

Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2021/2102(INI)	Procedure completed
The EEAS's Climate Change and Defence Roadmap		
Subject		
3.70.03 Climate policy, climate change, ozone layer		
6.10.02 Common security and defence policy (CSDP); WEU, NATO		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	 Foreign Affairs	 WAITZ Thomas	29/03/2021
		Shadow rapporteur	
		 DANJEAN Arnaud	
		 PICULA Tonino	
		 GRUDLER Christophe	
		 BONFRISCO Anna	
		 VONDRA Alexandr	
		 WALLACE Mick	
European Commission	Commission DG Climate Action	Commissioner TIMMERMANS Frans	

Key events			
08/07/2021	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
15/03/2022	Vote in committee		
04/04/2022	Committee report tabled for plenary	A9-0084/2022	Summary
06/06/2022	Debate in Parliament		
07/06/2022	Decision by Parliament	T9-0223/2022	Summary

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2021/2102(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 54
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AFET/9/06448

Documentation gateway					
Committee draft report		PE697.665	27/10/2021	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE700.409	11/11/2021	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A9-0084/2022	04/04/2022	EP	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T9-0223/2022	07/06/2022	EP	Summary

The EEAS's Climate Change and Defence Roadmap

The Committee on Foreign Affairs adopted an own-initiative report by Thomas WAITZ (Greens/EFA, AT) on the EEAS climate change and defence roadmap.

Climate change is an increasingly dominant risk multiplier and a new security challenge that needs to be adequately resourced, together with hybrid and cyber threats.

Strategy and concept

Members are convinced that military activities and technology must contribute to the achievement of the EU's carbon neutrality objectives in order to help combat climate change without compromising mission security or the operational capabilities of the armed forces. In this respect, they stressed that the EU's external action and Member States' armed forces should work to reduce their own carbon footprint and their negative effects on natural resources and biodiversity.

The report urged the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR) to ensure that environmental protection and the fight against climate change and its effects are integrated into the Union's external action. It called for the development of concrete benchmarks to assess progress on the links between climate change and conflict.

Climate change and defence roadmap

Members welcomed the roadmap on climate change and defence and called on the EEAS to ensure full implementation of the three work strands, namely the operational dimension, capability development and partnerships. They urged the VP/HR to propose to Member States an immediate programme of action including priority measures outlined in the roadmap that can be implemented in the short term.

In particular, the report welcomed the adoption of immediate and short-term impact measures in the roadmap for the period 2020-2021, including the development of a light-touch reporting process, linked with the development of measurement capabilities, based on progress indicators related to the environmental footprint, including energy, water, waste management, etc., of CSDP missions and operations.

Members called on the VP/HR to present, by mid-2023, an assessment of the carbon footprint and environmental impact of the Union's external action and stressed the need to develop by 2023 an effective method for quantifying greenhouse gas emissions from all EU security and defence activities. They called for voluntary targets to reduce the greenhouse gas emission intensity of military missions and operations, as well as a commitment to climate neutrality by 2050.

A comprehensive and consistent approach

Members called for coordinated action to rapidly limit both the scale and scope of climate change by substantially reducing emissions. All elements of security, including infrastructure, institutions and policies, should be climate-proofed.

The report stressed the need to boost the Unions strategic foresight, early-warning, situational awareness and conflict-analysis capacities using qualitative and quantitative data and innovative methods from various sources. They welcomed the key role played by European space programmes, such as Copernicus, in understanding climate change and monitoring greenhouse gas emissions. The principle of data-driven policy and programmes must be central to climate security programmes.

Members also stressed that environment-related peacebuilding should be reinforced, as it is one of the overall sustainable and fair solutions addressing the effects of climate change and can also present opportunities to build peace, while fostering dialogue and cooperation at the local, national and international level (e.g. on natural resource management, access to land and water, environmental protection, disaster risk reduction, welcoming climate refugees, etc.).

Addressing the operational dimension

Members support the integration of a climate-sensitive approach and strongly believes that it is urgent for Member States to mandate all

missions and operations and all European Peace Facility (EPF) actions to contribute more to the integrated approach for addressing climate security challenges, in particular in the Sahel and Horn of Africa regions. This would reduce the costs of operations, while improving the missions operational effectiveness.

The report stressed the need to integrate climate security and environment-related peacebuilding into the updated EU concepts on Security Sector Reform and Disarmament. It urged the EEAS to ensure that civilian missions and military operations take climate change into account from the outset. It also stressed the imperative need to ensure that EU activities in fragile third countries do not contribute to resource scarcity, rising prices for vital resources or environmental degradation and pollution.

