



European Organisation of
Military Associations and
Trade Unions

Brussels, Belgium
<http://euromil.org/>

EUROMIL Pledge – Progress update

At the end of September 2021, EUROMIL made a pledge with the European Climate Pact to promote sustainability and climate efficiency in the military. Thus, during the past year EUROMIL has been devoted in promoting sustainable practices in the military and the inclusion of climate change in the defence planning. At the beginning of 2022, we conducted an internal survey entitled "[Climate Change and the Defence Sector](#)" to gain a better overview of the national policies and the level of participation of military associations and/or trade unions in the discussions. The results of the survey showed that 54% of the participants highlighted that their governments are taking actions towards sustainability in the military, while 44% of the participated military associations and/or trade unions are not part of the discussions.

Following the survey, EUROMIL organized – in cooperation with GMACCC - an [online panel discussion](#) on climate change and the role of the military. The discussion evolved around EU's actions towards the 'greening' of the military and civil society's point of view on what should be done next, while the need for transparency by the national authorities on military's emissions was deemed as essential.

To continue, on 25 of March, the EU's Strategic Compass for security and defence was endorsed by the EU heads of states and governments. The Strategic Compass underscores that the EU is planning to introduce sustainability actions into the defence sector and into its Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions and operations, following the goal of becoming climate neutral by 2050. In this regard, EUROMIL [welcomed](#) the adoption of the Strategic Compass. After the adoption of the Compass, we also organised a [series of podcasts](#) to explain and scrutinize critical aspects of the document, including climate change.

Moving forward, NATO adopted in June, during the Madrid Summit, its new Strategic Concept, which also highlights that the alliance will adapt to climate change by reducing the military's environmental footprint. EUROMIL [welcomed](#) this development, but we also joined the Conflict and Environment Observatory (CEOBS) at its [call for action](#) concerning NATO's commitment into cutting military emissions.

In the meantime, EUROMIL continue publishing articles concerning the impact that the military has on climate change and vice versa, either at its [website](#), or in cooperation with [partners](#). Lastly, on 20-21 October 2022, EUROMIL held its [126th General Assembly](#) in Berlin and climate change was widely discussed. More precisely, invited speakers as Dr. Veronica Bock, Director of the Center for Ethical Education in the Armed Forces (zebis), and Philipp Zeller, Chairman of the Board of BundeswehrGrün, explained how climate change acts as a threat multiplier, and that proper education for military personnel is essential.



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Consequently, our actions to promote climate efficiency and sustainability in the military have gained a new momentum, since governments have started including climate change in their defence planning. It is important to note that the most valuable lesson learned throughout the process of implementing our commitments, is that cooperation and collective work is necessary to achieve tangible results. Hence, and despite that we have had success in fulfilling our goals for the past year – a success that we would not have had without our partners – more work needs to be done. Two of the main challenges that we have identified is to raise awareness among military personnel who often believe that military emissions and climate efficiency in the defence sector falls out of their scope and for the governments to quickly and sufficiently implement the objectives of the Strategic Compass and the Strategic Concept in relation to climate change.

Hence, for the next months our work will continue focusing on advocating for sustainability in the military at a European level, while also engaging with the national authorities in that matter. EUROMIL also commits that by the end of 2023 its Brussels office will be based at a climate efficient building.