



## Implementing European Climate and Security Policies

9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Brussels Dialogue on Climate Diplomacy  
Tuesday, 9 April 2019 - European Parliament, Brussels

### SUMMARY REPORT

**Rapporteur: Antoine Brun-Buisson, EDRC**

With growing recognition for climate change's security implications, this informal conference was organised with several international and regional organisations which have adopted various new policies and implemented several related initiatives. These are concerned with the relation between a changing climate and the multiple security dimensions, on the international, national, regional, human, and environmental levels.

The briefing was held to especially highlight recent and on-going initiatives by the EU, IOM, OSCE, and others, and to discuss and share ideas with an interdisciplinary audience on what practical next steps are required to best implement European climate and security policies. The discussions covered multiple highly relevant topics, such as climate-induced migration, natural-disaster resilience, green development projects, and more.

### Welcome and Introduction

The meeting was opened by **Jo Leinen**, MEP who mentioned the pertinence of the climate and security policy nexus and stressed that this connection is not yet in the forefront. The importance of this issue was highlighted in the [Report on Climate Diplomacy](#) for which he and today's co-chair, **Arne Lietz** MEP, served as rapporteurs and which was adopted by the European Parliament in 2018. He was very pleased to welcome the participants and introduced the conference speakers.

### “Security Implications of a Changing Climate”

**Jamie Shea**, Secretary-General of the Global Military Advisory Council on Climate Change (GMACCC) and Former Deputy Assistant Secretary-General for Emerging Security Challenges at NATO, spoke on the reasons, challenges, and implications of integrating climate change into the security world.

Dr Shea stressed the impact of climate change on the security realm in the short and long term as well as the potential societal implications stemming from natural disasters, climate-induced migration, food and resources scarcities, political instability, and diseases. In recent years, both fragile and developed states - such as in North America and the EU – were harmed by extreme forest fires, severe flooding, or hurricanes. Therefore, he highlighted the importance of organisations, such as the EU, NATO, and the OSCE, in facilitating expertise sharing to strengthen joint common mitigation and adaptation efforts.

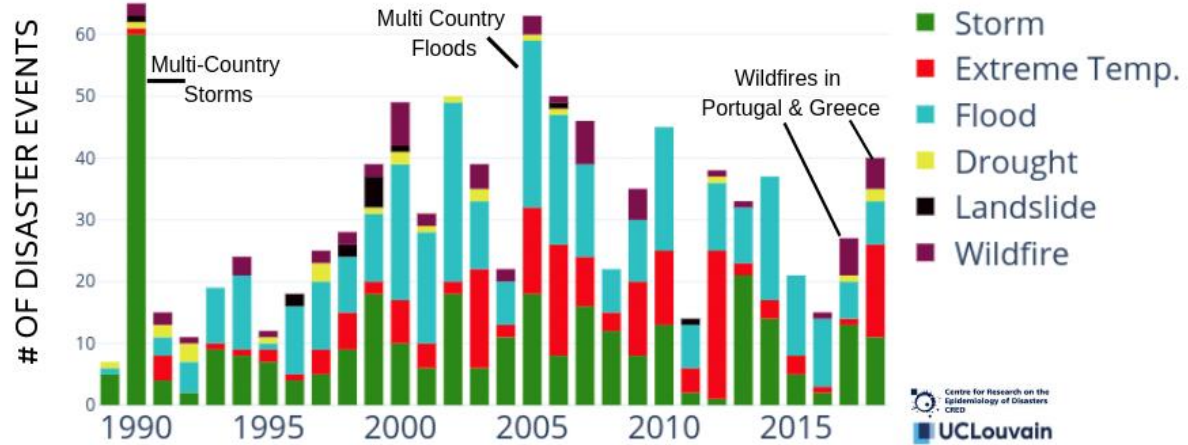
Climate change has not yet been fully integrated into the complex security world due to competing priorities on the security agenda. However, climate change-related effects will continue to remind societies of their need to act. Jamie stressed the urgency to rethink the security and development nexus and introduce a bottom-up approach to involve the security community’s know-how in the process.

