multi-year financial planning.

On 13 November 2025, as part of the "omnibus" measures to boost EU competitiveness and prosperity, Parliament endorsed reduced reporting duties and due diligence requirements for companies[16]. "Omnibus" measures are legislative initiatives aimed at reducing administrative burdens and streamlining procedures across several EU policy areas. They seek to make EU rules more accessible for citizens, businesses, and public administrations, and is part of ongoing efforts to improve regulatory efficiency and implementation at both EU and national level.

Energy and climate policy also remained a key focus of the legislative agenda. At the Economic and Financial Affairs Council (ECOFIN) meeting of 13 November 2025, ministers held a substantive policy debate on the proposed revision of the Energy Taxation Directive[17].

On 13 November 2025, EU finance ministers agreed to eliminate the €150 duty-free threshold for low-value imports, largely affecting parcels from outside the EU, to level the playing field for European retailers and support enforcement of customs rules[18].

Trade policy discussions also featured prominently, notably regarding the prospective EU–Mercosur trade agreement. On 19 November 2025, the Council backed a regulation implementing safeguard measures for agricultural products under the EU-Mercosur Partnership and interim Trade Agreements, aiming to address concerns about competitive pressures on EU farmers and form part of the ongoing deliberations on the conclusion of the deal[19].

The European Commission and Member States also advanced implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum, including the first annual migration management cycle launched by the Commission in November 2025 to support operational preparedness ahead of application in mid-2026[20].

The European Parliament also prepared an own-initiative report on the protection of minors online, which was subsequently adopted in plenary in late November 2025, reflecting legislative attention to digital safety and platform responsibilities[21].

Finally, institutional dynamics were influenced by the ongoing Danish Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The presidency's work programme[22] prioritised issues such as competitiveness, security, the green transition, and the strengthening of democratic resilience, and

15 https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2025/11/15/eu-budget-for-2026-council-and-parliament-reach-agreement/

16 https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20251106IPR31296/sustainability-reporting-and-due-diligence-meps-back-simplification-changes

17 https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20251201IPR31698/phasing-out-imports-of-russian-gas-in-the-eu-deal-with-council

18 https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2025/11/13/customs-council-takes-action-to-tackle-the-influx-of-small-parcels/

19 https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2025/11/19/eu-mercosur-council-backs-regulation-implementing-the-safeguards-for-agricultural-products/

20 https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/commission-launches-first-annual-migration-management-cycle-under-pact-migration-and-asylum-2025-11-12_en

21 https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20251120IPR31496/children-should-be-at-least-16-to-access-social-media-say-meps

22 https://danish-presidency.consilium.europa.eu/en/programme-for-the-danish-eu-presidency/priorities/

played a coordinating role in advancing legislation and facilitating interinstitutional negotiations during the autumn of 2025.

Other major events at national and international level

Several major international events took place during or shortly before the fieldwork period, shaping public debate in the EU and influencing the broader political context in which the survey results should be interpreted.

Global climate diplomacy was a central theme in autumn 2025 in the context of the COP30 United Nations Climate Change Conference, held in Belém, Brazil, from 10 to 21 November 2025. On 21 October 2025, the European Union adopted its position for COP30, reaffirming its long-standing commitment to international climate leadership and to aligning global action with the objectives of the Paris Agreement[23]. At the same time, debates within Europe continued regarding the balance between climate ambition and economic competitiveness.

The G20 Summit, hosted by South Africa in November 2025, further contributed to shaping the international context. Leaders from the world's major economies discussed global challenges and priorities, with the emphasis on sustainable economic growth, development and financing[24].

In parallel, the 7th EU–African Union Summit, held in Luanda on 24–25 November 2025, played a significant role in the EU's external relations agenda. The summit addressed key strategic priorities, including peace and security, economic cooperation, investment in sustainable infrastructure, migration partnerships, and collaboration on climate and energy transitions[25].

Elections

A series of national elections held in autumn 2025 shaped the political landscape in several Member States.

In Czechia, parliamentary elections took place on 3–4 October 2025. The party ANO 2011 won the most seats. The vote was followed by several weeks of coalition negotiations, culminating in the signature of a coalition agreement on 3 November 2025 between ANO (Patriots for Europe), AUTO (Patriots for Europe) and SPD (ESN), this coalition represents a shift to the right in Czech politics.

In Ireland, the presidential election was held on 24 October 2025. While the office of the President is largely ceremonial, the campaign attracted national attention. Catherine Connolly was elected president.

In the Netherlands, general elections were held on 29 October 2025. The pro-European party D66 (Renew Europe) won the most votes, narrowly ahead of the radical PVV (Patriots for Europe). With no single party securing a majority, talks to form a government began immediately and continued throughout November 2025. As in previous Dutch election cycles, coalition-building is expected to require extended discussions among multiple parties.

23 https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2025/10/21/cop30-council-sets-eu-position-for-the-climate-conference-in-belem/

24 https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/international-summit/2025/11/22-23/

25 https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/african-union-au/seventh-african-union-european-union-summit_en

1. OUTLOOK ON THE FUTURE

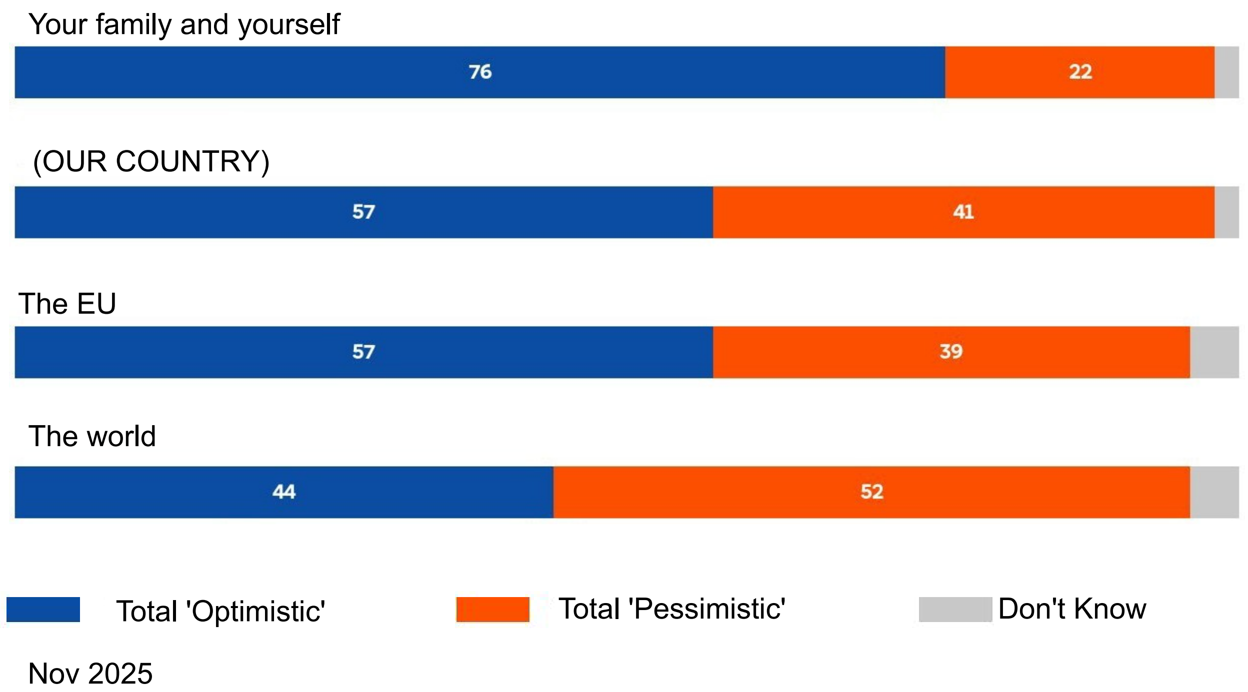
1. OUTLOOK ON THE FUTURE

This chapter examines Europeans' outlook on the future, from personal and family prospects to national, European, and global contexts. Overall, optimism is strongest at the personal level and gradually declines when respondents are invited to consider the broader picture, with decreasing confidence and greater wariness as they look to the future successively at national, European and global levels. The contrast between personal confidence and broader uncertainty has important implications, shaping citizens' priorities, attitudes toward governance, and expectations for cooperation at national, European, and global levels.

Across the European Union, optimism about the future varies significantly depending on the level considered. Confidence is strongest at the personal level, with 76% of respondents feeling optimistic about their own future and that of their family. Optimism declines when they turn to the wider world: 57% express confidence in the future of their country, and the same proportion feel optimistic about the European Union's prospects. However, views become markedly more cautious at the global level, where only 44% of respondents report optimism about the future of the world, highlighting widespread concerns about international challenges, while 52% of respondents say they feel pessimistic about the future of the world.

The pronounced pessimism regarding the future of the world reported by over half of respondents, suggests that global uncertainties and crises are strongly influencing public sentiment. This outlook probably shapes individuals' broader worldview, their priorities, and their attitudes toward governance and international cooperation. In particular, such concerns may affect how citizens perceive and engage with institutions like the European Union, which is often seen as a key actor in addressing global challenges. Understanding this context is essential for interpreting expectations of the EU.

QA9 Would you say that you are very optimistic, fairly optimistic, fairly pessimistic or very pessimistic about the future of ...? (EU27) (%)

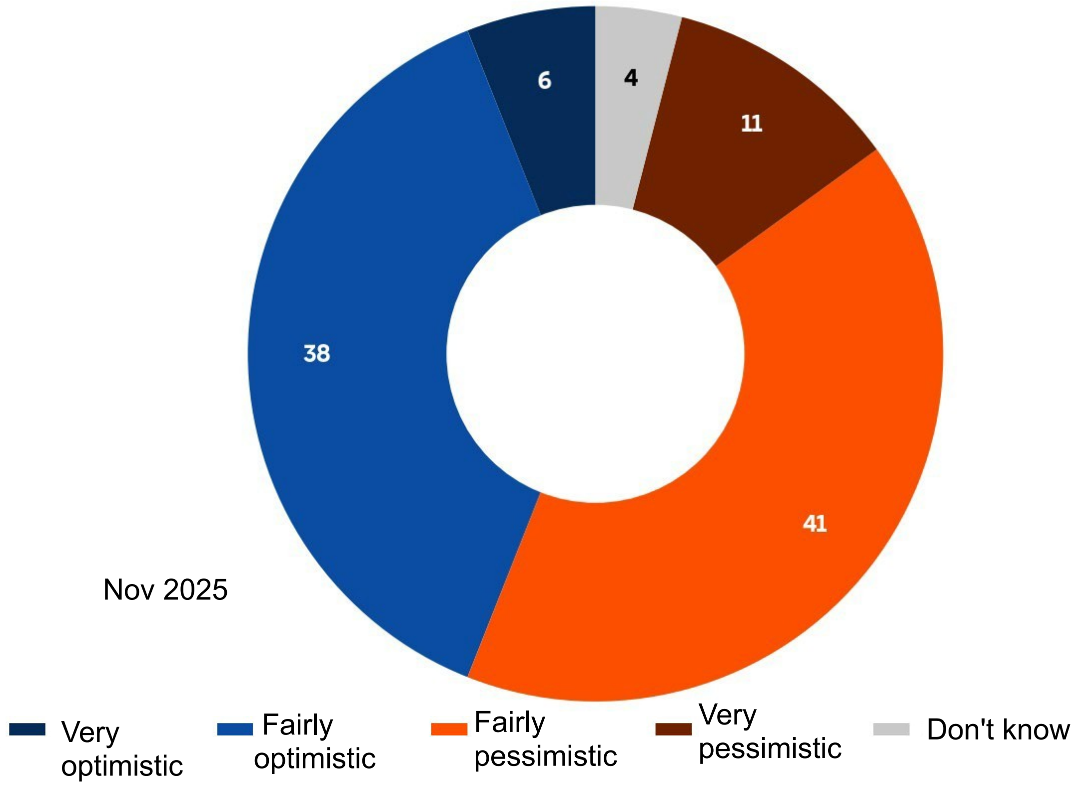


Outlook on the future of the world

Public perceptions of the future of the world are characterised by a predominance of caution and concern, reflecting the accumulation of global challenges facing citizens today. Respondents across the European Union express lower levels of optimism about the future of the world than for any other level considered.

At EU level, fewer than half of respondents (44%) say they feel optimistic about the future of the world. This optimism is generally moderate, with only 6% of respondents describing themselves as very optimistic. In contrast, a majority of Europeans (52%) report feeling pessimistic about the future of the world, including 11% who say they are very pessimistic.

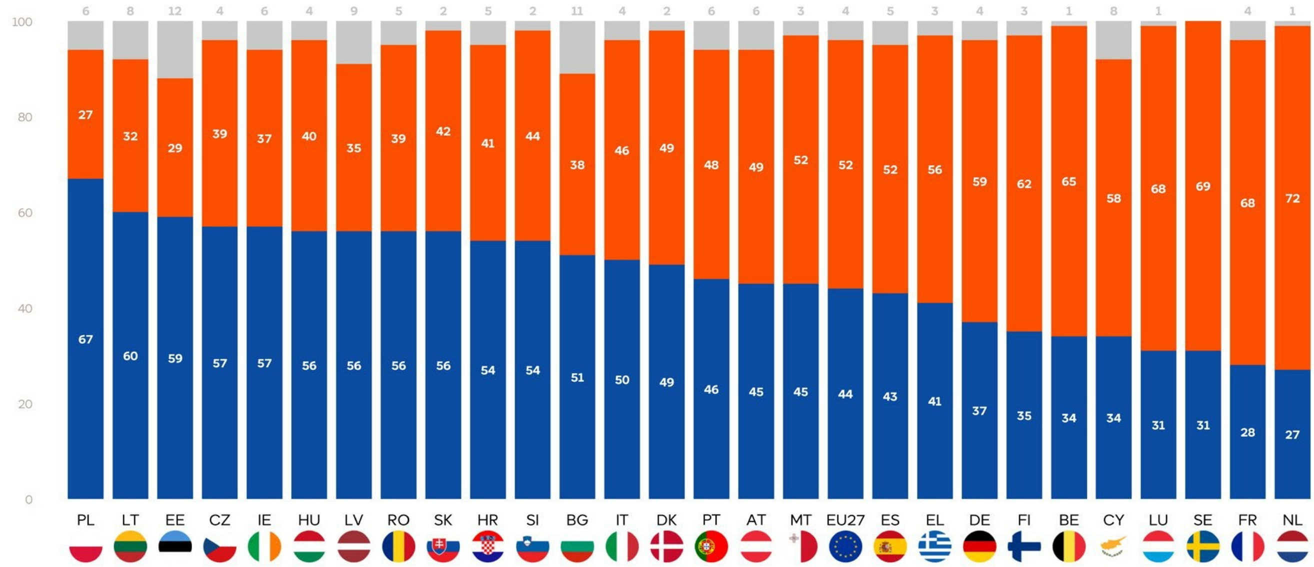
QA9.4 Would you say that you are very optimistic, fairly optimistic, fairly pessimistic or very pessimistic about the future of...? The world (%)



Across Member States, views on the future of the world differ markedly, revealing substantial national variation in levels of both optimism and pessimism. The highest levels of optimism are recorded in Poland (67%), Lithuania (60%), and Estonia (59%), where clear majorities of respondents express a positive outlook on global prospects. More broadly, at least half of respondents report optimism in 13 Member States, indicating that in a sizeable group of countries positive expectations about the world's future still predominate.

However, this optimism is far from universal. In 14 Member States, fewer than half of respondents feel optimistic, and in 12 of these countries an absolute majority express pessimism, underscoring widespread concern about global developments. The strongest levels of pessimism are observed in the Netherlands (72% pessimistic vs. 27% optimistic), France (68% vs. 28%), Sweden (69% vs. 31%), and Luxembourg (68% vs. 31%). In these countries, pessimistic views clearly outweigh optimism, highlighting pronounced national differences in how citizens perceive the future of the world.

QA9.4 Would you say that you are very optimistic, fairly optimistic, fairly pessimistic or very pessimistic about the future of...? The world (%)



Total 'Optimistic Total 'Pessimistic' Don't know

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Differences in optimism and pessimism regarding the future of the world are also apparent across socio-demographic groups, although the strength of these patterns varies by characteristic.

In terms of gender, perceptions are broadly similar. Levels of optimism and pessimism among men (44% optimistic vs. 52% pessimistic) closely mirror those observed among women (43% vs. 53%), indicating that gender has little influence on views about the world’s future.

In contrast, age is a more differentiating factor. Younger respondents tend to be more optimistic, while pessimism gradually increases with age. Among those aged 15–24, a majority express optimism (52% vs. 44% pessimistic). Optimism declines among respondents aged 25–39 (47% vs. 49%) and is clearly overtaken by pessimism among those aged 40–54 (43% vs. 53%). The most negative outlook is observed among respondents aged 55 and over, where only 39% feel optimistic and a clear majority (56%) report pessimism. This age gradient suggests that perceptions of global prospects become increasingly cautious over the course of life.

Differences also emerge according to education level. Respondents with a medium level of education are most evenly divided, with a relatively positive outlook (47% optimistic vs. 49% pessimistic). In contrast, those with a low level of education (38% vs. 57%) and those with a high level of education (41% vs. 55%) are more likely to express pessimism, indicating that more negative views about the future of the world are widespread at both ends of the education scale.

Perceptions are also strongly associated with respondents' individual economic situation. Those who report almost never or never having difficulties paying bills are comparatively less pessimistic (45% optimistic vs. 51% pessimistic). Pessimism increases among respondents who experience financial difficulties from time to time (43% vs. 53%) and is most pronounced among those who have difficulties most of the time, where nearly two-thirds express pessimism (64%) and only 31% feel optimistic. This pattern highlights the close link between economic vulnerability and negative expectations about global developments.

Finally, perceptions of the future of the world are also closely linked to respondents' image of the European Union. Those who hold a positive image of the EU are significantly more likely to express optimism about the future of the world (55% optimistic vs. 42% pessimistic). In contrast, respondents with a neutral view of the EU tend to be more pessimistic than optimistic (38% vs. 56%). The most negative outlook is observed among those with a negative image of the EU, where optimism drops to just 19% and more than three-quarters express pessimism (77%). This strong association suggests that confidence in the European Union as a political actor is closely intertwined with broader expectations about global developments and the EU's perceived capacity to address worldwide challenges.

QA9.4 Would you say that you are very optimistic, fairly optimistic, fairly pessimistic or very pessimistic about the future of...? The world (% - EU)			
	Total 'Optimistic'	Total Pessimistic'	Don't know
EU27	44	52	4
Gender			
Man	44	52	4
Woman	43	53	4
Age			
15-24	52	44	4
25-39	47	49	4
40-54	43	53	4
55+	39	56	5
Education level			
Low level of education (ISCED 0-2)	38	57	5
Medium level of education (ISCED 3-4)	47	49	4
High level of education (ISCED 5-8)	41	55	4
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	44	52	4
Managers	45	51	4
Other white collars	48	49	3
Manual workers	44	52	4
House persons	42	52	6
Unemployed	40	57	3
Retired	36	58	6
Students	51	45	4
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	31	64	5
From time to time	43	53	4
Almost never / Never	45	51	4
Subjective urbanisation			
Rural area or village	44	51	5
Small or middle sized town	42	55	3
Large town	44	51	5
Online platforms usage in the last 7 days			
Total 'Have used online platforms in the past week	44	52	4
None	37	55	8
Image of the EU			
Positive	55	42	3
Neutral	38	56	6
Negative	19	77	4
European Union membership			
A good thing	50	47	3
A bad thing	22	74	4
Neither a good thing nor a bad thing	36	58	6

Outlook on the future of the European Union

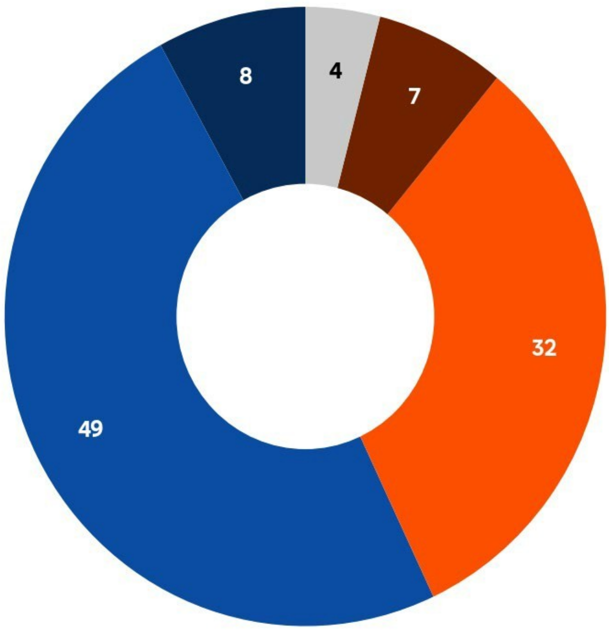
Compared with their perceptions of global developments, Europeans express a more positive outlook on the future of the European Union. While some concerns remain, views on the EU's prospects are relatively optimistic.

At EU level, a clear majority of respondents (57%) say they are optimistic about the future of the European Union, with 49% describing themselves as fairly optimistic, while a smaller proportion (8%) say they are very optimistic. In contrast, 39% of Europeans express pessimism about the EU's future, including 32% who are fairly pessimistic and 7% who are very pessimistic.

Since the previous survey conducted in May 2025, perceptions of the future of the European

Union have deteriorated noticeably. Optimism has declined by nine percentage points, falling from 66% in May 2025 to 57% in November 2025, while pessimism has increased by eight percentage points, rising from 31% to 39% over the same period. This marked shift indicates a significant change in public sentiment within a relatively short timeframe and points to growing concerns among Europeans about the Union's future. The scale of this evolution suggests that recent developments at EU and global level may have had a tangible impact on citizens.

QA9.3 Would you say that you are very optimistic, fairly optimistic, fairly pessimistic or very pessimistic about the future of ...? The EU (EU27) (%)



Very optimistic ▲1
Fairly optimistic ▼10
Fairly pessimistic ▲7
Very pessimistic ▲1
Don't know ▲1
▲▼ (Nov 2025 - May 2025)

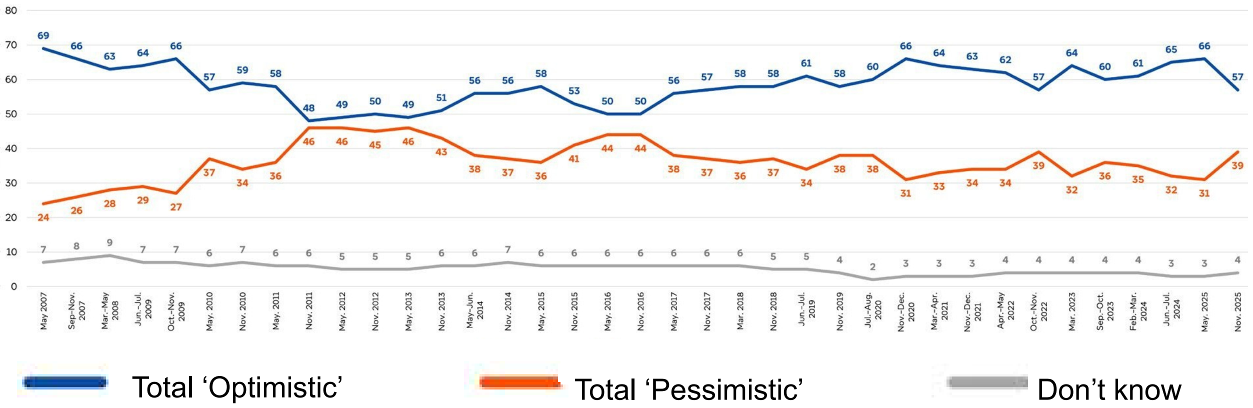
Very optimistic
Fairly optimistic
Fairly pessimistic
Very pessimistic
Don't know

Nov 2025

Looking at the longer-term trend from 2007 to 2025, sets the recent decline in optimism in a broader historical perspective. Although the decrease observed since May 2025 is significant, the current level of optimism (57%) remains broadly in line with levels recorded in the period following the financial and sovereign debt crises and prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, between 2013 and 2019. During that time, optimism about the EU’s future generally fluctuated around similar levels. Historical data also show that more pronounced pessimism has been recorded in the past. The highest levels of pessimism were observed between 2011 and 2013, when up to 46% of respondents expressed negative views about the EU’s future.

Comparable drops in optimism, of around nine to ten percentage points, occurred between autumn 2009 and spring 2010, as well as between May 2011 and November 2011. These declines coincided with a period of significant economic and political stress in the European Union: the aftermath of the global financial crisis, the sovereign debt crises affecting Member States, and debates over austerity measures and EU governance. These events probably eroded public confidence in the Union’s stability and capacity to manage crises, explaining the pronounced dip in optimism during that period. Such patterns suggest that while the current downturn reflects a meaningful shift in sentiment, fluctuations of this scale have occurred at other moments of heightened uncertainty in the European Union’s recent history.

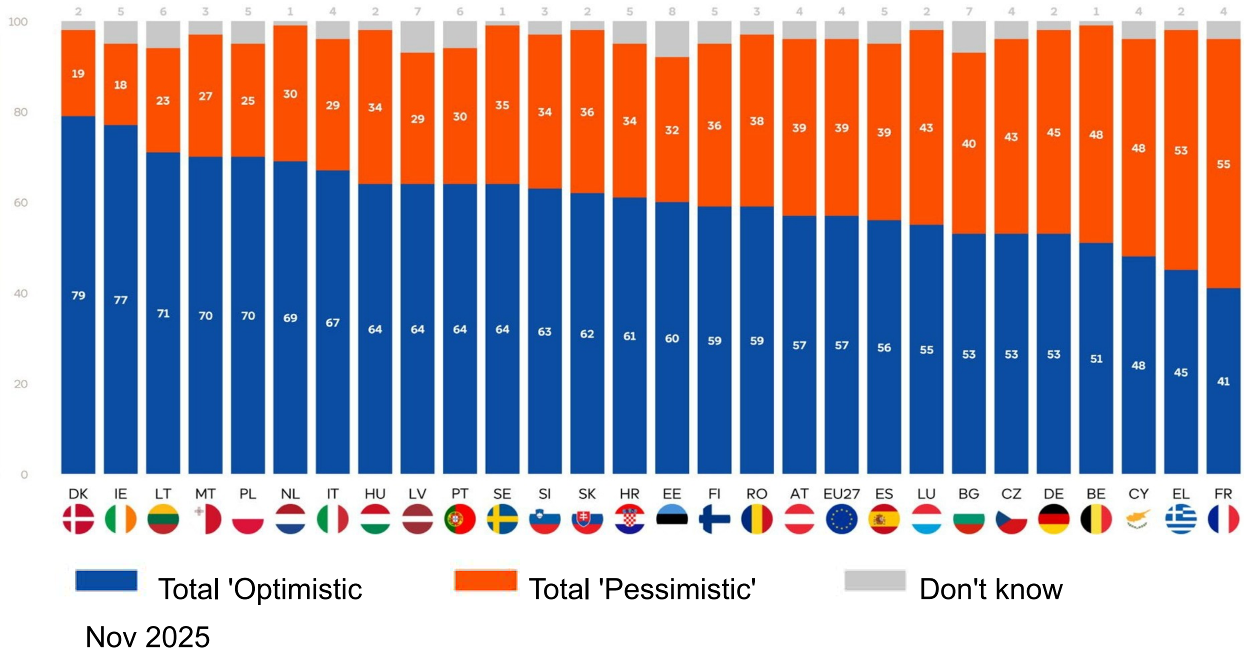
QA9.3 Would you say that you are very optimistic, fairly optimistic, fairly pessimistic or very pessimistic about the future of the EU?



Optimism about the future of the European Union varies widely across Member States. The highest levels of optimism are recorded in Denmark (79%), Ireland (77%), and Lithuania (71%), where more than seven in ten respondents express confidence in the EU’s future. More broadly, over half of respondents are optimistic in 24 Member States, indicating that positive expectations are predominant in the large majority of countries.

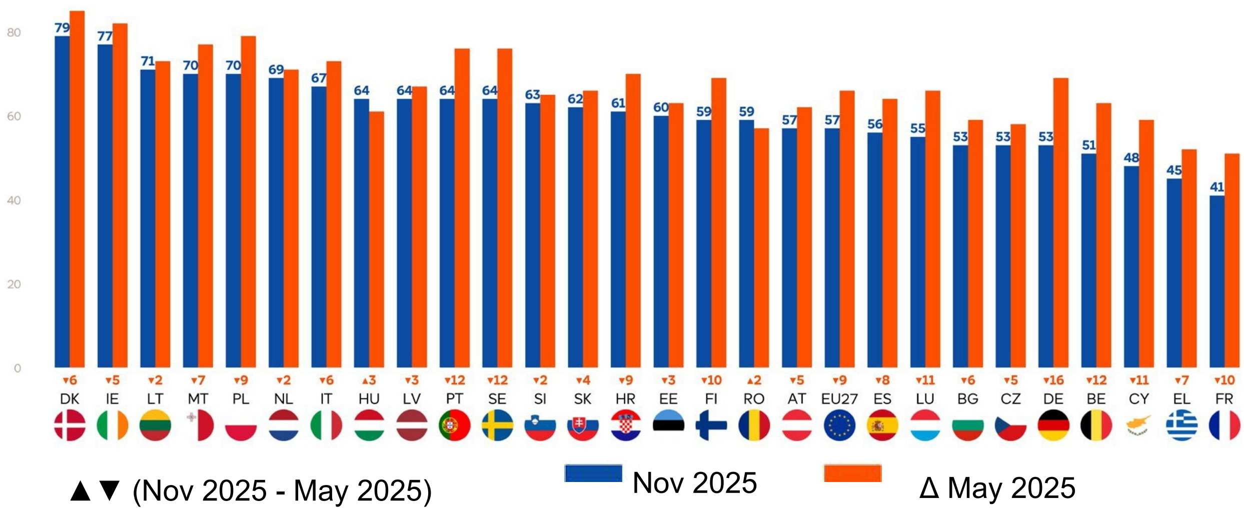
However, optimism is not universal. In some countries, pessimistic views are more prominent. The lowest levels of optimism are observed in France (41% optimistic vs. 55% pessimistic), Greece (45% vs. 53%), and Cyprus (48% vs. 48%), where pessimism is either the majority view or at parity with optimism. These patterns highlight significant national variations in public perceptions of the EU’s prospects, reflecting different contexts across the European Union.

QA9.3 Would you say that you are very optimistic, fairly optimistic, fairly pessimistic or very pessimistic about the future of ...? The EU (%)



Since May 2025, the most significant declines have been recorded in Germany (-16 percentage points), Portugal, Sweden, and Belgium (-12 pp), and Cyprus and Luxembourg (11 pp), indicating a marked shift towards more cautious or negative views in these countries.

QA9.3 Would you say that you are very optimistic, fairly optimistic, fairly pessimistic or very pessimistic about the future of ...? The EU. Total 'Optimistic' (%)



In contrast, age is a clear differentiating factor. Younger respondents are markedly more optimistic, while pessimism increases gradually with age. Those aged 15–24 are much more optimistic (67% vs. 29% pessimistic), while optimism remains high among respondents aged 25–39 (61% vs. 36%) and declines gradually among those aged 40–54 (57% vs. 40%) and 55 and over (53% vs. 42%). This age gradient suggests that confidence in the EU's future tends to diminish with age.

Differences also emerge according to education level, higher levels of education being associated with greater optimism. Respondents with a low level of education are comparatively less optimistic (50% vs. 44% pessimistic), while optimism rises among those with medium (59% vs. 38%) and high levels of education (62% vs. 36%), indicating that educational attainment is linked to positive expectations of the EU.

Perceptions are also strongly associated with respondents' individual economic situation. Those who report almost never or never having difficulties paying bills are the most optimistic (60% vs. 36% pessimistic), whereas those who experience financial difficulties from time to time are slightly less so (54% vs. 42%). Optimism is lowest among respondents who have difficulties most of the time; these are also the most pessimistic (42% optimistic vs. 54% pessimistic). This pattern highlights the close relationship between financial security and positive expectations of the EU.

Finally, perceptions of the EU itself are strongly linked to optimism about its future. Respondents who hold a positive image of the EU are overwhelmingly optimistic (79% vs. 19% pessimistic), while those with a neutral view are roughly evenly split (48% vs. 46%). The most negative outlook is observed among respondents with a negative image of the EU, where optimism drops sharply, to 14%, and pessimism rises to 84%. This finding emphasises the fact that public sentiment towards the EU is a key determinant of expectations about its future.

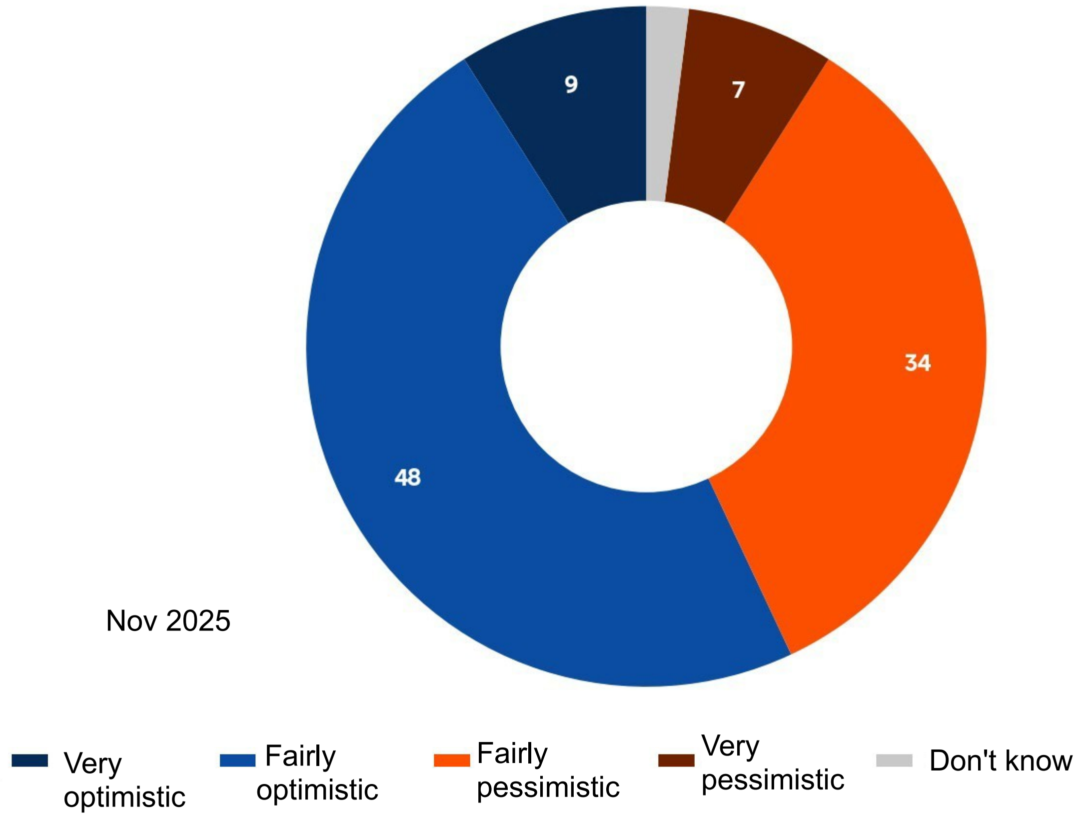
QA9.3 Would you say that you are very optimistic, fairly optimistic, fairly pessimistic or very pessimistic about the future of...? The EU (% - EU)			
	Total 'Optimistic'	Total Pessimistic'	Don't know
EU27	57	39	4
Gender			
Man	58	39	3
Woman	57	39	4
Age			
15-24	67	29	4
25-39	61	36	3
40-54	57	40	3
55+	53	42	5
Education level			
Low level of education (ISCED 0-2)	50	44	6
Medium level of education (ISCED 3-4)	59	38	3
High level of education (ISCED 5-8)	62	36	2
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	57	39	4
Managers	63	34	3
Other white collars	63	35	2
Manual workers	54	42	4
House persons	50	44	6
Unemployed	50	46	4
Retired	52	43	5
Students	69	28	3
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	42	54	4
From time to time	54	42	4
Almost never / Never	60	36	4
Subjective urbanisation			
Rural area or village	55	41	4
Small or middle sized town	57	40	3
Large town	61	35	4
Online platforms usage in the last 7 days			
Total 'Have used online platforms in the past week	59	38	3
None	48	44	8
Image of the EU			
Positive	79	19	2
Neutral	48	46	6
Negative	14	84	2
European Union membership			
A good thing	73	25	2
A bad thing	18	79	3
Neither a good thing nor a bad thing	39	55	6

Outlook on the future of the country

Perceptions of the future of one's own country occupy an intermediate position between personal expectations and broader perspectives on the European Union and the world. Optimism about the future of the country is more cautious than at the personal level, yet remains stronger than optimism about the future of the world.

At EU level, a majority of respondents express optimism about the future of their country: 57% say they are either very or fairly optimistic, including 9% who say they are very optimistic. In contrast, 41% of Europeans are pessimistic regarding their country's future, with 34% describing themselves as fairly pessimistic and 7% as very pessimistic. These results indicate that while a majority are optimistic, a substantial share of the population remain concerned about national prospects, pointing to a climate of cautious optimism rather than widespread confidence.

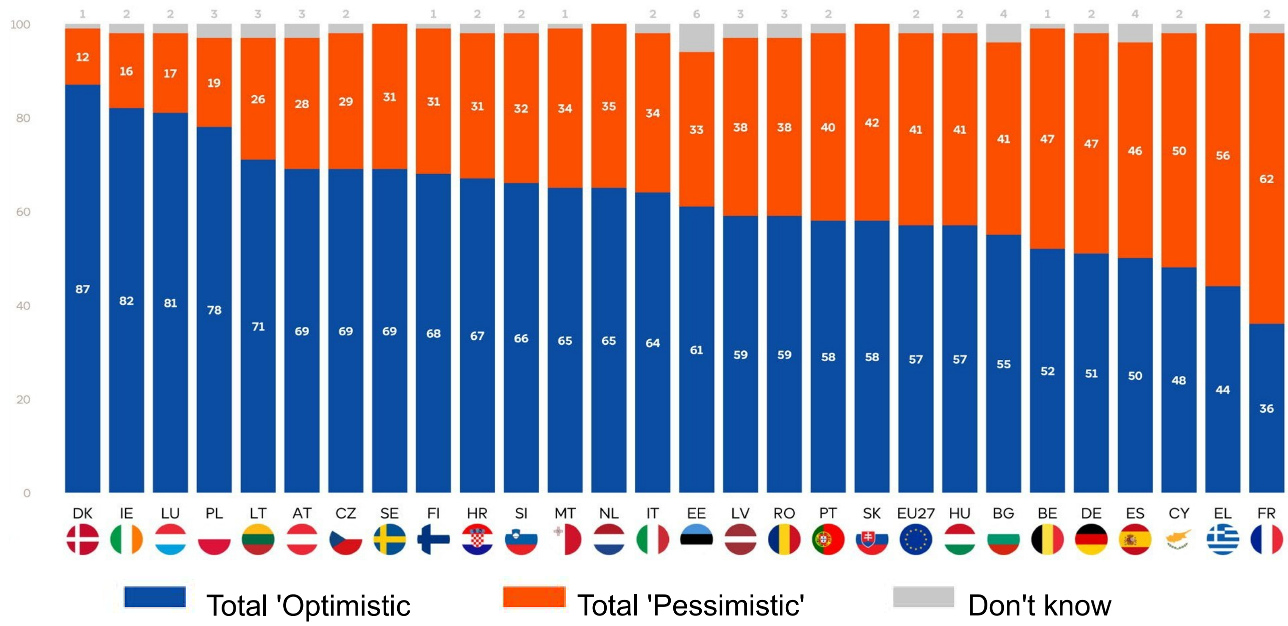
QA9.2 Would you say that you are very optimistic, fairly optimistic, fairly pessimistic or very pessimistic about the future of...? (OUR COUNTRY) (%)



Optimism about the future of respondents' own country varies considerably across Member States, revealing marked national differences in expectations. Positive views predominate in a large majority of countries: at least half of respondents express optimism in 24 Member States, most strikingly in Denmark (87%), Ireland (82%), and Luxembourg (81%), where more than eight in ten respondents express confidence in the national outlook.

However, optimism is not universal. The lowest levels of confidence are observed in France, where only 36% of respondents are optimistic while a clear majority are pessimistic (62%). Greece (44% optimistic vs. 56% pessimistic) and Cyprus (48% vs. 50%) also stand out as countries where pessimistic views outweigh optimism. These three Member States are the only ones in which pessimism exceeds optimism, underscoring significant national contrasts in how citizens perceive their country's future and highlighting the influence of differing national contexts on public sentiment.

QA9.2 Would you say that you are very optimistic, fairly optimistic, fairly pessimistic or very pessimistic about the future of ...? (OUR COUNTRY) (%)



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Differences in optimism and pessimism regarding the future of one's country are evident across several socio-demographic groups, although the strength of these patterns varies depending on the characteristic considered.

In terms of gender, perceptions are virtually identical. Levels of optimism among men (57% optimistic vs. 41% pessimistic) are almost the same as those observed among women (56% vs. 42%), indicating that gender plays no meaningful role in shaping expectations about national prospects.

Age, in contrast, is a differentiating factor. Younger respondents tend to express higher levels of optimism, while pessimism increases gradually with age. Among those aged 15–24, a clear majority are optimistic about their country's future (61% vs. 37% pessimistic). Optimism remains relatively high among respondents aged 25–39 (59% vs. 39%), before declining slightly among those aged 40–54 (56% vs. 42%) and those aged 55 and over (54% vs. 44%). This age gradient suggests a gradual shift towards more cautious expectations as respondents grow older.

Educational attainment is also associated with differences in outlook. Respondents with a low level of education are the least optimistic, with views almost evenly divided between optimism and pessimism (50% vs. 47%). Optimism increases among those with a medium level of education (58% vs. 40%) and is most widespread among respondents with a high level of education (61% vs. 38%), indicating a positive relationship between educational level and confidence in national futures.

