



Shaping the EU's climate transition

**European citizens
take the floor**



Research and
Innovation

Shaping the EU's climate transition: European citizens take the floor

European Commission
Directorate - General for Research and Innovation
Directorate B - healthy Planet
Unit C.5 - Ecological and Social Transitions
Contact - Marta Andreoni
Email - RTD-A09-2021-22@ec.europa.eu
RTD-PUBLICATIONS@ec.europa.eu

European Commission
B-1049 Brussels

Manuscript completed in April 2022
First edition

This document has been prepared for the European Commission, however it reflects the views only of the authors, and the European Commission shall not be liable for any consequence stemming from the reuse.

More information on the European Union is available on the internet (<http://europa.eu>).

ISBN 978-92-76-52095-5
doi: 10.2777/68349
KI-05-22-117-EN-N

Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2022
© European Union, 2022



The reuse policy of European Commission documents is implemented by Commission Decision 2011/833/EU of 12 December 2011 on the reuse of Commission documents (OJ L 330, 14.12.2011, p. 39). Unless otherwise noted, the reuse of this document is authorised under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC-BY 4.0) licence (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>). This means that reuse is allowed provided appropriate credit is given and any changes are indicated.

For any use or reproduction of elements that are not owned by the European Union, permission may need to be sought directly from the respective rightholders.



SHAPING THE EU'S CLIMATE TRANSITION:

EUROPEAN CITIZENS
TAKE THE FLOOR

April 2022

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	3
1 Peer Parliaments and Citizens' Panels: comparing the methodologies	4
Peer Parliament - Methodology	5
Citizen's Panels - Methodology	6
Choice of participants	6
Organisation	6
2 Results from the deliberations and panels	7
Sustainable energy	7
Sustainable food production and consumption	9
Sustainable transport	11
3 Conclusions	13
Annex: some valuable ideas submitted by European citizens, by topic	14

INTRODUCTION

Collective, deliberative, cooperative: the path to a climate-neutral and fully recovered European Union depends on the input and the buy-in of its citizens. This is one of the tenets of the European Green Deal, the wide-ranging blueprint and roadmap for the Union to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050. Putting citizens at the centre of the debate around the EU's future was also the main goal of the 'Conference on the Future of Europe' (CoFoE) which took place between May 2021 and May 2022.

This short report contains the proceedings and results of two participatory initiatives in the context of the CoFoE. Both projects engaged citizens in EU climate action and explored their views and demands for the climate future of Europe: **The Peer Parliaments** of the European Climate Pact, managed by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Climate Action (DG CLIMA) and the **Citizens' Panels** of the support action under the Green Deal Call for R&I 'Support to the engagement of European Citizens in the transition to the European Green Deal (EGD)', led by the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD).

The two projects ran in parallel from November 2021 to March 2022 in different formats. Their methodologies were complementary: the Peer Parliaments were self-organised, bottom-up, and deliberative debates in groups of 5 to -10 people, whereas the Citizens' Panels were externally facilitated, top-down initiatives and had between 30 and 33 participants each representing a variety of socio-cultural and geographic backgrounds. Both participation processes broadly covered the same three topics:

PEER PARLIAMENTS

SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION

- Sustainable food
- Sustainable consumption

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

- Energy consumption at home
- Fair energy transition

SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY

- Short-distance mobility
- Longer distance mobility

CITIZENS' PANELS

SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS



ENERGY-EFFICIENT BUILDINGS



SMART AND EFFICIENT MOBILITY



Despite the difference in methodology, the results obtained generally point towards the same conclusions. Citizens are ready to commit to the climate transition but demand support from EU institutions – through legislation and financial assistance – to make the transition fair for everyone.