Integrating climate change into military capability development

Members called for an assessment of the effects of climate change-induced changes in weather patterns and the increased frequency of extreme weather events on the operational effectiveness of armed forces. They stressed that increased defence spending should not lead to increased emissions.

The report stressed the need to increase investment in 'green' defence, including by devoting a greater share of military R&D and dual-use technological innovations (materials, energy, etc.) funded by the EU budget to carbon-neutral fuels and propulsion systems for aircraft, ships and other military vehicles.

Increasing international cooperation and multilateralism

Members reiterated the importance of cooperation as a corner stone of the EU's leadership role in the fight against climate change. They called for the climate-security nexus to be included as a new priority area for the UN-EU Strategic Partnership on Peace Operations and Crisis Management. They stressed that the lack of climate finance is a major barrier to meaningfully addressing climate change and building climate security.

The EEAS's Climate Change and Defence Roadmap

The European Parliament adopted by 356 votes to 159, with 114 abstentions, a resolution on the EEAS's Climate Change and Defence Roadmap.

Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine poses an unprecedented threat to the European security order and puts pressure on all sectors of the Union and its Member States. Climate change remains at the heart of the peace and security agenda, as it is seen as the 'threat multiplier', responsible for increasing social, economic and environmental risks that can fuel unrest as well as lead to violent conflict.

Strategy and concept

Parliament stressed the need to learn lessons from the changed security situation in Europe resulting from the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine and to speed up military capability development processes, as well as projects to make military technology more independent from fossil fuels, while at the same time increasing mission effectiveness and fighting strength.

Members are convinced that military activities and technology have to contribute to the Union's carbon neutrality targets in order to contribute to the fight against climate change without compromising mission security and without undermining the operational capabilities of the armed force.

Parliament urged the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR) to ensure that environmental protection and the fight against climate change and its effects are integrated into the Union's external action. It called for the development of climate-specific strategies, policies, procedures, measures and capabilities and to ensure that the development of an EU climate security and defence policy includes the implementation of a human security approach.

Climate change and defence roadmap

Parliament called on the VP/HR to propose to Member States an immediate action programme including priority measures presented in the Climate Change and Defence Roadmap that can be implemented in the short term. It called for a review of the overall objectives before 2030. It invited Member States to establish national structures to support the objectives and called on all actors to consider this process as a priority and to develop and implement initiatives in line with the integrated approach.

Members called on the VP/HR to present, by mid-2023, an assessment of the carbon footprint and environmental impact of the Union's external action and stressed the need to develop by 2023 an effective method for quantifying greenhouse gas emissions from all EU security and defence activities. They called for voluntary targets to reduce the greenhouse gas emission intensity of military missions and operations, as well as a commitment to climate neutrality by 2050.

According to Members, the characteristics of clean hydrogen would make it one of the solutions for replacing fossil fuels and reducing the armed forces' greenhouse gas emissions.

A comprehensive and consistent approach

Parliament called for coordinated action to rapidly limit both the scale and scope of climate change by substantially reducing emissions. All elements of security, including infrastructure, institutions and policies, should be climate-proofed. Members strongly welcomed the fact that the Union's new Global Europe instrument (NDICI) reflects well the urgency and importance of swift, strong and extensive external climate action and will make sure that 30 % of its seven-year budget of EUR 80 billion supports climate actions. It called on the Commission to fully respect these targets and to include in its calculations only those measures that have a clear climate dimension.

The resolution stressed the need to boost the Union's strategic foresight, early-warning, situational awareness and conflict-analysis capacities using qualitative and quantitative data and innovative methods from various sources. It welcomed the key role played by European space programmes in this context. The principle of data-driven policy and programmes must be central to climate security programmes.

Members also stressed that environment-related peacebuilding should be reinforced, as it is one of the overall sustainable and fair solutions addressing the effects of climate change and can also present opportunities to build peace, while fostering dialogue and cooperation at the local, national and international level (e.g. on natural resource management, access to land and water, environmental protection, disaster risk

reduction, welcoming climate refugees, etc.).

Addressing the operational dimension

Members are convinced that Member States should urgently mandate all missions and operations and all European Peace Facility (EPF) actions to contribute more to the integrated approach for addressing climate security challenges, in particular in the Sahel and Horn of Africa regions. This would reduce the costs of operations, while improving the missions operational effectiveness.

The resolution stressed the need to integrate climate security and environment-related peacebuilding into the updated EU concepts on Security Sector Reform and Disarmament. Civilian missions and military operations take climate change into account from the outset. Members also stressed the imperative need to ensure that EU activities in fragile third countries do not contribute to resource scarcity, rising prices for vital resources or environmental degradation and pollution

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