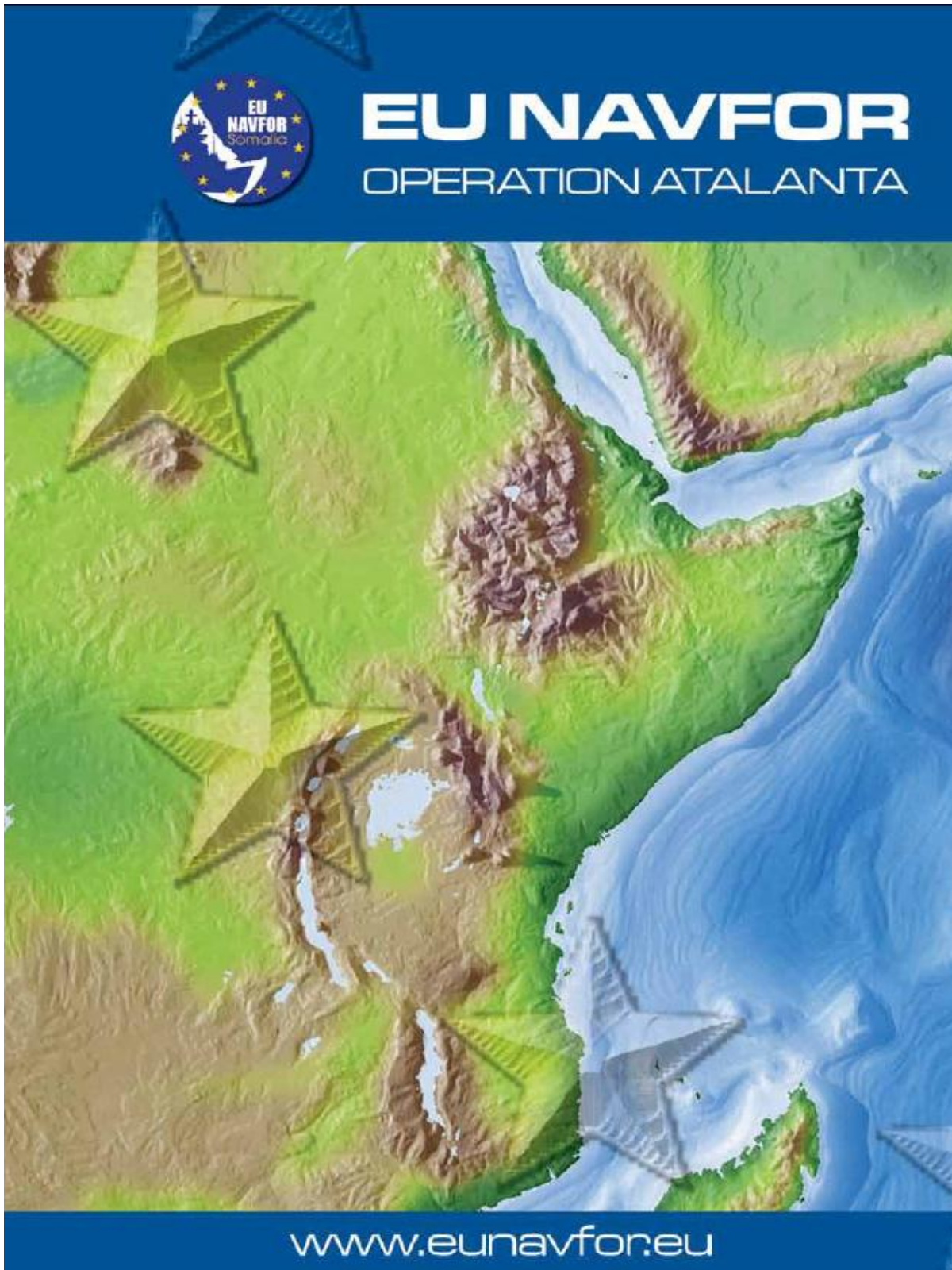


Updated: 13 February 2012



# MEDIA INFORMATION



# EU NAVFOR

## OPERATION ATALANTA

### EU NAVAL OPERATION AGAINST PIRACY

## European Union Naval Force (EU NAVFOR) Somalia Operation ATALANTA



The European Union is concerned with the continuing impact of piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia on international maritime security and on the economic activities and security of countries in the region.