1 PEER PARLIAMENTS AND CITIZENS' PANELS: COMPARING THE METHODOLOGIES

The two projects differed in how they were designed:

CATEGORY	PEER PARLIAMENTS	CITIZENS' PANELS
Organisation	Bottom-up	Top-down
Timespan	November 21- March 22	November 21- March 22
Country coverage	26 MS (all MS but LU)	27 MS
Number of ideas generated	Over 900	Over 1400
Number of events	461 events, self-organised, in 26 MS (all MS except Luxembourg)	27 events (one per Member State), organised by a contractor
Number of participants	3,000 (approx.) Between 5-10 participants per event, occasionally more	859 + 70 facilitators Between 30-33 participants per event, divided into three groups of 10-11
Number of panels on sustainable mobility	161	81 (three panels *27 Member States)
Number of panels on sustainable food systems	171	81 (three panels *27 Member States)
Number of panels on sustainable energy	129	81 (three panels *27 Member States)
Participant profile	Self-selection; non-representative by design; Hosts were asked to invite guests for the debates (e.g., friends, relatives, colleagues)	Representative by design; Choice of panel participants (age, gender, socio-economic status, level of studies, place of dwelling) based on Eurostat data per country
Incentive	NO	YES

PEER PARLIAMENT · METHODOLOGY

During the Peer Parliaments, 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 discussion.

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). Participants had access to dedicated learning materials for all three modules, 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 facilitation guide and learning materials for the mobility, energy and consumption 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 promotional brochure widely disseminated before and during the deliberation period.

LEARNING > DELIBERATING > VOTING

The Peer Parliaments focused on two central questions for each thematic module, and the discussions were structured into three distinct phases. First, in the **learning phase**, participants read through the learning materials together and explored the different responses suggested for each question. Second, in the **deliberation phase**, the hosts moderated a debate in which the pros and cons of each response were discussed and weighed up against each other. The participants also discussed and drafted additional responses and other own solutions. Third, in the **voting phase**, each participant could allocate a score of 1-5 points to each option (including the suggestions they came up with themselves). The individual **votes** then produced a group ranking, which were the Peer Parliament's final output on the question. These three phases were then repeated for the second debate question before the hosts submitted the results through the Peer Parliaments web page. The approximate length of the debates was two hours.

CITIZENS' PANELS · METHODOLOGY

CHOICE OF PARTICIPANTS

The composition of the Citizen's Panels was based on the distribution of the following indicators as measured in the EU:

- Population by age groups
- Ratio of women to men
- Ratio of employed: unemployed: student
- Educational attainment
- Living in urban, semi-urban or rural settings

The sample distribution is based on the latest available and harmonised Eurostat statistics. Participants were selected by a market research company with branches in all EU countries and received an incentive for their participation.

ORGANISATION

The panels consisted of short rounds of discussions in three breakout groups, followed by a presentation of the results in the plenary.



The structure of the events was as follows:

An opening presentation about the day ahead and the European Green Deal (café style), with an introduction of the external observer.

Three blocks of 100 minutes for each of the three topics:

- 10-minute learning block (in plenary and breakout)
- 25-minute initial theme discussion (in breakout)
- 15-minute feedback in plenary
- 35-minute refinement and framing of proposals
- 15-minute presentation of the proposal in the plenary.

The day ended with final observations from the external observer, a general 'open mic' round of discussion on how the day went and an explanation of how the results of the panel would be incorporated into a roadmap.

The total duration of each event was six hours, with three blocks (one per topic) of 100 minutes. The order of the themes was shuffled for each event so that no one topic was always left for last. This methodological approach also allowed for cross-fertilisation between topics in both directions throughout the process.

2 RESULTS FROM THE DELIBERATIONS AND PANELS

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Citizens want more economic incentives for retrofitting and energy-saving measures
- There should be more awareness-raising campaigns and education on the benefits of retrofitting and on how to implement energy-saving measures
- More research and development are needed for sustainable-energy technologies
- There is a need for the transition to be just and not leave behind rural dwellers, older people, renters, or low-income households

CRITICAL ELEMENTS TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION

- Of the three topics, this is the one where differences in social class, age group and property ownership provoked the most intense debate during the Citizens' Panels. Younger participants overall participated the least in the discussion and when asked why, they said that as tenants they had no opinion on the issue; rural and older inhabitants often said that they could not afford to retrofit and did not intend to do so; people living in apartment blocks said that the issue could not be raised, because many inhabitants of the blocks were against.
- The issue of autonomy is central to this issue: freedom to choose how much to heat one's home, to retrofit an apartment (in a block of buildings that does not agree to do so), or even to decide not to perform any energy-saving measures.
- During the Citizens' Panels, it emerged that some countries (e.g. Poland) are in favour of a return to nuclear power as an alternative to coal, while the same is true for wood in Scandinavian countries.
- The lesson here for policymakers is that more consultations and attention to the specificities of Member states are needed regarding the design of national roadmaps.

