

bankenverband

EUROPE

Results of an online survey
commissioned by the Association of German Banks

KANTAR TNS, Bielefeld

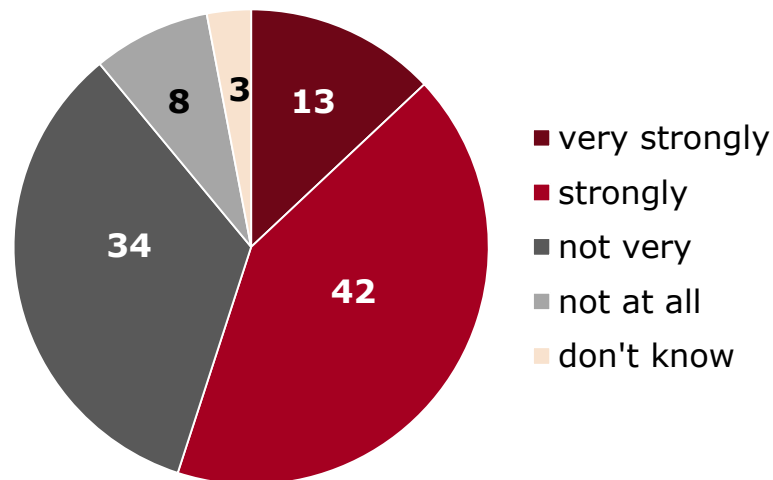
December 2018

“Europe” polarises opinion: views on the European Union are divided

- Over half of the respondents (55%) are “strongly” or “very strongly” interested in European politics. This means that, six months ahead of the next elections to the European Parliament in May 2019, broad sections of the population are already focusing attention on European issues and the European Union.
- Views on the European Union vary widely: a good half of the respondents (52%) think “favourably” or “very favourably” of the EU; just under four out of ten (39%), on the other hand, say they think “fairly unfavourably” or “unfavourably” of it.
- The higher their interest in European politics, the more positively respondents view the EU.
- The majority of respondents have a positive view of the work and importance of the European Parliament. 60% find the Parliament makes an “important” or “very important” contribution to European policy. A good quarter (27%), however, take the opposite view and 13% hold no view.
- A good third of the respondents (36%) assume that EU membership is mainly advantageous for Germany, a further third (32%) assume that advantages and disadvantages more or less balance each other out. One fifth (22%) think the disadvantages outweigh the advantages.
- A relative majority (41%) of respondents would like to see even closer cooperation between EU member states in the future. A good third (36%) would like to see member states become more independent again. One in ten thinks things should stay as they are.
- To improve the European Union’s ability to act, 54% of those questioned support the proposal that the EU should be able to take action in important policy areas with a smaller number of countries. A quarter (26%) do not consider “variable integration” of this kind a good idea, and a fifth of the respondents have no view on the matter.

More than half of the respondents (55%) are “strongly” or “very strongly” interested in European politics. This means that, six months ahead of the next elections to the European Parliament in May 2019, broad sections of the population are already focusing on European issues and the European Union.

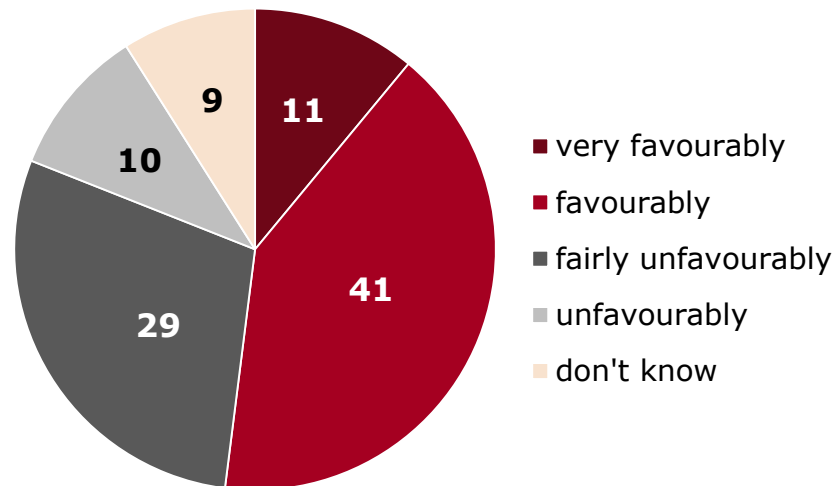
“I am ... interested in European politics”



