



DG Communication is continuously monitoring public opinion by conducting regular Eurobarometer surveys in all 27 EU Member States. **This newsletter aims at providing general public with the most recent Eurobarometer data on key topics of this week's plenary agenda.** Based usually exclusively on Eurobarometer surveys conducted in all EU Member States the newsletter is this time enriched with several external surveys.

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

- **70th anniversary of the Schuman Declaration**
- **Conclusions of the extraordinary European Council of 23 April 2020**
- **New Multiannual Financial Framework, own resources and Recovery plan**
- **Emergency legislation in Hungary and its impact on the Rule of Law and fundamental rights**

Parliament's Eurobarometer surveys focus primarily on citizens' perception of the European Parliament and the EU as well as Europe's main policy challenges. In combination with the European Commission's Eurobarometer surveys, these surveys present **a detailed insight into citizens' views on the EU.**

A weekly overview on current surveys published in different EU Member States, including a range of important multi-national surveys, all with a dedicated focus on the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, can be found on the website of the Public Opinion Monitoring Unit:

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/at-your-service/en/be-heard/eurobarometer/public-opinion-in-the-time-of-covid-19>

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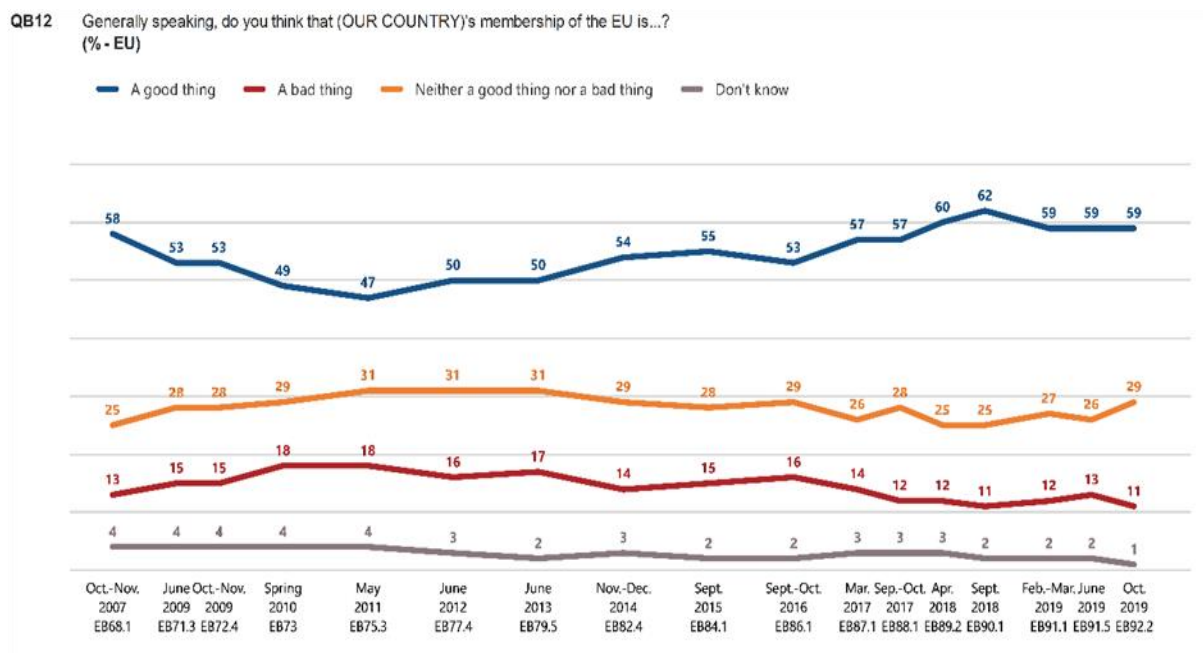
@EP_Trends

1

70th anniversary of the Schuman Declaration

On Thursday morning, on the occasion of [the 70th anniversary of the Schuman Declaration](#), Members will commemorate together with the Commission and the Council the publication date of this key text for the European Union. In this founding Declaration, more current now than ever, Robert Schuman underlined that ["Europe will not be made all at once, or according to a single plan. It will be built through concrete achievements which first create a de facto solidarity."](#)

