

Third edition - 2020-2021

# THE EIB CLIMATE SURVEY

**THE CLIMATE CRISIS  
IN A COVID-19 WORLD:  
CALLS FOR A GREEN RECOVERY**



European  
Investment  
Bank

*The EIB bank*



**EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK**

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IN A COVID-19 WORLD:  
CALLS FOR A GREEN RECOVERY**

## **The EIB Climate Survey**

The climate crisis in a COVID-19 world: calls for a green recovery

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# FOREWORD

## An old enemy and a surprise attack

By Ambroise Fayolle, Vice-President, European Investment Bank

The COVID-19 pandemic has made it clear that we must transform the economy and society urgently. The crisis's impact on every sector highlights the breadth of responses required, if we are to tackle the consequences of the pandemic and lay the foundations for a sustainable world. The results of the third annual EIB Climate Survey illustrate the urgency and commitment felt by citizens of the European Union, Britain, China and the United States. The findings point to the path that policymakers and investors must take now.

We must not let this crisis distract us from the critical need to make society smart and green. COVID-19, unfortunately, is unlikely to be the last infectious disease that threatens us. But this decade is our last chance to save the world from a climate catastrophe.

We have seen extraordinary responses from the public and private sectors to halt this new disease and limit the damage to our economy. The European Investment Bank has played a big role on these two fronts. We were one of the first to approve funding for BioNTech, the German firm that developed the first COVID-19 vaccine. We supported many other companies as they pushed ahead with vaccine and therapy programmes. At the same time, we created a broad safety net to protect millions of small companies from failure and to fortify national healthcare systems.

This dual crisis crystallised for all of us the threat under which we live, facing an old and existential enemy at the same time as we suffered a surprise attack from a new foe. This moment is the best chance we may ever get to reshape our economies, lay the foundations for future prosperity and cure our planet's illnesses.

Our climate surveys take the pulse of 30 000 people in Europe, China and the United States. They allow us to see the data that underlie the human necessity of our work as the EU climate bank. The aim of the surveys is to inform the broader debate on people's thoughts about climate change around the world. The latest findings are especially crucial at a time when climate action is a top European Union priority with the European Investment Bank adopting a new energy policy that rejects fossil fuels and unveiling a Climate Bank Roadmap that will guide our investments for the next five years.

The climate survey confirms the need for a European Green Deal and a carbon-neutral continent by 2050.

**“ The climate survey confirms the need for a European Green Deal and a carbon-neutral continent by 2050. ”**



I do not need to lay out the overwhelming scientific evidence for climate change. The surveys show that you feel the impact all around you. The previous survey, carried out before the coronavirus, found that Europeans and many other people around the world are determined to create truly green societies and to encourage policymakers to push us strongly down this path. The latest survey shows that, despite the massive upheaval caused by the pandemic, climate resolve remains strong.

Most Europeans feel that the dramatic measures taken to fight COVID-19 must also support a green recovery and tackle the climate crisis. The survey found that nearly two-thirds of Europeans want more government measures to help save the climate. Citizens told us they could give up flying and avoid exotic holidays to help the climate. We are in tune with these views, as well as the trends in the market. In our climate roadmap, for example, we explain that we will end support for airport expansions. The new survey also makes clear that people still love their cars. We must find more ways to reduce the number of fossil-fuel automobiles on the road by backing electric vehicles, new batteries, hydrogen technology and renewable energy.

We also must be willing to take more financial risk by supporting research, development and innovation, even when the immediate rewards are far from a sure thing. This way, we help the dreamers of today invent the breakthroughs of tomorrow. When we say yes to difficult projects, like the nuclear fusion energy experiments the European Investment Bank is financing in Italy, we just might turn around the climate disaster.

There is no way to sugarcoat the message: massive investment is required in the near future. There will be bumps in the road ahead and some people will tell us we are trying to do too much at once. But the European Investment Bank is more ambitious than ever before. The epochal success for which we aim will come only if we stay on this difficult road and ride it together.





## Methodology



Survey commissioned by the **European Investment Bank** and conducted by French polling company **BVA** from 5 October to 2 November 2020.



**30 700** people aged **15 and over** interviewed **online**

**All 27 EU countries (+UK), China and the USA**



The survey's accuracy was ensured through the quota method. Responses in each country were weighted based on gender, age, job and location.



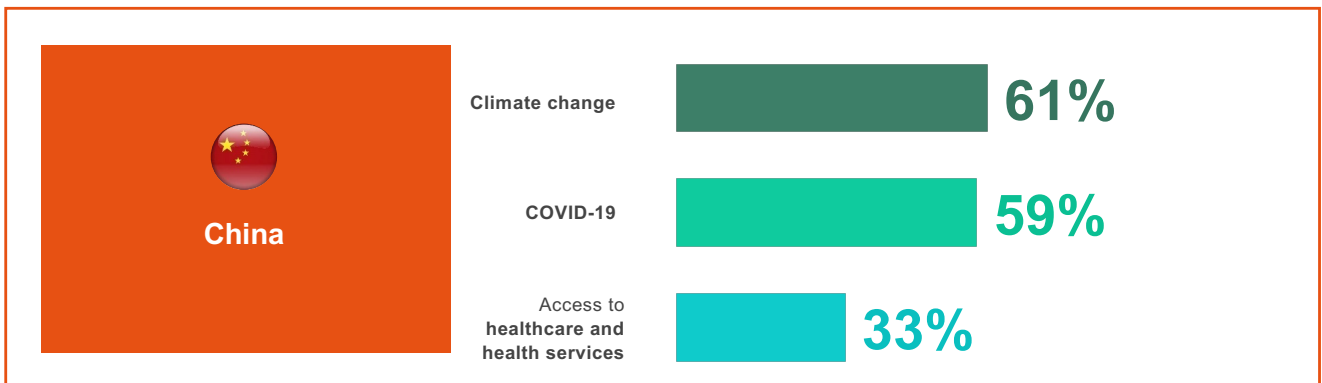
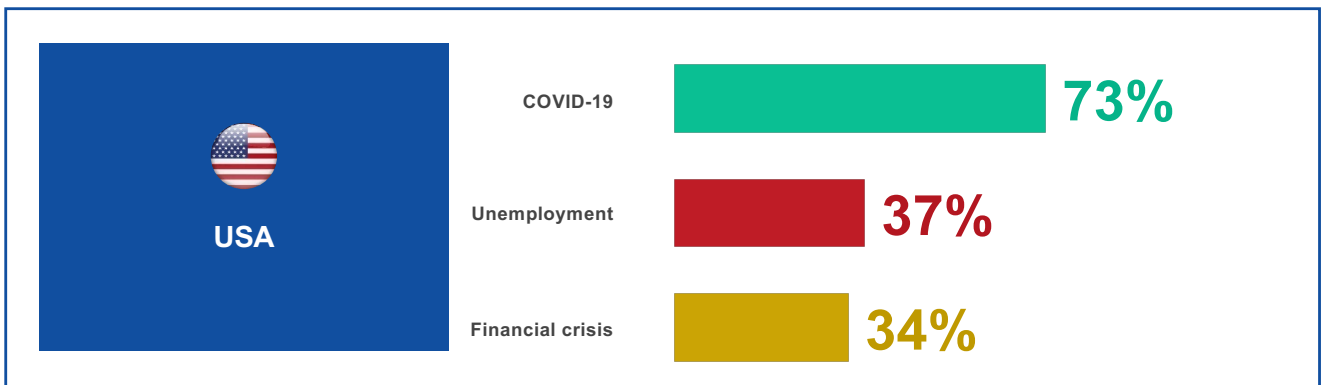
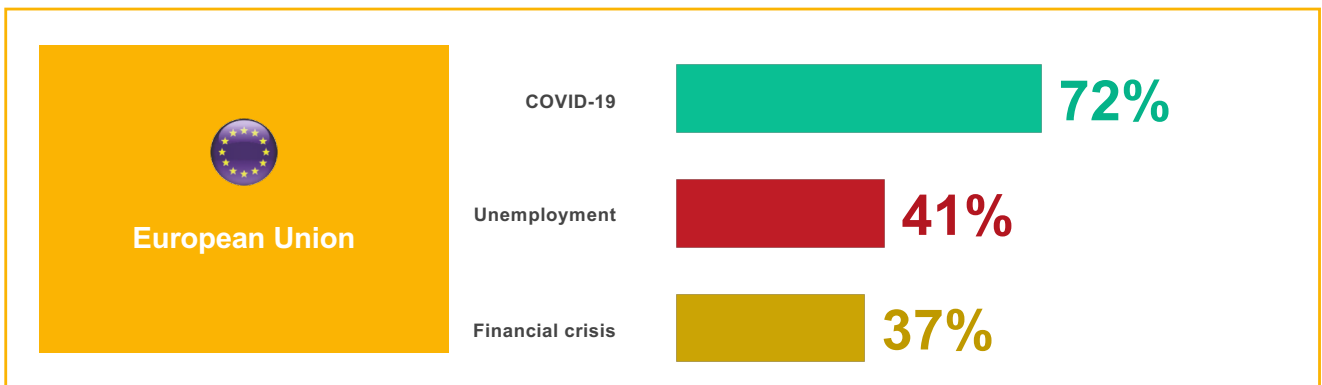
**1**

**WHAT ARE THE THREE  
BIGGEST CHALLENGES  
FACING YOUR COUNTRY?**

# Chinese people still consider climate change the top challenge, while Europeans and Americans worry more about COVID-19

In your opinion, what are the three biggest challenges that citizens in your country are currently facing?

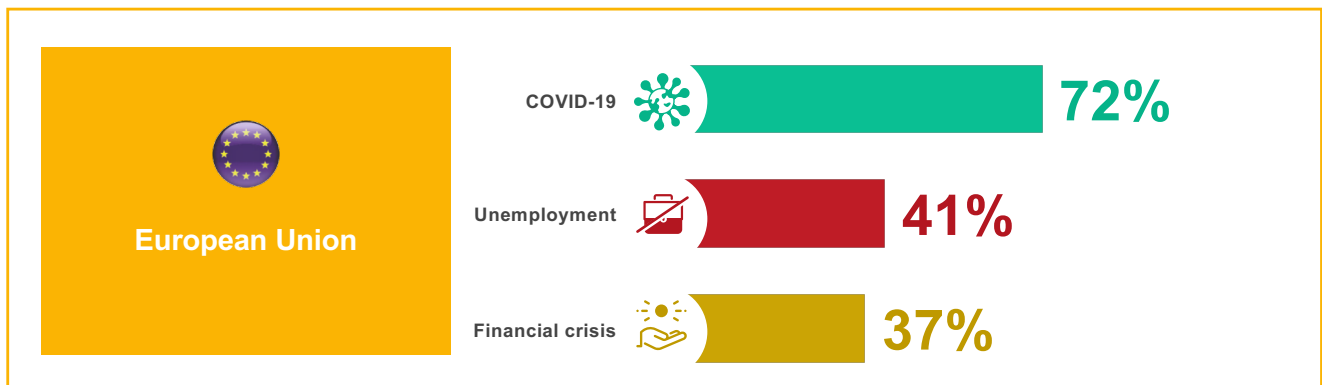
## 3 biggest challenges



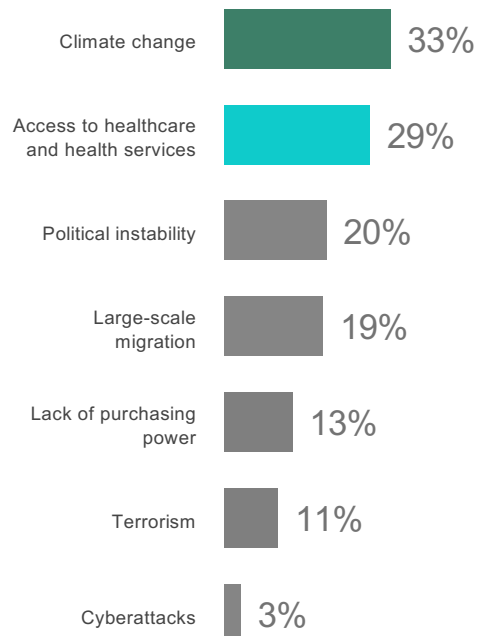
# What are the biggest challenges for Europeans?

In your opinion, what are the three biggest challenges that citizens in your country are currently facing?

## Top 3 challenges



## Other challenges



# A large majority of Europeans cite COVID-19 as one of the biggest challenges facing their country

In your opinion, what are the three biggest challenges that citizens in your country are currently facing?



# 72%

of EU citizens believe that COVID-19 is among the biggest challenges



**Female: 73%**

Male: **70%**



**65 years old and over:**

**79%**

30-64 years old: **71%**

15-29 years old: **67%**



**Without children: 73%**

With children: **68%**



**Unemployed + inactive: 75%**

Workforce: **69%**



**Upper class: 73%**

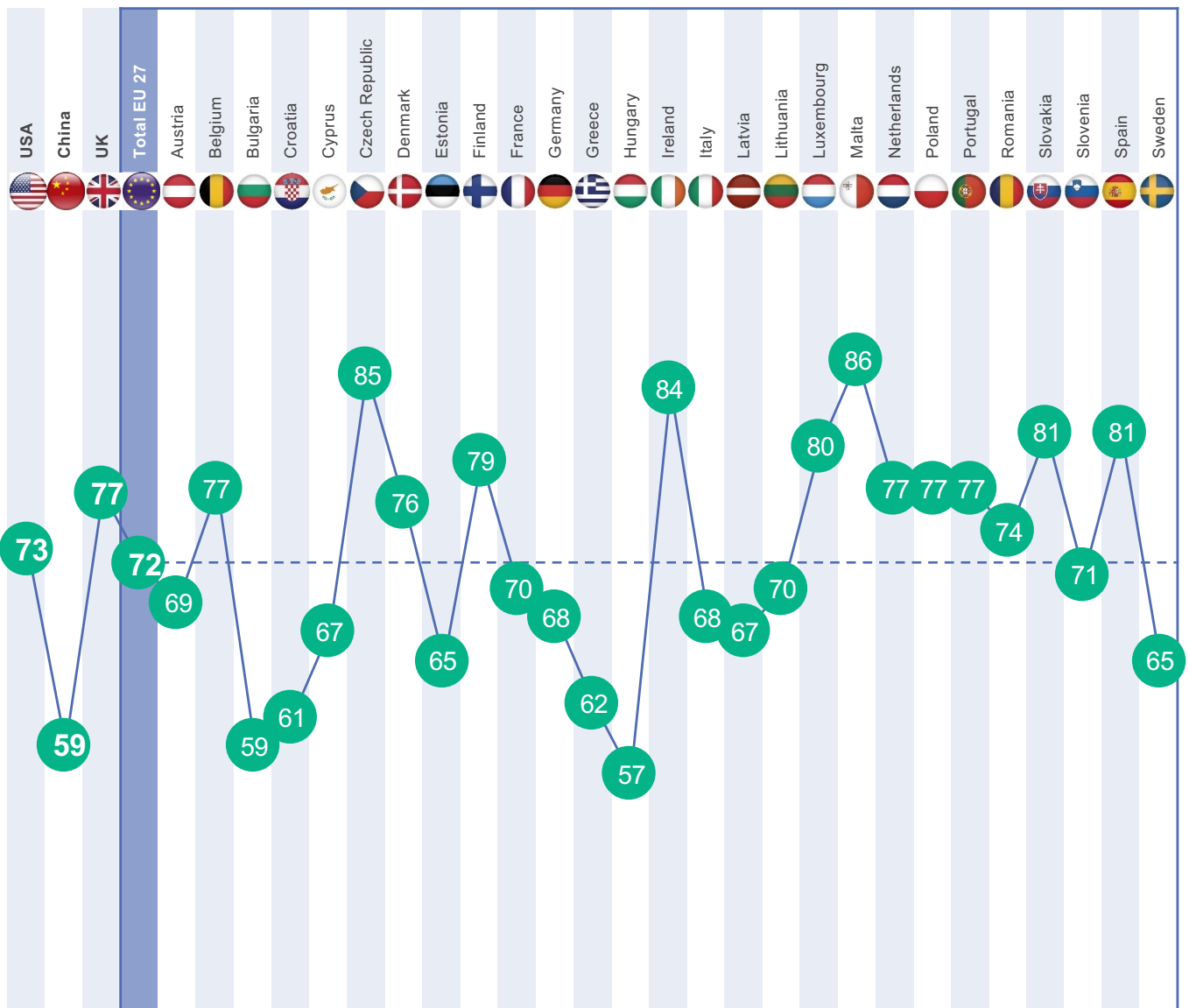
Underprivileged: **70%**

# The pandemic is one of the biggest challenges in all European countries

In your opinion, what are the three biggest challenges that citizens in your country are currently facing?



**% who rank COVID-19 as one of the biggest challenges**



# A third of Europeans still consider climate change as one of the biggest challenges

In your opinion, what are the three biggest challenges that citizens in your country are currently facing?



# 33%

of EU citizens believe that climate change is one of their biggest challenges



15-29 years old: **36%**  
65 years old and over: **37%**  
30-64 years old: **30%**



Without children: **34%**  
With children: **29%**



Left-leaning political views: **43%**  
Right-leaning political views: **25%**



Higher occupations: **35%**  
Lower occupations: **30%**



Upper class: **34%**  
Underprivileged: **31%**

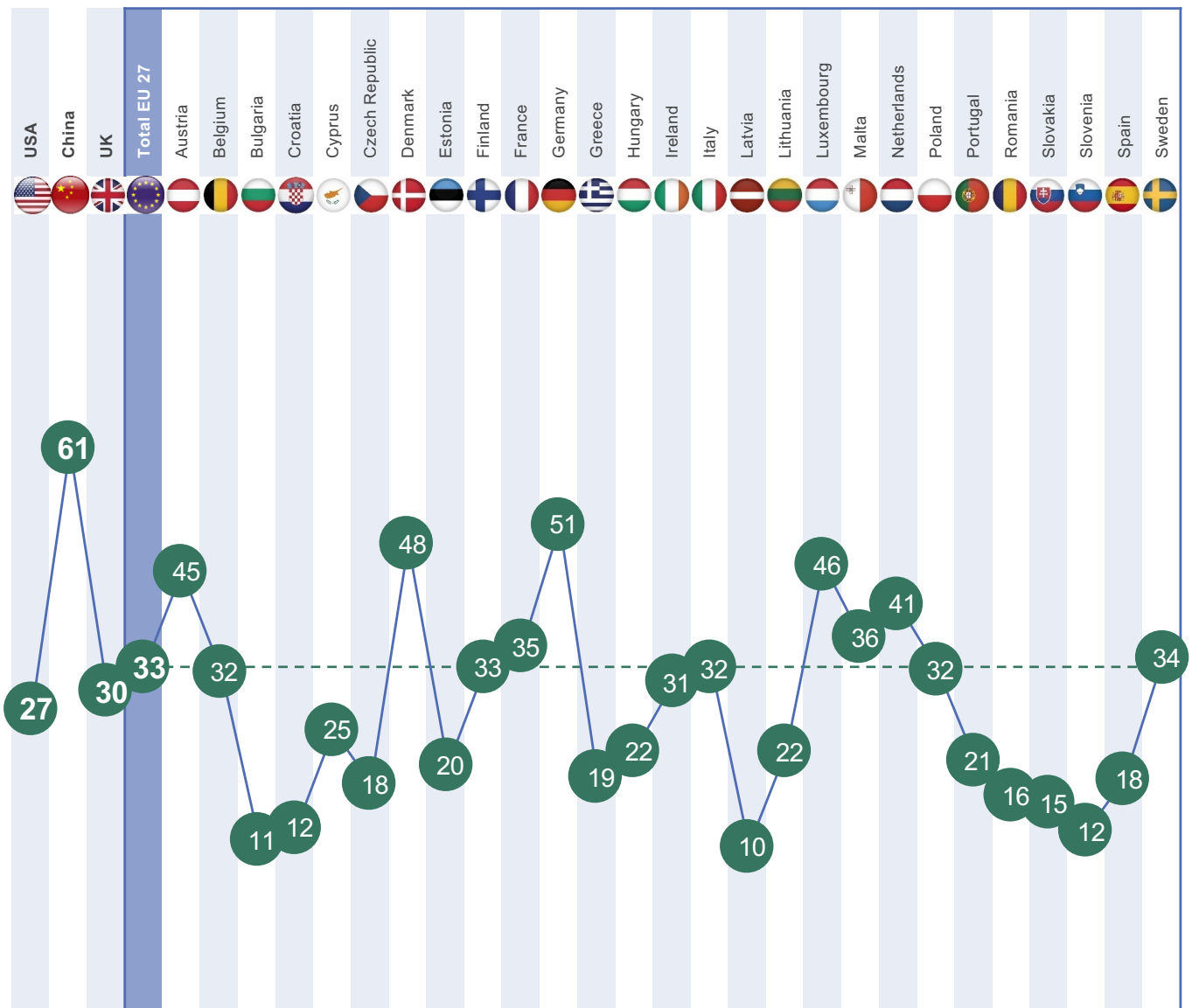


# Western Europe is more likely to make climate change an issue

In your opinion, what are the three biggest challenges that citizens in your country are currently facing?



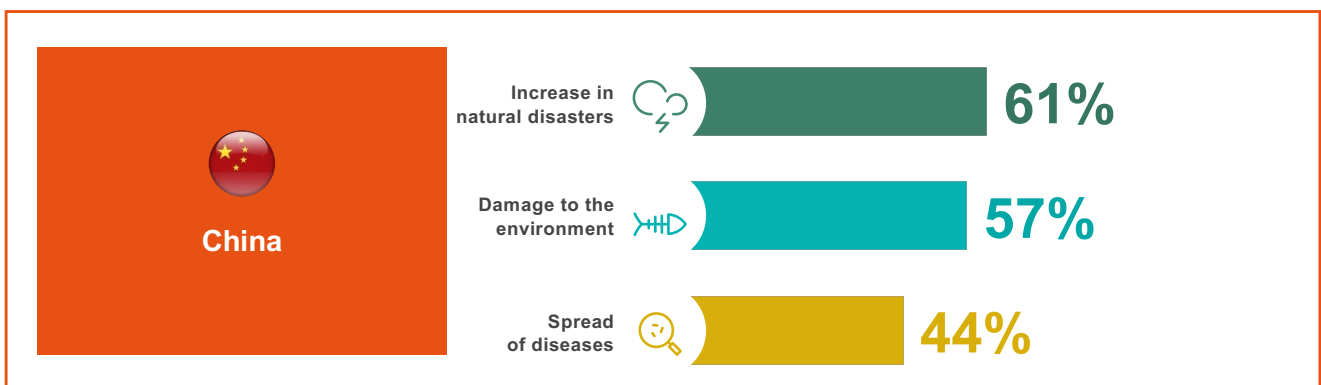
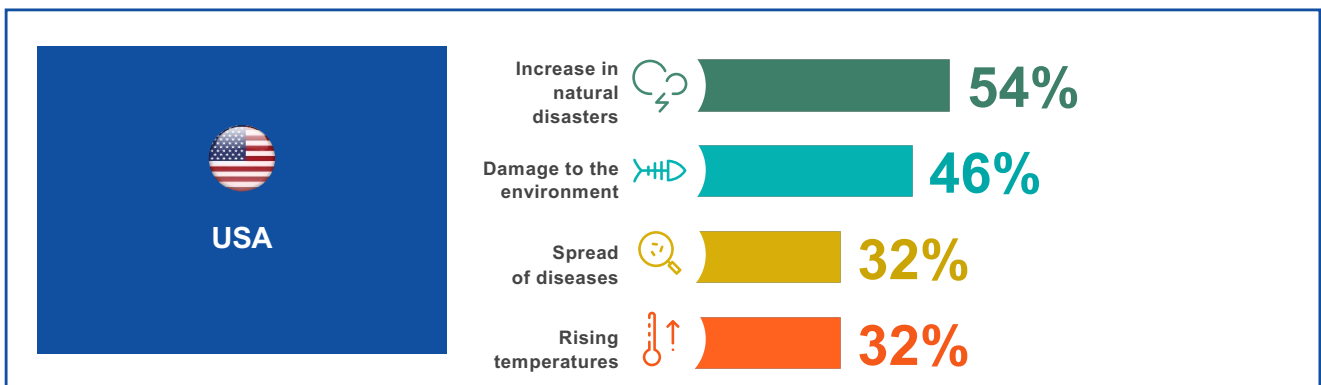
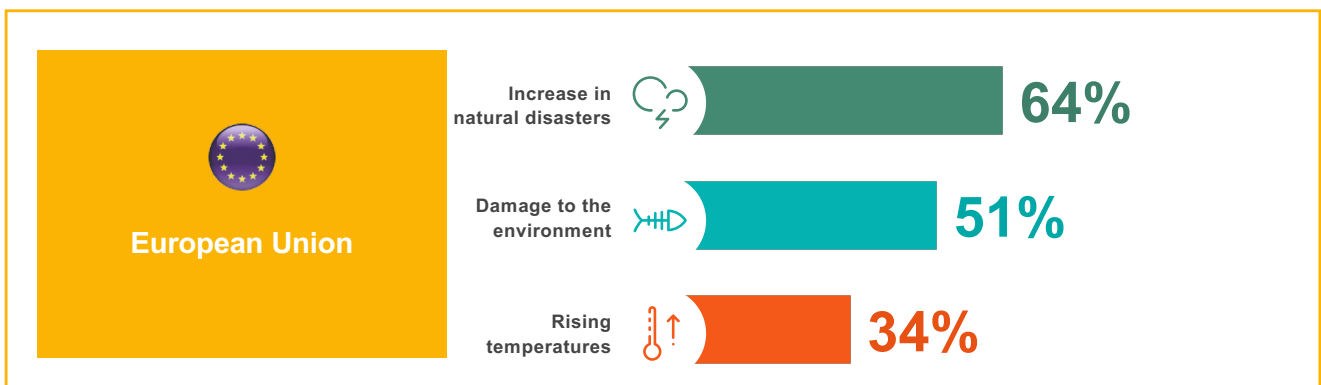
**% of citizens  
who rank climate change as one of the biggest  
challenges**



# People are most worried about an increase in natural disasters

Which of the following climate change-related concerns worry you the most?

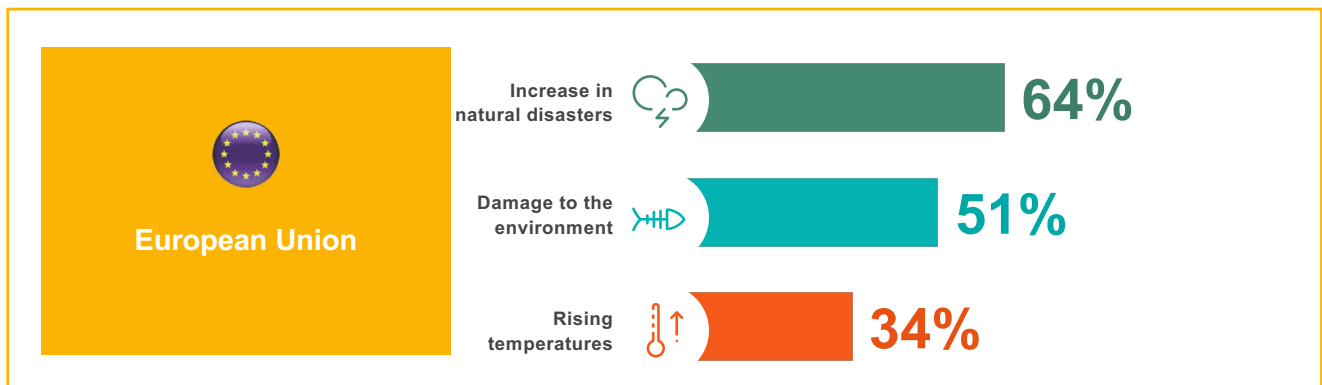
## Top 3 climate change concerns



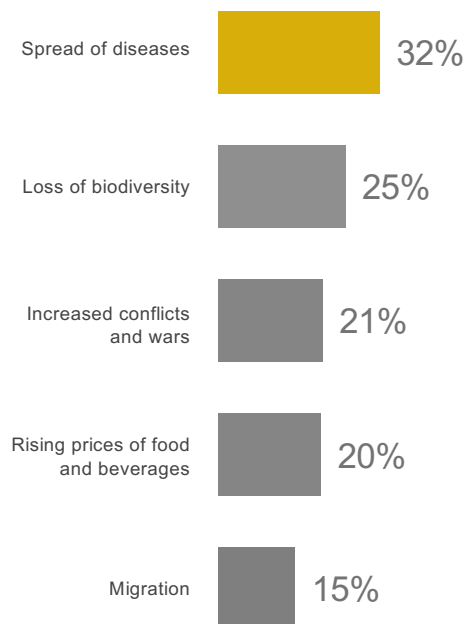
# An increase in natural disasters, damage to the environment and rising temperatures are the biggest concerns for Europeans

Which of the following climate change-related concerns worry you the most?

## Top 3 climate change-related concerns

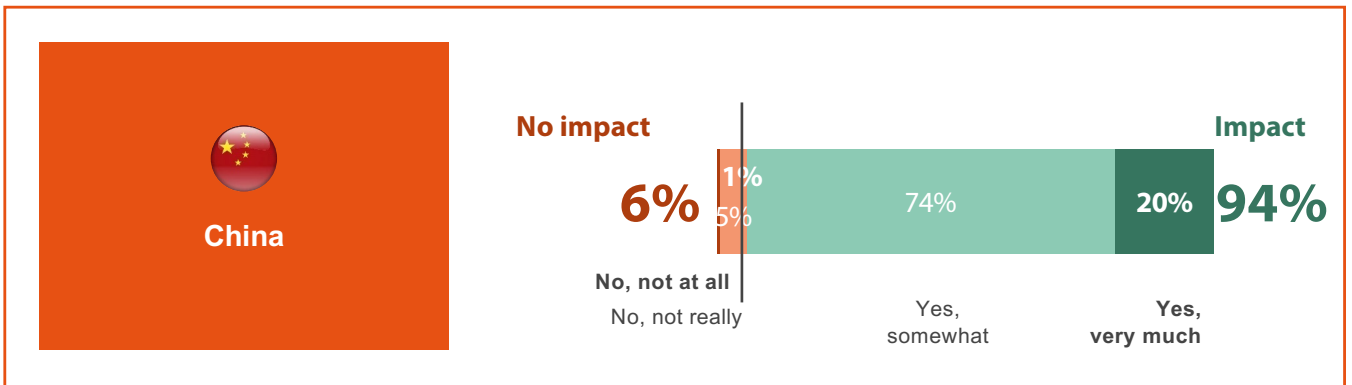
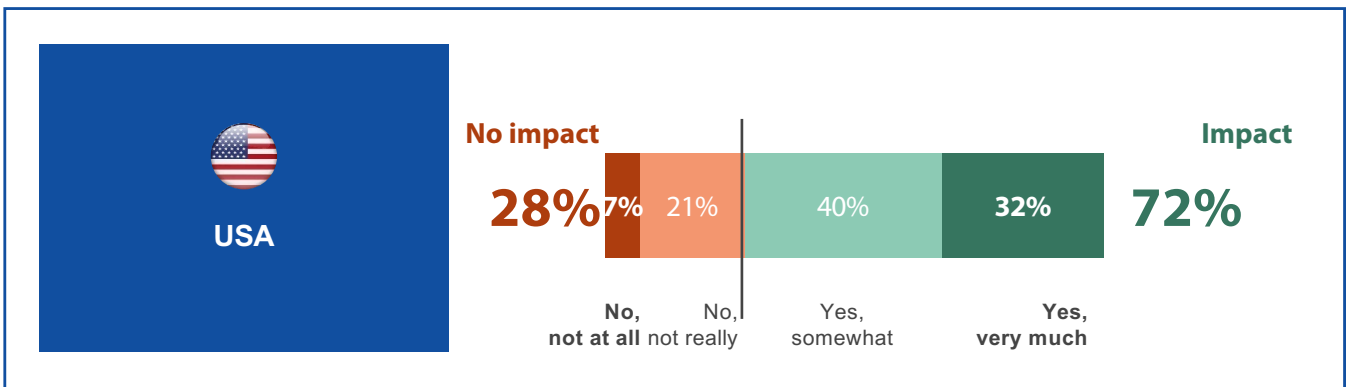
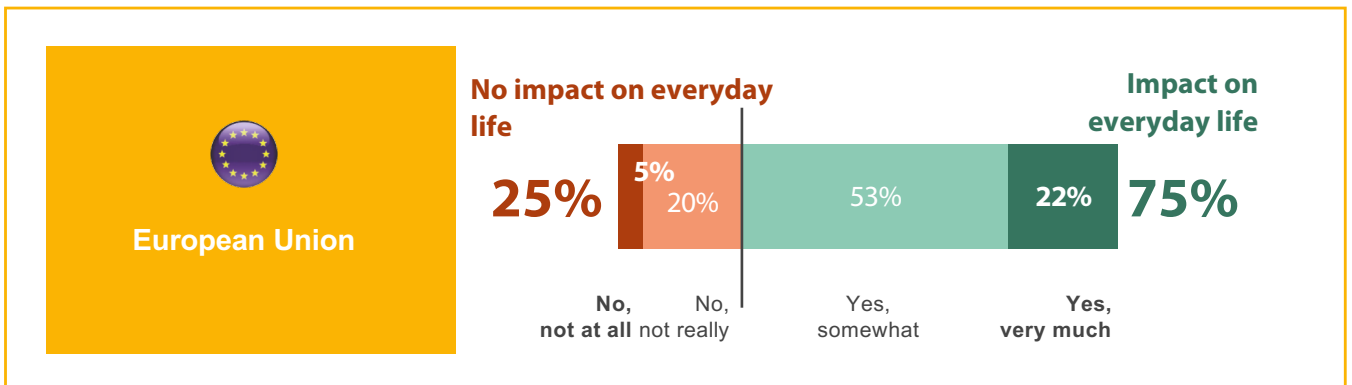


## Other concerns



# Three-quarters or more of Chinese people, Americans and Europeans believe that climate change has an impact on everyday life

Do you feel that climate change is having an impact on your everyday life?



# Young Europeans feel more than older people that climate change has an impact on everyday life

Do you feel that climate change is having an impact on your everyday life?



# 75%

of EU citizens believe that climate change has an impact on everyday life



Female: **77%**  
Male: **74%**



From 15 to 29 years old: **79%**  
65 years old and over: **72%**



With children: **79%**  
Without children: **74%**



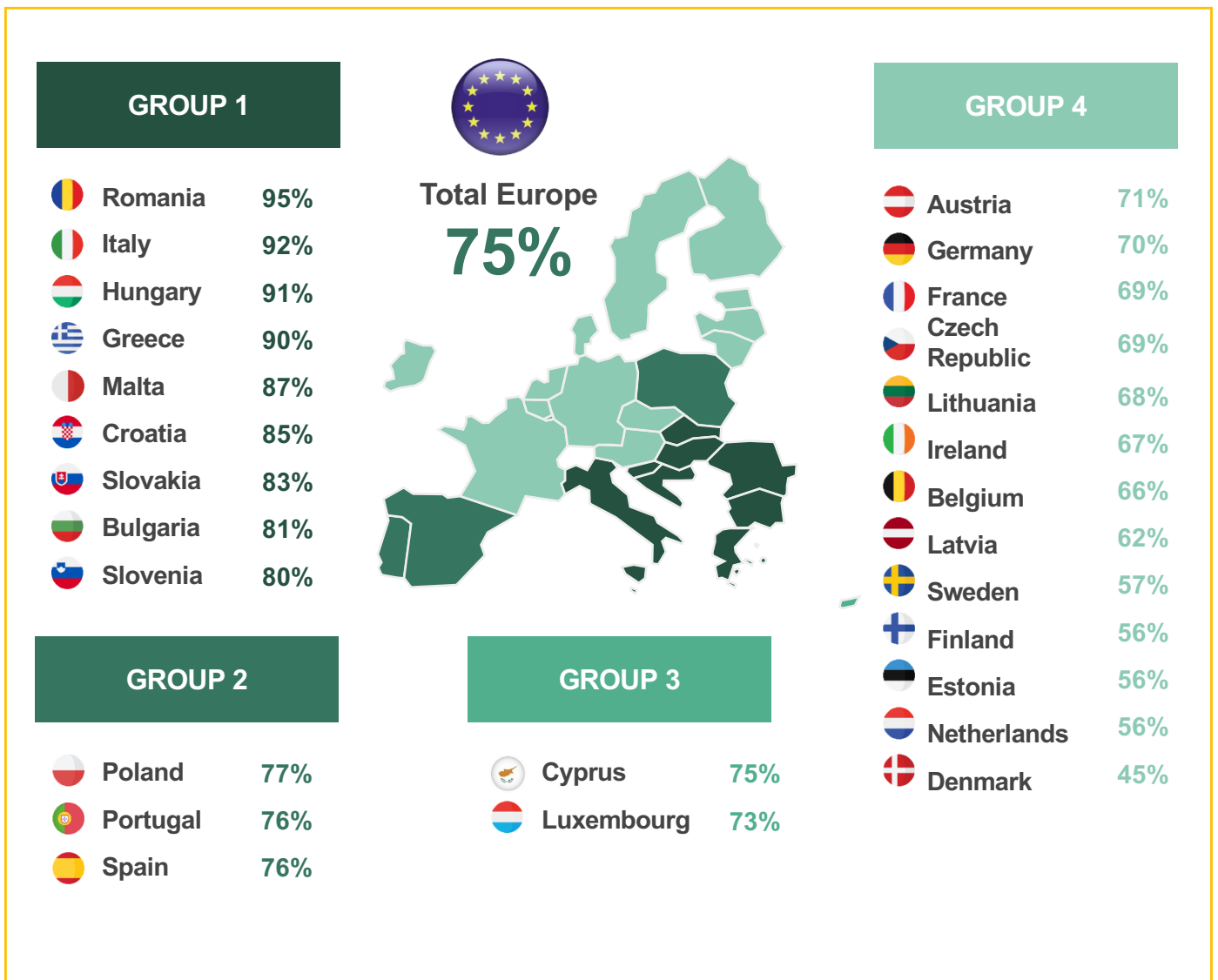
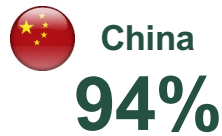
Left-leaning political views: **81%**  
Right-leaning political views: **72%**



City/metropolis: **77%**  
Rural area: **72%**

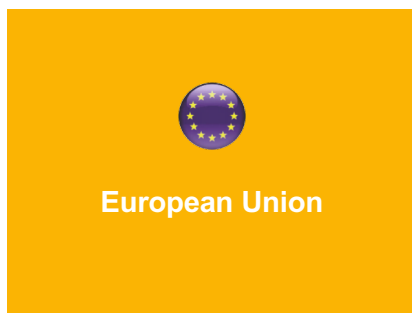
# Southern and South-Eastern Europe sees more impact of climate change on everyday life than other locations

Do you feel that climate change is having an impact on your everyday life?

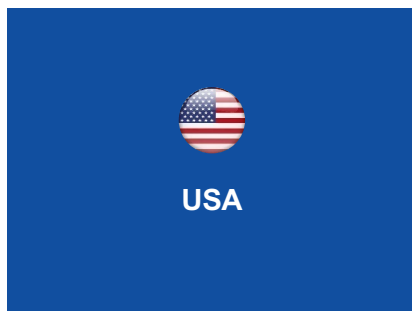


## Two-thirds of Europeans think the European Union is in the lead in the fight against climate change; Americans are less confident about their country

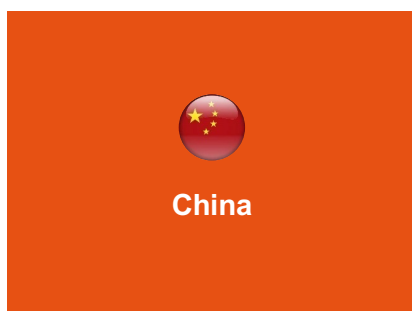
Would you say that the European Union is at the forefront in the fight against climate change, compared to the US and China / that your country is at the forefront in the fight against climate change, compared to other countries in the world?



