
The Next European Parliament: What role and agenda may EU citizens expect? Brussels, 28 April 2009

Representation of the European Commission in Belgium



GALLUP®

| Bertelsmann Stiftung





EU citizens' expectations before the 2009 EP elections

Robert Manchin
Gallup Europe

**The Next European Parliament:
What role and agenda may EU citizens expect?**

28 April 2009

A background note on the data used

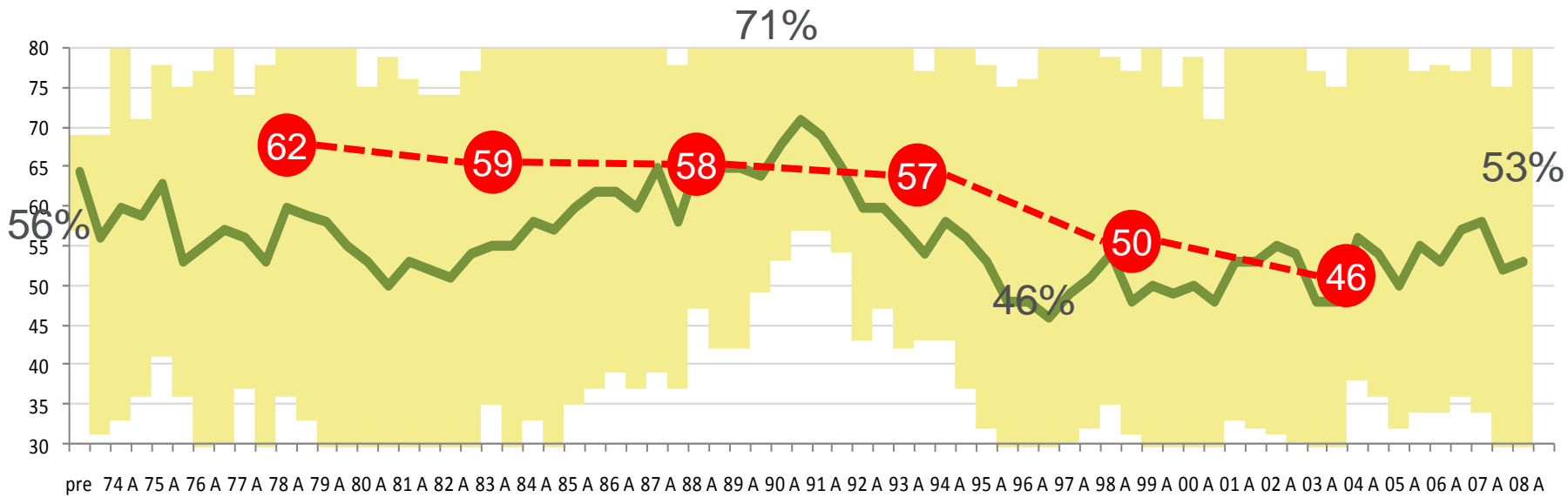
- The published results of Special, Standard and Flash Eurobarometer surveys on EP elections, mostly in 2009, together with archival data on:
 - The 2009 European elections,
 - Women and the European elections,
 - Europeans and the economic crisis
 - Representative samples of the EU population aged 15 and older
 - Survey mode: face-to-face
 - Sample size: 1,000 interviews per country
 - For detailed documentation see
 - http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/eb_special_en.htm
 - http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/flash_arch_en.htm

- In addition various Gallup polls in Europe
 - Representative sample of the EU population aged 18 and older
 - Survey mode: telephone
 - Sample sizes between 500 and 1,000 interviews per country
 - Fieldwork in 2009

Support for the EU & trends in election participation

EU MEMBERSHIP 'GOOD THING', %

62 EP ELECTION TURNOUT, %



pre 74 A 75 A 76 A 77 A 78 A 79 A 80 A 81 A 82 A 83 A 84 A 85 A 86 A 87 A 88 A 89 A 90 A 91 A 92 A 93 A 94 A 95 A 96 A 97 A 98 A 99 A 00 A 01 A 02 A 03 A 04 A 05 A 06 A 07 A 08 A
73*

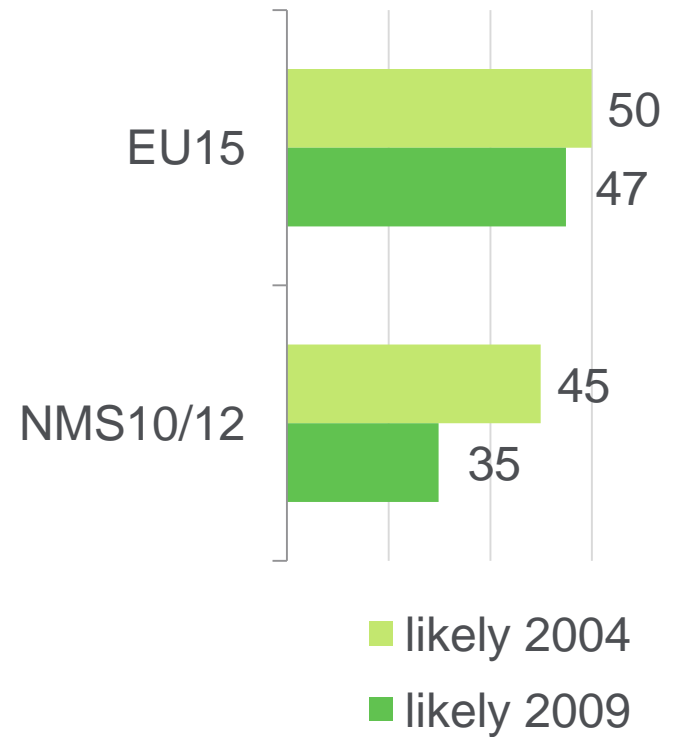
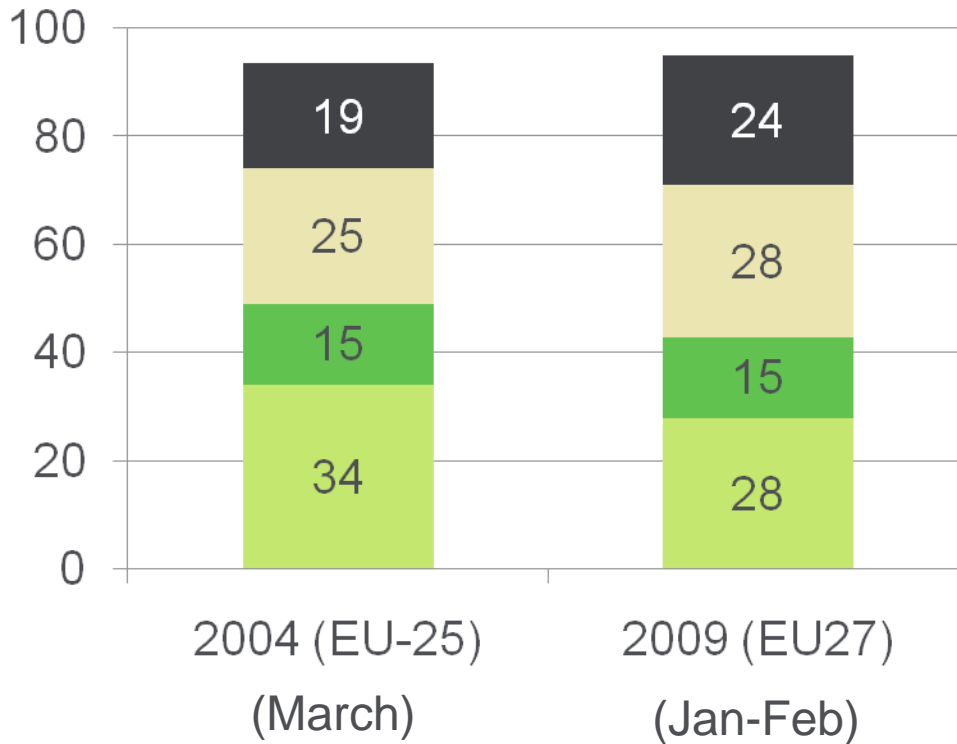
SUPPORT FOR EU	-1979	1979-1984	1984-1989	1989-1994	1994-1999	1999-2004	2004-2009
PERIOD AVERAGE	57%	54%	61%	63%	51%	51%	54%

Source: Standard EB

Predicting participation rates is risky: BUT we can see that comparisons suggest A FURTHER DROP

(2004 FACT: EU15: 49%, NMS: 27%)

- definite voter (10)
- likely voter (8-9)
- unsure (4-7)
- would not vote (1-3)



Sources: Standard EB 61, CCEB 2004.1, Special EB Wave 71.1 "The 2009 EP elections"

