



# PUBLIC OPINION MONITORING *at a glance*

*The European Parliament and the expectations of European citizens*

Plenary - October I 2018



DG Communication is continuously monitoring public opinion by conducting regular Eurobarometer surveys in all 28 EU Member States. **This newsletter aims at providing Members with the most recent Eurobarometer data on key topics of this week's plenary agenda.**

Although this service cannot be fully exhaustive, as not all items on the plenary agenda have been the subject of a recent Eurobarometer survey, we can offer fresh survey data on the following items of the plenary session:

- **Preparation of the European Council meeting of 18 and 19 October 2018**
- **'Future of Europe': Debate with the Prime Minister of Estonia , Jüri Ratas**
- **The rule of law in Romania**
- **Emission performance standards for new passenger cars and for new light commercial vehicles**
- **EU Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (Eurojust)**

Parliament's Eurobarometer surveys cover a wide range of issues. They focus primarily on the European citizens' knowledge of the European Parliament and their perceptions of the EU and its main policy challenges. Expectations in view of the European elections, of the European Parliament and the European integration in general also form part of the face-to-face interviews conducted with more than 27.000 respondents.

Together with the Eurobarometer surveys conducted by the European Commission, **the data available allows for a detailed and up-to-date insight into citizens' opinions, expectations and perceptions.**

For additional information on the topics covered in this edition, please contact [public.opinion.monitoring@ep.europa.eu](mailto:public.opinion.monitoring@ep.europa.eu).

Best regards,

Philipp M. Schulmeister, *Head of Unit*  
Public Opinion Monitoring Unit DG Communication

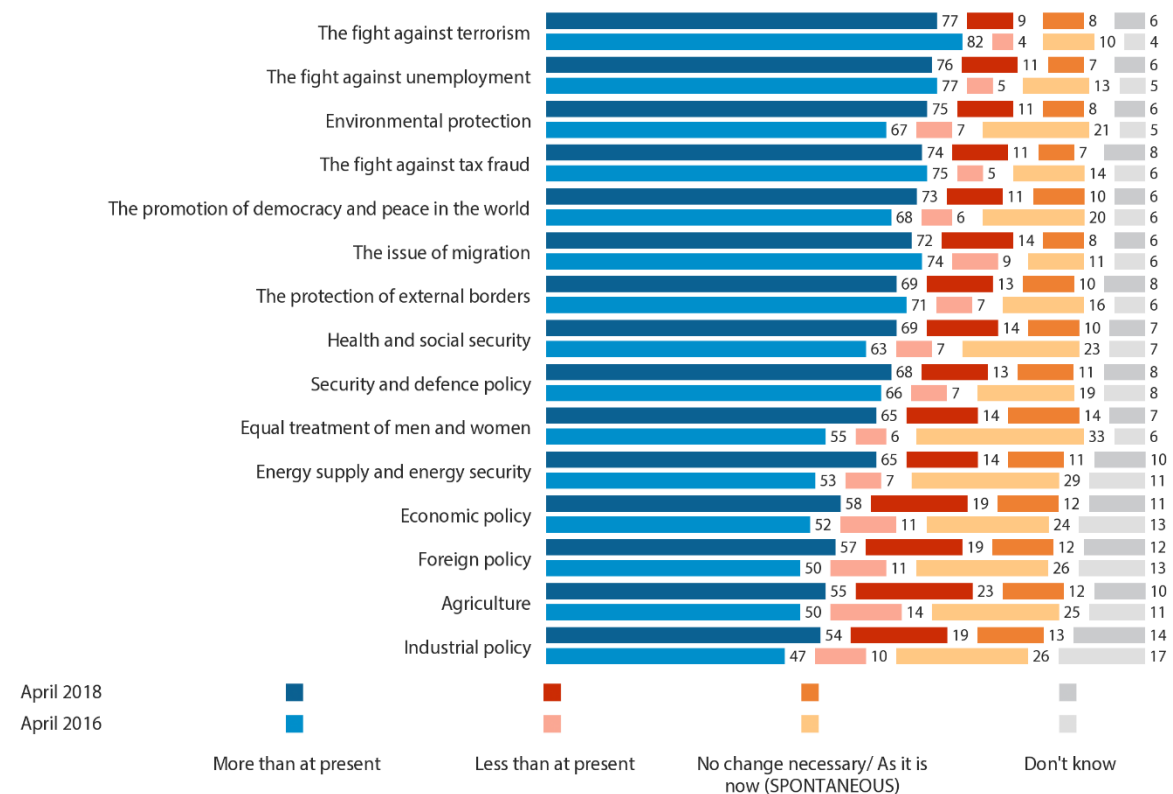
## Preparation of the European Council meeting 18 and 19 October 2018

Members will discuss their [priorities for the 18-19 October European Council meeting](#) on Tuesday morning. Migration, internal security, external relations and the state of play of the negotiations on the UK's withdrawal agreement are expected to feature on the summit's agenda.

Less than one year ahead of the European elections, [the latest European Parliament Eurobarometer survey: 'Delivering on Europe', published mid-September](#), explores how citizens view current EU action and in which areas they want to see 'more Europe' than today. The report compares the 2018 results in an array of fifteen policy areas with results from 2016 - painting a picture of increasing awareness of 'EU delivery' with citizens and, at the same time, a clear wish for more EU action in the future.

**Terrorism, unemployment and the protection of the environment** are the three policy areas where, on EU average, more than three-quarters of respondents call for more EU action in the future (respectively 77%, 76% and 75%). These three policy fields were and remain the citizens' top priorities for European intervention.

**QA27** For each of the following areas, would you like the European Union to intervene less than at present or more than at present?  
(% - EU28)