Yes 66%



Yes 49%



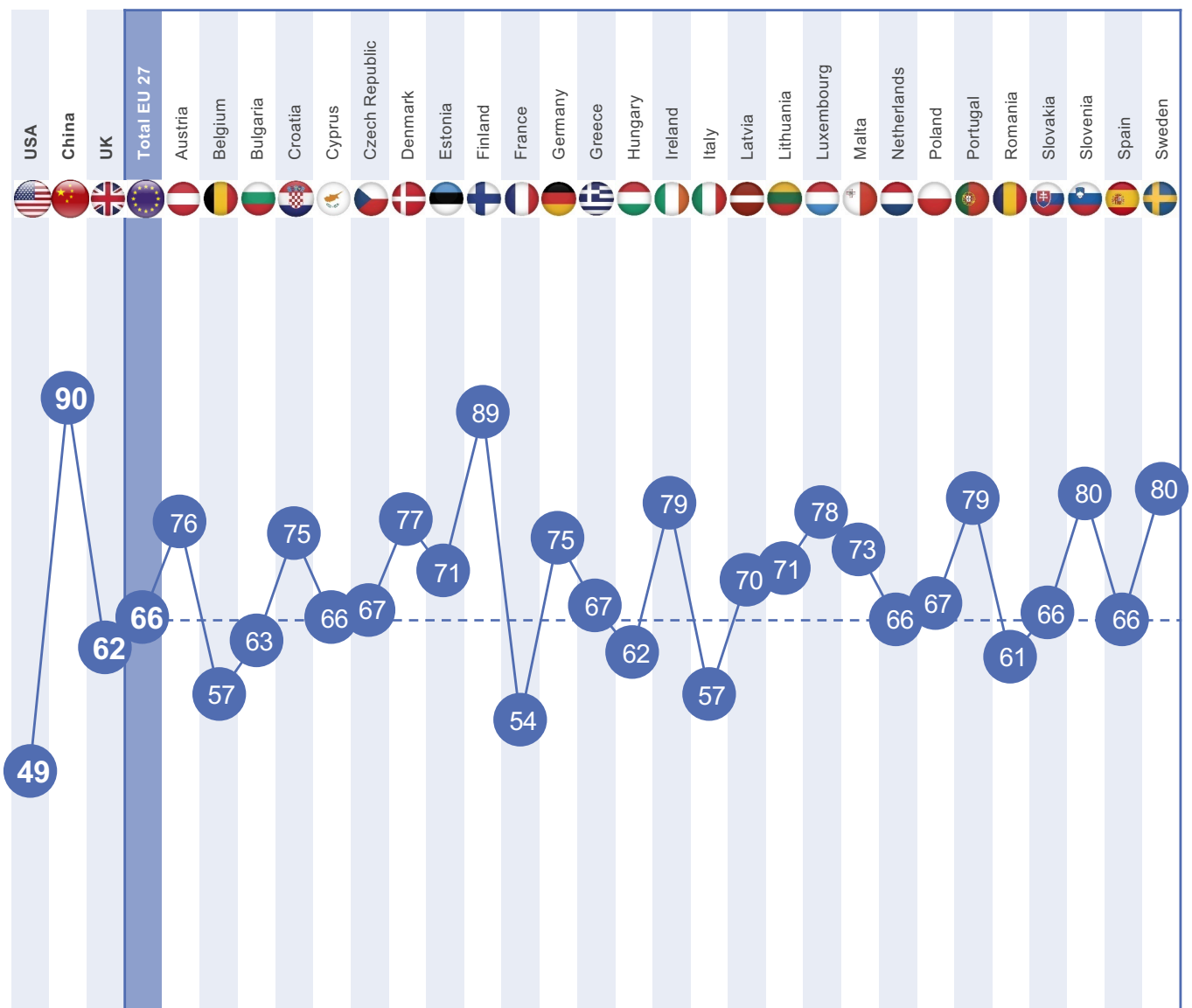
Yes 90%

# Most EU countries' citizens believe the European Union is at the forefront in the climate change fight

Would you say that your country is at the forefront in the fight against climate change, compared to other countries in the world?



% who agree that their country is at the forefront in the fight against climate change



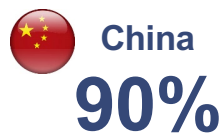
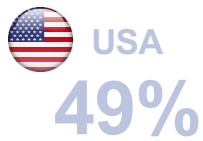


# In all EU countries, a majority of citizens agree that the European Union is at the forefront in the fight against climate change

Would you say that the European Union is at the forefront in the fight against climate change, compared to the US and China / that your country is at the forefront in the fight against climate change, compared to other countries in the world?



## Your country is at the forefront in the fight against climate change



### GROUP 1

(89% to 71% agreement)

	Finland	89%
	Sweden	80%
	Slovenia	80%
	Portugal	79%
	Ireland	79%
	Luxembourg	78%
	Denmark	77%
	Austria	76%
	Croatia	75%
	Germany	75%
	Malta	73%
	Lithuania	71%
	Estonia	71%

### GROUP 2

(70% to 66% agreement)

	Latvia	70%
	Poland	67%
	Greece	67%
	Czech Rep.	67%
	Slovakia	66%



**Total Europe**

**66%**



### GROUP 3

(66% to 63% agreement)

	Cyprus	66%
	Netherlands	66%
	Spain	66%
	Bulgaria	63%

### GROUP 4

(62% or below)

	Hungary	62%
	Romania	61%
	Belgium	57%
	Italy	57%
	France	54%

# Northern Europeans are more likely to believe their country is at the forefront in the fight against climate change

Would you say that your country is at the forefront in the fight against climate change, compared to other countries in the world?



You feel your country is at the forefront in the climate change battle

## GROUP 1 (72% to 57% agreement)

	Finland	72%
	Denmark	66%
	Germany	65%
	Romania	63%
	Sweden	62%
	Austria	57%

## GROUP 2 (44% to 42% agreement)

	Netherlands	44%
	Portugal	43%
	Estonia	42%

## GROUP 3 (38% agreement)

	Slovenia	38%
	Luxembourg	38%



Total Europe  
**41%**



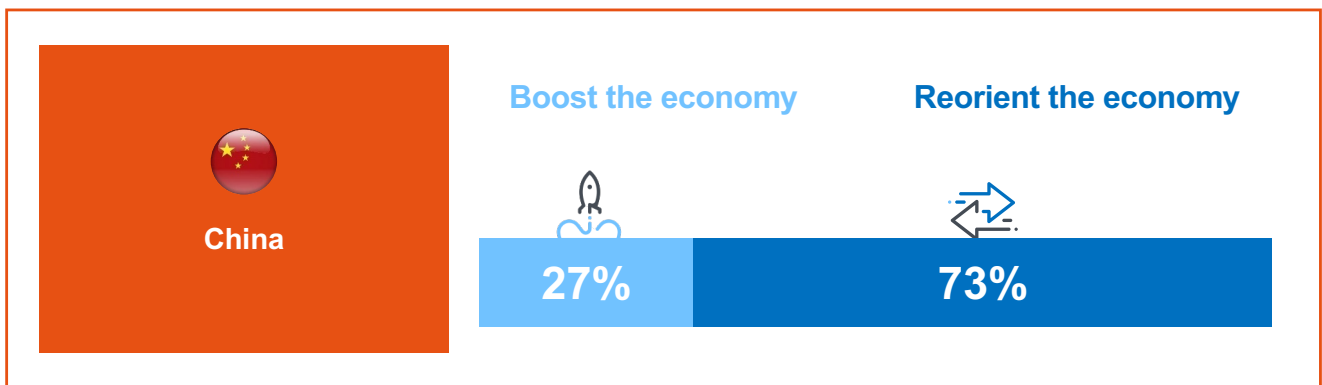
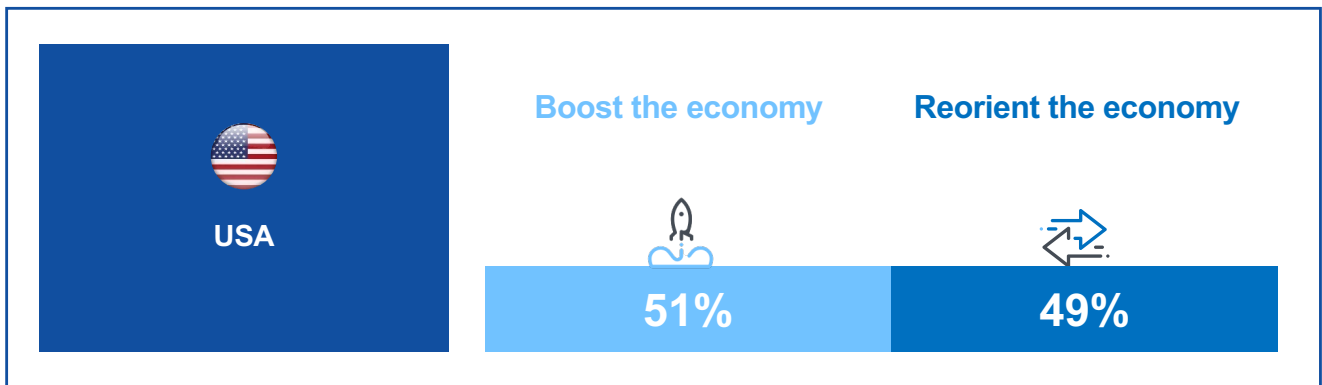
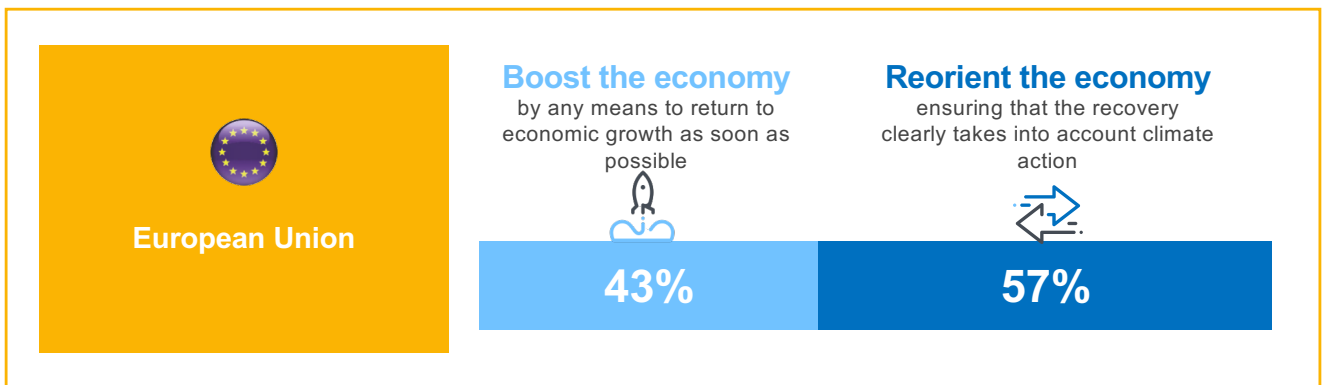
## GROUP 4 (38% or below)

	France	38%
	Italy	35%
	Ireland	34%
	Lithuania	32%
	Latvia	31%
	Spain	29%
	Belgium	29%
	Czech Republic	28%
	Hungary	25%
	Malta	23%
	Greece	22%
	Poland	22%
	Slovakia	22%
	Bulgaria	18%
	Croatia	16%
	Cyprus	10%

# Most Europeans and Chinese feel their governments should prioritise a green recovery

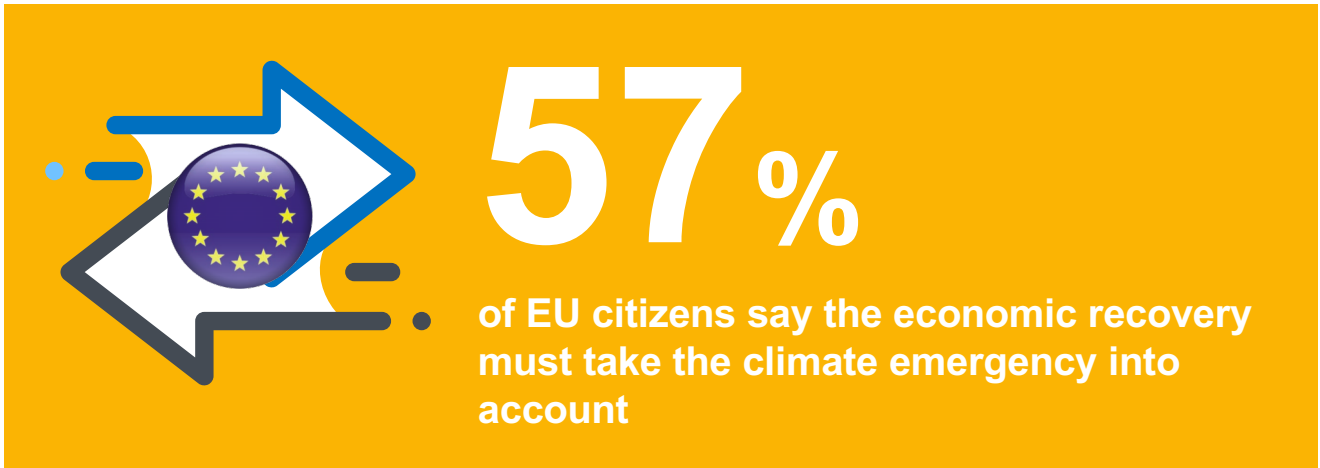
Faced with the economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, what should be the priority of your national government?

## What should be your government's priority?



# Greater willingness among European seniors

Faced with the economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, what should be the priority of your national government?



Female: **59%**  
Male: **56%**



65 years old and over: **61%**  
30-64 years old: **57%**



Without children: **60%**  
With children: **52%**



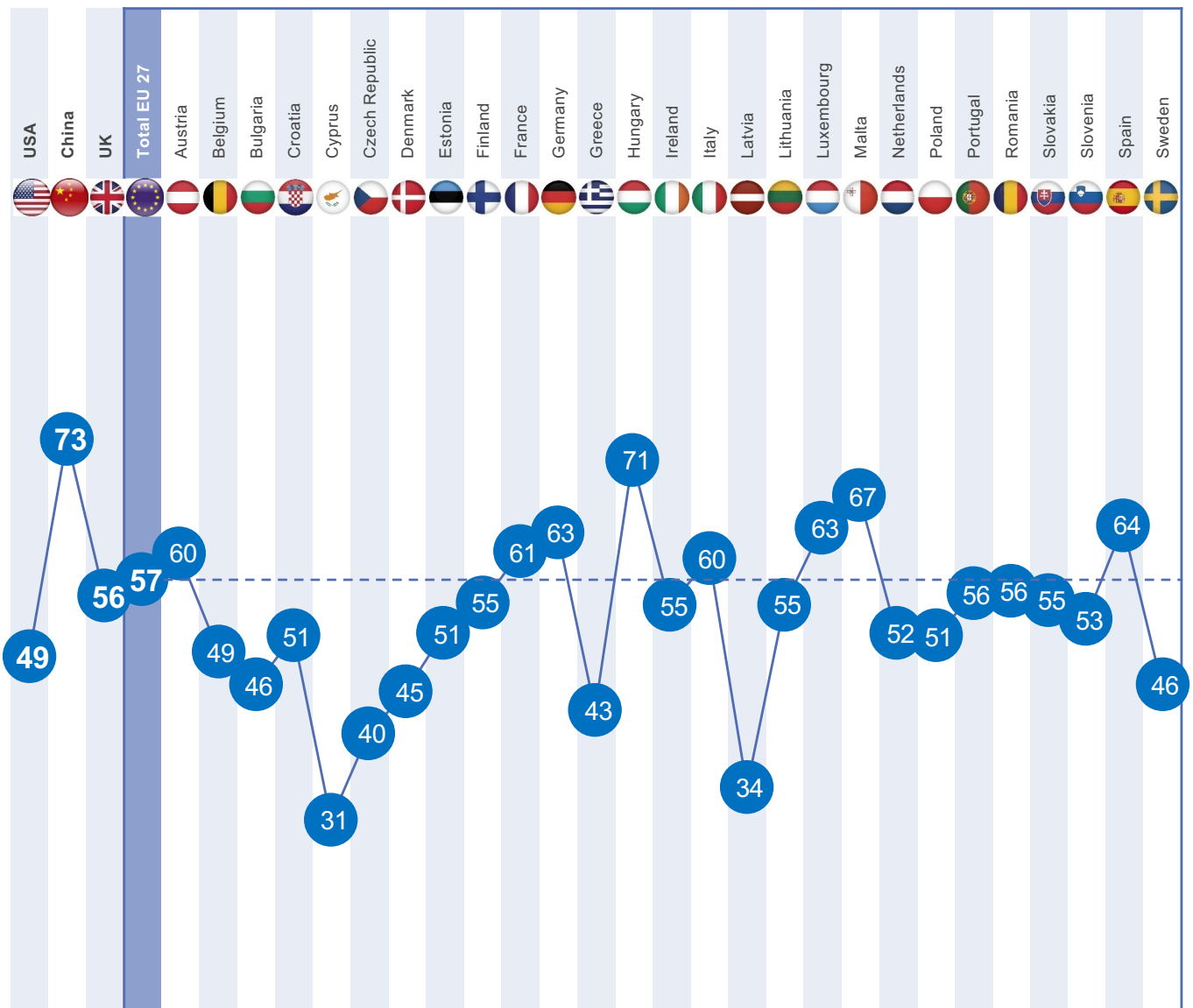
Left-leaning political views: **69%**  
Right-leaning political views: **45%**

# Great disparities in Europe regarding the government's priority for the recovery

Faced with the economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, what should be the priority of your national government?



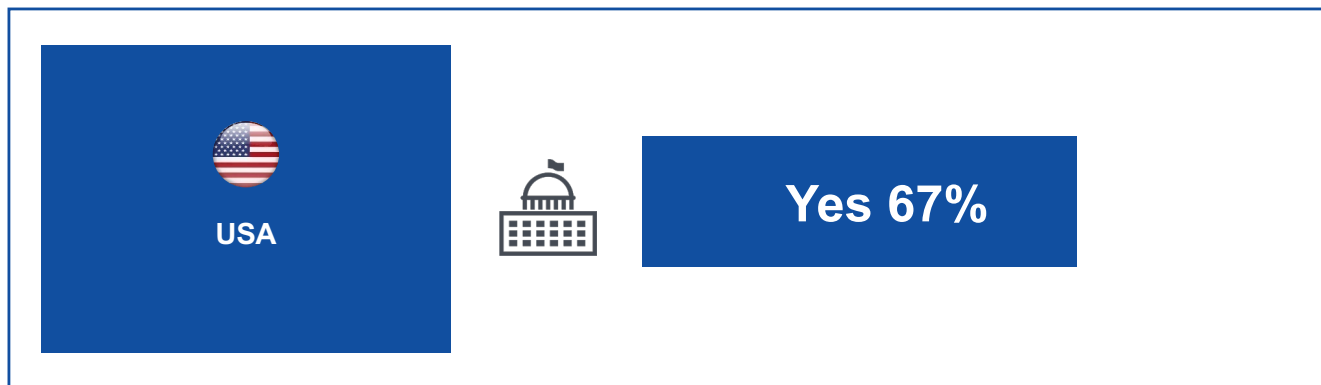
% who believe that their national government must support a green recovery



# Most people favour stricter government measures to make us change our habits, if it would help tackle climate change

Would you be in favour of stricter government measures, forcing citizens to change their behaviour to tackle climate change?

## Yes to stricter government measures



# Women and older Europeans are more favourable to stricter government measures

Would you be in favour of stricter government measures, forcing citizens to change their behaviour to tackle climate change?



# 70%



of EU citizens want stricter government measures



Female: **71%**

Male: **68%**



65 years old and over:

**73%**

30-64 years old: **69%**



With children: **72%**

Without children: **69%**



Left-leaning political views: **78%**

Right-leaning political views:

**67%**



City/metropolis: **72%**

Rural area: **66%**

# More Latin countries favour stricter measures

Would you be in favour of stricter government measures, forcing citizens to change their behaviour to tackle climate change?



## % who would support stricter measures



USA

67%



China

95%



UK

65%

### GROUP 1

(88% to 77% agreement)

	Malta	88%
	Portugal	85%
	Italy	80%
	Spain	79%
	Romania	77%

### GROUP 2

(72% to 70% agreement)

	Ireland	72%
	Poland	71%
	Greece	71%
	Sweden	70%
	Croatia	70%

### GROUP 3

(68% to 67% agreement)

	Slovakia	68%
	Slovenia	67%



Total Europe

70%



### GROUP 4

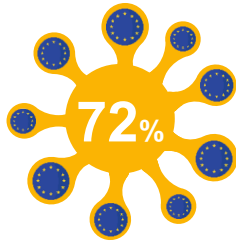
(66% or below)

	France	66%
	Germany	65%
	Belgium	65%
	Hungary	64%
	Finland	63%
	Latvia	62%
	Bulgaria	62%
	Czech Republic	61%
	Lithuania	59%
	Denmark	59%
	Netherlands	59%
	Austria	57%
	Cyprus	57%
	Luxembourg	57%
	Estonia	56%

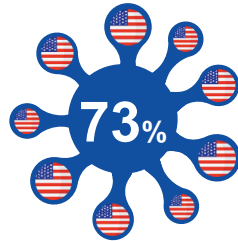


# Climate change and COVID-19

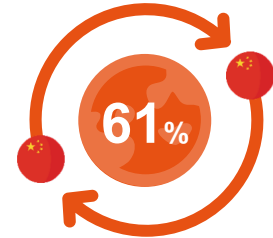
The crisis has changed people's views on the challenges facing their countries.



For Europeans, **COVID-19 is the main challenge**



For Americans, the **COVID-19 pandemic is the greatest challenge**



In China, **climate change is still seen as the biggest challenge**, with the pandemic closely behind

Americans prefer a different path to recovery



Europeans favour a **green recovery**



Americans believe the government should **boost the economy** by any means in the interest of quick economic growth



Chinese people say the **economic recovery** must take the climate emergency into account

In 2020, strong government action to fight the crisis included mandatory masks, lockdowns and travel restrictions. Here are how many people favour similar measures that **impose changes in behaviour to tackle climate change**:



Europeans think that the **EU is at the forefront of the fight against climate change**



Americans believe their country **is at the forefront of the fight against climate change**



Chinese people say they are **at the forefront**





**2**

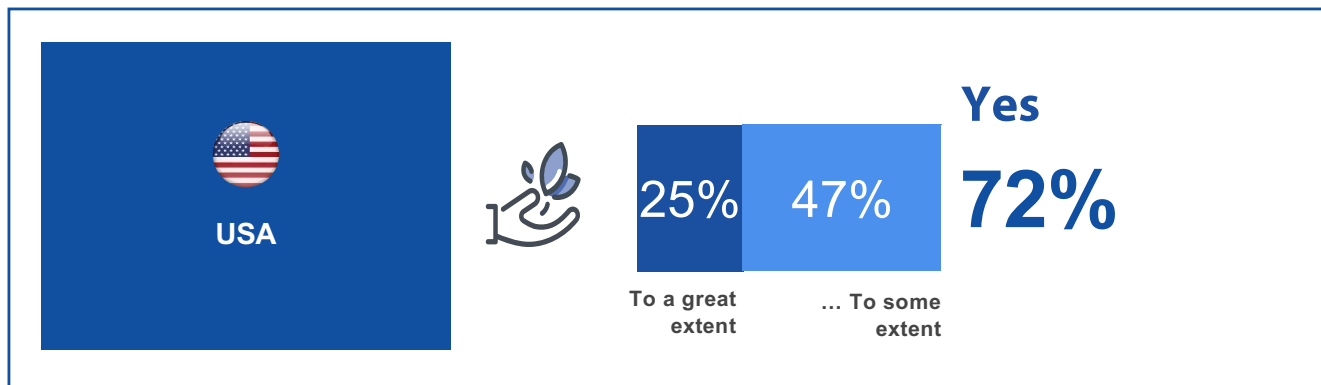
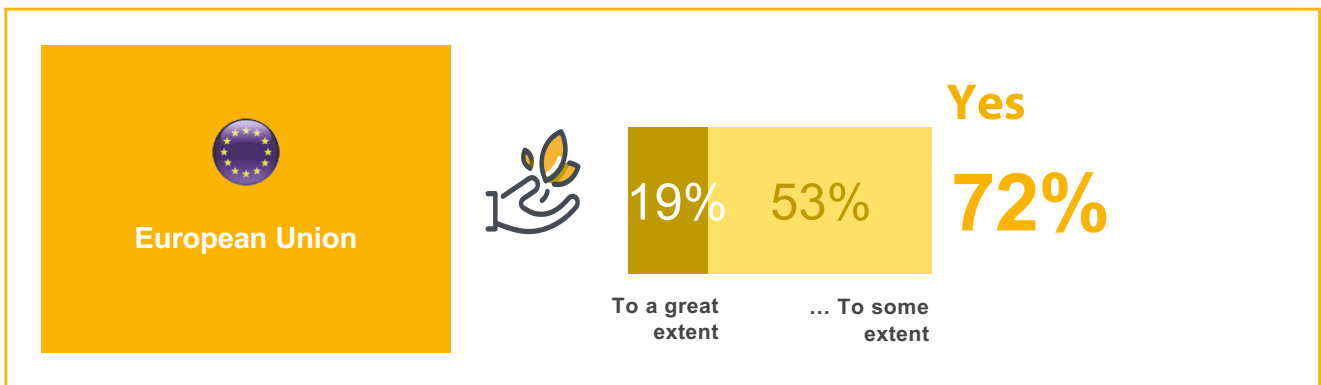
**CAN YOUR  
OWN BEHAVIOUR  
MAKE A DIFFERENCE?**

# More than 7 in 10 people, especially in China, think individual behaviour can help fight climate change

To what extent, if at all, do you think your own behaviour can make a difference in tackling climate change?



## My actions can make a difference



# Young Europeans and parents of children are more convinced their behaviour can make a difference

To what extent, if at all, do you think your own behaviour can make a difference in tackling climate change?



# 72%



of EU citizens think they can make a difference



Female: **76%**

Male: **68%**



15-29 years old: **77%**

30-64 years old: **74%**

65 years old and over: **64%**



With children: **78%**

Without children: **70%**



Left-leaning political views: **77%**

Right-leaning political views:

**69%**



City/metropolis: **75%**

Rural area: **71%**

Small or medium-sized town:

**70%**



Higher occupations:

**75%**

Unemployed/Inactive : **69%**


# Southern and Eastern European countries are more likely to think that their own behaviour is important in changing the course of climate change

To what extent, if at all, do you think your own behaviour can make a difference for climate change?

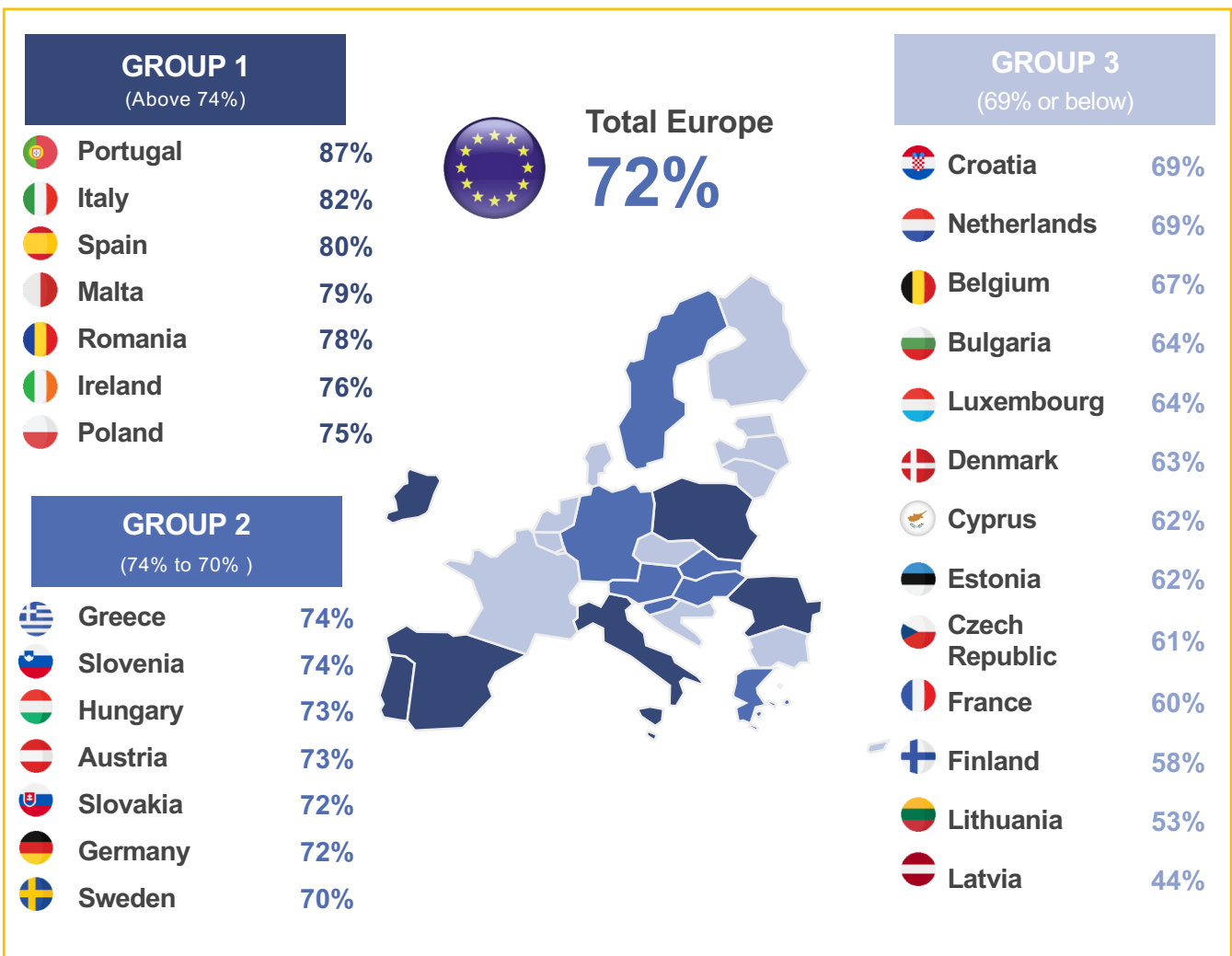


## My actions can make a difference

 **USA**  
**77%**

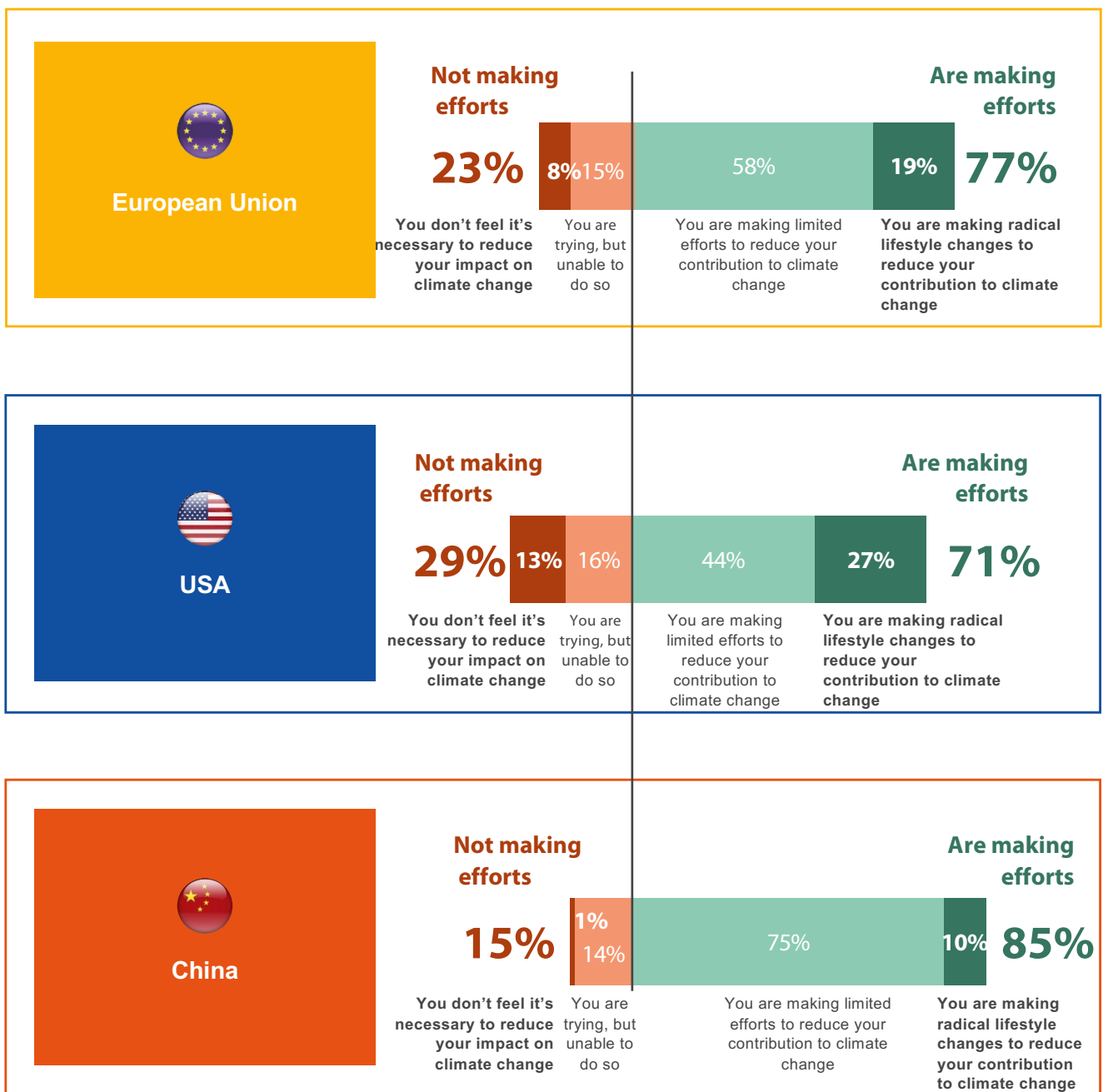
 **China**  
**84%**

 **UK**  
**72%**



# A vast majority say they are making efforts to reduce their contribution to climate change, but few are making radical lifestyle changes

Irrespective of the COVID-19 crisis, regarding your own behaviour and climate change, would you say...:



# Nearly 8 out of 10 Europeans, especially those with higher occupations and left-leaning views, say they are making efforts to reduce their contributions to climate change

Irrespective of the COVID-19 crisis, regarding your own behaviour and climate change, would you say...:



# 77%



of EU citizens are making efforts to reduce their contribution to climate change



Female: **79%**

Male: **75%**



15-29 years old: **78%**

65 years old and over: **75%**



With children: **80%**

Without children: **76%**



Left-leaning political views: **83%**

Right-leaning political views: **76%**



City/metropolis: **79%**

Small or medium-sized town: **76%**



Higher occupations: **82%**


Unemployed/Inactive: **75%**




# Western Europeans seem to be doing more to reduce their impact on climate change than Eastern Europeans

Irrespective of the COVID-19 crisis, regarding your own behaviour and climate change, would you say...:

## % making efforts to reduce the contribution to climate change

 USA  
71%








 China  
85%

 UK  
76%

### GROUP 1 (80% and above)

 Malta	84%
 Italy	84%
 Portugal	83%
 Slovenia	82%
 Greece	81%
 Spain	81%
 Ireland	80%

### GROUP 2 (75% to 79% )

 Luxembourg	79%
 France	79%
 Austria	78%
 Poland	78%
 Germany	76%
 Finland	75%
 Denmark	75%



Total Europe  
77%



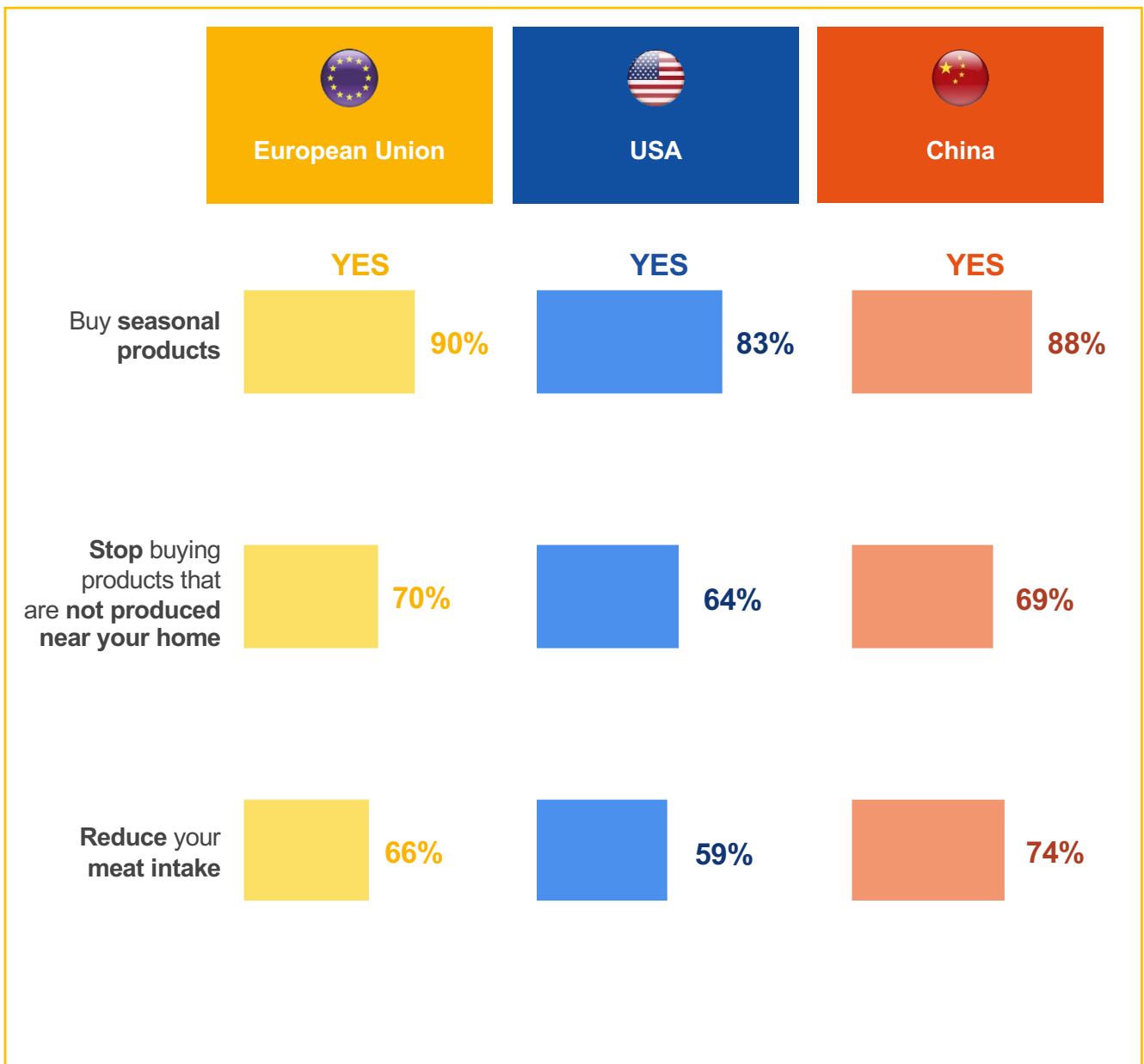
### GROUP 3 (74% or below)

 Belgium	74%
 Romania	74%
 Sweden	73%
 Bulgaria	71%
 Netherlands	70%
 Slovakia	70%
 Hungary	70%
 Croatia	68%
 Estonia	62%
 Czech Republic	59%
 Lithuania	57%
 Latvia	57%
 Cyprus	56%

# The purchase of seasonal products is at the forefront of citizens' actions to reduce their contribution to climate change

Regarding food, do you do any of the following to fight climate change?

