



## REPORT

### The Hague Roundtable on Climate & Security 18<sup>th</sup> meeting Co-organized & Hosted by the Embassy of Germany in The Hague



The 18th meeting of The Hague Roundtable on Climate & Security was held on 27 November 2025, co-organized and hosted by the Embassy of Germany in The Hague. Some 60 participants from embassies, NGOs, ministries, research-education institutes, civil society, and the private sector came together to discuss “Climate-sustainable energy cooperation for the future: How can Germany, the Netherlands, and the International Community work together better on energy security initiatives while maintaining sight of climate targets?” Exchanges focused on the security and economic risks of Europe’s dependence on fossil fuels, and how shifting to renewables can be secure, competitive and resilient, while being strategically organized to address climate security and geopolitical stability.

See takeaways and commentary in this report from expert Discussion Leaders and Special Guests:

- **H.E. Ambassador Anthony Agotha**, EU Special Envoy for Climate and Environment, EEAS
- **Lijs Groenendaal**, Director EVP Hydrogen at RWE Netherlands
- **Sissi Knispel de Acosta**, Secretary General of European Climate Research Alliance (ECRA)
- **Florian Postel**, Advisor Climate Diplomacy Action Programme, GIZ
- **Chantal Schrijver**, Head of the European Investment Bank Group Office in the Netherlands
- **Jarid van de Steeg**, Head of Corporate Affairs at Essent
- **Aramis Zinke**, Strategic Communications Officer at WindEurope

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## Organizations and Governments represented

adelphi global	The Green Branch	Embassy of Canada
Ariska	The Hague Humanity Hub	Embassy of Denmark
Climate Group	The Hague University of Applied Sciences (THUAS)	Embassy of El Salvador
Clingendael Institute	THUAS Multilevel Regulation Research Group (MLR)	Embassy of Germany
Continua	International Alert	Embassy of Greece
Dutch Marine Energy Centre (DMEC)	Leiden University	Embassy of Hungary
European Climate Research Alliance (ECRA)	NL Ministry of Economic Affairs, Climate and Green Growth	Embassy of Ireland
European External Action Service (EEAS)	NL Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management	Embassy of the State of Kuwait
European Investment Bank	Rabobank	Embassy of Malta
Essent	RWE Netherlands	Embassy of New Zealand
Fanack Water	TU Delft	Embassy of Pakistan
GIZ	WindEurope	Embassy of Peru
German Business Initiative for Energy Efficiency (DENEFF)	World Resources Inst. (WRI)	Embassy of The Philippines
German-Dutch Chamber of Commerce (DNHK)	Embassy of Azerbaijan	Embassy of Portugal
		Embassy of Romania
		Embassy of the United Kingdom



## Agenda of the meeting

Meeting kick-off with **Matt Luna**, Organizer and Founder of **The Hague Roundtable on Climate & Security**

Welcome introduction by **H.E. Dr. Nikolaus Meyer-Landrut, Ambassador of Germany** to the Netherlands

Sparking the right kinds of collaboration, business, and innovation, with **Aldo Lodder**, Senior Project Manager, **German-Dutch Chamber of Commerce** in The Hague & Düsseldorf, and Co-Moderator of the 18<sup>th</sup> Hague Roundtable

EU perspective on climate-sustainable energy security, international challenges, and cooperation including from COP30: **H.E. Ambassador Anthony Agota**, EU Special Envoy for Climate and Environment, **European External Action Service (EEAS)**, with Q&A via video from Brussels

Bringing together wind energy across borders in supply chains, implementation and policies for energy security and cost effectiveness: **Aramis Zinke**, Strategic Communications Officer at **WindEurope**

Strategic focus on the future energy landscape, highlighting the challenges and opportunities in establishing a hydrogen economy in Germany and the NL: **Lijs Groenendaal**, Director EVP Hydrogen at **RWE Netherlands**

Open discussion with all participants

Coffee break and networking

Redesigning systems for energy transition: a climate-neutral future faces challenges of ensuring affordable energy, while accelerating sustainability to meet climate goals – **Jarid van de Steeg**, Head of Corp. Affairs at **Essent**

Exploring how the European Investment Bank Group is working to build a more sustainable, secure and independent European energy system that can weather market volatility and supply disruptions: **Chantal Schrijver**, Head of the **European Investment Bank** Group Office in the Netherlands.

Open discussion and brainstorming on key questions with Discussion Leaders

Closing remarks

Networking lunch

## Links to Roundtable presentation (PDF)

- “Bringing together wind energy across borders,” Aramis Zinke, WindEurope:  
<https://hagueroundtable.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/presentation-windeurope-a-zinke.pdf>
- “Challenges and opportunities in establishing a hydrogen economy,” Lijs Groenendaal, RWE Netherlands:  
<https://hagueroundtable.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/presentation-rwe-l-groenendaal.pdf>
- “Redesigning systems for energy transition,” Jarid van de Steeg, Essent:  
<https://hagueroundtable.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/presentation-essent-j-van-de-steeg.pdf>
- “Building a more sustainable, secure and independent European energy system,” Chantal Schrijver, European Investment Bank:  
<https://hagueroundtable.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/presentation-eib-c-schrijver.pdf>

## Excerpts from welcome remarks by H.E. Dr. Nikolaus Meyer-Landrut, Ambassador of Germany



Together, Germany and The Netherlands face the major challenge of building out our energy supply and infrastructure in a way that is sustainable and reliable in the long term. Quite apart from external geopolitical crises that are putting pressure on our energy systems, we are also struggling with home-grown problems. Overloaded power grids are preventing further electrification, and the build-out of renewable energies by the private sector is stalling because it is economically unattractive.

