



European Union Naval Force - Mediterranean

MISSION

On 23 April 2015, the European Council stressed that the Union will mobilise all efforts to prevent further loss of life at sea, tackle the root causes of the human emergency in the Mediterranean - in cooperation with the countries of origin and transit - and fight human smugglers and traffickers. On 18 May 2015, the Council approved the Crisis Management Concept for a military CSDP operation to disrupt the business model of human smuggling and trafficking networks in the Southern Central Mediterranean (Council Decision 2015/778 dated May the 18th 2015).

As a result, and as part of the European Union's comprehensive approach to the challenge, on 22 June 2015 the EU launched a European Union military operation in the Southern Central Mediterranean (EUNAVFOR MED). The aim of this military operation is to undertake systematic efforts to identify, capture and dispose of vessels as well as enabling assets used or suspected of being used by migrant smugglers or traffickers.

Countering the smuggling and trafficking of migrants is one dimension of addressing the human tragedy that we see in the Mediterranean sea. It is also an important contribution to saving lives and improving security in the region.

MANDATE

EUNAVFOR Med will operate in accordance with the political, strategic and politico-military objectives set out in order to:

- disrupt the business model of human smuggling and trafficking networks in the Mediterranean;
- contribute to reducing the further loss of lives at sea

In accordance with the Council Decision dated 18 May 2015 the operation shall end no later than 12 months after having reached Full Operational Capability (FOC).

EUNAVFOR Med will be conducted in sequential phases and in full compliance with international law, including humanitarian, refugee and human rights law.

- The first phase focuses on surveillance and assessment of human smuggling and trafficking networks in the Southern Central Mediterranean.

- The second stage of the operation provides for the search and, if necessary, diversion of suspicious vessels.
- The third phase would allow the disposal of vessels and related assets, preferably before use, and to apprehend traffickers and smugglers.

The Council shall assess whether the conditions for transition beyond the first phase have been met, taking into account any applicable UN Security Council Resolution and consent by the Coastal States concerned.



CURRENT FACTS AND FIGURES

Area of Operation: Central part of Southern Mediterranean Sea.

Headquarters: Rome, Italy

Starting date: 22 June 2015

Operation Commander: Rear Admiral Enrico Credendino (IT Navy).

Force Strength: The composition of EUNAVFOR Med will vary dependent on the frequent rotation and composition of the various warships and other assets assigned to the operation.

The flagship is the Italian Aircraft carrier CAVOUR and the force Commander on board is Rear Admiral Andrea Gueglio (IT Navy). In addition to the Aircraft carrier CAVOUR, 8 surface and subsurface naval units and 12 Air Assets will be deployed during the first phase of the operation.

Contributing States: Currently 14 Member States (BE, DE, EL, ES, FI, FR, HU, IT, LT, LU, NL, SE, SI, UK) contribute to Operation EUNAVFOR Med.

Operation Budget: military assets and personnel are provided by the contributing states with the running costs and personnel costs being met on a national basis. In addition, there is a common budget of €1.82 million for a 12 month period, after the Full Operational Capability has been reached, agreed and monitored by the Athena Committee of Member States.

THE EU COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH

EU NAVFOR MED is part of the EU's comprehensive approach to migration, tackling both current symptoms and the root causes such as conflict, poverty, climate change and persecution. EUNAVFOR MED will help disrupt the smuggling networks that are responsible for the loss of life at sea in the frame of an overall approach, which includes other actions.

These actions include:

- increased partnership with the African Union (including organisation of a joint summit this Autumn) and African regional organizations, countries of both origin and transit of the mixed migratory flows, IOM, UNHCR and other partners;

- EU efforts and support underpinning regional cooperation frameworks and in particular the Rabat and Khartoum processes;
- increased EU presence in the Mediterranean, notably through the FRONTEX operations in the Mediterranean, Triton and Poseidon;
- increased support to border management in the region, including through the CSDP missions, in particular reinforcing EUCAP SAHEL Niger
- addressing root causes including through improvement of the security/humanitarian/human rights situations and socio-economic conditions in countries of origin – so that people build a future in their respective countries;
- cooperation with transit countries in controlling the flows and combat smugglers more effectively;
- building capacities in countries of origin and transit to enable local authorities to tackle the issue more effectively.

European Union Naval
Force Med
Media and Public
Information Office

Address Via di Centocelle, 301 – 00175 Rome (Italy)
Media Centre Phone: +39 06 4691 9454/ + 39 06 46919451
Mobile: + 39 334 6891930/+ 39 331 17176997/
+39 380 4337020
Email: spokesperson@euohq.difesa.it/ugcapo.vcupi@smd.difesa.it

More Information on http://eeas.europa.eu/csdp/missions-and-operations/eunavfor-med/index_en.htm