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8 July 2026

Dear President, dear Executive Vice-President, dear Commissioners,

We, the undersigned Members of the Greens/EFA Group in the European Parliament, write to set out our expectations for the upcoming integrated European framework for climate resilience and risk management. Europe is grappling with another early-summer heatwave, with temperatures exceeding 40°C across the continent, renewed pressure on health systems, and drought conditions tightening across the Mediterranean basin. Europe is the fastest-warming continent on Earth, and the events of this summer are a direct expression of that trajectory.

The first European Climate Risk Assessment (EUCRA), published by the European Environment Agency in March 2024, set out the scale of what Europe now faces. It identified 36 principal climate risks across five clusters: ecosystems, food, health, infrastructure, and economy and finance. Of these, the assessment found that more than half already demand more action, and that eight require urgent action, including three that have reached a critical level: risks to coastal and marine ecosystems, risks to people and economies from coastal and inland flooding, and the strain that heat places on health and on outdoor labour. EUCRA further warns that, even under optimistic warming scenarios, climate-related economic losses are projected to mount steeply, and that Europe's policies and adaptation efforts are not keeping pace with the speed at which these risks are growing. The heat now affecting millions of Europeans is precisely the hazard EUCRA flagged as critical.

We welcome the Commission's commitment to present a dedicated framework for climate resilience. This ambition must be translated into binding and measurable obligations. We therefore call on the Commission to ensure that the Framework delivers on the following pillars:

Mainstream climate resilience across EU legislation. Enshrine the objective of mainstreaming climate adaptation across all policies and funding programmes, so that resilience becomes a binding consideration in regulatory and budgetary design rather than a voluntary add-on. In practice this means that major spending instruments, from cohesion and agricultural funds to transport, energy and research programmes, should be required to demonstrate that they do not increase climate vulnerability and, where relevant,

actively reduce it. Member States' national adaptation plans should in turn be required to include dedicated financing lines, so that resilience measures are funded commitments rather than unfunded mandates.

Embed resilience principles as legal criteria. Establish a clear set of resilience principles as fundamental criteria against which policies and investments are assessed, including the avoidance of maladaptation, a cross-sectoral approach that reflects the cascading nature of climate risk, a guarantee that adaptation measures never hinder mitigation, the prevention of carbon- and risk-intensive lock-ins, a "build back better" standard for post-disaster recovery, the systematic strengthening of institutional robustness and learning capacity so that each response improves the next, and explicit protection of vulnerable groups who bear the heaviest burden of climate impacts while contributing least to them. These principles must be embedded as binding assessment criteria in policy and investment design, not aspirational language.

Establish a single mandatory reference scenario. Adopt a single mandatory reference scenario to underpin all EU risk assessment and adaptation planning. This scenario should project global warming reaching 1.5°C by 2030 and 2°C by mid-century and extend to 2100 to capture the divergence between emissions pathways over the design life of long-lived infrastructure. It should provide downscaled regional variables including temperature, precipitation, sea-level rise and the frequency of extreme events. A common reference removes the inconsistency and selective baselining that currently undermine comparability between Member States and sectors, and gives investors and public authorities a robust, shared planning foundation.

Set quantified, differentiated targets for the 36 EUCRA-identified risks. Translate the EUCRA findings into measurable, quantified reduction targets for each of the identified risks, prioritising the eight that require urgent action and the three already at critical level. These targets should be differentiated across Member States to reflect their distinct risk profiles (a Member State facing acute heat and drought risk requires different priorities and metrics from one facing sea-level rise or river flooding) while sitting within a common EU-level methodology and ambition. Member States should be required to adopt and implement concrete measures to meet these targets, with defined timelines, so that the Framework drives demonstrable reductions in exposure and vulnerability rather than merely cataloguing threats.

Give ecosystem-based solutions a defined role. Recognise ecosystem-based solutions as cost-effective and crucial adaptation strategies that deliver multiple co-benefits for both environmental and human well-being, from urban cooling and flood attenuation to water retention, biodiversity protection and carbon sequestration. Commissioner Hoekstra's mission letter explicitly identifies these solutions as a priority, and we expect that commitment to be carried through into a defined, funded and measurable role for them in the Framework itself, rather than a passing reference. They should be treated as front-line measures, supported by dedicated financing and rigorous outcome monitoring to ensure genuine adaptation benefit.

Adapt workers' protection to the new reality. Not all workers across Europe are equally protected against extreme heat at work. Someone at a laptop in a cool office does not feel the heat like a construction worker or a farmer. Moreover, some Member States have already introduced maximum working temperatures while others have not. Introducing common principles to adapt workers' protection to extreme temperature, in full respect of Member States' social legislation and in close dialogue with social partners, would help boost the Union single market by avoiding legal fragmentation.

Define risk ownership, cross-border cooperation, and a duty to consider. Clearly define who bears responsibility for managing each category of climate risk and cross-reference these responsibilities directly

with the EUCRA risk clusters, so that no critical risk is left without an accountable owner. This should be reinforced by a statutory ‘duty to consider’, obliging all public authorities to take climate risk explicitly into account in their decisions and to justify how they have done so. For risks that do not respect national borders, including shared river basins, transboundary flooding, coastal and marine systems, the Framework should establish dedicated coordinating structures between the Member States concerned, so that risk ownership does not stop at a national frontier.

Move from monitoring to independent evaluation. Go beyond the current emphasis on monitoring by establishing, in each Member State, an independent evaluation of climate policy underpinned by a formal government mandate. The United Kingdom's Climate Change Risk Assessment and its independent Climate Change Committee offer a proven model: expert, arms-length bodies that assess progress, identify gaps, and report publicly to legislators. Independent scrutiny of this kind is the most effective safeguard against implementation drift and adaptation existing only on paper.

EUCRA 1.0 has provided a rigorous, evidence-based map of the risks ahead. This summer's heat is a reminder that the most critical of those risks are already being felt, not merely forecast. The Climate Resilience Framework is an opportunity to respond at the scale the science demands, through obligations that are binding, targets that are measurable, and responsibilities that are clearly assigned.

We stand ready to engage constructively on the design of a Framework equal to the challenge that the evidence describes.

Yours sincerely,

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