

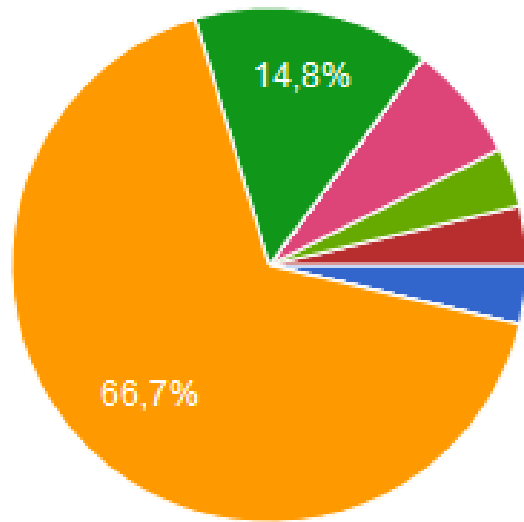
**EU decision-making &  
influencing  
in the COVID-19 era**

*Survey results  
EUChanger Network Webinar  
26/06/2020*

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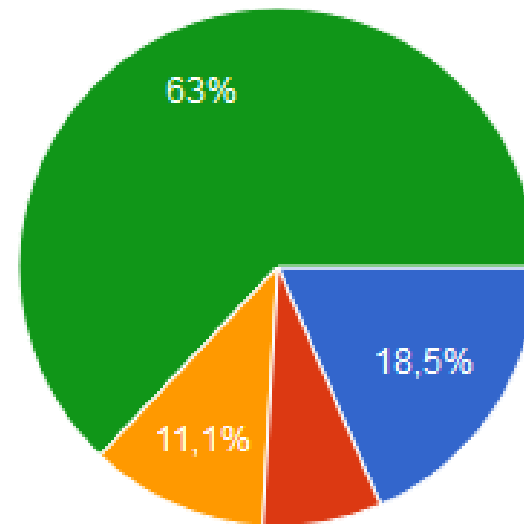




- EU institution
- Member State or Permanent Representation
- Civil Society Organisation
- Corporate (in-house, trade associati...)
- Academic
- Media
- Investor Association
- Small consultancy firm
- freelancer

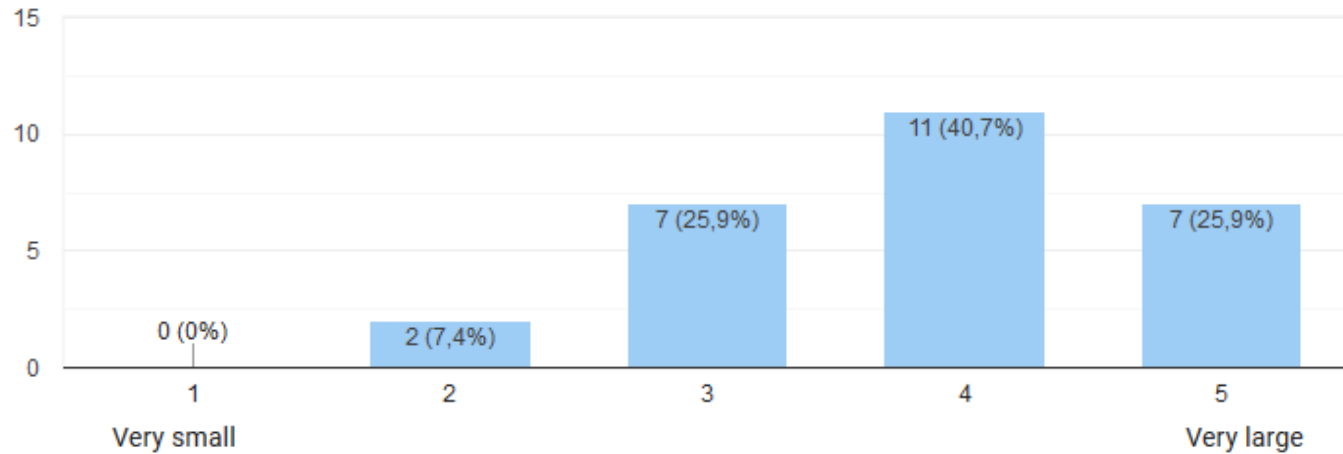
## Key policy areas:

- Climate/Energy 12
- Finance 9
- Human Rights 8
- Environment 8
- International Development 7

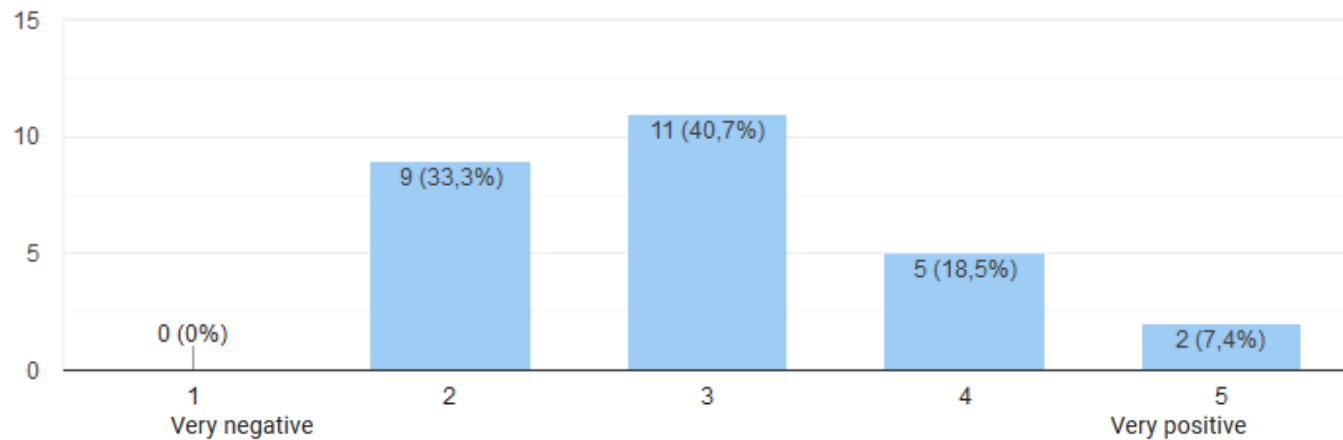


- Less than 2 years
- 2-5 years
- 5-10 years
- More than 10 years

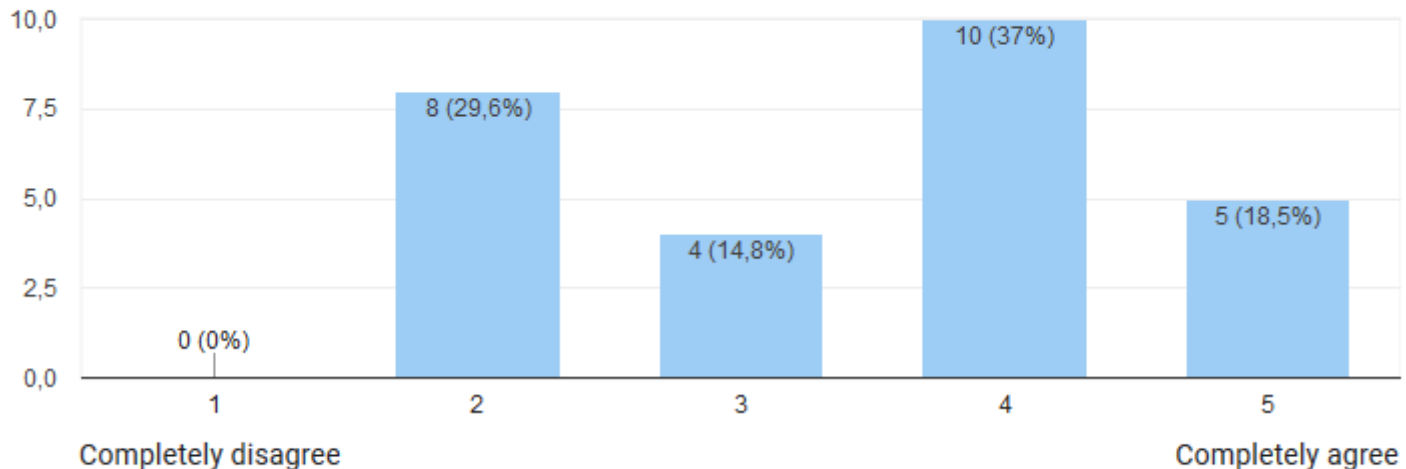
How big is the impact of the coronavirus crisis on EU policy priorities and decisions in your areas of work?



