



Welcome to our October newsletter—the emoji edition!

Committees and subcommittees are common in the policy world, but it was news to me that even emojis have a governing body. The [Unicode Emoji Subcommittee](#) recently approved [37 new emojis](#) heading for your screen later this year.

Here's a sneak preview in a policy context. And [join me on Twitter](#) for some fun sharing your own inspirations!

What new emoji best suits COP26?



This melting-face emoji is meant to convey literally “extreme heat” or metaphorically “embarrassment, shame, or a slowly sinking sense of dread.” In other words, many of the emotions associated with climate change.

Luckily, it was approved just in time for the 26th Conference of the Parties ([COP26](#)), kicking off at the end of October in Scotland. COP26 attendees include delegates from 197 countries that signed up to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change ([UNFCCC](#)) and 2,349 NGOs with [official observer status](#).

While we won't be traveling to Scotland, we'll be making it easy for you to find and access the crucial climate learnings from these NGOs and IGOs.

I'll be keeping a special eye out for significant reports that will be released in the lead-up to COP, such as these two released last week: [WHO's Health Argument for Climate Action](#) and the [A Healthy Future – tackling climate change mitigation and human health together](#) co-published by the UK's Academy of Medical Sciences and the Royal Society.

Use the **Follow** tool for [climate](#) to make sure you're alerted as I add to our 163,000-item collection.

An emoji that sums up what we've all felt working from home...



According to its creators, the dotted-line face “provides a meaning of invisibility or absence” and it “can allow users to show the feeling of isolation that comes with the invisible illness of depression,” something all too familiar during COVID-19 lockdowns.

Over [800 reports](#) on mental health and lockdowns have been released during the pandemic—and this matters. According to a new [survey](#) from Wellcome, mental health is ranked by citizens as being more important to well-being than physical health, especially outside higher-income countries.

When misinformation abounds, this emoji is here for you.



The face with a diagonal mouth can be used to express skepticism, confusion, or frustration.

“A pandemic of ‘misinformation’ and ‘disinformation.’”
“A virus that affects us all.”
“A crisis that has roots that will extend far deeper and are likely to last far longer than COVID-19.”

So begins this uncharacteristically hard-hitting [report](#) from the UK House of Lords Select Committee on Democracy and Digital Technologies. One of our objectives with *Policy Commons* is to bring you content from trusted organizations about [misinformation and disinformation](#). We even have [151 items on deepfakes](#) (where an image or recording has been convincingly altered and manipulated to misrepresent someone as doing or saying something that was not actually done or said).

Confused? You will be—but help is at hand with University of Washington's [Calling Bullshit project](#) where you can try your hand at spotting [which face is real](#).

An emoji for the birds.



According to its creators, the nest with eggs may be used to talk about actual nests or birds, home in general, or to represent phrases like “nest egg” or “empty nest.”

October saw the release of the fourth [European Red List of Birds](#) from BirdLife International, in conjunction with the European Commission and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). When we look at trends, over 40% of wildfowl and wader species, over 30% of seabirds, and 25% of raptors are experiencing population declines in Europe, so the report does not make for happy reading. The common swift, common snipe, and rook are among species slipping towards extinction. You might wonder why a report on bird numbers is important for policy makers. It's because birds are sensitive to any changes in their environment (hence the long history of [canaries in coal mines](#)).

No wonder *Policy Commons* has over 35,000 reports on [birds AND environment](#). All life on this planet is connected, so when birds are in danger, we're all in danger (and we don't want to be obliged to use the empty- nest emoji!).

And finally, this will bring tears to your eyes...



The British Library's Torsten Reimer tweeted news about BL's preservation store: it's just shy of 300 million objects, which is ten times the 30 million books and texts in the Internet Archive. There's a LOT of stuff out there!



Hope you're having a great October. There'll be more from me in November, including news on our latest feature release.

Until then,

Toby Green
Publisher, *Policy Commons*



Our mailing address is:b
\$[HF:ORGINFO]\$

Want to change how you receive these emails?
you can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).