



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
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Middlesex
HA6 3HP

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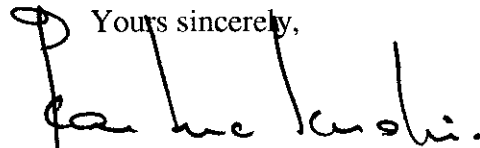
His Excellency Mr. Didier Lenoir
Ambassador
Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations
Vienna

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