Perceptions of the future of one's country are strongly linked to respondents' individual economic situation. Those who report almost never or never having difficulties paying bills are the most optimistic (61% vs. 37% pessimistic). Optimism declines among respondents who experience financial difficulties from time to time (52% vs. 47%), while pessimism clearly predominates among those who have difficulties most of the time. In this group, only 36% are optimistic and nearly two-thirds say they are pessimistic (62%). This pattern highlights the close connection between economic vulnerability and negative expectations about national prospects.

Finally, outlooks on the future of the country are closely associated with respondents' image of the European Union. Respondents with a positive image of the EU are markedly more optimistic (72% optimistic vs. 27% pessimistic), while those with a neutral image show a more divided outlook (51% vs. 46%). The most pessimistic expectations are observed among respondents with a negative image of the EU, where optimism drops to 24% and pessimism rises sharply to 75%. This strong association suggests that attitudes towards the EU are closely intertwined with broader confidence in national trajectories.

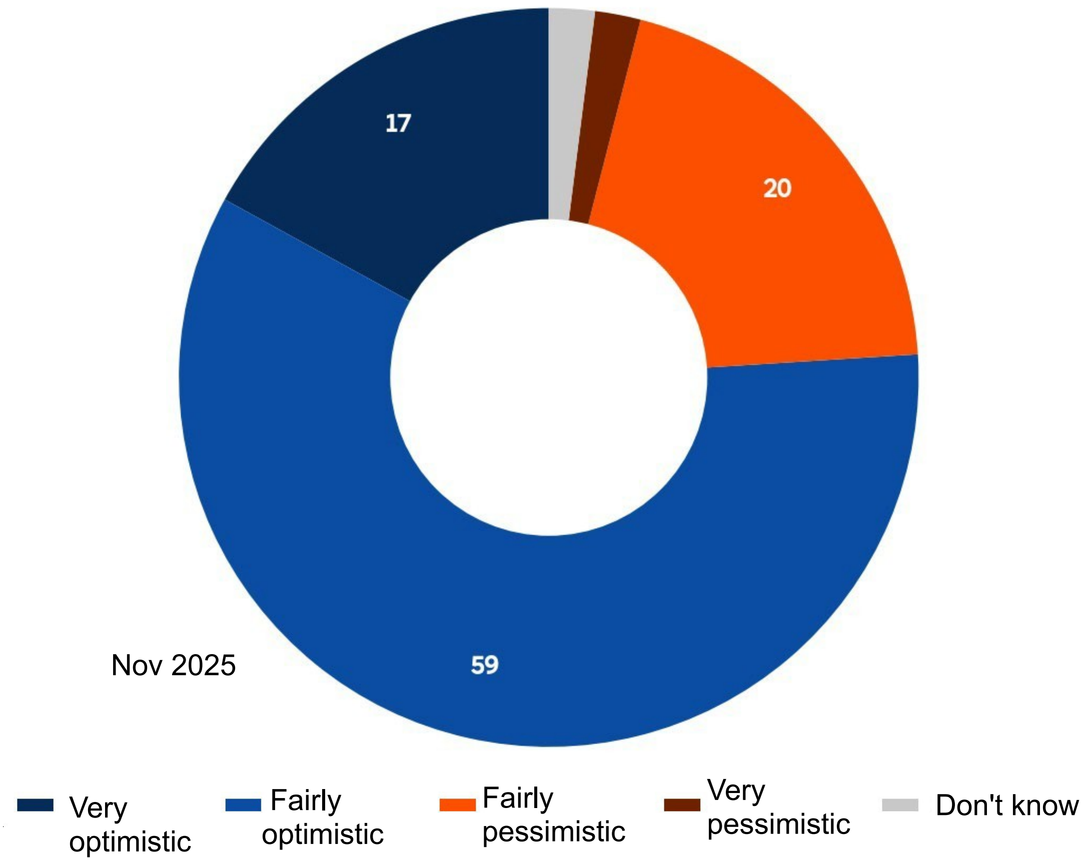
QA9.2 Would you say that you are very optimistic, fairly optimistic, fairly pessimistic or very pessimistic about the future of...? (OUR COUNTRY) (% - EU)			
	Total 'Optimistic'	Total Pessimistic'	Don't know
EU27	57	41	2
Gender			
Man	57	41	2
Woman	56	42	2
Age			
15-24	61	37	2
25-39	59	39	2
40-54	56	42	2
55+	54	44	2
Education level			
Low level of education (ISCED 0-2)	50	47	3
Medium level of education (ISCED 3-4)	58	40	2
High level of education (ISCED 5-8)	61	38	1
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	57	41	2
Managers	62	37	1
Other white collars	62	36	2
Manual workers	56	42	2
House persons	52	44	4
Unemployed	47	51	2
Retired	53	45	2
Students	62	36	2
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	36	62	2
From time to time	52	47	1
Almost never / Never	61	37	2
Subjective urbanisation			
Rural area or village	55	43	2
Small or middle sized town	56	43	1
Large town	60	37	3
Online platforms usage in the last 7 days			
Total 'Have used online platforms in the past week	57	41	2
None	52	44	4
Image of the EU			
Positive	72	27	1
Neutral	51	46	3
Negative	24	75	1
European Union membership			
A good thing	67	32	1
A bad thing	28	71	1
Neither a good thing nor a bad thing	45	52	3

Outlook on one's own and family's future

Respondents are most likely to be positive about their own and their family's future. These views reflect a strong sense of personal confidence and perceived control over immediate life circumstances, which contrasts with the more cautious or uncertain expectations expressed when respondents consider wider national, European, or global developments. This gap between personal optimism and broader concerns underscores the importance of proximity in shaping expectations about the future.

At EU level, respondents are markedly more optimistic about their own and their family's future than for any other sphere assessed. Overall, 76% of respondents express optimism, including 59% who say they are fairly optimistic and 17% who describe themselves as very optimistic. In contrast, just over one-fifth of Europeans (22%) say they are pessimistic, with 20% fairly pessimistic and only 2% very pessimistic. This high level of personal confidence contrasts sharply with attitudes toward broader contexts: optimism about the future of the respondents' country and the European Union both stand at 57%, and about the world at just 44%. These findings highlight a pronounced gradient of optimism, decreasing steadily as the focus shifts from the personal to the global level.

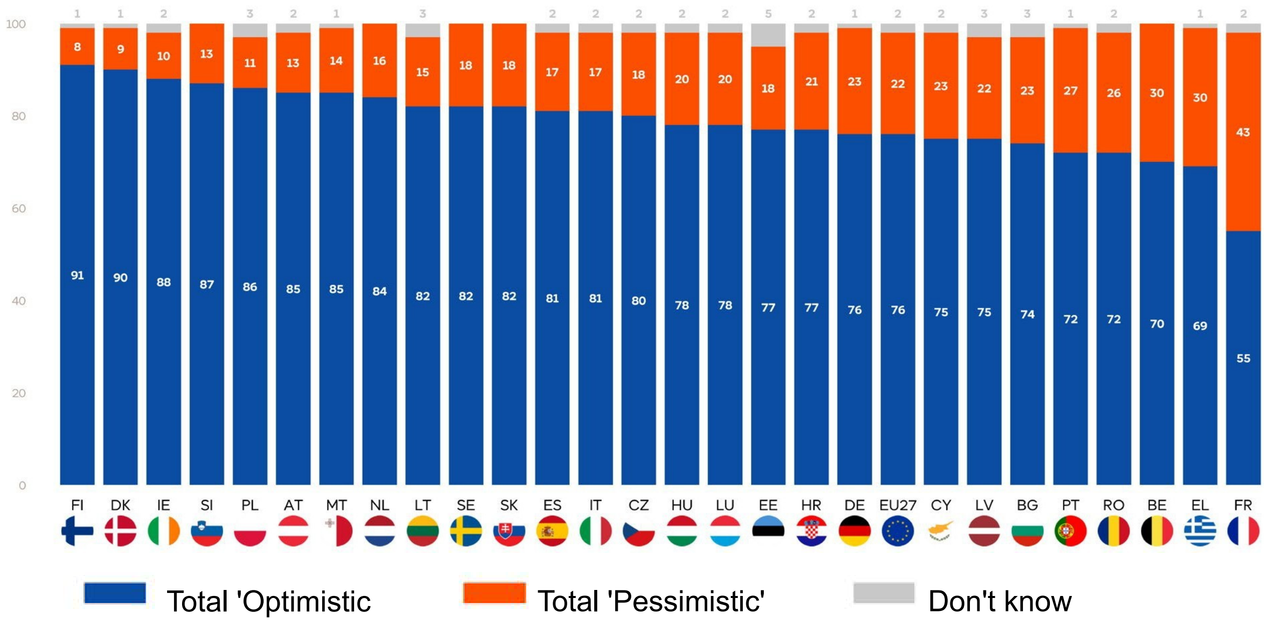
QA9.1 Would you say that you are very optimistic, fairly optimistic, fairly pessimistic or very pessimistic about the future of ...? Your family and yourself (%)



Across Member States, optimism about one's own and one's family's future is widespread and remarkably consistent. In all countries, a clear majority of respondents express optimism, emphasising the strong prevalence of positive personal expectations across the European Union. The highest levels of optimism are recorded in Finland (91%), Denmark (90%), and Ireland (88%), where around nine in ten respondents report confidence in their personal and family prospects.

France stands out as a notable exception. While a majority of respondents in France remain optimistic, the share is considerably lower than elsewhere, at 55%, and is accompanied by a comparatively high level of pessimism (43%). This represents a particularly pronounced deviation from the EU-wide pattern: pessimism in France is 13 percentage points higher than in the Member State with the second-highest level, while optimism is 14 points lower than in the country with the second-lowest share. This gap underscores the distinctive nature of perceptions in France and highlights the extent to which the personal outlook there diverges from the generally positive trend observed across other Member States. Moreover, the comparatively low level of personal optimism in France is consistent with patterns observed at broader levels of outlook: France also records the lowest level of optimism regarding the future of the European Union and of t

QA9.1 Would you say that you are very optimistic, fairly optimistic, fairly pessimistic or very pessimistic about the future of ...? Your family and yourself (%)



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Differences in optimism and pessimism regarding the respondent's own and family future are visible across socio-demographic groups, although overall levels of optimism remain high across most categories.

With respect to gender, perceptions are very similar. Men (77% optimistic vs. 22% pessimistic) and women (75% vs. 23%) express almost identical levels of confidence, indicating that gender does not have a strong influence on personal and family outlooks.

Age, however, is a more important differentiating factor. Younger respondents tend to be more optimistic, while pessimism increases gradually with age. Among those aged 15–24, more than eight in ten express optimism (82% vs. 17% pessimistic). Optimism remains high among respondents aged 25–39 (79% vs. 20%) and declines slightly among those aged 40– 54 (76% vs. 22%) and those aged 55 and over (72% vs. 26%). This pattern points to a gradual life-course effect, with confidence in personal and family futures diminishing with age.

Educational attainment is also strongly associated with differences in outlook and shows a particularly clear gradient. Respondents with a high level of education are the most optimistic (80% vs. 18% pessimistic), followed closely by those with a medium level of education (78% vs. 20%). In contrast, optimism is substantially lower among respondents with a low level of education, where just over two-thirds express optimism (67%) and nearly one-third report pessimism (31%). This marked gap highlights the role of education in shaping confidence about personal and family prospects.

A similarly pronounced pattern emerges when considering respondents' financial situation. Those who report almost never or never having difficulties paying bills are the most optimistic (80% optimistic vs. 18% pessimistic). Optimism drops noticeably among respondents who experience financial difficulties from time to time (69% vs. 30%), and declines further among those who have difficulties most of the time, where optimism falls to 54% and pessimism rises to 45%. This sharp gradient underscores the strong link between economic insecurity and pessimism about one's own and one's family's future.

Finally, perceptions are closely linked to respondents' image of the European Union. Those with a positive image of the EU are overwhelmingly optimistic about their personal and family futures (87% vs. 12% pessimistic). Optimism is lower among respondents with a neutral image of the EU (72% vs. 26%), while views are much more divided among those with a negative image, where optimism drops to 51% and pessimism rises to 46%. This association suggests that broader political attitudes toward the EU are also reflected in how individuals perceive their own future and that of their family.

QA9.1 Would you say that you are very optimistic, fairly optimistic, fairly pessimistic or very pessimistic about the future of...? Your family and yourself (% - EU)			
	Total 'Optimistic'	Total Pessimistic'	Don't know
EU27	76	22	2
Gender			
Man	77	22	1
Woman	75	23	2
Age			
15-24	82	17	1
25-39	79	20	1
40-54	76	22	2
55+	72	26	2
Education level			
Low level of education (ISCED 0-2)	67	31	2
Medium level of education (ISCED 3-4)	78	20	2
High level of education (ISCED 5-8)	80	18	2
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	78	21	1
Managers	83	16	1
Other white collars	81	18	1
Manual workers	76	23	1
House persons	70	28	2
Unemployed	64	35	1
Retired	70	27	3
Students	84	15	1
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	54	45	1
From time to time	69	30	1
Almost never / Never	80	18	2
Subjective urbanisation			
Rural area or village	74	24	2
Small or middle sized town	75	23	2
Large town	78	20	2
Online platforms usage in the last 7 days			
Total 'Have used online platforms in the past week	78	21	1
None	63	33	4
Image of the EU			
Positive	87	12	1
Neutral	72	26	2
Negative	51	46	3
European Union membership			
A good thing	84	15	1
A bad thing	51	47	2
Neither a good thing nor a bad thing	67	31	2

2. PUBLIC CONCERNS ABOUT SECURITY RISKS

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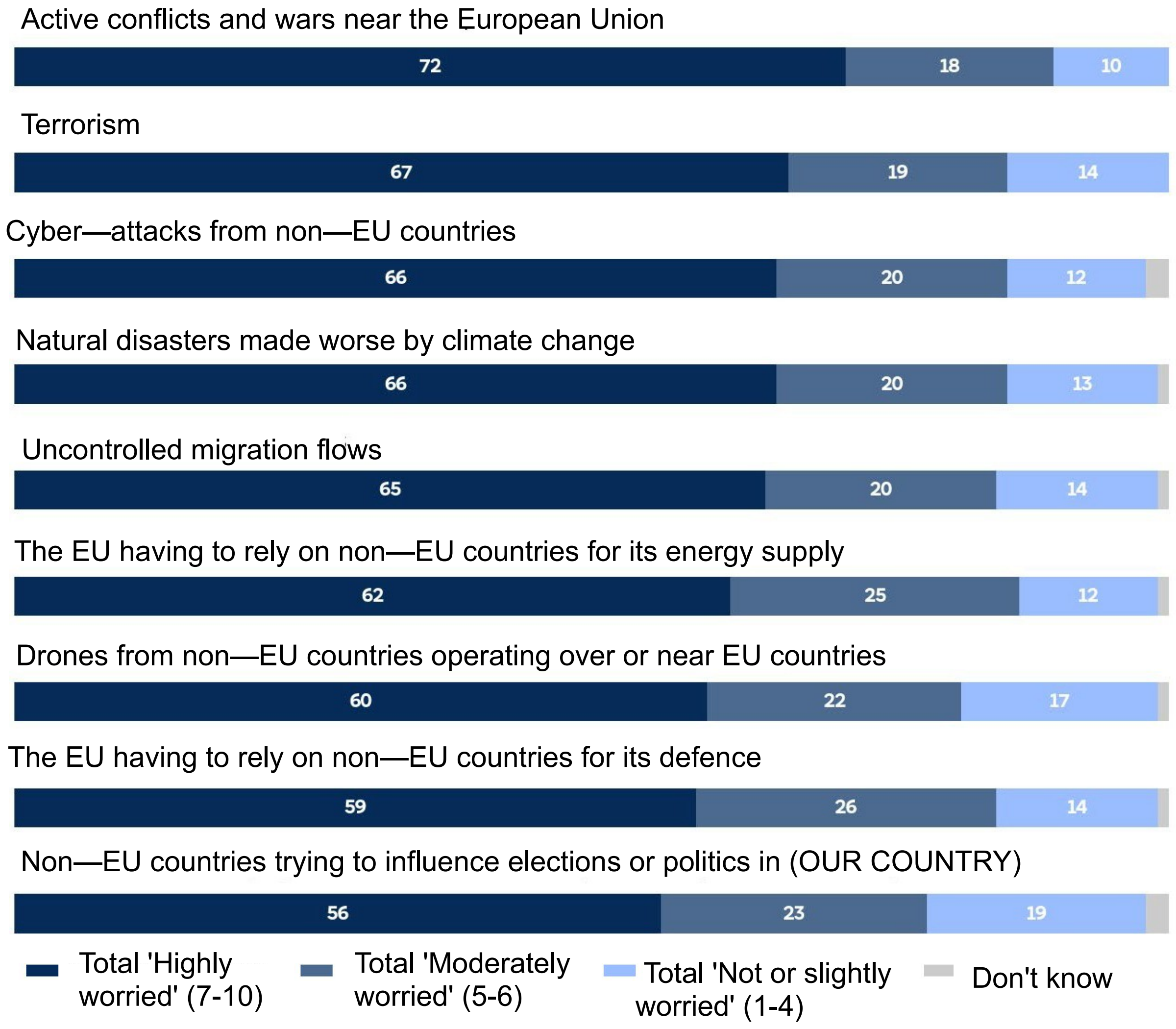
This chapter explores Europeans' perceptions of security, safety, communication and society-related risks, highlighting the issues that shape public concern in today's complex environment. It examines a broad spectrum of security challenges, from conflicts and terrorism to cyber threats, climate-related disasters, and dependence on non-EU countries, as well as concerns about migration and emerging technologies. It also addresses communication and societal issues, including disinformation, hate speech, AI-generated content, media independence, and online privacy. Across both domains, the findings reveal consistently high levels of worry, with variations between Member States and socio-demographic groups reflecting diverse national contexts, personal experiences, and attitudes toward the European Union. Overall, Europeans see themselves as faced with a multifaceted and interconnected set of risks that influence their sense of security, societal cohesion, and trust in institutions.

Security and safety-related concerns

The cautious and often pessimistic outlook observed in the previous chapter, particularly regarding the future of the world, provides important context for understanding Europeans' concerns about security and safety. The uncertainty about global developments expressed by respondents suggests that many citizens perceive significant risks beyond their immediate control. These perceptions are probably linked to geopolitical tensions, technological threats, environmental risks, and societal challenges, all of which have become increasingly salient in recent years.

Against this backdrop, the survey explored the extent to which Europeans feel worried about a range of security and safety-related issues. Understanding which threats are perceived as most worrying provides insight into public expectations regarding the role of the European Union in ensuring security, resilience, and strategic autonomy.

QA11 How worried or not are you about each of the following security or safety-related issues? Please use a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 means that you are not at all worried, and 10 that you are extremely worried. (EU27) (%)



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At EU level, concerns about security and safety-related issues are widespread, although the intensity of worry varies depends on the issue considered. Overall, a clear majority of Europeans express high levels of concern across all the topics included in the survey, underlining the salience of security-related challenges in shaping public perceptions.

The strongest concern relates to active conflicts and wars near the European Union. More than seven in ten respondents (72%) say they are highly worried about this issue, while a further 18% say they are moderately worried. This makes it the most worrying of the issues tested, reflecting the prominence of geopolitical tensions close to the EU's borders in citizens' minds.

Terrorism is the second most worrying issue. Two-thirds of respondents (67%) say that they are highly worried, and an additional 19% are moderately worried. This sustained level of concern highlights the fact that, despite fluctuations in the frequency of attacks, terrorism remains a central element of perceived insecurity among Europeans.

Cyber-attacks from non-EU countries are a major source of concern for Europeans. Two- thirds of respondents (66%) say they are highly worried about this threat, while a further 20% report that they are moderately worried. This high level of concern highlights the perceived vulnerability of the European Union to external cyber threats.

A similarly high level of concern is expressed regarding natural disasters made worse by climate change. Overall, 66% of respondents indicate that they are highly worried, and 20% are moderately worried. These results underline the extent to which climate-related risks are now firmly embedded in public perceptions as a key factor shaping uncertainty about the future.

Uncontrolled migration flows also rank among the issues generating the most concern. Nearly two-thirds of respondents (65%) report being highly worried, and a further 20% moderately worried. This reflects the continued prominence of this topic in public debate across the European Union.

Issues related to the European Union's dependence on non-EU countries generate slightly lower, though still substantial, levels of concern. Around six in ten respondents (62%) are highly worried about the EU's dependence on non-EU countries for its energy supply, with 25% reporting moderate worry. Similarly, 59% are highly worried about reliance on non-EU countries for defence, and a further 26% are moderately worried. These results suggest that questions of strategic autonomy represent a significant source of anxiety.

Concerns about drones from non-EU countries operating over or near EU countries are also notable. Six in ten respondents (60%) say they are highly worried, and 22% are moderately worried, indicating a substantial level of unease about emerging military and surveillance technologies.

Among the issues tested, non-EU countries trying to influence elections or politics in the respondent's own country emerges as the least worrying, although concern remains widespread. More than half of respondents (56%) report being highly worried, while 23% are moderately worried. Despite ranking lowest relative to other items, these figures show that foreign political interference is still perceived as a significant risk by a large share of Europeans.

Taken together, the consistently high levels of concern across all topics might help explain the pronounced pessimism observed regarding the future of the world and point to a security environment perceived by many Europeans as complex, multidimensional, and increasingly uncertain.

QA11 How worried or not are you about each of the following security or safety-related issues? Please use a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 means that you are not at all worried, and 10 that you are extremely worried. Total Highly worried" (7-10) (%)

	EU27	BE	BG	CZ	DK	DE	EE	IE	EL	ES	FR	HR	IT
Active conflicts and wars near the European Union	72	70	59	56	61	63	63	72	79	84	72	71	83
Terrorism	67	65	57	62	34	55	42	63	73	80	74	70	83
Cyber—attacks from non-EU countries	66	69	48	48	58	56	50	73	54	75	66	64	79
Natural disasters made worse by climate change	66	56	65	42	44	55	28	64	83	79	69	73	83
Uncontrolled migration flows	65	59	59	66	34	60	50	75	84	73	59	68	81
The EU having to rely on non-EU countries for its energy supply	62	63	47	47	38	53	44	69	71	75	59	65	78
Drones from non-EU countries operating over or near EU countries	60	62	44	44	47	48	50	63	57	64	57	63	76
The EU having to rely on non-EU countries for its defence	59	58	45	41	44	48	41	64	68	71	53	60	76
Non-EU countries tryingtoinfluence elections orpolitics in (OUR COUNTRY)	56	55	44	37	43	44	33	58	58	68	54	58	74

	CY	LV	LT	LU	HU	MT	NL	AT	PL	PT	RO	SI	SK	FI	SE
Active conflicts and wars near the European Union	80	72	70	76	62	79	65	70	79	71	68	59	65	78	61
Terrorism	77	58	52	67	59	75	46	63	78	74	65	50	49	52	42
Cyber—attacks from non-EU countries	70	57	53	73	51	80	67	58	77	65	61	53	50	65	59
Natural disasters made worse by climate change	80	46	46	64	60	71	57	62	71	91	61	58	52	62	52
Uncontrolled migration flows	86	70	67	61	57	81	45	67	78	88	60	62	51	51	32
The EU having to rely on non-EU countries for its energy supply	70	44	39	65	52	63	56	56	73	64	60	47	55	52	43
Drones from non-EU countries operating over or near EU countries	71	59	54	59	50	64	59	53	77	63	61	44	52	58	45
The EU having to rely on non-EU countries for its defence	72	41	44	62	47	63	54	52	70	65	62	40	50	54	42
Non-EU countries tryingtoinfluence elections orpolitics in (OUR COUNTRY)	68	47	40	47	50	62	54	49	70	58	61	35	41	39	53

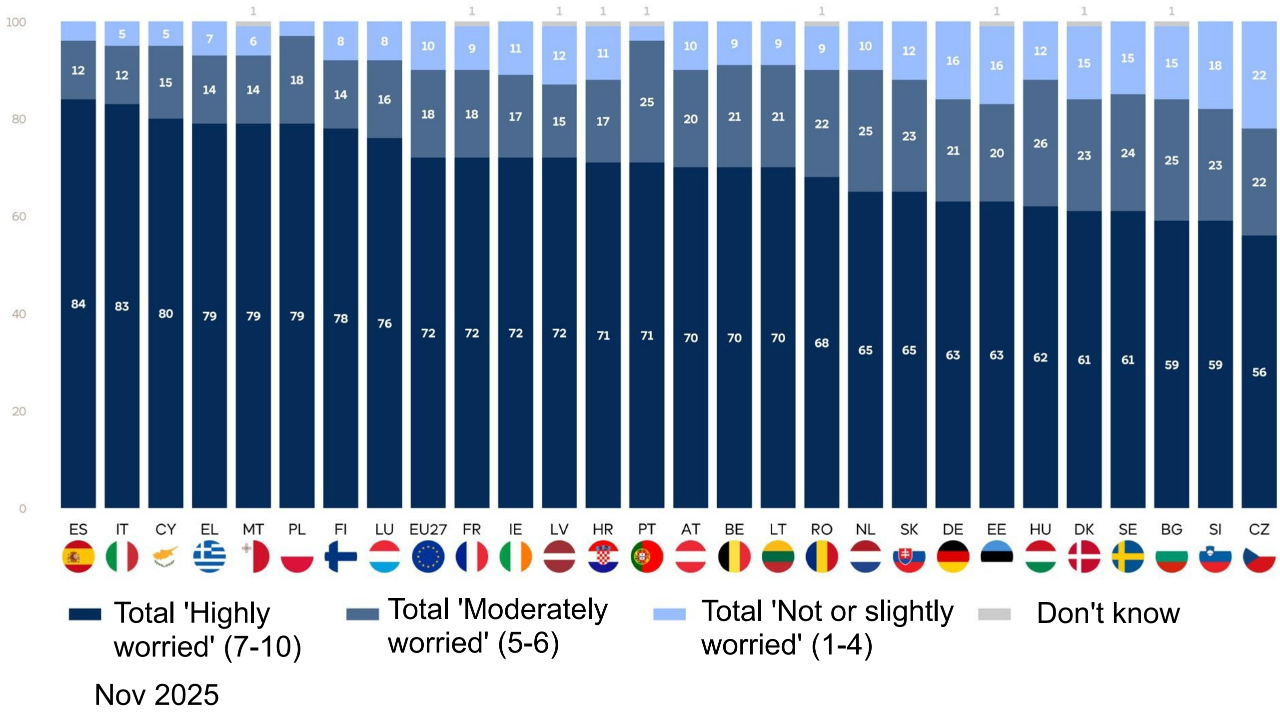
1st Most Frequently Mentioned Item
2nd Most Frequently Mentioned Item
3rd Most Frequently Mentioned Item

After examining overall levels of concern at EU level, this section looks in more detail at how worries about security and safety-related issues vary across Member States. While high levels of concern are observed throughout the European Union, the intensity of worry differs markedly from one country to another, reflecting national contexts, geographic proximity, and differing perceptions of risk.

Beyond differences in specific issues, the survey reveals that some countries consistently report higher levels of worry across the full range of security and safety-related topics, while others tend to report lower levels of concern overall. For instance, Italy, Spain, Cyprus, Portugal, Poland, and Malta regularly appear among those with the highest shares of respondents expressing strong worry, regardless of the type of threat. In contrast, the Netherlands, Denmark, Estonia, Slovakia, and Sweden tend to report lower levels of worry across multiple issues, indicating a generally less anxious perception of security and safety risks. These patterns suggest that national contexts play an important role in shaping Europeans' overall sense of vulnerability.

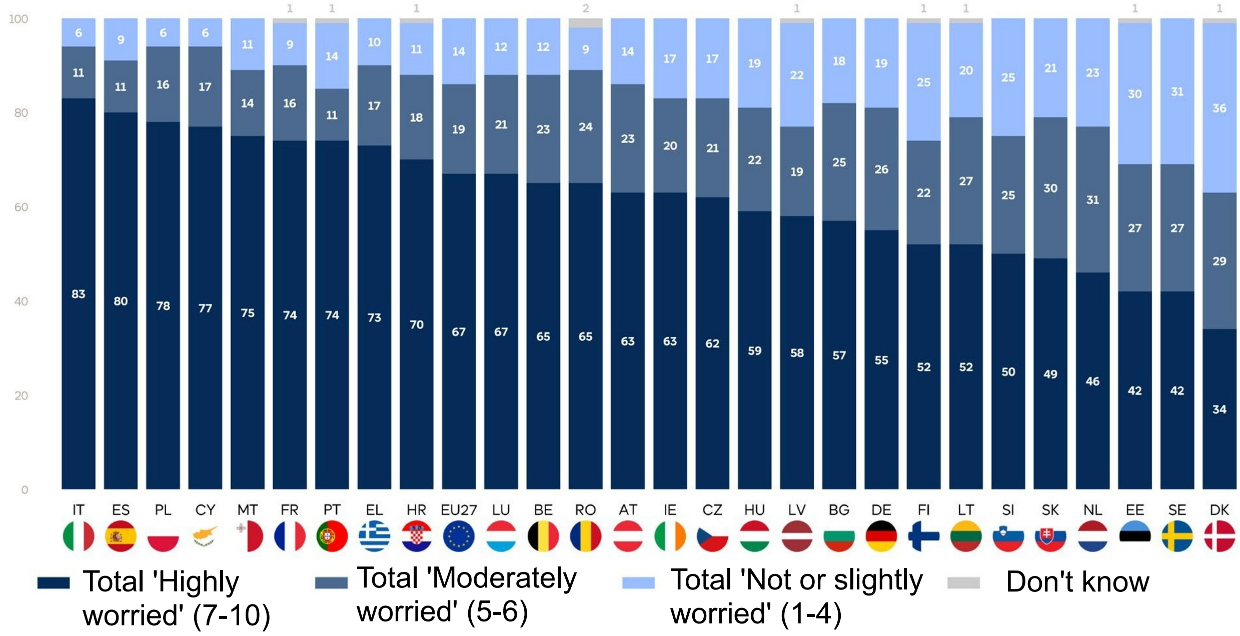
Concerns about active conflicts and wars near the European Union are widespread across all Member States. This issue represents the strongest concern in 16 countries, and in every Member State more than half of respondents report being highly worried. The highest levels of concern are recorded in Spain (84%), Italy (83%), and Cyprus (80%), where more than eight in ten respondents say they are highly worried. At the other end of the scale, the lowest shares of respondents who are highly worried are observed in Czechia (56%), Bulgaria (59%), and Slovenia (59%).

QA11.1 How worried or not are you about each of the following security or safety-related issues? Please use a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 means that you are not at all worried, and 10 that you are extremely worried.
Active conflicts and wars near the European Union (%)



Concerns about terrorism are also widespread across the European Union, although their intensity varies considerably between Member States. Terrorism is the leading security concern in two countries, France and Italy, where 74% and 83% of respondents respectively say they are highly worried. Overall, at least half of respondents express high levels of worry in 22 Member States. The highest shares of respondents who are highly worried are observed in Italy (83%), Spain (80%), and Poland (78%). In contrast, concern is notably lower in Denmark (34%), Sweden (42%), and Estonia (42%).

QA11.7 How worried or not are you about each of the following security or safety-related issues? Please use a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 means that you are not at all worried, and 10 that you are extremely worried.
Terrorism (%)



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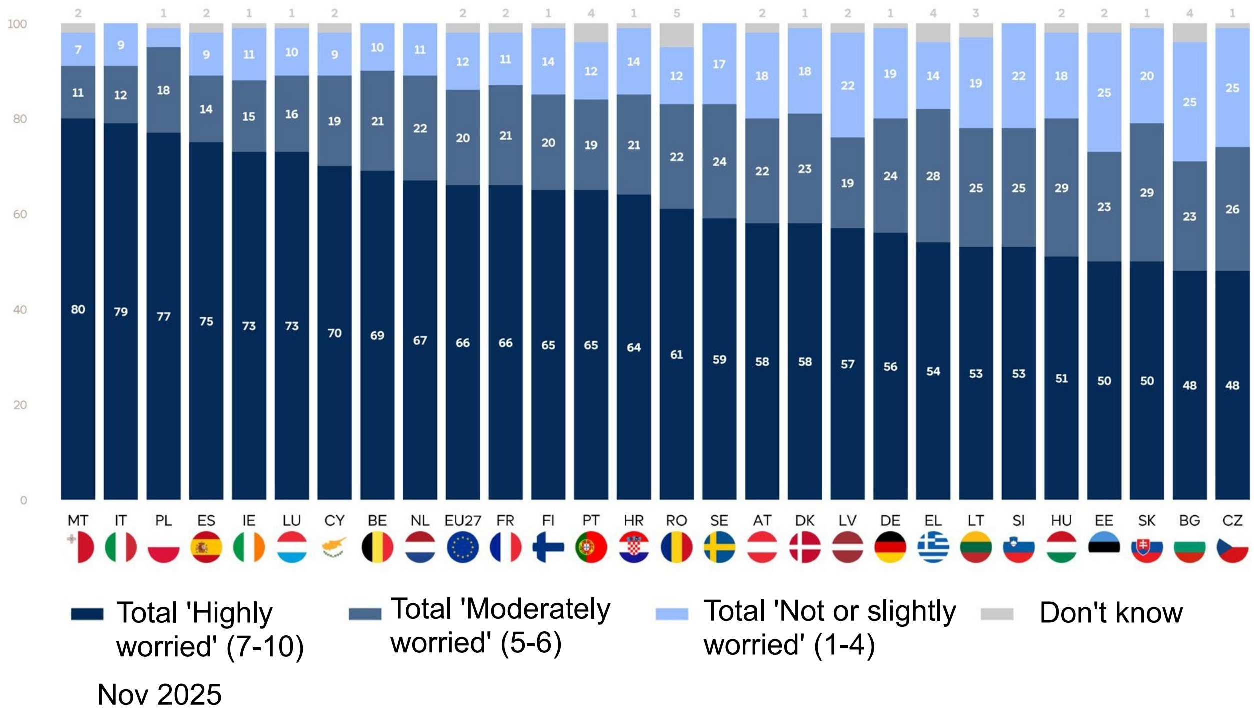
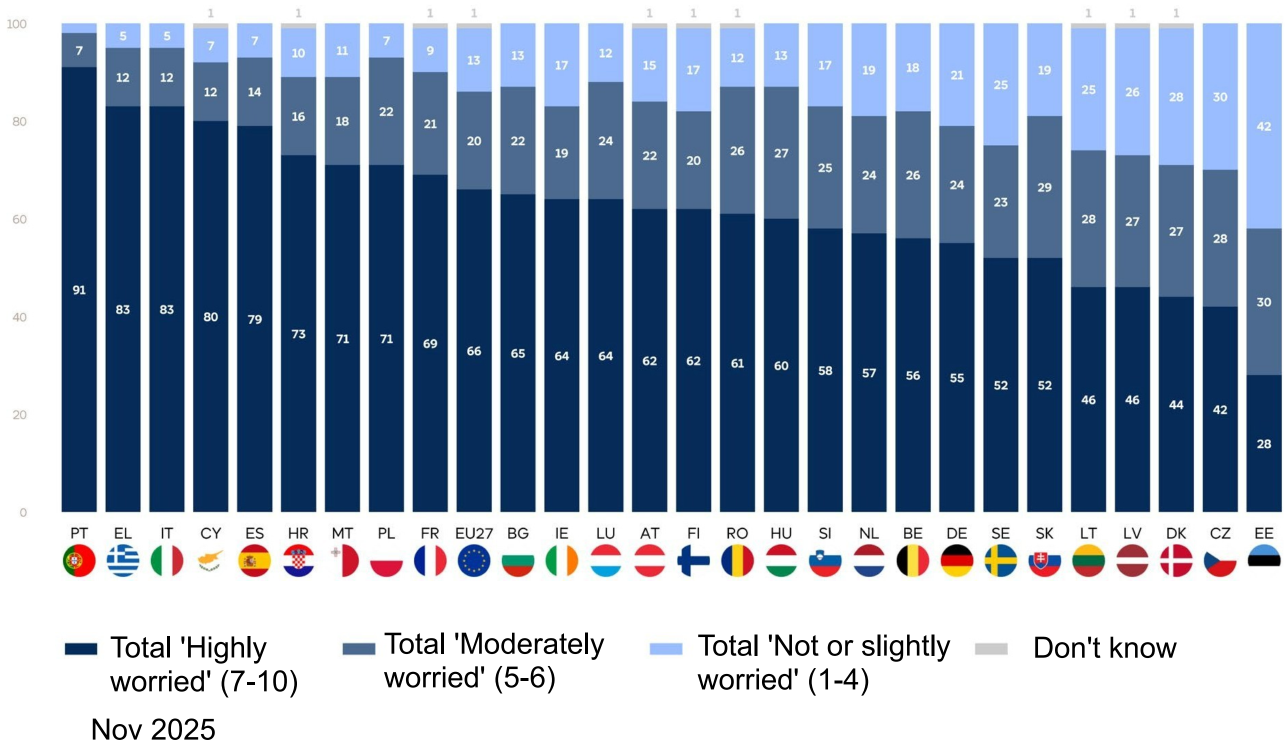
When it comes to cyber-attacks from non-EU countries, concern is widespread but uneven across Member States. Such attacks represent the top security concern in the Netherlands (67%). In total, at least half of respondents report being highly worried in 25 Member States, indicating a broad perception of vulnerability to external cyber threats. The highest shares of respondents who are highly worried are recorded in Malta (80%), Italy (79%), and Poland (77%). In contrast, concern is lower in Czechia and Bulgaria (both 48%), and in Slovakia and Estonia (50%), where around half or fewer respondents express high levels of worry.

QA11.2 How worried or not are you about each of the following security or safety-related issues? Please use a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 means that you are not at all worried, and 10 that you are extremely worried.
Cyber-attacks from non-EU countries (%)



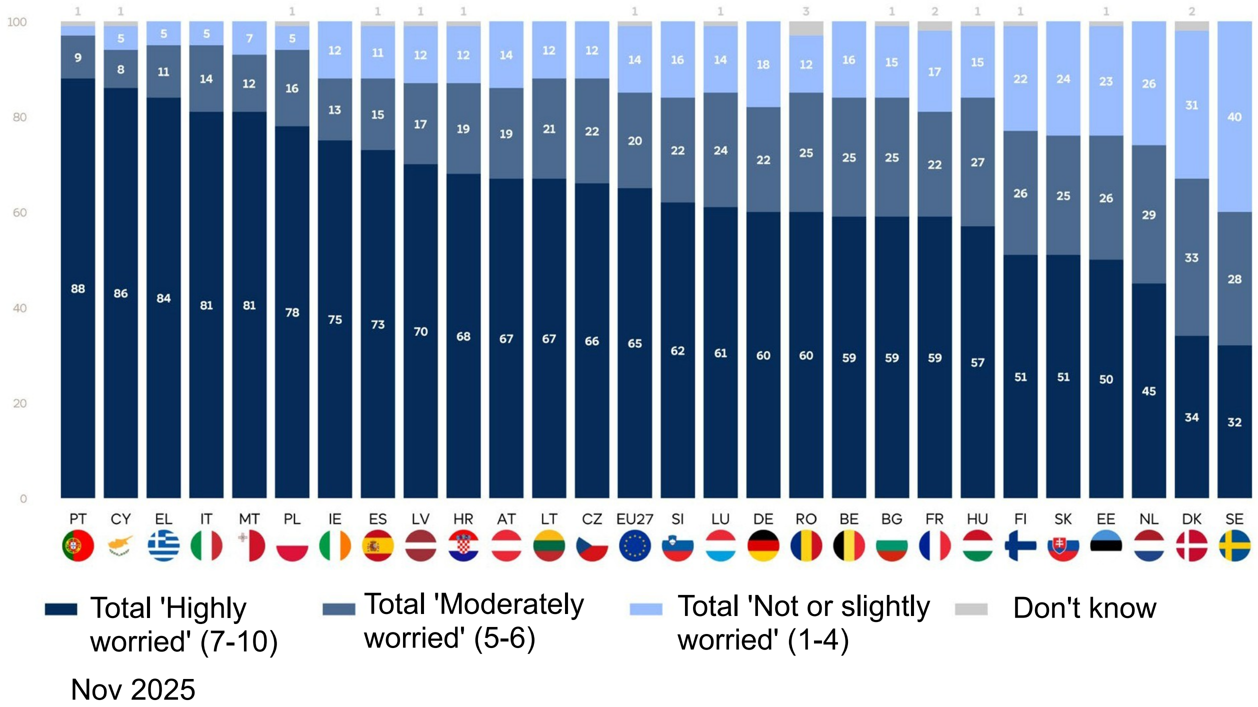
Concerns about natural disasters made worse by climate change are particularly strong in several Member States and represent the top security concern in Bulgaria (65%), Croatia (73%), Italy (83%), and Portugal (91%). Overall, the highest levels of worry are concentrated in Mediterranean countries: Portugal (91%), Greece (83%), Italy (83%), Cyprus (80%), Spain (79%), and Croatia (73%) are the six Member States where more than three in four respondents report being highly worried. In contrast, concern is much lower in some northern and central European countries, notably Estonia (28%), Czechia (42%), and Denmark (44%). These differences may partly reflect recent experiences with extreme weather events, such as heat waves and wildfires, which tend to affect southern Europe more severely. Overall, at least half of respondents express high levels of worry in 22 Member States.