Question: “How interested are you in European politics, meaning issues relating to Europe, European countries and the European Union?”

Views on the European Union vary widely: a good half of respondents (52%) think “favourably” or “very favourably” of the EU; just under four out of ten (39%), on the other hand, say their attitude is “fairly unfavourable” or “unfavourable”.

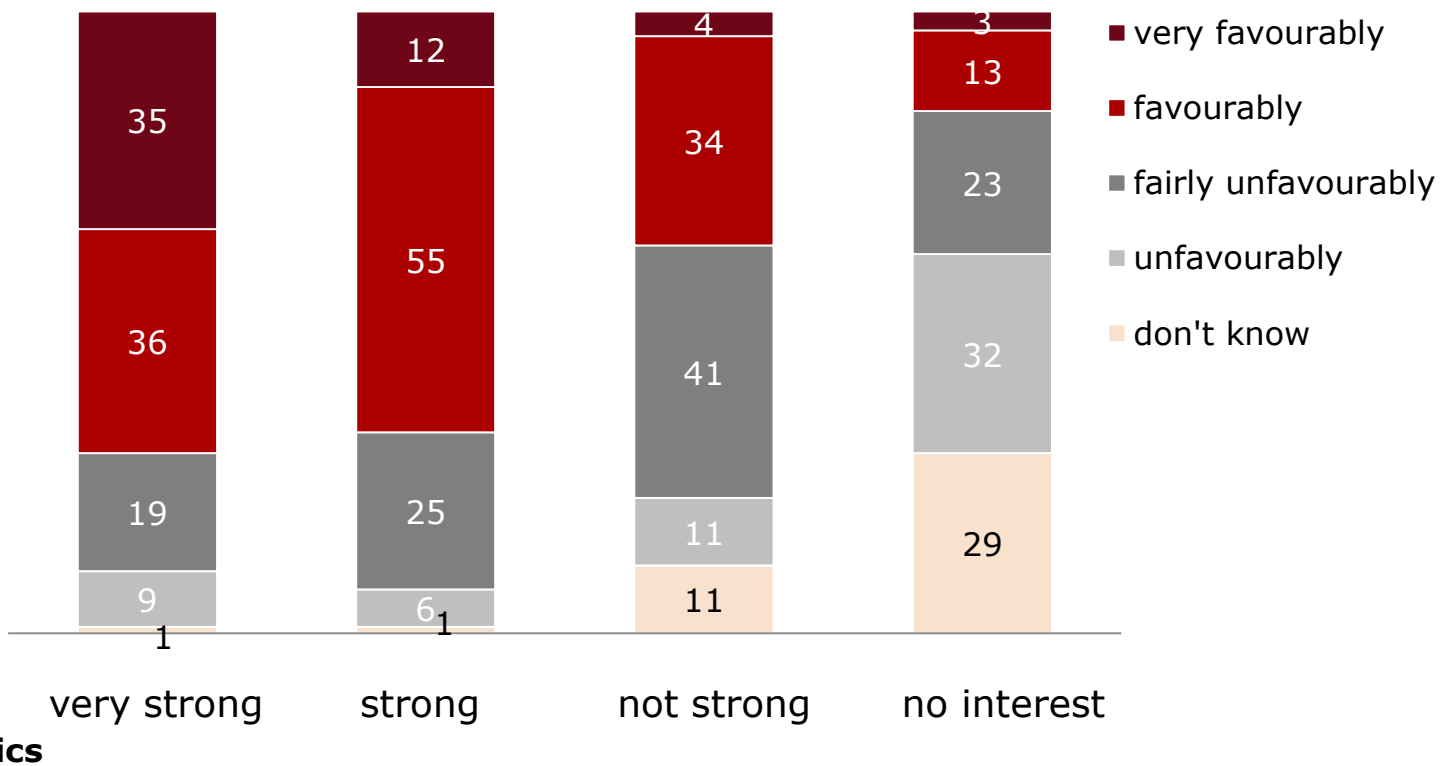
“ I think ... of the European Union ”



