26,669 interviews
15 / 03 > 14 / 04 / 2021

1,034 interviews
24 / 03 > 10 / 04 / 2021

Methodology: online

Special Eurobarometer 513

Climate Change

BELGIUM

March-April 2021

1. COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

A quarter of respondents in Belgium (25%, above the EU average of 18%) consider climate change to be the single most serious problem facing the world. Climate change ranks first in Belgium in this survey, while it was perceived as the second most serious problem facing the world in 2019. In addition, more than eight in ten respondents (82% vs the EU average of 78%) think that climate change is a very serious problem, an increase of nine percentage points since 2019.

Close to seven in ten respondents in Belgium believe that the European Union is responsible for tackling climate change (69%, above the EU average of 57%), ahead of national governments (60%, compared with 63% in the EU as a whole). However, 41% (equal to the EU average) say they are personally responsible for tackling climate change. In addition, more than six in ten respondents say they have taken action to fight climate change in the past six months (62%, compared with the EU average of 64%), and this proportion increases to 100% (above the EU average of 96%) when asked to choose from a list of 15 possible actions to fight climate change.

Respondents in Belgium are more likely to have installed solar panels in their home (26% vs the EU average of 8%), to consider the carbon footprint of their food purchases and sometimes adapt their shopping accordingly (33% vs the EU average of 16%), to make lower energy consumption an important factor in their choice when buying a new household appliance (57% vs the EU average of 42%) and to have switched to an energy supplier that offers a greater share of energy from renewable sources than their previous one (25% vs the EU average of 10%).

Close to nine in ten respondents in Belgium agree that tackling climate change and environmental issues should be a priority to improve public health (89%, compared with 87% in the EU as a whole). In addition, more than eight in ten respondents agree that the cost of the damage due to climate change is much higher than the investment needed for a green transition (83%, above the EU average of 74%).

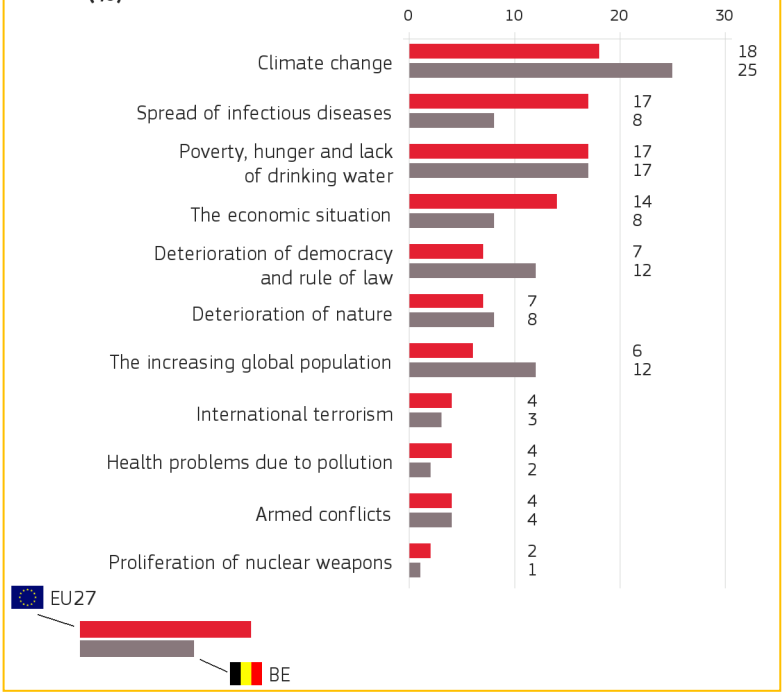
More than nine in ten respondents in Belgium think it is important that both their national government (92% vs the EU average of 88%) and the European Union (92% vs the EU average of 87%) set ambitious targets to increase the amount of renewable energy used by 2030.

Over nine in ten respondents in Belgium (93% vs the EU average of 90%) agree that greenhouse gas emissions should be reduced to a minimum while offsetting the remaining emissions in order to make the EU economy climate-neutral by 2050. Moreover, nearly nine in ten respondents (87%, above the EU average of 75%) think that the money from the economic recovery plan should mainly be invested in the new green economy.

