

Special Eurobarometer 365 – EB75.2

Attitudes of European citizens towards the environment

Fieldwork: 13 April – 8 May 2011



This survey was conducted by TNS opinion & social at the request of the Directorate-General for the Environment. It was coordinated by the Directorate-General for Communication ("Research and Speechwriting" Unit).

This document does not represent the point of view of the European Commission. The interpretations and opinions contained in it are solely those of the authors.



MAIN FINDINGS

RESOURCE EFFICIENCY, ENVIRONMENT AND GROWTH: 83% of people believe that better use of resources can lead to economic growth; 77% of people believe that protection of the environment can do the same (up from 66% in 2009).

CITIZENS AND THE ENVIRONMENT: 72% of Europeans (compared to 75% in 2007) are willing to pay more for products which are specifically environmentally friendly. However, 69% of them believe that they are not doing enough to use natural resources efficiently.

THE EU AND THE ENVIRONMENT: 64% of people believe that actions should be taken at a European level.

INFORMATION: 60% of the respondents think that they are “well-informed” about environmental issues (up from 55% in 2007).





A. Methodology



A. Methodology

Special Eurobarometer 365 – EB75.2

- Survey conducted face-to-face
- Fieldwork: 13 April – 8 May 2011
- Population: representative sample of population 15+
- Coverage: European Union 27 Member States
- Number of interviews: 26,825
- This survey was carried out for the European Commission (requested by the Directorate-General for the Environment and coordinated by the Directorate-General for Communication (“Research and Speechwriting” Unit)).





B. Agenda



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1. Environment and Resource Efficiency
2. General perceptions of the environment
3. Environment in citizens' lives
4. Environment in EU public life, decision making and economy
5. Information about the environment



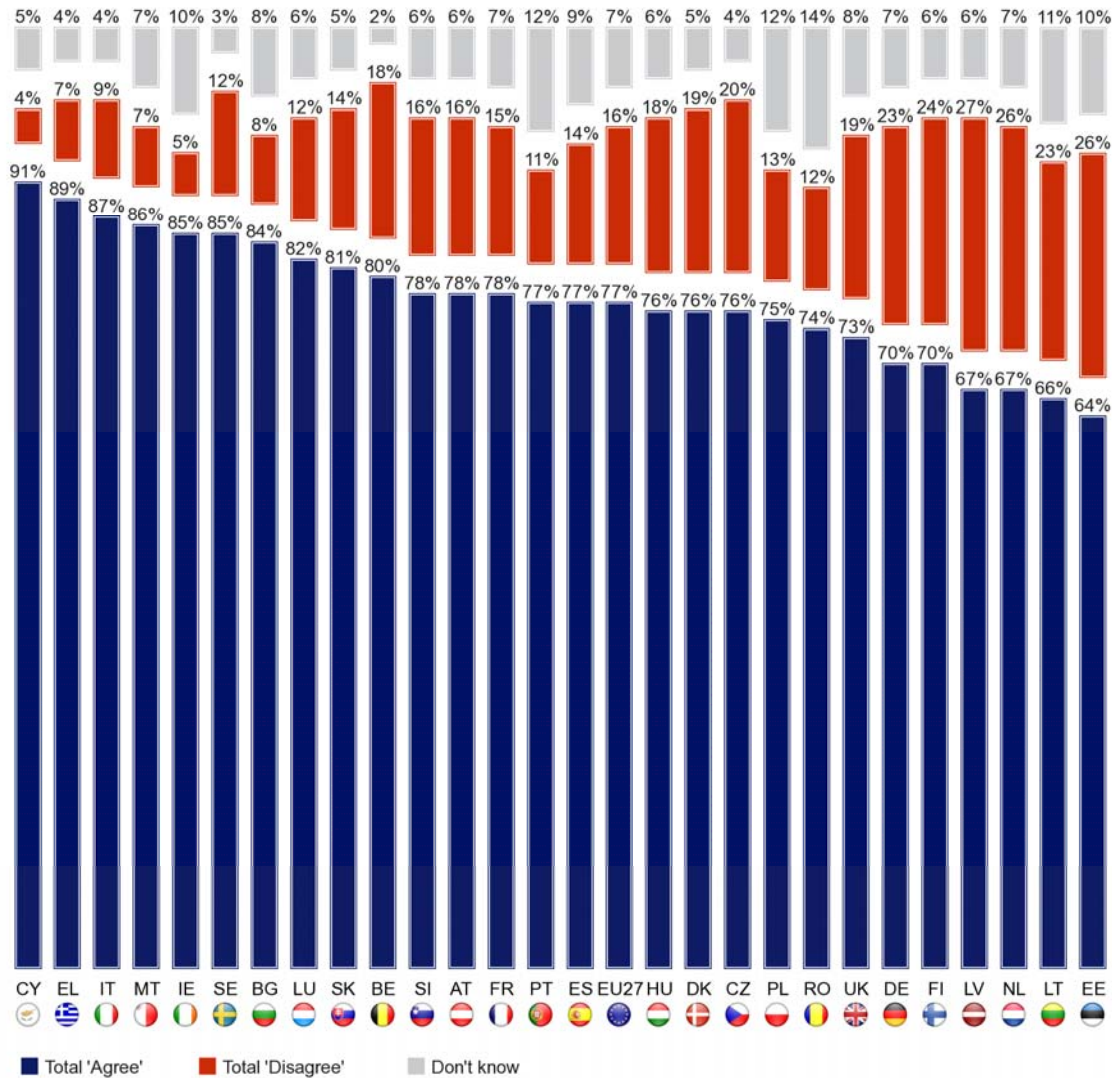


1. Environment and Resource Efficiency



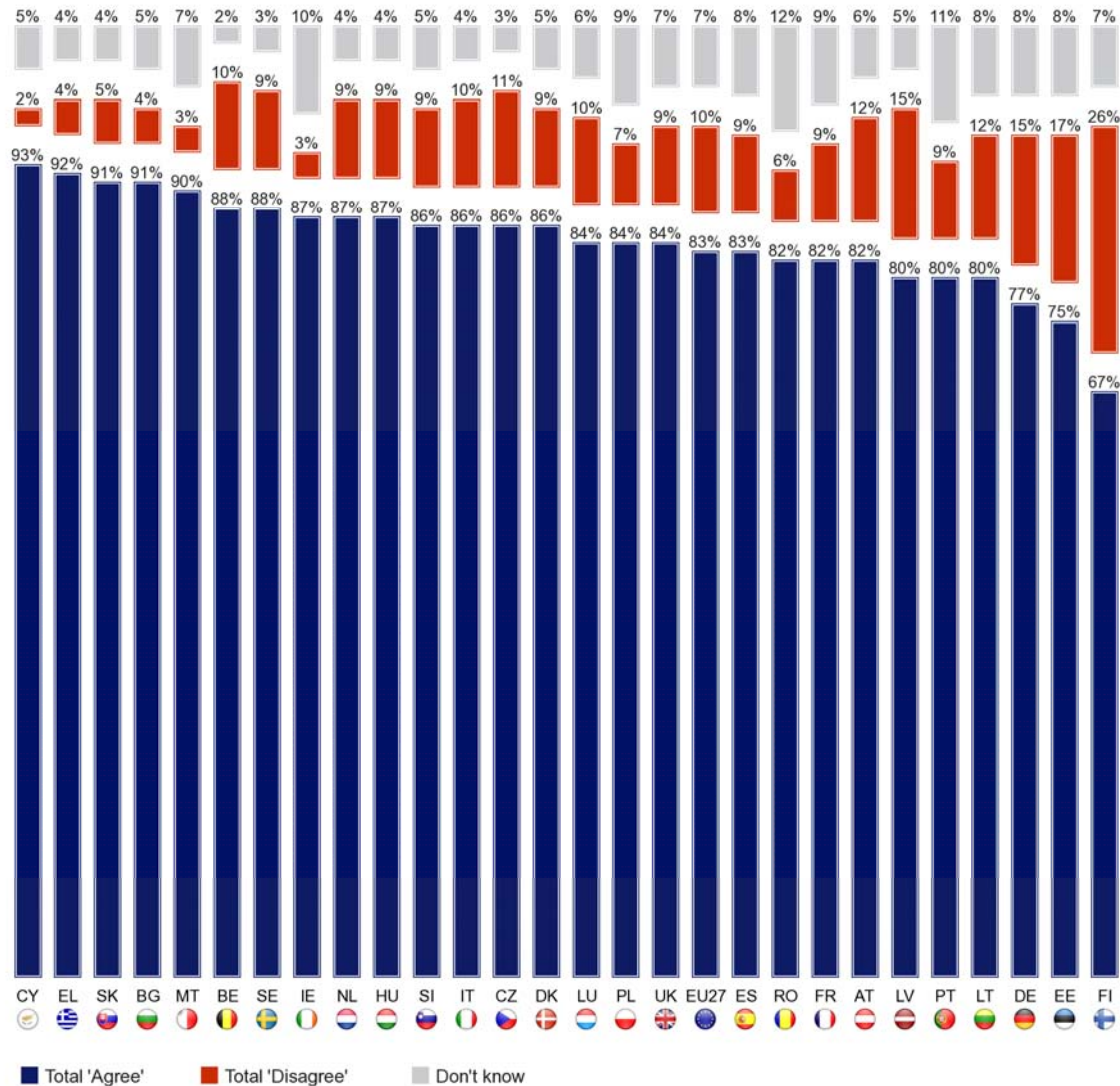
1.1 Environment and Resource Efficiency

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?
The protection of the environment can boost economic growth in the EU
 (ONE ANSWER ONLY)



1.1 Environment and Resource Efficiency

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?
The efficient use of natural resources can boost economic growth in the EU
 (ONE ANSWER ONLY)





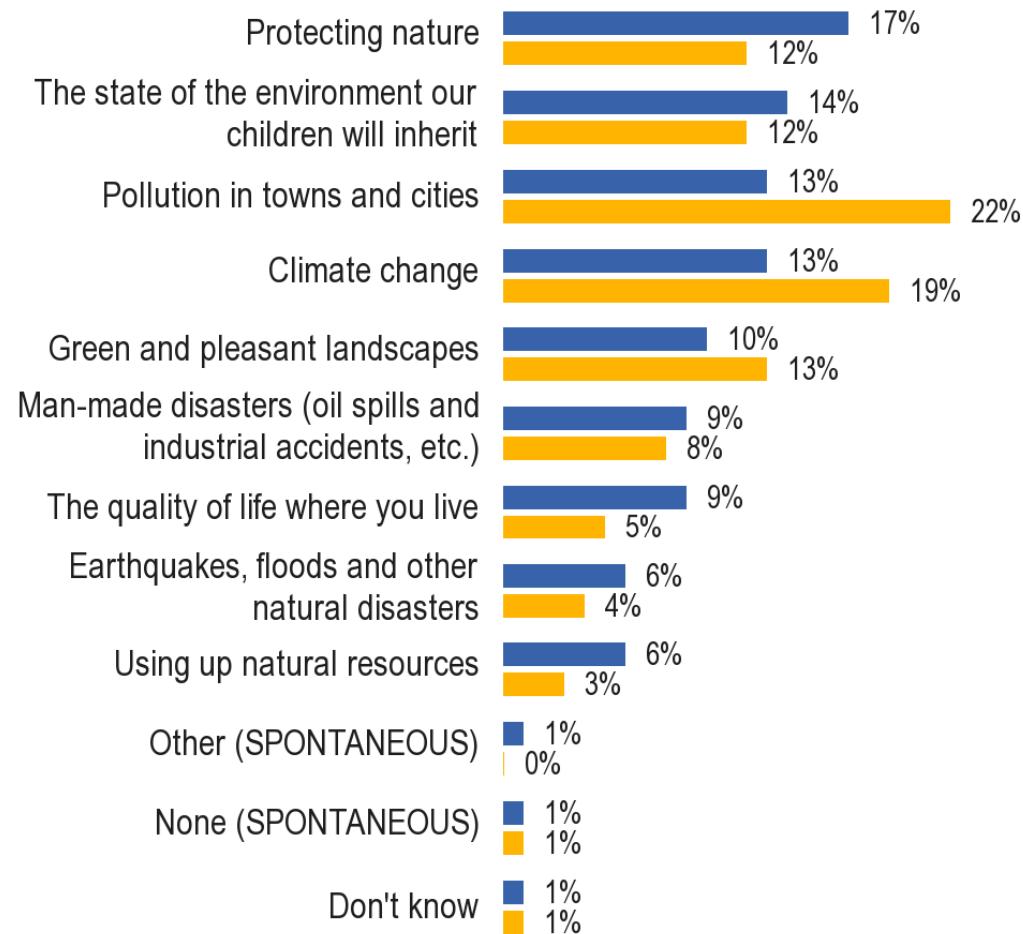
2. General perceptions of the environment



2.1 General associations with the environment

When people talk about "the environment", which of the following do you think of first?

(ONE ANSWER ONLY)



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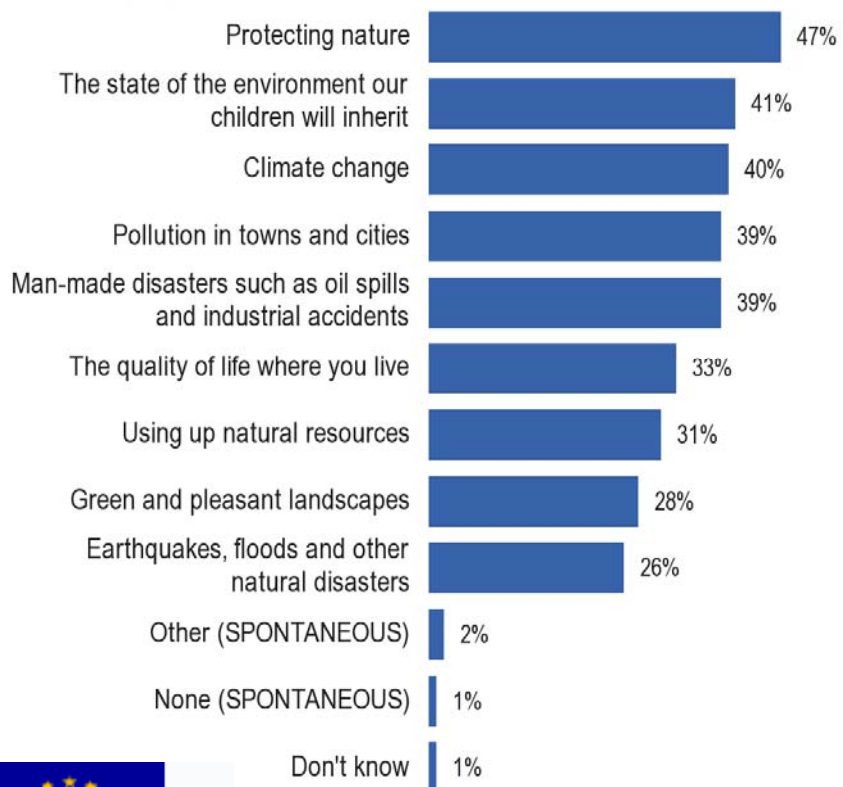


2.1 General associations with the environment

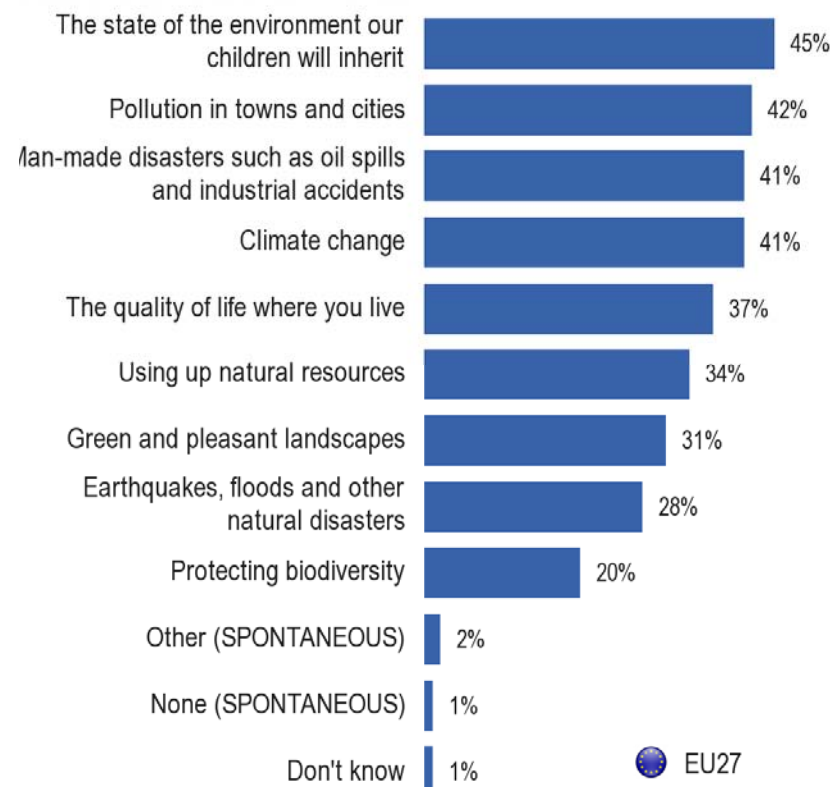
When people talk about "the environment", which of the following do you think of first? And then?

(MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

SPLIT A



SPLIT B



Half of the sample (split A) was read "protecting nature" while the other half (split B) was read "protecting biodiversity".

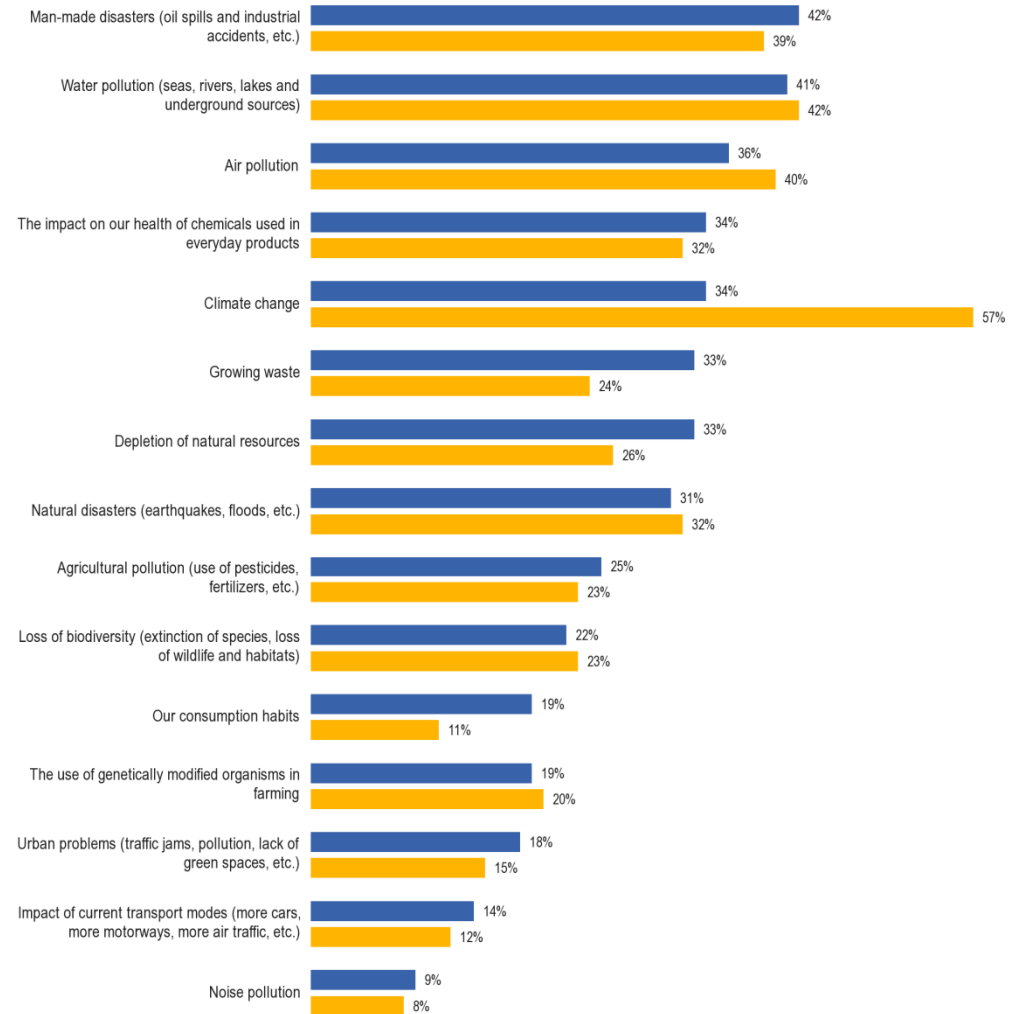
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2.2 Main environmental concerns

From the following list, please pick the five main environmental issues that you are worried about.

(MAX. 5 ANSWERS)































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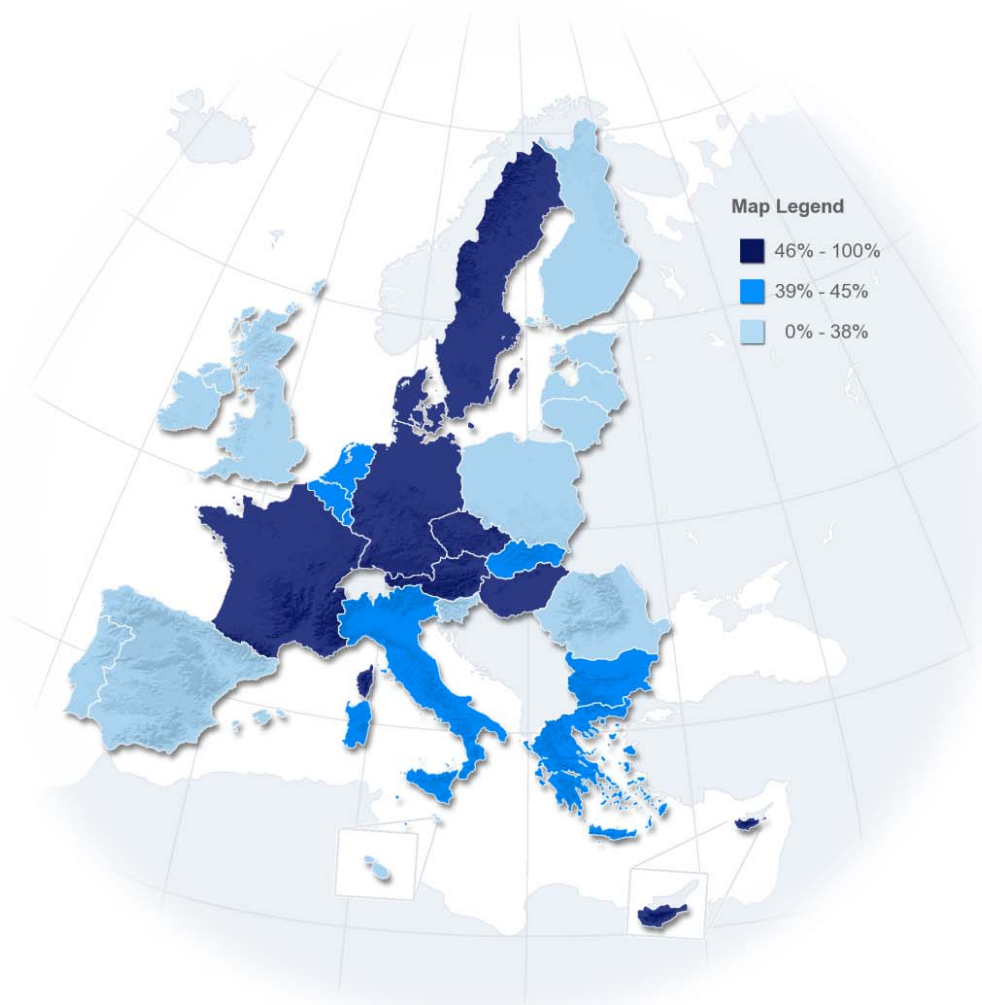


2.2 Main environmental concerns – Man-made disasters





























 DE	58%
 CZ	52%
 SE	50%
 AT	50%
 DK	49%
 FR	48%
 HU	46%
 CY	46%
 NL	45%
 LU	45%
 EL	43%
 EU	42%
 SK	41%
 IT	40%
 BE	40%
 BG	39%
 IE	38%
 ES	38%
 RO	37%
 FI	36%
 SI	34%
 UK	34%
 MT	32%
 EE	32%
 PL	30%
 PT	30%
 LT	28%
 LV	26%

Question: From the following list, please pick the five main environmental issues that you are worried about. (MAX. 5 ANSWERS)

Answers: Man-made disasters (oil spills and industrial accidents, etc.)

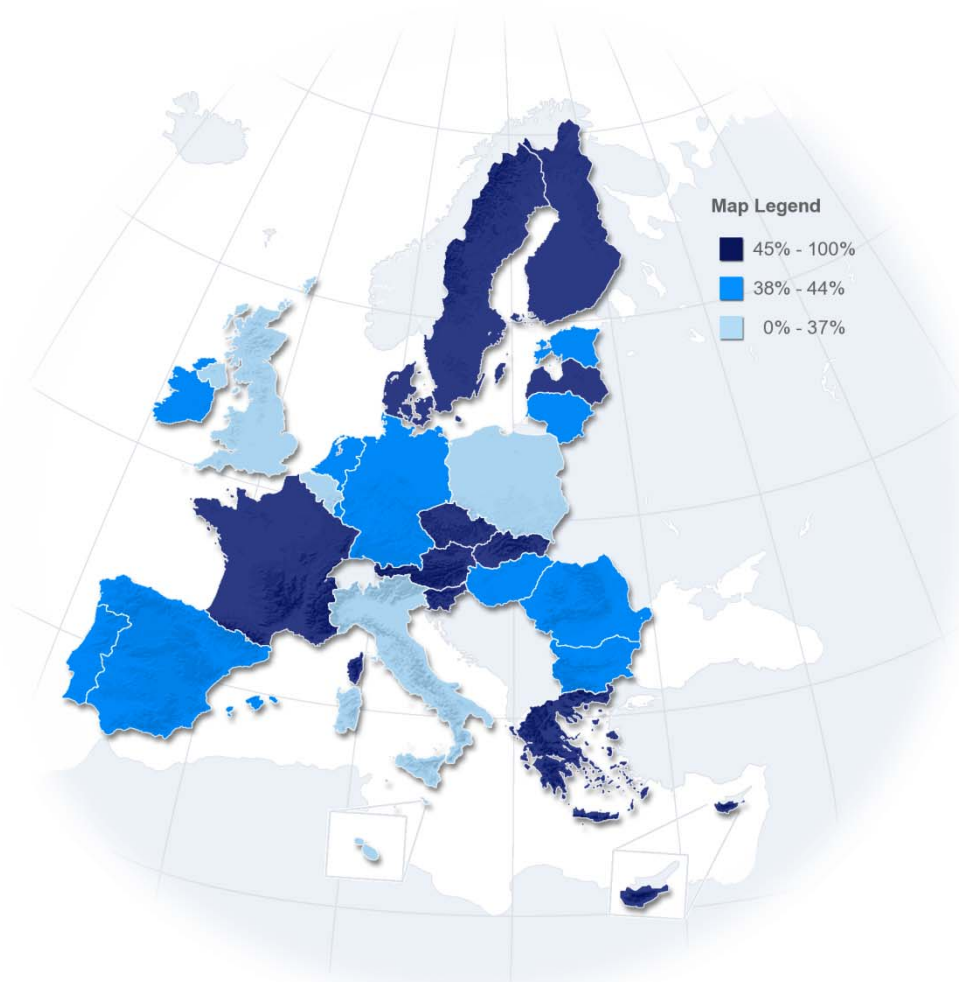


2.2 Main environmental concerns – Water pollution

 CY	55%
 FI	55%
 SE	53%
 SI	52%
 FR	50%
 LV	49%
 CZ	49%
 EL	49%
 DK	49%
 SK	45%
 AT	45%
 LU	44%
 IE	43%
 HU	43%
 ES	42%
 DE	42%
 BG	41%
 LT	41%
 EU	41%
 EE	41%
 RO	40%
 NL	40%
 PT	39%
 IT	36%
 MT	36%
 BE	36%
 PL	34%
 UK	33%

Question: From the following list, please pick the five main environmental issues that you are worried about. (MAX. 5 ANSWERS)

Answers: Water pollution (seas, rivers, lakes and underground sources)





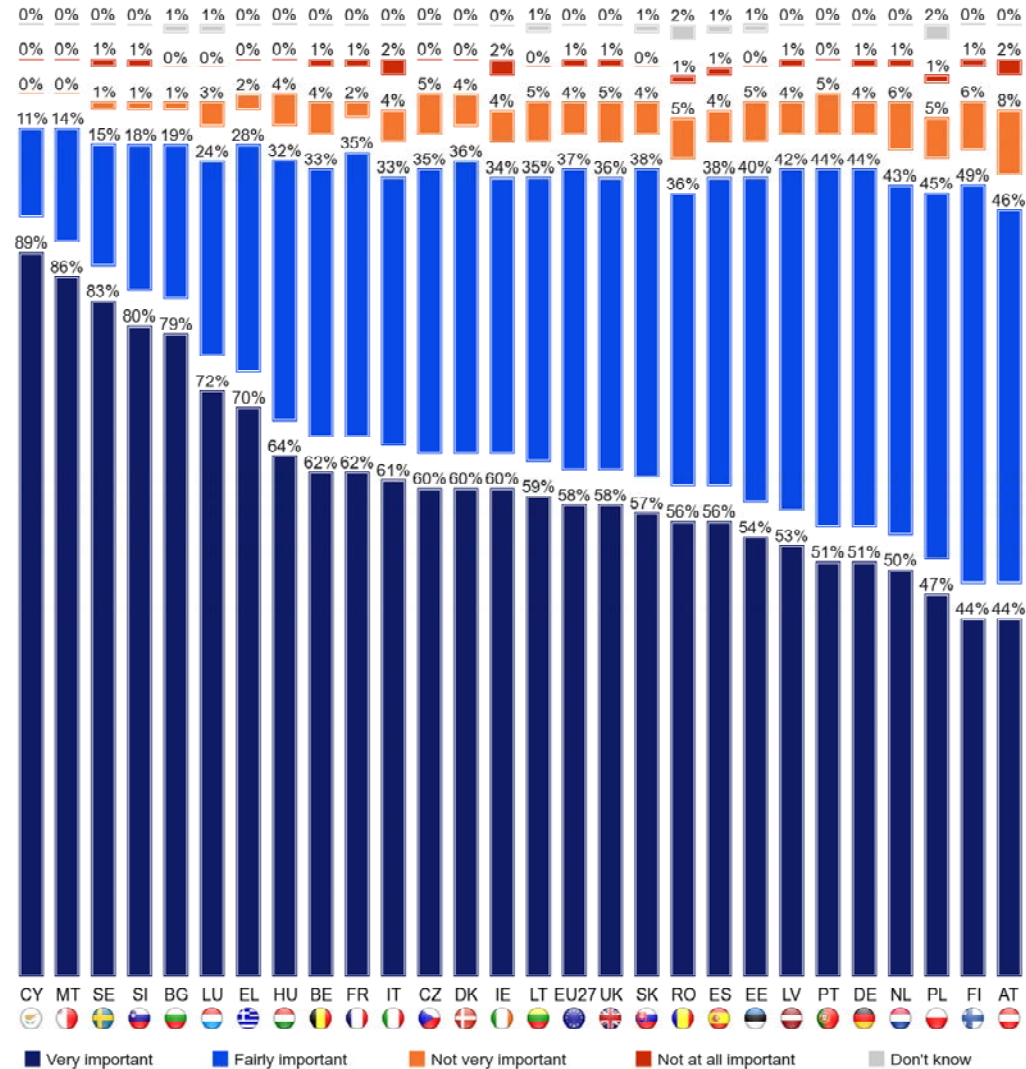
3. Environment in citizens' lives



3.1.1 Personal importance of environmental protection

How important is protecting the environment to you personally?