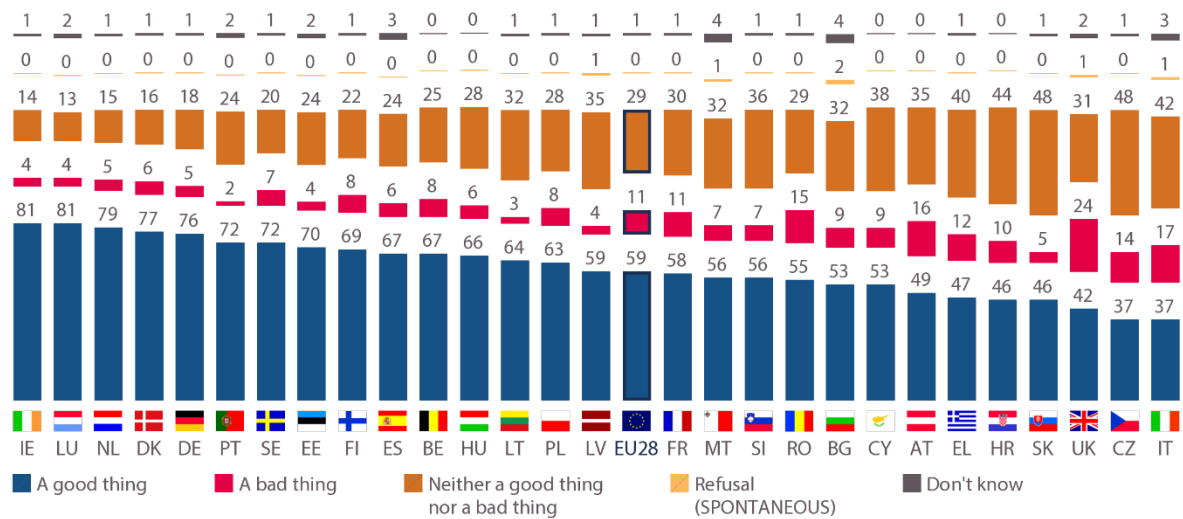
According to [the 2019 Parlemeter Eurobarometer: "Heeding the call beyond the vote"](#) citizens' support for the European Union has settled in autumn 2019 on a high level: nearly six in ten Europeans were in favour of their country's EU membership.



For more detailed information: [Parlemeter 2019: Heeding the call beyond the vote \(October 2019\)](#)

A majority of respondents in 25 Member States thought of their country's EU membership as a 'good thing'. In Italy, Czechia and Slovakia, a majority of respondents believes that EU membership is neither good nor bad for their country.

QB12 Generally speaking, do you think that (OUR COUNTRY)'s membership of the EU is...?
(%)

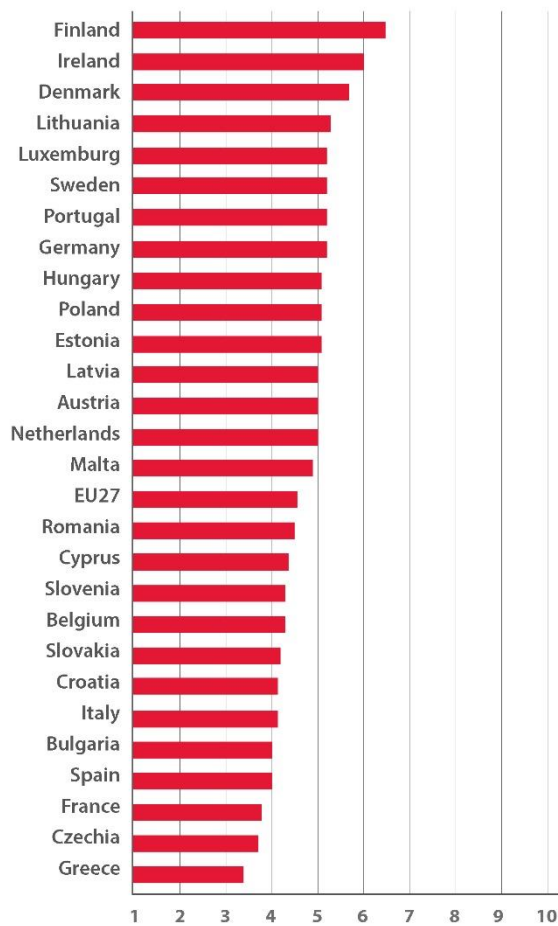


For more detailed information: [Parlemeter 2019: Heeding the call beyond the vote \(October 2019\)](#)

EXTERNAL INSIGHTS:

Comparing the above data with a more recent study published last week, people across the EU are reporting rather low levels of trust in the EU and in their national governments, particularly in several traditionally pro-EU Member States such as France, Italy and Spain. Those results, capturing the immediate economic and social effects of the COVID-19 crisis, come from the [Eurofound's large-scale online survey launched across the European Union](#). Entitled *Living, working and COVID-19*, the survey aims at investigating the **impact on well-being, work and telework and on the financial situation of people living in Europe**.

Trust in the European Union by country



Source: Eurofound, Living, working and COVID-19

For more detailed information:

https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/sites/default/files/ef_publication/field_ef_document/ef20058en.pdf

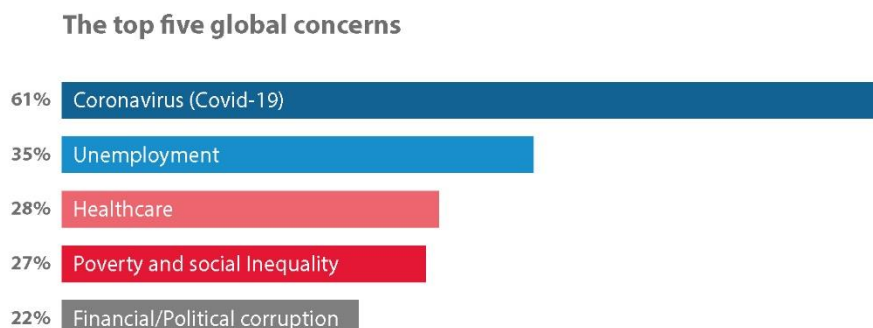
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Conclusions of the extraordinary European Council of 23 April 2020