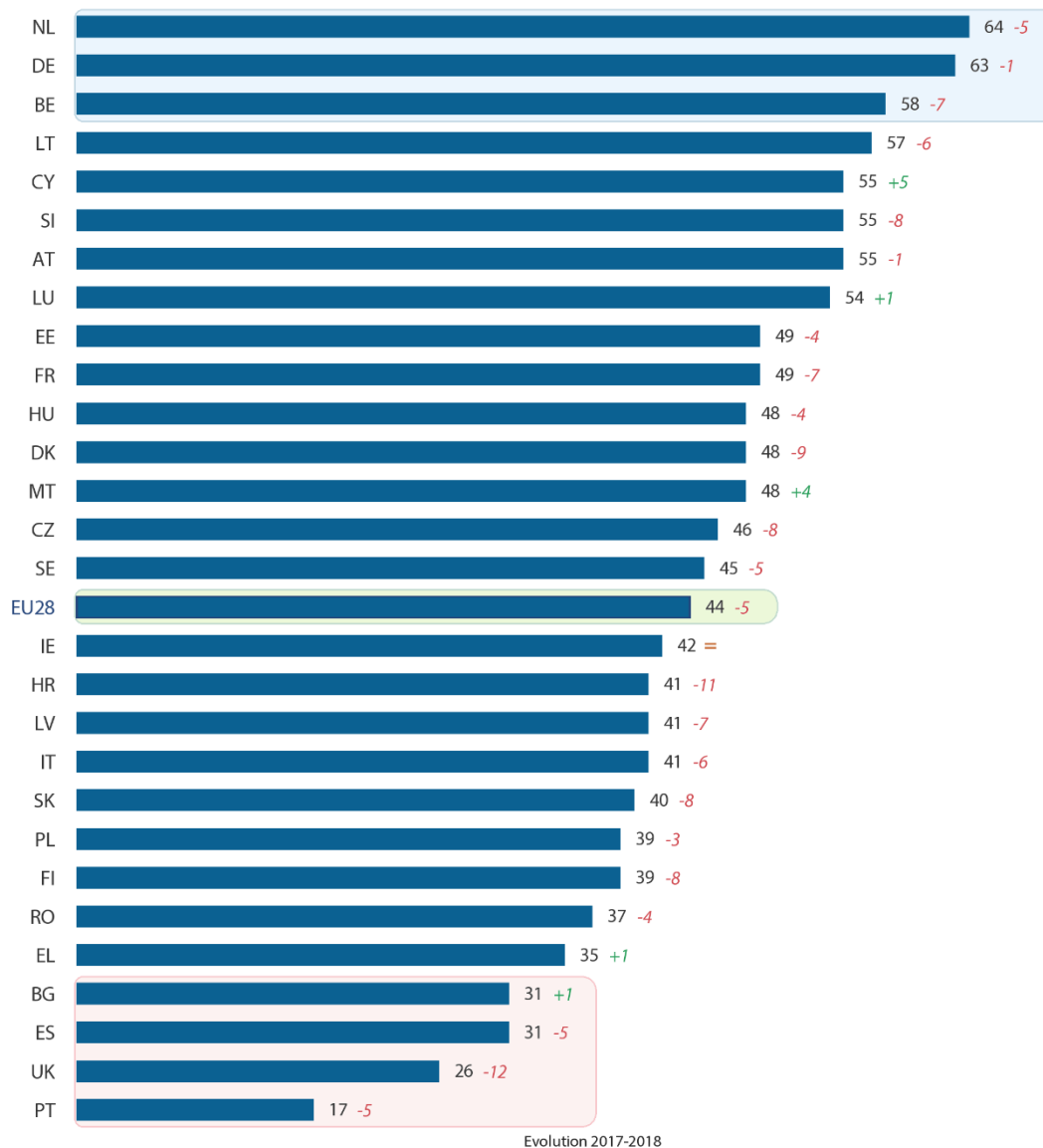


For more detailed information: [Eurobarometer 85.1 \(June 2016\)](#) and [Eurobarometer 89.2 \(April 2018\)](#)

Yet, how to go about it? European citizens are of two minds when it comes to the pace and method of further EU integration: 44% of respondents would agree with certain Member States moving ahead 'without waiting for the other EU Member States'.

While this is the same result as in 2016, we measure a slight increase by 2 percentage points to 43% (compared to 2016) of respondents who would rather think it better 'to wait for all Member States to be ready' before enhancing the development of a common European policy in certain important areas.

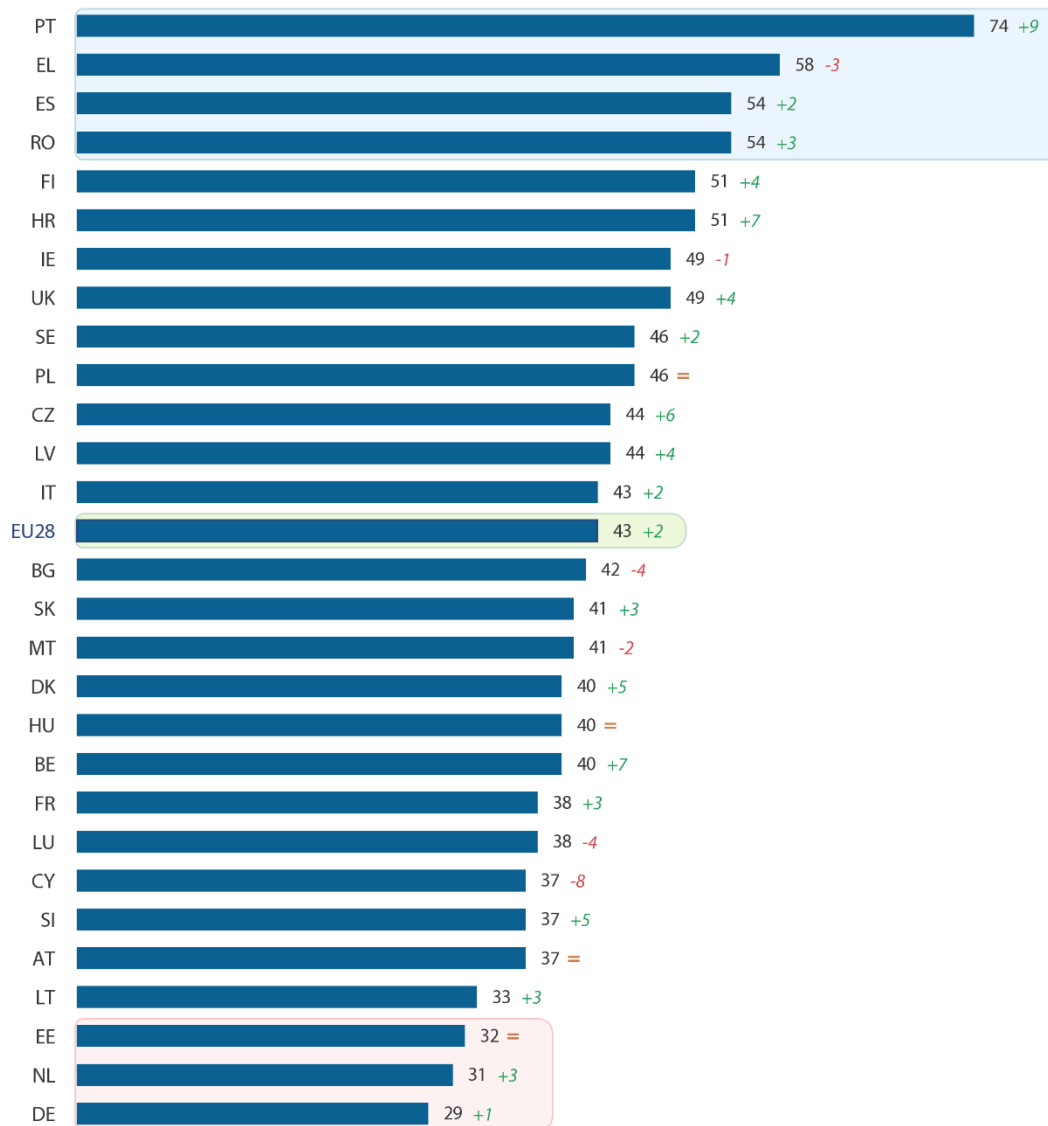
**80-QA28** When it comes to the EU's activities, some Member States are ready to enhance the development of a common European policy in certain important areas. Do you think that they should...? (M)  
**Do so without waiting for the other EU Member States (%)**



For more detailed information: [Eurobarometer 89.2 - One Year before the European Elections \(April 2018\)](#)

**80-QA28** When it comes to the EU's activities, some Member States are ready to enhance the development of a common European policy in certain important areas. Do you think that they should...? (M)

**Wait for all the EU Member States to be ready to do it (%)**



Evolution 2017-2018

For more detailed information: [Eurobarometer 89.2 - One Year before the European Elections \(April 2018\)](#)

