Position paper: Climate resilience is high on the agenda for insurers too

A new European framework for climate resilience[1] will be published on 28 October, placing *'resilience by design'* at its core and seeking to improve coordination across levels of government. In addition, Ursula von der Leyen recently announced in her *State of the Union* address the establishment of a 'European Climate Insurance Alliance' to develop insurance solutions for climate resilience. The insurance sector welcomes these initiatives and is committed to playing its part in tackling the climate challenge.

The need for a holistic and coordinated approach

Climate resilience is about managing economic and societal risks and has become an absolute necessity as the effects of climate change are felt ever more acutely. Europe can only adapt to a changing climate if prevention, public investment and insurance solutions go hand in hand. Although insurers help develop and implement solutions, the scale and unpredictability of climate events mean that they cannot provide the entire answer to this societal challenge. The need for a holistic and coordinated approach in which every stakeholder plays their part has become increasingly clear in recent years, both globally and closer to home. From the floods a few years ago to last summer's heat and wildfires, from low water levels to lower productivity ... climate change affects a wide range of people and processes. The growing frequency and scale of climate-related damage cannot be addressed through insurance alone: a broader approach is needed in which prevention, adaptation, risk reduction and risk awareness are also crucial.

Insurers: reliable partners on several fronts

Insurers do more than pay claims. They are also risk experts, investors and partners in prevention, contributing to climate resilience in several ways:

1. ***Ensuring prompt claims payments and safeguarding insurability***

Paying claims naturally remains insurers' core task. Following the exceptional floods in 2021, the Belgian insurance sector quickly concluded a protocol with the affected regions to ensure that compensation could be as complete as possible. Insurers themselves paid out a total amount of €1,25 billion* in compensation.

Insurers also help ensure that property remains insurable. To secure compensation for victims of any future natural disasters as well, Assuralia is currently discussing the development of a robust public-private partnership with the Belgian authorities.

2. ***Investing in prevention and adaptation***

Insurers advise their customers on preventive measures and encourage them to take such measures. As partners in numerous projects and as institutional investors, insurers also invest in a wide range of prevention and adaptation initiatives and infrastructure, from the construction of a new cycle highway to the sustainable renovation of public buildings.

3. ***Promoting knowledge sharing, data management and cooperation***

The insurance sector actively works to advance knowledge sharing and cooperation with a range of organisations and public bodies. Insurers not only hold useful data themselves; the

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[1] European integrated framework for climate resilience - In "A new plan for Europe's sustainable prosperity and competitiveness"

* Situation as at 30 June 2026.

sector also notes that considerable expertise and practical solutions already exist on the ground.
In Belgium, for example, Assuralia developed the 'Klimaatschademonitor' (Climate damage monitor), an accessible tool that gives local authorities, businesses and citizens insight into climate-related damage in specific areas. Decision-makers can use this information to adjust their policies. Businesses and citizens can assess whether adaptations to their properties would be useful. Assuralia therefore also published a series of simple prevention tips alongside the monitor. More recently, Assuralia contributed to projects run by Climate Fit, an organisation that rolls out impactful adaptation solutions through regional pilot projects.

Further challenges for Europe and Belgium
Ahead of the publication of the new European framework for climate resilience, Assuralia highlights the key actions that Europe and its Member States can take to better protect themselves against the impacts of climate change.

- **Climate adaptation** must become an integral part of **spatial planning**, guided by the principle of **'resilience by design'**, so that climate risks are taken into account from the outset in plans for new infrastructure and in building and renovation rules. Public authorities should also invest more in **water management** and green infrastructure. Without accelerated investment in adaptation, the costs of climate-related damage risk rising faster than the capacity of public authorities, citizens and insurers to bear them. Europe can help make projects investment-ready so that **private capital** can also be attracted.

- **Reliable, understandable and comparable climate data** are essential for public authorities, businesses and citizens. Open data, common definitions, risk maps and transparent methodologies facilitate sound decisions and enable **better policymaking**. Europe has already laid a foundation for this through the Floods Directive 2007/60/EC of 23 October 2007 and the Copernicus Earth Observation Programme.

- Major natural disasters are **systemic risks** that insurers cannot bear alone. They require **public-private solutions** combining prevention, insurance, public investment and support. At European level, the newly established European ***Climate Insurance Alliance*** can play an important role here, although its ambition will need to go beyond increasing insurance coverage. As noted above, **prevention, climate adaptation and risk awareness** are essential to prevent more and more climate risks from becoming uninsurable and an insurance protection gap from emerging or widening.

- Climate risks are long-term and cross-border in nature. At the same time, European Member States differ in their geographical characteristics and specific risks. A forward-looking European strategy can ensure **predictable long-term policy** while leaving sufficient **scope for national solutions**.

Climate resilience is built before a disaster, not after it. The choices Europe makes today on prevention, adaptation and investment will determine whether climate risks remain manageable and insurable tomorrow. All these efforts reinforce one another, together creating a virtuous cycle towards greater resilience across Europe, in Belgium and in every neighbourhood,

street and home. The insurance sector stands ready to tackle this challenge together with Europe and local policymakers.