

## Summary of key survey results – climate policy expert opinions

- **High confidence in EU climate policy** and positive outlook on its economic impact. However, it is believed that the international community as a whole may not deliver on the two degrees target.
- **Two degrees outlook:** Business & Government marginally less optimistic than Researchers/NGOs.
- **Copenhagen** largely seen as a ‘failure,’ but global context has changed since 2009, most importantly through advances in technology and progress in national climate policy.
- **Paris Agreement likely:** but experts think it less likely that mitigation pledges stipulated by the agreement will be legally binding. Moreover, ERG members rated the long-term impact of Paris as more significant than its impact in the short term.

*This survey contains answers elicited from members of the POLIMP “Expert Response Group” (ERG), a select group of individual European climate and energy policy experts who provided their assessment anonymously (see page 3).*

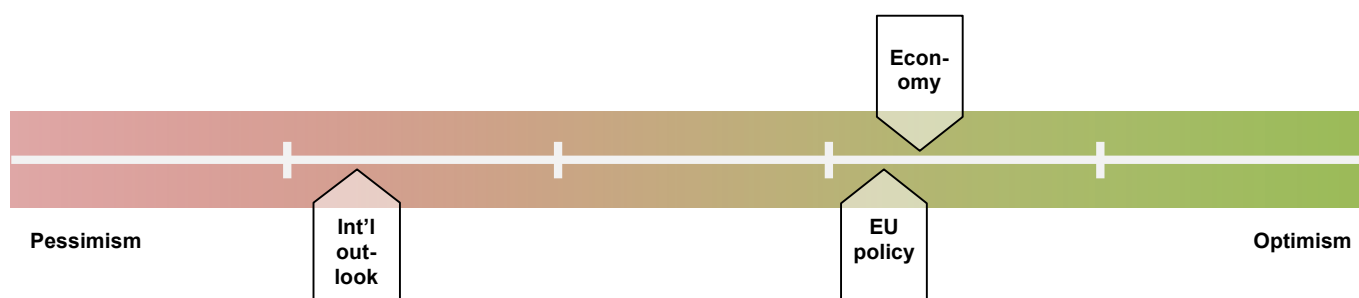
## EU Climate Policy ‘Barometer’

- The POLIMP experts were **generally confident** about the ability of **long-term EU climate policy** to reach the deep emissions reductions targets envisaged for 2050. They also viewed the **impact** of these policies **on the economy** as clearly **more positive** than negative. However, experts were **less optimistic** about the likelihood of the **international community to limit global warming** to two degrees.
- Experts from the Research and NGO sectors were marginally more optimistic than those from the Business and Government sectors regarding the ability of the international community to limit global warming to below two degrees. A closer look at the data suggests that this is due to a couple outliers within each group. Nevertheless, the standard deviation of the responses is suggestive of some disagreement.

**Table 1 Mean rating and SD for barometer survey items**

Issue addressed by the experts	Mean rating	SD
Long-term EU policy confidence	4.15	1.23
EU climate policy economic impact	4.32	1.16
International outlook	2.19	1.47

The “barometer” below depicts all three recurring questions visually on a scale intended to signify the overall outlook on the state of climate policy among members of the ERG. Developments over time will be shown from Survey No. 2 onwards.



**Response Rate for Survey No. 1** – Twenty-one members of the ERG responded, representing a **56.8% response rate**. Germany (29%), Belgium (19%) and the United Kingdom (14%) were among the most represented countries. Most of the responses (21%) were from Researchers, followed by the Business (10%) and NGO sectors (12%).

## Main Topic: “Paris 2015: lessons from the Copenhagen experience”

- Experts generally agreed with the sentiment that **COP15 in Copenhagen was a failure** ( $M = 5.00$ ,  $SD = 1.15$ ).
- They rated the **global context** in terms of technological, political and societal progress in the fight against climate change to be **somewhat better in 2015** ( $M = 4.30$ ) than prior to Copenhagen.
- In terms of factors determining the context for Paris, **technological advances** and **progress on national climate policies** were both designated by 7 experts to be the **most important factor**. The lowest ranked factor was enhanced trust between countries with eight experts giving it a ranking of six (see Figure 1).
- Experts believed that **an agreement is likely to be reached** at COP21 but **pessimistic that mitigation targets will be binding**, see Figure 2. The difference in likelihood was *significant*.
- The long-term importance of Paris for global emissions reductions was rated as *significantly* higher than the short-term importance, see Figure 3.

