

# YouGov Survey Results

## The European Union

*Prepared for Charter 88*

**Sample Size: 2082**

**Fieldwork: 4th - 5th June 2003**

	%
<b>Which of the following best describes your attitude to the European Union?</b>	
I am in favour of the UK's membership of the EU, and would like to see more decisions taken by the EU as a whole	13
I am in favour of the UK's membership of the EU, and would like it to remain as it is	20
I am in favour of the UK's membership of the EU, but would like to see fewer decisions taken by the EU as a whole	35
I am against the UK's membership of the EU	28
Don't know	5
<b>If you are worried about the possibility of more decisions being taken by the EU as a whole, which ONE of these are you most worried about?</b>	
Foreign and security policy being decided by the EU	18
Taxation being set by the EU	20
Not knowing how decisions are being made in the EU	21
That there is not enough of a democratic check on the EU	30
Not worried at all	6
Don't know	5
<b>Do you think that the UK is having an open and honest debate about the future of the EU, or not?</b>	
Yes – I do	9
No – I do not	82
Don't know	10
<b>What best describes your ideal set up for the European Union in years to come?</b>	
A group of independent nations working together on certain common issues	52
An integrated political community working on behalf of both nations and Europe as a whole	19
An integrated "United States of Europe" working on behalf of European citizens	10
No European Union at all	14
Don't know	6
<b>Thinking about Europe's 'foreign policy' – that is, policies towards countries and problems outside the EU – which of these options do you most support?</b>	
The EU's member states each having their own policies and operating them independently of the EU, which should not have a foreign policy of its own at all	39
The EU and member states working together where they can on an agreed foreign policy	45
The EU should take the lead in deciding Europe's foreign policy, and member states should accept decisions reached by the countries of the EU as a whole	6
Don't know	10
<b>Some people say that EU citizens should have fair representation in the EU's institutions. Which of the following comes closest to what you think 'fair representation' should mean?</b>	
Representatives with real powers, elected directly by the people of the EU	33
Government ministers, acting for the countries they represent	18
A combination of both	42
Don't know	8

<b>If we were to have an EU President, how should he/she be chosen?</b>		
	Direct election by voters throughout the EU	<b>58</b>
	Electoral college comprised of Members of the European Parliament and MPS from national parliaments	<b>18</b>
	The Heads of Governments of EU countries	<b>9</b>
	By the leader of the European Political Party with the most seats in the European Parliament	<b>1</b>
	Don't know	<b>13</b>

<b>Which, if any, of the following do you think it is most important to be elected directly by voters throughout the EU? (Please tick up to three)</b>		
	National representatives in the Council of the European Union	<b>61</b>
	President of the European Council	<b>30</b>
	European Commissioners	<b>28</b>
	Foreign Affairs Minister	<b>13</b>
	President of the European Commission	<b>30</b>
	None of the above	<b>8</b>
	Don't know	<b>16</b>

<b>There was a low turnout in the last election for Members of the European Parliament. Which one of the following changes would be most likely to encourage you to vote in future European Parliament elections?</b>		
	A European Parliament with more powers	<b>9</b>
	More information about how MEPs affect your life	<b>59</b>
	Stronger party manifestos concerning Europe	<b>13</b>
	None of these	<b>13</b>
	Don't know	<b>6</b>

<b>A "convention" is currently being held to prepare a new constitution for the EU. Should there be a referendum on a European Constitution and any future amendments to it?</b>		
	Yes – there should be a referendum every time a change is proposed	<b>37</b>
	There should be a referendum this time, but after that only when major changes are proposed in the way the EU operates	<b>40</b>
	No – decisions like this should be taken by Parliament	<b>15</b>
	Don't know	<b>9</b>

<b>What one of these forms of public participation in the EU do you think is needed most?</b>		
	More public consultation before new EU policies are decided	<b>56</b>
	More elections for people holding senior positions in the EU	<b>18</b>
	More referenda	<b>14</b>
	There is no need for more public participation	<b>4</b>
	Don't know	<b>8</b>

<b>Which do you regard as more important – for MPs at Westminster to hold the British government to account in the policies it pursues within the EU, or for British MPs to work together with MPs from other countries and hold the EU as a whole to account?</b>		
	Hold British government to account	<b>55</b>
	Work with MPs from other countries	<b>35</b>
	Don't know	<b>11</b>

<b>The European Commission is an independent body, headed by a President appointed by member states, that proposes legislation and executes EU initiatives. Which one of the following changes would be more effective at holding the Commission to account?</b>		
	Holding direct elections to choose the President	<b>42</b>
	Giving the right to the European Parliament to dismiss individual commissioners	<b>37</b>
	The Commission doesn't need to be made more accountable	<b>2</b>
	Don't know	<b>18</b>

**Who should decide the objectives of the European Central Bank?**

The European Central Bank Governing Council	28
European Parliament	29
Council of Ministers	16
Don't know	28

**Over the years, Britain has agreed to certain international treaties on human rights, for example through the United Nations. Apart from these, do you think there should be a common set of basic human rights that should be set by the EU and apply in all member countries; or should each country be wholly responsible for deciding and defending human rights within its borders?**

Common set of basic rights set out in an EU Constitution	50
Each country responsible for its own human rights	45
Don't know	6

**Which of these sets of rights, if any, would you like to see safeguarded by national governments alone and NOT by the EU as a whole? (Please tick all that apply)**

Civil – the right to be free from discrimination	47
Social – the right to basic health and education	57
Economic – the right to work in any EU country	34
Political – the right to vote and stand for European elections	35
None: the EU should safeguard them all	29
Don't know	8

**One of the purposes of the European Convention is to decide what powers should be wielded by the EU as a whole, and which by individual member states. Do you agree or disagree that the rights of Member States, quite separately from individuals, need to be protected in an EU Constitution?**

Strongly agree	36
Slightly agree	28
Doesn't matter	7
Slightly disagree	4
Strongly disagree	5
Don't know	19

**Who should have the greatest responsibility to inform citizens about EU decisions?**

EU Institutions	21
Governments of Member States	63
Media (TV, radio, newspapers)	10
Don't know	6

**Currently the Council of the European Union meets in private; it is proposed in the draft EU Constitution that it should meet in the open when legislating. Do you agree or disagree that all EU Institutions should meet in public when deliberating over EU policies?**

Strongly agree	68
Slightly agree	20
Doesn't matter	4
Slightly disagree	2
Strongly disagree	0
Don't know	6

**How much information do you think you have been given on the proposed EU constitution?**

Far more than enough	1
More than enough	1
Enough	8
Less than enough	34
Not nearly enough	50
Don't know	5

**Imagine these five tests were met to your satisfaction: An EU designed according to the choices you made in the previous section on the 'five democratic tests'. Which of the following would THEN best describe your attitude to the European Union?**

I am in favour of the UK's membership of the EU, and would like to see more decisions taken by the EU as a whole	<b>24</b>
I am in favour of the UK's membership of the EU, and would like it to remain as it is	<b>20</b>
I am in favour of the UK's membership of the EU, but would like to see fewer decisions taken by the EU as a whole	<b>30</b>
I am against the UK's membership of the EU	<b>20</b>
Don't know	<b>6</b>

**If the European Central Bank were made accountable for its decisions to the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers, would you be more likely to approve of joining the Euro?**

More likely	<b>21</b>
Less likely	<b>10</b>
Makes no difference	<b>60</b>
Don't know	<b>9</b>

**Which democratic reform do you think the EU needs most?**

Having all EU Institutions open to public scrutiny	<b>29</b>
Greater accountability to national parliaments	<b>17</b>
More mechanisms for public participation in EU decision-making	<b>16</b>
Constitutional safeguards for the rights of Member States	<b>13</b>
More elected representatives in EU Institutions	<b>7</b>
Constitutional safeguards for EU citizens	<b>7</b>
Don't know	<b>12</b>

**Which of these is the most important task for a new EU constitution?**

Define the rights and powers of EU Institutions, Member States and citizens	<b>47</b>
Simplify existing treaties	<b>15</b>
A statement of shared values	<b>15</b>
Create a closer Union	<b>10</b>
Don't know	<b>14</b>

**At the end of June governments will begin debating the proposed EU constitution. Which do you regard as more important – to make the EU more democratic, or to preserve national sovereignty in certain areas?**

Make EU more democratic	<b>28</b>
Preserve national sovereignty in certain areas	<b>62</b>
Don't know	<b>10</b>

**If ratified by Member States the EU will have a written constitution. Do you agree or disagree that the UK should also have a written constitution?**

Strongly agree	<b>32</b>
Slightly agree	<b>28</b>
Doesn't matter	<b>14</b>
Slightly disagree	<b>4</b>
Strongly disagree	<b>9</b>
Don't know	<b>14</b>