



Special Eurobarometer



European
Commission

The Future Constitutional Treaty First results

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Contents

ANNEXES	1
INTRODUCTION	2
1. Knowledge of the Constitutional Treaty	3
1.1. How widely known is the Constitutional Treaty?	3
1.2. Knowledge of the contents of the Constitutional Treaty	5
2. Levels of support for the future Constitutional Treaty.....	8
2.1. Strength of support for the Constitutional Treaty.....	8
2.2. Reasons for support.....	13
2.3. Reasons for opposition	15
4. Sources of information on the draft Constitution	21
5. The areas in which European Union citizens would wish to use the 'citizen's right of initiative'	23
6. Conclusion	25
ANNEXES	
Technical note	

INTRODUCTION

On 12 January 2005, the European Parliament voted in favour of the draft European Constitution by a heavy majority: 500 newly elected MEPs voted "For", 137 "Against" and 40 chose to abstain.¹

This massive result confirms that a genuine political will exists to provide the European Union with a Constitution. Heads of State and Governments had already signed the Treaty establishing a Constitution for the European Union on 29 October 2004 in Rome.

So we are now en route for ratification. Two Member States, Lithuania and Hungary have already transposed the new Constitutional Treaty into their national legislation. In these countries, the "Yes" vote was overwhelming². Although a substantial majority of Member States have announced that the text will be ratified through a parliamentary procedure, ten will be organising a referendum. Two Member States have so far not announced their preference. It is expected that the ratification process will take two years. The Constitution should come into force on 1 November 2006³.

If a degree of consensus exists at the political level, what is the position for public opinion in Europe, more particularly in those countries which will be holding referenda?

This Eurobarometer commissioned by the European Commission and carried out in the 25 Member States of the Union by TNS Opinion & Social tackles this theme, focusing more specifically on:

- the levels of real knowledge of the draft Constitution,
- the support or the opposition it attracts,
- the probability that citizens will turn out to vote where a referendum is proposed to ratify the Constitutional treaty in their country,
- the level of trust felt by EU citizens regarding sources of information about the draft Constitution
- and finally, the priority areas in which respondents would wish to use the 'citizen's right of initiative'.

The methodology used is that of Standard Eurobarometer surveys as carried out by the Directorate-General for Press and Communication (Unit for Opinion Polls, Press Reviews, Europe Direct). A technical note on the way in which interviews were conducted by the Institutes within the TNS Opinion & Social network can be found annexed to this report. This note indicates the interview methods and the confidence intervals.

This document aims to present the principle results of this survey. A more detailed report will be available soon.

¹ 55 MEPs did not take part in the vote.

² **Lithuania:** Parliamentary vote on 11 November 2004; 84 for, 4 against, 3 abstentions. **Hungary:** Parliamentary vote on 20 December 2004; 322 for, 12 against, 8 abstentions

³ For more details, see the European Commission web site, www.europa.eu.int or the European Parliament site, www.europarl.eu.int

1. Knowledge of the Constitutional Treaty

Source: Q1 and Q5

The purpose of this first section is to measure European Union citizens' level of knowledge about the draft European Constitution.

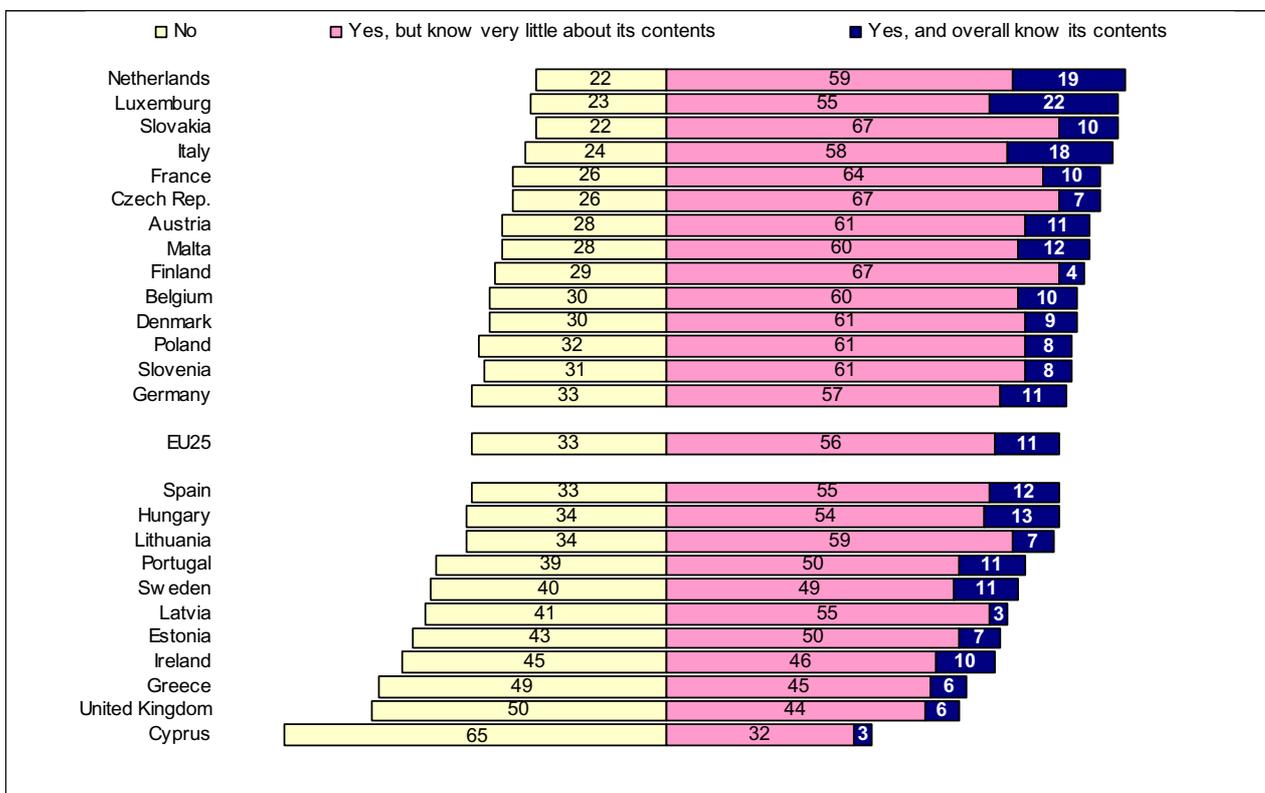
It is first of all necessary to measure how widely known the draft Constitution is, and then to verify respondents' actual knowledge of the future Constitutional Treaty.

1.1. How widely known is the Constitutional Treaty?

-Inconsistent levels of knowledge within the Union-

Knowledge of the draft European Constitution is not consistent across the Union. A third of Europeans state that they had never heard of this Constitution; this figure was 65% in Cyprus, around 50% in the United Kingdom and 45% in Greece and Ireland. The new Constitutional Treaty seems to have benefited from more publicity in the Netherlands (the country which held the Presidency of the Council during the second half of 2004), in Slovakia and in Luxembourg. In France, nearly three out of four had heard of the draft Constitution drawn up by the Convention chaired by Valéry Giscard d'Estaing.

