

COMMISSION  
OF THE  
EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES



EUROPEAN YEAR  
OF THE ENVIRONMENT

THE EUROPEANS AND THEIR ENVIRONMENT IN 1986

XI/EYE/61/86

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*Provisional address:* Rue de la Loi 200 • B-1049 Brussels

*Telephone:* Telephone exchange 235 11 11/236 11 11 Direct line 23 . . . .

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*Telex:* COMEU B 21877 - *Telegraphic address:* COMEUR Brussels

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THIS SURVEY COVERING ALL TWELVE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY COUNTRIES WAS ORDERED BY THE DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR THE ENVIRONMENT OF THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES.

BETWEEN 19 MARCH AND 25 APRIL 1986 AN IDENTICAL SET OF QUESTIONS WAS PUT TO A REPRESENTATIVE CROSS-SECTION OF THE POPULATION IN EACH MEMBER STATE. IN ALL, 11 840 OVER-15s WERE INTERVIEWED IN THEIR HOMES BY PROFESSIONAL INTERVIEWERS.

THE SURVEY WAS CARRIED OUT BY TWELVE SPECIALIST INSTITUTES, ALL MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN OMNIBUS SURVEY, UNDER THE GENERAL COORDINATION OF HELENE RIFFAULT, DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF "FAITS ET OPINIONS", PARIS.

THE NAMES OF THE INSTITUTES TAKING PART, TOGETHER WITH OTHER TECHNICAL DETAILS, ARE SET OUT IN THE ANNEX.

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES BEARS NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS REPORT, WHICH WAS COMPILED BY JEAN-FRANCOIS TCHERNIA AND ANDRE GATTOLIN.

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## THE EUROPEANS AND THEIR ENVIRONMENT IN 1986

### THE GENERAL PICTURE

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1. Four years after the first survey on the subject, Europeans as a whole remain very alert to environmental issues. They show their concern in many ways.

The first point to note is that concern over today's national and worldwide environmental problems is still very likely and is even growing on such points as water pollution, air pollution, the extinction of animal and plant species and the prospect of climatic disruption by the greenhouse effect. This deterioration in public perception of the state of the environment is particularly marked in Italy and Denmark. Concern about the environment is also running high in Spain and Portugal, where the poll was conducted for the first time.

Certain expectations and attitudes likewise reflect this awareness of the environment. For one thing, there is a genuine demand for easily obtainable day-to-day information on such environmental problems as the potential hazards posed by chemicals on the market or how to dispose of certain types of waste. For another, Europeans seem to some extent willing to take action themselves to protect and improve their environment. Most of the respondents had done something already, though for the most part in ways not requiring much commitment. Finally, there seems to be an abundant reserve of goodwill, but some uncertainty about what should be done to protect the environment.

2. Europeans' concern about environmental issues seem to stem from a new awareness of the importance of the problems.

Nowadays the case of protecting the environment is virtually undisputed, with only one person in ten ranking environmental protection below economic development in importance. Instead, the divide seems to be between those who feel that these two objectives sometimes clash and those who believe that each is necessary to the other and that the two must advance together.

The Europeans, attaching importance to the environment as they do, expect more effective government action than they are witnessing at the moment. This criticism comes through clearly: fewer than one person in five feels that the authorities are doing anything to protect the environment or doing it properly. However, this verdict may just express a general opinion on the government, rather than a considered assessment of its environment policy.

3. The broad agreement in Europe on the importance attached to environmental issues and the interest shown in them cannot mask the fact that not all Europeans see the problems the same way. There are two major divides.

First, the respondents fell into two groups when questioned about their thinking on damage to the environment. Some were primarily concerned with the immediate material effects of pollution on people, others more with the balance of nature and long-term consequences.

The second division was over the main reasons for a region to invest heavily in environmental protection. Here too, the "people" perspective stood opposite the ecological and economic view. Most respondents gave people-based reasons such as protecting the health of those living in the region or making it a more pleasant area to live in. Very few opted for socio-economic reasons such as attracting businesses into the region or encouraging tourism.

4. There are many reasons for these differences in individual attitudes to environmental issues. But two warrant particular attention: cognitive grasp and nationality.

Cognitive grasp, whether measured in terms of level of education or level of perception, shows through in the degree of concern or interest in environmental problems and in the preference for the people-based or the ecological approach. In either case, the outcome depends largely on the respondents' ability to take a comprehensive view of environmental problems and of nature's balances and interrelationships and to visualize how they might develop in the long term.

Nationality too is an important differentiating factor in attitudes and opinions on the environment. Several points show a divide between Southern Europe plus Ireland on the one hand and the rest of Northern Europe on the other. This divide appears to mirror economic development: the more advanced the country, the more fertile the ground for environmentalist arguments as a reaction to economic development.

PART ONE

PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

C H A P T E R 1

EUROPEANS' VIEW OF THEIR ENVIRONMENT.



The first thing to do in order to learn more about Europeans' perception of the environment in general is to study what they think of their own environment. This can be done by measuring their awareness of a series of specific points covering a broad range of concerns.

As in the 1982 poll, the approach taken was first to discern what members of the public perceived as a threat to the environment in their own neighbourhood and then to ascertain their wider concern about the national and world environment.

Several questions from the previous survey were repeated with a view to detecting any changes in public mood.

### 1.1. LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

First the members of the public interviewed were asked about seven specific aspects of their local, everyday environment.

Question: *Where you live now, do you have reasons to complain about the following things: a great deal, a fair amount, not very much, or not at all?*

COMMUNITY	A great deal	A fair amount	Not very much	Not at all	Don't know	Total	Index <sup>3</sup>	1982 index (for the Ten)
Damage done to the landscape	12	20	19	46	3	100	.98	.88
Air pollution .....	9	16	23	51	1	100	.83	.79
Noise .....	8	15	22	54	1	100	.76	.83
Loss of good farmland .....	8	14	17	53	8	100	.75	.75
The way rubbish is disposed of <sup>1</sup> .....	9	14	17	58	2	100	.74	-
The quality of the drinking water <sup>2</sup> .....	8	13	17	61	1	100	.68	.60
Lack of access to open space and countryside .....	7	10	15	66	2	100	.58	.62

The vast majority of the responders replied that they had no complaints at all about any of these problems in their neighbourhood. The index on the right of the table measures the respondents' overall awareness of each of these aspects of their local environment.

<sup>1</sup> Not asked in the 1982 survey.

<sup>2</sup> Worded "drinking water purity" in 1982.

<sup>3</sup> The index is calculated by applying a weighting of 3 to "a great deal", 2 to "a fair amount", 1 to "not very much" and 0 to "not at all" ("don't knows" are omitted).

On the whole, Community citizens are not particularly conscious of pollution in their own area, more or less as in the 1982 poll. On all seven points, the index remained below 1.00, the value indicating that on average the respondents found not very much to complain about in their local environment.

Analysis of the answers point by point, however, shows that a number of things have changed over the last four years.

Damage to the landscape continues to raise the most complaints. The awareness index even rose by 0.10 on this point.

The drinking water index also rose slightly, though it is impossible to say how much this was due to the rewording of this question between the two surveys. In part the difference can be put down to the two new Community Member States - Spain and Portugal, two of the European countries where concern about drinking water quality is running highest.

One other noteworthy change is that air pollution has risen to second place, behind damage to the landscape, on the list of complaints about the local environment.

Noise has fallen back to third. It is the only aspect of the immediate, everyday environment to have recorded a decrease in the awareness index, however small.

Lack of access to open space and countryside raised the fewest complaints from Europeans as a whole this time. The only reason why the awareness index held steady on this point lies in the accession of Spain and Portugal, two countries where this problem is more acute than in the rest of Europe. In the Ten, the awareness index fell back from .62 in 1982 to .53 in 1986.

## DIFFERENCES FROM COUNTRY TO COUNTRY

Although awareness of local environmental issues is generally low throughout the Community, this masks big differences from one country to another (see page 7).

Just as in 1982, Denmark is the country with fewest complaints and with the lowest awareness index in Europe on all seven counts. It is followed by Ireland, then the United Kingdom, France and the Netherlands.

At the other end of the scale, Italy had the largest percentage of respondents who voiced complaints about their local environment (six out of every seven, giving Italy the highest index in the Community).

Next most disgruntled with the environment came Greece and Spain, followed by Portugal and Germany, where there was slightly less anxiety.

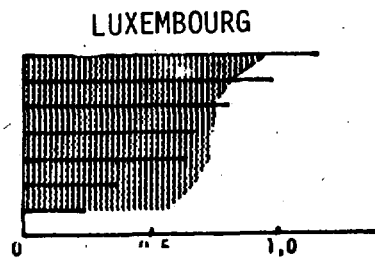
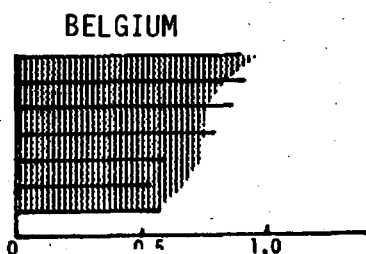
Two countries come in the middle: Belgium and Luxembourg.

Not only the level of dissatisfaction with the local environment (which, it must be remembered, is still low in the Community as a whole) differs from one country to another but also the ranking of the causes of concern.

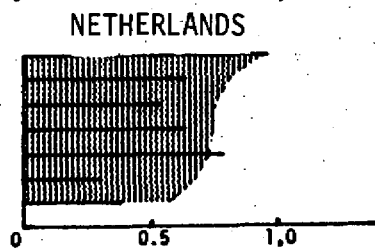
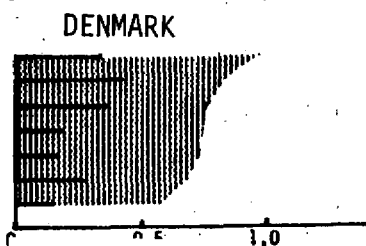
CAUSES OF CONCERN ABOUT THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

By country

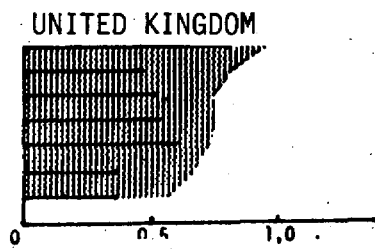
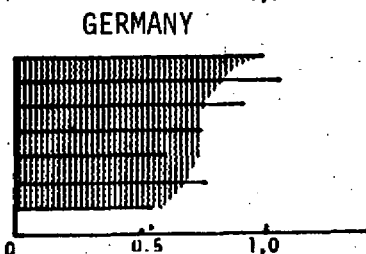
Damage to the landscape  
Air pollution  
Noise  
Loss of farmland  
The way rubbish is disposed of  
Drinking water quality  
Lack of access to open space



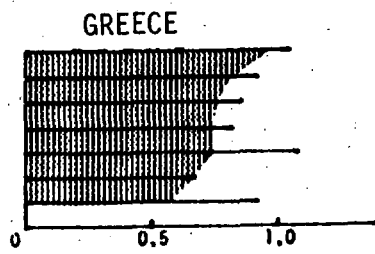
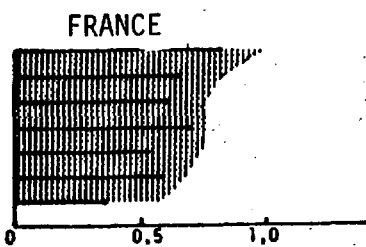
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Loss of farmland  
The way rubbish is disposed of  
Drinking water quality  
Lack of access to open space



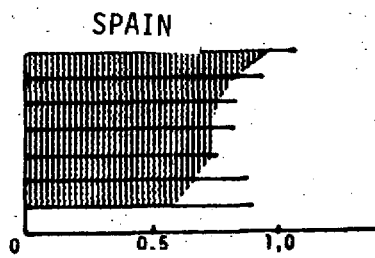
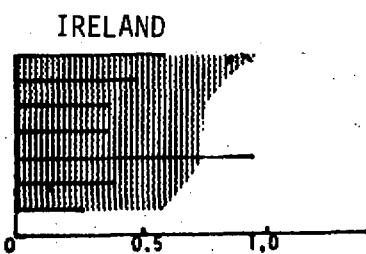
Damage to the landscape  
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The way rubbish is disposed of  
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Lack of access to open space



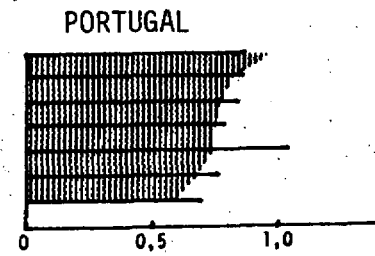
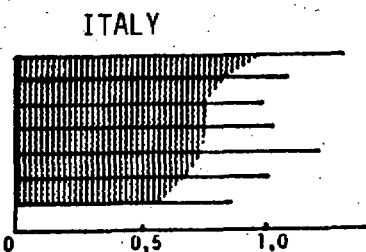
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NB. The shaded area represents the average for the Twelve.

Air pollution is the chief cause of concern in Belgium and Germany (ahead of damage to the landscape) and in Denmark (followed by noise).

But "the way rubbish is disposed of" produced the widest differences of opinion between the Member States (from .17 in Denmark to 1.21 in Italy). Although this issue ranked only fifth in the Community averages, it was the top complaint about the environment in Ireland, Portugal and Greece, the three Member States with the lowest standard of living. Ireland is a particularly striking case since its awareness index is well below the Community average on every other point.

The last finding to note is that complaints about lack of access to open space and countryside were commonest in the four southern Member States.

#### CHANGES IN THE AWARENESS OF THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT IN THE INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES

The findings on six of the seven local environmental issues in ten Member States can be compared with the results of the 1982 poll.

On the whole, the replies remained largely unchanged throughout the Community. There has been no significant movement on any of the six points for which comparisons could be made in the three Benelux countries.

MOVEMENT IN THE AWARENESS INDEX (0-3)  
IN THE TEN BETWEEN 1982 AND 1986

	B	DK	D	F	IRL	I	L	NL	UK	GR	EC 10
Where you live now, do you have reasons to complain about ...											
The quality of the drinking water <sup>1</sup>	.56 .54	.13 .27	.88 .77	.51 .59	.47 .40	.85 1.00	.21 .37	.27 .31	.28 .37	.51 .68	.60 .65
Noise	.87 .87	.39 .36	1.16 .92	.70 .61	.53 .37	.87 .99	.78 .81	.63 .54	.65 .52	.78 .87	.83 .75
Air pollution	.87 .92	.42 .42	1.16 1.06	.67 .65	.50 .49	.79 1.09	.84 .99	.67 .64	.54 .47	.83 .93	.79 .81
The way rubbish is disposed of	.60	.17	.60	.53	.95	1.21	.64	.79	.60	1.09	.73
Lack of access to open space and countryside	.69 .58	.13 .15	.71 .55	.53 .36	.36 .27	.90 .86	.19 .24	.32 .38	.38 .36	.91 .93	.62 .53
Loss of good farmland	.79 .80	.15 .19	.76 .75	.82 .70	.38 .36	.95 1.03	.62 .67	.68 .64	.53 .54	.86 .83	.75 .74
Damage done to the landscape	.86 .90	.26 .34	.88 .99	.91 .82	.53 .59	1.11 1.30	.94 1.17	.89 .97	.65 .82	1.15 1.06	.88 .97
Number of downward movements	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
Number of upward movements	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	-1	1
Net movement	0	+1	-2	-1	-1	+3	0	0	0	+1	-1

The boxes indicate the indexes which have moved significantly between 1982 and 1986.

<sup>1</sup> Question worded slightly differently in 1982.

In four other countries (Denmark, Greece, France and Ireland) the index moved on just one of these six points. In Denmark and Greece, there were more complaints about drinking water quality (though in Denmark the index remained the lowest in Europe, a sign that the subject was causing only very limited concern). In France and Ireland one index fell (lack of access to open space and countryside in France and noise in Ireland) but all the other five held steady.

In the United Kingdom, there were fewer complaints about noise in 1986 but more people felt that the countryside was being damaged.

Germany was the only Member State where there was generally a distinct, albeit modest, decline in concern about the local environment. For instance, the noise index fell from 1.16, by far the highest in Europe, in 1982, to .92 in 1986. Similarly, the number of respondents complaining about lack of access to open space and the countryside fell too. There was no significant movement in public opinion about any of the other aspects of the local environment in Germany.

In all, Germany has fallen behind Italy and Greece, from the Member State most concerned about the local environment in 1982 to slightly above the Community average today.

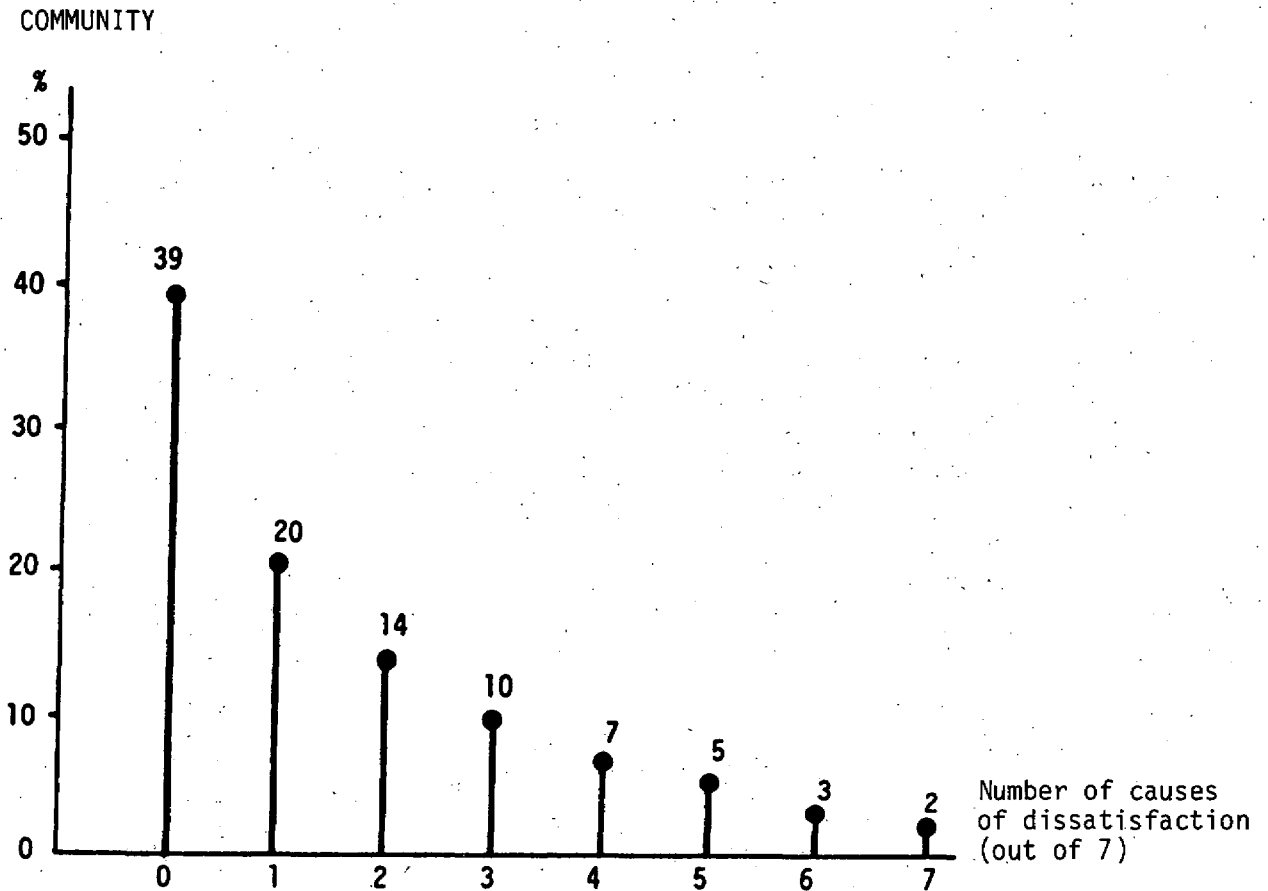
In Italy concern about the environment in which the respondents lived grew sharply. From a position amongst the most concerned Member States in 1982, Italy has advanced to take its index well above the Community average on each of the questions put today. In particular, there was a marked increase in concern about drinking water quality, damage to the landscape and, above all, air pollution.



### CUMULATIVE DISSATISFACTION SCORES ON THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

So far the various local environmental issues have been analysed point by point. To complete the picture of the respondents' perception of their local environment, the respondents can be classified by the number of questions on which they expressed dissatisfaction<sup>1</sup>, out of the seven put to them.

