



EUROPEAN UNION
EUROPEAN SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY

Military operation of the EU
EU NAVFOR Somalia



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EU NAVFOR/02

On 8 December 2008, the Council of the European Union adopted the decision on the launch of its military operation in order to contribute to the deterrence, prevention and repression of acts of piracy and armed robbery off the Somali coast.

This military operation, called EU NAVFOR Somalia - operation "Atalanta", is launched in support of Resolutions 1814 (2008), 1816 (2008), 1838 (2008) and 1846 (2008) of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) in order to contribute to:

- the protection of vessels of the WFP (World Food Programme) delivering food aid to displaced persons in Somalia;
- the protection of vulnerable vessels cruising off the Somali coast, and the deterrence, prevention and repression of acts of piracy and armed robbery off the Somali coast.

This operation, which is the first EU maritime operation, is conducted in the framework of the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP).

Mandate

The operation's mandate, in particular, include the following elements:

- provide protection to vessels chartered by the WFP, including by means of the presence on board those vessels of armed units of the operation, in particular when cruising in Somali territorial waters;
- provide protection to merchant vessels cruising in the areas where it is deployed;
- keep watch over areas off the Somali coast, including Somalia's territorial waters, in which there are dangers to maritime activities, in particular to maritime traffic;
- take the necessary measures, including the use of force, to deter, prevent and intervene in order to bring to an end acts of piracy and armed robbery which may be committed in the areas where it is present.

As a reminder, the Council established in September 2008 a coordination cell in Brussels with the task of supporting the surveillance and protection activities carried out by some Member States off the Somali coast. The activities of the EU NAVCO cell has been transferred to EU NAVFOR.

Operational parameters

Rear admiral Phillip Jones is appointed EU Operation Commander and Commodore Antonios Papaioannou is the appointed EU Force Commander. The EU Operational Headquarters is located at Northwood, United Kingdom.

Under the responsibility of the Council, the Political and Security Committee exercise the political control and strategic direction of the EU military operation.

The operation is planned for a period of 12 months. At any one time, EU NAVFOR will include up to 6 frigates and 3 maritime patrol aircrafts. Approximately 1200 people taking part in the operation at any one time. The estimated financial reference amount for the common costs of the operation is EUR 8,3 millions.

In view of judicial prosecutions potentially being brought by the competent States, the operation can arrest, detain and transfer persons who have committed, or are suspected of having committed, acts of piracy or armed robbery in the areas where it is present and seize the vessels of the pirates or armed robbers or the vessels caught following an act of piracy or an armed robbery and which are in the hands of the pirates, as well as the goods on board.

The operation can liaise with organisations and entities, as well as States, working in the region to combat acts of piracy and armed robbery off the Somali coast.

A comprehensive EU approach

EU NAVFOR is to be seen in the context of the EU's global and comprehensive approach to the Somali crisis, covering its political, security and humanitarian aspects.

The EU has welcomed the signing by the Transitional Federal Government and the Alliance for the Re-Liberation of Somalia in Djibouti on 19 August 2008 the peace and reconciliation agreement 'the Djibouti Agreement' and supports the ongoing political process. The EU has called on all parties in Somalia to join this political process in order to restore peace, security, stability and development in Somalia.

At the political level, the critical goal is to deliver a new constitution, adopted by referendum, and to have democratically elected institutions by the end of the transitional period. To this end, the European Union supports the efforts of the UNSRSG in the Djibouti peace process.

The EU and its Member States support the African Union military mission to Somalia (AMISOM) financially, in terms of planning and through capacity building. Furthermore, the EU supports the Somali police force, including through capacity building, with the aim to increase its effectiveness and its training and to combat abuses and grave human rights violations.

The Joint Strategy Paper for Somalia for the years 2008-2013 provides an EC 10th European Development Fund (EDF) allocation of EUR 215.8 million, to cover mainly three focal sectors of cooperation: governance, education and the productive sectors, particularly rural development.

Through the Instrument for Stability the European Commission plans to address the issues of security in Critical Maritime Routes in its 2009-11 indicative programme.

*The European Union's **European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP)** includes the gradual framing of a common defence policy which might in time lead to a common defence. The ESDP 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 ESDP includes a strong conflict prevention component.*

More information and background documents available on

www.consilium.europa.eu/esdp and www.consilium.europa.eu/eunavfor-somalia