



THE 2019 POST-ELECTORAL SURVEY **HAVE EUROPEAN ELECTIONS ENTERED A NEW DIMENSION?**

Eurobarometer Survey 91.5 of the European Parliament
A Public Opinion Monitoring Study



THE 2019 POST-ELECTORAL SURVEY

HAVE EUROPEAN ELECTIONS ENTERED A NEW DIMENSION?

Eurobarometer Survey 91.5 of the European Parliament

A Public Opinion Monitoring Study

Eurobarometer survey commissioned by the European Parliament

Directorate-General for Communication

Public Opinion Monitoring Unit

September 2019 - PE 640.156

IMPRESSUM

AUTHORS

Julien ZALC, Nicolas BECUWE, Alexandrina BURUIAN (all KANTAR)

GRAPHICS

KANTAR

PRODUCTION

Katarzyna ONISZK

Manuscript completed in September 2019

Brussels, © European Union, 2019

Cover photo: Shutterstock.com

ABOUT THE PUBLISHER

This report was drafted by Kantar for the Public Opinion Monitoring Unit within the Directorate–General for Communication (DG COMM) of the European Parliament.

Responsible: Philipp M. SCHULMEISTER, Head of Public Opinion Monitoring Unit

Contact: DGCOMM-POM@ep.europa.eu

LINGUISTIC VERSION

Original: EN

DISCLAIMER

This document is prepared for, and primarily addressed to, the Members and staff of the European Parliament to assist them in their parliamentary work. The content of the document is the sole responsibility of its author(s) and any opinions expressed herein should not be taken to represent an official position of the Parliament.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	7
CONTEXT	13
VOTING IN EUROPEAN ELECTIONS 2019	19
The highest turnout in the last 20 years: a symbol of the democratic EU's good health	19
Profile of voters and abstainers	23
The moment of taking the decision to vote	25
The degree of certainty who to vote for	28
The reasons of the choice who to vote for	30
The moment of taking the decision to vote for a specific party or candidate	37
Reasons for voting: how important were "pro-European" reasons?	41
Issues behind the vote: a comparison with the pre-election period	50
ABSTENTION IN EUROPEAN ELECTIONS 2019	59
The decision to abstain	59
Reasons for abstention	63
THE GO TO VOTE EE19 CAMPAIGN	69
BREXIT: DID IT MATTER OR NOT?	73
DEMOCRACY IN THE EU: INCREASINGLY POSITIVE PERCEPTIONS	76
Free and fair elections: the most appreciated aspect?	78
Increased perceptions of one's role in the EU	89
ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE EU	92
Membership in the EU	92
Perceived effects of membership in the EU	97
TECHNICAL NOTE ON THE IMPACT OF THE GDPR	113
TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS	114

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The European Parliament's Post-Election Eurobarometer is one of the most comprehensive quantitative surveys publicly available analysing citizens voting behaviour and motivation in European Parliament elections. As five years ago¹, the 2019 post-electoral survey was conducted by Kantar for the European Parliament in the weeks following the recent European Parliament elections from 23–26 May 2019.

Starting from the significant increase in voter turnout in the 2019 elections, this report looks in detail at who went to vote in the 2019 European elections, analysing the variations between EU countries, socio-demographic and socio-professional groups. The much higher turnout in many countries is shown to be stemming from the greater participation among younger people. Also, a sense of civic duty has become more ingrained in Europeans when they think about European Parliament elections, while increasingly favourable views of the EU have also impacted on voter turnout.

For the first time, the report, drafted by experts from Kantar, Parliament's official Eurobarometer contractor, also analyses respondents' concrete voting decisions (asked as voting recall questions in the survey) in the context of voting behaviour and motivation, with the full data volumes allowing for unrestricted further cross-examination with all other Eurobarometer key indicators.

THE HIGHEST TURNOUT IN THE LAST 20 YEARS

The overall turnout at the recent European Parliament elections was 50.6%. This is the highest turnout since the 1994 elections and is a striking increase from 2014 (when the turnout was 42.6%). The overall increase in turnout is mirrored in 19 Member States, with large increases since 2014 in Poland, Romania, Spain, Austria, Hungary and Germany, as well as substantial increases in countries with the lowest turnout, such as Slovakia and Czechia. Turnout fell in eight countries, but by no more than 3 percentage points.

Despite the increase in turnout, large differences remain between individual Member States, ranging from 88% in Belgium to 23% in Slovakia. It is important to bear in mind that voting is compulsory in five countries: Belgium, Bulgaria, Luxembourg, Cyprus, and Greece.

Although the turnout in 2019 was higher among all groups of the population, the increase was led by the younger generation, with large increases among people aged under 25 (+14 pp) and aged 25–39 (+12 pp). The cross-section of voters in 2019 appears to be more highly educated than in 2014, while the declared level of political interest has increased among both voters and abstainers. This insight offers a promising starting point for further increasing turnout in future years.

¹ <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/at-your-service/en/be-heard/eurobarometer/post-election-survey-2014>

MOST VOTERS MADE THE DECISION TO VOTE WELL IN ADVANCE OF THE ELECTIONS

The vast majority of voters made the decision to vote some time before the elections: four in five (79%) say they always vote, and a further 15% decided at least a few weeks before the elections. Just 6% decided to vote only on the day of the elections or a few days beforehand, although this was higher in Czechia, Croatia, Slovakia and Cyprus.

Two thirds (66%) of voters in the recent European Parliament elections say that they were always sure which party to vote for, while a third (33%) say that they hesitated between different parties. Analysis indicates that citizens voting for Green parties were more likely to hesitate between different parties, while citizens voting for far-right or anti-European parties were more likely to be sure of their decision.

The choice of party was made either based on party's proposals on European issues (43%) or national issues (42%). The other main reasons for choosing a party were that the respondent always votes for them (40%) and because of the party's proposals on specific issues (38%).

The decision to vote for a particular party or candidate was usually made at least a few months before the European Parliament elections (43% always vote for the same party, while 23% decided 'a few months ago'). One in six (17%) only decided in the days before the election or on the day itself. These findings are very similar to those seen in 2014.

In general, older voters are more likely to have been sure of their chosen party, and to have always intended to vote, whereas younger people decided to vote closer to the elections and were less sure for whom to vote.

CIVIC DUTY AND FAVOURABLE OPINIONS OF THE EU HAVE GAINED IN PROMINENCE AS REASONS TO VOTE

The most common reason for voting in the recent European Parliament elections was because people felt it was their duty as a citizen (52%), and this has gained in importance since 2014 (+11 pp). Compared with 2014, respondents are also more likely to say that they are in favour of the EU (25%, +11 pp) and because voting can make things change (18%, +6 pp). Other main reasons were that the respondent always votes (35%, -6pp) and to support the political party they feel close to (22%, no change).

Overall, turnout has been boosted by a greater sense of civic duty, reflecting a greater importance and salience of the recent elections, and an indication that European Parliament elections are now viewed more as a central part of democratic life. The rise in the sentiment that voting 'can make things change' also suggests an enhanced sense of importance in these elections, and a recognition that concrete European solutions are expected from the European Parliament which have a real impact on EU citizens' daily lives.

There has also been an increase in positive support for the EU as a reason for voting. Respondents are now much more likely than in 2014 to say that they voted because they are in favour of the EU. Levels have increased in all 28 Member States, most notably in Ireland, Spain, Germany, Italy, the UK and Slovakia,

indicating a stronger pro-European aspect to the recent European Parliament elections, with positive opinions of the EU having helped to increase the turnout. This is in line with general attitudes towards membership of the EU, which are at historically high levels (as described below).

The 2019 post-electoral survey also shows a relative decrease in the proportion of voters claiming that they 'always vote'. This is a reflection of the higher overall turnout, brought about by the inclusion of more 'transient' voters to the overall voter population – confirming the success of the European Parliament's communication strategy for the European elections 2019, which i.a. specifically encouraged voting participation among those who were previously 'soft abstainers'².

ECONOMY AND GROWTH REMAIN KEY IN THE DECISION TO VOTE

The main issues that encouraged citizens to vote in the recent European Parliament elections – observed on average at EU level – were economy and growth (44%), combating climate change and protecting the environment (37%), promoting human rights and democracy (37%), the way the EU should be working in the future (36%) and immigration (34%). The economy and growth was the biggest issue for voters in 16 Member States, while climate change and the environment was the main issue in eight countries.

THE DECISION TO ABSTAIN VARIED IN ITS TIMING

Turning now to the 49.4% of Europeans who did not vote in the recent European Parliament elections, three in ten (30%) say that they never vote, while 16% decided not to vote a few months before the election. However, 15% made the decision only a few days beforehand and 15% decided not to vote only on the day of the election.

In comparison with 2014, there has been an increase in the proportion that say they never vote (+6 pp) and a decrease in the proportion that say they only decided on the day of the elections (-4 pp), suggesting a reduction in the number of 'soft abstainers'.

NON-VOTERS CITE NEGATIVE PERCEPTIONS OF POLITICS AND PRACTICAL CONSTRAINTS

The two main reasons for not voting in the recent EU elections, observed at EU level, are a lack of trust in or dissatisfaction with politics in general (22%) and a lack of interest in politics (18%). Other reasons are the belief that a vote has no consequences or does not change anything (14%), that respondents rarely or never vote (13%) and that respondents were too busy or had no time (11%). The reasons for not voting show only minor changes from 2014.

² For the purpose of this exercise, 'soft abstainers' would be defined as population segments who predominantly cited 'non-ideological', i.e. technical or personal reasons for not going to vote on election day as. It was considered that such population segments could be motivated to go to the polls if they were convinced of the importance of voting and informed about all available options to overcome their specific 'technical difficulties'.

The reasons for abstention can be divided into four broad categories: firstly, those who exhibit a hostility towards politics, including those who lack trust in or are dissatisfied with politics, lack interest in politics, or who rarely or never vote. The second category covers those who report a lack of information, including respondents who say they do not know much about the EU, the European Parliament or the European Parliament elections. A third category covers those who say their vote has no consequences or who feel that 'voting is useless'. The fourth category covers those who did not vote for technical reasons, considered as 'soft abstainers' for the purposes of the European Parliament's institutional communication strategy. This includes those who were too busy, were away from home or sick.

Respondents in the countries with the highest rates of abstention are also most likely to give answers associated with a hostility towards politics. In Bulgaria, Portugal and Slovakia, lack of trust in or dissatisfaction with politics is the most common reason, while lack of interest in politics is the highest-ranking reason in Slovenia, Croatia and Czechia.

JUST UNDER HALF RECALL MESSAGES ENCOURAGING THEM TO VOTE

In total, 44% of Europeans recall seeing or hearing messages from the European Parliament encouraging citizens to vote in the European Parliament elections. Recall ranged from 85% in the Netherlands to 24% in Bulgaria. Recall is highest among respondents who actually voted in the elections (50%), yet there is also a reasonably high level of recall among non-voters (39%). This indicates that Parliament's institutional campaign messages have indeed been seen and heard by a plurality of Europeans and in many cases have had a bearing on their participation in the elections.

BREXIT HAD SOME IMPACT ON VOTING BEHAVIOUR, ALTHOUGH THIS VARIED BY COUNTRY

Just under a quarter of Europeans (22%) say that media coverage and discussions about Brexit had an impact on their decision as to whether to vote or not to vote, at least 'to some extent'. In the UK, just over half of respondents say that Brexit had an impact on their decision on whether to vote (52%), as did 38% of respondents in Ireland and 32% in Austria. However, less than one in ten said it had an impact in Latvia, France, Sweden and Estonia. Analysis suggests that the impact of media coverage and discussions on Brexit has been to encourage citizens to vote, rather than to abstain.

INCREASINGLY POSITIVE VIEWS ON DEMOCRACY IN THE EU

The survey shows an increase in satisfaction with a range of aspects of democracy in the EU since September 2018, reinforcing the impression of strong democratic values associated with the increased turnout. Europeans are most satisfied with free and fair elections (75% very or fairly satisfied, +5 pp), freedom of speech (74%, +5 pp) and respect for fundamental rights (73%, +8 pp). The lowest levels of satisfaction are seen in relation to the fight against disinformation in the media (48%, +8 pp) and the fight against corruption (43%, +7 pp).

Combining the results for the various aspects of democracy covered by the survey, respondents are most satisfied in Ireland, Denmark, Portugal and Poland. The lowest levels of satisfaction with various aspects of democracy are registered in Bulgaria, Croatia, Slovakia, France and Czechia.

AN INCREASING NUMBER OF EUROPEANS FEEL THAT THEIR VOICE COUNTS IN THE EU

More than half of Europeans (56%) agree that their voice counts in the EU, a 7-point increase from February–March 2019, and the most positive result since this question was first asked in 2002. While this result confirms previous research highlighting a peak in this indicator at the time of European elections, it also reflects a longer-term increase over the last 10 years.

Respondents are most likely to agree that their voice counts in the EU in Sweden, Denmark, the Netherlands and Germany (75%), but are least likely to agree in Latvia, Greece and Estonia. Large increases on this measure are seen in Romania, Czechia, Poland, Italy and Belgium.

There is a link between thinking that one's voice counts in the EU and voting in the European Parliament elections, and the voter profile now includes more citizens who feel that their voice counts than in 2014; this indicates that voters are now a more confident, empowered and engaged group. The relationship between these two issues is likely to produce a 'virtuous cycle', in which the view that one's voice counts is likely to increase voter participation, which in turn is likely to reinforce the view that one's voice counts.

SUPPORT FOR EUROPEAN MEMBERSHIP REMAINS AT A HISTORICALLY HIGH LEVEL

Just under six in ten Europeans (59%) see their country's EU membership as a good thing. This level of support is unchanged since February–March 2019, but fell slightly since the historical high level recorded in September 2018 (62%). However, the long-term trend is positive since 2011 and in particular since autumn 2014, after the previous European elections.

Respondents are most likely to have a positive view of EU membership in Luxembourg, Ireland, Germany and the Netherlands, while the lowest levels are recorded in Czechia, Italy, Greece, Croatia, Slovakia and the UK. Younger and more highly educated respondents are generally the most positive towards EU membership.

In the EU28 overall, more than two-thirds of respondents (68%) think their country has benefited from EU membership, the joint highest level recorded since 1983. A majority of people in all Member States – except for Italy – share this view.

There are four main reasons why EU membership is seen as beneficial: increased co-operation between Member States (34%), maintaining peace and security (also 34%), contribution to economic growth (31%) and new work opportunities (also 31%).

These positive views are of primary relevance to the turnout in the European Parliament elections. As we have seen, a favourable view of the EU has gained in prominence as a reason for voting, and one of the main perceived benefits of the EU is its contribution to economic growth – also the main issue that made citizens vote in the elections.

METHODOLOGY AND DATA PRESENTATION

This Post-Election 2019 Eurobarometer was conducted for the European Parliament by Kantar. Fieldwork took place from 7 to 26 June 2019 in all 28 EU Member States. 27,464 respondents, drawn as a representative sample from the general population aged 15+, were interviewed face-to-face³.

In addition to the weighting procedure based on socio-demographic variables, the results of most questions of this post-election survey were weighted according to the results of the last EE2019. The purpose of this weighting procedure is to correct any deviations in the sample as to bring it in line with the observed participation and party results at national level. In doing so, these weights ensure that our national samples accurately reflect the voting behaviours at the time of EE2019.

The full report, including national factsheets, data annexes and results volumes can be found online on <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/at-your-service/en/be-heard/eurobarometer/>.

³ 26,971 respondents of voting age: aged 18+ in 25 EU Member States, 16+ in Austria and Malta, and 17+ in Greece. Some questions were asked to the full sample of 27,464 respondents aged 15+

CONTEXT (INCLUDING SPECIFIC NATIONAL ANGLES)

As with every survey of this kind, understanding context at a national, European and international level is key to a proper placement and therefore understanding of the results.

ECONOMY

From an economic point of view, ten years after the start of the economic and financial crisis in 2008, the European Union has globally turned the page. According to Eurostat, the EU28 unemployment rate was at 6.3% in June 2019. This represents the lowest rate recorded for the EU28 since the start of Eurostat's monthly unemployment series in January 2000. Among Member States, the lowest seasonally-adjusted unemployment rates in June 2019 were recorded in Czechia (1.9%) and Germany (3.1%). The highest unemployment rates were observed in Greece (17.6% in April 2019), Spain (14.0%) and Italy (9.7%)⁴.

Seasonally adjusted GDP rose by 0.2% in both the euro area (EA19) and the EU28 during the second quarter of 2019, compared with the previous quarter, according to a preliminary flash estimate published by Eurostat. Compared with the same quarter of the previous year, seasonally adjusted GDP rose by 1.1% in the euro area and by 1.3% in the EU28 in the second quarter of 2019⁵.

NEW APPOINTMENTS TO LEADING ROLES

In June 2019 – and thus during the time of the fieldwork for this survey –, EU leaders were initially unable to reach agreement on who should take on the EU leadership roles, with no consensus found on any of the leading candidates.

At a follow-up summit starting on 30 June, discussions again proved difficult and lasted for three days, as leaders struggled to establish a delicate balance between geography, gender and politics.

Finally, on 2 July 2019, the European Council reached agreement on nominations and appointments for the EU's 'top jobs': presidents of the Commission, European Council and European Central Bank (ECB) and the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. The European Parliament (EP) elected its new president, David Sassoli (S&D, IT) on 3 July.

Established in the 1957 treaty of Rome, the President of the European commission leads the EU's executive branch, chairing a cabinet of 28 commissioners (including the President) known as the college, and setting

4 <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/2995521/10014320/3-31072019-CP-EN.pdf/e9e3b972-1dd4-422d-84cf-c299b6312d45>

5 <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/2995521/10014300/2-31072019-BP-EN.pdf/b270fc1b-691b-4c8a-b8c0-6934b3fbba54>

the bloc's policy agenda over a five-year term. According to the Treaty of Lisbon, the commission president designate is nominated by the 28 heads of state and government, taking into account the results of the European elections, but must be elected with simple majority by the European Parliament to formally take on the role. In July 2019, the European Council nominated Ursula von der Leyen to succeed Jean-Claude Juncker. She was elected the 13th President of the European Commission by the European Parliament on 16 July, with 383 to 327 votes (22 abstentions).

The 2007 Lisbon treaty created the current role of a full-time European Council President, appointed by the leaders, who serves a two-and-a-half-year term, with a one-time possibility of renewal. The president represents the EU on the world stage and chairs summits of the European Council, the body on which the 28 leaders sit to give the EU its political direction. The convention is that the role is filled by former heads of state and government. In July 2019, the European Council elected Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel as the successor to Donald Tusk as President of the European Council for the period from 1 December 2019 to 31 May 2022.

The European Central Bank is responsible for the monetary policy of the 19 EU member countries that have adopted the euro and acts as central supervisor of their financial institutions. Headquartered in Frankfurt am Main, Germany, the bank has been responsible for monetary policy in the euro area since 1 January 1999. The post is filled by the European Council after consultation with the eurozone group and the European Parliament. The European Council announced in July that Christine Lagarde, then head of the International Monetary Fund, had been chosen to succeed Mario Draghi, whose eight-year term ends in October.

The High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy has the role of shaping and executing the EU's foreign and security policy and leads the EU's diplomatic corps, the European External Action Service. The leaders appoint the holder of the post by a qualified majority vote, but the president of the commission must agree with the decision. Spain's foreign minister, Josep Borrell will be the fourth high representative.

Ursula von der Leyen and Christine Lagarde are the first women to hold their respective posts (President of the European Commission and President of the European Central Bank).

There was considerable discussion and debate in the European media following the appointments. Across Europe, newspapers have noted that the narrow majority in the voting for Ursula von der Leyen leaves her with a difficult mandate and a challenge to prove herself to MEPs and citizens. On the appointments generally, some commentators pointed to a "lack of democracy", as none of the candidates were MEPs nor were they Spitzenkandidaten (lead candidates) for a European political family in the 2019 European elections.

BREXIT

On 29 March 2017, the United Kingdom notified the European Council of its intention to leave the European Union, in accordance with Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union. This triggered the start of a two-year negotiation, also known as the Article 50 process.

In November 2018, the Draft Withdrawal Agreement, negotiated between the UK Government and the EU, was published. The House of Commons rejected the agreement in a series of parliamentary votes in 2019. In April 2019, the European Council granted a further extension to the Article 50 period to 31 October 2019.

In May 2019, Theresa May announced her resignation as Conservative Party leader and Prime Minister, due to being unable to pass her Brexit plans through parliament and several votes of no-confidence. In July 2019, Boris Johnson was appointed as the new Conservative Party leader and Prime Minister, and announced a commitment to ensuring the UK's withdrawal by the 31 October deadline. Given the short timescale remaining, this has raised concerns over the possibility of the UK leaving the EU without a deal.

CLIMATE CHANGE

In recent months, young people all over Europe have been skipping school on Fridays to march through the streets. This has contributed to creating a global student protest movement aiming at driving world leaders into action on climate change. For several months, the action has been part of a global movement, known as Schools 4 Climate Action. These protests really kicked off when 15-year-old Swede Greta Thunberg started skipping class to sit outside government buildings in September 2018, accusing her country of not following the Paris Climate Agreement. Since then, tens of thousands of school children across Belgium, Germany, Sweden, the UK, France and numerous other countries have been inspired to hold their own demonstrations.

MIGRATION

According to Frontex, the number of illegal border-crossings at Europe's external borders fell in 2018 by a quarter compared to 2017, down to an estimated 150,000, the lowest level in five years. The total number for 2018 was also 92% below the peak of the migratory crisis in 2015. The drop was due to the dramatic fall in the number of migrants taking the Central Mediterranean route to Italy. The number of irregular crossings detected on this route plunged by 80% compared to 2017 to slightly more than 23,000. The Central Mediterranean route thus saw the smallest influx of irregular entries since 2012. The number of departures from Libya dropped by 87% compared to a year ago, and those from Algeria fell by nearly half, while departures from Tunisia stayed roughly unchanged. Meanwhile, the number of arrivals in Spain via the Western Mediterranean route doubled in 2018 for the second year in a row to 57,000, making it the most active migratory route into Europe for the first time since Frontex began collecting data⁶.

6 <https://frontex.europa.eu/media-centre/news-release/number-of-irregular-crossings-at-europe-s-borders-at-lowest-level-in-5-years-ZfkoRu>

Frontex data indicate that numbers of illegal border-crossings numbers have fallen further in 2019. The total for the first half of 2019 was nearly a third lower than the corresponding figure for 2018, at around 42,000⁷.

ELECTIONS AND OTHER POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

Fieldwork for this Eurobarometer survey took place shortly after the 2019 European Parliament elections which were held on 23–26 May 2019.

In the European Parliament elections, the two largest political groups in the European Parliament, the centre-right European People's Party (EPP) and the centre-left Socialists & Democrats (S&D) both suffered losses across the EU. These two groups together had hitherto achieved an absolute majority in all previous European Parliaments enabling them to control the EP agenda. This majority was lost in 2019, meaning they would need to partner with other EP political groups. EPP parties saw their vote shares decline in most countries, in particular in Germany, Italy, France and Spain, while S&D parties suffered important losses in Germany, Italy, France and the UK. The Conservative ECR Group also suffered losses, although this was mostly driven by the results for the UK Conservative Party (-15 seats).

The ruling Polish Law and Justice Party (PiS) which sits in the ECR Group however performed strongly, winning 45.4% of the vote in Poland. The ruling Fidesz party in Hungary, whose MEPs sit in the EPP Group while its EPP party membership is currently suspended, won 52.1% of the vote.

Both the Polish and Hungarian Governments have faced calls for EU-level investigations into their respect for the rule of law and 'EU values'.

The liberal ALDE Group made gains thanks partly to the inclusion of the French La République En Marche! and increased vote shares elsewhere, notably the UK and Romania. Since the elections, this Group has changed its name to 'Renew Europe' (RE). Green parties also made big gains across Northern and Western Europe, notably in Germany, where they won 20.5% of the vote. However, the Greens did not pick up seats in most Eastern⁸ and Southern European countries.

Radical right populist parties from the Europe of Nations and Freedom (ENF) Group did particularly well in Italy and France, where the League and National Rally were the leading national parties. Their allies in the Flemish Interest party (Vlaams Belang) also made gains in Belgium, while the Austrian (FPÖ) and Dutch Freedom Parties (PVV) suffered losses. Following the elections, the former ENF parties announced the formation of a new Political Group in the new EP, the 'Identity and Democracy' Group (ID), which brought in the Alternative for Germany (AfD), the Danish People's Party and Finns Party and new entrants from Czechia and Estonia.

7 <https://frontex.europa.eu/media-centre/news-release/migratory-situation-in-june-arrivals-in-europe-rise-slightly-wk-1wx>

8 With the exception of Latvia and Lithuania

The Europe of Freedom and Direct Democracy Group (EFDD), previously involving UKIP and the Italian Five Star Movement, increased its seats due to the strong performance of the Brexit Party. However, it no longer has enough members to form a political group following the departure of AfD and a loss of seats by other parties⁹.

During the past months, several elections and major political events of note have taken place in EU countries:

Parliamentary elections were held in Finland on 14 April 2019. For the first time, no single party obtained more than 18% of the total vote. Following the election, SDP chairman Antti Rinne announced that he would negotiate forming a government with Centre Party, Green League, Left Alliance and Swedish People's Party and following successful negotiations, the Rinne Cabinet was formally inaugurated on 6 June.

The 2019 Spanish general election was held on 28 April 2019, to elect the 13th Cortes Generales of the Kingdom of Spain – a snap election that was called following the rejection of the minority government's proposal for the 2019 General State budget. With a turnout of 71.8%, the ruling PSOE of Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez emerged victorious—the first for the party in a nationwide election in eleven years—with 28.7% of the vote and 123 seats.

Presidential elections were held in Lithuania on 12 May 2019. As no candidate obtained 50% of the vote in the first round, a second round was held between the top two candidates, Ingrida Šimonytė and Gitanas Nausėda, on 26 May 2019. Nausėda was elected with 67% of the vote.

Federal elections were held in Belgium on 26 May 2019, alongside the country's European and regional elections. All 150 members of the Chamber of Representatives were elected from eleven multi-member constituencies. The elections saw the far-right Vlaams Belang strengthened in Flanders, as well as gains for the far-left Workers' Party of Belgium (PTB/PVDA) and the green Ecolo party in Wallonia, to the detriment of more traditional parties in both regions.

General elections were held in Denmark 10 days after the European elections, on 5 June 2019. The elections resulted in a victory for the "red bloc", comprising parties that supported the Social Democrats' leader Mette Frederiksen as candidate for Prime Minister: the Social Democrats, the Social Liberals, Socialist People's Party, the Red–Green Alliance, the Faroese Social Democratic Party and the Greenlandic Siumut. On 25 June, Frederiksen reached an agreement with the red bloc, and on 27 June she was appointed Prime Minister and her single-party Social Democratic government took office.

Following his defeat in the 2019 European Parliament election in Greece and the concurrent local elections, Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras announced that a snap election would be held as soon as possible following the second round of the 2019 municipal elections. On 7 July 2019, the election saw the centre-right New

⁹ Parliament's Rules of Procedure require a political group to have at least 25 MEPs from at least 25% of seven Member States.

Democracy party, led by Kyriakos Mitsotakis, more than double its number of seats to an absolute majority of 158, taking nearly 40% of the popular vote.

INTERNATIONAL STAGE

Since June 2019, there have been continued pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong. The protests began over plans – later suspended – that would have allowed extradition from Hong Kong to mainland China, but protests have now spread to reflect wider demands for democratic reform.

Venezuela's government of President Nicolás Maduro and the opposition have been engaged in a bitter power struggle since January. In early 2019 protesters took to the streets in Venezuela to remove Nicolás Maduro from the presidency. Demonstrations began following Maduro's controversial second inauguration, developing into a presidential crisis between Maduro and National Assembly president Juan Guaidó. In a resolution adopted with 439 votes to 104 and 88 abstentions, the European Parliament reiterated its full support to the National Assembly, Venezuela's only legitimate democratic body whose powers need to be restored and respected, including the rights and safety of its members.

In July, Iran's Revolutionary Guards seized the UK ship *Stena Impero* in the Strait of Hormuz waterway for alleged marine violations. That came two weeks after Britain seized an Iranian oil tanker near Gibraltar, accusing it of violating sanctions on Syria. The saga has exacerbated frictions between Tehran and the West since the United States pulled out of an international agreement curbing Iran's nuclear program and re-imposed economic sanctions.

On June 30, President Trump landed in North Korea, marking the first time a sitting US president has made the state visit. Trump and Kim Jong-un met to discuss the nuclear and trade talks started earlier in Trump's presidency.

VOTING IN EUROPEAN ELECTIONS 2019

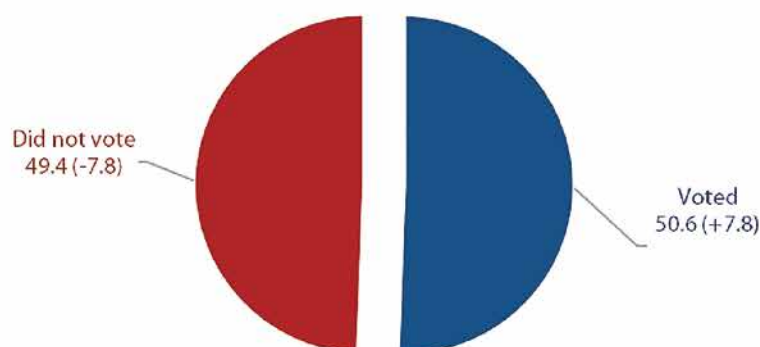
The recent European Parliament elections saw the highest turnout by voters for over 20 years. In this Eurobarometer survey, we examine the reasons behind the increase in turnout and the issues that were important to voters. The findings indicate that a sense of civic duty has become more ingrained in Europeans when they think about European Parliament elections, while favourable views of the EU also appear to have made a positive impact on voter turnout. The turnout was not even across countries and between different groups of the population, but we can see how this has changed since 2014 and how these changes have helped to lift the turnout overall.

The highest turnout in the last 20 years: a symbol of the democratic EU's good health

For the first time since 1994, more than half of Europeans voted in the recent European Parliament elections (50.6%). This is a substantial increase on the 2014 turnout (42.6%), and the highest participation for over 20 years.

As we shall see in this report, the increased turnout is driven by a rise in turnout among young people and is linked both with an increasingly pro-European sentiment and a greater sense of involvement and empowerment among Europeans.

Q European Parliament elections were held on the (DATE ACCORDING TO COUNTRY). For one reason or another, some people in (OUR COUNTRY) did not vote in these elections. Did you yourself vote in the recent European Parliament elections? (% - EU)

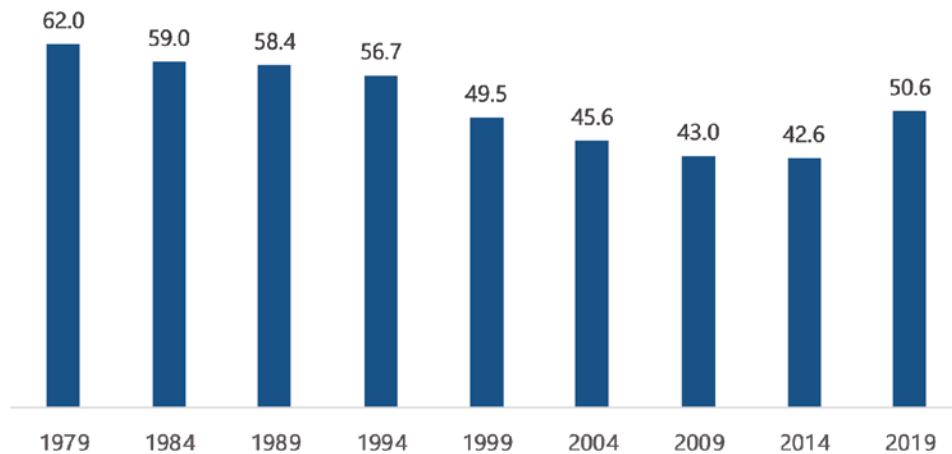


(June 2019 - June 2014)

Base: respondents of voting age, 98% of the sample
Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), QG1

This increase reverses a trend of declining turnouts since the very first EP elections in 1979.

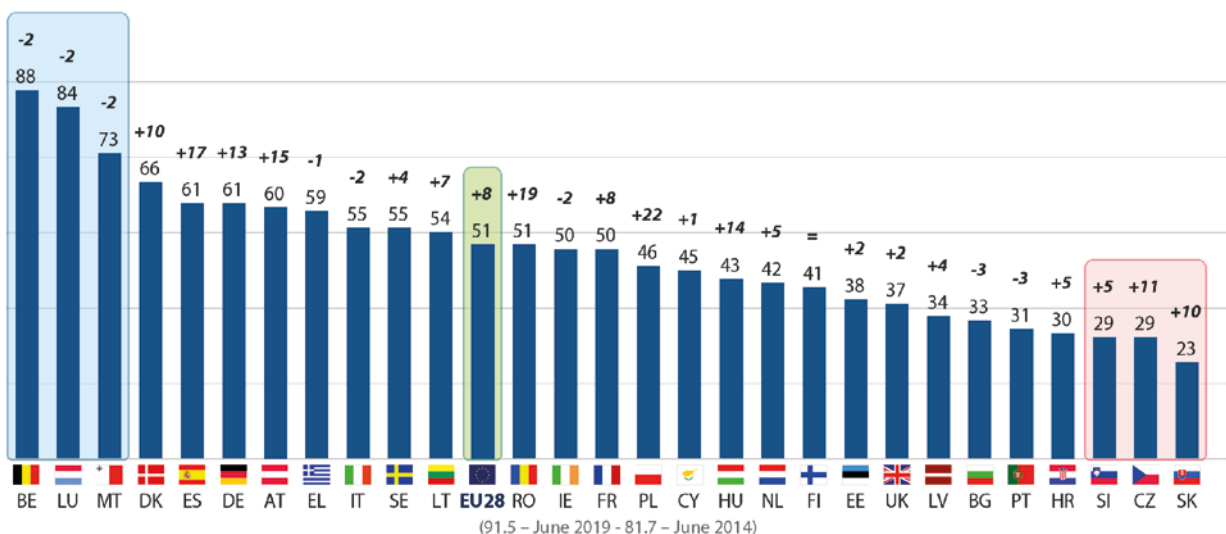
Q Evolution of voter turnout for the European election. 1979 - 2019.
(% - EU)



Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5)

There has been an increased turnout in 19 EU countries when comparing the 2014 and 2019 European Parliament elections. The largest increases are seen in Poland (46%, +22 percentage points (pp)), Romania (51%, +19 pp), Spain (61%, +17 pp), Austria (60%, +15 pp), Hungary (43%, +14 pp) and Germany (61%, +13 pp). There have also been increases in countries with the lowest turnout, such as Slovakia (23%, +10 pp) and Czechia (29%, +11 pp).

