

2022

# CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE DEFENCE SECTOR- SURVEY REPORT



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# INTRODUCTION

Since November 2021, EUROMIL has joined the European Climate Pact through a pledge to promote and advocate for the reduction of CO2 emissions coming from the military; Militaries are huge emitters and by making changes on how they are operating, their environmental footprint could be reduced. For instance, the replacement of fuel tanks with electric ones, the recycling of military uniforms and a broader use of renewable energy sources could significantly cut the emissions coming from the military.

EUROMIL, through its commitment to the European Climate Pact is aiming to raise awareness concerning the underdiscussed and often ignored role of the military in climate change. It should also not be forgotten that climate change has a severe effect on soldiers' health and capacity during missions and operations. Thus, more cooperation, information exchange and transparency between governments are necessary to reduce militaries' carbon emissions, improve their efficacy and protect soldiers' health.

Hence, the purpose of this survey is to provide an overview of the actions that European governments are taking towards sustainability in the military, the needs that military associations and trade unions are taking towards sustainability in the defence sector and the actions that they are taking.

# MAIN RESULTS

The majority (54%) of the participants indicated that their government is taking steps towards the "greening of the military" through:

- Use of solar panels
- Recycling of used equipment, uniforms and materials
- Use of electric vehicles

Besides, AOFA (Portugal) highlighted that the Air Base No. 5 (BA5) was awarded the 27th National Defence and Environment Award with the application "The Base for Carbon Neutrality". This project has a particular focus on the relevance of renewable energy and energy efficiency, combined with mitigation actions against greenhouse gases, representing an excellent contribution to the integration of environmental concerns in military activities.

Furthermore, in Germany, the Armed Forces have continuously reduced their greenhouse gas emissions over the past 30 years. In March 2021, the Ministry of Defence and the Federal Ministry of the Interior announced in a position paper that they would promote the use of synthetic fuels and intensify research. In the period 2005-2019, annual CO2 emissions in military mobility fell from 1.18 million tonnes to 0.63 million tonnes, a decrease to 46.6 per cent. By the end of 2019, the Bundeswehr was able to install 162 electric charging stations in its properties. With the introduction of free rail travel for soldiers, the concept of sustainability was also taken into account and considerable CO2 savings potential could be made.

Lastly, in Ireland, one of the state goals of their Engineer Corps is to drive the sustainability agenda within the Defence Forces working to achieve the targets set out in the EU Green Deal (climate neutrality by 2050), as well as the overarching aims of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Since 2009, the Defence Forces have reduced carbon emissions by almost a third, and hence become the only military organisation worldwide that have achieved the Certified International Energy Management Standard ISO 50001.

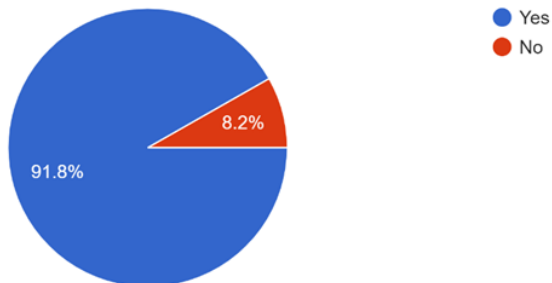
Despite these positive developments, 44% of the participated military associations and/or trade unions are still not part of the discussion.

***While 54% of the participants highlighted that their governments are taking actions towards sustainability in the military, 44% of the participated military associations and/or trade unions are not part of the discussions.***

Besides, almost 92% of the participants indicated that they would be interested in EUROMIL's assistance to become more engaged into the topic of climate change and the role of the defence sector.

Would you like EUROMIL to become more engaged into the discussion about the climate change and the defence sector, for example by organizing ...ign to further raise awareness towards the issue?

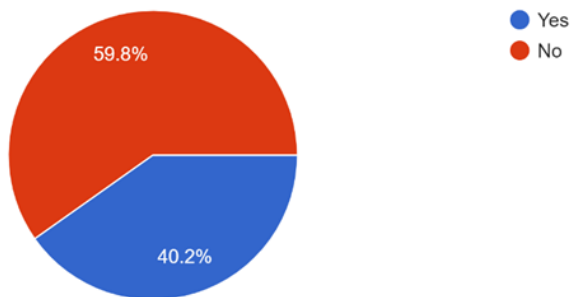
97 responses



Lastly, and despite that from the answers given European governments are taking steps towards sustainability in the military, almost 60% of the participants stated that their organization is not planning to occupy energy efficient buildings according to the goals of the EU Green Deal and EU Climate law.

Is your association planning to occupy/ is already occupying, energy efficient buildings according to the goals of the EU Green Deal and EU Climate law?

97 responses



# CONCLUSION

This report indicates that more work needs to be done in order to obtain a fully fledged appreciation of the actions that governments are taking towards sustainability in the military and whether these actions will lead to the necessary results.

The experiences of soldiers from the field are often neglected; by reaching out and discussing with people taking part in missions and operations we can achieve a real understanding of climate change effects on soldiers' health. To that extent, the European Union through its Climate Change and Defence Roadmap from the European External Action Service (EEAS), and the workings of the European Defence Agency is moving towards the right direction, but a more multi dimensional cooperation is needed.

# PARTICIPANTS

1. ACMP-CGPM, Belgium
2. AFMP, the Netherlands
3. AOFA, Portugal
4. AP - Associação de Praças, Portugal
5. Armed Forces of Malta (AFM), Malta
6. ASSODIPRO, Italy
7. Central Association of Permanent Defence Personnel (CS), Denmark
8. Deutscher BundeswehrVerband e.V., Germany
9. GS UPOIP NEZAVISNOST, Serbia
10. PFEARFU, Greece
11. RACO, Ireland



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