

SHADE MED 2-2016 –Minutes

7 Nov 2016 – Morning Sessions Minutes

The 3rd Shared Awareness and De-confliction Meeting for the Mediterranean Sea (SHADE MED) took place on the 7-8 November 2016 at the NATO Joint Force Command Naples Headquarters (Naples, Italy).

The event, hosted by NATO Allied Joint Force Command Naples, and co-chaired by NATO Allied Maritime Commander and EUNAVFOR MED Operation Commander was attended by 156 representatives coming from 64 different organizations, ranging from Governments and Armed Forces of the coastal states of the Mediterranean, International Institutions such as the European Union, Shipping Industry organizations and Non-Governmental entities involved in rescue operations at sea.

Welcome

Admiral Michelle Howard, US Navy, Commander NATO Allied Joint Force Command Naples, gave her welcome speech indicating how she was pleased to host the third SHADE MED. She observed that the SHADE MED participants have established a pattern of cooperation and that events like SHADE MED are vital for leaders across government, military, industry, NGOs and likeminded organizations to cooperate in the face of many security challenges that exist today. She observed that this is a shared challenge that, if not rectified, will have severe consequences for all. This requires getting the basics correct. SHADE MED is an excellent start in that direction. These efforts take a team to accomplish.

Opening Comments - Vice Admiral Clive C.C. Johnstone, Royal Navy, Allied Maritime Command Commander.



In his opening speech Vice Admiral Clive CC Johnstone, Royal Navy, Allied Maritime Command Commander, stressed that RADM Enrico Credendino and he were co-chairing this SHADE MED meeting which is a powerful reflection on the importance that both NATO and EU play in the Mediterranean and the close relations that been established, particularly in the maritime domain. He went on to recognize the senior officials from the EU and NATO present along with leaders in the shipping industry, navies, international organizations and NGO's – all vital stakeholders in the various challenges that threaten the

Mediterranean region.

He indicated that this SHADE MED meeting is at a critical point in the success of the initiative. SHADE MED's informal nature meeting at tactical or staff level is its strength. He stressed that after the formal presentations are done the real work within the Working Groups can begin. Both Vice Admiral Johnstone and Rear Admiral Credendino are keenly interested in the results of the Working Groups. He stressed that this meeting was about results so that the SHADE MED process gets "Sea-Legs" and becomes an enduring forum. This will require momentum and building on the achievements of the previous meetings which reflected on the challenges of illegal migrant trafficking. There is a need to better integrate our response to the several linked challenges we are facing – migrant trafficking and refugee protection but also, terrorism, arms trafficking, Libyan and regional instability, Syrian conflict, Russian resurgence and more.

He outlined his five main concerns as the maritime commander: the Russian challenge in all its forms; the Syrian Complex, Sub-Saharan Africa, failing states, poverty, civil war, state action, terrorism, militias and the resulting environmental, social and economic upheaval hold his attention. The Admiral went on to outline NATO's initiative in the Aegean which included high level political collaboration, working with regional Coast Guards and FRONTEX. This has deepened levels of cooperation within the Aegean to a level previously thought impossible. He then discussed efforts to better organize maritime training and exercises in the Mediterranean to optimize participation by regional navies.

Finally he discussed NATO's efforts to project stability in the south by the activation of NATO's new maritime security mission, Operation Sea Guardian (OSG). This is a substantial evolution of Operation Active Endeavour. OSG mission set has been substantially expanded to areas such as maritime interdiction which would include enforcement of arms embargoes, energy security, critical infrastructure protection as well as maritime situational awareness and freedom of navigation. This equates to maritime security in broad terms. OSG forces are separately generated from the Standing Naval Forces. That is important as it frees the standing forces for their core roles and allows us to tailor a Task Group fit for OSG purposes.

Admiral Johnstone reiterated that he was at SHADE MED as a maritime security stakeholder and that for him this SHADE MED meeting is exceptionally important in enabling the success of OSG and Op Sophia as well as the many other efforts and mandates held by the participants of this SHADE MED meeting.

Opening Comments - Rear Admiral Enrico Credendino, Italian Navy, EUNAVFOR MED Operation SOPHIA Operational Commander.