Q European Parliament elections were held on the (DATE ACCORDING TO COUNTRY). For one reason or another, some people in (OUR COUNTRY) did not vote in these elections. Did you yourself vote in the recent European Parliament elections? (% - voted)



Base: respondents of voting age, 98% of the sample
Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), QG1

The turnout in Finland has stayed the same (41%), while there has been a fall in turnout in eight countries, although none by more than 3 percentage points.

Despite the increases in turnout, there is still considerable variation when looking at the turnout in individual Member States, ranging from 88% in Belgium to 23% in Slovakia. It is important to bear in mind that voting is compulsory in five countries: Belgium, Bulgaria, Luxembourg, Cyprus, and Greece.

Socio-demographic analysis shows that there has been an increase in turnout for all groups of the population, although this is higher for some groups than for others. The most striking pattern is by age, with a much larger turnout among younger people and first-time voters. Although older people remain more likely to vote, the increase between 2014 and 2019 is larger among young people aged under 25 (42%, +14 pp) and aged 25–39 (47%, +12pp), when compared with those aged 55 or over (54%, +3 pp). Overall, this means that the differences between age groups have narrowed when comparing 2019 with 2014. Men (52%, +7 pp) remain slightly more likely to vote than women (49%, +8 pp).

There continues to be a difference by level of education. Those who left education at the age of 20 or above (59%) are more likely to have voted than those who left education at the age of 16–19 (47%) or at the age of 15 or below (46%). In fact, this pattern has become more pronounced, as there has been only a small increase among those who left education by the age of 15 (+3 pp).

Looking at socio-professional categories, the largest increases in turnout are among students (51%, +14 pp) and house persons (47%, +10 pp). However, the highest turnout in 2019 was among managers (61%, +8 pp).






There remains a difference in turnout in relation to the household's financial situation: those who have difficulties paying bills most of the time (38%, +6 pp) are much less likely to have voted than those who never or almost never have problems (54%, +7 pp).

Respondents who place themselves at the centre of the political scale are less likely to have voted than those who place themselves on the right or the left. In fact, this pattern has become more extreme in 2019, as the increase in turnout is higher for those on the right (66%, +12 pp) and the left (64%, +11 pp) than for those at the centre (51%, +7 pp).

The turnout in 2019 was higher among those who feel that EU membership is good for their country (58%) than those who think it is bad (45%) or who are neutral on this issue (41%). However, the increase since 2014 was lower among those who think EU membership is a good thing (+5 pp), compared with those who think it is a bad thing (+10 pp) or neither a good nor bad thing (+9 pp).

As might be expected, respondents who feel their 'voice counts' are more likely to have voted than those who do not think their voice counts, although the increase since 2014 was lower among those who agree that their voice counts (61%, +1 pp) than those who disagree (39%, +6 pp).

Q European Parliament elections were held on the (DATE ACCORDING TO COUNTRY).
For one reason or another, some people in (OUR COUNTRY) did not vote in these elections.
Did you yourself vote in the recent European Parliament elections (% - EU)

	Voted 2014	Voted 2019	Diff. '19-'14
EU28	43	51	8
 Gender			
Man	45	52	7
Woman	41	49	8
 Age			
16/18-24	28	42	14
25-39	35	47	12
40-54	45	52	7
55 +	51	54	3
 Education (End of)			
15-	43	46	3
16-19	38	47	9
20+	51	59	8
Still studying	37	51	14
 Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	52	55	3
Managers	53	61	8
Other white collars	44	53	9
Manual workers	35	42	7
House persons	36	47	11
Unemployed	31	37	6
Retired	50	55	5
Students	37	51	14
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	32	38	6
From time to time	40	47	7
Almost never/Never	47	54	7
 Left-right political scale			
Left	53	64	11
Centre	44	51	7
Right	54	66	12
My voice counts in the EU			
Agree	60	61	1
Disagree	33	39	6
Opinion about country's membership of the EU			
A good thing	53	58	5
A bad thing	35	45	10
Neither a good thing, nor a bad thing	32	41	9

Base: respondents of voting age

Profile of voters and abstainers:

Which categories have voted the most, in comparison with 2014?

The section above highlights changes in voting behaviour for different socio-demographic groups. We now look at the profile of voters and abstainers in the 2019 European Parliament elections, and how this has changed from the 2014 elections. Overall, this shows that the voter profile has become more highly educated since 2014, with greater levels of political engagement.

The profile of voters in the 2019 elections shows there has been a slight shift towards female voters since 2014 (49% in 2014, 51% in 2019). The age profile remains similar to 2014. Despite the increased turnout among younger people (as described above), the overall voter population continues to show a strong representation among older people, including 43% aged 55 or over (unchanged from 2014).

The voter profile is now more highly educated: 39% of voters left education at the age of 20 or above (compared with 36% in 2014) and 14% left school at the age of 15 or below (18% in 2014). Voters are also more likely to be in employment than in 2014, with a higher proportion of managers, other white-collar workers and manual workers (45% compared with 41%), while the proportion of unemployed respondents has decreased (from 8% to 5%). 2019 voters were less likely to live in a rural area than in 2014 (30% compared with 34%), with a higher representation among those living in a small or medium-sized town (45% compared with 41%).

The proportion of voters with a strong political interest is higher than in 2014 (24% in 2019 compared with 20% in 2014), although the same applies to abstainers (10% in 2019 compared with 6% in 2014). This indicates that, overall, more people have a strong political interest and these continue to be concentrated in the voter (rather than abstainer) population. Similarly, there has been a large overall increase in the proportion of Europeans who think that their voice counts in the EU. As a result, more than two-thirds of voters in 2019 (68%) agree that their voice counts in the EU, higher than the proportion in 2014 (55%). This indicates that voters are now a more confident, empowered and engaged group, and we will return to this issue when looking at the reasons for voting.

The share of voters who think that things are going in the wrong direction in their country (49% compared with 42% in 2014) and in the European Union (47% compared with 37%) has significantly increased. The overall increase in the share of disaffected Europeans since 2014 may help to explain the rise in support for Eurosceptic political parties in recent elections.

The profile of abstainers shows a slightly higher representation of women than men (53% compared with 47% of men in 2019), as was the case in 2014 (when it was 54% compared with 46%). Abstainers are older than in 2014, with more people aged 55 or over (35% compared with 30%) and fewer aged 25–39 (24% compared with 30%); again, this confirms the increased turnout among younger people. At the same time,

students make up 12% of the abstainer population, higher than in 2014 (8%). As noted above, political interest among abstainers was higher in 2019 than in 2014, and abstainers in 2019 were also more likely to agree that their voice counts in the EU (42% in 2019, 26% in 2014). This suggests that the abstainer population has become more engaged and politically aware. As a result, there is scope to increase the turnout further still in future European Parliament elections.

Q European Parliament elections were held on the (DATE ACCORDING TO COUNTRY).
 For one reason or another, some people in (OUR COUNTRY) did not vote in these elections.
 Did you yourself vote in the recent European Parliament elections? (% - EU)

	Voting behaviour in EE19		Voting behaviour in EE14	
	Voted	Did not vote	Voted	Did not vote
Gender				
Man	49	47	51	46
Woman	51	53	49	54
Age				
16/18-24	9	17	8	15
25-39	21	24	21	30
40-54	27	24	28	25
55+	43	35	43	30
Education				
15-	14	17	18	19
16-19	39	44	38	45
20+	39	24	36	25
Still Studying	7	12	6	8
No full-time education	-	1	1	1
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	8	6	9	7
Managers	14	8	13	8
Other white collars	12	10	11	10
Manual workers	19	25	17	24
House person	5	6	6	8
Unemployed	5	9	8	13
Retired	30	24	30	22
Students	7	12	6	8
Subjective urbanisation				
Rural area or village	30	30	34	34
Small or middle sized town	45	42	41	41
Large town	25	28	25	25
Political interest index				
Strong	24	10	20	6
Medium	50	40	52	35
Low	14	19	17	26
Not at all	12	31	11	33
My voice counts in the EU				
Agree	68	42	55	26
Disagree	29	49	41	66
Things are going in the right direction or in the wrong direction in (OUR COUNTRY)				
Things are going in the right direction	39	28	34	21
Things are going in the wrong direction	49	55	42	51
Neither the one nor the other (SPONTANEOUS)	8	9	20	22
Things are going in the right direction or in the wrong direction in the European Union				
Things are going in the right direction	35	27	30	18
Things are going in the wrong direction	47	47	37	42
Neither the one nor the other (SPONTANEOUS)	8	10	24	24

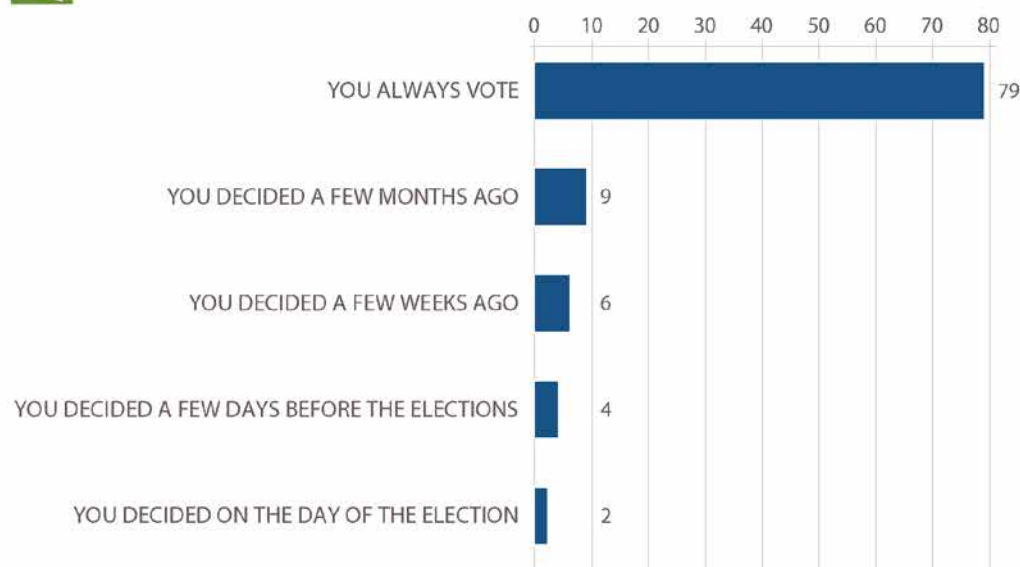
Base: respondents of voting age
 Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), QG1

The moment of taking the decision to vote

Voters in the 2019 European Parliament elections can be divided into two broad groups: those who always vote and are loyal to a single party; and those who were not always sure whether to vote (at all) or who to vote for. As we see below, a large proportion of voters are in the first group, but there are notable findings for the second, less 'stable' group: they may have increased in size in this year's elections (perhaps boosted by the pre-election campaign) and those unsure of which party to vote for tend to be younger, more educated and media-savvy.

For most voters in the recent European Parliament elections, there was no question of whether or not they would vote: close to four in five voters (79%) say that they always vote. The remainder are more likely to have made the decision to vote a few months ago (9%) rather than on the day of the election (2%) or a few days beforehand (4%).

Q When did you decide to vote in the recent European Parliament elections? (%)

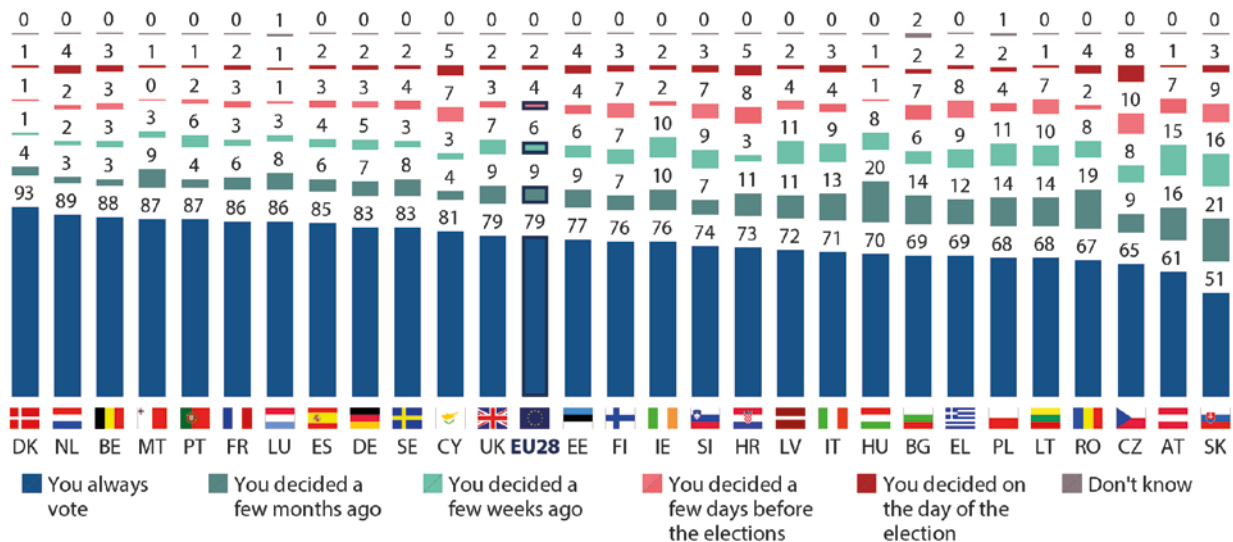


Base: respondents who declared they voted in the EE19,
51% of the sample
Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), QG1b

In every Member State, a majority of respondents say that they 'always vote' when asked when they made their decision to vote. More than nine in ten voters in Denmark (93%) say that they always vote, with large proportions also seen in the Netherlands (89%), Belgium (88%) and Malta and Portugal (both 87%). By far the lowest proportion is seen in Slovakia (51%), which is also the country with the lowest overall turnout.

In the EU28 as a whole, just 6% of respondents say that they decided to vote only on the day of the election or a few days beforehand. However, this proportion is higher in Czechia (18%, including 8% who say they decided to vote on the day of the election), Croatia (13%), Slovakia and Cyprus (both 12%).

Q When did you decide to vote in the recent European Parliament elections? (%)








Base: respondents who declared they voted in the EE19, 51% of the sample

Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), QG1b

The main difference in when EU citizens decided to vote in the recent European Parliament elections is by age: older respondents mostly say that they always vote, but this is lower among younger people (84% of those aged 55 or over, falling to 61% of those aged under 25). Close to three in ten voters below 25 say they decided to vote a few weeks or months before the day of the elections (29% compared with 15% of European voters on average), and 9% on the day of the elections or a few days before (compared with 6%).

There is no clear difference in terms of gender or level of education, although unemployed respondents are particularly likely to say that they decided to vote on the day of the election or a few days beforehand (12%). Reflecting the differences by age, students are more likely than other respondents to say that they decided a few weeks or months before the elections (26% compared with 15% of voters on average) or on the day itself or just beforehand (8% compared with 6%).

Q When did you decide to vote in the recent European Parliament elections? (% - EU)

	You always vote	You decided a few months/weeks ago	You decided a few days before the elections/ on the day of the election
EU28	79	15	6
 Gender			
Man	78	17	5
Woman	79	14	7
 Age			
15-24	61	29	9
25-39	75	17	8
40-54	78	16	6
55 +	84	13	3
 Education (End of)			
15-	83	12	5
16-19	76	17	7
20+	82	13	5
Still studying	66	26	8
 Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	78	17	5
Managers	82	14	4
Other white collars	73	20	7
Manual workers	73	20	7
House persons	76	15	9
Unemployed	74	14	12
Retired	87	10	3
Students	66	26	8
 Subjective urbanisation			
Rural village	79	15	5
Small/ mid size town	79	15	6
Large town	76	18	6
My voice counts in the EU			
Agree	80	15	5
Disagree	75	17	8

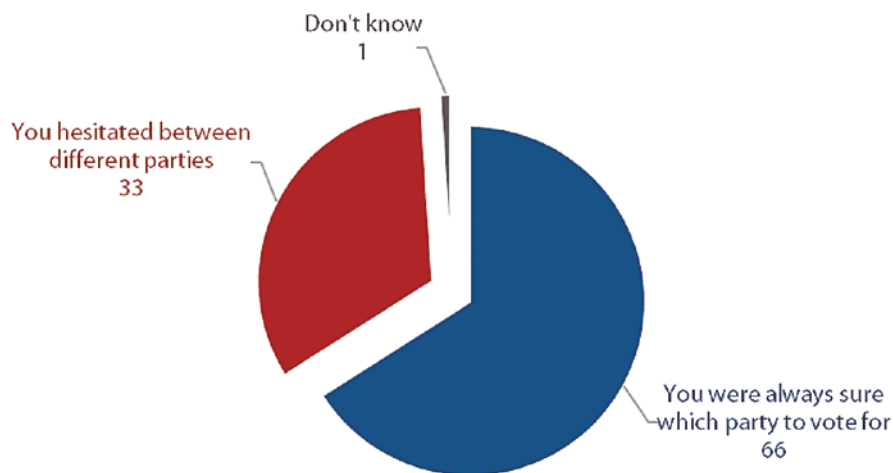
Base: respondents who declared they voted in the EE19,
51% of the sample

Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), QG1b

The degree of certainty who to vote for

Two thirds (66%) of voters in the recent European Parliament elections say that they were always sure which party to vote for, while a third (33%) say that they hesitated between different parties.

Q Ahead of these European Parliament elections, were you always sure which party to vote for or did you hesitate between different parties? (% - EU)



Base: respondents who declared they voted in the EE19,
51% of the sample

Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), QG3

In all but two Member States, a majority of respondents say that they were always sure which party to vote for, and more than four in five respondents say this in Portugal (91%), Malta (87%), Poland (84%) and Bulgaria (82%). By contrast, a majority of respondents in the Netherlands (60%) and Sweden (57%) say that they hesitated between different parties.

It is possible to analyse the findings in relation to the specific party that respondents voted for, as described below for four countries. Overall, this analysis indicates that people voting for Green Parties were more likely to hesitate between different parties, while people voting for far-right or anti-European parties were more likely to be sure of their decision.

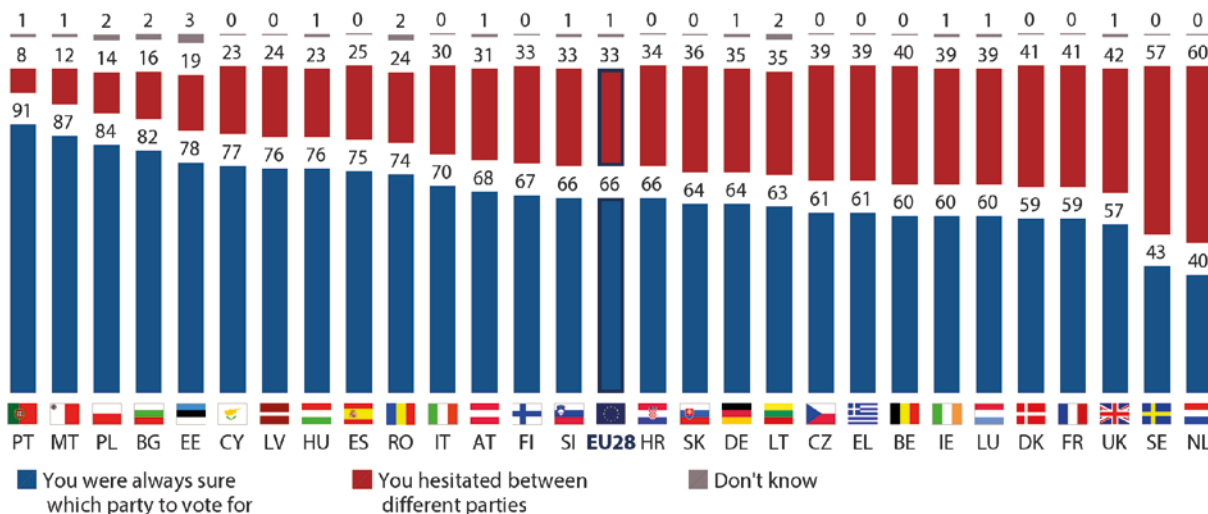
In France, among those who say they were always sure which party to vote for, 35% voted for Rassemblement National (RN) (higher than the overall share of the vote for this party – 23%), while 25% voted for La République en Marche (La REM) (vs. 22%) and 8% for the Liste Ecologie les Verts (vs. 13%). Among those who say they hesitated between different parties, a fifth voted for the Liste Ecologie les Verts (21%), 20% for La REM and 7% for RN.

In Germany, among those who say they were always sure which party to vote for, 36% voted for CDU/CSU (higher than the overall score of 29%), 19% for the SPD (vs. 16%), and 16% for Bündnis 90/Die Grünen (vs. 21%). Among those who say they hesitated between different parties, close to three in ten (28%) voted for Bündnis 90/Die Grünen, 16% for CDU/CSU and 11% for the SPD.

In the UK, more than a third (37%) of those who say they were always sure of which party to vote for chose the Brexit Party (compared with 31% overall), while 17% voted for the Labour Party (vs. 14%). Among those who say they hesitated between different parties, 29% voted for the Liberal Democrat Party (vs. 20% overall), 22% voted for the Brexit Party (vs. 31%) and 18% for the Green Party (vs. 12%).

In Italy, among those who say they were always sure which party to vote for, 35% voted for Lega Salvini Premier (similar to the overall figure of 34%), while 27% voted for Partito Democratico (con Siamo Europei) (vs. 23%) and 16% for Movimento Cinque Stelle (vs. 17%). Among those who say they hesitated between different parties, 33% voted for Lega Salvini Premier, 19% for Movimento Cinque Stelle, 13% for Partito Democratico (con Siamo Europei) and 12% for Forza Italia (vs. 9%).

Q Ahead of these European Parliament elections, were you always sure which party to vote for or did you hesitate between different parties? (%)



Base: respondents who declared they voted in the EE19, 51% of the sample

Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), QG3

There are a number of socio-demographic differences in whether respondents were sure for which party to vote. Older people are more likely to say they were always sure which party to vote for (74% of those aged 55 or over, falling to 54% of those aged under 25). There is also a difference by level of education: those who left school by the age of 15 are more likely to say they were always sure which party to vote for (80%) than those who finished education at the age of 20 or over (62%). In terms of socio-professional category, retired people (76%) and house persons (71%) are the most likely to say they always knew which party they would vote for.

Q Ahead of these European Parliament elections, were you always sure which party to vote for or did you hesitate between different parties? (% - EU)

	You were always sure which party to vote for	You hesitated between different parties	Don't know
EU28	66	33	1
Gender			
Man	67	33	-
Woman	65	34	1
Age			
15-24	54	45	1
25-39	61	39	-
40-54	63	36	1
55 +	74	26	-
Education (End of)			
15-	80	20	-
16-19	68	31	1
20+	62	38	-
Still studying	52	46	2
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	66	34	-
Managers	58	41	1
Other white collars	61	38	1
Manual workers	65	35	-
House persons	71	26	3
Unemployed	64	35	1
Retired	76	24	-
Students	52	46	2
Subjective urbanisation			
Rural village	69	31	-
Small/ mid size town	67	32	1
Large town	62	37	1
Left-right political scale			
Left	65	35	-
Centre	60	39	1
Right	76	24	-
Use of the Internet			
Everyday	62	37	1
Often/ Sometimes	72	27	1
Never	83	16	1
Media use index			
Very high	64	36	-
High	66	33	1
Poor	78	20	2
None	86	13	1

Base: respondents who declared they voted in the EE19, 51% of the sample'

Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), QG3

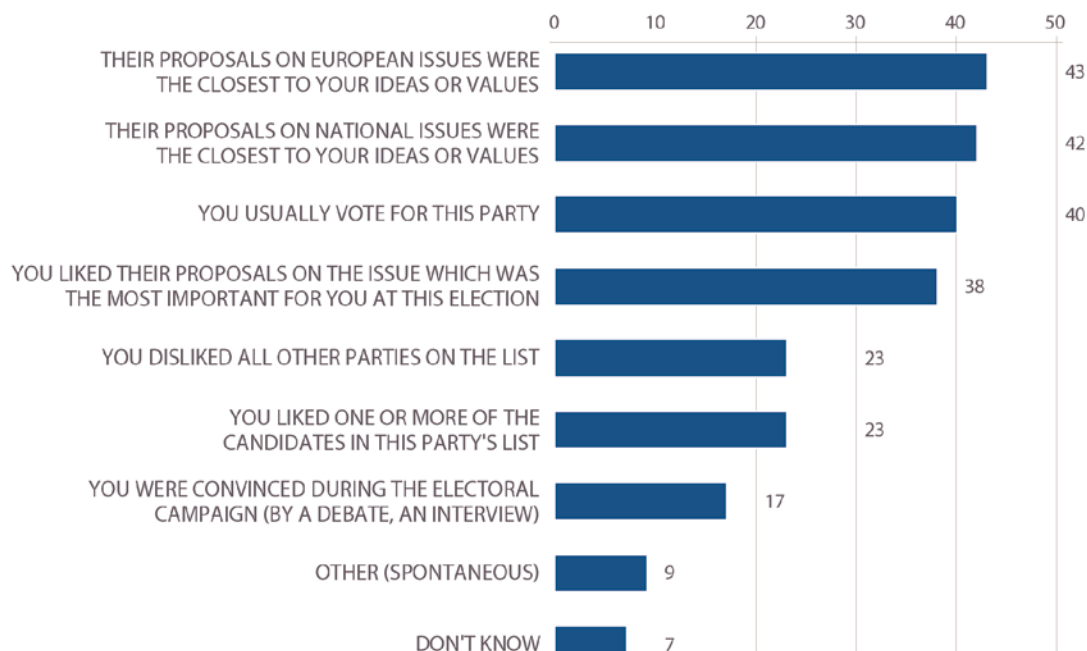
People in rural villages are more likely to have been sure which party to vote for (69%), compared with those in large towns (62%). There is also a difference in relation to political outlook: those who place themselves on the right of the political scale are more likely to say they were sure of their choice (76%) than those who place themselves on the left (65%) or centre (60%).

It is also worth noting that increased use of media and the Internet tends to lead to more uncertainty as to who to vote for. Respondents who register a 'very high' media use (64%) are much less likely to have been sure about which party to vote for, compared with respondents who have 'poor' media use (78%) or none at all (86%). Similarly, those who use the Internet every day are less likely to have been sure of who to vote for, compared with those who never use it (62% compared with 83%).

The reasons of the choice who to vote for

European and national issues were of equal importance to voters in the recent European Parliament elections. When asked why they voted for their chosen party, 43% say that the party's proposals on European issues were the closest to their ideas or values, while almost the same proportion (42%) say that the party's proposals on national issues matched their own.

Q Why did you vote for this party in these European Parliament elections? Firstly? And then? (Max. 3 answers) (% - EU)



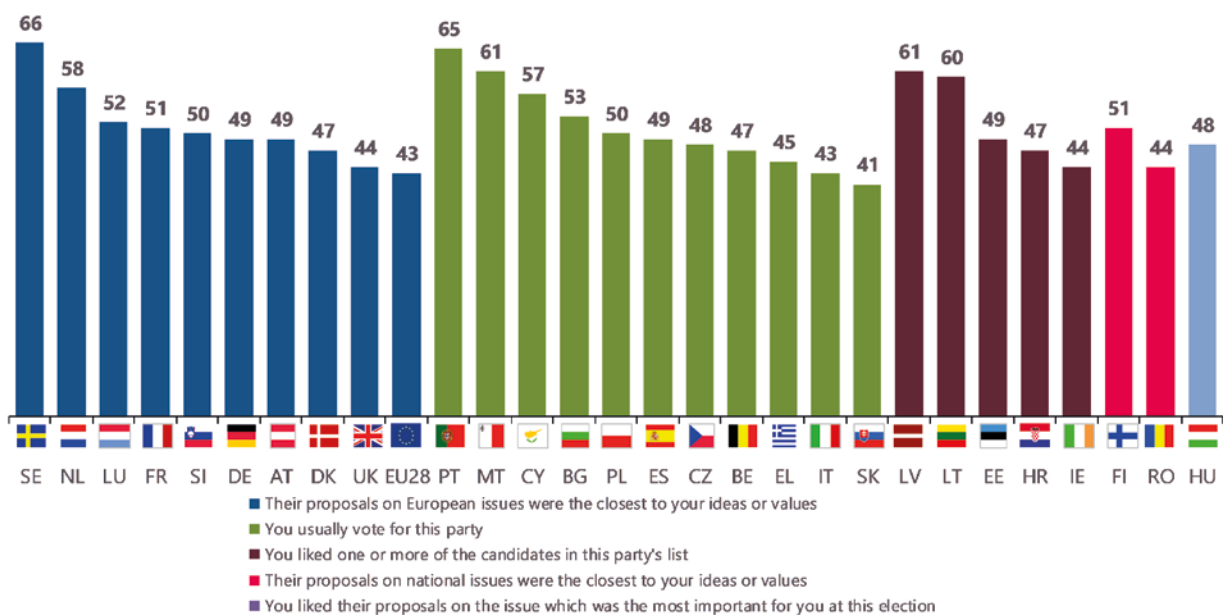
Base: respondents who declared they voted in the EE19, 51% of the sample

Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), QG4T

The other two main reasons were that the respondent always votes for the party in question (40%) and because of the party's proposals on issues that were most important to the respondent (38%). The other reasons for voting for a party are that respondents disliked all other parties on the list (23%), that they liked one or more of the candidates in the chosen party's list (23%) and that they were convinced during the electoral campaign (by a debate, an interview) (17%).

In 11 Member States, the most frequent reason for voting for a particular party is that the respondent always votes for this party. In nine countries, the main reason is that the party's proposals on European issues were the closest to their own ideas or values. There are five countries where the most common answer is that respondents liked one or more of the candidates in the chosen party's list. In two countries (Finland and Romania), the most common reason for choosing a party is that the proposals on national issues matched respondents' own. In Hungary, the main reason is that respondents liked the party's proposals on issues that were most important to them.

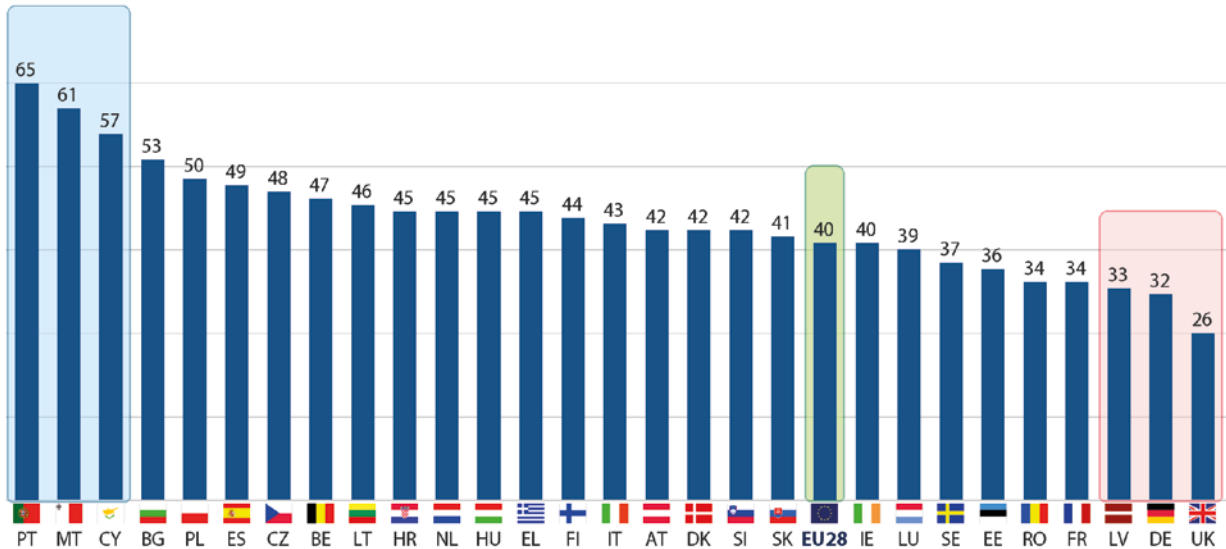
Q Why did you vote for this party in these European Parliament elections? Firstly? And then? (% - The most mentioned answer by country)



Base: respondents who declared they voted in the EE19,
51% of the sample

Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), QG4T

Q Why did you vote for this party in these European Parliament elections? Firstly? And then? (Max. 3 answers)
 (% - You usually vote for this party)

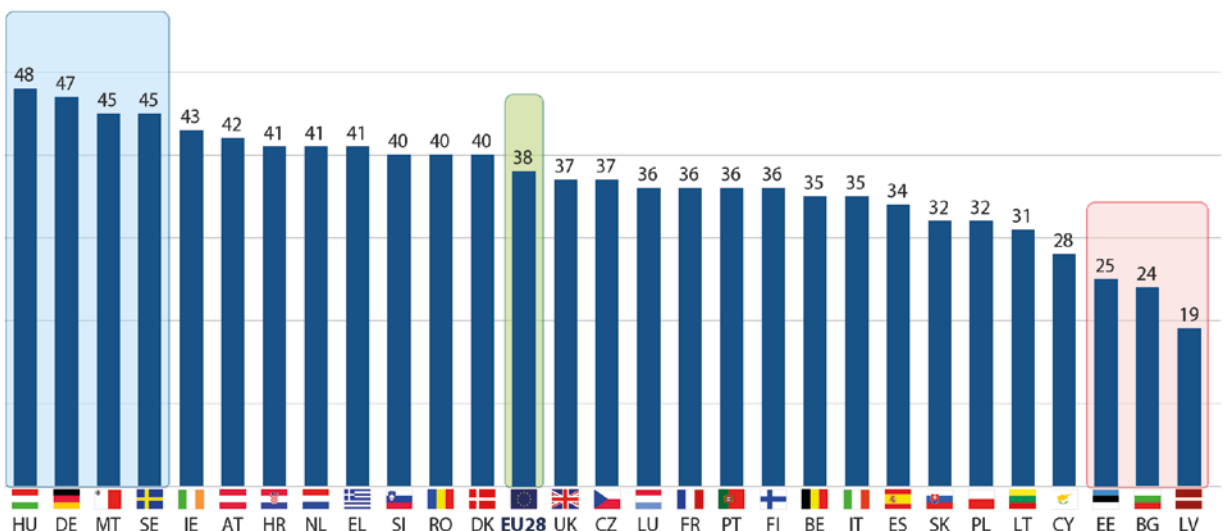


Base: respondents who declared they voted in the EE19, 51% of the sample

Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), QG4T

In the EU28 overall, 40% of respondents say that they voted for their chosen party because they usually vote for them. In four countries, more than half of respondents give this reason: Portugal (65%), Malta (61%), Cyprus (57%) and Bulgaria (53%). By contrast, no more than a third of respondents give this reason in the UK (26%), Germany (32%) and Latvia (33%).

