



INVITATION TO THE ESDC COURSE

"THE CHALLENGES OF SECURING MARITIME AREAS FOR THE EUROPEAN UNION:

A FOCUS ON THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN REGION "

(Activity number 23-24/36/3)

Larnaca, Cyprus, 14 - 16 May 2024

The Cyprus Security & Defence Academy (CSDA) and the French Institute for Advanced Studies in National Defence (IHEDN), under the auspices of the European Security and Defence College (ESDC), have the honour of organising the course 'The challenges of securing maritime areas for the European Union: a focus on the Eastern Mediterranean region', to be held in Larnaca, Cyprus, from 14 - 16 May 2024.

The European Union, bordered by four seas and the Atlantic Ocean, has significant maritime potential and has established itself as a global maritime security provider. In a context of increasing threats, the EU has strengthened its role in the field of maritime security, in its immediate vicinity but also in more distant regions. This includes a reinforcement of the regional and international cooperation and a development of an integrated approach involving the adoption of the Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP) which, among other things, emphasises the principle of 'blue growth/economy' and the revision in October 2023 of the European Union Maritime Strategy Security (EUMSS) action plan.

These policies and strategies underline the importance of maritime security in order to protect EU strategic interests, in an evolutionary security environment. In that respect, EU maritime security policies and strategy focus on the following objectives:

- Protect EU interests at sea - citizens, economy, infrastructure, and borders
- Protect our common natural resources and the marine environment
- Uphold international law, particularly the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
- React promptly and with efficiency to emerging threats (e.g., cyber and hybrid threats)
- Ensure relevant training and education to counter threats (e.g., cyber skills)

The broader area of the Middle East and the Eastern Mediterranean (MEEM) has undergone significant geopolitical changes throughout the last decade. This course will deal with the challenges of maritime issues for the European Union from a general perspective, with a focus on the Eastern Mediterranean region.



Competition for strategic power is on the rise, accompanied by increasingly complex and multi-layered threats. Developments in both the Middle East and the Eastern Mediterranean are becoming more interconnected, with repercussions extending well beyond their borders, notably affecting Europe. Recent crises and geopolitical shifts in this pivotal region, straddling three continents, alongside the escalating threat posed by Yemen's Houthis in the Red Sea, are eroding the foundations of regional order and security, with potentially far-reaching consequences. Consequently, a unified approach to addressing maritime challenges in the area has never been more crucial. In response, the EU has already activated the EUMS (EU Military Staff) and has launched a new military maritime security operation to preserve freedom of navigation in the context of the crisis in the Red Sea, called EUNAVFOR ASPIDES. This operation is intended to contribute to maritime security along the main maritime routes in an area including the Straits of Bab el-Mandab and Hormuz, international waters in the Red Sea.

Maritime security in the Mediterranean concerns over 500 million people, 150 million of whom live on the coast, and is a key factor for economic development, environmental protection, sustainability of natural resources and quality of life.

The course is open to both civil and military personnel from EU Member States and EU institutions and agencies. It aims to form participants taking/having positions on maritime security policies, strategies and missions/operations at the European level. Additionally, this course represents an opportunity to familiarize with institutional, legal, and operational aspects linked to the implementation of the European Union Maritime Security Strategy (EUMSS).

The course is including an **eLearning** process and a **residential session**, held in Larnaca, with both parts being compulsory. We would like to invite you to nominate participants for this course (**deadline 15 April 2024**), which would offer them an excellent opportunity to gain an insight into CSDP and contribute to achieving the ultimate goal of the course: providing Member States and EU institutions with knowledgeable personnel, able to work in CSDP-related fields.

Lt-General Benoît DURIEUX

Mr Fergal O REGAN

LTC Symeon ZAMBAS

Director of French Institute for
Advanced Studies in National Defence
(IHEDN)

Acting Head of the ESDC

Director of CSDA



Annexes :

- Programme
- Administrative instructions
- Hotel registration form



PROGRAMME

'THE CHALLENGES OF SECURING MARITIME AREAS FOR THE EUROPEAN UNION: A FOCUS ON THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN '

Tuesday, 14 May 2024 (09:00 - 17:00)	
Introduction and administrative aspects	
Opening address	
Assessing emerging risks, threats and future challenges at sea	
A general overview of the EU maritime security strategy (EU MSS)	
Focus on Maritime Security in the Eastern Mediterranean	
The maritime dimension of EU external action - implementing the EU Strategic Compass	
Wednesday, 15 May 2024 (9:00 - 17:00)	
Strategic impact of relevant EU missions and operations in the Mediterranean area	
The Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP): Promoting a more coherent and coordinated strategy at the European level	
Critical Maritime Routes (CMR) Programme (focus on regional projects/cooperation)	
The EU approach on integrated maritime surveillance and maritime spatial planning	
Regional maritime situational awareness (Cyber, airspace, satellite)	
Discussions on the concept of 'blue economy' and its implications on civil-military cooperation in maritime security	
Overview of PESCO projects in the maritime domain	
Thursday, 16 May 2024 (09:00 - 17:00)	
Climate-change and its maritime implications	
Hybrid Threats	
Emerging challenges in terms of research and innovation	
Risk management and protection of critical maritime infrastructure	
Field visit	