



Special Eurobarometer 490

Summary

Climate Change

Fieldwork
April 2019

Survey requested by the European Commission,
Directorate-General for Communication and co-ordinated by the Directorate-
General for Communication

This document does not represent the point of view of the European Commission.
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Special Eurobarometer 490

Report

Climate Change

Survey conducted by Kantar on behalf of Kantar Belgium at the request of the European Commission,
Directorate-General for Climate Action (DG CLIMA)

Survey co-ordinated by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Communication
(DG COMM "Media monitoring and Eurobarometer" Unit)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	1
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
I. EUROPEAN PERCEPTIONS OF CLIMATE CHANGE	5
1 Perceptions of climate change as a global problem	5
2 Perceived seriousness of climate change	8
II. TAKING ACTION TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE	9
1 Responsibility for tackling climate change	9
2 Personal action to tackle climate change	11
3 Types of individual action	12
III. ATTITUDES TOWARDS FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE AND TRANSITION TO CLEAN ENERGIES	13
1 Attitudes towards taking action on climate change	13
2 Attitudes towards reducing fossil fuel imports	14
3 Attitudes towards the economic benefits of promoting EU expertise in clean technologies outside the EU	15
4 Attitudes towards public financial support to clean energies vis-à-vis subsidies to fossil fuels	16
5 Attitudes towards adapting to the adverse impact of climate change	17
IV. LOOKING TO THE FUTURE	18
1 Targets for renewable energy	18
2 Energy efficiency targets	19
3 A climate neutral Europe by 2050	20
CONCLUSION	21
ANNEXES	
Technical specifications	



INTRODUCTION

Climate change is one of the most serious challenges facing our world today. Its effects are being felt on all continents and are predicted to become more intense in the coming decades. These changes have the power to transform our world, affecting our environment, health, food and water supplies and pose threats to global security and stability. Although 195 countries agreed in the Paris Agreement of 2015 to tackle climate change by limiting global warming to ‘well below’ 2°C and pursuing efforts to limit it to 1.5°C, the average global temperature continues to increase. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s (IPCC) special report issued in October 2018¹, human-induced global warming has already reached 1°C and is increasing at a rate of approximately 0.2°C per decade. Without stronger international action, the average temperature increase could pass the critical 2°C level soon after 2060 and continue rising, making large-scale irreversible climate changes much more likely².

At the same time, awareness of climate change and the need for action is increasingly widespread. One of the largest demonstrations of this in recent times is the youth movement for climate that has garnered strong support in countries around the world.

The EU is committed to being a leader in global climate action. It is on track to meet the targets under its 2020 climate and energy package³ and has put in place the legislative framework to deliver on its 2030 targets⁴. To build on this success and plan for the future, in November 2018 the European Commission unveiled its long-term strategic vision for a prosperous, modern, competitive and climate-neutral economy by 2050. The vision covers nearly all EU policies and is in line with the Paris Agreement goal of keeping the increase in global temperatures well below 2°C and pursue efforts to keep it to 1.5°C. The vision addresses not only the economic and industrial transitions that will need to occur, but also focuses on achieving these changes in a socially just manner.

Previous rounds of this Eurobarometer survey on climate change were carried out in 2008, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017. This latest edition of the report covers four main areas:

- Perceptions of climate change: where climate change ranks alongside other global challenges, and how serious the problem of climate change is considered to be;
- Taking action on climate change: who has primary responsibility for addressing the problem, and personal steps taken to help tackle climate change;
- Attitudes to actions to fight climate change, the transition to clean energy and reducing fossil fuel imports;
- Looking to the future: whether national governments should set targets for renewable energy; whether they should support energy efficiency; and the level of agreement that the EU economy should be made climate-neutral by 2050.

¹<https://www.ipcc.ch/2018/10/08/summary-for-policymakers-of-ipcc-special-report-on-global-warming-of-1-5c-approved-by-governments/>

² https://ec.europa.eu/clima/sites/clima/files/docs/pages/com_2018_733_en.pdf

³ https://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/strategies/2020_en

⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/strategies/2030_en

This survey was carried out by Kantar in the 28 Member States of the European Union between 9 and 26 April 2019⁵. 27,655 respondents from different social and demographic groups were interviewed face-to-face at home in their mother tongue on behalf of the Directorate-General for Climate Action (DG CLIMA). The methodology used is that of Eurobarometer surveys as carried out by the Directorate-General for Communication (“Media monitoring and analysis” Unit)⁶. A technical note on the manner in which interviews were conducted is appended as an annex to this report. Also included are the interview methods and confidence intervals⁷.

Note: In this report, Member States are referred to by their official abbreviation. The abbreviations used in this report correspond to:

Belgium	BE	Lithuania	LT
Bulgaria	BG	Luxembourg	LU
Czechia	CZ	Hungary	HU
Denmark	DK	Malta	MT
Germany	DE	Netherlands	NL
Estonia	EE	Austria	AT
Greece	EL	Poland	PL
Spain	ES	Portugal	PT
France	FR	Romania	RO
Croatia	HR	Slovenia	SI
Ireland	IE	Slovakia	SK
Italy	IT	Finland	FI
Republic of Cyprus*	CY	Sweden	SE
Latvia	LV	United Kingdom	UK
European Union – weighted average for the 28 EU Member States			EU28

* Cyprus as a whole is one of the 28 EU Member States. However, the *acquis communautaire* has been suspended in the part of the country not controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus. For practical reasons, only the interviews carried out in the part of the country controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus are included in the “CY” category and the EU28 average.

*We wish to thank the people throughout Europe
who have given their time to take part in this survey.
Without their active participation, this study would not have been possible.*

⁵ It is important to note that this survey was conducted in late winter/early spring (March 2017), while the previous edition, Special Eurobarometer 435, was carried out in late spring/early summer (May-June 2015). The edition prior to that, Special Eurobarometer 409, was conducted in winter (November-December 2013).

⁶ <https://ec.europa.eu/commfrontoffice/publicopinion/index.cfm>

⁷ The results tables are included in the annex. It should be noted that the total of the percentages in the tables of this report may exceed 100% in cases where the respondent could give several answers to a question.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Climate change is increasingly considered not only as a very serious problem, but as the single most serious problem facing the world today

- Overall 93% of respondents think climate change is a serious problem.
- Almost eight in ten (79%) think climate change is a very serious problem, an increase of five points since 2017.
- At least two thirds of respondents in almost every country think climate change is a very serious problem, and in 25 countries this view has increased since 2017.
- 60% of respondents think climate change is one of the most serious problems facing the world. This is an increase of 17 points since 2017, and climate change has overtaken international terrorism (54%) as the second most serious problem after poverty, hunger and lack of drinking water (71%).
- A majority of respondents in 19 countries think climate change is one of the most serious problems facing the world today. In all but one country, respondents are now more likely to think this way than they were in 2017, and in 24 countries the increase is at least ten percentage points.
- Almost one quarter of respondents (23%) consider climate change to be the single most serious problem facing the world today – an increase of 11 points since 2017.
- Respondents in all but one country are now more likely to say climate change is the single most serious problem, and in 11 countries the increase is more than ten percentage points.

Respondents are increasingly taking action to fight climate change

- Personal action on climate change has increased in every country. 60% of respondents say they have personally taken action to fight climate change in the past six months – an increase of 11 points since 2017. In each country the proportion taking action has increased by at least four points, and in 17 Member States the increase is at least ten percentage points.
- When asked about specific actions to tackle climate change, 93% have taken at least one. The most common actions are trying to reduce waste and regularly separate it for recycling (75%) and cutting down on consumption of disposable items whenever possible (62%).

There is widespread support for national and EU actions to tackle climate change and transition to a climate-neutral economy

- More than half of all respondents think national governments (55%) or business and industry (51%) are responsible for tackling climate change, while almost half (49%) mentioned the European Union. The proportion of respondents mentioning each of these actors has increased by at least ten points since 2017.
- Respondents are also now much more likely to say responsibility for tackling climate change lies with themselves personally (+14 pp).
- More than eight in ten agree more public financial support should be given to the transition to clean energies even if it means that subsidies to fossil fuels should be reduced (84%, +5 pp).
- More than eight in ten agree that promoting EU expertise in clean technologies to countries outside the EU can benefit the EU economically (81%, +4 pp).
- Almost eight in ten (79%) agree that taking action on climate change will lead to innovation that will make EU companies more competitive.
- More than seven in ten (72%) agree that reducing fossil fuel imports from outside the EU can increase energy security and benefit the EU economically.
- A large majority (70%) agree that adapting to the adverse impacts of climate change can have positive outcomes for citizens in the EU.
- Very large majorities of respondents think it is important that their national government sets ambitious targets to increase the amount of renewable energy used (92%, +3 pp) and provide support for improving energy efficiency (89%, +1 pp) by 2030.
- More than nine in ten (92%) agree that greenhouse gas emissions should be reduced to a minimum while offsetting the remaining emissions, in order to make the EU economy climate neutral by 2050. More than eight in ten in each Member State agree.

I. EUROPEAN PERCEPTIONS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

1 Perceptions of climate change as a global problem

Almost one quarter of respondents think climate change is the single most serious problem facing the world

Respondents were presented with a list of problems currently facing the world and asked which they thought was the single most serious one⁸.

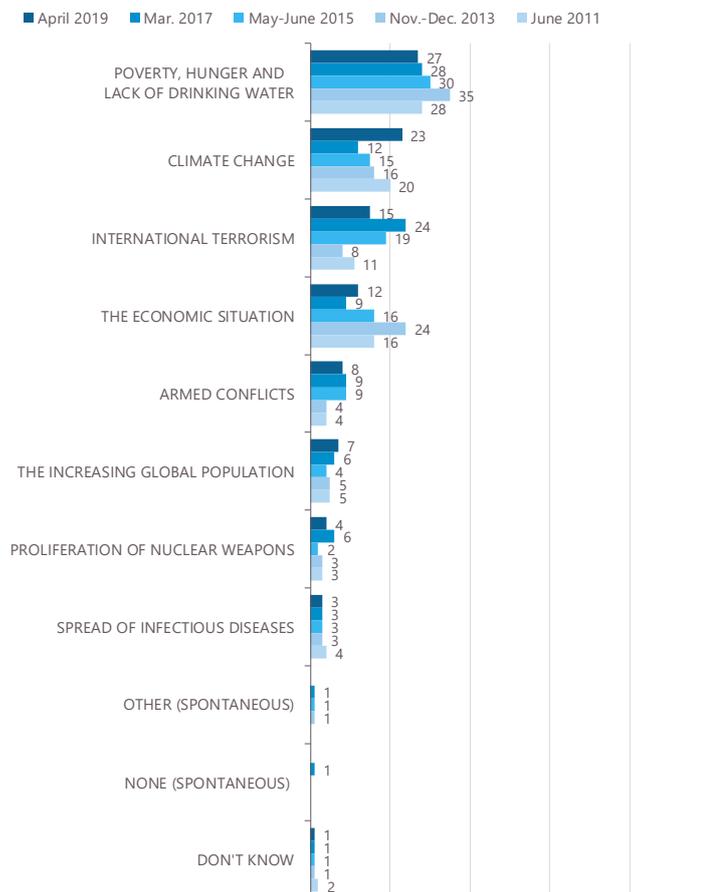
More than one quarter (27%) consider **poverty, hunger and lack of drinking water** to be the most serious problem facing the world, while almost one quarter (23%) mention **climate change**. More than one in ten consider **international terrorism** (15%) or the **economic situation** (12%) to be the single most serious problem.

Armed conflicts are mentioned by 8%, while 7% consider the **increasing global population** to be the single most serious global problem. The **proliferation of nuclear weapons** (4%) and the **spread of infectious diseases** (3%) are respectively mentioned by 4% and 3% of respondents.

The most significant change since 2017 is an 11 percentage points increase in the proportion of respondents who think climate change is the most serious issue, and a nine point decline for international terrorism, moving climate change up from third position in 2017 to second place in 2019. Mentions of other problems have remained relatively stable since 2017, although there has been a slight increase in the proportion who think the economic situation is the most serious problem (+3 pp).

The longer-term view shows that climate change now has the highest proportion of mentions since this question was first asked, while poverty, hunger and lack of drinking water is at its lowest point, although it still ranks first.

QB1a Which of the following do you consider to be the single most serious problem facing the world as a whole?
(% - EU28)

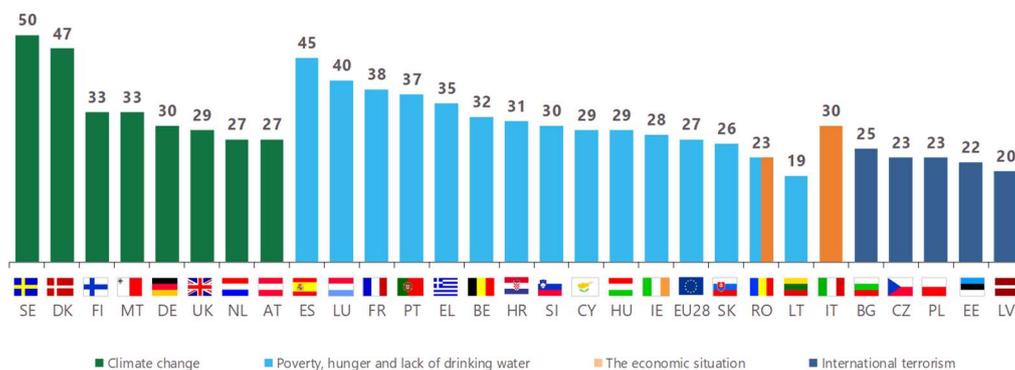


⁸ QB1a: Which of the following do you consider to be the single most serious problem facing the world as a whole?

In 13 countries, a relative majority of respondents say **poverty, hunger and a lack of drinking water** is the most serious problem facing the world, with the highest proportions in Spain (45%), Luxembourg (40%) and France (38%). By contrast, 15% in Malta and Italy and 16% in Denmark also consider this the most serious problem.

Climate change is considered the most serious problem by a relative majority in eight countries, including Sweden (50%), Denmark (47%), Finland and Malta (33%). In five countries, **international terrorism** is most often mentioned, while in Italy the **economic situation** is most often mentioned as the most serious problem facing the world today. In Romania, poverty, hunger and lack of drinking water and the economic situation are equally mentioned.

QB1a Which of the following do you consider to be the single most serious problem facing the world as a whole?
(% - THE MOST MENTIONED ANSWER BY COUNTRY)



The country trends since 2017 for the five most mentioned problems show a number of variations:

- In 19 countries, respondents are now less likely to think **poverty, hunger and lack of drinking water** is the single most serious problem facing the world, with the largest declines observed in Finland (17%, -10 pp), Germany (24%, -8 pp), Cyprus (29%, -7 pp) and Malta (15%, -7 pp). By contrast, respondents in Spain are now more likely to mention this (45%, +5 pp);
- Respondents in all but one country are now more likely to say **climate change** is the most serious problem, and in 11 countries the increase is more than ten percentage points. The largest increases are seen amongst those in Malta (33%, +20 pp), Denmark (47%, +18 pp) and Germany (30%, +16 pp). The exception is the Netherlands, where there has been no change;
- Latvia is the only country in which there has been no change in the proportion who mention **international terrorism**. In all other countries there has been a decline in the proportion who think this is the most serious problem, with the largest seen in Portugal (13%, -17 pp), Malta (27%, -17pp) and Italy (16%, -16 pp);
- In 20 countries, respondents are now more likely to think the **economic situation** is the most serious problem. This is particularly the case in Romania (23%, +9 pp), Italy (30%, +9 pp) and Croatia (20%, +7 pp). By contrast, respondents in Greece are now less likely to mention this (27%, -9 pp);
- There have generally been only small changes in the proportions who think **armed conflicts** are the most serious problem; the largest declines are observed in Sweden and Denmark (-4pp).

After identifying what they considered to be the single most serious problem facing the world, respondents were asked what other problems they considered to be serious, with a maximum of three answers allowed⁹. The results of both this question and the previous question are combined in the chart below.

Poverty, hunger and lack of drinking water is considered by just over seven in ten respondents (71%) to be amongst the most serious problems facing the world. **Climate change** is mentioned by 60%, while 54% mention **international terrorism**. These are the only problems that the majority consider to be serious problems for the world.

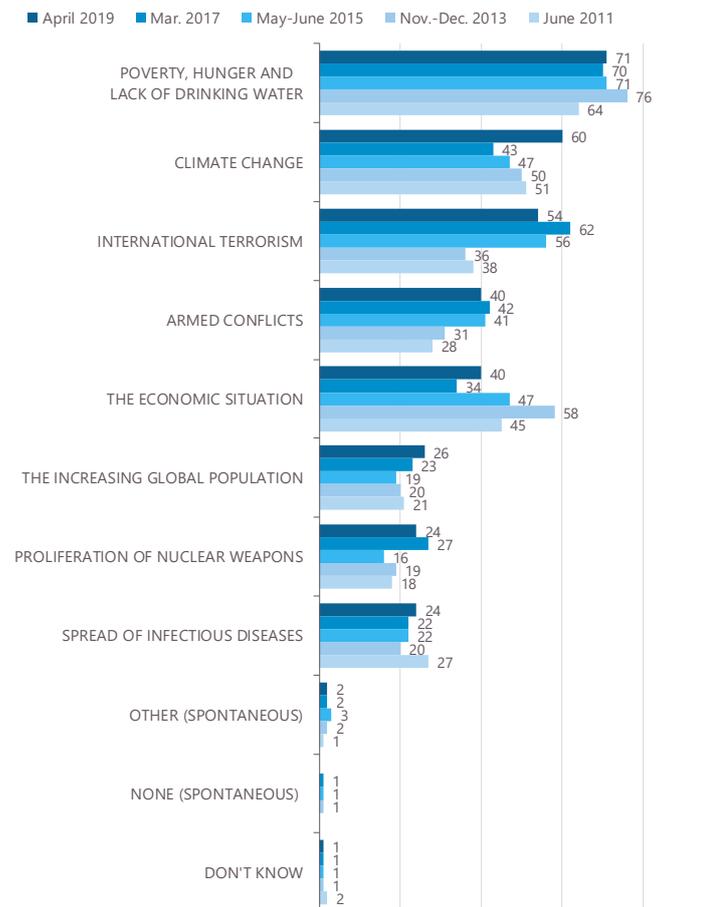
Although only small proportions mention the **economic situation** or **armed conflicts** as the single most serious problem, 40% of respondents nonetheless consider each of these to be serious problems. Around one quarter think the **increasing global population** (26%), the **spread of infectious diseases** or the **proliferation of nuclear weapons** (both 24%) to be serious problems.

As was the case when only the most serious problem was considered, **climate change is now much more likely to be considered one of the most serious problems (+17 pp)**, and respondents are also now more likely to mention the economic situation (+6 pp). They are, however, less likely to think international terrorism is one of the most serious problems facing the world (-8 pp). There has been little change in the mentions of other problems since 2017.

The longer-term view shows that the proportion who think climate change is one of the most serious problems is at its highest ever level.

At national level, more than eight in ten respondents in Sweden (85%) and Denmark (84%) think **climate change** is one of the most serious problems facing the world, followed by at least seven in ten in Finland (73%) and Germany (71%). At the other end of the scale, 36% in Bulgaria and 40% in Romania and Lithuania mention climate change as one of the most serious problems.

QB1T Which of the following do you consider to be the single most serious problem facing the world as a whole? Which others do you consider to be serious problems? (MAX. 4 ANSWERS)
(% - EU28)



⁹ QB1b: Which others do you consider to be serious problems?

2 Perceived seriousness of climate change

Respondents were asked how serious a problem they thought climate change is at the moment, using a scale from one to ten, where ten means “an extremely serious problem” and one means “not at all a serious problem”¹⁰.

Almost eight in ten respondents think climate change is a very serious problem

The average score of respondents seeing climate change as a very serious problem has increased slightly from 7.7 in 2017 to 8.0 in 2019.

One third of all respondents (33%, +6 percentage points) think climate change is an extremely serious problem (rating it 10).

Overall almost eight in ten (79%, +5 pp) see climate change as a very serious problem (rating it 7-10), while over one in ten (14%, -4 pp) think it is a fairly serious problem and 6% (=) think it is not a serious problem.

The proportion who think climate change is a very serious problem has increased for the second consecutive survey, after being stable from 2011 to 2015.

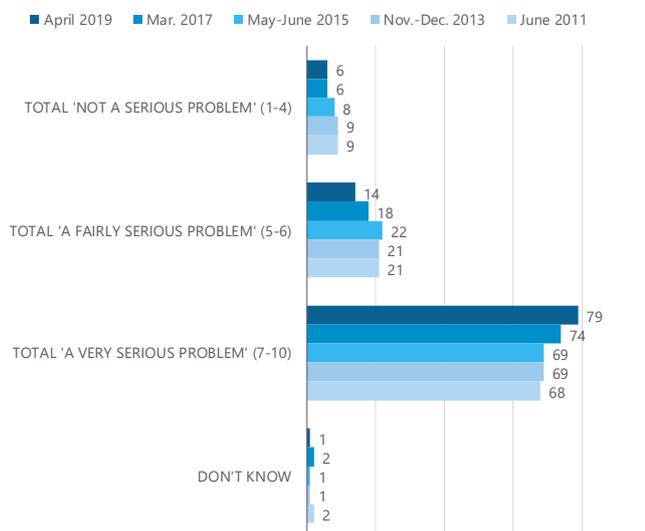
Across EU Member States, the average score ranges from 8.9 in Malta and 8.5 in Greece and Spain to 6.8 in Estonia and 6.9 in Latvia.

The majority of respondents in each country think climate change is a **very serious problem** (score of 7-10), with proportions ranging from 92% in Malta, 90% in Greece and 89% in Spain to 59% in Estonia and Latvia and 66% in Romania.

There have been notable changes in responses since the previous survey in 2017:

- The largest increases in average scores are found in Malta (8.9, +0.9), Czechia (7.6, +0.7), Ireland (7.9, +0.6), Poland (7.6, +0.6) and the United Kingdom (7.8, +0.6). The Netherlands is the only country in which the average declined, but the change is small and from a high average (7.4, -0.2);
- Since 2017, there have been increases in the proportion of respondents viewing climate change as a very serious problem (scoring 7-10) in 25 Member States, and in six countries the increase is at least ten points: Czechia (71%, +14 pp), Malta (92%, +13 pp), Poland (70%, +12 pp), Slovakia (78%, +11 pp), the United Kingdom (75%, +1 pp) and Estonia (59%, +10 pp).

QB2R And how serious a problem do you think climate change is at this moment? Please use a scale from 1 to 10, with '1' meaning it is "not at all a serious problem" and '10' meaning it is "an extremely serious problem".
(% - EU28)



¹⁰ QB2: And how serious a problem do you think climate change is at this moment? Please use a scale from 1 to 10, with '1' meaning it is "not at all a serious problem" and '10' meaning it is "an extremely serious problem".

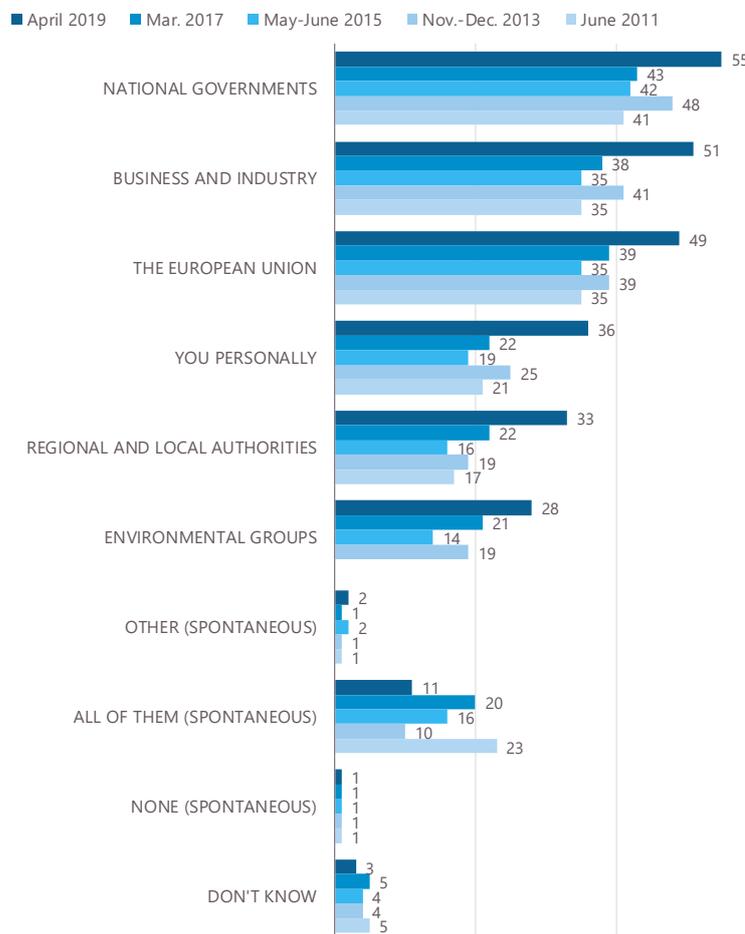
II. TAKING ACTION TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE

1 Responsibility for tackling climate change

The majority think responsibility for tackling climate change lies with national governments, business and industry

More than half of all respondents think **national governments** (55%) or **business and industry** (51%) are responsible for tackling climate change, while almost half (49%) mentioned the **European Union**. More than one third think they personally (36%) are responsible, while 33% think responsibility lies with **regional and local authorities**. More than one quarter (28%) say **environmental groups** are responsible.

QB3 In your opinion, who within the EU is responsible for tackling climate change? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)
(% - EU28)

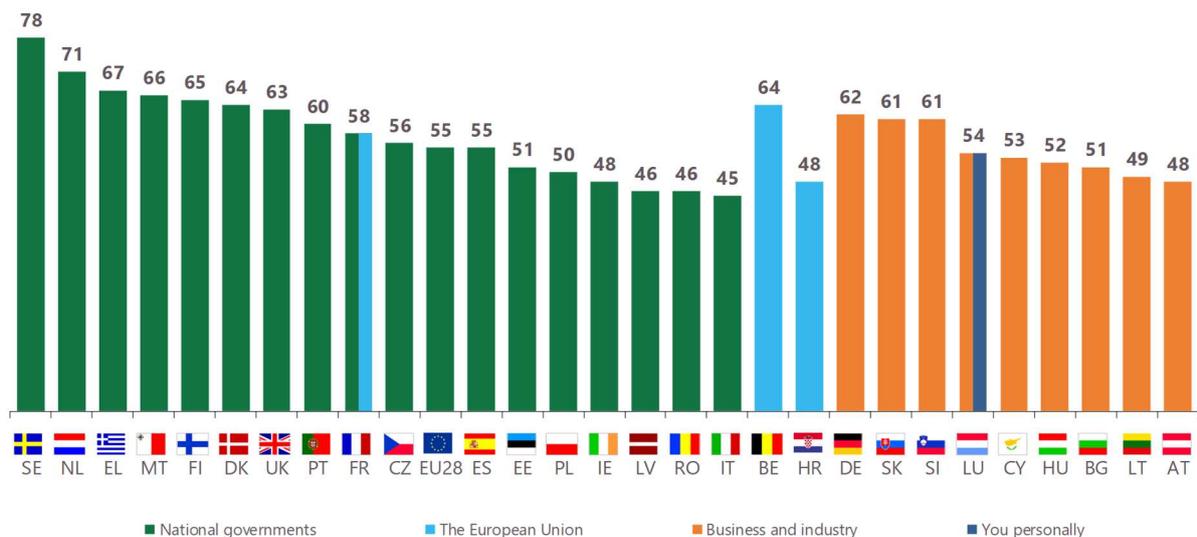


Just over one in ten (11%) say that tackling climate change is the responsibility of **all of the actors listed**.

There have been considerable changes in these results since 2017. Respondents are now much more likely to say responsibility for tackling climate change lies with themselves personally (+14 pp), business and industry (+13 pp), national governments (+12 pp), regional and local authorities (+11 pp) or the European Union (+10 pp). They are, however, less likely to say responsibility lies with all of the actors mentioned (-9 pp).

The national results show that in 16 countries, respondents are most likely to think that **national governments** are responsible for tackling climate change, with the highest proportions amongst those in Sweden (78%), the Netherlands (71%) and Greece (67%). At the other end of the scale 37% in Slovenia, 41% in Austria and 43% in Hungary also think that national governments are responsible.

QB3 In your opinion, who within the EU is responsible for tackling climate change? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)
(% - THE MOST MENTIONED ANSWER BY COUNTRY)



Respondents in the Netherlands (67%), Greece (64%), and Finland and Germany (both 62%) are the most likely in the EU to say that **business and industry** are responsible for tackling climate change, although Germany is the only country in which this is the most mentioned actor. Overall there are eight countries where business and industry is mentioned the most. Respondents in Poland (32%), Ireland (39%) and Italy (41%), on the other hand, have the lowest proportions of respondents who mention business and industry.

In France, national governments and the **European Union** rank equally as the most mentioned actors (both 58%). The EU is also the most mentioned in Belgium (64%) and Croatia (48%). Large proportions in Sweden (72%), and the Netherlands (67%) also say the EU is responsible for tackling climate change. This compares to 34% of respondents in Latvia and Hungary and 36% in Lithuania who say the same.

In Luxembourg, business and industry and **respondents themselves** are the actors most often cited as being responsible for tackling climate change (both 54%). Across the EU, however, respondents themselves are most often seen as responsible by those in Sweden (62%), the Netherlands (60%) and Finland (55%). At the other end of the scale, 17% in Poland and 18% in Bulgaria and Hungary think the same way.

More than four in ten respondents in Sweden and Portugal (both 49%), Romania (42%) and Malta (41%) say the **regional and local authorities** are responsible, compared to 21% in Czechia and 25% in Latvia and Hungary. Only a minority of respondents in each country say that **environmental groups** are responsible for tackling climate change, with proportions ranging from 45% in Malta, 40% in Croatia and 38% in Lithuania to 18% in Czechia and the Netherlands and 22% in Hungary.

Finally, in 18 countries at least one in ten spontaneously say that **all of the actors** mentioned are responsible, with the highest proportions in Malta (25%) and Portugal (23%).

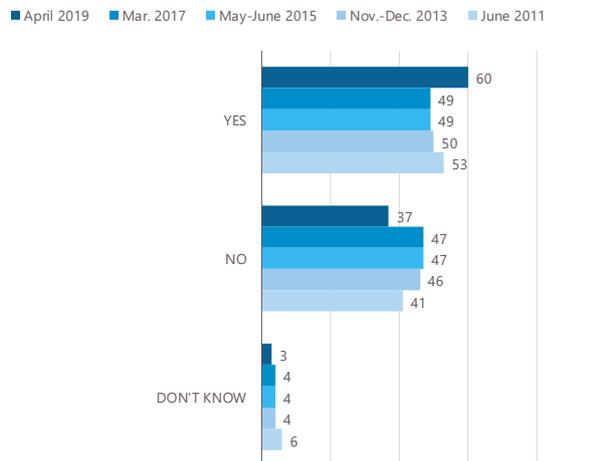
2 Personal action to tackle climate change

The proportion of respondents who say they have taken personal action to fight climate change has increased significantly since 2017

Respondents were asked if they have taken any personal action to fight climate change in the past six months¹¹. 60% say they have, while just over one third (37%) say they have not.

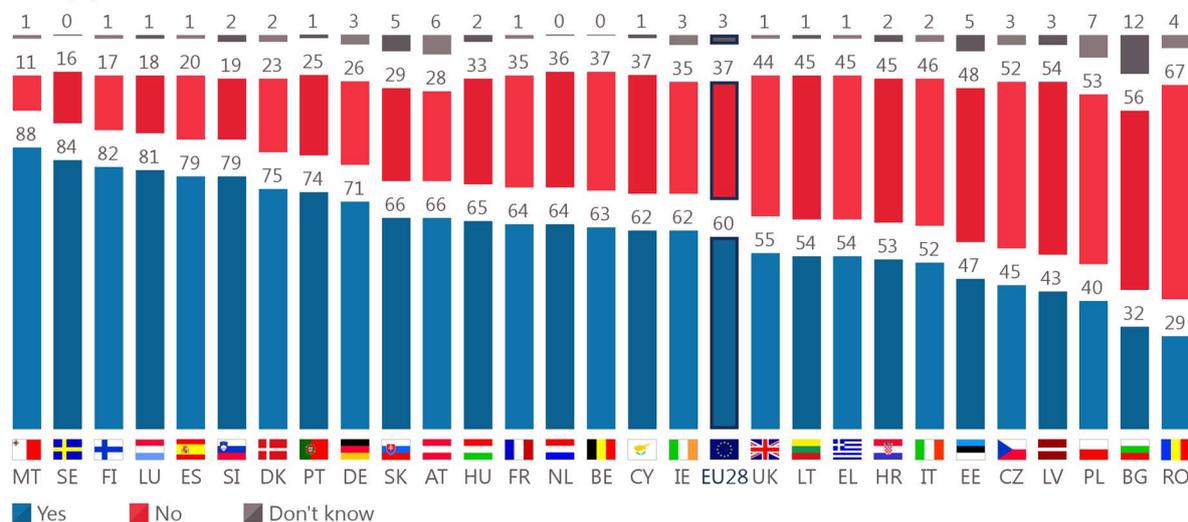
The proportion who say they have taken personal action in the past six months has increased considerably since 2017 (+11 percentage points) and is now at its highest ever point.

QB5 Have you personally taken any action to fight climate change over the past six months? (% - EU28)



At a national level, the majority of respondents in 22 countries say they have personally taken action to fight climate change in the past six months. More than eight in ten respondents in Malta (88%), Sweden (84%), Finland (82%) and Luxembourg (81%) say this, compared to 29% in Romania, 32% in Bulgaria and 40% in Poland.

QB5 Have you personally taken any action to fight climate change over the past six months? (%)



Since 2017, personal action on climate change has increased in every country, and in 17 Member States the increase is at least ten percentage points. In particular, personal action has increased considerably amongst respondents in Slovakia (66%, +22 pp), Italy (52%, +18 pp), Spain (79%, +17 pp), Hungary (65%, +17 pp) and Finland (82%, +17 pp).

¹¹ QCS: Have you personally taken any action to fight climate change over the past six months?

3 Types of individual action

93% of respondents have taken at least one personal action that helps tackle climate change

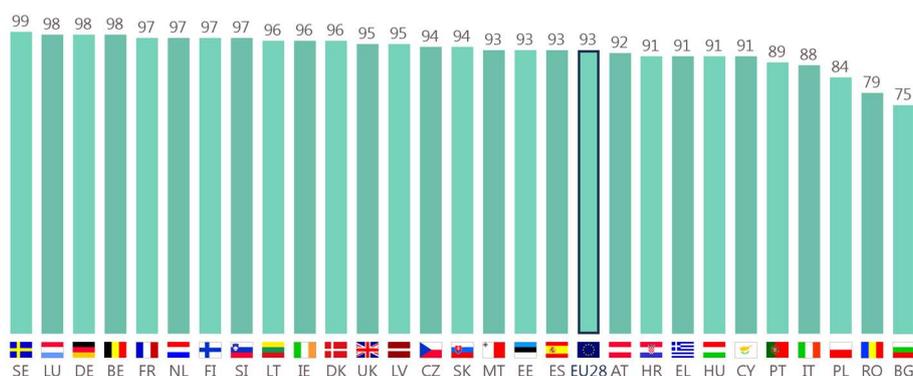
Although 60% of respondents say they have personally taken action to fight climate change over the past six months, when asked about specific actions almost all respondents (93%) have taken at least one personal action that helps fight climate change.

75% try to **reduce their waste and regularly separate it for recycling**, while 62% say they **try to cut down on their consumption of disposable items whenever possible**. These are the only actions taken by at least half of all respondents, although almost half (48%) say that **when buying a new household appliance, lower energy consumption is an important factor in their choice**.

More than one third (37%) regularly **use environmentally-friendly alternatives to their private car**, while 24% say they **have insulated their home better to reduce their energy consumption**. Almost one in five (18%) consider **the carbon footprint of their food purchases and sometimes adapt their shopping accordingly**, while 16% say they **have installed equipment in their home to control and reduce their energy consumption**.

Just over one in ten say they have **bought a new car and its low fuel consumption was an important factor in their choice** (12%), that they have **switched to an energy supplier which offers a greater share of energy from renewable sources** (12%), or that they **consider the carbon footprint of their transport when planning their holiday and other longer distance travel and sometimes adapt their plans accordingly** (12%).

QB6 Which of the following actions, if any, apply to you? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)
(% - TOTAL 'AT LEAST ONE ACTION')



Comparing the current results to those from 2017 shows that respondents are now more likely to say they take each action, reversing the trend seen between 2015 and 2017. The following actions face the most notable increases: taking lower energy consumption into account when buying appliances (+11 pp), regularly using environmentally-friendly alternatives to their private car (+11 pp), installing equipment in the home to control and reduce energy consumption (+8 pp), trying to cut down consumption of disposable items (+6 pp) and better insulating the home to reduce energy consumption (+6 pp).

In all but three countries, the most common action is trying **to reduce waste and regularly separating waste for recycling**. The exceptions are Latvia and Bulgaria, where the most common action is **factoring lower energy consumption into their choice of a new appliance**, and Romania, where the most mentioned action is **trying to cut down on consumption of disposables where possible**.

III. ATTITUDES TOWARDS FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE AND TRANSITION TO CLEAN ENERGIES

1 Attitudes towards taking action on climate change

Almost eight in ten agree that taking action on climate change will lead to innovation that will make EU companies more competitive

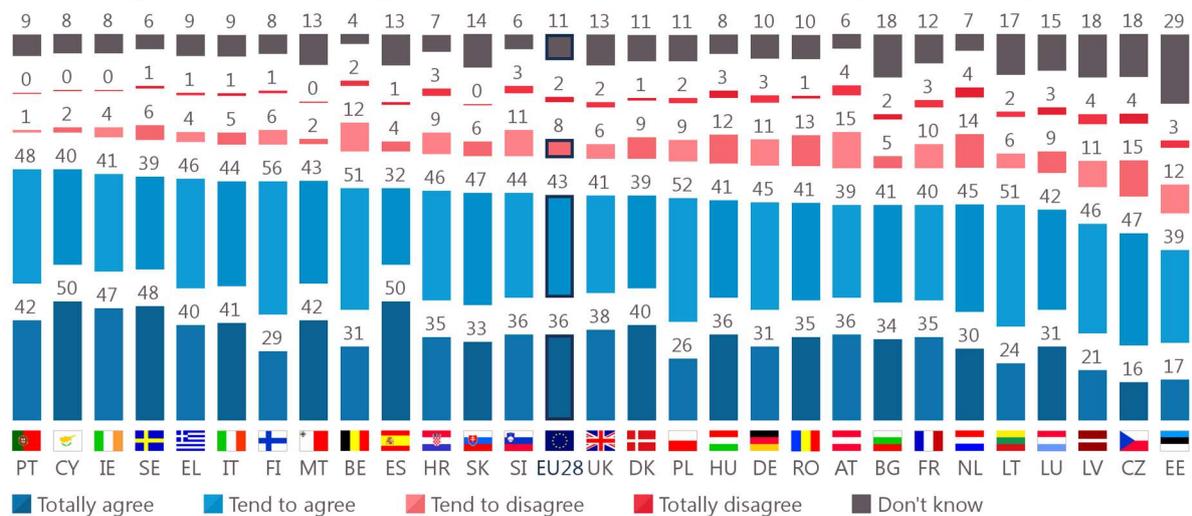
A large majority of respondents (79%) agree that taking action on climate change will lead to innovation that will make EU companies more competitive, with 36% saying they ‘totally agree’ with this statement. One in ten (10%) disagree, while 11% are unable to give an opinion.

The majority of respondents in each EU Member State agree that taking action on climate change will lead to innovation that will make EU companies more competitive. The results vary from 90% in Cyprus and Portugal and 88% in Ireland to 56% in Estonia, 63% in Czechia and 67% in Latvia.

In Cyprus and Spain half of all respondents say they “totally agree” with this statement, as do 48% in Sweden. By contrast 16% in Czechia, 17% in Estonia and 21% in Latvia also totally agree.

Almost three in ten (29%) in Estonia say they don't know.

QB4.3 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?
Taking action on climate change will lead to innovation that will make EU companies more competitive (%)



2 Attitudes towards reducing fossil fuel imports

Almost three quarters agree reducing fossil fuel imports from outside the EU can increase energy security and benefit the EU economically

More than seven in ten (72%) respondents agree that reducing fossil fuel imports from outside the EU can increase energy security and benefit the EU economically, with 31% saying they “totally agree”. More than one in ten (15%) disagree with this statement or say they “don’t know” (13%).

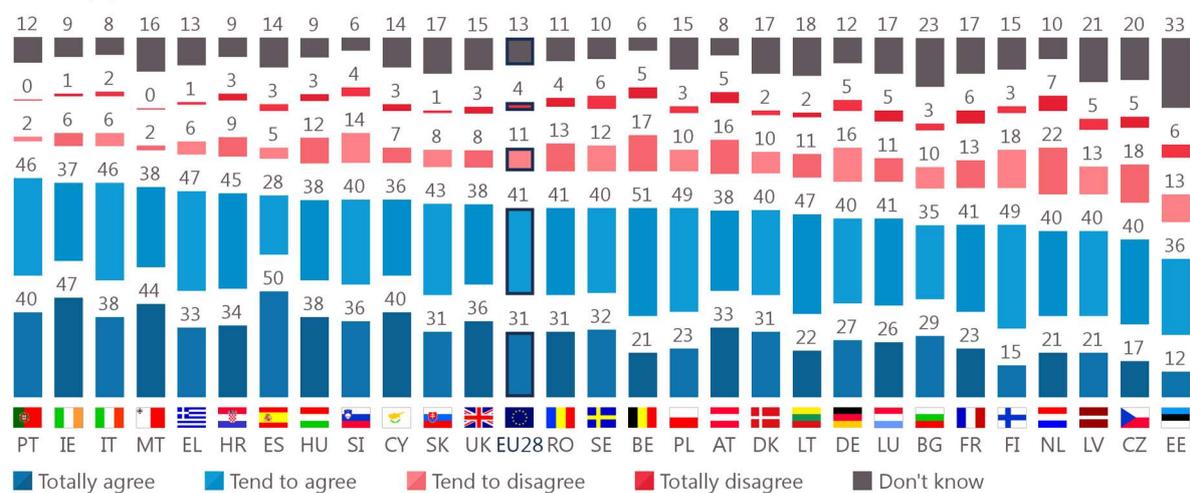
In all but one country, more than half of all of respondents agree reducing fossil fuel imports from outside the EU can increase energy security and benefit the EU economically, with respondents in Portugal (86%), Ireland and Italy (both 84%) being the most likely to agree. At the other end of the scale 48% in Estonia, 57% in Czechia and 61% in the Netherlands and Latvia also agree. Although fewer than half agree in Estonia, this still represents a relative majority of respondents.

At least four in ten respondents in Spain (50%), Ireland (47%), Malta (44%), and Portugal and Cyprus (both 40%) totally agree that reducing fossil fuel imports from outside the EU can increase energy security and benefit the EU economically, compared to fewer than one in five in Estonia (12%), Finland (15%) and Czechia (17%).

The proportion of respondents in Estonia who say they don’t know is once again high (36%) compared to other countries.

QB4.2 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

Reducing fossil fuel imports from outside the EU can increase energy security and benefit the EU economically (%)



3 Attitudes towards the economic benefits of promoting EU expertise in clean technologies outside the EU

Around eight in ten agree that promoting EU expertise in new clean technologies to countries outside the EU can benefit the EU economically

Just over eight in ten respondents (81%) agree that promoting EU expertise in new clean technologies to countries outside the EU can benefit the EU economically¹². In fact, almost four in ten (38%) totally agree. Fewer than one in ten (8%) disagree with this statement, while 11% are unable to answer.

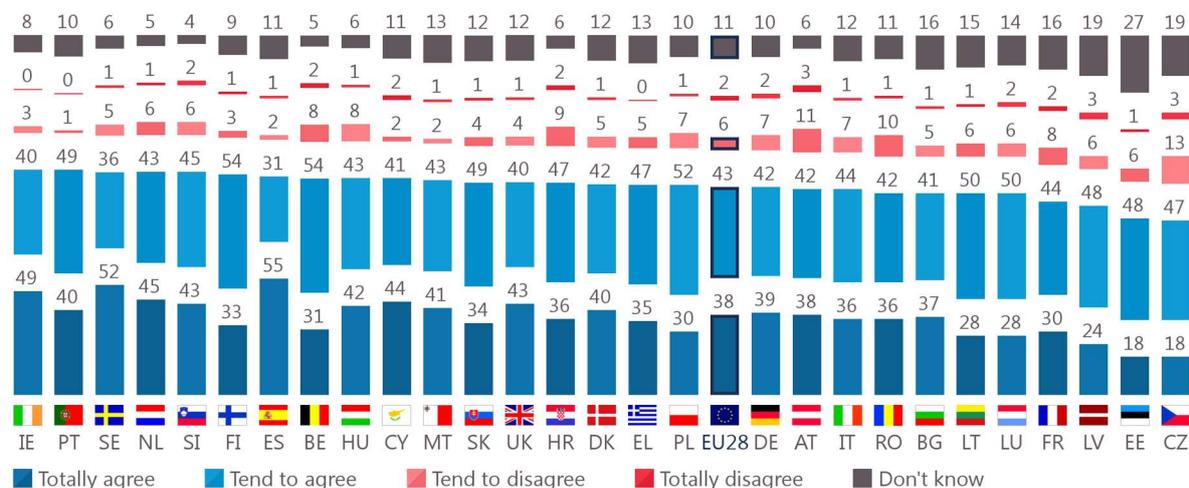
More than six in ten respondents in each country agree that promoting EU expertise in new clean technologies to countries outside the EU can benefit the EU economically, with proportions ranging from 89% in Ireland and Portugal and 88% in Sweden, the Netherlands and Slovenia, to 65% in Czechia, 66% in Estonia and 72% in Latvia.

Spain (55%) and Sweden (52%) are the only countries where at least half totally agree with this statement, followed by 49% in Ireland. By contrast, 18% in Czechia and Estonia and 24% in Latvia totally agree.

More than one quarter of respondents in Estonia say they don't know (27%) – considerably higher than in other countries.

QB4.1 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

Promoting EU expertise in new clean technologies to countries outside the EU can benefit the EU economically (%)



Compared to 2017, respondents in 23 countries are now more likely to agree promoting EU expertise in new clean technologies to countries outside the EU can benefit the EU economically, with the largest rise seen in Slovakia (83%, +12 pp), Italia (80%, +11 pp), Slovenia (88%, +10 pp), Hungary (85%, +10 pp) and Romania (78%, +10 pp). The only decreases in agreement levels are observed amongst those in Austria (80%, -1 pp), Germany (81%, -2 pp), the Netherlands (88%, -3 pp) and Czechia (65%, -4 pp).

¹² Q4 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? 4.1 Promoting EU expertise in new clean technologies to countries outside the EU can benefit the EU economically.

4 Attitudes towards public financial support to clean energies vis-à-vis subsidies to fossil fuels

A large majority of respondents agree that more public financial support should be given to the transition to clean energies even if it means subsidies to fossil fuels should be reduced

More than eight in ten respondents (84%) agree that more public financial support should be given to the transition to clean energies even if it means subsidies to fossil fuels should be reduced, with 44% saying they “totally agree”. Just 9% disagree with this statement, while 7% say they “don’t know”.

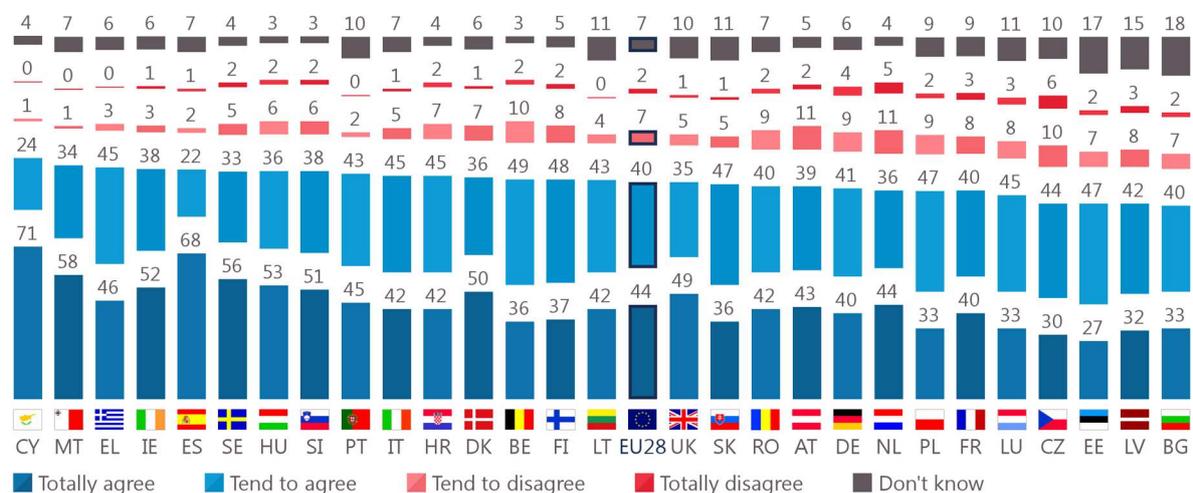
More than seven in ten respondents in each country agree that more public financial support should be given to the transition to clean energies even if it means subsidies to fossil fuels should be reduced. Proportions range from 95% of respondents in Cyprus, 92% in Malta and 91% in Greece to 73% in Bulgaria and 74% in Latvia, Estonia and Czechia.

The largest proportions of respondents who say they “totally agree” are found in Cyprus (71%), Spain (68%) and Malta (58%), and the lowest in Estonia (27%), Czechia (30%) and Latvia (32%).

It is worth noting that almost one in five respondents in Bulgaria (18%) and Estonia (17%) are unable to give an opinion.

QB4.4 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

More public financial support should be given to the transition to clean energies even if it means subsidies to fossil fuels should be reduced (%)



Compared to 2017, only Austria (82%, -3 pp) and the Netherlands (80%, -6 pp) are now less likely to agree more public financial support should be given to the transition to clean energies even if it means that subsidies to fossil fuels should be reduced. By contrast, 24 countries are now more likely to agree, with the largest increases in agreement levels observed in Slovakia (83%, +12 pp), Romania (82%, +12 pp) and Italia (87%, +10 pp). The only exceptions are Austria (82%, -3 pp) and the Netherlands (80%, -6 pp), where agreement has declined.

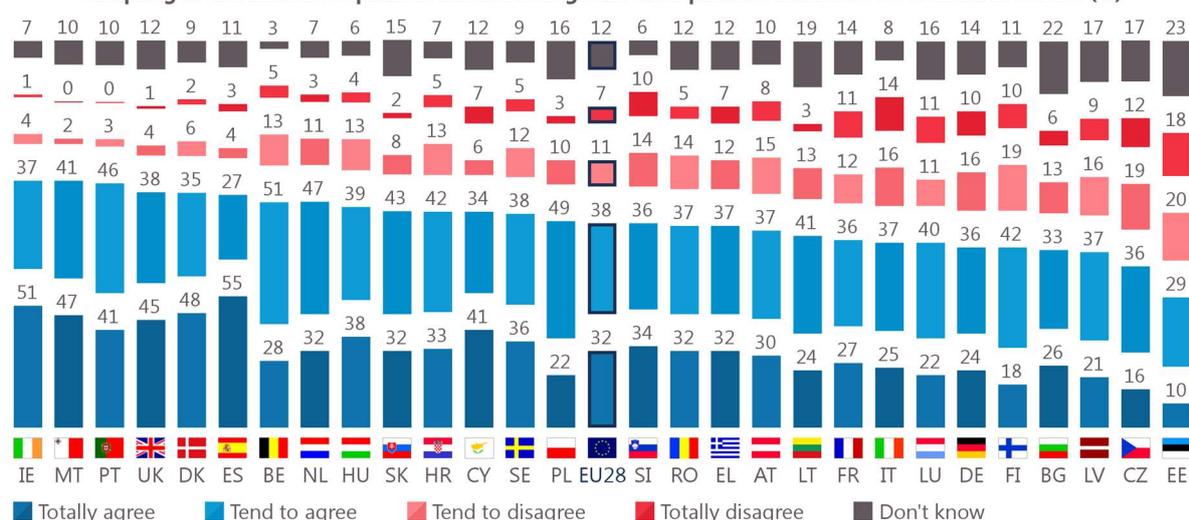
5 Attitudes towards adapting to the adverse impact of climate change

Seven in ten respondents agree that adapting to the adverse impacts of climate change can have positive outcomes for citizens in the EU

The large majority (70%) of respondents agree that adapting to the adverse impacts of climate change can have positive outcomes for citizens in the EU. In fact, almost one third (32%) “totally agree”. On the other hand, almost one in five (18%) disagree with this statement, while 12% are unable to give an opinion.

Estonia (39%) is the only country in which fewer than half of all respondents agree that adapting to the adverse impacts of climate change can have positive outcomes for citizens in the EU. Agreement in the other EU Member States varies from 88% of respondents in Ireland and Malta and 87% in Portugal to 52% in Czechia, 58% in Latvia and 59% in Bulgaria.

QB4.5 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?
Adapting to the adverse impacts of climate change can have positive outcomes for citizens in the EU (%)



IV. LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

1 Targets for renewable energy

More than nine in ten respondents say it is important for their national government to set ambitious targets to increase renewable energy use by 2030

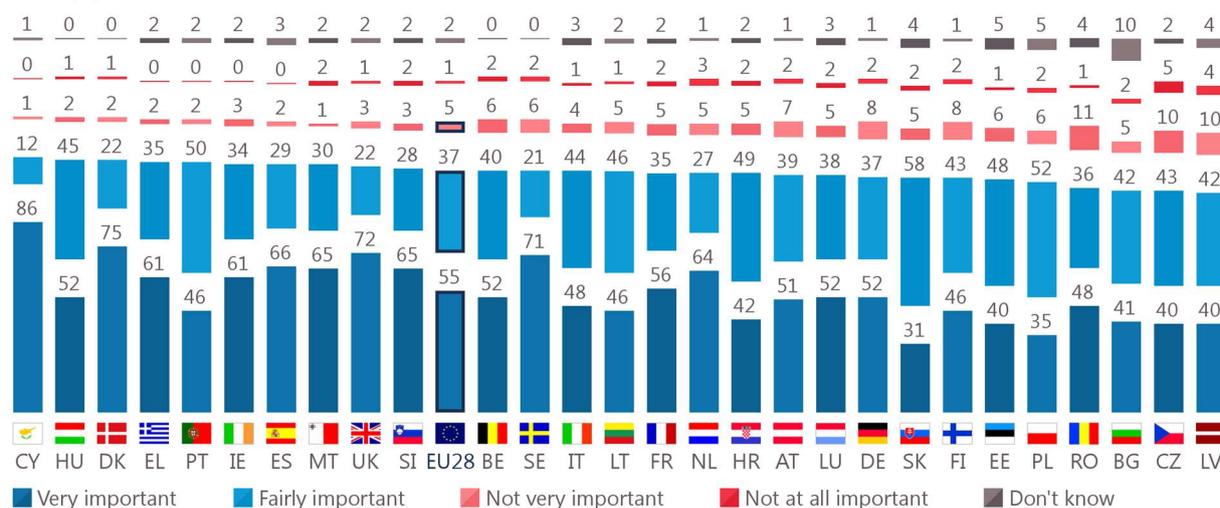
Almost all respondents (92%, +3 percentage points since 2017) think it is important that their national government sets ambitious targets to increase the amount of renewable energy used, such as wind or solar power, by 2030¹³. In fact, the majority (55%) think this is “very important” – an increase of four percentage points since 2017.

Just 6% say setting these targets is not important, while 2% say they “don’t know”.

In every country, more than eight in ten respondents think it is important that their national government sets ambitious targets to increase the amount of renewable energy used by 2030. Proportions range from 98% of respondents in Cyprus and 97% in Denmark and Hungary to 82% in Latvia and 83% in Czechia and Bulgaria.

In 16 countries more than half of all respondents think this is “very important”, with the highest proportions observed in Cyprus (86%), Denmark (75%) and the United Kingdom (72%). By contrast 31% in Slovakia and 35% in Poland think the same.

QB7 How important do you think it is that the (NATIONALITY) government sets ambitious targets to increase the amount of renewable energy used, such as wind or solar power, by 2030? (%)



In most countries there were relatively small changes in the perceived importance of national governments setting ambitious targets to increase the amount of renewable energy used by 2030. The largest increases are seen amongst respondents in Bulgaria (83%, +6 pp), Italy (92%, +6 pp) and Slovakia (89%, +6 pp), and the largest decline in the Netherlands (91%, -6 pp).

¹³ QB7 How important do you think it is that the (NATIONALITY) government sets ambitious targets to increase the amount of renewable energy used, such as wind or solar power, by 2030? Modified since 2018, work ambitious added.

2 Energy efficiency targets

Almost nine in ten respondents think it is important for their national government to support improved energy efficiency by 2030

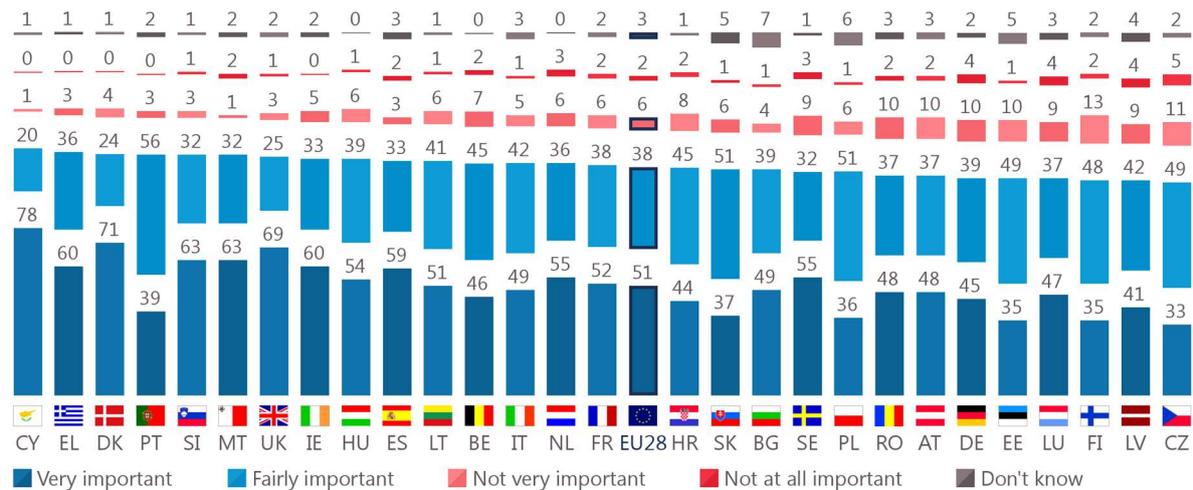
A large majority of respondents (89%, +1 percentage point since 2017) think it is important their national government provides support for improving energy efficiency by 2030¹⁴. In fact, a majority (51%, +3 percentage points) think this is “very important”.

Fewer than one in ten (8%, no change) think this is not important.

Large majorities in each country think it important that their national government supports energy efficiency measures, with proportions ranging from 98% in Cyprus, 96% in Greece and 95% in Denmark, Malta, Portugal and Slovenia to 82% in Czechia and 83% in Latvia and Finland.

In 13 countries the majority thinks this is “very important” with those in Cyprus (78%), Denmark (71%) and the United Kingdom (69%) the most likely to do so. At the other end of the scale 33% in Czechia and 35% in Finland and Estonia think this support is “very important”.

QB8 How important do you think it is that the (NATIONALITY) government provides support for improving energy efficiency by 2030 (e.g. by encouraging people to insulate their home or buy electric cars)? (%)



The trends since 2017 are mixed. In 11 countries, respondents are now more likely to think it important that the national government provides this support, with the largest increases observed in Bulgaria (88%, +7 pp), Greece (96%, +6 pp) and Italy (91%, +5 pp). In 12 countries, on the other hand, perceived importance has declined. This is particularly the case in Luxembourg (84%, -8 pp), Finland (83%, -7 pp) and Sweden (87%, -6 pp). Opinion remained stable in Bulgaria, the United Kingdom, Estonia, Belgium and Latvia.

¹⁴ QB8: How important do you think it is that the (NATIONALITY) government provides support for improving energy efficiency by 2030 (e.g. by encouraging people to insulate their home or buy electric cars)?

3 A climate-neutral Europe by 2050

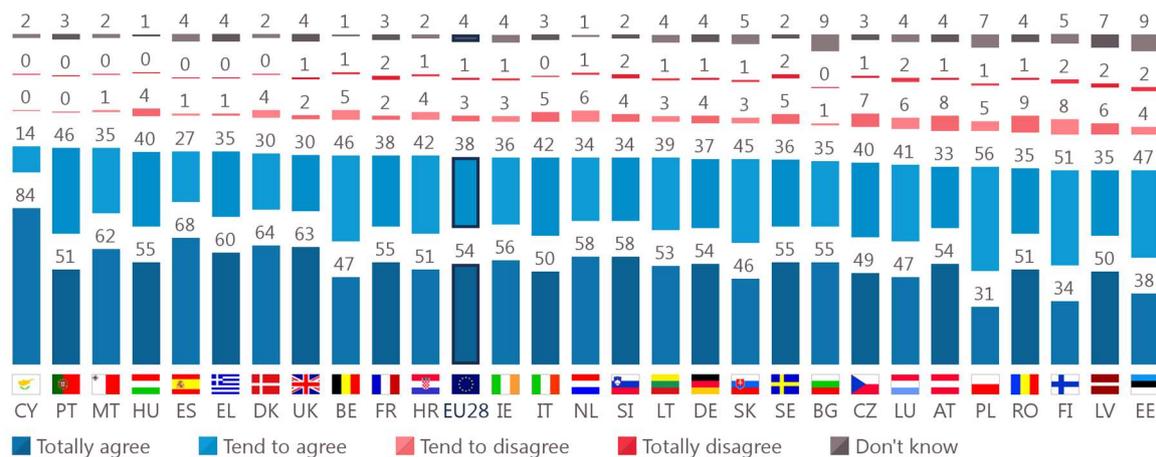
Almost all respondents agree the EU economy should be made climate neutral by 2050

More than nine in ten respondents (92%) agree that greenhouse gas emissions should be reduced to a minimum while offsetting the remaining emissions, in order to make the EU economy climate neutral by 2050¹⁵. In fact, the majority (54%) “totally agree”. Only 5% disagree, while 4% say they don’t know.

In each Member State, more than eight in ten respondents agree, with the highest levels seen amongst respondents in Cyprus (98%), and Malta and Portugal (both 97%) and the lowest amongst those in Finland, Latvia and Estonia (all 85%).

In 21 countries at least half of all respondents “totally agree” with this statement, with those in Cyprus (84%), Spain (68%) and Denmark (64%) being the most likely to do so. By contrast 31% in Poland, 34% in Finland and 38% in Estonia say they “totally agree” with this.

QB9 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: We should reduce greenhouse gas emissions to a minimum while offsetting the remaining emissions, for instance by increasing forested areas, to make the EU economy climate neutral by 2050.
(%)



¹⁵ QB9 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: We should reduce greenhouse gas emissions to a minimum while offsetting the remaining emissions, for instance by increasing forested areas, to make the EU economy climate neutral by 2050.

CONCLUSION

The fieldwork for this Eurobarometer survey was carried out less than six months after the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released its report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C and since the European Commission unveiled its long-term strategic vision for a prosperous, modern, competitive and climate-neutral economy by 2050.

The overall results show the increasing seriousness of climate change for respondents. This is reflected not only in the increase in personal actions to fight climate change, but also in widespread support for national and EU-level measures to tackle it.

Climate change is increasingly seen by EU citizens as one of the most serious challenges facing the world as a whole. Since 2017 it has overtaken the rise of international terrorism, and now ranks as the second most serious problem after poverty, hunger and lack of drinking water.

An increasingly large majority of respondents see climate change as a serious problem. Furthermore, the proportion who consider it a very serious problem has increased for the second consecutive survey: up five points since 2017 and ten points since 2015, to almost eight in ten (79%) in the current survey. Almost all respondents (93%) think climate change is a serious problem.

As was the case in 2015 and 2017, respondents think that national governments, business and industry and the EU are the main actors within the EU responsible for tackling climate change. However, in the current survey there have been large increases in the proportions of respondents who think not just these actors, but all the actors asked about – including themselves personally – are responsible for tackling climate change.

Echoing the increasing recognition of climate change as a serious problem, the proportion who say they have taken personal action to tackle climate change in the past six months has also increased by eleven points and now represents the majority (60%). Moreover, when asked about specific actions to tackle climate change, more than nine in ten (93%) have taken at least one. Reversing the trend seen between 2015 and 2017, respondents are now more likely to have taken almost all of these actions to fight climate change than they were in 2017, and in particular taking lower energy consumption into account when buying appliances and regularly using environmentally-friendly alternatives to their private car. However, the most common actions are still trying to reduce waste and regularly separate it for recycling and cutting down consumption of disposable items.

There is consistent support among the majority of EU citizens support actions that will help move the European economy towards climate neutrality, such as increasing public support for the transition to clean energies. Large majorities also agree that reducing fossil fuel imports and promoting EU expertise in clean technologies can have an economic benefit for the EU. There is also widespread agreement that taking action on climate change will lead to innovation that will make EU companies more competitive, and that adapting to the impacts of climate change can have positive outcomes for EU citizens.

Given the seriousness with which respondents view climate change and the primary role they see national governments have in tackling it, it is not surprising that more than nine in ten respondents say it is important for national governments to set ambitious targets to increase the amount of renewable energy used (93%), while almost as many (89%) think these governments should provide support for improving energy efficiency by 2030 (88%). This support for action continues at a pan-European level, with more than nine in ten (92%) agreeing that greenhouse gas emissions should be reduced to a minimum and the remaining emissions offset, to make the EU economy climate neutral by 2050.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Between the 9th and the 26th of April 2019, Kantar on behalf on Kantar Belgium carried out the wave 91.3 of the EUROBAROMETER survey, at the request of the European Commission, Directorate-General for Communication, "Media monitoring and Eurobarometer" Unit.

The wave 91.3 includes the SPECIAL EUROBAROMETER 490 and covers the population of the respective nationalities of the European Union Member States, resident in each of the 28 Member States and aged 15 years and over.

COUNTRIES	INSTITUTES	N° INTERVIEW	FIELDWORK DATES		POPULATION 15+	PROPORTION EU28	
BE	Belgium	Kantar Belgium (Kantar TNS)	1.029	09/04/2019	22/04/2019	9.693.779	2,25%
BG	Bulgaria	Kantar TNS BBSS	1.041	09/04/2019	22/04/2019	6.537.535	1,52%
CZ	Czechia	Kantar CZ	1.019	09/04/2019	22/04/2019	9.238.431	2,14%
DK	Denmark	Kantar Gallup	1.019	09/04/2019	25/04/2019	4.838.729	1,12%
DE	Germany	Kantar Deutschland	1.539	09/04/2019	26/04/2019	70.160.634	16,26%
EE	Estonia	Kantar Emor	999	09/04/2019	23/04/2019	1.160.064	0,27%
IE	Ireland	Behaviour & Attitudes	1.067	09/04/2019	23/04/2019	3.592.162	0,83%
EL	Greece	Taylor Nelson Sofres Market Research	1.014	10/04/2019	21/04/2019	9.937.810	2,30%
ES	Spain	TNS Investigación de Mercados y Opinión	1.011	10/04/2019	23/04/2019	39.445.245	9,14%
FR	France	Kantar Public France	1.029	09/04/2019	23/04/2019	54.097.255	12,54%
HR	Croatia	Hendal	1.016	09/04/2019	23/04/2019	3.796.476	0,88%
IT	Italy	Kantar Italia	1.022	09/04/2019	19/04/2019	52.334.536	12,13%
CY	Rep. Of Cyprus	CYMAR Market Research	504	09/04/2019	22/04/2019	741.308	0,17%
LV	Latvia	Kantar TNS Latvia	1.003	11/04/2019	25/04/2019	1.707.082	0,40%
LT	Lithuania	TNS LT	1.001	09/04/2019	23/04/2019	2.513.384	0,58%
LU	Luxembourg	ILReS	502	09/04/2019	19/04/2019	457.127	0,11%
HU	Hungary	Kantar Hoffmann	1.023	10/04/2019	23/04/2019	8.781.161	2,04%
MT	Malta	MISCO International	507	09/04/2019	23/04/2019	364.171	0,08%
NL	Netherlands	TNS NIPO	1.022	09/04/2019	22/04/2019	13.979.215	3,24%
AT	Austria	Info Research Austria Institut für Markt- und Meinungsforschung	1.039	09/04/2019	22/04/2019	7.554.711	1,75%
PL	Poland	Kantar Polska	1.013	09/04/2019	24/04/2019	33.444.171	7,75%
PT	Portugal	Marktest – Marketing, Organização e Formação	1.012	09/04/2019	22/04/2019	8.480.126	1,97%
RO	Romania	Centrul Pentru Studierea Opiniei si Pietei (CSOP)	1.053	09/04/2019	22/04/2019	16.852.701	3,91%
SI	Slovenia	Institute for market and media research, Mediana	1.003	09/04/2019	20/04/2019	1.760.032	0,41%
SK	Slovakia	Kantar Slovakia	1.076	09/04/2019	24/04/2019	4.586.024	1,06%
FI	Finland	Kantar TNS Oy	1.006	09/04/2019	24/04/2019	4.747.810	1,10%
SE	Sweden	Kantar Sifo	1.034	09/04/2019	25/04/2019	7.998.763	1,85%
UK	United Kingdom	The Kantar Group UK	1.052	09/04/2019	23/04/2019	52.651.777	12,20%
TOTAL EU28			27.655	09/04/2019	26/04/2019	431.452.219	100%*

* It should be noted that the total percentage shown in this table may exceed 100% due to rounding

The basic sample design applied in all states is a multi-stage, random (probability) one. In each country, a number of sampling points was drawn with probability proportional to population size (for a total coverage of the country) and to population density.

In order to do so, the sampling points were drawn systematically from each of the "administrative regional units", after stratification by individual unit and type of area. They thus represent the whole territory of the countries surveyed according to the EUROSTAT NUTS II (or equivalent) and according to the distribution of the resident population of the respective nationalities in terms of metropolitan, urban and rural areas.

In each of the selected sampling points, a starting address was drawn, at random. Further addresses (every Nth address) were selected by standard "random route" procedures, from the initial address. In each household, the respondent was drawn, at random (following the "closest birthday rule"). All interviews were conducted face-to-face in people's homes and in the appropriate national language. As far as the data capture is concerned, CAPI (*Computer Assisted Personal Interview*) was used in those countries where this technique was available.

For each country a comparison between the sample and the universe was carried out. The Universe description was derived from Eurostat population data or from national statistics offices. For all countries surveyed, a national weighting procedure, using marginal and intercellular weighting, was carried out based on this Universe description. In all countries, gender, age, region and size of locality were introduced in the iteration procedure. For international weighting (i.e. EU averages), Kantar applies the official population figures as provided by EUROSTAT or national statistic offices. The total population figures for input in this post-weighting procedure are listed here.

Readers are reminded that survey results are estimations, the accuracy of which, everything being equal, rests upon the sample size and upon the observed percentage. With samples of about 1,000 interviews, the real percentages vary within the following confidence limits:

Statistical Margins due to the sampling process

(at the 95% level of confidence)

various sample sizes are in rows

various observed results are in columns

	5%	10%	15%	20%	25%	30%	35%	40%	45%	50%	
	95%	90%	85%	80%	75%	70%	65%	60%	55%	50%	
N=50	6.0	8.3	9.9	11.1	12.0	12.7	13.2	13.6	13.8	13.9	N=50
N=500	1.9	2.6	3.1	3.5	3.8	4.0	4.2	4.3	4.4	4.4	N=500
N=1000	1.4	1.9	2.2	2.5	2.7	2.8	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.1	N=1000
N=1500	1.1	1.5	1.8	2.0	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.5	N=1500
N=2000	1.0	1.3	1.6	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.2	N=2000
N=3000	0.8	1.1	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.8	N=3000
N=4000	0.7	0.9	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	N=4000
N=5000	0.6	0.8	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.4	N=5000
N=6000	0.6	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.3	N=6000
N=7000	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.2	N=7000
N=7500	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	N=7500
N=8000	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	N=8000
N=9000	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	N=9000
N=10000	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	N=10000
N=11000	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	N=11000
N=12000	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	N=12000
N=13000	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	N=13000
N=14000	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	N=14000
N=15000	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	N=15000

