



**OPERATION EUNAVFOR MED IRINI**

*Via di Centocelle, 301  
00175 Rome – ITALY*

**To General Stephen J. Townsend  
Commander United States Africa Command (US AFRICOM)  
Kelley Barracks  
Plieninger Strasse  
Stuttgart – Baden-Wurttemberg 70567  
GERMANY**

**Subject: Information Exchange between EUNAVFOR MED IRINI and U.S. AFRICOM**

Reference:

*Agreement between the European Union and the government of the United States of America on the security of classified information - Official Journal L 115 of 03/05/2007.*

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*Dear Sir, General Townsend,*

in accordance with Council Decision (CFSP) 2020/472 of 31 March 2020 and Council Decision (CFSP) 2021/542 of 26 March 21, Operation EUNAVFOR MED Irini operates in the Central Mediterranean Sea with the aim to implement the UN arms embargo on Libya. The Operation has, as secondary tasks, the contribution to the implementation of UN measures to prevent the illicit export of petroleum from Libya, the capacity building and training of the Libyan Coastguards and Navy, and the contribution to the disruption of the business model of human smuggling/trafficking networks.

The cooperation between EUNAVFOR MED and U.S. AFRICOM was interrupted with the closure of Operation Sophia on 31 March 2020 and, subsequently, the EUNAVFOR MED Working Visitor had to withdraw from Your Headquarters in Stuttgart.

Following recent developments, there is now the opportunity to start a new form of cooperation, based on information exchange. Such exchange, would be highly beneficial for both of our Organisations as we share the same area of interest (North Africa and its approaches).

In light of the above, the information exchange can take place in accordance with the agreement in ref. and within our respective mandates and the legal framework applicable to the respective entities: in particular, I propose to exchange classified information concerning trends, incidents and illicit activities observed in and around Libya, as well as the Mediterranean Sea.

Related unclassified but sensitive information may also be exchanged between the two entities, with the understanding that each Organisation will protect such information in accordance with its own applicable rules.

The tool to be used for the exchange of classified information will be the BICES. This OHQ is implementing an extension of the EUMS BICES node that is expected to be in place in a few months. Meanwhile, the exchange can take place through our respective LNOs in Brussels via the already existing CLASS system.

In this framework, in kindly asking Your Point of Contact (PoC) for the implementation of the information exchange, I hereby appoint the EUNAVFOR MED PoCs:

- ACOS CJ2 (emails: [ITOHQCJ2CCIRM!@ohq.it.eu](mailto:ITOHQCJ2CCIRM!@ohq.it.eu) (classified – EU SOLAN), [acos\\_cj2@eufhq.difesa.it](mailto:acos_cj2@eufhq.difesa.it) (unclassified); telephone number: +39 0646919477).

I strongly believe that our cooperation will lead towards the enhancement of our effectiveness and common understanding.

*Very respect fully*

**Fabio AGOSTINI**  
**Rear Admiral, Italian Navy**  
**OPERATION EUNAVFOR MED IRINI**  
**Operation Commander**