Q Why did you vote for this party in these European Parliament elections? Firstly? And then? (Max. 3 answers)
 (% - You liked their proposals on the issue which was the most important for you at this election)



Base: respondents who declared they voted in the EE19, 51% of the sample

Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), QG4T

There is a high level of consistency across Member States in the proportions that voted for a party because they liked their proposals on particular issues of importance, with 17 countries in a range between 34% and 43%. Respondents are most likely to give this answer in Hungary (48%), Germany (47%) and Malta and Sweden (both 45%), while the lowest proportions are seen in Latvia (19%), Bulgaria (24%) and Estonia (25%).

Looking at the other reasons given for choosing a particular party, respondents in Sweden (66%) and the Netherlands (58%) are the most likely to say that their proposals on European issues were closest to their own ideas or values, while respondents in Sweden (52%) and Finland (51%) are most likely to mention the importance of national issues. A dislike for other parties on the list is given as a reason most frequently in Greece (42%) and Bulgaria (37%), while respondents in Latvia (61%) and Lithuania (60%) are most likely to say they liked one or more candidates in the party's list. Respondents in Croatia, Hungary and Austria (all 27%) are the most likely to say that they were convinced during the electoral campaign.

It is useful to examine the reasons for choosing a party in specific countries. In France, among those who say they voted for a party based on their national issues, 27% voted for Rassemblement National (RN) (higher than the overall share of the vote for this party – 23%). Among those who liked the party's proposal on a key issue of importance, 20% voted for the Liste Ecologie les Verts (vs. 13% overall).

In Germany, Bündnis 90/Die Grünen obtained 21% of the overall vote, but this was higher among voters who were motivated by proposals on European issues (26%) or by proposals on an issue of importance (28%). Alternative für Deutschland (AfD) scored 11% of the total vote, but this was higher among those who were motivated by proposals on national issues (18%) or a dislike of other parties (20%).

In the UK, among those who say they voted based on a party's proposals on European issues, 28% voted for the Liberal Democrats (vs. 20% overall). Among those who liked the party's proposals on a key issue of importance, 38% voted for the Brexit Party (vs. 31% overall). The overall share of the vote for the Green Party (12%) was higher among those who were motivated by proposals on national issues (17%) and dislike for other parties (17%).

In Italy, Lega Salvini Premier obtained 34% of the total vote, and this was higher among voters who were concerned about party proposals – either national (39%), European (40%) or specific issues of importance (41%). Among voters who disliked all of the other parties, 22% voted for Movimento Cinque Stelle (vs. 17% overall).

Q Why did you vote for this party in these European Parliament elections? Firstly? (Max. 3 answers)
(% - EU)

		Their proposals on European issues were the closest to your ideas or values	Their proposals on national issues were the closest to your ideas or values	You usually vote for this party	You liked their proposals on the issue which was the most important for you at this election	You liked one or more of the candidates in this party's list	You disliked all other parties on the list	You were convinced during the electoral campaign (by a debate, an interview)
EU28		43	42	40	38	23	23	17
BE		36	44	47	35	30	20	19
BG		29	36	53	24	26	37	12
CZ		47	44	48	37	28	20	20
DK		47	41	42	40	43	11	19
DE		49	46	32	47	19	17	16
EE		29	31	36	25	49	17	13
IE		41	43	40	43	44	18	23
EL		32	39	45	41	31	42	21
ES		36	39	49	34	21	23	10
FR		51	44	34	36	12	17	19
HR		34	46	45	41	47	34	27
IT		40	42	43	35	25	30	20
CY		38	44	57	28	45	15	11
LV		30	30	33	19	61	11	14
LT		27	25	46	31	60	20	17
LU		52	32	39	36	31	20	19
HU		39	37	45	48	25	29	27
MT		38	42	61	45	41	28	19
NL		58	43	45	41	30	10	16
AT		49	48	42	42	27	28	27
PL		36	42	50	32	23	27	15
PT		30	35	65	36	29	21	10
RO		33	44	34	40	37	34	23
SI		50	38	42	40	44	24	23
SK		31	27	41	32	40	28	26
FI		46	51	44	36	38	17	14
SE		66	52	37	45	30	14	14
UK		44	41	26	37	14	28	16
		1st MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM		2nd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM		3rd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM		

Base: respondents who declared they voted in the EE19, 51% of the sample

Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), QG4

A sociodemographic analysis shows some differences by age group in the reasons people give for voting for their chosen party in the European Parliament elections. Older respondents are more likely to say that they usually vote for this party (46% of those aged 55 or over compared with 30% of those aged under 25), whereas younger people are more likely to say that their proposals on European issues matched their own (48% of those aged under 25 compared with 40% of those aged 55 or over) and that they liked the party's proposal on their most important issue (45% compared with 36%).

There are differences by level of education. Those who left education at the age of 20 or above are more likely to say that the party's proposals on European issues matched their own (49% compared with 34% of those who left education by the age of 15) and that they liked the party's proposal on their most important issue (41% compared with 34%). By contrast, those who left education at the age of 15 or below are more likely to say that they usually vote for the party (54% compared with 36% of those who finished education at the age of 20 or above) and that they disliked all the other parties on the list (27% compared with 20%).

Results are similar across different types of area, although those living in a large town are more likely to say that the party's proposals on European issues were the closest to their own (47% compared with 39% of those living in a rural village).

Respondents who agree that their 'voice counts' in the EU are more likely to choose a party because of their proposals on European issues (46% compared with 37% who disagree that their voice counts) and because of their proposals on an issue of importance (41% compared with 34%). However, they are less likely to say that they disliked all of the other parties (21% compared with 28%).

Q Why did you vote for this party in these European Parliament elections? Firstly? And then?
(% - EU)

	Their proposals on European issues were the closest to your	Their proposals on national issues were the closest to your ideas or values	You usually vote for this party	You liked their proposals on the issue which was the most important for you at this election	You disliked all other parties on the list	You liked one or more of the candidates in this party's list	You were convinced during the electoral campaign (by a debate, an interview)
EU28	43	42	40	38	23	23	17
Gender							
Man	44	44	39	39	24	23	17
Woman	42	41	41	37	22	24	18
Age							
15-24	48	44	30	45	22	26	20
25-39	46	44	36	41	21	25	19
40-54	43	43	36	39	25	22	17
55 +	40	42	46	36	24	22	16
Education (End of)							
15-	34	39	54	34	27	20	15
16-19	40	43	39	36	25	23	18
20+	49	43	36	41	20	24	16
Still studying	49	44	29	46	21	29	20
Socio-professional category							
Self-employed	42	39	37	40	24	23	20
Managers	51	43	32	46	18	25	17
Other white collars	43	45	36	40	24	23	20
Manual workers	41	42	39	38	24	23	18
House persons	42	44	42	31	27	27	17
Unemployed	38	39	38	34	23	22	14
Retired	40	42	49	35	24	21	15
Students	49	44	29	46	21	29	20
Subjective urbanisation							
Rural village	39	43	43	37	23	23	18
Small/ mid size town	44	43	39	39	22	21	17
Large town	47	41	38	38	26	26	17
My voice counts in the EU							
Agree	46	43	41	41	21	24	19
Disagree	37	41	37	34	28	21	15

Base: respondents who declared they voted in the EE19, 51% of the sample

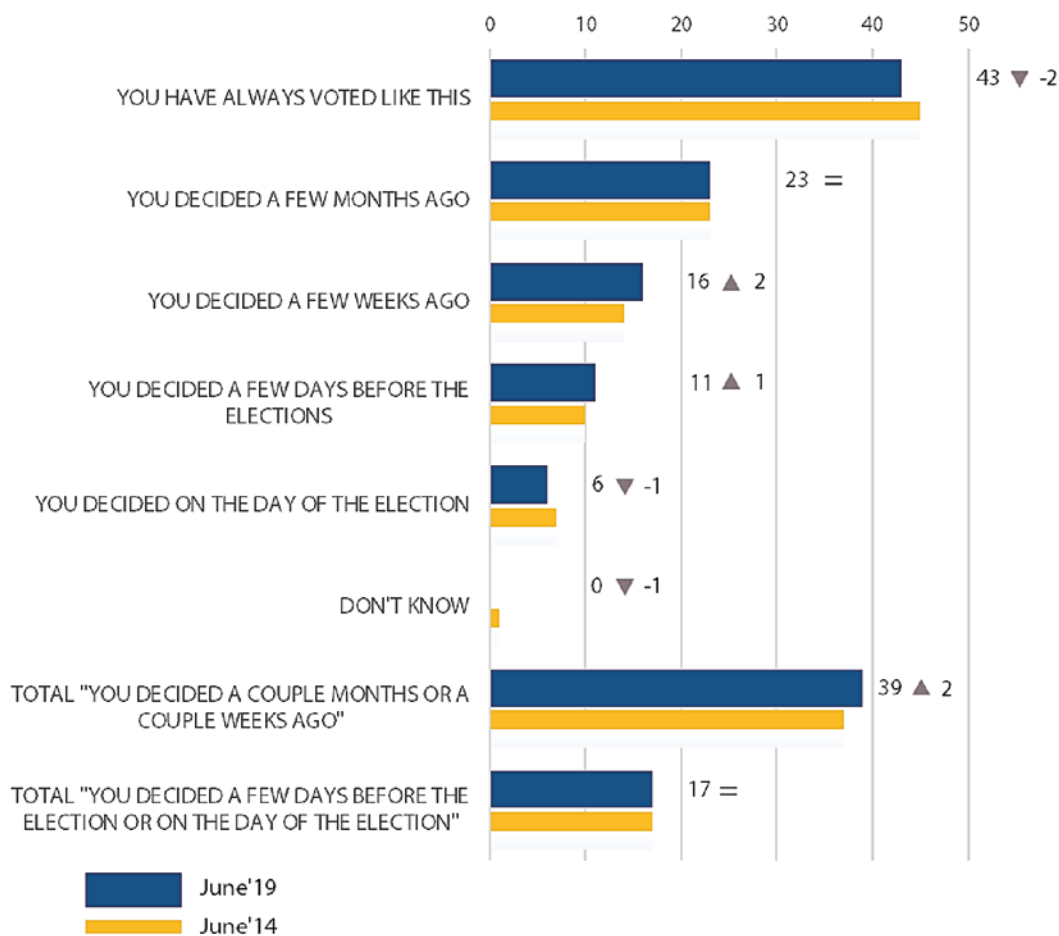
Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), QG4T

The moment of taking the decision to vote for a specific party or candidate

The decision to vote for a particular party or candidate was usually made at least a few months before the European Parliament elections. More than two in five voters (43%) say that they have always voted for the same party or candidate, while 23% say they decided 'a few months ago'. One in six (16%) say they decided 'a few weeks ago', while a similar proportion (17%) only decided in the days before the election (11%) or on the day itself (6%).

These findings are similar to those seen in 2014, although there has been a slight decrease in the proportion of voters who say that they have 'always voted like this' (-2 pp) and an increase in the proportion that decided a few weeks before the elections (+2 pp). This indicates that a less certain group of people is now part of the voter population, as part of the overall increase in turnout. This may reflect some success in the EE19 campaign in encouraging those who were previously 'soft abstainers'.

Q When did you decide to vote for the political party or candidate you voted for in the recent European Parliament elections? (% - EU)



Base: respondents who declared they voted in the EE19, 51% of the sample

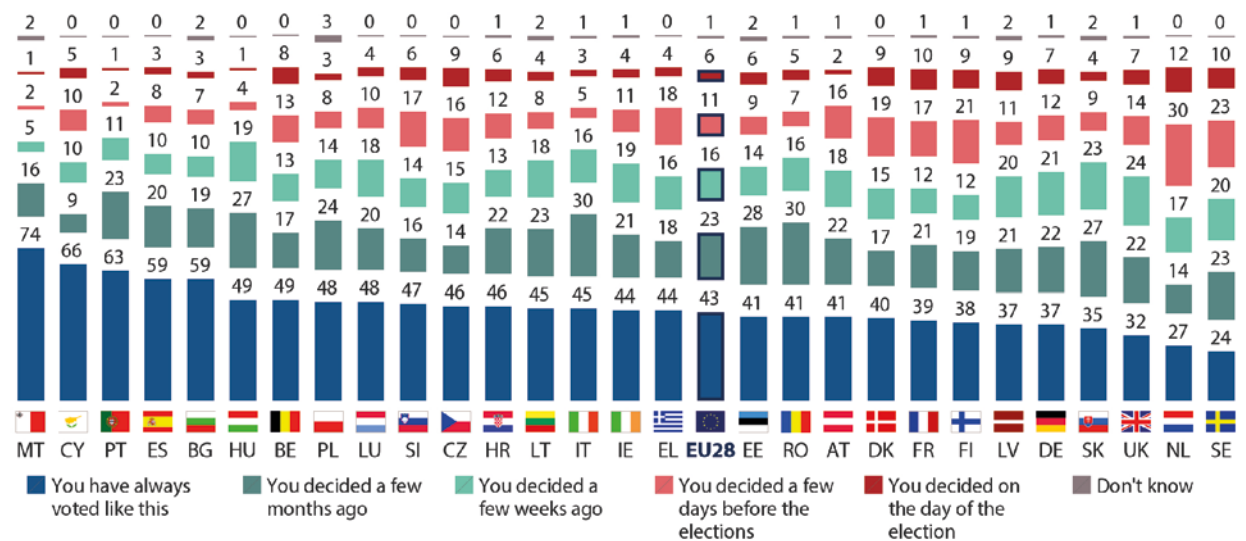
Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), QG5

There is considerable variation between Member States in when people decided to vote for a particular party or candidate in the recent European Parliament elections. In five countries, more than half of respondents say that they have always voted like this: Malta (74%), Cyprus (66%), Portugal (63%) and Spain and Bulgaria (both 59%). By contrast, only around one in four respondents say this in Sweden (24%) and the Netherlands (27%).

Respondents are most likely to say that they made their decision a few months before the election in Italy and Romania (both 30%), Estonia (28%) and Hungary and Slovakia (both 27%).

In five countries, more than a quarter of voters only decided on a party or candidate a few days before the elections or on the day itself: the Netherlands (42%), Sweden (33%), Finland (30%), Denmark (28%) and France (27%). However, only very small proportions left it this late in Portugal and Malta (both 3%) and Hungary (5%).

Q When did you decide to vote for the political party or candidate you voted for in the recent European Parliament elections?



Base: respondents who declared they voted in the EE19, 51% of the sample
Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), QG5

Analysis of individual countries shows that there are certain parties that respondents are more likely to say they ‘always vote for’; specifically, Rassemblement National (RN) in France (chosen by 30% of those who always vote for the same party), the Labour Party in the UK (29%), Partito Democratico (con Siamo Europei) in Italy (37%) and CDU/CSU in Germany (45%).

Socio-demographic analysis shows mainly consistent patterns in the timing of choosing a party or candidate. The findings are similar between men and women, although women are more likely than men to have decided only a few days before the election or on the day itself (20% compared with 15%).






The main difference by age group is that older voters are more likely than younger voters to have always voted for the same party (49% of those aged 55 or over compared with 34% of those aged under 25).

Respondents educated to a higher level are more likely to have left their decision until just before the elections: 21% of those who left education at the age of 20 or above made their decision only days before the elections or on the day itself, compared with 10% of those who ended education at the age of 15 or below. Those who left education by the age of 15 are more likely to say that they have always voted like this (57% compared with 39% of those who ended education at the age of 20 or above).

Looking at socio-professional category, managers (23%) and students (22%) are most likely to have chosen a party or candidate a few days before or on the day of the elections, while house persons (50%) and retired voters (52%) are most likely to say that they have always voted for the same party.

Voters who place themselves on the right of the political spectrum generally decided on a party or candidate earlier than those on the left or centre. Specifically, just 11% of those on the right made their decision in the days before the elections or on the day itself, compared with 18% of those on the left and 20% of those in the centre.

Q When did you decide to vote for the political party or candidate you voted for in the recent European Parliament elections? (% - EU)

	You have always voted like this	You decided a few months/weeks ago	You decided a few days before/on the day of the elections	Don't know
EU28	43	39	17	1
 Gender				
Man	43	41	15	1
Woman	43	36	20	1
 Age				
15-24	34	43	21	2
25-39	37	41	21	1
40-54	40	39	20	1
55 +	49	37	13	1
 Education (End of)				
15-	57	33	10	-
16-19	43	41	15	1
20+	39	39	21	1
Still studying	32	45	22	1
 Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	42	39	18	1
Managers	34	42	23	1
Other white collars	37	43	19	1
Manual workers	41	39	19	1
House persons	50	36	13	1
Unemployed	41	36	20	3
Retired	52	36	12	-
Students	32	45	22	1
 Subjective urbanisation				
Rural village	45	37	17	1
Small/ mid size town	42	40	17	1
Large town	42	39	18	1
My voice counts in the EU				
Agree	44	38	17	1
Disagree	40	42	17	1
Left-right political scale				
Left	46	35	18	1
Centre	36	43	20	1
Right	50	38	11	1

Base: respondents who declared they voted in the EE19, 51% of the sample

Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), QG5

Reasons for voting: how important were “pro-European” reasons?

CIVIC DUTY AND FAVOURABLE VIEWS OF EUROPE WERE KEY REASONS FOR VOTING

This section examines the reasons for voting in the recent European Parliament elections, giving an important insight into the drivers behind the increase in turnout. A greater sense of civic duty clearly boosted the overall turnout, reflecting a greater importance and salience of the recent elections, alongside increasingly positive support for the EU and its impact on Europeans.

The most common reason for voting in the recent European Parliament elections was because people felt it was their duty as a citizen (52%). Other main reasons were because the respondent always votes (35%), because they are in favour of the EU (25%), to support the political party they feel close to (22%) and because voting in the elections can ‘make things change’ (18%).

As well as the 25% of respondents who say they voted because they are in favour of the EU, other pro-European reasons include feeling European or a citizen of the EU (12%), the fact that the EU plays an important part in everyday life (8%) and being very interested in European affairs (5%). In addition, 8% say they voted in order to influence the choice of the European Commission President. 5% of respondents say they voted in order to express disapproval of the EU.

Respondents also refer to national interests, by voting to support their national government (11%) or to express disapproval of their national government (9%). In addition, 12% voted in order to ‘express their disagreement’ generally.

Finally, 4% specifically say that the information they received during the campaign convinced them to vote.

There are differences in these responses in comparison with the 2014 post-election survey. Respondents are now less likely to say that they always vote (-6 pp), but are more likely to say that voting is their duty as a citizen (+11 pp), that they are in favour of the EU (+11 pp) and because voting can make things change (+6 pp). There has also been an increase in the proportion saying they voted to influence the choice of the European Commission President (+3 pp).

The increased prominence of civic duty suggests that European Parliament elections are now viewed more as a central part of democratic life (rather than a secondary election compared with national elections), and that European Parliament elections have now gained a salience to daily life that has not always been felt in the past. The rise in the sentiment that voting ‘can make things change’ also suggests an enhanced sense of importance in these elections, and a recognition that European elections are now useful and can have a real impact on EU citizens daily lives. This is linked to the rise in prevalence of the view that ‘my voice counts in the EU’, both overall and specifically among the voter population (as described in the

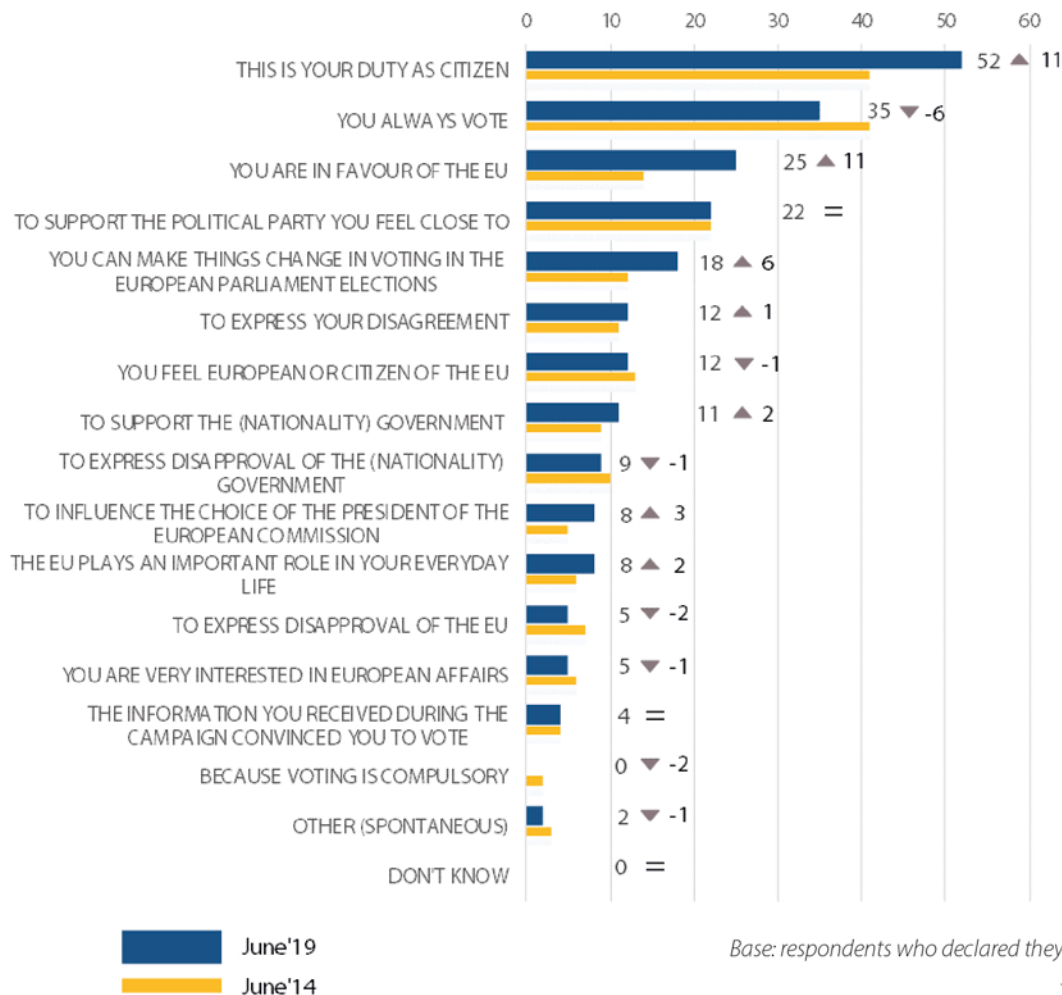
section above). This may indicate a positive mutual dynamic, whereby a greater sense of motivation and empowerment among EU citizens is helping to increase voter turnout, which then reinforces the sense of empowerment.

There has been an increase in positive support for the EU as reasons for voting; specifically, respondents are now much more likely than in 2014 to say that they voted because they are in favour of the EU (+11 pp), while there has also been an increase in the proportion saying the EU plays an important role in everyday life (+2 pp), alongside a decrease in voting to express disapproval of the EU (-2 pp). This indicates a stronger pro-European aspect to the recent European Parliament elections, with positive opinions of the EU helping to increase the turnout. This is in line with general attitudes towards membership of the EU (see section on 'Attitudes towards the EU' below), which are at historically high levels and substantially more positive now than they were in 2014.

It is also important to note that an increasing proportion of Europeans voted in order to influence the choice of the European Commission President (8%, +3 pp). This reflects the 'Spitzenkandidaten' process, where contenders for the role are put forward by European political parties. The role of the 'Spitzenkandidaten'-process may need to be clarified in advance of the next European Parliament elections, in order to avoid the risk of disaffecting potential voters.

Finally, the decrease in the proportion of people who 'always vote' is a reflection of the higher overall turnout, and the inclusion of more 'transient' voters in the voter population – confirming the success of the European Parliament's communication strategy for the European elections 2019, which, among other things, specifically encouraged voting participation among those who were previously 'soft abstainers'.

Q What are the main reasons why you decided to vote in the recent European Parliament elections?
(Max. 3 answers) (% - EU)



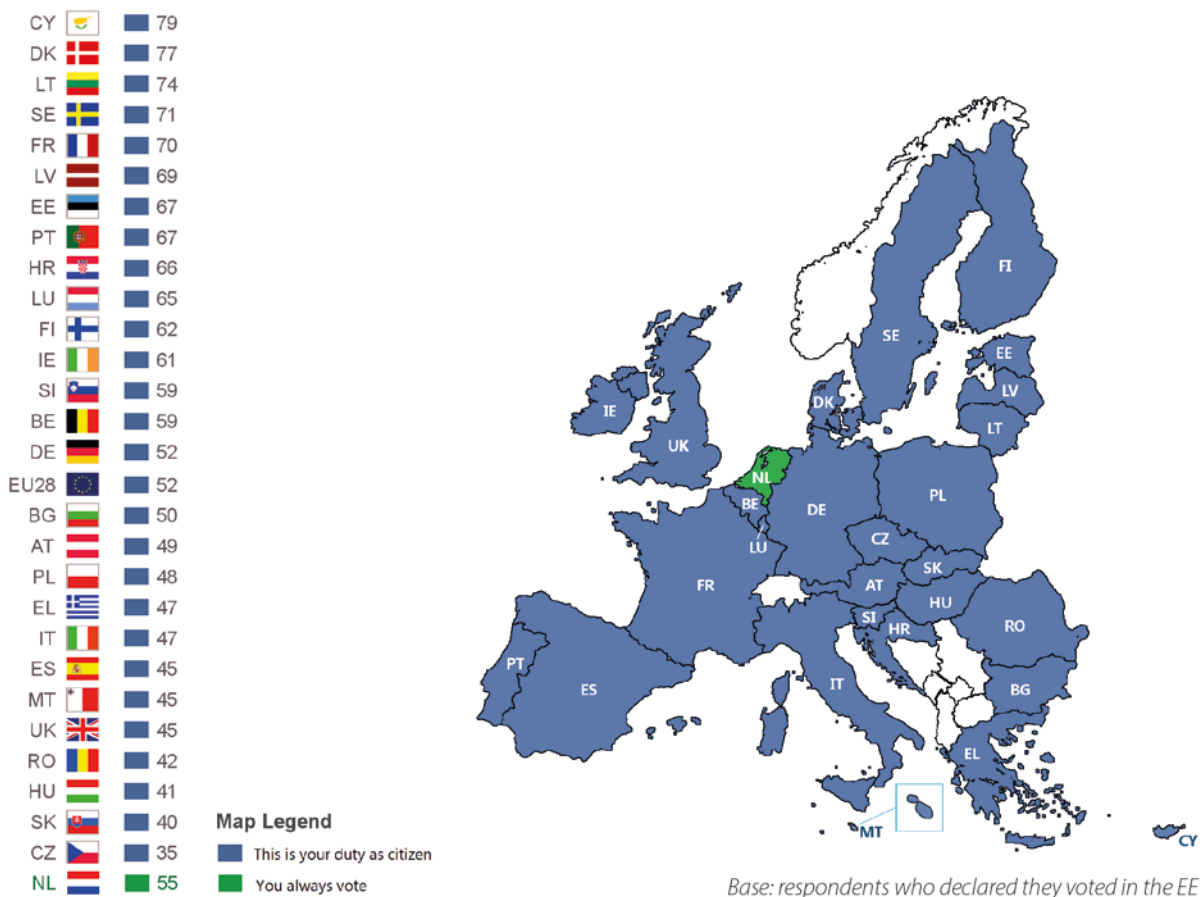
Base: respondents who declared they voted in the EE19,
51% of the sample

Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), QG6

The reasons for voting in the European Parliament elections are now explored on a country-by-country basis. While looking at the data, it is important to keep in mind that voting is compulsory in five countries: Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Luxembourg and Greece.

Civic duty is the most common answer in 27 Member States, the only exception being the Netherlands (where it is second to 'always voting'). The perception of voting in European Parliament elections as a

Q What are the main reasons why you decided to vote in the recent European Parliament elections? (Max. 3 answers) (The most mentioned item per country)

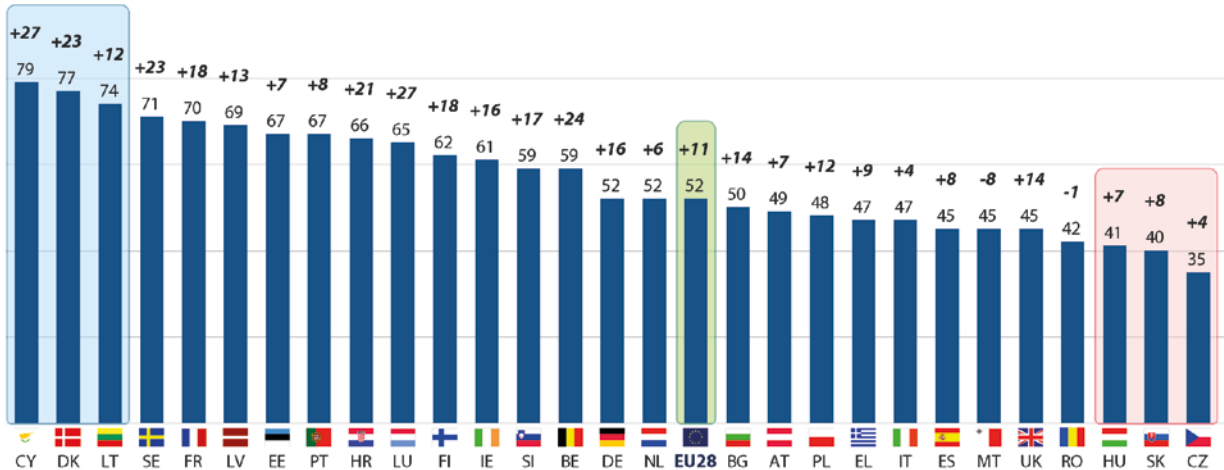


Base: respondents who declared they voted in the EE19, 51% of the sample

Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), QG6

civic duty varies considerably by Member State. In four countries, more than seven in ten voters hold this view: Cyprus (79%), Denmark (77%), Lithuania (74%) and Sweden (71%). By contrast, this view is shared by 35% in Czechia, 40% in Slovakia and 41% in Hungary. At the EU28 level, there has been a large increase since 2014 in the proportion saying that they voted out of civic duty (+11 pp), and there has been an increase in 26 individual countries, the exceptions being Malta (45%, -8 pp) and Romania (42%, -1 pp). The largest increases can be seen in Cyprus (79%, +27 pp), Luxembourg (65%, +27 pp), Belgium (59%, +24 pp), Denmark (77%, +23 pp), Sweden (71%, +23 pp) and Croatia (66%, +21 pp).

Q What are the main reasons why you decided to vote in the recent European Parliament elections?
(Max. 3 answers) (% - This is your duty as citizen)

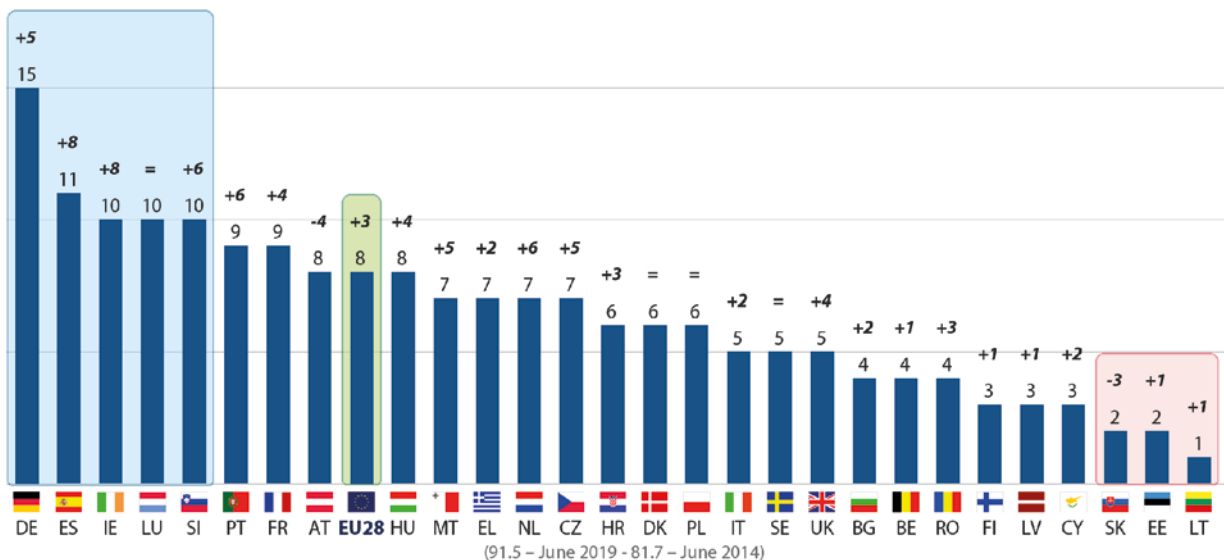


Base: respondents who declared they voted in the EE19, 51% of the sample

Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), QG6

In the EU28 overall, 8% of respondents say that they voted in order to influence the choice of the president of the European Commission. Respondents in Germany (15%) are most likely to give this reason, while very few respondents say this in Lithuania (1%) and Slovakia and Estonia (both 2%). The proportion giving this answer has increased in 22 countries, most notably Spain (11%, +8 pp) and Ireland (10%, +8 pp), while it has remained stable in four countries and decreased in two: Austria (8%, -4 pp) and Slovakia (2%, -3 pp).