EU leaders met on 23 April 2020 for the fourth time in seven weeks to coordinate their strategy on how to set up a recovery fund to counter the economic fallout of the COVID-19 crisis. One week ahead of this summit, the European Parliament's plenary session had called in a resolution "[on the European Commission to propose a massive recovery and reconstruction package for investment to support the European economy after the crisis \(...\).](#)" On Wednesday afternoon, [Members will debate with the Council and the Commission on the Conclusions of this meeting.](#)

EXTERNAL INSIGHTS:

The global COVID-19 pandemic is by far the top worry around the world, according to the global [What Worries the World monitor by IPSOS](#):



Source: IPSOS, What Worries the World

EU results: % of respondents who say COVID-19 is a top concern for their country today:

Netherlands	72
Italy	68
Poland	68
Spain	68
France	62
Germany	61
Hungary	61
Belgium	59
Sweden	57

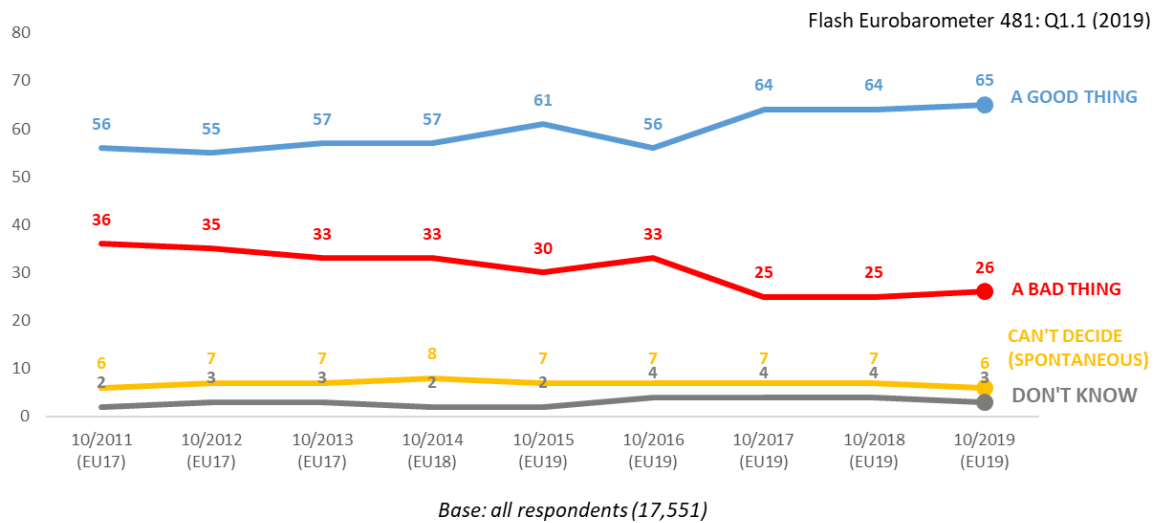
For more detailed information: <https://www.ipsos.com/en/coronavirus-dominates-global-worries>

During the COVID-19 pandemic crisis, the euro has shown, one more time, its remarkable solidity. The euro has become undoubtedly a tangible part of European identity and one of the greatest achievements of European integration.

A [Flash Eurobarometer on the euro area, from October 2019](#), reflects this success: **Nearly two-thirds of respondents think that having the euro is a good thing for their country**, while just over a quarter say they think it is a bad thing. 6% *spontaneously* answer they can't decide whether it is a good or a bad thing.

Q1.1 Generally speaking, do you think that...?

Having the euro is a good or a bad thing for your country (% - EURO AREA)

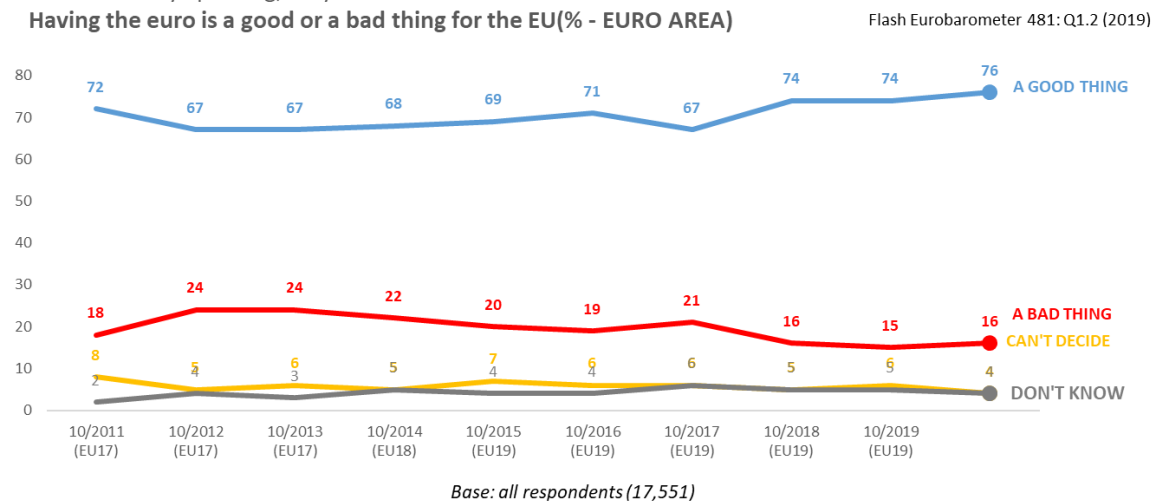


For more detailed information: [Flash Eurobarometer on the euro area \(October 2019\)](#)