## % of actions carried out to fight climate change

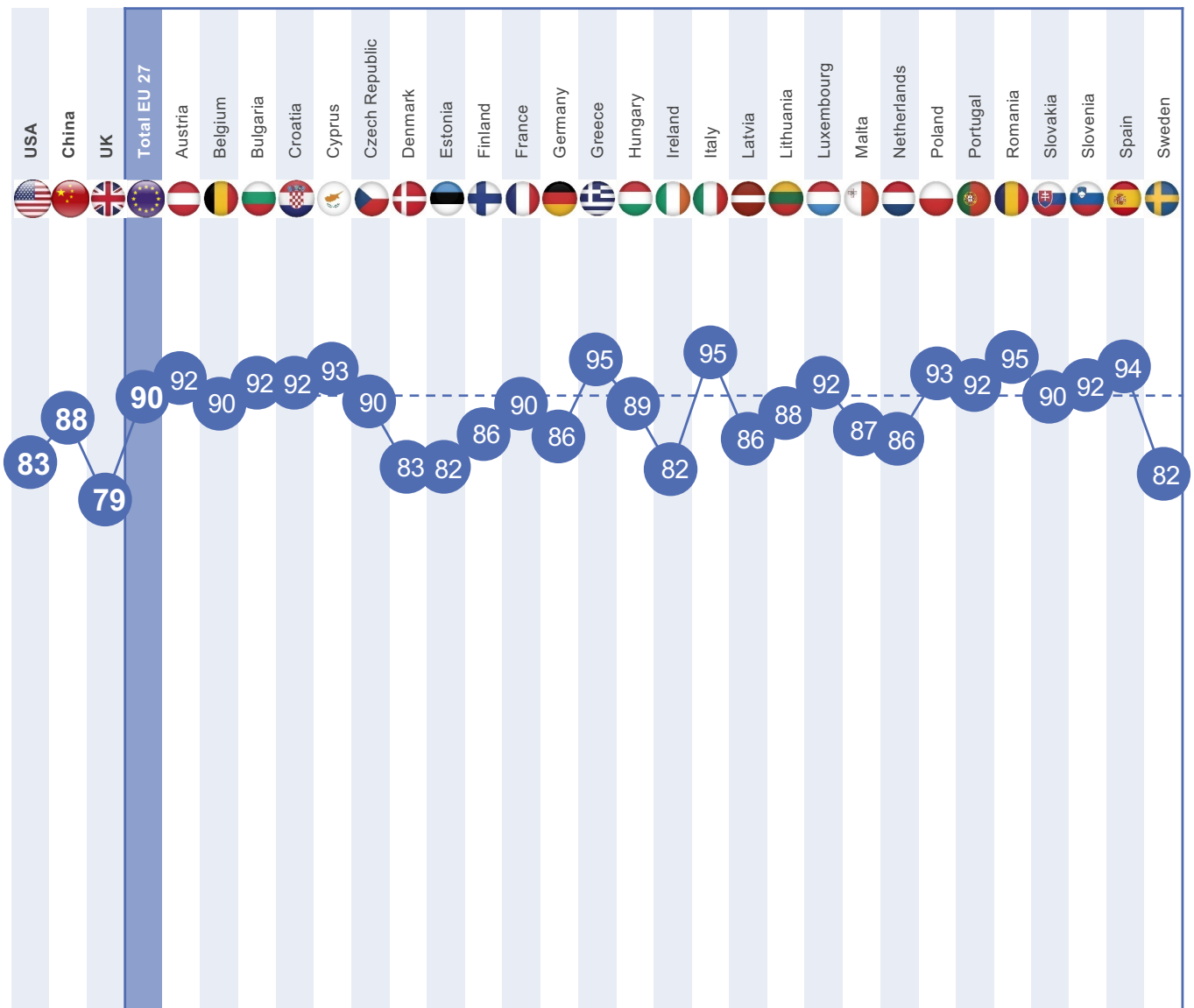


# In all European countries, the purchase of seasonal products is the main action carried out to fight climate change

Regarding food, do you do any of the following to fight climate change?



## % who buy seasonal products to fight climate change

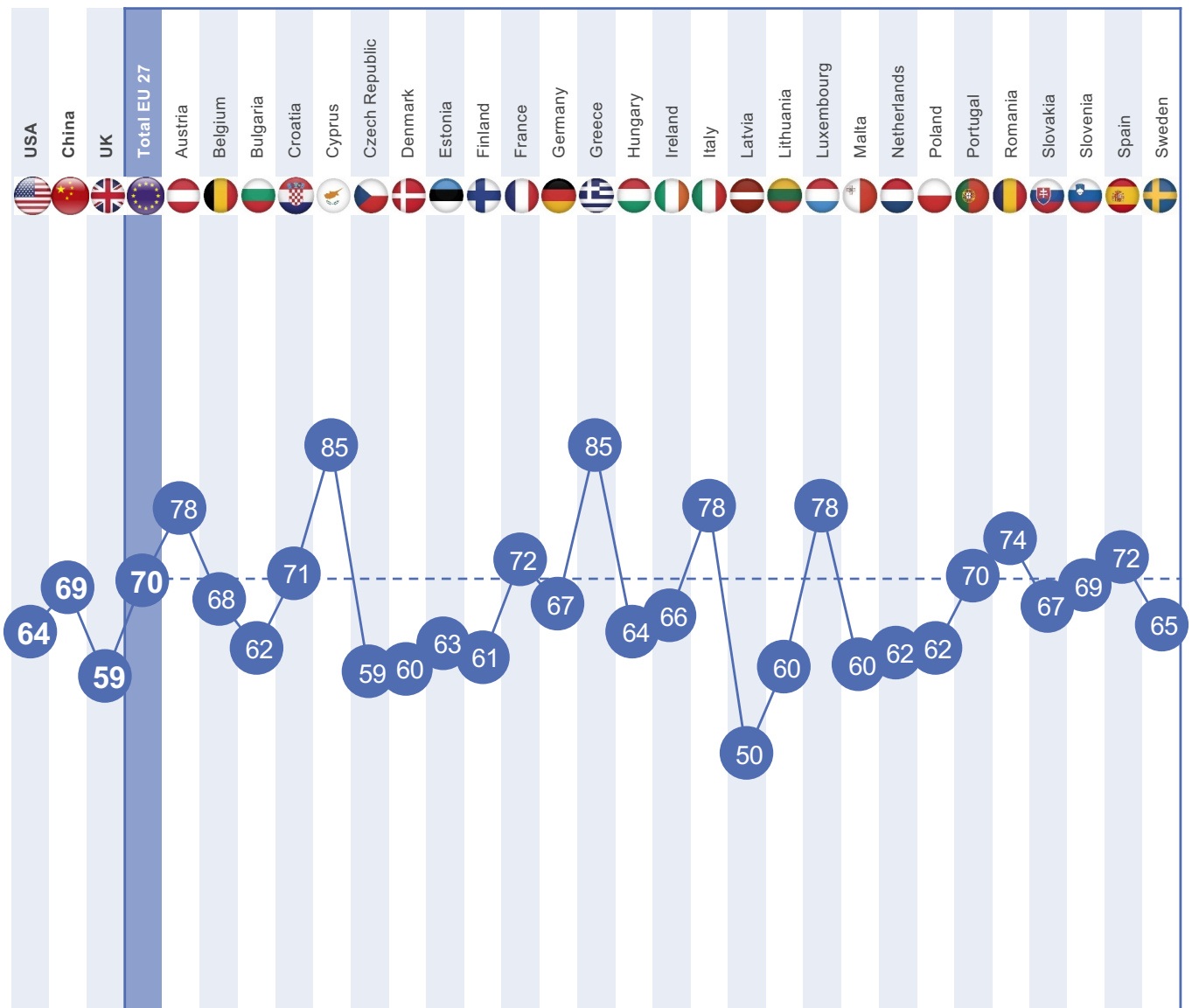


# Greater disparities on the purchase of products

Regarding food, do you do any of the following to fight climate change?



**% who have stopped buying products that are not produced near home to fight climate change**

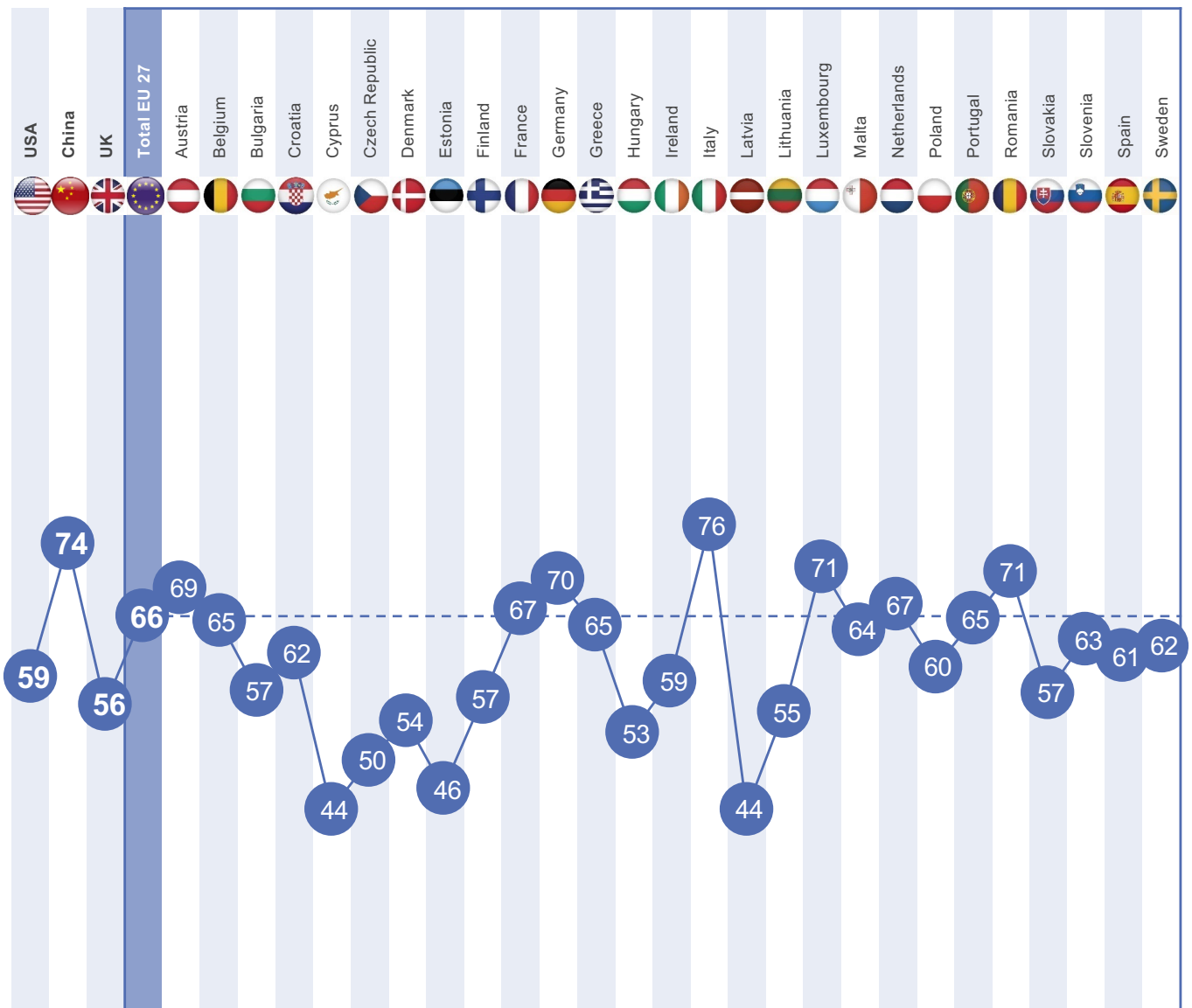


# Two-thirds of Europeans try to reduce their meat consumption, but most countries are significantly below this level

Regarding food, do you do any of the following to fight climate change?



## % who have reduced meat intake to fight climate change

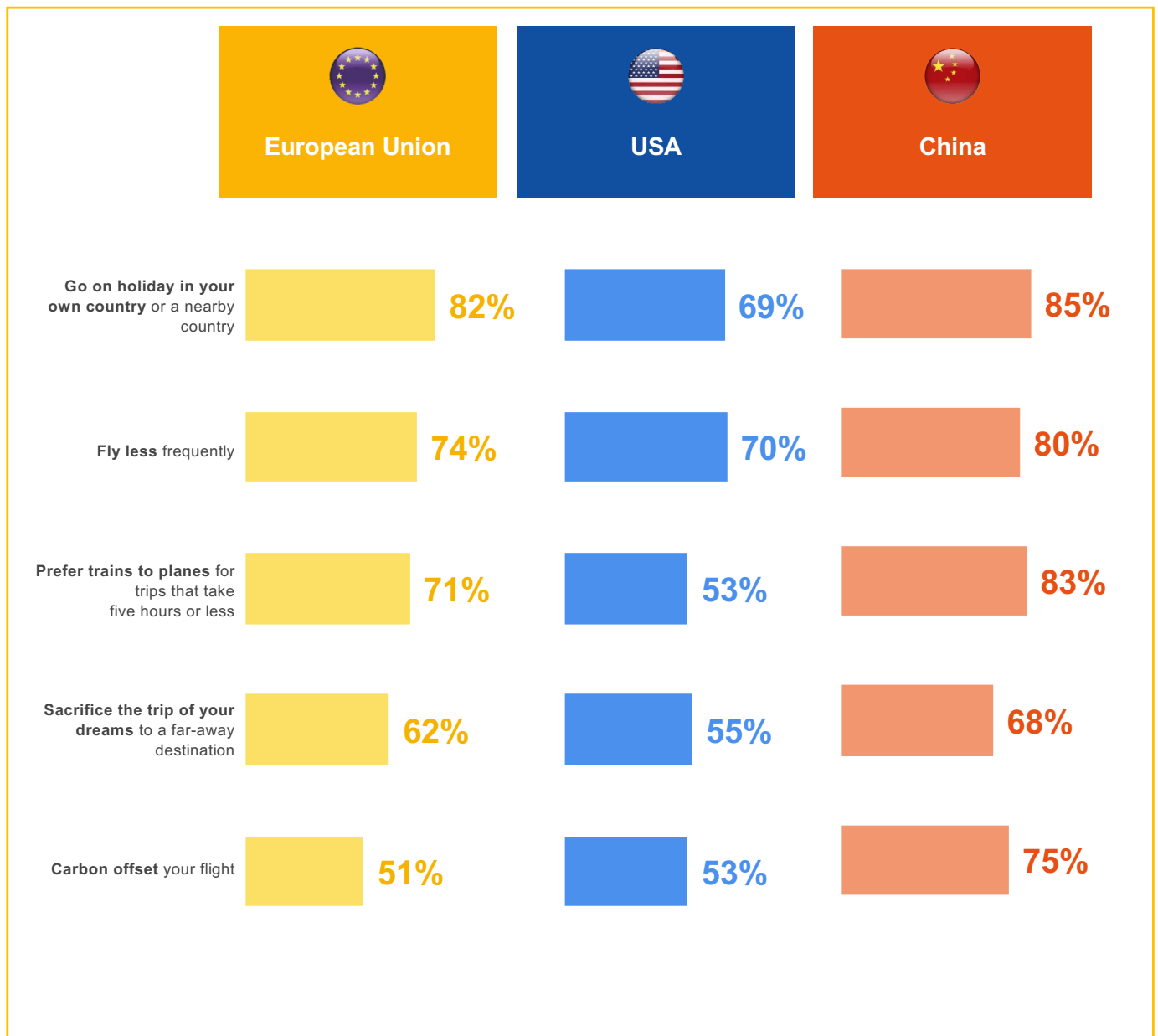


# If COVID-19 travel restrictions are lifted, Europeans and Chinese people would be inclined to change air travel habits. Americans are more reluctant.

Assuming COVID-19 related restrictions on travel are lifted, are you planning to do any of the following to fight climate change?



## % planning to change travel habits

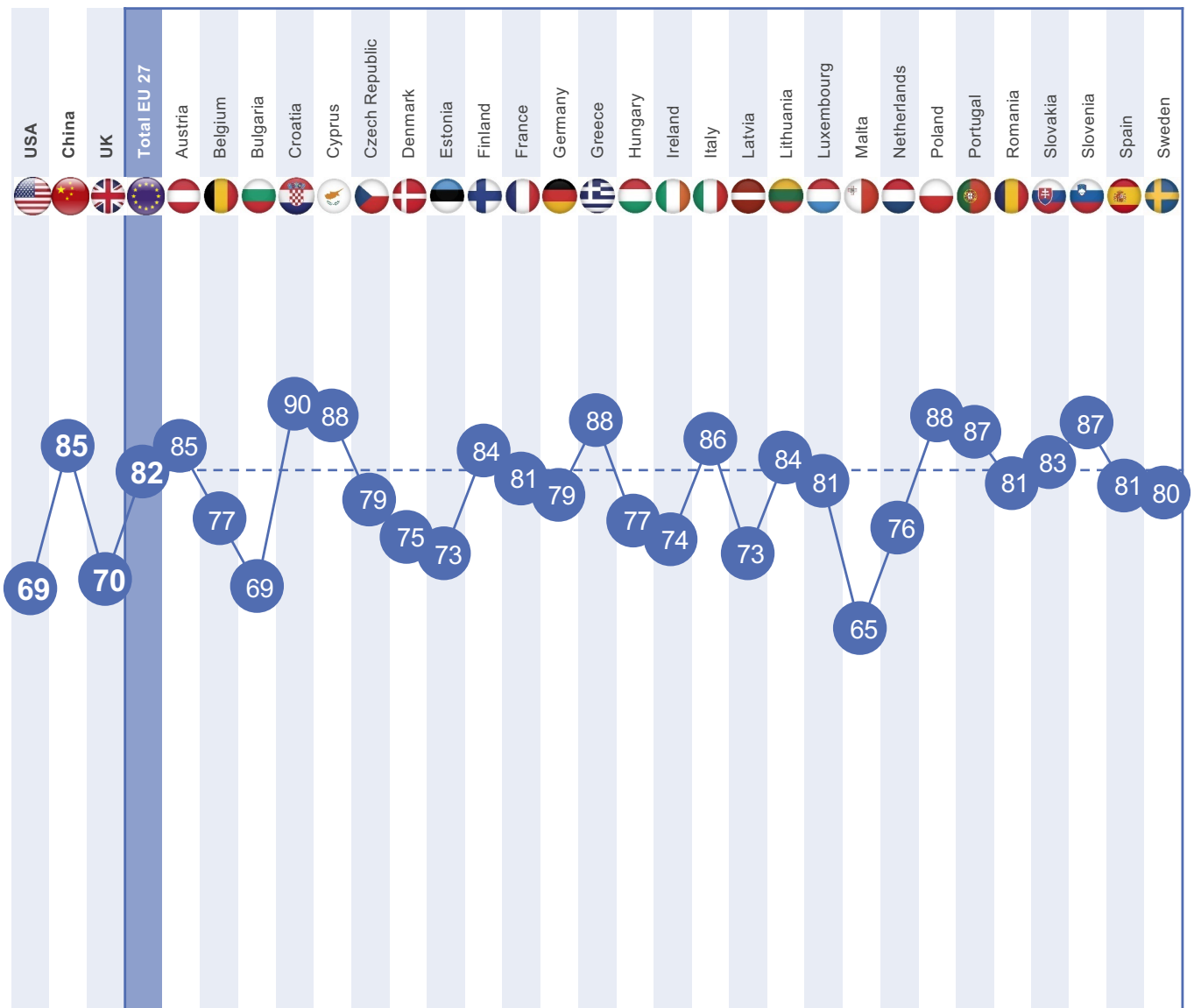


# Going on vacation in their own country is the first action considered by Europeans and Chinese people to fight climate change

Assuming COVID-19 related restrictions on travel are lifted, are you planning to do any of the following to fight climate change?



**% who would go on holiday in their own country or nearby to fight climate change in terms of travel**

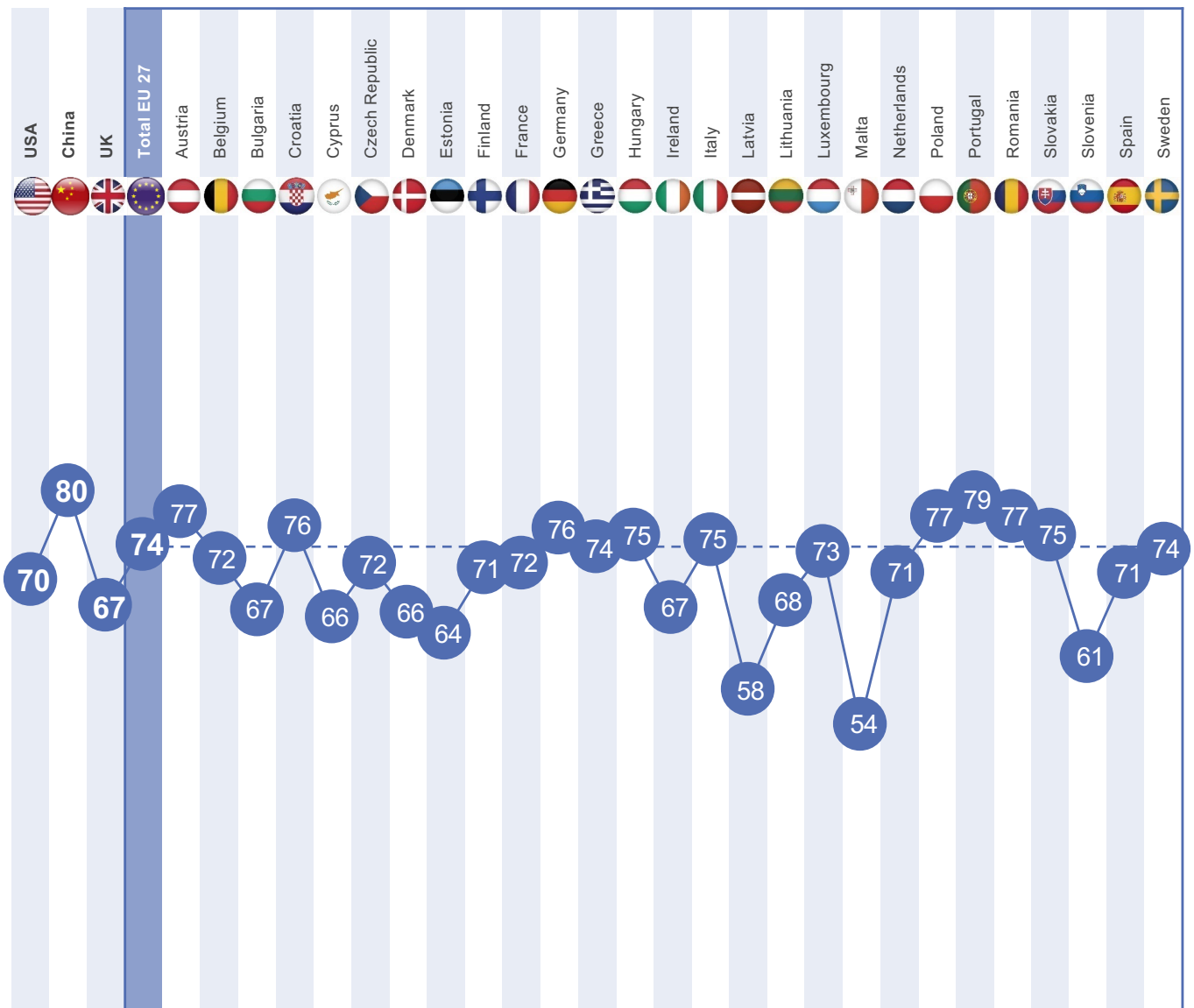


# If travel restrictions are lifted, flying less frequently would become popular

Assuming COVID-19 related restrictions on travel are lifted, are you planning to do any of the following to fight climate change?



## % who are willing to fly less frequently



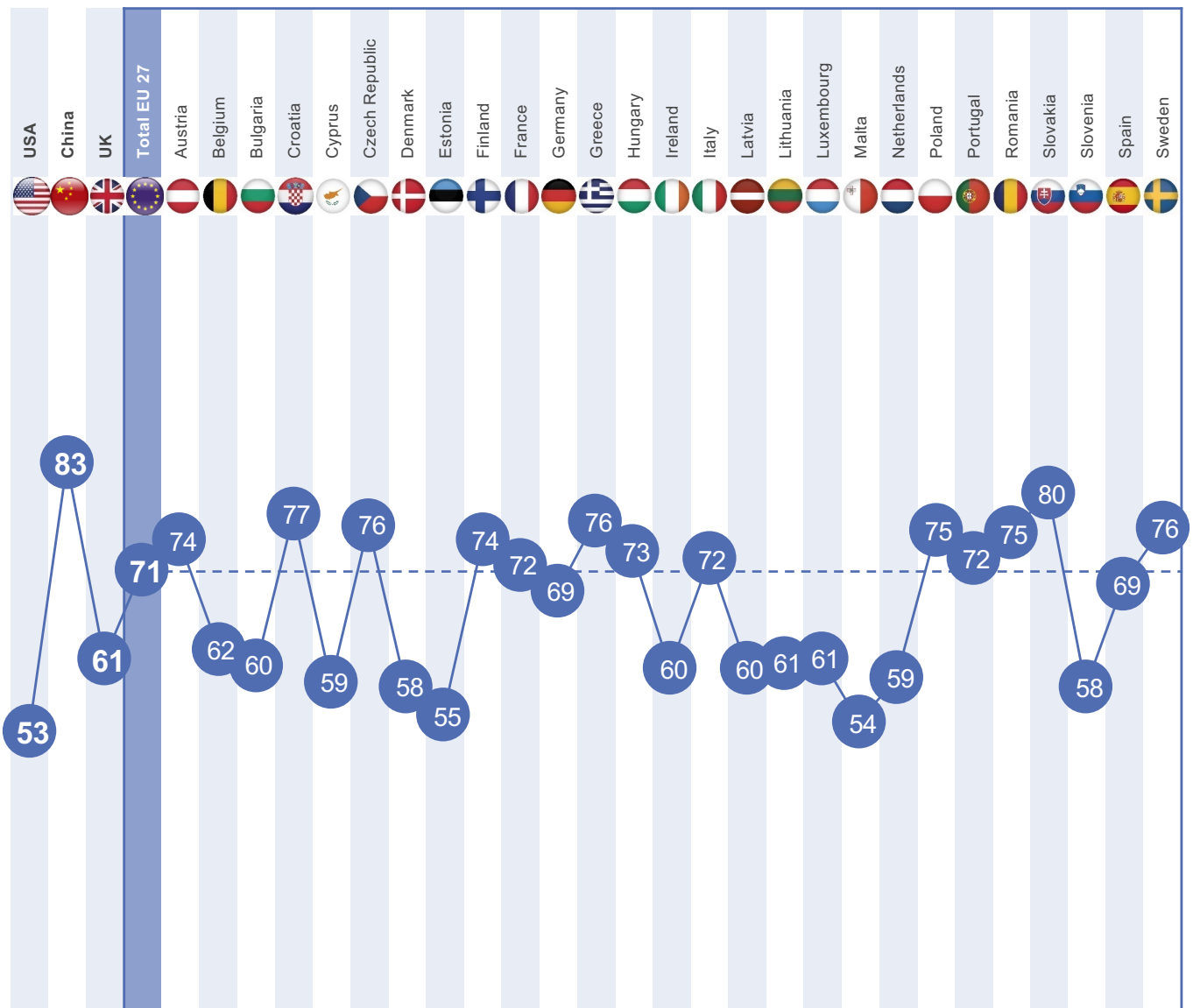


# Greater disparities between planes and trains for trips of five hours or less

Assuming COVID-19 related restrictions on travel are lifted, are you planning to do any of the following to fight climate change?



**% who prefer trains to planes for trips that take five hours or less to fight climate change**

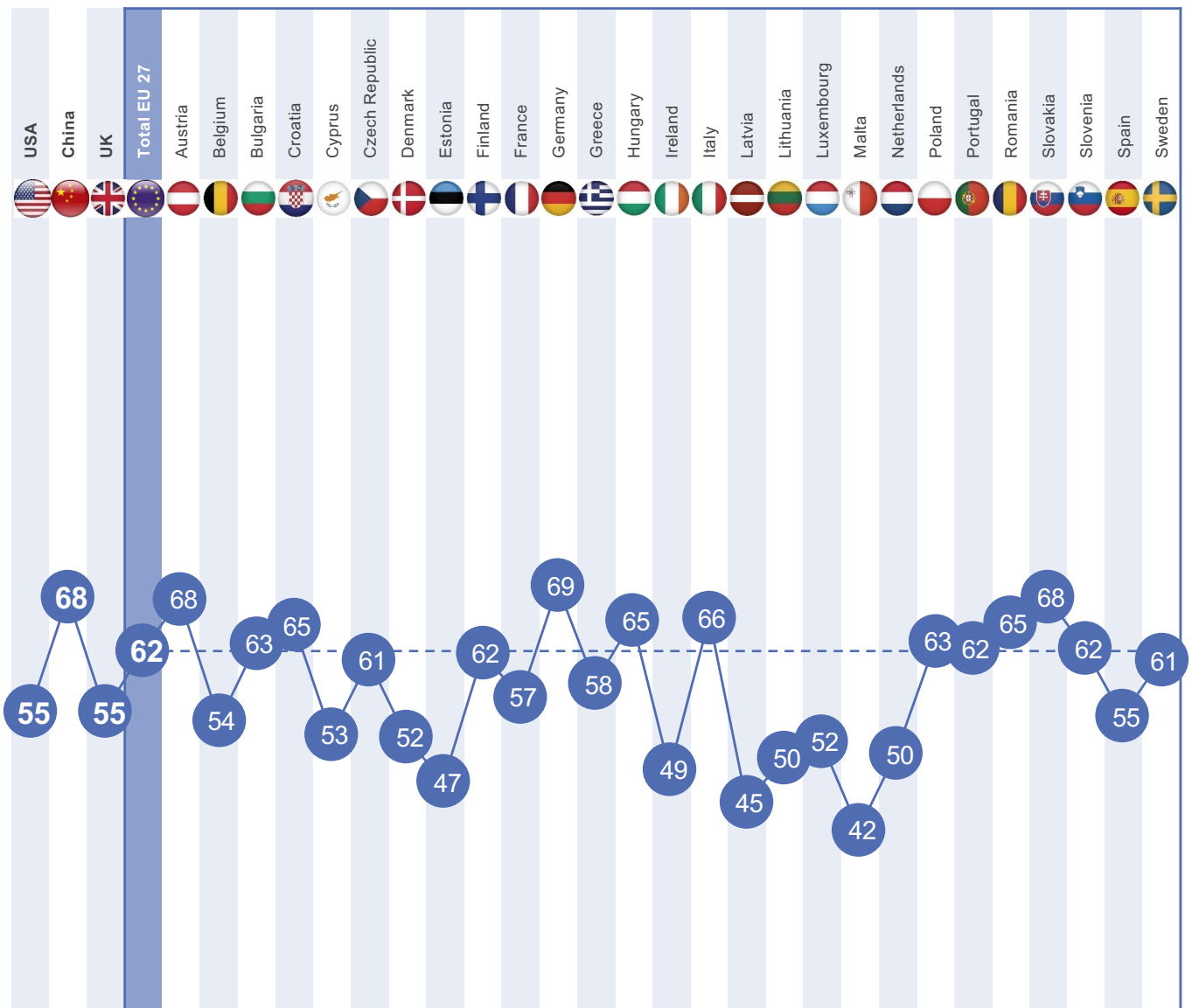


# Two-thirds of Europeans plan to sacrifice the trip of their dreams

Assuming COVID-19 related restrictions on travel are lifted, are you planning to do any of the following to fight climate change?



**% who would give up the trip of their dreams to a far-away destination to fight climate change**

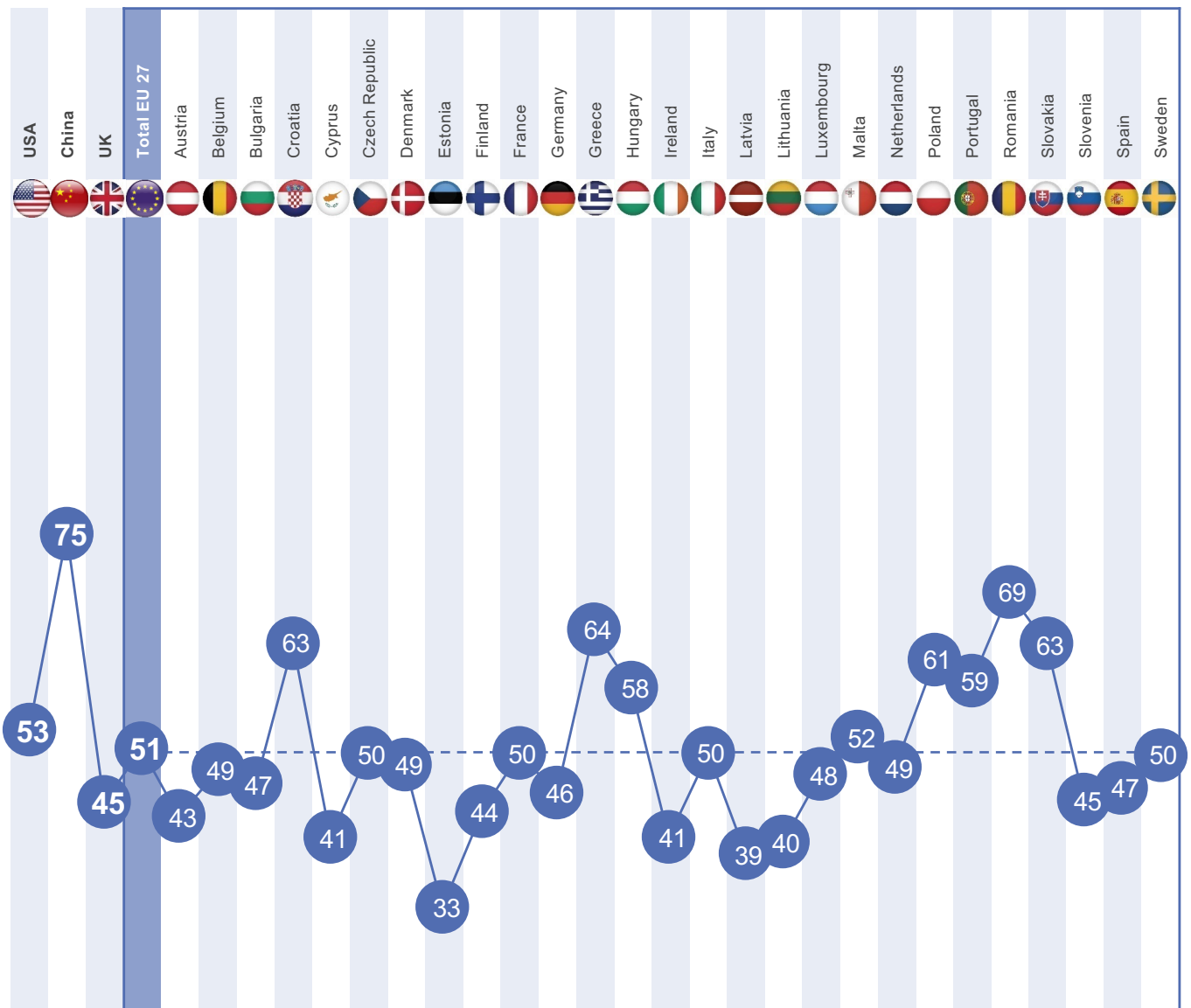


# Except for the Chinese, people are reluctant to carbon offset their flights

Assuming COVID-19 related restrictions on travel are lifted, are you planning to do any of the following to fight climate change?



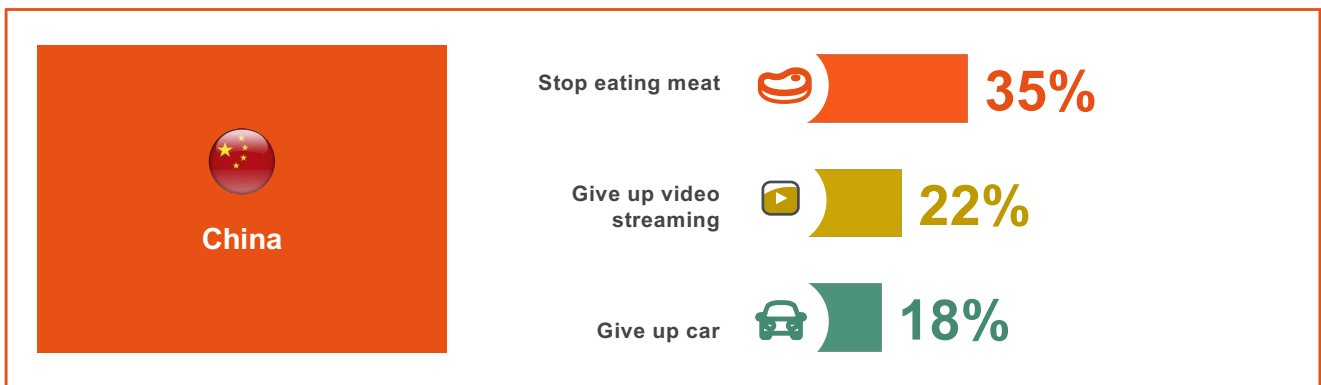
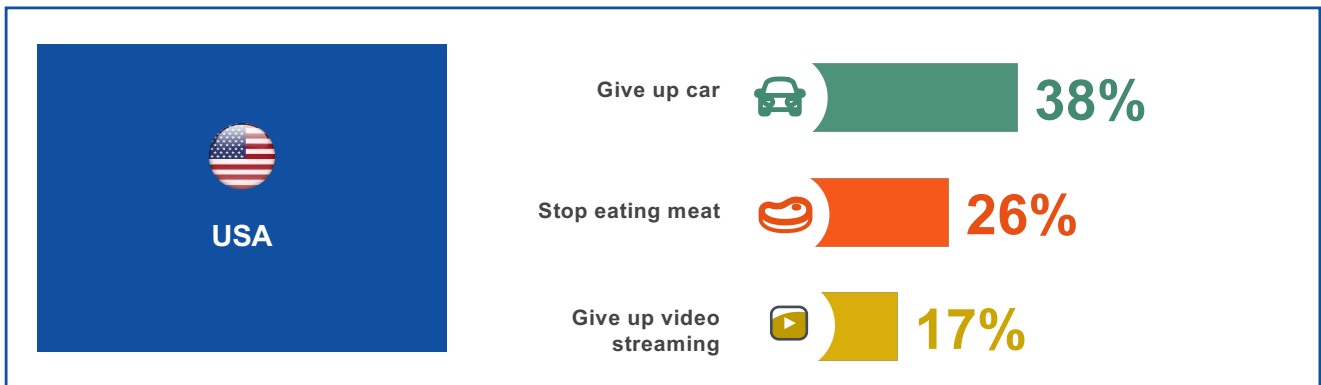
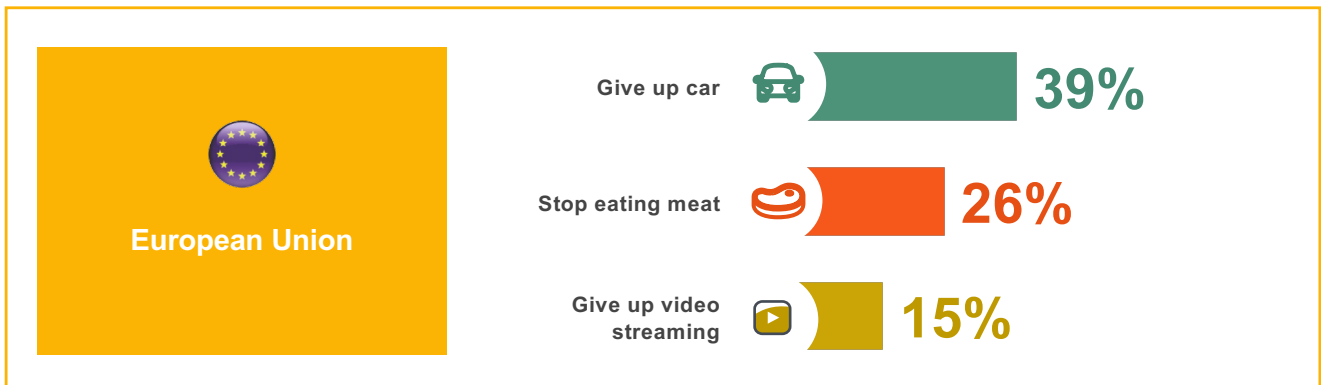
## % willing to use carbon offsets for flights to fight climate change



# Giving up cars is the most difficult action for Europeans and Americans. For the Chinese, it's meat.

Among the following actions to fight climate change, what would be...


