



# EUROBAROMETER 76

## PUBLIC OPINION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

### FIRST RESULTS

Fieldwork: November 2011

Publication: December 2011

This survey has been requested and co-ordinated by Directorate-General for Communication (DG COMM “Research and Speechwriting” Unit).

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

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# **Standard Eurobarometer 76 Autumn 2011**

## **First results**

Conducted by TNS Opinion & Social at the  
request of the European Commission -  
Directorate-General for Communication

Survey co-ordinated by the  
Directorate-General for Communication

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## Introduction

This report presents the first results of the Standard Eurobarometer 76 survey which was carried out from 5 to 20 November 2011<sup>1</sup>. Interviews took place in 33 countries or territories: the 27 European Union Member States, the five candidate countries (Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Iceland and Montenegro), and the Turkish Cypriot Community in the part of the country that is not controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus.

This "First results" report is a selection of graphics illustrating questions on different themes related to the economy and the political situation. It is published with the results of the Standard Eurobarometer questions on the economic crisis and other political trends in the EU.

As in previous surveys, the results show that wide divergences continue to exist between public opinion in different EU Member States, particularly on questions related to the economy. After the improvement in European public opinion observed in the previous survey in Spring 2011 (EB75), the current survey shows that the results of Europeans' appraisal of their own household and job situations remain relatively stable. However there has been a marked deterioration in optimism about the evaluation of the current state of the European economy and about future economic prospects at national, European and global level. There is also a sharp decline in trust in both national and European political institutions. However, despite the difficulties encountered and a less positive image, Europeans still see the EU as the institution best able to take effective measures to tackle the crisis.

The survey has been conducted in a period when EU-related issues have been prominent in the media. The fieldwork started after the European Councils of 23 and 26 October and against the immediate backdrop of the G20 meeting in Cannes on 3-4 November. It is important to note that during the fieldwork period, new Prime Ministers were appointed in Greece (10 November) and Italy (16 November). It also coincided with preparations in Spain for the general election (20 November).

At the start of the fieldwork, the Commission published its Autumn economic forecasts<sup>2</sup> for 2012, cutting GDP predictions to 0,5% in the euro area, and 0,6% in the EU as a whole.

The fieldwork ended on 20 November, well before the European Council of 8-9 December which took further steps to improve economic governance in the European Union<sup>3 4</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> For precise details of the fieldwork dates in each country, please refer to the technical specifications.

<sup>2</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/economy\\_finance/publications/european\\_economy/2011/pdf/ee-2011-6\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/publications/european_economy/2011/pdf/ee-2011-6_en.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/pressdata/en/ec/126714.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/ec/126714.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/pressdata/en/ec/126658.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/ec/126658.pdf)

This report focuses on results from the EU27 Member States and is divided into four parts. The first focuses on the way Europeans perceive the current economic situation; the second addresses the main concerns of Europeans, and their expectations for the next twelve months; the report then turns to the euro and issues linked to the crisis. Finally, the fourth part is devoted to the appraisal of political institutions: national governments and parliaments, and the EU and its institutions.

These questions have been asked in previous Standard Eurobarometer surveys, and trend results are presented.

\* \* \*

The methodology used is that of the Standard Eurobarometer surveys of the Directorate-General for Communication ("Research and Speechwriting" Unit). A technical note concerning the interviews, carried out by the institutes within the TNS Opinion & Social network, is annexed to this report. This note describes the interview method used, as well as the confidence intervals<sup>5</sup>.

*The Eurobarometer web site can be consulted at the following address:*

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

*We wish to thank the people throughout Europe who have given their time to take part in this survey. Without their active participation, this survey would not have been possible.*

\* \* \*

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<sup>5</sup> The results tables are included in the annex. It should be noted that the total of the percentages in the tables of this report may exceed 100% when the respondent can give several answers to the same question.

Note: In this report, the countries are represented by their official abbreviations. The abbreviations used in this report correspond to:

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

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

\*\* Provisional code which does not prejudice in any way the definitive nomenclature for this country, which will be agreed following the conclusion of negotiations currently taking place at the United Nations.

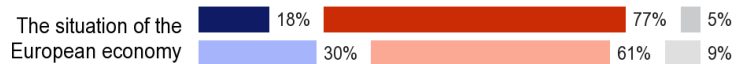
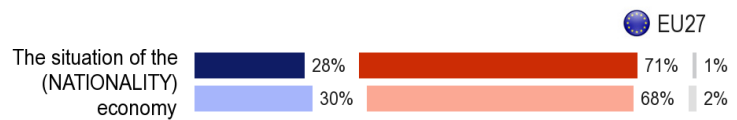
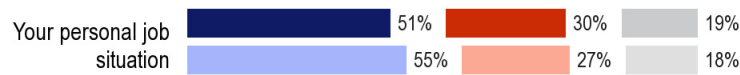
Results for CY(tcc), HR, TR, MK, IS and ME are available in the Annex to this report providing the data tables.

# 1. The Europeans and the state of the economy

## 1.1 Assessment of the current situation: general and personal aspects

Overall, people's assessments of their current household financial situation and of their own job situation have shown a measurable but slight decline over the last six months (both -4 points). There has been a much more marked deterioration in positive appraisals of the economic situation at European level (-12 points) and at world level (-7 points).

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































EU27

## 1.2 The household financial situation: national evolutions

Taking the aggregate results across all 27 Member States, more than six in ten Europeans (61%) still say the current financial situation of their household is good. This indicator has been relatively stable over the last year: compared to Autumn 2010 (EB 74), it has lost only three percentage points. However, it is important to note that only a minority think their household financial situation is good in six countries: Lithuania, Romania, Portugal, Bulgaria, Hungary and Greece.

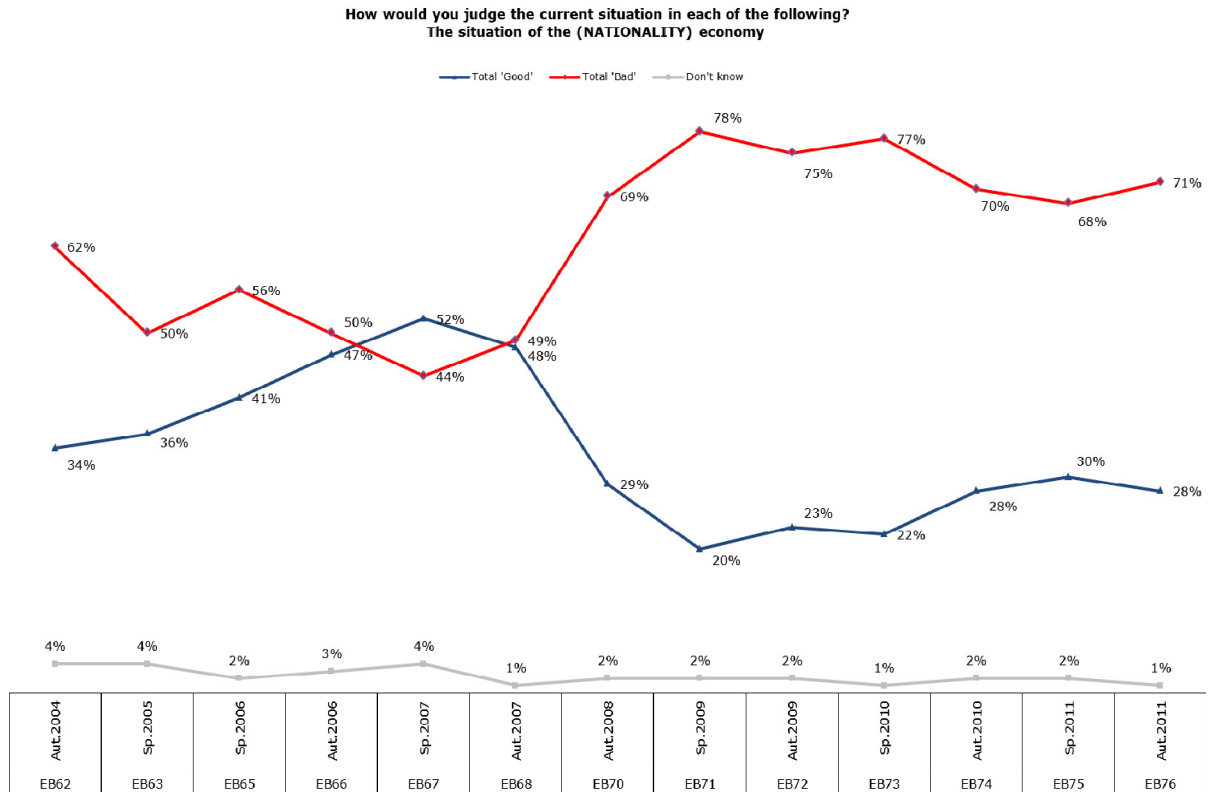
QA4.5 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?  
The financial situation of your household

