



Carl Siepen

CONSENSUS

YEA AND NAY

Without consensus, there can be no common policy. An understanding of the other stakeholders in the conversation contributes to the forging of consensus. Try to predict the whole group of players' opinion on various EU policy topics. The earlier you decide, the more points you can win – or lose if your prediction is wrong. The aim of the game is to correctly predict the group's opinion on the various issues as soon as possible.



2+
Players



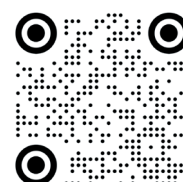
10-60
Minutes



Ages
15+



This game was developed by students in the Industrial Design course at the University of Wuppertal as part of the project "Powers in Play", which has been funded by the German Federal Foreign Office. The project aims to develop games that turn different aspects of politics into an interactive experience. You will find all the games in the series at www.powers-in-play.com. For more information on the German Federal Foreign Office and its programmes, please visit www.diplo.de/aussenpolitiklive.



Warning: Contains small parts that can be swallowed. Not suitable for children under 3.

CONTENTS

Fold the question cards and ballots on the double lines and cut them out on the dotted lines. Sort the cards: there are three cards for each policy topic. If more than five persons want to play the game, make additional ballots for each person. The vote is taken on the parliament sheet. The total number of points are determined and written in the counting table. The game provides enough material for 25 rounds. Print on one side only.

----- Cut

===== Fold

INCLUDED



1 parliament sheet



1 counting table



75 question cards



25 ballots

REQUIRED



1 pair of scissors



1 pencil



GAMEPLAY

Before beginning, decide whether you would like to play for a specific number of rounds or a length of time. Next, select a political issue and turn one card face up in each of the first three rounds. Read the text aloud. Each of you decides what you think the voting result will be and then puts your ballot face down on the parliament sheet. Per issue, you may only vote once with “yes” or “no”. Once you have decided, you must submit dummy ballots in the following rounds to keep the vote a secret. If you are not sure about an issue, you can submit a dummy ballot first and listen to further arguments until you are certain of how you want to vote.

Parliament				
Round	Points			
0	30	A	B	C
1	15	A	B	C
2	10	A	B	C
3	5	A	B	C

The players who can guess the voting result before the first card is turned face up will submit their ballot in round 0. As each player is trying to guess the group’s voting result, your ballot does not necessarily have to reflect your personal opinion.

Evaluation

After all three cards on one topic have been turned face up and all players have submitted their ballots, the ballots are turned face up and counted. Now you can find out which one of you correctly guessed the group’s consensus and who receives or loses points. Record the point totals in the counting table. In this example, player A loses five points, player B wins 30, and player C wins 10 points.

Parliament				
Round	Points			
0	30	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1	15	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	10	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3	5	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Parliament

Round

Points

0

30

1

15

2

10

3

5



Counting

Round	A	B	C	D	E
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
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23					
24					
25					



Ballot

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Should the countries in the EU become even more thoroughly integrated?



"A more thoroughly integrated European Union will be united on foreign policy"



"Nation states would have to give up parts of their sovereignty"

Should the countries in the EU become even more thoroughly integrated?



"Europe's peace process has been very successful since 1945 and we have had one of the most peaceful times ever. A more integrated European Union would further consolidate this process"



"European nations do not have a common identity and should therefore not become a single state"

Should the countries in the EU become even more thoroughly integrated?



"The consolidation of national laws and creation of a common education system would support exchange and the free movement of people"



"The EU is already orientated to large countries such as Germany and France. In a more integrated European Union, their influence would be even greater"

Does Europe need joint armed forces?



"Joint armed forces would improve the EU's defence, particularly that of smaller Member States"



"Joint armed forces would reinforce EU scepticism"

Does Europe need joint armed forces?



"Joint armed forces would strengthen the political collaboration among the EU Member States"



"There is no political will to finance joint armed forces"

Does Europe need joint armed forces?



"Joint armed forces would reinforce the EU's geopolitical influence"



"Joint armed forces would have a negative impact on the EU's relations with its neighbour states"

Should the EU establish a carbon tax?



"Carbon emission reduction should be a key component of EU policy"



"A carbon tax would not lead to any significant reduction in carbon emissions"

Should the EU establish a carbon tax?



"Income from a carbon tax could benefit research and development towards climate-friendly technology"



"A carbon tax would not disproportionately affect smaller companies"

Should the EU establish a carbon tax?



"A carbon tax could be used to subsidise more climate-friendly companies"



"A carbon tax would make the EU market less competitive in the short term"

Should refugees in the EU be distributed among the Member States based on a quota system?



"A quota creates clear rules and simplifies coordination"



"Refugees would be assigned to a specific EU Member State"

Should refugees in the EU be distributed among the Member States based on a quota system?



"The EU States have a common humanitarian obligation"



"A quota system would be contradictory to the sovereignty of nation states"

Should refugees in the EU be distributed among the Member States based on a quota system?



"EU Member States along the EU's external borders would no longer bear the main burden of caring"



"Some States would not be able to ensure the required basic care"

Should daylight savings time be abolished in all EU countries?



"The change confuses our biorhythms and leads to stress"



"In summer, people have light longer and enjoy their leisure time"

Should daylight savings time be abolished in all EU countries?



"Flexible working hours are a better solution"



"Daylight savings time enables energy savings"

Should daylight savings time be abolished in all EU countries?



