



JUNE 2020 PRESENTATION FILE



What is the Citizens' Convention on Climate?

1 question

How can we reduce greenhouse gas emissions by **at least 40% by 2030** (compared to 1990), in a spirit of social justice?

7 working sessions

4, 5, 6 October
25, 26, 27 October
15, 16, 17 November
10, 11, 12 January
7, 8, 9 February
6, 7, 8 March
19, 20, 21 June

Along with several online meetings between sessions.

1 goal

To define proposals
to be submitted "without filter"
- either to a referendum
- a vote in Parliament
- or direct regulatory application

150 members

Representing the diversity of French society

Drawn by lot, through randomly generated phone numbers

Over 150 proposals

149 thematic proposals brought together under 50 goals submitted to a vote

Along with proposals on revising the Constitution and financing the fight against climate change

Rising to the challenge

Our country is preparing to discover the proposals made by the Citizens' Convention on Climate. Over the last nine months of work, its 150 randomly selected members have written a new page in our democratic history. Their deliberations and the results produced are unprecedented, in that they place citizens from all walks of life at the heart of the decision-making process, enabling them to be authors and active contributors to public policy. Paving the way for effective public action requires new ways of building consensus. If, after a process of information and deliberation, 150 citizens as diverse as society itself can agree on strong proposals, then we can bank on these proposals meeting the approval of most of their fellow citizens. The idea is not to replace representative democracy, but to pave the way for it.

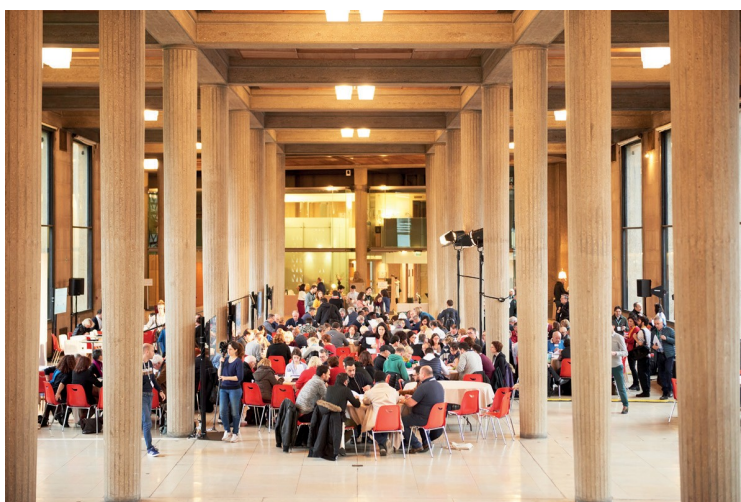
This new form of citizen participation has proved its worth abroad and continues to be emulated in other European countries. The Citizens' Convention on Climate is, nevertheless, unparalleled, both in view of its purpose and the political commitment behind it. Calling for measures to be defined that reconcile climate change mitigation and social justice, the President of the Republic and French government committed to transmission of these proposals "without filter" through regulatory, legislative and/or referendum channels.

The members of the Convention rose to their share of the challenge, despite the circumstances making this exercise more arduous than initially anticipated. Even before the report is delivered, we are keen to emphasize the quality of the work carried out by members and echoed among a host of interested parties. Nearly 120 contributors were directly involved in the sessions, along with experts and jurists brought together in a "Support Group" and "Legislative Committee". They all congratulated the Convention's members for their commitment and knowledge of the subject.

Together with the Convention's Governance Committee, which we had the honour of chairing, we would like to emphasize our huge admiration for our fellow citizens and their unwavering commitment and efforts over the course of this adventure.

In light of the climate emergency, we feel that the pervasive fragility gradually spreading through our societies is likely to grow with the recent health crisis, which has also become a social and economic catastrophe. As well as offering its members a shared space in which to build for the future, the Convention paves the way for our entire society to build individual and collective resilience. We hope that, upon discovering their work, many more citizens will be keen to join them on this path.

Laurence Tubiana and Thierry Pech, Co-Presidents of the Governance Committee



A response to French citizens' expectations

This Convention responds to a dual expectation among the French population at large: to go further and faster in fighting climate change and to give citizens a greater say in public decision-making.

