

# Information Bulletin February 2023



## The Belgian command in February



This bulletin reviews the activities of EMASoH from the beginning of the Belgian command (27 January 2023) until the end of February.

The Force Commander (FCdr) travelled to London and Muscat conducting Key Leader Engagements (KLE); an EMASoH delegation visited the Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre in Madagascar; several guests were received at the Force Headquarters (i.e., chronologically, the Belgian Chief of the Navy and later the Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to the United Arab Emirates and the Cyprus Chief of Defence). Operation AGENOR did have French and Italian assets under command.

## Operation AGENOR assets in February

Both the French frigate FS *Guépratte* and the Italian frigate ITS *Bergamini* took part in maritime awareness missions keeping a de-escalatory posture. By conducting patrols in the area and accompaniments in the Strait of Hormuz, the two frigates aimed to reassure shipping and contributed to the safety and the freedom of navigation in the Gulf region. In February the Maritime Patrol Aircraft (MPA) *Atlantique 2* was also dedicated to EMASoH. The MPA is vital for building an accurate maritime picture of the area and performing reassurance calls: while flying by, radio contact is established and merchant ships are informed about EMASoH.



## EMASoH: some facts and figures

The typical number of ships present at any given moment in the EMASoH area of operations is around 4 to 5 thousand (based on AIS); this figure does not include dhows, fishing vessels, etc. About 10% of those ships are EMASoH-flagged or have an EMASoH country of economic benefit. We record daily around 25-30 Strait of Hormuz crossings by those EMASoH ships of interest.

Our presence - although we have a light footprint - and the insight we have gained undeniably reassure shipping. We dare to say that we contribute to safeguard the freedom of navigation; this is evidenced by the good and professional exchanges we have with local actors.

## Key Leader Engagements in Muscat, London and Madagascar

On the occasion of the EU Coordinated Maritime Presence (CMP), a high visibility event, FCdr Flamant travelled to Muscat, Oman, where he and the FCdr of operation ATALANTA, Commodore Nuno Filipe Cortes Lopes met on board the Spanish frigate SPS *Santa María*.

EMASoH Headquarters telephone watch (24/7): +971 265 74 278

E-mail (24/7): [ctf474-emasoh.bwc.fct@def.gouv.fr](mailto:ctf474-emasoh.bwc.fct@def.gouv.fr)



[www.linkedin.com/company/EMASOH](https://www.linkedin.com/company/EMASOH)



[www.twitter.com/EMASOH\\_AGENOR](https://www.twitter.com/EMASOH_AGENOR)



[www.instagram.com/EMASOH\\_AGENOR](https://www.instagram.com/EMASOH_AGENOR)

# Information Bulletin February 2023

A staff member of the headquarters visited the Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre (RMIFC) in Antananarivo, Madagascar. EMASoH take this opportunity to thank once again the RMIFC for the hospitality.

And last but not least, the FCdr travelled to London for the 13th Industry Strategic Meeting (ISM), an operation ATALANTA event designed to share information with the maritime world about ongoing maritime security operations. The FCdr had the opportunity to further explain the EMASoH initiative and to engage with shipping companies, maritime security instances and other maritime stakeholders.



## Belgian and Cypriot visits

Rear Admiral Jan De Beurme, Chief of the Belgian Navy and deputy ABNL (Admiral Benelux - the Belgian and Dutch combined operational navy staffs) visited the multinational headquarters on the 18<sup>th</sup> of February.

On the 21<sup>st</sup> the Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to the United Arab Emirates, His Excellency Yannis Michaelides visited together with the Chief of Defence of Cyprus, Lt Gen Dimokritos Zervakis; they were welcomed by both the OpCdr and FCdr.



## Visiting UKMTO in Dubai and meeting the Jan de Nul Group on board FS Guépratte

After a fruitful meeting in January at the Force Headquarters of operation AGENOR, the FCdr and staff members of the NCAGS (Naval Cooperation and Guidance for Shipping) cell visited the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) in their Dubai office. Both UKMTO and AGENOR are aimed to reassure shipping and contribute to the freedom of navigation.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> of February EMASoH received a delegation of Jan De Nul Group on board of the French frigate FS *Guépratte*. The



delegation of Jan De Nul was briefed by the NCAGS cell about the operation AGENOR. Reassurance contributes to the freedom of navigation and is part of the mission of operation AGENOR. By maintaining and building up relationships with the merchant shipping community, EMASoH investigates possible ways of cooperation with a customer-driven approach.

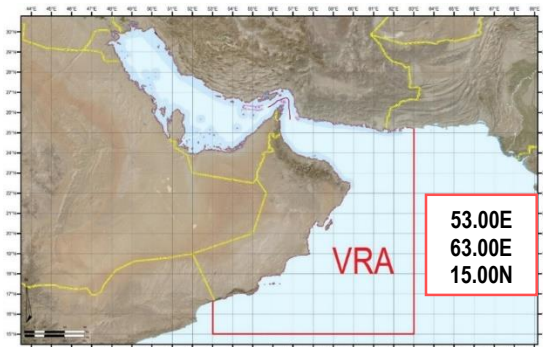


EMASoH Headquarters telephone watch (24/7): +971 265 74 278

E-mail (24/7): [ctf474-emasoh.bwc.fct@def.gouv.fr](mailto:ctf474-emasoh.bwc.fct@def.gouv.fr)

## Voluntary Reporting Scheme

Shipping operators are invited to participate to a Voluntary Reporting Scheme. Voluntary reporting improves the cooperation and guidance EMASoH can provide to ships on the basis of informing, reassuring, and promoting the freedom of navigation. Voluntary reported ships are also prioritised for possible accompaniments with EMASoH's naval assets and reassuring calls with naval and aerial assets. Before entering the Voluntary Reporting Area (VRA), 48 hours in advance, or as soon as possible:



- ✓ **Inform** EMASoH about the timing of your intended entry and exit of the VRA;
- ✓ **Confirm** the planning 6 hours before entering and share possible changes to the journey planning;
- ✓ **Report** any suspicious behaviour to the coast guard of the coastal state and to EMASoH.

Voluntary reporting to EMASoH via [ctf474-emasoh.vra.fct@def.gouv.fr](mailto:ctf474-emasoh.vra.fct@def.gouv.fr) or phone +971 265 74 278.