Three-quarter of respondents (76%) say that having the euro is a good thing for the EU, while under a fifth (16%) think that it is a bad thing and 4% *spontaneously* say they can't decide whether it is a good or a bad thing.

Q1.2 Generally speaking, do you think that...?

Having the euro is a good or a bad thing for the EU (% - EURO AREA)



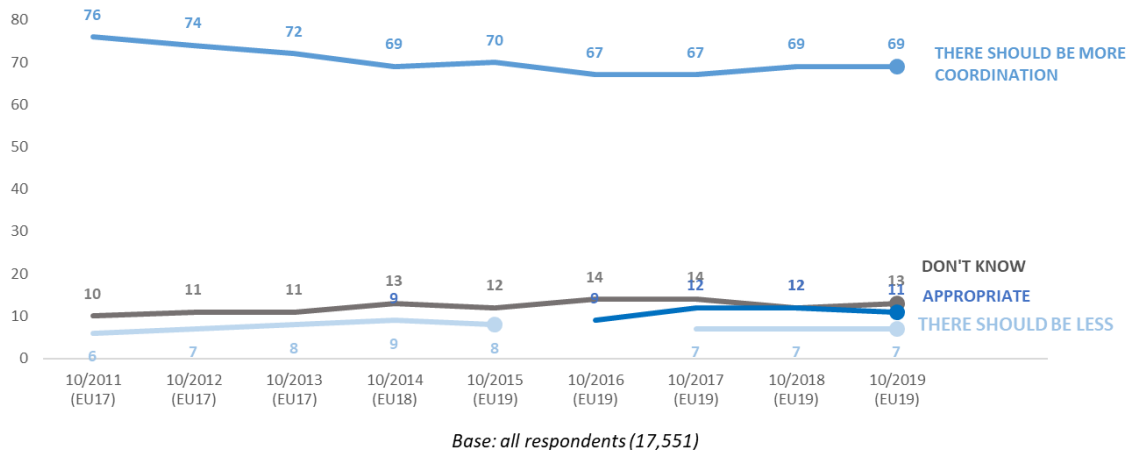
For more detailed information: [Flash Eurobarometer on the euro area \(October 2019\)](#)

Finally, more than **two-thirds of respondents (69%) on EU average think that there should be more coordination on economic policy among euro area governments**. Only 11% believe the level of economic policy coordination in the euro area is appropriate, less than a tenth (7%) want less coordination.

The overall picture remains broadly unchanged compared to 2018. Between 2011 and 2017, the proportion of citizens wanting more coordination on economic policy gradually decreased from 76% to 67%, but has since stabilised.

Q8 Do you think that the degree to which economic policy, including budgetary policies, is coordinated in the euro area is appropriate? Should there be more or less coordination among euro-area governments? (% - EURO AREA)

Flash Eurobarometer 481: Q8 (2019)



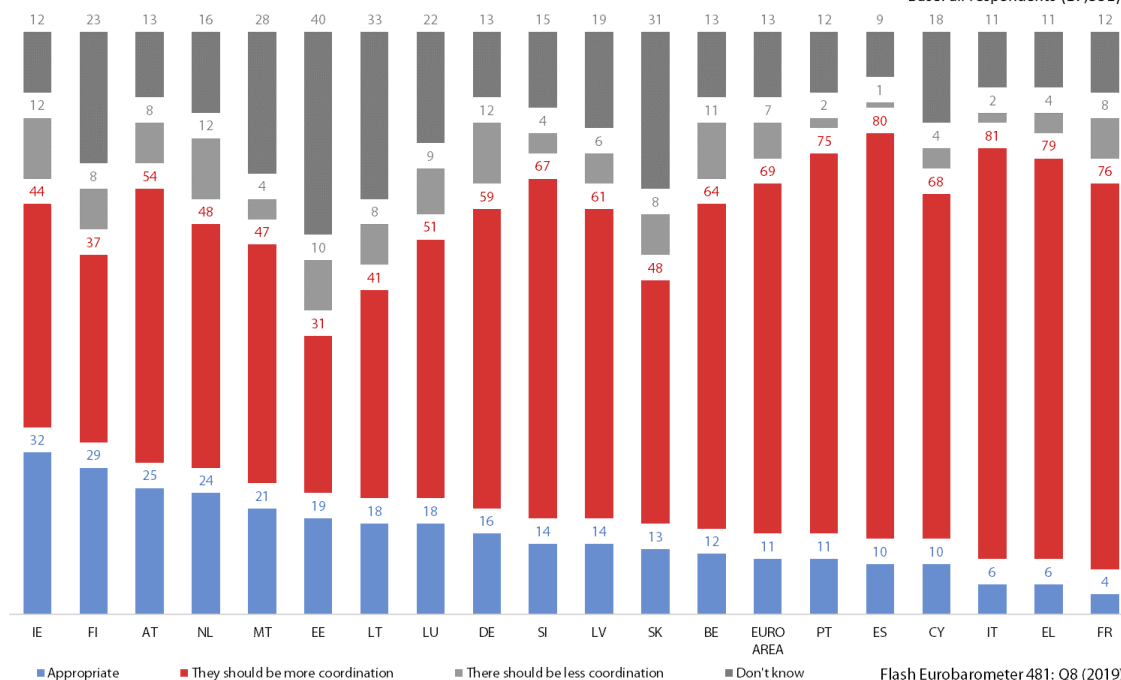
For more detailed information: [Flash Eurobarometer on the euro area \(October 2019\)](#)