		Total 'Good'				
		EB74 Aut.2010	EB75 Sp.2011	Diff EB75 Sp.2011 - Aut.2010	EB76 Aut.2011	Diff EB76 Aut.2011 - Sp.2011
	EU27	64%	65%	<b>+1</b>	61%	<b>-4</b>
	SE	87%	85%	<b>-2</b>	90%	<b>+5</b>
	LV	49%	48%	<b>-1</b>	52%	<b>+4</b>
	DK	86%	86%	<b>=</b>	89%	<b>+3</b>
	DE	77%	76%	<b>-1</b>	77%	<b>+1</b>
	RO	40%	36%	<b>-4</b>	37%	<b>+1</b>
	IE	47%	51%	<b>+4</b>	51%	<b>=</b>
	LT	50%	49%	<b>-1</b>	49%	<b>=</b>
	FI	85%	88%	<b>+3</b>	88%	<b>=</b>
	BE	79%	80%	<b>+1</b>	79%	<b>-1</b>
	LU	88%	88%	<b>=</b>	87%	<b>-1</b>
	PL	58%	57%	<b>-1</b>	56%	<b>-1</b>
	FR	69%	66%	<b>-3</b>	64%	<b>-2</b>
	MT	56%	61%	<b>+5</b>	59%	<b>-2</b>
	NL	86%	87%	<b>+1</b>	85%	<b>-2</b>
	EE	66%	67%	<b>+1</b>	64%	<b>-3</b>
	ES	52%	57%	<b>+5</b>	54%	<b>-3</b>
	CZ	61%	59%	<b>-2</b>	55%	<b>-4</b>
	UK	72%	77%	<b>+5</b>	73%	<b>-4</b>
	BG	32%	33%	<b>+1</b>	28%	<b>-5</b>
	HU	29%	29%	<b>=</b>	24%	<b>-5</b>
	SI	63%	62%	<b>-1</b>	57%	<b>-5</b>
	CY	61%	59%	<b>-2</b>	53%	<b>-6</b>
	PT	40%	41%	<b>+1</b>	35%	<b>-6</b>
	SK	62%	61%	<b>-1</b>	55%	<b>-6</b>
	AT	76%	79%	<b>+3</b>	72%	<b>-7</b>
	IT	61%	60%	<b>-1</b>	51%	<b>-9</b>
	EL	39%	36%	<b>-3</b>	24%	<b>-12</b>



### 1.3 The current situation of the economy at national level: trend

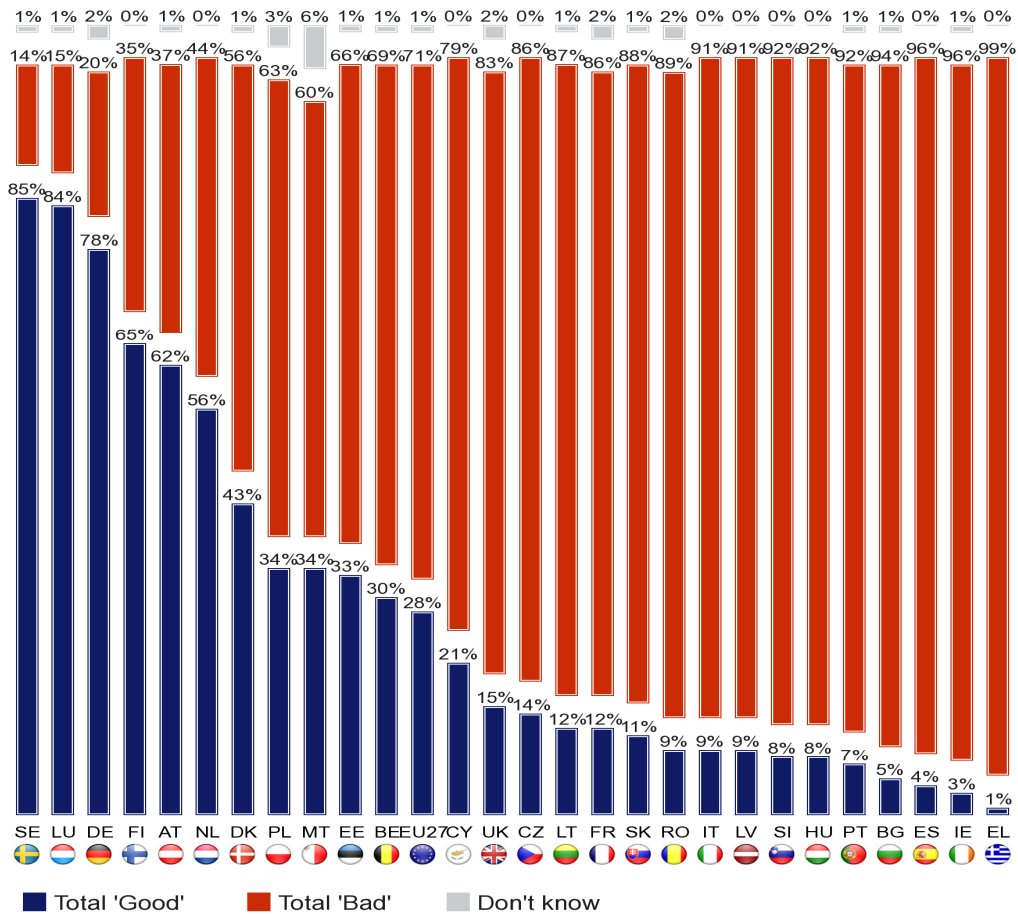
The historical trend depicts the continuity of the results recorded in Autumn 2011 for the current situation of the national economy. These are the aggregate results at EU level of public opinion in all the EU Member States. Around 7 in 10 Europeans continue to think that the situation of their national economy is rather bad or very bad. It is nevertheless important to note that the positive answers are still percentage 8 points above the most recent low recorded in Spring 2009.



