



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

26 November 2018

Dear General

As the tenth anniversary of the Operation you command approaches, UNODC wishes to acknowledge the contribution that ATALANTA has made to counter-piracy efforts in the Western Indian Ocean and to the highly effective collaboration between your organisation and UNODC.

The emergence of piracy in the waters off Somalia in 2008 was sudden and unexpected, and it quickly became clear that the Somali authorities lacked the capacity to address it. A 'catch and release' policy was in place allowing organised piracy groups to make repeated attacks without fear of prosecution and punishment. The speed with which the European Union and UNODC developed a joint approach to replace 'catch and release' with a 'legal finish' remains a model for tackling maritime crime. Within a few months, a joint EU Programme was in place, handover procedures from EU warships to regional states were agreed, transfer agreements signed, and three regional states fully resourced to investigate, prosecute and detain piracy suspects. Our cooperation to support the release of so many hostages taken by pirates is also notable.

Although Somali piracy is not eliminated, there is no doubt that the cooperation between the operation you command and UNODC has sent a clear message that a criminal trial awaits those detained on the high seas for piracy, and that if they are convicted a lengthy prison term is likely. Together the EU and UN have established rule of law on these waters where it did not previously exist.

Major General C Stickland OBE
Operation Commander
EU NAVFOR
EU OHQ Northwood
Northwood HQ
Middlesex
HA6 3HP

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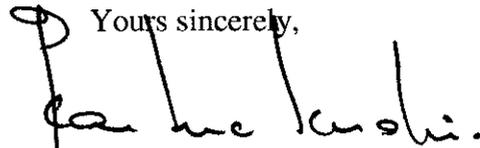
His Excellency Mr. Didier Lenoir
Ambassador
Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations
Vienna

Making the world safer from drugs, crime and terrorism

Looking to the future, we will support the transfer of command from the United Kingdom to Spain in 2019, including with thorough briefings (we hope jointly with your team) to the Spanish Operation Commander. The Prosecution Pathway Exercise we are delivering together next week in Seychelles will be a model for that. Furthermore, UNODC stands ready to work with the European Union to ensure that our effective cooperation in response to Somali piracy encourages us to work together on other forms of maritime crime, most immediately the heroin trade in the Indian Ocean, threats to freedom of navigation in the Southern Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, and piracy and armed robbery in the Gulf of Guinea.

Congratulations on reaching the tenth anniversary of Operation ATALANTA.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jean-Luc Lemahieu". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "L".

Jean-Luc Lemahieu
Director

Division for Policy Analysis and Public Affairs

22 November 2018

Major General C Stickland OBE RM
Operation Commander, European Union Naval Force
EU OHQ Northwood
Northwood HQ
Middlesex
HA6 3HP

Dear Major General Stickland,

Tenth Anniversary of the European Union Naval Force

As the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization, I am deeply conscious of the debt owed by the merchant shipping community to the European Union Naval Force (EU NAVFOR) since its launch on 8 December 2008.

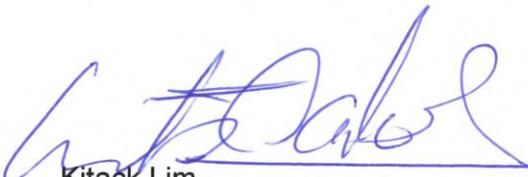
Working alongside your partners in NATO, the Combined Maritime Force and navies operating under national mandates, EU NAVFOR has been at the forefront of a very successful programme of civil-military cooperation that has led to the effective containment of Somalia-based piracy.

Back in 2008, the global maritime community was impressed by the swift transition from the concept of EU NAVFOR to its effective operation. This energetic and innovative approach became the hallmark of EU NAVFOR and contributed significantly to a range of effective measures including the establishment of the Maritime Security Centre – Horn of Africa (MSCHOA), the Internationally Recommended Transit Corridor (IRTC), the group transit system, Best Management Practices (BMP), “encouraging” compliance with BMP, and active missions to suppress piracy action groups in the Gulf of Aden, Somali Basin and ashore. I would also salute the efforts made by EU NAVFOR to support maritime capacity building and maritime law enforcement in developing countries. Civil-military cooperation is vital in ensuring sustainable development.

Although we can both look back on the last ten years as a source of considerable pride in a job well done, we must also look forward to addressing the future. I hope that your invaluable contribution to maritime security and capacity building will continue for years to come, and I look forward to our continued collaboration.

