



Special Eurobarometer 513

Climate Change Report Summary

Report

Fieldwork: March - April 2021

This document does not represent the point of view of the European Commission. The interpretations and opinions contained in it are solely those of the authors.

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INTRODUCTION



The European Union has long been a global leader in the fight against climate change, and is committed to becoming the first climate-neutral continent by 2050. In April 2021,¹ the Council of the European Union and European Parliament reached a provisional political agreement that will set into law the objective of a climate-neutral EU by 2050, and a collective, net greenhouse gas emissions reduction target of at least 55% by 2030 compared with 1990. To meet these targets, the European Commission will present a series of legislative proposals in July 2021. This 'Fit for 55' package marks the first step towards delivering the necessary changes across economic sectors.

Climate-neutrality is at the heart of the European Green Deal,² an ambitious growth strategy, which will bring down European greenhouse gas emissions while fostering a fair, healthy and prosperous society for future generations. Long-term benefits include: new, green jobs; improved competitiveness; economic growth; cleaner air and more efficient public transport systems in cities; new technologies such as electric or plug-in hybrid cars, energy-efficient homes or buildings with intelligent heating and cooling systems; and secure supplies of energy and other resources – making Europe less dependent on imports.

The Green Deal was presented in 2019, amidst strong public support for climate action.³ Two years later, climate change and biodiversity loss continue to represent an urgent and growing threat to human life.⁴ Their effects are already being felt in every region of Europe and across the planet, and are predicted to intensify in the coming years. Water shortages and heatwaves are already damaging livelihoods in the EU, and impacting the health and well-being of Europeans. The risks of heat stress, food and water safety and security threats, as well as the emergence and spread of infectious diseases are set to grow. Economic losses in the EU from climate-related extreme events already average over €12 billion a year, and the cost of taking no action would be even greater.⁵ According to conservative estimates, exposing today's EU economy to global warming of 3°C above pre-industrial levels would result in an annual loss of at least €170 billion.⁶ Over the next century, the EU could see: 400,000 premature deaths per year due to air pollution; 90,000 annual deaths as a result of heatwaves; 40% less available water in southern regions; 2.2 million people exposed to coastal flooding every year.7

While the urgency of acting against climate change and biodiversity loss is only increasing, 2020 and 2021 saw the emergence of a new, more immediate threat. The fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and the ensuing economic losses quickly overtook other urgent but seemingly less imminent dangers. This Special Eurobarometer provides a first insight into European public attitudes on climate change and biodiversity loss since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. The results offer a snapshot of how perceptions of urgency have changed and priorities shifted, as well as gauging Europeans' support for the European Green Deal.

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, reducing fossil fuel imports, improving public health and the costs of climate change for the economy;
- Looking to the future: whether national governments are doing enough to tackle climate change; whether national governments or the European Union should set targets for renewable energy and whether they should support energy efficiency; support for the EU economy to become climateneutral by 2050; and whether the economic recovery plan should focus on the traditional fossil-fuel led economy or on the new green economy.

This survey was carried out by the Kantar network in the 27 Member States of the European Union between 15 March and 14 April 2021. 26,669 EU citizens from different social and demographic categories were interviewed face-to-face or online in their native language on behalf of the Directorate-General for Climate Action.

¹ <u>https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/climate-change/</u>

² <u>https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en</u>

³ In 2019, 92% of respondents agreed 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

⁴ Source : https://ec.europa.eu/clima/change/causes_en

⁵ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/fs_19_6715?2nd-

language=en

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.

Methodology used for this survey

The Special Eurobarometer on Climate change was part of the Eurobarometer wave 95.1 and was conducted between 15 March and 14 April 2021. In some countries, **alternatives** to face-to-face interviews were necessary as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. Previous rounds of this Special Eurobarometer survey on climate change were carried out in 2008, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017 and 2019. The results of this survey are compared with those of previous surveys where possible.⁸

Where possible, the methodology used was that of the Standard Eurobarometer surveys carried out by the Directorate-General for Communication ("Media monitoring and Eurobarometer" Unit).9 However, because of the coronavirus pandemic, it was difficult, and sometimes impossible to conduct face-to-face interviews in a number of EU countries. In these instances, respondents were interviewed online, mostly after being recruited by telephone according to probabilistic methods. In Greece, Malta, the Netherlands, Slovenia and Slovakia, face-to-face interviews were feasible but it was not possible to reach the target number of face-to-face interviews within the fieldwork period due to the impact of COVID-19 restrictions. Therefore, additional interviews were conducted online with the Computer-Assisted Web Interviewing (CAWI) technique. In Belgium, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Portugal, Finland and Sweden face-to-face interviews were not feasible at all. Therefore, all interviews were conducted online with the CAWI technique. A technical note concerning the interviews conducted by the member institutes of the Kantar network is annexed to this report. It also specifies the confidence intervals.¹⁰

Following the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR),¹¹ respondents were asked whether or not they would agree to be asked questions on issues that could be considered "sensitive".

Throughout this report, the comparisons over time are expressed in percentages points. A percentage point is the unit for the arithmetic difference of two percentages. For example, moving up from 40% to 44% is a 4-percentage point increase, but is a 10 percent increase in what is being measured. In each paragraph, the percentage point unit is firstly written out and then abbreviated (following out example, it would have been abbreviated as +4).

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

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

Belgium	BE
Bulgaria	BG
Czechia	CZ
Denmark	DK
Germany	DE
Estonia	EE
Ireland	IE
Greece	EL
Spain	ES
France	FR
Croatia	HR
Italy	IT
Republic of Cyprus	CY *
Latvia	LV
Lithuania	LT
Luxembourg	LU
Hungary	HU
Malta	MT
The Netherlands	NL
Austria	AT
Poland	PL
Portugal	PT
Romania	RO
Slovenia	SI
Slovakia	SK
Finland	FI
Sweden	SE
Lithuania	LT

European Union – weighted average for the 27 Member States	EU27
BE, FR, IT, LU, DE, AT, ES, PT, IE, NL, FI, EL, EE, SI, CY, MT, SK, LV, LT	Euro area
BG, CZ, DK, HR, HU, PL, RO, SE	Non euro area

* Cyprus as a whole is one of the 27 European Union Member States. However, the 'acquis communautaire' has been suspended in the part of the country which is not controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus. For practical reasons, only 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 in the EU27 average.

⁸ However, this survey has not been conducted in the United Kingdom, as it is no longer an EU Member State. This may have had an additional impact on the EU average compared with previous surveys.

⁹ https://www.europa.eu/eurobarometer

 $^{^{10}}$ The results tables are annexed. It should be noted that the total of the percentages indicated in the tables in this report may exceed 100% when the respondent was able to choose several answers to the same question. 11 2016/679

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Europeans consider climate change to be the single most serious problem facing the world

- More than nine in ten Europeans (93%) believe that climate change is a serious problem, including 78% who say it is a very serious problem and 15% a fairly serious problem. These results are stable since 2019.
- Nearly one in five Europeans (18%) think that climate change is the most serious problem facing the world as a whole, slightly ahead of poverty, hunger and lack of drinking water, and the spread of infectious diseases. This is the first time that climate change ranks first, ahead of all other global challenges listed;
- Close to half of Europeans (49%) consider climate change to be one of the most serious problems facing the world, behind poverty, hunger and lack of drinking water. Climate change stays in second position;
- Climate change is considered one of the most serious problems facing the world by at least a quarter of respondents in every EU Member State. It is the most mentioned item in seven countries: Sweden, Denmark, the Netherlands, Ireland, Germany, Belgium and Finland;
- A majority of respondents currently think that climate change is a very serious problem in the 27 EU Member States.

Almost all Europeans have taken environmentally-friendly action, although they don't believe they bear the main responsibility for tackling climate change

- More than half of Europeans say that national governments (63%), business and industry (58%) and the European Union (57%) are responsible for tackling climate change within the European Union;
- The share of respondents mentioning each of the six actors listed has increased since 2019, most notably for regional and local authorities (43%, +10 percentage points), the European Union and national governments (+8 points), and business and industry (+7 points);
- Around four in ten respondents (41%) say they are personally responsible, but nearly two-thirds of Europeans (64%) say they have personally taken action to fight climate change over the past six months (+4 points since 2019);
- More than half of respondents have personally taken action to fight climate change over the past six months in 20 EU Member States. This ranges from 52% of respondents in Poland to 83% in Portugal;
- In addition, nearly all Europeans (96%) have taken at least one personal action that helps to tackle climate change. The most common action is trying to reduce waste and regularly separate it for recycling (75%), well ahead of trying to cut down on the consumption of disposable items whenever possible (59%).

Respondents are likely to adopt dietary habits that contribute to actions against climate change. Indeed, 32% of the respondents buy and eat more organic food and 31% of them buy and eat less meat. This was the first time that these two options were included.

More than six in ten Europeans agree with seven statements highlighting the possible positive impacts of the fight against climate change

- Nearly nine in ten Europeans (87%) agree that tackling climate change and environmental issues should be a priority to improve public health;
- Slightly more than eight in ten respondents (81%) agree that more public financial support should be given to the transition to clean energies;
- Around three quarters think that promoting EU expertise in clean technologies can help create new jobs in the EU (78%), that taking action on climate change will lead to innovation that will make EU companies more competitive (78%) and that the costs of the damage due to climate change are much higher than the costs of the investments needed for a green transition (74%);
- Seven in ten (70%) agree that reducing fossil fuel imports from outside the EU can increase energy security and benefit the EU economically, while slightly more than six in ten (62%) believe that adapting to the adverse impacts of climate change can have positive outcomes for citizens in the EU.

Europeans expect even stronger action from both their national government and the European Union to fight climate change

- Three quarters of respondents (75%) believe that their national government is not doing enough to tackle climate change. This opinion is shared by over half of respondents in all EU Member States except Finland;
- Nearly nine in ten Europeans think it is important that both their national government (88%) and the European Union (87%) set ambitious targets to increase the amount of renewable energy used and support energy efficiency improvements by 2030;
- Nine in ten respondents (90%) agree that greenhouse gas emissions should be reduced to a minimum while offsetting the remaining emissions to make the EU economy climateneutral by 2050, with at least three quarters of respondents sharing this opinion in each EU Member State;
- Finally, three quarters of Europeans think that funds from the economic recovery plan should mainly be invested in the new green economy (75%) rather than in the traditional fossil-fuelled economy (15%). In the 27 EU Member States, more than half of respondents also favour the new green economy.

