



EU COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY

# OPERATION EUNAVFOR MED IRINI

## 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.

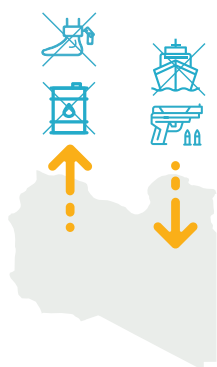
**EUNAVFOR MED IRINI** is a concrete and tangible contribution by the European Union, translating calls and statements into action. Named after the ancient Greek Goddess of Peace, IRINI is a military Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) Operation deployed in the Mediterranean Sea that aims at contributing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

**EUNAVFOR MED IRINI** is conducting several tasks within its Mandate:

- 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).
- Participation to the disruption of human smuggling and trafficking business networks in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 2240 (2015).
- Contribution to the implementation of UN measures to prevent 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).
- Enhancing **maritime situational awareness** by monitoring and gathering information on various illicit activities and threats to maritime infrastructure within its capabilities.
- **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 Valentino RINALDI  
(IT)

**HEADQUARTERS**  
Rome, Italy



**TROOP CONTRIBUTING  
NATIONS**  
23\*

**MANDATE STARTED**  
31 March 2020



**MANDATE APPROVED UNTIL**  
31 March 2027

\*pending national internal confirmation in certain cases

## 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 and enhancing Maritime Situational Awareness.

**EUNAVFOR MED IRINI** hosts a Crime Information Cell (CIC) comprising staff from relevant law enforcement authorities of Member States and EU agencies.

This cell facilitates the receipt, collection and transmission of information on the arms embargo on Libya, the illegal exports of petroleum from Libya and on human smuggling and trafficking as well as crimes relevant to the security of the operation.

## 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.