

EUROBAROMETER 67

PUBLIC OPINION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

SPRING 2007

NATIONAL REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SPAIN

This survey was requested and coordinated by Directorate-General Communication.

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INTRODUCTION OF EB 67 – SPAIN

Between the 10th of April and the 15th of May 2007, wave EB67.2 of the Standard Eurobarometer survey was conducted in the 27 EU member states on request of DG Press and Communication. The current Spanish edition includes a Standard National Report (in Spanish) and an Executive Summary focusing on the main conclusions about overall public opinion in Spain in spring 2007. The EB edition it is also used as a framework for communication strategies by the EC Representation in Spain. The executive summary presented here summarises the most important conclusions of the Spanish National Report. Socio-demographic analysis of the data is done in order to emphasise some of the findings of the Spanish case. Additionally, there are a series of data offered in the form of a follow-up from consecutive Eurobarometer surveys, carried out in recent years. For these data, the main trend is described for selected questions.

Novelties of EB 67, in respect to earlier editions, include the public opinion in respect of globalisation, as well as the perception of the public in respect to the economic situation of Spain and the EU, the cost of living and the quality of life in Spain. As in earlier editions, this one shows the most important results in respect to the support shown for a European Constitution and the fears of the public as to the future enlargement of Europe. Also, increased interest is again observed concerning issues such as the policies and activities of the EU, as well as growing satisfaction with the way the EU works.

The website of the Eurobarometer can be consulted at:
http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/public_opinion/index_en.htm

Theme 1: The general climate and level of satisfaction of the Spanish public

“There is an increase in the level of satisfaction among the Spanish public as to the type of life they lead”

Overall, and in comparison with the previous survey of autumn 2006, the Spanish group answered positively about the level of satisfaction with the type of life they lead. With an increase of +2 points, the Spanish group said they felt “very satisfied” with the type of life they lead (67% in comparison with 65% in the earlier edition). Also, another 21% said they felt “fairly satisfied” with their lives, in comparison with 25% of the earlier edition EB66 (Table 1).

Table 1: Overall, would you say you are very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied, with the type of life you lead?

	Very satisfied	Fairly satisfied	Not very satisfied	Not at all satisfied
UE27 (EB67)	21%	59%	15%	4%
ES (EB67)	21%	67%	11	1
ES (EB66)	25%	65%	9%	1%
ES (EB65)	22%	66%	10%	1%

“The Spanish group maintains its positive evaluation about the next year”

The Spanish public seems to be increasingly more positive about the future (Table 2).

Table 2: Expectations for the year to come

	Better	Worse	Same
Your life in general	43	8	47
The economic situation in Spain	29	25	37
The economic situation in your household	30	12	56
The employment situation in Spain	30	24	36
Your personal employment situation	27	6	65

43% of the Spanish poll thought that their life in the next year would be better compared with 39% in the previous survey. Only 8% of the group thought it would get “worse”.

“Terrorism is again the main concern of the Spanish public, followed by immigration and housing”

Table 3: Main worries among Spaniards and Europeans

	Spain		UE-27
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Terrorism	47	Unemployment	34
Immigration	36	Crime	24
Housing	19	Immigration	15
Unemployment	19	Terrorism	12
Crime	17	Housing	8

As shown in Table 3, 47% of the Spanish public consider terrorism to be the main concern right now in Spain. This is an increase of +18 points since EB66. Among Europeans in general, terrorism is only fourth in their list of main concerns (12%), and unemployment is in first place with a score of 34%.

“Immigration” and “housing” are the second and third issues that most concern the Spanish public, with scores of 36% and 19% respectively.

According to the Spanish public, Spain has a “better” quality of life than other EU countries.

51% of the Spanish poll said that the quality of life is “somewhat better” in Spain than in other European countries.

On the other hand, when asked about the employment situation in their country, the 32% of the Spanish group answered that this was “somewhat worse” than in other countries.

Theme 2: Spanish opinion regarding decision making and EU membership

Trust in the European Institutions increases again

In the present survey, the Spanish tend to show a greater level of trust (in comparison with the earlier editions of EB66 and EB65) in the EU institutions like the Commission and European Parliament. In the present edition, 57% of the Spanish group said that they “tend to trust” in the Commission (47% in the earlier edition). The EU27 average is tin similar level, with 52% of Europeans saying that they “tend to trust”.

Also, there is an important increase in levels of trust in the EU Parliament, with 58% of the public saying that they “tend to trust” this institution (47% in the earlier edition). The EU-27 average is –2 points below the Spanish one (56%)

“More than two-thirds of the Spanish poll thinks that being a member of the EU is “something good”

This positive attitude of the Spanish poll is maintained since the previous survey. In EB67, more than two-thirds of the group shares this view (73%). Another 13%, in the present survey, thinks that Spain’s membership is “neither good nor bad”.

Also, 73% of the Spanish group thought that Spain had “benefited” from its membership of the European Union.

Theme 3: Spanish opinion about the EU and Globalisation

The majority of the Spanish group thinks that the EU is “modern” and rejects the term “inefficient”

66% of the Spanish group said that the term “modern” describes the EU fairly well. The EU27 average was 58%. The figure for those thinking that the term that best describes the EU is “democratic” is close to that - with 62% of the poll in favour of this description. The term “protective” received half of the votes from the Spanish interviewees.

One in two interviewees thinks that the image of the EU is fairly positive.

The image of the EU was perceived by 52% of the Spanish poll as “fairly positive”. Another 12% said it is “very positive”.

However, 27% of the group thought that the image of the EU was “neutral” and only 6% that this was “fairly negative”.

According to the Spanish public, the EU protects us from the negative effects of globalisation

In EB67, respondents were asked about the role played by the EU in relation to the process of globalisation. 37% of the Spanish public thought that the EU protected it from the negative effects of globalisation. The EU-27 average was 33%.

Theme 4: The political Union and the European Constitution

The majority of the Spanish poll said they were ‘in favour’ of a future enlargement of the EU

Two-thirds of the Spanish group (65%) of the group said they were “in favour” of a future enlargement, a figure that is +16 points higher than the EU average (EU27:49%)

Another 13% said they were “against” the future enlargement of the European Union, in contrast to an EU27 average of 39% holding this view.

There was a very positive attitude towards an EU Constitution

A great majority of Spanish group said that they were in favour of an EU Constitution. 75% of the group said they were "in favour" of the idea of an EU Constitution, a figure +9 points higher than the EU-27 average of 66%.

Combating illegal immigration and crime should be the major priorities for the EU according to the Spanish public

43% of the Spanish public thinks that the EU should have as its main priorities the fight against “illegal immigration” in contrast to an EU27 average of 29%.

The fight against crime, and environmental and social issues are the other EU priorities favoured by the Spanish poll.
