

## Participant form

**Foreword:** We would like the European HomeParliaments to help us as EU citizens to become involved in the political decision-making process on the future of Europe. Some of the things that we as a civil society consider desirable may not be readily achievable within the framework of the EU's existing competences and democratic processes - but we do not want to let this slow us down in the present debate.

**Context:** The effects of the corona crisis on health and the economy are unprecedented. In the course of its development, the different perceptions and needs of the EU countries have become clear and painful memories of the financial crisis have been reawakened. At the same time, political decisions of hitherto unknown magnitude have been taken, illustrating the extent of the political room for manoeuvre. It raises the question what significance solidarity should have in the EU?

### Overarching question: Should the EU move towards more mutual solidarity?

Taking this question as our starting point today, we will discuss three individual questions on the aspects of **1. Economic solidarity between EU Member States**, **2. EU social policy measures** und **3. Joint climate protection measures**. At the end we will return to the overarching question and vote on it as a HomeParliament as a whole.

### Question 1: Should wealthy EU Member States provide more economic support to Member States that are particularly hard hit by crises?

Background: Both the financial crisis from 2007 onwards and the corona pandemic have hit and continue to hit some EU countries particularly hard and these countries have less means of getting their economies back on track through financial stimuli. In the event of a crisis, the EU could support these countries in finding a way out of the crisis.

Some arguments FOR	Some arguments AGAINST
The single market and the common currency means that creditor/donor countries, especially the strongest exporting countries, also benefit from the provision of support to severely affected economies since this stimulates demand.	The economic weakness of some EU countries is primarily a result of their own financial and fiscal policies. Financial support from other countries undermines necessary structural reforms.
Financial support is a signal of solidarity and mutual trust. Both are important prerequisites for effective cooperation between the EU community of states, for example, when dealing with global players such as China or the USA.	The support of economies of other countries cannot be explained to one's own population. This strengthens Eurosceptic initiatives.
Financial solidarity strengthens the belief in the EU in affected populations. In this way, efforts to leave the EU are avoided.	It is impossible for governments and experts to distribute funds as efficiently as the free market does. EU financial interventions in national economies therefore restrict growth.

After the debate, please tick to what extent you agree with the proposal (scale from 0 = "not at all" to 10 = "yes, absolutely"):

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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## Question 2: Should the EU invest more in social policy measures to tackle social inequality between the Member States?

Background: While in the past the differing standards of living in the countries of the EU were moving closer together, this trend has reversed since the financial crisis of 2007. Even when taking differences in the cost of living into account, large sections of the population in various EU countries are still in a very weak social position. As a result, there is a growing gap between the north and south of the EU as well as between the west and east with regard to social security. Examples of social policy measures include protection against unemployment, loss of housing, poverty in old age and health.

Some arguments FOR	Some arguments AGAINST
If all EU citizens have similar social security coverage, the sense of community and a European identity will be strengthened. This creates support for future shared projects.	Given the different social security systems and cultural backgrounds among the EU Member States, a centrally controlled social policy can only fail.
Social and societal progress are fundamental values of our European society and democracy ("EU's promise of prosperity").	The same social security for all EU citizens would consume large sums of money which would then no longer be available for other investments for the future such as environmental protection, digitization or education.
High standards of living and socially desirable prospects in each Member State reduce poverty-related migration within the EU.	Even within individual EU countries, an ever widening prosperity gap has emerged in recent decades. It must therefore be the task of the States to protect their own populations against the risk of poverty.

After the debate, please tick to what extent you agree with the proposal (scale from 0 = "not at all" to 10 = "yes, absolutely"):

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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## Question 3: Should the EU, in the interest of future generations, primarily focus on environmentally friendly innovation and jobs?

Background: We are heading for severe global warming well above the targets of the Paris Climate Agreement. Uncontrolled climate change would lead, among other things, to extreme weather conditions and thus to deaths and further migration movements. The less developed countries and future generations would suffer as a result. To combat the corona crisis, the EU is investing an unprecedented amount of money and could thus give the "Green Deal" a significant boost.

Some arguments FOR	Some arguments AGAINST
It is better to change course today than tomorrow. If we continue to delay fundamental reforms to avert the climate crisis, negative consequences for the Earth, societies and democracy will become ever greater- as will the costs of transformation.	If subsidies are withdrawn from CO2-intensive industries, many jobs and prosperity are under threat, especially during and after the current crisis.
To overcome the economic corona crisis, the EU is taking on large debts that will have to be repaid over decades. Therefore, all EU investments should be sustainable, both economically and ecologically.	Many wealthy countries have increased their prosperity with the help of fossil energy sources. Countries whose economies have a lot of catching up to do cannot be expected to abandon this in favour of a costly reconstruction of their systems.
The Corona crisis shows that change becomes possible when it is necessary. Europe is currently experiencing a turnaround. This historic opportunity for modernisation must not be wasted.	The energy turnaround is a lengthy process. In order for it to be successful, we must remain competitive. Therefore, the transition must be made gradually.

After the debate, please tick to what extent you agree with the proposal (scale from 0 = "not at all" to 10 = "yes, absolutely"):

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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**Now back to the overarching question: Should the EU move towards more mutual solidarity in the fields of "economic reconstruction after crises", "social policy measures" and "combating climate change"?**

Please vote now as a HomeParliament as a whole by a show of hands. The minute taker will record your result.

**Additional feedback for Pulse of Europe:**

**4. How much have you enjoyed the involvement process offered by the HomeParliaments so far?**

Please tick (scale from 0 = "not at all" to 10 = "very much"):

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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**5a. Have you changed your mind on any of the questions as a result of the debate?**

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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**5b. After the debate, do you have a better understanding of the other participants' arguments?**

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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**5c. After the debate, do you feel that you are better informed about what the EU is about?**

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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