The EU political onion

63% is interested at least marginally in EU affairs

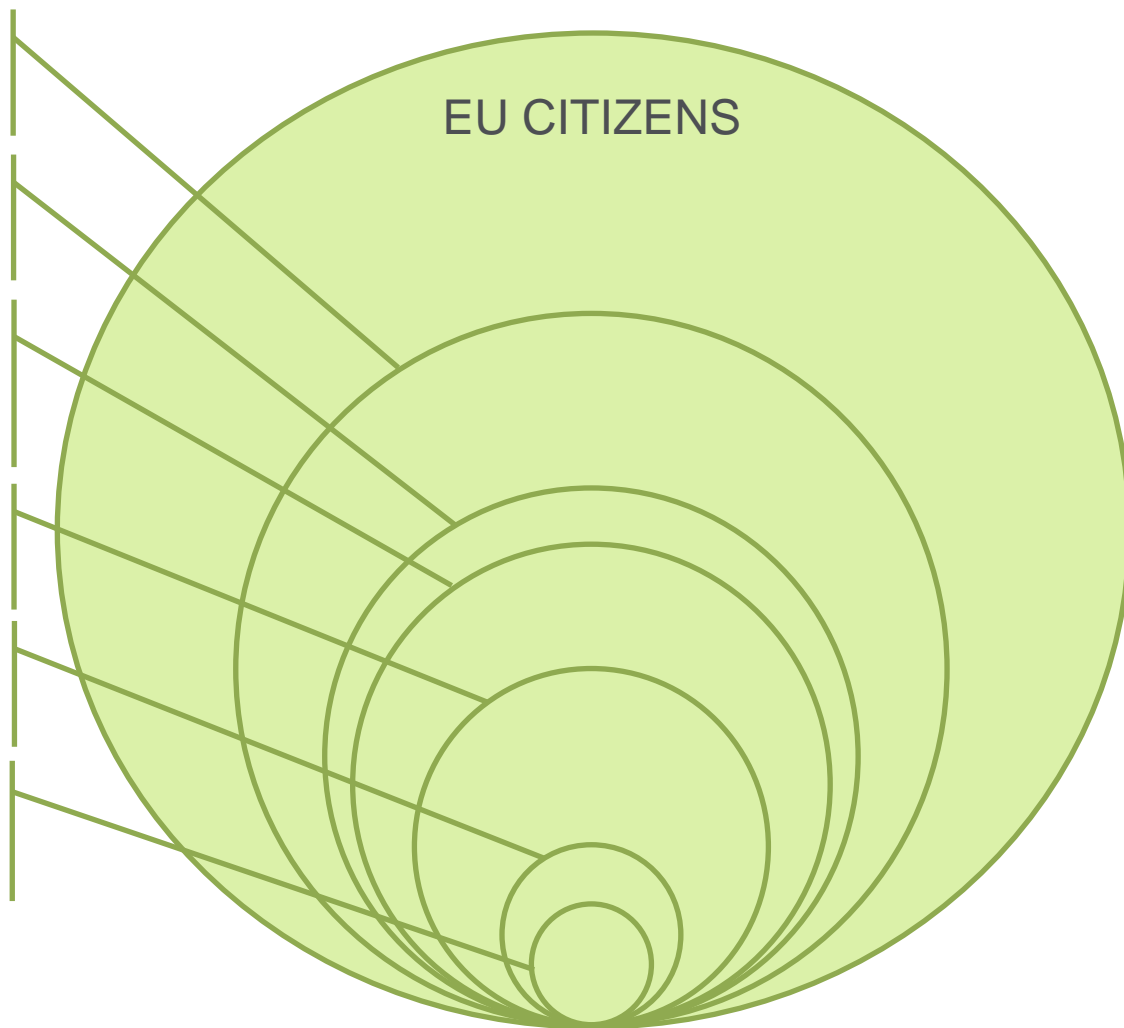
48% to support more role in future for EP

43% likely voter/ 44% somewhat+ very interested in EP elections

32% aware of EP election (Jan-Feb, 2009)

16% know the correct date

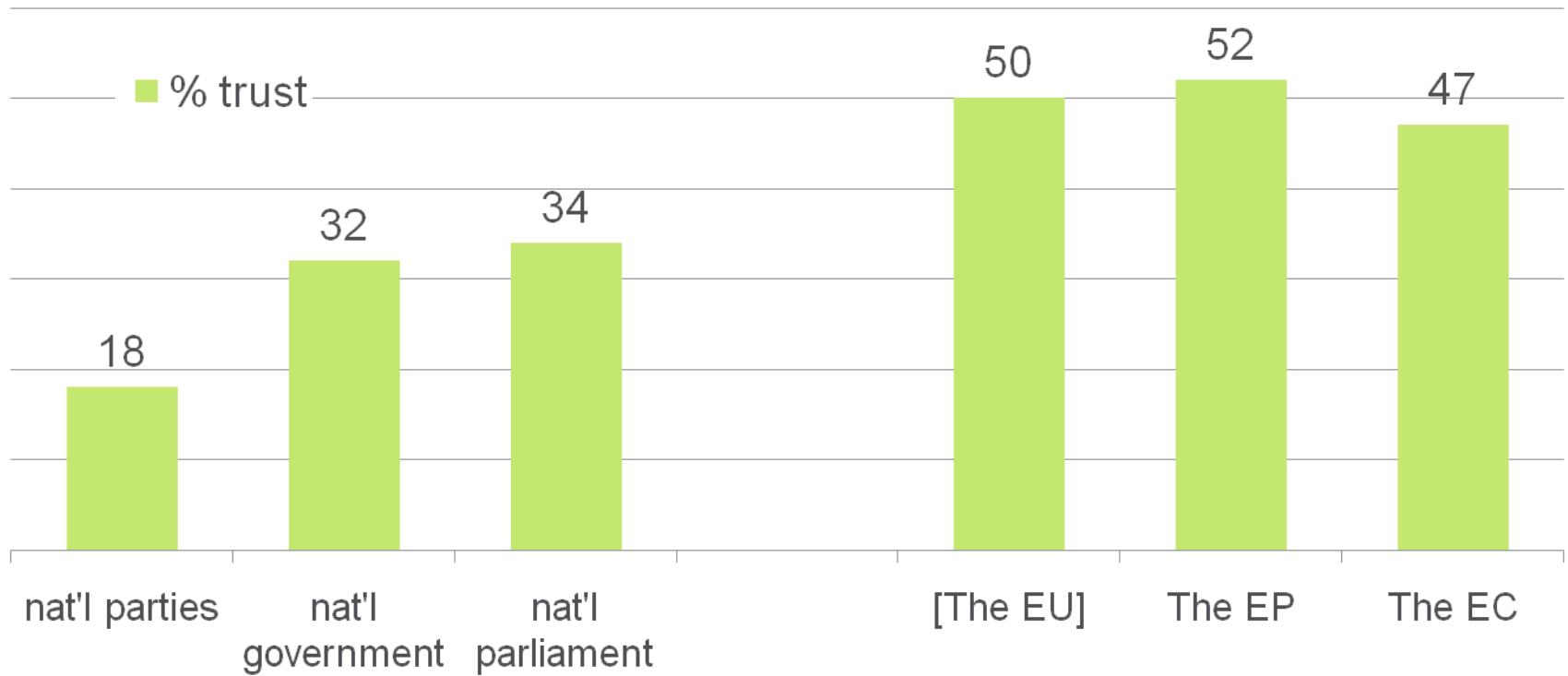
11% follows "very closely" political matters facing EU



Source: Special EB Wave 71.1 "The 2009 EP elections"

... trust is not the issue:

The EP is definitely more trusted compared to national institutions



Source: Standard EB 70

Yes, but is the European Parliament relevant to my problems?

Is it just a communication issue?