Q What are the main reasons why you decided to vote in the recent European Parliament elections?
(Max. 3 answers) (% - To influence the choice of the president of the European Commission)



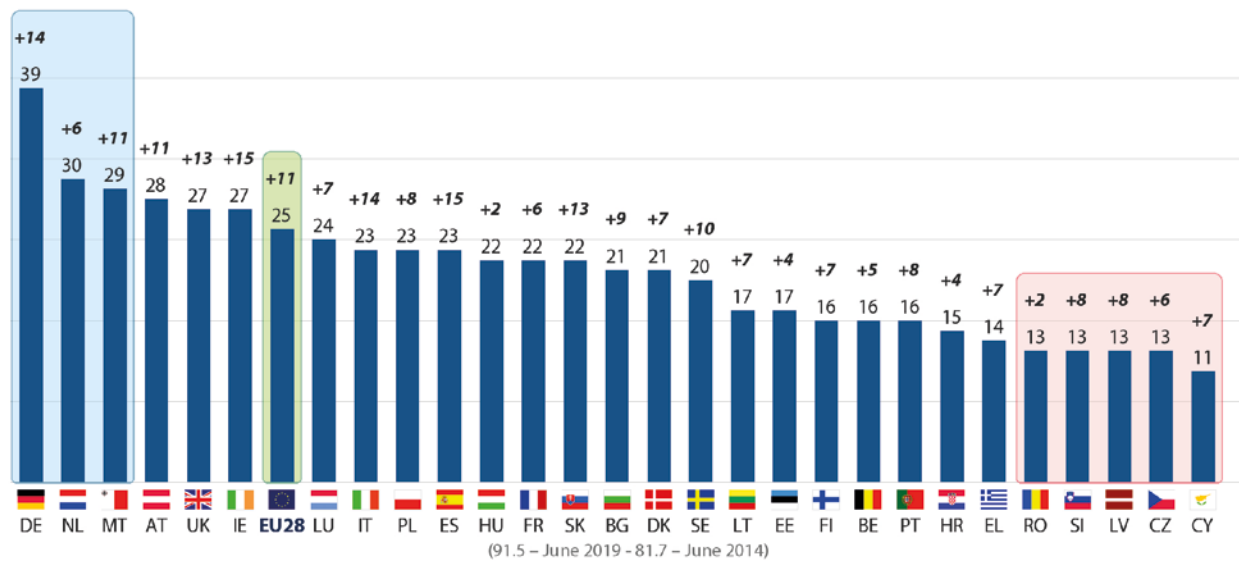
(91.5 - June 2019 - 81.7 - June 2014)

Base: respondents who declared they voted in the EE19, 51% of the sample

Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), QG6

One in four voters in the EU28 (25%) say that they voted in the European Parliament elections because they are in favour of the EU, and this is a large increase on the figure observed in 2014 (+11 pp). There has been an increase in every Member State, with the largest increases seen in Ireland (27%, +15 pp), Spain (23%, +15 pp), Germany (39%, +14 pp), Italy (23%, +14 pp), the UK (27%, +13 pp) and Slovakia (22%, +13 pp).

Q What are the main reasons why you decided to vote in the recent European Parliament elections? (Max. 3 answers) (% - You are in favour of the EU)

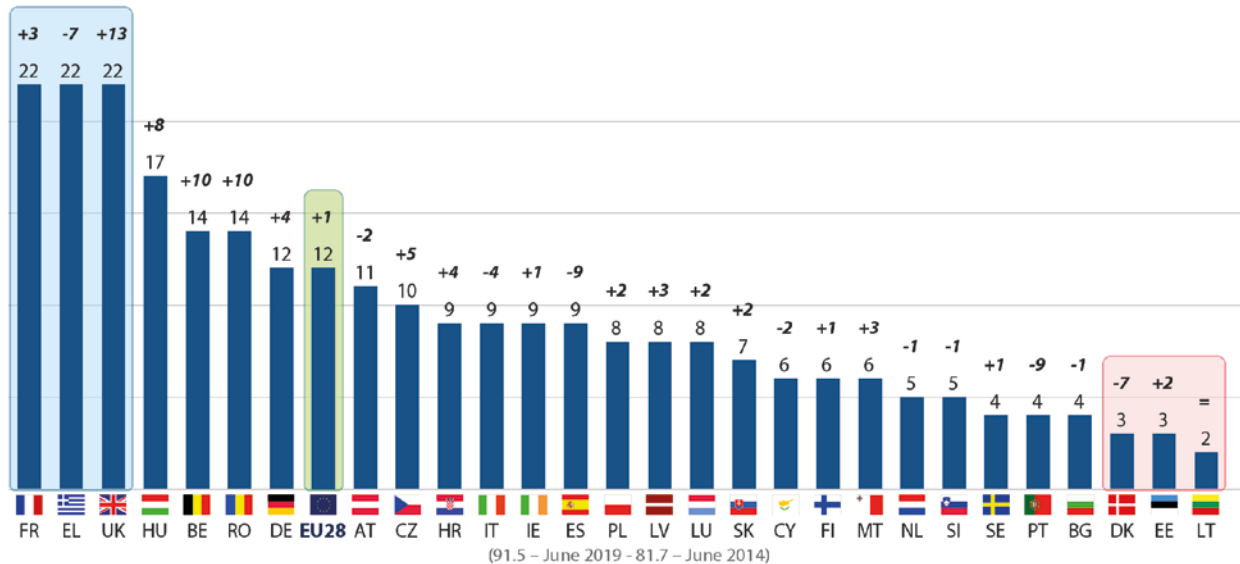


As a result of these changes, Germany now has by far the highest proportion of respondents that say they voted because they are in favour of the EU (39%), while the lowest proportions are seen in Cyprus (11%) and Czechia, Latvia, Slovenia and Romania (all 13%).

In three Member States, more than one in five voters say that they voted in order to ‘express their disagreement’: France, Greece and the UK (all 22%). This reason is open to some interpretation, as voters could be ‘expressing disagreement’ with a range of issues. However, it is worth noting that the three countries with the highest ranking on this item (France, Greece and the UK) all saw the party that was in power in that country not finishing first.

There have been some large changes from 2014 in the proportions saying they voted to express their disagreement. There has been an increase in 17 countries, notably the UK (22%, +13 pp), Belgium and Romania (both 14%, +10 pp) and Hungary (17%, +8 pp). However, large decreases can be observed in Spain (9%, -9 pp), Portugal (4%, -9 pp), Greece (22%, -7 pp) and Denmark (3%, -7 pp).

Q What are the main reasons why you decided to vote in the recent European Parliament elections?
(Max. 3 answers) (% - To express your disagreement)



Base: respondents who declared they voted in the EE19,
51% of the sample

Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), QG6

The reasons for voting in the recent European Parliament elections are broadly consistent across different socio-demographic groups. For example, civic duty is the most frequent reason given by every socio-demographic group.

Younger respondents are more likely to say that voting can make things change (23% of those aged under 25 compared with 15% of those aged 55 or over) and that they feel European or a citizen of the EU (16% compared with 10%). Respondents aged 55 or over are more likely than younger respondents to say that they always vote (38% compared with 31% of those aged under 25 and 30% of 25–39 year olds).

There are differences by level of education, which broadly reflect a more pro-European view among more highly educated respondents, as opposed to stronger party allegiance among less educated respondents. Specifically, respondents who left education at the age of 20 or above are more likely than those who left at the age of 15 or below to say that they are in favour of the EU (32% compared with 16%), that they feel European or a citizen of the EU (15% compared with 6%) and that you can make things change by voting (20% compared with 12%). However, they are less likely to say they always vote (33% compared with 43%) and that they voted to support the party they feel close to (20% compared with 26%).

Respondents who have difficulties paying bills most of the time are more likely than those who rarely or never have problems to have voted to express disagreement (20% compared with 10%) and are less likely to have voted because they are in favour of the EU (12% compared with 28%).

Voting because of a favourable view of the EU is more common among people living in a large town (28%) than a rural village (21%) and is also more prevalent among those who agree that their voice counts, either in the EU (31% compared with 12% who disagree) or in their own country (28% compared with 16%). People who feel that their voice counts are also more likely to vote because they feel European or a citizen of the EU, but are less likely to have voted to express disagreement.

Q What are the main reasons why you decided to vote in the recent European Parliament elections? (Max. 3 answers) (% - EU)

	This is your duty as citizen	You always vote	You are in favour of the EU	To support the political party you feel close to	You can make things change in voting in the European Parliament elections	To express your disagreement	You feel European or citizen of the EU	To support the (NATIONALITY) Government	To express disapproval of the (NATIONALITY) Government	To influence the choice of the president of the European Commission
EU28	52	35	25	22	18	12	12	11	9	8
Gender										
Man	51	34	26	21	18	13	12	10	10	8
Woman	54	35	24	22	18	12	11	11	8	8
Age										
15-24	53	31	26	20	23	11	16	7	7	11
25-39	49	30	26	22	20	14	12	9	9	8
40-54	51	34	25	20	21	12	12	10	10	7
55 +	55	38	24	23	15	12	10	13	9	9
Education (End of)										
15-	52	43	16	26	12	13	6	13	7	9
16-19	51	33	21	21	19	15	9	11	11	9
20+	54	33	32	20	20	9	15	10	8	8
Still studying	54	30	29	24	22	14	19	7	7	6
Socio-professional category										
Self-employed	49	32	26	21	17	14	14	11	8	10
Managers	56	31	36	20	20	8	17	6	7	9
Other white collars	50	32	24	20	25	13	11	12	9	8
Manual workers	51	33	23	19	18	14	9	11	9	10
House persons	50	33	17	24	17	12	7	12	12	6
Unemployed	43	38	19	22	18	14	10	8	12	7
Retired	55	39	24	23	14	12	10	13	9	8
Students	54	30	29	24	22	14	19	7	7	6
Difficulties paying bills										
Most of the time	49	37	12	24	17	20	8	10	13	6
From time to time	45	34	20	22	19	16	9	12	10	6
Almost never/ Never	55	35	28	21	18	10	13	10	8	10
Subjective urbanisation										
Rural village	54	37	21	22	16	11	11	12	9	8
Small/ mid size town	52	34	26	21	19	13	11	10	9	8
Large town	51	33	28	23	19	13	13	10	10	10
My voice counts in the EU										
Agree	54	34	31	22	21	9	14	11	7	10
Disagree	50	37	12	20	14	20	6	10	13	5
Left-right political scale										
Left	53	36	31	23	20	11	15	8	8	10
Centre	54	34	27	19	18	11	13	10	8	9
Right	50	34	18	26	18	16	7	15	11	6

Base: respondents who declared they voted in the EE19, 51% of the sample

Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), QG6

Those who place themselves on the right of the political spectrum are more likely than those on the left or the centre to say they voted to support the national government (15%, 8% and 10% respectively) and to express disagreement (16%, 11% and 11% respectively), but are less likely to have voted because they favour the EU (18%, 31% and 27% respectively).

Q What are the issues which made you vote in the recent European Parliament elections? Firstly? And then?
(% - EU)



Base: respondents who declared they voted in the EE19, 51% of the sample

Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), QG7

Issues behind the vote: a comparison with the pre-election period

A RANGE OF ISSUES LIE BEHIND THE DECISION TO VOTE

Respondents who voted in the recent European Parliament elections were asked what were the issues that made them vote. There are five issues that are mentioned by at least a third of respondents: economy and growth (44%), combating climate change and protecting the environment (37%), promoting human rights and democracy (37%), the way the EU should be working in the future (36%) and immigration (34%).

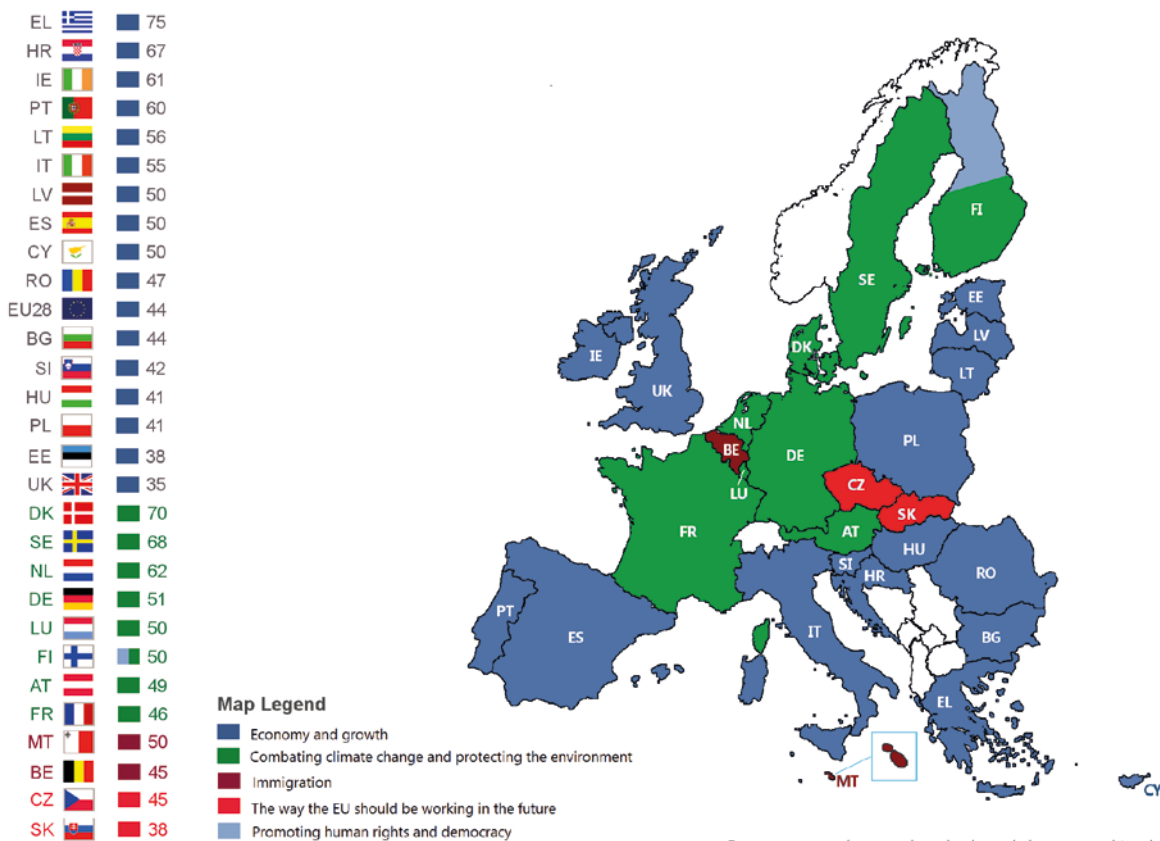
At least a quarter of respondents mentioned a number of issues: social protection of EU citizens (29%), the fight against terrorism (26%), combatting youth unemployment (25%) and security and defence policy (25%). Also mentioned are the protection of external borders (21%), consumer protection and food safety (20%) and protection of personal data (12%).

A similar question was asked of respondents in the February–March 2019 Eurobarometer (EB 91.1), a few months before the European Parliament elections. This allows us to compare the issues of importance before the elections with those that actually mattered when people cast their vote. It is important to note that the findings from February–March 2019 are based on all respondents in the survey, whereas the results in this survey are based on those who actually voted. Nevertheless, some useful patterns emerge in comparing the findings. Most answers were mentioned more frequently in February–March 2019 than in June 2019, indicating that prior to the elections a range of issues was being considered by Europeans, whereas when voting they focused on smaller number of important issues. The one notable increase was for ‘the way the EU should be working in the future’ (30% in February–March 2019, 36% in the current survey). This once again reinforces the sense that voters felt their vote in the recent European Parliament elections could make a difference. The largest decreases were for combatting youth unemployment (49% in February–March 2019, 25% in the current survey), the fight against terrorism (41% vs. 26%), immigration (44% vs. 34%) and consumer protection and food safety (30% vs. 20%). Although all are important issues, this analysis suggests that Europeans saw them as less pivotal when they actually came to vote.

In 16 Member States, economy and growth is the issue most likely to be mentioned as a reason for voting in the recent European Parliament elections. In seven countries, the highest-ranking issue is combating climate change and protecting the environment, and this is the joint highest answer in another country (Finland) – along with promoting human rights and democracy.

Immigration is the most frequently mentioned issue in Malta and Belgium, while in Czechia and Slovakia respondents are most likely to mention ‘the way the EU should be working in the future’.

Q What are the issues which made you vote in the recent European Parliament elections? Firstly? And then? (Max. 5 answers) (The most mentioned item per country)

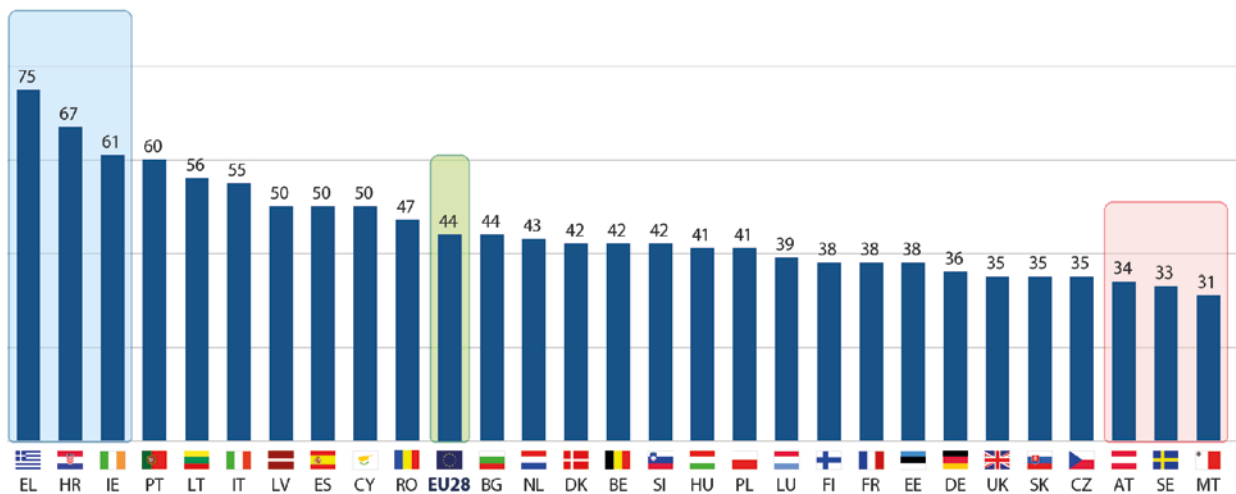


Base: respondents who declared they voted in the EE19, 51% of the sample
Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), QG7T

As noted above, economy and growth is most frequently mentioned as an issue that led respondents to vote – both in the EU28 overall and in the majority of individual countries.

There are six Member States where more than half of the respondents say this was an issue that made them vote: Greece (75%), Croatia (67%), Ireland (61%), Portugal (60%), Lithuania (56%) and Italy (55%). By contrast, only around a third of voters mention economy and growth in Malta (31%), Sweden (33%) and Austria (34%).

Q What are the issues which made you vote in the recent European Parliament elections? Firstly? And then? (Max. 5 answers) (% - Economy and growth)

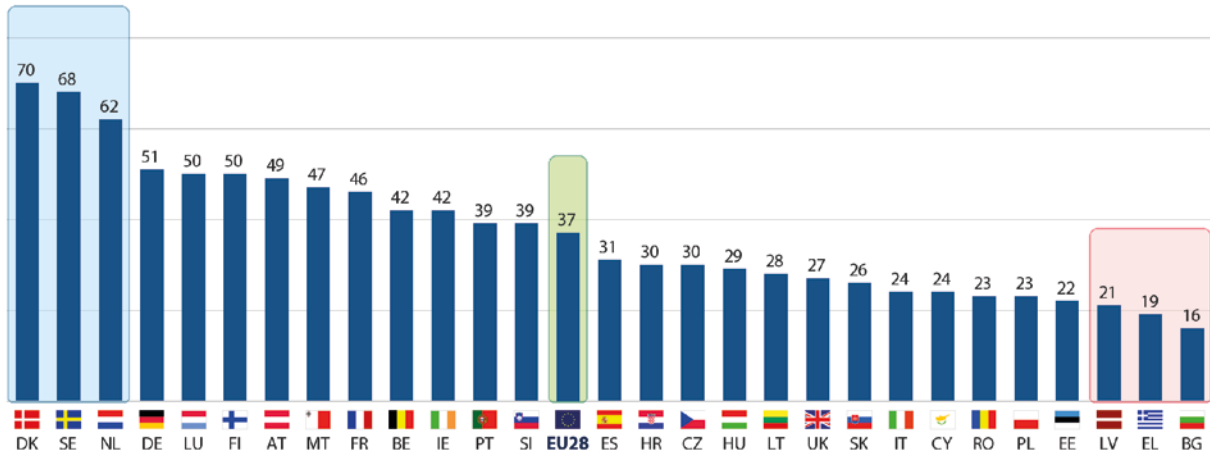


Base: respondents who declared they voted in the EE19, 51% of the sample

Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), QG7T

The issue that ranks second in the EU28 as a reason for voting is combating climate change and protecting the environment (chosen by 37% of respondents in the EU28). There is considerable variation across Member States in the proportions giving this answer. A clear majority say that combating climate change and protecting the environment was a reason for voting in Denmark (70%), Sweden (68%) and the Netherlands (62%). By contrast, no more than one in five respondents give this answer in Bulgaria (16%), Greece (19%) and Latvia (21%).

Q What are the issues which made you vote in the recent European Parliament elections? Firstly? And then?
(Max. 5 answers) (% - Combating climate change and protecting the environment)

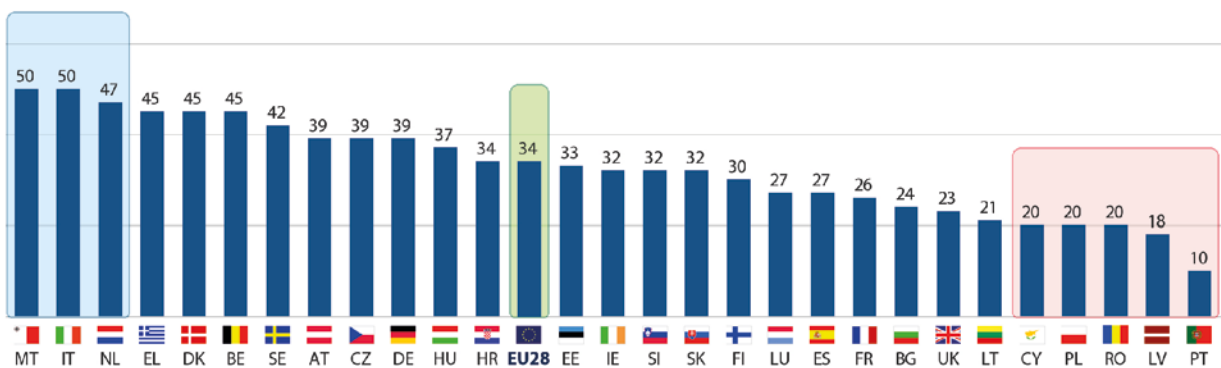


Base: respondents who declared they voted in the EE19,
51% of the sample

Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), QG7T

In the EU28 overall, one in three respondents (34%) say that immigration was an issue that made them vote in the recent European Parliament elections. This is most likely to be mentioned as an important issue in Malta (50%), Italy (50%) and the Netherlands (47%), while no more than one in five respondents mention it in Portugal (10%), Latvia (18%) and Cyprus, Poland and Romania (all 20%).

Q What are the issues which made you vote in the recent European Parliament elections? Firstly? And then?
(Max. 5 answers) (% - Immigration)



Base: respondents who declared they voted in the EE19,
51% of the sample

Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), QG7T

Q What are the issues which made you vote in the recent European Parliament elections? Firstly? And then? (Max. 5 answers) (%)

		Economy and growth	Combating climate change and protecting the environment	Promoting human rights and democracy	The way the EU should be working in the future	Immigration	Social protection of EU citizens	Fight against terrorism	Combating youth unemployment	Security and defence policy	Protection of external borders	Consumer protection and food safety	Protection of personal data	Other (SPONTANEOUS)
EU28		44	37	37	36	34	29	26	25	25	21	20	12	8
BE		42	42	26	30	45	32	32	23	21	25	24	14	5
BG		44	16	26	39	24	43	27	21	21	20	28	12	6
CZ		35	30	38	45	39	22	34	12	33	27	37	13	6
DK		42	70	44	25	45	20	36	10	26	36	21	9	12
DE		36	51	42	42	39	39	24	15	23	24	23	14	8
EE		38	22	34	31	33	18	21	14	36	24	10	8	12
IE		61	42	38	40	32	29	31	24	25	22	25	23	5
EL		75	19	26	40	45	37	19	60	36	37	18	12	7
ES		50	31	37	27	27	31	20	29	19	12	15	7	10
FR		38	46	33	36	26	23	35	29	24	19	19	7	6
HR		67	30	35	29	34	37	34	55	22	22	37	11	6
IT		55	24	32	36	50	23	30	43	31	22	19	14	4
CY		50	24	39	22	20	30	22	47	40	14	20	12	11
LV		50	21	32	25	18	31	14	16	29	23	17	15	9
LT		56	28	35	33	21	47	13	32	34	11	20	13	4
LU		39	50	33	44	27	36	22	30	23	18	21	9	14
HU		41	29	39	39	37	30	27	25	31	32	25	17	1
MT		31	47	40	30	50	25	34	9	15	21	24	13	16
NL		43	62	50	52	47	27	35	7	35	21	16	10	9
AT		34	49	40	47	39	39	20	26	23	39	32	24	10
PL		41	23	32	38	20	21	19	12	29	18	21	13	4
PT		60	39	37	34	10	46	28	34	28	10	17	10	11
RO		47	23	41	26	20	30	23	35	24	19	33	16	5
SI		42	39	39	32	32	35	25	31	15	26	28	11	10
SK		35	26	34	38	32	37	24	26	32	23	36	15	4
FI		38	50	50	33	30	11	25	15	39	28	11	7	10
SE		33	68	61	47	42	20	40	8	32	29	14	8	9
UK		35	27	31	30	23	20	22	9	19	12	11	8	18

Highest percentage per country

Lowest percentage per country

Highest percentage per item

Lowest percentage per item

Base: respondents who declared they voted in the EE19, 51% of the sample' Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), QG7T

There are differences between socio-demographic groups in the perceived importance of the various issues. Men are more likely than women to say that the economy and growth was an issue that made them vote (47% compared with 41%), and men are also more likely than women to say that they were influenced by the way the EU should be working in the future (38% compared with 34%). However, women are more likely than men to say that promoting human rights and democracy was an important issue (39% compared with 34%).

Younger voters are more likely than older voters to say that combating climate change and protecting the environment was an issue that made them vote (45% of those aged under 25 compared with 34% of those aged 55 or over). They are also more likely to mention the promotion of human rights and democracy (44% of those aged under 25 compared with 34% of those aged 55 or over). Respondents aged 25–39 are most likely to say they were influenced by the way the EU should be working in the future (42%). Immigration is less likely to be mentioned by those aged under 25 (29%) than those in the older age groups (34%–35%), while older respondents are most likely to mention the fight against terrorism as a reason for voting (29% of those aged 55 or over compared with 21% of those aged under 25).

Variations are more important depending on the age of leaving education: those who finished their education later are more likely to mention a number of issues, specifically: combating climate change and protecting the environment (44% among those who left education at the age of 20 or above, compared with 27% of those who left school at the age of 15 or below), promoting human rights and democracy (42% compared with 28%) and the way the EU should be working in the future (41% compared with 24%).

Respondents who feel that their voice counts in the EU are more likely to mention many of the issues. The exception is immigration, mentioned by 32% of those who agree that their voice counts in the EU, compared with 39% of those who disagree that their voice counts.

Respondents who place themselves on the left of the political spectrum are more likely than those in the centre or on the right to mention the following issues: combating climate change and protecting the environment (47% among those on the left, 39% among those in the centre and 26% among those on the right), promoting human rights and democracy (46%, 36% and 27% respectively) and the social protection of EU citizens (36%, 29% and 22%). By contrast, those who place themselves on the right of the political spectrum are more likely than those in the centre or on the left to mention immigration (43% compared with 32% and 29% respectively) and the fight against terrorism (33% compared with 28% and 21% respectively).







Q What are the issues which made you vote in the recent European Parliament elections? Firstly? And then?
(% - EU)

	Economy and growth	Combating climate change and protecting the environment	Promoting human rights and democracy	The way the EU should be working in the future	Immigration	Social protection of EU citizens	Fight against terrorism
EU28	44	37	37	36	34	29	26
Gender							
Man	47	36	34	38	33	29	26
Woman	41	39	39	34	35	29	27
Age							
15-24	46	45	44	34	29	29	21
25-39	43	41	41	42	35	27	22
40-54	46	37	35	37	34	30	27
55 +	43	34	34	32	34	29	29
Education (End of)							
15-	45	27	28	24	35	27	28
16-19	42	32	33	34	36	29	29
20+	44	44	42	41	32	30	24
Still studying	46	52	47	42	32	31	18
Socio-professional category							
Self-employed	45	31	31	36	35	29	26
Managers	45	49	45	49	32	28	21
Other white collars	45	40	37	43	38	27	27
Manual workers	44	34	35	31	32	31	26
House persons	45	24	37	28	36	28	33
Unemployed	44	31	34	29	30	26	24
Retired	42	34	33	31	34	29	30
Students	46	52	47	42	32	31	18
Subjective urbanisation							
Rural village	45	35	34	32	32	28	24
Small/ mid size town	43	37	37	36	36	28	28
Large town	45	40	39	39	33	31	26
My voice counts in the EU							
Agree	46	44	41	38	32	33	26
Disagree	41	24	28	31	39	22	27
Left-right political scale							
Left	42	47	46	39	29	36	21
Centre	46	39	36	34	32	29	28
Right	44	26	27	35	43	22	33

Base: respondents who declared they voted in the EE19, 51% of the sample

Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), QG7T

Q What are the issues which made you vote in the recent European Parliament elections? Firstly? And then?
(% - EU)

	Combating youth unemployment	Security and defence policy	Protection of external borders	Consumer protection and food safety	Protection of personal data	Other (SPONTANEOUS)
EU28	25	25	21	20	12	8
 Gender						
Man	24	27	21	21	12	7
Woman	25	24	20	20	11	8
 Age						
15-24	31	24	14	19	15	7
25-39	23	24	16	21	13	8
40-54	24	25	21	19	11	6
55 +	24	26	24	21	11	9
 Education (End of)						
15-	31	26	20	19	10	9
16-19	25	26	24	22	12	8
20+	21	26	19	20	11	8
Still studying	32	22	12	20	17	7
 Socio-professional category						
Self-employed	24	26	24	21	14	6
Managers	16	25	16	17	11	7
Other white collars	27	28	23	20	13	6
Manual workers	23	26	20	22	13	7
House persons	39	28	24	22	10	4
Unemployed	29	22	17	20	10	12
Retired	23	25	24	21	9	9
Students	32	22	12	20	17	7
 Subjective urbanisation						
Rural village	23	22	20	22	10	8
Small/ mid size town	25	27	22	19	12	7
Large town	26	26	19	20	14	8
My voice counts in the EU						
Agree	25	25	21	22	13	6
Disagree	24	26	21	17	10	10
 Left-right political scale						
Left	26	19	13	22	13	8
Centre	23	28	21	20	12	8
Right	24	33	30	18	10	6

Base: respondents who declared they voted in the EE19, 51% of the sample

Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), QG7T

ABSTENTION IN EUROPEAN ELECTIONS 2019

As seen earlier in the report, 50.6% of Europeans voted in the recent European Parliament elections, while the remaining 49.4% did not vote. While voter turnout has increased in 2019, it is important to understand the reasons for abstaining and the background to the decision to abstain, in particular. One should also bear in mind that the analysis of the profile of abstainers indicates that political interest and engagement appear to have increased in line with the European population as a whole. This could perhaps suggest that there is further scope to encourage abstainers to vote in the future and increase the turnout in European Parliament elections still further.

Overall, the reasons for abstaining tend to reflect negative perceptions of politics in general, as well as practical constraints.

The decision to abstain

CONSIDERABLE VARIATION IN THE TIMING OF THE DECISION TO ABSTAIN

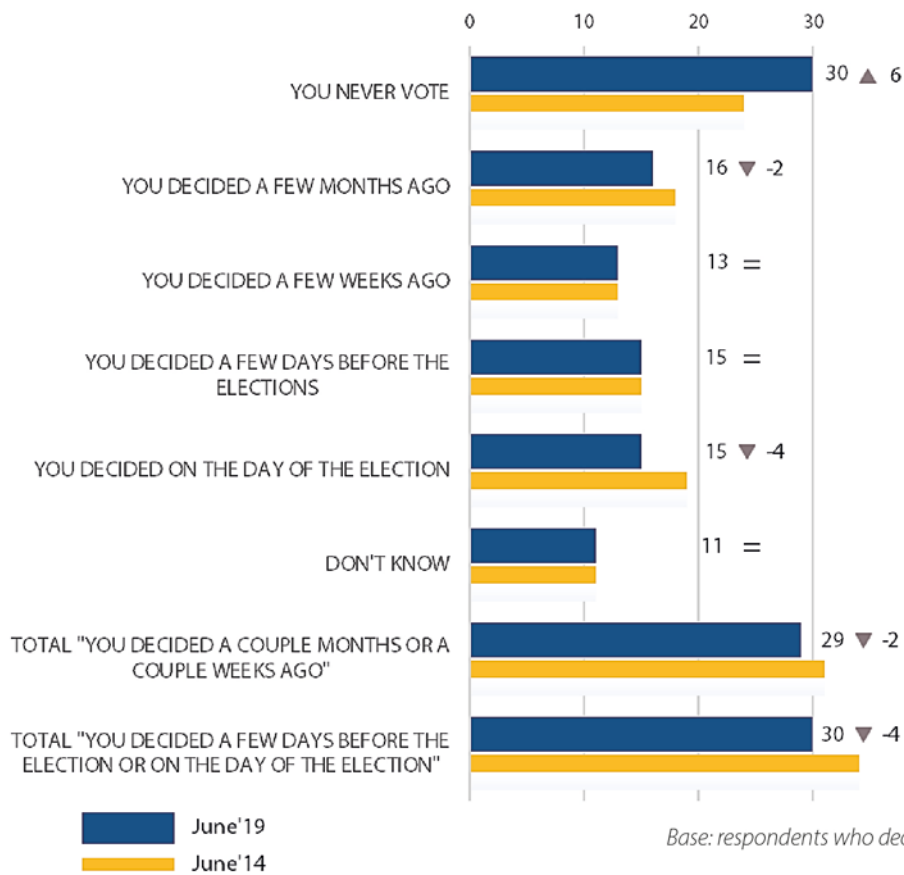
Non-voters varied in terms of when they decided not to vote. Three in ten (30%) say that they never vote, while 16% decided not to vote a few months before the elections and 13% did so a few weeks before. However, 15% made the decision only a few days beforehand and 15% decided only on the day of the elections, while 11% do not know.

In comparison with 2014, there has been an increase in the proportion that say they never vote (+6 pp) and a decrease in the proportion that say they only decided on the day of the elections (-4 pp). These changes reflect the overall increase in turnout, and the reduced size of the non-voter population; in relative terms, this means that hardened non-voters (those who never vote) now make up a larger proportion of the non-voting population. This may suggest a growing polarisation within EU society between those who feel engaged and interested in voting in EP elections, and a hard core of people who continue to feel disconnected and uninterested in voting.