## Top 3 hardest actions to take



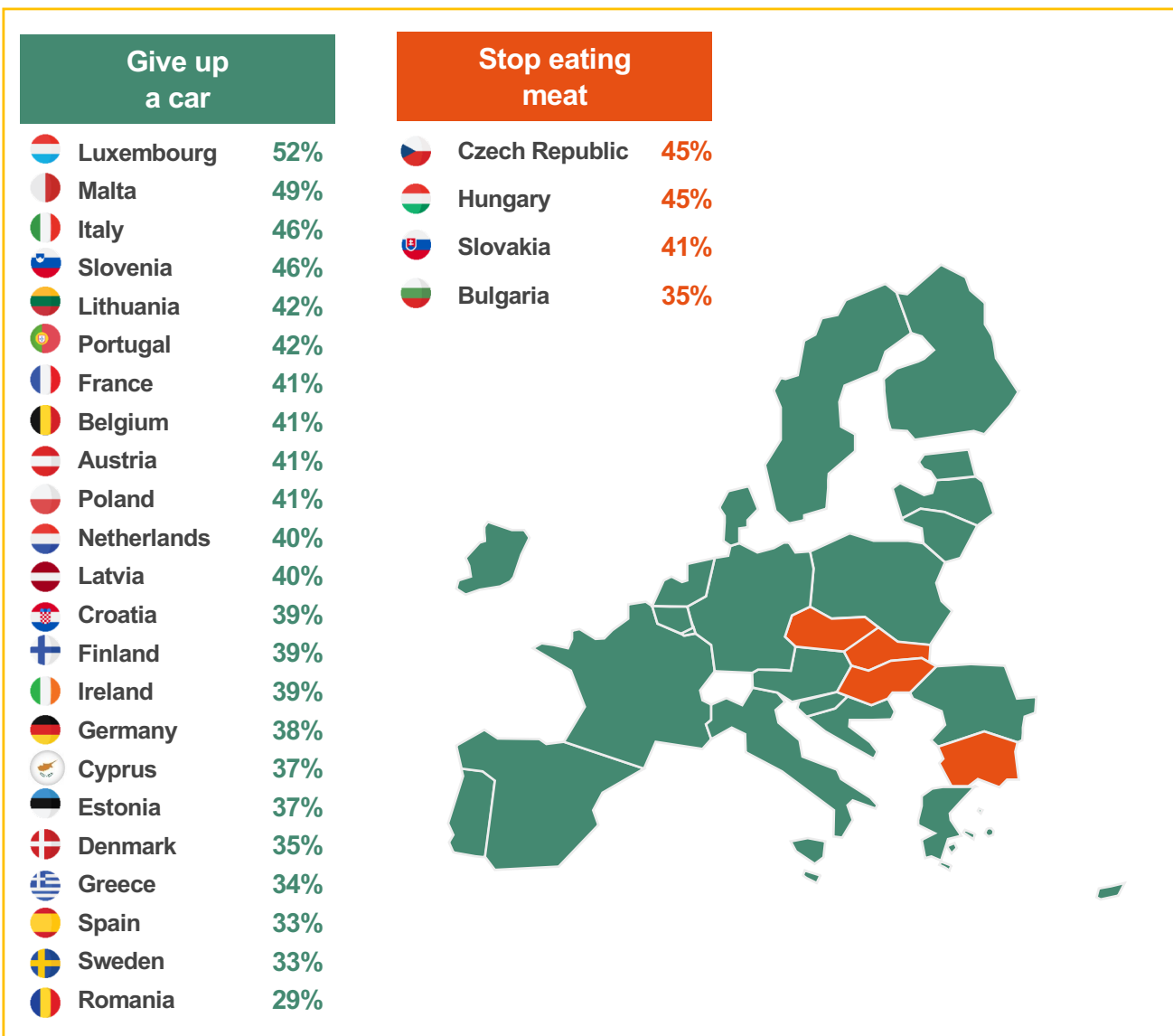
# Most people in EU countries say not owning a car would be the most difficult action

## #1 / The hardest action to take

 **USA**  
**38%**  
 (give up a car)

 **China**  
**35%**  
 (stop eating meat)

 **UK**  
**33%**  
 (give up a car)

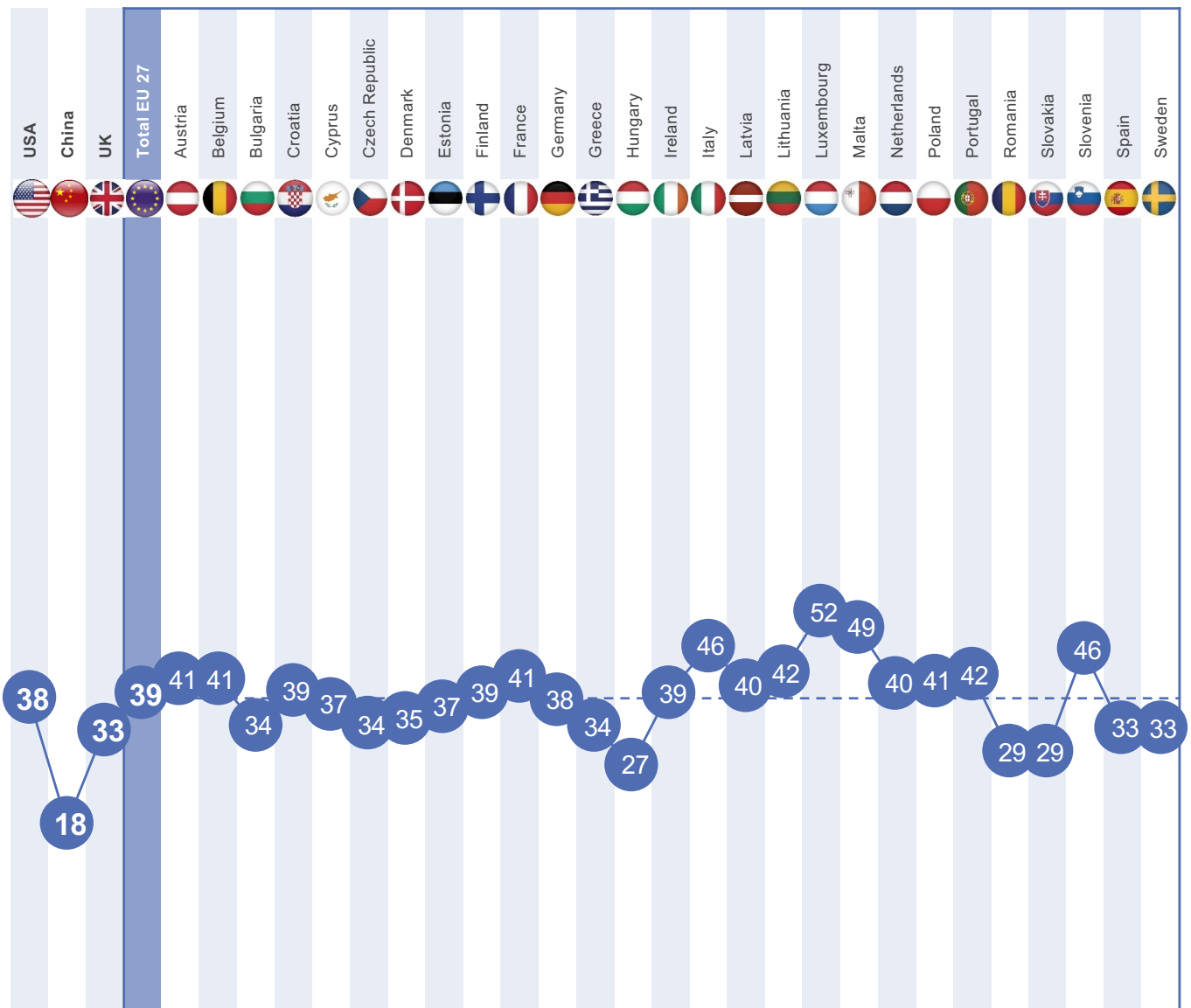


# Not owning a car: the most difficult action for almost 4 out of 10 Americans and Europeans

Among the following actions to fight climate change, what would be...



% who say giving up their car is the hardest action

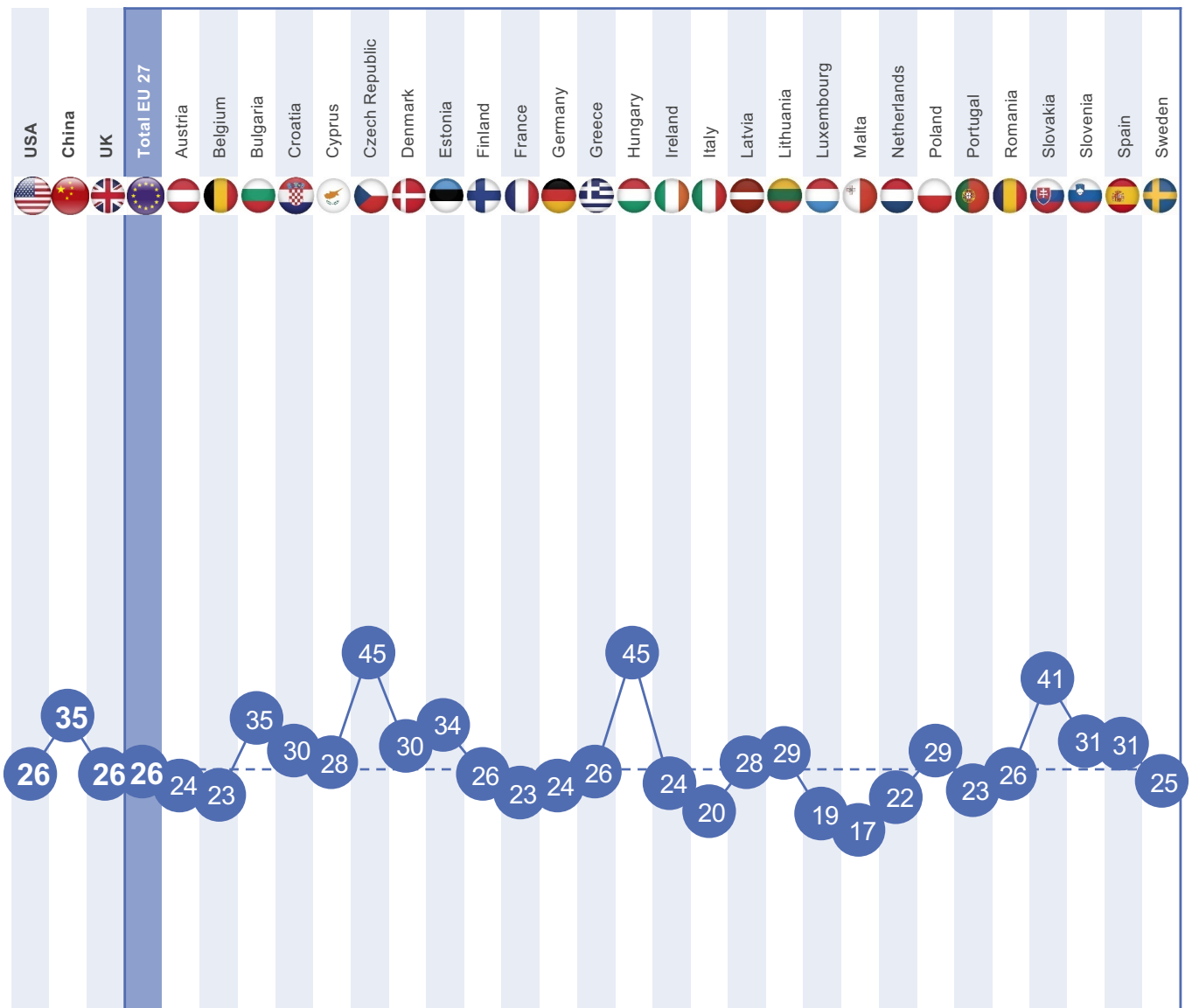


# Stopping meat consumption would be hard in the Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia

Among the following actions to fight climate change, what would be...



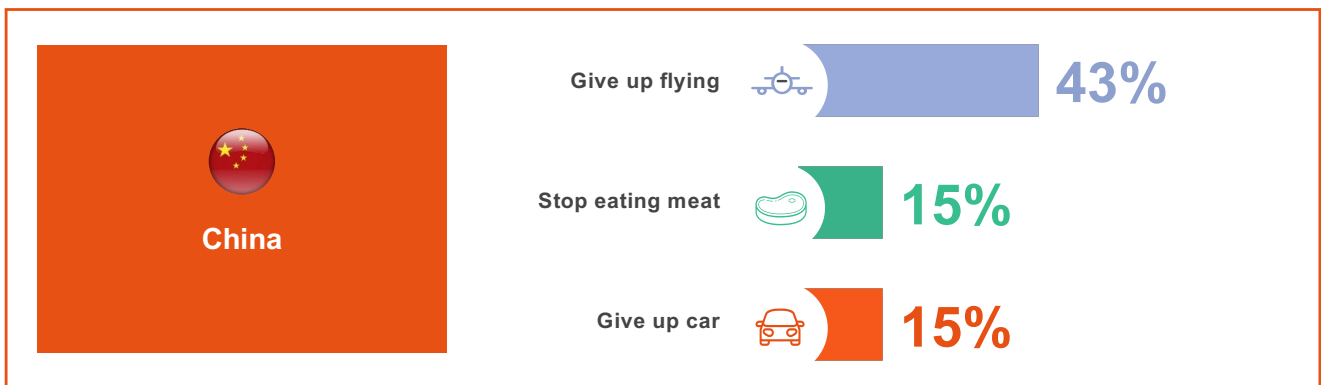
% who say giving up meat is the hardest action



# Europeans, Americans and Chinese people believe that stopping flying would be the easiest action

Among the following actions to fight climate change, what would be...

## Top 3 easiest things to stop to fight climate change



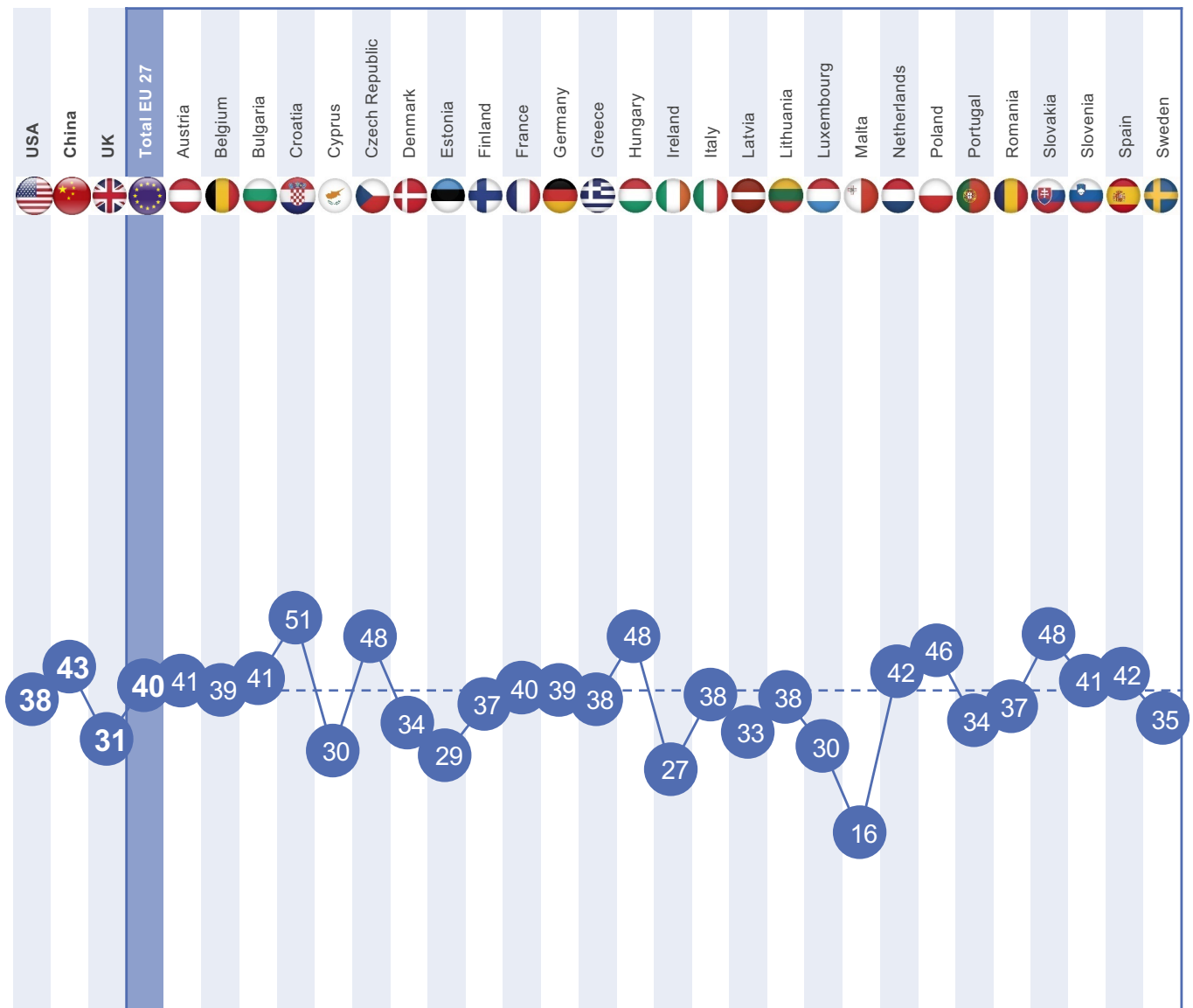


# For almost everyone, the easiest action would be to stop flying

Among the following actions to fight climate change, what would be...

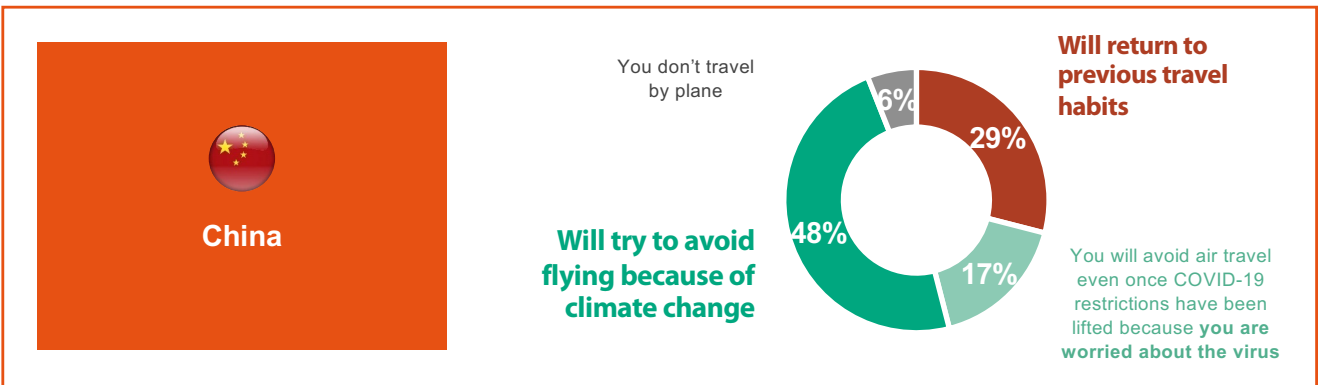
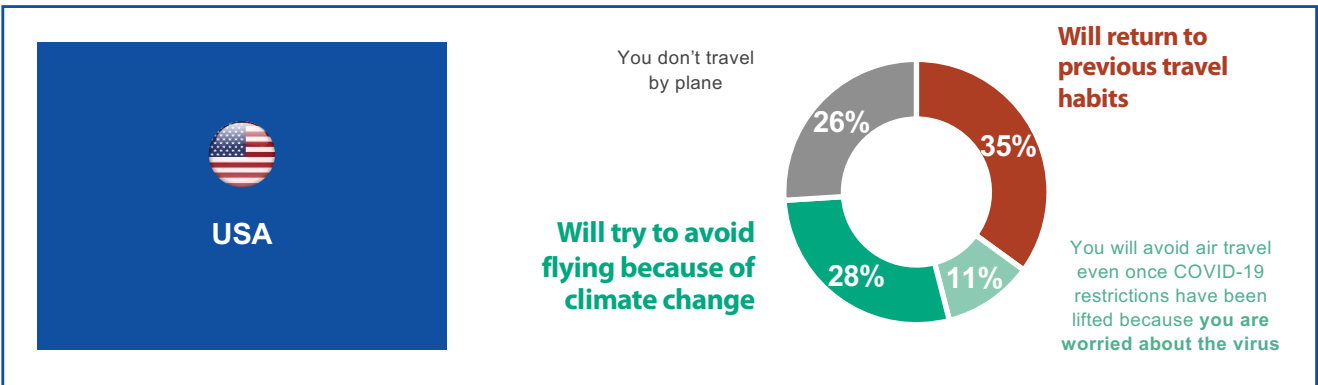
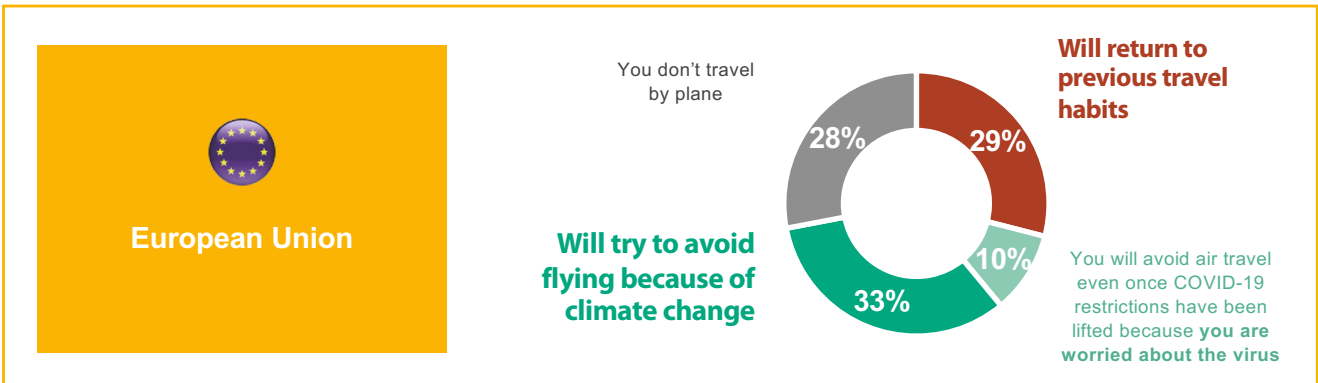


## % who say giving up aeroplanes is the least painful



# At least 4 in 10 people plan to avoid air travel once COVID-19 restrictions end

Assuming COVID-19 related restrictions on travel are lifted, which of the following statements relating to transport by air do you most agree with?

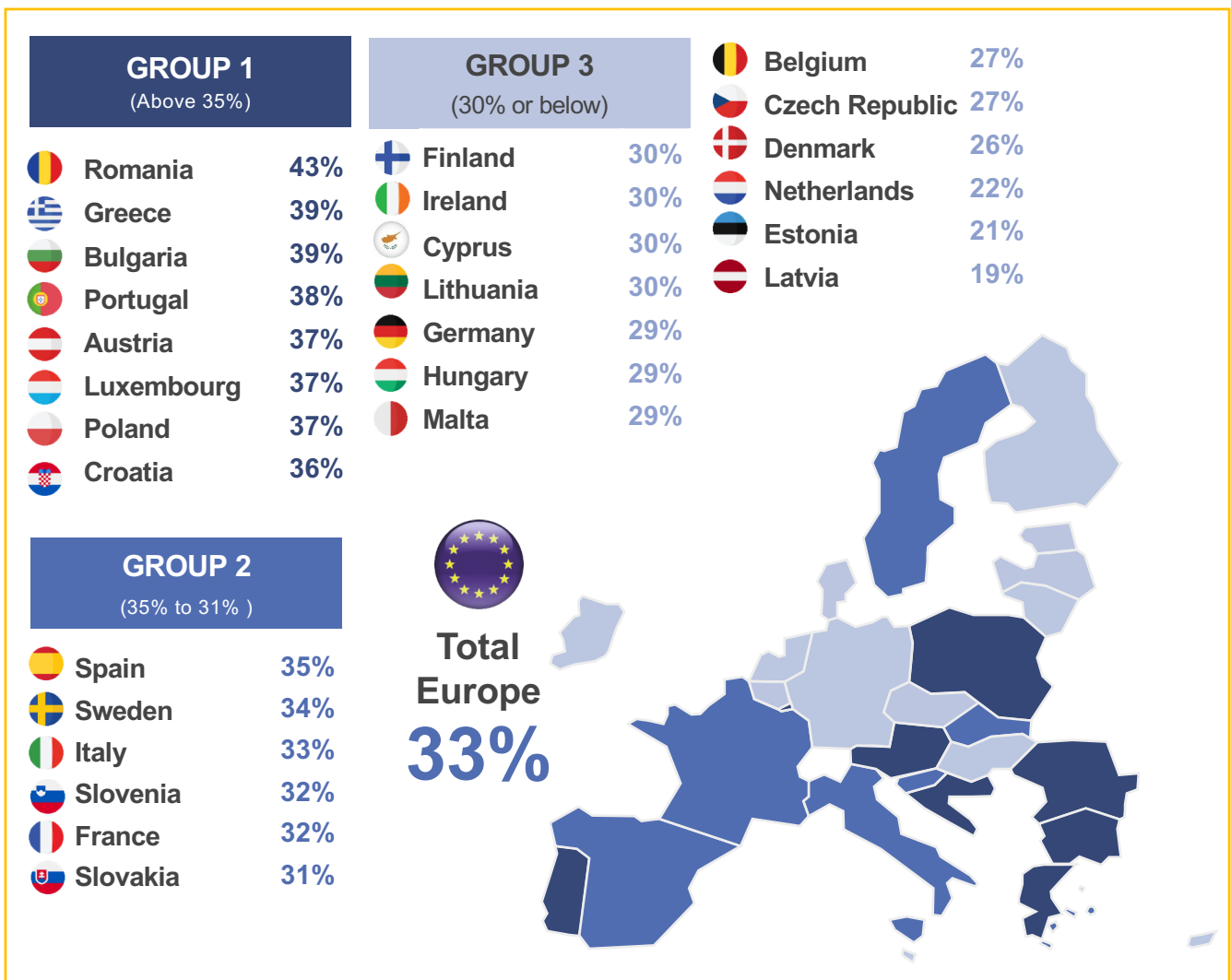
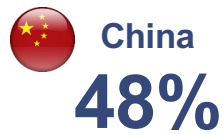
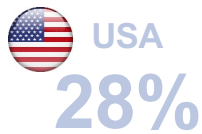


# While Eastern and Southern European countries plan to avoid air travel, Central Europe and the US have other plans

Assuming COVID-19 related restrictions on travel are lifted, which of the following statements relating to transport by air do you most agree with?



## Will try to avoid air travel because of climate change

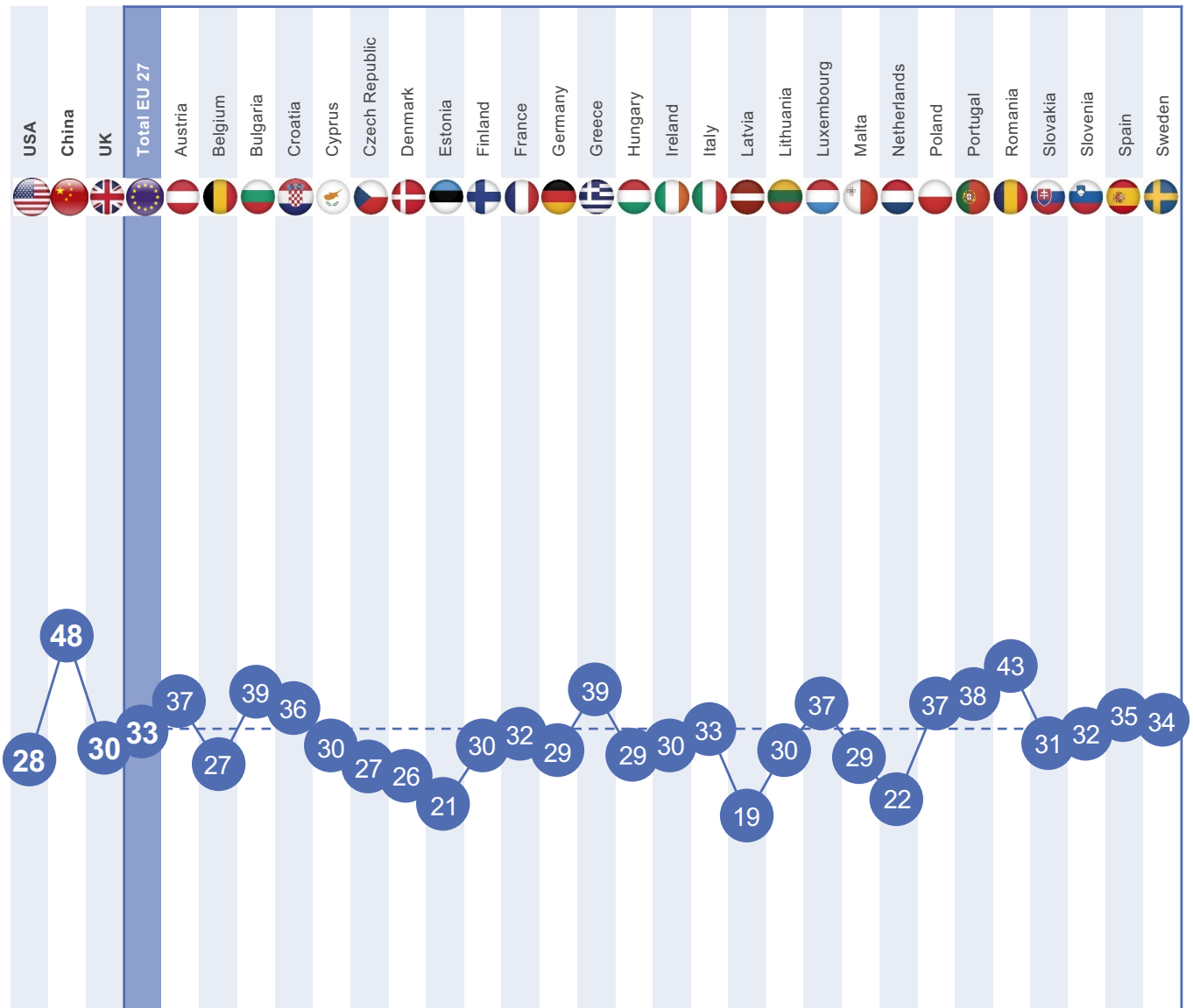


# While Eastern and Southern European countries plan trying to avoid air travel due to climate change, Central European countries and the US are less likely to do so

Assuming COVID-19 related restrictions on travel are lifted, which of the following statements relating to transport by air do you most agree with?

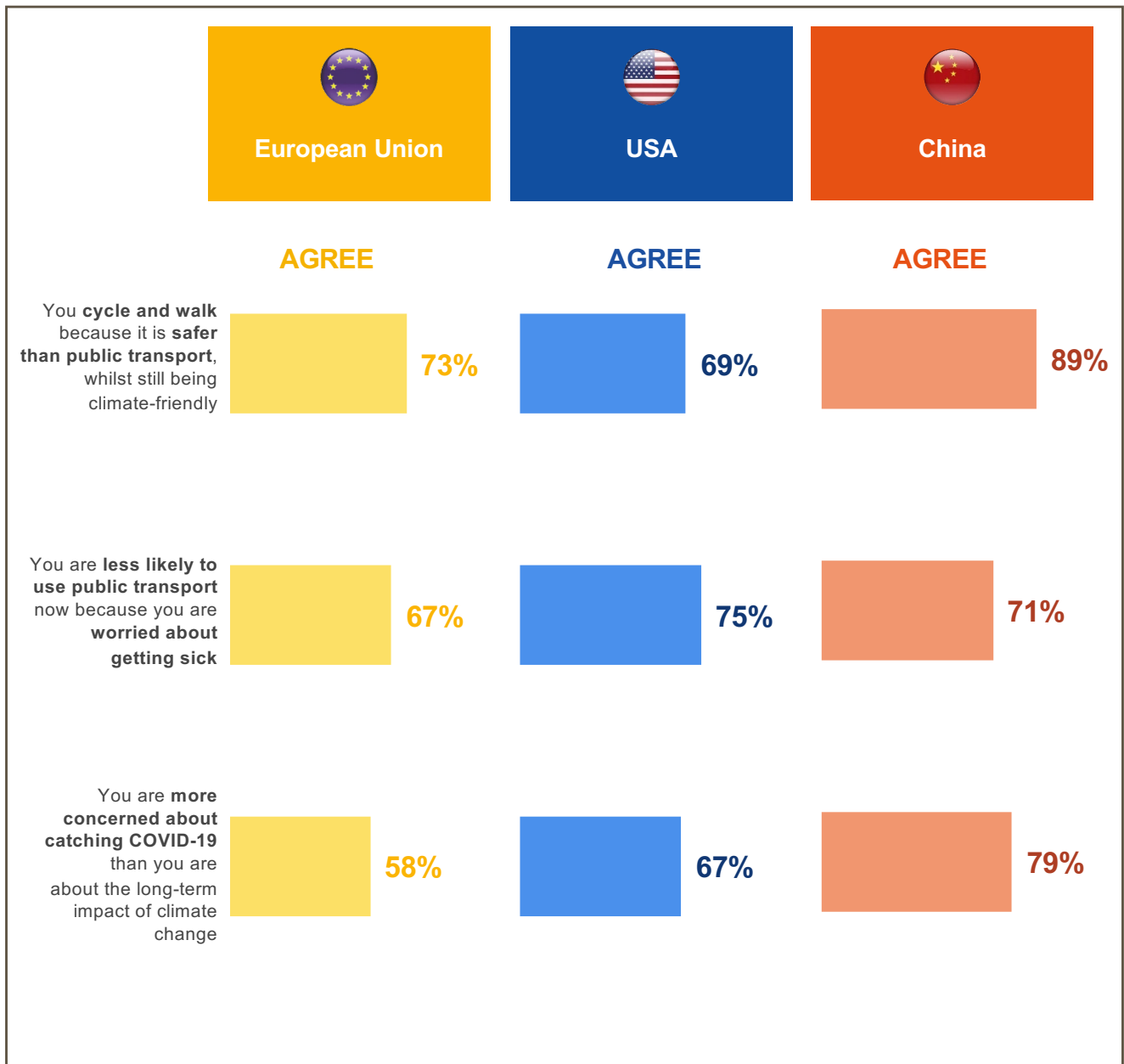


## % who will try to avoid air travel because of the impact on climate change



# Europeans and Chinese ride bicycles or walk because it is safer than public transport and climate-friendly. Americans use public transport less because they worry about getting sick.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements relating to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and public transport?

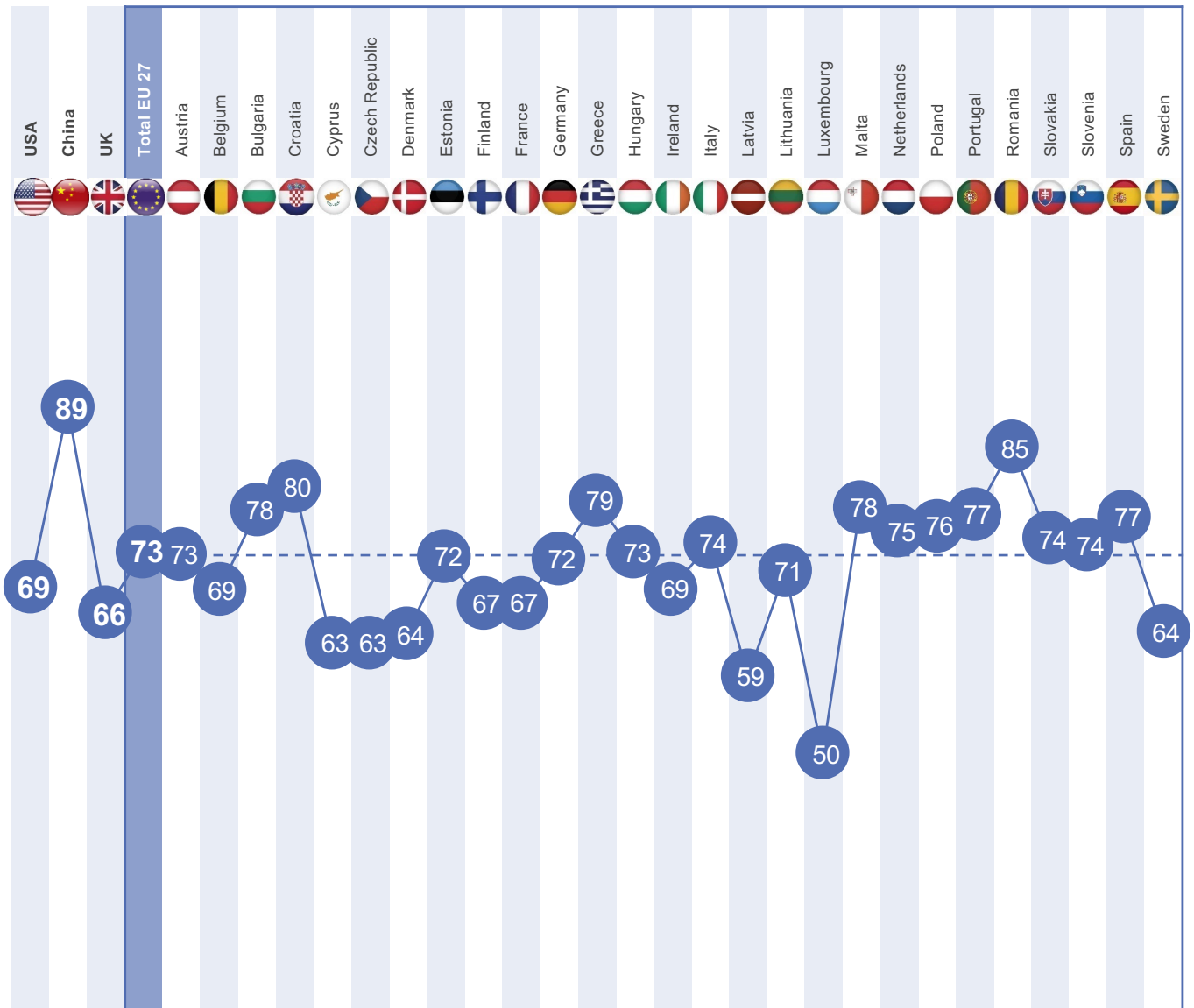


# Bicycling or walking: safer than public transport, according to most Europeans and Chinese people

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements relating to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and public transport?



