







THE PEER PARLIAMENTS: CITIZENS' VIEWS ON HOW TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE

Final report of an innovative, decentralised and deliberative participation process
May 2022







Executive summary

"We will only beat the Climate Crisis if everyone joins the fight." With these words, European Commission Executive Vice-President Frans Timmermans invited citizens from all over Europe to come together and form Peer Parliaments to discuss the future of EU climate policy. From November 2021 to March 2022, European citizens conducted 461 small-group debates across 26 EU Member States. They debated and exchanged ideas in familiar settings – mostly in their homes and among friends, family, neighbours or colleagues – and submitted their results to the European Commission. They provided crucial insights into how Europeans want to fight climate change, after considering carefully balanced arguments for and against different solutions to tricky societal and environmental problems.

Peer Parliament Hosts and participants could choose between **three different discussion topics** (modules): (1) how we move and get around (sustainable mobility); (2) how we make energy green and fair (sustainable energy); (3) and how we eat and consume (sustainable food and consumption). For each thematic module, the Peer Parliaments focused on **two key questions**.

Sustainable mobility

- 1. When it comes to short journeys whether that's dashing to the shops, meeting a friend or picking up your children from school what would encourage you to use your petrol- or diesel-powered car less? How could you be convinced to use public transport or other environmentally friendly options such as walking, cycling or an electric car instead?
- **2.** When it comes to longer-distance journeys, what would encourage you to fly less and take the train or bus instead?

Sustainable energy

- 1. From solar panels on the roof to better insulation in our walls, how we generate and conserve energy in our homes is key to being more sustainable as a society. What would you need to use energy more efficiently and sustainably in your home?
- **2.** It's crucial that no one is left behind in the switch to cleaner, greener forms of energy. How can we make the transition fair for everyone?

Sustainable food and consumption

- 1. How can we eat more sustainably and waste less food?
- 2. How can sustainable consumption best be promoted?







In short, these are the most preferred policy options for each of the six debate questions:

Short-distance mobility: Cheaper, more convenient public transport

Long-distance mobility: Better-integrated train networks, night trains and easier

booking

Sustainable energy at home:

Fair energy transition:

Incentives for switching to renewable energy at home

Cheaper energy-saving technologies for low-income

households

Sustainable food: Ecological agricultural transformation

Sustainable consumption: Environmental and health pricing, and better consumer

information

Overall, the Peer Parliaments preferred measures aimed at providing economic incentives to steer the behaviour of consumers and producers towards greater sustainability in the areas of mobility, energy and consumption. Economic incentives — whether through taxation, subsidies or the introduction of market-based mechanisms were always among the highest-ranked options across all themes and questions and were also among the most frequent alternative solutions proposed. A substantial number of Europeans who participated in the Peer Parliaments considered environmental pricing and subsidies to be one of the most effective ways to incite action across all three key areas of climate policies.

Opinions on who is responsible for tackling climate change varied depending on the area of climate action and the specific question. In the areas of *long-distance mobility* and *sustainable food*, Peer Parliament participants expressed the view that the main responsibility to act lies with **governments** and demanded structural change as the main driver of effective climate action. In both areas, the highest-ranked options and most frequently proposed alternative solutions related to **public infrastructure provision** and **structural change** in the way food is produced.

On the issues of sustainable energy at home and sustainable consumption, participants assigned the main responsibility for driving change in behaviour and consumption choices to individual citizens and consumers, as well as to businesses and the market. Participants see a less proactive role for the state in this area. It is expected to establish frameworks and incentives, rather than being a central provider of infrastructure and driver of structural change. Financial support, education and information for individual citizens, consumers and producers appear to be key, implying that a lack of affordability and awareness may be among the root causes of unsustainable consumption.

The Peer Parliaments also developed a range of **alternative**, **creative ideas and solutions** to the debate question. Here are some **examples** of such alternative ideas for each policy area:







Short-distance mobility: Bicycle garages, changing rooms and showers at the workplace **Longer-distance mobility**: Create a quota for the number of flights a person can take per year.

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and a market for exchanging the right to fly

Sustainable energy at home: Adapt working hours and building architecture and design to

natural cycles and family needs

Fair energy transition: Dialogue with local stakeholders and citizens in the development

of transition plans

Sustainable food: Introduce personal emission budgets and tradeable allowances

Sustainable consumption: Legal prosecution of greenwashing

Overall, the Peer Parliaments provided important and relevant insights into the preferences and demands of EU citizens regarding climate action and future EU climate policies. However, it also became clear that citizens need guidance and demand funding from governmental institutions on different levels to tackle climate change in an effective and fair way. Furthermore, the mere fact that thousands of EU citizens gathered across Europe to debate how to fight the climate crisis also reveals the mobilizing power of citizen engagement and deliberation. This is particularly true for bottom-up deliberative formats in familiar environments that involve low costs and can engage a high number of participants, such as the Peer Parliaments.

Participants consistently expressed enthusiasm about the **stimulating discussions**, the **creativity** and the **diversity of views** in their groups. They also considered the format useful to raise awareness on climate issues and to train people in discussing them. Plus, they found that submitting the **outputs directly to the European Commission** was particularly satisfying and raised their hope to have an influence on policymaking.

"It was a really good experience to talk about such an important topic in this setting with friends and families. I was surprised at how diverse the proposals were and how enthusiastically everyone participated."

(Johannes, Austria)

More **decentralised**, **deliberative formats** should be developed and implemented to inform policymakers and stakeholders about public preferences. Due to the thoughtful discussions and the weighing up of various arguments for and against different policy solutions to complex political problems, the outputs are particularly valuable and **more informative than public opinion surveys**. Furthermore, engaging Europeans in these formats could create a sense of **ownership and buy-in among citizens** and could thus prove vital in tackling the climate crisis and restoring faith in democracy more generally.





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1. Introduction and methodology

1.1. Why do we need new instruments for participation in tackling climate change?

Climate change is an enormous challenge for societies and political systems around the globe. The failure to deal with the climate crisis in recent decades has resulted in looming ecological breakdown, but it also symbolises a crisis of representative democracy. The widespread public demand to tackle climate change is often only partially followed up with real climate policies – both in Europe and abroad. According to a recent Eurobarometer poll, the vast majority of Europeans see climate change as a 'very serious problem', and agree that greenhouse gas emissions should be reduced to a minimum while the remaining emissions are offset to make the EU economy climate neutral by 2050. Yet, despite the overwhelming support for decisive climate action among Europeans, political solutions have too often fallen short in tackling climate change effectively.

A crucial reason for this dilemma is that representative democracies often rely almost exclusively on elections to derive public legitimacy and align the agendas of political parties with people's preferences. This results in a lack of long-term thinking by political representatives, who are preoccupied with getting re-elected every 4-5 years. This short-sightedness in traditional European politics is ill-suited to tackling the long-term problems of climate change and global warming. Many citizens have started to see that there is a gap between what needs to be done and what is actually being done. The protest movements around the Fridays for Future initiative are an expression of not just the despair and frustration that many people feel – especially the younger generations – but also their determination to speak up and demand change.

In recent years, the 'deliberative wave' of citizen participation around Europe has extended to the fight against climate change. New participation instruments such as deliberative mini-publics (citizens' assemblies) have proved effective for cocreating solutions to difficult and polarised political questions. A small and more or less representative group of citizens can formulate policy recommendations through deliberation, based on expert input, their own experiences and crowd wisdom. In several EU member states, citizens' assemblies have drafted specific recommendations for tackling climate change and submitted them to policymakers (for example in Denmark, France, Germany and Ireland).

These assemblies have the potential to reduce polarisation, build citizen capacity, reach higher-quality decisions and break political impasse in some cases. Governments are increasingly recognising the insights and value that such deliberative instruments can offer in identifying solutions to difficult problems, while also fostering societal buy-in and ownership of action. Such efforts to involve citizens in decision-making may prove essential to ensuring that future climate policy is fair, inclusive and effective.

1.2. What are Peer Parliaments?

Despite their benefits, large-scale centralised citizens' assemblies also come with downsides. They reach only a very limited number of citizens, while generating high costs and even emissions from travel. Moreover, they can exclude people who cannot leave their hometown to travel because, for example, their employer does not agree or because they are involved in care work. This situation can cause socioeconomic imbalances in the participant structure of such events. Lastly, many people do not feel







comfortable discussing political questions with strangers in unfamiliar environments. However, the shortcomings and challenges of large-scale citizens' assemblies can be overcome through innovative and decentralised citizen participation instruments.

The EU Climate Pact therefore launched a new initiative: from November 2021 to March 2022, EU citizens across Europe were invited to run deliberative debates in small groups called Peer Parliaments. In these debates, citizens discussed the essential questions of future European climate policies in small groups of 5-10 people, and in familiar settings with friends, family, neighbours or colleagues. The Peer Parliament hosts invited their guests to join the debate and acted as moderators. Participants were provided with basic information on the topics, and hosts were given facilitation manuals to guide them through the discussions. By submitting the results of their Peer Parliament to the European Commission, citizens were able to make their voices heard and inform EU policymakers of their views. As these Peer Parliaments involved the thoughtful discussion and weighing up of arguments for and against different policy solutions to difficult political problems, the outputs are particularly valuable and more informative than public opinion surveys.

1.3. How were the Peer Parliaments run?

The <u>European Commission extended its official invitation</u> to take part during the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow, and in a separate <u>video message by the European Commission Executive Vice-President Frans Timmermans</u>. Registration officially started on 26 November 2021, when submission forms were opened on the <u>Climate Pact's Peer Parliaments webpage</u> and all <u>supporting materials</u> were uploaded. Hosts and participants could choose between three different discussion topics (modules): (1) how we move and get around (sustainable mobility); (2) how we make energy green and fair (sustainable energy); (3) and how we eat and consume (sustainable consumption). For all three modules, participants had access to dedicated learning materials, which were translated into all the official EU languages. To hold a Peer Parliament, hosts followed a simple three-step process: (1) registering on the Peer Parliaments webpage; (2) accessing the Peer Parliaments toolkit (a <u>facilitation guide</u> and learning materials for the <u>mobility</u>, <u>energy</u> and <u>consumption</u> topics) to help them run the debates; and (3) submitting the outputs through the same webpage on which they registered. These steps were also explained in a <u>promotional brochure</u> that was widely disseminated before and during the deliberation period.

For each thematic module, the Peer Parliaments focused on two central questions for which different policy solutions were presented and dealt with in three distinct phases. First, in the *learning phase*, participants were invited to read through the learning materials together and learned about the different response options proposed for each question. Second, in the *deliberation phase*, the hosts moderated a debate in which the pros and cons of each option were discussed and weighed up against each other. The participants also suggested and discussed additional response options and creative solutions they came up with themselves. Third, in the *voting phase*, each participant could allocate 1-5 points to each option (including the suggestions they came up with themselves). The individual votes then produced a group ranking, which would be the Peer Parliament's final output on the debate question. The three phases were then repeated for the second debate question, before the results were submitted through the Peer Parliaments webpage.