After highlighting the need for the diplomatic community to be better prepared for the environmental effects and challenges he emphasised the importance of the military community as part of the solution. In addition to acting as a lobby for attention to climate change, military actors can be constructive in mapping vulnerabilities, creating climate change scenarios, and modelling the climate knock-on effects to anticipate needed assistance and minimize cascading effects. The next military role might be the crisis response to help civilians as NATO did it after Hurricane Katrina or Kashmir's earthquake disasters. He insisted on the necessity to think about the equipment requirements for a green military response but also how to pre-position this equipment for a rapid response scenario. Finally, military actors can improve defence capacity building for this purpose by reforming and restructuring forces to take into account new more difficult operating conditions.

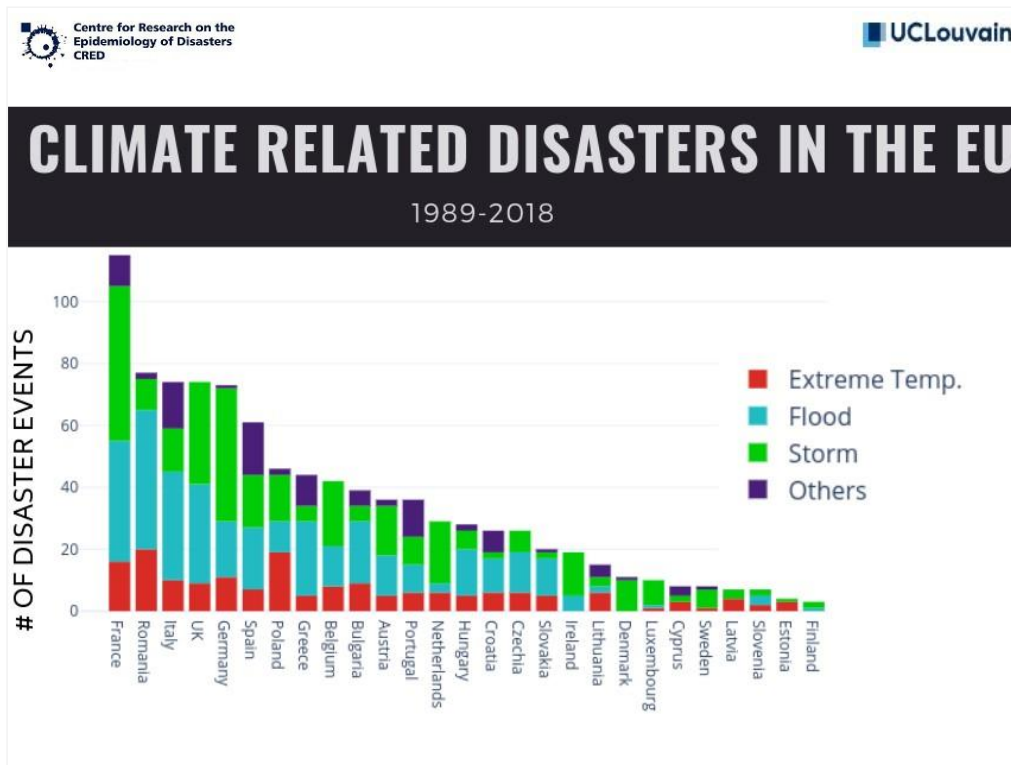
**“European Readiness and Responses to Climate-related Natural Disasters”**

The Director of the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED) at the UCLouvain, **Professor Debarati Guha-Sapir**, talked about the EU vulnerability from climate-related disasters, the conjunctures, and the gaps in the European climate-induced disaster strategy.

