



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 17 January 2023
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LIMITE

EUMC 25

COVER NOTE

From:	European External Action Service
To:	General Secretariat of the Council
Subject:	Military Advice on the Strategic Review of Operation EUNAVFOR MED IRINI

DOCUMENT PARTIALLY ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC 10.02.2023

Delegations will find attached the Military Advice on the Strategic Review of Operation EUNAVFOR MED IRINI, as agreed by the EUMC on 17 January 2023.

Encl.: EEAS(2022) 2047 REV 3

EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE**European Union Military Staff****Official document of the European External Action Service****of 17/01/2023**

EEAS Reference	EEAS(2022) 2047 REV 3
Classification	LIMITÉ UE / EU LIMITED
To [and/or GSC distribution acronyms]	Political and Security Committee European Union Military Committee / CSDP / PSDC
Title / Subject	Military Advice on the Strategic Review of Operation EUNAVFOR MED IRINI
[Ref. prev. doc.]	EEAS(2022) 2047 REV 2, dated 12 January 2023

Delegations will find attached the Military Advice on the Strategic Review of Operation EUNAVFOR MED IRINI , as agreed by the EUMC on 17 January 2023.

Military Advice on the Strategic Review of Operation EUNAVFOR MED IRINI

References:

- A. Council Decision (CFSP) 2020/472 of 31 March 2020 on a European Union military operation in the Mediterranean (EUNAVFOR MED IRINI), amended by Council Decision (CFSP) 2021/542, dated 26 March 2021;
- B. Strategic Review of Operation EUNAVFOR MED IRINI (ST 13878/20, dated 10 December 2020);
- C. Strategic Review of Operation EUNAVFOR MED IRINI (ST 15681/22, dated 06 December 2022);
- D. PSC Conclusions, dated 13 December 2022;
- E. UNSC Resolution 2510 (2020), dated 12 February 2020 on the Berlin Conference;
- F. Agreement for a Complete and Permanent Ceasefire in Libya, dated 23 October 2020;
- G. UNSC Resolution 2635 (2022), dated 03 June 2022;
- H. UNSC Resolution 2644 (2022), dated 13 July 2022 on Prevention of Illicit Exports of Petroleum, including Crude Oil and Refined Petroleum Products;
- I. OHQ EUNAVFOR MED IRINI: Operation Plan (v.4.2).

A. INTRODUCTION AND AIM

1. On 31 March 2020, the Council adopted the decision to launch EUNAVFOR MED Operation IRINI. The current mandate expires on 31 Mar 2023 (Ref. A).
2. Since the latest Strategic Review (Ref. B), the political and security situation in Libya has continued deteriorating. More than a year after the postponement of the presidential and parliamentary elections scheduled to take place on 24 December 2021, Libya continues to be paralysed by a deeply entrenched institutional crisis, with two competing governments. The political landscape in Libya keeps on being dominated by backchannel negotiations and attempts to carve a new political roadmap amid competing interests between the Interim Government of National Unity (IGNU) established in Tripoli and the Government of National Stability (GNS) based in Sirte. The increased political uncertainty resulting from the parallel governments has led to further instability, notably in the Tripoli area where armed

clashes between the warring factions have occurred. The overall arms embargo continues to be violated, while the potential for oil smuggling remains a profitable option. The situation for migrants and refugees departing from Libya remains a concern.

3. On 06 Dec 2022, the European External Action Service (EEAS) issued a Strategic Review of Operation EUNAVFOR MED IRINI (Ref. C).
4. On 13 Dec 2022, the Political and Security Committee (PSC) invited the EU Military Committee (EUMC) to provide its Military Advice on the Strategic Review (Ref. D).
5. The aim of this paper is to provide Military Advice and to submit recommendations to the PSC.

B. CONSIDERATIONS

6. The EUMC acknowledges the ongoing prominent role of the EU in supporting the Berlin Process and the UN-led mediation efforts and the 13 October 2022 European Parliament Foreign Affairs Committee's approval of a series of recommendations on Libya¹.
7. The EUMC acknowledges the long-awaited appointment of a new Special Representative of the UN Secretary General, which could help the United Nations reinvigorate its central role in supporting a Libyan-led and Libyan-owned process.
8. **DELETED**
9. **DELETED**

¹ **DELETED**

10. **DELETED**

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13. **DELETED**
14. **DELETED**
15. **DELETED**¹²
16. **DELETED**
17. The EUMC agrees with the proposed extension of the mandate for 24 months until 31 March 2025, recalling the importance of taking into account the renewal of the UNSCR 2292 (2016) in June 2023 to allow the Operation to continue fully implementing its mandate.
18. The EUMC agrees with PSC conclusions (Ref. D) to conduct a mid-term assessment on the mandate of Operation IRINI by 31 March 2024.

¹ **DELETED**

² **DELETED**

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C. RECOMMENDATIONS

26. The EUMC recommends:

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- the extension of the mandate of the Operation be agreed for 24 months until 31 March 2025;

- a mid-term assessment on the mandate of Operation EUNAVFORMED IRINI be conducted by 31 March 2024;

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27. The PSC is invited to:
- a. consider this Military Advice, and
 - b. agree on its recommendations.

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