

The EU Maritime Security Strategy Revised Action Plan

On 26 June, the Council adopted the revised EU Maritime Security Strategy Action Plan and the accompanying Council Conclusions to ensure that the policy response remains fit for current and future challenges, in line with political priorities in a rapidly changing security environment, and taking into consideration the ongoing work in the area of security and defence and recently adopted EU legislation, policies and other initiatives.

The revised Action Plan brings together both internal and external aspects of the Union's maritime security. The actions foreseen in the Action Plan contribute to the implementation of the EU Global Strategy, the renewed EU Internal Security Strategy 2015-2020, the Council Conclusions on Global Maritime Security, and the Joint Communication on International Ocean Governance. At the same time, it explores the full potential offered by the three separate but mutually reinforcing EU initiatives in the field of defence: the Coordinated Annual Review on Defence (CARD), the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO), and the future European Defence Fund.

The new Action Plan has an horizontal part (A) clustered in 5 key areas, dedicated to crosscutting issues and **a new regional part (B)**, where the EU seeks to **address global challenges through regional responses** to key maritime hotspots both at home – at European sea basins, like the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, and internationally – the Gulf of Guinea, Horn of Africa-Red Sea or South-East Asia.

1. International cooperation at sea, both at the operational and diplomatic level, is instrumental to achieve safe and secure seas and oceans across regions and improve global maritime security. For instance, cooperation between EUNAVFORMED Sophia and NATO Operation Sea Guardian helps improving the security situation in the Mediterranean. Our aim is to further align the EU's global Maritime Policy with the [EU Global Strategy](#) and reaffirm the role of the EU as a global maritime security provider, in line with the key principles of the EU Maritime Security Strategy and in line with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

2. Maritime surveillance is of particular importance to preserve security of our seas. The revised Action Plan promotes the development of an enhanced maritime awareness through improved information exchange across sectors and across borders, including through the development and implementation of the Common Information Sharing Environment (CISE) and consolidation of existing mandatory EU systems and voluntary networks, such as the Maritime Surveillance Network (MARSUR). The Action Plan also highlights the importance of further enhancing the inter-agency cooperation on coast guard functions, between the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA), the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) and the European Border Control Agency (EBCGA), and where appropriate, develop synergies with other EU agencies, to increase maritime awareness, including through the support provided to national authorities.

3. The cross-sectoral and inter-agency approach is further important in the ground-laying work on **capability development, research and innovation** in the maritime domain. Amongst others, the development of capabilities for multipurpose use, linked to the revised EU Capability Development priorities, and the coordination and complementarity between EDA programmes and the outcome of EU-funded research programmes in areas of dual-use

technologies, are fundamental to achieve progress. Looking ahead, the development of critical technologies and industrial capacity to sustain maritime capabilities should build on ongoing prioritisation work carried forward by EU Member States.

4. The new Action Plan takes a step forward in enhancing **awareness and management of risks** in the maritime domain. Common risk analysis, enhanced cross-sectoral and cross-border cooperation, research and state of the art technologies will better contribute to a greater understanding of the risks in the maritime environment. They would also help in anticipating their possible effects and facilitate the development of contingencies and response plans for EU basins and in the global maritime domain with a particular focus in those areas where the EU has strategic maritime security interests. Greater risk awareness and its consequent management will enhance the overall resilience of EU critical maritime infrastructures and will better protect human activities at sea.

5. On **Education and Training**, relevant agencies, Member States and social partners organise cross-sectoral maritime security training, educational activities, and exercises, also involving law enforcement and military personnel and focusing on priority areas, such as coastguard functions, chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) threats, cybersecurity and protection of critical maritime infrastructure. Educational and training activities are also being provided in third countries, in areas such as coast guard functions, and on digital skills in the maritime domain.