



DG Communication is continuously monitoring public opinion by conducting regular Eurobarometer surveys in all 28 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.**

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:

- **Debate with the Prime Minister of the Republic of Latvia, Krišjānis Kariņš, on the Future of Europe**
- **CO2 emission performance standards for new heavy-duty vehicles**
- **Coordination of social security systems**
- **European Border and Coast Guard**

Parliament's Eurobarometer surveys cover a wide range of issues. They focus primarily on the European citizens' perceptions of the European Parliament and the EU as well as Europe's 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 more information on the topics covered in this edition, please contact:

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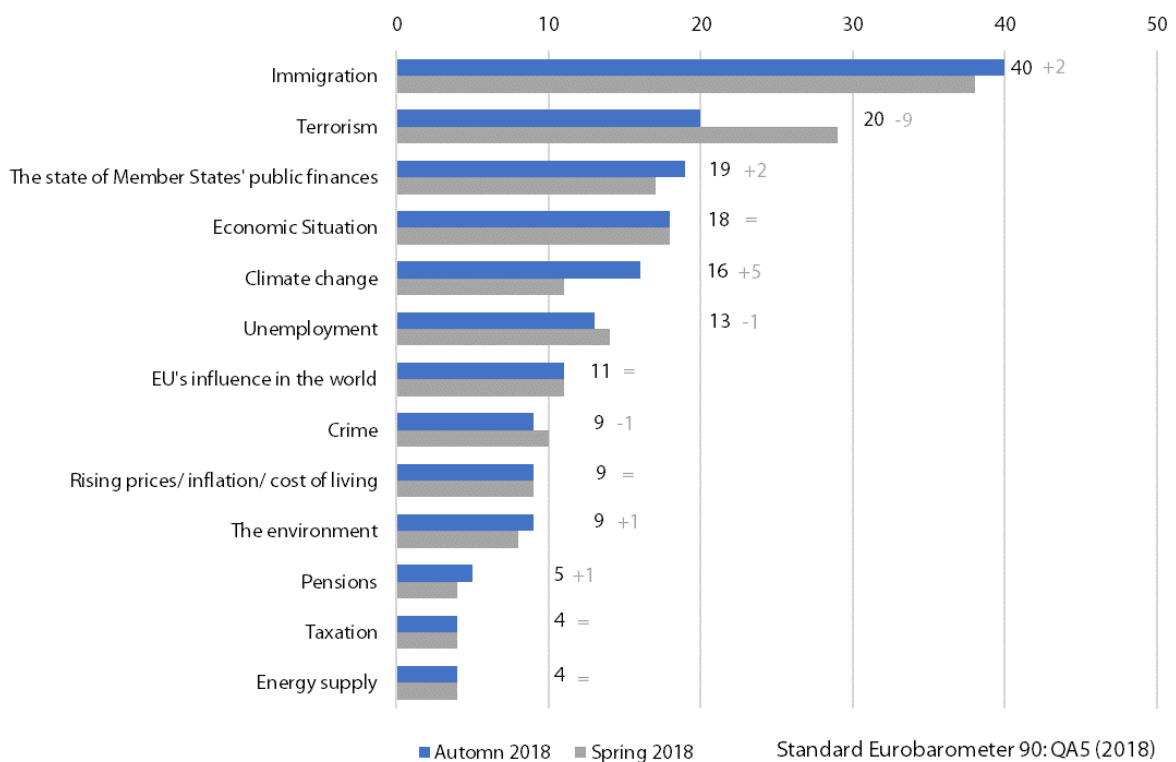
Parliament's series of [debate on the Future of Europe continues. The Prime Minister of Latvia, Krišjānis Kariņš](#), will be the eighteenth European Union leader to debate the Future of Europe with MEPs on Wednesday morning.

According to the European Commission's [Standard Eurobarometer, published end of December 2018](#), for the third consecutive time immigration remains the citizens' main concern, with 40% of mentions on EU average (+2 percentage points since spring 2018). Terrorism remains in second position with 20% of mentions after a third consecutive decrease (-9 since spring 2018, -18 since autumn 2017 and -24 since spring 2017).

The state of Member States' public finances is in third position (19%, +2), reappearing in the top three for the first time since autumn 2014 (EB82). The economic situation is in fourth place (18%, unchanged), leaving the top three for the first time since autumn 2010.