And grid expansion stops at the border. Yet we, Germany and the Netherlands, could use our close ties to also develop an integrated energy supply that is sustainable, climate-friendly, and cost-efficient.

The Port of Rotterdam, in cooperation with the Port of Duisburg, is an example of a key player in shaping the energy transition.

The Climate Talks are an opportunity to discuss the development of an integrated sustainable energy supply in the Netherlands and Germany. Through events like this Hague Roundtable meeting, we want to draw attention to the many positive examples of cooperation, but also create space to discuss further opportunities for collaboration.

## Commentary by H.E. Ambassador Anthony Agotha, European External Action Service

*Ambassador Anthony Agotha is a Dutch diplomat who is currently Ambassador at large/EU Special Envoy for Climate and Environment at the European External Action Service (EEAS). A keynote speaker at the Montreal Climate and Security Summit and the Berlin Climate and Security Conference in 2025, and a member of the EU delegation at COP30 in Belém, Ambassador Agotha shared his insights with this Hague Roundtable meeting via video from Brussels.*

It was not easy at COP30, but as Climate Commissioner Hoekstra said, “important steps forward, but more would have been better.” Meanwhile, in the real economy, contrary to the attention economy, the energy transition is happening, although not fast enough. In all of this, we also need to keep in mind that the climate crisis has an immediate impact on peace and security. We see increasing risks of conflicts over arable land, critical minerals and water, and people forced to move from uninhabitable places. Climate change also forces us to strengthen the resilience of our society to deal with more extreme weather events like floods and hurricanes, but also rising sea levels.



This naturally also goes for our military infrastructure. Europe is rapidly scaling up its defense and boosting its competitiveness, especially in clean tech. Fortunately, we are viewing our different challenges as interconnected, rather than separately.

All these technologies, especially regarding energy – think of batteries – need to be better connected with defense for a credible deterrent. Ukraine is leading the way, for instance, by investing in wind turbines as the Russian war of aggression continues. They do so to decentralize their power and make it more difficult to target. Innovation cycles are drastically shortening to weeks – not months, let alone years, anymore.

As the world is still grappling with climate change, there is another issue which is getting some traction lately. As H.L. Mencken once said: “for every complex problem, there is a solution that is simple, clear, and utterly wrong,” and one such “solution” to climate change that is being touted is geoengineering, or solar radiation modification (SRM). On paper, such technologies seemingly can decrease the temperature, but in reality, they are fraught with many problems. We don’t fully understand all the effects, and the risk is that it offers a “simple” alibi for those, who in light of everything, would simply like to continue the fossil fuel business model. To use SRM “effectively,” you would have to deploy it globally, 24/7 for

decades and even centuries to come. You can’t stop because there would be dangerous termination shocks. To be sure, geoengineering does nothing to clean up the environment, stop coral bleaching, or clean up air pollution that causes numerous premature deaths around the world. It also diverts attention and investment away from making the real energy transition, which is ultimately the best way to climate neutrality. Finally, any large-scale efforts would require a level of international cooperation which at this moment, and historically, seems quite far-fetched. Therefore, the EU would like to see a moratorium on the use of geoengineering and global governance where there now is none.



Finally, with regard to the clean transition: ultimately it is about helping businesses doing what businesses do best: invest, innovate, produce, and trade. In the EU, we are simplifying our rules and regulations while upholding the necessary standards and doubling down on our transition. We have robust debates among member states and in the European Parliament, and that is part of what democracies are made of; it also increases the legitimacy of what we do. As you know, we have a European Climate Law (our political SatNav) that dictates a move to net zero emissions by 2050. This requires that we take meaningful steps along the way. As someone once said, “You cannot join the Olympic swimming team in 2050 and eat donuts until 2049.” That is why the EU is on course for at least minus 55% emissions in 2030 and 90% in 2040.

The EU’s ambition on this is second to none in the world, and this is a strong signal to businesses and investors. Going forward, level playing fields, together predictability in unpredictable world, will help businesses. Once the market has internalized this, there is no stopping the transition. The EU is staying the course because it makes both economic and security sense – also regarding independence of resources from Russia. The EU will never return to an erratic and expensive fossil fuel economy.

### **Commentary by Aramis Zinke, WindEurope**

Europe could lose €1.6 trillion if we do not invest in climate and security

In the public debate, some argue we should delay or even scrap climate and energy security investments, because they are a burden to the economy. This argument does not make any sense. The economic impact of *not* investing would far outweigh the cost of acting now.

