

PAPER

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DANISH WOMEN LOVE THE EU MORE THAN MEN¹

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SUMMARY On several crucial issues, Danish women are more positive about EU partnership than Danish men. This is shown in a new poll, which the European Parliament has conducted in all member states. Historically, the EU has especially won support from the male part of the Danish population, but this may be changing. For the first time since the polling began in 2007, significantly more women than men consider Denmark's membership of the EU a "a good thing".

Danish women also believe to a greater extent that their vote counts in the EU and that Denmark has benefited from European partnership all in all. In addition, they are even less likely than men to want to leave the EU. The poll confirms what several polls carried out following the vote on Brexit have shown: Danish support for the EU has taken a significant upwards turn in recent years, it is stable and significantly higher than the average for all EU 28 member states.

While Danish men are more focused on economic, labor relations and EU immigration, women are more concerned than the men with climate, peace and security, terrorism, and that Denmark through the EU achieves greater influence globally and that our ability to cooperate with countries outside the EU is strengthened.

¹ This paper is an in-house translation done by Louise Pierrel Mikkelsen of the Danish original article: <http://thinkeuropa.dk/vaerdier/danske-kvinder-elsker-eu-mere-end-maend>

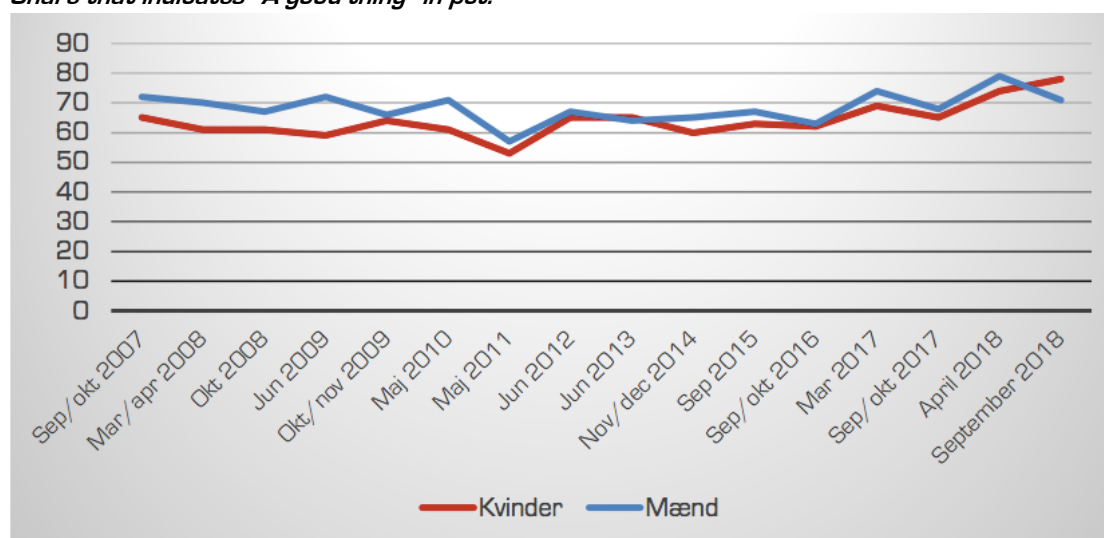
MAIN CONCLUSIONS:

- Historically, Danish men have been more EU positive than Danish women, but this may be changing. On a number of crucial issues, women are either catching up with or overtaking the men.
- Significantly more women than men have indicated that the EU is "a good thing". This is the first time since the polling began in 2007.
- If there was a vote today, 79% of women would vote yes to become EU members, while 10% would vote to leave the EU. Looking at the men, 74 per cent want to remain while 17 per cent want to leave the EU.
- Women are more concerned than men with areas such as climate, peace and security, terrorism, and that Denmark through the EU gets greater global influence and that our cooperation with non-EU countries is strengthened.
- Growth, job opportunities and immigration, on the other hand, weigh higher for men than women.
- According to Danes, climate and the environment are the most important topics in the debate in the run-up to the elections of the European Parliament in May 2019. Only Sweden and the Netherlands have a larger proportion of the population prioritizing this challenge.
- Both Danish women and men prioritize climate and the environment as the most important theme, but women weigh it 9 percentage points higher than men.
- Overall, the poll shows that Danish support for the EU has taken a significant upward turn following the UK vote on the EU and that Denmark's support is stable and significantly higher than the EU average.