## % who bicycle or walk instead of taking public transport because it's safe but still climate-friendly

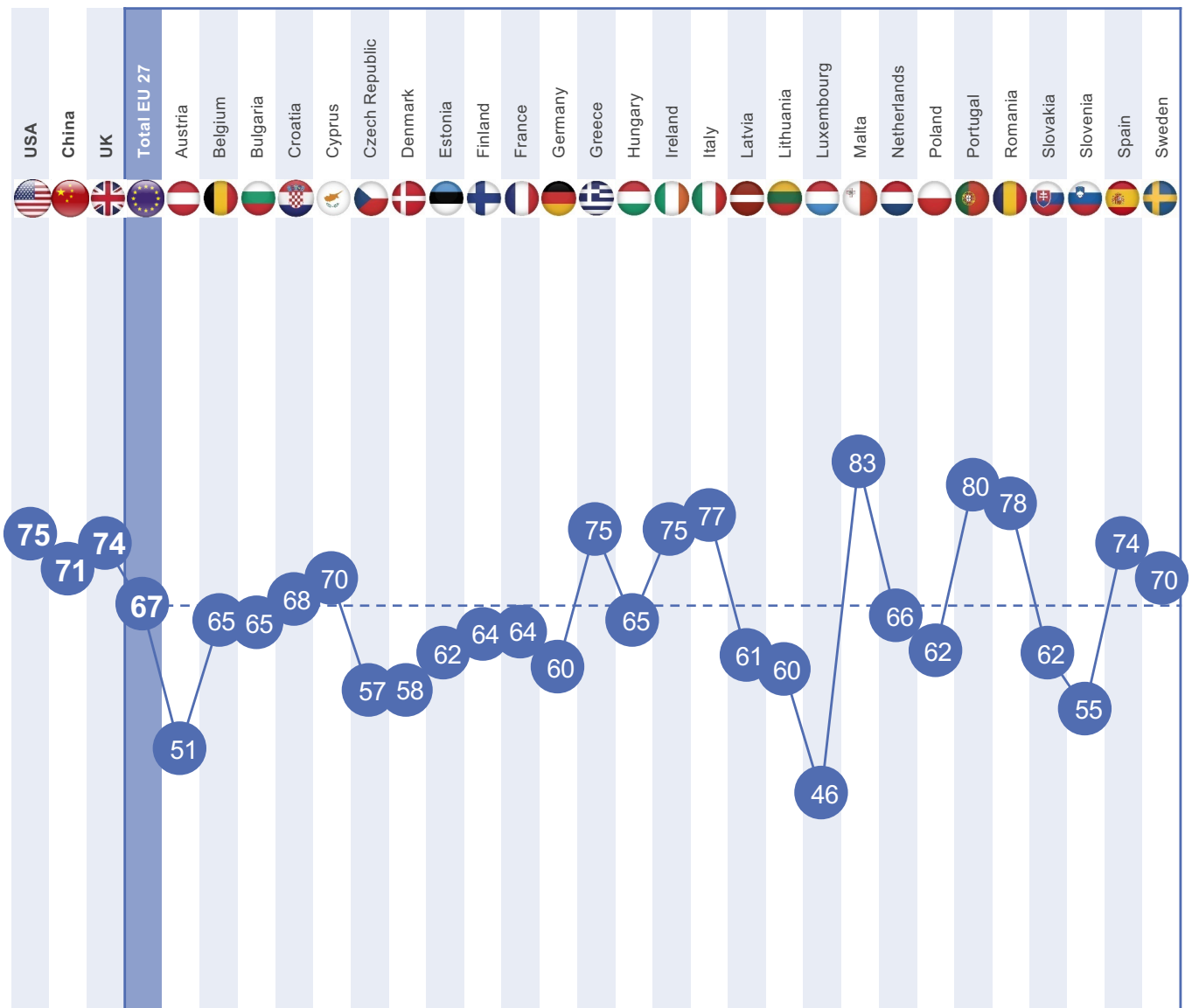


# Big differences in views on public transport and COVID-19

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements relating to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and public transport?



## % less likely to use public transport now because of health reasons

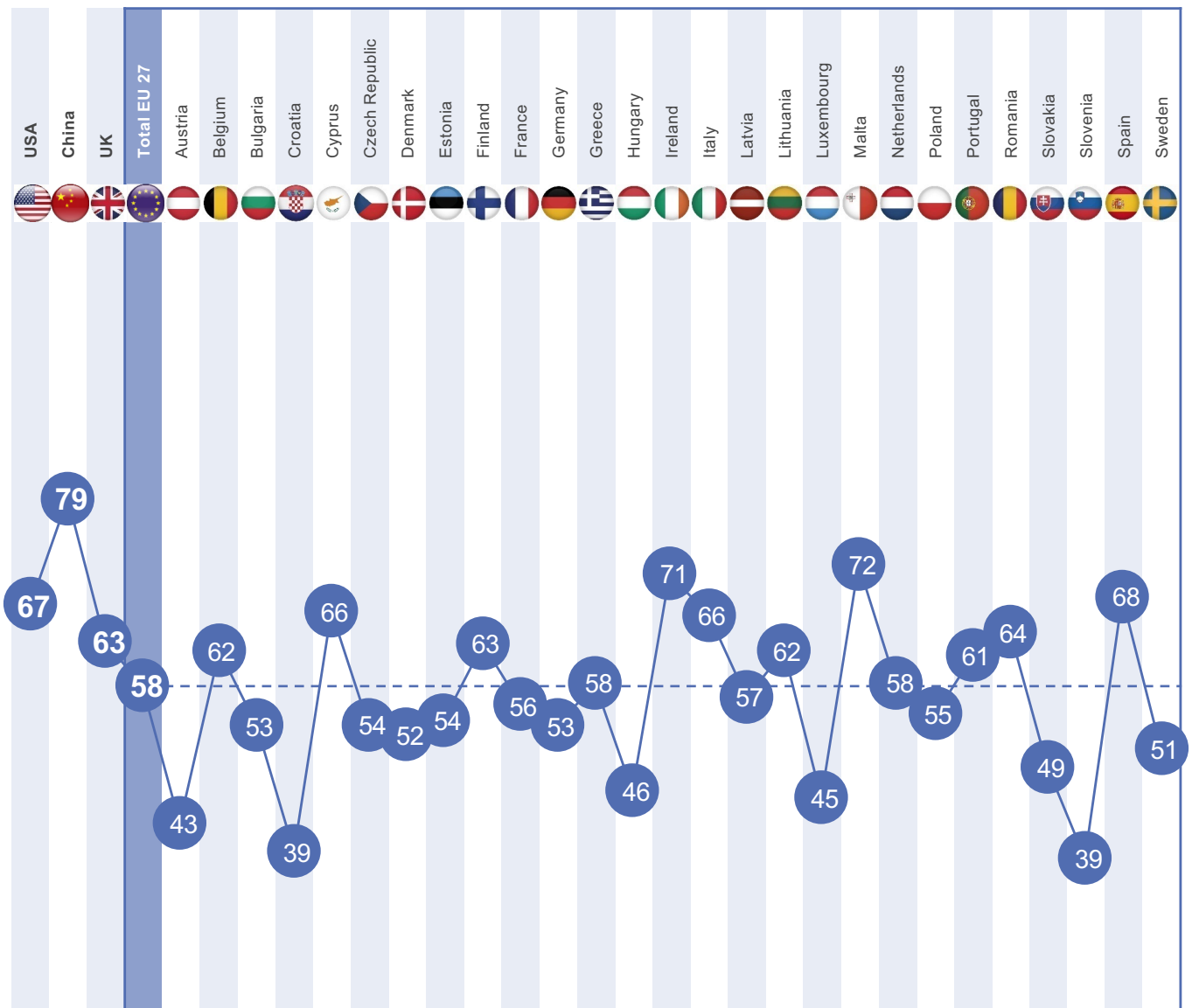


# Catching COVID-19 is a greater concern than climate change

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements relating to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and public transport?



## % more worried about catching COVID-19 than about the long-term impact of climate change





# Who wants to ride a bike?

What is holding you back from using a bicycle (traditional or electric) for your daily commute?



## I cycle for my daily commute



USA  
11%



China  
20%



UK  
11%

### GROUP 1

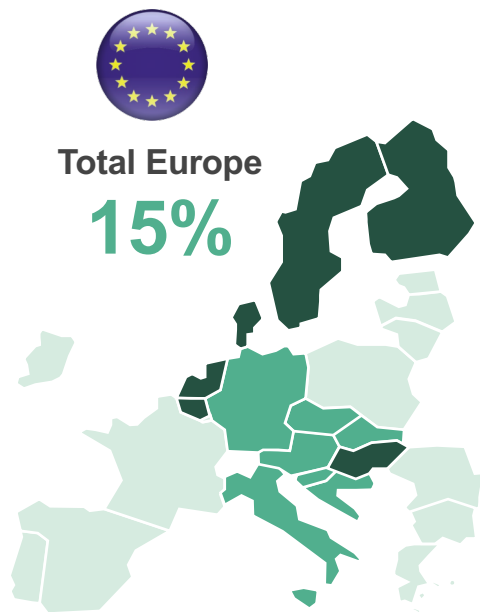
(Above 17%)

	Netherlands	35%
	Denmark	31%
	Finland	24%
	Sweden	23%
	Hungary	23%
	Belgium	19%

### GROUP 2

(15% to 17%)

	Czech Republic	17%
	Austria	17%
	Germany	16%
	Croatia	16%
	Italy	15%
	Slovakia	15%
	Slovenia	15%



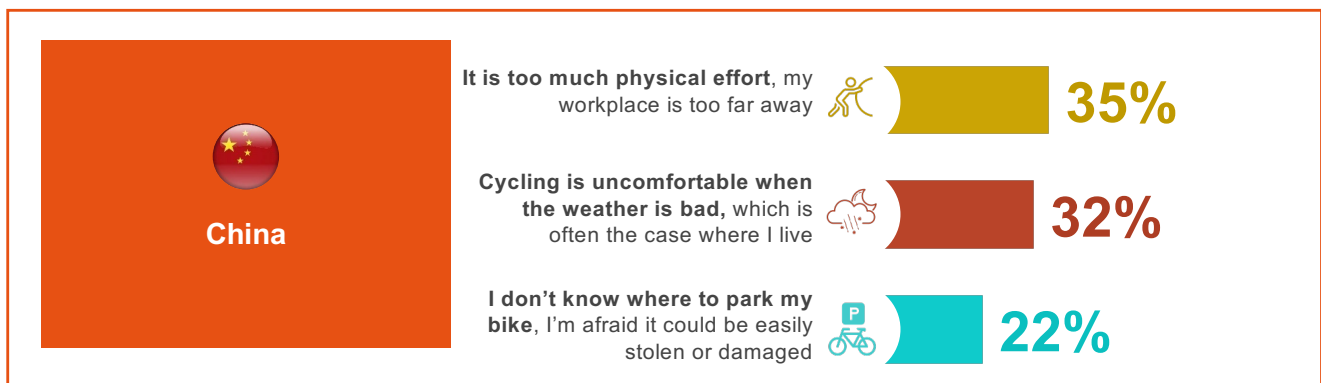
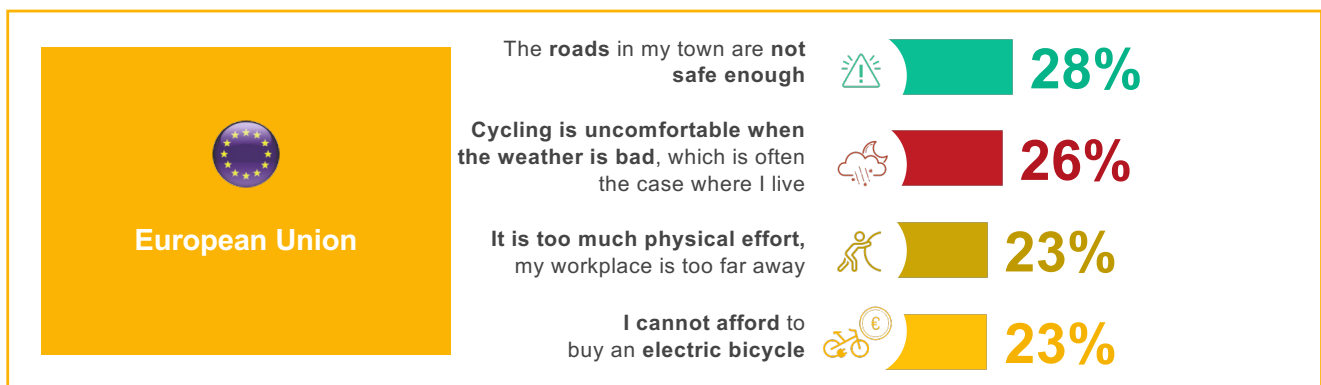
### GROUP 3

(Below 15%)

	Poland	14%
	Spain	14%
	Latvia	13%
	Estonia	12%
	Romania	11%
	France	11%
	Portugal	10%
	Greece	9%
	Ireland	9%
	Bulgaria	8%
	Lithuania	8%
	Luxembourg	4%
	Malta	3%
	Cyprus	2%

# Europeans and Americans say unsafe roads are the main barrier to regular bicycling, while physical effort is the biggest obstacle in China

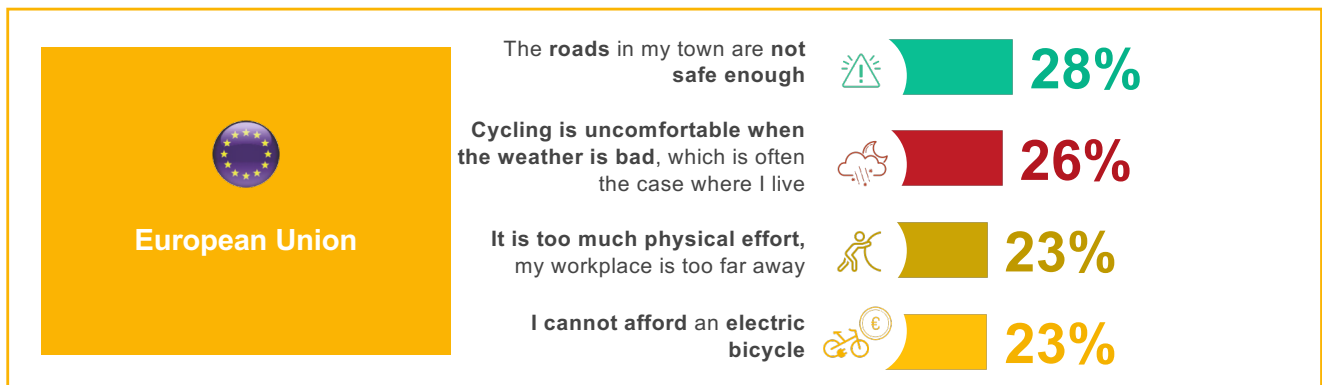
## Top 3 obstacles to daily bicycle commuting



# What's keeping Europeans off a bicycle?

What is holding you back from using a bicycle (traditional or electric) for your daily commute?

## Top 3 obstacles to the daily commute



## Other obstacles




# Different countries, different hurdles for bicycling

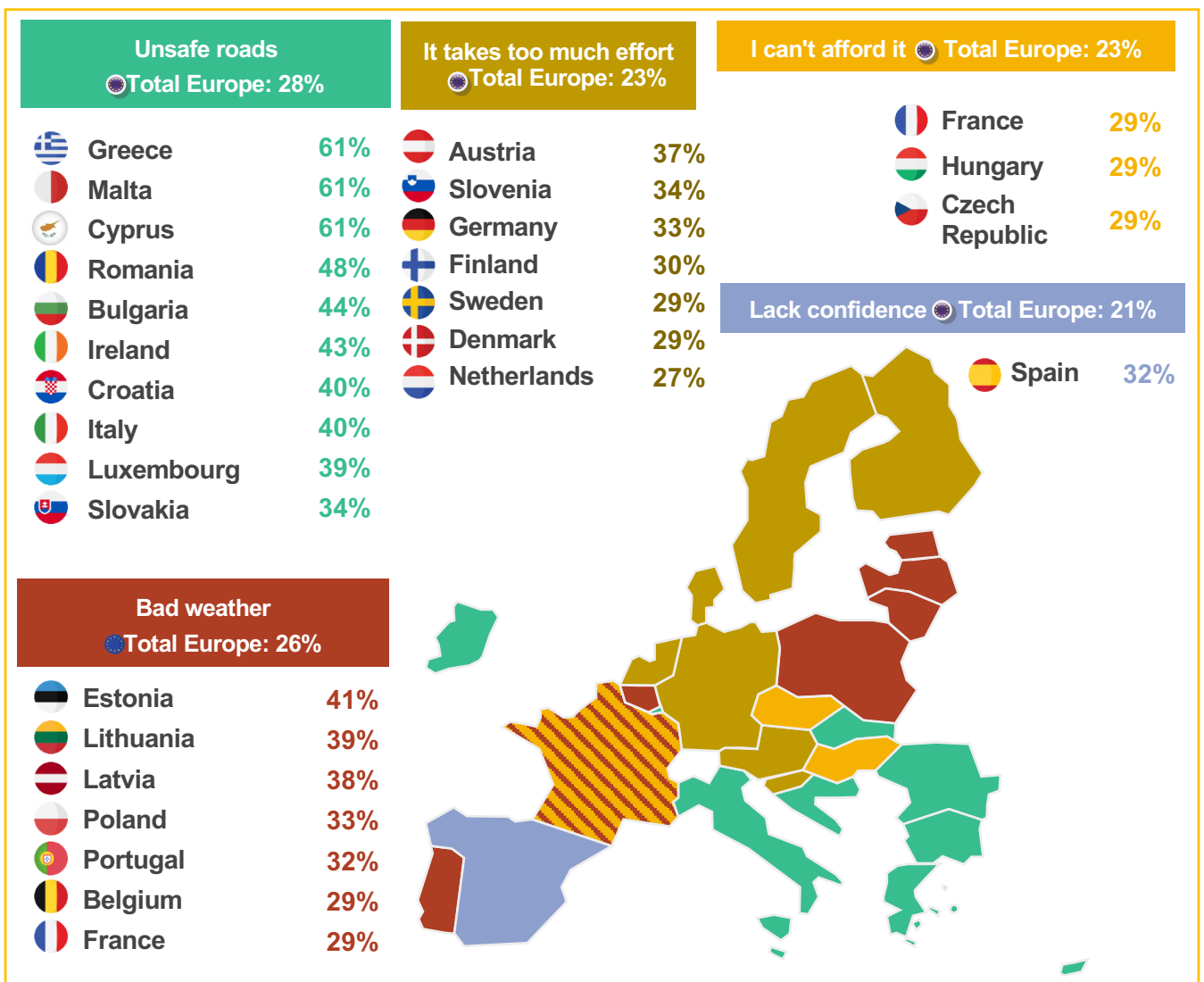
What is holding you back from using a bicycle (traditional or electric) for your daily commute?

## Main obstacle by country

 **USA**  
**35%**  
 (The roads in my town are not safe enough)

 **China**  
**35%**  
 (It is too much physical effort, my workplace is too far away)

 **UK**  
**32%**  
 (I haven't ridden a bicycle for years and I lack confidence)







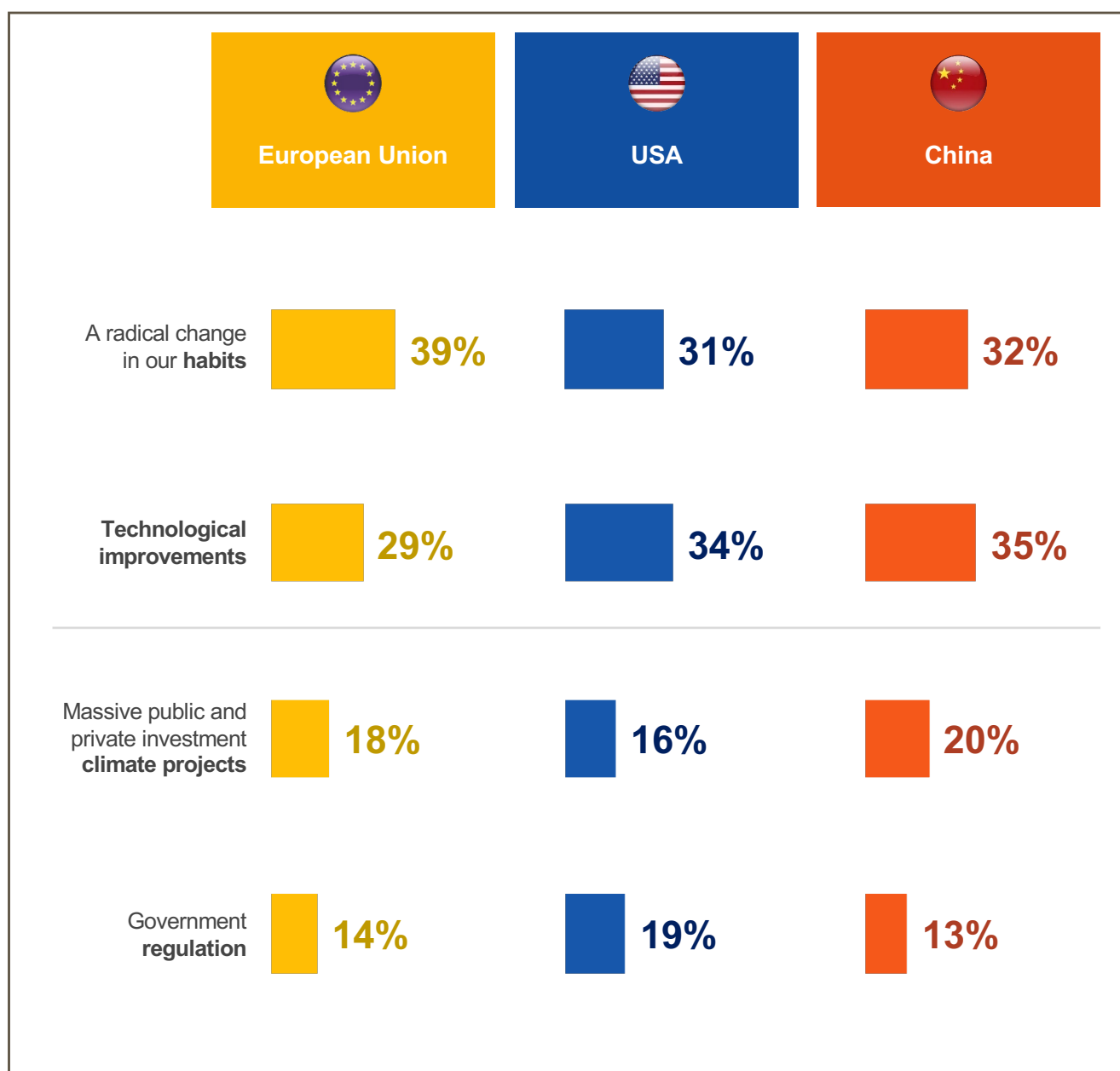
**3**

**WHAT ARE  
THE BEST WAYS  
TO STOP CLIMATE CHANGE?**

# Europeans say a radical change in habits is the most significant way to stop climate change. Americans and Chinese are more divided between habits and technology

Which of the following statements do you most agree with? The most significant way to stop or drastically limit climate change is through...

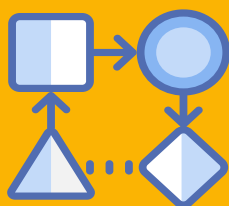
## The best way to stop or drastically limit climate change





## 4 out of 10 EU citizens think the most significant way to limit climate change is a radical change in habits

Which of the following statements do you most agree with? The most significant way to stop or drastically limit climate change is through...



# 39%



of EU citizens say it will take a radical change in habits



Female: **43%**

Male: **34%**



From 15 to 19 years old:

**42%**

65 years old and over: **37%**



Middle class: **40%**

Upper class: **37%**



Left-leaning political views: **41%**

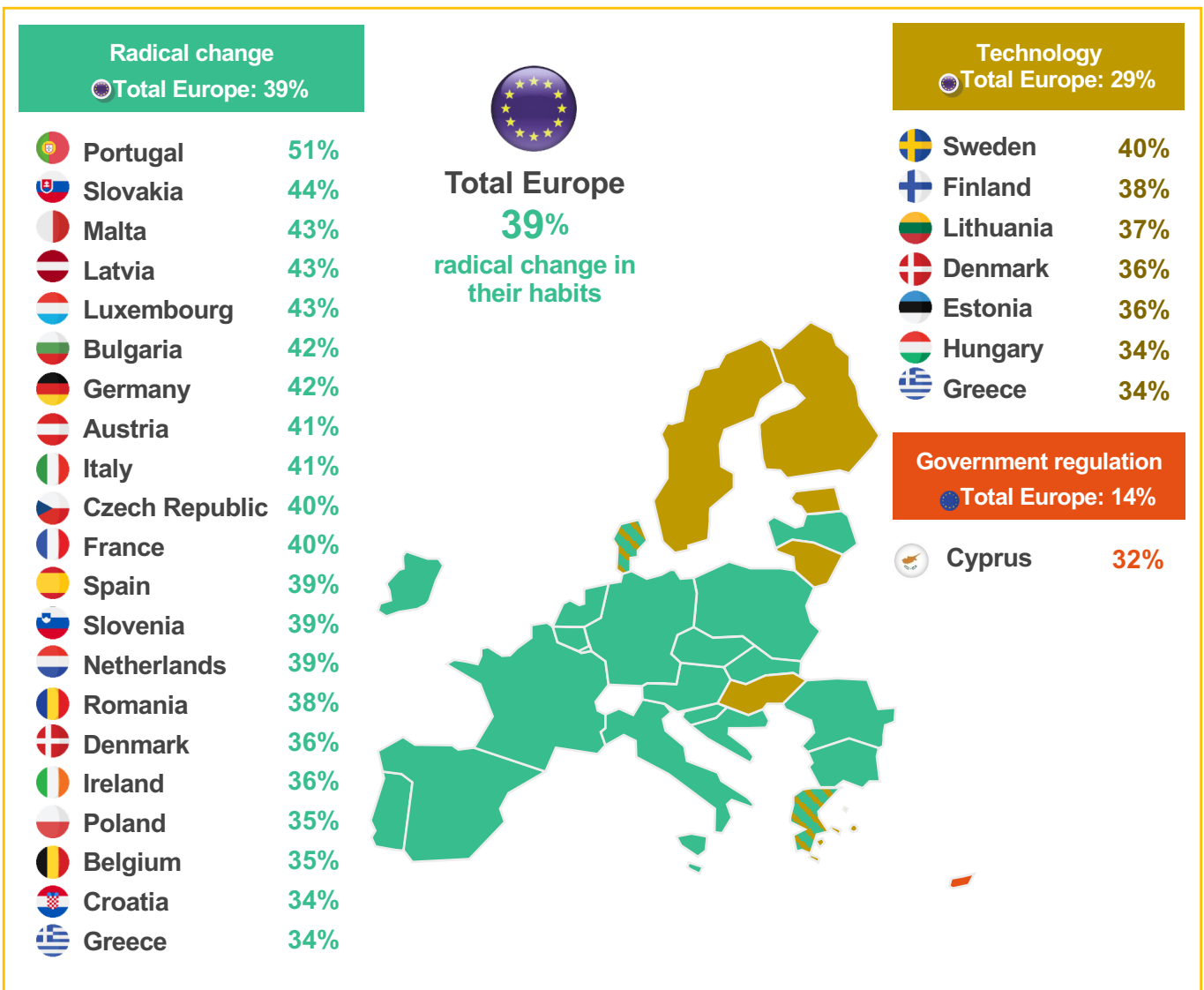
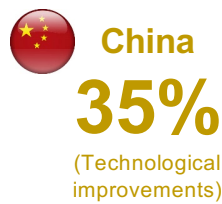
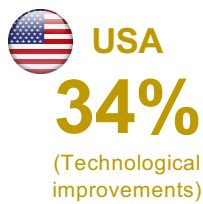
Right-leaning political views:

**35%**

# More Northern Europeans see technology as the way to limit climate change

Which of the following statements do you most agree with? The most significant way to stop or drastically limit climate change is through...

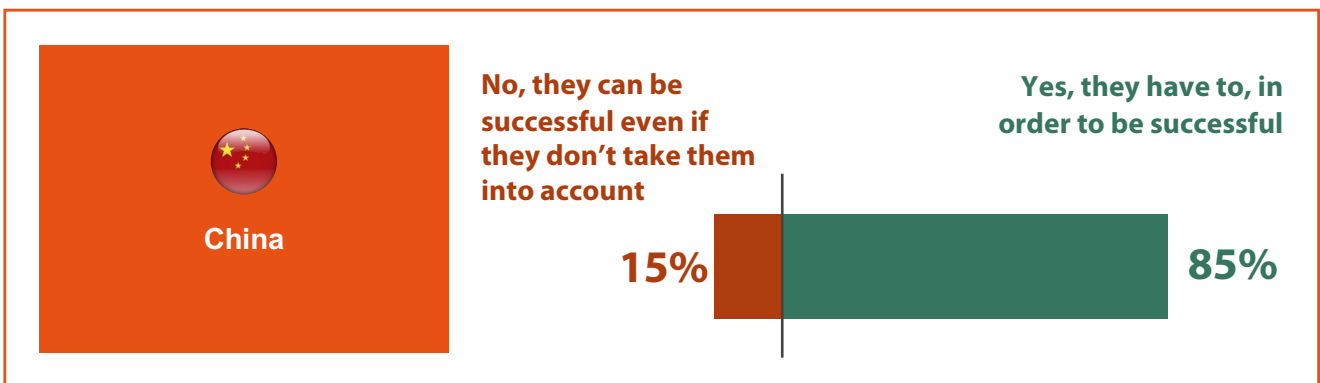
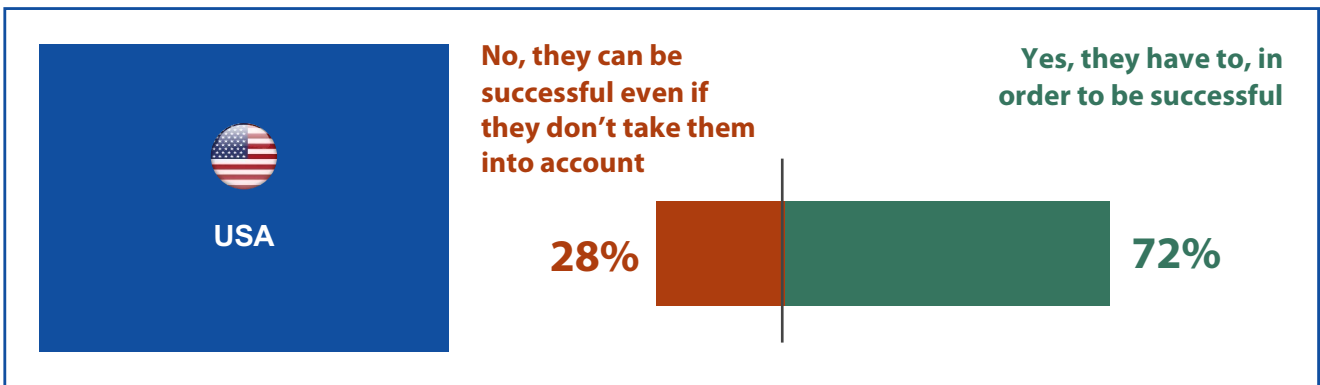
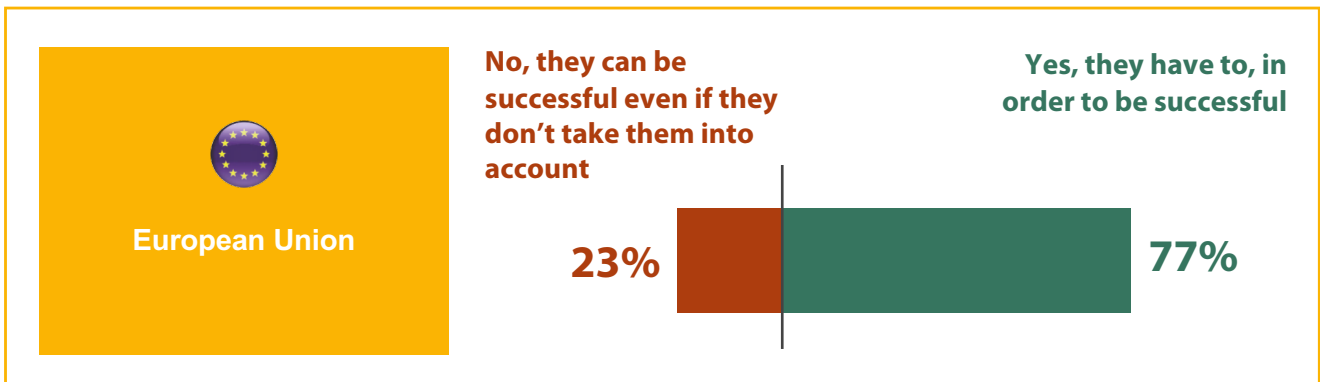
## Most significant way to drastically limit climate change



# More than 7 people out of 10 believe policies to tackle climate change must consider income gaps and inequality

To be successful in your country, do you believe that policies to tackle climate change have to take into account income gaps and social inequality?

## Should policies consider income and inequality?



# Most EU citizens think we must consider income gaps and social inequality

To be successful in your country, do you believe that policies to tackle climate change have to take into account income gaps and social inequality?



# 77%



of EU citizens believe we must consider income gaps and social inequality



**From 15 to 29 years old:**

**79%**

50 to 64 years old: **75%**

65 years old and over: **75%**



**With children: 79%**

Without children: **76%**



**City/metropolis: 78%**

Rural area: **76%**



**Left-leaning political views: 84%**

Right-leaning political views:

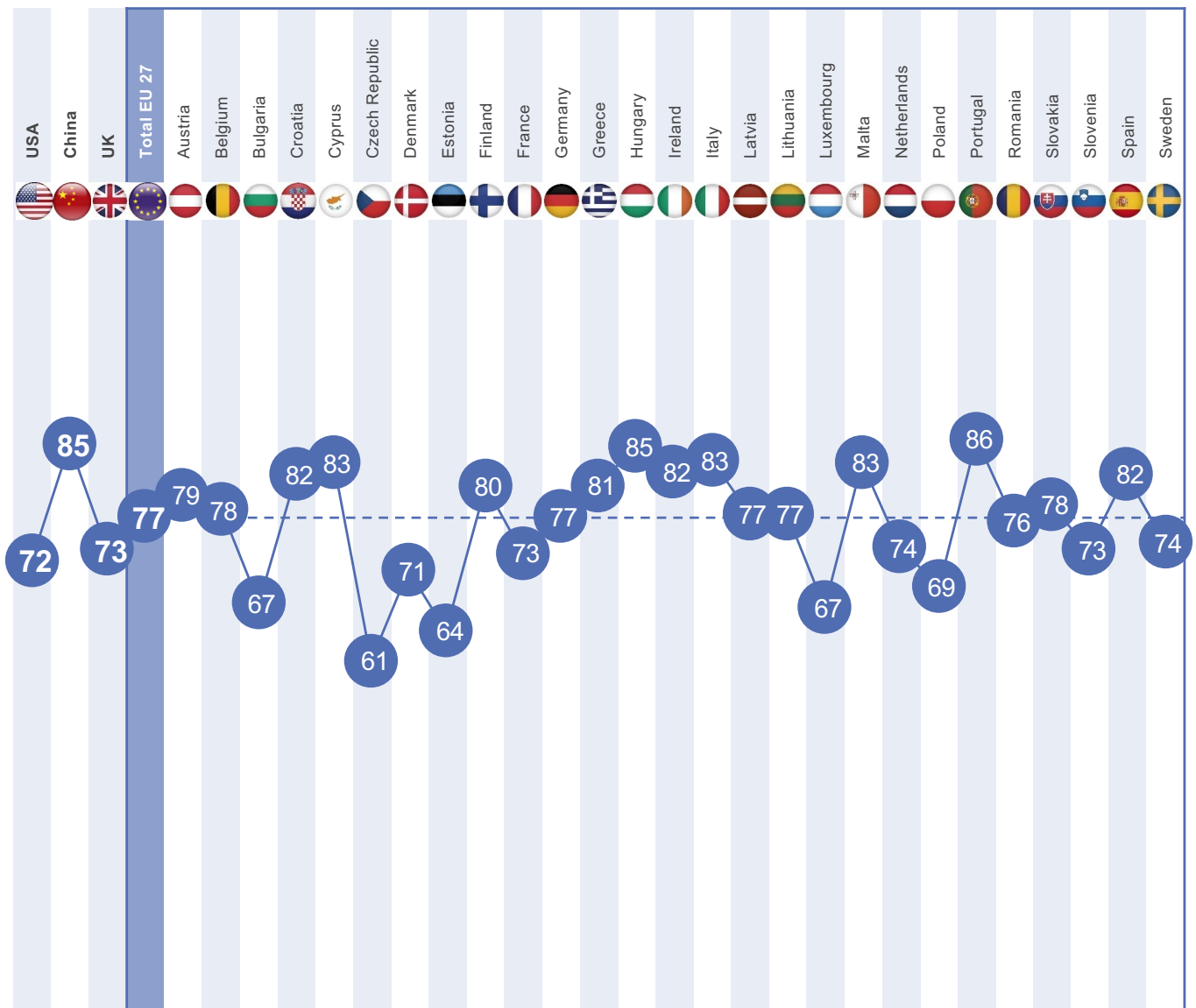
**72%**

# Climate policies that consider income and social differences are popular in most countries

To be successful in your country, do you believe that policies to tackle climate change have to take into account income gaps and social inequality?



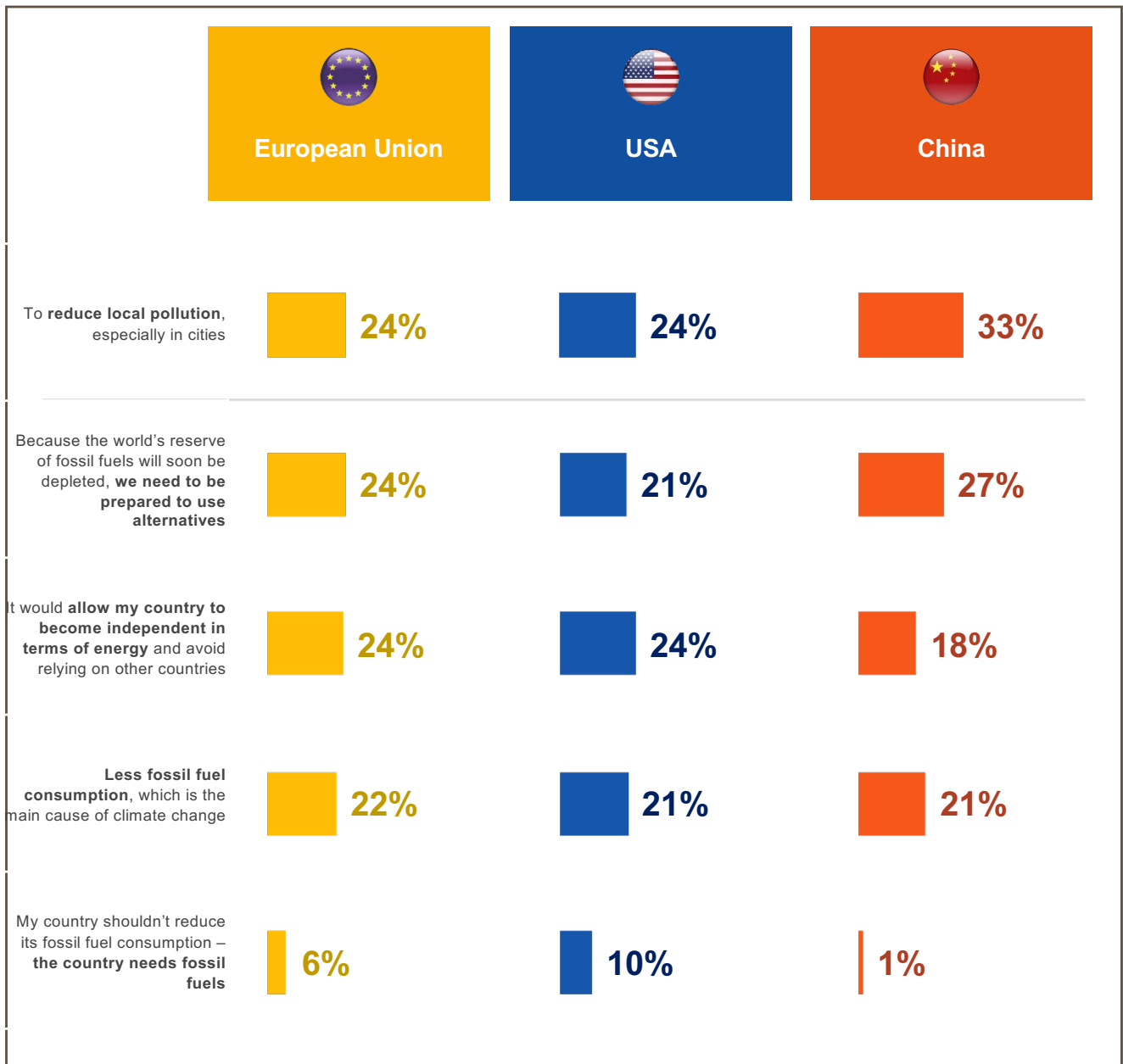
## % who believe policies to tackle climate change must take income gaps and social inequality into account



# Europeans and Americans are divided on why they should reduce fossil fuels

In your opinion, what would be the main benefit for your country in reducing its reliance on fossil fuels (e.g. oil, natural gas, coal)?

