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THE EESC BETWEEN PEACE AND CLIMATE CHANGE

We live in an age in which the link between climate policy and security policy is becoming increasingly important. The European Union must adopt a comprehensive and integrated strategy to address the growing interconnections between climate change, health and security risks, and global governance, positioning itself as a credible and resilient leader in global climate diplomacy, in a context of progressive disengagement by the United States. In its Opinion REX/599 on the interdependence between peace and climate change, adopted during its July Plenary Session, the EESC (European Economic and Social Committee) considers it essential that climate and security policies are no longer addressed separately, but are seen as mutually reinforcing elements for a sustainable and peaceful future. After all, the main objective of the Eu-



ropean project is precisely to promote and preserve peace, human rights and democracy. Only through an integrated approach can the European Union maintain its credibility and leadership in a world facing the dual threat of climate disruption and geopolitical instability. The EESC highlights the inextricable link

between climate change and global stability, because rising temperatures, extreme weather events and resource scarcity are not just environmental concerns but also important factors that accelerate conflicts. In order to safeguard peace, it is therefore necessary to recognise that climate action is a fundamental element of security policy, so that resilience to climate change can be integrated with peace-building and peace-keeping efforts. For Councillor Ulgiati, "climate change is increasingly one of the main causes of global insecurity, as it exacerbates existing vulnerabilities, contributes to forced displacement and increases competition for already scarce resources. The European Union must therefore strengthen its diplomatic and institutional responses in order to address the effects of climate change on peace and stability, especially in the new geopolitical order".

ECB AND THE EMPLOYMENT ALARM IN THE EUROZONE

A dossier recently published by the European Central Bank (ECB) warns of the dangers associated with the increase in imports from China, which currently mainly affect the automotive and chemical sectors, but whose broader implications could extend to almost a third of employment in the eurozone. Trade tensions with the United States are leading China to export more to the eurozone, causing potential negative employment repercussions, with fewer job offers for Europeans and therefore higher unemployment. The issue is not new, as the

trend so far has shown that greater Chinese presence and competition is causing changes in the European labour market. «Sectors facing greater competition from China have seen a greater decline in job vacancies, a sign of weaker labour demand», highlight ECB technicians. Between 2019 and 2024, demand for labour in the vehicle sector fell by 55%, the publication points out, while the reduction in the chemical industry was around 95%. This data is worrying for the future, as there are fears that the tariff war triggered by the Trump Administration could push

China even further towards the European Union and its eurozone, putting pressure on the European labour market. The growing competitiveness of Chinese exports therefore poses significant challenges for the euro area, and the European system must begin to prepare itself, with companies having to adapt to an increasingly competitive global environment. However, the ECB reports that in the long term, total employment may not change significantly as a result of trade shocks, as the economy adapts through wage changes and worker shifts between sectors.