I. EUROPEAN PERCEPTIONS OF CLIMATE CHANGE



1. Perceptions of climate change as a global problem

For the first time, climate change ranks first as the single most serious problem facing the world as a whole

Respondents were asked, from a list of 11, which item they consider to be the single most serious problem facing the world as a whole:¹²

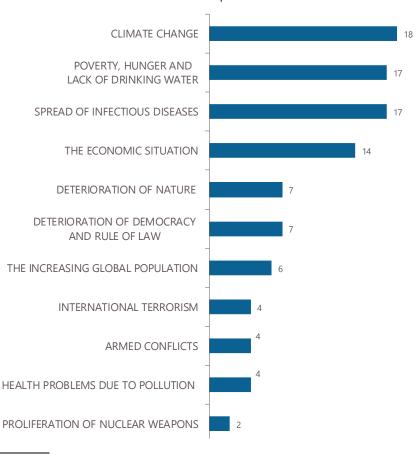
- Nearly one in five Europeans (18%), believe that climate change is the most serious problem facing the world, just ahead of poverty, hunger and lack of drinking water (17%) and the spread of infectious diseases (17%);
- More than one in ten respondents mention the economic situation (14%);
- Less than one in ten Europeans cite the seven other items: deterioration of nature (7%, new item), deterioration of democracy and rule of law (7%, new item), the increasing global population (6%), international terrorism (4%), health problems due to pollution (4%, new item), armed conflicts (4%) and, finally, the proliferation of nuclear weapons (2%). Almost a quarter of Europeans (24%) cite either climate change or deterioration of nature.

This question has been modified since 2019, with the introduction of three new items: *deterioration of nature*, *deterioration of democracy and rule of law*, and *health problems due to pollution*. Therefore, it is not possible to directly compare results registered for this question with those of previous surveys.

However, although this comparison should be made with caution, it is noteworthy that **climate change** is considered the single most serious problem facing the world in this survey, while it ranked second behind poverty, hunger and lack of drinking water in 2019.

In addition, the **spread of infectious diseases** is up from eighth place to equal second position. This can be explained by the coronavirus pandemic. The economic situation is now also mentioned by 14% of the respondents. It has gained two percentage points compared with 2019. This can also be explained by the economic and social impact of the coronavirus pandemic. Conversely, **international terrorism** seems to have lost some ground, dropping eleven percentage points from 2019 to 4% in 2021.¹³

QB1a Which of the following do you consider to be the single most serious problem facing the world as a whole?(% - EU27)



March-April 2021

 $^{\rm 12}$ QB1a. Which of the following do you consider to be the single most serious problem facing the world as a whole?

13 https://ec.europa.eu/clima/sites/default/files/support/docs/report_2019_en.pdf

Across all EU Member States, only four items are identified as the single most serious problem facing the world as a whole. In 12 EU Member States, a majority of respondents believe that the **spread of infectious diseases** is the single most serious problem facing the world as a whole. Over a third of respondents share this opinion in Bulgaria (36%), Hungary (34%) and Italy (34%). Much lower proportions hold this view in Sweden (4%), the Netherlands (6%) and Luxembourg (7%).

Climate change is the most mentioned item in eight EU Member States, with the highest proportions in Sweden (43%), Denmark (35%) and the Netherlands (34%), and the lowest in Bulgaria (5%), Romania (7%) and Italy (7%).

Poverty, hunger and lack of drinking water tops the ranking in four EU Member States: France (25%), Portugal (23%), Cyprus (21%) and Slovenia (18%).

Finally, **the economic situation** is the most mentioned subject in three EU Member States: Greece (28%), Spain (26%) and Latvia (16%).

Six of the eight problems mentioned in the 2019 survey saw changes at a national level of at least ten percentage points. Again, this analysis must be taken with caution as three new items were added, which will have had an impact on the results. This may explain why some items have lower scores:¹⁴

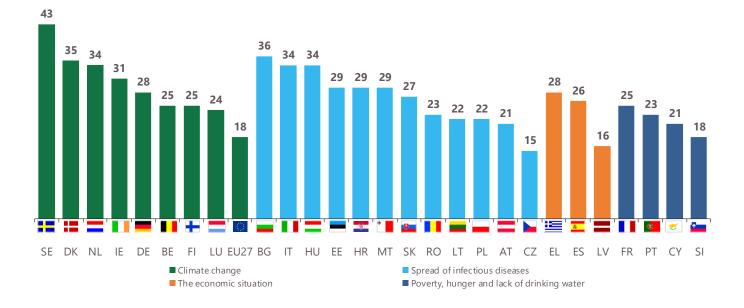
The proportion of respondents citing climate change has decreased in 22 EU Member States, most notably in Malta (19%, -14 percentage points), Denmark (35%, -12), Austria (15%, -12) and Italy (7%, -12);

- The share of respondents mentioning poverty, hunger and lack of drinking water has fallen in all 27 EU Member States, by double digits in 14 countries, particularly in Spain (23%, -22), Luxembourg (21%, -19) and Greece (18%, -17);
- Conversely, the feeling that the spread of infectious diseases is the single most serious problem facing the world as a whole has gained ground in the 27 EU Member States, by double digits in 14 countries, most dramatically in Bulgaria (36%, +32), Italy (34%, +30), Estonia and Croatia (29%, +26 in both countries), Hungary (34%, +24) and Malta (29%, +24);

In 15 countries, respondents are now more likely to think **the economic situation** is the single most serious problem facing the world, with the largest increase observed in Spain (26%, +10);

- The proportion of respondents mentioning international terrorism has decreased in the 27 EU Member States, by double digits in 15 countries, most notably in Malta (2%, -25), Bulgaria (3%, -22) and Estonia (3%, -19);
- In 26 EU Member States, respondents are now less likely to think armed conflicts are the most serious problem. This is particularly the case in Estonia (5%, -13).

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**)



¹⁴ Once again, this question has been modified since 2019, with the introduction of three new items. Overall, this may have lowered the score of the eight other items compared with 2019. That is why the evolutions registered for this question compared to previous surveys need to be analysed with caution.

Following this question on the single most serious problem facing the world as a whole, respondents were given the opportunity to identify up to three additional serious problems from the same list of 11 items.¹⁵ Combining the results of this and the previous question leads to the following hierarchy:

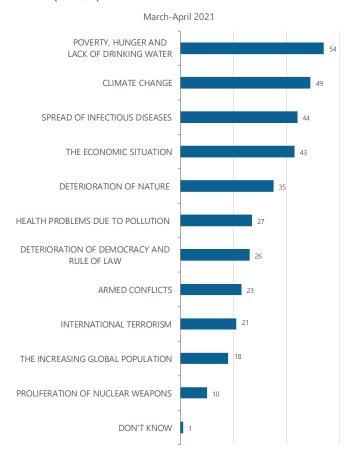
- More than half of Europeans (54%) say that poverty, hunger and lack of drinking water is one of the most serious problems facing the world, substantially ahead of any other item;
- Close to half of respondents (49%) cite climate change;
- More than four in ten Europeans believe that the spread of infectious diseases (44%) and the economic situation (43%) are among the most serious problems facing the world;
- Over a third of respondents mention the **deterioration of nature** (35%, new item), adding up to almost two thirds (66%) of the respondents when combined with those who cite **climate change**;¹⁶
- More than one in five Europeans cite health problems due to pollution (27%, new item), the deterioration of democracy and rule of law (26%, new item), armed conflicts (23%) and international terrorism (21%);
- Finally, less than one in five respondents consider the increasing global population (18%) and the proliferation of nuclear weapons (10%) as among the most serious problems facing the world.

Keeping in mind that this question has been modified since 2019 – with the introduction of three new items – and that any comparison should be made with caution, it is interesting to note that **climate change** still comes second to poverty, hunger and lack of drinking water in this survey, as was the case in 2019. However, the gap between the two topics has substantially narrowed.

As previously observed, the **spread of infectious diseases** has gained ground, up from eighth place to third position. Meanwhile, **international terrorism** and **armed conflicts** have lost ground. **Climate change** is the most mentioned item in six EU Member States: Sweden (74%), the Netherlands and Denmark (70% in both countries), Ireland (66%), Belgium (61%) and Finland (51%). More than six in ten respondents also cite this item in Portugal (63%) and Malta (62%), while less than a third do so in Romania (26%), Bulgaria (28%) and Latvia (31%).

The proportion of respondents citing **climate change** has decreased in 23 EU Member States, and by double digits in 12 countries, most notably in Finland (51%, -22), Hungary (37%, -19), France (51%, -15), Austria (47%, -15) and Italy (41%, -15). Conversely, it has increased slightly in four countries: Ireland (66%, +8), Portugal (63%, +5), Lithuania (44%, +4) and the Netherlands (70%, +1).

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? TOTAL (MAX. 4 ANSWERS)
(% - EU27)



¹⁵ QB1b. Which others do you consider to be serious problems?

¹⁵ "Climate change" and "deterioration of nature" are originally separate items in the survey. The combined result is computed by getting the share of the respondents

who cite at least one of the two items among their four choices.

2. Perceived seriousness of climate change

Over three quarters of Europeans believe that climate change is a very serious problem at this moment

Respondents were asked to say how serious a problem they think climate change is at this moment.¹⁷ In order to answer this question, they were asked to use a scale from one to ten, with '1' meaning it is "not at all a serious problem" and '10' meaning it is "an extremely serious problem". The answers have been divided into three groups: respondents who think that climate change is "a very serious problem" (answers 7 to 10), those who consider it is "a fairly serious problem" (answers 5 and 6), and those who think it is "not a serious problem" (answers 1 to 4).

Nearly eight in ten respondents (78%, -1 percentage point since 2019, within the margin of error.¹⁸ agree that climate change is a very serious problem, while 15% (+1, within the margin of error) consider it to be a fairly serious problem and 7% (+1, within the margin of error) not a serious problem.

Moreover, close to a third of Europeans (32%, -1 percentage point) answer '10', meaning they consider climate change as an extremely serious problem.

Finally, the average answer is 7.93, slightly down from 8.0 in 2019

A longer-trend analysis shows that the share of respondents who consider climate change to be a very serious problem has remained stable compared with 2019, with a decrease of only a one percentage point which falls within the margin of error. This remains at the second highest level ever registered and has increased by ten points since 2011.

A national analysis reveals that the average answer is above eight in 13 EU Member States, with the highest scores in Portugal (8.75), Cyprus (8.40) and Malta (8.26). At the other end of the scale, it is below seven in only two countries: Latvia (6.72) and Estonia (6.96).

