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**INFORMATION
INFORMATISCHE AUFZEICHNUNG
INFORMATION MEMO**

**NOTE D'INFORMATION
NOTA D'INFORMAZIONE
TER DOCUMENTIE**

Brussels, December 1974

EURO-BAROMETER NO. 2

The Commission of the European Communities has decided to conduct two opinion polls a year in the Nine Member States, one in the Spring and the other in the Autumn.

The results of the first of these polls, conducted in April-May 1974, were published early in July. The results of EURO-BAROMETER No. 2 are now available.

The poll was conducted towards the end of October and during November. Some 9,000 persons aged 15 and over were interviewed in the Nine Member States by eight specialised institutes.

The chief findings may be summed up as follows:

1. Of the problems occupying the European Community, those which attracted the greatest amount of public attention (out of a list of 12) were:

- (i) A common fight against rising prices
- (ii) Implementation of a common policy on energy supplies
- (iii) Introduction of a common policy for protecting nature and fighting pollution
- (iv) Protection of consumers against fraudulent selling and misleading advertising
- (v) Achieving a common foreign policy in discussions with the United States and Russia.

Between nine (for the first) and nearly seven (for the fifth) interviewees out of 10 regard these problems as "very important" or "important".

2. Four of these problems (energy policy, fight against rising prices, discussions with the United States and Russia, protecting nature) are also problems which seven interviewees out of 10 would prefer to see dealt with by the Community rather than by individual countries acting independently.

The greater the importance attached to a problem, the more the public is in favour of concerted European action.

3. When offered a choice of three clearly-defined formulas for resolving the major problems facing our countries, the public responded as follows:

- (a) National Governments should act independently 21%
- (b) The Nine Member States should get together before acting but each should have the final say on what happens in its own country 39%
- (c) A single Parliament should be elected and evolve quickly into a true European Government 27%

4. On average, seven interviewees out of 10 (69%) in the original Six think that membership of the Common Market is a good thing for their country.

The percentages recorded in Denmark, the United Kingdom and Ireland were much lower:

- 33% in Denmark, as against 35% in May 1974;
- 36% in the United Kingdom, as against 33% in May 1974;
- 50% in Ireland, as against 48% in May 1974.

The changes since May are of no statistical significance.

5. The following declared that they would be "very sorry" if their countries withdrew from the Common Market:

- 56% in the original Six (no change);
- 27% in Denmark (no change);
- 31% in the United Kingdom (as against 24% in May 1974);
- 48% in Ireland (as against 38% in May).

These higher figures for the United Kingdom and Ireland are statistically significant.

6. And "if the United Kingdom decided to leave the Common Market?" Only in Ireland (29%), Denmark (20%) and the United Kingdom (18%) was such an eventuality regarded as "very serious". The percentage of interviewees in the original Six who regarded the possible withdrawal of the United Kingdom as "very serious" ranged from 2% (France) to 8% (Netherlands).

7. The public has a much clearer understanding of the economic aspects of the Community than of its political aspects. Only in Germany, Italy and Luxembourg is a relatively high degree of importance attached to its political aspects (3 or 4 persons out of 10).

8. As far as the media are concerned, a majority (59%) feels that the media (press, radio and television) deal with European problems in a superficial fashion.

Just under one person in two (46%) thinks that the press does not devote enough attention to these problems.

Four persons out of 10 (42%) feel that information in their country is biased.

A further four persons out of 10 (41%) think that the whole thing "is really too complicated and boring".

~~Lastly, 38% of the persons interviewed said that they were not really interested.~~

Criticism of the press may be regarded as a sort of alibi. In point of fact, the public seems to be put off by the complexity of the problems dealt with and lack of public involvement. (At national level the problems are no doubt just as complex but more "personalised" and the public probably feels it has a greater part to play in the search for solutions.)