



EUNAVFOR ASPIDES Informational Message to the Shipping Industry

Larissa, 28 February 2026

Days with no incident: 152 (until 28 Feb)

Last reported incident: 29 September 2025

Since the ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas entered into force on 9 October 2025, Houthi forces have ceased all attacks against Israel, and no attacks on merchant vessels have been reported.

The last attack against Israel from the Houthis occurred on 8 October 2025, and the last attack against a merchant vessel was recorded on 29 September 2025.

The failure of negotiations between the US and Iran has led the United States to carry out strikes on Iranian territory. Iran's response will most likely be supported by Iran's proxies, who will attempt to participate in the fight by various means.

Current Situation

In order to support Iran and according to sources, the Houthis have threatened to launch new attacks against ISRAEL and US interests ships and shipping in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden.

We call the shipping industry to stay vigilant and be aware that attacks against all shipping can't be excluded.



Threat Assessment

Taking into account the recent developments, the threat level for merchant vessels transiting the Red Sea (RS), Bab el-Mandeb Strait (BaM), Gulf of Aden (GoA), and the Arabian Sea (AS) is now assessed as follows:

Category	Assessment	Description
a.	MEDIUM	For all merchant vessels not linked to Israel, the United States.
b.	VERY HIGH	For vessels or shipping companies affiliated with Israeli and US interests (fully or partially owned, flagged, or calling at Israeli ports)

This threat assessment is current as of the date of writing. This assessment will be updated as far as necessary.

Recommendations

We recommend that merchant ships linked to Israel or the USA avoid passing through the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden until the threat becomes less pressing. Other ships should continue to send their requests for support to the MSCIO.

Given the significant increase in the threat level, protective measures for ships supported by Aspides have been reinforced. The direct consequence of this measure is greater involvement of military resources. As military resources have not yet been increased, this will result in longer waiting times for ships requesting close protection.

EUNAVFOR ASPIDES' recommendations to the maritime community remain unchanged and should continue to be observed rigorously:

- Avoid entry into Yemeni territorial waters at all times.
- When feasible, navigate closer to the African coastline to reduce exposure to potential threats.
- Maintain constant communication with MSCIO, and UKMTO and adhere strictly to official guidance, risk-assessment protocols, and best management practices.
- Conduct a voyage-specific risk assessment, taking into consideration any direct or indirect affiliations between the vessel, its ownership, or its cargo and countries of interest.

EUNAVFOR ASPIDES continues to contribute in supporting Freedom of Navigation, offering Close Protection and Monitoring Services across the Red Sea, Bab el-Mandeb Strait, and Gulf of Aden.



The operation continuously monitors the evolving threat environment and remains fully 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 incident, suspicious activity, or unusual observation.

Such reporting is vital to ensuring the safety of seafarers, the security of commercial shipping, and the preservation of freedom of navigation under the protection of Operation ASPIDES.

Further information, including operational updates and recommendations, is available on the MSCIO official webpage at <https://mscio.eu>.

For specific enquiries or to obtain pre-transit support, please contact: postmaster@mscio.eu.

End of communication