



Brussels, 17 May 2015  
(OR. en)

8921/15

**LIMITE**

**CFSP/PESC 156  
CSDP/PSDC 277  
MAMA 38  
RELEX 380  
CONUN 94  
CSC 109  
EUNAVFOR MED 1**

**NOTE**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

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Subject: Draft Council Decision on a European Union military operation in the Southern Central Mediterranean (EUNAVFOR MED)

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1. On 20 April 2015, the Council confirmed a strong commitment to act in order to prevent human tragedies resulting from the people smuggling across the Mediterranean.
2. On 23 April 2015, the extraordinary European Council expressed its indignation about the situation in the Mediterranean and underlined that the EU will mobilise all efforts at its disposal to prevent further loss of life at sea and to tackle the root causes of this human emergency. The European Council committed to strengthen the Union's presence at sea, to prevent illegal migration flows and to reinforce internal solidarity and responsibility. It highlighted the commitment to fight the traffickers in accordance with international law and invited the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to start preparations for a possible CSDP operation to this effect.
3. The Political and Security Committee agreed on 13 May 2015 the Crisis Management Concept for adoption by the Council, and requested the Foreign Relations Counsellors (RELEX) to prepare a draft Council Decision establishing the CSDP operation.

4. On 17 May 2015, the Foreign Relations Counsellors Working Party (RELEX) prepared a draft Council Decision on a European Union military operation in the Southern Central Mediterranean (EUNAVFOR MED). Pursuant to Council Decision (CFSP) 2015/528 establishing a mechanism to administer the financing of the common costs of European Union operations having military or defence implications (Athena), RELEX, joined by members of the Athena Special Committee, also agreed on the reference amount for the common costs of the operation and the percentage of the reference amount referred to in Article 25(1) of Decision 2015/528/CFSP.
5. In the light of the foregoing,
- COREPER is invited to submit to the Council the draft Decision on a European Union military operation in the Southern Central Mediterranean (EUNAVFOR MED), as set out, after finalisation of the text by the legal/linguistic experts, in document 8740/15;
  - The Council is invited to adopt the draft Council Decision on a EU military operation in the Southern Central Mediterranean (EUNAVFOR MED), as set out in document 8740/15.
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