

Adaptation to climate change in Europe
Civil society perspectives

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Key concerns regarding climate change impacts in Europe

Opportunities presented by the Paris Agreement

How the EU can build on its existing EU Adaptation Strategy to help meet adaptation needs

The role of civil society going forward

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Overarching concerns regarding climate change impacts

Multifaceted nature of climate change means that **we need to take a 'whole economy' approach** and consider both economic & non-economic impacts and losses

Impacts **go beyond Europe's borders** – important to consider how climate change affects trade, human mobility & geopolitical risks

We **cannot de-couple adaptation needs from mitigation** and importantly, we cannot trade one off for another – ambition is needed for both

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Opportunities for adaptation in the Paris Agreement

- The Paris Agreement established a **Global Goal on Adaptation** – For the first time, adaptation was elevated to a level on par with mitigation due to the fact that impacts of climate change are already being felt

- We now need to put that Goal in motion, both internationally and **through EU and national policies** and implementation

- Use the leverage of Paris to **increase awareness** of risk and potential impacts as well as the current gaps in implementation

- Paris also calls **for increased financial support to adaptation** – applies chiefly to vulnerable countries in Global South but we need to make the argument for more support in Europe too

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How the EU can build on its existing Adaptation Strategy – Political Needs

- The EU and member states need to drive more ambition for adaptation as a whole, including improved and transparent integration of adaptation into national policy & planning

- Legally binding instrument to ensure adaptation plans are both developed and effectively implemented

- Support and enhance the efforts of cities and key sectors at the forefront of climate impacts

- Longer term views through 2050 low-carbon development plans – where does adaptation & resilience fit into the EU's 2050 roadmap?

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How the EU can build on its existing Adaptation Strategy – Substantive needs

- EU Adaptation Strategy could oblige member states to implement more robustly NAPs (with a view to review & scale them up regularly)
- Build on the services provided through tools such as Climate-ADAPT
- Earmark specific public funding for adaptation projects & potential for leveraging more investment in resilience
- Massively increase the awareness of state and non-state stakeholders; for example, **few cities** recognise the **need for transformative adaptation** or a long-term, systemic approach to anticipate future climate impacts – build on Covenant of Mayors
- Build on **ecosystem-based measures** ('green infrastructure'), with multiple benefits

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The role of civil society going forward

- CSOs will seek to engage more on the EU's adaptation strategy as it continues to be evaluated – starting with a public consultation in December

- Sectoral expertise will be provided:
  biodiversity, financial risk, the role of cities and local authorities, vulnerable and minority groups in Europe, and integration to adaptation into other EU policies

- Awareness-raising by CSOs has focused a great dead on global adaptation needs – we can explore distilling this down to Europe's risks and potential impacts

- Pursuing adaptation strategies from their conception to their implementation

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Thank you for your attention!

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