
EUROBAROMETER: THIRD COUNTRIES LIKE THE EU MORE THAN 'CLOSE NEIGHBOURS'

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The worlds three most populated countries, China, India and the United States, have a more positive view about the EU than close neighbours like Russia, Norway and Switzerland, a Eurobarometer survey found.

The EU published on Wednesday (2 August) a new survey that for the first time included the views of people in eleven non-EU countries about the EU.

In China, the US and India, which together represent 49% of the world population and 61% of global GDP, a majority of people have a positive opinion about the EU.

Particularly, 94% in Brazil, 84% in China, 83% in India, 76% in Japan, 79% in Canada, 75% in the USA, 67% in Australia and 54% in Turkey.

On the contrary, it seems that close neighbours do not share such a view.

Loss of trust in EU has social and economic consequences

Trust in EU membership is on the up across the continent but confidence in the Unions institutions continues to flag. That is why a number of initiatives designed to increase transparency and accountability have gained momentum in recent years.

Russia, Norway and Switzerland tend to have mixed feelings, Eurobarometer noted, underlining that between 43% and 46% have a positive view of the EU.

Another important element was the question about how people perceive the EU as a place of stability in a troubled world.

Eurobarometer also noted that the EU was globally perceived as such; however, there were significant differences from 82% in India thinking that way to 49% in Turkey □ but this is not the case in Russia where only 33% share this view and 61% the opposite.

Europeans more optimistic

In the meantime, the survey found that EU citizens are increasingly optimistic about the continents future (56%), a 6% increase compared to autumn 2016.

In addition, trust is also following a rising trend (42%) up from 36% in autumn 2016 and 32% in autumn 2015.

The highest increase was marked in France (41%+15 points) followed by Denmark (56%+15 points).

Interestingly, for the first time terrorism became the top concern of EU citizens who believe (44%+12% since autumn 2016) that its the main challenge of the EU, according to the survey.

In May, the Commission proposed the 2018 EU budget with security taking a center stage.

Its followed by immigration (38%) while the economic situation (18%), the state of member states public finances (17%) and unemployment (15%) are almost unchanged.

Kaynak/Source: