

INTERNATION MUSING: ISTANBUL, ATHENS, AMSTERDAM, PATRA, UTRECHT, AND THESSALONIKI.

THIS BLOG IS INIATED BY HANS A.H.C. DE WIT, A DUTCH LIVING IN ISTANBUL WITH CO-BLOGGERS FROM TURKEY, GREECE, THE NETHERLANDS, AND THE USA. WRITING ABOUT: POLITICS, CULTURES, RELIGIONS, ART, DAILY LIFE, COMMUNICATIONS, ETC. ENJOY!

SATURDAY, MAY 23, 2009

EU voters don't have Turkey on their minds



Many people in Turkey believe that whether Turkey, as a Muslim country, should be allowed to join the EU is a hot issue or maybe the hottest issue in the upcoming EU elections in June. It's not. It's not even in the top-twenty most important issues for the EU-voters.

So what is important to the people who fill in the EU Profiler? (see below) Firstly, the promotion of sustainable energy, even if it means higher energy prices. Here there seems to be quite a degree of unanimity in Europe, because the issue scores highly in nearly every country.

On other topics, opinion is divided. For example, on the desirability of health care privatisation. In the Netherlands this is barely matter for debate, but in Sweden, Italy, Poland and Austria it heads the list.

Another hot issue is terrorism. To the pan-European Euro-sceptic party Libertas, it's evidently a crucial topic. And indeed, the acceptability of restricting civil rights (related to terrorism) turns out to be among the top three priority issues of many visitors to the EU Profiler. For the Czechs, it's actually the most important issue.

But why is the Turkey EU accession talks, a big favourite among



WELCOME - ABOUT
INTERNATION MUSING

We are a group of people from different countries located in Turkey, Greece, the Netherlands and the USA.

We have different religious backgrounds: Hindu, Catholic, Muslim, Greek Orthodox, and agnostic.

But that doesn't mean that we are divided; we are united in our strenght that cross cultural communication is much more important, than it ever was; with an open mind.

Comments are well appreciated.

And, for most of the people on this blog, English is their second language.

On the right toolbar of this screen you will find pictures of us, with names and where we are living.

And you will find below the archive of 2008 - 2009 and the complete archive of 2004-2008 seperate on the toolbar below.

Happy reading!

Kindest,

populist parties like Geert Wilders' Freedom Party in the Netherlands, not important for EU voters in general?

One of the makers of the EU Profiler, Amsterdam political scientist André Krouwel, is not surprised that political parties should have different priorities from the electorate. "Well, surprise surprise: *the elite thinks that other things are important than the masses*. What else is new in politics? Mr Wilders, for example, has been in parliament for twelve years so he's clearly part of the political elite. He's trying to frame an issue that for a certain group of voters - say ten, twenty per cent - is very important. But overall, that is not the most salient issue".

On the other hand immigration - another favourite Freedom Party topic - actually does matter to the electorate.

Particularly in the Netherlands and Hungary, the statement that immigrants should be obliged to accept European values is ranked highly in terms of importance. And now Mr Krouwel thinks the politicians need to shift their attention to issues voters actually care about; "Immigration and the environment are what they should talk about, absolutely. They shouldn't talk about institutions and whether there should be one or two foreign ministers for the European Union, or a president, or whatever treaty."

Turkey as a possible EU country and the immigration issue are of course close related. But it looks like that many EU voters are more worried about the enormous problems the latest enlargement wave caused (influx of Polish, Romanian and Bulgarians uneducated migrant workers) and therefore not have Turkey in their mind since they sincerely believe that Turkey will never be an EU member.

Personally I think Turkey could be an asset for the EU, but Turkey lost, after the official start of the negotiations, its appetite for the EU and lost clearly momentum. While only around 57% of the Turkish population support Turkey's EU accession process, more than 65% of the Europeans are against. Will a forced marriage be beneficial for both?

For more details go to the multilingual [EU Profiler](#) website (also in Turkish) and play around.

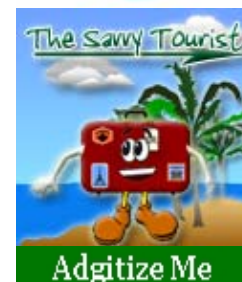


POSTED BY INTERNATIONAL MUSING AT 10:56 AM
 LABELS: [ABOUT TURKEY](#), [THE EU](#)

2 COMMENTS:

Hans, dewithco@consultant.com
 Seda,
 Eva,
 Christos,
 Kivanc
 and Sandra

GUEST BLOGGER OF THE DAY



TWITTER UPDATES

the turkish state is everywhere...even deep... about 20 hours ago
 for those who send messages, can not send back; firefox and explorer are in fight who can serve me, in the end..it shuts down. solution soon about 20 hours