# 2

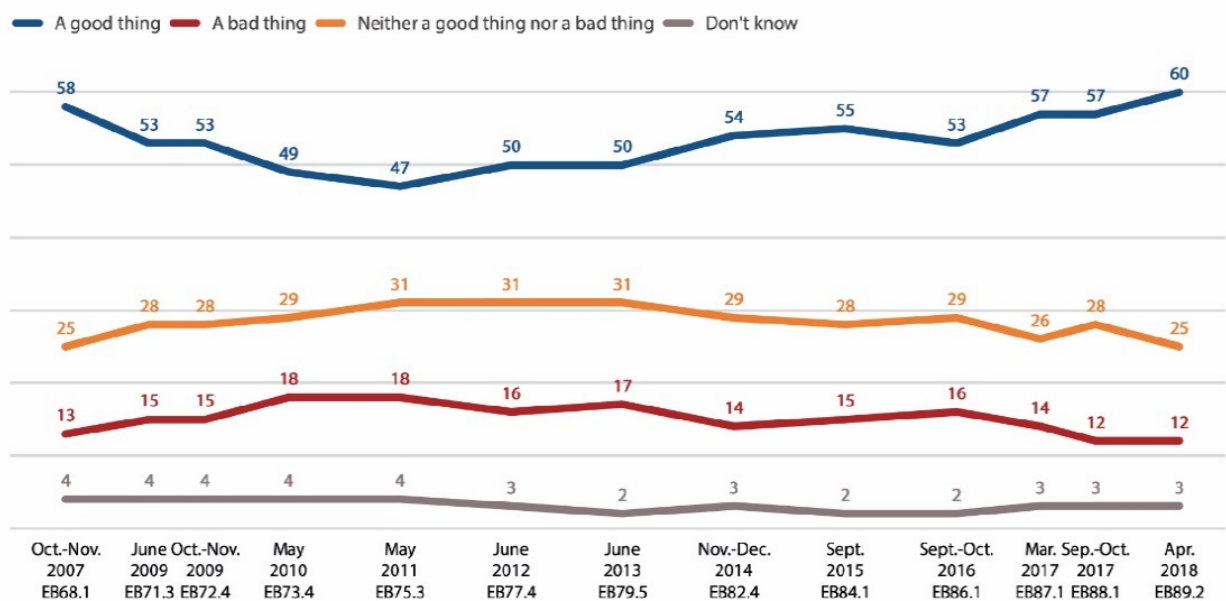
## Debate with the Prime Minister of Estonia, Juri Ratas, on the Future of Europe

Parliament’s series of [debates on the future of Europe continues](#). The Prime Minister of Estonia, [Jüri Ratas](#), will be the twelfth European Union leader to debate the Future of Europe with MEPs on Tuesday morning.

The European Parliament Eurobarometer survey [Democracy on the move](#), published in May 2018, not only confirmed citizens’ broad support for the European Union, but also reaffirmed the positive outlook a clear majority of European citizens have for the future of the European Union.

The Eurobarometer indicator measuring citizens’ support for their country’s EU membership significantly jumped in 2018 to a European average of 60% of citizens who believe that the EU membership of their country is a good thing. This is not only the highest result since the start of measuring this indicator in 2007, but also a continuation of the positive trend measured since the financial and economic crisis.

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

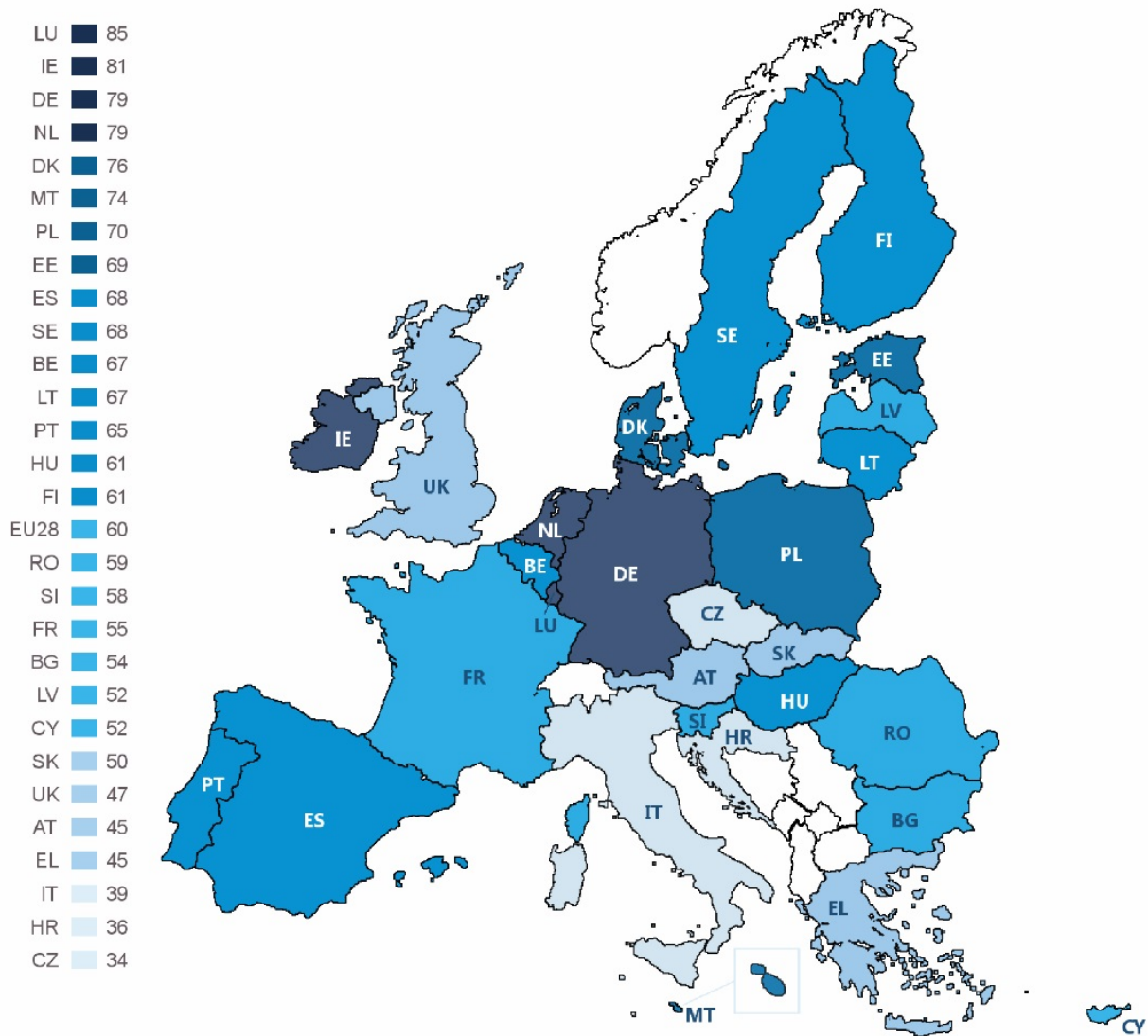


Source: Eurobarometer 2018 89.2, QA23

For more detailed information: [Special Eurobarometer 2018: Democracy on the Move \(April 2018\)](#)

It is, however, important to look also the individual national results, as the spread of opinions becomes more visible:

**Q** Generally speaking, do you think that (OUR COUNTRY)'s membership of the EU is...? (Total 'a good thing' - %)

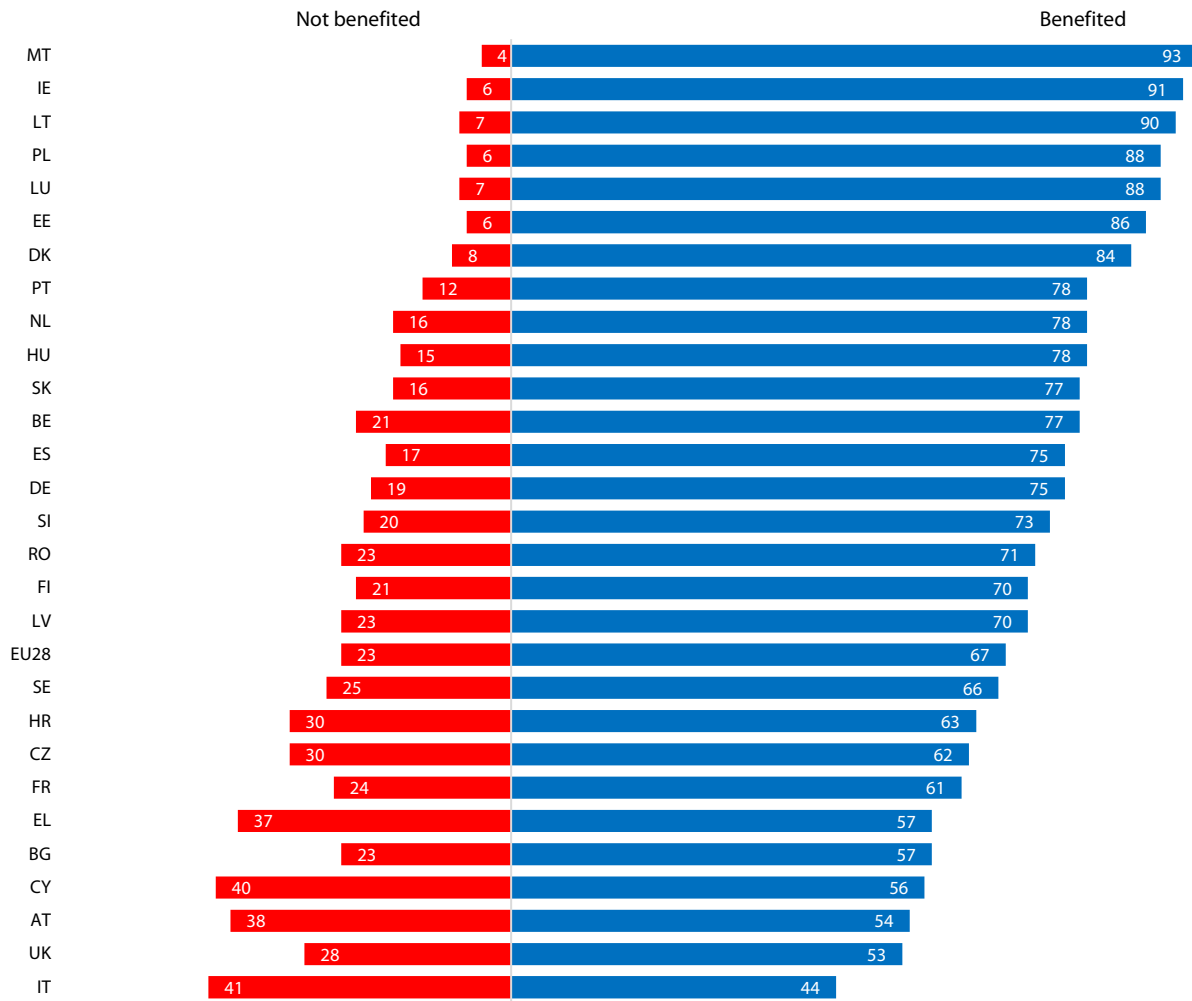


Source: Eurobarometer 2018 89.2, QA23

For more detailed information: [Special Eurobarometer 2018: Democracy on the Move \(April 2018\)](#)

Yet even more important are citizens' answers on the question whether they think that their country has **benefitted from being a member of the EU**. A record high of 67% of respondents said so in the last survey, resulting in the **highest score for this indicator for 35 years**.

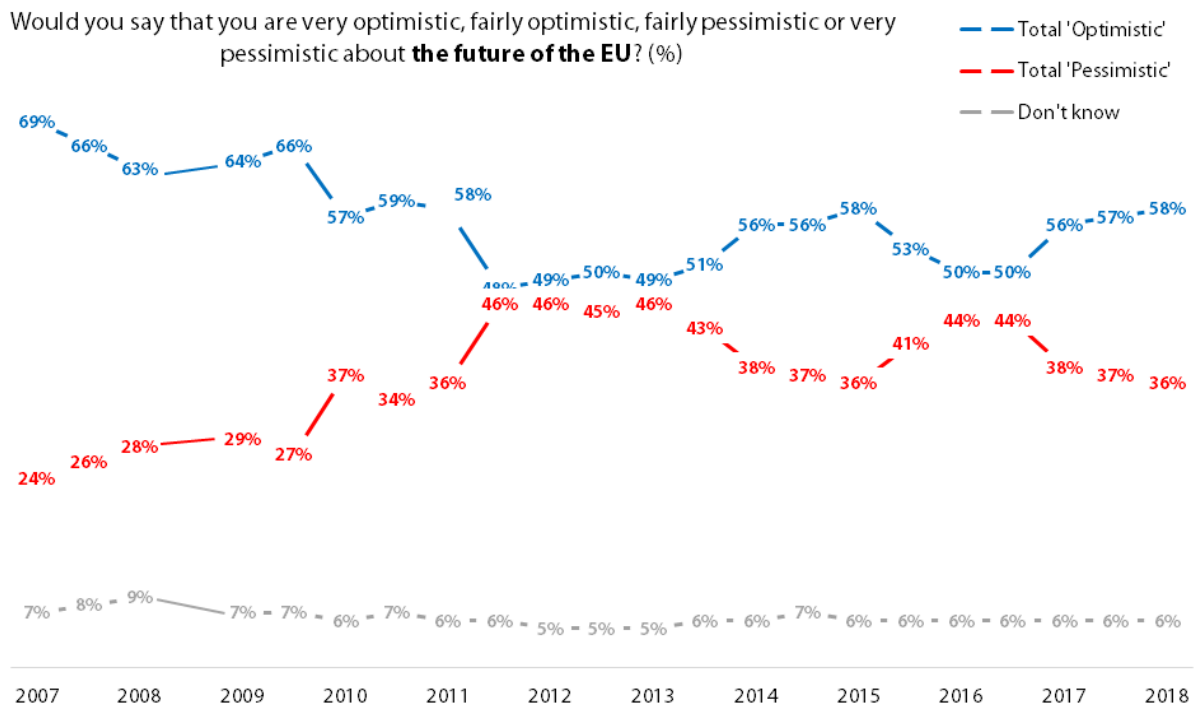
Taking everything into account, would you say that (OUR COUNTRY) has on balance benefited or not from being a member of the EU?



Special Eurobarometer 88.2 (2018): QA23

For more detailed information: [Special Eurobarometer 2018: Democracy on the Move \(April 2018\)](#)

Last, but not least it is worthwhile to look at citizens' optimism for the future of the EU: After a third consecutive increase, 58% of respondents now say they are optimistic for the future of the European Union (+1 percentage point since autumn 2017, and +8 since autumn 2016). Correspondingly, slightly above a third of respondents (36%) feel rather pessimistic, a drop of 8 percentage points from 2016.



