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Open Public Consultation on the European Climate Pact, within the European Green Deal

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

Introduction

The European Green Deal sets out how to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050, boosting the economy, improving people's health and quality of life, caring for nature, and leaving no one behind.

The transition to a society which is climate-neutral (i.e. does not produce more greenhouse gases than it absorbs) and protects the environment is both an urgent challenge and an opportunity to build a better future for all. It is about people and their daily lives: how we produce and consume, use transport, work and live together. Alongside government policies and regulation, there is a role to play for citizens, communities and organisations in all sectors of our society and economy.

To this end, as part of the Green Deal, the Commission will launch a European Climate Pact to give citizens and stakeholders from all parts of society a voice and role in designing new climate actions, sharing information, launching grassroots activities and showcasing solutions that others can follow. Please note that ‘climate action’ refers to all actions to address climate change, environmental degradation and sustainability at large

The European Climate Pact aims to inform, inspire and foster cooperation between people and organisations ranging from national, regional and local authorities to businesses, unions, civil society organisations, education organisations, consumer groups, research and innovation organisations, as well as individual citizens, including youth.

We are not starting from scratch. The European Climate Pact will build on and facilitate existing activities as well as trigger and embrace new ones, acting as an ‘umbrella’ initiative offering opportunities for learning, exchange, co-creation and collaboration.

The European Climate Pact will encourage broad societal engagement on the road to climate-neutrality by:

1. *Talking about climate change.* Through communication activities and events, and by using multiple channels and tools, the Pact will raise awareness and build understanding of climate change based on reliable scientific evidence, inspire people and organisations to become involved and encourage sustainable behaviours.

2. *Triggering action.* The Pact will encourage people and organisations to commit to concrete climate-friendly actions, designed to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and/or adapt to the inevitable climate change impacts. The Commission will promote pledges (public commitments around climate change-related actions) and support relevant initiatives with knowledge/capacity-building, to boost their impact, and inspire further action across Europe and globally.

   In selected areas, the Commission could provide targeted support. In the first instance, this could focus on three areas, namely: 1) energy efficiency of buildings, e.g. stimulating advisory services, facilitating smart financing and assisting local authorities; 2) low-carbon mobility, e.g. supporting cities and towns with knowledge, raising awareness, and possibly targeted financial support for sustainable urban mobility plans; and 3) initiatives for tree-planting, nature regeneration and urban green areas.

3. *Working together.* The Pact will provide opportunities for communication, learning and networking, online and offline. It will help to bring together people and organisations to share ideas and experience, and work together on climate. Direct citizen consultations could be organised on climate issues, using formats such as citizen dialogues, citizen assemblies, and more. As appropriate, these platforms will link to existing initiatives, such as the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy or "CITIZENV" dialogues with young people across Europe.

Guidance on the questionnaire

Thank you for taking part in this consultation.

We want to hear your views on how to make the European Climate Pact as effective, inclusive and ambitious as possible. Share with us your ideas, advice or practical examples related to the activities proposed by us, existing activities you know of or are already involved in, and possible new activities.

All replies to the questionnaire as well as position papers and policy briefs will be published online. Please read the privacy statement on how personal data and contributions will be processed.

Following some introductory questions about yourself, the questionnaire continues with questions about the European Climate Pact. The estimated time for completion is 25 minutes. The questions cover the following topics:

1. Talking about climate change and environmental crisis: Awareness and information
2. Triggering action: pledges and initiatives
3. Working together: platforms
4. Ideas and suggestions for further development
5. Your climate actions and interest in the Pact

About you

* Language of my contribution

English

* I am giving my contribution as

Non-governmental organisation (NGO)

* Scope

International

* First name

Marie

* Surname

DENNINGHAUS

* Email (this will not be published)

marie.denninghaus@edf-feph.org

* Organisation name

255 character(s) maximum

European Disability Forum

* Organisation size

Small (10 to 49 employees)

Transparency register number

255 character(s) maximum

Check if your organisation is on the transparency register. It's a voluntary database for organisations seeking to influence EU decision-making.

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* Country of origin

Please add your country of origin, or that of your organisation.