The chart below shows the percentage distribution of the dissatisfaction scores for all the respondents interviewed in the European Community.



<sup>1</sup> Anyone who had "a great deal" or "a fair amount" to complain about was classified as "dissatisfied".

A large proportion (39%) of the Europeans said that they had no complaints at all about any of the seven aspects of their local environment. Only a small minority (10%) had a great deal or a fair amount to complain about on five or more points. The general distribution is broadly the same as in the 1982 poll. However, the two polls are not directly comparable since the respondents were not asked to consider the same number of points in both.

#### ANALYSIS OF THE VARIABLES INFLUENCING AWARENESS OF THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

As in the 1982 poll, close analysis of some of the variables determining opinion on the local environment brings out the influence of factors such as size of locality or type of housing.

Measuring overall awareness of the local environment by the cumulative scores for dissatisfaction (i.e. "a great deal" or "a fair amount" to complain about) on the seven points put reveals big differences.

#### PERCEPTION OF THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT BY SIZE OF LOCALITY AND TYPE OF HOUSING

	Number of causes of dissatisfaction out of the seven points put
<b>SIZE OF LOCALITY</b>	
. Rural areas or village .....	1.04
. Small or middle-sized town .....	1.70
. Big town or city .....	2.28
<b>TYPE OF HOUSING</b>	
. Farmhouse or country cottage .....	0.83
. Detached house .....	1.09
. Semi-detached house .....	1.22
. Terraced house .....	1.69
. Maisonette .....	2.08
. Flat in block of up to ten apartments .....	2.08
. Flat in a block of 11-50 apartments .....	2.54
. Flat in a block of over 50 apartments .....	2.34

On average, big town and city dwellers complained about twice as many points as country dwellers. And residents in medium-sized apartment blocks complained about three times as many points as people living in farm houses or country cottages.

Readers interested in studying the effect of these two variables on the replies on each individual aspect of the environment considered should refer to the full table set out in the Annex. On the whole, dissatisfaction with the local environment increases with population density, whatever specific aspect of the environment is considered, with the sole exception of drinking water quality, on which population density has no effect.

Social and demographic factors exerted much the same influence on public perception of the local environment as in 1982<sup>1</sup>. On the whole, the sex of the respondent made no difference. Similarly, there was very little to choose between the different age groups. However, the higher the level of education, the greater the awareness, particularly of damage to the landscape. Conversely, low income groups are less concerned about environmental issues.

A series of cognitive and ideological variables also influenced the respondents' awareness of the local environment, which increases with leadership ability<sup>2</sup> and decreases with increasing satisfaction with life.

Adherence to post-materialist<sup>3</sup> values in turn heightens awareness of the local environment. People on the left, and even more so on the extreme left, of the political spectrum are likewise more liable to complain.

But despite the effect of these variables, on the whole public perception of the local environment seems to depend primarily on the size of locality, type of housing and nationality of the respondent.

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<sup>1</sup> "The Europeans and their environment", 1982, page 28.

<sup>2,3</sup> See annexes B1 and B2 for definitions.

## 1.2. NATIONAL AND WORLD ENVIRONMENT

Europeans' view of their national and world environment was assessed from their replies to seven questions, four on specific aspects of the environment and their own country and three on world issues.

With the exception of air pollution, the issues were very different from the ones touched on in the questions on the local environment. Moreover, a awareness of local environment issues reflects the respondents' personal experience, whereas awareness, concern or worry about the national or world situation concerns issues further away from the respondent's familiar surroundings. Consequently, there is only very limited scope for comparison between public perception of the local environment and of the environment further afield.

Question: *Now, about this country as a whole, I would like to find out how worried or concerned you are about a number of problems I am going to mention.*

*Finally, more generally, how concerned or worried are you about the following?*

	A great deal	A fair amount	Not very much	Not at all	Don't know	Total	Index <sup>3</sup>	1982 index (for the Ter
. Disposal of industrial waste <sup>1</sup>	47	32	12	6	3	100	2.23	2.18
. Damage caused to sea life and beaches <sup>2</sup> .....	45	37	11	5	2	100	2.23	2.21
. Pollution of water, of rivers and lakes .....	43	38	12	6	1	100	2.20	2.02
. The extinction in the world of plants or animal species .	42	37	14	5	2	100	2.19	2.01
. Air pollution .....	41	36	14	7	2	100	2.13	1.96
. The possible atmospheric damage affecting the world's weather brought about by the gas (carbon dioxide) emitted from burning coal and oil products .....	38	33	16	8	5	100	2.06	1.86
. The loss of natural resources in the world <sup>3</sup> .....	35	37	18	7	3	100	2.04	2.02

<sup>1</sup> Worded "disposal of industrial chemical waste" in 1982.

<sup>2</sup> Worded "damage caused to sea life and beaches by spillage or discharges from oil tankers" in 1982.

<sup>3</sup> Worded "depletion of the world's forest resources" in 1982.

Caution is called for when comparing the findings of the 1986 and 1982 surveys on items <sup>1</sup> and <sup>3</sup>.

A very large majority (72-79%) of the respondents worried "a great deal" or "a fair amount" about all seven environmental issues broached in the interview. Only a very small minority (5-8%) were "not at all" worried.

The awareness index constructed in exactly the same way as the local environment index revealed that concern was running high on every point covered. The index varied very little from one question to another, ranging from 2.04 to 2.23 (2.00 indicates that, on average, the population worries "a fair amount" about the national and world environment).

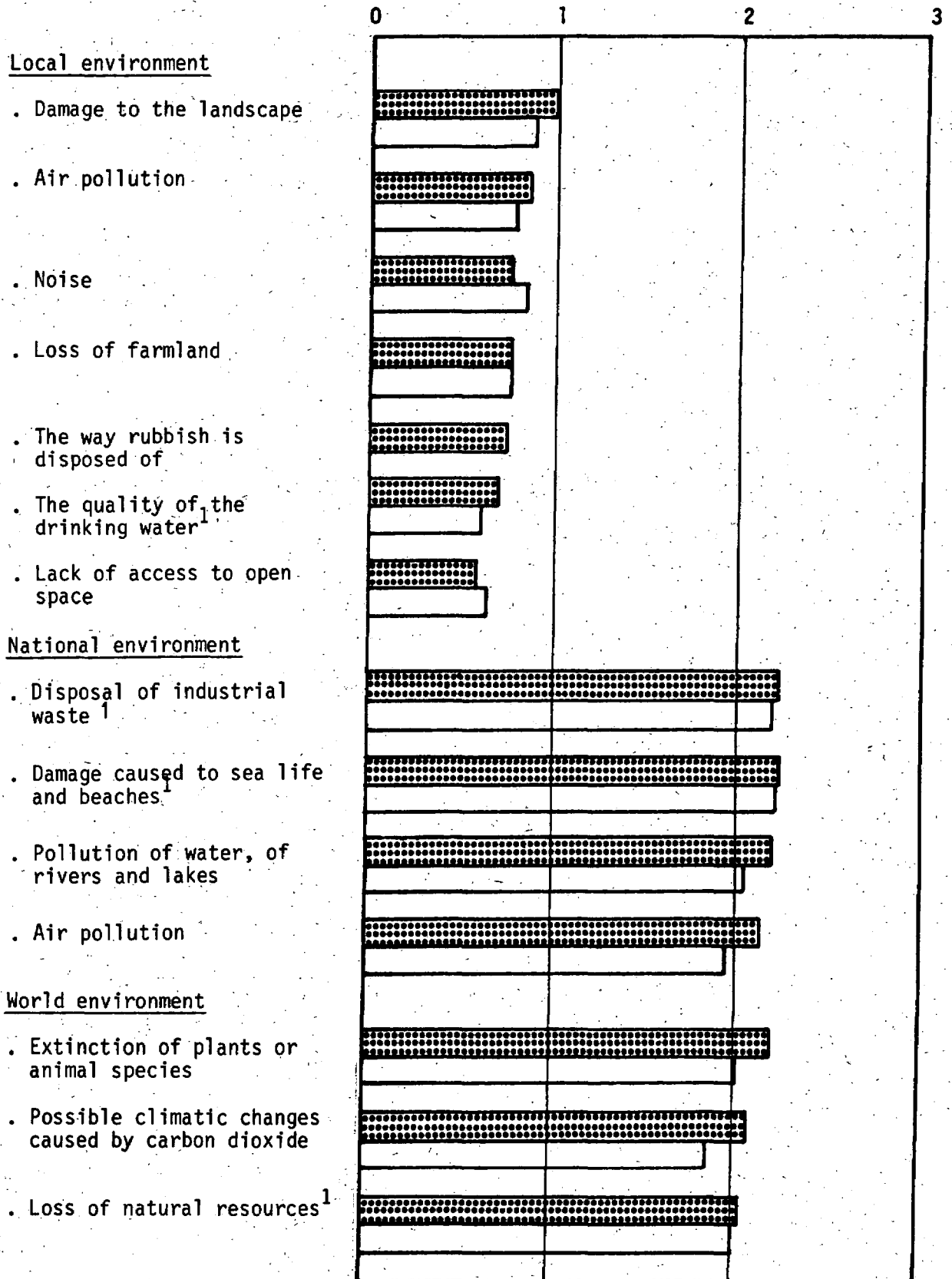
It must be added that the indexes are lower on two of the questions about the world environment (possible climatic changes and loss of natural resources) than on the other five points.

Comparison with the 1982 findings shows that concern has risen, particularly on the four questions worded identically on both surveys. The indexes for the other three held steady in so far as comparison is still possible despite the above-mentioned differences.

The three biggest changes were in attitudes to pollution of water of rivers and lakes, air pollution and the extinction of plants or animal species.

One noteworthy point is that concern about air pollution had risen at national level but remained the same as in 1982 at local level.

### CHANGES IN EUROPEANS' VIEW OF THEIR ENVIRONMENT BETWEEN 1982 AND 1986



The shaded areas indicate the 1986 index, the blank ones the 1982 indexes for the same questions in the then ten-member Community.

<sup>1</sup> Questions reworded since 1982.

Subject to the reservations expressed, generally there is a clear difference in the level of awareness of the local environment on the one hand and of the national or world environment on the other, just as in 1982. While the local environment indexes have remained static, on the whole, after four years, the national and world environment indexes have risen, thus further widening the gap between the two sets (see p. 17).

#### DIFFERENCES FROM COUNTRY TO COUNTRY

Generally, nationality made far less difference to respondents' awareness of the national and world environment than seen at local level.

What is more, just as at Community level, the spread between the different awareness indexes for the individual national and world environment issues is relatively narrow in each country.

Even so, it is still possible to rank the countries in order of concern.

Belgians are least worried about the national and world environment, even though their perception of the local environment was about average for the Community. Belgium also had the narrowest gap between the local and general indexes. The other Community countries relatively unconcerned were Ireland and Greece, followed, some way behind, by France and the United Kingdom.



Four other countries (Germany, Luxembourg, Portugal and Denmark) were close to the Community average as regards levels of concern on the national and world environment. The gap between public perception of the local environment and of the environment further afield was widest in Denmark.

Italy showed by far the greatest concern, not only on the local environment but in particular on the national environmental issues. The Italian public was slightly less alarmed by world environmental problems. The Netherlands and Spain came some way behind Italy as the countries where concern was running highest. In the Netherlands, as in Italy, concern about world issues was slightly lower.

#### CHANGES OF AWARENESS OF THE NATIONAL AND WORLD ENVIRONMENT IN THE INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES

Comparison with the findings of the 1982 polls brings out a number of changes.

MOVEMENT IN THE AWARENESS INDEX (0-3)  
ON THE NATIONAL AND WORLD ENVIRONMENT  
IN THE TEN BETWEEN 1982 AND 1986

	B	DK	D	F	IRL	I	L	NL	UK	GR	EC 10
Now, about this country as a whole, I would like to find out how worried or concerned you are about ...											
Pollution of water, of rivers and lakes	1.70 1.75	1.95 2.24	2.20 2.18	1.97 2.11	1.85 1.94	2.17 2.46	1.86 2.25	2.25 2.29	1.76 2.06	1.86 1.92	2.02 2.18
Damage caused to sea life and beaches <sup>1</sup>	1.81 1.76	2.17 2.30	2.25 2.17	2.24 2.18	1.91 1.95	2.21 2.48	2.13 2.21	2.38 2.35	2.19 2.16	2.20 2.13	2.21 2.22
Air pollution	1.78 1.83	1.83 2.11	2.15 2.16	1.87 2.01	1.67 1.80	2.19 2.45	1.99 2.19	2.11 2.33	1.59 1.86	2.19 2.08	1.96 2.12
Disposal of industrial waste <sup>1</sup>	1.88 1.79	2.11 2.37	2.25 2.17	2.14 2.08	1.95 2.05	2.15 2.50	2.03 2.16	2.45 2.43	2.16 2.22	2.33 1.95	2.18 2.23
Finally, more generally, how concerned or worried are you about ...											
The extinction in the world of plants or animal species	1.76 1.78	2.05 2.17	2.18 2.21	1.92 2.15	1.60 1.63	1.98 2.28	2.23 2.37	2.12 2.25	2.01 2.18	1.81 1.79	2.01 2.17
The loss of natural resources in the world	1.89 1.73	2.16 2.11	1.99 1.93	1.95 1.85	1.61 1.71	2.15 2.21	2.39 1.95	1.95 1.95	2.03 2.12	1.94 1.86	2.02 2.00
The possible atmospheric damage affecting the world's weather brought about by carbon dioxide	1.64 1.68	2.03 2.15	2.06 2.03	1.67 1.92	1.67 1.84	2.03 2.29	1.81 2.17	1.69 1.84	1.74 2.01	1.83 1.96	1.86 2.03
Number of downward movements	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Number of upward movements	0	6	0	4	1	6	2	3	4	1	4
Net movement	-1	+6	0	+4	+1	+6	+1	+3	+4	0	+4

The boxes indicate the indexes which have moved significantly between 1982 and 1986.

<sup>1</sup> Question worded slightly differently in 1982.

In five Community countries the level of concern changed significantly on very few aspects of the environment: Germany (where none of the indexes moved significantly over the period), Belgium (where one fell), Ireland (where one rose), Greece and Luxembourg.

All five recorded far less change in the level of concern than the Community as a whole, where four of the seven indexes rose substantially. This combination of relatively static public awareness indexes in Germany between 1982 and 1986 and rising indexes in several other Community countries over the same period relegated Germany from a position as one of the countries where concern was running highest in 1982 to a more middle-of-the-table position today.

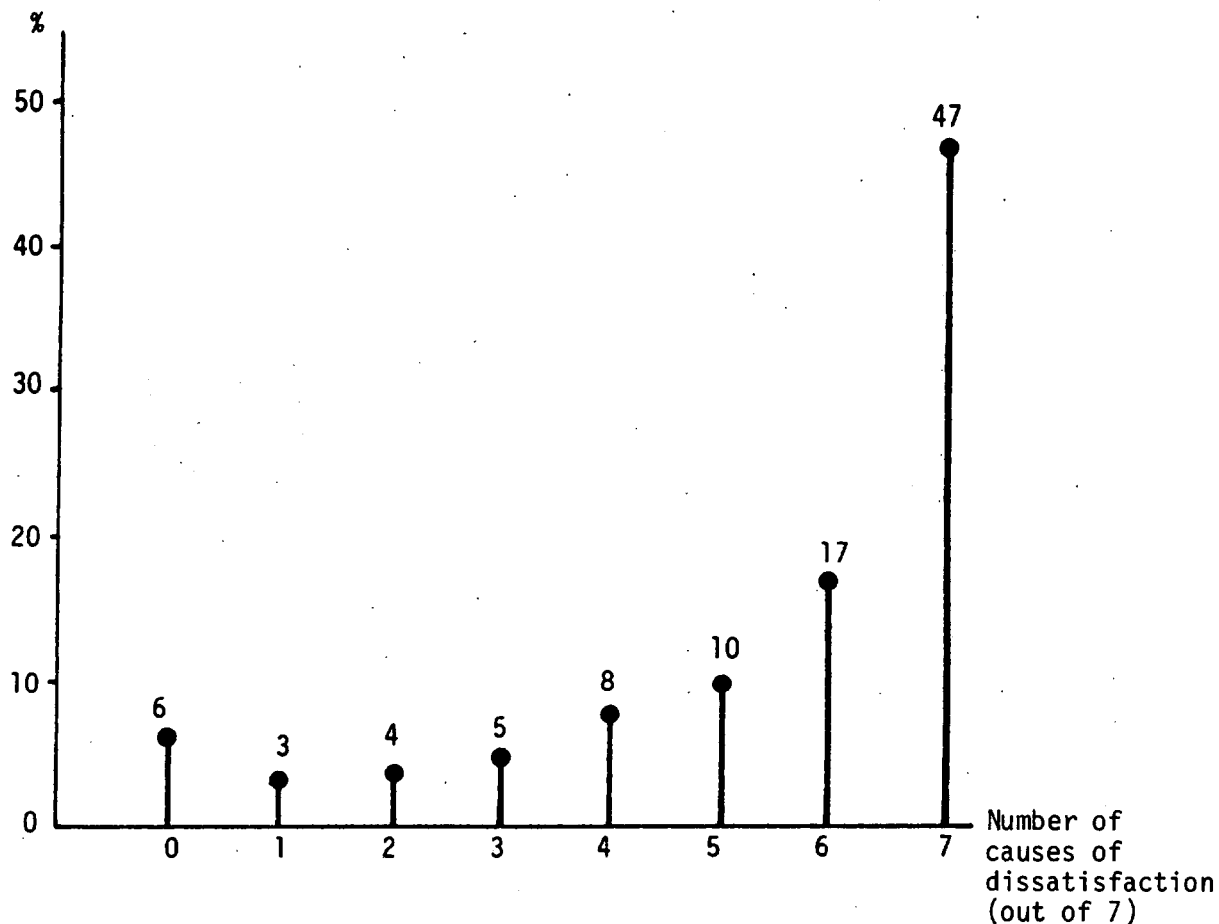
Three countries followed more or less the same pattern as the Community average over the last four years: the United Kingdom, France and the Netherlands. In the United Kingdom and France in particular the public awareness indexes rose on the same four points as the Community indexes.

In Italy and Denmark concern was higher on six of the seven points than in 1982, with the overall increase greater than the increase for the Community as a whole. In Italy this phenomenon is matched, however, by a high level of concern about the local environment. But in Denmark the gap between concern with the local environment and concern about national problems has widened even more since 1982.

### CUMULATIVE DISSATISFACTION SCORES ON THE NATIONAL AND WORLD ENVIRONMENT

The count of the number of aspects of the world and national environment on which each of the respondents expressed dissatisfaction (i.e. answered "a great deal" or "a fair amount") breaks down as follows for the Community as a whole:

#### COMMUNITY



This population distribution by number of causes of dissatisfaction shows that almost one European out of every two (47%) is worried about all seven aspects mentioned. In addition to providing further evidence of the high level of concern observed earlier, this underlines the broad agreement on the national and world environment amongst a large proportion of the sample interviewed.

## ANALYSIS OF THE VARIABLES INFLUENCING AWARENESS OF THE NATIONAL AND WORLD ENVIRONMENT

The main difference between public opinion on national or world environmental issues on the one hand and on the local everyday environment on the other lies not only in the higher level of awareness but also in the factors influencing public opinion<sup>1</sup>.

Level of education had a far greater impact on views on the national and world environment. Later leavers showed greater concern. Higher earners too were more worried. But size of locality (village, small or middle-sized town or large town or city) had very little influence on views on the national situation, and even less on opinions on the world situation, although it had a big say in views on the local environment.

The correlation between type of housing and opinions was less marked in the national environment than on the local environment.

Moving on to socio-political factors, strong leaders adhering to post-materialist values are generally more aware of environmental issues. Although these two factors also colour views of the local environment, they have a much greater impact at national or world level. Political left-wingers seem to be more aware of both the national and local environmental issues than people further to the right.

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<sup>1</sup> The figures on which these conclusions are based are set out in Annex B.

Satisfaction with life, however, has no real influence on perception of large-scale environmental problems.

As observed in the 1982 poll, on the whole the respondents' perception of the environment in their country or in the world as a whole seems to be shaped more by their values and political allegiance than by objective quality of life factors.

CHAPTER 2

IMPORTANCE ATTACHED TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS

After probing Europeans' awareness of selected local, national and world environmental issues, the next stage is to investigate the urgency attached to environmental protection by the respondents, the forms of damage which they considered the most serious and the reasons for their choice. The priority given to the environment by the respondents and the order of importance in which they rank different types of pollution and arguments gives the fullest possible picture of how public perception of the environment in the European Community works.