As a result and as part of a comprehensive approach, the EU has launched European Naval Force Somalia – Operation ATALANTA (EU NAVFOR – ATALANTA) within the framework of the European Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) and in accordance with relevant UN Security Council Resolutions (UNSCR) and International Law.

More than two years after the launch of EU NAVFOR – Operation ATALANTA in December 2008, the operation continues to successfully perform its mission and contributes to improving maritime security off the coast of Somalia and in the Indian Ocean. The Council of the EU has decided to extend the operation until December 2012.

By UNSC mandate, EU NAVFOR – Operation ATALANTA conducts:

- the deterrence, prevention and repression of acts of piracy and armed robbery off the Somali coast;
- the protection of vessels of the World Food Programme (WFP) delivering food aid to displaced persons in Somalia; the protection of African Union Mission on Somalia (AMISOM) shipping;
- the protection of vulnerable shipping off the Somali coast on a case by case basis;
- in addition, EU NAVFOR - ATALANTA shall also contribute to the monitoring of fishing activities off the coast of Somalia.



## Contributing countries

EU NAVFOR ATALANTA's participation goes beyond EU Member States. Norway was the first non-EU country to contribute to the Operation with one warship, in 2009. Furthermore, Croatia and Ukraine have provided staff officers to the Operation Headquarters (OHQ). Finally, Montenegro's offer to contribute has been accepted and a Participation Agreement has been concluded to this effect, allowing the contribution of naval officers.

Means of contributing to EU NAVFOR:

- Navy vessels (surface combat vessels and auxiliary ships),
- Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Aircraft (MPRA),
- Vessel Protection Detachment (VPD) teams.
- Providing military staff to work at the EU NAVFOR OHQ in Northwood, UK, or onboard units.

Additionally, a considerable international military maritime presence is now in the area, comprising the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF), NATO and also independent national units such as China, India, Japan, Russia, Taiwan and others – all with varying mandates and mission objectives.

EU NAVFOR ATALANTA has permanent liaison with these forces to deconflict their operations in time and space in the area of operation.



## EU NAVFOR Chain of Command:

The Political and Security Committee (PSC) exercises the political control and strategic direction of the EU military operation, under the responsibility of the Council of the European Union. The Operation Commander reports directly to the PSC.

For its part the European Union Military Committee (EUMC) monitors the correct execution of the operation conducted under the responsibility of the Operation Commander.

The European Union Military Staff (EUMS) maintains the day to day awareness of EU NAVFOR – ATALANTA.

### **Operation Commander:**

The Operation Commander commands the operation from the Operational Headquarters (OHQ) at Northwood, United Kingdom. There he plans and conducts the operation in conjunction with the political and military authorities of the European Union.

### **Force Commander:**

The Force Commander is exercising command and control of all military forces in the Joint Operation Area. He is responsible for planning, orchestration and execution of military activities.



# EU NAVFOR

## OPERATION ATALANTA

### Financing

The funding of EU NAVFOR - ATALANTA amounted to EUR 8.4 million for 2010 and EUR 8.05 million for 2011.

This budget is shared - via the Athena Mechanism - between the EU Member States, based on their GDP, and covers the financing of common costs, such as costs for the Operational Headquarters (Northwood – UK) and the Force Headquarters (onboard the Flagship), as well as medical services and transport.