(ONE ANSWER ONLY)

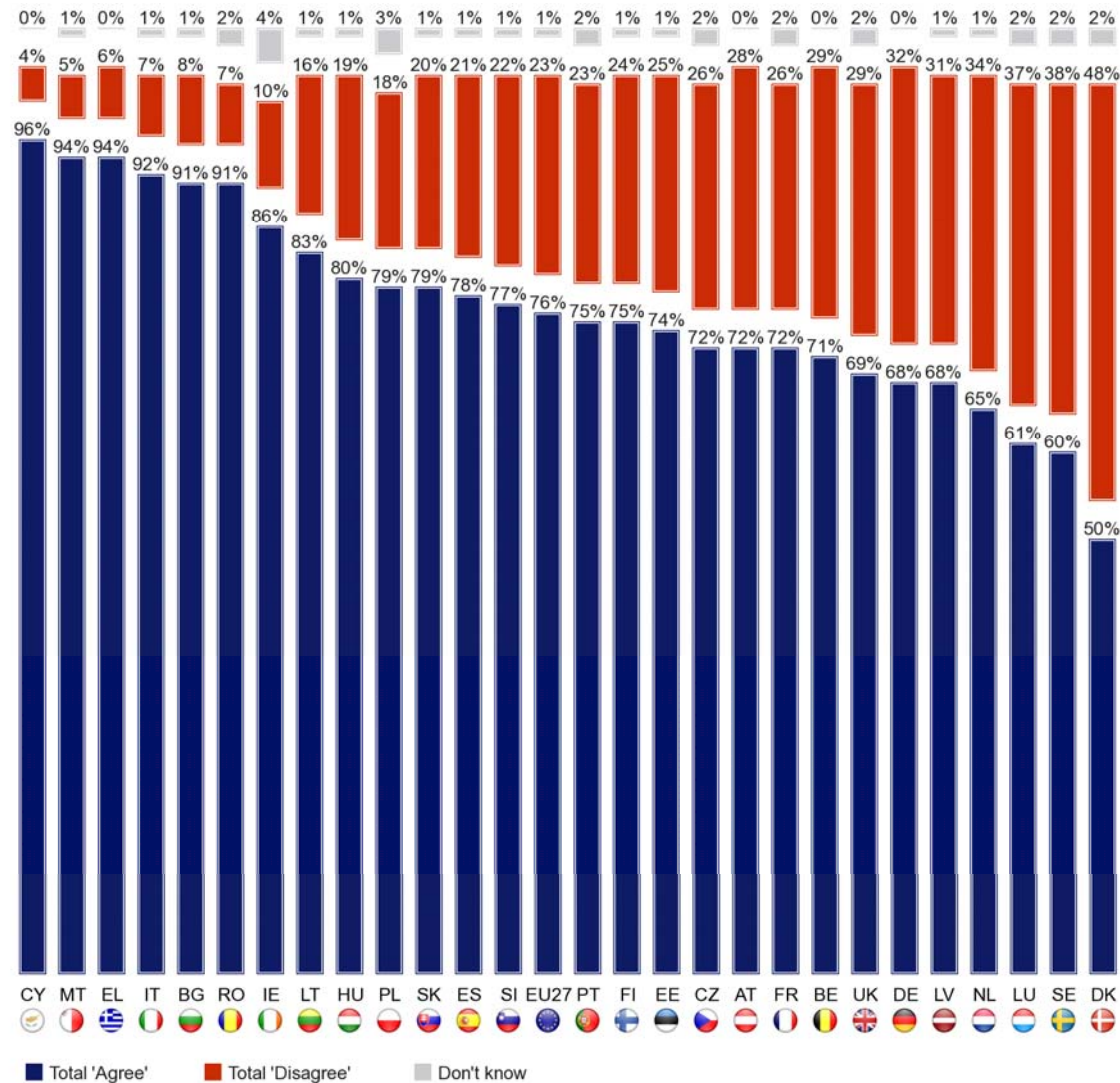


3.1.2 Environmental effects on citizens' lives

Please tell me whether you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree with each of the following statements.

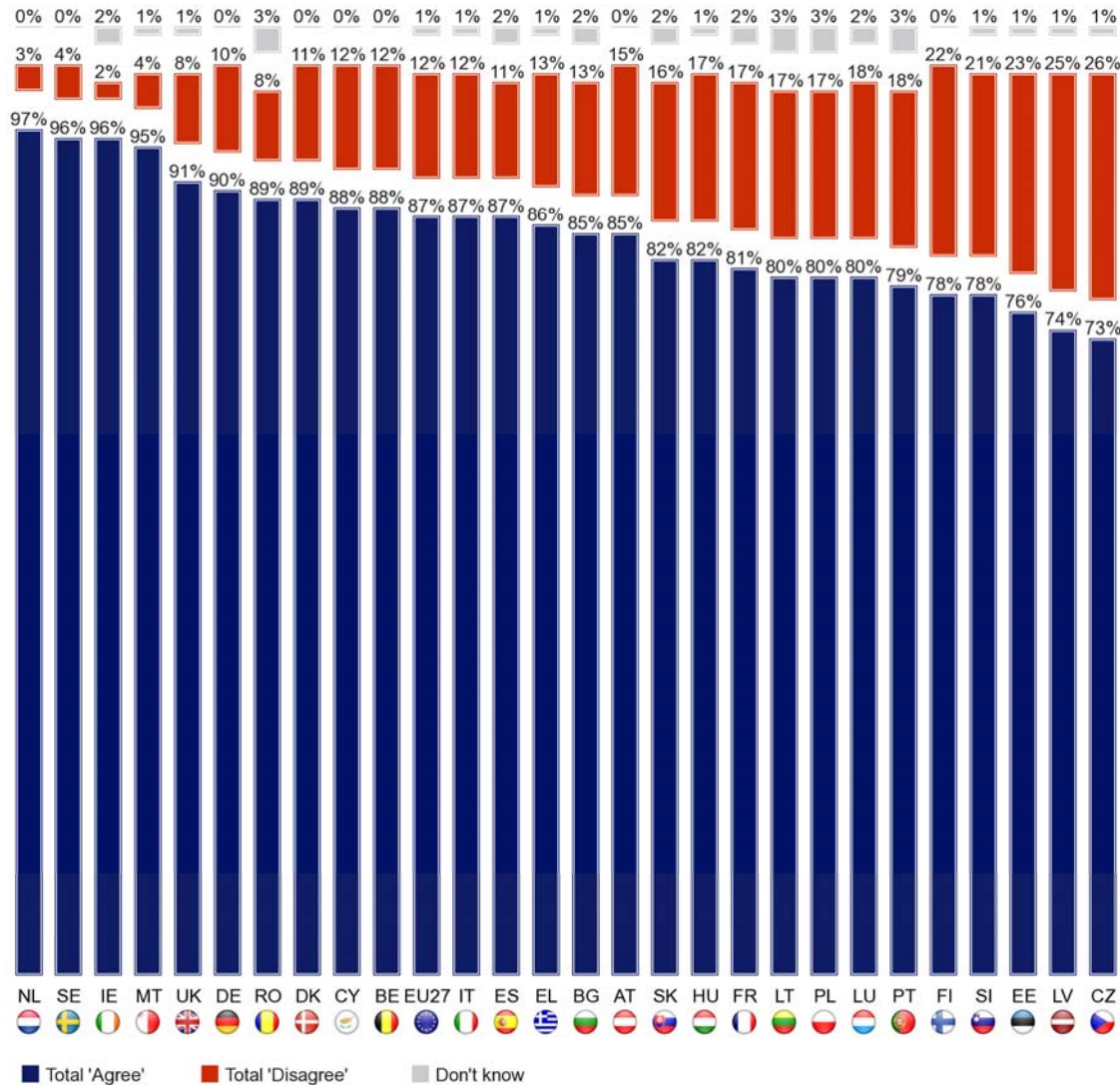
Environmental problems have a direct effect on your daily life

(ONE ANSWER ONLY)



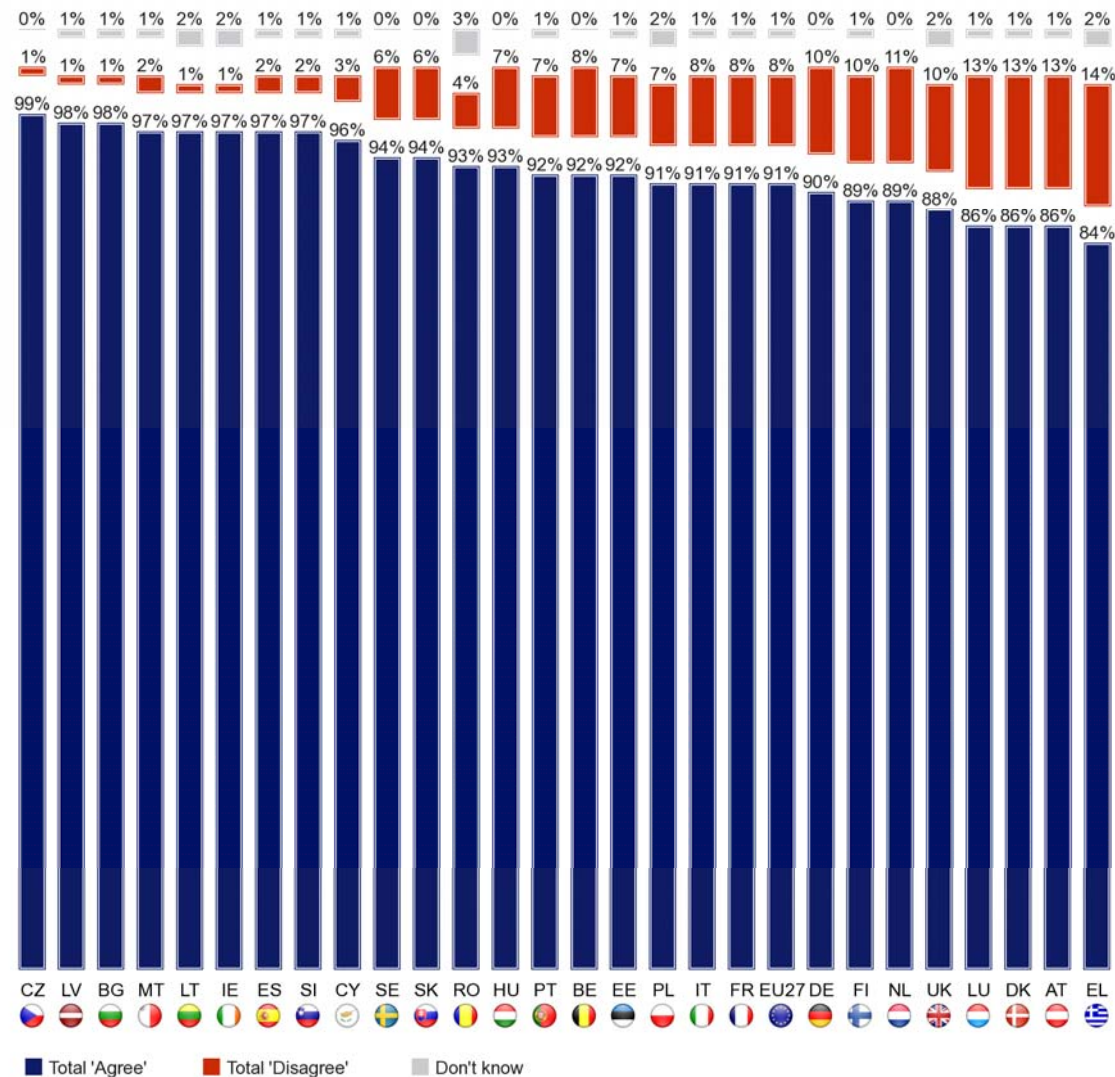
3.1.3 Personal responsibility on the environment

Please tell me whether you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree with each of the following statements.
As an individual, you can play a role in protecting the environment in (OUR COUNTRY)
 (ONE ANSWER ONLY)



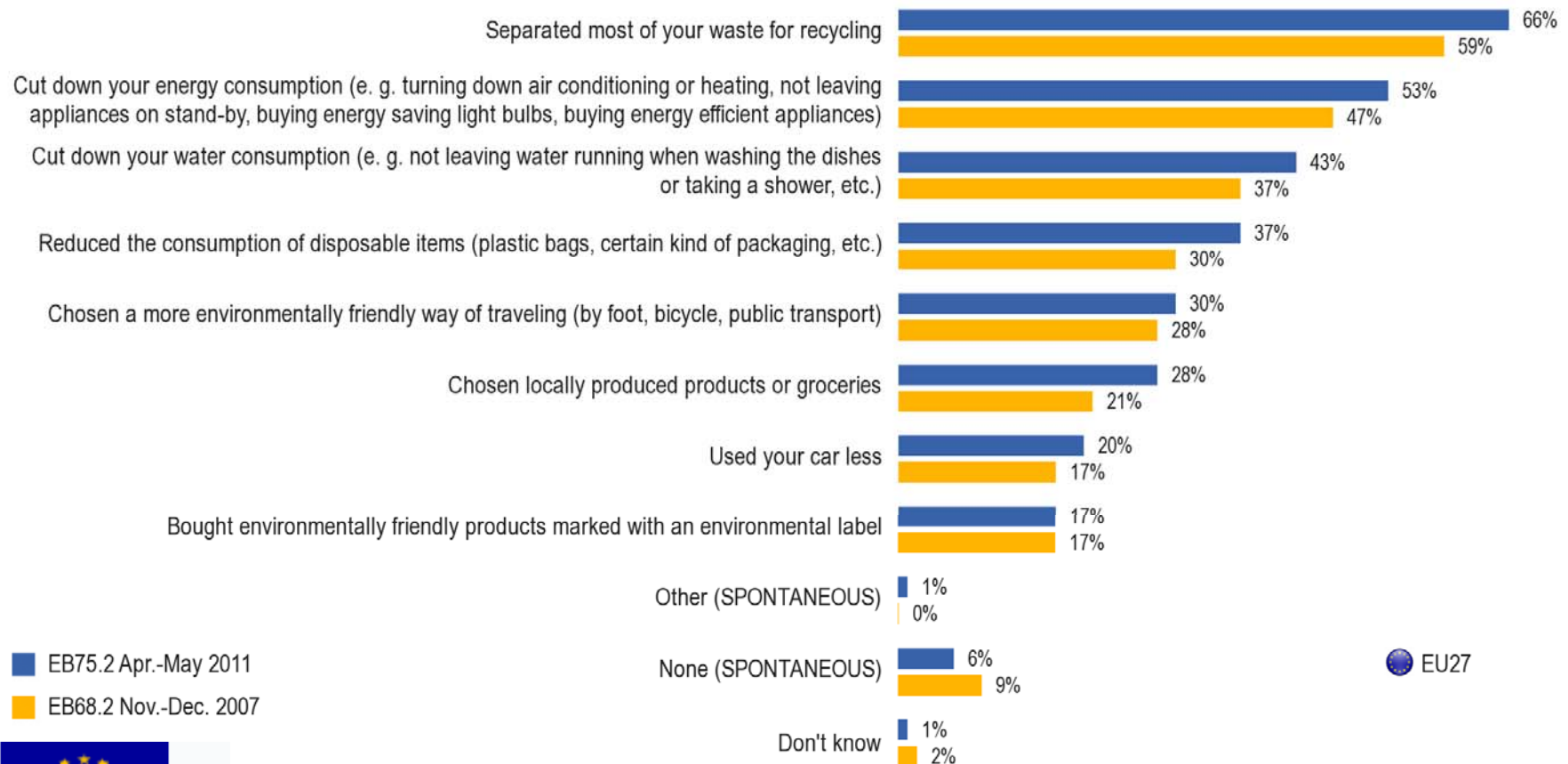
3.1.3 The responsibility of the big polluters