It just remains for me to wish EU NAVFOR a very happy tenth birthday and thank all personnel, past and present for their service to the maritime community.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kitack Lim', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kitack Lim

Secretary-General



International Maritime Bureau

23 November 2018

Maj Gen Charlie Stickland, OBE
Operation Commander
EU NAVFOR
EU OHQ Northwood
Northwood HQ
Middlesex
HA6 3HP

Dear Major General Stickland,

Many congratulations on the 10th anniversary of Operation ATALANTA.

During this period the industry has seen the rise and fall of Somali piracy, one of the most intense periods of pirate activity since we started compiling reports of attacks in 1991. According to our records 913 vessels were attacked, 194 vessels hijacked and 3643 crew taken hostage.

The efforts of EU NAVFOR and Operation ATALANTA to counter Somali piracy have been hugely valuable. The initiatives deployed and lessons learned from this exercise will continue to influence counterpiracy into the future.

We would like to thank you and your team for their support.

We look forward to working with Op Atalanta as it moves forward to the next ten years.

Yours sincerely,

P Mukundan
Director





REGIONAL MARITIME INFORMATION FUSION CENTRE

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Madagascar

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December 07th, 2018

Major General C Stickland OBE
Operation Commander
EUNAVFOR
EU OHQ Northwood
Northwood HQ
Middlesex
HA6 3HP
United Kingdom

Copy to:

His Excellency Mr. Giovanni Di Girolamo
Ambassador
Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Madagascar
Antananarivo
Madagascar

Subject: Congratulation letter in the context of the EUNAVFOR tenth anniversary

Dear General,

On behalf of the Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre (RMIFC), I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate you and the EU NAVFOR on the 10th anniversary of EU Naval Force Operation Atalanta. The operation has proven to be tremendously successful in combating piracy, while also providing much needed support to the region.

The phenomenon of piracy has had a considerable and negative impact on the Western Indian Ocean, resulting in reduced trade and tourism, and increased cost of vital shipping. Especially island-states, so dependent on the regular and predictable arrival of ships, suffered from the rise in piracy. EU NAVFOR, together with its partners and the regional states, managed to significantly reduce the number of incidents, to the point where no ships or hostages are being held. I congratulate you for this achievement.

In more recent years, the region has made big steps in addressing maritime criminality itself. By doing so, we are hopeful to be able to fully ensure our own security in the foreseeable future. The region has shown great initiative in this, but it is a process that is made much easier with the help of partners who have gone through the same experience. In this, the RMIFC has benefited from the expertise and experience of your Maritime Security Centre Horn of Africa (MSCHOA) and of your staff.

The RMIFC looks forward to continue and to strengthen our partnership in the future, with joint exercises, close collaboration to identify and address maritime crime, and to ensure the freedom of navigation in the region. For now, once again, my congratulations on the 10th anniversary of EU NAVFOR Atalanta.

Yours respectfully,

Captain (Navy) Randrianantenaina
Head of the RMIFC



THE VICE PRESIDENT

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
STATE HOUSE, VICTORIA, MAHE
REPUBLIC OF SEYCHELLES

Victoria, 8th December 2018

Dear Ms. Mogherini,

Subject: IOC commends EUNAVFOR Atalanta 10 year's contribution to Maritime Security in the Western Indian Ocean Region

Facing the rising maritime perils in the Western Indian Ocean since the early 2000s, including piracy off the coast of Somalia, the EUNAVFOR Atalanta mission has shown a positive impact in curbing down maritime piracy and securing the Western Indian Ocean as a major trade route of international interest and the development of Blue Economy for the benefit of the region.

In this regard, and to mark the ten years of action of the EUNAVFOR Atalanta mission in our region, I wish to express on behalf of the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) and its Member States our gratitude and satisfaction with the extension of the mandate of the European mission for two more years.

As confirmed by the 21st plenary session of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia, the risks of piracy remain and maritime crimes constitute a major challenge for maritime security and safety in this region. May I stress on the concern shared by our Member States about the economic, social and environmental impact of other maritime crimes and threats as evidenced by the Ministerial Conference on Maritime Security in the Western Indian Ocean organised by the IOC in April 2018 in Mauritius.