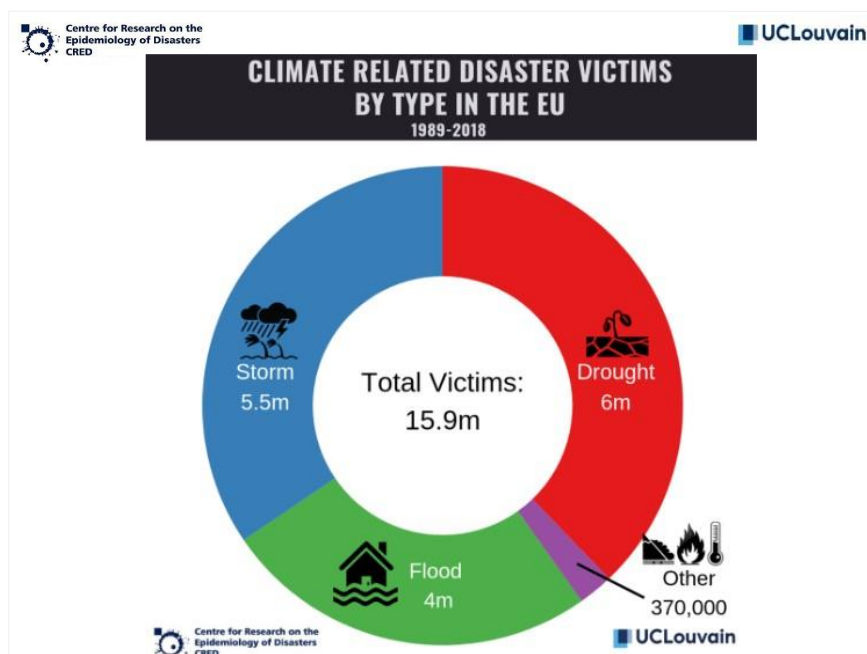
**CLIMATE RELATED DISASTERS IN THE EU**  
1989-2018



For her, an effective climate disaster risk policy begins with good data collection. The EU member states have faced severe climate-related disasters over the past 30 years, such as storms, floods, and extreme temperatures, which have caused considerable economic losses and the loss of lives. An EU-wide and global data collection was underlined to be the first step for a common and comprehensive disaster risk strategy.

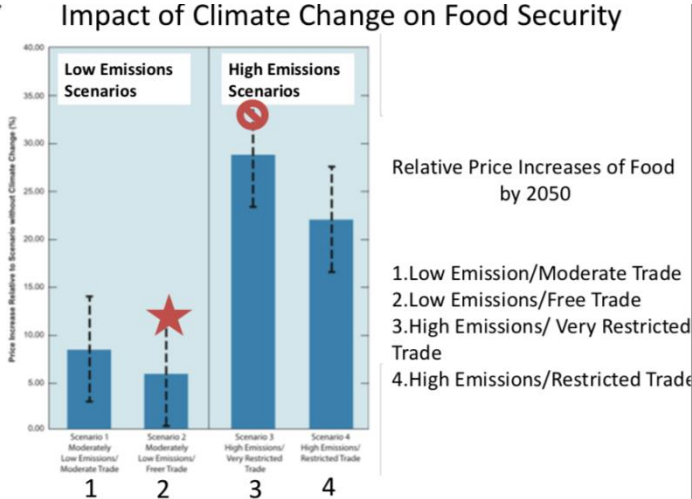


In presenting figures concerning the economic impact of climate related disasters, Professor Guha-Sapir pointed out that the statistics she shared concerned only the EU whereas we need to recognise that these kinds of impacts are occurring worldwide and to a greater extent than what the global statistics reveal. She explained that for many European countries as well as for Australia, Japan, and other OECD countries the number of people affected is approximately defined on the basis of the number of insurance claims made following such events whereas in many regions of the world large numbers of poorer people do not have insurance to cover damages and loss of life due to such disasters.

