

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002814/26
to the Commission
Fernand Kartheiser (NI)
(8 July 2026)**

Subject: Bias in Eurobarometer surveys

According to a recent Eurobarometer survey, nearly half of Europeans believe the EU should have greater financial means given its political objectives, while more than four in ten consider current resources adequate ⁽¹⁾. However, respondents were unable to answer whether the EU budget should be decreased. Similar methodological weaknesses in Eurobarometer surveys have been highlighted in academic studies ⁽²⁾.

Other weaknesses include suggestive wording of questions, overly complex or hypothetical questions, an aggregation of results at EU level that obscures national differences in favour of a purported 'European' opinion and the removal of questions that previously presented negative perceptions of the EU. Moreover, Eurobarometer surveys residents of a Member State, but not necessarily its citizens, so it cannot claim to reflect the perspective of that country's citizens.

Considering these concerns:

1. Is the Commission concerned about the biases inherent in the Eurobarometer survey methodology?
2. How relevant are the Eurobarometer surveys given that, at considerable cost, they fail to genuinely represent citizens' opinions?
3. What steps will the Commission undertake to prevent biased Eurobarometer data from misleading policy recommendations and spreading misinformation?

Submitted: 8.7.2026

**Answer given by President von der Leyen on behalf of the European Commission
(7 September 2026)**

Eurobarometer surveys are an important tool measuring and analysing public opinion trends across the Union and beyond, both at national and subnational level.

They provide comparable data over time and between countries. All Eurobarometer survey data, including country-specific results, are publicly available on the Eurobarometer Public Opinion website ⁽¹⁾.

The Commission attaches great importance to the methodological quality and rigour of Eurobarometer surveys. Their design, sampling, fieldwork and analysis follow established research practices and are subject to quality assurance.

Contractors are requested to comply fully with the professional and ethical code of the European Society for Opinion and Market Research (ESOMAR) and the World Association for Public Opinion Research (WAPOR).

This contributes to ensuring that surveys are conducted in line with the highest applicable standards and requirements in the field of opinion polling. The Commission also continues, where appropriate, to improve survey design and implementation.

The Commission is committed to ensuring that Eurobarometer surveys are conducted according to rigorous methodological principles.

This includes designing questionnaires that are clear, neutral and accessible, understandable to respondents of different ages, educational backgrounds, occupations and cultural backgrounds, and that are submitted in the respondents' respective languages.

¹ <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/3613>.

² https://pure.mpg.de/rest/items/item_2222415/component/file_2222413/content,
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2022.102813>.

<https://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007/s11135-012-9797-x.pdf>,

⁽¹⁾ <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer>.