For more detailed information: [Standard Eurobarometer \(March 2018\)](#)

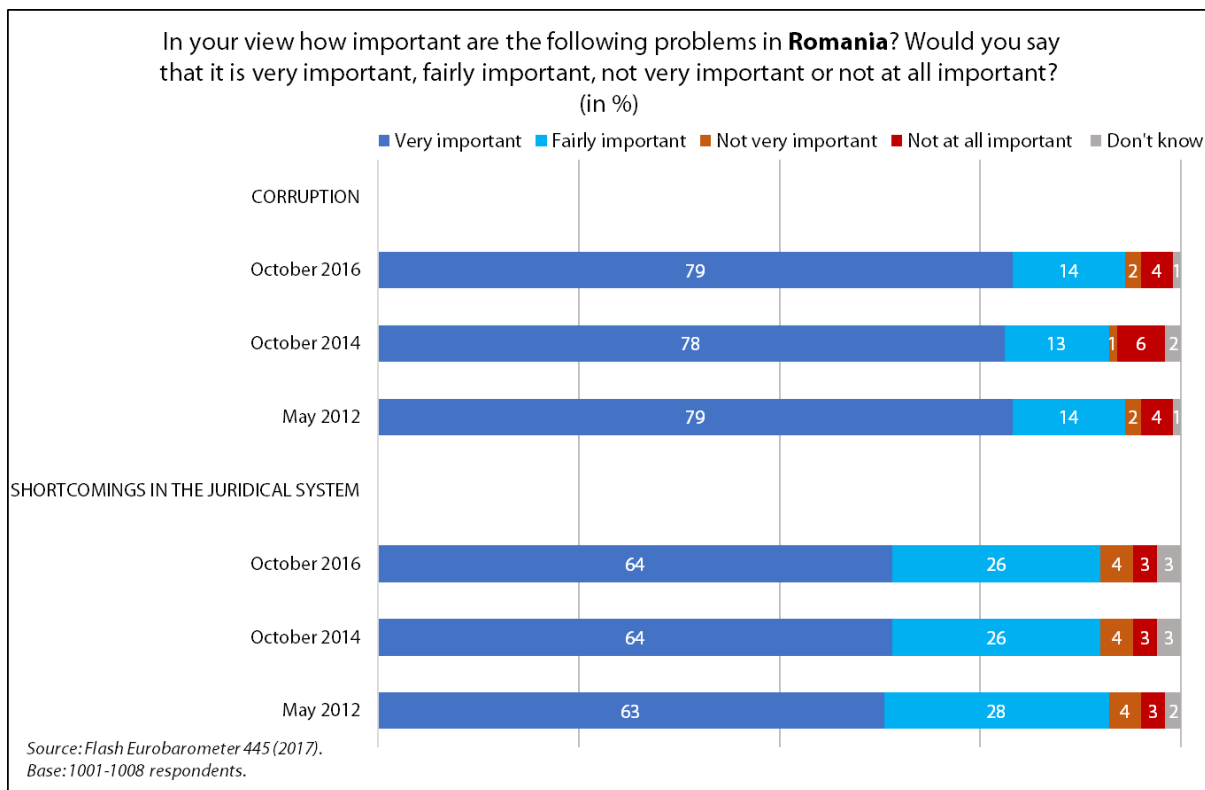


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## The rule of law in Romania

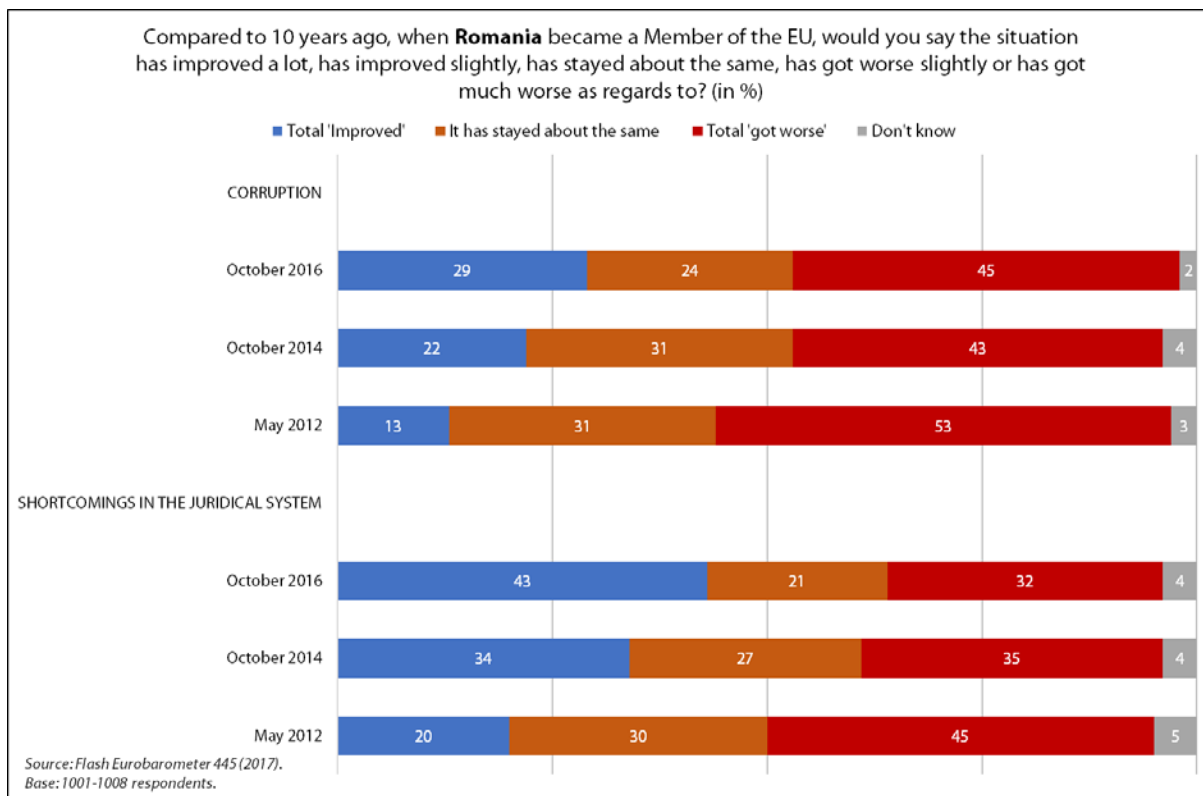
The European Union has proclaimed the Rule of Law principle and respect for fundamental rights and freedoms to be binding on all its Member States. On Wednesday, the European Parliament will examine with Council and Commission the [rule of law in Romania](#) as it has done previously this year for other Member States. A resolution will be put to a vote in plenary in November.

In a Flash Eurobarometer survey from October 2016, respondents in Romania were asked to assess how important the problems of corruption and shortcomings in the judicial system were in their country? The answer was clear: A large majority of respondents in Romania thought that corruption and judicial shortcomings were important problems.



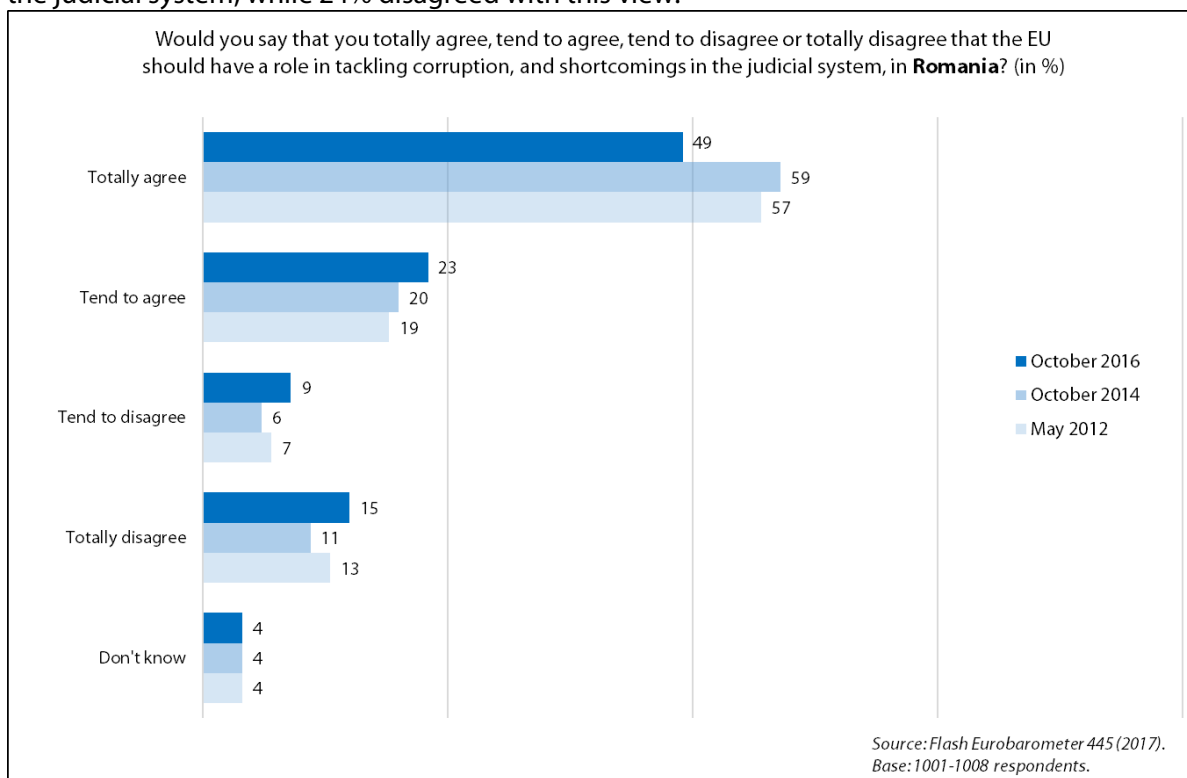
For more detailed information: [Flash Eurobarometer on the Cooperation and Verification Mechanism for Bulgaria and Romania- Third wave \(October 2016\)](#)

