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COUNCIL DECISION (CFSP) 2026/778

of 30 March 2026

amending Decision (CFSP) 2024/583 on a European Union maritime security operation to safeguard freedom of navigation in relation to the Red Sea crisis (EUNAVFOR ASPIDES)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union, and in particular Article 42(4) and Article 43(2) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy,

Whereas:

(1) On 8 February 2024, the Council adopted Decision (CFSP) 2024/583 ([1]) establishing a European Union maritime security operation to safeguard freedom of navigation in relation to the Red Sea crisis (EUNAVFOR ASPIDES).

(2) On 19 February 2024, the Council adopted Decision (CFSP) 2024/632 ([2]), which launched EUNAVFOR ASPIDES with a mandate until 18 February 2025.

(3) On 14 February 2025, the Council adopted Decision (CFSP) 2025/334 ([3]), which extended EUNAVFOR ASPIDES until 28 February 2026.

(4) On 26 November 2025, in the context of the strategic review of EUNAVFOR ASPIDES and the strategic assessment of EUNAVFOR ATALANTA, the Political and Security Committee (PSC) agreed that EUNAVFOR ASPIDES be extended until 28 February 2027.

(5) Furthermore, the PSC recommended that in addition to its current non-executive tasks to ensure maritime situational awareness, EUNAVFOR ASPIDES should also, within its means and capabilities, collect and share information on suspicious activities related to critical submarine infrastructures, train the Djiboutian maritime forces and cooperate with the Yemeni Coast Guard, while linking those tasks with other Union initiatives, in particular CRIMARIO, EU assistance for the Yemeni Coast Guard and the assistance measure under the European Peace Facility to support the Djibouti Armed Forces.

(6) Decision (CFSP) 2024/583 should be amended accordingly,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

In Article 1 of Decision (CFSP) 2024/583, the following sentence is added to paragraph 6:

'EUNAVFOR ASPIDES shall also, within its means and capabilities, collect and share information on suspicious activities related to critical submarine infrastructures, train the Djiboutian maritime forces and cooperate with the Yemeni Coast Guard while linking those tasks with other Union initiatives, in particular CRIMARIO, EU assistance for the Yemeni Coast Guard and the assistance measure under the European Peace Facility to support the Djibouti Armed Forces.'.

([1]) Council Decision (CFSP) 2024/583 of 8 February 2024 on a European Union maritime security operation to safeguard freedom of navigation in relation to the Red Sea crisis (EUNAVFOR ASPIDES) (OJ L, 2024/583, 12.2.2024, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2024/583/oj).

([2]) Council Decision (CFSP) 2024/632 of 19 February 2024 launching the European Union maritime security operation to safeguard freedom of navigation in relation to the Red Sea crisis (EUNAVFOR ASPIDES) (OJ L, 2024/632, 20.2.2024, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2024/632/oj).

([3]) Council Decision (CFSP) 2025/334 of 14 February 2025 amending Decision (CFSP) 2024/583 on a European Union maritime security operation to safeguard freedom of navigation in relation to the Red Sea crisis (EUNAVFOR ASPIDES) (OJ L, 2025/334, 17.2.2025, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2025/334/oj).

Article 2

This Decision shall enter into force on the date of its adoption.

Done at Brussels, 30 March 2026.

For the Council
The President
M. PANAYIOTOU