### 1.4 The current situation of the economy at national level: national results

Differentiation between public opinion in the EU Member States on this question remains wide. Behind the EU average, there is still a difference of around 80 percentage points between the highest and lowest results for those who say that the economic situation of their country is good. In some Member States - for example, Sweden, Luxembourg and Germany - around 80% or more of people judge the situation of the national economy to be good. However, in other countries - for example, Greece, Ireland and Spain - fewer than 5% of people take this view.

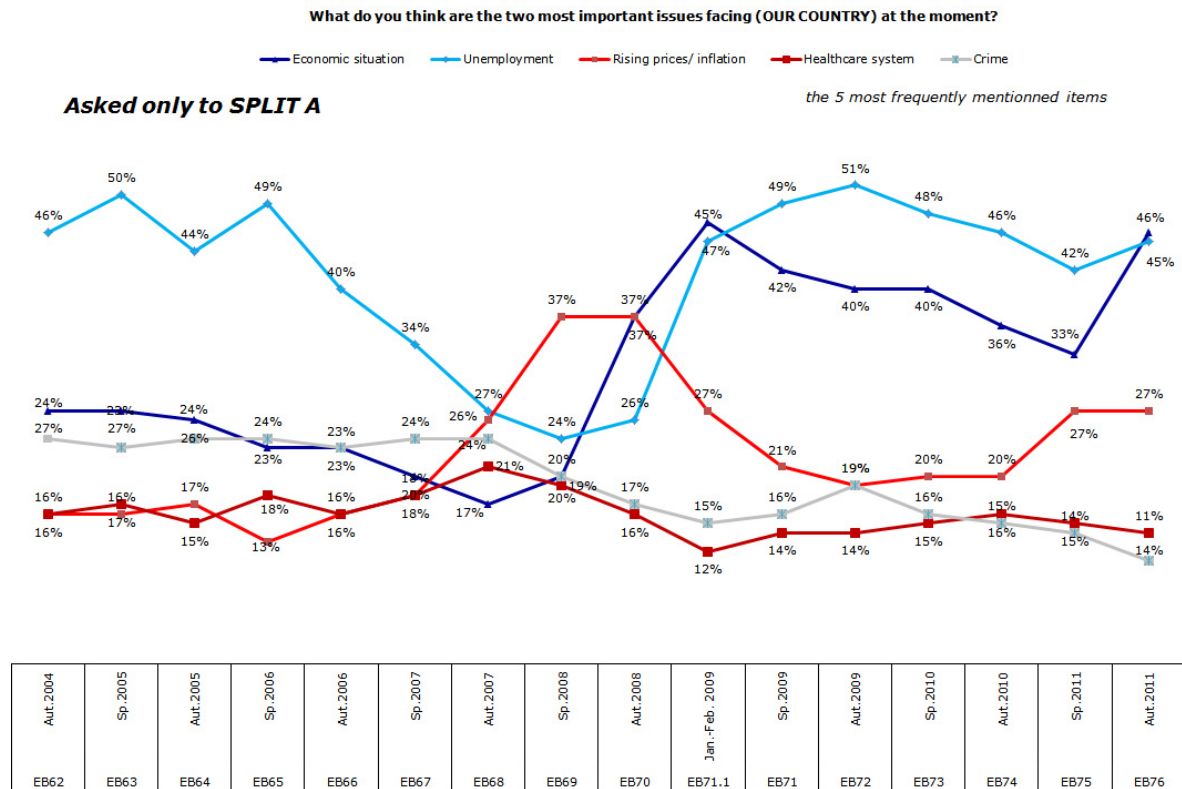
How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?  
The situation of the (NATIONALITY) economy



## 2. Main concerns

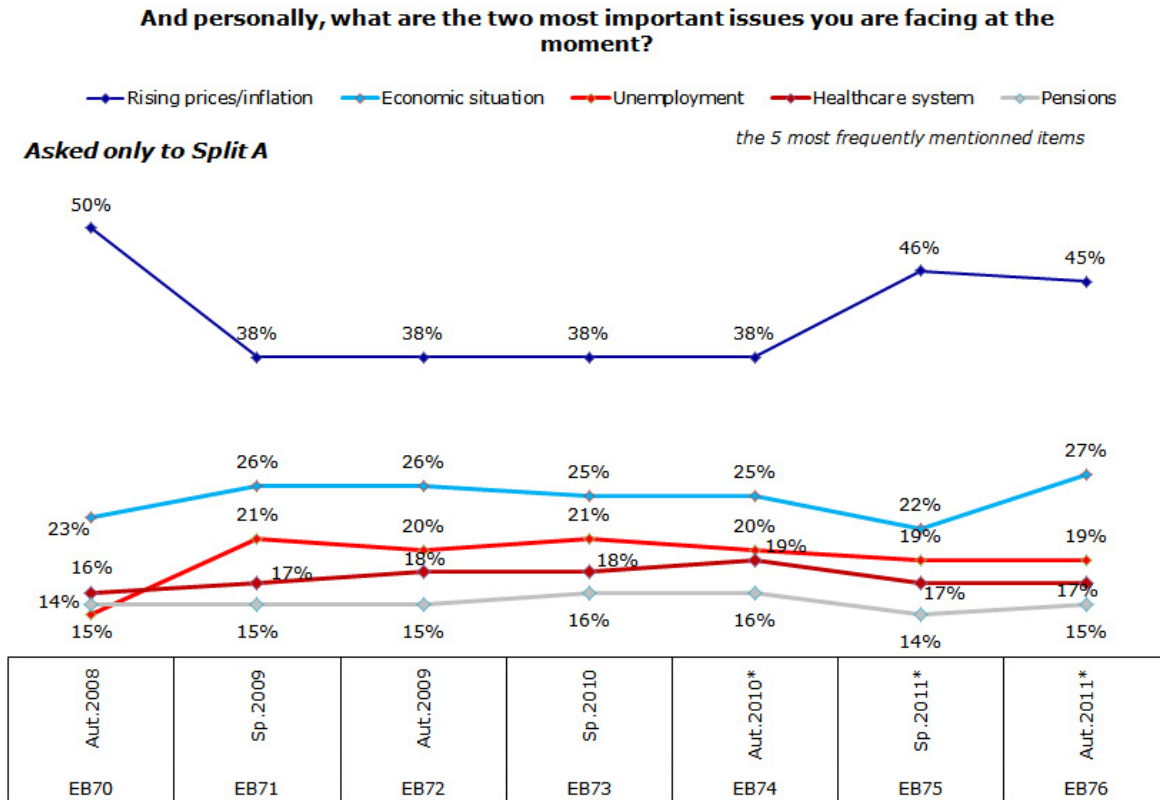
### 2.1 Main concerns at national level: trend

At national level, unemployment and the economic situation are now equally seen as the two most important concerns of Europeans. The snapshot of public opinion on this issue in Autumn 2011 is rather similar to the one recorded in January 2009.



