



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



Council conclusions on Climate change and security

*2985th FOREIGN AFFAIRS Council meeting
Brussels, 8 December 2009*

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

1. The Council endorsed the “Joint Progress Report and Follow-up Recommendations on Climate Change and International Security, (CCIS) as a follow-up to the Joint Paper in March 2008 to the European Council by the High Representative and the Commission, the report of the implementation of the European Security Strategy (ESS) presented to the Council in December 2008, and the report on the implementation of the Joint Paper presented to the Council in December 2008.
2. The Council stated that climate change and its international security implications are part of EU’s wider agenda for climate, energy and the Common Foreign and Security Policy, and therefore central to the endeavours of the EU. This adds an incentive to strengthen EU’s comprehensive efforts to reduce emissions and to increase its energy security.
3. The Council underlined the possible international security implications of climate change, and the potential risk for increased natural disasters and conflicts over scarcer resources, its effect on migration and state and regional instability, which will add additional stress on the increasingly interdependent global system and structures. This is a global challenge that requires global solutions.

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4. The Council concluded that more vulnerable parts of human society in developing countries and emerging economies will be adversely affected, and will need our support, but developed countries will also suffer. Adaptation to climate change, sound policies on displacement, migration and conflict prevention are the most effective ways of dealing with the international security implications of climate change. We will address these issues in a spirit of partnership between developed and developing countries and confirm our commitment to take bold action on climate change mitigation in order to limit temperature increases to below a threshold of 2C and to effectively address adaptation in the Copenhagen summit. An ambitious and comprehensive international agreement (UNFCCC) will be an important factor in preventing and reducing the security implications of climate change.
5. The Council welcomed that the UN has taken a leading role on CCIS demonstrated by the UN General Assembly resolution A/63/281 of June 2009, expressing deep concern for the possible security implications of climate change, followed by the Secretary General's report A/64/350 on Climate Change and its possible Security Implications of September which was discussed in the UN General Assembly in November this year. The Council recalled the UN Security Council thematic debate on Energy, Security and Climate in April 2007 and looked forward to further debates in the UN Security Council on the issue. The EU stands ready to support this global endeavour. In order to play a role commensurate to its commitment, the EU needs to call upon the full range of policies and instruments at its disposal.
6. The Council noted with satisfaction that considerable progress has been made to *enhance EU capacities* for early warning, analysis and response to climate-induced international security implications and to *foster international cooperation* with the aim to create dialogue, common awareness, share analysis and cooperatively address the challenges in all relevant existing fora, including the UN.
7. The Council supported the recommendations in the Progress Report; to *promote EU multilateral leadership* in cooperation with the UN and third parties, *reinforce the EU's institutional capacity* to deal with CCIS in the implementation of the Lisbon Treaty, *include security aspects in climate change in EU development assistance, build knowledge, hone and sharpen the EU's crisis management capabilities* relevant to dealing with CCIS and to *follow-up* the implementation through a report to the Council during the latter part of 2010.