



EUNAVFOR MED OPERATION IRINI

Operation Irini: welcome to the Greek vessel Spetsai

Press Release 04/2020

#Irini #EUDefence #EUNAVFORMED #CSDP

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Rome, 4 June 2020

Rome – HS Spetsai, a frigate of the Greek Navy, sets sail with Operation EUNAVFOR MED Irini. Spetsai is a MEKO200HN class frigate and has on board a boarding team specially trained to conduct Maritime Interdiction Operations (MIO) as well as a Sikorsky S-70B Aegean Hawk helicopter. The vessel will patrol the designated Area of Operation in the central Mediterranean Sea, together with three aircraft, deployed by Germany, Luxembourg and Poland.

More than 20 EU countries have joined Operation Irini with staff and assets. Operation Irini also counts on the support of satellite images provided by the European Union Satellite Centre (SatCen).

"I thank Greece and the other EU countries that have contributed to the Operation with staff and assets – says the Operation Commander, Rear Admiral Fabio Agostini – Even though the mission has started recently, it has already produced results in the collection of information on arms trafficking, shared with the UN panel of experts, and in a deterrent effect on oil smuggling too."

CLICK AND DOWNLOAD IMAGES

Admiral Agostini, OpCommander:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/a6hgg1em6su14ya/AAAJfg0zhWXL8uZndpZV1snu?dl=0>

New videos and photos: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/a3cybiotu4pbfz3/AACOuqiDjWURo-Nd2gcfL7E8a?dl=0>

Archive: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/n4p2sqxlphagaww/AACEuWj0yDekV1CZr4feZ8c7a?dl=0>

NOTES

EUNAVFOR MED Operation Irini (named after the Greek word for "peace") was planned in a very short timeframe and launched on 31 March 2020, following a decision by the Council of the European Union. The main task is the implementation of the arms embargo on Libya under the relevant UN Security Council resolutions. The Operation has also secondary tasks including

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monitoring illegal oil trafficking from Libya, contributing to countering human trafficking and smuggling activities (through air monitoring) and contributing to the training of the Libyan Coast Guard and Navy.

For more information on the Operation www.operationirini.eu/about-us/#mission

For more information on the assets www.operationirini.eu/media_category/assets

SatCen

The European Union Satellite Centre supports the decision making and actions of the European Union in the field of Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), in particular Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), including European Union crisis management missions and operations, by providing products and services resulting from the exploitation of relevant space assets and collateral data, including satellite imagery and aerial imagery, and related services. SatCen is a decentralised agency of the European Union working under the supervision of the Political and Security Committee and the operational direction of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

HELLENIC FRIGATE SPETSAI - GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

Length: 117 m

Beam: 14.8 m

Draft: 6 m

Displacement: 3.350 tns

Speed: 32 kts

Propulsive Power: CODOG (2 Gas Turbine LM2500 & 2 Diesel MTU20V)

HS SPETSAI (F-453) is a MEKO200HN class Frigate, the second vessel of her class in service of the Hellenic Navy. She was built in Skaramagkas Hellenic Shipyards and commissioned in 1996. The vessel's name is derived from the island of Spetses, which contributed to the National Independence War of 1821 with its formidable flotilla.

HS SPETSAI is a multiple purpose Frigate. She can operate in a multi-threat environment and is capable of fulfilling all required tasks in the framework of EUNAVFOR MED Operation Irini. The ship has taken part in numerous multi-national and NATO operations, exercises and training activities.

The ship can accommodate a single Sikorsky S-70B Aegean Hawk helicopter.



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