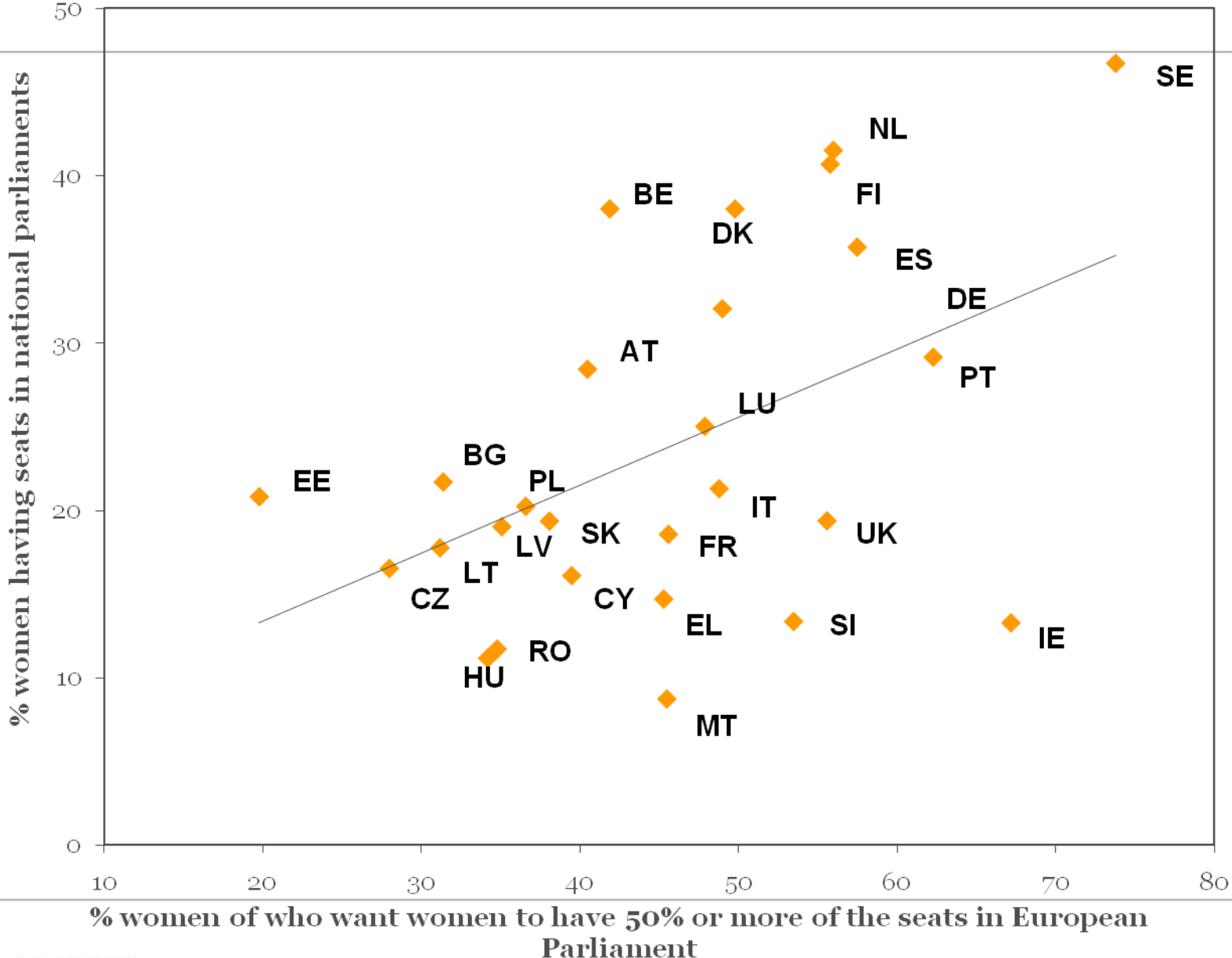
How should we help balance family and career?

Use your vote in the European Parliament Elections on **4 June**.

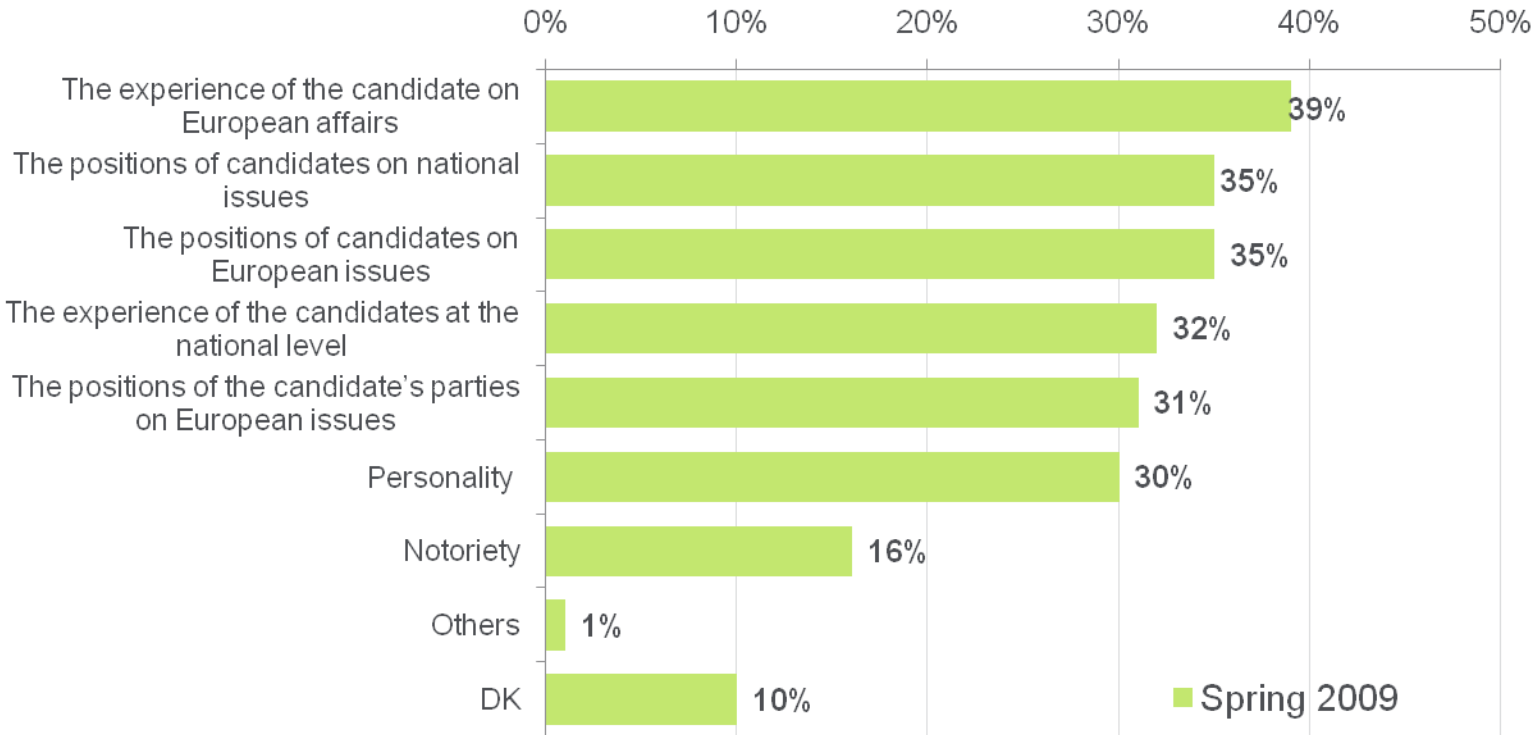
www.elections2009.eu



Under-representation of women is an issue in a number of countries



What makes a good MEP...in the eyes of constituencies...?

