



New Poll Shows Most Europeans Say 'NO' to Cruelty from Canada

A new Ipsos MORI poll commissioned by a group of nine non-profit organizations released 14 July 2011 shows the majority of people across 11 EU countries support the European Union (EU) ban on seal products.

Q1 "Thinking about commercial seal hunting, how much — if at all — would you say you personally know about this?"

Base: All

	A great deal	A fair amount	Not very much	Nothing at all but have heard of it	Never heard of it	Not sure
	%	%	%	%	%	%
11-country total	3	18	30	23	25	1
Belgium	10	30	31	17	11	1
France	2	25	16	30	27	-
Germany	2	23	50	22	3	-
Great Britain	4	18	26	15	38	4
Italy	5	16	33	18	27	1
Lithuania	1	4	15	29	50	1
Netherlands	4	34	29	22	10	1
Poland	1	4	13	38	42	4
Romania	1	3	13	16	66	1
Spain	3	15	35	22	20	4
Sweden	1	12	40	41	6	1

Q2 (USED IN ALL COUNTRIES, INCLUDING HALF OF THE GB SAMPLE).

"In March 2011, the Canadian Government said it would allow the hunting of over 400,000 seals during this year's commercial seal hunt. While it is prohibited in Canada to trade in the skins of newborn seals (known as "whitecoats"), these pups are no longer protected when they begin to shed their white fur - when they can be as young as 12 days old. In fact, the large majority of the seals killed in Canada's commercial seal hunt are under three months old. Commercial hunts will also take place in some other countries, such as Norway.

Some people support commercial seal hunting because they say it is important to the livelihoods of the people who hunt seals and because they say seal populations should be controlled. Other people oppose commercial seal hunting because they say hunting seals is wrong, since they feel some of the methods used to kill seals cause too much pain or distress.

As you may know, last year the European Union (the EU) banned seal products from the commercial seal hunts (such as seal fur) from being sold in Europe. The EU did this because it believed there was concern among the public in Europe about seals being killed using methods that cause too much pain or distress.

From what you know, do you support or oppose the EU ban on the sale of seal products in Europe? Would you say you..."

Q2 (USED ONLY IN GB FOR HALF OF THE SAMPLE).

"As you may know, last year the European Union (the EU) banned seal products from the commercial seal hunts (such as seal fur) from being sold in Europe.

From what you know, do you support or oppose the EU ban on the sale of seal products in Europe? Would you say you..."

Base: All

	Strongly support	Tend to support	Neither /nor	Tend to oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know/ no opinion	Support	Oppose
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
11-country total	56	16	8	4	10	6	72	13
Belgium	68	16	7	2	4	3	84	6
France	57	24	9	4	5	1	81	9
Germany	71	17	6	2	3	1	88	5
Great Britain (with intro)	56	17	11	5	9	2	73	14
Great Britain (without intro)	46	18	16	4	9	7	64	13
Italy	43	9	6	5	29	8	52	33
Lithuania	57	18	9	5	7	3	75	13
Netherlands	53	13	10	3	14	7	66	17
Poland	55	18	7	4	6	11	73	10
Romania	52	10	13	2	3	20	61	6
Spain	49	13	12	5	10	11	62	15
Sweden	55	19	10	4	4	8	73	9

Survey Technical Details

The multi-country survey was conducted by Ipsos MORI in 11 European countries, commissioned by the eight animal welfare NGOs listed above. A minimum of 500 interviews were conducted in each country (a total of 6,102 across the 11 countries), either face-to-face or by telephone (omnibus surveys), in April/ May 2011.

National results are 'weighted' to the known adult population profile of each country by age, sex, work status (active or inactive) and region. The overall results for all 11 countries are also weighted in proportion to each country's adult population size.

In Great Britain, a 'split-sample' was used to test the impact of knowledge of commercial seal hunting and the EU ban. One version of the question provided some background to commercial seal hunting and the ban (as did the question used in all other countries), while the second version - unique to GB - did not provide the background. The two sets of GB results are shown below. (For international consistency, the overall 11 country results include ONLY the GB results using the longer question wording).

The multi-country survey was commissioned by:

Humane Society International (HSI)
 The International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)
 The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA)
 Eurogroup for Animals
 The World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA)
 Global Action in the Interest of Animals (GAIA)
 Lega Anti Vivisezione (LAV)
 Bont voor Dieren
 Fondation Franz Weber

Press release, 14 July 2011:

www.hsi.org/world/europe/news/releases/2011/07/eu_poll_supports_ban_071411.html