

Economic, Political and Social Identity in the European Union

Professor John Wilton

Lecture 7

European Union identity today



Web site for information referred to in this lecture is www.ec.europa.eu

Eurobarometer 62 from Autumn 2004 (fieldwork carried out in October/November 2004)

Eurobarometer 74 (fieldwork Oct/Nov. 2010, published Feb. 2011)

Eurobarometer 90 (fieldwork Oct/Nov 2018, published Dec. 2018)

Eurobarometer 92 (fieldwork Oct/Nov 2019, published Dec. 2019)



Lecture 7

Eurobarometer 62 (Autumn 2004)

EU membership good thing (56%). Plus 8 percentage points from Eurobarometer 61 (Spring 2004). Highest level of support since 1995.

- But, view that EU membership is a good thing for their country mainly found amongst the citizens of old Member States (85% Luxembourg, 77% Ireland, 75% Netherlands, 73% Belgium, 72% Spain)



Lecture 7

- Oct/Nov 2004 Eurobarometer poll 53% of EU citizens considered their country had benefited from belonging to the EU
- 34% thought their country hadn't benefited.
 - Positive view Plus 6 percentage points from survey Feb/Mar 2004 - reached a level not seen over previous 10 years



Lecture 7

IMAGE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

- 50% had a positive image of the EU in Oct/Nov 2004 survey – an increase of 6 percentage points on Spring 2004 survey
- 33% were neutral about the EU image
- 15% had a negative perception of the image of the EU



Lecture 7

From this the Eurobarometer 62 report suggested that:

- *“This constant trend reflects once again the gap which exists between the wishes of citizens for more Europe and their perception of the current situation.”*
(p.29)



Lecture 7

Eurobarometer 74 (Autumn 2010): Most important *personal values* for EU citizens -

- human rights 47%
- peace 44%
- respect for human life 41%
- democracy 29%
- individual freedom 23%
- rule of law 22%
- equality 19%



Lecture 7

Eurobarometer 74 (Autumn 2010):

- When asked to select the values that best represent the E.U., Europeans gave priority to the values which are the most important for them personally:
 - human rights 38%
 - democracy 38%
 - peace 35%



Lecture 7

Eurobarometer 74 (Autumn 2010):

Perceptions of what the E.U. represents for E.U. citizens:

- freedom to travel, study and work
anywhere in E.U. 45%
- Euro 40%
- peace 24%
- democracy 23%
- cultural diversity 23%
- stronger voice in world 23%
- BUT**, - waste of money 25%



Lecture 7

Eurobarometer 74 (Autumn 2010):

- 38% of Europeans surveyed had a positive image of the European Union
(= minus/decline of 10 percentage points in comparison with Eurobarometer 72 in Autumn 2009 – effect of Euro crisis?)
- Eurobarometer 62 (Autumn 2004) 50% had positive image of E.U.



Lecture 7

Eurobarometer 90 (Autumn 2018)

IMAGE OF THE E.U.

43% positive image (highest level since Autumn 2009)

36% neutral image

20% negative image

From Spring 2018 positive image had increased in 17 states



Lecture 7

Eurobarometer 90 (Autumn 2018)

E.U. Citizenship

- In all EU states more than half the people surveyed felt they were citizens of the E.U. (71% across the E.U. as a whole)

Most positive results of being E.U. citizen:

- 59% free movement of people, goods and services within E.U.
- 55% peace among E.U. Member States



Lecture 7

Eurobarometer 92 (Autumn 2019)

IMAGE OF THE E.U.

42% positive image (down 1 percentage point on Autumn 2018)

37% neutral image (up 1 percentage point on Autumn 2018)

20% negative image (same as Autumn 2018)



Lecture 7

Eurobarometer 92 (Autumn 2019)

E.U. Citizenship

- In all EU states more than half the people surveyed felt they were citizens of the E.U. (70% across the E.U. as a whole)

Most positive results:

91% Luxembourg

Least positive results:

51% Greece