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In this context, it seems essential to us that the European Union, as a major and strategic partner, and the International Community continue their support for strengthening the regional maritime security architecture. As you know, the IOC, through the EU-funded MASE Programme, is putting in place a Regional Surveillance and Control Mechanism for the Western Indian Ocean. In this regard, Comoros, Djibouti, France, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles have signed two Agreements for the exchange of maritime information and the coordination of operations at sea with dedicated Regional Centres respectively in Madagascar and in Seychelles. It is our sincere hope that the IOC and EUNAVFOR Atalanta collaboration will be further strengthened. The lessons, experience and tools developed within the EUNAVFOR Atalanta mission can be fed into the Regional Surveillance and Control Mechanism developed by the IOC with a view to ensure sustainable suppression of maritime crimes for the interest of the region as well as that of the International Community. This would then lay a solid foundation for an exit strategy from the very costly Atalanta mission over the next years.

I reiterate our thanks for your contribution to peace, stability and maritime security in this region for the benefit of all.

Yours sincerely,



Vincent Meriton

Ms. Federica Mogherini
High Representative of the European Union for
Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

c.c: Members of the Indian Ocean Commission Council
EU NAVFOR
EU Delegation, Mauritius



World Food Programme
Programme Alimentaire Mondial
Programa Mundial de Alimentos
برنامج الأغذية العالمي

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

The Executive Director

21 December 2018

Her Excellency
Ms. Federica Mogherini
High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
European Commission
1049 Brussels

Dear Ms. Mogherini,

December 8 marks the tenth anniversary of the launch of Operation Atalanta by the European Union Naval Force (EU NAVFOR) Somalia. On behalf of the World Food Programme (WFP), I would like to convey my sincere appreciation for the naval protection that has allowed our life-saving operations to deliver food and other essential supplies in the region unimpeded by piracy.

Operation Atalanta's protection to vessels transporting assistance for WFP has directly benefited millions of food-insecure and vulnerable people in Somalia and neighbouring countries. Since the start of Operation Atalanta, WFP has transported close to 1.8 million metric tonnes of food assistance to the region and more than 400 WFP contracted vessels have benefitted from the protection.

Thanks to EU NAVFOR support, trading routes via shipping lanes to Somalia have become more secure allowing for the strengthening of markets. In addition, the stability that the EU NAVFOR vessels provide has allowed for more extensive engagement in livelihood projects in coastal communities, contributing to a reduction in piracy. EU NAVFOR's partnership with WFP has also resulted in reduced delivery costs for humanitarian cargo in the region.

Additionally, WFP's humanitarian passenger service between Djibouti and Aden provides thousands of humanitarian workers reliable ocean passage to Yemen. This critical service also relies significantly on the protection afforded by Operation Atalanta.

Given the ongoing humanitarian crises in the region, the protection and security afforded to the organization by EU NAVFOR is critical through 2019 and beyond.

Once again, on behalf of WFP and the people we serve, please allow me to extend my sincerest gratitude.


David M. Beasley



INTERPOL

Major General Charlie Stickland OBE
Operation Commander
EU NAVFOR
EU OHQ Northwood
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HA6 3HP
The United Kingdom

Date 11 January 2019
Our Ref. 2018/144/CT/MTS/TK/aga

Contact Mr Timothy King
Assistant Director, Maritime Security
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Subject EU NAVFOR's 10th anniversary

Dear Major General Stickland,

It is with great pleasure that I would like to congratulate you on this 10th anniversary of Operation Atalanta. INTERPOL's Maritime Security Sub-Directorate (MTS) has truly enjoyed the long standing collaboration with EU NAVFOR under the framework of Operation Atalanta. The strong cooperation established between our organizations served as the foundation to strengthen our relationship through and beyond the height of the Somali piracy phenomenon to its present day steady state.

INTERPOL appreciates EU NAVFOR's early support to assign a liaison officer to the MTS for several years. We also commend EU NAVFOR's success in bringing back fifteen pirates to Europe and transferring more than 150 suspected pirates into African justice systems, which resulted in an impressive conviction rate greater than 85 per cent.

We now look forward to a future whereby the highest echelons of the European Union are in the process of granting EU NAVFOR the legal permission to pass information/intelligence to INTERPOL on maritime crimes other than piracy that you may witness in the course of your counter-piracy duties.

Yours sincerely,

Tim Morris
Executive Director Police Services

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