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## EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE



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<b>[Ref. prev. doc.]</b>	

## Climate Change and Defence Roadmap

*EU actions addressing the links between Climate Change and Defence, including in the context of CSDP, contributing to the wider Climate-Security Nexus*

- Elaborated by the EEAS in collaboration with Commission services and EDA -

### 1. INTRODUCTION: FROM REFLECTION TO ACTION

In its June 2020 Conclusions on Security and Defence the Council invited the High Representative to propose, together with the Commission and the European Defence Agency (EDA), and in close dialogue with Member States, a set of concrete short-, medium-, and long-term actions addressing the links between defence and climate change as part of the wider climate-security nexus, notably in the areas of civilian and military Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), capability development, multilateralism and partnerships.<sup>1</sup>

The invitation by the Council results from preceding discussions at EU level, including among EU defence ministers in Helsinki in August 2019, as well as Member States' discussions in the Council based on a Reflection Paper on Climate and Defence - Contributing to the Climate and Security Nexus including in the context of CSDP<sup>2</sup> prepared by the European External Action Service (EEAS) in cooperation with the Commission services and the EDA, which serves as a basis for this Climate Change and Defence Roadmap.

The identified actions cover the civilian and military dimensions of CSDP in line with the Council Conclusions from June 2020 and following the scope of the Reflection Paper. For the purposes of this paper, unless explicitly stated otherwise, the term "climate change" follows a broader scope including also environmental degradation. Furthermore, this Roadmap includes references to a number of Commission initiatives for many of which implementation has already been launched or is about to start, as outlined below. These non-CFSP activities are referred to in this Roadmap in order to provide a comprehensive overview of relevant activities, while noting the need to respect the prerogatives and competences of the Commission under the Treaties.

#### **Contributing to the broader EU agenda**

While constituting an integral part of the EU's overall effort to address climate change, this Climate Change and Defence Roadmap encompasses three different interlinked areas of action: 1) the

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/44521/st08910-en20.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> EEAS(2019) 1353

Operational Dimension; 2) Capability Development; and 3) Strengthening Multilateralism and Partnerships.

As part of the wider climate-security nexus, the implementation of the Climate Change and Defence Roadmap contributes to the broader EU agenda, most notably the Council conclusions on Climate Diplomacy<sup>3</sup> from January 2020. These Council conclusions acknowledge once more how climate change multiplies threats to international stability and security, in particular affecting those in most fragile and vulnerable situations. Already in the 2008 paper by the High Representative and the European Commission<sup>4</sup>, the security implications of climate change were emphasised and an integrated approach to climate and security was presented in the 2016 EU Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy<sup>5</sup>.

The European Green Deal<sup>6</sup> presented by the Commission also recognises the global climate and environmental challenges as significant threat multipliers and sources of instability. The ecological transition will reshape geopolitics, including global economic, trade and security interests. These challenges can become sources of conflict, food insecurity, population displacement and forced migration. All these factors closely relate to the three interlinked areas covered in this Roadmap, putting forward mitigation and adaptation measures. Climate policy implications should 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 CSDP. With this in mind, the Roadmap will contribute also to the objectives of the European Green Deal by aiming to reduce the emissions in particular in the defence sector as part of the collective effort towards climate neutrality by 2050, an increased energy sustainability, the prioritization of energy efficiency, and the protection of biodiversity<sup>7</sup>.

Moreover, as set out in the Security Union Strategy, environmental crime has become the fourth largest criminal business around the world. Climate change, resulting partly from policies of deforestation, as well as illegal logging, is likely to create new opportunities for organised crime that the EU will increasingly need to address.

The Roadmap's strong emphasis on multilateralism and partnerships will also contribute to the EU's global leading role on climate change issues. With climate change being a multidimensional issue, an integrated approach among different EU actors is crucial in order to identify synergies and to maximise impact. Following such an approach, mitigation of climate related risks and alleviation of environmental stress could be addressed more effectively through global cooperation and multilateral channels. Therefore, the EU and its Member States have been instrumental in elevating

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<sup>3</sup> <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-5033-2020-INIT/en/pdf>

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/pressdata/en/reports/99387.pdf](https://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/reports/99387.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> [https://eeas.europa.eu/archives/docs/top\\_stories/pdf/eugs\\_review\\_web.pdf](https://eeas.europa.eu/archives/docs/top_stories/pdf/eugs_review_web.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1588580774040&uri=CELEX%3A52019DC0640>.