Q1. Have you personally heard about the draft European Constitution? (Responses in %)

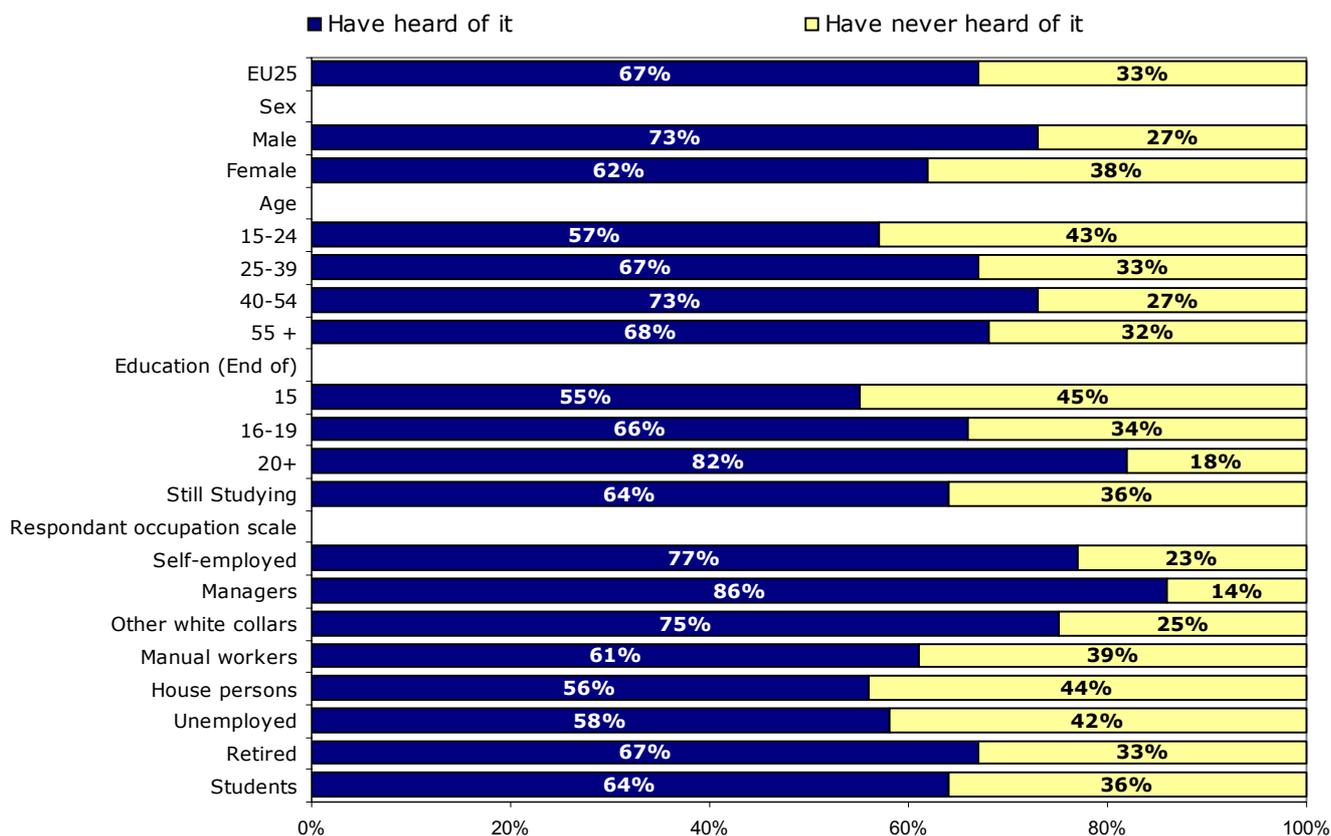


Only 11% of respondents state that they broadly know its contents, which indicates the superficial nature of knowledge of the draft Constitution.

The fact that certain countries have already announced that they will be holding a referendum on the subject does not improve these results. The rate of positive responses was actually lower in the ten countries concerned (65% against an average of 67%).

Analysis of socio-demographic variables shows that the citizens of the European Union do not seem equal in terms of level of knowledge. Thus, 38% of European women state that they had not heard of this Constitutional Treaty, against 27% of men. Many young people, and also people who had ended their studies prematurely (before the age of fifteen) swell the ranks of those who are unaware of the existence of this text. White-collar workers seem more aware of this Constitution than blue-collar workers (25 points separate these two sub-groups of the population).

Q1. Have you personally heard about the draft European Constitution? (Responses in %)



1.2. Knowledge of the contents of the Constitutional Treaty

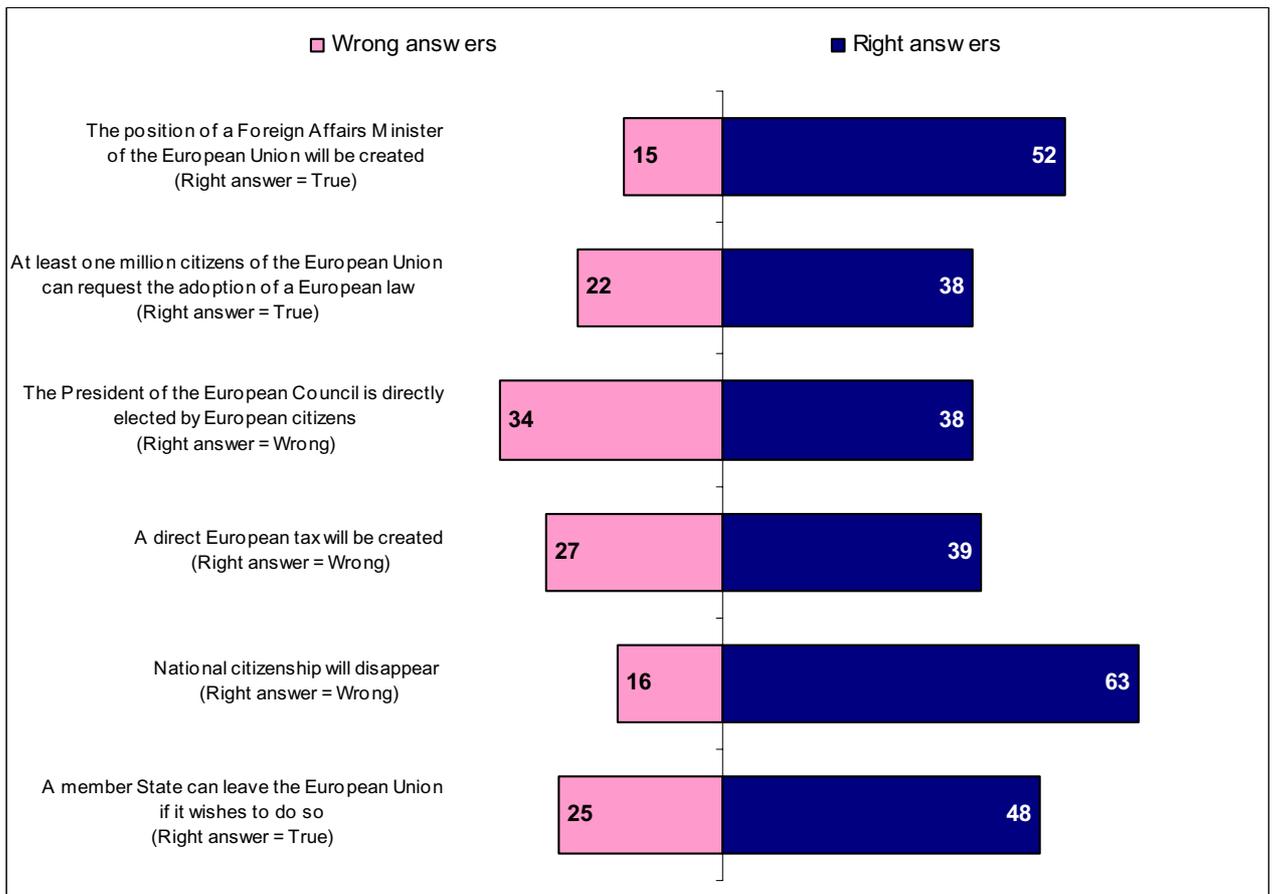
The measure of the level of knowledge remains subjective. It depends on respondent's self-evaluation. A test of knowledge remains the most reliable and objective manner of measuring the general public's real level of knowledge. The Eurobarometer therefore tested six statements regarding certain specific aspects of the draft Constitution, asking respondents if they were true or false.

-Little in-depth knowledge of the contents of the Treaty-

Across the European Union, we observe that a majority of respondents seem aware of the fact that the adoption of the European Constitution would not cause national citizenship to disappear, and that it provides for the creation of the post of Minister of Foreign Affairs. For the other proposals, although there were more correct than incorrect answers, the rate nevertheless remained below 50% which bears witness to the inability of a significant proportion of interviewees to take a stance on these dimensions.

Q5. For each of the following statements, tell me if, in your opinion, it is true or false. It is planned in the text of the European Constitution that...