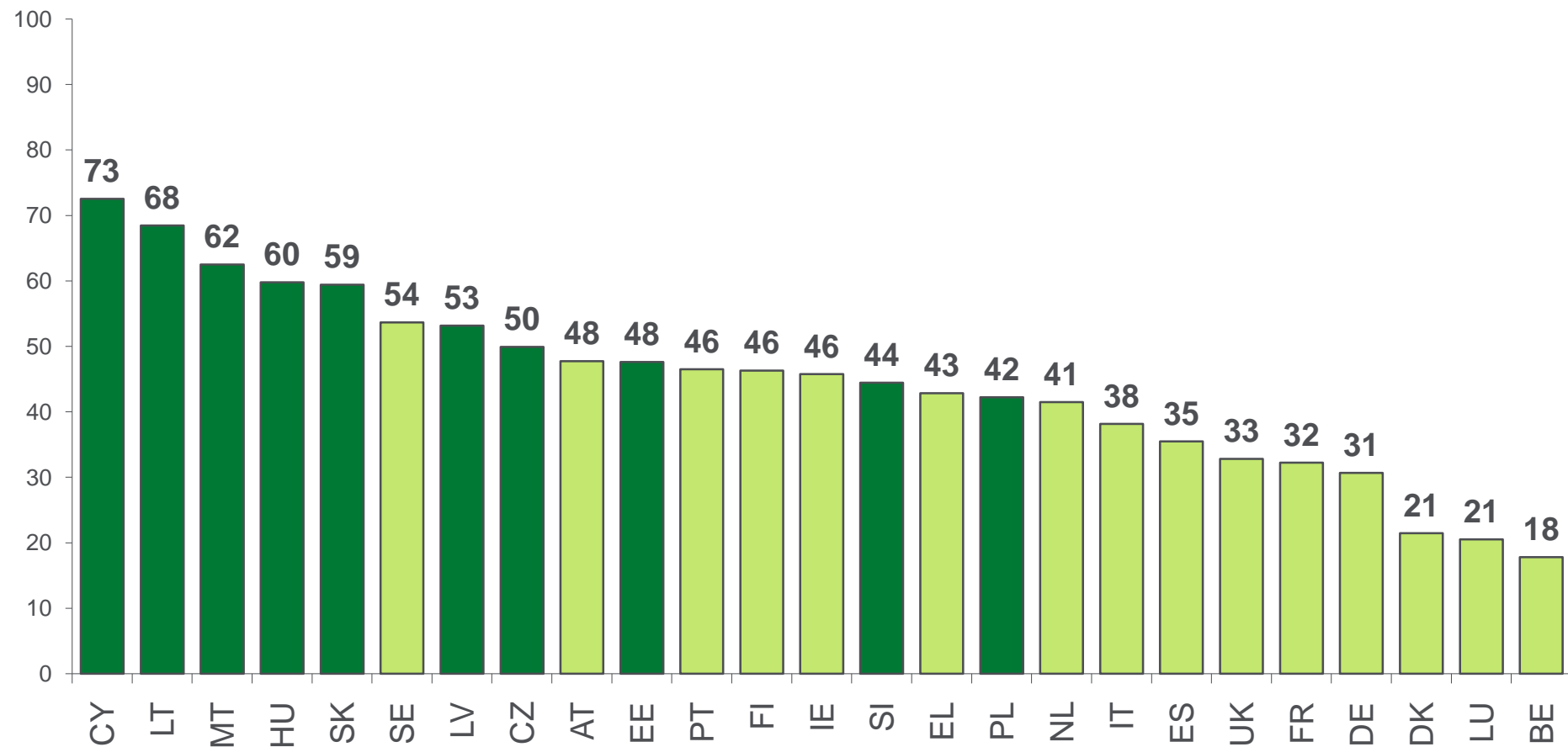


Maximum 3 answers, % is the sum of all answers presented

Source: Special EB Wave 71.1 "The 2009 EP elections"

“Secondary national elections“?

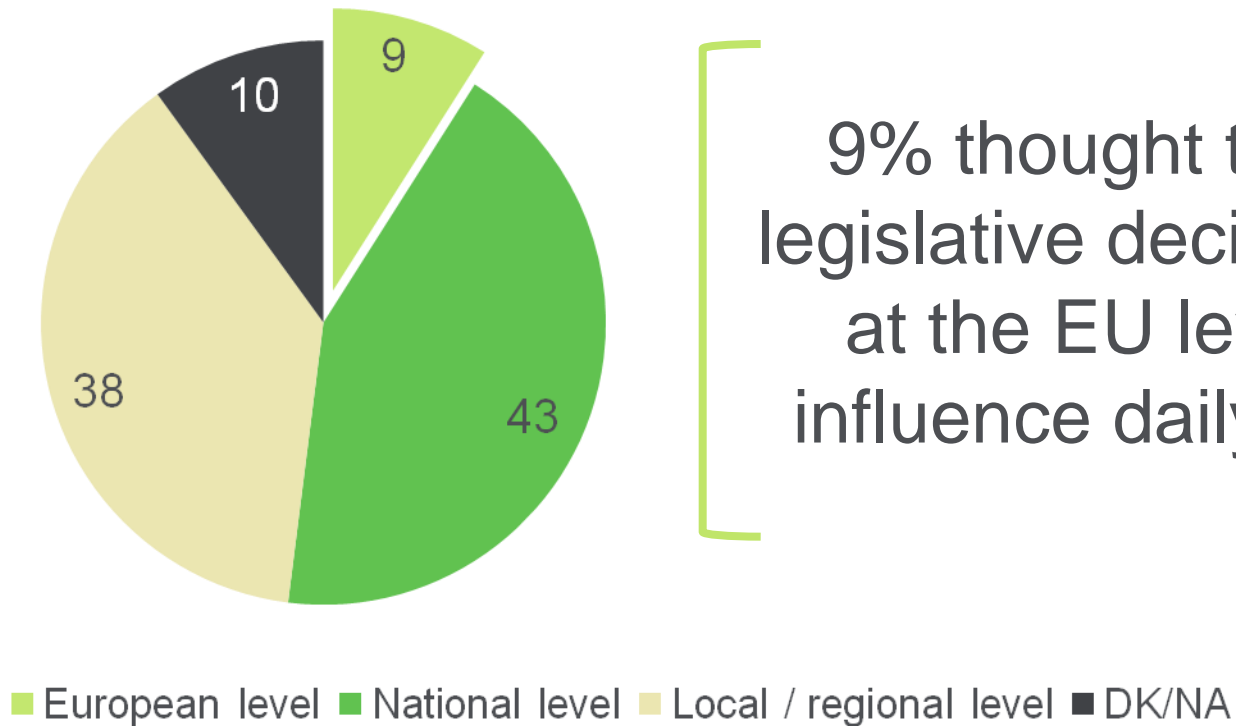
(% of respondents feeling that the campaign should focus on domestic issues)



Source: Standard EB 61, CCEB 2004.1

In terms of impacting individuals, the EU level is not relevant

In your opinion, which of the different levels of public authorities, European level, national level, regional or local level, has the most impact *on your daily life*?



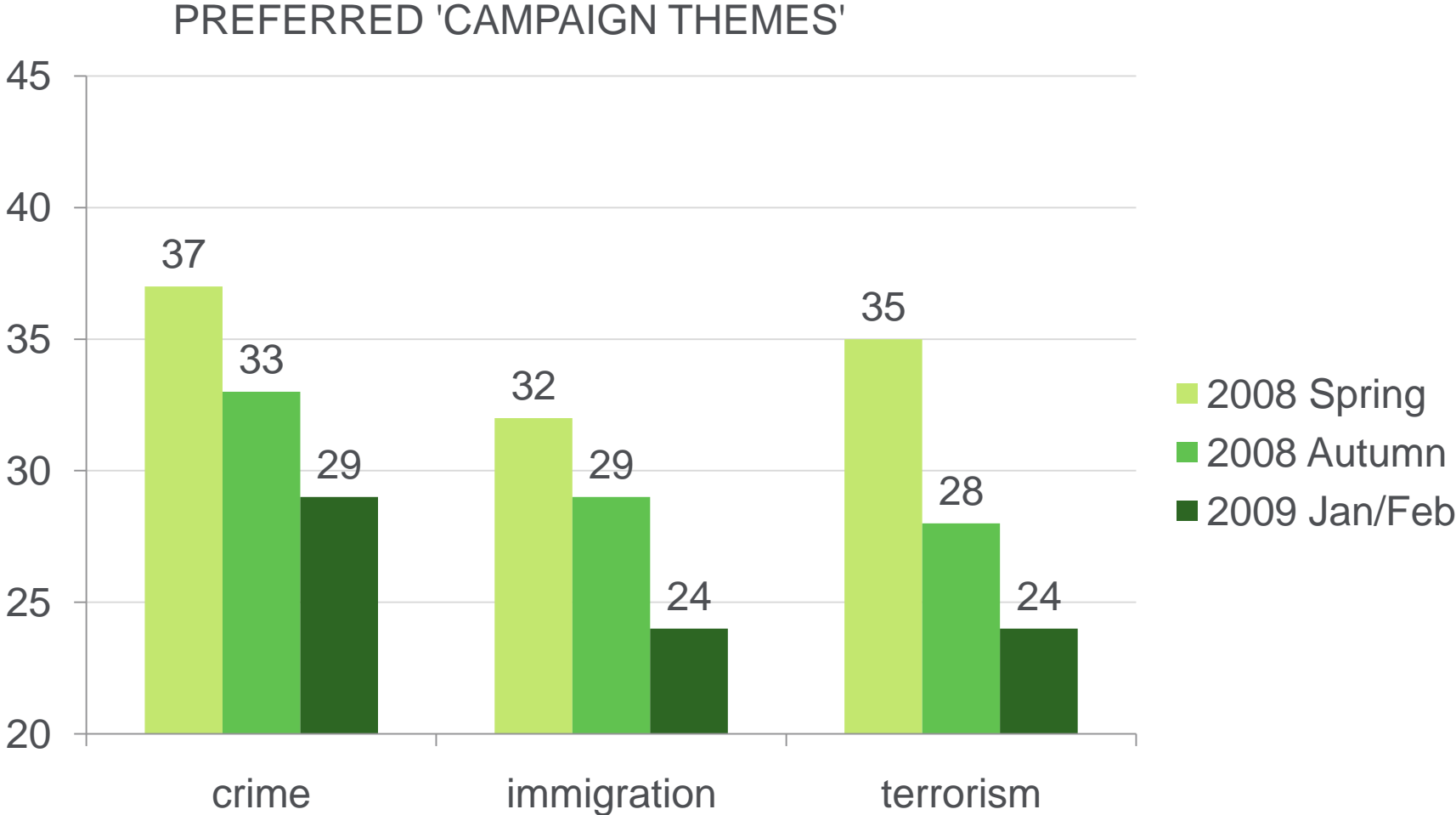
9% thought that legislative decisions at the EU level influence daily life