Please tell me whether you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree with each of the following statements.
The big polluters (corporations and industry) should be mainly responsible for protecting the environment
 (ONE ANSWER ONLY)



3.2.1 Actions taken for environmental reasons

Have you done any of the following during the past month for environmental reasons? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)




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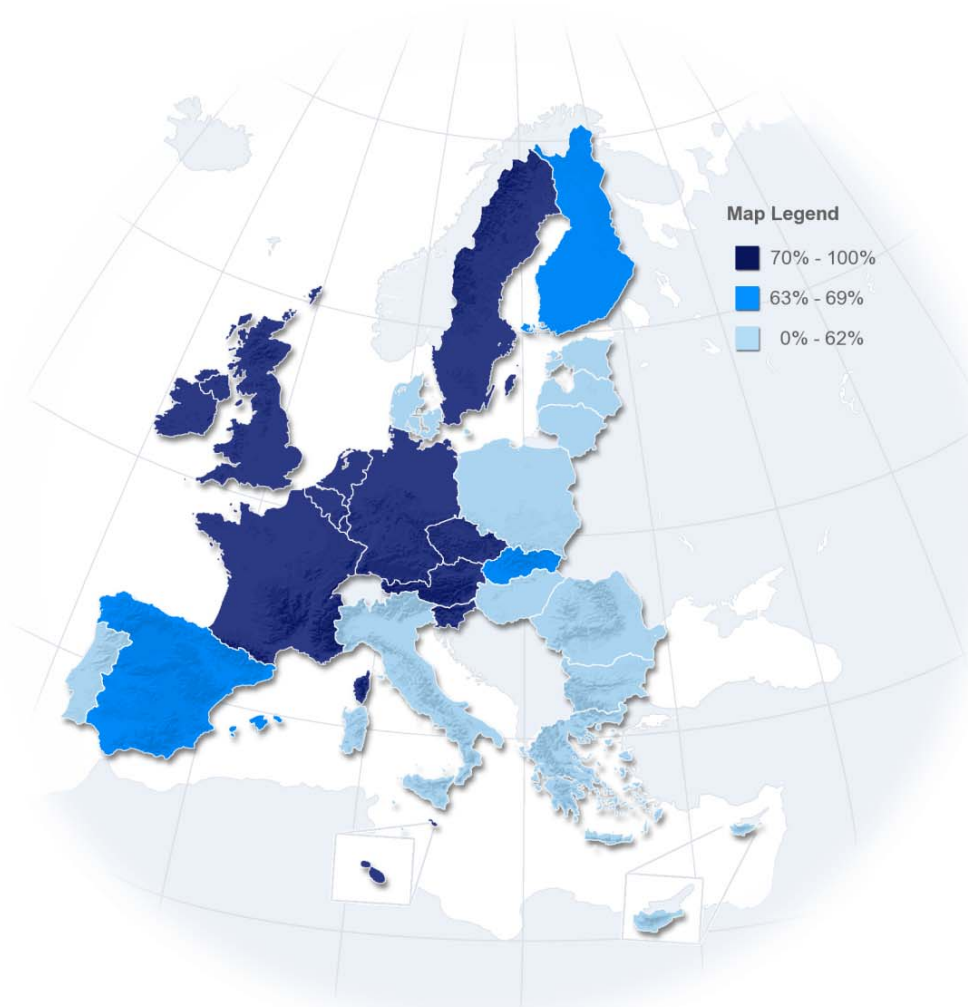


3.2.1 Actions taken for environmental reasons – Separated most of your waste for recycling

 LU	87%
 FR	82%
 IE	79%
 UK	79%
 SI	79%
 BE	78%
 SE	78%
 MT	76%
 NL	75%
 AT	73%
 DE	73%
 CZ	70%
 FI	69%
 EU	66%
 SK	65%
 ES	65%
 EE	62%
 PT	60%
 IT	58%
 CY	57%
 DK	55%
 PL	54%
 HU	54%
 EL	47%
 LT	42%
 LV	28%
 RO	23%
 BG	19%

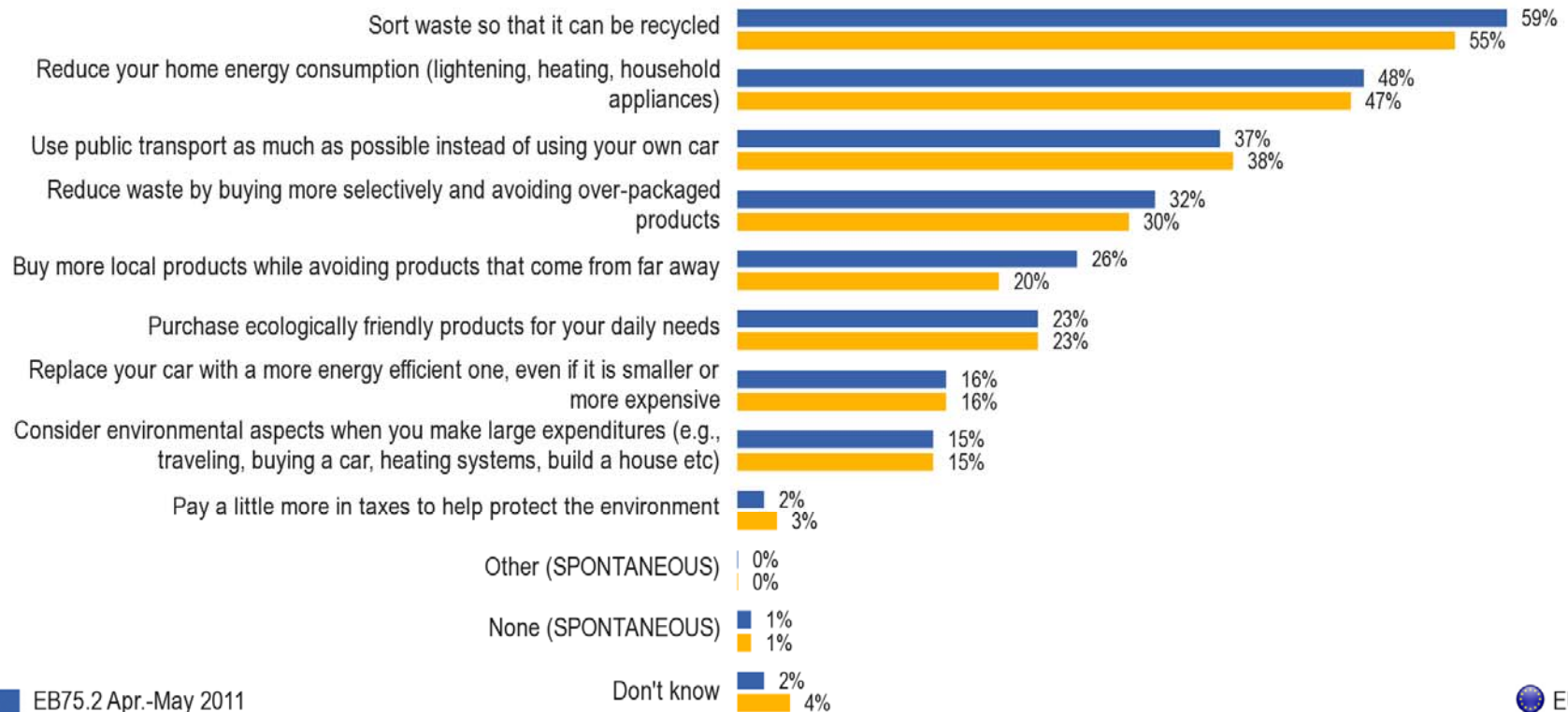
Question: Have you done any of the following during the past month for environmental reasons?

Answers: Separated most of your waste for recycling



3.2.2 Actions seen as priorities for citizens

In your opinion, which of these should be the top-three priorities for (NATIONALITY) citizens in their daily life to protect the environment? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)



■ EB75.2 Apr.-May 2011

■ EB68.2 Nov.-Dec. 2007

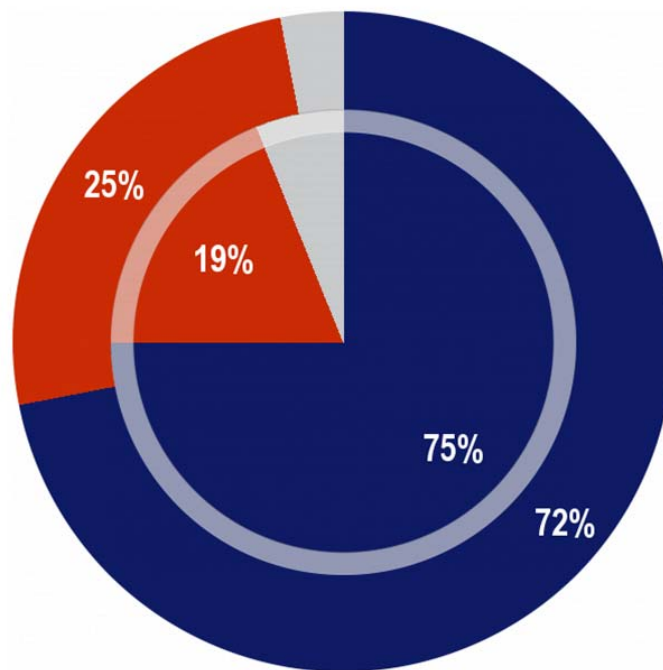
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3.3.1 Intention to buy environmentally friendly products

Please tell me whether you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree with the following statement: You are ready to buy environmentally friendly products even if they cost a little bit more.

(ONE ANSWER ONLY)



- Total 'Agree'
- Total 'Disagree'
- Don't know



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Inner pie : EB68.2 Nov.-Dec. 2007

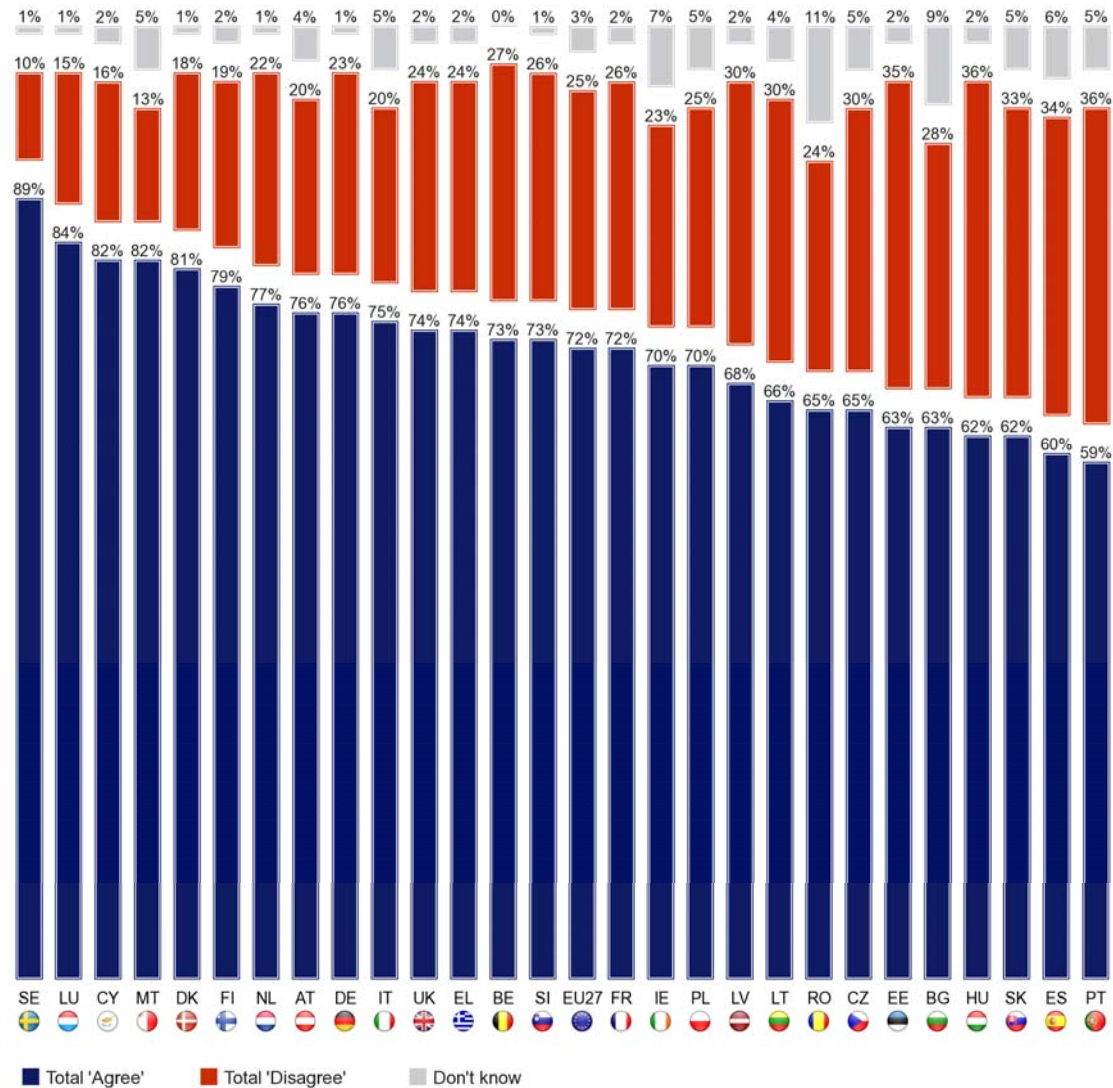
Outer pie : EB75.2 Apr.-May 2011



3.3.1 Intention to buy environmentally friendly products

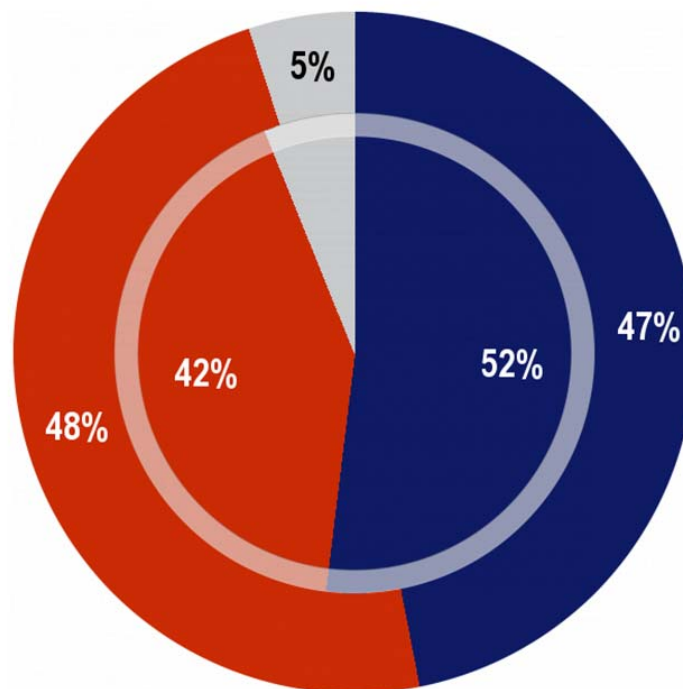
Please tell me whether you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree with the following statement: You are ready to buy environmentally friendly products even if they cost a little bit more.