Europe is currently spending hundreds of billions of euros on fossil fuel imports. EU Member States alone spent €400bn just last year. Not investing in a renewables-based energy system means we must still cover those massive costs. WindEurope’s latest study in cooperation with Hitachi Energy shows a renewables-based energy system will save Europe up to €1.6 trillion by 2050.



If we do not invest in a renewables-based energy system, consumers will have to keep paying high energy prices, driven by costly fossil fuel imports. Europe's industry cannot stay competitive under those conditions, with energy prices being far lower in the US, China and elsewhere. Expanding renewables, increasing electrification, and alleviating the energy cost burden prevent European industry from having to offshore its production. Beyond the economic cost, reliance on fossil fuel imports undermines Europe's resilience and national security, leaving us vulnerable to external pressure and geopolitical blackmail.

Investing in renewables means investing in Europe's economy – instead of sending money elsewhere. Every new onshore wind turbine installed in Europe adds €16m of economic activity. The wind industry contributes €55bn to Europe's GDP. It provides 450,000 European jobs, with potential for more than 600,000 jobs by 2030, if Europe addresses the growing skills gaps across the sector.

But the highest cost of inaction will come from the effects of climate change. Europe is the world's fastest-warming continent. Our continent will suffer trillions of euros in climate-related damages if we do not address this problem promptly. We already see a rise in natural catastrophes. Deadly heat waves and floods are becoming the new normal in Europe.

Many say Europe's fight against climate change is hopeless with China polluting greenhouse gas emissions at a large scale. But China is changing. They are building more wind and solar than the rest of the world combined. They are electrifying their economy much faster than the West. China too realized that renewables are not "only" great for the climate – but also crucial for security and competitiveness. Experts say China's annual greenhouse gas emissions may have peaked already, and will only decline going forward. We see similar trends across the world.

It is not "only" about protecting the climate anymore. With the world shifting towards electrification via wind and solar due to their competitive edge, expanding renewables has become a necessity for sustaining Europe's economic prosperity. If we fail to electrify, Europe will fall behind other economies with lower energy prices.

What needs to happen now? There are three major barriers to the expansion of European wind to date:

- Our electricity grids cannot cater to the growing amount of renewable power plants. We must expand grid distribution, transmission and interconnection capacities across the continent. The Commission's EU Grids Package lists all the right priorities on how to expand grids efficiently. It's now on its Member States to implement this.
- It takes too long to get a permit for a wind project. In some EU Member States, it can take up to 10 years. This drives up planning costs. And it means fewer projects are getting built. The EU has tabled excellent permitting rules via its RED 3 Directive. Member States are required to implement this, but most of them have been very slow. Germany is reaping the benefits of implementing the new EU permitting rules. It permitted 15 GW of new onshore wind farms in 2024. That is seven times more than they were permitting five years ago. Come on governments, changing your permitting rules does not cost anything. Do it, and you will unlock massive economic value.
- Europe is not electrifying fast enough. While China's electrification rate is going through the roof, Europe's electrification rate has been stagnating for years. Consumers need better access to finance and clear visibility on regulation to make the necessary investments, decarbonizing industry, transport and heating.

The time for debate is over – the time for decisive action on renewables is now.

## **Commentary by Chantal Schrijver, European Investment Bank**

During the Roundtable, it was insightful to hear that the transition we need to undergo—and the policies we design or the agreements made at COP—are not self-executing. Collaboration is essential to make these plans work and to drive progress. Things are moving faster than we had modelled, and the sense of urgency is becoming critical. While many sectors are taking the right steps, transport, heating, and industry remain heavily dependent on fossil fuels. Growth in renewables alone will not be sufficient for the transition; we also need to accelerate the phase-out of fossil fuels. Through its financing and advisory work, the European Investment Bank (EIB) is actively working on all these fronts to support the transition and ensure that commitments turn into concrete action.

The EIB acts as a catalyst for international energy cooperation and the green transition. By scaling up investments in renewables, energy efficiency, and grid integration, the EIB supports the EU's climate and energy goals and fosters cross-border partnerships, mobilizes private capital, and shares technical expertise with partner countries and regions.

Today, the key challenges of a rapidly evolving external environment include:

- Industrial competitiveness under pressure
- Uncertainty in global trade
- The need for an inclusive transition (addressing skills and affordability)
- Disproportionate climate impacts on vulnerable regions and populations
- Dependencies in energy and raw materials
- Rising climate and environmental risks

This context sets the stage for the EIB's strategic interventions, emphasizing the urgency of accelerating the green transition while ensuring no one is left behind. The EIB aims to consolidate its role as the EU's Climate Bank, aligning with the Group's 2024–2027 Strategic Roadmap. The approach is holistic: addressing EU challenges through mutually reinforcing actions, driving economic growth, and supporting the EU internationally by working with international financial institutions (IFIs) and development partners. The EIB recognizes the need for a more risk-based approach and a transformed sustainable finance landscape since 2020.