Since 2007, the European Parliament has conducted its own polls in the EU member countries. The latest survey, published in October 2018, shows a historically high support for the EU. In all Member States, 62 pct. correspond, that EU membership is "a good thing" for their country. This is the highest ever measured – 15 percentage points higher than the lowest measurement in May 2011 and 9 percentage points higher than a corresponding measurement just two years ago in 2016. Only 11 per cent. in the latest survey state, that EU membership is "a bad thing". Looking solely at the Danes support for the EU, it is even higher than EU average. In the latest survey, 75 per cent of Danes answer that EU membership is "a good thing". 84 per cent of Danes think that Denmark has "benefited" from its membership versus 68 per cent at EU level (both are record numbers). And 83 per cent Danes feel that their vote counts in the EU, which has the largest share in all EU countries. Ultimately, 77 percent of Danes state that they would vote to remain in the EU if there was a vote today. Only 14 per cent would vote to leave the community.

Looking at these key issues, support for the EU has increased significantly in Member States in the wake of Britain's decision in June 2016 to leave the EU. This is especially true in Denmark. When studying at the development in Denmark, it becomes clear that support for the EU is driven by female voters in particular. They have historically been a little more EU skeptical than Danish males. See Figure 1.

Figure 1: Danish women are surpassing the men. *Generally speaking, do you think Denmark's membership of the EU is 1) A good thing 2) A bad thing 3) Neither a good nor a bad thing, 4) Do not know. Share that indicates "A good thing" in pct.*



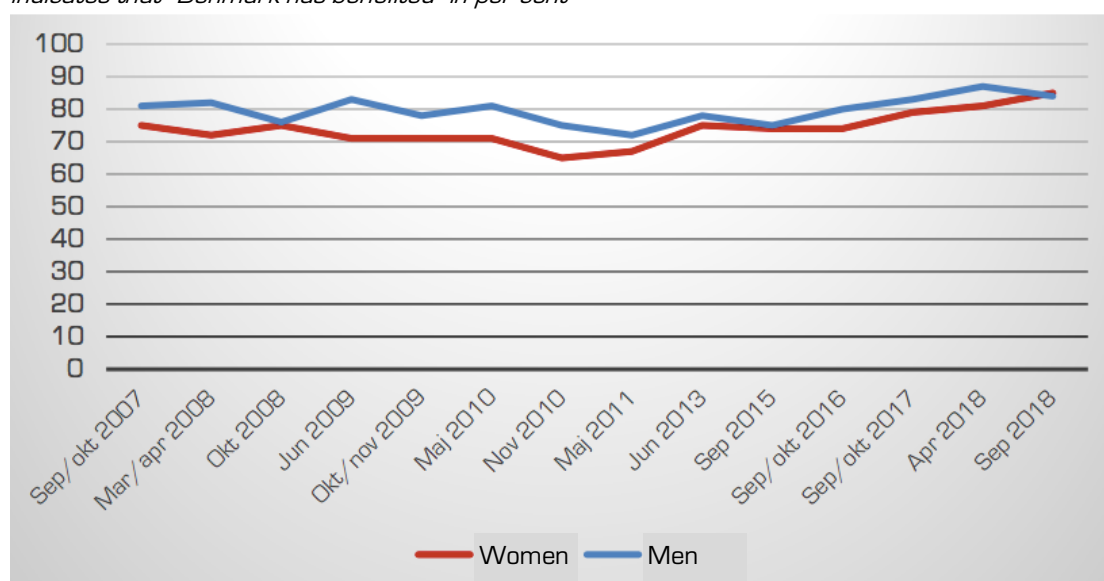
Source: Think Tank EUROPA based on Parameter 2018

