

## COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY

# EU Maritime Security Capacity Building Mission in Somalia (EUCAP Nestor)\*

Updated : November 2016

### Mission background

In July 2012, the European Union launched EUCAP Nestor, a civilian maritime capacity building Mission operating in five states across the Horn of Africa and Western Indian Ocean (Djibouti, Somalia, Seychelles, Kenya and Tanzania).

Following a comprehensive strategic review of the Mission in 2015, activities in all states except Somalia were phased out and a decision was made to focus efforts solely on Somalia and relocate the Mission Headquarters (MHQ) to Mogadishu.

EUCAP Nestor aims at strengthening Somalia's maritime security and capacity to effectively govern its waters and reinforcing its ability to fight piracy. The Mission currently has personnel located in Somalia (MHQ in Mogadishu, Field Office in Hargeisa, Somaliland, and in Garowe, Puntland), while maintaining a MHQ back-office in Nairobi.



### Mandate and activities

The Mission's operational activities include supporting the practical implementation of legislation and policy frameworks. This includes training, mentoring and advising using embedded experts, as well as carrying out capacity building activities in support of maritime law enforcement agencies and the judicial and prosecutorial actors responsible for the investigation and prosecution of suspected pirates and their leaders.

The Mission demonstrates the European Union's continued effort to develop maritime security capacities including through support to the criminal justice chain "*from crime to court*", starting with the arrest and detention of suspects all the way to the investigation and prosecution of the crime.

EUCAP Nestor's main beneficiaries are the Coast Guard, the Maritime Police Unit (MPU), prosecutors and judges. The Mission's strategic level advice is complemented by the coordination and facilitation of specialised training to support capacity building efforts.

As part of its early mandate, EUCAP Nestor promoted regional cooperation in maritime security. A series of events were organised, from regional conferences on maritime security, to workshops for prosecutors, judges and other legal practitioners involved in the fight against piracy and other maritime crimes. The Mission has brought together experts to assist in setting up regional networks and to create a better understanding of maritime security needs in the region.

An important achievement is the development of a regional network of law drafters and prosecutors with experience in prosecuting piracy and maritime crime.

### MISSION FACTS AND FIGURES

Theatre – Somalia  
Headquarters: Mogadishu,  
Starting Date: July 2012

Head of Mission: Maria-Cristina Stepanescu

Planned capacity: 176 (137 international and 39 national staff)

Contributing states: 9

Mission Budget: : EUR 12 Mio € (16/12/2015-12/12/2016)

Currently, the Mission offers strategic and operational advice including legislative drafting support. A series of basic Coast Guard mentoring activities for recruits from Somali regions and the Federal Government, as well as workshops for legal practitioners and police have already taken place inside and outside Somalia. The staging of a “Mock Trial” during one of these events provided an opportunity to examine best practices and exchange knowledge based on actual piracy cases. In addition, light equipment related to training activities has been provided to our Somali partners.

### **The EU’s Comprehensive Approach to Fighting Piracy**

EUCAP Nestor carries out its activities within the context of the EU’s comprehensive approach to the Horn of Africa comprising a broad set of activities (political, diplomatic, development, security and humanitarian). This is outlined in the "[Strategic Framework for the Horn of Africa](#)", which the EU Member States adopted in November 2011 in order to guide the EU’s engagement in the region.

In the fight against piracy, the Mission complements the other CSDP Operations in the region, EUNAVFOR Atalanta and the EU Military Training Mission (EUTM) Somalia in addition to a number of other EU programmes funded by the Instrument contributing to stability and peace - (Critical Maritime Routes Programme – MARSIC) and the European Development Fund (Regional Maritime Security Programme – MASE). The Mission also works closely with key international and regional organizations such as the United Nations, in particular UNSOM, UNODC and UNDP, the African Union, IGAD, IMO, Oceans Beyond Piracy.

\* At time of publication of this Factsheet, notwithstanding the exclusive operational engagement in Somalia, the Mission denomination remains: “Regional Maritime Security Capacity Building Mission in the Horn of Africa and the Western Indian Ocean”.



*The European Union's **Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP)** includes the gradual framing of a common defence policy which might in time lead to a common defence. The CSDP allows the Union to develop its civilian and military capacities for crisis management and conflict prevention at international level, thus helping to maintain peace and international security, in accordance with the United Nations Charter. The CSDP includes a strong conflict prevention component.*

*Based in Brussels, the **Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC)** is the permanent operational headquarters responsible for an autonomous operational conduct of civilian CSDP operations. Under the political control and strategic direction of the Political and Security Committee and the overall authority of the High Representative, the CPCC ensures the effective planning and conduct of civilian CSDP crisis management operations, as well as the proper implementation of all mission-related tasks.*

**More information and background documents** available on <http://www.eeas.europa.eu/csdp> and [eeas.europa.eu](http://eeas.europa.eu)