



#EUDefence

# 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 EU has two naval operations deployed off the Horn of Africa and in the Mediterranean. The new Coordinated Maritime Presences tool will further strengthen EU maritime security engagement:

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

### HOW DOES IT WORK?



#### The Coordinated Maritime Presences tool:

- > can be implemented in any maritime area of the world determined by the Council of the EU as a Maritime Area of Interest;
- > uses existing EU Member States naval and air assets present or deployed on a voluntary basis in these Maritime Areas of Interest;
- > relies on enhanced coordination of naval and air assets, which remain under national command;
- > provides continuity, complementarity and synergy between EU Member States' actions;
- > enhances awareness, analysis and information sharing between EU Member States through the Maritime Area of Interest Coordination Cell (MAICC) established within the EU Military Staff;
- > uses for the first time the MARSUR network in an operational engagement.

## A PILOT IN THE GULF OF GUINEA

The Gulf of Guinea faces increasing maritime security challenges, including:

around  
**95%**

of all worldwide  
kidnapping for  
ransom at sea  
in 2020



Piracy and armed  
robbery at sea



Illegal, unreported,  
and unregulated  
fishing



Transnational organised crime  
(e.g. smuggling and trafficking of  
drugs and arms)

On 25 January 2021, the EU launched the pilot of the Coordinated Maritime Presences concept in the Gulf of Guinea. This pilot aims to:

- > Provide further support to address the security challenges in the Gulf of Guinea affecting freedom of navigation;
- > Increase cooperation and partnership with the coastal States of the Gulf of Guinea and regional and maritime security organisations of the Yaoundé Architecture.