For the first time women actually appear to be more positive than men, on European cooperation in several areas. In the latest survey significantly, more women

than men answer, for example that Denmark's membership of the EU is "a good thing". This is the first time since 2007, when the European Parliament started to make the poll. In June 2013 women were one percentage point higher than men, but this is within the statistical uncertainty. In the most recent poll 78 per cent. of women and 71 per cent. of the men corresponds respectively, that membership is "a good thing".

Figure 2: Women see advantages

All in all, do you think that Denmark has benefited or not from its membership of the EU? Share that indicates that "Denmark has benefited" in per cent



Source: Think Tank EUROPA based on Parameter 2018.

Figure 2 shows that the Danish women are drawing nearer the men when it comes to assess whether Denmark has "benefited" from membership of the EU. And in the latest poll women are at 85 per cent. exactly a point higher than the men at 84 per cent. This is the first time in the polled period of time, but within statistical uncertainty. In the years after the financial crisis, women were far less likely than men, to say that Denmark benefited from EU membership. After the refugee crisis in 2015, women were also lower than men, but from 2016 - where the British voted for Brexit and the United States chose Donald Trump as president - more Danish males and females say that, it is an advantage for Denmark being a part of the EU. The latest survey shows for the first time that women view the EU more positive than Danish men

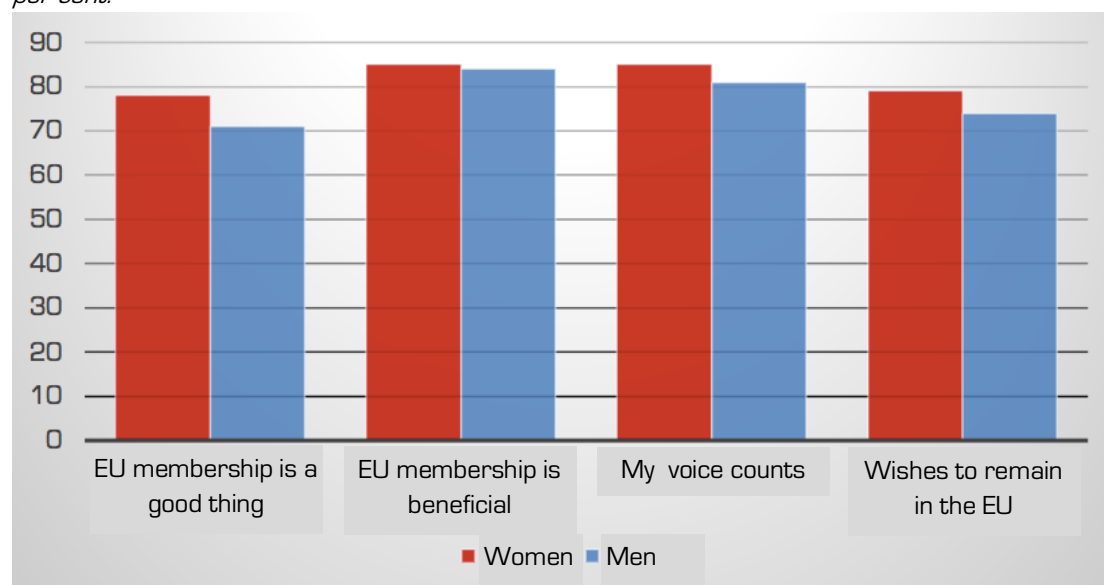
As mentioned, Denmark is the country in which most feel that their voice counts in the EU. Here Danish women also lay higher than the men in the latest survey. 85 per cent. of females agree to that they "feel heard in the EU, while this applies to only 81 per cent of the males. It is, however, not the first time that women have

been higher than men in this matter. Ultimately, the Danish women are significantly less likely than men to wish to leave the EU. If there was a vote today, 79 per cent. of women would vote “yes” to remain in the EU, while 10 per cent. would vote to leave the EU. Looking at men, 74 per cent. would vote to remain, while 17 per cent. would vote for Denmark to leave the EU. There is thus a significant difference in hard EU resistance - understood as the wish to leave the EU - between the sexes.

