



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, 27 July 2012

Spring 2012 Standard Eurobarometer: Public support for Europe 2020 Strategy remains strong

Europeans broadly support the initiatives for growth, stability and jobs put forward by the EU, according to the Spring 2012 Eurobarometer, the bi-annual opinion poll organised by the European Commission. As we move into the second half of the year, where – after the "European Semester" – the onus is now on Member States to act, modernising labour markets to create jobs and helping the poor and socially excluded are seen as the most important priorities by public opinion in the EU. The latest poll also shows Europeans say the headline targets agreed by the EU – such as ensuring three quarters of working age people have jobs – are at the right level of ambition (see Annex). People's views on the Europe 2020 strategy – which is the EU's growth strategy – are encouraging, particularly in relation to the importance of the initiatives and the level of ambition. Overall, 40% of Europeans (+2 percentage points) take the view that the EU is heading in the right direction to emerge from the crisis and face new global challenges.

Although there are significant variations between countries, there are signs that Europeans are becoming less pessimistic, with more people saying that the worst of the crisis is behind us. 30% of Europeans think that the crisis' impact on the job market has already reached its peak (a rise of 7 points since the previous survey in autumn 2011).

More than 8 out of 10 Europeans think EU Member States should work more closely together as a result of the crisis and more than half believe the EU will emerge stronger in the long term.

As in previous surveys, responses about the situation of national economies differ widely between Member States. While over three quarters of people in Sweden, Luxembourg and Germany say the economic situation is good, less than 5% share this view in Ireland, Portugal, Spain and Greece. Overall, in the last 6 months, the views on the current situation of the national economy have remained stable, with positive feedback (down by 1 to 27%) and negative feedback (unchanged at 71%).

Citizens continue to see the EU as the most effective actor – alongside national governments – in tackling the effects of the economic crisis. As usual, Eurobarometer shows the similarities and differences between public opinion in the EU Member States in relation to peoples' main concerns (unemployment, inflation and the economic situation).

Background

The Spring 2012 Standard Eurobarometer was conducted through face-to-face interviews between 12 and 27 May 2012. A total of 32,728 people were interviewed across the 27 EU Member States and in the candidate countries.

Further information

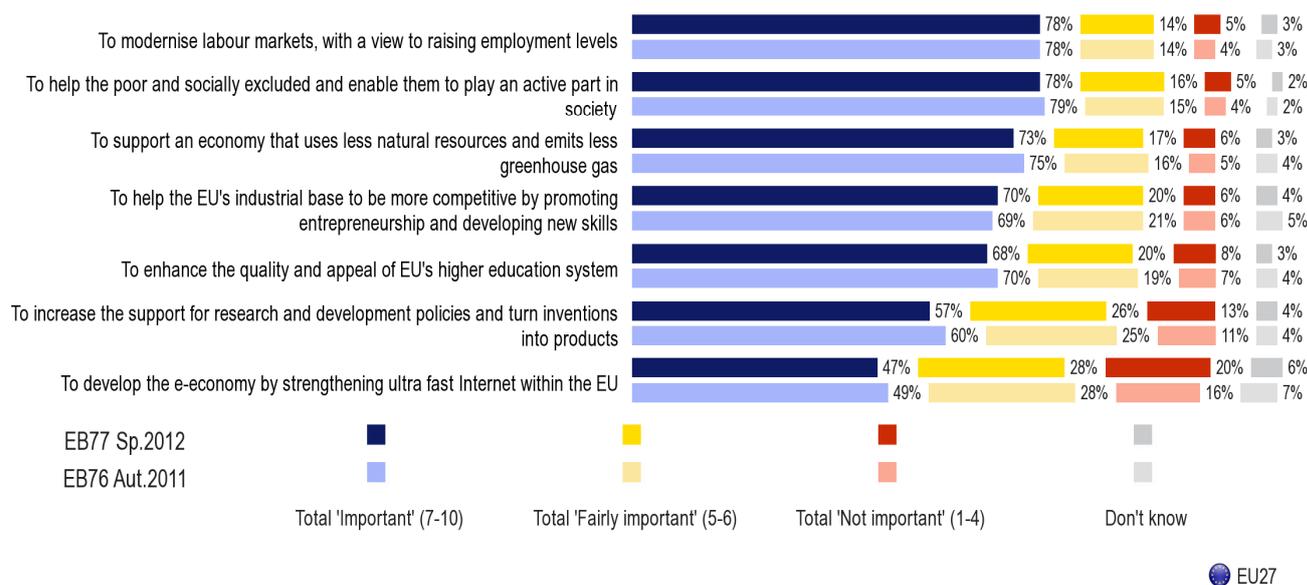
The first results report is published today outlining Europeans' perceptions of the current economic situation and preoccupations for the future as well as their opinions on the crisis and the Europe 2020 strategy. Trend results on the EU Institutions and data on questions about citizenship issues are also published.

