European Candidates Study 1994
EUROPEAN
POLITICAL
REPRESENTATION

Trinity College
Universiteit Twente
University of Edinburg
Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin
Université Catholique de Louvain
Centre d'études de la vie politique française
Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia
Università degli Studi di Genova
Centro Cultural de Belém
Københavns Universitet

ETEME
### European Political Representation

**Marking-instruction:**
- Please mark your answers with a black pencil (HB), ball point, fountain pen or felt-tip (see example).
- If necessary, erase pencil-written marks carefully.

1. Why did you become a candidate for the European parliament? Please rank the following reasons in order of importance:
   - I wanted to support my party
   - I was asked to stand
   - I thought it would help my political career
   - I wanted to become an MEP
   - I am an MEP standing for re-election

2. Have you ever been a candidate for the European parliament?
   - Yes...
   - No
   - How many times?

3. Have you ever been elected to the European parliament?
   - Yes...
   - No
   - How many times?

4. Please tick if you have ever...
   - Held local/regional party office
   - Held national party office
   - Been a candidate for local government
   - Been elected to local government
   - Been a candidate for your national parliament
   - Been elected to your national parliament
   - Been a member of your government
   - Served on a local public body
   - Served on a national public body
   - Held office in a professional body
   - Held office in a student organisation
   - Held office in a trade union
   - Held office in a women's organisation
   - Held office in another local interest group
   - Held office in another national interest group

5. Has anyone in your family held elected office in local government or your national parliament? If so, who? Please tick.

6. How long have you been a member of your present political party?
   - Less than 1 year
   - 1 to 5 years
   - 6 to 10 years
   - 11 to 15 years
   - More than 15 years
   - Not a member

7. How much time do you usually devote to party activities in the average week?
   - None
   - Up to 5 hours
   - From 5 to 14 hours
   - From 15 to 24 hours
   - From 25 to 34 hours
   - From 35 to 44 hours
   - More than 44 hours

8. How much time are you planning to devote to campaigning during the average week in May?

9. How much time are you planning to devote to the following activities during the average week in May?
   - Public meetings
   - Party meetings
   - Interest group meetings
   - Canvassing voters
   - Contacts with the media

10. In your view was your party’s nomination procedure...
   - Democratic
   - Efficient
   - Complicated
   - Fair

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**Please don’t mark.**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Response Options</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9 In becoming a candidate for the EP did you get opposition or support from the following?</td>
<td>National party leaders (Little power)  National party faction (Little power) Regional party leaders (Little power) Local party leaders (Little power) Local party members (Little power) Party officials (Little power) Trade unions (Little power) Business groups (Little power) Community groups (Little power) Youth organisations (Little power) Womens organisations (Little power) Other groups, i.e. (Little power)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 In your party how much power do the following groups have to select candidates for the European parliament?</td>
<td>National party leaders (Little power)  National party faction (Little power) Regional party leaders (Little power) Local party leaders (Little power) Local party members (Little power) Party officials (Little power) Trade unions (Little power) Business groups (Little power) Community groups (Little power) Youth organisations (Little power) Womens organisations (Little power) Other groups, i.e. (Little power)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Which of the following policy areas should be decided by national governments, and which should be decided jointly by the European Union?</td>
<td>Security and defence (Little power)  Protection of the environment (Little power) Currency (Little power) Co-operation with developing countries, third world (Little power) Health and social welfare (Little power) Education (Little power) Basic rules for broadcasting and press (Little power) Scientific and technological research (Little power) Rates of VAT (Little power) Foreign policy towards countries outside the European Union (Little power) Participation of workers representatives (Little power) Protection of computer-based information on individuals (Little power)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 In general, are you for or against efforts to unify Western Europe?</td>
<td>Very much in favour of (Little power) Somewhat in favour of (Little power) Somewhat against (Little power) Very much against (Little power)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 In your opinion, what do you think is most important in the European Union?</td>
<td>Economic aspects (Little power)  Political aspects (Little power)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14a One problem with the EU is the currency question. Some people think it would be best for Britain to keep its own currency. Others think the best thing would be to create a common European currency. What do you think?</td>
<td>Independent national currency (Little power)  New common European currency (Little power) Your position (Little power) Your governments position (Little power) Your party's MP's position (Little power) Your party's voters position (Little power)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14b Another important problem for the European Union is unemployment. The President of the European Commission Jacques Delors, has proposed to raise funds for a massive employment programme in order to fight unemployment. Others argue that the completion of the Single European Market alone will promote economic growth and will be the best remedy for the current problems of unemployment. What is your opinion?</td>
<td>Launch a massive employment programme (Little power)  Concentrate on completion of Single Market (Little power) Your position (Little power) Your governments position (Little power) Your party's MP's position (Little power) Your party's voters position (Little power)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please don't mark.
14c. Still another issue with the EU has to do with national borders. What do you think? Should the EU continue to remove national border-control and let people move freely between the countries, or should we re-introduce tighter border-controls in order to be better able to effectively fight crime in Britain? Where would you place yourself and others on this scale?