Looking at the most recent survey Danish women are more positive about European partnership on a number of key issues. See Figure 3.

Figure 3: Women view the EU more positively than men

Proportion of women and men who respond positively to questions about attitudes towards the EU in per cent.



Source: Think Tank EUROPA based on Parameter 2018.

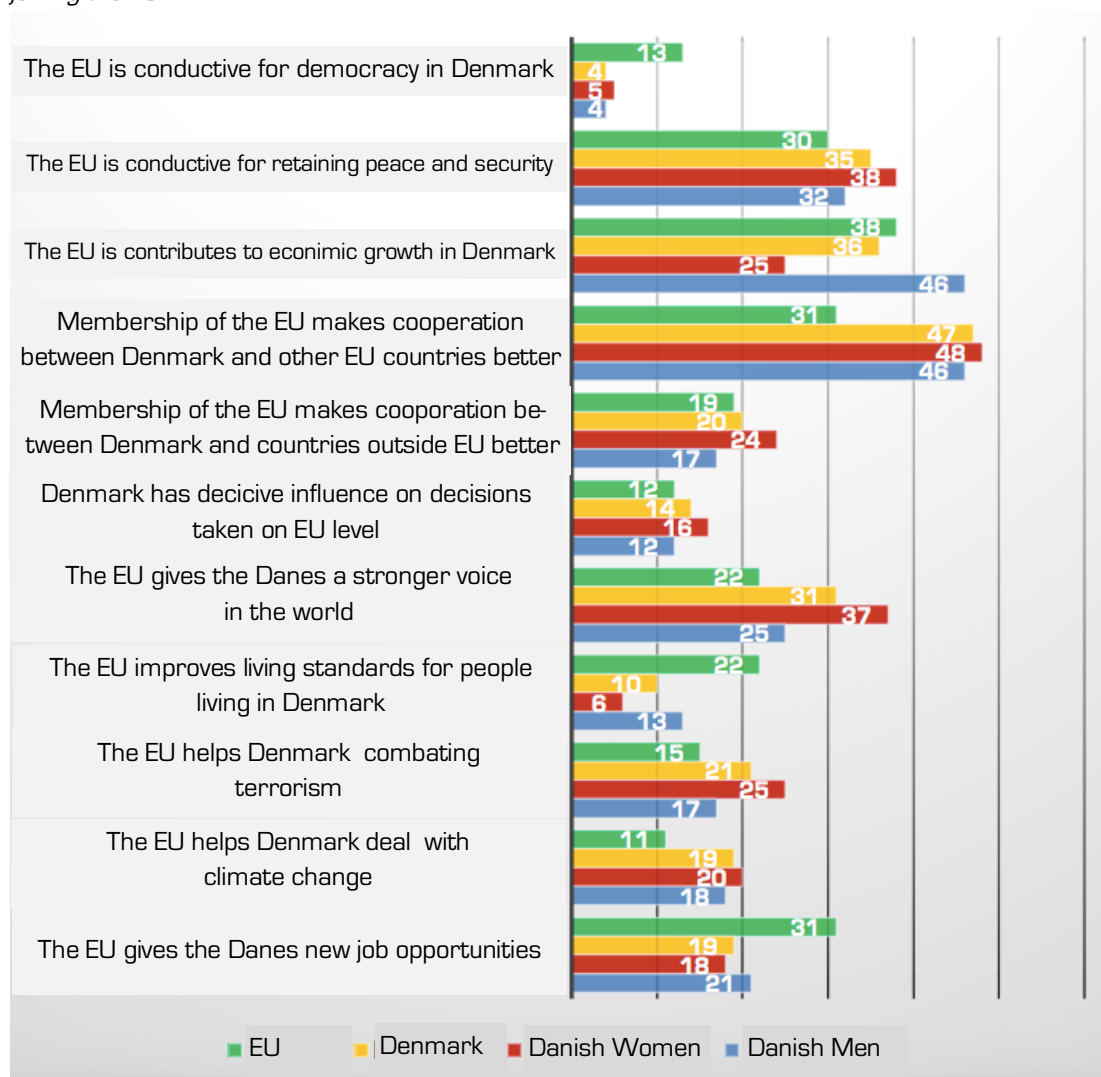
In the latest poll from the European Parliament, the participants are asked in more detail what respondents think presumptions behind the assumption that Denmark has benefited from joining EU. Overall, more Danes than the EU-average believe that the EU contributes to areas such as peace and security, combating terrorism, climate challenges, cooperation between countries and the EU gives Denmark a voice in the world.

