



# Commission Communication “Managing Climate Risks – Protecting people and prosperity”

**JOINT MEETING OF THE  
CIVIL DIALOGUE GROUP ON ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
AND ON THE CAP STRATEGIC PLANS AND HORIZONTAL MATTERS**

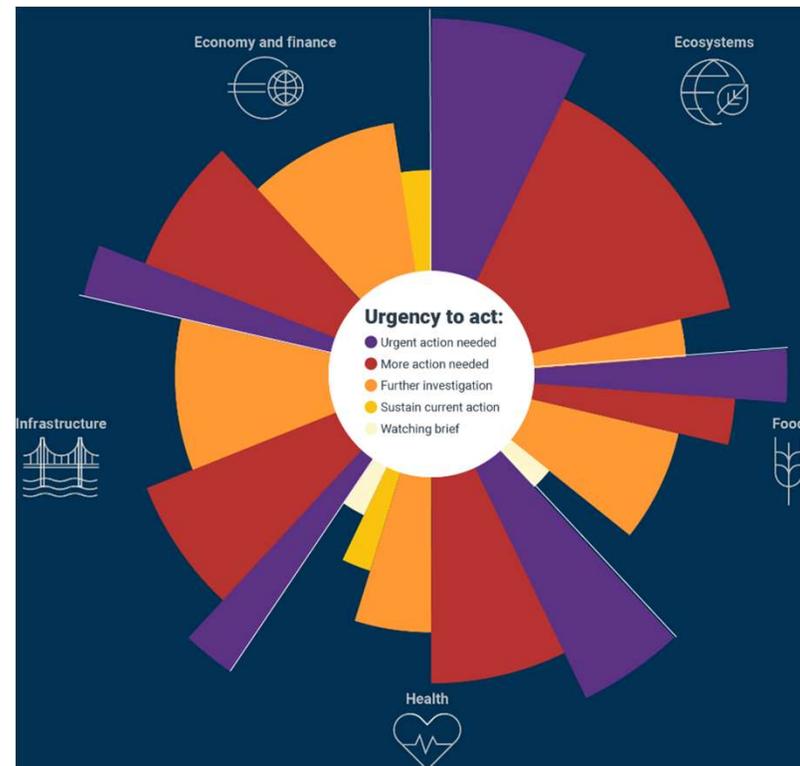
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# Context – European Climate Risk Assessment (EUCRA) report

A scientific EEA report, published 11/03/2024, with a strong focus on cascading and compounding risks. The new go-to reference point for climate risks in Europe.

## Key takeaways

- **Climate risk drivers are accelerating:** worse heatwaves, more downpours, floods and droughts, higher sea temperatures.
- **Several risks are already critical level,** almost all would become critical or catastrophic during the century.
- **EU policy preparedness is lagging behind the speed of change in the climate risks.**



EUCRA identifies 36 key risks for Europe, grouped in five clusters.

<https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/european-climate-risk-assessment>

# Communication “Managing climate risks – protecting people and prosperity”

## Main parameters of the Communication:

- Demonstrates EU readiness to respond to the evolving reality
- Geographic focus within the EU
- **Risk ownership** a central concept - identifying responsibility for managing risks, notably between EU and MS level
- Calibrated to the end of mandate, mostly about good decision-making processes and tools.

1. **Introduction:** explains why urgent action is needed and how it builds on existing processes

2. **Analysis/climate science:** Provides a condensed selection of the evidence and the uncertainties.