## 2.1. URGENCY OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Question: *Many people are concerned about the protection of the environment and the struggle against pollution. Would you say that, in your opinion, this is an urgent and immediate problem, more a problem for the future, or not really a problem at all?*

	COMMUNITY %
. Urgent, immediate problem .....	72
. Problem for the future .....	22
. Not really a problem at all .....	3
. Don't know .....	<u>3</u>
TOTAL	100

The replies revealed a strong sense of urgency about environmental protection throughout the Community. Only a very small minority (3%) considered the issue no problem at all.

In Italy, Greece, Luxembourg and Germany four out of every five interviewees described pollution control as an urgent, immediate problem (see Table 2.1.1.). But in France, Ireland and the Netherlands a relatively high proportion (30%-38%) of the sample thought it was a problem for the future.



TABLE 2.1.1.

URGENCY OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
BROKEN DOWN BY THE KEY VARIABLES

	Protection of the environment is ...				TOTAL
	An urgent and immediate problem	More a problem for the future	Not really a problem at all	Don't know	
COMMUNITY .....	72	22	3	3	100
COUNTRY:					
Belgium .....	62	26	4	8	100
Denmark .....	77	15	1	7	100
Germany .....	80	15	3	2	100
France .....	56	38	5	1	100
Ireland .....	56	31	6	7	100
Italy .....	85	11	1	3	100
Luxembourg .....	83	17	0	0	100
Netherlands .....	63	30	5	2	100
United Kingdom .....	67	26	4	3	100
Greece .....	84	10	1	5	100
Spain .....	72	17	3	8	100
Portugal .....	71	15	4	10	100
SEX:					
Male .....	73	21	4	2	100
Female .....	71	22	3	4	100
AGE:					
15-24 .....	70	25	3	2	100
25-39 .....	75	21	2	2	100
40-54 .....	75	18	3	4	100
55 and over .....	68	22	4	6	100
LEVEL OF EDUCATION:					
Low .....	69	22	3	6	100
Medium .....	72	23	4	1	100
High .....	80	17	2	1	100
INCOME BRACKET:					
++ .....	78	18	2	2	100
+ .....	72	23	3	2	100
- .....	71	23	3	3	100
-- .....	65	23	5	7	100
LEADERSHIP:					
++ .....	81	15	3	1	100
+ .....	76	20	2	2	100
- .....	72	22	3	3	100
-- .....	61	26	5	8	100
VALUES:					
Materialist .....	68	23	4	5	100
Mixed .....	73	22	3	2	100
Post-materialist .....	81	16	2	1	100
POLITICAL ALLEGIANCE:					
Extreme left .....	75	20	3	2	100
Left .....	76	20	2	2	100
Centre .....	73	21	3	3	100
Right .....	70	24	4	2	100
Extreme right .....	70	22	5	3	100

Generally, better-educated, high-earning respondents displaying strong leadership ability and advocating post-materialist values attach greater urgency to the problem. The respondents' sex, age and political allegiance make little difference to the replies, however.

On the whole, the same factors influence both public perception of the urgency of environmental protection and public awareness of the national and world environment (see Chapter 1), with a few minor differences. There is a very strong correlation between the urgency attached to anti-pollution measures and the number of points of dissatisfaction with the national and world environment.

TABLE 2.1.2.

URGENCY OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
AND ITS CORRELATION WITH DISSATISFACTION  
WITH THE NATIONAL AND WORLD ENVIRONMENT

	Protection of the environment is ...				TOTAL
	An urgent and immediate problem	More a problem for the future	Not really a problem at all	Don't know	
Number of causes of dissatisfaction with the national and world environment:					
. Zero .....	21	38	14	27	100
. 1-3 .....	39	45	8	8	100
. 4-6 .....	71	25	2	2	100
. 7 .....	87	11	1	1	100
TOTAL: .....	72	22	3	3	100

Almost none out of every ten respondents dissatisfied on all seven points considered environmental protection an urgent, immediate problem. At the other end of the scale, only two out of every ten people satisfied with all seven aspects of the world and national environment viewed the issue as urgent.

## 2.2. MOST SERIOUS DAMAGE

Almost all (94%) of the Europeans considered environmental protection a short-term or long-term problem. The importance they attached to the issue depended partly on how seriously they regarded certain forms of pollution.

Question: *When we talk about possible damage to the environment, what do you think of above all? Would you please choose from this list the three things that come immediately to mind?*

	COMMUNITY (%)
. Factories that discharge dangerous chemical products into the air or water .....	59
. Rubbish on the streets, roads, open spaces and beaches	37
. Overuse, in agriculture, of weed-killers, insecticides and fertilizers .....	35
. Industrial waste which is left abandoned wherever is convenient .....	33
. Oil pollution in the sea and on the shore .....	33
. Vehicles that pollute the air .....	23
. Acid rain which attacks woods and forests .....	20
. Unauthorized building which spoils the countryside .....	12
. The waste of rare natural resources such as minerals, oil, etc. ....	11
. The noise created by some industrial activities such as construction, roads with heavy traffic, airports, etc.	9
. Erosion of farmland .....	6
. Don't know .....	<u>3</u>
TOTAL: .....	(*)

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(\*) Total higher than 100 because of each person interviewed gave several answers.

These answers bring out the order of importance of the individual problems more clearly than the questions on awareness of the local, national and world environment.

The public voted factories discharging dangerous chemical products into the air or water the biggest threat. Almost six Europeans in ten mentioned it.

Chemical pollution, in general, was rated extremely serious by the sample interviewed. It claimed third place too in the guise of overuse, in agriculture, of weed-killers, insecticides and fertilizers, just behind another more widespread, everyday form of pollution - rubbish on streets, roads, open spaces and beaches - and just ahead of industrial waste and oil pollution at sea and on shore.

Yet a series of issues which generated a fair amount of concern at local, national and world level, such as noise and loss of rare natural resources, were rated serious by just a small minority of the sample, on a par with unauthorized building and erosion.

#### DIFFERENCES FROM COUNTRY TO COUNTRY

The order of seriousness varied considerably from one Member State to another on several points (see Table 2.2.1.).

TABLE 2.2.1.

## FORMS OF DAMAGE CONSIDERED SERIOUS BY COUNTRY

	TOTAL EC 12	B	DK	D	F	IRL	I	L	NL	UK	GR	SP	P
. Factories that discharge dangerous chemical products into the air or water .....	59%	52	75	69	62	57	46	74	70	59	55	53	53
. Rubbish on the streets, roads, open spaces and beaches .....	37%	27	13	17	40	57	54	30	19	37	50	44	56
. Overuse, in agriculture, of weed-killers, insecticides and fertilizers	35%	25	42	40	38	45	44	48	44	36	8	17	20
. Industrial waste which is left abandoned wherever is convenient ..	33%	34	32	34	33	33	34	29	33	38	24	29	21
. Oil pollution in the sea and on the shore .....	33%	25	48	31	33	27	29	23	29	39	33	37	24
. Vehicles that pollute the air .....	23%	26	7	29	17	20	24	25	22	15	32	30	27
. Acid rain which attacks woods and forests .....	20%	27	28	26	24	10	10	29	50	23	3	8	5
. Unauthorized building which spoils the countryside .....	12%	12	5	8	16	12	19	8	2	9	12	13	13
. The waste of rare natural resources such as minerals, oil, etc. ....	11%	14	11	13	10	12	7	5	8	14	6	10	8
. The noise created by some industrial activities such as construction, roads with heavy traffic, airports, etc.	9%	13	5	8	11	11	8	11	4	9	12	10	13
. Erosion of farmland .....	6%	7	10	10	4	7	4	5	5	7	8	6	4
. Don't know .....	3%	5	3	3	1	3	1	2	2	1	8	10	11
	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)

(\*) Total higher than 100 because each person interviewed gave several answers.

Ten Member States voted factories that discharge dangerous chemical products into the air or water the most serious problem. This item attracted a particularly high number of votes in Denmark, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Germany. At the opposite end of the scale, the number of respondents mentioning this item fell below the Community average in Belgium and in the four southern European Member States. In Italy and Portugal discharges of dangerous chemicals from factories came second to rubbish in public places.

The degree of seriousness attached to litter varies sharply, depending on nationality, from high in Italy, Portugal, Ireland and Greece to very low in Denmark, where this item came sixth, or in Germany and the Netherlands, where it was placed seventh.

Overuse of chemicals in agriculture was considered one of the most serious forms of pollution in most Member States. There were only four exceptions: Belgium, Portugal, Spain and, most of all, Greece, where a mere 8% of the respondents mentioned it.

There was little between the Member States on uncontrolled dumping of industrial waste, though this was less of a problem in Greece and Portugal.

Danes and Britons voted oil pollution at sea and on shore the second most serious form of pollution. Land-locked Luxembourg (the only Member State without a coastline) recorded the lowest score on this item.

Air pollution by motor vehicle exhaust emissions was a thorny issue in Greece, Spain and Germany. In Denmark, however, only a very small minority worried about it.

Views on acid rain damage to woods and forests varied widely from one part of the Community to another. In the Netherlands, every other citizen counted this one of the most serious forms of environmental pollution, compared with a Community average of only one in five. Very few people in Ireland and in the four southern Member States perceive acid rain as a major threat.

All the other forms of environmental pollution are considered serious by just a small minority in each Member State, with a few minor variations. However, it is worth noting the anxiety aroused in Italy and France by unauthorized building devastating the countryside.

The Member States fall into three distinct groups in accordance with the seriousness which they attach to the different forms of pollution mentioned in the poll:

1. Countries concerned primarily about chemical and industrial pollution, i.e. Germany, Denmark, the Netherlands and, to a lesser extent, Luxembourg and Belgium.
2. Countries where concern about chemical and industrial pollution is high, but still below Community average, and where pollution by consumers, as opposed to by production processes, is highly placed. For example, many of the Portuguese, Italian, Irish, Greek and Spanish respondents put the emphasis on the serious litter problem. The three latest recruits to the Community also frequently mentioned air pollution.
3. Lastly, France and the United Kingdom occupy the middle ground between the southern European countries and Ireland on the one hand and the rest of northern Europe on the other. In both, the order of importance for the various forms of pollution more or less matches the order for the Community as a whole.

## FACTORS INFLUENCING THE CHOICE OF FORMS OF POLLUTION REGARDED AS SERIOUS

It is striking that the factors influencing Europeans' choice of the forms of pollution rated serious are broadly the ones which influenced their level of concern about the environment in their country and world-wide and their view of the urgency of measures to combat pollution (see Table 2.2.2.), i.e. level of education, income bracket, leadership ability and values (materialist or post-materialist). The influence of these factors on the replies produces several different categories of environmental pollution and paints a profile of the type of person likely to give one answer rather than another.

For instance, one category of pollution is more likely to be voted for by well-educated, high-earning respondents displaying strong leadership ability and advocating post-materialist values. It includes acid rain, industrial waste, discharges of dangerous chemicals from factories, overuse of weed-killers, insecticides and fertilizers and, to a lesser extent, wastage of natural resources. One thing these have in common is that they are all forms of chemical or industrial pollution.

The same factors also make a big difference to individuals' view of the seriousness of litter and air pollution by motor vehicles. This time, however, the opposite is true. Both these are mentioned more often by low-earning early school-leavers with little leadership ability and materialist values. Both are easily grasped since they are far more likely to appear in the individuals' day-to-day environment than the others and are generally quick acting.



TABLE 2.2.2.

FORMS OF DAMAGE CONSIDERED SERIOUS BY LEVEL OF EDUCATION,  
INCOME BRACKET, LEADERSHIP ABILITY AND VALUES

	TOTAL	Age of finishing full-time studies			Income bracket				Leadership				Values		
		15-	16-19	20+	--	-	+	++	--	-	+	++	Mat.	Mixed	Post-mat.
. Factories that discharge dangerous chemical products into air or water	59%	53	64	65	52	58	61	61	51	59	62	63	54	61	68
. Rubbish on the streets, roads, open spaces and beaches .....	37%	42	33	28	41	38	36	32	43	38	32	31	47	36	21
. Overuse, in agriculture, of weed-killers, insecticides and fertilizers	35%	33	36	40	33	34	39	38	28	37	37	39	32	37	41
. Industrial waste which is left abandoned wherever is convenient .....	33%	30	36	38	29	32	36	35	29	33	35	37	28	36	40
. Oil pollution in the sea and on the shore .....	33%	31	35	34	28	33	33	37	32	34	34	31	31	35	32
. Vehicles that pollute the air .....	23%	26	20	18	25	24	22	21	24	24	23	19	28	22	17
. Acid rain which attacks woods and forests .....	20%	16	23	27	19	19	19	24	16	18	23	23	14	22	28
. Unauthorized building which spoils the countryside .....	12%	12	12	14	11	10	13	13	11	11	12	17	12	12	13
. The waste of rare natural resources such as minerals, oil, etc. ....	11%	9	12	10	8	10	11	12	9	10	12	11	9	11	12
. The noise created by some industrial activities such as construction, roads with heavy traffic, airports, etc.	9%	10	8	9	10	9	9	9	9	10	8	8	10	8	9
. Erosion of farmland .....	6%	6	6	7	5	6	6	6	5	6	7	6	4	7	8
. Don't know .....	3%	5	2	1	6	4	1	1	8	3	1	2	4	1	1
	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)

(\*) Total higher than 100 because each person interviewed gave several answers.

Socio-demographic and socio-political factors make very little difference to public opinion on oil pollution at sea and on shore, unauthorized building, noisy industrial activities and soil erosion. All of these, apart from oil pollution, were considered not very important by all the citizens interviewed. Oil pollution, however, was placed fourth in Europe and higher still in the higher income brackets.

### 2.3. WHY THE DAMAGE IS CONSIDERED SERIOUS

Beyond analysing the socio-demographic and cognitive variables which influence the respondents' choice of the most serious forms of pollution, it is interesting to study the main reasons given by the respondents for their choice.

Question: *In what way does damage to the environment appear serious to you?*

	COMMUNITY (%)
. It menaces the health of people .....	43
. Any specific pollution of water, air or the land puts at risk our whole natural background or environment .....	40
. Damage already inflicted on the environment risks having consequences for future generations .....	36
. It lowers the quality of life .....	34
. When the environment is damaged somewhere this will be liable to spread to other regions or to other countries	16
. The measures needed for repairing would be expensive ....	9
. Don't know .....	<u>6</u>
TOTAL .....	(*)

(\*) Total higher than 100 because each person interviewed gave several answers.

The public health threat is the most frequent reason given by the sample interviewed. This view of the acuteness of the danger is coloured primarily by the risk of physical injury.

Besides this, four out of every ten people interviewed stressed that pollution in one area puts at risk all the rest of the environment. They are concerned with the environment as a whole. Selection of this argument indicates a truly "ecological" perception of environmental problems.

The third commonest reason for regarding certain types of pollution as serious is the potential impact on future generations. Like the previous one, this points to a certain degree of ability to visualize the abstract, long-term implications.

Around one third of the people questioned answered that the phenomena were serious because they lowered the quality of life. Like the public health argument, this way of thinking too is implicitly based on people and their quality of life.

The last two reasons (risk of pollution spreading to other regions and the economics of repairing the damage caused) are mentioned by far fewer respondents than the other four.

Each respondent was allowed to choose two reasons for regarding pollution as serious. It is illuminating to analyse<sup>1</sup> the pairs of answers to see whether certain arguments are coupled together more often than might be expected. The results show a strong correlation between "it menaces the health of people" and "it lowers the quality of life". A similar link emerged between "damage already inflicted on the environment risks having consequences for future generations" and "any specific pollution puts at risk our whole natural environment", which is also closely linked to the argument about the risk of pollution spreading to other regions or countries. Conversely, there is an inverse correlation between that argument and "it lowers the quality of life".

In the final analysis, the six reasons fall into two categories:

- The first (public health, quality of life and cost of repair) are commonest amongst respondents with materialist values (see Table 2.3.1.).
- The second (future consequences of today's pollution, threat to the rest of the natural environment and the risk of pollution spreading to other regions or countries) are more likely to be given by highly-educated people having "post-materialist values".

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<sup>1</sup> For full details of this analysis, see Annex D.

TABLE 2.3.1.

WHY ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION IS CONSIDERED SERIOUS

	TOTAL	Age of finishing full-time studies			Mat.	Values Mixed	Post-mat.
		15-	16-19	20+			
. It menaces the health of people	43	45	42	36	47	43	37
. Any specific pollution of water, air or the land puts at risk our whole natural background or environment .....	40	35	42	49	35	42	50
. Damage already inflicted on the environment risks having consequences for future generations .....	36	31	39	48	30	39	47
. It lowers the quality of life ....	34	34	33	34	35	35	28
. When the environment is damaged somewhere this will be liable to spread to other regions or to other countries .....	16	14	17	16	14	17	18
. The measures for repairing would be expensive .....	9	10	9	7	11	9	7
. Anything else .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
. Don't know .....	6	9	4	1			
TOTAL	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)

(\*) Total higher than 100 because each person interviewed gave several answers.

## DIFFERENCES FROM COUNTRY TO COUNTRY

On the whole, there is less difference between the individual Member States on the importance attached to the various arguments than in the various forms of pollution (see Table 2.3.2.). To within a few percentage points, virtually the same proportion of respondents stressed the public health risk of pollution in every Member State, with the sole exception of Ireland, where the problem was mentioned by over six out of every ten.

There were wider differences on the threat which specific isolated pollution incidents pose to the rest of the natural environment. In Greece, Portugal, Spain and Ireland, the four countries with the lowest per capita GDP in the Community, this reason was cited less often than in the other countries.

Similarly, fewer people in these four countries and Belgium felt that today's pollution could have an impact on future generations. Against this, over half the Danes and almost half the Luxembourg and Dutch respondents felt that it could.

"It lowers the quality of life" was heard most commonly in Ireland, Portugal and Italy, and rarest in Denmark, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

The German sample was most aware of the risk of pollution spreading to other regions or countries.

The cost of the clean-up measures received fewest votes throughout the Community, though twice as many respondents mentioned it in Belgium as in Germany.

Note also the relatively high "don't know" rate in Spain, Portugal and Greece.

TABLE 2.3.2.

WHY ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION IS CONSIDERED SERIOUS  
BY COUNTRY

	TOTAL EC 12	B	DK	D	F	IRL	I	L	NL	UK	GR	SP	P
. It menaces the health of people ..	43%	46	40	42	41	61	45	45	40	45	41	41	43
. Any specific pollution of water, air, or the land puts at risk our whole natural background or environment .....	40%	33	34	40	43	28	44	44	42	45	25	28	26
. Damage already inflicted on the environment risks having consequences for future generations .....	36%	28	56	34	43	29	33	48	52	40	24	32	22
. It lowers the quality of life ...	34%	35	17	33	35	49	40	31	20	28	33	37	45
. When the environment is damaged somewhere this will be liable to spread to other regions or to other countries .....	16%	17	18	24	13	13	13	12	11	13	17	14	11
. The measures for repairing would be expensive .....	9%	16	7	8	13	7	10	8	9	7	13	8	11
. Anything else .....	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	1	-	1	-
. Don't know .....	6%	6	8	5	2	6	4	3	3	4	11	15	14
TOTAL	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)

(\*) Total higher than 100 because each person interviewed gave several answers.

## REASONS GIVEN BY THE RESPONDENTS FOR CONSIDERING THE INDIVIDUAL FORMS OF POLLUTION SERIOUS

So far, the reasons given by the respondents for treating certain issues seriously have been studied without any reference to their selections as the most important forms of pollution. Since each person interviewed was allowed to choose up to three forms of pollution and two reasons, without indicating any order of preference, it is not possible to pair any single argument with any particular type of pollution.

Caution is therefore advised when interpreting Table 2.3.3., even if, as demonstrated earlier, some reasons are closely, not to say logically, related to specific types of pollution.

The public health threat was most likely to be mentioned by people who regarded acid rain, dumping of industrial wastes, oil pollution at sea and air pollution by motor vehicles as serious. But it was less popular amongst those who regarded erosion, unauthorized building and wastage of natural resources as the severest forms of pollution.

The potential threat posed by isolated pollution incidents to all the rest of the natural environment was mentioned more often by people concerned about the overuse of weed-killers, insecticides and fertilizers in agriculture or about the wastage of rare natural resources (it was the first reason given in both these cases) and by people worried about acid rain and by oil pollution at sea and on shore. By contrast, the reason was rarely given by people regarding noise, litter and unauthorized building as the biggest threats.



TABLE 2.3.3.

