



Eighth High-Level Meeting on Implementation of the Jeddah Amendment to the Djibouti Code of Conduct

Held in the Republic of Mauritius

at the Hilton Resort and Spa

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Session 7 – Strategic Partnerships and Donor Engagement

Speaking notes of Giovanni Cremonini (EU EEAS)

The EU, a Friend and partner of the DCOC-JA, supports maritime security in the region through its naval operations ATALANTA and ASPIDES, its Capacity-Building Missions in Somalia and Mozambique, and its dedicated capacity-building projects.

You have heard about ATALANTA and about the EU projects earlier in this meeting. ATALANTA does not only conduct patrolling at sea, but also capacity-building activities for partners. ATALANTA is particularly attentive to partners' needs, which are laid out in the DCOC Assistance Matrix. ATALANTA's Doraleh exercise in Djibouti last month was an excellent example of inclusive, regional exercise in the Horn of Africa, with the added involvement of Japan.

The EU capacity-building missions provide training for maritime law enforcement. In addition, through the European Peace Facility (EPF), the EU supports the development and maintenance of assets to increase operational capacity over the long term. This means not only training and advice, but also equipment and maintenance. The EU adopted a first EPF assistance measure for Djibouti worth 10 million euro last July.

The new programme for Crisis Response Programme for the Western Indian Ocean, officially launched yesterday, here in Mauritius, will provide concrete support to the DCOC as well as to the Djibouti and Yemeni Coast Guards.

Furthermore, the EU CRIMARIO project continues to provide, and to upgrade and refine constantly, its IORIS communication platform for maritime domain awareness. CRIMARIO has been conducting a hands-on, table-top exercise that you have been able to observe on these premises.

Other important EU maritime security capacity-building projects in the Western Indian Ocean include:

- Safe Seas Africa,
- Port Security Project,
- Regional Programme for Maritime Security in the Red Sea Area,
- Support to the Regional Maritime Security Architecture in the Western Indian Ocean.

These four projects will hold their Steering Committees during a Maritime Security Week in Nairobi, Kenya, from 1 to 5 December.

Among other things, the Port Security Project will support the operationalisation of the National Maritime Information Sharing Centres in Kenya and in Tanzania, in line with the DCOC Engagement Strategy.



Another priority highlighted by the Engagement Strategy that is also very important for the EU is the 'Legal Finish', or legal arrangements for the prosecution pirates and suspects of maritime crimes. This is crucial for EUNAVFOR ATALANTA to be able to operate effectively.

In line with the Engagement Strategy, a rising concern for the EU is the protection of critical maritime infrastructure. The EU will table this issue at the Indo-Pacific Ministerial Forum in Brussels on 21 November, and in a regional workshop organised jointly by the EU and India in Delhi, on 5 December. There is certainly scope for more work in this area.

The EU is a reliable partner that will continue its engagement for maritime security in the Western Indian Ocean. We are there for the long term. We are also eager to coordinate with other donors, and we believe that the DCOC can play a key role in this regard, as a coordination hub. We already have very close relations with international organisations such as IMO, INTERPOL and UNODC, because these organisations implement the projects that are funded by the EU.

In addition to the assistance provided by the EU, individual EU Member States also contribute to maritime security in the Western Indian Ocean. Two of our Member States are present at this meeting, Denmark and France.

- France which is not only an EU Member State but also a State of Indian Ocean through its territories, has a direct permanent naval presence in the region.
- Denmark provides capacity-building assistance. Amb. Nicolai Ruge will provide more information on Denmark's assistance programme.