The Yellow Vest movement, climate markets, success of the *Affaire du Siècle* petition and, even more recently following the Covid-19 epidemic, calls to re-examine our economic and ecological strategies, all bear testimony to the need to tackle these two crises, at a time

when fighting climate change goes hand in hand with social justice.

On 25 April 2019, following the Grand Débat National, the President of the Republic announced the creation of the Citizens' Convention and committed to submitting its proposals, with "no filter", either to a vote in Parliament, referendum, or direct regulatory application. **In January 2020, he reiterated this commitment to the Convention's members.**

An ambitious initiative

While there is a growing consensus on the need to ramp up climate action, a consensus remains to be built on the solutions and means of taking action. The Citizens' Convention is tasked with rising to this challenge.

Since its work began, on 4, 5 and 6 October 2019, the Convention's members have met six times at Palais d'Iéna, headquarters of the French Economic, Social and Environmental Council (ESEC). Despite repeated disruptions to the Convention's schedule, its members' commitment has not diminished. **The Convention's seventh session will be held on 19, 20 and 21 June at ESEC. It will be devoted to voting on the proposals and submitting the final report.**

The Citizens' Convention on Climate has been mandated to define a series of proposals to combat climate change, in order to achieve a reduction of at least 40% in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 (compared to 1990) in a spirit of social justice.

As this final session approaches, almost 150 proposals have been developed, to be voted on by the plenum. These proposals were prepared by 5 working groups - *Consommer* (consumption), *Se déplacer* (transport), *Se loger* (housing), *Se nourrir* (food), *Produire* (production) and *Travailler* (work) - and are the fruit of debates and amendments by the

Convention as a whole. They are accompanied by proposals for revising the Constitution and suggestions for funding the fight against climate change.

On 3 and 4 April, in the context of the global health crisis, the Convention's members collectively decided to contribute to the exit strategy debates by publishing a communication addressed to French society. They also sent the government 50 proposals for measures that they feel could "contribute to economic recovery while reducing greenhouse-gas emissions".

The Citizens' Convention will submit the conclusions of its work, **in the form of proposals, some accompanied by their legal transcripts**, recorded in a public report, to the President of the Republic and the Government. They may earmark some of these proposals **to be submitted to a referendum.**

The French government will then publicly respond to the proposals and announce a provisional timetable for their implementation. The 150 members may collectively formulate a reaction to these announcements **during a final session.**

The Convention members were drawn by lot after random generation of telephone numbers (85% mobile phones and 15% landlines), to form a body reflecting the diversity of the French population.

In order to achieve a “descriptive representation” of the French population, more than 300,000 telephone numbers were drawn at random by Harris Interactive, supervised by a bailiff, on Thursday 8 August 2019. Harris Interactive then called these numbers to recruit the Convention members in line with criteria intended to make this plenum as close as possible to the diverse make-up of the French population.

The Governance Committee established 6 criteria:

- **Gender:** in line with the current spread in French society.
- **Age:** 6 age groups, in proportion with the current population pyramid.
- **Level of qualification:** 6 levels, to best reflect the qualifications held by the French population.
- **Socio-professional situation:** diversity of socio-professional categories (labourers, employees, executives, etc.) within the French population.
- **Type of territory:** based on the Insee categories (major urban centres, outer ring suburbs, rural towns and villages, priority city neighbourhoods, etc.).
- **Geographical area:** the Convention is also representative of France's population distribution over its various regions and overseas territories.