Figure 1: Determining factors for Paris context ranked for importance

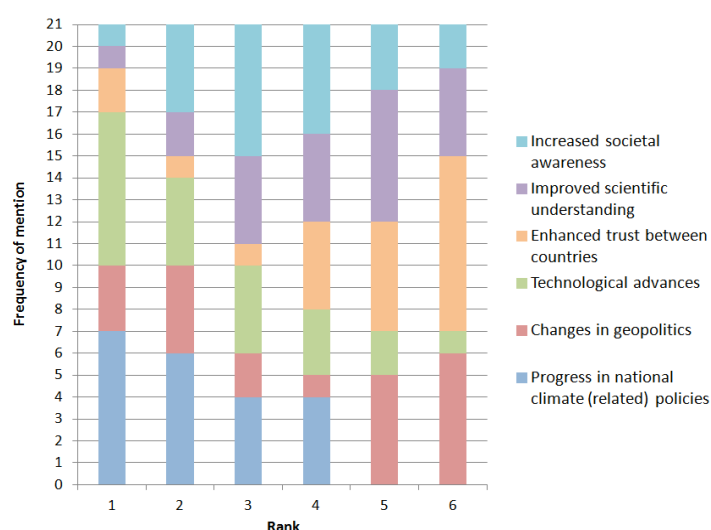


Table 2 Mean rating and SD for survey items on Paris/CPH

Issue addressed by the experts	Mean rating	SD
Adoption of an agreement (1 = unlikely, 6 = very likely)	4.40	1.27
Long-term importance of Paris on mitigation (1 = not important, 6 = very important)	4.55	1.47
Adoption of a binding mitigation targets (1 = unlikely, 6 = very likely)	1.94	0.80
Short-term importance of Paris on mitigation (1 = not important, 6 = very important)	3.67	1.83

### “Buzz of the Week”

- The recent **Papal encyclical was deemed as important** ( $M = 4.29$ ) but there was **some disagreement** among the responses, as indicated by a high standard deviation ( $SD = 1.49$ ).
- Likelihood of **negative impact of the current crisis** with Greece on climate policy developments **judged relatively small** ( $M = 1.89$ ), with the majority of responses (67%) below three.

Figure 2: Mean likelihood for agreement and target type

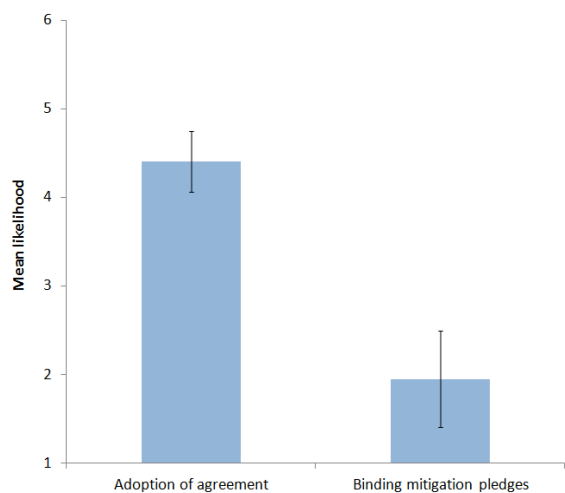
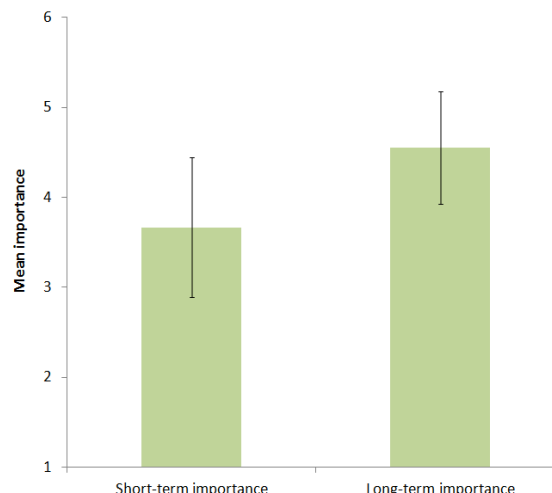


Figure 3: Mean importance of Paris for short- and long-term mitigation



## BACKGROUND: About the POLIMP Expert Response Group (ERG) Survey Series

The POLIMP Expert Response Survey Series aims at engaging a targeted group of stakeholders and experts on matters relating to climate policy and international climate governance. The series consists of eight “snap” (short) surveys distributed over the span of a year to an Expert Response Group (ERG) pre-selected by the POLIMP project. All eight surveys follow a similar structure. Correspondingly, each survey and matching report is organized into three parts:

- **EU Climate Barometer** – three recurring questions on a general assessment of the status quo: *long-term policy confidence*, *climate economy* (the effect of climate policy on the economy) and *international outlook*.
- **Main Topic** – questions linked to parallel Webinar with the same thematic focus
- **“Buzz of the Week”** – question(s) on a relevant climate policy topic currently in the news

The Expert Response Group (ERG) is currently composed of 37 stakeholders, policy-makers, industry representatives and researchers working in the field of climate policy. Each individual was handpicked and invited to participate by the POLIMP partners for their expertise, engagement with topics relevant to the project and tenure in the field. With a focus on the EU, ERG members represent different European countries and are active in a diverse array of sectors. Participation in each survey is voluntary and all responses remain anonymous. For a complete list of ERG members please visit: [www.polimp.eu](http://www.polimp.eu).

