



# A survey of the ComRes EuroPoll Panel conducted on behalf of:



**August 2010**



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## METHODOLOGY

ComRes interviewed 100 MEPs between 19<sup>th</sup> July and 4<sup>th</sup> August 2010. Data were weighted to be representative demographically of all MEPs by political party and region. ComRes is a member of the British Polling Council and abides by its rules.

**ComRes is a member of the British Polling Council and abides by its rules ([www.britishpollingcouncil.org](http://www.britishpollingcouncil.org)). This commits us to the highest standards of transparency.**

The BPC's rules state that all data and research findings made on the basis of surveys conducted by member organisations that enter the public domain, must include reference to the following:

- The company conducting the research (ComRes)
- The client commissioning the survey
- Dates of interviewing
- Method of obtaining the interviews (e.g. in-person, post, telephone, internet)
- The universe effectively represented (all adults, voters etc)
- The percentages upon which conclusions are based
- Size of the sample and geographic coverage.

Published references (such as a press release) should also show a web address where full data tables may be viewed, and they should also show the complete wording of questions upon which any data that has entered the public domain are based.

All press releases or other publications must be checked with ComRes before use. ComRes requires 48 hours to check a press release unless otherwise agreed.

### **Members of the European Parliament were asked the following question:**

*Nagorno-Karabakh is one of the so called "frozen conflicts" in Eastern Europe's regions covered by the Eastern Partnership (EaP). To avoid a military escalation in Nagorno-Karabakh, similar to the one in Georgia in 2008, which of the following EU actions would you support?*

- Sending a mainly military peace enforcing mission in the framework of the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) to the area.
- Stopping the EU's support to the ongoing OSCE led negotiations and replacing it with a new EU format.
- Brokering a cease fire consolidation agreement between Armenia and Azerbaijan providing, for instance, for the removal of snipers from the contact line and the installation of international observers
- Upgrading the EU commitment for the peaceful settlement of the conflict by contributing to democratic capacity building in the conflict hit area (e.g. trainings and technical aid to the local administration and police).
- Sending a permanent non-military EU observer mission to the region in order to avoid the break out of war "by accident".

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The European Friends of Armenia commissioned ComRes to carry out a poll of Members of the European Parliament to assess their views of options for how to avoid military escalation in the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region.

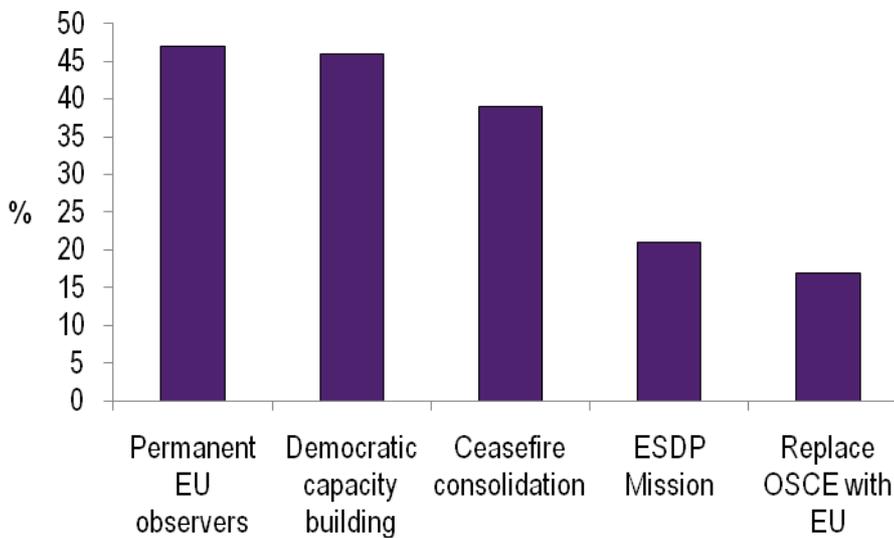
- MEPs believe that *sending a permanent non-military EU observer mission to the region and upgrading the EU's commitment to a peaceful settlement in the region by contributing to democratic capability building* are the best ways of avoiding military escalations in Nagorno Karabakh.
- There is limited support among MEPs for *sending a military peace enforcing mission to Nagorno Karabakh under the framework of the ESDP, or for replacing the current OSCE-led negotiations in the region with ones led by the EU.*
- MEPs from Western Europe are more likely than their colleagues in other regions to support interventionist approaches to Nagorno Karabakh, recording the highest levels of support for four out of the five options tested. In particular they are more likely to favour sending a non-military EU observer mission to the region, with six in ten selecting this option.
- Support for replacing the OSCE led negotiations with an EU alternative is particularly low among MEPs from Northern Europe and from the UK and Ireland. Indeed, the measure received no support whatsoever from Northern European MEPs.

