

Brussels, 1 April 2025

Invitation to the seminar

The challenges of securing maritime areas of the Gulf of Guinea for the Yaoundé Architecture, coastal countries and the European Union

Lisbon, 7-11 July 2025

In order to improve understanding of mutual maritime challenges and to raise awareness about the increasing role played by the EU in the field of maritime security - in particular in the Gulf Of Guinea (GoG) through the implementation of its Strategy for the region, its cooperation projects, and the coordinated maritime presence - the European Security and Defence College (ESDC), together with the Portuguese National Defence College (IDN), and in cooperation with the EU funded project *EnMAR (Enhanced Maritime Action in the Gulf of Guinea)* have the honour to invite you to the peer-to-peer learning seminar on "The challenges of securing maritime areas of the Gulf of Guinea for the Yaoundé Architecture, coastal countries and the European Union". Comprehensive information on the maritime security priorities of both the EU and Gulf of Guinea countries, as well as key policies and actors, will be presented to the participants.

This Seminar contributes to the strategic objective "Educate and Train" of the revised EU Maritime Security Strategy (EUMSS) and its Action Plan, namely to the key action "Conduct dedicated training programs open to non-EU partners to tackle existing and emerging threats to maritime security". In line with the EU's Strategy on the Gulf of Guinea and the Coordinated Maritime Presences concept, it will also contribute to build partner countries' capacities to engage on maritime threats. The seminar will be peer-to-peer learning which will take place over one week.

We are pleased to invite officials from EU Member States, relevant EU institutions and agencies, and representatives from the Gulf of Guinea countries and the Yaoundé Architecture. Participants should be mid-ranking to senior officials working in state institutions/agencies in the area of maritime security, including relevant ministries, navies, coastguards and other maritime security-related agencies. The participation of female officers is strongly encouraged.



Dr Isabel Ferreira Nunes
Director of the
National Defence
Institute



Fergal O'Regan
Acting Head of the
European Security and Defence
College



Funded by
the European Union

Administrative remarks

- **Target group:** the seminar is open to officials from EU Member States, EU bodies, agencies and institutions and participants coming from the GoG countries and Yaoundé Architecture centres¹. Participants should be mid-ranking to senior officials working in state institutions/agencies in the area of maritime security, including relevant ministries, navies, coastguards and other maritime security-related agencies. The participation of female officers is strongly encouraged.

Places and nominations: around 60 places will be available to international participants. Typically, one or two places are allocated to each EU Member State, but depending on the total number of requests, one additional place may be offered. As a general rule, two places are allocated for each GoG member state and one place for Yaoundé Architecture centres. Depending on the number of participants, one additional place may be offered.

- **Applications EU Member States:** there are to be submitted via the ESDC secure internet system ENLIST, by designated nominators, at <https://esdc.europa.eu/enlist/login> no later than **12 May 2025**. A list of ENLIST nominators can be found on the ESDC website at <https://esdc.europa.eu/nominators/>. Registration will not be final until confirmed by the ESDC Secretariat, upon completion of the requested personal data in ENLIST by the confirmed participants.
- **Applications from Gulf of Guinea (GoG) countries:** invited countries are to communicate the full name of the nominees, personal or personalized professional e-mail address (functional mailboxes will not be accepted), sending institution, nationality, date of birth, and passport number with its validity via a Note Verbale to the EU Delegation competent for their country. Each delegation will forward the nominations to the ESDC training manager, Maria Grazia Romano, at maria-grazia.romano@eeas.europa.eu.

The deadline for nomination is 12 May 2025 to allow time for visa processing.

- **Attendance:** attendance is mandatory on all five days of the seminar. Participants will receive an ESDC certificate on the last day only if they have completed the entire seminar. This seminar will be offered in person only.
- **Inclusivity:** the ESDC strives to create a gender-sensitive and inclusive environment in all its courses, activities and day-to-day work. Only in an inclusive environment can all people, and therefore also the ESDC and its partners, reach their true potential. We do not and will not discriminate on the basis of race, colour, religion, gender, gender expression, age, national origin, disability, marital status or sexual orientation in any of our activities or operations. The ESDC and the training institutions will not tolerate any conduct that violates these values.

¹ ICC, CRESMAO, CRESMAC, and MMCC's zones D, E, F and G.

- **Language:** the seminar will be conducted in English and in French, with simultaneous interpretation in the other language (English/French) and in Portuguese.
- **Residential part:** the seminar will take place from 7 to 11 July 2025 (Monday 09:00 to Friday 12:30 hrs) in Lisbon, in the premises of the IDN.
- **Costs:** no tuition fee.
 - EU Member States: sending authorities must cover all costs for travel, accommodation and meals (including breakfast) for participants from EU Member State.
 - GoG countries: for participants coming from the GoG countries, the EnMAR project will cover the costs of travel, visa, accommodation and catering for a maximum of two participants per country. When nominating seminar participants, countries must submit names in order of priority, in order to facilitate the selection process. The EnMAR project will contact directly the participants selected regarding logistics. If a Schengen visa is necessary, please note that it may take longer than 20 days to process the visa application, depending on the country of origin.
- **Dress code:** formal dress or service uniform for the first and last days, business casual clothing / working uniform (not combat) for the rest of the course.
- **Liabilities and insurance:** in the event of a medical emergency, EU participants' medical insurance, provided by the sending country/organisation must cover all costs. The organiser does not provide health or accident insurance for course participants.
- **Additional info:** participants will receive further detailed information about the course (e.g. schedule, precise location, etc.) in good time.

Point of contact at the European Security and Defence College:

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