- Your position
- Your government's position
- Your party's MPs' position
- Your party's voters' position

15. In political matters some people talk about 'left' and 'right'. Where would you place yourself and others on this scale?

- Your position?
- Your party's voters?
- Your party's MPs?

16. There is a lot of talk these days about what the aims of the country should be for the next ten years. If you had to choose between the following items which seems most important and next most important to you?

- Maintaining order in the nation
- Giving people more say in important government decisions
- Fighting rising prices
- Protecting freedom of speech

17. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

- The differences between European countries are far less than the similarities
- I feel proud to be a European
- European unity threatens my country's cultural identity
- I feel at home anywhere in Europe
- The European Union has strengthened democracy

- The European Union over-regulates what we can do as a country
- The European Union has greatly harmed our economy
- The European Union has produced peace and stability
- Greater efforts should be made to reduce inequality of income
- Tougher action should be taken against criminals

- Governments should play a greater role in managing the economy
- Women should be free to decide for themselves on abortion
- Stricter measures should be taken to protect the environment against pollution
- Stricter measures should be taken to protect the right of individuals to express their own political views
- Citizens of other EU countries should have the same rights to live in Britain as we do

- Stronger measures should be taken to restrict immigration from countries outside of Europe
- Current levels of welfare should be maintained even if it means raising taxes
- The use of Marijuana should be de-criminalised
- It is more important to reduce unemployment than to limit inflation
18a. Which of the following issues do you consider the most important, which comes second, and which comes third?

1. Keeping taxes low
2. Fighting unemployment
3. Securing stable prices
4. Reforming the health service
5. Furthering political unification of Western Europe
6. Solving the immigration problem
7. Solving the Northern Irish problem
8. Reduction of agricultural surpluses
9. Protection of the environment
10. Enacting a bill of rights
11. Fighting crime

18b. Which level of government would you think would be most appropriate in dealing with what you mentioned as the most important problem? Regional | National | European

19. How would you rate the importance of various tasks you might do as an MEP on the following scale?

Represent regional interests
Help people with particular problems
Contribute to European policymaking
Advance national interests
Represent group interests

Not very important | Very important

20. In cases of conflict concerning matters before the European Parliament, should you use your own judgment, follow the policy decided by your national party, or follow the policy decided by your European parliamentary group?

Own judgment | National party view | European parliamentary group

21. Where would you most like to be ten years from now? Please tick as many as appropriate

- A member of the European Parliament
- Chair of your parliamentary group
- Chair of an EP committee
- Rapporteur of an EP committee
- Head of a European agency
- A member of the European Commission
- A member of your national parliament
- A member of your national government
- Retired from public life

22. Do you think your chances of being elected are...

- Very good
- Good
- Poor
- Very poor

Question 23 is for incumbent MEPs only, others please, continue with question 24

23. How frequently are you in contact with the following?

Ordinary citizens
Organised groups
Lobbyists
Leaders of your EP group
British MEPs of other parties
European civil servants
National party leaders
Nabonal MPs
Nabonal ministers
Nabonal civil servants

Very infrequently | Very frequently

Please don’t mark.
24. How much do you feel most MEPs are influenced by the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Influencer</th>
<th>Very much</th>
<th>Very little</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ordinary citizens</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Organised groups</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lobbyists</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leaders of their EP group</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fellow country MEPs of other Parties</td>
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<tr>
<td>European civil servants</td>
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<tr>
<td>National party leaders</td>
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<td>National MPs</td>
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<td>National ministers</td>
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<tr>
<td>National civil servants</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

25. In the average week about how many letters do you receive from individual citizens?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letters per week</th>
<th>1-10</th>
<th>11-50</th>
<th>51-100</th>
<th>101-200</th>
<th>&gt;=200</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weeds</td>
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</table>

And in the average week about how many letters do you receive from others?

