



# MISSION

Update: 21 February 2020

EUNAVFOR MED operation Sophia is a Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) operation focused on disrupting the business model of migrant smugglers and human traffickers, and contributing to EU efforts for the return of stability and security in Libya and the Central Mediterranean region. ENFM is the first EU maritime force providing maritime security in the Central Mediterranean and works closely with different organizations. Initially launched in 2015, ENFM is part of the EU's comprehensive approach to migration. The mission's core mandate is to contribute to the EU's efforts to disrupt the business model of human smuggling and trafficking networks in the Southern Central Mediterranean. The operation has other supporting tasks such as training the Libyan Coastguard and Navy, conducting the monitoring of the long term of efficiency of the training, contributing to the implementation of the UN arms embargo on the high seas off the coast of Libya and conducts surveillance activities and gathers information on illegal trafficking of oil exports from Libya, in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions. On 25 July 2017, the Council extended Operation Sophia's mandate until 31 December 2018. On 21 December 2018 the EU Council extended the mandate of the EUNAVFOR MED Operation Sophia until 31 March 2019. On 29 March 2019 Operation Sophia has been extended until 30 September 2019, temporarily suspending the deployment of the naval assets. On 26 September 2019, with the Council Decision (CFSP) 2019/1595 the mandate of EUNAVFOR MED operation SOPHIA has been extended until 31 March 2020.

## SUPPORTING TASKS

Additional tasks have been added to the mandate of the operation since its launch.

On 20 June 2016 European Council added:

- training of the Libyan Coast Guard and Navy;
- to contribute to the implementation of the UN arms embargo on the high seas off the coast of Libya according to UNSCR 2292 (2016) and UNSCR 2357 (2017).

On 25 July 2017 European Council added:

- to set up a monitoring mechanism of the long-term efficiency of the training of the Libyan Coastguard and Navy;
- to conduct new surveillance activities and gather information on illegal trafficking of oil exports from Libya in accordance UNSCR 2146 (2014) and 2362 (2017);
- to enhance the possibility for sharing information on human trafficking with member states law enforcement agencies, FRONTEX and EUROPOL.

## PHASES OF THE OPERATION

EUNAVFOR MED operation Sophia is designed around 4 phases:

- phase one consists of deployment of forces to build a comprehensive understanding of smuggling activity and methods, and this phase is now complete;
- phase two foresees the boarding, search, seizure and diversion of smugglers' vessels on the high seas under the conditions provided for by applicable international law. This activity will be extended into Territorial Waters upon the release of any applicable United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) and the concerned coastal State consent;
- phase three expands this activity further; up to including taking operational measures against vessels and related assets suspected of being used for human smuggling or trafficking inside the coastal states territory, with the necessary legal framework established by UNSCR and following coastal state consent;
- finally, the fourth and last phase will consist of withdrawal of forces and completion of the operation. The European Council is responsible for assessing whether the conditions for transition between the operation phases have been met. On legal side, all of the activities undertaken in each phase adhere to and respect international law, including human rights, humanitarian and refugee law and the "non refoulement" principle meaning that no rescued persons can be disembarked in a third country.

operation SOPHIA

EUNAVFOR MED





## FACTS AND FIGURES

<b>Area of Operation:</b>	Central part of Southern Mediterranean Sea
<b>Headquarters:</b>	Rome, Italy
<b>Mission Launch:</b>	22 June 2015
<b>Mandate Approved until:</b>	31 March 2020
<b>Operation Commander:</b>	Rear Admiral Fabio Agostini (IT Navy)
<b>Force Strength:</b>	currently operation Sophia Task Force can count on 7 air assets (2 Luxembourg, 1 Spain, 1 Polish, 1 French, 2 Italy).
<b>Contributing Member States:</b>	26 (AUT, BGR, CYP, CZE, ESP, EST, FIN, FRA, GER, GBR, GRE, HRV, HUN, IRL, ITA, LAT, LIT, LUX, MAL, NED, POL, POR, ROM, SLO, SVK, SWE)
<b>Operation Budget:</b>	military assets and personnel are provided by the contributing states with the running costs and personnel costs being met on a national basis. The common budget has been agreed and monitored by the Athena Committee of Member States. For the period 27 July 2017 to 31 December 2018, the reference amount for the common costs of EUNAVFOR MED operation SOPHIA was € 6.0 million. For the period from 01 January to 31 March 2019, the reference amount was € 1.1 million. For the period 1 April to 30 September 2019 the reference amount is 2.8 million. For the period from 1 October 2019 to 31 March 2020, the reference amount is 3.1 million.

