

## MEPs say EU must urgently strengthen its climate action

- Call for EU framework on climate adaptation
- Need for a climate resilience “stress test” for key infrastructure
- Boosting EU civil protection and emergency response
- Improving food security, sustainable water and forest management

**On Thursday, Parliament adopted a set of recommendations following a summer of devastating droughts, forest fires and other extreme weather phenomena across Europe.**

MEPs adopted a resolution on increasing EU’s efforts to fight climate change by 469 votes in favour, 34 against and 44 abstentions. A [plenary debate](#) with Environment Commissioner Virginijus Sinkevičius and the Czech Presidency took place on Tuesday morning.

### **More ambition needed on mitigation and adaptation to climate change**

The EU should step up its climate mitigation work, to contain global warming to 1.5°C compared to pre-industrial levels, and its climate adaptation plans, MEPs say. They want the Commission to propose a comprehensive, ambitious and legally binding European climate adaptation framework, with particular emphasis on the EU’s most vulnerable regions. The EU should also continue to play an active role in defining a global goal for adaptation and in ensuring the international community meets its goal for international climate finance.

MEPs urge the Commission to draw up an EU-wide climate risk assessment, and to pay special attention to the risks of droughts, forest fires and health threats. They also want an EU climate resilience “stress test” for key infrastructure by summer 2023.

### **Stepping up EU’s disaster response capacity**

The text highlights the importance of advancing and fully utilising the [EU Civil Protection Mechanism](#). In light of increasingly frequent and severe climate disasters, MEPs want the new permanent [rescEU](#) fleet to be created quickly, and include with this an expansion of the current voluntary firefighting reserve. A permanent EU civil protection force is also needed, according to

MEPs.

## Priority for food storage and sustainable water use

The EU has to continue to adapt its food systems in order to make them more resilient in the long term. MEPs urge member states to create buffer stocks of strategic feed and foodstuffs and to introduce irrigation systems that do not use surface or groundwater, such as rainwater storage or wastewater recycling, in combination with efforts to reduce overall water use. In this context, the text calls on the Commission to present a comprehensive EU water strategy.

Further EU action should include an EU objective of land degradation neutrality in the EU by 2030 and an integrated response to forest fires in order to protect EU forests against the destruction caused by extreme climate events.

## Background

Parliament has played an important role in pushing for more ambitious EU climate legislation and declared a [climate emergency](#) on 28 November 2019. The EU committed to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels and to become climate neutral by 2050 through [the European Climate Law](#), and is now working on the "[Fit for 55 in 2030 package](#)" to deliver on its climate ambitions.

## Further information

[The adopted text will be available here \(15.09.2022\)](#)

[Free photos, video and audio material](#)

## Contacts

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