Source: Special EB 70.1 "The role and impact of local and regional authorities within the European Union"

There has been a relatively fast
realignment of the most important
concerns for EU citizens:

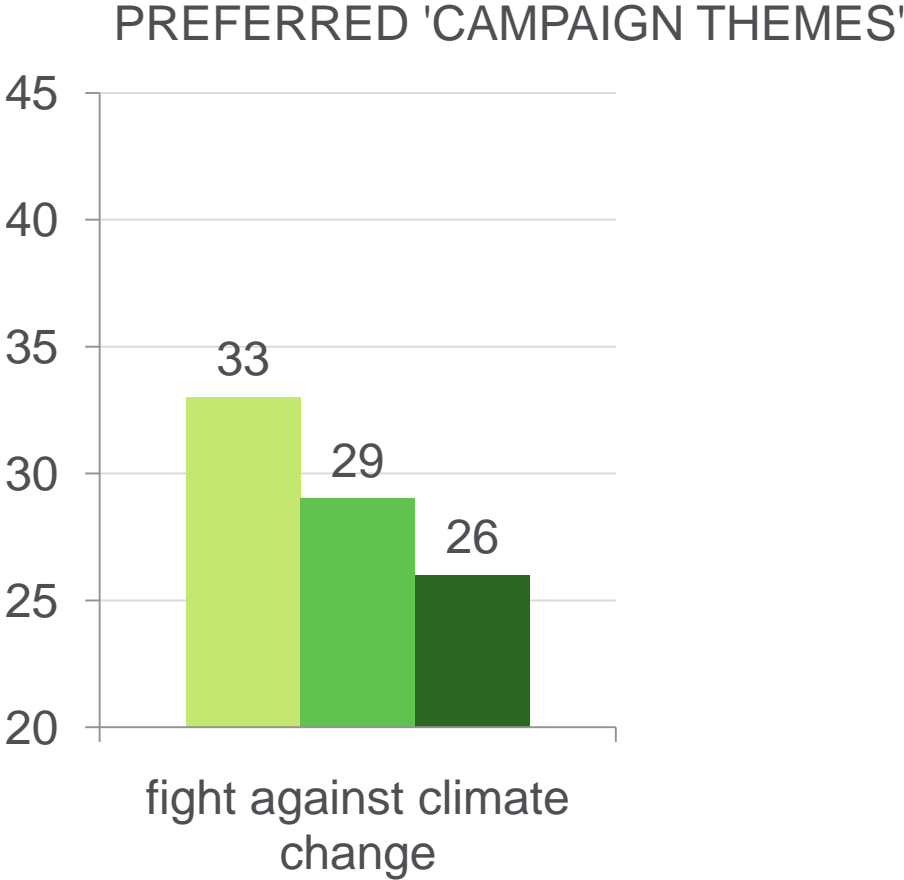
The crisis is having the most impact on those
individuals on the periphery of the EU

Shift in emphasis (1): Security



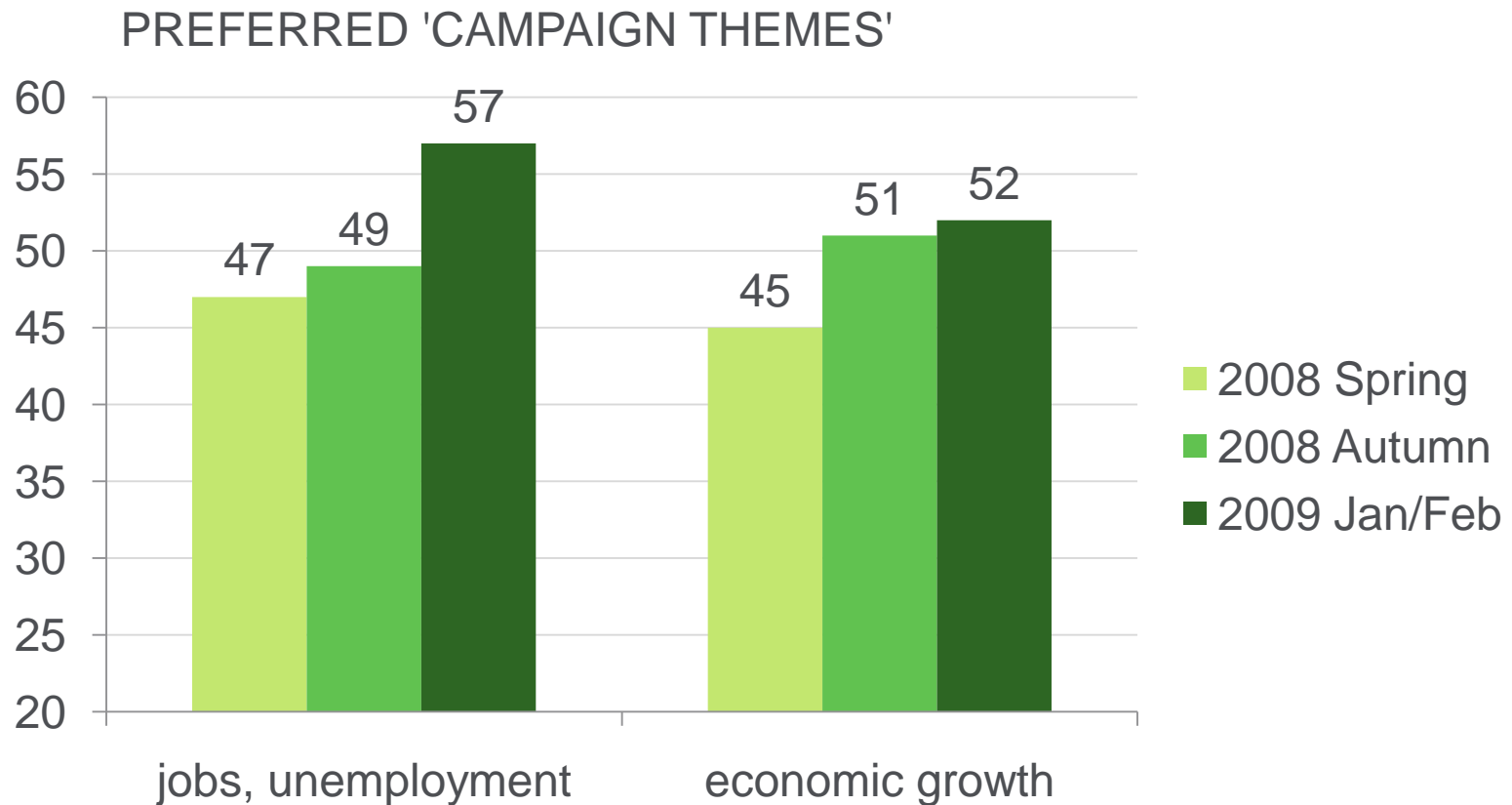
Source: Special EB Wave 71.1 "The 2009 EP elections"

Shift in emphasis (2): Climate change



Source: Special EB Wave 71.1 "The 2009 EP elections"

Shift in emphasis (3): ECONOMY



"COORDINATING ECONOMIC, BUDGET AND TAX POLICIES" BECAME THE 2ND MOST IMPORTANT PRIORITY POLICY AREA FOR THE EP, UP FROM 7TH POSITION, IN A PERIOD OF 4 MONTHS

Source: Special EB Wave 71.1 "The 2009 EP elections"