<sup>7</sup> In July 2020, the European Council agreed to a comprehensive package of €1,824 billion for the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-27 (MFF) and the Next Generation EU recovery plan, with an overall climate target of 30%. In addition, the NextGenerationEU will dedicate 37% of the programme directly to Green Deal objectives. It is important to highlight that climate considerations and objectives are mainstreamed in the MFF 2021-2027 sectoral proposals of relevance for defence, notably the European Defence Fund and the Connecting Europe Facility, the latter of which will fund projects contributing to military mobility.

the climate security agenda in multilateral forums. The Climate Change and Defence Roadmap aims at expanding the EU's network by further exploring the role of civilian and military CSDP missions and operations in multilateral settings and with partner countries and thereby creating links to ongoing or emerging activities in the broader climate and security area.

## **Implementation process**

The implementation of the actions in the Climate Change and Defence Roadmap in the three interlinked areas, namely the Operational Dimension, Capability Development and Strengthening Multilateralism and Partnerships, will start immediately (if not on-going already). The immediate/short-, medium-, and long-term actions are based on the timeframe in which the intended effect will occur. A coherent follow up on the Roadmap will be put in place to monitor the progress in implementation and will allow for any adaptations needed to the timelines, or the actions themselves.

Future policies and parallel processes, for instance the so-called Strategic Compass<sup>8</sup>, or other relevant EU policy initiatives such as the international dimension of the new climate adaptation strategy may impact further work in due course.

## **2. IDENTIFIED ACTIONS**

### **2.1 Operational Dimension**

The EU CSDP missions and operations will increasingly have to operate in an environment affected or influenced by climate change. Political decision-makers and capability planners alike need to have an accurate understanding of the security implications of climate change, including as regards the kind of missions and operations that may be required not only in the coming years but also in five, ten or even fifteen years as well as the capabilities and infrastructure that may be needed to carry these missions and operations out effectively and sustainably. This requires an increased awareness of the current situation but also an understanding of the impact on European defence and security priorities, including over the long term.

The EU has long recognised that climate change acts as a threat multiplier with serious implications for peace and security across the globe. It will increase sea-level rise, drive up global temperatures and increase the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events. These developments might have a geopolitical impact, including as regards global maritime security. They will limit the availability of food and water, undermine human health, cause people displacement and degrade infrastructure and economies, biodiversity and resources.

In its Conclusions on Security and Defence in the context of the EU Global Strategy of June 2019, the Council acknowledged for the first time the relevance of environmental issues and climate change for CSDP missions and operations, including its impact on military capability planning and development.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/44521/st08910-en20.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/39786/st10048-en19.pdf>

The change in weather conditions and the increase in extreme weather events will have an impact on the frequency of deployment, the implementation of CSDP tasks and operating conditions. Climate change and environmental degradation could exacerbate existing tensions in conflict settings, ultimately leading to increased violence and generating additional humanitarian needs, which may lead to a growing demand for military and civilian CSDP missions and operations. In the same vein, large swaths of inhospitable territories may no longer be under an effective state control and become safe haven for adverse forces. Due to more frequent and severe weather events EU Member States' armed forces may also be called upon more often to support disaster management and relief efforts, both within the EU and beyond its external borders.

This calls for increased preparedness, in particular through training and exercises, also considering the human factor, and improved early warning, situational awareness and strategic foresight.

