



Press release 02/2023

Abu Dhabi, 3rd of May 2023

EMASoH STATEMENT

Statement by EMASoH on the seizure and detention by Iran of the Marshall Islands-flagged oil tanker *Advantage Sweet* in the Gulf of Oman and the Panama-flagged oil tanker *Niovi* in the Strait of Hormuz.

The countries participating in the European Maritime Awareness mission in the Strait of Hormuz (EMASoH), Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, The Netherlands, Norway and Portugal, condemn the seizure of the merchant vessel *Advantage Sweet* by the Iranian Navy on the 27th of April 2023 and the seizure of the merchant vessel *Niovi* by the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps Navy on the 3rd of May 2023 in breach of international law.

At the time of the seizure, the *Advantage Sweet* was in international waters in the Gulf of Oman whereas the *Niovi* was sailing outbound in the Strait of Hormuz. Both tankers have been redirected towards the harbor of Bandar Abbas, Iran.

We call for the immediate release of the vessels, their crews and cargoes, while ensuring the good treatment of the crew members, their access to consular assistance, supplies, and their free communication.

The seizures of the *Advantage Sweet* and *Niovi* oil tankers put at risk the maritime safety and freedom of navigation in the Gulf region.