This report is a condensed summary of the process and results of the Climate Pact's Peer Parliaments. For each debate question, we present the overall rankings of the proposed policy solutions on the basis of 'average ranks' that we computed for each policy option. Moreover, we present the most preferred policy solutions according to three different sociodemographic criteria that were collected for each Peer



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Parliament. These criteria are the 'EU Member State' that a Peer Parliament was hosted in, the 'average age' of all participants in a Peer Parliament (divided in the six age groups '16-25', '26-35', '36-45', '46-55', '56-65', and '65+'), and the 'gender distribution' in a Peer Parliament (divided in three categories 'mostly male', 'mostly female', and 'equal/diverse'). Lastly, we provide an overview on the alternative, creative solutions that were developed by the Peer Parliaments. For that purpose, all ideas have been coded and assigned to different categories of proposals. In this report, we illustrate the overall distribution of categories and subcategories for all six debate questions.

The final outputs, and hence this report, feed into the Conference on the Future of Europe (CoFoE). This has been done by uploading it on the CoFoE's <u>multilingual digital platform</u>, where the results can be accessed and discussed by people from across Europe. Moreover, the results of the Peer Parliaments have been presented to the European Commission on 29 April 2022 in a high-level event aimed at bringing citizens' voices on climate policies to EU policymakers.



2. Results

2.1. Overview

Between 29 November 2021 and 20 March 2022, a total of 461 Peer Parliaments were independently organised by private hosts in 26 EU Member States (none in Luxembourg) and their results were submitted on the central website of the Climate Pact. The largest number of Peer Parliament submissions is 78 (in Poland). In Austria, Belgium, Czechia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Romania, Slovakia and Spain, at least 15 Peer Parliaments were held and submitted.

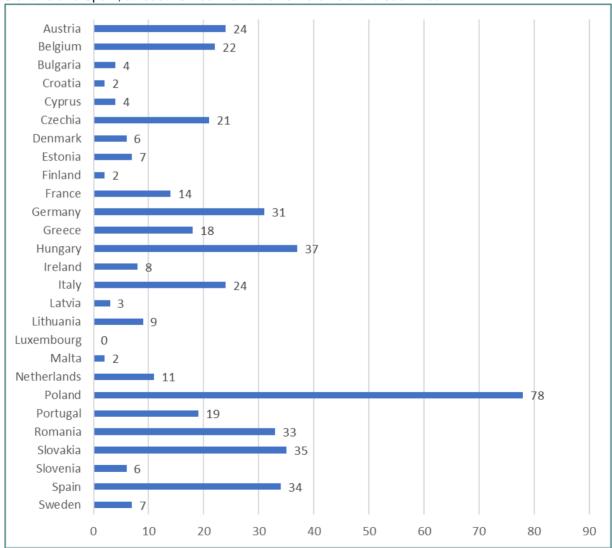


Figure 1: Peer Parliaments submissions per EU Member State.







The modules discussed most were Module 3 on *sustainable food and consumption* (37%) and Module 1 on *sustainable mobility* (35%). Module 2 on *sustainable energy* was chosen as a debate topic by roughly one guarter of the groups (28%).

Module	Submissions (absolute)	Submissions (relative)
Module 1: How we move and get around (sustainable mobility)	161	35%
Module 2: How we make energy green and fair (sustainable energy)	129	28%
Module 3: How we eat and consume (sustainable food and consumption)	171	37%

The Peer Parliaments varied in size, with five participants being the most frequent group size. There were also some Peer Parliaments that exceeded the recommended maximum size of 10 participants. Based on these numbers, it can be estimated that more than 3 000 Europeans participated overall.

Peer Parliaments among colleagues, friends, family or mixed groups were more common, while hardly any Peer Parliaments being organised among neighbours. However, the most frequently listed category was 'Others', which enabled other kinds of participants to be specified in the submission. These included many groups made up of students (from high schools and universities), environmental activists, teachers, church members, and other communities who had found each other online (for example, via Instagram).

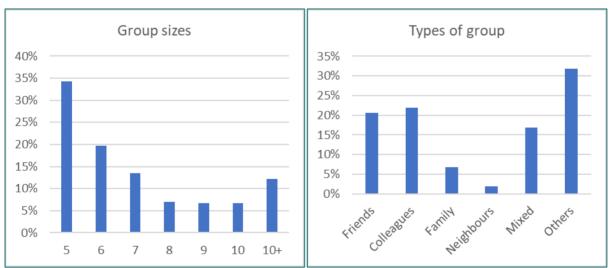


Figure 2: Peer Parliaments submissions according to group size and type of group.

The average age of most Peer Parliaments was between 26 and 45. Other well-represented age groups were 16-25 and 46-55, which made up 24% and 14% of Peer Parliaments respectively. Very few Peer Parliaments were organised or attended by people aged 56 or above.

More than two out of five Peer Parliaments were hosted and attended by a majority of people who identify as women (44%). The remaining Peer Parliaments consisted of majority-male groups (28%), and mixed-gender groups or groups with a majority of participants choosing 'diverse' to indicate their







gender (28%). The high number of majority-female groups was certainly surprising, giving that, for instance, the participation on the CoFoE's digital platform was dominated by men.

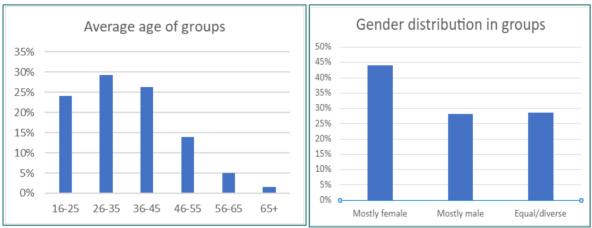


Figure 3: Peer Parliaments submissions according to average age and gender distribution in the groups.

The key results of the Peer Parliaments are summarized and visualized on the next pages. For each debate question, we first display the overall rankings of the response options, before discussing most preferred policy solutions across countries and sociodemographic groups. Lastly, we also show the distribution of alternative solutions that the Peer Parliaments have developed themselves.







2.2. Module 1: How we move and get around

M1, Question 1: When it comes to short journeys – whether that's dashing to the shops, meeting a friend or picking up your children from school – what would encourage you to use your petrol- or diesel-powered car less? How could you be convinced to use public transport or other environmentally friendly options such as walking, cycling or an electric car instead?

Rank	Response option	Average rank
1	I should be able to rely on cheaper and more convenient public transport with real-time transport updates (<i>Cheaper, more convenient public transport</i>).	2.42
2	I should be able to use my bike safely in my local area. Cycle paths should be better developed and safer (<i>Safe bike use</i>).	2.57
3	Other solutions (Other solutions).	2.93
4	I should be encouraged to leave the car at home. Cities should offer fewer places to park and introduce stricter speed limits in built-up areas (30 km/h) (Less parking space, and speed limits).	3.48
5	There should be more charging stations where I can charge my electric vehicle, and electric car batteries should be improved to give them greater range (<i>More charging stations and better car batteries</i>).	3.57

On average, Peer Parliament participants found the *Cheaper, more convenient public transport* option to be the most effective measure for convincing them to choose more sustainable transport options over their fossil-fuelled cars for short distances. This option was ranked first or second by more than half of all Peer Parliaments: first by one third (33%) and second by another quarter (26%). This option is closely followed by the second most-preferred option: improving and developing safer cycle paths (*Safe bike use*) in local areas. Out of all the Peer Parliaments, 57% ranked this option in either first or second place. These first two options ranked far better than improved infrastructure for electric vehicles (*More charging stations and better batteries*) and restrictions on cars (*Less parking space, and speed limits*). The *Other solutions* option was voted in third place overall, ranked first or second by around 38% of the Peer Parliaments that discussed the mobility module.

Most preferred options by country, age and gender

The vote on the highest-ranked measure was split across EU Member States. In 11 countries (Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Romania, Slovenia, Spain), the majority of Peer Parliaments considered *Safe bike use* the most convincing policy measure. In another 10 countries (Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czechia, Finland, France, Germany, Lithuania, Netherlands, Romania, Slovakia), *Cheaper and more convenient public transport* was ranked highest by most Peer Parliaments (sometimes jointly with *Safe bike use*). In the remaining countries, the preferred options were *More charging stations and better batteries* (Latvia); *Less parking space, and speed limits* (Malta, Poland) and *Other solutions* (Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Estonia, Portugal, Sweden).

<u>Fun fact</u>: Even in 'biker's paradise' the Netherlands, most Peer Parliaments chose 'More affordable, more convenient public transport' over 'Safer bike use'. Next stop: 'public transport paradise'?





Across most age groups, the Peer Parliaments primarily considered *Cheaper, more convenient public transport* to be the most promising measure for the future. However, the 46-55 and 65+ age groups favoured *Other solutions*, and *More charging stations and better batteries* respectively. Most Peer Parliaments in which the majority of people were male chose *More affordable, more convenient public transport* as best option. In contrast, among majority-female Peer Parliaments and those where the gender distribution was equal/diverse, the option *Safe bike use* was favoured most with regards to improving sustainable mobility over short distances.

Overall, no clear geographical and age-related trends emerge regarding the most preferred policy option in the area of short-distance mobility. However, the results show difference according to gender: while men tend to support the improvement of public transport, women rather opt for an improvement of the cycling infrastructure.

Other solutions

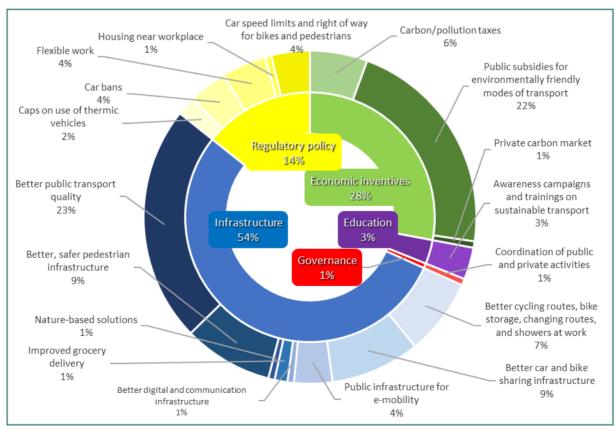


Figure 4: Categories of alternative solutions developed by Peer Parliaments in the area of short-distance mobility.

More than half of the alternative solutions proposed consisted of infrastructure measures. These mainly included ideas for improving public transport, such as making different modes of transport more integrated (inter-/multi-modality), and providing better and more frequent services, especially in rural







areas. Some also demanded improved infrastructure for pedestrians, such as safer walkways and more pedestrianised areas.