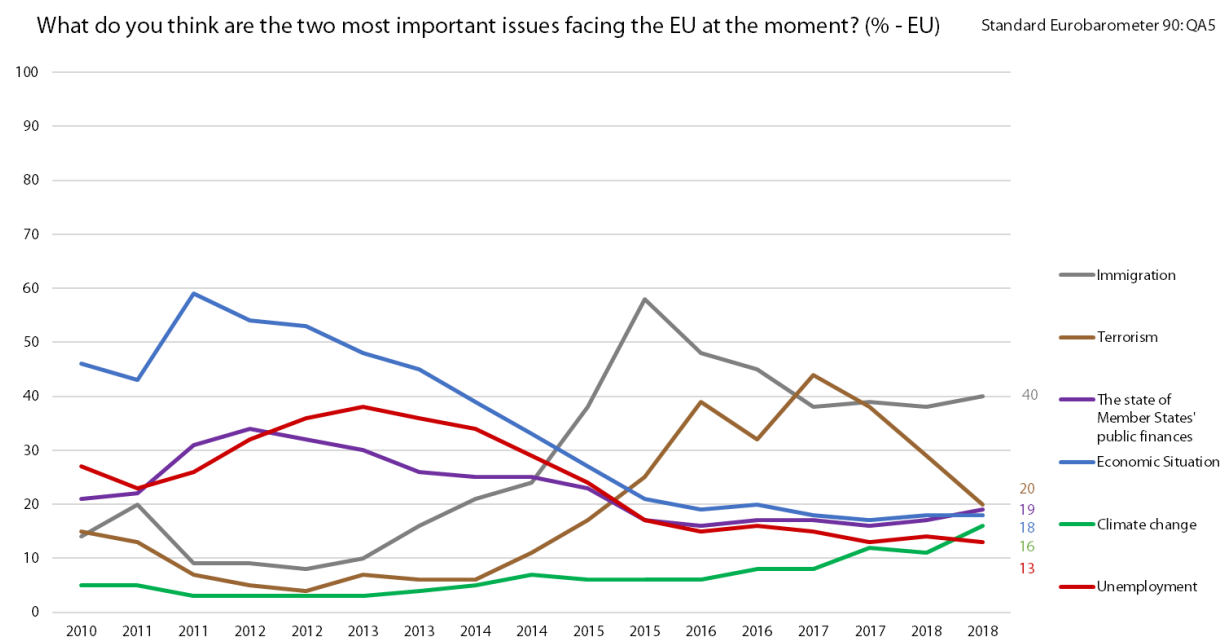
In fifth position, at 16%, climate change registers the largest increase (+5 percentage points), reaching a new high. Unemployment is in sixth position, at 13% (-1), the lowest level for this indicator since 2010.

What do you think are the two most important issues facing the EU at the moment? (% - EU) - Two answers maximum-



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

Long-term trends

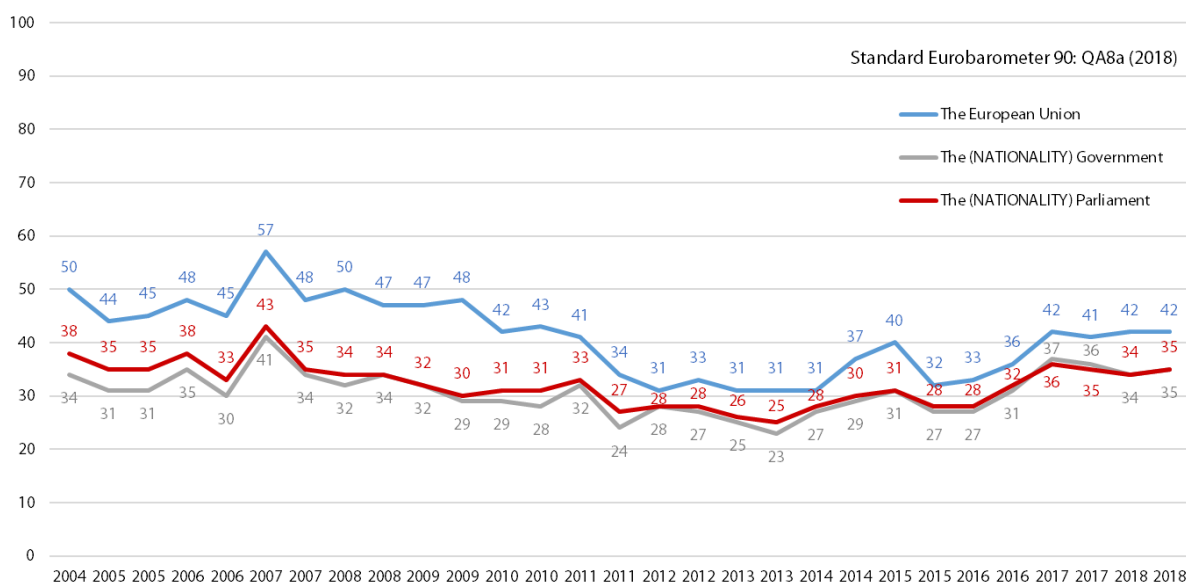


For more detailed information: [Standard Eurobarometer \(November 2018\)](#)

Besides, more than four in ten Europeans trust the European Union (42%, unchanged since spring 2018, the highest level since autumn 2010); in comparison, more than a third trust their national government (35%, +1 percentage point) and their national parliament (35%, +1).

Distrust in the national parliament (58% "tend not to trust", -2 percentage points since spring 2018) and in the national government (59%, -2) has decreased. Though still the majority, less than half of Europeans "tend not to trust" the European Union (48%, unchanged since spring 2018), and one in ten respondents answer that they "don't know" (10%).

I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain media and institutions. For each of the following media and institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it (in %)

