



Enhancing Maritime Security at the Edges of Europe

Four Seas, Four Challenges: North Sea - Mediterranean Sea – Black Sea – Gulf of Guinea

16 April 2024, Brussels (campus Renaissance)



Dear Madam, Sir,

Within the framework of the Belgian presidency of the Council of the European Union (BE EU Presidency), the **Royal Higher Institute for Defence** (RHID) and the **Centre for Security and Defence Studies** (CSDS) organise a seminar that will delve into maritime security in four major areas of interest for European countries: the North Sea, the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea at the periphery of the continent, as well as the Gulf of Guinea. The analysis of each of these areas will focus on a prevailing regional issue with a view to inspiring us on measures to be taken.

At an historical turning point in the current, increasingly challenging and rapidly evolving international order, European countries are compelled to urgently adapt their security policies and strengthen their defence capacities, including in the maritime domain. These matters require objective visions and guidelines, regional and transregional cooperation, national efforts as well as resources, all at the same time. To this purpose, experts will share their thoughts on critical infrastructures in the North Sea, on immigration and transnational crime in the Mediterranean Sea, on the Black Sea as a vital crossroad of straits and estuaries and, finally, on piracy in the Gulf of Guinea. These four geographical areas will be treated from several angles: geopolitics, strategy, diplomacy, economy, law, intelligence, military and human domain, vulnerabilities, hybrid threats, resilience and technology.

On behalf of the BE EU Presidency, I am pleased to invite you to this **full-day seminar** which will take place in English (with simultaneous interpretation to French and Dutch) on **Tuesday 16 April 2024** from 09:00 to 17:40 in the **conference room** at **Campus Renaissance** (entrance: **rue Hobbema 8/Hobbemastraat 8, 1000 Brussels**). The seminar will be followed by a reception offered by the Royal Higher Institute for Defence.

Registration by **Wednesday 10 April 2024** at the latest is compulsory. If you would like to have a hot meal (three-course menu from six euros) on campus during the lunch break, we kindly ask you to also indicate as such when you register. You can also buy sandwiches at the bar. Please note that you can only pay with Bancontact.

(Signed)

Filip BORREMANS, MSc Eng
Air Force Major General
Director-General
Royal Higher Institute for Defence

For more info, please contact: CSDS-EU24@mil.be.



Programme Tuesday 16 April

08:30 – 09:00 **Arrival and registration**

09:00 – 09:20 **Welcome addresses**

Air Force Major General Filip BORREMANS (Director-General RHID)

Mr Paul VAN TIGCHELT (Minister of Justice and the North Sea)

09:20 – 09:30 **Scene-setter**

Commander Philip VON EBERHARDT (German Navy – Centre of Excellence for Operations in Confined and Shallow Waters)

09:30 – 11:00 **Panel 1: North Sea and Critical Infrastructures**

Introduction of speakers by Mr Alain DE NEVE (Researcher, CSDS)

Dr Christian BUEGER (University of Copenhagen, Denmark)

What is Maritime Security?

Navy Captain (Retired) Jukka SAVOLAINEN (Hybrid Centre of Excellence, Finland)

Vulnerabilities and Resilience in the Maritime Domain

Mr Frederik MERTENS (The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies, The Netherlands)

The High Value of the North Sea

Dr Iglia YAKOVA (Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission)

Sea Basin Strategies, Maritime Regional Cooperation and Maritime Security

Discussion moderated by Prof. Dr Louis LE HARDY DE BEAULIEU (UCLouvain, Belgium)

11:00 – 11:20 **Coffee break**

11:20 – 12:50 **Panel 2: Mediterranean Sea and Immigration**

Introduction of speakers by Captain Xavier BARA, PhD (Researcher, CSDS)

Dr Daniel FIOTT (Brussels School of Governance, VUB)

Flows and Fears: Migration and Security in the Mediterranean

Ms Tasnim ABDERRAHIM (Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime, Malta)

Understanding the Rise in Irregular Migration to Europe via Tunisia

Rear Admiral Guillaume FONTARENSKY (French Navy, Deputy Operation Commander IRINI)

IRINI: State of Play

Dr Walter DAVID (Allied Command Transformation, NATO)

Mitigating Security Challenges in the Mediterranean Sea: Leveraging Space Technology for Effective Solutions

Discussion moderated by Lieutenant Commander Ilja VAN HESPEN (Belgian Naval Component)



12:50 – 13:50 **Lunch break**

13:50 – 15:20 **Panel 3: Black Sea and Maritime Roads**

Introduction of speakers by Captain Xavier BARA, PhD (Researcher, CSDS)

Dr Bernard SIMAN (Egmont Institute, Belgium)

Elements of a New EU Black Sea Strategy

Vice Admiral Mihai PANAIT (Chief of the Romanian Naval Forces, Romania)

Romania's Endeavour in Providing Freedom of Navigation in the Black Sea

Dr Dorothée SCHMID (French Institute of International Relations, France)

The Turkish Moment in the Black Sea: Stakes and Calculations

Dr Igor DELANOË (Deputy Director of the Franco-Russian Observatory, France)

Russia in the Black Sea, between Entrenchment and Projection of Influence –

Consequences of the 'Special Military Operation' for the 'Greater Russian South'

Discussion moderated by Captain (N) Kurt ENGELEN (Defence Counsellor to the Belgian PSC Ambassador)

15:20 – 15:40 **Coffee break**

15:40 – 17:10 **Panel 4: Gulf of Guinea**

Introduction of speakers by Mr Alain DE NEVE (Researcher, CSDS)

Dr Katja LINDSKOV JACOBSEN (University of Copenhagen, Denmark)

Piracy Studies Coming of Age: A Window on the Making of Maritime Intervention Actors

Ms Morgane CARRÉ (European External Action Service)

The EU's Contribution to Maritime Security in the Gulf of Guinea

Mr Chris TRELAWNY (INTERPORTPOLICE, United Kingdom)

Port Security in the Gulf of Guinea: Getting to the Heart of the Issue

Commander Lane M. MUNROE (U.S. Coast Guard, United States Africa Command)

The U.S. AFRICOM Approach to Reinforcing Maritime Governance in the Gulf of Guinea

Discussion moderated by Senior Analyst Dr Dirk Siebels (Risk Intelligence)

17:10 – 17:25 **European Maritime Awareness in the Strait of Hormuz (EMASoH)**

Keynote speech by Commodore Hans HUYGENS (Belgian Navy – European Union Military Staff)

17:25 – 17:40 **Closing remarks**

Closure address by Rear Admiral Tanguy BOTMAN (Commander Belgian Naval Component)

17:40 – 19:00 **Reception offered by the Royal Higher Institute for Defence**