



European Citizens' Panel on Energy Efficiency

Summary of Session 3

[12-14 April, 2024]



In a few words...

The third and final session of the European Citizens' Panel on Energy Efficiency gathered around 150 participants from across the EU in Brussels on 12-14 April. The weekend was dedicated to debating and finalising the citizens' recommendations.

Thanks to their hard work, the citizens adopted 13 recommendations largely covering three sectorial topics (buildings, transports, and energy infrastructure) and three overarching questions (social justice, EU in a global economy and addressing the interests of different actors). Following a ballot vote, the final recommendations were handed to Maroš Šefčovič, Executive Vice President of the European Commission in charge of the Green Deal, Interinstitutional Relations and Foresight.

What happens now?

The citizens' recommendations are expected to feed into the design of future Commission initiatives, notably a Commission proposal for a Recommendations on the Energy Efficiency First Principle, due later in the year.

Stay in touch!

We will be in touch with all of you to organize a feedback event during which we will discuss with you the way your recommendations have been taken into account.

We would also like to keep in touch with you in the future. For this reason, we are establishing an alumni network for participants of European Citizens' Panels and other European citizen engagement projects. If you **do not** wish to be part of this network, please email us at COMM-CITIZENS-PANELS@ec.europa.eu and we will remove you from the mailing list.

You can find a selection of photographs from the Panel sessions at our photo gallery [here](#). Feel free to share them with your friends, family, and social networks!

The Commission's Directorate-General for Energy circulates a [monthly newsletter](#) covering the latest energy-related news, events and publications. Via this link [you can subscribe](#).

More information on EU energy policy is available on the website: [Energy - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](https://energy.ec.europa.eu)

Or follow us on X (formerly Twitter): [\(21\) Energy4Europe EU \(@Energy4Europe\) / X \(twitter.com\)](#)

The [online energy efficiency debate](#) is still open on the Citizens' Engagement Platform. Make sure to check it out and share your impressions of the Panel discussions with citizens from across the EU.

What can we learn from this last session?

Day 1: Recap of the previous session, feedback from the Knowledge Committee, and preparation of the working groups

On Friday, citizens gathered in plenary to discuss with the members of the Knowledge Committee, returning to the remit question, "How can the EU prioritise Energy Efficiency and bring its full benefits to citizens, public authorities and enterprises?".

At the start of the session, Paula Pinho, **Director for the Just Transition, Consumers, Energy Security, Efficiency and Innovation, at DG ENERGY**, provided feedback on the draft recommendations developed by the citizens, with an emphasis on putting energy efficiency first. In her words: *"This European Citizens' Panel has taken us on amazing journey; it was new for you, but also for us. The possibility to get input directly from citizens on EU energy efficiency policy has been both welcome and insightful. Your recommendations focus on themes that we want to solve: energy prices, social justice, energy communities, and transport, At the same time, you have brought a new and refreshing perspective."*



Members of the Knowledge Committee then commented on the draft recommendations:

Reinhard Six, Independent Consultant and expert on energy efficiency financing: *"When we talk about the primacy of energy efficiency, we need to invest in fields that will reduce*

energy consumption. How can all this be financed in a way that is profitable for investors (property owners, public authorities, companies)?”



Arianna Vitali, Secretary general, The Coalition for Energy Savings: “There are two recommendations in the field of transport. Energy for transport represents 30% of the energy consumed in Europe. Our mobility choices have a direct influence on our energy consumption, we need to be sure we prioritise public and private electric transports.”

Robert Nuij, Deputy Head of Unit for Energy Efficiency Policy and Financing, DG ENER, “Quite a few recommendations focus on the local level, for example on energy communities, and this is very valuable as it gave us direct insight into people’s experiences ‘on the ground’.”

During the afternoon, citizens were divided into two sub-plenaries to discuss the draft recommendations and exchange reflections.

Day 2: Finalising the recommendations

On the Saturday, citizens worked in 12 groups to finalise their recommendations. The session began with a discussion on Friday’s sessions and set the focus for the day ahead. Each group designated an “ambassador” to present the outcome of the initial discussions on the group’s recommendation, connecting them with a similar or related draft.



During the second part of the session, participants addressed key questions required to finalise their recommendations:

- *Why is this recommendation important to you?*
- *What trade-offs are you willing to live with?*
- *How does it contribute to energy efficiency and how can it help to integrate the “Energy Efficiency First” principle in decision-making?*
- *What will change in Europe if this recommendation is implemented?*
- *What are the changes to your life and the life of your community?*

Knowledge Committee members were on hand to respond to remaining uncertainties in the form of written, or in-person, questions. The end of the day focused on refining the body text of the recommendations (title, explanation, justification) to ensure clarity and precision. Facilitators ensured consensus within the groups.

Day 3: Presentation and voting of the final recommendations

On Sunday, the citizens were back in plenary to present and vote on the final 13 recommendations. Citizens voted on each recommendation using a scale from 1 to 6 to express their strength of support.

The votes were counted in the presence of citizen observers to ensure transparency. They were personally presented by the oldest panellist, Antanas, and the youngest panellist, Martina, to **Executive Vice President Maroš Šefčovič**.



Executive Vice President Maroš Šefčovič thanked the 150 citizens for their participation, dedication and hard work since February.