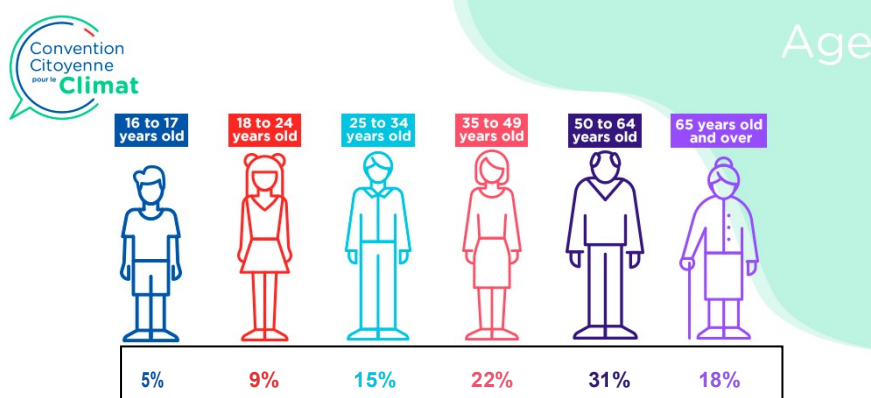
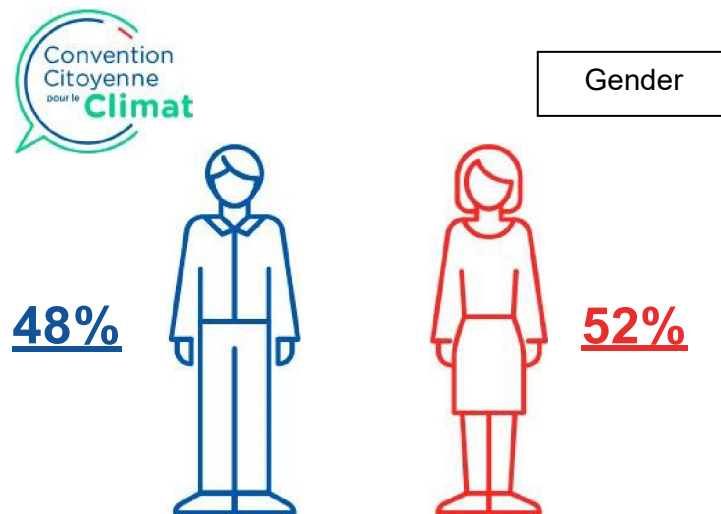
The Convention's members receive the same compensation as for jury service and their transport, accommodation and meal expenses are covered. They are also offered compensation for loss of earnings and childcare.

Changes to the Plenum

To cover the possibility of opt-outs, either before or during the Convention's work, the Governance Committee put together a group of replacement members from a diverse range of backgrounds. To maintain the Convention's “descriptive representation”, 25 new members were brought on board, while 15 members opted out of the process for professional or personal reasons. On the eve of the seventh session, the Convention had 160 members.



It is made up as follows:

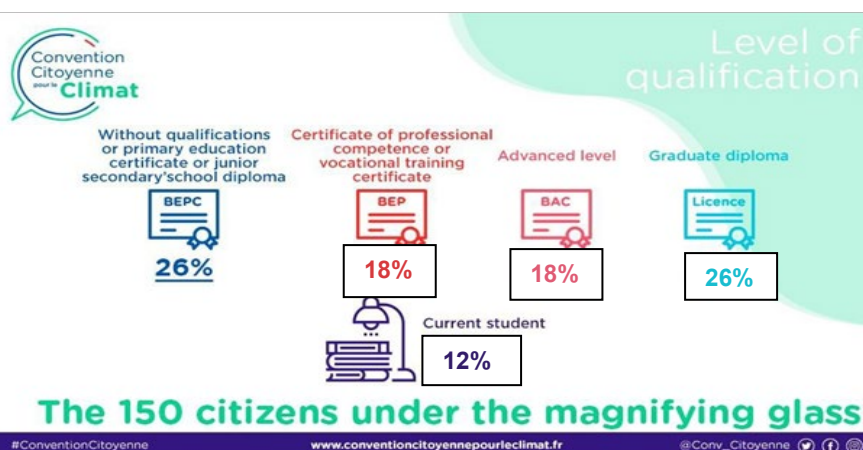


The 150 citizens under the magnifying glass

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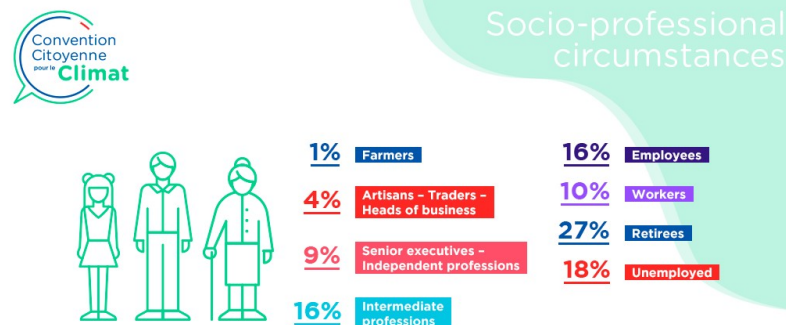
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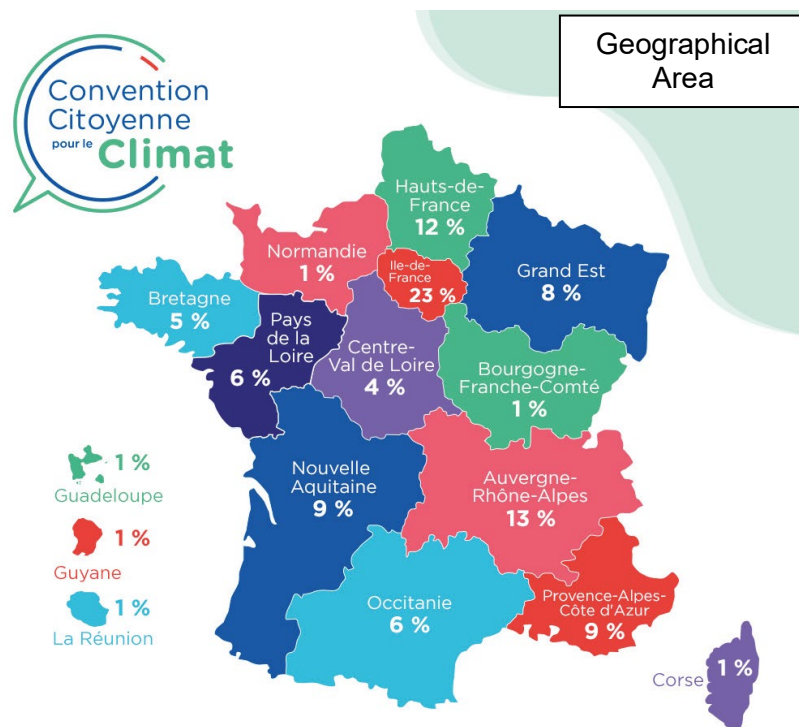
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The 150 citizens under the magnifying glass



“In the light of citizens’ growing distrust of policymakers and institutions, the only possible response is one of increased democracy. I believe that this Citizens’ Convention is the most unprecedented democratic experience in the Fifth Republic’s history. The regularly renewed Citizens’ Conventions will thus introduce a new democratic tool to our institutional landscape, where citizens have the first word.

Its 150 citizens have heard from many different interlocutors, including scientific experts. I’ve been struck by the real need to strengthen the dialogue between scientists and citizens in France.

Citizen participation, whether at local or national level, on a large or small scale, also deserves policymakers’ attention, since it contributes to giving more substance to democratic activity.

I’m convinced that this new political equality offered by the random selection process is one of the keys to repairing our society’s divides and strengthening our democracy, whether representative, social or participatory.

The Citizens’ Convention on Climate is a catalyst for this new way forward, for the climate and our democracy!”

Julien Blanchet, the Governance Committee’s Rapporteur General

Rigorous and independent organization to serve the Convention's members

A Governance Committee

To organize its work, the Convention can count on the support of a Governance Committee, made up of qualified personalities from the climate change, participatory democracy, economic and social fields. Lots were drawn to select pairs of Convention members who volunteered to sit on the Governance Committee (8 incumbent pairs and 8 replacement pairs). This Committee is co-chaired by **Thierry Pech** and **Laurence Tubiana**, with **Julien Blanchet** as the General Rapporteur.

Two Co-Presidents

- **Laurence Tubiana**, President and Executive Director of the European Climate Foundation
- **Thierry Pech**, Executive Director of the Terra Nova Foundation

General Rapporteur

- **Julien Blanchet**, Vice-President of the Economic, Social and Environmental Council (ESEC)

Three climate experts

- **Michel Colombier**, Co-founder and Scientific Director of the Sustainable Development and International Relations Institute
- **Anne Marie Ducroux**, President of ESEC's Environment Department
- **Jean Jouzel**, climatologist, member of the French Academy of Sciences and adviser to ESEC

Three participatory democracy experts

- **Loïc Blondaux**, Professor of Political Science and member of the Scientific Council of the scientific interest group Democracy and Participation
- **Jean-Michel Fourniau**, Sociologist, research director at Ifsttar and President of the scientific interest group Democracy and Participation
- **Mathilde Imer**, Co-Chair of the association Démocratie Ouverte and founding member of the "Gilets Citoyens" collective