The call for more economic policy coordination is shared by **a majority of respondents in all euro area countries except in Finland**. The largest shares of respondents are observed in Italy (81%), Spain (80%) and Greece (79%). The lowest number of respondents sharing this view come from Estonia (31%), Finland (37%) and Lithuania (41%).

Respondents who believe there should be less coordination count 12% in Germany, Ireland and the Netherlands, down to just 1% in Spain and 2% in Italy and Portugal. The view that the level of economic policy coordination in the euro area is appropriate is most prevalent in Ireland (32%), Finland (29%) and Austria (25%), while this opinion is least held in France (4%), and Greece and Italy (both 6%).

Q8 Do you think that the degree to which economic policy, including budgetary policies, is coordinated in the euro area is appropriate? Should there be more or less coordination among euro-area governments? (%)

Base: all respondents (17,551)



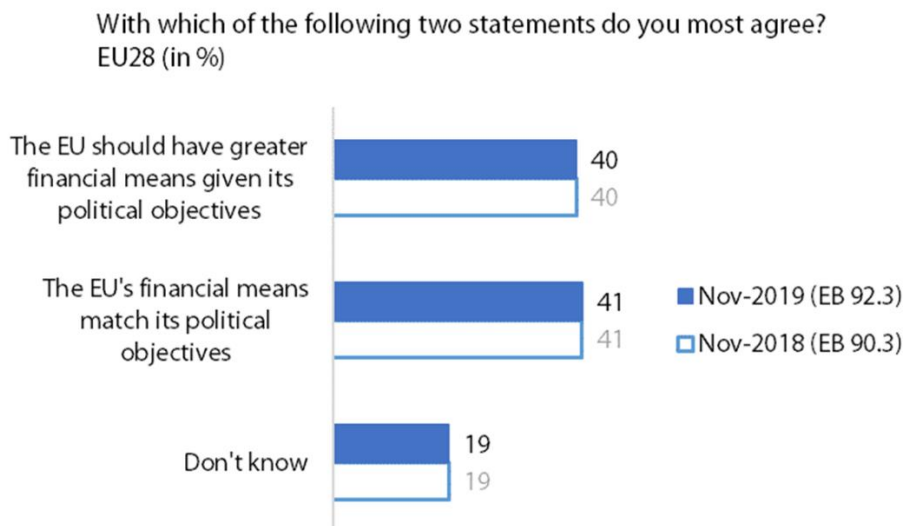
For more detailed information: [Flash Eurobarometer on the euro area \(October 2019\)](#)

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New Multiannual Financial Framework, own resources and recovery plan

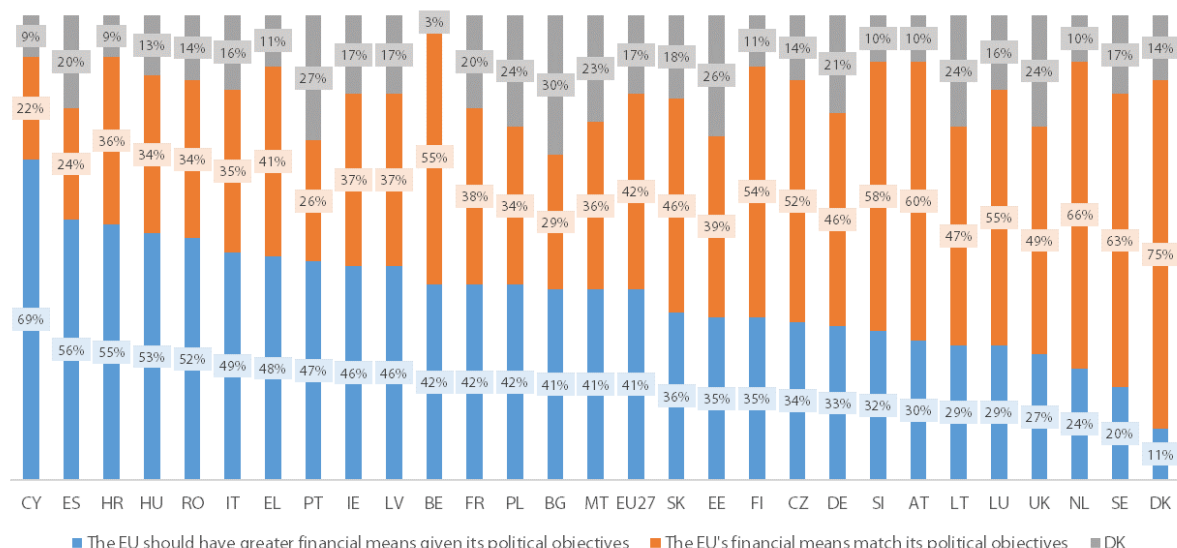
On Wednesday, [Members will discuss with the Commission the new Multiannual Financial Framework, own resources and Recovery plan](#). The forthcoming Commission's proposal should clarify the link with the MFF, which in any event will need to be adjusted to deal with the current crisis and its aftermath. In its resolution of 17 April 2020, the Plenary had "[insisted on the adoption of an ambitious MFF that has an increased budget in line with the Union's objectives, the projected impact on EU economies by the crisis and citizens' expectations on European added value](#)".

