



# THE EU'S CLIMATE CHANGE AND DEFENCE ROADMAP

## ADDRESSING THE IMPLICATIONS OF CLIMATE CHANGE FOR SECURITY AND DEFENCE



According to a Eurobarometer from January 2022, citizens ranked climate change and environmental issues first among the main global threats for the future of the EU, with overwhelming support for the European Green Deal.

*Eurobarometer Special Report 517, January 2022*

The EU has long recognised that climate change acts as a threat multiplier with serious implications for peace and security across the globe. Climate change poses a **double challenge** for EU's security and defence:



**Climate change increases global instability.** This will likely increase the number of crisis situations to which the EU might need to respond while at the same time the armed forces will be asked more frequently to assist civilian authorities in response to flooding or forest fires, both at home and abroad.



**Future capabilities will need to adapt** to this changing operational environment (e.g. extreme heat or higher sea levels). At the same time, the **armed forces need to invest in greener technologies** throughout their capability inventory and infrastructure.

## CLIMATE CHANGE AND DEFENCE ROADMAP

The **Climate Change and Defence Roadmap** constitutes an integral part of the EU's overall effort to address climate change under the European Green Deal. It was developed by the EEAS in close cooperation with the European Commission and the European Defence Agency.

The **Strategic Compass for security and defence calls for the full implementation of the Roadmap**, as it recognises climate change as a threat multiplier that fundamentally affects our long-term security. It also invites Member States to share national plans on how to contribute to the objectives of the Roadmap.

The overall aim of the Roadmap is to ensure that climate policy implications become an integral part of the EU's thinking and action on issues such as defence research and development, industry and technology or infrastructure, as well as the EU Common Security and Defence Policy.

To inform planners and decision-makers, the Roadmap proposes ways to enhance our assessment of the various effects and security implications of climate change. The Roadmap puts forward more than 30 actions across three different interlinked areas.

## OPERATIONAL DIMENSION



The EU will **mainstream climate change and environmental aspects into the planning and implementation of CSDP missions and operations**, for example to tackle environmental crime.



Starting with pilot missions, the EU is launching a mechanism to **measure and assess the environmental footprint of CSDP missions and operations** with a view to optimize the use and management of energy, water and waste.



All CSDP missions and operations will have **environmental advisors** as a standard position.



The EU will foster **civil-military cooperation**, including preparedness and response to natural and humanitarian disasters.



Civilian missions can support host state capacities to tackle environmental crime, which in some countries is a major source of income for criminal networks and may have severe effects on human health.

## CAPABILITY DEVELOPMENT

Climate change introduces new operational challenges, including the need to provide missions and operations with equipment that is effective under extreme weather conditions and technology that is more energy efficient.



The EU will **develop training modules for national and EU-level curricula**, including integrating the climate dimension into mandatory CSDP pre-deployment training.



The EU is **boosting technological innovation** to make military equipment more efficient and less reliant on fossil fuels through various instruments such as PESCO and the EDF.

The European Defence Fund Work Programme for 2021 assigned €133 million for actions related to "Energy resilience and environmental transition" to support development of defence products and technologies.



The EU is providing concrete solutions for **sustainable and circular energy** models leading to increased resilience and operational efficiency through various groups and fora in the European Defence Agency.



The EU is exploring possible **synergies with relevant instruments and directives**, for example in the field of energy efficiency.



The EU is assessing the feasibility to set up an EU platform run by the European Defence Agency to assist the Ministries of Defence to **reduce energy consumption and to increase energy efficiency**, thereby contributing to climate neutrality by 2050.



Contributing to climate objectives is an integral part of the EU's work on improving transport infrastructure, including for **military mobility**.



The EU is **gathering data on the energy consumption** of the armed forces of Member States to help Member States find joint approaches to enhancing energy efficiency and sustainability.

The military of the EU-27 combined are using energy on a scale comparable to a smaller Member State.

## PARTNERSHIPS

The Roadmap's strong emphasis on multilateralism and partnerships will also contribute to the **EU's global leading role on climate change** issues.



The EU is working closely with the United Nations on various operational and innovation aspects related to climate and defence.



The EU is stepping up its dialogue and cooperation with NATO to ensure coherence and mutual reinforcement in different areas.



The EU is also working with bilateral partners such as the United States, Canada and Norway to identify best practices and areas for further cooperation.