Belgium

Please indicate the sector you are active in

As an individual or as an organisation.

- [ ] Agriculture, Hunting and Forestry
- [ ] Financial Intermediation
- [ ] Fishing
- [ ] Real Estate, Renting and Business Activities
- [ ] Mining and Quarrying
- [ ] Public Administration and Defence;

- [ ] Manufacturing
- [ ] Education/training
- [ ] Research and innovation
- [ ] Electricity, Gas and Water Supply
- [ ] Health and Social Work
- [ ] Construction
- [ ] Other Community, Social and Personal Services
- [ ] Wholesale and Retail Trade
- [ ] Activities of Private Households as Employers
- [ ] Hotels and Restaurants
- [ ] Extraterritorial Organisations and Bodies
- [ ] Transport, Storage and Communications
- [ ] Consumers association
- [x] Other

* Please specify

300 character(s) maximum

Disability rights/ Human rights

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* Publication privacy settings

The Commission will publish the responses to this public consultation. You can choose whether you would like your details to be made public or to remain anonymous.

- ( ) **Anonymous**
  Only your type of respondent, country of origin and contribution will be published. All other personal details (name, organisation name and size, transparency register number) will not be published.
- (•) **Public**
  Your personal details (name, organisation name and size, transparency register number, country of origin) will be published with your contribution.

- [x] I agree with the personal data protection provisions

Questions

1 - Talking about climate change and environmental crisis: awareness and information

The European Climate Pact aims to increase awareness and understanding of climate change, and explore ways in which European citizens and all types of organisations can take climate action.

What **information** would be useful for you or your organisation under the European Climate Pact?

at most 4 choice(s)

Please choose the four types that are the most relevant for you.

- [ ] Climate change and environmental crises and their impacts

- [ ] Climate change and environmental policies and action
- [ ] Concrete actions that I or my organisation can take to become more climate-friendly
- [ ] Advice and support that are available to help me or my organisation to take action
- [ ] Support available to cope with the effects of mitigation measures (e.g. closures of coal mines, increases in fuel/energy prices)
- [ ] The costs of (in-)action and its social impacts
- [ ] Information on climate risks (e.g. consequences on the food chain, water availability, health…) and ways and means to prepare for those
- [ ] Support available to cope with the effects of climate change
- [ ] What others are doing (e.g. individual actions, collective initiatives)
- [ ] How to identify false or misleading information and how to best engage with sources that spread reliable information, e.g. via online social media or in my social network.
- [ ] Other

What would be your preferred **sources** for information about climate change and how you can take action?

at most 4 choice(s)

Please choose the four most relevant sources for you.

- [ ] Scientists/experts/think tanks
- [ ] National authorities
- [ ] Regional and/or Local authorities
- [ ] EU institutions/International organisations
- [ ] Businesses
- [ ] Universities/Schools
- [ ] Civil society organisations/climate activists
- [ ] Youth organisations
- [ ] Celebrities/Influencers/Family and friends, people I know
- [ ] “Climate Pact” ambassadors in various sections of the society
- [ ] Other

What **channels and tools** would you find useful for awareness raising under the European Climate Pact?

at most 4 choice(s)

Please choose the four most relevant for you.

- [ ] Websites
- [ ] Social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Youtube)
- [ ] Traditional media (e.g. newspapers, television, radio)
- [ ] Advertising
- [ ] Games/serious games/interactive platforms/apps
- [ ] EU-level events
- [ ] National, regional events
- [ ] Local events
- [ ]

- [ ] Conversations with citizens on specific policy topics (citizens' dialogues /assemblies)
- [ ] Grassroots initiatives
- [ ] Educational programmes at schools
- [ ] Creative events/films
- [ ] Local helpdesks for consultancy and practical advice
- [ ] Other

What types of **face-to-face events** would you find interesting to attend?

at most 4 choice(s)

Please choose the four most relevant for you.

- [ ] Large events
- [ ] Workshops on specific topics or initiatives (Citizens' dialogues, training sessions)
- [ ] Participatory sessions, think tank events
- [ ] Networking events, opportunities to meet like-minded people
- [ ] Theatre, libraries and museum events
- [ ] Local meetings in my neighbourhood with family, friends
- [ ] Other
- [ ] Not interested

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2 - Triggering action: pledges and initiatives

We can only halt climate change if we act together. Therefore, the European Climate Pact encourages individuals, organisations and institutions to commit to specific climate action goals by making pledges that go beyond legislation goals.