Would you qualify the impact of the coronavirus on EU policy priorities and decisions as negative or positive?

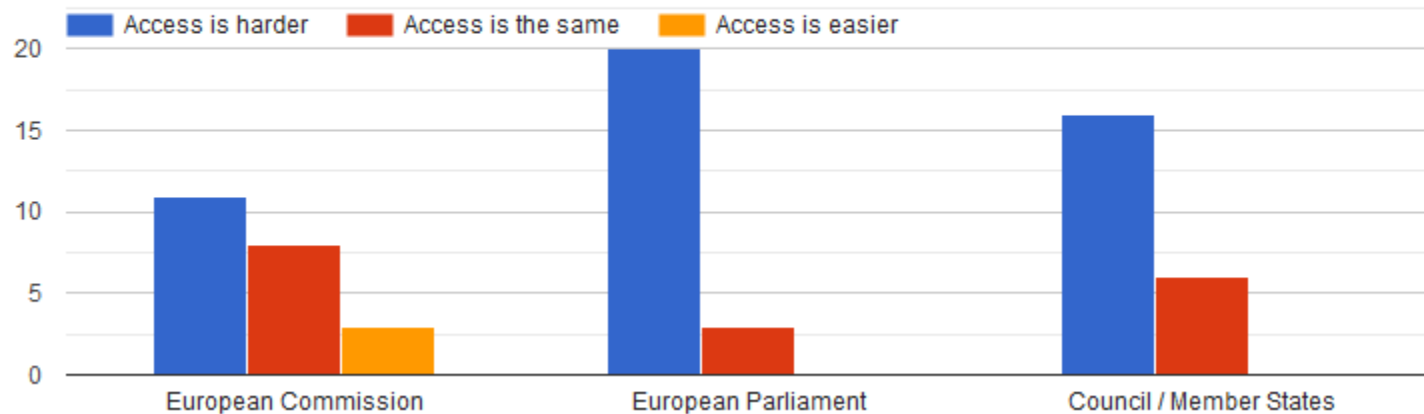


Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "Everything these days needs to be framed in relationship to the pandemic to be relevant to policymakers!"



- Those working in climate are as mixed as others, which suggests there is no need to frame climate initiatives in the context of the pandemic
- Those working on Human Rights say framing is very important (78% say they agree or strongly agree)

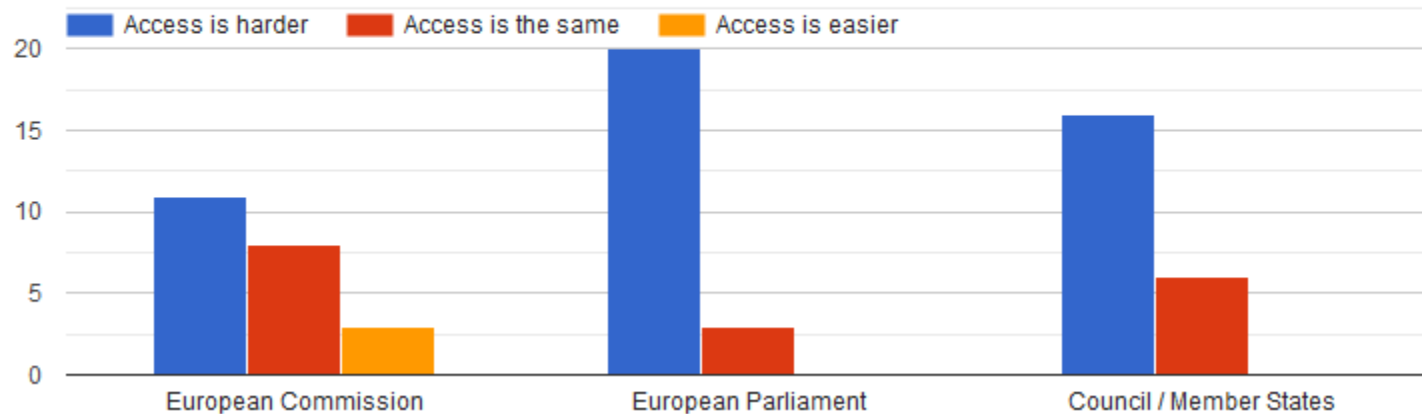
What would you say is the impact of the coronavirus crisis on the access of stakeholders to the following institutions:



