



Operation EUNAVFOR MED IRINI

European **U**nion **N**aval **F**orce - **M**editerranean

2021



Through the pages of this 2021 Calendar for Operation EUNAVFOR MED IRINI there is so much of the past year and so much that already belongs to the future.

It is not easy to assess the period we have all gone through and that we are continuing to live, inextricably linked to the Covid-19 pandemic.

These few lines are meant to describe the tenacity and constant commitment of the women and men of Operation EUNAVFOR MED IRINI that I am honoured to lead.

Operation EUNAVFOR MED IRINI was planned in a very short time and launched on March 31st, 2020, with a decision of the Council of the European Union. With the same decision, Operation Sophia was closed.

In a highly complex, volatile and competitive strategic context, EUNAVFOR MED has been settled and progressively readjusted in order to face the dynamically changing challenges, meanwhile remaining effective in its action and key to the safety of the European Union.

This progressive change was planned, governed and carried out with rigorous punctuality and extreme efficiency and effectiveness, overcoming all forms of natural environmental resistance, reducing and going over bureaucratic burdens while seeking the maximum degree of integration, rationalization and enhancement of the limited resources available, in terms of personnel and assets.

I believe that this was the real challenge for our organization, which made a virtue out of necessity, gravitating on the undisputable professionalism of all, the maximum joint and combined cohesion and the broadest sharing of objectives.

In this context, I continuously rely heavily on the qualitative contribution of the personnel, women and men of EUNAVFOR MED IRINI, on their competence, flexibility, perseverance, smartness and utter dedication.

Like most of commitments in other parts of the world and in other Operations, our staff absolute determination and passion has been and will be the key for success in contributing to Europe's effort for international peace and security.

I therefore believe, nine months after the launch of IRINI, that our personnel has definitively enriched the Operation with new points of view and ideas, all precious and indispensable in an organization fully committed to providing security within a complex theatre like the Mediterranean.

I hope that this message of perfect blend of specificity, different cultures and professionalism can be perceived by browsing the 2021 Calendar of operation EUNAVFOR MED IRINI.

I am sure that you will be attracted by the iconographic project conceived through a narrative path, created through a series of shots that, month after month, lead us to familiarize with some components of the operation while engaged in their daily activities at the service of Europe.

The photos collected in this 2021 calendar portray women and men from contributing member States, engaged in our Operation and deployed in the Mediterranean, at sea, ashore and onboard aerial assets, as well as those assigned to the operational headquarters in Centocelle, Rome.

These images, often captured in busy moments, tell us of our goals and results but also give us a bit of our memories back: the events that happen from hour to hour and that follow one another in frenzy, due to the particular tasks of the mission, testify what we do every day in IRINI.

Thanks to this iconographic story we can track back this past nine months and treasure all of our achievements.

Our heritage of values and experiences in the field, our glance at the Mediterranean and the challenges we still need to face in the near future and the proud and capable women and men of Operation IRINI: they will all be our strength and guide through the new year.

On my behalf as of all the women and men of Operation EUNAVFOR MED IRINI, I wish you all a good 2021 in the name of peace, #irini4peace!



Operation Commander
Rear Admiral Fabio Agostini (IT N)





ITS San Giorgio, Mediterranean Sea



JANUARY

MONDAY

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WEDNESDAY

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Irini for Peace





Merlin aircraft from Luxembourg, Sigonella, Italy



FEBRUARY

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Monitoring to provide security





A member of the French navy during a boarding



MARCH

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29	30	31				

Implementation of arms embargo





FGS Hamburg and ITS San Giorgio, Mediterranean Sea



APRIL

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Committed to support the Berlin's process





A member of the crew of HS Limnos, Mediterranean Sea



MAY

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Stability and security for development





German boarding team in action, Mediterranean Sea



JUNE

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Fulfil all the operation tasks



Operation EUNAVFOR MED IRINI

The Libyan peace process took place through a series of meetings, initiatives and actions aimed at resolving the long lasting Libyan Civil War. Among them, last January conference in Berlin involved many World Powers, International and Regional organisations and representatives of countries of the Mediterranean Basin, all committed to a peaceful solution to the Libyan conflict.