### 3. **Solutions space (provides key horizontal actions)**

3.1. Improved governance

3.2. Tools for empowering risk owners

3.3. Harnessing structural policies

3.4. Right preconditions for financing climate resilience

### 4. **Key actions in in main impact clusters**

4.1. Natural ecosystems

4.2. Water

4.3. Health

4.4. Food

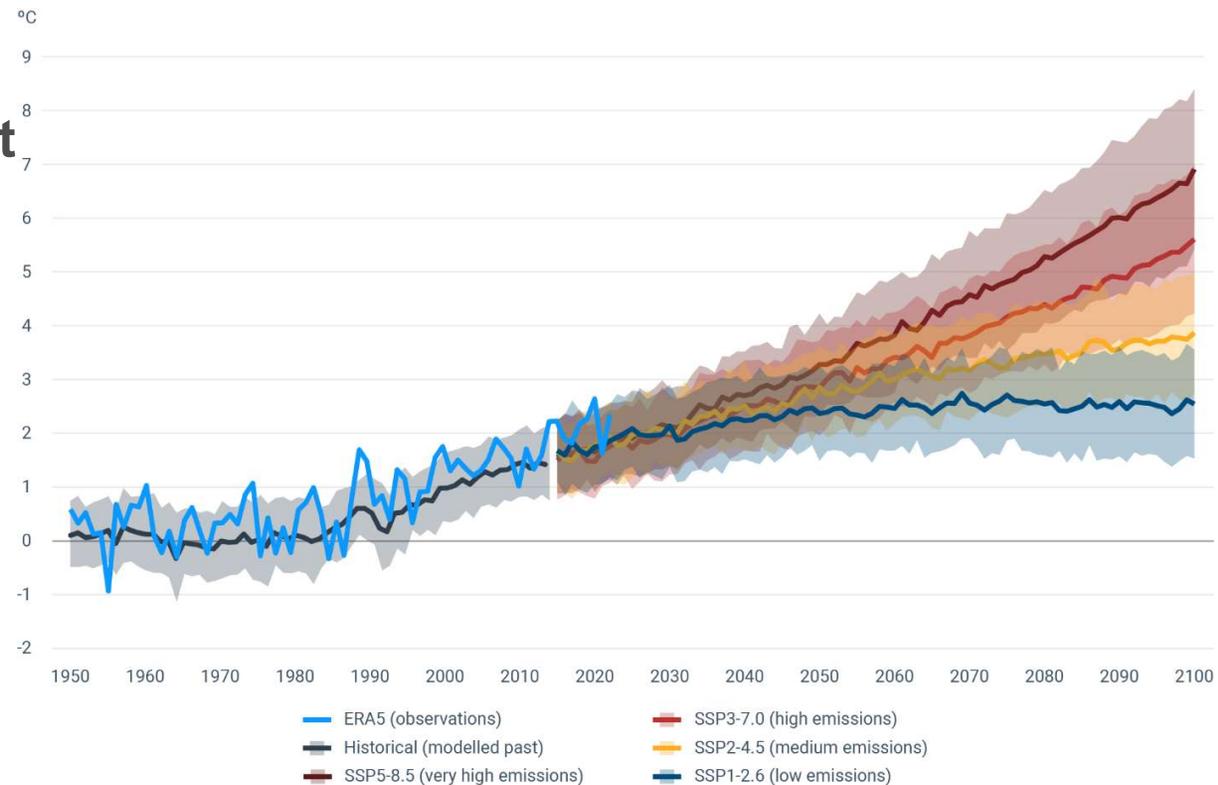
4.5. Infrastructure

4.6. Economy

### 5. **Next steps**

# Chapter 1: Introduction

- Climate impacts will increase; **mitigation & adaptation as part of the response package to the same problem.**
- **There is public demand for more action of resilience**
- Not starting from scratch, but current action not sufficient
- Policy-makers have agency – risks can be managed



# Chapter 2: Diagnostics

## Hazards are increasing

Land regions	Northern Europe			Western Europe			Central-Eastern Europe			Southern Europe			European regional seas	Past	Future
	Past		Future	Past		Future	Past		Future	Past		Future			
	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High					
Mean temperature	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	
Heat wave days	□(*)	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	
Total precipitation	↗	↗	↗	↗	↘	↘	↗	↗	↘	↘	↘	↘	↗	↗	
Heavy precipitation	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	
Drought	↗	↘	↘	↗	↘	↘	↗	↘	↘	↗	↘	↘	↗	↗	



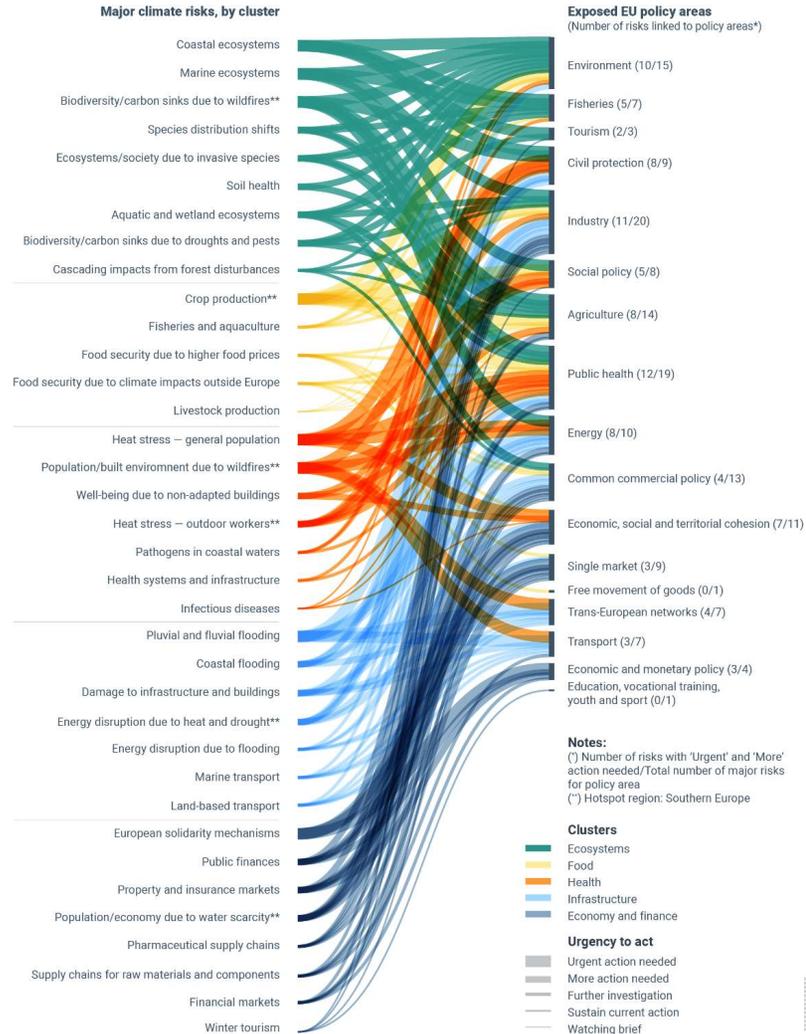
**Legend**

- ↗ Increase (limited agreement between models, datasets or indices)
- ↘ Decrease (limited agreement between models, datasets or indices)
- ↗/↘ Low confidence in direction of change
- No change