2. EUROPEAN PERCEPTIONS OF CLIMATE CHANGE 1/2

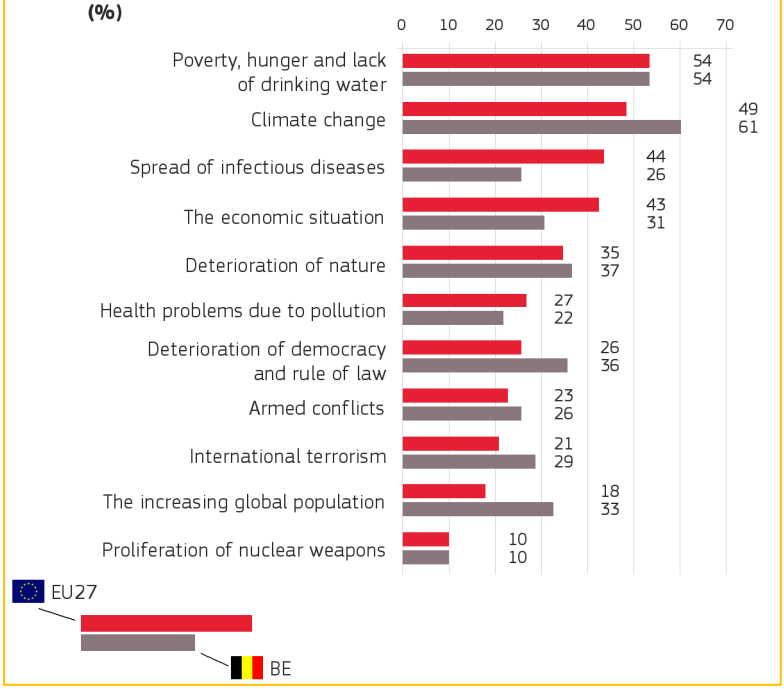
QB1a Which of the following do you consider to be the single most serious problem facing the world as a whole?

(%)



QB1T Which of the following do you consider to be the single most serious problem facing the world as a whole? Which others do you consider to be serious problems? (MAX. 4 ANSWERS)

(%)



More information can be found at:
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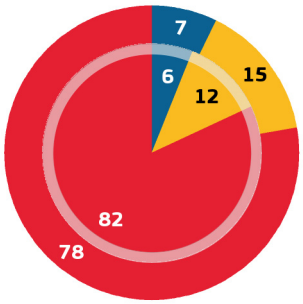
2. EUROPEAN PERCEPTIONS OF CLIMATE CHANGE 2/2

QB2 And how serious a problem do you think climate change is at this moment? Please use a scale from 1 to 10, with '1' meaning it is "not at all a serious problem" and '10' meaning it is "an extremely serious problem".

(%)

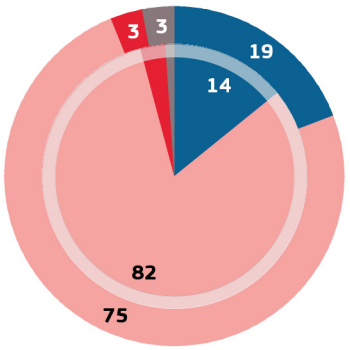


EU27 Outer pie BE Inner pie

	EU27		BE	
	2021	2021-2019	2021	2021-2019
Total 'Not a serious problem' (1-4)	7	+ 1	6	+ 1
Total 'A fairly serious problem' (5-6)	15	+ 1	12	- 10
Total 'A very serious problem' (7-10)	78	- 1	82	+ 9
Don't know	0	- 1	0	=

QB7 Do you think that the (NATIONALITY) government is doing enough, not enough or too much to tackle climate change?

(%)