REASONS GIVEN BY THE RESPONDENTS FOR CONSIDERING THE  
INDIVIDUAL FORMS OF POLLUTION SERIOUS

	Rubbish	Un- autho- rized building	Facto- ries	Erosion	Vehicles	Waste of resources	Noise	Chemicals in agri- culture	Oil pollu- tion at sea	Indus- trial waste	Acid rain	TOTAL
. It menaces the health of people .....	45	36	44	30	46	37	45	42	46	46	47	43
. Any specific pollution of water, air, or the land puts at risk our whole natural background or environment ....	35	36	43	38	38	45	34	47	44	43	44	40
. Damage already inflicted on the environment risks having consequences for future generations .....	31	33	40	38	33	44	33	42	38	41	45	36
. It lowers the quality of life	42	42	33	40	39	31	39	33	34	32	31	34
. When the environment is damaged somewhere this will be liable to spread to other regions or to other countries .....	16	20	17	26	16	21	18	16	15	15	13	16
. The measures needed for repairing would be expensive	11	16	9	14	10	10	12	7	8	9	7	9
. Don't know .....	5	4	3	3	3	2	6	2	3	2	2	6
TOTAL	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)

(\*) Total higher than 100 because each person interviewed gave several answers.

Anxiety about the impact of today's pollution on future generations too is likely to be higher amongst people concerned about these forms of pollution.

People who regard rubbish, unauthorized building, erosion, air pollution by motor vehicles and noisy industrial activities as the greatest nuisances are more likely to offer "it lowers the quality of life" as their main reason.

It is harder to interpret the correlation between the types of pollution regarded as serious by persons quoting the risk of pollution spreading and the high cost of the clean-up measures as their main reasons, since far fewer people chose these two arguments. Paradoxically, twice as many of the respondents concerned at the risk of pollution spreading to other regions or countries mentioned erosion as a major issue as of those who regarded acid rain as the greatest problem.

However, on the whole the results of this comparison of the types of pollution rated serious and the reasons for the choice fit in well with the observations made throughout this Chapter.

Very often the people quoting the ecological reasons defined on page 37 rated industrial pollution most serious. On the other hand, the respondents more concerned by every-day problems with an immediate impact, like rubbish and noise, were more liable to argue, for example, that it lowers the quality of life.

PART TWO

ACTION TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

CHAPTER 3

ACTION BY INDIVIDUALS

This chapter analyses what individuals are prepared to do to protect the environment, a question which gives a clearer indication of their genuine commitment to the environment, beyond simple expressions of concern. To cast further light on the action which individuals are prepared to take, two further aspects will be studied: concern about what will happen in the future and information needs.

### 3.1. CONCERN FOR THE DISTANT FUTURE

Question: *Would you say that what will happen in the world in the future, by which I mean in a hundred year's time, is something that concerns you a lot, a little or not at all?*

	COMMUNITY (%)
. A lot .....	33
. A little .....	38
. Not at all .....	26
. Don't know .....	3
TOTAL .....	100

Europeans' concern about the distant future seems relatively lukewarm. One third were concerned a lot, almost four in ten a little and one quarter not at all. This lack of foresight has an effect on what individuals are prepared to do to protect the environment: respondents showing concern for the future seem to be more concerned about the national and world environment today too (see Table 3.1.1.). This relatively close correlation<sup>1</sup> seems to be attributable to the fact that a fair capacity to look ahead is needed in order to imagine the long-term impact of pollution. Concern about the national or world environment too reveals just the capacity to take a general view of problems which underlies concern for the future.

---

<sup>1</sup> The correlation was .227.

Concern for the distant future also mirrors the urgency attached to environmental protection. The greater the concern for the future, the more immediate and urgent environmental protection is generally considered (see Table 3.1.1.). However, the correlation between these two opinions is not as strong (.154) as the previous one. This could signify that the link depends not so much on the level of concern about the environment as on the individual's perception of the problems.

TABLE 3.1.1.

PERCEPTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS  
AS A FUNCTION OF CONCERN FOR THE DISTANT FUTURE

Number of causes of concern about the national and world environment <sup>1</sup>	Concerned about what will happen in a hundred years' time			Total
	A lot	A little	Not at all	
None .....	2	5	12	6
One .....	2	3	5	3
Two .....	2	4	6	4
Three .....	3	6	7	5
Four .....	6	8	8	8
Five .....	9	11	10	10
Six .....	19	17	14	17
Seven .....	57	46	38	47
TOTAL .....	100	100	100	100
Average .....	5.98	5.42	4.74	5.40
Urgency of environmental protection				
Urgent and immediate ..	80	72	62	72
For the future .....	17	22	26	21
Not a problem at all ..	2	3	6	3
Don't know .....	1	3	6	4
TOTAL .....	100	100	100	100

<sup>1</sup> Index counting the number of points on which the respondent was worried a great deal or a fair amount. See page 22 for an account of this index.

The level of concern about the distant future varies a little from one country to another. It is running particularly high in the Netherlands, Luxembourg and Denmark but is fairly, or even very, low in Belgium, Ireland, Italy and Portugal, all, apart from Italy, countries which showed very little concern about the national or world environment (see Table 3.1.2.).

In essence, concern over the distant future seems to be bound up with cognitive factors. It clearly rises with level of education and cognitive grasp; this seems to confirm the theory that it reflects intellectual capacity to visualize the future and to consider the problems as a whole (see Table 3.1.2.). By contrast, the correlation with age and political allegiance is less clear-cut. Lastly, the sex of the respondent makes virtually no difference to concern at what might happen in the world in a century's time.

TABLE 3.1.2.

CONCERN ABOUT THE DISTANT FUTURE  
AS A FUNCTION OF THE MAIN VARIABLES APPLIED IN THE ANALYSIS

	Is concerned about what will happen in the world in one hundred years ....				
	A lot	A little	Not at all	Don't know	TOTAL
COMMUNITY .....	33	38	26	3	100
COUNTRY					
Belgium .....	17	38	41	4	100
Denmark .....	40	42	12	6	100
Germany .....	27	53	17	3	100
France .....	33	40	26	1	100
Ireland .....	21	36	39	4	100
Italy .....	30	37	31	2	100
Luxembourg .....	50	31	18	1	100
Netherlands .....	69	24	6	1	100
United Kingdom .....	37	32	29	2	100
Greece .....	38	32	26	4	100
Spain .....	33	32	30	5	100
Portugal .....	24	30	41	5	100
SEX					
Male .....	34	38	26	3	100
Female .....	32	39	26	3	100
AGE					
15-24 .....	39	40	19	2	100
25-39 .....	39	39	20	2	100
40-54 .....	29	41	26	4	100
55 Jahre and over .....	26	34	36	4	100
LEVEL OF EDUCATION					
Low ... ..	26	36	34	4	100
Medium .....	37	41	20	2	100
High .....	47	38	14	1	100
COGNITIVE GRASP					
++ .....	56	30	13	1	100
+ .....	40	41	17	2	100
- .....	29	41	27	3	100
-- .....	18	34	43	5	100
POLITICAL ALLEGIANCE					
Extreme left .....	42	31	25	2	100
Left .....	37	39	22	2	100
Medium .....	31	40	26	3	100
Right .....	33	42	22	3	100
Extreme right .....	35	37	25	3	100



### 3.2. INFORMATION NEEDS

Question: *There is a lot of discussion about the environment. What sort of things would you personally like to be better informed about?*

	COMMUNITY (%)
. The risks involved in chemical products available on the market .....	48
. The right way to dispose of certain waste (paints, pharmaceutical products, sump oil, etc.) .....	29
. How to behave in case of an industrial accident ....	19
. The laws (in your country) about the environment ...	18
. Who are the people responsible in your area for keeping the public informed about the environment .....	16
. The effect on the environment of industrial developments, new projects, etc. ....	18
. The steps that you can take at home to avoid pollution	23
. To know more about the problems of the environment where you live .....	25
. Examples of companies or businesses which have been successful in dealing with environmental problems ..	10
. Preventive measures taken by local industries handling dangerous materials .....	28
. Other .....	1
. Don't know .....	10
TOTAL <sup>1</sup> .....	(1)

---

<sup>1</sup> Total higher than 100 because each person interviewed gave several answers.

Europeans genuinely hope to be kept better informed about the environment: nine out of every ten respondents mentioned specific points about which they would like to know more. First came the risks involved in chemical products available on the market (mentioned by one in two), well ahead of how to dispose of certain types of waste and preventive measures taken by local industries handling dangerous materials. This top three suggests that above all the respondents want information about their everyday immediate environment. The respondents' subsequent choices provided further evidence of this underlying trend: one quarter wanted to know more about the environment in their neighbourhood and about pollution prevention in the home. Finally, only one or two in ten mentioned the items at the bottom of the list (how to behave in case of an industrial accident, laws about the environment, the effect of industrial developments, the people responsible for keeping the public informed about the environment and examples of successful companies or businesses).

Information needs vary substantially from one country to another. For instance, the hazards posed by chemical products cause greater concern in France, Italy and Luxembourg than in Belgium, Ireland, the Netherlands and Spain (see Table 3.2.1.). But the widest divergences between the Member States are on demand for information on preventive measures, which ranks almost equal to the hazards posed by chemical products in Ireland and the United Kingdom and very high in Luxembourg too.

Finally, two items clearly depend on the respondent's level of education, income and cognitive grasp: industrial development and preventive measures taken by local industries handling dangerous materials. Both are forward-looking and call for a greater awareness of the potential risks inherent in industrial society.

TABLE 3.2.1.

INFORMATION NEEDS

1. Risks involved in chemical products
2. The right way to dispose of waste
3. Behaviour in case of an industrial accident
4. Laws about the environment
5. People responsible for keeping the public informed
6. Effect on industrial developments
7. Pollution prevention in the home
8. State of the local environment
9. Examples of successful companies
10. Preventive measures taken by industry

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL .....	48	29	19	18	16	18	23	25	10	28
COUNTRY										
Belgium .....	43	27	22	22	19	18	21	23	11	25
Denmark .....	46	29	25	17	11	19	19	19	17	15
Germany .....	45	37	18	19	14	19	30	22	9	26
France .....	55	31	24	15	15	20	16	22	12	32
Ireland .....	43	25	24	26	17	17	33	25	15	39
Italy .....	54	35	21	17	17	11	22	30	10	29
Luxembourg .....	59	27	11	23	15	27	23	22	12	33
Netherlands .....	43	31	26	19	9	22	24	17	14	21
United Kingdom .....	44	25	13	21	22	22	24	27	11	40
Greece .....	50	13	15	21	12	19	21	17	7	11
Spain .....	39	17	15	16	17	17	17	27	9	18
Portugal .....	48	20	22	17	20	16	26	23	7	16
SEX										
Male .....	47	29	19	20	17	21	20	24	11	29
Female .....	48	29	19	16	16	15	25	25	9	27
LEVEL OF EDUCATION										
Low .....	46	27	17	15	18	12	22	24	8	24
Medium .....	49	31	21	20	15	22	24	25	11	31
High .....	51	30	18	22	16	27	22	24	17	32
INCOME										
-- .....	45	26	16	15	18	12	21	22	6	23
- .....	48	28	21	19	17	18	21	25	10	27
+ .....	50	33	20	17	16	21	25	26	10	30
++ .....	49	30	20	21	16	23	25	25	15	31
COGNITIVE GRASP										
-- .....	49	27	20	24	16	24	22	23	13	33
- .....	50	33	20	20	17	22	24	26	12	30
+ .....	46	29	19	18	17	18	24	25	10	28
++ .....	45	25	17	13	15	11	19	23	8	23

In addition to ranking the individual points on which more information is needed, information needs were also studied from the more general angle of the number of points mentioned by each respondent. Each respondent was allowed a maximum of three choices. However, many settled for fewer, apparently out of lack of interest for the environment.

Number of points on which better information is desired

	COMMUNITY %
None .....	10
One .....	11
Two .....	16
Three .....	<u>63</u>
TOTAL .....	100

This information-needs index seems to mirror concern about the environment. It rises with the level of concern about the local and national environment and with the urgency attached to environmental protection (see Table 3.2.2.). There is nothing surprising in this correlation: just as in so many other fields, concern about an issue generates desire for information about it.

Despite this, the countries with the heaviest demand for information are not always the ones where concern about the environment is running highest<sup>1</sup>. The desire to be kept better informed seems strongest in Ireland, Luxembourg and Italy and weakest in Greece, Spain and Portugal (see Table 3.2.3.).

---

<sup>1</sup> As so often, the correlation between individuals' replies is not necessarily matched by a correlation between the national averages.

TABLE 3.2.2.

INFORMATION NEEDS AND CONCERN ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT

	Number of points on which better information is desired				TOTAL
	None	One	Two	Three	
Number of complaints about the local environment:					
. Three or less .....	10	12	17	61	100
. Four or five .....	7	8	13	72	100
. Six or seven .....	6	9	10	75	100
Number of causes of concern about the national and world environment:					
. Three or less .....	25	16	20	39	100
. Four or five .....	9	13	18	60	100
. Six or seven .....	6	9	15	70	100
Urgency of environmental protection:					
. Urgent and immediate .....	7	10	16	67	100
. For the future .....	9	14	20	57	100
. Not a problem at all .....	31	15	17	37	100
TOTAL .....	10	11	16	63	100

TABLE 3.2.3.

INFORMATION NEEDS BY COUNTRY

	Number of points on which better information is desired:				TOTAL
	None	One	Two	Three	
COMMUNITY .....	10	11	16	63	100
COUNTRY					
. Belgium .....	9	12	16	63	100
. Denmark .....	16	10	16	58	100
. Germany .....	8	11	17	64	100
. France .....	5	12	21	62	100
. Ireland .....	9	2	4	85	100
. Italy .....	7	9	15	69	100
. Luxembourg .....	5	8	16	71	100
. Netherlands .....	7	16	20	57	100
. United Kingdom .....	7	11	16	66	100
. Greece .....	20	14	16	40	100
. Spain .....	25	11	10	54	100
. Portugal .....	17	9	16	58	100

### 3.3. ACTION TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

Question: *Among the following things are there some that you have already done yourself?*

*And are there among them things that you are prepared to do or to do more often?*

	Things already done	Things that one could do
. Be careful about not throwing away rubbish or papers on the ground .....	79	7
. Not wasting tap water .....	49	14
. Be careful about not making too much noise .....	51	9
. Equip your car with equipment to limit the amount of carbon dioxide in exhaust gases .....	7	18
. Contribute money to efforts to protect the environment .....	11	14
. Do what you can about recycling household products (glass, paper, sump oil, etc.) .....	39	17
. Get involved in local action on restoring the environment, for example cleaning a beach .....	7	20
. Demonstrate against projects that might damage the environment .....	6	15
. Get involved personally with an association concerned with protecting the environment .....	6	17
. None of these .....	4	7
. Don't know .....	<u>3</u>	<u>28</u>
TOTAL .....	(1)	(1)

---

(1) Total higher than 100 because each person interviewed gave several answers.

The things already done to protect the environment fall into two categories: either very common, simple gestures or action requiring a greater commitment and, therefore, much rarer. At least four, and in some cases as many as eight, people out of every ten care not to drop litter, not to waste tap water, not to make too much noise and to recycle certain types of waste whenever they can. But generally fewer than one person in ten contributes money, fits a car exhaust filter, becomes involved in local campaigns to restore the environment or demonstrates or gets involved personally with an environmental protection association.

But the replies on what the respondents might be prepared to do were more widely scattered. One or two people out of every ten showed interest in most of the forms of action on the list. Involvement in local restoration schemes, fitting cars with exhaust filters, recycling waste whenever possible and patronage of environmental protection associations were the most popular. The relatively widespread support for environmental protection associations is something of a surprise since it calls for far greater social and political commitment than any of the other three.

The frequency of the individual forms of action already taken, or which respondents were prepared to take, varies sharply from one country to another. Particular attention has already been paid to avoiding litter in France, Italy, the United Kingdom and Spain. Understandably, the willingness not to waste water is greatest in Spain and Portugal. The French are more careful about not making too much noise. Germans are more likely to fit their cars with exhaust filters, while the Dutch are more inclined to contribute money. Waste recycling is most widespread in Germany and the Netherlands. Finally, all these things, apart from fitting exhaust filters, are far more frequent in Luxembourg (see Table 3.3.1.).



The second question gives more ideas of the inclination to take action to protect the environment, though these expressions of intent do not necessarily signal a greater or lesser desire to protect the environment properly. What is more, people are far less prepared to do these things in Germany, France and the United Kingdom than in Belgium, Denmark, Ireland, Italy and Portugal (see Table 3.3.1.).

TABLE 3.3.1.  
ACTION TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT BY COUNTRY

	B %	DK %	D %	F %	IRL %	I %	L %	NL %	UK %	GR %	SP %	P %	EC 12 %
Things already done:													
. Careful not to drop litter ...	69	71	64	84	75	86	85	74	86	70	87	77	79
. Not wasting tap water .....	54	21	42	47	35	51	57	48	48	38	67	63	49
. Not making too much noise ....	48	32	36	61	33	57	64	55	52	46	56	56	51
. Converting car exhaust systems	4	8	15	5	3	2	3	5	3	4	11	3	7
. Contributing money .....	13	21	13	6	9	7	25	39	16	4	4	6	11
. Recycling .....	44	40	63	45	12	32	70	57	33	2	19	17	39
. Involvement in local action ..	5	6	12	5	5	7	17	5	5	6	5	6	7
. Demonstrating .....	5	7	4	7	4	9	9	6	4	8	4	4	6
. Personal involvement with an association .....	6	16	2	6	4	8	14	14	7	3	1	2	6
Things respondents were prepared to do:													
. Careful not to drop litter ...	9	9	10	6	13	7	2	5	4	12	5	11	7
. Not wasting tap water .....	14	20	17	8	27	17	10	10	14	15	12	21	14
. Not making too much noise ....	16	15	10	4	18	11	5	7	7	12	10	17	9
. Converting car exhaust systems	25	34	22	10	18	25	45	29	12	10	18	26	18
. Contribute money .....	18	26	10	7	16	21	27	12	8	18	20	40	14
. Recycling .....	19	25	11	14	26	22	9	11	18	10	24	40	17
. Involvement in local action ...	23	24	18	17	21	28	30	11	11	19	23	39	20
. Demonstrating .....	21	23	6	16	16	24	23	8	9	23	17	41	15
. Personal involvement with an association .....	15	23	9	18	22	30	28	10	11	16	18	37	17

Beyond discovering what specific measures had been, or might be, taken, the chief objective of these two questions was to find out how tempted Europeans were to do what they could to protect the environment. To analyse this willingness more effectively, an index was constructed, based on the things already done to protect the environment but allowing for the fact that some forms of action are easier than others. For example, it is easier to avoid dropping litter than to fit a car exhaust system with a device to limit carbon dioxide emissions. Accordingly, the answers were classified into two categories - major action and minor action<sup>1</sup>. This index produced three groups of respondents:

	COMMUNITY %
Take no action to protect the environment .....	7
Take only minor action .....	67
Take minor action and major action .....	24
Unclassified (exceptional cases who have taken only major action) .....	<u>2</u>
TOTAL	100

---

<sup>1</sup> Minor action means that easiest, commonest measures, i.e. care not to drop litter, not to waste water, not to make too much noise and to recycle whatever possible. All other forms of action were classified "major".

The index constructed in this way reveals the respondent's willingness to protect the environment (unwilling, not very willing or very willing). This willingness depends on the respondent's level of concern about the national environment and the distant future and, to a lesser extent, on the urgency attached to environmental protection (see Table 3.3.2.). Like inclination to protect the environment, it increases with level of education, income, cognitive grasp and adherence to post-materialist<sup>1</sup> values (see Table 3.3.2.).

The variations from one country to another are also remarkable on this point. The average citizen is least inclined to take action in Ireland, Greece and Portugal and most inclined in Luxembourg and the Netherlands. In other words, willingness to take action to protect the environment seems to increase with national prosperity (see Figure 3.1.), possibly because pollution, and, hence, public reaction against it, is greatest in the more economically developed countries.

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<sup>1</sup> See the Annex for a definition of "post-materialist" and of the index.

TABLE 3.3.2.