(Responses in %; the non-response rate is not shown)

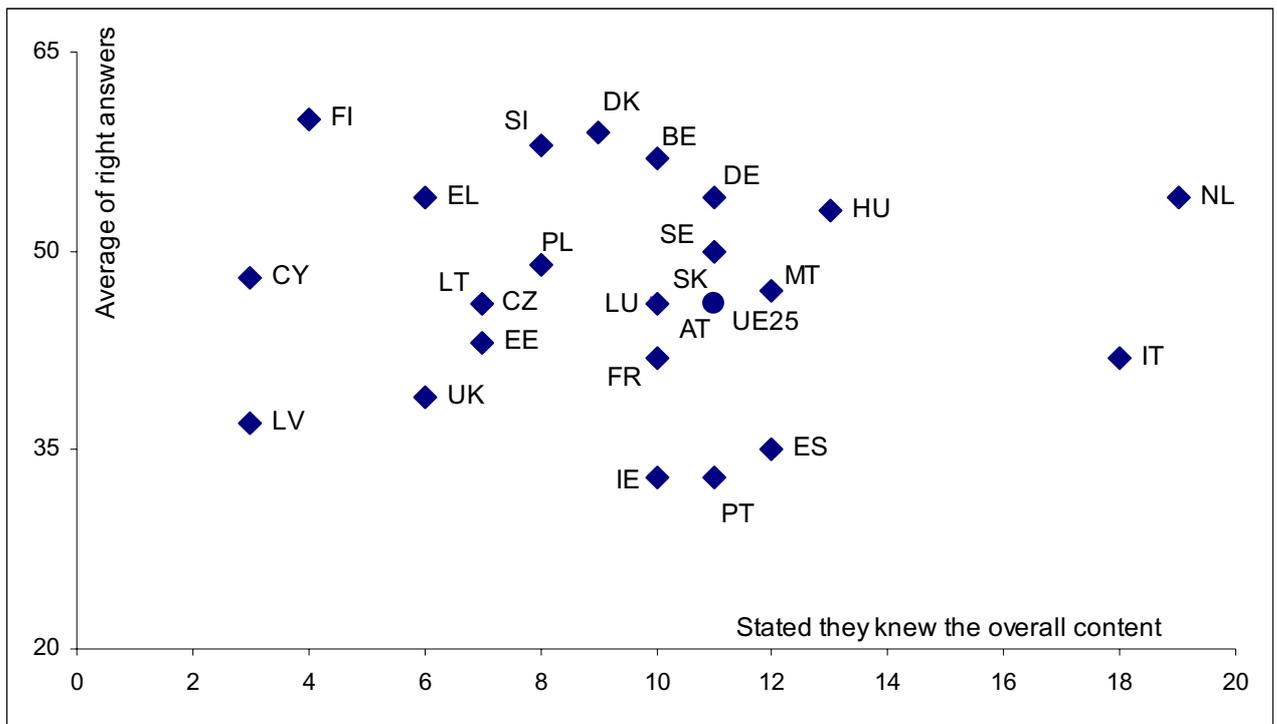


We observe particularly low averages for right answers⁴ in Ireland (33%), Latvia (37%) and the United Kingdom (39%). However, it is in those countries which will be organising a referendum soonest that the situation appears even more worrying: with only three months to go before the referendum in Spain, the average rate of correct answers was only 35%; in Portugal, where the referendum date was initially set for Spring 2005, it was only 33%. However, this observation applies to most of the countries in which a referendum will be organised, which may seem paradoxical.

The Finns (60%), Danes (59%) and Slovenes (58%) stood out with significantly higher rates of correct responses than those achieved by other populations in the European Union.

Do these results correlate with the subjective perceptions of knowledge levels? To examine this, we crossed the two dimensions (subjective perception and average real knowledge) and projected the result on the graph below.

Subjective perception and level of real knowledge
X-axis: perception of knowledge level; y axis: average real knowledge; Responses in %).



⁴Average calculated on the basis of the sum of the results obtained for the six statements

If there was a strong correlation between the level of real knowledge and awareness of that fact, each country would be located close to a straight line crossing both axes for which the equation would be of the type $y = ax + b$. Yet, the graph shows that such a correlation is extremely weak⁵; in practice, countries like Finland and Slovenia, for example, underestimate their level of real knowledge about the Constitution in comparison with Member States as a whole, while the Italians and to a lesser extent the Dutch, appear to exaggerate their grasp of the proposals included in this new European Treaty.

⁵ The Pearson coefficient of these two data series is 0.03.

2. Levels of support for the future Constitutional Treaty

Source: questions 2, 3 and 4

This second section attempts to measure the extent to which citizens of the European Union are in favour of the draft Constitutional Treaty and to assess the reasons for which they are, or are not, in favour of it.

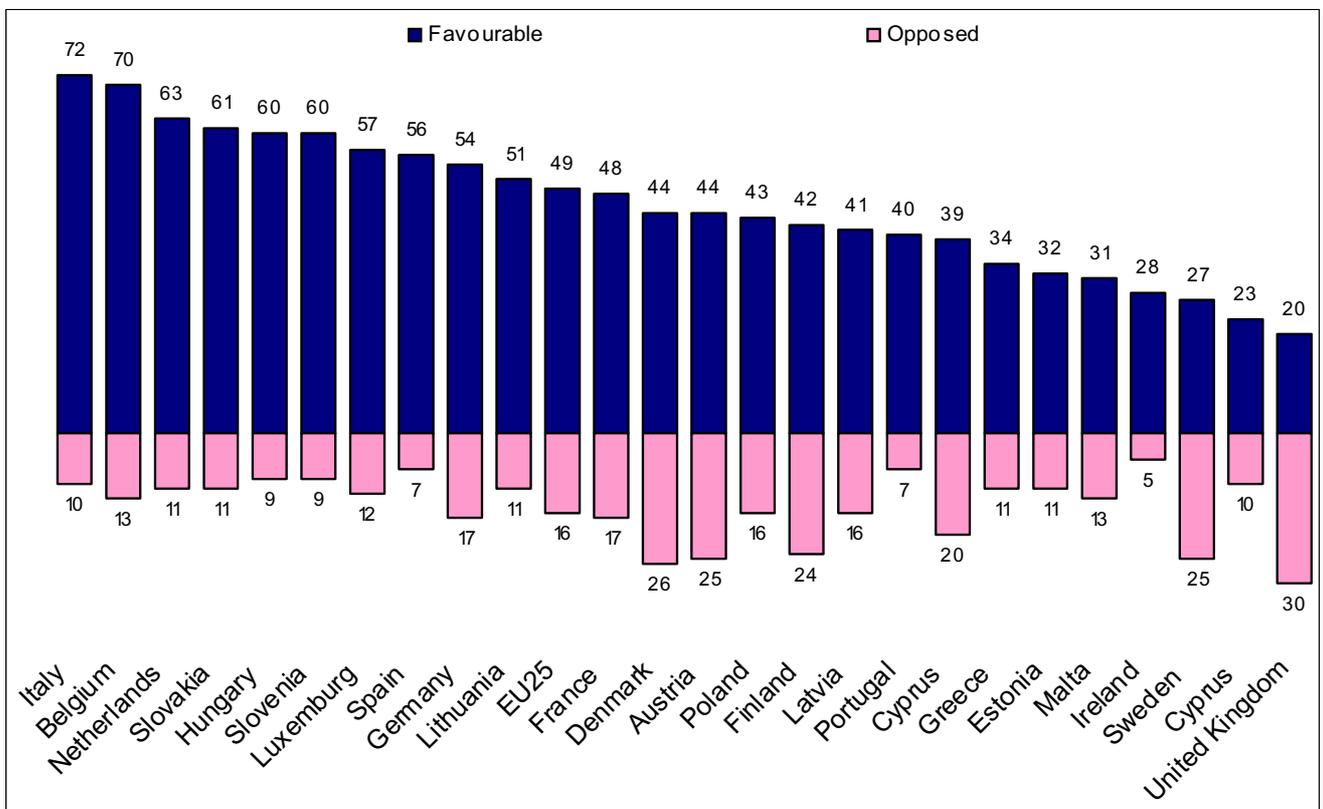
2.1. Strength of support for the Constitutional Treaty

The level of knowledge of the Treaty has a major impact on the level of support of the text. In other words, a respondent's attitude to the European Constitution varies depending on whether he knows a good deal, little or nothing at all about it.