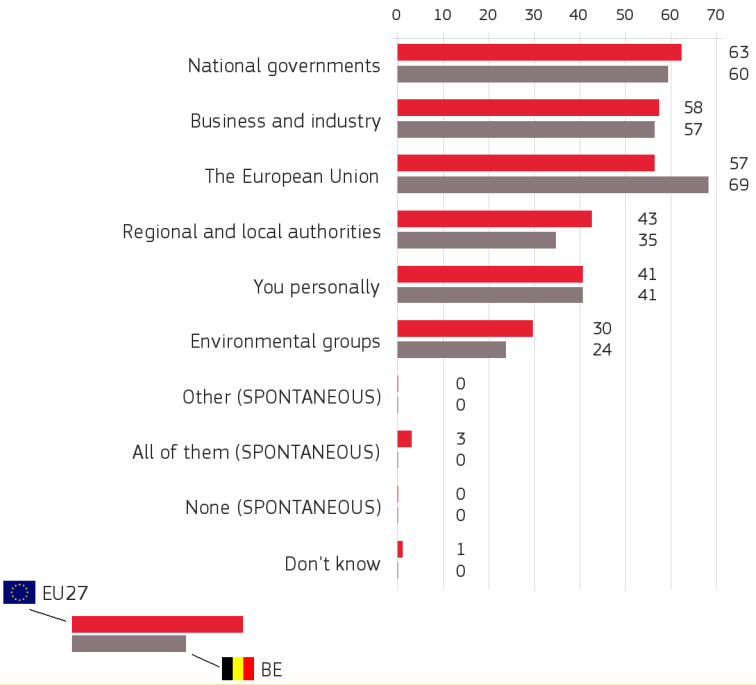
Enough
Not enough
Too much
Don't know

EU27 Outer pie BE Inner pie

3. TAKING ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE 1/2

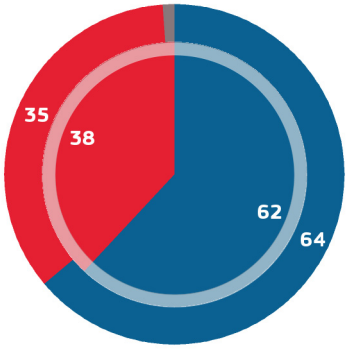
QB3 In your opinion, who within the EU is responsible for tackling climate change? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

(%)



QB5 Have you personally taken any action to fight climate change over the past six months?

(%)



EU27 Outer pie BE Inner pie

	EU27		BE	
	2021	2021-2019	2021	2021-2019
Yes	64	+ 4	62	- 1
No	35	- 2	38	+ 1
Don't know	1	- 2	0	=