“ *‘Involvement and dialogue with local stakeholders and citizens in the development of transition plans’; (Fair energy transition); ‘Adapt working hours and housing to natural cycles and family needs’ (Energy consumption at home)* – Ideas from the Peer Parliaments ”

Participants in the **Peer Parliaments** agreed that Europeans want it to be more affordable to switch to greener sources of energy, such as solar panels and heat pumps. When it comes to energy consumption at home, citizens also called for more robust incentives to adopt energy-saving measures, as well as more education and information on the subject. Some of the alternative ideas raised by individual Peer Parliaments included public subsidies and funding for environmentally friendly energy use, renovations in households and businesses, and smaller, more energy-efficient homes. Other common proposals included free or low-cost consultations on energy-efficient renovations in the house; decentralised, local energy production; changes 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 from 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 popular ideas.

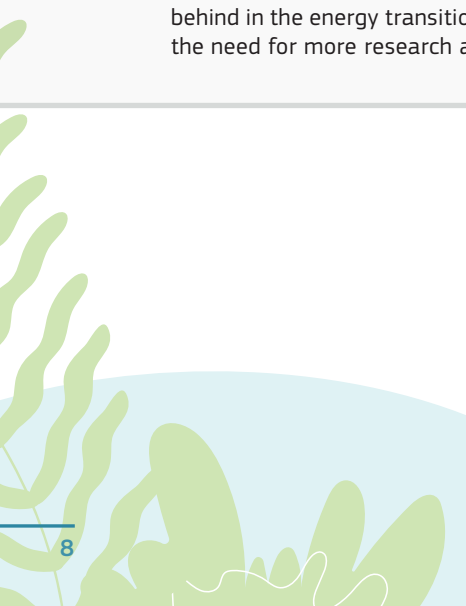
“ *One of the biggest blockages when it comes to energy-efficient retrofitting is finding a trustworthy contractor. The establishment of an accredited label (at national or EU level) can increase the confidence of the public.* ”
(Citizens’ Panel – Czech Republic)

For the participants in the **Citizens’ Panels**, this topic proved to be the most difficult to approach, as knowledge and interest in energy efficiency varied greatly depending on the socio-economic level of the participants, whether they lived in a rented apartment or owned their home, and whether they lived in a block of housing or a detached home. This was also the topic where people were willing to sacrifice the least (or nothing at all) and advocated for more personal freedom of choice (whether or not to renovate, how high the temperature in their house should be, or whether they should replace their appliances).

The most common topics discussed were:

- The need for more EU-wide regulation on **energy-efficient standards**;
- More **awareness-raising campaigns** and **education** regarding the benefits of retrofitting;
- **Funding, subsidies and incentives** to achieve retrofitting for all.

Other topics discussed were the “just transition” (not leaving renters, poor people or older people behind in the energy transition), the need for a change in mindset (lower home temperature), and the need for more research and innovation to achieve energy efficiency.



SUSTAINABLE FOOD PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Agricultural practices that are more natural – fewer fertilisers and pesticides, eating more local and seasonal produce should be incentivized.
- Environmental pricing should be introduced, with lowered VAT for local products.
- A sustainable way to eat starts at school, which includes more campaigns and a heightened role for school education on food.
- Waste should be minimized (from packaging to food waste) with circular economy measures.
- Clarity should be introduced on the concept of sustainability – an eco-labelling should reflect sustainability.
- (Only for Peer Parliaments) Appliances should have extended warranties, be more repairable, and have greater transparency on their environmental and health impacts.

CRITICAL ELEMENTS TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION

- In the Citizens' Panels, the discourse on sustainability varied greatly from country to country depending on the country's level of food safety.
- Some Central European countries are still struggling with food safety and sustainability is, therefore, a lesser concern: the lesson here for policymakers is that in some places people's concerns around food safety need to be addressed first.
- Most participants agreed that sustainability was often used as a marketing ploy and that it was difficult to see beyond what they perceived as 'empty words'. A transparent, easy to interpret system to signal sustainability is needed.

“ *'Introduce personal emission budgets and tradeable allowances' (Sustainable food production and consumption); 'legal prosecution of greenwashing' (Sustainable consumption)- Ideas from the Peer Parliaments* ”

Concerning the topic of 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 agreed that environmental impacts should be better reflected in food prices. Many of the 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 also expressed the need for better education and information campaigns on sustainable food consumption. Another solution that was frequently discussed to avoid food waste was to make it mandatory to recycle or donate leftover food and to legalise garbage picking.

