

GLOBAL VISION POLL – JUNE 2007

Populus interviewed a random sample of 1006 adults aged 18+ by telephone between June 8th & 10th 2007. Interviews were conducted across the country and the results have been weighted to be representative of all adults. Populus is a member of the British Polling Council and abides by its rules. For more details go to www.populuslimited.com.

UK'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE EUROPEAN UNION

Overall nearly two thirds of people (64%) would like to see the UK's relationship with the EU change, but three quarters (77%) still want the country to have some form of relationship with it.

- More than two-fifths (43%) of people would like to see the UK have a looser relationship with the EU, including the ability to opt-out of political and economic integration.
- A third (34%) of people are happy with the UK's existing relationship with the EU including the prospect of further integration if necessary.
- A fifth (21%) favour the UK withdrawing from the EU altogether.
- Those most likely to favour withdrawal are 55–64 year olds (24%), the over 65s (26%), DEs (25%) and those living in the North of England (24%)
- Those most likely to favour a looser relationship are 45–54 year olds (46%) 55–64 year olds (46%) and those living in Wales & the South West (49%)
- Those most likely to favour the status quo are 18–24 year olds (40%), 35–44 year olds (41%), ABs (39%) and those living in Scotland (43%)

If you had to choose the UK's future relationship with the European Union which of the following would you prefer?

	All	M	F	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
The UK staying a full member of the European Union as now, participating in further integration where this is considered necessary for the effective functioning of the EU	34%	35%	33%	40%	37%	41%	32%	27%	27%
The UK having a looser arrangement with the European Union, maintaining free trade and common policies, but opting out of political and economic integration	43%	44%	42%	42%	42%	39%	46%	46%	42%
The UK withdrawing from the European Union altogether	21%	20%	21%	17%	20%	17%	19%	24%	26%

	All	AB	C1	C2	DE	SE	Mids	N	W&SW	Sco
The UK staying a full member of the European Union as now, participating in further integration where this is considered necessary for the effective functioning of the EU	34%	39%	32%	32%	32%	35%	35%	31%	30%	43%
The UK having a looser arrangement with the European Union, maintaining free trade and common policies, but opting out of political and economic integration	43%	44%	45%	45%	37%	45%	40%	43%	49%	36%
The UK withdrawing from the European Union altogether	21%	15%	21%	22%	25%	18%	21%	24%	19%	21%

ENLARGEMENT & INTEGRATION

Around half (51%) of people see no reason why the increased size of the European Union requires more powers to be transferred to Brussels, while nearly two fifths (37%) think that with more member states joining some transfer of national powers is necessary for the EU to function effectively.

- Those most likely to say Brussels needs more powers are 18–24 year olds (46%) and 55–64 year olds (42%)
- Those most likely to say that enlargement doesn't require this are 35–44 year olds (57%) and 45–54 year olds (58%). DEs and over 65s (14%) are less likely to know than others.

	All	M	F	18–24	25–34	35–44	45–54	55–64	65+
For the EU to function effectively with more & more countries joining it, member states including Britain will have to transfer more of their powers to EU institutions based in Brussels	37%	37%	37%	46%	37%	33%	34%	42%	35%
Enlargement of the EU need not mean more powers being transferred from individual member countries to Brussels	51%	54%	48%	41%	53%	57%	58%	50%	43%

	All	AB	C1	C2	DE	SE	Mids	N	W&SW	Sco
For the EU to function effectively with more & more countries joining it, member states including Britain will have to transfer more of their powers to EU institutions based in Brussels	37%	35%	39%	36%	38%	36%	36%	39%	38%	38%
Enlargement of the EU need not mean more powers being transferred from individual member countries to Brussels	51%	58%	53%	51%	40%	54%	48%	51%	47%	54%

POSSIBLE ELEMENTS OF A NEW EU TREATY

A new treaty between members of the EU is going to be discussed at the next EU leaders' summit this month. For each of the following please say whether the UK Government should or should not sign Britain up to them as part of that new treaty?

NET % saying Britain should NOT sign up to ...	All	M	F	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Making it easier for the EU to agree legislation by reducing the number of votes needs to pass new laws	16%	15%	17%	1%	13%	19%	20%	14%	22%
Reducing the number of areas where states like Britain can simply say 'no' to legislation	-6%	0%	-10%	-31%	-4%	-10%	-5%	-10%	17%
Creating a Common European Foreign & Defence policy	-11%	-11%	-11%	-45%	-4%	-7%	-15%	-10%	2%
Creating an EU Foreign Minister	2%	11%	-5%	-20%	1%	-14%	7%	11%	22%
Creating an elected full-time EU President	14%	18%	11%	27%	4%	13%	8%	24%	11%

