Even in these difficult times with the Coronavirus outbreak, the EU is taking important decisions to bolster its engagement in the world. With our CSDP crisis management operation in the Mediterranean Sea EUNAVFOR MED IRINI, we aim to contribute to the implementation of the UN arms embargo on Libya and to promoting peace in our neighbourhood. This is a tangible way in which the EU is helping to end the long-running conflict in Libya, right on the EU’s doorstep.

JOSEP BORRELL
High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/ Vice-President of the Commission

BACKGROUND

Libya is Europe’s immediate neighbour and a priority for the European Union. The situation in the country is critical and requires urgent action. EU leaders took a commitment at the Berlin Conference at the beginning of 2020 to support a political process aimed at ending the conflict in Libya.

EUNAVFOR MED IRINI is a concrete and tangible contribution by the European Union, translating calls and statements into action. Named after the ancient Greek Goddess of Peace, IRINI is a military Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) Operation deployed in the Mediterranean Sea that aims at contributing to achieve peace and stability in Libya.

To do this, Operation IRINI will deploy aerial, naval and satellite assets to ensure an active implementation of the UN arms embargo off the Libyan coast in the Mediterranean, together with other secondary tasks. EUNAVFOR MED IRINI succeeds Operation Sophia as the second EU naval operation in the Mediterranean.

MANDATE AND OBJECTIVES

The primary task of the Operation is the implementation of the arms embargo imposed by the United Nations Security Council – through UN Security Council Resolution 1970 (2011) and UN Security Council Resolution 2292 (2016). By contributing to stemming the flow of weapons into Libya, the Operation will help create the conditions for a permanent ceasefire in Libya.

As secondary tasks, the Operation:

- contributes to the implementation of UN measures to prevent the illicit export of petroleum from Libya through monitoring and surveillance activities, in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 2146 (2014) and UN Security Council Resolution 2509 (2020);
- provides capacity building and training of the Libyan Coast Guard and Navy in law enforcement tasks at sea;
**FACTS AND FIGURES**

**OPERATION AREA**
Central Mediterranean Sea

**OPERATION COMMANDER**
Rear Admiral Fabio AGOSTINI (IT)

**HEADQUARTERS**
Rome, Italy

**OPERATION BUDGET**
€9.8 million

**MANDATE STARTED**
31 March 2020

**MANDATE APPROVED UNTIL**
31 March 2021

**TROOP CONTRIBUTING NATIONS**
23*

*pending national internal confirmation in certain cases

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**ACTION**

**EUNAVFOR MED IRINI** draws on maritime, aerial and satellite assets.

With these means, the Operation gathers extensive and comprehensive information on the trafficking of arms and related materiel and shares this information with relevant partners and agencies. **EUNAVFOR MED IRINI** may inspect vessels on the high seas off the coast of Libya bound to or from the country and suspected to be carrying arms or related materiel in violation of the arms embargo.

In addition, the Operation also conducts the appropriate activities to implement the secondary tasks of its mandate: prevent the illicit export of petroleum, provide capacity building and training of the Libyan Coast Guard and Navy, contribute to the disruption of the business model of human smuggling and trafficking networks.

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**POLITICAL CONTROL AND STRATEGIC DIRECTION**

The Political and Security Committee, under the responsibility of the Council and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, exercises political control over **EUNAVFOR MED IRINI**, providing strategic direction and taking relevant decisions in accordance with Article 38 of the Treaty on European Union.