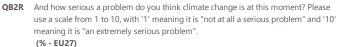
In all 27 EU Member States, a majority of respondents answer that climate change is **a very serious problem** at this moment (answers 7 to 10), with the highest levels in Portugal (91%), Cyprus (89%) and Malta (86%). Conversely, less than two thirds of respondents share this opinion in Latvia (59%), Estonia (63%) and Czechia (64%).

At least one in five respondents consider climate change to be a fairly serious problem (answers 5 and 6) in six EU Member States: Latvia and Poland (24% in both countries), Estonia, Czechia and Romania (21% in the three countries), and Bulgaria (20%). Meanwhile, less than one in ten hold this view in Portugal and Cyprus (7% in both countries), and Malta (8%).

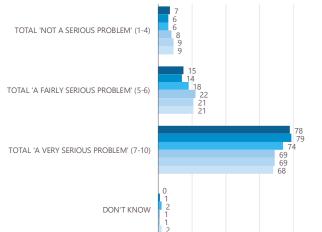
Finally, there are six EU Member States where over one in ten respondents think that climate change is **not a serious problem** (answers 1 to 4): Finland (18%), Latvia (17%), Estonia (16%), Czechia (15%), Austria (12%) and Romania (11%). At the other end of the scale, only 2% of respondents in Portugal share this opinion.

In terms of evolution since 2019, the average score has decreased in 17 EU Member States, most notably in Denmark (7.64, -0.66), Malta (8.26, -0.64), Czechia (7.03, -0.57), Finland (7.08, -0.52) and Spain (8.06, -0.44). On the other hand, it has increased in ten countries, particularly in Belgium (8.02, +0.52), Portugal (8.75, +0.45) and Croatia (8.06, +0.36).

At the same time, the proportion of respondents who consider climate change to be a very serious problem has fallen in 14 EU Member States, with the largest decreases occurring in Finland (66%, -10 percentage points), Spain (81%, -8), Denmark (76%, -7) and Czechia (64%, -7). On the other hand, it has risen in nine countries, most notably in Belgium (82%, +9) and Croatia (79%, +7). Finally, it is unchanged in four countries: Italy (84%), Lithuania (72%), Romania (66%) and Latvia (59%).

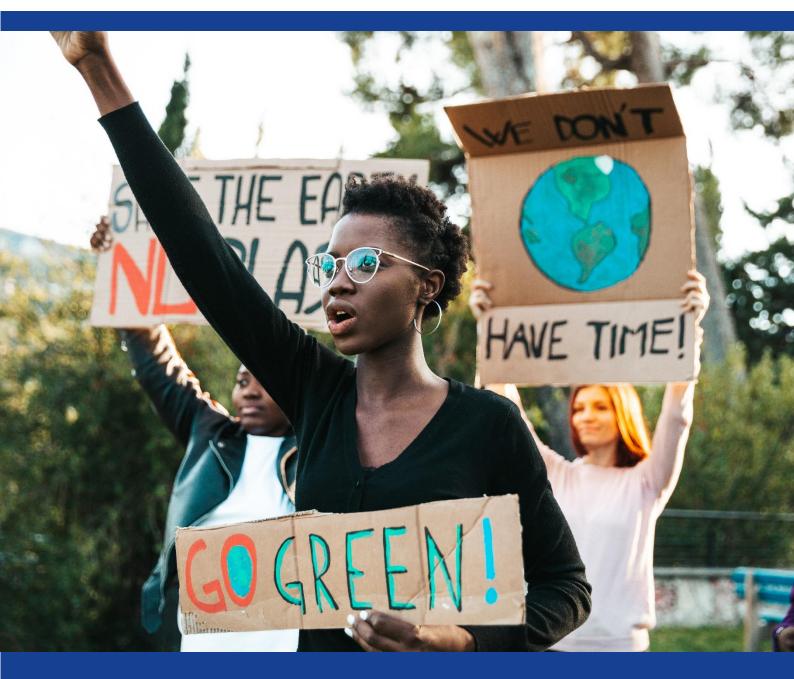


March-April 2021 April 2019 Mar. 2017 May-June 2015 Nov.-Dec. 2013 June 2011



¹⁷ 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". ¹⁸ See Technical Specifications.

II. TAKING ACTION TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE



1. Responsibility for tackling climate change

More than six in ten Europeans believe that, within the EU, national governments are responsible for tackling climate change, ahead of business and industry and the EU

When asked to identify who within the EU is responsible for tackling climate change, by choosing multiple responses from a list of six,¹⁹ respondents provided the following answers:

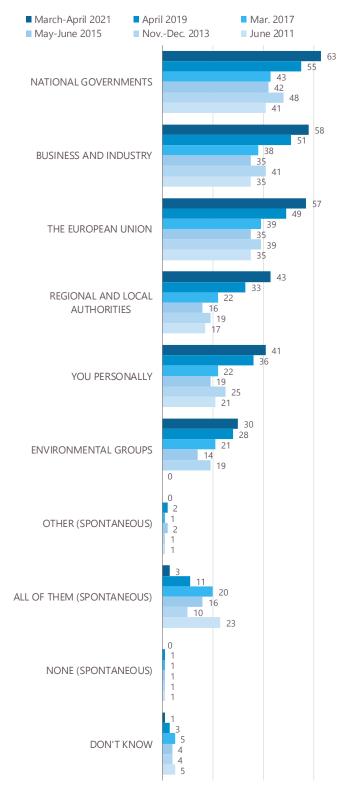
- Nearly two-thirds of Europeans state that national governments (63%, +8 percentage points since 2019) are responsible for tackling climate change;
- Close to six in ten respondents think that business and industry (58%, +7) and the European Union (57%, +8) are responsible for tackling climate change;
- Over four in ten Europeans answer regional and local authorities (43%, +10) or 'you personally' (41%, +5);
- Finally, three in ten respondents believe that responsibility for tackling climate change lies with **environmental groups** (30%, +2).

It is also interesting to note that just 3% of respondents *spontaneously* answer that all six actors listed are responsible for tackling climate change, a much lower proportion than in 2019 (-8 percentage points, and -17 since 2017).

Compared to 2019, the proportion of responses increased for each of the six actors: +10 percentage points for regional and local authorities, +8 for national governments and the European Union, +7 for business and industry, +5 for 'you personally' and, to a lesser extent, +2 for environmental groups. This represents the continuation of a trend observed between 2017 and 2019.

In fact, a longer-term analysis reveals that each of the six actors listed has reached its highest level since 2011, following an increase in their previous highest scores registered in 2019.

QB3 In your opinion, who within the EU is responsible for tackling climate change? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)
(% - EU27)



¹⁹ QB3. In your opinion, who within the EU is responsible for tackling climate change? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

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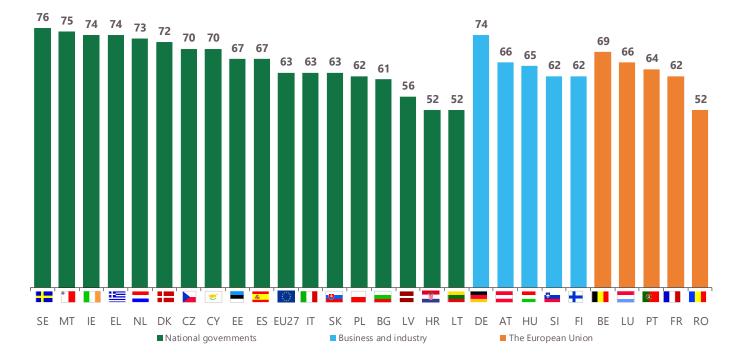
A national analysis highlights that, in 17 EU Member States, respondents place **national governments** in first position among the actors responsible for tackling climate change, with the highest scores being recorded in Sweden (76%), Malta (75%) and Ireland (74%) and Greece (74%). At the other end of the scale, slightly more than half of respondents share this opinion in Romania (51%), Slovenia (52%), and Lithuania and Croatia (52% in both countries, where this is the most mentioned actor).

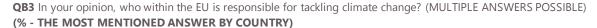
In five countries, **business and industry** tops the ranking: Germany (74%), Austria (66%), Hungary (65%), Finland (62%) and Slovenia (62%). More than six in ten respondents also mention this item in the Netherlands (72%), Greece (62%) and Cyprus (61%). Conversely, this proportion is lowest among respondents in Latvia (38%), Czechia (41%) and Poland (43%).

A majority of respondents in five EU Member States think that **the European Union** is one of the actors responsible for tackling climate change in Europe. This is the case in Belgium (69%), Luxembourg (66%), Portugal (64%), France (62%) and Romania (52%). More than two-thirds of respondents also cite this item in the Netherlands (70%) and Cyprus, Malta and Sweden (69% in all three), compared with fewer than four in ten respondents in Lithuania (33%), Latvia (35%), Czechia (37%) and Estonia (39%).

None of the three other actors is ranked in first place among the actors responsible for tackling climate change in any EU Member State. However:

- Regional and local authorities register their highest levels among respondents in Malta (53%) and Spain (48%), and their lowest in Czechia (17%), Latvia (25%), Lithuania (27%) and Finland (27%);
- More than half of respondents answer 'you personally' in six EU Member States, particularly in the Netherlands (57%) and Germany (56%) and Sweden (56%). Meanwhile, less than a quarter of respondents consider themselves personally responsible for tackling climate change in five countries, including Latvia (20%), Bulgaria (21%) and Czechia (22%);
- Finally, more than four in ten respondents mention environmental groups in Cyprus (49%), Malta (48%) and Austria (43%), while less than one in five share this opinion in Czechia (10%), Latvia (16%), Denmark (18%) and Finland (19%).





2. Personal action to tackle climate change

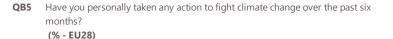
Nearly two thirds of Europeans say they have personally taken action to fight climate change over the past six months

When asked if they have personally taken any action to fight climate change over the past six months,²⁰ more than six in ten respondents (64%, +4 percentage points since 2019) answer positively. Conversely, slightly more than a third (35%, -2) say they have not taken any action, and just 1% (-2) say they do not know.

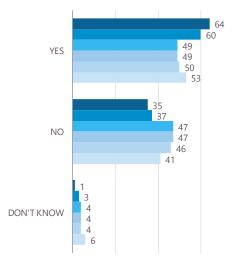
A longer-term analysis reveals that the share of respondents who have taken action to fight climate change over the past six months has reached its highest level since this question was first asked in 2011, up from 53% in 2011 to 64% in 2021.

A national analysis shows that in 20 EU Member States more than half of respondents answer that they have personally taken action to fight climate change over the past six months. Over three quarters of respondents give this answer in Portugal (83%), Germany (79%) and Spain (76%).

