

# Gulf of Guinea: Council conclusions launching the pilot case for the Coordinated Maritime Presences concept



Curbing piracy in Africa's Gulf of Guinea

The Council today approved conclusions **launching the first pilot case of the Coordinated Maritime Presences (CMP) concept in the Gulf of Guinea.**

The CMP mechanism aims to increase the EU's capacity as a reliable partner and maritime security provider, offering greater European operational engagement, ensuring a permanent maritime presence and outreach in Maritime Areas of Interest as established by the Council, and promoting international cooperation and partnership at sea.

The conclusions establish the Gulf of Guinea as a **Maritime Area of Interest** and welcome the creation of the Maritime Area of Interest Coordination Cell. The pilot in the Gulf of Guinea will further enhance the EU's coordination capacities in strategic maritime environments.

Today's launch of the Gulf of Guinea pilot reinforces the EU's efforts in the region, in line with the EU's Gulf of Guinea Strategy. It will support efforts by the coastal states and the organisations of the **Yaoundé Architecture** to address **increasing security challenges** such as **armed piracy** and **kidnapping for ransom**, which undermine maritime security and good governance of the oceans.

Based on the results of the pilot case, the CMP concept may be used in other areas of EU interest.

The Council will ensure **political control and provide strategic guidance** on the implementation of the Gulf of Guinea pilot and will review its implementation in January 2022.

## **Background**

The CMP concept emerged following the **Informal meeting of defence ministers of 28-29 August 2019** in Helsinki.

The Council then adopted **conclusions on 17 June 2020**, which reiterated the willingness to launch the pilot project in the Gulf of Guinea, in line with the revised EU Maritime Security Strategy and Action Plan.

The purpose of the CMP is to increase the EU's capacity as a reliable partner and maritime security provider, provide greater European operational engagement, ensure a permanent maritime presence and outreach in Maritime Areas of Interest as established by the Council and promote international

cooperation and partnership at sea.

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