According to [the last Standard Eurobarometer \(November 2019\)](#), 40% of Europeans think that 'the EU should have greater financial means given its political objectives', while an almost equivalent proportion of 41% believe that 'the EU's financial means match its political objectives'. A significant proportion of respondents (19%) answered 'don't know'.



For more detailed information: [Standard Eurobarometer 92 \(November 2019\)](#)

Detailed national analysis shows a majority feel that the EU's financial means match its political objectives in 13 Member States, led by Denmark (75%), the Netherlands (69%) and Sweden (62%). In 14 Member States on the other hand, the predominant view is that the EU should have more financial means, most strikingly led by Cyprus (69%), Romania (63%) and Malta (60%).

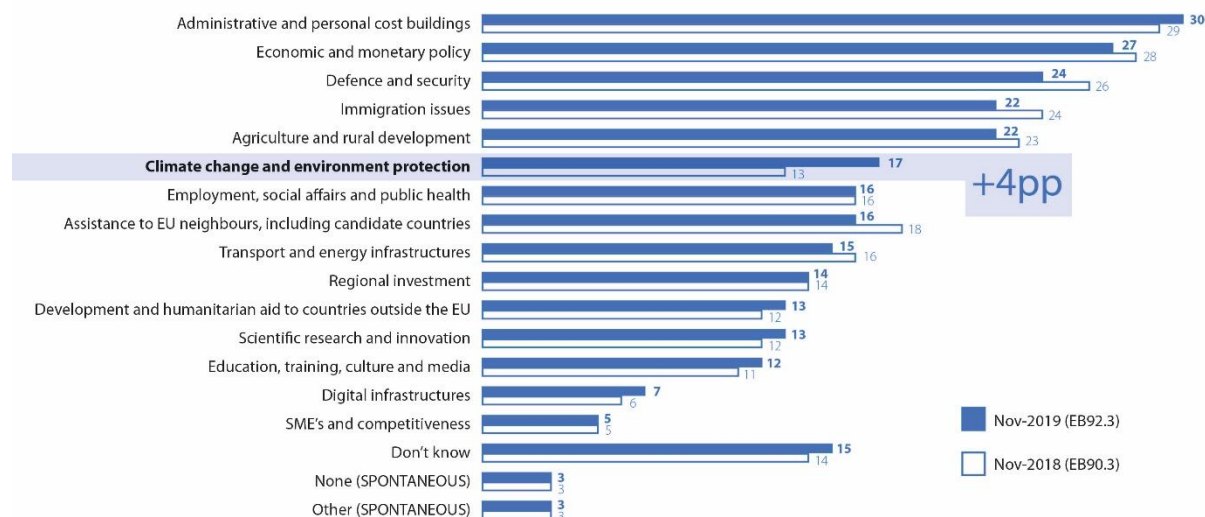


For more detailed information: [Standard Eurobarometer 92 \(November 2019\)](#)

An indispensable element to contextualise the above results are citizens' replies to the question on what they believe most of the EU budget is spent – and on what they would see it spent instead. Starting where respondents think most of the EU budget is spent, operating costs ('administrative and personnel costs, buildings') come first with 30% of mentions, followed by 'economic and monetary policy' (27%); defence and security' (24%); 'immigration issues' (22%); 'agriculture and rural development' (22%) and 'climate change and environmental protection' (17% +4).

On which of the following statements do you think most of the EU budget is spent?

