

**ZA4891**

**Flash Eurobarometer 266  
(Women and European elections)**

**Country Specific Questionnaire  
Ireland**

# FLASH 266

## WOMEN AND EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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### Demographics

**D1. Gender**

*[DO NOT ASK - MARK APPROPRIATE]*

- [1] Male
- [2] Female

**D2. How old are you?**

- [ ][ ] years old
- [00] [REFUSAL/NO ANSWER]

**D3. How old were you when you stopped full-time education?**

*[WRITE IN THE AGE WHEN EDUCATION WAS TERMINATED]*

- [ ][ ] ..... years old
- [00] ..... [STILL IN FULL TIME EDUCATION]
- [01] ..... [NEVER BEEN IN FULL TIME EDUCATION]
- [99] ..... [REFUSAL/NO ANSWER]

**D4. As far as your current occupation is concerned, would you say you are self-employed, an employee, a manual worker or would you say that you are without a professional activity? Does it mean that you are a(n)...**

*[IF A RESPONSE TO THE MAIN CATEGORY IS GIVEN, READ OUT THE RESPECTIVE SUB-CATEGORIES]*

**- Self-employed**

- i.e. : - farmer, forester, fisherman ..... 11
- owner of a shop, craftsman ..... 12
- professional (lawyer, medical practitioner, accountant, architect,...) ..... 13
- manager of a company ..... 14
- other ..... 15

**- Employee**

- i.e. : - professional (employed doctor, lawyer, accountant, architect) ..... 21
- general management, director or top management ..... 22
- middle management ..... 23
- Civil servant ..... 24
- office clerk ..... 25
- other employee (salesman, nurse, etc...) ..... 26
- other ..... 27

**- Manual worker**

- i.e. : - supervisor / foreman (team manager, etc...) ..... 31

- Manual worker .....	32
- unskilled manual worker .....	33
- other .....	34

**- Without a professional activity**

→ i.e. :	
- looking after the home .....	41
- student (full time) .....	42
- retired .....	43
- seeking a job .....	44
- other .....	45
- [Refusal] .....	99

**D6. Would you say you live in a ...?**

- metropolitan zone .....	1
- other town/urban centre .....	2
- rural zone .....	3
- [Refusal] .....	9

**I. GENERAL PART (to be asked to everyone)**

**AWARENESS**

**Q1. Did you vote in the last European Parliament Elections in 2004?**

- Yes .....	1
- No .....	2
- Did not have the right to vote .....	3
- [DK/NA] .....	9

**Q2. Do you intend to vote in the European elections this June 2009?**

- Definitely yes .....	1
- Most probably yes .....	2
- Most probably not .....	3
- Definitely not .....	4
- [I was not aware of the elections] .....	5
- [DK/NA] .....	9

**MOTIVATION / CANDIDATES**

**Q3. In general when you participate in elections, how do you decide whom to vote for?**

*(CHOOSE ONE)*

- I always vote for the same party .....	1
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- On the basis of the personality of the candidates presented .....2
- I decide on the basis of the campaign issues .....3
- I never vote.....4
- [DK/NA] .....9

**Q4. When do you usually make up your mind on who to vote for?**

- More then 2 months ahead.....1
- Approximately 1-2 months in advance.....2
- Approximately 1 month before the elections .....3
- in the last two weeks.....4
- in the last week .....5
- at the last moment .....6
- [DK/NA] .....9

**Q5. When you vote for the European elections, which of the following aspects relating to the candidates is the most important?**

*(ROTATE)*

- Visibility/familiarity .....1
- Age .....2
- Regional origin .....3
- Gender .....4
- Belonging to civil society .....5
- Experience on European issues .....6
- Political orientation .....7
- [DK/NA] .....9

**Q5b. And then?**

*(ROTATE)*

- Visibility/familiarity .....1
- Age .....2
- Regional origin .....3
- Gender .....4
- Belonging to civil society .....5
- Experience on European issues .....6
- Political orientation .....7
- [DK/NA] .....9

## WOMEN AND THE EUROPEAN UNION

**Q6. In the domain of gender equality in family life, which of the following areas should be prioritized by the next European Parliament?**

*(CHOOSE ONE - ROTATE)*

- Securing a minimum length of parental leave.....1
- Provision of sufficient day care facilities for children.....2
- Including years of child minding as pensionable years .....3
- Securing shared custody of children in divorce cases .....4
- [DK/NA] .....9