**Question One: Nagorno-Karabakh is one of the so called “frozen conflicts” in Eastern Europe’s regions covered by the Eastern Partnership (EaP). To avoid a military escalation in Nagorno-Karabakh, similar to the one in Georgia in 2008, which of the following EU actions would you support?**

**1.1 OVERALL RESULTS**

Of each of the options offered to MEPs, as means by which to avoid a military escalation in Nagorno-Karabakh, the most popular is *sending a permanent non-military EU observer mission to the region in order to avoid the break out of war “by accident”* – favoured by 47% of Members. 46% of MEPs favour *upgrading the EU commitment for the peaceful settlement of the conflict by contributing to democratic capacity building in the conflict hit area (e.g. trainings and technical aid to the local administration and police)*.

Two in five MEPs (39%) would support *brokering a cease fire consolidation agreement between Armenia and Azerbaijan providing, for instance, for the removal of snipers from the contact line and the installation of international observers*. One in five Deputies (21%) favour *sending a mainly military peace enforcing mission in the framework of the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) to the area*, while 17% support *stopping the EU’s support to the ongoing OSCE led negotiations and replacing it with a new EU format*.



**Fig 1.1 Actions supported by MEPs**  
**Base: All MEPs**

## Key

- **“ESDP Mission”** - Sending a mainly military peace enforcing mission in the framework of the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) to the area.
- **“Replace OSCE with EU”** - Stopping the EU’s support to the ongoing OSCE led negotiations and replacing it with a new EU format.
- **“Cease fire consolidation”** - Brokering a cease fire consolidation agreement between Armenia and Azerbaijan providing, for instance, for the removal of snipers from the contact line and the installation of international observers.
- **“Democratic capacity building”** - Upgrading the EU commitment for the peaceful settlement of the conflict by contributing to democratic capacity building in the conflict hit area (e.g. trainings and technical aid to the local administration and police).
- **“Permanent EU observers”** - Sending a permanent non-military EU observer mission to the region in order to avoid the break out of war “by accident”.

## 1.2 RESULTS BY REGION

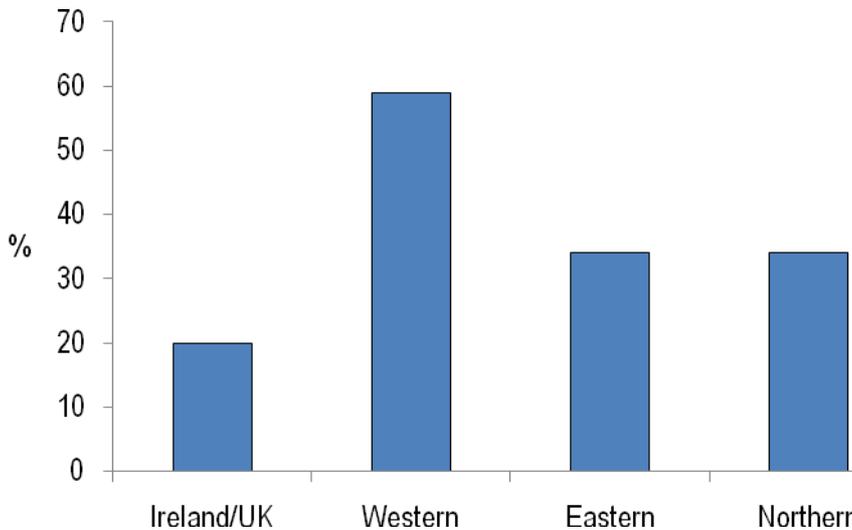
The following sections analyse the results of this survey by European region.

### **Sending a permanent non-military EU observer mission to the region in order to avoid the break out of war “by accident”.**

*Sending a permanent non-military EU observer mission to the region in order to avoid the break out of war “by accident”* is the measure most likely to be supported by the Western Region’s MEPs, of whom three in five (59%) support the strategy.

Lower and similar levels of support for the proposal are registered by Eastern Members (34%) and Northern Members (34%) while Members from UK and Ireland are even less likely to favour the action (20%).

Female MEPs (55%) are more likely to favour this option than their male colleagues (42%).