QA11.9 How worried or not are you about each of the following security or safety-related issues? Please use a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 means that you are not at all worried, and 10 that you are extremely worried.
Natural disasters made worse by climate change (%)



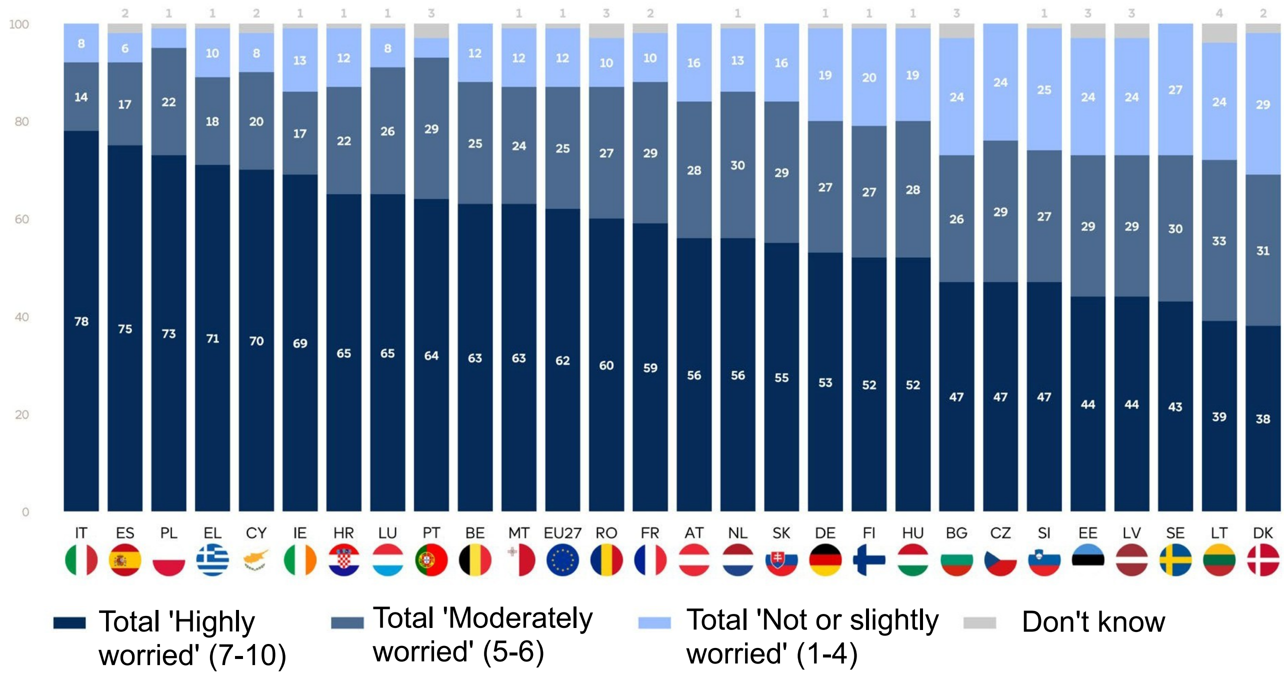
Uncontrolled migration flows emerge as the top security concern in six countries: Cyprus (86%), Greece (84%), Malta (81%), Ireland (75%), Czechia (66%), and Slovenia (62%). More than eight in ten respondents are also highly worried in Portugal (88%) and Italy (81%). Overall, at least half of respondents express high levels of worry in 24 Member States. In contrast, the lowest levels of worry are observed in Sweden (32%) and Denmark (34%), where fewer than four in ten respondents express strong concern, and the Netherlands (45%).

QA11.8 How worried or not are you about each of the following security or safety-related issues? Please use a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 means that you are not at all worried, and 10 that you are extremely worried.
Uncontrolled migration flows (%)



Worry about the EU's reliance on non-EU countries for its energy supply varies across Member States. The largest shares of respondents who are highly worried are found in Italy (78%), Spain (75%), and Poland (73%). Overall, at least half of respondents express high levels of worry in 19 Member States. At the other end of the scale, the lowest levels of worry are recorded in Denmark (38%), Lithuania (39%), and Sweden (43%).

QA11.5 How worried or not are you about each of the following security or safety-related issues? Please use a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 means that you are not at all worried, and 10 that you are extremely worried.
The EU having to rely on non-EU countries for its energy supply (%)



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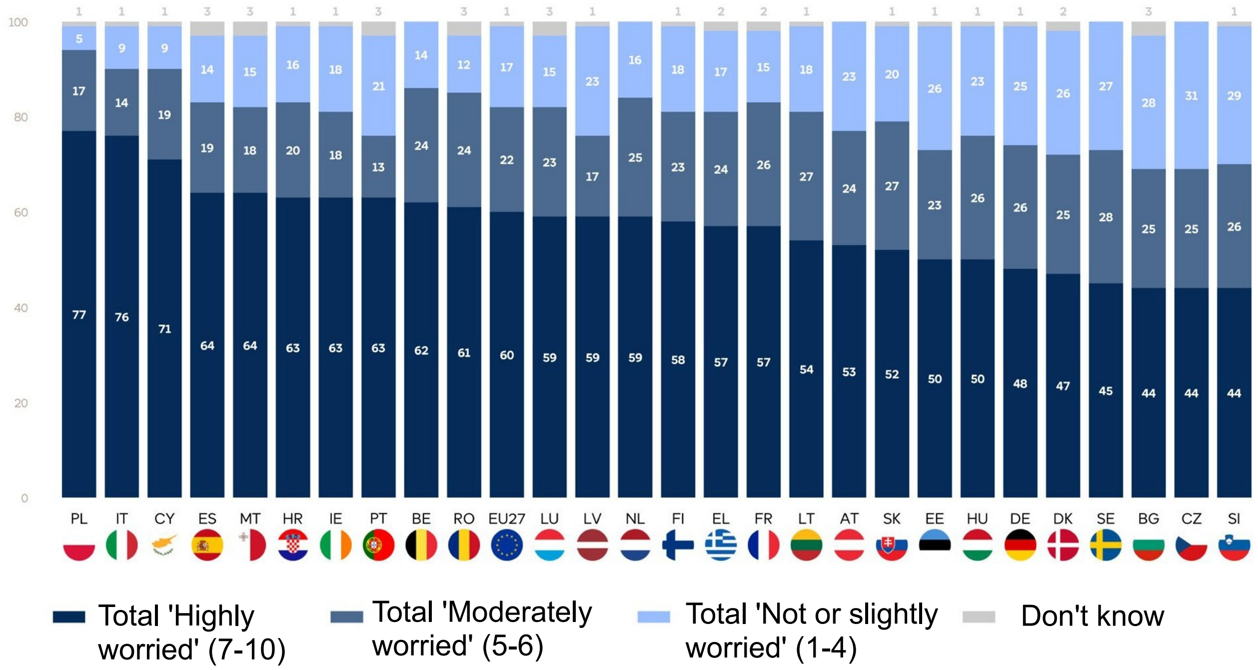
Concern about drones from non-EU countries operating over or near EU countries is significant but varies across Member States. The largest shares of respondents who are highly worried are found in Poland (77%), Italy (76%), and Cyprus (71%). In 21 Member States, at least half the respondents say they are highly worried. At the other end of the scale, the lowest levels of worry are recorded in Slovenia, Czechia and Bulgaria (all 44%).

QA11.3 How worried or not are you about each of the following security or safety-related issues? Please use a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 means that you are not at all worried, and 10 that you are extremely worried.
Drones from non-EU countries operating over or near EU countries (%)



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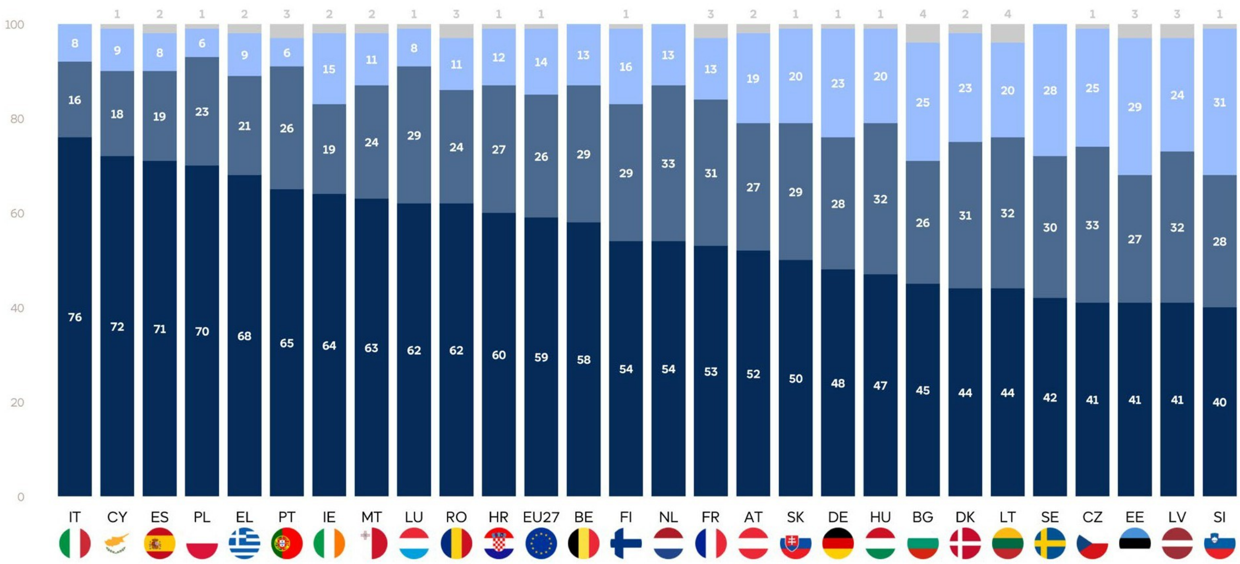
Dependence on non-EU countries for defence is a source of concern across the Union, though the levels differ markedly between Member States. The largest shares of respondents who are highly worried are seen in Italy (76%), Cyprus (72%), and Spain (71%). Overall, at least half of respondents express high levels of worry in 17 Member States. In contrast, the lowest levels of worry are observed in Slovenia (40%) and Latvia, Estonia, Czechia (all 41%).

QA11.6 How worried or not are you about each of the following security or safety-related issues? Please use a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 means that you are not at all worried, and 10 that you are extremely worried.
The EU having to rely on non-EU countries for its defence (%)



Total 'Highly worried' (7-10)
Total 'Moderately worried' (5-6)
Total 'Not or slightly worried' (1-4)
Don't know

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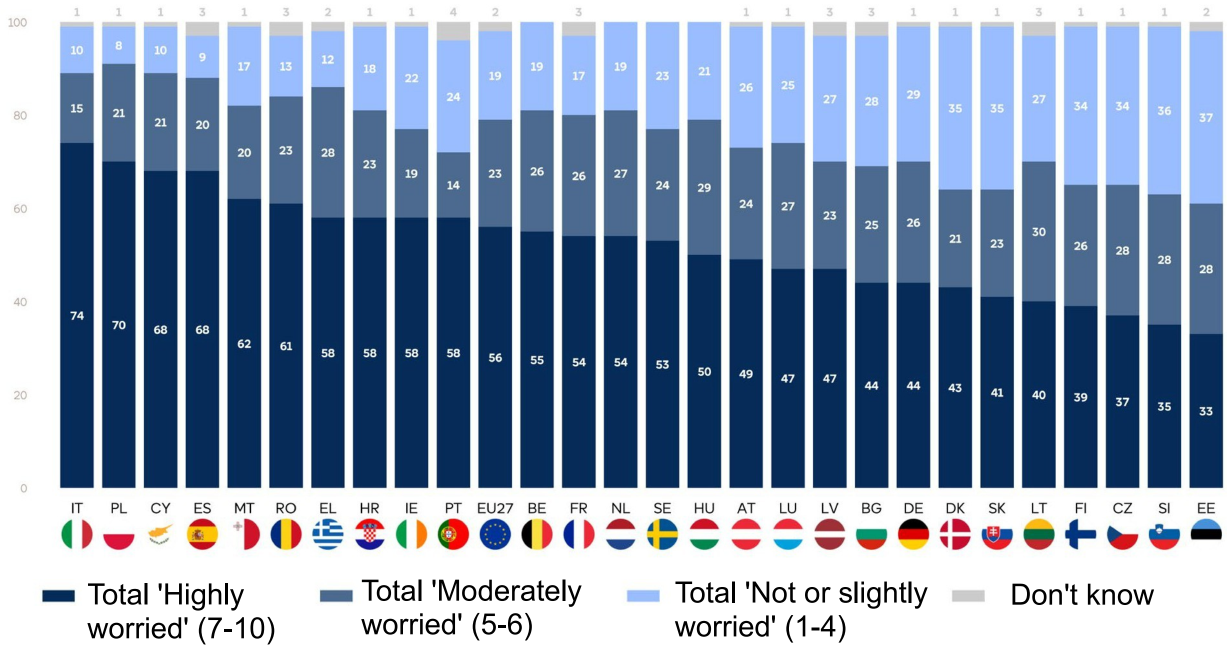
Finally, concerns about non-EU countries trying to influence elections or politics also vary considerably across Member States. The largest shares of respondents who are highly worried are found in Italy (74%), Poland (70%), and Cyprus and Spain (68%). In 15 Member States, at least half the respondents say they are highly worried. At the other end of the scale, the lowest levels of worry are recorded in Estonia (33%), Slovenia (35%), and Czechia (37%), where only around one-third of respondents express a high level of concern.

QA11.4 How worried or not are you about each of the following security or safety-related issues? Please use a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 means that you are not at all worried, and 10 that you are extremely worried.
Non-EU countries trying to influence elections or politics in (OUR COUNTRY) (%)



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Worries about security and safety-related issues vary across socio-demographic groups. Considering gender differences, women generally report higher levels of worry than men across most issues. The largest gender gaps are observed for natural disasters (71% of women are highly worried vs. 64% of men), active conflicts near the EU (74% vs. 69%), terrorism (70% vs. 65%), and drones from non-EU countries (62% vs. 57%). These differences suggest that women tend to perceive security and safety threats as more immediate or pressing, particularly in areas related to environmental and geopolitical risks.

Worries about security and safety tend to increase with age. Younger respondents (aged 15–24) are consistently less worried across most topics, while respondents aged 55 and over report the highest levels of concern. The age differences are most pronounced for uncontrolled migration flows (52% of 15–24-year-olds highly worried vs. 70% of 55+), drones (53% vs. 64%), foreign political influence (49% vs. 60%), and dependence on non-EU countries for defence (51% vs. 61%). These patterns point to a gradual life-course effect, with older Europeans perceiving security and safety risks as more significant or imminent.

The effect of education on perceived security risks varies by topic. Respondents with a low level of education are more likely to be highly worried about migration flows (72% vs. 56% among highly educated) and terrorism (72% vs. 61%). On other issues, differences are less pronounced, although respondents with a medium level of education tend to report slightly higher levels of worry across multiple topics, suggesting that education shapes both risk awareness and perceptions in a complex way depending on the type of threat.

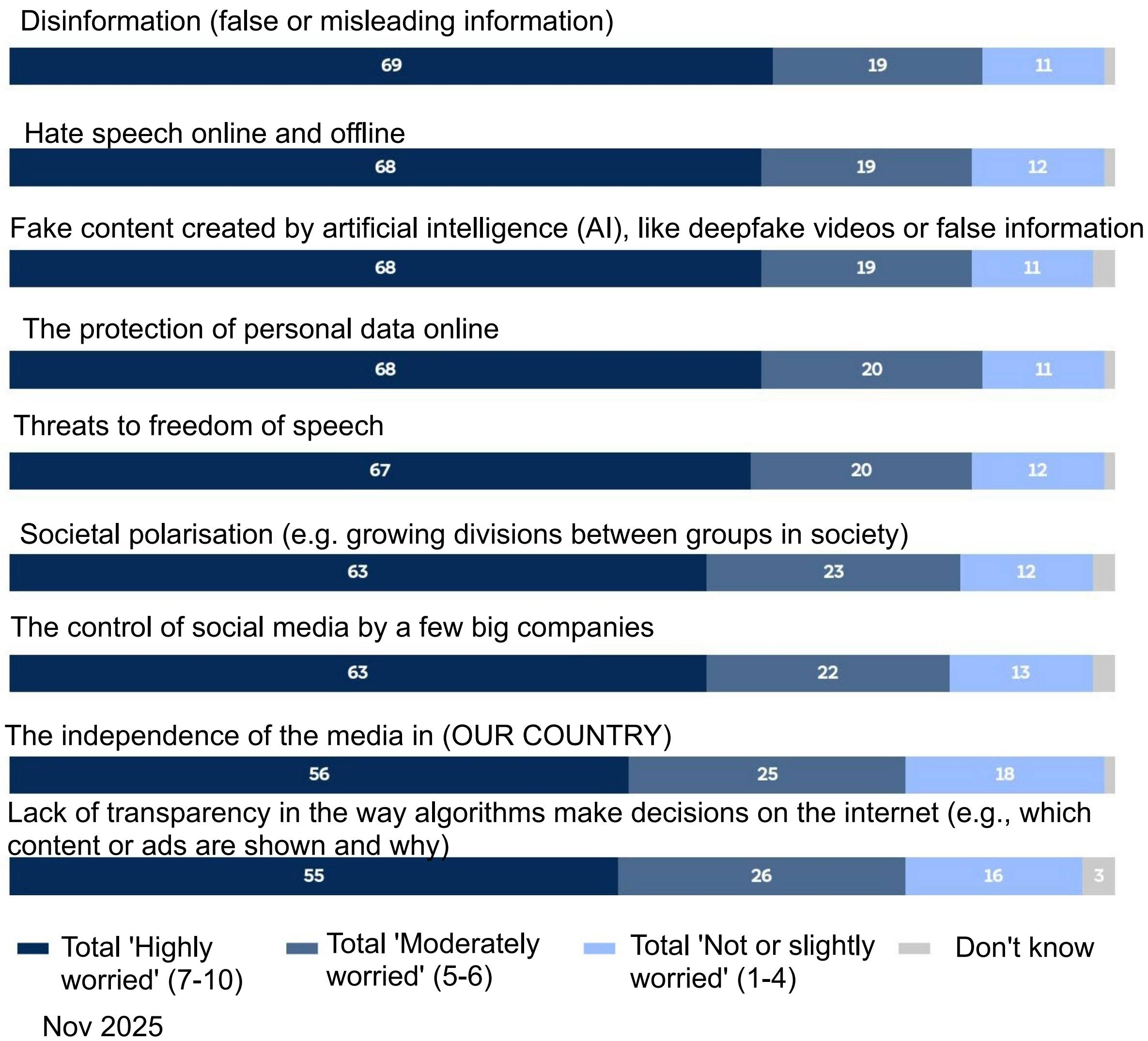
Perceptions of security and safety also vary according to respondents' attitudes toward the European Union, highlighting the link between broader political outlooks and risk perceptions. Respondents with a positive image of the EU are more likely to express high levels of concern about natural disasters made worse by climate change, with 70% reporting being highly worried compared with 59% of those with a negative image of the EU. Conversely, respondents with a negative image of the EU report higher levels of worry about issues related to migration flows and terrorism. Among those with a negative image, 77% are highly worried about uncontrolled migration, compared with 60% among those with a positive view of the EU. Similarly, concern about terrorism is higher among those with a negative image (75% highly worried) than among those with a positive image (63%).

QA11 How worried or not are you about each of the following security or safety-related issues? Please use a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 means that you are not at all worried, and 10 that you are extremely worried. Total 'Highly worried' (7-10) (% - EU)									
	Active conflicts and wars near the European Union	Terrorism	Natural disasters made worse by climate change	Cyber-attacks from non-EU countries	Uncontrolled migration flows	The EU having to rely on non-EU countries for its energy supply	Drones from non-EU countries operating over or near EU countries	The EU having to rely on non-EU countries for its defence	Non-EU countries trying to influence elections or politics in (OUR COUNTRY
EU27	72	67	66	66	65	62	60	59	56
Gender									
Man	69	65	64	65	66	61	57	58	57
Woman	74	70	71	66	66	63	62	59	57
Age									
15-24	68	63	67	61	52	54	53	51	49
25-39	69	64	66	63	62	64	56	59	56
40-54	71	66	66	66	68	63	59	60	55
55+	75	72	69	67	70	62	64	61	60
Education level									
Low level of education (ISCED 0-2)	70	72	65	60	72	58	58	55	53
Medium level of education (ISCED 3-4)	73	69	67	68	69	65	63	61	59
High level of education (ISCED 5-8)	72	61	68	65	56	62	57	58	56
Socio-professional category									
Self-employed	69	67	64	66	68	63	57	60	56
Managers	70	58	63	62	59	60	54	57	52
Other white collars	71	65	66	67	64	65	61	60	58
Manual workers	69	71	66	65	71	64	59	60	57
House persons	78	73	71	69	73	68	67	62	62
Unemployed	69	69	68	67	63	63	57	56	56
Retired	75	73	69	67	71	62	64	60	60
Students	70	62	70	59	48	53	52	50	50
Difficulties paying bills									
Most of the time	71	68	68	63	67	62	60	60	57
From time to time	73	73	71	66	70	64	62	61	59
Almost never / Never	71	66	65	65	63	61	58	57	56
Subjective urbanisation									
Rural area or village	70	67	64	63	68	59	59	57	55
Small or middle sized town	72	69	67	66	65	63	59	60	57
Large town	73	67	70	67	64	64	60	60	58
Online platforms usage in the last 7 days									
Total 'Have used online platforms in the past week	72	67	67	66	65	62	59	59	57
None	72	73	68	58	72	58	61	56	56
Image of the EU									
Positive	73	63	70	67	60	62	60	59	57
Neutral	71	70	65	65	68	61	60	57	54
Negative	71	75	59	64	77	65	57	60	58
European Union membership									
A good thing	73	65	70	67	61	63	61	58	57
A bad thing	65	73	56	60	76	60	54	57	56
Neither a good thing nor a bad thing	71	72	65	65	73	63	60	59	57

Communication and society-related concerns

This section turns to Europeans' worries about communication and society-related issues. While the previous section showed that external threats such as conflicts, terrorism, and cyber-attacks weigh heavily on public perceptions, this section investigates concerns related to how information is produced, disseminated, and governed in contemporary societies. Rapid technological change, the growing role of digital platforms, and the increasing centrality of online communication have profoundly transformed the public sphere. At the same time, disinformation, algorithmic decision-making, media independence, and freedom of expression are important topics nowadays across the European Union. Against this backdrop, the survey explored the extent to which Europeans feel worried about a range of communication and society-related issues, using a scale from 1 to 10.

QA12 And how worried or not are you about each of the following communication and society-related issues? Please use a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 means that you are not at all worried, and 10 that you are extremely worried. (EU27) (%)



At EU level, concerns about communication and society-related issues are widespread, although the intensity of worry varies somewhat depending on the issue considered. Overall, a clear majority of Europeans report high levels of concern across all the survey topics, underlining the central role that information, digital technologies, and societal cohesion now play in shaping public perceptions.

The strongest concern relates to the spread of disinformation. More than two-thirds of respondents (69%) report being highly worried about false or misleading information, while a further 19% say they are moderately worried. This makes disinformation the most worrying of the issues tested and reflects widespread anxiety about its impact on democratic processes, public trust, and informed decision-making.

Closely linked to this concern is worry about hate speech, both online and offline. Around two-thirds of Europeans (68%) say that they are highly worried about hate speech, with an additional 19% reporting moderate worry. This high level of concern suggests that many citizens perceive hate speech as a direct threat to social cohesion and respectful public discourse.

Fake content created by artificial intelligence, such as deepfake videos or AI-generated false information, is also a major source of concern. Overall, 68% of respondents say they are highly worried, and 19% are moderately worried. These findings point to growing awareness of the risks associated with emerging technologies and their potential to further undermine trust in information and media.

The protection of personal data online also ranks among the top concerns. Around two-thirds of Europeans (68%) report being highly worried about this issue, while 20% are moderately worried. This highlights persistent fears about privacy, data misuse, and individuals' ability to maintain control over their personal information in digital environments.

Threats to freedom of speech also generate substantial concern. Overall, 67% of respondents say that they are highly worried, with a further 20% expressing moderate worry. This suggests that Europeans are sensitive to perceived risks to fundamental freedoms, whether stemming from regulation, platform practices, or broader societal pressures.

Concerns about societal polarisation are also widespread. Nearly two-thirds of respondents (63%) report being highly worried about growing divisions between groups in society, and 23% are moderately worried. These results underline anxieties about social fragmentation and the weakening of shared values.

The control of social media by a few large companies also raises significant concern. Around six in ten respondents (63%) say they are highly worried, while 22% are moderately worried. This points to unease about market concentration and the power of major platforms over public debate.

Although slightly lower than for other issues, concern about the independence of the media in respondents' own countries remains substantial. More than half of Europeans (56%) report being highly worried, and a further 25% are moderately worried. This indicates that questions about media freedom and pluralism continue to resonate across the Union.

Finally, the lack of transparency in how algorithms make decisions on the internet is the least worrying of the issues tested, though concern is still widespread. Overall, 55% of respondents say they are highly worried, and 26% are moderately worried. Despite ranking lowest, these figures suggest that opaque algorithmic decision-making is increasingly recognised as an important issue.

Taken together, the consistently high levels of concern across all these communication and society-related issues reinforce the picture of a public that is deeply attentive to the challenges posed by the modern information environment. These worries mirror and complement the security-related anxieties observed in the previous section, pointing to a broader perception of vulnerability that spans both physical and digital dimensions of contemporary life.

QA12 And how worried or not are you about each of the following communication and society-related issues? Please use a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 means that you are not at all worried, and 10 that you are extremely worried.
Total 'Highly worried' (7-10) (%)

	EU27	BE	BG	CZ	DK	DE	EE	IE	EL	ES	FR	HR	IT	CY	LV	LT	LU	HU	MT	NL	AT	PL	PT	RO	SI	SK	FI	SE
Disinformation (false or misleading information	69	68	56	45	55	56	51	76	77	85	71	67	80	82	64	59	77	62	78	71	65	72	67	68	63	62	67	66
Hate speech online and offline	68	65	51	43	49	56	56	70	71	82	72	68	83	71	54	46	70	58	76	64	58	74	68	64	56	60	63	61
Fake content created by artificial intelligence (AI), like deepfake videos or false information	68	71	48	47	64	58	47	75	70	77	69	59	77	84	59	54	79	55	79	73	61	70	62	62	62	58	73	68
The protection of personal data online	68	70	59	47	50	55	57	74	79	82	70	67	80	82	62	57	73	63	76	63	57	75	66	65	61	60	62	50
Threats to freedom of speech	67	64	53	51	41	52	45	69	73	85	69	67	84	73	54	45	64	58	73	57	57	72	70	65	54	56	48	52
Societal polarisation (e.g. growing divisions between groups in society	63	56	52	48	44	57	47	71	72	73	58	65	76	72	55	46	66	56	66	68	61	70	63	65	50	68	63	61
The control of social media by a few big companies	63	62	48	42	53	51	38	73	72	72	64	64	77	72	49	40	72	52	69	67	59	68	59	61	54	45	53	59
The independence of the media in (OUR COUNTRY	56	47	49	37	24	41	34	57	71	70	53	62	75	65	46	39	34	54	62	40	49	67	54	62	47	50	33	32
Lack of transparency in the way algorithms make decisions on the internet (e.g., which content or ads you are shown. and why	55	56	41	30	43	39	36	66	62	69	55	56	72	71	43	37	60	45	67	61	45	62	53	54	45	38	45	46

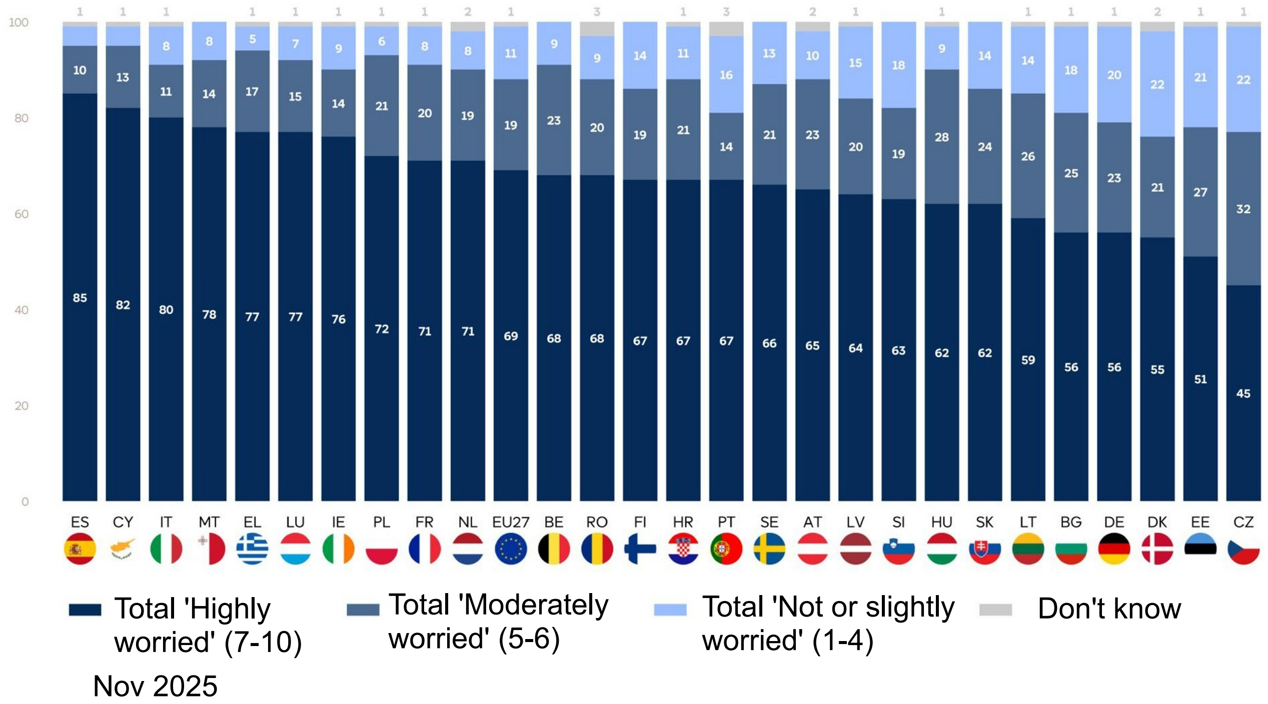
1st Most Frequently Mentioned Item
2nd Most Frequently Mentioned Item
3rd Most Frequently Mentioned Item

After examining overall levels of concern at EU level, this section now looks in more detail at how worries about communication and society-related issues vary across Member States. While high levels of concern are evident across the European Union for all the issues considered, the intensity of worry differs markedly from one country to another. These variations may reflect differing national contexts, media landscapes, levels of digitalisation, and recent political and societal developments, as well as contrasting experiences with challenges such as disinformation, media freedom, and online harms.

Beyond differences on specific issues, the survey shows that some countries consistently report higher levels of worry across the full range of communication and society-related topics, while others tend to report lower levels of concern overall. Italy, Spain, Cyprus, Malta, Ireland, and Greece regularly appear among those with the highest shares of respondents expressing strong worry. In contrast, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Lithuania, Bulgaria, and Slovakia tend to report lower levels of worry across multiple issues, indicating a generally less anxious perception of communication and societal risks. These patterns suggest that national context play an important role in shaping Europeans' overall sense of vulnerability in the information environment.

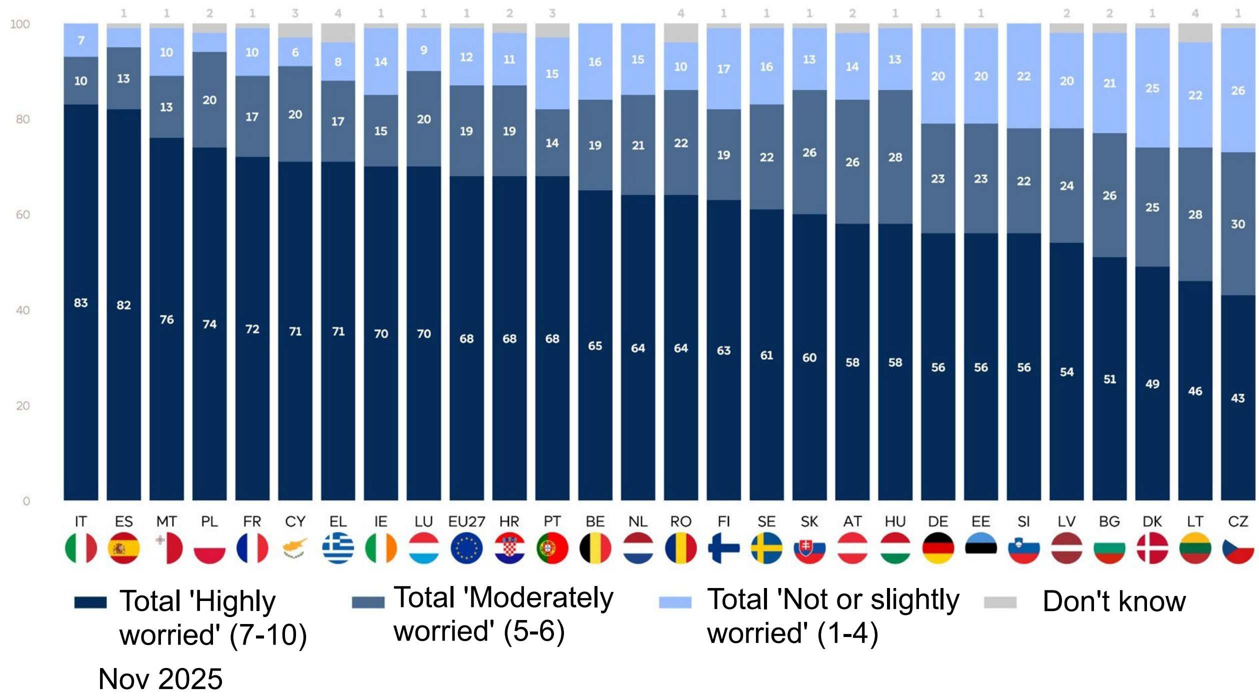
Concerns about disinformation are widespread across the European Union, although their intensity varies considerably between Member States. Disinformation emerges as the top communication and society-related issue in seven countries: Spain (85%), Ireland (76%), Romania (68%), Austria (65%), Latvia (64%), Slovenia (63%), and Lithuania (59%), where it ranks as the most worrying of the issues tested. The highest levels of concern overall are recorded in Spain (85%) Cyprus (82%) and Italy (80%), where more than eight in ten respondents report being highly worried. In contrast, worry about disinformation is notably lower in Czechia, the only Member State where fewer than half of respondents are highly worried (45%). Lower levels of concern are also observed in Estonia (51%) and Denmark (55%).

QA12.2 And how worried or not are you about each of the following communication and society-related issues? Please use a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 means that you are not at all worried, and 10 that you are extremely worried.
Disinformation (false or misleading information) (%)



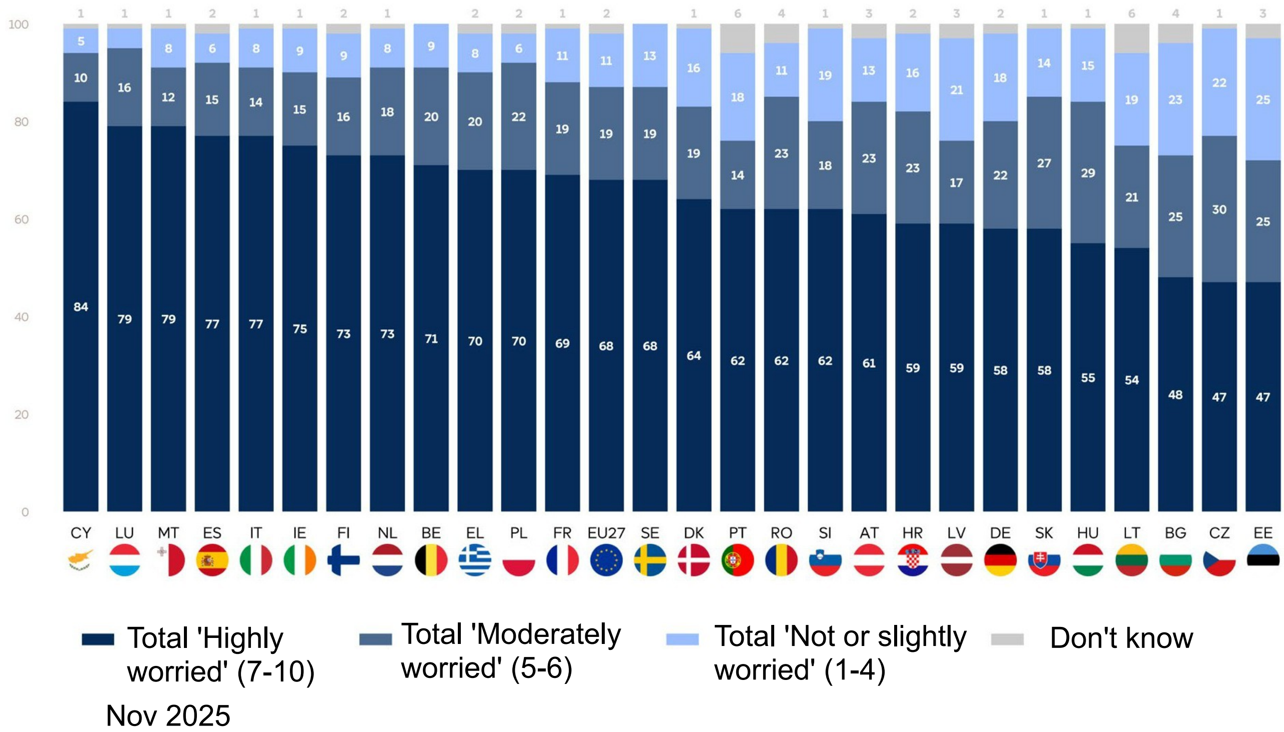
Concern about hate speech, both online and offline, is widespread across the European Union, though its intensity varies across Member States. Hate speech emerges as the top communication and society-related concern in two countries, France (72%) and Croatia (68%), where it ranks first among the issues tested. The strongest levels of worry overall are observed in Italy (83%), Spain (82%), and Malta (76%). In total, at least half of respondents express high levels of concern in 24 Member States. In contrast, concern is noticeably lower in Czechia (43%), Lithuania (46%), and Denmark (49%), where fewer than half of respondents report being highly worried.

QA12.4 And how worried or not are you about each of the following communication and society-related issues? Please use a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 means that you are not at all worried, and 10 that you are extremely worried. Hate speech online and offline (%)



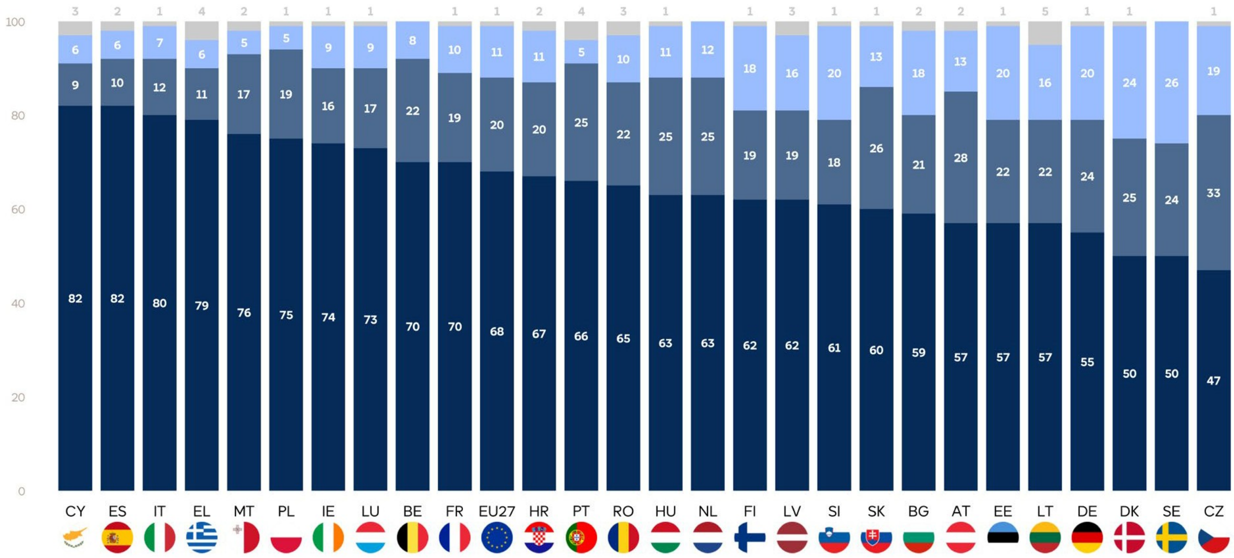
Worry about fake content created by artificial intelligence, such as deepfake videos or AI-generated false information, is particularly pronounced in several Member States and emerges as the top communication and society-related issue in nine countries: Cyprus (84%), Luxembourg (79%), Malta (79%), Finland (73%), the Netherlands (73%), Belgium (71%), Sweden (68%), Denmark (64%), and Germany (58%). The highest levels of concern overall are recorded in Cyprus, Luxembourg, and Malta, where around eight in ten respondents say they are highly worried. In total, at least half of respondents report high levels of worry in 24 Member States. At the other end of the scale, concern is notably lower in Estonia and Czechia (both 47%), as well as in Bulgaria (48%), where fewer than half of respondents express high levels of worry.

