

## Abstract

More than three quarters (77%) of EU citizens think climate change is a very serious problem at this moment. A majority of Europeans think that the European Union (56%), national governments (56%), business and industry (53%) are responsible for tackling climate change. 35% hold themselves personally responsible. More than eight in ten respondents think that it is important that their national government (86%) and the European Union (85%) take action to improve energy efficiency by 2030 (e.g. by encouraging people to insulate their home, install solar panels or buy electric cars). 58% of EU citizens think the use of renewable energy sources should be accelerated, energy efficiency increased, and the transition to a green economy sped up. Considering energy price spikes and restrictions on gas supply due to the actions of Russia.

## Key findings

### Citizens taking action

More than three quarters (77%) of all respondents think climate change is a very serious problem at this moment – ranking the seriousness of climate change between 7 and 10 on a scale to 10. Climate change is considered the most serious problem facing the world by respondents in seven countries: Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Finland, and Sweden. It ranks among the top three in 16 of the 27 Member States.

### More than 6 in 10 EU citizens say they have taken action to fight climate change over the past six months



### Europeans agree that taking action on climate change can have benefits

A majority of Europeans think that the European Union (56%), national governments (56%), business and industry (53%) are responsible for tackling climate change. 35% hold themselves personally responsible.

Three quarters of respondents (75%) agree that taking action on climate change will lead to innovation that will make EU companies more competitive (29% totally agree, 46% tend to agree). Almost as many (73%) agree that the cost of the damage caused by climate change is much higher than the cost of investing in a green transition (33% totally agree, 40% tend to agree). Seven in ten respondents (70%) agree that reducing fossil fuel imports from outside the EU can increase energy security and benefit the EU economically (27% totally agree, 43% tend to agree). Almost eight in ten (78%) agree that more public financial support should be allocated to the transition for clean energies, even if it means subsidies to fossil fuels should be reduced (36% totally agree, 42% tend to agree).

## 67% of EU citizens think that **their national government is not doing enough** to tackle climate change



## More than half of EU citizens think that **national governments and the EU are responsible** for tackling climate change



## The majority of Europeans think that the transition to a green economy should be **sped up**

Considering energy price spikes and restrictions on gas supply due to the actions of Russia, 58% of respondents think the use of renewable energy sources should be accelerated, energy efficiency increased, and the transition to a green economy sped up. One quarter (25%) think the pace of transition should be maintained. 12% think that more fossil fuels should be used during the energy crisis and the transition to the green economy slowed down. To relieve the economic pressure caused by the energy crisis, the preferred way to act is to accelerate the rollout of renewable energy (29%) and take economic measures (29%). This is followed by giving direct financial support (16%), investing more in energy efficiency measures (15%). Noteworthy, the least selected option is to diversify supply of fossil fuel imports into the EU (6%).

### To relieve the economic pressure caused by the energy crisis, EU citizens think that the EU and the national governments should:

- 1 Accelerate the roll-out of renewable energy** in EU to bring the cost of energy down and become more energy independent – 29%
- 2 Take economic measures** to limit the price of energy bills for households such as tax energy companies' profits and impose energy price caps – 29%
- 3 Give direct financial support** to the most economically vulnerable members of society – 16%
- 4 Invest more** in energy efficiency measures (e.g. improved insulation) – 15%
- 5 Diversify the supply** of fossil fuels imports into the EU – 6%

### Almost 4 in 10 EU citizens say they are personally exposed to environmental and climate-related risks and threats

Exposure to environmental and climate-related risks and threats



# Attachments

- + Data annex
- + Country Factsheets in English
- + Country Factsheets
- + Infographics
- + Report
- + Summary

## Details

Fieldwork Date	May 2023 - June 2023
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Themes	<a href="#">Climate Action and the Environment</a> <a href="#">Energy</a>
Series	<a href="#">Climate Change</a>
Methodology	Face-to-face
Requested by	Climate Action
Coverage Countries	<div><div>AT</div><div>BE</div><div>BG</div><div>CY</div><div>CZ</div><div>DE</div><div>DK</div><div>EE</div><div>EL</div><div>ES</div><div>FI</div><div>FR</div><div>HR</div><div>HU</div><div>IE</div><div>IT</div><div>LT</div><div>LU</div><div>LV</div><div>MT</div><div>NL</div><div>PL</div><div>PT</div><div>RO</div><div>SE</div><div>SI</div><div>SK</div></div>
References	2954 / SP538