- A welcome marked by much indecision -

Close to one European in two states that they are in favour of the Constitutional Treaty. Only 16% oppose it. Despite this majority support, there was an exceptionally high 'no response' rate to this question. More than a third of respondents supported neither camp. This indirectly confirms the poor level of knowledge of the contents of the text.

Q2. Based on what you know, would you say that you are in favour of or opposed to the draft European Constitution?
(*'In favour'* sub-total and *'opposed to'* sub-total in %)

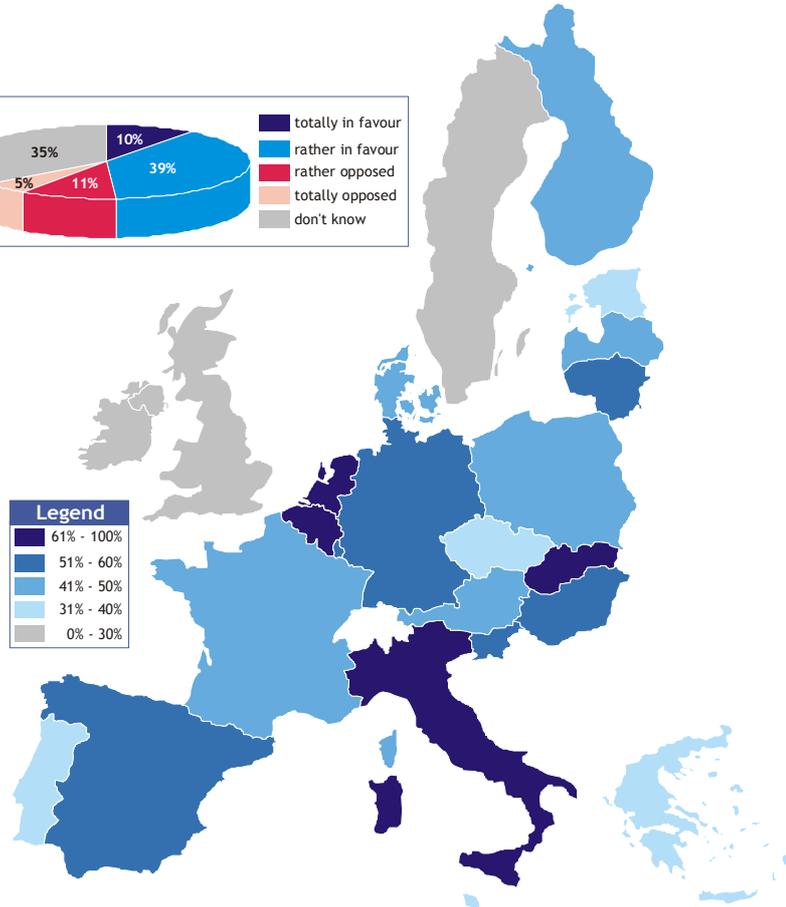
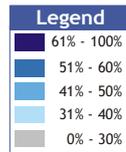
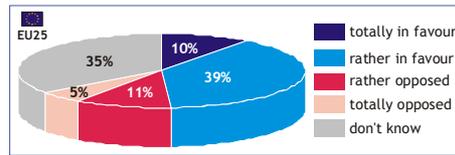


The Italians (72% in favour), Belgians (70%) and Dutch (63%) are most in favour of the text. The very low level of responses in Greece (34%), Ireland (28%) and Cyprus (23%) illustrate a lack of knowledge of the text rather than any genuine opposition. However, the United Kingdom stands out from other Member States of the European Union: it is the only country where the number of respondents opposing the text (30%) is higher than that of those in favour (20%).

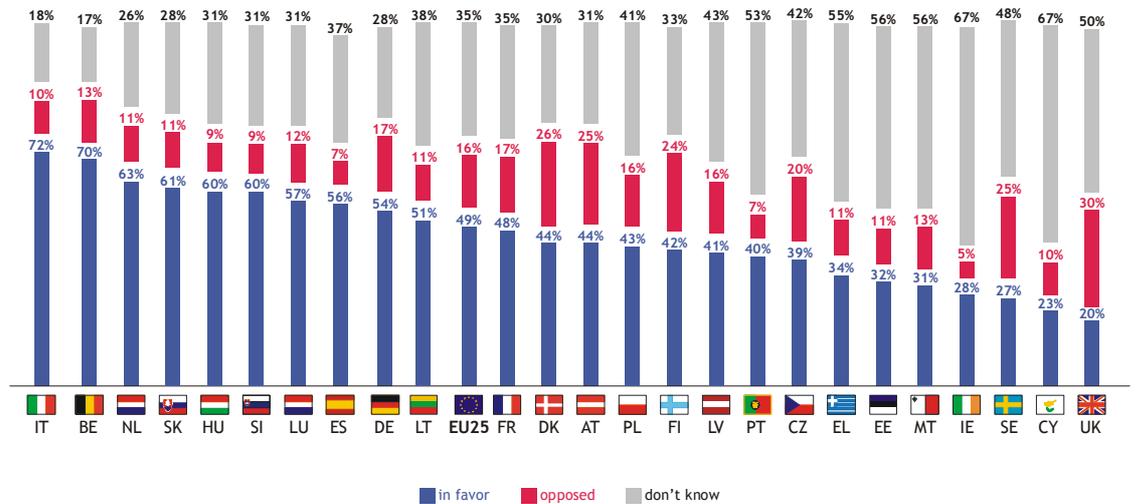
Within the ten countries which have opted to hold a referendum, there is a seven point deficit in comparison with the European average as regards the support rate: 42% as against 49%. However, at the same time, the 'no response' rate is higher by six points. In other words, an effort to provide additional information seems to be necessary among populations who will be asked to vote 'yes' or 'no' to the new draft Constitution.

Q2 According to what you know, would you say that you are in favour of or opposed to the draft European Constitution?

Answers represented by map: In favour



Country Results	
Italy	72%
Belgium	70%
The Netherlands	63%
Slovakia	61%
Hungary	60%
Slovenia	60%
Luxembourg	57%
Spain	56%
Germany	54%
Lithuania	51%
EU25	49%
France	48%
Denmark	44%
Austria	44%
Poland	43%
Finland	42%
Latvia	41%
Portugal	40%
Czech Republic	39%
Greece	34%
Estonia	32%
Malta	31%
Ireland	28%
Sweden	27%
Cyprus	23%
United Kingdom	20%



Given that socio-demographic differences are important in terms of the level of knowledge, it seems vital to recalculate this indicator of approval on the basis of those who expressed an opinion in order to expose certain significant differences in judgement. It appears that men and women who have heard of the Constitution judge its contents in the same way: as many as 75% are in favour of it. Among those who expressed an opinion, the level of approval rises with the level of education. Those who position themselves on the right of the political spectrum are less inclined to declare that they are in favour of the Constitutional Treaty than those on the left.

Support related to the respondent's profile
(Sub-total « favourable » and sub-total « opposed », in %)

	For	Against
<i>Basis: persons having given an opinion</i>		
European Union	75	25
Men	75	25
Women	75	25
Age 15 - 24	83	17
Age 55 and over	72	28
Education ended at age 15 or below	67	33
Education ended at age 20 or above	80	20
Left sympathisers	80	20
Right sympathisers	69	31

- The level of knowledge of the text influences support levels -

Is there a link between the evaluation of knowledge of the text and the level of support? Is there a link between the rate of correct answers to the test taken by respondents and the level of approval of the text? The calculation of inter-relations between these dimensions indicates that the correlation between the perception of knowledge and the level of support is stronger (Pearson coefficient = 0.56) than between the average rate of right answers and the support level (Pearson coefficient= 0.31). In other words, **the better people know the text, the more they are in favour of it.** This indirectly means that the more citizens are informed, the more likely they are to support the draft.

