

# OPERATION IRINI



# CALENDAR 2026

**January**



**February**



**March**



**April**



**May**



**June**



**July**



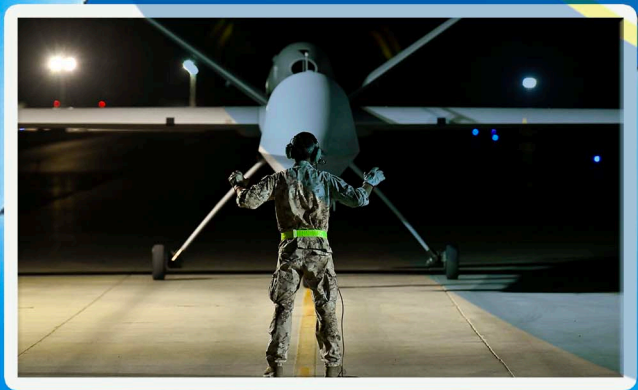
**August**



**September**



**October**



**November**



**December**



**EUNAVFOR MED Operation IRINI represents a concrete and tangible contribution by the European Union toward achieving peace and stability in Libya through the implementation of the United Nations arms embargo and protecting EU's interests in the Central Mediterranean. Named after the Greek goddess of peace, IRINI is a military maritime security operation conducted under the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) and deployed in the Central Mediterranean.**

**The Operation employs maritime, aerial and intelligence assets to counter illicit arms trafficking to Libya (CIAT), contributing to the fight against illicit oil smuggling (COS), and disrupt of the Human Smuggling Business Models (HSBM). It also aims to maintain effective Maritime Situational Awareness (MSA) regarding other illicit activities, with particular attention to protecting critical maritime infrastructure, thereby positioning itself as a security provider in the area of interest. The Operation also carries out Capacity Building & Training (CB&T) activities in favor of Libyan maritime institutions.**



*“EUNAVFOR MED IRINI plays a crucial role in the complex geopolitical scenario that characterizes the southern flank of the European Union, which unfolds within the Mediterranean region. Tasked with enforcing the United Nations arms embargo on Libya, and empowered by the new task of Maritime Situational Awareness, IRINI will continue to create the right security conditions for the political process in Libya under the auspices of the United Nations, while also strengthening maritime security, ensuring EU interests and providing a reliable deterrent presence against illicit activities for the entire international community”*

24 EU MEMBER STATES



# January 2026

EUNAVFOR MED Operation IRINI, launched in 2020, is a concrete expression of the common and strong EU's spirit. Through a significant contribution of assets, personnel and resources made available by EU Member States, Operation IRINI demonstrates the EU's commitment to peace and stabilization of Libya, the achievement of Maritime Security and the defense of European interests in the Mediterranean.





# EUNAVFOR MED IRINI



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# February 2026

On 12 September 2025, Rear Admiral Marco CASAPIERI was appointed as the new Operation Commander of the EUNAVFOR MED IRINI. The handover of the OPCDR represents a smooth transition in leadership and a reaffirmation of shared European values. This role, exercised from the OHQ in Rome, ensures strategic command and control of the Operation, guiding its development in line with EU policy. Each transition brings continuity, expertise, and renewed focus, demonstrating the resilience and professionalism of CSDP operations.





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# March 2026

The Force Commanders Hand Over-Take Over (FCDR HOTO) marks the transition of tactical command of assets deployed at sea by Operation IRINI. Appointed on a six-month rotation by Italy and Greece, the FCDRs take turns commanding the force at sea operating from the flag ship offered by their nation. This structured rotation ensures continuity, operational coherence and sustained bilateral cooperation at sea, reinforcing the shared responsibility at the heart of the European Union's maritime security commitment in the Central Mediterranean.





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# April 2026

In March 2025, the EU Council extended the mandate of the EUNAVFOR MED Operation IRINI by two years, until 31 March 2027, strengthening its role through the assignment of the new significant task of contributing to the Maritime Situational Awareness on other illicit activities, with a particular attention paid to the protection of critical maritime infrastructure. The decision was taken on the basis of the positive outcome of the Strategic Review led by the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the Political and Security Committee (PSC). The original tasks of the Operation were also confirmed, namely to combat illicit arms trafficking to Libya (CIAT), gathering information on illicit oil smuggling (GIOS), interrupt human trafficking business models (HSBM) and carry out capacity and training activities (CB&T) in favor of Libyan maritime institutions.





