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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	AOB for the meeting of the Council (Environment) on 17 March 2026 Key principles for a balanced and effective EU Climate Resilience Framework - Information from Belgium

Belgium supports the objective of strengthening climate resilience across the European Union and recognizes the growing impacts of climate change on territories, societies and economic activities. The development of a European Climate Resilience Framework can play an important role in supporting anticipation, preparedness and coherence across Member States.

At the same time, Belgium considers that a future EU Climate Resilience Framework should combine a limited number of proportionate, output-oriented obligations with a flexible and primarily indicative framework, in full respect of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality.

Against this background, we would like to highlight a few key principles related to the future climate resilience framework:

- While a more proactive and systemic policy approach on climate resilience that integrates climate-resilience by design in all relevant sectors could be supported, such an approach should avoid generating additional administrative layers, especially at regional and local level.

- Greater coherence on data, methodologies, and timeframes for risk assessments, climate adaptation strategies and plans could be supported.

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- The importance of nature-based solutions should be underlined.
- We also see a benefit for non-binding common climate reference scenarios and indicators at EU level.
- However, climate adaptation is an inherently territorial policy, the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality should be taken into account.
- The future EU framework should remain high level, sufficiently flexible and focused on guidance, to accommodate the diversity of institutional arrangements and levels of preparedness across the EU.
- In this context, a limited set of structuring obligations could be supported, provided they remain proportionate and output-oriented, such as:
    - an obligation to ensure full territorial coverage by a climate adaptation strategy and plan;
    - an obligation to adopt such a strategy or plan within an agreed timeframe;
    - an obligation to base these strategies or plans on a climate risk assessment.
- Beyond these core elements, the content, structure, methodologies and implementation modalities should remain indicative and be left to Member States and subnational governments, in line with their institutional arrangements and territorial realities. For example, the Commission could develop an EU-level list of indicators from which Member States can draw depending on their specific context.
- These proposals should not lead to additional regulatory or administrative burden, while taking into account the better regulation principles. Wherever possible, existing strategies, risk assessment, reporting requirements, targets and indicators should be used. This is also important to avoid negative impact on the competitiveness, economic growth and investment capacity of our economic actors.
- The EU framework should also serve as a strategic tool to strengthen the purchasing power of our citizens and the competitiveness of our businesses, by allowing them to anticipate and mitigate climate-related economics risks, thereby enhancing long-term economic security, stability and economic growth across the Union.

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- And we should avoid that frontrunners are penalized since several Member States have already carried out risk assessments, strategies and plans, while others are currently preparing them.

- When it comes to finance, and without prejudging discussions in other fora, including the MFF, earmarking a share of future MFF funds for LIFE actions would be supported, as well as EU- level market- based mechanisms to reduce the growing insurance gap and ensure access to affordable insurance. In addition, further reflection on how to scale up investments aimed at strengthening resilience and adaptation, including through the mobilization of additional private capital is necessary. The EIB is playing an essential role in this respect.

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