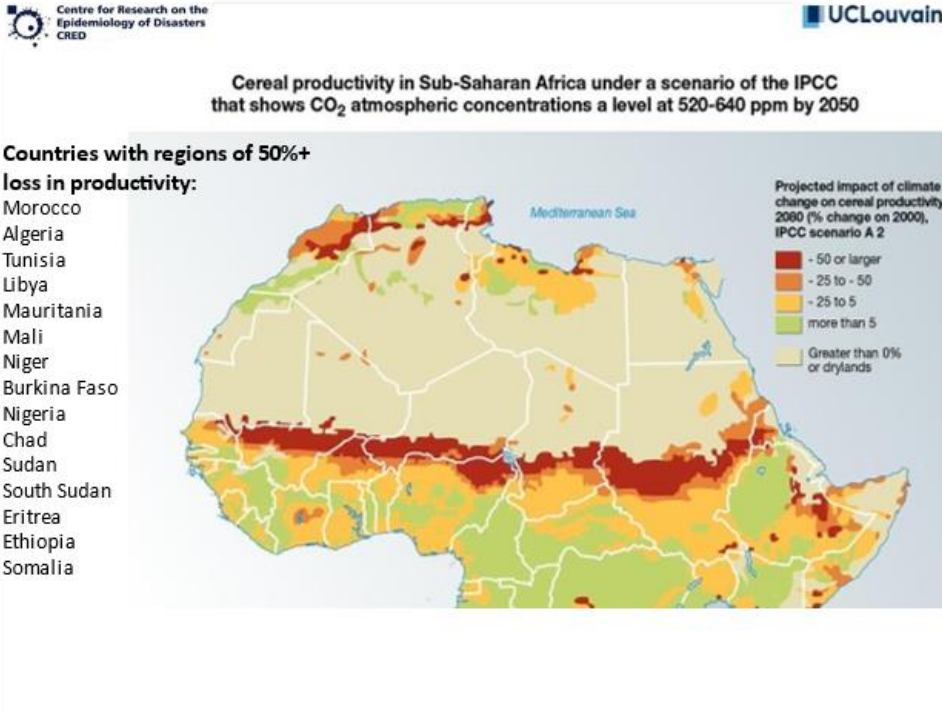


Looking beyond current patterns, Professor Guha-Sapir emphasized future challenges for Europe, including extreme hot weather, particularly in central and southern Europe, and the expansion of the geographic range and seasonality of specific diseases, increasing food prices, and climate-induced displacements.

After remarks concerning the economic impacts of disasters, she spoke on the impact of climate change on food security. She pointed out that the price increases of food is very different in a low emission scenario compared to a high emissions scenario.



Reporting that climate hazards pushed 39 million people into major food crisis in 23 countries (WFP, 2017) she said these crises contribute to the breakdown of livelihoods, social exclusion, and makes joining armed groups attractive. She then shared a map showing the IPCC’s projected impact on climate change on cereal productivity which can be higher than 50% losses in many Africa countries.



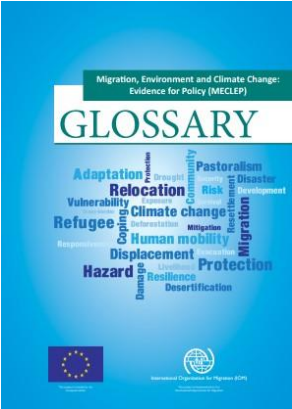
In conclusion, Professor Guha-Sapir said that questions arise about how prepared the EU is for these climate-related natural disasters and their knock-on effects. She stressed the need for establishing more specific strategies for climate extremes, particularly heat waves and droughts, and the need for a more proactive role of the EU in stabilising climate impacts, especially in neighbouring countries. Finally, she also stressed the lack of a conventional protocol defining disaster events across the EU and that 63% of all disasters in the emergency database do not report economic losses, showing the imperative of more effective disaster risk reporting.

**“Climate Change and Migration: Implications for European Policies”**

**Dina Ionesco**, Head of Migration, Environment and Climate Change Division, International Organization for Migration (IOM), talked about the implications of the climate change and migration nexus for European policies. Before reporting on the recent developments in global policy and future perspectives in this field, she presented and framed this issue.

The linkage between climate and environmentally induced migration is highly complex and cannot be understood in isolation from related issues. While climate change affects multiple dimensions causing displacement, the link is not directly causal. Ms Ionesco mentioned various variables that need to be considered, such as the economic, psychological, social, demographic, political, and conflictual dimensions. These displacements can also result from both sudden and slow events although it is difficult to determine the displacement’s scale due to progressive changes in the environment. Nevertheless, we know today who is exposed to climate change risks and that displacements are more internal than transnational. Lastly, Dina emphasized that environmental migration is a broad phenomenon that includes not only persons or groups of persons who are obliged to leave their home to survive but also those who choose to do so, temporally or permanently, because of changes in the environment.

**Environmental Migration**



**Environmental migrants** are persons or groups of persons who, for compelling reasons of sudden or progressive changes in the environment that adversely affect their lives or living conditions , are obliged to leave their homes or choose to do so , either temporarily or permanently , and who move either within their country or abroad .

