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Climate change is a security risk for EU says EU foreign policy chief

Campaigners against the Lisbon Treaty claim a report by EU's High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy, Javier Solana, supports the claim that the push to expand the military dimension of the EU is linked to global resources.

Former Green Party MEP, Patricia McKenna, has said 'the admission by EU foreign policy chiefs that climate change is a security risk for EU illustrates the link between the militarization of the EU and concern over access to resources'.

According to reports in today's *Financial Times* and *FT Deutschland* the European Union's foreign policy chiefs have stated that climate change is not merely an environmental concern, it could also present 'serious security risks'. The *Financial Times* and its German sister paper obtained a copy of a paper drafted by the EU's High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy, Javier Solana, and external relations commissioner, Benita Ferrero-Waldner, which states that 'tackling climate change is central to Europe's preventive security policy'.

The *Financial Times* obtained a copy of the paper's contents in advance of an EU leaders' summit later this month where the issue is to be discussed.

The paper highlights seven key concerns: diminishing water supplies, falling harvests, increased migration, expanding energy resource competition, tussles over newly opened up opportunities in the Arctic as the ice there melts, disappearing coastlines and islands that sink beneath the waves as sea levels rise.

Of particular concern is the growing threat of so-called water wars in the Middle East.

‘Water supply in Israel might fall by 60 per cent over this century’, reads the paper, which argues that battles over access to water in the region in turn affect the EU’s energy security.

The paper also points to concerns that reduced harvests in the Middle East and Turkey will also add to the region’s instability.

‘The EU is clearly preparing for the possibility of future military action to protect its own vested interests. The Lisbon Treaty will give the EU all the powers it needs to use military might to ensure to protects its interests. This is the new colonialism of the 21st century and its being supported by our own government. Ireland, as a country that suffered in past centuries as a result of the imperialist approach such not support moves that will ensure that other nations around the world are now the victims modern-day imperialism.’

‘To accept the argument that the EU’s expanded military dimension is all about peace and humanitarian tasks would be extremely naive. There is no doubt that the increased security and defence powers given to the EU via the Lisbon Treaty will be used for selfish purposes’ concluded McKenna.

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