



# EUNAVFOR OPERATION ASPIDES



The European Union's Naval Force (EUNAVFOR) OPERATION ASPIDES is an EU defensive maritime security operation under the EU Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP).

Since late 2023, as a result of Houthi attacks on maritime shipping, maritime security in the Red Sea, the Indian Ocean and the Gulf has significantly degraded. The deterioration of the maritime security in the Red Sea has disrupted a key geopolitical area for international shipping. This affects negatively the EU as well as the wider international community.

Operation ASPIDES will contribute to restore and safeguard freedom of navigation, for the sake of the EU, the region, and the wider international community.

## MANDATE AND OBJECTIVE

The EUNAVFOR OPERATION ASPIDES mandate is to:



**Protect** vessels against ongoing attacks



**Accompany** vessels



**Reinforce** maritime situational awareness – such as monitoring, assessing possible threats and sharing information – in coordination with partners.

EUNAVFOR OPERATION ASPIDES, within its purely defensive mandate, will protect shipping targeted by attacks at sea or air. It will not conduct strikes on land.

ASPIDES will act in line with the UN Security Council Resolution 2722, which demands the cessation of Houthis' attacks on merchant and commercial vessels, and recognises the right to defend vessels against such attacks, in line with international law.

Building upon the Strategic Compass for Security and Defence, ASPIDES consolidates the EU's capacity to respond rapidly to a global crisis, in cooperation with like-minded international partners, while reinforcing the strategic autonomy of the EU.

## FACTS AND FIGURES



**HEADQUARTERS**  
Larissa, Greece



**OPERATION COMMANDER**  
Commodore Vasilios Griparis



**FORCE COMMANDER**  
Rear Admiral Stefano Costantino



**DURATION OF  
MANDATE**  
1 year



**OPERATION LAUNCHED**  
19 February 2024



**OPERATION AREA**  
From the Red Sea to the  
Gulf and a large part of the  
North-West Indian Ocean



**BUDGET**  
€8 million



**STAFF**  
**in Europe:**  
Operation Headquarters  
located in Larissa (Greece): 130  
**in the region:**  
Force Headquarters embarked  
on a Frigate: 30



**ASSETS**  
• 4 frigates  
• 1 aerial asset