

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

- **Outlook more negative:** compared to July, experts consulted in September show a more pessimistic view on reaching the two degree goal and lower confidence in the EU making its long-term targets. Impact on the economy is seen more favourably. These variations to the first survey will reveal their true validity only over time.
- **ETS important:** Experts generally agreed that the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) is key to achieving EU emission targets and that a revised ETS **would avoid negative competitive effects** on industry.
- **Different opinions:** experts are split in their assessments on key questions of the Commission’s proposal, such as the **surplus** management and the role of **auctioning**.
- **Non-governmental critique:** respondents from the **Business and NGO sectors were slightly less satisfied** with the EU ETS revision proposal than those from Government and the Research community.
- **Migration:** on the back of the current developments concerning refugees coming to Europe, experts expect the link between climate change and migration to become a topic for debate in the coming months.

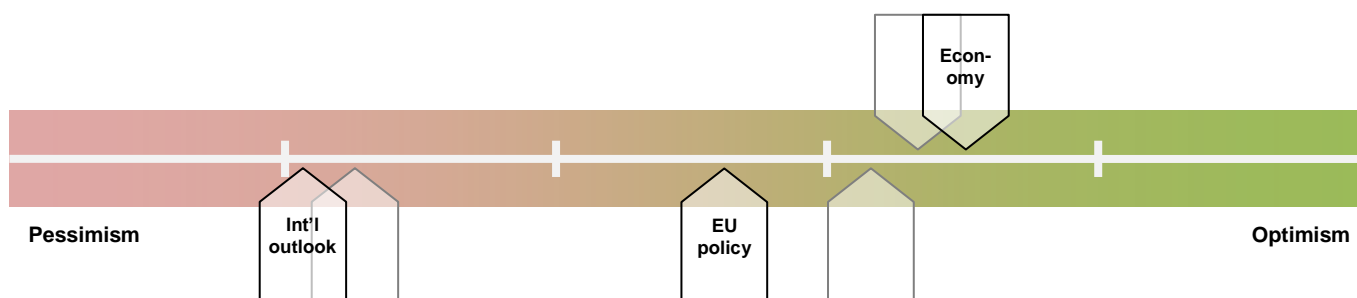
*This survey contains answers elicited from members of the POLIMP “Expert Response Group” (ERG), a select group of individual European climate and energy policy experts who provided their assessment anonymously (see page 3).*

## EU Climate Policy ‘Barometer’

- The POLIMP experts now have a **more tempered opinion on whether the EU will deliver on its emission reduction targets for 2050**. Confidence in EU climate policy is slightly lower than in July 2015.
- The expert group is slightly more optimistic about the expected effects of EU climate policies on the EU’s economy and its competitiveness than two month before. **Business experts are less optimistic** towards such positive effects for the EU economy than respondents from Government, Research, NGOs and other sectors.
- Experts continue to expect the international community to be unable to keep the two degree target. This expectation is even slightly more pessimistic than it was in July 2015. **43% of the experts are even very pessimistic on the international outlook** towards reaching the two degree goal. However, 14% of the experts had a more optimistic than pessimistic perception.
- Overall, the results for the ‘barometer’ questions **cannot establish trends yet**, but may show a clearer picture about trends in opinion after more iterations of the survey.

Table 1 Mean rating and SD for barometer survey items

Issue addressed by the experts	Change	Mean rating	SD
Long-term EU policy confidence	↓	3.62	1.47
EU climate policy economic impact	↑	4.52	1.44
International outlook	↓	2.05	1.20



**Response Rate for Survey No. 2** – Twenty-one members of the ERG responded (same number as in July), representing a **48.9% response rate**. Germany (33%), France (10%) and the Poland (10%) were among the most represented countries. Most of the respondents (19%) were from the Research sector, followed by the NGO (14%) and Business sectors (7%).

## Main Topic: “EU ETS 2030 review”

- Experts generally considered the EU ETS to be **important for the achievement of the EU’s emissions reduction targets for 2030** (M=4.50), with the exception of experts from government (M=2.00).
- Opinion varied considerably** concerning the **sufficiency of the (historic) share of 55%** for auctioning going forward (SD=1.74) and the **sufficiency of the reform of the EU ETS for addressing the structural surplus of emissions allowances** (SD=1.55).
- Experts **generally agreed** that the revised EU ETS system **will avoid negative competitive effects** on industry (M=4.50), but a high share of respondents was ‘unsure or did not know’ (24%), especially within the business sector.
- There is **agreement across sectors** that the enlarged innovation fund is a useful addition to the EU ETS (M=5.10, SD=1.02).
- Experts rated the **likelihood** that the different elements of the EU ETS revision proposal would be **decided as a package** instead of separately as **relatively high** (M=4.44), but a high share of respondents was ‘unsure or did not know’ (24%)
- Overall the respondents were **generally neither largely satisfied nor dissatisfied with the proposal** (M=3.44, SD=1.29). However, respondents from the Business and NGO sectors were on average slightly less satisfied than those from Government or Research.

