



The French Citizens' Convention for Climate

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LCS-RNet annual meeting

18 December 2023

The French CCC

- Context
 - Growing interest in citizens' assemblies as a remedy to the 'crisis of democracy' (Dryzek et al., 2019)
 - France 2018: Gilets jaunes crisis
- Who?
 - 150 randomly drawn citizens
 - Representative of the French population
- What for? Engagement letter by PM E. Philippe:
 - *Defining structuring measures to manage, **in a spirit of social justice,***
 - *To cut France's GHG emissions by at least **40%** by 2030 compared to 1990*

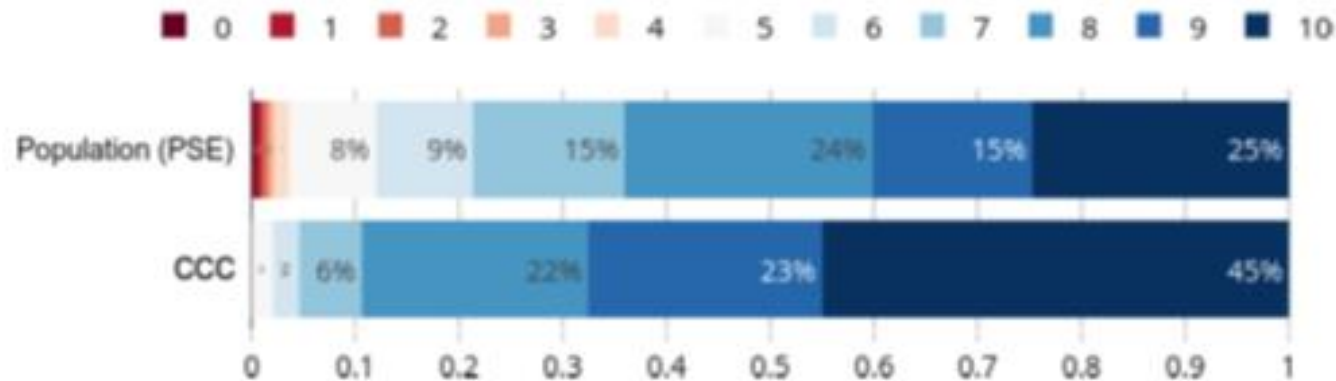
Research framework

- Proceedings
 - 7 three-day sessions between October 2019 and June 2020
 - Major disruptions: pension strike + Covid outbreak
- Collective research effort
 - 30-40 social scientists interested in both **procedure and substance**
 - Publication: “Co-construction” in deliberative democracy: lessons from the French Citizens’ Convention for Climate. *Humanities & Social Sciences Communications* 9, [1–16](#)
- Data collected
 - Qualitative: observations
 - Quantitative: questionnaires + survey
 - Observation charter: non-interference with the process

Input: green bias?

External survey, 1003 respondents (Fabre et al., 2020)

Figure 10: Pour chacune des choses suivantes, dites combien elle est importante pour vous : La protection de l'environnement. [échelle allant de 0 (Aucune importance) à 10 (Extrêmement importante)]

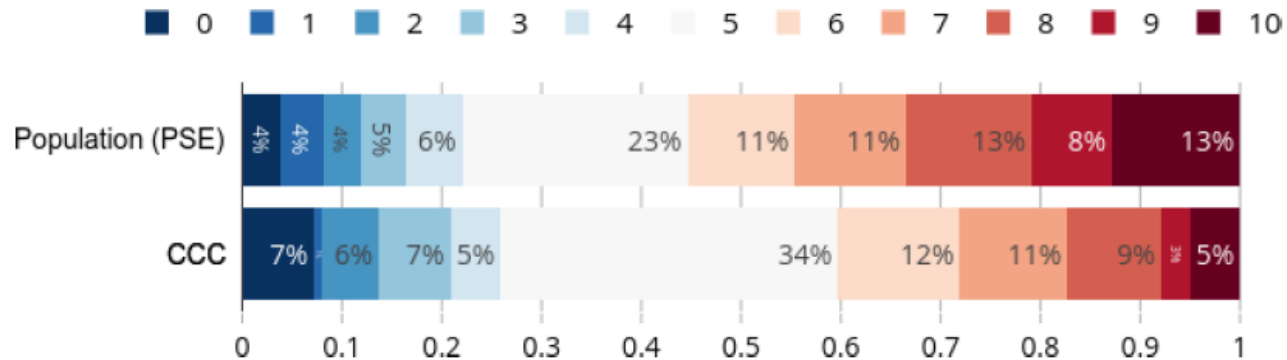


~ Pretty much. *Reminder: voluntary participation*

Input: left-wing bias?

