



EU COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY

OPERATION EUNAVFOR MED IRINI

“ Even in these difficult times with the Coronavirus outbreak, the EU is taking important decisions to bolster its engagement in the world. With our CSDP crisis management operation in the Mediterranean Sea EUNAVFOR MED IRINI, we aim to contribute to the implementation of the UN arms embargo on Libya and to promoting peace in our neighbourhood. This is a tangible way in which the EU is helping to end the long-running conflict in Libya, right on the EU's doorstep.

JOSEP BORRELL

High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/ Vice-President of the Commission

BACKGROUND



Libya is Europe's immediate neighbour and a priority for **the European Union**. The situation in the country is critical and requires urgent action. EU leaders took a commitment at the Berlin Conference at the beginning of 2020 to support a political process aimed at ending the conflict in Libya.

EUNAVFOR MED IRINI is a concrete and tangible contribution by the European Union, translating calls and statements into action. Named after the ancient Greek Goddess of Peace, IRINI is a military Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) Operation deployed in the Mediterranean Sea that aims at contributing to achieve **peace and stability in Libya**.

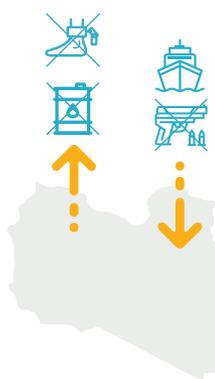
To do this, Operation IRINI will deploy aerial, naval and satellite assets to ensure an active implementation of the UN arms embargo off the Libyan coast in the Mediterranean, together with other secondary tasks. EUNAVFOR MED IRINI succeeds Operation Sophia as the second EU naval operation in the Mediterranean.

MANDATE AND OBJECTIVES

The **primary task** of the Operation is the **implementation of the arms embargo** imposed by the United Nations Security Council – through UN Security Council Resolution 1970 (2011) and UN Security Council Resolution 2292 (2016). By contributing to stemming the flow of weapons into Libya, the Operation will help create the conditions for a permanent ceasefire in Libya.

As secondary tasks, the Operation:

- Contributes to the implementation of UN measures to **prevent the illicit export of petroleum** from Libya through monitoring and surveillance activities, in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 2146 (2014) and UN Security Council Resolution 2509 (2020);
- provides capacity **building and training of the Libyan Coast Guard and Navy** in law enforcement tasks at sea;
- contributes to the **disruption of the business model of human smuggling and trafficking** networks in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 2240 (2015).



FACTS AND FIGURES

OPERATION AREA
Central Mediterranean Sea



OPERATION COMMANDER
Rear Admiral Fabio AGOSTINI
(IT)

HEADQUARTERS
Rome, Italy



OPERATION BUDGET
€9.8 million

MANDATE STARTED
31 March 2020



TROOP CONTRIBUTING NATIONS
23*

MANDATE APPROVED UNTIL
31 March 2021



*pending national internal confirmation in certain cases

ACTION

EUNAVFOR MED IRINI draws on maritime, aerial and satellite assets.



With these means, the Operation gathers extensive and comprehensive information on the trafficking of arms and related materiel and shares this information with relevant partners and agencies. **EUNAVFOR MED IRINI** may inspect vessels on the high seas off the coast of Libya bound to or from the country and suspected to be carrying arms or related materiel in violation of the arms embargo.

In addition, the Operation also conducts the appropriate activities to implement the secondary tasks of its mandate: prevent the illicit export of petroleum, provide capacity building and training of the Libyan Coast Guard and Navy, contribute to the disruption of the business model of human smuggling and trafficking networks.

EUNAVFOR MED IRINI will host a Crime Information Cell (CIC) comprising staff from relevant law enforcement authorities of Member States and EU agencies.

This cell will facilitate the receipt, collection and transmission of information on the arms embargo on Libya, the illegal exports of petroleum from Libya and on human smuggling and trafficking as well as crimes relevant to the security of the operation.

POLITICAL CONTROL AND STRATEGIC DIRECTION



The Political and Security Committee, under the responsibility of the Council and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, exercises political control over **EUNAVFOR MED IRINI**, providing strategic direction and taking relevant decisions in accordance with Article 38 of the Treaty on European Union.