Figure 1: Mean agreement with statements about the reform

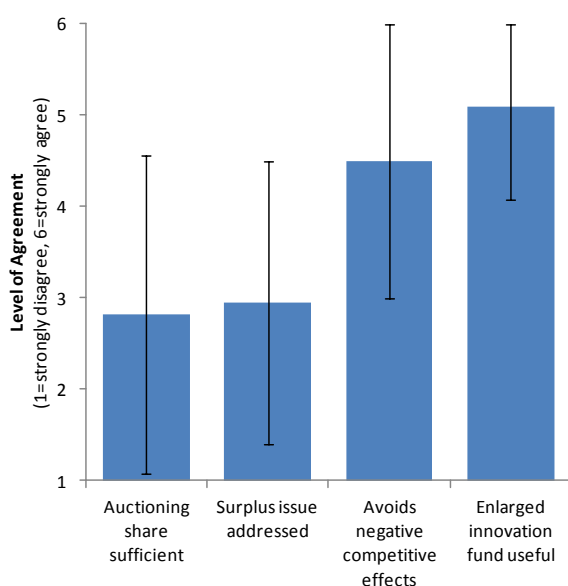


Figure 2: Mean importance for the 2030 emissions-target

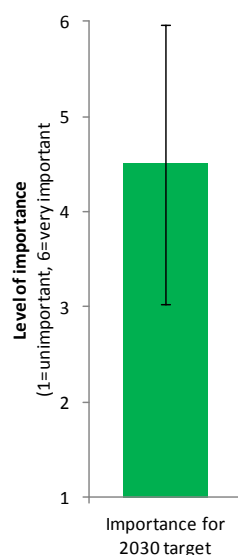


Figure 3: Mean satisfaction with the reform proposal

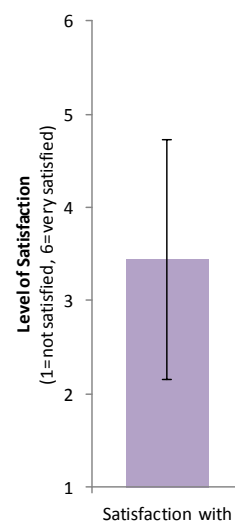


Table 2 Mean rating and SD for survey items on ETS Reform

Issue addressed by the experts	Mean rating	SD
Importance of EU ETS for 2030 target? (1 = unimportant, 6 = very important)	4.50	1.47
Auctioning share (55%) sufficient? (1 = strongly disagree, 6 = strongly agree)	2.82	1.74
Reform sufficient for surplus issue? (1 = strongly disagree, 6 = strongly agree)	2.94	1.55
Will it avoid negative competitive effects? (1 = strongly disagree, 6 = strongly agree)	4.50	1.51
Is an enlarged innovation fund useful? (1 = strongly disagree, 6 = strongly agree)	5.10	1.02
Will the reform be decided as a package? (1 = very unlikely, 6 = very likely)	4.44	1.46
How satisfied are you with the proposal? (1 = not satisfied, 6 = very satisfied)	3.44	1.29

## “Buzz of the Week”

- Opinions were mixed concerning whether **President Obama’s climate change stance was enhanced** by his Alaska climate speech despite his approval for drilling in the arctic (M=3.85, SD=1.39).
- It was generally **believed to be likely** that the possible **link between climate change and migration** will be more explicitly addressed in the public debate in the coming months (M=4.19), **especially within the government and business sectors**.

## 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 43 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 list of ERG members please visit: <http://www.polimp.eu/publications/survey-series>.