In his opening speech Rear Admiral Enrico Credendino, Italian Navy, EUNAVFOR MED Operation SOPHIA Operational Commander, welcomed all participants to the third SHADE MED forum and thanked Adm Howard as JFC Naples for hosting all of us over these two days, and Vice Admiral Johnstone as MARCOM for having organized and chairing this meeting. He stressed his gratitude to all the participants that, with their presence here today, represent the real added value of this event, as you embody the effectiveness of SHADE MED as a forum where nations and organizations interested, in or impacted by the migratory phenomenon in the Mediterranean, can meet to de-conflict and discuss evolution of trends and best practices.

At the NATO summit in Warsaw, earlier this year, the relevance of achieving complementarity of efforts between EU and NATO maritime operations in the Mediterranean was acknowledged. That was also confirmed by the NATO Ministerial on one side, and from the European Union on the other. He was pleased to say that Operation SOPHIA has already achieved excellent interaction at both the tactical and operational levels with our NATO counterparts and in particular with MARCOM.

In this perspective, I believe that this Shade Med meeting will be an excellent occasion to improve cooperation between the European Union and NATO. Indeed, the cooperation between the naval components of each organization – EUNAVFOR MED and MARCOM – could represent the starting point and the framework model for future initiatives of cooperation also in other areas.

As we all know, the Mediterranean Sea has become extremely crowded. We have actors ranging from merchant traffic, to maritime security operations, to NGO's, all operating in the same area, facing a multitude of challenges. The need to coordinate and de-conflict our activities is becoming even more important, with a growing need for an efficient use of assets as we all face conflicting priorities around the globe.

As Force Commander of the EU counter-piracy operation ATALANTA off the coast of Somalia in 2012, I was part of the SHADE framework that is running in the Indian Ocean. When I became Op. Commander of Operation Sophia around one and a half years ago, I thought that a similar framework would benefit the Med. It was with this objective in mind that I launched the SHADE MED forum last year. I am proud and honoured to see so many organisations represented here today.

The migration phenomenon facing the world today has had a very clear impact on the Mediterranean region. Op. Sophia was launched in response to the tragic event on the night of 18 April last year, when a small boat capsized some 70 nautical miles north of the Libyan coast, resulting in the death of almost 800 migrants making the dangerous journey from Libya to Italy.

The EU also adopted a Ten Point Action Plan to address the crisis in the Mediterranean area. Op. Sophia is but one bullet point on that list, and this serves as a constant reminder to me that my mission is not operating in isolation. Instead, we all need to work together in order to make our efforts through the SHADE MED a 'force multiplier'.

This has been an important second year in the life of Op. Sophia. In June, the EU Member States extended our mandate until July next year and, at the same time, added two tasks to our mission to support the delivery of our core mandate. We continue to deliver on our core task and we have to date apprehended 99 smugglers who have been delivered to Italian judicial authorities, neutralized 345 vessels and rescued almost 30,000 persons.

While the operation remains strongly focused on tackling criminal smuggling and trafficking networks, two weeks ago we also started training the Libyan Navy and Coastguard in coastguard functions. 78 Libyan trainees are currently embarked in the Italian LPD SAN GIORGIO and the Dutch LPD ROTTERDAM, receiving training in all coastguard disciplines from a multinational training team. This is the first time an EU maritime operation is engaged in sea based capacity building.

The training is being delivered in cooperation with UNHCR and the EU Border and Coast Guard Agency Frontex, who are here today. It focuses on law enforcement, Search and Rescue, Human Rights and Refugee Law among other topics, and I believe that by training the Libyan Navy and Coast Guard, more lives will be rescued, in particular in Libyan territorial waters where so many migrants are drowning.

Since September, Op. Sophia is also contributing to implementing the United Nations arms embargo against Libya in accordance with UNSCR 2292 (2016).

Op. Sophia is a multifaceted maritime presence in the Mediterranean Sea, and I have always considered it important to develop good relations with civilian and military organisations that operate in the region, allowing us to improve our operational effectiveness. The SHADE MED is an open forum based on an idea of the benefits resulting from coordination and de-confliction. It allows us to informally share our experiences, discuss challenges, and also to identify solutions.

One such solution has been the set-up of the unclassified information exchange platform SMART, which was launched here in the framework of the SHADE MED. SMART aims at providing improved Situational Awareness between the merchant community, NGOs, international organisations, and military actors. The system provides a "chat service" on the model of the MERCURY communication system, currently in use in the Indian Ocean and a reporting system for vessels that are in, or transiting through, the Med. We are now focusing on our cooperation with NATO, which will be done in full complementarity, with no overlapping, with no duplication, as we continue to work together.