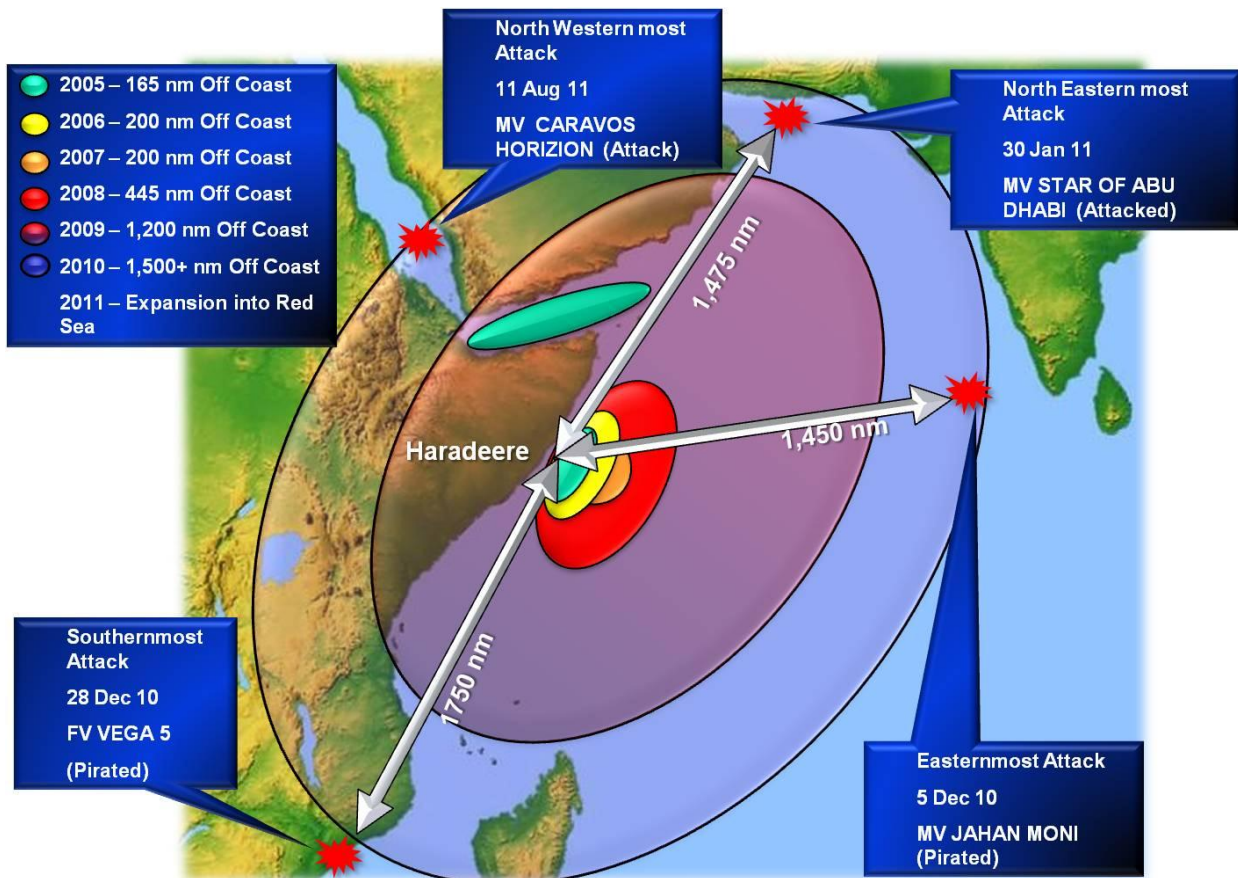
Costs of supplying military assets and personnel are shared by the contributing states according to their involvement in the operation, with each state bearing the cost of the resources it deploys.

### Area of Operation

The European Naval force operates in an Area of Operations covering the southern Red Sea, the Gulf of Aden and a large part of the Indian Ocean, including the Seychelles.

This represents an area of 2,000,000 square nautical miles (almost 4,000,000 square kilometres). **This is an area 1.5 times the size of Europe mainland.**

The entire region needs to be considered as High Risk Area.





## Achievements

Since the launch of the operation EU NAVFOR - ATALANTA

- has had a 100% success rate providing escorts to WFP vessels delivering food to the Somali people.
- has also provided protection to AMISOM shipments, which are critical to the success of the AU operation in Somalia.
- has also ensured the protection of other vulnerable shipping within the Internationally Recommended Transit Corridor (IRTC) and the High Risk Area.