The first results report is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/eb/eb77/eb77_en.htm

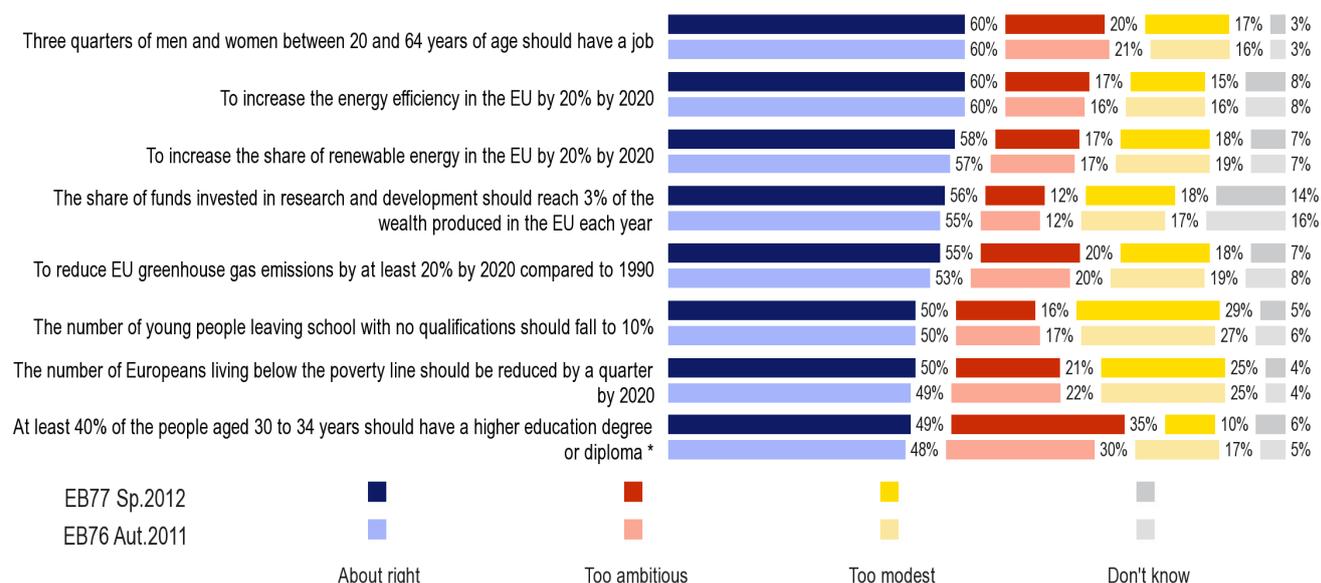
1. Perceived importance of Europe 2020 initiatives

QB1. For each of the following initiatives, please tell me how important or not you think they are in order for the EU to exit the present financial and economic crisis and prepare for the next decade. Please use a scale from 1 to 10, where '1' means that you think this initiative is "not at all important" and '10' means that it is "very important".



