



# COORDINATED MARITIME PRESENCES

The global maritime environment is characterised by geo-strategic rivalries, piracy and organised crime, which threaten the freedom of navigation, the security of maritime routes and global economic development.

## STRENGTHENING THE EU'S MARITIME SECURITY PRESENCES

The Coordinated Maritime Presences (CMP) tool strengthens EU maritime security engagement around the world:

<p><b>Increasing the EU's capacity as a reliable partner and maritime security provider</b></p>	<p><b>Ensuring a permanent maritime presence and outreach in Maritime Areas of Interest</b></p>	<p><b>Providing greater European operational engagement</b></p>	<p><b>Promoting international cooperation and partnership at sea</b></p>

### How does it work?

The CMP is a flexible instrument under the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP). It can be activated in any maritime region designated by the Council of the EU as a Maritime Area of Interest.

The CMP is not a naval operation: unlike a Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) operation, the CMP does not create a standing EU force and does not alter national chains of command. Naval and air assets remain under national authority and are deployed on a voluntary basis by Member States. The CMP builds on existing deployments from Member States and does not require additional dedicated resources at EU level.

The overall political coherence of the CMP is ensured by the European External Action Service (EEAS), in particular through the Senior Coordinator for Maritime Security and her/his team, SDP.6.

#### The Senior Coordinator for Maritime Security:

- Ensures coherence between Member States' maritime actions and broader EU external policies;
- Aligns CMP activities with the implementation of the EU Maritime Security Strategy;
- Conducts political and security dialogue with regional partners;

- Promotes coordination between EU instruments (diplomatic, security, development and capacity-building tools);
- Engages with maritime industry.

Through this structure, the CMP embodies the "Team Europe" approach in the maritime domain, ensuring that national efforts contribute to common European objectives.

Enhanced coordination between deployed naval and air assets is supported by the Maritime Area of Interest Coordination Cell (MAICC) within the EU Military Staff. The MAICC facilitates information exchange and enhances maritime situational awareness. The cell operates at the strategic level. It is not a 24/7 operational headquarters and does not exercise command and control over assets deployed in the maritime area of interest.

The CMP strengthens awareness and analysis through structured information-sharing mechanisms. It makes operational use of the MARSUR network, enabling secure exchange of maritime information among participating Member States.

By improving situational awareness and fostering coordination between national deployments, the CMP ensures:

- Continuity of EU maritime presence;
- Complementarity between national missions;
- Greater synergy and visibility of EU action at sea.



## CMP IN THE GULF OF GUINEA

Its implementation to address maritime security challenges was extended in April 2024.



**KIDNAPPING FOR RANSOM AT SEA**



**PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AT SEA**



**ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED, AND UNREGULATED FISHING**



**TRANSNATIONAL ORGANISED CRIME (E.G. SMUGGLING AND TRAFFICKING OF DRUGS AND ARMS)**

### The Coordinated Maritime Presences concept in the Gulf of Guinea:

- Contributed to the reduction of piracy and armed robbery incidents by 75% from the 2020 peak and 2025
- Provides support to address the security challenges affecting freedom of navigation;
- Contributed to reduce maritime security incidents by more than 50% since 2021;
- Is an effective tool ensuring a continued presence of EU Member States in the region;
- Increases cooperation and partnerships with the coastal States of the Gulf of Guinea and regional and maritime security organisations of the Yaoundé Architecture.

## CMP IN THE NORTH WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN

The North-Western Indian Ocean remains a strategic priority area for the EU, with the continued deployment of two CSDP naval operations (EUNAVFOR operations ATALANTA and ASPIDES) reflecting the European Union's commitment as a maritime security provider and its dedication to stability and peace in this area.

Member States agreed in spring 2026 to end the implementation of the CMP concept in the region (established in 2022).

The Senior Coordinator for Maritime Security will continue to support the EU's integrated approach and diplomatic outreach in the North-Western Indian Ocean, strengthening partnerships and enhancing cooperation with regional actors – including maritime industry – to safeguard sea lines of communication.



**THE NORTH WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN IS ONE OF THE MOST DYNAMIC CENTRES OF ECONOMIC GROWTH IN THE WORLD**



**80% OF THE WORLD'S TRADE PASSES THROUGH THE INDIAN OCEAN**



**IT IS AN AREA RICH IN NATURAL RESOURCES (OIL, GAS, MARINE LIFE)**



**SAFE AND SECURE SEA LINES IN THE REGION ARE KEY TO LINK TRADE BETWEEN THE MIDDLE EAST, AFRICA, EAST ASIA AND EUROPE**