## 2.2 Main concerns at personal level: trend

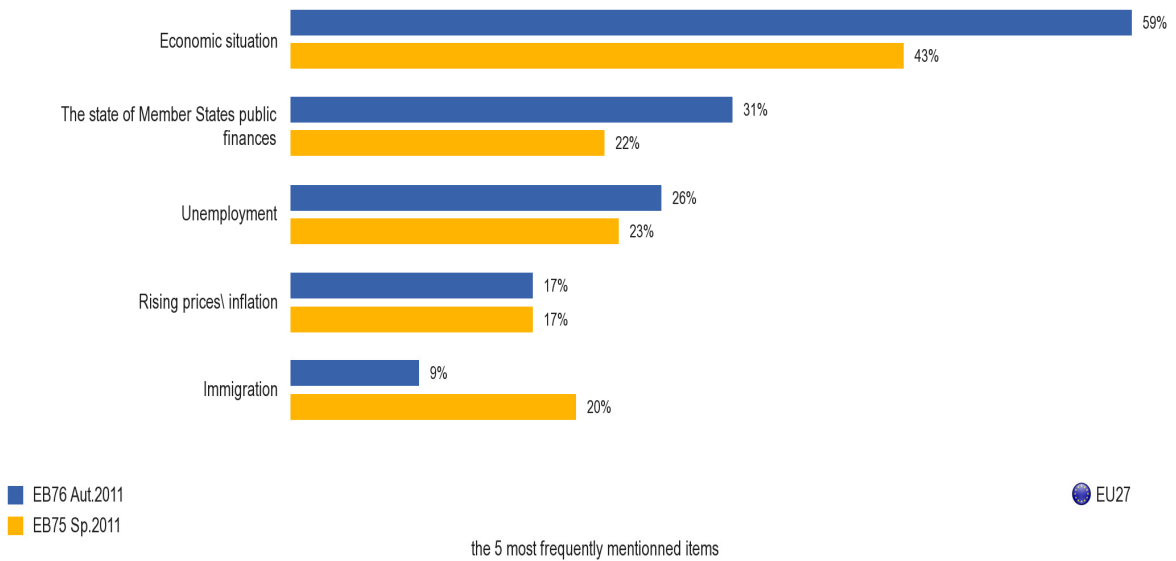
The results of the question about concerns at a personal level are more stable. However, there was a significant rise in the number of respondents who see the economic situation among the top two issues which they face (+5 points).



## 2.3 Main concerns at European level: evolution

Europeans clearly see the economic situation emerging once again as the most important issue for the European Union (+16 points). Perhaps understandably, the public finances of the Member States have also risen in importance in the minds of Europeans and are now the second most important issue (+9 points), followed by unemployment. Inflation is among the two most important issues facing the EU for fewer than one in five – unchanged since the Spring. Over the same period, the relative importance of immigration has declined (-11 points).

QA8. What do you think are the two most important issues facing the EU at the moment?

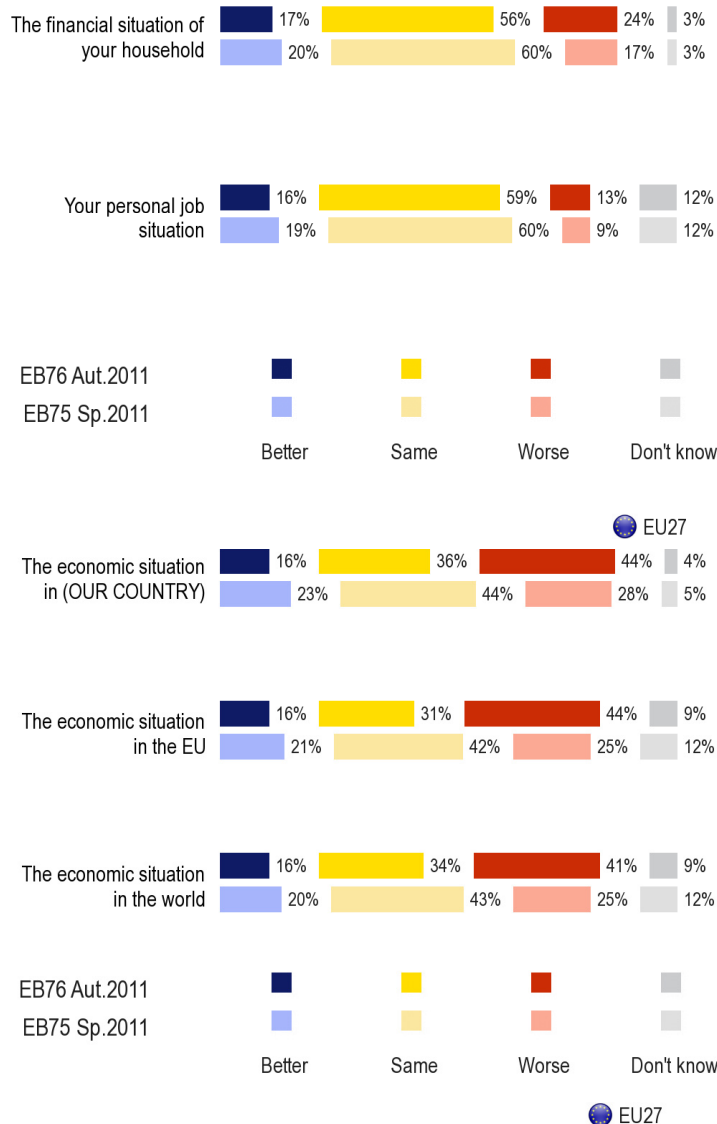


## 2.4 Expectations for the next twelve months: general and personal aspects

Despite relatively turbulent times since the last Standard Eurobarometer was conducted in Spring 2011, people's outlook for their household and personal job situations has remained relatively stable. The aggregate results across the 27 Member States show three in four Europeans feel the next 12 months will be the same or better. There has been a rise in those who feel it will be worse.

However, people's expectations for the economy over the next twelve months have become markedly more pessimistic. This applies at national, European and global levels. The proportion who feel the next twelve months will be worse has risen by 16, 19 and 16 percentage points respectively.

QA5a. What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?