And while more respondents in Romania believe (compared to 2012) that the situation regarding corruption and judicial shortcomings had improved since EU accession, a relative majority still believes that the situation got worse over time.



For more detailed information: [Flash Eurobarometer on the Cooperation and Verification Mechanism for Bulgaria and Romania- Third wave \(October 2016\)](#)

72% of respondents said that the EU should have a role in tackling corruption and shortcomings in the judicial system, while 24% disagreed with this view.

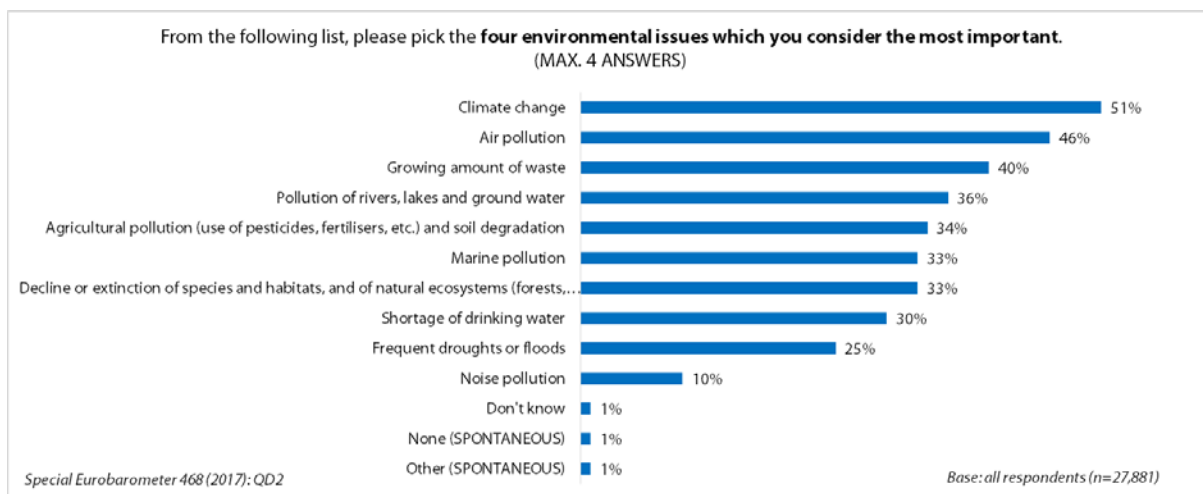


For more detailed information: [Flash Eurobarometer on the Cooperation and Verification Mechanism for Bulgaria and Romania- Third wave \(October 2016\)](#)

# 4

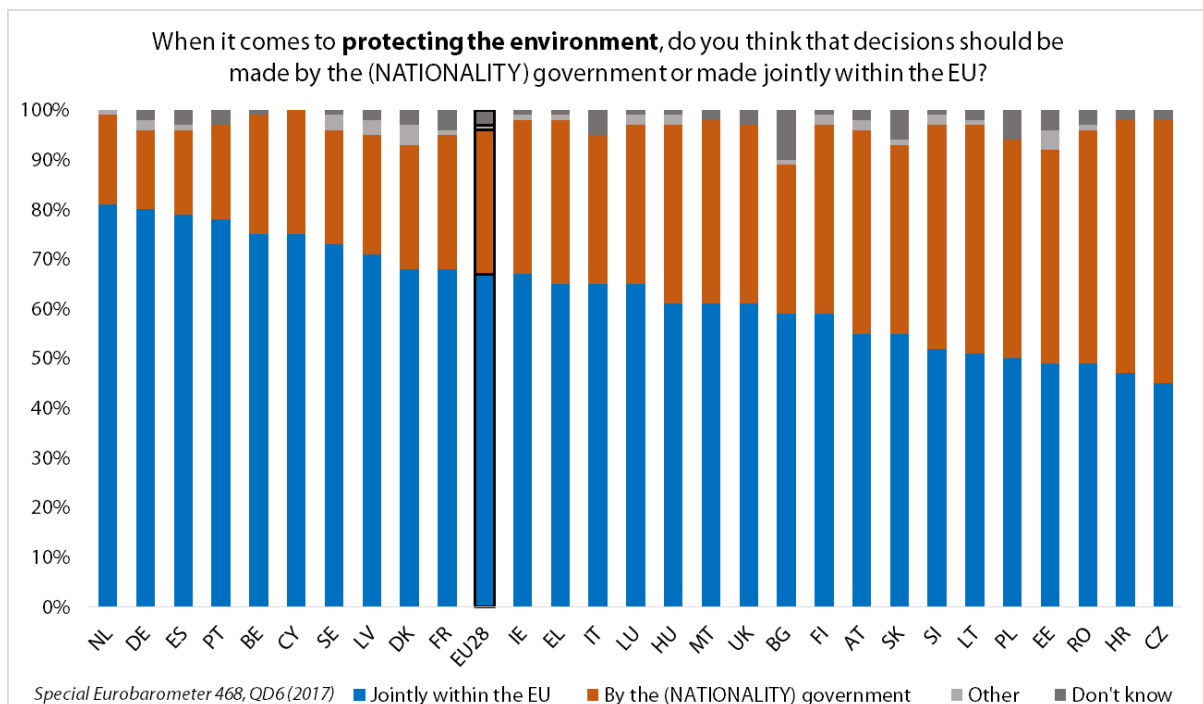
## Emission performance standards for new passenger cars and for new light commercial vehicles

With the Paris Agreement, the largest part of the global community has committed to move towards a low-carbon economy. In this context, Members will, next Tuesday, discuss a new legislative proposal which seeks [to set cost-effective CO2 emission reduction targets for new light-duty vehicles up to 2030](#) combined with a dedicated incentive mechanism to increase the share of zero/low-emission vehicles (Vote on Wednesday). According to a special [Eurobarometer on Attitudes of European citizens towards the Environment from October 2017](#), citizens consider climate change (51%), air pollution (46%) and waste (40%) as most important environmental issues.