The EIB's "Climate Bank Roadmap Phase 2," covering 2026–2030, is an opportunity to:

- Maintain high ambition in climate and environmental action
- Invest strategically where impact is greatest
- Simplify processes for clients



The Energy Sector Orientation is a strategic component of the EIB Group's overall mission to drive the green transition. It translates the high-level ambitions of the Climate Bank Roadmap into actionable priorities for the energy sector, ensuring that the EIB remains a leader in supporting Europe's competitiveness, sustainability and energy security in the years ahead. It is built around three interrelated and complementary strategic objectives, which mirror the EIB's overall strategic goals:

- **Competitiveness & affordability:** Scaling up clean energy supply, boosting efficiency, building enabling infrastructure, and ensuring no one is left behind. The emphasis is on inclusivity, ensuring that the benefits of the energy transition are widely shared.
- **Climate & sustainability:** Electrifying to decarbonize, building alternatives for hard-to-abate sectors, leading in innovation, and financing green growth. This pillar underscores the EIB's ambition to be a catalyst for sustainable investment and industrial transformation.

- **Security & reliability:** Strengthening critical infrastructure, investing in energy storage and flexibility, cutting dependence on imports, and partnering globally. These measures aim to reduce dependence on imports and enhance the EU's energy security.

These objectives are designed to reinforce the EIB's contribution to EU policy priorities, such as the Green Deal, REPowerEU, and the Paris Agreement.

## Commentary by Jarid van de Steeg, Essent

Affordability of energy bills as the key to a successful energy transition



The energy transition is one of the greatest social challenges of this century. The Netherlands has committed itself to ambitious climate goals, which call for a fundamental change in the way energy is generated, transported and used. Households are central to this: they are not only end users of energy but are increasingly seen as active participants in a sustainable, flexible and digital energy system. The ability of households to adapt to this new reality — the so-called adaptive capacity — is therefore a critical success factor for the success of the energy transition.

The urgency is great: the energy transition brings far-reaching changes for households. Energy prices have risen sharply in recent years, partly due to geopolitical developments and the phasing out

of fossil subsidies. At the same time, households are confronted with new obligations and choices: the switch to natural gas-free living, the purchase of sustainable installations, dealing with dynamic energy tariffs, and the use of digital tools such as smart meters and energy apps. For many people, this is a complex and sometimes overwhelming task.

Research shows that the adaptive capacity of households varies widely. Households with an owner-occupied home and sufficient equity can invest relatively easily in sustainability, and benefit from lower energy costs. Tenants and low-income households often have limited control and room for investment. They run the risk of structurally lagging behind and spending a larger part of their income on energy. There are also regional differences: outside the Randstad, homes are often older and less insulated, while incomes are lower.

The energy gap—the difference in the share of income spent on energy—is widening. By 2035, 57% of households are expected to lose out financially, and the number of households in energy poverty will grow from 400,000 to more than 600,000. Without targeted measures, 42% of households are expected not to actively participate in the energy transition by 2035. This means that a large part of the population does not benefit from the benefits of sustainability and is even at risk of exclusion and energy poverty. This undermines public support, and can slow down the transition as a whole.

To strengthen the adaptive capacity of households, targeted policy measures and market interventions are needed. Some effective measures are: targeted subsidies and funds (such as the Heat Fund) with high funding ratios and pre-financing for low incomes, a one-stop shop for information and support, a mandatory right to sustainability for tenants, long-term price certainty through permanent contracts and protection against price shocks, and cooperation with municipalities, housing corporations and local initiatives for door-to-door support.

In practice, step-by-step guidance appears to be effective. Essent and other market parties offer a wide range of services, tailored to the adaptive capacity of households: energy coaching and saving advice, small physical measures (draught strips, radiator foil), insulation, ventilation and sustainable generation (solar panels, heat pumps), smart energy solutions

(apps, smart meters) and collective projects (neighborhood batteries, energy cooperatives). Collaboration with municipalities, housing corporations and local energy coaches appears to be effective in reaching households that would otherwise fall by the wayside. Regional differences require customization.

The adaptive capacity of households is a critical success factor for a just, affordable, and supported energy transition. Without targeted support and smart use of digitization, there is a risk of a growing energy gap and loss of support. By investing in inclusive policies, accessible technology and behavioral change, the energy transition can accelerate and leave no one behind. It is up to the government, market parties and civil society organizations to work together on an energy transition in which everyone can take the next step.

### **Summary of presentation by Lijs Groenendaal, RWE Netherlands**

The presentation by Lijs Groenendaal, Director of Hydrogen for the Netherlands, outlined the challenges and opportunities in establishing a hydrogen economy in Germany and the Netherlands. Ms. Groenendaal showcased the German energy company RWE's business model, which is heavily focused on future energy solutions, including significant investments in offshore and onshore wind, solar power, and flexible generation technologies such as hydrogen projects.



The presentation addressed the burgeoning yet volatile global hydrogen market, noting that new project announcements plunged in 2024, yet emphasized continued momentum, particularly in Europe where countries like Germany and the Netherlands lead in green hydrogen electrolysis capacity and in overall demand for hydrogen used in refining and ammonia production.

