

MINISTERIAL QUESTIONNAIRE
Ministers in Central Eastern Europe (FINAL VERSION 19.2.2004)

VAR QUESTIONS

- 01 In how many cabinets did you serve as minister?
- 02 In your opinion, was the cabinet a place where major issues in cabinet were thoroughly debated?
- 03 If minister in more than one cabinet:
In this respect did you feel that there were differences among cabinets to which you belonged?
- 04 If yes, second cabinet: which differences?
- 05 If yes, third cabinet: which differences?
- 06 If you feel that matters were not fully discussed in cabinet, where in your experience did that discussions mostly took place?
- 07 Let us return to discussions in cabinet.
In your experience, were there instance of substantial disagreement amongst cabinet members?
- 08 If minister in more than one cabinet, were there differences with respect to disagreements between cabinets?
- 09 If yes: was the second cabinet more or less conflictual?
- 10 If yes: was the third cabinet: as the first cabinet; as the second cabinet; different than the second and the third cabinet?

If yes: how were these disagreements mostly solved?

- 11 First cabinet
- 12 Second cabinet
- 13 Third cabinet

How satisfied are you on the whole with the cabinet decision-making process?

- 14 First cabinet
- 15 Second cabinet

16 Third cabinet

00 What were the points which seemed to you in need of reform? (NOT CODED)

On the whole do you think that the cabinet you participated was effective in decision making?

17 First cabinet

18 Second cabinet

19 Third cabinet

20 During your time in government, did foreign actors (governments, international organisations) try to influence decision-making in your ministry?

21 In those cases when foreign actors did have influence, would you say that their influence on your decisions were mostly positive or negative?

22 Have you ever felt under pressure from outside actors (NGO`s, business organisations etc.) to initiate proposals for cabinet?

23 And now let us come to your own role as minister:
Did you yourself go out of your departmental area in cabinet discussions?

In general was it common for ministers to participate in discussions not related to their departmental matters?

24 First cabinet

25 Second cabinet

26 Third cabinet

27 Which minister seems to you to be the most important person in cabinet?

28 Why is this minister important?

29 If minister of finance not mentioned: and what about the minister of finance?
Why is he/she in your view not important?

30 If you had a conflict with this important minister how did you usually solve this conflict?

31 In matters relating to your department, were there decisions that you did not feel able to take on your own?

32 For what reasons?

33 If you wanted/had to bring an issue to cabinet, what strategy did you follow?

As regards the PM`s under whom you have served:
Would you say he or she was...

34 First Prime Minister

35 Second Prime Minister

36 Third Prime Minister

On what types of matters was he or she most influential?

37 First Prime Minister

38 Second Prime Minister

39 Third Prime Minister

On what ways did he or she exercise influence?

40 First Prime Minister

41 Second Prime Minister

42 Third Prime Minister

Did this mode of behaviour change during the PM's tenure?

43 First Prime Minister

44 Second Prime Minister

45 Third Prime Minister

If yes: in what way?

46 First Prime Minister

47 Second Prime Minister

48 Third Prime Minister

49 What role did the PM's office (secretariat) play in the cabinet decision making?

Were there differences in the role the PM's office (secretariat) from one cabinet to another?

50 First Prime Minister` office

51 How did the office act? (First PM)

52 Second Prime Minister` office

53 How did the office act? (Second PM)

54 Third Prime Minister` office

55 How did the office act? (Third PM)

56 Generally speaking, do you think that the influence of the PM's office (secretariat) was too large or too limited during your time as minister?

57 Which personal experiences would you consider to have been particularly useful for your activity as minister?

58 In the matter of minister-civil servant relationships:
What kind of rapport did you establish with the officials in your department?

59 Would you trust your civil servants to provide reliable information?

60 Are you confident with the quality of civil servants work?

61 In your time as minister, how important was your party (the party that nominated you) for cabinet decision making?

62 What kind of party meetings did you usually attend?

63 What kind of relationship existed between you and the top party executive?

64 What kind of relationship existed between you and the parliamentary party (Fraktion/Faction)?

If you were a minister in a coalition:

65 What sort of contact existed between the coalition partners, to influence collaboration government policy?

66 Were there any differences in decision-making between the coalitions to which you belonged?

67 If yes: in what way for the 2nd coalition?

- 68 If yes: in what way for the 3rd coalition?
- 69 If yes: what were the reasons for these differences?
- 70 How did you brief yourself on cabinet matters?

What about the media?
Were the media was most influential...

- 71 ...on the topics of cabinet discussions?
- 72 ...on the amount of time given to cabinet discussions
- 73 ...on the presentation of cabinet decisions
- 74 ...on the substance of cabinet decisions
- 75 Is there any specific newspaper which has influenced your decision-making?
- 76 Is there any specific TV programme which has influenced your decision-making?

TO BE FILLED OUT BY THE INTERVIEWER FOR EACH CASE

- 77 Has the minister ever been elected to a political post prior to his/her first ministerial position?
- 78 Member of local government
- 79 Member of Parliament
- 80 Junior Minister
- 81 Member of caretaker government
- 82 Which party did the minister belong to? (during the beginning of turn in office)
- 83 Did he change his party over time?
- 84 What was the minister's occupation during communism?

What type of government did the minister belong to?

- 85 First government
- 86 Second government

87 Third government

88 Case number

89 Country code

00 Name of minister

00 Name of interviewer

00 Date of interview