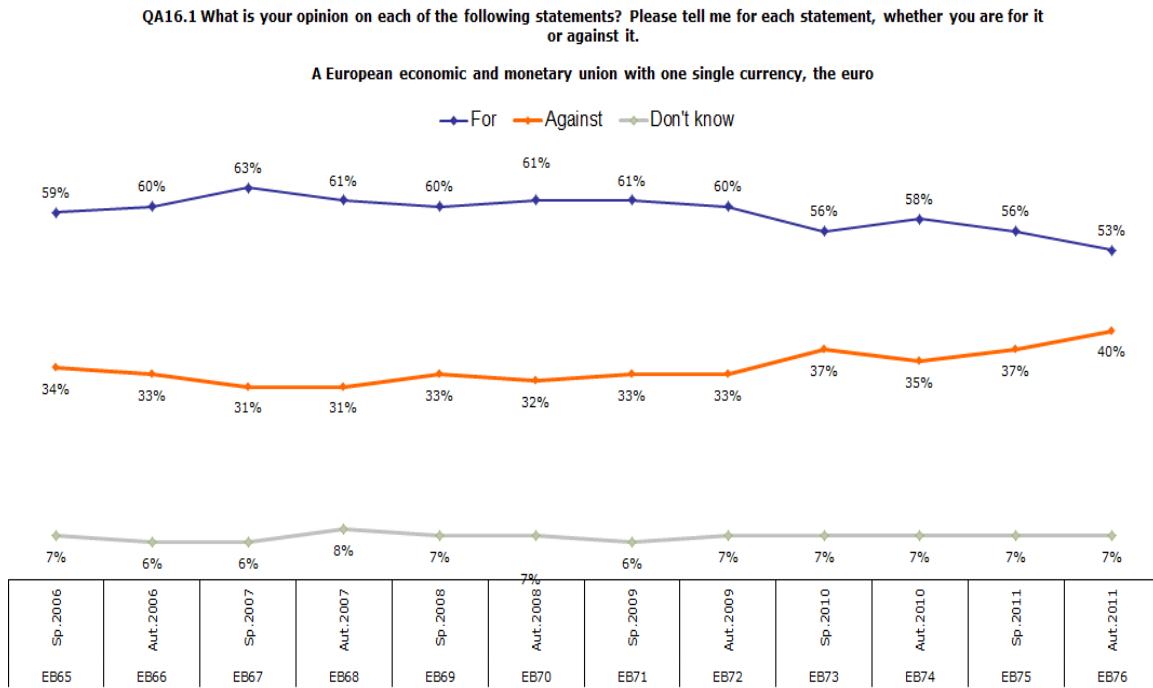


### 3. The crisis

#### 3.1 Support for a European economic and monetary union with a single currency, the Euro: trend

Public support for the Euro remains solid despite a slight deterioration over time. As we approach the 10th anniversary of the introduction of Euro notes and coins, it is important to note that public support for the single currency remains stable.

The results presented below are those for the European Union. In the Euro area, the support for the Euro reaches 64% with only 29% against.

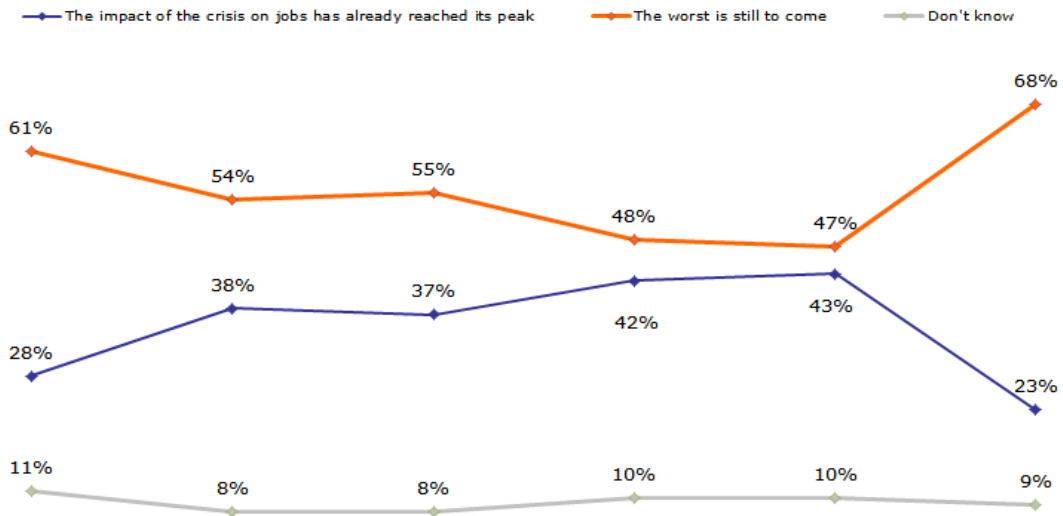


### 3.2 Impact of the crisis on jobs: trend

There had been a slow but steady rise over the 2 years to Spring 2011 in the proportion of Europeans who consider the impact of the crisis on jobs has already reached its peak. Equally, there had been a slow but steady decline in those feeling the worst is still to come. However, since Spring 2011, Europeans' outlook on this question has turned significantly more pessimistic. 68% (+21 points since Spring 2011) of Europeans say that when it comes to the impact of the economic crisis on jobs, "the worst is still to come".

**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?**



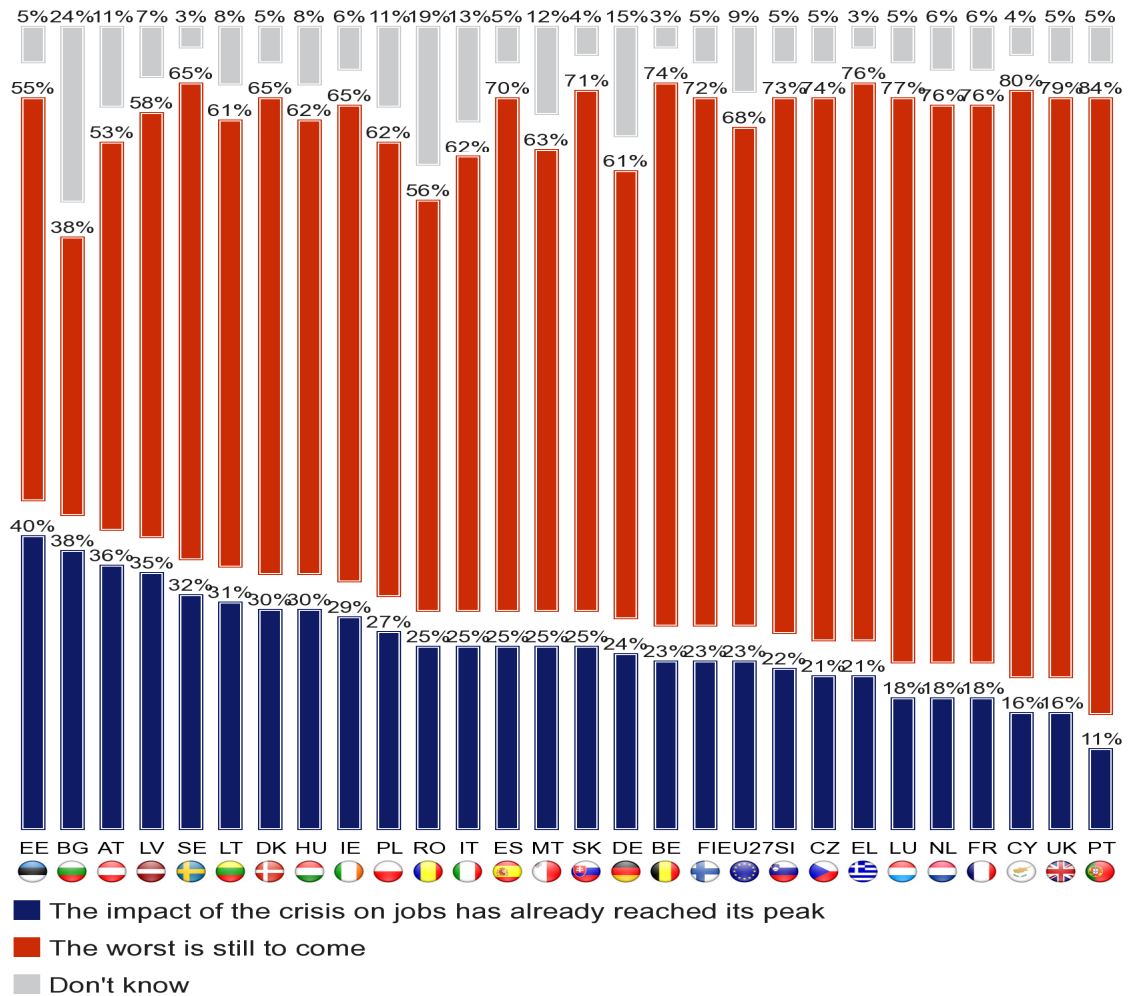
May-June 2009	Aut. 2009	Sp. 2010	Aut. 2010	Sp. 2011	Aut. 2011
EB71.2	EB72	EB73	EB74	EB75	EB76



### 3.3 Impact of the crisis on jobs: national results

Here the differentiation between public opinion across EU Member States is less marked. From Estonia (40%) to Portugal (11%), those who feel the crisis has reached its peak are not yet in the majority. The aggregate of public opinion in Europe shows that Europeans feel the worst of the crisis is still to come.

