



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