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**OHQ ANNIVERSARY**



QUARTIER GENERALE  
DELL'UNIONE EUROPEA



EUROPEAN UNION  
OPERATIONS HEADQUARTERS

**May 2026**

On the 18th of May 2026, EUNAVFOR MED Operational Headquarters (OHQ) in Rome celebrate its 11th anniversary. This important milestone invites to reflect on more than a decade of EUNAVFOR MED activity, highlighting both continuity and evolution in the EU's approach to security and stability. The EUNAVFOR MED IRINI's Operational Headquarters (OHQ) is one of five command structures offered by EU Member States and one of three that are currently active in directing and controlling EU Operations. Originally designated for EUNAVFOR MED Operation SOPHIA by the EU Council Decision 2015/778 of 18 May 2015, it is now the Operation IRINI's Headquarters.





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# June 2026

EUNAVFOR MED IRINI is an Intel driven and effects based Operation. By collecting and evaluating a considerable amount of data and information on merchant traffic, maintaining a constant surveillance and deterrence effect at sea and through intervention or reporting to the competent EU/UN authorities of the monitored illicit phenomena, the Operation IRINI plays a vital role in enforcing the UN arms embargo and preventing the illicit export of oil from Libya. These efforts contribute directly to the EU's commitment to uphold international law, support the political process in Libya, and safeguard Maritime Security and EU's interests in the region.





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**DISRUPT ILLICIT ACTIVITIES  
AND ENHANCE SECURITY**



# July 2026

Operation IRINI contributes to the European Union's broader efforts to combat organized crime by contributing to disrupt illicit trafficking networks and human smuggling at sea. IRINI monitors trafficking routes and gathers information that supports law enforcement and judicial action by EU Member States and international partners. At the same time, IRINI enhances Maritime Situational Awareness in the Central Mediterranean, by providing critical insights into patterns of activity at sea. This intelligence-led approach reinforces EU border security, supports regional stability, and upholds international law.





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# August 2026

Supporting long-term regional stability providing Capacity Building & Training to the Libyan institutions responsible of LEF and SAR at sea is a task present in the EU mandate of Operation IRINI. This task aims to strengthen Libyan capabilities in maritime law enforcement and search and rescue, in line with internationally recognized standards, emphasizing international law and human rights. By providing structured training compliant with EU standards and promoting best operational practices, Operation IRINI helps make the capacities of Libyan institutions more reliable and self-sufficient, strengthening the EU's commitment to sustainable solutions and regional ownership.





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# September 2026

Operation IRINI has taken a crucial role: strengthening Maritime Situational Awareness (MSA) in the Central Mediterranean. IRINI maintains a flexible naval presence to enable effective surveillance, swift response, and enforcement actions such as inspecting vessels linked to arms embargo violations, illicit oil exports, or human trafficking. With coordinated operations and continuous monitoring, IRINI plays a key role in safeguarding Europe's maritime security by ensuring an effective deterrent effect towards illicit activities.





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# October 2026

Operation IRINI maintains vigilant surveillance over its Area of Operation through manned and unmanned aerial assets, provided by EU Member States. These aircraft conduct hailings and gather intelligence on vessels of interest, acting as a vital extension of the operation's situational awareness. Collected information is systematically cross-checked with additional intelligence sources and transmitted both to the Force Headquarters aboard the flagship and to the Operational Headquarters (OHQ) in Rome. There, it is integrated into border analytical and operational planning, enabling timely and informed decision-making across all levels of command.





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# November 2026

Logistical hubs strategically located near the Area of operations, in Italy and Greece, form the foundation of IRINI's sustainability. These key elements provide vital support in terms of supply, personnel rotation, maintenance, and medical services. Their efficiency and coordination reflect the strength of multinational cooperation and ensure the Operation remains ready at all times.





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SHADE MED



# SHADE MED

EUNAVFOR MED IRINI and NATO MARCOM

## *December 2026*

Operation EUNAVFOR MED IRINI hosts the annual "Shared Awareness and De-confliction in the Mediterranean" (SHADE MED) Conference, in collaboration with NATO Maritime Command (MARCOM). The event focuses on fostering dialogue among stakeholders about common challenges in the Mediterranean region. Developed on the theme "The MEDITERRANEAN space: a pillar of global security", this year's conference highlights the fundamental importance of maritime security in the Mediterranean for ensuring global security.





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## CALENDAR 2026

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