Ms. Groenendaal also highlighted the policy, infrastructure and market formation challenges impeding hydrogen development in Europe, illustrating how both Germany and the Netherlands are adopting distinct, though Europe-driven, regulatory and financial strategies to accelerate this transition.

## Commentary by Sissi Knispel de Acosta, the European Climate Research Alliance

The Hague Roundtable addressing climate, energy and security created a useful interface between climate science, energy-system analysis and security policy in the immediate aftermath of COP30 in Belém. In this setting, the European Climate Research Alliance (ECRA) contributed scientific input on how mitigation, adaptation and security can be assessed jointly rather than as separate policy tracks.

ECRA's work focuses on climate and biodiversity dynamics, societal transformation and climate-security risk. A central analytical point highlighted in The Hague is that the impact of the energy transition on global temperature is strictly a function of cumulative emissions, not installed renewable capacity per se. In quantitative terms, additional wind and solar only alter the climate trajectory if they result in a net decline of coal, oil and gas use over time. This requires tracking not just capacity additions, but the pace of fossil retirement, changes in load factors and lock-in effects from new fossil infrastructure, and linking these to regional carbon-budget pathways.

A second technical focus concerns just and orderly fossil phase-out. Current research builds on carbon-budget analysis, "carbon bomb" mapping and producer-country transition modelling to explore sequences in which fossil extraction can decline while maintaining energy access and macro-economic stability. This work will contribute as academic input to the planned [Santa Marta conference](#) in 2026, established by Colombia and the Netherlands as an output of COP30. The aim of this conference is to explore options to phase out fossil fuels in an orderly manner, combining climate constraints with criteria of fairness, stability and development. Results presented here in The Hague—on equity-sensitive phase-out schedules, stranded-asset risks and labor-market impacts—are intended to feed into those discussions.

At COP30 itself, similar analytical strands informed contributions to negotiations on social and just transition, including elements linked to the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan. The emphasis was on integrating energy-system scenarios with variables such as labor displacement, unpaid care work, gendered vulnerability to shocks and climate-driven mobility. From a modelling perspective, transition pathways that ignore these dimensions are not only ethically incomplete; they are also politically fragile, and therefore unlikely to be realized in practice.

From January 2026, this research agenda will be extended through the EarthResilience Institute (ERI), a new network of high-level universities, including MIT, Stanford, AIT and several partners (Carthago and WindriskTech from NL) partners. ERI's mandate is to integrate Earth-system science (tipping elements, resilience thresholds); macro-economic and financial modelling; and social science into decision-support tools for governments, cities and financial institutions. This includes developing indicators of risk and resilience linking climate forcing, ecosystem change, energy security and social stability.

Taken together, the Hague Roundtable, the COP30 negotiations, and the forthcoming Santa Marta conference outline a consistent direction of travel: using rigorous, interdisciplinary science to define feasible limits and policy options for the energy transition, and to support strategies that are physically robust, socially just and security-aware.



## Commentary by Florian Postel, GIZ

GeoClimRisk: Rasing climate ambitions and strengthening security through research and dialogue



“Anyone thinking about security needs to think about climate as well.” This is the clear message by the German [National Interdisciplinary Climate Risk Assessment](#) which is the outcome of an assessment carried out by a consortium on behalf of the German Federal Foreign Office and the Federal Ministry of Defence as part of the National Security Strategy. While this statement is clear and simple, there is an enormous complexity once you dive deeper into the climate and security nexus. There are various – often interconnected – dimensions to it. This includes, for instance, impacts by extreme weather events, supply chain interruptions, agricultural risks including crop failures, price shocks and food insecurity, energy transition and security, military capabilities and readiness (see also “[Strategy on Defence and Climate Change](#)” by the German Federal Ministry of Defence), conflicts and migration, as well as the overall rule-based international order. In its “[Strategy on Climate Foreign Policy](#),” the German Federal Foreign Office identifies strengthening resilience, peace, and security as a priority action area to achieve the aim “to anchor and drive forward climate action in all relevant policy fields and international forums.” The climate crisis is identified as one of the greatest risks of this century. While these risks can be highly specific and targeted, their economic impacts constitute a core component of the overall nexus.

In light of these broader strategic documents, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK) implement on behalf of the Federal Foreign Office [the Geopolitics of Climate Risks \(GeoClimRisk\)](#) measure. In selected countries including India, Indonesia and Nigeria, GeoClimRisk looks at the interplay between geopolitical priorities and pathways for climate resilience and low-emission transformation, including risks and opportunities. Research evolves around mitigation and energy transition risks, adaptation and physical risks as well as geopolitical risks of transitions, climate damage, climate-linked migration and conflict. In close partnership with the countries, research on the above-mentioned topics is carried and utilized for knowledge exchange, policy dialogues and dissemination in the partner countries. The approach aims at achieving mutual benefits in addressing climate change and hence, ambitious climate policies at the national and international level. The research of GeoClimRisk is currently at its final stage and results will be available in the second half of 2026.

