**EIB Climate Survey – 2nd Edition**

**47% of Europeans rank climate change as the number 1 challenge**

**in their lives**

*The EIB Climate Survey reveals how Europeans perceive climate change and its impact: 33% see it as being irreversible, with the melting of glaciers as its most worrying sign. Environmental migration is already felt as a reality with 41% of 15-29 year-olds envisaging moving to another country in the future. The survey also finds that people in China fear climate change substantially more than those in the European Union and United States.*

**LUXEMBOURG, 25 November 2019** – The European Investment Bank (EIB) today launched the 2nd edition of its EIB Climate Survey, in partnership with the opinion research and consulting firm BVA. The survey gauges how people feel about climate change in the European Union, the United States and China. The first wave of results touches upon how they perceive climate change and its impacts on their lives.

The survey results confirm that a fear of climate change is widely shared across Europe: 47% of Europeans rank it as the biggest challenge in their lives, closely followed by access to healthcare and health services (39%) and unemployment (39%). In comparison, Americans rank climate change (39%) behind access to healthcare and health services (45%) and 73% of Chinese people think that climate change is the biggest challenge faced by society, far ahead of access to healthcare and health services (47%) and financial crisis (33%)[[1]](#footnote-2).

Additionally, Europeans remain more sceptical than Chinese people when it comes to fighting climate change: 59% of Europeans see it as reversible, which is 21 points lower than in China (80%) but still above the United States (54%). When it comes to how people perceive the impact of their individual actions to fight climate change, 69% of Europeans think their actions can make a difference, which stands halfway between China’s 72% and the United States’ 65%.

Interestingly, a geographical difference exists between Southern and Northern European countries. Southern Europeans see unemployment as the biggest problem facing their respective countries: 72% of Spaniards and 69% of Italians put it among their top three challenges. Northern countries such as Denmark, the Netherlands, Germany and Austria even see the climate crisis as the biggest threat. This pattern is also reflected in the perceived impact of climate change: people in Mediterranean countries report a higher impact on their everyday lives, with figures of 94% for Italy and 87% for Spain, while the share is 63% in Denmark and 66% in Sweden[[2]](#footnote-3). Overall, 82% of Europeans report that climate change has an impact on their everyday lives, a perception that goes up to 98% in China and 76% in the United States.

When it comes to the impact of climate change, 40% of Europeans are worried about the melting of glaciers, whereas Americans and Chinese people consider the rising of temperatures (34% of Americans) and air pollution (57% of Chinese people) to be the most worrying signs, respectively. In addition, environmental migration is seen as a strong reality in Europe, where 82% of respondents anticipate climate change will force people to leave their country of residence to escape extreme weather conditions. At the same time, 24% of Europeans also foresee moving to another country because of climate change. This number is significantly higher among the younger generations, where 41% are seriously considering the option of moving abroad. An important divide can also be seen between European countries: as a comparison, 33% of the Austrians aged 15-29 years old anticipate moving to another country, a percentage that goes up to 51% among young Spaniards[[3]](#footnote-4).

Emma Navarro, EIB Vice-President responsible for climate action and the environment, made the following comment on the EIB Climate Survey findings:

“*European citizens are highly concerned about climate change and its impact on their everyday life and future. Interestingly, many of them are optimistic about the possibility to reverse it. Unfortunately, science says otherwise. We have one shot at limiting global warming and mitigating its effects. The EIB’s survey is a key tool to understand citizens’ perception on climate change, and also the role they expect from their leaders in the public and the private sectors. As one of the largest multilateral providers of climate finance worldwide, the EIB is already the EU Climate Bank and we are committed to doing much more. This is why listening to citizens’ attitudes is key for us to make sure we address their concerns, while leaving no one behind.”*

**Figure 1: Top 10 perceived challenges faced by Europeans**

* **47%** - Climate change
* **39%** - Access to healthcare and health services
* **39%** - Unemployment
* **35%** - Political instability
* **32%** - Large-scale migration
* **28%** - Financial crisis
* **24%** - Purchasing power
* **19% -** Terrorism
* **6 %** - Cyberattacks
* **5%** - Other

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**Figure 2**

**A close up of a map

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**Figure 3**

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**About the EIB Climate Survey**

The European Investment Bank partnered with market research firm BVA to conduct a thorough assessment of how people feel about climate change. The 2ndedition of the EIB Climate Survey aims to inform the broader debate on attitudes and expectations in terms of climate action. This survey is the first of four releases in 2019 and 2020, with each data series corresponding to a specific theme and area of focus. 30 000 respondents participated in the Survey from 27 September to 21 October 2019, with a representative panel for each of the 30 countries surveyed.

**About the European Investment Bank**

The European Investment Bank (EIB) is the long-term lending institution of the European Union and is owned by the EU Member States. It makes long-term finance available for sound investment in order to contribute towards EU policy goals both in Europe and beyond. The European Investment Bank is active in around 160 countries. The EIB is one of the largest multilateral providers of climate finance worldwide and recently announced that it will unlock and support EUR 1 trillion of climate action and environmentally sustainable investment in the decade to 2030. At least 50% of EIB finance will be delivered for climate action and environmental sustainability by 2025. By the end of 2020, all EIB Group financing activities will be aligned with the goals of the Paris Agreement.

**About BVA**

BVA is an opinion research and consulting firm recognised as one of the most innovative market research firms in its sector. Specialised in behavioural marketing, BVA combines data science and social science to make data inspiring and bring it to life. BVA is also a member of the Worldwide Independent Network of Market Research (WIN), a global network of some of the world's leading market research and survey players, with over 40 members.

1. See Figure 1. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. See Figure 2. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. See Figure 3. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)