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European Commission

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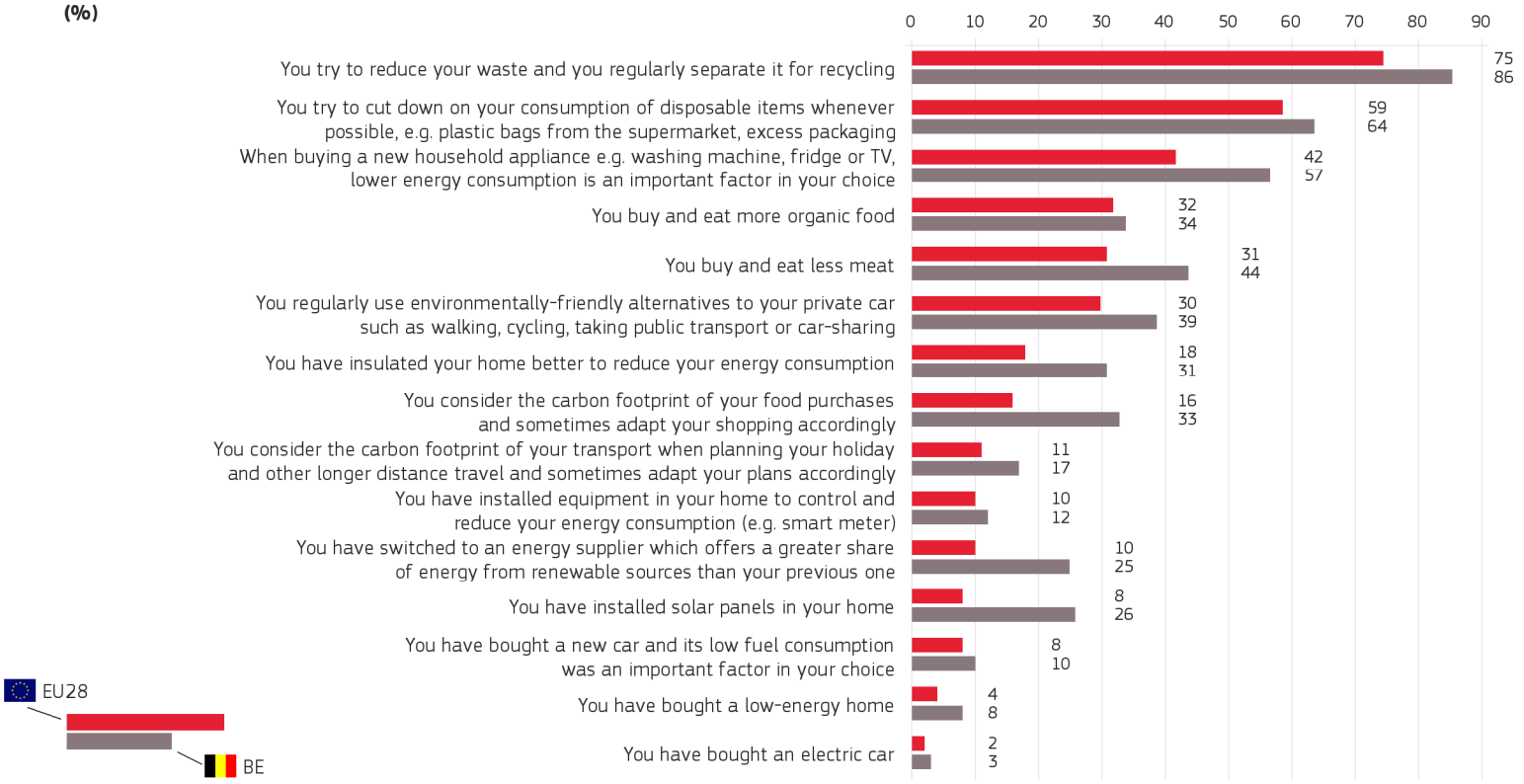
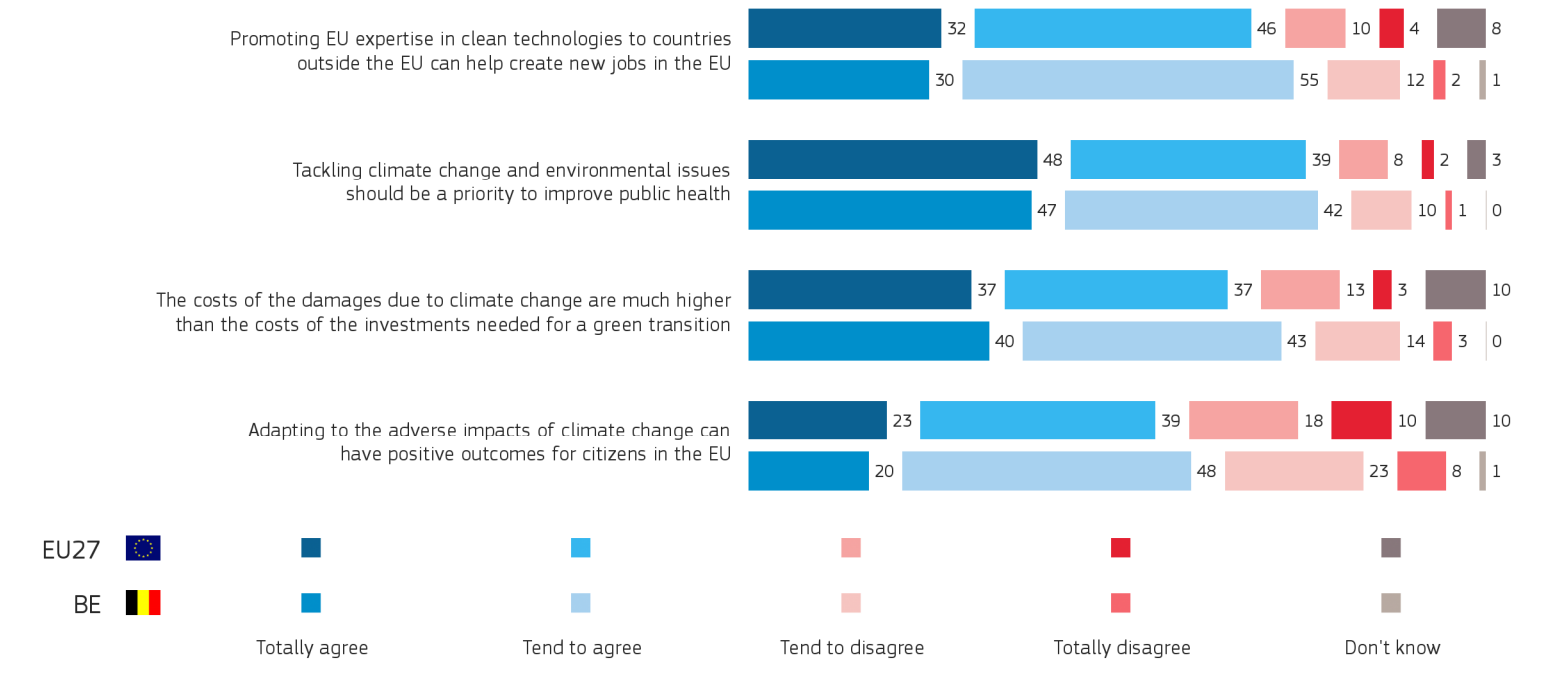
3. TAKING ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE 2/2

QB6 Which of the following actions, if any, apply to you? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)
(%)



4. ATTITUDES TO FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE

QB4 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?
(%)