The second most frequent category of *Other solutions* are measures that would have an impact on individuals' behaviour through economic incentives. Many Peer Parliaments proposed positive incentives, such as some form of public subsidy to make more sustainable modes of transport more affordable over short distances, and therefore more attractive to users. This could include measures such as highly subsidised or free public transport tickets, or subsidies for buying or using electric vehicles, e-bikes or other forms of electric private transport. A third, relatively common category of *Other solutions* included different kinds of regulatory measures, such as car bans and speed limits, right of way for bicycles and a right to flexible working, also carbon/pollution taxes.

Examples of creative alternative ideas

- Bicycle garages, changing rooms and showers at the workplace
- Creating fleets of autonomous vehicles for public and private transport in cities
- Tradeable 'sustainability points' for each mile travelled by bike, public transport or walking
- Using local nature-based mobility solutions (such as rivers) as much as possible
- At least three free grocery deliveries by supermarket chains to nearby villages, either by electric truck or by partnering with local buses

M1, Question 2: When it comes to longer-distance journeys, what would encourage you to fly less and take the train or bus instead?

Rank	Response option	Average rank
1	Europe should be better interconnected by train and long-distance night trains should be readily available. It should be easy to book rail tickets wherever I am in Europe (Better-integrated European train networks; night trains; easier booking).	2.48
2	I should be able to buy more affordable rail tickets to make train travel more attractive (<i>More affordable train tickets</i>).	2.58
3	Other solutions (Other solutions).	3.26
4	I should be discouraged from flying. Plane tickets should be more expensive, which will not only help offset CO2 emissions, but reflect the cost to the climate (<i>More expensive plane tickets</i>).	3.31
5	Employers and employees should be rewarded for offering and choosing sustainable transport options (<i>Employer and employee rewards for sustainable transport offers and choices</i>).	3.35

How can Europeans be encouraged to fly less and take the train or bus instead? Most Peer Parliaments clearly favoured the two options related to improving train infrastructure and making train travel more affordable. The highest-ranked option was better connecting European rail networks across Europe, providing more options for travelling long distance by night train, and making it easier to book train tickets across countries. More than half (58%) of all Peer Parliaments ranked this option in either first or second







place. The option *More affordable train tickets* to make train travel more attractive, was voted in second place overall and ranked first or second by half (51%) of all Peer Parliaments. The *Other solutions* option was voted in third place overall, ranked first or second by one third (33%) of the Peer Parliaments that discussed the mobility module.

Most preferred options by country, age and gender

In 12 EU Member States (Cyprus, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia), Peer Parliaments showed the strongest preference for better integrated European train networks, including more night trains and easier ticket booking, as the most promising proposal. In six countries, the majority preferred the More expensive plane tickets option (Belgium, Czechia, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, Spain), In another five countries (Austria, Czechia, Greece, Ireland, Netherlands), most Peer Parliaments favoured More affordable train tickets. In the remaining countries, the most preferred policy options were Employer and employee rewards for sustainable transport offers and choices (Cyprus, Estonia, Slovenia) and Other solutions (Croatia, Denmark, Sweden).

<u>Fun fact</u>: In the holiday hotspots Spain and Malta, citizens seem to prefer tourists arriving by train or bus. Most Peer Parliaments in both countries favoured 'More expensive plane tickets' as the best solution.

The picture across different age groups is similarly mixed. Peer Parliaments with participants aged 26-35, 46-55 and 56-65 favoured the *Better-integrated European train networks; night trains; easier booking* option, while the other age groups preferred *More affordable train tickets* (36-45), *Other solutions* (16-25), and *Employer and employee rewards* (65+). Peer Parliaments in which the majority of participants identified as either male or female considered the *Better-integrated European train networks; night trains; easier booking* option to be the most promising for future EU mobility policies to help tackle climate change. Most mixed-gender or diverse groups preferred *More affordable train tickets*.

Overall, there are no clear geographical, age or gender-related trends regarding the most preferred policy option concerning long-distance journeys. Among all countries and sociodemographic groups, the better interconnectedness and interoperability of train travel in Europe is given highest priority to make long-distance travel more sustainable.

Other solutions

Similar to the solutions for short-distance mobility, the most frequent type of *Other solutions* for encouraging Europeans to fly less, or use trains and buses more, were measures related to *improving the transport infrastructure*, which made up more than two fifths (43%) of all alternative proposals. Out of those proposals, almost all of the ideas were related to improving the quality and safety of public transport. Specific ideas in this category ranged from more extensive and well-developed long-distance, high-speed and night-train networks to better integration between different modes of public transport, and better public transport by sea.

The second- and third-largest categories, with almost an equal number of proposals, were *economic incentives* (26%) and regulatory measures (23%). The former mainly consisted of proposals to tax polluting modes of transport, or to subsidise environmentally friendly types of transport. Examples include taxing greenhouse gas emissions and offering significant discounts on train tickets. The types of *regulatory measures* most often proposed were bans (such as banning private jets, low-budget and







short-distance flights, or air-travel advertisements) and obligations for employers (such as allowing flexible working or reduced hours).

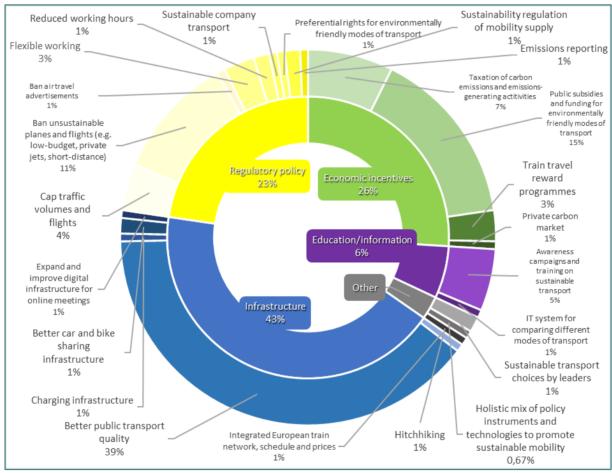


Figure 5: Categories of alternative solutions developed by Peer Parliaments in the area of long-distance mobility.

Examples of creative alternative ideas

- Introduce a quota for the number of flights a person can take per year, and a market for exchanging the right to fly
- Introduce environmentally friendly lanes on highways, exclusively for carpooling, electric vehicles and/or buses
- Restrict traffic
- More holiday days to make up for longer travel times by train
- Restrict business travel, for example by improving virtual meeting technology and developing digital infrastructure







2.3. Module 2: How we make energy green and fair

M2, Question 1: From solar panels on the roof to better insulation in our walls, how we generate and conserve energy in our homes is key to being more sustainable as a society. What would you need to use energy more efficiently and sustainably in your home?

Rank	Response option	Average rank
1	Incentives should make it cheaper and easier for me to install greener sources of energy in my home, such as solar panels and heat pumps (<i>Incentives for switching to renewable energy at home</i>).	2.47
2	There should be incentives and clear information on the benefits to help me make energy-efficient changes such as insulating my home, installing a smart thermostat, replacing old window frames and using energy-saving lightbulbs (Incentives and information for/on energy-saving measures).	2.74
3	Other solutions (Other solutions).	3.15
4	It should be made impossible to use energy from dirty sources such as coal by phasing it out as soon as possible (<i>Phasing out 'dirty' energy sources altogether</i>).	3.30
5	I should be encouraged to switch to green electricity and heating for my home by making prices for non-renewable energy higher (<i>More expensive non-renewable energy</i>).	3.33

A clear favourite policy option emerged, as the majority of Peer Parliaments chose *Incentives for switching to renewable energy at home* as most convincing solution for making household energy use more sustainable and efficient. More than half voted for this option in either first or second place (56%). In second place, the Peer Parliaments ranked *Incentives and information for/on energy-saving measures*. Half (51%) ranked this solution either first or second (average ranking of 2.74).

Most preferred options by country, age and gender

The top-ranked option overall, *Incentives for switching to renewable energy at home*, was not the most preferred option across all EU Member States, as it convinced the majority of participants in only five countries (Czechia, Germany, Hungary, Romania, Slovenia). In eight countries (Belgium, Denmark, France, Greece, Lithuania, Malta, Netherlands, Portugal), most Peer Parliaments favoured *Incentives and information for/on energy-saving measures*. *Other solutions* were favoured by Peer Parliaments in another seven countries (Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Ireland, Italy, Sweden), whereas the option *more expensive non-renewable energy* was top ranked in four countries (Cyprus, Latvia, Poland, Spain)

<u>Fun fact</u>: Slovakia is the only country in which most Peer Parliaments called for making it impossible to use energy from fossil fuels such as coal ('Phasing out 'dirty' energy sources altogether').

Incentives for switching to renewable energy at home, was top-ranked by the three younger age groups (16-45). Older cohorts preferred Incentives and information for/on energy-saving measures (46-55), More expensive non-renewable energy (56-65) and Phasing out 'dirty' energy sources altogether. An





entirely uniform picture emerges when looking at different gender groups. *Incentives for switching to renewable energy at home* was the most-preferred option in each gender group, regardless of whether the group was majority male or female, or equal/diverse. On average, majority-female and equal/diverse Peer Parliaments expressed a stronger preference for this solution.

Overall, the generally most preferred solution of economic incentives to switch to renewable energy also prevails across different age groups and genders. However, one can observe a geographical trend: countries from Central and Eastern Europe show a tendency for economic incentives to make the switch to renewable energy more affordable than traditional energy sources. In contrast, Northern, Western and Southern EU Member States tend to prefer other incentives and information on energy-saving measures to make energy consumption at home more sustainable.

Other solutions

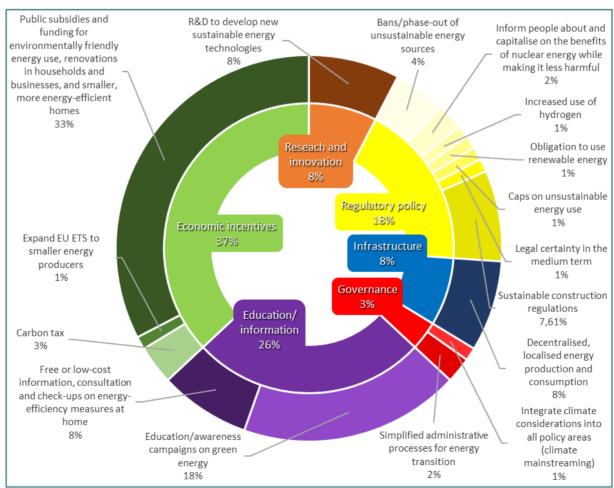


Figure 6: Categories of alternative solutions developed by Peer Parliaments around sustainable energy at home.