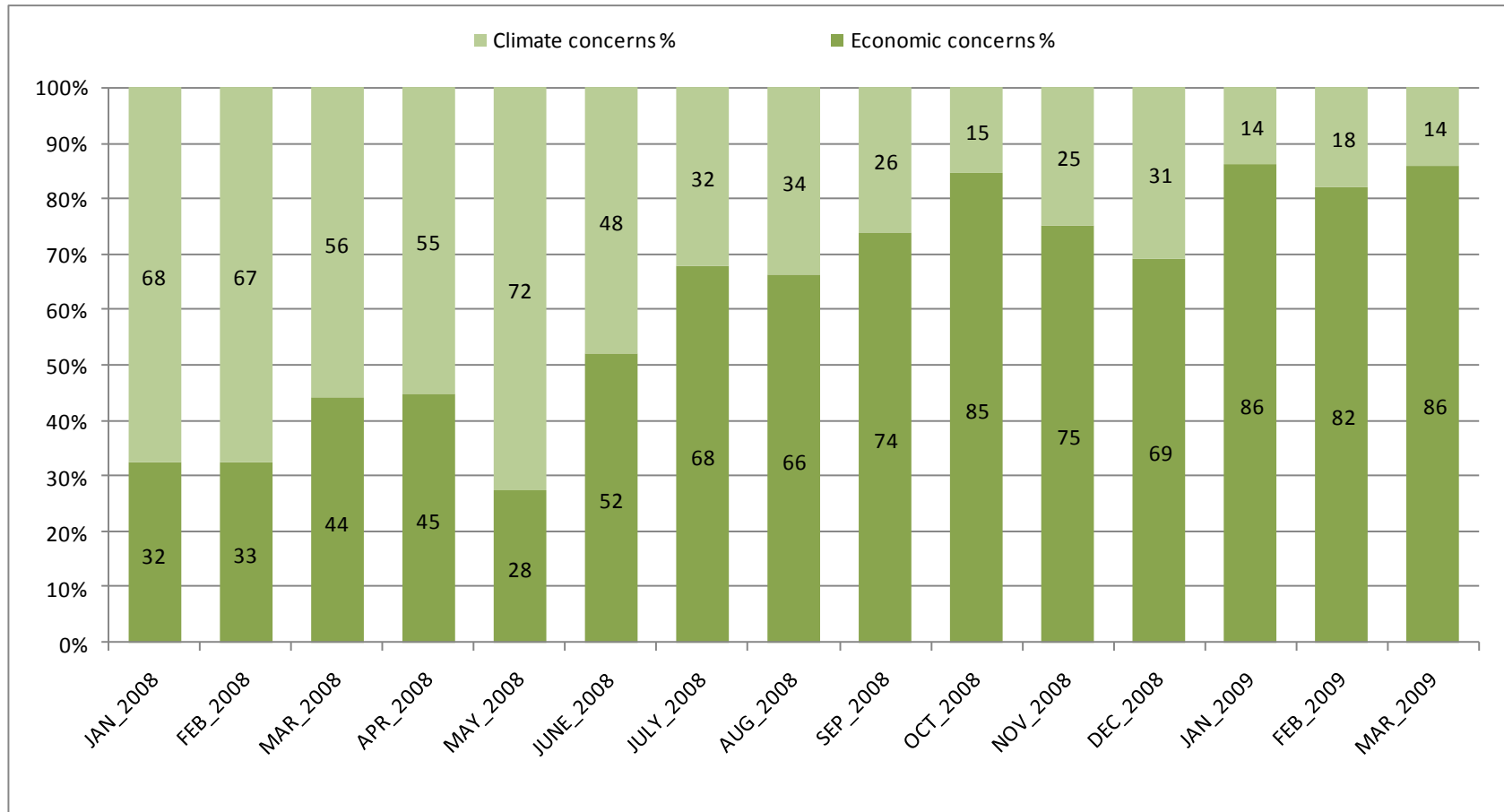
Overall European concerns: but differences in emphasis

- **Jobs, unemployment: EU 57%** but 70+% in IE, ES, EL, LV
- **Economy, growth: EU 52%** but 65+% in 8 of the new members, IE, EL
- **Purchasing power, inflation: EU 40%** but 50+% in BE, FR, AT, PT
- **Future of pensions: EU 32%** but 40+% in FR, EL, PT, HU, LV, LT, RO, SI
- **Climate change: 26%** but 50+% in DK, SE, and 40+ DE, AT, NL, FI
- **Energy security: 27%** but 40+% in DE, AT, SE, HU, SK
- **Immigration: 24%** but 30+% in DK, IT, ES, MT, AT, UK
- **Terrorism: 24%** but 30+% in DK, DE, ES, UK
- **Agriculture: 19%** but 30+% in 8 of new members, EL
- **The euro: 13%** but 20+% in SE, DK, IT, RO, HU

Source: Special EB Wave 71.1 "The 2009 EP elections"

... Shift in the direction of the public discourse as well

(based on daily automated content analysis of over 10,000 EU-policy related blog entries)

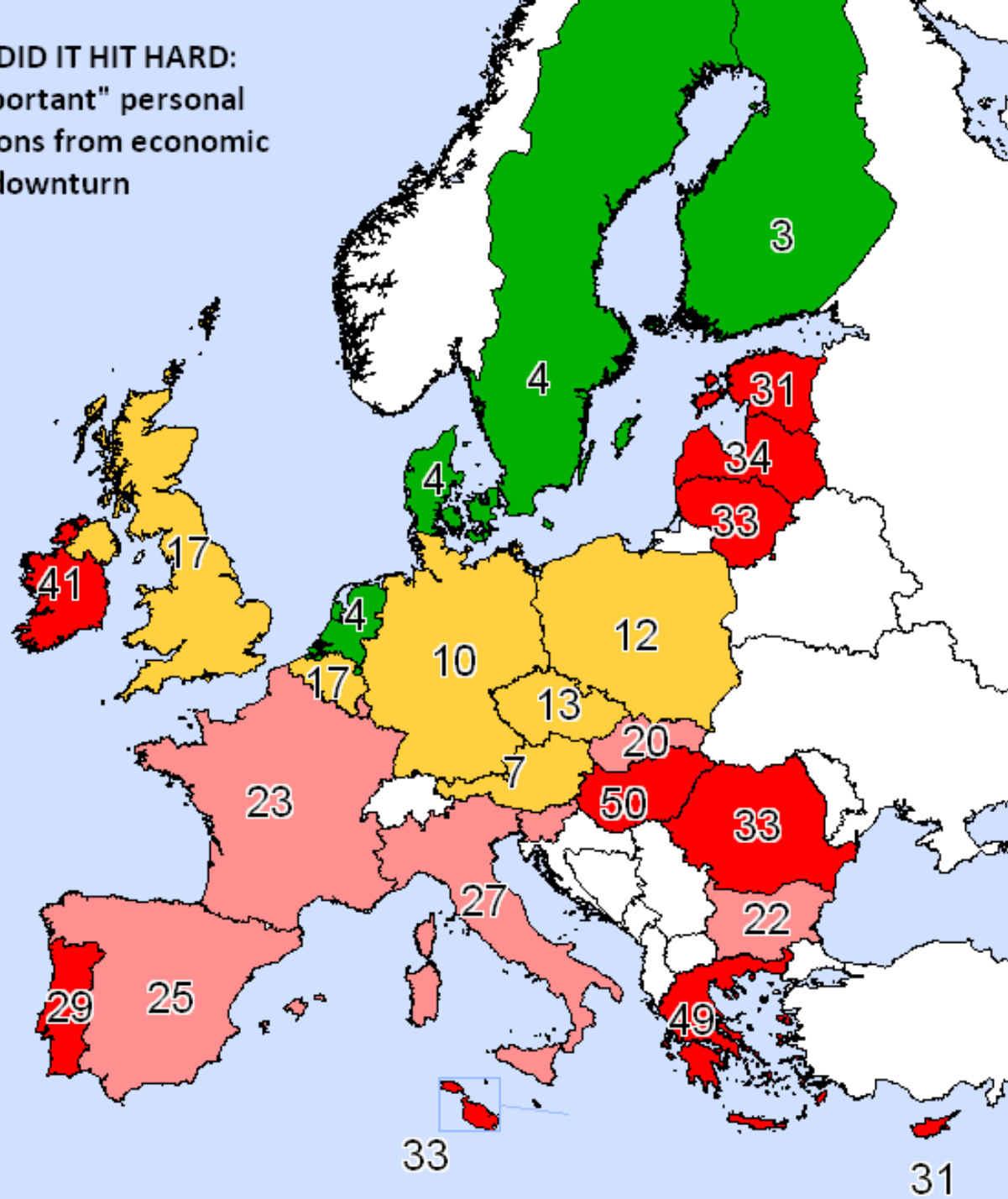


Analysis by Zetema

WHERE DID IT HIT HARD:
"very important" personal
repercussions from economic
downturn