## **Key ongoing approaches and new actions at EU level:**

### Immediate/short-term impact (within 2020-2021)

- The EEAS, in close cooperation with the Joint Research Centre and relevant Commission services and relying inter alia on the Copernicus services, will enhance synergies between existing tools and instruments, such as the Early Warning System, the conflict analysis tool, weather forecasting and climate prediction modelling capacities and the civilian CSDP Missions Analysis Capability (MAC), based on an assessment involving relevant actors on how to 1) foster situational awareness and understanding, 2) strengthen the links between early warning, analysis and actions and 3) develop strategic foresight capabilities, with respect to climate and environmental implications on CSDP.
- To successfully mainstream climate change and environmental aspects into the planning and implementation of CSDP mandates, the EEAS will:
  - develop an Operational Concept on climate change and the crisis management toolbox, including civilian and military CSDP missions and operations;
  - develop Operational Guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures covering climate and environmental aspects in support of the implementation of CSDP missions and operations, covering aspects such as duty of care, awareness raising, trainings and environmental/carbon foot print management;
  - develop a mini-concept on civilian CSDP and climate change to identify possible areas for increased and more effective engagement in this regard and thus providing a conceptual basis for strategic and operational planners to identify possibilities in the context of designing or reviewing mission mandates.
    - liaise also with the Centre of Excellence for Civilian Crisis Management;
    - initiate the development of measurement capabilities and an associated light-touch reporting process based on indicators of progress related to the environmental footprint, incl. energy, water, waste management, etc. within CSDP missions and operations;
    - review the “European Union Military Concept on Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency for EU-led military operations from 2012”<sup>10</sup>, introducing monitoring measures concerning its effective implementation.
- The EEAS/EU Military Staff together with the Commission services will assess ways to foster humanitarian civil-military cooperation, including preparedness and response to natural and

<sup>10</sup> <http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/12/st13/st13758.en12.pdf>

humanitarian disasters, also taking into account the work launched in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic in follow-up to the tasking by the Council in June 2020.

- The EEAS will examine the possibilities under the future European Peace Facility (EPF) to fund projects necessary to support CSDP military missions and operations that improve environmental/carbon footprint and are financially sound.

## Medium-term impact (within 2022-2024)

- To further mainstream climate change and environmental aspects into the planning, implementation and reporting of CSDP mandates, the EEAS will:
  - continue to develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on climate and environment applicable to the respective CSDP mission and operation without affecting their operational effectiveness and building on the Operational Guidelines;
  - propose to include the deployment of an environmental advisor as a standard position in CSDP missions and operations, contributing to the successful implementation of the SOPs on climate and environment and foster exchange with other security actors (e.g. UN mission personnel as well as humanitarian actors on the ground);
- The EEAS will collect data and best practices on energy efficiency in CSDP missions and operations and introduce key findings and analysis in the annual state of play on the Roadmap to identify where and how the energy consumption, and thereby energy dependencies, could be reduced, including through the further development of Smart Energy Camps<sup>11</sup>.

## **EU Member States are invited to:**

- Contribute to an enhanced awareness and strong networks between different security actors by sharing studies and analyses on the likely and possible effect of climate change and environmental degradation on security and defence, including through information provided in the relevant Council preparatory bodies.
- Share good practices on addressing vulnerabilities resulting from strategic considerations concerning energy security and dependence on fossil fuels, resources security of supply, water security, and environmental change in particular by using existing platforms and networks such as EDA's Energy and Environment Working Group (EnE WG).
- Continue and further strengthen the military's role in conserving biodiversity on military lands<sup>12</sup>.
- Proactively identify environmental advisors suitable to serve in CSDP missions and operations.

## **2.2 Capability Development**

Climate change is not just a conflict and security risk multiplier. It 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 global defence sector is an energy-intensive industry and in Europe, armed forces are the largest public owner of free land and infrastructures. Most of the military infrastructure is not sufficiently energy efficient – heating accounted for 32% of EU armed forces' energy

<sup>11</sup> As was illustrated in the EDA's "Smart Energy Camps Technical Demonstrator" in EUTM Mali.

<sup>12</sup> EU Member States' Armed Forces are the biggest landowners in Europe. Military estates used for training and firing exercises stand out as large areas, uninterrupted by roads or built-up areas, which is an important ecological condition for the population dynamics of many species.

consumption in 2017.<sup>13</sup> Reducing energy demand and increasing energy resilience is essential for the armed forces to ensure a high level of readiness and sustainability. While there are several actions and ongoing initiatives at national and EU level, efforts are scattered and occasionally duplicative or overlapping.

While operational effectiveness remains the highest priority, reducing emissions and other environmental impacts of CSDP civilian and military missions and operations - in particular among military forces - offers several operational advantages, such as reduced logistical requirements and dependence on supply convoys in areas of high insecurity as well as budgetary aspects. It also minimises resource use, environmental degradation and pollution in mission areas, thereby protecting the positive reputation of the operation where resource scarcity is often already a contributing factor to conflict. This requires i. a. dedicated training activities as well as increased awareness at all levels.