## What is the main benefit in reducing the reliance on fossil fuels such as oil, natural gas and coal?




# What do we gain from the reduction of fossil fuels?

In your opinion, what would be the main benefit for your country in reducing its reliance on fossil fuels (e.g. oil, natural gas, coal)?

 **USA**  
**24%**

(reduce local pollution, especially in cities / It would allow my country to become independent in terms of energy)








 **China**  
**33%**

(To reduce local pollution, especially in cities)











 **UK**  
**25%**

(Because the world's reserve of fossil fuels will soon be depleted / It would allow my country to become independent in terms of energy)




## A drop in local pollution, especially in cities

 Malta	47%
 Slovenia	40%
 Romania	38%
 Lithuania	34%
 Slovakia	34%
 Bulgaria	33%
 Croatia	30%
 Poland	30%
 Cyprus	29%
 Italy	29%
 Czech Republic	25%





## We need to be prepared to use alternatives

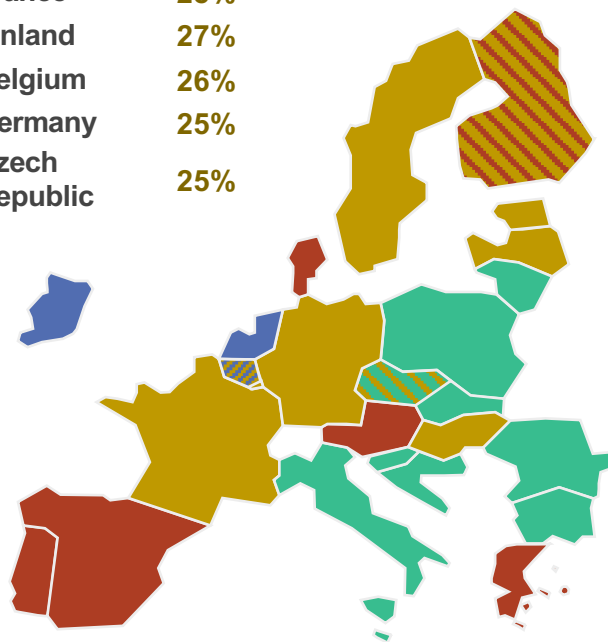
 Sweden	35%
 Latvia	32%
 Estonia	32%
 Luxembourg	29%
 Hungary	28%
 France	28%
 Finland	27%
 Belgium	26%
 Germany	25%
 Czech Republic	25%

## Less fossil fuel consumption, which is the main cause of climate change

 Netherlands	28%
 Ireland	27%
 Belgium	26%

## It would allow my country to become independent in terms of energy

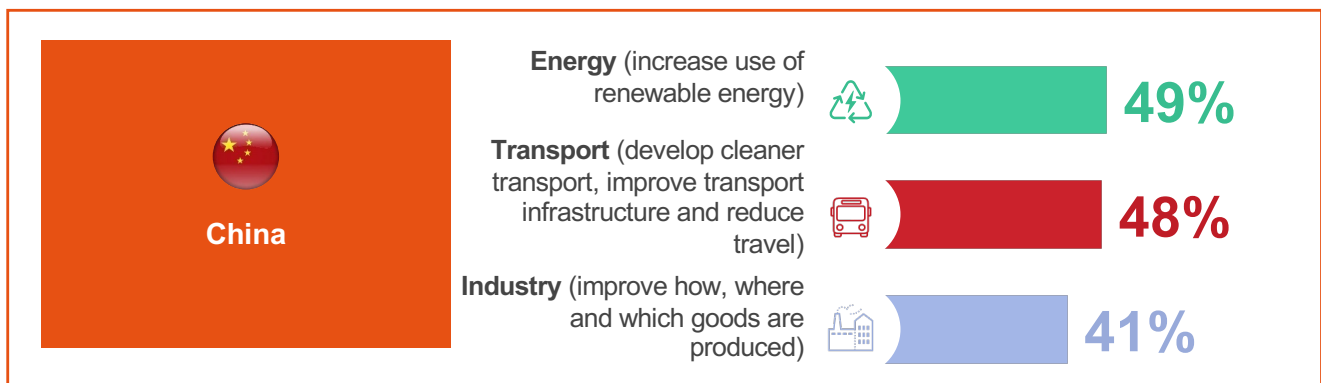
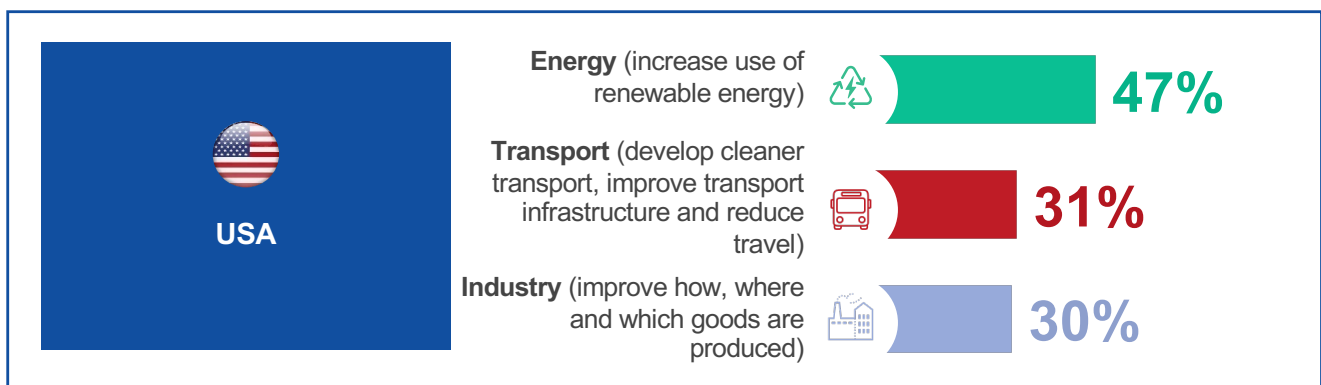
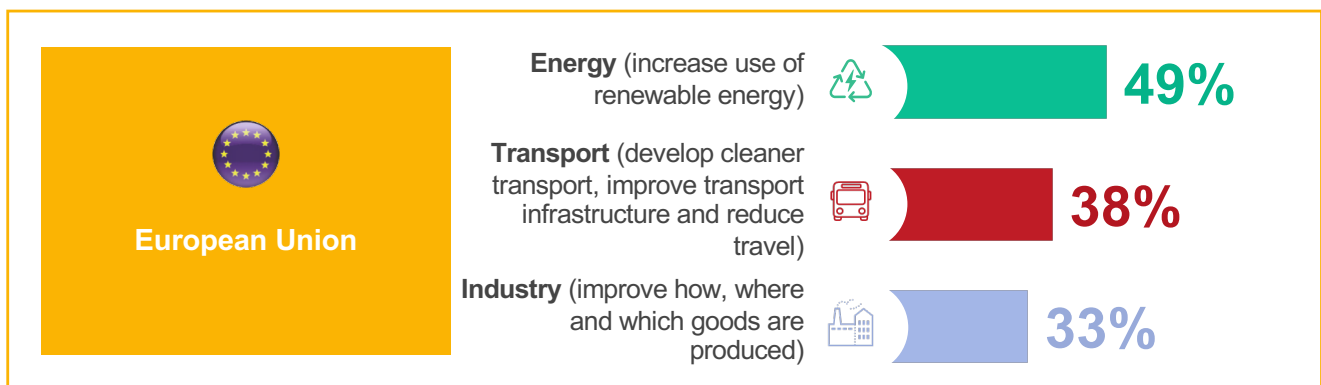
 Austria	33%
 Portugal	32%
 Denmark	31%
 Greece	30%
 Spain	28%
 Finland	27%



# Renewable energy: the main area of action to fight climate change

In order to combat climate change, which areas of action should be prioritised?

## Top 3 priorities to combat climate change

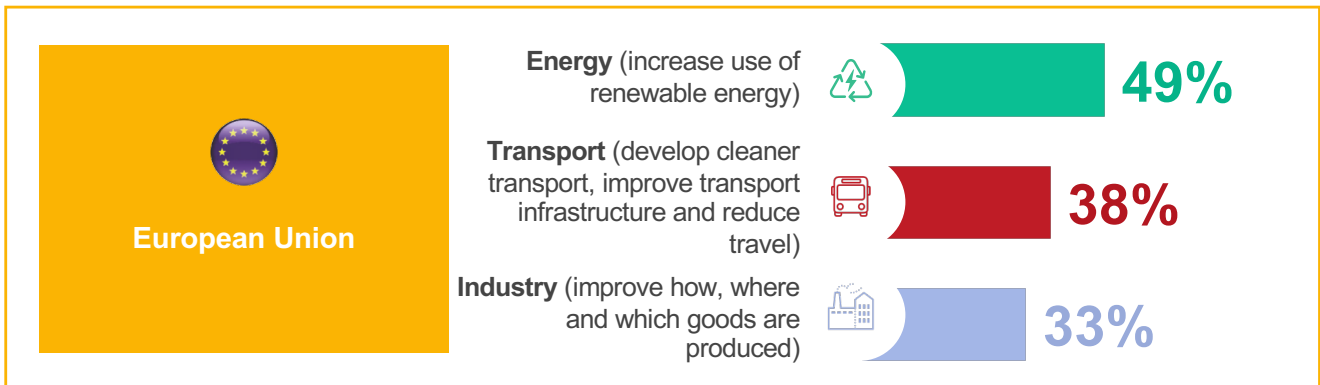




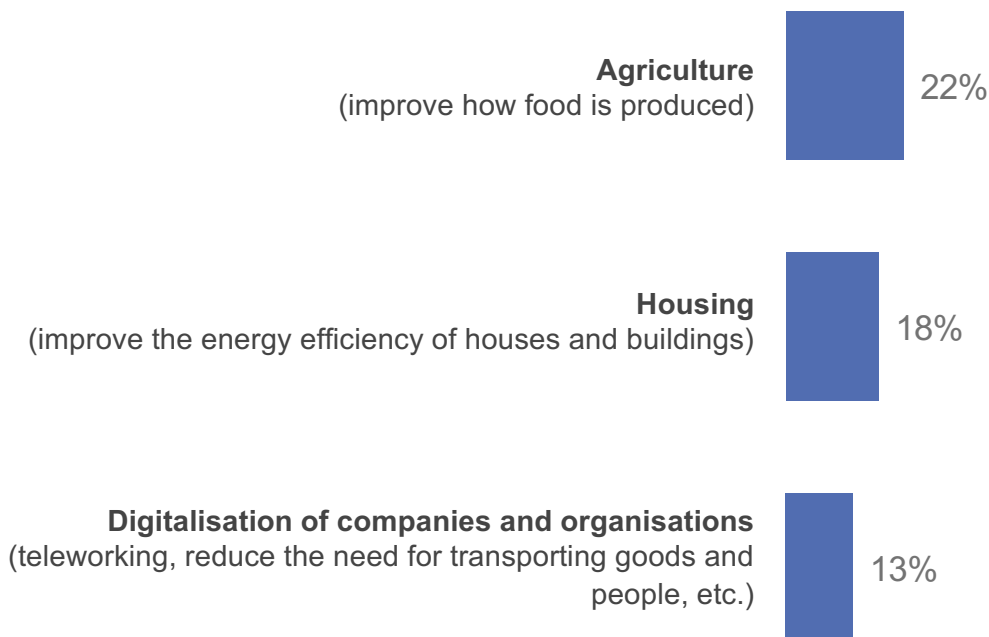
# Climate action priorities in Europe

In order to combat climate change, which areas of action should be prioritised?

## Top 3 areas of action for EU citizens




## Other priorities




# In some EU countries, transport and industry stand out

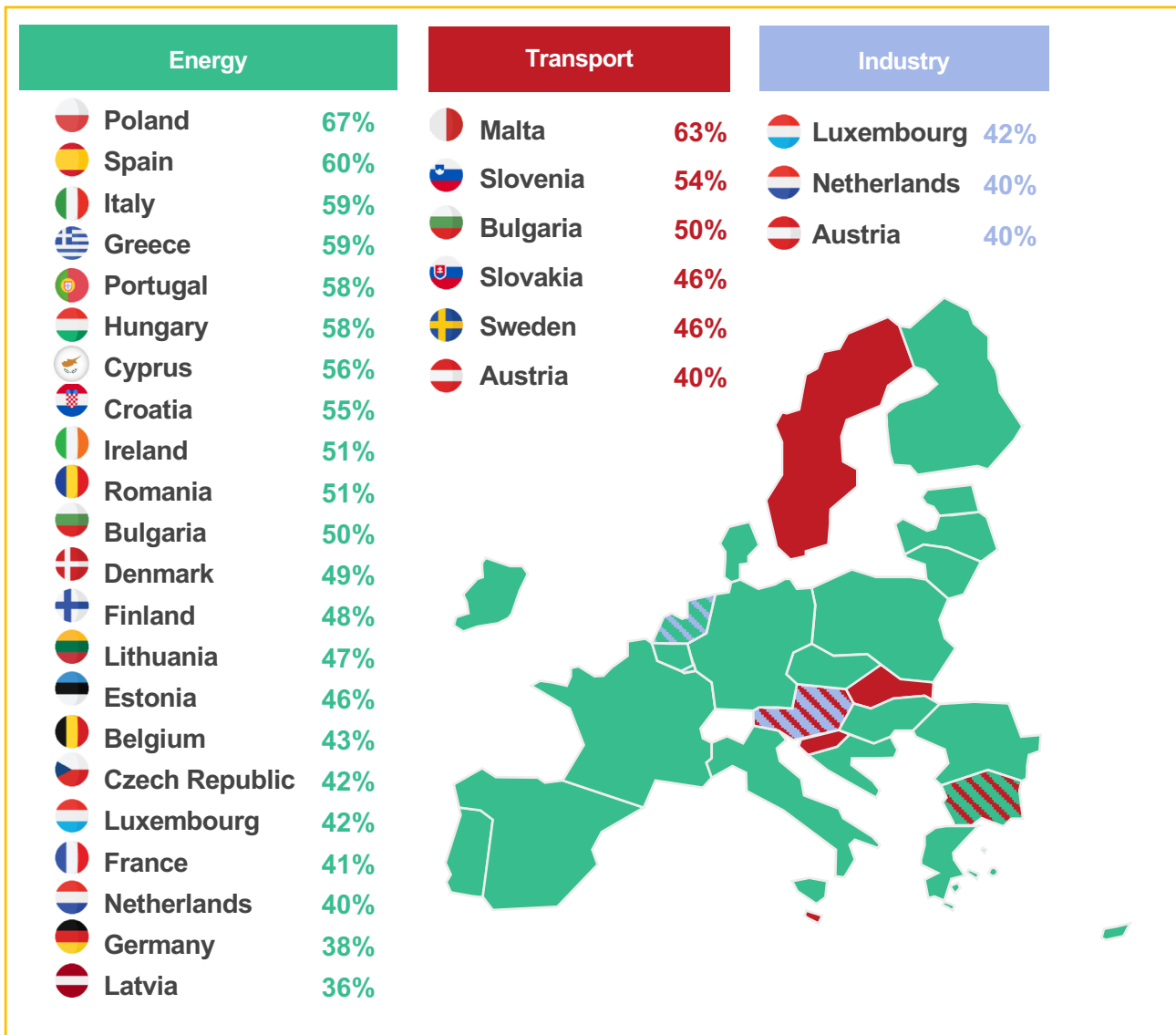
In order to combat climate change, which areas of action should be prioritised?

## Main areas of action for climate change

 **USA**  
**47%**

 **China**  
**49%**

 **UK**  
**46%**

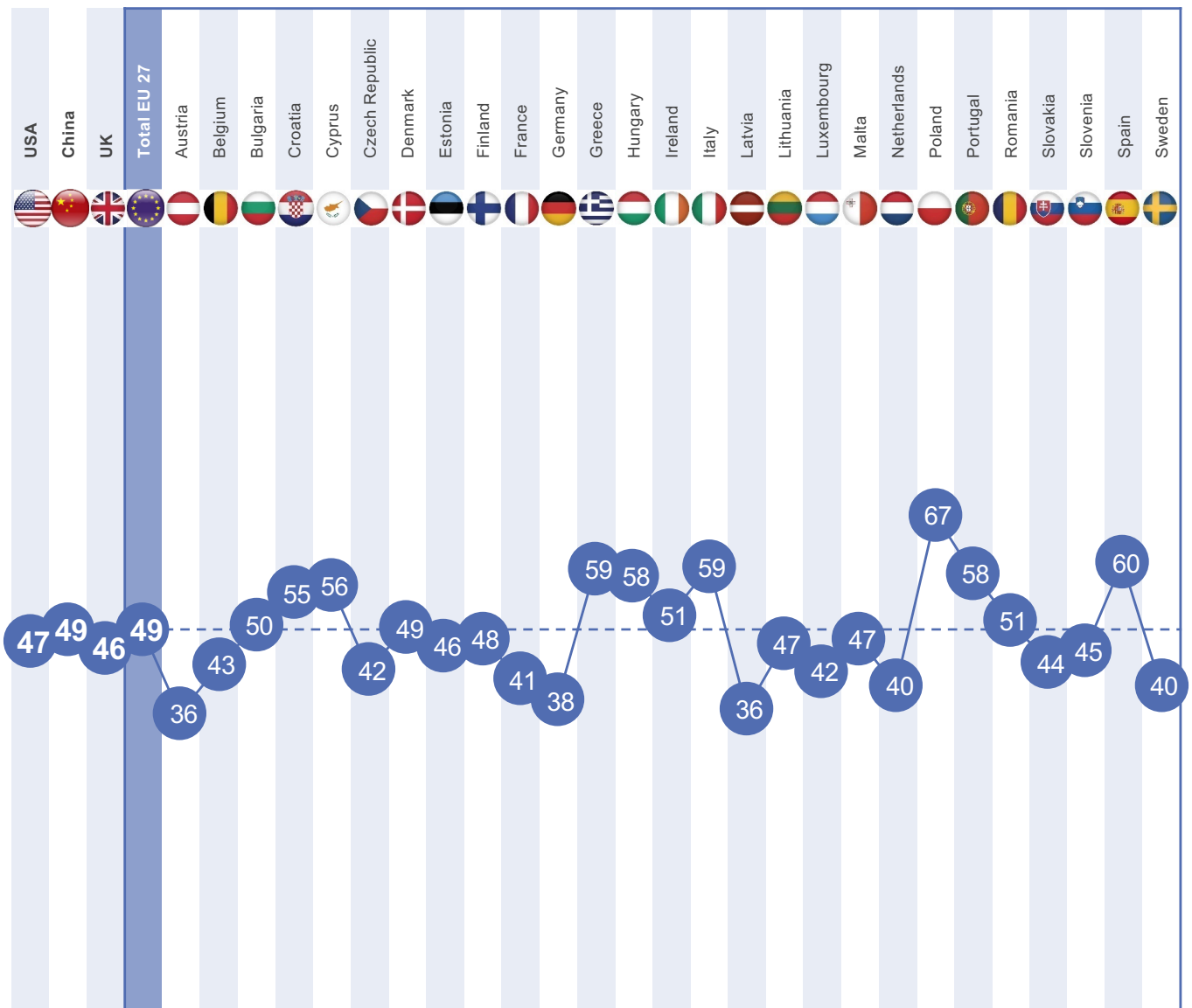


# Half of Europeans want to focus more on energy

In order to combat climate change, which areas of action should be prioritised?



% who say energy should be a priority

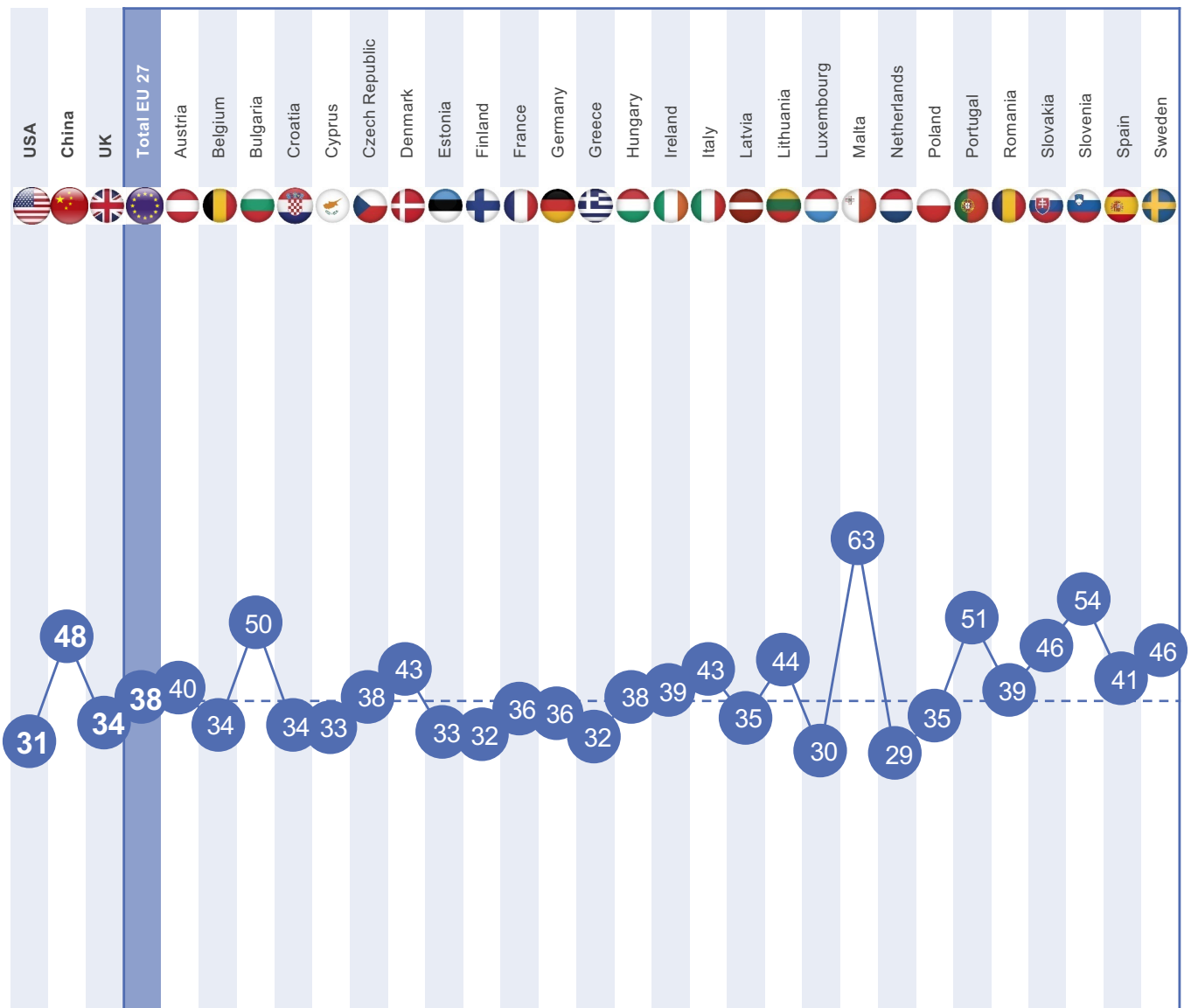


# Transport is another key area in the fight against climate change, especially in Eastern Europe

In order to combat climate change, which areas of action should be prioritised?



% who say transport should be a priority

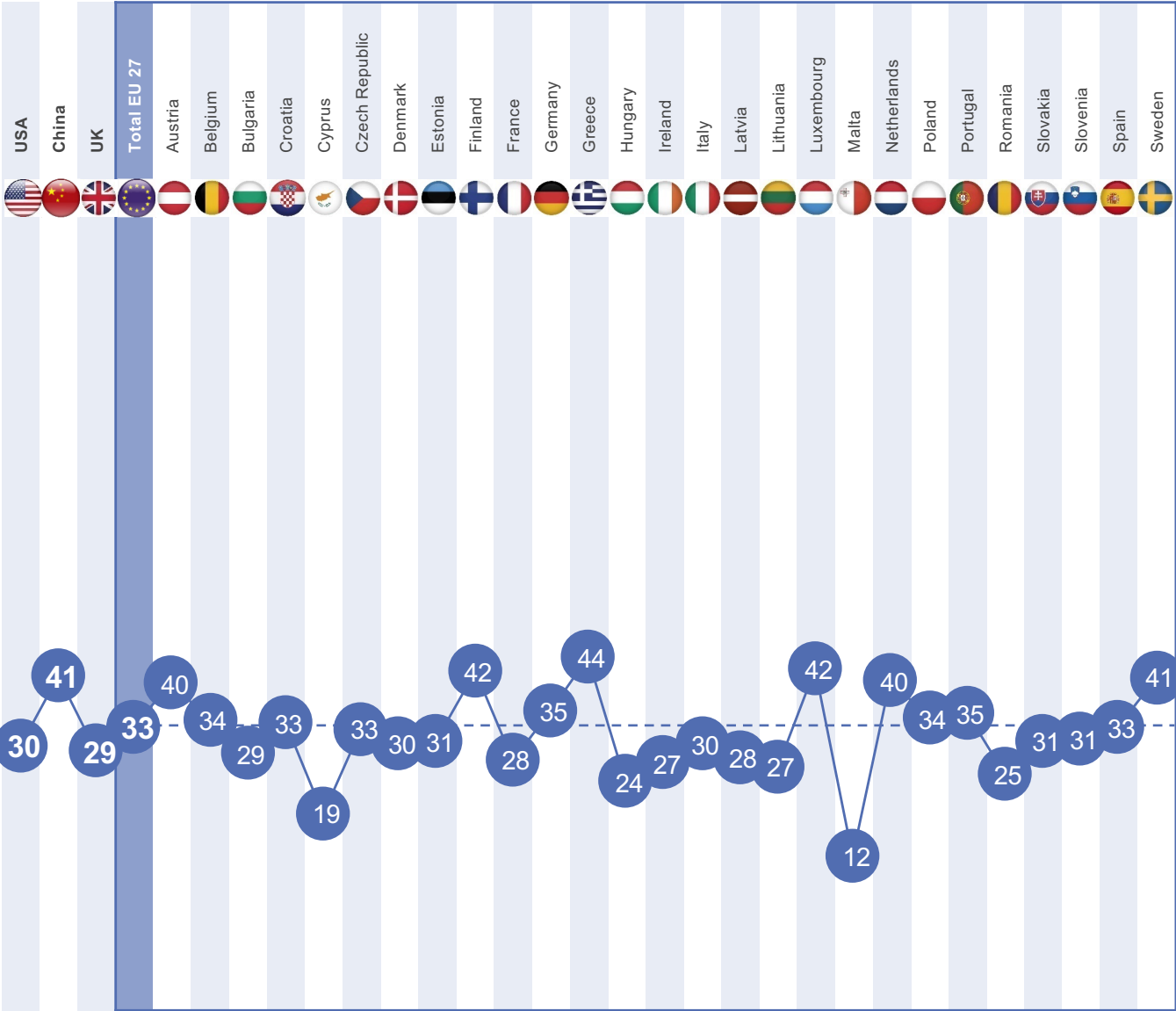


# On average, a third of Europeans say the industrial sector is a priority to fight climate change

In order to combat climate change, which areas of action should be prioritised?



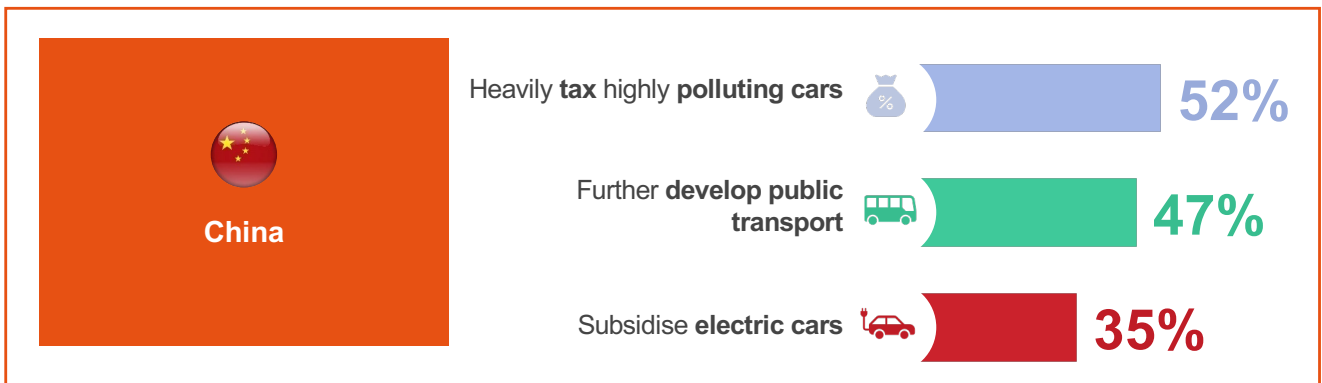
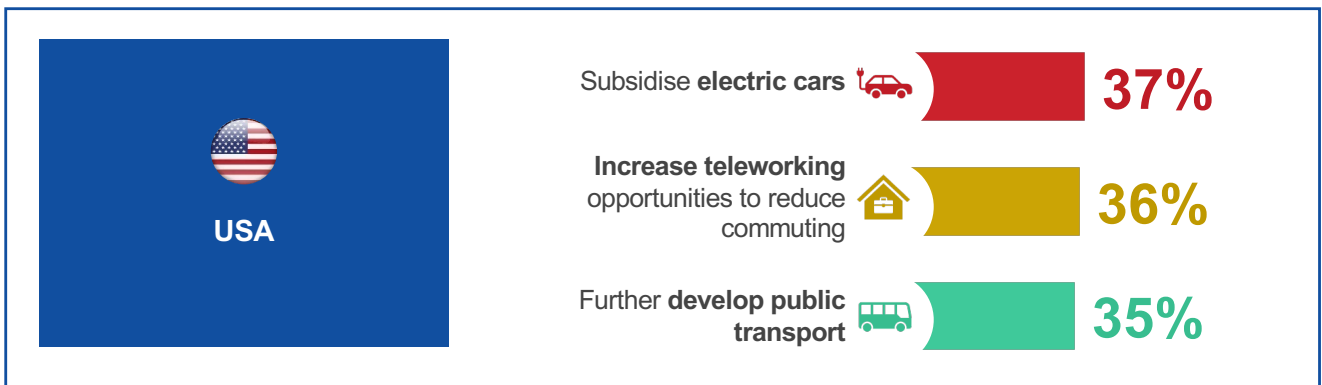
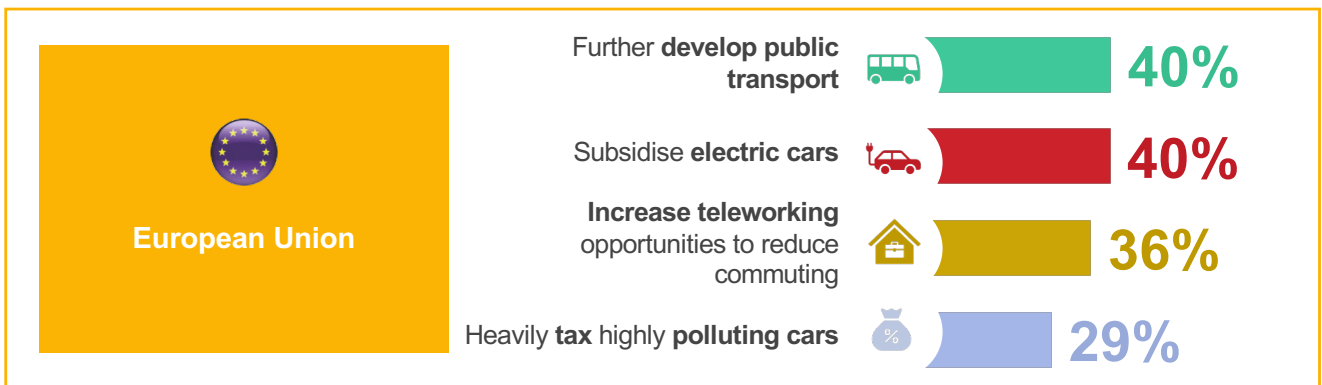
## % who say industry should be a priority



# Cleaning up transport

More specifically, concerning transport, which three actions should be prioritised to combat climate change?

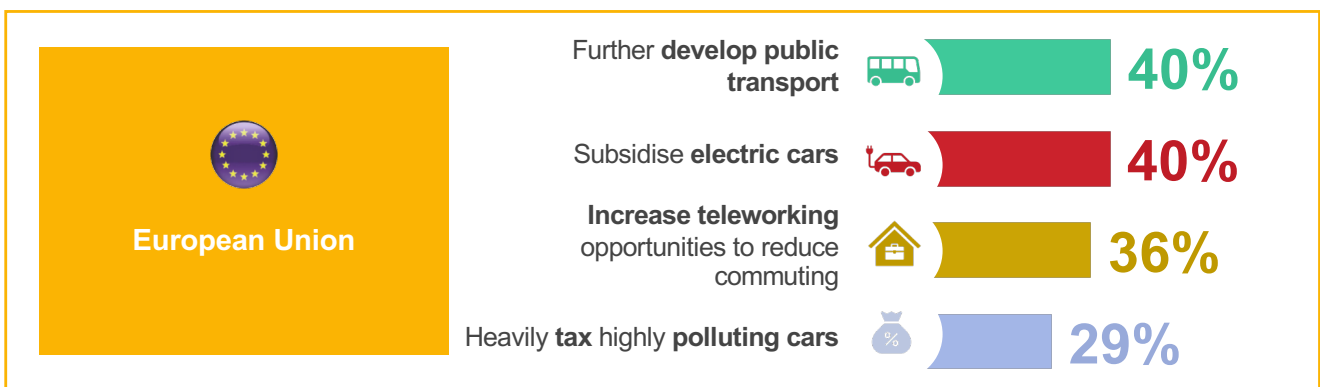
## Top 3 transport priorities



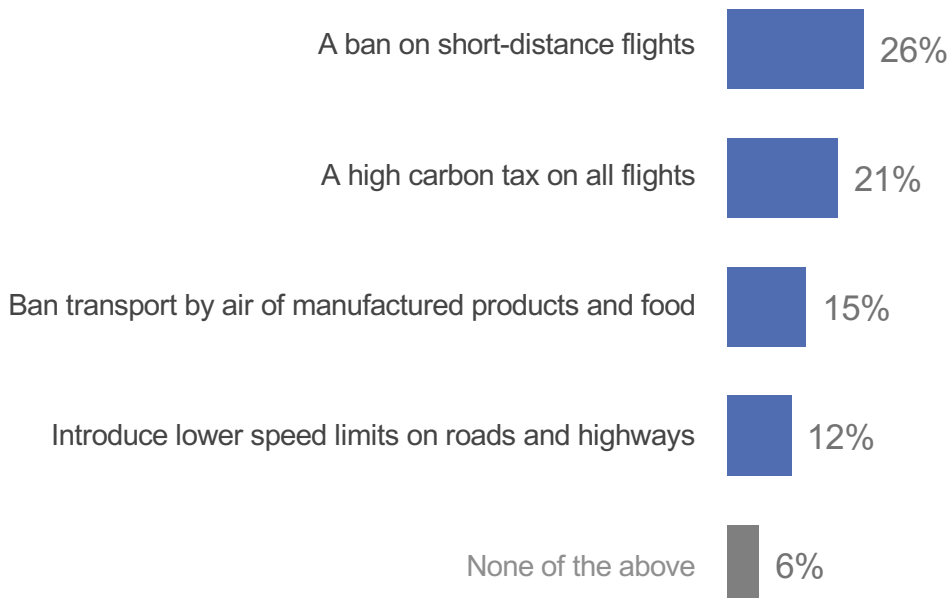
# In Europe, more people want public transport and electric cars

More specifically, concerning transport, which three actions should be prioritised to combat climate change?

## Top 3 transport actions to tackle climate change, according to EU citizens



### Other priorities




# Great differences on transport

More specifically, concerning transport, which three actions should be prioritised to combat climate change?

