

Online Session of 4 February 2026

Webinar 1 : “Revision of the European Adaptation Strategy 2026 – Consultation with Members and Integration of the ‘Adaptation Reflex’ and a Shared Trajectory”

Summary of Conclusions

1. Context

This online session aimed to **exchange views with the Climate Chance network and the members of the Adaptation Europe International Coalition** on the contribution that will be submitted to the European Commission, with a view to shaping the next European adaptation strategy for 2026.

This document is set within the context of the revision of the EU Adaptation Strategy planned for the end of 2026, as well as the negotiation of the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for 2028–2034.

Discussions also focused on the integration of the “adaptation reflex” (“resilience by design”) across all European Union public policies, with concrete proposals and indicators compatible with EU competences.

2. Introductory Remarks by the President and the Director of Climate Chance Ronan Dantec and Vaia Tuuhia

- **Ronan Dantec (Climate Chance)**

- **Emphasised the importance of 2026 for adaptation issues** in Europe : 2026 is a key year at the European level, as it marks the finalisation of the future strategy.
- **A specific geopolitical context** : strong priority given to security, another priority given to competitiveness, the reform of cohesion funds, and a change in the budgetary framework.
- **Nature of the proposals**: there is a need to present very precise recommendations that are directly **operational, actionable, and adapted** to the current European framework.
- **Role of civil society in the strategy**: civil society cannot write the strategy in place of the Commission, and work is being carried out in a “semi-blind” manner, as the Commission has not planned to share a draft before publication at the end of the year. It is therefore necessary to directly challenge the institutions at the next European Summit.
- **Adaptation is rising in European priorities and appears less threatened than other climate policies (with decarbonisation still perceived as a brake on**

prosperity).

- **Vaia Tuuhia (Climate Chance)**

- **The European Commission has brought competitiveness back to the forefront by commissioning the Draghi report and proposing the Industrial Accelerator Act at the end of February. The priorities anticipated for the future strategy logically focus on infrastructure, access to resources, and energy security.** Public-private partnerships will be pivotal in the future strategy.
- **The need to bring together local actors around the implementation of the “adaptation reflex” : adaptation is a systemic approach whose positive externalities are assessed at the territorial level.** This reinforces the idea of subsidiarity supported by Climate Chance members and acknowledged by the Commission.
- **Federating non-state actors**, in an uncertain geopolitical context and in light of this future revision of the strategy, remains a major challenge.
- Cooperation, particularly EU-Africa cooperation, a component promoted at the Marseille Summit, has been reconsidered by DG CLIMA within the scope of its future proposals. The network’s future contribution will integrate alliances with Africa, taking into account innovative financing mechanisms to be included.
- This consultation marks the beginning of our collaboration this year, culminating in the Summit, about which we will follow up with you.

- **Yotam Yagour (Climate Chance)**

- **Presentation of Climate Chance’s recommendations** for the European public consultation, in view of the next strategy.

3. The Three Pillars of the Future European Adaptation Strategy for the Climate Chance Network

- **The adaptation reflex** : systematic integration of adaptation into all European public policies, as well as into the European legal framework (“resilience by design”).
- **A shared reference trajectory for the European Union at +4°C**, in line with IPCC recommendations.
- The **“Build Back Better”** principle: systematically rebuilding better, by implementing a recovery strategy that does not merely repair damage, but uses the reconstruction phase to reduce future vulnerability, strengthen the resilience of infrastructure, buildings and networks, and regenerate social organisations and the environment within Member States and European institutions.

Note: The TRACC was introduced into the Environmental Code on 26 January 2026 by decree, while climate warming levels were defined by ministerial order → TRACC therefore becomes an official legal reference for climate change adaptation in public policies.

4. European Financing: Strong Concerns Regarding the New Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF)?

- **Ronan Dantec (Climate Chance)**
 - **Concerns in particular about the possible disappearance or transformation of certain funds dedicated to territories or thematic programmes financing territories**, as well as the recentralisation of funding by Member States.
 - **Risk : loss of European territorial cohesion.**
 - **Climate Chance's strong commitment to defending the maintenance of local funding → the Climate Chance network has revised its priorities** in line with the current challenges faced by the European Commission, notably by aligning **resilience objectives with security objectives on the continent (independence, energy sovereignty, agricultural resilience, etc.).**
- **Andrea Ferret-Lambert (French Office for Biodiversity – OFB)**
 - Concern about a new budgetary architecture without an explicit return of existing funds.
 - **The objective of allocating 35% of funding to climate and the environment is maintained, but to what extent?**
 - Concern also about the reopening of certain texts that could lead to a dismantling of current policies and weaken environmental policy → **the OFB would like a budget dedicated to adaptation in biodiversity, along with reporting frameworks and associated indicators to revise regulations.**
 - Importance of highlighting links between resilience and competitiveness.
- **Valentine Huet (Vinci)**
 - Vinci contributed to PNACC 3, and the future European adaptation strategy remains a major issue.
 - **The overarching idea of “stress-testing”** different adaptation investments is extremely important in order to prioritise them in the mobility, construction and housing sectors, and to make positive and negative externalities visible.

