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INFORMATION

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Friends of the Presidency - European Union Maritime Security Strategy (EUMSS)
Subject:	Incoming Portuguese Presidency' plans on maritime security

Following the informal videoconference of the members of the FoP EUMSS on 30 November 2020, delegations will find attached an information note from the incoming Portuguese Presidency concerning maritime security plans.

Incoming Portuguese Presidency's plans regarding maritime security and the work of the Friends of the Presidency group European Union Maritime Security Strategy (FoP EUMSS)

The maritime domain has been an integral part of Portugal's history, culture and psyche. We understand that guaranteeing safe, secure and clean seas and oceans is paramount for Europe safety, security and prosperity. Those are good reasons in our view why in the context of the Common Security and Defence Policy, **maritime security will be one of our priorities** during the incoming Presidency.

We are grateful to the efforts of the German Presidency who, despite the adversities and hardships of the pandemic, was able to work with the Commission and the Council Secretariat, to whom those congratulations are extended, to deliver the Report on the Implementation of the Revised EU Maritime Security Strategy Action Plan. We much value it as a good working tool to evaluate the implementation of the Action Plan, by gathering relevant information.

We praise the way the report distinctly assesses progress in terms of civil-military cooperation across sectors and borders, as well as how it analyses cooperation on coast guard functions and finally how it identifies shortcomings and makes suggestions for a better implementation of the Action Plan.

Our main priority will be to build upon those assessments and promote further analyses on the existing data, using these findings to create monitoring indicators and a scheduling/timeframe system. It will allow to better assert the Action Plan state of play and define implementation priorities accordingly. We will work with all Member States and European Institutions to achieve this goal.

Looking beyond, we wish to promote the Friends of Presidency group's reflexion on important *dossiers* regarding maritime security, namely the implementation of the Coordinated Maritime Presence's pilot case in the Gulf of Guinea.

We expect to call three Friends of Presidency group meetings: two formal ones, to be held in Brussels and, if the pandemic allows, an informal meeting to be hosted in Lisbon, in spring.

We will also be organising an International Conference on Maritime Security, to be held back-to-back with the informal Friends of Presidency meeting in Lisbon.

Our Presidency will strive to be positive, flexible, bridge-building and results-driven.
