



PRESS RELEASE

CRIME, SAFETY & SECURITY IN AUSTRIA

There is extremely high public support for the police and only sexual assaults are significantly higher than the EU average

Rates of crime

- Rates of “common crime” have fallen by 2% since 1999 (to 12%) and are now below the EU average
- Thefts of cars are the lowest in the EU
- Burglaries and robberies have slightly increased since 1999, but remain low (around 1% and 0.6% respectively)
- Although sexual crime rates have dropped, they are in the top four member states in this category (at just over 2% prevalence)
- Assaults (with and without force) and “hate crimes” are all below the EU average

Ethics (corruption and consumer fraud)

- Consumer fraud (at 8%) is below the EU average
- Corruption rates (0.5%) are way below the EU average

Concerns, precautions taken and the police (including comments on drugs)

- Rates of fitting special locks (60 over 45% EU average) are extremely high, while burglar alarms are below the EU average (15%)
- Police - lots of public support – the force is the highest ranked in the EU in terms of overall performance ratings
- Contact with drug-related incidents have doubled since the 2002 Eurobarometer survey (to 8%) but is still below the EU average

Solving the problems

- No desire for custodial sentences for recidivist offenders in Austria, only French citizens are more opposed

From the report: - "The Burden of Crime in the EU, A Comparative Analysis of the European Survey of Crime and Safety (EU ICS) 2005". Robert Manchin, Gallup Europe, coordinated the Consortium and the project was co-financed by the European Commission under FP6.

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