WILLINGNESS TO TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

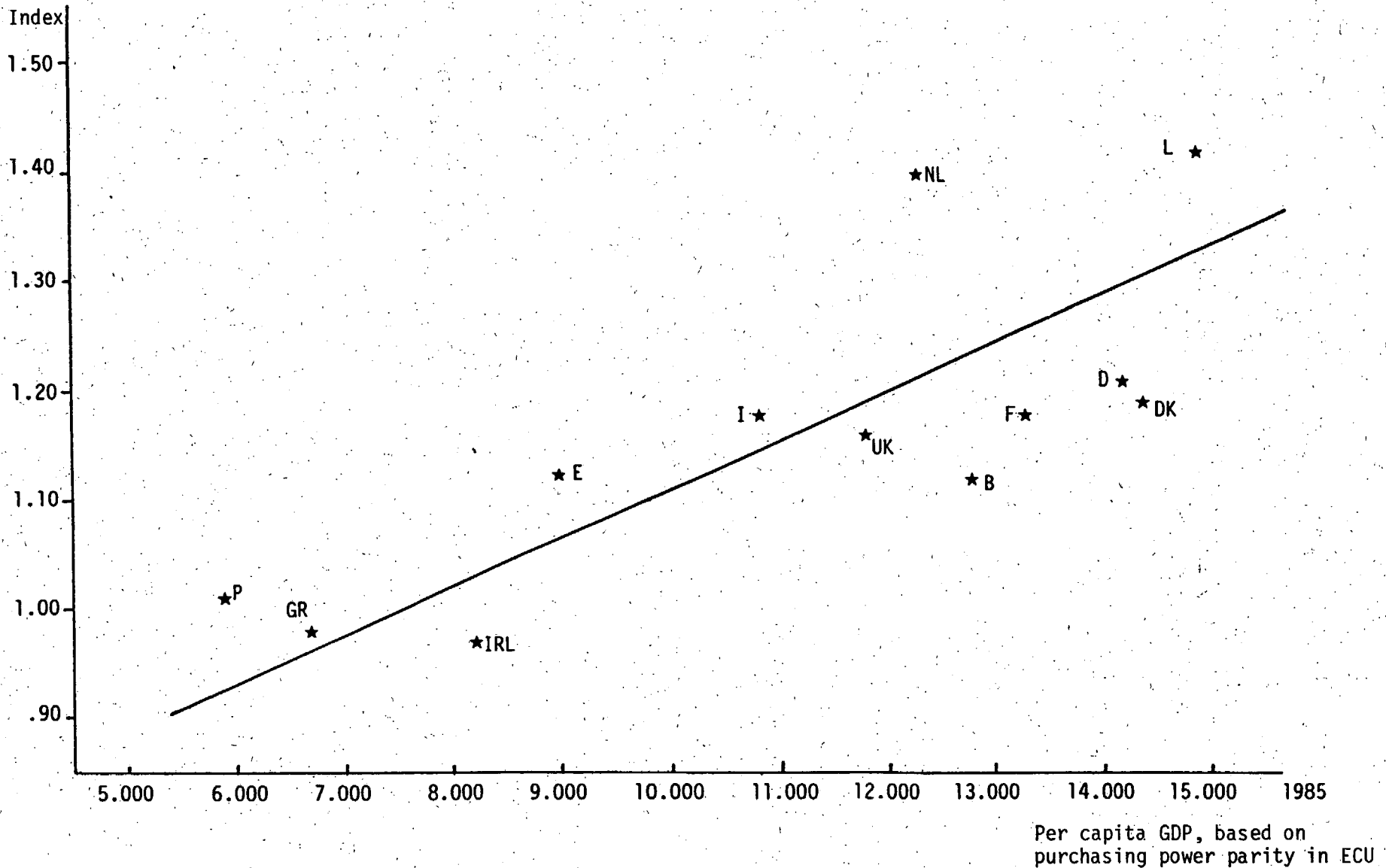
	Unwill- ing	Not very will- ing	Very will- ing	Un- classi- fied	TOTAL	Index <sup>1</sup>
TOTAL .....	7	67	24	2	100	1.17
Number of causes of concern about the national environment:						
. Three or less .....	16	69	13	2	100	.97
. Four or five .....	8	68	23	1	100	1.15
. Six or seven .....	5	66	27	2	100	1.23
Urgency of environmental protection:						
. Immediate and urgent ...	5	66	27	2	100	1.22
. For the future .....	9	70	18	3	100	1.09
. Not a problem at all....	23	58	15	4	100	.91
Concern about the distant future:						
. A lot .....	5	60	32	3	100	1.28
. A little .....	7	68	23	2	100	1.17
. Not at all .....	10	72	16	2	100	1.06
Level of education:						
. Low .....	7	73	19	1	100	1.12
. Medium .....	9	61	27	3	100	1.19
. High .....	4	60	34	2	100	1.31
Income:						
. -- .....	8	72	19	1	100	1.11
. - .....	9	66	22	3	100	1.14
. + .....	5	65	27	3	100	1.22
. ++ .....	5	63	31	1	100	1.27
Cognitive grasp:						
. ++ .....	7	51	38	4	100	1.33
. + .....	5	64	29	2	100	1.24
. - .....	7	69	22	2	100	1.15
. -- .....	10	76	13	1	100	1.03
Post-materialism index:						
. Materialist .....	7	75	17	1	100	1.10
. Mixed .....	6	66	26	2	100	1.21
. Post-materialist .....	6	55	37	2	100	1.31

<sup>1</sup> Index calculated by applying a weighting of 0 for unwilling, 1 for not very willing and 2 for very willing (the unclassified respondents are omitted).

FIGURE 3.1.

AVERAGE WILLINGNESS TO TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT  
AS A FUNCTION OF PER CAPITA GDP, BY COUNTRY

Willingness to take  
action to protect  
the environment



CHAPTER 4

ACTION BY THE AUTHORITIES

#### 4.1. GENERAL PERCEPTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Question: *I would like to give you certain opinions which are often expressed about the problems of the environment. Which of these opinions are you most in agreement with?*

	COMMUNITY %
. Development of the economy should take priority over questions of the environment .....	9
. Sometimes it is necessary to choose between economic development or protection of the environment .....	32
. Protecting the environment and preserving natural resources are essential to economic development .....	50
. Don't know .....	<u>9</u>
TOTAL .....	100

On the whole, Europeans seem to have learnt how important it is to protect the environment. Half regard environmental protection as essential to economic development. But one third still feel that it is sometimes necessary to choose between the two. However, fewer than one in ten would give economic development priority over environmental protection, even in the midst of an economic crisis marked by very low or even zero growth.

Of course, Europeans' perception of the problem varies from one country to another. Everywhere, however, only a minority would put environmental protection second to development - indeed, only a tiny minority in Denmark, Germany, Italy and Luxembourg (see Table 4.1.1.). In some cases, however, a large minority, or even the largest individual group say that a choice must be made between development and growth, as in Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands.



TABLE 4.4.1.

GENERAL PERCEPTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES  
BY COUNTRY

	Develop- ment of the econo- my should take prio- rity	A choice must be made be- tween the two	Protect- ing the environ- ment is essential	Don't know	TOTAL
COMMUNITY .....	9	32	50	9	100
. Belgium .....	8	49	35	8	100
. Denmark .....	3	30	55	12	100
. Germany .....	3	41	50	6	100
. France .....	11	29	56	4	100
. Ireland .....	23	26	40	11	100
. Italy .....	6	32	55	7	100
. Luxembourg .....	6	28	65	1	100
. Netherlands .....	9	40	45	6	100
. United Kingdom .....	11	32	48	9	100
. Greece .....	12	23	47	18	100
. Spain .....	12	17	47	24	100
. Portugal .....	11	33	38	18	100

Public perception of environmental problems, and of the need to protect the environment, varies from one sector of the population to another. The idea that environmental protection is essential to economic development seems to depend on level of education, on adherence to post-materialist values and on the respondent's degree of concern about the local environment and the urgency attached to environmental problems (see Table 4.1.2.). By contrast, the feeling that it is sometimes necessary to choose between economic development and environmental protection clearly varies with income levels. Finally, political allegiance influences both these replies.

TABLE 4.1.2.

GENERAL PERCEPTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

	Develop- ment of economy should take priority	A choice must be made be- tween the two	Protect- ing the environ- ment is essential	Don't know	TOTAL
TOTAL .....	9	32	50	9	100
LEVEL OF EDUCATION:					
Low .....	11	29	47	13	100
Medium .....	7	35	52	6	100
High .....	5	36	56	3	100
INCOME:					
Low -- .....	11	27	47	15	100
- .....	9	31	51	9	100
+ .....	8	34	53	5	100
High ++ .....	7	38	51	4	100
COGNITIVE GRASP:					
Leaders ++ .....	9	35	52	4	100
+ .....	7	36	53	4	100
- .....	9	32	51	8	100
Non-leaders -- .....	11	27	43	19	100
POST-MATERIALISM INDEX:					
Materialist .....	10	32	46	12	100
Mixed .....	9	34	52	5	100
Post-Materialist .....	5	32	59	4	100
POLITICAL ALLEGIANCE:					
Extreme left .....	10	24	59	7	100
Left .....	7	29	58	6	100
Centre .....	8	36	49	7	100
Right .....	10	38	46	6	100
Extreme right .....	11	34	46	9	100
NUMBER OF CAUSES OF CONCERN ABOUT THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT:					
Three or less .....	15	33	30	22	100
Four or five .....	8	38	46	8	100
Six or seven .....	7	30	57	6	100
URGENCY OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION:					
Urgent and immediate .....	7	32	55	6	100
For the future .....	12	37	42	9	100
Not a problem at all .....	21	29	28	22	100

#### 4.2. REASONS FOR INVESTING IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Question: *In some parts of the country, there is a lot of investment in projects to protect the environment. What reason would you have yourself for justifying such an investment? And the next?*

	COMMUNITY		
	First %	Second %	Total (1+2) %
. To preserve the natural resources of the region	15	11	26
. To make the region more pleasant to live in	17	16	33
. To attract more business enterprises into the region .....	5	6	11
. To fight against the lowering of conditions of life .....	14	15	29
. To encourage the development of the region for tourism .....	4	7	11
. To protect the health of the people who live there .....	28	22	50
. To help employment by developing regional businesses working for the environment ...	11	14	25
. Another reason .....	-	-	-
. Don't know .....	<u>6</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>6</u>
TOTAL .....	100	100	(1)

Public health and living conditions are the main reasons advanced by Europeans for investing heavily in environmental protection. One out of every two respondents rated public health a consideration, one in three quality of life and almost as many the fight against the lowering of living conditions. Against this background, support for environmental protection takes on a highly people-based look. Maintaining citizens' quality of life is the top reason for investing in environmental protection.

<sup>1</sup> Total over 100 because the first and second choices have been added together.

By comparison, economic reasons such as attracting new businesses or developing tourism seemed to have little impact on public opinion. No more than one person or so out of every ten mentions them, apart from the possibility that environmental protection could help create jobs (one in four). But then this too has a bearing on citizens' living conditions. Finally, a quarter of the people interviewed mentioned preservation of natural resources.

The reasons given for investing in environmental protection vary appreciably from one country to another. Denmark, Italy and Greece put the emphasis on preservation of natural resources. But in Germany and Portugal greater importance is attached to making the region more pleasant to live in. The desire to attract more businesses into the region takes precedence in Ireland, the United Kingdom, France and Belgium. In the Netherlands, Germany and Luxembourg the fight against the lowering of living conditions and public health emerge as the most compelling reasons. Purely economic reasons such as encouraging tourism and job creation find strongest support in Italy and, to a lesser extent, France and Ireland (see Table 4.2.1.).

Other criteria also colour respondents' reasons for investing. Two findings are particularly significant. First, cognitive and social factors such as level of education, cognitive grasp and income seem to determine awareness of the need to preserve natural resources. Second, the importance attached to combating the deterioration of living conditions is bound up with the degree of support for post-materialist values and with the respondent's political allegiance. These two different sets of determinants, one cognitive, the other ideological, suggest that there are two main driving forces - knowledge of the issues or political leanings (see Table 4.2.1.).

TABLE 4.2.1.

REASONS FOR INVESTING IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
(First and second choices)

	Preserve natural resources	Make the region more pleasant to live in	Attract busines- ses	Fight against the lower- ing of condi- tions	Encour- age tourism	Protect public health	Create jobs
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
<b>COUNTRY:</b>							
Belgium .....	18	32	16	30	8	53	26
Denmark .....	47	33	8	24	8	57	21
Germany .....	13	44	5	37	4	64	18
France .....	30	36	17	28	15	42	27
Ireland .....	14	33	28	24	17	51	27
Italy .....	33	20	6	28	22	46	35
Luxembourg .....	24	30	8	37	7	56	33
Netherlands .....	21	29	8	44	4	65	22
United Kingdom .....	29	32	15	25	5	53	28
Greece .....	33	31	11	20	15	45	14
Spain .....	29	29	12	21	14	36	23
Portugal .....	28	38	9	29	11	45	14
<b>LEVEL OF EDUCATION:</b>							
Low .....	23	31	11	25	11	50	27
Medium .....	27	35	11	30	11	52	24
High .....	35	31	8	40	11	47	24
<b>INCOME:</b>							
Low -- .....	21	28	11	27	10	51	28
- .....	24	32	12	30	12	46	26
+ .....	29	34	12	28	12	53	26
High ++ .....	31	35	9	32	11	52	23
<b>COGNITIVE GRASP:</b>							
++ .....	32	33	11	33	12	45	24
+ .....	28	32	10	33	11	51	26
- .....	25	35	10	26	12	52	27
-- .....	22	30	13	25	11	49	23
<b>POST-MATERIALISM INDEX:</b>							
Materialist .....	24	33	12	24	13	52	25
Mixed .....	28	33	11	30	11	52	26
Post-materialist .....	28	34	8	38	9	50	25
<b>POLITICAL ALLEGIANCE:</b>							
Extreme left .....	28	25	12	34	14	46	30
Left .....	27	33	8	32	11	52	27
Centre .....	25	33	11	28	11	53	26
Right .....	27	36	12	31	10	52	23
Extreme right .....	23	37	13	27	11	48	21
COMMUNITY .....	26	33	11	29	11	50	25

#### 4.3. VERDICT ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION MEASURES TAKEN BY THE AUTHORITIES

Question: *Do you know if (in your country) the responsible authorities are concerned with the protection of the environment? (If yes) do you think the authorities are doing an effective job or not?*

	COMMUNITY %
. They are concerned about it and it is effective .....	19
. They are concerned about it but it is not effective .....	47
. They are not concerned about it .....	16
. Don't know .....	18
TOTAL .....	100

Although almost two-thirds (66%) acknowledged that the authorities are concerned enough to take action to protect the environment, many are still relatively disappointed about the ineffectiveness of the steps taken.

In other words, in the eyes of the public the action seems more a token gesture than a serious effort to protect the environment. There are different shades of opinion in different countries. In Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands the public verdict is more favourable, even though the majority still feel that the authorities have not been doing an effective job. In Ireland, Spain and Portugal, public opinion is openly hostile, with a very large minority considering the authorities unconcerned about protecting the environment (see Table 4.3.1.).

Cognitive factors (such as level of education) and adherence to post-materialist values make little difference to views on the effectiveness of the environmental measures taken by the authorities. The opposite is true, however, of socio-political allegiance, satisfaction with democracy and satisfaction with life, all of which make a big difference. The fact that these are the chief determinants suggests that above all environmental protection is a means of taking certain types of political action and of expressing certain political views (see Table 4.3.1.).

One final piece of evidence which seems to substantiate this part of the analysis is the fact that public opinion on the action taken by the authorities to protect the environment bears little relation to the level of public concern about the environment, as if public perception of the environment were not the issue. On the other hand, the level of concern about the local environment does make a difference to public opinion on the action taken by the authorities. This is understandable insofar as central government action tends to take the form of national schemes (see Table 4.3.2.).

TABLE 4.3.1.

VERDICT ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION MEASURES  
TAKEN BY THE AUTHORITIES

	Concerned and effective	Concerned but not effective	Not concerned	Don't know	Total	Index <sup>1</sup>
<b>COUNTRY:</b>						
Belgium .....	14	56	16	14	100	1.98
Denmark .....	38	44	5	13	100	2.38
Germany .....	30	51	13	6	100	2.18
France .....	23	49	7	21	100	2.20
Ireland .....	9	48	28	15	100	1.79
Italy .....	6	54	18	22	100	1.85
Luxembourg .....	16	63	6	15	100	2.13
Netherlands .....	29	55	4	12	100	2.29
United Kingdom .....	15	42	23	20	100	1.90
Greece .....	23	42	10	25	100	2.17
Spain .....	15	32	29	24	100	1.82
Portugal .....	12	36	28	24	100	1.79
<b>LEVEL OF EDUCATION:</b>						
Low .....	19	41	17	23	100	2.02
Medium .....	19	50	16	15	100	2.04
High .....	17	58	16	9	100	2.02
<b>VALUES:</b>						
Materialist .....	19	41	15	25	100	2.05
Mixed .....	20	50	16	14	100	2.06
Post-materialist .....	14	56	22	8	100	1.91
<b>POLITICAL ALLEGIANCE:</b>						
Extreme left .....	11	52	23	14	100	1.86
Left .....	17	51	19	13	100	1.98
Centre .....	19	48	16	17	100	2.05
Right .....	25	47	13	15	100	2.15
Extreme right .....	27	43	16	14	100	2.13
<b>SATISFACTION WITH LIFE:</b>						
Very satisfied .....	24	44	16	16	100	2.10
Quite satisfied .....	19	50	14	17	100	2.06
Not very satisfied .....	12	44	24	20	100	1.85
Dissatisfied .....	15	37	28	20	100	1.83
<b>SATISFACTION WITH DEMOCRACY:</b>						
Very satisfied .....	32	43	11	14	100	2.25
Quite satisfied .....	24	49	11	16	100	2.15
Not very satisfied .....	13	49	20	18	100	1.90
Dissatisfied .....	8	45	33	14	100	1.71
COMMUNITY .....	19	47	16	18	100	2.03

<sup>1</sup> Index calculated by awarding three points to "concerned and effective", two to "concerned and not effective" and one to "not concerned" and omitting the "don't knows".



TABLE 4.3.2.

VERDICT ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION MEASURES TAKEN BY THE AUTHORITIES  
AS A FUNCTION OF THE NUMBER OF CAUSES OF CONCERN ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT

	Concerned and effective	Concerned but not effective	Not concerned	Don't know	Total	Index <sup>1</sup>
Number of causes of concern about the local environment:						
Three or less .....	21	46	14	19	100	2.08
Four or five .....	10	52	25	13	100	1.83
Six or seven .....	8	52	29	11	100	1.77
Number of causes of concern about the national and world environment:						
Three or less .....	23	34	13	30	100	2.14
Four or five .....	23	45	14	18	100	2.11
Six or seven .....	17	51	18	14	100	1.98
Urgency of environmental protection:						
Immediate and urgent	18	50	18	14	100	2.01
For the future .....	22	43	14	21	100	2.11
Not a problem at all	21	29	22	28	100	1.98
COMMUNITY .....	19	47	16	18	100	2.03

<sup>1</sup> See page 73 for details of the method of calculating this index.

## ANNEXES

BELGIUM

	A great deal	A fair amount	Not very much	Not at all	?	Total	Index <sup>1</sup>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	
<u>Where you live now, do you have reasons to complain about:</u>							
. The quality of the drinking water .....	6	9	16	65	4	100	.54
. Noise .....	8	18	24	47	3	100	.87
. Air pollution .....	10	16	26	44	4	100	.92
. The way rubbish is disposed of .....	5	11	21	60	3	100	.60
. Lack of access to open space and countryside .....	6	10	18	62	4	100	.58
. Loss of good farmland .....	8	14	21	49	8	100	.80
. Damage done to the landscape	10	17	22	46	5	100	.90

Now, about this country as a whole, how worried or concerned are you about ...

. Pollution of water, or rivers and lakes .....	30	29	22	16	3	100	1.75
. Damage caused to sea life and beaches .....	28	28	27	12	5	100	1.76
. Air pollution .....	32	29	23	13	3	100	1.83
. Disposal of industrial waste	34	25	21	17	3	100	1.79

Finally, more generally, how concerned or worried are you about ...

. The extinction in the world of plants or animal species	28	32	22	13	5	100	1.78
. The loss of natural resources in the world .....	27	29	26	13	5	100	1.73
. The possible atmospheric damage affecting the world's weather brought about by the gas (carbon dioxide) emitted from burning coal and oil products .....	28	25	26	16	5	100	1.68

<sup>1</sup> The index is calculated by applying a weighting of 3 to "a great deal" and so on down to 0 "not at all" ("don't know(?)" are omitted).