2011 Glossary on Migration, 2nd Edition International Migration Law No. 25, IOM, Geneva.  
2011 IDM Workshop “Climate Change, Environmental Degradation and Migration”

Despite the absence of legal status for climate refugees, the environmental-related migration concern has shifted “from invisibility to a lot of overexposure” in recent years. There are today many anchorages for action since the Cancun COP16 of the UNFCCC negotiations, which integrated this topic in the adaptation concerns. More broadly, Dina showed that migration topics are being considered in environmental, climate change, development, and

humanitarian policy. Climate change and disaster topics are likewise inserted into migrations governance frameworks as seen in the UN summit for refugees and migrants in September 2016.

She also highlighted many recent connections between climate change and migration at the EU level, even though key documents on climate change, such as the Foreign Affairs Council conclusion from 2013 or the adaptation strategy from 2013, still do not make the link.

Further, Dina emphasized the IOM's Strategic objectives on migration governance in the context of environmental degradation and climate change, which represent important guidance, especially at the EU level, about what needs to be done to better address this growing challenge. First, she underlined the need to prevent forced migration and to provide solutions for people to stay, for instance, by developing an ecosystem preservation policy or a disaster risk reduction strategy. Secondly, she stressed the need to provide assistance to affected populations and create solutions where displacements occur. This refers to the complex question of migration policy building, including, for instance, the dedicated services, procedures, and reintegration issues. Finally, spoke of the need to facilitate migration as part of the adaptation strategy that could materialise, for instance, by an emergency and humanitarian response and strengthening preparedness and protection strategy.



## "Environmental Activities, Climate Change and Security in Europe"

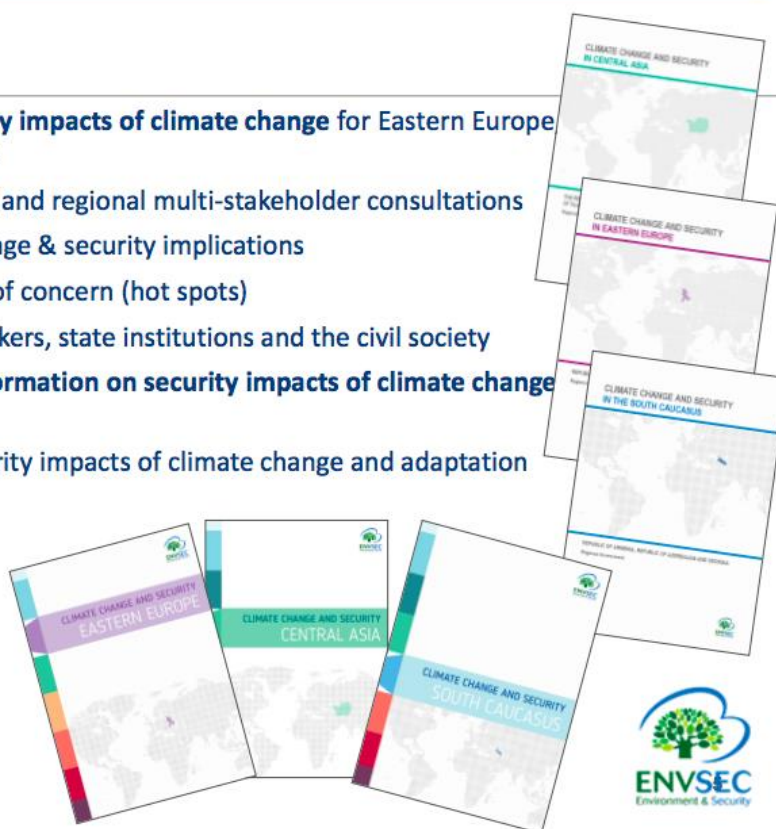
**Ralf Ernst**, Deputy Co-ordinator, OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities / Head of Environmental Activities, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), introduced the role of the OSCE's environmental pillar as part of the objective of security and stability in Europe, both in terms of mitigation and adaptation.

After mentioning the OSCE green pillar top priorities such as climate change and security, trans-boundary water cooperation, disaster risk reduction, hazardous waste management, good environmental governance, and energy security, he presented the Flagship-project: Climate Change, and Security in Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and South Caucasus, under the ENVSEC initiative. The project, finished in 2017, produced regional assessments to identify key priority areas where climate change is expected to undermine social or economic patterns or exacerbate political and social tensions.

