

Beat: Politics

## FOR THE 1ST TIME THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT VOTED FIRST PRIORITY TO CLIMATE CHANGE

429 AGAINST 225 VOTES

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**USPA NEWS** - Combating climate change should be Parliament's top priority, new Eurobarometer reveals, highlighting youth-led climate protests as great influencers. "Combating climate change and preserving our environment, oceans and biodiversity" should be the European Parliament's (EP) biggest priority, EU citizens say in a new Eurobarometer survey commissioned by the EP and conducted in October 2019. Climate change was already one of the leading reasons for voting in the European elections last May, especially for young people. Now, for the first time, citizens are putting climate change at the top of a Eurobarometer priority list. In total, 32% of Europeans point towards the fight against climate change and preserving the environment as the most important issue for MEPs to address. It is the most mentioned item in 11 member states, especially in Sweden (62%), Denmark (50%) and The Netherlands (46%). The Eurobarometer survey also asked respondents which environmental concern is the most pressing. An absolute majority of Europeans (52%) believe that it is climate change, followed by air pollution (35%), marine pollution (31%), deforestation and the growing amount of waste (both 28%).

### YOUTH- LED PROTESTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE-----

Over the course of the past year, youth-led protests have mobilised millions of people in the EU and globally. This new Eurobarometer survey shows that close to six out of ten European citizens are confident or convinced that youth-led protests have a direct impact on policy at both national and European level. The Irish (74%), Swedes (71%) and Cypriots (70%) are most convinced that the protests will lead to political measures being taken at EU level, compared to 42% of Czechs and 47% of UK citizens.

### BACKGROUND-----

Since 1973, the Eurobarometer has measured European citizens' perceptions of and expectations of the EU. Kantar collected the data for this Eurobarometer and the fieldwork took place 8-22 October 2019 in all 28 EU member states. A sample of 27,607 representative respondents above the age of 15 were interviewed face-to-face for the report. The data and the full report will be published on 10 December 2019. SOURCE EU, EURACTIV

### Article online:

<https://www.uspa24.com/bericht-16207/for-the-1st-time-the-european-parliament-voted-first-priority-to-climate-change.html>

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