Nearly two-thirds of proposals fall into the categories economic incentives (37%) or education/information (26%). The most frequently proposed measures were public subsidies for







environmentally friendly energy use, energy-efficient renovations in households and businesses, and smaller, more energy-efficient homes. Specific examples include government financial support for insulation or to install green energy appliances, especially for low- and modest-income groups; and economic incentives for landlords to make 'greenifying' updates, such as installing more energy-efficient heating systems.

In the *education/information* category, most of the ideas were in two areas: improving the availability of free or low-cost information, consultation and check-ups on household energy-efficiency measures (e.g. via government-funded information hubs and advisory services), and changing school curricula and running campaigns to raise awareness and inform Europeans about climate change and the importance of energy efficiency.

Examples of creative alternative ideas

- Develop local energy communities
- Adapt working hours and housing to natural cycles and family needs
- Introduce a progressive carbon tax on emissions, with the resulting funds being used to renovate low-income and energy-poor households
- Promote more events like these (Peer Parliaments)
- Financial return for adopting energy-efficient alternatives. For example, a points system

M2, Question 2: It's crucial that no one is left behind in the switch to cleaner, greener forms of energy. How can we make the transition fair for everyone?

Rank	Response option	Average rank
1	Energy-saving technologies such as home appliances and lightbulbs should be made more affordable for low-income households (<i>More affordable energy-saving technologies for low-income households</i>).	2.69
2	People who work in fossil-fuel or energy-intensive sectors should be offered opportunities to retrain, so that they can find a different job in the same sector or in a new sector altogether (<i>Retraining workers in fossil-fuel and energy-intensive industries</i>).	2.99
3	Energy and electricity produced from non-renewable sources will become more expensive if a cost is introduced for the carbon emitted in the production process (known as a carbon price). These increases should be refunded for low-income households (<i>Refunds for higher carbon prices for low-income households</i>).	3.02
4	Other solutions (Other solutions).	3.09
5	Communities and regions that depend on coal mining should receive special help to support their green transition (<i>Special help for green transition in coal-dependent regions</i>).	3.23







The majority of all Peer Parliaments opted for *More affordable energy-saving technologies for low-income households* as the most convincing solution for making the energy transition fair for everyone. More than half of the Peer Parliaments (52%) ranked this option in either first or second place, making it the most preferred policy solution by a clear margin. Ranks 2 to 4 are less clear-cut. The options *Retraining workers in fossil-fuel and energy-intensive industries*, *Refunds for higher carbon prices for low-income households* and *Other solutions* were, on average, ranked almost equally. The preference order for the measures proposed to make the energy transition fair for everyone is therefore less clear across all Peer Parliaments than for other questions.

Most preferred options by country, age and gender

The highest-ranked option overall, *More affordable energy-saving technologies for low-income households*, also did best in the majority of EU Member States. It was ranked first in eight countries (Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland, Romania and Spain). This was closely followed by *Other solutions*, which was ranked first in seven countries (Austria, Croatia, Czechia, Estonia, France, Germany, Poland and Sweden). Moreover, *Retraining workers in fossil-fuel and energy-intensive industries* was most preferred in five other countries (Bulgaria, Greece, Ireland, Netherlands, Slovakia), and *Refunds for higher carbon prices for low-income households* was top ranked in four countries (Germany, Latvia, Malta, Portugal).

<u>Fun fact</u>: Italy and Slovenia are the only countries where most Peer Parliaments thought it would be best to provide special help to communities and regions that depend on coal mining.

Among Peer Parliaments with an average age of 16-35 and 45-55, the preferred option was *More affordable energy-saving technologies for low-income households*. Among participants aged 16-25, the first place is shared with *Retraining workers in fossil-fuel and energy-intensive industries*. The age group 36-45 years gave the highest ranking to *Other solutions*. Peer Parliaments in the 56-65 and 65+ age groups chose *Retraining workers in fossil-fuel and energy-intensive industries* and *Refunds for higher carbon prices for low-income households* as the most convincing options, respectively. Interestingly, different gender groups preferred different solutions. The option ranked highest by most majority-male Peer Parliaments was *More affordable energy-saving technologies for low-income households*. Most majority-female Peer Parliaments preferred *Retraining workers in fossil-fuel and energy-intensive industries*, whereas gender-balanced or diverse Peer Parliaments favoured *Other solutions*.

Overall, there is no clear geographical trend with regard to policy measures for the fair energy transition. However, younger people (16-55) tend to prefer cheaper energy-saving technologies for low-income households, whereas older cohorts favour retraining workers or carbon refunds. Moreover, there is a slight tendency of women preferring cheaper energy-saving measures for low-income households, whereas men favour retraining workers from traditional energy sectors.

Other solutions

The most frequent type of *Other solutions* proposed were measures that provide special help and structural-adjustment support for regions and individuals most affected by the energy transition, especially fossil-fuel-dependent regions and workers in affected industries. Interestingly, these *Other solutions* were submitted even though *Special help for green transition in coal-dependent regions*, as pre-defined option, ranked only last across all Peer Parliaments. Examples of specific alternative proposals in this category include: financial compensation and other targeted adjustment measures for individuals and households most affected by the transition (e.g. through adequate social protection),







investment in promoting technological innovation (particularly in marginalised communities) and more equal access to renewable-energy technologies across regions, and structural-adjustment support for regions that are dependent on other kinds of fossil fuels, not just coal.

The second largest category of *Other solutions* contain ideas to provide economic incentives. Most call for different forms of subsidies for environment-friendly energy use and renovations in households and businesses. For example, a common proposal is to provide financial support to tenants and/or landlords for making energy-saving renovations and installing more energy-efficient appliances, especially in low-income households.

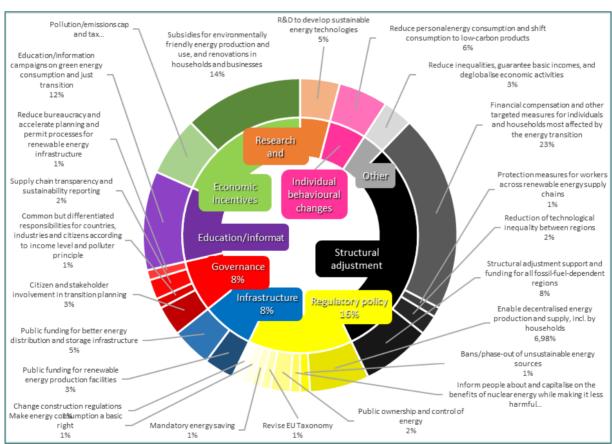


Figure 7: Categories of alternative solutions developed by Peer Parliaments in the area of fair energy transition.







Examples of creative alternative ideas

- Involvement and dialogue with local stakeholders and citizens in the development of transition plans
- Protection measures for non-European workers who are employed in the extraction of rare metals needed for renewable energies
- Reduce the income gap in society and shift the perspective from being global and industrial to being more local, with a focus on crafts and small-scale work
- Energy, like water, must be seen as a basic necessity, provided from a public-service perspective and guaranteed by governments as a basic right
- Placing limits on energy consumption would prevent excessive consumption by high earners, given that fines are clearly insufficient







2.4. Module 3: How we eat and consume

M3, Question 1: How can we eat more sustainably and waste less food?

Rank	Response option	Average rank
1	Agriculture should be radically transformed so that farmers use fewer fertilisers and pesticides, and opt for organic fertilisers where necessary. They should also be offered more support to protect biodiversity and have fewer harmful impacts on the environment and health in general (<i>Ecological agricultural transformation</i>).	2.51
2	The price of food products should better reflect their impact on the environment and the climate (<i>Environmental food pricing</i>).	2.68
3	Other solutions (Other solutions).	3.05
4	Food products should be labelled with information about their impact on health, the environment and the climate, and whether or not they are locally produced (<i>Food labels</i>).	3.11
5	Restaurants and food retailers should be required to be transparent about their food waste and work on reducing or stopping food waste (Food waste transparency in food retail and gastronomy).	3.37

The most convincing option for enabling Europeans to eat more sustainably and reduce food waste is to radically transform agriculture to promote the use of organic fertilisers, and support farmers to protect biodiversity and reduce harmful impacts on the environment and health (*Ecological agricultural transformation*). This response option was ranked highest overall, and more than half of the Peer Parliaments placed it first or second (57%). However, an almost equal share of Peer Parliaments (58%) ranked the *Environmental food pricing* option in their top two. The *Other solutions* option, which received the third-highest average rank, was voted in either first or second place by two out of five Peer Parliaments (42%).

Most preferred options by country, age and gender

The top-two response options overall were also highest-ranked across EU Member States. In ten countries (Czechia, France, Greece, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia), *Ecological agricultural transformation* was the most-preferred measure, whereas nine countries (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Sweden) favoured *Environmental food pricing*. The remaining options were ranked highest by most Peer Parliaments in another two countries each (*Other solutions* in Germany and Italy; *Food labels* in Denmark and Spain, *Food waste transparency* in Bulgaria and Estonia).

Fun fact: Among the top five agricultural producer countries in the EU, only in France and the Netherlands most Peer Parliaments considered 'Ecological agricultural transformation' the best idea

All solutions, except *Food labels*, were also among the top choices of different age groups. Younger cohorts preferred either the self-drafted *Other solutions* or *Environmental food pricing* options, while the







35-45 and 46-55 age groups favoured *Ecological agricultural transformation*. Older age groups ranked *Food waste transparency* and *Other solutions* (56-65) or *Environmental food pricing* and *Ecological agricultural transformation* (65+) highest. *Ecological agricultural transformation* was the most-favoured option among majority-female and majority-male groups. Mixed or majority-diverse groups preferred *Food labels*.

Again, there is no clear geographical trend when it comes to policy measures in the area of sustainable food production and consumption. We see, however, that the ecological agricultural transformation becomes the most-preferred policy option for age cohorts over 36 years. In contrast, younger people tend to demand that the price of food products better reflects their impact on the environment.

Other solutions

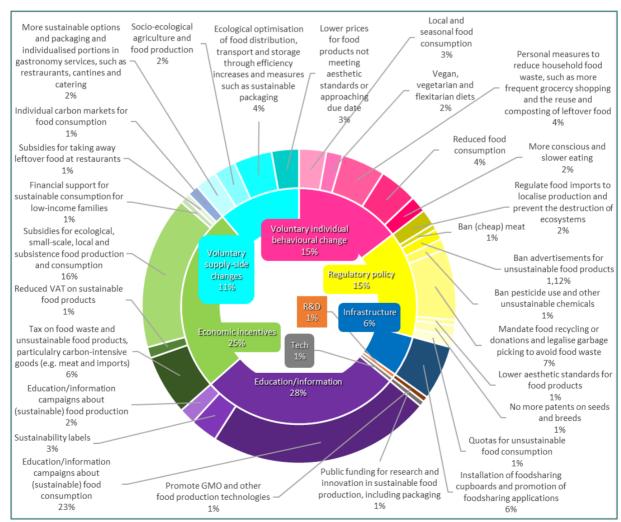


Figure 8: Categories of alternative solutions developed by Peer Parliaments in the area of sustainable food.