It also shows that a significant proportion of the opposition to this Constitutional Treaty is founded either on ignorance of the principles enshrined in the draft or, even more seriously, on an erroneous interpretation of it. Some European citizens thus prefer to oppose the Treaty as a precaution, not knowing its contents; others are opposed to it because they misunderstand the contents.

Approval in relation to knowledge of the Constitution
('In favour' sub-total and 'opposed to' sub-total in %)

	In favour	Opposed
<i>Basis: persons who expressed an opinion</i>		
European Union	75	25
Know the overall content of the text	82	18
Have never heard of the text	65	35

2.2. Reasons for support

Although 2004 was an eventful year in Europe (an unprecedented enlargement, European elections, the change of the Commission and the finalisation of the draft Constitutional Treaty), Europeans are well aware that the European construction process continues.

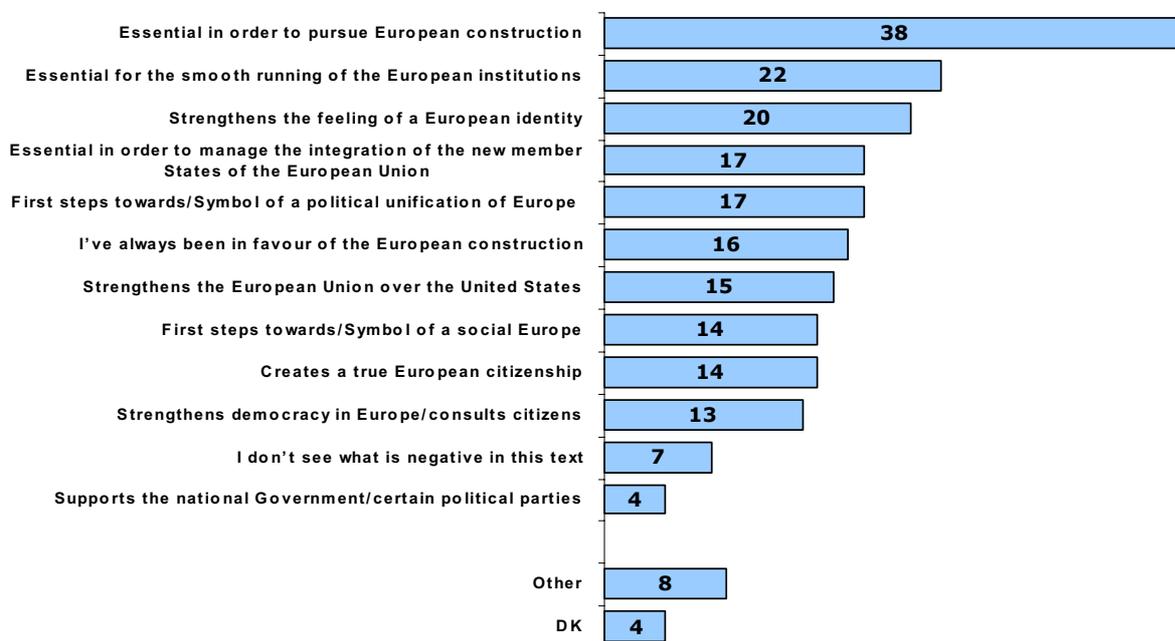
This Eurobarometer gave respondents the opportunity to spontaneously mention all the reasons which could explain their support or opposition to the draft Constitution. The spontaneous nature of answers even further accentuates the value of results obtained.

- Awareness of necessity at the institutional level -

Supporters of the Treaty base their arguments mainly on institutional aspects (aspects mentioned in 77% of cases). They consider that the Constitution is essential, above all in order to pursue the Union's construction (spontaneously cited by 38%) and to a lesser extent to ensure the smooth running of European institutions (22%). 17% also believe that this Treaty is essential in order to accompany the integration of ten new Member States (this result was absolutely identical in the 'old' Europe of 15 and in the new Member States.)

Q3. What are all the reasons why you are in favour of the draft European Constitution?
(Spontaneous answers in %)

Basis: Persons stating that were in favour of the Constitutional Treaty



The draft European Constitution also has a strong symbolic dimension. For 20% of respondents, it strengthened the feeling of a European identity, for 17% of them it symbolises the political union of Europe and for 14% it creates a genuine European citizenship. All are aspects that encourage the acceptance of the draft by Europeans.

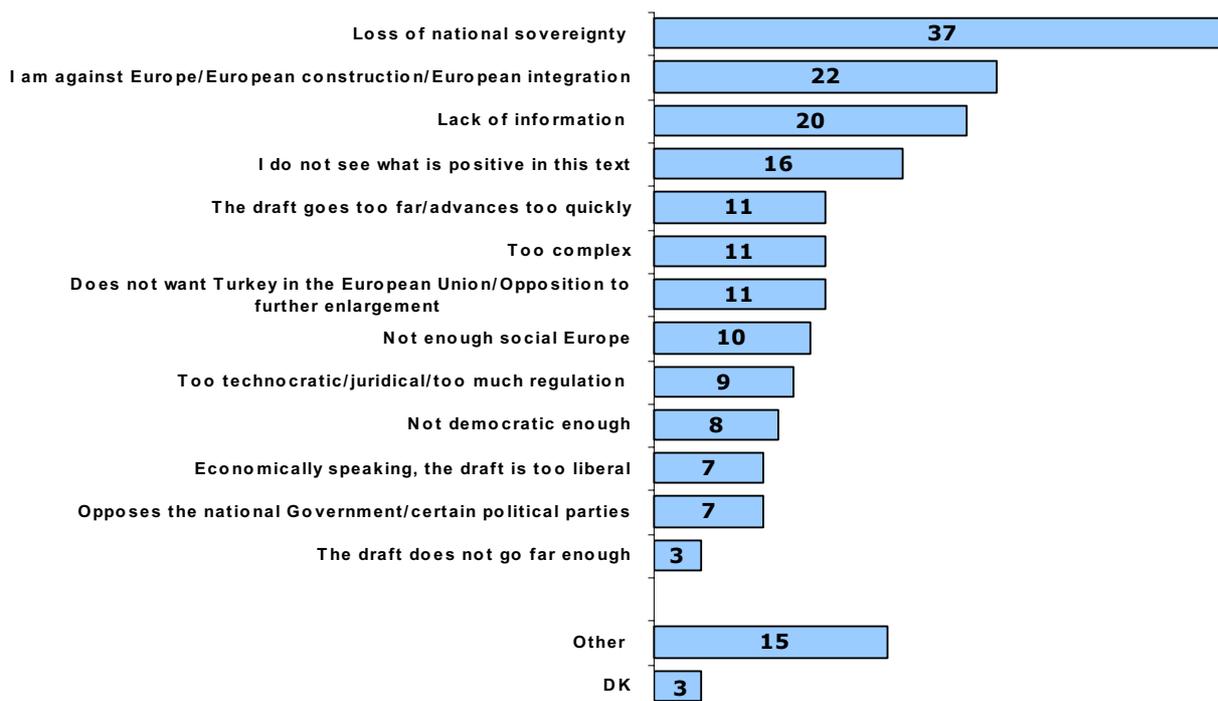
2.3. Reasons for opposition

- ...Fears of losing national sovereignty -

On the opposition side, it is above all the spectre of the loss of national sovereignty that frightens respondents (this fear was particularly prevalent in the United Kingdom).

The second reason invoked has more to do with an anti-European attitude, found among some opponents who stated that they had always been 'against European construction'. Reflecting what was noted above, the lack of information justifies opposition to the Treaty in 20% of cases. In other words, this opposition does not appear to be final, and may change for the better over the coming two years.

Q4. What are all the reasons why you are opposed to the draft European Constitution?
 (Spontaneous answers in %)
 Basis: Respondents stating that they were opposed to the Constitutional Treaty



Reasons linked to a total rejection of any further enlargement (in particular to Turkey) only come in seventh place in the ranking of reasons spontaneously mentioned. At this stage, there does not therefore seem to be any genuine confusion between the draft Constitution and the possibility of further enlargement. However, it should be noted that this was the second reason quoted in Austria (the only country in the 'old' Europe of fifteen that has common borders with four of the ten new Member States). This is also the third aspect justifying the opposition of certain German or French respondents.