To conclude this European Citizens' Panel, **Richard Kuehnel, Director for Representations and Communication in Member States at European Commission (DG COMM)**, thanked citizens for their engagement and dedication during these three sessions, *“My colleagues at DG ENER have been impressed by your work, your recommendations, which are highly focused. You've become experts both in energy, and in democracy. We'll be publishing a report to respond to your recommendations, and we'll keep in touch with you.”*

Session 3 Agenda

DAY 01	
14:30 15:10	- Welcoming words from DG ENER (Paula Pinho) and DG COMM and looking back at Session 2
15:10 16:20	- Plenary: Aligning the draft recommendations with the Energy Efficiency First Principle: A discussion
16: 50 18:25	- Subplenary 1 (Gasperi room): Feedback on recommendations 1-6 from the Knowledge Committee and discussion. Subplenary 2 (Mansholt room): Feedback on recommendations 7-12 from the Knowledge Committee and discussion.
18:25 18:30	- Outlook (in the subplenaries)
DAY 02	
09:00 10:30	- 1 st Working Block: Digest input from Friday + give feedback to other groups' recommendations
11:00 12:30	- 2 nd Working Block: Deliberation to deepen the recommendations

14:00 15:30	- 3 rd Working phase: Give feedback to another group's recommendation (30'), send ambassador to other group for Q&A (15'), edit own recommendations (45')
16:00 17:30	- 4 th Working Block: Final editing of recommendations Feedback and outlook on Sunday

DAY 03

09:30- 09:50	Energizer and welcome back Interventions from citizens observing the Knowledge Information Centre
09:50 11:20	- Presenting and discussing the recommendations 1-8 Collective assessment of recommendations 1-8
11:50 12:30	- Presenting and discussing the recommendations 9-12 Collective assessment of recommendations 9-12
12:30 12:45	Welcoming Executive Vice President Maroš Šefčovič: Short interview Family photo with Executive Vice President Maroš Šefčovič
12:45 13:20	Results of voting in the presence of Executive Vice President Maroš Šefčovič
13:20 13:30	Farewell from DG COMM (Richard Kuehnel) and Moderation Team

Click [here](#) to watch the recording of Friday's plenary session

Click [here](#) to watch the recording of Sunday's plenary session

Interventions during the plenary

Jan Rosenow, Director of European Programmes, Regulatory Assistance Project

Robert Nuij, Deputy Head of Unit for Energy Efficiency Policy and Financing, DG ENERGY

Pierre Schellekens, Director, Energy policy Strategy and Coordination, DG ENERGY

Arianna Vitali, Secretary general, The Coalition for Energy Savings

Camille Defard, Head of the Jacques Delors Energy Centre

Reinhard Six, Independent consultant on energy efficiency financing Expert on Energy Efficiency financing

Your highlights of the Panel

Anthony, Malta, “My highlight was meeting people from all over Europe because you learn so much from others. It was also the first time for me seeing the EU really reaching out to citizens. It was a very nice experience.”

Isabel, Portugal, “I think the most important moment was the first plenary session, it was fantastic, I could realise that the 27 countries were reunited to work on a topic. It was a real exercise of participative democracy, and I truly enjoyed it.”

Lora, Belgium, “If I had one moment to remember it would be the first Saturday during the working groups when we shared the specificities and similarities of our countries about energy efficiency, it was super interesting”.

Paul, France, “One moment that I will remember during this Panel is the diversity of the culture and the richness of the interventions. I have learnt a lot about different countries, and it was a great experience for me.”

Felipe, Spain, “It was my first ever experience abroad, I took the plane for the first time in my life. Meeting people from Spain and from all over Europe was very rewarding. I am very grateful for this opportunity.”

Christophe, Austria, “Despite our differences of opinion, we managed to work together and come to an agreement. Everyone was involved and I learned a lot about the theme of energy efficiency.”

Key insights on the Citizens' Engagement Platform

150 contributions

43 951 Visitors

83 548 Page views

782 Accounts

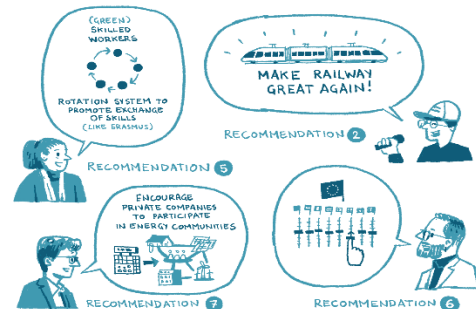
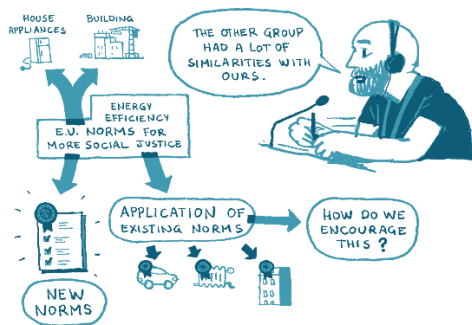
124 Comments

201 Endorsements

[Check out the Citizens' Engagement Platform](#)

The weekend as viewed by our graphic recorder, Sylvain Mazas

For Session 3, Sylvain Mazas presented the final recommendations with graphics. Below is a glimpse of his work, showcasing how he captured the plenary's proceedings in a visually engaging way, greatly enriching the session's dynamics.



The 13 Final Recommendations

Here are [the thirteen final recommendations](#) you have submitted to the European Commission. Currently, they are only available in english. We will keep you posted when translations into all languages are available.