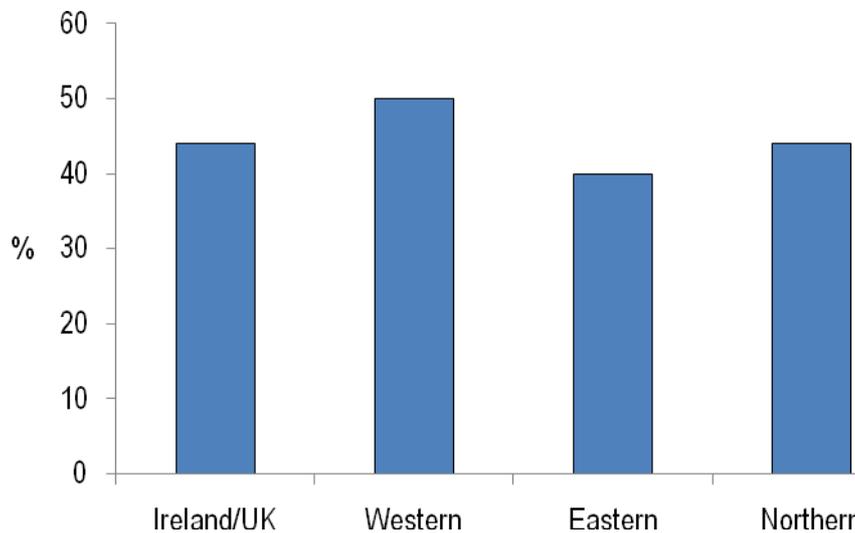
**Fig 1.6 Sending a permanent non-military EU observer mission to the region in order to avoid the break out of war “by accident”.**

**Base: All MEPs, by region**

**Upgrading the EU commitment for the peaceful settlement of the conflict by contributing to democratic capacity building in the conflict hit area (e.g. trainings and technical aid to the local administration and police).**

There is much more agreement among MEPs from all regions of the EU on *Upgrading the EU commitment for the peaceful settlement of the conflict by contributing to democratic capacity building in the conflict hit area (e.g. trainings and technical aid to the local administration and police)*. The action is most likely to be favoured by MEPs from Western Europe, but garners strong levels of support from all four regions.

This approach stands out as having the greatest consensus across EU states.



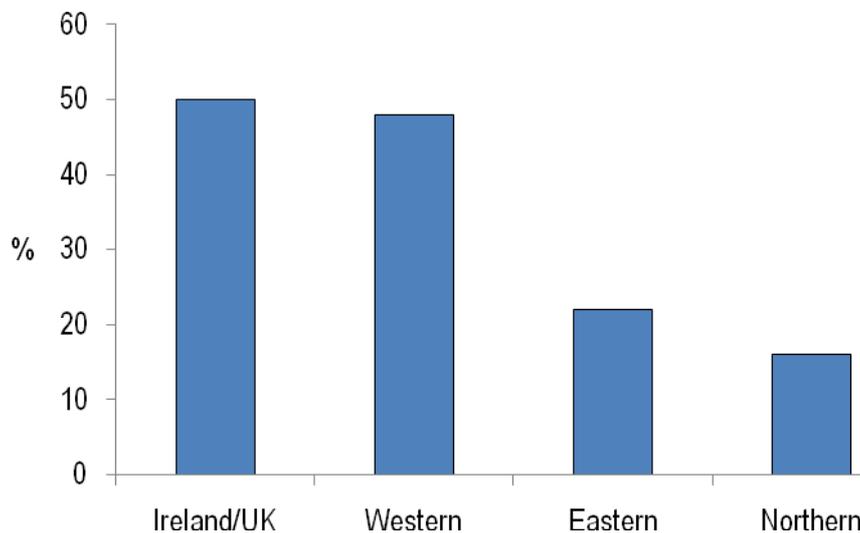
**Fig 1.5 Upgrading the EU commitment for the peaceful settlement of the conflict by contributing to democratic capacity building in the conflict hit area (e.g. trainings and technical aid to the local administration and police).**

**Base: All MEPs, by region**

**Brokering a cease fire consolidation agreement between Armenia and Azerbaijan providing, for instance, for the removal of snipers from the contact line and the installation of international observers**

This measure very clearly divides MEPs along Eastern and Western lines. The measure is very well supported by MEPs from Ireland and the UK, and from Western Europe (50% and 48% respectively). Indeed, among MEPs from the UK and Ireland this measure was the most widely supported of the options provided.

However, among MEPs from Eastern and Northern Europe *brokering a cease fire consolidation agreement between Armenia and Azerbaijan providing, for instance, for the removal of snipers from the contact line and the installation of international observers* is much less widely supported with only about one in five selecting this option (22% and 16% respectively).

