Regional Maritime Security Capacity Building Mission in the Horn of Africa and the Western Indian Ocean (EUCAP Nestor)

Mission background
In July 2012, the European Union launched EUCAP Nestor, a civilian mission which assists host countries develop self-sustaining capacity for continued enhancement of maritime security, including counter-piracy and maritime governance. Its Headquarters is in Djibouti, the Head of Mission is Etienne de Poncins from France. The Mission is mandated to work across the Horn of Africa (HoA) and Western Indian Ocean (WIO) regions, with around 80 international and 20 local staff members carrying out activities and training across the region with a particular focus on Somalia. In addition to Djibouti, the Mission has personnel strategically positioned in Nairobi, Mogadishu, Bosaso, Hargeisa, the Seychelles and Tanzania. A liaison officer may be deployed to Yemen pending developments in the security situation.

Mandate and activities
EUCAP Nestor aims to support the development of ‘maritime security’ systems in HoA/WIO states, thus enabling them to fight piracy and other maritime crime more effectively and to reduce the freedom of action for those involved in piracy in the region. The objective is to offer a solution that covers the whole process “from crime to court” starting with the arrestation and detention of suspects up to the investigation and prosecution of maritime crime. Strengthening the existing legal and law enforcement frameworks related to anti-piracy and developing relevant maritime security capacity instruments are key to reaching this goal. This requires the mission to work with the main actors responsible for maritime security in each host country. Typically these include coast guard, navy, civilian coastal and maritime police, prosecutors, judges and other key figures.

The Mission provides advice, mentoring, and training in three competence fields: legal, maritime and police. Basic coast guard training is for example provided as well as expertise in fields such as law drafting and engineering. Some of the missions’ experts are collocated within the authorities dealing with maritime security to support them in their daily work and in the development of organisational structures.

As part of its mandate, EUCAP Nestor promotes regional cooperation in maritime security and coordinates capacity building activities. A series of regional events have been organised, such as a regional conference on maritime security in 2013, as well as a series of regional workshops for prosecutors, judges and other legal practitioners on piracy and other maritime crime in Nairobi and Djibouti.

MISSION FACTS AND FIGURES

**Theatre:** Horn of Africa – Somalia, Djibouti, the Seychelles, Tanzania, Yemen  
**Headquarters:** Djibouti  
**Starting Date:** July 2012

**Head of Mission:** Etienne de Poncins (FR)  
**Mission strength:** 86 international staff and 18 local staff  
**Planned capacity:** 156 (117 international and 39 national staff)  
**Contributing states:** 15 EU Member States, Norway and Australia  
**Mission Budget:** EUR 11.9 € (16/11/2013-15/10/2014)
To achieve its key objectives, and contribute to improved maritime security in the HoA/WIO region, EUCAP Nestor operates in various ways:

- In **Somalia**, the Mission assists the authorities in developing a self-sustaining capacity in maritime security and rule of law, enabling them to fight piracy more effectively. Currently, the Mission offers strategic and operational advice as well as law drafting support and training. A series of basic Coast Guard courses for recruits from Somali regions and the Federal Government, as well as workshops for legal practitioners and Police have already taken place inside and outside Somalia. Light equipment related to training activities has been provided based on previous assessments. Starting from Autumn 2014, EUCAP Nestor is scaling up its engagement in the Somali regions and Somaliland. By January 2015, the Mission will have operative field offices in Mogadishu and Hargeisa. The Mission’s activities include support in the practical implementation of legislation and policy frameworks, training, mentoring, advising and monitoring through embedded experts and capacity building activities addressing the Somali judicial and prosecution actors responsible for investigation and prosecution of suspect pirates and their leaders.

- In **Djibouti, the Seychelles and Tanzania**, the Mission’s activities are aimed at increasing the ability of the authorities to exert effective maritime governance and security over their coastlines, and in internal waters, territorial seas and exclusive economic zones, with a particular focus on counter-piracy and armed robbery at sea. EUCAP Nestor delivers training courses and training expertise to strengthen the maritime security capacity of the host countries with a view to achieve self-sustainability in training.

- At the **regional level**, the mission brings together experts to assist in setting up regional networks and to create a better understanding of maritime security needs in the region. An important achievement is the development of a regional network of law drafters and prosecutors with experience in prosecuting piracy and maritime crime.

**The EU’s Comprehensive Approach to Fighting Piracy**

EUCAP Nestor’s carries out its activities within the context of the EU’s comprehensive approach to the HoA comprising a broad set of actions (political, diplomatic, development, security and humanitarian). This is outlined in the "**Strategic Framework for the Horn of Africa**", which the EU Member States adopted in November 2011 in order to guide the EU’s engagement in the region.

In the fight against piracy, the Mission complements a number of other EU actions including the two CSDP missions in the region, the European Union Naval Force Somalia – Operation Atalanta at sea and the EU Military Training Mission (EUTM) for Somalia on land as well as a number of EU programmes funded under the Instrument for Stability (Critical Maritime Routes Programme – MARSIC) and the European Development Fund (Regional Maritime Security Programme – MASE). The Mission also works closely with key international and regional organizations such as the United Nations, in particular UNODC and UNDP, the African Union, IGAD, IMO, etc.

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**The European Union's Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP)** includes the gradual framing of a common defence policy which might in time lead to a common defence. The CSDP allows the Union to develop its civilian and military capacities for crisis management and conflict prevention at international level, thus helping to maintain peace and international security, in accordance with the United Nations Charter. The CSDP includes a strong conflict prevention component.

**Based in Brussels, the Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC)** is the permanent structure responsible for an autonomous operational conduct of civilian CSDP operations. Under the political control and strategic direction of the Political and Security Committee and the overall authority of the High Representative, the CPCC ensures the effective planning and conduct of civilian CSDP crisis management operations, as well as the proper implementation of all mission-related tasks.