External survey, 1003 respondents (Fabre et al., 2020)

Figure 5: Que pensez-vous de l'affirmation suivante : « Pour établir la justice sociale, il faudrait prendre aux riches pour donner aux pauvres » ? [échelle allant de 0 (Pas du tout d'accord) à 10 (Tout à fait d'accord)]



~ Not really

Throughput: Experts' input

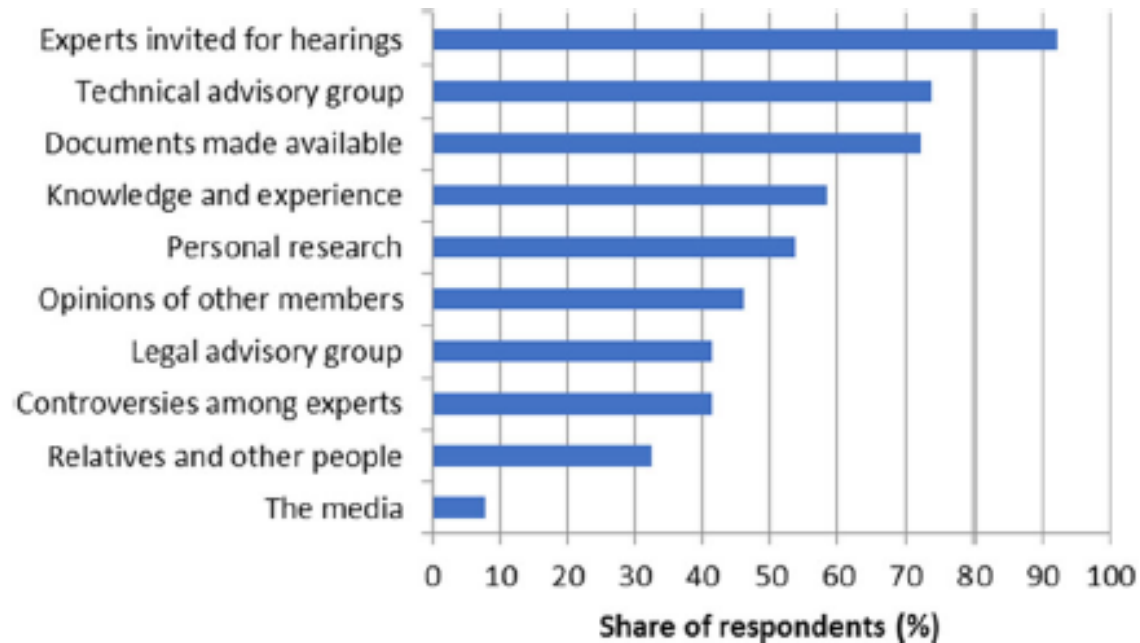


Fig. 3 Most important sources from which the citizens formed their opinions. Surveyed in Session 7, 65 respondents.

Output

- 150 proposed, 149 submitted
 - 148 endorsed with approval rates of 85% or higher
 - 1 selected with 60% margin: reduction of speed limits to 110km/h on freeways
 - 1 rejected with 60% margin: reduction of work time (35 to 28 hours a week)
 - Importantly, citizens voted against submitting their proposals to referendum
- Follow-up
 - Macron rejects three, claiming to us ‘jokers’: tax on dividends, speed limit
 - 20-50% proposals effectively followed-up on in subsequent law

