



tellBarroso.eu



Participation of European citizens
in the construction of the European Union's future

Summary report, May 2009

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www.thinkingeurope.eu/tellBarroso.

Content starting from the page 9 is unedited input produced by the participants of tellBarroso.eu initiative.



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Introduction

The Centre for European Studies' tellbarroso.eu survey was an innovative web-based platform which invited European citizens to participate in the political decision-formation process. This pioneer initiative was personally endorsed by José Manuel Durão Barroso. It was the latest in a line of initiatives by the Centre for European Studies (CES), the official think tank of the European People's Party, aimed at bringing policy-making to the citizens by stimulating debate from the ground-up, proposing new ideas and providing a base for centre right political research.

TellBarroso.eu sought to engage European citizens with the question: "What areas affecting your daily life should the EU focus its energies on?" Participants named and discussed issues which really matter to them. Subsequently, participants were given the opportunity to see what issues other participants had specified thus enabling them to evaluate these issues according to their own priorities. Lastly, the survey allowed the participants to add further issues triggered in their minds by the exercise. The data is particularly valuable as it highlighted both individuals' queries and group queries in quantifiable cross-sections of society.

What areas affecting your daily life should the EU focus its energies on?

Below you see a random sample of responses given by other participants. You are now invited to evaluate their responses' relevance from your own point of view.

Instructions

- The more relevant you believe the issue is, the closer to the centre you should **drag** it with the mouse.
- You can add your own comments to each issue by clicking on it with the mouse.
- You can browse through more issues by clicking the arrow buttons in the upper right corner.
- When you think you have evaluated enough issues, click **Next step**.

You can help to filter out issues unsuitable for evaluation by placing them in the trash can.

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The screenshot displays a target-based evaluation interface. At the center is a target with four concentric rings: a yellow center, a red ring, a blue ring, and a dark blue outer ring. Surrounding the target are numerous text boxes representing issues proposed by participants. Some issues are already placed on the target, while others are in a list on the left. The issues include:

- Better environmental education/regulation/action.
- new technologies investment funds
- Energetics
- working life
- Education
- EU should encourage small and middle bussines.
- Climate change
- Rule of law
- Religion descrimination
- environmental issues, renewable energy, healthcare, retiring
- Expensive flight costs for small islands citizens
- public health
- social security
- security // justice
- political integration
- alternative energy
- Protection of the environment with sustainable policies
- all of them, except my private life
- education, streets
- Security - Defence Matters
- must be easier to be ok with economic laws
- Abolition of flexible employment
- this questionnaire
- economy, environment, employment
- a knowlegde and think fraction

At the bottom right, there is a progress indicator: "0% done (0/26)".

Participants were able to read and evaluate each others' proposals



The screenshot shows the Facebook interface for the 'Tell Barroso' group. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'facebook', 'Home', 'Profile', 'Friends', 'Inbox', and user options 'Ville Tapio', 'Settings', and 'Logout'. The group name 'Tell Barroso' is displayed with a 'Global' tag. Below this, the 'Basic Info' section identifies it as a 'Common Interest - Politics' group. The description states that TellBarroso.eu is an innovative web-based survey endorsed by Jose Manuel Durao Barroso, where participants name issues and comment on them. The 'Contact Info' section provides an email (info@thinkingeurope.eu), website (http://www.tellbarroso.eu), and location (Rue du Commerce 10, Brussels, Belgium). The 'Recent News' section reports that over 100,000 Europeans have participated and that the group exceeded 1000 members. A 'Members' section at the bottom shows a row of 8 member profile pictures with names: Kati Tanni, Davide Ferraro, Simo Reipas, Lorenzo Andriago, Massimo Poretti, Paolo G. Toma, Ionut Ciocan, and Maj Bergröth. On the right side of the page, there are options to 'View Discussion Board', 'Invite People to Join', and 'Leave Group', along with a 'Share' button. Below that, it lists 'Group Type' as an open group and 'Admins' as Ivan Dellbasic and Ces Thinkingeurope (creator). An 'Events' section shows one upcoming event: 'Tell Barroso - How do you thin...' on Monday, March 30 at 9:00am.

The Tell Barroso Facebook group has already more than 1000 members

By stimulating extensive interest on numerous websites and media, CES achieved both staggering participation as well as stimulating side discussions on the wider web. The format used for tellBarroso.eu encouraged wider debate in the blogosphere, as well as within online social communities, proving that Europeans do believe in the EU project and are willing to engage if presented with the proper approach and are given the right tools.