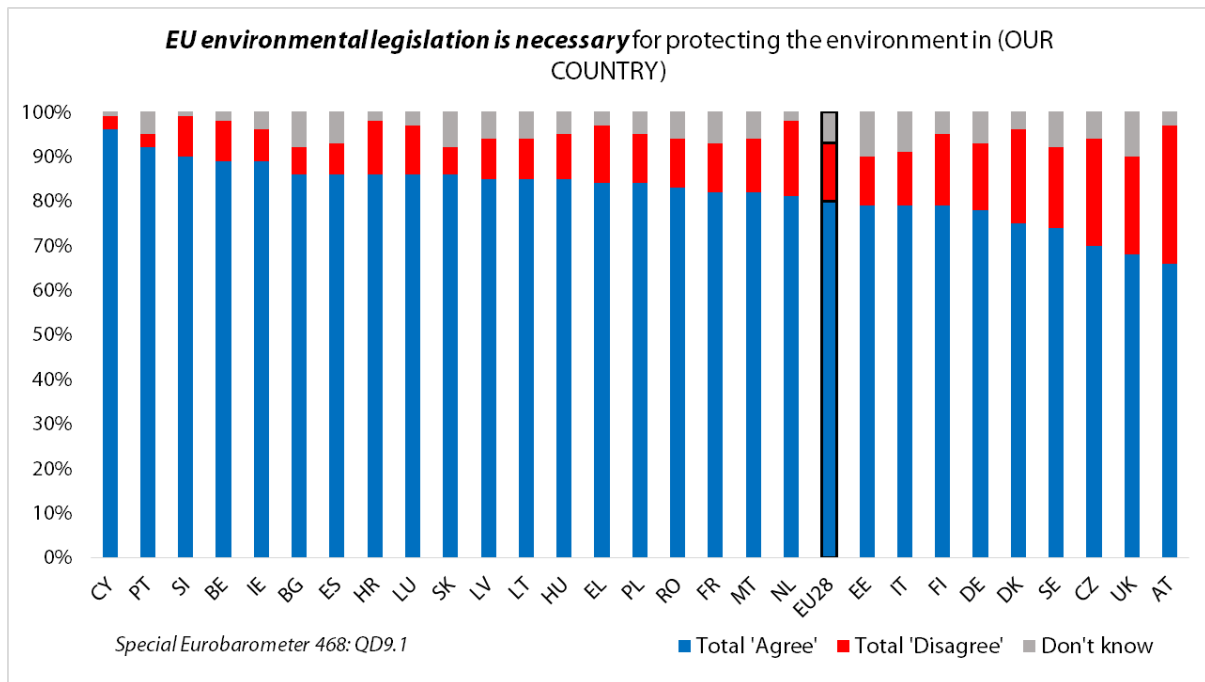
For more detailed information: [Special Eurobarometer on Attitudes of European citizens towards the environment \(Oct. 2017\)](#)

Furthermore, 67% of Europeans think that environmental decisions should be taken jointly within the EU, 29% believe that national governments should take such decisions individually.



For more detailed information: [Special Eurobarometer on Attitudes of European citizens towards the environment](#)

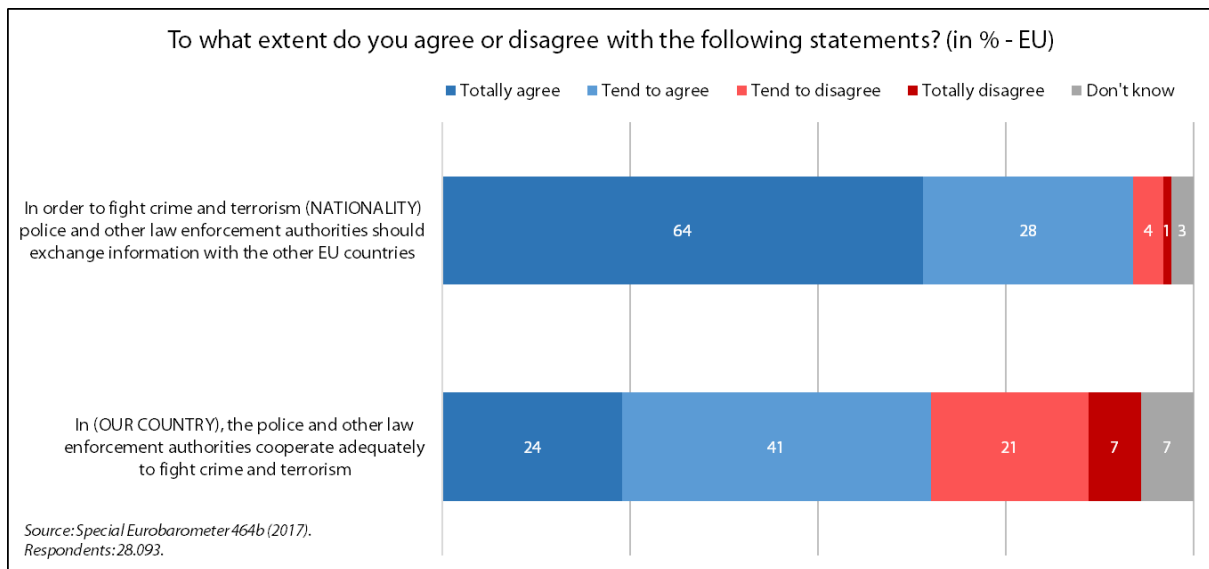
Moreover, a large majority of Europeans agree that European Union environmental legislation is necessary for protecting the environment in their country.



For more detailed information: [Special Eurobarometer on Attitudes of European citizens towards the environment \(Oct. 2017\)](#)

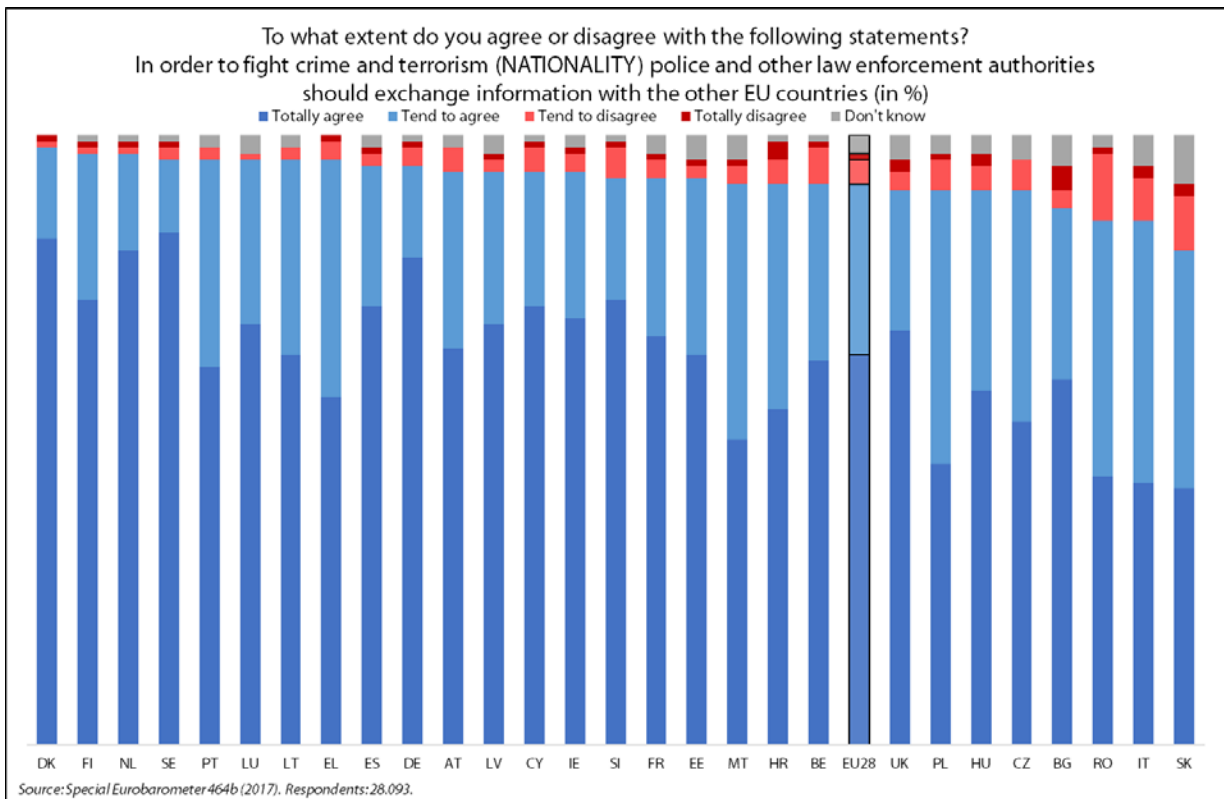
Since 2002, Eurojust has facilitated coordination and cooperation between national investigative and prosecutorial authorities in dealing with cases affecting various Member States. The fight against organised crime and the disruption of criminal organisations effectively requires a coordinated pan-European response. Against this background, Members propose to repeal the Regulation establishing Eurojust by creating a new legal framework in view of the creation of [an EU Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation](#) which is the legal successor of Eurojust (Vote on Thursday).

