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December 07th, 2018

Major General C Stickland OBE
Operation Commander
EUNAVFOR
EU OHQ Northwood
Northwood HQ
Middlesex
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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