26. How often do you have contact with the following interest groups?

**NATIONAL INTEREST GROUPS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>No contact</th>
<th>Seldom</th>
<th>At least once a year</th>
<th>At least once a quarter of a year</th>
<th>At least once a month</th>
<th>At least once a week</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National consumer associations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environmental organisations</td>
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<td>National labour unions</td>
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<td>National professional associations</td>
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<td>National economic interest groups of:</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Agricultural and Fishing</td>
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<td>- Industry</td>
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<td>- Transport</td>
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<td>- Trade and commerce</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Banking and Insurance</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Consumers Associations (e.g. EUROCOOP)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environmental Organisations (e.g. EEB)</td>
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<tr>
<td>European Trade Unions (e.g. ETUC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professional organisations (e.g. SEPLIS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>European interest groups of:</td>
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<td>- Agriculture/Fishing (e.g. COPA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Industry (e.g. UNICE)</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Transport (e.g. LCIRU)</td>
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<td>- Trade and Commerce (e.g. FIPMEC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Banking and Insurance (e.g. GCECEE)</td>
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</table>

27. Towards whom do you feel you would have the greatest responsibility?

- [ ] Your country's electorate at large
- [ ] All citizens in your constituency (if applicable)
- [ ] People who voted for your party
- [ ] Your national party
- [ ] Your European party group
- [ ] Other, i.e. ____________________________

Please don't mark.
28a Deciding EU legislation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>No power</th>
<th>All power</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Council of Ministers</td>
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<tr>
<td>European Parliament</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Governments acting individually</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Parliaments</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Commission</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

28b Deciding the EU budget.

<table>
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</table>

28c Political control of Commission activities.

<table>
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28d Choosing members of the Commission

<table>
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<tr>
<td>Commission</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

29 Where would you place yourself and others on these scales?

29a The main conflicts in the EU are between socio-economic groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Your position</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Your EP party group</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>MPs of your party</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Your party voters</td>
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</table>

29b In cases of conflict an MEP’s primary loyalty should be to his or her EP party group

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<th>Your position</th>
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29c All British MEPs should cooperate closely regardless of party

<table>
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<td>Your party voters</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

30 On the whole, how satisfied are you with the way democracy works in the European Union?

| | Very satisfied | | Fairly satisfied | | Not very satisfied | | Not at all satisfied |

31 On the whole, how satisfied are you with the way democracy works in your country?

| | Very satisfied | | Fairly satisfied | | Not very satisfied | | Not at all satisfied |

32 How much confidence do you have that decisions made by the European Union will be in the interest of your country?

| A great deal of confidence | A fair amount of confidence | Not very much confidence | No confidence at all |

Please don't mark.
33 In your view which of the following is the better way of taking important decisions in the Council of Ministers?

- If every member country of the EU agrees
- If a simple majority of countries agree
- If a weighted majority of countries agree

34 Are you for or against the European Parliament having power to pass laws that will apply directly in all member countries of the European Union, that is in Britain as well as elsewhere?

[ ] For  [ ] Against

35a To which one of the following geographical units would you say you belong to first of all?

- The locality or town where you live
- The region where you live
- Your country as a whole
- Europe
- The world as a whole

35b And which one comes second?

- The locality or town where you live
- The region where you live
- Your country as a whole
- Europe
- The world as a whole

36 How old are you?

- 18-25
- 26-35
- 36-45
- 46-55
- 56-65
- 66+

37 Are you male or female?

[ ] Male  [ ] Female

38 What is your present marital status?

[ ] Married  [ ] Widowed/separated/divorced/unmarried

39 If currently employed, please describe your occupation. If currently an MEP, please describe your occupation immediately prior to being elected.

39a Occupation

39b Please indicate your occupation from the following list:

- Architect/surveyor/engineer
- Armed services
- Clergy
- Clerical/secretarial
- Other white collar
- Trade union official
- Skilled manual worker
- Semi and unskilled manual worker
- Work in the home

39c Do you work in the public or private sector?

[ ] Public sector  [ ] Private sector

40 What is your highest qualification?

- University degree
- Other higher education
- Secondary school
- Primary school

41 Do you regard yourself as:

- Protestant
- Catholic
- Belonging to another religion
- Not belonging to a religion

42 How often do you attend a religious service?

- At least once a week
- At least once a month
- At least once a year
- Never