



THE EESC AND THE WATER RESILIENCE STRATEGY

The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) was the first EU Institution to recognise the need for a fundamental transformation in the way water resources are addressed in EU policies, recommending a comprehensive approach that takes into account integrated management of the entire water cycle, as well as a gradual and targeted increase in resilience and resources. In addition, the EESC adopted a Declaration for a new European Blue Deal, to be assessed as a separate strategy, in which it calls on the European Union to consider water as a top priority and to adopt a Blue Deal in synergy with the European Green Deal and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. In the Opinion CCMI/223, adopted at the last Plenary Session in September, the EESC welcomed the Commission's communication on the European strategy on water resilience, urging the EU Executive to ensure that the water dimension is integrated into all European policies and highlighting that any water strategy must not only address current challenges but also anticipate future challenges related to climate change. Great importance is attached to the geopolitical aspect of water, with the European Union being called upon to take a leading role in global water resource governance. The integration of blue diplomacy into EU foreign policy can indeed help to address water-related challenges in important regions such as the Mediterranean, the Middle East and North Africa. For Councillor Ulgiati «water should be a common good, avail-

lable to all, but the fact that it is a finite public good means that, if not used in the best possible way, it leads to water poverty with consequent crises linked to climate migration rather than to the cultivation of agri-food products». The design and implementation of the European strategy on water resilience must therefore safeguard the state of European water services as a guarantee to ensure, in addition to high quality standards, availability and physical and economic accessibility for all stakeholders.



EU AND COMMON SECURITY

The informal European Council held in Copenhagen a few days ago concluded with the assignment of a completely new role, with increased meetings and functions, to the Ministers of Defence, who are entrusted with the task of giving a more European dimension to a national sphere. The informal Summit of EU Heads of State and Government thus produced the political decision to proceed with European defence integration, which had been considered unthinkable until now, given the failed historical precedents. «We need to give more autonomy and increasingly involve our defence ministers at European level» said European Council President, Antonio Costa. In practice, the intention is to extend the current mandate of the Defence Ministers, who meet within the Foreign Affairs Council, freeing them from this format to give them greater po-

litical weight, especially in relations with leaders. This decision is the logical consequence of a need that is now felt to be unavoidable and no longer renewable, after repeated violations of European airspace and growing tensions, mainly from the east. However, when discussing security and threats to the security of the EU bloc, it is necessary to remember that, in addition to the eastern flank «there is also a southern flank» that must be considered and therefore defended, according to Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, who arrived in the Danish capital with the intention of updating the agenda so that it does not focus solely on Russia's hostile actions, but rather seeks broader solutions that are not limited to specific areas of the European Union. The common thread running through the meeting, which saw all European leaders converge, albeit with slight nuances, was

the promotion of a new Europe, more integrated from a military and defence point of view. The European Commission has also moved in the same direction with the presentation of its policy paper on the industrial and operational integration of the defence sector by 2030, emphasising the interoperability of armed forces and military capabilities. These are all issues that require concrete decisions, which are expected at the European Council meeting on the 23rd and 24th of October.