Differences by type of stakeholder:

- Associations and CSOs found it harder to access the Commission, for corporates and consultants much less so
- Even more striking in the EP, where 87% of CSOs report access is more difficult, as do all associations and consultants; companies are divided
- For Council, the opposite as for Commission; corporates and consultants are no longer able to reach member states whereas for civil society it's more nuanced

What would you say is the impact of the coronavirus crisis on the access of stakeholders to the following institutions:



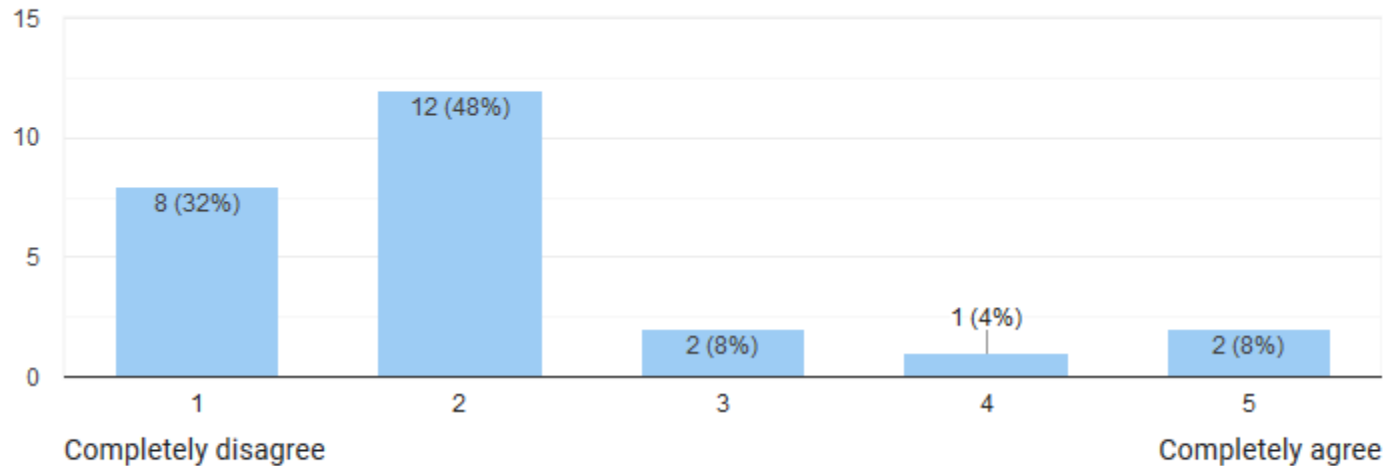
Differences by policy field:

- For people working in Climate/Environment, Finance, Development, Health and Human Rights, access has not become (a lot) more difficult
- These are all sexy policy areas that must have remained on top of policy-makers' minds

Differences by experience:

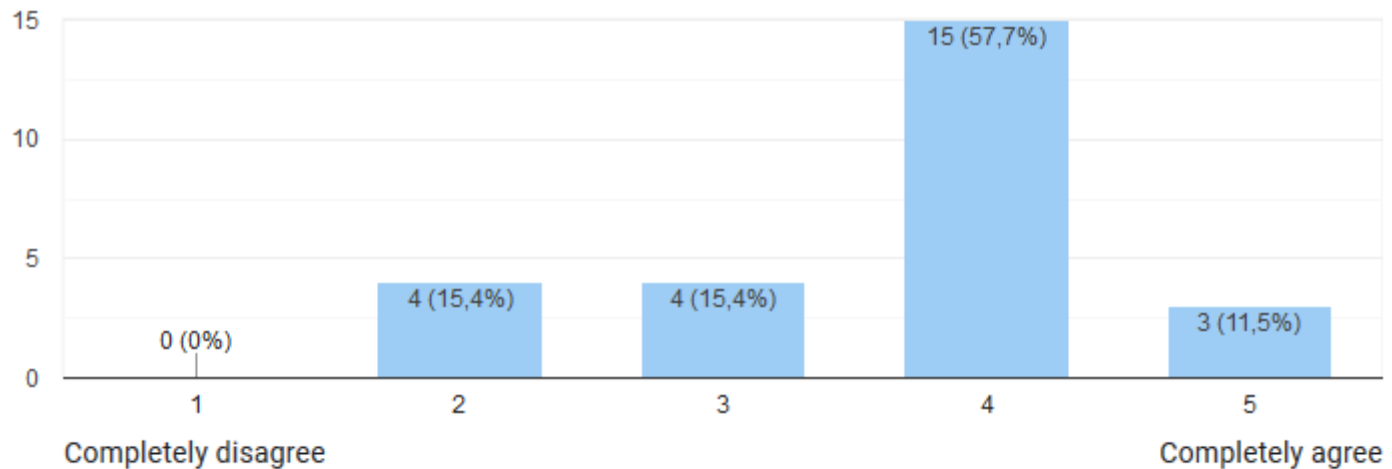
- There is hardly a correlation with experience

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "I've had as many virtual meetings with policymakers as physical ones before the pandemic."



- Amongst CSOs, the picture is even worse with 47% reporting the lowest score of 1 out of 5.
- Only a few people say the number of meetings have gone up.
- There is no correlation with experience; even very experienced PA staff (10+ years) say their meeting numbers have gone down.

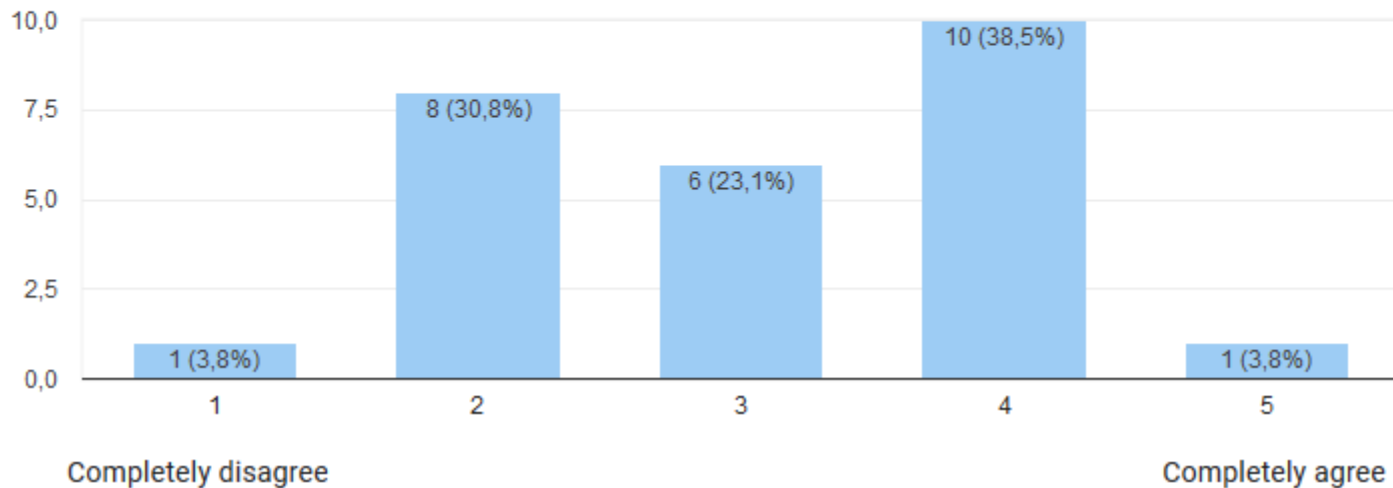
Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "It is much more difficult to understand the political dynamics at play around key issues within each institution."



- Civil society seems to have an advantage here; 30% of CSOs think it is still relatively easy to understand the dynamics in the institutions.