In its Conclusions from June 2019<sup>14</sup>, the Council invited Member States, the EEAS, the Commission and the EDA to develop concrete solutions within the defence sector for safe and sustainable energy models leading to increased resilience and operational efficiency also in the context of climate change. In this context, the Consultation Forum for Sustainable Energy in the Defence and Security Sector (CF SEDSS), the EDA Energy & Environment Working Group and the forthcoming Incubation Forum on Circular Economy in European Defence (IF CEED) play an important role, which could be further strengthened.

## **Key ongoing approaches and new actions at EU level:**

### Immediate/short-term impact (within 2020-2021)

- The EEAS and EDA, and relevant Commission services, will work with the European Security and Defence College (ESDC) and other training providers to integrate climate change mitigation and adaptation and environmental protection aspects into EU trainings and exercises.
- The Commission services and EDA are exploring the potential impact of energy-related directives<sup>15</sup>, including the Green Public Procurement options, for military infrastructure (such as offices, headquarters, barracks, hospitals, academies) as part of the European Green Deal (i.e. the new energy efficiency action “the Renovation Wave”<sup>16</sup>, but also the revision of the Energy Efficiency Directive and of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive.

### Medium-term impact (within 2022-2024)

<sup>13</sup> Source: European Defence Agency, Defence Energy Data 2016 & 2017.

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/39786/st10048-en19.pdf>

<sup>15</sup> Energy Efficiency Directive (EED), Renewable Energy Directive (RED), Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD), Directive on European Critical Infrastructures (ECI), Regulation on Security of Gas Supply; Regulation of Risk Preparedness in the Electricity Sector, and when relevant, the Regulation on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action.

<sup>16</sup> Buildings as the largest single energy consumer, responsible for 36% of EU GHG emissions and therefore central for reaching carbon neutrality by 2050 as set out in the European Green Deal. 75% of the existing building stock is inefficient and was constructed before any legislation on building performance was in place with the overall renovation rate lying around only 1% a year. Such alarming percentage is even higher for Defence buildings, since they are on average older and their energy performance had been neglected in many countries.

- The EEAS/EU Military Staff will make proposals, in consultation with relevant Commission services to take into account climate change-related risks to improve the Illustrative Scenarios and related Strategic Planning Assumptions within the Headline Goal process.
- The EEAS and EDA will encourage Member States to develop new technologies to increase resilience and operational efficiency in capability projects, including in the context of the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO).
- Under the forthcoming European Defence Fund (EDF) Regulation to be implemented by the Commission<sup>17</sup>, and in line with the procedures and criteria set out therein, funding of research and development activities for defence-oriented solutions for energy generation, storage, efficiency and management and on applications to operate under extreme conditions may be allocated. Under the same conditions, advanced solutions for improved resource efficiency, including through addressing circular economy aspects such as durability, modularity, reparability and upgradability could be considered, thereby contributing to the reduction of the defence environmental and carbon footprint.
- The Commission actively and continuously contributes to climate objectives in the field of transport infrastructure through the trans-European network for transport (TEN-T) policy coupled with the financial support of the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF). As of 2021, the Commission services will for the first time also start implementing dual-use transport infrastructure projects to foster military mobility funded through the CEF. Selected projects will have to demonstrate both civilian and defence related benefits to obtain grants and 60 % of CEF expenditure must contribute to climate objectives.
- The EDA will launch and manage an Incubation Forum on Circular Economy in European Defence (IF CEED), co-funded by the Commission's managed LIFE Programme aimed at identifying new collaborative projects by Member States, defence industry and Research and Technology Organisations (RTOs) to address i. a. waste management, safe use of chemicals, component tracing, environmental protection, water management, resource inputs, etc., through design, maintenance, repair, reuse, remanufacturing, refurbishing and recycling.
- The Commission services, in cooperation with EEAS and EDA, will assess the feasibility of establishing a suitable mechanism<sup>18</sup> to act as the EU's repository, observatory and research platform. The mechanism could aim at assisting national authorities (e.g. EU Ministries of Defence, Interior, Energy, Environment, etc.) to reduce energy consumption, increasing energy efficiency and thereby contributing to the implementation of the EU's climate and energy targets.
- The EDA will produce studies on the impact of climate change on the European defence infrastructure<sup>19</sup> in line with increasing efforts to strengthen research on the resilience of defence-related critical energy infrastructure (CEI) against hybrid and asymmetrical threats through the activities of CF SEDSS III and thereby further support the development and implementation of relevant project ideas.