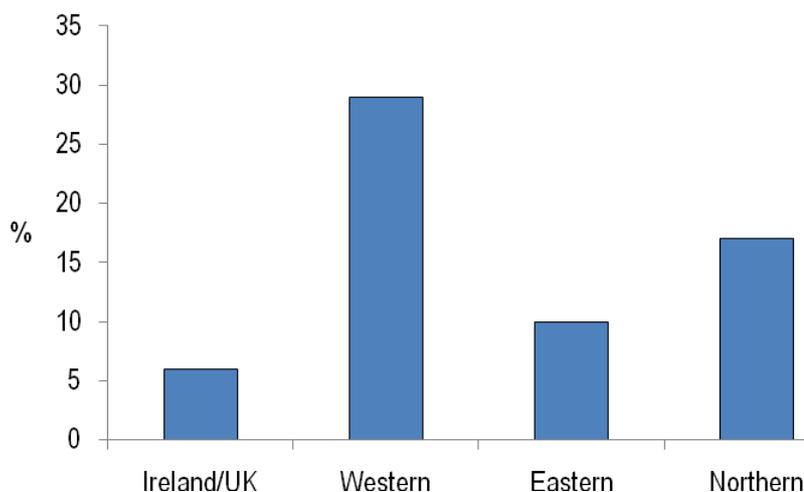


**Fig 1.4 Brokering a cease fire consolidation agreement between Armenia and Azerbaijan providing, for instance, for the removal of snipers from the contact line and the installation of international observers**

**Base: All MEPs, by region**

**Sending a mainly military peace enforcing mission in the framework of the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) to the area.**

29% of MEPs from Western Europe favour *sending a mainly military peace enforcing mission in the framework of the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) to Nagorno Karabakh*. This proposal is only supported by 10% of Eastern European Members and 6% of Deputies from the UK and Ireland. This low support for a peace keeping mission among UK and Ireland MEPs *may* be a result of the UK's substantial existing military commitments.



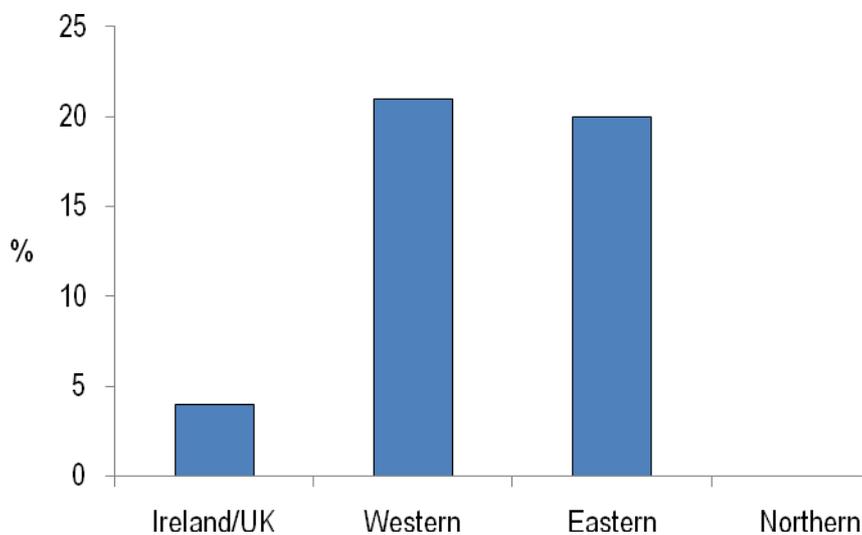
**Fig 1.2 Sending a mainly military peace enforcing mission in the framework of the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) to the area.**

Base: All MEPs, by region

**Stopping the EU's support to the ongoing OSCE led negotiations and replacing it with a new EU format.**

This proposal is supported by one in five MEPs from Western and Eastern Europe (21% and 20% respectively) but has little or no support from members from the UK and Ireland or Northern Europe (4% and 0% respectively).

There is also a stark gender divide in the responses to this action: 36% of female MEPs favour stopping the EU's support to the ongoing OSCE led negotiations and replacing it with a new EU format, compared to just 6% of male MEPs.



**Fig 1.3 Stopping the EU's support to the ongoing OSCE led negotiations and replacing it with a new EU format.**

**Base: All MEPs, by region**



## **About ComRes**

ComRes is the leading research consultancy for the communications sector. It is unique as a provider of research that is designed and conducted by experts in both polling and communications.

ComRes takes pride in offering our clients a full service package. This means that we will be happy to assist with all question design, fieldwork management, through to providing a full analytical report outlining the findings of the research and putting them into a practical context within the quoted budgets.

We have a strong track record of conducting bespoke, large-scale, quantitative research that has been used in conjunction with high profile thought-leadership work and frontline campaigns. We have also developed a strong expertise in assessing opinion within hard-to-reach groups.

ComRes regularly works for different media outlets. We are trusted by national newspapers and broadcasters, which gives the work we do for our clients, if published, added credibility across a range of media. Similarly, we are happy to advise our clients during the design stage of our research projects as to how findings might best be tailored to media needs for maximum coverage.

Our unique range of research tools include the largest survey panel of MPs ever created, and the only panels of MEPs, devolved legislature members and local councilors.

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