For example, individuals could pledge to start or increase a climate-friendly behaviour (such as using public transport more or cycling/walking, insulating their home and installing solar panels, consuming locally/more plant-based food). Individuals could also pledge to call for governmental action (e.g. to increase public transport in cities, to maintain/create green areas).

Organisations could pledge to implement measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions or prepare for the impacts of climate change. For example, a Business could pledge to switch to 100% renewable energy or reduce the emissions from its operations by a specific amount and within a given timeframe. Financial institutions could pledge to transition their activities increasingly towards sustainable finance.

* Would you or your organisation be **prepared to pledge** concrete climate action under the European Climate Pact?

- [ ] Yes, I have already made a climate action commitment and would be interested in building on it
- [ ] Yes, I am already considering making a climate action commitment and would be interested in engaging in this aspect
- [x] Yes, but I would need information or non-financial support to take action (e. g. guidance, good practices).
- [ ] Yes, but I would need help to gather wider support and acceptance.

- [ ] Yes, but I would need financial support.
- [ ] Yes, but I would need …
- [ ] No, I am not interested in contributing to the Pact.
- [ ] No, I am not interested in engaging in climate action.
- [ ] Do not know.
- [ ] Other

* What would you see as the main advantages of making a pledge?
- [ ] Motivation to take action by having a goal
- [ ] Accountability for my actions by making my pledge public
- [ ] Recognition for my actions by being part of the Pact
- [ ] More business opportunities as a result of commitments to sustainability
- [ ] Being part of a community of pledgers, connecting with others, sharing experience
- [x] Lead by example, motivate others around me to do the same
- [x] Other

* Please specify

300 character(s) maximum

Ensure that disability issues are also understood in connection with climate change and improved sustainability and that they are not two separate things.

What **themes** could you see your pledge addressing?
- [x] Business/organisational transformation (for organisation)/Wide-ranging change in personal behaviour (for individual: –e.g. daily consumption-changing food or household habits-)
- [x] Transport, mobility
- [x] Energy efficiency (e.g. buying products with the most efficient energy label, insulating buildings)
- [ ] Renewable energy usage/generation (e.g. installing solar panels, heat pumps, procuring renewable energy)
- [ ] Water management
- [x] Circular economy: less waste (e.g. through less packaging or eco-design), re-use, recycling, waste management
- [ ] Local/sustainably produced/plant-based food
- [ ] Increasing green and biodiverse areas, afforestation
- [x] Developing knowledge and skills for the transition to a climate-neutral society
- [ ] Other

As explained in the introductory section, initially, the European Climate Pact could offer targeted support (e.g. awareness-raising, advice, possibly funding) in **three areas**: energy efficiency in buildings, low-carbon mobility in cities, as well as planting trees and creating urban green areas. Further areas could be added later. In which of these areas would you like to participate?
- [x] Energy efficiency in buildings

- [x] Low-carbon mobility in cities
- [ ] Planting trees/green urban areas
- [ ] Other
- [ ] None of the above

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3 - Working together: platforms

The European Climate Pact will facilitate collaboration and networking, providing a platform for citizens to express their ideas and work together on ambitious climate action. The Pact's website will be its central online hub.

* What would you find useful under this **platform**?
- [ ] Listing of relevant events (in my country/field of work)
- [ ] Online events (e.g. webstreamed events, webinars, Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), trainings)
- [ ] Links to connect with like-minded people and organisations
- [ ] Links to other relevant platforms and initiatives
- [x] Other

* Please specify

300 character(s) maximum

Input to policy actions

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* What do you consider as **useful for more collaboration** between individuals or organisations?

at most 4 choice(s)

Please choose the four options that are the most relevant for you.