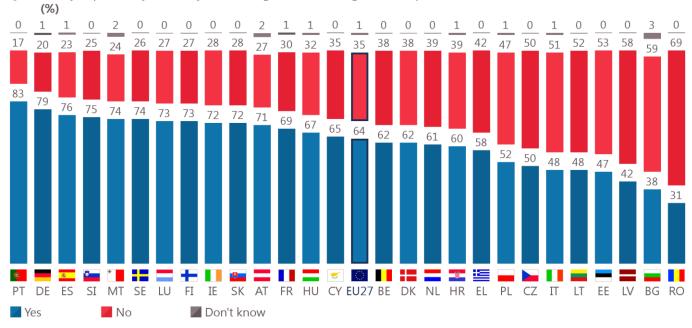
Close to half of respondents in Czechia (50%), Italy (48%), Lithuania (48%), Estonia (47%), say that they have taken action to fight climate change, while smaller shares of respondents said so in Romania (31%), Bulgaria (38%) and Latvia (42%).



March-April 2021 April 2019 Mar. 2017 May-June 2015 Nov.-Dec. 2013 June 2011



Since 2019, the proportion of respondents who have taken action to fight climate change has increased in 14 EU Member States, most notably in Poland (52%, +12 percentage points), Ireland (72%, +10) and Portugal (83%, +9). Conversely, it has decreased in 12 countries, particularly in Malta (74%, -14), Denmark (62%, -13) and Sweden (74%, -10). Finally, it has remained the same in Estonia (47%).



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

 $^{\rm zo}$ QB5. Have you personally taken any action to fight climate change over the past six months?

3. Types of individual action

Nearly all Europeans have taken at least one action to help tackle climate change

When asked to choose from a list of 15 possible actions to fight climate change,²¹ **96% of Europeans (+3 percentage points since 2019) mention at least one action**, establishing the following hierarchy:

- Three quarters of respondents (75%, unchanged since 2019) try to reduce their waste and regularly separate it for recycling, far ahead of any other action;
- Close to six in ten Europeans (59%, -3 percentage points) try to cut down on their consumption of disposable items whenever possible (e.g. plastic bags from the supermarket, excess packaging);
- Over four in ten respondents (42%, -6) say that lower energy consumption is an important factor in their choice when buying a new household appliance (e.g. washing machine, fridge or TV);
- Around a third of Europeans buy and eat more organic food (32%, new item), buy and eat less meat (31%, new item) or regularly use environmentally-friendly alternatives to their private car, such as walking, cycling, taking public transport or car-sharing (30%, -7);
- Nearly one in five respondents have better insulated their home to reduce their energy consumption (18%, -6) or consider the carbon footprint of their food purchases and sometimes adapt their shopping accordingly (16%, -2);
- At least one in ten Europeans consider the carbon footprint of their transport when planning their holiday and other longer distance travel and sometimes adapt their plans accordingly (11%, -1, within

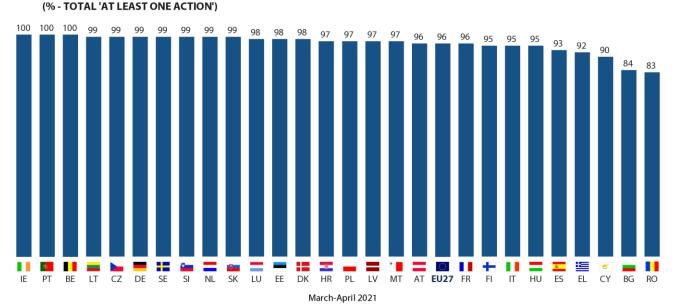
QB6 Which of the following actions, if any, apply to you? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

sources than their previous one (10%, -2) or have installed equipment in their home to control and reduce their energy consumption (e.g. smart meter) (10%, -6);

Less than one in ten respondents have bought a new car and its low fuel consumption was an important factor in their choice (8%, -4), have installed solar panels in their home (8%, +2), have bought a low-energy home (4%, -1, within the margin of error) or have bought an electric car (2%, +1, within the margin of error).

In terms of evolution since 2019,²² there have been decreases in the proportions of respondents mentioning ten actions that help tackling climate change. This is most notably the case for regularly using environmentally-friendly alternatives to private cars (-7 percentage points), lower energy consumption as an important factor when buying a new household appliance (-6), insulating the home better to reduce energy consumption (-6) or installing home equipment to control and reduce energy consumption (-6).

A national analysis reveals that trying to reduce waste and regularly separating it for recycling is the most mentioned action that helps to tackle climate change in 25 EU Member States, with the highest proportions in Ireland (89%), Czechia (88%) and the Netherlands (87%). Conversely, fewer than six in ten respondents cite this action in Bulgaria (31%), Romania (38%) and Latvia (59%). Trying to cut down the consumption of disposable items whenever possible is the most mentioned action in Estonia (76%). Lower energy consumption as an important factor when choosing which new household appliance to buy tops the ranking in Bulgaria (41%).



the margin of error), have switched to an energy supplier which offers a greater share of energy from renewable

²² This question has been slightly modified since 2019, with the introduction of two new items: *you buy and eat more organic food* and *you buy and eat less meat.* Overall, this may have lowered the score of the 13 other items compared with 2019. That is why the evolutions registered for this question compared with previous surveys need to be analysed with caution.

²¹ QB6. Which of the following actions, if any, apply to you? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE). People preferring cars over taking public transport as a deemed safer means of mobility from infection during the pandemic is one possible explanation.

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



1. Attitudes towards taking action on climate change

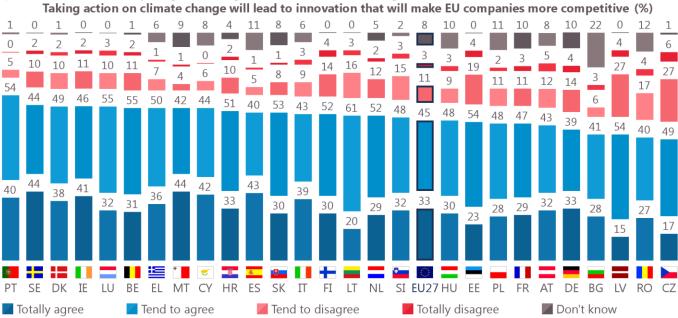
More than three quarters of Europeans agree that taking action on climate change will lead to innovation that will make EU companies more competitive

Nearly eight in ten respondents (78%, -1 percentage point since 2019, within the margin of error) agree that **taking action on climate change will lead to innovation that will make EU companies more competitive**, including a third (33%, -3) who 'totally agree'. Conversely, more than one in ten respondents (14%, +4) disagree with this statement, while 8% (-3) say they do not know.

A national analysis reveals that at least two thirds of respondents in all 27 EU Member States agree that taking action on climate change will lead to innovation that will make EU companies more competitive, with proportions ranging from 94% in Portugal, 88% in Sweden and 87% in Denmark, Ireland and Luxembourg to 66% in Czechia, 67% in Romania and 69% in both Bulgaria and Latvia.

In 18 countries, at least three in ten respondents 'totally agree' with this statement, with the highest proportions in Sweden and Malta (44% in both countries), and Spain (43%). At the other end of the scale, at most two in ten respondents give this answer in Latvia (15%), Czechia (17%) and Lithuania (20%).

In Bulgaria, more than one in five respondents say they do not know (22%).



QB4.5 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

2. Attitudes towards reducing fossil fuel imports

More than two thirds of Europeans think that reducing fossil fuel imports from outside the EU can increase energy security and benefit the EU economically

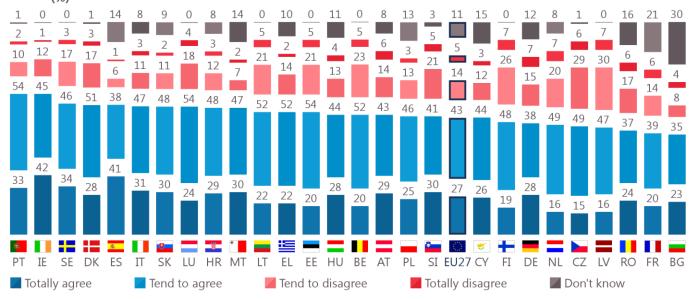
Seven in ten respondents (70%, -2 percentage points since 2019) agree that **reducing fossil fuel imports from outside the EU can increase energy security and benefit the EU economically**, with over a quarter (27%, -4) who 'totally agree'. On the other hand, close to one in five (19%, +4) disagree with this statement, and more than one in ten (11%, -2) 'don't know'.

In the 27 EU Member States, more than half of respondents think that reducing fossil fuel imports from outside the EU can increase energy security and benefit the EU economically. Agreement is most widespread among respondents in Ireland (87%), Portugal (87%) and Sweden (80%). The statement sees its lowest level of support in Bulgaria (58%), France (59%) and Romania (61%).

In eight countries, at least three in ten respondents 'totally agree' with this statement, most notably in Ireland (42%) and Spain (41%), substantially ahead of Sweden (34%). Less than one in five respondents hold this view in Czechia (15%), the Netherlands (16%), Latvia (16%) and Finland (19%).

The proportion of respondents who say they don't know is high in Bulgaria (30%) and France (21%) compared with other countries.

QB4.4 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

Nearly eight in ten Europeans believe that promoting EU expertise in clean technologies to countries outside the EU can help create new jobs in the EU

Over three quarters of respondents (78%, -3 percentage points since 2019²³) agree that **promoting EU expertise in clean technologies to countries outside the EU can help create new jobs in the EU**, including close to a third (32%, -6) who 'totally agree'. Conversely, more than one in ten (14%, +6) disagree with this statement, while 8% (-3) 'don't know'.

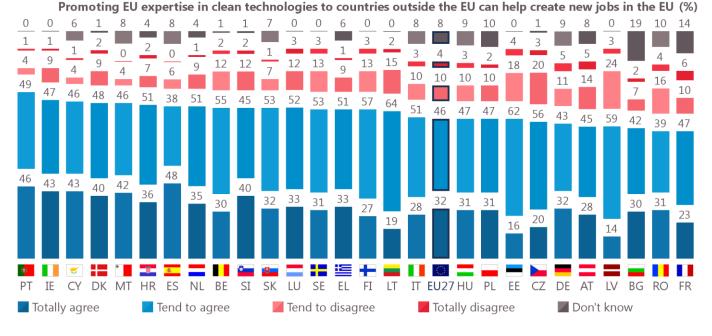
Across every Member State, at least seven in ten respondents agree that promoting EU expertise in clean technologies to countries outside the EU can help create new jobs in the EU, with proportions varying from 95% in Portugal, 90% in Ireland and 89% in Cyprus to 70% in both France and Romania, and 72% in Bulgaria.