A special Eurobarometer survey from June 2017 found that in most countries, a majority of respondents think the police and other national law enforcement authorities cooperate adequately to fight crime and terrorism.



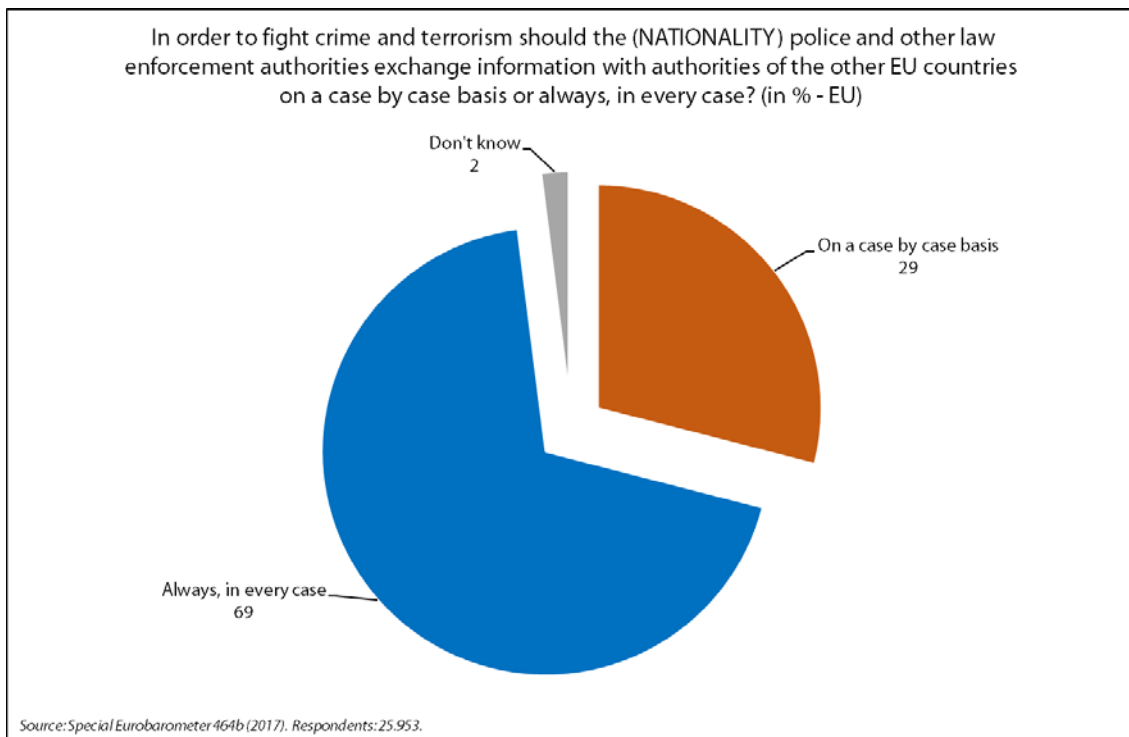
For more detailed information: [Special Eurobarometer on Europeans' attitudes towards Security \(June 2017\)](#)

A significant majority of respondents in all countries agree on the need to share information within the EU to better fight crime and terrorism.



For more detailed information: [Special Eurobarometer on Europeans' attitudes towards Security \(June 2017\)](#)

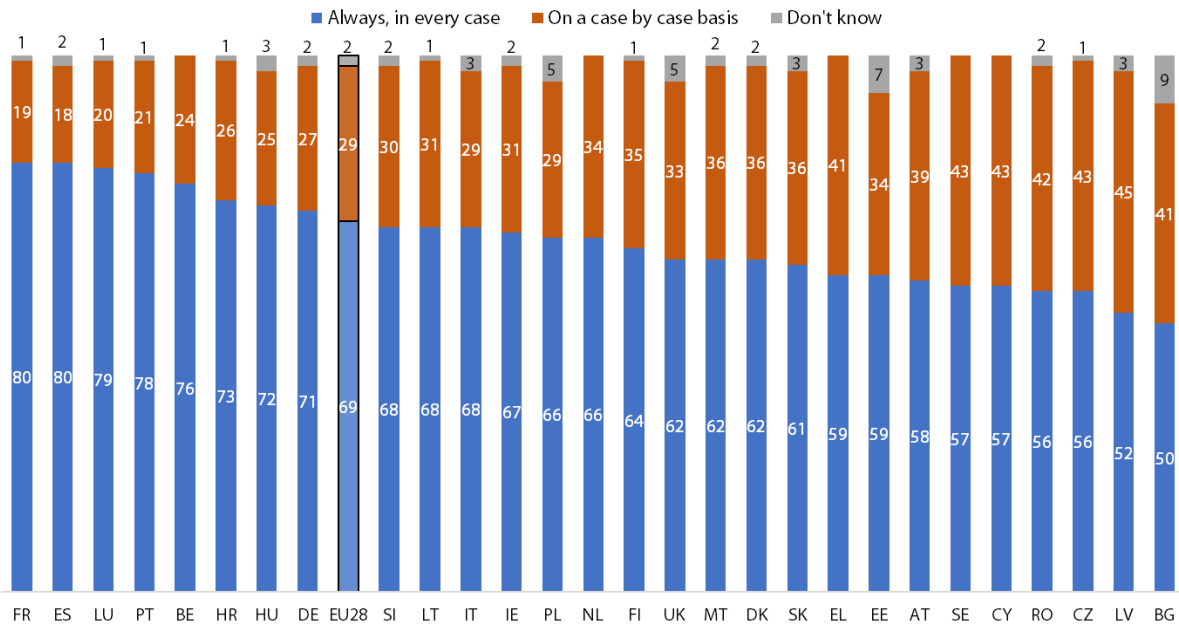
Moreover, nearly seven in ten (69%) of respondents that national police and other national law enforcement authorities should share information within the EU as a matter of course, with less than three in ten (29%) saying that this should happen on a strictly case by case basis.



For more detailed information: [Special Eurobarometer on Europeans' attitudes towards Security \(June 2017\)](#)

In all countries, more respondents think that information should be shared in every case. However, there are clear differences between countries. In Spain and France, eight in ten (80%) of the respondents think this way, compared with only half in Bulgaria.

In order to fight crime and terrorism should the (NATIONALITY) police and other law enforcement authorities exchange information with authorities of the other EU countries on a case by case basis or always, in every case? (in %)



For more detailed information: [Special Eurobarometer on Europeans' attitudes towards Security \(June 2017\)](#)