



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
Regulatory Scrutiny Board

Brussels,  
Ares(2018)

## **Opinion**

**Title: Evaluation / EU Strategy on adaptation to climate change**

(version of 30 May 2018)\*

**Overall opinion: POSITIVE**

### **(A) Context**

The EU adopted a Strategy on adaptation to climate change in 2013. Adaptation is the process of adjustment to current and anticipated climate-related adverse effects. It seeks to moderate or avoid harm and to exploit beneficial opportunities. Adverse effects include extreme weather events, forest fires, floods, droughts, sea-level rise, biodiversity change and tropical diseases. The Strategy focuses on promoting actions by Member States, informing decision-making and helping vulnerable sectors to adapt.

This report presents a mid-term evaluation of the Strategy, draws conclusions on progress to date and informs potential future work on the Strategy. It will accompany a report to the European Parliament.

### **(B) Main considerations**

**The Board notes the clear structure of the report and the wealth of information supporting it.**

**The Board gives a positive opinion, but considers that the report should be improved with respect to the following key aspects:**

- (1) The report does not explain why it draws more optimistic conclusions than the ones of the support study. In particular, the conclusions on relevance do not take into account several findings of the external study that call for changes of the current strategy.**
- (2) The report assesses effectiveness on the basis of processes only, and much less on the quality of adaptation actions, leading to overly positive conclusions on the overall success of the adaptation strategy.**

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\* Note that this opinion concerns a draft evaluation report which may differ from the one finalised.

**(3) The report does not sufficiently integrate the international context and developments into its analysis.**

**(4) Monitoring and evaluation arrangements are not properly assessed to support the conclusions.**

**(C) Further considerations and recommendations**

(1) The report should better present the context of the Strategy and better link it to international initiatives. Building on that, the assessment of the continued relevance of the original objectives of the Strategy should be put in perspective of the developments and evolving knowledge on climate change and climate adaptation since 2013. Given these developments, the conclusion that the Strategy continues to be relevant cannot be justified solely on the need to establish climate adaptation processes and procedures at the EU and Member State level.

(2) Consequently, the assessment of the effectiveness should be more nuanced. The report should clarify that the original objectives focused on setting processes and procedures while the evolving context and progress in climate adaptation strategies point to the need for effective implementation and quality adaptation strategies.

(3) The report should explain the reasons for differences in assessment with the underlying study. The study seems to have a more critical approach to many deliverables of the Strategy, in particular in the area of insurance.

(4) As the context of the Strategy has evolved substantially, the report needs to elaborate on the monitoring and evaluation framework. The report should clarify whether existing monitoring and evaluation arrangements, including the revision of the monitoring mechanism Regulation, are still relevant or whether they need further improvement to capture socio-economic impacts, for example. This applies particularly to the new focus on implementation and substantive elements of the climate adaptation strategies at all levels.

(5) The report should present stakeholders' views in more detail throughout the document.

*Some more technical comments have been transmitted directly to the author DG.*

**(D) RSB scrutiny process**

**The lead DG is advised to ensure that these recommendations are taken into account in the report prior to launching the interservice consultation.**

Full title	Evaluation of the EU Strategy on adaptation to climate change
Reference number	2016/CLIMA/011
Date of RSB meeting	27/06/2018