The decrease in the proportion that only decided to abstain on the day of the elections suggests a reduction in the number of 'soft abstainers' (those who decided not to vote just before the election) in the recent European Parliament elections, compared with 2014. Efforts to encourage previous 'soft abstainers' to vote in 2019 may have shown some success.



When did you decide NOT to vote in the recent European Parliament elections? (% - EU)



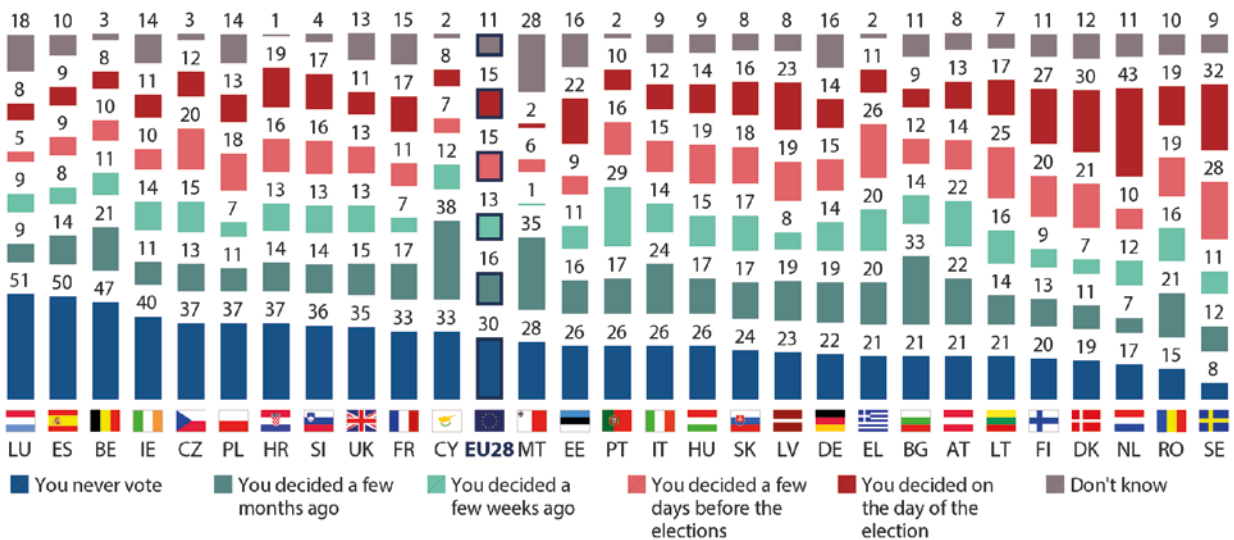
Base: respondents who declared they did not vote in the EE19, 49% of the sample

Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), QG8

The timing of the decision not to vote varies between Member States. In some countries, a large proportion of non-voters say that they never vote; the proportion is largest in Luxembourg (51%), Spain (50%) and Belgium (47%), but is much smaller in Sweden (8%), Romania (15%) and the Netherlands (17%). Respondents are most likely to say they decided not to vote a few months before the election in Cyprus (38%), Malta (35%) and Bulgaria (33%).

In the Netherlands (43%), Sweden (32%), Denmark (30%) and Finland (27%), many respondents only decided not to vote on the day of the election, while a large proportion in Malta (28%) say that they don't know when they made the decision.

Q When did you decide NOT to vote in the recent European Parliament elections? (%)



Base: respondents who declared they did not vote in the EE19, 49% of the sample
Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), QG8






There is some variation between socio-demographic groups in the timing of the decision not to vote. Younger respondents are more likely than older respondents to say that they never vote (40% of those aged under 25 compared with 27% of those aged 55 or over) and are less likely to say that they made the decision a few weeks or months ago (17% compared with 34%).

Respondents who stayed longer in education are more likely to have left the decision later. Those who ended education at the age of 20 or above are more likely to say they decided on the day of the election or a few days beforehand (37%), compared with those who left education by the age of 15 (23%). Those who left education at the age of 20 or above are less likely to say that they never vote (21% compared with 34% of those who ended education by the age of 15).

Managers are more likely than those in other socio-professional categories to say that they decided only a few days before the elections or on the day itself (42%), while house persons (39%), unemployed respondents (39%) and students (37%) are the most likely to say that they never vote.

Respondents who agree that their voice counts in the EU are more likely to have left the decision until a few days before the elections or the day itself, compared with those who disagree that their voice counts in the EU (38% compared with 27%). Those who agree that their voice counts in the EU are less likely to say they never vote (21% compared with 34% of those that disagree).

Q When did you decide NOT to vote in the recent European Parliament elections? (%)

	You never vote	You decided a few months/weeks ago	You decided a few days before/on the day of the elections	Don't know
EU28	30	29	30	11
 Gender				
Man	31	30	29	10
Woman	29	28	31	12
 Age				
15-24	40	17	27	16
25-39	31	27	30	12
40-54	28	31	32	9
55 +	27	34	29	10
 Education (End of)				
15-	34	33	23	10
16-19	32	30	29	9
20+	21	28	37	14
Still studying	37	17	30	16
 Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	26	37	31	6
Managers	14	33	42	11
Other white collars	23	31	36	10
Manual workers	32	26	32	10
House persons	39	25	23	13
Unemployed	39	29	18	14
Retired	28	33	29	10
Students	37	17	30	16
 Subjective urbanisation				
Rural village	26	30	32	12
Small/ mid size town	32	29	29	10
Large town	31	29	29	11
My voice counts in the EU				
Agree	21	27	38	14
Disagree	34	31	27	8

Base: respondents who declared they did not vote in the EE19,
49% of the sample

Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), QG8

Reasons for abstention

NEGATIVE PERCEPTIONS OF POLITICS WERE A MAJOR REASON FOR ABSTAINING

The two main reasons for not voting in the recent EU elections are a lack of trust in or dissatisfaction with politics in general (22%) and a lack of interest in politics (18%). Other reasons are the belief that a vote has no consequences or does not change anything (14%), that respondents rarely or never vote (13%) and that respondents were too busy or had no time (11%).

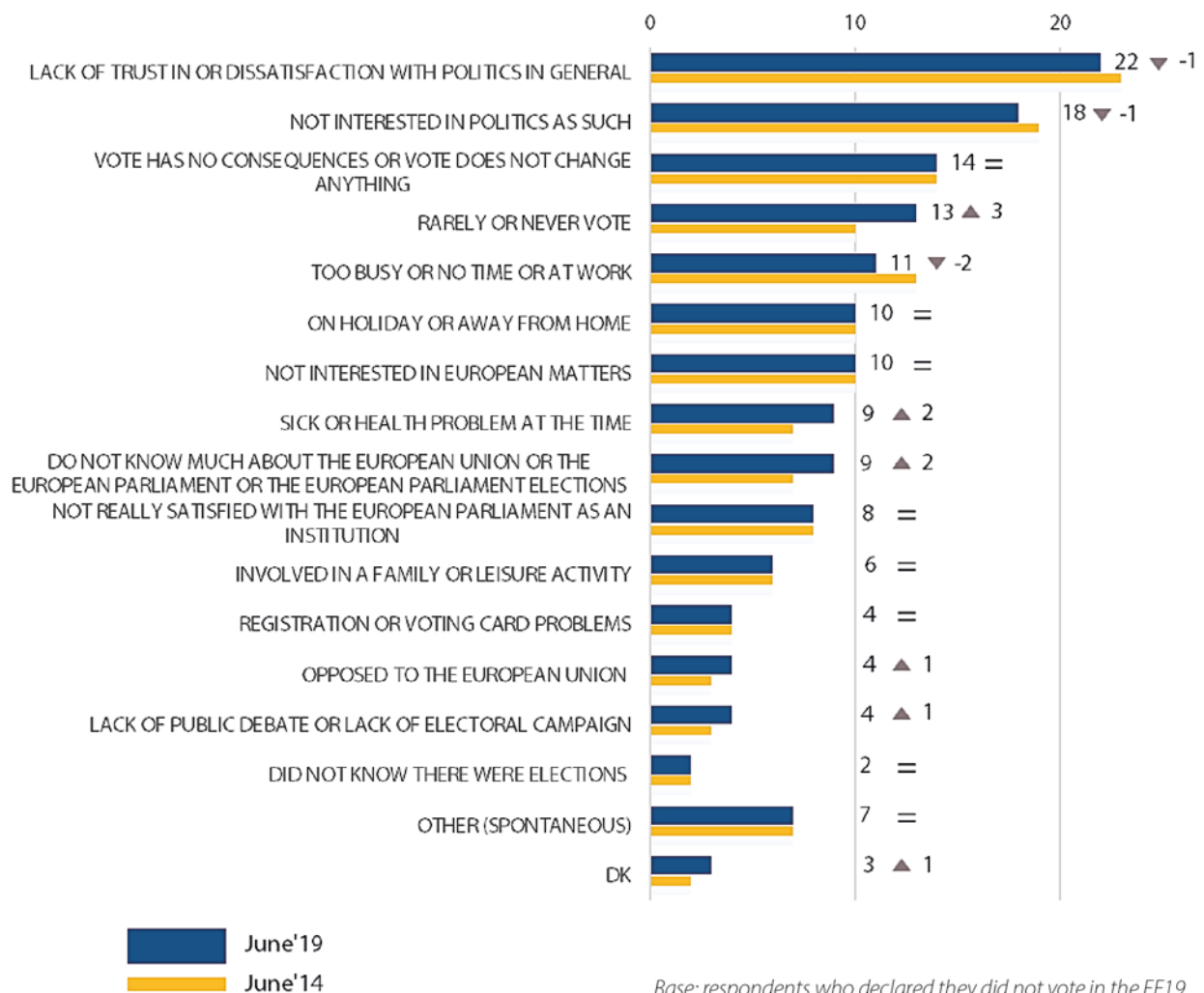
The reasons can be divided into four broad categories: firstly, those who exhibit a hostility towards politics. This group includes those giving the most common answers (lack of trust in or dissatisfaction with politics, lack of interest in politics, and rarely or never voting), as well as those who say they are not interested in European matters (10%), not really satisfied with the European Parliament as an institution (8%) or opposed to the EU (4%).

The second category covers those who report a lack of information. This includes respondents who say they do not know much about the EU, the European Parliament or the European Parliament elections (9%), who say there was a lack of debate or lack of electoral campaign (4%) or who did not know there were elections (2%). A third category covers those who say their vote has no consequences or does not change anything (14%) a group who feel that 'voting is useless'.

The fourth category covers those who did not vote for technical reasons, who can be considered 'soft abstainers'. This includes respondents who were too busy or had no time (11%), as well as those who were on holiday or away from home (10%), sick or with a health problem (9%), involved in a family or leisure activity (6%) or who had registration or voting card problems (4%).

The reasons for not voting show only minor changes from 2014. There has been an increase in the proportions that say that they never or rarely vote (13%, +3 pp), that they were sick or had a health problem (9%, +2 pp) and that they do not know much about the EU, the European Parliament or the European Parliament elections (9%, +2pp). Non-voters are less likely than in 2014 to say that they were too busy or didn't have time to vote (11%, -2 pp).

Q What are the main reasons why you did NOT vote in the recent European Parliament? (Max. 3 answers) (% - EU)



Base: respondents who declared they did not vote in the EE19, 49% of the sample

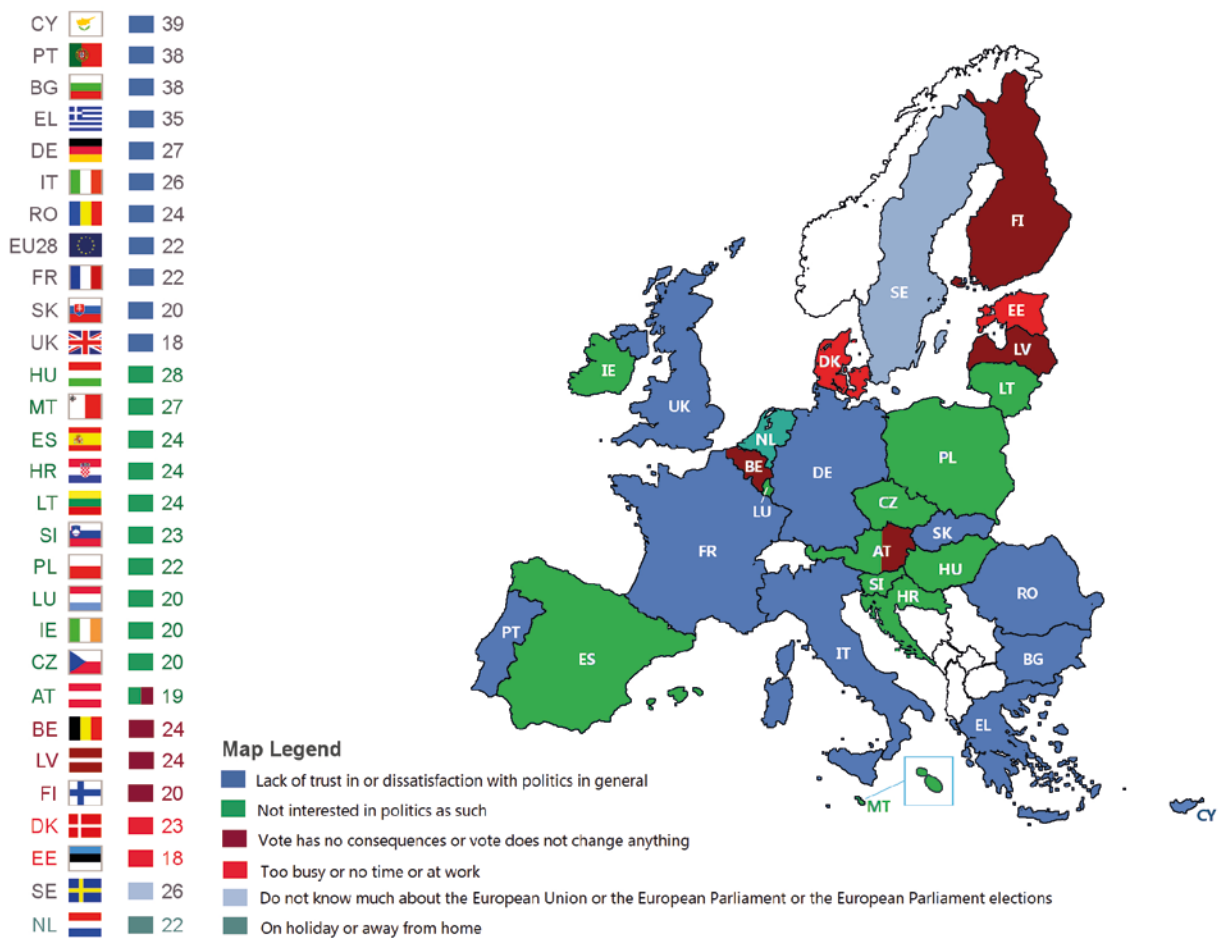
Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), QG9

In most countries, the main reason for not voting in the European Parliament elections is either a lack of interest in politics in general, or a lack of trust in or dissatisfaction with politics. There are 11 Member States where the most frequent response (or joint highest response) is that respondents are not interested in politics, while the main reason in nine countries is that respondents lack trust in or are dissatisfied with politics.

It is worth noting that respondents in the countries with the highest rates of abstention are also most likely to give one of these two answers. In Bulgaria, Portugal and Slovakia, lack of trust in or dissatisfaction with politics is the most common reason, while lack of interest in politics is the highest-ranking reason in Slovenia, Croatia and Czechia.

In four countries, the most frequent answer (or joint highest answer) is the belief that a vote has no consequences or does not change anything, while in two countries a lack of time is the main reason. In Sweden, the most common reason for not voting is a lack of knowledge about the EU, the European Parliament or the European Parliament elections, while in the Netherlands the most common reason is being on holiday or away from home.

Q What are the main reasons why you did NOT vote in the recent European Parliament (Max. 3 answers)
THE MOST MENTIONED ITEM PER COUNTRY

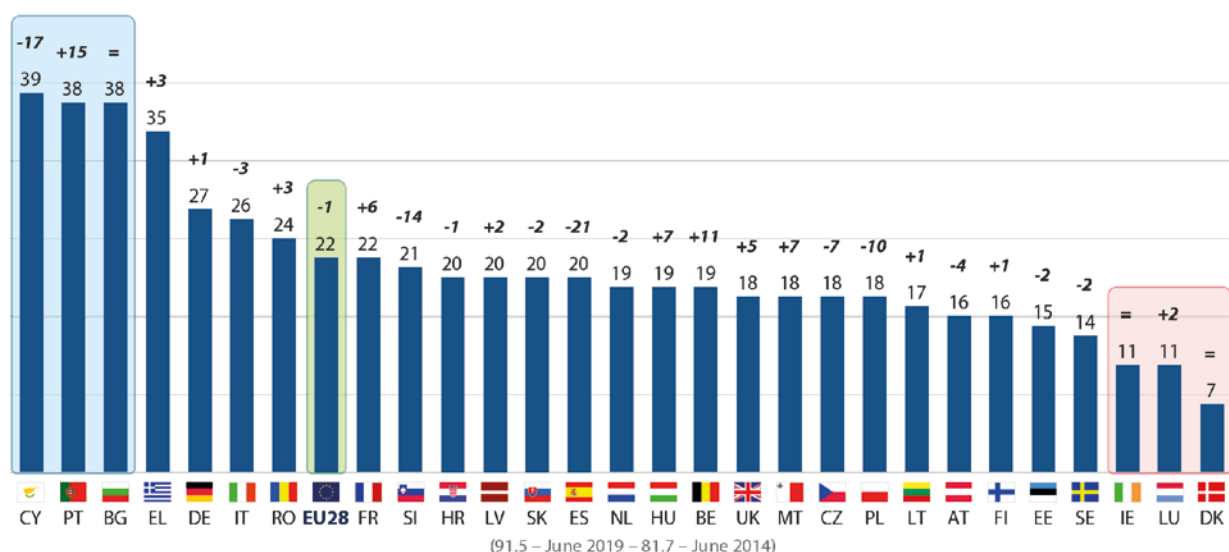


Base: respondents who declared they did not vote in the EE19, 49% of the sample

Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), QG9

In the EU28 overall, the most common reason for not voting in the recent European Parliament elections is a lack of trust in or dissatisfaction with politics in general (22% in the EU28). In four countries, more than a third of non-voters had given this reason: Cyprus (39%), Portugal and Bulgaria (both 38%) and Greece (35%). However, only a small minority give this reason in Denmark (7%), and Ireland and Luxembourg (both 11%).

Q What are the main reasons why you did NOT vote in the recent European Parliament (Max. 3 answers)
(% - Lack of trust in or dissatisfaction with politics in general)



Base: respondents who declared they did not vote in the EE19,
49% of the sample

Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), QG9

The reasons for not voting in the recent European Parliament elections are broadly consistent across socio-demographic groups. However, there are some variations. Men are more likely than women to say that they lack trust in or are dissatisfied with politics (25% compared with 19%) and that they were too busy or had no time to vote (13% compared with 9%), but women are more likely than men to say that they are not interested in politics (20% compared with 17%).

Older respondents are more likely than younger respondents to say that their vote has no consequences (16% of those aged 55 or over compared with 11% of those aged under 25) and that they are not interested in European matters (13% compared with 7%). Young people aged under 25 are also less likely than older respondents to say that they lack trust in or are dissatisfied with politics (12% compared with 22%–26% in the older age groups). However, respondents aged 55 or over are less likely to say that they were too busy to vote (5% compared with 13%–15% in the younger age groups).

There are differences by level of education. Respondents who ended their education at the age of 15 or below are more likely to say that they are not interested in politics (23% compared with 13% of those who finished education at the age of 20 or above), that their vote has no consequences (18% compared with 11%) and that they are not interested in European matters (15% compared with 7%). Respondents who left education at the age of 20 or above are more likely to mention practical issues: that they were too busy to vote (15% compared with 6% of those who left school by the age of 15) or that they were on holiday or away from home (16% compared with 6%).

Respondents who have difficulties paying bills most of the time are more likely to cite a lack of trust or dissatisfaction with politics (33% compared with 19% of those who rarely/never have difficulties), but are less likely to mention practical constraints (lack of time or being away from home).

As might be expected, respondents who think EU membership has been bad for their country are more likely to give reasons relating to Europe or the EU. For example, 15% say they are not interested in European matters (compared with 5% of those who think EU membership is a good thing). They are also more likely to say that they lack trust in or are dissatisfied with politics (27% compared with 18%) and that their vote has no consequences (19% compared with 11%). By contrast, those who think EU membership has been good for their country are more likely to raise practical issues such as being too busy (15% compared with 6% of those who think EU membership is a bad thing) and being away from home (14% compared with 7%). This analysis indicates that citizens included in the 'soft abstainers' group are more likely to have favourable views of the EU, confirming the importance of soft abstainers as key target audience in order to encourage them to vote in future European Parliament elections.

Q What are the main reasons why you did NOT vote in the recent European Parliament (Max. 3 answers)
(% - EU)

	Lack of trust in or dissatisfaction with politics in general	Not interested in politics as such	Vote has no consequences or vote does not change anything	Rarely or never vote	Too busy or no time or at work	On holiday or away from home	Not interested in European matters
EU28	22	18	14	13	11	10	10
Gender							
Man	25	17	15	14	13	11	9
Woman	19	20	14	13	9	10	10
Age							
15-24	12	20	11	16	14	12	7
25-39	22	18	13	14	15	11	8
40-54	26	18	15	14	13	12	9
55 +	23	18	16	12	5	9	13
Education (End of)							
15-	23	23	18	13	6	6	15
16-19	23	19	15	15	11	9	10
20+	22	13	11	10	15	16	7
Still studying	12	16	9	13	13	15	4
Socio-professional category							
Self-employed	25	12	17	12	17	16	8
Managers	22	12	9	5	18	23	9
Other white collars	21	18	13	12	13	14	7
Manual workers	21	18	13	17	16	8	9
House persons	22	24	18	17	5	7	11
Unemployed	29	25	17	14	6	8	12
Retired	23	19	16	12	4	7	13
Students	12	16	9	13	13	15	4
Subjective urbanisation							
Rural village	23	19	14	12	11	9	9
Small/ mid size town	22	19	14	14	10	11	11
Large town	22	17	14	13	12	12	9
Difficulties paying bills							
Most of the time	33	23	19	17	6	4	13
From time to time	23	20	15	13	10	8	10
Almost never/ Never	19	17	13	13	13	13	9
My voice counts in the EU							
Agree	14	14	8	10	16	17	6
Disagree	28	21	19	15	9	7	12
Opinion about the country's membership in the EU							
A good thing	18	16	11	14	15	14	5
A bad thing	27	16	19	13	6	7	15
Neither a good thing nor a bad thing	25	21	17	13	9	8	13

Base: respondents who declared they did not vote in the EE19, 49% of the sample
Items mentioned by 10% or more

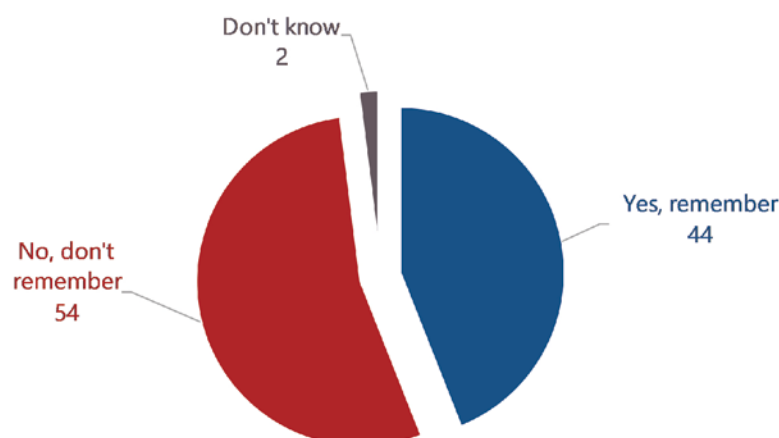
Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), QG9

THE GO TO VOTE EE19 CAMPAIGN

According to the results of the 2019 post-electoral Eurobarometer study, almost half of the Europeans surveyed recall seeing or hearing messages encouraging them to vote, although this varied considerably between Member States.

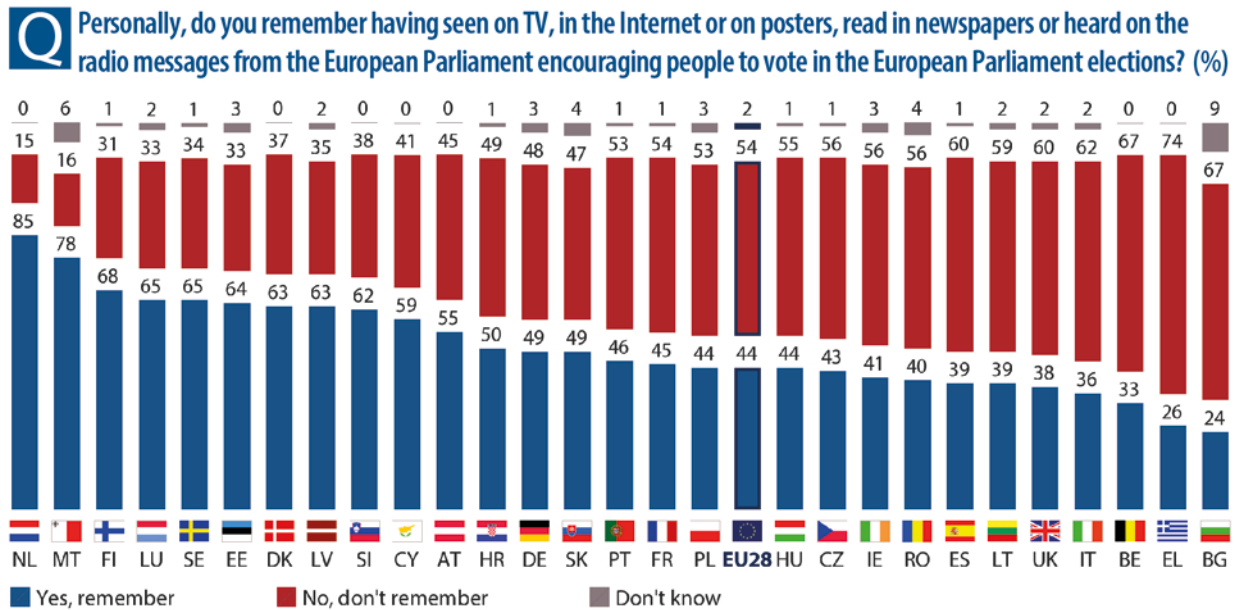
All respondents were asked if they recalled seeing or hearing any messages from the European Parliament encouraging people to vote in the European Parliament elections. This could include messages on TV, on the Internet, on posters, in newspapers or on the radio. In the EU28 overall, 44% of respondents say they do recall this type of message in the media or from other sources.

Q Personally, do you remember having seen on TV, in the Internet or on posters, read in newspapers or heard on the radio messages from the European Parliament encouraging people to vote in the European Parliament elections? (% - EU)



Base: respondents of voting age, 98% of the sample
Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), QG12

Recall of messages in the EE19 campaign varied by Member State. In 11 countries, more than half of respondents say they recall seeing or hearing messages from the European Parliament which encouraged people to vote. The highest proportions can be found in the Netherlands (85%), Malta (78%) and Finland (68%). Recall was lowest in Bulgaria (24%), Greece (26%) and Belgium (33%).



Base: respondents of voting age, 98% of the sample

Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), QG12

The main variation in recall of messages in the EE19 campaign is by level of education. Respondents who finished their education at the age of 20 or above are more likely to recall seeing or hearing messages from the European Parliament (53%), compared with those who left school at the age of 15 or below (34%). Recall is also higher among managers (57%) than other socio-professional groups.

Respondents are more likely to recall messages in the EE19 campaign if they agree that their voice counts in the EU (51% compared with 37% who disagree).

There is still a reasonably high level of recall among non-voters (39%), although recall is higher still among respondents who actually voted in the elections (50%). This indicates that a plurality of Europeans has indeed seen and heard Parliament's institutional campaign messages and that these – in many cases – have had a bearing on voter participation in the elections. Recall is higher among those with greater media use (51% of those with very high media use, compared with 17% of those with none).

Q Personally, do you remember having seen on TV, in the Internet or on posters, read in newspapers or heard on the radio messages from the European Parliament encouraging people to vote in the European Parliament elections? (% - EU)

	Yes, remember	No, don't remember	Don't Know
EU28	44	54	2
Gender			
Man	45	53	2
Woman	44	54	2
Age			
15-24	44	55	1
25-39	46	52	2
40-54	47	52	1
55 +	42	56	2
Education (End of)			
15-	34	64	2
16-19	42	56	2
20+	53	46	1
Still studying	48	51	1
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	46	53	1
Managers	57	41	2
Other white collars	44	54	2
Manual workers	44	54	2
House persons	37	62	1
Unemployed	38	60	2
Retired	41	57	2
Students	48	51	1
Subjective urbanisation			
Rural village	44	54	2
Small/ mid size town	46	53	1
Large town	43	55	2
Declared voting behaviour EE19			
Voted	50	49	1
Did not vote	39	59	2
My voice counts in the EU			
Agree	51	47	2
Disagree	37	62	1
Media use index			
Very high	51	48	1
High	42	56	2
Poor	29	69	2
None	17	77	6

Base: respondents of voting age,
98% of the sample

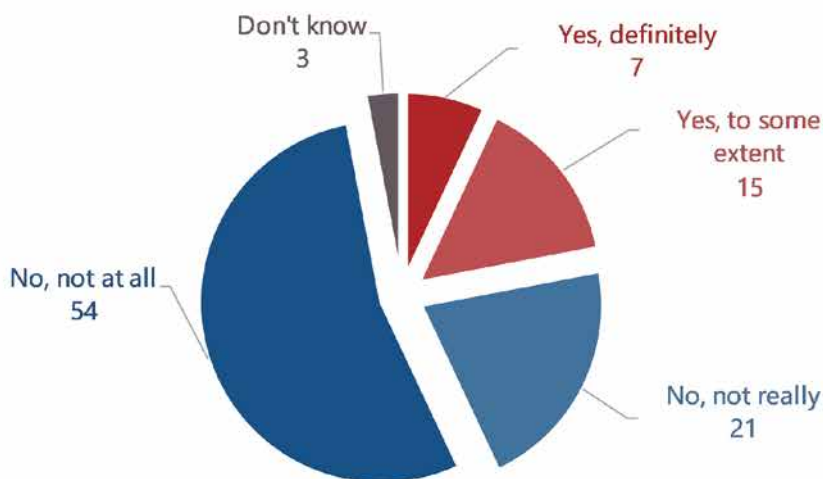
Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), QG12

BREXIT: DID IT MATTER OR NOT?

While in most EU countries a majority of respondents say that Brexit did not have an impact on their decision, results show that respondents are more likely to say Brexit influenced their decision if they voted in the elections (27%) rather than did not vote (17%). In other words, it seems that the impact of media coverage and discussions on Brexit has been to encourage people to vote, rather than to abstain.

In the EU28 overall, more than a fifth of Europeans (22%) say that media coverage and discussions about Brexit had an impact on their decision as to whether to vote or not to vote. This includes 7% who say that it 'definitely' had an impact and 15% who say it did 'to some extent'. Still, respondents are more likely to say that it either 'did not really' have an impact (21%) or had no impact at all (54%).

Q There have been a lot of discussions and media coverage about the manner of the Brexit, the UK leaving the EU, in the months before the elections. Would you say that this has had an impact on your decision to vote or not to vote in the European Parliament elections? (% - EU)

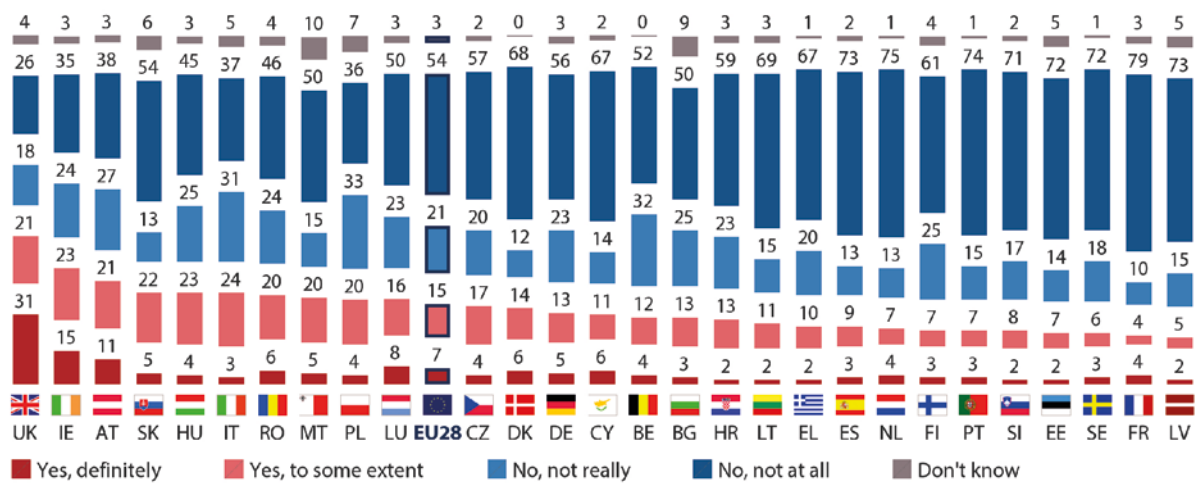


Base: respondents of voting age, 98% of the sample
Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), QG10

In the UK, just over half of respondents say that Brexit had an impact on their decision as to whether to vote or not to vote (52%), and this includes 31% who say that it definitely had an impact. However, 44% say that it did not have an impact, including 26% who say it had no impact at all. In Ireland, another country that will be directly impacted by Brexit, close to four in ten respondents say that Brexit has had an impact on their decision (38%, including 15% 'yes, definitely').

In all other Member States, the majority of respondents say that Brexit did not have an impact on their decision. Respondents are most likely to acknowledge an impact in Austria (32%) and Slovakia, Hungary and Italy (all 27%). Less than one respondent in ten says that Brexit influenced their decision in Latvia (7%), France (8%) and Sweden and Estonia (both 9%).

Q There have been a lot of discussions and media coverage about the manner of the Brexit, the UK leaving the EU, in the months before the elections. Would you say that this has had an impact on your decision to vote or not to vote in the European Parliament elections? (%)



Base: respondents of voting age, 98% of the sample
Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), QG10

Socio-demographic analysis shows a generally consistent pattern in terms of the reported influence of Brexit on whether people voted or not in the recent European Parliament elections. Respondents who finished their education at the age of 20 or above are more likely to say that it had an impact (24%) than those who finished education by the age of 15 (19%). The reported impact is also higher among managers and other white-collar workers (both 26%) compared with other socio-professional groups.