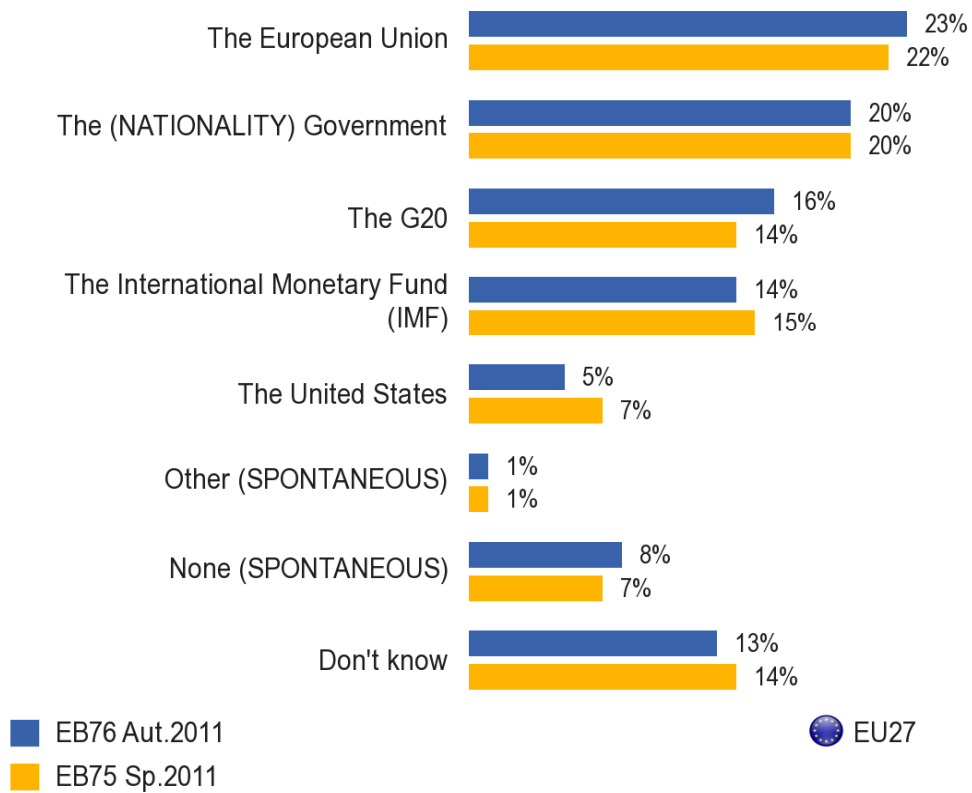
Some analysts say that the impact of the economic crisis on the job market has already reached its peak and things will recover little by little. Others, on the contrary, say that the worst is still to come. Which of the two statements is closer to your opinion?



### 3.4 Best actors to take actions against the crisis

Despite their more pessimistic outlook, Europeans see the European Union as the actor best able to take effective action against the financial and economic crisis. This result remains stable - the EU is still seen as part of the solution to the crisis.

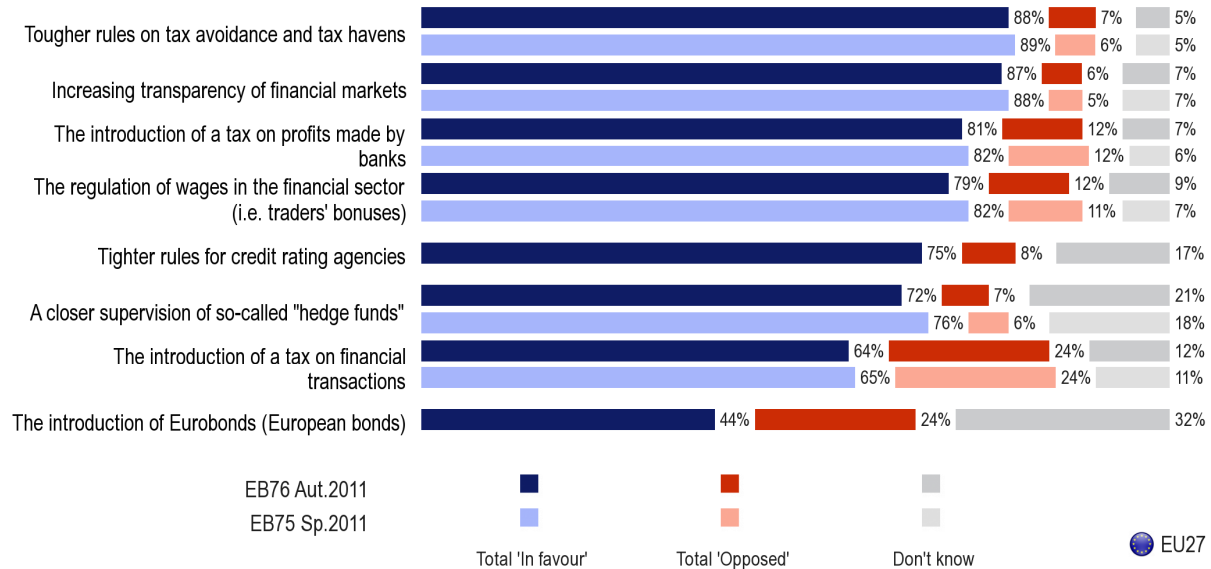
QC3a. In your opinion, which of the following is best able to take effective actions against the effects of the financial and economic crisis?



### 3.5 Measures to reform global financial markets

Public support for the measures proposed in the questionnaire related to global financial market reform remains steady. The aggregate results show that almost 2 in 3 Europeans support the introduction of a tax on financial transactions (proposed by the European Commission President in his State of the Union Address on 28 September 2011<sup>6</sup>). Three quarters of Europeans support tighter rules for credit rating agencies (reforms were proposed by the European Commission on 15 November 2011). There is less clarity on the "Eurobonds" issue: 44% are in favour, 24% opposed and 32% do not know. The European Commission published its Green paper on Stability Bonds on 23 November 2011.

QC6. Thinking about reform global financial markets, please tell me whether you are in favour or opposed to the following measures to be taken by the EU.