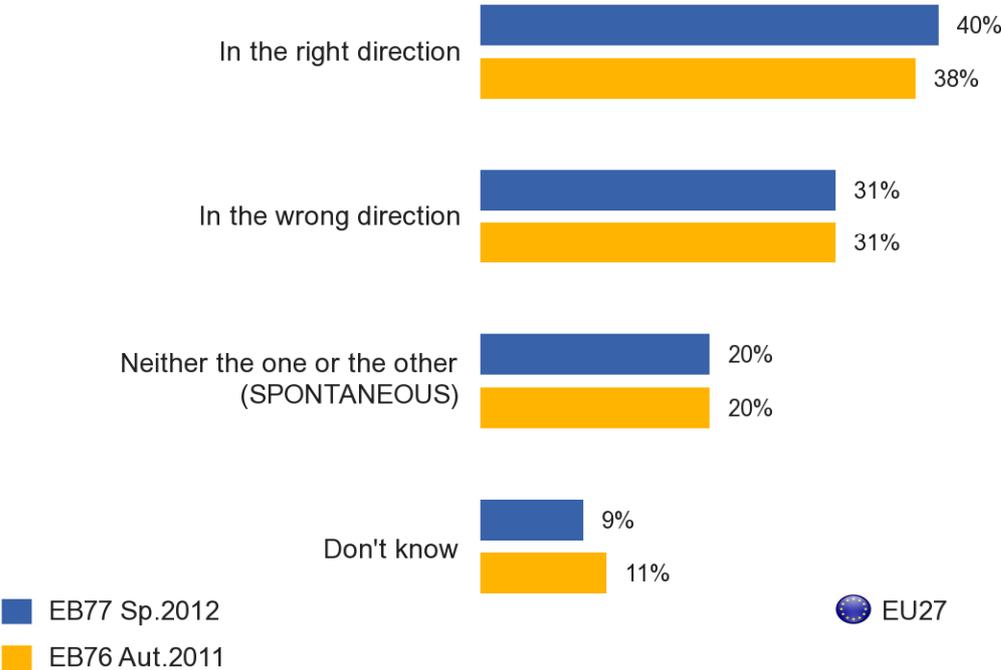
2. Appraisal of Europe 2020 targets

QB2. Thinking about each of the following objectives to be reached by 2020 in the EU, would you say that it is too ambitious, about right or too modest?



3. Perceived relevance of the Europe 2020 approach

QB3. Having heard about the priorities of the EU, do you think that the EU is going in the right direction or in the wrong direction to exit the crisis and face the world new challenges?



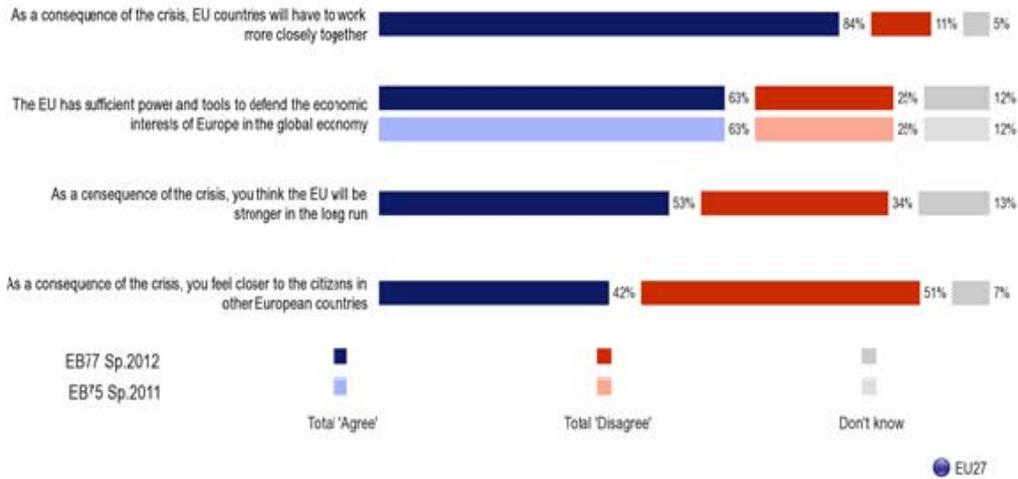
4. Differentiation between Member States on the impact of the crisis on jobs and trends since Autumn 2011