NET % saying Britain should NOT sign up to...	All	AB	C1	C2	DE	SE	Mids	N	W&SW	Sco
Making it easier for the EU to agree legislation by reducing the number of votes needs to pass new laws	16%	22%	20%	10%	8%	21%	10%	20%	7%	20%
Reducing the number of areas where states like Britain can simply say 'no' to legislation	-6%	4%	-17%	-12%	4%	-3%	-14%	6%	-11%	-8%
Creating a Common European Foreign & Defence policy	-11%	-15%	-4%	-9%	-17%	-11%	-12%	-12%	-5%	-15%
Creating an EU Foreign Minister	2%	5%	2%	4%	0%	-5%	4%	-1%	18%	5%
Creating an elected full-time EU President	14%	31%	18%	11%	-7%	10%	11%	17%	20%	15%

- The least popular potential element of a new EU treaty is reducing the threshold for qualified majority voting. 55% oppose this against 39% who are in favour of it. Only among 18–24 year olds do nearly as many people support the idea (47%) as reject it (48%).
- An elected full-time EU president is also opposed by 55%, though supported by 41%. 18–24 year olds (by 63% to 36%) and ABs (by 64% to 33%) are the strongest opponents.
- People are split about the creation of an EU foreign minister. 49% think Britain should not sign up to this proposal, while 47% think that it should. Men oppose the measure (by 55% to 44%) while women narrowly support it (by 49% to 44%). 18–24 year olds (by 59% to 39%) and 35–44 year olds (by 55% to 41%) support the idea by the widest margin. Over 65s (by 58% to 36%) and those living in Wales and the South West (by 56% to 38%) are the most opposed.
- By a narrow majority of 51% to 45% people think that Britain should sign up to a treaty where the number of areas that Britain can simply say no to legislation is reduced. Women (by 52% to 42%) are more likely to say this than men who support and oppose the idea in equal number (49%). 18–24 year olds overwhelming support the idea by 65% to 34%. Over 65s are the most likely to oppose the measure by 55% to 38%.
- The most popular potential element of a new EU treaty is the creation of a Common European Foreign and Defence policy. This is backed by 54% to 43% of people overall and by 71% to 26% among 18–24 year olds. It receives majority support among every segment of the population bar one: over 65s narrowly oppose the idea by 48% to 46%.

REFERENDUM ON A NEW EU TREATY

- Overwhelmingly by a 6 to 1 margin (83% to 14%) believe that the Government should hold a referendum on any new EU treaty in order to ratify it in Britain. Among no segment of the population does the majority supporting a referendum fall below about 4 to 1 (78% to 20%, among 25–34 year olds) and in Scotland it runs as high as 10 to 1 (91% to 9%).

If the UK Government signed up to any of these proposals, do you think they should have to hold a referendum on the new EU treaty before it became law in Britain?

	All	M	F	18–24	25–34	35–44	45–54	55–64	65+
Yes	83%	81%	85%	85%	78%	82%	84%	86%	85%
No	14%	17%	12%	12%	20%	14%	15%	14%	12%

	All	AB	C1	C2	DE	SE	Mids	N	W&SW	Sco
Yes	83%	84%	82%	88%	79%	84%	81%	84%	79%	91%
No	14%	15%	16%	10%	16%	13%	16%	14%	16%	9%

SHOULD TONY BLAIR NEGOTIATE A NEW EU TREATY?

The UK will be represented at the EU Summit by Tony Blair as one of his last acts as Prime Minister before he hands power over to Gordon Brown. Which of these statements comes closest to your view?

	All	M	F	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Until he stops being Prime Minister, Tony Blair is entitled to negotiate on Britain's behalf including agreeing to a new EU Treaty	42%	47%	37%	49%	48%	50%	41%	41%	26%
If a new EU Treaty is going to affect Britain after Tony Blair has stepped down as Prime Minister then it should be Gordon Brown who agrees to it	55%	50%	60%	50%	48%	47%	56%	58%	66%

	All	AB	C1	C2	DE	SE	Mids	N	W&SW	Sco
Until he stops being Prime Minister, Tony Blair is entitled to negotiate on Britain's behalf including agreeing to a new EU Treaty	42%	44%	47%	44%	31%	39%	49%	41%	41%	33%
If a new EU Treaty is going to affect Britain after Tony Blair has stepped down as Prime Minister then it should be Gordon Brown who agrees to it	55%	54%	50%	52%	64%	59%	48%	56%	52%	66%

- By a clear margin overall (55% to 42%) people think that Gordon Brown rather than Tony Blair should negotiate a new EU Treaty, however this hides significant differences of opinion by population group.
- Nearly as many men (47%) think Tony Blair is entitled to negotiate as do not (50%), whereas among women a clear majority (60% to 37%) think Gordon Brown should do so.
- Under 45s are split broadly 50:50 (49% say Tony Blair should negotiate, 48% that Gordon Brown should do so). Older people are more decisively opposed to Tony Blair negotiating (by 56% to 41% among 45–54 year olds, 58% to 41% among 55–64 year olds and 66% to 26% among over 65s.)
- Scots are opposed to Tony Blair negotiating by 66% to 33% as are other regions to a lesser extent with the exception of the Midlands where 49% think he should negotiate against 48% who say that she shouldn't.
- DEs (64% to 31%) are more opposed to Tony Blair negotiating than any other class.