

COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY

Regional Maritime Capacity Building for the Horn of Africa and the Western Indian Ocean

The European Union is planning for the launch of a new training mission under the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) in order to strengthen the maritime capacities of five countries in the Horn of Africa and the Western Indian Ocean. On 12 December 2011, the Council adopted the Crisis Management Concept which lays the ground for a technical assessment mission in the region. On the basis of this work, the preparation of the mission itself will start and its launch, to be decided by the Council, could translate into the deployment of personnel around mid-2012.

➤ What is RMCB?

Regional Maritime Capacity Building (RMCB) is a regional training mission under preparation, which will aim at strengthening the maritime capacities of eight countries in the Horn of Africa and the Western Indian Ocean.

RMCB will be a civilian mission carried out under the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), augmented with military expertise. RMCB is fully complementary with the [European Union Naval Force \(EUNAVFOR – Operation Atalanta\)](#) and the [EU Training Mission \(EUTM\) in Somalia](#).

RMCB will have an initial mandate of two years, with a strategic assessment after a year, based on benchmarks and measurable achievements.

➤ Planned activities

RMCB consists of two components addressing two main objectives:

- Strengthen the sea going maritime capacity of Djibouti, Kenya, Tanzania, and the Seychelles.
- 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.

➤ Complementing EUNAVFOR – Atalanta and EUTM Somalia

Together, RMCB, Atalanta and EUTM form a coherent, integrated CSDP package supporting the EU's Strategic Framework for the Horn of Africa. RMCB is adapted to specific needs of each of the countries in the region. Maritime Training and Support Teams will conduct training-on-the-job and training-on-location in each of the countries involved in the mission.

RMCB also has a pan-regional dimension: the Djibouti Regional Training Centre (DRTC) will be strengthened and trainees from countries other than Djibouti will be facilitated to be trained at the DRTC. These efforts allow for a regional approach to address a regional problem.

➤ **Targeted, specific contributions to ongoing international efforts**

The political objectives of the EU are to make targeted, specific contributions to ongoing international efforts; to prevent and deter pirates from interrupting global maritime trade; to contribute to the build-up of regional maritime capacity, thus enabling regional states to control their territorial seas and exclusive economic zones through effective maritime governance; and to enable regional states to take ownership of the fight against piracy.

➤ **The EU comprehensive approach to fighting piracy**

RMCB is an important element in the EU's comprehensive approach to fighting piracy, as it allows maximising synergies between military and civilian capabilities. The EU has formed strategic partnerships with the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to execute and deliver this mission.

Complementarity with other EU-funded projects related to maritime security will also be crucial. The Critical Maritime Routes Programme under the Instrument for Stability, in place since 2009, has been in the forefront of addressing the maritime capacity building needs in the Western Indian Ocean region, focusing on training and information sharing. The envisaged support under the European Development Fund to assist the Eastern and Southern African – Indian Ocean Regional Strategy and Action Plan against Piracy and for Promoting Maritime Security ('Regional Strategy') will also contribute strongly to ongoing EU efforts.

Finally, this mission will also work in an integrated and complementary manner with other interventions of the European Union, especially humanitarian aid and development cooperation.

In this regard, the Council adopted on 14 November 2011 a "[Strategic Framework for the Horn of Africa](#)"¹ to guide the EU's engagement in the region. The Strategic Framework sets out the way in which the EU will pursue its strategic approach, working in partnership with the region itself, in particular the African Union, and key international partners. It defines five priorities for EU action: building robust and accountable political structures; contributing to conflict resolution and prevention; mitigating security threats emanating from the region; promoting economic growth, and supporting regional economic cooperation.

As part of these efforts, since 1 January 2012, the EU has a Special Representative to the Horn of Africa. A Greek diplomat with extensive experience in Eastern Africa, Alexander Rondos was appointed by the Council in order to actively contribute to regional and international efforts to achieve lasting peace, security and development in the region.

*The European Union's **Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP)** includes the gradual framing of a common defence policy which might in time lead to a common defence. The CSDP allows the Union to develop its civilian and military capacities for crisis management and conflict prevention at international level, thus helping to maintain peace and international security, in accordance with the United Nations Charter. The CSDP includes a strong conflict prevention component.*

More information and background documents available on:
www.consilium.europa.eu/csdp - www.eeas.europa.eu

¹ In this document, the Horn of Africa is defined as the countries belonging to the Inter-Governmental Authority for Development (IGAD) – Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan and Uganda.