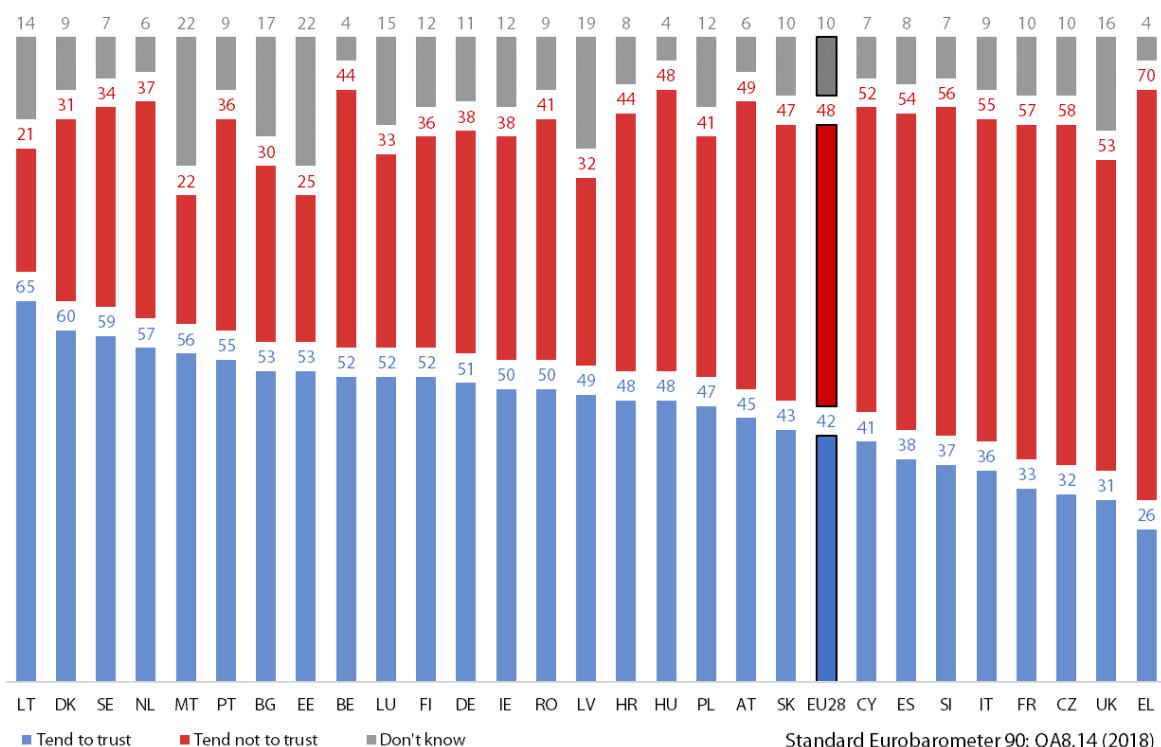


For more detailed information: [Standard Eurobarometer \(November 2018\)](#)

The continuing uncertainty about Brexit also puts the question about trust in the European Union in the spotlight. Citizens' trust in the EU is indeed the predominant attitude in 17 EU Member States (up from 15 in spring 2018), with the highest proportions registered in Lithuania (65%), Denmark (60%) and Sweden (59%). More than 50 % of respondents trust the EU in the Netherlands (57%), Malta (56%), Portugal (55%), Estonia and Bulgaria (both 53%), Luxembourg, Finland and Belgium (all 52%) and Germany (51%).

The lowest level of trust in the EU is seen in Greece (26%), the United Kingdom (31%) and Czechia (32%), with ten countries overall registering a majority not trusting the EU. respondents in Hungary are evenly divided (48% "tend to trust" vs. 48%).

I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain media and institutions. For each of the following media and institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.
- The European Union (in %)

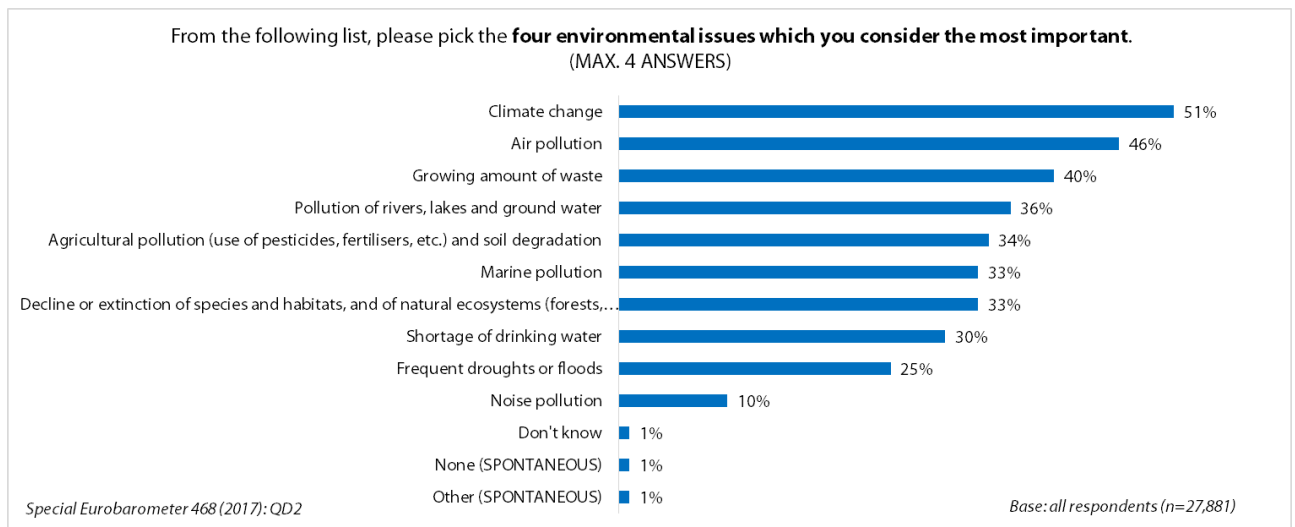


For more detailed information: [Standard Eurobarometer \(November 2018\)](#)

2 CO2 emission performance standards for new heavy-duty vehicles

In May 2018, the Commission proposed a regulation setting the [first-ever CO2 emission performance standards for new heavy-duty vehicles](#) in the EU, as part of the third mobility package. It would require the average CO2 emissions from new trucks in 2025 to be 15% lower than in 2019. For 2030, the proposal sets an indicative reduction target of at least 30% compared to 2019. Parliament voted on the report on 14 November 2018. Trilogue negotiations were concluded on 18 February 2019, Plenary is expected to vote on the agreed text next Thursday.

