



RENFORCER  
L'ACTION CLIMAT

## Public consultation of the European Commission for the revision of the European adaptation strategy.

**Contribution from the association Climate Chance,  
based on exchanges with its network of associated non-state  
structures, from the work of the 2025 Marseille Summit and  
the consultation webinar of February 2026.**

**This contribution summarizes and supplements the first contribution  
published after the Climate Chance Summit in Marseille (1500  
participants) and takes up the priorities of the Marseille Declaration on  
strengthening cooperation with Africa, signed by a hundred  
organizations including the main European networks of local  
authorities and NGOs.**

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## 1. A priority measure to size adaptation policies.

- **Integration of a reference trajectory for Europe:** Adopt at the EU level a single reference trajectory on Climate Change (TRACC) with a horizon of 20, 50 and 75 years, allowing all the actors to have the same analysis and sizing of the actions to be taken.

This trajectory, calculated on the basis of States' commitments (determined national contributions presented at the 2021 Glasgow COPs and 2025 Belem COPs) and IPCC projections, thus corresponds to a global trajectory of +3 degrees during the 21st century, to decline at the scale of the different European territories.

## 2. Strengthen the systemic approach to adaptation challenges

- **Integration of the “adaptation reflex” within the European institutions:** Systematically integrate adaptation into any European public policy, environmental legal framework or financial programs.
- **Integration of the notion of “Build Back Better” - all over Europe:** “Build Back Better” systematically, working towards a recovery strategy that does not just repair the damage but takes advantage of the reconstruction phase to reduce future vulnerability, strengthen the resilience of infrastructures, buildings, networks..., regenerate social organizations and restore the environment.
- **Highlight the visibility of the cost of inaction and maladaptation** to objectify the cost of adaptation and the resulting savings, particularly the positive social and environmental impacts.

## 3. Towards a resilient economy: Mobilizing the insurance sector and financing for climate adaptation.

- **Make adaptation a real priority in the next European budget,** propose tools for aggregating these different financial intervention mechanisms to be able to present a true European adaptation budget.
- **Facilitate funding for local authorities and maintain direct funding windows.**
- **Strengthening of the combined financing mechanisms** of the regional funds, cohesion funds and investments of the European Investment Bank.
- **Increase the funding of training programmes at territorial level to meet the tangible need for adaptation skills of all actors on the ground,** such as those financed by the European Investment Bank (EIB).
- **Create a cash advance mechanism for climate shock territories,** to help communities affected by extreme weather events advance reconstruction costs, integrating the "Build Back Better".
- **Mobilise climate adaptation “income” :** Ensure that the national revenues of the European Emissions Trading Systems (EU ETS) and the income of the Border Climate Adjustment Mechanism (BACT) are mobilised towards adaptation policies.
- **Strengthen the comparative analyses of Member States' financial adaptation strategies:** Create comparative analysis grids between countries to better understand their management of European funding at the national and territorial scales and the use of national carbon market revenues.
- **Reform the European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority (EIOPA):** Engage in reflection with stakeholders to improve risk coverage and preserve equality between citizens and territories, by not leaving them without an insurance solution.
- **Define financing mechanisms, through the insurance system, for the additional costs of adaptation work** following the 'Build Back Better' principle after a natural disaster.
- **Strengthen the role of public and private collaboration in Europe:** Around geolocated data, local prevention projects and adjustment of premiums based on adaptation efforts, cross-incentives mechanisms (type of EU-wide harmonisation for bonuses and malus in bonuses according to the local preventive actions carried out).
- **Integrate adaptation into public tenders:** Through adaptation criteria in the European directives governing the award of public contracts, by integrating the TRACC.
- **Create a performance audit for adaptation funding,** with proper monitoring of all adaptation-related investments.

#### 4. Building infrastructures adapted to climate and technological challenges: spatial planning, construction and housing, urban planning and mobility.

- **Strengthen the thermal renovation of the building:** Develop an ESF+ programme in favour of thermal renovation, integrating summer comfort. Operationalize the directive on energy performance of buildings by integrating adaptation into the energy renovation plan.
- **Integrating adaptation into the European plan for affordable housing.**
- **Strengthen cold/hot networks:** Create a European roadmap for the development of these networks, renovate existing networks, particularly in Central Europe.
- **Fight against urban overheating:** Support, through dedicated European programmes, a strategy to combat heat islands, including widespread local diagnostics, cooling actions and strategies on building standards.
- **Strengthen construction standards:** Integrate adaptation into the next revision of the directive in relation to building and civil engineering issues (Eurocodes) and integrate adaptation into national building renovation plans.
- **Integrating biodiversity and nature-based solutions at the heart of adaptation:** Systematically take global warming into account in restoring biodiversity, while providing for ecological continuities that allow ecosystems to adapt to global warming. Develop dedicated funding mechanisms, in line with the European strategy for nature restoration.
- **Fight against coastal erosion:** Launch a major European study under the aegis of TRACC (no major study since the 2004 EuroSION project), combining climate modelling, satellite data and field feedback, to map risk areas and evaluate the effectiveness of existing solutions. Adopt unified coasts projecting the rise of waters on the different European coastlines.
- **Fight against flooding:** Revise the next flood directive of 2007 which will end in 2027 and integrate adaptation measures into the revision of this directive (increase in NBS, means for risk management...) with dedicated funding and regulatory tools (building standards, development plans) and solidarity mechanisms between Member States.
- **Adapting tourism in Europe:** Conduct an evaluation of the European Programme for Tourism 2030; make European funding conditional on the existence of a local adaptation strategy, with specific support for mountain municipalities in Europe, bring them towards a viable and sustainable activity all year round. Support studies to better understand the impact of tourism-related water overconsumption.
- **Strengthen the resilience of European public transport:** Adopt a 5th railway package dedicated to adapting the European rail network to climate change and prioritize adaptation funding on TEN-T axes.