QA12.6 And how worried or not are you about each of the following communication and society-related issues? Please use a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 means that you are not at all worried, and 10 that you are extremely worried.
Fake content created by artificial intelligence (AI), like deepfake videos or false information (%)



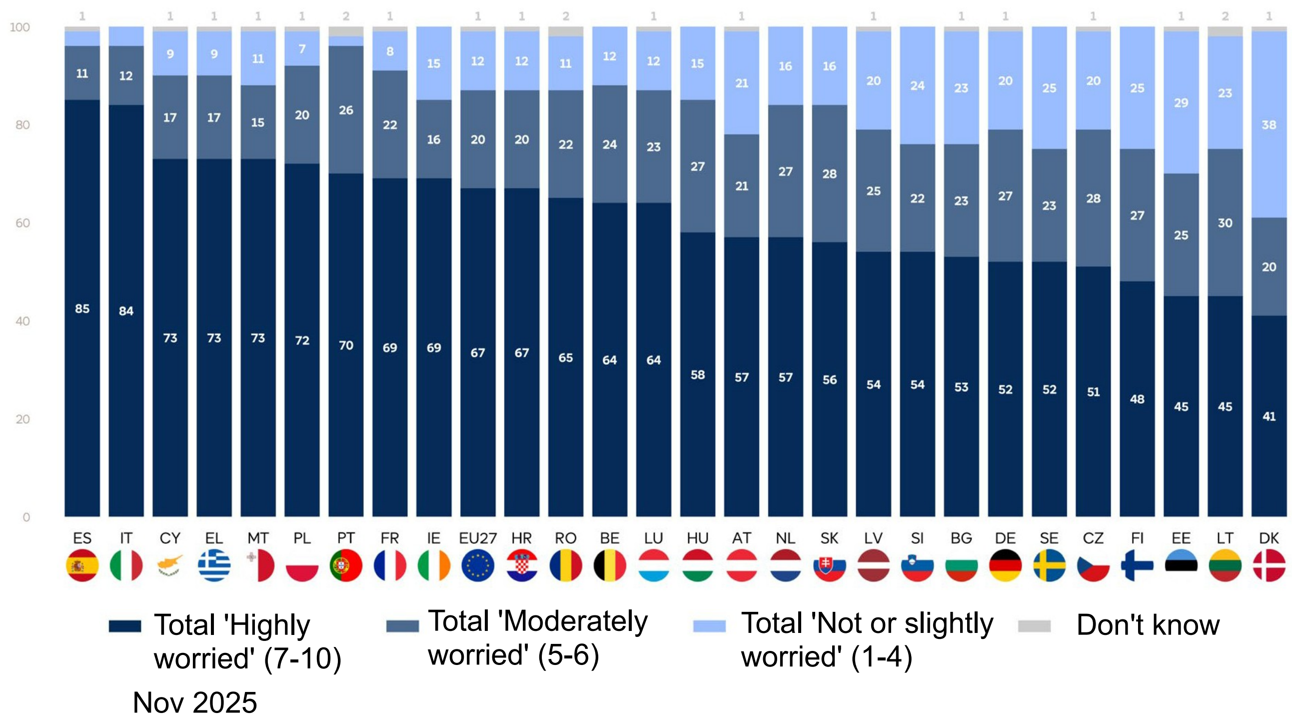
Concern about the protection of personal data online is widespread across the European Union and ranks as the top communication and society-related issue in five Member States: Greece (79%), Poland (75%), Hungary (63%), Bulgaria (59%), and Estonia (57%). The highest overall levels of concern are observed in Cyprus and Spain (both 82%) and in Italy (80%). In total, at least half of respondents express high levels of worry in 26 Member States. The lowest levels of concern are recorded in Czechia (47%), Sweden (50%), and Denmark (50%).

QA12.8 And how worried or not are you about each of the following communication and society-related issues? Please use a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 means that you are not at all worried, and 10 that you are extremely worried.
The protection of personal data online (%)



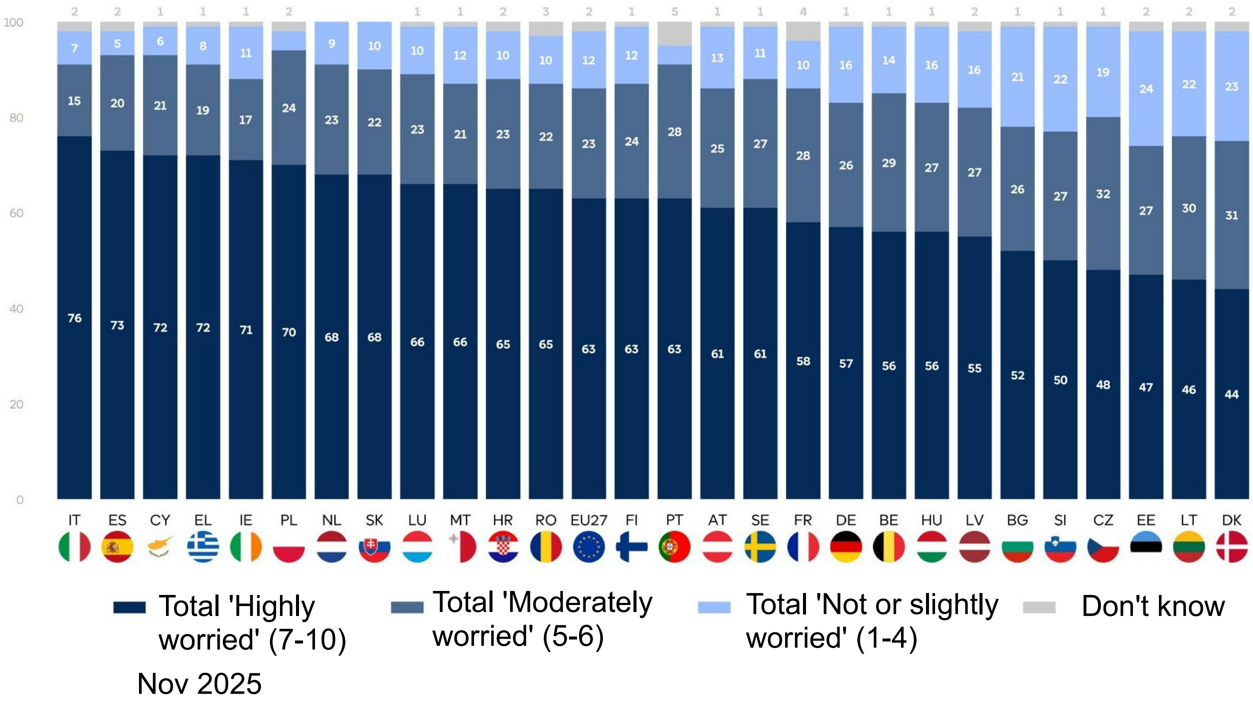
Concerns about threats to freedom of speech vary substantially across Member States, but remain prominent in several countries. This issue emerges as the top communication and society-related concern in four Member States: Spain (85%), Italy (84%), Portugal (70%), and Czechia (51%). The highest levels of concern overall are recorded in Spain and Italy, where more than eight in ten respondents report being highly worried. In total, at least half of respondents express high levels of worry in 23 Member States. At the other end of the scale, concern is notably lower in Denmark (41%) and in Lithuania and Estonia (both 45%).

QA12.9 And how worried or not are you about each of the following communication and society-related issues? Please use a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 means that you are not at all worried, and 10 that you are extremely worried.
Threats to freedom of speech (%)



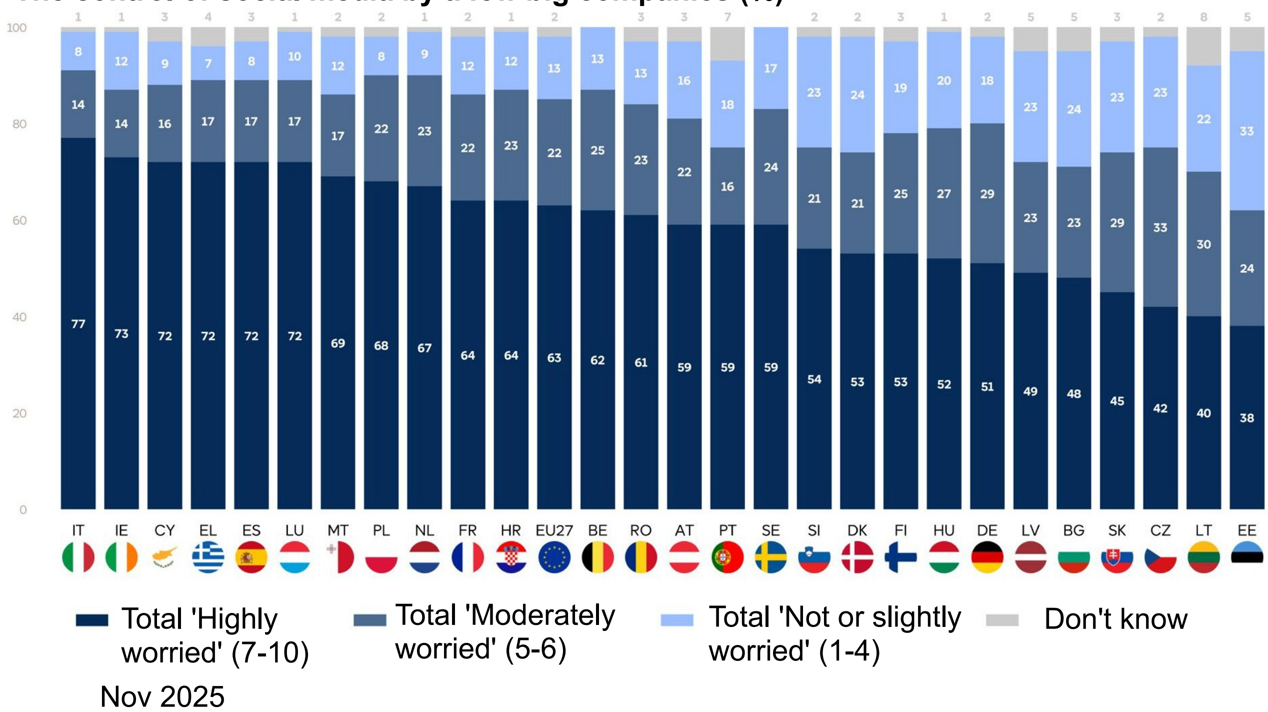
Worry about societal polarisation, or the growing divisions between groups in society, is widespread across the European Union, though it emerges as the top communication and society-related concern in only one Member State, Slovakia (68%). The highest levels of concern overall are recorded in Italy (76%), Spain (73%), and Cyprus and Greece (both 72%). In total, at least half of respondents express high levels of concern in 23 Member States. In contrast, the lowest levels of worry are observed in Denmark (44%), Lithuania (46%), and Estonia (47%).

QA12.5 And how worried or not are you about each of the following communication and society-related issues? Please use a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 means that you are not at all worried, and 10 that you are extremely worried.
Societal polarisation (e.g. growing divisions between groups in society) (%)



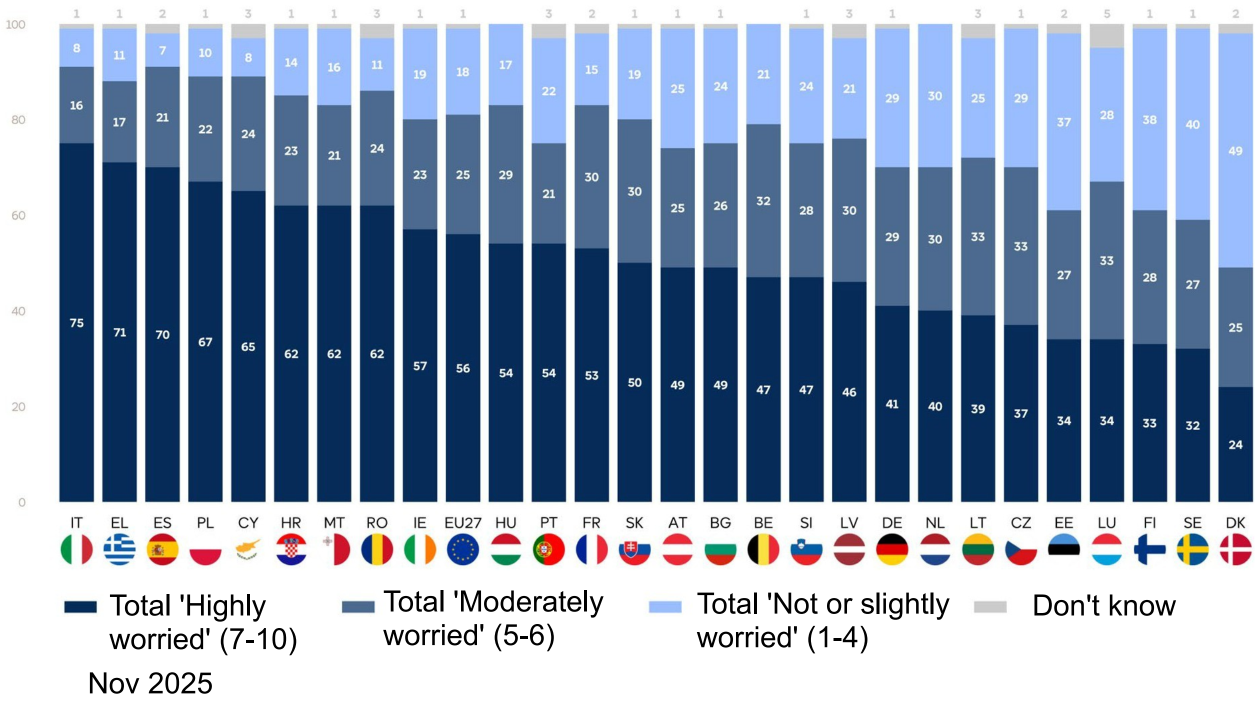
The control of social media by a few big companies is a significant concern across the European Union, though levels of worry differ across Member States. The highest shares of respondents who are highly worried about this issue are found in Italy (77%), Ireland (73%), and Cyprus, Greece, Spain, and Luxembourg (all 72%). In total, at least half of respondents express high levels of concern in 21 Member States. At the other end of the scale, the lowest levels of worry are recorded in Estonia (38%), Lithuania (40%), and Czechia (42%).

QA12.7 And how worried or not are you about each of the following communication and society-related issues? Please use a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 means that you are not at all worried, and 10 that you are extremely worried.
The control of social media by a few big companies (%)



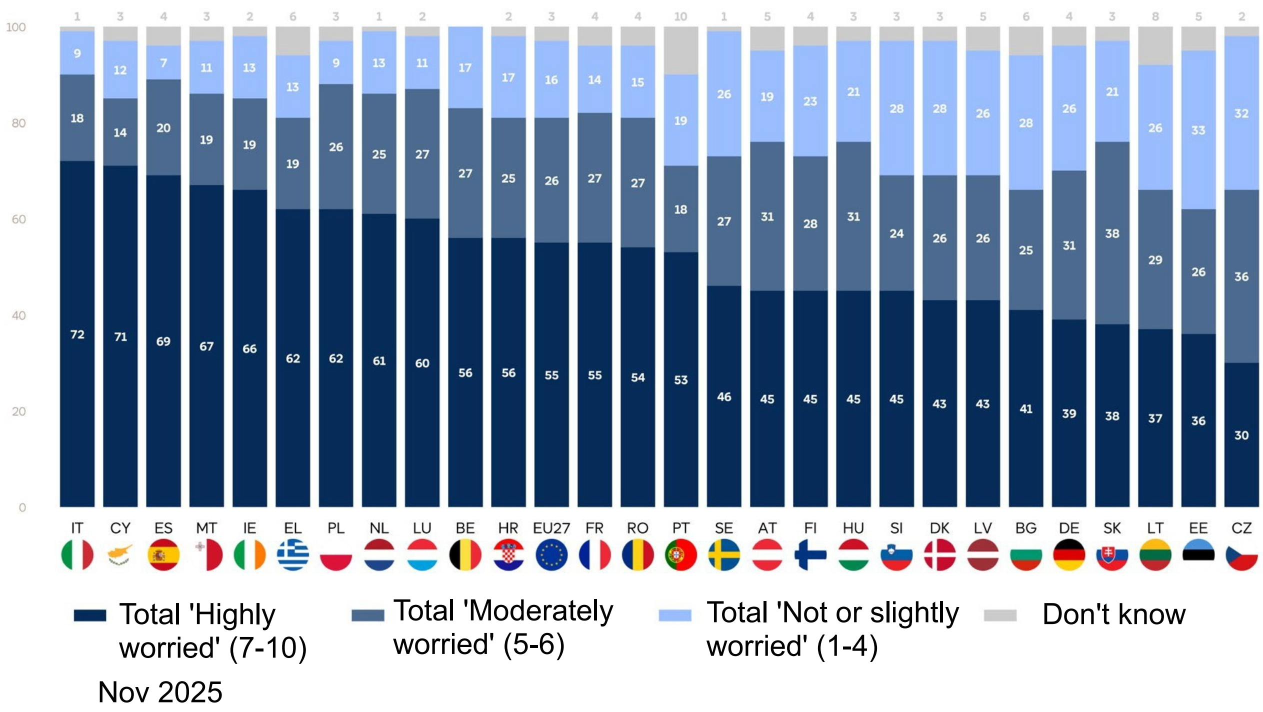
Concerns about media independence differ markedly across Member States. The highest shares of respondents who are highly worried about this issue are found in Italy (75%), Greece (71%), and Spain (70%). Overall, at least half of the respondents say they are highly worried about media independence in 13 countries. In contrast, the lowest levels of worry are observed in Denmark (24%), Sweden (32%), and Finland (33%).

QA12.3 And how worried or not are you about each of the following communication and society-related issues? Please use a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 means that you are not at all worried, and 10 that you are extremely worried.
The independence of the media in (OUR COUNTRY) (%)



Finally, concerns about the lack of transparency in how algorithms make decisions on the internet vary considerably among Member States. The largest shares of respondents who are highly worried about this issue are found in Italy (72%), Cyprus (71%), and Spain (69%). Overall, more than half of the respondents say they are highly worried about this issue in 14 countries. In contrast, the lowest levels of concern are observed in Czechia (30%), Estonia (36%), and Lithuania (37%).

QA12.1 And how worried or not are you about each of the following communication and society-related issues? Please use a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 means that you are not at all worried, and 10 that you are extremely worried.
Lack of transparency in the way algorithms make decisions on the internet (e.g., which content or ads you are shown, and why) (%)



Worries about communication and society-related issues vary across socio-demographic groups.

Gender differences are limited, with the most notable gap observed for hate speech online and offline. Women are more likely than men to be highly worried about this issue (71% vs. 64%), suggesting that women may perceive hate speech as a more immediate or personally relevant concern.

In the case of age, younger respondents (aged 15–24) are consistently less likely to be highly worried across a number of issues. In particular, they express less concern about the independence of the media (48% highly worried) than respondents aged 40 and above (57%). Respondents in the middle age bands (25–54) are more likely than the youngest group to be highly worried about the lack of transparency in how algorithms make decisions online (56% vs. 50%), while older respondents (40+) report higher levels of worry about hate speech than young people (69% vs. 64%). These patterns suggest that perceptions of communication- related risks increase with age, though the effects vary depending on the specific topic.

Respondents with medium or high levels of education are consistently more likely to report being highly worried about all topics in this domain than those with a low level of education. These differences suggest that higher education may be associated with greater awareness of societal and technological risks, or a stronger sense of personal and collective vulnerability in these areas.

Some perceptions of communication and society-related issues also vary according to respondents' attitudes toward the European Union. Respondents with a negative image of the EU are more likely to express high levels of concern about a number of issues: the independence of the media, where 67% say they are highly worried compared with 52% of those with a positive image of the EU; threats to freedom of speech (75% vs. 64%); and the protection of personal data online (73% vs. 65%). These findings may suggest that respondents who hold a negative image of the EU also tend to have less trust in other institutions, including the media, and are more concerned about how their freedoms and rights are actually safeguarded.

QA12 And how worried or not are you about each of the following communication and society-related issues? Please use a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 means that you are not at all worried, and 10 that you are extremely worried. Total 'Highly worried' (7-10) (% - EU)									
	Disinformation (false or misleading information)	Hate speech online and offline	Fake content created by artificial intelligence (AI), like deepfake videos or false information	The protection of personal data online	Threats to freedom of speech	The control of social media by a few big companies	Societal polarisation (e.g. growing divisions between groups in society)	The independence of the media in (OUR COUNTRY)	Lack of transparency in the way algorithms make decisions on the internet (e.g., which content or ads you are shown, and why)
EU27	69	68	68	68	67	63	63	56	55
Gender									
Man	68	64	66	68	66	63	63	55	54
Woman	70	71	68	68	68	62	65	55	55
Age									
15-24	67	64	67	66	63	60	60	48	50
25-39	70	67	68	69	67	63	64	55	56
40-54	69	69	67	70	67	63	65	57	56
55+	70	69	67	66	67	62	64	57	54
Education level									
Low level of education (ISCED 0-2)	65	64	62	61	65	56	56	51	47
Medium level of education (ISCED 3-4)	70	69	69	71	69	64	67	59	57
High level of education (ISCED 5-8)	73	71	69	68	65	66	67	53	58
Socio-professional category									
Self-employed	70	67	68	70	66	64	62	60	55
Managers	67	65	65	65	64	62	63	51	52
Other white collars	70	68	67	69	67	65	66	58	57
Manual workers	69	69	67	71	69	63	65	58	57
House persons	71	71	71	75	70	62	64	61	59
Unemployed	73	71	72	71	71	70	64	56	60
Retired	70	70	66	65	66	60	64	54	52
Students	67	63	67	64	62	62	61	45	50
Difficulties paying bills									
Most of the time	73	68	67	70	71	65	65	62	57
From time to time	71	71	66	71	71	65	65	60	57
Almost never / Never	68	67	67	66	65	61	64	53	53
Subjective urbanisation									
Rural area or village	68	65	65	65	66	59	59	54	53
Small or middle sized town	69	69	68	67	67	63	65	57	55
Large town	72	70	69	70	68	66	67	54	57
Online platforms usage in the last 7 days									
Total 'Have used online platforms in the past week	70	69	68	69	67	64	64	56	56
None	65	62	57	55	62	50	59	51	44
Image of the EU									
Positive	70	69	67	65	64	63	65	52	55
Neutral	67	67	66	68	67	60	61	56	54
Negative	74	67	68	73	75	67	66	67	57
European Union membership									
A good thing	71	69	68	66	65	62	65	51	55
A bad thing	67	64	66	68	73	64	62	67	53
Neither a good thing nor a bad thing	69	67	66	71	70	63	62	62	54

3. FACING GLOBAL CHALLENGES

3. FACING GLOBAL CHALLENGES

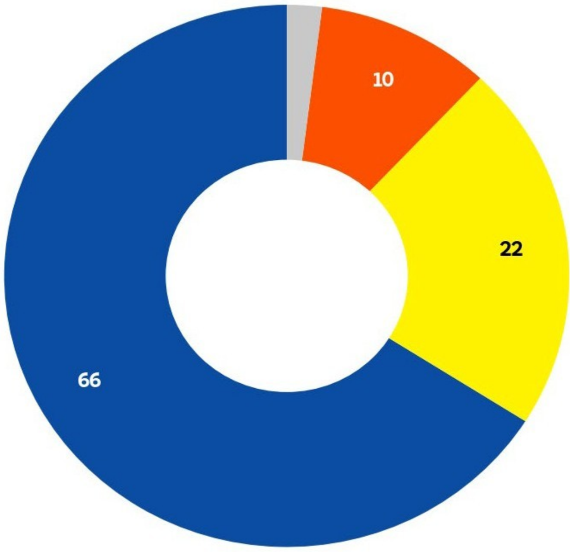
This chapter explores European citizens' views on the role of the European Union in protecting its citizens, responding to global challenges, and strengthening its position in the world. It highlights widespread public support for a more prominent EU role in safeguarding against crises and security risks, with strong expectations for unity among Member States, a more assertive international voice, and increased resources to address global challenges. Citizens also identify key priority areas for the EU's strategic focus, including defence and security, economic competitiveness, energy independence, and education and research. Overall, perceptions of the EU's protective role and global influence are closely linked to attitudes toward EU membership, with the majority seeing it as a source of reassurance in an uncertain world, though variations exist across countries, socio-demographic groups, and levels of EU support.

Role of the EU to protect EU citizens

In a context marked by heightened international tensions, geopolitical instability, and evolving security threats, expectations regarding the European Union's role in protecting its citizens have gained renewed prominence. Against this backdrop, respondents were asked whether they believe the role of the European Union in protecting European citizens against global crises and security risks should become more important, remain the same, or become less important in the future.

Two-thirds of Europeans say that the role of the European Union to protect European citizens against global crises and security risks should become more important in the future (66%). About one-fifth (22%) of the population say that this role should stay the same, and one in ten (10%) that this role should become less important. These proportions have only slightly changed since May 2025, indicating that public expectations regarding the EU's protective role continue to be strong.

QA6 Would you say that: In the future, the role of the European Union to protect European citizens against global crises and security risks should … (EU27) (%)



...become more important	▼ 2
...stay the same	▲ 3
...become less important	▼1
Don’t know	=

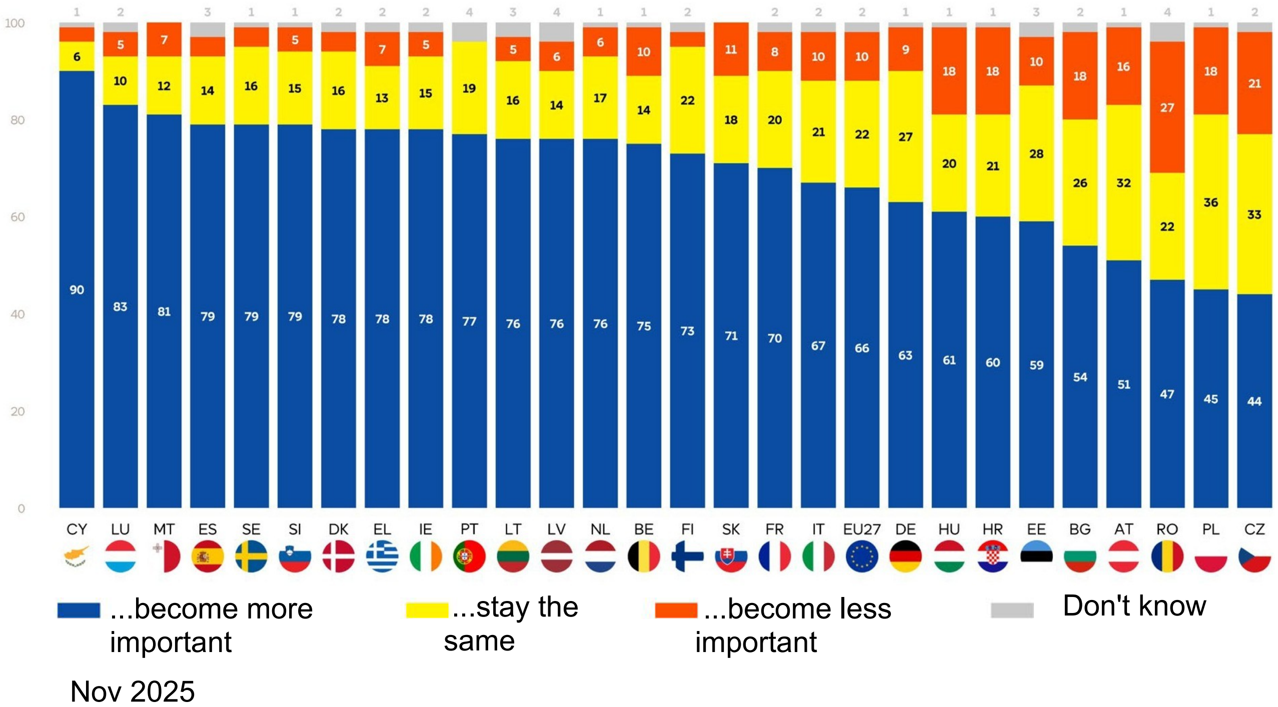
...become more important
stay the same
...become less important
Don’t know

▲▼ (Nov 2025 - May 2025)

Nov 2025

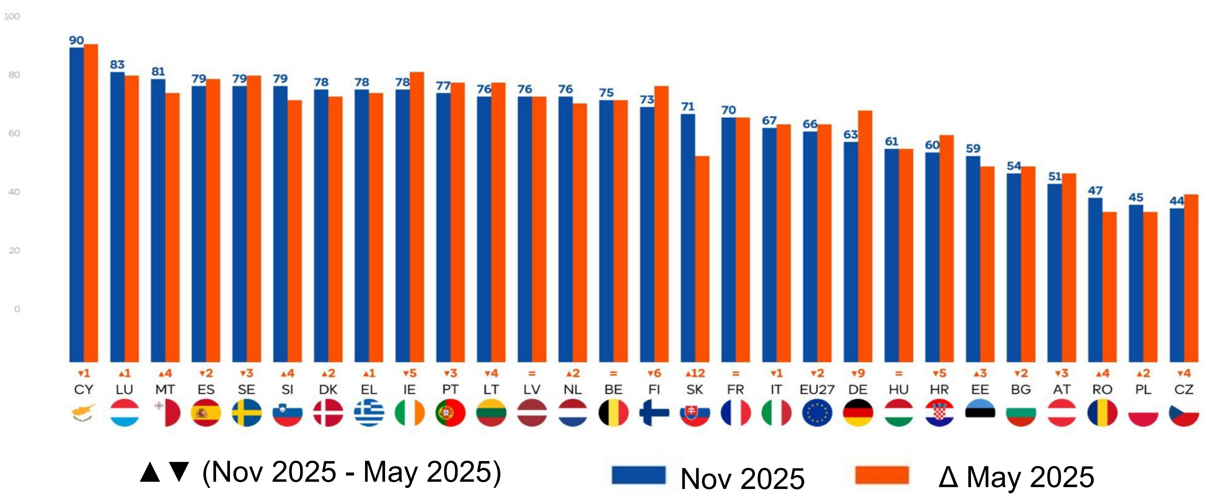
In all Member States, a relative majority of respondents believe that the role of the European Union to protect European citizens should become more important in the future. This view is shared by more than half of respondents in 24 Member States, and by more than two-thirds of respondents in 18 Member States. At least eight in ten respondents share this view in three countries: Cyprus (90%), Luxembourg (83%), and Malta (81%). At the other end of the scale, Czechia (44%), Poland (45%) and Romania (47%) remain the countries with the fewest respondents who believe that the role of the EU should become more important in this respect.

QA6 Would you say that: In the future, the role of the European Union to protect European citizens against global crises and security risks should … (%)



In most countries, the share of respondents who believe that the role of the European Union to protect European citizens should become more important in the future has only slightly changed since May 2025. The Member State where this proportion has increased significantly is Slovakia (71%, +12 percentage points). Conversely, important decreases are observed in a limited number of countries, most notably in Germany (63%, –9 pp), followed by Finland (73%, –6 pp), Ireland (78%, –5 pp) and Croatia (60%, –5 pp).

QA6 Would you say that: In the future, the role of the European Union to protect European citizens against global crises and security risks should … Become more important (EU27) (%)



Expectations regarding a stronger role for the European Union in protecting its citizens against global crises and security risks are widely shared across socio-demographic groups, although some differences can be observed depending on respondents' characteristics and attitudes.

In terms of gender, expectations are identical. Two-thirds of both men and women (66% in each group) believe that the EU's role in this area should become more important in the future, indicating that gender does not influence expectations regarding the Union's protective role.

Age-related differences are limited, but expectations are somewhat stronger among younger respondents. Seven in ten respondents aged 15–24 (70%) expect the EU's role in protecting citizens to become more important in the future, compared with around two-thirds among those aged 25–54 (66%) and those aged 55 and over (65%). While expectations are high across all age groups, this pattern indicates a modestly higher demand for a stronger EU role among the youngest Europeans.

More pronounced differences emerge according to education level. Respondents with a high level of education are especially likely to expect the EU's role in protecting citizens to become more important (74%), compared with those with a medium level (64%) and a low level of education (61%). This gradient suggests that higher educational attainment is associated with stronger public demand for an enhanced EU role in addressing global crises and security risks.

Economic circumstances somewhat shape expectations. Respondents who almost never or never experience difficulties paying bills are slightly more likely to express expectations of a stronger EU protective role (68%) than those who have difficulties from time to time (62%) or most of the time (63%).

Attitudinal factors are among the strongest differentiators. A large majority of respondents with a positive image of the European Union expect its role in protecting citizens to become more important (78%), compared with fewer than half of those with a negative image of the EU (48%).

Similarly, respondents who are optimistic about the future of the EU express considerably higher expectations for a stronger protective role (73%) than those who are pessimistic (56%).

Finally, expectations are closely linked to perceptions of EU membership. Nearly eight in ten respondents who say EU membership is a good thing expect the Union's role in protecting citizens to become more important (79%). Conversely, expectations are substantially lower among those who see EU membership as a bad thing (36%). This contrast highlights the strong association between the perceived value of EU membership and public demand for a stronger EU role in safeguarding citizens in an increasingly uncertain global environment.

QA6 Would you say that: In the future, the role of the European Union to protect European citizens against global crises and security risks should ... (% - EU)				
	…become more important	…become less important	…stay the same	Don't know
EU27	66	10	22	2
Gender				
Man	66	11	22	1
Woman	66	9	23	2
Age				
15-24	70	7	21	2
25-39	66	11	22	1
40-54	66	11	22	1
55+	65	10	22	3
Education level				
Low level of education (ISCED 0-2)	61	11	24	4
Medium level of education (ISCED 3-4)	64	11	24	1
High level of education (ISCED 5-8)	74	7	18	1
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	69	12	18	1
Managers	71	7	21	1
Other white collars	67	10	22	1
Manual workers	63	12	24	1
House persons	62	14	21	3
Unemployed	65	12	21	2
Retired	65	9	23	3
Students	71	5	22	2
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	63	15	19	3
From time to time	62	14	22	2
Almost never / Never	68	8	22	2
Subjective urbanisation				
Rural area or village	62	11	24	3
Small or middle sized town	67	11	21	1
Large town	69	7	22	2
Online platforms usage in the last 7 days				
Total 'Have used online platforms in the past week	67	10	22	1
None	58	11	26	5
Image of the EU				
Positive	78	4	17	1
Neutral	57	10	30	3
Negative	48	28	21	3
European Union membership				
A good thing	79	3	17	1
A bad thing	36	41	20	3
Neither a good thing nor a bad thing	48	13	36	3

Facing global challenges

The European Union is increasingly confronted with challenges that transcend national borders. Against this backdrop, respondents were asked to what extent they agree or disagree with a series of statements assessing the need for greater unity among EU Member States, a stronger EU voice at the international level, and increased means for the European Union to effectively address current global challenges.

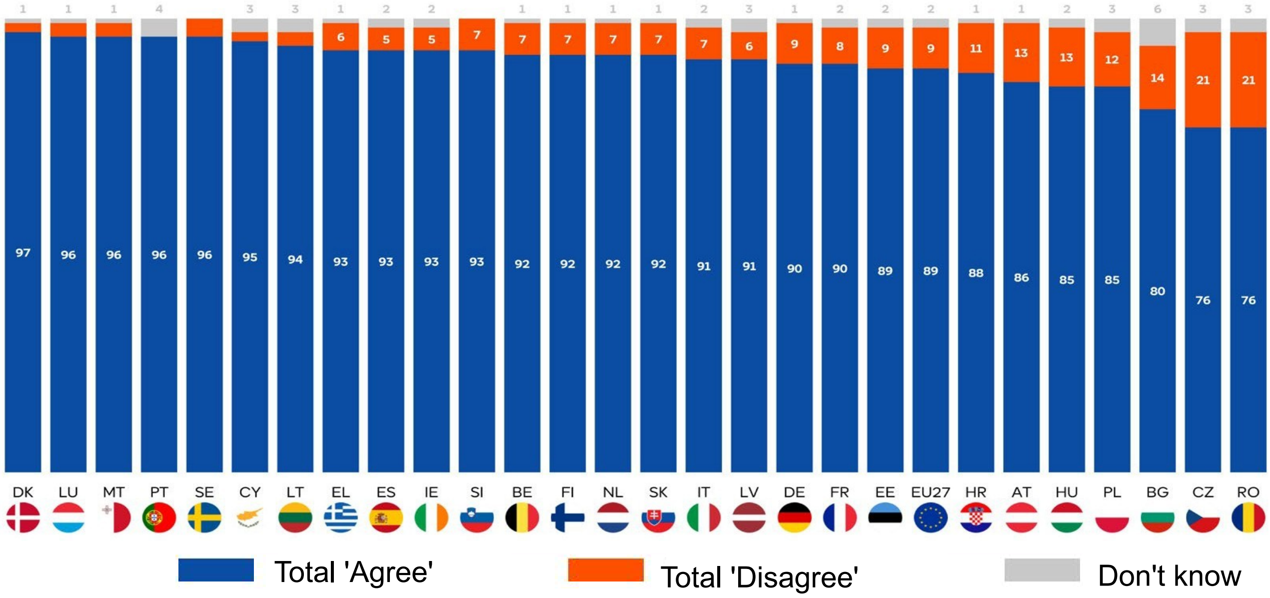
At EU level, there is very broad agreement that the European Union must act more collectively and assertively to address current global challenges. Nearly nine in ten respondents (89%) agree that EU Member States should be more united in order to face these challenges, a proportion that remains very high and has remained broadly stable since May 2025 (-1 percentage point). A similarly large majority agree that the European Union should have a stronger voice at the international level (86%, new item).

While still supported by a clear majority, agreement is somewhat lower when it comes to the resources available to the EU. Almost three-quarters of respondents (73%) agree that the European Union needs more means to face current global challenges. This represents a slight decrease since May 2025 (-4 pp).

QA7 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? (EU27) (%)

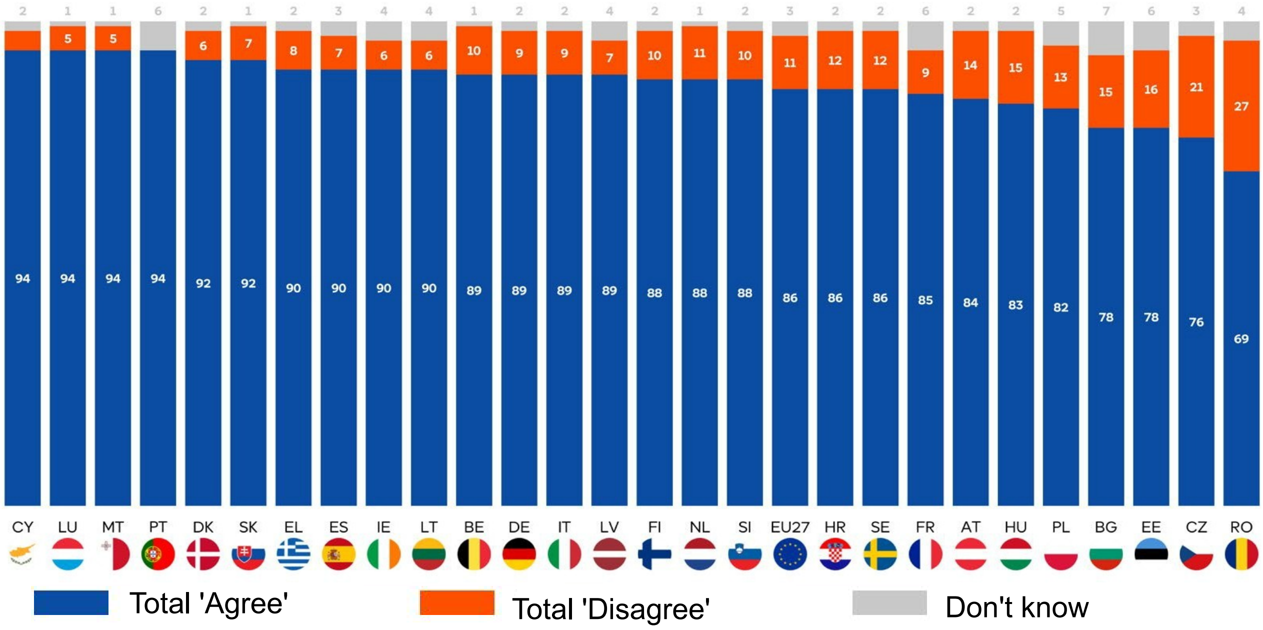
There is widespread agreement across the Union that EU Member States should be more united in order to face current global challenges. In all Member States, more than three-quarters of respondents agree with this statement, highlighting a strong and shared perception of the need for greater unity at EU level. A majority of countries show extremely strong support, with at least nine in ten respondents agreeing in 19 Member States. The highest levels of agreement are recorded in Denmark (97%), followed closely by Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal and Sweden (96% in each). At the other end of the scale, agreement remains high but comparatively lower in Czechia and Romania (both 76%), and in Bulgaria (80%).

QA7.1 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? EU Member States should be more united to face current global challenges (%)



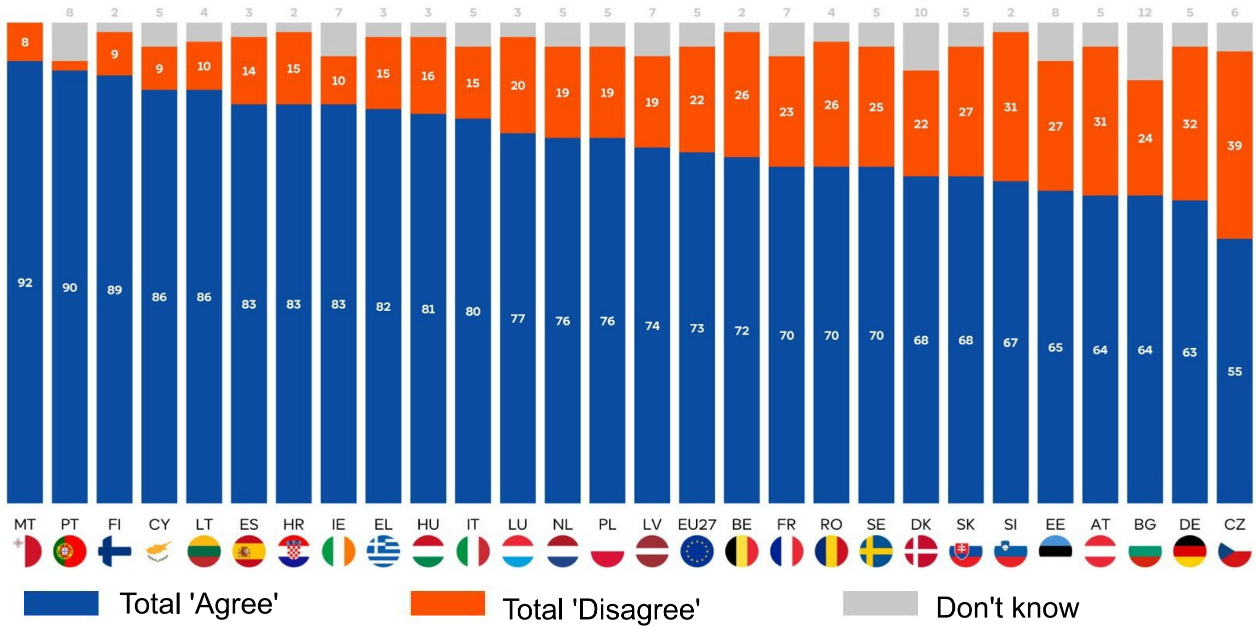
There is similarly widespread agreement that the European Union should have a stronger voice at the international level. In every Member State, more than two-thirds of respondents agree with this statement, underlining broad expectations for a more influential EU presence on the global stage. A large majority of Member States record particularly strong support, with more than eight in ten respondents agreeing in 23 countries. The highest levels of agreement are observed in Cyprus, Luxembourg, Malta and Portugal (94% in each). In contrast, agreement is comparatively lower, though still supported by clear majorities, in Romania (69%), Czechia (76%), and in Estonia and Bulgaria (both 78%).