According to a [special Eurobarometer on Attitudes of European citizens towards the environment from October 2017](#), citizens consider that climate change (51%) and air pollution (46%) are the most important environmental issues.

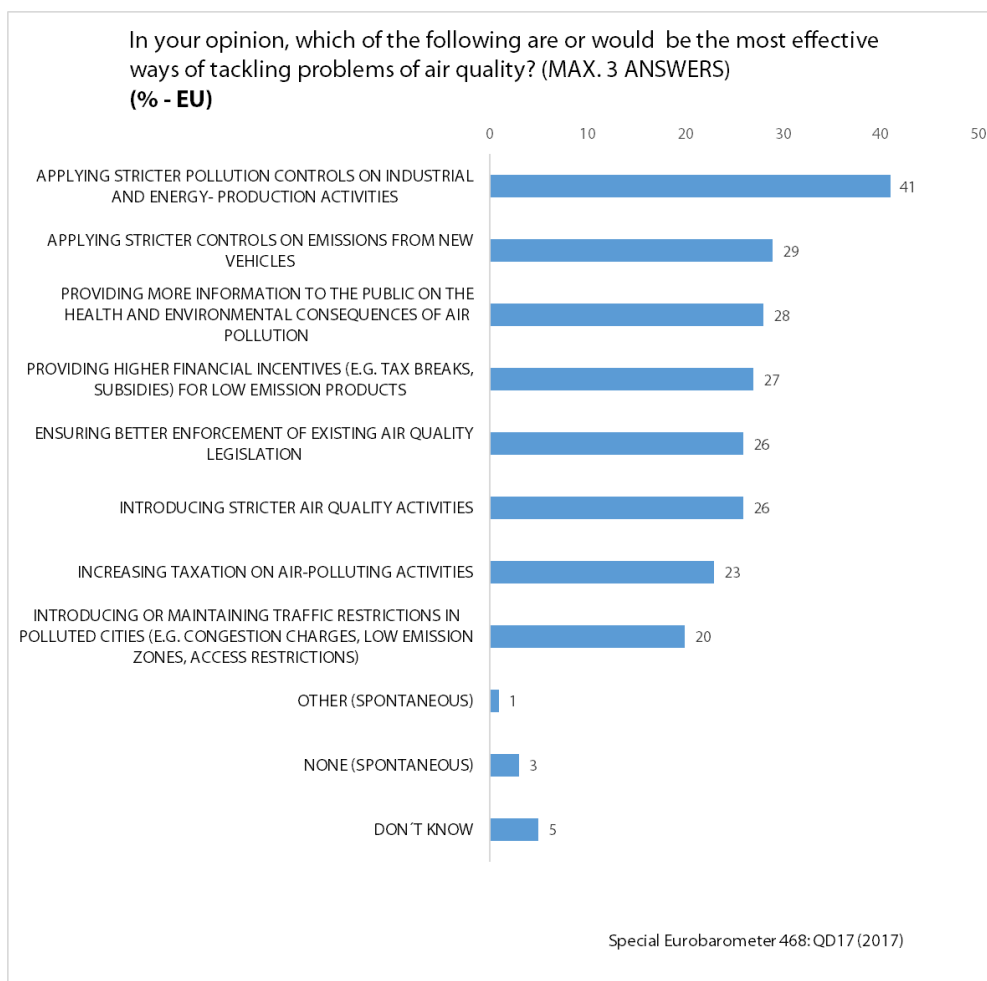


For more detailed information:

[Special Eurobarometer on Attitudes of European citizens towards the environment \(October 2017\)](#)

In the same survey, respondents cited as their most popular option for tackling problems of air quality to apply stricter pollution controls on industrial and energy production activities (41%).

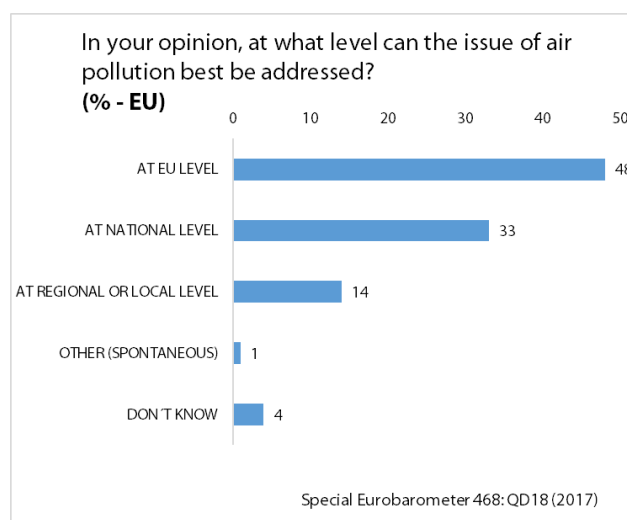
The other options have broadly similar levels of support. Five of the measures are chosen by just over a quarter of respondents: applying stricter controls on emissions from new vehicles (29%), providing more information to the public on the health and environmental consequences of air pollution (28%), providing higher financial incentives for low emission products (27%), ensuring better enforcement of existing air quality legislation (26%) and introducing stricter air quality legislation (26%).