Echo among the general public

Oui Blanc Non NSP

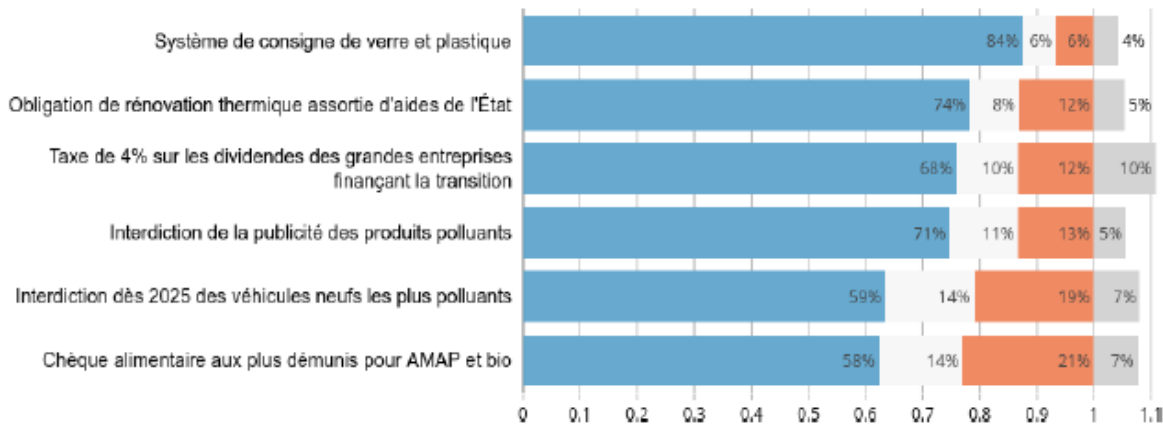
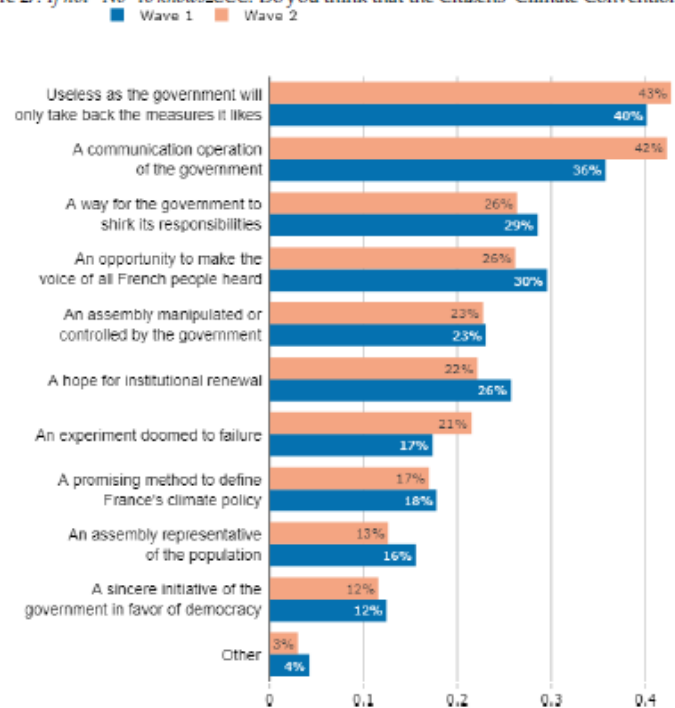


Figure 27: If not "No" to knows...CCC. Do you think that the Citizens' Climate Convention is ... ?