## PARTNERSHIP

Thus far, partnership has been the key word: partner countries, partner organisations, NGOs, international agencies are working together and sharing their experiences on how to manage - from a humanitarian point of view - something that is difficult to manage, which means people that have gone through a very difficult journey.

On this path, building on an extensive network of contacts, EUNAVFOR MED has established the Shared Awareness and De-confliction in the Mediterranean (SHADE MED) seminar. The event resulted in a better understanding between civilian and military actors involved in the Mediterranean Sea, enhancing mutual interaction and assisting with the development of an overall framework for coordinating different activities and to identify best practices to deal with common security challenges.

## SOPHIA

Sophia is a baby who was born on 24 August 2015 at 04.15 am on board the German frigate Schleswig-Holstein, operating in the Central Mediterranean Sea as part of EUNAVFOR MED Task Force. Born from a Somali mother rescued together with other 453 migrants and disembarked on the evening of the same day in the harbour of Taranto, Sophia was named after the German ship dedicated to the Prussian princess Sophia of Schleswig-Holstein (8 April 1866 - 28 April 1952).

"[...] I will suggest to Member States that we change the name of our Operation: instead of calling it EUNAVFOR MED, I suggest we use the name: Sophia. To honour the lives of the people we are saving, the lives of people we want to protect, and to pass the message to the world that fighting the smugglers and the criminal networks is a way of protecting human life"

Federica Mogherini  
Rome 24<sup>th</sup> September 2015

EUNAVFOR MED operation Sophia Operational Headquarters.

## Contact details

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WEBSITE: [www.operationsophia.eu](http://www.operationsophia.eu)



# ITalian EUropean Operation HeadQarters

One of the five Operation Headquarters made available to the European Union, the IT EU OHQ has achieved Full Operational Capability in 2008, with the conduct of the MILEX 08 and was subsequently activated for the first time in Real World Operation for EUFOR Libya from April to November 2011.



The other four EU National Operational Headquarters have been made available for use by the EU to fulfil the OHQ role:

- French CPCO - Centre de Planification et de Conduite des Opérations - is situated at the à l'État major des Armées, 231 boulevard St Germain, in Paris. Near Paris also is the French Mont Valérien command-and-control facility, where a French declared OHQ for EU operations is located;
- Spanish PJHQ at Rota Headquarters;
- Germany's Armed Forces Operational Command near Potsdam;
- EU OHQ in Larissa.

Its stated mission is to *"To Plan conduct and terminate a military crisis response operation, EU driven, in accordance with agreed EU concepts and procedures"*.

The IT EU OHQ covers an area of 3700 square metres and is articulated in 70 rooms, which are furnished and equipped to host the OHQ staff – as well as the national nucleus/units activated for its support.

Within its premises, the IT EU OHQ can host in excess of 200 civil and military planners who work together to accomplish the mission assigned by Brussels.

For EUNAVFOR MED operation the IT EU OHQ has been activated with 175 personnel position, almost 60 to be filled by different country of Member States.



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# SOPHIA



Sophia, depicted in the photo, was born on 24 August 2015 at 04.15 am on board the German frigate Schleswig-Holstein, operating in the Central Mediterranean Sea as part of EUNAVFOR MED.

Born from a Somali mother rescued together with 453 other migrants and disembarked on the evening of the same day in the harbour of Taranto, Italy. Sophia was named after the German ship dedicated to the Prussian princess Sophia of Schleswig-Holstein (8 April 1866 - 28 April 1952).

*[...] I will suggest to Member States that we change the name of our Operation: instead of calling it EUNAVFOR MED, I suggest we use the name: Sophia. To honour the lives of the people we are saving, the lives of people we want to protect, and to pass the message to the world that fighting the smugglers and the criminal networks is a way of protecting human life"*

Federica Mogherini

High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs  
and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission.  
Rome, EUNAVFOR MED operation Sophia Operation Headquarters,

24<sup>th</sup> September 2015

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# Operation Commander

Rear Admiral Fabio AGOSTINI (IT Navy)



Rear Admiral (UH) Fabio AGOSTINI was born in Rome on 15 May 1966 and joined the Naval Academy in October 1986.