For more detailed information:

[Special Eurobarometer on Attitudes of European citizens towards the environment \(October 2017\)](#)

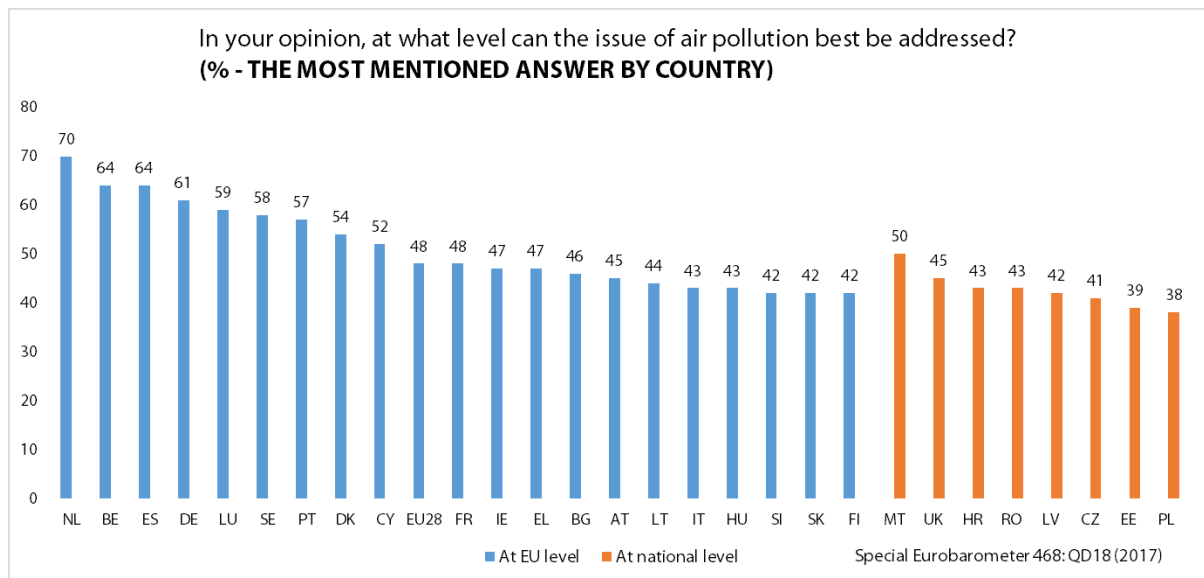
Besides, one in two Europeans (48%) think that the issue of air pollution can best be addressed at the EU level. A third (33%) think that it is better addressed at the national level, while 14% favour action at the regional or local level. A small minority mention another level (1%), or do not know (4%).



For more detailed information:

[Special Eurobarometer on Attitudes of European citizens towards the environment \(October 2017\)](#)

In 20 Member States, the EU level is seen as the best suited to address the issue of air pollution, with respondents in the Netherlands (70%), Belgium (64%), Spain (64%) and Germany (61%) most likely to say so. In eight countries respondents think that air pollution can best be addressed at national level. Malta has the highest proportion of respondents giving this answer (50%), followed by the UK (45%), Croatia (43%) and Romania (43%). Respondents are most likely to say that the regional or local level is best for addressing the issue of air pollution in Poland (26%), Romania (22%), Croatia and Slovenia (both 21%).



For more detailed information:

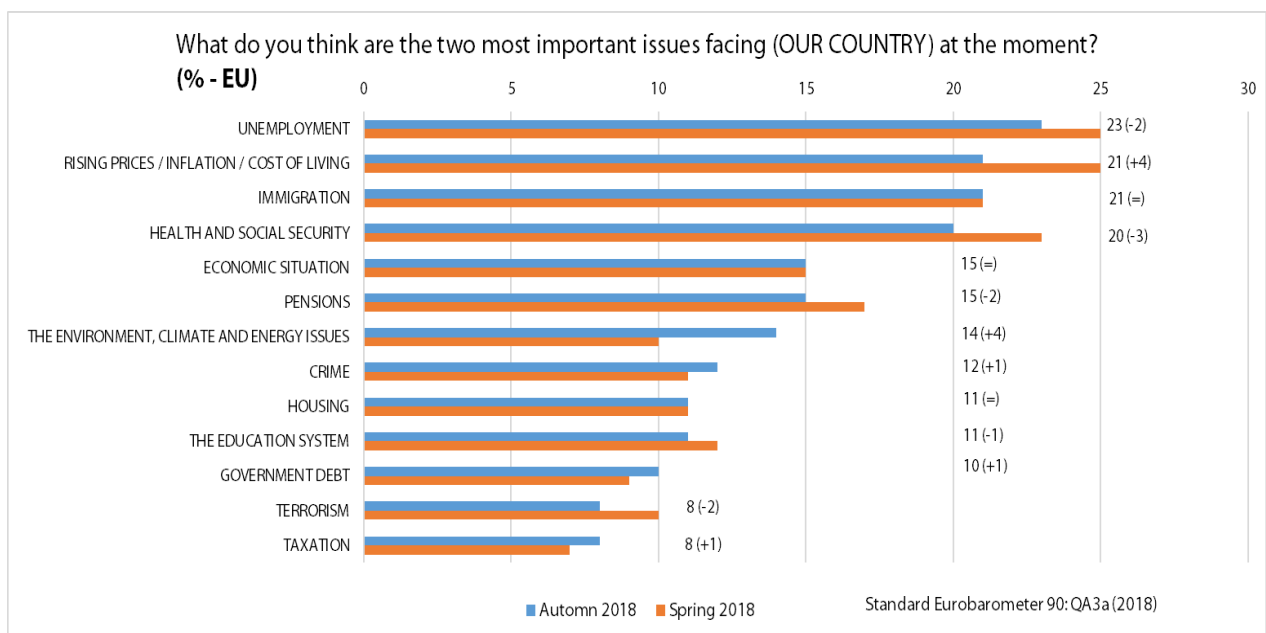
[Special Eurobarometer on Attitudes of European citizens towards the environment \(October 2017\)](#)