D E N M A R K

	A great deal	A fair amount	Not very much	Not at all	?	Total	Index <sup>1</sup>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Where you live now, do you have reasons to complain about:							
. The quality of the drinking water .....	3	4	8	82	3	100	.27
. Noise .....	3	7	14	75	1	100	.36
. Air pollution .....	4	8	15	71	2	100	.42
. The way rubbish is disposed of .....	2	3	4	88	3	100	.17
. Lack of access to open space and countryside .....	2	2	5	89	2	100	.15
. Loss of good farmland .....	2	3	4	77	14	100	.19
. Damage done to the landscape	4	5	8	74	9	100	.34

Now, about this country as a whole, how worried or concerned are you about ...

. Pollution of water, or rivers and lakes .....	51	26	16	5	2	100	2.24
. Damage caused to sea life and beaches .....	52	27	14	4	3	100	2.30
. Air pollution .....	43	29	20	6	2	100	2.11
. Disposal of industrial waste	56	23	12	5	4	100	2.37

Finally, more generally, how concerned or worried are you about ...

. The extinction in the world of plants or animal species	47	26	19	5	3	100	2.17
. The loss of natural resources in the world .....	44	27	18	7	4	100	2.11
. The possible atmospheric damage affecting the world's weather brought about by the gas (carbon dioxide) emitted from burning coal and oil products .....	44	28	17	7	4	100	2.15

<sup>1</sup> The index is calculated by applying a weighting of 3 to "a great deal" and so on down to 0 "not at all" ("don't know(?)" are omitted).

G E R M A N Y

	A great deal	A fair amount	Not very much	Not at all	?	Total	Index <sup>1</sup>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	
<u>Where you live now, do you have reasons to complain about:</u>							
. The quality of the drinking water .....	4	18	28	49	1	100	.77
. Noise .....	6	19	35	39	1	100	.92
. Air pollution .....	8	20	42	29	1	100	1.06
. The way rubbish is disposed of .....	3	11	26	58	2	100	.60
. Lack of access to open space and countryside .....	4	10	23	62	1	100	.55
. Loss of good farmland .....	4	15	26	46	9	100	.75
. Damage done to the landscape	8	21	28	38	5	100	.99

Now, about this country as a whole, how worried or concerned are you about ...

. Pollution of water, or rivers and lakes .....	34	50	13	2	1	100	2.18
. Damage caused to sea life and beaches .....	38	43	14	3	2	100	2.17
. Air pollution .....	36	46	14	3	1	100	2.16
. Disposal of industrial waste	39	38	17	3	3	100	2.17

Finally, more generally, how concerned or worried are you about ...

. The extinction in the world of plants or animal species	38	45	15	1	1	100	2.21
. The loss of natural resources in the world .....	26	44	24	4	2	100	1.93
. The possible atmospheric damage affecting the world's weather brought about by the gas (carbon dioxide) emitted from burning coal and oil products .....	32	41	19	5	3	100	2.03

<sup>1</sup> The index is calculated by applying a weighting of 3 to "a great deal" and so on down to 0 "not at all" ("don't know(?)" are omitted).

F R A N C E

	A great deal %	A fair amount %	Not very much %	Not at all %	? %	Total %	Index <sup>1</sup>
<u>Where you live now, do you have reasons to complain about:</u>							
. The quality of the drinking water .....	7	12	14	67	-	100	.59
. Noise .....	8	9	19	64	-	100	.61
. Air pollution .....	8	11	18	62	1	100	.65
. The way rubbish is disposed of .....	8	9	12	70	1	100	.53
. Lack of access to open space and countryside .....	5	5	9	80	1	100	.36
. Loss of good farmland .....	10	12	13	59	6	100	.70
. Damage done to the landscape	12	13	19	55	1	100	.82

Now, about this country as a whole, how worried or concerned are you about ...

. Pollution of water, or rivers and lakes .....	41	35	15	8	1	100	2.11
. Damage caused to sea life and beaches .....	45	34	10	9	2	100	2.18
. Air pollution .....	38	34	16	10	2	100	2.01
. Disposal of industrial waste	44	28	13	11	4	100	2.08

Finally, more generally, how concerned or worried are you about ...

. The extinction in the world of plants or animal species	42	34	16	6	2	100	2.15
. The loss of natural resources in the world .....	30	34	22	11	3	100	1.85
. The possible atmospheric damage affecting the world's weather brought about by the gas (carbon dioxide) emitted from burning coal and oil products .....	36	29	19	12	4	100	1.92

<sup>1</sup> The index is calculated by applying a weighting of 3 to "a great deal" and so on down to 0 "not at all" ("don't know(?)" are omitted).

I R E L A N D

	A great deal %	A fair amount %	Not very much %	Not at all %	? %	Total %	Index <sup>1</sup>
<u>Where you live now, do you have reasons to complain about:</u>							
. The quality of the drinking water .....	4	7	15	73	1	100	.40
. Noise .....	2	7	17	73	1	100	.37
. Air pollution .....	3	12	15	68	2	100	.49
. The way rubbish is disposed of .....	11	22	16	50	1	100	.95
. Lack of access to open space and countryside .....	2	5	10	81	2	100	.27
. Loss of good farmland .....	3	7	10	73	7	100	.36
. Damage done to the landscape	5	15	12	65	3	100	.59

Now, about this country as a whole, how worried or concerned are you about ...

. Pollution of water, or rivers and lakes .....	35	36	16	12	1	100	1.94
. Damage caused to sea life and beaches .....	37	33	16	13	1	100	1.95
. Air pollution .....	32	30	22	15	1	100	1.80
. Disposal of industrial waste	42	29	15	12	2	100	2.05

Finally, more generally, how concerned or worried are you about ...

. The extinction in the world of plants or animal species	21	34	28	14	3	100	1.63
. The loss of natural resources in the world .....	22	38	25	12	3	100	1.71
. The possible atmospheric damage affecting the world's weather brought about by the gas (carbon dioxide) emitted from burning coal and oil products .....	30	34	21	12	3	100	1.84

<sup>1</sup> The index is calculated by applying a weighting of 3 to "a great deal" and so on down to 0 "not at all" ("don't know(?)" are omitted).

I T A L Y

	A great deal	A fair amount	Not very much	Not at all	?	Total	Index <sup>1</sup>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	
<u>Where you live now, do you have reasons to complain about:</u>							
. The quality of the drinking water .....	16	17	16	50	1	100	1.00
. Noise .....	13	18	24	44	1	100	.99
. Air pollution .....	13	22	22	41	2	100	1.09
. The way rubbish is disposed of .....	18	22	19	38	3	100	1.21
. Lack of access to open space and countryside .....	12	16	18	53	1	100	.86
. Loss of good farmland .....	12	21	20	42	5	100	1.03
. Damage done to the landscape	20	25	19	34	2	100	1.30

Now, about this country as a whole, how worried or concerned are you about ...

. Pollution of water, or rivers and lakes .....	56	35	6	3	2	100	2.46
. Damage caused to sea life and beaches .....	57	34	6	2	1	100	2.48
. Air pollution .....	56	33	7	2	2	100	2.45
. Disposal of industrial waste	59	30	6	2	3	100	2.50

Finally, more generally, how concerned or worried are you about ...

. The extinction in the world of plants or animal species	45	40	11	3	1	100	2.28
. The loss of natural resources in the world .....	40	40	13	3	4	100	2.21
. The possible atmospheric damage affecting the world's weather brought about by the gas (carbon dioxide) emitted from burning coal and oil products .....	46	33	12	4	5	100	2.29

<sup>1</sup> The index is calculated by applying a weighting of 3 to "a great deal" and so on down to 0 "not at all" ("don't know(?)" are omitted).



L U X E M B O U R G

	A great deal	A fair amount	Not very much	Not at all	?	Total	Index <sup>1</sup>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	
<u>Where you live now, do you have reasons to complain about:</u>							
. The quality of the drinking water .....	5	6	8	75	6	100	.37
. Noise .....	11	10	27	51	1	100	.81
. Air pollution .....	15	12	26	44	3	100	.99
. The way rubbish is disposed of .....	9	9	15	61	6	100	.64
. Lack of access to open space and countryside .....	3	3	7	83	4	100	.24
. Loss of good farmland .....	10	9	14	58	9	100	.67
. Damage done to the landscape	22	15	18	42	3	100	1.17

Now, about this country as a whole, how worried or concerned are you about ...

. Pollution of water, or rivers and lakes .....	52	26	13	7	2	100	2.25
. Damage caused to sea life and beaches .....	48	26	12	8	6	100	2.21
. Air pollution .....	50	24	14	9	3	100	2.19
. Disposal of industrial waste	47	22	15	9	7	100	2.16

Finally, more generally, how concerned or worried are you about ...

. The extinction in the world of plants or animal species	58	22	13	5	2	100	2.37
. The loss of natural resources in the world .....	36	28	20	10	6	100	1.95
. The possible atmospheric damage affecting the world's weather brought about by the gas (carbon dioxide) emitted from burning coal and oil products .....	48	25	14	9	4	100	2.17

<sup>1</sup> The index is calculated by applying a weighting of 3 to "a great deal" and so on down to 0 "not at all" ("don't know(?)" are omitted).

N E T H E R L A N D S

	A great deal	A fair amount	Not very much	Not at all	?	Total	Index <sup>1</sup>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	
<u>Where you live now, do you have reasons to complain about:</u>							
. The quality of the drinking water .....	3	5	12	79	1	100	.31
. Noise .....	4	10	22	64	-	100	.54
. Air pollution .....	4	12	28	55	1	100	.64
. The way rubbish is disposed of .....	8	16	21	54	1	100	.79
. Lack of access to open space and countryside .....	3	8	13	75	1	100	.38
. Loss of good farmland .....	4	14	17	54	11	100	.64
. Damage done to the landscape	9	22	21	44	4	100	.97

Now, about this country as a whole, how worried or concerned are you about ...

. Pollution of water, or rivers and lakes .....	47	38	10	4	1	100	2.29
. Damage caused to sea life and beaches .....	49	35	11	3	2	100	2.33
. Air pollution .....	51	34	11	4	-	100	2.33
. Disposal of industrial waste	54	32	8	3	3	100	2.43

Finally, more generally, how concerned or worried are you about ...

. The extinction in the world of plants or animal species	47	34	13	5	1	100	2.25
. The loss of natural resources in the world .....	33	34	23	8	2	100	1.95
. The possible atmospheric damage affecting the world's weather brought about by the gas (carbon dioxide) emitted from burning coal and oil products .....	28	33	23	10	6	100	1.84

<sup>1</sup> The index is calculated by applying a weighting of 3 to "a great deal" and so on down to 0 "not at all" ("don't know(?)" are omitted).

UNITED KINGDOM

	A great deal	A fair amount	Not very much	Not at all	?	Total	Index <sup>1</sup>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Where you live now, do you have reasons to complain about:							
. The quality of the drinking water .....	4	8	9	78	1	100	.37
. Noise .....	5	11	15	69	-	100	.52
. Air pollution .....	4	11	13	71	1	100	.47
. The way rubbish is disposed of .....	7	13	11	68	1	100	.60
. Lack of access to open space and countryside .....	4	8	9	78	1	100	.36
. Loss of good farmland .....	6	12	10	67	5	100	.54
. Damage done to the landscape	9	20	13	56	2	100	.82

Now, about this country as a whole, how worried or concerned are you about ...

. Pollution of water, or rivers and lakes .....	36	40	15	8	1	100	2.06
. Damage caused to sea life and beaches .....	41	40	12	7	-	100	2.16
. Air pollution .....	30	35	21	12	2	100	1.86
. Disposal of industrial waste	49	31	11	8	1	100	2.22

Finally, more generally, how concerned or worried are you about ...

. The extinction in the world of plants or animal species	43	36	14	6	1	100	2.18
. The loss of natural resources in the world .....	40	37	14	7	2	100	2.12
. The possible atmospheric damage affecting the world's weather brought about by the gas (carbon dioxide) emitted from burning coal and oil products .....	37	33	17	9	4	100	2.01

<sup>1</sup> The index is calculated by applying a weighting of 3 to "a great deal" and so on down to 0 "not at all" ("don't know(?)" are omitted).

G R E E C E

	A great deal	A fair amount	Not very much	Not at all	?	Total	Index <sup>1</sup>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	
<u>Where you live now, do you have reasons to complain about:</u>							
. The quality of the drinking water .....	11	9	17	61	2	100	.68
. Noise .....	17	10	15	57	1	100	.87
. Air pollution .....	20	11	11	58	-	100	.93
. The way rubbish is disposed of .....	22	15	13	49	1	100	1.09
. Lack of access to open space and countryside .....	16	13	11	50	10	100	.93
. Loss of good farmland .....	11	12	11	50	16	100	.83
. Damage done to the landscape	18	15	13	45	9	100	1.06

Now, about this country as a whole, how worried or concerned are you about ...

. Pollution of water, or rivers and lakes .....	39	26	16	15	4	100	1.92
. Damage caused to sea life and beaches .....	48	25	14	10	3	100	2.13
. Air pollution .....	46	23	15	12	4	100	2.08
. Disposal of industrial waste	40	23	15	15	7	100	1.95

Finally, more generally, how concerned or worried are you about ...

. The extinction in the world of plants or animal species	35	22	17	19	7	100	1.79
. The loss of natural resources in the world .....	33	24	15	15	13	100	1.86
. The possible atmospheric damage affecting the world's weather brought about by the gas (carbon dioxide) emitted from burning coal and oil products .....	38	21	15	13	13	100	1.96

<sup>1</sup> The index is calculated by applying a weighting of 3 to "a great deal" and so on down to 0 "not at all" ("don't know(?)" are omitted).

S P A I N

	A great deal %	A fair amount %	Not very much %	Not at all %	? %	Total %	Index <sup>1</sup>
<u>Where you live now, do you have reasons to complain about:</u>							
. The quality of the drinking water .....	14	13	19	52	2	100	.88
. Noise .....	10	17	19	52	2	100	.84
. Air pollution .....	13	16	20	48	3	100	.94
. The way rubbish is disposed of .....	9	15	15	57	4	100	.76
. Lack of access to open space and countryside .....	13	17	15	52	3	100	.90
. Loss of good farmland .....	11	13	12	48	16	100	.83
. Damage done to the landscape	16	20	14	45	5	100	1.08

Now, about this country as a whole, how worried or concerned are you about ...

. Pollution of water, or rivers and lakes .....	51	35	6	5	3	100	2.36
. Damage caused to sea life and beaches .....	47	36	8	5	4	100	2.31
. Air pollution .....	46	36	9	5	4	100	2.29
. Disposal of industrial waste	45	35	9	6	5	100	2.27

Finally, more generally, how concerned or worried are you about ...

. The extinction in the world of plants or animal species	51	35	7	3	4	100	2.39
. The loss of natural resources in the world .....	46	37	8	4	5	100	2.32
. The possible atmospheric damage affecting the world's weather brought about by the gas (carbon dioxide) emitted from burning coal and oil products .....	43	33	11	6	7	100	2.21

<sup>1</sup> The index is calculated by applying a weighting of 3 to "a great deal" and so on down to 0 "not at all" ("don't know(?)" are omitted).

P O R T U G A L

	A great deal %	A fair amount %	Not very much %	Not at all %	? %	Total %	Index <sup>1</sup>
<u>Where you live now, do you have reasons to complain about:</u>							
. The quality of the drinking water .....	8	18	14	58	2	100	.76
. Noise .....	12	16	17	53	2	100	.85
. Air pollution .....	11	17	18	51	3	100	.87
. The way rubbish is disposed of .....	14	22	17	45	2	100	1.05
. Lack of access to open space and countryside .....	9	11	16	60	4	100	.70
. Loss of good farmland .....	8	16	17	52	7	100	.79
. Damage done to the landscape	10	17	17	50	6	100	.87

Now, about this country as a whole, how worried or concerned are you about ...

. Pollution of water, or rivers and lakes .....	44	31	11	9	5	100	2.17
. Damage caused to sea life and beaches .....	43	30	11	9	7	100	2.15
. Air pollution .....	40	30	15	9	6	100	2.08
. Disposal of industrial waste	44	29	11	8	8	100	2.18

Finally, more generally, how concerned or worried are you about ...

. The extinction in the world of plants or animal species	40	33	10	9	8	100	2.13
. The loss of natural resources in the world .....	37	32	13	7	11	100	2.11
. The possible atmospheric damage affecting the world's weather brought about by the gas (carbon dioxide) emitted from burning coal and oil products .....	42	29	9	7	13	100	2.22

<sup>1</sup> The index is calculated by applying a weighting of 3 to "a great deal" and so on down to 0 "not at all" ("don't know(?)" are omitted).

INFLUENCE OF SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC FACTORS

	TOTAL	SEX		AGE			
		M.	F.	15-24	25-39	40-54	55 and over
<u>Where you live now, do you have reasons to complain about:</u>							
. The quality of the drinking water .....	.68	.68	.67	.61	.76	.70	.63
. Noise .....	.76	.75	.78	.72	.80	.79	.73
. Air pollution .....	.83	.83	.83	.85	.85	.88	.75
. The way rubbish is disposed of .....	.74	.75	.73	.79	.82	.79	.61
. Lack of access to open space and countryside .....	.58	.58	.57	.65	.64	.60	.45
. Loss of good farmland .....	.75	.77	.73	.70	.76	.81	.73
. Damage done to the landscape	.98	1.01	.95	.97	1.08	.99	.87

Now, about this country as a whole, how worried or concerned are you about ...

. Pollution of water, or rivers and lakes .....	2.20	2.22	2.18	2.18	2.26	2.25	2.11
. Damage caused to sea life and beaches .....	2.23	2.24	2.23	2.23	2.32	2.27	2.12
. Air pollution .....	2.13	2.14	2.13	2.13	2.23	2.19	2.01
. Disposal of industrial waste	2.23	2.24	2.22	2.21	2.34	2.27	2.10

Finally, more generally, how concerned or worried are you about ...