Conversely, the Danes attach less significance than the EU average to the more economic part of the partnership, such as the EU improves living standards or that the partnership provides new job opportunities. Denmark is well-functioning and prosperous country with a robust economy, but we are also a small country that

needs other countries to handle cross-border challenges. This seems to be largely reflected in the answers.

Figure 4: Women see more advantages with the EU

Which of the following reasons are the most important factors for Denmark having benefited of joining the EU? in %



Source: Think Tank EUROPA based on Parameter 2018.

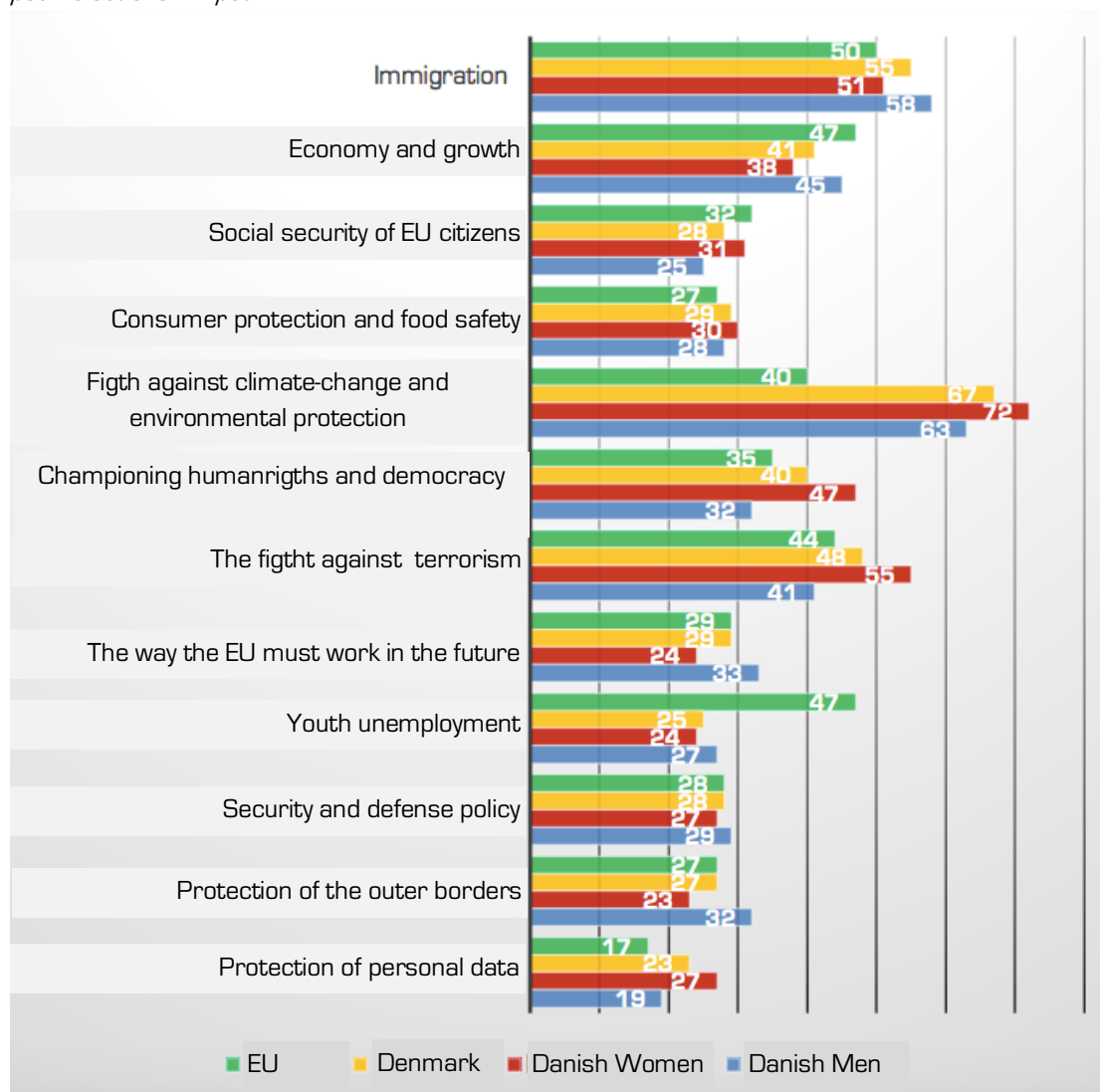
If you look only at the Danish women and men, there are significant differences. Just three of the 11 listed reasons, that Denmark benefits from EU membership, are weighed higher by Danish men than women. This applies to economic / labor areas such as contribution to growth, improving living standards and new job opportunities. That “the EU contributes to economic growth in Denmark” is the statement that is weighted most differently between the sexes. While 46 per cent. of the Danish males point to this statement, this applies only to 25 per cent. of Danish females. This is a difference of 21 percentage points.