If respondents agree that their 'voice counts' in the EU, they are slightly more likely to say that Brexit influenced their decision (25% compared with 20% who disagree), while respondents who think that EU membership has been bad for their country are more likely to report an impact (29%) than those who think EU membership has been good (22%) or neutral (20%).

Q There have been a lot of discussions and media coverage about the manner of the Brexit, the UK leaving the EU, in the months before the elections. Would you say that this has had an impact on your decision to vote or not to vote in the European Parliament elections? (% - EU)

	Total 'Yes'	Total 'No'	Don't Know
EU28	22	75	3
Gender			
Man	22	75	3
Woman	21	75	4
Age			
15-24	20	75	5
25-39	23	73	4
40-54	22	75	3
55 +	21	76	3
Education (End of)			
15-	19	76	5
16-19	22	75	3
20+	24	74	2
Still studying	20	76	4
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	23	74	3
Managers	26	73	1
Other white collars	26	71	3
Manual workers	22	74	4
House persons	21	74	5
Unemployed	14	82	4
Retired	20	76	4
Students	20	76	4
Subjective urbanisation			
Rural village	20	76	4
Small/ mid size town	22	75	3
Large town	23	73	4
Declared voting behaviour EE19			
Voted	27	72	1
Did not vote	17	77	6
My voice counts in the EU			
Agree	25	73	2
Disagree	20	77	3
Opinion about the country's membership in the EU			
A good thing	22	75	3
A bad thing	29	69	2
Neither a good thing nor a bad thing	20	75	5

Base: respondents of voting age, 98% of the sample
 Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.S), QG10

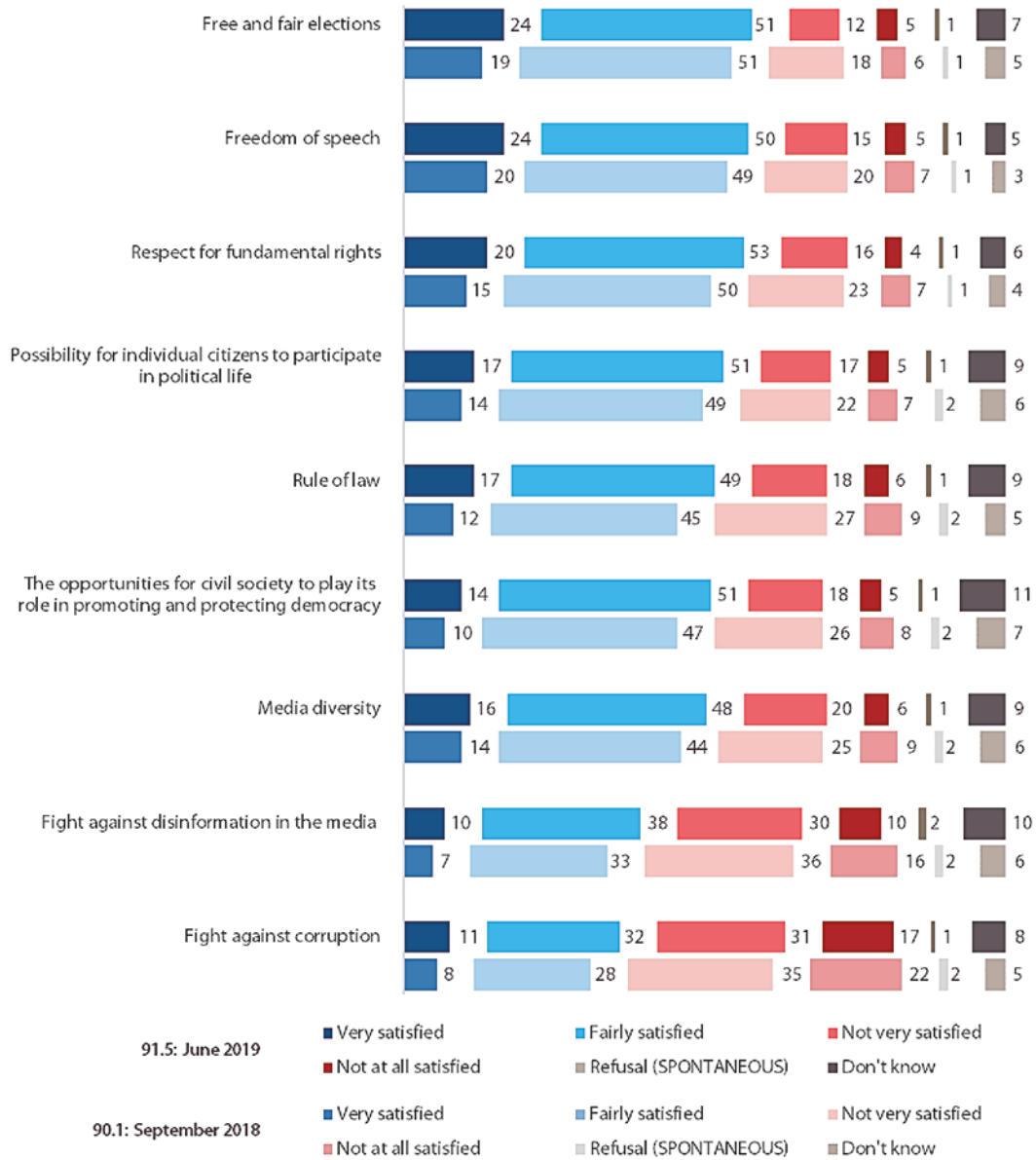
DEMOCRACY IN THE EU: INCREASINGLY POSITIVE PERCEPTIONS

As seen earlier in this report, the increase in turnout at the recent European Parliament elections is a positive sign that democracy in the EU is functioning well. We now look in detail at specific aspects of democracy in the EU and assess levels of satisfaction among EU citizens. Overall, the findings are positive, with an increase in satisfaction for all of the various aspects since September 2018.

Europeans are most satisfied with free and fair elections (75% very or fairly satisfied, +5 pp), freedom of speech (74%, +5 pp) and respect for fundamental rights (73%, +8 pp). Around two-thirds are satisfied with each of the following: the possibility for individual citizens to participate in political life (68%, +5 pp), the rule of law (66%, +9 pp), the opportunities for civil society to play its role in promoting and protecting democracy (65%, +8 pp) and media diversity (64%, +6 pp).

There are two aspects of democracy where satisfaction remains lower. Less than half of respondents are satisfied with the fight against disinformation in the media (48%, +8 pp) and the fight against corruption (43%, +7 pp). The fight against corruption is the one issue where respondents are more likely to be dissatisfied (48% are 'not very' or not at all satisfied) than satisfied (43%). However, levels of dissatisfaction with all aspects of democracy have decreased since September 2018 (between -7 and -12 pp for the various aspects).

Q How satisfied or not are you with the following aspects of democracy in the European Union? (%)



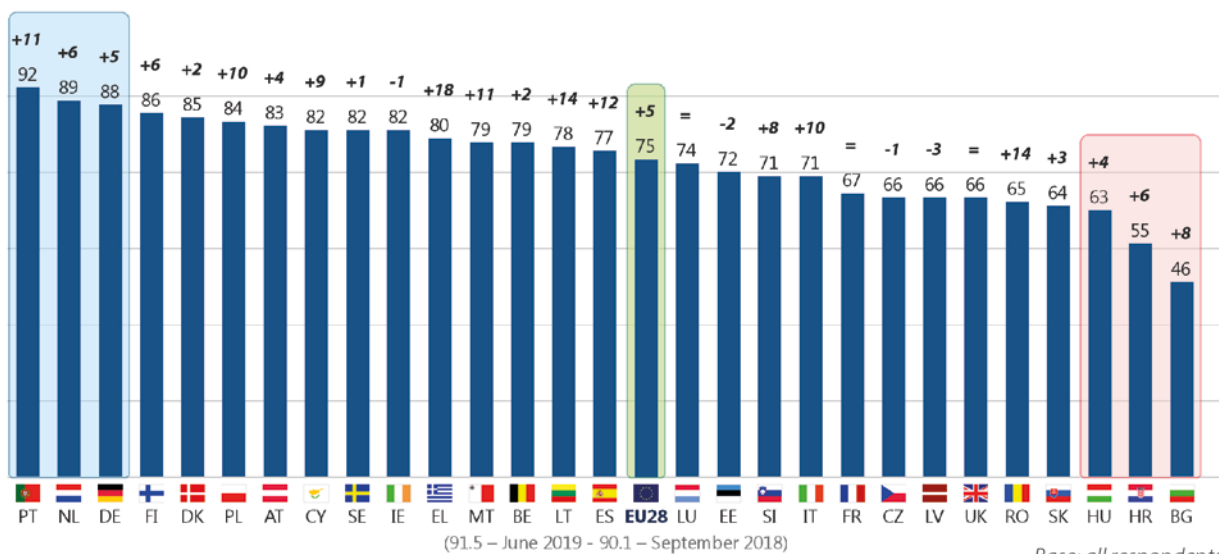
Base: all respondents
Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), QG11

Free and fair elections: the most appreciated aspect?

In all EU countries, a majority of respondents are satisfied with free and fair elections in the EU. As many as nine in ten say they are satisfied in Portugal (92%), the Netherlands (89%) and Germany (88%), while satisfaction is lowest in Bulgaria (46% vs 41% 'not satisfied') and Croatia (55%).

Levels of satisfaction with free and fair elections have increased since September 2018 in 21 Member States. The largest increases can be seen in Greece (80%, +18 pp), Lithuania (78%, +14 pp), Romania (65%, +14 pp), Spain (77%, +12 pp), Portugal (92%, +11 pp), Malta (79%, +11 pp), Poland (84%, +10 pp) and Italy (71%, +10 pp). There has been no change in satisfaction levels in three countries, and small decreases in four countries, the largest being in Latvia (66%, -3 pp).

Q How satisfied or not are you with the following aspects of democracy in the European Union? Free and fair elections (% - Total 'satisfied')



Base: all respondents

Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), QG11.1

There is widespread satisfaction with free and fair elections in the EU across different socio-demographic groups. There is a clear difference by level of education: those who finished their education at the age of 20 or above are more likely to be satisfied (83%) than those who left school by the age of 15 (68%), and there is a similar pattern when focusing on those who are 'very satisfied' (30% compared with 18%).

Respondents who have difficulties paying their bills most of the time are less satisfied than those who rarely or never have difficulties (57% compared with 80%). Managers (84%) are more satisfied than other socio-professional groups, with the lowest levels of satisfaction among unemployed respondents (66%).

Q How satisfied or not are you with the following aspects of democracy in the European Union?
Free and fair elections (% - EU)

	Total 'Satisfied'	Total 'Not satisfied'	Refusal (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't Know
EU28	75	17	1	7
Gender				
Man	77	17	1	5
Woman	74	17	1	8
Age				
15-24	76	14	1	9
25-39	75	18	1	6
40-54	76	18	1	5
55 +	75	17	1	7
Education (End of)				
15-	68	19	2	11
16-19	72	20	1	7
20+	83	12	1	4
Still studying	80	13	1	6
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	79	15	1	5
Managers	84	13	-	3
Other white collars	79	15	1	5
Manual workers	73	19	1	7
House persons	69	18	1	12
Unemployed	66	24	1	9
Retired	74	17	1	8
Students	80	13	1	6
Subjective urbanisation				
Rural village	75	17	1	7
Small/ mid size town	76	17	1	6
Large town	75	17	1	7
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	57	30	2	11
From time to time	70	23	1	6
Almost never/ Never	80	13	1	6
Declared voting behaviour EE19				
Voted	84	13	-	3
Did not vote	66	21	2	11
My voice counts in the EU				
Agree	87	10	-	3
Disagree	63	28	1	8

Base: all respondents
Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), QG11.1

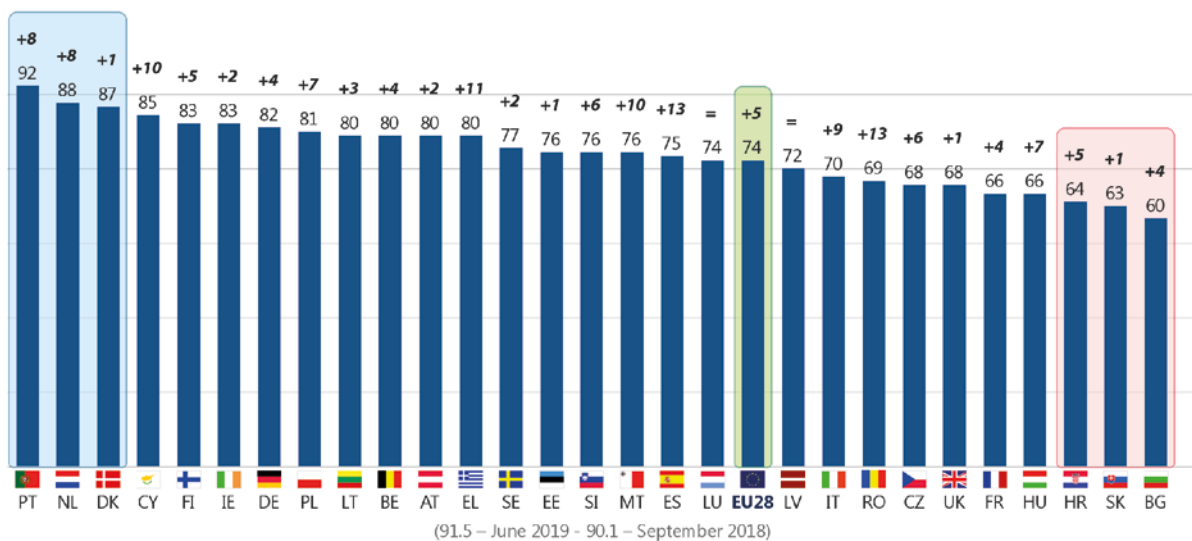
If respondents agree that their voice counts in the EU, they are more likely to be satisfied with free and fair elections (87% compared with 63% of those who disagree).

Among respondents who voted in the recent European Parliament elections, 84% are satisfied with free and fair elections in the EU. This is lower among respondents who did not vote (66%).

In every Member State, a majority of respondents are satisfied with freedom of speech in the EU. Respondents are most likely to be satisfied in Portugal (92%), the Netherlands (88%), Denmark (87%) and Cyprus (85%), while satisfaction is lowest in Bulgaria (60%), Slovakia (63%) and Croatia (64%).

There has been an increase in satisfaction with freedom of speech since September 2018 in 26 Member States, with the other two countries unchanged. The largest increases can be seen in Spain (75%, +13 pp), Romania (69%, +13 pp), Greece (80%, +11 pp), Cyprus (85%, +10 pp) and Malta (76%, +10 pp).

Q How satisfied or not are you with the following aspects of democracy in the European Union? Freedom of speech (% - Total 'satisfied')



Base: all respondents

Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), QG11.2

The socio-demographic analysis shows consistent levels of satisfaction with freedom of speech in the EU across different groups. Once again, there is substantial variation by level of education: those who finished their education at the age of 20 or above are more likely to be satisfied (81%) than those who left school by the age of 15 (67%).

There is also a slight difference by age group, with those aged under 25 the most satisfied (77% compared with 73%–75% in the older age groups) and the least likely to be dissatisfied (15% compared with 20%–22%).

Q How satisfied or not are you with the following aspects of democracy in the European Union?
Freedom of speech (% - EU)

	Total 'Satisfied'	Total 'Not satisfied'	Refusal (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't Know
EU28	74	20	1	5
Gender				
Man	76	20	-	4
Woman	73	19	1	7
Age				
15-24	77	15	1	7
25-39	73	22	1	4
40-54	75	20	1	4
55 +	73	20	1	6
Education (End of)				
15-	67	21	2	10
16-19	71	23	1	5
20+	81	16	-	3
Still studying	81	14	1	4
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	76	21	-	3
Managers	80	16	1	3
Other white collars	77	19	1	3
Manual workers	71	23	1	5
House persons	71	20	1	8
Unemployed	67	25	1	7
Retired	73	19	1	7
Students	81	14	1	4
Subjective urbanisation				
Rural village	75	19	1	5
Small/ mid size town	74	20	1	5
Large town	74	19	1	6
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	56	33	2	9
From time to time	71	24	1	4
Almost never/ Never	78	16	1	5
Declared voting behaviour EE19				
Voted	81	16	-	3
Did not vote	68	23	1	8
My voice counts in the EU				
Agree	86	12	-	2
Disagree	62	31	1	6

Base: all respondents
 Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), QG11.2

Respondents who have difficulties paying their bills most of the time are less satisfied than those who rarely or never have difficulties (56% compared with 78%). Managers (80%) are more satisfied than other socio-professional groups, with the lowest levels of satisfaction among unemployed respondents (67%).

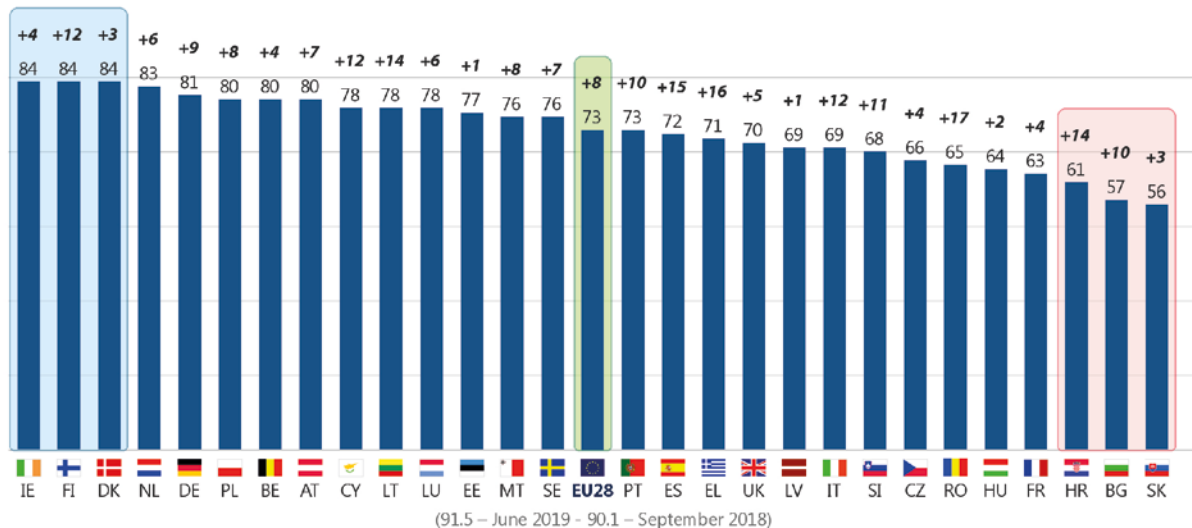
If respondents agree that their voice counts in the EU, they are more likely to be satisfied with freedom of speech (86% compared with 62% of those who disagree).

Among respondents who voted in the recent European Parliament elections, 81% are satisfied with freedom of speech in the EU, while satisfaction is lower among respondents who did not vote (68%).

In every Member State, a majority of respondents is satisfied with respect for fundamental rights in the EU. More than four in five respondents are satisfied in Ireland, Finland and Denmark (all 84%), the Netherlands (83%) and Germany (81%). Respondents are least satisfied in Slovakia (56%), Bulgaria (57%) and Croatia (61%).

In the EU28 overall, satisfaction has increased since September 2018 (+8 pp), and there has been an increase in all 28 Member States. Satisfaction has increased the most in Romania (65%, +17 pp), Greece (71%, +16 pp), Spain (72%, +15 pp), Lithuania (78%, +14 pp) and Croatia (61%, +14 pp).

Q How satisfied or not are you with the following aspects of democracy in the European Union? Respect for fundamental rights (% - Total 'satisfied')



Base: all respondents
Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), QG11.6

Q How satisfied or not are you with the following aspects of democracy in the European Union?
 Respect for fundamental rights (% - EU)

	Total 'Satisfied'	Total 'Not satisfied'	Refusal (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't Know
EU28	73	20	1	6
Gender				
Man	74	20	1	5
Woman	71	20	1	8
Age				
15-24	75	16	1	8
25-39	71	22	1	6
40-54	73	21	1	5
55 +	71	21	1	7
Education (End of)				
15-	65	22	2	11
16-19	70	23	-	7
20+	79	17	1	3
Still studying	78	16	1	5
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	75	21	1	3
Managers	81	16	-	3
Other white collars	76	19	1	4
Manual workers	70	22	1	7
House persons	68	22	1	9
Unemployed	64	26	1	9
Retired	70	20	2	8
Students	78	16	1	5
Subjective urbanisation				
Rural village	71	21	1	7
Small/ mid size town	73	20	1	6
Large town	72	21	1	6
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	51	37	1	11
From time to time	67	26	1	6
Almost never/ Never	78	15	1	6
Declared voting behaviour EE19				
Voted	79	17	1	3
Did not vote	65	24	2	9
My voice counts in the EU				
Agree	85	12	-	3
Disagree	59	32	1	8

Base: all respondents
 Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), QG11.6

The socio-demographic analysis shows a similar pattern to the other aspects of democracy described above.

Those who finished their education at the age of 20 or above are more likely to be satisfied (79%) than those who left school by the age of 15 (65%). Respondents who have difficulties paying their bills most of the time are less satisfied than those who rarely or never have difficulties (51% compared with 78%). Managers (81%) are more satisfied than other socio-professional groups, with the lowest levels of satisfaction among unemployed respondents (64%).

There is again a slight difference by age group, with those aged under 25 the most satisfied (75% compared with 71%–73% in the older age groups) and the least likely to be dissatisfied (16% compared with 21%–22%).

If respondents agree that their voice counts in the EU, they are more likely to be satisfied with respect for human rights (85% compared with 59% of those who disagree), and a similar pattern applies to those who agree that their voice counts in their own country (81% compared with 58%).

Satisfaction is higher among respondents who voted in the recent European Parliament elections (79%) than among respondents who did not vote (65%).

On the other aspects of democracy covered in the survey:

- Satisfaction with the possibility for individual citizens to participate in political life is highest in Ireland, Denmark, Poland and Portugal, and is lowest in Croatia and Bulgaria. Satisfaction is the majority view in all 28 Member States. The largest increases since September 2018 are seen in Greece, Lithuania, Romania and Cyprus.
- Satisfaction with the rule of law is highest in Ireland, Denmark and the Netherlands, and lowest in Bulgaria, Croatia and Slovakia. Bulgaria is the only country where satisfaction is not the majority view. The largest increases since September 2018 are seen in Greece, Slovenia and Romania.
- Respondents are most likely to be satisfied with the opportunities for civil society to play its role in promoting and protecting democracy in Ireland, Poland and Portugal, while those in Bulgaria, Croatia and Czechia are the least satisfied. Satisfaction is the majority view in all 28 Member States. The largest increases are found in Greece, Spain, Lithuania, Romania and Slovenia.
- Satisfaction with media diversity is highest in Portugal, Lithuania and Greece, and lowest in France, the UK and Italy. Again, satisfaction is the majority view in all 28 Member States, and Greece, Malta and Romania show the largest increases since September 2018.

- Respondents in Ireland, Portugal and Poland are most likely to be satisfied with the fight against disinformation in the media, while those in Sweden, Bulgaria and Czechia are the least satisfied. Satisfaction is the majority view in 18 Member States. The largest increases are found in Malta, Romania and Lithuania.
- Ireland and Poland see the highest levels of satisfaction with the fight against corruption, while satisfaction is lowest in Czechia, Croatia, Slovenia and Bulgaria. Satisfaction is the majority view in less than half of Member States (13 countries), and Romania, Malta and Lithuania show the largest increases.

We can also combine the results for all nine aspects of democracy covered by the survey, to provide a composite measure of satisfaction in each country. This shows that respondents are most satisfied with the various aspects of democracy in Ireland (78% satisfied on average across all of the measures), followed by Denmark (76%), Portugal and Poland (both 75%). The lowest satisfaction scores are seen in Bulgaria (49% on average), Croatia (51%) and Slovakia, France and Czechia (all 55%).



How satisfied or not are you with the following aspects of democracy in the European Union? (%)

	Free and fair elections				Freedom of speech				Respect for fundamental rights			
	Total 'Satisfied'	Diff. June 2019 - September 2018	Total 'Not satisfied'	Diff. June 2019 - September 2018	Total 'Satisfied'	Diff. June 2019 - September 2018	Total 'Not satisfied'	Diff. June 2019 - September 2018	Total 'Satisfied'	Diff. June 2019 - September 2018	Total 'Not satisfied'	Diff. June 2019 - September 2018
EU28	75	▲ 5	17	▼ 7	74	▲ 5	20	▼ 7	73	▲ 8	20	▼ 10
BE	79	▲ 2	18	▼ 4	80	▲ 4	18	▼ 5	80	▲ 4	17	▼ 5
BG	46	▲ 8	41	▼ 11	60	▲ 4	29	▼ 7	57	▲ 10	31	▼ 15
CZ	66	▼ 1	26	▼ 1	68	▲ 6	26	▼ 9	66	▲ 4	27	▼ 7
DK	85	▲ 2	8	▼ 4	87	▲ 1	8	▼ 3	84	▲ 3	9	▼ 4
DE	88	▲ 5	8	▼ 6	82	▲ 4	15	▼ 4	81	▲ 9	14	▼ 11
EE	72	▼ 2	14	▼ 5	76	▲ 1	15	▼ 4	77	▲ 1	12	▼ 5
IE	82	▼ 1	11	=	83	▲ 2	11	▼ 3	84	▲ 4	9	▼ 5
EL	80	▲ 18	19	▼ 16	80	▲ 11	19	▼ 11	71	▲ 16	28	▼ 16
ES	77	▲ 12	19	▼ 14	75	▲ 13	21	▼ 15	72	▲ 15	23	▼ 18
FR	67	=	22	▼ 4	66	▲ 4	26	▼ 9	63	▲ 4	25	▼ 12
HR	55	▲ 6	40	▼ 8	64	▲ 5	34	▼ 5	61	▲ 14	36	▼ 14
IT	71	▲ 10	22	▼ 10	70	▲ 9	24	▼ 10	69	▲ 12	25	▼ 12
CY	82	▲ 9	15	▼ 8	85	▲ 10	13	▼ 10	78	▲ 12	19	▼ 12
LV	66	▼ 3	20	▼ 6	72	=	17	▼ 8	69	▲ 1	16	▼ 8
LT	78	▲ 14	13	▼ 18	80	▲ 3	13	▼ 8	78	▲ 14	12	▼ 19
LU	74	=	10	▼ 6	74	=	13	▼ 6	78	▲ 6	8	▼ 12
HU	63	▲ 4	31	▼ 6	66	▲ 7	31	▼ 7	64	▲ 2	31	▼ 4
MT	79	▲ 11	6	▼ 15	76	▲ 10	10	▼ 17	76	▲ 8	9	▼ 14
NL	89	▲ 6	8	▼ 6	88	▲ 8	10	▼ 8	83	▲ 6	11	▼ 8
AT	83	▲ 4	16	▼ 3	80	▲ 2	18	▼ 3	80	▲ 7	16	▼ 7
PL	84	▲ 10	8	▼ 13	81	▲ 7	12	▼ 11	80	▲ 8	11	▼ 13
PT	92	▲ 11	4	▼ 10	92	▲ 8	5	▼ 7	73	▲ 10	23	▼ 11
RO	65	▲ 14	27	▼ 16	69	▲ 13	25	▼ 14	65	▲ 17	28	▼ 18
SI	71	▲ 8	25	▼ 8	76	▲ 6	22	▼ 5	68	▲ 11	29	▼ 10
SK	64	▲ 3	23	▼ 5	63	▲ 1	26	▼ 5	56	▲ 3	33	▼ 4
FI	86	▲ 6	5	▼ 9	83	▲ 5	11	▼ 7	84	▲ 12	8	▼ 15
SE	82	▲ 1	12	▼ 1	77	▲ 2	18	=	76	▲ 7	19	▼ 6
UK	66	=	19	▼ 3	68	▲ 1	19	▼ 4	70	▲ 5	17	▼ 6

Base: all respondents

Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), QG11

Q How satisfied or not are you with the following aspects of democracy in the European Union? (%)

	Possibility for individual citizens to participate in political life				Rule of law				The opportunities for civil society to play its role in promoting and protecting democracy			
	Total 'Satisfied'	Diff. June 2019 - September 2018	Total 'Not satisfied'	Diff. June 2019 - September 2018	Total 'Satisfied'	Diff. June 2019 - September 2018	Total 'Not satisfied'	Diff. June 2019 - September 2018	Total 'Satisfied'	Diff. June 2019 - September 2018	Total 'Not satisfied'	Diff. June 2019 - September 2018
EU28	68	▲ 5	22	▼ 7	66	▲ 9	24	▼ 12	65	▲ 8	23	▼ 11
BE	74	▲ 4	22	▼ 6	76	▲ 4	20	▼ 6	73	▲ 5	22	▼ 7
BG	52	▲ 7	34	▼ 10	43	▲ 11	44	▼ 14	50	▼ 11	35	▼ 15
CZ	62	▼ 2	24	▼ 3	53	▲ 5	36	▼ 10	53	▲ 2	31	▼ 4
DK	82	▲ 4	9	▼ 5	80	▲ 4	10	▼ 5	77	▲ 2	10	▼ 4
DE	75	▲ 6	18	▼ 7	75	12	19	▼ 13	67	▼ 8	23	▼ 10
EE	68	▼ 3	16	▼ 2	70	▲ =	15	▼ 5	62	▲ 2	19	▼ 5
IE	84	▲ 8	9	▼ 7	82	▲ 5	10	▼ 5	82	▲ 7	10	▼ 7
EL	74	▲ 19	24	▼ 17	67	▲ 19	31	▼ 18	63	▲ 17	32	▼ 20
ES	69	▲ 13	25	▼ 15	64	▲ 14	28	▼ 18	64	▲ 15	29	▼ 18
FR	60	=	25	▼ 7	58	▲ 5	26	▼ 13	55	▲ 3	25	▼ 12
HR	55	▲ 2	39	▼ 6	48	▲ 8	47	▼ 10	53	▲ 4	41	▼ 8
IT	61	▲ 7	31	▼ 7	62	▲ 14	29	▼ 16	62	▲ 8	29	▼ 10
CY	77	▲ 15	18	▼ 15	76	▲ 12	21	▼ 11	77	▲ 12	18	▼ 13
LV	65	▼ 3	19	▼ 5	56	▲ 8	26	▼ 12	65	▲ 1	18	▼ 9
LT	74	▲ 18	13	▼ 21	68	▲ 14	19	▼ 19	71	▲ 15	15	▼ 18
LU	74	▲ 7	11	▼ 12	72	▲ 7	11	▼ 11	66	▲ 5	16	▼ 9
HU	70	▲ 6	25	▼ 7	60	▲ 3	35	▼ 3	60	▲ 3	34	▼ 4
MT	78	▲ 9	6	▼ 14	74	▲ 12	9	▼ 16	74	▲ 13	9	▼ 18
NL	77	▲ 4	15	▼ 3	80	▲ 11	14	▼ 11	63	▲ 3	19	▼ 11
AT	72	▲ 3	22	▼ 5	77	▲ 5	18	▼ 6	69	▲ 4	23	▼ 5
PL	80	▲ 6	11	▼ 9	75	▲ 13	15	▼ 18	79	▲ 11	11	▼ 15
PT	80	▲ 11	13	▼ 10	67	▲ 9	25	▼ 8	79	▲ 13	14	▼ 11
RO	62	▲ 15	29	▼ 16	61	▲ 15	31	▼ 16	62	▲ 15	29	▼ 16
SI	66	▲ 9	28	▼ 9	51	▲ 17	44	▼ 18	65	▲ 15	30	▼ 13
SK	65	▲ 5	22	▼ 7	49	▲ 8	38	▼ 11	58	▲ 8	29	▼ 9
FI	74	▲ 4	14	▼ 9	77	▲ 10	9	▼ 18	73	▲ 8	12	▼ 15
SE	70	▲ 5	17	▼ 3	72	▲ 8	18	▼ 5	68	▲ 4	20	▼ 4
UK	61	▼ 2	22	▼ 2	65	▼ 3	20	▼ 6	62	▲ 2	21	▼ 3

Base: all respondents

Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), QG11



How satisfied or not are you with the following aspects of democracy in the European Union? (%)

	Media diversity				Fight against disinformation in the media				Fight against corruption			
	Total 'Satisfied'	Diff. June 2019 - September 2018	Total 'Not satisfied'	Diff. June 2019 - September 2018	Total 'Satisfied'	Diff. June 2019 - September 2018	Total 'Not satisfied'	Diff. June 2019 - September 2018	Total 'Satisfied'	Diff. June 2019 - September 2018	Total 'Not satisfied'	Diff. June 2019 - September 2018
EU28	64	▲ 6	26	▼ 8	48	▲ 8	40	▼ 12	43	▲ 7	48	▼ 9
BE	69	▲ 3	27	▼ 4	61	▲ 8	35	▼ 10	58	▲ 9	38	▼ 11
BG	66	▲ 6	22	▼ 8	38	▲ 4	43	▼ 10	30	▲ 7	59	▼ 10
CZ	65	▼ 1	26	▼ 3	38	▲ 5	50	▼ 10	28	▲ 6	65	▼ 9
DK	72	▲ 6	17	▼ 8	58	▲ 4	24	▼ 12	56	▲ 2	32	▼ 6
DE	78	▲ 4	17	▼ 6	39	▼ 4	47	▼ 11	31	▲ 2	58	▼ 5
EE	74	▼ 4	13	▼ 2	40	▲ 3	39	▼ 5	42	▲ 1	41	▼ 7
IE	70	▲ 4	20	▼ 4	69	▲ 11	22	▼ 12	67	▲ 8	25	▼ 10
EL	80	▲ 15	19	▼ 13	42	▲ 13	55	▼ 14	31	▲ 11	66	▼ 12
ES	70	▲ 12	24	▼ 14	49	▲ 9	43	▼ 13	39	▲ 8	57	▼ 9
FR	46	▲ 4	37	▼ 11	40	▲ 8	46	▼ 14	38	▲ 8	49	▼ 14
HR	58	▲ 2	38	▼ 3	40	▲ 2	54	▼ 5	29	▲ 8	67	▼ 10
IT	55	▲ 7	35	▼ 7	52	▲ 12	40	▼ 13	44	▲ 9	50	▼ 8
CY	77	▲ 2	18	▼ 3	62	▲ 16	34	▼ 16	50	▲ 12	47	▼ 10
LV	72	▼ 1	13	▼ 9	44	▲ 10	39	▼ 19	35	▲ 9	49	▼ 20
LT	80	▲ 5	13	▼ 10	52	▲ 18	33	▼ 23	38	▲ 17	54	▼ 22
LU	63	▲ 2	19	▼ 8	51	▲ 13	31	▼ 20	48	▲ 4	35	▼ 9
HU	58	▼ 1	38	=	52	▲ 7	43	▼ 6	44	▲ 5	52	▼ 4
MT	73	▲ 14	10	▼ 20	65	▲ 24	17	▼ 28	58	▲ 19	26	▼ 26
NL	70	▲ 3	22	▼ 4	42	▲ 4	46	▼ 7	48	▲ 7	45	▼ 7
AT	76	▲ 4	22	▼ 4	56	▲ 7	37	▼ 9	52	▲ 6	43	▼ 5
PL	62	▲ 6	22	▼ 11	67	▲ 9	22	▼ 14	68	▲ 13	23	▼ 16
PT	91	▲ 9	6	▼ 8	68	▲ 11	20	▼ 14	36	▲ 6	60	▼ 5
RO	65	▲ 14	27	▼ 15	56	▲ 20	35	▼ 21	54	▲ 20	40	▼ 21
SI	69	▲ 8	28	▼ 6	41	▲ 10	52	▼ 9	29	▲ 9	67	▼ 8
SK	62	▲ 5	27	▼ 7	42	▲ 8	43	▼ 11	34	▲ 9	55	▼ 10
FI	77	▲ 6	13	▼ 10	58	▼ 15	26	▼ 22	54	▲ 9	34	▼ 14
SE	60	▼ 3	26	▲ 1	34	▲ 1	49	▼ 1	37	▲ 1	48	▼ 2
UK	52	▲ 3	30	▼ 6	46	▲ 6	37	▼ 11	50	▲ 8	34	▼ 11

Base: all respondents

Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), QG11

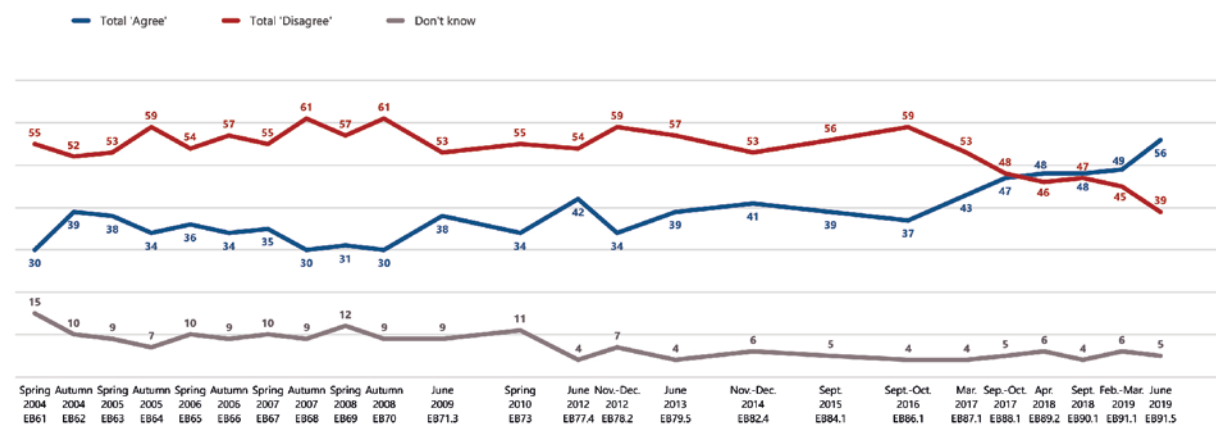
Increased perceptions of one's role in the EU

Alongside the large increase in turnout in this year's European Parliament elections, we see a growing number of Europeans who feel that their voice counts in the EU, adding further weight to the democratic legitimacy of the EU.