In 19 countries, at least three in ten respondents 'totally agree' with this statement, particularly in Spain (48%), Portugal (46%) and Ireland (43%) and Cyprus (43%). At the other end of the scale, less than one in five respondents share this opinion in Latvia (14%), Estonia (16%) and Lithuania (19%).

Close to one in five respondents in Bulgaria (19%) say they do not know.

In terms of changes since 2019, the opinion that promoting EU expertise in clean technologies to countries outside the EU can help create new jobs in the EU has gained ground in 13 EU Member States, most notably in Estonia (78%, +12 percentage points) and Czechia (76%, +11). On the other hand, it has lost ground in 12 countries, including Romania (70%, -8). It has not changed in Spain (86%) and Belgium (85%).

A longer-term analysis since 2017 shows that the share of respondents agreeing with this statement has increased in 19 EU Member States, and by at least ten percentage points in six countries: Slovakia (85%, +14 percentage points since 2017), Cyprus (89%, +13), Luxembourg (85%, +13), Estonia (78%, +13), Portugal (95%, +11) and Italy (79%, +10). Conversely, it has decreased in seven countries, particularly in Germany (75%, -8) and Austria (73%, -8). It remains unchanged in Bulgaria (72%).



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

²³ Once again, this statement has been slightly modified since 2019: promoting EU expertise in clean technologies to countries outside the EU can **help create new jobs in the EU** instead of benefit the EU economically.

4. Attitudes to public financial support for clean energies as opposed to fossil fuel subsidies

Slightly more than eight in ten Europeans believe that more public financial support should be given to the transition to clean energies even if it means fossil fuel subsidies should be reduced

Over eight in ten respondents (81%, -3 percentage points since 2019) agree that **more public financial support should be given to the transition to clean energies even if it means subsidies for fossil fuels should be reduced**, with four in ten (40%, -4) totally agreeing. Conversely, more than one in ten respondents (13%, +4) disagree with this statement. Finally, just 6% (-1, within the margin of error) say they do not know.

In each EU Member State, more than two thirds of respondents agree that more public financial support should be used for the transition to clean energies even if it means subsidies for fossil fuels are reduced. Respondents in Portugal (95%), Ireland (91%) and Belgium (90%) and Malta (90%) are the most likely to agree, while those in Romania (67%), Bulgaria (67%), Finland (72%) and Latvia (72%) are the least likely to do so.

In 24 EU Member States, at least three in ten respondents 'totally agree' with this statement, and more than half do so in Malta (59%), Cyprus (56%), Portugal (55%), Ireland (54%) and Spain (52%). At the other end of the scale, less than three in ten respondents 'totally agree' with this idea in Latvia (22%), Czechia (26%) and Bulgaria (28%).

Nearly a quarter of respondents in Bulgaria (23%), 11% in Romania and 9% in France answer 'don't know.'

Since 2019, the proportion of respondents who agree that more public financial support should go to the clean energy transition even if it means subsidies to fossil fuels are reduced has fallen in 16 EU Member States, most dramatically in Romania (67%, -15 percentage points) and Finland (72%, -13). Meanwhile, it has risen in ten countries, most notably in Luxembourg (86%, +8). It remains stable in France (80%).

However, a longer-term analysis reveals that, since 2017, the opinion that more public financial support should go to the transition to clean energies even if it means subsidies to fossil fuels are reduced has gained ground in 20 EU Member States, and by double digits in Portugal (95%, +13 percentage points), Estonia (81%, +13), Slovakia (84%, +13), Luxembourg (86%, +12) and Belgium (90%, +10). It has lost ground in five countries, particularly in Finland (72%, -13) and Austria (78%, -7). It has not changed in Malta (90%) and Greece (89%).

QB4.6 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 (%)

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5. Attitudes to adapting to the adverse impacts of climate change

More than six in ten Europeans consider that adapting to the adverse impacts of climate change can have positive outcomes for citizens in the EU

More than six in ten respondents (62%, -8 percentage points since 2019) agree with the statement that **adapting to the adverse impacts of climate change can have positive outcomes for citizens in the EU**, including nearly a quarter (23%, -9) who 'totally agree'. Conversely, close to three in ten respondents (28%, +10) disagree with this statement, with 10% (+3) totally disagreeing. Finally, a tenth of respondents (10%, -2) are unable to give an opinion. This change may be related to the shift in people's opinion towards favouring climate change as the most serious problem over economic or health issues, which was not the case two years ago.

A **national analysis** highlights that in 26 EU Member States a majority of respondents agree that adapting to the adverse impacts of climate change can have positive outcomes for citizens in the EU. In these countries, respondents in Ireland (85%), Denmark (82%) and Malta (81%) are the most likely to agree, while those in Estonia (48%), Italy (51%), and Czechia (53%) are the least likely to agree.

Around three in ten respondents 'totally agree' in five countries: Ireland (42%), Malta (42%), Spain (39%), Cyprus (34%) and Denmark (32%).

In Estonia and Italy around half of respondents agree with this statement.

Moreover, around one in five respondents in Italy (21%) totally disagree with this statement.

Finally, slightly more than a quarter of respondents in Bulgaria (26%) say they do not know, followed by those in France (17%), Romania (15%), Germany and Poland (14%).

In terms of evolutions since 2019, the share of respondents who agree that adapting to the adverse impacts of climate change can have positive outcomes for citizens in the EU has decreased in 21 EU Member States, most notably in Portugal (70%, -17 percentage points), Romania (56%, -13), Belgium (68%, -11) and Italy (51%,

-11). On the other hand, it has increased in five countries, particularly in Estonia (48%, +9), though it remains the minority view. Finally, the level of agreement remains unchanged in the Netherlands (79%).



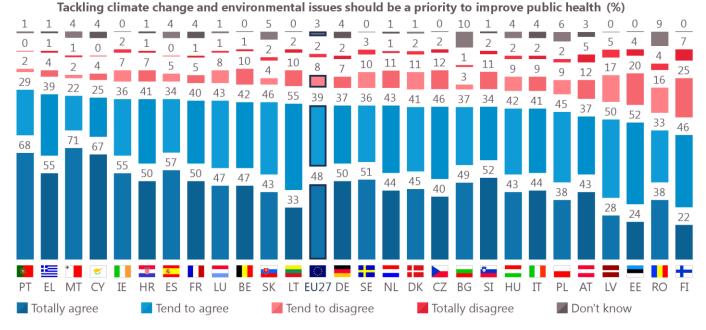
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6. Attitudes to tackling climate change and environmental issues as a priority to improve public health

Nearly nine in ten Europeans think that tackling climate change and environmental issues should be a priority to improve public health

Almost nine in ten respondents (87%) agree that **tackling climate change and environmental issues should be a priority to improve public health**, including nearly half (48%) who 'totally agree'. Just one in ten respondents (10%) disagree with this statement, while 3% say they do not know. In all 27 EU Member States, over two thirds of respondents agree that tackling climate change and environmental issues should be a priority to improve public health, with the highest proportions in Portugal (97%), Greece (94%) and Malta (93%), and the lowest in Finland (68%), Romania (71%) and Estonia (76%).

At least a third of respondents 'totally agree' with this statement in 24 countries. Over two thirds hold this view in Malta (71%), Portugal (68%) and Cyprus (67%), while less than three in ten do so in Finland (22%), Estonia (24%) and Latvia (28%).



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

7. Attitudes on the trade-off between costs caused by climate change versus the costs of a green transition

Close to three quarters of Europeans believe that the costs of damage caused by climate change are much higher than the cost of the investment needed for a green transition

More than seven in ten respondents (74%) agree with the statement that **the cost of damage due to climate change is much higher than the cost of investment needed for a green transition**, with nearly four in ten (37%) totally agreeing. On the other hand, more than one in ten respondents (16%) disagree with this statement, and one in ten (10%) answer 'don't know'.

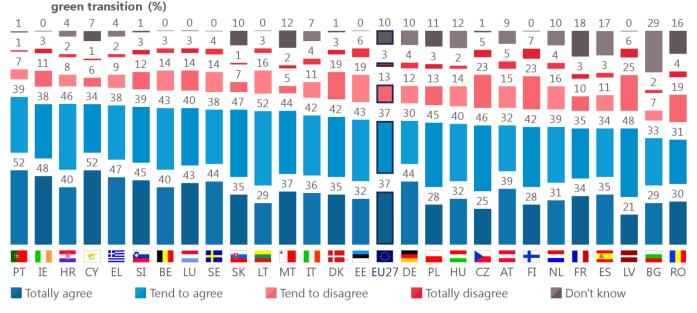
A **national analysis** shows that more than six in ten respondents in the 27 EU Member States agree that the costs of damage due to climate change is much higher than the cost of the investment needed for a green transition, with proportions varying from 91% in Portugal and 86% in Ireland, Croatia and Cyprus, to 61% in Romania, 62% in Bulgaria and 69% in France, Spain and Latvia.

At least three in ten respondents 'totally agree' with this assertion in 21 EU Member States, the highest levels being in Portugal (52%), Cyprus (52%) and Ireland (48%). On the other hand, respondents in Latvia (21%), Czechia (25%), Poland (28%) and Finland (28%) are the least likely to give this answer.

Close to three in ten respondents in Bulgaria (29%) say they do not know.

QB4.3 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

The costs of the damages due to climate change are much higher than the costs of the investments needed for a



IV. LOOKING TO THE FUTURE



1. Current national governments action to tackle climate change

Three quarters of Europeans think that their national government is not doing enough to tackle climate change

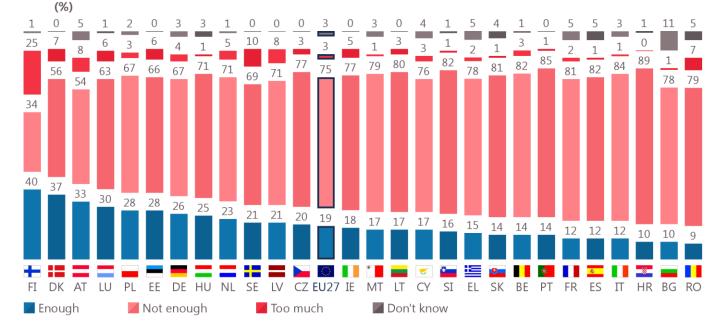
When asked whether they believe that their national government is doing enough, not enough or too much to tackle climate change,²⁴ a large majority of respondents (75%) answer that **their government is not doing enough**. On the other hand, close to one in five respondents (19%) think that their government is doing enough, and just 3% say it is doing too much. Finally, 3% say they do not know.

