

YouGov Survey Results

EU Constitution

Prepared for Daily Telegraph

Sample Size: 2005

Fieldwork: 26th - 28th April 2004

	%
Generally speaking, do you think that British membership of the European Union is a good thing or a bad thing or neither good nor bad?	
Good thing	36
Bad thing	33
Neither good nor bad	22
Don't know	9

At the moment, a new constitution for the European Union is being drafted. How much do you feel you know about the proposals contained in the new constitution?	
A great deal	3
A fair amount	18
Not very much	49
Nothing at all	27
Don't know	4

The Prime Minister announced last week that a referendum will be held on any new European constitution that is agreed by the member countries' governments. Do you welcome, or not welcome, Mr Blair's decision to hold a referendum?	
Yes, welcome	79
No, do not welcome	9
Don't know	12

Views differ about why Mr Blair decided to hold a referendum. Which of these two statements comes closer to your own view?	
He decided to hold a referendum because he genuinely believes the British people have a right to determine Britain's future in Europe	11
He decided to hold a referendum because he finally decided it would be politically damaging for him not to hold one	82
Don't know	8

Do you think that Tony Blair, the Prime Minister, has, on balance, been honest and trustworthy or not?	
Yes, honest and trustworthy	27
No, not honest and trustworthy	60
Don't know	13

Do you think that, if a referendum is held and the Government recommends acceptance of a new European constitution, the Government will win the referendum or lose it?	
Will win it	15
Will lose it	57
Don't know	28

Views differ about how significant the adoption of a new European constitution would be. Which of these two statements comes closer to your own view?	
As currently drafted, the new constitution introduces fewer innovations than the previous Maastricht and Nice treaties and amounts to little more than a tidying-up exercise	16
Any new constitution would hand over greater powers than ever before to the European Union and would mark a major step towards the creation of a federal European state	51
Don't know	33

Please indicate which of the following three statements comes closest to your own view.

Some additional powers should be vested in the European Union	14
Things should be left as they are	18
Some powers currently vested in the EU should be returned to the member states	55
Don't know	13

Which of the two major party leaders do you think is the better person to handle Britain's relations with the rest of the European Union, Tony Blair or Michael Howard?

Tony Blair	31
Michael Howard	30
Both equally	6
Neither	23
Don't know	11

Do you think Britain should remain a member of the EU or should it withdraw from the EU entirely?

Should remain a member	60
Should withdraw entirely	28
Don't know	12

Please think of a scale that runs from 0 to 10, where 0 means very unlikely and 10 means very likely. How likely is it that you would vote in a referendum on a new European constitution?

0	6
1	2
2	2
3	2
4	1
5	8
6	2
7	5
8	8
9	6
10	57

If a referendum were to be held now, how would you vote, in favour or against a new European Union constitution?

In favour	23
Against	51
Would not vote	5
Don't know	22

Have you already definitely made up your mind how you will vote in a referendum or might you change your mind in view of any new arguments that emerge during a referendum campaign?

Have already definitely made up my mind	59
Might change my mind	41

People who favour a more closely integrated Europe hope that such a Europe would bring a variety of benefits. Please indicate whether you think a more integrated Europe would, or would not, produce each of the following benefits.

A more united Europe capable of counterbalancing the power of the United States

Yes, it would produce this benefit	34
No, it would not	29
Not a benefit in any case	24
Don't know	13

A stronger and more prosperous European economy	Yes, it would produce this benefit	32
	No, it would not	39
	Not a benefit in any case	7
	Don't know	22
A united Europe better able to resist an influx of migrants from outside the EU	Yes, it would produce this benefit	19
	No, it would not	51
	Not a benefit in any case	13
	Don't know	17
A stronger union better capable of ensuring that the 10 new countries joining the EU next week become, and remain, liberal democracies	Yes, it would produce this benefit	35
	No, it would not	30
	Not a benefit in any case	9
	Don't know	26
People opposed to a more closely integrated Europe fear that such a Europe would be damaging, especially to Britain, in a variety of ways. Please indicate whether you think a more integrated Europe would, or would not, be damaging in each of the following ways.		
A more integrated Europe would reduce Britain's capacity to determine its own destiny	Yes, it would be damaging in this way	68
	No, it would not	15
	Not damaging in any case	7
	Don't know	10
A more integrated Europe would reduce the British people's ability to manage their own internal affairs	Yes, it would be damaging in this way	64
	No, it would not	20
	Not damaging in any case	6
	Don't know	11
A more integrated Europe would impose a set of 'one size fits all' rules throughout Europe irrespective of national circumstances	Yes, it would be damaging in this way	65
	No, it would not	16
	Not damaging in any case	5
	Don't know	14
A more integrated Europe, with more extensive powers at the centre, would mean a less democratic Europe, with politicians and civil servants less responsive to ordinary people's interests and concerns	Yes, it would be damaging in this way	62
	No, it would not	17
	Not damaging in any case	3
	Don't know	18
If there were a referendum and the British people voted 'No', what do you think would be the effect on Britain's influence in the European Union?	A 'No' vote would increase our influence	9
	A 'No' vote would diminish our influence	37
	A 'No' vote would not make much difference	41
	Don't know	13

If our influence were diminished in the EU, do you think that would be a good thing, a bad thing or neither?

Diminished influence would be a good thing	5
Diminished influence would be a bad thing	79
Diminished influence would be neither good nor bad	16

Finally, please indicate which of the following countries you believe are, and which you believe are not, 'accession countries' – that is, countries that will become full members of the EU on Saturday.

Bulgaria	Yes, is an accession country	37
	No, is not	17
	Don't know	46
Estonia	Yes, is an accession country	52
	No, is not	7
	Don't know	41
Hungary	Yes, is an accession country	56
	No, is not	6
	Don't know	38
Latvia	Yes, is an accession country	51
	No, is not	7
	Don't know	42
Lithuania	Yes, is an accession country	49
	No, is not	6
	Don't know	45
Malta	Yes, is an accession country	44
	No, is not	13
	Don't know	43
Poland	Yes, is an accession country	66
	No, is not	5
	Don't know	29
Romania	Yes, is an accession country	46
	No, is not	15
	Don't know	38
Slovakia	Yes, is an accession country	52
	No, is not	7
	Don't know	41
Slovenia	Yes, is an accession country	46
	No, is not	9
	Don't know	45

Overall Correct Score

Mean	4.49
0	21
1	5
2	6
3	7
4	9
5	10
6	9
7	8
8	16
9	3
10	5