Question: “What do you think in general of the European Union? Do you think ...?”

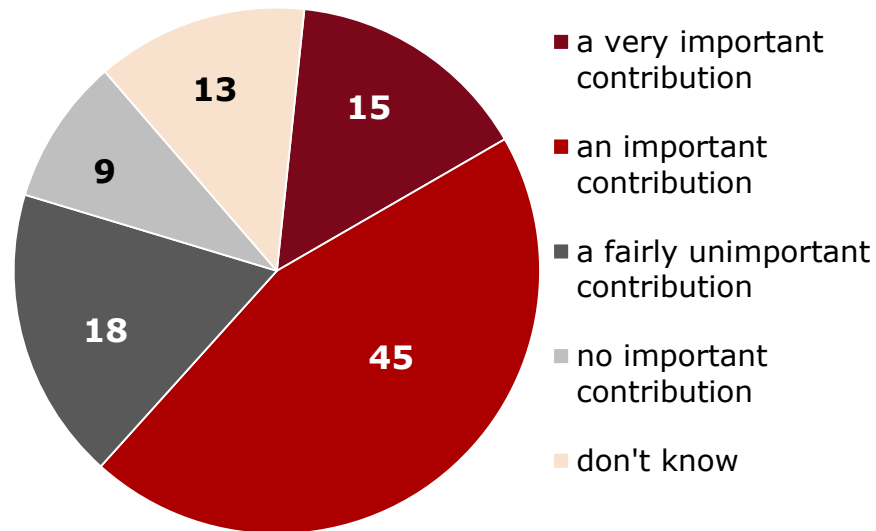
The higher their interest in European politics, the more positively respondents view the EU. Of the respondents with a strong interest in European politics, 71% think “favourably” or “very favourably” of the EU; the figure is only 16% among those with no interest.

“I think ... of the European Union”



The majority of respondents take a positive view of the work and importance of the European Parliament. 60% find the Parliament makes an “important” or “very important” contribution to European policy. A good quarter (27%), however, take the opposite view and 13% are “don’t knows”.

