

Press release

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Climate change should be Parliament's first priority, according to citizens

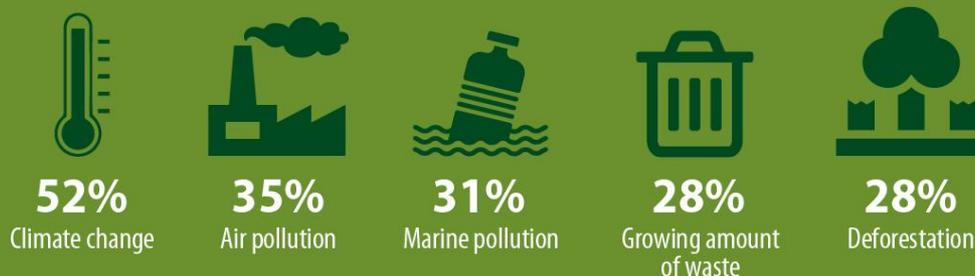
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EU citizens put the environment as the number 1 priority for European Parliament action.

Which environmental issue do you consider the most important?
(up to 4 answers)



59%
of EU citizens believe that the youth-led climate action protests had an impact on EU policy.

Source: Parlemeter 2019 (EB 92.2)



Eurobarometer 2019 on Climate change

- First time citizens say climate change should be top priority for EP in a Eurobarometer survey
- Six out of ten Europeans think youth-led protests have a direct impact on policy
- EP President David Sassoli to attend UN COP25

Combating climate change should be Parliament's top priority, new Eurobarometer reveals, highlighting youth-led climate protests as great influencers.

“Combating climate change and preserving our environment, oceans and biodiversity” should be the European Parliament’s (EP) biggest priority, EU citizens say in a new Eurobarometer survey commissioned by the EP and conducted in October 2019. Climate change was already one of the leading reasons for voting in the European elections last May, especially for young people. Now, for the first time, citizens are putting climate change at the top of a Eurobarometer priority list.

In total, 32% of Europeans point towards the fight against climate change and preserving the environment as the most important issue for MEPs to address. It is the most mentioned item in 11 member states, especially in Sweden (62%), Denmark (50%) and The Netherlands (46%).

The Eurobarometer survey also asked respondents which environmental concern is the most pressing. An absolute majority of Europeans (52%) believe that it is climate change, followed by air pollution (35%), marine pollution (31%), deforestation and the growing amount of waste (both 28%).

Parliament President [David Maria Sassoli](#), (S&D, IT), who arrives in Madrid on Monday to attend the opening of the UN [COP25 climate change conference](#), said: “This survey shows very clearly that Europeans want action from the EU on combatting climate change. Yesterday in Strasbourg, the European Parliament approved a resolution declaring a climate and environmental emergency in Europe and globally. We are listening to our citizens and stressing the need to move beyond words to action”.

Youth-led protests make a difference

Over the course of the past year, youth-led protests have mobilised millions of people in the EU and globally.

This new Eurobarometer survey shows that close to six out of ten European citizens are confident or convinced that youth-led protests have a direct impact on policy at both national and European level.

The Irish (74%), Swedes (71%) and Cypriots (70%) are most convinced that the protests will lead to political measures being taken at EU level, compared to 42% of Czechs and 47% of UK citizens.

Background

Since 1973, the Eurobarometer has measured European citizens’ perceptions of and expectations of the EU. Kantar collected the data for this Eurobarometer and the fieldwork took place 8-22 October 2019 in all 28 EU member states. A sample of 27,607 representative respondents above the age of 15 were interviewed face-to-face for the report. The data and the full report will be published on 10 December 2019.

Further information

[Parlemeter 2019: Key graphs on climate change and environmental issues](#)
[European Parliament's Eurobarometer website](#)
[European Parliament's resolution on COP25](#)
[European Parliament's resolution declaring climate and environmental emergency](#)
[EP Research briefing on COP25 climate change conference in Madrid](#)
[Multimedia package on the COP25](#)
[Free photos, video and audio material](#)

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