

Climate Crisis: PSCE commits to take action

Brussels, March 2020

PSCE has been providing critical insight into Public Safety and Disaster Response (PPDR) since 2009. Today, we commit to take action in response to the climate crisis. The PPDR sector is aware of the challenges due to climate change and PSCE supports the transformation lead by the European Commission and its “Green Deal”. PSCE is eager to bring some proposals to the table in view of mobilising our industry for a clean and circular economy.

Safeguarding residents, municipalities and businesses from the impacts of climate change is amongst the priorities of PSCE. There is no denial and the science is in: rising temperatures, changes in precipitation, extreme weather. The world is not doing enough to meet the challenge, and, as a consequence, large and small disasters are increasing in intensity and frequency.¹ These are all natural phenomenon that have contributed to higher unpredictability of the future.

Last November, the [European Parliament](#) has declared climate emergency and according to [EU survey findings](#), 93% of EU citizens see climate change as a serious problem and 79% see it as a very serious problem.

Anthropogenic global heating and climate disruption have reached crisis point². Alarming earth system [vital signs](#), such as rapid sea level rise and extreme weather document ‘urgent need for action’ and the world is not doing enough to meet the challenge. The causes and the consequences of the crisis are systemic, societal, and beyond individuals, deepening inequalities and injustices, and demanding unprecedented societal transformation and courage. The World Bank predicts internal displacement of 143 million people by 2050 if no climate action is taken³, heralding intensified humanitarian crises and the specter of climate barbarism⁴.

As a network focused on public safety and disaster response, we are uniquely positioned to bring practitioners, SMEs and industry developers of new technologies and networks, policy-makers, non-governmental and governmental organisations, communities and citizens together to (1) **decarbonise their activities** and (2) **support PPDR that complies with the needs of the unfolding environmental crisis**. We have devised a detailed action plan (available to network members).

Our actions are based on the following principles, taking into consideration the European Commission’s targets from “[The European Green Deal](#)” communication and “[The New Industrial Strategy for Europe](#)”:

¹ United Nations Environment Programme (2019). Emissions Gap Report 2019. UNEP, Nairobi.

² Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 2018 Global Warming of 1.5°C.

³ Rigaud, K. K., De Sherbinin, A., Jones, B., Bergmann, J., Clement, V., Ober, K., Midgley, A. et al. (2018). [Preparing for internal migration groundswell](#).

⁴ Klein, N. (2019). On fire: the burning case for a green new deal. Allen Lane. Figueres, C., Rivett-Carnac, T. (2020) The Future We Choose. Penguin Random House, London.

- **We will develop advocacy on Climate Crisis PPDR** based on “The European Green Deal” communication as well as “The New Industrial Strategy for Europe” to deepen systemic understanding of the climate and environmental crisis and the required response across all relevant activities.
- **We will contribute for the awareness of digital transformation** and its benefits in order to reach the Green Deal objectives. Digital technologies are a critical enabler for attaining the sustainability goals of the Green Deal in many different sectors. In PPDR, we will make sure that all our members and stakeholders are aware of this importance. PSCE is eager to apply incoming measures from the European Commission to ensure that digital technologies such as artificial intelligence, 5G and the Internet of Things can accelerate and maximize the impact of policies to deal with climate change and protect the environment.
- **We will strive for applying to European projects from the InvestEU**, in which 30% of its assignments will be dedicated to contribute to fighting climate change. Furthermore, many of the EU programmes, such as Horizon 2020, the Digital Europe Programme, the Single Market Programme, the Innovation Fund, the European Social Fund and Investment funds will help to promote the competitiveness of EU industry while striving for affordable, clean technologies and new business models.
- **We will closely follow the funding opportunities for the private sector** which will be key to financing green transition. By the end of 2020, the European Commission will announce a renewed sustainable finance strategy to strengthen the foundations for sustainable investment and present increased opportunities for investors and companies.
- **We will put the mechanism in place for net zero emissions by 2030.** As an international network, travel is one area where significant improvements are possible, as is the lighting, heating and cooling of work spaces, procurement, and commuting. Our detailed plan commits us to using the most advanced methods for monitoring and ongoing audit. It imposes a collective emission ceiling and commits us to rapid emission reduction. We will make our progress transparent through a working group chaired by Monika Buscher, which will report by 30th January 2021.
- **We will drive systemic change.** This declaration is about multiplying action through our network. As a strong PPDR stakeholder in Europe, we pledge to contribute to mobilizing research and fostering innovation, once again building up on the European Commission’s lead. We recognise that individual choices are crucial, but this is not about telling individuals what (not) to do. We recognise that some of the actions that are needed cannot be taken in isolation. There is a need for systemic change at institutional, national and international levels encompassing issues as diverse as how to finance disaster response and support community resilience, measures of success, and international collaboration. We will work with other European and non-European networks (Firstnet USA, Australia) and other bodies as appropriate in order to help bring about the systemic and cultural innovation needed to enable PPDR in a more precarious world and for a more sustainable future.



- **We will contribute to activating education and training.** Our training institutions and universities are well placed to engage with pupils, parents and the wider community on the changes needed for successful transition. PSCE will closely follow the upcoming European competence framework to help develop and assess knowledge, skills and attitudes on climate change and sustainable development. We will also work towards endeavoring that our research membership will be enabled structural funds and financial instruments for school infrastructure, foreseen under the collaboration with the European Investment Bank.
- **We will influence policy upstream.** Laying down new approaches to PPDR may support change, but some action needs big government commitment, regulation and institutional action. We will develop arguments to support policy development upstream and its implementation with careful attention to social justice and unintended consequences.
- **We will continue working towards robust and well-functioning systems for standardization and certification.** Our work with the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) as well as the 3rd Generation Partnership project (3GPP) presents a clear advantage and will draw on the work to follow.
- **We will encourage and support our industrial membership to define their own roadmaps for climate neutrality or digital leadership.** These actions entail high-quality research and skills supported by the EU. In the co-design and entrepreneurial spirit of this strategy, this should be supported through Public private Partnerships in order to help our industry developing the technologies to meet their goals.
- **We will closely follow the launch (2021) of the European Innovation Council in order to participate** as to take the most of Europe's strong research base. The European Innovation Council will identify next generation technologies and accelerate their commercial application.
- **We will ensure compliance with the Paris Agreement in the 2021-2030 period** as well as providing for proper reporting on that basis.

With this declaration we – the members of the PSCE Network – commit to respond to the climate and environmental crisis that threatens life on earth according to the principles outlined above. We will bi-annually review our programme of action and adapt it as necessary.

Brussels, March 2020,
PSCE Network