As a result of its close cooperation with regional governments such as those of Kenya and The Republic of the Seychelles, suspected pirates

captured by the EU NAVFOR have been transferred to competent authorities with a view to their prosecution and conviction.



**Protect vulnerable shipping**



# EU NAVFOR

## OPERATION ATALANTA

### World Food Programme

The number of people now in need of food relief due to drought, conflict and high food prices in Somalia is approximately 4 million – almost half of the country’s population, according to the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) for Somalia and the Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWS NET). Their data indicate that famine conditions prevail in Middle Shabelle as well as among internally displaced people in Afgoye and Mogadishu. WFP is currently providing life-saving assistance to about 1 million people in Mogadishu, central and northern Somalia and will scale up its operations during coming months to reach more people in those parts of the country where WFP has access.

Hundreds of thousands of Somalis have fled to refugee camps in Kenya and Ethiopia during the current crisis while tens of thousands of others have poured into the capital, Mogadishu, in search of help.

Escorted by EU NAVFOR Operation ATALANTA assets, WFP has delivered over 823.74 metric tons of food into Somalia through Mogadishu, Merka, Bossaso and Berbera. Under EU NAVFOR protection not a single WFP vessel has been attacked by pirates.

“WFP remains extremely grateful to the EU for committing itself to escorting ships carrying WFP food, and giving us the long term protection that our shipments need, especially in view of the increasing need for assistance.”  
(WFP Public Affairs Office East Africa)





## A Comprehensive European Approach:

EU NAVFOR ATALANTA is part of the EU Comprehensive Approach in the Horn of Africa.

The political objectives of the EU are to prevent and deter pirates from interrupting global maritime trade but also to contribute to a sustainable and long-term solution to piracy through building-up the capacity of the states in the region, including Somalia, to take ownership of the fight against piracy.

Moreover, the European Union works towards eradicating the root causes of piracy by contributing to the social and economic development of Somalia, concentrating on three sectors of cooperation: governance, education, and the productive sectors, particularly rural development.

The EU actively works towards improving security on the ground in Somalia through the empowerment of Somali capacities with the **EU Training Mission (EUTM Somalia)** which trains Somali soldiers in Uganda to contribute to strengthening the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) and the institutions of Somalia.

In addition, the EU offers substantial financial and technical support to the **African Union's military mission to Somalia (AMISOM)**. Additional EU funding of €67 million for costs (mission allowances, medical care, accommodation, fuel, and communication equipment) until July 2012 will bring the EU contribution to AMISOM to a total of €325 million since 2007. AMISOM supports dialogue and reconciliation and provides protection to key infrastructures (e.g. government buildings and the Mogadishu International Airport) to enable the Transitional Federal Government and Institutions to carry out their functions.

The European Union is planning for the launch of a possible new civilian training mission under the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). **Regional Maritime Capacity Building (RMCB)** would consist of two components addressing two main objectives:

- a) Strengthen the sea going maritime capacity of Djibouti, Kenya, Tanzania, and the Seychelles.
- b) Train and equip the Coastal Police Force in the Somali regions of Puntland, Somaliland and Galmudug, as well as train and protect judges in the Somali region of Puntland.

These missions will work in an integrated and complementary manner with other interventions of the European Union, especially humanitarian aid and development cooperation. In December 2011, an **EU Special Representative to the Horn of Africa** - Mr. Alexander Rondos – was appointed in order to best coordinate them, thus supporting regional and international efforts to achieve lasting peace, security and development. Initially, the Special Representative was asked by the Council to focus on Somalia and the regional dimensions of the conflict there, as well as on piracy, which has its root causes in the instability of Somalia.

The European Union adopted on 14 November 2011 a "Strategic Framework for the Horn of Africa" to guide the EU's engagement in the region (see Council Conclusions on the Horn of Africa, 16858/11, as adopted by the Council on 14 November 2011).