(ONE ANSWER ONLY)



3.3.2 Information about green labelling

Do you think that current labels on products allow you to identify those products that are genuinely environmentally friendly?
(ONE ANSWER ONLY)



- Total 'Yes'
- Total 'No'
- Don't know



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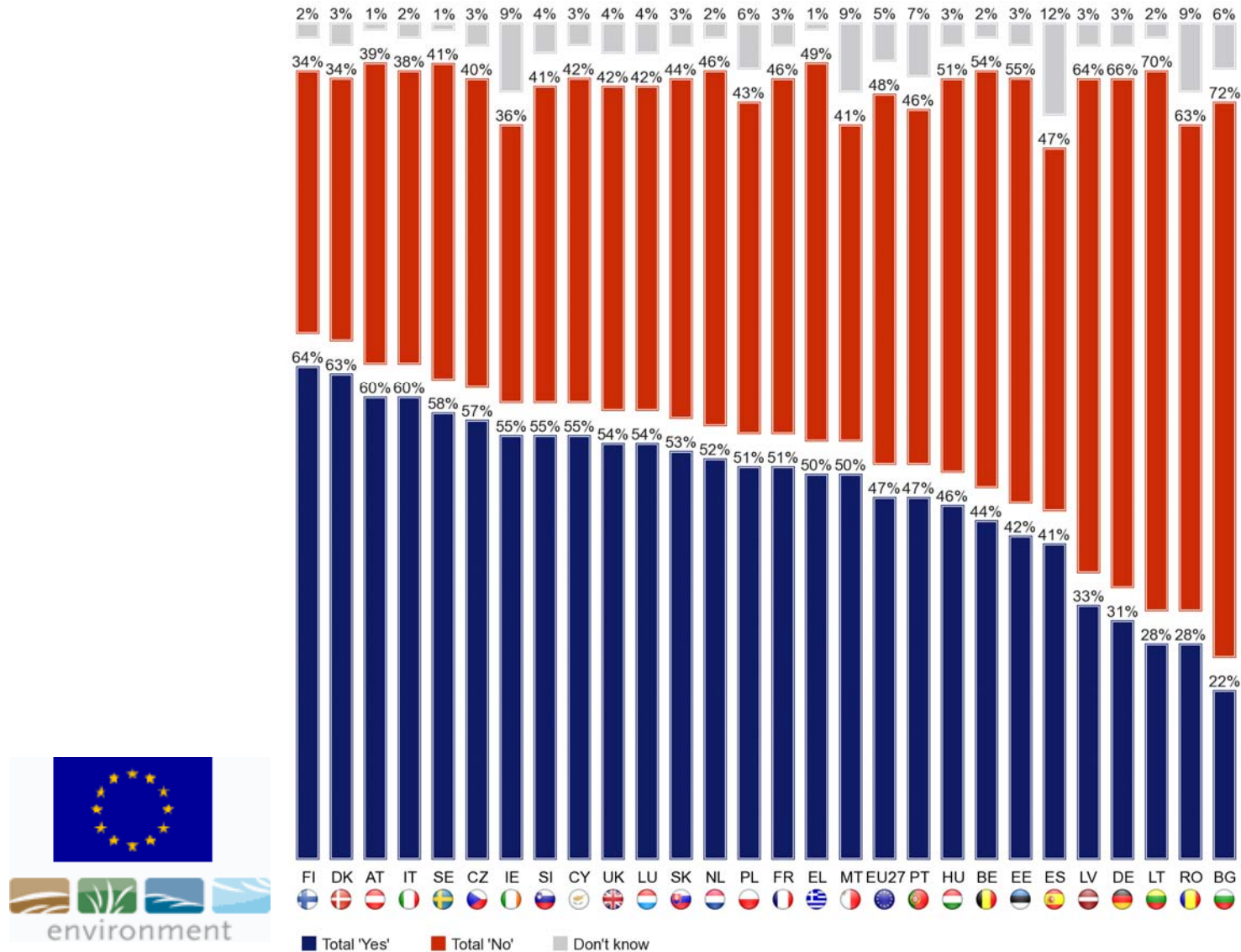
Inner pie : EB68.2 Nov.-Dec. 2007
Outer pie : EB75.2 Apr.-May 2011



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3.3.2 Information about green labelling

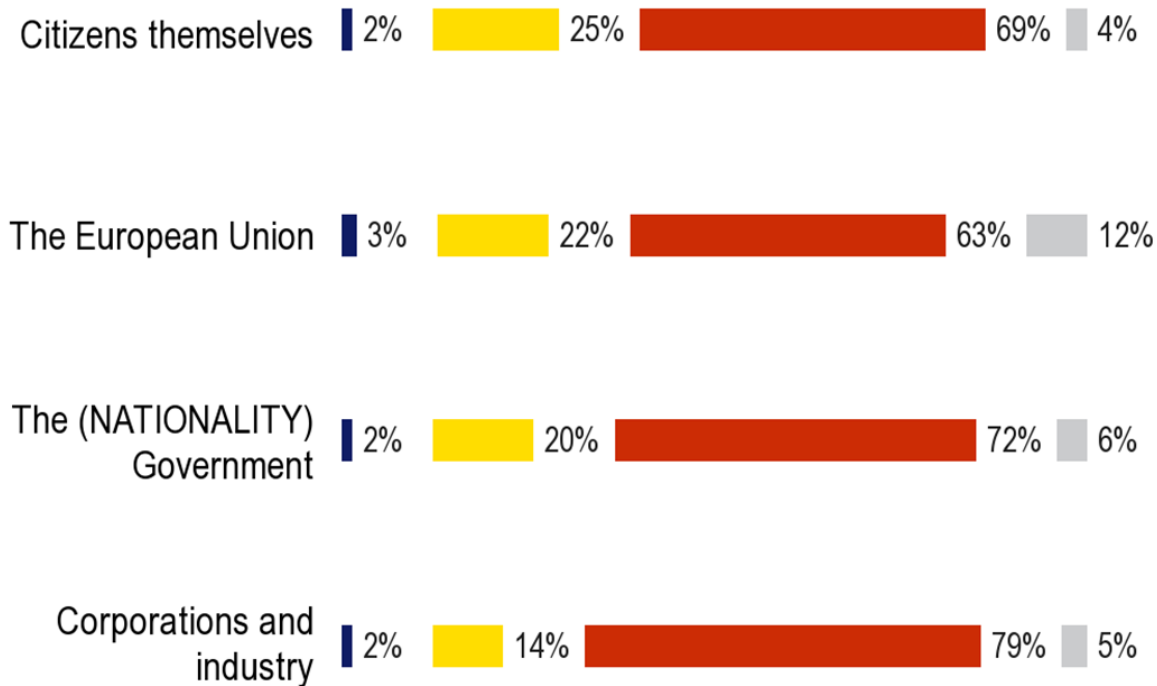
Do you think that current labels on products allow you to identify those products that are genuinely environmentally friendly?
(ONE ANSWER ONLY)



3.4 Which actor is viewed as most active to use natural resources efficiently?

In your opinion, are each of the following currently doing too much, doing about the right amount, or not doing enough to use natural resources efficiently?

(ONE ANSWER ONLY)



Doing too much
 Doing about the right amount
 Not doing enough
 Don't know

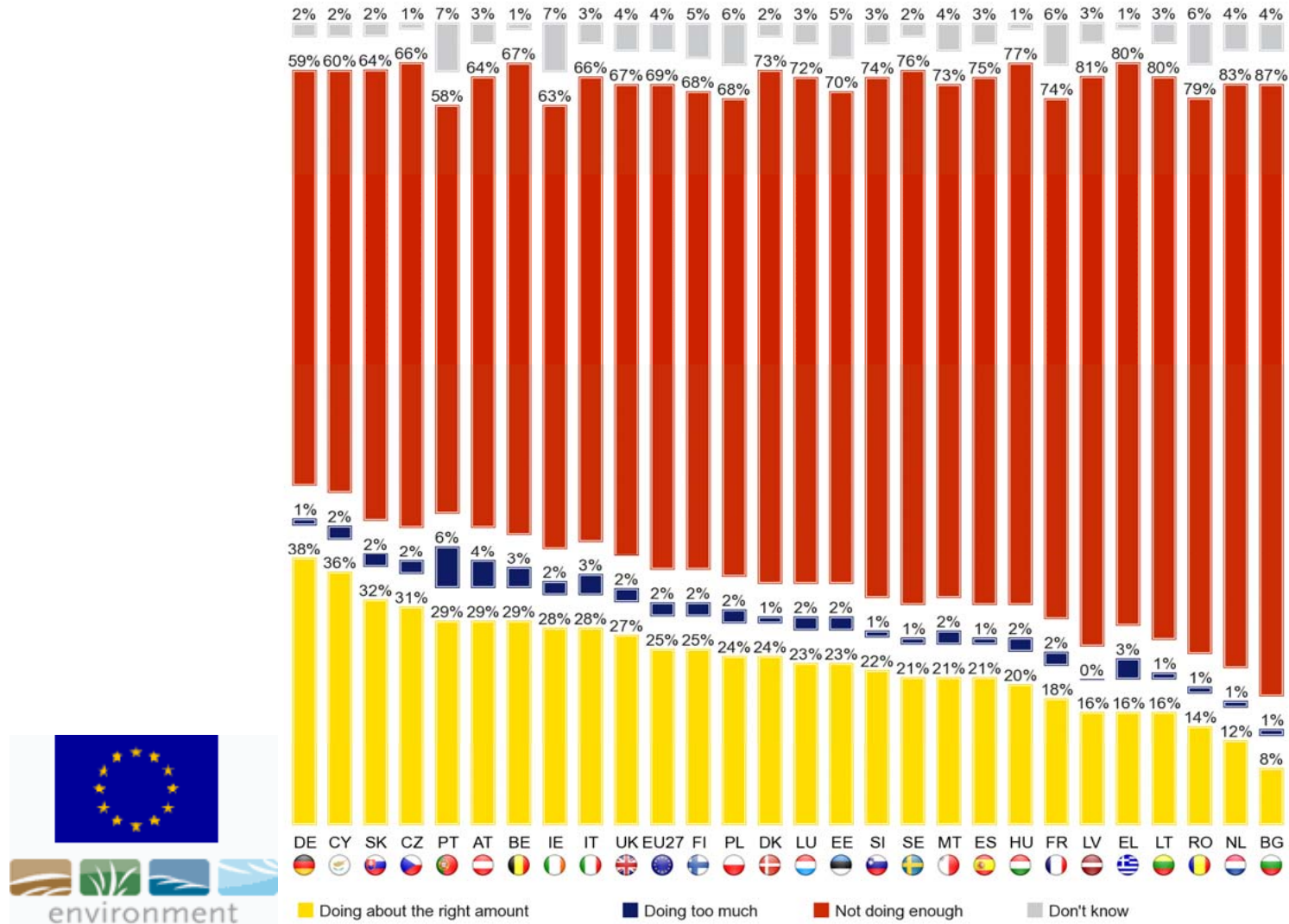


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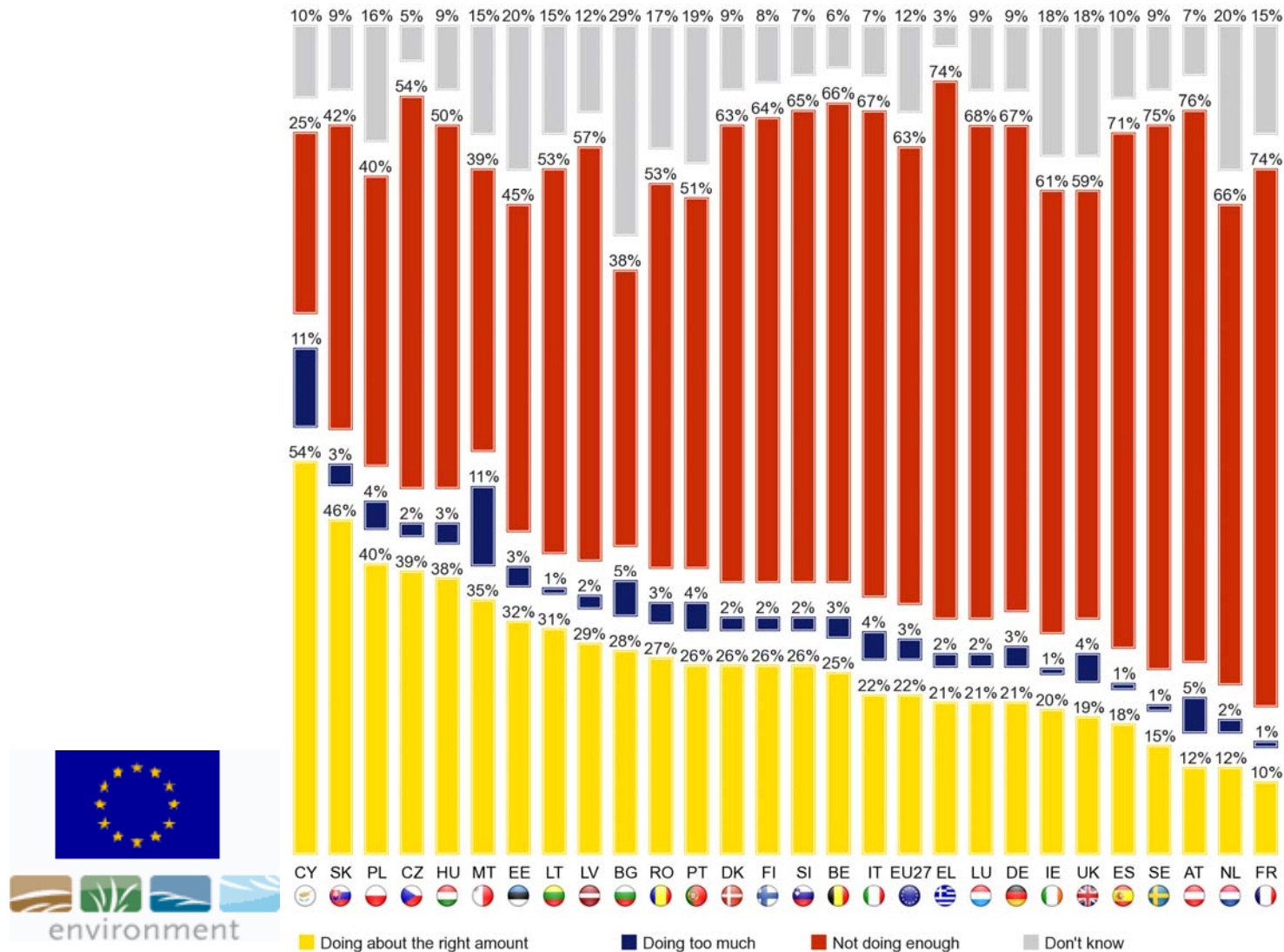
3.4.1 Citizens themselves

In your opinion, are each of the following currently doing too much, doing about the right amount, or not doing enough to use natural resources efficiently? **Citizens themselves**
(ONE ANSWER ONLY)



3.4.2 The European Union

In your opinion, are each of the following currently doing too much, doing about the right amount, or not doing enough to use natural resources efficiently? **The European Union**
(ONE ANSWER ONLY)





4. Environment in EU public life, decision making and economy



4.1. Factors influencing citizens' quality of life

In your opinion, to what extent do the following factors influence your "quality of life"?