QA7.3 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? The European Union should have a stronger voice at the international level (%)



Finally, there is comparatively less agreement that the European Union needs more means to face current global challenges than for the two other statements, although it is still supported by majorities in all Member States, led by Malta (92%), Portugal (90%) and Finland (89%). At the other end of the scale, agreement is more limited in Czechia (55%), Germany (63%), and Austria and Bulgaria (both 64%).

QA7.2 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? The European Union needs more means to face current global challenges (%)



Support for a stronger European Union more capable of addressing global challenges is broadly shared across socio-demographic groups, although stronger differences emerge depending on attitudes toward the EU.

With respect to gender, there is no significant variation in agreement with any of the three statements, indicating that men and women hold very similar views.

Age differences are limited. Agreement that EU Member States should be more united and that the EU should have a stronger voice is broadly consistent across age groups. Slight variation appears for the statement that the European Union needs more means to face current global challenges, with younger respondents expressing somewhat stronger support: 77% of those aged 15–24, 76% of those aged 25–39, 74% of those aged 40–54, and 71% of those aged 55 and over agree with this statement. This pattern indicates a modestly higher demand for additional EU resources among younger Europeans.

Education level shows a noticeable effect. Respondents with a high level of education are more likely to agree with all three statements. In particular, 93% of highly educated respondents support greater unity among EU Member States, 90% agree that the EU should have a stronger voice at the international level, and 77% believe the EU needs more means, highlighting the association between higher educational attainment and stronger public support for a capable and assertive EU.

Attitudes toward the European Union are strongly correlated with agreement across all statements. Respondents with a positive image of the EU express the highest levels of support: 97% back greater unity among EU Member States, 94% agree that the EU should have a stronger voice internationally, and 84% believe the EU needs more means. While respondents with a negative image of the EU are less likely to agree, majorities still support greater unity (72%) and a stronger EU voice (68%). The statement regarding additional means is the most divisive, with only 49% of respondents with a negative image of the EU expressing agreement.

QA7.1 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? EU Member States should be more united to face current global challenges (% - EU)			
	Total 'Agree'	Total 'Disagree'	Don't know
EU27	89	9	2
Gender			
Man	89	9	2
Woman	90	8	2
Age			
15-24	90	8	2
25-39	90	9	1
40-54	89	10	2
55+	89	11	2
Education level			
Low level of education (ISCED 0-2)	87	12	3
Medium level of education (ISCED 3-4)	89	13	1
High level of education (ISCED 5-8)	93	14	1
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	90	15	2
Managers	93	16	1
Other white collars	90	17	1
Manual workers	88	18	2
House persons	87	19	1
Unemployed	87	20	2
Retired	89	21	3
Students	91	22	2
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	83	14	3
From time to time	87	11	2
Almost never / Never	91	7	2
Subjective urbanisation			
Rural area or village	88	10	2
Small or middle sized town	89	9	2
Large town	91	7	2
Online platforms usage in the last 7 days			
Total 'Have used online platforms in the past week	90	9	1
None	86	9	5
Image of the EU			
Positive	97	3	0
Neutral	88	9	3
Negative	72	25	3
European Union membership			
A good thing	97	2	1
A bad thing	65	32	3
Neither a good thing nor a bad thing	83	14	3

QA7.3 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? The European Union should have a stronger voice at the international level (% - EU)			
	Total 'Agree'	Total 'Disagree'	Don't know
EU27	86	11	3
Gender			
Man	86	11	3
Woman	87	10	3
Age			
15-24	88	9	3
25-39	86	11	3
40-54	87	11	2
55+	86	10	4
Education level			
Low level of education (ISCED 0-2)	84	10	6
Medium level of education (ISCED 3-4)	86	11	3
High level of education (ISCED 5-8)	90	8	2
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	86	11	3
Managers	90	8	2
Other white collars	88	10	2
Manual workers	85	12	3
House persons	82	15	3
Unemployed	83	13	4
Retired	86	9	5
Students	88	9	3
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	80	15	5
From time to time	84	13	3
Almost never / Never	88	9	3
Subjective urbanisation			
Rural area or village	85	11	4
Small or middle sized town	86	11	3
Large town	89	8	3
Online platforms usage in the last 7 days			
Total 'Have used online platforms in the past week	87	10	3
None	83	9	8
Image of the EU			
Positive	94	5	1
Neutral	84	11	5
Negative	68	27	5
European Union membership			
A good thing	95	3	2
A bad thing	58	37	5
Neither a good thing nor a bad thing	80	15	5

QA7.2 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? The European Union needs more means to face current global challenges (% - EU)			
	Total 'Agree'	Total 'Disagree'	Don't know
EU27	73	22	5
Gender			
Man	73	23	4
Woman	74	20	6
Age			
15-24	77	18	5
25-39	76	20	4
40-54	74	22	4
55+	71	23	6
Education level			
Low level of education (ISCED 0-2)	67	25	8
Medium level of education (ISCED 3-4)	75	21	4
High level of education (ISCED 5-8)	77	19	4
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	75	21	4
Managers	74	22	4
Other white collars	77	19	4
Manual workers	73	23	4
House persons	77	19	4
Unemployed	70	24	6
Retired	70	23	7
Students	78	17	5
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	68	25	7
From time to time	73	22	5
Almost never / Never	75	20	5
Subjective urbanisation			
Rural area or village	70	24	6
Small or middle sized town	74	22	4
Large town	77	18	5
Online platforms usage in the last 7 days			
Total 'Have used online platforms in the past week	74	22	4
None	64	25	11
Image of the EU			
Positive	84	13	3
Neutral	71	22	7
Negative	49	46	5
European Union membership			
A good thing	82	14	4
A bad thing	44	50	6
Neither a good thing nor a bad thing	65	28	7

Aspects of focus to strengthen the EU's position in the world

Looking ahead, respondents were asked to identify the aspects on which the European Union should prioritise its efforts in order to strengthen its position on the global stage. In a context marked by ongoing geopolitical tensions, economic uncertainty, technological transformation and long-term societal challenges, this question provides insight into citizens' expectations regarding the EU's future strategic orientation.

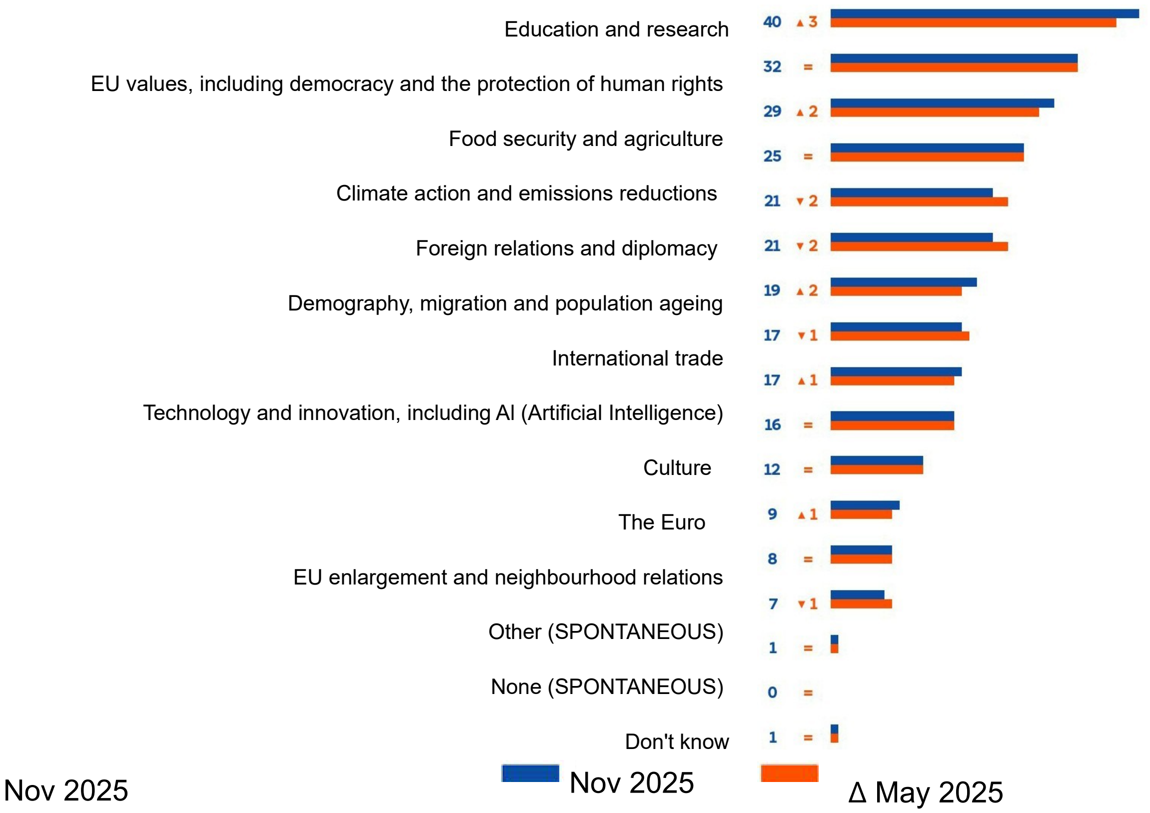
When asked to identify the areas on which the European Union should focus in order to strengthen its position in the world, Europeans most frequently point to defence and security. Four in ten respondents (40%) include this aspect among their top priorities, making it the leading issue at EU level. This represents a three-percentage point increase since May 2025, confirming that defence and security are firmly established as the foremost priority for strengthening the EU's position in the world.

The second most frequently mentioned priority is competitiveness, economy and industry, cited by nearly a third of respondents (32%). This proportion is unchanged since May 2025, indicating a stable desire for a stronger and more competitive European economic base. Close behind, almost three in ten respondents (29%) mention energy independence, resources and infrastructures as a key area of focus. This represents a slight increase since the previous survey (+2 pp), reflecting continued concern about energy security and strategic autonomy.

Education and research also emerges as a significant priority, selected by a quarter of respondents (25%) as in May 2025. This result confirms the importance that Europeans continue to attach to long-term investment in knowledge, skills and innovation as a foundation for the EU's global strength.

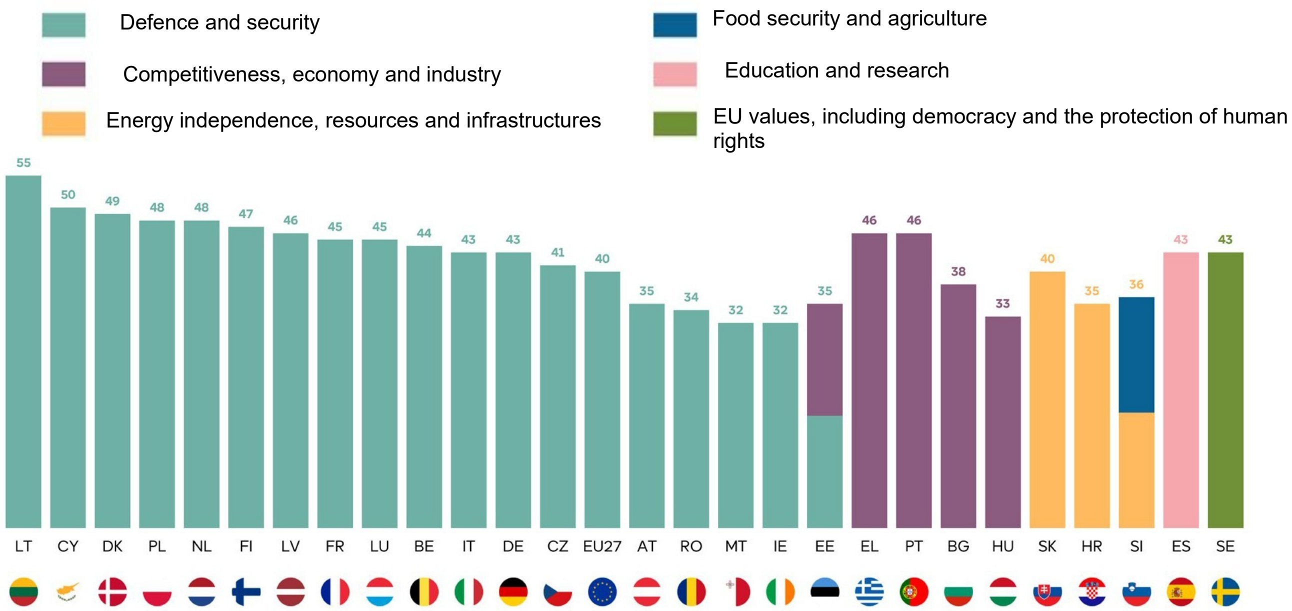
Around one in five respondents point to EU values, including democracy and the protection of human rights (21%), along with food security and agriculture (21%) as priority areas on which the European Union should focus in order to strengthen its position in the world. Scores for both aspects have fallen slightly since May 2025 (–2 percentage points each), but they continue to be mentioned by a substantial proportion of Europeans. A similar share of respondents, around one in five, mention climate action and emissions reduction as a priority (19%). This represents a slight increase compared with May 2025 (+2 percentage points), indicating a modest strengthening of support for EU action in this area.

QA8ab Thinking about the future, which of the following aspects should the EU focus on in order to strengthen its position in the world? Firstly? And then? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS) (EU27) (%)



At country level, defence and security emerges as the top priority in 18 Member States, highlighting widespread concern about geopolitical stability and the protection of European interests. In addition, this issue is mentioned by at least three in ten respondents in 23 Member States, underlining its broad resonance across the Union. The highest shares of respondents identifying defence and security as among the most important priorities are observed in Lithuania (55%), Cyprus (50%) and Denmark (49%).

QA8ab Thinking about the future, which of the following aspects should the EU focus on in order to strengthen its position in the world? Firstly? And then? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS) (%)



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Competitiveness, economy and industry ranks as the leading priority in five Member States — Estonia, Greece, Portugal, Bulgaria and Hungary— with the highest shares recorded in Greece and Portugal (46%) and Finland (40%). Energy independence, resources and infrastructure emerges as the top priority in three Member States — Slovakia, Croatia, and Slovenia — with the highest shares observed in Czechia and Slovakia (40%). Education and research is the leading priority in Spain, where 43% of respondents identify it among the most important areas for strengthening the EU's global position. It is also often mentioned by respondents in Cyprus (37%). EU values, including democracy and the protection of human rights, is most frequently mentioned in Sweden (43%). Finally, food security and agriculture is the most frequently cited area in Slovenia (36%) and is also often mentioned by respondents in Slovakia (37%).

QA8ab Thinking about the future, which of the following aspects should the EU focus on in order to strengthen its position in the world? Firstly? And then? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS) (%)

	EU27	BE	BG	CZ	DK	DE	EE	IE	EL	ES	FR	HR	IT	CY	LV	LT	LU	HU	MT	NL	AT	PL	PT	RO	SI	SK	FI	SE
Defence and security	40	44	23	41	49	43	35	32	32	27	45	28	43	50	46	55	45	31	32	48	35	48	33	34	28	31	47	35
Competitiveness, economy and industry	32	27	38	38	29	38	35	26	46	29	28	34	37	16	35	26	31	33	22	21	29	24	46	29	35	37	40	27
Energy independence, resources and infrastructures	29	26	33	40	31	29	30	27	32	22	25	35	31	25	26	23	27	32	18	32	29	30	31	26	36	40	30	31
Education and research	25	28	14	17	24	27	25	23	31	43	27	18	21	37	22	20	24	18	30	21	21	8	31	22	19	20	22	26
EU values, including democracy and the protection of human rights	21	23	22	19	30	22	18	20	18	22	21	16	12	17	15	14	22	22	20	27	30	18	23	20	17	22	26	43
Food security and agriculture	21	19	23	23	14	15	20	25	22	16	23	32	19	8	13	15	21	27	23	21	23	32	26	31	36	37	22	22
Climate action and emissions reductions	19	18	13	7	29	18	7	26	19	16	22	17	20	11	2	6	14	21	24	29	21	14	22	12	10	10	23	40
Foreign relations and diplomacy	17	15	24	20	18	17	22	13	19	12	18	17	18	19	24	29	28	18	13	13	17	18	6	19	19	21	22	18
Demography, migration and population ageing	17	13	30	14	8	13	17	17	30	18	15	28	16	28	23	19	14	18	19	11	22	22	19	22	11	14	9	8
International trade	16	19	15	17	21	21	15	21	12	13	12	14	17	10	16	11	15	16	15	18	18	14	12	13	18	16	12	13
Technology and innovation, including AI (Artificial Intelligence)	12	16	13	13	17	13	16	12	9	13	10	13	13	13	10	12	13	12	20	22	13	8	7	11	13	10	16	17
Culture	9	9	7	5	5	6	12	10	12	14	11	9	12	24	7	8	8	8	16	5	8	7	9	8	6	5	3	4
The Euro	8	16	8	4	2	8	9	12	4	7	8	7	14	7	3	5	5	11	9	7	10	2	9	8	12	10	2	3
EU enlargement and neighbourhood relations	7	7	9	8	8	7	10	5	7	5	5	10	8	5	11	21	11	11	8	3	7	10	6	12	9	8	4	4

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1st Most Frequently Mentioned Item
2nd Most Frequently Mentioned Item
3rd Most Frequently Mentioned Item

Differences in priorities for strengthening the EU's global position are observed across several socio-demographic groups.

First, there are some slight variations by gender. Men are somewhat more likely than women to prioritise competitiveness, economy and industry (35% vs. 30%), energy independence, resources and infrastructure (31% vs. 27%), and technology and innovation, including AI (15% vs. 10%), while women are somewhat more likely to mention food security and agriculture (23% vs. 19%) as a priority.

Defence and security is increasingly emphasised as respondents advance in age, and is mentioned by 34% of respondents aged 15–24 compared with 45% of those aged 55 and over. Food security and agriculture also shows a positive correlation with age, rising from 15% among the youngest respondents to 24% among the oldest. By contrast, younger respondents place greater emphasis on long-term and innovation-driven areas. Education and research is mentioned by 32% of those aged 15–24 but only 22% of those aged 55 and over. Similarly, technology and innovation, including AI, declines from 18% among the youngest respondents to 9% among the oldest, and culture from 14% to 8%. Finally, adults aged 25-54 are relatively more likely to mention competitiveness, economy and industry, as well as energy independence, resources and infrastructure, reflecting priorities linked to employment, economic stability, and strategic autonomy.

Education level is also associated with differences in priorities. Respondents with a high level of education are more likely to mention long-term and strategic areas such as energy independence, resources and infrastructure (31% vs. 25% among those with a low level of education), EU values, including democracy and the protection of human rights (24% vs. 18%), foreign relations and diplomacy (19% vs. 13%), and technology and innovation, including AI (17% vs. 8%). Conversely, respondents with a lower level of education are more likely to prioritise defence and security (45% vs. 37% among highly educated respondents) and food security and agriculture (25% vs. 17%).

Respondents' image of the European Union is also linked to their priorities. Those with a positive view of the EU are more likely to emphasise EU values, including democracy and the protection of human rights (23% vs. 17% among those with a negative image), and climate action and emissions reduction (22% vs. 13%). By contrast, respondents with a negative image of the EU place relatively greater emphasis on food security and agriculture (26% vs. 20%).

QA11 How worried or not are you about each of the following security or safety-related issues? Please use a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 means that you are not at all worried, and 10 that you are extremely worried. Total 'Highly worried' (7-10) (% - EU)									
	Defence and security	Competitiveness, economy and industry	Energy independence, resources and infrastructures	Education and research	EU values, including democracy and the protection of human rights	Food security and agriculture	Climate action and emissions reductions	Foreign relations and diplomacy	Demography, migration and population ageing
EU27	40	32	29	25	21	21	19	17	17
Gender									
Man	40	35	31	24	19	19	17	17	16
Woman	40	30	27	26	22	23	20	17	17
Age									
15-24	34	26	22	32	23	15	22	18	14
25-39	36	35	29	27	21	19	18	18	16
40-54	38	35	33	25	19	21	17	17	16
55+	45	31	28	22	21	24	20	16	18
Education level									
Low level of education (ISCED 0-2)	45	30	25	24	18	25	18	13	17
Medium level of education (ISCED 3-4)	39	33	29	24	20	22	18	18	18
High level of education (ISCED 5-8)	37	34	31	27	24	17	22	19	14
Socio-professional category									
Self-employed	39	36	31	25	18	22	16	18	15
Managers	38	38	34	25	21	16	20	18	15
Other white collars	39	34	32	23	20	20	19	21	16
Manual workers	40	34	30	25	21	23	17	16	17
House persons	41	28	23	27	18	25	17	13	17
Unemployed	35	26	25	28	24	18	19	17	18
Retired	46	31	27	22	21	26	20	15	18
Students	33	27	22	35	24	13	26	18	13
Difficulties paying bills									
Most of the time	32	31	28	28	19	22	18	17	17
From time to time	39	33	27	25	20	23	18	16	18
Almost never / Never	42	32	29	25	21	20	20	17	16
Subjective urbanisation									
Rural area or village	40	32	28	24	21	26	16	16	16
Small or middle sized town	43	33	28	26	20	20	19	17	16
Large town	36	32	30	26	22	18	22	19	18
Online platforms usage in the last 7 days									
Total 'Have used online platforms in the past week	39	33	29	26	21	20	20	17	16
None	48	29	24	18	20	31	15	13	19
Image of the EU									
Positive	41	33	29	25	23	20	22	18	16
Neutral	40	32	28	25	19	21	18	16	16
Negative	40	33	29	26	17	26	13	15	19
European Union membership									
A good thing	41	33	30	26	23	19	21	18	15
A bad thing	38	28	25	22	17	27	13	15	19
Neither a good thing nor a bad thing	40	33	28	24	17	25	17	16	18

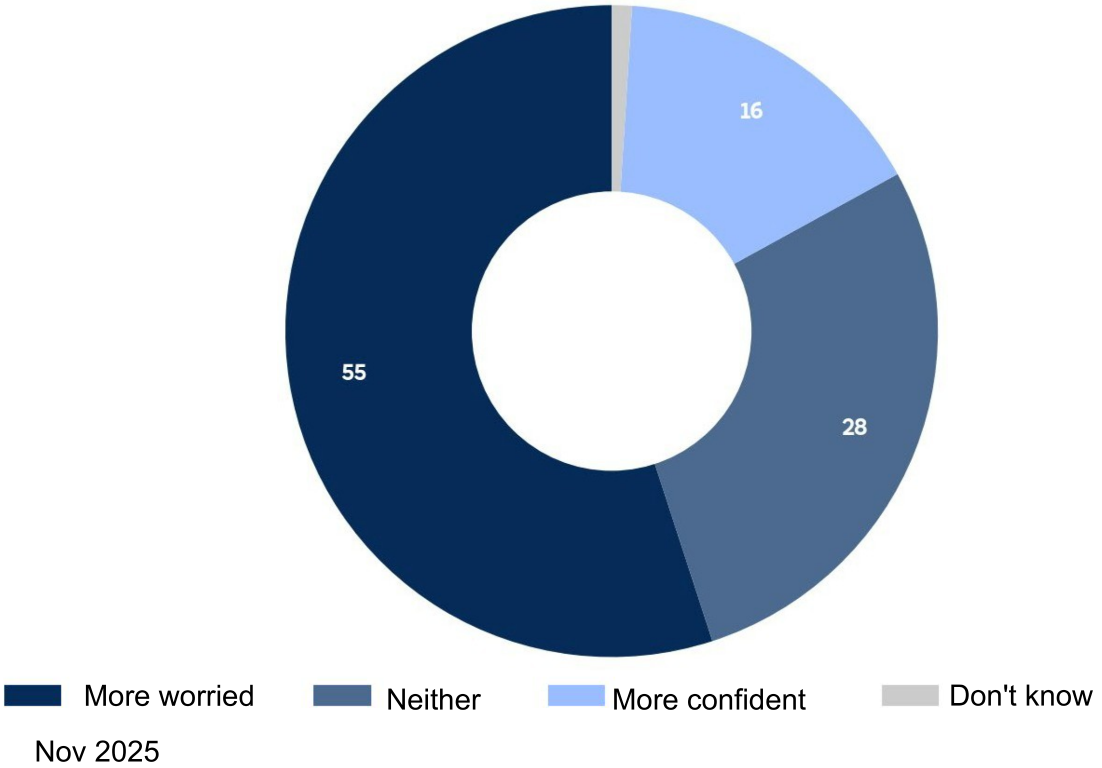
QA8ab Thinking about the future, which of the following aspects should the EU focus on in order to strengthen its position in the world? Firstly? And then? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS) (%)								
	International trade	Technology and innovation, including AI (Artificial Intelligence)	Culture	The Euro	EU enlargement and neighbourhood relations	Other (SPONTANEOUS)	None (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't know
EU27	16	12	9	8	7	1	0	1
Gender								
Man	16	15	9	8	7	1	1	1
Woman	15	10	9	7	7	1	0	1
Age								
15-24	17	18	14	7	9	0	0	1
25-39	17	15	9	8	7	0	0	1
40-54	16	13	8	8	7	1	1	1
55+	14	9	8	8	6	1	1	1
Education level								
Low level of education (ISCED 0-2)	16	8	10	9	6	1	0	2
Medium level of education (ISCED 3-4)	16	12	8	8	8	1	0	1
High level of education (ISCED 5-8)	15	17	8	6	6	1	0	1
Socio-professional category								
Self-employed	15	14	8	9	8	1	1	1
Managers	19	18	7	7	5	1	0	0
Other white collars	17	15	8	8	8	0	0	0
Manual workers	15	11	8	8	8	0	0	1
House persons	14	7	9	15	9	1	0	3
Unemployed	19	14	12	8	8	1	1	2
Retired	14	8	8	8	6	1	1	2
Students	16	19	14	6	9	0	0	1
Difficulties paying bills								
Most of the time	17	10	10	10	8	1	1	2
From time to time	15	12	10	10	8	1	0	1
Almost never / Never	16	13	8	7	7	1	0	1
Subjective urbanisation								
Rural area or village	15	11	8	8	7	1	1	1
Small or middle sized town	17	13	9	8	6	1	0	1
Large town	15	14	10	7	8	0	0	1
Online platforms usage in the last 7 days								
Total 'Have used online platforms in the past week	16	13	9	8	7	1	0	1
None	14	5	8	9	6	1	1	4
Image of the EU								
Positive	16	14	8	7	8	0	0	0
Neutral	15	11	10	9	7	1	0	2
Negative	14	10	9	9	4	1	2	1
European Union membership								
A good thing	17	14	8	7	8	1	0	1
A bad thing	14	10	12	10	5	2	3	1
Neither a good thing nor a bad thing	15	10	10	10	6	0	1	2

Facing global challenges and EU membership

In the context of global challenges, understanding whether EU membership is perceived as a source of concern or of confidence is crucial. Respondents were asked whether they would feel more worried or more confident if their country were not a member of the EU.

Across the European Union, a clear majority of respondents associate EU membership with greater confidence in the face of global challenges. At EU level, 55% of Europeans say they would feel more worried if their country were not a member of the EU. By contrast, 16% of respondents indicate they would feel more confident outside the EU, suggesting persisting scepticism about the value of EU membership among a minority. Meanwhile, 28% report that they would feel neither more worried nor more confident.

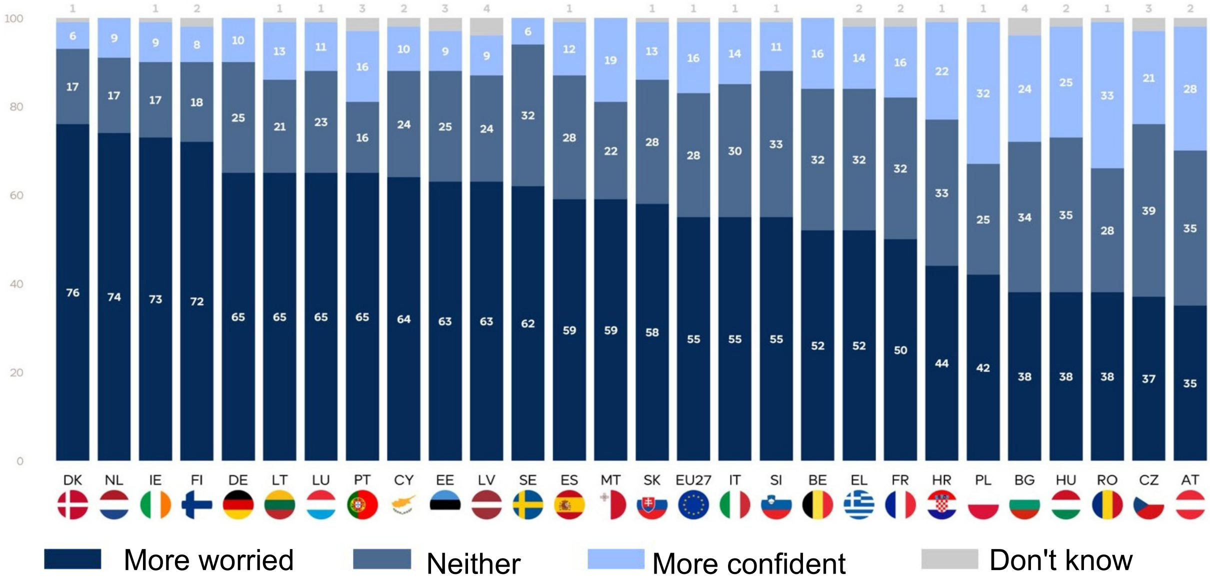
QA10 If (OUR COUNTRY) was not a member of the EU, would you feel more worried, more confident, or neither when it comes to facing current global challenges? (%)



Perceptions of EU membership as a source of reassurance vary significantly across Member States. In 20 countries, at least half of respondents say they would feel more worried if their country were not a member of the European Union, highlighting a widespread sense that EU membership provides protection against global challenges. The highest shares of respondents expressing this view are recorded in Denmark (76%), the Netherlands (74%), Ireland (73%), and Finland (72%), where more than seven in ten citizens associate EU membership with greater security. Conversely, the lowest shares are observed in Austria (35%), Czechia (37%), and Romania, Hungary, and Bulgaria (all 38%), where fewer than four in ten respondents say they would feel more worried outside the EU.

Importantly, in no Member State do more respondents say they would feel more confident outside the EU rather than more worried, confirming that, across the Union, EU membership is widely seen as a source of reassurance in an uncertain global environment.

QA10 If (OUR COUNTRY) was not a member of the EU, would you feel more worried, more confident, or neither when it comes to facing current global challenges? (%)



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The extent to which EU membership is seen as a source of reassurance when facing global challenges varies across socio-demographic groups, although some patterns are more pronounced than others.

There is virtually no difference between men and women: 56% of men and 55% of women say they would feel more worried if their country were not a member of the EU, indicating that gender does not significantly influence this perception.

In terms of age, younger respondents are slightly more likely to associate EU membership with reassurance. Among those aged 15–24, 58% say they would feel more worried outside the EU, compared with 54% of respondents aged 40 and over. While the gap is modest, it suggests that younger Europeans place somewhat greater value on EU membership when facing global challenges.

Educational attainment shows a stronger effect. The higher the level of education, the more likely respondents are to feel more worried outside the EU. Among those with a low level of education, 47% would feel more worried, compared with 53% of those with a medium level and 66% of highly educated respondents. This clear gradient highlights the link between education and perceptions of the EU's protective role.

Financial security also shapes perceptions. Respondents who almost never or never have difficulties paying bills are more likely to say they would feel more worried outside the EU (58%) than those who experience difficulties from time to time (49%) or most of the time (47%).

Finally, perceptions are strongly correlated with respondents' image of the European Union. Among those with a positive image of the EU, 72% would feel more worried outside the Union, compared with 43% of those with a neutral image and just 30% of those with a negative image.

QA10 If (OUR COUNTRY) was not a member of the EU, would you feel more worried, more confident, or neither when it comes to facing current global challenges? (% - EU)				
	More worried	More confident	Neither	Don't know
EU27	55	16	28	1
Gender				
Man	56	17	26	1
Woman	55	15	29	1
Age				
15-24	58	14	27	1
25-39	55	17	27	1
40-54	54	17	28	1
55+	54	15	29	2
Education level				
Low level of education (ISCED 0-2)	47	16	35	2
Medium level of education (ISCED 3-4)	53	19	27	1
High level of education (ISCED 5-8)	66	11	22	1
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	57	17	25	1
Managers	64	12	24	0
Other white collars	55	16	28	1
Manual workers	49	21	29	1
House persons	44	17	37	2
Unemployed	51	16	31	2
Retired	54	15	29	2
Students	63	11	25	1
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	47	20	30	3
From time to time	49	21	29	1
Almost never / Never	58	14	27	1
Subjective urbanisation				
Rural area or village	52	17	29	2
Small or middle sized town	54	16	29	1
Large town	60	14	25	1
Online platforms usage in the last 7 days				
Total 'Have used online platforms in the past week	56	16	27	1
None	46	17	34	3
Image of the EU				
Positive	72	12	16	0
Neutral	43	15	40	2
Negative	30	30	38	2
European Union membership				
A good thing	73	9	17	1
A bad thing	19	50	30	1
Neither a good thing nor a bad thing	29	17	52	2

4. CITIZENS' PRIORITIES FOR THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

4. CITIZENS’ PRIORITIES FOR THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

This chapter examines Europeans’ expectations towards the European Parliament by exploring four interrelated dimensions: the policy areas citizens want the Parliament to prioritise, their perceptions of the future evolution of their personal standard of living, the values they believe the Parliament should defend, and their level of satisfaction with democracy at national and EU level. Overall, the findings show that economic concerns are at the centre of citizens’ expectations, with cost-of-living pressures and employment-related issues shaping both policy priorities and outlooks on future living standards. Alongside these economic issues, defence and security remain a key area of concern for Europeans. In addition, Europeans express strong expectations that the European Parliament should act as a guardian of core values, notably peace and democracy, reflecting the current geopolitical and political context. Finally, while a majority of citizens report satisfaction with democratic functioning, levels of satisfaction differ markedly across Member States.

Citizens’ priorities for the European Parliament

Respondents were asked which policy areas they would most like to see addressed as a priority by the European Parliament. This question captures citizens’ expectations regarding the Parliament’s legislative and political agenda, reflecting the issues that Europeans consider most pressing in their daily lives as well as those shaping the Union’s medium and long-term direction.

At EU level, inflation, rising prices and the cost of living is the most frequently mentioned issue that respondents would like the European Parliament to address as a priority. More than four in ten Europeans (41%) include this topic among the most important, making it the leading concern overall. This share is unchanged since May 2025, indicating that pressures on purchasing power and household budgets remain persistent and widespread across the Union.

The economy and job creation is the second most frequently cited issue, mentioned by more than a third of respondents (35%) as a priority for action by the European Parliament. This represents a notable increase of five percentage points since May 2025, suggesting increasing expectations of EU action to support economic activity and employment. Taken together, the prominence of inflation, rising prices and the cost of living, alongside the economy and job creation, shows that economic issues clearly dominate citizens’ priorities at EU level.

EU defence and security is the next most frequently mentioned topic, cited by around a third of respondents (34%) among the priorities for the European Parliament. This share is unchanged since May 2025, suggesting a stable level of concern in this area. In the current and recent context of geopolitical tensions and security challenges in the EU’s neighbourhood and beyond, the continued prominence of defence and security confirms that this remains a key expectation for EU-level action.

Public health follows closely, with nearly a third of respondents (32%) mentioning it among the issues they would like the European Parliament to address as a priority. This represents a substantial increase of eight percentage points since May 2025, one of the most notable shifts in the current survey and highlighting the renewed salience of health-related concerns among Europeans.

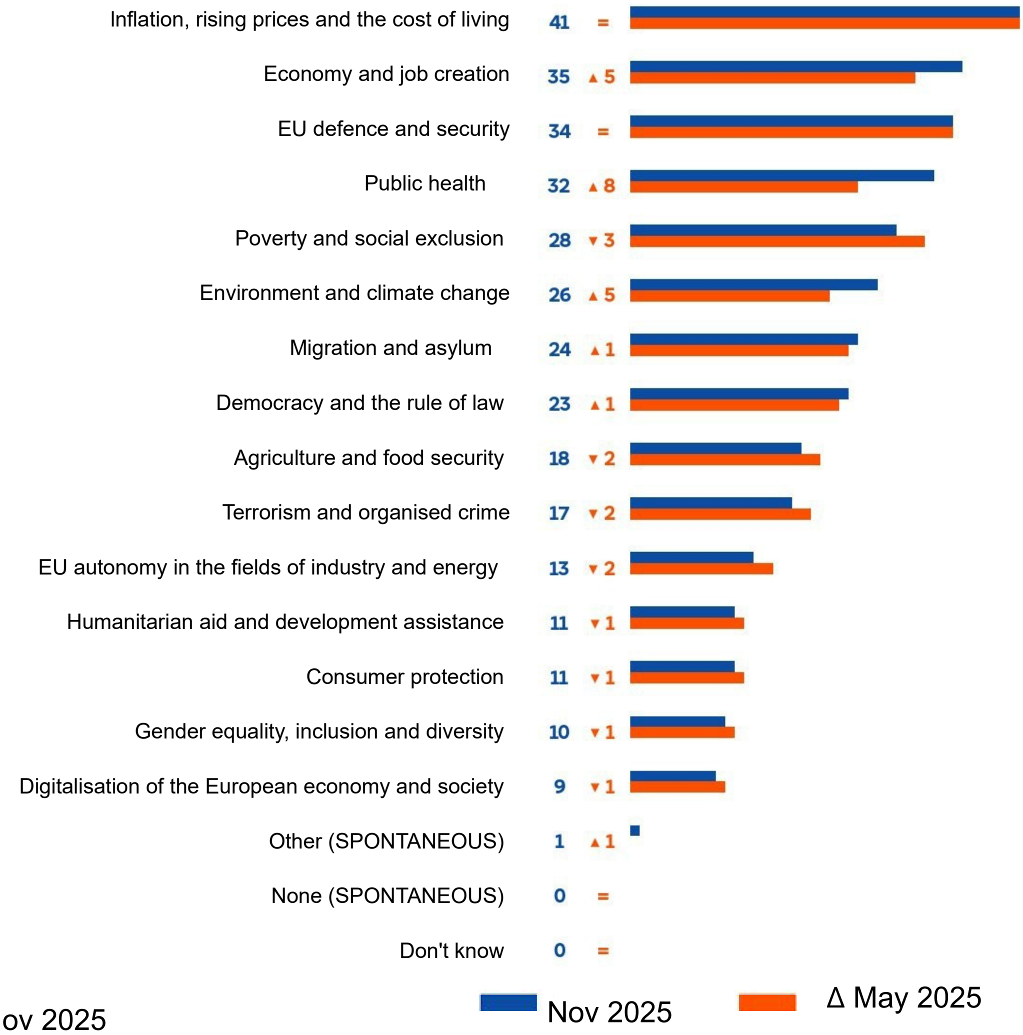
Poverty and social exclusion are mentioned by just over a quarter of respondents (28%) as a priority issue for the European Parliament. This share has decreased slightly since May 2025 (-3 pp). This topic reflects concerns about the adverse social consequences of economic pressures, particularly for vulnerable groups.

The environment and climate change are cited by just over a quarter of respondents (26%) as a priority for action by the European Parliament. This represents an increase of five percentage points since May 2025, indicating renewed support for EU action in this area. The rising prominence of environmental and climate issues suggests that, alongside immediate economic and social concerns, a growing share of Europeans continue to attach importance to long-term sustainability and the EU's role in addressing climate change.

Migration and asylum are mentioned by nearly a quarter of respondents (24%, +1 pp) as among the issues they would like the European Parliament to address as a priority. The stable and relatively high level of attention to this topic indicates that migration and asylum remain enduring concerns for Europeans.

Democracy and the rule of law are cited by just under a quarter of respondents (23%, +1 pp) as a priority issue for the European Parliament. In a context marked by multiple challenges to democratic systems, the continued importance of this topic reflects sustained expectations that the European Parliament should play a central role in safeguarding democratic principles.