### **Further Assistance to Somalia (not exhaustive):**

Development aid from the European Commission (EDF)

- €215.8 million for 2008-2013 (EDF, Somalia Special Support Programme – initial envelop)

Ongoing development assistance in focal sectors

- €52 million Governance & Security
- €36 million Education
- €48 million Economic Growth

Humanitarian aid from the European Commission for Somalia (ECHO)

- €198 million since 2005 for Somalia



With up to 95% of EU member states' trade (by volume) transported by sea and 20% of global trade passing through the Gulf of Aden, EU NAVFOR gives considerable effort to safeguarding trade through this strategic area.

The Maritime Security Centre – Horn of Africa (MSC-HOA) is an initiative established by EU NAVFOR with close co-operation from industry. The MSC-HOA provides 24 hour manned monitoring of vessels transiting through the Gulf of Aden, whilst the provision of an interactive website enables the Centre to communicate the latest anti-piracy guidance to industry, and for shipping companies and operators to register their vessel movements through the region.



A further initiative is the introduction of group transits where vessels are co-ordinated to transit through high risk areas overnight when attacks are less likely. This enables military forces to “sanitise” the area ahead of the merchant ships. MSC-HOA will also identify particularly vulnerable shipping and co-ordinate appropriate protection arrangements, either from within EU NAVFOR, or other forces in the region.

Finally in between routine or baseline operations, EU NAVFOR conducts focussed operations aimed at achieving specific effects within a given area or time window. By concentrating forces to achieve specific effects EU NAVFOR can provide influence, deterrence or insight into legitimate and illicit activities in order to better co-ordinate future activities to deter piracy and armed robbery and thus re-assure legitimate merchant mariners.





# EU NAVFOR

## OPERATION ATALANTA

# COMMAND



## European Union NAVAL FORCE

**EUNAVFOR**

Operation Commander  
EU Naval Force

Rear Admiral Duncan L. Potts



## European Union NAVAL FORCE

**EUNAVFOR**

Deputy Operation Commander  
EU Naval Force

Rear Admiral Rainer Endres



## European Union NAVAL FORCE

**EUNAVFOR**

Force Commander  
EU Naval Force

Rear Admiral Jorge Manso



**UPDATED FACTS & FIGURES:**

*(Since start of Operation ATALANTA 8 Dec 2008)*

Number of WFP ships safely escorted by EU NAVFOR:	142	
Metric tons of food delivered by WFP ships to Somalia:	823. 741	
Number of AMISOM ships safely escorted:	124	
Number of pirates transferred and remanded:	61	
Number of pirates transferred and convicted:	56	
Number of pirate incidents 2012 (2011/2010 /2009 Jan - Dec):	10	(176/174/163)
Number of pirated ships 2012 (2011/2010 /2009 Jan - Dec):	1	(25/47/46)
Number of disruptions, 2012 (2011/2010 /2009 Jan - Dec):	3	(27/64/14)

The composition of EU NAVFOR changes constantly due to the frequent rotation of units and varies according to the Monsoon seasons in the Indian Ocean. However, it typically comprises 5 - 10 Surface Combatants (Frigates/Destroyers), 1 Auxiliary and 2 - 3 Maritime Patrol and reconnaissance Aircraft.

Units currently are drawn from the contributing nations of, Belgium, Estonia France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom. The Force Headquarters flagship rotates on a four monthly basis.

For the names and nationalities of contributing units at any time, and the CVs of the Senior Commanders please refer to [www.eunavfor.eu](http://www.eunavfor.eu).



## Contact details

European Union Naval Force  
Media and Public Information  
Office

Address European Union Naval Force  
Media and Public Information Office  
European Union Operation HQ  
Northwood Headquarters  
Sandy Lane-Northwood  
Middlesex-HA6 3HP

Media Centre Tel: +44 (0) 1923 9 58611  
Mobile: +44 (0) 7762 784746  
E- Mail: media@eunavfor.eu

More information on [www.eunavfor.eu](http://www.eunavfor.eu)  
[www.mschoa.org](http://www.mschoa.org)  
[www.consilium.europa.eu/esdp](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/esdp)  
[www.consilium.europa.eu/eunavfor-somalia](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/eunavfor-somalia)

Source of Pictures Press Office European Union Council Secretariat  
Media and Public Information Office EU NAVFOR  
ATALANTA