## Transport actions that should be prioritised to combat climate change

 **USA**  
**37%**

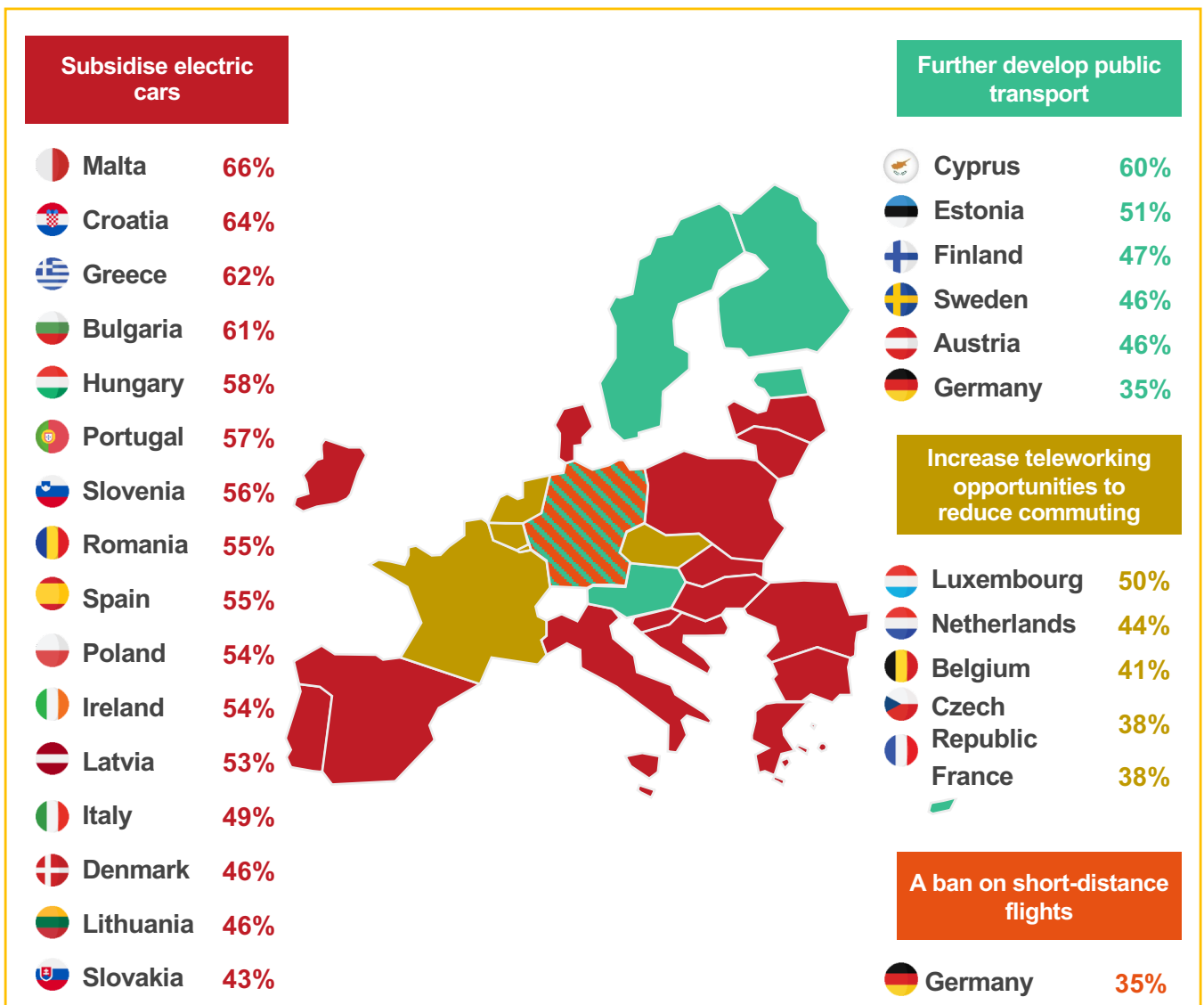
(Subsidise the use of electric cars)

 **China**  
**52%**

(Heavily tax highly polluting cars)

 **UK**  
**38%**

(Subsidise the use of electric cars)



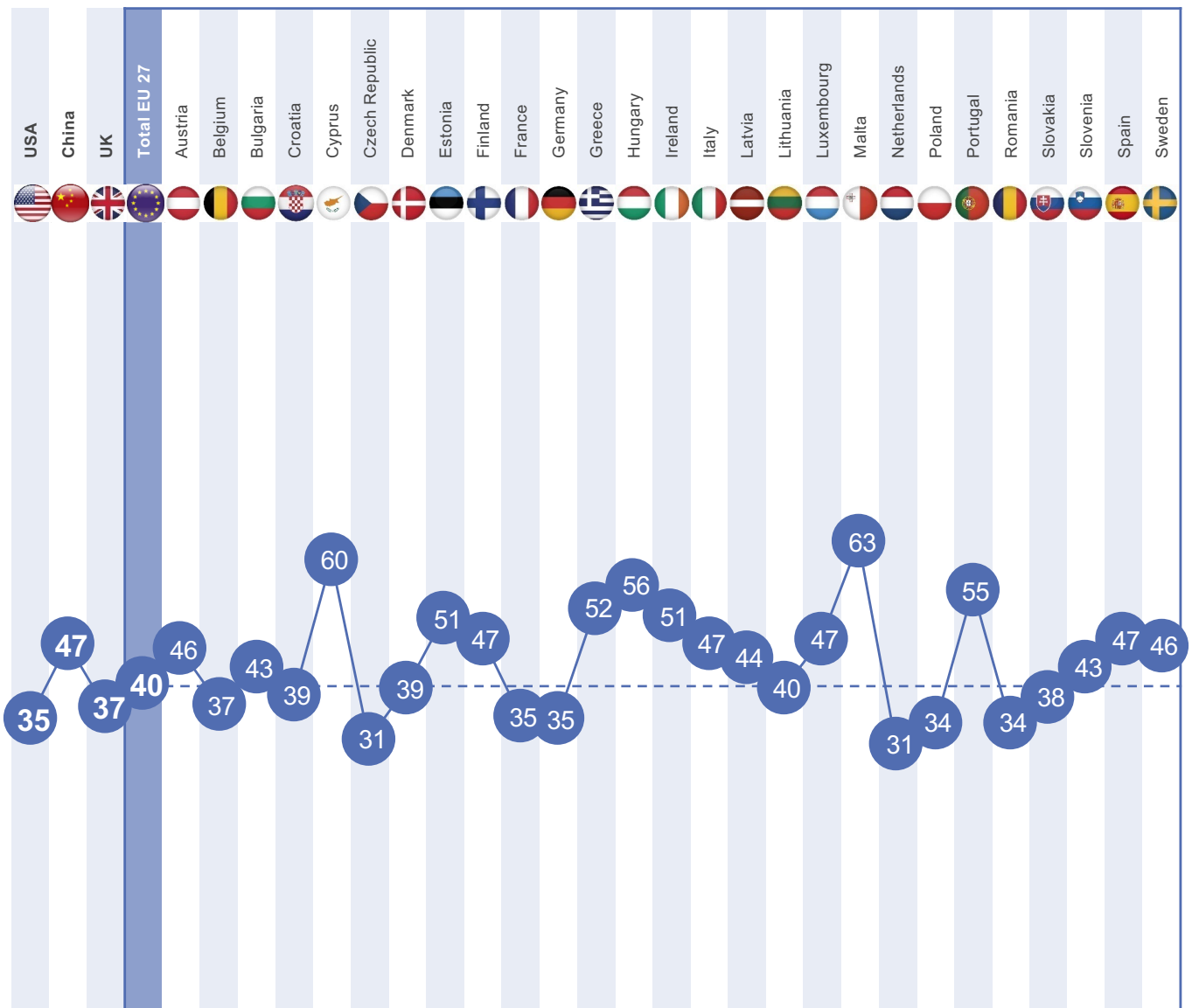


# 40% of EU citizens and 47% of Chinese people want to improve public transport. This is less popular among the Americans and British.

More specifically, concerning transport, which three actions should be prioritised to combat climate change?



## % who want the development of public transport to be a priority

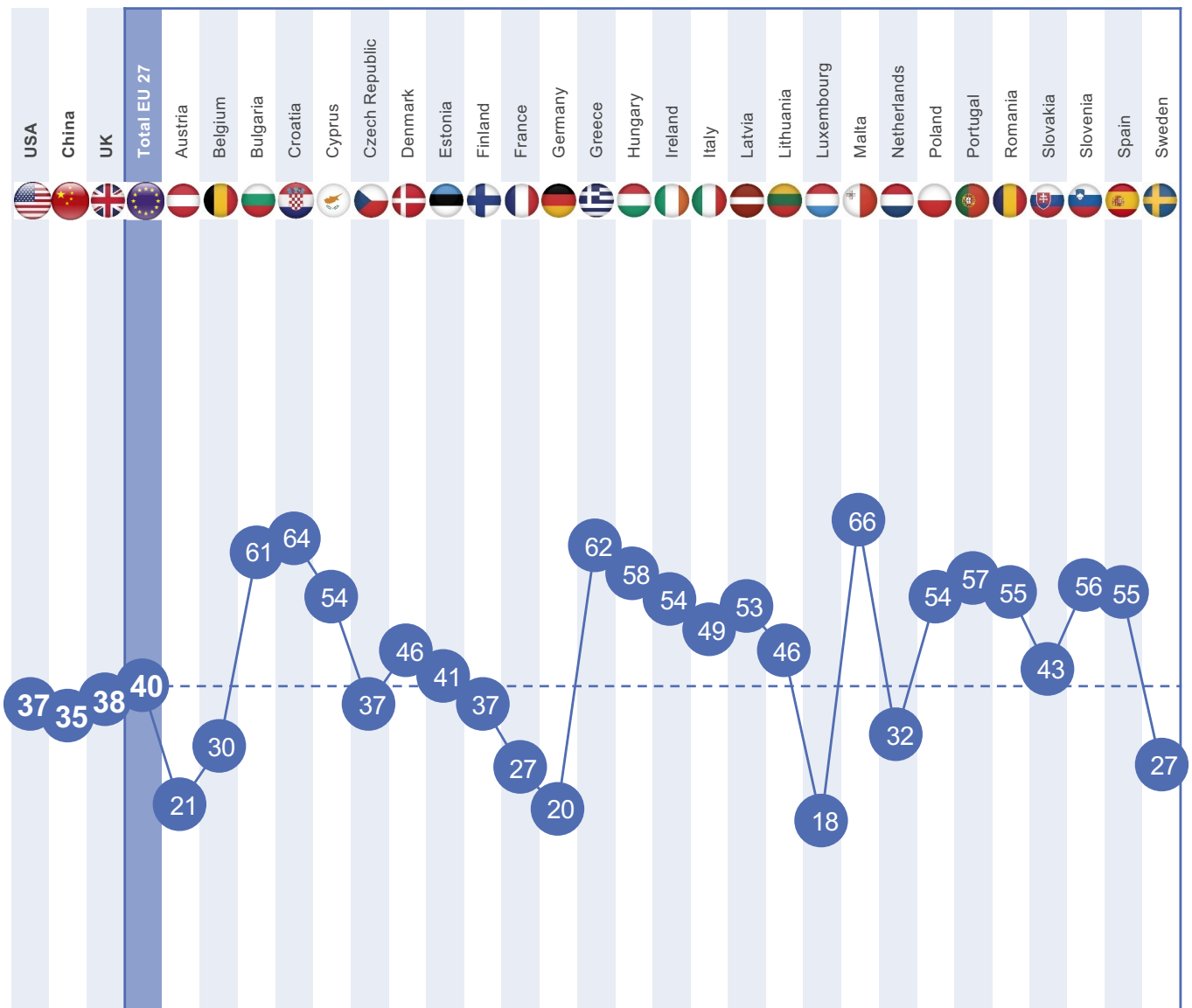


# 4 out of 10 Europeans on average say subsidies for electric cars should be a priority to fight climate change, but there are disparities among countries

More specifically, concerning transport, which three actions should be prioritised to combat climate change?



## % who want to subsidise electric cars

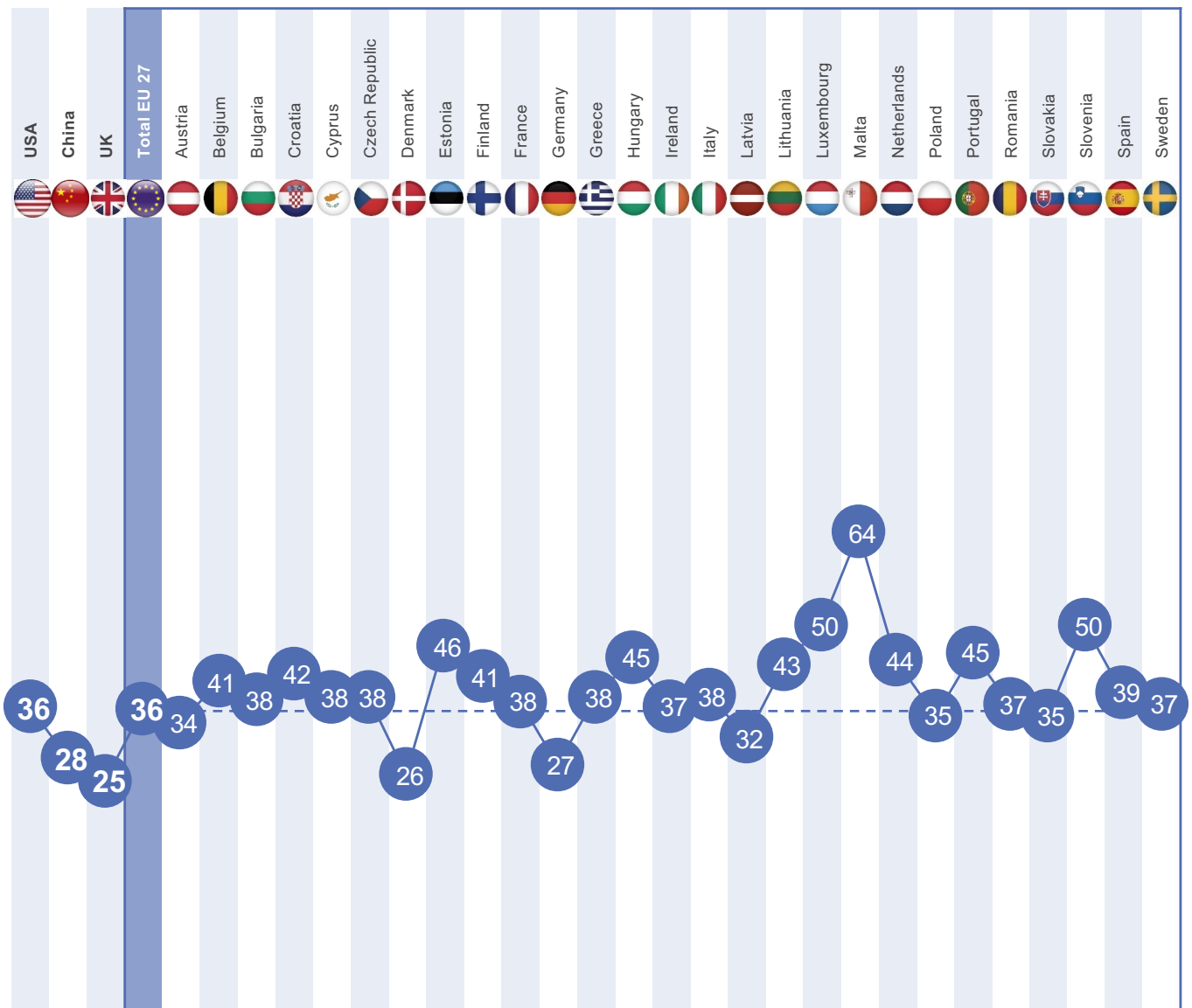


# 36% of Europeans want teleworking to be favoured to fight climate change

More specifically, concerning transport, which three actions should be prioritised to combat climate change?



## % who want to increase teleworking opportunities to reduce commuting

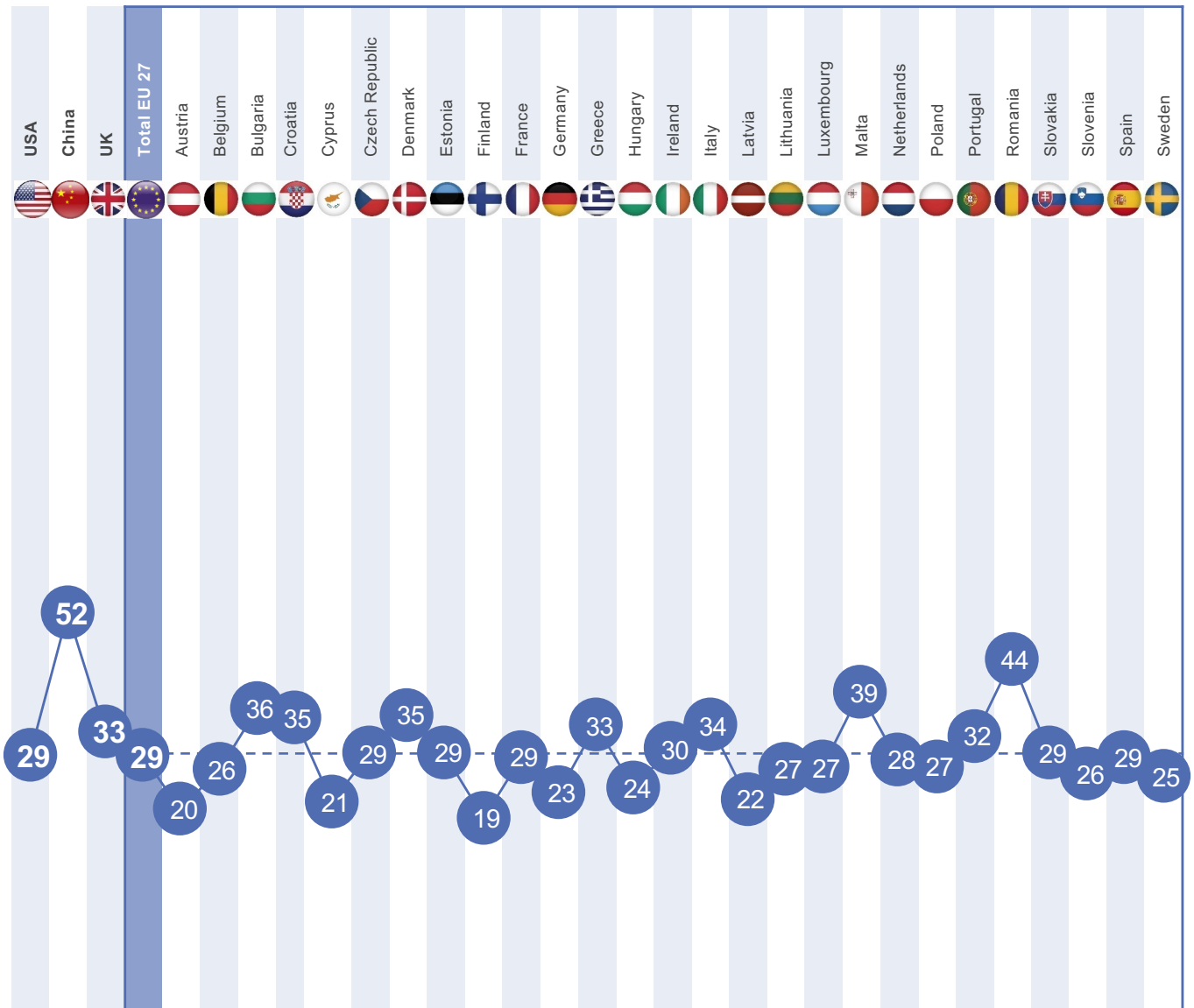


# More than half of Chinese people say taxes on heavily polluting cars should be prioritised. Europeans, Americans and the British are more hesitant.

More specifically, concerning transport, which three actions should be prioritised to combat climate change?



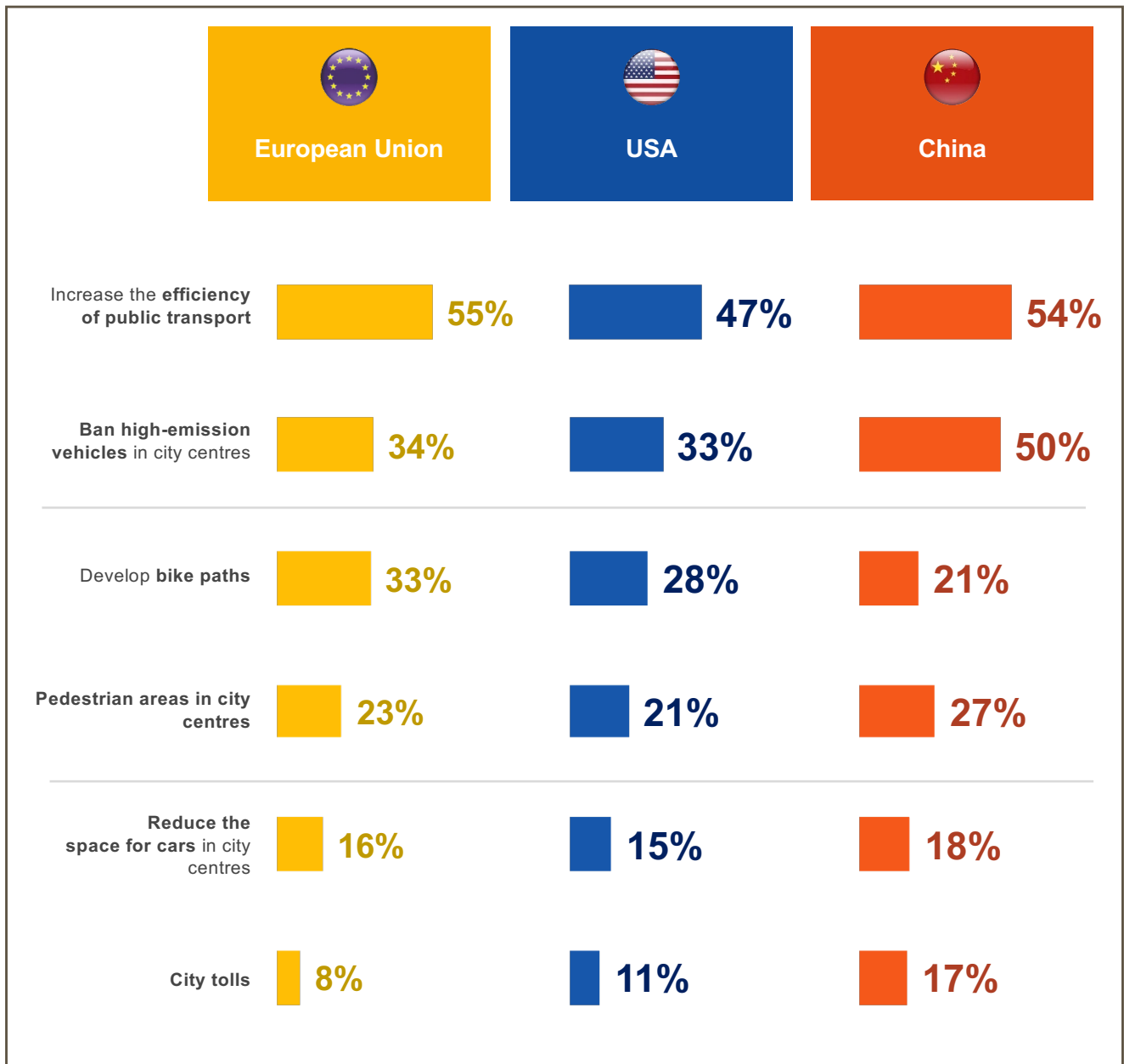
## % who want high taxes on cars that have high emissions



# Within cities, make public transport more efficient and ban high-emission vehicles

More specifically, concerning trips within cities, which two actions should be prioritised to fight climate change?

## Actions to prioritise in terms of trips within cities



# Big support for more efficiency in public transport

More specifically, concerning trips within cities, which two actions should be prioritised to fight climate change?



# 55%



of EU citizens believe that increased efficiency of public transport should be prioritised to fight climate change in terms of trips within cities



**65 years old and over:**

**63%**

From 30 to 64 years old: **53%**

From 15 to 29 years old: **49%**



**Without children: 57%**

With children: **49%**



**City/metropolis: 57%**

Small or medium-sized town:

**52%**



**Left-leaning political views: 62%**

Right-leaning political views:

**52%**



**Upper class: 57%**

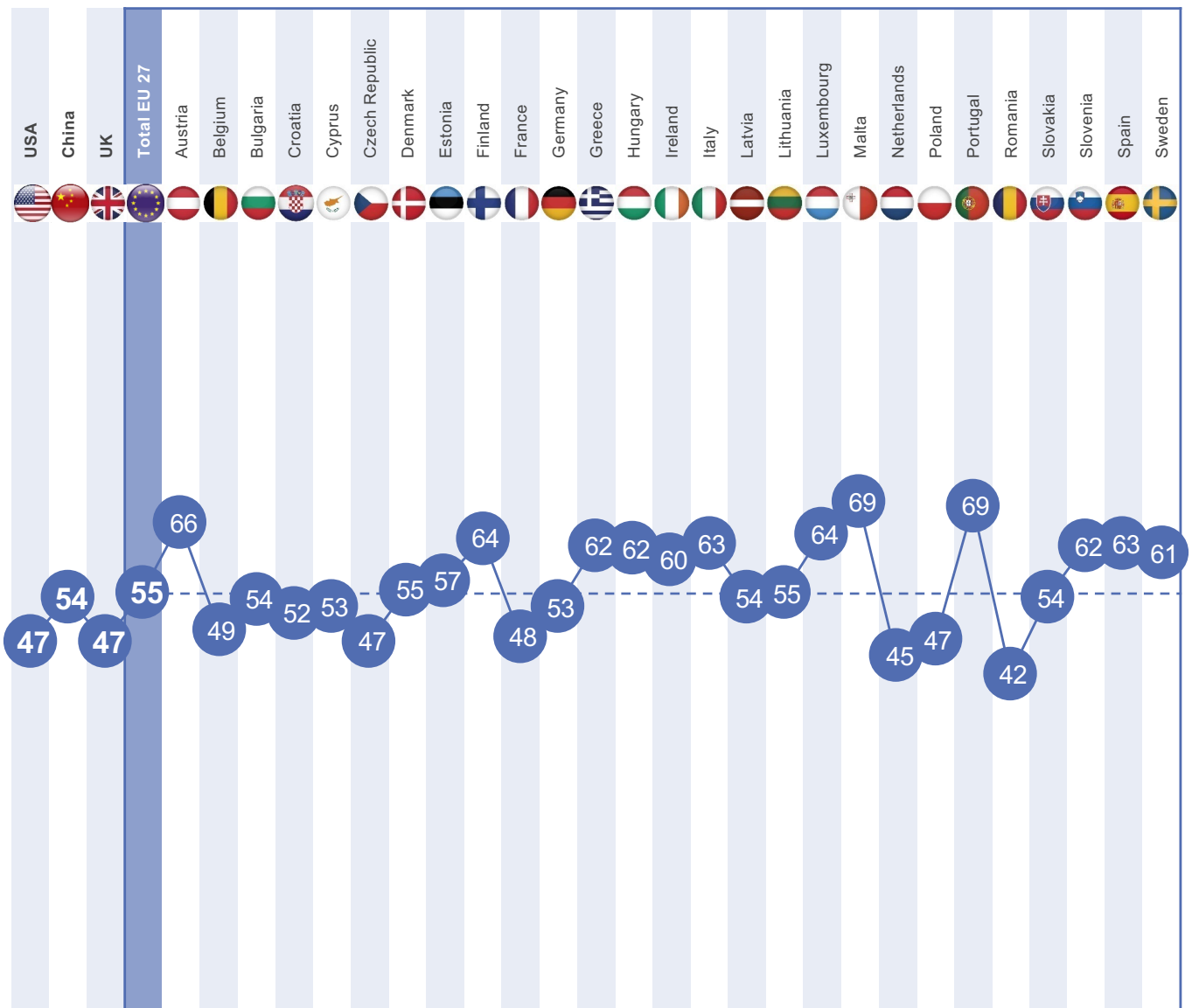
Underprivileged: **52%**

# A majority of EU citizens say improving public transport should be a key part of the fight against climate change

More specifically, concerning trips within cities, which two actions should be prioritised to fight climate change?



## % who want increased public transport efficiency to be a priority

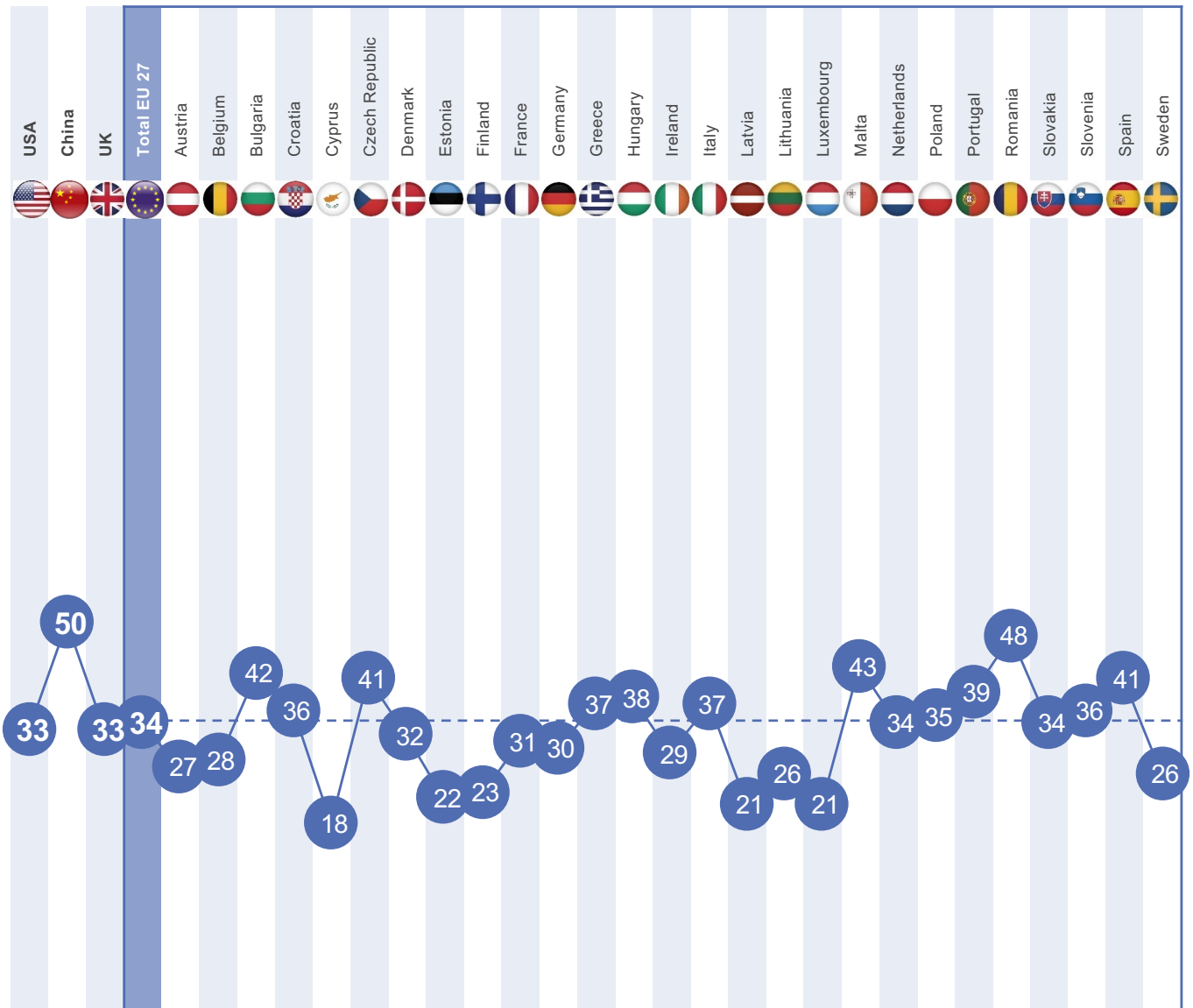


# A ban on high-emission vehicles in city centres has much more support in China than in Europe and the US

More specifically, concerning trips within cities, which two actions should be prioritised to fight climate change?



## % who want to ban high-emission vehicles in city centres



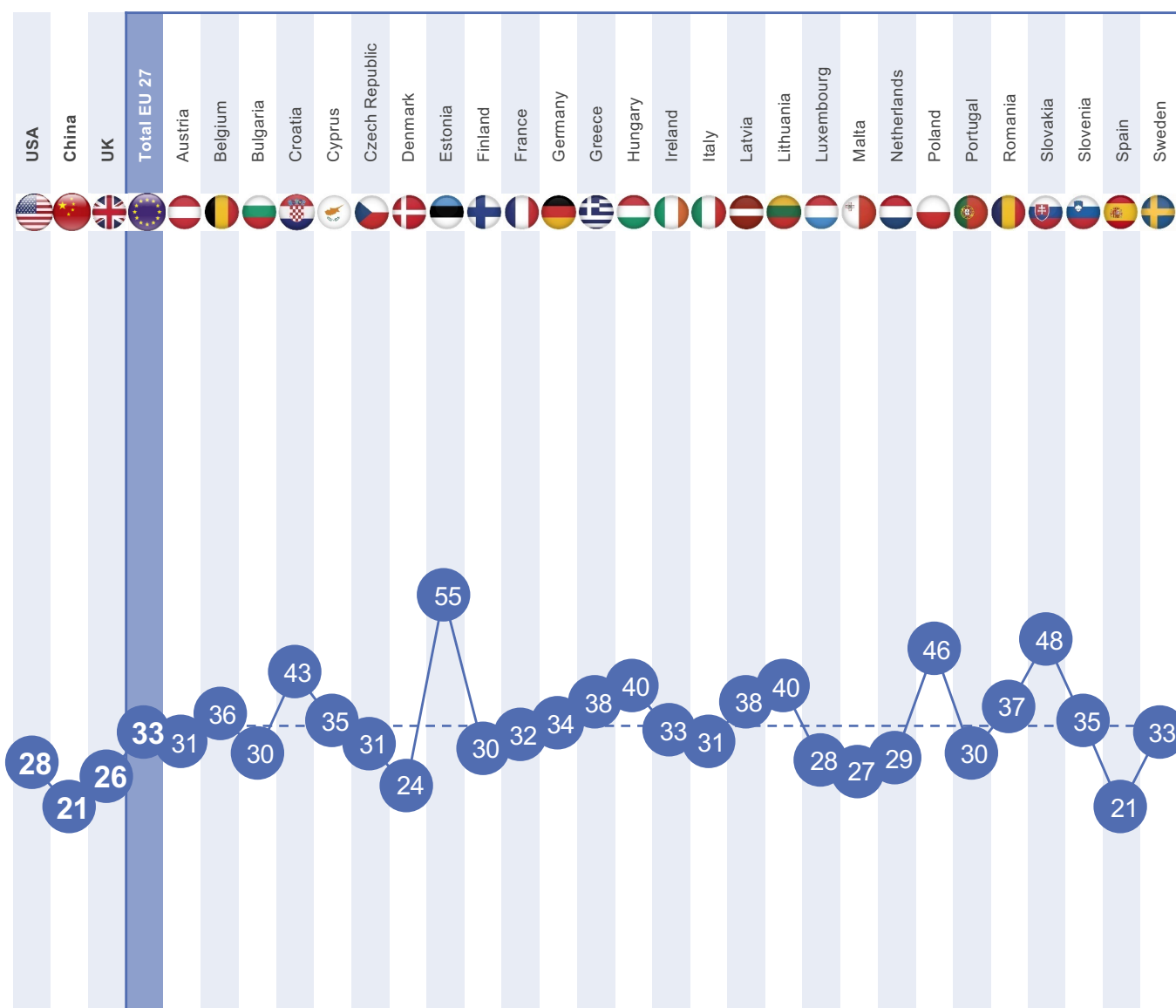


# A third of EU citizens want bike paths built to help combat climate change, especially in Estonia, Slovakia and Poland

More specifically, concerning trips within cities, which two actions should be prioritised to fight climate change?



% who want the development of bike paths to be a priority for trips within cities

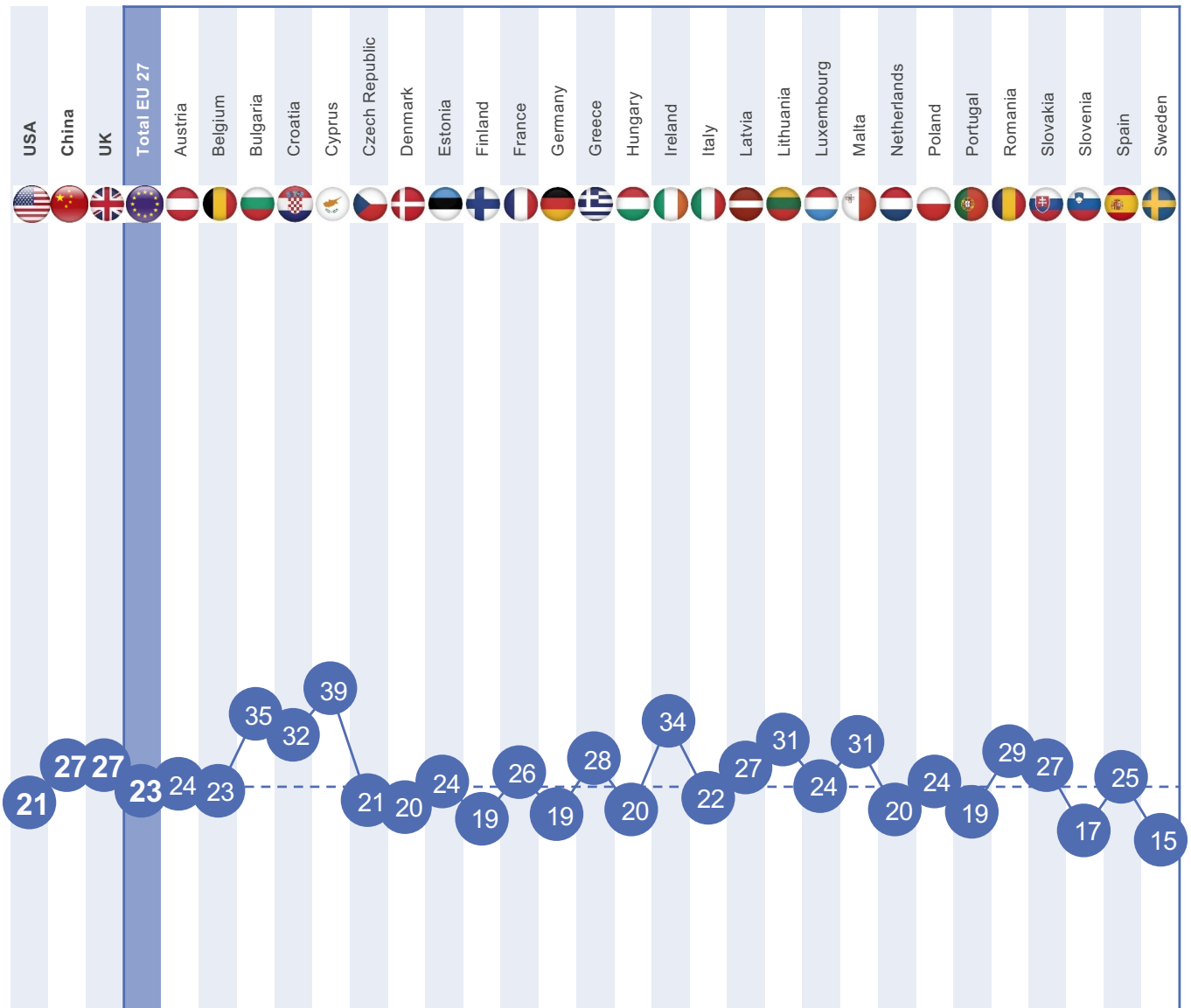


# Low support for more pedestrian areas in city centres

More specifically, concerning trips within cities, which two actions should be prioritised to fight climate change?



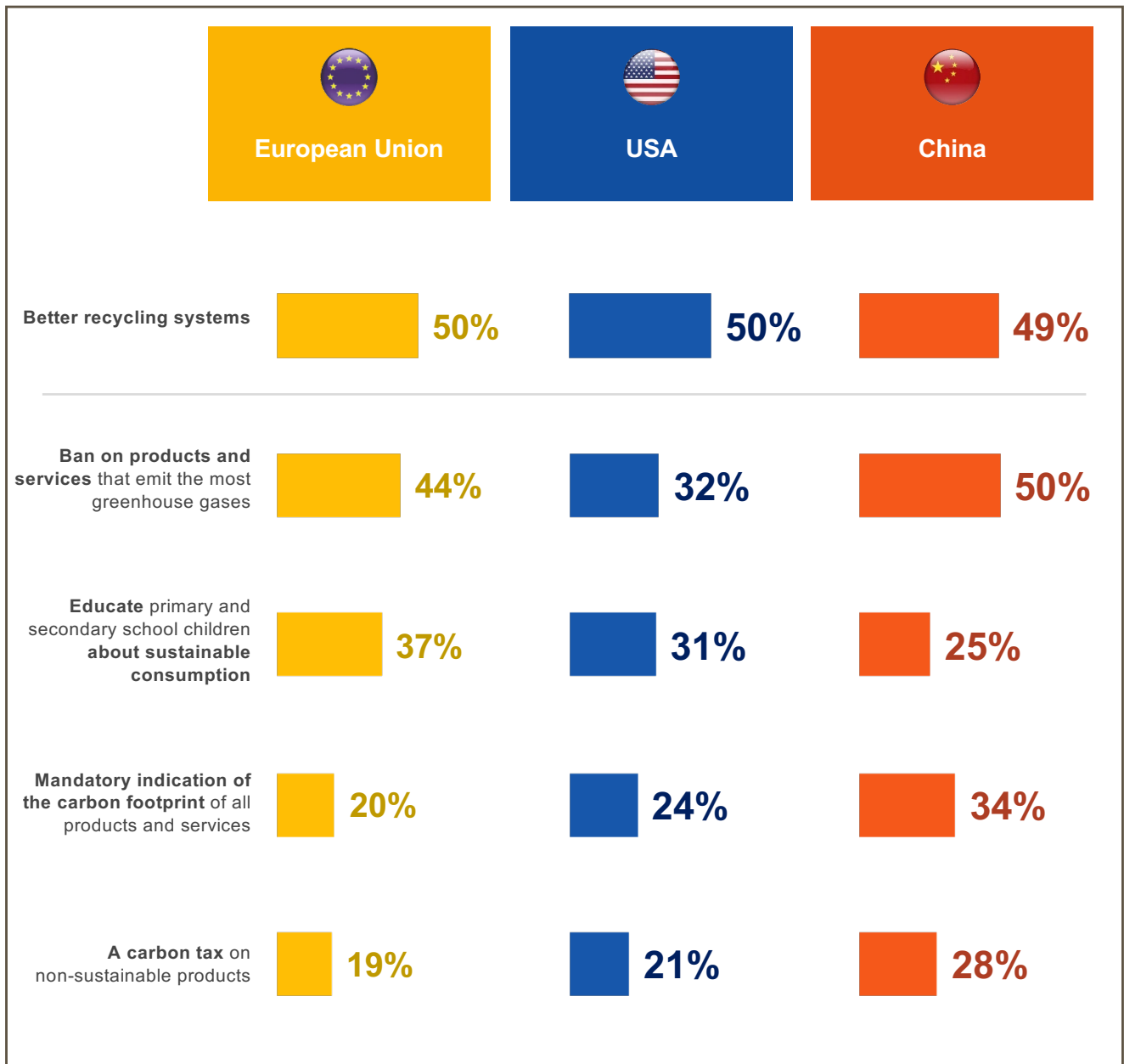
## % who want to limit city centres to pedestrians



# Putting better recycling at the forefront

More specifically, concerning consumption, which two actions should be prioritised to combat climate change?