For the first time in the last 10 years, more than half of Europeans (56%) agree that their voice counts in the EU. This represents a 7-point increase from February–March 2019, while the proportion that disagrees has decreased over the same period (39%, -6 pp). This is the most positive result since this question was first asked in 2002.

Previous reports have noted that this indicator has often peaked at the time of European elections. However, the current figures also appear to represent part of a longer-term increase over the last 10 years.

**Q Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statement:
My voice counts in the EU (% - EU)**



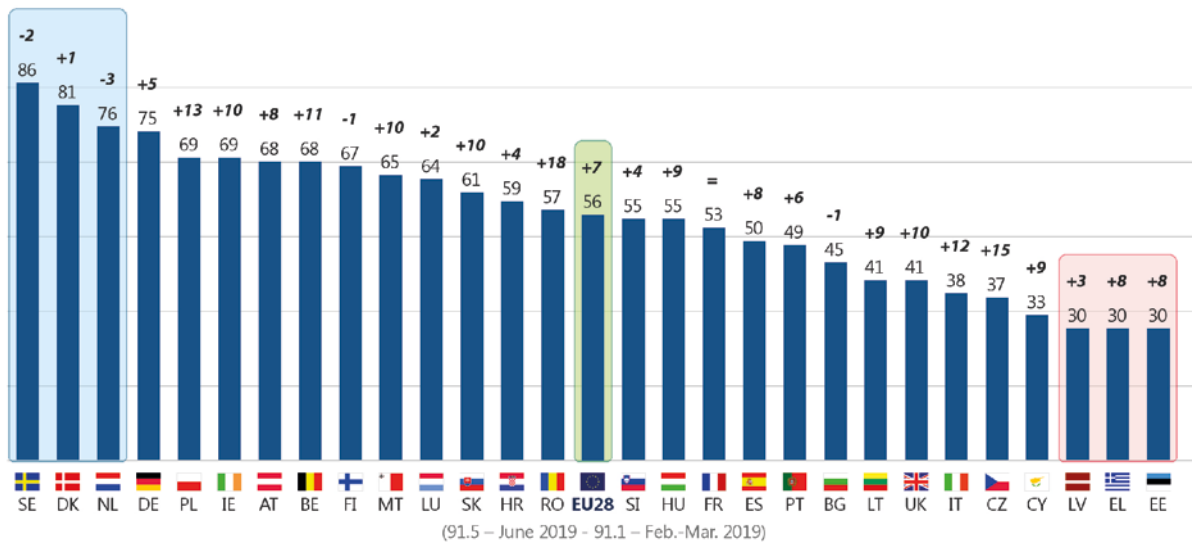
Base: all respondents
Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), QD72.1

There is considerable variation between Member States in the proportions of respondents who agree that their voice counts in the EU. More than half of respondents agree in 17 countries, with the highest proportions seen in Sweden (86%), Denmark (81%), the Netherlands (76%) and Germany (75%). By contrast, no more than a third of respondents agrees in Latvia, Greece and Estonia (all 30%) and Cyprus (33%).

There has been an increase in agreement since February–March 2019 in all but five countries. There is a decrease in four – the Netherlands (76%, -3 pp), Sweden (86%, -2pp), Finland (67%, -1 pp), Bulgaria (45%, -1 pp) – and the proportion is similar in France (53%, =). Large increases can be observed in Romania (57%, +18 pp), Czechia (37%, +15 pp), Poland (69%, +13 pp), Italy (38%, +12 pp) and Belgium (68%, +11 pp).

The socio-demographic analysis shows some clear variations in the extent to which people feel that their voice counts in the EU.

Q Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statement:
My voice counts in the EU (% - Total 'Agree')



Base: all respondents

Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), QD72.1







Younger respondents are more likely than older respondents to agree that their voice counts in the EU. Among those aged under 25, 60% agree and 31% disagree, whereas among those aged 55 or over 53% agree and 41% disagree.

Those who finished their education at the age of 20 or above are more likely to agree (67%) than those who left school by the age of 15 (40%). Respondents who have difficulties paying their bills most of the time are less likely to agree than those who rarely or never have difficulties (34% compared with 63%). In terms of socio-professional categories, agreement is highest among managers (70%) and lowest among unemployed respondents (42%).

Respondents who place themselves on the left of the political spectrum are more likely to agree (66%) than those in the centre (58%) or on the right (57%).

There is a link between thinking that one's voice counts in the EU and voting in the European Parliament elections. Respondents who voted in the recent European Parliament elections are more likely to agree than those who did not vote (68% compared with 42%). As discussed earlier in the report, the relationship between these two issues is likely to produce a 'virtuous cycle', in which the view that one's voice counts is likely to increase voter participation, which in turn is likely to reinforce the view that one's voice counts.

Q Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statement:
 My voice counts in the EU (% - EU)

	Total 'Agree'	Total 'Disagree'	Don't Know
EU28	56	39	5
 Gender			
Man	57	39	4
Woman	56	38	6
 Age			
15-24	60	31	9
25-39	59	37	4
40-54	56	40	4
55 +	53	41	6
 Education (End of)			
15-	40	52	8
16-19	52	43	5
20+	67	30	3
Still studying	62	29	9
 Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	60	36	4
Managers	70	28	2
Other white collars	63	34	3
Manual workers	54	41	5
House persons	46	46	8
Unemployed	42	51	7
Retired	51	43	6
Students	62	29	9
 Subjective urbanisation			
Rural village	56	38	6
Small/ mid size town	55	40	5
Large town	57	38	5
 Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	34	60	6
From time to time	47	49	4
Almost never/ Never	63	32	5
Left-right political scale			
Left	66	31	3
Centre	58	38	4
Right	57	40	3
Declared voting behaviour EE19			
Voted	68	29	3
Did not vote	42	49	9

ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE EU

Europeans express positive opinions on their country's membership of the EU and the benefits that membership brings. In fact, views on these issues have become increasingly positive since the previous European Parliament elections in 2014. These positive views are of primary relevance to the turnout in the European Parliament elections. As we have seen, a favourable view of the EU has gained in prominence as a reason for voting, and one of the main perceived benefits of the EU is its contribution to economic growth – also the main issue that made people vote in the elections.

Membership in the EU

MEMBERSHIP OF THE EU IS SEEN AS A GOOD THING

One of the traditional key indicators to measure European citizens' attitude towards the European Union is the question asking whether their country's membership of the EU is a 'good thing' or a 'bad thing'.

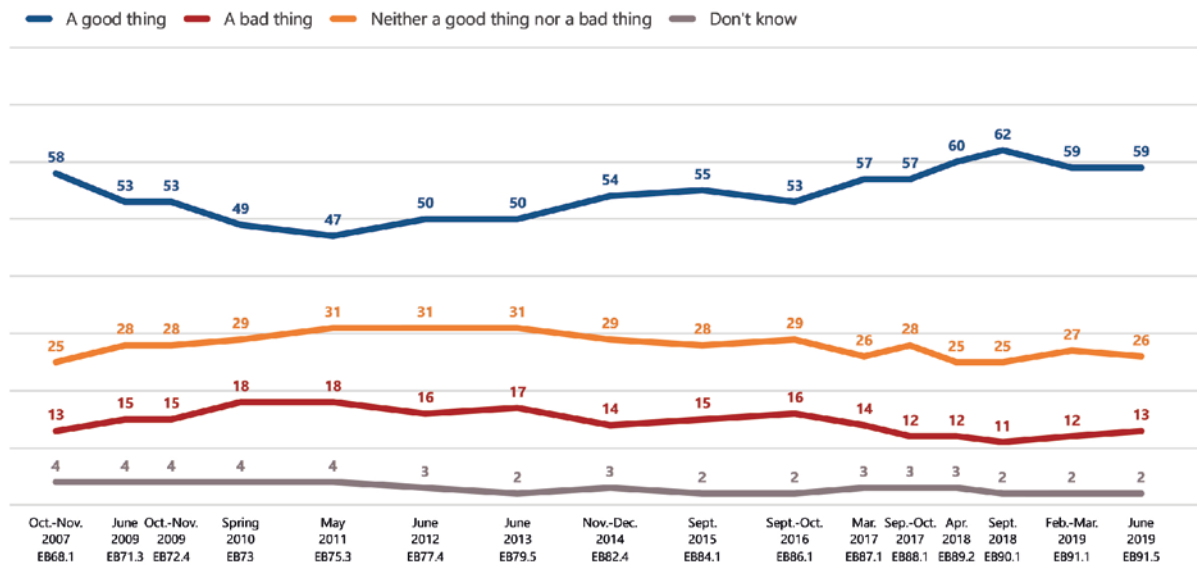
At EU28 level, just under six in ten Europeans (59%) see their country's EU membership as a good thing. This level of support has remained unchanged since February–March 2019, but has fallen slightly since the historical high level recorded in September 2018 (62%). However, the longer-term trend is positive since 2011 and in particular since autumn 2014, after the last European elections. This 59% is the third highest level since October–November 2007.

On average in the EU, around one respondent in eight sees their country's membership of the EU as a "bad thing" (13%, +1 pp) while around one in four (26%, -1 pp) continues to hold a neutral view, believing it is "neither a good nor a bad thing".

In all Member States, respondents are more likely to consider being part of the EU a 'good thing' rather than a 'bad thing'. Over three-quarters of respondents register their positive support for the EU in four countries: Luxembourg (83%), Ireland (81%), Germany (79%) and the Netherlands (78%).

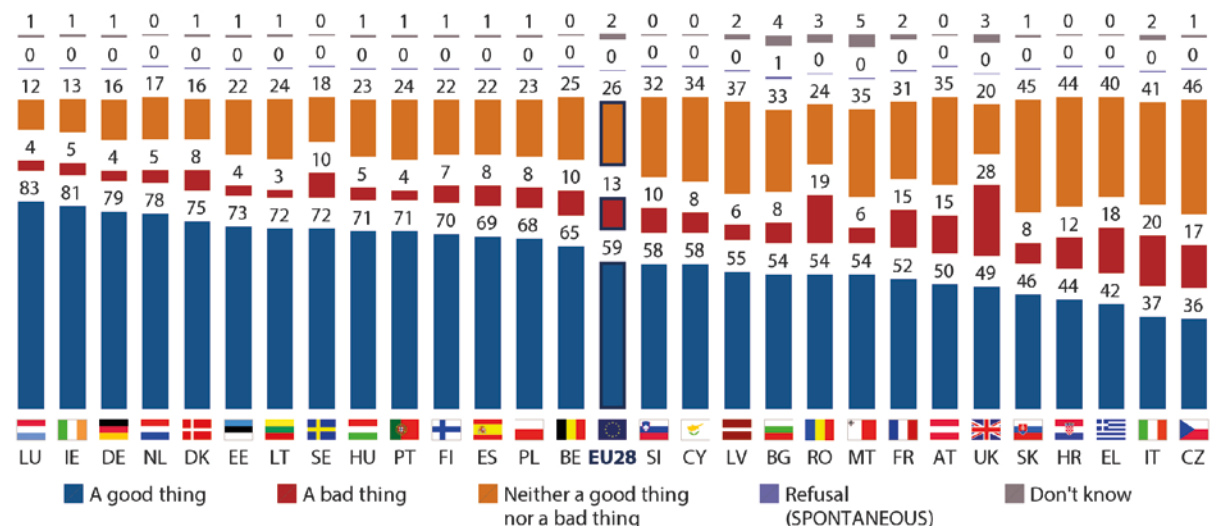
There are six countries where less than half of respondents consider their country's membership of the EU a good thing: Czechia (36%), Italy (37%), Greece (42%), Croatia (44%), Slovakia (46%) and the UK (49%). The UK also has the highest proportion of respondents that see EU membership as a 'bad thing' (28%).

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



Base: all respondents
Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), Q1

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



Base: all respondents
Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), Q1

Overall, seeing membership of the EU as a good thing is the most frequent response in 25 out of 28 countries. The exceptions are Czechia and Italy, where 'neither a good thing nor a bad thing' is the most common response (by 44% and 41% respectively), and Croatia, where the same proportion say that EU membership is a 'good thing' and 'neither a good thing nor a bad thing' (44% in each case).



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

		A good thing		A bad thing		Neither a good thing nor a bad thing		Refusal (SPONTANEOUS)		Don't know	
			Diff. June 2019 - February-March 2019		Diff. June 2019 - February-March 2019		Diff. June 2019 - February-March 2019		Diff. June 2019 - February-March 2019		
EU28		59	=	13	▲ 1	26	▼ 1	0	=	2	
HU		71	▲ 10	5	▼ 2	23	▼ 8	0	=	1	
CY		58	▲ 6	8	▼ 5	34	=	0	=	0	
UK		49	▲ 6	28	▲ 6	20	▼ 8	0	=	3	
HR		44	▲ 4	12	▲ 1	44	▼ 4	0	▼ 1	0	
AT		50	▲ 4	15	=	35	▼ 3	0	▼ 1	0	
FI		70	▲ 4	7	▼ 1	22	▼ 3	0	=	1	
CZ		36	▲ 3	17	▲ 2	46	▼ 3	0	▼ 1	1	
DE		79	▲ 3	4	▼ 2	16	=	0	▼ 1	1	
PT		71	▲ 2	4	▼ 1	24	=	0	=	1	
BG		54	▲ 1	8	=	33	▼ 1	1	▼ 1	4	
IT		37	▲ 1	20	▼ 1	41	=	0	=	2	
LV		55	▲ 1	6	▲ 1	37	▼ 2	0	=	2	
LT		72	▲ 1	3	=	24	▼ 2	0	=	1	
ES		69	=	8	▲ 2	22	▼ 2	0	=	1	
PL		68	=	8	▲ 3	23	▼ 3	0	=	1	
DK		75	▼ 1	8	▲ 1	16	▲ 1	0	=	1	
EE		73	▼ 1	4	=	22	▲ 1	0	=	1	
IE		81	▼ 2	5	▲ 2	13	▲ 1	0	=	1	
FR		52	▼ 2	15	▲ 2	31	=	0	=	2	
LU		83	▼ 3	4	▲ 2	12	▲ 1	0	=	1	
RO		54	▼ 3	19	▲ 6	24	▼ 3	0	=	3	
SI		58	▼ 3	10	▲ 3	32	=	0	=	0	
EL		42	▼ 4	18	▲ 1	40	▲ 4	0	=	0	
SK		46	▼ 5	8	▲ 1	45	▲ 4	0	=	1	
NL		78	▼ 6	5	▲ 1	17	▲ 5	0	=	0	
BE		65	▼ 7	10	▲ 2	25	▲ 6	0	=	0	
SE		72	▼ 7	10	▲ 4	18	▲ 4	0	=	0	
MT		54	▼ 13	6	▲ 2	35	▲ 8	0	=	5	

Base: all respondents

Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), QF1

Positive evolutions are seen in 13 Member States, the most striking being in Hungary (71%, +10 pp), Cyprus (58%, +6 pp) and the UK (49%, + 6 pp). At the same time, support for EU membership by this indicator has deteriorated in 13 countries, most notably Malta (54%, -13 pp), Sweden (72%, -7 pp) and Belgium (65%, -7 pp).








Support for EU membership varies considerably by age and level of education. Looking from an age perspective, the youngest age group (under 25) is the most likely to support EU membership: 70% of young citizens at EU level express a positive view, compared with only 56% of those aged 55 or more. As regards education levels, results show a 26-point gap in support between those who stopped school at the age of 15 or below (45%) and those who stopped studying at 20 or above (71%). Differences of a similar degree also apply when considering respondents' occupation levels, ranging from 75% support among managers to 47% among unemployed respondents.

Respondents who have difficulties paying household bills have a less positive view of EU membership (40% say it is a good thing) compared with those who rarely or never have difficulties (67%).

A positive view of EU membership is more common among respondents who place themselves on the left of the political spectrum (71%) than those in the centre (60%) or on the right (56%). People who voted in the recent European Parliament elections are more likely than those who did not vote to see EU membership as a good thing (68% compared with 50%).

A positive view of EU membership is also influenced by perceptions of whether 'my voice counts' in the EU (75% of those who agree that their voice counts say that EU membership is a good thing, compared with 38% of those who disagree).

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

	A good thing	A bad thing	Neither a good thing nor a bad thing	Don't Know
EU28	59	13	26	2
 Gender				
Man	60	14	25	1
Woman	58	12	28	2
 Age				
15-24	70	8	21	1
25-39	61	11	27	1
40-54	59	14	26	1
55 +	56	15	27	2
 Education (End of)				
15-	45	19	32	4
16-19	53	15	30	2
20+	71	9	20	-
Still studying	75	6	18	1
 Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	58	13	28	1
Managers	75	8	16	1
Other white collars	62	11	27	-
Manual workers	55	14	30	1
House persons	50	16	29	5
Unemployed	47	17	33	3
Retired	56	16	26	2
Students	75	6	18	1
 Subjective urbanisation				
Rural village	58	13	27	2
Small/ mid size town	59	14	25	2
Large town	62	11	26	1
 Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	40	23	33	4
From time to time	48	17	33	2
Almost never/ Never	67	10	22	1
 Left-right political scale				
Left	71	10	19	-
Centre	60	12	27	1
Right	56	19	24	1
Declared voting behaviour EE19				
Voted	68	11	21	-
Did not vote	50	15	32	3
My voice counts in the EU				
Agree	75	6	18	1
Disagree	38	23	37	2

Base: all respondents
Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), QF1

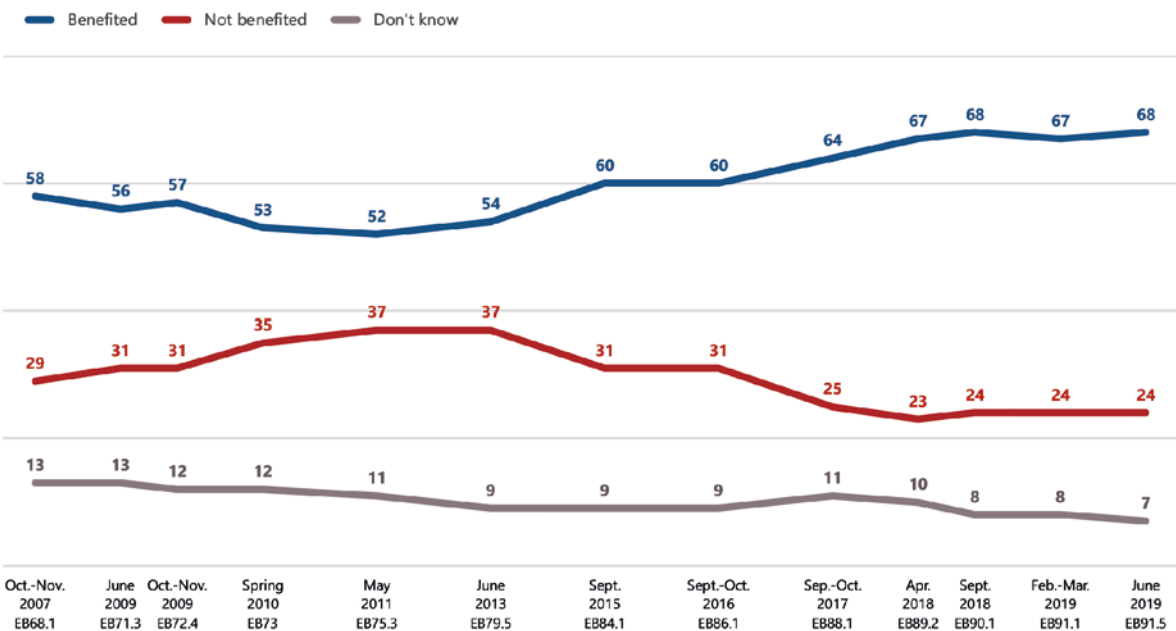
Perceived effects of membership in the EU

EUROPEANS ARE MORE POSITIVE THAN EVER ON THE BENEFITS OF EU MEMBERSHIP

European Parliament’s Eurobarometer surveys measure citizens’ support for the EU with two key indicators. As well as the indicator discussed above which focuses more on the ‘feeling’ towards membership, the next indicator calls for a more reflective answer. Here, there is a strong belief that Member States have on balance benefited from being part of the EU. At EU28 level, more than two-thirds of respondents (68%) think their country has benefited from EU membership, a slight increase from February–March 2019 (+1 pp), and a return to the level seen in September 2018. This means that results remain at their highest level since 1983.

Around one in four EU citizens (24%) say that their country has not benefited from EU membership, unchanged since September 2018. Less than one in ten (7%) are undecided, a figure that has declined steadily in recent years, suggesting that opinions on this issue have become more committed.

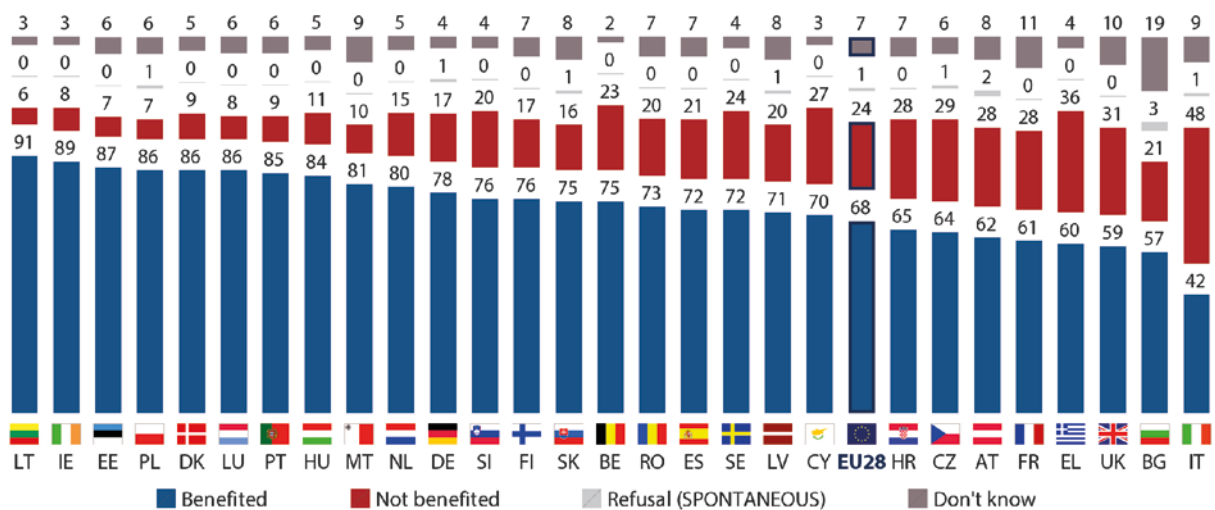
Q Taking everything into account, would you say that (OUR COUNTRY) has on balance benefited or not from being a member of the EU? (% - EU)



Base: all respondents
Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), QF2

In all Member States except Italy, a majority of respondents think that their country has benefited from being a member of the EU. As many as nine in ten respondents hold this view in Lithuania (91%) and Ireland (89%), and it is shared by more than eight respondents in ten in Estonia (87%), Poland, Denmark and Luxembourg (all 86%), Portugal (85%), Hungary (84%) and Malta (81%).

Q Taking everything into account, would you say that (OUR COUNTRY) has on balance benefited or not from being a member of the EU? (%)



Base: all respondents

Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), QF2

There are eight Member States that are below the EU average, most notably Italy, where just 42% of respondents see a benefit in EU membership (vs. 48% who consider that their country 'has not benefited'). However, seven of these eight countries have shown an improvement since February–March 2019, including notable increases in Czechia (64%, +6 pp), Austria (62%, +5 pp) and the UK (59%, +5 pp). Large rises can also be seen in Cyprus (70%, +11 pp) and Hungary (84%, +6 pp).

Overall, 17 Member States show an improvement since February–March 2019, while two are stable and nine register a fall, most notably Malta (81%, -10 pp).

Q Taking everything into account, would you say that (OUR COUNTRY) has on balance benefited or not from being a member of the EU? (%)

		Benefited		Not benefited		Refusal (SPONTANEOUS)		Don't know
			Diff. June 2019 - February-March 2019		Diff. June 2019 - February-March 2019		Diff. June 2019 - February-March 2019	
EU28		68	▲ 1	24	=	1	=	7
CY		70	▲ 11	27	▼ 9	0	=	3
CZ		64	▲ 6	29	▼ 2	1	=	6
HU		84	▲ 6	11	▼ 3	0	▼ 1	5
AT		62	▲ 5	28	▼ 6	2	=	8
UK		59	▲ 5	31	▲ 1	0	=	10
EL		60	▲ 3	36	=	0	=	4
HR		65	▲ 3	28	▼ 1	0	▼ 1	7
PT		85	▲ 3	9	▼ 1	0	=	6
DE		78	▲ 2	17	▼ 1	1	=	4
FR		61	▲ 2	28	▼ 2	0	▼ 1	11
FI		76	▲ 2	17	▼ 1	0	=	7
DK		86	▲ 1	9	=	0	=	5
IE		89	▲ 1	8	▲ 1	0	=	3
IT		42	▲ 1	48	▼ 1	1	=	9
LT		91	▲ 1	6	▼ 1	0	=	3
RO		73	▲ 1	20	▲ 1	0	=	7
SI		76	▲ 1	20	=	0	=	4
BE		75	=	23	▲ 2	0	=	2
PL		86	=	7	▼ 1	1	▲ 1	6
EE		87	▼ 1	7	▲ 1	0	=	6
LV		71	▼ 1	20	▼ 1	1	▲ 1	8
BG		57	▼ 2	21	▼ 2	3	=	19
SE		72	▼ 2	24	▲ 7	0	=	4
ES		72	▼ 3	21	▲ 5	0	=	7
LU		86	▼ 3	8	▲ 3	0	=	6
NL		80	▼ 3	15	▲ 4	0	=	5
SK		75	▼ 3	16	▲ 1	1	=	8
MT		81	▼ 10	10	▲ 8	0	▼ 1	9

Base: all respondents
Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), QF2

When considering respondents' views on whether their country has benefited from EU membership, socio-demographic differences closely mirror those seen above for whether EU membership is seen as a good thing. The main variations are again by age group and level of education.








Respondents in the youngest age group (under 25) again hold the most positive views, with 77% saying their country has benefited from EU membership, compared with 63% of those aged 55 or over. The difference by education level is greater still: 79% among those who left education at the age of 20 or above, compared with 52% among those who left school by the age of 15. Analysis by socio-professional category shows much more positive views among managers (82%) and students (80%) than other groups.

Respondents who have difficulties paying bills have a less positive view of EU membership (50% say their country has benefited) compared with those who rarely or never have difficulties (74%).

A positive view of EU membership is again more common among respondents who place themselves on the left of the political spectrum (76%) than those in the centre (71%) or on the right (66%). People who voted in the recent European Parliament elections are more likely to see EU membership as beneficial than those who did not vote (74% compared with 61%).

Once again, the view that EU membership has been beneficial is linked with respondents' perceptions of whether their 'voice counts' in the EU.

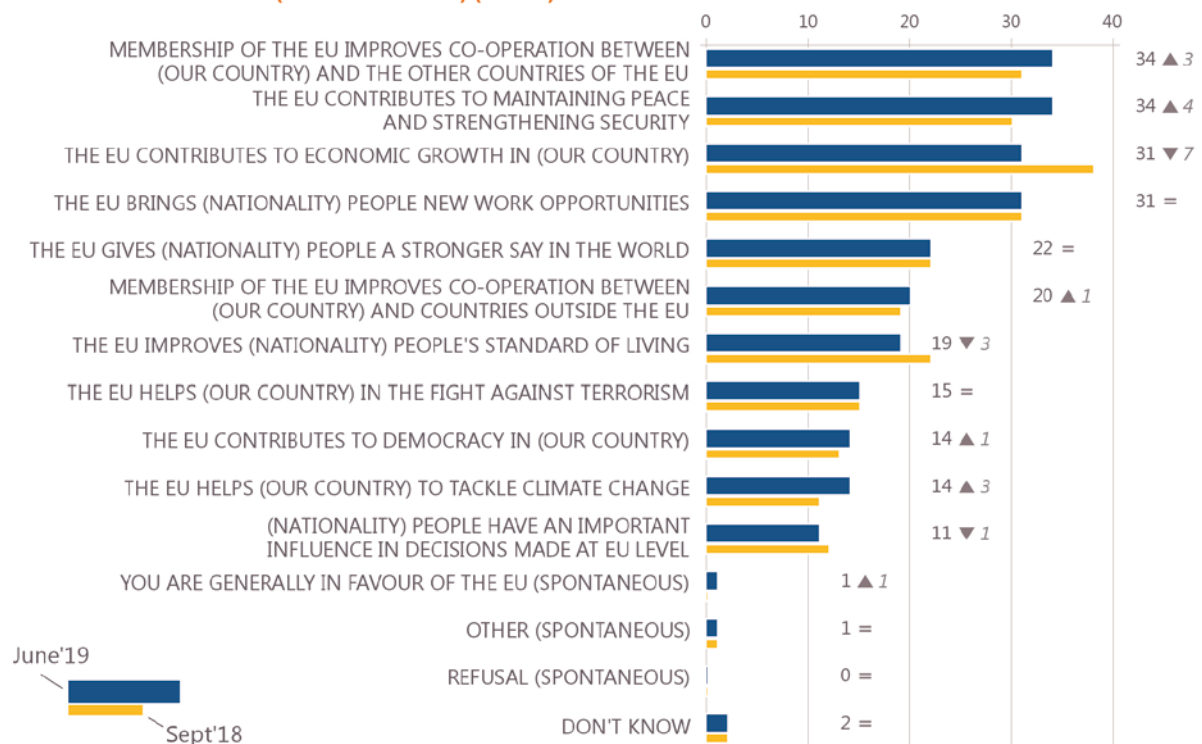
Q Taking everything into account, would you say that (OUR COUNTRY) has on balance benefited or not from being a member of the EU? (% - EU)

	Benefited	Not benefited	Refusal (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't Know
EU28	68	24	1	7
 Gender				
Man	70	24	-	6
Woman	66	25	-	9
 Age				
15-24	77	16	-	7
25-39	71	22	-	7
40-54	68	25	1	6
55 +	63	28	1	8
 Education (End of)				
15-	52	36	1	11
16-19	63	28	1	8
20+	79	17	-	4
Still studying	80	14	1	5
 Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	68	26	1	5
Managers	82	14	-	4
Other white collars	71	23	-	6
Manual workers	66	27	-	7
House persons	56	32	1	11
Unemployed	58	30	1	11
Retired	63	27	1	9
Students	80	14	1	5
 Subjective urbanisation				
Rural village	68	23	1	8
Small/ mid size town	66	26	1	7
Large town	71	22	-	7
 Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	50	37	1	12
From time to time	60	32	-	8
Almost never/ Never	74	20	-	6
 Left-right political scale				
Left	76	19	-	5
Centre	71	23	-	6
Right	66	29	-	5
Declared voting behaviour EE19				
Voted	74	22	-	4
Did not vote	61	27	1	11
My voice counts in the EU				
Agree	81	14	1	4
Disagree	51	40	-	9

While a clear majority of Europeans feel that their country has benefited from being a member of the EU, it is important to understand the reasons for this view. In the EU overall, there are four main reasons: increased co-operation between Member States (34%), maintaining peace and security (also 34%), contribution to economic growth (31%) and new work opportunities (also 31%). Respondents also give a range of other reasons, indicating the wide-ranging potential benefits of EU membership: giving people a stronger say in the world (22%), improving co-operation with countries outside the EU (20%), improving standards of living (19%), helping in the fight against terrorism (15%), helping to tackle climate change (14%), contributing to democracy (14%) and providing people with influence in decision-making at EU level (11%).