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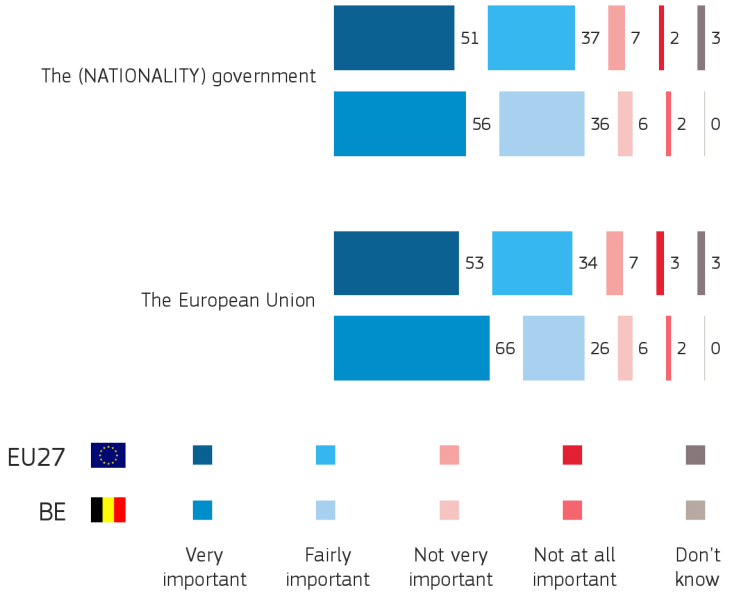
5. LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

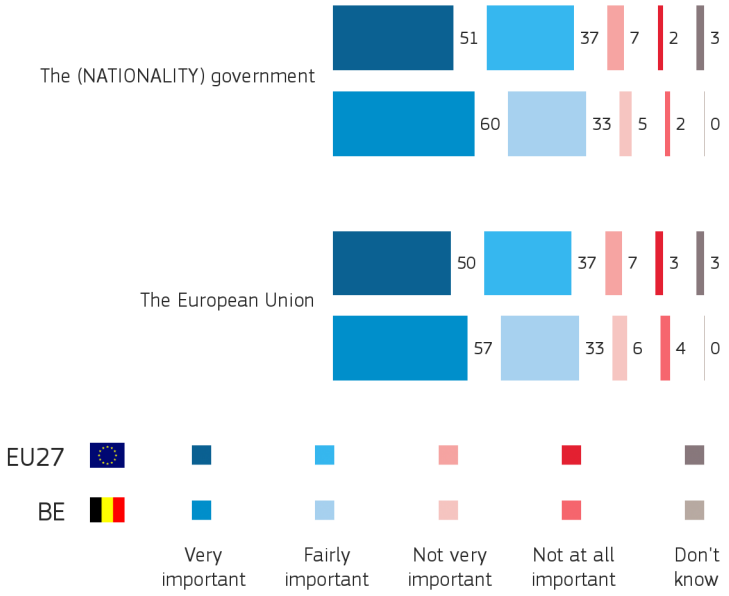
QB8 How important do you think it is that the following authorities set ambitious targets to increase the amount of renewable energy used, such as wind or solar power, by 2030?

(%)



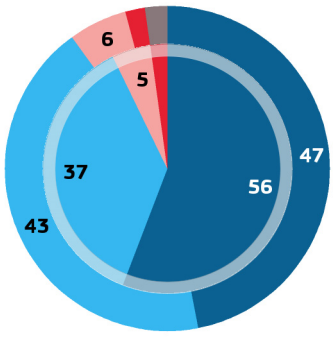
QB9 How important do you think it is that the following authorities provide support for improving energy efficiency by 2030 (e.g. by encouraging people to insulate their home, install solar panels, or buy electric cars)?

(%)



QB10 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: We should reduce greenhouse gas emissions to a minimum while offsetting the remaining emissions, for instance by increasing forested areas, to make the EU economy climate-neutral by 2050.

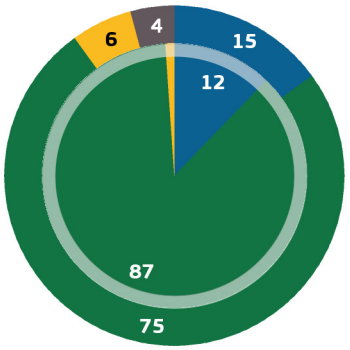
(%)



	EU27		BE	
	2021	2021-2019	2021	2021-2019
Totally agree	47	- 7	56	+ 9
Tend to agree	43	+ 5	37	- 9
Tend to disagree	6	+ 3	5	=
Totally disagree	2	+ 1	2	+ 1
Don't know	2	- 2	0	- 1

QB11 Do you think that the money from the economic recovery plan should mainly be invested in the traditional fossil-fuelled economy or in the new green economy?

(%)



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