## Actions to combat climate change in terms of consumption



# Sustainable consumption education and a ban on some products

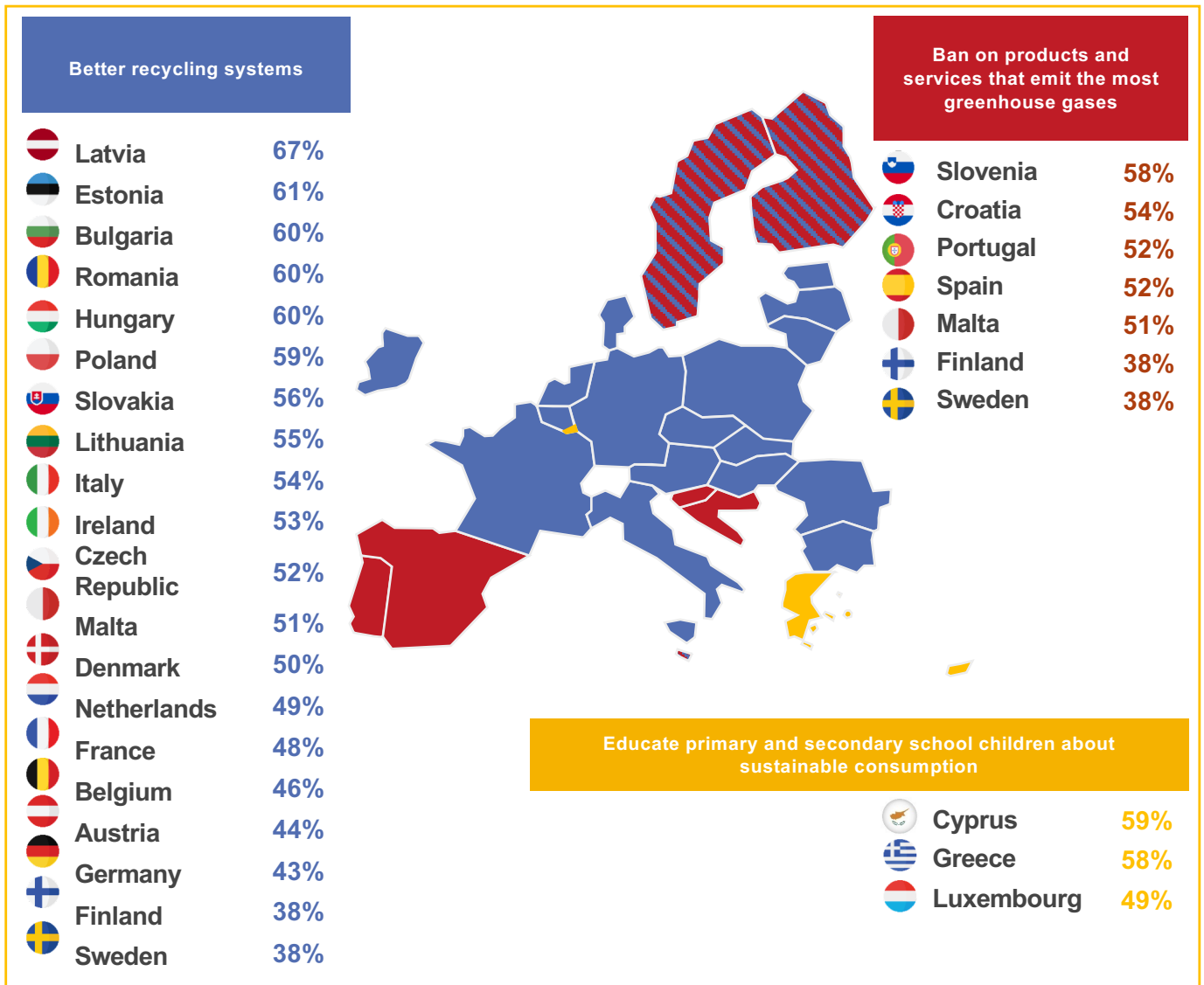
More specifically, concerning consumption, which two actions should be prioritised to combat climate change?

## Concerning consumption, which actions should be prioritised?

 **USA**  
**50%**  
 (Better recycling systems)

 **China**  
**50%**  
 (Ban on products and services that emit the most greenhouse gases)

 **UK**  
**48%**  
 (Better recycling systems)

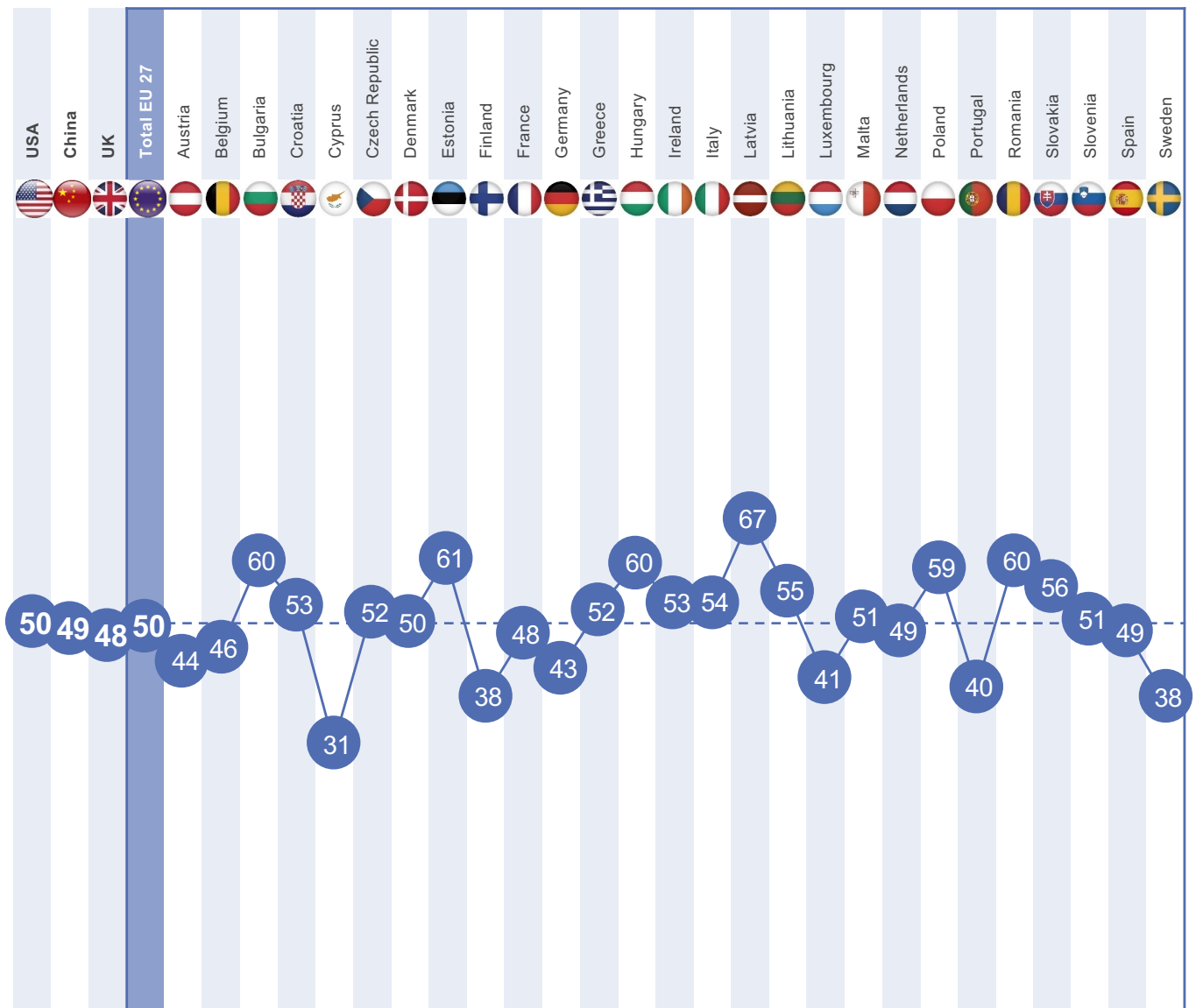


# Better recycling is a priority, especially in Central and Eastern Europe

More specifically, concerning consumption, which two actions should be prioritised to combat climate change?



## % who want better recycling systems

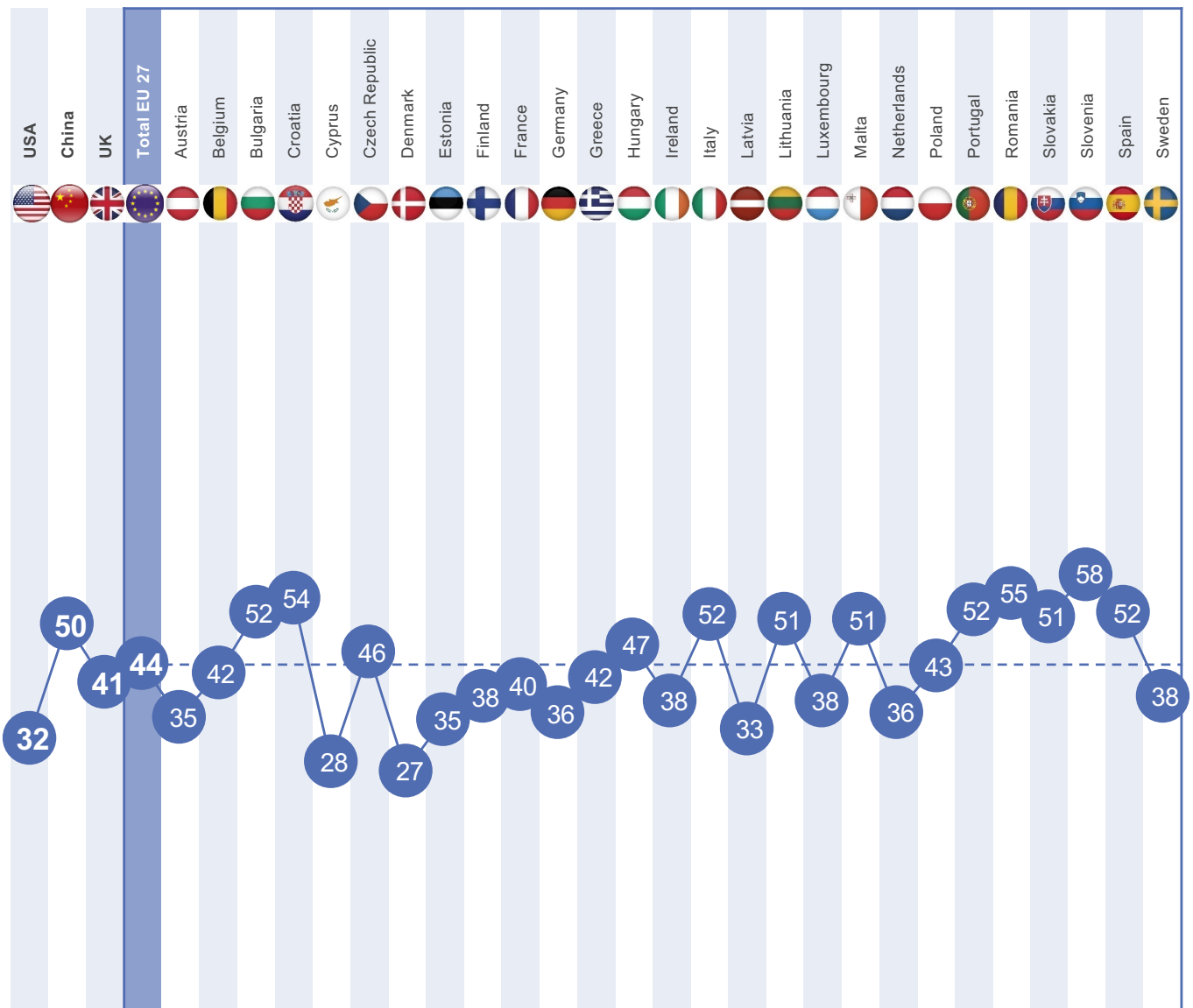


# Different views on a ban for products that emit more greenhouse gases

More specifically, concerning consumption, which two actions should be prioritised to combat climate change?



## % who want a ban on products and services that emit the most greenhouse gases

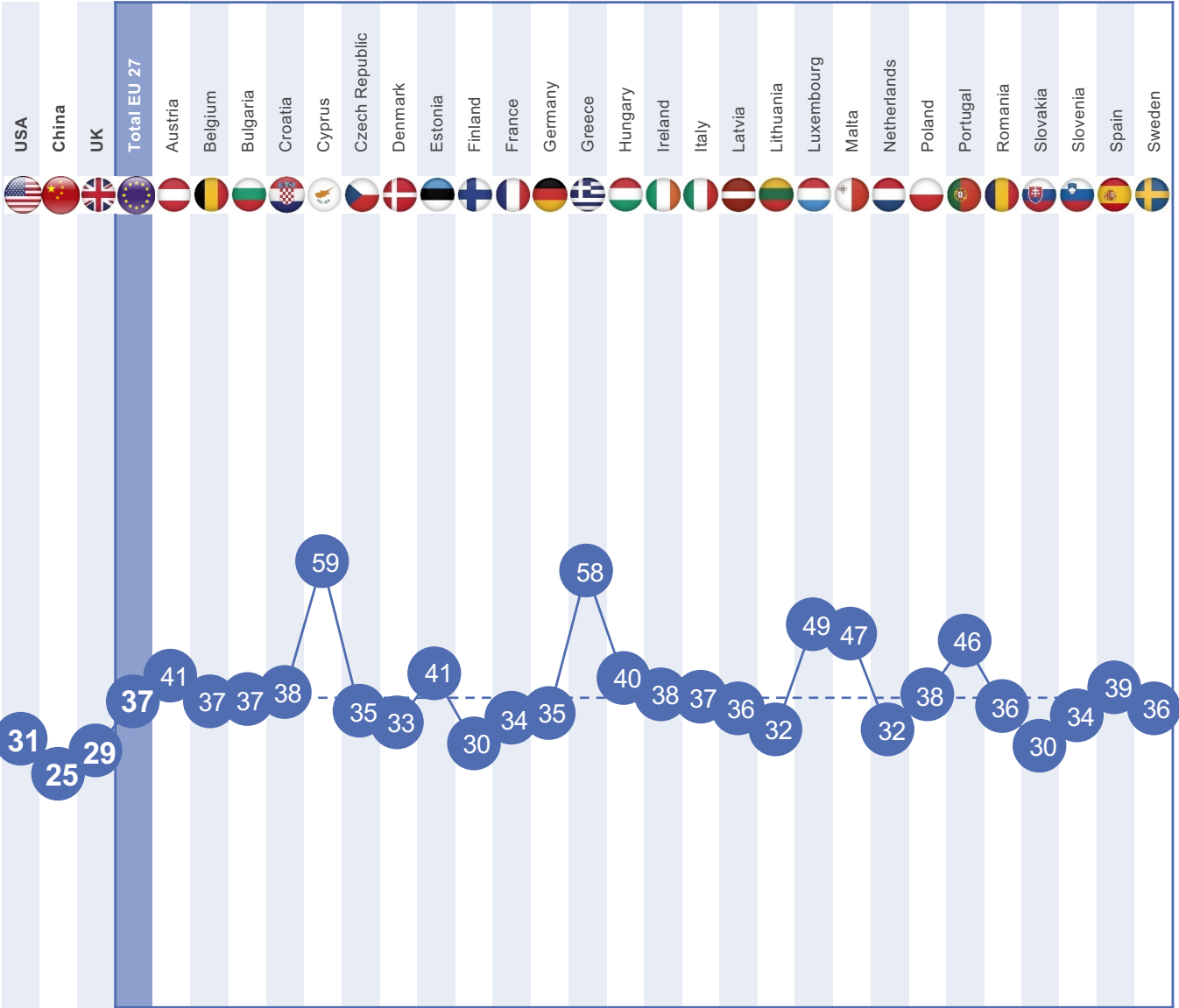


# Education on sustainable consumption should be prioritised

More specifically, concerning consumption, which two actions should be prioritised to combat climate change?



## % who say education in schools on sustainable consumption should be a priority

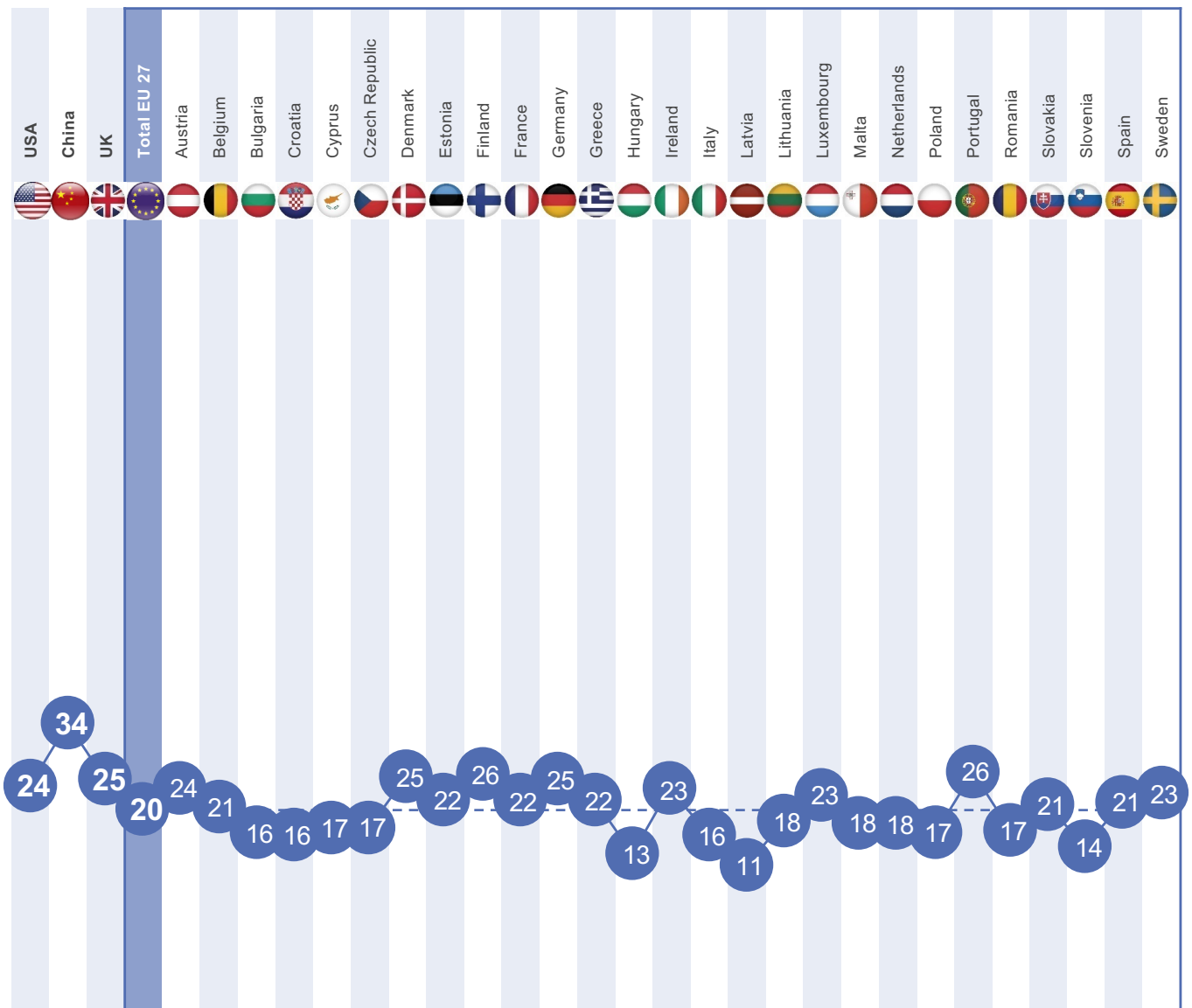


# A third of Chinese people believe that the carbon footprint should be on every product we buy. Only 2 Europeans out of 10 see this as a priority.

More specifically, concerning consumption, which two actions should be prioritised to combat climate change?



## % who want a carbon footprint label on all products and services

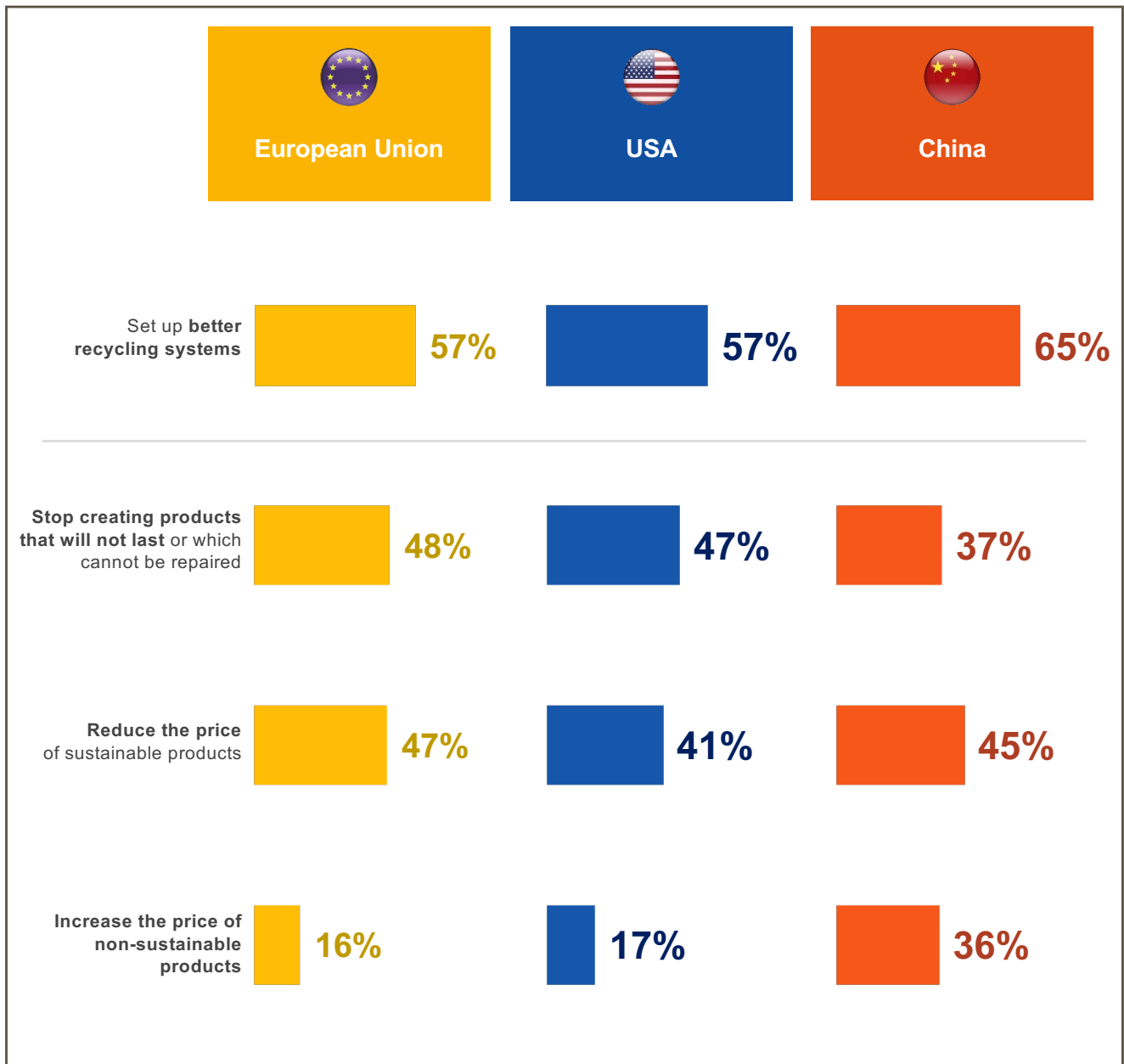




# Regarding sustainable consumption, the first step should be to set up better recycling systems

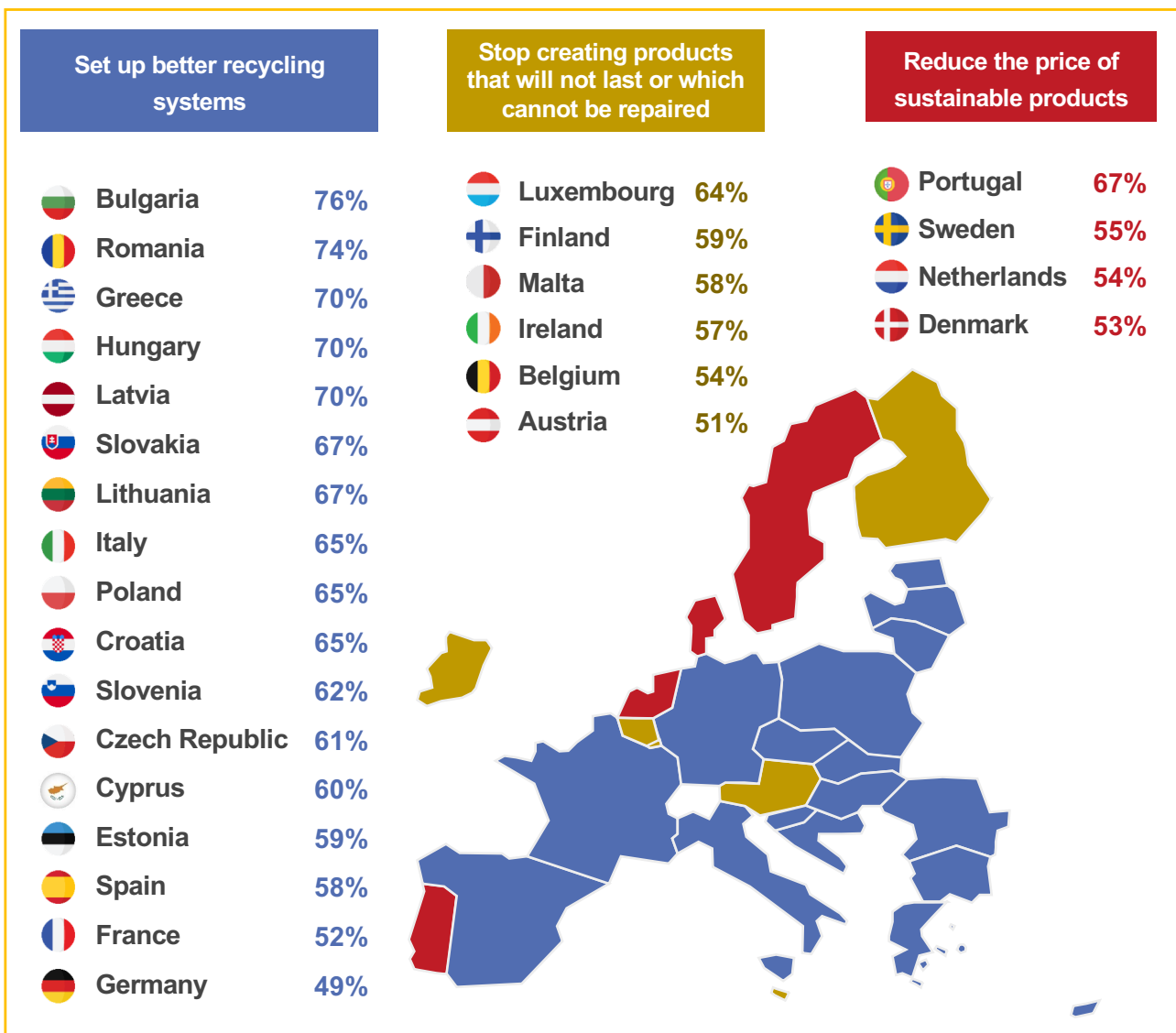
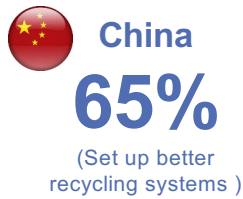
More specifically, concerning sustainable consumption, which two actions should be prioritised to fight climate change and damage to the environment?

## Priority actions to fight climate change and environmental damage



# Create products that can be repaired, and reduce prices for sustainable products

More specifically, concerning sustainable consumption, which two actions should be prioritised to fight climate change and damage to the environment?

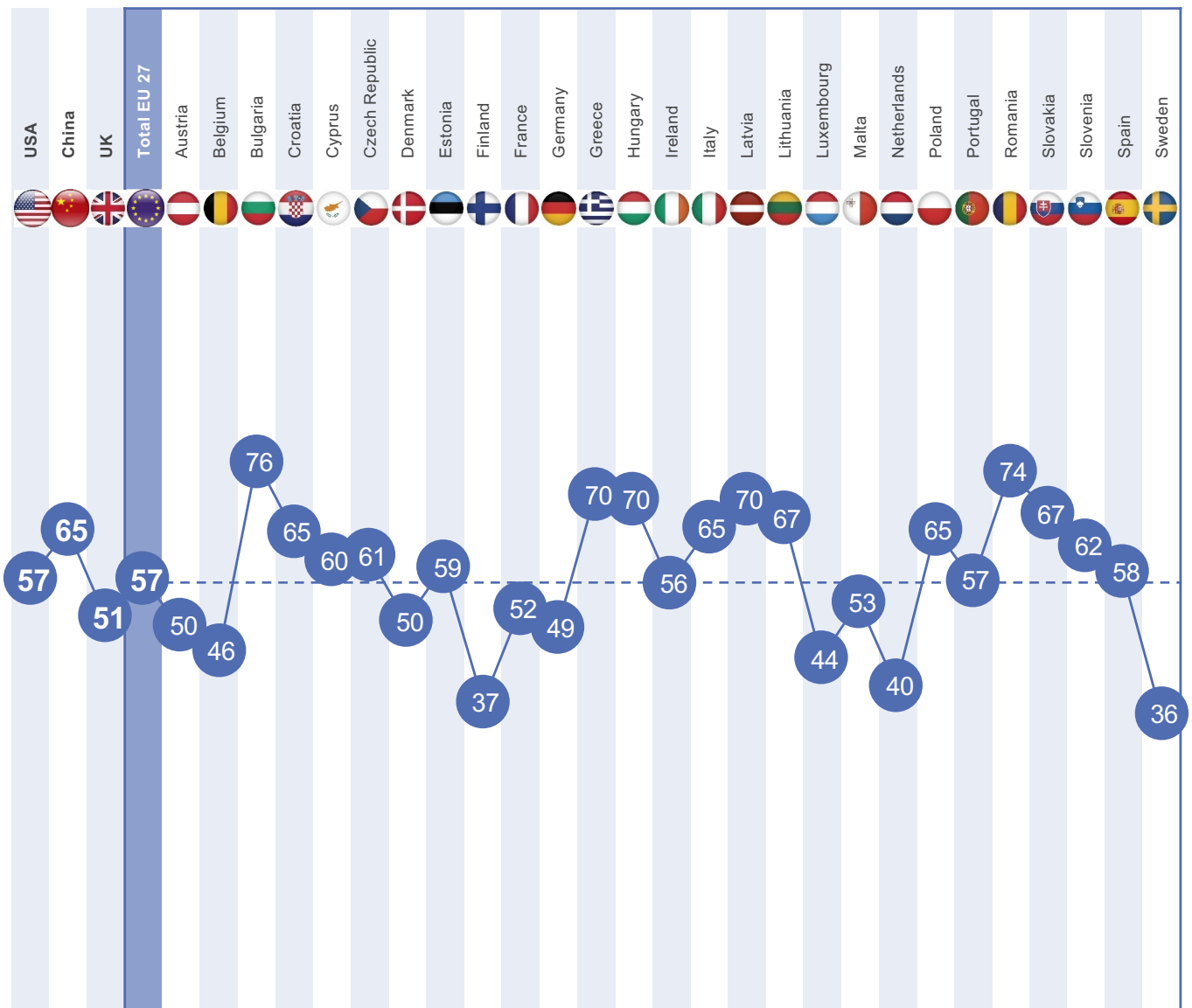


# Better recycling: a priority. Except for some Northern European countries.

More specifically, concerning sustainable consumption, which two actions should be prioritised to fight climate change and damage to the environment?



## % who want better recycling systems

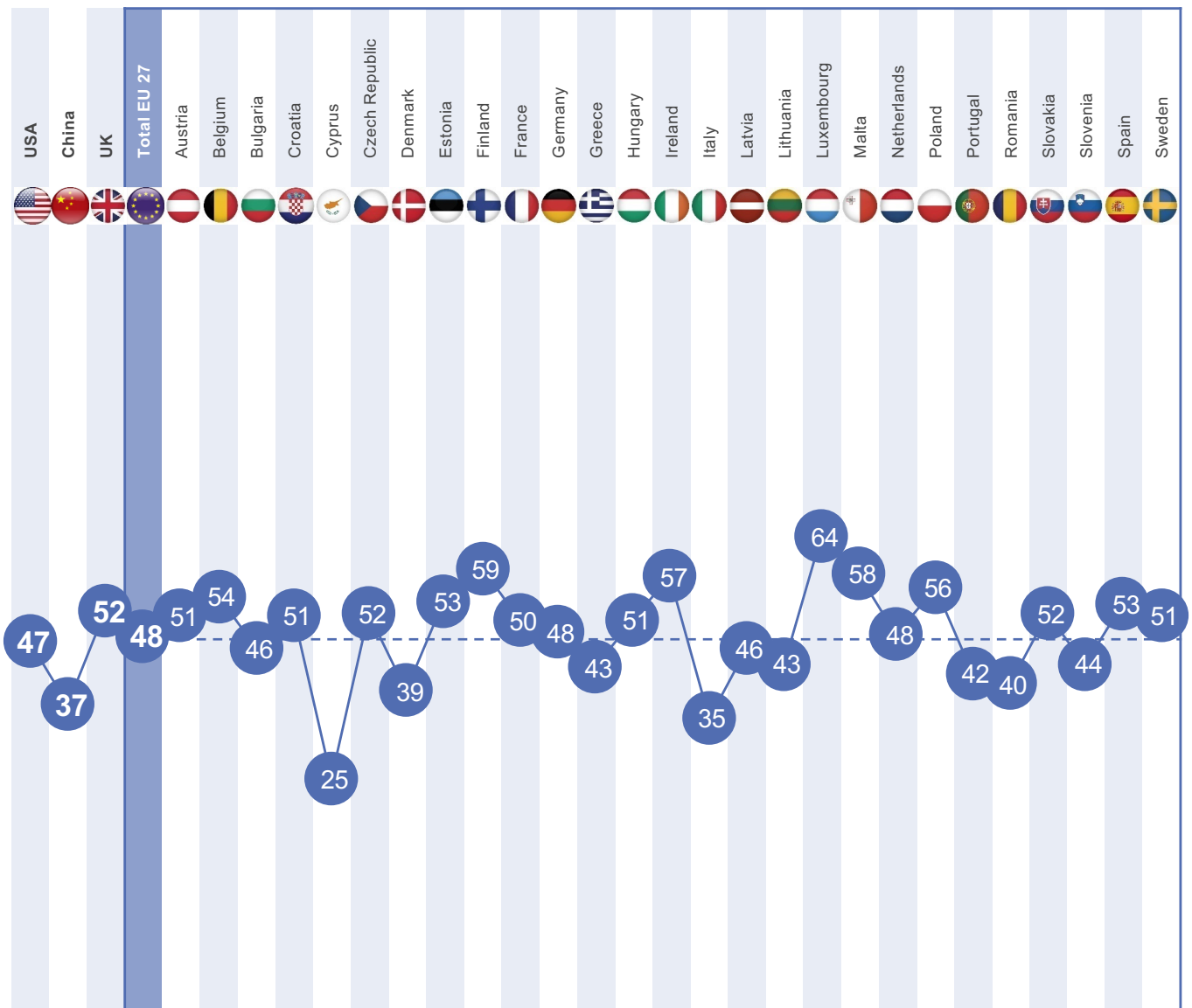


# Stopping the production of non-durable goods is unpopular in China, but supported by many Europeans

More specifically, concerning sustainable consumption, which two actions should be prioritised to fight climate change and damage to the environment?



**% who want to stop creating products that will not last**

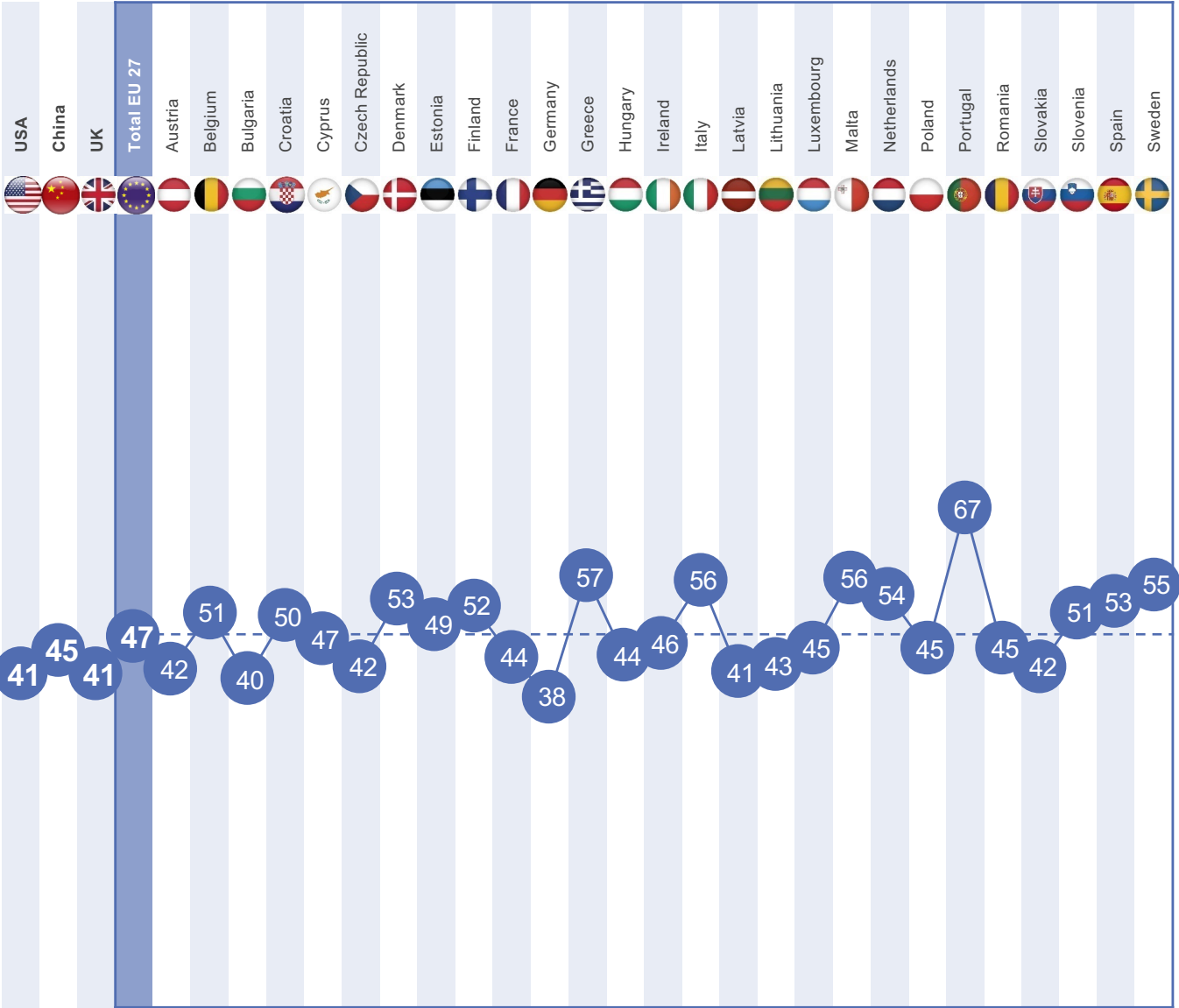


# Portugal, Greece, Italy and Malta especially want to reduce the price of sustainable products

More specifically, concerning sustainable consumption, which two actions should be prioritised to fight climate change and damage to the environment?



## % who want the price reduction of sustainable products to be a priority







Third edition - 2020-2021

# THE EIB CLIMATE SURVEY

**THE CLIMATE CRISIS  
IN A COVID-19 WORLD:  
CALLS FOR A GREEN RECOVERY**