**Q7. In the domain of gender equality in society, in general, which of the following areas should be prioritized by the next European Parliament?**

*(CHOOSE ONE - ROTATE)*

- Equal pay for men and women .....1
- Enforcing laws against sexual harassment .....2
- Equal employment opportunities .....3
- Better representation of women in high level  
decision-making positions .....4
- The fight against violence and women trafficking.....5
- [DK/NA] .....9

**Q8. Would you say that equal payment for men and women would be more effectively achieved by...**

*(CHOOSE ONE)*

- New legislation .....1
- Reinforcing existing laws .....2
- More information on existing rights.....3
- [DK/NA] .....9

**IF Q8=9, GO TO Q10**

**Q9. And at what level should (ANSWER IN Q8) be done?**

- At the level of our country .....1
- At the EU level .....2
- [DK/NA] .....9

**Q10. Some people believe that politics is dominated by men. Do you agree with this statement?**

- Totally agree ..... 1
- Somewhat agree..... 2
- Somewhat disagree ..... 3
- Totally disagree ..... 4
- [DK/NA] ..... 9

**Q11. Some people believe that women in politics add a viewpoint which could lead to different decision making in general. Do you agree with this statement?**

- Totally agree ..... 1
- Somewhat agree..... 2
- Somewhat disagree ..... 3
- Totally disagree ..... 4
- [DK/NA] ..... 9

**FEMALE QUOTA**

**Q12. In your opinion, what proportion of elected members to the European Parliament should be women?**

*(OPEN QUESTION - SPONTANEOUS - PRECODED)*

- Less than 25%..... 1
- 25%-39%..... 2
- 40%-49% ..... 3
- 50% or above ..... 4
- DK/NA..... 9

**In fact at present, in the European Parliament, 30% of the members are women and in the Irish Parliament the proportion of women members is 15%.**

**Q13. If we should increase the proportion of women MEPs what would be the most effective way?**

*(CHOOSE ONE)*

- By mandatory quotas ..... 1
- By the voluntary commitment of political parties..... 2
- By encouraging women to participate in politics ..... 3
- It will happen gradually without special measures ..... 4
- Nothing has to be done, I do not agree to increase the proportion ..... 5
- [DK/NA] ..... 9

**II. SPECIFIC PART (to be asked to WOMEN)**

**Q14. Do you feel that as a woman, your interests are well represented by the European Union?**

- Very well represented ..... 1
- Fairly well represented ..... 2
- Not really well represented ..... 3
- Not at all well represented ..... 4
- [DK/NA] ..... 9

**Q15. To what extent do you think that the activities of European Parliament have had an impact on the following areas of your life?**

- High impact ..... 1
  - Moderate impact ..... 2
  - Little impact ..... 3
  - None ..... 4
  - DK/NA ..... 9
- A., Family life ..... 1 2 3 4 9
- B., Working life ..... 1 2 3 4 9
- C., Your rights as a woman ..... 1 2 3 4 9
- D., Health ..... 1 2 3 4 9
- E., Education ..... 1 2 3 4 9
- F., Welfare ..... 1 2 3 4 9

***FILTER: EMPLOYEMENT STATUS***

***EMPLOYED WOMEN (ASK IF D4=11,12,13,14,15,21,22,23,24,25,26,27,31,32,33,34):***

**Q16. Which of the following statements applies most to you?**

- My personal life is hindered by the demands of my working life ..... 1
- My working life is hindered by the demands of my personal life ..... 2
- I manage to balance both without problems ..... 3
- DK/NA ..... 9

***WOMEN WHO ARE NOT EMPLOYED (ASK IF D4 = 41,42,43,44,45):***

**Q16b. What is the reason that you are currently not employed?**

- It was my personal choice ..... 1
- I have to stay at home because of my family responsibilities ..... 2
- I am looking for employment ..... 3

- Other .....4
- SPECIFY:.....
- [DK/NA] .....9

**Q17. Have you ever felt unfairly treated because you are a woman?**

- Yes .....1
- No .....2
- [DK/NA] .....9

***IF YES (Q17 = 1)***

**Q18. Where?**

*[SEVERAL ANSWER IS POSSIBLE]*

- At work .....1
- At home .....2
- In society on general .....3