EU: 20%

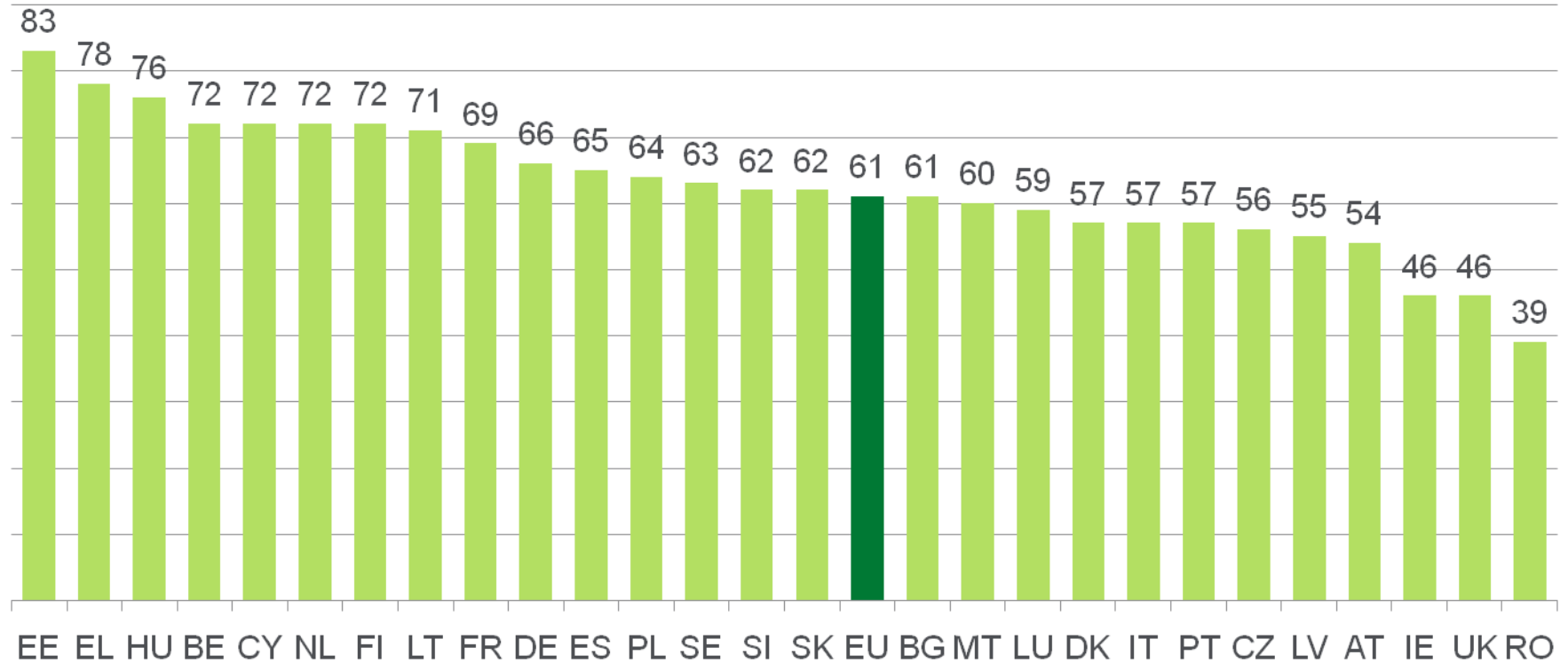
(very+fairly
important: 58%)



Source: Special EB Wave 71.1
"Europeans and the Economic Crisis"

Despite the realisation of the benefits of EU-level action

% felt that "Better protected (in face of the current financial and economic crisis) if (OUR COUNTRY) adopted measures and applied them in a coordinated way with the other EU countries"

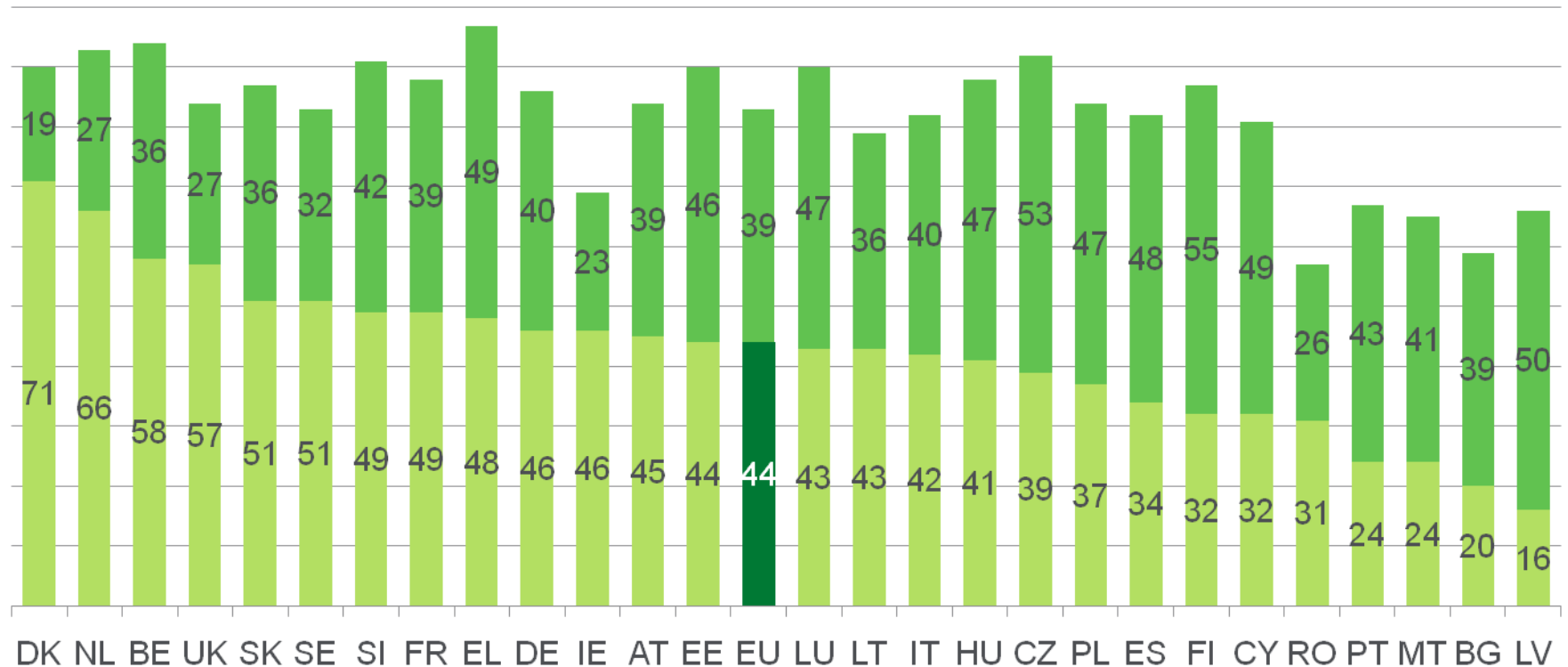


Source: Special EB Wave 71.1 "Europeans and the Economic Crisis"

Countries acting individually to counter the crisis

Would you say that up until now, to face the financial and economic crisis, the various European Union Member States have...?

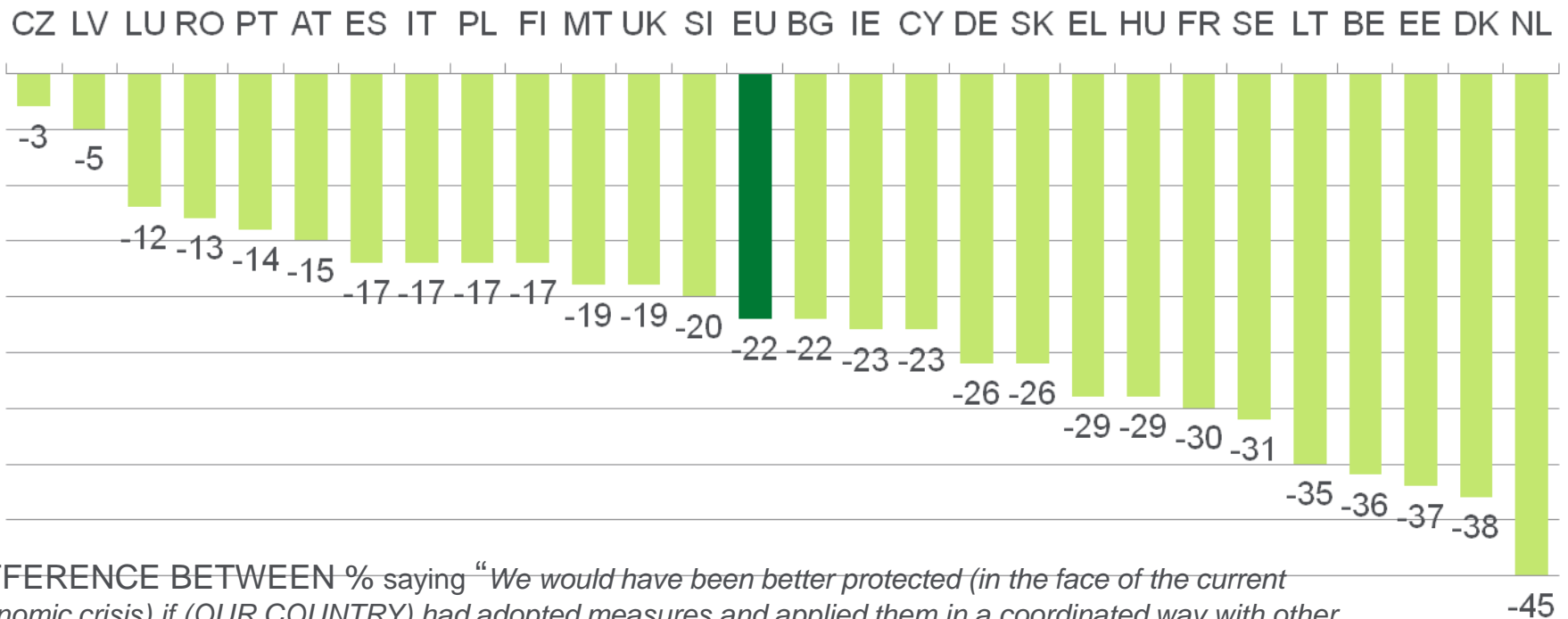
■ Tended to act individually
 ■ Tended to act in a coordinated way with the other EU countries