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Coordination of social security systems

Approximately 14 million EU residents (mobile workers, unemployed and economically inactive citizens) are not living in their home country. Whereas [the coordination of social security](#) would facilitate the free movement of the people within the European Union, Plenary will discuss, next Tuesday morning, a proposal which aims to facilitate mobility by ensuring that individuals do not lose their rights when moving within Europe.

According to the [European Commission's Standard Eurobarometer, published in December 2018](#), with 23% of mentions, 'unemployment' remains the most important national issue, after a 2 point decrease. 'Rising prices/inflation/cost of living' (21%, +4) is in equal second position with 'immigration' (21%, unchanged). Finally, 'Health and social security' is in fourth place at EU level, mentioned by 20% of Europeans.



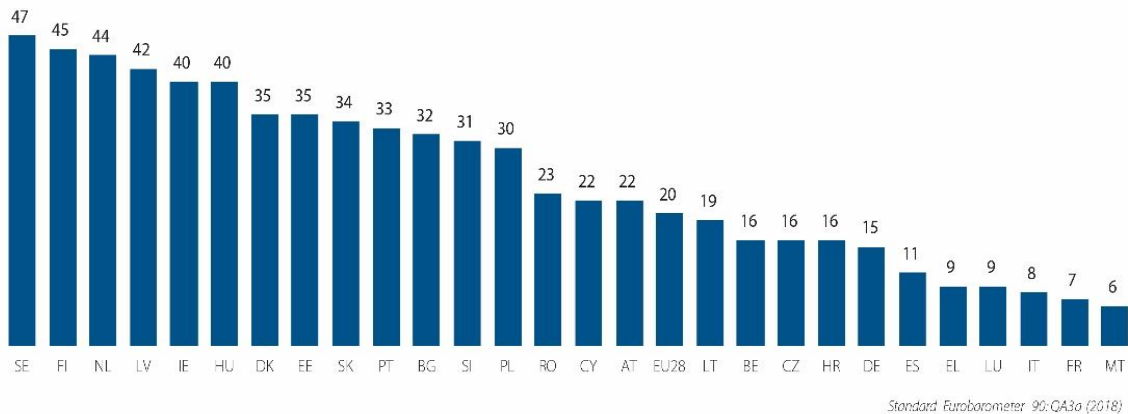
For more detailed information: [Standard Eurobarometer \(November 2018\)](#)

'Health and social security' stands in first place in eight EU Member States, led by Sweden (47%), Finland (45%) and the Netherlands (44%).

It comes in second place in six EU countries: Ireland (40%), Denmark and Estonia (both 35%), Slovakia (34%), Bulgaria (32%) and Poland (30%). Equally with rising prices/inflation/cost of living, it is also the second most mentioned item in Austria (22%). Overall, it is the concern most frequently occurring in the top two across the 28 EU Member States.



What do you think are the two most important issues facing (OUR COUNTRY) at the moment?
(Total answers for 'Health and social security' per Member State, %)



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

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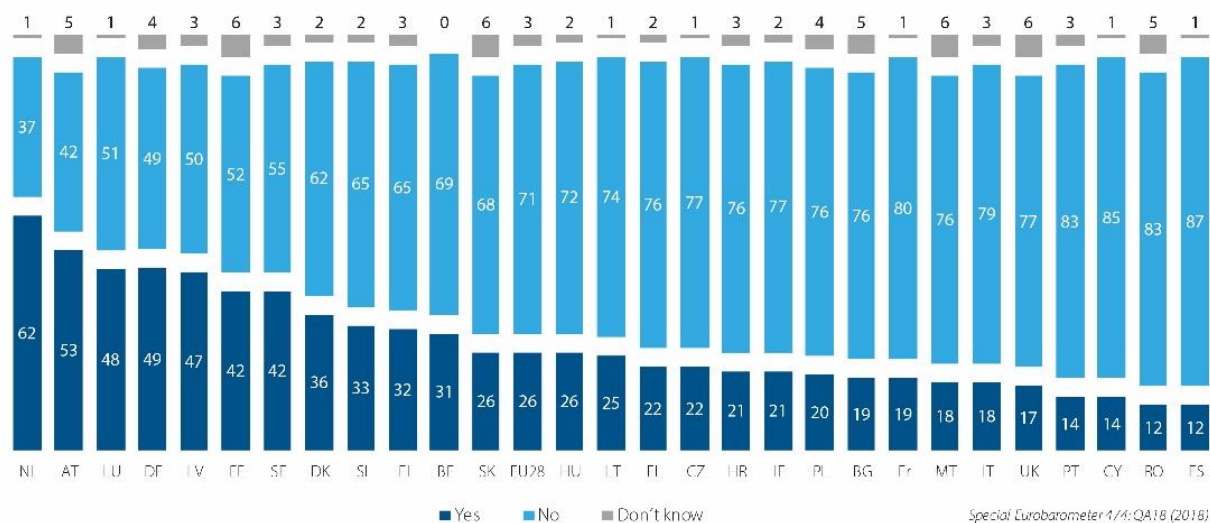
European border and Coast guard

Two years ago, Frontex was expanded to become [the European Border and Coast Guard \(EBCG\)](#) Agency that it is today. The Agency's new mandate and its increased resources are a clear and strong response to the challenges faced at the EU's external borders. Next Wednesday, MEPs will discuss these challenges with the aim of encouraging greater solidarity among Member States, strengthening exchange of information between Member States and cooperation of law enforcement in the fight against cross-border crime and terrorism.