(ONE ANSWER ONLY)



EB75.2 Apr.-May 2011





























EB68.2 Nov.-Dec. 2007



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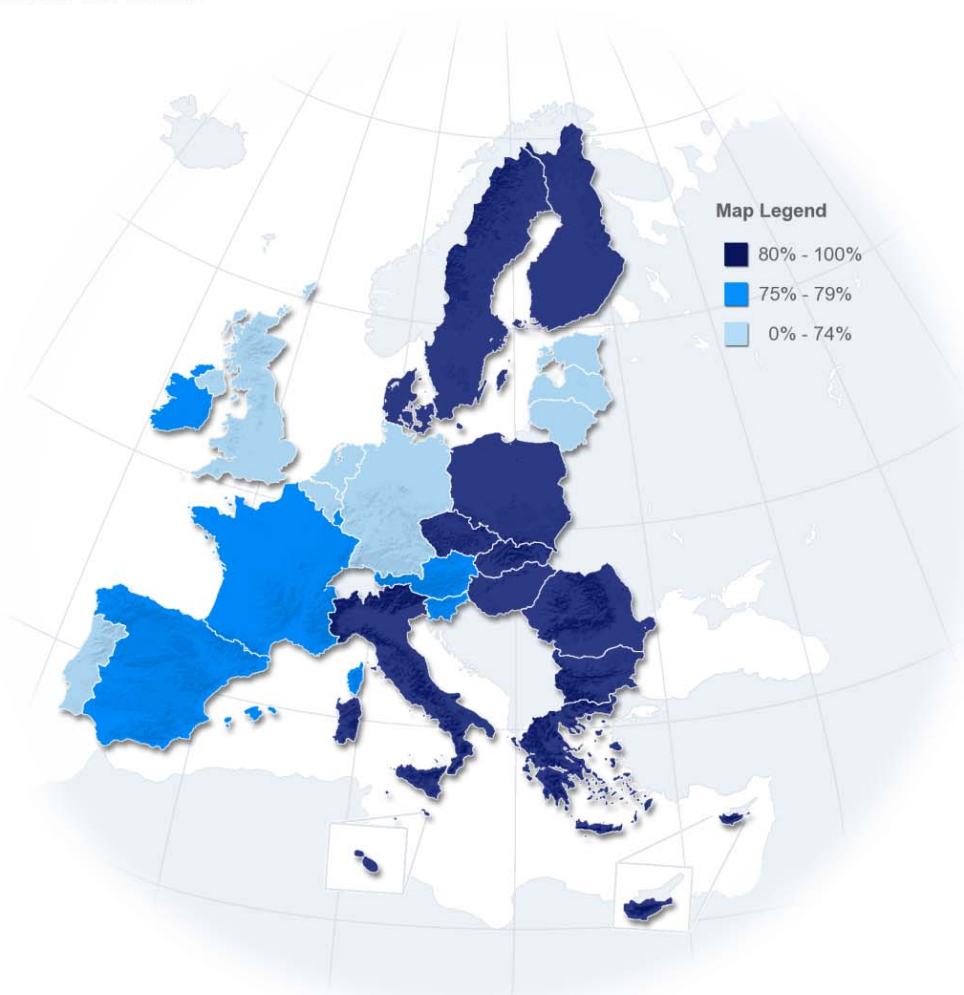
4.1.1 The environment and quality of life

 EL	92%
 CY	92%
 MT	89%
 HU	88%
 IT	85%
 SE	84%
 CZ	84%
 DK	83%
 SK	82%
 BG	81%
 RO	81%
 FI	80%
 PL	80%
 ES	78%
 SI	77%
 AT	77%
 EU	77%
 FR	75%
 IE	75%
 LU	75%
 UK	73%
 EE	73%
 BE	72%
 PT	72%
 NL	72%
 LT	71%
 DE	69%
 LV	67%

Question: In your opinion, to what extent do the following factors influence your "quality of life"?

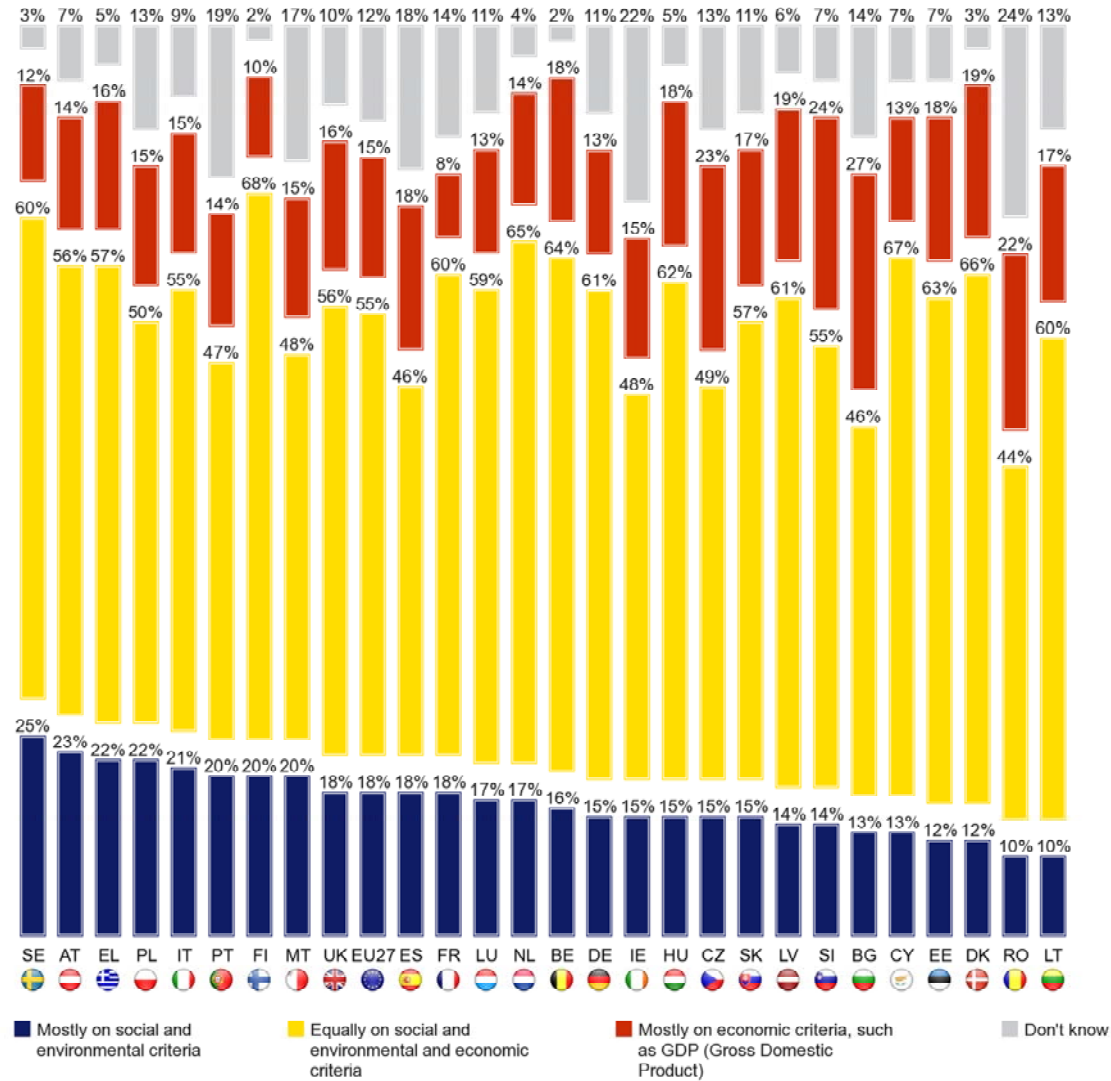
Option: State of the environment

Answers: Total 'Influence'























4.1.2 Evaluating progress

Which of the following ways of evaluating progress in (OUR COUNTRY) do you think is the best? National progress should be evaluated based...
(ONE ANSWER ONLY)

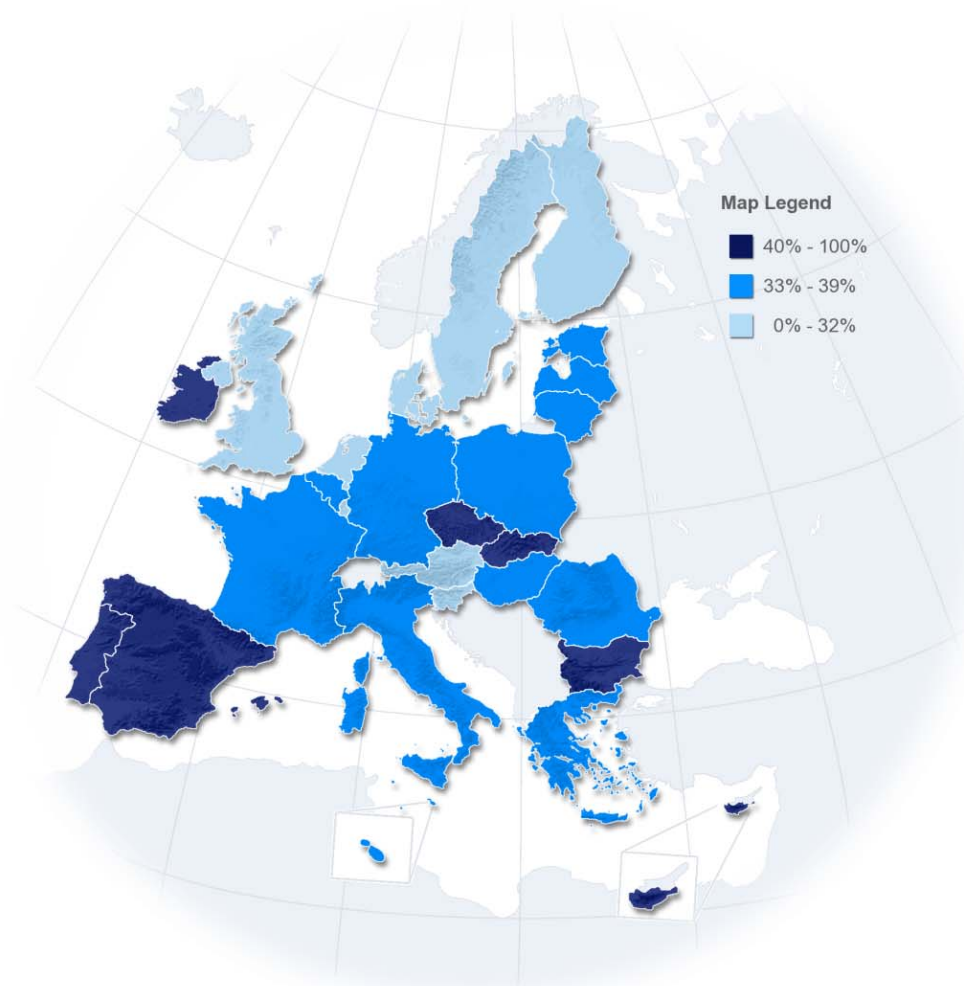


4.2.1 Most effective ways of tackling environmental problems – Introducing heavier fines for offenders

 BG	48%
 CZ	46%
 PT	44%
 ES	44%
 SK	41%
 IE	41%
 CY	40%
 RO	39%
 DE	39%
 LT	38%
 MT	37%
 EL	37%
 EU	36%
 PL	36%
 BE	35%
 EE	35%
 HU	34%
 LV	34%
 FR	33%
 IT	33%
 UK	32%
 AT	32%
 SI	32%
 DK	30%
 LU	29%
 FI	28%
 NL	24%
 SE	17%

Question: In your opinion, which of the following would be the most effective way(s) of tackling environmental problems?

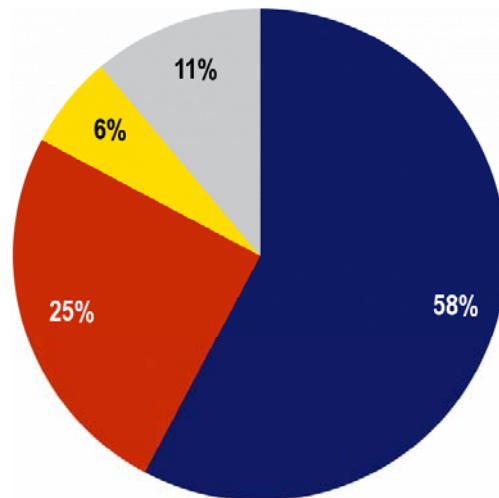
Answers: Introducing heavier fines for offenders



4.2.2 Green procurement

In your opinion, which of the following would be the most effective way(s) of tackling environmental problems?
(MAX. 2 ANSWERS)

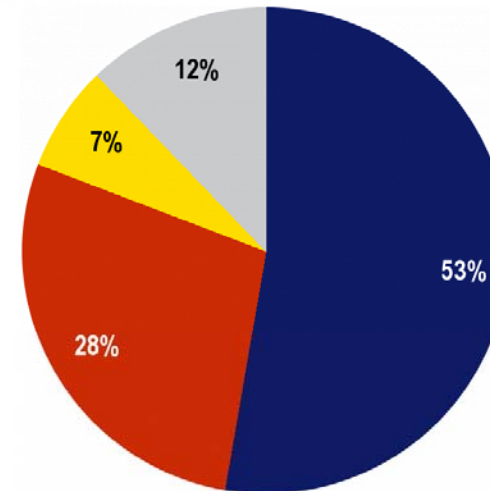
SPLIT A



- Environmentally friendly procurement over simple cost considerations
- Cost effective solutions over environmentally friendly considerations
- Neither (SPONTANEOUS)
- Don't know

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SPLIT B



- Green public procurement over simple cost considerations
- Cost effective solutions over environmentally friendly considerations
- Neither (SPONTANEOUS)
- Don't know

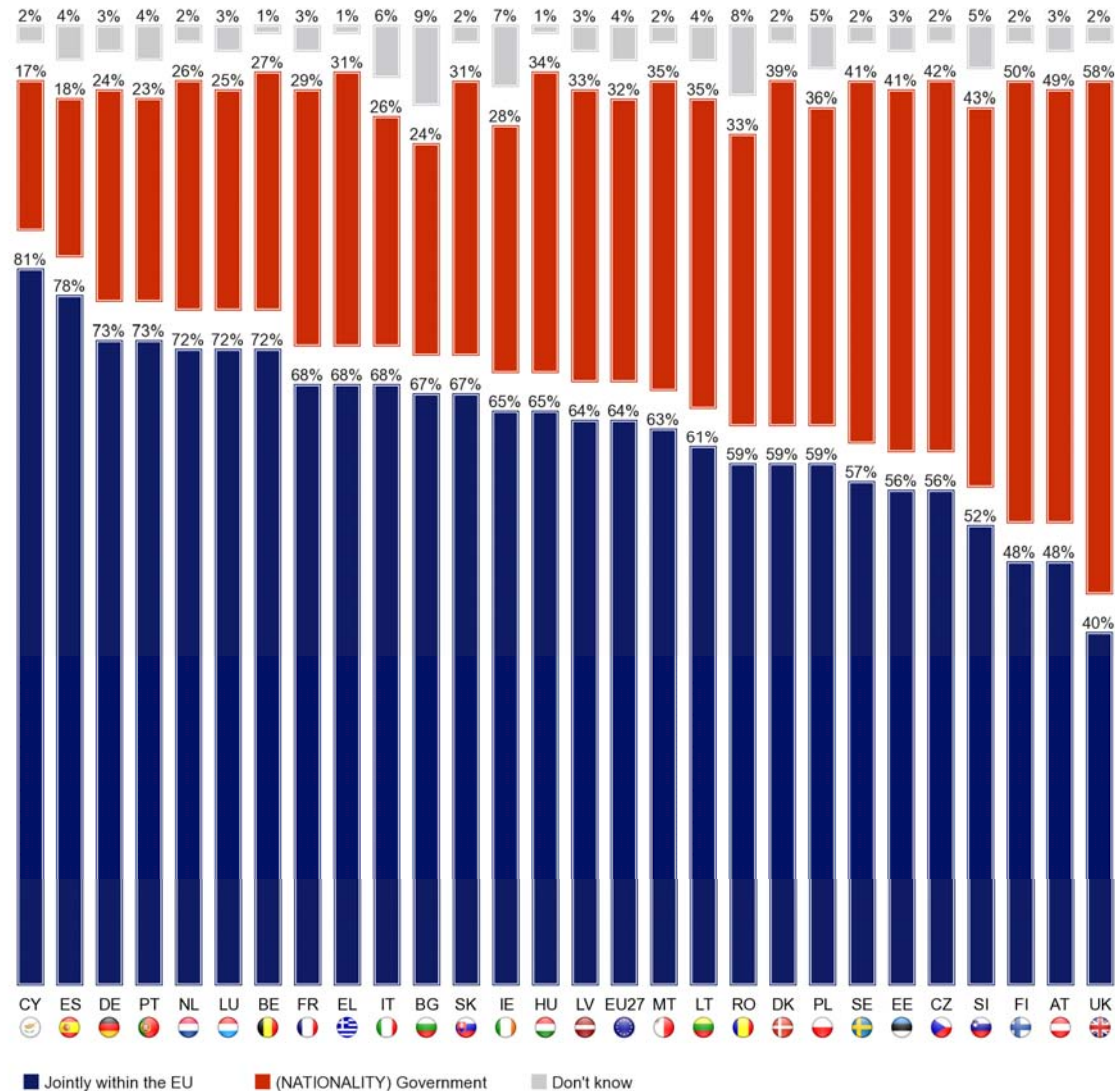
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Half of the sample (split A) was read "environmentally friendly procurement" while the other half (split B) was read "green public procurement".



