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Circular Letter No.4655
21 November 2022

To: All IMO Members
Intergovernmental organizations
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status

Subject: **Operation EUNAVFOR MED IRINI - United Nations arms embargo on Libya**

The Secretariat has received the attached communication from EUNAVFOR MED IRINI, dated 16 November 2022, with the request that it be circulated by the Organization.

**Operation EUNAVFOR MED IRINI**

*Via di Centocelle, 301
00175 Rome – ITALY*

To: INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION (IMO)
4 Albert Embankment,
London SE1 7SR,
United Kingdom
info@imo.org

Subject: Operation EUNAVFOR MED IRINI – United Nations arms embargo on Libya.

Reference: Council Decisions 2020/472 dated 31st March 2020 and 2021/542 dated 26th March 2021.

Operation EUNAVFOR MED (European Union Naval Force Mediterranean) IRINI presents its compliments to the International Maritime Organization and has the honour to bring following information to its attention.

In accordance with Security Council resolutions 1970 (2011), 2292 (2016) and subsequent resolutions, Operation EUNAVFOR MED IRINI is an impartial military instrument, put at the disposal of the international community and the Libyan people, to support the implementation of the UN arms embargo to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

In this framework, the Operation has established good practices that involve the maritime community, aimed at enhancing the situational awareness and overall security in the Central Mediterranean Sea, like hailing and friendly approaches on merchant vessels sailing in the area. Such practices represent a great opportunity for the Operation to establish relations and mutual understanding with the maritime community through an informal exchange of information and make familiar the maritime personnel and companies with the aim of the Operation.

Taking under consideration the aforementioned, it is a matter of concern the apparent lack of knowledge, on behalf of the shipping companies, on pertaining issues of the UN embargo to Libya. An indicator of this it is also represented by a great number of hailed (questioned) ships which ignore the relevant UNSCRs and this Operation's existence.

It would be appropriate to inform merchant vessels transiting on the high seas off the coast of Libya or vessels bound to or from Libya, about the UN embargo on Libya and the aforementioned information related to the Operation EUNAVFOR MED IRINI.

I would hereby invite you to involve the maritime entities that refer to your Organisation to disseminate and publicise the aims of the Operation and to encourage the masters to adopt cooperative posture with EUNAVFOR MED IRINI assets, when they operate in the Mediterranean Sea, contributing to the sustainability of the security environment.

Should you have any queries, I remain at your disposal for any kind of clarification.

Stefano TURCHETTO
Rear Admiral, Italian Navy
Operation EUNAVFOR MED IRINI
Operation Commander

ADM Stefano Turchetto