

DAY 1 OPENING CEREMONY, AMB CHRISTINE GRAU, HOD EUDEL TANZANIA: “REMARKS BY THE EUROPEAN UNION”

- Honorable Minister, Your excellences, Admirals and generals, Mr. Secretary General.
- Distinguished Delegates,
- I am Very honored to represent the European Union, Team Europe here in Dar-es-Salaam. And allow me to also convey our congratulations to the United Republic of Tanzania for hosting and organizing this Djibouti Code of Conduct High Level Meeting, an extremely important Western Indian Ocean Maritime Security High-Level meeting here in beautiful Dar-es-Salaam.
- As an ambassador of the EU to the United Republic of Tanzania, I truly welcome the Tanzania’s integration to the regional maritime security build-up through joining the MASE Mechanism and thus simultaneously the Djibouti Code of Conduct-Jeddah Amendment regional maritime security architecture. The EU is itself a regional organization. It is a staunch supporter of regional organizations as vehicles for building cooperation between neighbors and finding common solutions. This is also true in the key field of maritime security.
- A safe and secure maritime environment is in everybody’s interest, and only through regional cooperation can we collectively meet the challenges that we all face in today’s interconnected world. We are committed to supporting our partners to be better able to assure their own security in the maritime domain: you are the ones who know intimately your maritime region and the maritime threats. I can promise the EU will remain committed to support this region and the MASE mechanism and especially the objectives of the Djibouti Code of Conduct-Jeddah Amendment. This is even more the case since the EU as such was approved in April as a ‘Friend of DCOC’. Thus, I am more than pleased to be here with you today to speak on behalf of the EU for the first time as an official Friend at this DCOC High Level Meeting.
- The EU and its Member States are major contributors to regional maritime security efforts in the Western Indian Ocean, with EU operations and initiatives exceeding EUR 80 million per annum. Working together through partners such as Indian Ocean Commission, UNODC, INTERPOL, and IMO, the EU provides support to many important in initiatives, such as in the area of maritime domain awareness. In response to the Red Sea the EU has decided to step up its engagement through an additional Crisis Response project, directly addressing the DCoC 8-point action plan, tied to strengthened uptake of IORIS, the EU sponsored information exchange tool.

- These are initiatives which are intended to support you, our partners in this region, to be better able to monitor, secure and sustainably develop your maritime environment, in line with the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. A more stable, predictable, safe and secure maritime environment is in the interests of all of us, for our collective security and the prosperity of our citizens.
- The EU and its Member States have set themselves the object of being a more present and visible actor in the maritime domain, cooperating with partners and boosting our engagement. European naval vessels regularly navigate the Western Indian Ocean as a visible demonstration of our contribution to regional maritime security. As an annual average, up to 20 naval assets from EU Member States visit the Western Indian Ocean. This underlines the importance of your regional maritime security to the EU and our mutual maritime trade with Africa and Asia. We have seen the impact on global trade flows of the conflict in the Red Sea and the consequent effect for states in terms of reduced fees and dues and consumers through increased prices. With increased tension in the maritime domain, also come reduced opportunities for sustainable development and greater risks for environmental degradation – as we saw with the Delta Sounion this autumn.
- Your excellences’, and Distinguished Delegates,
- Securing our maritime space has become a major challenge in this increasingly competitive world. The EU has a strong interest in keeping commercial routes open, in ensuring safe and lawful use of maritime natural resources, fighting organized crime, illicit trafficking and terrorism and in collaboration to protect against new threats. In your region, there are new and increased challenges from maritime hybrid and cyber threats. Illicit trafficking in drugs, arms and humans is becoming endemic and these criminal activities often benefit terrorist groups.
- We are committed to working with you to support your efforts to address these challenges. The EU has adopted several important regional strategies - for the Horn of Africa (May 21), for the Indo-Pacific, which includes the NW Indian Ocean (September 21) and for the Gulf (May 22). Our EU Maritime Security Strategy was updated only year ago. One common goal of these strategies is to create the conditions for mutually beneficial partnership and cooperation with our regional partners to promote security and stability in these important regions.
- From the EU point of view, the Djibouti Code of Conduct and Jeddah Amendment, with the incorporated MASE Mechanism, offers one of the best avenues to provide an effective regional framework for addressing maritime security challenges. We strongly support the international Secretariat in Kenya, and we are looking forward to engaging in specific capacity building projects.



- The task is immense but together we will be stronger. We are pleased with the EU becoming this year a Friend of the Djibouti Code of Conduct. We really hope that this new partnership will bring our current cooperation to a new level.
- With this, I wish you all good deliberations and an excellent meeting.