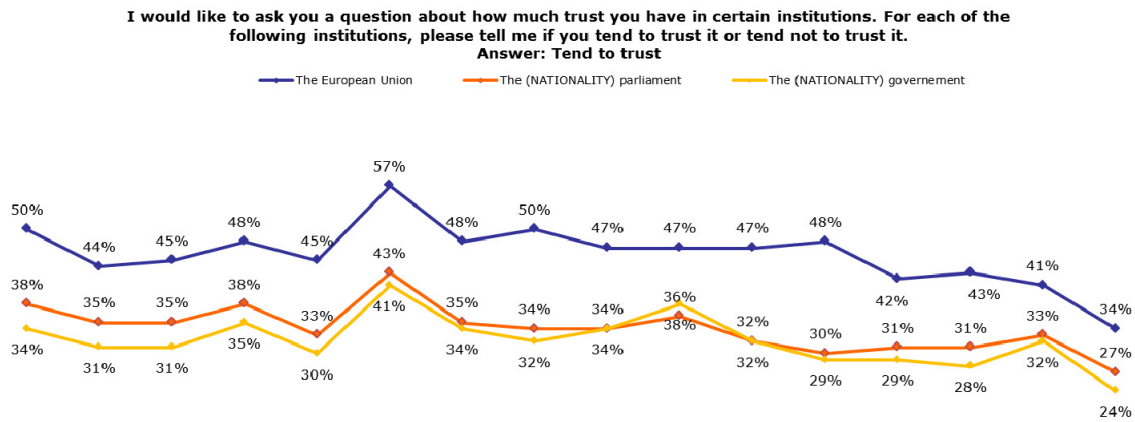


<sup>6</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/commission\\_2010-2014/president/state-union-2011/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/president/state-union-2011/index_en.htm)

## 4. Europeans and the political institutions

### 4.1 Trust in the national government, the national parliament, and the European Union: trend

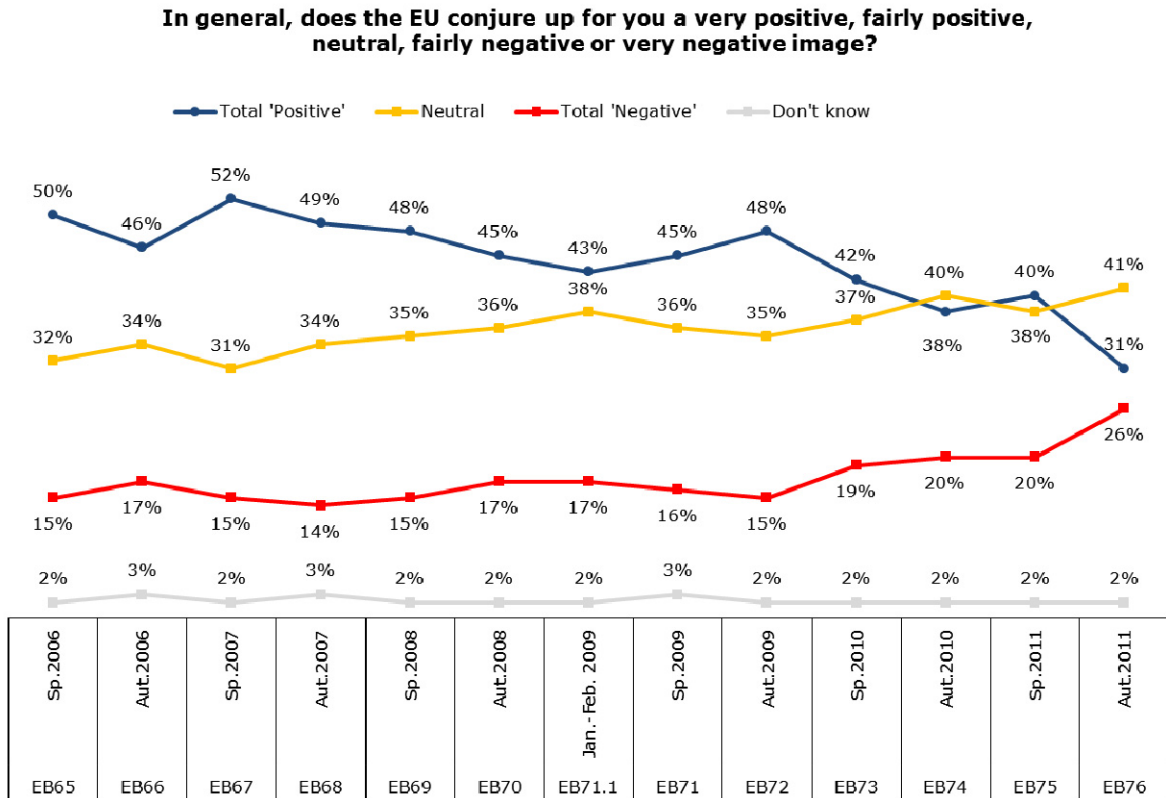
The past six months has seen a further erosion of trust in political institutions in general. This has affected national Governments and national Parliaments in the EU Member States (aggregate -8 and -6 points respectively) as well as the European Union (-7 points).



Aut. 2004	Sp. 2005	Aut. 2005	Sp. 2006	Aut. 2006	Sp. 2007	Aut. 2007	Sp. 2008	Aut. 2008	Jan.-Feb. 2009	Sp. 2009	Aut. 2009	Sp. 2010	Aut. 2010	Sp. 2011	Aut. 2011
EB62	EB63	EB64	EB65	EB66	EB67	EB68	EB69	EB70	EB71.1	EB71	EB72	EB73	EB74	EB75	EB76

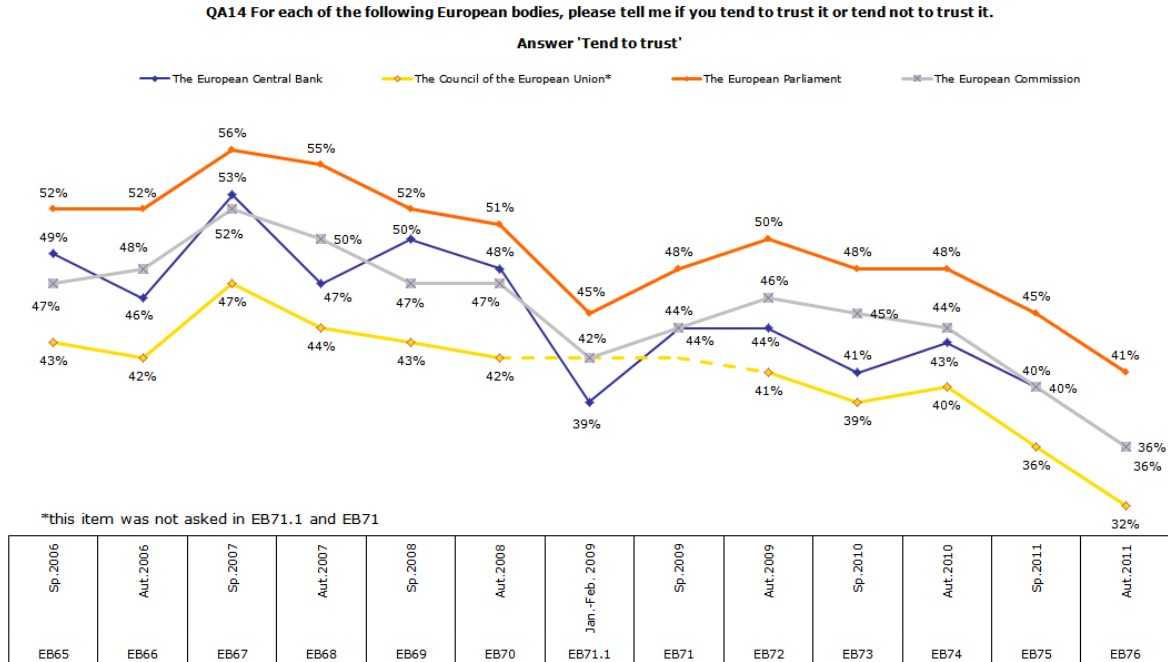
### 4.2 Image of the EU: trend

Perhaps not surprisingly, the proportion of the public saying the EU conjures up a positive image has suffered a sharp decline since Spring 2011 (-9 points). The aggregate results for those with a neutral or negative image of the EU both rose (+3 points and +6 points respectively).