Most Peer Parliaments supported the proper pricing of environmental and health impacts in products to enable more sustainable consumption and better consumer information. There was also a high level of support for extended minimum producer warranties on electrical appliances, increased repairability, and greater transparency about the environmental and health impacts of products. Many people also suggested that Europeans should be better educated about sustainable consumption (e.g. as a subject in 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 raising mandatorily reusable and returnable packaging and eco-labels.



“ *Not all food comes with an equal CO2 footprint. The proposal is to favour sustainable, local, ecologically viable foodstuff with minimum packaging by introducing different VAT wedges. A lower wedge equals more sustainable food. Lowering the levies imposed on sustainable foodstuff will compensate for the higher production cost and make buying sustainably more attractive and affordable for all.* (Citizens' Panel – Belgium) ”

In the discussions on sustainable food systems during the **Citizens' Panels**, the quality, depth and focus of discussions varied greatly from country to country. In some countries, such as Sweden and Denmark, where the public discourse on sustainability is more advanced, it centred on animal welfare and the transition to a vegetarian diet. The most pressing issue was food safety in some others, such as Bulgaria and Slovakia, where sustainability was seen as a goal, but only in the longer term. In the third group of countries, such as Hungary and Poland, the discourse quickly moved to aspects related to national pride ('eat local delicacies'), as well as food safety and quality. In general, suggestions from the citizens tended to focus on ensuring sustainable food production and consumption. They were less focused on solutions to reduce food loss and waste.

Despite national idiosyncrasies, commonalities emerged across the discussions.

The most common ideas related to:

- **Local food production**, processing, and distribution: most countries produced at least one idea on the topic, ranging from regulation on how supermarkets should be obligated to have a shelf dedicated to local food, to diversified VAT depending on the carbon impact (the more local the product, the lower the VAT), to reducing bureaucratic barriers that prevent small, local stakeholders from engaging in the market. A similar related theme that was greatly supported was the increase of urban farming and community gardens, particularly in schools or urban areas where green space is limited. Surprisingly, many citizens were willing to give up imported foods (such as exotic fruit) for their diets to be more sustainable.
- **Funding, subsidies and incentives** to support food system transformation: several ideas converged on how the transition to more sustainable food systems will depend significantly both on the budget made available to produce the food – with particular attention to small and local producers – but also on weighted and subsidised prices for consumers, in particular those with the most limited resources. There was also a recommendation to encourage small farmers to form cooperatives, as well as to ensure fairness and equity in trade competition rules.
- **Awareness-raising campaigns and education**: education on sustainability was an equally important topic for all population groups. Most participants agreed that sustainability was often used as a marketing ploy. Participants expressed the need for a sustainability expert to help understand labels and communications. There was a particular emphasis placed on the importance of using school settings to educate young people on healthy eating, recycling, food sustainability and water management.

Other major themes that emerged concerned the clear labelling of foodstuffs with both sustainability and nutrition scores and the importance of shortening food supply chains (both in terms of reducing transport-related emissions and increasing support for local producers).

SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The transport infrastructure should be upgraded, especially in rural areas.
- The cost of public transport should be lowered through incentives and subsidies.
- Integrated ticketing for multi-modal transport should be extended.
- More transportation by rail and on water should be offered.
- Working from home should be extended as an additional measure to lower traffic in cities.


CRITICAL ELEMENTS TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION

- The divide between rural and urban citizens is still strong; rural citizens feel they cannot afford to stop using their cars because of a lack of viable alternatives.
- There is scepticism towards e-mobility due to issues of e-waste and cost.
- Geography and climate play a role in the discussions on short-distance mobility
- Most suggestions for sustainable transport concern the competence of local, regional, and national governments: coordination on citizens' input across all levels of government in the EU will be necessary for a just transition in this area.

“ *‘Bicycle garages, changing rooms and showers at the workplace’ (Short-distance mobility); ‘Create a quota for the number of flights a person can take per year, and a market for exchanging the right to fly’ (Longer-distance mobility) - Ideas from Peer Parliaments* ”

On the issue of short-distance mobility, **Peer Parliaments** showed that citizens want better infrastructure and lower prices. They called for more affordable and convenient urban public transport with real-time transport updates as well as for 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. They want safer walkways and a higher number of pedestrianised areas, as well as for sustainable modes of transport (such as electric vehicles) to be made more affordable over short distances.

