



**European Economic and Social Committee**  
Rue Belliard 99, 1000 Brussels

**24 October 2019**


Responding to the impact of a changing climate on international, regional, national, environmental and human security requires an all-of-society / all-of-government approach.

The conference will use a multi-stakeholder, multi-level approach to help further raise awareness of the climate-security nexus and highlight the role of the defence community in assessing the risks to stability and peace, the role of civil-military cooperation in climate change mitigation and adaptation, and the role of state and non-state actors in addressing the implications of climate change for military personnel.

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*Organised by the Environment & Development Resource Centre (EDRC) and the European Organisation of Military Associations and Trade Unions (EUROMIL) in association with the Brussels Dialogue on Climate Diplomacy (BDCD) and the Global Military Advisory Council on Climate Change (GMACCC) with the support of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), Switzerland*



 Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
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**Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA**

## **BACKGROUND & OBJECTIVES**

Climate change can affect the traditional work of military personnel in several ways:

- The very nature of the work might change (i.e. response to natural disasters, protection of critical infrastructure such as water and food supplies, etc.)
- The circumstances of the work might change (i.e. extreme heat, wider spreading of diseases, etc.)
- The nature of conflicts might change (i.e. more globalized, impact of human displacement and migration flows, conflict over land, water, and other resources, etc.)
- The equipment of soldiers might change (i.e. wearable devices producing and requiring energy, etc.)

The event will bring together stakeholders from different institutions (EU, NATO, SHAPE, UN, OSCE, national departments of defence, foreign ministries and embassies, military trade unions and professional associations, academia, think tanks and NGOs to:

- Raise awareness about the ways in which climate change impacts security challenges.
- Exchange views of different stakeholders on what needs to be done to understand and address how the climate-security nexus effects military personnel:
  - How does / will climate change affect the tasks carried out by military personnel?
  - How do training and education need to be changed / adapted to prepare military personnel for these new tasks?
  - Which roles can trade unions play to facilitate / drive the transition?
  - Which investments need to be made to support the changes, provide the best equipment and protect personnel?
- Develop ideas on how to further work on these issues in a coordinated way.

## PROGRAMME AGENDA

**24 October 2019**

09:00 Arrival of Participants / Registration / Welcome Coffee

09:30 **Session 1: Opening and Welcoming Remarks by the Organisers**

[Emmanuel Jacob](#), President, European Organisation of Military Associations and Trade Unions

[Martin Siecker](#), Member, European Economic and Social Committee

[Yvan Keckeis](#), Senior Policy Officer, Directorate of Political Affairs, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), Switzerland

09:45 **Session 2: Keynote Addresses**

***The Need for a Holistic, Prevention-oriented and Conflict-sensitive Approach*** by [Céline Charveriat](#), Executive Director, Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP)

***Peace and Security in a Changing Climate*** by [Jamie Shea](#), Secretary-General, Global Military Advisory Council on Climate Change (GMACCC) / Former Deputy Assistant Secretary General, Emerging Security Challenges, NATO

10:00 **Session 3: The Climate-Security Nexus: Reviewing the State of Play**

Moderator: [Alexander Verbeek](#), Policy Director, Environment & Development Resource Centre (EDRC) / Founder, Institute for Planetary Security

Speakers: ***Interdependent Challenges require Integrated Solutions*** by [Rear Admiral \(ret\) Neil Morisetti](#), RN, Honorary Professor and Vice-Dean (Public Policy) Faculty of Engineering Sciences, University College London / Member, Global Military Advisory Council on Climate Change

***From Awareness to Action: The French MoD Experience in Climate Security*** by [Nicolas Regaud](#), Special Representative to the Indo-Pacific, Ministère des Armées, France

***Climate Change and Security in the OSCE Context*** by [Esra Buttanri](#), Senior Sustainable Development Adviser, Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA), Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

10:45 Discussion

11:00 Coffee Break

11:30 **Session 4: Looking beyond Europe and Learning from Partners**

Moderator: [Ronald A. Kingham](#), Executive Director, Environment & Development Resource Centre (EDRC) / Coordinator, GMACCC

Speakers: ***Rising Seas and Rising Risks*** by [Major General ANM Muniruzzaman](#) (Ret.), Chairman, Global Military Advisory Council on Climate Change (GMACCC) / President, Bangladesh Institute for Peace and Security Studies (BIPSS)

***When Fragile States Face Climate Stress: Taking Action on Compound Climate-Fragility Risks*** by [Ashley McIlvain Moran](#), Director, State Fragility Initiative, Robert Strauss Center for International Security and Law, University of Texas at Austin

12:45 Discussion

13:00 Lunch Break

14:00 **Session 5: Effects of the Changing Security Landscape for Military Installations, Operations and Personnel**

Moderator: [Richard Brewin](#), International Capability Development & Sustainability Fellow, Ministry of Defence, UK / Former Project Officer, Energy & Environment Systems / Former Chair Energy and Environment Working Group, European Defence Agency (EDA)

Speakers: ***Changes in Training and Equipment and the role of the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO)*** by [Dirk Dubois](#), Head, European Security and Defence College (ESDC)

***Climate Change and Impact on Military Operations- Status quo, Integration of Scenarios and Operational Planning Processes*** by [Lt. Colonel, Rene Heise](#), Atmosphere Physicist, Head of Section, Geo Support - Flight Systems, Air Operations Command - Geoinformation Center, German Air Force / Former Section Head, METOC SPOPS, Allied Command Operation, SHAPE

***The Value of the Ecosystem Approach for Military Operations*** by [Major Pieter Wit](#), (Ret.) Director/owner, Syzygy - consultancy on Conservation-cum-Development / Former Chair, IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management and Former Member, IUCN Council / Member, Global Military Advisory Council on Climate Change (GMACCC)

***Challenges of Climate Change and Mitigation and Adaptation Policies for Trade Unions*** by [Béla Galgóczi](#), Senior Researcher, European Trade Union Institute (ETUI)

15:15 Discussion

15:45 **Concluding Remarks and Outlook by the Organisers**

[Emmanuel Jacob](#), President, European Organisation of Military Associations and Trade Unions

[Alexander Verbeek](#), Policy Director, Environment & Development Resource Centre / Founder, Institute for Planetary Security

[Ronald A. Kingham](#), Executive Director, EDRC / Coordinator, GMACCC

16:00 Closing of the Conference

## ABOUT THE CO-ORGANISERS

The **European Organisation of Military Associations and Trade Unions** ([EUROMIL](#)) is an umbrella organisation composed of 34 military associations and trade unions from 22 countries. It is the main Europe-wide forum for cooperation among professional military associations on issues of common concern.

The **Environment & Development Resource Centre** ([EDRC](#)) is an international NGO serving as a catalyst for new initiatives to redress shortcomings in the international environment-development-security policy-making process. EDRC is the coordinating body for the BDCD and GMACCC.

The **Global Military Advisory Council on Climate Change** ([GMACCC](#)) is a global network of serving and retired military officers, and associated institutions, committed to highlighting the potential security implications of a changing climate and advocating action, including by the military, to minimise the risk.

The **Brussels Dialogue on Climate Diplomacy** ([BDCD](#)) is an informal network for the exchange of information and to promote cooperation among European institutions, international organisations and think tanks active in the nexus between climate change and international, national, human and environmental security.

## CONTACTS

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