A national analysis reveals that, in 26 EU Member States, more than half of respondents think that their national government is **not doing enough** to tackle climate change. Within these countries, this proportion is highest among respondents in Croatia (89%), Portugal (85%) and Italy (84%), and lowest in Austria (54%), Denmark (56%) and Luxembourg (63%).

Finland is the only country where the largest group of respondents think that their national government is **doing enough** to tackle climate change (40% versus 34% 'not enough' and 25% 'too much'). At least three in ten respondents also hold this view in Denmark (37%), Austria (33%) and Luxembourg (30%). At the other end of the scale, 9% of respondents in Romania and 10% in both Bulgaria and Croatia share this opinion.

A quarter of respondents think that their national government is **doing too much** to tackle climate change in Finland (25%), substantially ahead of Sweden (10%). By contrast, 0% hold this view in Croatia and just 1% in eight EU Member States.

Slightly more than one in ten respondents say they do not know in Bulgaria (11%).



QB7 Do you think that the (NATIONALITY) government is doing enough, not enough or too much to tackle climate change?

²⁴ QB7. Do you think that the (NATIONALITY) government is doing enough, not enough or too much to tackle climate change?

2. Targets for renewable energy

Nearly nine in ten Europeans consider it important that both their national government and the European Union set ambitious targets to increase the amount of renewable energy used by 2030

Respondents were asked how important they think it is that two authorities, their national government and the European Union, set ambitious targets to increase the amount of renewable energy used, such as wind or solar power, by 2030:²⁵8

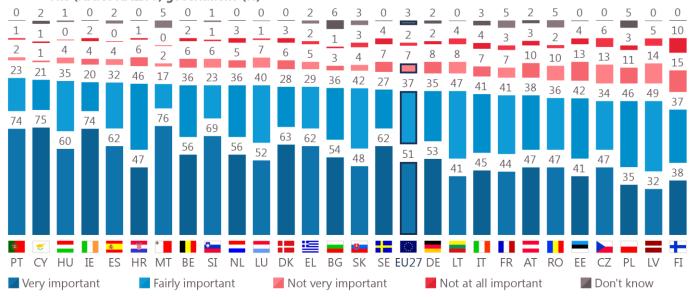
- Close to nine in ten Europeans (88%, -4 percentage points since 2019²⁶) think it is important that **their national government** sets such ambitious targets, with more than half (51%, -4) who answer 'very important'. Conversely, around one in ten respondents (9%, +3) do not think it is important, while 3% (+1, within the margin of error) answer 'don't know';
- A similar proportion (87%, new authority tested) consider it important that **the European Union** sets such targets to increase the amount of renewable energy used by 2030, including more than half (53%) answering 'very important'. On the other hand, one in ten respondents (10%) have the opposite view. Finally, just 3% of respondents answer 'don't know'.

The national government

A national analysis reveals that at least three quarters of respondents in all 27 EU Member States consider it important that their national government sets ambitious targets to increase the amount of renewable energy used by 2030. Nearly all respondents share this opinion in Portugal (97%), Cyprus (96%) and Hungary (95%), while this proportion is the lowest in Finland (75%), Poland, Czechia and Latvia (81% in all three countries).

In terms of evolutions since 2019, the share of respondents who say it is important that their national government sets ambitious targets to increase the amount of renewable energy used by 2030 has decreased in 20 EU Member States, most notably in Finland (75%, -14 percentage points). Conversely, it has increased in six countries, with the greatest increase registered in Bulgaria (90%, +7). It remains stable in Belgium (92%).

In 15 EU Member States, more than half of respondents answer 'very important'. Over seven in ten respondents give this answer in Malta (76%), Cyprus (75%), Portugal (74%) and Ireland (74%), compared with fewer than four in ten in Latvia (32%), Poland (35%) and Finland (38%).



QB8.1 How important do you think it is that the following authorities set ambitious targets to increase the amount of renewable energy used, such as wind or solar power, by 2030?
The (NATIONALITY) government (%)

²⁵ QB8. How important do you think it is that the following authorities set ambitious targets to increase the amount of renewable energy used, such as wind or solar power, by 2030? 1. The (NATIONALITY) government; 2. The European Union ²⁶ This question has been slightly modified since 2019. *The (NATIONALITY) government* has been replaced by *the following authorities* in the question text, in order to be able to test the European Union as well.

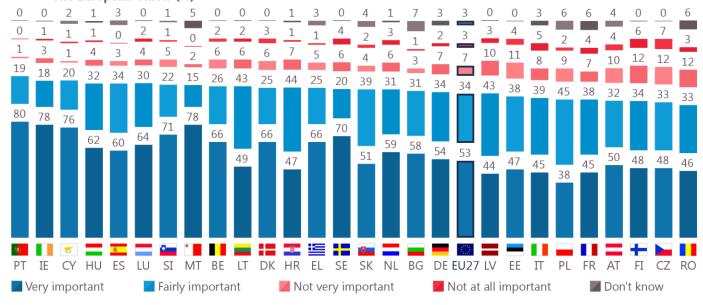
The European Union

In the 27 EU Member States, over three quarters of respondents believe that it is important that the European Union sets ambitious targets to increase the amount of renewable energy used, such as wind or solar power, by 2030. Nearly all respondents hold this view in Portugal (99%), Ireland (96%) and Cyprus (96%), compared with 79% in Romania, 81% in Czechia, and 82% in both Austria and Finland.

At least half of respondents say it is 'very important' that the European Union sets such ambitious targets in 17 EU Member States, with the highest proportions in Portugal (80%), Ireland (78%) and Malta (78%). By contrast, 38% of respondents in Poland, 44% in Latvia, and 45% in both France and Italy answer 'very important'.

In 25 Member States, there is a difference of only four percentage points between the importance respondents give to national government versus the EU setting renewable energy targets. The two exceptions are Finland (82% for the EU compared with 75% for the national government) and Latvia (87% and 81%).





3. Energy efficiency targets

Nearly nine in ten Europeans think that it is important that both their national government and the European Union support energy efficiency improvements by 2030

Respondents were asked how important they think it is that the same two authorities (their national government and the European Union) provide support for improving energy efficiency by 2030 (e.g. by encouraging people to insulate their home, install solar panels, or buy electric cars):²⁷

- Almost nine in ten Europeans (88%, -1 percentage point since 2019, within the margin of error) answer that it is important that **their national government** provides support for improving energy efficiency by 2030, with slightly more than half (51%, unchanged) saying 'very important'.²⁸ Meanwhile, close to one in ten respondents (9%, +1, within the margin of error) say it is not important, and 3% answer 'don't know';
- Around the same proportion (87%, new authority tested) believe that it is important that **the European Union** provides support for improving energy efficiency by 2030, with half of respondents (50%) answering 'very important'. Conversely, one in ten respondents (10%) believe that it is not important, while 3% say they do not know.

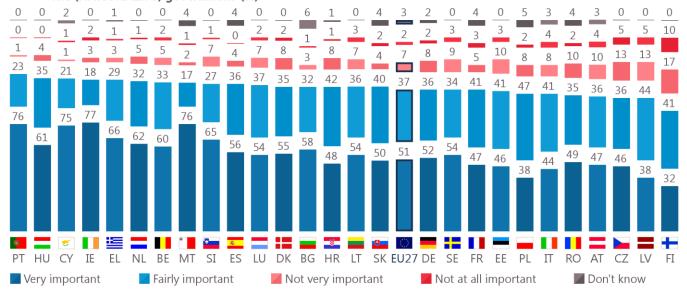
The national government

In all 27 EU Member States, more than seven in ten respondents think it is important that their national government provides support for improving energy efficiency by 2030, with the highest proportions in Portugal (99%), Hungary (95%) and Cyprus (95%), and the lowest levels in Finland (73%), Czechia (82%) and Latvia (82%).

At least half of respondents answer that it is 'very important' that their national government provides such support, with more than three quarters of respondents giving this answer in Ireland (77%) and Malta (76%) and Portugal (76%). By contrast, fewer than four in ten respondents say it is 'very important' in Finland (32%), Poland (38%) and Latvia (38%).

Since 2019, the proportion of respondents who believe it is important that their national government provides support for improving energy efficiency by 2030 has decreased in 13 EU Member States, particularly in Finland (73%, -10 percentage points) and Italy (85%, -6). In contrast, it has increased in 12 countries, most notably in Luxembourg (91%, +7). It remains unchanged in Spain (92%) and Czechia (82%).

QB9.1 How important do you think it is that the following authorities provide support for improving energy efficiency by 2030 (e.g. by encouraging people to insulate their home, install solar panels, or buy electric cars)? The (NATIONALITY) government (%)



²⁷ QB9. How important do you think it is that the following authorities provide support for improving energy efficiency by 2030 (e.g. by encouraging people to insulate their home, install solar panels, or buy electric cars)? 1. The (NATIONALITY) government; 2. The European Union ²⁸ This question has been slightly modified since 2019. *The (NATIONALITY)*

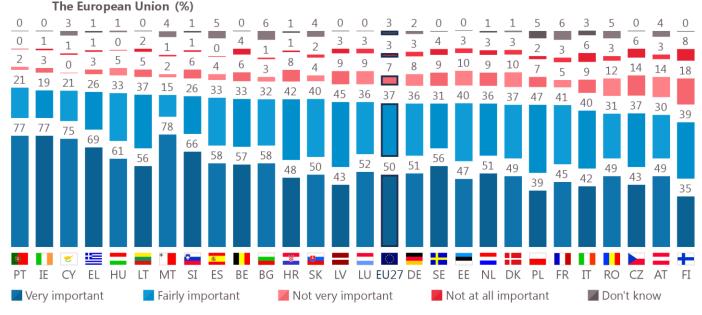
²⁸ This question has been slightly modified since 2019. The (NATIONALITY) government has been replaced by the following authorities in the question text, in order to be able to test the European Union as well.

The European Union

A **national analysis** reveals that over seven in ten respondents in every EU Member State consider it important that the European Union provides support for improving energy efficiency by 2030, with proportions varying from 98% in Portugal and 96% in both Ireland and Cyprus to 74% in Finland, 79% in Austria, and 80% in both Czechia and Romania.