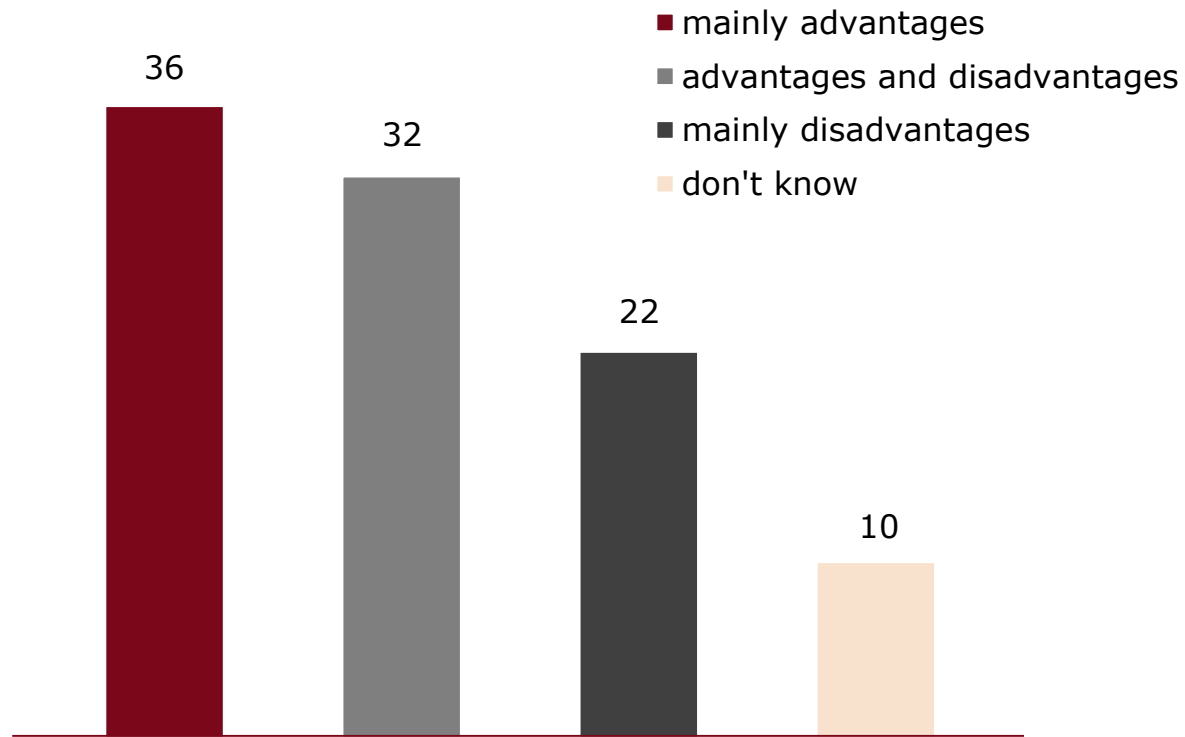
“The European Parliament makes ... to European policy”



Question: Elections to the European Parliament will be held next May. How do you rate the importance for European policy of the European elections and the European Parliament as a whole? Does the European Parliament make ...?”

A good third of respondents (36%) assume EU membership is mainly advantageous for Germany. A further third (32%) assume that advantages and disadvantages more or less balance each other out. One fifth (22%) believe there are mainly disadvantages.

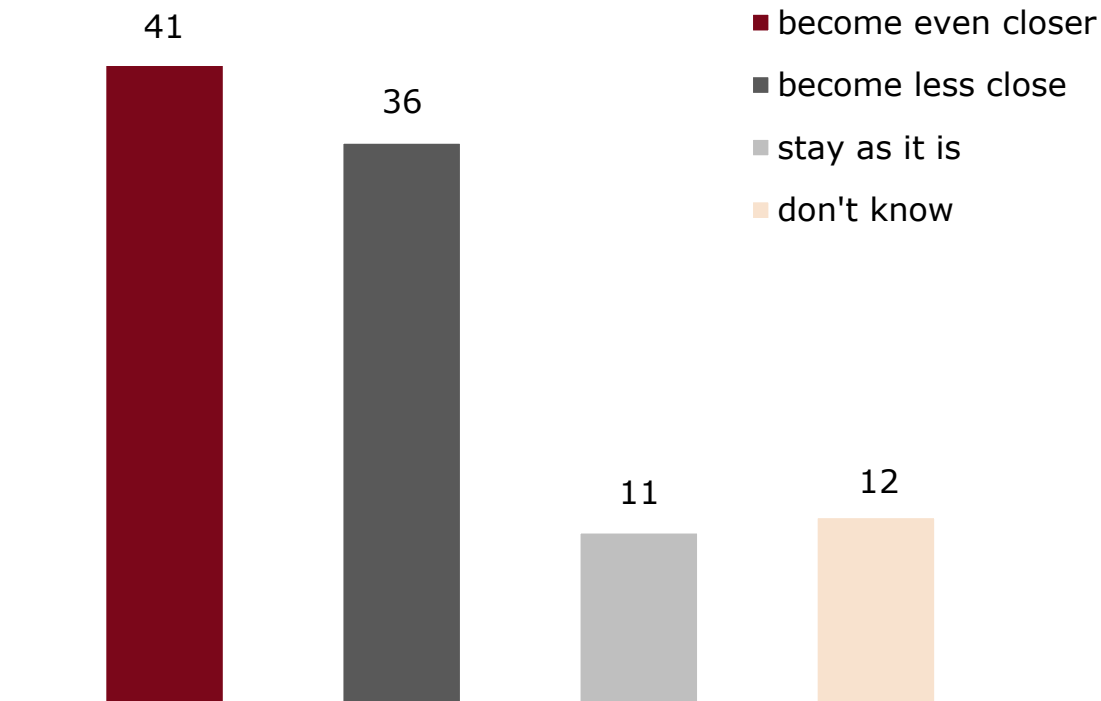
“Membership of the European Union brings Germany ...”