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<sup>17</sup> The EDF takes into account the defence capability priorities commonly agreed by the Member States in the context of the Capability Development Plan (CDP).

<sup>18</sup> Based on the knowledge and experience generated from the EDA's CF SEDSS (since 2015), the main functions could be the collection of energy-related data with regard to both fixed infrastructure and operations and the development of projects. It could thereby support Member States e.g. by facilitating knowledge and best practices, sharing and proposing concrete solutions for green, resilient and sustainable energy models, encouraging cooperative projects.

<sup>19</sup> The study will focus on homeland, i.e. defence building stock (fixed infrastructure, installations, military camps), equipment, transportation and sustainable mobility (non-tactical vehicles).

## **EU Member States are invited to:**

- Enhance tools and instruments to identify and monitor measures to increase energy efficiency of the armed forces, e.g. by developing a national action plan, establishing a defence energy task force, introducing benchmarks or deploying ‘Energy Action Officer’ in order to:
  - include a climate and environmental assessment in procurement and capability development processes;
  - take climate, energy and environmental considerations into account when building and renovating military infrastructure within and outside the EU. The use of the Energy Efficiency First principle could be particularly important;
  - trigger human factors related to energy management, energy efficiency, build commitment and raise awareness among national authorities of the defence and law enforcement sector as a significant stakeholder in terms of energy usage and enable Ministries of Defence and Ministries of Interior to gain access to national funding and technical assistance to reduce energy consumption;
  - improve data collection and analysis efforts by providing national defence-related energy data, which will allow EDA’s Energy & Environment Working Group to gain a comprehensive overview and better understanding of the types and volumes of energy resources used by the armed forces of all Member States on an annual basis<sup>20</sup>.
- Use, strengthen and engage in upcoming and existing platforms whenever possible and appropriate, notably EDA’s CF SEDSS<sup>21</sup> and IF CEED, while at the same time exploring other possibilities to share ideas and best practices among Member States, including by organising workshops and events.
- Use the PESCO framework to set climate related objectives and to develop new technologies to increase resilience and operational efficiency through collaborative projects.
- Support possible projects related to climate and defence responding to the EDF work programmes in line with priorities commonly agreed by Member States.
- Strengthen national capabilities by mainstreaming climate and environmental considerations into training and education (e.g. pre-deployment trainings to civilian and military missions and operations) and enable the participation in existing training programmes (e.g. EDA Defence Energy Manager’s Course (DEMC), ESDC Course on Climate Change and Security), as well as increase the exchange of training curricula and expertise among Member States, supporting the development of an expert pool in EU Member States.

## **2.3 Strengthening multilateralism and partnerships**

Effectively responding to the impact of climate change and environmental factors on security and defence, requires a truly global approach. There is a clear need and global demand for the EU and its Member States to continuously show leadership in international climate and environment policy and actions in various formats, notably in the UN. This is also an objective under the European Green Deal and hence requires a joint-up and coherent approach among EU actors in multilateral

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<sup>20</sup> 22 out of then 28 Member States were contributing to the latest assessment: <https://www.eda.europa.eu/docs/default-source/eda-factsheets/2019-06-07-factsheet-energy-defence>

<sup>21</sup> The CF SEDSS platform can support Member States identifying existing or new financing mechanisms or other related and applicable EU funding instruments that can assist the Ministries of Defence and other defence-related stakeholders to realise their defence energy- related planning either at the national or multinational level.

fora. Opportunities for closer cooperation within the context of Security and Defence with international organisations and multilateral partnerships, such as UN, NATO, OSCE and the AU, as well as bilaterally with partner countries - including in the multilateral context - need to be explored.

## **Key ongoing approaches and new actions at EU level:**

### Immediate/short-term impact (within 2020-2021)

- The EEAS will promote efforts towards international organisations and third countries, where appropriate, to address the links between climate change/environmental degradation on the one hand, and the defence sector and civilian and military missions and operations on the other, as part of the broader climate-security nexus.
- The EEAS will establish a structural exchange with relevant UN counterparts on climate, energy and environmental aspect of missions and operations including by organising a seminar with the UN Department of Operational Support (DOS) with the aim to exchange experiences and best practice, incl. on the UN Climate Security Mechanism, build staff-to staff network and foster cooperation on the ground<sup>22</sup>.
- The EEAS together with Commission services will use staff-to-staff dialogues with NATO to explore potential areas of cooperation linked to climate and defence, keeping Member States duly informed.
- The EEAS will explore further opportunities for closer cooperation with the AU, including for example by providing training and organise awareness arising exercises to staff of AU led peace support operations.
- The EEAS and Commission services will explore the possibility to support African partner countries in strengthening the response capacity of the security services to man-made and natural disasters and enhancing civil protection services<sup>23</sup>.