. The extinction in the world of plants or animal species	2.19	2.21	2.19	2.19	2.27	2.23	2.11
. The loss of natural resources in the world ....	2.04	2.05	2.04	2.02	2.11	2.09	1.96
. The possible atmospheric damage affecting the world's weather brought about by the gas (carbon dioxide) emitted from burning coal and oil products .....	2.06	2.04	2.07	2.03	2.10	2.13	1.97

INFLUENCE OF SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC FACTORS

	AGE OF FINISHING FULL-TIME STUDIES			LEVEL OF INCOME				SIZE OF LOCALITY		
	15 or under	16-19	20 or over	--	-	+	++	Village	Small town	Big town or city
<u>Where you live now, do you have reasons to complain about:</u>										
. The quality of the drinking water	.68	.64	.76	.68	.75	.65	.67	.62	.72	.69
. Noise .....	.73	.77	.87	.73	.79	.80	.77	.50	.79	1.06
. Air pollution .....	.78	.85	.94	.75	.82	.86	.88	.49	.81	1.29
. The way rubbish is disposed of ..	.71	.72	.90	.68	.77	.76	.80	.55	.75	.98
. Lack of access to open space and countryside .....	.54	.58	.69	.55	.58	.60	.58	.26	.60	.94
. Loss of good farmland .....	.72	.75	.84	.72	.79	.78	.74	.53	.82	.95
. Damage done to the landscape ....	.88	.99	1.22	.90	.97	1.03	1.06	.65	1.05	1.31
 <u>Now, about this country as a whole, how worried or concerned are you about ...</u>										
. Pollution of water, or rivers and lakes .....	2.14	2.21	2.36	2.07	2.17	2.27	2.30	2.13	2.20	2.28
. Damage caused to sea life and beaches .....	2.15	2.26	2.42	2.10	2.23	2.28	2.35	2.13	2.25	2.34
. Air pollution .....	2.06	2.17	2.28	2.01	2.18	2.26	2.06	2.06	2.12	2.24
. Disposal of industrial waste ....	2.15	2.27	2.39	2.07	2.23	2.26	2.35	2.15	2.24	2.31
 <u>Finally, more generally, how concerned or worried are you about ...</u>										
. The extinction in the world of plants or animal species .....	2.13	2.21	2.36	2.10	2.17	2.23	2.27	2.15	2.20	2.24
. The loss of natural resources in the world .....	1.99	2.05	2.21	1.93	2.03	2.10	2.09	1.99	2.06	2.09
. The possible atmospheric damage affecting the world's weather brought about by the gas (carbon dioxide) emitted from burning coal and oil products .....	2.03	2.06	2.14	1.97	2.05	2.12	2.06	1.98	2.10	2.10



INFLUENCE OF SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC FACTORS

	TYPE OF HOUSING							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<u>Where you live now, do you have reasons to complain about:</u>								
. The quality of the drinking water .....	.41	.61	.53	.63	.79	.79	.96	.83
. Noise .....	.30	.54	.57	.78	.96	1.07	1.13	.98
. Air pollution .....	.34	.57	.57	.82	1.02	1.19	1.27	1.14
. The way rubbish is disposed of .....	.54	.55	.58	.81	.97	.79	1.08	1.14
. Lack of access to open space and countryside .....	.15	.30	.34	.59	.69	.88	1.04	.91
. Loss of good farmland .....	.52	.55	.61	.74	.93	.96	1.10	.94
. Damage done to the landscape .....	.54	.72	.80	.97	1.17	1.21	1.41	1.43
<u>Now, about this country as a whole, how worried or concerned are you about ...</u>								
. Pollution of water, or rivers and lakes .....	1.90	2.11	2.16	2.19	2.34	2.31	2.34	2.29
. Damage caused to sea life and beaches .....	1.90	2.15	2.22	2.20	2.38	2.35	2.37	2.35
. Air pollution .....	1.77	2.07	2.02	2.11	2.25	2.30	2.31	2.26
. Disposal of industrial waste .....	1.91	2.15	2.24	2.23	2.31	2.30	2.30	2.42
<u>Finally, more generally, how concerned or worried are you about ...</u>								
. The extinction in the world of plants or animal species	2.04	2.15	2.18	2.16	2.33	2.29	2.28	2.17
. The loss of natural resources in the world .....	1.76	1.99	2.07	2.03	2.14	2.07	2.16	2.04
. The possible atmospheric damage affecting the world's weather brought about by the gas (carbon dioxide) emitted from burning coal and oil products .....	1.75	2.03	2.04	2.02	2.14	2.15	2.20	2.01

INFLUENCE OF SOCIO-POLITICAL FACTORS

	TOTAL	VALUES			LEADERSHIP			
		Mat.	Mixed	Post- mat.	--	-	+	++
<u>Where you live now, do you have reasons to complain about ...</u>								
. The quality of the drinking water .....	.68	.65	.67	.74	.64	.67	.67	.77
. Noise .....	.76	.76	.75	.84	.71	.75	.78	.88
. Air pollution .....	.83	.78	.81	1.00	.70	.81	.89	.94
. The way rubbish is disposed of .....	.74	.73	.72	.84	.63	.72	.80	.87
. Lack of access to open space and countryside .....	.58	.52	.57	.72	.47	.57	.61	.71
. Loss of good farmland .....	.75	.71	.74	.85	.60	.74	.81	.90
. Damage done to the landscape	.98	.85	.97	1.28	.76	.94	1.09	1.20
<u>Now, about this country as a whole, how worried or concerned are you about ...</u>								
. Pollution of water, or rivers and lakes .....	2.20	2.09	2.24	2.43	1.99	2.20	2.28	2.36
. Damage caused to sea life and beaches .....	2.23	2.11	2.27	2.47	1.99	2.23	2.33	2.44
. Air pollution .....	2.13	2.06	2.15	2.37	1.90	2.15	2.22	2.29
. Disposal of industrial waste	2.23	2.12	2.26	2.47	1.98	2.23	2.33	2.40
<u>Finally, more generally, how concerned or worried are you about ...</u>								
. The extinction in the world of plants or animal species	2.19	2.09	2.23	2.42	1.99	2.20	2.27	2.36
. The loss of natural resources in the world .....	2.04	1.97	2.07	2.22	1.85	2.03	2.12	2.24
. The possible atmospheric damage affecting the world's weather brought about by the gas (carbon dioxide) emitted from burning coal and oil products .....	2.06	2.00	2.09	2.21	1.87	2.07	2.13	2.18

INFLUENCE OF SOCIO-POLITICAL FACTORS

	POSITION ON LEFT/ RIGHT SCALE					SATISFACTION WITH LIFE			
	1/2	3/4	5/6	7/8	9/10	++	+	-	--
<u>Where you live now, do you have reasons to complain about ...</u>									
. The quality of the drinking water .....	.83	.73	.66	.62	.65	.55	.67	.82	.90
. Noise .....	.92	.85	.72	.70	.74	.62	.77	.91	.98
. Air pollution .....	1.00	.93	.80	.73	.82	.69	.84	.90	1.10
. The way rubbish is disposed of .....	.94	.80	.70	.65	.68	.63	.73	.93	.96
. Lack of access to open space and countryside .....	.85	.67	.54	.45	.47	.43	.57	.73	.94
. Loss of good farmland .....	.93	.79	.74	.69	.72	.65	.73	.87	1.07
. Damage done to the landscape	1.21	1.09	.96	.89	.84	.85	.97	1.10	1.29
<u>Now, about this country as a whole, how worried or concerned are you about ...</u>									
. Pollution of water, or rivers and lakes .....	2.38	2.29	2.20	2.12	2.12	2.18	2.19	2.24	2.28
. Damage caused to sea life and beaches .....	2.41	2.34	2.21	2.17	2.20	2.20	2.23	2.28	2.31
. Air pollution .....	2.30	2.23	2.12	2.06	2.09	2.05	2.15	2.17	2.23
. Disposal of industrial waste .....	2.38	2.35	2.23	2.13	2.13	2.20	2.23	2.25	2.26
<u>Finally, more generally, how concerned or worried are you about ...</u>									
. The extinction in the world of plants or animal species	2.35	2.28	2.16	2.16	2.19	2.21	2.18	2.21	2.24
. The loss of natural resources in the world ....	2.18	2.11	2.02	1.99	2.07	2.08	2.02	2.06	2.11
. The possible atmospheric damage affecting the world's weather brought about by the gas (carbon dioxide) emitted from burning coal and oil products .....	2.17	2.13	2.05	1.99	2.04	1.98	2.06	2.13	2.17

SOCIO-POLITICAL CLASSIFICATIONS  
USED IN EUROBAROMETER SURVEYS

A. POLITICAL POSITION

Question: "In political matters, people talk of the 'left' and the 'right'. How would you place your views on this scale? (The interviewer shows a scale from 1 (left) to 10 (right)."

The question makes it possible to classify interviewees in one of several sections:

- extreme left	:	1 + 2
- left	:	3 + 4
- centre	:	5 + 6
- right	:	7 + 8
- extreme right	:	9 + 10

The scale also makes it possible to calculate the average score for any section of the population.

B. SATISFACTION WITH LIFE AND THE WAY DEMOCRACY WORKS

Question: "On the whole, are you satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the life you lead?"

Question: "On the whole, are you satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the way democracy works (in your country)?"

The answers to these two questions provide useful indicators of (a) private mood and (b) attitude to political matters.

### C. LEVEL OF EDUCATION

Given the great diversity of school and university systems in the twelve Member States, and the fact that the school systems experienced by older people were different from current ones, information on the level of education of people interviewed in European surveys is gathered as follows:

Question: "How old were you when you finished your full-time studies?"

Interviewees were allocated to one of three levels (depending on the length of study):

- low: finished at 15 or before;
- medium: finished at 16, 17, 18 or 19;
- high: finished at 20 or after.

### D. LEVEL OF INCOME

Question: "We would like to analyse the survey results according to the income of persons interviewed. Here is a scale of incomes and we would like to know in what group you would put your family, counting all wages, salaries and pensions and any other income".

Each country uses a scale comprising 8 to 12 categories, corresponding to national norms (notably monthly or annual income).

In the analysis stage, the distribution of answers in each country is studied (log-normal distribution) and four quartiles are established. On a Community basis, the highest quartiles of each country are considered together, then the next highest, and so on. Finally, the results are classified in four groups, plus another group for those who refused to reply.

Lowest quartile	R--
	R-
	R+
Highest quartile	R++

## E. THE COGNITIVE PERCEPTION (LEADERSHIP) INDEX

What is an opinion leader? It is someone who, in carrying out certain social functions, generally exerts on the opinions of others more influence than the others exert on him. If all the members of a social group were equivalent and interchangeable in the formation of the opinions, attitudes and behaviour in the group, the group would continue to function in some way even if a certain member disappeared. The leader is the person who changes things: he influences the others more than he is himself influenced by them, and not only occasionally but in a relatively constant and foreseeable fashion.

One of the aims of market research, opinion polls and more generally research on social psychology is to pinpoint leaders. Only three ways of doing this are known:

1. The sociometric study of the respective influences in a given group, but this method is really only practicable in a laboratory or in small groups.
2. The interrogation of informants who identify those who, in their opinion, are leaders in a given group. This method has the same limitation as the previous one and in addition may pinpoint "persons of distinction", i.e. people occupying a social situation regarded as important, rather than "leaders" genuinely involved in the life of the group.
3. Automatic selection of leaders by means of a survey; this method consists of defining leaders as individuals having certain characteristics giving them what is generally accepted to be an attitude of leadership: interest in certain problems, scope and intensity of activity in the life of the group.

The last method was adopted because it appeared the only one practical in opinion polls on representative samples of numerous and diverse populations.

The analysis of the results gathered in previous polls showed that it was statistically significant to construct a leadership index on the basis of the replies given by all those interviewed to two questions concerning their inclination to discuss politics with friends and their tendency to persuade others of an opinion that they hold strongly themselves. To avoid any confusion with the concept of "public leader" often used in other polls, the term "cognitive perception" index has been preferred here.

This index was constructed with four degrees, the highest degree corresponding to those whom we regard as being opinion leaders (approximately 12% of the European population), and the lowest degree corresponding to non-leaders (approximately 25%); the two intermediate degrees correspond to individuals who have slightly more and slightly less leadership qualities than the average member of the general public.

The following table shows how the leadership index was constructed:

	Persuade others ...				
	<u>often</u>	<u>sometimes</u>	<u>rarely</u>	<u>never</u>	<u>don't know</u>
Discuss politics ...					
often	++	++	+	+	+
sometimes	+	+	-	-	-
never	-	-	--	--	--
don't know	-	-	--	--	--

F. POST-MATERIALISM INDICATOR

*(Based on the work of Ronald Inglehart, in particular "The Silent Revolution: Changing Values and Political Styles among Western Publics", Princeton University Press, 1977).*

The post-materialism indicator, designed to measure the attachment of each interviewee to post-materialist or, by contrast, materialist values, is constructed from responses to the following question:

"There is a lot of talk these days about what (this country's) goals should be for the next ten or fifteen years. On this card are listed some of the goals that different people say should be given top priority. Would you please say which one of them you yourself consider the most important in the long run?" (SHOW CARD - ONE ANSWER ONLY).

"And what would be your second choice?"

<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>	
1	1	Maintaining order in the nation
2	2	Giving the people more say in important government decisions
3	3	Fighting rising prices
4	4	Protecting freedom of speech
0	0	Don't know

The interviewee, confronted with a forced choice, expresses a preference either for materialist ideas ("maintaining order", "fighting rising prices"), or for post-materialist ones ("giving the people more say", "protecting freedom of speech"). As he has two choices, there are three possible combinations: two post-materialist answers; one post-materialist answer and one materialist; two materialist answers. Those not expressing either a first or a second choice, or both, are not classified. With the aid of the following tables, individuals can be divided into four groups.

1st answer

	Maintain- ing order	Giving people more say	Fighting rising prices	Protect- ing free- dom of speech	Don't know
Maintaining order	-	Mixed	Mat.	Mixed	*
Giving people more say	Mixed	-	Mixed	Post-mat.	*
Fighting rising prices	Mat.	Mixed	-	Mixed	*
Protecting freedom of speech	Mixed	Post-mat.	Mixed	-	*
Don't know	*	*	*	*	*

\* Unclassified.



ANALYSIS OF THE CORRELATION BETWEEN THE DIFFERENT REASONS GIVEN FOR  
CONSIDERING THE INDIVIDUAL FORMS OF POLLUTION SERIOUS

Each respondent was allowed to choose two reasons for considering the individual forms of pollution serious.

The table set out below shows which first and second choices were paired by every 100 people answering.

Out of every 100 people mentioning ...

	High cost of repair	Risk of pollution spreading	Lowers the quality of life	The threat to the whole environment	Consequences for future generations	The public health threat	Average
- High cost of repair	-	5	6	5	4	6	5
- Risk of pollution spreading	9	-	6	12	11	7	9
- Lowers the quality of life	21	14	-	18	21	31	22
- The threat to the whole environment	23	32	21	-	34	26	27
- Consequences for future generations	16	26	23	31	-	22	25
- The public health threat	<u>27</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>29</u>
TOTAL	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(**)

(\*) Total lower than 100 since not everyone gave two reasons.

(\*\*) Total higher than 100 since this is only the theoretical average.

The right-hand column shows the average percentage of the sample giving any chosen pair of reasons. It brings out any positive or inverse correlations between reason X and reason Y, i.e. it reveals whether there is any particular correlation between the two reasons. To produce meaningful findings, the correlation between the two reasons must be checked both ways.

The most significant correlations to emerge were:

Positive correlations:

- "it menaces the health of people" and " it lowers the quality of life";
- "any specific pollution ... puts at risk our whole natural background or environment" and "damage already inflicted on the environment risks having consequences for future generations";
- "any specific pollution ... puts at risk our whole natural background or environment" and "when the environment is damaged somewhere this will be liable to spread to other regions or countries".

Inverse correlations:

- "it lowers the quality of life" and "any specific pollution ... puts at risk our whole natural background or environment";
- "it lowers the quality of life" and "when the environment is damaged somewhere this will be liable to spread to other regions or to other countries".

INSTITUTS CHARGES DU SONDAGE ET SPECIALISTES RESPONSABLES /

INSTITUTES WHICH CARRIED OUT THE SURVEY AND EXPERTS IN CHARGE (\*)

BELGIQUE/BELGIE	DIMARSO N.V. rue des Colonies, 54, B-1000 Bruxelles Tél.: 02/219.24.08	Nicolas JAMAR
DANMARK	GALLUP MARKEDSANALYSE A/S Gammel Vartov Vej 6, DK-2900 Hellerup Tél.: 01/29.88.00	Rolf RANDRUP Poul KOELLER
DEUTSCHLAND	EMNID-INSTITUT GmbH Bodenschwinghstraße, 23-25a D-4800 Bielefeld 1 Tél.: 0521/260.010	Walter TACKE Klaus-Peter SCHOEPPNER Heidrun BODE
ELLAS	ICAP HELLAS S.A. Vas. Sophias, 64, GR-Athinai 615 Tél.: 01/7225.651	Anthony LYKIARDOPOULOS Tillemachos DIB
ESPAÑA	Instituto de Investigacion GALLUP Calle Fortuny, 14, 4º C, E-Madrid 28010 Tél.: 1/410.43.45	Jorge J. MIQUEL CALATAYUD Luis PAMBLANCO
FRANCE	INSTITUT DE SONDAGES LAVIALLE 6-8, rue du 4 Septembre F-92130 Issy-les-Moulineaux Tél.: 1/45.54.97.11	Albert LAVIALLE Florence FABRE
IRELAND	IRISH MARKETING SURVEYS Ltd 19-20 Upper Pembroke Street IRL-Dublin 2 Tél.: 1/76.11.96	Charles COYLE
ITALIA	ISTITUTO PER LE RICERCHE STATISTICHE E L'ANALISI DELL'OPINIONE PUBBLICA (DOXA) Galleria San Carlo, 6 I-20122 Milano Tél.: 02/790.871	Ennio SALAMON Alfonso del RE
LUXEMBOURG	INSTITUT LUXEMBOURGEOIS DE RECHERCHES SOCIALES (ILRES) 6, rue du Marché-aux-Herbes GD-Luxembourg Tél.: 0352/47.50.21	Louis MEVIS Edmée MEVIS
NEDERLAND	NEDERLANDS INSTITUUT VOOR DE PUBLIEKE OPINIE (NIPO) B.V. Barentzplein, 7, NL-1013 NJ Amsterdam Tél.: 020/24.88.44	Arnold WEIJTLANDT Martin JONKER
PORTUGAL	NORMA - Sociedade de Estudos para o Desenvolvimento de Empresas, S.A.R.L. Avenida 5 de Outubro, 122-8º P-1000 Lisboa Tél.: 1/76.76.04	J.A. VIDAL de OLIVEIRA
UNITED KINGDOM (**)	SOCIAL SURVEYS (GALLUP POLL) 202 Finchley Road, UK-LONDON NW3 6BL Tél.: 01/794.04.61	Norman WEBB Robert WYBROW

2° Choix des personnes interrogées.

Les personnes interrogées sont toujours différentes d'une enquête à l'autre. L'échantillon-maître aléatoire évoqué ci-dessus indique le nombre de personnes à interroger à chaque point d'enquête. Au stade suivant, les personnes à interroger sont désignées:

- soit par un tirage au sort sur liste dans les pays où on peut avoir accès à des listes exhaustives d'individus ou de foyers: Danemark, Luxembourg, Pays-Bas;
- soit par échantillonnage stratifié sur la base des statistiques de recensement, l'échantillon étant construit à partir des critères de sexe, âge et profession: Belgique, France, Italie, Royaume-Uni, Irlande;
- soit par une méthode combinant les deux précédentes (cheminement systématique): Allemagne, Grèce, Espagne, Portugal.

2° Choice of respondents

For each survey different individuals are interviewed in the master sample of sampling point described above. Within these sampling points the individuals to be interviewed are chosen:

- either at random from the population or electoral lists in those countries where access to suitable lists of individuals or households is possible: Denmark, Luxembourg, Netherlands.
- or by quota sampling. In these cases the quotas are established by sex, age and occupation on the basis of census data: this system is used in Belgium, France, Italy, United Kingdom, Ireland;
- or by a method combining the two precedent ones ("random route"): Germany, Greece, Spain, Portugal.

	Population (1)			Echantillons/ Samples (2) (Euro-Baromètre n° 25)	Dates (Euro-Baromètre n° 25)
	Milliers /Thou- sands	% CE/EC 10	% CE/EC 12		
B	7 924	3.64	3.12	1 008	28/III-14/III/1986
DK	4 133	1.90	1.62	1 043	20-30/III
D	51 466	23.62	20.26	987	24/III-30/IV
GR	7 715	3.54	3.04	1 000	21/III-12/IV
F	42 851	19.67	16.87	1 003	31/III-25/IV
IRL	2 455	1.13	.97	1 002	27/III-11/IV
I	44 438	20.39	17.49	1 106	20/III-11/IV
L	300	.14	.12	299	28/III-21/IV
NL	11 400	5.23	4.49	1 001	26/III-4/IV
UK	45 207	20.75	17.79	1 383	20/III-11/IV
CE/EC 10	217 889	100.00	85.77	9 832	20/III-30/IV
E	28 854	-	11.36	1 008	19/III-6/IV
P	7 314	-	2.88	1 000	21/III-14/IV
CE/EC 12	254 057	-	100.00	11 840	19/III-30/IV

Il est rappelé que les résultats obtenus par sondage sont des estimations dont le degré de certitude et de précision dépend, toutes choses égales d'ailleurs, du nombre des individus constituant l'échantillon. Avec des échantillons de l'ordre de 1 000, on admet généralement qu'une différence inférieure à cinq pour cent entre deux pourcentages est au-dessous du niveau acceptable de confiance.

Readers are reminded that sample survey results are estimations, the degree of certainty and precision of which, everything being kept equal, rests upon the number of cases. With samples of about 1 000, it is generally admitted that a percentage difference of less than five per cent is below the acceptable level of confidence.

(1) 15 ans et plus. / 15 years and over.

(2) Nombre d'interviews. / Number of interviews.

Coordination internationale / International co-ordination:  
Hélène RIFFAULT  
"Faits et Opinions"  
25, rue Cambon F-75001 Paris  
Tél.: 1/4296.41.65

Toutes les données relatives aux Euro-Baromètres sont déposées aux "Belgian Archives for the Social Sciences", (1 Place Montesquieu, B-1348 Louvain-la-Neuve). Elles sont tenues à la disposition des organismes membres du European Consortium for Political Research (Essex), du Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (Michigan) et des chercheurs justifiant d'un intérêt de recherche.

All Euro-Barometre data are stored at the Belgian Archives for the Social Sciences (1, Place Montesquieu, B-1348 Louvain-la-Neuve). They are at the disposal of all institutes members of the European Consortium for Political Research (Essex), of the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (Michigan) and all those interested in social science research.

Pour tous renseignements sur les études d'opinion publique faites à l'initiative de la Commission des Communautés européennes, écrire à J.-R. RABIER, Conseiller spécial, 200, rue de la Loi, B-1049 Bruxelles.

For all information regarding opinion surveys carried out for the Commission of the European Communities, please write to J.-R. RABIER, Special Counsellor, 200 rue de la Loi, B-1049 Brussels.