### 4.3 Trust in the European institutions: trend

Like national political institutions, trust in the four main EU institutions (Parliament, Commission, Council and European Central Bank) has following a downward trend since Autumn 2009. The aggregate result is that fewer people tend to trust the European Institutions than tend to distrust them.



### OVERALL CONCLUSION

This report is published with the data for the "Standard" Eurobarometer questions about the economic crisis and about the general political situation in the European Union. People's views of their own situation and that of their country's economy have remained relatively stable. However, there is a marked downward shift in public perception of the European economy. Moreover, there is a decline in optimism about prospects for the next 12 months. Over the same six month time period, there has been a sharp decline in trust in political institutions both at national level and also at European level. Yet despite this, the EU remains the actor which Europeans feel will be most effective in tackling the economic crisis.

## TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

### STANDARD EUROBAROMETER 76 First results TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Between the 5<sup>th</sup> of November and the 20<sup>th</sup> of November 2011, TNS Opinion & Social, a consortium created between TNS plc and TNS opinion, carried out the wave 76.3 of the EUROBAROMETER, on request of the EUROPEAN COMMISSION, Directorate-General for Communication, "Research and Speechwriting".

The EUROBAROMETER 76.3 is a "STANDARD EUROBAROMETER" and covers the population of the respective nationalities of the European Union Member States, resident in each of the Member States and aged 15 years and over. The STANDARD EUROBAROMETER 76 has also been conducted in the five candidate countries (Croatia, Turkey, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland and Montenegro) and in the Turkish Cypriot Community. In these countries, the survey covers the national population of citizens and the population of citizens of all the European Union Member States that are residents in these countries and have a sufficient command of the national languages to answer the questionnaire. The basic sample design applied in all states is a multi-stage, random (probability) one. In each country, a number of sampling points was drawn with probability proportional to population size (for a total coverage of the country) and to population density.

In order to do so, the sampling points were drawn systematically from each of the "administrative regional units", after stratification by individual unit and type of area. They thus represent the whole territory of the countries surveyed according to the EUROSTAT NUTS II (or equivalent) and according to the distribution of the resident population of the respective nationalities in terms of metropolitan, urban and rural areas. In each of the selected sampling points, a starting address was drawn, at random. Further addresses (every Nth address) were selected by standard "random route" procedures, from the initial address. In each household, the respondent was drawn, at random (following the "closest birthday rule"). All interviews were conducted face-to-face in people's homes and in the appropriate national language. As far as the data capture is concerned, CAPI (*Computer Assisted Personal Interview*) was used in those countries where this technique was available.

ABBR.	COUNTRIES	INSTITUTES	N° INTERVIEWS	FIELDWORK DATES		POPULATION 15+
BE	Belgium	TNS Dimarso	1.028	05/11/2011	20/11/2011	8.866.411
BG	Bulgaria	TNS BBSS	1.003	05/11/2011	14/11/2011	6.584.957
CZ	Czech Rep.	TNS Aisa	1.002	05/11/2011	20/11/2011	8.987.535
DK	Denmark	TNS Gallup DK	1.009	05/11/2011	20/11/2011	4.533.420
DE	Germany	TNS Infratest	1.538	05/11/2011	20/11/2011	64.545.601
EE	Estonia	Emor	1.003	05/11/2011	20/11/2011	916.000
IE	Ireland	Ipsos MRBI	1.015	05/11/2011	18/11/2011	3.375.399
EL	Greece	TNS ICAP	1.000	05/11/2011	18/11/2011	8.693.566
ES	Spain	TNS Demoscopia	1.004	05/11/2011	20/11/2011	39.035.867
FR	France	TNS Sofres	1.031	05/11/2011	20/11/2011	47.620.942
IT	Italy	TNS Infratest	1.031	07/11/2011	20/11/2011	51.252.247
CY	Rep. of Cyprus	Synovate	504	05/11/2011	20/11/2011	651.400
LV	Latvia	TNS Latvia	1.009	05/11/2011	20/11/2011	1.448.719
LT	Lithuania	TNS Gallup Lithuania	1.026	05/11/2011	20/11/2011	2.849.359
LU	Luxembourg	TNS ILReS	498	05/11/2011	20/11/2011	404.907
HU	Hungary	TNS Hoffmann Kft	1.021	05/11/2011	20/11/2011	8.320.614
MT	Malta	MISCO	500	05/11/2011	20/11/2011	335.476
NL	Netherlands	TNS NIPO	1.005	05/11/2011	20/11/2011	13.288.200
AT	Austria	Österreichisches Gallup-Institut	1.001	05/11/2011	20/11/2011	6.973.277
PL	Poland	TNS OBOP	1.000	05/11/2011	20/11/2011	32.306.436
PT	Portugal	TNS EUROTESTE	1.002	05/11/2011	20/11/2011	8.080.915
RO	Romania	TNS CSOP	1.011	05/11/2011	20/11/2011	18.246.731
SI	Slovenia	RM PLUS	1.017	05/11/2011	19/11/2011	1.748.308
SK	Slovakia	TNS Slovakia	1.000	05/11/2011	20/11/2011	4.549.954
FI	Finland	TNS Gallup Oy	1.002	05/11/2011	20/11/2011	4.412.321
SE	Sweden	TNS GALLUP	1.022	05/11/2011	20/11/2011	7.723.931
UK	United Kingdom	TNS UK	1.312	05/11/2011	20/11/2011	51.081.866
<b>TOTAL EU27</b>			<b>26.594</b>	<b>05/11/2011</b>	<b>20/11/2011</b>	<b>406.834.359</b>
CY(tcc)	Turkish Cypriot Community	Kadem	500	05/11/2011	16/11/2011	143.226
HR	Croatia	Puls	1.000	05/11/2011	20/11/2011	3.749.400
TR	Turkey	TNS PIAR	1.001	05/11/2011	20/11/2011	52.728.513
MK	Former Yugoslav Rep. of Macedonia	TNS Brima	1.056	05/11/2011	12/11/2011	1.678.404
IS	Iceland	Capacent	500	05/11/2011	20/11/2011	252.277
ME	Montenegro	TNS Medium Gallup	1.008	05/11/2011	20/11/2011	492.265
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>31.659</b>	<b>05/11/2011</b>	<b>20/11/2011</b>	<b>469.946.984</b>

For each country a comparison between the sample and the universe was carried out. The Universe description was derived from Eurostat population data or from national statistics offices. For all countries surveyed, a national weighting procedure, using marginal and intercellular weighting, was carried out based on this Universe description. In all countries, gender, age, region and size of locality were introduced in the iteration procedure. For international weighting (i.e. EU averages), TNS Opinion & Social applies the official population figures as provided by EUROSTAT or national statistic offices. The total population figures for input in this post-weighting procedure are listed above.

Readers are reminded that survey results are estimations, the accuracy of which, everything being equal, rests upon the sample size and upon the observed percentage. With samples of about 1,000 interviews, the real percentages vary within the following confidence limits:

<b>Observed percentages</b>	10% or 90%	20% or 80%	30% or 70%	40% or 60%	50%
<b>Confidence limits</b>	± 1.9 points	± 2.5 points	± 2.7 points	± 3.0 points	± 3.1 points