Source:
Standard Eurobarometer 92.3 (2019)
Standard Eurobarometer 90.3 (2018)

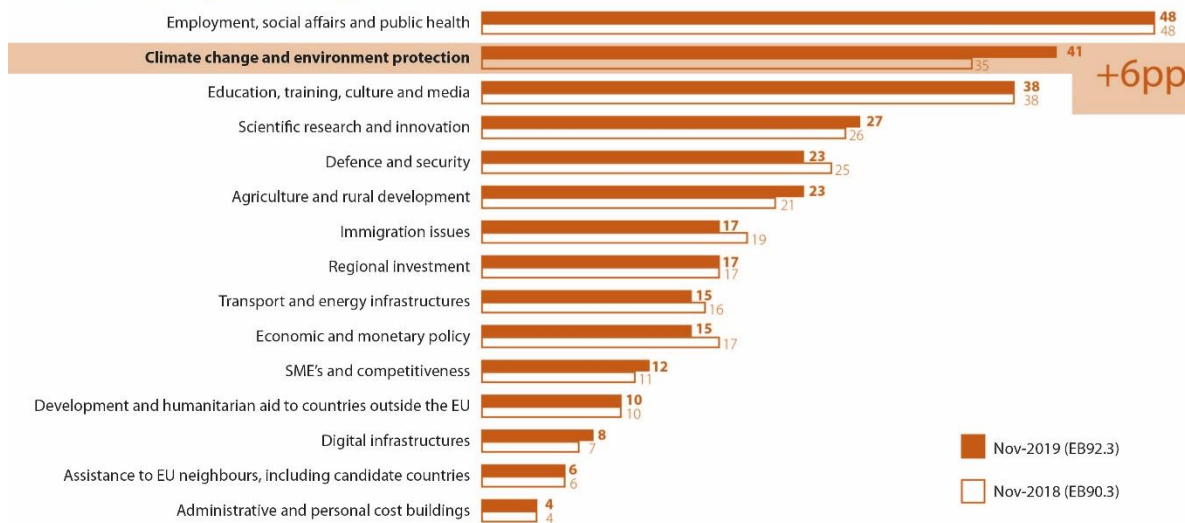


For more detailed information: [Standard Eurobarometer 92 \(November 2019\)](#)

In sharp contrast, respondents would like most of the EU budget to be spent on **'employment, social affairs and public health' (48%)**, followed by **'climate change and environmental protection' (41%)** as well as 'education, training, culture and media' (38%). The increase of six points for the climate change as budgetary priority over the past year is significant. On last position, respondents want most of the EU budget to be spent on administrative costs (4%) – coincidentally nearly in line with the actual spending for this budgetary category.

On which of the following statements would you like the EU budget to be spent?

Source:
Standard Eurobarometer 92.3 (2019)
Standard Eurobarometer 90.3 (2018)



For more detailed information: [Standard Eurobarometer 92 \(November 2019\)](#)

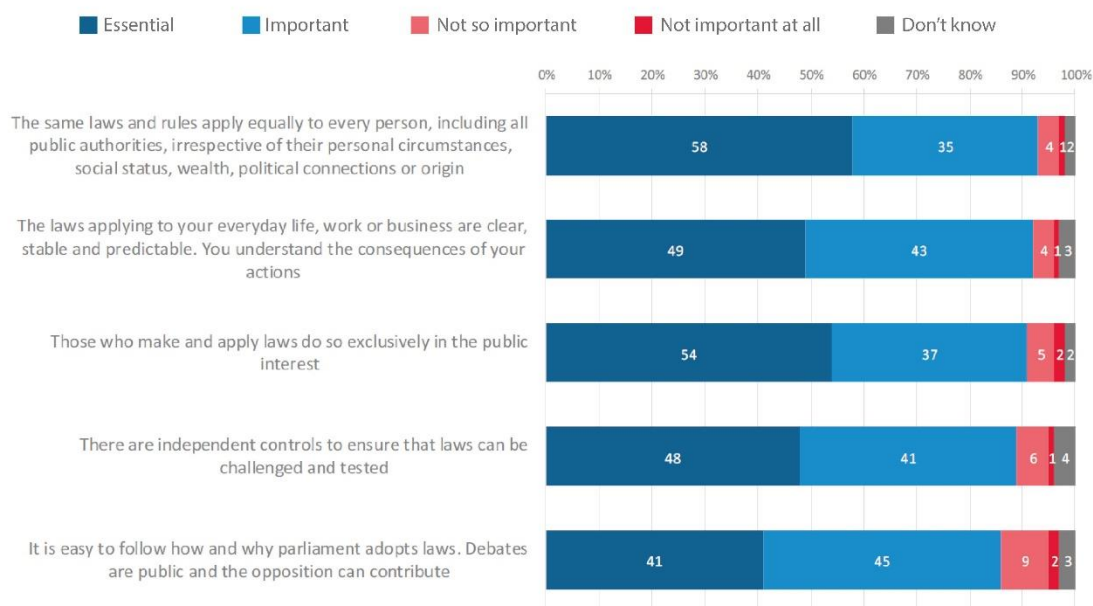
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Emergency legislation in Hungary and its impact on the rule of law and fundamental rights

On March 30, Hungarian parliament passed a law that given new powers to the Government to rule by decree for an unlimited period of time. On Wednesday afternoon, Members will assess with the Council and the Commission whether this new [emergency legislation from the Hungarian government to tackle coronavirus is in line with European Union rule of law standards](#).

