



**EUROPEAN UNION
NAVAL FORCE**

**OPERATION ATALANTA
EUROPEAN UNION OPERATION HEADQUARTERS**

PUBLIC INFORMATION

EUROPEAN UNION NAVAL FORCES OPERATION ATALANTA – EUNAVFOR ATALANTA

THE EU OPERATION TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE MARITIME SECURITY IN THE NORTH WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN

OPERATION ATALANTA

In late 2022, EUNAVFOR Operation ATALANTA was extended towards December 2024 with a new mandate enforced, reflecting achievements, challenges and way ahead for the Operation. EU Member States decided that the Operation should preserve its main efforts to protect World Food Programme (WFP) and other vulnerable vessels; deter, prevent and repress piracy and armed robbery at sea; monitor fishing activities in the Horn of Africa and the Western Indian Ocean; combat drug trafficking and contribute to the arms embargo on Somalia, the illicit trade in charcoal and illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

ATALANTA is a fundamental part of the EU's commitment to the Horn of Africa and the Red Sea region, cooperating with the EU sister missions EUCAP-Somalia and EUTM-Somalia, maintaining close linkages with EU representations across the area and contributing to the implementation of EU programmes aimed to enhance the regional maritime security architecture.

Additionally, new ways of developing further links and synergies with this European-led operation in the Strait of Hormuz (EMASOH-AGENOR) have been established.

Moreover, the mandate sets the basis to strengthen ATALANTA as a reference in the North Western Indian Ocean and the Red Sea as a Maritime Security Provider.

MANDATE.

In late 2008, the Council of the European Union adopted Joint Action 2008/851/CFSP, based on various UN resolutions, to establish the executive EU military maritime operation – Operation ATALANTA and contribute to the deterrence, prevention and repression of acts of piracy and armed robbery off the Somali coast. Over time, the mandate of EU NAVFOR has been adapted to reflect the evolving situation at sea and the increased presence of the International Community in Somalia in order to become the Operation in a Maritime Security Provider in the North Western Indian Ocean..

On 12 December 2022, Council Decision (CFSP) 2022/2441 amended ATALANTA's tasks as follows:

EMAIL

media@eunavfor.eu
Page 1 of 5

www.eunavfor.eu



Rota Naval Base
ES-OHQ-Rota
11530 Rota, Cadiz (Spain)

+34 956 470 570
+34 661 442 314
+34 661 438 781



EUROPEAN UNION
NAVAL FORCE

OPERATION ATALANTA
EUROPEAN UNION OPERATION HEADQUARTERS

PUBLIC INFORMATION

a. Executive tasks:

- PROTECT World Food Program and other Vulnerable Shipping;
- DETER, PREVENT and REPRESS piracy and armed robbery at sea in the Area of Operation;
- CONTRIBUTE to the DISRUPTION of drug trafficking and weapons trafficking.

b. Non-executive tasks:

- CONTRIBUTE to the monitoring of narcotics drugs trafficking, weapons trafficking, suspected IUU fishing and charcoal illicit trade in the Area of Operation within existing means and capabilities;
- CONTRIBUTE to the EU integrated approach to Somalia and the relevant activities of the international community, helping to address the root causes of piracy and its network, upon request and within existing means and capabilities;
- SUPPORT other EU missions, programs and instruments in Somalia within existing means and capabilities. In particular coordinated closely with EUTM Somalia, EUCAP Somalia and Coordinated Maritime Presences in the North Western Indian Ocean;
- SUPPORT the promotion of the overall regional maritime security architecture, the relevant programmes implemented by the Commission within existing means and capabilities and to reinforce the already developed links with the Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre in Madagascar and the Regional Operational Coordination Centre in Seychelles;
- COOPERATE with operation AGENOR and develop further synergies with European-led Maritime Situation Awareness in the Strait of Hormuz within its means and capabilities and the limits of this new mandate.

ACHIEVEMENTS.

Data collated since 2008 demonstrate that EU NAVFOR, in co-operation with her counter-piracy partners, has become highly effective in preventing attacks before they happen.

Taken together, intelligence-led operations, a robust and proactive stance, as well as the continued effort to impress upon the maritime industry and the merchant community the importance of self-protection measures, have decreased the success rate of those attacks, which are mounted.

At the height of piracy in January 2011, pirates were holding 736 hostages and 32 ships. Since its launch in 2008 as first EU naval operation, EU NAVFOR Atalanta:

EMAIL

media@eunavfor.eu
Page 2 of 5

www.eunavfor.eu



Rota Naval Base
ES-OHQ-Rota
11530 Rota, Cadiz (Spain)

+34 956 470 570
+34 661 442 314
+34 661 438 781

PUBLIC INFORMATION



EUROPEAN UNION
NAVAL FORCE

OPERATION ATALANTA
EUROPEAN UNION OPERATION HEADQUARTERS

PUBLIC INFORMATION

- Holds a 100% success rate in protecting WFP vessels delivering humanitarian aid to internally displaced and refugees in Somalia;
- Ensures the protection of vulnerable vessels within the Area of Operations;
- Deters, prevents and represses acts of piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia;
- Cooperates and responds to illicit maritime flows, including illicit trade financing terrorism;
- Supports the EU Integrated Approach for Somalia and the Horn of Africa together with its two EU sister missions, EUCAP Somalia and EU TM Somalia, the EU Delegation to Somalia and EU Special Representative to the Horn of Africa;
- Acts as a fundamental tool in the EU's Naval Diplomacy for the Indo-Pacific;
- Cooperates and supports all international organisations, naval forces and independent deployers present in the Area of Operations, as CMF and EMASOH;

Provides a unique legal framework to transfer pirates to regional states for their prosecution.

