

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.

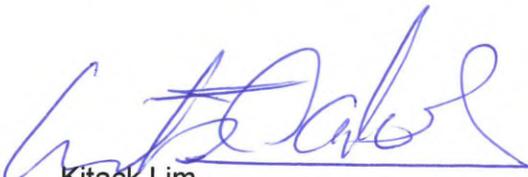
Back in 2008, the global maritime community was impressed by the swift transition from the concept of EU NAVFOR to its effective operation. This energetic and innovative approach became the hallmark of EU NAVFOR and contributed significantly to a range of effective measures including the establishment 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