



FRENCH INSTITUTE FOR HIGHER NATIONAL DEFENCE STUDIES  
EUROPEAN SECURITY AND DEFENCE COLLEGE

### INVITATION TO THE COURSE

## 'THE CHALLENGES OF SECURING MARITIME AREAS FOR THE EUROPEAN UNION: A FOCUS ON THE INDO-PACIFIC REGION'

(Activity Number 22–23/36/1)

Brussels, 3-5 April 2023

*location: A. Borschette Conference Centre, 36 rue Froissart, Brussels*

The French Institute for Higher National Defence Studies (IHEDN) has the honour to organise, within the European Security and Defence College (ESDC), a course entitled 'The challenges of securing maritime areas for the European Union: a focus on the Indo-Pacific region'. This course will take place in Brussels from 3 to 5 April 2023.

The European Union, bordered by four seas and the Atlantic Ocean, has a significant maritime potential and establishes itself as a global maritime security provider, as attested by the first EU naval operation, the EU NAVFOR Somalia. Ongoing since 2008 and renewed until 2024, the operation ATALANTA deter, prevent and repress acts of piracy and armed robbery off the Somali coast.

In a context of increasing threats, the European Union has strengthened its role in the field of maritime security not only in its immediate vicinity but also in more distant regions, firstly, through the reinforcement



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of regional and international cooperation and, secondly, by means of developing 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 June 2018 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 a constantly evolving security environment. With that in mind, EU maritime security policies and strategy centre around the following objectives:

- securing the rule of law at sea and freedom of navigation;
- strengthening cooperation with relevant international organisations, EU partners and third states;
- reinforcing operational coordination between EU Member States and also between EU agencies and institutions (interagency coordination);
- consolidating external border control at the European level and
- ensuring the protection of common natural resources, in the context of climate change, while assessing the future challenges it might pose as regards maritime security.

In this context, the Indo-Pacific region has become a major issue for the European Union regarding its maritime objectives. As a matter of fact, the shift of the geopolitical focus to this part of the world has required the EU to adapt its global strategy. The creation of a common Indo-Pacific strategy in April 2021, with a specific part regarding maritime issues in the region, highlights this interest. The EU also supports the security of maritime routes thanks to the CRIMARIO programme, which has been extended in 2020 to the South-East Asia (CRIMARIO II). This stability is crucial for the economy of the EU, when 40% of the goods imported by the EU Members States are coming from the South China Sea.



This course will deal with the challenges of maritime issues for the European Union with a general perspective, with some focuses on the Indo-Pacific region as a background.

The course is open to civil servants and military personnel from EU Member States and EU institutions and agencies, and more particularly aims to prepare participants to effectively take positions on maritime security policies, strategies and missions/operations at European level. This course will also allow attendees to become acquainted with institutional, legal and operational issues related to the implementation of the EUMSS.

The course will consist of an e-learning preparatory module and a residential seminar in Brussels, which will be held from 3 to 5 April 2023, both parts of the course being mandatory.

It is therefore with great pleasure that we invite you to this course on the 'The maritime security challenges for the European Union: a focus on the Indo-Pacific region'. You will find below all the details regarding the registration process for this course.

**Lieutenant-General Benoît DURIEUX**

Director of the Institute  
for Higher National Defence Studies  
and of Advanced Military Education

**Mr Holger OSTERRIEDER**

Director of the  
European  
Security and Defence College



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## 'THE CHALLENGES OF SECURING MARITIME AREAS FOR THE EUROPEAN UNION: A FOCUS ON THE INDO-PACIFIC REGION'

### ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

- The course will take place in Brussels in a residential format in the Albert Borschette Conference Centre (CCAB).
- This course is open to civilian and military personnel from EU Member States and EU institutions/agencies.
- Participants are required to complete their applications via the ESDC secure internet system ENLIST, using the designated nominators, at <https://esdc.europa.eu/enlist/login> **no later than 15 March 2023**. A list with the relevant 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 and upon completion of the requested personal data on ENLIST by the confirmed participants.
- Participants' attendance during the course is mandatory **on all days**. A certificate will be awarded on the last day to the participants who have completed the whole course, including the e-learning modules.
- The course will be preceded by a mandatory e-learning module (**set to start on 20 March 2023** on the ESDC e-learning platform ILIAS) **which needs to be finalised before the residential phase of the course begins**.
- All costs for travelling, accommodation and catering during the residential part of the course will be covered by the sending authorities.
- POC
  - Course Director: **Major Alexandre PELLERIN** ([alexandre.pellerin@ihedn.fr](mailto:alexandre.pellerin@ihedn.fr));
  - Training Manager from the ESDC Secretariat: **Ms Maria Penedos** ([maria.penedos@eeas.europa.eu](mailto:maria.penedos@eeas.europa.eu))



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**'THE CHALLENGES OF SECURING MARITIME AREAS FOR THE EUROPEAN UNION:  
A FOCUS ON THE INDO-PACIFIC REGION'**

**DRAFT PROGRAMME**

<b>Monday, 3 April 2023</b>
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 EU approach to maritime security in the Indo-Pacific region
<b>Tuesday, 4 April 2023</b>
Critical Maritime Routes (CMR) Programme (focus on CRIMARIO)
The Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP): Promoting a more coherent and coordinated strategy at the European level
The EU approach on integrated maritime surveillance and maritime spatial planning
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
<b>Wednesday, 5 April 2023</b>
Climate-change and its maritime implications
Future challenges in terms of research and innovation
Risk management and protection of critical maritime infrastructure
Strategic impact of relevant EU missions and operations: ATALANTA