When it comes 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 also 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 vehicles and economic activities. Lastly, many citizens also demanded 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.



“Urban planning should allow citizens to follow the 15-minute rule: everything a citizen needs should be in a 15-minute walking or cycling distance, including groceries, office space, schools and kindergartens. This would eliminate the need for a personal car and increase the use of public transport.’ (Citizens’ Panel – Estonia) ”

On the topic of smart and efficient mobility, **Citizens’ Panels** showed the greatest cleavage between urban and rural dwellers. Overall there was consensus among city dwellers, regardless of their country, on increasing the use of public transport and not owning a car. This, however, was not seen as possible for most suburban and rural inhabitants due to a lack of viable alternatives. Ageing or insufficient infrastructure increased the sense of car dependency and the overall feeling of insecurity that participants had about using public transport.

Additionally, this was the topic where the citizens were more sceptical of certain benefits presented by current climate policy. For instance, the reclassification of Diesel fuel as ‘highly dangerous for the environment’ was pointed out as one of the many contradictions from the authorities, who had previously supported diesel use. This made them less prone to welcome e-mobility, for instance, and many discussions were centred on the fact that e-batteries are not recyclable.

The most common topics discussed were:

- **Improving public transport**, especially at night and in rural areas. In all countries, there was a perceived lack of proper planning from the authorities, for example with many buses running empty because of their non-adapted schedule. A return to a more flexible system of ‘minivans’ was sought, as well as the electrification of existing infrastructure. Participants in several countries proposed a more integrated transport with single national ticketing, as modelled by the Netherlands.
- **Infrastructure** was highly debated, too, with discussions ranging from the lack of charging stations for e-vehicles to missing Park and Ride stations. The state of railways was discussed, with an overwhelming desire for them to once again become predominant as a mode of transport.
- Although not directly related to mobility per se, but with strong effects on mobility, the third most discussed topic was **working from home**, which the panels wanted to see become more widespread. Less commuting can lead to less (and smarter) mobility and, therefore, is a more sustainable choice, one of the few win-wins for citizens.

Other topics discussed were car-sharing and car-pooling, the need for **funding, subsidies and incentives** to achieve green mobility, and issues related to **integrated and sustainable mobility** (from long-range to the last mile).

3 CONCLUSIONS

Both the **Peer Parliaments** and the **Citizens' Panels** showed that Europeans want to contribute to the fight against climate change and want to play their role in climate action. However, it also became clear that they need guidance and demand funding from governmental institutions on different levels to make this happen in an effective and fair way. The two processes have also shown how different forms of citizen engagement and deliberation can inform policymakers about public preferences. Through thoughtful discussion 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.

Both formats also have unique value on their own. On the one hand, the strength of Peer Parliaments lies with the familiar debate environment, the low costs, the high number of participants and the multiplier effects of a bottom-up process. On the other hand, Citizens' Panels are strong in involving representative samples of citizens that include people from very different backgrounds, which makes them ideal formats to show where 'common ground' solutions in society can be found. It is exactly the combination of such different formats that can prove vital to inform policymakers and engage citizens in tackling climate change. While citizens want to make their voices heard, policymakers need to design policy solutions that enjoy societal buy-in and ownership across citizens.

For both processes, citizens also had the chance to provide feedback on the format. For the Peer Parliaments, participants expressed enthusiasm about the stimulating discussions, the creativity for new ideas 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. Lastly, they also expressed their satisfaction that they could submit their outputs directly to the European Commission, connected to their hope of being heard and having an influence on policymaking. These findings are reinforced by results of surveys conducted at the end of the Citizens' Panels, which show that participants were highly engaged in the deliberation. They believe the results achieved will be of use to legislators and expressed an overwhelming desire (98%) for such deliberative processes to continue at the EU level for this and other topics.