As GeoClimRisk covers a variety of topics, the potential “climate double-crunch” provides a concrete example. Climate change is creating a “double-crunch” for many economies and societies: rising temperatures undermine economic and development capacities while simultaneously increasing the costs and complexity of transition to a low-carbon economy. These dynamics are further compounded by demographic shifts, structural economic changes, and continued fossil fuel

dependencies – with significant implications for security. The research results will provide concrete insights on the “climate-double crunch” with its potential impacts for countries and economies. This has consequences for security-relevant dimensions, underscoring the central role of climate change in today’s security nexus and the need to think beyond traditional definitions. In that sense, security also begins with more ambitious climate policies.

For further information on GeoClimRisk, contact Florian Postel ([florian.postel@giz.de](mailto:florian.postel@giz.de)).

## **Article published about the Roundtable on the Planetary Security Initiative website**

*The following article text is from [the website of the Planetary Security Initiative](#).*

On 27 November 2025, the [Clingendael Institute](#) participated in the 18th edition of The Hague Roundtable on Climate & Security, co-organized by the German Embassy in The Hague.

This Hague Roundtable event brought together experts from politics, business, research, diplomacy, NGOs and financial institutions to discuss how Europe can shape its energy and climate transition in a way that is secure, competitive and resilient. Participants focused on the security and economic risks of Europe’s dependence on fossil fuels, and on how the shift to renewables can be strategically organized to address climate security risks while providing geopolitical stability.



### **Energy security and cooperation**

Discussions underlined that Europe will not achieve its climate and energy objectives through fragmented national strategies alone, stressing the need for cross-border cooperation. This is of particular importance between major trading partners such as the Netherlands and Germany, which have emerging green seaports and hydrogen hubs. Participants highlighted how shared challenges around reliability, price volatility and geopolitical shocks can become drivers of collaboration on electricity grids, ports and integrated energy systems. Speakers also noted that the traditional separation between defense, industry and climate policy is increasingly unfit for purpose, arguing for cooperation that reflects the cross-sectoral security implications of strategic energy supply choices.

A central theme was that electrification will form a substantial part of Europe’s decarbonization, with wind power playing a pivotal role in reducing fossil fuel imports, lowering energy bills over time, and creating high-quality employment in Europe. Yet participants warned that permitting bottlenecks, grid constraints, curtailment and underinvestment threaten

to keep the EU off track for its 2030 wind targets, despite the economic and security advantages of scaling wind.



Anne Marie Hoffmann, left, and Margo Peters of the German Embassy co-organized this meeting along with The Hague Roundtable.

The need for better top-down grid planning, more flexible state aid, and an EU-wide electrification action plan was emphasized to help heavy industrial and household transition without leaving vulnerable groups behind. Climate security was emphasized as a priority, without which governments risk flying blind in an era of rising climate impacts, energy volatility and geopolitical tensions.

The Roundtable explored how Germany and the Netherlands can unlock a cross-border hydrogen economy, acknowledging both the strategic importance of low-carbon

molecules and the sharp recent decline in announced global hydrogen projects due to costs, policy uncertainty and infrastructure gaps. Participants argued that integrated planning of electricity, hydrogen and energy storage systems, supported by aligned national and EU-level policies, is essential to avoid simply replacing one dependency with another.

### **Finance, industry and just transition**

Within European financing structures, participants emphasized on the fact that it is important to de-risk key parts of the transition while safeguarding public mandates and balance sheets. They stressed the importance of blending EU funds, national instruments and private capital to support companies across the “valley of death” of innovation, including wind, energy storage and hydrogen technologies, while also designing inclusive mechanisms to reach low-income households.

Civil society and NGO perspectives highlighted that social inequality, rural-urban divides and contested fossil fuel subsidy reforms could undermine the transition. They argued that narratives and financial strategies should be explicitly geared toward a just and socially grounded energy shift where no one is left behind.

Building on the topic of energy security, concerns were raised about over-dependence on a small number of suppliers for clean technologies and critical components, including China’s dominant role in several renewable and electrolysis value chains. Participants pointed to clean industrial deals, diversified trade partnerships and joint trade missions as ways to reduce dependencies, support the development of partner countries and align the energy transition, with broader foreign policy and climate diplomacy goals.

### **COP30 context and climate-security lens**

From a diplomatic perspective, the outcome of COP30 was described as mixed: language on fossil fuel phase-out remained disappointing, yet there were historic gains in embedding social and just transition as a structural element of the climate regime. Experts stressed that the energy transition must be guided by climate science and justice concerns, with renewables only contributing to climate stabilization when they explicitly replace fossil fuels and are combined with deliberate phase-out pathways. To achieve this, the event highlighted increased emphasis and cooperation by all parties.

Scientific and diplomatic contributions emphasized that energy pathways must be consistent with IPCC findings, combining rapid renewable deployment with nature-based solutions and clear fossil phase-out strategies to stay within a manageable temperature range. Examples from countries such as India, Indonesia and others illustrated how climate diplomacy initiatives and technical cooperation can help manage the “double climate crunch” of escalating impacts and tightening carbon budgets.