**Note**

(\*) Other heatwave indices show an increase for the past

# Risks and solutions are interconnected



# Chapter 3: Horizontal actions

## 3.1. Governance

- Clarify risk ownership EU-MS
- Stronger governance structures (in MS and COM)
- Synergies in governance processes

## 3.2. Tools

- Climate data, modelling tools, indicators, warning systems, guidance, and better access to these
- Baseline climate scenarios
- Support on administrative capacities
- Leverage existing tools
- Combat disinformation

## 3.3. Structural policies

- Spatial planning (in MS)
- Critical infrastructure
- Preparedness in EU-level solidarity mechanisms

## 3.4. Finance

- Resilience in EU spending (CAP)
- Resilience in public procurement
- Mobilising finance to build resilience

# Chapter 4: Actions in impact clusters

## 4.1. Natural ecosystems

- Implementation of legislation and better accounting of the value of natural systems
- Forest disturbances and carbon sinks
- Maritime ecosystems
- Climate-resilient landscapes

## 4.2. Water

- Safeguarding freshwater supplies
- Comprehensive stocktake of water issues

## 4.3. Health

- Occupational safety and health (linked to heat)
- European Climate and Health Observatory
- Monitoring on cross-border health threats
- Mobilisation of medical personnel and patient transfer
- Critical medical countermeasures

## 4.4. Food

- Food safety and affordability
- Future-proofing agriculture
- Fisheries policy

## 4.5. Infrastructure and built environment

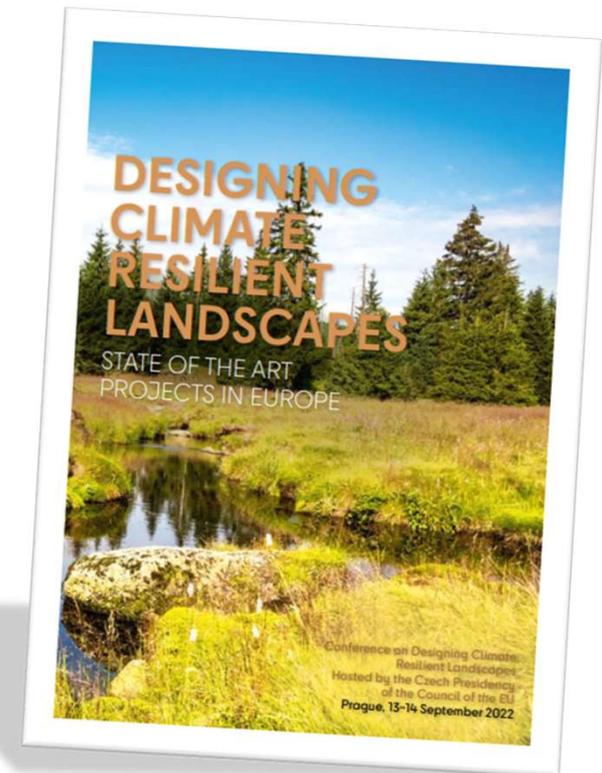
- Infrastructure and building standards
- Transport infrastructure
- Energy infrastructure

## 4.6. Economy

- Resilience of firms, notably SMEs and supply chains
- Fiscal sustainability
- Financial markets stability

# Climate-resilient landscapes

- Land planning and management focused on ecosystem services recovery
- Simultaneous measures on water retention on the whole surface, soil regeneration, and forest resilience
- [Prague Appeal](#) - a part of the Environment Council conclusions of October 2022
- Guidance on the development of resilient landscapes shall be designed together with Member States
- **Input to the debate on 2027+ CAP**



[Link to the brochure](#)

# Food Security in EUCRA = the problem

## Key identified risks to:

- Crop production – adverse weather
- Livestock production – pest & diseases
- Fisheries & aquaculture - warming and acidification of oceans
- Food processing and supply chains
- Food security – ↓ affordability + supply disruptions outside EU ↑ prices in EU



*Crops fail during a drought (Getty Images/iStockphoto)*

# Food Security in the Communication = the solution

## Examples of key EU actions proposed:

- Futureproofing of EU food production
  - climate change resilience (through CAP SP)
  - soil health monitoring reinforcement
  - diversification of food production
  - reward for ecosystems services protection
- Fisheries
  - Common Fisheries Policy to integrate climate impacts



Source: On the farm radio

# Chapter 5: Next steps

## International dimension

- EU will exchange with international partners for mutual learning in various fora.
- Possible international event in 2025 about managing climate risks.

## Political framing

Not an endpoint: building resilience requires concerted action and Commission will continue to work with all to take this forward.

Thank you for your kind attention!