

EN

E-000874/2026

Answer given by Mr Hoekstra
on behalf of the European Commission
(5.5.2026)

The European Union continues to address climate change issues, including its security and defence implications, through various initiatives and studies. The EU regularly commissions research and reports on the security and defence risks posed by climate change. This is part of its broader strategy to integrate climate considerations into security, foreign and defence policy frameworks.

The first European Climate Risk Assessment¹ (EUCRA, 2024) considered the repercussions of climate change for the European Union. It identifies 36 climate risks that pose a threat to Europe's energy and food security, ecosystems, infrastructure, water resources, financial stability, and people's health. In the next EUCRA report, due for 2028, security may be addressed more directly. The Commission is currently preparing a comprehensive risks and threat assessment under the Preparedness Union Strategy², foreseen for summer 2026.

The EU recognises climate change as a threat multiplier that impacts resource scarcity, migration, and geopolitical stability. The Joint Communication 'A new outlook on the climate and security nexus: Addressing the impact of climate change and environmental degradation on peace, security and defence'³ was adopted in 2023 and continues to guide the Commission work⁴. The focus on security and defence aspects is often reflected in the work of the European External Action Service and other relevant agencies that collaborate on assessing climate-related security threats.

¹ <https://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/en/eu-adaptation-policy/key-eu-actions/european-climate-risk-assessment>.

² https://commission.europa.eu/topics/preparedness_en.

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52023JC0019>.

⁴ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/joint-communication-climate-security-nexus_en.