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## Europeans Consider Climate Action a Priority and Strongly Support Energy Independence

**Key policies:** *European Green Deal, European Climate Law, EU Climate Neutrality Objective 2050, EU 2030 Climate and Energy Targets, Clean Industrial Deal, Affordable Energy Action Plan, National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs), Fit for 55 package, EU Climate Adaptation Policy Framework*

A large majority of Europeans consider **climate change a serious problem** and support decisive action at EU level, according to a new **Eurobarometer survey** published by the **European Commission**.

The findings underline strong public backing for the EU's climate and energy agenda, including climate neutrality, renewable energy, energy efficiency and greater energy independence.

### Strong public concern and support for climate neutrality

According to the survey, **85% of Europeans** believe that climate change is a serious problem. More than **eight in ten respondents (81%)** support the EU-wide objective of achieving **climate neutrality by 2050**.

From an economic perspective, public opinion also clearly favours climate action. **77% of Europeans** agree that the **cost of damage caused by climate change far exceeds the investment required for a net-zero transition**, reinforcing the case for early and sustained action.

### Climate action as a driver of health and quality of life

The survey highlights that climate action is not only seen as an environmental issue, but also as a matter of **public health and well-being**:

- **85%** agree that tackling climate change should be a priority to improve health and quality of life
- **83%** believe that better preparation for climate impacts will improve the lives of EU citizens

Climate change is also increasingly experienced at a personal level. On average, **38% of Europeans** feel personally exposed to environmental and climate-related risks. In eight Member States — particularly in Southern Europe, as well as **Poland and Hungary** — this share exceeds **50%**.

### Broad support for renewables, efficiency and energy autonomy

Public support for the energy transition remains very strong:

- **88%** support EU action to increase the use of **renewable energy**
- **88%** support measures to improve **energy efficiency**, such as home insulation, solar panels and electric vehicles
- **75%** believe that reducing fossil fuel imports will **increase energy security** and benefit the EU economy

Climate action is also widely seen as an engine of innovation. **77%** of respondents agree that acting on climate change fosters innovation, while **84%** support increased assistance for European companies to compete in the global clean technology market — a clear endorsement of initiatives such as the **Clean Industrial Deal**.

### Individual action, but expectations for systemic change

While **92% of EU citizens** report taking individual climate-friendly actions in their daily lives, respondents recognise that systemic change is essential.

When asked who is best placed to tackle climate change:

- **66%** point to **national governments**
- **59%** to the **EU**
- **58%** to **business and industry**
- **44%** to **regional and local authorities**

Only **28%** believe that individual actions alone are sufficient, highlighting strong public expectations for coordinated policy and structural reform.

### Climate information and trust challenges

The survey also identifies challenges in climate communication:

- **52%** believe that traditional media do not provide clear information on climate change and its impacts
- **49%** find it difficult to distinguish reliable information from disinformation on social media

Despite this, **84%** of respondents agree that climate change is caused by human activity.

### Background

**Special Eurobarometer 565 on Climate Change** surveyed **26,319 citizens** across all **27 EU Member States** between **18 February and 10 March 2025**. Interviews were conducted face-to-face, either in person or via remote video.

The EU continues to strengthen one of the world's most comprehensive climate policy frameworks, with **binding 2030 targets** and a legally enshrined objective of **climate neutrality by 2050**. Recent Commission assessments of updated **National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs)** show increased ambition and clearer national pathways.

New initiatives such as the **Clean Industrial Deal** and the **Affordable Energy Action Plan** are reinforcing Europe's competitiveness, innovation capacity and energy security, while preparations are underway to amend the **European Climate Law** with an ambitious **2040 target** and to present a new **EU Climate Adaptation Plan**.

Source: [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_25\\_1376](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_1376)