



OPERATION EUNAVFOR MED IRINI

Operation Irini: welcome to ITS Margottini, the new flagship

Press release 06/2020

#Irimi #irini4peace #EUDefence #EUNAVFORMED #CSDP #ItalianNavy #Italy
#MargottiniFlagship

follow us: www.operationirini.eu

Rome, 8 September 2020

Yesterday, the Italian Navy ship, ITS Margottini, has replaced ITS San Giorgio as the new Operation EUNAVFOR MED Irini's flagship. The new Italian flagship is the headquarters of the Force Commander, Admiral Ettore Socci, and his staff, until mid-October. From 19 October onwards, Greece will take over the command at sea, while the Italian Admiral, Fabio Agostini, will continue to guide the Operation from the headquarters in Rome.

Farewell to ITS San Giorgio

"Bravo Zulu¹ to San Giorgio crew" said Admiral Fabio Agostini, on 2 September during the farewell ceremony of ITS San Giorgio. Admiral Agostini reminded in his speech the outstanding performance of the Italian ship: "129 hailings performed, a visit on board a merchant vessel, 6397 miles of navigation, 38 days of activity in the Area of Operation".

During the ceremony, Irini medals were consigned to some of the crew members as recognition of their committed and professional contribution provided during their assignment to the Operation.

Facts and figures

From May 4, when Operation Irini started its activity at sea, Irini assets have patrolled the central Mediterranean and performed more than 600 hailings and 12 friendly approaches (visits on board of merchant vessels). The Operation has not only monitored suspect vessels at sea in more than ten ports and landing points, but also detected more than 80 military flights or possible military-related air cargos going back and forth to Libya monitoring 25 airports and landing strips. Operation Irini is contributing to the UN arms embargo and in the counter-action of oil smuggling with 14 special reports to the United Nations Panel of Experts concerning both sides of the conflict in Libya. In that way it proved its impartiality. These results were also possible thanks to SatCen (European Union Satellite Centre), which provided more than 200 groups of satellite images at Irini's requests.

What's next

An important step for Operation EUNAVFORMED Irini will be the second Force Generation Conference, which will be held in mid-September in Brussels. In that occasion all Member States are called to give more assets and personnel to the Operation.

¹ "Bravo Zulu" is the combination of the Bravo and Zulu nautical signal flags used in the Navy to say "good job".



OPERATION EUNAVFOR MED IRINI

CLICK AND DOWNLOAD IMAGES

ITS San Giorgio farewell ceremony

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/a6gchm6cd39jele/AAAK0AdP68rhavKC91Jskp_3a?dl=0

Admiral Agostini, OpCommander

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/a6hqq1em6su14ya/AAAJfg0zhWXL8uZndpZV1sna?dl=0>

Archive <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/a3cybiotu4pbfz3/AACOuqiDjWURoNd2gcfL7E8a?dl=0>

NOTES

Operation Irini (named after the Greek word for "peace") was planned in a very short timeframe and launched on 31 March, following a decision by the Council of the European Union. The main task is the implementation of the arms embargo in Libya under the relevant UN Security Council resolutions. The Operation has also secondary tasks including monitoring illegal oil trafficking from Libya, contributing to countering human trafficking and smuggling activities (through air monitoring) and contributing to the training of Libyan Coast Guard and Navy.

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

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

Operation Commander and Force Commander

The Operation Commander is Rear Admiral Fabio Agostini. He represents the EU military strategic level of the Operation and exercises his duties from the headquarters located in the Joint Operational HQ in Rome. The Force Commander is the Commander of the assets (naval and aerial) deployed in the Area of Operation. He is appointed by the Council upon Operation Commander proposal and EU Military Committee endorsement. The Force Commander acts under the authority of the Operation Commander. In the office of the Force Commander, Italy and Greece will alternate on a half-yearly basis.

See the biography of Operation Commander, Admiral Fabio Agostini www.operationirini.eu/about-us/roles/fabio-agostini

What is the flagship?

The flagship is the naval unit on which the Force Commander is embarked with his Force Headquarters. The flagship will alternate along with the Force Commander. The Greek Force Commander will then be deployed on a Hellenic Navy unit.

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.



EU Naval Force Med
Media and Public
Information Office

Address Via di Centocelle, 301 – 00175 Rome (Italy)

Media Centre Phone: +390646919442
WhatsApp only : +393347502338
Email: media_pio@euohq.difesa.it

More Information on www.operationirini.eu