Four experts from the economic and social sector

- **Dominique Gillier**, Vice-President of ESEC and forecasting policy officer at the CFDT union
- **Jean Grosset**, Quaestor at ESEC and Director of the Jean Jaurès Foundation's social dialogue observatory
- **Marie-Claire Martel**, President of the Coordination of Federations and Associations of Culture (COFAC) and advisor to ESEC
- **Catherine Tissot-Colle**, Vice-President of ESEC's Environment Department

Two personalities appointed by the Minister of Ecological and Inclusive Transition for their expertise in climate and participatory processes

- **Léo Cohen**, former adviser to the Ministry of Ecological and Inclusive Transition (February 2016 - May 2017 and then September 2018 - June 2019), in charge of coordinating and setting up the Citizens' Convention in the Office of the Minister of State until its launch in June 2019
- **Ophélie Risler**, Head of the Department for the fight against the greenhouse effect at the Directorate General for Energy and Climate, Ministry of Ecological and Inclusive Transition

A board of guarantors

The Convention can also count on a board of three guarantors to ensure that the process complies with the rules of independence and deontology: Cyril Dion, nominated by the ESEC President; Anne Frago, nominated by the President of the National Assembly; and Michèle Kadi, nominated by the President of the Senate.

A coordination team

Throughout the work, members have been supported by professionals in engineering and facilitating citizen dialogue: **Missions Publiques**, **Res publica** and **Eurogroup Consulting**. 16 professionals facilitated all the work, whether face-to-face or remote. This facilitation was carried out in line with protocols developed in advance by the facilitators and Convention Governance Committee.



Technical and legislative support

The Governance Committee called upon 20 experts, selected based on their personal experiences and skills. They were brought together within two bodies, the Support Group and Legislative Committee, and were tasked with advising Convention members on avenues to progress their work, as well as in drawing up their proposals. In particular, the legislative committee worked on transcribing some of the Convention's proposals in legal and regulatory terms.

An organizing institution

The Convention's operational organisation was entrusted to the Economic, Social and Environmental Council, as the third Assembly of the Republic and a legitimate participant due to its constitutionally independent nature and recent experience with random selection and citizen participation.





An innovative method

Facilitation methods were designed and implemented to ensure that all Convention members could participate actively in the discussions, regardless of their practices in this field. All such methods also aimed to **foster collaborative dialogue** so that members could develop their proposals together, in a deliberative context. The end goal was to arrive at informed, well-argued points of view, which were the subject of successive discussions in the working groups and Convention sessions.

The methods implemented aimed to create and maintain a group dynamic with a successful balance between various jointly-established goals. For example, the plenum produced collective work and reactions, while allowing for individual expression. The group thus succeeded in moving forward collectively, at the same time valuing individuals and their skills. Every member has his or her own life experience and professional backgrounds, some encompassing political or charity work. Certain individuals were more sensitive to particular issues or approaches, others more comfortable with writing. Some took the time to document themselves personally, while other members' contributions took the form of a more emotional response. **All these inputs were significant in identifying the will of the Convention and developing its proposals.**



An unprecedented exercise

Most of the sessions and work sequences were broadcast live or as podcasts on the Citizens' Convention website. Sessions held in the ESEC hemicycle were open to the public (unfortunately this possibility cannot be offered at the final session in view of the current health situation and rules).

In the context of its work, the Convention's plenum has, by working group, heard from almost 140 contributors from the scientific community, political, trade union and entrepreneurial arenas, charity sector and national and local public administrations. They are listed on the conventioncitoyennepourleclimat.fr website, with details of the context of their involvement and recordings of their speeches.

An online contribution space has also been set up to enable all interested organizations and citizens to become involved in the Convention's work. This has given individuals and legal entities (companies, associations, NGOs, public bodies, think-thanks, universities, political movements, etc.) a way of submitting their contributions, to be made available to Convention members and posted on the website: contribuez.conventioncitoyennepourleclimat.fr

The Convention members have also been able to organize public conversations and meet key players in their local areas, along with members of parliament, to inform themselves and spread the word about the Convention and its work. Some 50 presentation events have thus been organized in France, including Clim'Apéro drinks, taking place in several regions.





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Photos of Citizens' Convention on Climate sessions: ©Katrin Baumann



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