### Medium-term impact (within 2022-2024)

- The EEAS will work towards including climate change and environmental aspects in the revised priorities to reinforce the UN-EU strategic partnership on peace operations and crisis management for 2022-2024.
- The EEAS will include climate and environmental aspects in its security and defence policy dialogues with third countries.
- The EEAS will work towards including relevant defence and CSDP-related aspects in EU's broader efforts to promote the climate-security nexus, both from an adaptation and mitigation perspective.
- The EEAS will continue to broaden its network of research bodies as well as, international development and humanitarian organisations to increase the understanding of the various impacts of climate change and environmental degradation on the defence sector and EU crisis management.

### Long-term impact (from 2025 onwards)

<sup>22</sup> Of the 17 CSDP missions and operations currently active, 13 share the same theatre with UN missions.

<sup>23</sup> This may include mobilisation of security forces in disaster prevention actions such as reforestation and well drilling in conflict prone arid areas.

- For the EU and its Member States to continuously show leadership in international climate and environment policy and actions, the EU will work towards including defence aspects in the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

**EU Member States are invited to:**

- Promote the relevance to address the link between climate and environmental aspects and the defence/operational domain in multilateral settings.

### 3. THE WAY FORWARD

The different services identified will take forward work to implement the ongoing approaches and new actions outlined. Proposals in the area of CSDP/CFSP will be put forward to the Council as appropriate. The Council is invited to take stock on progress made on an annual basis, based on information to be provided by the services, as of the first half of 2022.

To show continued leadership in this domain and allow a broader interaction on the different aspects addressed in the Roadmap<sup>24</sup>, the EEAS will organise an annual event with the involvement of the EDA as well as relevant Commission services, the EU Member States, international organisations and partner countries if appropriate.

An intermediate review of the Climate Change and Defence Roadmap is foreseen by 2025, followed by a general review concerning the overall objectives by 2030 at the latest.

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<sup>24</sup> For instance with a focus on closer cooperation with UN, NATO and AU; the role of new technologies and AI; adapting Member States' Armed Forces to the adverse effects of climate change; etc.

## Annex Terminology

- The term *climate* refers to the usual condition of the temperature, humidity, atmospheric pressure, wind, rainfall pattern, and other meteorological elements in an area of the earth's surface for a long time meanwhile *weather* reflects short-term conditions of the atmosphere.
- *Climate change* means a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods<sup>25</sup>.
- *Greenhouse gases (GHG)* means those gaseous constituents of the atmosphere, both natural and anthropogenic, that absorb and re-emit infrared radiation<sup>26</sup> (notably carbon dioxide – CO<sub>2</sub>).
- *Source* means any process or activity which releases a greenhouse gas, an aerosol or a precursor of a greenhouse gas into the atmosphere<sup>27</sup>.
- *Adaptation* refers to the action taken to increase the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience<sup>28</sup>.
- *Mitigation* refers to actions taken that reduce the greenhouse gases emissions.
- *Environment* refers to the surroundings in which an organisation operates, including air, water, land, natural resources, flora, fauna, humans and their interrelations.
- *Biological diversity (biodiversity)* means the variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part: this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems<sup>29</sup>.
- *Ecosystem* means a dynamic complex of plant, animal and micro-organism communities and their non-living environment interacting as a functional unit<sup>30</sup>.
- *Nature-based solutions* are solutions inspired and supported by nature, which are cost-effective, simultaneously provide environmental, social and economic benefits and help build resilience<sup>31</sup>, such as afforestation projects.
- *Environmental Protection (EP)* consists of the protection of the environment as in the sense of the human and natural environment, including the ecosystems that encompass water, air, ground, flora and fauna.

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<sup>25</sup> United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, article 1§2

<sup>26</sup> United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, article 1§5

<sup>27</sup> United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, article 1§9

<sup>28</sup> Paris Agreement, article 2

<sup>29</sup> United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, article 2

<sup>30</sup> United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, article 2

<sup>31</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/research/environment/index.cfm?pg=nbs>