Most alternative proposals for promoting sustainable food production, consumption and waste reduction can be assigned to five categories: *economic incentives* (25%), *education/information* (28%), *regulatory policy* (15%) and *voluntary measures*, either by individuals to change their behaviour (15%) or on the supply-side of the economy (11%). Ideas submitted in the largest category, *education/information*, were related to measures to ensure that children are educated about sustainable food consumption and production from a young age. Many also called for continuous campaigns targeting all citizens and consumers to raise awareness and inform people about sustainable food consumption, and to educate them about food waste and recycling.

Many ideas related to introducing *economic incentives* or *environmental pricing* to encourage more ecological, small-scale food production and more sustainable food consumption. Suggestions for achieving this included introducing subsidies for reducing food waste and hamper the consumption of carbon-intensive food through taxes or individual carbon certificates. Specific ideas included providing agricultural subsidies based on ecological criteria, introducing personal and tradeable emission budgets, and reducing VAT on non-animal products.

Lastly, a substantial number of Peer Parliaments proposed *regulatory measures*, such as banning pesticides and other chemicals in food production, meat (especially cheap meat), and environmentally harmful food imports. Other measures proposed in the *Regulatory policy* category included making it mandatory to donate, compost or recycle leftover food in restaurants and supermarkets, and legalising garbage picking.

Examples of creative alternative ideas

- Implementing 'ECO' tradeable and personal emission budgets as an ecological 'basic income'
- Less consumption
- People eat too quickly and need to slow down and chew their food properly
- Shopping more often to avoid waste
- Making true ecological costs tangible, e.g. through a carbon currency

M3, Question 2: How can sustainable consumption best be promoted?

Rank	Response option	Average rank
1	The impact on health, the environment and the climate should be better reflected in the prices of products. Consumers should also be given more information about those impacts (e.g. through labelling, enhanced transparency and digital applications) (<i>Environmental and health pricing, and better consumer information</i>).	2.78
2	The minimum warranty on electrical appliances should be extended beyond two years, and producers should do more to make it possible to repair them (Extended minimum producer warranty on electrical appliances and increased repairability).	2.85









3	Companies and public authorities should be transparent about the impact that their products and production processes (and those of their suppliers) have on the environment and people's health, both in and outside of the EU (<i>Producer transparency about environmental and health impacts</i>).	2.91
4	Single-use plastic bottles should be banned and there should be an EU-wide bottle return scheme for multi-use bottles (<i>Ban on single-use plastic bottles, and return schemes</i>).	3.13
5	Other solutions (Other solutions).	3.20

Environmental and health pricing, and better consumer information was ranked highest across all Peer Parliaments. This solution was ranked in either first or second place by more than two out of five Peer Parliaments (45%). Extended minimum warranty on electrical appliances and increased repairability, as well as Producer transparency about environmental impacts, closely followed in second and third rank. Around two out of five Peer Parliaments ranked these solutions in either first or second place, and even slightly more in the case of the latter (44%). Ban on single-use plastic bottles and return schemes and Other solutions received the most first rankings, with 22% and 25% respectively, which is more than any of the top three options.

Most preferred options by country, age and gender

Environmental and health pricing, and better consumer information was also the most-preferred option across EU member states. It was ranked highest by Peer Parliaments in nine countries (Austria, Belgium, Estonia, Latvia, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden). From the other options, *Producer transparency* ranked best in seven (Czechia, France, Greece, Ireland, Lithuania, Netherlands, Spain), *Other solutions* in six (Bulgaria, Czechia, Finland, Germany, Italy, Sweden) and *Extended minimum producer warranty and increased repairability* in five Member States (Denmark, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia).

<u>Fun fact:</u> A 'Ban on single-use plastic bottles, and return schemes' reached an exclusive first overall rank only in Portugal. Maybe a result of Portugal's proximity to the sea?

Extended minimum producer warranty did best in most age groups (16-25, 36-45 and 65+). Other age groups favoured Producer transparency (26-35 and 65+), Other solutions (46-55) or Environmental and health pricing, and better consumer information (56-65). Comparing different gender groups, an Extended minimum producer warranty convinced most people, both among majority-female and equal/diverse groups. Peer Parliaments with mainly men preferred Environmental and health pricing, and better consumer information on average.

No clear geographical and no age-related trends for policy options aiming to promote a more sustainable consumption in Europe can be identified.: While women, however, tend to support extended minimum warranty on electrical appliances and increased repairability, men rather prefer that the impact on health, the environment and the climate should be better reflected in the prices of products.

Other solutions

Most *Other solutions* (around three quarters) fell into one of the three largest categories: education/information (27%), economic incentives (20%) or regulatory policy (26%). Many *Other solutions* suggested better educating Europeans about sustainable consumption, including consuming





more local produce, reducing overall consumption, and correct waste collection. This could be achieved, for example, by including sustainability and sustainable consumption as a subject on school curricula, running information campaigns, or introducing eco-labels on consumer products.

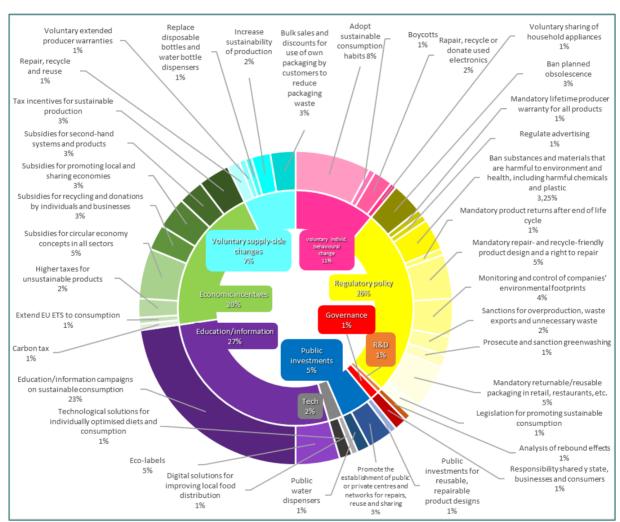


Figure 9: Categories of alternative solutions developed by Peer Parliaments in the area of sustainable consumption.

Other proposed ideas aim to provide *economic incentives* to change consumer and producer behaviour including subsidising circular-economy business models, local sharing economies and second-hand systems. Many also called for the costs of producing unsustainable goods and services to be increased, for instance through higher taxes for unsustainable producers, a carbon tax, or by extending the EU Emissions Trading System to include consumption.

Alternative proposals categorised under *regulatory policies* included introducing new obligations for producers and retailers, such as mandatory lifetime producer warranties and product returns after the end of their life cycle, mandatory repair services and repair-friendly product designs, as well as mandatory returnable and reusable packaging. Controls and monitoring and enforcement measures



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could also be introduced to check companies' environmental footprints, prevent 'greenwashing' and sanction overproduction.

Examples of creative alternative ideas

- Introduce eco-vouchers for purchasing sustainable products to educate the public on better practices and encourage green consumer habits
- A unified system that rates all products based on their environmental impact could be introduced at EU or global level and advertised to consumers
- Regulate advertising: fewer consumerism-related commercials and adverts
- A right to repair
- The legal prosecution of greenwashing

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3. Conclusions

What do the results tell us about the preferences for future EU climate policies? How do citizens think we can reach climate neutrality in Europe by 2050, based on the information provided and after being involved in thoughtful deliberations? The results of the Climate Pact's Peer Parliaments provide several answers to these questions.

The results in short

On the issue of *short-distance mobility*, citizens want better infrastructure and lower prices. They are calling for more affordable and convenient urban public transport with real-time transport updates, as well as better developed and safer bike paths. Citizens would also like different modes of public transport to be integrated and run more frequent services, especially in rural areas. As well as safer walkways and a higher number of pedestrianised areas, they also want sustainable modes of transport (such as electric vehicles) to be made more affordable over short distances.

With regard to *longer-distance mobility*, Europeans want a better-developed and integrated European railway network, including night trains and easier ticket booking. Improving the transport infrastructure also includes improving the quality, speed and safety of travel by rail, bus and sea. It is equally important to ensure that tickets for rail travel and other environmentally friendly modes of transport are affordable. Citizens believe this could best be achieved through public subsidies of low-emission transport, and taxation of high-emission transport and economic activities. Lastly, many citizens are also demanding regulatory measures, such as bans on short-distance, low-budget and private flights; and obligations for employers, such as allowing flexible working to reduce travel to the workplace.

When it comes to *energy consumption at home*, Europeans want it to be cheaper to switch to greener sources of energy, such as solar panels and heat pumps. Many citizens are also calling for stronger incentives to adopt energy-saving measures, as well as more education and information on the subject. Alternative ideas proposed include public subsidies and funding for environmentally friendly energy use; renovations in households and businesses; and smaller, more energy-efficient homes. Other common proposals include free or low-cost consultations on energy-efficient renovations in the home; decentralised, local energy production; amendments to construction regulations to address sustainability; and more research and development for sustainable-energy technologies.

To achieve a *fair energy transition*, Peer Parliaments were most supportive of providing affordable energy-saving technologies for low-income households. In many countries, people also preferred the idea of offering these households refunds for higher carbon prices, and retraining workers in fossil-fuel and energy-intensive sectors. Other suggestions relate to targeted provisions, financial compensation and structural-adjustment measures for regions and individuals most affected by the energy transition, especially workers. Lastly, public subsidies for environmentally friendly energy production, energy use, and renovations in households and businesses, are also a popular idea.

With regard to a more *sustainable food production and consumption*, Peer Parliaments called for agriculture to be radically transformed, with farmers using fewer fertilisers and pesticides, and receiving support to protect biodiversity. Moreover, citizens agree that environmental impacts should be better reflected in food prices. Many Peer Parliaments came up with additional ideas for introducing economic incentives or environmental pricing, especially to encourage more ecological, local small-scale and subsistence food production and consumption. Citizens have also expressed a need for better education







and information campaigns on sustainable food consumption. Lastly, to avoid food waste, another solution that was frequently discussed was to make it mandatory to recycle or donate leftover food, and to legalise garbage picking.