Support for the measures

BUT

Skepticism about the process

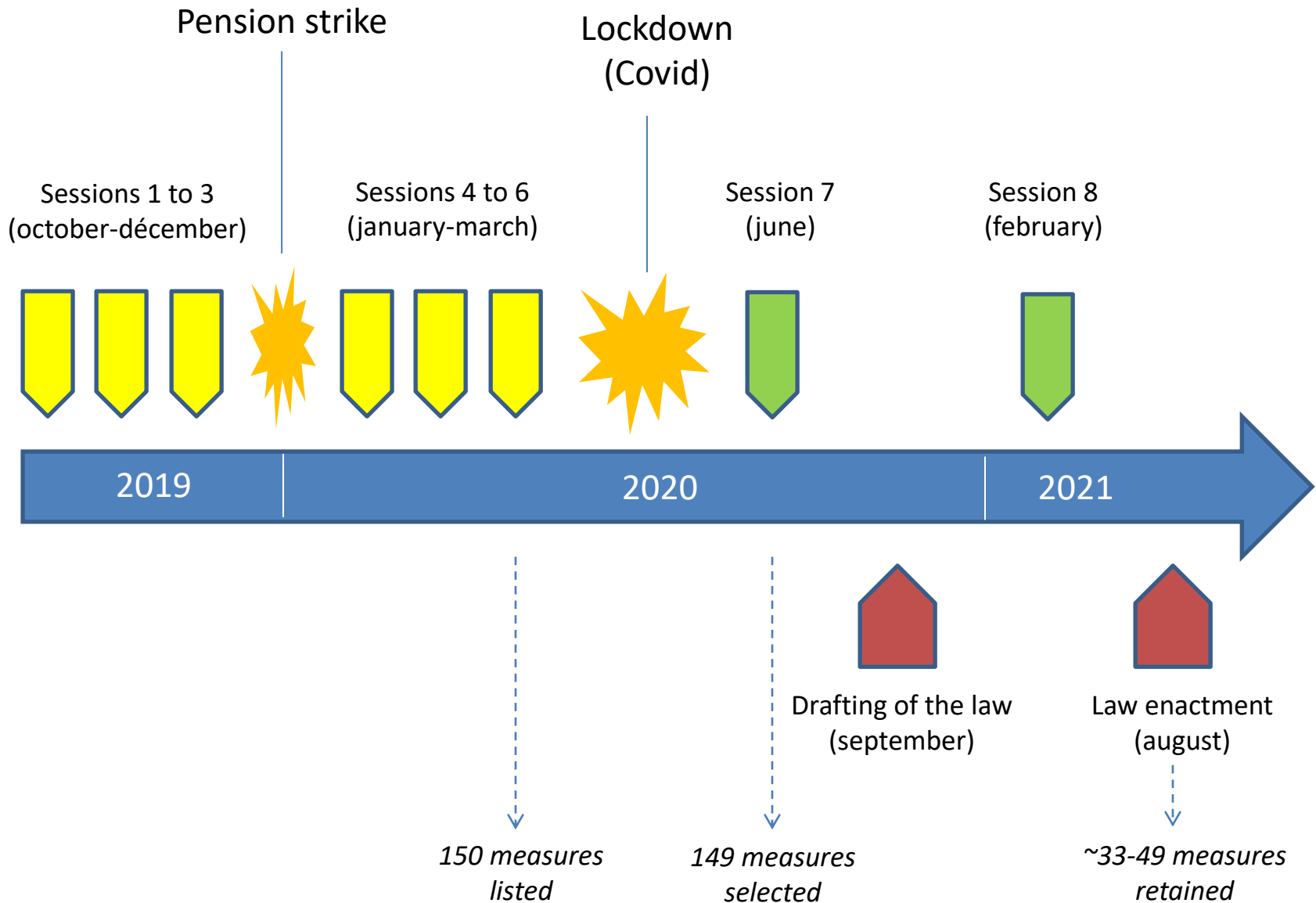
Fabre et al. (2021)

Main lessons

- The most significant experience to date with CAs
 - Internal strength: effective at building trust among participants
 - External limitation: lack of echo among the general public
- Legacy
 - Positive: credibility stamp
 - Negative: limited follow-up may contribute to people losing interest
- Recommendations
 - Increase commitment structure
 - Especially in relation to referendum

APPENDIX

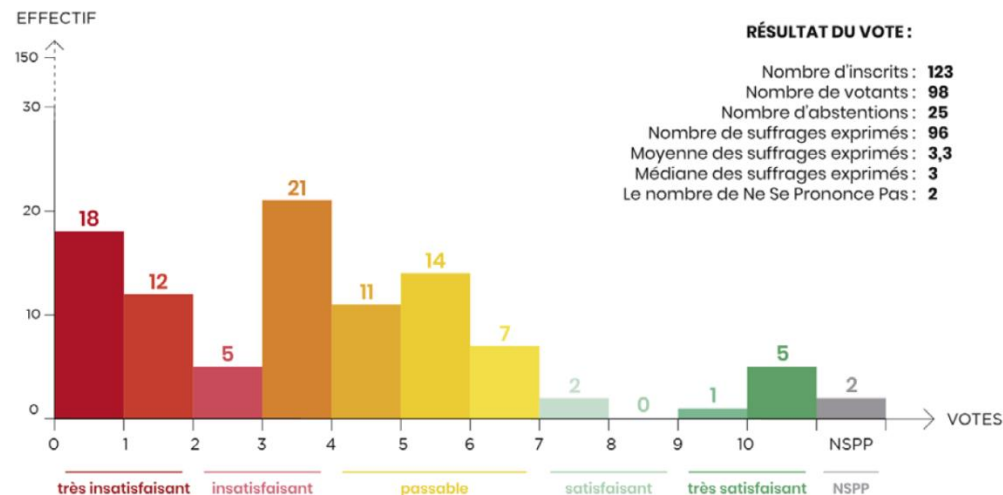
Proceedings of the CCC



Appréciation des citoyens

Session 8, février 2021

Quelle est votre appréciation de la prise en compte par le gouvernement des propositions de la convention?



Selon vous, le recours aux conventions citoyennes est-il de nature à améliorer la vie démocratique du pays?