#### 5. To ensure the continent's independence and security, implement energy, water and agricultural resilience in Europe.

- **Implement the water resilience strategy of 4 June 2025 in its intersectoral approach,** especially in the agricultural field and create watershed committees for cross-border governance. Revise the water management framework after the 2026 European Environment Agency report and the recommendation 'prioritize the rational use of water' in 2027.
- **Explicitly integrate adaptation and resilience objectives into the upcoming review process of the Water Framework Directive (Directive 2000/60/EC):** By ensuring their dissemination and systematic consideration in water management policies and practices.
- **Adapting electricity networks:** Encourage transmission system operators who are members of the ENTSO-e coordination mechanism to adopt adaptation plans, in particular under the Connecting Europe Facility.
- **Adapt agriculture in Europe:** Modify the CAP with regard to adaptation issues, by funding vulnerability studies of agricultural soils and supporting farmers in adjusting their farms, for the redefinition of value chains, by prioritizing short circuits and agroecology which improves the resilience of farms.
- **Food and territories:** Through the Adaptation Mission, support local short-circuit food projects and collaboration between urban and rural areas, with particular attention to OCTs and ORs.
- Integrate adaptation into the implementation of the next Industrial Accelerator Act (IAA), in view of the next European adaptation strategy.

## 6. European resilience: Integrating social equity into climate change adaptation.

- **Adapt working conditions:** Create a European directive on work in extreme climatic conditions, with an imposition of temperature thresholds beyond which certain outdoor activities should be adjusted or suspended.
- **Mainstreaming gender equality:** Integrate the 8 principles and objectives of the Roadmap for women's rights into the future European action plan for adaptation.
- **Adapting the security of employment basins and sectors to the climate in Europe:** Implementing a European adaptation strategy for job security according to the most vulnerable regions and economic sectors.
- **Adapt to health issues:** Develop a cross-cutting European strategy around the concept of 'One Health' (education, knowledge sharing, obvious link between human, animal and plant health with a systematisation of actors). Pay particular attention to fragile, precarious or elderly populations.

## 7. Create innovative tools, improve research and reporting.

- **Mapping risks for European territories:** Carry out risk mapping at local level in a harmonized manner at the European scale (common nomenclature, similar classification).
- **Support the creation of sectoral agencies dedicated to supporting territories for adaptation:** Develop agencies like Cerema in France at the EU level.
- **Strengthen innovation and climate research:** Highlight a network of climate innovation incubators involving non-state actors, with the European Committee of the Regions and the Mission 100 climate neutral cities.
- **Implement inclusive tools:** Develop unified indicators of territorial adaptation and disseminate methodologies to conduct vulnerability studies at the local level, taking into account territorial diversities.
- **Amplifying research:** Strengthening research programs in adaptation: prioritizing the vulnerability of European systems, the 'One Health' approach, the benefits of SFNs, the impact of climate change on large natural ecosystems and oceans.
- **Meteorological data:** Strengthening of European meteorological structures, the European Space Agency and ECMWF have only a part of the Member States within them, ensuring that there are all Member States.
- **The global implementation of the 'climate stress test':** Strengthen the implementation of the 'climate stress tests' in Europe, in order to enhance the quality and availability of data, better adapted time horizons (risks over several decades) to better understand the continent's robustness, in connection with the ECB's 2024 'best practices' guide and the common framework on ESG stress tests of 2026.
- **Defend the maintenance of the CSRD and CS3D directives,** and their proper application, necessary for the mobilization of the economic world and the strengthening of knowledge and good practices.

## 8. Strengthen international cooperation between neighboring continents: Europe and Africa.

- **Maintaining by the EU a strong budgetary ambition helping the African continent to face its climate challenges.**
- **Maintain the overall level of official development assistance, increase the share dedicated to adaptation financing, including support for local engineering.**
- **Strengthening of European funding for research in Africa:** With resources commensurate with the challenges of developing African research, allowing the co-construction of academic and non-academic partnerships, and numerous priorities (agriculture, weather forecasts, construction, energy...).
- **Create a framework for the exchange of climate data between Europe and Africa,** facilitating open access to data on climate risks, improving the forecasting capabilities of African nations.

- **Strengthening of financial and technical support to preserve and develop Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) on the African continent:** By involving local communities and knowledge, with equal integration of women. Based on the Nature-Africa programmes.
- **Strengthen the decentralized cooperation between Africa and Europe:** A valuable tool for strengthening territorial public action, with particular attention to urban planning, housing and risks. Value a close association with the inhabitants, especially women, young people, and communities far from decision-making centres.
- **Strengthen the sharing of good practices between the two continents:** Strengthen networking, sessions dedicated to adaptation, major meetings between stakeholders, strengthening initiatives such as the Alliance of Francophone Cities for Climate or the Covenant of Mayors.

## 9. Mobilize European society.

- **Strengthen European citizen participation in these issues:** Ensure close involvement of citizens and civil society organisations in the definition of adaptation policies, mobilise them to spread a collective culture of adaptation and understanding of the issues.
- **Develop a thematic event program,** a "year of adaptation" on the model of the "year of rail".
- **Involve European youth in the next strategy:** Integrate adaptation into the 11 objectives of the EU Strategy towards Youth 2019-2027.