QA4ab Which of the following topics would you like to see addressed in priority by the European Parliament? Firstly? And then? (MAX. 4 ANSWERS) (EU27) (%)



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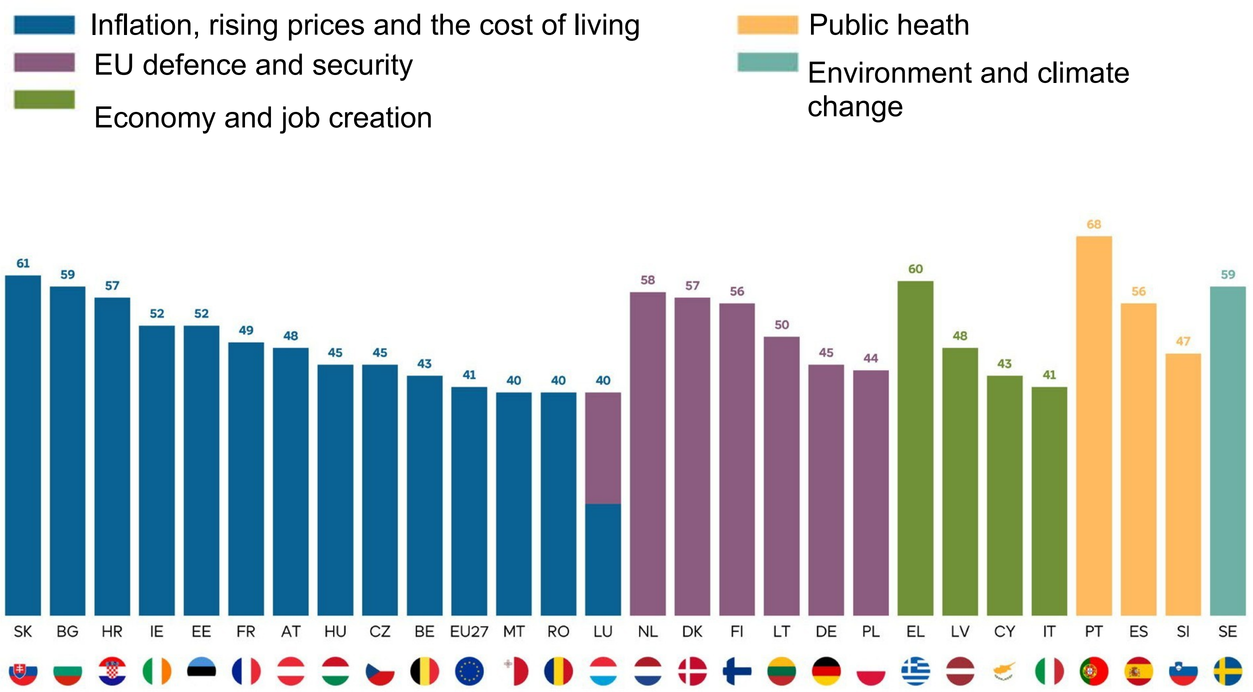
At the national level, inflation, rising prices and the cost of living is the most frequently mentioned priority in 13 Member States. Across the EU as a whole, at least 30% of respondents cite inflation as a priority in 23 Member States, reflecting widespread concern across the Union about pressures on household budgets. The highest shares are observed in Slovakia (61%), Bulgaria (59%), Portugal (58%) and Croatia (57%). A further economic issue, the economy and job creation, emerges as the leading priority in four Member States. The highest shares are reported in Greece (60%), Spain (50%), and Latvia (48%).

EU defence and security is the most frequently mentioned priority in seven Member States, led by the Netherlands (58%), Denmark (57%) and Finland (56%), showing the salience of common defence and security issues in these countries. Public health is the leading priority in three countries, Portugal (68%), Spain (56%) and Slovenia (47%). It is also particularly salient in Greece (54%).

QA4ab Which of the following topics would you like to see addressed in priority by the European Parliament? Firstly? And then? (MAX. 4 ANSWERS) (%)



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While the topics of inflation, the economy, defence, and public health tend to be among the most important issues in many Member States, showing widespread concern, the perceived importance of the following topics tend to be more variable across Member States.

First, poverty and social exclusion does not come first in any country but is still an important issue in Greece (46%), and Portugal, Lithuania and Bulgaria (41%). The environment and climate change is the first topic in Sweden (59%) and is also very frequently mentioned in Denmark (49%), the Netherlands (46%), and Finland (42%). Migration and asylum is not the first priority in any Member State, but is nevertheless particularly important in Ireland (45%), the Netherlands (41%), Cyprus (39%) and Germany (38%). Similarly, democracy and the rule of law never comes first but scores highly in Sweden (49%), Germany (38%), and Finland (36%). Overall, these findings indicate the varying salience of particular topics from one country to another.

QA4ab Which of the following topics would you like to see addressed in priority by the European Parliament? Firstly? And then? (MAX. 4 ANSWERS) (%)

	EU27	BE	BG	CZ	DK	DE	EE	IE	EL	ES	FR	HR	IT	CY	LV	LT	LU	HU	MT	NL	AT	PL	PT	RO	SI	SK	FI	SE
Inflation, rising prices and the cost of living	41	43	59	45	27	37	52	52	53	42	49	57	40	34	41	35	40	45	40	29	48	37	58	40	34	61	19	14
Economy and job creation	35	30	47	28	26	31	47	32	60	50	23	43	41	43	48	45	31	44	24	21	39	25	45	38	38	41	44	29
EU defence and security	34	37	19	43	57	45	48	19	18	15	28	23	31	38	41	50	40	26	19	58	30	44	22	27	23	34	56	43
Public health	32	27	29	21	24	12	30	49	54	56	36	26	37	39	45	43	30	35	38	17	22	29	68	29	47	33	13	17
Poverty and social exclusion	28	31	41	17	19	25	22	24	46	30	38	33	21	35	28	41	33	25	25	24	29	17	41	30	26	28	30	27
Environment and climate change	26	25	13	14	49	31	11	22	15	20	30	19	25	13	11	10	23	22	34	46	26	14	16	14	18	18	42	59
Migration and asylum	24	32	9	32	25	38	13	45	18	21	20	16	17	39	12	21	22	18	33	41	29	18	11	9	21	15	14	25
Democracy and the rule of law	23	21	18	18	32	38	12	12	28	16	14	14	18	27	18	12	19	23	21	30	28	19	11	25	14	21	36	49
Agriculture and food security	18	14	21	20	15	14	21	12	20	15	17	28	16	4	14	13	17	28	16	17	19	24	17	24	39	40	29	23
Terrorism and organised crime	17	23	9	17	26	18	8	13	8	10	23	15	22	11	7	7	19	13	15	18	14	16	11	12	13	9	18	31
EU autonomy in the fields of industry and energy	13	16	12	33	19	10	22	8	12	6	12	12	17	2	10	10	16	14	8	19	17	10	16	18	11	10	11	11
Humanitarian aid and development assistance	11	10	11	6	11	8	8	8	15	14	12	9	13	18	7	5	11	7	10	10	7	9	12	13	9	7	8	12
Consumer protection	11	11	20	7	12	7	9	9	18	7	12	14	19	13	9	6	15	9	16	6	20	8	6	13	7	12	5	6
Gender equality, inclusion and diversity	10	6	7	7	14	7	5	9	5	9	12	12	11	4	6	4	11	11	10	6	18	11	12	9	5	5	14	25
Digitalisation of the European economy and society	9	7	8	9	8	12	9	6	6	3	4	9	14	4	6	10	9	12	8	13	10	10	6	11	8	9	6	5

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1st Most Frequently Mentioned Item
2nd Most Frequently Mentioned Item
3rd Most Frequently Mentioned Item

Differences in citizens' priorities for the European Parliament are observed across several socio-demographic groups, showing that lived experiences, personal circumstances, and attitudes shape expectations of EU-level action.

First, only limited differences are observed by gender, although some contrasts stand out. In particular, women are more likely than men to mention public health as a priority for the European Parliament (35% vs. 29%).

Age is more strongly associated with differences in priorities. EU defence and security becomes increasingly important with age, mentioned by 28% of respondents aged 15–24, rising to 32% of those aged 25–39, 33% of those aged 40–54 and 37% of respondents aged 55 and over. Public health also shows an age gradient, with older respondents more likely to consider it a priority, reflecting greater health-related concerns later in life. Similarly, agriculture and food- security issues tend to be mentioned more frequently by older age groups.

By contrast, younger respondents place greater emphasis on forward-looking and values- based issues. Environment and climate change is cited by nearly a third of respondents aged 15–24 (32%), compared with 26% of those aged 25–39 and 24% of those aged 40 and over. Younger Europeans are also more likely to prioritise humanitarian aid and gender equality, highlighting a stronger focus on global solidarity and social justice among the youngest age group.

The two most important issues overall at EU level — inflation, rising prices and the cost of living, along with the economy and job creation — are most salient among respondents aged 25–39 and 40–54. These age groups are more likely than either younger respondents (15–24) or older respondents (55+) to prioritise these topics, reflecting concerns linked to employment, family responsibilities and financial stability during core working years.

Education level is also closely linked to differences in priorities. Respondents with a low level of education are more likely to prioritise inflation, rising prices and the cost of living (47% vs. 34% among those with a high level of education). They are also more inclined to mention public health (37% vs. 27%) and poverty and social exclusion (31% vs. 26%) as key priorities for the European Parliament, pointing to a stronger focus on immediate economic and social protection issues.

Conversely, respondents with a high level of education are more likely to prioritise EU defence and security (38% vs. 32% among those with a low level of education), environment and climate change (35% vs. 20%), democracy and the rule of law (28% vs. 21%), and EU autonomy in the fields of industry and energy (17% vs. 8%).

Financial situation also plays a major role in shaping priorities. Respondents who report difficulties paying their bills most of the time are more likely to prioritise inflation, rising prices and the cost of living (48% vs. 39% of those who almost never or never face such difficulties). They are also substantially more likely to mention public health (38% vs. 29%) and poverty and social exclusion (42% vs. 25%), underlining the close link between financial vulnerability and expectations for social and economic action from the European Parliament.

In contrast, respondents who almost never or never face difficulties paying their bills are more likely to prioritise EU defence and security (37% vs. 21%), environment and climate change (28% vs. 17%), migration and asylum (25% vs. 20%), and democracy and the rule of law (25% vs. 19%).

Respondents' outlook on the future of themselves and their family is also linked to different priorities for the European Parliament. Those who are optimistic about their future are more likely to prioritise the economy and job creation (37% compared with 29% of pessimistic respondents), EU defence and security (36% vs. 27%), and the environment and climate change (27% vs. 21%). This pattern suggests that a more positive outlook is associated with greater emphasis on growth-oriented, strategic and long-term policy areas.

Conversely, respondents who are pessimistic about their future are more likely to prioritise inflation, rising prices and the cost of living (46% vs. 40% among optimistic respondents), as well as poverty and social exclusion (36% vs. 26%). These findings underline the close relationship between personal economic insecurity, expectations about the future, and a stronger demand for EU action on immediate economic and social protection issues.

A similar pattern emerges when we turn to respondents' expectations about the future of their country. Those who are optimistic about their country's future are more likely to prioritise EU defence and security (38% compared with 29% of pessimistic respondents) and environment and climate change (28% vs. 23%), pointing to a stronger focus on strategic resilience and long-term challenges.

By contrast, respondents who are pessimistic about the future of their country place greater emphasis on inflation, rising prices and the cost of living (44% vs. 39% of optimistic respondents), poverty and social exclusion (32% vs. 25%), and migration and asylum (28% vs. 21%). This distribution of priorities again highlights how a more negative outlook is associated with heightened concern about immediate economic pressures, social cohesion and perceived pressures on national systems.

Respondents' expectations regarding the future of the European Union are likewise associated with distinct patterns of priorities. Those who are optimistic about the EU's future are more likely to mention EU defence and security as a priority for the European Parliament (37% compared with 30% of pessimistic respondents), and the environment and climate change (29% vs. 22%). This suggests that confidence in the EU's future is linked to greater emphasis on collective security and long-term policy objectives.

Conversely, respondents who are pessimistic about the future of the EU are more likely to prioritise inflation, rising prices and the cost of living (44% vs. 39% of optimistic respondents), poverty and social exclusion (31% vs. 26%), and migration and asylum (29% vs. 21%). As with other dimensions of optimism, a more negative outlook is associated with stronger concern about immediate economic pressures, social vulnerabilities and migration-related challenges.

QA4ab Which of the following topics would you like to see addressed in priority by the European Parliament? Firstly? And then? (MAX. 4 ANSWERS) (% - EU)									
	Inflation, rising prices and the cost of living	Economy and job creation	EU defence and security	Public health	Environment and climate change	Poverty and social exclusion	Migration and asylum	Democracy and the rule of law	Agriculture and food security
EU27	41	35	34	32	26	28	24	23	18
Gender									
Man	40	37	36	29	25	26	25	24	18
Woman	43	33	32	35	26	30	22	23	18
Age									
15-24	38	33	28	29	32	31	21	23	12
25-39	43	39	32	28	26	26	23	23	18
40-54	44	37	33	30	24	29	25	22	18
55+	40	32	37	35	24	28	25	24	20
Education level									
Low level of education (ISCED 0-2)	47	32	32	37	20	31	25	21	19
Medium level of education (ISCED 3-4)	43	36	33	32	23	28	23	22	18
High level of education (ISCED 5-8)	34	35	38	27	35	26	24	28	16
Socio-professional category									
Self-employed	39	39	33	29	23	23	24	25	20
Managers	36	38	39	24	33	23	26	28	16
Other white collars	41	36	37	26	27	26	24	25	18
Manual workers	46	37	32	33	21	28	23	18	18
House persons	42	36	25	43	17	31	20	21	19
Unemployed	51	37	26	36	20	35	28	19	16
Retired	42	30	37	37	24	29	25	24	20
Students	35	33	27	26	37	33	21	25	12
Difficulties paying bills									
Most of the time	48	36	21	38	17	42	20	19	17
From time to time	45	33	30	36	21	32	22	19	18
Almost never / Never	39	35	37	29	28	25	25	25	18
Subjective urbanisation									
Rural area or village	41	34	35	32	23	27	23	23	23
Small or middle sized town	41	34	35	32	26	27	24	22	17
Large town	42	37	32	31	29	30	24	25	14
Online platforms usage in the last 7 days									
Total 'Have used online platforms in the past week	41	36	34	31	27	27	24	24	18
None	49	30	34	40	16	32	20	18	22
Image of the EU									
Positive	39	36	38	30	31	25	21	27	17
Neutral	42	34	32	35	23	29	23	20	18
Negative	47	34	27	31	15	33	34	19	20
European Union membership									
A good thing	39	36	38	30	31	27	23	26	17
A bad thing	44	30	21	31	12	31	32	18	21
Neither a good thing nor a bad thing	47	34	29	36	19	29	24	18	19

QA4ab Which of the following topics would you like to see addressed in priority by the European Parliament? Firstly? And then? (MAX. 4 ANSWERS) (% - EU)									
	Terrorism and organised crime	EU autonomy in the fields of industry and energy	Humanitarian aid and development assistance	Consumer protection	Gender equality, inclusion and diversity	Digitalisation of the European economy and society	Other (SPONTANEOUS)	None (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't know
EU27	17	13	11	11	10	9	1	0	0
Gender									
Man	18	16	9	11	8	11	1	1	0
Woman	17	10	12	10	11	7	0	0	1
Age									
15-24	14	11	17	8	17	12	0	0	0
25-39	15	15	12	11	13	11	0	0	0
40-54	17	14	8	10	9	9	1	0	0
55+	20	11	9	12	7	7	1	1	1
Education level									
Low level of education (ISCED 0-2)	19	8	9	11	8	7	0	0	1
Medium level of education (ISCED 3-4)	17	13	11	12	10	9	1	0	0
High level of education (ISCED 5-8)	16	17	12	9	11	10	1	0	0
Socio-professional category									
Self-employed	16	18	8	11	10	10	0	0	0
Managers	16	18	9	9	11	12	1	0	0
Other white collars	17	15	11	11	10	11	0	0	0
Manual workers	19	12	10	12	11	9	0	0	0
House persons	19	8	13	13	9	6	1	0	1
Unemployed	16	10	11	8	13	6	1	0	1
Retired	20	10	9	11	6	5	1	1	1
Students	13	12	18	8	17	14	1	0	0
Difficulties paying bills									
Most of the time	18	13	13	11	11	8	1	0	1
From time to time	19	12	11	13	10	9	0	0	1
Almost never / Never	17	13	10	10	10	9	1	0	0
Subjective urbanisation									
Rural area or village	16	11	9	10	8	8	1	0	1
Small or middle sized town	19	14	11	11	10	9	0	1	0
Large town	16	13	11	11	11	9	0	0	0
Online platforms usage in the last 7 days									
Total 'Have used online platforms in the past week	17	13	11	11	10	9	1	0	0
None	18	8	7	11	6	4	0	1	2
Image of the EU									
Positive	15	15	12	10	12	10	0	0	0
Neutral	18	11	10	12	9	8	1	0	1
Negative	23	10	7	11	6	5	1	2	1
European Union membership									
A good thing	15	15	12	9	11	10	1	0	0
A bad thing	22	10	8	14	8	6	1	2	1
Neither a good thing nor a bad thing	21	10	10	13	8	8	0	1	1

Expected changes in the standard of living

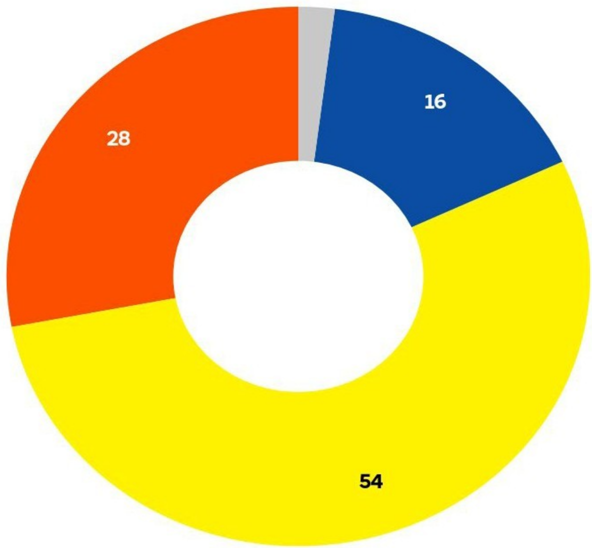
Beyond citizens' expectations regarding the policy priorities of the European Parliament, the survey also explores how Europeans perceive their own economic prospects in the medium term. Given persistent concerns about purchasing power, employment and social protection which emerged among the most salient priorities in the previous section, respondents were asked to reflect on how they expected their personal standard of living to evolve over the next five years. This question provides insight into how Europeans assess their future economic well-being, capturing underlying levels of confidence or uncertainty.

At EU level, a majority of respondents expect their personal standard of living to remain unchanged over the next five years. Just over half of Europeans (54%) say that their standard of living will not change. This share is broadly stable compared with May 2025 (–1 percentage point), confirming that this remains the dominant expectation across the European Union.

At the same time, more than a quarter of respondents (28%) believe that their standard of living will decrease in the coming five years. This share is broadly stable compared with May 2025 (+1 pp), indicating that concerns about a deterioration in personal economic conditions remain at a similar level. This finding is consistent with the continued prominence of inflation, rising prices and the cost of living among citizens' priorities, and reflects ongoing concerns about purchasing power and financial security.

By contrast, 16% of Europeans expect their standard of living to increase over the next five years. This proportion is also broadly stable compared with May 2025 (+1 pp). Although this group remains clearly smaller than those expecting stability or a decline, the result indicates that a segment of the population continue to express confidence in improved economic prospects.

SD27 When you think about the way your personal standard of living will evolve over the next five years, which of the following statements best describes your expectations? (EU27) (%)



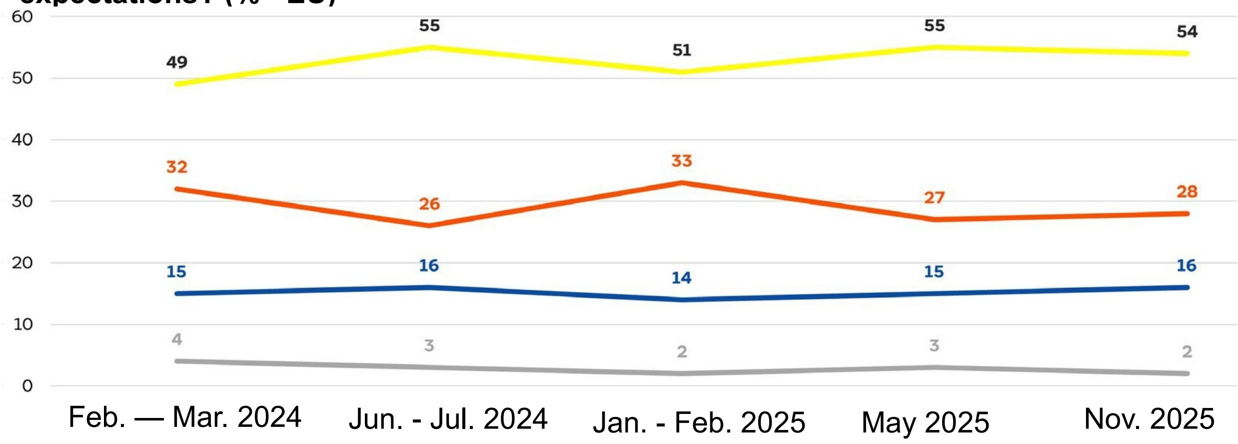
Your standard of living will decrease
Your standard of living will not change
Your standard of living will increase
Don't know / No answer

Your standard of living will decrease	▲1
Your standard of living will not change	▼1
Your standard of living will increase	▲1
Don't know / No answer	▼1

▲▼ (Nov 2025 — May 2025)
Nov 2025

Turning to changing expectations, respondents were gloomier about the outlook for their personal standards of living in January–February 2025, when 33% of respondents anticipated a decrease. Since May 2025, these expectations have remained fairly stable, with only slight movements in the shares of those expecting an increase, a decrease, or no change.

SD27 When you think about the way your personal standard of living will evolve over the next five years, which of the following statements best describes your expectations? (% - EU)

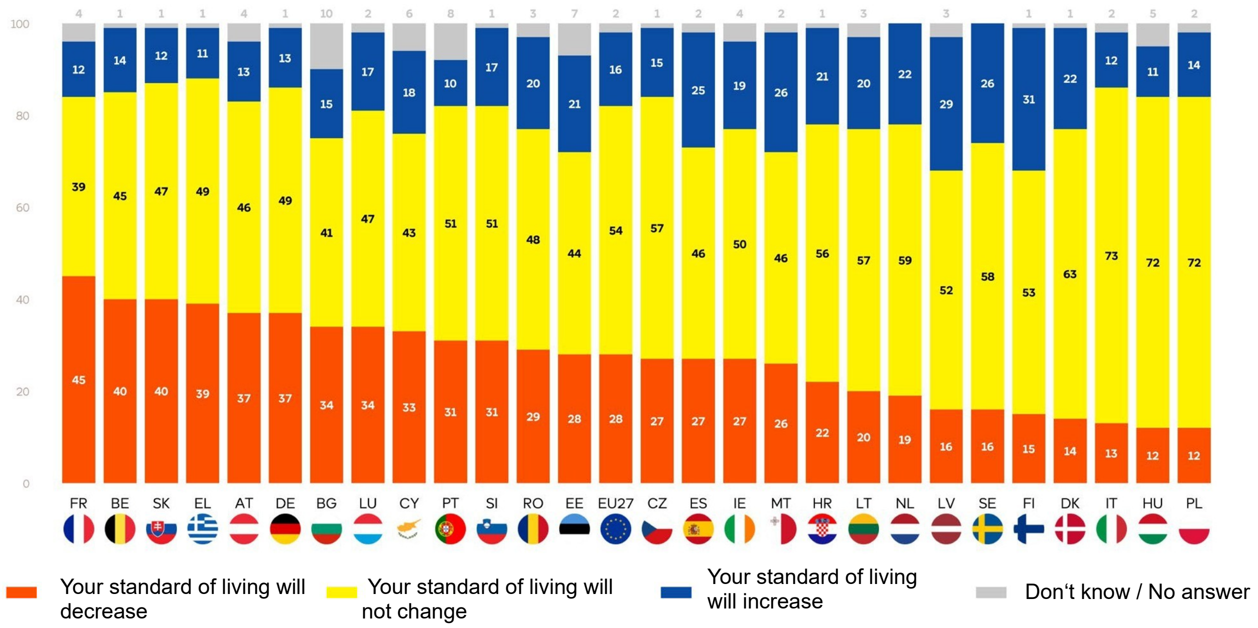


Your standard of living will decrease
Your standard of living will not change
Your standard of living will increase
Don't know / No answer

At the national level, in 26 Member States respondents most frequently report that they expect their standard of living to remain unchanged over the next five years. France is the only Member State where they most commonly expect it to fall, as suggested by 45% of respondents. Expectations of a decrease are also relatively strong in Belgium and Slovakia (40%), Greece (39%), and Austria and Germany (37%), indicating higher levels of concern about future economic well-being in these countries.

Conversely, in several Member States a notable share of respondents expect their standard of living to increase. At least a quarter of respondents expect an improvement in Finland (31%), Latvia (29%), Sweden and Malta (26%), and Spain (25%), reflecting comparative optimism about future economic prospects in these countries.

SD27 When you think about the way your personal standard of living will evolve over the next five years, which of the following statements best describes your expectations? (%)



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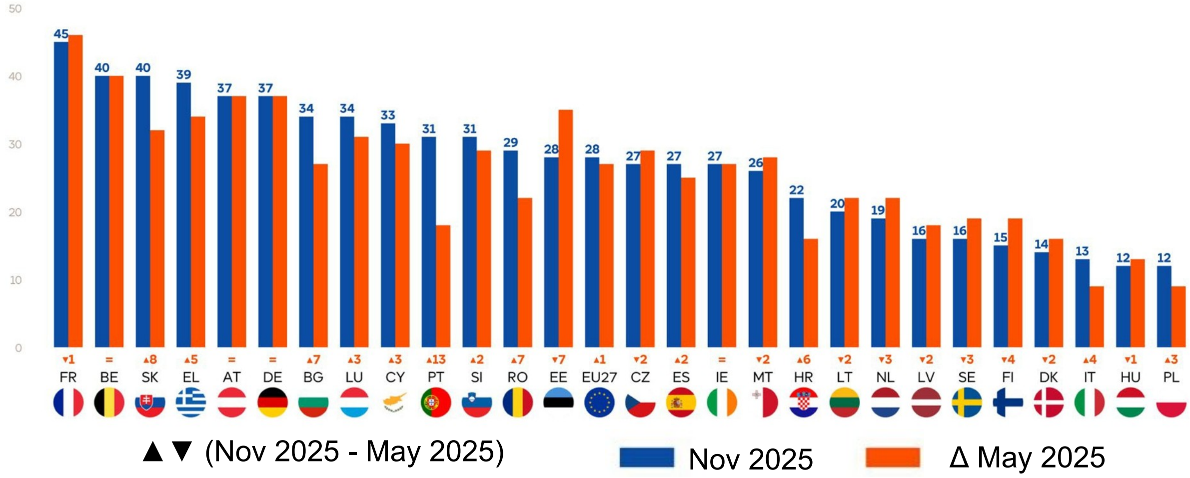
Since May 2025, the share of respondents expecting a decrease in their standard of living has increased in several Member States, led by Portugal (+13 percentage points, 31%), Slovakia (+8 pp, 40%), Bulgaria (+7 pp, 34%) and Romania (+7 pp, 29%). These increases indicate growing pessimism in these countries, suggesting that concerns about personal economic well-being have intensified since the previous survey wave. Conversely, in Estonia the share of respondents anticipating a decrease in living standards has declined by 7 percentage points, to 28%, reflecting a reduction in pessimism.

SD27 When you think about the way your personal standard of living will evolve over the next five years, which of the following statements best describes your expectations? Your standard of living will decrease (%)



Differences in expectations about the future evolution of the standard of living are observed across several socio-demographic groups, highlighting how personal circumstances, life stage, and financial vulnerability shape perceptions of economic well-being.

Women are more likely than men to anticipate a decrease in their standard of living, with 31% of women expecting a decline compared with 26% of men. Conversely, men are more likely than women to anticipate an increase in their standard of living, with 19% of men expressing this expectation compared with 13% of women.

Age is also closely linked to differences in expectations. Older respondents tend to have a more pessimistic outlook, with the share expecting a decrease in their standard of living rising progressively with age: 16% among those aged 15–24, 24% among 25–39-year-olds, 28% among 40–54-year-olds, and 34% among respondents aged 55 and over. A similar age- related pattern is observed for those expecting stability, with the share anticipating no change increasing from 45% among the youngest respondents to 59% among the oldest. in contrast, younger Europeans are much more likely to expect an increase in their standard of living, with 36% of 15–24-year-olds anticipating an improvement, compared with just 25% of 25–39-year- olds, 15% of 40–54-year-olds, and only 5% of respondents aged 55 and over.

Education level is another factor associated with differences in expectations. Respondents with a lower level of education are more likely to anticipate a decrease in their standard of living, with 38% holding this view, compared with 27% of those with a medium level of education and 22% of respondents with a high level of education. Conversely, respondents with a high level of education are more likely to anticipate an increase in their standard of living, with 21% expecting improvement, compared with 15% of those with medium education and 10% of those with low education. This suggests that higher education is associated with greater confidence in economic prospects, while lower education corresponds to heightened concerns about future personal standard of living.

Financial situation strongly shapes expectations as well. Respondents who report having difficulty paying their bills most of the time are much more likely to anticipate a decrease in their standard of living, with 53% holding this expectation, compared with just 24% among those who almost never or never face difficulties. In contrast, respondents who almost never or never experience financial difficulties are more likely to expect stability in their standard of living, with 57% indicating no change compared with 31% among those facing frequent financial strain.

Finally, respondents' expectations regarding the evolution of their personal standard of living are closely linked to their outlook on the future. Those who are optimistic about their own future and that of their family are more likely to anticipate stability or improvement in their standard of living. In contrast, respondents who are pessimistic about their personal or family future are much more likely to expect a decline, with 53% of those feeling pessimistic about their own and their family's future anticipating a decrease, compared with only 21% among those who are optimistic. Similarly, pessimism about the future of one's country is associated with more negative expectations: 43% of respondents who are pessimistic about their country anticipate a decrease in their standard of living, compared with 18% among those who are optimistic. These patterns reinforce the close connection between overall life outlook and economic expectations, showing that personal and national optimism is associated with greater confidence in stability or improvement, while pessimism corresponds with heightened concern about potential deterioration in living standards.

SD27 When you think about the way your personal standard of living will evolve over the next five years, which of the following statements best describes your expectations? (% - EU)				
	Your standard of living will decrease	Your standard of living will not change	Your standard of living will increase	Don't know / No answer
EU27	28	54	16	2
Gender				
Man	26	53	19	2
Woman	31	54	13	2
Age				
15-24	16	45	36	3
25-39	24	48	25	3
40-54	28	54	15	3
55+	34	59	5	2
Education level				
Low level of education (ISCED 0-2)	38	49	10	3
Medium level of education (ISCED 3-4)	27	56	15	2
High level of education (ISCED 5-8)	22	55	21	2
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	24	57	18	1
Managers	21	57	20	2
Other white collars	26	55	16	3
Manual workers	30	51	16	3
House persons	32	55	10	3
Unemployed	35	41	20	4
Retired	36	58	4	2
Students	16	43	38	3
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	53	31	14	2
From time to time	34	51	13	2
Almost never / Never	24	57	17	2
Subjective urbanisation				
Rural area or village	33	51	14	2
Small or middle sized town	28	55	14	3
Large town	24	54	19	3
Online platforms usage in the last 7 days				
Total 'Have used online platforms in the past week	27	54	17	2
None	42	52	3	3
Image of the EU				
Positive	21	58	19	2
Neutral	28	56	13	3
Negative	50	37	10	3
European Union membership				
A good thing	24	55	19	2
A bad thing	47	41	11	1
Neither a good thing nor a bad thing	32	55	10	3

Values the European Parliament should defend in priority

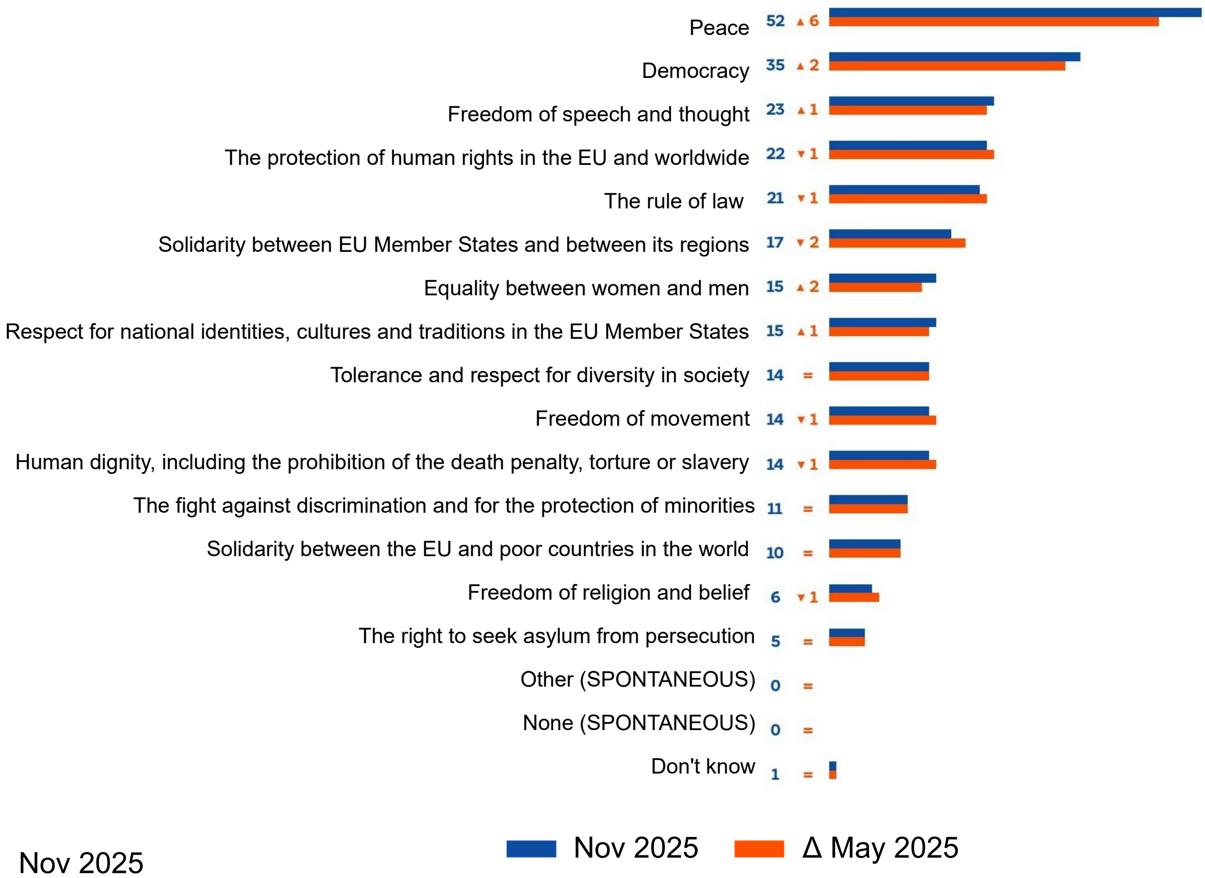
Citizens' expectations regarding the values the European Parliament should defend offer crucial insight into how Europeans perceive the Union's core mission and democratic foundations. Beyond concrete policy priorities, these views reveal the underlying principles that citizens believe should guide the Parliament's work and shape the EU's future direction.

At EU level, peace emerges by far as the value that citizens most want the European Parliament to defend as a priority. More than half of respondents (52%) mention peace, marking a large increase of six percentage points since May 2025. This confirms that, in the current geopolitical context shaped by Russia's ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine, the escalation of violence in the Middle East, and broader international tensions, peace has become an even more central and unifying expectation among Europeans. The prominence of this value underscores citizens' strong demand for stability, conflict prevention and a clear EU role in safeguarding peace within and beyond its borders.

Democracy follows as the second most frequently mentioned value, cited by 35% of respondents (+2 pp since May 2025). This points to a continued consolidation of democratic concerns across the Union. In a context marked by challenges to democratic institutions, disinformation, and declining trust in political systems, the sustained importance citizens attach to democracy reflects expectations that the European Parliament should remain a guardian of democratic principles and rights.

Beyond peace and democracy, several other fundamental values are mentioned by more than one in five Europeans as priorities for the European Parliament to defend: freedom of speech and thought, the protection of human rights in the EU and worldwide, and the rule of law.

QA5ab In your opinion, which of the following values should the European Parliament defend as a matter of priority? Firstly? And then? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS) (EU27) (%)



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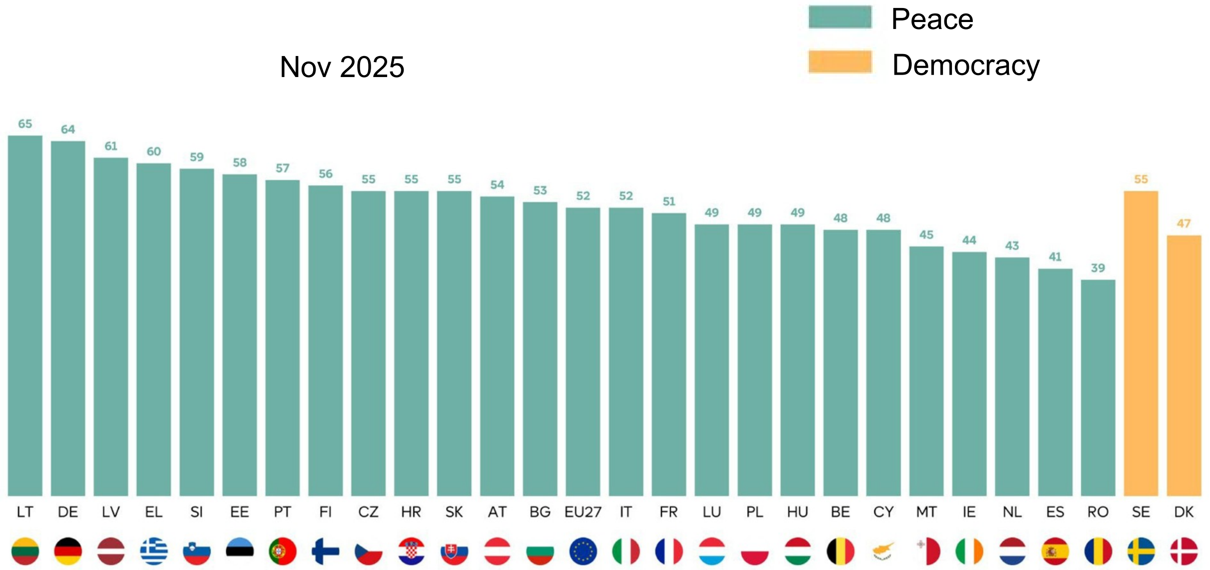
At national level, peace is the most frequently mentioned priority in 25 countries, confirming its exceptionally broad resonance across the European Union. Only in Sweden and Denmark does democracy emerge as the most frequently cited value. Even in these two cases, however, peace remains the second most mentioned value.

QA5ab In your opinion, which of the following values should the European Parliament defend as a matter of priority? Firstly? And then? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS) (%)



Democracy also stands out as an important priority across the European Union. It ranks among the three most frequently mentioned values in 21 Member States, confirming its broad relevance even where it is not the top value.

QA5ab In your opinion, which of the following values should the European Parliament defend as a matter of priority? Firstly? And then? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS) (%)

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	EU27	BE	BG	CZ	DK	DE	EE	IE	EL	ES	FR	HR	IT	CY	LV	LT	LU	HU	MT	NL	AT	PL	PT	RO	SI	SK	FI	SE
Peace	52	48	53	55	43	64	58	44	60	41	51	55	52	48	61	65	49	49	45	43	54	49	57	39	59	55	56	38
Democracy	35	36	20	30	47	46	14	28	37	35	32	18	33	40	26	22	39	33	28	39	36	25	30	25	20	22	41	55
Freedom of speech and thought	23	25	18	27	26	28	26	23	23	20	24	24	21	20	31	26	24	19	18	24	31	14	11	22	20	21	22	33
The protection of human rights in the EU and worldwide	22	21	18	20	29	20	20	24	25	22	21	19	21	29	25	24	24	25	22	29	24	18	30	22	25	26	25	36
The rule of law	21	22	21	18	24	27	17	22	38	22	19	20	14	35	26	14	18	17	29	27	30	17	13	18	28	26	31	19
Solidarity between EU Member States and between its regions	17	17	20	20	15	15	12	14	21	15	15	19	20	19	10	16	17	16	12	19	13	19	27	20	19	25	15	14
Equality between women and men	15	21	8	10	10	9	11	15	7	21	20	13	16	8	7	8	13	10	15	19	16	12	20	10	11	9	13	16
The respect for national identities, cultures and traditions in the EU Member States	15	14	25	22	18	10	27	14	15	10	13	19	17	11	17	18	20	17	15	16	14	19	21	23	16	20	11	9
Tolerance and respect for diversity in society	14	14	14	8	14	14	15	13	8	16	17	16	14	5	5	12	15	15	14	19	13	14	10	11	24	18	12	13
Freedom of movement	14	13	32	22	13	9	29	20	14	10	10	20	19	9	12	20	20	23	15	7	12	19	6	22	14	20	14	12
Human dignity, including the prohibition of the death penalty, torture or slavery	14	12	11	12	21	13	10	14	17	17	14	15	15	18	9	8	10	12	15	11	10	12	18	11	13	14	17	21
The fight against discrimination and for the protection of minorities	11	11	9	4	7	9	8	11	11	10	13	11	12	8	7	9	12	15	14	11	10	12	15	13	4	6	11	7
Solidarity between the EU and poor countries in the world	10	9	11	9	8	7	5	11	12	11	7	17	13	13	5	6	10	10	10	8	8	15	13	14	10	7	5	10
Freedom of religion and belief	6	7	7	4	7	2	10	11	4	4	8	8	9	10	4	4	5	7	10	4	6	8	3	16	6	5	6	3
The right to seek asylum from persecution	5	4	4	3	4	5	4	6	3	5	5	4	6	2	2	3	5	8	9	5	7	8	3	7	2	3	2	7

1st Most Frequently Mentioned Item
2nd Most Frequently Mentioned Item
3rd Most Frequently Mentioned Item

Differences in the values that citizens believe the European Parliament should defend are also visible across socio-demographic and attitudinal groups.