3. The likelihood of voting to ratify the text of the European Constitution

Source: question 8

The aim of this third section is to measure the current position regarding the mobilisation of the electorate in countries which will organise a referendum to ratify the new Constitutional Treaty.

-Mobilisation remains weak-

Although most Member States have chosen to ratify the Treaty through a parliamentary procedure, ten prefer to organise a referendum. So far, this includes Denmark, Spain, France, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, the United Kingdom, the Czech Republic and Poland. It is now very unlikely that Belgium will organise an 'indicative' popular consultative procedure.

At the time that the survey was carried out all these countries had confirmed that they would hold a referendum, except Poland. This is why the likelihood of voting was only assessed in nine Member States. To assess the state of mind of potential electors, Eurobarometer offered respondents a scale from 1 to 10: 1 meaning that the respondent was certain not to go to vote and 10 that he or she was quite sure to go to the polling station.

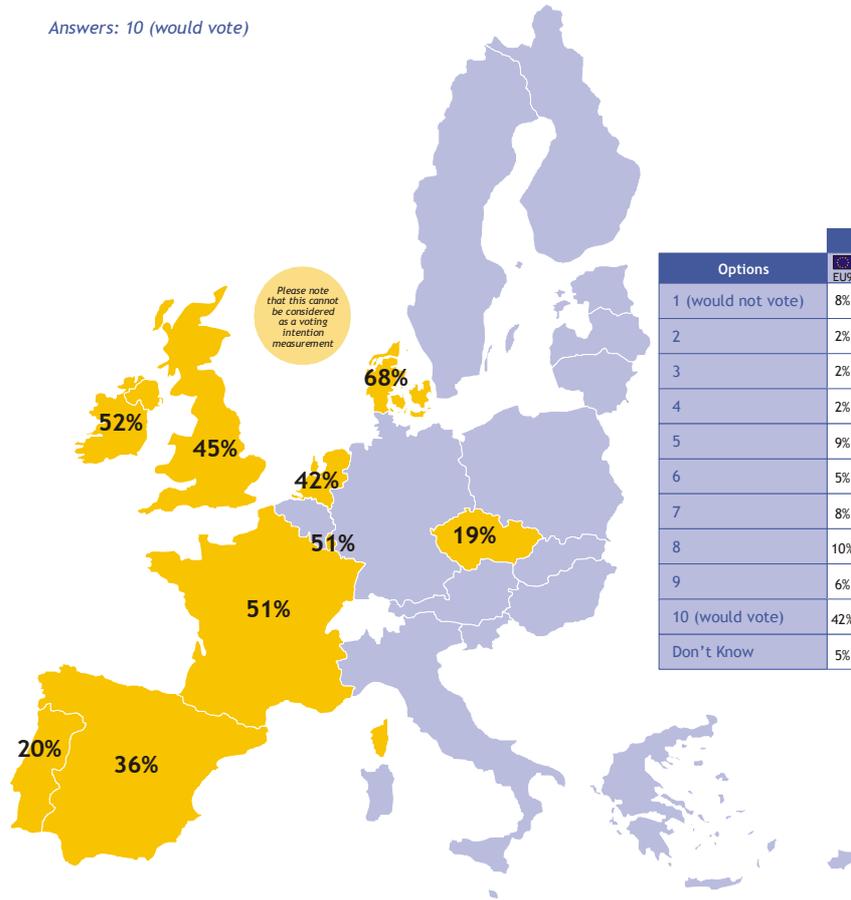
It is helpful to remember here that this question was not aimed at estimating the future turn-out in the various referenda. Besides, it could not do so alone and also the distance from the dates on which the referenda will be organised is such that the results obtained rather demonstrate the degree of mobilisation of the electorate at the end of 2004. That is why we deliberately chose to only present the results of this question for the score of 10. It is a matter concerning the respondents who are most convinced that they will go and vote against a background where there is still very little publicity about these elections.

The analysis by country (see map on following page) shows that less than half the countries surveyed register more than 50% of voters stating that they are 'certain of going to vote'. These were Denmark - where participation in the different European elections always stands at around 50%, Ireland, France and Luxembourg. In this last country, it is helpful to remember that voting is compulsory: this therefore illustrates a certain lack of interest or awareness of the importance of the issue for the Luxembourg electorate.

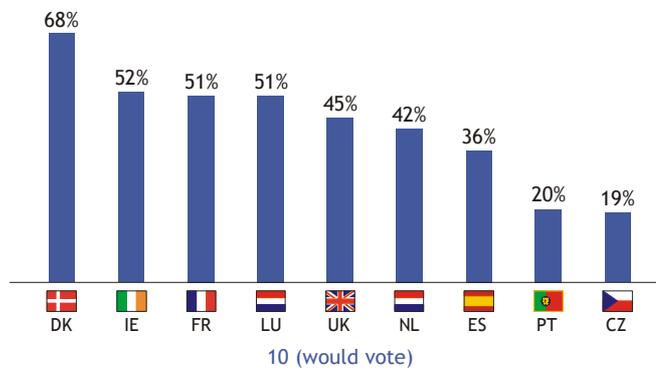
Q8 We would like to know the probability that you would go vote in a referendum that would be organised in (OUR COUNTRY) to ratify the text of the European Constitution. On a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 means that you would be certain of not going to vote and 10 means that you would be certain of going to vote in this referendum, where would you place yourself? The intermediate scores allow you to qualify your attitude.

(TO 18+, NATIONALS)

Answers: 10 (would vote)



Options	Overall Country Results									
	EU9	DK	ES	FR	IE	PT	CZ	UK	LU	NL
1 (would not vote)	8%	6%	7%	7%	5%	7%	13%	11%	7%	5%
2	2%	1%	2%	1%	1%	2%	4%	2%	0%	1%
3	2%	1%	2%	2%	2%	4%	6%	2%	1%	1%
4	2%	1%	1%	3%	1%	4%	4%	2%	2%	2%
5	9%	5%	9%	10%	5%	8%	11%	8%	5%	7%
6	5%	2%	5%	3%	5%	6%	7%	5%	6%	8%
7	8%	3%	9%	5%	4%	10%	10%	8%	4%	11%
8	10%	7%	10%	10%	10%	15%	13%	9%	6%	15%
9	6%	5%	5%	6%	7%	10%	8%	5%	8%	7%
10 (would vote)	42%	68%	36%	51%	52%	20%	19%	45%	51%	42%
Don't Know	5%	1%	13%	1%	8%	13%	5%	2%	10%	1%



Although it may well be considered somewhat premature to measure the certainty of going to vote in those countries where the date of the referendum has not yet been set, it is nevertheless important to note that Spain and Portugal are at the bottom of the table. Yet, these two countries will be among the first to organise a referendum on the matter. Bearing in mind the low participation rate recorded in Spain at the last European elections, all the ingredients are there for a very low future turnout: poor knowledge of the contents of the Treaty and low levels of certainty of going to vote. The electoral campaign will perhaps modify this position.

Similarly, it is interesting to compare the number of people stating that they are absolutely certain that they would go to vote with the results obtained during the pre-election Eurobarometer Flash carried out just before the last European elections. Three countries out of nine recorded 'certain to vote' levels higher than those observed in June 2004. It might therefore be presumed that electoral participation in Denmark, France and the United Kingdom is slightly higher than that recorded for the 2004 European elections. Undoubtedly, this will not be the case in the Czech Republic, Portugal, Spain, the Netherlands, Luxembourg or Ireland.

Q8. We would like to know the probability that you would go vote in a referendum that would be organised in (OUR COUNTRY) to ratify the text of the European Constitution. On a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 means that you would be certain of not going to vote and 10 means that you would be certain of going to vote in this referendum, where would you place yourself? The intermediate scores allow you to qualify your attitude.