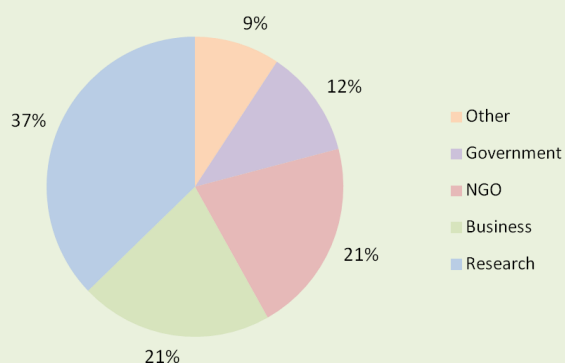


Figure: ERG by sector

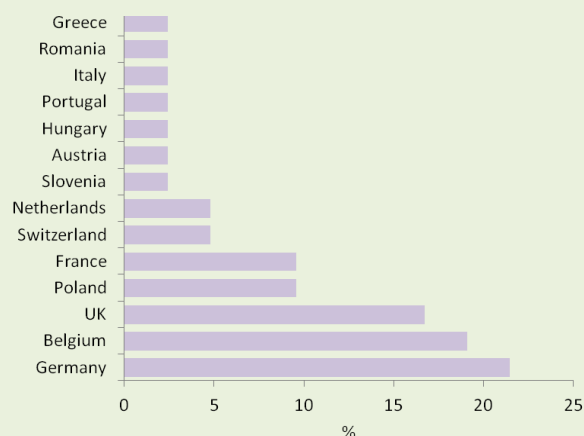


Figure: ERG by country of work

**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. Time series results (i.e., the climate policy ‘barometer’) are conceptualized as an indication of overall ERG opinion. In other words, due to the voluntary nature of each survey and consequently the differences between samples, true within-subject comparisons are not reported. 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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## 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

1. General impression: How important in your opinion is the EU ETS for the achievement of the EU's emissions reduction targets for 2030? (1 = unimportant, 6 = very important)
2. When the European Heads of State and Government brokered an agreement among them on key features of the 2030 energy and climate policy in October 2014, several details concerning the future EU ETS were included. A significant change was the extension of free allocation to industry beyond 2020. Auctioning had been meant to be the principle means of allocation. The proposal presented by the European Commission in mid-July now fixes a (historic) share of 55% for auctioning for the allocation going forward.  
  
To what extent do you agree that this share (55%) for auctioning is sufficient? (1 = strongly disagree, 6 = strongly agree)
3. The main EU ETS related issue under debate in recent years has been the drop in allowance prices and the growing surplus of these allowances in the system. Two adjustments have already been made to the ETS Directive (backloading, MSR) to deal with this situation.  
  
If you assume that in addition the European Commission proposal (with a steeper reduction trajectory towards 2030) is implemented as proposed, to what extent do you agree that these changes are sufficient to deal with the surplus issue? (1 = strongly disagree, 6 = strongly agree)
4. A key issue under discussion for the EU ETS has been the treatment of industrial installations – largely under the heading of competitiveness and the risk for so-called carbon leakage. The Commission proposal contains several adjustments to the current system (free allocation extended to 2030, benchmark updates, Innovation Fund, etc.).  
  
To what extent do you agree that such a revised system will avoid negative competitive effects on industry? (1 = strongly disagree, 6 = strongly agree)
5. Staying with industrial sectors in the EU ETS – a new feature of the future system is meant to be an enlarged Innovation Fund (originally NER300, now NER400) which should also fund industrial low carbon technology projects (next to renewables and CCS).  
  
To what extent do you agree that this extension to industrial innovation is a useful addition to the portfolio? (1 = strongly disagree, 6 = strongly agree)
6. ETS and Effort Sharing: The European Commission has decided to issue the ETS Directive Revision proposal already in mid-2015. Several other legislative acts need adjusting also to be fit for 2030, certainly the Effort Sharing Decision (which contains the non-ETS national targets) and like adjusted versions of Energy Efficiency and Renewables Directive. When these will be issued is as of yet unknown, but certainly not before 2016.  
  
To what extent do you think it likely that the different elements will – in the end - be decided as a package – even though the EU ETS has been published many months in advance? (1 = very unlikely, 6 = very likely)
7. In sum, taking all the different ways in which the elements of the Commission proposal would change the current ETS Directive, to what extent are you satisfied with the Commission proposal? (1 = not satisfied, 6 = very satisfied)

### BUZZ

1. Last week US President Obama ended a series of appearances focusing on climate change with a visit to Arctic Alaska. At his speech there he said several times that action on climate was not "fast enough" – considering the speed of change. At the same time, his Administration had, however, approved new oil drilling rights in the Arctic in August. (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/09/01/remarks-president-glacier-conference-anchorage-ak>)  
  
To what extent do you agree that the credibility of President Obama's climate change stance has been enhanced by his outspoken support for climate action – despite the drilling approval? (1 = strongly disagree, 6 = strongly agree)
2. News coverage in Europe has been dominated recently by the plight of refugees from East and South of the EU that are seeking shelter in Europe. The likely impacts of climate change could create additional or more frequent or more severe conditions that lead to migration.  
  
To what extent do you think it likely that the possible link between climate change and refugees will be more explicitly addressed in the public debate the coming months (e.g. before Paris)? (1 = unlikely, 6 = very likely)