He received his commission as Ensign in November 1989 and, at the end of his training period at the Navy Training Centre in Taranto, he received the "Artillery" Qualification and embarked on the Maestrale Frigate on which he deployed to the Persian Gulf within operation Desert Storm.

He participated in NATO operations in former Yugoslavia on board the Audace Destroyer. Subsequently, he served aboard the Grecale Frigate on which he deployed on Operation Restore Hope in Somalia.

In 1995, after obtaining the Guard Command qualification and the qualification as Firing Director, he joined the Minerva Corvette stationed in Augusta as Head of Operations. He then participated in numerous Albania-related migration control activities and Fishery Supervision missions. On board the Minerva he also deployed for the Basic Operational Sea Training at

the Royal Navy in Plymouth, England.

In 1997, he attended the 20th Navy Staff College course at the Istituto di Guerra Marittima in Leghorn. In 1998, he attended the Naval Command School and the English full immersion course at Melton College in York (UK). In the same year, he was appointed Commander of the Cassiopea Patrol Ship. Until September 1999, he deployed on 11 fishing supervision missions in the Sicilian Channel.

Later, he joined the Garibaldi Helicopter Carrier as Chief Artillery and Missile Section. In September 2001, he was appointed Head of Operations aboard the same ship with and, following the tragic events of September 11, he deployed on Operation Enduring Freedom in the Indian Ocean.

On his return to Italy, he was briefly assigned to the Mimbelli Destroyer to deploy on Operation Enduring Freedom again as intelligence and public information officer to the Commander, Italian-led European Naval Task Force commander.

In 2004, having completed his assignment on the Garibaldi Helicopter Carrier, Rear Admiral Agostini was selected for the Joint Services Command and Staff Course at the UK Defence Academy in Shrivenham.

He returned to Italy in 2005 and was assigned to the Centre for Advanced Defence Studies in Rome, Italy as a Tutor.

In September 2006, he was appointed Commander of the Espero Ship.

In October 2007, he was appointed Head, Parliamentary Affairs Section within the Cabinet of the Minister of Defence. In such position, he supported the Minister of Defence and the Undersecretaries for Defence in their parliamentary activities, in particular all matters relating to International Politics, International Peace Missions and armament programmes.

Since September 2009, the Minister of Defence appointed him as member of the Personnel Committee of the Military Corps of the Italian Red Cross.

In July 2010, he took up the position of Deputy Head, Alliances Policy Branch, Defence General Staff. In his tenure, he focused on political and military interests of defence within the relevant international organisations – specifically NATO, the European Union, and the United Nations – and within the framework of Multinational Forces.

From 27 September 2013 to 26 September 2014, Rear Admiral (UH) Agostini served as Commander, Duilio Ship and deployed on NATO exercises Brilliant Mariner in the Mediterranean and Steadfast Jazz in the Baltic Sea.

From 27 September 2014 to 31 July 2016, he was assigned to the 3rd Division, Naval Plans, Operations and Strategy of the Navy Staff, where he first was Head of the newly established Dual Use Branch. The branch contributes to the developing dual and complementary activities through Navy means and capabilities for the benefit of the national community. In the same Division, Rear Admiral (UH) Agostini held the position of Head, Internal Coordination.

In May 2016, he was also appointed Head, Image and Promotion Branch, Public Information and Communication Office.

From 29 August 2016 to 17 March 2019, Rear Admiral (UH) Agostini held the position of Head, Public Information and Communication Office, Navy Staff.

Since March 18, 2019, he has been the Head, Public Information and Communication Department, Defence General Staff.

From 09 January 2020 he held the position of Commander of Joint Deployable Command and on the 21 February he has been appointed as Commander of the Operation EUNAVFOR MED "SOPHIA".

Rear Admiral (UH) Agostini, who lives in Rome, is married to Mrs. Stefania Antonia Knabe, a German national, and together they have two children, Pier Giorgio and Elena Sofia, who are both students in Germany.

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# Social Network



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## WEBSITE

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## TWITTER

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## FACEBOOK

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