ANNEX

SOME VALUABLE IDEAS SUBMITTED BY EUROPEAN CITIZENS, BY TOPIC

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

- Involvement and dialogue with local stakeholders and citizens in the development of transition plans. (Peer Parliaments and Citizens' Panels)
- Protection measures for non-European workers who are employed in the extraction of rare metals needed for renewable energies. (Peer Parliaments)
- Reduce the income gap across society and shift from a global and industrial perspective to one that is more local, with a focus on crafts and small-scale work. (Peer Parliaments)
- Energy, like water, must be seen as a necessity, provided from a public-service perspective and guaranteed by governments as a basic right. (Peer Parliaments)
- Placing limits on energy consumption would prevent excessive consumption by high earners, given that fines are clearly insufficient. (Peer Parliaments)
- Make legislation easier and offer financial support for cohabiting & owning or renting shared spaces (Citizens' Panels)
- Visit model energy-efficient buildings to motivate retrofitting (Citizens' Panels)



SUSTAINABLE FOOD AND CONSUMPTION

- Introduce eco-vouchers for purchasing sustainable products to educate the public on better practices and encourage green consumer habits (Peer Parliaments)
- A unified system that rates all products based on their environmental impact could be introduced at the EU or global level and advertised to consumers (Peer Parliaments and Citizens' Panels)
- Regulate advertising: fewer consumerist commercials and adverts (Peer Parliaments)
- Right to repair (Peer Parliaments)
- Legal prosecution of greenwashing (Peer Parliaments)
- Implementing 'ECO' tradeable and personal emission budgets as an ecological 'basic income' (Peer Parliaments)
- Making true ecological costs tangible, e.g. through a carbon currency (Peer Parliaments).
- More vertical and urban farming (Citizens' Panels)
- To avoid food waste, stop creating family-sized supermarket portions (Citizens' Panels)
- Deposit system for glasses jars, not only bottles (Citizens' Panels)
- Use big data to steer production (in farms, shops, restaurants) and help avoid food overproduction (Citizens' Panels)
- Make supermarkets responsible for the food waste they generate (Citizens' Panels)



SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY

- Introduce a quota for the number of flights a person can take per year, and a market for exchanging the right to fly (Peer Parliaments)
- Introduce environmentally friendly lanes on highways, exclusively for carpooling, electric vehicles and/or buses (Peer Parliaments and Citizens' Panels)
- More holiday days to make up for longer travel times by train (Peer Parliaments and Citizens' Panels)
- Restrict business travel, for example by improving virtual meeting technology and developing digital infrastructure (Peer Parliaments)
- Introduce a new professional role for more sustainable car fleets – the fleet sustainability manager (Citizens' Panels)
- Subsidised train tickets to make them a viable alternative to flights (Citizens' Panels)
- Making bike commuting time part of working time (Citizens' Panels)



Getting in touch with the EU

IN PERSON

All over the European Union there are hundreds of Europe Direct information centres. You can find the address of the centre nearest you at: https://europa.eu/european-union/contact_en

ON THE PHONE OR BY EMAIL

Europe Direct is a service that answers your questions about the European Union. You can contact this service:

- by freephone: 00 800 6 7 8 9 10 11 (certain operators may charge for these calls),
- at the following standard number: +32 22999696, or
- by email via: https://europa.eu/european-union/contact_en

Finding information about the EU

ONLINE

Information about the European Union in all the official languages of the EU is available on the Europa website at: https://europa.eu/european-union/index_en

EU PUBLICATIONS

You can download or order free and priced EU publications from: <https://op.europa.eu/en/publications>. Multiple copies of free publications may be obtained by contacting Europe Direct or your local information centre (see https://europa.eu/european-union/contact_en).

EU LAW AND RELATED DOCUMENTS

For access to legal information from the EU, including all EU law since 1952 in all the official language versions, go to EUR-Lex at: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu>

OPEN DATA FROM THE EU

The EU Open Data Portal (<http://data.europa.eu/euodp/en>) provides access to datasets from the EU. Data can be downloaded and reused for free, for both commercial and non-commercial purposes.

This short report contains the proceedings and results of two participatory initiatives in the context of the Conference on the Future of Europe (CoFoE). Both projects run between November 2021 and March 2022 and engaged citizens in EU climate action and explored their views and demands for the climate future of Europe: the Peer Parliaments of the European Climate Pact, managed by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Climate Action (DG CLIMA) and the Citizens' Panels of the support action under the Green Deal Call for R&I 'Support to the engagement of European Citizens in the transition to the European Green Deal (EGD)', led by the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD).

Studies and reports