Moreover, EU NAVFOR has conducted and supported numerous Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) rescue missions in the area, helping local, regional and international trading and fishing vessels in distress.

WHERE AND HOW DOES EU NAVAL FORCE OPERATE?

The EUNAVFOR ATALANTA Area of Operations – AOO, according with the new mandate, includes (figure):

- Gulf of Aden and neighbouring countries, including the port and city of Muscat (Oman);
- Somali Basin;
- The Red Sea;
- Gulf of Suez;
- Gulf of Aqaba;

Within the Area of Operations, EU NAVFOR units conduct tasks in accordance with the Mandate. Close co-operation with WFP ensures that no vessel transporting humanitarian aid will travel unprotected in the Area of Operations.

EU NAVFOR assets also conduct patrols in the Internationally Recommended Transit Corridor (IRTC) in the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean.

EMAIL

media@eunavfor.eu
Page 3 of 5

www.eunavfor.eu



Rota Naval Base
ES-OHQ-Rota
11530 Rota, Cadiz (Spain)

+34 956 470 570
+34 661 442 314
+34 661 438 781



EUROPEAN UNION
NAVAL FORCE

OPERATION ATALANTA
EUROPEAN UNION OPERATION HEADQUARTERS

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Furthermore, warships and Maritime Patrol Reconnaissance Aircraft (MPRA) conduct reconnaissance and surveillance operations. Warships and their boarding teams routinely conduct visual or physical checks of vessels transiting the Area of Operations (AOO).

Meetings with local seafarers, or 'friendly approaches', are conducted to gather a better understanding of maritime practices by talking with the crews of fishing and trading vessels in the region and to make ships' masters aware of the BMP 5 and register with Maritime Security Centre Horn of Africa (MSCHOA)'s voluntary registration scheme (VRS), as the best way to ensure the security of navigation and immediate assistance in case of need.

In addition, EU NAVFOR warships regularly come to the aid of vessels in distress, either because of a security incident or because the vessel is otherwise in an emergency at sea.

LEGAL BASIS.

EU NAVFOR is based on Decisions by the Council of the European Union in accordance with relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions (UNSCR) and International Law.

Legal framework:

- At international level: UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, Vienna 1988 Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, UNSCR 2662 (2022) on the Weapons Embargo and Charcoal Exports on Somalia.
- At European Union Level: Council Joint Action 2008/851/CFSP concerning ATALANTA (EU Mandate) and other EU law Council Decisions and Regulations.
- At national level: the laws and regulations from Troop Contributing Nations participating in ATALANTA and laws from Host States in the Area of Operations.

LATEST NEWS

- 12 December 22. The CSDP renews ATALANTA's mandate until December 2024, updating its tasks and objectives to the new needs demanded by the operational and strategic situation in the region.
- 15 February 2023. Captain Juan Maria Ibáñez takes command of the FHQ as Force Commander. In addition, the frigate REINA SOFIA, which takes over from the frigate SANTA MARIA, starts as the new command ship.

EMAIL

media@eunavfor.eu
Page 4 of 5

www.eunavfor.eu



Rota Naval Base
ES-OHQ-Rota
11530 Rota, Cadiz (Spain)

+34 956 470 570
+34 661 442 314
+34 661 438 781



EUROPEAN UNION
NAVAL FORCE

OPERATION ATALANTA
EUROPEAN UNION OPERATION HEADQUARTERS

PUBLIC INFORMATION

- 25 February 23. The new OPLAN is presented to the EU Military Committee on the new Mandate (approved on April).
- 2 March 23. The first narcotics interdiction in 2023. A two-action operation is conducted, seizing more than 1 ton of narcotics.
- 15 March 23. The Administrative Arrangement for Communication & Coordination between EUNAVFOR and the Japan's Self-Defence Forces is signed in Tokyo (Japan).
- 24 March 23. First EU-US naval exercise in the Indo-Pacific between EUNAVFOR ships and the USS PAUL HAMILTON, 5th US-Fleet.
- 26 May 23. During a regular EUNAVFOR patrol to provide maritime security off the coast of Oman, La Fayette-class frigate SURCOUF of the French Navy captured more than two tons of narcotics.
- - 7 Jun 23. First port visit of EU NAVFOR assets to Egypt, in the port of Safaga. FCDR Ibañez paid a courtesy visit to the Safaga Naval Base Commander.
- 25 Jun 23. First Joint Activity at Sea involving EU NAVFOR assets and Jordan Royal Naval Forces conducted in the Red Sea.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

EMAIL

media@eunavfor.eu
Page 5 of 5

www.eunavfor.eu



Rota Naval Base
ES-OHQ-Rota
11530 Rota, Cadiz (Spain)

+34 956 470 570
+34 661 442 314
+34 661 438 781