"The EU's time zones should remain the same all year in order to simplify trade and travel"



"Individual countries should decide themselves whether or not to abolish daylight savings time"

Should Turkey be linked more closely to the EU?



Should Turkey be linked more closely to the EU?



Should Turkey be linked more closely to the EU?



Should the EU legalise marijuana?



Should the EU legalise marijuana?



"Turkey's geopolitical situation is strategically important"



"Turkey must work harder to satisfy the EU accession criteria"

"Turkey and the EU are already closely connected –
culturally and economically"



"Accession talks often increase political pressure,
which can have unfavourable side effects"

"Turkey and the EU States have a
long, common history"



"The religious and cultural characteristics of
Turkey and the EU are very different"

"Legalisation would have a positive effect on the economy"



"Marijuana is a dangerous gateway drug
and legalisation would send a false signal"

"Some States have already legalised marijuana.
Cross-border regulation would reduce smuggling and crime"



"Marijuana has a negative effect on health of those who use it"

Should the EU legalise marijuana?



"Decriminalisation would relieve the judiciary"



"Legalisation would make it easier to access the drug"

Should high taxes be levied
on European domestic flights?



"A reduction in air traffic would reduce carbon emissions"



"Domestic flights are a key economic factor; prohibiting
them would make European providers less competitive"

Should high taxes be levied
on European domestic flights?



"Investment in railway infrastructure has a long-term
positive effect and also supports rural regions"



"Investment in railway infrastructure is expensive
and the tickets usually cost more than flying"

Should high taxes be levied
on European domestic flights?



"Europe has excellent alternative to domestic
flights that are often faster now"



"Domestic flights are the fastest way to travel
and they are essential for Europe's economy"

Now that courses of study and
degrees have been standardised
(Bologna process), should the school
system be standardised Europe-wide?



"Harmonisation would make school-leaving
certificates comparable and fair, as everyone
would have to meet the same standards"



"Federal school systems are better
at adapting to regional circumstances"

Now that courses of study and degrees have been standardised (Bologna process), should the school system be standardised Europe-wide?



"Standardisation makes the transition to university easier"



"Standardisation would worsen the education level"

Now that courses of study and degrees have been standardised (Bologna process), should the school system be standardised Europe-wide?



"Pupils would be more flexible when changing schools, also across national borders"



"Pupils are less mobile than students and therefore standardisation is unnecessary"

Should young EU citizens be able to travel inexpensively on Interrail?



"Young people are an essential component of the network among the EU Member States"



"An impact on future economic development can hardly be measured"

Should young EU citizens be able to travel inexpensively on Interrail?



"The more intense the friendships between nations, the better international understanding and peacekeeping becomes"



"The volume of travel within Europe is high anyway"

Should young EU citizens be able to travel inexpensively on Interrail?



"Often, young people cannot afford long-distance travel"



"Taxpayers should not have to pay for private travel"

Should long-distance railway offers be coordinated and sold at EU level?



"The rail infrastructure must continue to merge and booking of cross-border trips must be made easier"



"The offers of nation states are too diverse"

Should long-distance railway offers be coordinated and sold at EU level?



"EU-wide planning is more efficient and less expensive"



"Some rail operations are organised in the private sector and EU regulation is not permitted"

Should long-distance railway offers be coordinated and sold at EU level?



"Cross-border railway traffic must be funded and simplified in order to compete with short-haul flights and achieve the climate goals"



"National regulations can better adapt to regional circumstances"

Should the motor vehicle toll system in the EU be standardised?



"Travel would be easier"



"It would be easier to control travel flows"

Should the motor vehicle toll system in the EU be standardised?



"Countries without tolls would no longer be used as alternative routes"



"Every country has its own specific requirements for infrastructure and the toll system"

Should the motor vehicle toll system
in the EU be standardised?



"Every county receives proportionately
the same funding for its infrastructure"



"Countries don't want to convert their systems"

Should the EU take stronger action
against human rights violations worldwide?



"European history is marked by the Enlightenment;
the EU should take this legacy and stand up for
the defence of human rights"



"The EU should concentrate on internal problems"

Should the EU take stronger action
against human rights violations worldwide?



"The EU must not make itself morally dependent
based on economic objectives"



"The EU would lose important economic partners
and make the local situation even worse"

Should the EU take stronger action
against human rights violations worldwide?



"The EU is morally obligated to punish human rights violations"



"The EU should not get involved in the concerns of
other States and spread its values throughout the world"

Should the voting age for EU elections
be lowered to 16?



"Young people are underrepresented
and should have greater influence"



"Young people have too little experience
to be eligible to vote in EU elections"

Should the voting age for EU elections
be lowered to 16?



"A young voting age strengthens political interest"



"Young people often have infeasible demands"

Should the voting age for EU elections
be lowered to 16?



"Young people should gain more influence
on politics to share in shaping their future"



"Young people contribute less to the economic system
and that is why they should not be eligible to vote"

Should the use of nuclear power
in the EU be abolished?



"Nuclear power is an important component
in the effort to reduce greenhouse gases"



"The issue of nuclear waste disposal
has not been sufficiently clarified"

Should the use of nuclear power
in the EU be abolished?



"European nuclear power plants are safe
and essential for the basic supply of electricity"



"Nuclear power plants are not economical today"

Should the use of nuclear power
in the EU be abolished?



"Nuclear energy and research are important
economic and research sectors"



"Nuclear power plants have the potential to make
entire stretches of land uninhabitable and are therefore
the greatest present danger in Europe"