In the area of *sustainable consumption*, most Peer Parliaments supported the proper pricing of environmental and health impacts, and better consumer information. There was also a high level of support for extended minimum producer warranties on electrical appliances and increased repairability, as well as greater producer transparency about their environmental and health impacts. Many people also suggested that Europeans should be better educated about sustainable consumption (e.g. as a subject on the school curriculum), and that solutions should be introduced to incentivise changes in consumer behaviour (e.g. public subsidies to promote circular, local and sharing economies). They also discussed regulatory policies, such as introducing mandatory reusable and returnable packaging, and eco-labels.

Where does this leave us?

Overall, the Peer Parliaments preferred measures aimed at providing economic incentives to steer the behaviour of consumers and producers towards greater sustainability in the areas of mobility, energy and consumption. Economic incentives – whether through taxation, subsidies or marketisation – were always among the highest-ranked options across all themes and questions and were also among the most frequent alternative solutions proposed. A substantial number of Europeans who participated in the Peer Parliaments considered environmental pricing and subsidies to be one of the most effective ways to incite action across all three key areas of climate policies.

Opinions about who is responsible for tackling climate change varied depending on the area of climate action and the specific question being discussed. In some areas, Peer Parliament participants expressed the view that the main responsibility to act lies with governments and demanded structural change as the main driver of effective climate action. This is the case for *long-distance mobility* and *sustainable food consumption*, where the highest-ranked options and most frequently proposed alternative solutions related to public infrastructure provision and structural change in the way food is produced.

However, on the issues of *sustainable energy at home* and *sustainable consumption*, participants assigned the main responsibility for driving change in behaviour and consumption choices to individual citizens and consumers, as well as to businesses and the market. The state is seen to have a less proactive role in this area and is expected to establish frameworks and incentives, rather than being a central provider of infrastructure and driver of structural change. Financial support, education and information for individual citizens, consumers and producers appear to be key, implying that a lack of affordability and awareness may be among the root causes of unsustainable consumption.

Overall, the Peer Parliaments provided important and relevant insights into the preferences and demands of EU citizens regarding climate action and future EU climate policies. However, it also became clear that citizens need guidance and demand funding from governmental institutions on different levels to tackle climate change in an effective and fair way. Furthermore, the mere fact that thousands of EU citizens gathered across Europe to debate how to fight the climate crisis also reveals the mobilizing power of citizen engagement and deliberation. This is particularly true for bottom-up deliberative formats in familiar environments that involve low costs and can engage a high number of participants, such as the Peer Parliaments.



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In a feedback survey, participants consistently expressed enthusiasm about the stimulating discussions, the creativity and the diversity of views in their groups. They also considered the format useful to raise awareness on climate issues and to train people in discussing them. Moreover, they found that submitting the outputs directly to the European Commission was particularly satisfying and raised their hope to have an influence on policymaking.

Feedback on the debates

- "Positive, to repeat. Productive. Interesting. Relevant. It makes you think about topics that we usually don't think about. Crucial for the planet and humanity." (Paula, Portugal)
- "Peer Parliaments are a very useful information and training tool for people to be aware of their personal and family consumption." (Maria Isabel, Spain)
- "I had a fantastic discussion with a group of students. They all have broad knowledge and great ideas regarding sustainable solutions." (Agnieszka, Poland)
- "We really enjoyed the conversation and feel that it is amazing that we have the chance to present what we discussed to the EU. Thank you for the opportunity." (Andrei, Ireland)

More decentralised, deliberative formats should be developed and implemented to inform policymakers and stakeholders about public preferences. Due to the thoughtful discussions and the weighing up of various arguments for and against different policy solutions to complex political problems, the outputs are particularly valuable and more informative than public opinion surveys. Furthermore, engaging Europeans in these formats could create a sense of ownership and buy-in among citizens and could thus prove vital in tackling the climate crisis and restoring faith in democracy more generally.

Annexes

The following annexes illustrate, first, the 'top policy preferences', i.e., the top-ranked response option to each debate question, according to three different sociodemographic criteria that were collected for each Peer Parliament. These criteria are:

- **EU Member State**: The country that a Peer Parliament was hosted in
- **Average age**: The mean age of all participants in a Peer Parliament (divided in the six age groups '16-25', '26-35', '36-45', '46-55', '56-65', and '65+')
- **Gender distribution**: The gender that most participants in a Peer Parliament identified with (divided in three categories 'mostly male', 'mostly female', and 'equal/diverse')

Second, these top-ranked policy proposals are also displayed for each debate question separately, together with a graphical overview of all response options according to the different ranks submitted by the Peer Parliaments.

Top policy preferences across EU Member States

Country	Short- distance mobility (M1, Q1)	Long- distance mobility (M1, Q2)	Sustainable energy at home (M2, Q1)	Fair energy transition (M2, Q2)	Sustainable food (M3, Q1)	Sustainable consumption (M3, Q2)
Austria	Other solutions	More affordable train tickets	Other solutions	Other solutions	Environmental food pricing	Environmental and health pricing, and better consumer information
Belgium	Other solutions	More expensive plane tickets	Incentives and information for/on energy-saving measures	Cheaper energy-saving technologies for low-income households	Environmental food pricing	Environmental and health pricing, and better consumer information
Bulgaria	More affordable, more convenient public transport	More affordable train tickets	Other solutions	Retraining workers in fossil-fuel and energy- intensive industries	Food waste transparency in food retail and gastronomy	Other solutions
Croatia	Safe bike use/Other solutions	Other solutions	Other solutions	Other solutions	-	-
Cyprus	Safe bike use/More affordable, more convenient public transport	Better- integrated European train networks; night trains; easier booking	More expensive non-renewable energy	Cheaper energy-saving technologies for low-income households/Re funds for higher carbon process for low-income households	-	-
Czechia	More affordable, more convenient public transport	More expensive plane tickets/More affordable train tickets	Incentives for switching to renewable energy at home	Other solutions	Ecological agricultural transformation	Producer transparency about environmental and health impacts/Other solutions
Denmark	Safe bike use	Other solutions	Incentives and information for/on energy- saving measures	Cheaper energy-saving technologies for low-income households	Food labels/Environ mental food pricing	Extended minimum producer warranty on electrical appliances and increased repairability
Estonia	Other solutions	Employer and employee rewards for sustainable	Other solutions	Other solutions	Food waste transparency in food retail and	Environmental and health pricing, and better

		transport offers and choices			gastronomy/ Environmental food pricing	consumer information/Ba n on single- use plastic bottles, and return schemes
Finland	More affordable, more convenient public transport	Better- integrated European train networks; night trains; easier booking	-	-	Environmental food pricing	Other solutions
France	More affordable, more convenient public transport	Better- integrated European train networks; night trains; easier booking	Incentives and information for/on energy- saving measures	Other solutions	Ecological agricultural transformation	Producer transparency about environmental and health impacts
Germany	Safe bike use/More affordable, more convenient public transport	Better- integrated European train networks; night trains; easier booking	Incentives for switching to renewable energy at home	Refunds for higher carbon prices for low- income households/Ot her solutions	Other solutions	Other solutions
Greece	Safe bike use	More affordable train tickets	Incentives and information for/on energy- saving measures	Retraining workers in fossil-fuel and energy- intensive industries	Ecological agricultural transformation	Producer transparency about environmental and health impacts
Hungary	Safe bike use	Better- integrated European train networks; night trains; easier booking	Incentives for switching to renewable energy at home	Cheaper energy-saving technologies for low-income households	Environmental food pricing	Extended minimum producer warranty on electrical appliances and increased repairability
Ireland	Safe bike use	More affordable train tickets	Other solutions	Retraining workers in fossil-fuel and energy- intensive industries	Ecological agricultural transformation	Producer transparency about environmental and health impacts
Italy	Safe bike use	Better- integrated European train networks; night trains; easier booking	Other solutions	Special help for green transition in coal- dependent regions	Other solutions	Other solutions
Latvia	More charging stations and better car batteries	Better- integrated European train networks; night trains; easier booking	More expensive non-renewable energy	Refunds for higher carbon prices for low- income households	Ecological agricultural transformation	Environmental and health pricing, and better consumer information
Lithuania	More affordable, more convenient public transport	Better- integrated European train networks; night trains; easier booking	Incentives and information for/on energy- saving measures	Cheaper energy-saving technologies for low-income households	Ecological agricultural transformation	Producer transparency about environmental and health impacts
Malta	Less parking space, and speed limits	More expensive plane tickets	Incentives and information for/on energy-saving measures	Refunds for higher carbon prices for low- income households	-	-
Netherlands	More affordable, more convenient public transport	More affordable train tickets/Better- integrated European train networks; night trains; easier booking	Incentives and information for/on energy-saving measures	Retraining workers in fossil-fuel and energy- intensive industries	Ecological agricultural transformation	Producer transparency about environmental and health impacts

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Poland	Less parking space, and speed limits	More expensive plane tickets	More expensive non-renewable energy	Cheaper energy-saving technologies for low-income households/ Other solutions	Environmental food pricing	Environmental and health pricing, and better consumer information
Portugal	Other solutions	Better- integrated European train networks; night trains; easier booking	Incentives and information for/on energy- saving measures	Refunds for higher carbon prices for low- income households	Ecological agricultural transformation	Ban on single- use plastic bottles, and return schemes
Romania	Safe bike use/More affordable, more convenient public transport	Better- integrated European train networks; night trains; easier booking	Incentives for switching to renewable energy at home	Cheaper energy-saving technologies for low-income households	Ecological agricultural transformation	Extended minimum producer warranty on electrical appliances and increased repairability
Slovakia	More affordable, more convenient public transport	More expensive plane tickets/Better- integrated European train networks; night trains; easier booking	Phasing out 'dirty' energy sources altogether	Retraining workers in fossil-fuel and energy- intensive industries	Environmental food pricing	Environmental and health pricing, and better consumer information/Ext ended minimum producer warranty on electrical appliances and increased repairability
Slovenia	Safe bike use	Employer and employee rewards for sustainable transport offers and choices	Incentives for switching to renewable energy at home	Special help for green transition in coal- dependent regions	Ecological agricultural transformation	Environmental and health pricing, and better consumer information/Ext ended minimum producer warranty on electrical appliances and increased repairability
Spain	Safe bike use	More expensive plane tickets	More expensive non-renewable energy	Cheaper energy-saving technologies for low-income households	Food labels	Producer transparency about environmental and health impacts/Enviro nmental and health pricing, and better consumer information
Sweden	Other solutions	Other solutions	Other solutions	Other solutions	Environmental food pricing	Environmental and health pricing, and better consumer information/Ot her solutions

