

Climate and defence: actions and investments



An online conference co-organised by the European External Action Service and the EU Institute for Security Studies (EU ISS).

13:00-16:45 CEST - 6 December 2021

CONCEPT

Following the publication of the Climate Change and Defence Roadmap in November 2021, the EU remains committed to ensuring that the Union's action and investments are informed by climate change. The Roadmap outlined a range of insights into how the defence sector should adapt to climate change, and a concrete set of actions were presented that touched on, among others, the need for strategic foresight, data gathering and possible targets. The Roadmap not only highlights the EU's commitment to climate policy and defence, but it also laid the ground for further reflection and action under the forthcoming EU Strategic Compass.

EU efforts do not take place in a vacuum and it is necessary for the Union to work with and learn together with partners. In this regard, the US Department of Defense's 2021 'Climate Adaptation Plan' can provide further inspiration. Moreover, NATO has adopted its own Action Plan, which includes an 'annual Climate Change and Security Impact Assessment' for NATO assets, installations, missions and operations. A forthcoming Report by the European Parliament on climate and defence will also push in this direction. Finally, climate change is set to be included in both the renewed EU-NATO and EU-UN partnership frameworks.

In this regard, this annual conference - the second iteration following a first conference on 11 December 2020 - , seeks to bring together key stakeholders from governments, institutions, partners, industry and NGOs to reflect on climate and defence in order to help drive forward EU policy. To this end, two main panel sessions will address:

- > **Climate-informed actions** - this session will focus on the ways in which an enhanced understanding of the security effects of climate change and environmental degradation can benefit policy action. In this regard, special attention will be placed on the ways in which local and regional climate resilience can be enhanced. Here, the panel session will consider how local and regional initiatives can be pursued while avoiding any undue climate pressures on local communities.
- > **Climate-informed investments** - this session will seek to understand how best to ensure that investments in future capabilities and defence infrastructure are informed by climate and sustainability principles. In particular, the session will discuss whether strategic foresight, enhanced use and management of data and specific targets can be used to incentivise an increased use of renewable energy resources in the armed forces. Finally, the session will look into how investments can be used for climate adaptation measures.

PROGRAMME

Opening Remarks (13:00-13:10)

Gustav LINDSTROM

Director, EU Institute for Security Studies

Keynote speeches (13:10-13:30)

Joanneke BALFOORT

Director, Security and Defence Policy, European External Action Service

Panel Session I - climate-informed actions (13:30-14:45)

Speakers

Caroline GARDESTEDT

Environmental Advisor, EU Advisory Mission to the Central African Republic

Eiko IKEGAYA

Acting Chief, Policy and Best Practices Service, Department of Peace Operations, United Nations

Olivia LAZARD

Visiting Scholar, Carnegie Europe

Louis TILLIER

Deputy Director, European Union Satellite Centre

Moderator

Daniel FIOTT

Security and Defence Editor, EU Institute for Security Studies

Break (14:45-15:15)

Panel Session II - climate-informed investments (15:15-16:30)

Speakers

Robert DRESEN

Policy Planning Adviser, Office of the Secretary General, NATO

Vincent GALES

Adviser, Ministry of Defence, Netherlands

Constantinos HADJISAVVAS

Policy Officer Energy, CF SEDSS III Project Manager, European Defence Agency

Michal PIWOWAR

Policy Officer, DG DEFIS, European Commission

Robert ŠIPEC

Armament Division Head, Ministry of Defence, Slovenia

Richard SMITH

Technical Lead, Rapid Environment and Climate Technical Assistance Facility, United Nations

Moderator

Daniel FIOTT

Security and Defence Editor, EU Institute for Security Studies

Concluding remarks (16:30-16:45)

Raphaela ENGEL

Policy Officer, Security and Defence Policy, European External Action Service