



SHADE MED 2024

ROME, 5th DECEMBER

At the Italian Secretariat General of Defense and National
Armaments Directorate
“Guidoni” Building

AGENDA

FUTURE CHALLENGES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN¹

¹The working language will be English for all the sessions of the conference. (Detailed instructions will be here given with regards to the translation service, if any)

DAY 5 th of December	
08:45 - 09:45	In-processing with welcome coffee
09:45 - 10:00	General Information Briefing
10:00 – 10:40	<p><u>Joint Welcome Address</u></p> <p>Key Note Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rear Admiral Valentino RINALDI, Operation Commander EUNAVFOR MED IRINI; • Vice Admiral Didier MALETERRE, French Navy, Deputy Commander, Allied Maritime Command; • Mrs Alison WESTON, Deputy Director Security and Defence Policy and Senior Coordinator for Coordinated Maritime Presences (EEAS); • Mrs Ariella VIEHE, Director of operations, International Staff, NATO Headquarters.
10:40 - 12:00	<p><u>Panel: Weathering the storm: EU and NATO in the South</u></p> <p>Moderator: Mrs Erica PEPE, Research Manager, Analyst for Conflict, Security, Development at the International Institute for Strategic Studies, IISS, London.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Alessandro POLITI, NATO Defense College Foundation – Director; • Dr Daniel FIOTT, Head of the Defence and Statecraft Programme - Brussels School of Governance (BSoG-VUB); • Prof Ana SANTOS PINTO, Chair of independent experts’ group on NATO Southern Neighborhood, Universidade Nova de Lisboa; • Dr Silvia Maria COLOMBO, NATO Defense College researcher. <p>Review and discuss: The underlying problem with the EU southern neighborhood/Southern Flank is instability in the region, which is rooted in political, security, economic, and demographic problems that are exacerbated by climate change. Instability on the EU and Alliance’s Southern Flank also has economic consequences. Since Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, Europe has decreased oil and gas imports from Russia and increased imports from the MENA region. Russia’s behavior in the MENA region and the Sahel is another reason why EU and NATO need to tackle common challenges in the Southern Flank. Furthermore, the ongoing Hamas-Israel war in Gaza will have political and security implications across the Middle East and North Africa region. NATO and the EU play complementary, coherent and mutually reinforcing roles in supporting international peace and security. How to improve an international comprehensive approach to crisis management and operations in the South?</p>
12:00 - 12:30	Family Photo for all the distinguished guests
12:30 – 14:30	Buffet Lunch

14:30 – 16:00	<p><u>Panel: Which priorities for NATO in the Southern Flank</u></p> <p>Moderator Prof. Francois-Joseph FÜRRY, Deputy POLAD MARCOM, Adjunct Professor at Sciences Po, Université de Lille.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs Ariella VIEHE, Director of operations, International Staff, NATO HQ; • Dr Roderick PARKES, NATO Defense College resident researcher; • Captain Niels MARKUSSEN, NATO Maritime Centre for the Security of Critical Undersea Infrastructure (NMCSCUI) <p>Review and discuss: Since 2014 Russian Naval Forces’ presence in the region had been substantial in the MED, and war in Ukraine has clearly highlighted the need to reinforce Allied deterrent posture, triggering both in 2002 and 2024 the joint deployment of Carrier Strike Groups under NATO operational command. Beyond Russian threat, heightened tensions in the Middle East and North Africa, coups in Sahel enabling expansion of rebranded Wagner, challengers’ uninhibited naval diplomacy as well as resurgent terrorist groups from Lebanon to Libya have turned the spotlight again to the South of SACEUR’s AOR with rising Multi-Domain challenges. How should NATO prioritize and coordinate efforts to reaffirm its presence in the region?</p>
16:00 – 16:30	<p>Coffee Break</p>
16:30 – 18:00	<p><u>Panel: The EU as a global maritime security provider: the future of EU naval operations</u></p> <p>Moderator: Jan Joel ANDERSSON, Senior Analyst at the EU Institute for Security Studies (EUISS).</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rear Admiral Massimiliano LAURETTI, Head of Plans, Operations and Maritime Strategy, Italian Navy; • Mrs Alison WESTON, Deputy Director Security and Defence Policy and Senior Coordinator for Coordinated Maritime Presences (EEAS); • Prof Christian BUEGER, Professor of International Relations, University of Copenhagen. <p>Review and discuss: Demand for EU naval presence around the world is growing and existing areas of operations can be complemented by new activities. The EU is committed to enhance the maritime security of the Union and its Member States, including by exercises with partners and naval visits. EU military CDSP shift from countering illicit trafficking, training missions to naval operations protecting global trade routes and undersea infrastructure on which Europe’s and the global economy rely. EU is consolidating his position as a stronger maritime security actor, including in strategic areas of interest where competition and risks of confrontation are growing.</p>
18:00 – 18:15	<p>Closing Address</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vice Admiral Didier MALETERRE, French Navy, Deputy Commander, Allied Maritime Command; • Rear Admiral Valentino RINALDI, Operation Commander of EUNAVFOR MED IRINI.