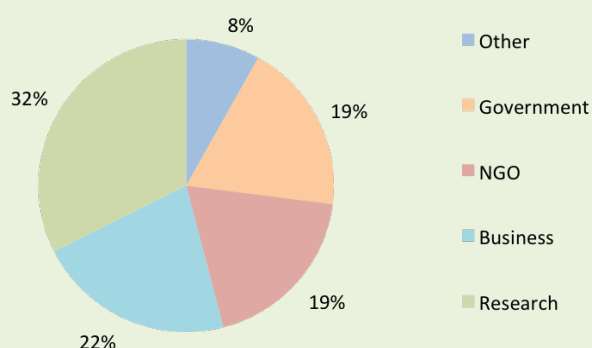


Figure: ERG by sector



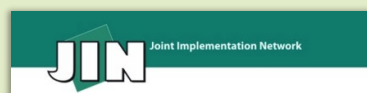
Figure: ERG by country of work

**Note on Statistical Analysis** – Differences and results significant with a  $p$ -value of 0.05 are described as *significant* in the text. All error bars indicate 95% confidence intervals. For information on methodology please contact the POLIMP Expert Response Survey Series Team by email: [questions@polimp.eu](mailto:questions@polimp.eu).

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This project has received funding from the European Union's Seventh Programme for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration under Grant Agreement no. 603847.



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## ANNEX – Survey Questions

### BAROMETER

1. LONG-TERM POLICY CONFIDENCE: In the present moment, in your opinion, how likely is the EU to establish policies that can deliver a long-term emission reduction target of 80-90% by 2050 compared to 1990 levels? (1 = unlikely, 6 = very likely)
2. CLIMATE ECONOMY: Currently, in your opinion, the effect of existing EU climate policy on the EU's economy and its competitive position in the global economy is: (1 = overall negative, 6 = overall positive)
3. INTERNATIONAL OUTLOOK: What is your general outlook on the ability of the international community (or rather humankind) to keep global warming below two degrees? (1 = very pessimistic, 6 = very optimistic)

### TOPIC

4. COP15 in Copenhagen is commonly referred to as a “failure,” by the media and environmental community. To what extent do you agree? (1 = strongly disagree, 6 = strongly agree)
5. Indicate the extent to which you think the global context in terms of political, societal and technological progress in the fight against climate change has changed since Copenhagen – in the sense of it making the adoption of an agreement more or less likely. (1 = significantly worse in 2015, 6 = significantly better in 2015)
6. Please rank the following factors in order of their positive effect on international climate action since Copenhagen. (1 = most positive, 6 = least positive)
  - a. Technological advances
  - b. Increased societal awareness
  - c. Progress in national climate (related) policies
  - d. Improved scientific understanding
  - e. Enhanced trust between countries
  - f. Changes in geopolitics
7. In your opinion, what is the likelihood for the successful adoption of an agreement (regardless of its specific legal form) in Paris? (1 = unlikely, 6 = very likely)
8. How important is the outcome from Paris for the long-term 2-degree goal? (1 = not important, 6 = very important)
9. The specific legal format of a possible Paris Agreement is still unclear – and many options can be envisaged, including combining binding and non-binding elements. With regard to the mitigation pledges, how likely do you think it is that these will be legally binding in a Paris outcome (regardless of the overall legal form)? (1 = unlikely, 6 = very likely)
10. How important is the outcome from Paris for progress related to short-term emissions reductions (e.g. until 2020 rather than 2030)? (1 = not important, 6 = very important)

### BUZZ

11. The most recent Papal encyclical on climate change, entitled “On Care For Our Common Home,” was released by the Vatican at the beginning of June 2015 and met with praise from climate protection advocates. How important in terms of its impact is the Pope's letter in your opinion? (1 = not important, 6 = very important)
12. How likely do you think it is that Greece leaving the Eurozone would negatively affect EU climate policy making for 2030? (1 = unlikely, 6 = very likely)