MARITIME SECURITY
Keeping seas safe to secure peace and prosperity

The situation
World fleet
There are over 4.5 million fishing and cargo vessels in the world.²

Tourism
More than 400 million passengers pass through EU ports each year.³

Economy
€1.3 trillion is the estimated value of the output of the ocean.

Employment
Over 1.5 million seafarers worldwide work on merchant trading ships.⁴

The challenges
Maritime security faces several threats, including.

Piracy
Over 191 reported attacks in 2016.⁵

Illegal fishing
Over 15% of global catches are plundered by illegal fishing.⁶

Accidents and natural disasters
50% of the last 22 major oil spills have happened in EU waters.⁷
Progress report

The EU has been working to improve maritime security.

**Fighting pirates**


**Preparing for spills**

16 vessels can be mobilised at 24 hours’ notice, with 60,000 m³ of capacity for recovered oil.

**Training coastguards**

International collaboration strengthened. 12 EU coastguard agencies work together with 37 training institutions.

**Satellite tracking**

Identity details, latest positions and other information can be provided for around 17,000 vessels in and around EU waters.

How do we improve?

Global initiatives encourage further cooperation and participation, particularly with developing countries. The EU’s action plan focuses on five key areas.

**Risk management**

Use data and information exchange to improve risk analyses. Share maritime crisis response information, where appropriate.

**Preparedness**

Identify areas that require further investment, for example next generation patrol vessels. Improve synergies between civilian and military authorities.

**Research and education**

Consolidate maritime security training into single modules. Establish new networks for knowledge development.

**Awareness**

Enhance maritime surveillance to help with early warning mechanisms and improve response times, including by encouraging information exchange.

**Foreign relations**

Develop relationships with international and regional bodies such as the UN and NATO.

Maritime security is vital for peace and prosperity. Working together at an international level is the only way to secure our seas.