In a [Special Eurobarometer on European's perceptions of the Schengen area](#), published in December 2018, EU citizens were asked whether they were aware of any EU initiatives to secure its external borders. A quarter of respondents (26%) say they are aware of this type of initiative, while 71% say they are not aware and 3% do not know.

Respondents in the Netherlands (62%) are most likely to say that they are aware of one or several EU initiatives to secure its external borders, followed by those in Austria (53%), Luxembourg (48%), and Germany and Latvia (both 47%). Awareness is lowest among respondents in Spain and Romania (both 12%), and Portugal and Cyprus (both 14%).

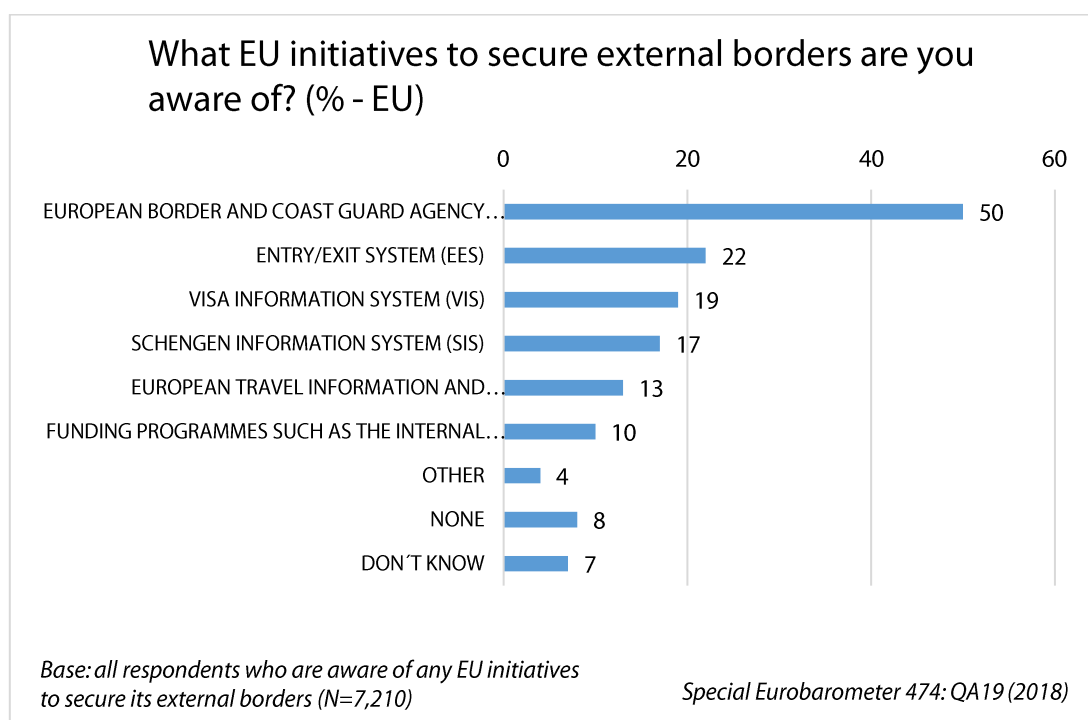
Are you aware of any EU initiatives to secure its external borders?
(%)



For more detailed information: [Special Eurobarometer on European's perceptions of the Schengen Area \(June 2018\)](#)

If respondents said they were aware of any EU initiatives to secure its external borders, they were given a list of initiatives and asked which ones they were aware of. Respondents are most likely to be aware of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) (50%), while 22% are aware of the Entry/Exit System (EES), 19% have heard of the Visa Information System (VIS) and 17% are aware of the Schengen Information System (SIS).

Awareness is slightly lower in relation to the European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS) (13%) and funding programmes such as the Internal Security Fund (10%). Despite initially saying they were aware of EU initiatives, 8% say that they are not aware of any of the listed initiatives and 7% do not know.