Gender differences in value priorities are relatively limited, but some contrasts stand out. Women are slightly more likely than men to mention peace as a value the European Parliament should defend (54% vs. 50%). And a more pronounced difference appears regarding equality between women and men: 18% of women identify gender equality as a priority, compared with 11% of men.

Peace is consistently important across all age groups, but it is most frequently cited by older respondents, with 56% of those aged 55 and over mentioning it as a priority. This compares with 50% among respondents aged 40–54, 47% among those aged 25–39, and 48% among the youngest group (15–24). These findings suggest that older Europeans attach particular importance to peace.

Peace is also most frequently mentioned by respondents with a low level of education (60%), compared with 51% among those with a medium level and 45% among respondents with a high level of education. By contrast, respondents with a high level of education are more likely than those with lower levels to prioritise values such as the protection of human rights, the rule of law, and tolerance and respect for diversity.

Respondents' perceptions of the European Union also shape some of their value priorities. Those with a positive image of the EU are more likely to mention the protection of human rights (25% vs. 19% among respondents with a negative image), solidarity between EU Member States and between its regions (19% vs. 14%), and tolerance and respect for diversity in society (16% vs. 10%). Conversely, respondents who hold a negative view of the EU are more likely to prioritise freedom of speech and thought (27% vs. 21% among those with a positive image) and the rule of law (26% vs. 20%).

QA5ab In your opinion, which of the following values should the European Parliament defend as a matter of priority? Firstly? And then? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS) (% - EU)									
	Peace	Democracy	Freedom of speech and thought	The protection of human rights in the EU and worldwide	The rule of law	Solidarity between EU Member States and between its regions	Equality between women and men	Respect for national identities, cultures and traditions in the EU Member States	Tolerance and respect for diversity in society
EU27	52	35	23	22	21	17	15	15	14
Gender									
Man	50	36	24	21	23	18	11	16	13
Woman	54	34	22	23	20	16	18	14	16
Age									
15-24	48	32	24	23	15	16	19	13	15
25-39	47	33	24	25	20	16	16	15	17
40-54	50	34	24	22	23	16	15	16	13
55+	56	37	22	20	23	19	13	14	13
Education level									
Low level of education (ISCED 0-2)	60	35	21	19	19	15	16	13	12
Medium level of education (ISCED 3-4)	51	33	24	21	21	18	15	16	14
High level of education (ISCED 5-8)	45	38	24	26	24	18	13	16	17
Socio-professional category									
Self-employed	49	34	23	23	25	18	12	20	14
Managers	49	40	25	25	23	17	12	15	16
Other white collars	48	35	22	23	23	19	16	15	15
Manual workers	51	31	24	21	21	16	16	15	14
House persons	50	29	20	24	18	17	16	13	15
Unemployed	47	29	30	24	18	17	19	14	16
Retired	58	38	21	20	22	18	12	14	12
Students	49	35	23	25	15	14	18	14	16
Difficulties paying bills									
Most of the time	49	33	26	22	21	17	16	15	12
From time to time	51	32	21	22	20	16	16	15	14
Almost never / Never	52	36	23	22	22	18	14	15	15
Subjective urbanisation									
Rural area or village	53	37	23	21	21	17	15	15	13
Small or middle sized town	53	33	23	22	20	18	16	14	14
Large town	48	35	23	24	23	17	12	15	16
Online platforms usage in the last 7 days									
Total 'Have used online platforms in the past week	50	35	24	23	21	17	15	15	15
None	64	35	17	17	20	17	11	14	9
Image of the EU									
Positive	50	37	21	25	20	19	14	15	16
Neutral	53	33	24	21	21	16	16	14	14
Negative	53	34	27	19	26	14	13	17	10
European Union membership									
A good thing	51	37	23	24	21	18	15	14	16
A bad thing	47	31	27	15	24	13	13	18	10
Neither a good thing nor a bad thing	54	33	22	20	21	17	15	15	13

QA5ab In your opinion, which of the following values should the European Parliament defend as a matter of priority? Firstly? And then? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS) (% - EU)									
	Freedom of movement	Human dignity, including the prohibition of the death penalty, torture or slavery	The fight against discrimination and for the protection of minorities	Solidarity between the EU and poor countries in the world	Freedom of religion and belief	The right to seek asylum from persecution	Other (SPONTANEOUS)	None (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't know
EU27	14	14	11	10	6	5	0	0	1
Gender									
Man	15	14	10	10	6	5	1	0	0
Woman	12	15	11	10	6	5	0	0	1
Age									
15-24	14	15	13	11	8	7	0	0	1
25-39	16	14	12	10	5	6	0	0	0
40-54	15	14	11	10	6	5	1	1	0
55+	12	14	10	9	6	5	1	1	1
Education level									
Low level of education (ISCED 0-2)	13	14	11	10	6	5	1	1	1
Medium level of education (ISCED 3-4)	15	14	11	11	7	6	0	0	0
High level of education (ISCED 5-8)	13	15	11	9	5	5	0	0	0
Socio-professional category									
Self-employed	15	13	8	10	6	5	1	0	0
Managers	15	12	9	9	4	6	0	0	0
Other white collars	14	14	12	10	6	6	0	0	0
Manual workers	16	14	11	10	6	5	0	0	0
House persons	13	16	12	13	9	6	0	0	1
Unemployed	13	15	13	8	6	4	1	1	1
Retired	11	14	10	10	7	4	1	1	1
Students	14	16	14	10	6	7	0	0	0
Difficulties paying bills									
Most of the time	12	15	13	10	6	4	1	1	1
From time to time	15	16	12	11	8	6	0	0	1
Almost never / Never	14	14	10	9	6	5	0	0	0
Subjective urbanisation									
Rural area or village	12	14	9	9	6	5	1	0	1
Small or middle sized town	15	14	11	10	7	5	0	1	0
Large town	14	15	12	10	6	6	0	0	0
Online platforms usage in the last 7 days									
Total 'Have used online platforms in the past week	14	14	11	10	6	5	0	0	0
None	12	13	9	9	8	4	1	1	2
Image of the EU									
Positive	15	15	11	10	6	6	0	0	0
Neutral	14	13	11	10	7	5	1	0	1
Negative	12	13	8	8	6	4	1	2	1
European Union membership									
A good thing	14	14	11	10	5	5	0	0	0
A bad thing	13	13	10	10	9	6	1	2	0
Neither a good thing nor a bad thing	15	14	11	9	7	5	1	1	1

Satisfaction with democracy

Citizens' prioritisation of democracy as a core value for the European Parliament naturally raises questions about how Europeans perceive the functioning of democratic systems in practice. In this context, the following section explores Europeans' satisfaction with democracy at the national and European levels.

At the EU level, over half of Europeans express satisfaction with the way democracy works. Specifically, 54% of respondents report being satisfied with the functioning of democracy in the European Union, including 4% who are very satisfied. This level of satisfaction is slightly lower than that observed for national democracy, where 58% of respondents express satisfaction, including 7% who are very satisfied.

SD18a On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the way democracy works in (OUR COUNTRY)? (EU27) (%)

SD18b: And how about the way democracy works in the EU? (EU27) (%)

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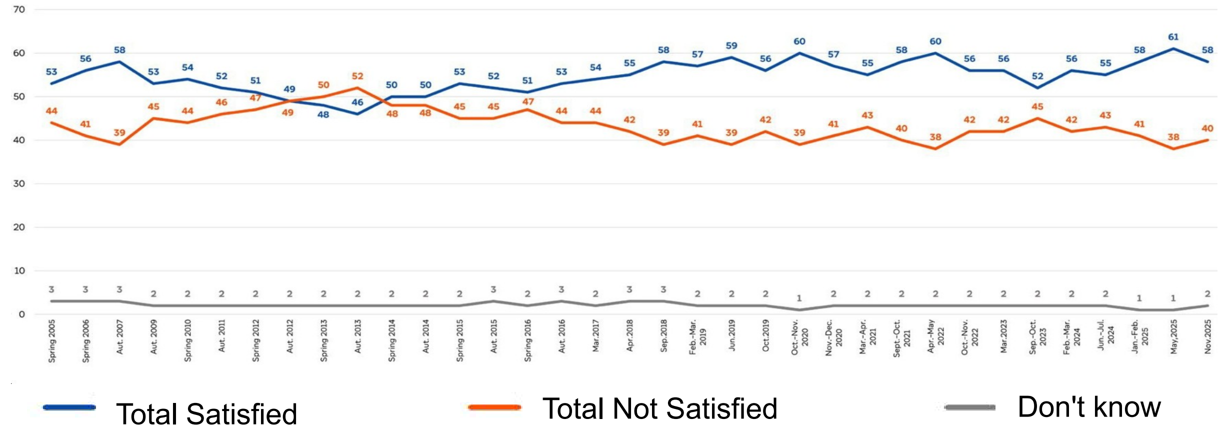
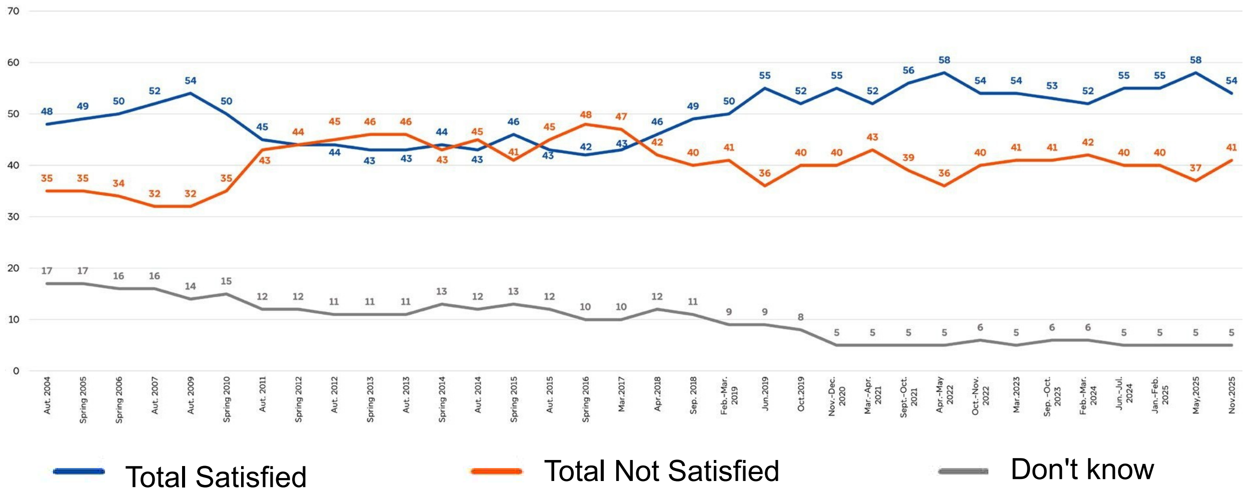
Compared with the previous survey in May 2025, satisfaction with democracy has slightly declined. Satisfaction with national democracy has decreased by 3 percentage points, while satisfaction with the way democracy works in the EU has decreased by 4 percentage points. Despite this short-term decline, the overall trend since the mid-2010s has been broadly positive for both national and EU-level democracy. Since 2014, at least half of respondents in the EU have consistently expressed satisfaction with the way democracy works in their country. This long-term stability highlights a sustained baseline of satisfaction with national democratic institutions, even as short-term fluctuations, such as the slight decrease since May 2025, may reflect temporary political, economic, or social pressures.

SD18a On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the way democracy works in (OUR COUNTRY)?



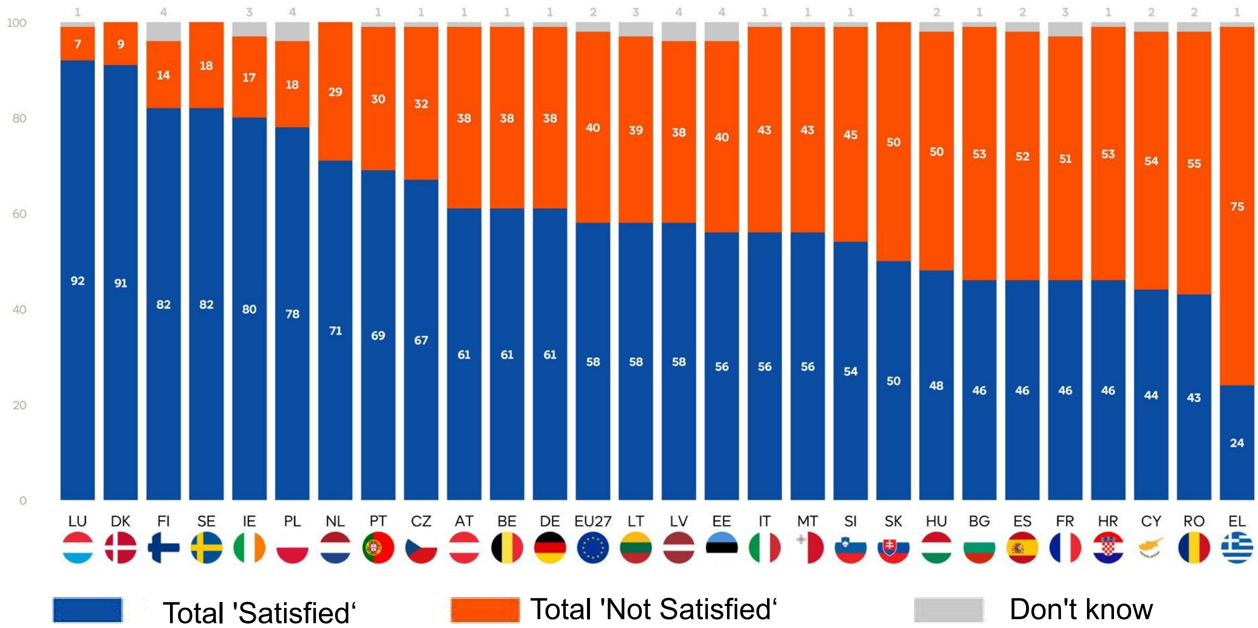
Regarding the European Union level, since 2019, at least half of respondents have consistently reported being satisfied with EU-level democracy. This indicates that, while short-term fluctuations occur, a relatively stable majority of Europeans maintain confidence in the functioning of democratic processes within the EU.

SD18b On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the way democracy works in the EU ?



At national level, satisfaction with the way democracy works in their country varies substantially across Member States. At least half of the respondents report being satisfied in 19 Member States, indicating that a majority of citizens in most countries express confidence in the functioning of their national democratic systems. The highest levels of satisfaction are observed in Luxembourg (92%) and Denmark (91%). By contrast, satisfaction is considerably lower in a small number of Member States. The lowest level is recorded in Greece, where only 24% of respondents say they are satisfied with the way democracy works in their country.

SD18a On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the way democracy works in (OUR COUNTRY)? (%)



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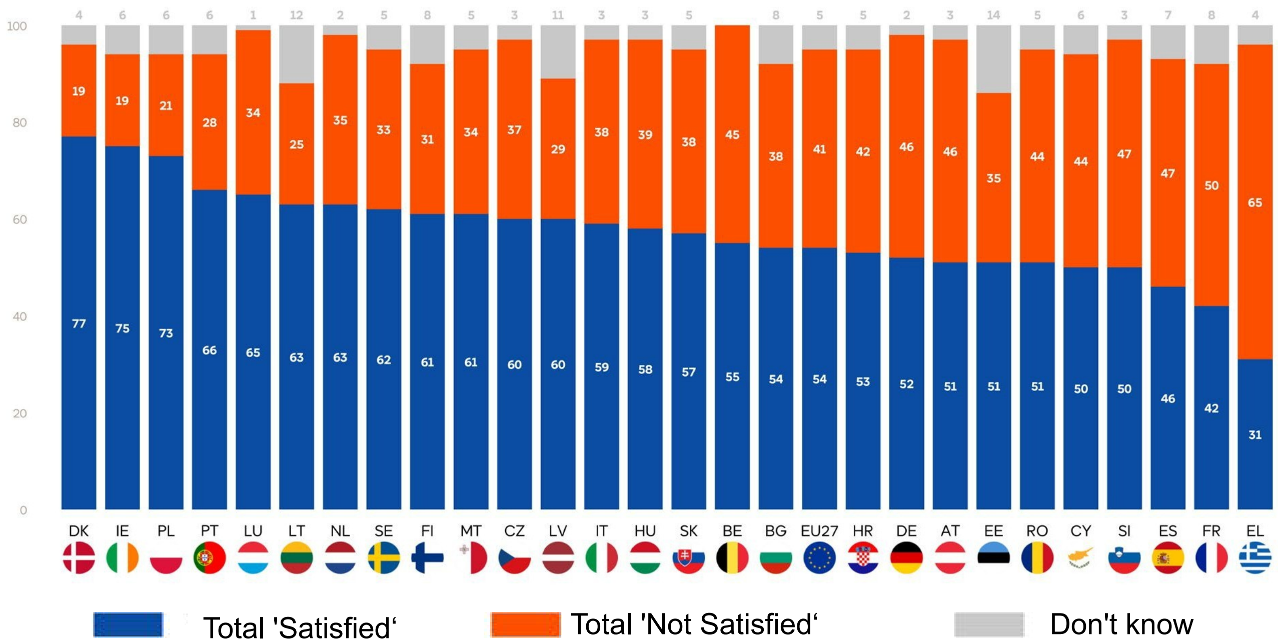
Perceptions of how democracy works at the European Union level also vary across Member States, although satisfaction is relatively widespread. At least half of respondents report being satisfied with the functioning of democracy in the EU in 24 Member States, indicating majority approval in most countries. The highest levels of satisfaction are recorded in Denmark (77%), Ireland (75%), and Poland (73%). Conversely, satisfaction with EU democracy is lower in some Member States. The lowest levels are observed in Greece (31%), followed by France (42%) and Spain (46%).

The findings indicate a correlation between citizens' satisfaction with democracy at the national and EU levels. In countries where satisfaction with national democracy is high, citizens also tend to express higher satisfaction with the functioning of democracy in the European Union. Conversely, in countries where satisfaction with national democracy is low, satisfaction with EU-level democracy is generally lower as well.

SD18b And how about the way democracy works in the EU? (%)



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Differences in satisfaction with democracy are observed across several socio-demographic and attitudinal groups, reflecting how personal circumstances, life stage, and perceptions of the European Union relate to citizens' assessments of democratic functioning.

First, no significant differences are observed by gender, with men and women expressing similar levels of satisfaction with the way democracy works, both at national and EU level.

Age, however, is associated with satisfaction. Younger respondents are more likely to express satisfaction with democracy at both levels, with the gap being more pronounced for democracy at EU level. Among respondents aged 15–24, 65% say they are satisfied with the way democracy works in the EU, compared with 57% among those aged 25–39, 55% among those aged 40–54, and 50% among respondents aged 55 and over. A similar age gradient is observed for satisfaction with national democracy.

Education level is also linked to satisfaction with democracy. The higher the level of education, the more likely respondents are to express satisfaction, both nationally and at EU level. Indeed, 47% of respondents with a low level of education report being satisfied with the way democracy works in their country, compared with 58% among those with a medium level of education and 66% among respondents with a high level of education. This pattern indicates that higher educational attainment is associated with greater confidence in democratic institutions and processes.

Financial situation plays a similarly important role. Respondents who experience greater difficulties paying their bills are markedly less satisfied with democracy at both levels. At national level, only 34% of those who have difficulties paying their bills most of the time say they are satisfied with the way democracy works, compared with 49% among those who experience difficulties from time to time and 64% among those who almost never or never face such difficulties. This gradient highlights the close relationship between economic security and perceptions of democratic performance.

Then, perceptions of the European Union are strongly associated with satisfaction with democracy, particularly at EU level. Respondents with a positive image of the EU are much more likely to express satisfaction with democracy at both national and European levels. The contrast is especially striking for EU-level democracy: 72% of respondents with a positive image of the EU say they are satisfied with the way democracy works in the EU, compared with only 18% among those with a negative image. This sharp gap underlines the strong link between perception of the EU and confidence in its democratic functioning.

Overall, these findings indicate a strong alignment between satisfaction with democracy at national and European levels. Across countries, socio-demographic groups, and attitudinal profiles, respondents who express higher satisfaction with democracy in their country also tend to report higher satisfaction with the way democracy works in the European Union.

SD18a On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the way democracy works in (OUR COUNTRY)? (% - EU)			
	Total 'Satisfied'	Total 'Not satisfied'	Don't know
EU27	58	40	2
Gender			
Man	58	40	2
Woman	57	41	2
Age			
15-24	64	32	4
25-39	59	39	2
40-54	59	40	1
55+	55	44	1
Education level			
Low level of education (ISCED 0-2)	47	50	3
Medium level of education (ISCED 3-4)	58	40	2
High level of education (ISCED 5-8)	66	33	1
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	56	43	1
Managers	67	32	1
Other white collars	64	35	1
Manual workers	52	46	2
House persons	54	43	3
Unemployed	45	52	3
Retired	53	45	2
Students	68	28	4
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	34	63	3
From time to time	49	50	1
Almost never / Never	64	34	2
Subjective urbanisation			
Rural area or village	54	44	2
Small or middle sized town	56	42	2
Large town	64	35	1
Online platforms usage in the last 7 days			
Total 'Have used online platforms in the past week	59	39	2
None	46	50	4
Image of the EU			
Positive	71	28	1
Neutral	53	44	3
Negative	27	72	1
European Union membership			
A good thing	69	30	1
A bad thing	30	69	1
Neither a good thing nor a bad thing	44	53	3

SD18b And how about the way democracy works in the EU? (% - EU)			
	Total 'Satisfied'	Total 'Not satisfied'	Don't know
EU27	54	41	5
Gender			
Man	54	42	4
Woman	54	40	6
Age			
15-24	65	28	7
25-39	57	39	4
40-54	55	42	3
55+	50	44	6
Education level			
Low level of education (ISCED 0-2)	44	48	8
Medium level of education (ISCED 3-4)	55	41	4
High level of education (ISCED 5-8)	61	36	3
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	54	43	3
Managers	63	35	2
Other white collars	62	35	3
Manual workers	50	46	4
House persons	51	41	8
Unemployed	43	51	6
Retired	48	45	7
Students	67	26	7
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	36	58	6
From time to time	48	47	5
Almost never / Never	59	37	4
Subjective urbanisation			
Rural area or village	50	45	5
Small or middle sized town	54	41	5
Large town	60	36	4
Online platforms usage in the last 7 days			
Total 'Have used online platforms in the past week	56	40	4
None	39	49	12
Image of the EU			
Positive	72	25	3
Neutral	46	46	8
Negative	18	78	4
European Union membership			
A good thing	68	28	4
A bad thing	19	78	3
Neither a good thing nor a bad thing	37	55	8

5. CITIZENS’ ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE EU AND THE EP

5. CITIZENS' ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE EU AND THE EP

This chapter examines citizens' attitudes towards the European Union and the European Parliament, covering their image of the Parliament, its perceived role, views of the EU, and evaluation of their country's EU membership. On all indicators, positive views consistently outnumber negative ones, and the long-term evolution shows that, despite small recent declines, public support remains strong compared with periods in the past when opinion was more negative. Attitudes vary across Member States and socio-demographic groups, reflecting national context and individual perspectives.

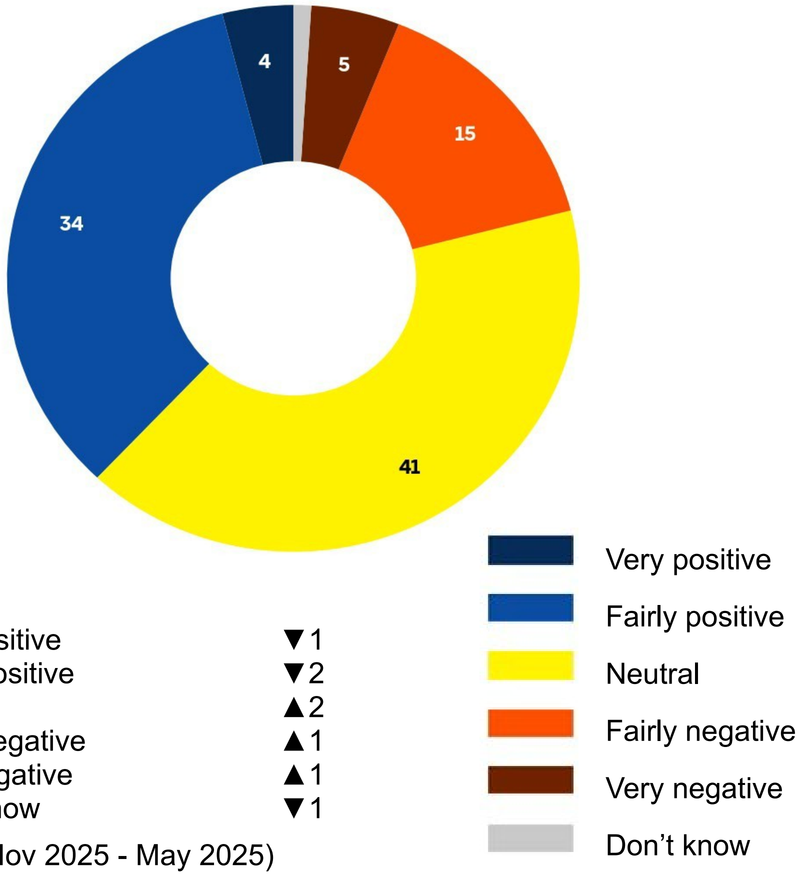
Image of the European Parliament

This section examines citizens' image of the European Parliament, a key indicator of how Europeans perceive the institution. The analysis explores overall perceptions across the EU, differences between Member States, and variations across socio-demographic and attitudinal groups.

At EU level, 38% of respondents report a positive image of the European Parliament, including 4% who say they have a very positive view. Neutral perceptions are expressed by 41% of Europeans, while 20% hold a negative image, including 5% who are very negative. Since the previous survey in May 2025, the share of respondents with a positive image has declined by 3 percentage points, indicating a slight drop in favourable perceptions of the Parliament across the EU.

The overall context of global tensions and challenges for the EU, with a pronounced pessimism regarding the future of the world reported by over half of respondents, as described at the beginning of this report, probably contributes to shaping individuals' attitudes. In particular, such concerns may affect how citizens perceive institutions like the European Parliament and the European Union.

QA1 In general, do you have a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image of the European Parliament? (EU27) (%)



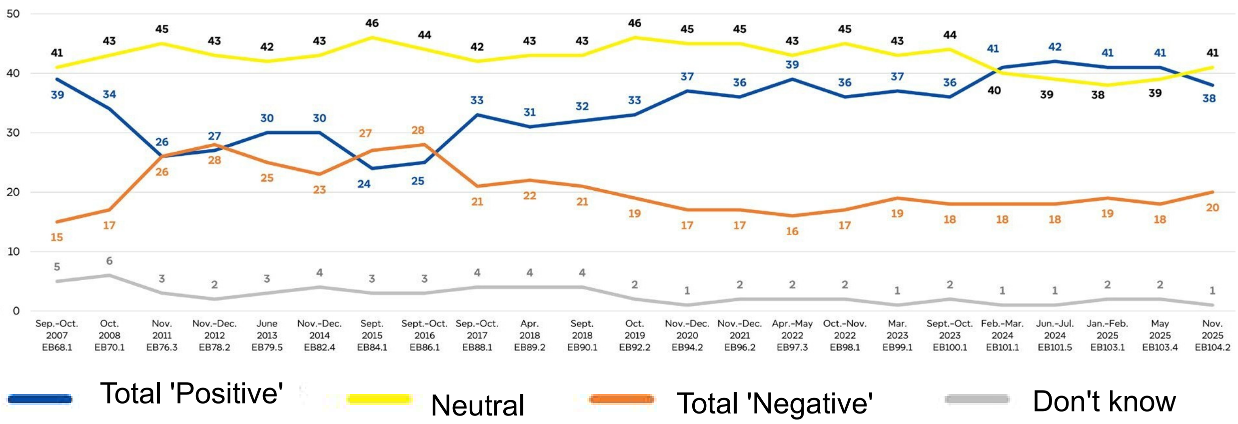
Very positive	▼1
Fairly positive	▼2
Neutral	▲2
Fairly negative	▲1
Very negative	▲1
Don't know	▼1

▲▼ (Nov 2025 - May 2025)

Nov 2025

Over the longer term, positive views of the European Parliament have consistently exceeded negative ones since 2017. Although a slight decline has been observed since May 2025, the current share of positive perceptions remains relatively high, especially compared with the period between 2011 and 2016, when the Parliament's image was viewed more negatively. This long-term trend suggests a generally stable and favourable perception of the European Parliament in recent years.

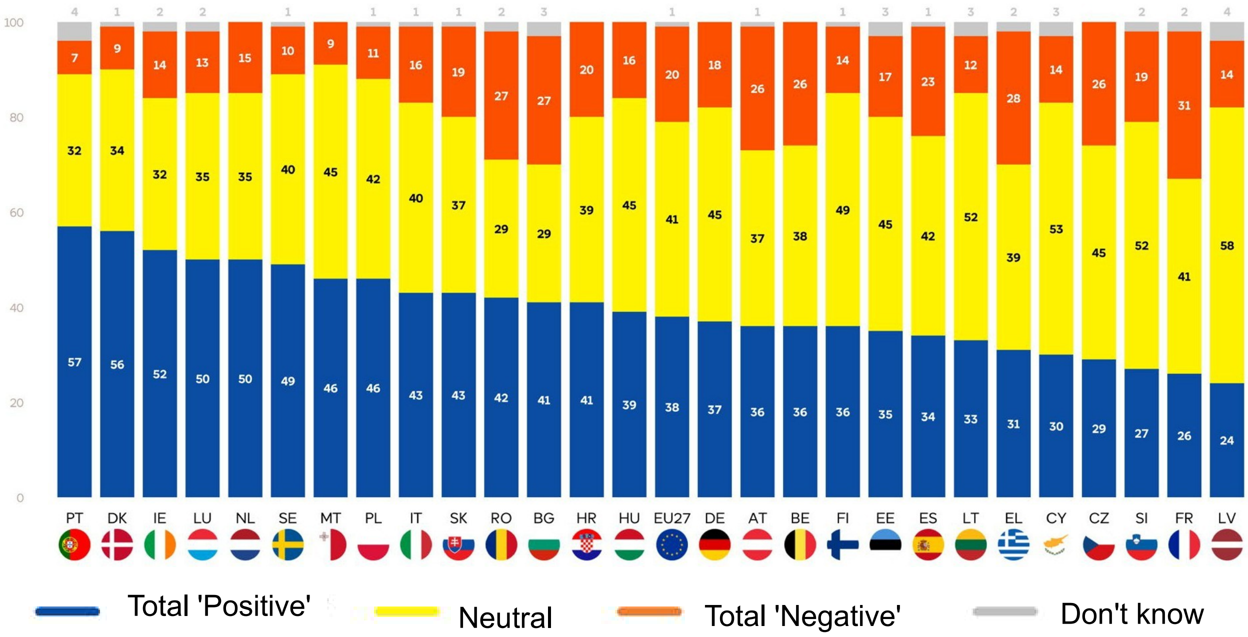
QA1 In general, do you have a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image of the European Parliament? (% - EU)



Views of the European Parliament vary across Member States. At the country level, at least half of respondents report a positive image of the European Parliament in five Member States, and it is the most frequent view in 13 Member States. The highest shares are observed in Portugal (57%), Denmark (56%), and Ireland (52%). Conversely, the lowest levels of positive perceptions are found in Latvia (24%), France (26%), and Slovenia (27%).

Negative views are most pronounced in France (31%), Greece (28%), and Romania and Bulgaria (27%). France is the only Member State where negative views of the European Parliament outnumber positive ones, with 31% of respondents holding a negative image compared with 26% expressing a positive perception.

QA1 In general, do you have a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image of the European Parliament? (%)



Nov 2025

This section will examine how perceptions of the European Parliament vary across socio-demographic and attitudinal groups, highlighting differences by gender, age, education, economic circumstances, and broader attitudes toward the EU.

First, gender has some limited influence on the overall image of the European Parliament. Women are slightly more likely than men to express a neutral view (43% vs. 38%), whereas men are somewhat more likely than women to hold a negative perception (22% vs. 18%). Positive perceptions are broadly similar across genders.

Age-related differences are more noticeable. Younger respondents tend to hold more positive views of the European Parliament than older respondents. Among those aged 15–24, 45% report a positive image, compared with 41% of respondents aged 25–39, 38% of those aged 40–54, and 35% of respondents aged 55 and over. This pattern indicates a stronger positive perception among the youngest Europeans.

Then, educational attainment is associated with perceptions of the European Parliament. Respondents with a high level of education are more likely to express a positive image (45%) than those with a medium (38%) or low level of education (31%), suggesting that higher education is linked to more favorable perceptions of the institution.

Respondents’ financial situations also relate to their views of the European Parliament. Those who almost never or never experience difficulties paying bills are more likely to hold a positive image (41%) than respondents who face difficulties from time to time (34%) or most of the time (29%).

Attitudinal characteristics show the strongest associations with perceptions of the European Parliament. Respondents with a positive image of the European Union are more likely to report a positive view of the Parliament (69%), while those with a negative image of the EU are strongly inclined to hold a negative view of the Parliament (79%).

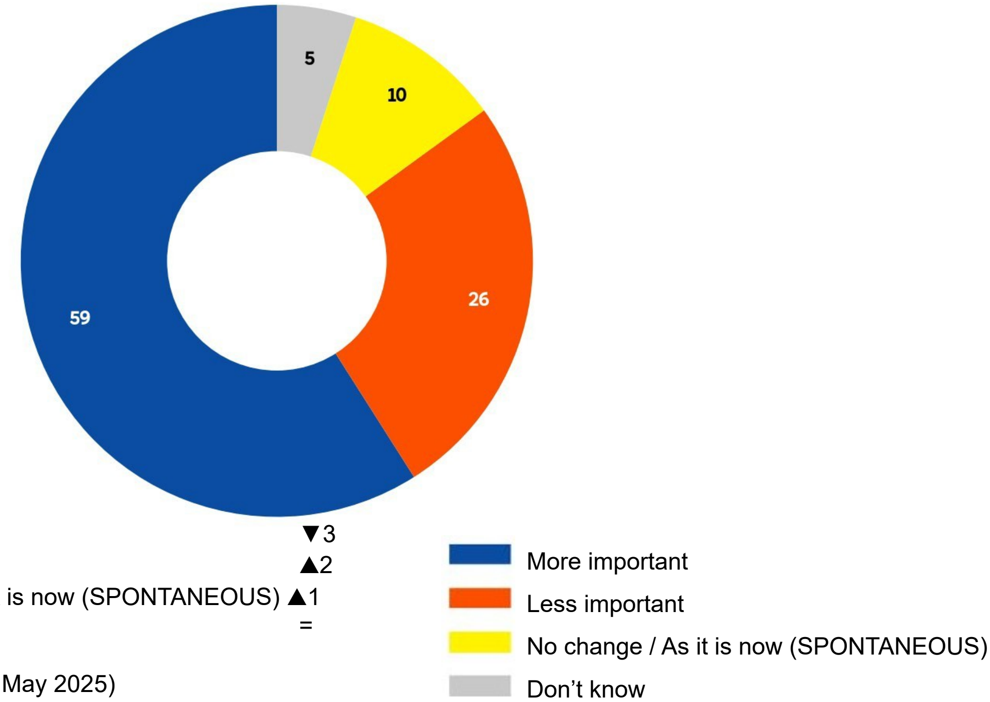
QA1 In general, do you have a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image of the European Parliament? (% - EU)				
	Total 'Positive'	Neutral	Total 'Negative'	Don't know
EU27	38	41	20	1
Gender				
Man	39	38	22	1
Woman	38	43	18	1
Age				
15-24	45	42	11	2
25-39	41	41	17	1
40-54	38	40	21	1
55+	35	41	23	1
Education level				
Low level of education (ISCED 0-2)	31	43	24	2
Medium level of education (ISCED 3-4)	38	41	20	1
High level of education (ISCED 5-8)	45	38	16	1
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	38	37	24	1
Managers	47	39	14	0
Other white collars	45	39	16	0
Manual workers	35	41	23	1
House persons	30	47	22	1
Unemployed	30	39	29	2
Retired	33	41	24	2
Students	46	42	10	2
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	29	37	32	2
From time to time	34	41	24	1
Almost never / Never	41	41	17	1
Subjective urbanisation				
Rural area or village	35	41	23	1
Small or middle sized town	38	42	19	1
Large town	44	37	18	1
Online platforms usage in the last 7 days				
Total 'Have used online platforms in the past week	40	40	19	1
None	30	43	23	4
Image of the EU				
Positive	69	25	5	1
Neutral	11	75	12	2
Negative	3	17	79	1
European Union membership				
A good thing	54	37	8	1
A bad thing	8	22	69	1
Neither a good thing nor a bad thing	13	58	27	2

Role of the European Parliament

This section examines citizens' perceptions of the role of the European Parliament. Respondents were asked whether they would personally like to see the European Parliament play a more important or less important role. The analysis considers overall attitudes across the EU, differences between Member States, and variations across socio-demographic and attitudinal groups.

At EU level, a majority of respondents express a desire for the European Parliament to play a more important role. Specifically, 59% of respondents would like the Parliament to play a more important role, while 26% believe it should play a less important role. Since the previous survey in May 2025, the share of Europeans favouring a stronger role for the Parliament has declined by three percentage points, while the share favouring a less important role has increased by two points.

QA2 Would you personally like to see the European Parliament play a more important or less important role? (EU27) (%)



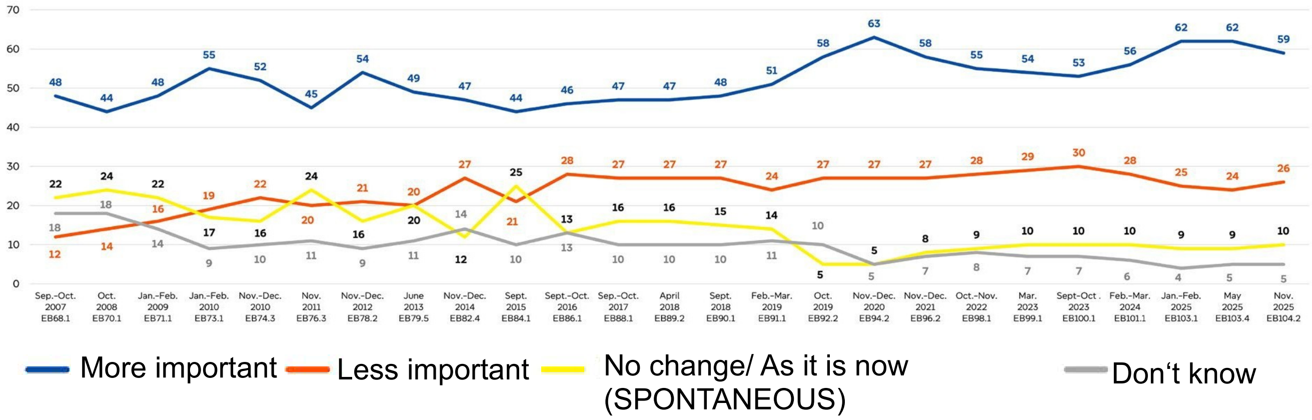
More important	▼3
Less important	▲2
No change / As it is now (SPONTANEOUS)	▲1
Don't know	=

▲▼ (Nov 2025 - May 2025)

Nov 2025

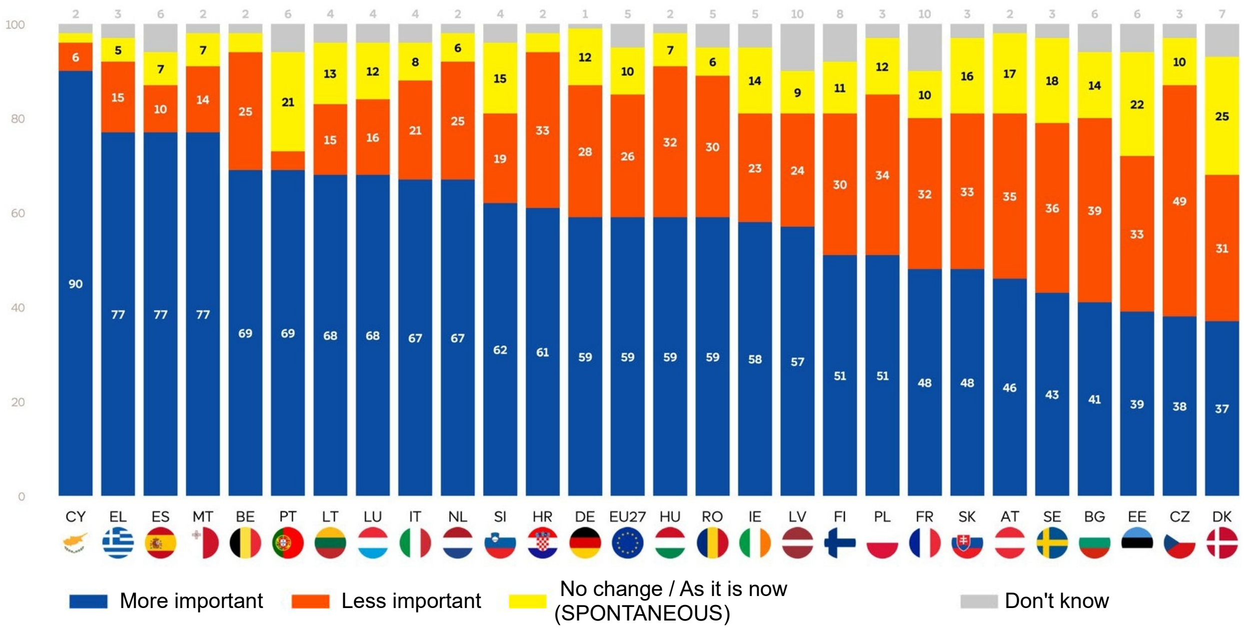
Over the longer term, support for a stronger role for the European Parliament has consistently remained clearly higher than support for a weaker role. Despite the slight decline since May 2025, the current public support for a stronger role is one of the highest recorded since the question was first asked in 2007. This indicates that a clear majority of Europeans continue to see the European Parliament as an institution that should have greater influence in EU decision-making.

