



EUNAVFOR ASPIDES Informational Message to the Shipping Industry

Larissa, 20 October 2025

Last reported incident: 08 OCT 2025

Since the ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas was implemented on 9 October 2025, Houthi forces have halted attacks against Israel and no attacks on merchant vessels have occurred.

The last attack targeting Israel was reported on 8 October 2025, and the last incident involving a merchant vessel (MV Minervagracht) took place on 29 September 2025.

Despite the current calm, Houthi leadership—through recent statements by Abdul Malik al-Houthi (9 and 16 October 2025)—has reaffirmed its intent to monitor developments in the Gaza Strip closely and to respond kinetically if deemed necessary. Their future posture will largely depend on the progress of hostage recovery efforts and Hamas' disarmament process. While isolated violations of the ceasefire have been recorded, both Israel and Hamas remain publicly committed to sustaining the agreement.

Threat Assessment

Although Houthis continue their rhetoric against the "Zionist–U.S. Axis", and rising tensions persist following IDF activities and U.S. support to Israel, there have been no reported incidents involving U.S.- or U.K.-linked vessels transiting the Red Sea (RS), Bab-el-Mandeb Strait (BaM), or Gulf of Aden (GoA) since the 6 May 2025 U.S.–Houthi agreement. Nevertheless, Houthis retain a favorable strategic position and the initiative in the region. Given the volatile context, sudden escalation cannot be ruled out, particularly if ceasefire implementation falters.

Accordingly, the current threat levels for merchant vessels operating in the Red Sea, Bab el Mandeb, Gulf of Aden, and Arabian Sea are assessed as follows:

Category	Assessment	Description
a.	LOW	For merchant vessels not linked to Israel, the United States, or the United Kingdom
b.	LOW	For merchant vessels linked with U.S. or U.K. interests
c.	CRITICAL	For vessels or companies affiliated with Israeli interests (fully or partially owned, flagged, or conducting Israeli port calls)



Recommendations

EUNAVFOR ASPIDES recommendations to the shipping industry remain unchanged:

- Avoid entry into Yemeni territorial waters under any circumstances.
- Navigate, where possible, closer to the African coast to reduce exposure to potential threats.
- Maintain continuous communication with MSCIO, UKMTO, and follow official guidance, risk-assessment procedures, and best maritime practices.
- Conduct a comprehensive voyage-specific risk assessment, paying special attention to any direct or indirect links between the vessel, its owners, or its cargo and countries of interest.

EUNAVFOR ASPIDES continues to act as a maritime security provider in support of Freedom of Navigation, offering Close Protection and Monitoring Services across the Red Sea, Bab el Mandeb Strait, and Gulf of Aden. The operation monitors continuously the regional security environment and remains committed to its defensive mandate, providing free support to vessels transiting the area.

Communication and Coordination

All vessel masters are reminded that the MSCIO remains available as a point of contact for any incidents or unusual observations. Such reporting contributes directly to the safety of seafarers and the protection of maritime trade routes, ensuring the continued freedom of navigation with the active support of Operation ASPIDES.

Further details and updated operational guidance are available on the MSCIO official webpage at <https://mscio.eu>.

For specific queries or pre-transit coordination, please contact: postmaster@mscio.eu.