5. Integration of Territorial Issues in the Next Strategy?

- **Carla Doncescu (National Federation of Urban Planning Agencies – FNAU)**
 - **Notes the absence of an urban chapter in the current strategy.** Highlights the importance of national dialogue to bring forward concerns related to territorial impacts of climate disruption.
- **Léo Lenoir (City of Marseille)**
 - **Presentation of the [municipal adaptation plan](#) adopted following the [Climate Chance Europe–Africa Summit in 2025](#).**
 - A municipal plan **aligned with Climate Chance advocacy recommendations: TRACC +4°C and the adaptation reflex.**
 - Multiple challenges for the local authority : drought, flooding and health.

- **What Marseille expects from the EU** : recognition of local work, coordination with the PNACC, and support, notably through the EIB (as for housing and mobility), as well as monitoring through **the EU Adaptation Mission and the “100 Climate-Neutral Cities” award.**
- **Nicolas Beaupied (Cerema)**
 - The EU Adaptation Mission highlights the role of adaptation hubs in **supporting local authorities, fostering public-private partnerships and facilitating access to financing, by guiding stakeholders towards appropriate EU instruments.**
 - France is identified as being ahead in this type of support and is heavily solicited by similar organisations in other Member States.

6. Key Areas of Attention for Network Members

A need for particular attention was identified in the following areas :

- Sustainable financing for adaptation, particularly **around public-private partnerships.**
 - Mobilisation of the **insurance sector.**
 - Greater visibility on the **cost of climate inaction.**
 - **Tools such as “stress tests”** to encourage adaptation investments.
 - **The major challenge of agriculture**, a key issue of resilience and sovereignty to be highlighted at the next Summit.
 - **Social justice**, as the cornerstone of any strategy to ensure coherence for populations.
 - **Cross-cutting work between Commission DGs for the global application of the “adaptation reflex”.**
 - **The reopening of major directives** such as the Water Framework Directive, an issue monitored by the Committee of the Regions.
- **Yann Françoise (Villes & Climats Expert)**
 - The **social and equity dimension (social justice, extreme working conditions)** has not yet been sufficiently addressed in the current strategy → it needs to be strengthened.
- **Adèle Tanguy (IDDRI – Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations)**
 - **Questions regarding the cross-cutting nature of activities between DG CLIMA and other Commission DGs** (DG Research, DG REGIO, etc.).
 - Questions regarding the role of ongoing exchanges between the European Commission and think tanks, etc. **What are the real margins for manoeuvre?**
 - **Questions regarding the actual place of “resilience by design”** in the future strategy.
- **Inès Tixier (French Water Partnership)**

- Informed by Water Europe of the possibility that the **Water Framework Directive may be reopened by the European Commission.**

- **Bernard Soulage (Secretary General of Climate Chance)**

- **The need to focus on the public–private axis, particularly for infrastructure, as well as the importance of insurance.**
- Construction of the future strategy in **several stages** :
 1. Each Member State puts its demands on the table → for example, France does not want changes to the CAP.
 2. Overall objective of maintaining 35% of the budget dedicated to climate in the future MFF.
 3. Moving into concrete terms: indicators and topics directly linked to the strategy—how to make proposals, notably through the European Committee of the Regions?
 4. Many countries argue against these policies in the name of subsidiarity.

- **Eva Radek (French Office for Biodiversity – OFB)**

- **Highlights the need to consistently mention Nature-based Solutions** as a pragmatic and essential element for ensuring adaptation at all scales.

- **Claire Roumet (Energy Cities)**

- **Stresses the importance of aligning with cross-sectoral issues and local governments. The concept of “resilience by design”** should not be fully conflated with the “adaptation reflex”, which, although aligned in intent, is not exactly the same.

- **Claire Tutenuit (Entreprises Pour l’Environnement – EPE)**

- **Highlights the importance of integrating biodiversity–climate** linkages as a key component, notably: taking climate warming into account in biodiversity restoration; anticipating ecological continuities that enable ecosystems and different habitats and animal and plant species to adapt to warming; systematically promoting nature-based solutions for climate change adaptation, as they are generally less emissive than artificial solutions and often also less costly; finally, accelerating the agroecological transition, which improves the resilience of agricultural holdings.