QA2 Would you personally like to see the European Parliament play a more important or less important role? (% - EU)



At the country level, a majority of respondents in 19 Member States express a desire for the European Parliament to play a stronger role. Support is highest in Cyprus (90%), followed by Greece, Spain, and Malta (all 77%). Conversely, the lowest levels of support are observed in Denmark (37%), Czechia (38%), and Estonia (39%). Czechia is the only Member State where the share of respondents wanting the European Parliament to play a less important role (49%) exceeds those who want it to play a more important role (38%).

QA2 Would you personally like to see the European Parliament play a more important or less important role? (%)



Nov 2025

This section will examine how citizens' preferences regarding the role of the European Parliament vary across socio-demographic and attitudinal groups, highlighting differences by gender, age, education, economic circumstances, and broader attitudes toward the EU.

First, gender has little influence on citizens' preferences for the role of the European Parliament. Men are slightly more likely than women to express a desire for the Parliament to play a less important role (28% vs. 24%).

Age-related differences are more pronounced, with younger respondents more likely to support an enhanced Parliament role than older respondents. Among those aged 15–24, 69% express a desire for the Parliament to play a more important role, compared with 63% of respondents aged 25–39, 58% of those aged 40–54, and 55% of respondents aged 55 and over, indicating that demand for a stronger Parliament role is particularly high among the youngest Europeans.

Educational attainment is also positively associated with preferences for a more important role, with 64% of respondents with a high level of education expressing this view, compared with 60% of those with a medium level and 52% of those with a low level of education.

Respondents' financial situations show only modest differences. Respondents who almost never or never experience difficulties paying bills are slightly more likely to want the Parliament to play a more important role (60%) than respondents who face difficulties from time to time (59%) or most of the time (56%).

Attitudinal characteristics are strongly linked to preferences regarding the Parliament's role. Respondents with a positive image of the European Union are considerably more likely to support a stronger parliamentary role (78%), whereas those with a negative image of the EU are more likely to favor a less important role (64%).

QA2 Would you personally like to see the European Parliament play a more important or less important role? (% - EU)				
	More important	Less important	No change / As it is now (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't know
EU27	59	26	10	5
Gender				
Man	58	28	10	4
Woman	60	24	11	5
Age				
15-24	69	15	8	8
25-39	63	24	10	3
40-54	58	28	11	3
55+	55	29	11	5
Education level				
Low level of education (ISCED 0-2)	52	29	12	7
Medium level of education (ISCED 3-4)	60	28	9	3
High level of education (ISCED 5-8)	64	22	10	4
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	59	29	9	3
Managers	63	22	12	3
Other white collars	63	25	10	2
Manual workers	56	29	11	4
House persons	56	28	10	6
Unemployed	59	26	9	6
Retired	54	31	10	5
Students	72	12	9	7
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	56	30	8	6
From time to time	59	28	8	5
Almost never / Never	60	25	11	4
Subjective urbanisation				
Rural area or village	55	28	12	5
Small or middle sized town	59	28	8	5
Large town	64	22	10	4
Online platforms usage in the last 7 days				
Total 'Have used online platforms in the past week	61	25	10	4
None	46	31	14	9
Image of the EU				
Positive	78	10	10	2
Neutral	48	31	14	7
Negative	28	64	4	4
European Union membership				
A good thing	74	12	11	3
A bad thing	26	67	3	4
Neither a good thing nor a bad thing	38	43	13	6

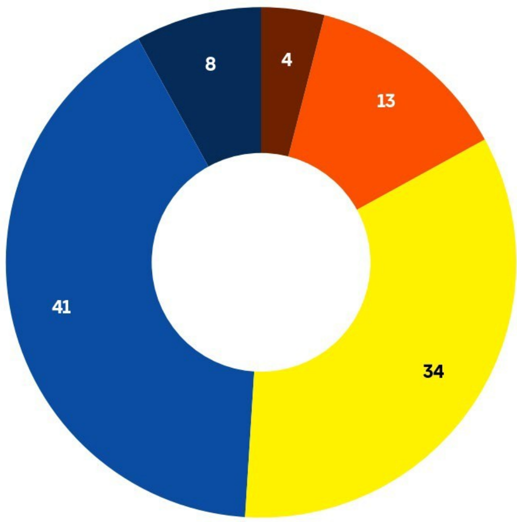
Image of the European Union

This section explores citizens' overall perceptions of the European Union, a key measure of how Europeans view the Union as a political and institutional actor. The analysis considers aggregate EU-level perceptions, variations across Member States, and differences by socio- demographic and attitudinal characteristics, providing insight into public sentiment toward the EU as a whole.

At EU level, nearly half of respondents (49%) report a positive image of the European Union, including 8% who say they have a very positive view. Neutral perceptions are expressed by 34% of Europeans, while 17% hold a negative image, including 4% who are very negative. Since the previous survey in May 2025, the share of respondents with a positive image has declined by three percentage points, indicating a slight drop in favourable perceptions of the European Union across the EU.

Again, the overall context of global tensions and challenges for the EU, with a pronounced pessimism regarding the future of the world reported by over half of respondents, as described at the beginning of this report, probably contributes to shaping individuals' attitudes. In particular, such concerns may affect how citizens perceive institutions like the European Union, which is often seen as a key actor in addressing global challenges, as this report also demonstrates earlier.

D78 In general, does the EU conjure up for you a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image? (EU27) (%)



Very positive	=
Fairly positive	▼3
Neutral	▲2
Fairly negative	▲1
Very negative	=
Don't know	=

▲▼ (Nov 2025 - May 2025)

Nov 2025

Very positive

Fairly positive

Neutral

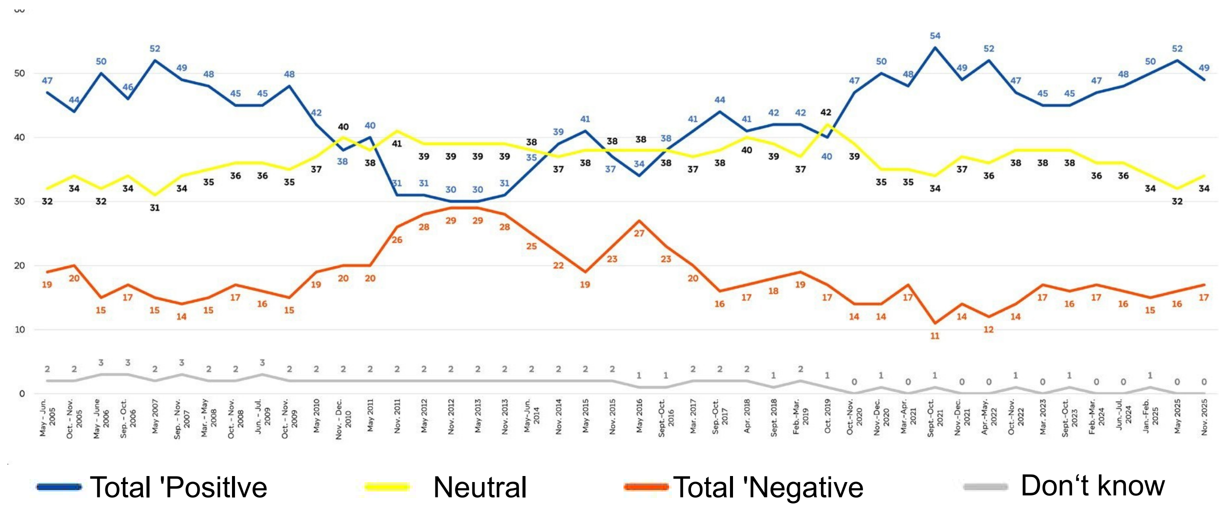
Fairly negative

Very negative

Don't know

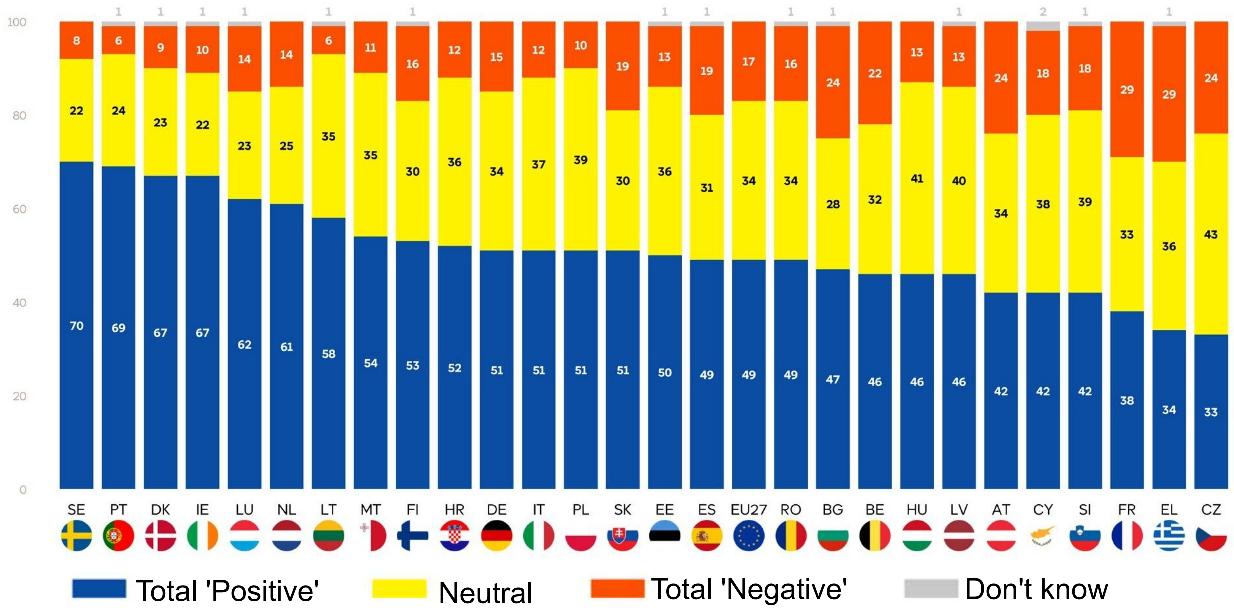
As with the two previous indicators, despite the recent decline in positive perceptions, the long-term trend points to a more positive picture. Since at least 2005, the share of respondents holding a positive image of the European Union has consistently exceeded that of negative views. Moreover, positive perceptions have been the most frequent response, surpassing also neutral opinions, consistently since 2020. Although the current level has declined slightly, it remains high compared with the period between 2011 and 2016 when public opinion of the EU was less favourable.

D78 In general, does the EU conjure up for you a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image? (% - EU)



At the country level, at least half of respondents report a positive image of the European Union in 15 Member States, and positive is the most frequent response in 25 Member States. The highest shares of positive perceptions are observed in Sweden (70%), Portugal (69%), and Denmark and Ireland (67%). Conversely, the lowest levels of positive perceptions are found in Czechia (33%), Greece (34%), and France (38%). Czechia and Greece are the only Member States where positive is not the most frequent response; in both cases, the relative majority of respondents hold a neutral view. Negative perceptions are never the most frequent response in any Member State.

D78 In general, does the EU conjure up for you a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image? (%)



Nov 2025

This section will examine how citizens’ perceptions of the European Union vary across socio-demographic and attitudinal groups.

First, gender has little influence on overall perceptions, although women are slightly more likely than men to hold a neutral view (35% vs. 32%), while men are somewhat more likely to express a negative image of the Union (19% vs. 16%).

Age-related differences are more pronounced, with younger respondents expressing more positive views than older respondents. Among those aged 15–24, 60% report a positive image of the EU, compared with 54% of respondents aged 25–39, 49% of those aged 40–54, and 44% of respondents aged 55 and over, indicating a clear trend of more favorable perceptions among the youngest Europeans.

Educational attainment is also linked to perceptions, with respondents who have attained a high level of education more likely to hold a positive view of the EU (60%) than those with a medium level (48%) or low level of education (40%).

Respondents’ financial situations further shape perceptions, as those who almost never or never experience difficulties paying bills are more likely to report a positive image (53%) than respondents who face difficulties from time to time (43%) or most of the time (37%).

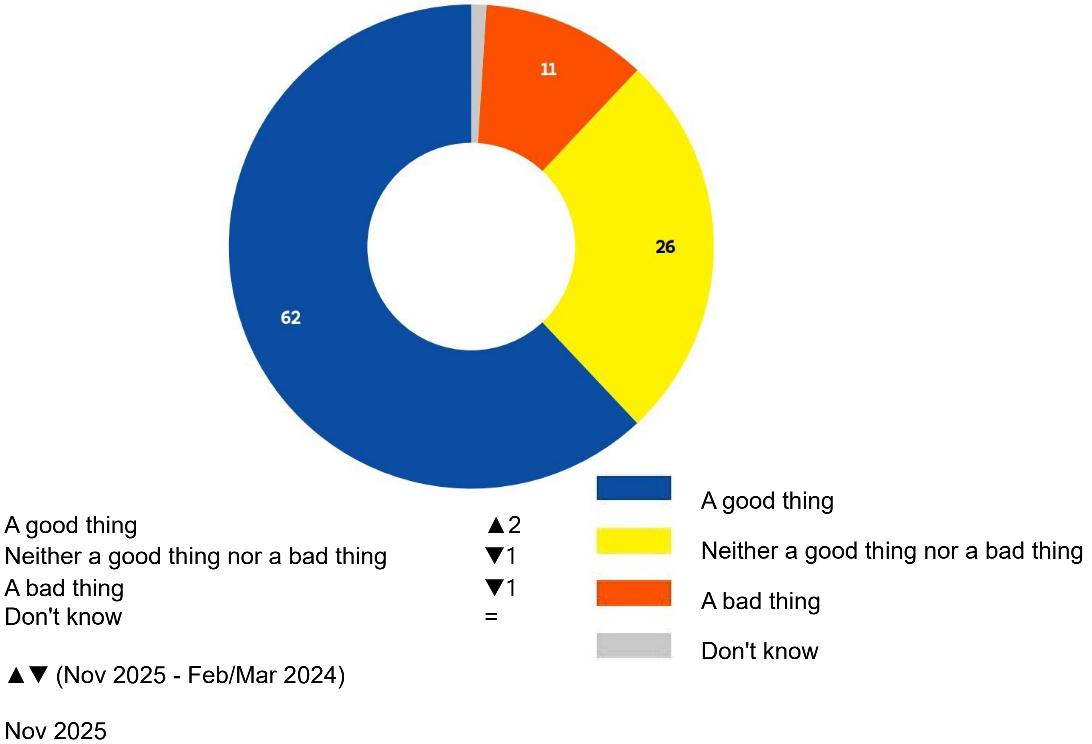
D78 In general, does the EU conjure up for you a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image? (% - EU)				
	Total 'Positive'	Neutral	Total 'Negative'	Don't know
EU27	49	34	17	0
Gender				
Man	49	32	19	0
Woman	48	35	16	1
Age				
15-24	60	31	8	1
25-39	54	31	15	0
40-54	49	33	18	0
55+	44	36	20	0
Education level				
Low level of education (ISCED 0-2)	40	39	20	1
Medium level of education (ISCED 3-4)	48	35	17	0
High level of education (ISCED 5-8)	60	27	13	0
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	49	30	21	0
Managers	60	29	11	0
Other white collars	54	32	14	0
Manual workers	44	37	19	0
House persons	41	39	20	0
Unemployed	41	32	26	1
Retired	43	36	20	1
Students	64	28	8	0
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	37	34	28	1
From time to time	43	35	21	1
Almost never / Never	53	33	14	0
Subjective urbanisation				
Rural area or village	45	35	20	0
Small or middle sized town	47	35	18	0
Large town	56	30	14	0
Online platforms usage in the last 7 days				
Total 'Have used online platforms in the past week	51	33	16	0
None	37	40	22	1
Image of the EU				
Positive	100	0	0	0
Neutral	0	100	0	0
Negative	0	0	100	0
European Union membership				
A good thing	71	24	5	0
A bad thing	10	21	69	0
Neither a good thing nor a bad thing	14	62	24	0

The European Union membership

This section examines citizens' attitudes towards their country's membership in the European Union. Respondents were asked whether they consider their country's membership to be a good thing, a bad thing, or neither good nor bad. The analysis looks at overall perceptions across the EU, differences between Member States, and variations across socio-demographic and attitudinal groups, providing insight into how Europeans value EU membership.

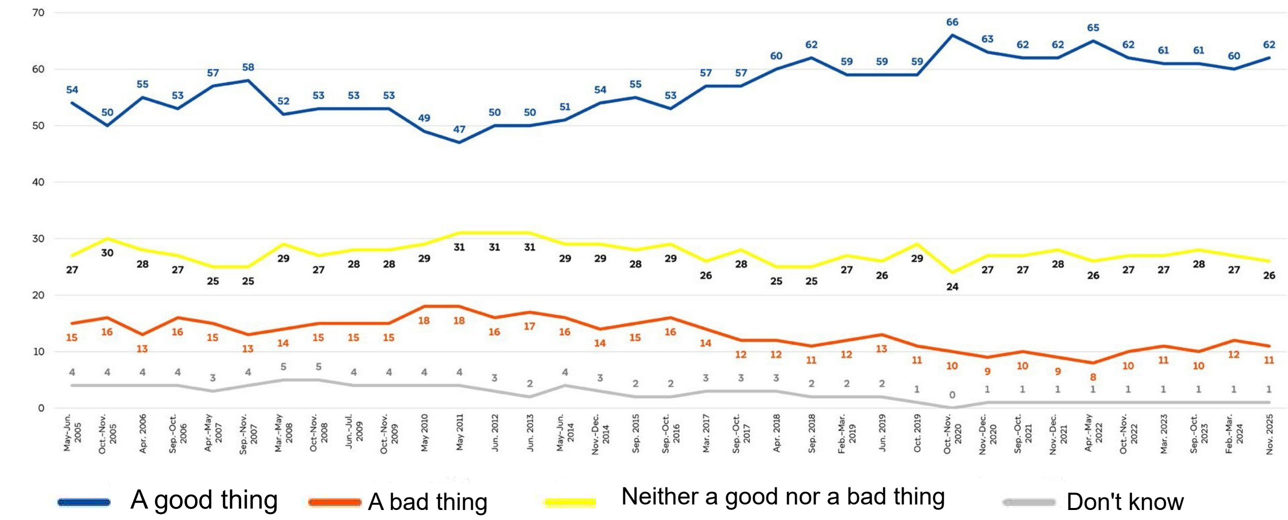
Overall, a clear majority of respondents consider their country's membership in the European Union to be a good thing. Specifically, 62% of Europeans hold this view, while 26% say membership is neither a good nor a bad thing, and 11% regard it as a bad thing. Compared with February–March 2024, the share of respondents viewing membership as a good thing has increased by 2 percentage points.

QA3 Generally speaking, do you think that (OUR COUNTRY)'s membership of the EU is...? (EU27) (%)



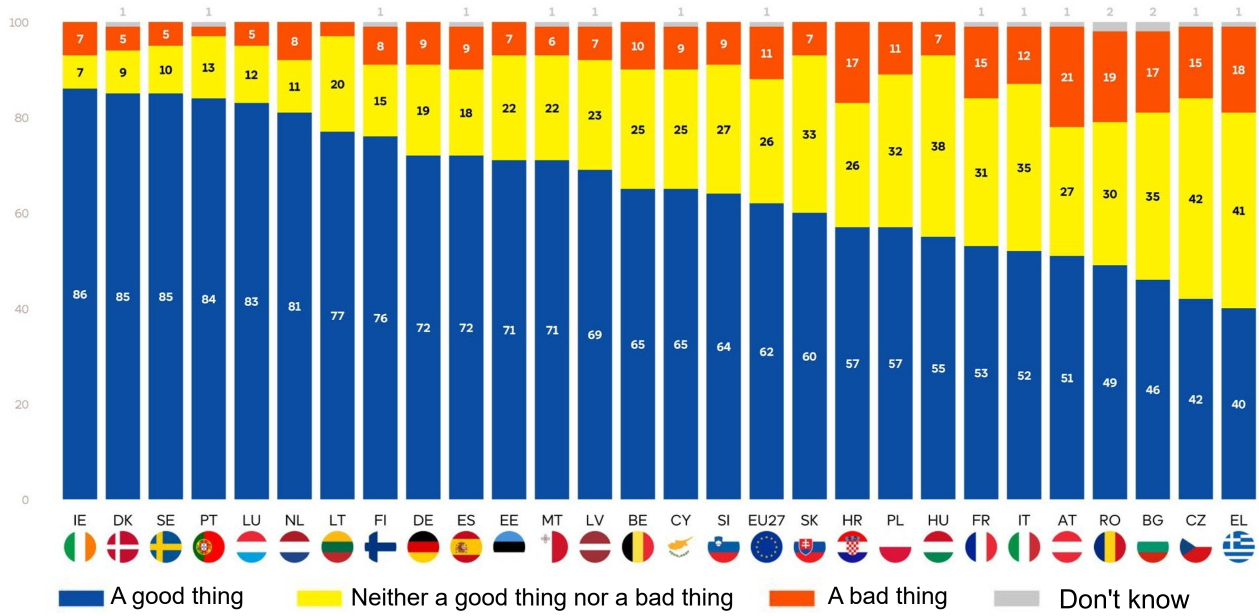
Over the longer term, positive perceptions of EU membership have consistently remained above 50% since 2012. Between 2011 and 2020, there was a trend toward increasingly favourable views, reflecting growing support for EU membership across the European Union. Since 2020, this upward trend has stabilised, with more than 60% of respondents consistently considering EU membership a good thing. Overall, this long-term pattern underscores the enduring and broadly stable support for EU membership among European citizens.

QA3 Generally speaking, do you think that (OUR COUNTRY)'s membership of the EU is...? (% - EU)



Perceptions of EU membership vary considerably across Member States. At the country level, an absolute majority of respondents consider EU membership a good thing in 23 Member States. Support is strongest in Ireland (86%), Denmark (85%), and Sweden (85%). Conversely, the lowest levels of positive perception are observed in Greece (40%), Czechia (42%), and Bulgaria (46%).

QA3 Generally speaking, do you think that (OUR COUNTRY)'s membership of the EU is...? (%)



Nov 2025

This section will examine how citizens' attitudes toward their country's membership in the European Union vary across socio-demographic and attitudinal groups.

Gender has little influence on overall perceptions, although women are slightly more likely than men to respond that membership is neither a good nor a bad thing (27% vs. 24%), while men are somewhat more likely to consider membership a bad thing (13% vs. 10%).

Age-related differences are more pronounced, with younger respondents expressing stronger support for EU membership than older respondents. Among those aged 15–24, 74% consider membership a good thing, compared with 65% of respondents aged 25–39, 61% of those aged 40–54, and 58% of respondents aged 55 and over.

Educational attainment is also positively associated with support for membership, with 76% of respondents with a high level of education viewing it as a good thing, compared with 60% of those with a medium level and 53% of those with a low level of education.

Respondents' financial situations further shape attitudes: those who almost never or never experience difficulties paying bills are more likely to consider EU membership a good thing (68%) than respondents who face difficulties from time to time (51%) or most of the time (50%).

Attitudinal factors show particularly strong associations with perceptions of EU membership. Respondents with a positive image of the European Union are overwhelmingly likely to regard membership as a good thing (90%).

Finally, across all four indicators—image of the European Parliament, the role of the European Parliament, image of the European Union, and perceptions of EU membership—the patterns of variation by socio-demographic and attitudinal factors are strikingly similar. Younger respondents and those with higher levels of education consistently report more positive perceptions and greater support, while financial difficulties are associated with slightly less favorable views. Gender has only a limited influence across indicators. Attitudinal factors, such as a positive image of the EU, optimism about its future, and perceived benefits of membership, show the strongest and most consistent associations, with favorable attitudes linked to higher support across every measure. This uniformity highlights that the same socio- demographic and attitudinal characteristics shape citizens' views of both the European Union and the European Parliament, pointing to a coherent and systematic structure underlying public perceptions of the Union and its institutions.

QA3 Generally speaking, do you think that (OUR COUNTRY)'s membership of the EU is...? (% - EU)				
	A good thing	A bad thing	Neither a good thing nor a bad thing	Don't know
EU27	62	11	26	1
Gender				
Man	62	13	24	1
Woman	62	10	27	1
Age				
15-24	74	6	19	1
25-39	65	10	24	1
40-54	61	12	27	0
55+	58	13	28	1
Education level				
Low level of education (ISCED 0-2)	53	15	31	1
Medium level of education (ISCED 3-4)	60	12	28	0
High level of education (ISCED 5-8)	76	7	17	0
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	60	13	27	0
Managers	76	6	18	0
Other white collars	66	8	25	1
Manual workers	55	14	30	1
House persons	48	18	33	1
Unemployed	57	18	24	1
Retired	58	13	28	1
Students	78	4	17	1
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	50	20	28	2
From time to time	51	15	33	1
Almost never / Never	68	9	23	0
Subjective urbanisation				
Rural area or village	60	14	25	1
Small or middle sized town	60	11	28	1
Large town	69	8	22	1
Online platforms usage in the last 7 days				
Total 'Have used online platforms in the past week	64	11	25	0
None	49	16	33	2
Image of the EU				
Positive	90	2	8	0
Neutral	45	7	47	1
Negative	18	45	36	1

CONCLUSION

CONCLUSION

The Autumn 2025 Eurobarometer reflects a European public navigating a period marked by geopolitical tensions and uncertainties about the future. Citizens display strong optimism regarding their own and their family's future, yet this confidence weakens when turning to the outlook for their country, the European Union, and especially the world. Pessimism about global developments is now widespread, shaped by ongoing conflicts and a generally unstable international context.

Concerns related to security and safety are high across all topics tested. Conflicts near the EU, terrorism, cyber-attacks, natural disasters linked to climate change, and uncontrolled migration flows generate the deep concern. In parallel, communication-related risks such as disinformation, hate speech, AI-generated fake content, insufficient data protection, and threats to freedom of expression, are also widely considered worrying.

In this context, citizens place strong expectations on the European Union's capacity to respond. Two-thirds believe the EU's role in protecting citizens from global crises should increase, and large majorities support greater unity among Member States and a stronger European voice on the international stage. Defence and security is the area most frequently identified as central to strengthening the EU's position in the world, followed by competitiveness and industry, and energy independence.

Regarding citizens' priorities, economic issues are at the forefront of their expectations. Inflation, rising prices and the cost of living is once again the top priority that Europeans want the European Parliament to address. The economy and job creation follow closely, and public health also gains importance. While most respondents expect their standard of living to remain stable over the next five years, a substantial minority anticipate a decline, especially in countries where economic uncertainty is more acutely felt. Citizens also reaffirm the importance of fundamental values. Peace emerges as the value they most want the European Parliament to defend, reflecting the current geopolitical climate. Democracy, human rights, freedom of speech and the rule of law also remain central expectations. Satisfaction with democracy, both at national level and within the EU, continues to exceed the majority threshold, although it has slightly decreased since spring 2025.

Attitudes towards the EU and its institutions remain broadly positive despite small declines. A relative majority hold a favourable image of the European Union and the European Parliament. Support for EU membership remains strong, with more than six in ten Europeans considering it a good thing for their country, and a majority of citizens continue to favour a more prominent role for the European Parliament.

Overall, the Autumn 2025 Eurobarometer portrays a European Union facing important global tensions and challenges. In this context, citizens are worried about the future and expect the EU to play a more important role.

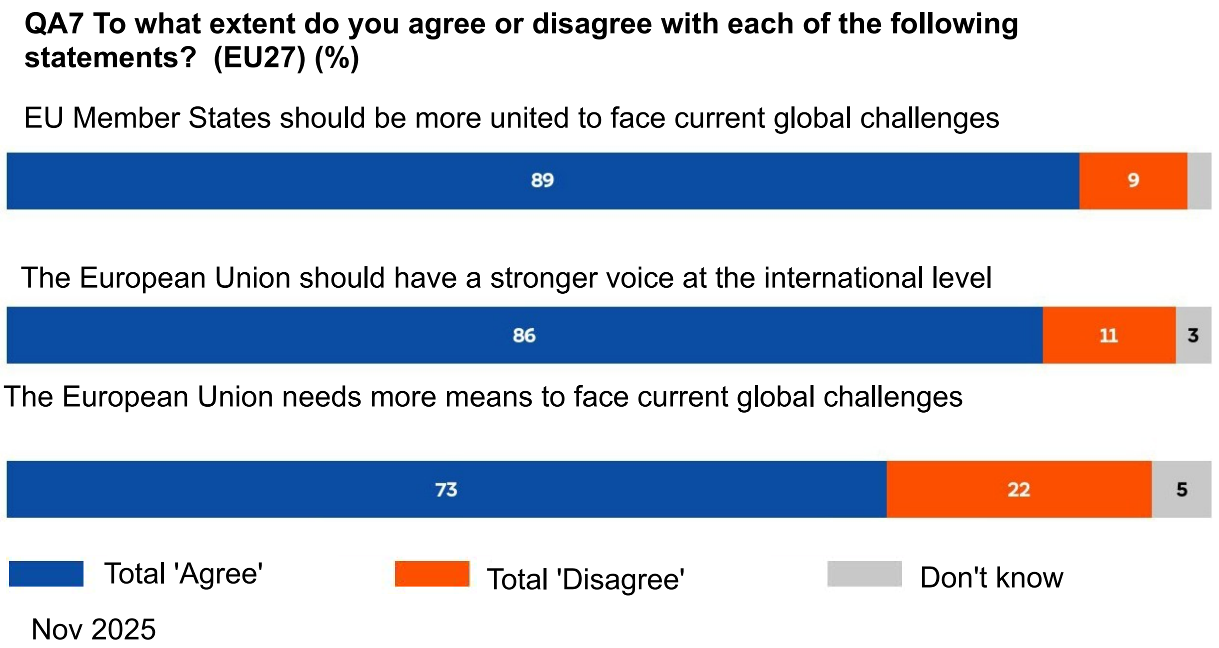
Comments

(Pierre Dieumegard)

"*Citizens want the European Union to act with unity and ambition. 89% of respondents say that EU Member States should be more united to face current global challenges and 86% want the EU to have a stronger voice at the international level.*" (Key 1 from question QA7)

Yes, but these are only wishes. If we ask "*Do you want all the countries in the world to take joint action against pollution?*" the answer will also be yes. If we ask the French "*Do you want your MPs to agree on a budget for the country?*", the answer will also be yes.

Here is the chart of question QA7 (see also page 78):



Approval of the third proposal is much lower (= there are twice as many people who disagree). This is because this third phrase 'The European Union needs more means' is more binding: if we give more resources to the European Union, it means that we take resources away from other structures. Who will be sacrificed in this case?

The third proposal implies choices, difficult discussions; for these discussions, we need a simple and precise language: Esperanto.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Between 6 and 30 November 2025, Verian Belgium carried out the wave 104.2 of the Eurobarometer survey. The Wave 104.2 covers the population of the respective nationalities of the European Union Member States, resident in each of the 27 Member States and aged 15 years and over.

The basic sample design applied in all countries is a stratified multi-stage, random (probability) one. In each country, the sample frame is first stratified by NUTS regions and within each region by a measure of urbanity (DEGURBA). The number of sample points selected in each strata reflects the stratum population 15+. At the second stage sampling points were drawn with probability proportional to their 0+ population size from within each stratum. The samples 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[26].

In each of the selected sampling points, a starting coordinate was drawn at random and a reverse geo-coding tool used to identify the closest address to the coordinate. This address was the starting address for the random walk. 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. The approach to the random selection was conditional on the household size. By way of example for households with two 15+ members the script was used to select either the informant (person responding to the screener questionnaire) or the other eligible member in the household. For households with three 15+ members the script was used to select either the informant (1/3 of the time) or the two other eligible members in the household (2/3 of the time). Where the two other members were selected, the interviewer was then told to either ask for the youngest or oldest. The script would randomly assign the selection to youngest or oldest with equal probability. This process continues for four 15+ household members – randomly asking for the youngest, 2nd youngest and oldest. For households with five 15+ members we revert to the last birthday rule.

If no contact was made with anyone in the household, or if the respondent selected was not available (busy), the interviewer revisited the same household up to three additional times (four contact attempts in total). Interviewers never indicate that the survey is conducted on behalf of the European Commission beforehand; they may give this information once the survey is completed, upon request.

26 Urban Rural classification based on DEGURBA (https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/degree-of-urbanisation/background)

The recruitment phase was slightly different in the Netherlands, Finland, and Sweden. In the two latter countries, a sample of addresses within each sampling point were selected from the address or population register (in Finland, selection is not done in all sample points, but in some where response rates are expected to improve). The selection of addresses was done in a random manner. Households were then contacted by telephone and recruited to take part in the survey. In the Netherlands, a dual frame RDD sample (mobile and landline numbers) are used as there is no comprehensive population register with telephone numbers available. The selection of numbers on both frames is done in a random manner with each number getting an equal probability of selection. Unlike Sweden and Finland, the sample is un-clustered.

	COUNTRIES	INSTITUTES	N° INTERVIEWS	FIELDWORK DATES		POPULATION 15+	PROPORTION EU27
BE	Belgium	MCM Belgium	1,021	06-11-2025	24-11-2025	9,892,796	2.6%
BG	Bulgaria	Kantar TNS BBSS	1,046	06-11-2025	26-11-2025	5,534,456	1.4%
CZ	Czechia	STEM/MARK	1,064	06-11-2025	24-11-2025	9,172,797	2.4%
DK	Denmark	Mantle Denmark (Verian)	1,016	06-11-2025	30-11-2025	5,022,981	1.3%
DE	Germany	Mantle Germany (Verian)	1,527	07-11-2025	26-11-2025	71,818,299	18.7%
EE	Estonia	B&B Research OÜ	1,006	06-11-2025	26-11-2025	1,154,359	0.3%
IE	Ireland	B and A Research	1,006	06-11-2025	30-11-2025	4,338,938	1.1%
EL	Greece	Kantar Greece	1,007	06-11-2025	23-11-2025	9,041,201	2.4%
ES	Spain	Mantle Spain (Verian)	1,011	06-11-2025	25-11-2025	42,189,318	11.0%
FR	France	MCM France	1,004	06-11-2025	26-11-2025	56,855,864	14.8%
HR	Croatia	Hendal	1,003	08-11-2025	25-11-2025	3,319,752	0.9%
IT	Italy	Testpoint Italia	1,031	06-11-2025	28-11-2025	51,784,963	13.5%
CY	Rep. of Cyprus	CYMAR Market Research	501	06-11-2025	27-11-2025	818,909	0.2%
LV	Latvia	Kantar TNS Latvia	1,004	06-11-2025	27-11-2025	1,579,066	0.4%
LT	Lithuania	Norstat LT	1,023	06-11-2025	24-11-2025	2,467,008	0.6%
LU	Luxembourg	ILRES	508	06-11-2025	28-11-2025	566,303	0.1%
HU	Hungary	Kantar Hoffmann	1,026	07-11-2025	24-11-2025	8,199,448	2.1%
MT	Malta	MISCO International	502	06-11-2025	24-11-2025	493,961	0.1%
NL	Netherlands	MCM Netherlands	1,010	06-11-2025	25-11-2025	15,228,902	4.0%
AT	Austria	Das Österreichische Gallup Ins.	1,003	08-11-2025	25-11-2025	7,842,929	2.0%
PL	Poland	Research Collective	1,016	07-11-2025	26-11-2025	31,082,980	8.1%
PT	Portugal	Intercampus SA	1,037	07-11-2025	26-11-2025	9,275,958	2.4%
RO	Romania	CSOP SRL	1,041	06-11-2025	26-11-2025	16,034,437	4.2%
SI	Slovenia	Mediana DOO	1,005	06-11-2025	24-11-2025	1,811,104	0.5%
SK	Slovakia	MNFORCE	1,003	06-11-2025	24-11-2025	4,557,290	1.2%
FI	Finland	Taloustutkimus Oy	1,001	06-11-2025	27-11-2025	4,771,619	1.2%
SE	Sweden	Mantle Sweden (Verian)	1,031	06-11-2025	26-11-2025	8,748,126	2.3%
		TOTAL EU27	26,453	06-11-2025	30-11-2025	383,603,764	100%

* It should be noted that the total percentage shown in this table may exceed 100% due to rounding.

Interviewing mode per country

Interviews were conducted through face-to-face interviews, either physically in people's homes or through remote video interaction in the appropriate national language. Interviews with remote video interaction ("online face-to-face" or CAVI, Computer Assisted Video Interviewing, were conducted only in Republic of Cyprus, Denmark, Malta, Netherlands, Finland and Sweden).

	COUNTRIES	N° OF CAPI INTERVIEWS	N° OF CAVI INTERVIEWS	TOTAL N° INTERVIEWS
BE	Belgium	1,021		1,021
BG	Bulgaria	1,046		1,046
CZ	Czechia	1,064		1,064
DK	Denmark	703	313	1,016
DE	Germany	1,527		1,527
EE	Estonia	1,006		1,006
IE	Ireland	1,006		1,006
EL	Greece	1,007		1,007
ES	Spain	1,011		1,011
FR	France	1,004		1,004
HR	Croatia	1,003		1,003
IT	Italy	1,031		1,031
CY	Rep. Of Cyprus	441	60	501
LV	Latvia	1,004		1,004
LT	Lithuania	1,023		1,023
LU	Luxembourg	508		508
HU	Hungary	1,026		1,026
MT	Malta	325	177	502
NL	Netherlands	824	186	1,010
AT	Austria	1,003		1,003
PL	Poland	1,016		1,016
PT	Portugal	1,037		1,037
RO	Romania	1,041		1,041
SI	Slovenia	1,005		1,005
SK	Slovakia	1,003		1,003
FI	Finland	703	298	1,001
SE	Sweden	711	320	1,031
	TOTAL EU27	25,099	1,354	26,453

CAPI : Computer-Assisted Personal interviewing
CAVI : Computer-Assisted Video interviewing

Margins of error

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:

Statistical margins due to sampling tolerances

(at the 95% level of confidence)

various sample sizes are in rows *various observed results are in columns*

	5 %	10 %	15 %	20 %	25 %	30 %	35 %	40 %	45 %	50 %	
	95 %	90 %	85 %	80 %	75 %	70 %	65 %	60 %	55 %	50 %	
N=50	6,0	8,3	9,9	11,1	12,0	12,7	13,2	13,6	13,8	13,9	N=50
N=500	1,9	2,6	3,1	3,5	3,8	4,0	4,2	4,3	4,4	4,4	N=500
N=1000	**1,4**	**1,9**	**2,2**	**2,5**	**2,7**	**2,8**	**3,0**	**3,0**	**3,1**	**3,1**	**N=1000**
N=1500	1,1	1,5	1,8	2,0	2,2	2,3	2,4	2,5	2,5	2,5	N=1500
N=2000	1,0	1,3	1,6	1,8	1,9	2,0	2,1	2,1	2,2	2,2	N=2000
N=3000	0,8	1,1	1,3	1,4	1,5	1,6	1,7	1,8	1,8	1,8	N=3000
N=4000	0,7	0,9	1,1	1,2	1,3	1,4	1,5	1,5	1,5	1,5	N=4000
N=5000	0,6	0,8	1,0	1,1	1,2	1,3	1,3	1,4	1,4	1,4	N=5000
N=6000	0,6	0,8	0,9	1,0	1,1	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,3	1,3	N=6000
N=7000	0,5	0,7	0,8	0,9	1,0	1,1	1,1	1,1	1,2	1,2	N=7000
N=7500	0,5	0,7	0,8	0,9	1,0	1,0	1,1	1,1	1,1	1,1	N=7500
N=8000	0,5	0,7	0,8	0,9	0,9	1,0	1,0	1,1	1,1	1,1	N=8000
N=9000	0,5	0,6	0,7	0,8	0,9	0,9	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,0	N=9000
N=10000	0,4	0,6	0,7	0,8	0,8	0,9	0,9	1,0	1,0	1,0	N=10000
N=11000	0,4	0,6	0,7	0,7	0,8	0,9	0,9	0,9	0,9	0,9	N=11000
N=12000	0,4	0,5	0,6	0,7	0,8	0,8	0,9	0,9	0,9	0,9	N=12000
N=13000	0,4	0,5	0,6	0,7	0,7	0,8	0,8	0,8	0,9	0,9	N=13000
N=14000	0,4	0,5	0,6	0,7	0,7	0,8	0,8	0,8	0,8	0,8	N=14000
N=15000	0,3	0,5	0,6	0,6	0,7	0,7	0,8	0,8	0,8	0,8	N=15000
	5 %	10 %	15 %	20 %	25 %	30 %	35 %	40 %	45 %	50 %	
	95 %	90 %	85 %	80 %	75 %	70 %	65 %	60 %	55 %	50 %	

In a rapidly changing and challenging global landscape, citizens want the European Union to act with unity and ambition. Defence, security and the economy are key priorities for strengthening the EU both domestically and internationally. Europeans are particularly concerned about security issues, such as ongoing conflicts and wars, as well as societal and digital issues, including disinformation, online data protection and misleading content created by artificial intelligence. In this context, European citizens would like to see the EU play a more significant role in protecting them. EU membership continues to be considered valuable by a large majority of Europeans and the positive image of the EU remains high, albeit decreasing slightly over the course of the past few months.

The survey, carried out by Verian Belgium research agency between 6 and 30 November 2025 in all 27 EU Member States, was conducted face-to-face, with video interviews (CAVI) used additionally in Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Malta, Netherlands, and Sweden. 26.453 interviews were conducted in total and EU results weighted according to the size of the population in each country.

For more information on the full survey, scan the QR-code:

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