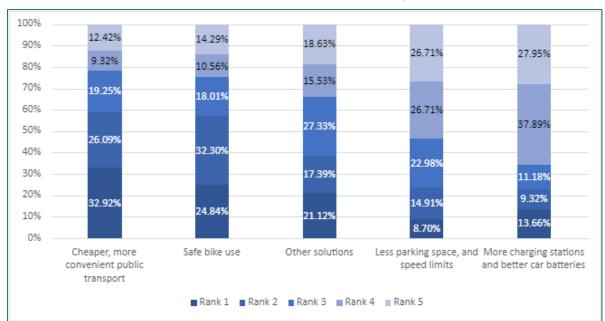
Top policy preferences according to the average age of Peer Parliaments

Average age	Short-distance mobility (M1, Q1)	Long-distance mobility (M1, Q2)	Sustainable energy at home (M2, Q1)	Fair energy transition (M2, Q2)	Sustainable food (M3, Q1)	Sustainable consumption (M3, Q2)
16-25	More affordable, more convenient public transport	Other solutions	Incentives for switching to renewable energy at home	Cheaper energy-saving technologies for low-income households	Other solutions	Extended minimum producer warranty on electrical appliances and increased repairability
26-35	More affordable, more convenient public transport	Better- integrated European train networks; night trains; easier booking	Incentives for switching to renewable energy at home	Cheaper energy-saving technologies for low-income households	Environmental food pricing	Producer transparency about environmental and health impacts
36-45	More affordable, more convenient public transport	More affordable train tickets	Incentives for switching to renewable energy at home	Other solutions	Ecological agricultural transformation	Extended minimum producer warranty on electrical appliances and increased repairability
46-55	Other solutions	Better- integrated European train networks; night trains; easier booking	Incentives for switching to renewable energy at home	Cheaper energy-saving technologies for low-income households	Ecological agricultural transformation	Other solutions
56-65	More affordable, more convenient public transport	Better- integrated European train networks; night trains; easier booking	More expensive non-renewable energy	Retraining workers in fossil-fuel and energy- intensive industries	Food waste transparency in food retail and gastronomy/Oth er solutions	Environmental and health pricing, and better consumer information
65+	More charging stations and better car batteries	Employer and employee rewards for sustainable transport offers and choices	Phasing out 'dirty' energy sources altogether	Refunds for higher carbon prices for low- income households	Environmental food pricing/Ecologic al agricultural transformation	Producer transparency about environmental and health impacts/Extend ed minimum producer warranty on electrical appliances and increased repairability

ANNEXES: Peer Parliaments: Citizens' Views On How To Tackle – Final Report

Top policy preferences according to the gender distribution of Peer Parliaments

Gender distribution	Short- distance mobility (M1, Q1)	Long-distance mobility (M1, Q2)	Sustainable energy at home (M2, Q1)	Fair energy transition (M2, Q2)	Sustainable food (M3, Q1)	Sustainable consumption (M3, Q2)
Mostly female	Safe bike use	Better- integrated European train networks; night trains; easier booking	Incentives for switching to renewable energy at home	Cheaper energy-saving technologies for low-income households	Ecological agricultural transformation	Extended minimum producer warranty on electrical appliances and increased repairability
Mostly male	More affordable, more convenient public transport	Better- integrated European train networks; night trains; easier booking	Incentives for switching to renewable energy at home	Retraining workers in fossil-fuel and energy- intensive industries	Ecological agricultural transformation	Environmental and health pricing, and better consumer information
Equal/ diverse	Safe bike use	More affordable train tickets	Incentives for switching to renewable energy at home	Other solutions	Food labels	Extended minimum producer warranty on electrical appliances and increased repairability



Module 1, Question 1: Sustainable short-distance mobility

Figure A-1: Response options for short-distance mobility according to ranks submitted by Peer Parliaments.

Country	Top-ranked proposal(s)	Average rank	Submissions
Austria	Other solutions	1.43	7
Belgium	Other solutions	2.22	9
Bulgaria	More affordable, more convenient public transport	1.50	2
Croatia	Safe bike use/Other solutions	1.00	1
Cyprus	Safe bike use/More affordable, more convenient public transport	2.00	2
Czechia	More affordable, more convenient public transport	1.75	8
Denmark	Safe bike use	1.67	3
Estonia	Other solutions	1.00	2
Finland	More affordable, more convenient public transport	1.00	1
France	More affordable, more convenient public transport	2.00	5
Germany	Safe bike use/More affordable, more convenient public transport	1.83	12
Greece	Safe bike use	1.80	5
Hungary	Safe bike use	2.00	13
Ireland	Safe bike use	1.50	4
Italy	Safe bike use	1.88	8
Latvia	More charging stations and better car batteries	1.00	1
Lithuania	More affordable, more convenient public transport	2.00	3
Luxembourg	-	-	0
Malta	Less parking space, and speed limits	2.00	1
Netherlands	More affordable, more convenient public transport	1.40	5
Poland	Less parking space, and speed limits	2.26	27
Portugal	Other solutions	1.57	7
Romania	Safe bike use/More affordable, more convenient public transport	2.10	10
Slovakia	More affordable, more convenient public transport	2.36	11
Slovenia	Safe bike use	2.50	2
Spain	Safe bike use	2.80	10
Sweden	Other solutions	1.00	2

Average age	Top-ranked proposal(s)	Average rank	Submissions
16-25	More affordable, more convenient public transport	2.33	33
26-35	More affordable, more convenient public transport	2.47	51
36-45	More affordable, more convenient public transport	2.43	42
46-55	Other solutions	2.32	22
56-65	More affordable, more convenient public transport	2.18	11
65+	More charging stations and better car batteries	1.50	2

Gender distribution	Top-ranked proposal(s)	Average rank	Submissions
Mostly female	Safe bike use	2.56	66
Mostly male	More affordable, more convenient public transport	2.18	49
Equal/diverse	Safe bike use	2.46	46

Module 1, Question 2: Long-distance mobility



Figure A-2: Response options for long-distance mobility according to ranks submitted by Peer Parliaments.

Country	Top-ranked proposal(s)	Average rank	Submissions
Austria	More affordable train tickets	2.00	7
Belgium	More expensive plane tickets	2.33	9
Bulgaria	More affordable train tickets	1.50	2
Croatia	Other solutions	1.00	1
Cyprus	Better-integrated European train networks; night trains; easier booking	1.50	2
Czechia	More expensive plane tickets/More affordable train tickets	1.88	8
Denmark	Other solutions	1.33	3
Estonia	Employer and employee rewards for sustainable transport offers and choices	2.00	2
Finland	Better-integrated European train networks; night trains; easier booking	1.00	1
France	Better-integrated European train networks; night trains; easier booking	1.60	5
Germany	Better-integrated European train networks; night trains; easier booking	1.75	12
Greece	More affordable train tickets	1.60	5
Hungary	Better-integrated European train networks; night trains; easier booking	1.85	13
Ireland	More affordable train tickets	1.75	4
Italy	Better-integrated European train networks; night trains; easier booking	1.88	8
Latvia	Better-integrated European train networks; night trains; easier booking	1.00	1
Lithuania	Better-integrated European train networks; night trains; easier booking	1.67	3
Luxembourg	-	-	0
Malta	More expensive plane tickets	1.00	1
Netherlands	More affordable train tickets/Better-integrated European train networks; night trains; easier booking	1.80	5
Poland	More expensive plane tickets	2.30	27
Portugal	Better-integrated European train networks; night trains; easier booking	2.00	7

Romania	Better-integrated European train networks; night trains; easier booking	2.10	10
Slovakia	More expensive plane tickets/Better-integrated European train networks; night trains; easier booking	2.91	11
Slovenia	Employer and employee rewards for sustainable transport offers and choices	2.50	2
Spain	More expensive plane tickets	2.80	10
Sweden	Other solutions	1.00	2

Average age	Top-ranked proposal(s)	Average rank	Submissions
16-25	Other solutions	2.48	33
26-35	Better-integrated European train networks; night trains; easier booking	2.47	51
36-45	More affordable train tickets	2.29	42
46-55	Better-integrated European train networks; night trains; easier booking	2.50	22
56-65	Better-integrated European train networks; night trains; easier booking	2.27	11
65+	Employer and employee rewards for sustainable transport offers and choices	2.00	2

Gender distribution	Top-ranked proposal(s)	Average rank	Submissions
Mostly female	Better-integrated European train networks; night trains; easier booking	2.58	66
Mostly male	Better-integrated European train networks; night trains; easier booking	2.24	49
Equal/diverse	More affordable train tickets	2.48	46

Module 2, Question 1: Sustainable energy at home

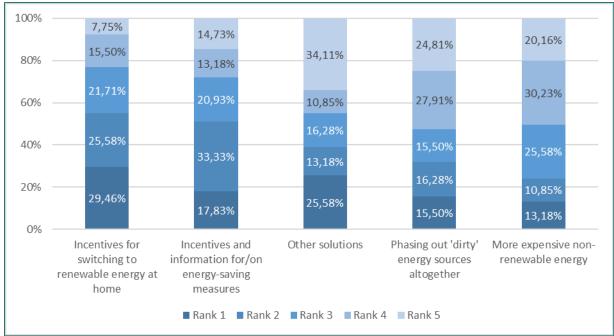


Figure A-3: Response options for sustainable energy at home according to ranks submitted by Peer Parliaments.

Country	Top-ranked proposal(s)	Average rank	Submissions
Austria	Other solutions	1.67	6
Belgium	Incentives and information for/on energy-saving measures	2.00	5
Bulgaria	Other solutions	1.00	1
Croatia	Other solutions	1.00	1
Cyprus	More expensive non-renewable energy	1.50	2
Czechia	Incentives for switching to renewable energy at home	2.50	6
Denmark	Incentives and information for/on energy-saving measures	1.00	1
Estonia	Other solutions	1.00	1
Finland	-	-	0
France	Incentives and information for/on energy-saving measures	1.75	4
Germany	Incentives for switching to renewable energy at home	1.89	9
Greece	Incentives and information for/on energy-saving measures	1.67	6
Hungary	Incentives for switching to renewable energy at home	1.58	12
Ireland	Other solutions	1.00	1
Italy	Other solutions	1.83	6
Latvia	More expensive non-renewable energy	3.00	1
Lithuania	Incentives and information for/on energy-saving measures	1.33	3
Luxembourg	-	-	0
Malta	Incentives and information for/on energy-saving measures	3.00	1
Netherlands	Incentives and information for/on energy-saving measures	1.00	1
Poland	More expensive non-renewable energy	2.63	19
Portugal	Incentives and information for/on energy-saving measures	2.14	7
Romania	Incentives for switching to renewable energy at home	2.27	11
Slovakia	Phasing out 'dirty' energy sources altogether	2.27	11
Slovenia	Incentives for switching to renewable energy at home	1.50	2
Spain	More expensive non-renewable energy	2.40	10
Sweden	Other solutions	1.00	2

Average age	Top-ranked proposal(s)	Average rank	Submissions
16-25	Incentives for switching to renewable energy at home	2.10	30
26-35	Incentives for switching to renewable energy at home	2.50	40
36-45	Incentives for switching to renewable energy at home	2.50	32
46-55	Incentives for switching to renewable energy at home	2.79	19
56-65	More expensive non-renewable energy	2.29	7
65+	Phasing out 'dirty' energy sources altogether	1.00	1

Gender distribution	Top-ranked proposal(s)	Average rank	Submissions
Mostly female	Incentives for switching to renewable energy at home	2.38	52
Mostly male	Incentives for switching to renewable energy at home	2.60	40
Equal/diverse	Incentives for switching to renewable energy at home	2.43	37

Module 2, Question 2: Fair energy transition

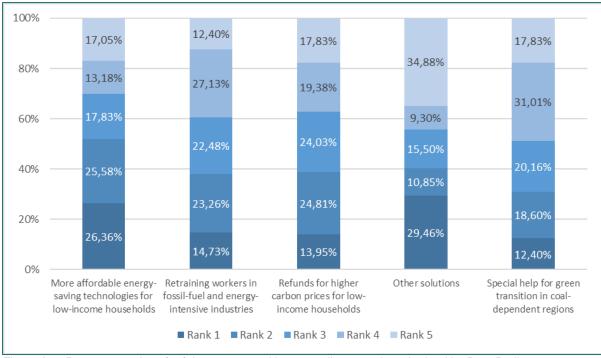


Figure A-4: Response options for fair energy transition according to ranks submitted by Peer Parliaments.