*Finn van der Straaten represented the Clingendael Institute at this Roundtable, and contributed this article.*

### **Participant Commentary by Fabian Hoppmann, the German Business Initiative for Energy Efficiency**

The German Business Initiative for Energy Efficiency ([DENEFF](#)) emphasized during the Roundtable discussion that energy efficiency is not only a climate and economic priority, but a core security issue. A system that requires less energy to be productive is inherently less dependent on energy imports, less vulnerable to disruption, and more resilient in times of crisis.



Ensuring supply security and system stability remain essential tasks in the EU’s energy transition — but reducing energy demand plays an equally decisive role. Lower demand directly reduces exposure to geopolitical risks, infrastructure stress, and supply chain shocks. In this context, the European Commission’s [recent decision](#) to initiate infringement procedures against 26 of 27 Member States for shortcomings in implementing their obligations under the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED), underscore the urgent need to strengthen this dimension of Europe’s security architecture. The potential is enormous, and many low-

hanging fruit are already within reach. Measures such as implementing energy management systems (EMS), reusing industrial process heat, as highlighted in DENEFF's [recent policy brief](#), or the energy-efficient renovation of public and private buildings can deliver significant and cost-efficient benefits for the EU's energy system. Taken together, these steps rank among the fastest and most effective ways to enhance Europe's energy resilience, raise climate ambition, and reinforce the EU's security and overall stability in times of geopolitical uncertainty.

### **Participant commentary by Benjamin Lehner, Dutch Marine Energy Centre (DMEC)**

This Hague Roundtable discussion reinforced that the future of our energy system is electric, but we need to diversify the supply of critical materials and clean energy technologies to do so in a secure and responsible manner. Renewable energies have remained extremely resilient and continued to expand in conflict regions (e.g. Ukraine), in countries actively working against them (e.g. United States) and in oil focused countries (e.g. Saudi Arabia). Worldwide, China is the leader in new deployments building as much as the rest of the world combined, while in Europe Germany is the leader in offshore wind.



Green Hydrogen also shows real projects being implemented going beyond the initial hype into a more consolidated phase. One key challenge for electricity as well as green molecules remains, however, the demand generation and transportation infrastructure. At DMEC, an international accelerator and knowledge centre we are shaping the future for sustainable offshore energy. This includes supporting new generation technologies, flexibility measures, and nature conscious designs, while building models to assess their future relevance."

### **Commentary by Aldo Lodder, German-Dutch Chamber of Commerce in The Hague & Düsseldorf**



*Aldo Lodder, left, and Matt Luna co-moderated the meeting*

The German Embassy and the German-Dutch Chamber of Commerce (DNHK) work closely together on matters like energy security, sustainability, and hydrogen. The core theme of this Roundtable, how Germany, the Netherlands and the International Community should and could work together better to ensure energy security, is of great importance across a number of sectors to both the Netherlands and Germany. The DNHK was pleased to take an active role in this Roundtable through connecting some of the participating organizations and in co-moderating the discussions in this half-day event.

Cross-border cooperation is integral to moving forward in these areas, and to ensuring economic progress. Projects like the Delta Rhine Corridor that connect the wind parks on the North Sea to North Rhine

Westphalia highlight current work between the Netherlands and Germany. There is a high and growing demand for energy in both the Netherlands and Germany, and the demand for sustainable energy is even higher. With the current geopolitical insecurities, the security of access to energy is under pressure. To better ensure secure, sustainable energy, both countries have had to rethink their energy systems, and close collaboration is needed in order to realize both the key innovations and the opportunities to integrate climate-friendly systems in our infrastructures.

This 18th edition of The Hague Roundtable on Climate and Security was consistent with the mission of the DNHK: to inform, to inspire, and to connect. With the theme of this Roundtable being key to cooperation with our European

neighbors, the DNHK was pleased to be able to interact and share with stakeholders and Roundtable participants from around the world. Hopefully, this coming together was an inspiring meeting to all present, as well as a key networking forum to help spark further cooperation across borders on these important issues for now and the future.

### **Commentary and Acknowledgements by Matt Luna, The Hague Roundtable on Climate & Security**

It is inspiring to see this European cooperation on critical issues of renewable paths to energy security, both at this Roundtable and in new initiatives. In our current unpredictable geopolitical environment, the value of trusted cross-border collaboration cannot be overstated – in energy, climate action, and defense security.

It is understood that we can no longer rely on past environmental conditions for livelihoods and stability, or even some previous multilateral agreements aimed at sustainable cooperation and peace. This was evident during my participation as an NGO observer at COP30 in Belém. There was a level of urgency at this COP toward agreement on adaptation issues – water resources, food security, extreme weather, justice, conflict – that I haven't seen in the eight previous COPs I have attended. This was happening amid mixed opinions of the COP plenary negotiations, for the first time with a U.S. “elephant” absent from the room. There was, however, movement forward on a number of COP agreements, and we must continue to work at all levels reinforcing trust with actors who value fact-based science and the rule of law, partnered with a bit of optimism. As well put in a Roundtable presentation, we don't need to be “eating donuts” right now, but taking meaningful steps toward our climate goals. This includes sharing work on resilient, renewable energy generation and infrastructure; increasing implementation of nature-based solutions in both climate resilience and mitigation; and enabling broader accessible media reporting on progress of environmental agreements.