Source: Special EB Wave 71.1 "Europeans and the Economic Crisis"

Gap between the **desired** coordinated actions and the **perceived** actions dealing with the crisis :

In every European country the public expected a **MORE** coordinated action:

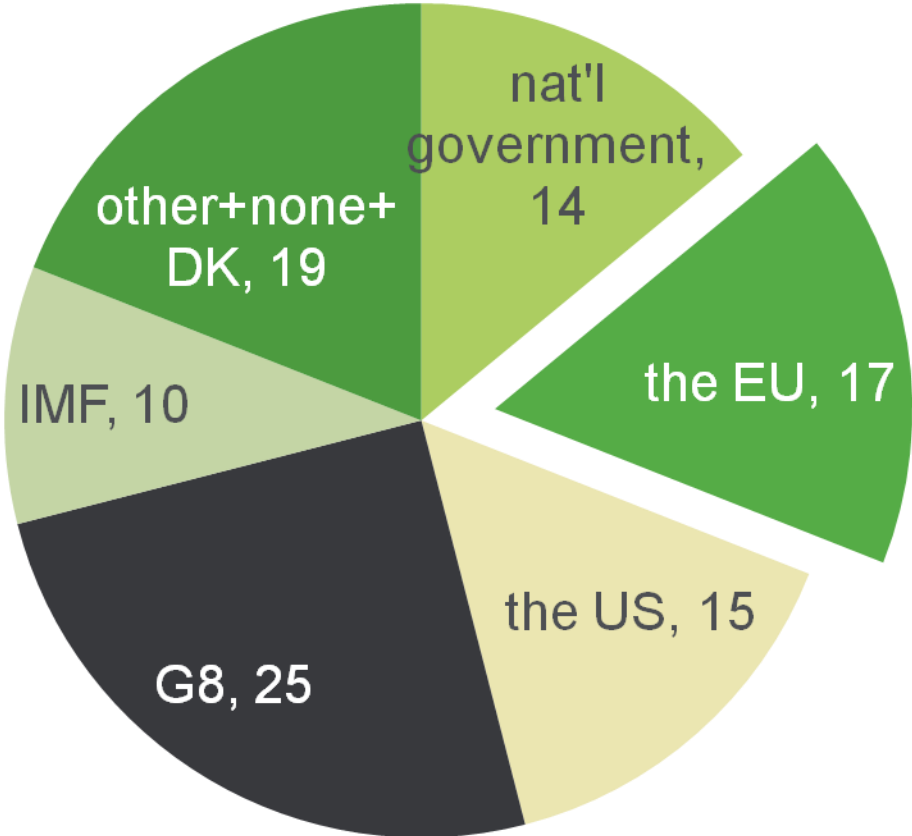


DIFFERENCE BETWEEN % saying "We would have been better protected (in the face of the current economic crisis) if (OUR COUNTRY) had adopted measures and applied them in a coordinated way with other EU countries" AND % saying "(OUR COUNTRY) tended to act in a coordinated way with other EU countries"

Source: Special EB Wave 71.1 "Europeans and the Economic Crisis"

17% see the EU as being the most effective body to face the crisis

In your opinion, which of the following is capable of dealing the most effectively with the repercussions of the financial and economic crisis?

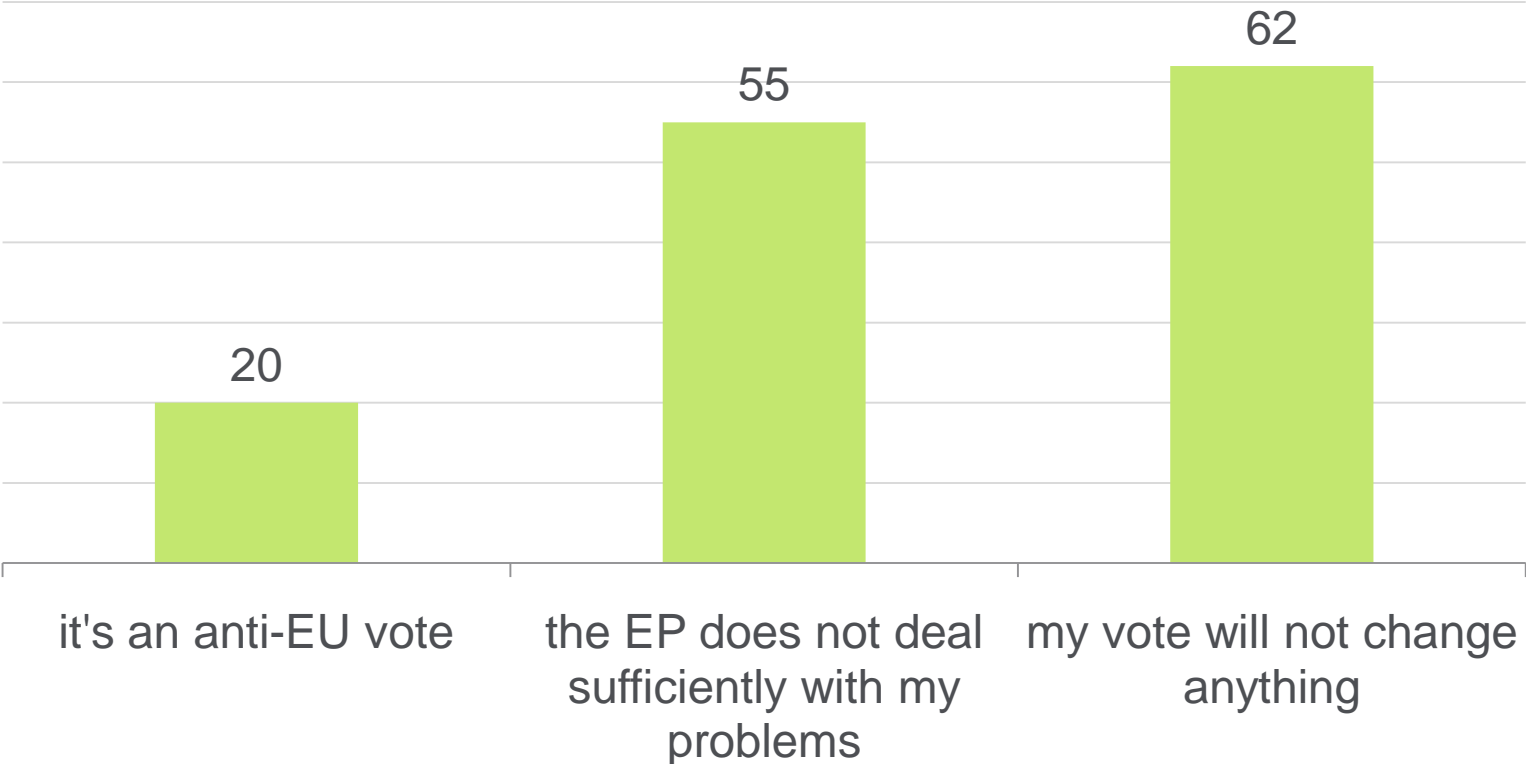


Source: Special EB Wave 71.1 "Europeans and the Economic Crisis"

In conclusion

It is *not* a rejection of the EU that stops people voting

WHY DON'T YOU VOTE?



Source: Special EB Wave 71.1 "The 2009 EP elections"