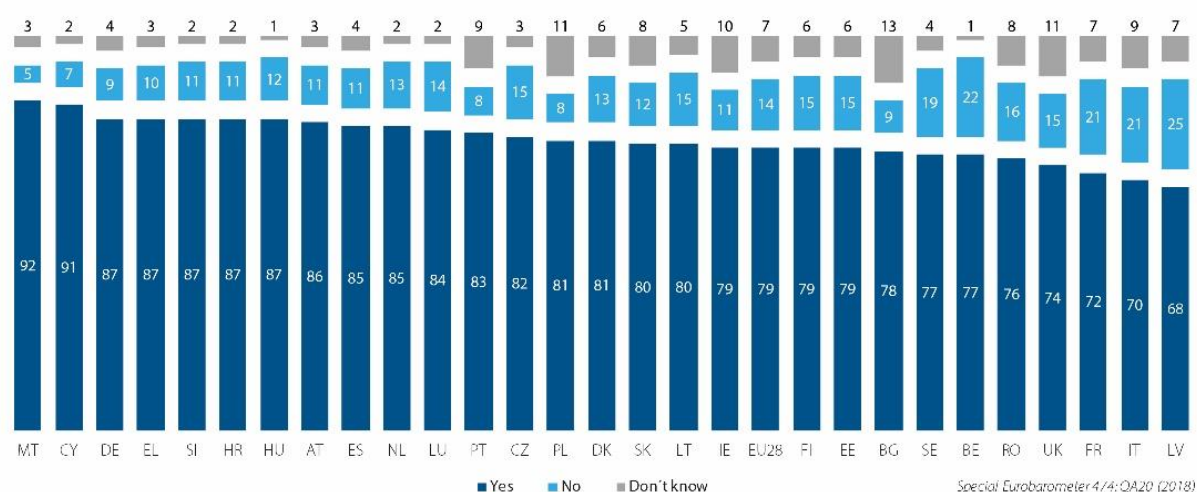


For more detailed information: [Special Eurobarometer on European's perceptions of the Schengen Area \(June 2018\)](#)

Moreover, EU citizens were asked whether they think the EU should be more involved in helping countries secure EU external borders. Four in five respondents (79%) say that the EU should be more involved, comprising 40% who say they should definitely be more involved and 39% who say that they should be more involved to some extent. One in seven respondents think that the EU should not be more involved: 3% definitely not and 11% 'not really'.

Respondents in Malta (92%) and Cyprus (91%) are most likely to say that the EU should be more involved in helping countries located at the EU's external borders to secure them, followed by respondents in Hungary, Croatia, Slovenia, Germany and Greece (all 87%). Agreement is lowest in Latvia (68%), Italy (70%), France (72%) and the UK (74%). Respondents in Latvia (25%), Belgium (22%), and France and Italy (both 21%) are most likely to say that the EU should not be more involved.

Do you think the EU should be more involved in helping countries located at the EU's external borders to secure them? (%)

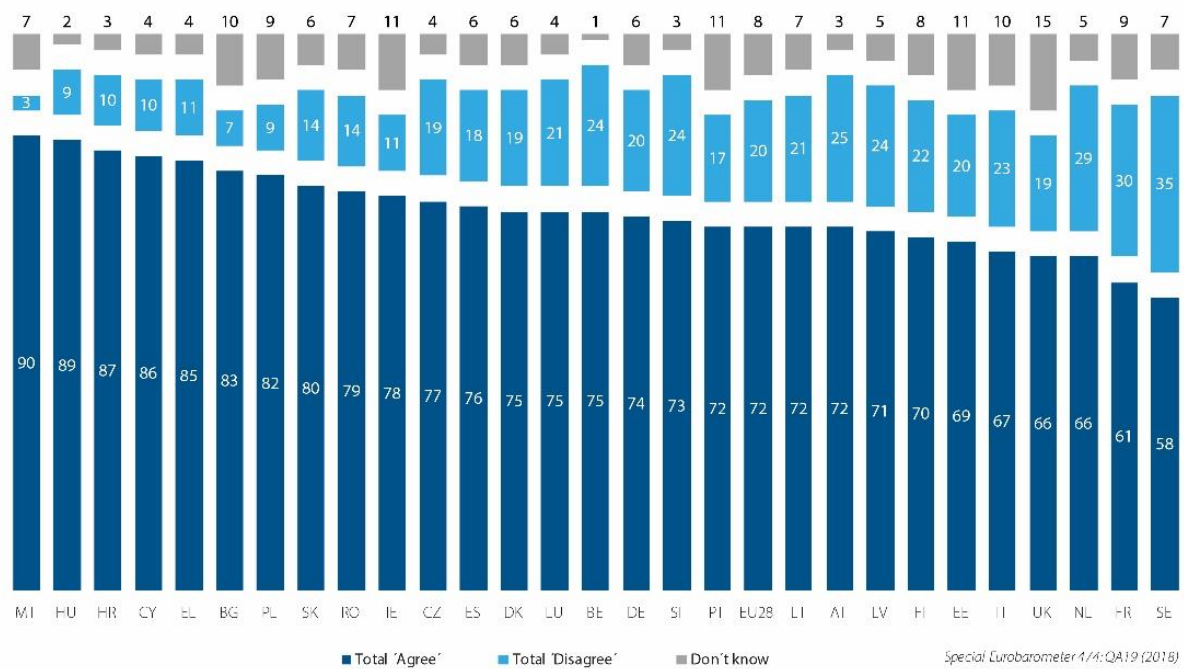


For more detailed information: [Special Eurobarometer on European's perceptions of the Schengen Area \(June 2018\)](#)

Finally, EU citizens were asked whether they think funding should be increased to secure EU external borders. Almost three quarters (72%) of respondents agree that funding should be increased, including more than a quarter (28%) who totally agree. One in five (20%) disagree, while 8% don't know.

In every country, a majority of respondents agrees that funding should be increased to secure EU external borders. Agreement is highest in Malta (90%), Hungary (89%), Croatia (87%), Cyprus (86%) and Greece (85%). Respondents are least likely to agree with the statement in Sweden (58%), France (61%), and the Netherlands and the UK (both 66%) and Italy (67%). In general, higher levels of agreement are seen in countries in the south-east of the EU, including those that are part of the EU's external borders.

To what extent do you agree or disagree that funding should be increased to strengthen the EU's external borders?
(%)



For more detailed information: [Special Eurobarometer on European's perceptions of the Schengen Area \(June 2018\)](#)