

Citizens' Assembly on Climate

PRESS RELEASE

German nationwide Climate Assembly starts with kick-off meeting

Berlin, 26th April 2021

The first nationwide Climate Assembly starts its work tonight under the patronage of former German President Horst Köhler. Until 23 of June, 160 citizens from all over Germany will discuss how the climate policy goals set out by the Paris Climate Agreement can still be achieved. Throughout twelve digital sessions, the Climate Assembly will develop climate policy recommendations for Germany for the next years.

At the launch press conference, former President Köhler emphasised: "The Climate Assembly is an innovative element of a broad social search and learning process on the path towards a new, major transformation. There must be discussion and debate about how to achieve it, but there is a clear goal to which Germany has made a politically binding commitment: the Paris climate goal of limiting global warming to well below 2 degrees and better still to 1.5 degrees Celsius."

The Chairman of the Scientific Board of Trustees, Prof. Dr. Ortwin Renn, explains: "For many years, science has been creating scenarios in which the consequences of different climate protection strategies are assessed. Which strategy is then given priority and how alternative measures are weighed up will strongly determine the reality of life for citizens. It is therefore all the more important that the people who will be affected actively participate in this process of weighing and decision-making. As the Scientific Board of Trustees, we support the participants by providing scientifically sound information, lectures and commentaries. We help them to distinguish between fake news and facts, so that they can consider the social, economic and ecological consequences of the various possible courses of action properly when forming their opinion."

Rabea Koss, spokesperson for the Climate Assembly, adds: "We have been able to recruit citizens from all over Germany who, selected according to age, origin, federal state, level of education, gender, size of place of residence and then drawn at random, form an almost representative mini-Germany. We now have the chance to really develop new impulses for German climate policy."

The process is being carried out by the independent institutes ifok, nexus and IPG, which are contributing their many years of experience with lot-based citizen participation. The Climate Assembly is financed by donations and foundation grants from GLS Treuhand, the Open Society Foundations and the Schöpflin Foundation.

The programme of the first session and the link to the livestream can be found at: <https://buergerrat-klima.de/wie-laeuft-der-buergerrat-klima-ab/die-12-sitzungen-des-buergerrats/sitzung-1>. Parts of the session will be available via livestream. Members of the press can also register as listeners for the entire session at presse@buergerrat-klima.de.

Further information: www.buergerrat-klima.de/presse

Press contact: presse@buergerrat-klima.de

Rabea Koss: +49 15771431998

Holger Michel: +49 178 6623679

Friedrich Göring: +49 172 7983842