The outcome of the web survey is presented in this report. Participation was high. With 153,479 participants, 12,092 proposals, 123,980 proposal evaluations and 576,914 proposal views European citizens spoke to Mr. Barroso. One canny, anonymous participant stated:

“I have the strong feeling that young people do not know much about Europe. There is a huge gap between the EU institutions and its citizens, even in Brussels where I live! EU is sexy and it must be said, there is a need for more events close to the citizens. This initiative is a good start!”

– An anonymous participant praised the tellBarroso.eu Project.

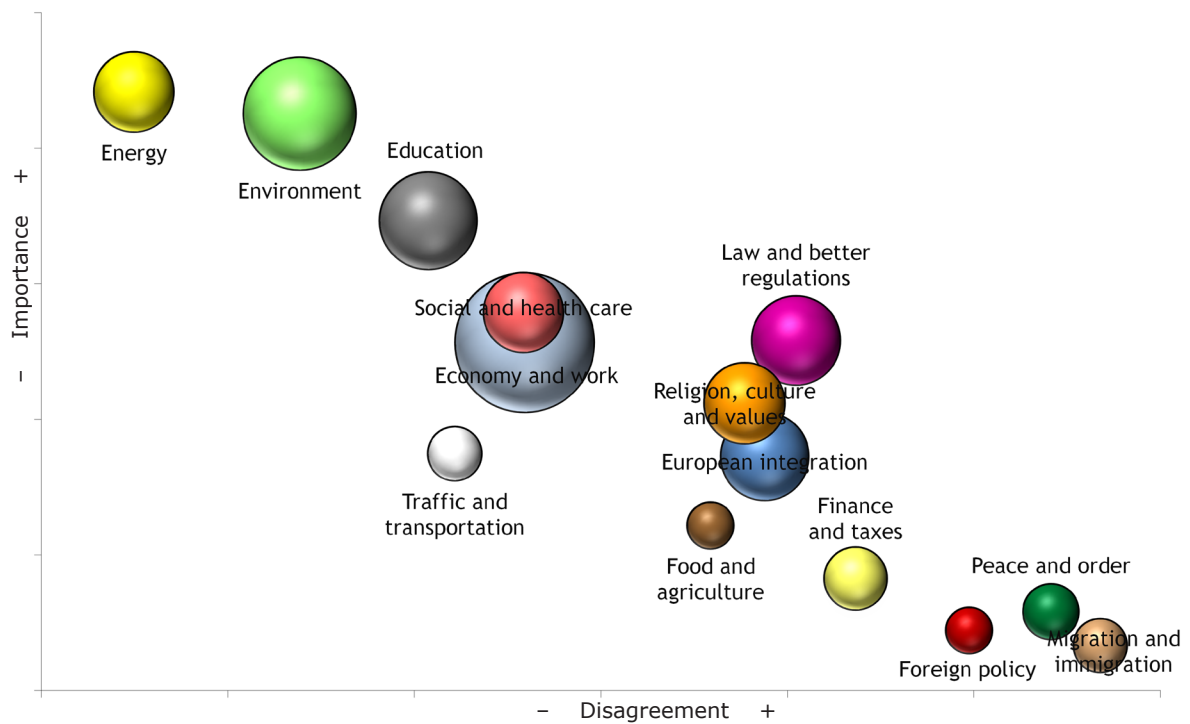
On 12th May 2009 ten participants of the web survey, who were selected at random, were invited to come to Brussels to present and discuss the findings with Mr. Barroso.

Tellbarroso.eu has provided excellent feedback. It is hoped that this platform will inaugurate a series of new initiatives led by CES, bridging the gap between EU politics and European citizens.

Summary

Participants made more than 12 000 proposals about how the European Union could improve their lives and evaluated the importance of each others' proposals over 120 000 times. Individual proposals were classified into 14 main themes.