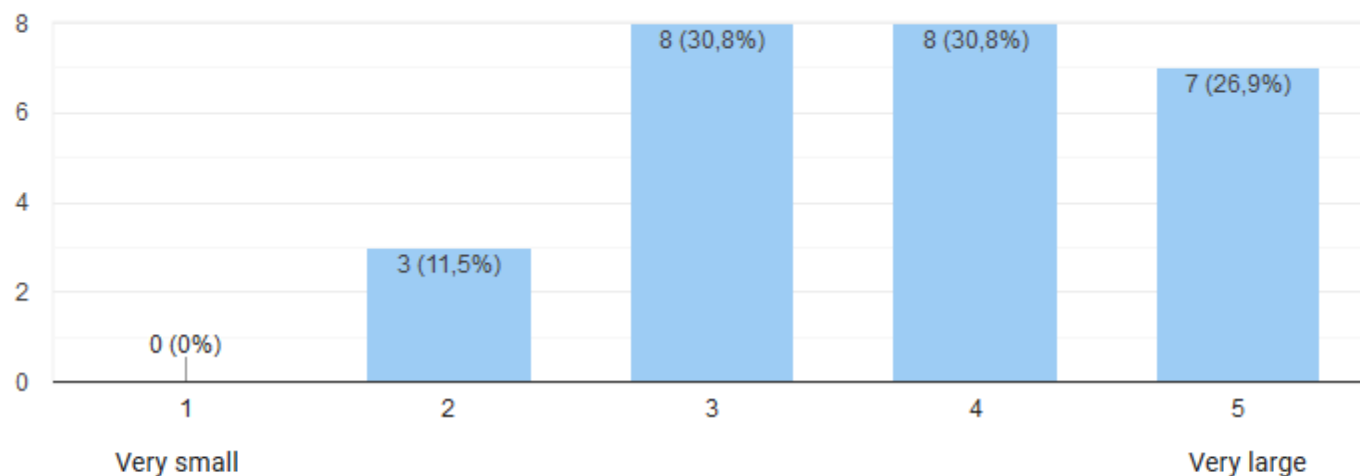


Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "I feel I've lost track of important files which have continued to progress in spite of the coronavirus crisis."



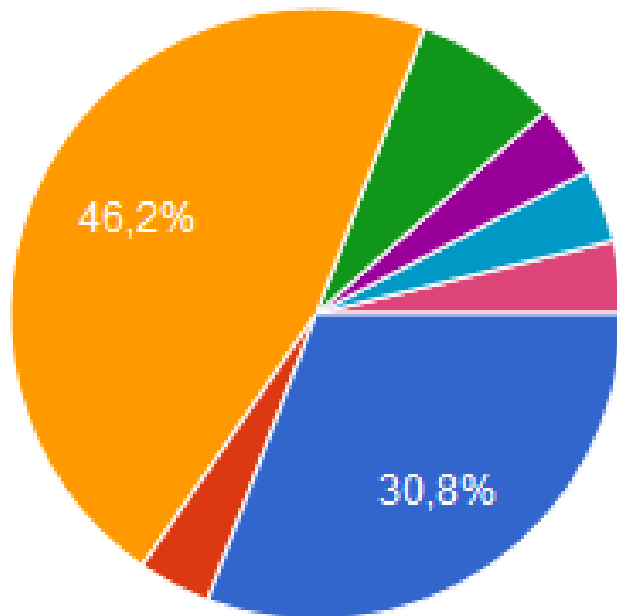
- Even 47% of experienced people admit they've lost track, this is almost as much as with other groups
- So the problem of understanding what's going on is universal.

How big do you think is the risk that the influence of private interests will dominate EU decision-making on coronavirus recovery plans?



- Interestingly, consultants and civil society say that private interests will dominate the coronavirus recovery plans (70% answer 4 or 5 out of 5).
- Associations and companies less convinced (2/3 of 5).
- In terms of sectors, those working in climate (60%) and Human Rights (78%) strongly believe private interests will dominate over public interests.

Which of the following statements is closest to your views:



- EU decision-making and influencing will soon be back to business as usual
- It's unclear to me what impact the coronavirus will have on EU decision-making