- [ ] Opportunities for online/face-to-face contacts and exchange (networking)
- [ ] 'Matchmaking' between organisations or initiatives
- [ ] Support for grassroots and other relevant initiatives/activists in local communities
- [x] Support for collaboration initiatives and projects (e.g. access to funding, capacity building, etc.)
- [ ] Trainings on climate change problems and collaborative solutions
- [ ] Harmonised reporting and monitoring for climate action initiatives
- [ ] Other

As much as possible, the European Climate Pact will build on initiatives that already exist and that are run by citizens, businesses, public institutions, schools, and others. In your view, what is the best way to **promote and support** these kinds of **initiatives** and to link them more closely with climate action under the European Green Deal?

at most 4 choice(s)

- [ ] Provide material support (e.g. financing, capacity building, etc.)

- [ ] Provide non-material support (e.g. recognition, praise, greater visibility, etc.)
- [ ] Facilitate bottom-up networking among institutions, organisations or individual citizens themselves
- [x] Establish connections with specific policy areas and processes, providing spaces for consultation and co-deliberation (for example, in the context of the research missions or the public-private partnerships under the Horizon Europe research and innovation framework programme)
- [x] Create a more favourable environment for the activities of these initiatives, including by removing cultural, political, governance or other obstacles
- [x] Other

* Please specify

300 character(s) maximum

Ensuring that all those initiatives are inclusive for everyone, including persons with disabilites. This also means that all activities should be accessible (websites, communication, events, publications....) to ensure participation on an equal basis with others.

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4 - Ideas and suggestions for further development

The European Climate Pact will build as much as possible on existing initiatives to engage the public and all stakeholders in climate action.

* How do you believe the Pact can best **complement or scale-up existing initiatives** and add value? Please refer to the specific initiatives you have in mind (maximum two initiatives)

400 character(s) maximum

The Commission needs to ensure coherence between its own policies and initiatives so all DGs should be involved, as well as a maximum of stakeholders. Bridges need to be built to allow for exchange of information between the different Commission services and broad consultation has to be ensured. Disability is a cross-cutting issue, for example, and should be addressed in all actions.

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* What would be the most important **characteristics** of the Climate Pact for you?
- [x] Ambition
- [x] Transparency
- [x] Inclusiveness
- [x] Participation
- [ ] Other

If you are aware of or involved in any **initiatives that could be potentially interested** in joining the Pact, please provide their name and a brief description below, including web links and contact information where applicable (maximum two initiatives)

300 character(s) maximum

EDF has recently adopted a position paper on the EU Green Deal which contains further information on good practice examples and recommended policy actions: http://www.edf-feph.org/sites/default/files /edf_positionpaper_inclusivegreendeal_2020.pdf#overlay-context=positions-papers-2020

The involvement of '**ambassadors**' at various levels and from different backgrounds could help increase the effectiveness and success of the European Climate Pact. In your opinion, what type of 'ambassadors' could contribute to the Pact (e.g. profile, field of expertise)?

at most 4 choice(s)

Please choose the four most relevant types for you.

- [ ] Scientists, experts
- [ ] Business people, entrepreneurs
- [ ] Politicians
- [ ] Celebrities
- [ ] Artists
- [ ] Sportsmen/sportswomen
- [ ] Media, journalists
- [ ] Social media influencers
- [ ] Climate or environmental activists
- [ ] Youth
- [ ] Students
- [ ] Climate Pact ambassadors/focal points in all sectors of the economy
- [ ] Teachers
- [ ] People active in the local community
- [ ] Education and training professionals
- [x] Other

* Please specify

300 character(s) maximum

Persons with disabilities

Would you be interested in becoming an 'ambassador' for the European Climate Pact in your community or sphere of influence?

- ( ) Yes
- ( ) No
- (•) Don't know

Joint green procurement is a concept where organisations collectively invest in climate-friendly options to obtain better offers from goods or service providers (for example electric buses, solar panels, sustainably produced goods).

Would you like joint green procurement to be further encouraged and developed in the EU? If so, you can elaborate on possible ways forward

- ( ) Yes

- ○ No
- ◉ Do not know

Would you like your local authority to further participate in and facilitate joint green procurement for its citizens and stakeholders?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Do not know

The Climate Pact will include a **monitoring, reporting and evaluation system** on the implementation of the pledges collected, to encourage transparency, accountability, learning from experience and results. In your opinion, which approach will be the most suitable?

