

# Abortion limit 12 weeks in most of the EU

**58%**

of people (73% of women) think that abortion should be reduced to 20 weeks or lower in Great Britain in light of the laws in other EU countries.

## Abortion time limits in the EU

### Illegal

-  Ireland
-  Malta


### 10 weeks

-  France
-  Portugal
-  Slovenia\*

### 12 weeks

-  Austria
-  Belgium
-  Bulgaria
-  Czech Republic\*
-  Denmark\*
-  Estonia\*
-  Finland
-  Germany
-  Greece
-  Hungary
-  Italy
-  Luxembourg
-  Poland
-  Slovakia
-  Spain

### 14 weeks

-  Romania

### 18 weeks

-  Sweden

### 24 weeks or above

-  Cyprus
-  Great Britain
-  Latvia
-  Lithuania
-  Netherlands



- 16 countries have an abortion limit of 12 weeks or below, including two where abortion is illegal.
- Five countries have an abortion limit of 24 weeks or above.
- The six remaining countries either allow abortion above 12 weeks if authorised by a committee (\* in list) or have an abortion limit above 12 weeks and below 24 weeks.

Sadly the gestational limit for abortion in Great Britain is far higher than in the majority of European countries.<sup>1</sup>

Here, the upper time limit for social abortion is 24 weeks. A startling number of social abortions take place in Great Britain each year.

Most countries in the EU, 16 out of 27, have a gestational limit of 12 weeks. An additional four countries (\* in list) have a limit of 10 or 12 weeks, although social abortions can be allowed later if authorised by a special committee. Two thirds of EU countries (18) fix their limit lower than Great Britain.

Little wonder then that nearly six in ten Britons – and more than seven in ten British women – want our time limit reduced.

<sup>1</sup> See <http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/abortion/profiles.htm> and <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/6235557.stm> as at 9 May 2008

<sup>2</sup> *Abortion Statistics, England and Wales: 2006*, Department of Health, June 2007, Table 2

Polling details: ComRes interviewed 1,014 GB adults by telephone between 2nd and 4th May 2008. Data were weighted to be representative demographically of all GB adults. ComRes is a member of the British Polling Council and abides by its rules. See [www.comres.co.uk](http://www.comres.co.uk)