According to a [special Eurobarometer on the Rule of Law from April 2019](#), more than nine in ten EU citizens consider equality before the law important or essential (93%), along with 92% who think about clarity, stability and predictability of laws and 91% who think that those who make and apply laws do so in public interest. For each principle, no more than 2% think it is not important at all, further highlighting the consensus among respondents.

Q 1 How important for you personally are the following points?
(%EU)

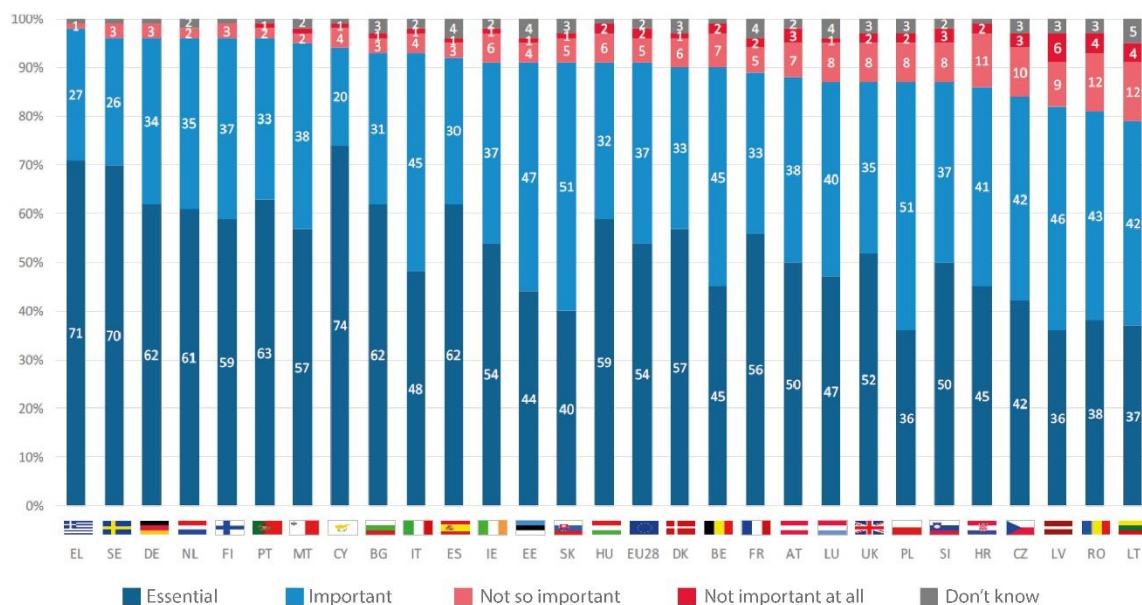


Standard Eurobarometer 91, Q3 (2019)
Base: All respondents (N=27,655)

For more detailed information: [Special Eurobarometer on the Rule of Law \(April 2019\)](#)

When we look at the national results, we can note that the issue of **'lawmakers acting in the public interest' is considered important or essential by 91% of Hungarian citizens**. In 18 Members States, 50% or more believe that this principle is essential.

Q 1.4 How important for you personally are the following points?
Those who make and apply laws do so exclusively in the public interest (% EU)



Base: All respondents (N=27,655)

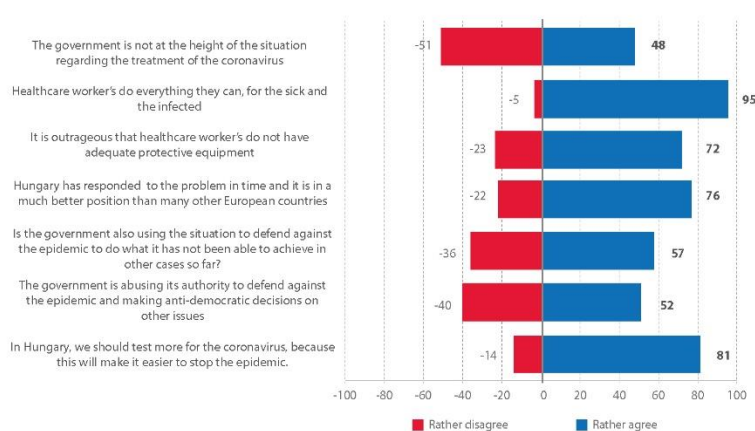
For more detailed information: [Special Eurobarometer on the Rule of Law \(April 2019\)](#)

EXTERNAL INSIGHTS:

Regarding the **effects of the coronavirus on the socio-political environment in Hungary**, Publicus Institute examined the Hungarian populations' overall opinion on the Covid-19 crisis in a nationwide representative poll, conducted on behalf of [Népszava](#) between April 14 and 18. Three-quarters of respondents (76%) said that Hungary responded to the problem on time and is therefore in a better position than many European countries. However, six out of ten respondents (57%) believe that the government is also using its position of defense against the epidemic to do what it has not been able to achieve in other cases so far.

To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

(All respondent %)



Source: Publicus Institute / Népszava

For more detailed information: <https://publicus.hu/blog/koronavirus-teszteles-vedofelszereselek-antidemokratikus-lepeselek/>