

COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY

EU Maritime Operation against piracy (EU NAVFOR Somalia - Operation ATALANTA)



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EUNAVFOR/33

The European Union is concerned with the continuing impact of piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia on international maritime security and on the economic activities and security of countries in the region.

As a result and as part of a comprehensive approach, the EU has launched European Naval Force Somalia - Operation ATALANTA (EU NAVFOR - ATALANTA) within the framework of the European Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) and in accordance with relevant UN Security Council Resolutions (UNSCR) and International Law.

After the launch of EU NAVFOR - Operation ATALANTA in December 2008, the operation continues to successfully perform its mission and contributes to improving maritime security off the coast of Somalia and in the Indian Ocean. The Council of the EU has decided to extend the operation until December 2012.



Pirate attack skiff



Pirate Mothership (dhow with skiffs)

Objectives and mandate

By UNSC mandate, EU NAVFOR – Operation ATALANTA conducts:

- the deterrence, prevention and repression of acts of piracy and armed robbery off the Somali coast;
- the protection of vessels of the [World Food Programme](#) (WFP) delivering food aid to displaced persons in Somalia; the protection of [African Union Mission on Somalia](#) (AMISOM) shipping;
- the protection of vulnerable shipping off the Somali coast on a case by case basis;
- in addition, ATALANTA shall also contribute to the monitoring of fishing activities off the coast of Somalia.



Contributing countries

EU NAVFOR- Operation ATALANTA's participation goes beyond EU Member States. Norway was the first non-EU country to contribute to the Operation with one warship, in 2009. Furthermore, Croatia and Ukraine have provided staff officers to the OHQ. Additionally, Montenegro's offer to contribute has been accepted and a Participation Agreement has been concluded to this effect, allowing the contribution of maritime officers.

Means of contributing:

- operational contribution to EU NAVFOR,
 - navy vessels (surface combat vessels and auxiliary ships),
 - Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Aircrafts (MPRA),
 - Vessel Protection Detachment (VPD) teams.
- providing military staff to work at the EU NAVFOR Operation Headquarters (OHQ) in Northwood, UK, or onboard units.

Additionally, a considerable international military maritime presence is now in the area, comprising the [Combined Maritime Forces](#) (CMF), [NATO](#) and also units from China, India, Japan, Russia, Taiwan and others – all with varying mandates and mission objectives.

EU NAVFOR ATALANTA has permanent liaison with these forces to deconflict their operations in time and space in the mission area.

Financing

The funding of EU NAVFOR ATALANTA amounted to EUR 8.4 million for 2010 and EUR 8.05 million for 2011.

This budget is shared - via the [Athena Mechanism](#) - between the EU Member States, based on their GDP, and covers the financing of common costs, such as costs for the Operational Headquarters (Northwood – UK) and the Force Headquarters (onboard the Flagship), as well as medical services and transport.

Costs of supplying military assets and personnel are shared by the contributing states according to their involvement in the operation, with each state bearing the cost of the resources it deploys.

Force size and area of operation

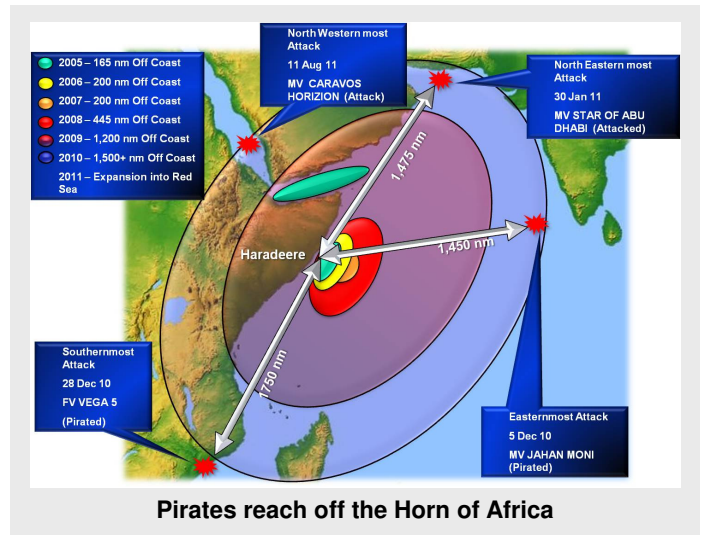
The force size fluctuates according to the monsoon seasons, which have great impact on the level of piracy.

It typically consists of 5 to 10 surface combat vessels, 1 to 2 auxiliary ship and 2 to 4 MPRAs.

Including land-based personnel, EU NAVFOR consists of around 1400 military personnel.

The European Naval force operates in an Area of Operations covering the southern Red Sea, the Gulf of Aden and a large part of the Indian Ocean, including the Seychelles. This is an area 1.5 times the size of Europe mainland.

In response to the geographical range in which pirates operate and changing pirate tactics, the EU has expanded the Area of Operations for EU NAVFOR and has adapted counter-piracy tactics.