One of the outcomes of the conference was the necessity to effectively implement the UN arms embargo on Libya.

In order to deliver this outcome, on 17 February, the Foreign Affairs Council of the European Union decided to launch a new CSDP (Common Security and Defence Policy) Operation in the Mediterranean focused on the implementation of the United Nation Security Council Resolutions on the arms embargo on Libya, while closing Operation SOPHIA.

The Operation, named EUNAVFOR MED IRINI (Greek for "peace") was thus launched on 31 March 2020. Its core task is the implementation of the UN arms embargo on Libya through the use of aerial, satellite and maritime assets.



In particular the mission is mandated to carry out inspections of vessels on the high seas off the coast of Libya suspected to be carrying arms or related material to and from Libya in accordance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 2292 (2016) in addition to monitoring violations perpetrated via aerial and land routes. As secondary tasks, EUNAVFOR MED IRINI also:

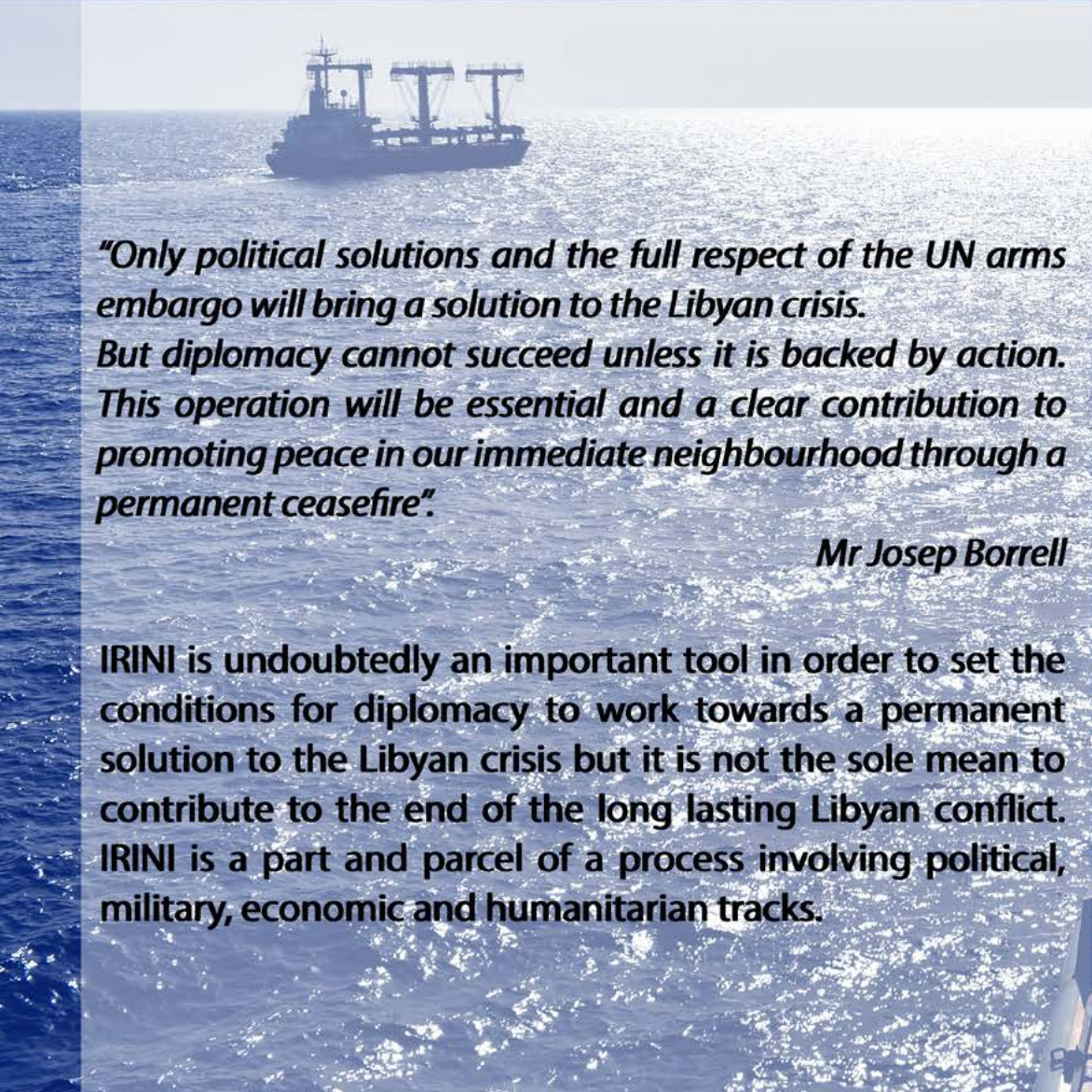
- monitors and gathers information on illicit exports from Libya of petroleum, crude oil and refined petroleum products;*
- contributes to the capacity building and training of the Libyan Coast Guard and Navy;*
- contributes to the disruption of the business model of human smuggling and trafficking networks through information gathering and patrolling by planes.*