# Project: Climate Change and Security in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Southern Caucasus

## MAIN RESULTS

- **Participatory assessments of security impacts of climate change** for Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the South Caucasus
  - Regional desk studies, national and regional multi-stakeholder consultations
  - Visual synthesis of climate change & security implications
  - Identification of priority areas of concern (hot spots)
  - Recommendations to policymakers, state institutions and the civil society
- Production and dissemination of **information on security impacts of climate change** and required adaptation measures
- **Training** of key stakeholders on security impacts of climate change and adaptation measures
- **Public outreach** activities



Additionally, Ralf elaborated on new parameters. In addition to reinforcing a collective response in selected transboundary hot spots identified from assessments, OSCE will also play a key role in enhancing low carbon development in the frame of climate change and connectivity projects. More particularly, OSCE will help to create a knowledge network and introduce green economy standards, for instance, in large-scale infrastructures in Central Asia and the Caspian Sea region.

## New Projects

- **Strengthening Responses to Security Risks from Climate Change in South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and Central Asia**

### Objective

To foster **co-operative responses to climate change related security threats**

### Expected Results

1. Implementation of co-operative responses in selected transboundary hotspots
  2. Increased capacity of different stakeholder groups to understand, prevent and mitigate potential security risks resulting from climate change
  3. Enhanced awareness on climate change and security
- **Separate Project for Mediterranean Region is under preparation.**

## Climate change and Connectivity

### New projects:

- **Strengthening national and regional capacities and co-operation on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in Central Asia, including as a response to climate change**
  - Under preparation in cooperation with UNECE and German Environmental Protection Agency
- **Promoting Green Ports and Connectivity in the Caspian Sea Region**
  - Involving major ports in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan
  - Focus on renewable energy and green economy

## "Recent and Upcoming Climate Diplomacy Action by the EU"

In the last presentation, **Pascal Delisle**, adviser on Climate Change, Global affairs, European External Action Service, recalled that hard security solutions do not address climate-induced human security issues. He argued that while it is increasingly necessary to adapt to the changing climate effects, mitigation policy must "remain the first line of defence" - even though it is politically difficult today. This is particularly important because many of the benefits of an adaptation policy are locally based, contrary to mitigation policy.

Further, he insisted that climate change cannot be a secondary challenge despite other competing priorities. Even with ups and downs, there are today strong impetus from the EU, the UN with the strong commitment of Secretary General António Guterres, and some countries. He pointed out that the UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) is working on developing a risk assessment tool for climate security, and more. Also, since we have today a growing amount of data on climate change impacts and knock-on effects, the difficulty is to move to action. We can materialise this problem from different angles in the security or development world.

Finally, Pascal highlighted that the reaction to climate change can bring its own challenges. For instance, there is a clear risk of maladaptation regarding the potential impacts of dam projects downstream or the effect of the transition from fossil fuels on stability in countries such as Nigeria, Venezuela, or Algeria. In the context of the EU climate neutrality by 2050, he stressed the need to be careful about transition knock-on effects and especially on those who are heavily dependent on fossil fuels. He stressed the importance of more strongly involving foreign affairs in this long-term strategy in order to invite others to join the effort and conjugate climate diplomacy within a competitive economic world.

### Closing

Following the presentations, **Arne Lietz**, highlighted some key points of the various presentations and thanked the speakers, co-organisers and participants as well as the Foreign Federal Office of Germany, for its support.

**Ronald A. Kingham**, Executive Director of Environment & Development Resource Centre, also thanked the chairpersons and the participants adding that this 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Brussels Dialogue on Climate Diplomacy once again illustrated the value of these informal meetings of representatives of such a diverse group of organizations to share views and ideas. He concluded by announcing that the next and 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Brussels Dialogue on Climate Diplomacy will be held at the Permanent Representation of the Netherlands to the European Union on 24 May 2019 on the subject of "Addressing the Security Implications of Climate Change".



*The meeting was organised by the Environment & Development Resource Centre and GLOBE European Union, for the Brussels Dialogue on Climate Diplomacy and the Global Military Advisory Council on Climate Change in association with the Institute for European Environmental Policy with the support of the Federal Foreign Office of Germany*