



Poll reveals only one out of ten Europeans has ever discussed EU matters with citizens from other countries

First EU-wide Deliberative Poll[®] seeks to bridge the gap

87.9% of Europeans have either "never" or only "just a few times" discussed EU matters with citizens from other EU countries. In order to understand what they would think if they actually met and talked, Tomorrow's Europe will bring together a microcosm of all of Europe on 12-14 October.

To the question, "In your lifetime, how often have you discussed political issues concerning the EU with citizens from other EU countries?", 3.4% answered "very often", 8.2% "fairly often", 39.5% "just a few times", and 48.4% "never". This is one question put to 3500 EU citizens by polling firm TNS Sofres among some 30 crucial questions for the future of the EU.

Tomorrow's Europe is structured around a survey of a scientific sample of the EU population before and after it has deliberated.

As if all Europeans were brought into the same room, a sub-panel of 400 citizens, selected randomly from all 27 EU member states to represent the EU population as a whole will meet in the European Parliament and EESC buildings in Brussels on 12-14 October in order to discuss these issues.

The participants will explore two **sensitive topics for the future shape of the EU**: economic and social welfare in a world of global competition and the EU's international role and instruments of foreign influence.

Deliberative Polling[®] uses public opinion research in a new and constructive way. The process aims to better **understand what role citizens want their governments and / or the EU to play, if any, on the world stage.**

"Many people in Europe feel that they cannot take part in EU-related debates. These matters are often perceived as too complex. I commend Tomorrow's Europe's aim to provide a neutral forum for debate across borders and to allow Europeans to express a considered opinion," explains **Jacques Delors**, former European commission president and Founding president of *Notre Europe*.

➔ Journalists are invited to observe *Tomorrow's Europe*

Four days before the EU Summit in Lisbon, the results of this consultation are bound to surprise and provide added value: how will the views of ordinary citizens evolve after they have met? Will EU decision makers listen?

- Friday 12 October 2007, 5:00-5:30: welcome of participants, European Parliament; 5:30-6:00pm: press briefing, European Parliament press conference room
Presentation of process: list of participants, questionnaire, schedule, names of invited politicians and experts...
- Friday 12 October – Sunday 14 October 2007: deliberative weekend in Brussels
Opportunity to attend small group and plenary discussions and meet the participants and high-level politicians present, photo opportunities...
- Wednesday 17 October 2007, 10am: press conference, release of full results (place and time tbc)

Further information

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- Journalists planning to attend the deliberation need to **register** with Marie Azuelos - mazuelos@tomorrowseurope.eu
- *Tomorrow's Europe* is an ambitious social experiment coordinated by *Notre Europe* and sponsored by the European Commission, Allianz and around 20 other partners: **www.tomorrowseurope.eu**