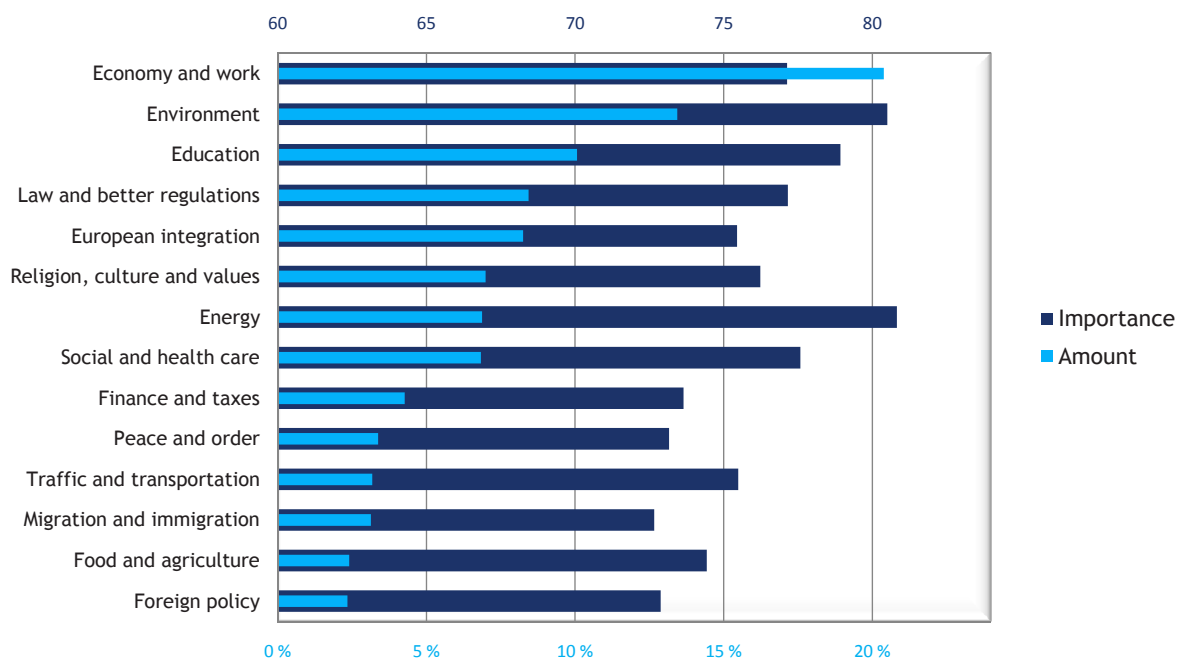
The following bubble graph represents a three dimensional summary of the results. The larger the bubble, the more proposals relate to the theme. The higher the bubble, the more important the participants have ranked the proposals related to them, and the more to the right it is located, the more disagreement about the proposals' importance there has been.



Participants made most proposals about economy, work and environment. Energy, environment and education were considered the most important themes. Migration and immigration were not much referred to and were considered the least relevant of the 14 themes, but their importance caused most disagreement between the participants.



The following bar graph is a two-dimensional representation of the amount of proposals made and of how important participants averagely considered the proposals.



It is significant that the amounts of proposals made does not directly correlate with the evaluations of importance. Participants made most proposals about economy and work, but evaluated proposals related to energy, environment, education and social and health services as more important than the most discussed themes.

Proposals

This project was carried out in accordance with the Centre for European Studies' pillar values. Its efforts have been directed towards creating an open, non-partisan, transparent platform, the results of which will be available fully and with no restrictions to all EU citizens.

Following this central goal, the full version of this report with the authentic proposals made by the participants can be downloaded from the Centre for European Studies web site:

www.thinkingeurope.eu/tellBarroso



Proposals are classified into following 14 themes:

theme:

proposals related to:

- Economy and work:** enterprises, jobs, research, trade, etc.
- Environment:** climate, seas, pollution, waste, ecology, etc.
- Education:** schools, universities, studying, students, etc.
- Law and better regulations:** legislation, regulations, rights, etc.
- European integration:** harmonization, unity, mobility, EU citizenship, etc.
- Social and health care:** welfare, social security, families, senior citizens, etc.
- Religion, culture and values:** European identity, languages, civil liberties, arts, etc.
- Energy:** energy security, sources, consumption, fuels, etc.
- Finance and taxes:** monetary system, taxation, banking, subsidies, etc.
- Peace and order:** defence, terrorism, crime, border control, etc.
- Migration and immigration:** EU's external and internal immigration.
- Traffic and transportation:** transport of both goods and people, roads, railways, etc.
- Foreign policy:** relations with Russia, USA, Turkey, China, Africa etc.
- Food and agriculture:** food safety, production, prices, subsidy policy, etc.



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