IRINI is led by Rear Admiral Fabio Agostini as EU Operation Commander and its headquarters is located in Rome, Italy.





Launched on 31 March 2020, after the force generation process and despite the Covid-19 pandemic, the Operation effectively started its activity at sea on the 4 May 2020. On 10 September 2020, the first boarding activity at sea took place and the full operational capability was declared. The mandate of Operation IRINI will last until 31 March 2021, with the possibility to be extended further, and is under the close scrutiny of EU Member States, that exercise the political control and strategic direction through the Political and Security Committee (PSC). The political vision provided at the launching of Operation IRINI highlighted by the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the Commission, Mr Josep Borrell, reflects the holistic approach agreed at the Berlin Conference.



“Only political solutions and the full respect of the UN arms embargo will bring a solution to the Libyan crisis. But diplomacy cannot succeed unless it is backed by action. This operation will be essential and a clear contribution to promoting peace in our immediate neighbourhood through a permanent ceasefire”.

Mr Josep Borrell

IRINI is undoubtedly an important tool in order to set the conditions for diplomacy to work towards a permanent solution to the Libyan crisis but it is not the sole mean to contribute to the end of the long lasting Libyan conflict. IRINI is a part and parcel of a process involving political, military, economic and humanitarian tracks.





Swedish Navy Sergeant Major in OHQ, Rome, Italy



JULY

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Analysis and evaluation of the operational environment





German P-3C Orion



AUGUST

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Common principles for a common goal





Medal Ceremony parade on ITS San Giorgio, Brindisi, Italy



SEPTEMBER

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Determination and team spirit





Captain of the Polish Navy, Sigonella, Italy



OCTOBER

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Honored to belong to an important team





French boarding team in actions, Mediterranean Sea



NOVEMBER

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Pride and dedication





HS Limnos



DECEMBER

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Directed towards a clear goal







A GENDER AND HUMAN RIGHT PERSPECTIVE

Gender equality and respect for Human Rights are fundamental elements of democracy, social justice and dignity. The European Union and its member States have established gender equality, women's empowerment and the Women, Peace and Security Agenda as a priority to be fully achieved in all the activities of the EU.

From the very beginning, Operation EUNAVFOR MED IRINI provides the highest standards in the field of gender and human rights.

Female participation is a key element in the functioning of the entire operation. They successfully participate in missions and serve on ships, on land, in airplanes and command of operations on an equal footing with men.

Since the outset of our mission, we have strived continuously to increase the active participation of women in IRINI. In total, there are an average of around 80 women serving in sea and air patrols and an average of around 10 at headquarters in Rome.

*IRINI actively **promotes** gender equality and is committed every day to follow up with concrete actions to this intent.*

*IRINI **supports** the active participation of women and deals with the impact of armed conflict on the situation of women in full compliance with the resolution 1325 of 2000 of Security Council.*

*IRINI **defends** human rights through the fight against human trafficking. All its activities also fulfill the mandate to help improve the fate of migrants and respect for human rights.*

2021 CALENDAR

Operation EUNAVFOR MED IRINI

#Irimi2021

#Irimi4peace



Designed and curated
by Media Cell

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