

Citizens' Choices, Europe's Voices

Imagine ordinary European citizens in the same room—to what extent will they be able to talk to each other? Will they understand each other's concerns? In October 2007, for the first time ever, *Tomorrow's Europe* will bring together a **representative microcosm of some 400 citizens from all 27 EU member states for a weekend of deliberation within the European Parliament**. They will discuss the future of the EU.

Tomorrow's Europe will be the first Europe-wide Deliberative Poll®, a process of balanced information, deliberation and opinion gauging. It occurs in parallel to institutional EU discussions and ahead of the European election, a fitting time to see what Europeans would think if they had time to meet and share opinions across borders.

A world first

On the 50th anniversary of the European Union, while discussions on a treaty are being rekindled, involving citizens is, more than ever, essential for the future of EU democracy.

A particular challenge over the second semester of 2007, in the context of the relaunch of intergovernmental discussions and ahead of forthcoming European Parliamentary elections in 2009, will be to demonstrate that there is a clear, effective line of communication between EU policy-makers and citizens across borders.

The debates that took place during the 2005 referendum campaigns in France and The Netherlands demonstrated citizens' desire to get involved, as well as the difficulty to discuss fundamental European issues in a balanced way.

Tomorrow's Europe will provide a direct link between citizens and political leaders. Thanks to the methodology of Deliberative Polling, this initiative will be:

- **Truly representative:** It will poll a sample of citizens representative of the population of the 27 countries of the Union as a whole, on key matters for the future of the EU, in particular Europe's economic and social dimension.
- **Truly participatory and transnational:** It will bring together a subsample of 400 randomly selected ordinary citizens from all walks of life to deliberate. The participants will have received information on the issues discussed, vetted as representing the full range of political views by an independent panel of politicians.
- **Truly rigorous and scientific:** A final poll will measure what citizens opinions are, once they have had the chance to meet, think, gain balanced information, and put questions to experts.

Deliberative Polling is a tested methodology. But for the first time, citizens from different countries will come together.



Opinions about Deliberative Polling®

"The potential contribution [of Deliberative Polling] to a better-informed democracy is great . . . It is in the interest of all that it should be encouraged."

The Independent (London)
Editorial "Knowledge Can Change Minds"

"Deliberative Polling® is the most promising innovation in democratic practice of which I am aware." -

Robert A. Dahl - Yale University

Deliberative Polling® on the Net:

cdd.stanford.edu

A project conceived and coordinated by:

Henri Monceau
hmonceau@notre-europe.eu
Tel: +32 478 403 400

Stephen Boucher
sboucher@notre-europe.eu
Tel: + 33 6 75 54 16 98

Address:
4 rue de la Presse
B-1000 Brussels
Belgium

Europeans' Considered Opinions Revealed

Deliberative Polling® was developed during the 1990s by **Professor James Fishkin**, in collaboration with **Professor Robert Luskin**, both now at Stanford University. It has been applied on more than 20 occasions, in the United Kingdom, Denmark, Bulgaria, Italy, Hungary, the United States, Australia and other countries.

Deliberative Polling® was conceived at first to **correct the imperfections of conventional polls**, which mostly expose off-the-cuff, uninformed opinions. More generally, the approach consisted in overcoming what social science call "rational ignorance", that is to say the common unwillingness to get information about an issue because of the required individual investment.

With the words of Professor Fishkin: "A *Deliberative Poll*® is designed to show what the public would think about the issues, if it thought more earnestly and had more information about them."

Deliberative Polling® has proved to be efficient on more than 20 occasions worldwide. "Each experiment conducted thus far has gathered a highly representative sample of people at a single place. Each time, there were dramatic, statistically significant changes in views. The result is a poll with a human face," said Professor Fishkin.

Deliberative Polling® provides the opportunity to deliberate issues from a wider and more diverse and balanced perspective than citizens can usually afford to do. Deliberative Polling® thus encourages greater interest in public matters.

Prestigious European partners

As a project giving priority to the citizens, *Tomorrow's Europe* is rich with contributions from personalities and organisations with various backgrounds, which illustrate European diversity: public and private institutions, NGOs, European companies are brought together to offer their support on scientific, logistical and financial matters.

Coordinated by *Notre Europe*, *Tomorrow's Europe* brings together the following partners:

- **European institutions:** the European Parliament agreed to host the deliberation; the Commission make an essential financial contribution; the European Economic and Social Committee supports the initiative actively; all will be actively involved in the analysis of the results and the process.
- **23 think tanks, research institutes, and NGOs in 18 countries** which contribute in-depth expertise of EU issues.
- **A Sponsoring Committee**, chaired by Jacques Delors, includes Giuliano Amato, Theo Angelopoulos, Felix de Azua, Bill Emmott, Bronislaw Geremek, John Hume, Sandra Kalniete, Lord Paddy Ashdown, Claudio Magris, Fernando Savater, Simone Veil.
- **A network of more than 30 researchers**, spread all across the European Union, as well as other European countries and the United States, including James S. Fishkin and Robert C. Luskin.
- **TSN Sofres**, the internationally renowned polling institute, responsible for the Eurobarometer among other international polling operations.
- **Private sponsors:** Allianz, Thalys



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