In 16 EU Member States, at least half of respondents believe that it is 'very important' that the European Union provides support for improving energy efficiency by 2030. More than three quarters share this opinion in Malta (78%), Portugal (77%) and Ireland (77%), compared with 35% in Finland, 39% in Poland and 42% in Italy. In 25 Member States, there is a difference of only four percentage points between the importance respondents give to national governments vs. the EU supporting energy efficiency improvements by 2030. The gap is greater in Latvia (88% for the EU compared with 82% for the national government), but the same gap is narrower in the Netherlands (87% for the EU vs 94% for the national government).





4. A climate-neutral Europe by 2050

Nine in ten Europeans think that greenhouse gas emissions should be reduced to a minimum while offsetting the remaining emissions to make the EU economy climate neutral by 2050

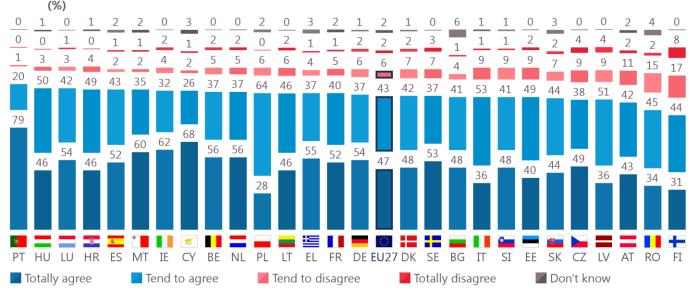
A large majority of respondents (90%, -2 percentage points since 2019) agree that 'we should reduce greenhouse gas emissions to a minimum while offsetting the remaining emissions, for instance by increasing forested areas, to make the EU economy climate neutral by 2050',²⁹ with nearly half (47%, -7) answering they 'totally agree'. On the other hand, less than one in ten respondents (8%, +4) disagree with this statement, while just 2% (-2) say they do not know.

A national analysis reveals that, in all 27 EU Member States, at least three quarters of respondents agree that greenhouse gas emissions should be reduced to a minimum, while offsetting the remaining emissions, in order to make the EU economy climateneutral by 2050. This proportion is highest among respondents in Portugal (99%), Hungary (96%) and Luxembourg (96%), and lowest in Finland (75%), Romania (79%) and Austria (85%). In 12 EU Member States, more than half of respondents 'totally agree' with this statement, with proportions varying from 79% in Portugal, 68% in Cyprus and 62% in Ireland to 28% in Poland, 31% in Finland and 34% in Romania.

Regarding changes since 2019, the share of respondents who agree that the EU economy should be made climate-neutral by 2050 has decreased in 14 EU Member States, most notably in Finland (75%, -10 percentage points) and Romania (79%, -7). Conversely, it has increased in nine countries, particularly in Luxembourg (96%, +8) and Poland (92%, +5). It has remained the same in Spain (95%), Belgium (93%), Lithuania (92%) and Germany (91%).

It is interesting to note that the proportion of respondents who 'totally agree' with this statement has fallen in 20 EU Member States, and by at least ten percentage points in eight countries: Romania (34%, -17 percentage points), Cyprus (68%, -16), Spain (52%, -16), Denmark (48%, -16), Italy and Latvia (36%, -14 in both countries), Austria (43%, -11) and Slovenia (48%, -10). Conversely, it has risen in five countries, most dramatically in Portugal (79%, +28). It remains stable in Germany (54%) and Czechia (49%).

QB10 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.



²⁹ QB10. 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.

Investment from the economic recovery plan

Three quarters of Europeans think that money from the economic recovery plan should mainly be invested in the new green economy

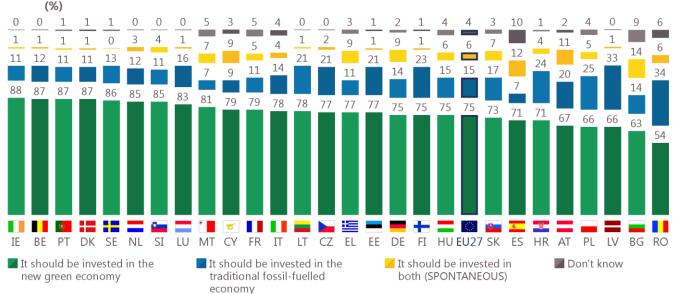
When asked whether they think that the money from the economic recovery plan should mainly be invested in the traditional fossil-fuelled economy or in the new green economy,³⁰ an overwhelming majority of respondents answer that it should mainly be invested in **the new green economy** (75%). Conversely, 15% say it should mainly be invested in the traditional fossil-fuelled economy. Moreover, 6% *spontaneously* answer that the money from the economic recovery plan should be invested in both the traditional fossil-fuelled economy and the new green economy, while 4% answer 'don't know'.

In the 27 EU Member States, more than half of respondents believe that the money from the economic recovery plan should mainly be invested in **the new green economy**, with the highest levels in Ireland (88%), Portugal (87%), Denmark (87%) and Belgium (87%), and the lowest in Romania (54%), Bulgaria (63%), Poland (66%) and Latvia (66%).

However, in nine EU Member States at least one in five respondents consider that this money should mainly be invested in **the traditional fossil-fuelled economy**. At least a quarter of respondents share this opinion in Romania (34%), Latvia (33%) and Poland (25%), compared with less than one in ten in Spain and Malta (7% in both countries), and Cyprus (9%).

More than one in ten respondents *spontaneously* say the money from the economic recovery plan should be invested **in both the traditional fossil-fuelled economy and the new green economy** in three EU Member States: Bulgaria (14%), Spain (12%) and Austria (11%). By contrast, no respondents give this *spontaneous* answer in Sweden, and 1% (within the margin of error) do so in nine countries.

It is noteworthy that one in ten respondents in Spain (10%) are unable to form an opinion.



QB11 Do you think that the money from the economic recovery plan should mainly be invested in the traditional fossil-fuelled economy or in the new green economy?

³⁰ QB11. Do you think that the money from the economic recovery plan should mainly be invested in the traditional fossil-fuelled economy or in the new green economy?

Respondents were given the following statement before being asked this question: The EU Member States have agreed on a \in 750 billion economic recovery plan, including both grants (\in 390bn) and loans (\in 360bn), to address the damage caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

CONCLUSION



The report begins by examining Europeans' perceptions of climate change. For the first time since this question was included in the survey, Europeans identify climate change as the single most serious problem facing the world as a whole. Moreover, close to half of Europeans consider that climate change is one of the most serious problems facing the world, just behind poverty, hunger and lack of drinking water, but ahead of the spread of infectious diseases. It is a striking result in the context of the coronavirus pandemic, showing the high level of concern around climate change despite the most serious world health crisis in decades. Indeed, the proportion of Europeans who think climate change is a very serious problem has remained stable since 2019, at nearly eight in ten.

The second part of this report explores Europeans' opinions on the need to take action against climate change. More than half of respondents believe national governments (63%), business and industry (58%), and the EU (57%) are responsible for tackling climate change within Europe. In fact, following the trend observed between 2017 and 2019, the share of respondents mentioning each of the six actors listed has increased since 2019. A greater share of European citizens consider the EU as well as business and industry to be responsible (+8 and +7 percentage points respectively since 2019). Similarly, national governments as well as regional and local authorities have experienced a considerable increase in mentions (+8 and +10 percentage points respectively since 2019).

In addition, nearly two thirds of Europeans say they have personally taken action to fight climate change over the past six months, the highest level since 2011. A more specific question on the actions taken to fight climate change reveals that nearly all Europeans have taken at least one action that helps to tackle climate change (96%). Three quarters have tried to reduce their waste and regularly separate it for recycling, while close to six in ten have tried to cut down on their consumption of disposable items whenever possible. However, most of these actions to counter climate change have lost ground since 2019, particularly the regular use of environmentally-friendly alternatives to private cars (-7 percentage points). This may be a consequence of the coronavirus pandemic.

Europeans' attitudes to fighting climate change and the transition to clean energy is covered in the third chapter of the report. It was found that most Europeans see the fight against climate change as an opportunity both for EU citizens and for the European economy. Nearly nine in ten respondents agree that tackling climate change should be a priority to improve public health, and more than six in ten believe that adapting to the adverse impacts of climate change can have positive outcomes for EU citizens. On the economy, large majorities of respondents think that promoting EU expertise in clean technologies can help create new jobs; that taking action on climate change will lead to innovation that will make EU companies more competitive; and that reducing fossil fuel imports from outside the EU can increase energy security and benefit the EU economically. In this context, there is also widespread agreement that more public financial support should go towards the transition to clean energy sources, and that the cost of the damage caused by climate change is much higher than the cost of the investment needed for a green transition.

Finally, the report looks into opinions on the responsibilities of national governments and the EU for tackling climate change. Three quarters of Europeans think that their national government is not currently doing enough to tackle climate change. Equally, nearly nine in ten respondents say it is important for both their national government and the European Union to set ambitious targets to increase the amount of renewable energy used by 2030, while the same proportion thinks that both their national government and the EU should provide support for increasing levels of energy efficiency by 2030.

In addition, nine in ten Europeans agree that greenhouse gas emissions should be reduced to a minimum while offsetting the remaining emissions to make the EU economy climate-neutral by 2050. Logically enough, three quarters of respondents also think that the money from the economic recovery plan should mainly be invested in the new green economy rather than in the traditional fossil-fuelled economy.

Finally, a broad overview of the socio-demographic results reveals an interesting yet not unexpected pattern in Europeans' attitudes to the fight against climate change, based on their perceptions of it. Respondents who consider climate change to be the single most serious problem or one of the most serious problems facing the world are more likely to support any action or policy that aims to help tackle climate change than those who do not view climate change as a problem. The same goes for respondents who view climate change as a very serious problem.

Technical Specifications

Between the 15th March and 14th April 2021, Kantar carried out wave 95.1 of the EUROBAROMETER survey, at the request of the European Commission, Directorate-General for Communication, "Media monitoring and Eurobarometer" Unit.

Wave 95.1 covers the population of the respective nationalities of the European Union Member States, resident in each of the 27 Member States and aged 15 years and over

The basic sample design applied in all countries and territories is a multi-stage, random (probability) one. In each country, a number of sampling points were 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"). If no one answered the interviewer in a household, or if the respondent selected was not available (not present or busy), the interviewer revisited the same household up to three additional times (four contact attempts in total). Interviewers never indicate that the survey is conducted on behalf of the European Commission beforehand; they may give this information once the survey is completed, upon request.

The recruitment phase was slightly different in the Netherlands. In this country, a sample of addresses within each areal sampling point (1km2 grid) were selected from the address or population register. The selection of addresses was done in a random manner. Households were then contacted by telephone and recruited to take part in the survey.

