

ZA5435

**Flash Eurobarometer 264
(EU Citizens' Perceptions about Competition Policy)**

**Country Specific Questionnaire
Ireland**

Flash Eurobarometer Competition

Citizens draft questionnaire

This survey aims at obtaining your views on competition between companies and competition policy in the European Union. Competition is the ability for independent companies to sell similar products or services and compete with each other on, for example, price, quality and service to attract consumers. Answering the questionnaire will only take a few minutes of your time. Your responses, which will remain anonymous, constitute very valuable information. We thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Q1. For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree:

READ OUT - ROTATE - ONE ANSWER PER LINE

- Totally agree..... 1
- Tend to agree 2
- Tend to disagree..... 3
- Totally disagree 4
- [I am not qualified to answer – SPONTANEOUS] 8
- Don't Know/No Answer..... 9

- A., Competition between companies allows for better prices for consumers. 1 2 3 4 8 9
- B., Competition between companies allows for more choice for consumers. 1 2 3 4 8 9
- C., Agreement on prices between companies should not be allowed..... 1 2 3 4 8 9
- D., Financial aid from governments to companies may give these companies an unfair advantage over their competitors. 1 2 3 4 8 9
- E., Companies which receive financial aid from their governments should not be allowed to compete on a European level. 1 2 3 4 8 9
- F., Mergers between large companies distort competition..... 1 2 3 4 8 9
- G., Controlling competition between companies at national and European level provides benefits to consumers and to the society in our country. 1 2 3 4 8 9
- H., Small companies need to be protected from large companies' competition. 1 2 3 4 8 9

Q2. Concerning the issues that we just discussed, have you heard or read in the media (TV, Radio, Internet, press, etc.) about competition in the last year?

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

Q3. Based on your own experience, in which of the following sectors is a lack of competition, in prices and product choice, causing the most problems for consumers? Firstly? Any other? [2 ANSWERS]

- telecommunications and internet..... 1
- energy (gas and electricity) 2
- financial services (banks, insurance, etc.) 3
- transport services (railways, airlines, etc.) 4
- food distribution..... 5
- pharmaceutical products (medicines, health related products) 6
- other sector, please specify..... 7
- [none of these] 8
- [DK/NA] 9

**Q4. You just said that in the following sector companies are not sufficiently competing with each other:
[insert first answer of Q3]**

What is the main problem, in that sector?

[READ OUT - MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE]

- Prices are too high..... 1
- The quality of the products or services is not satisfactory..... 2
- There is too little choice or no choice at all 3
- It is difficult or impossible to change suppliers 4
- [Other] 5
- [DK/NA] 9

**Q5. You just said that in the following sector companies are not sufficiently competing with each other:
[insert second answer of Q3]**

What is the main problem?

[READ OUT - MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE]

- Prices are too high..... 1
- The quality of the products or services is not satisfactory..... 2
- There is too little choice or no choice at all 3
- It is difficult or impossible to change suppliers 4
- [DK/NA] 9

Q6. On which field of competition policy do you feel the need to be better informed?

[READ OUT - MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE]

- Prohibiting agreements on prices (cartels) 1
- Prohibiting the abuse of a strong position of big companies..... 2
- Controlling the merger of companies 3
- Controlling financial aid from government to companies..... 4
- [None of these – not interested]..... 5
- [None of these – already sufficiently informed] 6
- [DK/NA] 9

D1. Gender

[DO NOT ASK - MARK APPROPRIATE]

- [1] Male
- [2] Female

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, fisherman11
 - owner of a shop, craftsman12
 - professional (lawyer, medical practitioner, accountant, architect,...)13
 - manager of a company14
 - other15

- Employee

- i.e. :
- professional (employed doctor, lawyer, accountant, architect)21
 - general management, director or top management.....22
 - middle management23
 - Civil servant.....24
 - office clerk25
 - other employee (salesman, nurse, etc...)26
 - other27

- Manual worker

- i.e. :
- supervisor / foreman (team manager, etc...)31
 - Manual worker32

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- 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