Country	Top-ranked proposal(s)	Average rank	Submissions
Austria	Other solutions	1.67	6
Belgium	More affordable energy-saving technologies for low- income households	2.40	5
Bulgaria	Retraining workers in fossil-fuel and energy-intensive industries	1.00	1
Croatia	Other solutions	1.00	1
Cyprus	More affordable energy-saving technologies for low- income households/Refunds for higher carbon process for low-income households	2.00	2
Czechia	Other solutions	2.17	6
Denmark	More affordable energy-saving technologies for low- income households	1.00	1
Estonia	Other solutions	1.00	1
Finland	-	-	0
France	Other solutions	2.75	4
Germany	Refunds for higher carbon prices for low-income households/Other solutions	2.44	9
Greece	Retraining workers in fossil-fuel and energy-intensive industries	1.33	6
Hungary	More affordable energy-saving technologies for low- income households	1.92	12
Ireland	Retraining workers in fossil-fuel and energy-intensive industries	1.00	1
Italy	Special help for green transition in coal-dependent regions	2.00	6
Latvia	Refunds for higher carbon prices for low-income households	4.00	1
Lithuania	More affordable energy-saving technologies for low- income households	1.00	3
Luxembourg	-	-	0
Malta	Refunds for higher carbon prices for low-income households	3.00	1
Netherlands	Retraining workers in fossil-fuel and energy-intensive industries	1.00	1

Poland	More affordable energy-saving technologies for low- income households/ Other solutions	2.79	19
Portugal	Refunds for higher carbon prices for low-income households	2.71	7
Romania	More affordable energy-saving technologies for low- income households	2.73	11
Slovakia	Retraining workers in fossil-fuel and energy-intensive industries	2.45	11
Slovenia	Special help for green transition in coal-dependent regions	1.50	2
Spain	More affordable energy-saving technologies for low- income households	2.30	10
Sweden	Other solutions	1.00	2

Average age	Top-ranked proposal(s)	Average rank	Submissions
16-25	More affordable energy-saving technologies for low- income households	2.57	30
26-35	More affordable energy-saving technologies for low- income households	2.45	40
36-45	Other solutions	2.84	32
46-55	More affordable energy-saving technologies for low- income households	2.74	19
56-65	Retraining workers in fossil-fuel and energy-intensive industries	2.86	7
65+	Refunds for higher carbon prices for low-income households	2.00	1

Gender distribution	Top-ranked proposal(s)	Average rank	Submissions
Mostly female	More affordable energy-saving technologies for low-income households	2.54	52
Mostly male	Retraining workers in fossil-fuel and energy- intensive industries	2.85	40
Equal/diverse	Other solutions	2.57	37

Module 3, Question 1: Sustainable food

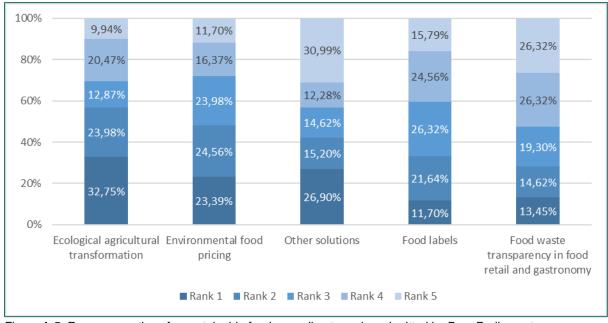
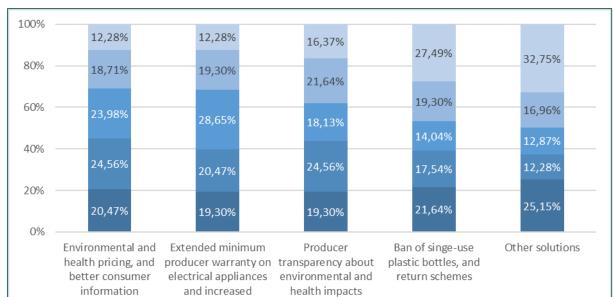


Figure A-5: Response options for sustainable food according to ranks submitted by Peer Parliaments.

Country	Top-ranked proposal(s)	Average rank	Submissions
Austria	Environmental food pricing	2.45	11
Belgium	Environmental food pricing	2.50	8
Bulgaria	Food waste transparency in food retail and gastronomy	1.00	1
Croatia	-	-	0
Cyprus	-	-	0
Czechia	Ecological agricultural transformation	2.43	7
Denmark	Food labels/Environmental food pricing	2.00	2
Estonia	Food waste transparency in food retail and gastronomy/ Environmental food pricing	2.50	4
Finland	Environmental food pricing	1.00	1
France	Ecological agricultural transformation	2.00	5
Germany	Other solutions	1.80	10
Greece	Ecological agricultural transformation	2.14	7
Hungary	Environmental food pricing	2.42	12
Ireland	Ecological agricultural transformation	1.00	3
Italy	Other solutions	2.10	10
Latvia	Ecological agricultural transformation	1.00	1
Lithuania	Ecological agricultural transformation	1.33	3
Luxembourg	-	-	0
Malta	-	-	0
Netherlands	Ecological agricultural transformation	2.20	5
Poland	Environmental food pricing	2.41	32
Portugal	Ecological agricultural transformation	1.80	5
Romania	Ecological agricultural transformation	2.58	12
Slovakia	Environmental food pricing	2.00	13
Slovenia	Ecological agricultural transformation	3.00	2
Spain	Food labels	2.21	14
Sweden	Environmental food pricing	2.00	3

Average age	Top-ranked proposal(s)	Average rank	Submissions
16-25	Other solutions	2.58	48
26-35	Environmental food pricing	2.64	44
36-45	Ecological agricultural transformation	2.32	47
46-55	Ecological agricultural transformation	2.35	23
56-65	Food waste transparency in food retail and gastronomy/Other solutions	4.00	5
65+	Environmental food pricing/Ecological agricultural transformation	3.00	4

Gender distribution	Top-ranked proposal(s)	Average rank	Submissions
Mostly female	Ecological agricultural transformation	2.39	84
Mostly male	Ecological agricultural transformation	2.39	39
Equal/diverse	Food labels	2.56	48



Module 3, Question 2: Sustainable consumption

Figure A-6: Response options for sustainable consumption according to ranks submitted by Peer Parliaments.

■ Rank 1 ■ Rank 2 ■ Rank 3 ■ Rank 4 ■ Rank 5

repairability

Country	Top-ranked proposal(s)	Average rank	Submissions
Austria	Environmental and health pricing, and better consumer information	2.55	11
Belgium	Environmental and health pricing, and better consumer information	2.50	8
Bulgaria	Other solutions	1.00	1
Croatia	-	-	0
Cyprus	-	-	0
Czechia	Producer transparency about environmental and health impacts/Other solutions	2.86	7
Denmark	Extended minimum producer warranty on electrical appliances and increased repairability	1.50	2
Estonia	Environmental and health pricing, and better consumer information/Ban on single-use plastic bottles, and return schemes	2.25	4
Finland	Other solutions	1.00	1
France	Producer transparency about environmental and health impacts	2.40	5
Germany	Other solutions	1.70	10
Greece	Producer transparency about environmental and health impacts	2.14	7
Hungary	Extended minimum producer warranty on electrical appliances and increased repairability	1.75	12
Ireland	Producer transparency about environmental and health impacts	1.67	3
Italy	Other solutions	2.40	10
Latvia	Environmental and health pricing, and better consumer information	1.00	1
Lithuania	Producer transparency about environmental and health impacts	2.00	3
Luxembourg	-	-	0
Malta	-	-	0
Netherlands	Producer transparency about environmental and health impacts	2.40	5

Poland	Environmental and health pricing, and better consumer information	2.34	32
Portugal	Ban on single-use plastic bottles, and return schemes	2.20	5
Romania	Extended minimum producer warranty on electrical appliances and increased repairability	2.58	12
Slovakia	Environmental and health pricing, and better consumer information/Extended minimum producer warranty on electrical appliances and increased repairability	2.69	13
Slovenia	Environmental and health pricing, and better consumer information/Extended minimum producer warranty on electrical appliances and increased repairability	3.00	2
Spain	Producer transparency about environmental and health impacts/Environmental and health pricing, and better consumer information	2.43	14
Sweden	Environmental and health pricing, and better consumer information/Other solutions	2.33	3

Average age	Top-ranked proposal(s)	Average rank	Submissions
16-25	Extended minimum producer warranty on electrical appliances and increased repairability	2.63	48
26-35	Producer transparency about environmental and health impacts	2.48	44
36-45	Extended minimum producer warranty on electrical appliances and increased repairability	2.68	47
46-55	Other solutions	2.78	23
56-65	Environmental and health pricing, and better consumer information	2.00	5
65+	Producer transparency about environmental and health impacts/Extended minimum producer warranty on electrical appliances and increased repairability	2.50	4

Gender distribution	Top-ranked proposal(s)	Average rank	Submissions
Mostly female	Extended minimum producer warranty on electrical appliances and increased repairability	2.77	84
Mostly male	Environmental and health pricing, and better consumer information	2.56	39
Equal/diverse	Extended minimum producer warranty on electrical appliances and increased repairability	2.81	48







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