I am impressed by the people and their efforts in and around these Roundtable meetings, now for more than 10 years. Our funding continues to be generated with host organizations and partners for each individual meeting, with the aim to carry results from these exchanges, typically with 60+ participants from 20+ countries, into new projects, agreements, briefings, and even policies. I am optimistic that we can transform the Roundtable in the coming years into a long-term supported forum. It is indeed a positive sign that this 18<sup>th</sup> Roundtable meeting saw numerous returning participants and many new faces looking to further knowledge and relationships in facing climate-related challenges.

I would like to extend a sincere “thank you” to embassy staff, particularly Anne Marie Hoffmann and Margo Peters for their input and support in producing this third collaboration of The Hague Roundtable with the Embassy of Germany. It was a privilege to be invited to the 2025 Berlin Climate and Security Conference last October, which led to new connections who certainly enriched exchanges at this Roundtable, like Ambassador Anthony Agosta of the EEAS with his straightforward views, and Florian Postel on relevant work with GIZ, as well as Philippe Maupai of the German Federal Foreign Office through his facilitation of introductions and ideas from Berlin. Thanks also to Aldo Lodder with the DNHK for his planning contributions and insightful co-moderation, and Sissi Knispel de Acosta with the ECRA for coming to The Hague to share her valuable scientific perspectives, after we met on the way to COP30. As always, much gratitude goes to ALL Roundtable Discussion Leaders and participants for sharing their expertise and ideas. In addition, the Institute for Environmental Security once again enabled COP accreditation, where I was also present as a member of the [Global Military Advisory Council on Climate Change \(GMACCC\)](#). COP30 participation was further made possible by the support of [Fanack Water](#) media, which is currently reaching out [seeking new publishing partnerships](#) to continue its accessible and fact-based journalism on key water and climate issues in the Middle East and North Africa.

Photos in this report were taken by Léonore Berger, Leiden University student, and Matt Luna.

## Publications

### **Videos: Rewatch all livestreamed sessions from the Berlin Climate and Security Conference (BCSC) 2025**

The 7th BCSC explored Climate, Conflict, and Cooperation in a Turbulent Era.

<https://berlin-climate-security-conference.de/en/rewatch-bcsc-2025>

### **Article: What did COP30 achieve?; European Commission DG for Climate Action**

[https://climate.ec.europa.eu/news-other-reads/news/what-did-cop30-achieve-2025-12-01\\_en](https://climate.ec.europa.eu/news-other-reads/news/what-did-cop30-achieve-2025-12-01_en)

A mitigation marathon and a maze of multilateralism. As the final gavel fell in Belém on the climate crisis, the world asked: did COP30 move us any closer to a safer, fairer future?

### **Policy Brief: Addressing Water-related Security Challenges in Fragile Settings; Water Peace and Security Partnership**

<https://hcss.nl/report/wps-policy-brief-addressing-water-related-security-challenges-in-fragile-settings-opportunities-and-limitations-for-defence-and-security-actors/>

This policy brief examines the role of defense and security actors in the provision of water-related security. What roles should defense and security actors play in responses to challenges?

### **Handbook on Water Diplomacy Featured at COP30: Water as a Pathway to Peace & Climate Resilience; Fanack Water**

<https://water.fanack.com/water-diplomacy-cop30/>

The handbook brings together over 80 contributors from more than 30 countries on how science, negotiation, and relationship-building can transform water challenges into cooperation.

### **The Resilience Brief (Podcast series); NATO CCASCOE / International Military Council on Climate & Security (IMCCS)**

<https://ccascoe.org/the-resilience-brief/>

Expert guests help navigate different methods of ensuring battlefield resilience for current and future armed forces.

### **Report: 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of The Hague Roundtable on Climate & Security in June 2024**

<https://hagueroundtable.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/report-17th-hague-roundtable-climate-security-june-2025.pdf>

This meeting addressed “Energy Security and Climate Cooperation in a Geopolitical Context of Increased Defense Readiness” just weeks before the NATO Summit 2025 in The Hague.

**VIDEO recap of 17<sup>th</sup> Hague Roundtable:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2JaIEqvwOuY>

## About

**The Hague Roundtable on Climate & Security**, founded in 2015, is an independent forum to support dialogue for international cooperation in adapting to climate risks to human well-being, sustainable development and peace. This forum's focus includes water resources, natural disasters, energy/food security, sea level rise, migration, conflict risk reduction and stability of fragile states. Roundtable participants highlight strategies along with what they offer and what they need in facing common challenges. Get in touch with inquiries on topics, events, collaboration and support.

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*Observations, recommendations and commentaries in this Roundtable report, compiled and edited by Matt Luna, are taken from discussions, and do not necessarily reflect the position of Hague Roundtable and host organizations.*