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	C O UNTR IE S	INSTITUTES	N° INTER VIEW S	FIELD DAT	W O R K T E S	POPULATION 15+	PROPORTION EU27
BE	Belgium	Kantar Belgium	1.034	24/03/2021	10/04/2021	9.188.369	2,45%
ВG	Bulgaria	Kantar TNS BBSS	1.033	17/03/2021	11/04/2021	5.995.194	1,60%
CZ	Czechia	Kantar C Z	1.044	24/03/2021	04/04/2021	8.956.740	2,39%
DK	Denmark	Kantar Gallup	1.048	16/03/2021	12/04/2021	4.848.611	1,29%
DE	Germany	Kantar Deutschland	1.505	16/03/2021	14/04/2021	71.728.398	19,10%
EE	Estonia	Kantar Emor	1.019	16/03/2021	31/03/2021	1.073.224	0,29%
IE	Ireland	Kantar Belgium	1.026	24/03/2021	06/04/2021	3.896.482	1,04%
ΕL	Greece	Kantar Greece	1.012	22/03/2021	12/04/2021	9.187.524	2,45%
ES	Spain	TNS Investigación de Mercados y O pinión	1.016	17/03/2021	11/04/2021	40.006.943	10,65%
FR	France	Kantar Public France	1.018	16/03/2021	06/04/2021	52.732.499	14,04%
HR	C roatia	Hendal	1.027	16/03/2021	11/04/2021	3.488.460	0,93%
IT	Italy	Kantar Italia	1.032	16/03/2021	12/04/2021	52.397.331	13,95%
CY	R ep. Of C yprus	CYMAR MarketResearch	504	16/03/2021	04/04/2021	734.695	0,20%
LV	Latvia	Kantar TNS Latvia	1.009	16/03/2021	12/04/2021	1.568.124	0,42%
LT	Lithuania	TNS LT	1.024	16/03/2021	03/04/2021	2.300.257	0,61%
LU	Luxembourg	Kantar Belgium	513	22/03/2021	11/04/2021	503.275	0,13%
HU	Hungary	Kantar Hoffmann	1.046	17/03/2021	01/04/2021	8.351.017	2,22%
MT	Malta	MISCO International	520	16/03/2021	03/04/2021	426.055	0,11%
NL	Netherlands	Kantar Netherlands	1.004	15/03/2021	10/04/2021	14.165.638	3,77%
AT	Austria	Das Österreichische Gallup Institut	1.025	16/03/2021	05/04/2021	7.580.083	2,02%
ΡL	Poland	Kantar Polska	1.039	16/03/2021	08/04/2021	32.139.021	8,56%
ΡT	Portugal	Marktest – Marketing, O rganização e Formação	1.035	19/03/2021	05/04/2021	8.869.051	2,36%
RO	Romania	Centrul Pentru Studierea Opiniei si Pietei (CSOP)	1.045	17/03/2021	05/04/2021	16.372.216	4,36%
SI	Slovenia	Mediana DOO	1.026	19/03/2021	12/04/2021	1.767.202	0,47%
SK	Slovakia	Kantar Czechia	1.003	16/03/2021	12/04/2021	4.592.379	1,22%
FI	Finland	Kantar TNS Oy	1.017	19/03/2021	06/04/2021	4.488.064	1,20%
SE	Sweden	Kantar Sifo	1.045	18/03/2021	04/04/2021	8.149.850	2,17%
		TOTAL EU27	26.669	15/03/2021	14/04/2021	375.506.702	100%*

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

** Recruitments in Belgium, Czechia, Greece, Ireland, Luxembourg, Portugal and Slovakia are carried out by Kantar Belgium, Kantar Czechia, Kantar Greece, Ronin International, Kantar Portugal and Kantar Slovakia. Non-probabilistic sample in Greece was randomly drawn from Kantar's LifePoints panel.

	C O UNTRIES	N° OF CAPI	N° OF CAWI	TOTAL N°
	COUNTRIES	INTER VIEW S	INTER VIEW S	INTER VIEW S
BE	Belgium		1.034	1.034
ВG	Bulgaria	1.033		1.033
CZ	Czechia		1.044	1.044
DK	Denmark		1.048	1.048
DE	Germany	1.505		1.505
ΕE	Estonia		1.019	1.019
IE	Ireland		1.026	1.026
ΕL	Greece	532	480	1.012
ES	Spain	1.016		1.016
FR	France	1.018		1.018
HR	C roatia	1.027		1.027
IT	Italy	1.032		1.032
CY	R ep. Of C yprus	504		504
LV	Latvia		1.009	1.009
LT	Lithuania		1.024	1.024
LU	Luxembourg		513	513
HU	Hungary	1.046		1.046
MT	Malta	329	191	520
NL	Netherlands	725	279	1.004
AT	Austria	1.025		1.025
ΡL	Poland	1.039		1.039
ΡT	Portugal		1.035	1.035
RO	R omania	1.045		1.045
SI	Slovenia	508	518	1.026
SK	S lovakia	710	293	1.003
FI	Finland		1.017	1.017
SE	Sweden		1045	1.045
	TOTAL EU27	14.094	12.575	26.669

CAPI: Computer-Assisted Personal interviewing CAWI: Computer-Assisted W eb interviewing

Consequences of the coronavirus pandemic on fieldwork

Face-to-face interviewing

Where feasible, interviews were conducted face to face in people's homes or on their door step and in the appropriate national language. In all countries and territories where face-to-face interviewing was not feasible CAPI (Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing) was used.

For face-to-face all interviews conducted, hygiene and physical distancing measures were respected at all times in line with government regulations, and whenever possible, interviews were conducted outside homes, on doorsteps, in order to stay outside and maintain social distance.

Face-to-face and online interviewing

In Greece, Malta, the Netherlands, Slovenia and Slovakia, face-toface interviewing was feasible but it was not possible to reach the target number of face-to-face interviews within the fieldwork period due to the impact of COVID-19 restrictions: many potential respondents are reluctant to open their homes to interviewers, even if they respect hygiene rules and physical distancing, such as wearing masks and using hydroalcoholic gel. Therefore, to hit the target number of interviews within the fieldwork period, additional interviews were conducted online with Computer-Assisted Web Interviewing (CAWI) technique. In Belgium, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Portugal, Finland and Sweden face-to-face interviews were not feasible at all. Therefore, all interviews were conducted online with CAWI technique.

Recruitment for online interviews

The online design in each country differed based on what was feasible within the fieldwork period. Where feasible, the online sample was based on a probabilistic sample design. Those recruited to the online survey were recruited through a single mobile frame or dual frame Random Digit Dialling (RDD) design. In this way the entire phone owning population in each country had a non-zero chance of being sampled. The choice of whether to use a single mobile frame or dual frame (mobile and landline) was dependent on the countries' landline infrastructure. Where the landline infrastructure is suitably advanced to support a significant minority of residential households with landline phones a dual frame design is employed. The mix of mobile and landline sample is designed to maximise the representation of the responding sample. The RDD sample for both the mobile and landline sample is drawn from the country's telephone numbering plan. The landline sample frame is stratified by NUTS3 regions based on their prefix and the mobile by operator before a systematic random sample of numbers is generated proportional in size to the total generatable numbers in each stratum. Respondents were recruited using this sample design in Belgium, Czechia, Estonia, Greece, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal, Slovenia and Slovakia.

In Finland, Denmark, and Sweden, RDD samples were not used, instead the telephone sample was drawn from the country telephone directory. In these three countries the telephone directories offer comprehensive coverage of the phone owning population, storing both landline and mobile phone numbers for each individual.

In the Netherlands, a proprietary panel called "Nipobase" was used, drawing a random sample from their panel. This panel uses a mix of probability based sampling to recruit panellists and nonprobabilistic approaches to maximise representation where the probability based approach under-represents, such as in the younger age groups. Nipobase uses a mix of offline and online modes. Offline modes are typically RDD samples and online modes are typically recruitment via targeted websites and social media platforms.

Please note that for some countries where the response rates were not sufficiently large to achieve the target sample size in the fieldwork period, we had to further supplement the samples drawn probabilistically (either face-to-face or phone-to-web) with non-probabilistic panels. This was effectively a 'last resort' option when no other probabilistic design was feasible.

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In Greece, the sample was supplemented with a randomly drawn sample (57 interviews) from Kantar's LifePoints non-probabilistic sample panel; in Lithuania (127 interviews), from Norstat's panel. The LifePoints panel is Kantar's proprietary panel, used exclusively for Kantar clients and the lead source for Kantar's online work, generating close to 30 million completes per year. Members are recruited via online advertising across a wide range of web and social media sites. Adverts are placed with websites with very high footfalls to ensure maximised reach.

Response rates

For each country a comparison between the responding sample and the universe (i.e. the overall population in the country) is carried out. Weights are used to match the responding sample to the universe on gender by age, region and degree of urbanisation. For European estimates (i.e. EU average), an adjustment is made to the individual country weights, weighting them up or down to reflect their 15+ population as a proportion of the EU 15+ population.

The response rates are calculated by dividing the total number of complete interviews with the number of all the addresses visited, apart from ones that are not eligible but including those where eligibility is unknown. For wave 95.1 of the EUROBAROMETER survey, the response rates for the EU27 countries, calculated by Kantar, are:

BE**	20,8%	E L**	22,4%	LU**	24,4%	PT**	38,3%					
BG*	45,7%	ES*	30,9%	HU*	60,2%	R 0 *	52,7%					
C Z**	37,3%	FR*	29,4%	MT*	84,4%	S I*	52,0%					
DK**	16,3%	HR *	48,3%	MT**	43,9%	S **	47,7%					
DE*	20,5%	IT *	21,8%	NL*	60,9%	SK*	59,8%					
E E **	28,2%	C Y*	41,8%	NL**	47,9%	SK**	26,5%					
IE **	21,6%	LV**	24,7%	AT*	43,3%	F I**	32,5%					
EL*	29,5%	LT**	37,7%	PL*	45,8%	SE**	41,1%					
* C A D I ** C												

* CAPI ** CAWI without taking into account recruitment phase (for EL and LT, only probabilistic sample)

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Margins of error

Readers are reminded that survey results are <u>estimations</u>, 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:

various sample sizes are in rows various observed results are													
	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		
	5%	10%	15%	20%	25%	30%	35%	40%	45%	50%			
	95%	90%	85%	80%	75%	70%	65%	60%	55%	50%			

Statistical Margins due to the sampling process (at the 95% level of confidence)