4.3.1 Preferred level of decision making

When it comes to protecting the environment, do you think that decisions should be made by the (NATIONALITY) Government or made jointly within the EU?
(ONE ANSWER ONLY)

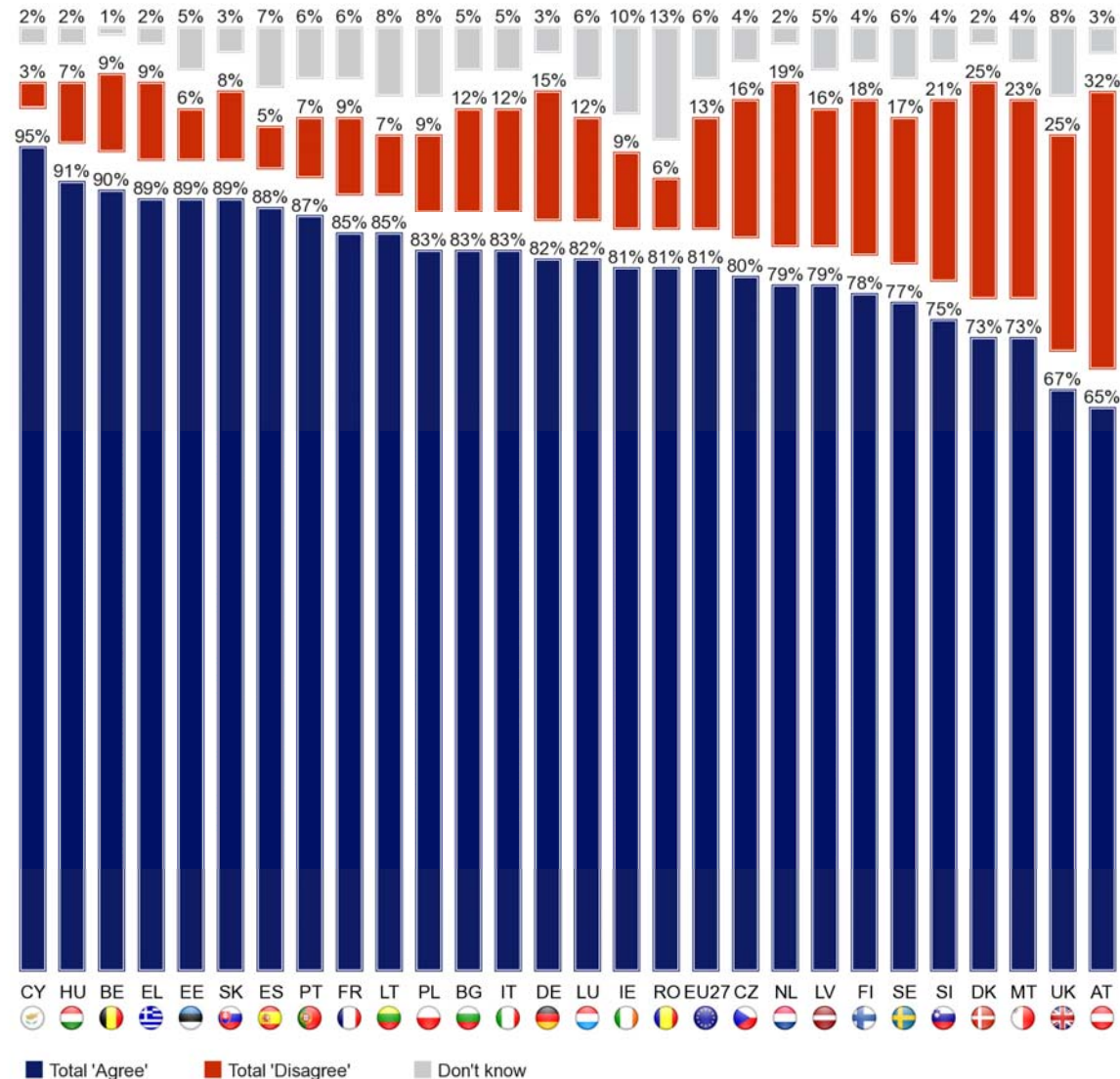


4.3.2 Views on actions at EU level

Please tell me whether you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree with each of the following statements.

European environmental legislation is necessary for protecting the environment in (OUR COUNTRY)

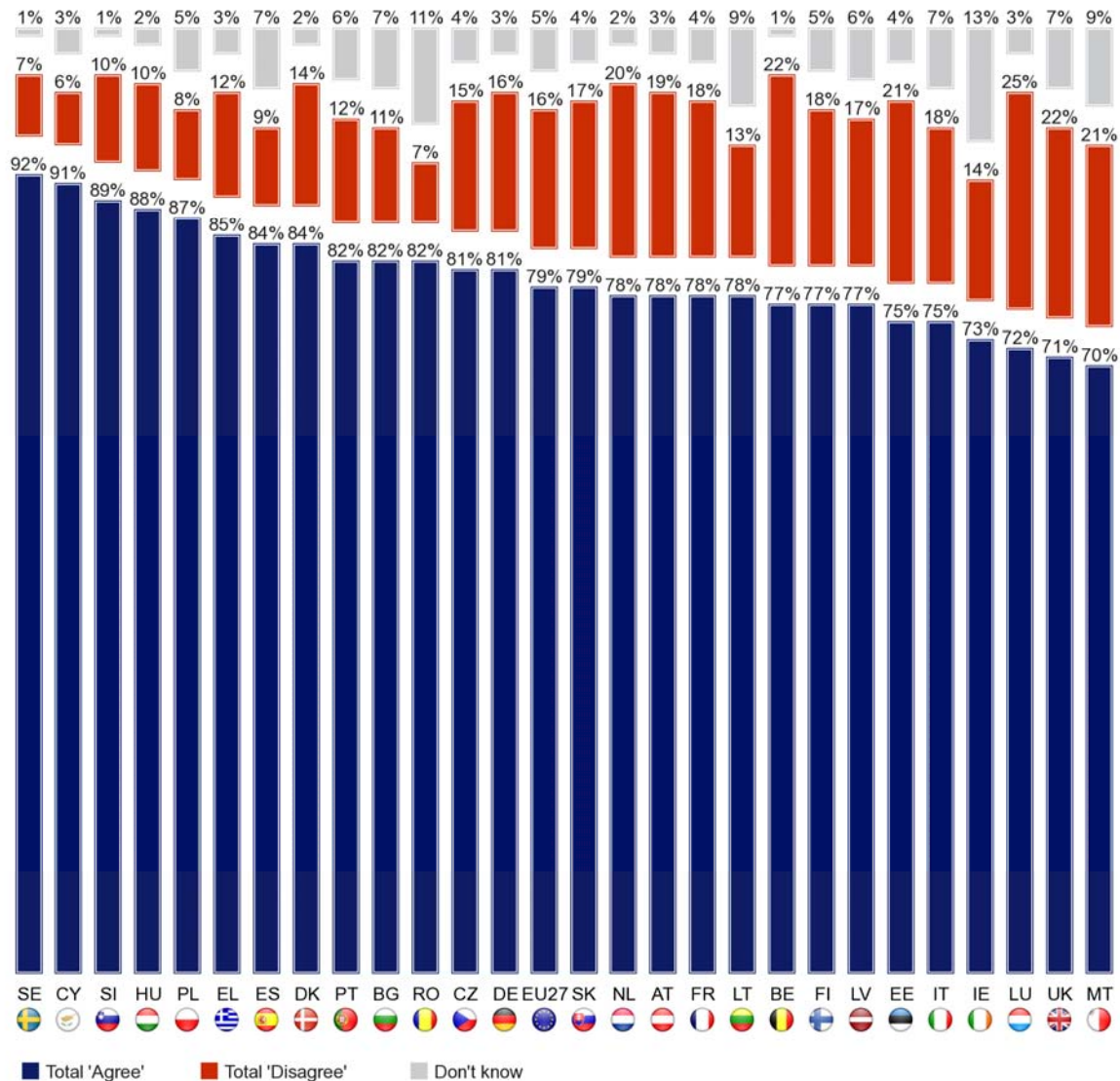
(ONE ANSWER ONLY)



4.3.2 Views on actions at EU level

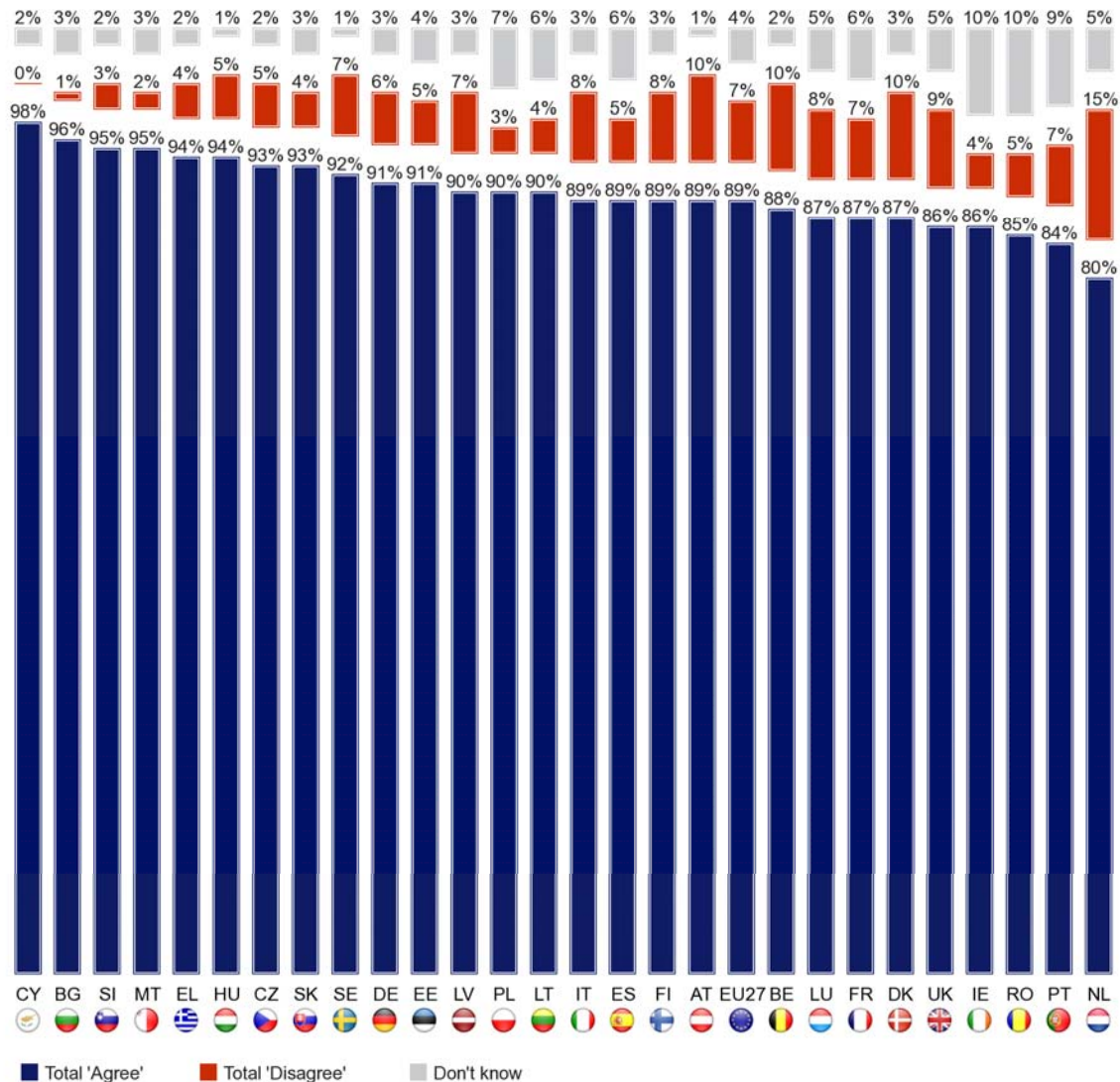
Please tell me whether you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree with each of the following statements.