He concluded by stating that he was pleased to see that also this third forum gathered so many participants representing different nations and organisations involved in various ways in responding to maritime security challenges in the Mediterranean region. He encouraged us to make the best possible use of this

opportunity and, most importantly, to maintain this cooperation through the many active working groups that support our essential work.



Keynote Speakers

After these opening speeches the 1st plenary session of the Meeting began with four keynote speakers. These speeches worked with the theme of “Maritime Security Challenges in the Mediterranean: Approach and responses”, from various perspectives including EU and NATO policy perspective and commercial shipping view. These speakers built upon the themes and issues developed by the speakers¹ from SHADE MED 1-2016 which focused on the humanitarian aspect of the security in the Mediterranean Sea.

A brief summary of their speeches follows.

Mr Christophe Goussot, European External Action Service Crisis Management and Planning

¹ (European External Action Service (EEAS), International Organization for Migration (IOM), International Chamber of Shipping (ICS) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR))

Mr Christophe Goussot delivered his keynote speech by stressing the enduring nature of the importance of the maritime domain as a pillar of European livelihoods and prosperity. He summarized how old and new threats are challenging the security in the Mediterranean space. How dealing with these threats requires a broad spectrum of instruments across both national and regional levels accompanied by policies that bring together and coordinate actors with various legal mandates, practices and attitudes. He referred to the EU's Maritime Security Strategy and corresponding Action Plan of 2014, which formed a basis for EU actions in 2015 during the Lampedusa tragedy. In parallel the European Commission adopted an EU Action Plan against Migration / Smuggling. The EU's current approach is hinged upon migration governance; assisting, protecting and increasing the resilience of migrants; and countering irregular migration and smuggling/trafficking of migrants via OP Sophia and other activities. This requires a holistic approach. SHADE MED is a perfect example of this approach.

Mr John Manza, Deputy assistant SG for Operations NATO International Staff

Mr John Manza, delivered his keynote speech by outlining NATO efforts to project stability at the policy level. This outlined the high level agreements to allow cooperation for the Aegean Sea Activity, support by NATO to OP Sophia and the activation of NATO's new maritime security mission, Operation Sea Guardian that was announced by the Secretary General on 27 October. At the NATO summit in Warsaw, earlier this year, the relevance of achieving complementarity of efforts between EU and NATO maritime operations in the Mediterranean was acknowledged. That was also confirmed by the NATO Ministerial on one side, and from the European Union on the other.

Vice Admiral William Burke, USN(Ret), Chief Maritime Officer Carnival Corporation

Mr William Burke delivered his keynote talk by outlining how the current threats in the Mediterranean are creating no go zones for commercial shipping and the cruise industry in particular. These threats include terrorism ashore, foreign fighters exploiting the maritime domain, high threat transit zones and ports calls, refugees/migrants rescued at sea in the Med, large scale narcotics smuggling routes, civil unrest and geo-political events. He observed that industry wide, and broader information sharing was one of the means to mitigate these threats, working with partnerships with agencies such as INTERPOL, creating and sharing security products about the threats and taking additional security measures based upon those assessments. He envisioned opportunities to collaborate with SHADE MED participants by further sharing these security assessments with potential real time sharing via such portals as the NATO Shipping Centre or others. He encouraged further exploration of these opportunities.

Mr Umberto Masucci, Vice-Chairman, Federazione del Mare – Italian Maritime Cluster

Mr Umberto Masucci delivered his keynote talk, titled “Building Shipping Industry’s Resilience to Multi-faceted Threats in the Mediterranean”. He commenced by outlining the huge importance of shipping industry to the EU economy. He followed up describing the geographic implications of the freedom of the seas on the historical, social and economic life of the area and followed on by looking at current and future growth of this trading aspect of the Mediterranean routes. He described the current impact of refugees and stressed that refugees matter, not just because of the shocking dimension of the humanitarian tragedy developing, but the stress that current and future levels of migration will place on society’s ability to cope. He concluded by urging actors to find both short term and long term solutions. Furthermore, he challenged all to see migration as an opportunity and not just a problem.