Question: “Do you think that, on balance, membership of the European Union brings Germany ...?”

A relative majority (41%) of respondents would like to see even closer cooperation between EU member states in the future. A good third (36%) would like to see member states become more independent again. One in ten thinks things should stay as they are.

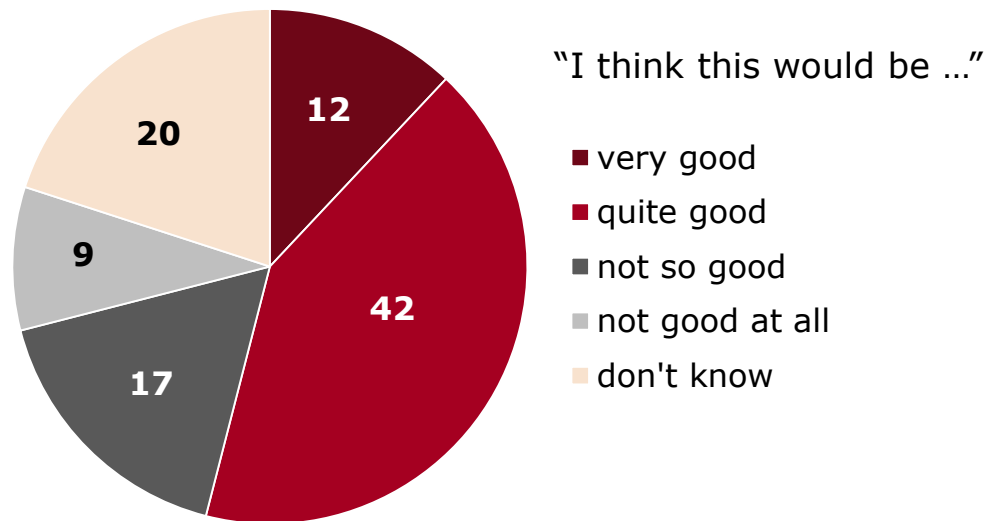
“Cooperation between countries in the EU should ...?”



Question: “Should cooperation between the countries in the European Union be even closer in future, or should countries become more independent again, or should things stay as they are?”

To improve the European Union’s ability to act, 54% of those questioned support the proposal to allow the EU to take action in important policy areas with a smaller number of countries. A quarter (26%) do not consider “variable integration” of this kind a good idea and a fifth of respondents have no view on the matter.

“In important areas, the EU should be able to take action even with a smaller number of member states.”



Question: “In the EU, the 28 – soon to be 27 – member states are often unable to agree on a course of action. It has therefore been suggested that, in certain important policy areas (such as foreign and security policy or internal security), a smaller number of member states should be able to take joint action even if the others do not (yet) want to join in. Do you think this proposal is ...?”

Survey design

Survey period:	November 2018
Sample:	1,004 interviewees in Germany aged over 16
Methodology:	Ad-hoc CAWI (computer-assisted web interview)
Commissioned by:	Association of German Banks, Berlin
Conducted by:	KANTAR TNS, Bielefeld