(\*) Les douze instituts actuellement chargés de ces sondages ont formé entre eux THE EUROPEAN OMNIBUS SURVEY, dont le comité de direction comprend: Robert GIJS (DIMARSO, Bruxelles), Jan STAPEL (NIPO, Amsterdam) et Norman WEBB (SOCIAL SURVEYS, London). / The twelve institutes which carried out these surveys have formed amongst themselves THE EUROPEAN OMNIBUS SURVEY of which the Management Committee comprises: Robert GIJS (DIMARSO, Brussels), Jan STAPEL (NIPO, Amsterdam) and Norman WEBB (SOCIAL SURVEYS, London).

(\*\*) Le sondage en Northern Ireland est fait en collaboration par Irish Marketing surveys et Social Surveys (Gallup Poll). / The Northern Ireland survey is conducted jointly by Irish Marketing Surveys and Social Surveys (Gallup Poll).

#### ECHANTILLONNAGE / SAMPLING

L'objectif de la méthode d'échantillonnage est de couvrir de façon représentative la totalité de la population âgée de 15 ans et plus, des douze pays de la Communauté élargie. L'échantillonnage de chaque pays est constitué à deux niveaux:

The sample has been designed to be representative of the total population aged 15 years and over of the twelve countries of the enlarged Community. In each country a two stage sampling method is used:

##### 1° Régions et localités d'enquête

L'enquête a lieu sur l'ensemble du territoire des douze pays, soit 138 régions. (Voir liste ci-jointe p. A 4).

##### 1° Geographical distribution

The survey covers the whole territory of the twelve countries i. e. 138 regions. (See attached list p. A 4).

Chaque pays a constitué aléatoirement un échantillon-maître de localités d'enquête, de telle sorte que toutes les catégories d'habitat soient représentées proportionnellement à leurs populations respectives.

In each country a random selection of sampling points is made in such a way that all types of area (urban, rural, etc.) are represented in proportion to their populations.

Au total, les interviews ont lieu dans environ 1 350 points d'enquête.

The interviews are distributed in more or less 1 350 sampling points.

# QUESTIONNAIRE

Mercredi 12 Mars 1986  
QUESTIONNAIRE EURO 25

- 2 -

130. Diriez-vous que ce qui se passera dans le monde dans l'avenir, par exemple dans cent ans, c'est quelque chose qui vous intéresse beaucoup, un peu ou pas du tout ?

1. Beaucoup
2. Un peu
3. Pas du tout
0. ?

Mercredi 12 Mars 1986  
QUESTIONNAIRE EURO 25

- 2 -

130. Would you say that what will happen in the world in the future, by which I mean in a hundred years time, is something that concerns you a lot, a little or not at all ?

1. A lot
2. A little
3. Not at all
0. No response

162/ Là où vous habitez, avez-vous des raisons de vous plaindre  
168. des choses suivantes : beaucoup, assez, peu, pas du tout ?  
(Si vous n'avez aucune raison de vous plaindre, n'hésitez  
pas à le dire).

	Beaucoup	Assez	Peu	Pas du tout	?
. La qualité de l'eau potable	1	2	3	4	0
. Le bruit.....	1	2	3	4	0
. La pollution de l'air.....	1	2	3	4	0
. La manière de se débarrasser des déchets.....	1	2	3	4	0
. Le manque d'accès aux espaces verts et à la campagne.....	1	2	3	4	0
. La disparition des bonnes terres de culture.....	1	2	3	4	0
. L'enlaidissement du paysage	1	2	3	4	0

TREND MODIFIE EURO 18-QUESTIONS 163 A 168

169/ Maintenant, à propos de (votre pays) d'une manière générale,  
172. j'aimerais savoir dans quelle mesure vous êtes inquiet ou  
préoccupé au sujet d'un certain nombre de problèmes que je  
vais mentionner ?

	Beaucoup	Assez	Peu	Pas du tout	?
. La pollution de l'eau des rivières et des lacs.....	1	2	3	4	0
. Les dommages causés à la faune marine et aux plages.	1	2	3	4	0
. La pollution de l'air.....	1	2	3	4	0
. La manière de se débarrasser des déchets industriels.....	1	2	3	4	0

TREND MODIFIE EURO 18-QUESTIONS 169 A 172

173/ Finalement, dans quelle mesure êtes-vous inquiet ou  
175. préoccupé par les choses suivantes ?

	Beaucoup	Assez	Peu	Pas du tout	?
. La disparition dans le monde de plantes ou d'espèces animales.....	1	2	3	4	0
. L'épuisement des ressources naturelles mondiales.....	1	2	3	4	0
. Les possibilités de change- ment du climat terrestre pro- voqué par le gaz carbonique provenant de la combustion du charbon et des produits pétroliers.....	1	2	3	4	0

TREND MODIFIE EURO 18-QUESTIONS 175 A 177

176. Beaucoup de personnes s'intéressent au problème de la  
protection de l'environnement et de la lutte contre la  
pollution. A votre avis, est-ce que c'est surtout un  
problème urgent et immédiat, ou surtout un problème pour  
l'avenir, ou bien n'est-ce pas tellement un problème ?

1. Problème immédiat et urgent
2. Problème pour l'avenir
3. Pas tellement un problème
0. ?

162/ Where you live now, do you have reasons to complain about  
168. the following things : a great deal, a fair amount, not very  
much, or not at all. If you have no reason to complain,  
please don't hesitate to say 'no'.

	A great deal	A fair amount	Not Very much	Not at all	?
162. The quality of the drinking water .....	1	2	3	4	0
163. Noise .....	1	2	3	4	0
164. Air pollution .....	1	2	3	4	0
165. The way rubbish is disposed of	1	2	3	4	0
166. Lack of access to open space and country side .....	1	2	3	4	0
167. Loss of good farmland .....	1	2	3	4	0
168. Damage done to the landscape	1	2	3	4	0

TREND EURO 18 - Q. 163 TO 168 MODIFIED

169/ Now, about this country as a whole, I would like to find out  
172. how worried or concerned you are about a number of problems I  
am going to mention : a great deal, a fair amount, not very  
much, or not at all ?

	A great deal	A fair amount	Not Very much	Not at all	?
169. Pollution of waters of rivers and lakes .....	1	2	3	4	0
170. Damage caused to sea life and beaches .....	1	2	3	4	0
171. Air pollution .....	1	2	3	4	0
172. Disposal of industrial waste	1	2	3	4	0

TREND EURO 18 - Q. 169 TO 172 MODIFIED

173/ Finally, more generally, how concerned or worried are you  
175. about the following : a great deal, a fair amount, not very  
much or not at all ?

	A great deal	A fair amount	Not Very much	Not at all	?
173. The extinction in the world of plants or animal species ...	1	2	3	4	0
174. The loss of natural resources in the world .....	1	2	3	4	0
175. The possible atmosphere damages affecting the world's weather brought about by the gas (carb- on dioxide) emitted from burning coal and oil products .....	1	2	3	4	0

TREND EURO 18 - Q. 175 TO 177 MODIFIED

176. Many people are concerned about the protection of environment  
and the struggle against pollution. Would you say that, in  
your opinion, this is an urgent and immediate problem, more a  
problem for the future, or not really a problem at all ?

1. An urgent and immediate problem
2. More a problem for the future
3. Not really a problem at all
0. ?



177. Quand on parle des atteintes graves à l'environnement, à quoi pensez-vous surtout ? Veuillez choisir dans cette liste les trois choses qui vous viennent immédiatement à l'esprit. (MONTRER LISTE, TROIS REPONSES POSSIBLES).

1. Les débris qui traînent dans les rues, les espaces verts, les plages
2. Les constructions sauvages qui détériorent les paysages
3. Les usines qui répandent des produits chimiques dangereux dans l'air ou dans l'eau
4. L'érosion des terres
5. Les voitures qui polluent l'air
6. Le gaspillage des ressources naturelles rares (minerais, pétrole, etc...)
7. Le bruit occasionné par certaines activités (travaux, routes à fort trafic, aéroports, etc...)
8. L'utilisation exagérée en agriculture des désherbants, insecticides et engrais
9. Le mazout qui pollue la mer et le littoral
- X. Les déchets industriels qui sont abandonnés n'importe où
- Y. Les pluies acides qui détériorent les forêts
0. ?

178. En quoi ces atteintes à l'environnement vous paraissent-elles graves ? (MONTRER LISTE, DEUX REPONSES POSSIBLES)

1. Les mesures de réparation qu'il faut prendre coûtent cher.
2. Quand il y a quelque part atteinte à l'environnement, cela risque de s'étendre à d'autres régions ou à autres pays
3. Cela diminue la qualité de la vie
4. Une pollution particulière de l'eau, ou de l'air, ou du sol, met en danger l'ensemble des milieux naturels
5. Les atteintes faites aujourd'hui à l'environnement risquent d'avoir des conséquences pour les générations futures
6. Cela menace la santé des populations
7. Autre (PRECISER)
- 0.

179/ Parmi les choses suivantes, y en a-t-il que vous avez déjà faites ? (MONTRER LISTE, PLUSIEURS REPONSES POSSIBLES).  
180. faites ? (MONTRER LISTE, PLUSIEURS REPONSES POSSIBLES).  
Et y en a-t-il que vous seriez prêt à faire ou à faire plus souvent ? (MEME LISTE, PLUSIEURS REPONSES POSSIBLES)

	179 Choses déjà faites	180 Choses qu'on pourrait faire
Faire attention à ne pas jeter de papiers ou de déchets par terre...	1	1
Ne pas gaspiller l'eau du robinet..	2	2
Veiller à ne pas faire trop de bruit	3	3
Faire installer sur votre voiture un dispositif pour limiter la teneur en gaz carbonique de votre pot d'échappement.....	4	4
Donner de l'argent pour des actions de conservation de la nature.....	5	5
Faire attention au recyclage possible de certains déchets ménagers (verre usagé, vieux papiers, huile de vidange, etc).....	6	6
Participer à une action locale de restauration de l'environnement, comme, par exemple, le nettoyage d'une plage.....	7	7
Manifester contre un projet pouvant nuire à l'environnement.....	8	8
Soutenir personnellement une association de protection de l'environnement	9	9
Rien de tout cela (SPONTANE).....	X	X
?	0	0

177. When we talk about possible damage to the environment, what do you think of above all ? Would you please choose from this list, the three things that come immediately to mind ? (SHOW LIST, MAXIMUM THREE ANSWERS).

1. Rubbish on the streets, roads, open spaces and beaches
2. Unauthorised building which spoils the country side
3. Factories that discharge dangerous chemical products into the air or water
4. Erosion of farmland
5. Vehicles that pollute the air
6. The waste of rare natural resources such as minerals, oil, etc.
7. The noise created by some industrial activities such as construction, roads with heavy traffic, airports etc.
8. Overuse, in agriculture, of weed-killers, insecticides and fertilizers
9. Oil pollution in the sea and on the shore
- X. Industrial waste which is left abandoned wherever is convenient
- Y. Acid rain which attacks woods and forests
0. No reply

178. In what way does damages to the environment appear serious to you ? (SHOW LIST, TWO ANSWERS ONLY).

1. The measures needed for repairing would be expensive
2. When the environment is somewhere damaged this will be liable to spread to other regions or to other countries
3. It lowers the quality of life
4. Any specific pollution of water, air, or the land, puts at risk our whole natural background or environment
5. Damage already made to the environment risks having consequences for future generations
6. This menaces the health of people
7. Anything else (SPECIFY)
0. ?

179/ a) Among the following things are there some that you have already done yourself ? (SHOW THE LIST, MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE).  
b) And are there among them things that you are prepared to do or to do more often ? (SAME LIST, MULTIPLE ANSWERS)

	179 Things already done	180 Things that one could do
Be careful about not throwing away rubbish or papers on the ground .....	1	1
Not wasting tap water .....	2	2
Be careful about not making too much noise .....	3	3
Equip your car with equipment to limit the amount of carbon dioxide in exhaust gases .....	4	4
Make money contribution to efforts to protect environment.	5	5
Do what you can about re-cycling of household products (glass, paper, sump oil, etc)	6	6
Get involved in local action restoring environment, for example cleaning a beach .....	7	7
Demonstrate against projects that might damage the environment .....	8	8
Get involved personally with association concerned in protecting environment .....	9	9
None of these (VOLUNTEERED) ...	X	X
?	0	0

215/ Des sommes importantes sont investies dans certaines régions  
216. pour protéger l'environnement. Quelle raison peut, selon vous, justifier de tels investissements ? Et ensuite ? (MONTRER LA CARTE. UNE SEULE REPONSE PAR COLONNE).

	215	216
	En 1er	En 2ème
. Préserver les ressources naturelles de la région.....	1	1
. Rendre la région plus agréable à vivre pour ses habitants.....	2	2
. Attirer de nouvelles entreprises.....	3	3
. Lutter contre la dégradation des conditions de vie.....	4	4
. Favoriser le développement touristique de la région.....	5	5
. Protéger la santé des habitants.....	6	6
. Contribuer à l'emploi en développant les entreprises régionales qui travaillent pour l'environnement.....	7	7
. Autre raison (PRECISER).....	8	8
. ? .....	0	0

217. Savez-vous si (dans votre pays) les pouvoirs publics s'occupent de la protection de l'environnement ? (SI OUI) Est-ce que l'action des pouvoirs publics en ce domaine vous paraît efficace ou pas ?

1. Ils s'en occupent et c'est efficace
2. Ils s'en occupent et ce n'est pas efficace
3. Ils ne s'en occupent pas
0. ?

218. Je vais vous dire certaines opinions qui sont parfois exprimées au sujet des problèmes d'environnement. Avec laquelle de ces trois opinions êtes-vous le plus d'accord ? (MONTRER CARTE. UNE SEULE REPONSE POSSIBLE, NE PAS PRESSER).

1. Le développement économique doit passer avant la préoccupation de l'environnement
2. Il faut, parfois, accepter de mettre en balance le développement économique et la protection de l'environnement
3. Protéger l'environnement et préserver les ressources naturelles sont des conditions nécessaires pour assurer le développement économique.
0. ?

219. On parle de beaucoup de choses au sujet de l'environnement. Vous, personnellement, sur quoi aimeriez-vous être mieux informé en ce qui concerne l'environnement ? (MONTRER CARTE. TROIS REPONSES POSSIBLES).

1. Les dangers des produits chimiques vendus sur le marché
2. Comment se débarrasser proprement de certains déchets (peintures, produits pharmaceutiques, huiles de vidange...)
3. Le comportement à avoir en cas d'accident industriel
4. La législation (dans votre pays) en matière d'environnement
5. Qui est responsable dans votre commune pour informer le public sur l'environnement
6. Les conséquences sur l'environnement des projets industriels, d'équipement ou autres
7. Les aménagements que vous pourriez faire chez vous pour éviter de polluer
8. Connaître la situation exacte de l'environnement là où vous habitez
9. Des exemples d'entreprises ou d'actions qui ont réussi dans le domaine de l'environnement
- X. Les mesures préventives prises dans les industries dangereuses de la région
- Y. Autre (PRECISER)
0. ?

220. Dans cette liste, qu'est-ce qui décrit le mieux votre habitation ? (MONTRER CARTE).

1. Ferme ou maison isolée à la campagne
2. Maison indépendante
3. Maison mitoyenne
4. Maison avec des maisons accolées à droite et à gauche
5. Logement indépendant dans une maison qui compte plusieurs logements
6. Appartement dans un immeuble de 10 appartements ou moins
7. Appartement dans un immeuble de 11 à 50 appartements
8. Appartement dans un immeuble de plus de 50 appartements
9. Autre cas (PRECISER)
0. ?

215. In some parts of the country, there is a lot of investment in  
216. project to protect the environment. What reason would you, have yourself for justifying such an investment ? And the next ? (SHOW CARD, ONE REPLY PER COLUMN).

	215	216
	1st	2nd
. To preserve the natural resources of the region .....	1	1
. To make the region more pleasant to live in .....	2	2
. To attract more business enterprises into the region .....	3	3
. To fight against the lowering of conditions of life .....	4	4
. To encourage the development of the region for tourism .....	5	5
. To protect the health of the people who live there .....	6	6
. To help employment by developing regional businesses working for the environment .....	7	7
. Another reason (SPECIFY) .....	8	8
. No reply .....	0	0

217. Do you know if (in your country) the responsible authorities are concerned with the protection of the environment ? (IF YES), do you think the authorities are doing an effective job or not ?

1. They are concerned about it and it's effective
2. They are concerned about it but it's not effective
3. They are not concerned about it
0. ?

218. I would like to give you some opinions which are often expressed about the problems of the environment. Which of these opinions are you most in agreement with ? (SHOW CARD, ONE ANSWER ONLY, DON'T RUSH RESPONSES.)

1. Development of the economy should take priority over questions of the environment
2. Sometimes it is necessary to make a judgement between economic development and protection of environment
3. Protecting the environment and preserving natural resources are necessary conditions to assure economic development
0. ?

219. There is a lot of discussion about the environment. What sort of things would you personally like to be better informed about ? (SHOW CARD, THREE ANSWERS POSSIBLE).

1. The risks involved in chemical products available on the market
2. How one could properly get rid of certain waste (paints, pharmaceutical products, sump oil, etc)
3. How to behave in case of an industrial accident
4. The laws (in your country) about environment
5. Who are the people responsible in your area for keeping the public informed about the environment
6. The effect on the environment of industrial developments, new projects etc.
7. The steps that you can take at home to avoid pollution
8. To know more about the problems of the environment here where you live
9. Examples of companies or businesses who have been successful in dealing with environmental problems
- X. Preventive measures taken by local industries dealing with dangerous materials
- Y. Other (SPECIFY)
0. ?

220. Which of these best describes where you live ? (SHOW CARD).

1. Farm house or cottage in the country
2. Detached house
3. Semi-detached house
4. Terraced house
5. Maisonette
6. Flat in block of up to 10 apartments
7. Flat in a block of 11-50 apartments
8. Flat in a block of over 50 apartments
9. Other (SPECIFY)
0. ?

60. Are you: (Read out)

- 1 Single
- 2 Married
- 3 Living as married
- 4 Divorced
- 5 Separated
- 6 Widowed

61. How old were you when you finished your full-time education?

- 1 Up to 14 years
- 2 15 years
- 3 16 "
- 4 17 "
- 5 18 "
- 6 19 "
- 7 20 "
- 8 21 "
- 9 22 years or older
- X Still studying

62/ If there were a General Election tomorrow (Say if contact under 18: and you had a vote), which party would you support?

63. SEE LOCAL CODES

64/65 BLANK.

66. Sex:

- 1 Man
- 2 Woman

67. Can you tell me your date of birth please? (Write in date of birth AND age.)

Born: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

69. How many persons live your home, including yourself, all adults and children?

Write in number: \_\_\_\_\_

70. How many children living at home:

(a) between 8 and 15? \_\_\_\_\_

(b) under 8 years? \_\_\_\_\_

72. We would like to analyse the survey results according to the income of persons interviewed.

Show INCOME CARD: Here is a scale of incomes and we would like to know in what group your family is, counting all wages, salaries, pensions and any other income that comes in. Just give me the number of the group your household falls into before tax and other deductions.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 X V

I hereby attest that this is a true record of an interview, made strictly in accordance with your requirements, with a person who is a stranger to me. This form was completed entirely at the time of interview.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

73. Occupation of self: (Write in AND code)

---

Self employed:

- 1 Farmers, fishermen (skippers)
- 2 Professional - lawyers, accountants, etc.
- 3 Business - owners of shops, craftsmen, proprietors

Employed:

- 4 Manual worker
- 5 White collar - office worker
- 6 Executive, top management, director

Not employed:

- 7 Retired
- 8 Housewife, not otherwise employed
- 9 Student, military service
- 0 Unemployed

74. If self-employed or employed: Others go to Q. 7

How many people are working where you work (Organisation, company, shop, factory, etc.)

- 1 Less than 5
- 2 5 - 49
- 3 50 - 499
- 4 500 and over

75. Are you the head of the household?

- 1 Yes - go to Q. 78
- 2 No - ask Q. 76

76. Occupation of head of household: (Write in AND code)

---

Self employed:

- 1 Farmers, fishermen (skippers)
- 2 Professional - lawyers, accountants, etc.
- 3 Business - owners of shops, craftsmen, proprietors

Employed:

- 4 Manual worker
- 5 White collar - office worker
- 6 Executive, top management, director

Not employed:

- 7 Retired
- 8 Housewife, not otherwise employed
- 9 Student, military service
- 0 Unemployed

77. Size of locality

Local codes

78. Would you say you live in a: (Read out)

- 1 Rural area or village
- 2 Small or middle size town
- 3 Big town

79/ Regions

80. Local codes

Name and address of contact: please PRINT

Mr/

Mrs/

Miss

Address: \_\_\_\_\_