



## EMASoH in October: Latest News

- Operational Commander Vice Admiral Slaars and Force Commander Rear Admiral Panebianco attended the SHADE51 conference in Manama, Bahrain.
- EMASoH paid a visit to the Norwegian embassy in Abu Dhabi, where we met with H.E. Olav Myklebust.
- A new VRS reporting tool on the EMASoH website is currently under development and is being tested.

## SHADE conference in Manama, Bahrain



Figure 1 – Poster for 51st SHADE conference

On 11-12 October the 51<sup>st</sup> edition of SHADE (Shared Awareness and Deconfliction Conference) took place in Manama, Bahrain. EMASoH was invited to the conference and Operational Commander Vice Admiral Slaars presented Operation Agenor alongside Atalanta and Combined Maritime Force Commanders.

SHADE is a yearly recurrent international forum, hosting more than a hundred of various key players in the maritime sector. The main topics of the conference were maritime security issues in the Western Indian Ocean.

## Reassuring merchant vessels

One of the main objectives of Operation AGENOR is to reassure merchant vessels that cross the Strait of Hormuz. Reassurance can be provided by accompanying these vessels and making EMMA-calls (EMASoh-MAnoeuvers) to ships located in the area. In early October we released a one-minute video highlighting the way in which EMASoH aims to assist the merchant shipping in the Strait. The video is featured on ALINDIEN's Instagram and X channels.



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## Visit to Norwegian Embassy in Abu Dhabi, UAE

On October 26th EMASoH paid a visit to the Norwegian embassy in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. We had the privilege of meeting with Norway's Ambassador to the U.A.E., His Excellency Olav Myklebust and his staff.

During the meet AGENOR Force Commander, Rear Admiral Mauro Panebianco, presented the fundamentals of EMASoH and elaborated on Operation AGENOR, the military pillar of the initiative. NCAGS (Naval Cooperation and Guidance for Shipping) then gave an in-depth view of the Norwegian merchant shipping fleet that operates in the Gulf region and crosses the Strait of Hormuz daily.

Norway has the third largest merchant shipping fleet out of all the EMASoH countries. On average, 64 Norwegian merchant ships of interest (ships under either Norwegian flag or beneficial ownership) sail within the EMASoH Voluntary Reporting Area (VRA) every day. Most of them are tankers and containerships. Every month 130 Norwegian ships of interest transit the Strait of Hormuz.

We would like to thank His Excellency and staff for having hosted us at the Norwegian embassy. It was a fruitful visit, and a valuable opportunity to share knowledge.



Figure 2 – Visit to the Norwegian Embassy

## EMASoH Voluntary Reporting Scheme (VRS)

Merchant vessels are invited to participate to our Voluntary Reporting Scheme. Voluntary reporting improves the cooperation and guidance that EMASoH can provide to those ships. 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.

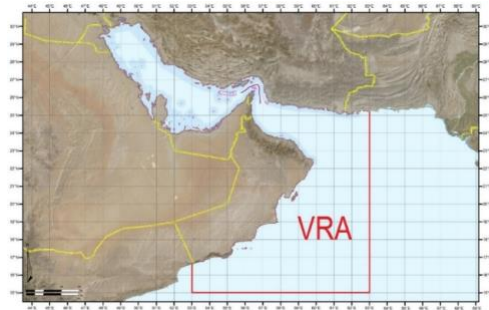


Figure 3 - EMASoH VRA

## VRS reporting on EMASoH website

### Voluntary Reporting Scheme - VRS

All ships entering the EMASoH Voluntary Reporting Area are invited to provide the following information 48 hours prior to entering the area or as soon as possible and report suspicious behaviour or unusual events.

The data sent through this form will only be used by EMASoH's Naval Cooperation and Guidance for Shipping.

Ship name *	<input type="text"/>
IMO number *	<input type="text"/>
Flag state *	<input type="text"/>
Bridge / ship master phone number *	<input type="text"/>
telephone number	<input type="text"/>
Ship master email *	<input type="text"/>
email address	<input type="text"/>
Estimated Time of Arrival entering the Voluntary Reporting Area (VRA)	<input type="text"/>
ETA to the VRA	<input type="text"/>

Figure 4 – New Voluntary Reporting Scheme

Reporting to EMASoH's VRS is currently done through email. To make the reporting process more convenient and structured for seafarers, we are developing and testing an alternative method: a tool on the EMASoH website that would also be convenient for other operational scheme in the Indian Ocean.

The tool allows the user to send all required information directly to NCAGS (Naval Cooperation And Guidance for Shipping) and therefore it will reduce the workload for the master. We are working to share this information among other maritime security actors operating in the area.

During the upcoming period we will keep developing and improving this new reporting tool. Check our social media channels and next information bulletin for updated information.

**Voluntary reporting to EMASoH via [ctf474-emasoh.vra.fct@def.gouv.fr](mailto:ctf474-emasoh.vra.fct@def.gouv.fr)**

More information about the VRS: <https://www.emasoh-agenor.org/voluntary-reporting-scheme>