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

		The worst is still to come	Diff. Sp.2012-Aut.2011	The impact of the crisis on jobs has already reached its peak	Diff. Sp.2012-Aut.2011	Don't know	Diff. Sp.2012-Aut.2011
	EU27	60%	-8	30%	+7	10%	+1
	Euro area	61%	-7	29%	+6	10%	+1
	Non-Euro area	58%	-9	32%	+8	10%	+1
	BG	40%	+2	42%	+4	18%	-6
	ES	72%	+2	23%	-2	5%	=
	EL	77%	+1	20%	-1	3%	=
	IT	62%	=	25%	=	13%	=
	CY	77%	-3	17%	+1	6%	+2
	IE	60%	-5	34%	+5	6%	=
	PT	78%	-6	16%	+5	6%	+1
	SI	67%	-6	29%	+7	4%	-1
	UK	73%	-6	22%	+6	5%	=
	DE	54%	-7	32%	+8	14%	-1
	MT	56%	-7	31%	+6	13%	+1
	SE	58%	-7	37%	+5	5%	+2
	LT	53%	-8	38%	+7	9%	+1
	HU	54%	-8	39%	+9	7%	-1
	BE	65%	-9	32%	+9	3%	=
	LV	49%	-9	41%	+6	10%	+3
	AT	44%	-9	43%	+7	13%	+2
	PL	53%	-9	32%	+5	15%	+4
	LU	67%	-10	28%	+10	5%	=
	FI	62%	-10	33%	+10	5%	=
	EE	44%	-11	50%	+10	6%	+1
	RO	42%	-14	42%	+17	16%	-3
	NL	60%	-16	34%	+16	6%	=
	FR	59%	-17	32%	+14	9%	+3
	CZ	54%	-20	40%	+19	6%	+1
	DK	45%	-20	51%	+21	4%	-1
	SK	49%	-22	45%	+20	6%	+2

5. Statements on the crisis: EU countries will have to work more closely together and the EU will be stronger in the long run.

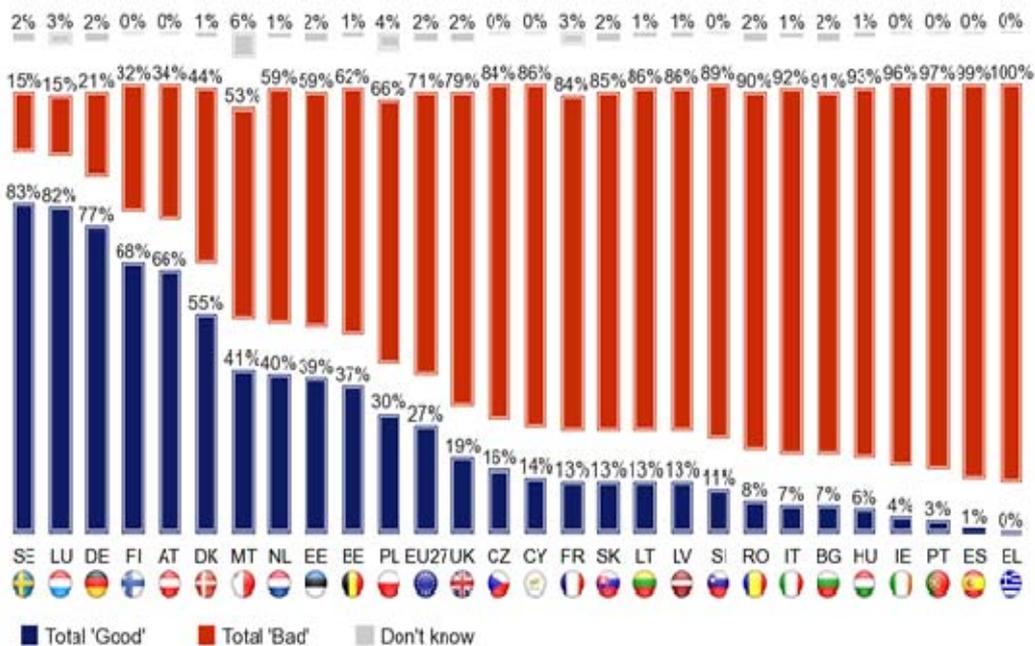
QC4a. For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree.



6. Differentiation between Member States on the appraisal of the current state of the economy

QA4a.1. How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?

The situation of the (NATIONALITY) economy



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