Owners and operators who have vessels transiting the region are strongly encouraged to register their movements on the [Maritime Security Centre – Horn of Africa \(MSCHOA\)](#) to improve their security and reduce the risk of attacks or capture. Additionally, the [Best Management Practices for Protection against Somalia Based Piracy \(BMP\)](#) and further information about combating piracy and what action to take should they come under attack can be downloaded.

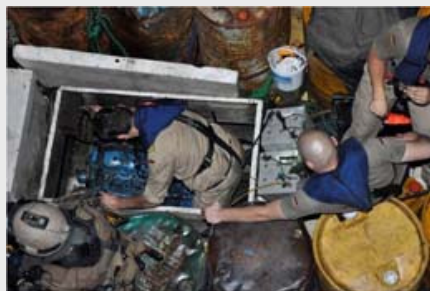
Achievements

Since the launch of the operation EU NAVFOR-Operation ATALANTA

- has had a 100% success rate providing escorts to WFP vessels delivering food to Somali people.
- has also provided protection to AMISOM shipments, which are critical to the success of the AU operation in Somalia.
- has also ensured the protection of other vulnerable shipping within the Internationally Recommended Transit Corridor (IRTC) and other assistance.



EU NAVFOR warship escort



Helping vulnerable shipping



WFP in Mogadishu

As a result of its close cooperation with regional governments such as Kenya and The Republic of the Seychelles, suspected pirates captured by the EU NAVFOR have been transferred to competent authorities with a view to their prosecution and conviction.

A comprehensive approach

The EU's objective in Somalia is to contribute to the establishment of a peaceful, stable and democratic country, trigger sustainable development and eradicate the root causes of piracy. The EU has consistently been implementing a comprehensive approach including

- EU Training Mission ([EUTM Somalia](#)) in Uganda.
- Support to the African Union's military mission to Somalia ([AMISOM](#)).
- **Further Assistance to Somalia (not exhaustive):**
 - Development aid from the European Commission (EDF)
 - €409,472,071 million of development aid from 2003
 - €215.8 million for 2008-2013 (EDF, Somalia Special Support Programme – initial envelop)
 - €175 million for 2012-2013 (EDF, Ad-hoc Review)
- Ongoing development assistance in focal sectors
 - €52 million Governance & Security
 - €36 million Education
 - €48 million Economic Growth
- Humanitarian aid from the European Commission for Somalia (ECHO)
 - €43,8 million for 2008, €45 million in 2009 and €35 million for 2010 (possibly €30 million in 2011)
 - €198 million since 2005 for Somalia

For further information please visit the website of the [European Union External Action Service](#) (EEAS) and see the [The Joint Strategy Paper for Somalia](#) for 2008-2013.

Legal basis

European Maritime Force Somalia - Operation ATALANTA (EU NAVFOR - ATALANTA) is based on decisions by the Council of the EU in accordance with relevant UN Security Council Resolutions (UNSCR) and international law.

In the area of Operation, EUNAVFOR Operation ATALANTA can arrest, detain and transfer persons suspected of intending to commit, committing or having committed acts of piracy or armed robbery.

EU NAVFOR assets can seize Vessels of the pirates or armed robbers; vessels captured by an act of piracy or armed robbery; and such vessels which are in the hands of the pirates or armed robbers; as well as the property on board.

The suspects can be prosecuted by an EU member state, by regional states or any other third states which wish to exercise its jurisdiction over the suspected pirates or armed robbers and seized property. Suspected persons may not be transferred to a third State unless conditions relevant to international law, notably international law on human rights are met. In particular, no one shall be subjected to the death penalty, to torture or to any cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.

An exchange of letters concluded on 30 October 2009 between the EU and the Republic of Seychelles allows the transfer of suspected pirates and armed robbers apprehended by EU NAVFOR in the operation area provided that requirements set in the exchange of letters are met. At the moment this is the only standing arrangement of this kind for EU.

Such arrangements constitute an important contribution to the counter-piracy efforts. Similar arrangements with other countries in the region are being developed.

Please find a comprehensive list of the relevant [resolutions and decisions](#) on the website of the European Union External Action Service (EEAS).

Operational Headquarters (OHQ)

EU NAVFOR OHQ is located at Northwood Headquarters in Northwood (North-East of London), UK.

Northwood Headquarters has been developed as the UK's principal military Headquarter site, including NATO's Allied Maritime Component Command Headquarters and an OHQ for European Union led military Crisis Management Operations. Since 2008 EU NAVFOR is led from OHQ Northwood.



*The European Union's **Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP)** enables the Union to develop its civilian and military capacities for crisis management and conflict prevention at international level and to conduct operations in this area, thus helping to maintain peace and international security, in accordance with the United Nations Charter.*

More information and background documents available on:

www.eunavfor.eu

www.consilium.europa.eu/eunavfor-somalia

www.consilium.europa.eu/csdp

eeas.europa.eu