(% answering "10 ")

	EB Special 214	EB Flash 161	Participation in European elections 2004
<i>Basis: persons of voting age having given the answer '10'.</i>			
European Union	42*	50	45.7
Denmark	68	51	47.9
Ireland	52	63	58.8
France	51	50	42.8
Luxembourg	51	75	89
United Kingdom	45	39	38.8
The Netherlands	42	46	39.3
Spain	36	57	45.1
Portugal	20	42	38.6
Czech Republic	19	23	28.3

**average of results for the 9 countries interviewed*

A socio-demographic analysis of the results reveals differences to which the social sciences are accustomed: men say they are more certain of voting than women; the certainty rises with the age of the respondent but also on the basis of their educational level. Those who stated that they are opposed to the Constitutional Treaty seem slightly more certain to vote than those who said they are in favour. The hard core of opponents thus appeared to be more mobilised. However, in total, around one person in two who is sure they would take part in the referendum stated that they are in favour of the draft, as against a quarter who expressed their opposition. Despite the stronger mobilisation of 'No' supporters, the final result should therefore be heavily tilted towards a 'Yes' vote in the majority of Member States concerned. The United Kingdom remains, at present, an exception to the rule: the exact opposite relationship was recorded in this country.

4. Sources of information on the draft Constitution

Source: question 6

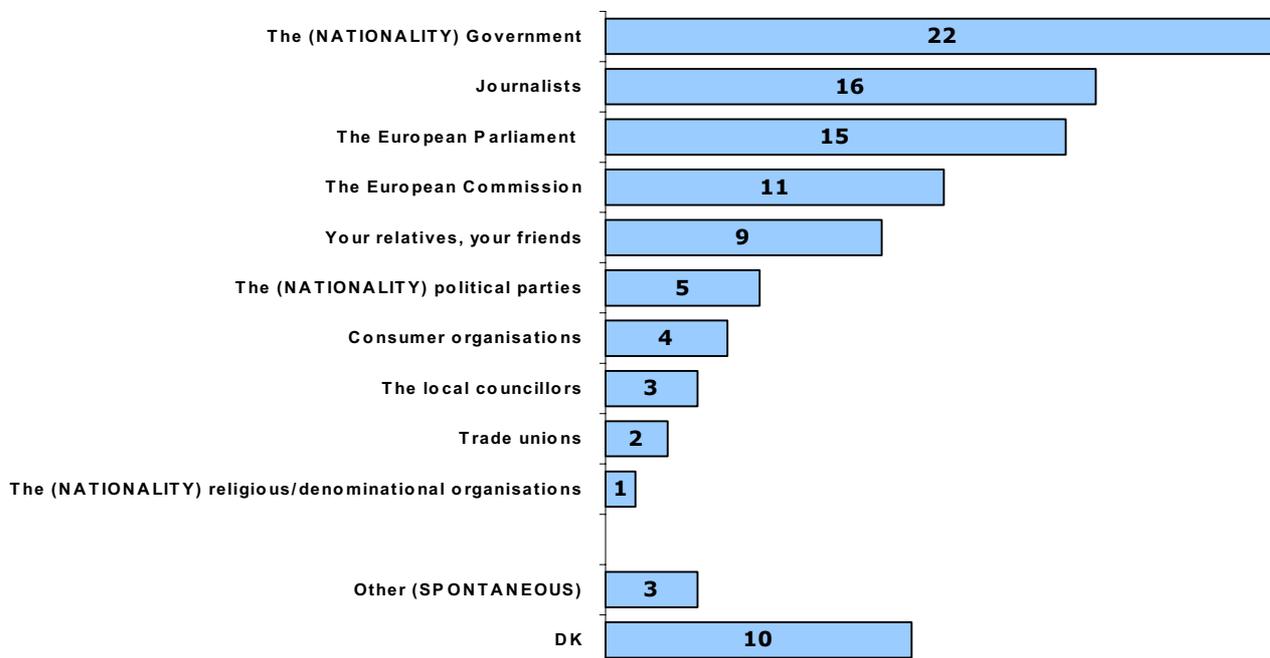
What is the level of trust accorded by respondents in the different information sources likely to provide information to citizens on the contents of the draft European Constitution? The question here is not so much to know which institution is best placed to communicate on the Constitution but rather to measure the objective or reliable nature of the information distributed by certain bodies, whether institutional, political or the media.

- Most trust accorded to National Governments and the European Institutions -

For informing citizens about the draft Constitution, National Governments, for once, (22%), and the European Institutions (the Parliament and Commission jointly obtain 26% of citations) secure the highest levels of trust. Journalists represent the third source of information (16%). All proposed communications should therefore pass through these three clearly identified levels.

It is also noteworthy that respondents seem to place more trust in their families and friends for obtaining this type of information than in political parties and other associations.

Q6. Who do you most trust to give you information about the draft European Constitution?
(Responses in %)



Analysis of the results by Member State often reflects the results noted at the European level, although with some 'national particularities'. For example, more Belgians (18%), Italians (18%), Portuguese and Maltese (19%) trust the European Commission. However, Hungarians (40%) and Slovaks (28%) stand out for the greater level of trust they have in the European Parliament.

Another significant example: Finns (52%) and Cypriots (48%) seem to have particular trust in their National Governments while Poles do not seem to particularly trust the three institutions featuring in the question. Citizens in Poland prefer to place their trust in journalists (20%) or in friends and relatives (22%).

To better target any communications strategy the results should be analysed by socio-demographic variables. Thus, those who had studied least seem most likely to trust their National Governments and relatives for information about the draft European Constitution. However, the higher the respondents' educational level, the more likely they are to trust journalists and the European Institutions for information.

On the other hand, people who are most aware of the contents of the Treaty are also most likely to give priority to the European Institutions. The same is true of people who said they are in favour of the draft Constitution.

5. The areas in which European Union citizens would wish to use the 'citizen's right of initiative'.

Source: question 7

The draft European Constitution establishes that a million European Union citizens can request the adoption of a European law. This is known as the 'citizen's right of initiative'.

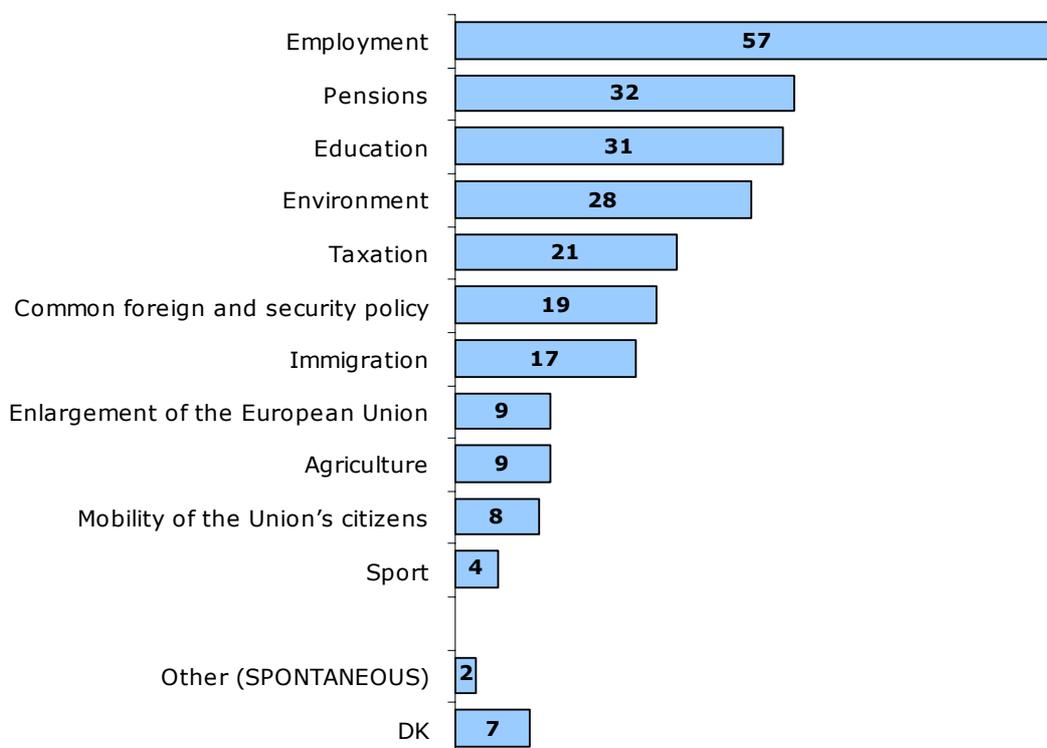
The aim of this last section is to reveal in which areas Europeans would like to use this right as a priority.