Eight of the 11 stated reasons are weighted highest by women. Most striking is the difference with regards to that the EU gives the Danes a stronger voice in the world. This statement 37 percent of the Danish women indicate, while only 25 percent of the men, i.e. a difference of 12 percentage points. The EU average is 22 percent. Peace and security and the fight against terrorism is also weighted considerably higher by Danish females than males. Here the difference is respectively 6 and 8 percentage points.

The differences between the sexes is also apparent in relation to what is seen as the most important themes in the upcoming election campaign in the run-up to elections of the European Parliament the 26th of May 2019. Although Danish females and males largely prioritize the same themes, there are also significant differences of nuance. See Figure 5 on the next page.

Figure 5: According to women, the environment and terror should influence the EP election campaign

Which of the following themes should be debated in the election campaign in the run-up to the European elections? In pct.



Note: Respondents have the opportunity to submit two responses. Source: Think Tank EUROPA based on Parameter 2018.

It is striking that for both sexes the efforts to combat climate change and environmental protection, are clearly the main theme in the election campaign. Where this theme is weighted at 40 per cent by respondents across the EU, as much as 67 per cent. of the Danish population point at this as the most important area of the election campaign.

At a space of 27 percentage points from the EU average, Danes are amongst the EU populations most concerned with climate and environment. Only in Sweden and the Netherlands does an even larger share of the population indicate this theme

as important. 72 per cent of Danish women point to climate and the environment, against 63 per cent. of the men.

With 55 per cent “terrorism” comes as the second most important topic for women, while 58 per cent of men indicate “immigration”. While the men weigh immigration 7 percentage points higher than women, women weigh terrorism 14 percentage points higher than men. Dissemination of democracy and Human Rights and the protection of personal data are the other themes that Danish women weigh significantly higher than men. Conversely Danish men weigh “protection of external borders”, the organization of the future EU and economy / growth higher than the women.