Since September 2018, there have been increases in the proportion of respondents saying that EU membership improves co-operation between Member States (+3 pp) and that the EU contributes to maintaining peace and strengthening security (+4 pp). There has also been an increase in respondents saying that the EU helps countries to tackle climate change (+3 pp). There have been decreases in the proportions saying that the EU contributes to economic growth in their country (-7 pp) and that the EU improves standards of living (-3 pp). Despite the decrease since 2018, the EU’s contribution to economic growth remains one of the main perceived benefits of membership. This is important in the context of the recent European Parliament elections, as the economy and growth is the issue most likely to have encouraged people to vote, as seen earlier in the report.

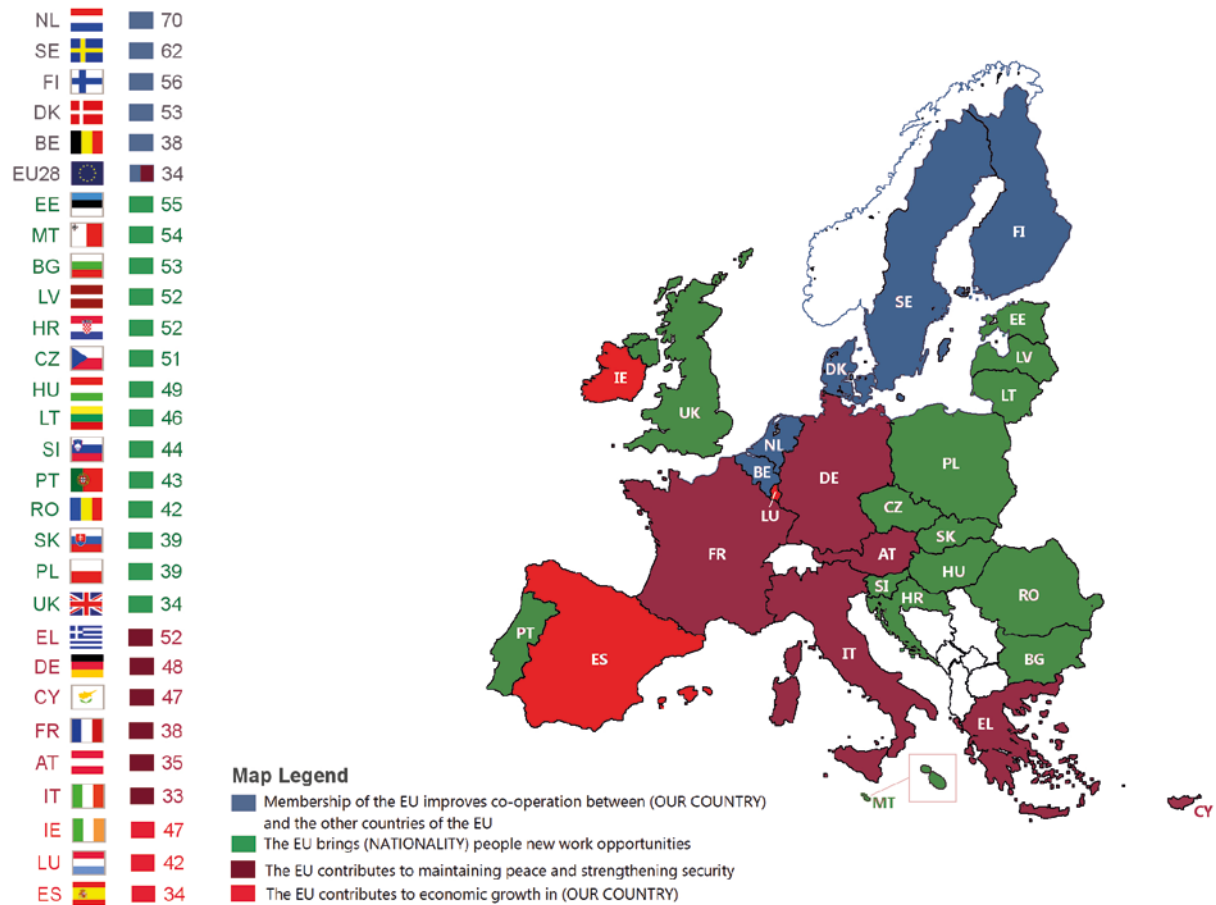
Q Which of the following are the main reasons for thinking that (OUR COUNTRY) has benefited from being a member of the EU? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS) (% - EU)



Base: respondents who believe that their country benefited, 68% sample
Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), QF3

In half of Member States (14 out of 28), the most common reason for thinking countries have benefited from EU membership is that the EU brings new work opportunities, while in six countries the main reason is the EU's role in maintaining peace and security. There are five countries where the most common reason is increased co-operation between Member States, while in three countries the most frequent reason is the EU's contribution to economic growth.

Q Which of the following are the main reasons for thinking that (OUR COUNTRY) has benefited from being a member of the EU? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)
(THE MOST MENTIONED ITEM PER COUNTRY)

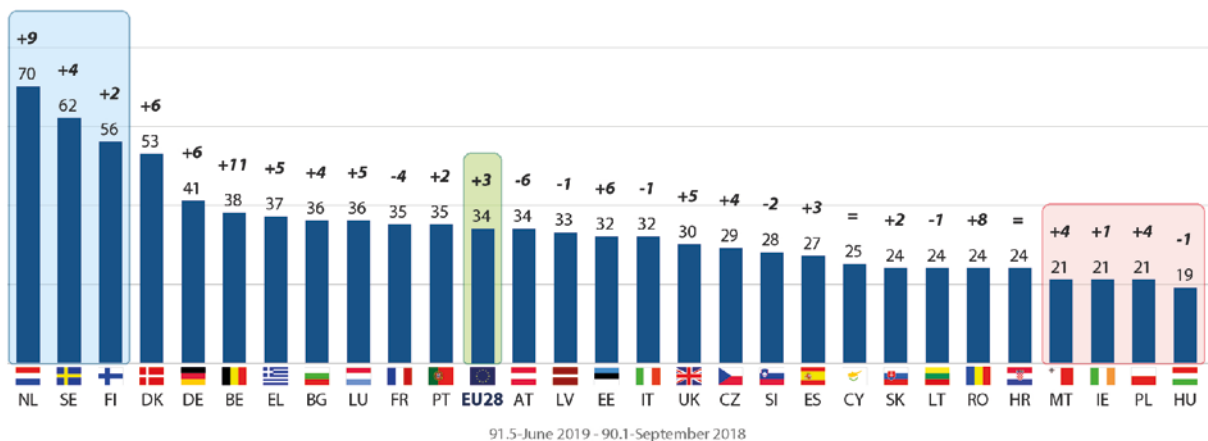


Base: respondents who believe that their country benefited, 68% sample
Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), QF3

In the EU28 as a whole, one in three respondents (34%) say that a benefit of EU membership is that there is greater co-operation between countries in the EU. However, this proportion varies considerably by Member State. In four countries, more than half of respondents hold this view: the Netherlands (70%), Sweden (62%), Finland (56%) and Denmark (53%). However, only around one in five respondents see this as a benefit of EU membership in Hungary (19%), Malta, Ireland and Poland (all 21%).

The view that EU membership improves co-operation between Member States has become more prevalent since September 2018 (+3 pp in the EU28 overall), and there has been an increase in 19 countries. The largest increases can be found in Belgium (38%, +11 pp), the Netherlands (70%, +9 pp) and Romania (24%, +8 pp). Seven countries show a decrease in the proportion giving this reason, with the largest in Austria (34%, -6 pp) and France (35%, -4 pp).

Q Which of the following are the main reasons for thinking that (OUR COUNTRY) has benefited from being a member of the EU? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)
 (% - Membership of the EU improved co-operation between (OUR COUNTRY) and the other countries of the EU)

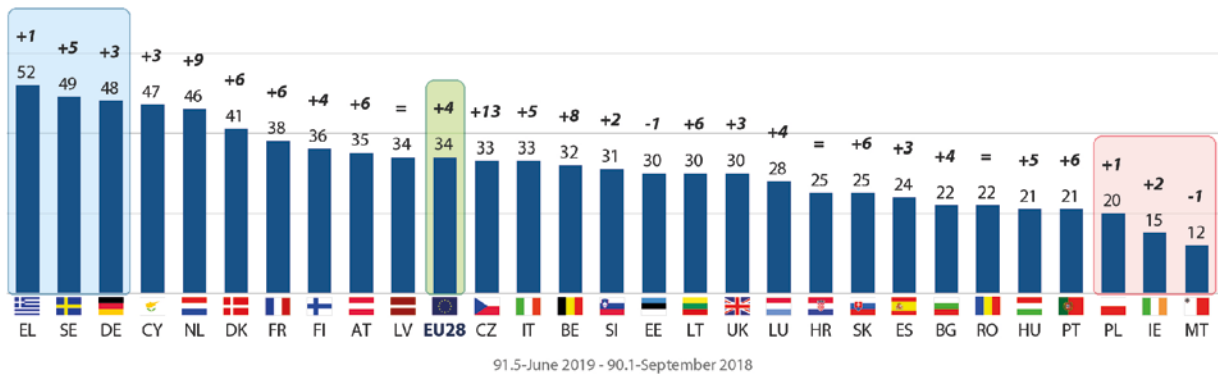


Base: respondents who believe that their country benefited, 68% sample
 Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), QF3

One in three respondents (34%) in the EU28 says that their country has benefited from EU membership through the EU's contribution to maintaining peace and strengthening security. More than half of respondents give this reason in Greece (52%), with relatively large proportions also seen in Sweden (49%), Germany (48%), Cyprus (47%) and the Netherlands (46%). Respondents are least likely to see this as a benefit of EU membership in Malta (12%), Ireland (15%) and Poland (20%).

There has been an increase in the proportion giving this view in 23 out of 28 Member States, most notably Czechia (33%, +13pp), the Netherlands (46%, +9 pp) and Belgium (32%, +8 pp). Only two countries show a slight decrease: Malta (12%, -1 pp) and Estonia (30%, -1 pp), while three are stable (Croatia, Romania and Latvia).

Q Which of the following are the main reasons for thinking that (OUR COUNTRY) has benefited from being a member of the EU? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)
 (% - The EU contributes to maintaining peace and strengthening security)

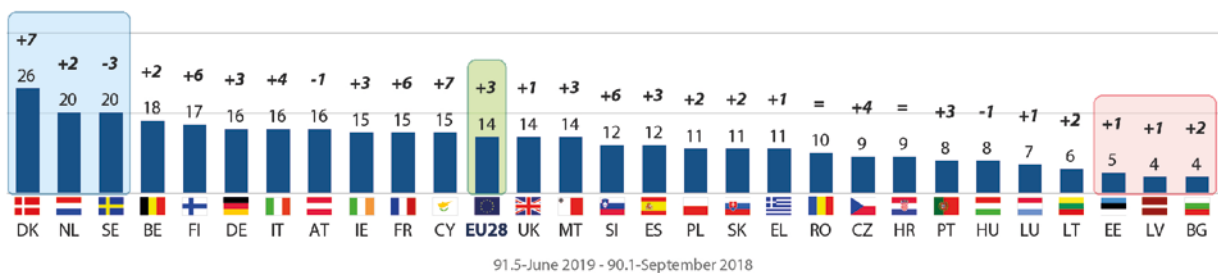


Base: respondents who believe that their country benefited, 68% sample
 Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), QF3

In the EU28 overall, one respondent in seven (14%) says that a benefit of EU membership is that the EU helps their country to tackle climate change. Respondents are most likely to hold this view in Denmark (26%), the Netherlands and Sweden (both 20%), although only small proportions say this in Bulgaria and Latvia (both 4%) and Estonia (5%).

The view that the EU helps countries to tackle climate change has become more widespread since September 2018. There has been an overall increase of 3 percentage points in the EU28, as well as an increase in 23 individual countries. The largest increases are seen in Denmark (26%, +7 pp) and Cyprus (15%, +7 pp). There has been a small decrease in three countries and no change in two.

Q Which of the following are the main reasons for thinking that (OUR COUNTRY) has benefited from being a member of the EU? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)
 (% - The EU helps (OUR COUNTRY) to tackle climate change)



Base: respondents who believe that their country benefited, 68% sample
 Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), QF3

There is variation between Member States in the other reasons that respondents give for thinking that their country has benefited from EU membership. Respondents in Ireland (47%) and the Netherlands and Estonia (both 46%) are the most likely to say that the EU contributes to economic growth in their country. There has been a decrease in the EU28 for this item since September 2018, and this is largest in Poland (-13pp) and Finland and Lithuania (both -12 pp).

Respondents are most likely to say that the EU brings people in their country new work opportunities in Estonia (55%), Malta (54%) and Bulgaria (53%). There have been large increases in Estonia (+9 pp) and Belgium and Malta (both +8 pp), and decreases in Greece and Romania (both -8 pp).

The view that the EU gives people a stronger say in the world is strongest in Portugal, and this country also shows the largest increase since September 2018 (39%, +7 pp). Respondents in the Netherlands (32%) and Finland (31%) are the most likely to say that EU membership improves relations with countries outside the EU.

Respondents in Ireland (39%), and Lithuania and Malta (both 38%) are the most likely to say that the EU improves standards of living in their country. The largest evolution on this item is a large decrease in Portugal (-13 pp).

Respondents in France (24%) are the most likely to say that the EU helps their country in the fight against terrorism, while respondents in Romania (23%) and Italy (21%) are the most likely to say that the EU contributes to democracy in their country.

Q Which of the following are the main reasons for thinking that (OUR COUNTRY) has benefited from being a member of the EU? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS) (%)

		Membership of the EU improves co-operation between (OUR COUNTRY) and the other countries of the EU	Diff. June 2019 - September 2018	The EU contributes to maintaining peace and strengthening security	Diff. June 2019 - September 2018	The EU brings (NATIONALITY) people new work opportunities	Diff. June 2019 - September 2018	The EU contributes to economic growth in (OUR COUNTRY)	Diff. June 2019 - September 2018	The EU gives (NATIONALITY) people a stronger say in the world	Diff. June 2019 - September 2018	Membership of the EU improves co-operation between (OUR COUNTRY) and countries outside the EU	Diff. June 2019 - September 2018
EU28		34	▲ 3	34	▲ 4	31	=	31	▼ 7	22	=	20	▲ 1
BE		38	▲ 11	32	▲ 8	28	▲ 8	28	▼ 4	27	▼ 1	26	▲ 3
BG		36	▲ 4	22	▲ 4	53	▼ 6	24	▼ 7	21	=	18	=
CZ		29	▲ 4	33	▲ 13	51	▼ 6	32	▼ 8	20	▲ 2	11	▲ 3
DK		53	▲ 6	41	▲ 6	15	▼ 4	29	▼ 7	30	▼ 1	22	▲ 2
DE		41	▲ 6	48	▲ 3	21	▲ 2	36	▼ 11	18	▼ 2	24	▲ 3
EE		32	▲ 6	30	▼ 1	55	▲ 9	46	▼ 5	11	=	17	▲ 1
IE		21	▲ 1	15	▲ 2	43	=	47	▼ 2	27	▲ 5	17	▲ 2
EL		37	▲ 5	52	▲ 1	18	▼ 8	20	▼ 5	33	▲ 3	21	▼ 4
ES		27	▲ 3	24	▲ 3	33	▲ 4	34	▼ 3	16	▼ 3	20	▲ 5
FR		35	▼ 4	38	▲ 6	25	▲ 2	19	▼ 6	34	=	17	▼ 3
HR		24	=	25	=	52	▼ 7	29	▼ 8	22	=	15	▲ 2
IT		32	▼ 1	33	▲ 5	30	=	20	▼ 2	31	▲ 4	22	▲ 1
CY		25	=	47	▲ 3	35	▼ 1	32	▲ 2	27	=	13	▼ 4
LV		33	▼ 1	34	=	52	▲ 3	35	▼ 9	11	▲ 2	18	=
LT		24	▼ 1	30	▲ 6	46	▼ 2	39	▼ 12	17	▲ 2	11	▲ 1
LU		36	▲ 5	28	▲ 4	26	▲ 2	42	▼ 3	26	▼ 6	21	▲ 2
HU		19	▼ 1	21	▲ 5	49	=	41	▼ 2	13	=	13	▼ 2
MT		21	▲ 4	12	▼ 1	54	▲ 8	38	▼ 1	30	=	14	▲ 2
NL		70	▲ 9	46	▲ 9	13	▼ 2	46	▼ 11	8	▼ 2	32	▼ 2
AT		34	▼ 6	35	▲ 6	28	▼ 5	32	▼ 4	28	▲ 1	27	▲ 4
PL		21	▲ 4	20	▲ 1	39	▼ 3	33	▼ 13	14	▼ 1	16	=
PT		35	▲ 2	21	▲ 6	43	▲ 2	31	▼ 7	39	▲ 7	15	▲ 3
RO		24	▲ 8	22	=	42	▼ 8	26	▼ 4	18	=	18	▲ 5
SI		28	▼ 2	31	▲ 2	44	▲ 5	40	▼ 6	11	▼ 2	15	▼ 2
SK		24	▲ 2	25	▲ 6	39	▼ 2	27	▼ 5	22	▲ 1	16	▲ 3
FI		56	▲ 2	36	▲ 4	49	▲ 5	22	▼ 12	19	▲ 4	31	▼ 1
SE		62	▲ 4	49	▲ 5	38	▲ 6	30	▼ 7	17	▲ 1	19	▲ 1
UK		30	▲ 5	30	▲ 3	34	▼ 1	33	▼ 7	26	▲ 3	21	▲ 5

Base: respondents who believe that their country benefited, 68% sample
Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), QF3

Q Which of the following are the main reasons for thinking that (OUR COUNTRY) has benefited from being a member of the EU? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS) (%)

		The EU improves (NATIONALITY) people's standard of living Diff. June 2019 - September 2018	The EU helps (OUR COUNTRY) in the fight against terrorism Diff. June 2019 - September 2018	The EU contributes to democracy in (OUR COUNTRY) Diff. June 2019 - September 2018	The EU helps (OUR COUNTRY) to tackle climate change Diff. June 2019 - September 2018	(NATIONALITY) people have an important influence in decisions made at EU level Diff. June 2019 - September 2018	You are generally in favour of the EU (SPONTANEOUS) Diff. June 2019 - September 2018						
EU28		19	▼ 3	15	==	14	▲ 1	14	▲ 3	11	▼ 1	1	▲ 1
BE		13	▼ 5	19	▼ 4	13	▼ 2	18	▲ 2	13	▲ 3	1	▲ 1
BG		16	▼ 6	12	▼ 2	19	▲ 6	4	▲ 2	8	▲ 1	0	==
CZ		30	▼ 4	11	==	14	▲ 4	9	▲ 4	5	==	2	▲ 1
DK		10	==	21	==	10	▲ 6	26	▲ 7	9	▼ 5	4	▲ 4
DE		16	▼ 2	11	▼ 3	15	==	16	▲ 3	10	▼ 2	1	==
EE		31	▼ 4	6	▼ 1	8	▲ 2	5	▲ 1	2	==	1	==
IE		39	▼ 3	9	▼ 2	14	▲ 1	15	▲ 3	10	▼ 2	0	▼ 1
EL		19	▲ 1	10	▼ 3	17	▼ 2	11	▲ 1	12	==	1	▲ 1
ES		21	▼ 3	16	▼ 4	14	▼ 2	12	▲ 3	10	▲ 3	1	==
FR		10	==	24	▲ 4	8	==	15	▲ 6	16	▼ 4	1	==
HR		27	▲ 5	11	▼ 2	19	▼ 3	9	==	10	==	0	==
IT		13	▼ 4	18	==	21	▲ 4	16	▲ 4	12	▼ 2	0	==
CY		28	▲ 6	7	▼ 4	19	==	15	▲ 7	9	▲ 1	0	▼ 1
LV		25	▼ 5	6	==	10	▲ 3	4	▲ 1	3	▲ 1	1	▲ 1
LT		38	▲ 1	5	▼ 2	13	▲ 1	6	▲ 2	5	▲ 1	0	▼ 1
LU		21	▼ 2	9	==	11	▲ 1	7	▲ 1	14	▲ 2	1	==
HU		29	▼ 4	8	==	16	▼ 1	8	▼ 1	11	▲ 1	0	▼ 1
MT		38	▲ 6	5	▼ 2	12	▲ 2	14	▲ 3	14	▲ 2	0	==
NL		10	▼ 3	20	▲ 4	3	==	20	▲ 2	4	▼ 1	2	▲ 2
AT		20	▲ 1	11	▼ 4	15	==	16	▼ 1	15	▲ 1	1	==
PL		34	▼ 2	8	▼ 1	17	▲ 1	11	▲ 2	10	▲ 2	0	==
PT		21	▼ 13	8	▼ 2	14	▼ 5	8	▲ 3	11	▲ 2	1	▲ 1
RO		24	▼ 4	11	▼ 1	23	▲ 1	10	==	12	▲ 2	1	▲ 1
SI		25	▲ 1	5	▼ 1	17	▲ 5	12	▲ 6	5	▲ 1	2	▲ 2
SK		24	▼ 5	11	▼ 2	15	==	11	▲ 2	10	▲ 2	0	==
FI		14	▼ 1	10	==	3	▼ 4	17	▲ 6	8	▼ 2	0	==
SE		5	==	16	▲ 3	3	==	20	▼ 3	16	▲ 1	1	▼ 2
UK		21	▼ 6	20	▲ 2	11	▲ 1	14	▲ 1	11	▼ 3	1	▲ 1

Base: respondents who believe that their country benefited, 68% sample

Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), QF3

In general, the perceived benefits of EU membership are viewed consistently across different socio-demographic groups. However, there are some variations.

Men are more likely than women to say that the EU contributes to economic growth in their country (35% compared with 27%), but findings are otherwise very similar by gender.

Older respondents are more likely than younger respondents are to say that the EU contributes to maintaining peace and strengthening security (38% of those aged 55 or over, falling to 29% of 15–24 year olds). By contrast, those aged 55 or over are less likely than younger respondents to say that EU membership improves co-operation between Member States (32% compared with 34%–36%) and that the EU brings new work opportunities to people in their country (29% compared with 32%–34%).

The main difference by level of education is in the proportion that say EU membership improves co-operation between Member States. This is higher among those who left education at the age of 20 or above (42%) than those who left education at the age of 15 or below (24%). This reason is also more likely to be given by managers (42%) than those in other socio-professional categories.

Respondents who have difficulties paying bills are less likely to say that the EU contributes to economic growth in their country (23% compared with 33% of those who rarely or never have difficulties). Findings are generally similar between those who voted in the recent European Parliament elections and those who did not vote, although voters are more likely than non-voters to say that EU membership improves co-operation between Member States (37% compared with 31%) and that the EU contributes to maintaining peace and strengthening security (38% compared with 29%).

Responses are generally not influenced greatly by other attitudes towards the EU. The one exception is the view that the EU contributes to maintaining peace and strengthening security. Respondents are more likely to say this if they agree that their voice counts in the EU (37%) than if they disagree (29%).

Q Which of the following are the main reasons for thinking that (OUR COUNTRY) has benefited from being a member of the EU? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS) (% - EU)

	Membership of the EU improves co-operation between (OUR COUNTRY) and the other countries of the EU	The EU contributes to maintaining peace and strengthening security	The EU contributes to economic growth in (OUR COUNTRY)	The EU brings (NATIONALITY) people new work opportunities	The EU gives (NATIONALITY) people a stronger say in the world	Membership of the EU improves co-operation between (OUR COUNTRY) and countries outside the EU
EU28	34	34	31	31	22	20
Gender						
Man	34	34	35	31	22	20
Woman	34	33	27	32	22	21
Age						
15-24	36	29	32	33	22	20
25-39	34	30	32	34	22	20
40-54	36	34	31	32	24	22
55 +	32	38	31	29	21	19
Education (End of)						
15-	24	34	30	25	22	17
16-19	29	32	30	32	22	18
20+	42	38	31	32	23	23
Still studying	36	30	33	33	21	22
Socio-professional category						
Self-employed	36	35	34	29	23	22
Managers	42	40	34	32	22	20
Other white collars	36	32	31	36	23	23
Manual workers	32	27	30	35	23	19
House persons	27	35	27	33	23	19
Unemployed	34	32	28	25	25	20
Retired	31	39	29	28	21	19
Students	36	30	33	33	21	22
Difficulties paying bills						
Most of the time	32	31	23	30	25	20
From time to time	28	29	26	31	23	19
Almost never/ Never	36	36	33	32	22	21
Subjective urbanisation						
Rural village	33	33	31	34	21	19
Small/ mid size town	34	34	31	30	23	21
Large town	36	34	31	31	21	20
My voice counts in the EU						
Agree	35	37	32	30	23	21
Disagree	32	29	29	33	20	19
Declared voting behaviour EE19						
Voted	37	38	33	31	22	21
Did not vote	31	29	29	33	22	19

Base: respondents who believe that their country benefited, 68% sample
Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), QF3

Q Which of the following are the main reasons for thinking that (OUR COUNTRY) has benefited from being a member of the EU? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS) (% - EU)

	The EU improves (NATIONALITY) people's standard of living	The EU helps (OUR COUNTRY) in the fight against terrorism	The EU contributes to democracy in (OUR COUNTRY)	The EU helps (OUR COUNTRY) to tackle climate change	(NATIONALITY) people have an important influence in decisions made at EU level	You are generally in favour of the EU (SPONTANEOUS)	Other (SPONTANEOUS)
EU28	19	15	14	14	11	1	1
Gender							
Man	21	13	14	13	11	1	1
Woman	18	16	14	15	10	1	1
Age							
15-24	22	12	14	15	10	1	2
25-39	20	13	14	16	12	1	1
40-54	18	14	13	13	12	1	1
55 +	19	17	14	13	10	1	1
Education (End of)							
15-	21	16	16	12	11	1	1
16-19	19	16	15	14	11	1	1
20+	18	13	12	14	11	0	1
Still studying	22	12	14	16	11	1	1
Socio-professional category							
Self-employed	22	11	11	14	10	1	1
Managers	17	10	11	13	14	1	1
Other white collars	18	14	16	14	10	0	1
Manual workers	19	17	16	14	12	0	2
House persons	21	17	10	14	10	1	3
Unemployed	18	12	14	15	10	1	1
Retired	19	17	14	13	10	1	1
Students	22	12	14	16	11	1	1
Difficulties paying bills							
Most of the time	16	16	15	16	12	1	1
From time to time	19	18	16	14	13	1	1
Almost never/ Never	19	14	13	14	10	1	1
Subjective urbanisation							
Rural village	20	14	14	12	11	1	1
Small/ mid size town	18	16	14	15	10	1	1
Large town	20	13	13	14	12	1	1
My voice counts in the EU							
Agree	20	14	14	14	12	1	1
Disagree	17	16	13	13	9	1	1
Declared voting behaviour EE19							
Voted	19	14	14	14	11	1	1
Did not vote	19	15	13	14	11	1	2

Base: respondents who believe that their country benefited, 68% sample
 Source: Eurobarometer 2019 (91.5), QF3

TECHNICAL NOTE ON THE IMPACT OF THE GDPR

In May 2018 the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) came into force. The GDPR imposes strict obligations on Kantar and its supply chain. GDPR implementation also impacts the implementation of Eurobarometer studies in several ways.

HIGHER STANDARD FOR CONSENT

Consent to participate in a survey and to process personal data must be unambiguous and by a statement or clear affirmative action – and capable of withdrawal at any time: inactivity, silence and pre-ticked boxes cannot constitute consent (Art. 7). For this reason, for all Eurobarometer surveys, explicit consent is now sought from the respondents based on a privacy policy (in the language of the respondent) and reassuring them that “the collected responses will be thoroughly anonymised, and all identifiable information will be removed”.

AGE OF RESPONDENTS AND PARENTAL CONSENT

The universe for Eurobarometer studies covers people aged 15 years old and over. The upcoming GDPR regulations state that for all respondents aged under 16 there is a need for consent from their parents or legal guardian to proceed with the contact, though member states can lower this age requirement to 13 if they choose to do so (Art. 8).

CONSENT FOR PROCESSING ‘SENSITIVE’ PERSONAL DATA

Under the new GDPR, “processing of personal data revealing racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, or trade union membership”, as well as “the processing of genetic data, biometric data, data concerning health or data concerning a natural person’s sex life or sexual orientation” are prohibited, unless the data subject has given explicit consent to do so (art. 9). For all Eurobarometer questionnaires, Kantar Public identifies in advance so-called ‘sensitive questions’ that are related to political opinions, religious beliefs, racial or ethnic origin, health, sex life or sexual orientation. During the screener phase, the interviewer informs the respondents that the questionnaire includes some questions that might be considered ‘sensitive’ and asks them whether they would agree to be asked these questions. In case the respondents refuse, then these questions will be skipped for them. The consent is asked in a way that allows respondents to selectively agree or refuse to be asked questions about a certain category of ‘sensitive’ data (e.g. they can give consent to be asked questions about their political views, but refuse to be asked questions related to their health). This means that the response rate for the questions that are considered ‘sensitive’ might be lower than for the rest of the questions. The refusal to answer sensitive questions is recorded into a special category, so that we can measure the impact of the new GDPR on our questionnaires and to take it into account for future studies.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Between the 7th and the 26th of June 2019, Kantar on behalf of Kantar Belgium carried out the wave 91.5 of the EUROBAROMETER survey. The wave 91.5 includes the Eurobarometer “Post-electoral study: European elections 2019” and covers the population of the respective nationalities of the European Union Member States, resident in each of the 28 Member States and aged 15 years and over.

This Eurobarometer survey was commissioned by the European Parliament Directorate-General for Communication, “Public Opinion Monitoring” Unit.

	COUNTRIES	INSTITUTES	N°	FIELDWORK		POPULATION 15+	PROPORTION EU28
			INTERVIEW	DATES			
BE	Belgium	Kantar Belgium (Kantar TNS)	1,057	07/06/2019	18/06/2019	9,693,779	2.25%
BG	Bulgaria	Kantar TNS BBSS	1,031	07/06/2019	19/06/2019	6,537,535	1.52%
CZ	Czechia	Kantar CZ	1,004	08/06/2019	18/06/2019	9,238,431	2.14%
DK	Denmark	Kantar Gallup	1,013	07/06/2019	24/06/2019	4,838,729	1.12%
DE	Germany	Kantar Deutschland	1,487	10/06/2019	25/06/2019	70,160,634	16.26%
EE	Estonia	Kantar Emor	1,003	07/06/2019	19/06/2019	1,160,064	0.27%
IE	Ireland	Behaviour & Attitudes	1,028	07/06/2019	18/06/2019	3,592,162	0.83%
EL	Greece	Taylor Nelson Sofres Market Research	1,012	07/06/2019	17/06/2019	9,937,810	2.30%
ES	Spain	TNS Investigación de Mercados y Opinión	1,007	08/06/2019	18/06/2019	39,445,245	9.14%
FR	France	Kantar Public France	1,013	07/06/2019	19/06/2019	54,097,255	12.54%
HR	Croatia	Hendal	1,014	08/06/2019	19/06/2019	3,796,476	0.88%
IT	Italy	Kantar Italia	1,026	07/06/2019	17/06/2019	52,334,536	12.13%
CY	Rep. Of Cyprus	CYMAR Market Research	505	07/06/2019	19/06/2019	741,308	0.17%
LV	Latvia	Kantar TNS Latvia	1,016	08/06/2019	19/06/2019	1,707,082	0.40%
LT	Lithuania	TNS LT	1,006	07/06/2019	18/06/2019	2,513,384	0.58%
LU	Luxembourg	ILReS	506	07/06/2019	21/06/2019	457,127	0.11%
HU	Hungary	Kantar Hoffmann	1,038	08/06/2019	19/06/2019	8,781,161	2.04%
MT	Malta	MISCO International	503	12/06/2019	25/06/2019	364,171	0.08%
NL	Netherlands	TNS NIPO	1,020	07/06/2019	20/06/2019	13,979,215	3.24%
AT	Austria	Das Österreichische Gallup Institut	1,022	07/06/2019	19/06/2019	7,554,711	1.75%
PL	Poland	Kantar Polska	1,000	08/06/2019	19/06/2019	33,444,171	7.75%
PT	Portugal	Marktest – Marketing, Organização e Formação	1,008	08/06/2019	18/06/2019	8,480,126	1.97%
RO	Romania	Centrul Pentru Studierea Opiniei si Pietei (CSOP)	1,025	07/06/2019	19/06/2019	16,852,701	3.91%
SI	Slovenia	Mediana DOO	1,011	07/06/2019	17/06/2019	1,760,032	0.41%
SK	Slovakia	Kantar Slovakia	1,058	08/06/2019	18/06/2019	4,586,024	1.06%
FI	Finland	Kantar TNS Oy	1,004	07/06/2019	24/06/2019	4,747,810	1.10%
SE	Sweden	Kantar Sifo	1,015	07/06/2019	24/06/2019	7,998,763	1.85%
UK	United Kingdom	Kantar UK Limited	1,032	07/06/2019	18/06/2019	52,651,777	12.20%
TOTAL EU28			27,464	07/06/2019	25/06/2019	431,452,219	100%*

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

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.

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), Kantar 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 here.

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 the sampling process
(at the 95% level of confidence)**

Sample sizes are in row s

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	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%	

THE 2019 POST-ELECTORAL SURVEY

This Eurobarometer survey of the European Parliament (EP/EB 91.5) was carried out in all 28 Member States of the European Union, from 7 until 26 June 2019, by

KANTAR

The European Parliament's Post-Election Eurobarometer is one of the most comprehensive quantitative surveys publicly available analysing citizens voting behaviour and motivation in European Parliament elections.

Starting from the significant increase in voter turnout in the 2019 elections, this report looks in detail at who went to vote in the 2019 European elections, analysing the variations between EU countries, socio-demographic and socio-professional groups.

**A publication of the
Public Opinion Monitoring Unit
Directorate-General for Communication
European Parliament**

PE 640.156

ISBN: 978-92-846-5512-0

DOI: 10.2861/259606

Catalogue Number: QA-02-19-715-EN-N