

Blogpost Symposium on EU Environmental Security

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Environmental security – understood not only as the securitisation of environmental issues but also the broader study of the impact of climate change and environmental degradation on human and ecological security, conflict and foreign policy – is a cross-disciplinary and dynamic field of scholarly and policy attention.

At the EU level, the environment-security nexus remains an emerging and urgent priority. While already present in the 2008 [Solana Report](#), it has only recently taken root in EU discourse, particularly over the last half-decade. This shift is, for instance, reflected in the EU and its Member States' participation in [UN Security Council debates](#) on climate, peace, and security.

The field's scope is broad and far reaching. It covers critical issues ranging from water resilience to energy dependency, the environmental footprint of conflict and the effects of environmental degradation and climate change on conflict, human (im)mobility and vulnerability. [Critics](#) have pointed to the faultlines of an EU approach to environmental security grounded on traditional understandings of security, environmental diplomacy and foreign policy rather than human or ecological security. Others have praised the EU and its Member States for finally acknowledging climate change as a '[threat multiplier](#)'.

Against this backdrop, students of the **Advanced Master in EU Environmental Governance** ([POLLEN](#)) at UCLouvain Saint-Louis Bruxelles were invited to explore the EU's approach to environmental (in)security in its multiple dimensions, through concise and informative blogposts. Below, we are pleased to publish a selection of these posts, offering both a testament to and a teaser of our ongoing debates.

The diversity of the contributions reflects the richness of this field. Students examined topics ranging from the need to better integrate ecosystem and maritime security into the European Ocean Pact (Luna Postel), to the importance of taking prevention seriously in the Union's water resilience strategy, lest public trust be eroded (Gaëlle Delandmeter). Other contributions explored the need to reframe soil as a strategic resource linked to food security, climate resilience and ecosystem stability, moving beyond the limited scope of the EU Soil Monitoring Law (Matthieu Goetz); the trade-offs between EU energy security and the environmental security of third countries underpinning the EU's Clean Industrial Deal, as well as the promises and pitfalls of the Critical Raw Materials Act and Clean Trade and Investment Partnerships (CTIPs) in this respect (Andrea Perrino); the economic and security implications of the EU's dependence on fossil fuels and the need to understand it as much more than an energy problem (Stijn Adams); and, finally, the broader implications of the EU's efforts to

overcome its strategic dependence on gas through REPowerEU and trade agreements (Honorine Meirlaen).

We hope that you enjoy reading these contributions as much as we enjoyed discussing them, and that you join the debates about the present and future of EU environmental (in)security.

The posts were subject to internal peer review. Their content nevertheless remains the sole responsibility of each author. The views expressed therein do not necessarily reflect those of the Institute for European Studies (IEE) or of the European Commission, which co-funds the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence EUMERGENCIES, within which this symposium is organised.

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