Please select your preferred option(s).

- ☐ Use existing monitoring and reporting systems from an independent body (e. g. for cities, towns and regions, the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy)
- ☐ Adapt reporting requirements and verification methods to participants' emissions/pollution level, to be accomplished by an independent body (i.e. stricter reporting requirements for organisations with larger impact on climate)
- ☐ Light reporting and verification methods for all participants, to be accomplished by an independent body
- ☑ Deep reporting and verification methods for all participants, to be accomplished by an independent body
- ☐ Sample verification methods for all participants, to be accomplished by an independent body
- ☐ Self- or community-monitoring by participants
- ☐ Other

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* The European Climate Pact will develop and grow over time. Do you have suggestions for **additional functions** the Pact should provide or topics it should address (maximum two suggestions)?

300 character(s) maximum

> The Pact should ensure coherence and coordination between different EU policy areas. For example if citizens are encouraged to use more sustainable transport, this transport has to be also affordable and accessible for persons with disabilities.

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5 - Your climate actions and interest in the Pact

The Pact aims to bring about **social and behavioural change** of Europe's citizens, businesses and other organisations with regard to climate change.

In your view, **how climate-friendly** are you or your organisation now?

Scale from 1 (not at all climate-friendly) to 4 (very climate-friendly)

- ○ 1. Not at all climate-friendly
- ○ 2. Not so climate-friendly
- ○ 3. Quite climate-friendly
- ○ 4. Very climate-friendly
- ○ Do not know

In your view, to what extent could you or your organisation **become more climate-friendly**?

Scale from 1 (very little) to 4 (very much)

- ○ 1. Very little opportunities to become more climate-friendly
- ○ 2. Little opportunities to become more climate-friendly
- ○ 3. Some opportunities to become more climate-friendly
- ○ 4. Many opportunities to become more climate-friendly
- ○ Do not know

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* **What would help you** or your organisation to take more climate action/become more climate-friendly?

at most 4 choice(s)

- ☐ More information of climate and environmental footprints
- ☐ Greater knowledge on what I or my organisation can do to take climate action
- ☐ Stricter laws, regulation and enforcement
- ☐ More appropriate infrastructures facilitating climate-friendly behaviours
- ☐ Connecting with others engaged or interested in climate action
- ☐ Seeing more people in my social network/similar organisations engage in climate action
- ☐ Concrete support (including financial) or incentives to adopt more climate-friendly behaviours or practices
- ☐ Moral (non-material) incentives, e.g. recognition, praise by others
- ☐ Nothing, I do not plan to change
- ☑ Do not know
- ☐ Other

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* Would you be interested in **taking part in the European Climate Pact**?

- ○ Yes, as an individual citizen
- ◉ Yes, as an organisation
- ○ No
- ○ Do not know

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* In your opinion, which types of **activities** under the European Climate Pact would have the biggest impact in society?

at most 4 choice(s)

Please choose the four types that are the most relevant for you.

- ☐ Awareness-raising on climate change and its impacts

- [ ] Educational, training and learning material
- [ ] Practical tips and consumer-friendly tools for assessing footprints and taking climate action
- [ ] Facilitating the exchange of experiences and best practice
- [ ] Facilitating bottom-up collaboration and action between people, organisations and initiatives
- [ ] Stimulating and recording voluntary commitments to climate action
- [ ] Practical (material) support to grassroots initiatives (e.g. capacity-building, access to funding)
- [ ] Non-material incentives, e.g. nudging, naming and shaming
- [x] Other

* Please specify

300 character(s) maximum

Concrete changes in policy and including stakeholders in to the decision-making procedure, including persons with disabilities.

Thank you for participating in this public consultation. Your views, ideas and suggestions are valuable to us. All replies will be analysed and receive due consideration. We will prepare a written summary of the results and explain how the consultation influenced the final design of the European Climate Pact. We will publish this summary online, together with any position papers and policy briefs as well as an explanation on how the European Commission has followed up on your proposals. Please stay informed by consulting the website of the European Commission: https://ec.europa.eu/info/index_en

Contact

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