- **Employment, potentially the first area for citizens' initiatives-**

A majority of citizens of the European Union (57%) would like to use their citizens' right of initiative in relation to employment as a priority. More than 30% quoted pensions (32%) and education (31%) as priority areas.

These choices reflect fairly faithfully the main concerns of respondents in Europe today⁶. Consequently, they seem to be expressing their desire to have a personal influence in defining the agenda of priority policies.

*Q7. The draft European Constitution establishes that a million citizens in European Union can demand the adoption of a European law. This is known as the 'citizen's right of initiative'. In which of the following fields would you wish to use this right as a priority? (MAX. 3 RESPONSES)
(Responses in %)*



⁶ See the principle results of Eurobarometer 62.

Although the ranking of preferred areas of action noted at the European level is often the same at the national level, the analysis of results by Member State reveals choices which sometimes differ from one country to the next.

The environment, for example, is an area noticeably less often mentioned in most of the new Member States of the European Union.

Otherwise, respondents in Scandinavian countries do not seem to feel any need to exercise their citizens' right of initiative in the field of pensions.

6. Conclusion

The results of this survey on the draft European Constitution seem a priori positive in relation to the text, but there is also a high level of indecision that appears to derive from a lack of knowledge of the draft at the time the survey was conducted. Almost two thirds of European citizens say they have heard of the draft Constitution for the Union. This notoriety is not consistent throughout the Union, and hides a lack of information which is especially serious in Cyprus and the United Kingdom, where one respondent in two confesses their ignorance. The fact that some countries have already announced that they will ratify the treaty by referendum does not improve these results: the rate of positive responses is actually lower in the ten countries concerned (65% against an average of 67%).

The objective indicator of knowledge of the contents of the future European Constitution shows that on average one answer in two is correct. The lack of knowledge is especially worrying in Spain or Portugal. These are the two countries which will first hold a referendum on the subject.

There are clearly more supporters of the Constitution today than opponents, except in the United Kingdom. On average almost one European citizen in two states that they are in favour of the draft Constitutional Treaty with only 16% opposing it. Despite this majority support, an exceptionally high level of 'no response' was observed, with one citizen in three failing to clearly express their opinion. Within the ten countries which have opted to hold referenda, this especially marked lack of opinion translates into a slightly lower than average support rate for the Treaty.

At the same time, a clear correlation is evident between the level of knowledge and support for the text: among the third of the population which have never heard of the text, only 22% are in favour. This proportion rises to 60% among those who said they had some vague knowledge, and reached a level of 75% among those who thought they knew its overall contents.

Supporters of the Treaty base their argument mainly on the institutional aspects, but they also stress factors strongly associated with more symbolic elements, such as the political union of Europe and genuine European citizenship. For opponents, it is above all the spectre of the loss of national sovereignty that provoked this fear of the draft, and was expressed with particular force in the United Kingdom and Ireland.

In those states which had opted to hold a referendum to ratify the Constitutional Treaty, the level of citizens' mobilisation to take part is still low. It is important to note that in Spain and Portugal, the percentage of people who say they would certainly go and vote stands at only 36% and 20% respectively.

The data show that information is today a crucial factor in changing opinion in the direction of more clear-cut support for the text. In citizens' eyes, National Governments remain the most legitimate source of information about the Constitutional Treaty. The European Parliament and the Commission, together with journalists, also figure among the sources of information judged the most reliable.

The text approved in Rome last October thus enjoys a generally positive image, despite a level of information that remains broadly inadequate. This observation remains valid for countries which will organise a referendum in the more or less long term but appears worrying in Spain and Portugal, where polling day is drawing close. It is therefore essential that all citizens of the Union are made aware of the importance of this text. Institutional and media players should play their part.

Technical note

SPECIAL EUROBAROMETER N° 214 “The future Constitutional Treaty” TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Between 27th October and 29th November 2004, the TNS Opinion & Social, a consortium created between Taylor Nelson Sofres and EOS Gallup Europe, carried out wave 62.1 of the Eurobarometer, on request of the EUROPEAN COMMISSION, Directorate-General Press and Communication, Opinion Polls.

The SPECIAL EUROBAROMETER N° 214 is part of wave 62.1 and covers the population of the respective nationalities of the European Union Member States, resident in each of the Member States and aged 15 years and over. The basic sample design applied in all Member States is a multi-stage, random (probability) one. In each EU 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 2 (or equivalent) and according to the distribution of the resident population of the respective EU-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 were selected as every Nth address 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 have been conducted face-to-face in people's home 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.

ABBREVIATION	COUNTRIES	INSTITUTES	N° INTERVIEWS	FIELDWORK DATES	POPULATION 15+
AT	Austria	Österreichisches Gallup- Institute	1007	08-11 / 21-11-2004	6,679,444
BE	Belgium	TNS Dimarso	1000	02-11 / 28-11-2004	8,598,982
DK	Denmark	TNS Gallup DK	1059	05-11 / 02-12-2004	4,380,063
FR	France	TNS Sofres	1000	06-11 / 21-11-2004	44,010,619
FI	Finland	TNS Gallup OY	1013	01-11 / 25-11-2004	4,279,286
D	Germany	TNS Infratest	1561	01-11 / 18-11-2004	64,174,295
EL	Greece	TNS ICAP	1000	29-10 / 21-11-2004	8,674,230
UK	United Kingdom	TNS UK	1312	05-11 / 29-11-2004	47,685,578
IE	Ireland	TNS MRBI	1000	05-11 / 25-11-2004	3,089,775
IT	Italy	TNS Abacus	1018	10-11 / 24-11-2004	49,208,000
LU	Luxembourg	TNS ILReS	506	30-10 / 18-11-2004	367,199
NL	The Netherlands	TNS NIPO	1011	04-11 / 22-11-2004	13,242,328
PT	Portugal	TNS EUROTESTE	1000	03-11 / 24-11-2004	8,080,915
ES	Spain	TNS Demoscopia	1031	02-11 / 21-11-2004	35,882,820
SE	Sweden	TNS GALLUP	1000	01-11 / 22-11-2004	7,376,680
CY	Rep. of Cyprus	Synovate	508	02-11 / 24-11-2004	552,212
CZ	Czech Republic	TNS Aisa	1025	08-11 / 21-11-2004	8,571,710
EE	Estonia	Emor	1002	02-11 / 18-11-2004	887,094
HU	Hungary	TNS Hungary	1005	02-11 / 21-11-2004	8503379
LV	Latvia	TNS Baltic Data House	1011	02-11 / 22-11-2004	1,394,351
LT	Lithuania	TNS Gallup Lithuania	1004	04-11 / 21-11-2004	2,803,661
MT	Malte	MISCO	500	27-10 / 17-11-2004	322,917
PL	Poland	TNS OBOP	1000	03-11 / 21-11-2004	31,610,437
SK	Slovakia	TNS AISA SK	1203	05-11 / 19-11-2004	4,316,438
SI	Slovenia	RM PLUS	1091	05-11 / 28-11-2004	1,663,869

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 EU member-countries a national weighting procedure, using marginal and intercellular weighting, was carried out based on this Universe description. As such in all countries, gender, age, region and size of locality were introduced in the iteration procedure. For international weighting (i.e. EU averages), TNS Opinion & Social applies the official population figures as provided by EUROSTAT or national statistic offices. The total population figures for input in this post-weighting procedure are listed above.

Readers are reminded that survey results are estimations, the accuracy of which, everything being equal, rests upon the sample size and upon the observed percentage.

With samples of about 1,000 interviews, the real percentages vary within the following confidence limits:

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