The EU should assist non-EU countries to improve their environmental standards
(ONE ANSWER ONLY)



4.3.2 Views on actions at EU level

Please tell me whether you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree with each of the following statements.
EU funding should be allocated more to support environmentally friendly activities and developments
 (ONE ANSWER ONLY)



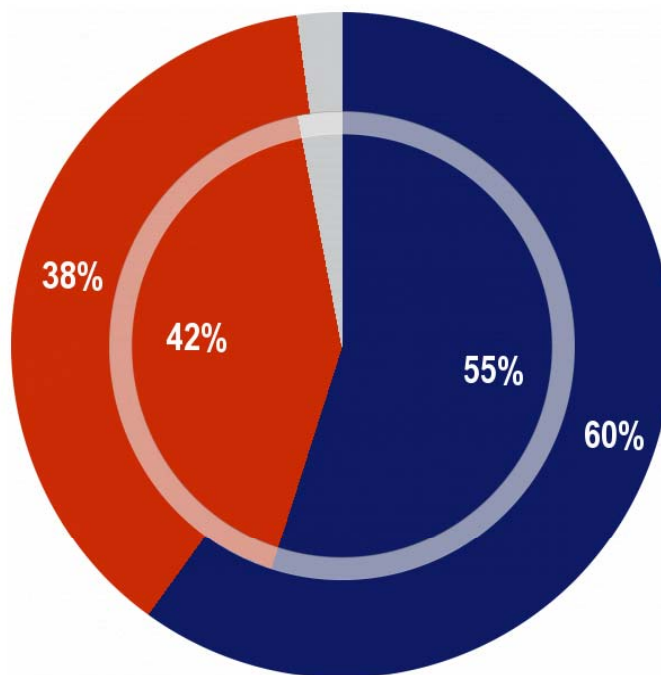


5. Information about the environment



5.1 Level of feeling informed

In general, do you consider that you are very well, fairly well, fairly badly or very badly informed about environmental issues?
(ONE ANSWER ONLY)



- Total 'Well informed'
- Total 'Badly informed'
- Don't know

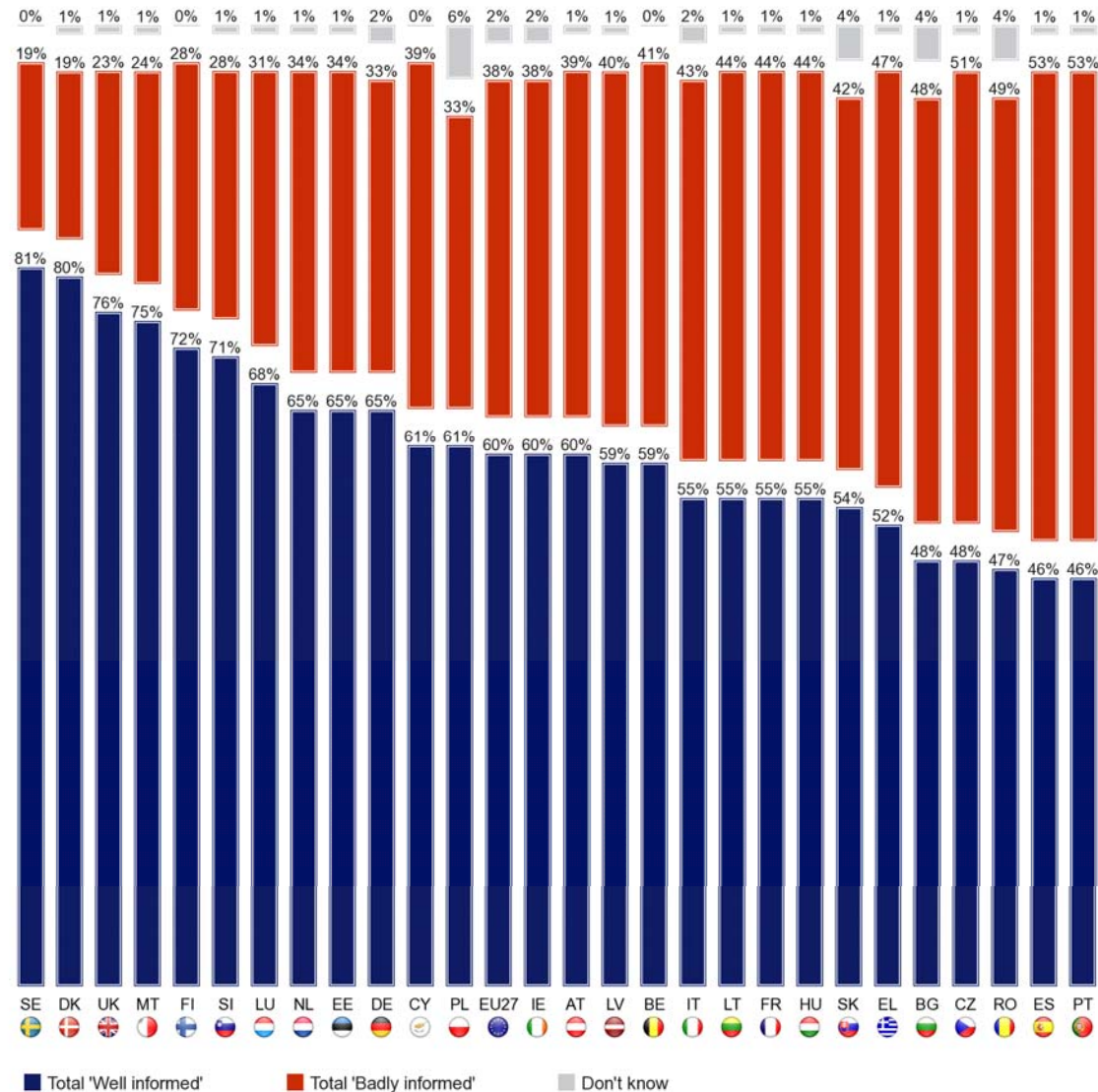


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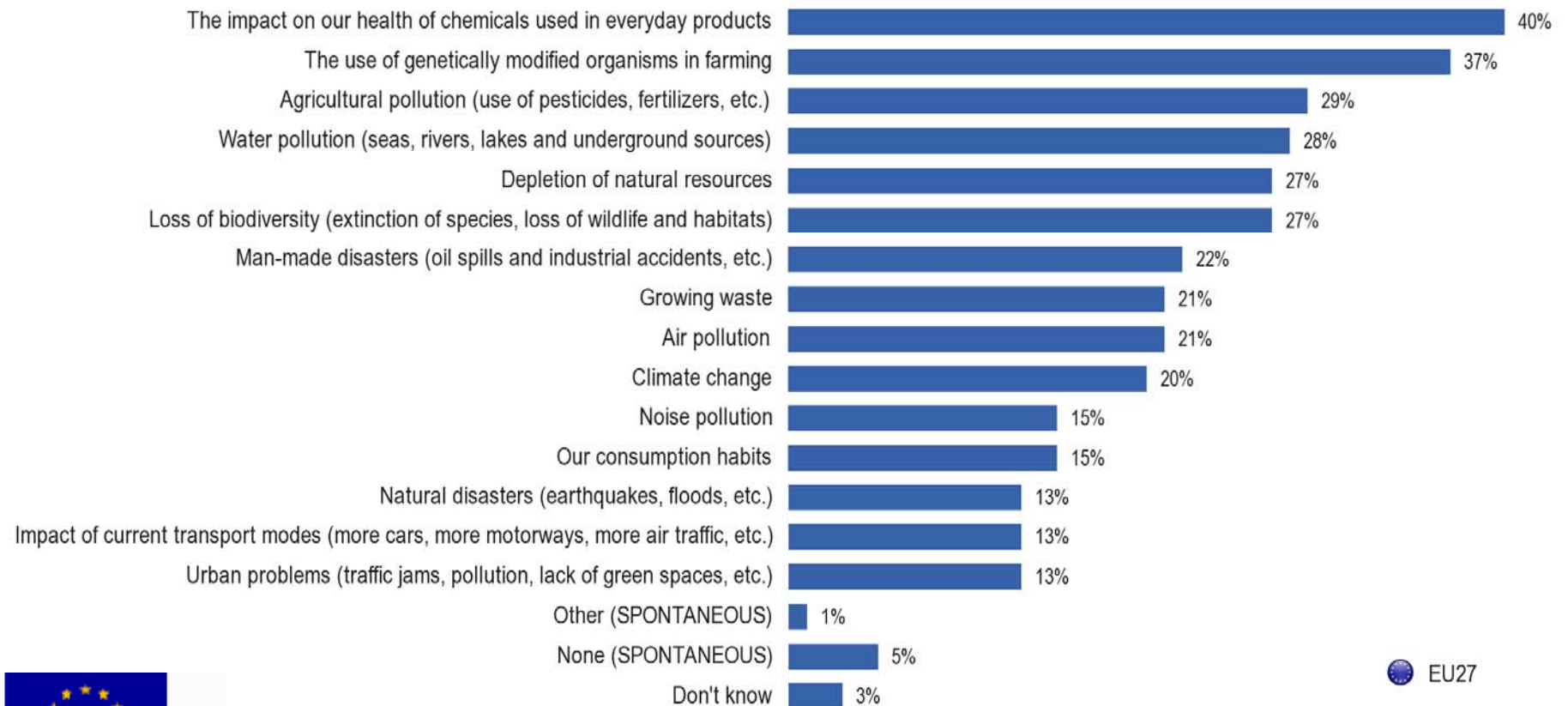
5.1 Level of feeling informed

In general, do you consider that you are very well, fairly well, fairly badly or very badly informed about environmental issues?
(ONE ANSWER ONLY)



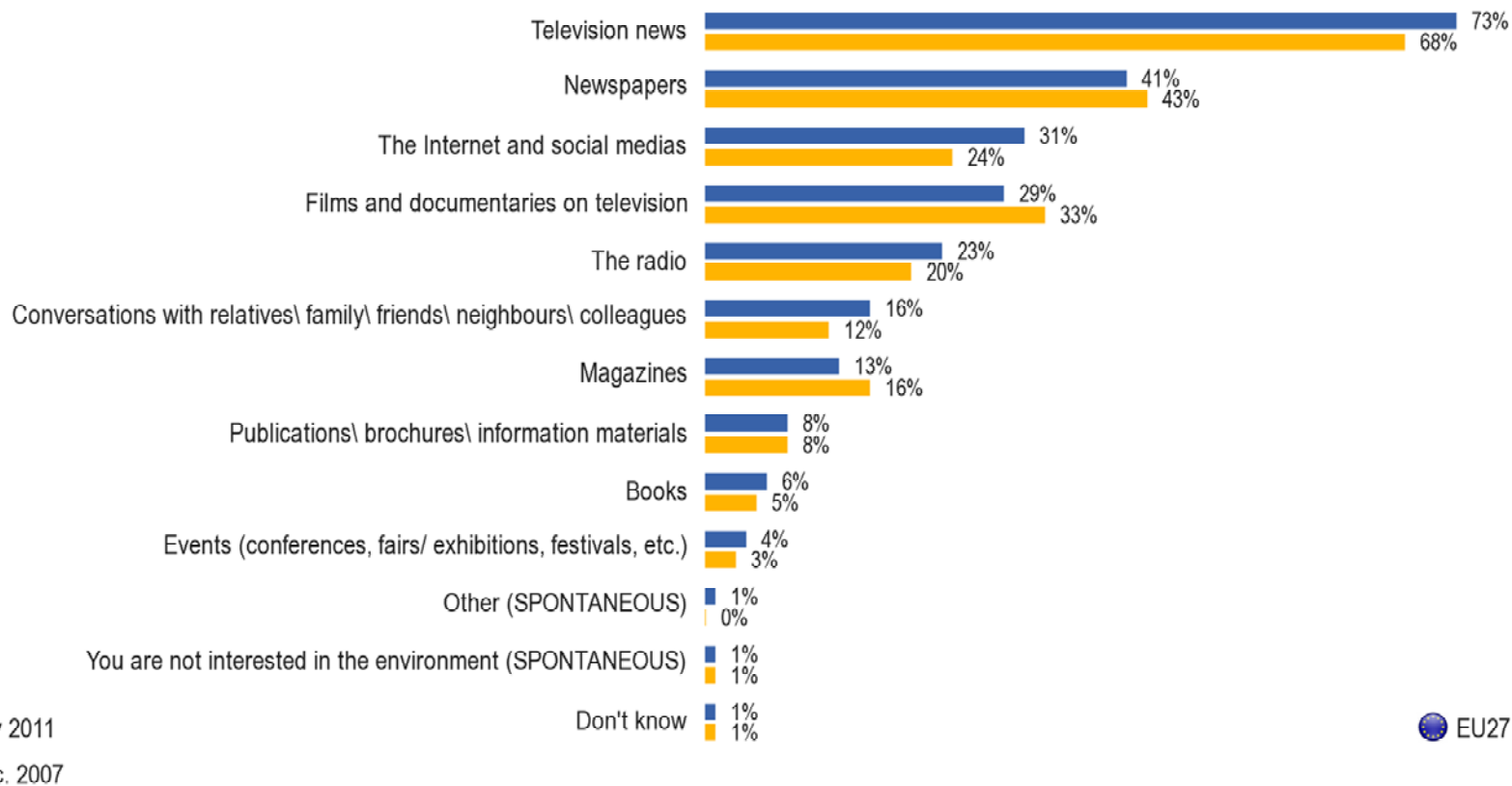
5.2 Topics on which European citizens lack information

From the following list, please tell me the five main issues about which you feel you lack information in particular.
(MAX. 5 ANSWERS)































5.3.1 Used sources of information

From the following list, which are your three main sources of information about the environment?
(MAX. 3 ANSWERS)

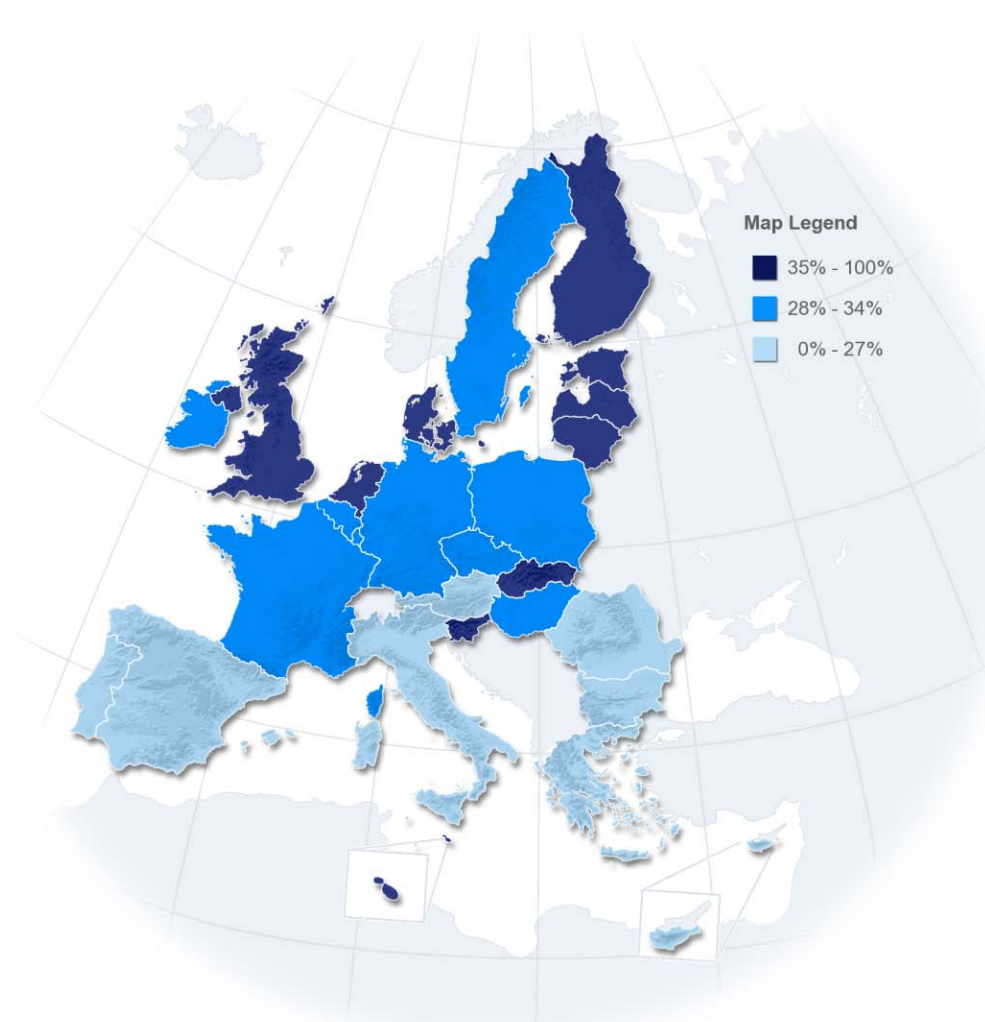


5.3.1 Used sources of information – The Internet and social medias

 LV	51%
 EE	51%
 FI	45%
 NL	43%
 DK	41%
 LT	40%
 SI	39%
 MT	39%
 SK	36%
 UK	35%
 BE	34%
 LU	34%
 CZ	34%
 FR	33%
 SE	32%
 DE	31%
 PL	31%
 EU	31%
 HU	30%
 IE	28%
 ES	26%
 CY	26%
 BG	25%
 EL	25%
 AT	25%
 IT	24%
 RO	24%
 PT	16%

Question: From the following list, which are your three main sources of information about the environment?

Answers: The Internet and social medias



5.3.2 Trusted sources of information

From the following list, who do you trust most when it comes to environmental issues?
(MAX. 5 ANSWERS)

